

Nowhere Lane

No one can solve the mystery of Nowhere Lane. No matter how far anyone walks down it, the road just loops back to its beginning. When Dexter accidentally takes a map of the lane belonging to grumpy Mr Crabtree, his whole world turns upside down. Does Nowhere Lane lead *somewhere* after all?



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This book is Grey Band/Level 13

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Written by
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'Nowhere Lane'

An original concept by Kate Poels

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Chapter 1

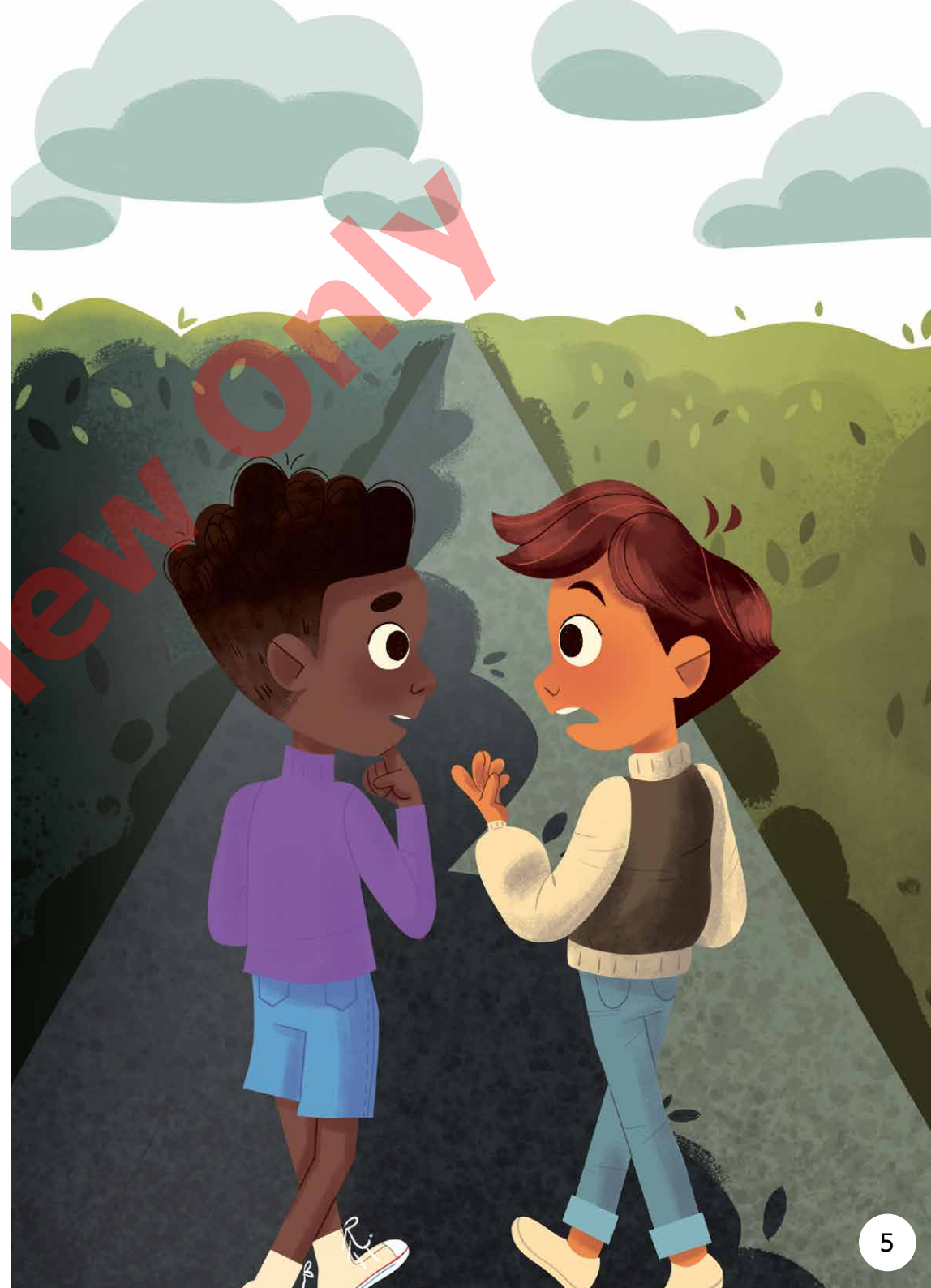
On the edge of the village where Dexter lived, there was a very unusual lane. It was called Nowhere Lane, because that was where it appeared to lead. Absolutely nowhere.

“Do you think it’s actually enchanted?” Dexter’s friend, Sam, asked.

They were walking along the lane with its tall hedges in straight rows.

“No,” Dexter replied. “It can’t be. Can it?”

“I don’t know,” said Sam. “If we keep going in a straight line then we *should* end up somewhere else, but on Nowhere Lane we can walk and walk and walk and we always end up back where we started.”



Dexter nodded. “Maybe it *is* enchanted,” he said.

Nowhere Lane was a real mystery to everyone in the village. Lots of very clever people came to investigate the straight road that somehow looped back. They brought expensive equipment that beeped and flashed but none of it helped. Nobody had a good explanation.

Dexter and Sam had been walking in the straightest of lines for almost an hour when, sure enough, they spotted the odd little house on the corner. The very same house they’d walked past on their way into the lane. It had a thatched roof, and the walls, windows, doors and the chimney were all wonky.

Sprat, Dexter’s cat, was sitting on the thick bushes outside of the crooked house.

“Don’t sit there,” Sam said. “Mr Crabtree will come out and turn you into a lizard!”

Dexter’s mum **had** told him not to listen to the other kids when they **talked** about the old man who lived in the house on the corner of Nowhere Lane. But Dexter knew there was something odd about Mr Crabtree. He didn’t come out of his house very often. When he did, he was always scowling and finding things to get cross about.



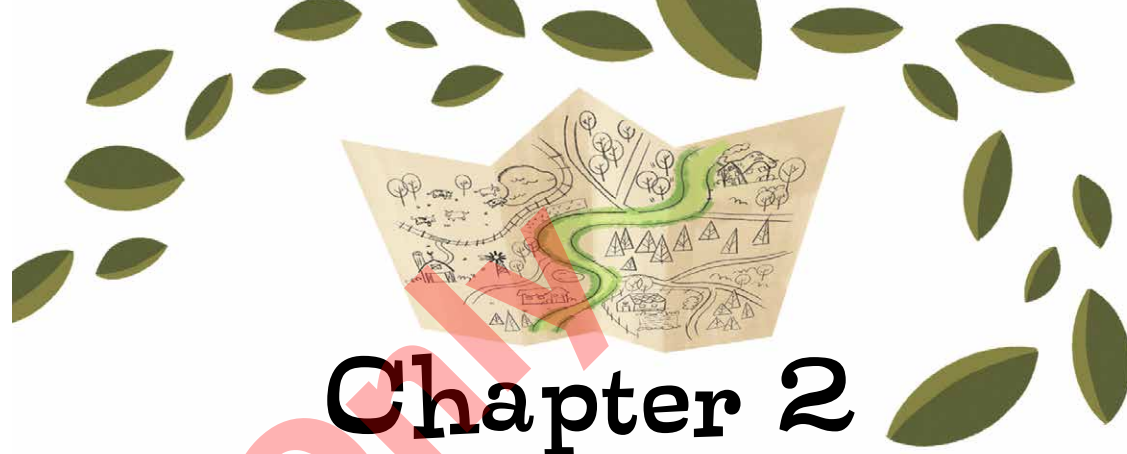
“Do you really think he could turn Sprat into a lizard?” Dexter asked. “He does look a bit like a wizard.”

Dexter was thinking about Mr Crabtree’s long grey hair and straggly beard.

“I don’t know,” said Sam. “But I wouldn’t chance it.”

Sam had to go home then. It was time for his tea. He waved goodbye and turned left.

Dexter was about to turn right, back to his own house, when a little grey mouse ran out of Nowhere Lane and into Mr Crabtree’s garden. Sprat leapt off the wall and sprinted after the mouse, which ran up the side of the house and through an open window. Sprat gave chase, jumping onto the windowsill and squeezing through the little gap. The window crashed shut behind him.



Chapter 2

Dexter tried calling for Sprat but there was no sign of him at all. He kept thinking about wizards and lizards and he started to panic.

“Don’t be silly,” he said to himself.

Dexter had no choice but to walk up the wonky little path, through the overgrown garden and up to the front door of the house on the corner of Nowhere Lane.

He took a deep breath and knocked on the door. To his surprise, it swung open.

“Hello,” Dexter called out. “Mr Crabtree?”

Nobody answered so he called again. He also called for Sprat and hoped that his faithful cat would appear so