Congratulations to Whitehorse Primary School student Christina Tregenza, who is the 2011 Ultimate Story winner. The story so far: Jake has escaped from the gym but seems to have arrived at his own funeral. What does the malevolent dummy have in store for him? Find out how the tale ends for Jake.

He could not move, a light was burning on him and he felt taller. An unusual smell wafted through the air and suddenly a small Superman appeared running to his mum who was standing nearby. His eyes tried to blink in disbelief but would not close. He could only look straight ahead. Slowly it started to dawn on Jake. Standing there stiff in a department store could only mean one thing — HE WAS A DUMMY!!

This store was very familiar, it was where his mum came to do shopping every week, the Hawthorn Department Store. So this was what that dummy wanted me for, Jake thought. A tumbling interrupted his thoughts, and a trolley came into view. Lying on the trolley was a very old and chipped dummy. The trolley stopped right in front of him, the driver looked up and said, ‘Out with the old and in with the new, that is the way we work!’ Just before the trolley went out of Jake’s view he saw a long finger with red nail polish pointing back at him. He knew that it was the dummy that had done all of this to him, but now with the finger pointing at him he felt no pain.

Staring into space Jake thought about everything, wishing he could be back at home watching TV or even doing school work. He stood there helplessly waiting for something to happen. After a few minutes two children ran up to him and pointed at the clothes he was wearing. It was then when he realised that the children were his two very best friends — well, who had been his very best friends.

Lee and Susie were talking to Mrs Wong, who was now also standing admiring his clothes.

Lee jumped up onto the platform and reached out for whatever Jake was wearing. Jake could see that Lee had a half-eaten Mars bar and extremely sticky fingers. Great, now I will not only be standing here helplessly, but also covered in horribly sticky Mars bars! Jake thought in dismay.

Mrs Wong talked to her son in a stern voice: “Lee, you need to get the jumper from the rack, you can’t just take it off that poor dummy!” Jake wished that he could be right with his friends, but as he watched them disappear into the rows of clothing, all he could do was stand there and look fashionable. Forever.

And the winner is . . .

Christina Tregenza may be only 12 years old, but this year’s winner of the Ultimate Story competition knows enough about writing to avoid a cheesy ending. So far, four adult authors and last year’s winner have each contributed a chapter about Jake Fleming and a mannequin store dummy come to life. Christina, who wrote the final chapter, had to determine Jake’s fate. Sadly for Jake, it is not ideal.

“I didn’t want it to end like all fairytales end,” says Christina. “I wanted it to be different. But I didn’t want something to happen to him. And I really wanted to tie together interesting things that the [previous authors] wrote, like the blue flash and the classical music.”

Unsurprisingly, Christina loves reading — anything from history to choose-your-own-adventure — and her favourite author is Enid Blyton. She enjoys writing both fiction and non-fiction, including speechwriting. When she found out her chapter had won, she was “really happy and a bit surprised”. “I entered the competition now to win but just to have fun and try my best,” she says.

She says she owes her love of books to her parents. “They read to me when I was little and I just got into the fantasy world and I started reading myself.” Christina, whose other main hobby is sport, is school captain at Whitehorse Primary School. “I’d like to continue writing and playing sport. And one day I’d like to publish my own book, probably non-fiction.”

Christina is invited back next year to write one of the chapters in the 2012 Ultimate Story and wins $200 worth of Penguin books. She and the other nine finalists, chosen from more than 1500 entries, will attend a workshop with author Sherryl Clark at Media House.

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