

## Captain Apparatus

Dear Diary,

Today was another stressful day. I'm so exhausted! Who knew being the only superhero in school would be so time-consuming? It's only been a week since Green Jumper disappeared but already things are piling up.

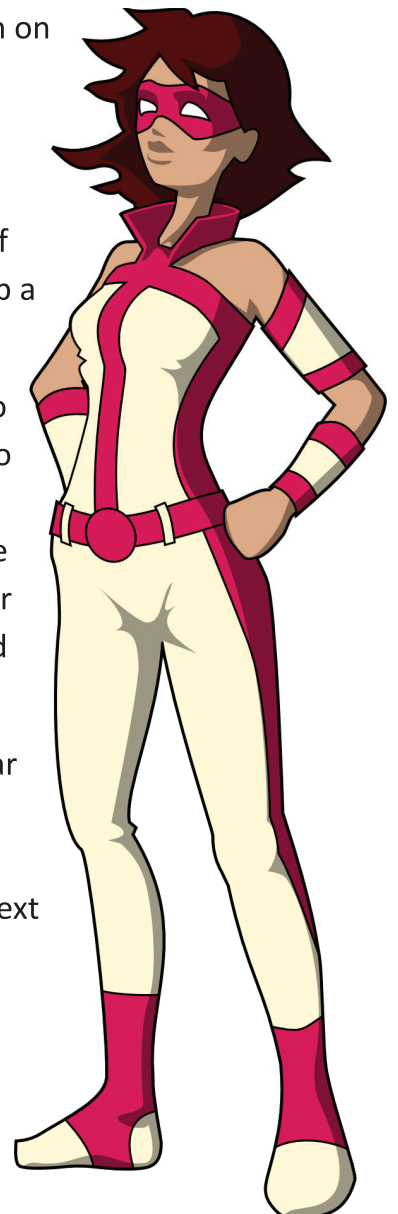
I had an emergency meeting with Children Helping Usurp Maniacal People (C.H.U.M.P) this morning. They are working on finding out which secret volcano lair Green Jumper is being held in. There are so many it is taking them a while. I'm on my own until then.

We've had an outbreak of Mega-Wedgies this week. It was mainly amongst the older children for now. It's a mysterious boy dressed all in black with a pair of pants as his mask, apparently. He's calling himself Professor Pants. He's definitely one to keep my eye on. Maybe I'll set up a sting to catch him?

Mrs Crossly tried to talk to me today. She has some hair-brained idea to stop the younger children from disappearing in the sandpit. She tried to convince me that one of the juniors had developed an invisibility cloak and was hiding them all for a joke. I told her it was more likely to be the enormous hole in the bottom of the sandpit. They've been digging it for weeks to try and escape. She's going to look into it. I didn't stick around for a "thank-you". There's no point.

There is some positive news. The outbreak of chickenpox in the top year has meant that incidents of graffiti on the monkey bars have dropped significantly. Some children are still insisting on carving their name into the seesaw despite my warnings. I have vowed to catch these villains next week.

It is the end of term disco on Thursday. I bet you can imagine just how excited I am about that. Two-hundred children all running around pretending to dance and then sliding around on their knees when they get bored. It's a perfect opportunity for the return of the



dreaded Fizzy Drink Fizzer.

We've not seen her around for a few months now. The Fizzy Drink Fizzer is one of the worst villains in school history. She turns up wherever there are fizzy drinks and over-excited children. The first sign that she's been around is the horrifying shriek when an unfortunate soul opens a can of pop. They usually escape with just a wet face if they're lucky. I've seen children get so wet, they've had to be collected by their parents. This is just the type of event she loves. I'll be on the lookout.

That's it for today. Hopefully, tomorrow will be much easier. If not, maybe somebody will at least say thank you.

Captain Apparatus

## INFERENCE FOCUS

1. How does the author feel about being a superhero? How do you know?
2. Does Mrs Crossly normally thank the author? How do you know?
3. What do you think has helped stop the graffiti problem?
4. Does the author agree with Mrs Crossly about children disappearing from the sandpit?
5. Why is the author going to keep an eye on Professor Pants?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

What is Professor Pants' main method of attack?

**V**

If an idea is "hair-brained", what does that mean?

**E**

Why has the author chosen to write this in the first person?

**V**

Find a word that means the author has promised to do something.

**S**

What do children normally do at the disco?

Answers:

1. The author is tired. They see it as important work but tiring and underappreciated.
2. No. The author said there wasn't any point waiting for a thank you.
3. The children doing it are off ill with chicken pox
4. No. The author thinks they are trying to escape.
5. In case he keeps pulling Mega-Wedgies

R: The Mega-Wedgy

V: It is ridiculous/unlikely to work

E: It is a diary and the thoughts are those of the author. The author wants to express how they are feeling.

V: Vowed

S: Run around pretending to dance and then slide around on their knees