

## The Goloknip Stories

by Roderick Ramage

### fences, see-saw and walls

'How do you do that?'

Ben watched with amazement as the goloknip went in and out of the West Park bowling green, going through the fence without even squeezing, while he had to stay on his own side. Sometimes, when the metal uprights were already bent, Ben would squeeze through a fence into somewhere where he was not supposed to be, but when the goloknip went through it you just saw two or three rails going into him on one side and coming out of the other when you got through, then you would come back onto Ben's side. A grumpy old man playing bowls shouted at him to stop, when Ben tried to squeeze through a gap but couldn't. But none of the people playing bowls noticed anything when the goloknip went in and out: they were far too old.

'Let's go to the playground.'

The goloknip shimmered a mischievous colour. Yo was obviously plotting something but was not going to tell Ben until they got there.

'Look, the see-saw is empty. I'll sit on the down end and you, Ben, pull the up end down.'

'Won't that be heavy, with you on the down end.'

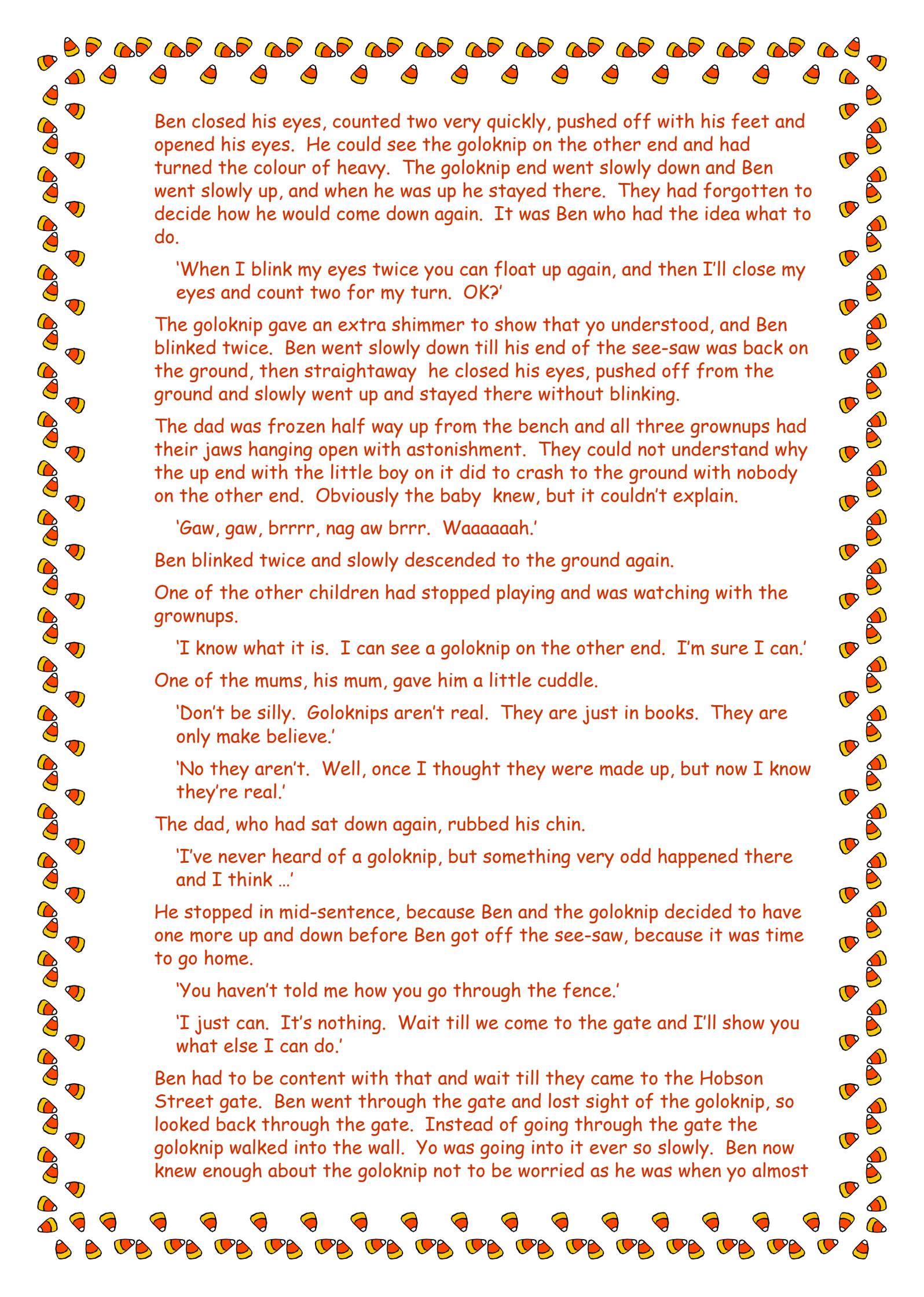
'I weight what I want to weigh. I'll float up so your up end comes down and you get on.'

This is exactly what happened. Ben's see-saw end was now down, and he got on wondering what would happen next. Some grownups, two mums and a dad were watching their children playing. One of the mums was pushing a baby on a swing and looking round while she did it: the baby was safely strapped in. She noticed Ben sitting on his own on the down end of the see-saw and pointed.

'Look. That little boy walked in on his own and now he's sitting by his own on the see-saw. Poor thing. Do you think he's waiting for someone or just lonely. It's a shame.'

They all looked at Ben. The dad told the others that would go and push the other end of the see-saw down. He was just starting to get up from the bench, when the goloknip whispered to Ben.

'Quick, before that man comes. Close your eyes, count to two, push off with your feet and open your eyes.'



Ben closed his eyes, counted two very quickly, pushed off with his feet and opened his eyes. He could see the goloknip on the other end and had turned the colour of heavy. The goloknip end went slowly down and Ben went slowly up, and when he was up he stayed there. They had forgotten to decide how he would come down again. It was Ben who had the idea what to do.

'When I blink my eyes twice you can float up again, and then I'll close my eyes and count two for my turn. OK?'

The goloknip gave an extra shimmer to show that yo understood, and Ben blinked twice. Ben went slowly down till his end of the see-saw was back on the ground, then straightaway he closed his eyes, pushed off from the ground and slowly went up and stayed there without blinking.

The dad was frozen half way up from the bench and all three grownups had their jaws hanging open with astonishment. They could not understand why the up end with the little boy on it did to crash to the ground with nobody on the other end. Obviously the baby knew, but it couldn't explain.

'Gaw, gaw, brrrr, nag aw brrrr. Waaaaaah.'

Ben blinked twice and slowly descended to the ground again.

One of the other children had stopped playing and was watching with the grownups.

'I know what it is. I can see a goloknip on the other end. I'm sure I can.'  
One of the mums, his mum, gave him a little cuddle.

'Don't be silly. Goloknips aren't real. They are just in books. They are only make believe.'

'No they aren't. Well, once I thought they were made up, but now I know they're real.'

The dad, who had sat down again, rubbed his chin.

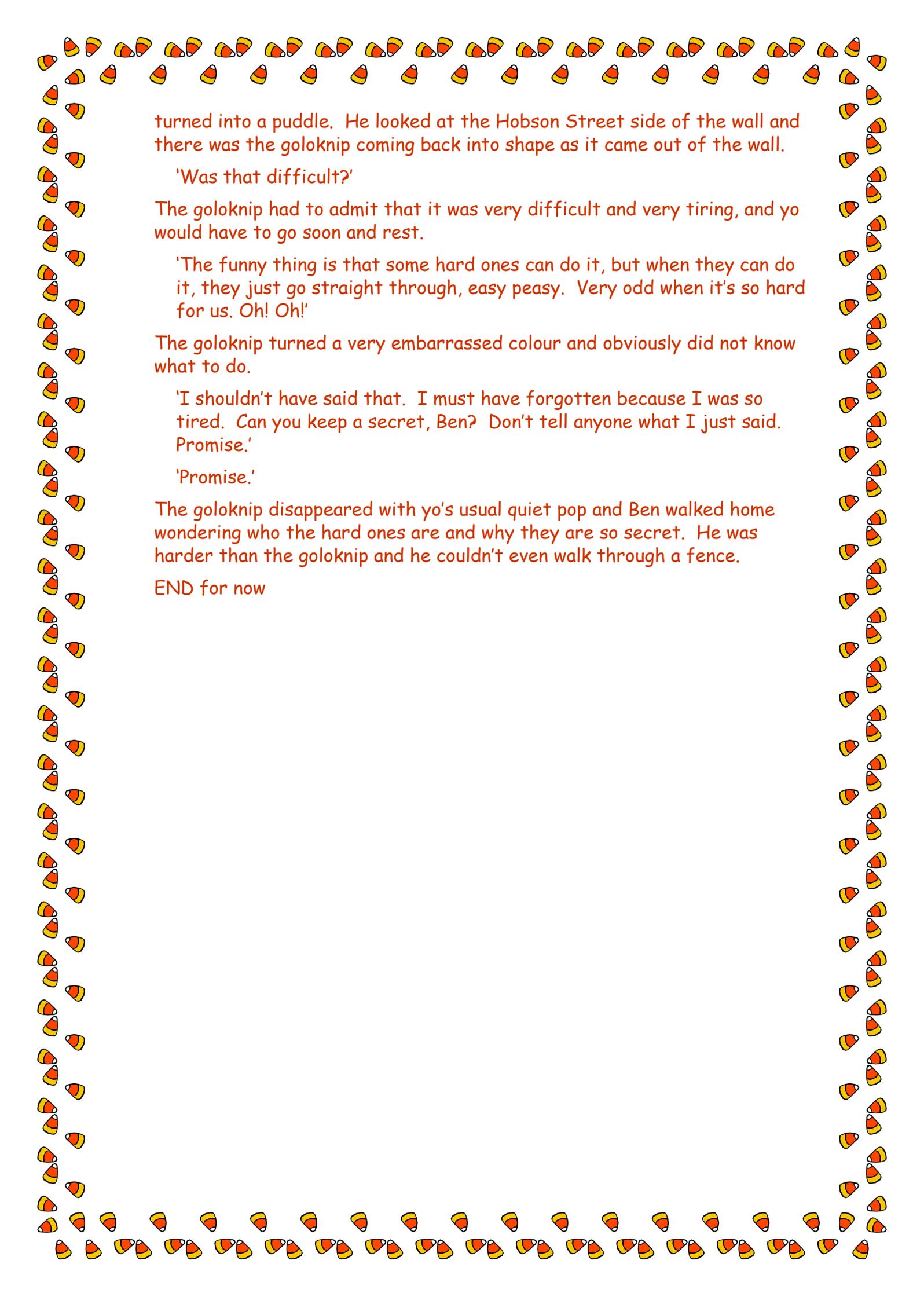
'I've never heard of a goloknip, but something very odd happened there and I think ...'

He stopped in mid-sentence, because Ben and the goloknip decided to have one more up and down before Ben got off the see-saw, because it was time to go home.

'You haven't told me how you go through the fence.'

'I just can. It's nothing. Wait till we come to the gate and I'll show you what else I can do.'

Ben had to be content with that and wait till they came to the Hobson Street gate. Ben went through the gate and lost sight of the goloknip, so looked back through the gate. Instead of going through the gate the goloknip walked into the wall. Yo was going into it ever so slowly. Ben now knew enough about the goloknip not to be worried as he was when yo almost



turned into a puddle. He looked at the Hobson Street side of the wall and there was the goloknip coming back into shape as it came out of the wall.

'Was that difficult?'

The goloknip had to admit that it was very difficult and very tiring, and yo would have to go soon and rest.

'The funny thing is that some hard ones can do it, but when they can do it, they just go straight through, easy peasy. Very odd when it's so hard for us. Oh! Oh!'

The goloknip turned a very embarrassed colour and obviously did not know what to do.

'I shouldn't have said that. I must have forgotten because I was so tired. Can you keep a secret, Ben? Don't tell anyone what I just said. Promise.'

'Promise.'

The goloknip disappeared with yo's usual quiet pop and Ben walked home wondering who the hard ones are and why they are so secret. He was harder than the goloknip and he couldn't even walk through a fence.

END for now