

STEVE WILLIAMS

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Introduction Survival of the Unfittest

You can do ANYTHING! You don't believe me, but you CAN!

...OK, not quite anything... You can't make dogs bark Spanish, turn your thumbs into pineapples, or burp glow-in-the-dark rainbows. But you are capable of EXTRAORDINARY things. And the only person who can stop you is...

This is the tale of the maddest school day... **EVER!!!**

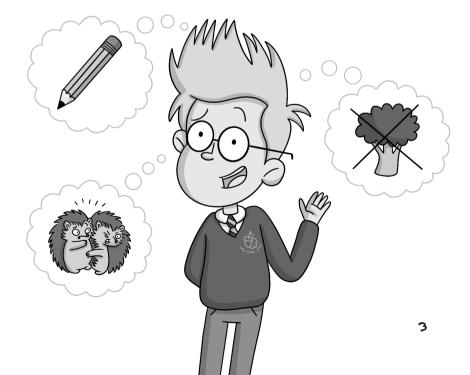
Remember when that school spent twenty-four hours knitting gigantic underpants for elephants? Or that girl who forgot World Book Day, so she sellotaped bread to her face and pretended she was a cookbook? Or Show and Tell when that boy brought in a talking Dalmatian but it turned out it was his little brother with measles?! Well, this day was a gazillion times madder than all of these!

This day was **UNBELIEVABLE**.

You know how teachers normally have everything under control? Well, on this day, they didn't. They were all over the place like a bowl of soup on a rollercoaster.

But how do you begin a story about the day Planet Earth faced **TOTAL** destruction? Well, an unusual day should start in an unusual place, not with terrified teachers nor with tentacled attackers, but with a small bookish child named Finley...

Like you, Finley thought he was just another school kid. He was quiet and skinny, with messy blond hair that looked like a porcupine snorkelling in custard. He loved drawing, struggled with broccoli, and wondered how hedgehogs hugged without injuring each other.

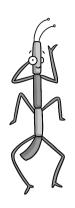


Top 5 Things You Should Know About Finley:

- 5) His best friend is called Lyra
- 4) He has a stick insect named Harvey Blood-Sucker (who is strictly vegetarian)
 - 3) He likes making lists

 (and even makes lists of
 his favourite lists)
 - 2) He dislikes broccoli, * and ...
 - 1) He LOVES school!
 - * Because it looks like mini trees and eating it makes him feel like a giant koala!

Finley really did love school. If he **HAD** to pick a favourite subject, it'd be science. If he **HAD** to be best buddies with a class, it'd be maths. And



if he **HAD** to marry a lesson, then it'd be... completely weird, let's be honest. But he **LOVED** learning things!

It's difficult to believe, then, that the fate of the entire **WORLD** would end up in the hands of this scrawny,

school-adoring pipsqueak! Finley wasn't some mega-strong superhero* with big muscley arms that looked like someone had stuffed his jumper with armadillos. Finley's arms were more like soggy, out-of-date spaghetti.

In truth, Finley was the absolute **LAST** person you would want the future of your planet to depend upon...

^{*} Unless there's a new superhero called Asthma Boy... Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's out of breath and needs its inhaler!

List of People You'd Ask to Save the World Before Finley:

- 1) Everyone
- 2) Everyone else
- 3) A passing squirrel named Darren
- 4) A potato... a ladybird... or a bowl of cake!
- 5) Everything else... (including Harvey Blood-Sucker)
- 6) Finley

And this is his story...