

Early★Reader

Teacher's Pet

Tom takes his hamster, Gizmo, to school for Show and Tell. But his teacher, Mr Hanson, is allergic to hamsters! When Mr Hanson sneezes, the strangest thing happens...

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By Katie Dale

Illustrated by
Elif Balta Parks



'Teacher's Pet'

An original concept by Katie Dale

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Chapter 1

“Come on, Gizmo!” said Tom,
picking up Gizmo’s cage.

“Today you’re coming to
school for Show and Tell!
Are you excited?”

Gizmo didn’t reply. After
all, Gizmo was a hamster.

Plus, Gizmo was asleep.

Hamsters always slept during the day.



But he was still very cute and fluffy and Tom
couldn’t wait to show him to everyone.

At school, everyone was showing the things
they’d brought in. Anya had brought a huge
ostrich egg and Krish was holding a knight’s
helmet. But as Tom walked in, everyone hurried
over to peer into Gizmo’s cage.

“Awesome!” Krish grinned.

“He’s so cute!” Anya cooed.

Tom smiled. He knew everyone would love
Gizmo.

Well, nearly everyone.

“What is that?” Mr Hanson said, walking into the classroom and pointing at the cage.

“This is Gizmo,” Tom said. “I brought him for Show and Tell.”

“Wait, is that a-a hamster?!” Mr Hanson’s eyes widened and his nose twitched. “But I’m allergic to ha-a-atchoo!” He sneezed and sat down quickly. “Atchoo! ATCHOO! ATCHOOOO!”

“Oh no! Mr Hanson must be allergic to hamsters,” said Krish. “My mum’s allergic to dogs. They make her sneeze too.”

“My uncle’s allergic to bee stings,” added Anya. “He has to go to hospital if he gets stung.”

“Oh no!” said Tom. “Should we fetch the nurse?”

But before anyone could do anything, the strangest thing happened...



Mr Hanson stopped sneezing... and started snoring! He curled up on his chair, his eyes tightly closed.

“Mr Hanson?” Anya said quietly. “Are you asleep?”

“No I am not!” came a voice. But it wasn’t Mr Hanson who spoke... it was Gizmo!

“Let me out of this cage!” Gizmo demanded. Everyone stared at the hamster.

“Gizmo?” Tom said slowly. “Did you just... talk?”

“I am not Gizmo!” the hamster squeaked. “I am your teacher, Mr Hanson!”



Chapter 2

“Oh my gosh! Mr Hanson must have swapped bodies with Gizmo!” Tom gasped. “That’s why he’s asleep! Hamsters are nocturnal!”

“But that’s impossible!” argued Anya.

“So is a talking hamster!” said Krish.

