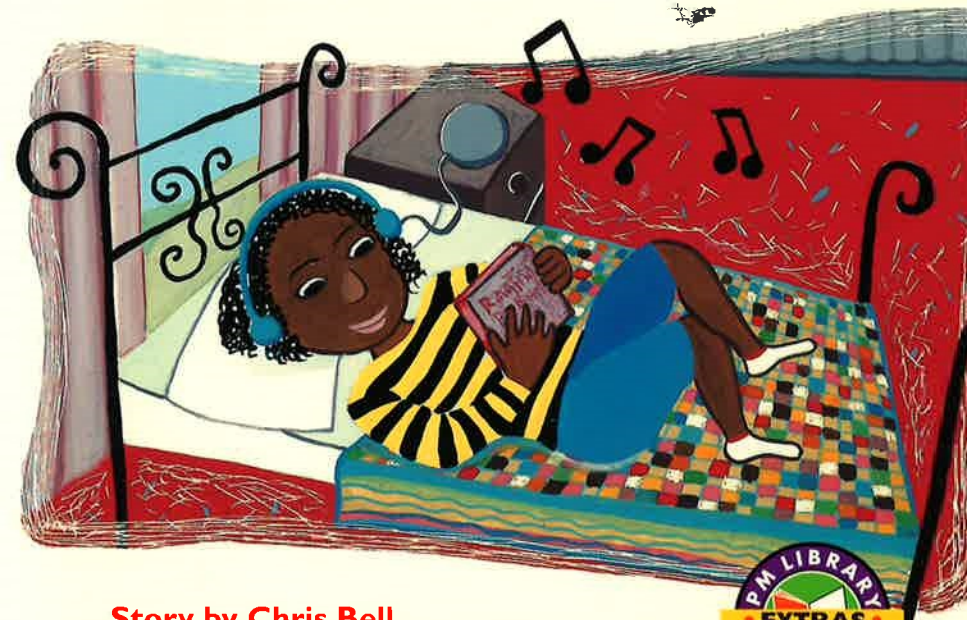


H for Horrible



Story by Chris Bell

Illustrations by Margaret Krajnc

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H for Horrible

Key vocabulary

class project, computer, email, inbox, keyboard, online, pen pals, screen, scrolled

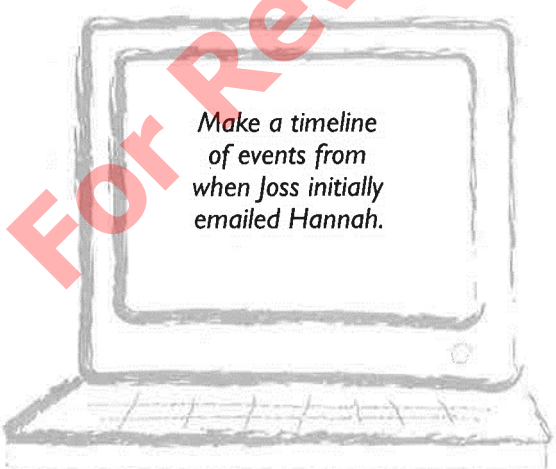
Grammatical conventions

- Complex sentence structures: 'In the hospital wing, neither the duck with a broken bill or the kitten in a plaster cast held any interest for Hannah …'
- Adverbs: crossly, fiercely, gradually, helplessly, loudly, miserably
- Commas: 'Joss groaned and looked around the room helplessly until, finally, Miss Orlanski glared at her hard, waiting for her to start.'
- Possessive apostrophe: Bandits', Hannah's, Joss's

Spelling

- Suffixes: believe/believable, curious/curiously, small/smallest

Creative thinking task – Knowledge



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CHAPTER 1

Pen PALS



Joss held her breath while the computer connected online. The last week had gone so slowly while she waited for Hannah's reply and now that she saw an email from her friend appear in her inbox, she could hardly bring herself to open it.

What if Hannah's mum said no? 'Please, please, please, say yes,' Joss pleaded under her breath.

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From the moment she'd won the tickets in a radio competition, Joss knew there was only one person she wanted to take to the Raging Bandits concert. It had to be her pen pal, Hannah, who was not only one of her best friends, but also the Bandits' second biggest fan.

Looking back over the past few months, Joss thought it was funny how close the two of them were now, because in the beginning they'd nearly not become friends at all.

In fact, they hadn't even liked one another.

It all started with a class project. Everyone had to send a series of three emails to a student at a school on the opposite side of town.

Miss Orlanski, Joss's teacher, insisted that everyone write at least one full page to his or her new pen pal.

Joss tried hard to make her first email interesting to the unknown Hannah.

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One week later, when it was Joss's turn to use the class computer again, she checked her inbox to see if Hannah had sent anything back. Joss couldn't believe it as she looked at the screen.

Dear Joss

I have to write this email for class.
S'pose you had to write one too.
Nothing's happening in my world.
How about in yours?

Regards H

That was it?

Joss scrolled down the screen. She half thought there might be more text further down – a real letter. But there wasn't.

And now, Miss Orlanski expected her to write back. 'While I won't read your emails,' she had said, 'I will be checking to make sure you write an acceptable amount.'

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Joss groaned and looked around the room helplessly until, finally, Miss Orlanski glared at her hard, waiting for her to start.

So Joss began to type. She told Hannah about her dad being a veterinarian, and how her mum taught ballet dancing wearing striped tights. She also told Hannah about her dog, Rani, and, of course, her favourite band in the whole world, Raging Bandits.

Before Joss knew it, she had written virtually two pages.

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One week later, it was Joss's turn to use the class computer again. She was excited to see an email from Hannah appear in her inbox. Joss clicked to open it, and couldn't believe what she saw.

Dear Joss

Letter No 2! We're sort-of halfway there. Only one letter to go.

Don't you love how teachers come up with clever ideas to keep us busy, like writing boring letters?

Regards H

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Great! What am I supposed to write back to that?

To make things worse, Miss Orlanski insisted they make a big effort with their final email. 'Make it newsy and interesting. Pretend you're writing to your best friend,' she said.

The last piece of advice was the only thing that inspired Joss to write back at all. She didn't feel like writing to Hannah with the fancy H. 'Yeah, H for horrible!' she muttered.

So Joss pretended Hannah was a best friend and she wrote all about how Rani was now the proud mother of seven new puppies and how Joss couldn't wait for the Raging Bandits' latest CD release.

She clicked on send, and one week later looked for her reply.



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