

THE NEW
GIRL

Alexander Bopp was an expert at two things: fighting monsters and passing SUPER-SECRET notes in class. And today, he was passing a note *about* monster-fighting.





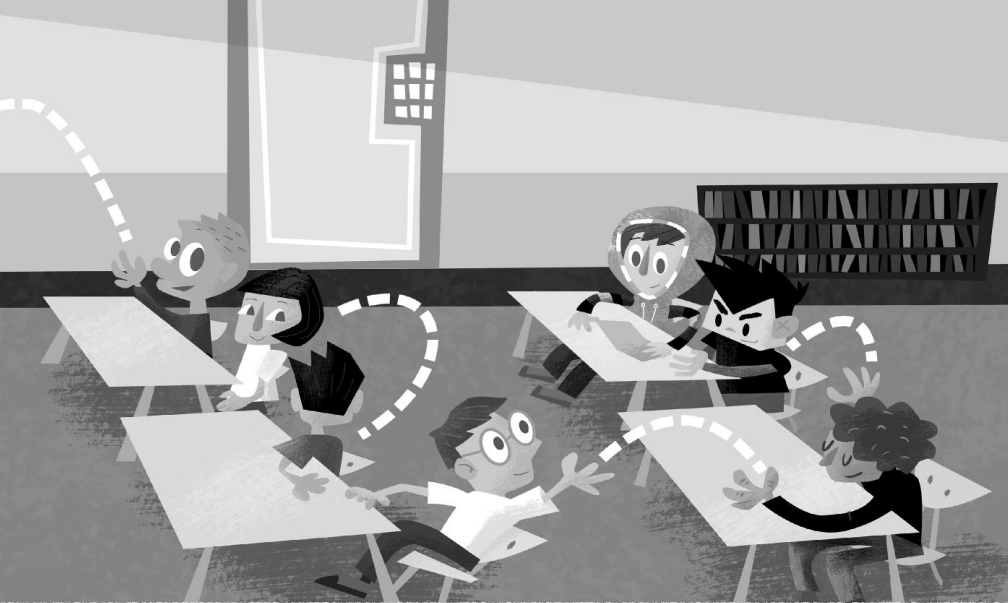
Alexander glanced at his teacher, Dr. Tallow. She was writing on the board. He passed the note back to his two best friends, Rip and Nikki. They sat in the back row.

Dr. Tallow turned around just as the note reached Nikki.

Nikki sank into her hoodie.

“Nikki, dearie,” she said with an extra-wide smile. “Bring me the note, please.”

Yikes, thought Alexander. *I’m glad I wrote FRUITCAKE instead of MONSTERS.*



“It would be a shame for you to miss out on our surprise field trip tomorrow, Nikki,” Dr. Tallow continued. “Please bring me that note.”

“Yeah, Nikki!” said Rip, sitting up straight. “Be a good student, like me!”

Nikki shot Rip a look. Then she handed the note to Dr. Tallow.

“All right, class,” said Dr. Tallow, pocketing the note. “Now about that surprise! Tomorrow, we’ll be taking a field trip to . . . an amusement park!”

The students cheered.

“Woohooohoo!” Rip howled. “An amusement park? On a school day?!”

KNOCK-KNOCK!



A serious-looking woman in a serious-looking suit was at the door. It was the school principal, Ms. Vanderpants.

“Dr. Tallow, I’m here with your new student,” she said. “She’ll start school tomorrow.”

A shy-looking girl stepped into the room.



Alexander looked back at Rip and Nikki, who were grinning. They had all met Dottie at summer camp.



“Welcome to Stermont Elementary, Dottie,” said Dr. Tallow. “We’re glad to have you.”

Alexander remembered his very first day at school. His teacher had called him “Salamander,” which had become his nickname.

“Hi, Dottie!” said Alexander.

Dottie gave Alexander a little wave.

BRRINNGG!!

“Okay, dearies,” said Dr. Tallow. “Give me your permission slips on the way out.”

Alexander handed in his slip.

ALEXANDER BOPP Student's name has my permission to

go on the field trip.

Helmet size: MEDIUM (EXTRA-MEDIUM, IF YOU HAVE IT!)

Allergies: NONE!

Notes:

AL LOVES TO READ AND HAS A HUGE
IMAGINATION. DID YOU KNOW HE WAS
BORN ON LEAP DAY? HOW COOL!

DR. BOPP (AL'S DAD!)

Parent or guardian's name