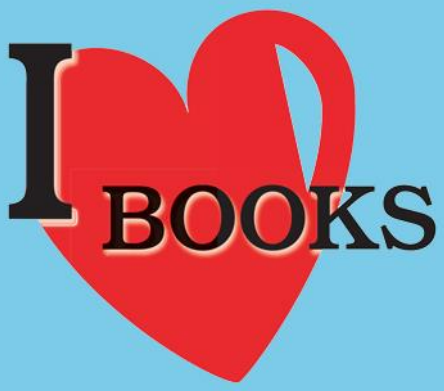


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Opening extract from

Swashbuckle Lil and the Jewel Thief

Written by

Elli Woollard

Illustrated by

Laura Ellen Anderson

Published by

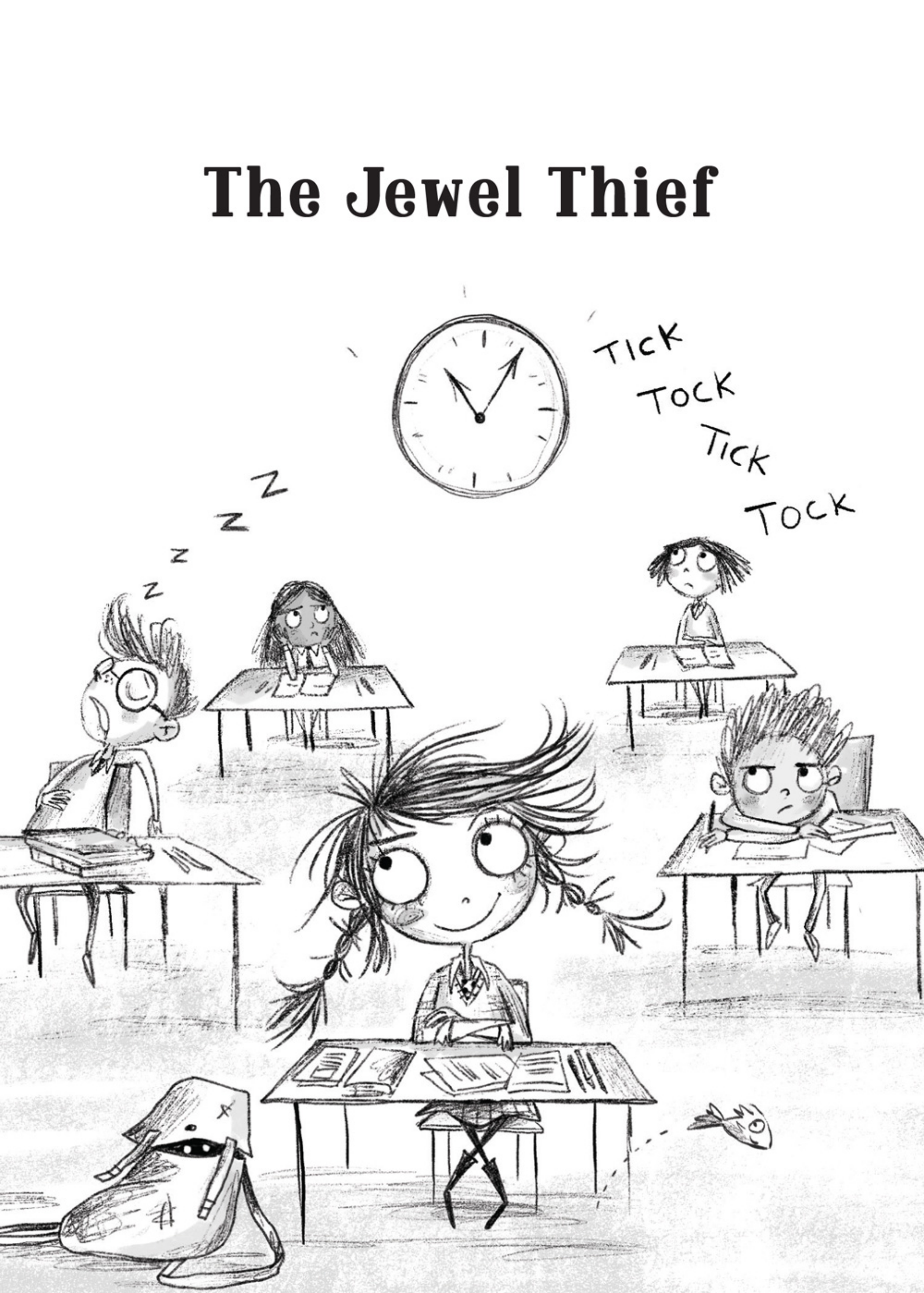
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The Jewel Thief



1

Normaltown School was a dull sort of place.

Nothing went on all day L O N G .

'It's always the same,' the children complained,

But, actually, there they were wrong . . .

Nobody guessed that a girl there named Lil

Was a pirate who'd sailed to new lands.

And there, in the shade, she had dug with her spade

To find diamonds and gold in the sands.

Lil never took treasure unless it was hers.

'Stealing is bad!' she would say.

Then Lil and her parrot, a red one named Carrot,

Would go off exploring all day.

But if danger appeared in the winds and the waves,

Then Lil was as **bold** as could be.

She tackled big squid in the depths where they hid.

'Nothing,' she'd say, 'can scare ME!'



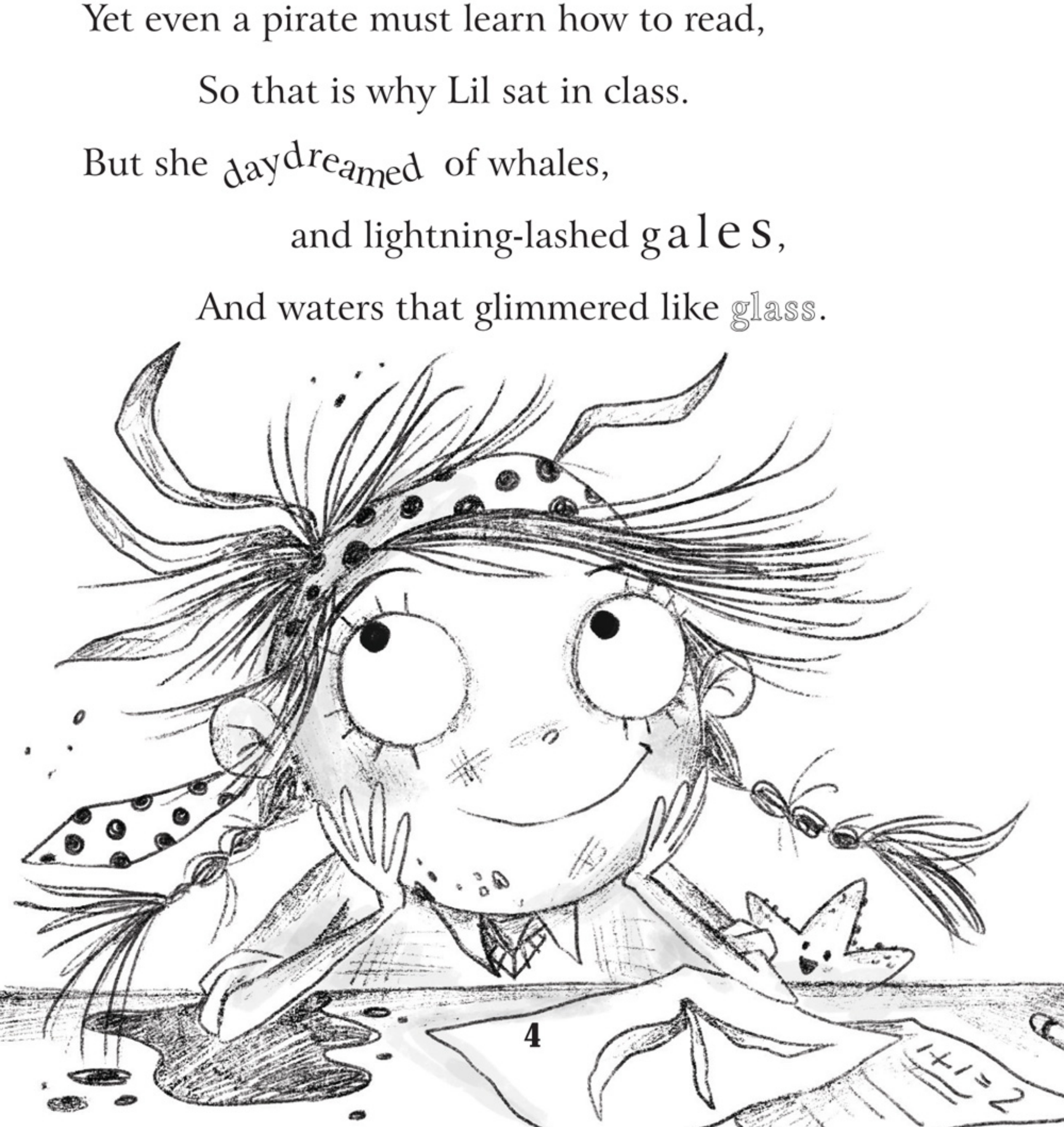
Yet even a pirate must learn how to read,

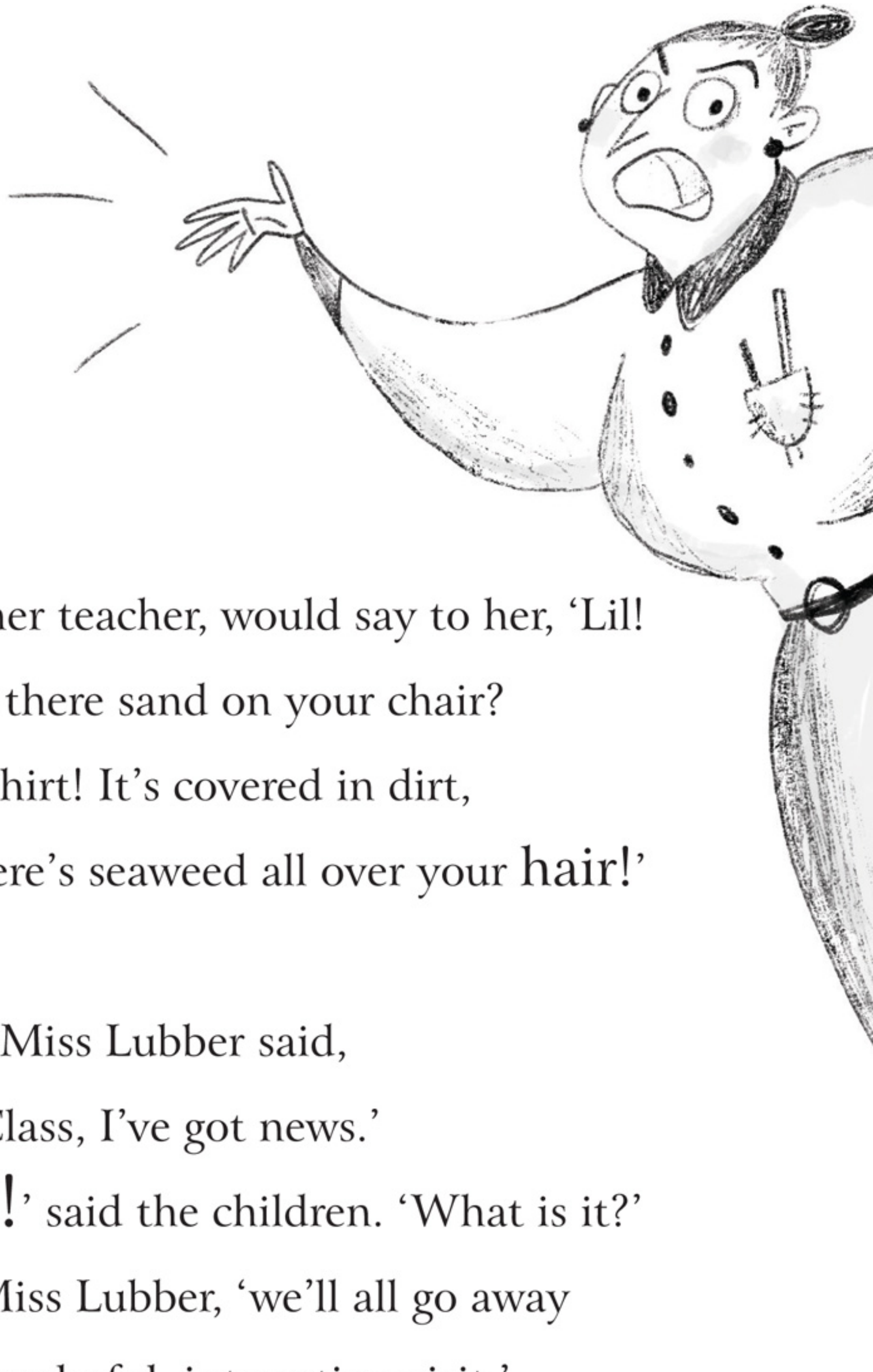
So that is why Lil sat in class.

But she daydreamed of whales,

and lightning-lashed gales,

And waters that glimmered like glass.





Miss Lubber, her teacher, would say to her, 'Lil!

Why is there sand on your chair?

Look at your shirt! It's covered in dirt,

And there's seaweed all over your hair!'

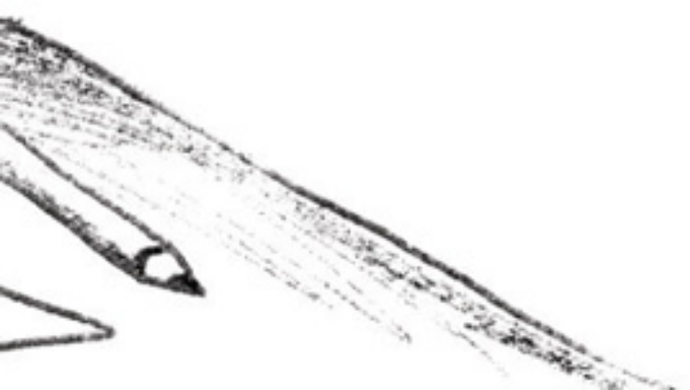
Then one day Miss Lubber said,

'Class, I've got news.'

'Oooh!' said the children. 'What is it?'

'Today,' said Miss Lubber, 'we'll all go away

On a wonderful, interesting visit.'



‘This museum,’ she said, ‘will be ever so fun.

It’s an excellent place for a trip.

We’ll see famous old art, and the very best part

Is a hundred-and-ten-year-old ship.’





‘Ahoy!’ shouted Lil. ‘I know all about boats!’
But Miss Lubber just said, ‘Come along.
Now, Lil, please be good and behave as you should,
And nothing at all will go wrong.’

