

The Great Spaghetti-Eating Contest

'Ready, set ... GO!' Mr Carter blew his whistle, and the great Smith Street School Spaghetti-Eating Contest was under way. Five pupils sat at the table, in front of five h-u-g-e bowls of spaghetti. Five forks twirled, and five mouths chomped round and round. The crowd yelled and clapped.

Ten minutes later, only two pupils were still eating.

'Fatso' Brown was one of those two. He was a mess. There was spaghetti on his face, on his shirt, even in his hair. His fork flew as he shovelled food into his mouth. He had nearly finished his bowl—but he was in trouble! He had to have a little rest soon, or he would not be able to finish. He sneaked a look at the person next to him.

Karen James, the skinniest kid in the school, was only halfway through her bowl. She ate with beautiful manners, dabbing her mouth with a napkin. She had not spilt even one drop of sauce! She chewed each mouthful carefully before swallowing.

With a happy sigh, 'Fatso' put down his fork. He had plenty of time for a rest. Karen would never catch him now. He would be the winner—and he would get first prize.

He looked across to where the judges were sitting. There was first prize—a brand new bicycle. He was going to have a great time on that! In his mind, he could see himself, pedalling like the wind. No one would be faster than he was. And if people were *very* nice to him, he might even let them have a ride—a very short one.

'Fatso' was enjoying his daydream, when he suddenly woke up. He could hear cheering! He looked at Karen. Yeow! He must have been daydreaming longer than he thought, because she was almost finished!

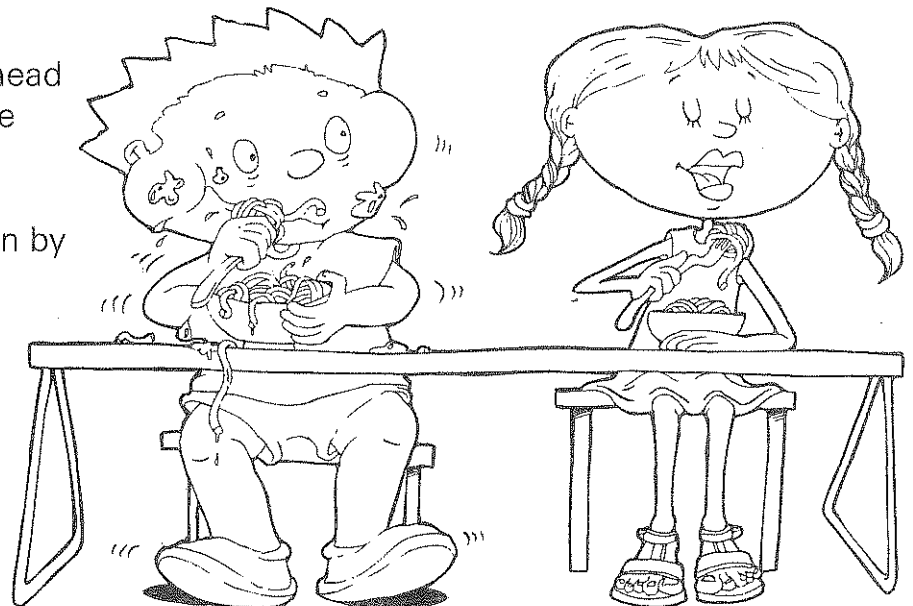
He grabbed his fork and attacked his food. Spaghetti and sauce flew everywhere. He gave it everything he had. But he still had at least three mouthfuls left when he saw the last strand of spaghetti disappear into Karen's mouth.

He had lost!

He was still shaking his head when Karen's new bicycle was wheeled over to her. Not only had he lost the contest, he'd been beaten by the skinniest kid in the whole school!

He would never live this down!

Moral: Slow and steady wins the race.



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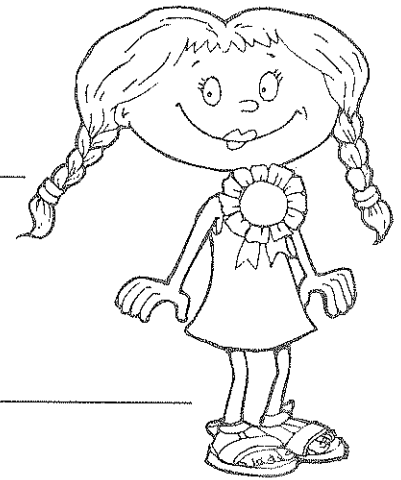
Level A—Use one word or a short phrase to answer these questions.

1. How many pupils started in the great spaghetti-eating contest? _____
2. What was first prize in the contest? _____
3. What words tell you Karen James was not very big? _____

4. What was 'Fatso' daydreaming about? _____

Level B—Use brief sentences to answer these questions.

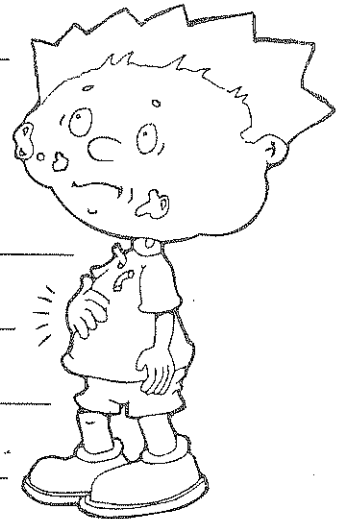
1. How do you think 'Fatso' got his nickname?



2. Can you think of another title for this story?

3. How can you explain the fact that 'Fatso' was beaten by Karen?

4. Do you think 'Fatso' was kind to other people? Explain your reasoning.



Level C—Use full sentences to answer these on a separate piece of paper.

1. In your own words, explain what the moral of this story means.
2. If 'Fatso' had won, what do you think he would have said to Karen?
3. For what reason might Smith Street School be having a spaghetti-eating contest?
4. What do you think the writer means in the last sentence?

Noughts and crosses

A person to play with, paper and pencils

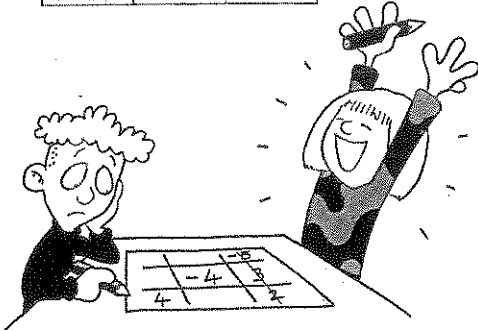


10	-6	2
	-5	
		5

Draw a 3 by 3 noughts and crosses grid. Instead of noughts and crosses, one person writes positive numbers and the other writes negative numbers. All numbers must be between -10 and $+10$. You may not use 0.

Take turns to write a number of your type on the board. The first person to complete a straight line of three numbers which add to 0, wins.

Swap types of number and play again. Play ten times. Who wins the most?



In class Play the game, teacher against the class.

Maths millionaires

A person to play with, a watch or clock, paper and pencils



Imagine you are a contestant on a game show. Start with £1000 prize money.

Your partner chooses a card and reads the number at the top and four different calculations, a, b, c and d. You have 10 seconds to choose the correct calculation. Write it down and then work out each calculation to check.

If you chose correctly, double your prize money and have another turn. If not, start again with £1000. Keep playing until you have answered all the cards. How much prize money did you make?

66-87

- a) $22 \cdot 25 \times 3$
- b) $105 \cdot 34 - 38 \cdot 47$
- c) $133 \cdot 64 \div 2$
- d) $8 \cdot 115 \times 8$

74-57

- a) $23 \cdot 89 \times 3$
- b) $225 \cdot 97 \div 3$
- c) $94 \cdot 35 - 19 \cdot 78$
- d) $55 \cdot 49 + 19 \cdot 18$

69-44

- a) $89 \cdot 6 - 20 \cdot 16$
- b) $23 \cdot 12 \times 3$
- c) $141 \cdot 8 \div 2$
- ★ d) $17 \cdot 36 \times 4$

89-01

- a) $267 \cdot 03 \div 3$
- b) $111 \cdot 11 - 22 \cdot 11$
- c) $17 \cdot 85 \times 5$
- d) $21 \cdot 54 + 67 \cdot 74$

In class Write some different answers and calculations on the board. Play the game with the children working in pairs as contestants. How much do they win?