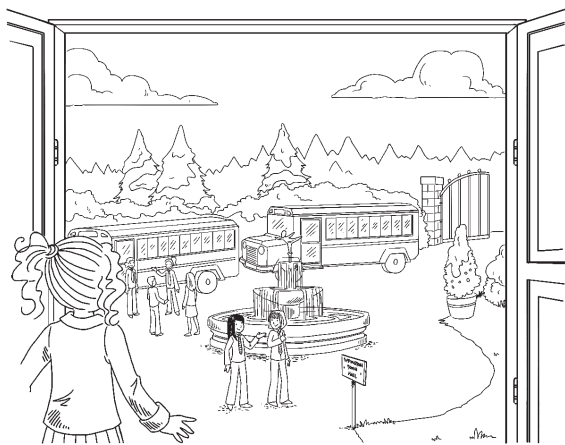


Competition Countdown



Rachel Walker walked over to the large doors of Tippington Town Hall and peered outside. Buses were pulling up and there were lots of people milling around. So far, there was no sign of the very special person she was looking for, her best friend, Kirsty Tate!





Rachel's school was taking part in an exciting competition. Four schools from different parts of the country were competing in two different events. A spelling bee was to be held today at Tippington Town Hall and a science contest was to take place at the Science Museum tomorrow. At the end of the week, there would be a dance at Rachel's school.

Rachel was part of the Tippington School spelling bee team, but the *most* exciting thing was that Kirsty's school, Wetherbury, was also taking part in the competition. Kirsty was a member of the science team and this meant that she was coming to Tippington!

"Rachel! Over here!" called Kirsty. Rachel turned around and there was





Kirsty! She was standing with three other children and a friendly-looking teacher.

“There you are! I was wondering when you’d get there!” said Rachel, running over to Kirsty and giving her a big hug.

