

Strange sounds and smells

It was the night of the *Food Around the World* programme, and everyone in Marvin's house was very excited.

Grandad was wearing both his gadget jacket and his hat tonight. The jacket pockets were full of tools. The hat was moving around more quickly than usual as he needed different glasses for all the things he was doing.

Mum was making sandwiches, cakes and drinks in the kitchen. She was very happy that Marvin had a new friend, so she wanted to be sure that Marvin and Robert enjoyed themselves.

Marvin and Robert were sitting in the living room watching Grandad. Robert thought Marvin's grandad seemed much more fun than most grandads he knew. When Mum walked in with the food, Grandad looked up and smiled.

'OK, boys. We're ready.'

He pushed the usual button to turn the TV on and then pushed a big red button that said 'Smell'.

'Enjoy yourselves,' he said and he left the room.

Marvin and Robert smiled at each other. Then they both turned to look at the TV. The first chef was cooking Sunday lunch and the smell of chicken filled the room. Marvin and Robert sniffed the air. 'Mmm, chicken,' they said and they both took a sandwich.

The second chef was cooking fruit pie and the smell of apples filled the room. 'Mmm, apple pie,' said Marvin and



Robert and they both took a piece of cake.

The third chef was cooking pizza and they couldn't wait to see and smell that. They were very excited.

Then they heard the doorbell. Mum went to answer it. Tyson was standing there, smiling his nicest smile.

'Come in,' said Mum. She thought he was another of Marvin's new friends.

When Tyson walked into the living room, Marvin couldn't believe it. He started to speak, but his mum was already talking.

'Make yourself at home, Tyson,' she said. 'There are sandwiches, cakes and drinks on the table.'

She left, feeling happy. But Marvin and Robert did not feel happy. Tyson put about thirty crisps in his mouth.

'Move, Marilyn,' he said and pushed his big body between Marvin and Robert.



'So, this is Smelly Vision, eh?' he said as he took the remote control from Marvin's hand.

'How do you know about Smelly Vision?' asked Marvin. 'I heard you in the school café at lunchtime,' replied Tyson. 'When you said you had Smelly Vision, I decided to come and smell it for myself. But I don't want to watch cooking.'

He pushed a button on the remote control and changed the programme.

'Ah, that's better. Football.'

Tyson put the remote control in his pocket and started to watch the football game. The room became full of the smell of grass and hot dogs and hamburgers. Marvin's stomach was hurting again. He was very angry.

'Stop it, Tyson,' he shouted. 'You're in my house now, not at school. Give me the remote control.'

'Fight me for it,' smiled Tyson. 'But remember how I got this ...'

Tyson showed Robert his big scar.

'I got this fighting—' he started.

'Twenty robbers. We know,' finished Marvin, who decided at that moment that he was not afraid of Tyson any more. He jumped onto Tyson and pulled the remote control from him. Tyson couldn't believe it.

He opened his mouth to shout at Marvin but suddenly stopped. When Marvin took the remote control, he changed the programme. It wasn't football any more. It was a programme about dogs. There were dogs all over the TV screen. Big dogs and small dogs and noisy dogs with large teeth.

Tyson was very quiet.

The room was full of the smell of dogs. The smell was in Tyson's nose and in his head. He wanted to run but he couldn't. He started to shake. His face turned white and then green. He knew that if his stomach started hurting, he was going to be sick.

Robert didn't know what was happening, but Marvin did. He remembered the day he saw Tyson and the dog at school. Marvin was a kind boy, so he quickly changed the TV back to the food programme. He thought he was helping.



But he wasn't. Now the room was full of the smell of food as well as the smell of dogs. Chicken and dog. Apples and dog. Pizza and dog. It was all too much for Tyson.

'I'm going to be sick!' he cried, as he ran from the room.

'The bathroom. Quick!' shouted Marvin.

Tyson ran to the bathroom and closed the door behind him.

'Good evening, sir,' said the toilet. 'Sitting or standing?'

Tyson was very surprised and he forgot to be sick. 'I'm really ill,' he thought to himself. 'I thought the toilet talked to me.' He put his hand on the wall to stop himself falling over and by mistake he pushed the button that turned the shower on.

'La-la-la-la,' sang the shower. 'Dum-di-dum-di-dum.'

What was that terrible noise? Tyson put his fingers in his ears. Was the shower singing? He was feeling very afraid now and he hurried out of the bathroom. He ran into Grandad.



'Are you OK?' asked Grandad. He tried to find the right glasses to see Tyson better. Tyson's eyes got bigger and bigger as Grandad's big hat turned round and round.

This was too much for Tyson.

'I don't understand what's happening!' he screamed. 'I'm hearing voices and seeing things and smelling things.' He ran to the front door.

'This is a mad house!' he shouted as he ran out.

Tyson tells his story

Marvin didn't sleep well that night.

Tyson wasn't nice, but Marvin felt sorry for him. Of course, he was also worried²⁰ about meeting Tyson at school again.

'Oh well,' he said to himself as he got up the next morning. 'It's the weekend, so I won't see him for two days.'

Feeling a little better, he walked into the kitchen. But who was that at the kitchen table? No, it couldn't be. But it was. It was ... Tyson!

'T-T-T-T ... ?' was all Marvin could say because he was very surprised. Where were Mum and Grandad? He began to feel afraid.

'He's angry about last night. He wants a fight. I've got to get out,' Marvin thought to himself. He started to walk back to the door.

'Morning, Marvin,' said Tyson quietly.

Marvin stopped. 'He called me "Marvin", not "Marilyn". What's wrong with him?' he said to himself.

Tyson was talking again, but Marvin wasn't listening. He was watching Tyson. He seemed smaller. Smaller and nicer. His body was the same. His face was the same. It was something inside that seemed different.

'I'm sorry about last night,' Tyson was saying.

Marvin couldn't believe it. Tyson was being kind to him! He had to sit down.

'I'm sorry about last night and I'm sorry about being

horrible to you,' Tyson continued.

Marvin and Tyson sat quietly for a long time. Marvin wasn't sure if Tyson was joking. Tyson wasn't sure if Marvin believed him. They both felt very uncomfortable. At that moment Grandad walked into the kitchen.

'Morning, Favourite Grandson,' he said in a happy voice.

'Morning, Grandad,' replied Marvin. He waited for Tyson to laugh at him because Grandad called him 'Favourite Grandson'. But Tyson just sat there.

Grandad said something quietly to Tyson and Tyson left the room.

'Where has he gone?' asked Marvin.

'To the garage,' said Grandad.

Marvin wanted to ask why, but first he said, 'He doesn't seem like Tyson at all.'

'Ah,' said Grandad. 'That's because he's *not* Tyson.'

Marvin didn't understand. 'What do you mean?'

'He's not Tyson. He's Lionel,' Grandad said.

'Lionel?'

'Yes. His mum told me.'

'When did you see his mum?'

'Last night. I was worried about Tyson because he was sick, so I followed him out of the house and walked home with him. When I met Tyson's mum, she told me everything.'

'Everything?' said Marvin.

'She told me everything about Lionel.'

'But who is Lionel?' asked Marvin again.

Tyson came back into the kitchen. 'I'm Lionel,' he said.

Tyson was now wearing a very strange blue suit. Marvin

wanted to ask him about the suit, but first he wanted to hear about 'Lionel'.

'Lionel is my real name,' said Tyson.

'But why do you call yourself Tyson?' asked Marvin.

'Because that's the name of the dog.'

'The dog?'

'The dog that bit me when I was little.'

Marvin looked at Grandad for help. Grandad shook his head and said, 'Let Tyson tell you the story.'

And Tyson did.



'When I was younger, I had a toy bear. I loved it very much.' Tyson stopped talking and looked at Marvin to see if he was laughing. He wasn't.

'Well, the boy next door was a big bully. He laughed at me for having a toy bear. One day when I wasn't looking, he gave it to his dog, Tyson. I tried to get it back and the dog bit me.'

'That's how you got your scar!' said Marvin. Tyson's face went red. 'Yes.'

'But why do you call yourself Tyson?' asked Marvin. 'That was the dog's name!'

'I decided that I wanted to be like that dog. He wasn't afraid of anything.' Tyson's eyes were wet. 'A bully isn't afraid of anything,' he continued. 'I just wanted to feel better.'

'You bullied me,' said Marvin quietly. 'Did you feel better?'

'No,' said Tyson in a small voice. 'I'm sorry. I knew I was hurting you, but I couldn't stop myself.'

They both felt very uncomfortable again and didn't speak for a long time.

Then suddenly Marvin said,

'So that's why you're afraid of dogs!'

'Not any more,' said Grandad, smiling his big smile. 'I've made him a special suit, so now dogs will be afraid of him!'



Marvin stood next to Tyson so he could see the suit better. It was very strange. It had lots of little tubes running through it with water inside. And there was a very strong smell of soap.

'What is the thing that dogs are most afraid of?' asked Grandad.

'I don't know,' said Marvin.

'Baths!' shouted Grandad. 'I've made Lionel a suit with bath water in it. No dog will want to come near him now.'

Marvin sniffed the suit again. Yes, it really smelled of baths.

'Why don't you both walk over to Robert's house? You can see how the suit works,' said Grandad.

So Marvin and Tyson left the house. Marvin was wearing his jeans and T-shirt and Tyson was wearing his new suit.

It felt strange to be walking next to Tyson and not running away from him. But Marvin was happy. Now he had two new friends. He turned to smile at Tyson, but Tyson couldn't see him. He was looking at a big black dog.

The dog was running towards them. It had very large teeth and it was making a loud noise. Tyson felt afraid and he closed his eyes. Marvin felt afraid but he kept his eyes open. When the dog was a few metres away, it stopped running and put its nose in the air. It sniffed loudly. Then it made a noise like a little baby and quickly jumped over a wall and ran away.

Marvin laughed and turned to Tyson. 'It's OK,' he said. 'The dog has gone.'

Tyson opened his eyes. 'What happened?' he asked.

'The dog was afraid of you,' said Marvin. 'The suit worked!'

'That's fantastic!' said Tyson. 'I love this suit!'

He looked down at the tubes of soap and water in his jacket. 'It's a bit mad,' he said, 'like your toilet and your shower—'

'And my trainers and my glasses,' said Marvin.

'Yes. Mad but a little bit magic too,' Tyson said.

Marvin watched his new friend walk along in his new blue suit. Each time Tyson moved his legs, bubbles came up through the bottom of his jacket. Soon the street behind him was full of small bubbles and big dogs running away. Marvin started to laugh.



'Yes,' he agreed. 'A little bit mad and a little bit magic. Just like my life since Grandad came to stay. Grandad and his magic gadgets!'

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Looking forward* on page 49.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Put the sentences in order.

- 1 Tyson arrives at Marvin's house. ☐
- 2 Marvin and Robert watch *Smelly Vision* together. ☐
- 3 The toilet and shower talk to Tyson. ☐
- 4 Tyson tells Marvin why he's afraid of dogs. ☐
- 5 Tyson changes the TV programme to football. ☐
- 6 Marvin and Tyson become friends. ☐
- 7 Tyson says that his real name is 'Lionel'. ☐
- 8 Tyson feels sick. ☐

- 3 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 Robert likes / doesn't like Marvin's grandad.
- 2 Mum / Grandad invites Tyson to come in.
- 3 Tyson heard about *Smelly Vision* in the school café / classroom.
- 4 Tyson feels / doesn't feel afraid when the shower sings.
- 5 The next morning Tyson / Robert is at Marvin's house.
- 6 Grandad / Marvin talked to Tyson's mum.
- 7 Marvin / Tyson had a toy bear when he was younger.
- 8 Grandad makes a suit with drinks / bath water in it.

- 4 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Marvin and Robert watch a food programme. ☒
- 2 Robert takes the remote control from Marvin's hand. ☐
- 3 That night Marvin doesn't sleep well. ☐
- 4 Mum tells Marvin that Tyson's name is 'Lionel'. ☐
- 5 'Tyson' was the dog that bit Marvin. ☐
- 6 Grandad says that dogs are afraid of noise. ☐
- 7 When Tyson sees the dog coming, he closes his eyes. ☐
- 8 Tyson doesn't like his new suit. ☐

- 5 Answer the questions.

- 1 What programme do Marvin and Robert watch?
- 2 Where does Tyson sit?
- 3 What programme does Tyson want to watch?
- 4 Why does Tyson leave Marvin's house?
- 5 How did Tyson really get his scar?
- 6 Why is Tyson's suit special?