

Tom Gates

TOP

OF THE

CLASS

By Liz Pichon So-so

Smart
beans
(or cheating)

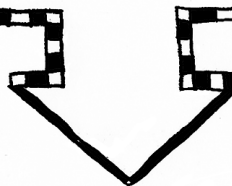
Smart (for a bug)

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HERE'S the BORING

(but slightly important) stuff...



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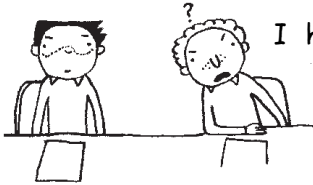
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Here's what HAPPENED DURING the TEST



The **first** thing that happened was Marcus said



I had WEIRD marks on my face.

"They're on your nose too."

"I tried on Norman's glasses - maybe it's that. My eyes are still FUZZY," I tried to explain.

"That was stupid, then," Marcus said

(which I couldn't really argue with).



Mr Fullerman gave us some instructions.

"Don't turn over the paper until I tell you to. Then write your name and your class at the top, please."

He asked us a few other things about

pens,



paper



and that kind of thing.

Did we have everything we needed for the TEST?



I need the answers,



I whispered to **AMY**, who sighed.

Mr Fullerman told us, "**CONCENTRATE, everyone.**"



So that's what I did.



I CONCENTRATED 

... just not on the TEST.

I wrote my name carefully and answered the first question. (All good so far.)

But after the SECOND question, my PEN suddenly STOPPED working, which was annoying.







I turned my paper over and SCRIBBLED really HARD to try and get the pen working again. Then I tried SHAKING the pen when Mr Fullerman wasn't looking. I could have asked him for a NEW one but he'd made a really BIG point of saying,

**Does everyone have a pen that WORKS?
Please check NOW because I don't want to be
handing out pens once you've started.**





I said, "YES, SIR," because my pen WAS working THEN.



I looked round  to see if anyone else had a SPARE pen.  Marcus  wouldn't lend me a pen even if he DID have one. I glanced over to **AMY'S** desk and she HAD a pen. 


So I tried to attract her attention by **scribbling** some more to PROVE that my pen had run out.

"It's stopped working," I whispered  just as the pen started to WORK.


 **AMY** sighed and carried on with her TEST.

I answered the next question, then my pen stopped writing **AGAIN**. This time I waved it around, which made **INK BLOBS** come out.

My TEST paper was starting to look a bit **MESSY**.

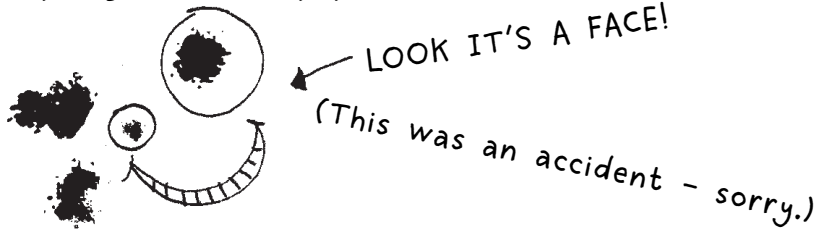
 All my frantic scribbling and pen-shaking was starting to ANNOY **AMY**.

 She finally pushed her spare pen in my direction.

 Here, take it, she said.

I drew a smiley face to say thank you. 😊

Now I had a pen that worked, I could start answering the rest of the questions. There was **INK** on my hand as well, which made a few splodges on the paper. So I wrote,



I was ABOUT to get back to the TEST when my FOOT began to



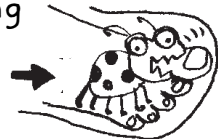
ITCH like it was on



Maybe there was something inside my



sock BITING me.



I couldn't concentrate.

I tried REALLY HARD to ignore my ITCHY FOOT.

But that didn't work. ALL I could think about was,

ITCHY FOOT ITCHY FOOT ITCHY FOOT

WHY IS MY FOOT SO ITCHY?

AGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!





I tried **LEANING** to the side and scratching my foot with my hand,

but I couldn't quite reach it. So I grabbed my pen and tried to push it inside my sock.



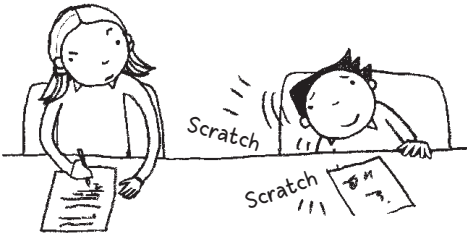
Then I decided the only thing to do was to take **OFF** my shoe and sock and have a **PROPER** scratch.

After a few blissful moments of scratching, it felt **SO MUCH** better that I **SIGHED** quite loudly.



sigghhhhhhhhhhh

And when I looked up, **AMY** was watching me. She shook her head and carried on doing the **TEST**.



(I **FORGOT** I was using **HER** pen to scratch with.)

All the pen-**SHAKING** and FOOT-scratching had taken up a lot more TEST time than I thought. As I was trying to put my sock on, Marcus Meldrew started doing "your foot smells" signs at me.



Then Mr Fullerman told Marcus to



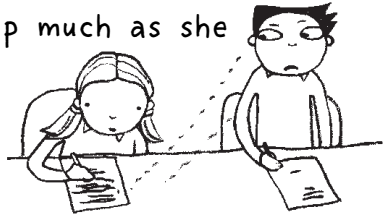
GET ON with the test.

I managed to slip my sock into my pocket so Mr Fullerman didn't SPOT what I'd been doing.



When I FINALLY got back to the TEST some of the questions were really quite HARD. Glancing over in **AMY'S** direction didn't help much as she was already on a different page.

THEN Mr Fullerman suddenly announced,



You have ten minutes to CHECK your answers carefully.

CHECK them - I hadn't even started most of them.

