

STORY 6

MASKI GUIDES HIS FRIENDS

JOIN
MASKI FOR
ANOTHER
EXCITING
ADVENTURE

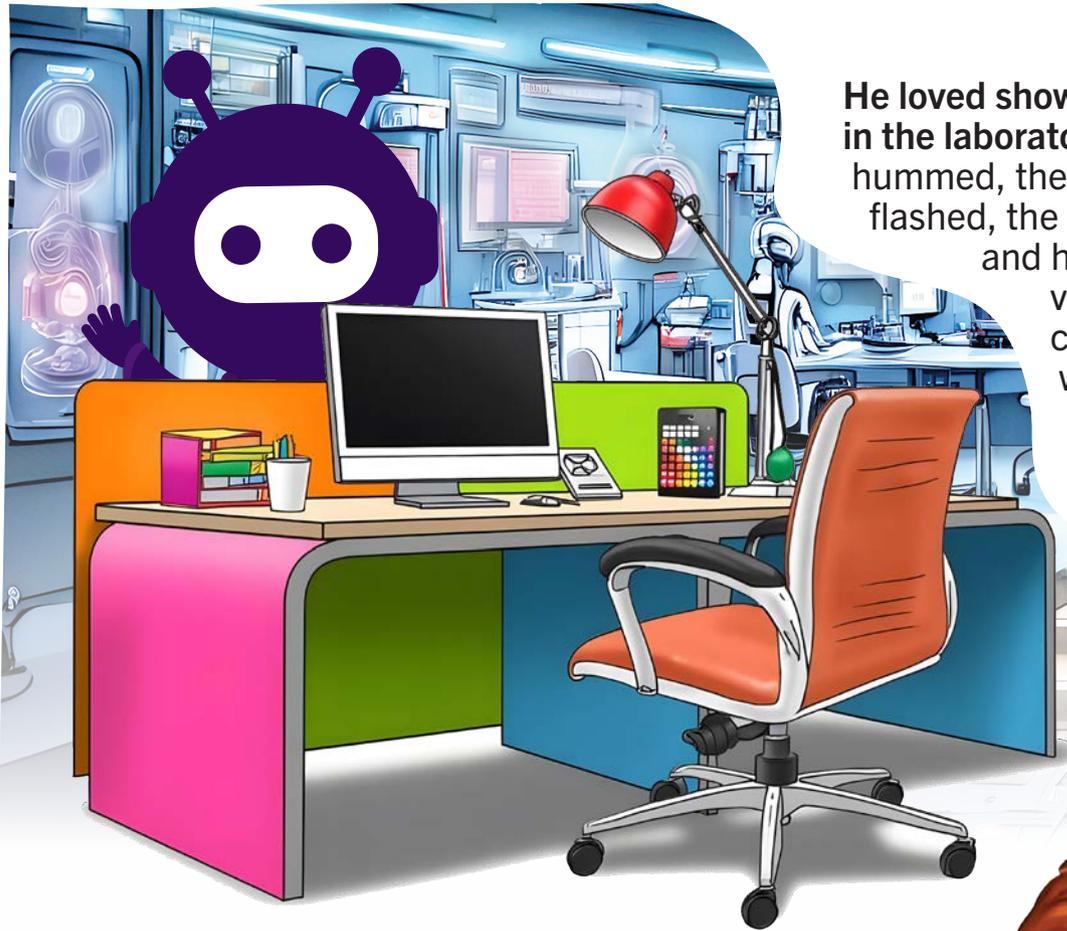
MASKI was having a quiet morning. Little did he know it was about to get very busy and a little bit tricky. At 9 o'clock, a small group of learners came for a visit to the Logic Lab. **MASKI** immediately noticed that something was wrong. A lot of the children looked sad.

MASKI didn't like seeing his friends unhappy.

He wanted to help them feel better. So, he gave them his biggest smile and said, '**Hi everyone! Welcome to the Logic Lab**' Then, he led them on a fun tour of the Lab.



*guide: to give advice when others have a problem.



He loved showing off the cool things in the laboratory: the machines that hummed, the big screens that flashed, the lights that blinked, and his favourite part—his very own computer cubicle where he worked on his special projects.

After the tour, **MASKI** asked: ‘As your study buddy, is there anything I can do to help you?’

At first, no one said anything.

But then, a little voice spoke up.

‘Hi, I’m Jess,’ the girl said. ‘I don’t like reading out loud in class. I get so nervous that I make up words if I don’t know them, and then everyone laughs at me.’
‘Yesterday, I read, *‘The boy had a banana on his nose’* instead of *‘The boy had a bandage on his nose.’*
‘Everyone teased me about it all day!’

The other children giggled. It did sound funny to imagine a boy with a banana on his nose!

‘That’s easy to fix’ said **MASKI**.

‘You just need to practice reading out loud every day when you get home.

Find a quiet place and read to yourself.

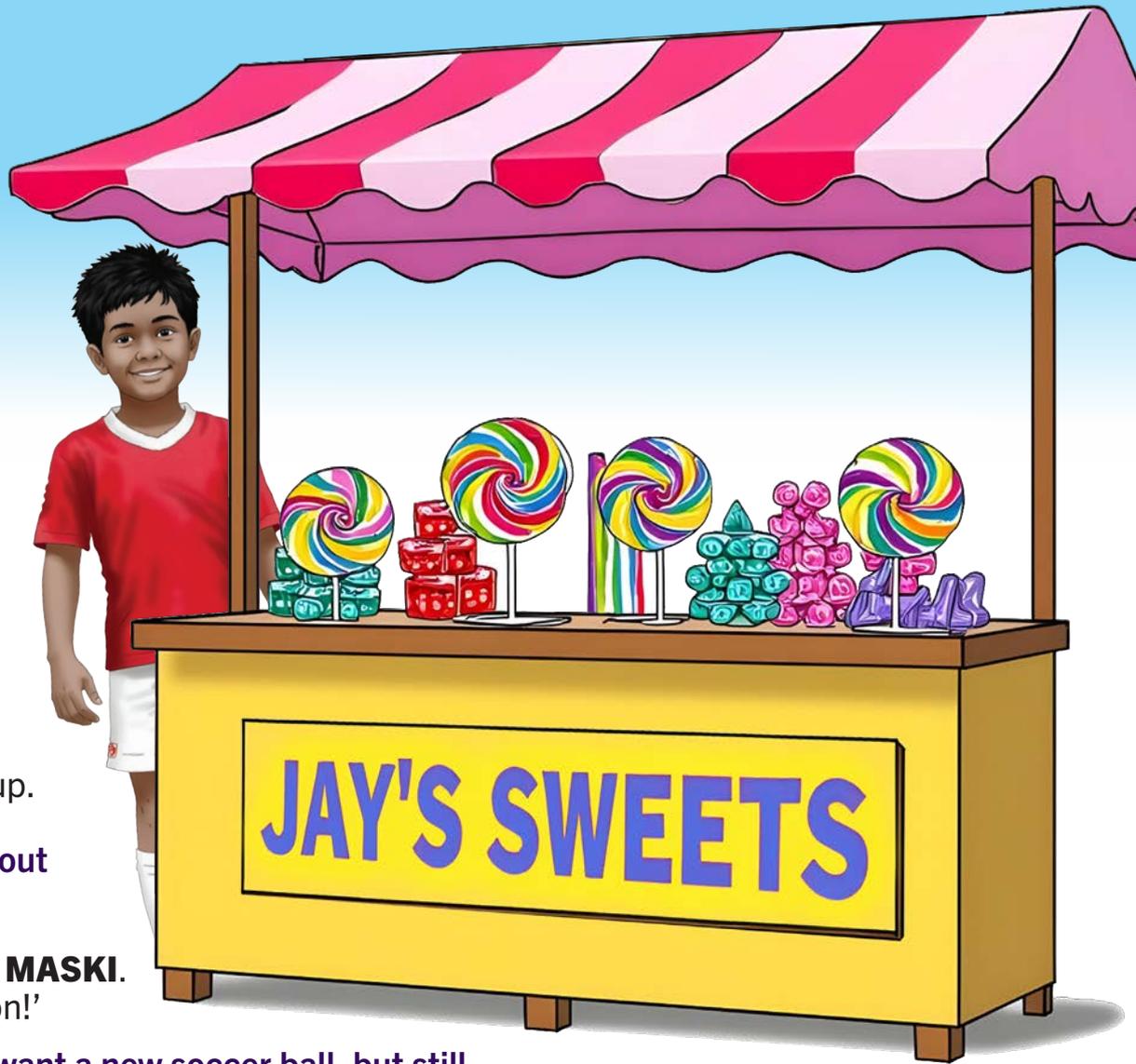
Once you gain more confidence, start reading out loud to your family.

This will help you get better. Remember, practice makes **PROGRESS!**

And the best part? Readers become **LEADERS!**’

Jess smiled. ‘Thanks, **MASKI!** I’ll start today.’





Then, a boy named Jay spoke up. 'I have a problem too, but it's not about schoolwork.'

'No problem!' said **MASKI**. 'We'll find a solution!'

Jay said, 'I really want a new soccer ball, but still need half of the money. A new soccer ball costs R130. I only have R65.'

'That's still a big shortfall.' said **MASKI**.

Jay asked, 'What can I do? I only get R10 pocket money per month and really need a new ball so I can practice before the trials start for the school soccer team.'



MASKI'S face brightened up followed by a big smile.

'I have an idea,' said **MASKI**.

'You can use your savings and buy some sweets. Then you can resell these sweets at school for a profit*. You can use the profit to buy a new soccer ball.

This is similar to what you learn during Market Day at school.' said **MASKI**.

'Wow, **MASKI**, that's a great idea!' said Jay. 'Thanks!'

**profit: the amount of money you make after all your expenses.*



Then, a girl named Nelly said, 'I have a problem too. Nobody wants to sit next to me at break because my lunchbox smells! They call me 'Smelly Nelly.'

My mom makes me my favourite egg-mayo sandwiches every day, but when I open my lunchbox, everyone says, 'EWW!' and moves away."

'I love egg-mayo sandwiches too,' said **MASKI**, 'but they can be a little smelly.'

'Maybe you could ask your mom to pack peanut butter or tomato and cheese sandwiches for school and you can have the egg-mayo ones after school.'

Nelly smiled. 'That sounds like a good idea, **MASKI**. Thanks!'

Then, George spoke up. 'I have a problem too. My desk wobbles, and every time I try to write, it shakes!'

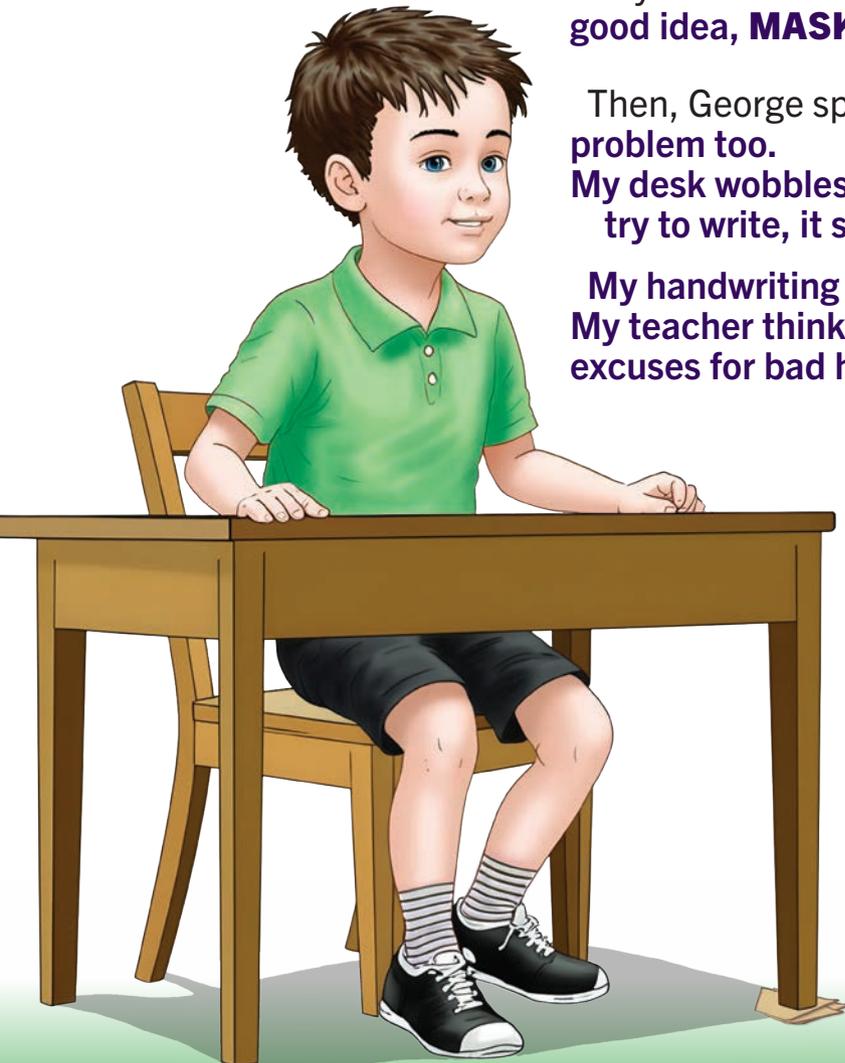
My handwriting looks very messy. My teacher thinks I'm just making excuses for bad handwriting.'

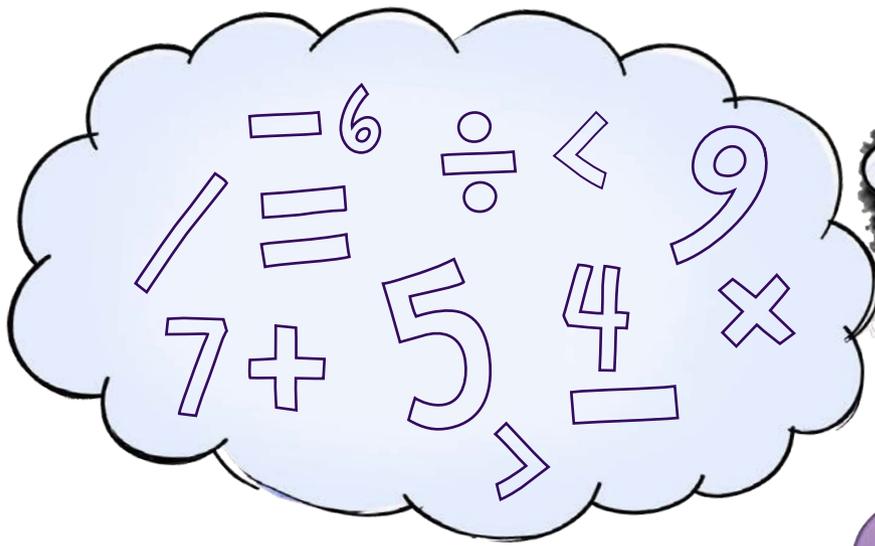


MASKI laughed.

'That's easy to fix! Find a piece of cardboard and fold it a few times. Put it under the shortest leg of your desk to stop it from wobbling. Your handwriting will be much better!'

George smiled. 'Great idea, **MASKI**. Thanks!'





Finally, a shy boy in the back spoke up.

‘My name is Itumeleng. I have a big problem. I’m really good at Maths but everyone just thinks I’m a ‘know-it-all’.

The teacher always calls on me to answer maths problems, and I can solve them really quickly. But my classmates call me a ‘Maths Nerd’ and say I think I’m a ‘Big Deal.’

It’s not true! I’m just good with numbers, but I’m not good at writing essays.

I always make mistakes with words. How can I stop them from calling me names?’

‘Wow!’ said **MASKI**.

‘You have a real gift for Maths! I think your classmates might be a little jealous.

You could offer to help them with their maths problems.

When they see that you’re willing to help, they will stop calling you names.

Real friends don’t call each other names.’



Suddenly the whole group was smiling.

The Lab didn't just look brighter because of the lights — it felt brighter because everyone felt better.

MASKI was not just a study buddy, but a real friend.

He knew that no problem is too big to solve, and if you share your problems with others, there's always someone to help you find a solution.

