

# BREAKDOWN

by Tricia Glensor



Jake's mum's car was quite old.

"It's more than twice as old as I am," said Jake.

"It's an oldie but a goodie," said Mum.

"Just like me."

Mum used her car to go to work, and on wet days, she sometimes used it to give Jake a ride to school.

And every Saturday, she used her car to do the shopping at the supermarket. Jake always went too – to help carry the bags and choose the ice cream for their weekend treat.

Most days, the car started without any fuss, but one Saturday, when Mum turned the key, the car made a strange, spluttering noise.

“That’s funny,” said Mum, and she turned the key again.

This time, the car sounded as if it had a bad cold. It coughed and spluttered, and then it went quiet.

“Oh dear,” said Mum. “I don’t like the sound of that.”

She turned the key again. This time, nothing happened at all.

Mum lifted up the bonnet and looked inside. “I can’t see anything wrong,” she said. “I’d better ring the garage.”

The garage sent a big red tow truck. The driver’s name was Matthew.



Matthew tried to start the car, but nothing happened. He lifted up the bonnet and checked the battery and the engine. “I can’t see anything wrong,” he said. “We’d better put it on the truck and take it to the garage.”

“How will you get it onto the truck?” asked Jake.

Matthew reached into the truck’s cab and pulled out something that looked like a TV remote. He handed it to Jake.

“See that button?” he asked. “Press it and see what happens.”

Jake pointed the remote at the truck and pressed the button. There was a loud, grinding noise, and the deck of the tow truck slowly tipped up until the back touched the ground.

“Now what?” asked Jake.

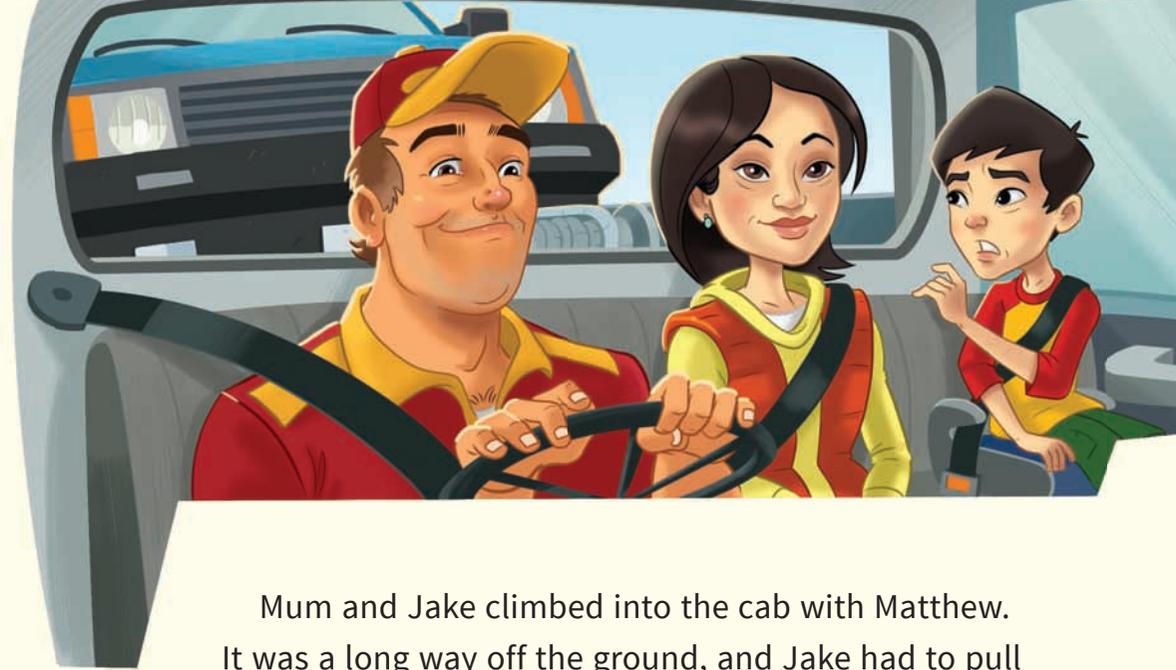
Matthew pointed to a metal hook on the deck of the truck. The hook was on the end of a thick wire cable. The cable was wound around a metal roller just behind the cab.

“That’s a winch,” said Matthew. “We’ll hook that up to your mum’s car so we can pull it onto the back of the truck.”

Matthew unwound the cable and hooked it underneath Mum's car. Then he pressed another button on the remote, and the cable began to wind itself around the winch. Very slowly, Mum's car slid onto the deck of the truck.

"Now you can lower the deck again," said Matthew.

He showed Jake which button to press. There was another loud noise, and the deck of the truck went down again, taking Mum's car with it. Jake watched as Matthew put chains around the car's wheels.



Mum and Jake climbed into the cab with Matthew. It was a long way off the ground, and Jake had to pull himself up with the hand grip.

Matthew started the engine, and the truck pulled out into the road. Jake could see right over the top of the cars in front.

He looked back through the window at Mum's car. It bounced around a bit when the truck went over a bump.

"Don't worry," said Matthew. "It won't fall off. Those chains around the car's wheels will hold it on."

At the garage, Jake helped Matthew make the deck tip up again. He watched as Matthew winched Mum's car onto the ground.

The mechanic lifted up the bonnet and began checking the engine. After a while, he said, "I'm sorry, but we'll need to keep it here for some tests."

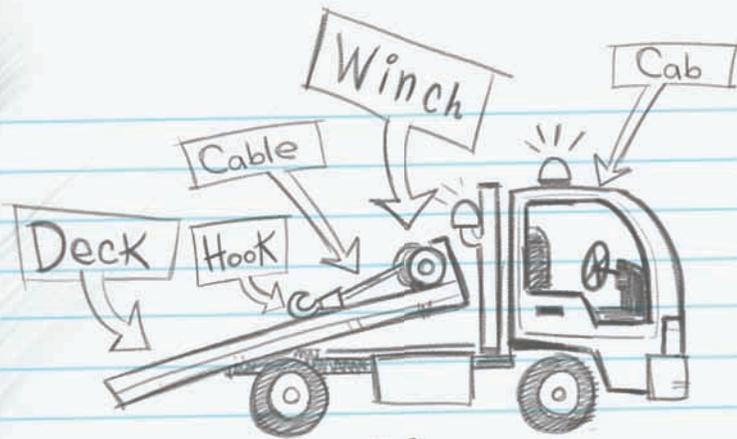
“Will you be able to fix it?” asked Jake.

“It might need some new parts, but it should be OK,” said the mechanic. “It’s an oldie but a goodie.”

Mum winked at Jake.

“We’ll have to walk home,” she said. “Let’s forget about the shopping for today.”

“But let’s not forget about the ice cream,” said Jake.



# Breakdown

by Tricia Glensor

illustrations by Scott Pearson

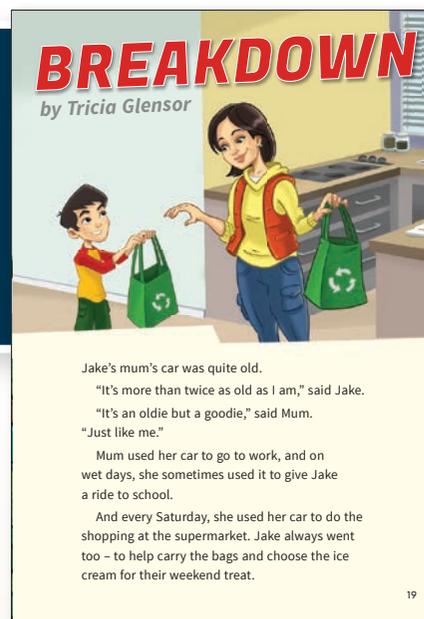
Text and illustrations copyright © Crown 2014

For copyright information about how you can use this material go to:  
<http://www.tki.org.nz/Copyright-in-Schools/Terms-of-use>

Published 2014 by the Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6011, New Zealand.  
[www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)  
All rights reserved.  
Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

ISBN 978 0 478 43995 3 (online)

Publishing services Lift Education E tū  
Series Editor: David Chadwick  
Designer: Liz Tui Morris  
Literacy Consultant: Kay Hancock  
Consulting Editors: Emeli Sione and Hōne Apanui



Jake's mum's car was quite old.  
"It's more than twice as old as I am," said Jake.  
"It's an oldie but a goodie," said Mum.  
"Just like me."  
Mum used her car to go to work, and on wet days, she sometimes used it to give Jake a ride to school.  
And every Saturday, she used her car to do the shopping at the supermarket. Jake always went too – to help carry the bags and choose the ice cream for their weekend treat.

19



## JUNIOR JOURNAL 48

<b>Curriculum learning area</b>	<b>English (Reading)</b> Level 2 – Ideas: Show some understanding of ideas within, across, and beyond texts. Level 2 – Structure: Show some understanding of text features. <b>Technology</b> Level 2 – Characteristics of technology: Understand that technology both reflects and changes society and the environment and increases people's capability.
<b>Reading year level</b>	Year 3
<b>Keywords</b>	breakdown, tow truck, car, mechanic, fix