

Chapter 1

It was a cool and breezy Monday morning in Sun Valley. Viv smiled when she saw her friends waiting for her on the school steps. Ron, Kai, Grace, Niko and Luna are the best friends any girl could want, Viv thought.

Together, the six friends are the Dragonfly Kids. They explore and learn about new things by reading, looking carefully, and by asking questions. They help solve problems in their school and for the people in the town of Sun Valley.

"Hi Viv," said Niko. "We're all going to the lake today. Will we see you there after school?"

"I'll be there!" said Viv.

The Dragonfly Kids first met Odie at the Sun Valley Lake. It may be hard to believe, but Odie is a real dragonfly that can talk to the kids. He writes messages in the water with his tail. He helps the friends solve problems and learn about

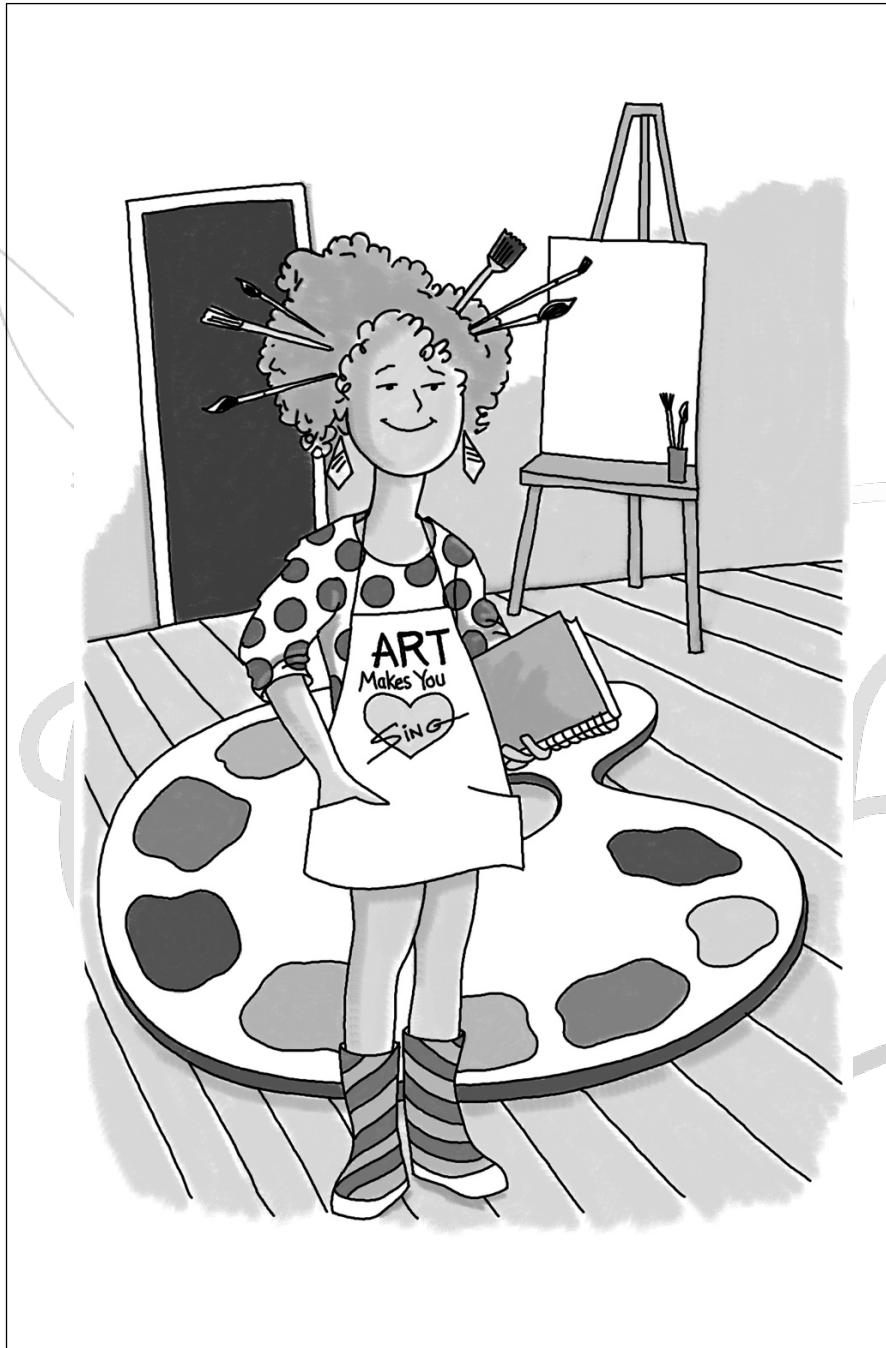
themselves and each other. Niko, Viv, Luna, Kai, Ron and Grace meet at the lake every day after school.

Monday is Viv's favorite day of the week. Monday is art class. Viv loves art as much as she loves writing and reading! Miss Rich is the art teacher. She can be a bit silly at times, but it makes the class more fun for everyone.

As the kids stepped into the art room, they saw Miss Rich standing in the front of the room. Viv took one look at her and knew that today was going to be one of those silly days!

Miss Rich had six paintbrushes sticking out of her red curly hair. Long brushes, short brushes, fat brushes and skinny brushes were sticking out in all directions. The funniest thing about those paintbrushes was that Miss Rich did not even know that she had them in her hair!

Miss Rich was very surprised when Luna gave her a mirror and showed her what she looked like. The girls giggled so much that Viv snorted!



Miss Rich asked the class to sit on the rug that was shaped like a *palette*. A palette is a board that artists mix paints on, so it is very colorful. Viv chose to sit on a purple spot on the rug and Luna chose a yellow one.

Miss Rich sat on a stool near a long table. An apple sat on the table next to her. Miss Rich held up the apple. "What is this?" asked Miss Rich.

"It's an apple, silly!" said Niko. "Why do you have an apple, Miss Rich? Are you hungry?"

Miss Rich laughed, "No. I have this apple because today we're going to talk about an art style called pop art. I chose this kind of art because a new pop art show opens today at the Sun Valley Art Museum."

"What is pop art?" asked Kai.

"In pop art we take everyday things, like this apple, and show them in a different way," said Miss Rich.