Copper Beech and Hazel Classes
Berger Primary School

Every theme park needs a theme. Ours is imagination!

WHOOSH!

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Whoosh!

Berger Theme Park

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Whoosh! is the work of the young writers in Year 4:

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Kiana
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Liza
Logan
Maya
Mirac
Nadah
Naeemah
Nahom
Najlah
Pars
Rayaan
Rehan
Rekayla
Wali
Zara

Introductions

The school curriculum often means that children are told...

What to write.
When to write it.
How to write it.

So, when we had the opportunity to work with the fantastic people at Ministry of Stories we couldn't help but feel excited! We knew immediately that our Year 4s would be bursting with creativity and ready to jump at the chance to create something magical and different.

When we were asked what we would like the children to create as part of their project, the answer was simple...

Let them choose what to write.
When to write it.
How to write it.

Now, here we are! You sit with this book in your hands! The incredible results of much hard work and team work between our Heroic Hazels, Charismatic Copper Beechs and Jane and Michael from Ministry of Stories. We hope it brings you pride and joy as you read it. We hope you keep this memento for many years to come, and perhaps most importantly of all, we hope it reminds you that there is joy in even the most unusual of places, if you only take a moment to look for it!

— *Steve H. Berger Writing Lead*

This whole 11-week project in Chertarnia and Mavela's wonderful Berger School classrooms has been led by the young writers and their creative decisions throughout. Starting with an empty field, they built a giant theme park which I believe is as exciting as any in the history of human imagination.

There is a lot we couldn't fit into this book, including the mascot's strange dream of the whole of Berger Primary School riding around on a massive rollercoaster. The book is bursting with the imagination and enthusiasm the students brought to every session.

These young writers showed that stories are built from curiosity ("What if we built a theme park?"), from problems ("The park is too dangerous!"), from solutions ("Let's reopen it for everyone!"), and from collaboration. Every single ride, mascot, and moment in this book exists because someone in the class invented it.

A huge rollercoaster of floral thank yous to Chertarnia, Mavela and the teaching assistants who all helped our writers to thrive in this new park. Extra thank you to Jane for support, guidance and wisdom throughout!

— *Michael Crowe, Writing Facilitator, Ministry of Stories*

WHOOSH!

Chapter One
THE RULES

Before you take a single step inside the huge Berger Theme Park, you must agree to the rules. These apply to everyone: King Charles, You, your friends, the people you meet in your dreams, Paddington Bear, etc. etc. There are 13 rules here (and some written in invisible ink which you just need to magically know).

Some rules are sensible, some aren't and never will be. Anyway, please read these Berger Theme Park rules and follow them like a golden retriever running after a spinning frisbee:

THE RULES

1. Always carry a purple and/or pink marker on you.
2. No pooping in the rollercoaster. Not after last time.
3. No babies on the rollercoasters, unless they are 20+ years old.
4. Finish eating all chicken before you get on any rollercoaster.
5. No homework allowed in the park.
6. You can only get into the park if you eat some spicy carrot.
7. No clean people allowed in the park. We have mud if this is an issue.
8. No bad luck allowed in the theme park. Leave your bad luck in the silver tray before entry.
9. I completely forgot this rule. It's an important one though.
10. Don't go to the toilet, they're very dirty. Take a bush wee instead.
11. You cannot enter the park without paying £10,000.
12. No credit cards.
13. You have to be 8 years old to get in.

Chapter Two
THE RIDES

There are more rides at Berger Theme Park than I can count. I never was good at maths. Some rides are thrilling. Some are terrifying. Just about all of them are falling apart... But it's still worth the £10,000 entry fee.

Behold... the rides:

THE WILDEST RIDES

Zapy

We're starting with Zapy to really show off the unique rides we have at Berger Theme Park. This rollercoaster is only for Christmas trees to ride. The whole ride is made out of lightning and is not safe for humans or elves. If you are a Christmas tree, you will probably be completely bald afterwards.

Brain Ride

You know the Brain Ride is starting because it begins to rain cake in the middle of the road. Then toy cars fall from the sky. At the very end, a small dog appears (confused). If this first ride shocks you, you might be in the wrong theme park buddy!

Pink Madness

Before you read on, try to guess what this ride is all about. ..... PAUSE..... Ok let's see if you were right: It starts in a cave with pink gems on the walls, moving slowly, shyly, then speeds up, erupts above the whole park, and loops upside down in a buzzing cloud of pink smoke. The mascot waves at you from the side, you see them for 0.2 seconds.

Then, just when you think it's over, it sends you backwards at full speed. There is an invisible wall to stop you at the end, we promise. Is that how you imagined Pink Madness?

Imagination: The Ride

You go straight, and you can see into everyone's imagination in the entire world. The ride climbs to the peak where imaginations become visible, a dazzling, confusing, wonderful sight. Then you slowly circle. Just when you think you're falling, you discover the end of the ride is the start.

The Opposite of Chessington

Chessington is a theme park loved by many! This is something they would NEVER put in their park. It's made out of branches. The atmosphere is anxious. The surprise comes at the very end, when the Gruffalo appears. Nobody recognises him. Who is that? I don't know. Why is he here? No idea mate. Only for the crazy, the amazing, and the fully fearless. Free chess piece with every 100th ride.

THE FOOD RIDES

You Come, You Cry

Only for tea cups which have a face printed on them. The rollercoaster is made of cardboard, so be careful with spilling tea, we don't want a sludgey, melting track!

The Candy Ride

This ride uses time travel to begin in the 1970s. Old candy everywhere. Look down: you're holding a missing poster rolled up with an elastic band. The final turn of the Candy Ride gives you a view of the whole park, with candy flying around you kind of getting in the way. You will also be thrown 67 T-shirts as you go around the tracks. The T-shirts are free to keep. Do not look at what is printed on the poster, just leave it on the seat.

The Golden Good Ride

After the Candy Ride, lots of children run straight here. You're given a camera and a large piece of candy floss (bigger than your head) at the start. You must photo your emotions, and the prize you receive at the end depends entirely on your face pics. There are five genies available to win: pink, blue, maths, leaf, and rainbow. Your smiling or sad face decides which genie you get!

The Stomach Ride

The ride is completely made out of cookies aaaaaaaaand just when you think it's over, you get eaten. Drops of honey may fly into your mouth as this happens. You exit via the gurgling stomach and slide your way to freedom. This ride has a five-star review from my sister's friend's dogwalker. The dog hasn't been on the ride yet.

The VIP Rainbow Ride

You're given rainbow sunglasses and a cup of juice in your seat. The ride then goes EXTREMELY fast past a volcano as if afraid, then skids and twirls along ice tracks. At the end: popcorn, crisps, chocolate cake, apple, banana, mango, chicken burgers, chips, and of course ice cream.

The Chicken and Chips Ride

This ride might be the most famous rollercoaster in the whole world. There are rumours that this ride is secretly vegetarian... It feeds you constantly as you go around, (hopefully) fresh chicken appears around every corner. At the end, you will probably want to go on a very long diet. Check your pockets after the ride for salt and pepper. Oh, and if you're too afraid to ride, people might call you chicken.

The Marshmallow Ride

Like most rides, everything seems happy at first. Then you realise the ride is slowly throwing you off. You land on candy floss below, then kittens arrive and cuddle you. You get to take a tiny kitten home. Huge queues for this ride! We are thinking of adding parachutes, what do you think?



THE DANGEROUS RIDES

The Mystery Ride (Bring Tissues)

Quite slow and comfortable at first, a peaceful whooshing drop. But then: the entire track starts to shake. Then a loop, extremely fast. Faster than we can describe. Then the whole rollercoaster shakes again, all over the place. It gets very dizzy and sweaty. You wonder if the ride is supposed to shake or if it's really broken and in the middle of an earthquake. The more you want to get off the ride, the more you love it! (Yes, it is broken).

The Nose Hole

If you pick your nose, you'll find a ticket for this ride folded up inside your left nostril. Inside the ride: bogeys everywhere. You will feel like you need to throw up out of one nostril and scream out of the other. This is Sidney Sneer's personal favourite. (He's the boss of the theme park, we worry about him...)

The Slime Ride

You get slime and sprinkles poured on you at the start. During the ride: a PlayStation 5 is placed in your hands. At the very end: £10,000 and a free credit card. Who is paying for all of this? A strange person called Sidney Sneer...

The Smelly Boys Horror

For smelly boys only. Made of blended metal and concrete. You are dropped into a black room containing clams and crocodiles. This ride is not for clean boys who are afraid of nature's dirt. It is only recommended for the bravest, and the smelliest. We recommend just walking by the queue for a ride of the senses if you're brave enough.

The Dead Bat Ride

Made out of dead bats. Only teachers may ride... Look out for the giant spider who operates this ride and is looking for a new job.

The Danger Ride

Only actual stars from the night sky are allowed on this one. (You could try to dress up as a star). Made of silver numbers and letters. Starts as metal tracks which slowly become wood. The atmosphere has a strange madness, a kind of loneliness even though there are always 40 people on the ride. Many other rides in the park could have the same name, but this one did it first. When safety inspectors come to the park, this one is covered over with a giant Tesco bag.

The Poopatron

The nicest thing it is made out of is vomit. We'd love to include more of this ride here, but the book would be banned from Hackney Library.

Lose Rulers

Made out of broken rulers collected from the back bins of schools around the world. The rulers snap, one by one, as you go along. A part of the Lose Rulers ride is a trip to the hospital, which is where this rollercoaster ends its journey. No matter how many helmets and pads you wear, this is a ride of amazing trouble.

The Life or Death Ride

Starts with tiny boring playground slides. One balloon to boot. Then walk around a small puddle-sized pool. Then you see it: a wooden cart... like an old rollercoaster... which is full of spiders. If you make the mistake of getting into the wooden cart, the end of the ride is a monster eating you.

There is also a clown. The clown is so terrifying we cannot print further details here. Check behind you in case he's there. He's not? Oh... He's probably behind me then instead. Thanks.

The Total Disaster (T.T.D.)

If you're squeamish you should look away.... This ride is made out of guts. The mood throughout is pure disgust. There are various jump-scares. Once again, some elements of this ride have been withheld from this publication. But yes, it is called T.T.D., and yes, it is exactly what it sounds like.

THE SPECIAL RIDES

The Sunset Ride

This one gives you money for going on it! Would you dare??? Extremely comfortable and spacious. In the middle: fluffy squishmallows and beautiful skies. You may also be given food and toys. The ride costs nothing. The park has never explained how this works but everyone is suspicious and worried but rich.

The World of Dreams

For all good people and for Affra Ubrine, star of many other stories! Made of anything a person thinks about, except animals and insects, which are not involved. This ride makes you extremely happy. At the very end: a portal, crackling, between the real world and dreamland. Hmmmm. Do you go in?

The Zone Out Ride

Jane saw this ride advertised on TV in Japan. Made entirely of snow, the mascot has to remake it every two hours. Only the strongest people are allowed on. You have to lift a huge weight to prove you can go on. Makes you feel worried, shaky, melty, and flakey. For winter fans!

THE SEASONAL RIDES

The Wishing Coaster

Made of rainbows and sweets. The mood is vibes. At a certain point in the ride, you make a wish and it instantly comes true. Please be very, very careful what you wish for. We have had some major issues with crazy wishes. Or just wish whatever, it's fun.

The Imagination Loop

Made of water and, yes, imagination. The most calming, relaxing loop-de-loop in the whole park. We get the imagination straight from Mavela and Chertarnia's notes, about all the things they've seen and heard during their day in school.

PC Quest 3

A free PC is handed to you at the end. The entire ride is soaking wet, huge amounts of water from start to finish, almost the whole supply of water on Earth used each week on this thing. Shocking I know! Please make sure your PC is fully dried out before plugging in to save getting a second shock.

The Fluffy Aquarium Club Surprise

If you don't care about PCs or know what they are then maybe head over to the Fluffy Aquarium Club. At a certain point during this ride, Taylor Swift appears and sings any song you want. She also gives you a free Chromebook which used to belong to her and is full of her stuff. The ride is made of purple and gold metal and has never once had a bad review. Not once. Really. No, really. Honestly. The same as our next ride.

The Killer Rat Ride

Strictly for dead people only. Not very popular. The highlight: a dragon spits rats on you. Nobody has ever described this ride in much detail because you have to be dead to try it. If you're not dead then maybe the next ride is for you instead!

The Bird Poop Ride

A team of trained birds poop on riders. The hair of riders sometimes gets so messy it needs to be cut off while still on the ride. The hairdresser birds are a separate team. Messy. Ok I know we've had a lot of rides but only a handful left.

The Trolled Ride

Made of garbage bags jammed full of the best stupidity. When you get off, all of your belongings have been replaced with look-alike fakes. You got trolled. This ride is very, very popular somehow.

Fun Life

This might just be perfect for you. Only the greatest thinkers in the world are allowed on this ride. There is a small test at the entrance from which you can feel heat coming from the other room. There is a lot of fire at the start of the ride, but your smartness should help you work it out.

Chapter Three
THE MASCOTS

Every great theme park needs great mascots. Berger Theme Park has many, many mascots. Some of them are very helpful. Some of them are especially mysterious. At least one of them will eat you if you get too close.

Martin

A mystical piece of dust and can turn into a human at will. He can control life, space, and time, which is very useful for a theme park mascot. If something goes wrong, he'll just use magic. His backup is called Time For Fun, who has identical powers but is 1/100,000 slower.

The K-Man 6767

K-Man looks like LeBron James (so he says) and smells wonderfully good at all times despite disliking water. Nobody has really asked him about this, but Martin has almost said something about five times.

Rose (the Spider)

Smells like rubbish. A popular mascot despite never ever talking to visitors. Rose strongly dislikes being petted. When testing the roller-coasters, Rose can never actually crawl out of the ride. There is no real backup for Rose's days off, just a faint 'hahaha' left hanging in the air, as if dangling on an invisible web.

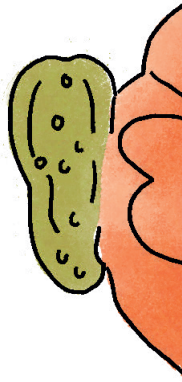
Coconut

A baby who cries all the time. A weird mascot for a theme park but that's how Sidney likes things here! On days off, baby Coconut goes to Italy. Don't ask how. (We don't know).

Tich

A rapping mascot who keeps a wizard, a witch, and a small army of themselves in their pockets. Impressive, if not impossible. Tich has been working with us at Berger Theme Park for many, many years now. Either that or they're completely new.

The Bad Guy



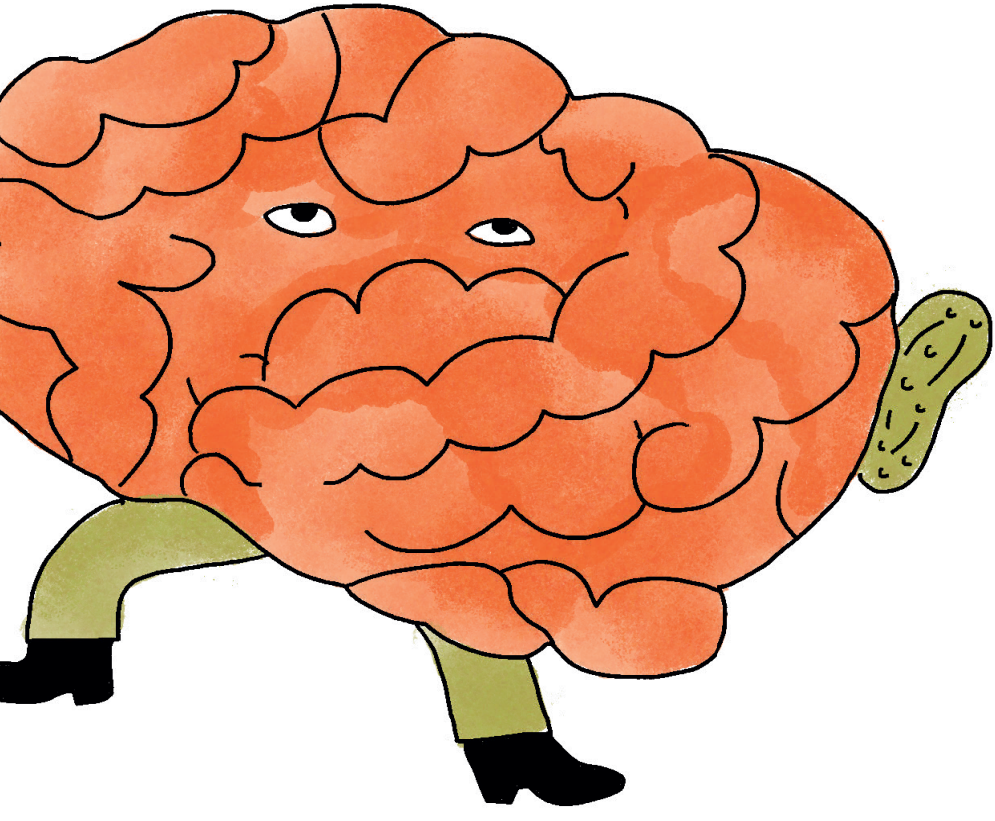
Have you heard of The Bad Guy already? People whisper about him all the time. He's a robot mascot whose passport is printed on a travel pillow. He can turn rollercoasters on by clicking his fingers, which can be a problem when he's listening to music. On days off, he sets everything to automatic and lets the park run itself. This causes absolutely no problems. None. He is probably wondering why everyone calls him The Bad Guy since he's pretty chill.

67

67 is constantly updating its appearance to show visitors the newest, most popular memes. Deeply hates brainrot, despite being a living example of it!

Mr Brainy

Talks like a zombie. Moves like a wave. Smells like a pickle. Looks like a brain with pickles for ears. Mr Brainy dislikes rainbows intensely, screams on sight... Prefers to carry an onion and a pickle rather than anything fun or colourful. Mr Brainy is also, quietly, a secret villain: can teleport anywhere, eat people's houses, and is particularly dangerous if you are wearing blue. Mr Brainy's backup is a toddler who doesn't know what 1+1 is, and simply sits down when needed.





Jelly the Giraffe

Smells like blueberries. Carries a medical kit at all times and also a bouncy castle. These must not be mixed up. Jelly tests the most evil-looking rides in the park to check for safety. The most responsible giraffe you are ever likely to meet.

Lilybow

An exotic flower mascot who smells like lily perfume and finds bees stealing her nectar extremely irritating. Appears to move across the ground on roots. Her daughter Roseylily (17 years old, from the Flowerworld) is around to help out too! If you see Lilybow please do say something nice about her perfume, it's her pride and joy!

Chipachu

Looks like a very tall Godzilla. Smells like strawberry and talks like an ant. Chipachu has an entire prison in one pocket and a house in another. Does not like children and will eat them if they get too close. Some have described being eaten as a kind of ride. When Chipachu tests the rollercoasters, his screams echo across the entire park: 'Help me!!! HELP ME!!!' This means the test is going well. Perhaps?

Donnybe

Wears yellow and blue. Talks like a rabbit, smells like sweets. Moves like a bear. Carries telekinesis gum at all times. When nervous on rides, Donnybe thinks of their

Affra Ubrine & Derpy

Affra is the only mascot who rides around on another mascot: Derpy, a dark blue cat. Affra wears a black hijab or black dress. They met in a forest and have a tremendous amount in common. They take turns doing solo shifts. Expect many more books about these two mysterious spies! Oops I gave away their secret! Sorry!

Barney

A dinosaur who exists both in your imagination and in real life. Currently has a baby in his pocket because you just imagined that baby while reading this sentence. Always brings lemonade when testing rides. Cannot test a ride without lemonade. I don't know how that started but there is no stopping the lemonade now.

Sneek

The park's only snake mascot. Smells like rotting flesh. Still absolutely wonderful! Slithers helpfully all around the park. Coils up rides no problem. Also a film star, appearing in the acclaimed Zootopia as Gary. Has a Baby Sneek to cover days off. Baby Sneek can fly, which is very handy for mid-air drone repairs, though snakes don't really like the word 'handy'.

Candy Floss Lion

Pink skin. Candy floss mane. Mascot perfection! Smells like bubblegum and has probably given you some at some point. Hates oranges, refuses to juggle them. Used to be an ice cream lady but didn't make enough money. Candy Floss Lion's backup is a teenage watermelon Jolly Rancher who likes to gossip about pigeons. If there are bad visitors in the park, the lion bowls them over with jawbreakers. This is permitted under Rule 8.



Eilk

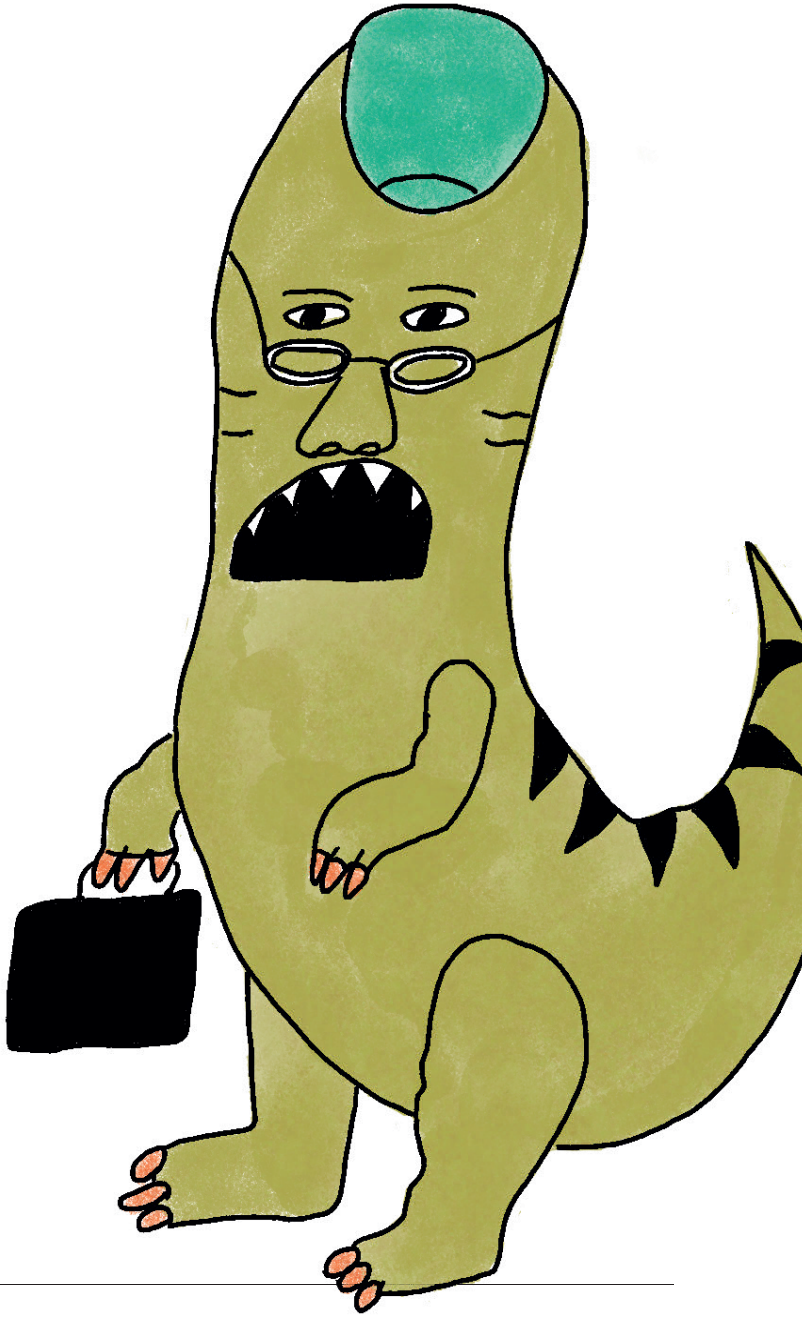
Looks like a carton of milk. Smells like a carton of milk. Moves like a carton of milk. Tastes like a carton of milk. Don't let that confuse you: Eilk might actually be a carton of milk. One of the most delightful mascots in the whole world!

Elsa and Anna

Anna is very shy for a mascot. She is working on this.




BUBBLEGUM



Moonlight

A unicorn made of golden diamonds. You'll know Moonlight is coming if you can smell flowers and cake. Speaks softly, like an angel talking in its sleep, and moves by gliding. Please do not feed Moonlight onions, she is allergic. Previously worked at McDonald's. Then tried mining. Neither worked out. Wakes at 3am every morning to test the rollercoasters for safety. Has won many gold stars from the boss Sidney!

Star

From outer space. Smells like paint. Moves and talks like a robot. Looks like a star of course! Dislikes cucumbers, they feel like jelly to Star. Star's backup at the park is Cotton, a baby star, who receives exactly one day off per year: 17th December.

Luca

One of the richest and most mysterious mascots...
Keeps wild knuckles in their pockets. Just in case.



Anna

Smells like copper but is made of gold and silver with a bronze badge. Whatever Anna draws comes to life. Anna added safety buttons to every ride in the park. Press the button if something goes wrong. Anna thought of you. While many mascots are very helpful, Anna could be the only one who has come up with such an incredible invention! She should ask for a pay rise.

Mr Finger

His face looks like a finger and a dinosaur simultaneously. Does not like toes, not even for extra counting. Mr Finger used to be a teacher but became a mascot just to make children laugh.

Valerie

You must know her for a full year before you're allowed to call her Myoc. (I'm just eleven months away!)

Butter Gold Yart (BGY)

Gold. Smells like perfume, moves like a butter LeBron James. Yart was an actor first, but left, possibly because being made of gold is confusing to film audiences. Refuses to work on Thursdays. Maybe everyone should?! Thanks Yart.

Cotton Man

A professional candy eater, beloved by every other mascot. Smells like raspberries. Always joking. Owns a bubblegum phone, which must be chewed to update. Fixes rides with bubble gum and raspberries. Backup is Pepper Man, who hates sweets and fills in when Cotton Man has a tummy ache, which is frequent.

Carla

Covered in suction cups for climbing. Glues rides back together. Uses rainbow dust to add strength to wonky structures. She is waving at you right now. Wave back!

Chilly

Has fire coming out of its mouth when it talks. A spicy mascot. Used to be a gymnast. The career change made sense to Chilly.

Cutie Pie

Very big-eyed. Very kind. Moves like a model. Cutie Pie is soft-voiced and slow-talking. Strongly dislikes long words and people who disagree with her. She used to be an optician. That job ended badly in ways that require a whole separate book to describe. One beautiful little detail: She always holds a tiny version of herself in one hand... the replacement for when she doesn't feel like coming in.

Big Oakey

Big Oakey looks like an alien and smells like a large chicken. Moves stiffly, like a robot in the North Pole. Big Oakey can speak every language and carries any weapon, any magic, and any power imaginable... useful if the park is ever under attack (which seems very likely somehow!). Big Oakey absolutely loves being completely bald.

Big Oakey's backup is 125 years old but smarter, more powerful, and more useful in every measurable way. When Big Oakey takes a day off, the park noticeably improves. Sorry Oakey! We love you!

Energy

A robotic mascot that smells like oil. Originally wanted to be a rollercoaster but Sidney Sneer thought they should start off first as a mascot... baby steps. We also have a second robot mascot who smells like an aquarium and lives full-time on their own rollercoaster. They seem very happy despite all of the clattering noise 24/7.

The Chicken and Chips and Big Mac Mascots

Two food mascots who are extremely dedicated to their work. They share a strange, inexplicable dislike of Cinderella and sincerely hope she never visits the park. Nobody has explained this and nobody has asked. I think I might've given something away in the secrets but we can just ignore that.

Baby

Baby smells like dance! Baby carries a magical diaper and 100 songs, everything from hip-hop to classical.

CR7AURA

Loves football more than anything else in any universe. Will drop one of its own eyeballs out of its head to kick around the park if no football is available. Friends with fellow mascot Ronaldo, who can pick up buildings. This footballing friendship has caused no incidents. So far. On lunch breaks they try to kick footballs or eyeballs into empty rollercoasters speeding by.

KitKat

Moves like marshmallows. Travels by chocolate surfboard. Hates hot melty days. This all began when KitKat ate too much chocolate: first his hands turned to chocolate, then gradually the rest of him followed.

Hannah

Looks like a normal person. Smells like nothing. Moves like a normal person. Talks English. The strangest thing about her is that she wears a maid's dress. Because she is so completely normal, every other mascot in the park considers her the most uniquely extraordinary mascot they have ever encountered. The King Kong Dinosaur mascot has a diamond that stops time, and he looks at Hannah with pure wonder.

Pet Dinostar PC

Can go completely invisible at will, which the park boss Sidney finds slightly worrying, since Dinostar PC might simply not be at work most of the time. Claims to test rollercoasters by travelling on them backwards. Being invisible, it is impossible to know if this is really happening. Well, do you believe it? Please shout your answer out of a window.

[There are also many mascots who look like poop.
We have chosen, editorially, to focus on others.]

Editors note: *Michael has been eating lots of Caramel Kitkats while editing this book. Reading this was a great GREAT shock! He had to tell all of his friends*

Chapter Four
THE LOST PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

In the east wing of Berger Theme Park you will find the Lost Property Department. It is staffed by one very tired person who has seen everything.

If you have lost something at the park, please check the list below. We have tried our best.

Husband: "I was walking in a busy queue when I looked around and he was gone. I tried to look for him, but couldn't... and I feel so much better without him." We will continue our search for another ten minutes.

Michael from Ministry of Stories: Fell off a very slow rollercoaster, deep in the poo-poo section. He was found farting spiders and snakes. He is okay now but was pulling a funny face while reading the previous sentence.

A favourite book: The ride went upside-down and the book flew out. The owner is worried all the characters inside are now upside-down, and will remain so until the book is found. Please help.

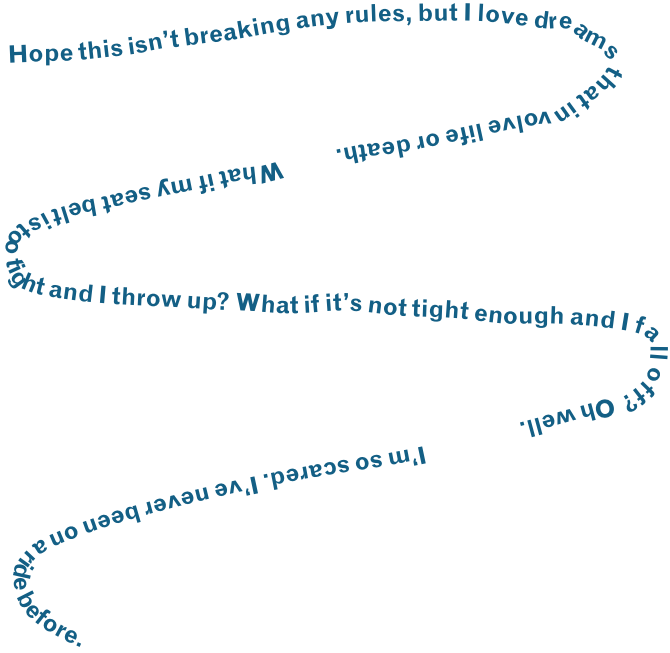
Grandma: A family called out to Grandma to keep up. She was slow. She got left behind. They are very worried. GRANDMAAAAAAA!! GRANDMAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!! Etc.

Golden chicken nugget: Probably eaten. Same with the lost Big Mac, the lost Dubai chocolate, and a lost apple. Very unlikely to be seen again. We are sorry. We didn't eat them.

A handheld stop sign: Possibly stolen but when the thief reads the sign, they will see it says STOP and will be unable to move. It will be returned eventually.

Chapter Five
QUEUE THOUGHTS

Berger Theme Park has very long queues. This is because the rides are extraordinary. While people wait, they think... Some of these thoughts are exciting. Some are worried. Some are about chips.




I think I've gone back in time. I'm further back in this queue than when I first joined it!
I've been here two hours. I think I'm queuing for the wrong ride. This is the 15th time I've been on this ride. I don't like it but maybe this time will be different.
What a windy looking ride. What if my hair falls off?

Chapter Six
MEET SIDNEY SNEER

There is something you should know about Sidney Sneer, owner of Berger Theme Park. People say many things about Sidney. They whisper about the toenails, the bed, the diet of rats' eyeballs, the eyes like black holes, the hair bows, the square-wheeled bicycle, the teeth. They say he is a villain. They say he's frightening. They say he is not very nice.

Sidney's clothes are T-shirts made out of shoes, and shoes made out of T-shirts. Is he trying to trick us? We also found out after searching the bins that Sidney's favourite snack is a sort of pepper mixed with sugar that tastes like rotten egg and looks like a confused sausage. It was invented in a lab and is mildly poisonous. We are slightly worried about Sidney's moods which are mostly negative and angry... On the other hand, Sidney's breath is surprisingly fresh. So he's angry but minty. We searched Sidney's garden while he was over in the theme park and at first glance it looks full of strawberries... Upon further investigation we found out that they are in fact burning hot chillies... Many visitors reach for a strawberry and get a mouthful of chilli juice. It burns. They faint. I suppose we could describe Sidney's garden as a trap... Sidney has not been questioned about this.

We also know that Sidney's feet have yellow toenails. Smoke is rumoured to sometimes come out of them. If we're being kind, this might be because Sidney logs about 50,000 steps a day walking around the theme park... We noticed on those walks Sidney's favourite ride is the Nose Hole, which he returns to

often... Once a year, the ride produces a red substance to represent a nosebleed. Sidney finds this absolutely hilarious. A warped sense of humour. Also warped: Sidney's shoes are made of marshmallows and plastic, with a unicorn horn on top for flying and shooting rainbows... though he has never actually shot a rainbow from the shoe. Perhaps he is still working up to it. It seems strange that such a serious person would have rainbow shoes on. He is hard to pin down...

For exercise Sidney uses cotton candy dumbbells, sometimes does a 20-mile run followed by a swim in a pool filled with apple juice, and then a little dancing to pop music. He also invented an exercise machine made of paper, which broke when he tried it. He then used rocket boots to fly to the magical gym where the dumbbells are made of anything you can think of... One answer is that Sidney may also be an undercover alien. This would explain a lot about the park. How else has he brought all of these strange mascots together? There is no theme park like this anywhere in the world!

Sidney sometimes wears a crown with a diamond in it that shines extremely brightly. At other times he's very shy, and once blushed at a cake. Sidney's shadow is rumoured to bring other shadows to life but we've not seen this happen yet. In bright light, Sidney casts at least two shadows, one fake, one normal... Sidney's eyes look like black holes. If you look very carefully into the blackness, you will see the Milky Way and all the planets. They are, in truth, as shiny as a diamond spinning in the dark.

Sidney's fingerprints leave a frog-like pattern: slimy, dewy. When Sidney cries, his tears smell of cut grass. Sidney's voice sounds like at least two gobstoppers are permanently in his mouth. When wrapping gifts, Sidney stitches together pickles from Big Macs as the wrapping material. Every gift he gives is slightly sloppy... This behaviour is hard to fully understand.

Sidney has a car but prefers a square-wheeled bicycle. It used to have rectangle wheels. He says the squares feel much smoother. Sidney's favourite music is recorded tornadoes. It reminds Sidney that there are bigger problems in the world...



The tornado sounds also (according to Sidney) travel into the brain and give you unlimited energy to build anything. Sidney also listens to Billie Eilish, which is another surprise. Sidney asked us not to mention this. We have mentioned it. Sidney's favourite joke: "What colour is a burp? Burple." We don't know what to make of that.

When Sidney has a tantrum, his face glitches and becomes something entirely different, almost like a broken cup. Everyone laughs at the sight. He looks (a little) like a frog burping. Also we can't forget to say that Sidney's teeth are decaying. He ran away from the dentist before they could be removed. Ever since that day it seems that Sidney has sworn to never to be nice. Some mascots say that when Sidney is faking being nice, his eyes glow green.. We haven't seen that for ourselves yet. Is that even possible? There is also a rumour that if Sidney smiles, he will die.

We assume this is not true, but we've never actually seen him smile...

Chapter Seven
THE SNEER RUMOURS

Over the years, people have said some very unfair things about Sidney Sneer. Some of these rumours spread through the park's queue system. Some were carried by the K-Pop Demon Hunters. Some appeared in letters from Sadiq Khan.

Here are the rumours. We are printing them not to embarrass Sidney, but because the next chapter is important.

- Sidney eats fried 6/7 with blood and rats' eyeballs for breakfast.
- Sidney's bed is made out of tarantulas.
- Sidney sets up fake queues all around the theme park so that people end up queuing for nothing.
- Sidney's art is so terrifying it made his teacher scream like a broken frog.
- Sidney's jewellery includes a necklace made of mud, a ring made of blood, clips made of ants, a chain made of people's skin, and a scarf made of the small intestine. Everything was made by a witch.
- Sidney's shadow can make other shadows come to life.
- When Sidney is sad, it hailstones. When frustrated, it rains bullets.

- Sidney's favourite thing to do is steal children's packed lunches and replace the food with stones.
- Sidney has tried to sell their toenails in the park's gift shops and keeps getting stopped.
- Sidney dresses as a garbage man to wander the park unnoticed and spy.
- Sidney's deadly eyes look like black holes.
- As we said already: If Sidney ever smiles, he will die.
- Sidney cries grass and dirt. When Sidney cries, black holes break.
- Sidney has placed a statue in the park's centre that blows fire on visitors and changes element whenever it wants.
- This keeps on coming up: Sidney's favourite music is the sound of recorded tornadoes.

There is more. But we think that's enough.

Now... What if every single one of these rumours had an explanation? What if Sidney Sneer was not a villain at all but just someone with a very, very difficult job?

What if Sidney was just... stressed?

Chapter Eight
FLIP IT

The Berger Writers discovered that Sidney Sneer wasn't evil. Sidney was just enormously, hugely, massively stressed. 360 degrees stressed.

Here is what they found:

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney eats rats' eyeballs for breakfast.

√ THE TRUTH: There are a lot of rats in the park who die naturally. It is a kind of roadkill snack. Sidney doesn't have money for anything else, every penny goes into the rides. This is all Sidney can afford. It is, if anything, quite sad.

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney's bed is made out of tarantulas.

√ THE TRUTH: Sidney loves spiders. Spiders are very misunderstood, just like Sidney. They are good for his mental health. The spiders are also good companions, and could be used to protect Sidney if ever he were attacked for being misunderstood. Everyone deserves a feeling of safety in their own bed. Sidney also loves watching spiders weave their cobwebs, it reminds him of the first ever rollercoaster he made when he was eight years old.

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney sets up fake queues in the park.

√ THE TRUTH: The fake queues are actually statues that happen to look like people waiting. They make the park seem busier and more popular, so more people visit. Sidney is doing his best. It is a desperate measure. But a harmless one.

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney's art scared his teacher so much she screamed like a broken frog.

√ THE TRUTH: Great art should challenge you. As a certain famous artist once said, if the first reaction isn't shock, it probably isn't new! Sidney's art is as beautiful as sea waves and African skies. The teacher screamed because it was spectacular.

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney wears a scarf made of small intestine.

√ THE TRUTH: It was a gift from a close friend at the park. Sidney has no choice but to wear it. It is an act of loyalty and love. The intestine is dry and clean and really quite soft. (Still gross)

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney dresses as a garbage man.

√ THE TRUTH: Sidney does this to make the children laugh. He dresses as a big rubbish bag and they find it hilarious. While in disguise, he also quietly picks up litter without wanting any credit. He also cleans the very tall, dangerous rides himself, rather than asking his staff to risk their lives. Quietly heroic.

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney's favourite music is recorded tornadoes.

√ THE TRUTH: The sound reminds Sidney that there are bigger problems in the world than a broken rollercoaster. It is calming. The tornado sound also, supposedly, travels into your brain and gives you unlimited energy to build anything which is how Sidney keeps the park going. (Also: Bops to Billie Eilish.)

X THE RUMOUR: When Sidney is frustrated, it rains bullets.

√ THE TRUTH: When it hailstones, Sidney is sad because the visitors are having a terrible time. In frustration, Sidney shoots at the hailstones to try to stop them. The bullets knock the hail out of the sky... Sidney is trying to stop the rain. Sidney is, in his own way, always trying to make things better.

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney is never nice. If he smiles, he'll die.

√ THE TRUTH: Sidney is not nice because he is exhausted. He is trying to make everyone happy at all times. As you have seen, the rides are very, very dangerous. Sidney's entire design team (rumoured to be children!) are pushing safety to its limits. There is always something on fire, always something to fix. Sidney just has too much on his plate.

X THE RUMOUR: Sidney's eyes look like black holes.

√ THE TRUTH: Those eyes are exceptional for spotting park thieves in the dark. And if you look carefully into the blackness, you will see the Milky Way. All the planets. The entire universe, curled up inside two eyes. They are, in truth, as shiny as a spinning diamond.

Sidney Sneer is not a villain. Sidney is a person running an extremely chaotic theme park full of kittens and explosions, and 40-odd mascots (several of whom are actively evil), and a lost property department full of robots arms and sobbing Grandmas and energy rifles, all on a square-wheeled bicycle, eating roadkill eyeballs, listening to tornado recordings at night to calm down...

Sidney was running from one problem to another, a private little earthquake in his mind. Sidney needed a break. He could only think of one solution.

SIDNEY

HAD TO

CLOSE

THE PARK!

Chapter Nine
CLOSED PARK

There are lots of different rumours swirling about why the theme park closed. Too many goose-sized ants crawling all over the park, stinking rides. Newsround reported that the main problem was people falling off the rides and getting very badly hurt.

Another ridiculous rumour being whispered around Berger School playground is that the theme park closed because a duck broke in and destroyed all the rides. A duck! I unscrewed a ball of paper in the bin in Mavela's classroom and it said on it that the duck was going to destroy the theme park "brick by brick." I threw it back in the bin.

The closed park is very peaceful, silent, like a sleeping house. Some of the rides are covered in curling toilet paper, flapping and floating in the lonely breeze. Grapes rolling around as if searching for fun. Police cars parked in front of rides. Eerily quiet. Sidney Sneer nowhere to be seen. Mascots vanished.

Suddenly, a rustling... Hello!? Hello?! Is someone there...!?


Welcome to
BERG
THEM PARK
CLOSED
£10,000
per Person
THE NOSE JOEL
marshmallow
T.T.Q


ZAPY
TROLLED
POLICE
£200
£700
FRESH TOE NAILS!

Chapter Ten
PANDY, TILLY, DUNKEY

Attracted to the peace, quiet and scattered chicken of the closed theme park, Pandy, Tilly, and Dunkey moved in. We should tell you a little more about our new friends.

Pandy is a little baby panda and loves learning kung fu just like Kung Fu Panda. He farts after churrios. He is allergic to rocks. A playful artistic troublemaker. Oh, and of course: Pandy multiplies every time he smells popcorn. (Cute, but once these copies ate the whole theme park and it had to be rebuilt...). When Pandy smells burnt popcorn he sucks up all of his copies, so occasionally Sidney burns the popcorn as a secret good deed. Pandy also sometimes mixes up grass with human hair and may nibble on your hairstyle.

Tilly the giraffe is a professional basketball player in her spare time. She plays for the Thorns Form Goat team. She eats donuts for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Tilly also makes smaller versions of herself any time she sees a mouse or rat. Perhaps this is an attempt to talk to, or become friends with the smaller creatures? Tilly will dance funnily after sneezing. This is probably a private detail but occasionally smoke comes out of her butt. It's rumoured that Tilly is AI and uses boogers for money.

Dunky is a donkey who chews on the washing, loves children, boxing and drinking liquidized biscuits. Dunky might be the most sensible of the three animals, although he did once go into the theme park control room and attempt to press all of

the buttons, which nearly caused the end of the world and the start of a new one.

Their time in the empty park was full of beautiful moments which Sidney Sneer watched carefully on the park cameras... What was Sidney thinking while he watched? He was plotting... Drawing new plans... Scheming...

At his lowest moment, he had found the answer. He looked at the security cameras and watched Pandy, Tilly, and Dunkey playing happily in the empty park. "That's it," he whispered. "The park should be for everyone."

Sidney immediately left and rode his square wheeled bike slowly toward Pandy, Tilly and Dunkey. He opened up a huge drawing of the new Animal Rides. "I'm sorry the park closed," he said quietly. "But I've been thinking... maybe it closed for a reason. Maybe it was waiting for you."

Pandy sniffed the drawing. Tilly bent down to look closer. Dunkey nodded.

"WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY?" SIDNEY ASKED.

Chapter Eleven
A THEME PARK FOR ALL! CELEBRATION!

The only way for the theme park to make enough money was to invite far more visitors. Sidney decided Berger Theme Park should be the world's first theme park to invite animals as well as humans!

Without wasting a second, he starting making these new rides in his leopardskin laboratory:

The GGiraff Ride: For giraffes only. Made of leaves. Giraffes can munch as they go. The Fluffy Kitty Attack: Only for cute cats. Made of pink fluff and white foam. At one point it rains gold and silver. Even the cats are surprised by this. The Dinowror: A ride for mice, but people can try it too... Made of money. At the end, everyone is handed a pet dinosaur. Some small, some bigger than your home. The Candy Canes on Bunny Lane: Only bunnies are allowed. Made of candy canes, which the bunnies keep eating. In the middle: a water gun filled with chocolate milk? The Cat Express: will be for kittens who are scared of the Fluffy Kitty Attack ride. Made of banana peels and lots of glue. You splash in a chocolate fountain at the end. The Wishing Coaster For Birds: Made of flowers and lemonade-soaked grass. Feels like a happiness overload. Only for birds who fly to the park! Finally, The Animal Mixer Ride: Pick two animals at the start. Spin spin spin spin spin, then a whole new creature is created! The park is not to blame for what comes out.

Sidney continued all night long, making one amazing ride after another. He then wrote his plans for the Reopening Celebration which had one main focus: Not to use fireworks which scare dogs and all other loved animals. He designed some stickers which said "Animal Approved" - friendly to all.

Sidney's notes for the Grand Reopening started to take shape.

They looked a little something like this:

We begin with a thunderstorm explosion but a quiet one and then out of that, flying bison with robotic wings come floating around. They drink Red Bull and it pours all down, dripping from their toes onto the crowd.

We need funky mirrors and penguins falling in love during the parade. We need rainbow sparkles and floating cows. Let's put bags of money everywhere and confetti which have very tiny lights inside with elemental powers. Let's make a giant cake full of my juiciest toenails for the animals. I want musical bumps and charades for emus and otters.

Important! We should bake Vegkies which are half vegetable, half cookie. Vegkies are loved by animals and humans! Let's also add rainbow cake which flies into your mouth as sprinkles fall from the sky. We can have rope toys dangling from drones for cats to swipe at.

Digital fireworks. Food cannons and music translated into animal language. Around midnight the dancing starts. Oh yes, we need lightning honey but if the electric bees touch you, you will turn into a bee as well. Please don't get mad at us and sting us if this happens to you, we have warned you! We'll have coloured powder thrown in the air. "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" is playing as a spider is breakdancing for a crowd of bored roosters. Robot animals are dancing on a big screen for animals to learn the moves.

Chapter Twelve
SIDNEY SNEER'S PARK OPENING SPEECH

HELLO MY DEAR HUMANS AND ANIMALS! WELCOME TO BERGER THEME PARK!!!

IT'S GREAT TO SEE SO MANY ANIMALS AND HUMANS IN THE CROWD. THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING US AND COMING BACK AGAIN! NEW FRIENDS, PANDY! TILLY! DUNKEY! HELLO!



I'M HAPPY TO SAY THAT I'M NOW QUITTING... I HAVE PASSED MY JOB ON TO MY TWIN LOLA. SHE WILL DO AMAZING THINGS! THIS PARK IS THE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN. WELCOME AND GOODBYE!"

Cheers and confetti exploded all around as Sidney walked away from the microphone. As Pandy danced in dizzy twirls, as Tilly breakdanced to Billie Eilish's new song about Berger Theme Park, and as Dunkey was laughing.

Slowly, carefully, as if watching the sun rise over a new day, and for the first time in his life... Sidney smiled. A quiet, contented smile. A smile just for himself. A smile that said: Berger Theme Park, everything will be alright.

THE END


Grand Reopening
BERGER THEME PARK



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