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opening extract from

Ralph is (not) a Superhero

written by

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Corinne Davies

Ralph is (*not*) a Superhero



Illustrated by

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Chapters

1 School and Dreams…and Stuff 5

2 Don't Look Up! 21

3 Cat's Overhead! 29

4 The *Dreaded* Football Team…and Ivy 43

5 The Rude Man 53

6 One too many Brussels! 69

7 Ralph Gets the Girl (and more from Ivy) 83



Chapter 1

School and Dreams…and Stuff



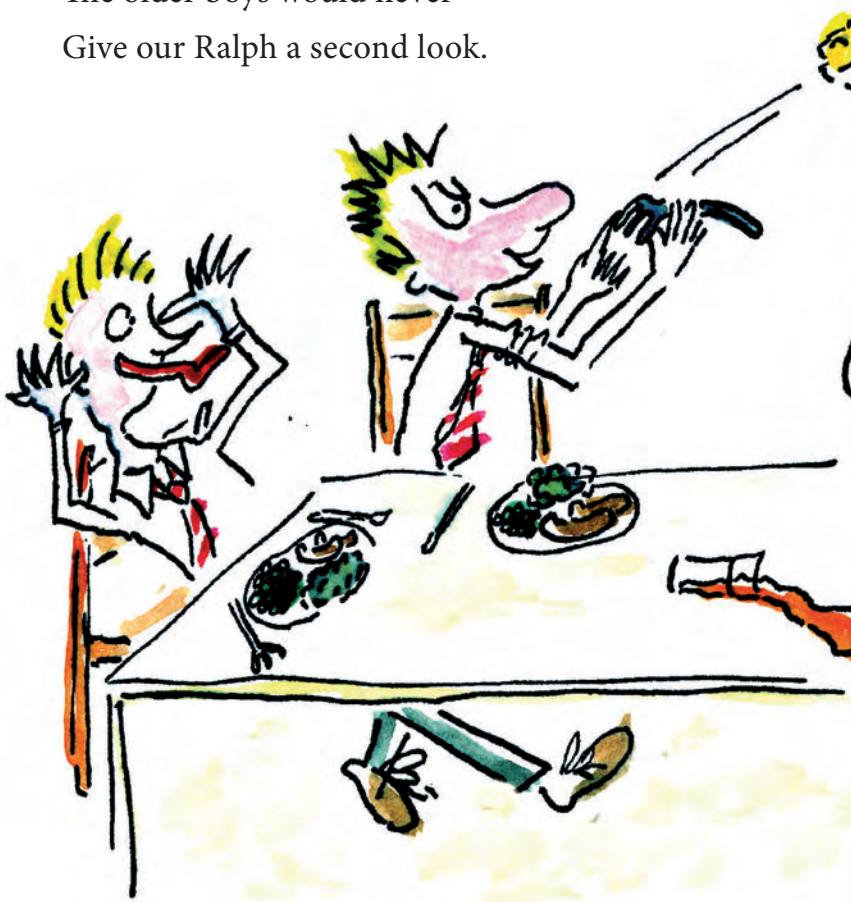


Young Ralph was not that popular,
At school he had few friends.
He wasn't fast or good at sports,
But tried to make amends
By keeping out of people's way
And trying to be kind.
At break time he was always
Quite impossible to find.

He'd stay inside and read a book,
Or maybe practise chess.
For it might rain, or might be fine,
But Ralph could not care less.

He'd hide inside the library,
Until the bell would sound
As just outside the older boys
All threw themselves around.

At lunchtime he would sit alone,
And quickly scoff his food.
He'd smile at all the others,
As he hated being rude,
But kept his distance –
Burying his head inside a book.
The older boys would never
Give our Ralph a second look.

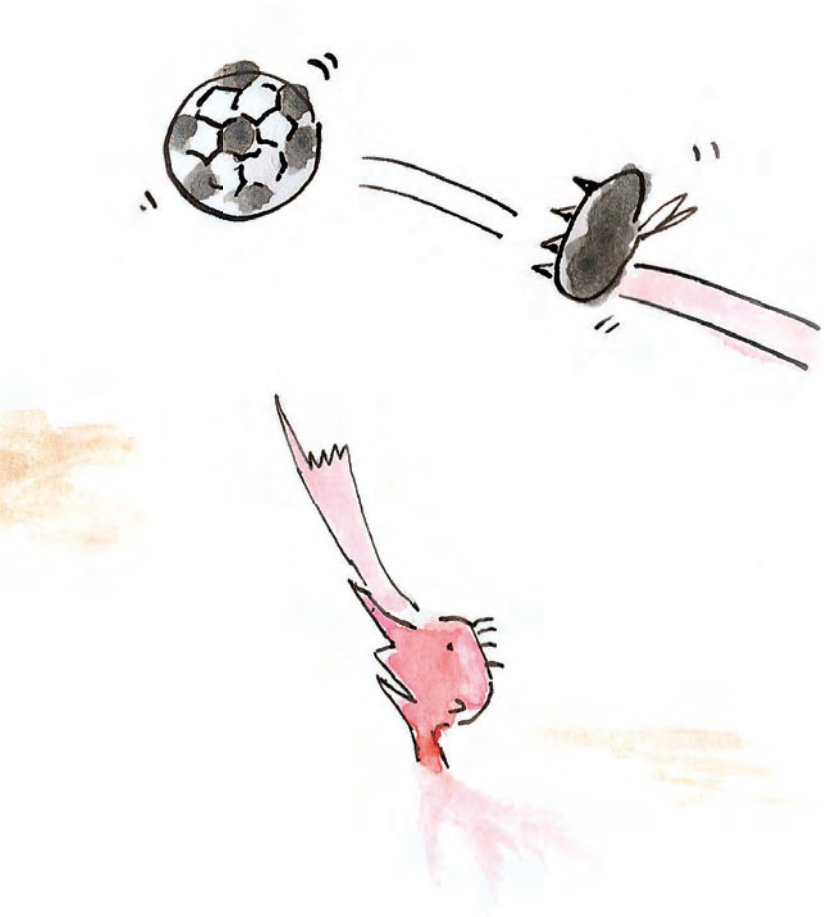






Ralph's sister found him bothersome
And terribly un-cool.
She tried to just ignore him
If their paths should cross at school.

‘So where’s your swotty brother?’
All the older girls would ask.
She tried, in vain, to get poor Ralph
To always wear a mask!



But then one night Ralph had a dream, that turned his world around.





He dreamt that he was flying many miles above the ground.

He fought with baddies, rescued pets,



Was brave and super strong…



And woke up in a sweat and questioned if his dream was wrong.

“Last night I dreamt I was a superhero!”
Ralph declared,
(Arriving down for breakfast,
as his older sister glared.)

‘So what’s your uniform like Ralph
– in red, or maybe blue?’

“Don’t laugh at me!”
Said Ralph
“Or else I’ll use
My powers on YOU!”



Ralph's sister walked out laughing
And his mother shook her head.

'Your special powers are only real
When you're asleep in bed.'



"But mum, I flew and walked
Through walls and I was pretty cool!"

'That's great,' replied Ralph's mum,
'But now it's time to go to school!'

‘Now class, you all must listen for tomorrow there will be,
A poetry competition, and I need your help, you see.
Together we must choose the person
Whom we all think best,



To represent our class and
To annihilate the rest!’

"I'll volunteer to read!" said Ralph,
The class all turned, surprised.
'You hate to read.' 'But you're too quiet and useless Ralph!'
they cried.

"I know that I can do this, miss,
If you give me the chance!"

And Ralph arose,
Adopting his new superhero stance.

