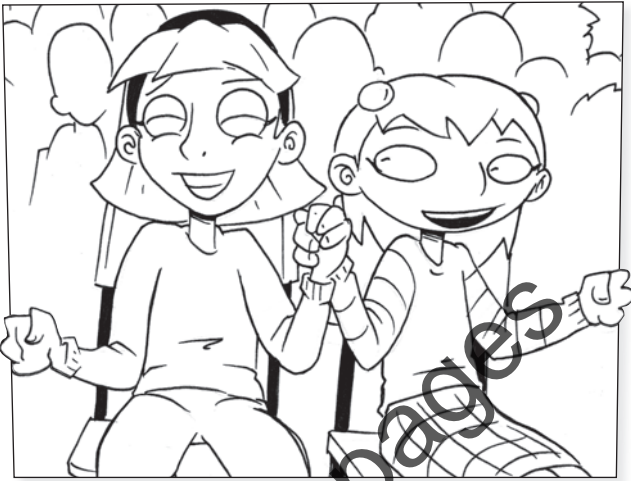


Clueless



I closed my eyes and held my breath. Mr Samson was about to make the announcement, and I really wanted to be one of the winners. I had worked so hard for this!

Mr Samson cleared his throat. Right into the microphone. This was it. Beside me, my best friend, Claire, squeezed my hand.

“And the Year Five Energy Rangers are...” Mr Samson began, “Daniel Matthews...”

A cheer went up.

“Lincoln Jones...”

Another cheer went up.

“Claire Chow...”

ENERGY RANGERS TO THE RESCUE!

Yes! More cheering. I clapped like crazy. Claire was squealing! I tried to laugh but my heart was beating twice as fast as it should. Only one more name to go...

“And finally... Penelope Danger.”

That was me! I was laughing and shaking, all at the same time. I'd done it! I was an official Energy Ranger. This was the best day of my life!

“Does that make her Ranger Danger?” Stanley called out. (He always thinks he's so funny.) “She's a Ranger and her name is Danger. Ranger Danger! Get it?”

The whole class obviously did “get it”, because everyone started laughing. So much for this being the best day of my life.



Stanley put up his hand. “So, where are their coloured suits and capes? Aren’t they supposed to have super powers?”

Mr Samson shook his head and smiled. “Stanley, when your brain returns make sure it brings an absent note.”

Before Stanley could answer, Mr Samson continued. “The Energy Rangers aren’t cartoon characters! We’re not talking about super powers. We’re talking about electrical power—electrical energy—and we’ve been talking about it for the past two weeks! The people we’ve just chosen, the Paradise Point Primary School Energy Rangers, will have the special job of making sure we all understand the importance of saving electricity.”

“Yeah!” said Lincoln, sounding menacing. “We’re the power police—so you’d better watch it!”

Again Mr Samson shook his head. I thought I heard him groan as well. “No, Lincoln, you are *not* the power police. You and the other Energy Rangers are merely advisors.”

With a desperate look Mr Samson turned to me. “Penny? Can you explain your role to your schoolmates, please?”