



Stewie Scraps and the Super Sleigh

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For Chris, my very special friend, and with thanks and love to Tom.

A huge thank you “to everyone at Brilliant Publications and especially to Priscilla Hannaford.”



Christmas decorations

It was the beginning of December.
Getting close to Christmas.

JJ had put up a string of lights over the wobbly counter in his shop. The lights flickered and he worried about whether they would stay on or not.



His wife, Flo, and Poppy and Clint, the twins, clambered into the dusty window space at the front of the shop. After a great deal of huffing and puffing and arguing, they left a length of tinsel, a cotton-wool snow man and a battered plastic sign that said:



Merry Christmas.

“That’s me done till next year, dearie,”
laughed Flo. She wiped her hands on her
flowery overall.

The window at JJ’s only ever got changed
twice a year. Once before Christmas and
once in the New Year.



JJ loaded the shop and the upstairs flat with all the extras he'd got in for the festive season. The family could hardly move anywhere without bumping into new boxes of things.

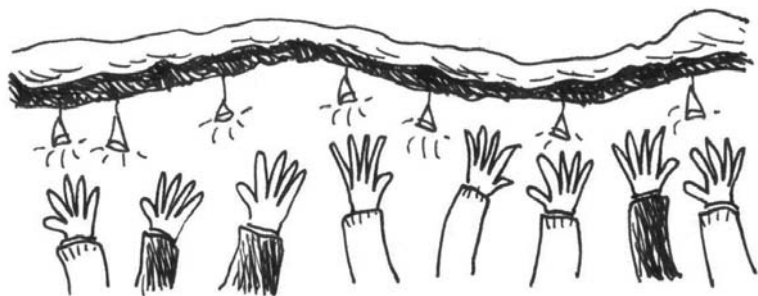


“It’ll be Christmas madness, too, when you’re back at school tomorrow,” Grandpa told Stewie (Flo’s and JJ’s youngest), at the weekend. And he was right.

The caretaker spent the whole of Monday morning hacking and sawing an enormous Christmas tree. It was too big to stand in the hall as it was.



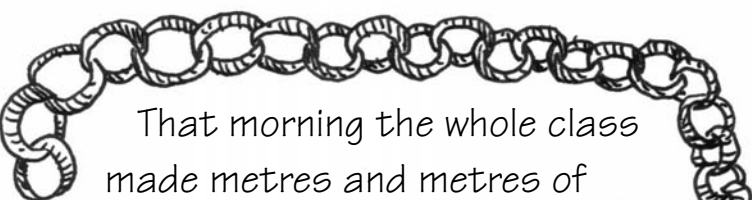
Rows of lights and snowy branches decorated the corridors – nearly out of reach of Year 6 hands and arms.



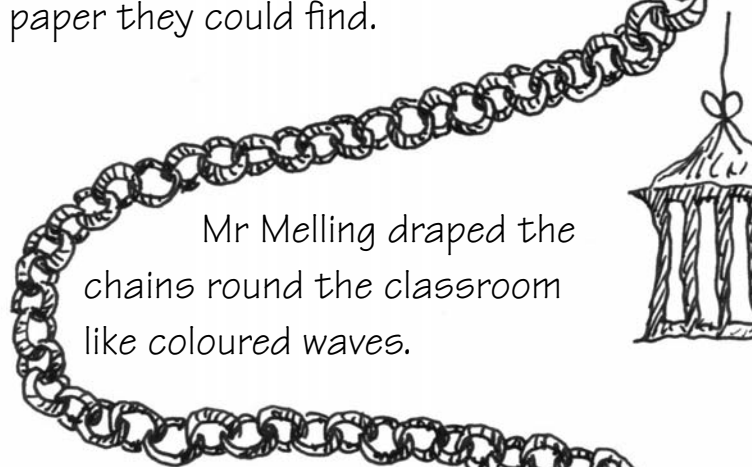
Mr Melling, Stewie's teacher, was in a festive mood as well. He trudged into class with a green and silver tinsel tree in a plastic bucket.

"Some volunteers can decorate it at break time," he said. "But I will need to put the lights on myself – for health and safety reasons."

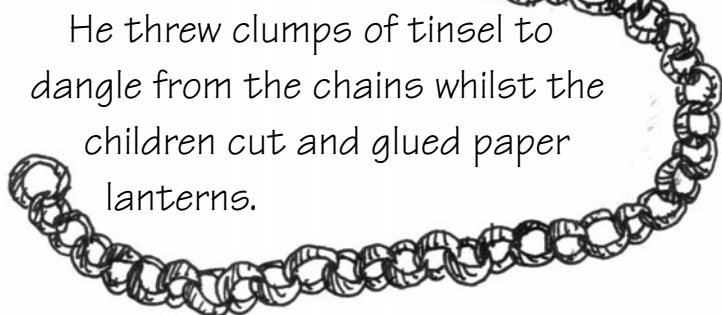




That morning the whole class made metres and metres of paper chains, by cutting and looping and sticking strips of any unwanted paper they could find.



Mr Melling draped the chains round the classroom like coloured waves.



He threw clumps of tinsel to dangle from the chains whilst the children cut and glued paper lanterns.



The result was a room so full of Christmas that Mr Melling spent the next few weeks stooping and ducking in order to teach.

