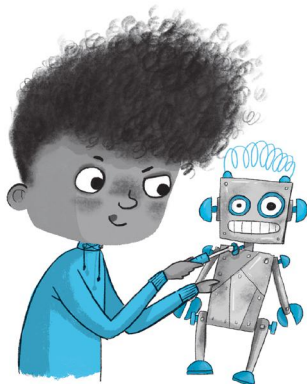


CHAPTER 1



Marvin carefully fixed the head onto the small robot. If they could make the robot work this time, Marv and his best friend Joe would be entering it into the school Science Fair tomorrow. The thought made Marvin feel excited and nervous all at the same time. The

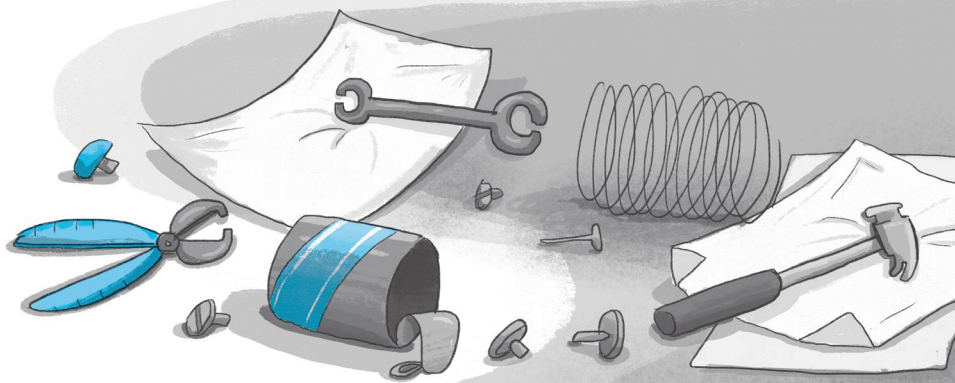
small robot was made of old bits of scrap metal, and Joe and Marvin had been working hard on it for weeks now.

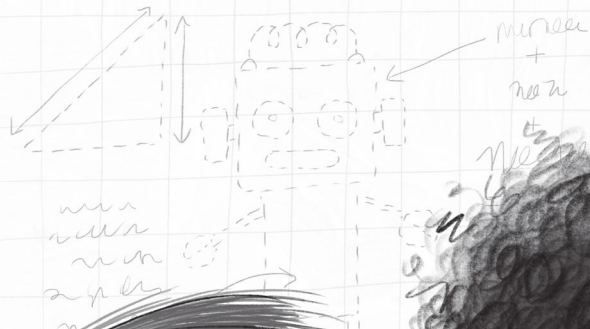
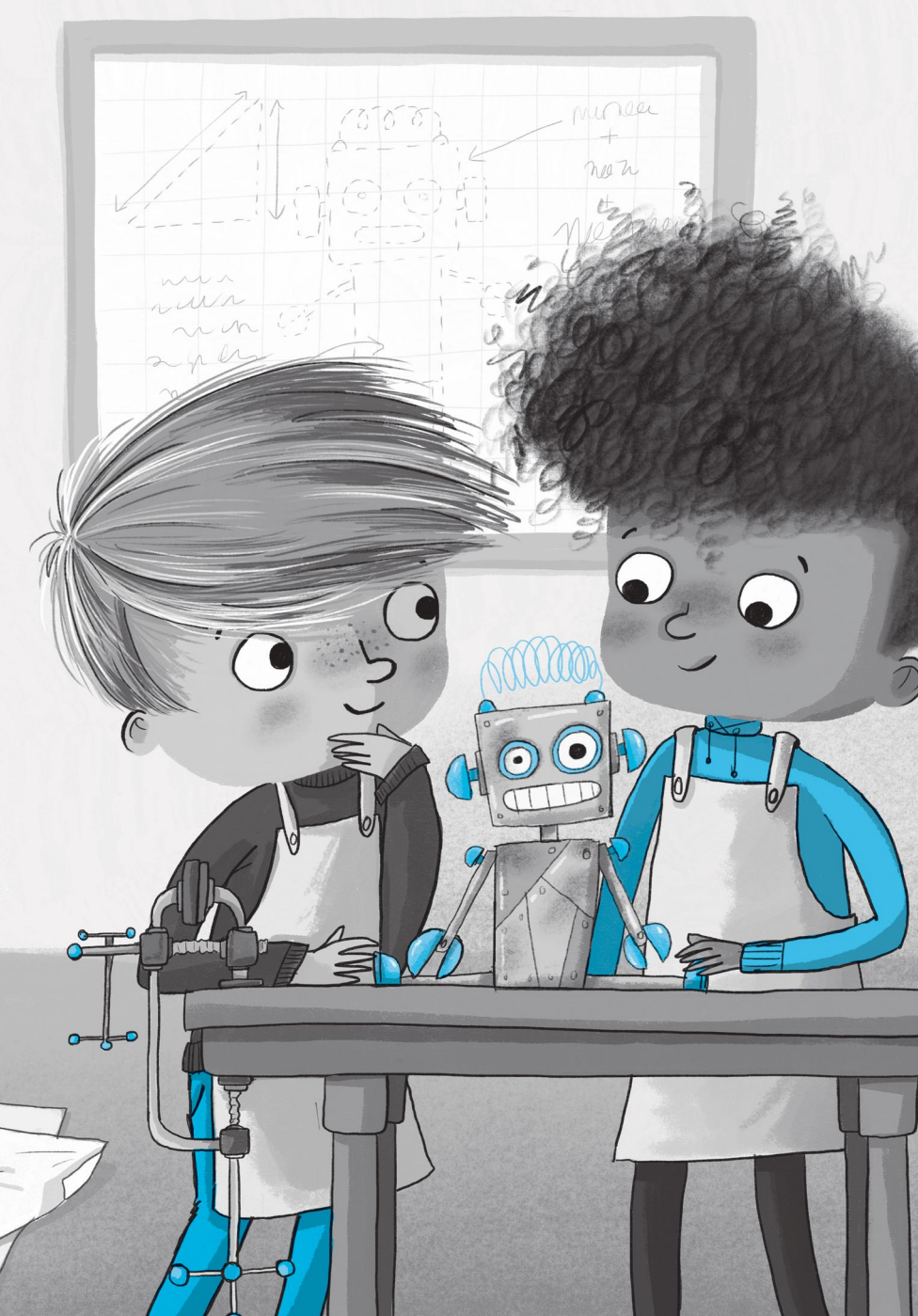
The two friends glanced at each other and nodded. It was time to test it out. Marvin took a deep breath and leant forward, pressing a button on the back of the robot. Its small square head sprang up.

'Readaloud 3000 powering on,'

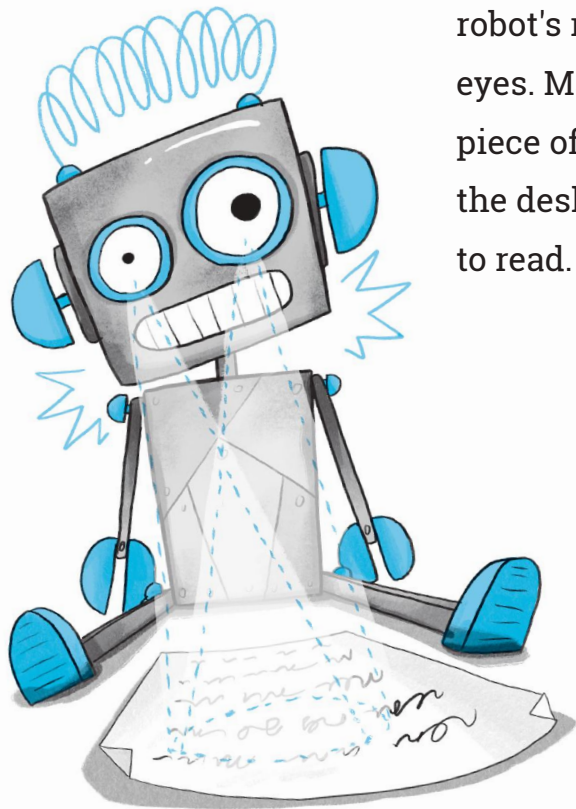
the robot said in a stiff voice.

Marvin grinned at Joe. It was working!





A blue beam came from the robot's round glass eyes. Marvin slid a piece of paper across the desk for the robot to read.

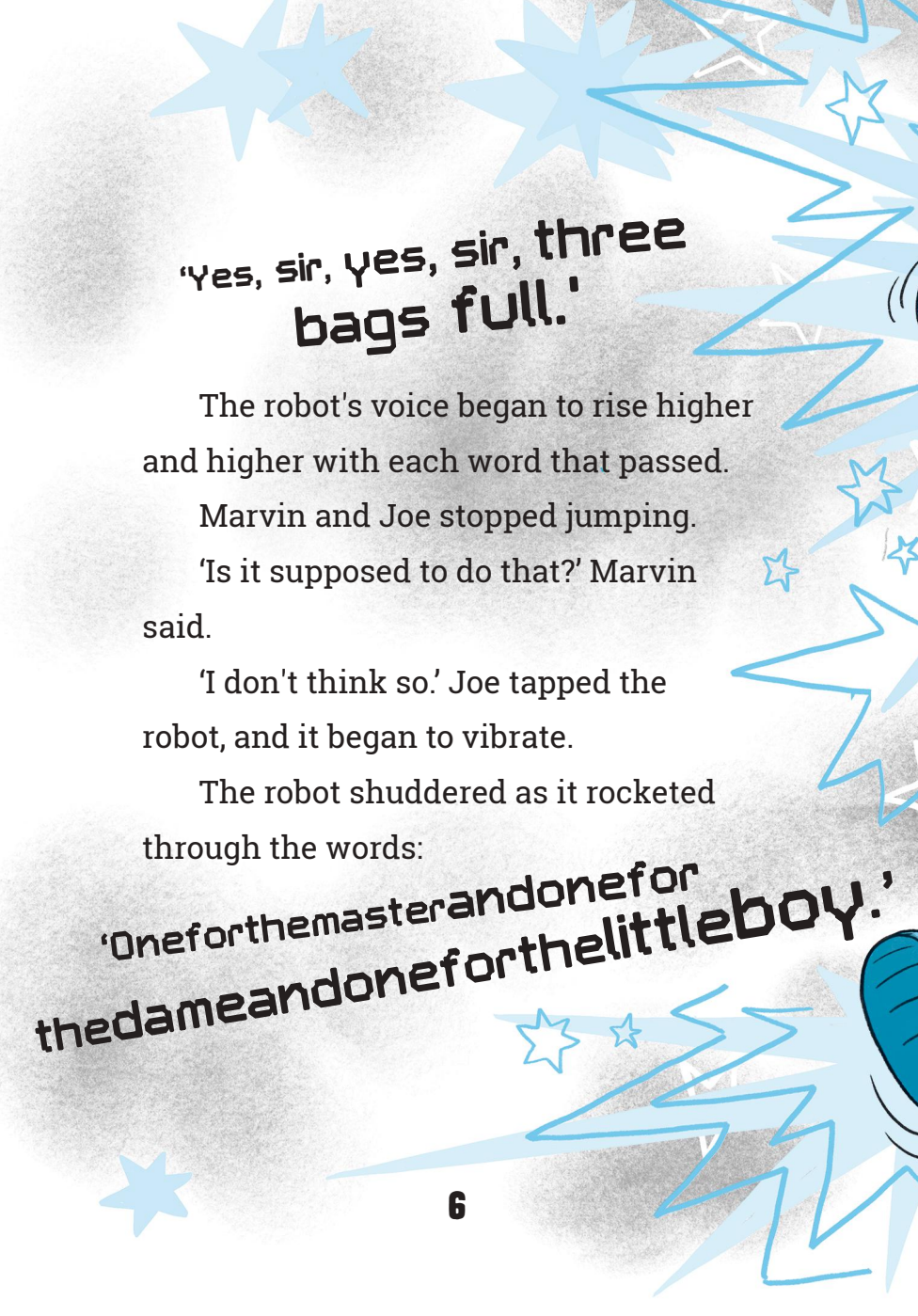


'Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?'

the robot said slowly, reading the words on the paper. Marvin and Joe grabbed each other and leapt up and down.

'Yes! We did it!' they shouted, too excited to notice the curious looks from their classmates.





**'Yes, sir, yes, sir, three
bags full.'**

The robot's voice began to rise higher and higher with each word that passed.

Marvin and Joe stopped jumping.

'Is it supposed to do that?' Marvin said.

'I don't think so.' Joe tapped the robot, and it began to vibrate.

The robot shuddered as it rocketed through the words:

**'One for the master and one for
the dame and one for the little boy.'**



'Something's wrong!' Joe said,
stumbling back. 'Do something, Marvin!'