

Ade lives in a tower block in London. One day, something bad happens to Ade's mum. After that, she stays in her bedroom all the time and sleeps. Then buildings start falling down in the night, and there are strange plants on the street. What will happen to Ade and his friend Gaia?

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	CEFR level	Story word count	Headlines
S	Pre-A1	400-600	
1	A1	1,000-1,600	550
2	A1+	3,000-5,000	700
3	A2	7,000-10,000	1,000
4	A2+	11,000-14,000	1,200
5	B1	15,000-18,000	1,600
6	B1+	18,000-22,000	2,000
7	B2	22,000-26,000	2,500

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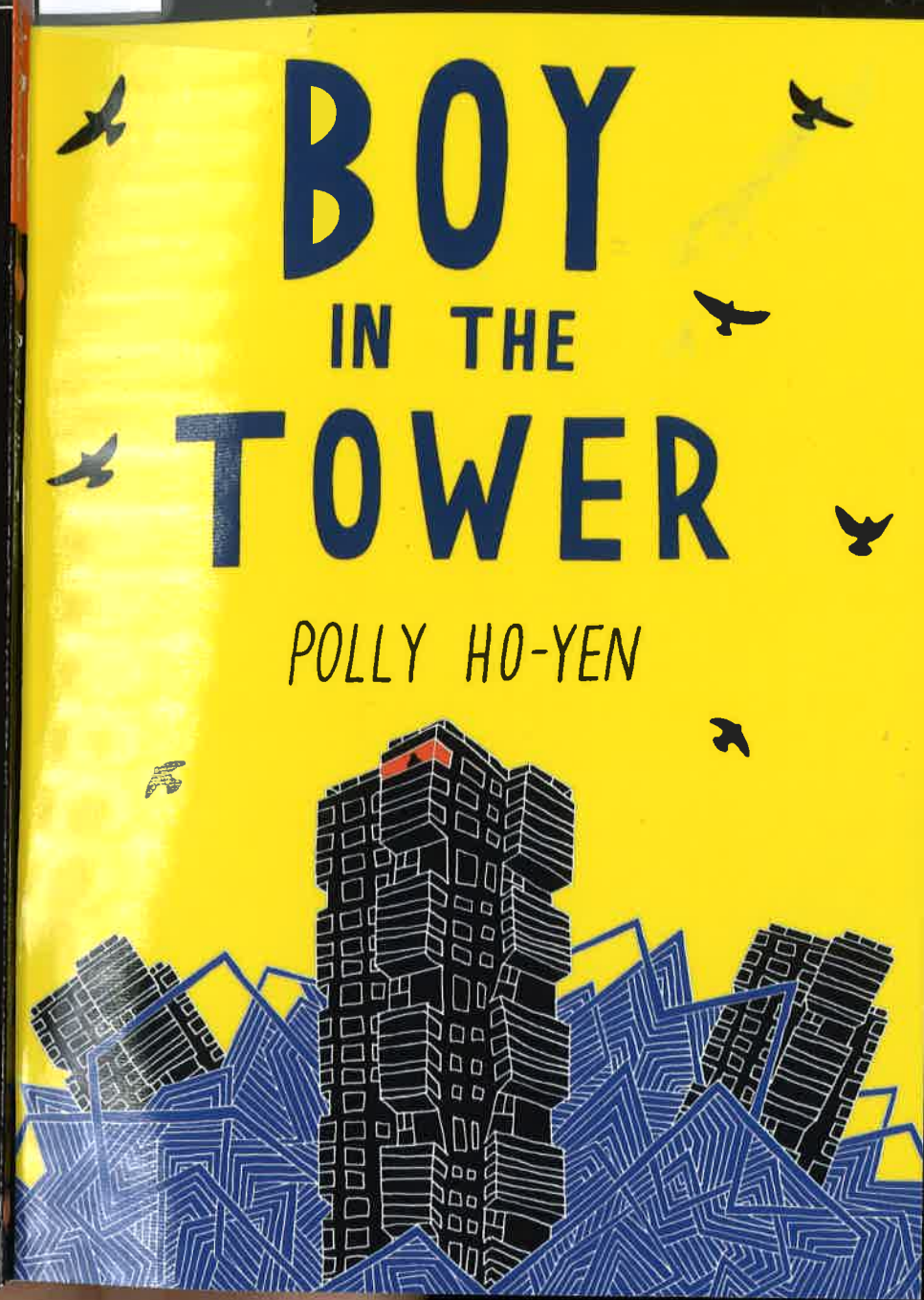


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People in the story



Ade



Ade's mum



Gaia



Obi

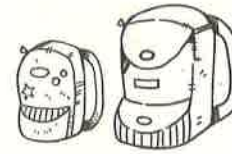


Dory



Ben

New words



backpacks



light



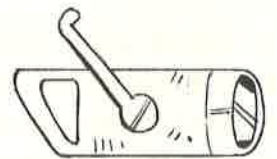
plant/to plant



scrapbook



tape



torch

Note about the story

Ade lives in a **tower block*** in the middle of London. His tower is in a part of London called Camberwell. You can go to big cities and sometimes bad things happen there. For example, some people **hurt** Ade's mum. After this, she feels very bad and sleeps for weeks.

But other things in the story cannot happen. Buildings **fall down** in the night and there are strange plants on the streets. Nobody is **safe**!

Before-reading questions

- 1 Look at the cover of the book. What do you think will happen in the story?
- 2 This story happens in London. What do you know about London? Write four sentences.
- 3 Look at the "People in the story" on page 4. Choose three people, and describe them. Who are they, do you think, and what will happen to them?
- 4 Look at the "New words" on page 5, and answer the questions.
 - a What do people use backpacks for?
 - b What do people put in scrapbooks, and why?
 - c Who uses this tape, do you think? What is it for?
 - d Why do people need torches?
- 5 Look quickly at the pictures in the story. Choose your favourite picture. Why do you like it?

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 63–64.

CHAPTER ONE

Ade's tower

I always loved my flat in the **tower block**. I could look down, and I could see everything in our part of London. I could see people, cars, shops and my school. I could also see planes in the sky.

My flat was **safe** in my tower because there were lots of **floors** under it! And I could see my friend Gaia's flat, too, because it was in a tower near mine. Gaia and I each lived on the seventeenth floor of our towers in Camberwell, our part of London.

Mum and I often looked out of the window together. Mum has a beautiful, kind face, and she is funny. She gave me my name. I know all mums give names to their babies, but she gave me a new name. At school, there was another boy with my name, Adeola, and she said, "You can be Ade." She told everyone, "This is Ade – you say Add-ee."

I liked school because my teacher, Miss Farraway,



was very nice. Sometimes, I didn't listen very well, and some of the other teachers got angry with me. But Miss Farraway always helped me.

The best thing about school was Gaia. She helped me, too, and sometimes I helped her. Sometimes, the other girls laughed at her because she was different from them. She thought a lot about things, and she loved the sun and the rain. She liked growing things, too.

One day, we planted sunflower seeds. I chose my seed, and I planted it in a cup. Then I wrote my name on the cup. Gaia held her seed in her hand and said something to it.

A girl near Gaia laughed and shouted, "Miss Farraway, Gaia is talking to her seed!"



Then everybody in the class laughed loudly. Gaia quickly put her seed in her cup, and she looked down at the table.

Later, I heard two girls talking in the playground. "Did you do it?" one girl said.

"Yes, I did. I went back to the classroom, and I threw Gaia's seed away," the other girl said. "She can talk to her cup, but nothing will grow in it now."

They laughed. "Gaia is stupid!" the first girl said.

I was angry, but I didn't want to speak to them or hit them. I went back to the classroom. Quickly, I got the seed out of my cup. Then I found Gaia's cup, and I planted my seed in it.

A lot of the other children's seeds didn't grow into sunflowers. But Gaia's seed grew very tall.

I drew a picture of Gaia's sunflower in my scrapbook.



CHAPTER TWO
Buildings fall

Then things changed. I came home from school one day and Mum wasn't at work. Bits of her face were red and other bits of it were black and blue. She looked very frightened, and I wanted to ask, "What happened, Mum? Did someone hit you?" But I couldn't say anything, and Mum never said anything about it. She cried and cried.

Mum didn't get better, and she wasn't happy again. She stopped going out of the flat, and she lay on her bed all day. After that, I **looked after** both of us.

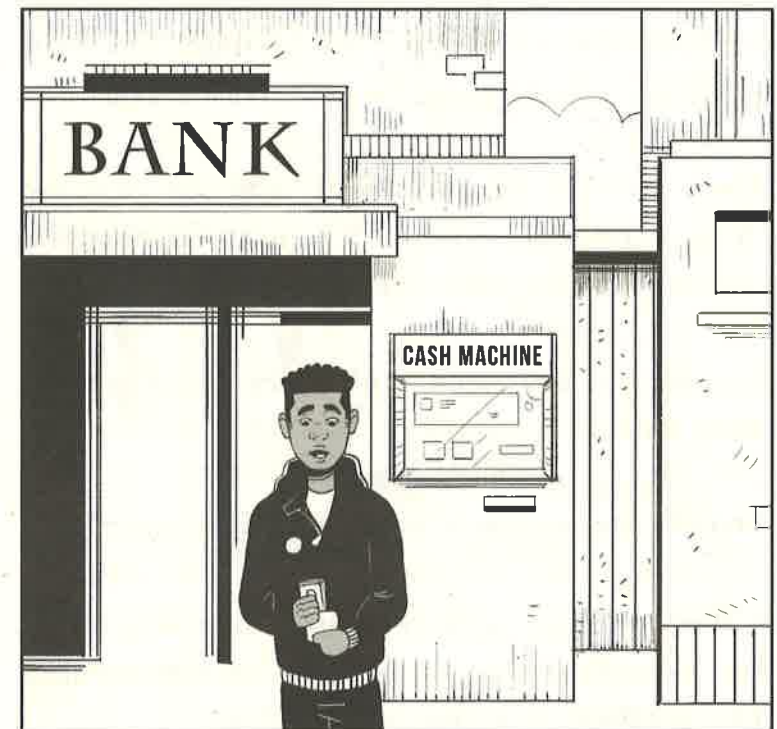
At first, I used Mum's money to buy food. Then Mum gave me her bank card, and she said, "You must learn the number and get money for us from the cash machine outside the bank."

I didn't tell Gaia about Mum, but she knew. One day, she said to me, "Why doesn't your mum see a doctor?"

I asked Mum, "Will you talk to the doctor?", but she did not want to go.

I asked her about her job in a shop near our flat. But she said, "I can't go back to my job because 'it' happened near there." And then she cried.

Then she said, "Please go away, Ade, and leave me in bed."



For months I looked after Mum, and I cooked our **meals**. Sometimes, there was no food. I was very hungry, and my stomach **hurt**. But I was frightened to go to the bank, because I didn't like carrying lots of money in the streets.

Then things changed again.

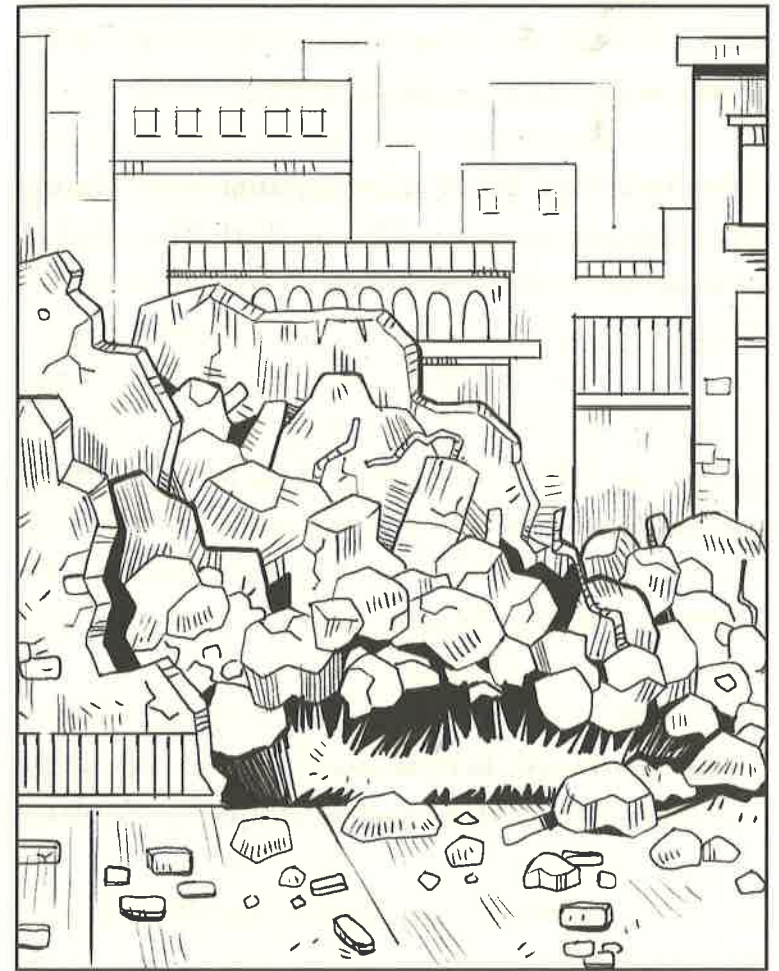
One day, it started to rain. And that day someone came to our door. A boy from school called Michael lived next door to us, and it was his mum. She went to Mum's bedroom, and they talked for a long time.

Then she took me to her flat, and she gave me chicken and rice for dinner. The next morning, she took me to school with Michael.

It rained all that week, and, every day, Michael's mum took me to school.

Then one morning it stopped raining, and I saw something very strange from our big window. A shop on Blucher Street wasn't there any more, but there weren't many bricks on the ground. The small pile of rubble looked blue.

Another building **fell** down. Then two more buildings fell down, and we began to talk about it all the time at school. "Why is this happening?" we said. "Where are the bricks?"



At school, Gaia and I talked. "Did the buildings fall down because of a very big Animal?" we said. "Maybe it only likes to eat bricks from Camberwell," Gaia said.

"Yes," I said, "it doesn't like bricks from other places in London." And we laughed.

Then, one day, the very big animal wasn't funny any more, because an old lady died. She went to bed and her house fell on her.

CHAPTER THREE

Piles of rubble

Every day, I watched the television news. More buildings fell down, and more people died. Every night, there were lights on in all the flats. People looked out of their windows from all the towers, but nobody saw the buildings **fall down**.

There were bad days at school. Teachers told us, "Sadly, one of your friends is **dead**." And then they said, "A teacher is dead, too."

Every morning, I looked for Gaia at school. My stomach hurt because I **worried** about her. She worried about me, too. "Don't go to the shops," she said. "It isn't safe outside. People are dying."

I didn't like going to the shops because of the piles of rubble and bricks and **metal**. But I said, "I have to do the shopping because Mum is ill."

"Let's go shopping together," said Gaia.

Gaia and I went shopping after school. Two men in hard hats stood on a pile of rubble with police tape **around** it. Gaia and I stopped and looked at it. "The bricks in the rubble look blue," said Gaia. "That's strange."

"You're right," I said. "But let's go. I don't like it here."



That evening, on the television there were pictures of the two men in hard hats. The men looked after buildings in Camberwell, and they were dead. Why did they die? Nobody knew.

The next morning at school, Miss Faraway didn't give us any work. She started to cry, and she left the room. Another teacher came. "We're all **worried**," she said. "Let's talk about things together." Lots of people talked to her. I wanted to talk to her, but I didn't say anything.

At lunch, Gaia and I talked. "A person didn't kill those men," she said. "The building killed them, I think. The streets aren't safe for us any more."

I didn't understand about the building, but she was right. The streets weren't safe.

"You mustn't go to the shop any more," she said.

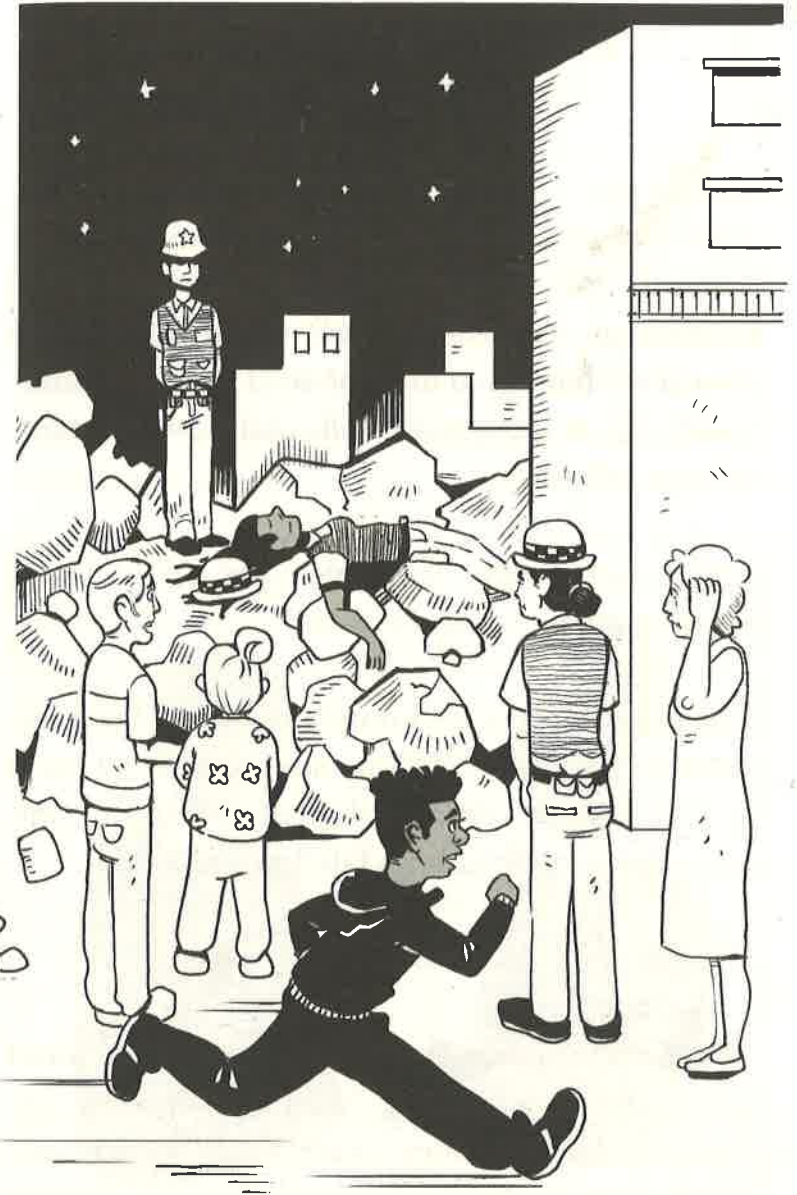
"OK," I said, because she worried about me. But I had to go out that evening because Mum and I needed some milk.

There were lots of police officers in the streets. Some of them were near the pile of rubble, and I thought about the two men in hard hats. I ran fast to a shop and bought the milk. Then I started to run home.

I went past the police officers again. **Suddenly**, all of them fell down on to the street and I was very frightened. I heard Gaia in my head. "Run, Ade, run!" she shouted.

Quickly, I ran home. I closed the door, and I was safe again.

That night, the television news was about the dead police officers. Why did they die? Nobody knew.



CHAPTER FOUR

People leave

The next day, there were helicopters in the sky. Then people with television cameras arrived because of the dead police officers. Gaia and I watched them from the school. "I'm sorry, Gaia," I said. "I had to buy some milk, and I saw the police officers fall down."

Gaia wasn't angry with me. She said, "Look, I made a map of Camberwell."

There were lots of red numbers on it. "Each red number was a building," she said. "Number One is in the middle. It's the first shop that fell down. And every day, more buildings fall down around it."

"Do the police know about this?" I asked.

"They know because helicopters are flying around all the time," Gaia said. "Maybe they don't say anything because they don't want to frighten people. Lots of people are leaving London. Mum's

sister lives in Brighton, and she wants us to go there. Does your mum want to leave?"

"Mum sleeps all the time," I said. "She doesn't know about all this."

"I see," said Gaia. "You can keep the map. Put red numbers on it, and bring it to school tomorrow. Look, here's your tower with 'A' on it, and here's mine with 'G' on it."



But the next day the school closed, and I didn't see Gaia again. I looked out of my window all day at the people in the streets with backpacks and big boxes. I **missed** Gaia very much. But I couldn't leave, because Mum couldn't leave.

Two days later, Michael's mum came to the door. "Get your clothes, Ade," she said. "Everyone is leaving. I'll get your mum."

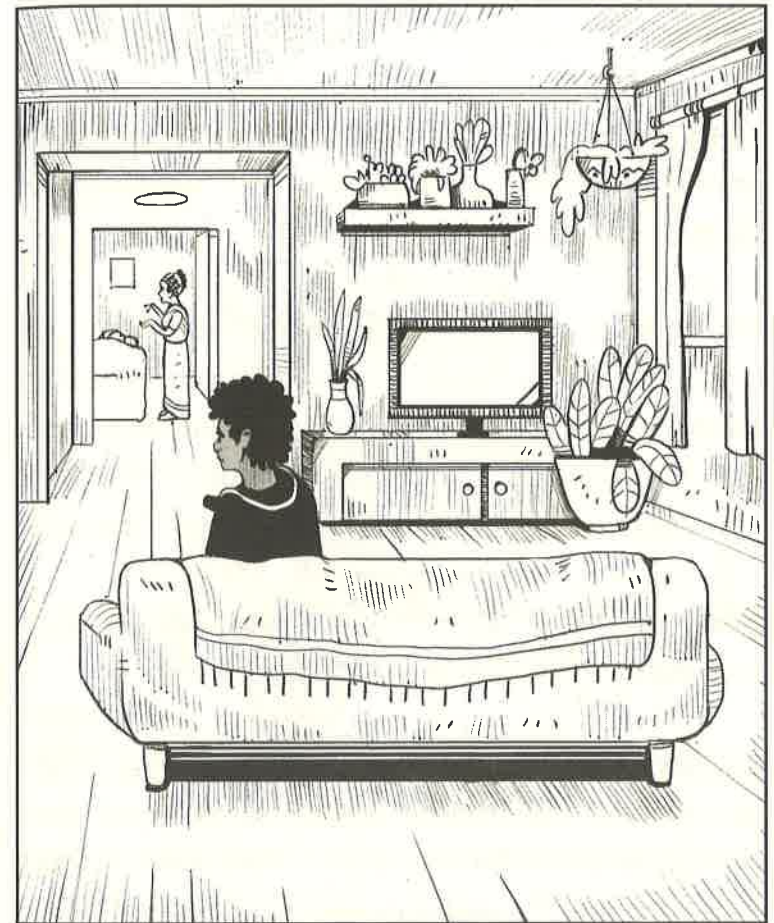
I heard her talking to Mum in Mum's bedroom. But Mum didn't understand, I think.

I heard Michael's mum say, "Wake up! You have to leave. It isn't safe to stay."

A few minutes later, she came out of the bedroom and she said, "I'm going to take you with us, Ade. I'm coming back in a few minutes."

I quickly closed the door behind her, and I pushed a table and some chairs in front of it. Michael's mum came back, and she shouted my name again and again. But I didn't answer and she went away.

In the afternoon, I went out and bought a lot of food. I didn't leave the flat again. Every day, I watched the frightening news on the television.



I wrote numbers on Gaia's map and put the map in my scrapbook. I cooked meals for me and Mum.

Sometimes, Mum came out of her bedroom and went to the bathroom. I tried to tell her all the news, but she always said, "Stop talking – my head hurts."

I was sad because I wanted to talk to Mum. And I missed Gaia very much because she helped me to understand things.

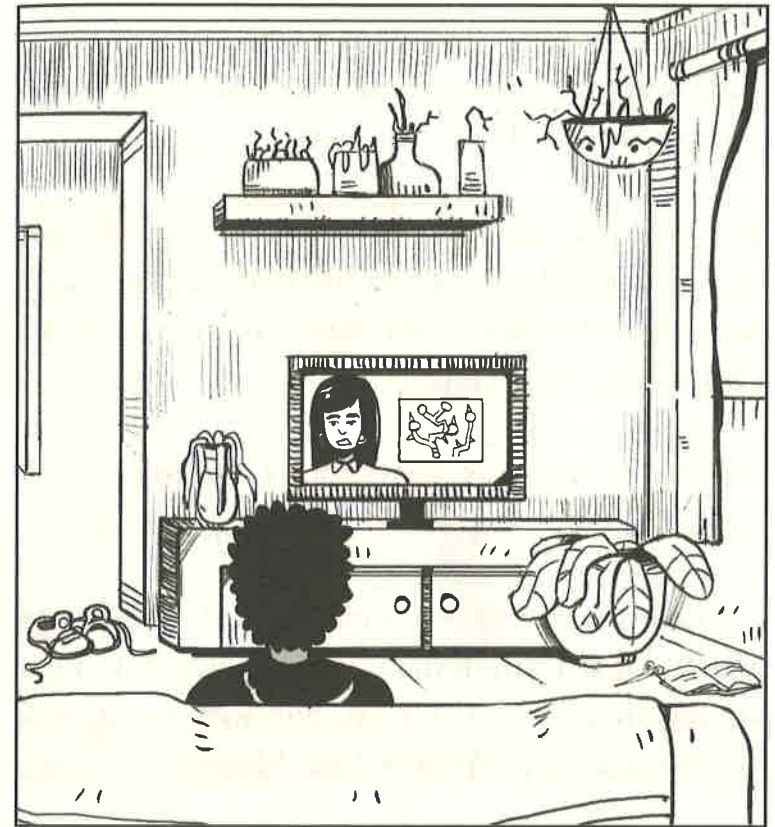
One day, a woman on television said, "We are finding **spores** from a new plant in people's mouths." She said, "The plants are killing people with their spores. The plants are called 'Bluchers' now because the plants are near Blucher Street."

This was very interesting. "Does Gaia know?" I thought. "She likes to know about plants."

On television, the Bluchers were beautiful. Then the woman said more about them, and they weren't so beautiful any more. They killed people with their spores, and they ate metal and bricks.

"The Bluchers will eat our tower," I thought. I wanted Mum to wake up.

The next day, the flat was dark because the lights didn't work. There was no water. There were no helicopters in the sky, and there were Bluchers everywhere.



CHAPTER FIVE
Obi and Dory

In the morning, I wanted a drink very much. I wrote in my scrapbook: *People need water.*

Then I thought, "I can find something to drink in Michael's flat." The door to the flat was open, and I went into the kitchen. There were bottles of drinks, but I didn't like the **taste**.

The next morning, I heard a noise outside our flat. Very slowly, I opened the door. There was a big bottle of water in the hall! "Who brought it? Was it Gaia?" I thought.

The bottle was very heavy, but I slowly pulled it inside the flat.

I **poured** water into two glasses and took one to Mum. Then I drank mine very quickly. Mum got up and drank another glass. She was very sleepy, but I said to her, "We'll be fine, Mum."

"Yes, we will, Ade," she said. She put her hand on my head, and then she went back to bed.

I thought again, "Who brought the water?" I went up to the next floor and down to the floors below, but I didn't see anyone.

Suddenly, a man spoke to me. "Are you the boy from the seventeenth floor?" he asked.

I turned around quickly.

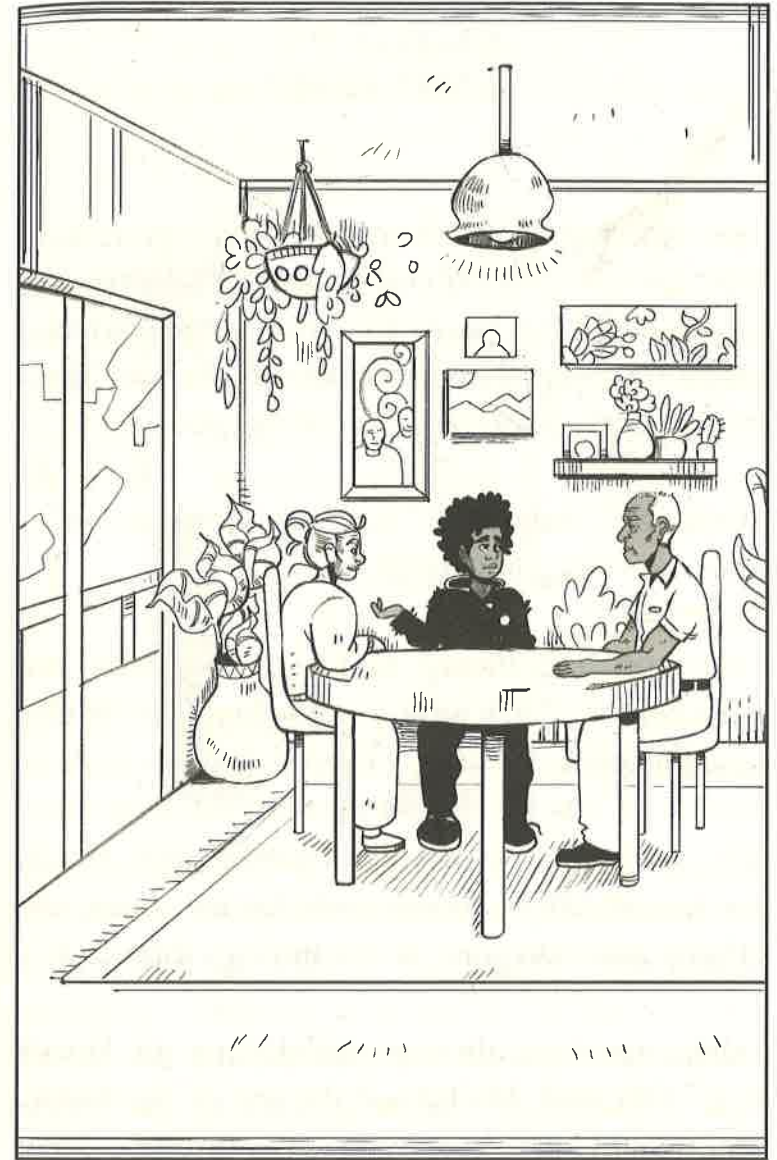


It was Obi, the **caretaker** of our tower. "Do you want something to eat?" he said, and he opened a door to a flat.

An old lady with grey hair called Dory lived there. Her flat was nice and warm, and it had a balcony. She gave me a **tasty** lunch of meat and rice. Then she put some food on another plate. "You can take this to your mum," she said. "Say hello to her from us. And come back here for dinner, young man."

Obi and Dory looked after me and Mum after that. "Obi has keys to all the flats because he's the caretaker," Dory told me. "He knows everything about the people in this tower."

Obi gave me two torches, one for me and one for Mum. Our flat felt safer because I had them. Then, one night, I saw a light in Gaia's tower. First I could see it and then I couldn't. I **turned** my torch on and off, and the light went on and off again. Then I tried to sleep, but I worried about the light. Was Gaia there?



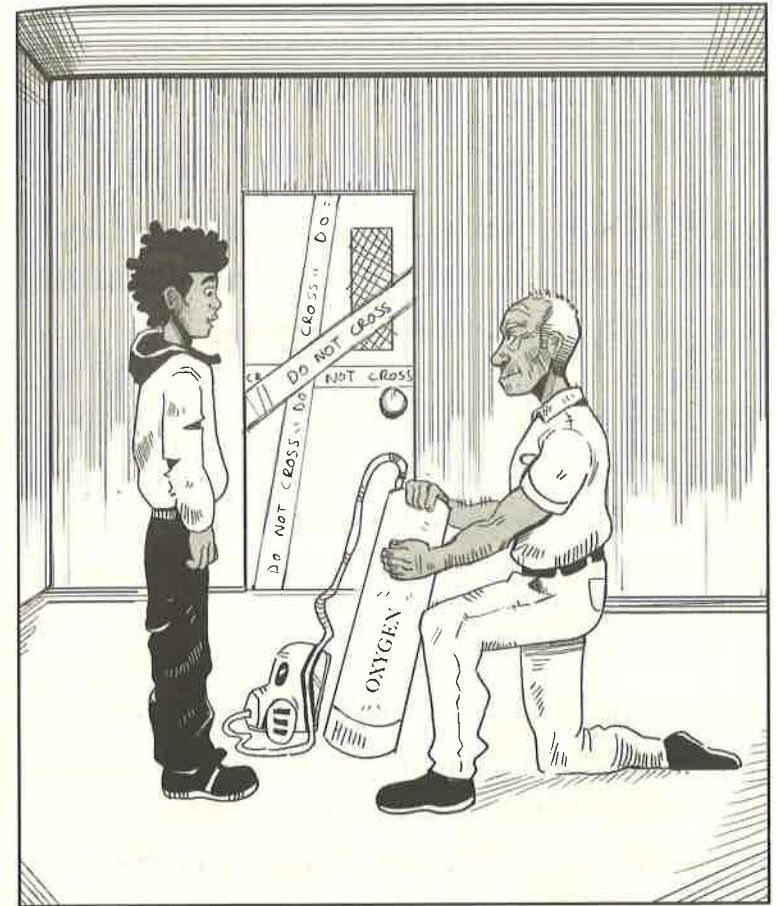
CHAPTER SIX
Gaia's tower

The next morning, there were Bluchers around Gaia's tower. "They're eating the bricks and metal," I thought. Then I ran down to the caretaker's room on the first floor. There were lots of bags and boxes in it, and there was tape around the doors.

"Obi, Obi," I shouted, "there are people in Gaia's tower, and it's going to fall down."

"We must help them," said Obi. "But first, you must help me." He went to some big white bottles in a backpack. He said, "There's **oxygen** in these bottles. It was for an old man on the first floor. He was ill, and it helped him. I need oxygen outside because Bluchers' spores could kill me. Look, the oxygen goes into your mouth through this mask."

"Help me first, then go quickly up to Dory's flat," Obi said. He turned the top of the bottle, and I could hear the oxygen come through. Then I helped him with the backpack and the mask.



I went back up to Dory's flat, and he went outside.

Dory and I stood near her window and waited. Then I saw something strange. The Bluchers were very close to Gaia's tower, but they weren't close to my tower. "Why?" I thought.

Dory gave me some food for Mum. I didn't want to leave, but Dory said, "Take it to her and come back quickly."

I took Mum the food, and I went back to Dory's flat. Obi was there. I was happy because he was safe. "Did you find Gaia?" I asked.

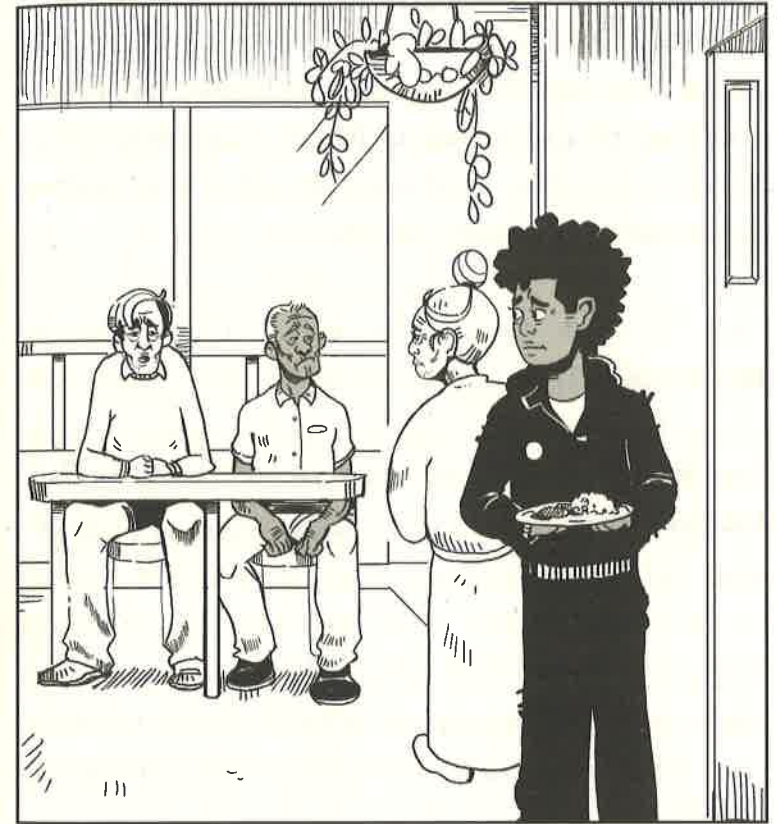
Obi's face was sad. "There were no children in the tower," he said. "But I found a man called Ben. He's very sad because his wife died. The spores killed her. He's in another flat now, and you can meet him tomorrow."

That night, I felt sad because Gaia's tower fell down. I missed Gaia. In the morning, I went to Dory's flat and Obi said, "Can you help me again this morning? We're going to get some food from other flats."

At first, I didn't like taking food. Then I went home, and I got my scrapbook. Every time I took some food, I wrote the flat number and the name of the food.

At dinner, I met Ben. Ben was tall and thin, and he looked sad. "I'll ask him about Gaia later," I thought.

After dinner, Dory gave me some food for Mum. Suddenly, Ben said, "Why isn't your mum here?"



Dory, Obi and I didn't usually talk about Mum. I said, "She doesn't like leaving our flat."

"That's difficult for you, Ade," he said. "I understand because my wife, Evie, didn't like leaving our flat."

After that evening, Ben and I talked every day about Evie and Mum. He cried a lot, but it was good to talk to him about Mum. I also asked him about Gaia. "She lived with her mum and dad on the seventeenth floor," I said.

"Yes, I know them," he said. "They went to Brighton."

I spoke happily to Gaia in my head. "You're OK!" I told her.

Salt

Every day, Dory cooked meals for us with food from the flats. Sometimes they **tasted** great, and sometimes they tasted strange.

One day, I went with Obi to his room again. "Why is there tape around the doors?" I asked.

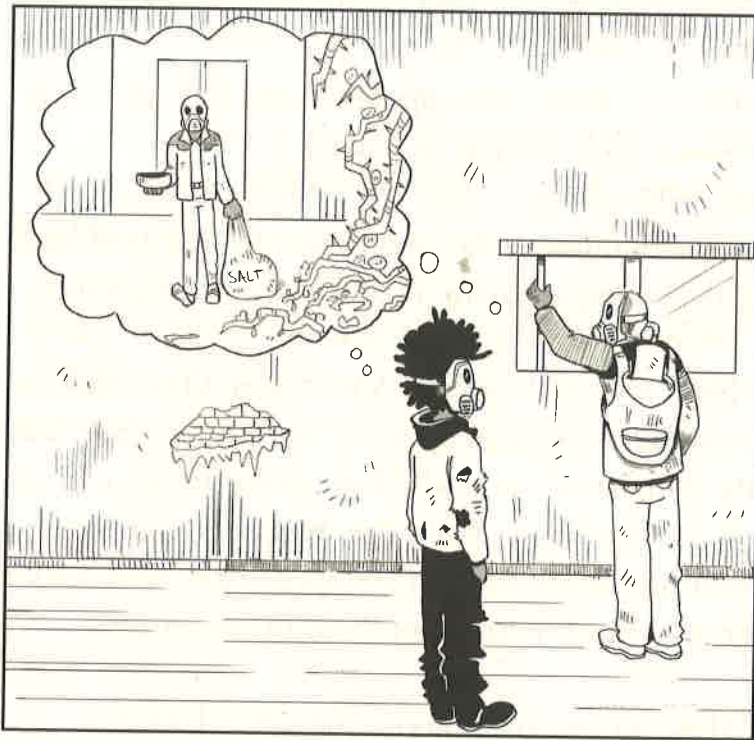
"It's to keep the spores outside," he said. "Now, you must help me again."

We went into another room, and I saw lots of bags with writing on them. It said "SALT" in big letters.

"Help me with these, Ade," said Obi, and we carried lots of bags up to the fifth floor. "Salt kills the Bluchers," he said. "I'm going to pour it out of the windows. Then the Bluchers won't come near our tower. Most of the spores stay close to the ground but I mustn't get them in my mouth."

"How do you know about the salt?" I asked.

"I remembered reading a story," he said. "A man was very angry with the people in his city, and he did something very bad to them. He put salt on the ground everywhere, and all the trees and plants stopped growing. People didn't have food, and they died. Then the buildings fell down because no one looked after them. One day, I put a mask on, and I went outside. I threw salt at a Blucher and it died in front of me."



Now I understood. Our tower was safe because of Obi's salt.

"Everyone left London, and there were no more helicopters in the sky," said Obi. "Then, later, I killed the Blucher. But one day people will learn about salt. Then they'll say, 'The Bluchers didn't eat that tower because someone put salt around it.' Then they'll **rescue** us."

I watched Obi throw salt out of the windows. Suddenly I thought of something. "We're safe now," I said. "But it will rain, and the rain will wash the salt away. Then the Bluchers will start to eat the building."

"You're right, Ade," said Obi.

CHAPTER EIGHT
Ade learns a lot

The next day at breakfast, Dory said, "We need some more food."

"I'll get it," I said. Half an hour later, I was near the kitchen window of a flat. Something suddenly moved outside. "Maybe someone needs help," I thought.

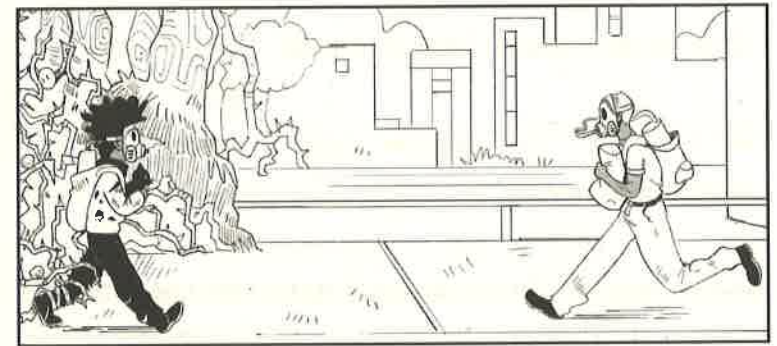
Then I thought, "Maybe someone is dying because of the spores. I must go out now." I ran to Obi's room and found the oxygen bottle with the mask in the backpack. I turned the top, and I heard the oxygen come through. Then I put on the mask and the backpack. Quickly, I went to one of the doors, and I pulled Obi's tape from it.

Outside, it felt cold. First, I walked on the salt. Then I went through the Bluchers. Some of them were much taller than me. They had long arms, and there was a big ball at the top of each Blucher. Each ball had water in it.

Then something moved in the trees. I shouted, "Who's there?" But nobody answered. I started to walk again, and then I heard Obi. "Come back inside!" he shouted from Dory's window.

The ball on top of a Blucher broke, and the water inside it flew on to my mask. I couldn't see much through the mask. Then something moved again, and a small, thin cat jumped into my arms. Quickly, I turned around to run inside, but I couldn't move. A Blucher's arms were around one of my legs. "I'm going to die," I thought.

Suddenly, I saw Obi with a bag of salt. He threw some salt at the Blucher, and its arms fell from my leg. We ran as fast as we could back to Obi's room. Then the cat jumped on to the floor.



“Give me your clothes,” Obi said. Then he quickly put them in a bag, and he put the bag into another bag.

He said, quietly, “What happened?” I told him.

Then I wanted to say, “Are you angry with me, Obi?” But I didn’t.

I asked him, “Why did they put their arms around me?”

And he said, “They wanted to eat the cat, I think.”

Our meal was good that night. Obi found some cat food for my cat, and our meat was tastier than chicken.

“This is very good, Dory,” I said. “What is it?”

She laughed. “It’s pigeon meat! I catch the birds on my balcony!”

At the end of the evening, I gave the cat a name. I called it “Pigeon” because of that tasty meal.

The next morning, Dory said, “I want to catch another pigeon. Do you want to help me?”

I was a bit worried, but I said, “Yes.”

Dory gave me a mask and we went on to her balcony. She gave me some seeds to throw on the floor, and some pigeons flew down to eat them. Quickly and quietly, Dory put her hands round a fat pigeon and put it in a bag.



“My dad taught me to catch them,” she said. “I was younger than you – about five years old. He caught them because we didn’t have much money for food.”

Suddenly, Dory looked a bit sad. "I miss my dad," she said. Then she smiled. "But, Ade, it's good to miss people because you love them. You think about your friend Gaia, and Gaia thinks about you."

In the kitchen, Dory said, "We have to kill animals because we eat meat. I'm going to kill the pigeon now. It will be very quick."

Dory talked quietly to the pigeon, and she held it up by its legs.

Then she pulled quickly on its head.

She showed me the dead bird, and I asked her, "What did you say to it?"

"I spoke kindly," she said. "I said 'Thank you' because it's going to give us a tasty meal."

Then Dory made our lunch with the pigeon, and I watched. I thought, "Gaia will be interested. I'll tell her about this."

Ade's mum

One morning, Mum came into the living room. She smiled at me with her kind brown eyes. "She looks better. She's my beautiful mum again," I thought.

Mum looked out of the window. "What happened? Why did all the other towers fall down?" she asked.

I said, "I'll tell you everything, but first you must come with me out of the flat."

Mum looked a bit frightened, but she said, "OK."

We walked slowly to Dory's flat. "It's lovely to see you," Dory said to Mum. "I'll make some tea."

Dory made tea, and she poured it into nice cups. Then Dory told Mum about the Bluchers and the buildings.

"Will someone rescue us?" Mum asked.

“Yes, they will,” said Dory.

Then, suddenly, Mum said, “I must go.” And she ran out of the room.

Dory said, “Don’t worry, Ade. Your mum will come here again.”

“She won’t,” I thought.

But Dory was right. The next morning, Mum came back to Dory’s flat, and then she started visiting her every day. One day, she told Dory about “it”. I listened from a different room. “Five men hit me,” she said. “I couldn’t see their faces.”

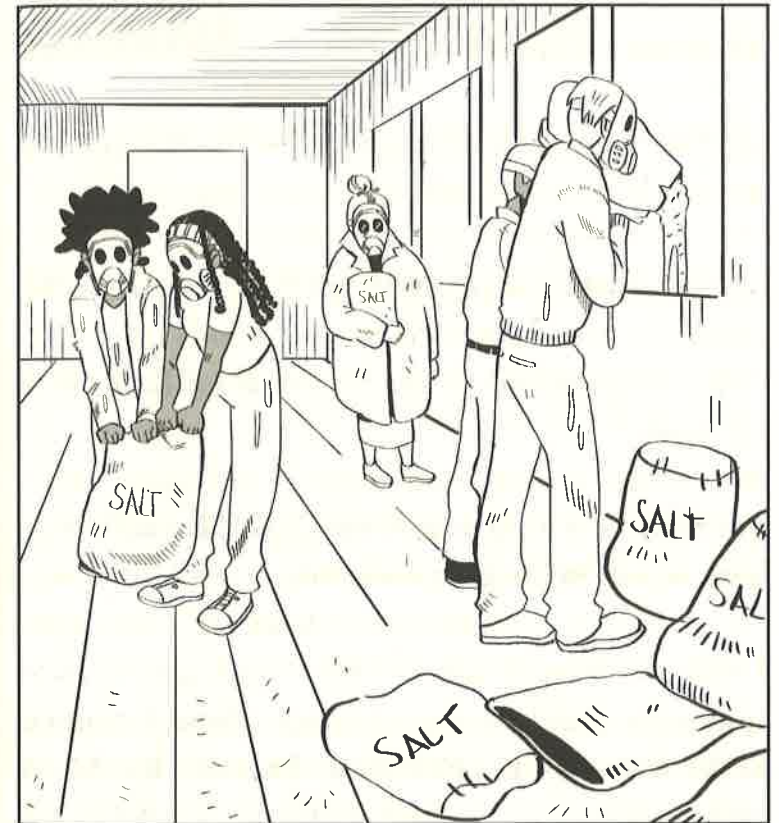
“You got away from them,” said Dory. “And you’re fine now.”

Mum only slept in her bedroom at night after that, and we all lived happily in the tower. We ate tasty meals, and we played games.

Then, one night, it started to rain. “The rain is washing the salt away, and the Bluchers will eat the

tower,” I thought. “The tower will fall and kill us.”

In the morning, Mum wasn’t in the flat. I carried Pigeon on my shoulders down to Dory’s flat, but that was empty, too. Then I went to the fifth floor and found Obi, Ben, Dory and Mum. There were piles of empty salt bags on the floor.



“We’ll be fine, Ade,” said Dory. “Don’t worry.”

We poured salt on to the ground outside the windows all day, but we stopped for dinner in the evening.

Dory cooked rice and vegetables for us, and she gave Pigeon fish from a tin, not cat food. Her room felt warm and comfortable.

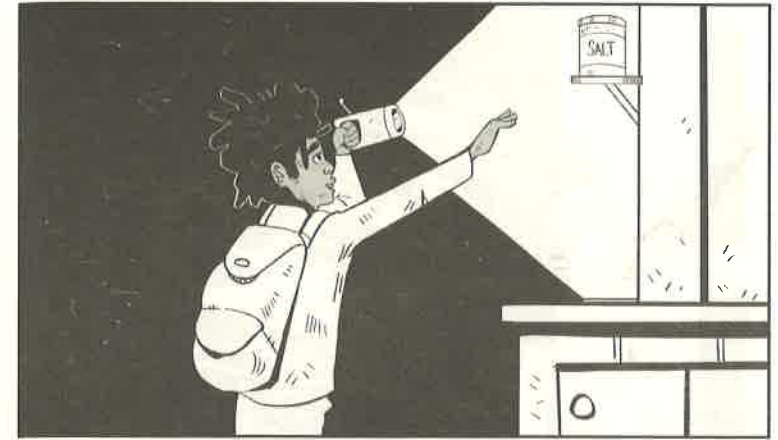
Obi was quiet. Then he said, “We haven’t got any more salt.”

“I can look for more salt in the flats,” I said.

“That’s a good idea, Ade,” said Obi. “Bring it to my room.”

I took my torch because it was dark. I found lots of bags of salt in people’s kitchens.

I took the bags of salt to Obi’s room and went to find more. I did this lots of times. Then, I stopped in the hall outside Dory’s flat. I heard Obi, Mum and Dory.



“The walls are starting to fall down,” said Obi. “And there are Bluchers in the building.”

Mum began to cry. Then Dory said, kindly, “We’ll be fine. Obi and I stayed here because of you and Ade. Someone will rescue all of us.”

“Yes,” said Obi. “They’ll understand about the salt now. They’ll say, ‘The rain is going to wash the salt away from the tower quickly. The people in it aren’t safe. We must rescue them’.”

Then, suddenly, I heard a noise. I ran to a window in one of the other flats as fast as I could. There was a helicopter in the sky.



CHAPTER TEN
Brighton

Suddenly, I heard Mum. "Ade! Where are you!"

"Here!" I shouted.

A few seconds later, she came into the flat. "Come with me!" she shouted. Together we started to run up to the roof.

The door to the roof was open, and I could hear the loud noise of the helicopter. Mum looked frightened, and she stopped at the door.



“Please, Mum!” I shouted. “Please!” I pulled one of her hands, and she went on to the roof with me.

The helicopter was flying next to the roof, and its door was open. There was wind and rain in our faces, and we had to walk off the building into the helicopter. I was very frightened, but I could see Obi, Dory and Ben in the helicopter. They helped me and Mum to get into it.

I shouted in Obi’s ear, “Where’s Pigeon?”

Obi looked at me, and then he jumped from the helicopter.

He went across the roof and back inside the tower. I tried to run after him, but Mum and Dory held my arms.

Then something very bad happened. The tower started to move! A second later, Obi came out of the door with Pigeon in his arms, and he ran to the helicopter. He threw Pigeon to me, and I caught him. Then the building moved away from the helicopter, and Obi fell from the roof.

Quickly, the helicopter flew down under him, and he caught a long bit of metal under it as he fell. Mum and Ben pulled him inside, and the helicopter went up into the sky. Then the tower fell to the ground.



The story of the Bluchers finished quickly. The plants ate the buildings in London, and they killed people. Then the Bluchers tried to go to other cities. But now the people in the helicopters knew about the salt, and they dropped it on them.

Mum and I went to Brighton, and Obi, Dory and Ben came, too.

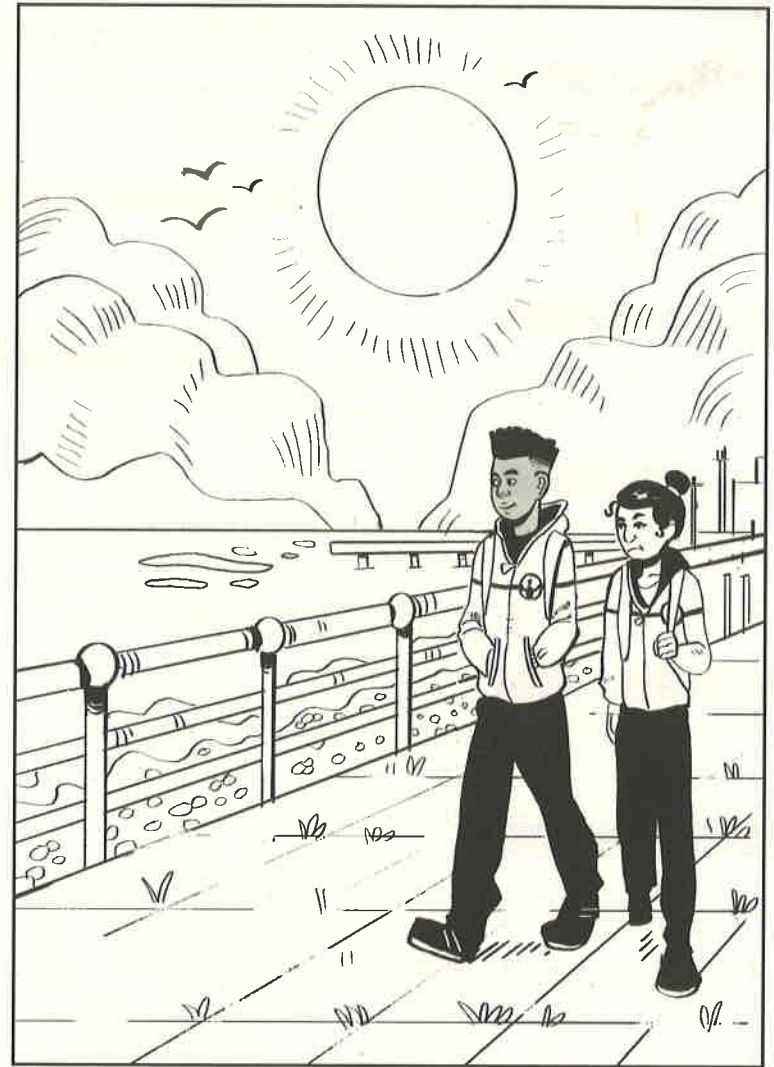
Mum and I live in the same street as Gaia with Pigeon and a dog called Ollie. Gaia and I go to the same school.

Mum doesn't ever talk about sleeping all the time, and she goes out a lot now. She and Ben go for walks with Ollie most evenings.

We often have dinner with Obi and Dory.

Sometimes I miss the tower, but then I think, "I don't want to go back there again." I like living by the sea. The air tastes of salt, and salt is good. I usually like the colour of the sea, too, but sometimes it is the same colour as the Bluchers.

Then I have to think, "There aren't any Bluchers now. This is the sea."



During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 What can Ade see from his tower block?
- 2 Why does Ade's mum give him a new name?
- 3 Why does everyone in the class laugh at Gaia?

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 What happened to Ade's mum, do you think?
- 2 Why is Ade frightened to go to the bank?
- 3 What strange thing does Ade see from the big window of the flat?

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 What does Ade see on the television news?
- 2 What is strange about the bricks in the rubble?

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 Why does Ade push a table and chairs in front of the door of the flat?
- 2 What does Ade learn from the woman on television?

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 Where does Ade see a light? Why does he worry about the light?

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 Who does Obi find in Gaia's tower? What do you learn about him?
- 2 What does Ben tell Ade about Gaia?

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 What is the salt for? What does Obi do with it?
- 2 Why does Ade worry about rain?

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 What does Ade do before he leaves the tower? Why?
- 2 What is Ade going to tell Gaia about?

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 Why does Ade's mum start to cry?
- 2 What does Ade see in the sky?

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 Why does Obi jump from the helicopter?
- 2 Where does Ade live in Brighton?
- 3 Why does the sea frighten Ade sometimes?

After-reading questions

- 1 Look back at your answer to "Before-reading question 1". Was the story different from your ideas or the same?
- 2 Look back at your answer to "Before-reading question 3". Write your descriptions again. Change them and add more information about the people.
- 3 How do Obi, Dory, Ben and Pigeon help Ade?
- 4 What does Ade learn in this story?
- 5 You can have four new chapter titles. Which titles do you want to change? What are your new titles?
- 6 Did you enjoy the story? Why/Why not?

Exercises

CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO

- 1 Complete these sentences in your notebook, using the words from the box.

tower block hurts floor safe fall
looks after meals

- 1 Ade lives in a *tower block* in London.
- 2 Ade feels in his flat.
- 3 Ade's flat is on the seventeenth
- 4 For months, Ade his mum.
- 5 Ade buys food and cooks for them.
- 6 Ade's stomach because he is hungry.
- 7 Buildings start to down.

CHAPTERS THREE AND FOUR

- 2 Use these words to join the sentences: *and, because, but*. Write the answers in your notebook.

- 1 More buildings fell down, *and* more people died.
- 2 People looked out of their windows from all the towers, nobody saw the buildings fall down.
- 3 I wanted to talk to her, I didn't say anything.
- 4 The police know about this helicopters are flying around all the time.
- 5 Maybe they don't say anything they don't want to frighten people.
- 6 The next day, the school closed, I didn't see Gaia again.

CHAPTERS FIVE AND SIX

- 3 Who says these words? Write the answers in your notebook.



Obi



Dory



Ben



Ade

- 1 "We'll be fine, Mum." *Ade*
- 2 "Are you the boy from the seventeenth floor?"
- 3 "He knows everything about the people in this tower."
- 4 "There are people in Gaia's tower, and it's going to fall down."
- 5 "Take it to her and come back quickly."
- 6 "He's very sad because his wife died."
- 7 "Why isn't your mum here?"
- 8 "She lived with her mum and dad on the seventeenth floor."

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 4 Write answers to these questions in sentences in your notebook.

- 1 Does Dory cook tasty meals?
Sometimes Dory cooks tasty meals, but sometimes the meals are strange.
- 2 Why is there tape round the doors in Obi's room?
- 3 What kills Bluchers?
- 4 How does Obi know this?
- 5 Ade thinks of a problem. What will happen? Why will there be a problem?

CHAPTER EIGHT

5 Complete the sentences in your notebook with the correct form of the verb.

- 1 "We need some more food." "**I'll get** / **I get** it."
- 2 "Maybe someone **need** / **needs** help."
- 3 "**Come** / **You come** back inside!"
- 4 "**I'm going to die** / **I die**," I thought.
- 5 "What is it?" "**It's** / **It'll be** pigeon meat!"
- 6 "I want to **catch** / **catch** another pigeon."
- 7 "**It give** / **It's going to give** us a tasty meal."
- 8 "**I tell** / **I'll tell** Gaia about this."

CHAPTER NINE

6 Complete these sentences in your notebook, using question words from the box. Then answer the questions.

Who Why Where How What Who

- 1 *Who* comes into the living room one morning?
Ade's mum comes into the living room one morning.
- 2 does Ade's mum look a bit frightened?
- 3 does Dory pour into nice cups?
- 4 does Ade's mum talk to about "it"?
- 5 much salt do they have in the evening before dinner?
- 6 does Ade find more salt?

CHAPTER TEN

7 Write the correct words in your notebook.

- 1 ieednthgrf *frightened* You feel this when a bad thing is near you.
- 2 eeioprthlc a small plane with long, thin metal parts on top of it
- 3 eotrw a tall building with lots of floors
- 4 aelmt We make money, cars, knives, forks, etc. with this.
- 5 atnlp a living thing, like a tree. It grows in the ground.
- 6 aestt You enjoy eating or drinking something. You like this.

ALL CHAPTERS

8 Put these sentences in the correct order in your notebook.

- a Ade goes to live in Brighton and meets Gaia again.
- b A helicopter rescues them from the tower.
- c It starts to rain and Bluchers get into the tower.
- d A woman on television says, "The plants are killing people with their spores."
- e *I* Ade's mum stops going out of the flat and lies on her bed all day.
- f Ade's mum starts coming to Dory's flat.
- g Ade meets Obi and Dory.
- h Obi and Ade pour salt around the tower because it kills Bluchers.
- i Buildings start to fall down.
- j Lots of people leave London.
- k Ade won't leave London because his mother is ill.

Project work

- 1 Write a newspaper story with this headline:
THE STORY OF ADE – THE BOY IN THE TOWER
- 2 Make four pages of Ade's scrapbook about his adventure. You can write information on the pages, and you can add drawings and photos.
- 3 You meet Gaia and Ade in Brighton. Write your conversation.
- 4 It is five years after the end of the story. Write a paragraph about Gaia and a paragraph about Ade:
 - What do they look like?
 - What are they interested in at school?
 - What are they going to do in the future?You can add drawings or photos of them.

An answer key for all questions and exercises can be found at
www.penguinreaders.co.uk

Glossary

around (prep.)

on every side of something

caretaker (n.)

A *caretaker's* job is to *look after* a big building, for example a school or *tower block*.

dead (adj.)

not living

fall down (phr. v.); **fall** (v.)

past tense: **fell**

to go quickly towards the ground. A building *falls down* and bricks or other parts of it move towards the ground.

floor (n.)

A *floor* is part of a building. You go into the building and you are on the *ground floor*. You go up and the next *floor* is the *first floor*.

hurt (v.)

1) You hit a person's body and you *hurt* them.

2) You are not well, or you have an accident or a fight, and then your body *hurts*.

look after (phr. v.)

A person, animal or thing needs help and you do things for them. You *look after* them.

meal (n.)

You often eat a *meal* in the morning, afternoon and evening. Then you are not hungry. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are *meals*.

metal (n.)

We make money, cars, knives, forks, etc. with *metal*.

miss (someone) (v.)

You are sad because a person is not with you. You *miss* the person.

oxygen (n.)

Oxygen is in the air, and your body needs it. You take *oxygen* into your body through your nose and mouth.

pour (v.)

to put liquid (= a thing like water) into something

rescue (v.)

A bad thing is happening to someone, but you stop it and make them *safe*. You *rescue* them.

safe (adj.)

Bad things cannot happen to you. You are *safe*.

spore (n.)

a very small thing from a plant (= a living thing, like a tree. It grows in the ground.). *Spores* can grow and make new plants.

suddenly (adv.)

Something happens quickly, and you do not know about it before it happens. It happens *suddenly*.

taste (n. and v.); **tasty** (adj.)

You enjoy eating or drinking something because it *tastes* good or you like the *taste*, or it is *tasty*. You don't enjoy eating or drinking something, because it *tastes* bad or you don't like the *taste*.

tower block (n.)

A *tower block* is a very tall building. It has a lot of *floors*, and there are many homes or offices there. In this story, the boy says "*tower*", but the right word is *tower block*.

turn on/off (phr. v.)

You move something on a light, machine, etc. and then it starts working. You *turn it on*. You move something on a light, machine, etc. and then it stops working. You *turn it off*.

worry (v.); **worried** (adj.)

You are not happy because maybe something bad will happen. You are *worrying* about something. *Worried* is the adjective of *worry*.



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