

Characters

ISABELLE **CHARLOTTE** **THEO**
FREDDY **RAMARI** **SIONE** **NICO**

ISABELLE, CHARLOTTE, and THEO are waiting in a classroom.

THEO is holding a tablet. **FREDDY, RAMARI, and SIONE** enter.

FREDDY is holding a book.

THEO. Hi, guys. Thanks for coming to watch us practise our presentation. It's good to get some advice from you guys. You're the school's best team.

FREDDY. No worries. We're happy to help if we can.

RAMARI. Go ahead. We'll just sit here and watch.



FREDDY, RAMARI, and SIONE
sit on three chairs directly
in front of **ISABELLE,**
CHARLOTTE, and THEO.

THEO. OK, let's get started. Take
it away, Isabelle!

ISABELLE (*yelling*). Welcome to
our group presentation on the
advantages of eating insects.
The purpose of this talk is to
convince you that insects can
be a nutritious food source.
We hope –

RAMARI (*waving her hands*). Stop!
Why are you shouting at us?

THEO (*holding up his tablet*). It says
on toptalkingtips.com that
you're supposed to speak in a
loud, clear voice.

SIONE. Yes, but not **that** loud.

FREDDY. My ears are ringing!

ISABELLE. OK, I'll try to keep it
down a bit.

RAMARI. Good idea. Carry on,
but just remember, we're in
the same room.



ISABELLE. Right. Now, about eating insects ...

(*She leans over and tries to poke FREDDY in the eye.*)

FREDDY. Hey! What are you doing? Stop that!

ISABELLE. I'm just trying to make eye contact. It
would help if you stopped moving your head.

RAMARI (*whispering to SIONE*). Wow, I think they
really do need our help.

FREDDY (*to THEO's team*). It doesn't mean that kind
of contact! You don't have to actually touch
anyone. It just means that you should look the
audience in the eye while you're speaking.

ISABELLE. Well, I don't think that's what it said
on the website ... but I'll give it a go. (*She leans
forward and stares into FREDDY's eyes.*) As I was
saying, insects could be the answer to world
food shortages, and maybe –

FREDDY (*leaning back*). Why are you staring?

ISABELLE (*moving back and glaring*). You said to
make eye contact. You should make up your
mind what you want us to do. Here, you also
need these. (*She holds out a pair of glasses.*)

RAMARI. What for?

THEO (*tapping his tablet again*). It says here
that a good presentation needs visual aids.
We looked up visual aids in the dictionary,
and it said they help people to see better.

SIONE. That doesn't mean glasses. It means you should use images to make your talk more interesting. Give people something to look at. You know, like a presentation with slides.

THEO. He's right! I told you guys we should do the presentation in the playground.

FREDDY. No, no – slides, like the pictures on a computer screen. Never mind. *(He shakes his head.)* Do you at least have a prop?

ISABELLE *(brightens)*. We sure do! Charlotte's in charge of props – Charlotte, we're ready!

CHARLOTTE. Right, I'll be straight back. *(She opens a door and drags NICO into the room.)*

RAMARI. I'm confused ... why is Nico here?

CHARLOTTE. He's a prop, obviously.

SIONE. No, he's a kid from the class next door.

ISABELLE. But he's also in the rugby team and he plays the position of prop, obviously.

NICO. Well, I don't actually play rugby yet, but I'm keen to learn. I guess I need to join a team first, but I would definitely like to be a prop.

CHARLOTTE. Good enough for me!

RAMARI. I really don't think you're meant to use **that** kind of a prop.

FREDDY. Yeah, I think you're a little confused. *(He holds up his book.)* Look, this is a prop for our speech on the importance of funding libraries ... wait a minute. What are you doing?

THEO, ISABELLE, and NICO *have linked arms over each other's shoulders.*



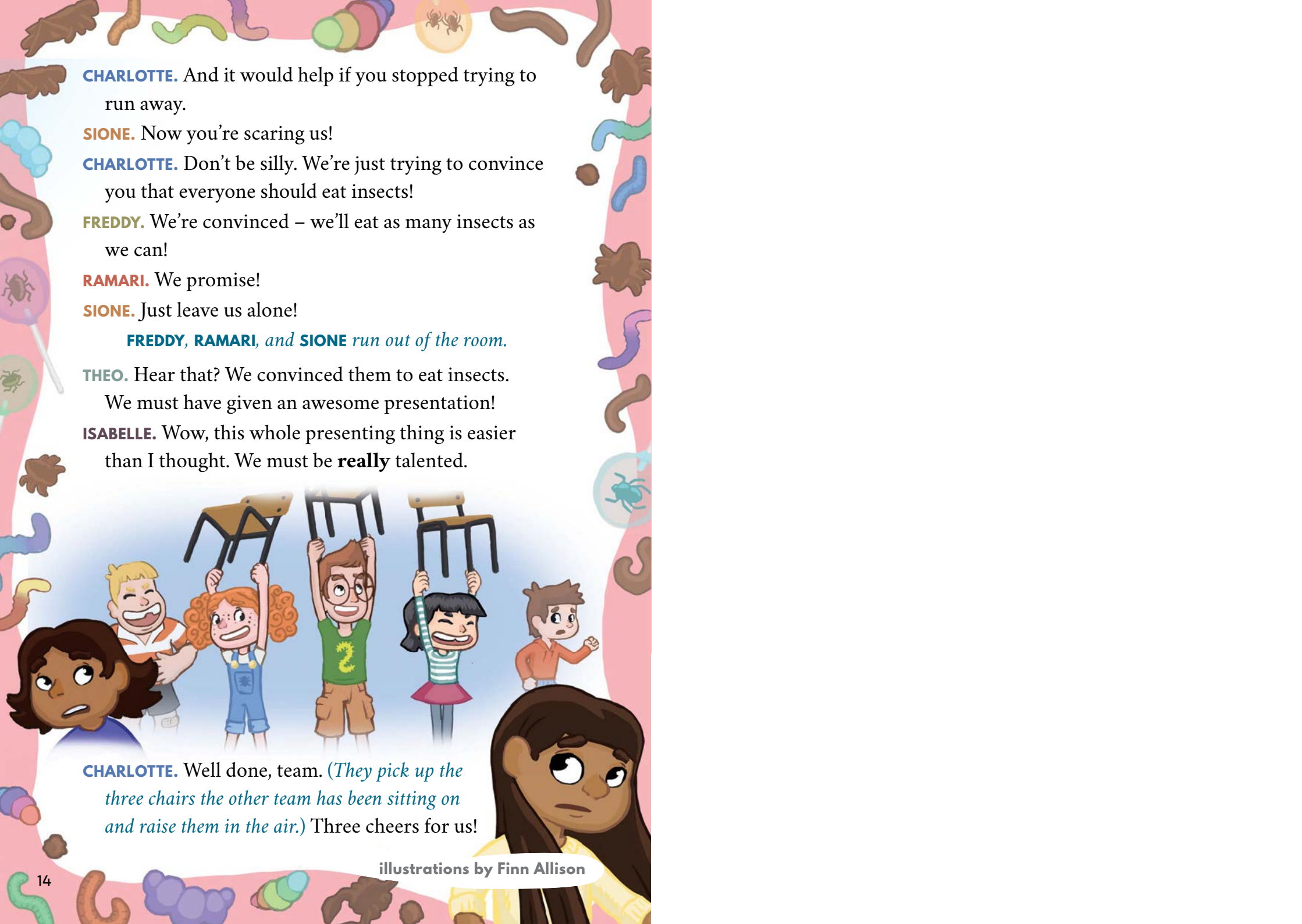
CHARLOTTE. "A prop is part of the front row of a scrum. The prop tries to push back the opposition's prop." *(She shrugs.)* Honestly, it's in the dictionary.

FREDDY *(taking a step back)*. Now hang on a second. This is a library book!

ISABELLE. You said it was a prop!

FREDDY. It is!

THEO. Then you better look out. *(The scrum line moves forward, trying to catch FREDDY.)* Stop hiding it behind your back. You might get hurt.



CHARLOTTE. And it would help if you stopped trying to run away.

SIONE. Now you're scaring us!

CHARLOTTE. Don't be silly. We're just trying to convince you that everyone should eat insects!

FREDDY. We're convinced – we'll eat as many insects as we can!

RAMARI. We promise!

SIONE. Just leave us alone!

FREDDY, RAMARI, and SIONE *run out of the room.*

THEO. Hear that? We convinced them to eat insects. We must have given an awesome presentation!

ISABELLE. Wow, this whole presenting thing is easier than I thought. We must be **really** talented.



CHARLOTTE. Well done, team. *(They pick up the three chairs the other team has been sitting on and raise them in the air.)* Three cheers for us!

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The Perfect Presentation

by Leonie Agnew

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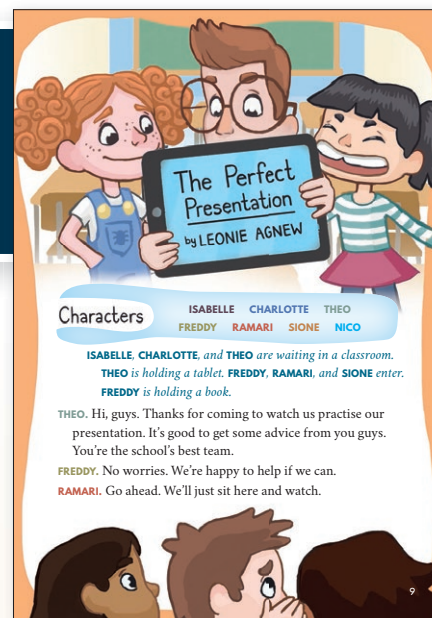
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