




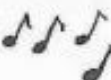



THE BRILLIANT WORLD OF TOM GATES - READING TEXT

Even though I only live four minutes away from school, I'm often late.

This is usually because me and Derek  (my best mate and next-door neighbour) "chat" a bit (OK, a LOT) on the way. Sometimes it's because we get distracted by delicious fruit chews  and caramel wafers  at the shop. Occasionally, it's because I've had loads of other very important things to do.

For instance, this is what I did this morning (my first day back at school).

 Woke up -  listened to music 
Played my guitar



 Rolled out of bed (slowly)

Looked for socks

Looked for clothes

Played some more guitar

Realised I hadn't done my "holiday reading homework"

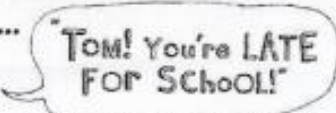
PANICKED   - thought of good excuse for lack of homework (phew!).

Annoyed my sister, Delia. Which I must admit did take up a very LARGE chunk of the morning (time well spent though).

Hid Delia's sunglasses. 

Took my comic into the bathroom to read (while Delia waited outside - Ha! Ha!).

When Mum shouts ...


 "TOM! YOU'RE LATE FOR SCHOOL!"

Mr Fullerman (my form teacher) makes the whole class stand outside our room. He says



"Welcome BACK, Class 5F. I've got a BIG surprise for you ALL."

(which is not good news.)


OH NO! He's rearranged ALL the desks! I'm now sitting right at the front of the class.

Worse still, Marcus "Moany" Meldrew is next to me. 

This is a DISASTER. How am I going to draw my pictures and read my comics?

Sitting at the back of the class I could avoid the teacher's glares.  

I am SO close to Mr Fullerman now I can see up his nose...

And if that's not bad enough, Marcus  Meldrew IS the most annoying boy in the WHOLE school. He is SO nosy and thinks he knows everything.

Adapted from *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* by Liz Puchon