

PAUL IAN CROSS

SUPER QUESTERS

MISSION: RIVER CREST RESCUE



**EXTRAS
INCLUDE
PUZZLES AND
EXPERIMENTS**

*'The perfect
mix of fact
and fantasy!'*
Stemettes

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ILLUSTRATED BY
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QuestFriendz 

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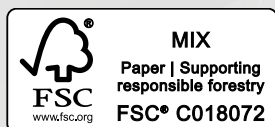
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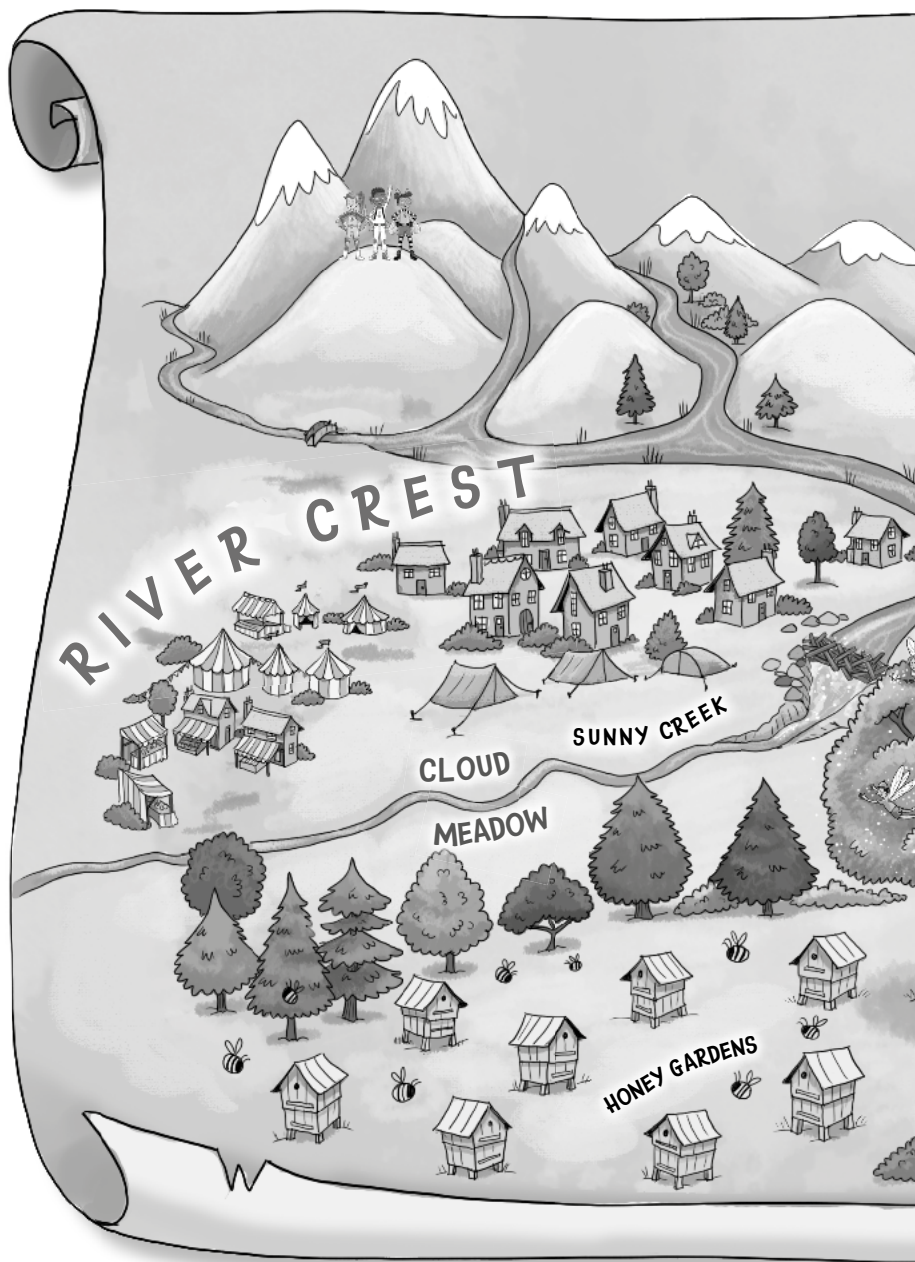
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CONTENTS

Chapter 1: The Science Shed.....	8
Chapter 2: A Magical Welcome.....	24
Chapter 3: Beaver Bother	37
Chapter 4: The Maze Mystery.....	51
Chapter 5: Dragonfly Disaster.....	62
Chapter 6: Operation Doom Sprout.....	76
Chapter 7: Magic Takes Root.....	91
Chapter 8: Mortifer Returns.....	106
Chapter 9: Superhero Skills	118
Glossary.....	123
Experiments	125



RIVER CREST

SUNNY CREEK

CLOUD
MEADOW

HONEY GARDENS



Questland



THE TALKING
TREES

SLEEPY BRIDGE



SHIMMERLEAF
OAK

PETAL DOOR



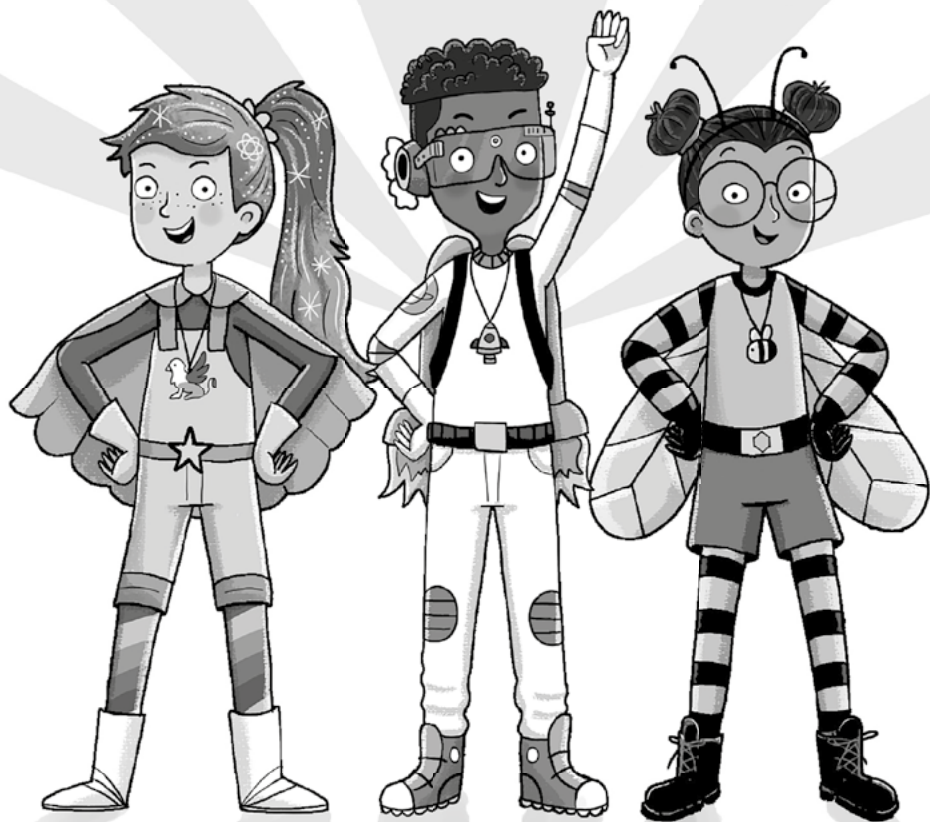
SHADOW SHED MAZE



WARNING



WELCOME TO
SUPERQUESTERS



Join us on our new adventure, *Mission: River Crest Rescue*. Strap yourself in for a problem-solving adventure that's full of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths). There are puzzles to solve and codes to crack. Plus, science experiments and a village to save. But we can't do it without you. Fire up your mind and help us. *Thank goodness! You're here just in time...*



LEO (LEO ZOOM): Leo is obsessed with facts and figures and anything to do with space. Ask him a random question and he'll probably know the answer! His clear thinking, creativity and patience make him excellent at coding and maths. All these skills also make him great at coming up with solutions.



LILLI (LILLICORN): Lilli is known best for three things – her ability to take charge, her love of solving problems and her sense of curiosity. She really loves the natural world, everything from larks to llamas! She was born to explore – which makes her the perfect person to go on an adventure with.



BEA (BEA BUMBLE): Bea's superpower is her brain! It always buzzes with new ideas, and this makes her a born inventor. If you need something built, come to Bea. Her creative thinking makes her the perfect coding partner for Leo. Most of all, she's a loyal friend... which helps in sticky situations.



Chapter 1

The Science Shed

Picker's Patch hummed with life. A woman in a sunhat carefully planted seedlings. Beside her, a tall man pruned bushes with a set of shears. Bumblebees buzzed through the air, furry bodies bobbing. Dragonflies fluttered between lily pads on the pond, wings catching the sunlight like stained glass.

Outside the gate, Lilli and Leo met with a fist bump.

‘Hey, Spaceman,’ Lilli said, adjusting her ponytail so it rested on her shoulder. ‘Why did you want to meet here?’

‘Hey, Lil. Mum has a cold.’ Leo nodded at the gate. ‘How about we do her gardening tasks for the day?’

Lilli’s face lit up. ‘Yes! Bea can help too.’ She paused. ‘Hold on – where is Bea?’

Immediately, a breathless voice called out, ‘Wait for me!’

They turned to see their friend jogging towards them, cheeks flushed.

‘Hey!’ Lilli cried. ‘We wondered where you were!’

Bea placed her hands on her knees to catch her breath. ‘Sorry...alarm...didn’t...go off.’ She straightened up. ‘What’s the plan?’

Leo updated Bea on the gardening mission.



‘Count me in!’ said Bea. ‘I’ve been itching to get my hands dirty.’

The three friends passed through the gate, laughing together.

The woman in the sunhat looked up and waved. ‘Hello, Leo! Where’s your mum today?’

‘In bed with a cold,’ he said. ‘We’ve come to help.’

She nodded. ‘Well, let me know if you need anything.’ This is what Leo loved about Picker’s Patch. Everyone was always so kind and friendly.

‘Oh, look!’ said Lilli, pointing to a burst of colour along the path. Petals unfurled in shades of crimson and orange.

Bea crouched down, examining a row of small green pods. ‘The beans are coming along nicely,’ she said. ‘They’ll be ready

for picking soon.'

The buzz of bees grew louder as they arrived at the hives – a cluster of white boxes on stands. Honeybees darted in and out like tiny, furry arrows.

'One, two, three, four...' Bea shook her head. 'Too many to count!'

'Did you know that bees fly faster than a chicken can run?' Leo said.

Lilli rolled her eyes. 'Random!'

Leo laughed. 'I learned it in a list of animals' speeds.' Leo was obsessed with facts and figures and anything to do with science.

They followed the path – left! right! – until they arrived at their allotment to find a sea of green vegetables, with splashes of colours from drooping daisies and sprawling sweet peas.

‘Woah,’ said Bea. ‘Looks like we have our work cut out.’

‘Mum always says that nature waits for no one,’ Leo said, glancing around. ‘Time to get going!’

Lilli tipped back her head to take in the towering sunflowers. Their golden petals glowed in the morning light. She pointed at the sunflower heads. ‘How do they do that...I mean, how do they follow the sun?’

Leo’s face lit up. ‘Sunflowers turn their heads by growing more on the east side of the stem during the day, tilting the flower west as the sun moves across the sky. At night, the west side of the stem grows a little more, tilting the flower back east by sunrise.’

‘Following the sun’s path,’ Lilli said.

‘It’s called heliotropism,’ Bea added. ‘By following the sun, they warm up faster,

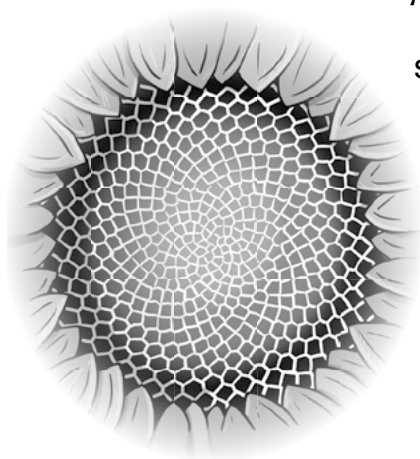
to attract more pollinators. And more pollination means...'

'More sunflowers!' Lilli cried.

Leo stretched onto his tiptoes and carefully gripped the head of a sunflower. 'Check this out,' he said. 'See how the seeds are arranged inside?'

The three friends leaned in close to look at the intricate spiral pattern.

'Beautiful,' said Lilli. 'They're overlapping. Like a jigsaw puzzle.'



'It's called the Fibonacci sequence,' Leo explained. 'A special mathematical pattern. It allows the sunflower to pack in as many seeds as possible.'

‘Time to water the plants.’ Lilli took a watering can, then frowned as trickles of water leaked out of the sides. ‘Oh dear,’ she groaned. ‘It’s broken.’

‘We need to get another one,’ Leo said. He glanced at his mum’s shed and then hesitated. ‘Maybe from...?’ He pointed.

Lilli and Bea followed the line of his finger towards the wooden shed. It leaned wonkily to one side.

Leo’s mum called it the Science Shed. It was where she experimented with new seedlings and kept all her gardening equipment – such as watering cans.

Leo absolutely, under no circumstances, was allowed to enter.

Never.

Not at all.

Ever.

But Leo's mum wasn't here today, and they only needed one watering can. Leo, Lilli and Bea nodded in agreement.

They went over and eased open the door, releasing a puff of musty air. Cobwebs shimmered in the sunlight that streamed through the grimy windows.

'Did you know,' Leo began, 'that a spider's web is five times stronger than steel? And spiders weave their webs in—'

'Orbs!' Lilli said. 'Threads that act as a scaffold. And then others in a spiral. It's called structural engineering, Leo!'

As their eyes adjusted to the dim light, they spotted tools hanging on hooks at the far wall, a lawn mower parked in front of them.

Bea gasped, moving towards a shelf of jars. 'Look at these!' Tiny green shoots poked through soil. Beside the jars there was a worn



notebook. She flicked through the pages.

‘It’s an experiment about light and plant growth,’ she cried. ‘This is like a science lab!’

Leo wandered to the bench. ‘Check this out!’ he called.

A tiny forest of delicate cress sprouts grew from a tray lined with damp paper. Beside it, celery stalks stood in glasses filled with water dyed different colours – red, blue, green. ‘Mum’s studying water absorption! She always has a science scrapbook. We should conduct our own experiments!’ said Leo.

Lilli had already found something else to fascinate her. ‘Hey, what’s this?’ she said, pointing to a contraption with a nozzle attached to a can.

‘Some type of watering device?’ said Leo.

‘Just what we need,’ said Lilli. ‘Mission accomplished! Let’s go.’

But before they had a chance to leave the Science Shed, their attention was drawn to something even more interesting: a large, ornate trunk tucked away beneath a bench.

All three of them walked over, as if drawn by magnets. Brass fittings gleamed above a heavy padlock.

‘I wonder what’s inside,’ Bea whispered.

Lilli’s eyes lit up. ‘A mystery!’

Leo’s mind raced. ‘What does Mum have in there?’

Lilli spotted a dusty, old key on top of the bench. ‘You’ll need this,’ she said, passing it to Leo.

Leo slipped the key into the trunk’s lock and the lid creaked open.

‘Wow,’ Lilli breathed, glancing inside. ‘It’s like a time capsule!’

Faded maps lay beside leather-bound

notebooks. There were smooth pebbles, seashells and the spiral shapes of ammonites – fossils of sea creatures from another time.

Bea picked up one of the ammonites. 'This must be at least 65 million years old. Wow! That's 6.5 million times older than us!'

But it was a colourful box that caught Leo's attention.

His face lit up. 'No way! Questland!' He pulled out a board game. 'I used to play this when I was little. I thought it was lost! What's it doing here?'

They cleared a space on the floor and unfolded the game. Large, ornate letters were written across in gold ink: QUESTLAND.

On the board, there was a winding path that snaked its way through a breathtaking landscape. There was a green meadow

bordered by lush forests dotted with towns and castles and a few golden spaces that looked like deserts. Everything was surrounded by a vibrant blue ocean.

‘Look at these,’ Lilli said, sifting through a small purple velvet bag. She pulled out three figurines, each painted with intricate details.

‘I’ll have the bee,’ Bea said with a grin.

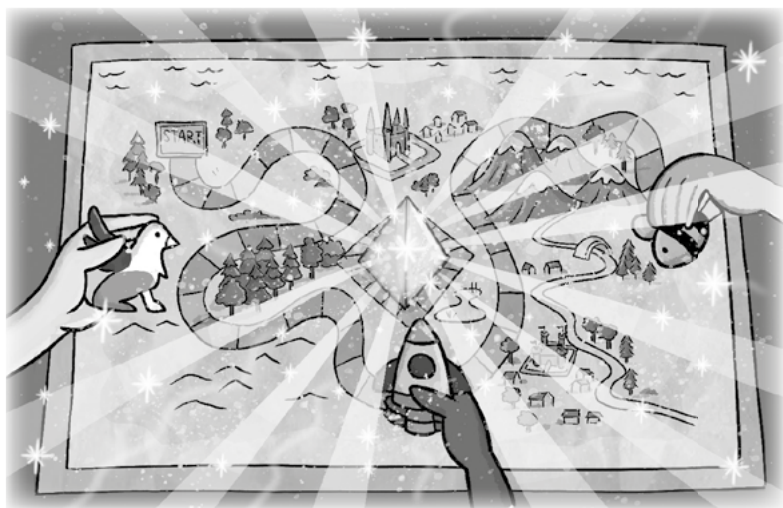
‘I’ll take the rocket,’ said Leo.

Lilli held up the last piece – a griffin. ‘This one is mine, then.’

One by one, they placed their markers on the ‘Start’ square.

‘And now we need to put the pyramid in the centre of the board to begin the game,’ Leo said, remembering the game’s rules. But the box was empty.

‘Hold on,’ said Lilli. She rummaged through the trunk again. ‘Found it!’ Carefully, she



placed the glass pyramid on the square.

As Lilli took her hand away, a beam of sunlight broke through the window. Suddenly, the shed was filled with dancing rainbows and sparks of light.

‘Woah!’ Lilli gasped. ‘Is the game supposed to do that?’

‘I don’t remember that from the rules,’ said Leo. ‘Wait...what?’

Bea let out a startled squeak as her feet left the floor.

‘Guys, are you feeling this?’ Leo asked, his voice quivering.

They looked at each other, wide-eyed and breathless, as they hovered above the worn floorboards. The air shimmered in all the colours of the rainbow. Then, the shed faded away in a cloud of sparkles as they flew up out of the roof and into the air.

‘Goodbye, Picker’s Patch!’ Leo called.

With a final flash of light, the gardens disappeared, and they felt themselves whoosh through the air.

The friends all cried out at the same time. ‘We’re going...on an adventure!’

SUPERQUESTERS

SUPERQUESTERS TO THE RESCUE!

Best friends Lilli, Leo and Bea are suddenly transported to the magical kingdom of Questland which is in trouble. The trio use their newly discovered superpowers and wits to tackle their mission to defeat the evil goblin Mortifer who is plotting to destroy River Crest.

Can you help the SuperQuesters crack the codes and solve the puzzles to save the day?

LILlicORN



LEO ZOOM



BEA BUMBLE



SUPPORTS
KS1 + KS2
NATIONAL
CURRICULUM

'Children
will adore
this exciting
whirlwind
adventure!'

Dr. Suzie Edge,
author and TikTok star



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