

## CHAPTER 5

# VVRROOOOM!

Alfie jumped onto the magic mower. Following Grandad's instructions, he pressed the starting button.

**VVRROOOOM, VVRROOOOM** – the engine sounded more like a space rocket than a lawnmower.

Then it flashed with green, red and blue lights, and two dazzling headlights shone out of the front.



Alfie turned the wheel to the left and pushed the **GO** button.

**Zooooooooom!** Alfie and the super mower raced through the Supersonic Subway. Under the streets of Budsville it spun around corners, dipped down, and shot up again.

It was like the best rollercoaster ever!

Suddenly a red light blinked on the front panel.

**EXIT! EXIT!  
EXIT! EXIT!**

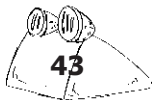




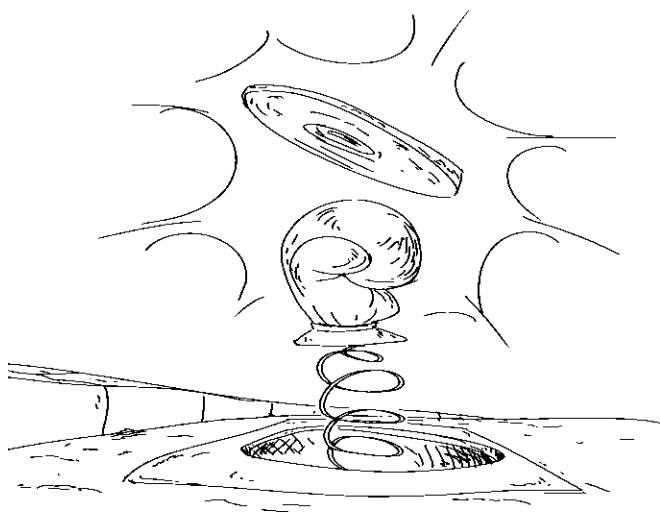
The word flashed on and off, on and off.

Before Alfie had a chance to do anything, the magic mower headed straight up towards an iron manhole cover. They were going to be

***FLATTENED***



At the very last second, Alfie found the **EXIT** button. **THUMP!** A red boxing glove on springs shot out of the front of the machine and **PUNCHED** the manhole out of the way.

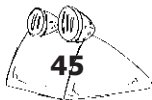


The machine shot through the hole. Alfie slammed on the brakes and the machine skidded to a halt through a pile of sparkling green sand on the street.

Phew! Alfie thought, that was scary. He looked around. Good! Everybody was still in bed, so nobody had seen the sand except Mrs Butler.

Right! I better get on with this.

He pressed the button that said **VACUUM** and a big pipe slid out from the back of the machine. There was a huge **S-U-C-K-I-N-G** noise. Slowly the



green sand began to move towards the machine. Faster and faster it came. From gardens and cars and rooftops it raced up the pipe and into the mower.

All of it! Every last bit. Not one grain of sand was left. How could so much sand fit inside the machine?

Now for the Desert Elves, Alfie thought. He snapped the special goggles back on and looked around. There was no sign of them yet. Maybe they wouldn't come at all?

