

Miss Version's Challenge



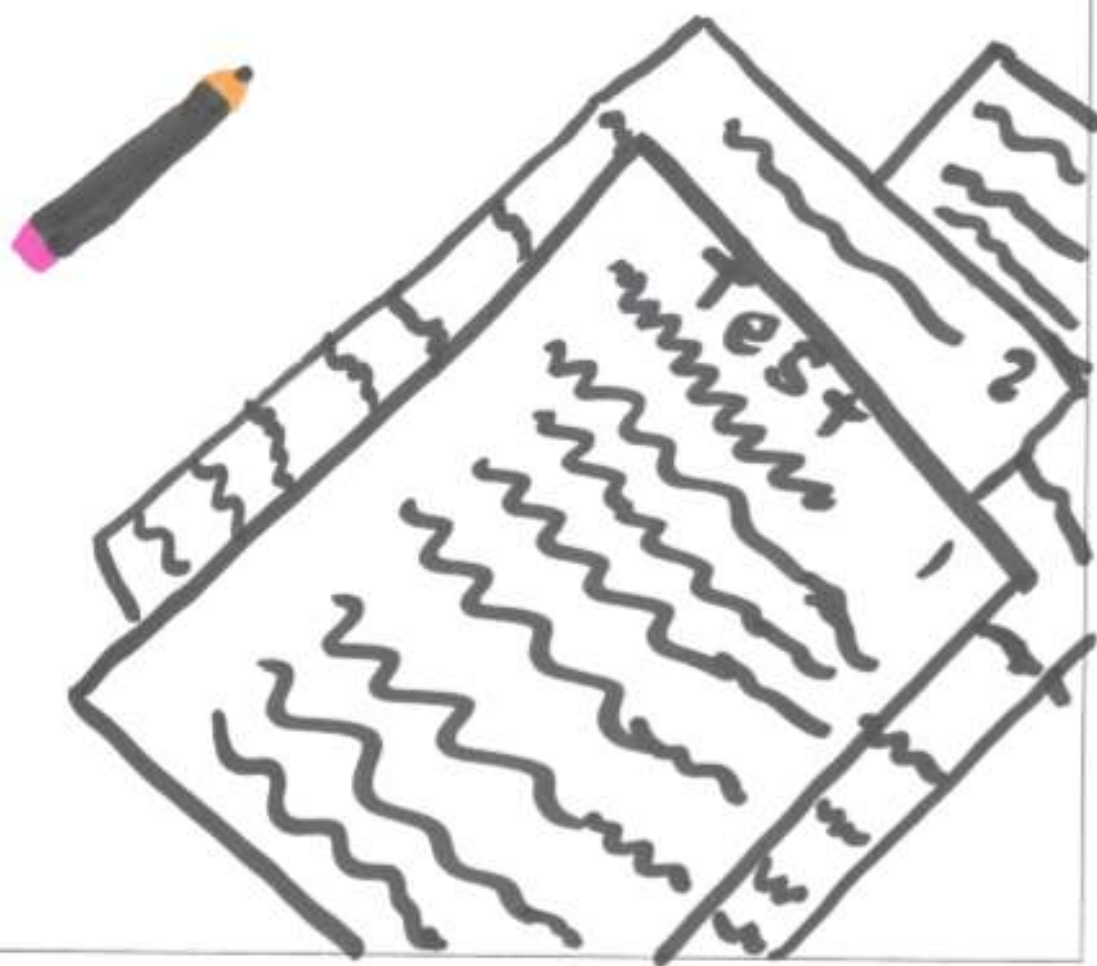
By Lydia Hickey

Mike Smith was a nice boy of ten years. He was good at spelling, most math, science, and chemistry. In fact, I don't think his teachers, or his parents or his friends could think a single thing in school that he was not good at. Except for measuring.



Mike hated measuring in feet, inches, centimetres, or anything that was a unit of measurement.

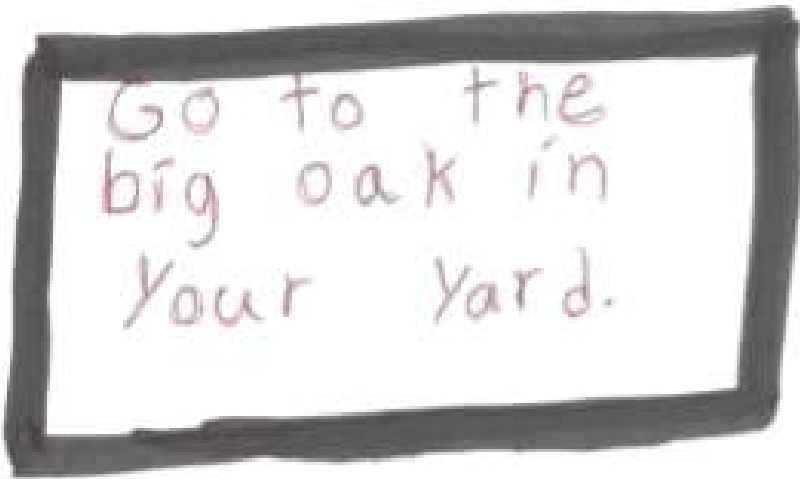
One day, after coming home from school, Mike started complaining to his Mom about a test the fifth grade was going to have the next day.



"It's a test for math class, and it includes measuring!" Mike cried. "All that rot about inches, feet and yards. I get so confused!"

Mike's mom only smiled and handed him an envelope. "Someone told me to give this to you." She said.

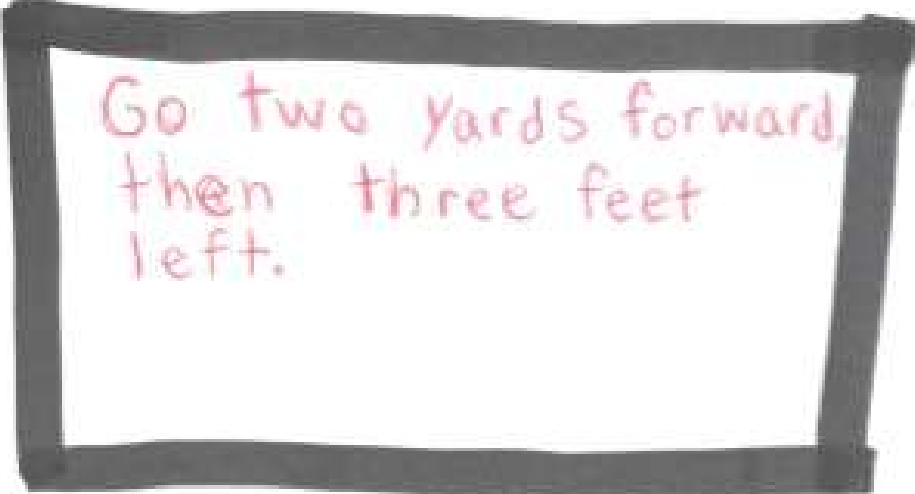
"Thanks mom." He said slowly as he opened the envelope. It said,



Go to the
big oak in
your yard.

"Bye mom!" Mike said as he raced out the door.

Once he got to the oak, he saw a note tacked to it. It said.



Go two yards forward,
then three feet
left.

"Oh no!" said Mike "I hope we have a yardstick!"

Mike ran inside and called to his Mom. "Mom! Do we have a yardstick?"

"No." His mom called back. "But we have one that measures inches. It's on the shelf!"

"Oh!" groaned Mike, disappointed. "Thanks!"

Mike got the ruler and went back outside. "I can't remember how many inches are in a foot or how many feet are in a yard!"

Mike sighed. Suddenly he remembered what his math teacher, Miss Connie Version had said about measurements.

"All you have to do," she had said, "is remember that there are twelve inches in a foot.

Add the two digits of twelve. One plus two equals three!

There are three feet in a yard."

an inch →  36 inches
equals

a foot →  3 feet
equals

a yard →  1 yard

"Yes!" Mike shouted, "I remembered. I can do it now!"

Mike measured along the ground until he had gone two yards forward and three feet left. And there he saw..... another note! It said

Go tell your Math Teacher all that you know about measuring and she'll give you the treasure.

Mike ran inside to ask his Mom if he could go see Miss Version, who just lived up the road, and his mom said yes!

Mike ran to Miss Version's house and told her what he had just done.

Miss Version sat quietly with a smile that seemed almost mysterious, but Mike finished, she smiled even broader and clapped her hands.

"Wonderful Mike!" She said "and... did you have fun?"

"Yes!" Mike said, "But at some times it was hard!"

"Yes," She smiled. "But you remembered my lesson when you were given a fun challenge."

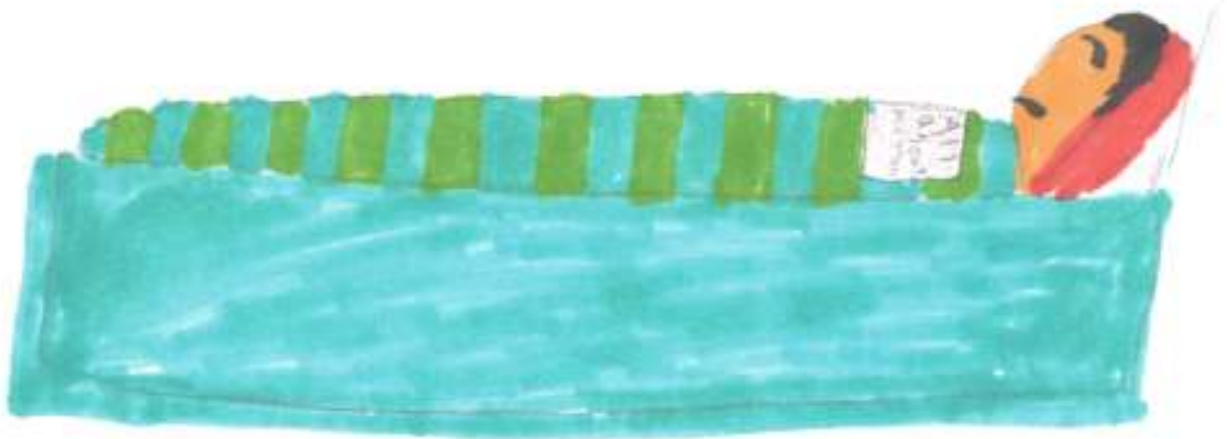
"Yup!" said Mike, "and I think I'm going to do great at the test tomorrow."



"Well," She said, "here's the treasure!"
She gave him a book with a glossy
cover and the words, ...

"All About Measuring" Mike read,
Wow! Thanks a lot! Now, I'll be
really ready for the test!

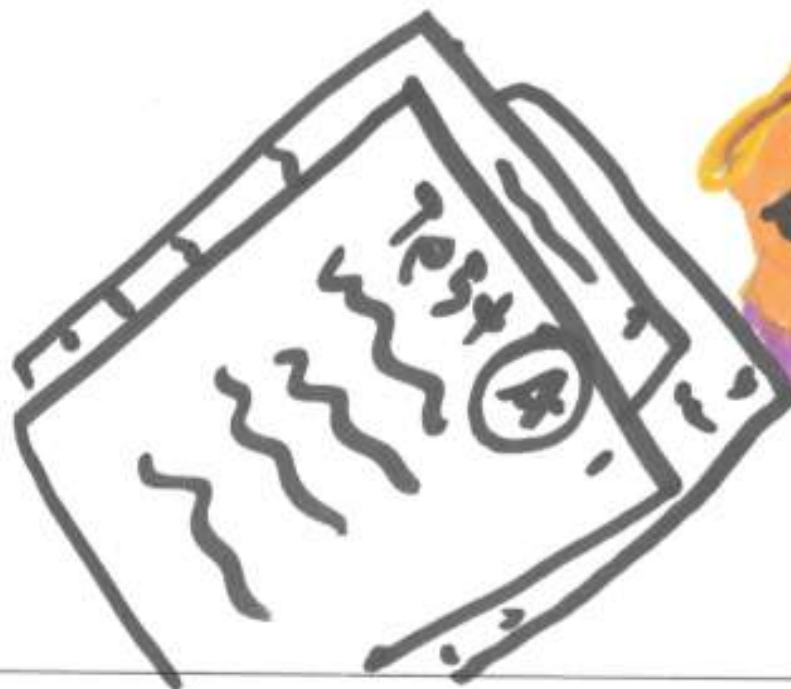
That night Mike was so absorbed
in the book he fell asleep reading it!



The next day when it came time for the test he had some problems that included inches, feet and yards.

The next day when Miss Version was handing out the papers Mike felt very nervous, but when Mike got his he felt like jumping up and down! There it was, He got an A! He had only gotten one wrong, and it was a division problem - not measurement! He could hardly wait to tell his mom!

From then on people could truly say he was good at all subjects - thanks to Miss Version's challenge!



Mike Smith was a nice boy of ten years. I don't think his teachers, or his parents, or his friends could think of a single subject at school he was not good at. Except for measuring.

Read this delightful book in which Mike's math teacher, Miss Connie Version, gives him a challenge that helps him overcome his weakness of measurements.



About The Author

Lydia Hickey is eleven years old, and is homeschooled in Nova Scotia, Canada, where she enjoys doing treasure hunts like "Miss Version's" with her siblings.