**Perseverance (Part 1/3)**

**Chapter 1: Katie discovers The Dip.**

**Katie was in class one day, when Mojo had a brilliant idea...**

"Katie, I’ve had a brilliant idea!" said Mojo. "We’re taking Miss Clara’s art class!"

"No way!" said Katie. "I’m a mathematician, not an artist."

"Or … maybe you’re just not an artist...yet!" said Mojo.

"Well... I guess you're right. Let's do it!" said Katie.

**And off to art class they went.**

**Everyone was having a great time. Everyone, that is, except Katie.**

"Well, Katie, I'm already on my way to artistic greatness!" said Mojo. "How's it going with you?"

"Ugh, terrible!" said Katie. "It just doesn't look right."

"Ooh," said Mojo. "You must be pretty nervous about the Big Show then, huh?"

"What show?" asked Katie.

**Mojo had forgotten to mention that Miss Clara's art classes always ended with a Big Show to celebrate the monsters' artwork.**

**This terrified Katie. Struggling in class was bad enough. Now, the whole school will see.**

**Katie tried to forget about the Big Show by diving into a book about her favourite inventor... *Creator of the lightbulb: Thomas Mojomus Edison.***

"Whoa - Mojomus Edison! How did I get in here?"

"No time to talk now, Katie!" said Edison. "Can’t you see we’re in the middle of The Dip?"

"Oh, sorry," said Katie. "What’s The Dip?"

"Huh?" barked Edison.

"What’s… The… Dip?" shouted Katie.

"Ahhh, The Dip!" said Edison. "Well, every challenge is like a journey…"

"When you start, you’re excited! You can’t wait to succeed. But then, the journey isn't easy. You get frustrated. You think you should just quit. That’s when you know you’re in The Dip!"

"Yeah, I know the feeling," said Katie. "But you're a genius inventor. Why are you in The Dip?"

"Everyone goes through The Dip! It’s the only way to learn things that challenge us... things that make our minds stronger."

"Wow. So, even geniuses go through The Dip? But, hold on. How do you get out of The Dip?"

Just then, Mojo interrupted Katie's reading to say, "Lunchtime! Bruce says we're having Sloppy Joes. Let's go!"

**Katie thought back on her struggle in art class. Maybe she was in The Dip, too... just like Edison.**

**What do you think? Is Katie in The Dip? And, if she is, how will she make it past The Dip?**

**Hmm, interesting questions, indeed!**

**Perseverance (Part 2/3)**

**Chapter 2: Will Katie escape The Dip?**

**Last time, Katie learned about The Dip … the struggle that everyone goes through - even geniuses like Mojomus Edison.**

**Katie couldn't wait to tell her friends about The Dip.**

“Whoa, that's a totally rad idea, Katie,” said Bruce, “but how does one get out of this Dip?”

“I'll find out right after lunch,” said Katie, “I just have to read the rest of the book.”

**After lunch Katie couldn't wait to find the book and get out of The Dip. She bolted to the library only to find… the book was gone. Katie was crestfallen.**

**The next day Katie kept painting, but her heart wasn't in it.**

“Yoh, Katie! Are you out of The Dip yet?” asked Bruce.

“Oh, totally!” said Katie.

**But the truth was that without the book, Katie had no idea how to get out of The Dip. Suddenly she saw something out of the corner of her eye. She couldn't believe it. It looked just like The Dip.**

“What do you think of my painting, Katie?” It was Miss Clara.

“You know about The Dip?” asked Katie. “Miss Clara, you have to tell me how to get out of The Dip before the Big Show!”

“Oh,” said Miss Clara. “Well, let's see what we can learn by watching Mojo.”

“I'm not so sure about that,” said Katie. “I don't know if you've seen Mojo’s work, but he's not exactly Vincent van… Oh, wow! it's so much better!”

“How did he do that?”

“You tell me,” said Miss Clara. “Watch!”

**Katie watched Mojo closely.**

“I've never seen him so focused,” she said.

“Oh, he's just made a mistake,” said Miss Clara. “Watch what he does now.”

“What was that?” said Katie.

“That,” said Miss Clara, “was Mojo’s neurons getting much stronger - all because he stopped to reflect on his mistakes.”

“Oh!” said Katie. “Wait, what do you mean he stopped to reflect?”

“To reflect,” said Miss Clara, “is just to look at your work and think really hard about how to make it better. Mojo reflects all the time. That's what gets him out of The Dip.”

“Wait, that's how you get out of The Dip? It seems so simple.”

“It is simple!” agreed Miss Clara, “but that doesn't mean it's not powerful. If you reflect often enough the results may just surprise you.”

**Katie still couldn't believe how much Mojo had improved, but she wondered… could she escape The Dip by reflecting like Mojo?**

**Hmm … that was an interesting question indeed.**

**Perseverance (Part 3/3)**

**Chapter 3: The Big Show**

**It was the evening before the Big Show. Katie was in her room putting the**

**finishing touches to her painting. After months of hard work, she felt like she**

**was finally escaping The Dip. Just then, Katie heard her mom from down the hall.**

“Oh, Katie, how was your painting, dear? Will you be the best at the Big Show?”

**And, just like that, Katie's anxiety came rushing back. She was always the best, but she had never been in The Dip before. Could she still be the best?**

**The next day the whole school gathered in the gymnasium. It was time for the Big Show. The crowd made their way towards Katie's painting.**

She had never been so nervous - until she heard Bruce say, “Right on, Katie!”

**And the other monsters joined in. They loved it. Katie breathed a huge sigh of relief. She was still the best.**

**But then Gabby revealed her painting and Katie realised that she wasn't the best after all.**

“Did you see it?” asked Mojo. “It moved me, Katie. I've never seen anything so profoundly beautiful!”

“But, hey, you're not sad just because yours isn't the best though, right?” asked Bruce.

“Actually, I'm not sad at all. For the first time in my life, I don't care about being the best. I guess I learned something else from Mojomus Edison.”

“Nah! Well, now we know that one won't work, Katie,” said Edison.

“Wait, how are you so excited?” asked Katie. “You must have failed a thousand

times by now.”

“Failed?!! Ha!” said Edison. “I'd say I'm just learning new ways to improve. Every bulb is better than the last, my dear. Remember, the most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

“Whoa! So, Edison totally loved The Dip?” said Bruce.

“Yeah!” said Katie. “And I realised something else last night. I love The Dip too. I've been so focused on reflecting and improving… that all the pressure to be the best, just melted away. And now, all I want to do is keep getting better. Anyway, I'm going to see if Gabby has any ideas to help me become a better

artist.”

“Whoa, that’s a pretty righteous attitude, Katarina!” said Bruce.

**And indeed, it was a righteous attitude.**

**But what do you think? What has Katie learned by being in The Dip?**

**Well, if you ask me, that is an interesting question indeed.**