For Elias

JANETTA OTTER-BARRY BOOKS

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A Waste of Good Paper

Sean Taylor

FRANCES LINCOLN
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Friday the 6th of March

Pete says this is a writing book that he's only giving me and he says it's called JASON'S JOURNAL. And it's so I can write in it every day. And he said what did I think about that? So I said it sounded like A WASTE OF GOOD PAPER. And Pete says I can call it A WASTE OF GOOD PAPER if I want and I can write what I want. But SORRY PETE there's nothing I want to write.

Monday the 9th of March

I knew Pete was going to say I've got to keep writing in this book he got me because he reckons I'm good at writing. But that's not even actually true. I'm just ordinary at writing. But at least I can do it which is more than most of the dumb boys in this school can. I'm only good if you compare me to most of them because it takes them half a morning to write like TWO LINES.

Anyway Pete's getting on my nerves about it now and I haven't even got anything more to write except here's a joke.

A bear does a poo and out comes this great big STINKING PILE OF POO. Then along comes this rabbit and does a poo too. Except when the rabbit does the poo the poo comes out in these little round balls PLIP PLIP PLIP PLIP PLIP. And the bear's poo's this great big stinking pile. So the bear asks the rabbit, "How do you poo so neatly like that?"

And the rabbit says, "Oh it's easy for us rabbits. It just comes out in these little balls PLIP PLIP PLIP PLIP PLIP. What about you Bear? Look at all that stinky mess you do. I don't know how you ever clean your bum after making all that big mess."

And the bear says, "OH it's easy for us bears. We just pick up any rabbit that's going past and WIPE OUR BUM WITH THAT!"

Tuesday the 10th

I thought Pete would be sticking his nose in this book to see what I've done and be smiling away and telling me it's VERY GOOD like usual when we do writing work. But now he just told me it's PRIVATE so if I tell him DON'T LOOK AT IT then he won't. But if I want him to look at it then he's going to look at it.

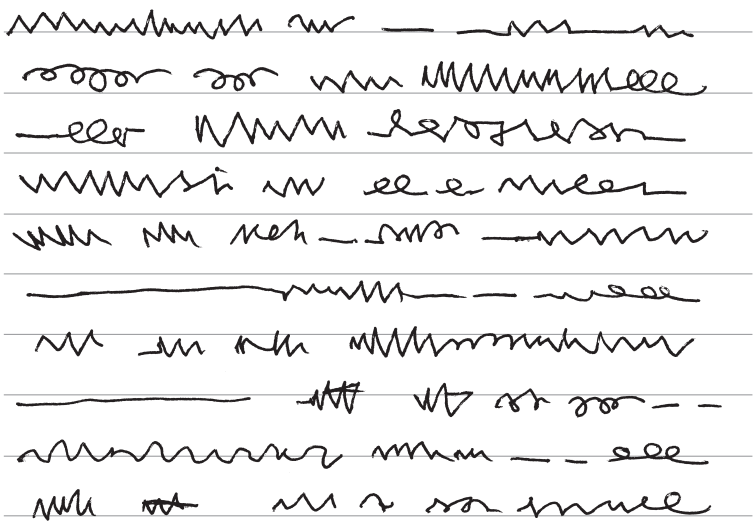
And Pete will stick to that because he might be a smiley and jokey bloke most of the time but when he tells us he's going to do something he sticks to it like frigging SUPERGLUE. He's that kind of teacher. Which can be a pain in the bum.

But this time it's good news by me because I'm going to tell him DON'T LOOK AT IT. Then that means I don't even have to write ANYTHING now. Pete's clever at teaching and noticing things like when someone's going to punch someone in the

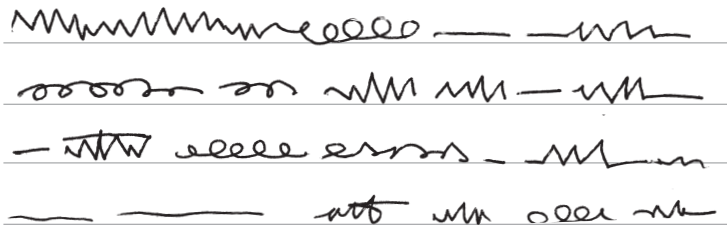
head which happens all the time in our school.

But you can trick him in other ways so easily it's a joke. Like now I can just sit here pretending that I'm WRITING WRITING WRITING WRITING WRITING WRITING WRITING WRITING and it's something really THOUGHTFUL.

But actually it's just a load of crap and squiggles



and things that don't make sense BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAHDY BLUE BLUE BLUE BLUEDY BING BANG BANG BODDER BADDER B B B B B



Pete thinks I'm writing. Pete thinks I'm writing. Pete thinks I'm writing something ALL ABOUT ME. Pete thinks I've written two and a half frigging pages about me. In fact I've written a pile of crap nothing to do with me because WHAT'S THE POINT of writing anything about me?

Wednesday 11th of March

I knew that would work yesterday. Pete looked as happy as a dog with two tails because I was writing away. But actually it was just like when he was taking me to see about going to Halimer which is a normal school unlike HERONFORD which is where I am now and which is full of psychos with BEHAVIOUR DIFFICULTIES who nobody wants in a normal school. But maybe they're going to let me into Halimer next year which is a bit amazing and everyone says is GOOD NEWS.

So Pete went with me there to see it. And we got the bus and then we were walking down this street and Pete was chatting on about something he thought I was going to be interested in which is HOW YOU PLAY RUGBY. But I wasn't interested in it and then we got to some road works and there's a sign in the road on a stand with signs facing both

ways about the road works. And I ducked under it and hid there. And Pete keeps on walking and even talking as if I'm still there. And then he realises I'm not. And he looks round with a face like he's just swallowed a tin opener.

And he says, "Jason? JASON?"

BECAUSE HE CAN'T FIND WHERE I AM.

And he looks ahead to see if I've like run ahead. When how could I?

And he looks back to see if I've run back.

And he looks over the road and everywhere.

But I keep quiet.

And he walks back and he still can't see me.

And then I step out and say, "Just tying my shoelace Pete."

And he comes out with all this stuff about how I'll never get a place at Halimer if I don't stop mucking about. And we're late. And we've got

to get there on time because of the impression.

BLAH BLAH.

But the thing was you could see he actually thought it was funny how I tricked him. And what I was writing yesterday tricked him again because today he never looked at it. He just made me sit and

TRY

TO

WRITE

SOME

MORE.

So I asked him WHY AND WHAT'S THE POINT?

And he says the point is because of the storyteller and the drummer which is RICHARD AND AARON. Richard is a DRUMMER. And Aaron does STORIES and he does RIDDLES which