



VIVA VOX EDUCATION

Teen Missions: Our Space

English A2 • Ages 13–15

ILLUSTRATED EDITION • 2026

The people



Mia, 14

New in Riverside.
Draws all the
time, hates
speaking in front
of people.



Leo, 14

Makes short
films. Funny,
tired, and hiding
something.



Sam, 15

Basketball,
games, and a very
bad loser.



Ava, 13

Takes photos and
notices details
nobody else sees.



Jo

The youth worker
at Riverside
Youth Club.



ghost_15

An account that
comments on
every club post.
Nobody knows
who it is.

Before you begin

The whole season in one book: eight stories, thirty-two chapters, one mystery.

Each chapter is the scene students read and hear before a group lesson, the conversation they practise, and the clue their homework unlocks.

New in Town

1. The new girl



Mia is fourteen. Her family moves to Riverside in September, and she doesn't know anyone. At school, she eats her lunch alone and draws in her notebook. The only other quiet person in her class is a tall boy called Gabe. He sits at the back, never speaks and draws with a black pen. Mia doesn't like talking to new people. It makes her nervous.

On Tuesday, she sees a poster on the wall: “Riverside Youth Club. Tuesdays, 5 pm. Games, films, photos, snacks.” She walks past the door three times. Then she goes in.

There are three teenagers at a table. A boy with a camera says, “Hi! I’m Leo. I make short films.” A tall boy says, “I’m Sam. I love basketball and games.” A girl with short hair smiles. “I’m Ava. I take photos. Do you want some crisps?”

Mia sits down. For the first time in Riverside, she smiles. Then the door opens. Jo, the youth worker, comes in with a letter in her hand. Her face is serious. “I have bad news,” she says.

Ava Hi! Are you new?

Mia Yes. I'm Mia. I don't know anyone here.

Ava Well, now you know me. What do you like doing?

Mia I like drawing. And I love music. What about you?

Ava I take photos. I don't like sport at all.

Mia Me neither! Can I see your photos?

File #1. Somebody walks past the club door every Tuesday at 5 pm. Nobody knows who.

2. Twenty names

Jo reads the letter aloud. “The council wants to close the club at the end of December. They say not enough young people come here.” The room is silent.

“How many people do we need?” asks Sam. Jo looks at the letter. “Twenty members. By the first of December.” Leo counts. “One, two, three, four. We have four.”

Ava puts her camera down. “This is the only place I can go after school. My mum works late.” Sam says, “I play basketball on Mondays and Thursdays, but I come here on Tuesdays. It's my favourite day.”

Leo has an idea. He takes a photo of the four of them and posts it online: “Riverside Youth Club needs YOU! Games, films, photos, snacks. Tuesdays at 5.” Ten minutes later, there is one comment. It says: “Who cares? A club for losers.” The name on the account is ghost_15.

Sam Twenty people? That's impossible.

Leo It isn't. Does your brother like games?

Sam He does, but he works on Tuesdays.

Ava Does anyone in your class draw, Mia?

Mia One boy, Gabe. But he never speaks, and I don't talk to people there.

Leo Then this is your chance!

File #2. The account ghost_15 has no photos. Only one post: a drawing of a door.

3. Ignore it or answer?

The next Tuesday, Sam is angry. “ghost_15 comments on every post. Always the same: Who cares? I want to find this person.”

“I never answer comments like that,” says Ava. “People usually stop when you ignore them.” Leo isn't sure.

“Sometimes they stop. Sometimes they don't.”

Then they start to argue about the club. Sam wants games every week. Leo wants films. “People always want games!”

says Sam. “No, you always want games,” says Leo.

Mia doesn't usually speak in groups, but today she does.

“Why not both? Games one week, films the next week.”

Everyone looks at her. “That's actually a good idea,” says Sam.

Later, at home, Mia looks at the ghost_15 account. There is one picture. It's a drawing of the club door, in black pen.

Mia feels cold. Somebody watches the club. And this person can draw.

Sam I always answer rude comments.

Ava Really? I never do. It doesn't help.

Leo Sometimes it helps. It depends.

Mia How often does ghost_15 post?

Sam Every day! Usually at night.

Mia So he's often online late. Interesting.

File #3. ghost_15 usually posts after 11 pm. The drawings are in black pen.

4. The poster mission



“We need posters,” says Leo. “Real posters, in real places.” Mia draws, Ava adds photos, and Sam writes the text: “Come to Riverside Youth Club! You can play games, watch films and meet new people. You can bring a friend. It's free!”

They put posters on the outdoor noticeboards at the school, the library, the sports centre and the café. On Tuesday, five new people come. Sam writes their names on a big list. “Nine!” he shouts. “We've got nine!”

But the next morning, Ava sends a message to the group: “The posters are gone. ALL of them. Somebody took them in the night.”

Sam Can you come to the club on Tuesday?

Girl Maybe. What can I do there?

Sam You can play games or watch films.

Girl Can I bring my brother? He's twelve.

Sam Sure! Everyone is welcome.

Girl OK. I can come after my dance class.

File #4. The posters disappear on the night it rains.
Strange.



The Group Chat

5. Where is everyone?



It's Saturday afternoon. The four friends have their own chat, Our Space. Mia is lying on her bed. She's bored, so she writes a message. Everyone answers except Ava. Then, at seven, Leo posts a photo from the cinema: Leo, Sam and Mia with a big bucket of popcorn.

Five minutes later, Ava writes her first message of the day.

Mia Hi everyone! What are you doing? I'm so bored.

Sam I'm playing basketball in the park. Come!

Leo I'm editing my film. It's taking forever.

Mia Where's Ava? Ava, what are you doing?

Leo Cinema at 6? The new comedy is on.

Sam Yes! I'm coming.

Leo *[Photo: Leo, Sam and Mia at the cinema]*

Ava Thanks for the invite. NOT.

File #5. ghost_15 posts a drawing: four chairs and one empty chair.

6. The screenshot

Leo feels bad. He wrote about the cinema in the group chat, but Ava's phone was off all afternoon. He didn't check if she saw it, and he didn't call her. He wants to explain, so he takes a screenshot of Ava's message and sends it to Sam: "Help. She's angry with me. What do I say??"

But Leo is very tired, and he isn't looking carefully. He doesn't send it to Sam. He sends it to a separate club chat, where all nine club members can read it.

The chat goes crazy. People are sending emojis. Someone writes, "Drama!" Ava is reading everything. Then she leaves the group. The last message in the chat says: "Ava left."

Leo [Screenshot of Ava's message] Help. She's angry with me. What do I say??

Max Wait... is this the right chat?

Leo NO. Sorry! Wrong chat!

Sam Leo, what are you doing?!

Ava Wow. You usually talk to me, not about me.

Ava left.

File #6. ghost_15 writes: "Friends make mistakes. Real friends fix them."

7. How to say sorry



On Tuesday, the club is quiet. Ava isn't there. Leo sits in the corner. "What should I do?" he asks.

Sam has an answer immediately. "You should send her fifty emojis." Mia shakes her head. "No. You shouldn't write in the chat. You should talk to her face to face." Jo agrees. "And you shouldn't say 'sorry, but...'. Just say sorry."

Leo walks to Ava's house. He knocks. Ava opens the door, and he says it: "I'm sorry. I made a mistake." After a long moment, Ava smiles a little. "OK. But you're buying the popcorn next time."

Ava returns to the chat. Jo checks ghost_15's identity with a parent before adding the account. Then Mia sees: "ghost_15 joined the club chat."

Leo What should I say to her?

Mia You should say sorry. That's all.

Leo Should I explain the phone thing?

Mia Later. You shouldn't start with excuses.

Leo What if she's still angry?

Mia Then you should give her time.

File #7. ghost_15 is in the chat now, but writes nothing. The profile picture: a black pen.

8. Chat rules



Ava asks, “Why is ghost_15 here after those rude posts?” Jo says, “I’ve checked who it is with a parent. It’s a local teenager. They must follow our rules. If the rude posts continue, I’ll remove them from the chat.”

So they write the rules together: Be kind. Don't share screenshots. Ask before you post a photo. Don't write after 10 pm, because people are sleeping. Everyone reads them. Two new people join the club. Now there are eleven members. ghost_15 is in the chat, but not on the club list.

At 8:40 pm, ghost_15 writes: “I'm sorry for my rude posts. Your posters were getting wet in the rain. I took them to dry them. I'll put them back.”

Ava Rule 1: Be kind. No exceptions.

Sam Rule 2: Don't share screenshots. Right, Leo?

Leo Very funny. Rule 3: Ask before you post a photo.

Mia Rule 4: Don't write after 10 pm, because people are sleeping.

Jo Great rules. Everyone agrees?

ghost_15 I'm sorry for my rude posts. I took the posters to dry them. I'll put them back.

File #8. ghost_15 knows it rained on the night of the posters. This person lives near the club.

Game Night

9. Which place is better?

Sam has a big idea: a game tournament. “Everybody loves games. Twenty people will come in one night!” But where? The club room is free, but it's small. It's fine for a normal Tuesday, but not for a big tournament.

The café on River Street is bigger and more comfortable, but it costs two pounds per person. The school hall is the biggest place in town, and it's free. But they need the headteacher's permission, and the headteacher is not a fan of video games.

“The café is nicer,” says Ava. “The hall is cheaper,” says Leo. They vote. The hall wins, three to one. Mia goes to the headteacher's office. Ten minutes later, she comes back with a strange expression on her face. “He said yes. But on one condition.”

Ava The café is nicer than the hall.

Leo Yes, but the hall is cheaper. It's free!

Sam And it's bigger. We need space for fifty people.

Ava Fifty? Be realistic, Sam.

Mia OK, the hall is better for a big event.

Leo Let's vote. Hands up for the hall!

File #9. ghost_15 comments on the tournament post:
"Board games are better than video games." The first
nice comment.

10. The best player



The headteacher's condition: "No violent games. And the Year 7 students can play too." Sam isn't happy. "Year 7? They're the worst players in the school!"

They practise on Tuesday. Sam chooses the fastest racing game. He's the most competitive person in the club, and he wants to win everything. A small Year 7 boy, Noah, sits next to him. Noah is quiet. Then he wins. Then he wins again.

Sam's face goes red. He throws the controller on the sofa and shouts, "This game is stupid!" Noah's eyes fill with tears. He runs out of the room. Everybody looks at Sam.

Sam OK, kid. This is the fastest game here.

Noah I know. It's my favourite game.

Leo Noah wins again! That's three times!

Sam This is the worst controller in the world!

Ava Sam, calm down. It's just a game.

Sam This game is stupid!

File #10. ghost_15 writes: "Losing is the hardest thing to learn. I know."

11. The plan

Sam walks to Noah's house after school. He says sorry. Noah thinks for a moment. "OK. But I'm going to beat you again." Sam laughs for the first time that week.

Now they need a plan. Leo is going to make a video advert. Ava is going to take photos. Mia is going to design the tickets. Sam and Noah are going to organise the games: racing games, board games and a quiz for people who don't like video games.

The tournament is on Friday at six. On Friday at five, everything is ready. Forty people are coming. Then, at five thirty, there is a storm. The lights go off. The screens go black. The whole street is dark.

Leo OK, what is everyone going to do?

Ava I'm going to take photos all night.

Mia I'm going to make the tickets. Paper or online?

Sam Paper. Noah and I are going to run the games.

Leo You and Noah? Are you friends now?

Sam He's going to be my coach. Don't laugh.

File #11. ghost_15 writes during the storm: "Torches.
Board games. Funny stories. Don't cancel."

12. Plan B



Forty people are in the dark hall. Jo turns on a torch and asks everyone to stay together. Sam sees a message from ghost_15: "Torches. Board games. Funny stories. Don't cancel."

"I'll get the torches from the kitchen," says Sam. "Jo and I will get the board games," says Noah. Mia says, "I'll start a

funny story game. One sentence each.” Leo turns on his phone light. “I’ll film everything.”

It’s the best night of the year. People play cards, tell funny stories and eat cold pizza. Three new people sign the club list. Now there are fourteen names on it! But on Sunday morning, a photo appears online from an account called `riverside_truth`: the club room, chairs broken, rubbish everywhere. “This is the youth club. Disgusting. Close it now!”

Noah The lights are off! What are we going to do?

Sam Don't worry. I'll get some torches.

Ava I'll help you. Where are they?

Sam In the kitchen. Mia, can you start a game?

Mia Sure. I'll do a story game.

Leo And I'll film it. This is going to be epic.

File #12. Before the storm, someone left torches on the kitchen table. A tall boy stood near the kitchen door all evening.



The Fake Photo

13. What happened on Friday?

By Sunday evening, the photo has two thousand views. Parents are sharing it. Someone writes, “My son is NOT going to that club again.” On Monday, Mia notices Gabe in class. He’s drawing a book. Someone says he helps his gran at the library’s book club.

After school, the four friends meet at the club. The room looks normal: clean floor, grey chairs, nothing broken. “We didn’t even use this room on Friday,” says Sam. “The tournament was in the school hall. We cleaned the hall after it. I washed the cups. Leo picked up the rubbish. Mia and Ava moved the tables back.”

Ava nods. “At ten, we carried the board games back here. Everything was fine. I locked the door and walked home with Mia.” Jo comes in. She looks tired. “The council called me this morning. They want a meeting on Thursday. They want to see this room. And they want to talk about closing the club now, not in December.”

Jo What happened after the tournament?

Sam We cleaned the school hall. I washed the cups.

Leo I picked up the rubbish and I carried it outside.

Jo And the club room?

Ava We carried the games back at ten. Nothing was broken.

Jo OK. We need to prove it.

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File #13. ghost_15 sends Mia a private message: "The  
photo isn't from Riverside. Look at the window."
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14. Check the details



Mia reads ghost_15's message: "Look at the window." She shows the photo to Ava. Ava is good at noticing details. She takes out her laptop and makes the photo bigger.

"Look," says Ava. "In this photo, the window has blue curtains. Our curtains are green. And the light comes from

the left. Our window is on the right.” Leo finds more. “The chairs are red. Ours are grey.”

Ava puts the photo into a search engine. After a few seconds, she finds it. The same room, the same broken chairs. It's from a news story in 2019, about a youth centre in another town. Somebody took an old photo and changed it: they added a Riverside poster on the wall.

Ava I found it! The original photo.

Leo Where did you find it?

Ava In an old news story. From 2019.

Sam So somebody took an old photo...

Mia ...and changed it. It's a fake.

Leo Who did that? And why?

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File #14. ghost_15 knew about the window before  
anyone. How often does ghost_15 look at the club  
window?
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15. Did you post it?

Sam is sure. “It's ghost_15. That person hates us. First the comments, then the posters.” Mia isn't sure. ghost_15 helped them with the photo. So she writes: “Did you post the fake photo?”

The answer comes quickly. “No. I didn't do it. On Saturday evening I helped my gran at the library's book club.” Mia

believes him. Sam says, “You can post from a library. Let's check the facts before we decide.”

Leo decides to investigate riverside_truth. The account is new. It has only one post and follows only eleven people. Leo looks at the list and goes quiet. “Sam,” he says slowly. “Did you know this? Five of these people are from your basketball team.”

Mia Did you post the photo?

ghost_15 No. I didn't do it.

Mia Where were you on Saturday evening?

ghost_15 At the library's book club with my gran.

Mia Did you know about the fake before us?

ghost_15 I saw the window. Yours is different. I pass it every day.

File #15. ghost_15 helps his gran at the library's book club. He passes the youth club every day.

16. The truth



Sam goes to basketball practice. He's angry, but he's calm. He shows the team the original photo. A boy called Kyle looks at the floor. "It was a joke," he says. "I used an AI app to put your poster on an old photo. It took two minutes. I didn't think people would believe it."

"It wasn't funny," says Sam. "They could close the club because of your joke." Kyle is quiet for a long time. Then he takes his phone and deletes the post. He writes: "The photo was fake. I made it. I'm sorry."

That week, Noah brings his friend Ella to the club. Fifteen members. On Thursday, the four friends go to the council meeting. They show the fake photo, the original from 2019, a photo of the real room and Kyle's message. The council is impressed. "You can stay," says the woman at the table. Everybody cheers. Then she adds, "But the heating in your building is old. The club needs two hundred pounds by December. If you can't pay, we can't keep the room open."

Sam Was it you, Kyle?

Kyle It was a joke. It wasn't serious.

Sam It wasn't funny. They could close the club.

Kyle I didn't think it was a big deal.

Sam Well, it was. Delete it.

Kyle OK. I'm sorry. Really.

File #16. The council meeting was on Thursday. Someone in the last row left before the end. Black jacket, black pen in the pocket.



The £200 Problem

17. Shopping list



The school fair is in two weeks. Every club can have a stall. “We’re going to sell food,” says Mia. “Everybody buys food.” Sam wants to sell hot dogs. Ava wants cupcakes. Leo just wants to eat.

They make a list. For cupcakes, they need some flour, some sugar, some butter and some eggs. For drinks, they need some lemons and some cups. Jo looks in the club kitchen. “We’ve got some sugar, but we haven’t got any eggs. And there isn’t any butter.”

Then they count their money. Sam has twelve pounds. Leo has eight. Ava has six, and Mia has four. “Thirty pounds,” says Mia. “We need to buy everything with thirty pounds and make two hundred.” Leo stops eating his biscuit.

Mia Have we got any eggs?

Jo No, we haven't got any eggs.

Ava Is there any butter?

Jo No. But there's some sugar and some flour.

Sam Let's buy some sausages for hot dogs!

Mia With thirty pounds? Let's be careful.

File #17. A note in the club post box: "Buy lemons at the Saturday market. They're cheaper." Black pen.

18. How much? How many?

They sit at the table with a calculator. "How many people are coming to the fair?" asks Ava. "About three hundred," says Jo. "A lot of people."

"How many cupcakes can we make?" Mia counts. "With this flour and sugar, about sixty." "How much is one cupcake?" "One pound fifty." Leo calculates. "Sixty cupcakes, ninety pounds. Plus lemonade, fifty cups at one pound. That's a hundred and forty. Not enough."

Then Sam's phone rings. It's his mum. She works at a bakery. Sam listens, then he shouts, "My mum can give us free cupcakes. A lot of cupcakes!" "How many?" asks Mia. Sam smiles. "Two hundred." Everybody cheers. But Ava looks at the weather app. "Guys... it's going to rain on the day of the fair."

Ava How many people are coming?

Jo About three hundred. A lot of people.

Mia How much is one cupcake?

Leo One pound fifty. And the lemonade is a pound.

Sam How much money do we need to make?

Mia Two hundred. So we need a lot of customers.

File #18. Last Saturday, somebody bought 30 lemons at the market and left them at the club door. No name. Just a drawing of a lemon.

19. At the stall



On Saturday, it rains, but Jo has an idea. The stall moves inside, next to the school entrance. Everybody has to walk past it. The friends wear yellow T-shirts. Mia draws a big menu with funny cupcake faces.

The first customer is a little girl. “I’d like a chocolate cupcake, please.” Then a teacher: “Can I have two

lemonades?” By twelve o'clock, there is a queue. Leo takes the money. Ava serves the drinks. Sam talks to everyone, of course.

One man is rude. “Why is it so expensive? This is a school fair!” Mia is nervous, but she answers politely. “It's for our club heating, sir.” He buys three cupcakes and pays with a ten-pound note. At four o'clock, Mia checks the money box against her list of sales. The list says £225. The box has only £215. She counts twice. Then she looks up, pale. “There's ten pounds missing.”

Ava Hi! What would you like?

Girl I'd like a chocolate cupcake, please.

Ava Would you like a lemonade too?

Girl Yes, please. How much is that?

Ava That's two fifty. Here you are.

Girl Thank you! It looks amazing.

File #19. A photo from Ava's camera: at 12:14, a tall boy in a black jacket buys a lemonade. He doesn't look at the camera.

20. Where's the money?



Everyone is quiet. Sam had the money box for an hour.

“Sam, did you move some money?” asks Leo. “No. Why ask me?” Sam looks upset. Ava says, “Let's check together. We shouldn't blame anyone. I have photos that might help.”

In one photo, the man gives Leo ten pounds. In the next, Leo gives him a ten, a five and a fifty-pence coin. “I gave him change for a twenty. That's ten pounds too much,” Leo says. “I'm sorry, Sam. I shouldn't have made you feel blamed.” Sam nods. “Next time, let's check together.”

They count again: £215 in the box. The four friends take back the £30 they spent on food, so the club has £185. Not enough. On Monday morning, Jo finds an envelope in the club post box. Inside, there are three five-pound notes and a drawing of a lemon. Now they have two hundred! A girl from the fair joins the club too: sixteen members. But that week, Leo doesn't come to the club. He doesn't answer any messages.

Leo Sam, did you move some money?

Sam No. Why ask me?

Ava Let's check together. I have photos.

Leo Oh no. I gave the man too much change.

Mia So we have £185. It isn't enough.

Leo Sorry, Sam. I should check before I speak.

File #20. The envelope had three five-pound notes and a lemon drawing: just like the drawing left with the lemons in File #18.

Leo's Secret

21. Missing

Leo misses the club on Tuesday. And the next Tuesday. He doesn't answer in the group chat. Sam writes to him privately: “Are you OK? You don't have to explain. Just say something.”

At school, Leo looks tired. “I can't come to the club any more,” he tells Mia. “My parents say I have to study every evening. Exams are in May. I have to get good marks.”

“Every evening?” asks Mia. “Even Tuesdays?” Leo nods. “My dad checks.”

That night, Mia can't sleep. At 11:15 pm, she looks at her phone. Leo is online. He's posting something on his film account: a new short video. It's dark, strange and very good. At 11:15 pm. On a school night.

Mia Why don't you come to the club?

Leo I can't. I have to study every evening.

Mia Every evening? Do you have to study on Tuesdays too?

Leo Yes. My dad checks my homework.

Mia You don't have to stay at the club all evening. Just one hour?

Leo I can't, Mia. Sorry.

File #21. ghost_15 likes Leo's new night video. The first like, at 11:16 pm.

22. Rules at home



On Tuesday, Mia and Sam wait for Leo after school. He's sitting on a wall, his eyes half closed. "You look terrible," says Sam. Leo laughs a little. "Thanks."

Then he talks. His parents have strict rules: he mustn't use his phone after nine. He must do homework for three hours

every day. He mustn't go out on school nights. So he waits until they are asleep. Then he edits his films until one or two in the morning.

“Films are the only thing I'm good at,” he says. “But my dad says films are not a real job.” Sam says, “You must sleep, Leo. You can't live like this.” Leo stands up. “I know. That's why I'm quitting. The club, the films, everything.” And he walks away.

Sam You look terrible, man.

Leo I mustn't use my phone after nine. So I wait.

Mia You wait? For what?

Leo For my parents to fall asleep. Then I edit.

Sam You must sleep, Leo.

Leo I know. That's why I'm quitting everything.

File #22. ghost_15 writes to Leo: “Don't quit. Your films are the best thing on this street.”

23. What would you do?

The friends invite Leo to Ava's house, not the club. Just to talk. After twenty minutes, he tells them the real secret.

“Last month I failed my maths test. I got three out of twenty. I hid it from my parents. They think I'm doing well.”

Everyone gives advice. “Why don't you tell them?” says Mia. “You could show them your films,” says Ava. “They don't know how good you are.” Sam thinks. “I'm good at maths. I could help you. We could study together on Tuesdays, at the club.”

Leo smiles for the first time in weeks. “That's actually not bad.” Then the door of Ava's house opens. Ava's mum says, “Leo? Your dad is here. He's looking for you. He doesn't look happy.”

Leo I failed my maths test. I hid it.

Mia Why don't you tell your parents?

Leo They'll be so angry.

Ava You could show them your films first.

Sam And I could help you with maths.

Leo That's actually not a bad idea.

File #23. ghost_15 was at the bus stop near Ava's house when Leo's dad arrived. Mia saw a black jacket.

24. Talk to your parents



Leo's dad stands at the door. "Your teacher called about maths." Leo feels nervous, but takes a breath. "Dad, I failed the test. I didn't tell you because I was worried." His dad nods. "Thank you for telling me. Let's talk."

Ava's mum invites them in for tea. Leo shows his dad his films. "These are good," his dad says. "I'm sorry I didn't listen before." Leo nods. "I need more sleep and help with maths." His dad smiles. "We can make time for school, films and rest."

They make a plan: maths with Sam at the club, film time after homework, and screens off at nine for a good night's sleep. Two days later, a fan of Leo's films joins the club. Seventeen members now. Then Jo calls with news: "The council says you have one more test. Organise a big public event in three weeks. Show the town the club matters."

Dad Why didn't you tell me about the test?

Leo Because I was scared. You were so proud of me.

Dad Let's plan time for films and enough sleep.

Leo Yes. And Sam can help me with maths.

Dad Good. We'll work on this together.

Leo So can I go back to the club? Sam can help me there.

File #24. Leo's dad says: "A boy at the bus stop told me where you were. Tall, black jacket. He said you might like some help with maths."



Talent Show

25. What can you do?

The event is going to be a talent show: “Riverside's Got Talent”, on Saturday 30 November, in the school hall. Everybody from the town can come. The club makes a sign-up sheet. “Can you sing? Dance? Do magic? Tell jokes? Sign up!”

After one week, there are only three names. Noah can juggle. Sam's cousin can do card tricks. And a Year 9 girl, Priya, can sing. “Three acts,” says Leo. “That's a five-minute show.”

Mia tries to help. She talks to people in her class. “Can you sing or play an instrument? Could you dance when you were younger?” Most people laugh and say no. Then Ava turns to Mia. “And you? You can draw faster than anyone. You could draw people live, on stage.” Mia's face goes white. “No. I can't. I can't go on stage.”

Mia Can you play an instrument?

Boy I could play the piano when I was eight. Not now.

Mia Can you do anything else? Tell jokes?

Boy I can't be funny in front of people.

Ava Mia, you can draw really fast. Why not you?

Mia No. I can't go on stage. I just can't.

File #25. A new name on the sign-up sheet, written in black pen: "Sound and lights: G."

26. Good at it



Mia explains to her friends. "I'm good at drawing. But I'm terrible at being in front of people. At my old school, I had to present a project. I forgot everything. People laughed. I'm scared of standing on a stage."

Sam listens. "I'm good at talking, but I'm bad at losing. Leo's good at making films, but he's bad at sleeping. Nobody is good at everything." Ava adds, "You don't have to speak."

You can just draw. We can show your drawing on the big screen, live.”

Mia thinks about it all evening. Maybe. Then Ava sends a photo to the chat: her camera is on the floor, broken. “I dropped it. It's dead. I can't film the show.” Without a camera, there's no live screen. Without the screen, there's no Mia on stage.

Mia I'm scared of standing on a stage.

Sam Everybody is bad at something. I'm bad at losing!

Leo And I'm bad at sleeping.

Ava You're good at drawing. Just draw. Don't speak.

Mia Are you sure people are interested in watching that?

Ava Totally. It looks like magic.

File #26. Someone signed the helpers' list as “G, good at sound, bad at people.”

27. Have you ever...?

The show is in ten days. They need a camera and a projector. “Has anyone ever used a school projector?” asks Jo. Nobody has. “Have you ever filmed live?” Leo asks Ava. “Never,” she says. “I've only taken photos.”

They ask the people on the list. “Have you ever been on stage?” Priya has: she's sung at three weddings. Noah has juggled in the park. Sam's cousin has never done card tricks

for more than five people. The show looks smaller every day.

That evening, Mia gets a message from ghost_15. “I can help with the camera and lights. I've done sound for a theatre before. Could we talk at the club on Saturday at 10 am? I'm shy, so I'd prefer a small group.”

Mia Have you ever been on stage, Priya?

Priya Yes, I have. I've sung at three weddings.

Mia Have you ever been scared?

Priya Always! But it gets easier.

Mia I've never done it. I'm terrified.

Priya Everybody has a first time.

File #27. ghost_15 has done sound for a theatre. There is only one small theatre in Riverside. It's next to the library.

28. I'll help

Mia doesn't answer at once. First she tells her friends and Jo. Then she writes back: “OK. But we meet inside the club, and Jo will be there. Those are my rules.” After a long time, ghost_15 answers: “OK. Fair.”

Jo says, “Good rules. I'll be in the office, and I'll leave the door open.” Sam says, “And we'll be in the kitchen. We won't come out if everything's OK. I promise.” Leo has

another idea. “My dad has a camera. A good one. I’ll ask him. He’ll say yes now. We’re friends again.” Jo adds, “I’ll get the key for the school hall on the Friday before the show, so you can practise.” Everyone has a job.

Mia looks at the list: Priya, Noah, Sam’s cousin. Three acts. And one helper: “Sound and lights: G.” She takes a deep breath. “OK. I’ll do it. I’ll draw on stage.” She writes her name: Mia, live drawing. Four acts. The friends cheer. But first, there’s Saturday. 10 am. The meeting.

Sam Let’s meet at the club, with Jo there.

Mia I’ve got rules: inside the club, and Jo will be there.

Jo Good rules. I’ll be in the office. I promise.

Leo And I’ll ask my dad for his camera.

Mia Thank you. OK. I’ll do it. I’ll draw on stage.

Sam Yes! We won’t let you down, Mia.

File #28. All clues: black pen, drawings, lives near the club, helps his gran at the library, black jacket, knows sound and theatre, the letter G. Who is it?

Our Space Live

29. The meeting



Saturday, 10 am. Mia waits inside the club. Jo is in the office with the door open. Sam, Ava and Leo are in the kitchen, pretending to make tea. It's quiet. Then the door opens, and a tall boy in a black jacket comes in. He has a black pen in his pocket.

Mia knows him. It's the quiet boy from the back of her class, the one who draws with a black pen and never speaks. "Gabe?" He nods. "Hi. I'm ghost_15."

Mia has a hundred questions. "Why did you write 'a club for losers'?" Gabe looks at the ground. "Because I wanted to come. Nobody asked me. I was angry. It was stupid." "Did you take the posters?" "Yes. To save them. I put them back later, dry." "Were you at the council meeting?" "In the last row." Suddenly Sam walks out of the kitchen. His arms are

crossed. “So you're the one who called us losers. And now you want to help? Why should we trust you?”

Mia Gabe? Are you ghost_15?

Gabe Yes. It's me. Hi, Mia.

Mia Why did you write that comment?

Gabe Because nobody asked me to come. It was stupid.

Mia Did you leave the money in the envelope?

Gabe Yes. My gran gave it to me. She said, ‘Do something good.’

File #29. Case closed: ghost_15 = Gabe, 15. Black pen, black jacket, good at sound, bad at people. G for Gabe.

30. Second chances



They sit at the big table. Jo makes hot chocolate. Gabe says, “First, my parents moved to Scotland for work. I stayed with my gran to finish the school year. We call my parents

every evening. Then I helped Gran at her book club. I liked it, but I missed spending time with people my age. After that, I saw your poster, but I felt too shy to come in. Finally, I wrote a rude comment. That was wrong. I'm sorry."

Jo says, "You're welcome here, Gabe. But feeling lonely doesn't make hurtful comments OK. They must stop." "I understand," he says. "I'll be kind." Sam offers his hand. "Let's try again. Sound and lights?" Gabe smiles. "Yes."

The next Saturday is the show. At 5 pm, one hour before the start, Priya calls. Her voice is just a whisper. "I'm so sorry. I'm ill. I can't sing." The best act of the show is gone.

Gabe First, my parents moved to Scotland.

Jo And you stayed with your gran?

Gabe Yes. Then I helped at her book club. But I missed spending time with people my age.

Mia And finally you found the club.

Sam We all make mistakes. We can learn from them.
Sound and lights?

Gabe Sound and lights. Thank you.

File #30. Gabe keeps a notebook of drawings. On the first page: four chairs around a table. Now there are five.

31. The show must go on



Six o'clock. The hall is full: two hundred people. Priya is ill, so the show has one act less now. Then Gabe has an idea. "Mia, what if you don't just draw? What if you draw the audience? Live. One by one."

Mia's hands are shaking. Sam goes on stage first to host. He's telling jokes, and people are laughing. Noah is juggling five balls. Gabe is changing the lights from blue to gold. Leo is filming with his dad's camera, and every act appears on the big screen.

Then it's Mia. She walks on stage without speaking. The audience can watch her drawing on the big screen: a grandmother in the front row, a crying baby, Jo, Kyle from the basketball team. People clap for every face. At the end, the whole hall is standing. Afterwards, two people from the audience join the club. Sam counts the names on the club list. "Nineteen. We've got nineteen members." He looks at the clock. Tomorrow is the first of December.

Gabe Mia, draw the audience. Live, one by one.

Mia My hands are shaking.

Sam Don't worry. I'll go first. I'll make them laugh.

Leo The camera is working! Your drawing is on the screen!

Ava Look! People are standing up!

Sam Nineteen members. We need one more. By tomorrow.

File #31. On the club list there are 19 names. Gabe's name isn't there. He signed the show list as G, but he never joined the club.

32. Our Space, your voice



The next morning, the first of December, the four friends meet at the club. Nineteen names. They need twenty by midnight. They call everyone they know. Noah's sister is on holiday. Kyle says no. Sam's cousin is already on the list.

At four o'clock, the door opens. It's Gabe. "I helped with the show," he says, "but I never joined the club." He takes his black pen and writes his name: Gabe, 15. Number twenty. Jo sends the list to the council at 4:03 pm.

One week later, a letter arrives. The club can stay open. And there's more: the council liked the show so much, they want the club to organise a summer festival. Mia looks around the room. Four chairs have become twenty. She thinks about her first Tuesday, when she walked past the door three times. "What's next?" asks Leo. Mia smiles. "Now it's your turn."

Sam Nineteen. We need one more by midnight.

Gabe I helped with the show. But I never joined the club.

Mia Do you want to?

Gabe Yes. Can I borrow a pen? Oh wait. I've got one.

Jo Twenty! I'm sending it to the council now.

Leo So what's next? A summer festival?

File #32. Case closed. The club has twenty members, a summer festival and a new logo drawn in black pen.



The end of season one.

Images are AI-generated and depict fictional characters.