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## **Glaston**

*(A young storybook hero is talking to a reluctant dragon.)*

GLASTON: Tell me another story, Dragon. Of saints and battles, dragons and armor from the olden days! Weren't creatures like you quite plentiful then? Oh, the world must have been filled with thrills and surprises! Tell me! Didn't all the knights from distant lands come together for great tournaments to joust and wrestle? And didn't they wear suits of armor that sparkled in the sun? And didn't they – what? *(He listens, then repeats what the dragon has just told him.)* “Rip and bash themselves up just to prove who was the noblest?” Why, that makes them sound silly. Knights and saints aren't silly. They're heroes! You have it all wrong, Dragon. You've been living underground far too long. Your memory is bad. Let's try again, Dragon. Tell me another story. Dragon!

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## **Conner**

*(talking to his mother)*

CONNER: Mom. I gotta stay home today. See? Look at my eyes. They're all hazy-looking. *(Taking a step back.)* You don't have to feel me! I already took my temperature. It's bad. Really bad. You go ahead and go to work. I'll be fine – not fine, I'm sick! But you can leave. It's OK. Don't give me that look! It's your "I don't believe you look." I told you. I don't feel like going to school. That is the truth. Nobody will notice I'm absent, so what does it matter? If I fell off the earth it wouldn't matter to anybody in the whole school. Wait, Mom, are you calling the doctor? OK. OK. Where's my backpack?

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**Mia**

*(talking to her drama teacher)*

MIA: Please, Mrs. Duarte. Don't cast me as a kid! I always have to play the kid. But I can play anything! Watch. I can be a Mom: "Oh honey, welcome home from school. Here are some cookies I just baked for you." Or a real Mom: "Hey honey, jump in, bus is leaving, brought you a snack, how was school, did we lose your brother?" Or wait. A dog. I love playing dogs. "Yip. Yip. Yip. Where's my ball? Just let me play catch. I love to play catch." Or a villain: "Give me the money, and give me it right now! No questions and nobody'll get hurt." See! I have great range! *(Pause.)* It's just ... I'm the littlest in everything. Nobody ever gives me a chance ... in anything. Please. Just let me try.

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## **Karina**

*(talking to a rather eccentric girl she has just met)*

KARINA: You wanna know why I never talk? Because people don't listen to what I say. Sure, it hurts to be left out of all the games or the boyfriend talk. Not much I could say about boyfriends even if I was left in. The only guy who ever asked me to go with him – when he asked me, I said, “Go where?” But hey, I'm used to being left out. But, see, that never happens to you. Cause you're the kind of weird that people think is interesting. I'm just weird. *(Thoughtfully.)* Isn't it weird being weird? You know ... we could be weird together. That sounded weird. What I mean is ... friends. Wanna come over after school?