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Before Reading

1 Look at the picture and answer the questions on pages 8 and 9.

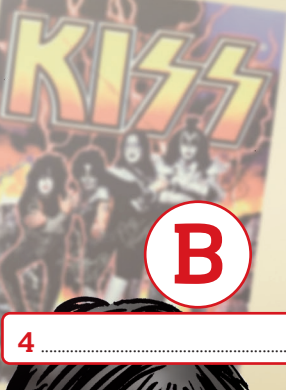


A

2

3

1

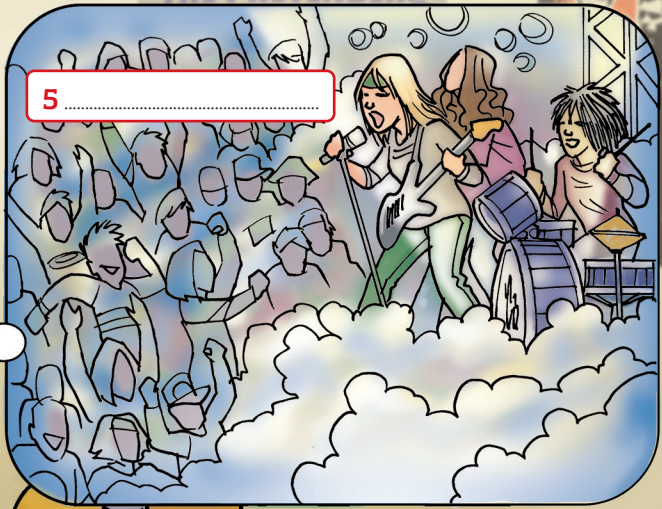


THE PRETENDERS



B

4



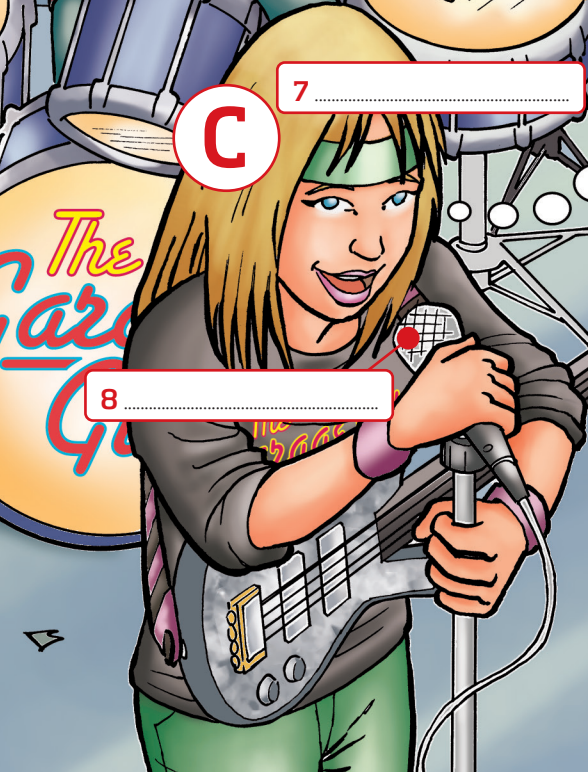
5



6

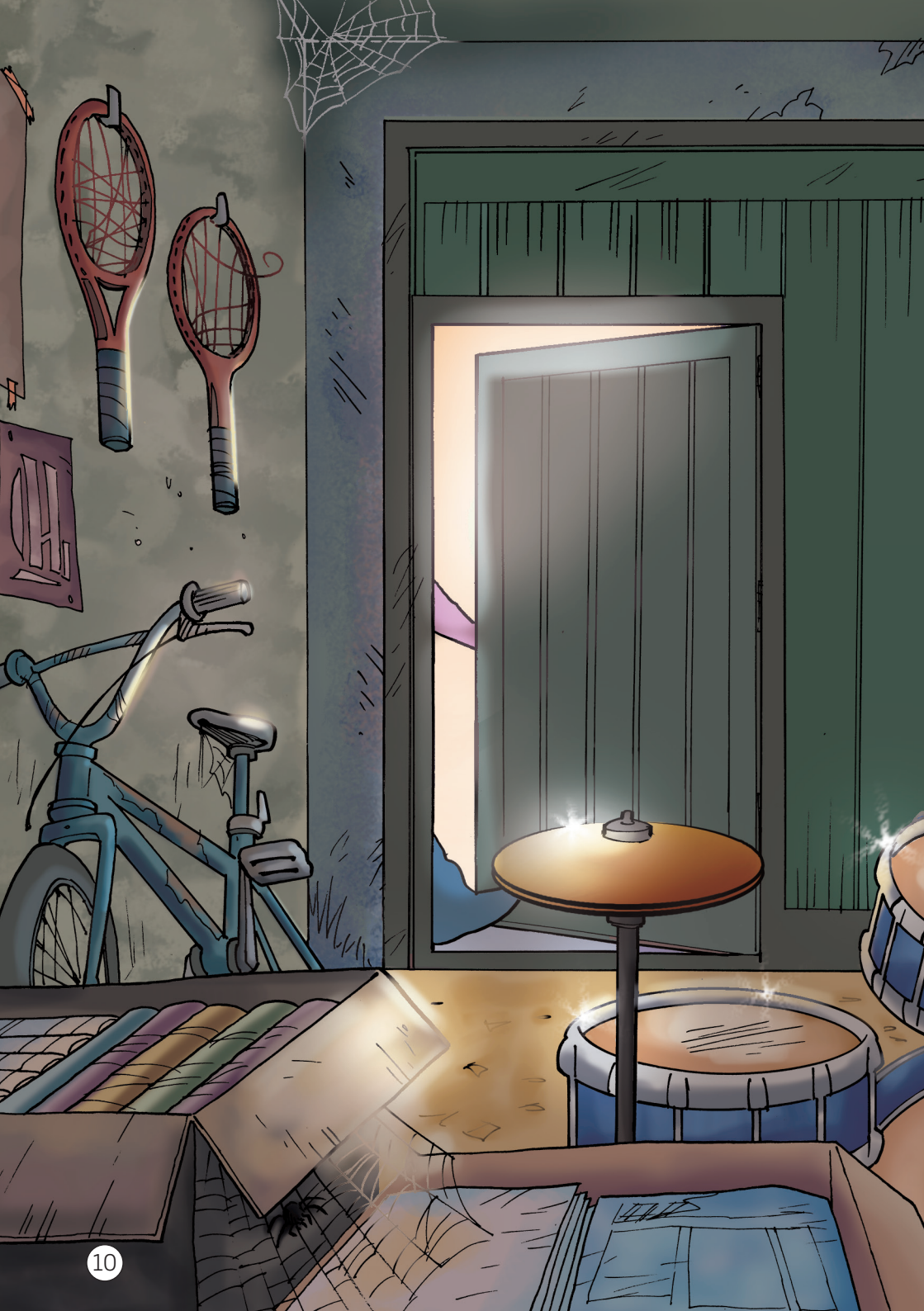
C

7




8







 The garage was silent and dark.
Nothing moved.

There were large dark shapes against the wall. There were boxes on the concrete floor. And in the middle of the garage, there was a weird round object.

What was it? A huge ball? A small trampoline? An ancient shield? Then from outside, there were footsteps.

A family of spiders, understanding what was going to happen next, hurried into a hole.

Somebody laughed.

The metal door banged open and for a moment daylight poured in. Then the door banged shut again. There was a second of darkness until a hand pressed a switch and a long fluorescent light flickered into life.

The artificial light showed all the usual things that get left in a garage. There was a wardrobe with a broken door, boxes of magazines and old school books, two tennis racquets with no strings, and a bicycle with only one wheel. There were old posters stuck on the walls of '70s and '80s bands like Kiss, The Sex Pistols and The Pretenders.

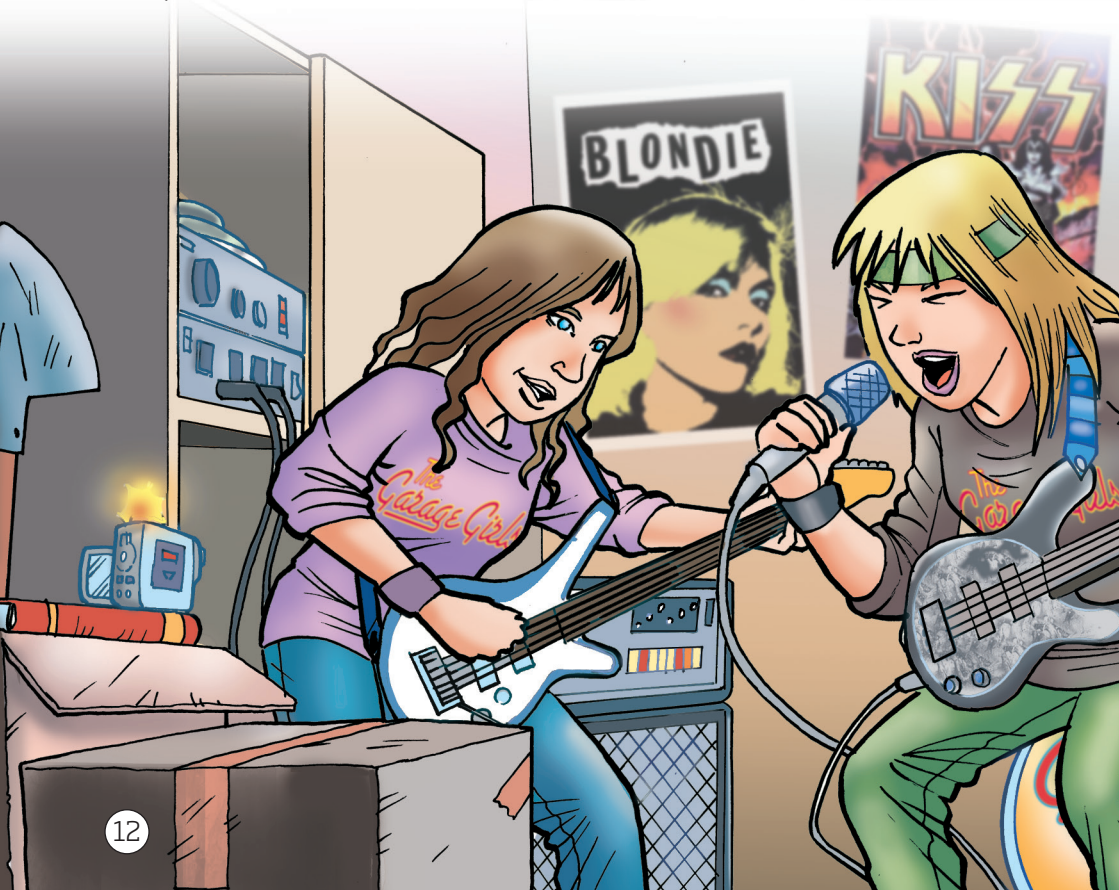
But there were also electric guitars, microphones, amplifiers and loud speakers.

And in the middle of the floor, there was a drum kit.

Three girls moved into position.

Two of them picked up guitars, the third turned on the amplifiers then sat down at the drums. She held the drumsticks thoughtfully in her hands.

They looked at each other.

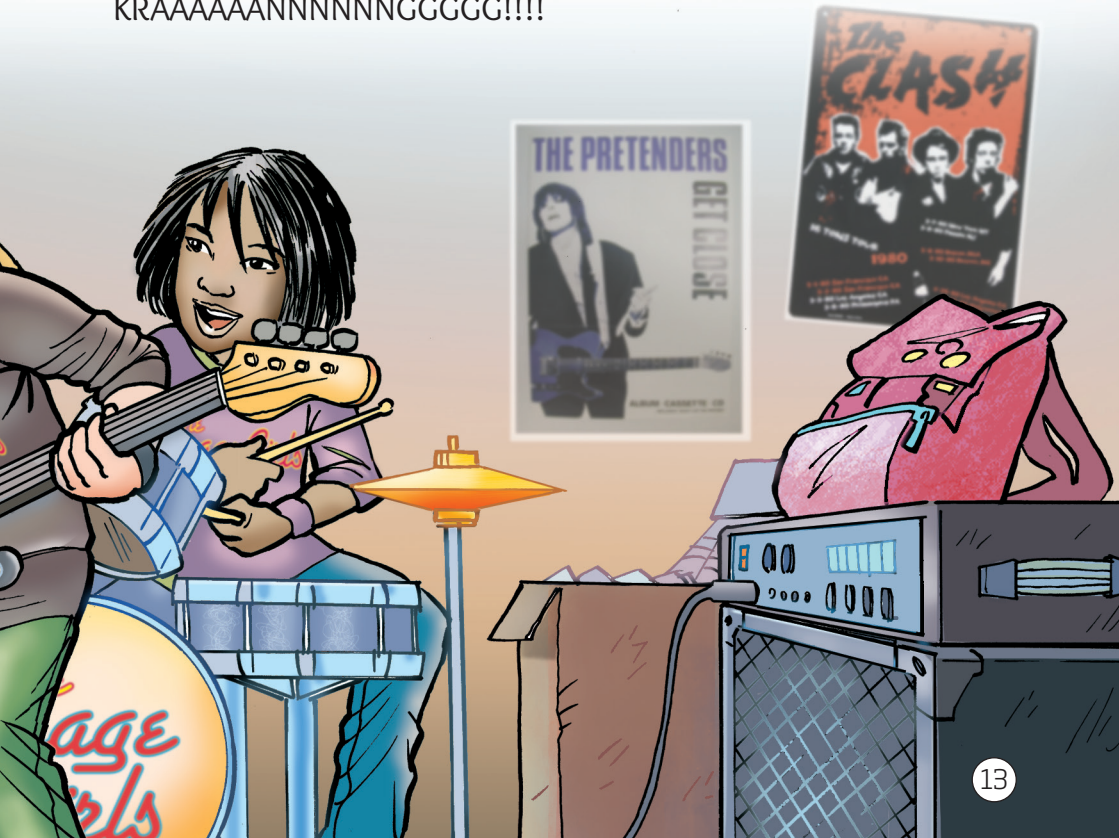


'Are you ready?' the drummer asked.
'Oh no, wait a minute,' said one of the guitarists.
She took a DV CAM out of her bag and put it on a cardboard box in front of them. She looked through the viewfinder, then turned it on.
'OK,' she said, and picked up her bass guitar.
The drummer leaned towards her microphone and said:

'One,
Two,
One,
Two!'

And there was an explosion of sound.

KRAAAAAANNNNNNGGGG!!!!



An hour and a half later, one of the girls cycled quickly up the drive of her family's huge detached house, jumped off her bike, and ran towards the front door. In her bag she was carrying her DVCAM, T-shirt and jeans.

The door opened before she could find her keys.

'Grace, you're late again,' her mum said.

Her mum could look nice and friendly. She didn't look that way today.

'Only a bit,' Grace replied.

'You're fifteen minutes late. That isn't only a bit,' her mum corrected her. She often corrected Grace.

'I know, I'm sorry, but...'

'But what? Your piano teacher is waiting for you in the living room.'

'Well, if we stop talking, I can go and have my lesson,' Grace said. She ran into the house.

'Grace!' her mum called out.

'What?'

'I want to talk to you as soon as your lesson's over.'

'OK, OK, keep your hair on,' Grace said quietly to herself.



‘Sorry I’m late,’ said Grace to her piano teacher.

‘That’s all right,’ said Stephen. He was tall and good-looking with long brown hair. He tried to look serious but he wasn’t very good at it. Not like her mum!

So Grace sat down at the piano, looked at the music, and started playing.

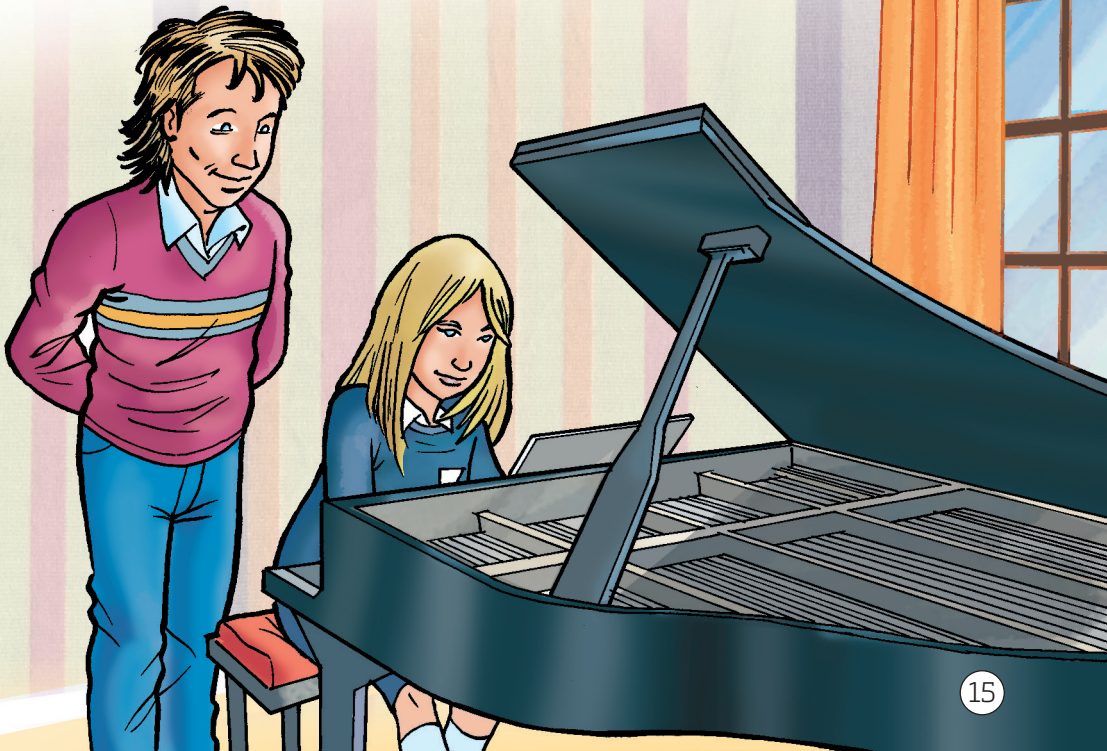
She could play all the classical composers – Bach, Beethoven, Bartok, Brahms. She found it easy. Unfortunately, this wasn’t the music she wanted to play. Maybe in the past. Maybe in the future. But not NOW.

At the end of the lesson, Stephen said, ‘Well, I don’t think you’ve practised enough ...’

Grace nodded. It was true.

‘But,’ he continued, ‘I think you’re ready for your exam.’

‘Cool •,’ Grace said.



So now it was time for Grace to see her mum.

Harriet, Grace's mum, worked from home. She was a freelance editor. That meant she worked on dictionaries and grammar books and things like that. She had a great eye for detail. She could find spelling mistakes and missing commas and she even knew how to use semicolons. So when she looked at Grace, and studied her closely, Grace felt very uncomfortable.

Her mum could find anything that wasn't right in a book.

She could also see anything that wasn't right in Grace's face.

Harriet was like a police detective.

And Grace felt like a guilty criminal.

'Good news, Mum,' Grace told her. 'Stephen said I can take my piano exam!'

'That's because you're a very good musician,' her mum said.

'But I want to talk to you about why you were late.'

'I was only at school. I was working on my project.'

'Again?'

'We've got lots to do...'

'And who are you doing it with?'

'Zadie and Holly,' said Grace. That was true, in a way!

'Are you sure you aren't seeing a boy?' her mum asked.

'Of course I'm not!'

'You have to concentrate on your music and ballet and exams. This project is taking up too much time. I'm going to have to speak to your teacher.'

'No, no, don't do that,' said Grace quickly. 'It'll be all right. Really.'

And Grace gave a nervous smile.



Grace was leading a double life.
It all started three months earlier.
Zadie was trying to put together an all-girl band. She chose Holly to be her lead guitarist. Zadie was the drummer. But they needed a bass guitarist and a singer.
So they auditioned some of the girls from school.
Unfortunately, there were two problems. The girls couldn't play and they couldn't sing.
Then one lunchtime Holly said, 'What about Grace?'
Zadie shook her head.
'Grace only plays all that classical stuff.'
'But she listens to rock and punk. Why don't we ask her?' suggested Holly.
So they did.



And Grace was a revelation •!

She not only played bass guitar, she sang as well!

‘Hey, Grace,’ said Zadie. ‘This is crazy. I mean, we’ve been friends for ages •... but I didn’t know you could sing like that.’

‘I sing all the time when I’m on my bike,’ said Grace.

‘And when did you learn to play the bass?’ asked Holly.

‘Well, this is the first time I’ve ever played it,’ said Grace. ‘But it’s not that difficult. I just improvised •!’

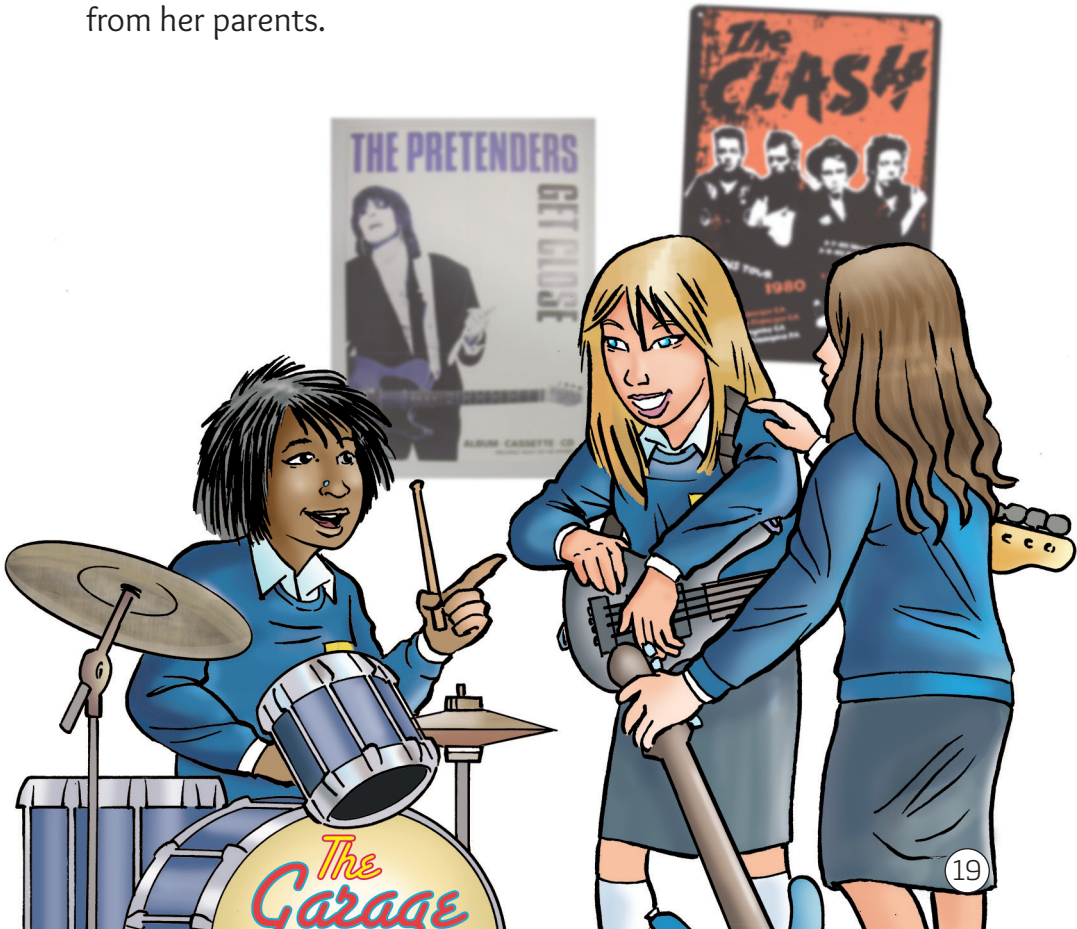
‘OK,’ said Zadie. ‘What shall we call ourselves?’

‘What about The Garage Girls?’ said Holly.

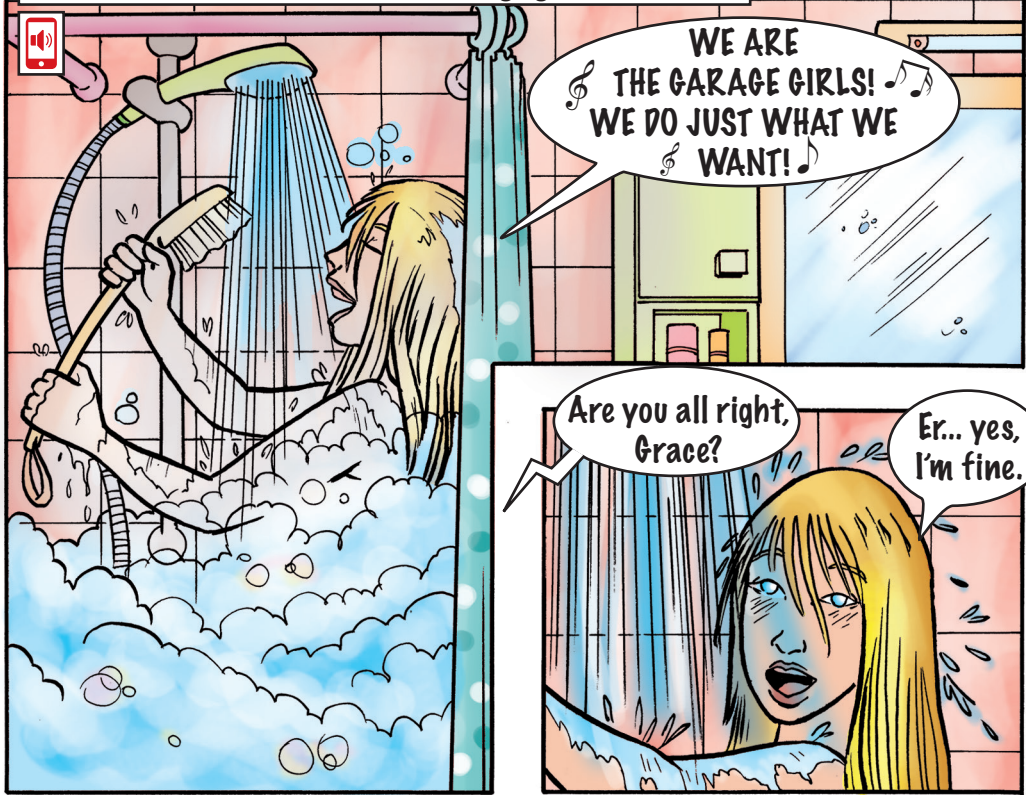
They all smiled.

They had their band.

There was only one problem. Grace had to keep the band a secret from her parents.

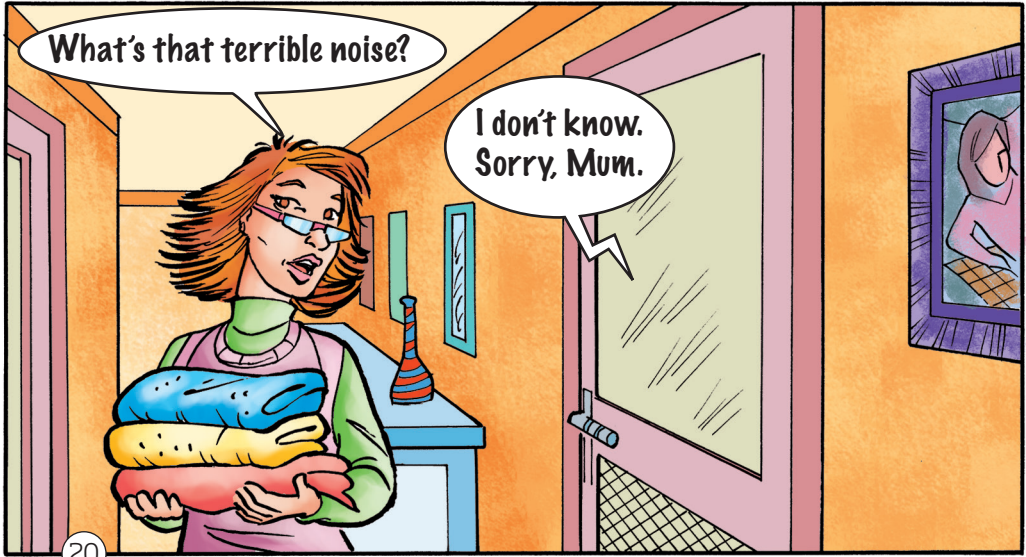


But it was difficult. First, she started singing in the shower...



What's that terrible noise?

I don't know. Sorry, Mum.



Next she started wearing different clothes...

What on earth are you wearing, Grace?

What? This?

Yes. That terrible... thing.

Oh, it's just an old T-shirt. I'm... erm... I'm going to cut the grass.

But you never do any gardening.

And the gardener cut it yesterday!

And then Grace changed her look.

Are you going out?

No.

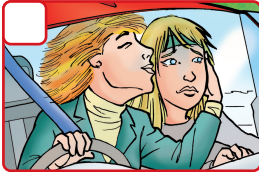
So why are you wearing dark glasses in the house?

After Reading

Vocabulary

1 Match the actions with the pictures. Then write a sentence about the pictures. Use the verbs.

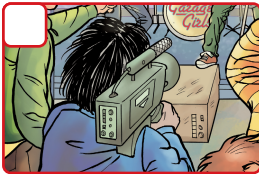
a hug b have an audition c kiss d film



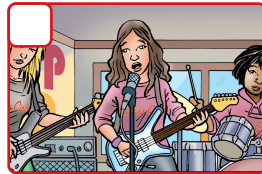
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2 Complete the notice with the words below.

auditions band demo recording contract singer

Are you a good

Are you in a

Super Sounds Recording Studios are looking for YOU!

..... tomorrow at 15.00.

Bring a tape.

And win a

