

BookLife
Readers

The Shed

By
Mignonne Gunasekara

Illustrated By
Chris Cooper



The Shed

Level 11 – Lime



Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

The graphemes (written letters) and phonemes (units of sound) used throughout this series are aligned with Letters and Sounds. This offers a consistent approach to learning whether reading at home or in the classroom.

HERE ARE SOME COMMON WORDS THAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT FIND TRICKY:

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| water | where | would | know | thought | through | couldn't |
| laughed | eyes | once | we're | school | can't | our |

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Encourage your child to read aloud as well as silently to themselves.
- Allow your child time to absorb the text and make comments.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage your child to clarify the meaning of new vocabulary.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a lime level 11 book band.

The Shed

Written by
Mignonne Gunasekara

Illustrated by
Chris Cooper



Prologue

The Beginning



Canon School was, for the most part, a regular school. The students worked hard and got good grades. Everything looked great – from the outside. But once you entered the school gates, you would hear the stories. The stories told of missing students and monsters in the dark. And Jules Jones was just about to walk through those school gates.

Chapter One

The New Kid

“Morning, class,” said Mr Liu as he waited for his students to settle down. “I would like you to meet your new classmate, Jules Jones.”

Jules stood at the front of the class and waved at everyone.

“Please make him feel nice and welcome,” said Mr Liu. “Now, why don’t you sit over there, Jules?”



Mr Liu pointed to an empty desk at the back of the room. Jules walked over and sat down. To his right was a boy with glasses and a backpack that was nearly as big as he was.

"Hi," the boy said. "My name is Saul. Pleased to meet you."

"And my name is Jaime," said a voice from Jules's left.





Jules turned to see a girl holding out her hand for Jules to shake.

“Hi,” said Jules, taking her hand and shaking it happily.

The girl on the other side of Jaime turned around in her chair. She had short, spiky hair and a warm smile.

“Welcome to Canon School, Jules,” she said.
“My name is Kris.”

“Hello, Kris,” said Jules, just as Mr Liu asked the children to open their books.

Kris turned back in her seat, and the lesson began.



Jules had a good feeling about the people he'd just met. They seemed friendly. Jules hoped that they would be the ones to show him around after the lesson was over.

Jules was very happy when the bell rang and Saul, Kris and Jaime gathered around his desk.

"Is there someone that's meant to be taking you round the school?" asked Jaime.

"Because we can do that," said Saul.
"If you'd like."

"Yes please," said Jules. A smile lit up his face. "I would like that."



The four of them picked up their bags and made their way to their next lesson.

“So, Jules,” said Kris as they walked along the corridor. “How are you finding the school so far?”

“Well,” said Jules. “I’ve only been here a minute, but I think I really like it.”

“I’m glad,” said Jaime.

“You haven’t heard the stories yet, though,” chuckled Kris.

“What stories?” asked Jules.
This sounded interesting.





"Oh, nothing," said Saul. "It's all just talk."

"I don't believe that," said Jules. "There's no such thing as 'just talk'."

Kris started watching Jules closely after he said this.

"Every story has to start somewhere," said Jules.

"So?" Kris asked. "Do you want to hear them or not?"

Chapter Two

The Stories



The four children walked into their next classroom. Kris pulled Jules along and they all sat at a table by the window. They were about to start an art lesson.

"This is actually the perfect time to tell you about the stories," said Kris. "Mrs Grundy always gives us plenty of time to chat." She twisted in her seat to point out of the window. "And we have the perfect view."

Jules followed Kris's finger with his eyes. She was pointing at the school field. School fields were far from what Jules thought of as a 'perfect view'.

"What am I looking at?" asked Jules.

"That dark building on the other side of the field," said Kris. "The shed."



“What does the shed have to do with anything?” asked Jules

“The shed has everything to do with everything,” replied Kris.

“I really don’t know why we’re talking about this,” said Saul in a huff.

“Jules wanted to know,” said Kris, turning back to Jules. “The shed is what all the stories are about.”

Jules was getting impatient.

“And what are the stories, exactly?” he asked.

“There are too many to count,” said Jaime.

“But they all have one thing in common – the shed,” said Kris.

"It's dangerous," said Jaime.

"It's a shed," muttered Saul under his breath. Jules couldn't really believe that a shed could be dangerous either, but he wanted to hear what Kris and Jaime had to say.



"They say kids go missing if they get too close," continued Jaime.



"Could be aliens," offered Kris.

"Others say kids get eaten by a creature if they go inside," said Jaime.

"Could be monsters," said Kris.

"Could be nonsense," said Saul.

"If the stories really were nonsense, they wouldn't be told year after year," said Kris.

"So," said Jules. "This is the school's legend."

"Yeah," said Jaime. "Everyone has heard about it. Everyone knows to stay away from the shed."

"Does no one go in there at all?" asked Jules.
"Just the caretaker," said Kris. "It's his shed."

"Why has nothing happened to him, hmm?"
asked Saul.

"The monster only
wants kids," said Kris.
"Obviously."

"Sure," said Saul,
unconvinced.



"Do you know any of the missing kids?" asked Jules. "Have you ever met one of them, in person?"

"No," said Jaime. "But some of the older kids have."

"What do they say about it?" asked Jules.

"That their friends just stopped coming to school," said Kris. "They were here one day and gone the next."



"That doesn't mean an alien took them," said Saul, rolling his eyes.

"You know," said Jules. "There's only one way to see if there's any truth to these stories."

Kris, Jaime and Saul turned to look at Jules. "We have to look in the shed ourselves," he said.

"No, thank you," said Jaime. "I am happy right where I am."



"You want to go to the shed?" asked Kris.

"Yes," said Jules. "Don't you want to know what's actually happening?"

"No," said Saul. "Because nothing is happening. It's just where they keep the spare footballs and the lawnmower."

"If nothing is happening then you shouldn't be scared to go over," said Jules.

"I'm not scared," said Saul, calmly. "I just have other things I'd rather do."

"I'm up for it," said Kris, leaning over to Jules.

"Really?" asked Jaime.

"Yes," said Kris. "We could even go today. After school."

Someone cleared their throat behind the kids, and they jumped. Mrs Grundy was standing there with her hands on her hips, and she didn't look pleased.





"I don't mind a bit of chatter in my classroom," she said. "But you have to be working at the same time."

The kids looked down at their blank pieces of paper. They were supposed to be drawing their favourite animal, but they had been too distracted by the shed.

"Sorry, Mrs Grundy," they all mumbled.

When she was gone, Jules spoke up.

"Yeah," he said. "Let's go today."

"Nice one," said Kris. "Saul, are you coming with us?"

"I am actually free this afternoon," said Saul.
"Sure, why not."

"Jaime?" asked Kris.

"If you're all going..." said Jamie. "I guess I'll come too."

"Tonight, then,"
said Jules.

"Tonight,"
replied
Kris.



Chapter Three

The First Look

The four kids stood on the school field.
The shed stood at the other end of it.

“Let’s do this,” said Jules. They all started walking across the field. The shed looked bigger and bigger with every step they took.

It was winter, and the sky was getting quite dark already. Someone had turned the shed’s lights on.

“Wait,” said Jaime. “Is there someone inside?”

“Let’s find out,” said Kris, and she picked up her pace. The other three rushed to catch up with her.

There were some bushes by the shed, and the children crouched behind them. If anyone was inside the shed, they hopefully couldn't see the kids anymore.



"What's the plan?" asked Jaime.

"I'll check if the coast is clear," said Jules.

"And if it is, we'll go inside."

"What if it's locked?" asked Saul. "I will not be a part of any breaking and entering."

"We can think about that later," said Kris.

"Here goes nothing," said Jules, and he stuck his head over the top of the bush.

Right in front of him was a window. With the lights on inside, all Jules could see was a shadow against the shed's blinds.

The shadow belonged to something huge. Something that had tentacles coming out of its head. Something that wasn't human. The monster!



He knew now. The stories did have some truth to them. There was some kind of monster in the shed. Jules felt someone tugging on the back of his shirt.

"I think someone's coming," whispered Kris.
"We should go."

Jules ducked back down behind the bushes.
"I saw it," he said.

"What?" asked Kris.

"I saw the monster," said Jules.



Chapter Four

The Return to the Shed

"I don't get it," said Saul. "Why on Earth would you want to go back when you know there's a monster there?"

"I want to know more," said Jules, placing a bag on the table in front of them. Jules pulled four torches out of it. "Like, what kind of monster is it?"

"The kind that eats children," said Jaime.



"Then don't you think we need to do something about it?" asked Jules. "We can't sit back and let it keep taking kids."

"I think an adult should do something about it," said Jaime.

"They haven't done anything this whole time," said Kris. "We have to do this ourselves."

"Fine," said Saul. "What's the plan?"





The plan was simple. They waited until everyone left, then hid behind the bushes again. Jules checked if the coast was clear. It was, so they opened the shed door. The lights were off, and they left them off so the monster wouldn't know they were there yet. They used their torches to look around. The shed was... very messy.



"I wonder how much of this stuff actually gets used," said Saul. Jaime tapped a pool noodle and the cloud of dust that came off it made everyone sneeze.

"Does this school even have a pool?" asked Jules.

"No," said Kris.

They kept moving through the shed. All they found was more and more mess, but no sign of the monster.



"There's obviously nothing here," said Saul.

"I don't know what you saw, but it wasn't a monster, Jules."

"It's here, I swear," said Jules. "I know what I saw."

"Well, I'm tired of looking," said Jaime.

"If anyone finds us here, we are going to be in so much trouble."

Jaime took a step back and felt something poking her in the back. "It's the monster!" she screamed.

All hell broke loose. The kids started yelling and scrambling to get a look at the monster. All the clutter that had been piled around them started to fall over, clanging and banging as it went. But the monster wasn't behind Jaime anymore.

"Did anyone see where it went?" cried Jules.
"No!" said Kris.

"Let's look for it!" called Jules. "Follow me!"

They all started running further into the shed, not caring that they were knocking things over. The monster knew they were here now, so there was no point in being quiet anymore.



Chapter Five

The Chase

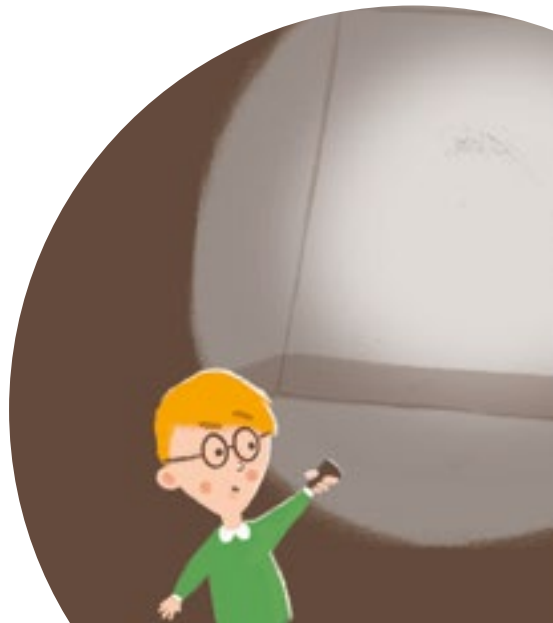
"Can anyone see a light switch?" asked Jules.

"There's no time!" yelled Saul. He was right. They couldn't stop. The monster would get away.

The kids ran around the corner and found themselves at a dead end.

"Where could it have gone?" asked Kris.

"Maybe..." muttered Jules. "Maybe it's in the room with the window, where I saw it yesterday."



"Yes," said Jaime. "Maybe that's where it likes to sleep. Or whatever monsters do."

"Let's go there, then," said Jules. Everyone turned and ran back down the corridor.



They retraced their steps until they were outside the door of the room with the window. It was closed now, but it had been open when they walked past it earlier.

The monster must have come back.

"Ready?" asked Jules, placing his hand on the door handle.

Saul, Jaime and Kris nodded.

"On the count of three," said Jules. "I'm going to open the door."

Jules held his breath for a second.

"One.... Two... Three!" counted Jules. He pushed the door open and ran in, with his three friends right behind him.



“Aaaaarrgh!” they all roared.

There was more banging as more clutter was knocked over. Jules heard Saul trip over something behind him. Jaime skidded on some paper that had been spread across the floor and crashed into something. Kris had walked into a spider web and was now trying to claw what was left of it out of her hair.



Jules was the only one left to face the monster.

It loomed in front of him. The moonlight from outside lit up its large, lumpy body and those horrible tentacles.

"It's over!" yelled Jules. "We got you!"



Chapter Six

The Monster

Suddenly, a bright light appeared overhead. The kids gasped and covered their eyes. It hurt a bit after the time they had spent in the dark.

“What is going on in here?” said a voice. It was an adult. The kids all looked to the doorway. The caretaker was stood there, his hand still on the light switch. His mouth was open in shock. With the light on, the kids could see just how much mess they had made.



More importantly, it would now be possible for them to see the monster. They turned back towards the window... and saw a pile of junk.

Where Jules thought the monster's body had been was a pile of paint cans and buckets stacked on top of an old table. A dust sheet was draped over the pile, but it was slipping off. Propped against the window, in the middle of the cans, was a mop. That was what had looked like the monster's head. Shoved in all the gaps were more pool noodles like the kids had seen earlier. These were the tentacles.

Jules couldn't believe it. He had definitely seen a monster!

"We were just looking for... a pool noodle!" said Saul.



"Oh," said the caretaker.

He walked over to the 'monster' and pulled a couple of pool noodles out of it.

"Here. Take two," he said. "Just in case."

"Thank you," said Kris, taking the noodles.

"Sorry about the mess," said Jaime. "Please let us clear it up."

"Don't worry about that," said the caretaker.

"There's no real harm done. You kids just go home now."

"Oh," said Saul. "Thank you."

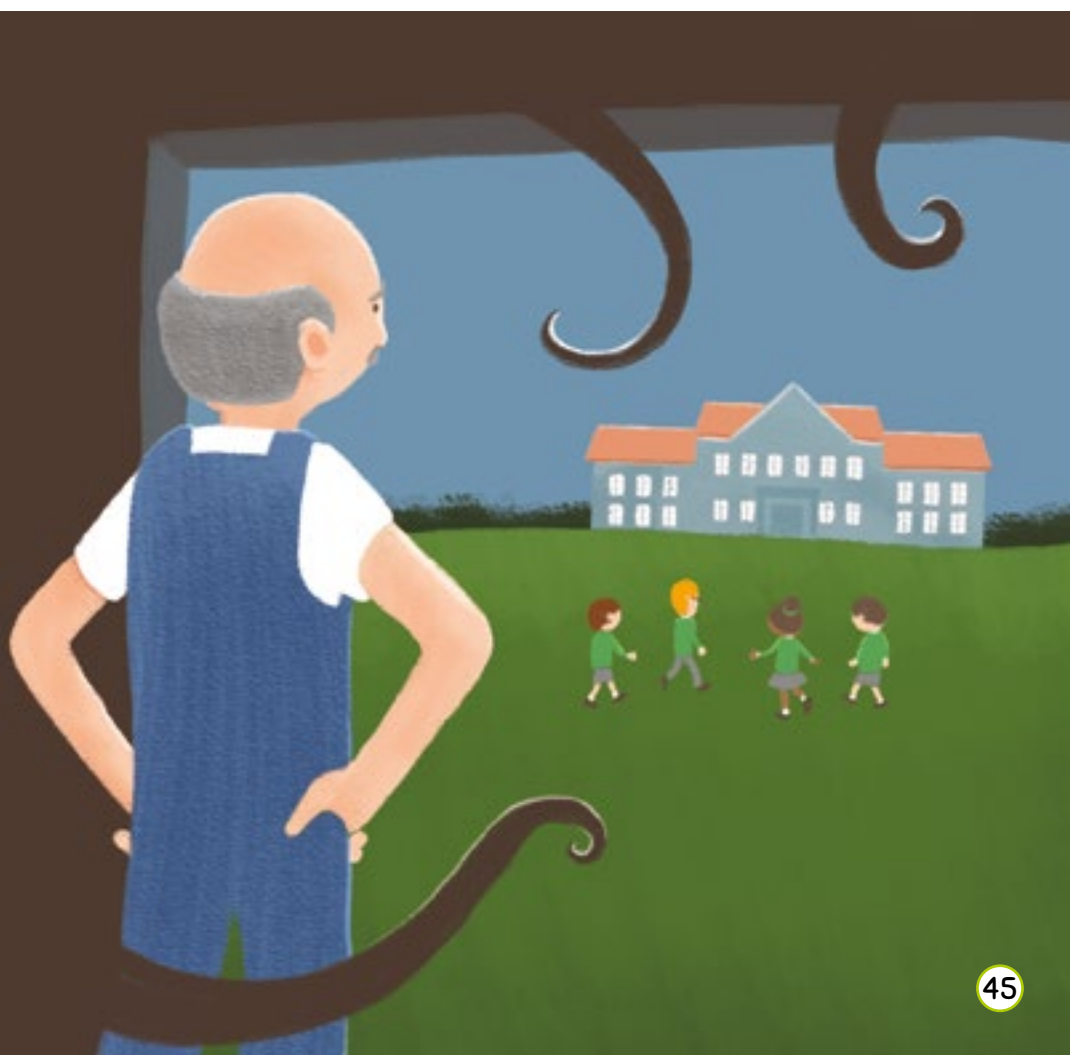
The children made their way out of the door. Jules looked back one last time as they left.

He was so confused.

The caretaker watched the children leave from the doorway of the shed.

“That was close,” he said.

A couple of tentacles slowly wound their way around the doorframe...



The Shed

1. Who didn't really believe all the stories about the shed?
2. What were the children supposed to be drawing?
 - (a) A monster
 - (b) Their favourite animal
 - (c) Their favourite food
3. What did Kris get in her hair?
4. Who finally turned the lights on in the shed?
5. Would you want to find out more if you heard a story like the one the children told Jules? Why?

An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

Our Readers have been specifically created in line with the London Institute of Education's approach to book banding and are phonetically decodable and ordered to support each phase of Letters and Sounds.

Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

PHONETICALLY DECODABLE supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

AUTHOR INSIGHT: MIGNONNE GUNASEKARA

Despite being BookLife Publishing's newest recruit, Mignonne Gunasekara has already written many books about everything from starter science and disastrous deaths throughout history to dinosaurs.

Born in Sri Lanka, Mignonne has always been drawn to stories, whether they are told through literature, film or music. After studying Biomedical Science at King's College London, Mignonne completed a short course in screenwriting at the National Centre for Writing in Norwich, during which she explored writing scripts for the different mediums of film, theatre and radio.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a lime level 11 book band.

The Shed

Legend says that the caretaker's shed is hiding a dangerous secret. Is it a monster? Is it an alien? Whatever it is, none of the students dare go near the shed. That is, until Jules Jones arrives. Jules won't stop until they find out if there's any truth to the legends – for better or for worse...

Each book has been lovingly created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

PHONETICALLY DECODABLE supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

EXERCISES & QUESTIONS offering reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

**JUST SOME OF THE OTHER AVAILABLE
TITLES IN THIS BOOK BAND COLOUR...**



BookLife
PUBLISHING

ISBN 9781839277948



9 781839 277948