**Chapter 1: Mojo, the Director**

**It was just a normal day at school for Mojo, until an unexpected announcement.**

"This is Ms Clara speaking. We are now casting for our school’s production of Grease, the Musical. We’re looking for actors, set designers, and a director! If you’re interested, please come to my trailer after school."

"Guys," said Mojo, catching his breath,”I’m going to direct Grease, and I want my friends to be a part of it!"

"What?" said Katie. “Mojo, none of us have ever done theatre before!”

"All the more reason to start now," said Mojo.

"Gabby, your art skill will be great for set design. Bear, you can be on lighting.

And, Katie and Bruce, you can be our stars!"

**They imagined creating an amazing show together. They decided to go for it.**

**Opening night was approaching quickly, but the set was still far from ready.**

**And Bruce and Katie have not yet found their stride as actors.**

"I’m sorry," said Katie. "I forgot my line again."

"That’s okay!" said Mojo. "We’re all learning."

Just then, Maya, from the school paper, stopped by to see how the play was going.

"Excuse me, Mojo, Maya here from the Monster Herald. Four days until opening night. Will your team be ready?"

"I think so," said Mojo. "We’re all working really hard."

"Well," said Maya, "I just hope you don’t embarrass yourselves. Thanks for your time!"

**For the first time, Mojo began to feel anxious about the play. Did he set his friends and himself up for total failure? He suddenly snapped at Katie.**

"Katie, study the script tonight," said Mojo. "Don’t forget!"

**At the next day’s rehearsal, as he read the school paper, a strange feeling of anxiety grew inside Mojo.**

"Mojo," said Katie, "I can’t remember this line. Can you help me?"

**In a split second, the anxious feeling grew even more rapidly. Mojo began to sweat. He was suddenly furious.**

"Do any of you even care about the play?" he yelled.

**There was silence on the set.**

"Katie," he said, "I never should have let you be in my play."

"You don’t think I’m trying?" said Katie. "Fine, you can do it yourself, because I quit!"

**Katie rushed off the stage. The other monsters followed. No one wanted to work with Mojo when he was acting like this. Mojo’s fury turned to a panic. Opening night was only three days away, and his own friends had walked off set.**

"Green man," said Bruce. "I’ve got some friends you should meet, but we’ve got to move quickly."

**Bruce guided Mojo down a mysterious dark hallway. They came to a locked door that Mojo had never seen. Mojo heard a gruff voice growl, "Password?"**

**Bruce smiled and uttered a strange word, "Empathy." For a while nothing happened. Then the door creaked open.**

**What do you think happened to Mojo? How will he be able to save his play?**

**Hmm, now that is an interesting question indeed.**

**Chapter 2: Mojo discovers the maze**

**The last time, while Mojo was directing his play, a certain emotion came over him, and before he knew what happened, his cast had walked off set. Bruce promised Mojo that the answer to save the play lay in a mysterious room at school.**

“I really think we should get back to the auditorium,” said Mojo.

“Sincere apologies, chaps!” said Christoph. “That blasted electricity again … anyhow, shall we carry on with our pledge?”

The group spoke together, “We are monsters and to be better monsters we

MUST understand each other better.”

“Sorry to interrupt,” said Mojo, “but what is this place?”

“We are M.U.M.,” said Jenna.

“That's Monsters for Understanding Monsters,” said Jamie. “We think, one day, everyone in our school will get along…”

“Through spreading awareness that our actions can impact how others feel,” said Jenna.

“Hmmm, impacting how others feel. That's an interesting idea,” thought Mojo.

“So, what are you doing here?” said Danny.

“Guys, you know Green Man?” said Bruce. “He's directing the school play, but he needs your help.”

“Alright, Mojo,” said Christoph, “do tell us what's going on then.”

“Well, I don't know,” said Mojo. “It's my first time directing. I need everyone to work harder or the play will be a total failure.”

“First time directing, you say? I suspect that would be rather stressful.”

“Yeah, I guess it is a little,” said Mojo.

“Interesting!” said Christoph. “You know, being worried about failing can be a

powerful feeling.”

“Oh no,” said Danny, “the maze.”

“Ughh!” gasp the monsters.

“What's the maze?” said Mojo.

“The maze,” said Jenna, “happens when we become trapped in a powerful emotion.”

“Once in the maze, we are blocked from seeing how others around us are feeling.”

“They say, in the maze,” said Jamie, “we can be mean to our friends without even realising we're doing it.”

**Mojo began to realise he had experienced a powerful emotion. He had become trapped in the horrible feeling that the play would not be a success. And worse, he hadn't realised how it had made him treat his own friends. He had been in… the maze.**

“How have I let myself get trapped in the maze?”

“You don't need to worry, Mojo,” said Jenna. “Everyone experiences these emotions.”

“And lucky for you, kid,” said Danny, “there's a way to keep yourself out of the maze.”

**Hhmm, how do you think Mojo might stay out of the maze next time?**

**Now that's an interesting question indeed.**

**Chapter 3: Escaping the maze**

**The last time the MUM group helped Mojo realise his powerful emotions about the upcoming play that caused him to get trapped in…the maze.**

**The next day MUM was working with Mojo to help him stay out of the maze.**

“Remember, Mojo, powerful emotions like being angry or nervous are normal. But the next time you feel them, it is imperative that you take a moment and simply breathe.”

“Breathe; got it,” said Mojo. “That seems easy enough.”

“Indeed, it is, ” said Christoph, “but it's what you do during that breath that can keep you out of the gates. Use that time to put yourself in the shoes of those around you.”

“Put myself in someone else's shoes? What does he mean by that?”

**After school, Mojo rounded up his friends and explained how he'd been trapped in the maze. They were hesitant at first, but they knew that for the play to be a success, they would have to trust Mojo and work together as a team.**

**They sprang into action. They learnt to support each other. They learnt from their**

**mistakes. They even helped Bruce learn how to dance. And in no time at all, opening night had arrived.**

“Okay, team, Act 2 is up next.” said Ben. “Katie, you're on in 30 seconds.”

“I … I don't think I can go out there,” said Katie. “I think I've forgotten all my lines!”

“Trouble brewing on opening night,” said Maya. “Will the show go on?”

**That dreadful feeling of anxiety had returned, and it was growing inside Mojo. He began to sweat. His stomach knotted up and he felt like everyone in the audience was standing on his shoulders.**

“Green Man,” whispered Bruce, “remember to breathe …”

“Can you believe Katie? This is a total disaster!”

“Wait a minute. What did Christoph say?”

“Something ridiculous about her shoes. She's not even wearing shoes!”

“Imagine being in her shoes. That was it!”

“Hmm, just like it's our first time directing, it's her first time acting, and she's about to walk onstage in front of the entire school!”

“Wow, that actually takes some serious guts. I wouldn't do it.”

“No kidding. She must be incredibly nervous.”

“You're right, we have to help her.”

“Katie, I was just in your shoes and I realised something…”

“You were in my shoes?” said Katie.

“Yep and I realised you're probably forgetting the lines because you feel nervous about acting for the first time. But you shouldn't be nervous.”

“I shouldn't be?” asked Katie.

“Nope. I know you know the lines. It takes you seconds to memorise a new Maths equation and you've been practising these lines for weeks! Besides, so what if you make a mistake or two? You're trying something new in front of the whole school and that is the coolest.”

“Katie, Mojo!” said Ben. “I'm sorry to interrupt but we're almost out of time here. What do you want to do?”

“Let's do it!” said Katie. “Open the curtain!”

**Was Mojo able to stay out of the maze this time?**

**How did he do it?**

**Now that is an interesting question indeed.**