

The Goloknip Stories

by Roderick Ramage

10 bullies, dragons and shopping

'Can you make yourself look like a boy please.'

'Of course I can. What kind of boy?' 'Well, um, a bit like me. But bigger in case we meet anyone. And with different coloured hair and clothes.'

The goloknip started to grow arms and legs and to shimmer a solid colour, but Ben was afraid that people might see.

'Can we hide while you turn into a boy?'

'OK. We'll go down this path to the canal and I'll finish under the bridge.'

The silly thing made yoself too big and nearly reached the underneath of the road, so Ben had to tell yo what size be and make sure that yo's arms were the right size and in the right place. Ben wanted to get to the shop and home quickly. He knew he was being naughty going the long way round and hurried up the path back to the road. He had to stop suddenly because two big boys at the top were laughing and throwing stones. They saw Ben and turned to threaten him.

'Hey you. Do you want to get hit by a stone. What will your mumsie say if you ...'

'Let's chase him into the canal. That'll teach him not to come to our place.'

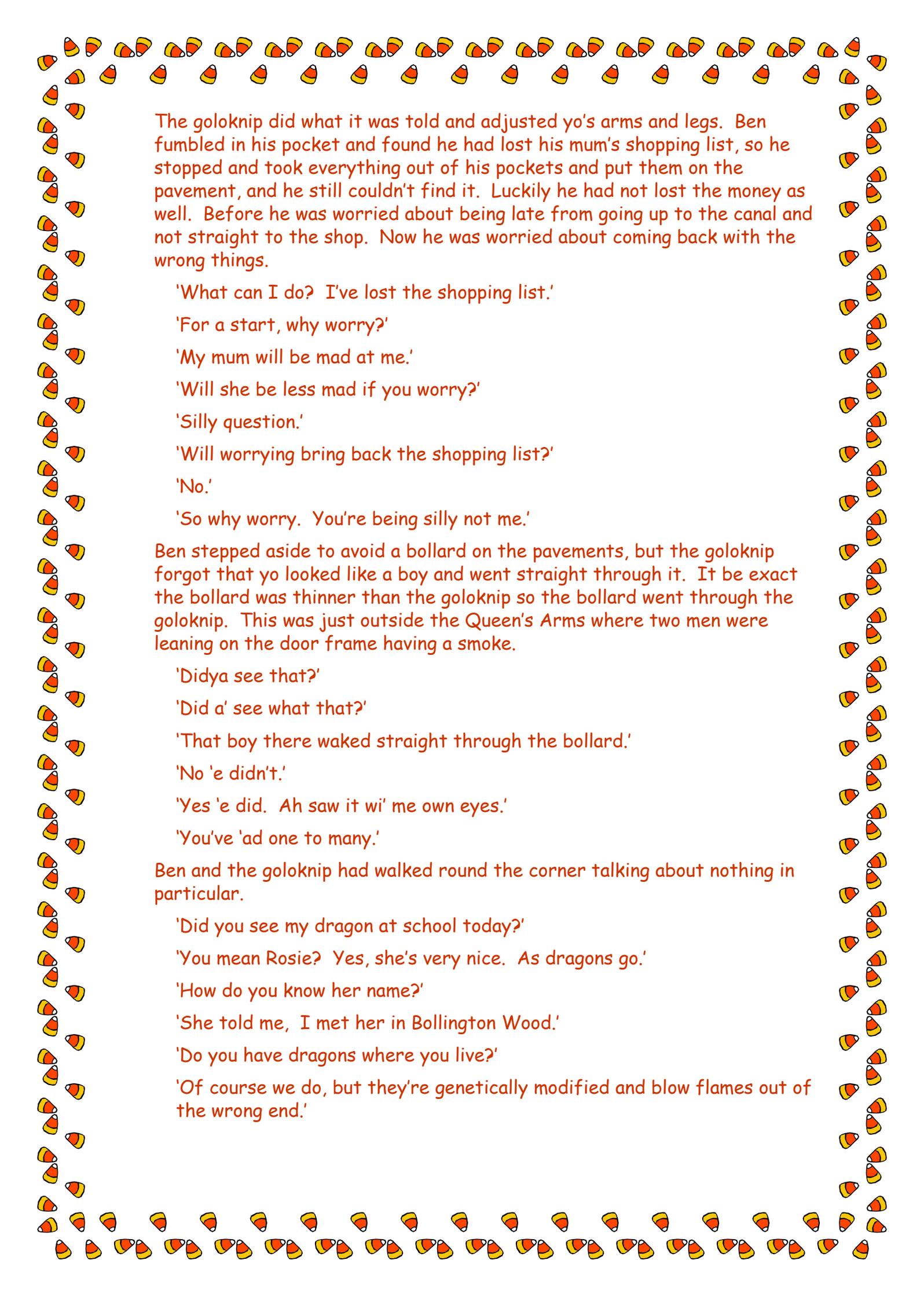
'But I can't swim - properly.'

'We don't care.'

The two big boys started to come down the path towards Ben, when the goloknip finished adjusting its arms and legs and came round the corner from under the canal bridge. The big boys stopped in their tracks and their faces changed to fright. The goloknip had got yoself about right. Yo was dressed like a boy with messy brown hair, but yo's arms were too long and yo's legs too short, so yo rolled as yo walked and yo's knuckles almost toughed the ground.

The big boys stood frozen until the goloknip walked almost through Ben towards them, then they dropped their stones and turned and fled. Ben caught up with the goloknip.

'Thanks. That was close. You must make your legs a bit longer and arms shorter but stay the same height.'



The goloknip did what it was told and adjusted yo's arms and legs. Ben fumbled in his pocket and found he had lost his mum's shopping list, so he stopped and took everything out of his pockets and put them on the pavement, and he still couldn't find it. Luckily he had not lost the money as well. Before he was worried about being late from going up to the canal and not straight to the shop. Now he was worried about coming back with the wrong things.

'What can I do? I've lost the shopping list.'

'For a start, why worry?'

'My mum will be mad at me.'

'Will she be less mad if you worry?'

'Silly question.'

'Will worrying bring back the shopping list?'

'No.'

'So why worry. You're being silly not me.'

Ben stepped aside to avoid a bollard on the pavements, but the goloknip forgot that yo looked like a boy and went straight through it. It be exact the bollard was thinner than the goloknip so the bollard went through the goloknip. This was just outside the Queen's Arms where two men were leaning on the door frame having a smoke.

'Didya see that?'

'Did a' see what that?'

'That boy there waked straight through the bollard.'

'No 'e didn't.'

'Yes 'e did. Ah saw it wi' me own eyes.'

'You've 'ad one to many.'

Ben and the goloknip had walked round the corner talking about nothing in particular.

'Did you see my dragon at school today?'

'You mean Rosie? Yes, she's very nice. As dragons go.'

'How do you know her name?'

'She told me, I met her in Bollington Wood.'

'Do you have dragons where you live?'

'Of course we do, but they're genetically modified and blow flames out of the wrong end.'



They were almost at the corner shop, where Ben ought to have been a long while ago, and he was still wondering what to do. The goloknip guessed what he was thinking.

'What did your mum say she wanted?'

'She said butter but I can't think what else.'

'So what goes with butter?'

'Bread?'

'Did she say "bread" or, um "washing up liquid"?''

Ben laughed.

'That's silly, "washing up liquid". She said "marmalade". She was talking about breakfast tomorrow.'

'How about "bacon"?''

'I don't think so. I remember she did say "eggs" because I mustn't drop them. I know we still have cornflakes.'

The corner shop had a nice man who recognised Ben and asked for his mum's shopping list, so Ben said that he had lost it but he could remember what she wanted. It came out in a rush as Ben handed over the money.

'Marmalade eggs, bread and butter.'

It came out as 'Mama laid eggs, bread and butter'. The shopkeeper stifled a laugh, then got the things for him and handed Ben his bag and the change.

Back home Ben's mum was cross and worried that he was late, but glad that he was back safe.

'Where's the bacon. I know I wrote it on the list?'

the end for now