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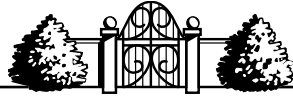
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THE GOTCHA PLOT

The Story in Brief

Cecil enters his new school and is almost immediately hassled by two bullies, Hendry and Reno. He is teased because of his small size and his thick glasses. Cecil hopes that if he ignores the two they will move on.

As he enters the auditorium, Cecil hears the two calling names again. He quickly realises that their taunts are aimed at another boy, Carlos. The boy is ready to fight the two until a teacher steps in and sends the boys to their seats.

Later, in form assembly, Cecil sees Carlos and thinks that maybe they can be friends. The two troublemakers are also in the class. They are quickly subdued when Song walks in. Hendry and Reno seem to be intimidated by this popular boy. Cecil and Carlos quickly become friends but are continually taunted by Hendry and Reno.

One afternoon after school, Hendry and Reno tease Carlos and Cecil to the point that Carlos tells Hendry and Reno they 'have cottage cheese for brains'. Students gather around, waiting for a fight. But before things get out of hand, Mrs Harvey, the vice principal, appears and breaks up the crowd.

After everyone has left, Cecil and Carlos head down the corridor for the door. But lurking at the end of the hall are two shapes that resemble Hendry and Reno. The shapes advance toward the boys. Cecil and Carlos turn and run, only to find themselves at a dead end. The only

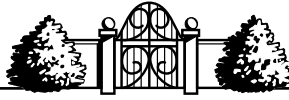
escape is to lock themselves in the cleaner's storeroom.

A bottle of liquid falls off one of the shelves and splashes onto Cecil, making him invisible. Carlos and Cecil read the label and see that the effect of the cleanser lasts only one hour. Suddenly, Cecil is struck with an idea about how to get even with Hendry and Reno.

At lunchtime the next day, Carlos and Cecil use the cleanser and become invisible. They find Hendry and Reno lunching in the quadrangle not far from Song. Cecil picks up Hendry's softdrink, shakes it and sprays Song. At the same time, Cecil grabs Hendry's lunch and throws it at Song. Song confronts Hendry as the rest of the students snicker, glad to see Hendry put in his place. Later, Hendry appears with a yellow *C* on his forehead.

The next day, an invisible Cecil enters the free study class. As Mrs Harvey patrols the aisle near Reno's desk, his backpack, with Cecil's help, suddenly flies open and office slips fly all over the room. Mrs Harvey picks one up and sees her name has been forged on it. She takes Reno into the hall to discuss the matter. Later, Cecil notices a yellow *C* gleaming from Reno's forehead.

Carlos and Cecil have evened the score. Reno and Hendry don't know where the yellow *C*s came from but they know Carlos and Cecil had something to do with it. They won't be bothering Cecil and Carlos again.



THE GOTCHA PLOT

Chapter 1

Using Short Vowels

Read the words in the word box. Each word contains a short vowel sound. Say the words to yourself and listen for the short vowel sounds. Then read each sentence. Choose a word from the word box to complete each sentence. Write your answer on the blank line.

finished	hassling	happened
thoughts	punch	singing
hundredth	innocent	scanned
glasses	invisible	

Example: One of the boys made fun of Cecil's _____ *glasses* _____.

1. Cecil's uncle told him to ignore the _____.
2. For the _____ time, Cecil looked at his class timetable.
3. Cecil _____ the auditorium for an empty seat.
4. Cecil wished he were _____.
5. Taunting voices broke into Cecil's _____.
6. The smaller boy gave the teacher an _____ look.
7. After _____ the national anthem, the students sat down.
8. Cecil saw what _____ to Carlos in the assembly.
9. Cecil knew the boys' names after roll call was _____.
10. Cecil told Carlos to settle down or Hendry would _____ his lights out.



THE GOTCHA PLOT

Chapter 1

Adding Endings

Read each sentence. Then look at the word shown in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Add an ending such as *-ed*, *-ing*, *-s* or *-er* to the word to make it fit in the sentence. Remember, you may need to change the word when you add the ending. Write the new word in the blank.

Example: One of the boys was _____ *smaller* _____ than the other. (small)

1. Cecil _____ his class timetable. (study)
2. Cecil's stomach _____ as he headed toward the auditorium. (tight)
3. A surge of _____ pushed through the double doors. (body)
4. Cecil found a seat next to a girl who looked _____. (harm)
5. Cecil listened closely to the speakers at the _____. (assemble)
6. The principal said that the students should be _____ of each other. (respect)
7. Miss Reed called _____ to the students. (weak)
8. _____, Reno and Hendry were sitting on the other side of the room. (luck)
9. Carlos spoke _____ about the two boys. (anger)
10. Reno and Hendry were much _____ than Carlos and Cecil. (big)