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Sarah Gudgeon

THE YELLOW STICKER GIRL



Book brief

- 1** Meghan is just an ordinary teenager from the north of England but one day, her parents give her some bad news.
- 2** Meghan and her family have got big problems and they need help.
- 3** Meghan has got other problems too but she can't tell anyone.
- 4** Then, Meghan makes an unexpected friend and things start to change for the better.
- 5** Main themes include family, friendship, food waste, poverty and online bullying.

Sarah Gudgeon

The Yellow Sticker Girl

Illustrated by
Luca Tagliafico

For Review Only

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Meghan



Dad



Mr
Turner



Kyla



Leah



Mum

Before you read

Reading · A2 Key

- 1 Complete the text about the book with the correct answer (A, B or C).**

Meghan lives with her mum, dad and younger sister Leah in the north of England. They are a happy family but one day Meghan's dad (1) _____ some bad news. Life becomes more difficult and they don't have (2) _____ money for food and bills. Meghan and her parents do everything they (3) _____ to survive the crisis and to protect Leah from the reality of their situation. Meghan doesn't (4) _____ her parents but she's got another problem too: Kyla. (5) _____ is she so mean to Meghan and why do the other kids listen to her? Meghan hates going (6) _____ school.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | A up | B the | C east |
| 1 | A receives | B listens | C finds |
| 2 | A too | B many | C enough |
| 3 | A can | B might | C need |
| 4 | A say | B tell | C speak |
| 5 | A What | B When | C Why |
| 6 | A at | B to | C for |

Speaking

21st
Century
Skills

- 2 At the start of the story Meghan is hungry and wants a snack. Discuss these questions about food and eating habits with a partner.**

- How many meals a day do you have?
- What do you usually have for breakfast / lunch / dinner?
- What's your favourite food?
- How important is it for people to eat healthily?
- Is junk food more or less expensive than fresh food in your country?
- Who does most of the cooking in your house?



Listening · A2 Key

- ▶ 2 3 Listen to the start of chapter 1 and write one word in each gap.

Meghan and her family always had fish and chips on Friday nights.

- 1 They had _____ on Saturday nights.
- 2 Meghan's favourite _____ were vanilla yoghurt, strawberries and chocolate biscuits.
- 3 Meghan opened the fridge one day in _____ and it was empty.
- 4 Meghan wanted some _____.
- 5 Meghan's mum and _____ came into the kitchen.
- 6 Meghan's parents need to talk to her about _____.

Writing

21st
Century
Skills

- 4 Answer these questions.

- 1 What do you usually do on Friday and Saturday nights?
- 2 Do you usually eat the same food? Why? / Why not?
- 3 Do you prefer eating at home or in a restaurant? Why? / Why not?
- 4 Do you prefer to eat with friends or family?
- 5 Do you prefer sweet or savoury snacks?
- 6 What are your favourite snacks?

That Nickname

▶ 2 I never really thought about food until last spring. My mum always made nice things like spag bol¹ or sausage and beans for our tea². On Friday nights we always had fish and chips, Saturdays were for pizza and on Sundays we had a big roast dinner. When I was hungry in the afternoons, I just went to the kitchen and got something from the fridge. Mum always bought my favourite snacks like vanilla yoghurt, strawberries and chocolate biscuits. But one day after school, in March, I opened the fridge and ... it was empty.

‘Mum,’ I shouted up the stairs. ‘There’s no food in the fridge and I’m starving³!’ Of course, I wasn’t really starving, we had school meals at lunchtime, but I did want some chocolate.

Anyway, mum came down the stairs and into the kitchen, followed by dad. *Now that was weird. Why wasn’t dad at work?*

‘Meghan, me and dad need to talk to you about something,’ mum said. *Uh oh, this was serious.*

Meghan is very hungry but there is no food in the fridge. Mum and dad want to talk to her. Meghan is very worried.

1 **spag bol** spaghetti with bolognese sauce

2 **tea** the name for ‘dinner’ in the north of England

3 **starving** very hungry

The Yellow Sticker Girl

Mum only ever called me Meghan when I was in trouble¹.

‘It’s OK, Meggie. Don’t look so worried,’ Dad added. ■

3 Ok, so maybe no-one was dead and they weren’t getting divorced. Phew!

Maybe it was about that maths test I did last week then. My teacher, Mrs Bright, said she was a bit disappointed² with my result... No, wait a minute, maybe our neighbour Mr Cullen was angry because I went over his flowers on my bike ... but that was just an accident.

‘Meggie? Are you listening to me? I said we’re just having a bit of money trouble, that’s all,’ dad tried to reassure me.

‘What kind of money trouble?’ I asked. ‘Mum’s working full-time and you have some hours at the biscuit factory.’

‘I know, Meggie, but since I lost my job things have been hard,’ dad explained.

‘And today the factory bosses told dad they don’t have any work for him,’ mum continued.

OMG! We’re going to be poor!

‘Does this mean that we’re going to lose our

Meghan doesn’t know what her parents want to talk to her about. They tell her that they haven’t got a lot of money. Meghan’s dad has lost his job.

1 **was in trouble** did something wrong

2 **disappointed** sad

The family must spend their money carefully.

house and have no money for food or clothes?’ I asked, suddenly feeling very scared.

‘Of course not,’ mum and dad replied in unison but they didn’t look very convinced¹.

‘It just means that we’ll have to be more careful with our money,’ mum said.

Hmmm ... that didn’t sound too bad but I was about to discover that it was in fact very bad.

I left mum and dad drinking a cup of tea around the kitchen table - tea is the solution to everything in our house - and went to the garden. Leah was sitting on the grass talking to her teddies. Leah is my little sister. She’s totally cute and everyone loves her. Leah was organising a tea party with her bear friends - I told you tea is a big thing for us - and invited me to join them.

‘Meg, come and have some tea and cake,’ she said.

‘Thank you very much, Miss Leah,’ I replied as I tried to find a space between all the other guests.

Leah served the imaginary tea and cake but after about an hour of this game, we were both a bit peckish².

‘I’ll go and get us a real snack now, Leah,’

Meghan goes to play in the garden with her little sister, Leah. They are hungry and want a snack.



Mum, dad and Meghan talk about their money problems.

1 **convinced** sure

2 **peckish** a little hungry



I offered. Maybe mum would give me some money for ice cream. *We had enough money for ice cream, right?*

‘Mum! Can I have some money for an ice cream for me and Leah, please?’ I shouted as I walked into the kitchen.

Mum and dad were still sitting at the table and their sad faces answered my question.

‘Sorry, love,’ dad offered, ‘we’ll go to the supermarket later and get something after 6p.m.’

After 6p.m.? Totally weird! We normally had our tea at 6p.m.

‘Can we go now, dad?’ I asked but dad just shook his head and told me to go out and play with Leah again. Oh no, Leah. She’s waiting for her ice cream. *I need an idea ... Got it!*

‘Hey, Leah,’ I shouted. ‘I’ve got an amazing¹ magic ice-cream sundae for you.’

‘Where is it?’ she asked, really excited.

‘It’s magic, remember. You can’t see it but you can taste it,’ I told her. ‘Mine is raspberry, strawberry and vanilla. Delicious²! What does yours taste like?’

Leah stuck out her tongue and closed her eyes in concentration.

1 **amazing** brilliant

2 **delicious** very nice

There isn’t any money for an ice cream. They have to go to the supermarket after 6:00 p.m.

Meghan and her sister Leah have an imaginary snack.

The Yellow Sticker Girl

‘Hmm ... mine tastes like chocolate bubbles, apple pie and blueberry muffins,’ Leah squealed¹ with delight.

‘Wow! That sounds SO good, Leah,’ I replied as we both laughed and ate our pretend sundaes.

We were just about to have magic milkshakes when dad called me.

‘Come on Meggie, let’s go and do the shopping. We can take the 17:40 bus and be there just in time.’

Just in time? Just in time for what, I wondered. I didn’t have to wait long to find out.

Dad and I arrived at the supermarket at 18:02. He didn’t stop at the newspaper stand on the way in or take a look at the cakes and doughnuts. Now, that was strange; this was a man who never walked past baked goods without an appreciative sniff². He just grabbed³ a shopping trolley and ran into the store. He went straight to the chiller cabinets in aisle⁴ 17. Actually, he went to one specific shelf. There were all different kinds of food on this shelf from chicken to hummus to quiche but they all had the same yellow sticker. There was a man putting the stickers on while dad looked.

Meghan and her dad take the bus to the supermarket.

Meghan’s dad goes straight to the shelf where there is food with a yellow sticker on it. This food costs less after 6p.m.

1 **squealed** made a loud sound of excitement

2 **sniff** smell

3 **grabbed** quickly took

4 **aisle** a passage between supermarket shelves

‘Come over here, Meggie,’ he shouted. ‘Let’s choose something for tea tonight. They reduce the price of everything after 6p.m.’

Meghan’s dad is happy because he finds food for their tea.

Dad was happily putting food in our trolley when suddenly I heard someone laughing. I turned round and saw Kyla Jackson from my year at school. *Oh no! What does SHE want?* Kyla is the class bully and she can make your life a nightmare¹. She was with a couple of other girls and they were all laughing and pointing at me. *Great! What are they doing now?!* Kyla had her mobile phone and was taking pictures of me. *No! Photos! Why did she want photos of me at the supermarket with my dad?!* I was so embarrassed I just wanted to disappear.

Meghan is embarrassed because Kyla and some other girls see her and take photos.

‘Come on, dad. Let’s go,’ I whispered².

‘Ok, Meggie-Moo. Maybe we can get some ice cream too,’ he said and walked off to the frozen food aisle, past Kyla and her gang³.

I followed him, head down, and as I walked past, Kyla said in a sing-song voice ‘Bye, yellow sticker girl!’ *What?!* 

1 **nightmare** a bad dream

2 **whispered** spoke quietly

3 **gang** a group



Kyla takes a photo of Meghan at the supermarket.



Reading Comprehension

1 Read the questions about Chapter 1. Tick answer A or B.

What did Meghan do when she was hungry in the afternoons?

A She went to the fridge. **B** She went to the supermarket.

1 What happened one day in March?

A There were extra snacks in the fridge.

B There were no snacks in the fridge.

2 Why do Meghan and her family have to be careful with money?

A Because there is no work for her dad.

B Because her mum doesn't work.

3 What time do Meghan and her dad go to the supermarket?

A After 6:00 a.m.

B After 6:00 p.m.

4 How do they get to the supermarket?

A On foot.

B By bus.

5 What was on the food that Meghan's dad was looking at?

A Yellow stickers.

B Red dots.

6 Who is Kyla?

A The class representative.

B The class bully.

Grammar

2 Complete the sentences in the past simple. Use the verbs in brackets.

Meghan went (go) to the fridge but it was empty.

1 Her parents _____ (come) downstairs to talk to her.

2 Meghan _____ (play) with Leah in the garden.

3 Meghan and Leah _____ (be) hungry.

4 Meghan and her dad _____ (get) the bus to the supermarket.

5 Meghan's dad _____ (walk) directly to aisle 17.

6 Meghan _____ (see) Kyla and some other girls laughing and taking a photo of her.

- 3** Look again at the picture of Kyla and the other girls laughing at Meghan. They have posted her photo on social media. Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1 What do you take photos of on your phone or another device?
- 2 Do you use social media? Why/ Why not?
- 3 Do you post selfies? Why / Why not?
- 4 Do you share photos of your friends online? Why / Why not?
- 5 Is it OK to post photos of other people without their permission?
- 6 Do you ever feel embarrassed about your online photos?



Before-reading Activity

Listening

- 4** Listen to the start of Chapter 2 and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- Meghan's new nickname is The Yellow Sticker Girl.
- 1 Meghan thinks it is a beautiful nickname.
 - 2 Kyla posted Meghan's photo on social media.
 - 3 Some people wrote nice comments.
 - 4 No one laughed at Meghan at school.
 - 5 Kyla was Meghan's best friend at primary school.
 - 6 Meghan saw a sign in a bakery window.

T	F
☒	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐