**Western Cape Education Department: GROWTH MINDSET PROGRAMME**

**ClassDojo**

**Chapter 1: Mojo discovers a secret about his brain**

*…a secret that will change the way he looks at the world foreve*r.

Our story begins with Mojo, a friendly monster who loved school, especially Maths; until, one day, when something terrible happened - the Maths problems became more difficult and nothing made sense anymore. Mojo had a devastating thought. He just wasn’t smart enough for school! It seemed that the only reasonable thing to do, was to pack his things and leave forever.

Just then he heard his friend, Katie, laughing.

“Mojo, you can’t just give up,” she said.

“I have no choice, Katie,” said Mojo, “you’re either born smart or you’re not, and I realised today that I’m not.”

“Mojo, that’s not how it works,” said Katie, “anyone can be smart; you just have to work at it.”

“That’s the most ridiculous thing I have heard,” said Mojo.

“It’s not ridiculous, it’s science”, said Katie, “Neuroscientists studied the brain for years and discovered an incredible secret… that your brain is like a muscle. When you try challenging things, like those hard Maths problems, you’re giving your brain the exercise it needs to get stronger, which makes you smarter.”

“Oh, is that really true?” asked Mojo.

“Of course,” said Katie, “it’s like when you were a baby. You didn’t know how to talk, but you kept trying, exercising your brain until one day you could.”

Mojo couldn’t believe what he was hearing. If your brain was really like a muscle, did that mean anyone could become smarter - even him? He turned to ask Katie, but just then she had to be off to her next class.

But maybe you can answer Mojo’s question. What do you think? Can Mojo become smarter? What about you?

Mmmm, now that’s an interesting question indeed!

**The End**