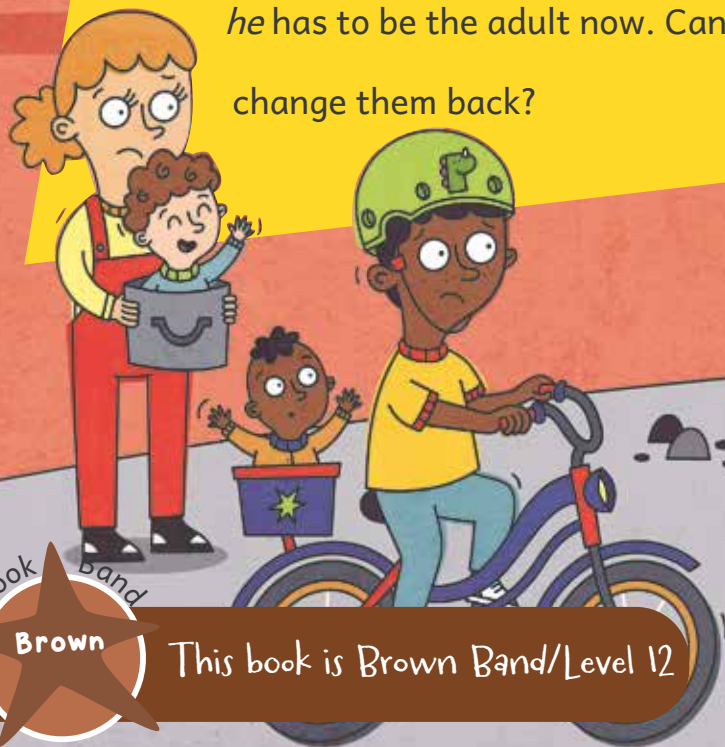




The Baby Boom

Will is tired of his parents bossing him around—surely they were kids once? But bossy parents are the least of his worries when a new anti-aging cream turns all the mums and dads in town into babies! Will thinks it's great until he realises that he has to be the adult now. Can he find a way to change them back?



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This book is Brown Band/Level 12

The Baby Boom

Jenny Moore

Maverick

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Written by
Jenny Moore

Illustrated by
Gareth Williams



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'The Baby Boom'

An original concept by Jenny Moore

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Illustrated by Gareth Williams

Published by MAVERICK ARTS PUBLISHING LTD

Studio 11, City Business Centre, 6 Brighton Road,

Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 5BB

© Maverick Arts Publishing Limited November 2021

+44 (0)1403 256941

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available at the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-84886-841-0

Maverick
publishing
www.maverickbooks.co.uk

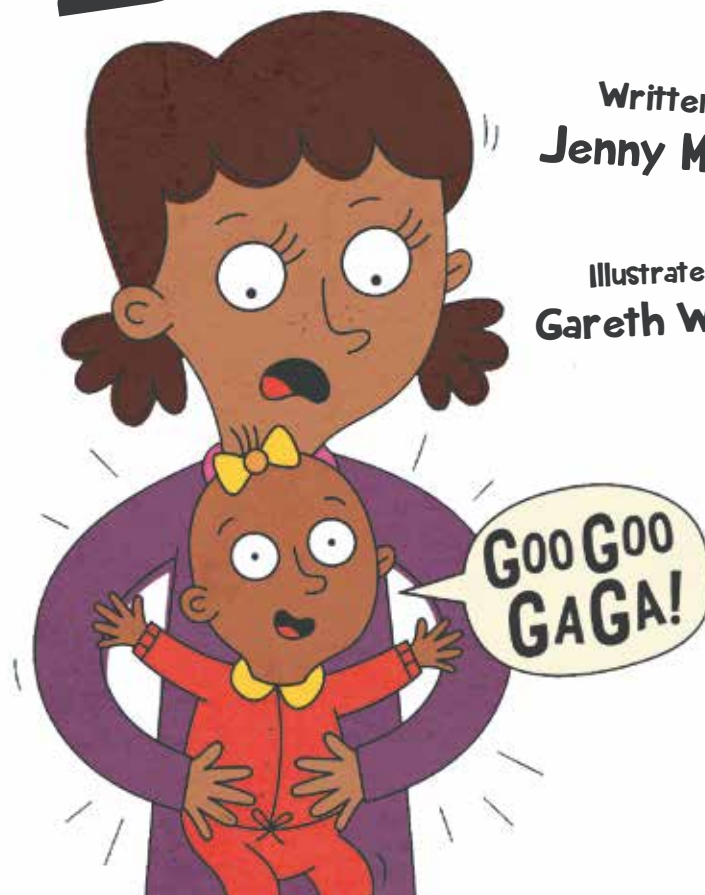


This book is rated as: Brown Band (Guided Reading)

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Chapter 1

It was Saturday. At last! After a busy week at school, Will was looking forward to a whole weekend of fun. Today he was going skateboarding with his next-door neighbour, Suzy. Then tomorrow he was off fishing with Dad. He couldn't wait!

A dusty face emerged from the loft hatch as Will headed for the stairs. It was Mum. She was sorting out his old baby things to sell at the car boot sale the next day.

"Where are you going?" Mum asked, pulling a stray cobweb out of her hair.

"Skateboarding," said Will. "With Suzy."



Mum shook her head. “Oh no you’re not. You’re not going anywhere until you’ve sorted out your old toys for the car boot sale. I’ve asked you three times already.”

Will sighed. He didn’t want to be crawling round under his bed looking for old toy cars. He wanted to be outside doing slides and kickflips with Suzy.

“And what about your spellings for Monday?” asked Mum. “Have you finished learning them yet?”

Will sighed again. He hated spelling tests. Why did parents always spoil everyone’s fun?

“Come on, love,” said Mum. “I’m sure Suzy won’t mind waiting. It shouldn’t take you long, and then you’ll have the whole weekend to enjoy yourself...” She stopped to listen. “Was that the letterbox? Can you go and check? I don’t like going up and down this

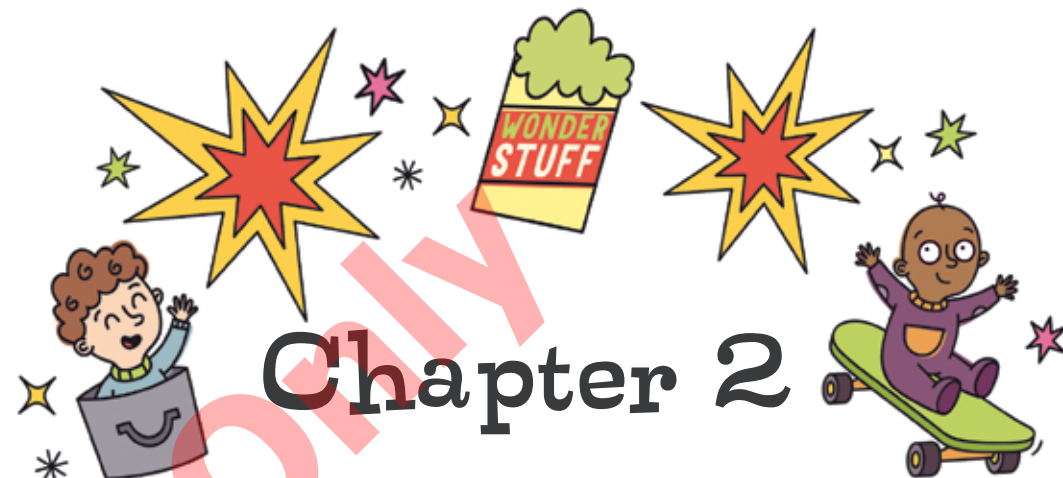
ladder all the time. It might be that book I ordered for Dad’s birthday and I don’t want him to see it.”

Will trudged downstairs to have a look. But it wasn’t a book, it was a free sample of something called Wonder Stuff.



“It looks like some kind of face cream,” Will told Mum, holding it up to the hatch to show her. “There’s a leaflet with it too, from someone called Madge Ick. *Would you like to look years younger?*” he read. “*Would you like smooth baby-soft skin? Then try new Wonder Stuff and prepare to be amazed.* And there’s a money-off voucher for a full jar from her new shop in town.”

“Oh,” said Mum. She sounded disappointed. “Pop it in the bathroom and I’ll have a look later. Thanks Will.”



Sorting out his old toys took Will much longer than he thought. He kept getting distracted by the old *Witch and Warlock* comics he found under his bed. It was almost 12 o’clock by the time he finished. Suzy would be wondering what had happened to him!

Mum had finished in the attic too. She was on the phone now, talking to her friend about the new Wonder Stuff cream.

“I just tried some,” said Mum. “It’s amazing! All the little lines round my eyes have vanished!