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The Test

by Susannah McFarlane

Illustrated by Dyani Stagg





CHAPTER

1

Emma Jacks was excited. It was the first day of school. She was in the car with her mum and her brother, Bob.

Holidays were fun but she had missed seeing her best friends, Hannah and Elle.



Hannah was shorter and quiet. Elle was taller and was always in a hurry. Emma was in the middle. Together, the three of them made a great team.

At last they were at the gates of St Cree's Primary School.

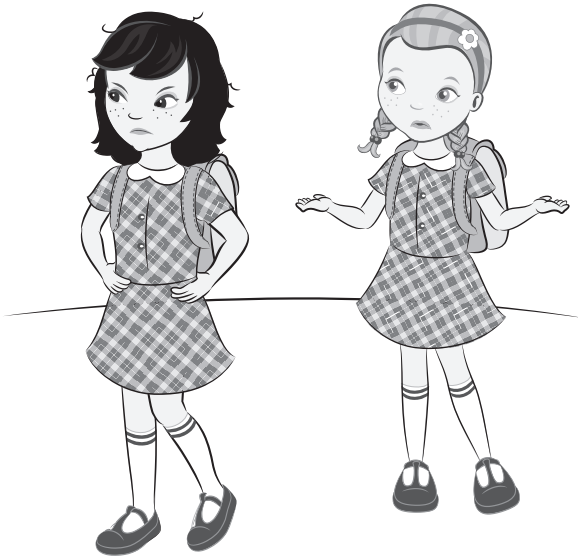
Emma gave her mum
a kiss on the cheek. She
jumped out of the car and
ran through the gates.

'Hey, Nema!' Emma
called to a girl with wavy
black hair.

The girl didn't reply.

*Why didn't she say
hello?* thought Emma.

Nema used to be my friend. Then she was so mean last term. I hope she's not going to be that mean again.



'Hi Em!' cried Hannah.

'Hannah!' cried Emma.

'Em! Han!' called a girl
with red curly hair. It was
Elle. Emma and Hannah
ran over to her.

Emma was happy
to be with her two best
friends. She forgot all
about Nema.

The school bell rang.

'Come on!' cried Elle.

The three friends held hands. They walked to the school hall for assembly.

The school principal, Ms Pleh, began to talk.

'I am pleased that you are all so happy to be back at school,' she said.

'And we'll see if your brains are happy to be back too. Tomorrow we are going to hold a special maths test in the hall.'

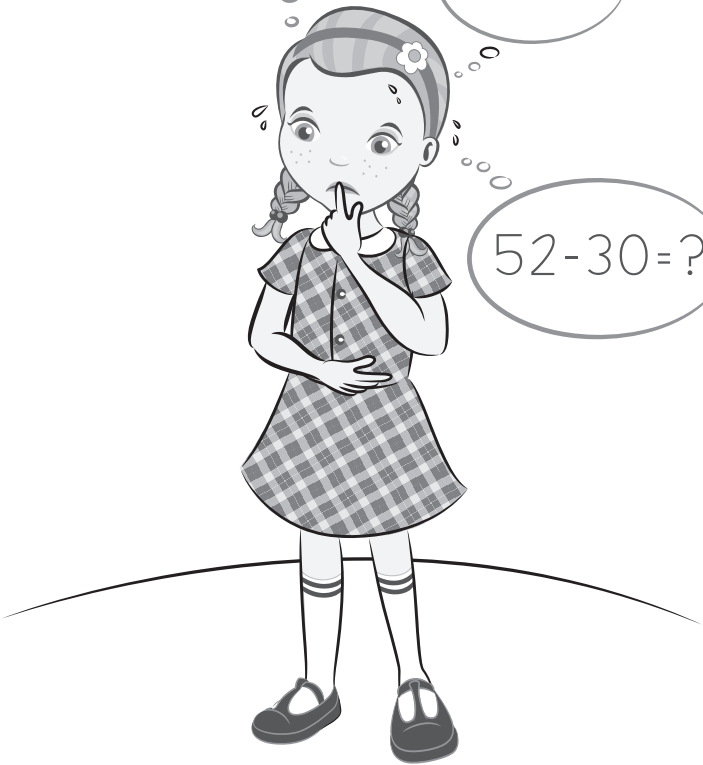
Everyone groaned and laughed. But not Emma. Her tummy hurt a bit.

Oh no! thought Emma.
I hate tests!

What if I have
forgotten
everything???

$5 \times 5 = ?$

$52 - 30 = ?$



Emma really liked maths. She liked how things added up. But she didn't like tests. She worried she wouldn't do well. Emma didn't feel so good about being back at school anymore.