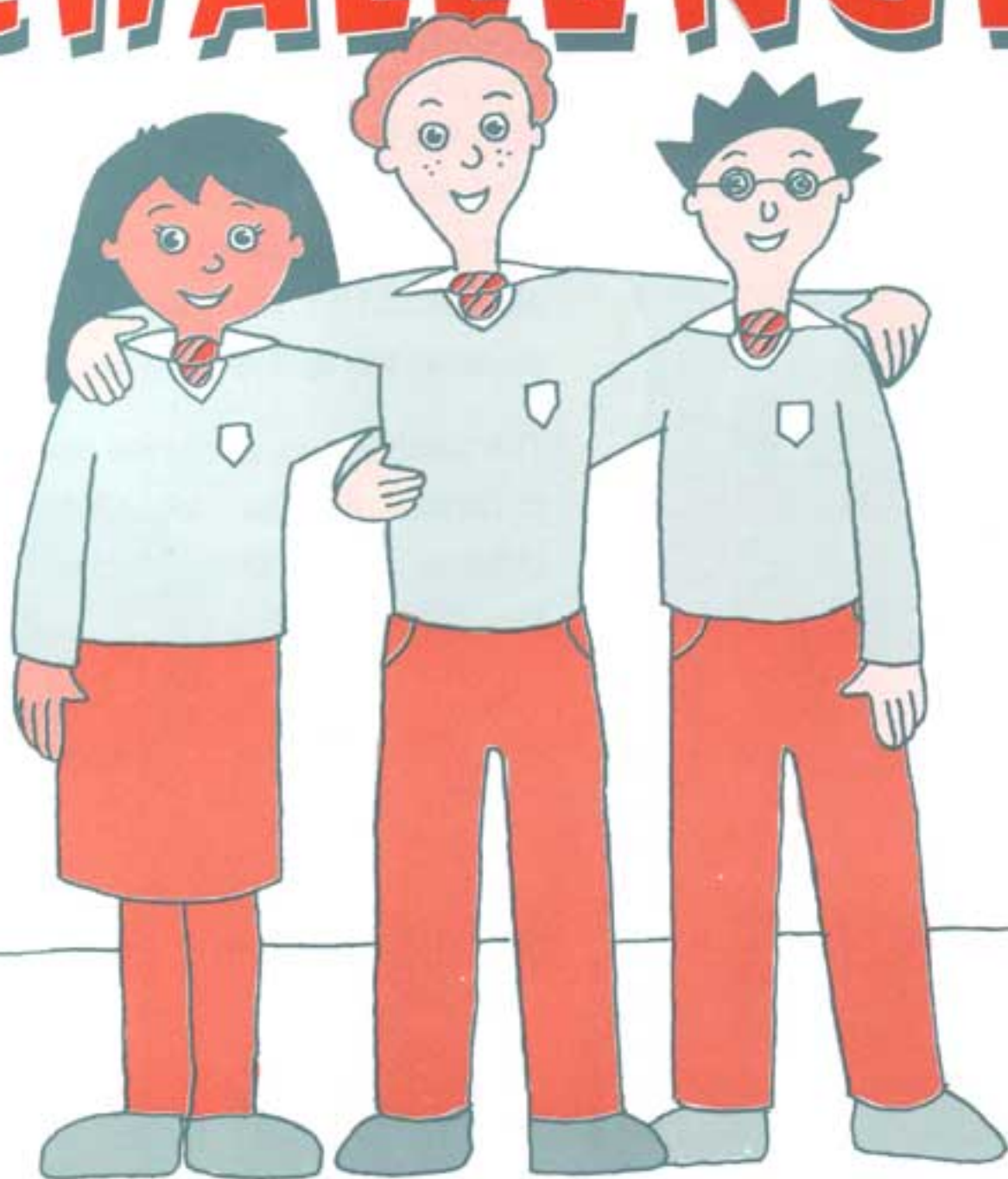


THE FRIENDSHIP CHALLENGE



by Claire Halsey and Claire Vessey



Tommy was having a bad day.

He was racking his brains to think of a way to show his teacher, Mrs Bakedbeans, what a star he could be. You see, Tommy wanted to be chosen as pupil of the month.

Why did he want to be chosen so badly? Well, this term, in a surprise move by the Head Teacher, Mr Perfume, the winning pupil would be allowed to choose the music at the end of term disco.

The trouble was, everyone else wanted to choose the music too, so all the children were working hard to please Mrs Bakedbeans.

Aleena had hit on the idea of developing a friendship club in the playground. She was busy most lunchtimes organising year sixes to watch out for younger children. She and her helpers would go over to children who looked lonely, upset or afraid, have a chat, and find them some children to join in with.

Mrs Bakedbeans had told the whole class how caring this was and praised Aleena for the idea. Tommy wished he'd thought of it first.

Karl had been thinking of different ways to show his good points.

In the end he'd joined up with some others in the class to make a display for the school hall about feelings and read his own poem out in assembly. The poem was about the importance of talking to each other and sharing worries.

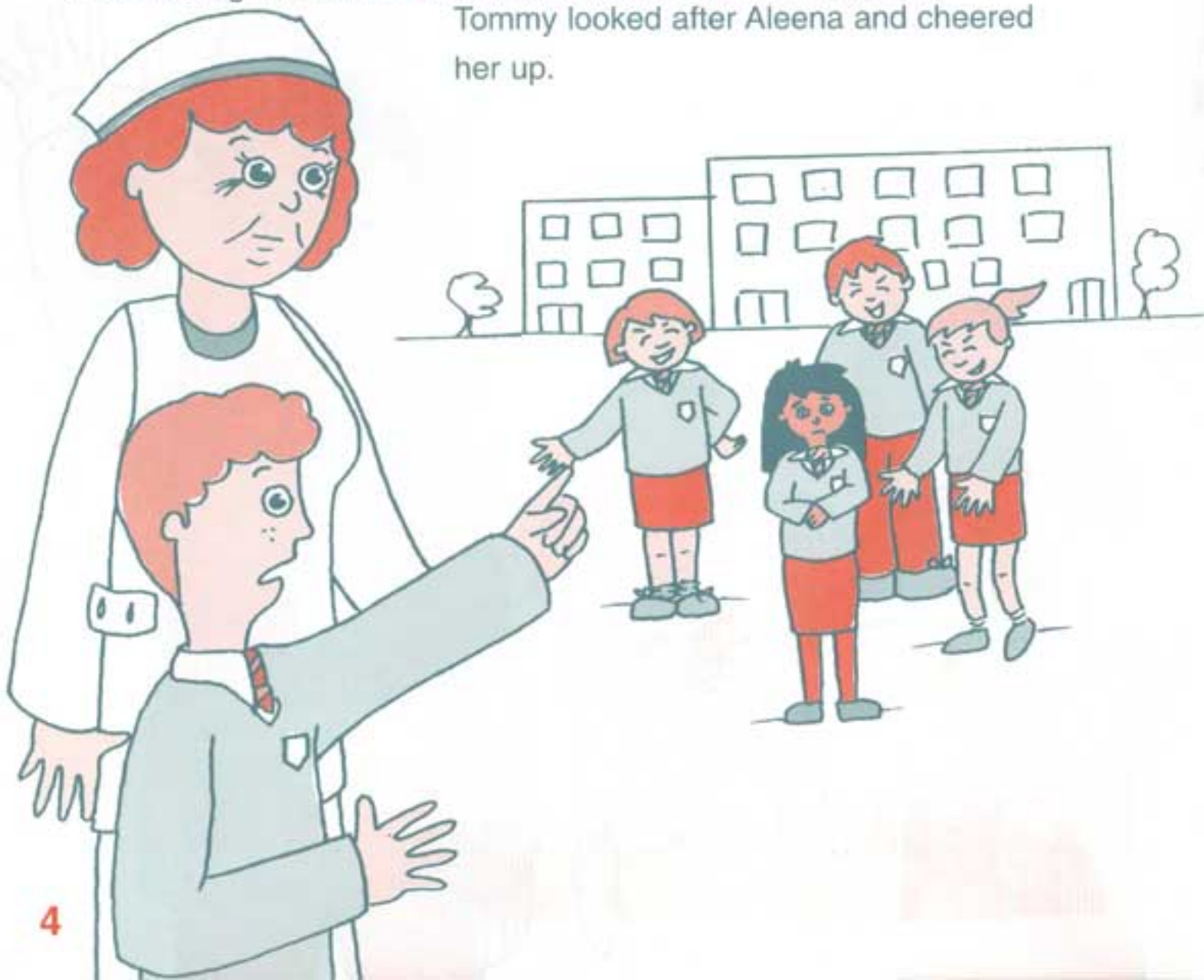


Tommy was getting desperate. How would he impress Mrs Bakedbeans?

Just as he was wondering what to do Tommy noticed Aleena in the playground, surrounded by bigger children. She looked afraid.

Tommy didn't hesitate, he ran straight to the lunchtime supervisor and said, "Mrs Frankly, I think Aleena's in trouble". Then he took a deep breath, walked confidently over to Aleena, stood tall and said in a calm, firm voice, "Stop bothering my friend". As he arrived the bigger kids stepped back and were about to go when Mrs Frankly came up and asked what had happened. Tommy and Aleena told her that the bigger kids had called Aleena names. Mrs Frankly talked to the bigger kids about calling names and took them to see the Head Teacher.

Tommy looked after Aleena and cheered her up.



Meanwhile, Mrs Bakedbeans had worries of her own. "Oh dear, oh dear," she was saying to the Teaching Assistant Mr Fish, "Who shall I choose for pupil of the month? Aleena has been so helpful to others with her friendship group. Karl has worked hard on feelings for the school assembly and Tommy did the right thing when Aleena was being bullied." Mr Fish smiled and shared his own idea with Mrs Bakedbeans. She replied, "Yes, that's a great idea," and gave a big sigh of relief.



On the next Friday morning the whole class were waiting to find out who'd be pupil of the month and choose the music for the disco. Mrs Bakedbeans came into the room looking very serious.

Mrs Bakedbeans said, "It's time to announce who is to be pupil of the month. It has been very difficult to choose because so many of you have shown how kind and friendly you can be".

Everyone in the class held their breath.

Mrs Bakedbeans continued, "The pupil of the month will be..... everyone in the class!" Everybody clapped.

"You have made such an effort this month that all of you deserve congratulations, please come up one by one to collect your certificates of achievement".

The class filed past Mrs Bakedbeans and took their certificates. Each clearly labelled with their name and the qualities they had shown in the month - friendship, caring, helpfulness, confidence and support for others.



By now, everyone was wondering about the disco and how the music would be chosen. At last Mrs Bakedbeans spoke again, "I have been talking to the DJ for tonight's end of term disco. He's agreed to come in this afternoon so each of you can choose a track to be played at the disco and he'll give you all a chance to be DJ for your own music".

The class cheered and everyone started talking about what music they would choose.



That night at the disco, all the friends danced together and had the best time. The music was a great mix and even the Head Teacher, Mr Perfume, had a go at being DJ.

They all agreed - **the friendship challenge** had ended well for everyone.