Chapter Two



DRINKS

Flavoured Milk	$1.80
Plain Milk	$0.90
Low Fat Milk	$0.90
Plain Fat Milk	100 Kilos
Poppers - apple, orange, tropical	$1.20
Nannas - blue hair, purple hair, no hair	$1.20
Soft Drinks- cola, lemon, orange	$1.30
Hard Drinks - iceberg, cement, algebra	$1.50
Sportswater	$2.00
Lazywater	$1.00
Slush Puppy	$2.00
Shoe-Eating Puppy	$2.00

This Ten Minute Tutor print out is part of a learn to read program and comes with an accompanying video. It is © Copyright by Transformation Trust.
Go to www.thetenminutetutor.com for more information

Pat Flynn

Except for a few minutes at the start of lunch, I don't have many friends. I used to be best mates with Craig Withers until a new kid started calling him water buffalo. I told Craig to either ignore it or beat the hell out of the new kid, but for some reason it got to Withers - who's the second fattest kid in the school, behind yours truly. After that, Withers didn't want to be my mate anymore. In fact, he started teasing me more than anyone. And his new best friend? The new kid. When you're like me you learn something pretty quick. Life doesn't sense too much make.

But there is someone who's always nice to me: Jan the tuckshop lady. 'Well, if it isn't my young friend Matthew?' she says when I finally make it to the counter. 'What would you like today?'

Sometimes the other tuckshop lady, Mrs Dwyer, gives me a look as if to say, 'What are *you* doing here?' I like Jan heaps more than Mrs Dwyer, so I nearly always go in her line, even if it's longer.

'Hi, Jan.' I'm 80 cents poorer so a new lunch strategy must be quickly planned, but I thrive under pressure. 'Can I please have a cheese dog with sauce, barbeque chips and a plain milk?' I lean forward. 'And do you reckon I could have a couple of hits of chocolate topping in the milk?'

She smiles. 'Of course you could, darl, except there's no chocolate left. I just used up the last bit.' She gives me a wink. 'I think someone's been spreading our little secret.'

This Ten Minute Tutor print out is part of a learn to read program and comes with an accompanying video. It is © Copyright by Transformation Trust.
Go to www.thetenminutetutor.com for more information

THE TUCKSHOP KID

I look across the covered area to see Andy Reynolds shaking his milk up and down like a madman, spilling half of it.

Jan puts her mouth near my ear. 'How about I give you a chocolate one for the same price?'

Like I said, you gotta love Jan. Sometimes I have this dream that she's my mum, and in the dream we go on a picnic and there's a blanketful of beautiful food laid out on soft grass. And then Kayla comes up with melted chocolate over her fingers and puts them in my mouth and... I think I've said too much already.

I take lunch to the handball courts. I'd prefer to sit at a table, but eating on my own would make me look like more of a loser than I already am, so I eat standing in the handball line. The cheese dog is superb. The roll is fresh but slightly toasted, so each bite has a soft crunch. The melted cheese melts in my mouth (as it should), and the dog is hot and tasty, especially with heaps of sauce over it. About ten blokes ask for a bite but I say no. I'm not getting scabbed on again this lunchtime.

With the chips and chocolate milk in my pockets, I get in then out of the dunce square in handball, which suits me fine because I want to finish my food. The chips disappear first, barbeque being tasty but causing a real thirst. It's impossible to drink while you eat at school, as it's a sure way to spill, drop or have something nicked. Rather than struggle with the crumbs, I give the chip packet away and open my milk. It's cold. It's chocolatey.

This Ten Minute Tutor print out is part of a learn to read program and comes with an accompanying video. It is © Copyright by Transformation Trust.
Go to www.thetenminutetutor.com for more information

THE TUCKSHOP KID

It's good.

Andy comes over. 'Why didn't you use the milkshake trick?"
'Someone used up all the chocolate.'
'Yeah, sure. You just wanna win a free one.'
'What do you mean?'

He points to the side of the milk carton. It says that one out of every ten chocolate milks is a winner. *Look inside when it's empty,* it says. I remind myself to do it.

I get into the game again and take an air-swing. Kids laugh and so do I.

Then someone yells from the stairs above: 'Good shot, pork chop!'

Kids laugh again, but I don't. On the stairs are Withers and the new kid.

'Watch out for the hippo behind you,' says Withers. 'Oh, that's right, it's your bum.'

He and the new kid high-five.

I imagine myself chasing and catching them, then sitting on their heads and breaking wind. But I'd be flat out catching a Year 1-er.

'Come here and say that,' I tempt them.
'I'd rather not get any closer to your man boobs,' says Withers.
'You've got a lot of guts, Withers.' I grab my stomach. 'A *lot* of guts.'

This makes everyone laugh but I don't feel too flash. In Year 2, when I was first teased about being fat, I'd get

This Ten Minute Tutor print out is part of a learn to read program and comes with an accompanying video. It is © Copyright by Transformation Trust.
Go to www.thetenminutetutor.com for more information

Pat Flynn

real upset and find a teacher. They'd always say, 'Sticks and stones will break your bones but words will never hurt you.' What I want to say to teachers is this: you get called 'moo-cow' every day for a year and see how you feel. And because I know how it feels I'd rather not do it to Withers, except for one thing: he started it (which is something else teachers never seem to understand).

The bell rings and I finish my chocolate milk, and written on the bottom of the carton is a word which sums up how I never feel: 'WINNER!'

I walk quickly to the tuckshop and show Jan, who gives me a smile and a free drink. 'Put it in your bag for later,' she says.

'Okay.'

But when I get around the corner I skol it. It's just gonna go off in my bag, or get pinched, I reckon. And since that little confrontation with Withers I feel like a bit of a pick-me-up. But for some reason, this choccy milk doesn't taste as sweet as the first one. In fact, as I line up for class, I start to feel slightly sick in the stomach.

This Ten Minute Tutor print out is part of a learn to read program and comes with an accompanying video. It is © Copyright by Transformation Trust.
Go to www.thetenminutetutor.com for more information