



# A BAD DAY

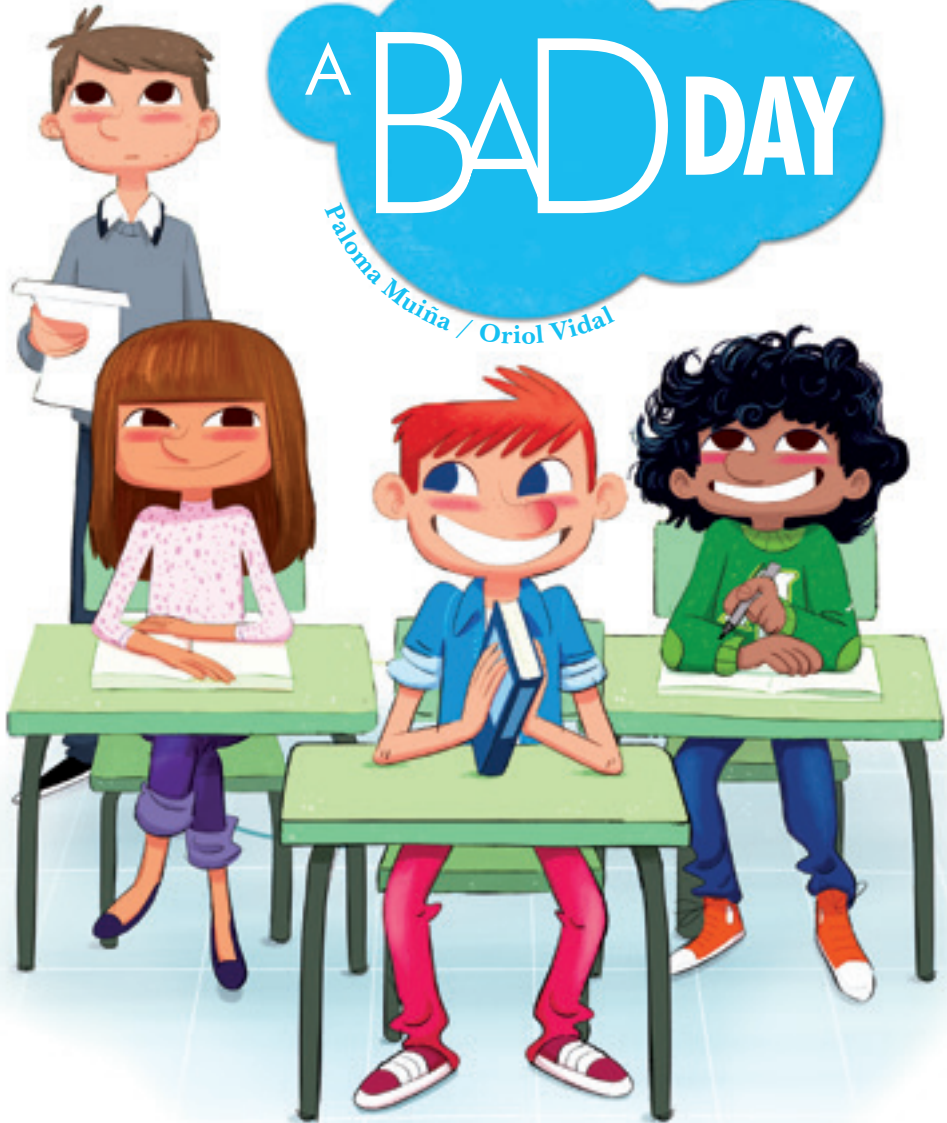
Paloma Muña / Oriol Vidal

Fundación **MAPFRE**



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“Goodbye Mum, I’m going to school,” says Ralph. He closes the door. There is a big puddle outside. A car goes by quickly and splashes him.

Ralph’s hair is wet, his face is wet and his trousers and jumper are wet and dirty. Ralph looks at his watch. It is late and there is no time to change his clothes.

He closes his jacket and starts running. After 5 minutes he stops. Where is his sandwich? Oh no, it is on the kitchen table! Ralph looks at his watch, it is really late and there is no time to go home for his sandwich.

Ralph starts running again and then he coughs, he sneezes and he sneezes again and again. He stops, he takes a tissue out of this pocket and he sneezes again...

“What a horrible day,” he says and starts to run.



Ten minutes later he goes into the class. His clothes are dirty and he has a runny nose. Mr Murray, the Science teacher, looks at Ralph angrily. Ralph coughs again.

“Ralph, sit down and be quiet!,” says Mr Murray.

“I’m sorry, Mr Murray.” Ralph sits down beside Mandy.

“Why are you so wet Ralph?,” asks Mandy.

“A car... A... A... Achooo!”

“Bless you,” says Mandy.

“Ahem, ahem,” says Mr Murray, looking directly at Ralph.

“This week there is a fire drill. Now, listen carefully. When you hear the fire alarm...”

“Achooo! Excuse me,” says Ralph.

“Ahem, ahem,” says Mr Murray, looking at Ralph again.

“When you hear the fire alarm, it is important to be as fast and efficient as possible. This is a fire evacuation drill, but a real fire can happen at any time. So we always have to be prepared.”

Mandy gives Ralph a tissue.

“Thanks. I feel terrible. What a bad day!,” says Ralph.

“RALPH ROGERS, stop talking or leave the class!”

“Achooo! Sorry, Mr Murray,” says Ralph.

“One moment, I’m going to the teacher’s room to get a folder. I’ll be back in a moment. Don’t make a noise!” says Mr Murray.





2

WHERE'S FRED?

IN THERE.



ZZZZ



WHAT'S HE DOING IN THERE?



HE IS HIDING. HE DOESN'T  
HAVE HIS HOMEWORK.

BUT WHY HIDE IN A  
CUPBOARD?

YOU KNOW WHAT FRED  
IS LIKE.

5



3

I'LL TELL HIM TO COME OUT. ACHOOO!

6



4

7





“Right, let’s start the class,” says Mr Murray.

“What time is the fire drill?,” asks a girl with short hair and glasses.

“I don’t know, at any moment we might hear the alarm bell. Just like in a real fire.”



Mr Murray smiles mysteriously.

“Ralph, come to the blackboard,” adds Mr Murray.

“Acho, acho, achooo!”

“Eh, no. Go and blow your nose, Ralph. Charlie, come here. Look, the sun is there. Now, where is North?”

Charlie Munro opens his arms widely and he starts to explain where North is. Ralph looks for a clean tissue. All of a sudden the fire alarm rings. RIIIIINNNNNGGGGG!

Mr Murray is writing on the blackboard. He looks surprised. He puts the chalk down and says: “Well, that was quick. Okay, stand up and line up at the door.”

Some children put their books in their rucksacks and put on their coats, others line up at the door. But some children are still sitting at their desks. They are talking and laughing. Ralph is looking for a packet of tissues.

“Leave everything and line up at the door!,” says Mr Murray.

Now everyone runs to the door. There are nervous laughs. Ralph finds a packet of tissues and he goes to the end of the line beside Mandy.

“Right, now we are going to follow the signs for the emergency exit. It is not the normal way out of school so be careful. Go fast, but no running and no pushing and **IN SILENCE!**”

The children leave the classroom. The pupils from all the other classes are doing the same. All the teachers look very serious. Everyone walks fast. Most of the pupils walk in silence, others talk very quietly.

“Come on! Come on! Quickly!,” says Mr Murray.

He looks at the classroom one more time to check that it is empty and that all the windows are closed. Then he closes the classroom door and walks with his pupils.

“Cathy you go first. Keep in contact with class C in front, okay?”

Cathy nods her head. She cleans her glasses on her jumper.

“Stay in line! Be careful that no-one goes in front of you,” says Mr Murray.

“Mandy, you go at the end. Be careful that no-one goes behind you.”

Mr Percy, the janitor, is in the corridor. He is pointing to the fire exit and he is looking at his watch.

“Follow the fire safety signs! Come on! Follow the signs and listen to your teacher! Everything is clear,” he says.

“What does ‘Everything is clear’ mean?,” asks Mandy when she passes him.

“It means that the escape routes to the assembly point are clear. I’m responsible for the evacuation on this floor,” says Mr Percy.

Ralph is coughing.

“Come on Ralph, don’t stop!,” says Mandy pushing him a little. “Smoke is not good for a cough.”

“What smoke? Remember this is only a fire drill. There is no smoke and there is no fire. Do you understand?”

“Yes, I do, but what about Fred? He is inside the cupboard! I hope the fire drill finishes soon.”

“Hiding in a cupboard is a silly thing to do. Who wants to hide in a cupboard?”

“Fred!” They both answer at the same time and laugh.

“Come on! Come on! Move!,” says Mr Murray. “Follow the signs to the emergency exit.”





Ralph and Mandy are the last in their class to go through the double doors under the green ‘emergency exit’ sign. They go down the stairs, walking near the wall. They walk along a corridor that they don’t know, it is strange for them. Mr Murray tells them to walk quickly.

“Quick! No running! Hurry! Don’t push! Don’t run! Come on, come on!”

“What does that mean? Run slowly?”

“It means walk quickly,” says Mandy. “Do you remember the talk about emergencies and evacuations?”

“Mmm,” says Ralph, he is a little bored. “Lucky Fred, he is sleeping in the cupboard.”



At this moment Fred is snoring. He snores so loudly that he wakes up with a jump.

“What? Where am I? What’s happening?”

He doesn’t remember that he is inside a cupboard and he bumps his head.

“Ouch!” Fred rubs his head and then he listens. There is no noise. He listens carefully. There is silence. Perhaps they are doing a test. Or perhaps it is playtime.

He opens the door and looks out. The class is empty! He looks at the clock:

“It’s early. Where is everybody?”

Fred leaves the cupboard. There is an unfinished word on the blackboard. There are rucksacks and coats. The books are open on the desks.

“Where is everyone? What’s happening?,” says Fred.

He walks to the door and he opens it slowly. There is total silence. He goes into the corridor and starts to walk. He is worried that a teacher will see him and be angry. He looks in the next classroom... it is also empty!

“What’s happening? Is it a joke?”

He looks in the other classrooms. They are empty. There are no children and no teachers.

Fred is scared and he wants to go home. He goes back to the class, puts on his coat and puts all his books in his bag.

He goes into the corridor with his heavy bag and walks towards the school door, in the opposite direction from the emergency exit.

“I can smell smoke,” he says, but he continues walking. “I don’t want to hide in the cupboard ever again. I think it makes me a little crazy.”



Little by little, all the children go into the sports centre. The sports centre is the assembly point. Mr Murray congratulates everyone.

“What good children, don’t you think Mr Percy?,” he says.

“Yes, yes,” answers the janitor looking at his watch. “But where are the children from the ground floor? It’s very late.”

“Well, the young children are on the ground floor. They need more time.”





Mr Percy is nervous. He wants to talk to the headmaster. He tries to see the school building but it is difficult to see it from the sports centre.

“Here is your class list,” says the janitor.



The children are sitting on the floor of the sports centre, near the door. They are happy, they are chatting and laughing. What an adventure. This is more fun than class.

Mr Murray starts to check his class list. Mandy and Ralph look at each other.

“Mary Evans?”

“Here.”

“Nancy Falcon?”

“Here.”

“Mark Rivers? Where is Mark Rivers?”

“Ah, here, sir.”

Mark is talking to a girl from another class.

“Laura Martin?”

“Here.”

“Fred Noble? Ah, no. Fred is not at school today. Is he?”

Ralph coughs and Mandy looks at her hands.

“Okay, I’ll phone Fred’s contact number,” says Mr Murray.

“Cathy. Ask Mr Percy for the contact phone number of Fred, please.”

Mr Murray looks around the sports centre. The children are sitting down, chatting and laughing. Each class is separated from the others with a teacher checking the list of names.

The headmaster is co-ordinating the evacuation. He is irritated. He has a telephone in each hand and he is giving orders to the people around him.

At this moment the infants arrive from the ground floor. They are very noisy.

Miss Neil is one of the infant teachers. She is responsible for her floor. She talks to Mr Murray.



“Where is Mr Percy?”

“He is looking for the contact list. There’s a pupil who…”

“And where is Mr Anderson? I want the lists of infants now!”

Mr Murray looks at her, and says: “What’s wrong?”

“What’s wrong?,” says Miss Neil angrily. It is strange to see her like that, normally she is very calm. “The fire is in the bathroom next to my class!”

“What fire?,” asks Mr Murray.

At that moment Mr Percy arrives with the telephone number of Fred’s mum and dad.

“What fire?,” asks the janitor.

For three seconds Miss Neil, Mr Murray and Mr Percy look at each other, confused. Then they all talk at the same time.

“But this is only a fire drill,” says Mr Murray.

“No, there is a real fire,” says Miss Neil.

“Are all the children okay?,” asks Mr Percy.

“Did you ring the fire alarm?,” asks Mr Murray.

“Is someone putting out the fire?,” asks Mr Percy.

“Me,” says Miss Neil.

“You!” says Mr Murray and Mr Percy.

“I rang the alarm bell. But I don’t know anything about the fire brigade.”

In this moment the headmaster arrives and he talks to Miss Neil.

“The fire brigade are here. The fire is not under control. I have the list of children on your floor. Check that all the pupils are here.”

Mandy and Ralph listen to the conversation. Their eyes are wide open. They are both thinking the same thing: Fred is inside the cupboard and there is a fire in the school!

“We have to help Fred,” says Ralph.

“How can we help Fred?”



“I’m going to the class. A... A... Achooo!”

“Are you crazy?,” says Mandy angrily. “We have to tell Mr Murray.”

“But Mr Murray will be angry with Fred.”

Mandy looks at Ralph. She thinks he really is crazy.

“Ralph, there is a fire. A real fire! We have to tell the teachers. They know what to do!”

“You do what you want, know-all. I’ll look for him.”

Mandy watches Ralph go out the back door while the infants are making a lot of noise. She can’t believe it. What can she do?





1

ARE YOU SURE FRED NOBLE  
CAME TO CLASS TODAY?

CAN I SPEAK TO FRED  
NOBLE'S FAMILY, PLEASE?

4

MR MURRAY, I HAVE  
TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...



2



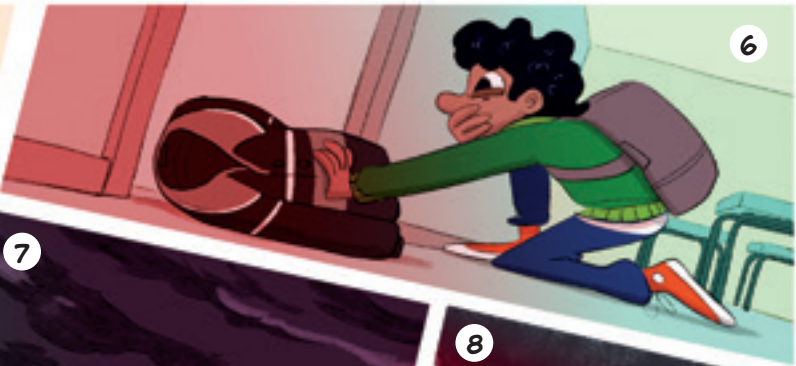
5

THERE ARE TWO BOYS INSIDE,  
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

3



6



7



8



9

DON'T WORRY, MANDY.  
THE FIRE BRIGADE  
WILL SAVE THEM...



10



11





## Fire at Woodlands

Yesterday, Tuesday, there was a fire in Woodlands Primary School, at 21 Bread Street. The fire started at 9:30 a.m. in the bathroom on the ground floor. Nobody knows how the fire started.

The infants were on the ground floor. Miss Neil, a teacher from the infant school, reacted very quickly and rang the alarm bell. The teachers and the janitor were very organized and there was only a little damage.

A fire evacuation drill was planned for yesterday. When the alarm bell rang, many teachers and pupils believed it was the fire drill. Later they discovered it was a real fire.

The headmaster says they will study the situation to correct possible errors and improve fire drill and evacuation procedure in the future.

## Saved in time

Ralph Rogers and Fred Noble, two primary 3 pupils, were in danger. Fred did not hear the alarm and was separated from the other pupils. Ralph wanted to help his friend and he went inside to find him, when the school was on fire. His friend Mandy advised the teachers and the teachers advised the fire brigade. The fire brigade reacted very quickly and saved the two boys.

“I will never sleep in a cupboard again,” Fred said. The relationship between the cupboard and the fire is not clear. The results of the investigation should solve this mystery.



In the picture, Ralph Rogers and Fred Noble.

It seems this is not going to be a good day. Ralph got out the wrong side of the bed; Fred is hiding because he didn't do his homework and the school has planned a fire drill, but will it only be a fire drill?

This book is part of the Fundación MAPFRE Educational Project in Prevention and Road Safety. The main objective of this project is to help prevent accidents in childhood within the household and educational contexts. It is based on promoting safe and responsible behaviour and encourages teachers and family members to become implicated.

The aim of this material is to help readers become aware of why and where accidents happen. It stresses the importance of adopting certain habits to reduce their potential impact.

If you want to know more about the Fundación MAPFRE Educational Project, please contact us through the following websites:

[www.fundacionmapfre.org](http://www.fundacionmapfre.org)  
[www.educatumundo.com](http://www.educatumundo.com)



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