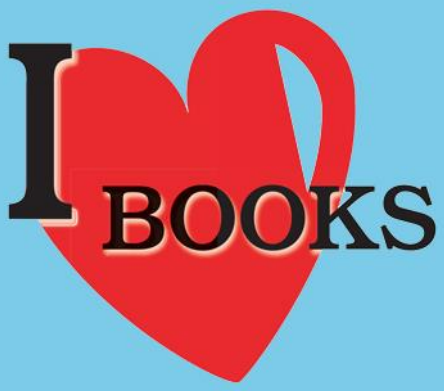


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Opening extract from

Aidan Abet, Teacher's Pet

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Chapter 1
The Unrelated Robinsons

"Aidan Abet, teacher's pet!
Peed his pants and now they're wet!"

The strange tale of Aidan Abet begins on the morning of the 5th of September. It was the first day of the new school term and Aidan was not looking forward to it for two reasons.

Reason 1 – The Unrelated Robinsons

Robert Robinson and Robin Robinson were unrelated but never seen apart, and so everyone called them the Unrelated Robinsons.

And the Unrelated Robinsons greeted Aidan Abet in the same way every day.

"Aidan Abet, teacher's pet!
Peed his pants and now they're wet!"

Every. Single. Day.

The Unrelated Robinsons didn't like Aidan. Aidan didn't like the Unrelated Robinsons. In Aidan's opinion, those boys were animals. And Aidan didn't like animals, either. Not at first, anyway.

Reason 2 – Mr Goodacre

Mr Goodacre was not a good teacher by any stretch of the imagination. He always looked like he was trying to remember where he'd left his car keys, or as if he had just smelled a fart. He was also lazy, and so Aidan employed the Assistance Approach with him. It went something like this ...

"Mr Goodacre," Aidan would say. "Would you like me to take the register?"

or

"Mr Goodacre, would you like me to collect in everyone's homework?"

or

"Mr Goodacre, would you like me to be dinner monitor so you can have a rest?"

Aidan knew that if he did Mr Goodacre's work for him, then Mr Goodacre would stop the Unrelated Robinsons from picking on Aidan. Of course, this meant everyone else in the class thought that Aidan was a teacher's pet.

The trouble was, Mr Goodacre had decided to retire at the end of the summer term. This was bad news for Aidan. Without Mr Goodacre to watch over him, the Unrelated Robinsons would pick on Aidan all the time. Aidan's only

chance was to win over his new teacher as soon as possible and get the new teacher to put the Unrelated Robinsons back in their place.

So, back to the morning of the 5th of September.

"*Aidan Abet, teacher's pet!*
Peed his pants and now they're wet!"

As usual, those were the first words Aidan heard when he walked into the classroom on the first day of the new school term. He ignored the Unrelated Robinsons and the giggling from his classmates. He sat down at his desk, right at the front, and waited for the new teacher. He would do whatever it took to win them over.

He'd be keen but not *too* keen ...

He'd flatter them but not fawn over them ...

He'd be helpful but not smother them ...



Teachers were a predictable lot. Aidan had a plan in place for whatever the school threw at him. He was ready for anything.

But he wasn't ready for Miss Vowel.

Miss Vowel's application letter

Mr Headworthy
Teacup Lane Primary School
Teacup Lane
Spoonton
Stirshire SP23 OTL

Dear Mr Headworthy

I am writing to apply for the post of Year 6 teacher at Teacup Lane Primary School. I have more than five years' experience as a teacher. At ~~pheasant~~ present I am looking for a ~~pig~~ big challenge and I believe Teacup Lane would fit the bill. I am a team player who is willing to ~~pigeon~~ pitch in whenever I am needed. I'm well aware one must be able to wear many ~~cats~~ hats in this job and will take this ~~foal~~ role seriously. After all, the children's futures are at ~~snake~~ stake.

I hope to ~~deer~~ hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely
Miss Annabelle Vowel