Joanna Nadin

THE WORST CLASS IN THE WORLD Gets Worse

Illustrated by
Rikin Parekh

BLOOMSBURY
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP, UK

BLOOMSBURY, BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS and the Diana logo
are trademarks of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

First published in Great Britain in 2021 by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

Text copyright © Joanna Nadin, 2021
Illustrations copyright © Rikin Parekh, 2021

Joanna Nadin and Rikin Parekh have asserted their rights
under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, to be
identified as Author and Illustrator of this work

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, or any information storage or retrieval system,
without prior permission in writing from the publishers

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: PB: 978-1-5266-1188-8; eBook: 978-1-5266-1186-4

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

Printed and bound in Great Britain by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon CR0 4YY

FSC
www.fsc.org
MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C020471

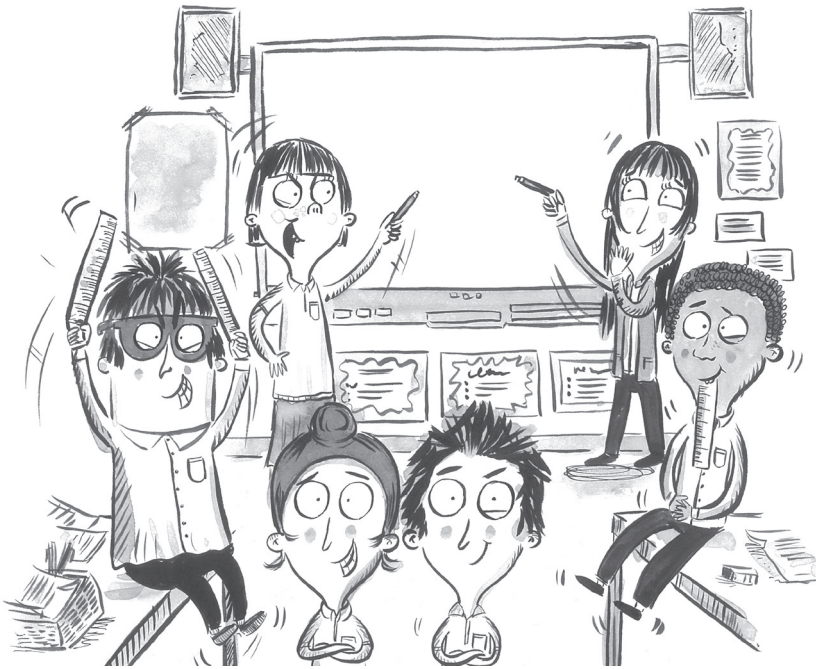
To find out more about our authors and books visit www.bloomsbury.com
and sign up for our newsletters

For Jude and Siân
and all the other long-suffering Mr Nidgetts
who are doing an extraordinary job
teaching small people

– J.N.

For Ernest Ayeh-Datey,
Mr Nidgett incarnate

– R.P.



Our class is the **WORST CLASS IN THE WORLD**.

I know it is the **WORST CLASS IN THE WORLD** because Mrs Bottomley-Blunt (who is our headmistress, and who makes

a noise like a horse when she is annoyed, which is a lot) is always taking our teacher into the corridor and saying,

‘Mr Nidgett, I have come across some rotten eggs in my time, but 4B is **LITERALLY** the **WORST CLASS IN THE WORLD**.’

LITERALLY means actually scientifically **TRUE**. Mrs Bottomley-Blunt pointed that out when Manjit Morris (who is my best friend, and who is going to be the First Human Boy to Walk a Tightrope in Space) said his head had **LITERALLY** exploded when he got a dog called Killer for his birthday, and it actually hadn’t.

It is true that a lot of things do not go as well as they could in class 4B. For example:

1. The time we had a battle to be the Biscuit King of 4B and Harvey Barlow was sick on Mr Nidgett's shoes.
2. The time Lionel Dawes got nits and gave them to everyone else including Mrs Bottomley-Blunt because her mum does not believe in CHEMICALS or killing anything with a face.
3. The time we went on a school trip to Grimley Zoo and Harvey Barlow smuggled a penguin back on the bus.

Plus no one has won a prize all year, and 4A have won:

1. Best Show and Tell
2. Best Lining Up in the Playground without Fighting
3. Best Cardboard Sarcophagus

Although this is not surprising, as their class captain is Eustace Troy, who is president of chess club, first violin in the school orchestra and team leader on the Shining Examples competitive spelling squad.

Our class captain is Bruce Bingley, who can only burp the national anthem, which I think is quite impressive, but Mrs Bottomley-Blunt does not.

She says school is not about footling or fiddle-faddling or **FUN**. It is about **LEARNING** and it is high time we tried harder to **EXCEL** at it.

Dad says well at least I haven't been arrested. Grandpa says being arrested would be getting off lightly and **IN HIS DAY** he had to walk five miles to school barefoot and eat gravel for lunch.

Mum, who works at the council, says, 'I have spent all day listening to Mr Butterworth bang on about bollards and the last thing I need

is a heated debate about eating gravel. As long as Stanley's happy, that's all that matters.'

And you know what? I am happy, because:

1. According to Mr Nidgett, everyone excels at something, even Harvey Barlow – they just have to look very hard to find it.

2. According to the laws of probability, we have had all our bad luck and nothing else can possibly go wrong.

3. According to Manjit, even if it does

go wrong we have a FOOLPROOF PLAN to get away with it, which is DO NOT TELL ANYONE.

You see, 4B may be the **WORST CLASS IN THE WORLD**. But I like it.