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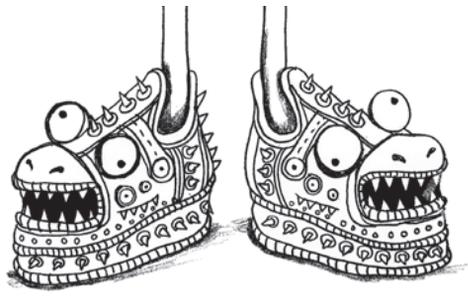
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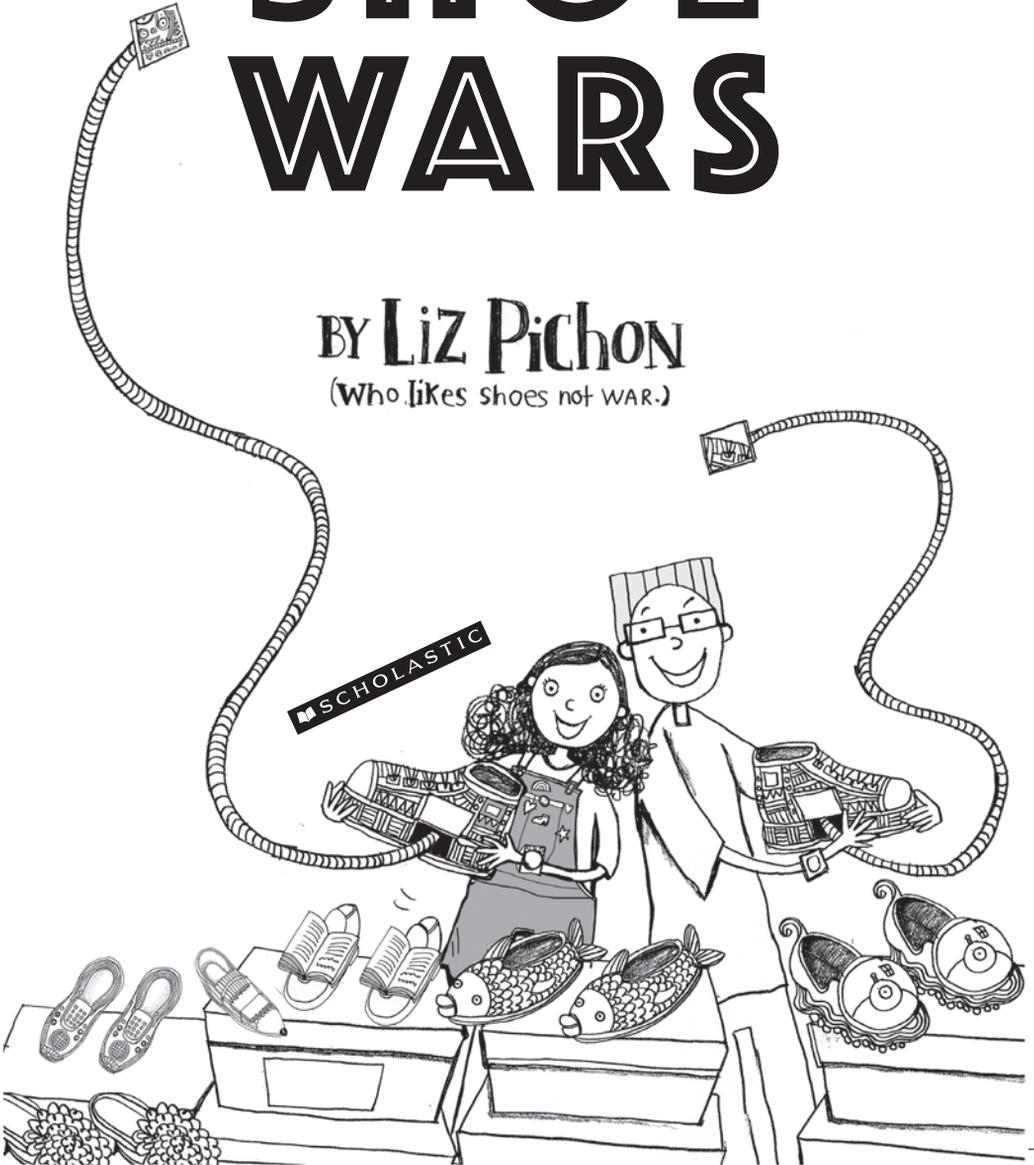
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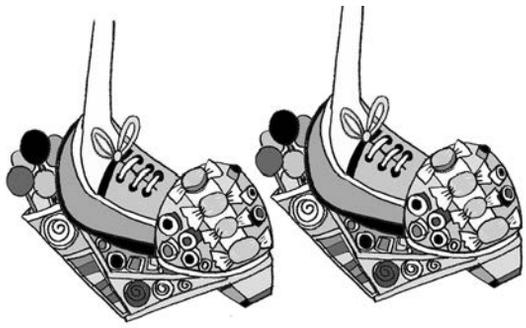
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SHOE WARS

BY LIZ PICHON
(who likes shoes not WAR.)





SHOE·PID·ITY

Wearing shoes that don't fit.

Who knew?



There's an old saying that goes something like THIS:

*You can tell a LOT about
a person from the
shoes they're wearing...*

Do you think that's true?

Take a look at your own
shoes right now.

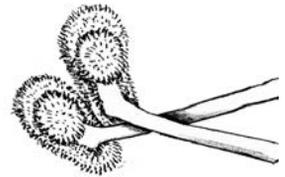


What do they say about YOU?

Do you like **sport**?



Maybe you enjoy *relaxing*.



Or were you just late for school and got **confused**?



Because some shoes are **NOT** what they seem to be...

Here are two pairs of shoes.

(Both feature a lot in this story.)

PAIR A have **BIG, BULGING EYES,**

menacing metal spikes,

a **W I D E,** gaping

mouth crammed full



of *sharp teeth* and, if anything gets too close, sensors

that **ROAR.** These shoes look **scary.** And if

you wore them, you'd definitely stand out in a crowd,

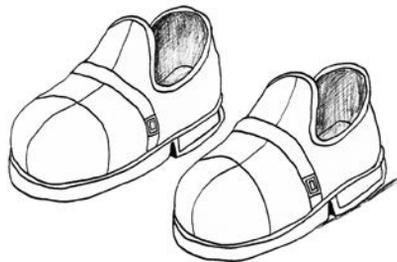
that's for sure.

PAIR B is a nice, neat, flat shoe, the kind you might

wear for school, because teachers **LOVE** a sensible shoe,

don't they? These are practical

shoes, if a bit dull.



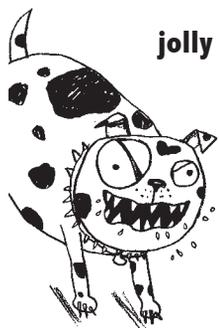
SO, the **IMPORTANT QUESTION** is:

Which pair would **YOU** choose if you found yourself

in **THIS** situation?



Imagine you're walking down a street, whistling a
jolly tune. (If you can't whistle, *SING.*)



SUDDENLY, you hear a dog barking **LOUDLY.**

You turn around, and it's running towards you,

and **NOT** in a friendly, tickle-my-tummy way.

The closer the dog gets, the angrier it looks – and I mean

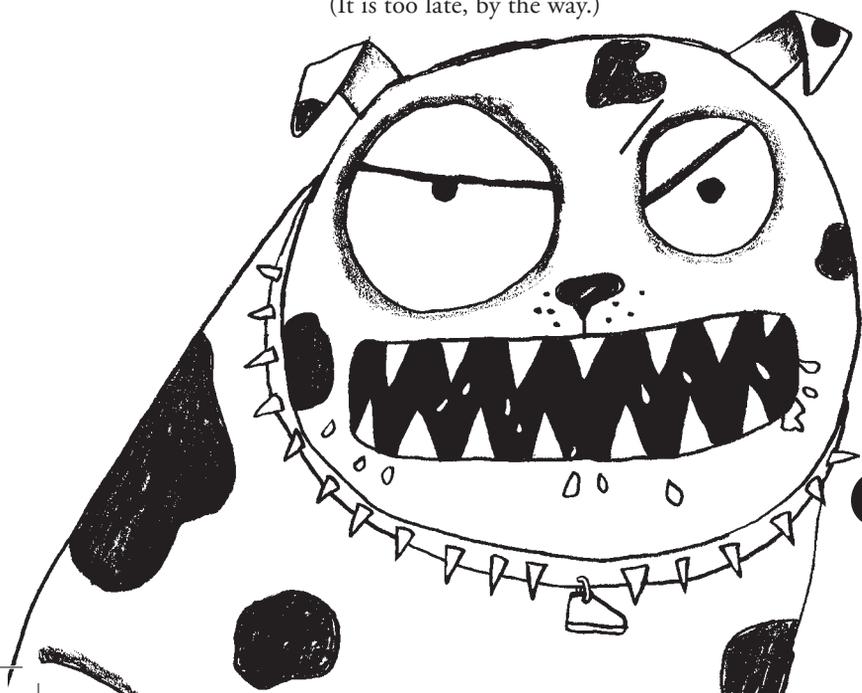
FIERCE. Its teeth glisten with dog drool that's

flying out of its **MOUTH!**

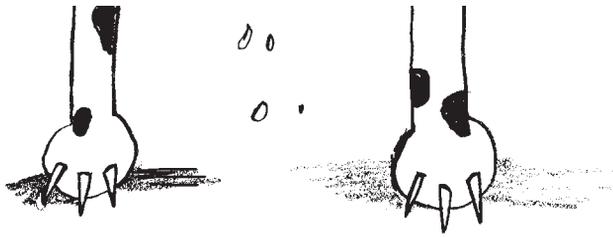
Your first thought is: **GET AWAY!**

As fast as you can before it's too late!

(It is too late, by the way.)



Grrrr r



The dog is already at your heels and growling.
You hold your breath and keep absolutely still, hoping it
doesn't want to bite you.

(It does want to bite you.)

The dog narrows its eyes and begins to move closer.

It's getting ready to **LEAP UP**
and sink its **TEETH** right into

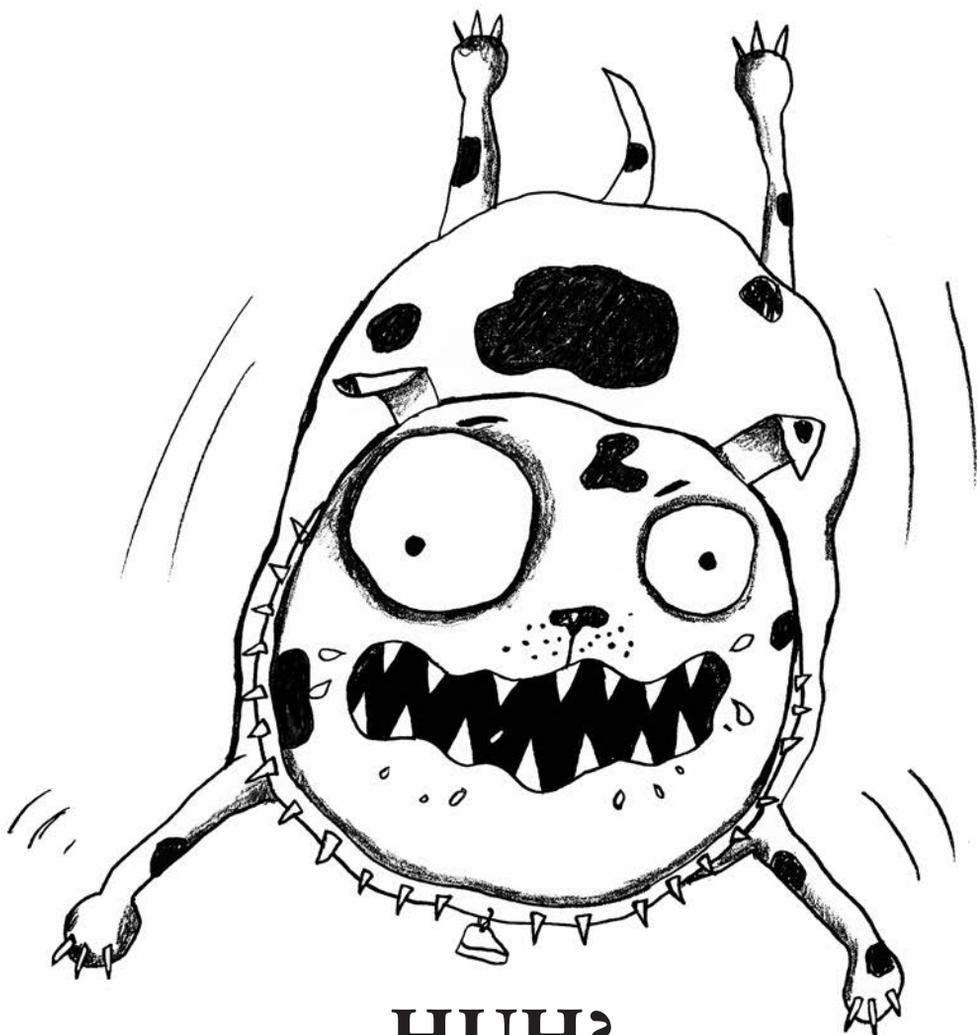
your **BIG ...**

JUICY ...

r rrrrrr

... WAIT!

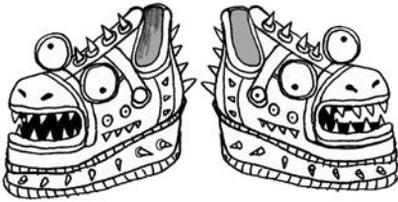
Let's STOP everything right there for a second.



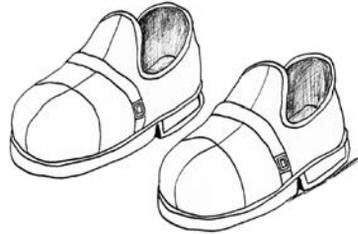
HUH?

If you had to pick one pair of shoes to PROTECT
your feet from the VICIOUS DOG, which shoes
would YOU choose?

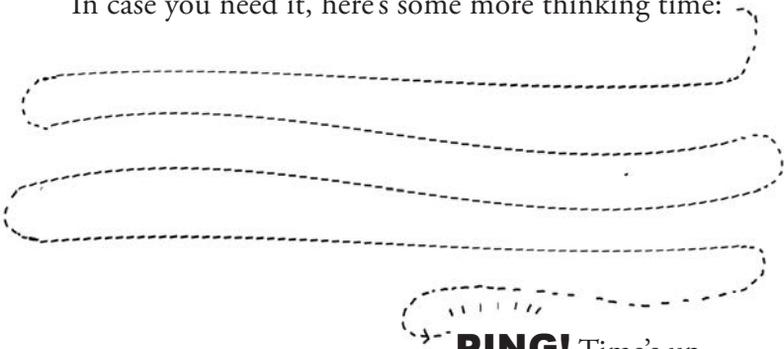
PAIR A:
the SCARY-LOOKING
SHOES



or **PAIR B:**
the SENSIBLE-LOOKING
SHOES



In case you need it, here's some more thinking time:



PING! Time's up.

Did you pick PAIR A, the **SCARY-LOOKING**
SHOES, the ones with the metal spikes, SHARP teeth
and the sensors?

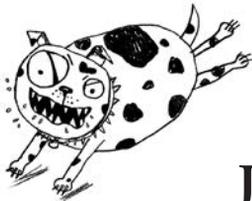
Then you'd be COMPLETELY and utterly ...

... **wrong!** And here's why.

Firstly, they belong to someone called Wendy Wedge, and if you pinched her shoes, she'd be **FURIOUS!**



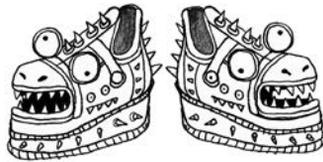
Wendy would send out one of her **MEAN,**



crazy dogs to get them back.

Secondly,

JUST LOOK AT THEM!



They're spiky, clumpy, weird and wobbly.

WHO could even walk, let alone **RUN** in a pair of shoes like that?

(Apart from Wendy Wedge, of course.)

BUT if you picked **PAIR B?**



Well, these shoes might not

look like anything special, but they really are.



All you'd have to do to **ESCAPE** Wendy's dog is
click your heels together and say,

"SHOES UP!"

Then **WHOOOOSSSSHHHH!**

Off you'd go like a **ROCKET**, and the dog would
be left wondering where you were and biting on
nothing but air, because these shoes can **FLY!**

(HOW exciting is that?)



Imagine the **FUN** you could have wearing flying shoes.

You'd never be late for school again.



Reaching anything high would be **EASY!**



Looking over tall people's heads?

No problem at all!



Flying shoes would be **AMAZING.**

EVERYONE would want a pair (including me).

But... (There's always a "but", isn't there?)

Before you get too excited about the shoes, the person who owns them doesn't want ANYONE to know they even EXIST.

ESPECIALLY not one person in particular:

Wendy  Wedge.

(Yes, HER again.)

Because if SHE finds out about the shoes, it would be a

DISASTER!

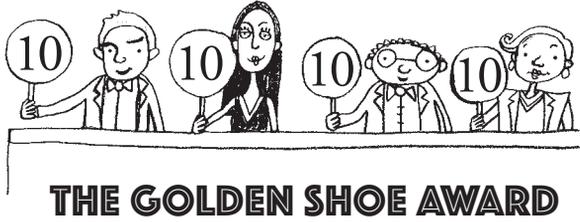
First, Wendy would STEAL the shoes. Then she would LIE and say that SHE invented them. Then being a **NASTY** piece of work, she'd USE them to ENTER the MOST prestigious competition EVER

— **THE GOLDEN SHOE AWARD.**

(Wendy Wedge is so desperate to win, it's painful.)

Every FOUR years the VERY BEST shoemaking towns are INVITED to compete for the **ultimate** SHOE prize.

At the **BIG, GLITZY** ceremony, the competition is always **FIERCE**. The most inventive and incredible shoes with gadgets are presented to the panel of judges.



A winning pair of shoes can change the fortunes AND lives of the inventors **FOR EVER**.

So far, this has NOT happened to Wendy Wedge.

She enters every single competition. But she's only won a prize once, for **BEST COMEDY SHOE ...**

and even that was a mistake.

Ha! Ha!
Ha! Ha! Ha!
Ha! Ha!

