

# The Lie Machine

Story by Andrea Hughes | illustrated by Peter Sheehan

EN2-1A | ACELY1792

**Engage** in a [hot seating activity](#). Three students can be selected to be in the hot seat, taking on the roles of Billy, Gus and Mr Higgins. The rest of the class work in small groups to develop a series of questions for the three characters to respond to.

Sample questions include:

- Mr. Higgins, what did you think was happening when Billy rushed in to find you in the classroom?
- Gus, do you regret making your invention?
- Billy, what was it like having a 'lie' embedded into your brain?

**Write** a reflection on your experiences, after the hot seating activity. Include the following:

- The lesson that can be learnt from reading this story
- How the hot seating activity helped you to understand the issues around lying.
- Reflect on what you liked about the story and how it made you feel when you read it.
- You might also like to imagine what 'lie' you might have put into Billy's brain if you were Gus.

# Reading between the lines

1. Who made the lie machine?

---

2. Who is Mr Higgins?

- a) Billy's father.
- b) The man who lives next door.
- c) The maths teacher.

3. Why did Gus frown after lifting the bucket off Billy's head?

- a) He didn't expect the lie machine to actually work.
- b) He was surprised that Billy's hair had changed colour.
- c) He was worried that he'd get into trouble.

4. Why was Billy running down the street towards the school?

- a) He forgot his homework.
- b) He was scared that Gus would use the lie machine again.
- c) He was looking for Mr Higgins.

5. Why did Billy give Mr Higgins a big hug?

---

6. Explain why Gus smiled when he saw Billy hugging Mr Higgins.

---

7. Why did Gus wish that he'd never invented the 'stupid' machine?

- a) He was scared that Mr Higgins would tell his parents.
- b) He was worried that Billy was upset and everything had gone wrong.
- c) He wished he had of invented a time machine instead.

8. Explain why Gus held his breath when he took the bucket off Billy's head.

---

9. Why did Gus tell Mr Higgins to burn the bucket?

---