

Olly's Eye Test



Written by James Kell Illustrated by Hannah Asen

Olly finished his breakfast and sat down on the sofa next to mum.

Today, they were going to town to have his eyes checked. An optometrist is someone who checks your eyes to see if you need glasses. Sometimes they are called an optician.

Mum said: "It's important to check your eyes to make sure they are healthy and that you can see as well as possible. It's like how a dentist checks your teeth."

But Olly didn't like going to the dentist. Apart from the sticker they gave him at the end. He liked that.





Olly was thinking about what it would be like at the optician. He was getting a bit worried.

“It’s ok,” said Mum, “why don’t we take Eric with us?”

Olly grabbed his favourite toy rabbit and went to get his coat.



In the car on the way to town, Olly thought about his first day at the big school. He had had to sit right at the front of the class so he could see the board.

When he had sat at the back he couldn't see the board very well and couldn't join in the lesson properly, which made him feel sad.

He thought about his sister, Jo. She was always telling him to get out of the way of the TV. But Olly just wanted to see the cartoons better.

Mum parked the car. They got out and walked past some shops and Mum said: "Here we are."

There were lots of people inside the optician. Olly was a bit nervous, but a friendly lady stood behind the counter and smiled at them.



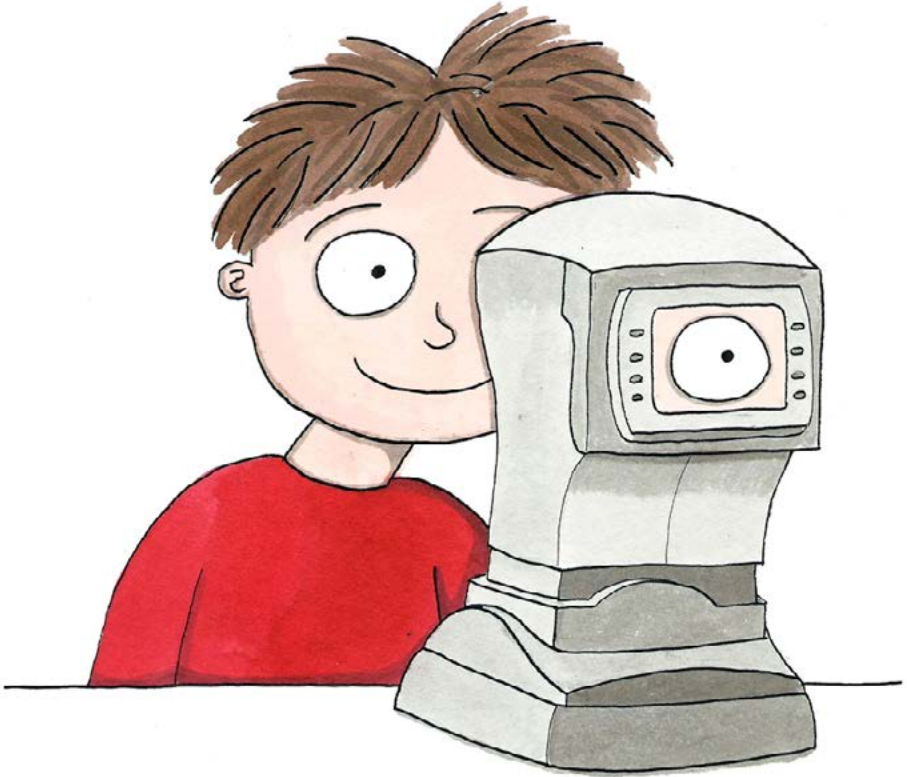
Mum and the lady said hello to each other.

"You must be Olly," the woman said to Olly. "Would you like to play with some toys while you wait?" She pointed to a bright corner of the shop which had some lovely toys in it.

"Yes please!" said Olly, running over to the toys while Mum pulled up a chair.

After a few minutes Olly and his mummy were called into a quiet room at the back.

“Hello Olly,” said the man. “I’m John the optician and we’re going to have a look at your eyes. Have a seat and I’ll tell you what we’re going to do.”



“First, I want you to look into this machine at the picture of the house on the hill. The picture will go a bit fuzzy for a second and then back to normal again. This helps me get a good first look at your eyes.”

‘That’s easy’, thought Olly.

“Brilliant,” said John when they had finished. “Now I’m going to shine a light in your eyes so I can see right to the back of them and make sure they’re healthy. This also helps tell me if you might need glasses.”

Olly sat very still while John shone a light in one eye then the other. It was very bright, but it didn’t hurt at all.





“OK Olly, do you know your letters?” said John.

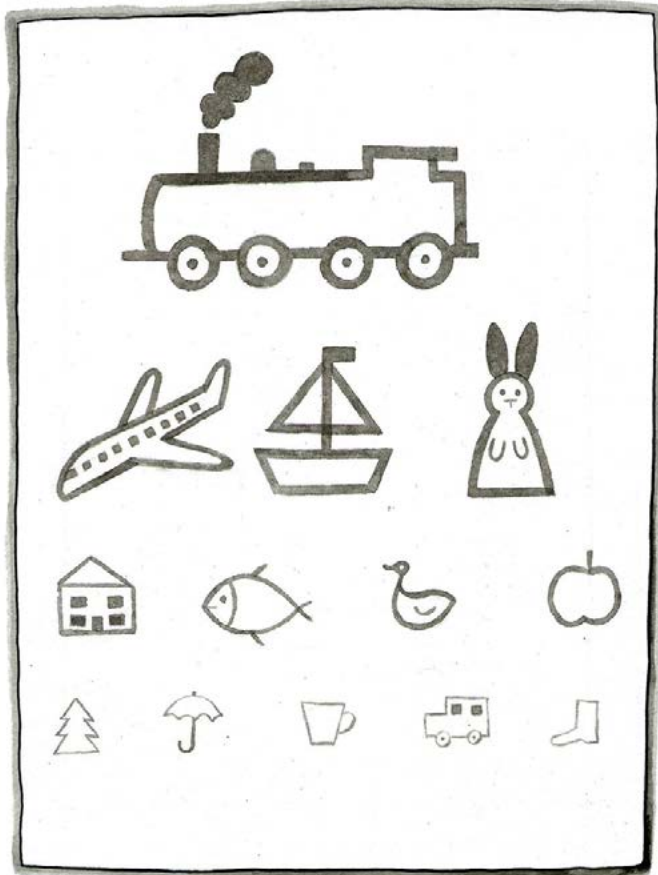
“I know some of them, but not all of them,” said Olly

“That’s fine,” said John, “let’s use pictures.”

“I want you to look at the chart on the wall Olly. Take your hand and cover one of your eyes. No peeking through your fingers! Now, can you tell me what these pictures are?”

The picture at the top was a train and it was really big. As Olly went down the chart with John, he saw an aeroplane, a boat and a rabbit that looked like Eric.

The pictures got smaller and smaller until they were too small for him to see. Then he covered his other eye and did it again.



Olly thought it was really fun, a bit like playing 'I Spy' with Mum.

"Great," said John "you're nearly done Olly."

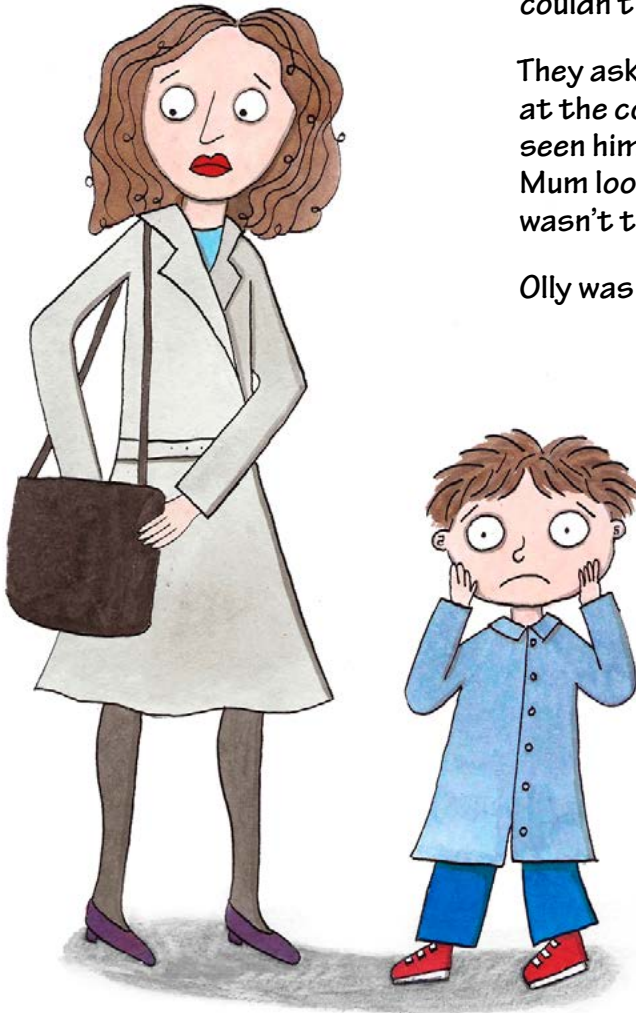
John said Olly's eyes needed a bit of help to see things that were further away. Olly wasn't sure if he wanted to wear glasses, but he remembered that Harry Potter and Postman Pat wore glasses, and they were his favourites.



John took Olly and Mum back out into the shop. There were lots of cool glasses to choose from. Olly chose the ones with a picture of Iron Man on them.

John made sure the glasses fitted properly and helped Olly put them in their special case. Olly couldn't wait to wear them to school.

They said thank you to John and were about to leave the shop when Olly said: "Wait, where's Eric?"



They looked around and couldn't see Eric anywhere.

They asked the friendly lady at the counter if she had seen him, and she said no. Mum looked in her bag, but he wasn't there either.

Olly was starting to worry.

Olly put on his new glasses and looked round again. This time he could see really clearly over to the far end of the shop.

Sitting on the shelf right in the far corner was Eric.



“Phew,” thought Olly, “there he is,” and he ran over to grab him.

Mum said: “We better keep a check on your eyes so you can see everything that rabbit is getting up to!”



John then came over with a pair of special glasses made from card that fastened behind Eric's big floppy ears and made him look very clever.

"There you go," said John, "now, you can keep an eye on each other!"



Blind Children UK is a leading charity for children and young people with sight loss.

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