

Book 32

A Chocolate Mystery

A Chocolate Mystery

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still STILL Abi is still asleep.

which which I do not remember which way to go.

peach touch break bait silent busy

secretary teacher pencils squeak

Which child is still out in the garden?

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There is a new teacher at Abi's school, but the children do not like him! He is called Mr Snodgrass. Most of the time he is cross and shouts a lot, which is not very nice. Sam tells Abi that Mr Snodgrass gets a red face when he is cross!

And I'll tell you something else, says

Abi. If you are too close when he is

shouting, you can feel the spray from his mouth!

**One day Abi and Sam go to get snacks from
the cloakroom at break. Mum has packed a
peach for Abi's snack. Abi hates the feel**

**of the furry skin, which reminds her of a mouse that
Tom left in her slipper one day! Sam
loves peaches, so he offers to swap his
Kitkat for Abi's peach.**

**Sam reaches into his bag. He tips out all
the things from his lunch box.**

Oh no, shouts Sam. My Kitkat has
gone!

You can still have my peach, says Abi. She thinks
Billy may have taken the Kitkat. She asks
him about it.

I didn't touch Sam's bag, says

**Billy. I don't even like chocolate! Abi
thinks he is telling fibs. She can smell
chocolate on Billy's breath.**

**The next day at break, Sam's chocolate
bar is missing once more.**

I still have no proof, but I'm sure it is

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Billy, says Abi.

**When Sam tells Mr Snodgrass about his
missing chocolate, the teacher just makes a joke
about it.**

**I expect we have greedy little mice in
school, he says, or even rats!**

This gives Abi an idea. Dad has a mouse trap at home. When a mouse smells the bait inside, it tries to get it. As it enters the trap, a spring makes a little door snap shut on the mouse. One day when Dad was showing Mum how to set the trap, it snapped

**shut on his finger, which hurt! Dad made a big
fuss, so Mum put a plaster over the sore
place to make him feel better.**

**When Mum and Dad are watching telly that
evening, Abi hunts for the mouse trap. She
puts some chocolate buttons inside it as**

bait, then hides the mouse trap in her school bag, under her swimming kit.

The next morning at school, Abi sets the mouse trap, and Sam puts it in his lunch box, near his chocolate.

Soon the children are busy writing a story in the

classroom. Abi is writing about Jack and the Beanstalk.

I have to see the school secretary about something, says Mr Snodgrass. You will keep as quiet as mice while I am out of the room.

If I hear one squeak, you will all stay in at

playtime and do extra sums. Do you understand?

Yes, Sir, say all the children.

The whole class is silent and still, even

**Billy. All that can be heard is the scratching of
pencils and Abi's Perkins.**

Then, from the cloakroom, there is a loud

**yell. The classroom door is flung open,
and in storms Mr Snodgrass, with a mouse
trap dangling from his bleeding finger! His face is
very, very red, and there is a lot of spray from his mouth
as he shouts.**

That mouse we trapped certainly squeaked

**loudly, says Abi to Sam on the way
home.**

It was more like a big rat, grins Sam.

Abi says

What do peach skins remind me of?

What was I writing about in class?

Write about the snacks you like best.

**Mice squeak, but what noise do dogs,
ducks, cows, sheep, pigs and hens make?**