

GETTING OUT OF GAMES by ANTONY WIELAND

David is waiting in line with other pupils with a written excuse as to why he can't do swimming.

DAVID.

(Talking to his friend. Looking nervous. Turning pocket game on, for his friend)

This is the best pocket game there is on the market so don't lose it.

(Handing game over)

Put it in your pocket. I don't want old 'punch face' to catch me with it. He's caught me twice with it already this term. We can play space invaders when we're in the gallery. I think he'll let you off swimming for the rest of the term. You look terrible ... Oh, you are ill, sorry... I tried to make myself sick last night. I held my breath for one whole minute until my face was bright red. But it didn't work. My Mum thought I looked a lot better. Somehow I don't think my flu excuse is going to work. Here he comes now. Good luck. But I don't think you'll need it, even though you haven't got a note. *(Gets out note and whispers to friend)* I forged mine...

(Hands teacher note)

Yes, it's me again sir ... I'm sorry I just can't seem to focus properly since I gave up chocolate. My Mum says I've got this awful look about me ... Yes sir, I think you're right. Glasses are what I need ... I'll have a talk with my Mum sir and get her to buy me some for next week ... Oh really. You think swimming's not for me? That is a disappointment sir. I was so looking forward to joining our synchronised team: The Aquatic Boys, this year. I'm gutted...I mean...disappointed sir ... I'll try to get over it but it won't be easy. *(As teacher walks by David shows gesture of relief)*

(Calls)

Can I watch sir? Great! I mean ... *(Affected disappointment)* ... Thank you, sir. *(Makes his way to the gallery seats ... to himself)* ... Come on ... *(Anxiously waiting for friend. To himself)*

He'll have no problem. Looks as though he's going to keel over any second.

What's taking so long? *(Notices)* Oh no, he's seen my game in his pocket.

(Stands and calls)

But sir, you can't confiscate it! That's mine! *(Realising his error and replies)*

4 o'clock outside your study. Yes sir. *(Sits down shaken)*

I feel ill.