

VICTORIA IS THAT TRUE?

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Victoria does tell some tall tales and no-one is sure that she is telling the truth. But, after all the adventures she has had, there is one tale that really is true!

Grusilda xxx



Victoria



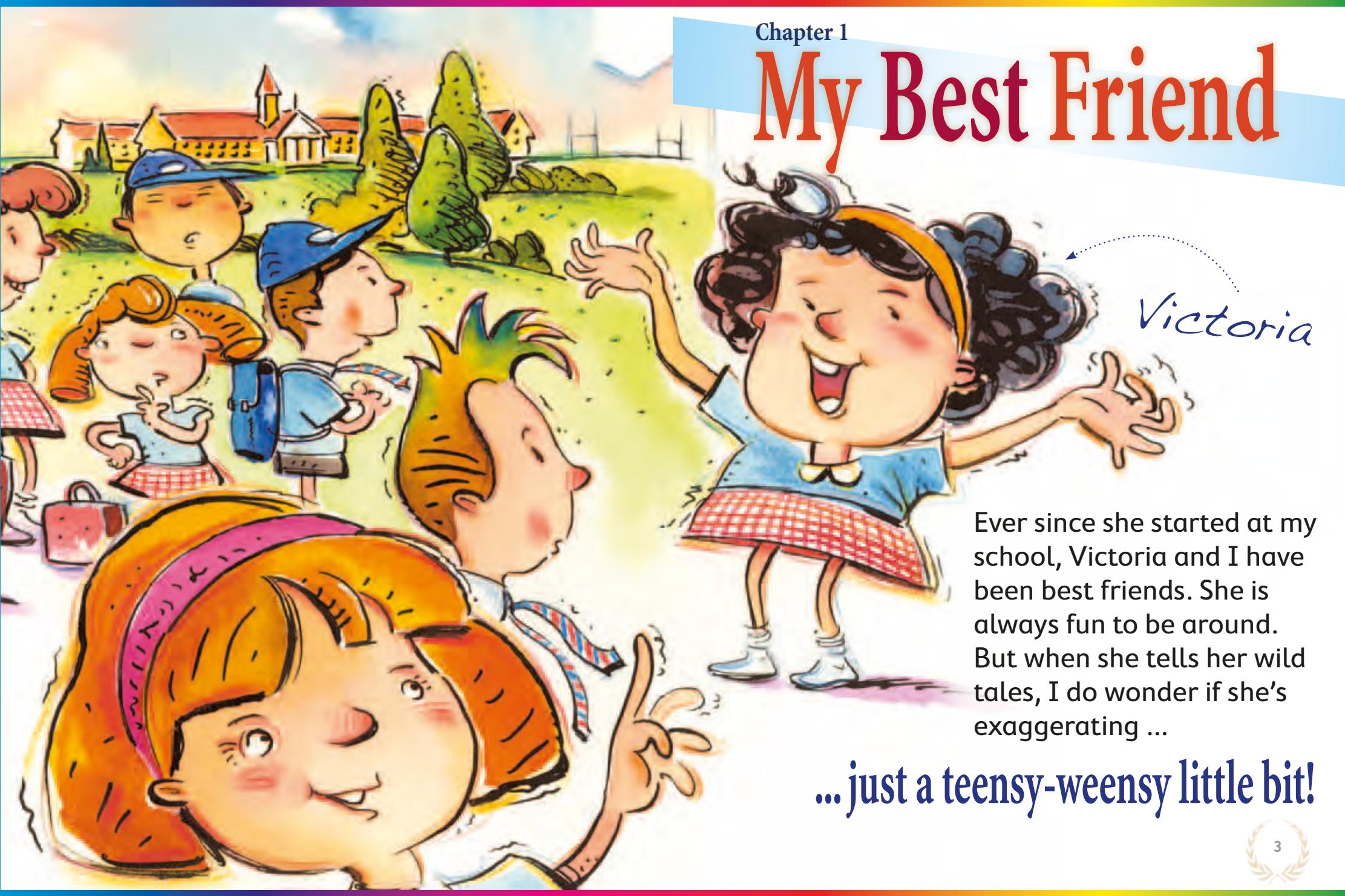
Me



Jasper and Henry



My Best Friend



Victoria

Ever since she started at my school, Victoria and I have been best friends. She is always fun to be around. But when she tells her wild tales, I do wonder if she's exaggerating ...

... just a teensy-weensy little bit!

You see, Victoria loves to tell tall tales about adventures she had before she came to my school. In fact, her tales are so tall they are almost skyscrapers!

When our teacher hears one of Victoria's tales, her eyebrows wiggle wildly.

"Victoria, is that true?" she asks.

"Of course it is," smiles Victoria.

When our other friends hear one of Victoria's tales, they roll their eyes.

"Victoria, is that true?" they say.

"Of course it is," winks Victoria.



Because Victoria is my best friend, I like to think that *maybe* she is telling the truth. Maybe her adventures *really* happened.

But sometimes it's just a little hard to believe that Victoria could have led such an amazing life. It's a little hard to believe she could have had such astounding and astonishing adventures.

Even though she's my best friend, sometimes I just have to ask ...

**“Victoria,
is that true?”**



Amazing Adventures

Last week, Victoria told us about the time she was shipwrecked on a desert island. While she was waiting to be rescued, she trained seagulls to do ballet. Then she learned how to juggle ten coconuts at once.

Apparently.



“Victoria, is that true?” I asked.

“Of course it is,” she grinned.

And then Victoria told us about the time there was a terrible storm. She got sucked up into the middle of a tornado and was dumped out at sea. Then she swam through shark-infested waves until she reached land.

Which was in Japan.

Apparently.



“Victoria, is that true?” I asked.

“Of course it is,” she grinned.

Exciting Exploits



Now, Victoria *could* have been shipwrecked on a desert island. After all, as she says, there are quite a lot of desert islands, which is handy when you *are* shipwrecked.

And I suppose she *might* have been sucked up into the middle of a tornado and dumped out at sea. After all, as she says, there are quite a few terrible storms.

Especially in Japan.

Apparently.

But when our teacher heard about ballet-dancing seagulls and coconut juggling, her eyebrows wiggled wildly.

“Victoria, is that true?” she asked.

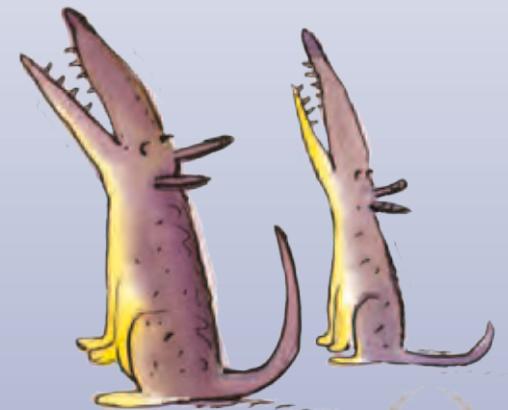
“Of course it is,” smiled Victoria.

When our other friends heard about terrible tornadoes and swimming through shark-infested waves, they rolled their eyes.

“Victoria, is that true?” they asked.

“Of course it is,” winked Victoria.

Because Victoria is my best friend, I like to think that *maybe* she is telling the truth. But then she went and told the story about the pack of wild wolves.



Apparently, Victoria lived with a fierce pack of wild wolves during the school holidays. She had to hunt rabbits for her dinner. She cleaned her teeth with bits of old bones, by the light of a camp fire. Before going to sleep, the wolves taught her how to howl at the moon, just like they did.

Apparently.

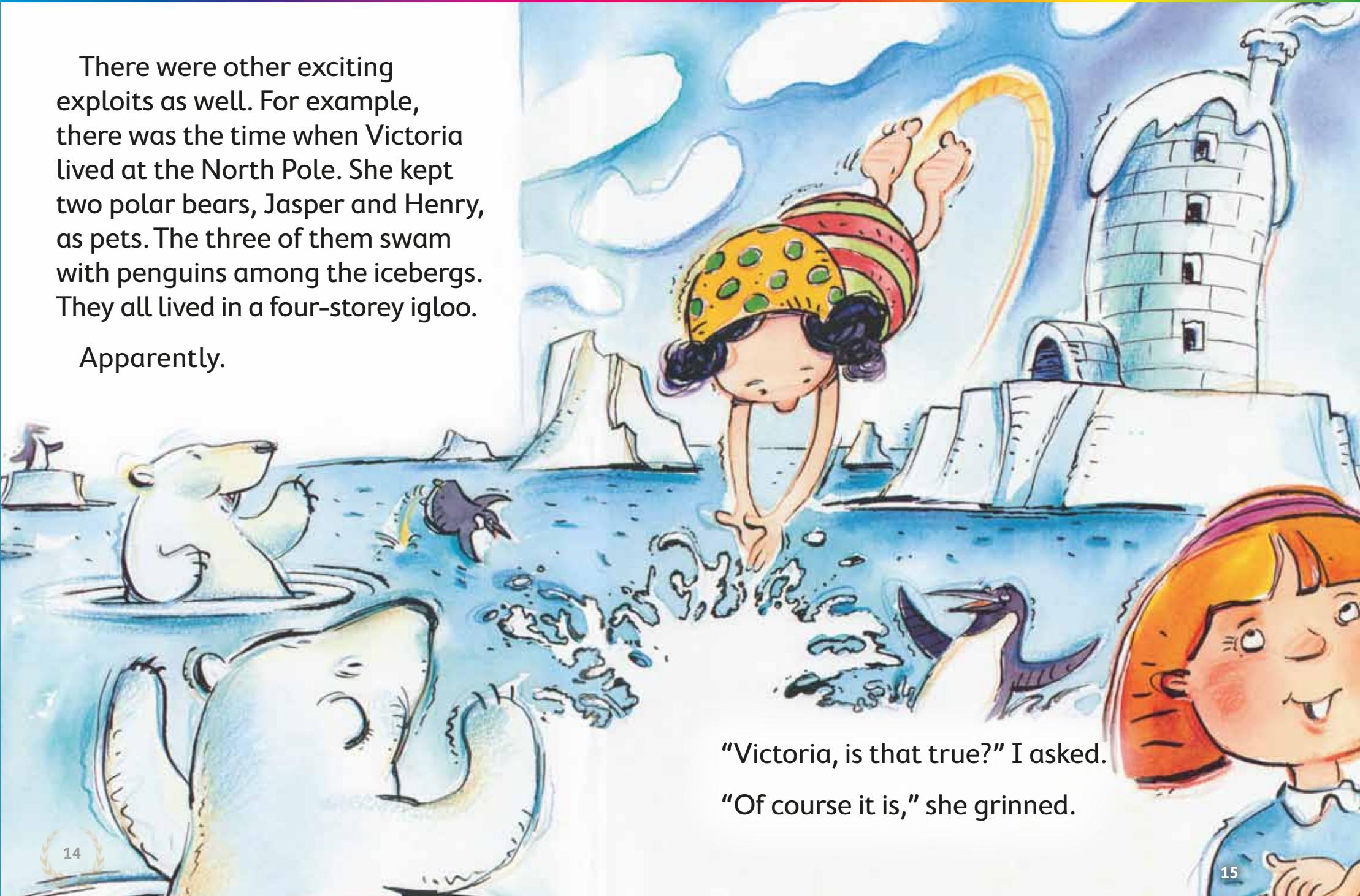


“Victoria, is that true?” I asked.

“Of course it is,” she grinned.

There were other exciting exploits as well. For example, there was the time when Victoria lived at the North Pole. She kept two polar bears, Jasper and Henry, as pets. The three of them swam with penguins among the icebergs. They all lived in a four-storey igloo.

Apparently.



“Victoria, is that true?” I asked.

“Of course it is,” she grinned.

Now, Victoria *could* have lived with a fierce pack of wild wolves during the school holidays. After all, as she says, holidays can get boring if there's nothing else to do.

And I suppose she *might* have lived at the North Pole. After all, as she says, there was no-one else there, so no-one can say she *didn't* live there. Although I'm sure there are no penguins at the North Pole!

But when our teacher heard about rabbit-hunting and teeth-cleaning and moon-howling with wolves, her eyebrows wiggled wildly.

"Victoria, is that true?" she asked.

"Of course it is," smiled Victoria.

When our other friends heard about pet polar bears and penguins and igloos and icebergs, they rolled their eyes.

"You had pet polar bears?" they asked.
"Victoria, is that true?"

"Of course it is," winked Victoria.

I must admit that, sometimes, I wonder if Victoria really is telling the truth. And then she will tell me something that makes me remember why she is ...

... my very
best friend!



Is That True?

“I’ve been shipwrecked on desert islands and swum through shark-infested waves,” Victoria will say. “I’ve howled at the moon with wolves and had pet polar bears. But my best adventure began when I started at your school.”

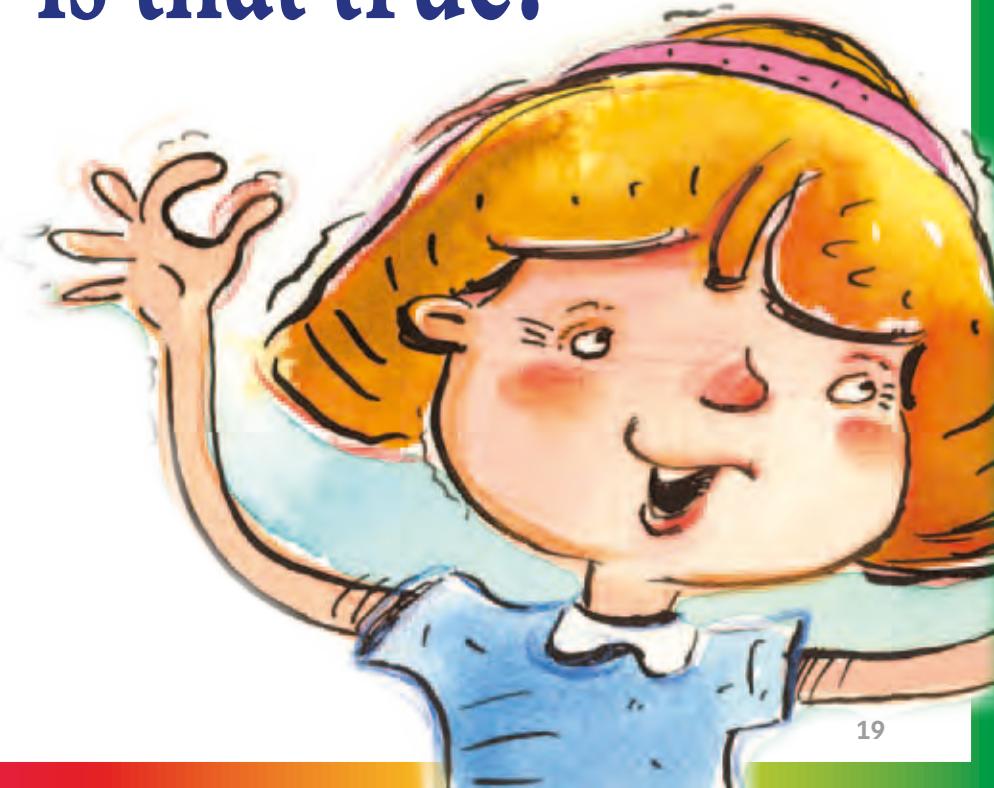
“Really, Victoria, is that true?” I ask. That really *does* sound like a tall tale.

“Of course it’s true,” winks Victoria. “When I came to your school, I met someone who is the very best listener. I met someone who never wiggles their eyebrows or rolls their eyes when I tell my tales.

“I met someone who is the most fantastic friend. Although she’s never had adventures like me, she is the most interesting person that I’ve ever met.”

I wondered who that could possibly be. Surely there was *no-one* at our school who was more interesting than Victoria.

“Victoria, is that true?”



Victoria wildly wiggled her eyebrows,
rolled her eyes, and pointed at me.

“Of course it’s true!” she laughed.

“It’s you!”



That's why Victoria is my best friend. It doesn't matter that I've never taught seagulls ballet, or juggled coconuts, or swum with sharks, or howled at the moon or had pet polar bears.

She just likes me for who I am. And I'm sure that, with Victoria by my side, there'll be even more amazing adventures – ones we can share together. And some even taller tales that we can tell our friends!





“That, Victoria, I *know* is true!” I smile.

“Of course it is,” she replies.



Grusilda's CURRICULUM Checklist

✓ English	Narrative	Fantasy/tall tales
Mathematics		
✓ Science	Biology	Animal habitats and behaviour
✓ Humanities and Social Sciences	Geography	Places and environments
✓ The Arts	Drama	Story-telling
Technologies		
✓ Health and Physical Education	Activities	Outdoor activities

Glossary in Context

- astonishing** Something **astonishing** causes great surprise or amazement (page 5).
- exaggerating** If you are **exaggerating**, you are telling stories where things are much bigger than in real life (page 3).
- exploits** Another word for adventures is **exploits** (page 14).
- infested** Something that has a lot of unwelcome animals in it is **infested** (page 8).
- shipwrecked** If you were on a ship that sunk and you then made it to land, you are **shipwrecked** (page 6).
- tall tales** Stories that are not real or believable are called **tall tales** (page 4).



“Hi! I’m Grusilda, The Literacy Tower’s friendly dragon. This title is a **tall tales narrative** that reinforces literacy skills in fiction genres. It uses a number of settings that can be used as a basis for students’ own tall tales writing.”

Grusilda xxx

