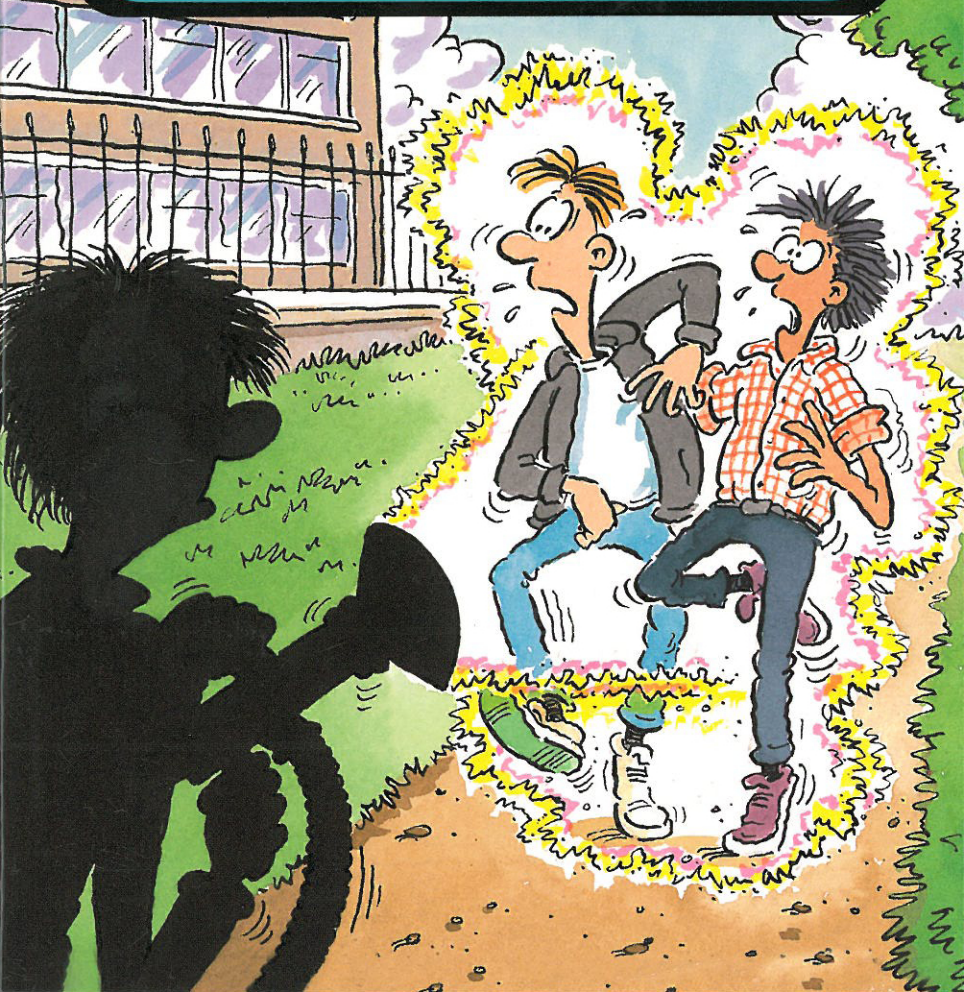


PAUL SHIPTON

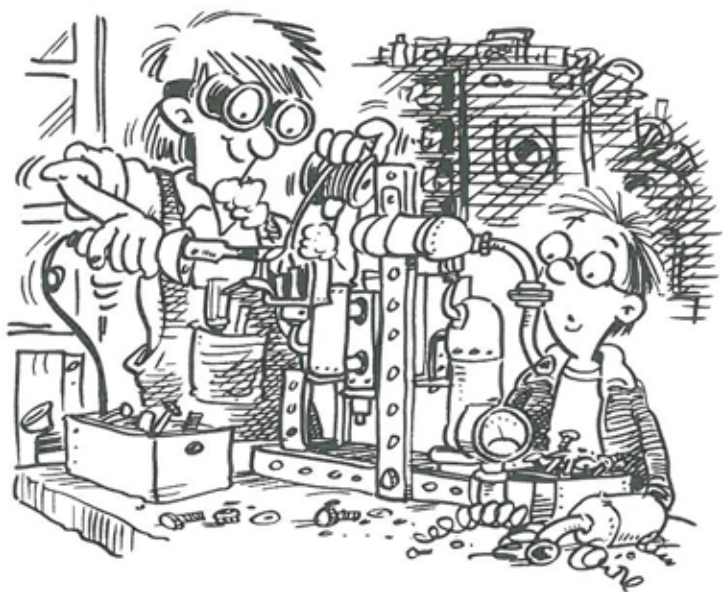
The Anti-Bully Machine



The Anti-Bully Machine

PAUL SHIPTON

Illustrated by Andy Hammond



PACIFIC
LEARNING

© 2001 Pacific Learning
© 1999 Written by **Paul Shipton**
Illustrated by **Andy Hammond**
US Edit by **Alison Auch**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

This Americanized Edition of *The Anti-Bully Machine*, originally published in English in 1999, is published by arrangement with Oxford University Press.

05 04 03 02 01
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published by
Pacific Learning
P.O. Box 2723
Huntington Beach, CA 92647-0723
www.pacificlearning.com

ISBN: 1-59055-044-7
PL-7410

Contents

1. A Big Secret4
2. Bully for You9
3. Recognizing Genius16
4. It's All about Attitude26
5. Being Taught a Lesson34
6. Zapped!39
7. Racing against Time 46
8. An Open Secret61

A Big Secret



We were on a path near the middle school when some older kids came up behind us. Before we knew it, one of them had pulled the backpack off of my friend Chris's shoulder.

"What's in here?" the kid said.

"Give that back..." Chris began, but the older kid was already unzipping the backpack. He pulled out some juice and a bag of raisins.

"Raisins? Don't you know I wanted potato chips?"

He tossed the backpack to one of his snickering friends.

Chris grabbed for it, but it sailed high over his head. The girl who had the backpack now threw it to another kid. She was careful to keep it out of Chris's reach, but she forgot about me. I jumped and caught it with one hand.

The kid who'd grabbed the backpack in the first place looked at me as if I were some new kind of insect. "Give it to me," he demanded.

"It's not yours," I said, sounding calmer than I felt.



The big kid smirked. "Can you prove it isn't mine?"

"Yes," said one of his friends, a tall girl with spiky hair. "I've always liked that backpack of yours, Kevin."



Thorny Wood Middle School was just across the street from us. The school was closed – it was still the summer vacation – but a janitor was working outside the main entrance.

"You all go to Thorny Wood, don't you?" I said. My sister went to Thorny Wood, and the spiky-haired girl was in her grade. "Let's go and ask the janitor. I'm sure he'll be able to help us figure this out."

The older kids didn't say anything. They were wondering if I really meant it. They decided I did.

"Let's go," said the other boy.

They wandered off in search of a new challenge. "Bye-bye, children," Kevin shouted over his shoulder.

I handed Chris his backpack.

"Thanks, Steve," he said, but he still seemed worried. He was looking at Thorny Wood Middle School. In one week's time we would be starting at Thorny Wood ourselves. Its windows winked at us in the sunshine. Finally, Chris asked, "Do you think there are lots of kids like that there?"

"Don't worry. My sister loves it!"

My older sister Sonya thought the school was great.

Chris nodded, but I knew what he was thinking. We were going to start at a big new school full of older kids. Would there be *lots* of bullies?

I thought for a moment. "Chris," I said at last. "I'm going to tell you a secret. You probably won't believe it, but it's true. It happened at the beginning of school last year."

"When you first moved here?"

I nodded. "My family had just moved from another town. At the beginning of my final year in elementary school, I was the new kid."

I took a deep breath. "That's when I met the worst bully of my life."





The Anti-Bully Machine

Being the new kid in school isn't as bad as Steve had thought – until he runs into the school bully! When boy-genius Neil shows up, it looks as if that bully may have finally met his match.



PACIFIC
LEARNING

ISBN 1-59055-044-7



9 781590 550441

PL-7410