

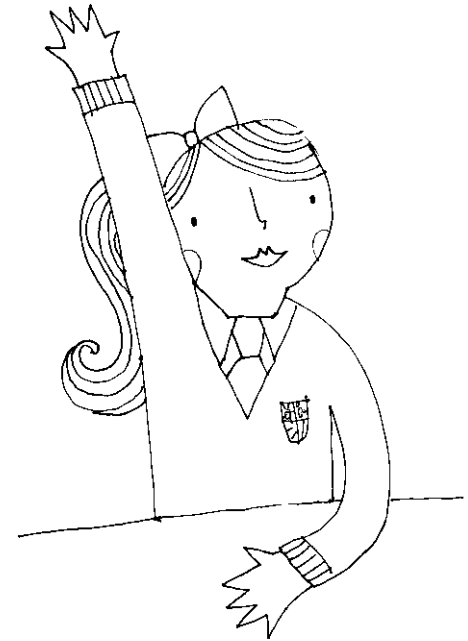
It was almost the end of term.  
'We are going to do a play,'  
said Miss Bird.

'It is *Noah's Ark*.'



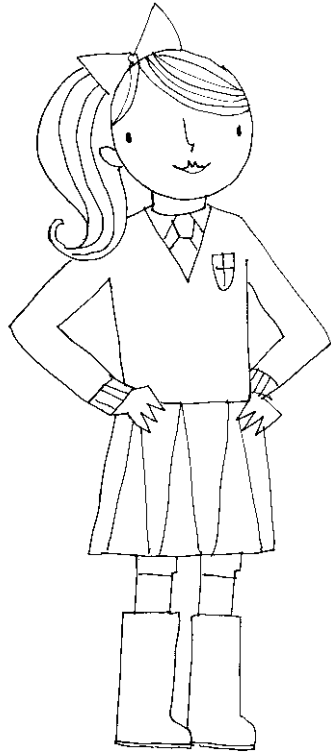
The class cheered.  
Emma was excited.  
She loved plays.

Ruby Ryan put up her hand  
and waved it about.



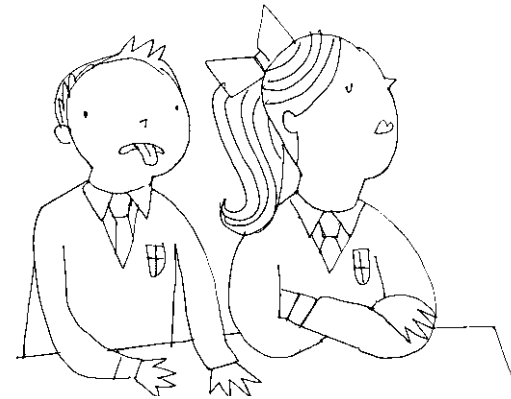
Ruby always put up her hand.  
She always had something  
to say.

'Yes, Ruby?' Miss Bird said.  
'Can Noah be a girl, Miss?'  
said Ruby.



Ruby wanted the main part.  
Ruby always wanted  
the main part.

Simon O'Reilly pulled a face.  
'Don't be silly, Ruby.  
Noah's a boy's name.'  
Miss Bird frowned at him.



'Well,' said Miss Bird,  
'a girl could play Noah.  
But this time  
I think we'll have a boy  
for that part.'