

# Martin the Detective



Written by William Joseph. Illustrated by Jack Ip.



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William is a primary school teacher. He was born in England and has lived in Hong Kong for more than twenty years. His favourite character is Gran.

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Jack is an illustrator. He was born in Hong Kong and studied Fashion Communication at Central Saint Martins, London. His favourite character is Benson.

# Martin the Detective



Written by William Joseph  
Illustrated by Jack Ip

**JWD BOOKS**

“What are you reading?” Kitty asked her brother one Monday morning when they were waiting for the bus to school.

“It’s a detective story,” replied Martin, without looking up. “It’s about a man called Sherlock Holmes - He’s my absolute hero.”

“Oh, really?” said Kitty. “I thought you wanted to be an explorer – not a detective.”

“Well, I *did*,” said Martin, closing the book. “But it’s too late to be an explorer now. Everything’s been discovered already. Anyway, a detective discovers something much more important than countries or continents...”

“Oh, yes?” said Kitty. “And what’s that?”

“A detective discovers *the truth!*” exclaimed Martin, beaming.



Later that morning, Kitty's class had an English exam. "OK, everyone." said Ms. Chan. "The time now is 10:35. You have one hour. You may turn over your paper and..." But Ms. Chan did not finish her sentence. At that very moment, the fire alarm in the classroom started flashing and blaring loudly. Some students covered their ears, while others (who hadn't revised for the exam) started cheering. "How odd," said Ms. Chan. "There's no fire practice scheduled for today."

Kitty jumped to her feet and looked out of the classroom window. "This isn't a practice!" cried Kitty. "There really is a fire!"



The cheering stopped immediately. All the children stood up and filed out of the classroom in complete silence. “No running, please!” Ms. Chan called to the anxious-looking students, but even she found herself descending the staircase a little faster than usual.

When she entered the playground, Kitty could see the fire more clearly. It was right outside the first-year classrooms and the flames were lapping against the windows. A vast cloud of smoke had formed above the playground. “Everyone, please follow your teachers,” instructed Principal Leung calmly through a microphone.

Suddenly, two massive fire trucks turned into the school, their sirens blaring.



The children stood open-mouthed and looked on in wonder. Nothing this exciting had ever happened at their school! The firemen jumped out of the firetrucks and pointed two huge hoses at the flames.

Twenty minutes later, the fire had been put out and Principal Leung instructed the teachers to take the students to the school hall. As the children walked across the playground, Kitty caught sight of Martin. He was holding his finger in the air. "I'm checking the wind direction," Martin explained to his confused-looking sister.

"Why?" asked Kitty.

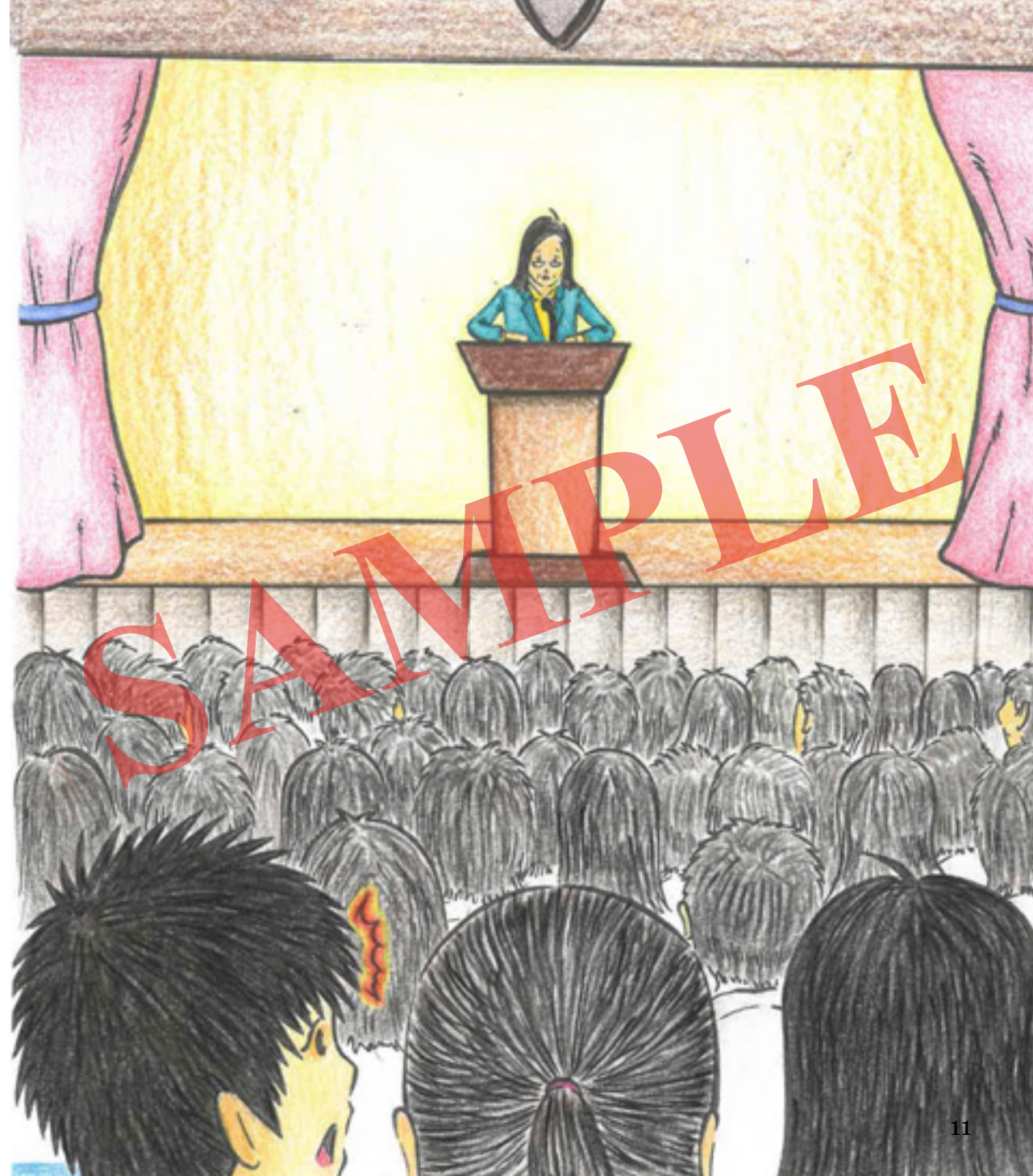
"As Sherlock Holmes always says, 'To a great mind, nothing is little'," replied Martin, smiling.



“As you all know,” began Principal Leung, in assembly the following morning, “yesterday there was a very serious fire at our school. Fortunately, and most importantly, nobody was hurt. Yesterday afternoon – after all of you had gone home – the police inspected the area where the fire started. They concluded that the fire was NOT caused by an electrical fault. In other words... *somebody* started the fire!”

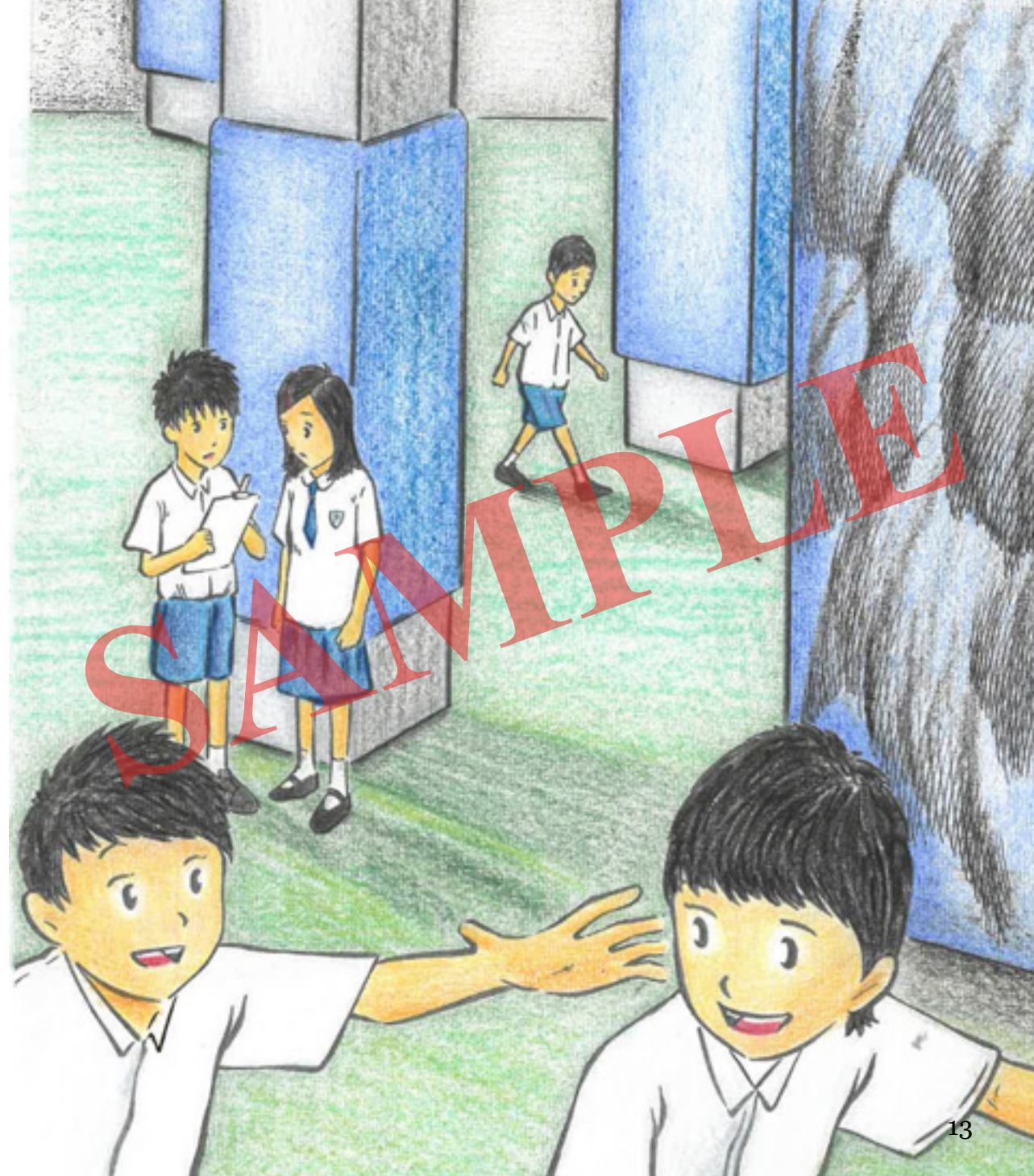
Several stunned students gasped audibly.

“Therefore,” Principal Leung continued, “if anyone has ANY information about how the fire may have started – or who might be responsible – they must come to see me at once!”



The following morning, Kitty was on playground duty at recess time when she spotted Martin hanging around outside the first-year classrooms. He was holding a small notepad and a pencil in his hands. Martin was looking around intently. Every now and then he opened his notepad to write down what he had just seen. Kitty shook her head and walked over to her brother. “Why aren’t you playing basketball with your friends?” asked Kitty.

“I haven’t got time for *games*, Kitty,” replied Martin, without looking up. “Although,” Martin continued, thoughtfully, “detective work is the ultimate game... and the *game is afoot!*”





“Actually Kitty,” said Martin, turning to his sister, “I think you can help me. I need to get inside the school – but I can’t. Only prefects are allowed inside the building at recess... So, can I follow you?”

Kitty looked at her watch. “Come on then,” she said. “But we’ve only got five minutes before the end of recess.”

Martin was delighted. As they walked along the corridors, he carried on scribbling in his notepad. “What are you writing, anyway?” asked Kitty, finally.

“Times, people, places... facts,” replied Martin. “The problem is – as Mr. Holmes says – *There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact!*”



“How’s it going, *Sherlock*?” asked Kitty, when she arrived home later that afternoon.

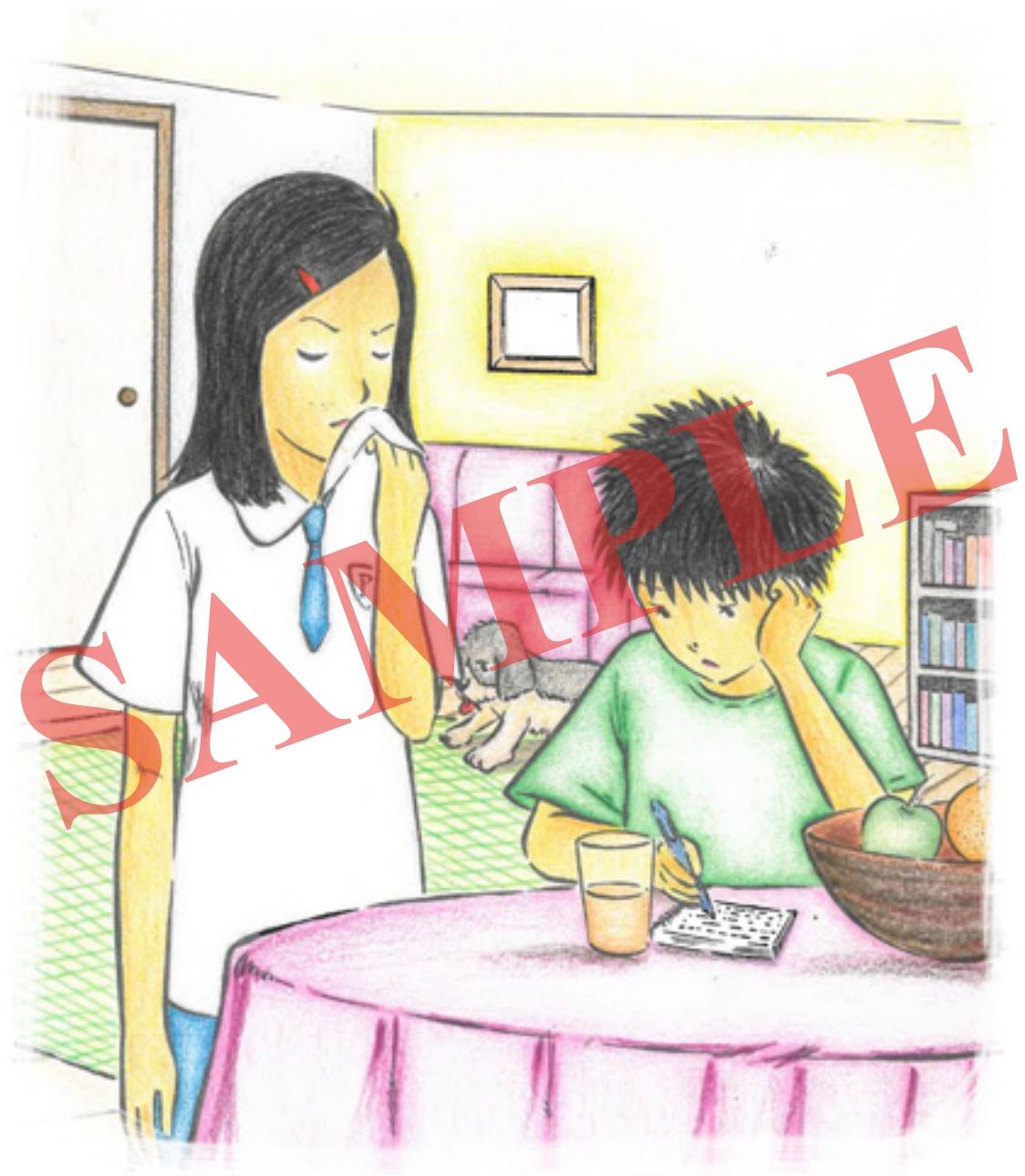
“I’m getting close – I can feel it,” said Martin, poring over his notes. “Why are you back so late, anyway?”

“The prefects’ meeting with Principal Leung went on for *ages*,” replied Kitty, yawning. “I nearly fell asleep in the Principal’s office!”

Suddenly, Martin started sniffing loudly. “What’s that funny smell?” he said. “It’s coming from you, Kitty.”

Kitty sniffed the collar of her blouse. “It smells like vanilla... and lavender?” Kitty replied.

Martin jumped to his feet. “That’s it, Kitty!” he cried, triumphantly. “I’ve solved the case!”



“Come in,” called Principal Leung, the following morning. Martin’s heart was pounding as he opened the door. He had never been in the Principal’s office before.

“I’m sorry to disturb you, Principal Leung,” said Kitty. “But my brother, Martin, says he knows how the fire started.”

Principal Leung was stunned. “Very well,” she said, finally. “Please, tell me everything, Martin.”

“OK,” said Martin, tentatively. “At 7:45 every morning, Ms. Choi, the librarian, gathers up all the old newspapers and magazines. She puts these in a box which she leaves outside the library.”

“I see,” said Principal Leung. “So, Ms. Choi caused the fire?”



“No,” replied Martin. “It wasn’t Ms. Choi.”

“Oh,” said Principal Leung, clearly confused. “Please continue, Martin...”

By now, Martin was feeling much calmer and more confident. He cleared his throat and carried on. “Every morning, at first recess, Mr. Poon, the caretaker, collects this box of old newspapers and magazines. He carries the box outside and leaves it with some other boxes of rubbish, next to the first-year classrooms.”

“So, Mr. Poon caused the fire?” asked Principal Leung.

“No, he didn’t,” answered Martin.

“I don’t understand,” said Principal Leung. “If Ms. Choi and Mr. Poon didn’t cause the fire, then who did?”



“You did, Principal Leung,” said Martin. “You caused the fire.”

“Martin!” exclaimed Kitty.

“It’s true,” said Martin, “As Sherlock Holmes says, *‘When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable must be the truth.’*” Principal Leung was speechless, so Martin continued. “You burn lavender and vanilla incense in this office every day. The window is always left open. Monday morning was particularly windy. The lit incense sticks were blown out of the window. They were blown onto the old newspapers and magazines. That’s how the fire started.”

“My goodness, Martin!” cried Kitty. “That’s amazing!”

“Not amazing,” said Martin, smiling. “*It was elementary, my dear Kitty.*”



## Comprehension of the Story

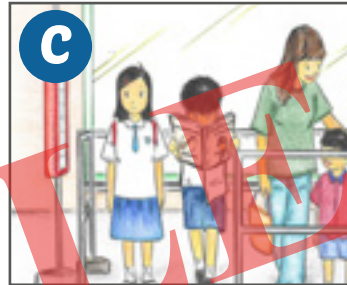
Put the following sentences about the story into the correct order.



The fire alarm went off in Kitty's classroom.



Martin told Principal Leung that she had caused the fire.



Martin told Kitty that he wanted to be a detective.



Martin started to explain to Principal Leung how the fire had started.



Kitty helped Martin to get into the school building at recess time.

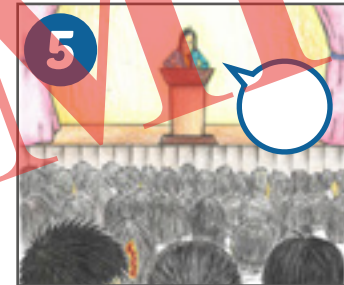


Principal Leung told all the students that somebody had started the fire.

1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.

## Natural use of Language

What are the characters from the story saying at these times?



A. "I'm checking the wind speed."

B. "There's no fire practice scheduled for today."

C. "It was elementary, my dear Kitty."

D. "It smells like vanilla... and lavender?"

E. "It's too late to be an explorer now."

F. "In other words... somebody started the fire!"

# Supplementary Exercise 3

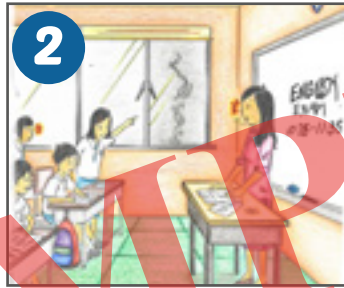
## Vocabulary

Find the underlined word in each question.  
 What is the **synonym** of this word?  
 (A synonym is a word with the *same* meaning.)



1 “He’s my absolute hero,” said Martin.

- (A) Friend (B) Classmate  
 (C) Idol (D) Neighbour



2 “How odd,” said Ms. Chan.

- (A) Strange (B) Funny  
 (C) Loud (D) Boring



3 Two massive fire trucks turned into the school.

- (A) Huge (B) Shiny  
 (C) New (D) Expensive



4 “The game is afoot,” said Martin.

- (A) Fun (B) Exciting  
 (C) Difficult (D) Happening



5 “I’m sorry to disturb you, Principal Leung,” said Kitty.

- (A) Bother (B) Know  
 (C) Hear (D) Show



6 “Whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth,” said Martin.

- (A) Interesting (B) Unlikely  
 (C) Wise (D) Fair

# Supplementary Exercise 4

## Grammar

Find the underlined word in each question.  
 What type of word is it?

- (A) Noun (B) Adjective  
 (C) Adverb (D) Present Simple Tense Verb  
 (E) Past Simple Tense Verb (F) Past Continuous Tense Verb



1 “I thought you wanted to be an explorer,” said Kitty.



4 Martin was holding a small notepad and a pencil.



2 A vast cloud of smoke had formed above the playground.



5 “Nothing is more deceptive than an obvious fact!”



3 Several stunned students gasped audibly.



6 “Mr. Poon carries the box outside the building.”

## Answers to the Supplementary Exercises

**Exercise 1** (1) C (2) A (3) F (4) E (5) D (6) B

**Exercise 2** (1) B (2) D (3) E (4) C (5) F (6) A

**Exercise 3** (1) C (2) A (3) A (4) D (5) A (6) B

**Exercise 4** (1) E (2) B (3) C (4) F (5) A (6) D

**Total Number of Words in the Story = 1,135**

## Target Language (23)

Caretaker Librarian Prefect Principal Student

Teacher Beaming Blaring Checking Cheering

Closing Descending Feeling Flashing Hanging

Holding Lapping Poring Pounding Scribbling

Sniffing Turning Yawning

## Tips for parents and teachers

### BEFORE READING

- 1 Look at the front cover. If the child is familiar with this book series, point to Kitty or Martin and ask 'Who is this?'
- 2 Point to Martin holding his finger in the air and ask 'What is Martin doing now? Why do you think he is doing this?'
- 3 Point to Kitty and ask 'What do you think Kitty is thinking now? What do you think Kitty will say next?'

### WHILE READING

- 1 Pages 2 and 3. Ask 'Do you like reading detective stories? Why / Why not? Have you ever heard of Sherlock Holmes? What do you know about him?'
- 2 Pages 4 and 5. Point to the picture and ask 'How do you think Ms. Chan and the students feel now? What do you think will happen next?'
- 3 Pages 16 and 17. Ask 'How do you think the fire was started? Who do you think started the fire?'
- 4 Pages 20 and 21. Ask 'Are you surprised that Martin says Ms. Choi and Mr. Poon did not start the fire? If they didn't start the fire, then who do you think did?'

### AFTER READING

- 1 What do you think will happen next? How do you think Principal Leung feels now? What do you think she will say to Martin? What do you think will happen to Principal Leung? Please write - or describe - how you think the story might continue.
- 2 Use the internet to find out more about Sherlock Holmes. What did he look like? What clothes did he wear? Where did he live? Who was his famous sidekick? Try to find some of Sherlock Holmes's most famous quotes and find out more about some of his most famous stories.



**Can Martin take inspiration from his hero Sherlock Holmes to discover who started the fire at his school?**



### **Teachers' Note:**

The language focus of this book is PEOPLE AT SCHOOL AND VERBS WITH 'ING'



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