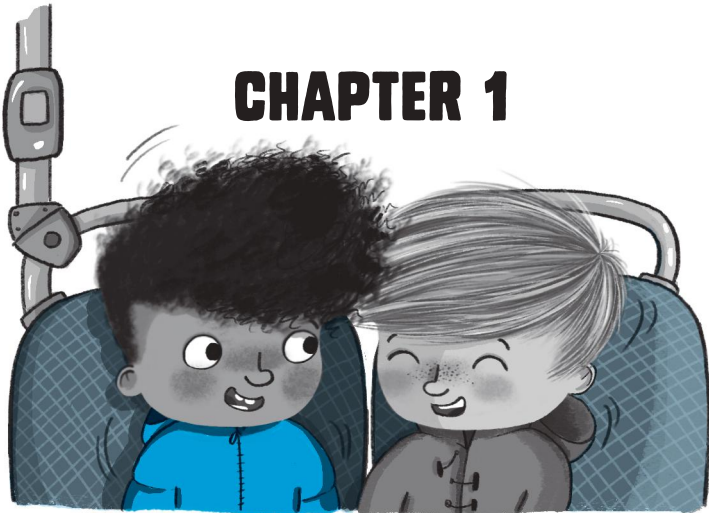


CHAPTER 1



Marvin and his best friend, Joe, couldn't sit still. The bus swayed around street corners and its engine made the seats rumble, but that wasn't the only reason they were fidgeting. Marvin and Joe were super excited because they were on their way to the Blizzard Zone!

Marvin had seen an advert for the ice rink in Grandad's newspaper and had asked if they could go. Grandad had said yes, but they'd have to wait until the school holidays, and so here they were, on the first day of the holidays, on their way to the best ice rink in



the country! Grandad sat behind Marvin and Joe, playing a word game on his phone.

'So, what're you most excited for at the ice rink?' Joe nudged Marvin as he asked the question.

Marvin gave it some careful thought.

'Just . . . everything!'

Joe nodded, thinking hard. 'For me it's got to be the light show.'



Marvin thought back to the advert showing a huge number of lights shooting out in different directions on to the ice rink, in every colour of the rainbow.

‘That will be really fun, but—’

‘OK, maybe the music will be your favourite,’ Joe interrupted.

Marvin shook his head. ‘I don’t think that’s what I’m most excited for. I think I’m just excited to get out on the ice!’

This wasn’t the first time Marvin had gone ice skating. He’d been a couple of times before and it had been a lot of fun.

‘Ice skating?’ Joe said, as though he hadn’t even considered they’d be skating. ‘Oh, yeah, we’re going to be

ice skating.' His face suddenly got all screwed up and serious. This would be Joe's first trip to an ice rink.

'Don't worry. It's not as hard as you think,' Marvin said.

'But what if I fall?' Joe said in a small voice.



'The first time I went skating I used a big plastic penguin to lean on and help keep my balance, but after that I just took a chance. Falling down and looking silly is all part of the fun!' Marvin mimed falling over in his seat and Joe laughed.

'Yeah, I guess that *is* part of the fun,' Joe said with a smile. They were best friends—who cared if Joe looked a little silly in front of his best friend.

Suddenly Marvin heard the sound of a faint high-pitched beeping coming from his bag. He ducked down, almost putting his whole head into the backpack. A small silvery face met his.



It was Pixel, Marvin's robot sidekick. Marvin also had a super-suit which transformed him into a superhero called Marv. He took the super-suit and Pixel everywhere with him, 'just in case', as his grandad would say, but it was important to keep Pixel and his superhero identity hidden. Grandad was the only person who knew Marvin's superhero identity.