Tim Does it Again
by Jan Weeks

Chapter 1
Making Dinner

"I won't be long, Mandy," Mum said. "Take care of Tim. Make sure he doesn't get dirty. We're going out when I come back."

I told Tim that we should watch cartoons. He didn't want to do that. He wanted to play outside.

When I went to see what Tim was doing, he was making mud pies. Tim was using the hose to turn dirt into mud.

"I'm making them for our dinner, Mandy," he said.

Chapter 2
Looking After Tim

Mum was going to be mad when she saw Tim. She was going to be mad with me too. I was meant to be looking after him.

"Look at you, Tim!" I shouted. "You're filthy. You're covered in mud."

"Don't worry, Mandy," he answered. "It will come off."

Tim wiped his face and hands on the clean sheet on the clothes line.

"Now look what you've done," I gasped. "You've put mud all over the sheet."

"It will wash off, Mandy," Tim said. He pulled the sheet from the line. Then he began to drag it through the mud. He was headed for the house.

As he climbed the step, the sheet caught on a nail. There was a ripping noise. When I looked, I saw a big tear in the sheet.

My mouth fell open. Things were getting worse by the second. What was Mum going to say when she saw that?

Chapter 3
Mandy's Lie

"Look at the sheet, Tim!" I cried. "You've torn a hole in it."

"Don't worry, Mandy," he said. "I can mend it."

"How?" I asked.

"With Wonder-Glue! It's wonderful!" he gleamed. "Wonder-Glue can fix anything." Then he looked at me as if I was silly.

I didn't think Wonder-Glue could fix the sheet. I was about to tell him so when the phone rang. I ran into the kitchen to answer it.

It was Mum.
“I’ll be home in ten minutes,” she said. “Is everything all right, Mandy?”

“Yes,” I lied, feeling guilty.

“I knew I could trust you, Mandy,” Mum said. Then she hung up.

When I went to find Tim, he had already opened the Wonder-Glue.

“The sheet is stuck to my fingers, Mandy,” he said. “It won’t come off.”

“Now what are we going to do?” I groaned.

Chapter 4
Stuck Forever

When I pulled on the sheet, it stayed stuck to Tim’s fingers. I pulled harder but it was no use.

“Is it going to be stuck to me forever, Mandy?” Tim asked. His eyes began to fill with tears.

I had to think of something.

“Maybe we can wash it off,” I said, as I dragged Tim into the bathroom.

I filled the bath with water and dropped the sheet into it.

Then I told Tim to get in as well.

“With all my clothes on?” he asked.

There was no way to undress him. Not with a sheet stuck to his fingers.

Putting him in the bath only made things worse. Tim splashed water everywhere as he tried to get the sheet off his fingers.

Water went all over the floor. It flowed out of the bathroom and onto the carpet.

“Now what are we going to do?” Tim asked.

Chapter 5
Caught!

I had a plan. I would get the scissors and cut the sheet off Tim. Then I’d wrap the sheet in newspaper and I’d put it in the bin.

We could tell Mum that the wind had blown it away.

It was too late. I had almost finished cutting when Mum came home.

“Now we’re in big trouble,” I sighed.

“I wish we hadn’t done it,” said Tim.

Mum was so angry she sent both of us to our rooms.

I don’t think we’re ever going to be allowed to come out.

Not for a long time anyway.
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Discussion ideas and grammar pointers

Front cover (if students have a copy of the text)
Read the title and the author’s and illustrator’s names. What do you think the story might be about? What might be the relationship between the characters on the cover? What makes you think this? What do you think the characters are thinking and/or feeling? How do you know this? Where do you think the story will be set? Explain your answer. Do you like the cover? Why or why not? Why do you think the word ‘again’ is used in the title?

Chapter 1
Do you have any brothers or sisters? Are they older or younger than you? When do you look after them or they look after you? Is this easy or hard? Why?

Who is the narrator of the story? Why do you think the author chose this character?

Why do you think Mum went out? Why did she leave Mandy in charge? How did Mandy and Tim feel about this?

Why didn’t Tim want to be inside? What else could he have done inside instead of watch cartoons?

Have you ever made mud pies? What is it like? How did your parents react when they saw your mud pies? What will Mandy and Tim’s mum say when she sees Tim’s mud pies? Why? How can the two children solve this problem? What would you do?

Chapter 2
Why would Mandy’s mum be mad at her when it was Tim who was dirty? What part of the narrative is written about in this chapter? What are the problems that Tim causes?

What punctuation mark is used at the end of a sentence when Mandy shouts at Tim? Why is it used?

What words are used in this chapter to sequence the events as they happen? (now, then)

Why does the sheet rip? (cause and effect)

What punctuation mark is used to end this chapter? Why is it used? What do you think their mum will say? What would your mum say if you had done that?

Chapter 3
Why is this chapter called ‘Mandy’s Lie’? What is a lie? What happens when you lie? Why do you think Mandy tells a lie? Who does she tell it to?

What is the question from Mum that makes Mandy tell the lie? How does the author show you that the sentence is a question?

What is the effect of ending a chapter with a question? Why does the author do it? What do you think the children are going to do now? What would you do?

Chapter 4
Do you think Tim’s fingers will be stuck forever?

What conjunction is used to create a compound sentence in the first paragraph of this chapter? (but)
If this conjunction was removed, what would the two simple sentences be?

Why do Tim’s eyes fill with tears? Have you ever been stuck and thought you couldn’t get out? Explain.

What does Mandy do to try and fix this new problem? Would you do that? If not, what else could you do?

How did the situation get worse by the end of the chapter?

Chapter 5
What is the simple sentence in the first paragraph? How do you know it is a simple sentence? What conjunction is used to make a compound sentence in the same paragraph?

What word is used to sequence the events in this first paragraph? What other words or phrases could have been used instead of ‘then’?

Is Mandy’s idea in this chapter a good one? Why or why not?

What did their mum do when she got home? If you were their mum, what punishment would you have given Tim and Mandy? Why? Is it fair that they both got the same punishment? Explain your answer.

When do you think they will be allowed to come out? What will happen then? Why?

Is the story’s ending effective? Why or why not?
Cut out the pictures below and arrange them to tell the story of *Tim Does It Again.*
You can add labels or captions to help you retell the story.