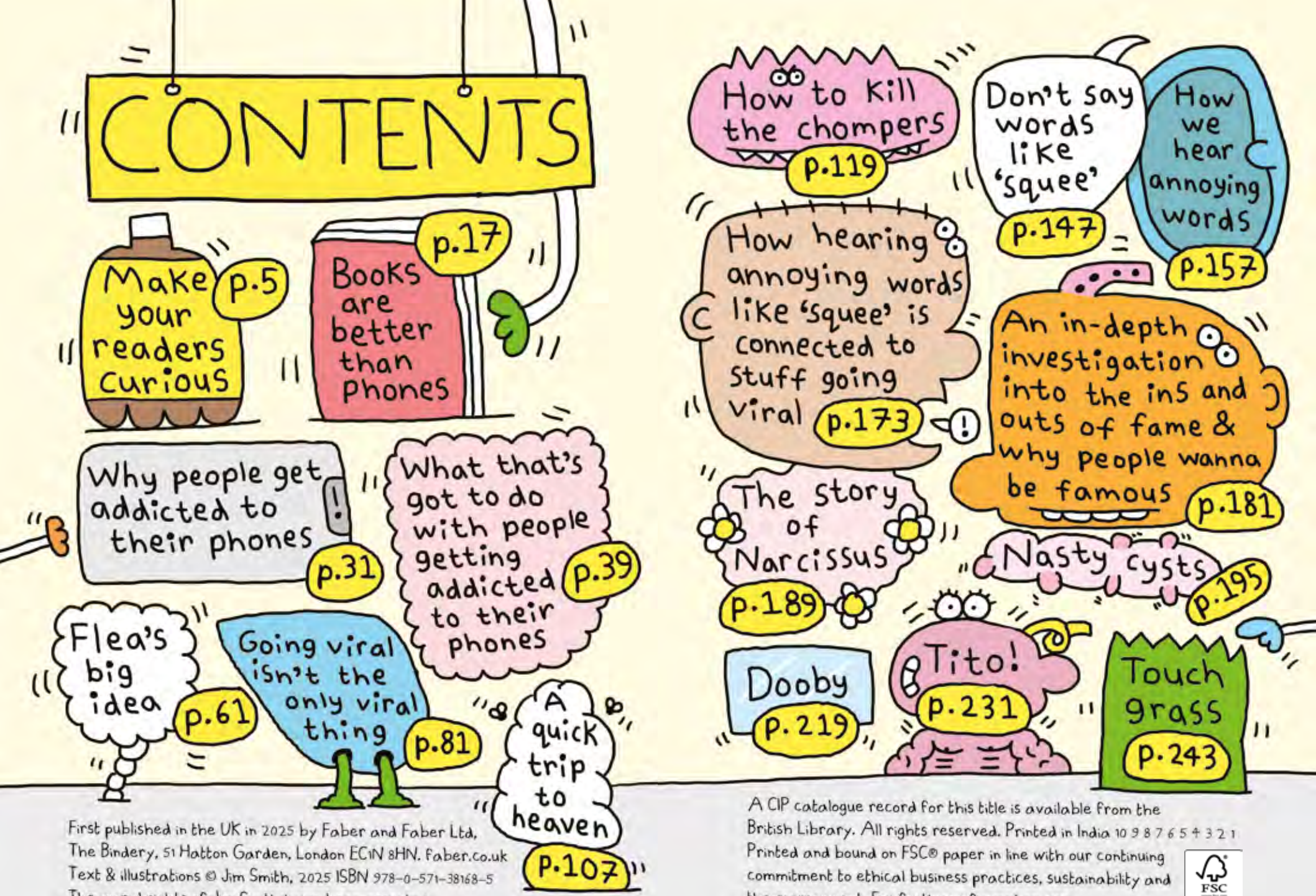
Genius Kid goes viral!



faber



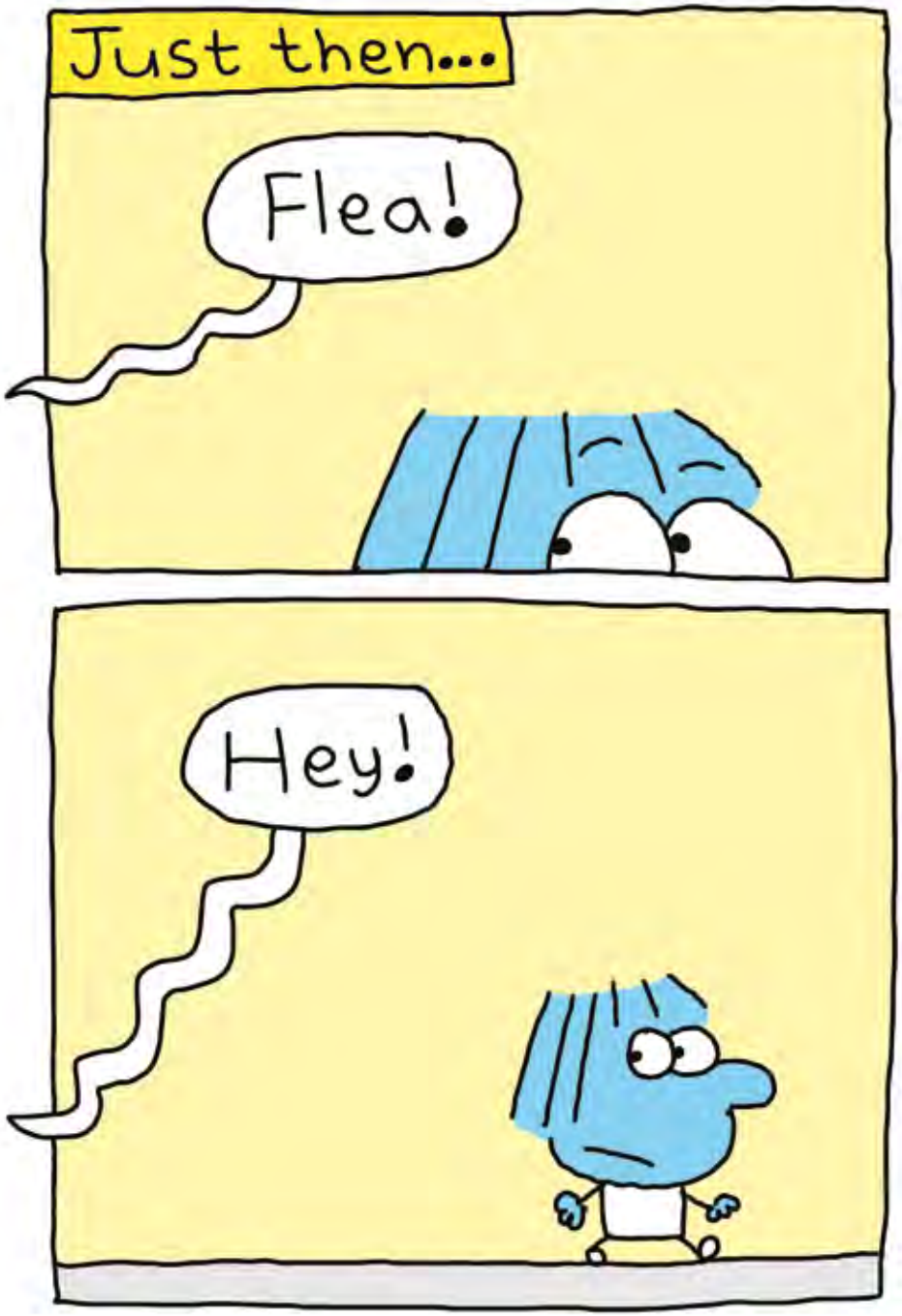
First published in the UK in 2025 by Faber and Faber Ltd,
The Bindery, 51 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8HN. faber.co.uk
Text & illustrations © Jim Smith, 2025 ISBN 978-0-571-38168-5
The moral rights of Jim Smith have been asserted.

A CIP catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library. All rights reserved. Printed in India 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed and bound on FSC® paper in line with our continuing commitment to ethical business practices, sustainability and the environment. For further information see www.faber.co.uk/environmental-policy

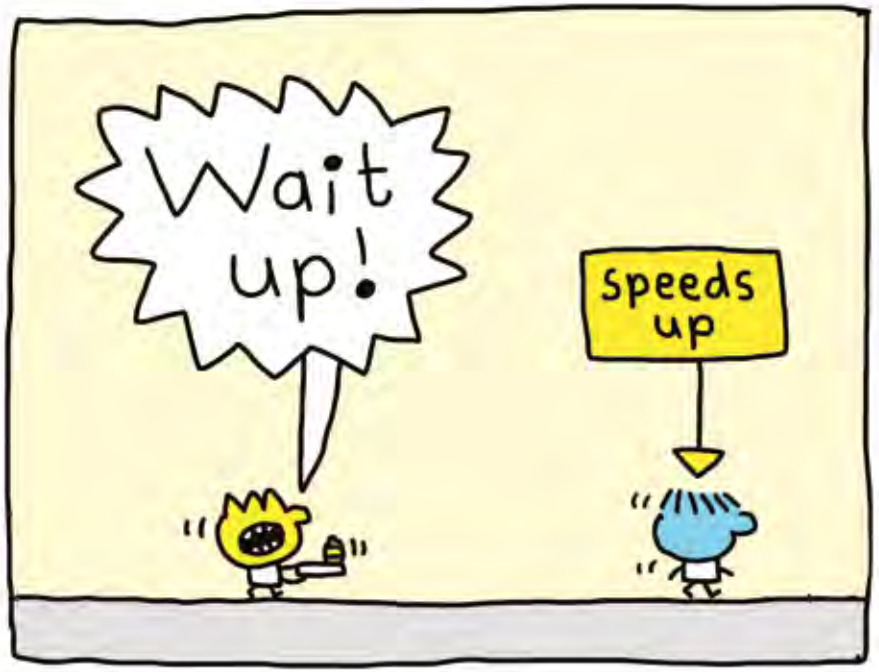


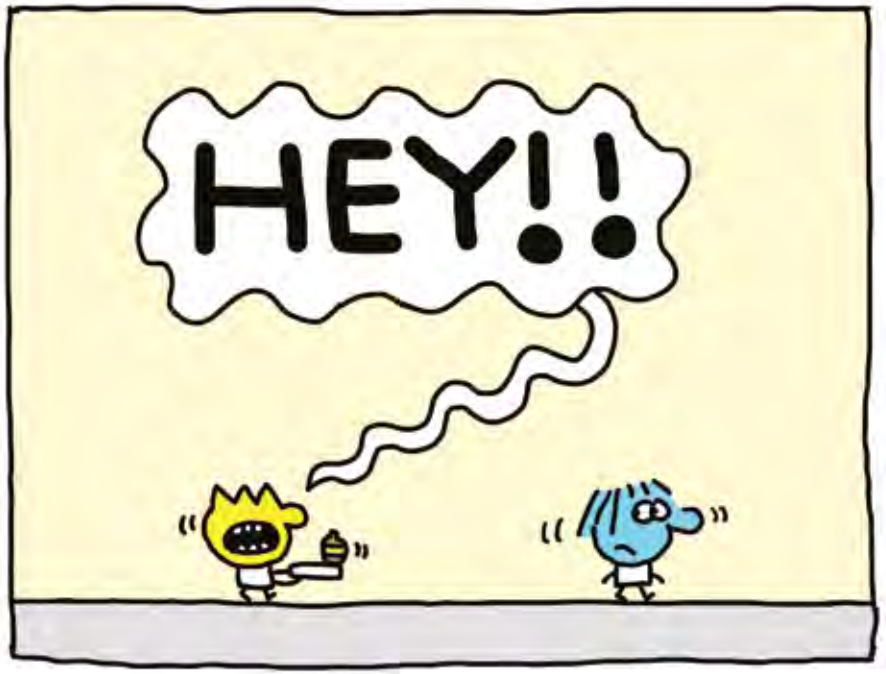
Make your readers curious




Just then...
Flea!
Hey!


Flea!
FLEA!
PIZZA
FLEA!
FLEEA!!


Wait up!
Speeds up


HEY!!


It's me!!
Graham Knee - my annoying next-door neighbour...
HAVE YOU HEARD?
Heard what?
About our last book...


What? 'How to be a Genius Kid'?
Yeah!
What about it?
IT'S GONE VIRAL!
Really?
Yes!
How?


Well, you know the nice little bookshop in town?
Yeah...
It sold seven copies!!


So...
Bookshop, eh?
Yeah, that's right.
Seven copies, huh?
Well, four. I rounded up.
Four copies...
From a bookshop.


Is there a problem?
That is NOT "GOING" "VIRAL" "!!!"


So what IS 'going viral', then?
Meet me in the next chapter and I'll explain.
OK. See you there!


What did we learn in this lesson...?
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!


Dooby's Random Factoids!™
The fear of long words is called hippopoto-monstros-esquipped-aliophobia!
©Dooby Corp. Ltd
Them again?!


Books are better than phones
So what IS 'going viral', then??
Is there an echo in this book?
PTO
Please Turn Over


Anyway...
'Going viral' is when something spreads really quickly on the internet.
Oh.
So, what with our book being a book and not on the internet...
It's unlikely it'll go viral.
Riiight.


That's annoying.
Want some pizza?
PIZZA
I bought it to celebrate.
Aw...
There's a bottle of Splupfz too...
I know it's your favourite.
He's sweet.


Anyway...
Mmm, pizza!
PIZZA PIZZA PIZZA!
Chew
I LOVE PIZZA!
Chew
Would you like to hear some pizza facts?
Seein' as you love it so much...
Nah.


Anyway...
People think the word 'pizza' comes from the Greek word 'pitta', which means...
'PIE'!
Er, I said 'nah'?
Others think it comes from the old word 'bizzo', which meant...
not listening


'BITE'!
Hmm... I've got one!
Maybe the word 'PIZZA' comes from the words 'Piece' and 'of'...
Cos when you have a PIZZA...
You always have a PIZ-ZA pizza!!!
That is really weak.


MUNCH!
CHEW!
BIZZO!
GNAW!


After the pizza...
Full up now.
Unlike this latest book of yours.
You're funny.
Why DO you keep making books, Graham?


R U serious?
Yeah – what's the point of books...
When there's the whole entire internet instead?
MIND BLOWING UP


MINI LESSON!
What's so good about books...
1 They smell nice.
SNIFF
2 They're lovely to hold.
3 You don't have to plug them in.
4 They END.
PHEW.
THE END.


They end...?
Yeah- unlike the internet...
SCROLL
Which goes on...
SCROLL
FOREVER.
SCROLL
But...
What's so great about something ENDING?


ANOTHER MINI LESSON!
What's so good about stuff ending...
When something ends...
THE END.
in cinema
You can stop doing it...
gets up
popcorn flies everywhere
And get on with your life!


That bloke didn't look all that happy about his film ending...
OK—he was a bad example...
But mostly it's a good thing to stop doing what you're doing...
And do something else.
I mean—have you seen people when they're stuck on their phones?!
Yeah, my mum gets like that. And I can tell you why.