

# IT BEGINS . . .

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“**T**his is HORRIBLE!” said Sam Graves. He was holding up a shiny orange sash. “I can’t *believe* I have to wear this.”

It was Monday morning, and Sam and his best friends Antonio and Lucy were standing in front of their lockers. They were waiting for the bell to ring.



“Wait, you’re a hall monitor?!” Antonio said. “I didn’t even know Eerie Elementary *had* hall monitors.”

Sam kicked at the floor. “They do now. And it stinks! The principal called my mom last night and said I had been chosen. *Ugh*. It’s going to be *terrible*. I have to stand in the hallway and yell ‘Get to class!’ and ‘No skateboarding!’”

“Well, at least you get to wear that cool orange sash,” Lucy teased.

Sam stuck out his tongue.

# RIIIING!!

“Come on, that’s the bell!” Antonio said.

Sam frowned. “You guys go ahead. I have to make sure everyone has gone into class.”

“We’ll see you inside!” Lucy shouted.

Within moments, the hallway was totally empty. Totally empty, except for Sam.

He began walking the halls. Sam looked through the double doors to the outside. He saw a classmate by the playground.



“Hey, Bryan!” Sam called out. “The bell rang. You should . . . um . . . get to class!” Bryan frowned at Sam. Then he ran past him into the school.

*See? Everyone hates the hall monitor,* thought Sam. He was about to close the door when a cold breeze blew past. He saw that Bryan had dropped his hat near the playground.



*My teacher won't mind if I sneak outside for a second,* thought Sam.

The air outside was like ice. Orange and red leaves whipped across the ground. Sam shoved his hands into his pockets. He could see his breath. It looked like little ghosts were dancing through the air in front of him.