

Book 40

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

1

tion TION tion station relations irritation

situation sensation desperation demonstration

anticipation wrestling gather headphones

siren hose valve pressure safety

literacy embosser healthy voice power

pizza cauliflower pasta raisins fruit

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

2

“What a boring, boring morning this is!”

whispers Abi to Sam. They are having

literacy with Mr Snodgrass. Abi loves

writing stories and poems, but in this lesson the

children have to write about why they love healthy

food. Abi doesn't love it at all! In

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

3

fact, she hates most foods that are good for you.

Pizza, chips, cookies, sweets and ice

cream are by far her favourites.

**At least there is something special to look
forward to later. A fire crew are visiting from
the fire station to talk to the children. Two of**

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

4

Sam's relations are firemen, and his Uncle

Joe is going to be one of the visitors.

**I'd better finish this writing, Abi thinks,
or I'll have to stay in at break.**

**Abi is using her laptop to write her
work. It speaks out what she types, and she**

**listens with headphones. The laptop is linked to
a braille printer called an embosser. Abi
writes a lot about how lovely cauliflower and
peppers are, and how she prefers brown rice and
pasta to chips! What she has written isn't
exactly true, but Abi thinks Mr**

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

6

Snodgrass will like her work.

By break, Billy has hardly started his writing, so Mr Snodgrass makes him stay in to finish it.

“You’re so lazy, Billy,” says Abi as she goes past him on her way out to play.

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

7

“You deserve to stay in!”

**Billy isn't happy with Abi. But he has
an idea, and it cheers him up. He starts on his
project as soon as Mr Snodgrass and all
the children have left the room. Abi eats some
raisins at break, and wishes they were sweets!**

“Now then,” says Mr Snodgrass when the children have settled down again. “Let’s hear some of your work. What have you written, Abi?”

Abi unplugs her headphones and turns up the volume on her laptop. She presses the key which reads all the text. In a mechanical

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

9

voice the laptop reads what has been typed.

“Mr Snodgrass is fat and large.

In fact, he’s rather like a barge.

He hates fresh fruit but guzzles sweets,

Then sticks in doors and breaks the seats.

Eat more salad, peas and beans,

Or else you'll need some larger jeans!"

**The voice stops. There is no noise for a
second or two, then Abi shouts out "I
didn't write that, Mr Snodgrass.**

**Somebody has changed my work!" She can't
prove anything, of course, but Abi is sure**

Billy was involved.

**Abi can hear Mr Snodgrass spluttering and
choking with irritation. He bellows that she will have
to stay in at lunch break and write properly
about healthy eating.**

How very unfair, thinks Abi. Well,

Billy won't get away with this!

For the rest of the morning, all the class have to do lots of hard sums. Abi hates staying in at lunchtime, but she works hard. She doesn't want to miss the visitors from the fire station.

As soon as the bell goes, the children gather

**outside to hear the talk about fire safety and
to see the fire engine. The best bit is the
demonstration of the hose. The firemen let the
children take turns to try on helmets and sit
in the fire engine. They even let them try out the
siren, which is extremely loud!**

**Sam notices that the hose is still uncoiled,
so he shows it to Abi as they wait for the last
few children to have a turn at pretending to be
firemen. Abi can hear Billy mucking about on
his own at the back of the fire engine. Maybe
this is the perfect time to get her own back.**

She picks up the floppy hose.

“Sam,” she whispers, “can you turn on the water?”

The valve on the fire engine is stiff, but Sam manages to turn it a little, so that the hose starts to fill. As Abi points the

hose at where she can hear Billy, the water rushes into it with a WHOOSH as Sam turns the valve a bit further.

Abi and Sam are shocked at how fierce the water pressure is. The hose now feels as if it is alive in Abi's hands. The huge

**force nearly lifts her off her feet. She
grimly tries to hang on as the water shoots
out of the hose. The sensation is like trying to
hold on to a wild animal!**

**Abi doesn't realise that Billy has
guessed what she is going to do, and that he is**

**wrestling with the hose as well, trying to spray
her instead. She can't hold on any more, and just as
Abi lets go of the hose, Mr Snodgrass
appears at the back of the fire engine, looking
for the missing children. The blast of icy water flings
him into the air as it hits him full in the chest.**

He is pinned to the school wall, and there he stays, winded by the power of the water jet!

“Turn off the water,” screams Abi in desperation. Sam works hard to turn the stiff valve, and in seconds his Uncle Joe has taken over. At last the hose goes slack in

**Billy's hand, and Mr Snodgrass crumples
in a cold, soaking heap by the school wall!
He glares at Billy, who is still pointing the
limp hose at him.**

**Sam and Abi wait in happy anticipation
of the huge telling off that Billy is about to**

get, when Mr Snodgrass catches his breath.

**How very fair, thinks Abi, that Billy was the
one seen pointing the hose. All she and Sam were
seen doing was trying to turn off the water to
help poor Mr Snodgrass!**

When at last Mr Snodgrass gets his

The Bad Day with a Happy Ending

22

**voice back, it is a lot louder than even the
fire siren!**

Abi says

**Write a list of your favourite foods, and
another of your worst foods.**

**Which of the people in the story ended up with the worst
day, do you think?**

Can you write your own story about me?