



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Thinking about characters...

This extract is from the book, *Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism*. If you want to, read it, and then answer the questions about the characters and see what you understand from the passage, and what you can invent.

STORY TO READ:

Miss Adderstone glared at Molly with her dull, black eyes. Her face heaved in a monstrous way as her tongue dislodged her teeth and moved them around in her mouth before settling them back down on her gums. She thrust the toothbrush at Molly.

'This week you will be toilet monitor. I want the toilets spotless, Molly, and this is the brush you'll be using. And don't think you can get away with using the toilet brush, because I'll be watching you.' Miss Adderstone gave one last, satisfied suck on her teeth, and left the room. Molly slumped down on to the side of the bath. So the something that she'd felt was going to happen tonight was simply trouble. She stared at her manky toothbrush, hoping that her friend Rocky would let her share his.

As she picked at a loose thread on her grey, balding, old towel, she wondered what it was like being wrapped up in a fluffy white towel like the ones in TV adverts.

'Softness is the sign,
Everyone feels fine,
Wash your towels in . . .
Clou-oud Ni-i-n-e.'

Molly loved adverts. They showed how comfortable life could be, lifting her out of her world into theirs. A lot of the ads were silly, but Molly had her favourites, which weren't. These ones were filled with her friends – friends who were always happy to see Molly when she visited them in her mind.

'Wrap yourself in luxury time

Clou-oud Ni-i-n-e.'

Molly was shaken from her towel daydream as the evening assembly bell rang. Molly winced. She was kids called Molly 'Accident Zone', or 'Zono', because she was clumsy, uncoordinated and accident-prone. Her other nicknames were 'Drono', since people said Molly's voice made them want to fall asleep and 'Bogey Eyes', because her eyes were dark green and close together. Only Rocky, her best friend, and some



'Molly! Molly!'

Across the corridor, which was now being stampeded by children rushing downstairs, Molly saw Rocky's dark-brown face, framed with black curls, beckoning her to hurry. Molly grabbed her toothbrush and ran to the bedroom which she shared with two girls called Hazel and Cynthia. As she crossed the corridor, two older boys, Roger Fibbin and Gordon Boils, ran into her and pushed her roughly aside.

'Get out of the way, Zono.'

'Move it, Drono.'

'Quick, Molly!' said Rocky, who was shoving his feet into his slippers. 'We can't be late again! Adderstone will have a fit . . . Mind you, then,' he added, 'she might choke on her false teeth.' He smiled encouragingly at Molly as she searched for her pyjamas. Rocky always knew how to cheer her up. He knew her well. And this was how.

QUESTIONS AND THINGS TO MAKE UP:

- 1: What is the punishment that Miss Adderstone gives Molly? Why do you think she gives Molly this particular punishment?
- 2: Imagine two other punishments that Miss Adderstone might give Molly.
- 3: Give a reason that you think Miss Adderstone is so mean (the answer is not in the passage here). What do you think might have happened to Miss Adderstone in the past that has made her so mean?
- 4: Find adjectives that describe Miss Adderstone. Think of three more of your own that show how horrid she is.
- 5: Why does Molly love adverts?
- 6: Invent another advert that Molly might like. Give it a jingle too.
- 7: Invent some other nasty nicknames that the other kids give Molly.
- 8: When do you think Miss Adderstone might have lost her teeth and how?