

Your teacher has asked you to write a **story** for the school magazine. The story must begin like this:

"Anna was walking home when the storm broke out. Where could she find shelter? There was a house only fifty metres away." **Write your story.**

Quitinophobia

by Nico Madysa

Anna was walking home when the storm broke out. Where could she find shelter? There was a house only fifty metres away. The children in the neighbourhood said that that were the home of a megalomaniac scientist but Anna did not remember that as she was totally drenched. She ran to the building and knocked on the door since there was not even a canopy and she got still wet.

Astonishingly, the door was unlocked. Anna allowed herself to enter and glanced through the room. Fortunately she could not make out anything frightening. But suddenly, she saw that there was light in the cellar. "Hello? Is anybody in there?", she asked anxiously down the stairs but nobody answered although there were noises which proved that there was someone. As she has always been curious, Anna sneaked downstairs where she found the megalomaniac scientist, indeed!

"Hey, whaddya doin' here?!", the scientist suddenly shouted; he glared at the mirror wherein he could see her. Anna replied: "I escaped from the storm. But what are you doing here?" – "I'm workin' on my newest invention! Fifteen inches large cockroaches!" Anna was absolutely flabbergasted. "Who does need extra large cockroaches?" A short moment, it was the scientist who was stunned. "Err... what's that for a question! Me, of course! Me, me, me, me, me! In order to conquer the whole world!"

Anna was terrified. This guy was not only simply mad, he was a real threat! Cautiously, she began to walk backwards towards the stairs. "Yeah... Well, I have to go now, you know?" As it were the most certain thing in the world, he said: "No, you'll stay. I need somebody to hear the story of my invention before I'll come to world domination." – "Oh, can't you talk to your hand? I've really got to go now!", Anna shouted. The scientist went on talking: "For the armour, I couldn't use normal quitine for it was too hard. My first samples exploded 'cause they grew faster than their shell. That's why I substituted it by glucose."

Anna analysed the situation. Behind her, there were two of those giant cockroaches; in front of her, the scientist was talking, almost to himself. Suddenly, she had an idea: "Hey, look out! There is a dead bird flying to you!" – "Where?! Where?!", he cried frightened protecting his head with his arms. Anna used this chance and fled by jumping over the cockroaches. She dashed upstairs and ran through the corridor and left panically the house but the cockroaches followed her effortlessly. It was still raining. "Oh no, the cockroaches are bad enough! Does it really have to rain?", she thought but meanwhile she heard some odd noises behind her. She turned and saw the cockroaches – they were melting! "Yes, of course! Their shell is of sugar! That's my chance!", she shouted luckily and ran to the next police station. The scientist was put to prison and Anna lost her fear of cockroaches for ever.