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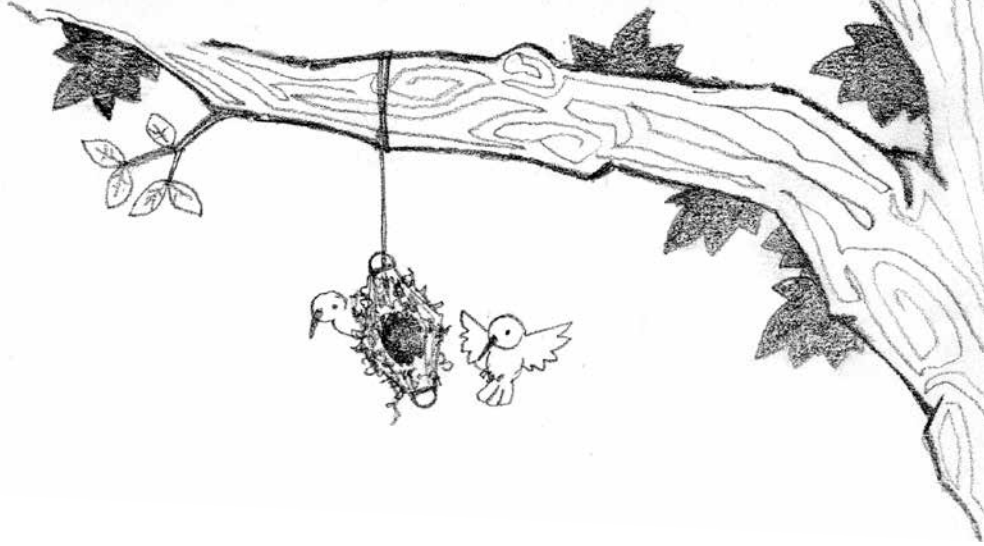
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Follow that Bird!

story by Eliza Teoh
illustrated by Wolfe and Rachel Liam



chapter 1

It was an unusually boring day in school and Ellie was feeling – what else – bored. She had finished her Math worksheet ages and ages ago.

She put her pencil down and looked around. Everyone seemed hard at work.

She turned around to look at her best friend Cammy, who sat just behind her. But she, too, was still writing away.

“Hey Cammy,” Ellie whispered. “Are you done?”

“Shhh!” Cammy hissed at her. Ellie turned back to the front to check if their





teacher had heard. She hadn't. So she turned around again.

"I'm bored. Let's ask Teacher if we can go to the toilet," Ellie pleaded.

"I haven't finished yet! Can you wait?" Cammy said irritably.

That was when Cammy's partner, the very annoying Megan, put her hand up and announced loudly, "Teacher, Ellie Belly is talking to Cammy again."

Ellie whipped her body around quickly and tried to look innocent. She picked up her pencil and pretended to be working on a Math problem.

She was feeling angry with Megan for being a tattletale. And who gave Megan permission to call her Ellie Belly? Ellie Belly was a nickname only her family and best friends could use! Her big sister Gabby was the one who had invented that name and she loved it.

Ellie slowly raised her head to peek in the direction of Teacher's desk. Teacher was looking right at her, frowning. She stood up.

"If you have finished your worksheet, use your extra time to check your answers. Do not disturb those who have

not finished,” said Teacher, looking **pointedly** at Ellie. Ellie sighed and slumped in her seat. She crossed her arms and stared at her worksheet.

Right At you!

When someone is looking **pointedly** at you, it means she is looking directly at you, in a way that shows she is not happy with you.

The last question on the worksheet – which was usually the hardest – was this:

If Joe had 24 toy cars and David had 8 toy cars fewer than Joe, how many toy cars did they have altogether?

Like a good student, she had patiently written down this answer:

$$24 - 8 = 16$$

$$24 + 16 = 40$$

They had 40 toy cars altogether.

Jonas Archuleta

*Q7. If Joe had 24 toy cars and David had 8 toy cars fewer than Joe, how many toy cars did they have altogether?

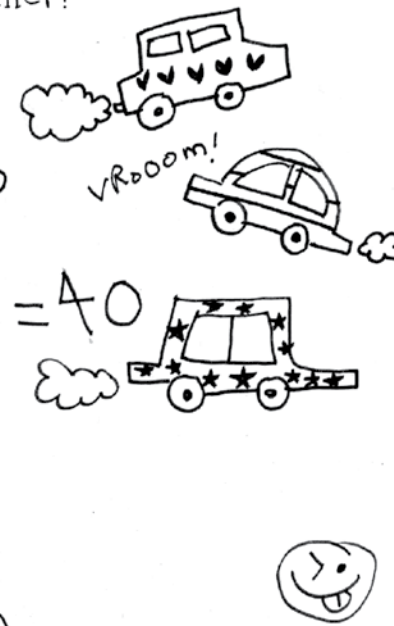
Jonas

$24 - 8 = 16$

$24 + 16 = 40$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ - 8 \\ \hline 16 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 24 \\ + 16 \\ \hline 40 \end{array}$$

They had 40 toy cars altogether.



This was the correct answer. But unlike other good students, Ellie had scribbled extra words on her worksheet.

Next to the word “Joe”, she had drawn a little arrow, and above the arrow, she had added: “Jonas”.

Then, next to “David”, she had added another arrow, this time pointing to “Archuleta”. Below her answer was a little happy face, with one eye winking and a tongue sticking out.

She wasn’t really a fan of Joe Jonas or David Archuleta and she didn’t even listen to their songs; she just thought it was funny. And being funny was better than being bored, which she still was, by the way.

That was when she heard the call for help.



chapter 2

It was a thin, high-pitched, whispery sort of voice.

“Help me! Help!”

Ellie turned around. Who said that? She narrowed her eyes and tried to give Megan a fierce look. “Did you say something?”

Megan looked up crossly. “I didn’t say anything! Stop disturbing me!”

Then she heard the cry again: “Please, help me!”

It wasn’t Megan, because her lips hadn’t moved. Who was it then?

