

01 Chapter

Have you been to The Land of Happy,
Where everyone's happy all day,

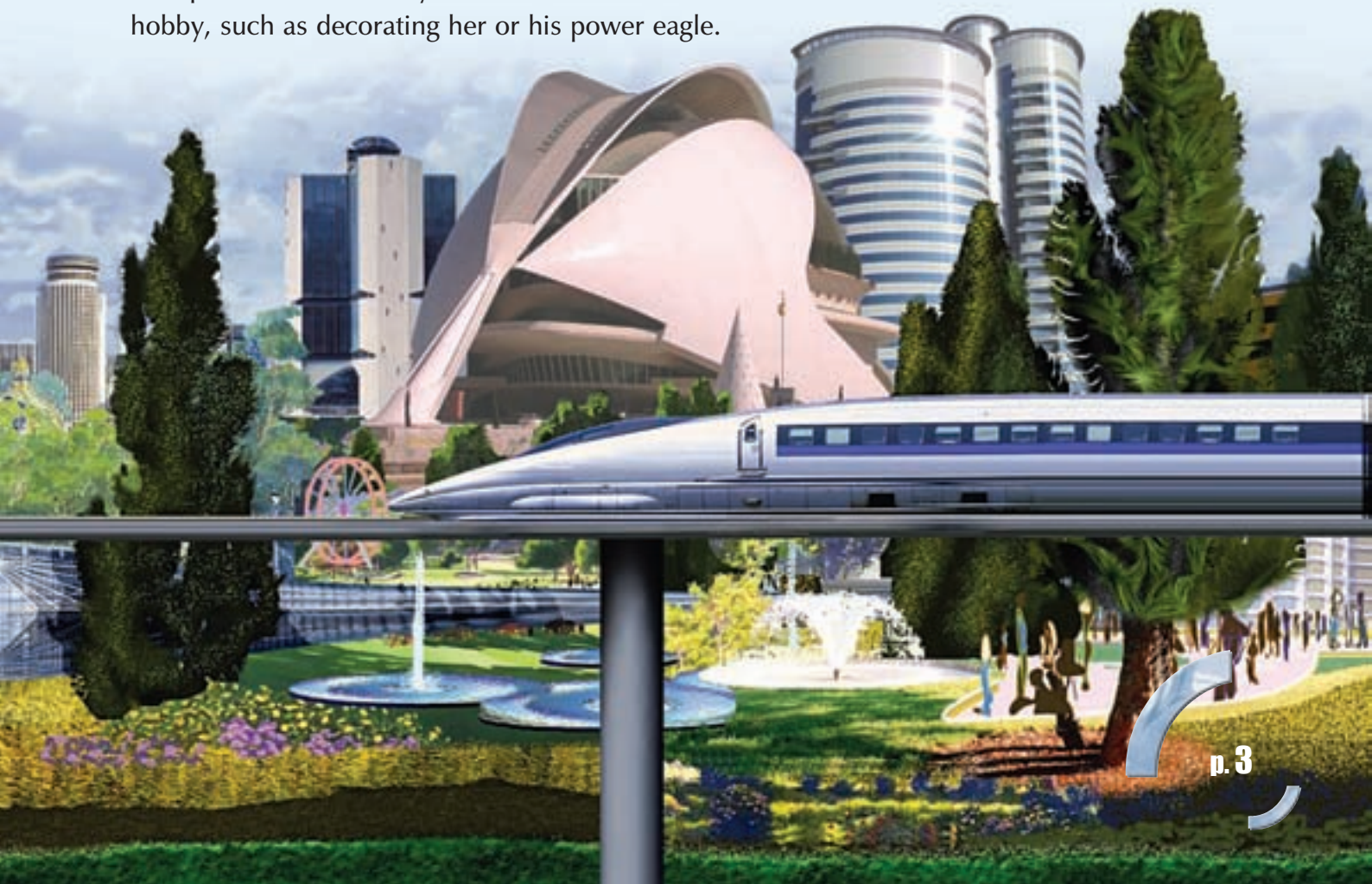
...

There's no one unhappy in Happy,
There's laughter and smiles galore.

I've been to the land of Happy -
What a bore!

Shel Silverstein, "The Land of Happy" (from *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, 1974)

Trank is a lot like all the other cities in the world in the year 2099. It is big and modern, a place where people live in box-homes and travel in power eagles (a type of electric helicopter). The residents of Trank work six days a week and everyone goes to their neighbourhood fun centre on Tuesdays, the people's **day off**. At the fun centre, people spend their **wages** on watching films on the wall-sized screens, listening to music in the individual sound booths or playing hi-tech computer games. Everyone seems happy in Trank. There is really no time to be unhappy! Everyone is busy from morning until night. They work and fly around in their power eagles. Once in a while, someone might have a bit of extra time after work and before City Sleep Time. That person will normally use this time to work on a fun individual hobby, such as decorating her or his power eagle.



01

chapter

The people of Trank love the fact that they don't waste time cooking or eating, as people in the old days had to. All they have to do is take three small pills a day: a breakfast pill, a lunch pill and a dinner pill. The people of Trank and of all the other cities don't like to waste too much time sleeping, either. They all take a pill called Sleep Aid, which makes them feel very well rested after only four hours' sleep. City Sleep Time starts at 10:00 every night and the city's source of energy (a gigantic battery) is switched off until 2 am, when the new day begins.



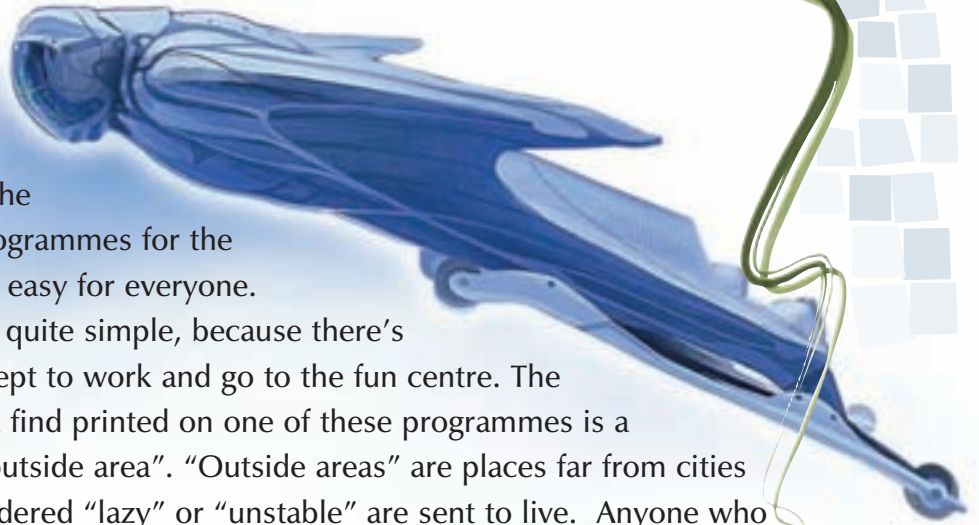
The people of Trank never feel confused about life. The government makes things very simple for its citizens. All children are given special medical tests, as well as intelligence and personality tests, when they are four years old. After reading the results of these tests, a "job-finding" computer decides what job each child is best suited for. A permanent bracelet with the job title carved on it is put on each child's **wrist**. It is said that only a government employee can remove the bracelet, but no one knows anyone who ever wanted a bracelet removed. Why would they? The children of Trank grow up knowing their place in the world, and they have no stress about the future. They have basic skills, citizenship and job training from the age of five until the age of twelve, when they have learnt all they need to know to do the job that the computer chose for them. At thirteen, they start real work. People's first day of work is probably the most important in their life. It means that they are now an adult. Most parents give their children a power eagle to celebrate the event.





chapter

01



On 31st December of each year, the government gives the residents of the city their programmes for the coming year. This makes life easy for everyone.

The programmes are usually quite simple, because there's not much to do in a city except to work and go to the fun centre. The only unusual item you might find printed on one of these programmes is a "visit from a resident of an outside area". "Outside areas" are places far from cities where people who are considered "lazy" or "unstable" are sent to live. Anyone who doesn't like their job or doesn't like working long hours is called "lazy", and people who ask a lot of questions and like to learn about unnecessary things and other people are called "unstable". People who live in outside areas are called "outsiders".

The people who are considered to be the best citizens of the city are those who work well, spend lots of money at the fun centres and buy new power eagles regularly. They are also the people who support the city's government by **reporting** neighbours who complain about their jobs or talk to each other instead of sleeping at night. These types of behaviour go against the spirit of the government's "Trouble-free Trank" campaign. The aim of this campaign is to make Trank a place where everyone is happy, where everyone smiles – a place where the government makes people's major decisions so that they don't have to be troubled by them. "An easy life, a happy life," say the citizens of Trank. "Isn't that what everyone wants?"



The members of the Wright family are model citizens of Trank.

They do everything they can to support the government's efforts to make life pleasant for its citizens. They have four power eagles and, on Tuesdays, they are often the first to arrive at their neighbourhood fun centre and the last to leave. No one has ever heard them complain and they smile a lot (though they might have some trouble answering if you asked them why).

Last December 31st, Ms Wright gave her twelve-year-old daughter Sophie some very exciting news. She said that they were going to have a visitor from an outside area soon. As model citizens, the Wright family had had this honour several times before. The government makes arrangements for outsider children to come and stay with families in the city for a week. The purpose is for the outsider child to see the good life in Trank. This is part of the government's "Save the Outsider Children" campaign. "After all," say the people of Trank, "shouldn't the poor children of outsiders be given a chance to have what their silly parents don't want – a happy life in a clean and modern city?" Everyone knows the outside areas are horrible places – incredibly disorganised and old-fashioned.

The government's plan sometimes works. From time to time, these visits make a child decide to leave the outside area and live in the city. All three of the outsider children who had stayed with the Wrights in the past had decided to move out of the outside area. If a child tells a host family that she or he wants to live in the city, the child's parents are informed at once and, after that, they are only allowed to visit their child three times a year, with special permission from the government. Outsider parents are very sad when this happens, so they don't like their children to go on these visits, but it is the only law that the

government strictly enforces in the outside areas.

School?
What's that?

"So, who's our new visitor?" Sophie asked happily. She loved having visitors. Everyone in her family was proud of the fact that all their visitors had decided to leave their outside areas and come to Trank to have a good life.

"He's a boy about your age," her mum said. "His name's Martin. He lives in an outside area because his mum didn't like life in the city and she was sent to live there. Martin's eleven years old, and he goes to school there, poor thing. Did you know that they still have schools in the outside areas?" Sophie didn't even know what a school was.





"Well, we used to have schools in the city, but that was ages ago. In 2087, the year you were born, the government decided to turn all the schools into job training centres. Of course, that was a wise decision. School is a place where children read silly stories and learn about all sorts of weird and useless things like maths and history. Martin's not lucky like you. All you have to learn about is how to do your job and how to have fun at the fun centre! Poor Martin is probably a very unhappy child, with all that worthless knowledge floating around in his brain," said Ms Wright.

"Thank goodness we don't have schools in the city! Everyone knows that job training is all we need! Then we can work and buy power eagles and have money to play games at the fun centres. Why would anyone want to fill their heads with extra information? What a waste of time!" Sophie said.

"A waste of time indeed!" agreed her mum.



A few days later, on Monday 3rd January, the doorbell rang early in the morning. It was Martin. Ms Wright said, "Sophie, you must remember to be a good citizen. Show Martin what a fantastic life we have here, so that he might decide to leave that dreadful outside area and move to Trank."

Sophie said, "I'll do my best, Mum," and she opened the door. The Wrights greeted Martin, who smiled a lot and was very polite. Soon it was time for Sophie's parents to leave for work, so they said goodbye to the children.

Sophie took Martin to job training with her. He was very friendly and he talked and talked. The strange thing was that he seemed really happy. Like everyone else in Trank, Sophie knew that outsiders had no reason to be happy. The strangest thing of all was that Martin's happiness seemed different somehow, but Sophie couldn't quite put her finger on how it was different. She had never met anyone like him before. He was interested in everything and asked a lot of questions. Sophie knew that outsiders were like this. It was their way, and the main cause of their pain and confusion. Martin didn't seem to have much pain or confusion, but Sophie decided that he must be hiding it well. During lunch break at the job training centre, Martin said, "Oh! I almost forgot. I've got a present for you – it's a book of stories."

The only books Sophie had ever seen were job training books, which contained lists of rules. The cover of this

book had colourful pictures on it and the title was *Ten Terrific Tales*.



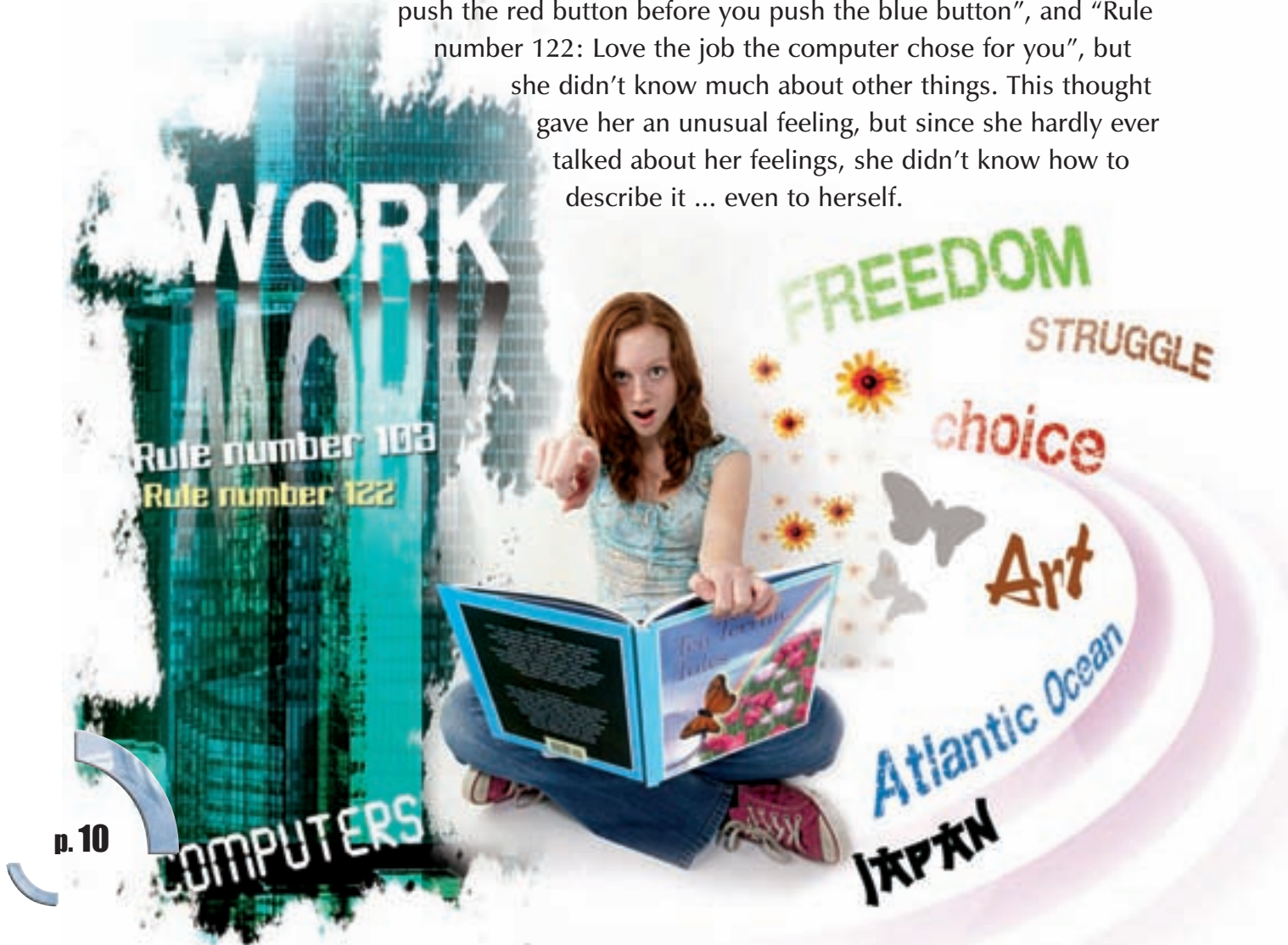


chapter

"Is a tale a story?" she asked.

"That's right!" Martin replied. Sophie suddenly felt extremely nervous and excited at the same time. Stories were silly and reading them was dangerous and a waste of time. That's what everyone said. But the beautiful pictures on the cover of this book didn't look silly or dangerous; they looked wonderful! Sophie knew what her parents and her job trainer would say about the present – something like, "Outsiders are unhappy and confused people. Don't accept any of their ideas or gifts because they will make you unhappy and confused too." But how could such a beautiful gift be bad? Sophie thanked Martin and slipped the book into her bag quickly, hoping that no one had seen it. She thought it might get her into trouble.

That night, after Martin and her parents had gone to sleep, Sophie quietly took the book out and started reading. She was a good reader, but there were many words she didn't really understand the meaning of, such as "freedom", "struggle" and "choice". The children in the stories had this thing called "freedom" and they described lots of things that Sophie had never heard of such as "the Atlantic Ocean", a place called "Japan" and something called "art". Sophie knew lots of job rules, such as "Rule number 103: Always push the red button before you push the blue button", and "Rule number 122: Love the job the computer chose for you", but she didn't know much about other things. This thought gave her an unusual feeling, but since she hardly ever talked about her feelings, she didn't know how to describe it ... even to herself.





chapter

03

The next day was Tuesday – the people’s day off. Sophie didn’t feel quite herself after thinking about the stories the night before, but she tried to stay cheerful and not waste time thinking about it. That’s what her parents and job trainer would have told her to do. Now that she was twelve, she no longer had to ask their advice very often. They had taught her well, and she usually tried to be a good citizen and behave the way she was expected to.

Sophie woke Martin up by knocking on the door of the guest room. When he said “Come in,” she burst into the room and said in a loud voice, “Come on then! It’s time to go to the fun centre!”

Martin looked at her in surprise and said, “No job training today? Great!”

The children went to the kitchen to take their breakfast pills, and Martin mumbled something about fried eggs and toast. Twenty minutes later, Martin and the Wright family were at the fun centre. The centre was enormous, with loud music playing and colourful lights flashing.

“Isn’t it great?” Sophie asked Martin.

He was looking around with his mouth hanging open. “Well, it’s certainly modern!” he replied.



Martin's diary, Tuesday 4th January 2099

Dear Diary,

Today was the second day of my visit to Trank. What a strange experience this has been! The city people call us weird, but they seem quite odd to me. The Wright family have been nice to me, but they don't talk much – even to each other. Isn't that strange? so different from home ... It's sort of like being on another planet! The city's really nice – very modern – but life here isn't what I expected it to be. Mum explained her reasons for leaving years ago, but I always wanted to see Trank and decide for myself what I thought of it.

Here in the city, people are always busy, working or doing job training, but today (Tuesday) is a free day, and on Tuesdays, everyone in the city goes to these places called fun centres. I thought that we would all play games together there and talk or something, but the moment we arrived, everyone went their separate ways. All the activities are for people to do alone! The only thing we all did together was go to the cinema, but we didn't have an ice cream and talk about the film afterwards, the way Mum and I always do. Instead, everyone went to play computer games on their own. At first, I was excited because we don't have fun centres in the outside area. The games and sound booths were cool, but I had no one to share the fun with so, after a while, I got bored.

After we had been there for about three hours, I found Sophie and asked her if we were going back to the house soon. She was shocked. She told me that they always stayed at the fun centre until closing time! Closing time was hours away!

"What would you like to do?" she asked.



I thought about it and suggested that we go and find some of the kids from her job training centre to talk to. "Why would we do that?" she asked me. "What would we talk about? There's nothing to talk about... is there?" Sophie asked this last question in a hopeful tone of voice, and it seemed to me that she was looking for some answers. I realised that Sophie didn't really know what a friend was.

I decided to tell her about my friends at home. We stood there in the fun centre and I told her about how we spend hours talking about school, our favourite lessons, funny teachers, and the ideas in books or in films. She was interested to hear that sometimes we argue with each other and sometimes we agree, but we always listen and respond and try to learn from each other and show respect. "We often share our hopes and dreams for the future with each other, too. Sharing helps us to see things more clearly," I told her. Sophie looked troubled when I said that. Maybe she didn't know that we choose our own jobs in the outside area. Here in the city, talking about the future is pointless. Everything has already been planned for these people. I suppose that makes it easy, but I think I'd rather explore life and discover my own talents and interests, and fail and succeed and try new things all the time.

Here, people are afraid to talk to each other and read stories and discuss ideas because they think it will make life complicated. Of course it does. But it also makes life richer and more real, doesn't it? I think so. The people of Trank smile a lot and say they're happy, but I'm not sure that's true. They think that happiness means never feeling pain or confusion, but how can you feel happy if you don't know what sadness is?

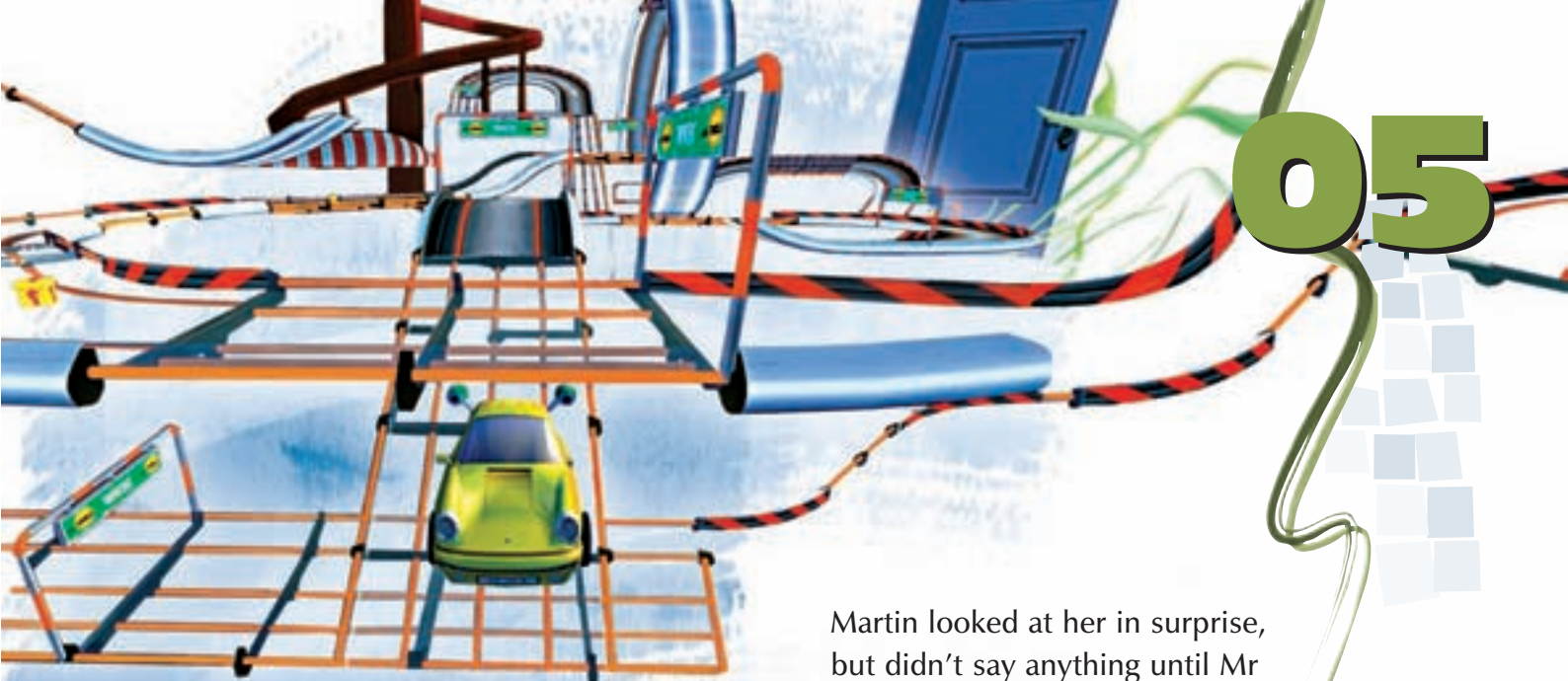


The next morning, Sophie woke up long before breakfast pill time and started thinking about the things she had read about in *Ten Terrific Tales*, and the things Martin had told her at the fun centre the day before. Her job trainer was right: thinking leads to confusion! Sophie felt very mixed up. She was supposed to convince Martin that life in the city was better, but here she was, wondering if life in the outside area was better!

Suddenly, she wished she could take her mum's power eagle and fly over to Martin's neighbourhood. She wanted to see what life was like there: school, friends, ideas, real food, talking. She looked out of her window. Somewhere, over there, behind the mountains, was the outside area. Martin had told her that lots of people in the outside area take long walks in the mountains, and now she wondered what that would be like. Walking in the city is impossible – too many buildings. Everyone uses power eagles to get to work and to the fun centres. Like cooking and eating traditional food, walking is also considered a waste of time. Not just that, but dangerous too, because the person walking will start thinking, and this can lead to problems.

At breakfast time, Martin said, "What's on the programme at job training today, Sophie?"

Sophie whispered her response quietly so that her parents wouldn't hear her: "I think you've seen enough of my world. It's time for me to see yours."



Martin looked at her in surprise, but didn't say anything until Mr and Ms Wright had zoomed off in their shiny power eagles for an eighteen-hour working day. "Sophie, we'll both get into big trouble if you try to get into the outside area. Don't you know that the city government has built a wall around our town? They guard it day and night! We're not allowed out, and you're not allowed in without special permission. Once they see your permanent bracelet, we'll both be reported and get into serious trouble."

"Martin, where there's a will, there's a way!"

For the second time that morning, Martin looked at Sophie in surprise. "Where did you hear that saying? I thought you didn't read anything except job training books!" he exclaimed.

Sophie smiled and said, "It was Isabella's favourite saying – you know Isabella, one of the characters in *Ten Terrific Tales*." Sophie continued, "So, Martin, will you please help me get in? I've been thinking about it all morning. There must be other city people who want to visit the outside areas; people who don't let the permanent bracelet problem stop them..."

05

chapter

Worried that he might be making a big mistake, Martin gave Sophie the name and address of a woman he knew about who removed permanent bracelets for city people who wanted to visit (or run away to) an outside area. Sophie called the job training centre on the TV telephone and told them she was very ill and wouldn't be in. Then she said, "Let's go! I see the public power eagle coming!" They took the public power eagle number 5 to Green Street and got off at number 32. The woman who opened the door asked them a lot of questions before letting them in. She was worried that they weren't serious, and would tell the police about her activities.

Ten minutes later, the children left the woman's house. Without the bracelet on her wrist, Sophie felt lighter than she ever had before. It wasn't just the physical weight of the bracelet that was gone. It was the fact that now, bracelet-free, her future was open. This thought was very exciting, but a bit frightening too.

"What have I done?" Sophie thought. As though reading her thoughts, Martin asked, "Having mixed feelings, Sophie?"

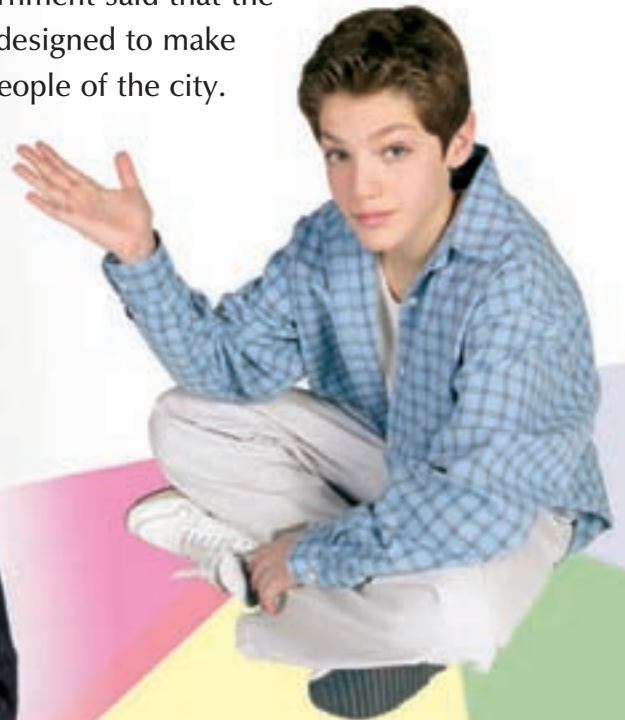
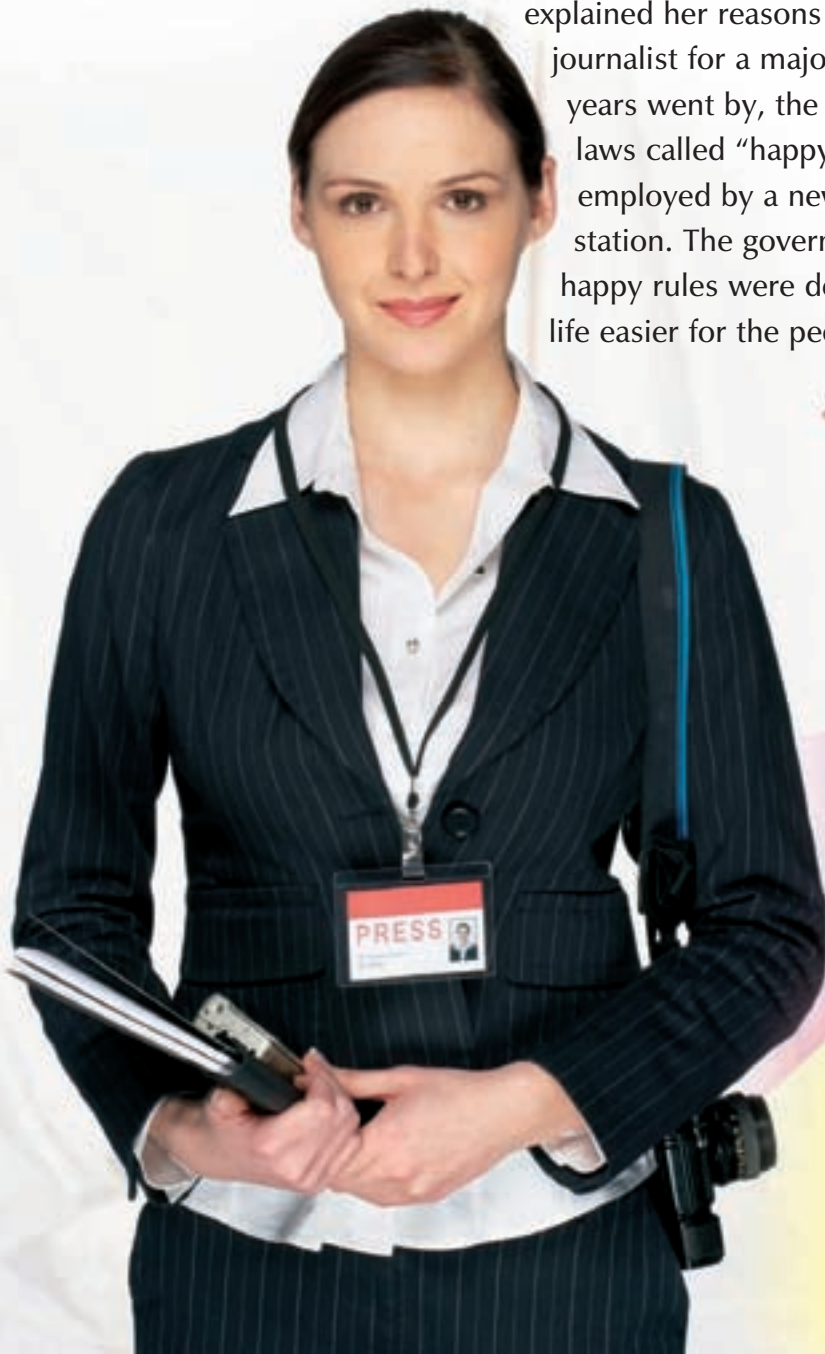
Mixed feelings were exactly what Sophie was experiencing, though she didn't know that's what people called it when you felt wonderful and terrible at the same time! You see, in the city, all feelings were simply called "a waste of time".



06 Chapter

Martin and Sophie went to the power eagle station opposite the woman's home and sat in silence for a while. Martin didn't really want to encourage Sophie to try to get into the outside area, since it could get them both into very serious trouble. However, he thought that it might be a very good experience for her, just as coming to the city had been an excellent experience for him. Martin had always wondered what life was like in the city. He had heard lots of bad things about the city, but he had heard some very good things, too.

There were times when Martin wondered why his mum had disagreed with the government and lifestyle of the city. When Martin had asked his mum about this, she had explained her reasons patiently. She said that she had been a journalist for a major newspaper in the city and that, as the years went by, the government started passing more and more laws called "happy rules". These affected the work of everyone employed by a newspaper, magazine, television or radio station. The government said that the happy rules were designed to make life easier for the people of the city.



Martin's mum had explained that the government said that lots of people were sick and tired of all the misery in the world. Wars, famine, global warming, homelessness and so on were depressing, and most people didn't want to hear any more about these issues. Lots of people said that all the bad news gave them bad dreams, made them stressed and made it difficult for them to concentrate at work. Business owners had started telling the government that life would be better for everyone if there were more cheerful articles in the newspapers and more pleasant news reports on TV. The government said that it wanted its people to have less anxiety and to be better, happier workers. This led to the development of the happy rules.

Martin wondered if Sophie knew anything about the happy rules. He looked over at her. She was lost in thought, but he decided to ask her.

"Of course I know about the happy rules! *Everyone* does!" Sophie exclaimed in response to his question.

Martin was quite surprised by her answer.

"And what do you think of them?" he asked.

"They're great. They make life nice for everyone," she said, as though she were reading from a book.

"But do you know what they actually are?" Martin asked.

IGNORANCE = FEAR

SILENCE = DEATH





chapter

06

Sophie looked at him in surprise and then she looked down at the ground. She didn't seem to know what to say. "Well, they're, well ... oh, you know, rules to make us happy, they're ..."

Sophie looked at Martin in confusion. "I guess I don't really know exactly what they are. Do you?"

"Well," he began, "from what my mum says, the government's happy rules made it illegal for TV and newspapers to have programmes or articles about things that could make people worry or become upset. Happy rules also changed the way children were taught." He looked at Sophie. She was listening carefully, waiting for him to explain.

He continued, "My mum says that these laws sound nice, but they take away people's freedom and thinking skills. She thinks they make people into robots who are trained only to work and buy things. At first, the happy rules didn't work perfectly. Some people complained and said that they wanted to know everything that was going on in the world, not just the pleasant things. Many of the people who complained were people who spent some of their free time trying to help solve the world's problems, like hunger and war. They were called "volunteers".

Just then the public power eagle zoomed into the station. The children got on. Martin wondered where Sophie was planning to go, but he didn't ask.



When they had found two empty seats in the power eagle, Sophie said, "Listen Martin, I don't know where I want to go. Do you mind if we just ride around until I make up my mind?"

Martin understood that having the bracelet removed was worrying Sophie. "Of course not," he said kindly. "Shall I finish telling you about happy rules?"

"I'd like that," Sophie replied.

Martin continued with his explanation: "Well, there weren't many of these volunteers, and the government kept telling them that they shouldn't worry, that the governments of the world would take care of the problems. At some point, the government realised that schools also made it difficult for the happy rules to be completely successful. You see, in schools, children learned a lot about the world and its problems and they were also taught how to think. This often made them grow up into adults who worried about the world and who wanted to hear all news, both good and bad."

Sophie suddenly remembered what her mum had said about schools. "My mum told me that schools were silly places which filled children's brains with worthless knowledge, and that the government turned them into job training centres in 2087."



chapter

07



Martin nodded.

"That's right. People were told that getting rid of schools would make their lives better ... happier. And it sort of did. Job training filled children's heads with job information and nothing more.

This made them into good workers who didn't think much about anything but work and having fun. Life became simple and easy, but..."

At this point Sophie jumped in. "But it also meant that they had lost their freedom and thinking skills – their ability to choose what they think is important and whether or not they wanted to worry about the world's problems. But why would the government take those things away from people?" Sophie felt confused again.

For a few moments, the children sat quietly, looking out of the windows of the power eagle as it whizzed silently through the city. Everything was clean and modern; everything was in its place. It suddenly seemed to Sophie that everything looked just a little too perfect, too orderly. She suddenly felt very tired. Her head ached, but she felt that something important was happening. She and her family never had these kinds of conversations. Her job trainers and the children from job training never talked about things like this either. Talking to Martin about these issues was very hard, but she had the feeling that it was all leading somewhere.



07 chapter

Martin also felt that these were difficult matters, but he tried to think about what his teachers and his mum said about the city because he wanted to help Sophie, who seemed to need some answers. "Well, Sophie, my mum says that the government wanted to take away people's freedom and thinking skills for kind as well as selfish purposes. I asked her what she meant. She said that the government felt they should take away people's unnecessary suffering. Many government officials believed that getting rid of school was a good way to do this. They said that education leads to questioning, which leads to confusion and suffering." Martin looked down, out of the window of the power eagle. "There were billboards all over the city which said, 'Less knowledge = more happiness'." Then he looked at Sophie and continued, "Now I'll tell you about the selfish purpose behind the government's action. The government and lots of business people realised that once people stopped worrying about studying and their future and the problems of the world, they would have a lot of free time on their hands. They decided to make a lot of money from this by promoting expensive hi-tech entertainment – you know, Sophie, like the games and things at your fun centres. The government and business owners make a lot of money from these places. My mum says that we can't forget that taking away education in the cities made a lot of money for some people."

Sophie suddenly interrupted Martin. "Martin, let's get off the power eagle here – there's something I want to show you, OK?"

08 Chapter

The children had been on the power eagle for a long time, and they were at a station which was far from the city centre. No one got off with them. There were a few office buildings around, but not much else. There was open space here, you could actually walk around – something you couldn't do in the city centre.

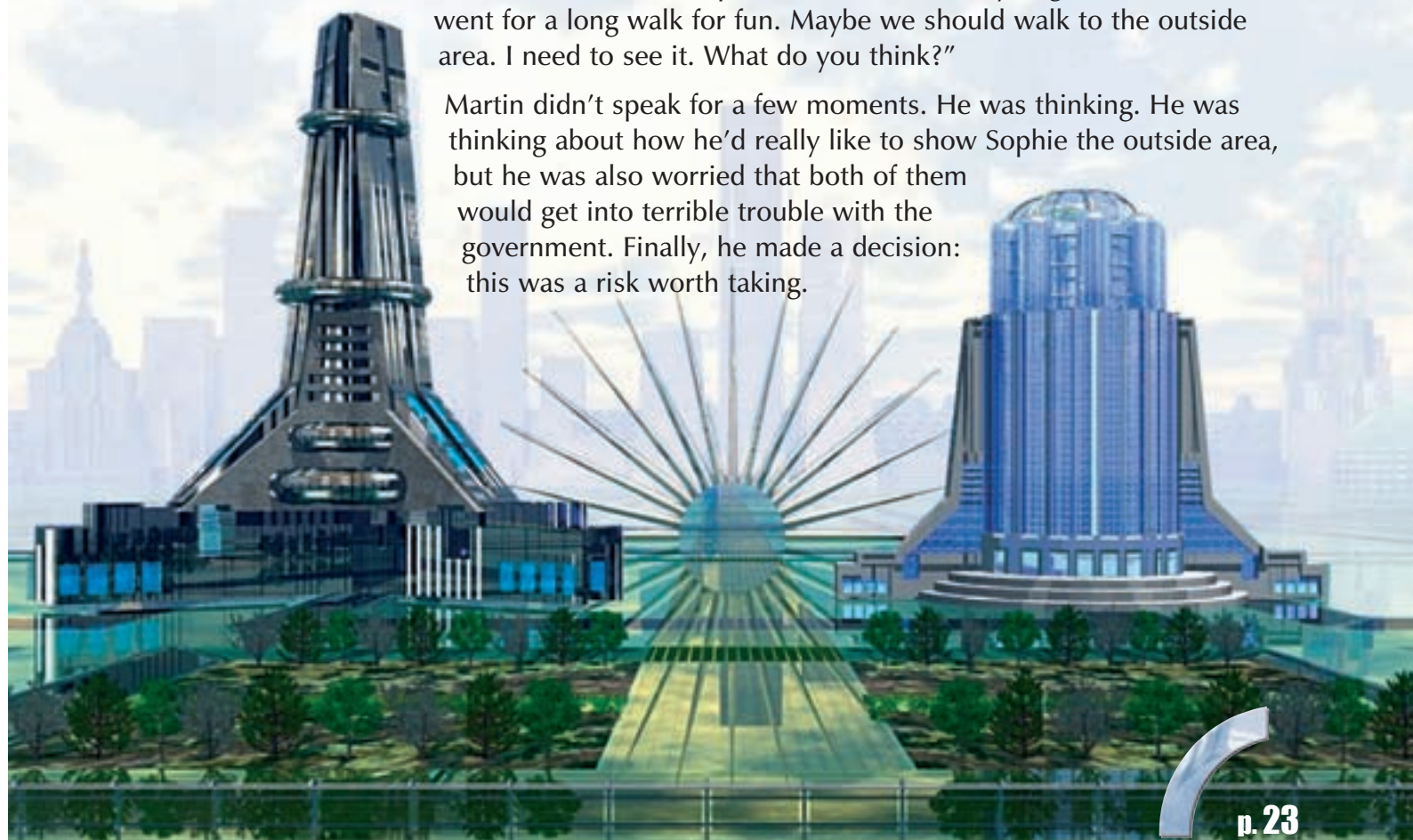


"I came here once because I had to get a book for job training from that office building over there," Sophie said and pointed to a building about 500 metres away. "As I was getting off the power eagle that day, the driver said to me, 'Young lady, you're not running away to the outside area, are you?' and he laughed: he was making a joke. But I wanted to show you this place and ask you if we could get to the outside area from here."

Martin looked around. "Well, they brought me to the city in a government power eagle. Things look different from up in the sky. But, yes, the area does look quite familiar. I think you can probably get to the outside area from here. Of course, the problem is ... the regular city power eagles don't take you there, do they?" he asked.

"No, I don't think so," said Sophie. "But in the book you gave me, the children went for a long walk for fun. Maybe we should walk to the outside area. I need to see it. What do you think?"

Martin didn't speak for a few moments. He was thinking. He was thinking about how he'd really like to show Sophie the outside area, but he was also worried that both of them would get into terrible trouble with the government. Finally, he made a decision: this was a risk worth taking.



08



chapter

outsiders walking once they got a few kilometres out of the city. "We can ask them for directions to the outside area," he said.

The children started walking through some fields. Sophie was too excited to feel worried. She wasn't thinking about anything except how strange it was to walk in an open space. She looked up and saw a big blue sky – you could never see so much sky in the city. There was lovely green grass beneath her feet instead of the usual cement of the city. She felt a bit dizzy. She looked at Martin; he looked worried, but didn't say anything. They walked in silence for a long time. At some point, a power eagle flew over their heads. Both children froze, but neither of them looked up. Martin knew that the government power eagles checked people who were walking around. If you were an outsider, they didn't say anything. But Martin knew if they found out Sophie was a city person, they would both be in trouble. He didn't know what kind of trouble exactly, but it would be serious. Of course, Sophie wasn't wearing a permanent bracelet any more, so he hoped they would be all right, even if they were stopped.

He thought about telling Sophie the rest of what he knew about happy rules and why the outsiders had left the city, but he decided that perhaps she had heard enough, at least for now. She was curious about life in the outside area because she realised that the people there had a very different life with more freedom, but without all the modern comforts of the city. Maybe it was better for her to decide on her own which type of life she would like for herself.

09 Chapter

A few minutes later, Sophie interrupted Martin's thoughts.

"Martin, look! Over there – it's a woman."

Someone was walking towards the children. Martin hoped it would be someone he knew. As the woman came closer, Martin recognised her bright blue coat – it was his neighbour, Jan!

Jan called out to him. "Hello there, Martin! What are you doing here? I thought they'd sent you to the city for a visit! Did you hate it so much you had to run away?" Jan laughed in a loud and friendly way.

Sophie noticed that all Jan's teeth showed when she laughed. In the city, most people didn't laugh. They smiled quick, tight smiles when they saw something amusing at the cinema. That was about it.

Martin said, "Jan, this is Sophie. She's my host from the city. We sort of both ran away."

You see, Sophie wants to see the outside area."

Jan's eyes widened in surprise. "Oh, I see. Well, it's nice to meet you, Sophie dear. I just hope you don't have a permanent bracelet on. Your city police guard the wall they built outside our area, and they'll catch you if you do."

Sophie showed her the wrist from which the woman on Green Street had removed her bracelet. "Well, that makes things a bit safer for you. But you do realise that you're taking a big chance by doing this, don't you?"





Sophie took a deep breath. She and Martin both knew they would be in serious trouble if the police found out what they were doing,

but Sophie realised that neither of them knew exactly what kind of trouble. She looked at Jan's kind face and decided that she would ask her to explain. She wasn't sure she wanted to know, but she felt that she had better find out.

"Jan, could you please tell me what will happen if we are caught?" she said in the bravest voice she could manage.



"Don't you know? You can never go back to the city again. As for Martin, if the government police catch him helping a city person into the outside area, he will be sent to the city, and never be allowed back into the outside area again."

Both of the children were shocked by the news. They fell silent. Each of them suddenly wished that they had never begun this dangerous journey, but both also knew they didn't want to turn back now. They wanted to finish what they had started, no matter what.





However, Sophie felt that it wasn't fair to ask Martin to take such a risk. He had told her about his mum, his friends and his school. He loved his life so much. She was supposed to convince him to love life in the city, but instead he'd made her think that life in the outside area was better. How terribly unfair it would be if he lost all that just because Sophie was curious about it.



SAVE
THE
CITY
CHILD

Sophie spoke first. "Martin, we must go back! We can go to Green Street,

and the woman will put my bracelet on again. My parents are still at work – no one will ever know what we were going to do. This is far too dangerous for you, and totally unfair."

Martin answered quickly. "Sophie, it seems that the 'Save the Outside Children' campaign has become a 'Save the City Child' campaign!" Even though they were both frightened, Sophie and Martin both laughed. "Listen, Sophie, please don't worry; we'll be very careful. We can't go back until you've seen the life I was talking about. Then you can decide what you want to do. If we go back now, you'll always have a big question mark in your mind. I'm your friend and I want to help you."

Sophie felt a rush of happiness when Martin said she was his friend. In the book of stories he had given her, *Ten Terrific Tales*, all the kids were friends. They had fun together and they helped each other with their problems. And Martin had told her about his friends at home. In the city, the job trainers taught children that good citizens minded their own business and didn't worry about others. "Work and fun, work and fun. Nothing more," they said to the children all the time. People talked to each other sometimes in the city, but not about anything other than work or power eagles or the latest computer game. No one really had friends. Now Sophie thought that she knew why. Having a friend could take your mind off work and fun. That would be bad for business and bad for the fun centres, which would lose money if people spent time with friends instead of playing expensive games.

Jan looked from Martin to Sophie and back again. "Listen, kids, if you're both sure you want to take the risk, I'll help you. Don't tell anyone, but I've done this before. You know Sophie, I like taking long walks, and on my walks, I've met people like you – city people who want to see the outside area for one

reason or another. I've helped four of them get past the city police. Three of the four decided to stay in the outside area. One of them hated it and left right away. If you go into the outside area, you'll see that life there is different – very different."

Sophie looked over at Martin. "Martin, if you're sure about this, I'm ready to go."



chapter

10

Martin smiled and looked at Jan.

"Thank you Jan, we'll accept your offer of help!"

Jan pointed in the direction of the outside area.

"It's about five miles that way," she said. "Let's start walking!"

The three of them walked in silence for a few minutes, each of them lost in their own thoughts. Jan was thinking of a plan to get Sophie past the city police.

Martin was thinking about the things he would show Sophie once they got into the outside area. Sophie was thinking about lots of things at once: her parents, the danger that was ahead of them, and what she might see in the outside area.

Jan broke the silence by suggesting they stop to have a snack.

She said she hadn't had any lunch.

"But we haven't got any food pills with us, and I don't see any super-shops around here..."

Sophie said, looking around.

"I've got a picnic lunch right here, Sophie. We can all share it. I always take food when I go on my walks," said Jan.

"Yum! It's time you tried some real food, Sophie!" Martin said. "I wasn't in the city for long, but it was long enough for me to miss real food!"

10



chapter

The three sat down under a tree, and Jan took some containers out of the bag she was carrying.

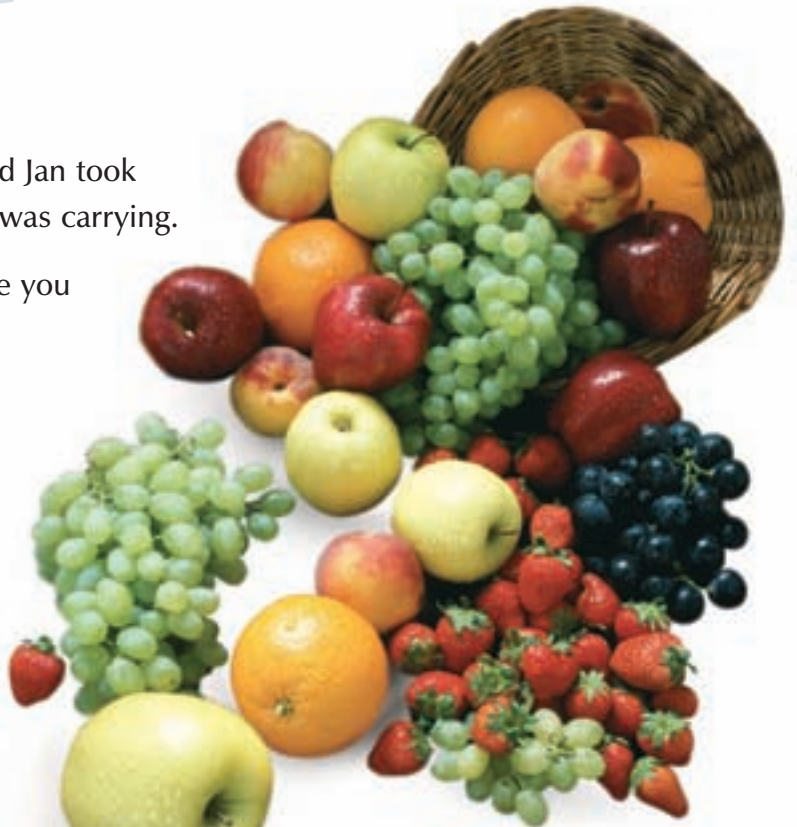
Martin was very excited. "What have you got, Jan?" he said rubbing his hands together.

Jan laughed and said, "Ham and cheese sandwiches with mustard, two apples and a banana."

Sophie was pleasantly surprised by the food. It smelled really nice, especially the apples, which Jan said were fresh from her own apple tree. She found the sandwiches strange but delicious, and the funny thing was the way her stomach felt full after she ate. Food pills never gave you a full stomach. She quite liked it.

"I bet you're ready to move to the outside area just so that you can enjoy some real food, hey Sophie? Isn't it better than those boring food pills?" asked Martin.

She replied, "Yes, it is! Jan, Martin, thank you for my first 'taste' of life outside the city. It was delicious!"



Chapter 11

Less than an hour later Jan, Martin and Sophie had reached the walls of the outside area. They were all nervous.

City police guarded the entrance. Outsiders welcomed any visitors, but the city police wanted to make sure that none of the visitors were from the city. Jan told Sophie to pretend she was her niece from the outside area so that they wouldn't ask her any questions. As they approached the police, Sophie kept touching her wrist at the spot where her permanent bracelet used to be. She was afraid for herself, for Martin and for Jan. Martin noticed what she was doing and grabbed her hand.

"Don't do that, Sophie! They'll realise you're from the city if they see you touching your wrist! Try to relax so they don't get suspicious," he whispered.

Sophie took a deep breath and put her hands in her pockets. She was a bit calmer when the guard started asking his questions. Martin went through the gate first and Jan stayed with Sophie and did most of the talking. A few minutes later, they were all breathing sighs of relief and walking on the other side of the wall. Sophie

was in the outside area.



"You're in! We didn't get caught. There's nothing to worry about now, Sophie," said Martin. "City people are welcome in outside areas."

"Sophie, I hope that your visit here will give you an understanding of outsiders' lives," said Jan. Sophie and Martin thanked Jan for all her help and kindness and said goodbye.



"All right, Sophie. We're here! I'd like to give you a tour of the town. The centre is that way," Martin pointed down a dirt road. Sophie looked around. The outside area was very different from the city. The buildings were small and some of them were in bad condition. Sophie didn't see any power eagles. Some people were riding bicycles and others were walking. Sophie had never seen a bicycle before, but Isabella – her favourite character from *Ten Terrific Tales* – rode a bike in the stories. Sophie had asked Martin to explain the word "bicycle" to her, and he had drawn one. Now she asked Martin why people didn't have power eagles here. The bikes looked rather slow, and pedalling them on the dirt road didn't seem too easy.

"Cycling is good exercise and it doesn't damage the environment. Plus, here in the outside area, we don't believe in rushing around the way you do in the city! You'll notice that life is a bit slower here."

The children walked towards the centre of the outside area. "So where are your friends, Martin? The ones you told me about when we were at the fun centre..."

"They're probably on their way home from school now. Would you like to go to school with me tomorrow?" Martin asked.





"I'd love to," said Sophie, although the mention of school reminded her of the job training she was missing right now – a thought which made her rather nervous. She looked around, trying not to think about the city, job training and her parents. Her parents wouldn't be home from work for hours, so she had time to think of what to tell them if she decided to stay in the outside area for a while.

The people the children passed on their way to the centre all smiled and said "hello" to Sophie and Martin. A few of them stopped to chat. Martin introduced these outsiders to Sophie, who didn't really know what to say. She wasn't used to chatting to strangers, or even to people she knew. In the city, there was no time to chat like that. When people in the city spoke to each other, it was usually to exchange information about job training or work. There was always a specific purpose. It seemed to Sophie that people here really liked talking to each other, even if they didn't have anything in particular to say.

When the children reached the town centre, Sophie was amazed by what she saw. There were tiny shops and cafés all around a central square which was full of trees and flowers and people sitting in chairs, talking, laughing, eating and drinking. Sophie had never seen anything like it.

"Are they all lazy?" she whispered to Martin.

"No! Well, not most of them," he laughed. "You see, they've all finished work and school and now they're relaxing with their friends."

Sophie was surprised. "Finished work? But it's very early!" she exclaimed.

"Sophie, here in the outside area, people only work seven hours a day. You should get a taste of the town square atmosphere. Why don't we sit down and have an ice cream over there, at that café?"

Sophie nodded, feeling a bit dizzy from the noise of the people, the bright colours of the shops and cafés, and the smell of fresh food and coffee. It was a bit cold, but there were several fires blazing in outdoor fireplaces in the square and the children sat close to one of them.

Sophie didn't know what to order, so she asked Martin to choose an ice cream for her. The waiter was friendly and took their order with a smile. When the ice cream came, Sophie looked at it in amazement. It was in a beautiful bright orange bowl and the waiter had brought a big spoon with it.



chapter

12

"I ordered you my favourite flavour – chocolate," said Martin.
"I hope you like it."

Sophie loved it! It was nothing like the dessert pills they had in the city. This had a very special taste and it was cold! Very unusual! In the city, food pills were neither hot nor cold.

All around the children, people were chatting away and there was music playing through a speaker in the middle of the square. They had music in the city, but this was different, Sophie noticed. This music had human voices. In the city, all the music was electronic – produced by a computer. The sound of a human voice singing made Sophie's hair stand on end. The children didn't talk much. Sophie was happy to just sit and listen to everything going on around her.

The people at the next table were telling stories about something they called "the weekend". Sophie asked Martin what this was; she had never heard of it. "It's sort of like the free day you have in the city, but here we actually have two free days, Saturday and Sunday, and we call them 'the weekend'." Sophie didn't really find it strange that the outsiders had two free days and that they worked fewer than half the hours that the city people did. Everyone in the city said that the outsiders were lazy. What she did find surprising was that the people hadn't mentioned fun centres in their discussion about their weekends. She asked Martin about this.

"Well, we don't have fun centres here,"
Martin explained.

"But why? Don't you have the
technology?" Sophie asked.



12



chapter

"We use some hi-tech equipment at school and at work, but outsiders like to do other things in their free time. We go for walks, like Jan, or go for picnics in the woods. In the summer, we swim and ride bikes and in the winter we hike and ski in the mountains. Sometimes, we eat or play music or games with our friends, or sit and read stories, like the ones I gave you."

Sophie looked around at the people again. They all had colour in their cheeks and they had an energy that she didn't see in people from the city. Their smiles were bigger, their laughs louder. Sophie had always been told that outsiders were unhappy and confused

people who were lazy and couldn't cope with life in the city, because they weren't very clever or very good citizens. However, these people were full of life and seemed happier than the people in the city. Sophie wondered what else she would find out about the outsiders that was different from what she had been taught.



13 Chapter

After their ice cream, Martin showed Sophie around the town a bit more. The outside area wasn't clean and shiny like the city. Martin seemed to know what Sophie was thinking because he said, "Our town may not be as modern as the city, but I think you'll find it's pretty comfortable." Sophie enjoyed all the sights and sounds, and even started smiling and saying "hello" to people on the streets, just like the outsiders did. "I'd like to go home now, Sophie. Would you like to meet my mum?" Martin asked. Sophie agreed, and they walked for about ten minutes before they reached his house.

The houses the children passed on the way were very different from city houses, which all looked like grey boxes. These houses were all different sizes, shapes and colours. Some had designs painted on the side, and others had flowers and bushes all around them. "Each house seems to have its own personality, doesn't it, Sophie?" asked Martin when he noticed her staring at them in surprise.

Martin's house was small but beautiful, Sophie thought. It was painted green and pink and there were interesting sculptures all over the grass in front of the house. Much to Sophie's surprise, a huge black dog with floppy ears ran up to the children, wagging its tail happily. Martin stroked the dog and told Sophie that its name was Murphy and it had been with the family for five years.

The only animals Sophie knew about were the ones people used for scientific experiments in the city. Martin told her that they didn't use animals like that in the outside area.



13



chapter

Martin's mum was very happy and surprised to see Martin. She gave him a huge smile and hugged him. Sophie's mum never showed feelings like that. It looked nice. "So what happened, Martin? Did you get into trouble in the city, or did you hate it like I did?" Martin told his mum about his short visit and about Sophie's situation. "It's wonderful to meet you, Sophie. I must say, I'm very happy my son didn't decide to stay in the city! I was very worried, because he always wondered about life there. The government makes us send our children there a few times to give them the chance to live there. I told Martin that I'd have respected his decision if he decided to stay there, but I'm over the moon that he didn't!"

Martin's mum, who told Sophie to call her Amy, was very kind and chatty. This made Sophie feel comfortable, because she didn't have much to say. Amy told Sophie about life in the outside area, but didn't say it was better or worse than life in the city, just that it was different. Suddenly she said, "Sophie, your parents must be worried sick about you! You should let them know you're OK."

Sophie agreed and sent her parents a short message, telling them that her job trainer had sent her to a two-day job workshop. That wasn't uncommon in the city, especially for twelve-year-olds, who were in their last year of preparation before work. Sophie didn't like lying, but she knew that she had no choice if she didn't want to get herself and Martin into trouble. She also told her parents that Martin had been sent home since she had to go away for training. She knew that this would upset her parents more than anything else. Martin would be the first child who hadn't decided to stay in the city as a result of a visit with the Wright family. They were proud of their past successes in "saving" outsider children.



14 Chapter

The next morning, the children had a huge, delicious breakfast of eggs and sweet pancakes. Sophie didn't know how she would ever be able to go back to eating food pills instead of real food! After breakfast, the children left the house to go to school. Sophie was very excited. She wondered if it would be like the school her mum had gone to, in the days before the city schools became job training centres. She wished she had asked her mum about school, so that she'd have some idea of what she was going to see and experience. However, she had a feeling that her mum wouldn't have told her anything positive. She remembered Mum saying that schools were silly and old-fashioned, and that they filled children's minds with useless information.

Sophie's diary, Thursday 6th January, 2099:

Dear Diary,

Amy, Martin's mum, gave me a diary as a gift last night, and when Martin and I got home from school today, I knew I had to fill up some pages with descriptions of what I had seen!

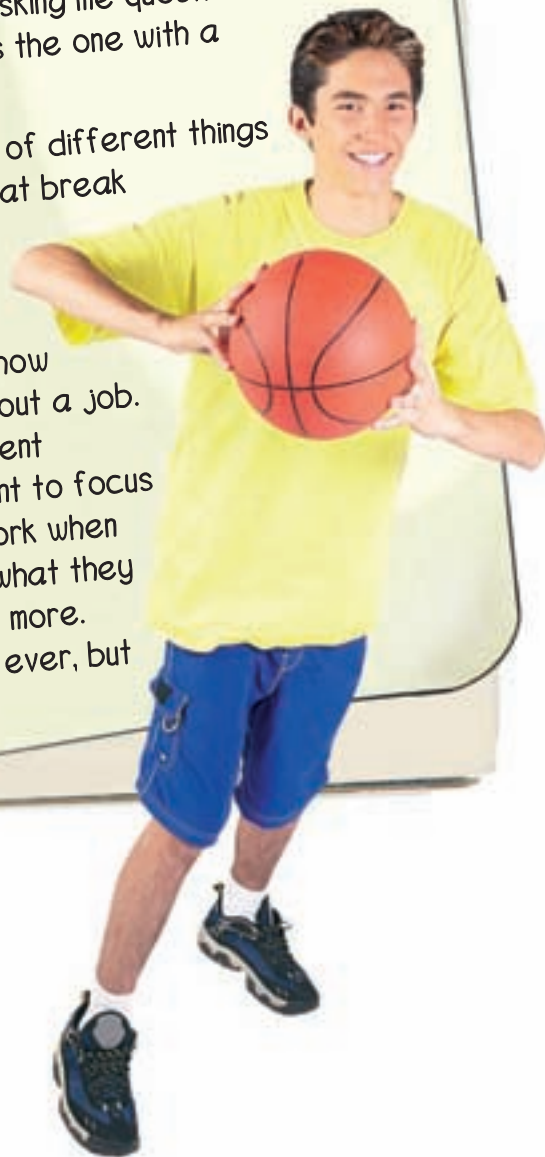
Martin is doing his homework now and Amy is reading a book, so I have some time alone to write. School was nothing like I expected it to be. The children have different lessons every day of the week: history, science, art, maths, English, music, geography and more!

The teachers are really friendly and they share their knowledge with the students and give them fun projects to do to help them remember what they are taught. Teachers are very different from job trainers, who only talk about rules and facts. Teachers ask their students for their opinions, and they discuss things in the classroom!

At break time, the children don't just go out for a quick drink of water and a lunch pill the way we do at the job training centre. They sit down and eat at tables, talking and laughing. After that, some of them go to the school library to read books for fun, and others play a strange game called basketball. One of the kids asked me to play. I was embarrassed when I told her that I didn't know how, but she offered to show me! I need a lot of practice, but I really enjoyed myself.

The only thing I didn't like about school was that I felt like a bit of an 'outsider'! Martin had to explain everything to me and, even though most of the children were friendly, I heard a few of them laughing and whispering behind my back. "Look! It's one of those city people!" one girl said. This made me realise that it must've been hard for Martin at the job training centre; it was so different from school. Now I know why he spent the whole day asking me questions when he went to job training with me. Today, I was the one with a thousand questions!

I wish I could go to school and learn lots of different things and have all kinds of friends to play with at break time! Children are children here, and they don't have to work until they're much older. I like the idea of working, but visiting Martin's school made me realise how much there is to learn besides facts about a job. The outsider kids get to explore different subjects and choose the ones they want to focus on when they're older. Some of them work when they finish school and others go on to what they call "university", where they study some more. Part of me would like to stay here for ever, but I think I have a better idea!



15) Chapter

The next day, Friday, Sophie asked Amy if she had time to talk before she went to work. "Of course, sweetheart!" Amy said kindly. Martin was still asleep, so the two of them sat in the quiet kitchen and had a cup of tea. They spent about an hour talking about the differences between life in the outside area and life in the city.

"I'll share my opinion with you, Sophie," said Amy. "But you must remember that it's only my opinion, and that everyone should have the right to decide for themselves what kind of life they want: city or outside. You see, I liked life in the city until people started becoming slaves to technology, slaves to their jobs and slaves to money. It seems that, somewhere along the way, they forgot the importance of friendship and fun. This was good for business and the government. The less people thought of their own individual freedom and growth, the more money businesses made, and the easier it was for the government to keep society running smoothly.

The government created the "happy rules" to protect people from ugly or difficult situations.

A nice idea, right? But, slowly, people started losing their freedom and their ability to think and analyse ideas and situations for themselves. Many were happy because it meant that they didn't have to make any major decisions for themselves, and we all know that can be difficult. But to my mind, having other people plan my life is not the answer. The same problems still exist, it's just that anyone who has one of these problems is sent to live in an outside area, along with people like me, who feel that we shouldn't hide the problems of our society, but try to solve them. That's why I had to get out of the city.



15



chapter

Life is real here, it's balanced: sad and happy, ugly and beautiful, all in one. You can't have happiness without sadness or beauty without ugliness. People in the city pretend that everything is great, but I think many of them know, deep down, that the system in place now won't work for much longer. There are lots of groups secretly working to change the government and lifestyle in the city."

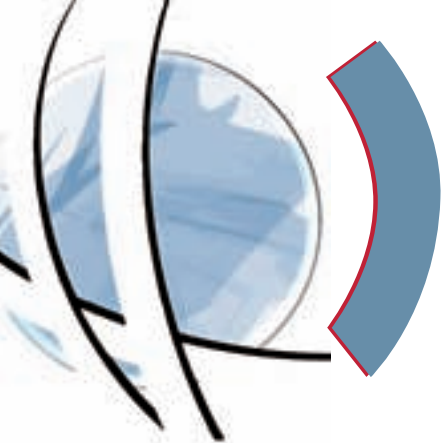
Martin came into the kitchen at some point and asked Sophie if she'd decided to live in the outside area.

"No, Martin, I haven't decided to leave my life in the city. I'm going back. Talking to your mum made me realise something. Even though I really like the life here and agree with it, I don't want to give up on my family or the city. I've made a decision: I'm going to get in touch with the people who are secretly working to make life in the city more real. I'm going to help them. Maybe I will even suggest that we set up a secret school so that at least some children have the chance to experience what you have here. Maybe, if we work hard in our secret groups, we can make a change for the better. I'd like to tell people about life here and let them decide for themselves which they prefer. All I want is to help give them the freedom to choose. As your mum said to me a while ago, everyone should have the right to decide for themselves what kind of life they want."

**free
to
choose**







Tasks

THE VISIT

Chapter 1

A Poem - The Land of Happy

- 1 If you could be happy all the time, do you think you would be bored?

B Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 What is Trank?
- 2 How many days a week do the people of Trank work?
- 3 What is special about Tuesdays?
- 4 Which sentences on page 3 suggest that the people of Trank work a lot of hours each working day?
- 5 What do the people of Trank eat?
- 6 Why are all children given special medical, intelligence and personality tests when they are four years old?
- 7 What is carved on the children's permanent bracelet?
- 8 When do citizens start work?
- 9 Who gives the residents of the city their programmes for the coming year? Why?
- 10 Can you explain what the words and phrases in bold mean? (They are on pages 3–5.)

C Imagine ...

- * Imagine that you are one of the 'best citizens' in the city described on page 3. What do you do? What do you believe?

D Talk about the story.

- * Tell your classmates why the people of Trank never feel confused about life.

Writing

- * Imagine that you have a time machine, and that you have travelled to the city of Trank in the year 2099. Write a letter to your best friend, describing what you can see there, and how Trank is different from the place where you live. Tell your friend about your feelings as you walk around the city and learn about the lives of the people who live there.

Chapter 2

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why are the members of the Wright family considered model citizens?
- 2 How old is Sophie?
- 3 What is the 'Save the Outsider Children' campaign?
- 4 Why do you think the government of Trank wants children from the outside areas to come and live in the city?
- 5 How many children from outside areas had stayed with the Wrights before? What happened to them?
- 6 How do parents who live in an outside area feel when their child decides to live in Trank? Why?
- 7 Why does Martin live in an outside area?
- 8 How old is Martin?
- 9 What do Sophie and her mum think of the things the children in the outside areas learn at school?

B Imagine...

- * Imagine that you are talking to a child who lives in Trank in 2099. Explain to the child what school is, and what happened to the schools in Trank.

C Talk about the story

- * Talk to your classmates about Sophie and her family. Tell them as much as you can.

D Writing

- * Write a profile of Martin.





Chapter 3

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 What did Sophie's mother tell Sophie to do when Martin arrived? Why?
- 2 Where did Sophie take Martin on their first day together?
- 3 What present did Martin give Sophie?
- 4 What does everyone in Trank say about stories?
- 5 What made Sophie want to read the book?
- 6 Why did Sophie slip the book into her bag quickly?
- 7 Where did the Wright family and Martin go on Tuesday? Why?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine you are Sophie. A lot of things about Martin surprised you on your first day together. Describe the things about him that surprised you, and explain why you were surprised.*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your classmates about the differences between Sophie and Martin. How many differences can you think of?*

D Writing

- * *Imagine you are Martin. Write a letter to your mother about your first two days in Trank. Tell your mother about Sophie and the places you went to together. Tell her about the things you liked and the things you didn't like.*

Chapter 4

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 What did Martin think of the Wright family?
- 2 How did Martin feel about Trank before he went there?
- 3 What didn't Martin like about the fun centre?
- 4 What did Martin realise about Sophie when she said, "What would we talk about? There's nothing to talk about ... is there?"
- 5 Why are the people in Trank afraid to talk to each other and read stories and discuss ideas?
- 6 What does Martin say at the end of his diary entry about feeling happy?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine that you are a 'model' citizen of Trank, and you secretly read Martin's diary entry. How would you feel about it? Which parts of the diary entry would you disagree with most? Why? Are there any parts of the diary entry you would agree with?*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Talk to your classmates about what Martin does with his friends back home. How do they spend their time together? What do they talk about?*

D Writing

- * *Martin tells Sophie that he and his friends often share their hopes and dreams for the future with each other. Write about:*
a) *Martin's hopes and dreams for the future* **or**
b) *your hopes and dreams for the future.*

Chapter 5

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 What is between Trank and the outside area?
- 2 Why did Sophie whisper when she said, "I think you've seen enough of my world. It's time for me to see yours."?
- 3 How long do people in Trank work each day?
- 4 Why is it difficult for people to get into Martin's town without special permission?
- 5 Who is Isabella?
- 6 What is Isabella's favourite saying? What does it mean?
- 7 Why did Sophie call the job training centre?
- 8 How did Sophie and Martin get to 32 Green Street?
- 9 What was different about Sophie when she left 32 Green Street?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine you are the woman who lives at 32 Green Street. Tell Sophie about what you do and why you do it. How did you begin?*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your classmates about Sophie's thoughts and feelings on Wednesday morning. How do you think she felt when the permanent bracelet was taken off her wrist?*

D Writing

- * *The government doesn't want the people of Trank to think. 'Thinking can lead to problems.' How does the government try to stop the citizens of Trank from thinking?*



Chapter 6

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why didn't Martin want to encourage Sophie to try to get into the outside area?
- 2 What was Martin's mother's job when she lived in the city?
- 3 Did Sophie know what the "happy rules" actually were?
- 4 Why did some people complain about the "happy rules" at first?
- 5 What did "volunteers" do?

B Imagine...

- * Imagine that the TV and newspapers gave us only happy news. How could we know what was really going on in the world?

C Talk about the story.

- * Talk to your classmates about the "happy rules". What do these affect? Why did the government make the "happy rules"?

D Writing

- * 'Newspapers should be free to write about anything that their editors think is important.' Do you agree? How do you think freedom of the press affects our lives? Should governments control what we read in the newspaper? Do you think that journalists working for newspapers can write anything they want?

Chapter 7

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why did Sophie want to just ride around in the power eagle?
- 2 Why did schools make it difficult for the happy rules to be completely successful?
- 3 When did the government turn all the schools into job training centres?
- 4 Why do you think Sophie had a headache?
- 5 What good came out of the government taking away people's freedom and thinking skills?
- 6 What did the billboards all over the city say?
- 7 Who realised that, once people stopped worrying about studying and their future and the problems of the world, they would have a lot of free time on their hands?

- 8 How did these people make a lot of money from the free time that people had?

B Imagine...

- * Imagine that you are a model citizen, and you are travelling on the power eagle. You overhear Martin and Sophie's conversation. How might you feel about it? What might you do about it?

C Talk about the story.

- * Tell your classmates what Sophie and Martin talked about when they were on the power eagle.

D Writing

- * It is 2086. Two people are having a meeting. One of the people is a government official, and the other is a business person. They are talking about the "happy rules". Write their dialogue. Begin:

Official: The problem is that the schools are making it difficult for the happy rules to be completely successful.

Business person: Why's that?

Official:

Chapter 8

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Where did the children get off the power eagle?
- 2 Describe the area around the station.
- 3 Why had Sophie gone there once before?
- 4 Who talked to her on that day? What did he say?
- 5 Who could give them directions to the outside area?
- 6 Had Sophie been near fields before? What did she find strange about the place?
- 7 Why was Martin worried?

B Imagine...

- * You have lived in the city of Trank all your life. Now you are outside the city and you are walking through some fields. Describe what you can see. Say how you feel. (Use your imagination.)

C Talk about the story.

- * Tell your class what Martin and Sophie did after they got off the power eagle.

D Writing

- * You are Sophie. Write a diary entry describing your escape from the city with Martin.



Chapter 9

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Who is Jan?
- 2 Who guards the wall around the outside area?
- 3 Would they know that Sophie was from the city as soon as they saw her? Why not?
- 4 What would happen to the children if the police found out what they were doing?
- 5 Who wanted to go back to the city?
- 6 What did Martin say that made Sophie laugh?
- 7 Who decided that they should continue their journey to the outside area? Why?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine you are one of the city police who guards the walls of the outside area. Tell a friend what you do and how you feel about it.*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your class why Sophie wanted to go back to the city.*

D Writing

- * *You are Jan. Write an email to one of your friends in the outside area, telling her about how you met Martin and Sophie. Begin:*
Dear Maggie,
I was walking through the fields yesterday, and you'll never guess who I met.

Chapter 10

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why don't business people in the city want people to have friends?
- 2 Jan had helped four city people to get past the city police before. How many of them decided to stay in the outside area?
- 3 Why did Martin, Sophie and Jan walk in silence for a few minutes?
- 4 What did Sophie think that the people in the outside area ate? Why?
- 5 What did Sophie think of the food?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine that you have eaten food pills all your life. Yesterday, you ate a sandwich for the first time. Describe what it is and what it tastes like.*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your partner what happened in the story after Jan suggested having a snack.*

D Writing

- * *You are Martin. You are writing a letter to your best friend. Tell him why the people in Trank don't have friends, and why you think friends are really important.*

Chapter 11

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why were Jan, Martin and Sophie nervous when they reached the walls of the outside area?
- 2 Who did Sophie pretend to be?
- 3 What did Sophie keep doing that might have made the police suspicious?
- 4 How do the people living in the outside area feel about city people?
- 5 How was the outside area different from the city?
- 6 Where did Sophie agree to go with Martin the next day?
- 7 Why did Sophie find it difficult to chat to the outsiders she and Martin met?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine you are an outsider. You've met Sophie and Martin, who have just arrived in the outside area. Describe Sophie to a friend, and say what you thought of her.*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Describe Sophie's first impressions of the outside area and the people who live there.*

D Writing

- * *You are Sophie. Write a diary entry about how you got into the outside area, with Jan's help, and what you saw there.*

Chapter 12

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why did Sophie think the people in the town centre were lazy?
- 2 How did Sophie react to her first ice cream?
- 3 How was the music in the outside area different from the music in the city?
- 4 What do the people in the outside area do in their free time?



5 Sophie noticed that the people in the outside area looked different from city people, and acted differently. What differences did she notice?

B Imagine...

***** *Imagine you live in the outside area, and you are visiting the city of Trank for a week. Which parts of life in the outside area would you miss?*

C Talk about the story.

***** *Tell your class about what Sophie found out about the outsiders that was different from what she had been taught.*

D Writing

***** *Why do you think the people living in the outside area are happier than the people who live in the city?*

Chapter 13

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1** How were the houses in the outside area different from the houses in the city?
- 2** Why was Sophie surprised when she saw Murphy?
- 3** How did Martin's mother feel when she saw Martin? Why?
- 4** What did Sophie tell her parents in the message she sent them?
- 5** Which piece of 'information' would upset Sophie's parents most? Why?

B Imagine...

***** *Imagine you are Sophie's mother. You have read Sophie's message, and you are telling your husband (Sophie's father) about it.*

C Talk about the story.

***** *Talk about the things that surprised Sophie when she arrived at Martin's house.*

D Writing

***** *You are Martin's mother. Write an email to your best friend telling her all about Martin and Sophie's arrival and how you felt.*

Chapter 14

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1** In what way are Martin's teachers different from job trainers?
- 2** How do the children at Martin's school spend their break time?
- 3** What do you think Sophie didn't like about Martin's school?
- 4** Why did Sophie wish she could go to school?

B Imagine...

***** *Imagine a young person from Trank came to your school for a day. What would surprise him/her? How do you think your school friends would treat this young person?*

C Talk about the story.

***** *Tell your classmates some of the things Sophie did at Martin's school.*

D Writing

***** *'School and university should be more than just preparation for work.' Discuss.*

Chapter 15

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1** Who did Sophie talk to the next morning, and what was Martin doing while they talked?
- 2** Did Amy use to like life in the city? Why did she change her opinion?
- 3** What did Amy think of the "happy rules"?
- 4** How did Amy feel about the problems of their society?
- 5** What were lots of groups in the city secretly doing?
- 6** What did Sophie decide to do? Why?
- 7** What should everyone have the right to decide for themselves?

B Imagine...

***** *Imagine you are Sophie. Describe how you got back into the city. Were you successful in changing the life of the citizens of Trank? Was it easy?*

C Talk about the story.

***** *What do you think this story tells us about our lives and our world? Is it a warning to us? What do you think the story is telling us to be careful about?*

D Writing

***** *'You can't have happiness without sadness, or beauty without ugliness.' Do you agree? Discuss.*