

The Competition

by Chris Lam Sam



SCENE: A city park beside the sea. The **MAYOR** and the **MAYOR'S ASSISTANT** are on a stage with **WATER WIZARD**, **MAXI MUSCLES**, **TINY TOT**, and **BIG BLUSTER**. The **CROWD** is standing around the stage. There is rubbish everywhere.

MAYOR. Dear people of Messy City. As your mayor, it brings me great joy to welcome you all to our first City Superhero competition!

CROWD. Hooray!

They throw hats, plastic bottles, paper cups, and other items in the air to celebrate.

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT (*stepping forward*). And as the mayor's assistant, it has been my great honour to gather these superheroes from far and wide. They've come here today to help us solve one of our city's biggest problems!

CROWD (*frustrated*). It's SO messy!

MAYOR (*stepping forward*). In fact, it's messy and *smelly*!

CROWD (*holding their noses*). That's true!

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT. The winner of this competition will be the superhero who makes our city clean and tidy.

MAYOR (*holding up a medal*). And their prize will be this gold medal! Now, let's meet superhero number one.

MAXI MUSCLES (*stepping forward*). I'm Maxi Muscles, the strongest superhero in the world! My arms are strong, my legs are strong, even my eyebrows are strong!

He raises his eyebrows.



MAYOR. How will you help clean up our city?

MAXI MUSCLES. That's easy! I'll use my great strength to smash all your rubbish into tiny pieces!

CROWD. Hooray!

They throw more items in the air.

MAXI MUSCLES. Now watch me make mincemeat of this mess!

He bends down and pounds the rubbish with his fists. The ground shakes, making everyone fall over. They quickly stand up again and dust themselves off.

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT (*helping the MAYOR to stand up*).

Thank you, but I don't think that's the solution we need. I don't think we can cope with all that noise and shaking.

MAYOR (*dusting herself off*). And the rubbish isn't gone – it's just in smaller bits.

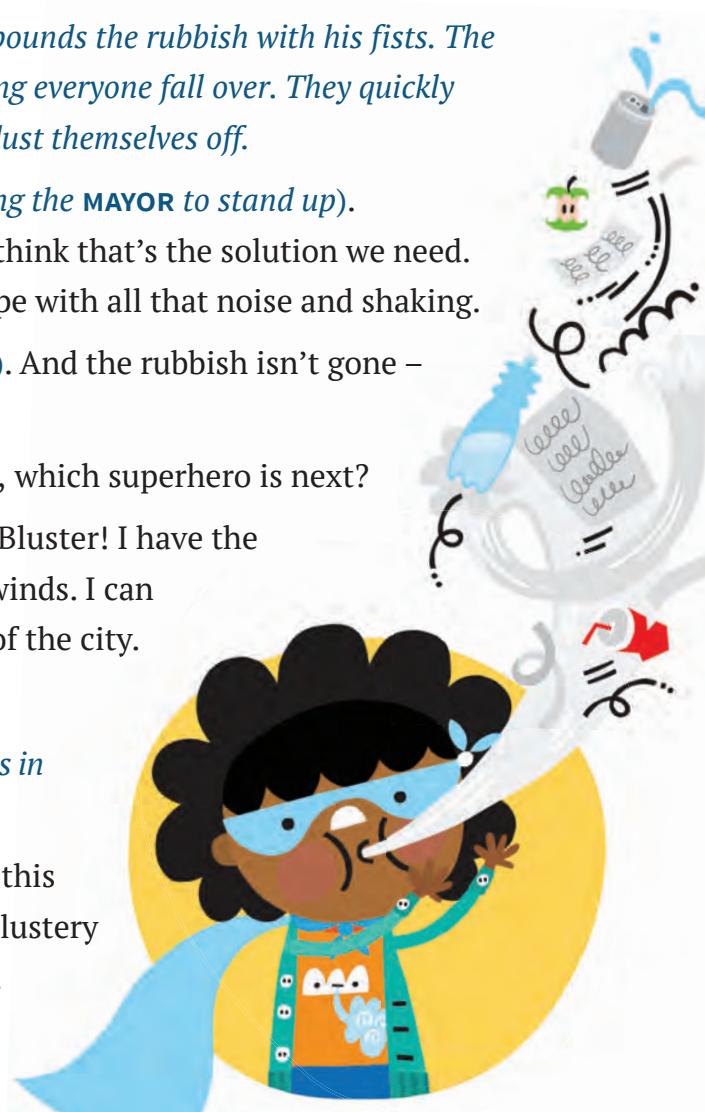
MAYOR'S ASSISTANT. Right, which superhero is next?

BIG BLUSTER. Me! I'm Big Bluster! I have the power to make strong winds. I can blow your rubbish out of the city.

CROWD. Hooray!

They throw more items in the air.

BIG BLUSTER. I'll clean up this city with just one big, blustery breath of air! Here I go!



BIG BLUSTER takes a deep breath and blows. The rubbish just flies around the park and lands again. The wind makes the **CROWD** fall over. They quickly stand up once more.

MAYOR. That didn't work, either. It's just blown all the mess around.

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT (*looking out to sea*). And now some of it has been blown into the ocean!

WATER WIZARD (*stepping forward*).

I can fix that! I'm the Water Wizard, and I can control water with my superwand. Watch me. Hey, Ocean, bring that rubbish back here!

MAYOR. W-w-what's that watery noise?

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT (*pointing*). It's a giant wave of rubbish!



CROWD. Aaagh!

They are all knocked over by the wave of rubbish.

MAYOR. Oh dear. None of these superheroes has managed to solve our problem. The town is messier than ever!

CROWD. And now we're all wet.

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT. Sorry, everyone. It looks like we'll be stuck with this mess forever.

TINY TOT. Um ... sorry to bother you, but I might be able to help.

MAYOR (*turning round in surprise*). I didn't see you there.

Who are you?

TINY TOT. I'm Tiny Tot, the tiniest superhero in the world!

MAYOR. And what's your superpower?

TINY TOT. I come up with small solutions to big problems!

MAXI MUSCLES (*laughing loudly*).

You must be pulling our legs!

BIG BLUSTER. That's the silliest superpower I've ever heard of!

WATER WIZARD. In fact, that's not even a superpower!

CROWD. Boo!

TINY TOT. I may be tiny, but I know how **everyone** can win this competition!

CROWD. Everyone?

MAYOR. Well, go on then.

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT. Tell us.

TINY TOT. All it needs is a plan and for everyone to do something small. We can clean up this city **together**.

CROWD. What?



TINY TOT (*pointing to a messy pile of rubbish bins*). This city has rubbish bins, but no one is using them! Maxi — take those bins and put them all around the city. Big Bluster — blow all this rubbish into one place and then put it in a bin.

(*He unfolds a large net.*) Water Wizard — this net can go into the sea, and you can make some gentle waves so that the rubbish floats into the net. And everyone else — instead of dropping things on the ground, put them in the bins, like this. (*He picks up a piece of rubbish and puts it in a bin.*)

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT. Amazing! We've never thought of doing that before!

MAYOR. It might be just the thing this city needs. Everyone, let's cooperate and clean Messy City together!

CROWD. Yeah!



*Everyone begins picking up rubbish and putting it in the bins
until the park is clean.*

MAYOR'S ASSISTANT. We've done it!

CROWD. Hooray!

MAYOR. That means Tiny Tot is the winner of our competition!

She hands the gold medal to TINY TOT.

TINY TOT. Thank you, but I'm not really the winner because everyone helped. You are all the local superheroes that every city needs.

MAYOR (worried). I see. Then I'm afraid I have a new problem for you to solve, Tiny Tot.

TINY TOT. Oh, what's that?

MAYOR. I need you to find me a lot more gold medals!

EVERYONE *cheers.*

illustrations by Beck Wheeler



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