



WHAT THE THUNDER SAID

A play for
Year 5 and Year 6
by
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What the Thunder Said – Synopsis

Toilets is an average, slightly scummy, kid. It is the summer holidays before the start of secondary school. He is down by the canal, play-fighting and hanging out, when he sees something that wasn't for him to see: his brother Chris fighting, not play-fighting – but hurting people, for real. Toilets is scared and doesn't know what to do.

Toilets tries to joke with Chris, but Chris tells him that he has to stop messing around and toughen up. Chris tells Toilets that he can't tell anyone about what he has seen – not anyone; that he has to take every bit of fear or sadness and “put a lock on it”.

That night, when Toilets goes to bed, a creature comes into his room: Major Truffle. Toilets doesn't know what it is or where it's come from. Major Truffle tells him that he is searching for the chosen one – whose name is Toilets. Toilets is confused. The creature tells him that Toilets needs to come to his land and save his people from “The Yowlers”, hooded, dark monsters who stalk the “wasteland”, smelling people's fear and drinking their souls. Major Truffle shows Toilets this land, which happens to be at bottom of the toy box, Toilets is amazed and decides to go with him.

In this other land, Toilets meets Sneblette, another creature, and tells him that he is looking for the Yowlers. Sneblette is very happy to hear that Toilets has come to save them all. Sneblette tells Toilets that he has to find the Yowler boss: The Big, Bad Himself and that to find him, he needs to get hold of the “Book of Infinite Wisdom”. Toilets sets out to find it.

He finds this book in the hands of two creatures called Ms. Smudge and Mr Snuge. They tell him that he can ask them two questions, about anything. Toilets wants to find out how to handle Chris and to deal with bad guys and bullies, they come up with answers – but not the ones he is looking for. They give him the directions to Yowler Town.

Yowler town is a sort of nightmarish version of Toilet's home-town and Toilets is scared. He can't control his fear and the Yowlers sniff him out and they are sucking his soul out when....Chris wakes him up and says he's been dreaming. Toilets is worried that it has happened: that's his soul has been taken.

Chris takes him outside to “toughen him up”, he makes him do some horrible things and Toilets ends up being made to shoot a bird. Toilets is worried that he can do these things so easily and thinks that he really has lost his soul. Night starts to close in and when he falls himself, the Big Bad and Himself walks into his room.

The Big Bad and Himself try to force him to go in different directions, one good and one bad – Toilets decides to take his own path.

Toilets goes back to Yowler Town and is about to get attacked by some Yowlers, when he decides to try use his imagination to outsmart them. Eventually, he works out that it is happiness that they are scared of, Toilets asks the audience to defeat them with happiness, the Yowlers smell each other's fear and are conquered.

Back at home, Chris says that he is going to take Toilets out – to an “initiation” with his “crew”. Toilets doesn't want to go and he has an idea – he starts to play-fight with Chris; trying to get him to laugh and have fun, like he did with the Yowlers. It doesn't work and Chris gets cross. Then, quietly at first, Toilets says that he is not going to go. Chris challenges him at says that he has to, that he has to toughen up – so that he doesn't get beaten up; that's the way it is.

Toilet tells him that there are other ways to deal with being scared or to deal with bullies, that you don't have to hurt people, that you can be clever or funny instead, that you don't have to be in a gang, that you can choose to have different friends. That it's not all about starting fights, that you can see the happy things too. He tries to joke with Chris again – he does his vampire impression and Chris cracks. They joke, comfort each other and start play-fighting.

THE END