

JOIN
MASKI FOR
ANOTHER
EXCITING
ADVENTURE

STORY 13

THE SPILL IN THE LOGIC LAB

Mick was excited because today was Tuesday, the day he visited his study buddy **MASKI** at the Logic Lab.

Ten-year-old Mick loved science and maths more than anything ... maybe even more than pizza!

He was always first to arrive, and the last to leave, and he always had lots of curious questions

As usual, the lab was busy. It was full of whirring machines, the computers were switched on showing new puzzles and challenges, and the shelves were stacked with mysterious gadgets.

Above one of the banks of computers, a new sign had been placed.

NO LIQUIDS ALLOWED
PLEASE LEAVE ALL WATER BOTTLES
OUTSIDE THE LAB



Oh dear!

This might be a problem, thought Mick.

Mick hated being thirsty and always carried a bottle of water with him wherever he went. 'Just in case,' he always told himself.

Right now there was a bottle of water in his backpack.



MASKI greeted Mick and the other children and proudly showed them the brand-new computer hooked up to a special microscope.

WOW!

It was amazing.

As usual, **MASKI** set them all challenges and left them to work alone.



Mick was fascinated by the new computer and leaned in close, intrigued by the microscope and the big glowing screen.

His bottle of water sat quietly in his bag ...
... but then suddenly it didn't.

As Mick reached for a notebook, his elbow bumped the backpack.

The bottle tumbled out, hit the desk, and ...

SPLOOSH! ...

... water splashed all over the keyboard.

Everyone gasped.

They had all seen the new sign!

Mick froze. His heart pounded like a drum.



'I didn't see anything,' said the girl who was working opposite Mick.

'Did you see what happened Mick?'

Say something, his brain whispered.

But his mouth stayed shut.

Out of the corner of his eye he could see his water bottle under the computer desk.





MASKI came in.

‘Accidents happen, but the new rule is there to protect our equipment,’ said **MASKI**.

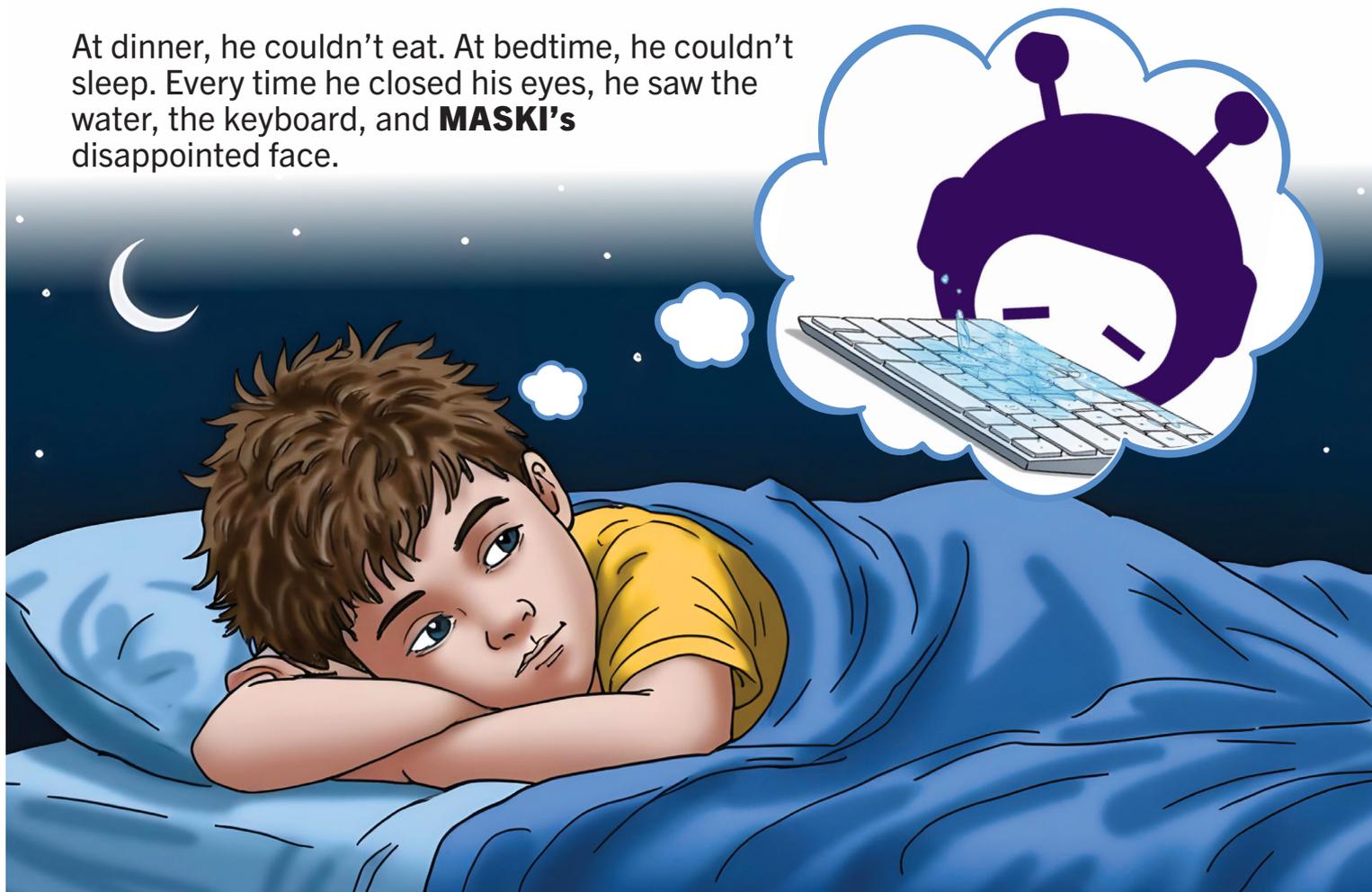
‘Liquids damage electronic equipment. So, someone needs to come forward and own up.’

Still, Mick said nothing.

The lab session ended early, and the keyboard and computer were taken away for repairs.

Mick felt terrible. He felt like a balloon, full of guilt, ready to pop.

At dinner, he couldn't eat. At bedtime, he couldn't sleep. Every time he closed his eyes, he saw the water, the keyboard, and **MASKI's** disappointed face.



The next morning before school, Mick stood outside the Logic Lab holding his backpack. His legs felt like jelly. But he took a deep breath, walked inside, and said, '**MASKI, I need to tell you something. I brought water into the lab. I spilled it. I'm really sorry.**'

MASKI looked at Mick for a moment, then nodded slowly.

'Thank you for telling the truth Mick. That takes courage. I'm proud of you for owning up.

However, there will still be consequences. For the next two weeks you'll help me clean the lab after school.'

Mick nodded with relief. The 'guilt balloon' had finally popped ... and it felt a lot better than he had expected.

From then on, Mick never took liquids anywhere near a keyboard or computer again. And he learned a very important lesson.

MAKING A MISTAKE IS NEVER AS BAD AS TRYING TO HIDE ONE.

