

# Let's Vote on It!

BY SIMON COOKE

## CHARACTERS



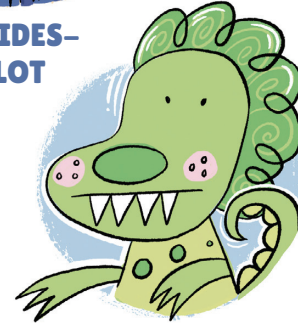
**SIR HIDES-A-LOT**



**PRINCESS BIFFELDA**



**SIR SPEEDY**

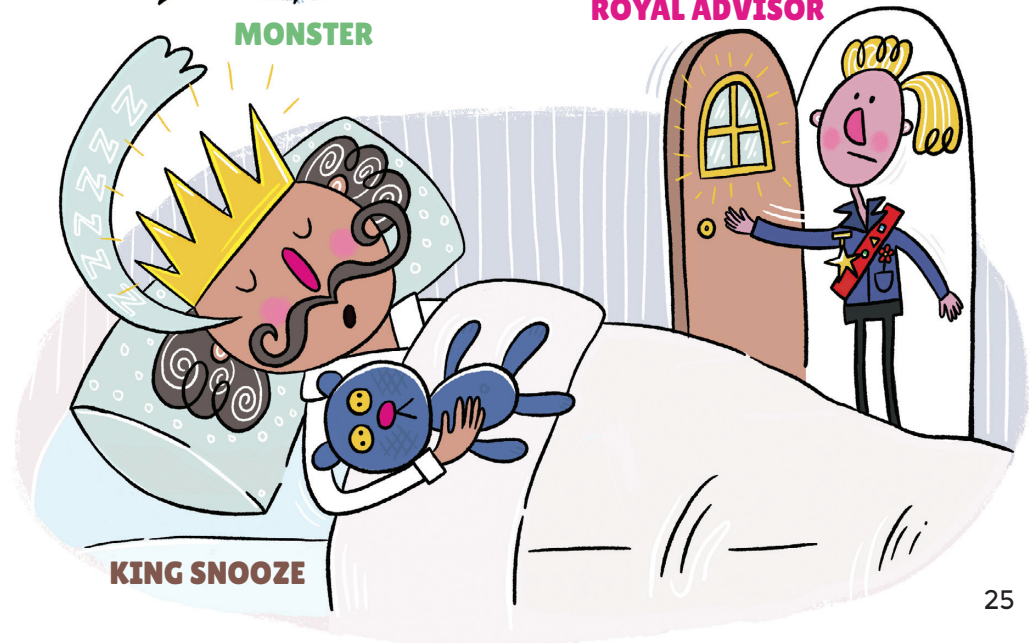


**MONSTER**



**CITIZENS**

**ROYAL ADVISOR**



**KING SNOOZE**

**Scene One.** The royal bedroom. **KING SNOOZE** is snoring happily in his bed, cuddling his royal teddy and sucking his royal thumb. The **ROYAL ADVISOR** runs in and shakes **KING SNOOZE** awake. The sound of crashing and yelling can be heard from off-stage.

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** Wake up, your majesty! A monster is attacking the city. It's bashed a hole in the city wall!

**KING SNOOZE** (yawning). Oh, well, I never liked that wall very much. Go away and let me sleep.

*He snuggles back down into bed with his teddy.*

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** But sire, it's knocking down people's houses. Your citizens will have nowhere to live!

**KING SNOOZE** (talking to his teddy). The fresh air will be good for them, won't it, Mr Teddykins?

*He rolls over and closes his eyes.*

**ROYAL ADVISOR** (slyly). The monster is kicking over statues too. It kicked over a statue of you.

**KING SNOOZE** (suddenly wide awake). My statue? Did you hear that, Mr Teddykins? Emergency! Call for my royal knights! Call for my brave daughter, Princess Biffelda! (He talks to his teddy.) Come on, Mr Teddykins, we must save our poor statues!

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**Scene Two.** The town square, filled with worried **CITIZENS**. **KING SNOOZE** (still holding his teddy) is standing on a stage. **PRINCESS BIFFELDA**, **SIR HIDES-A-LOT**, **SIR SPEEDY**, and the **ROYAL ADVISOR** are standing beside him.

**KING SNOOZE.** My loyal citizens, I'm sorry to tell you that a monster is wrecking our royal city.

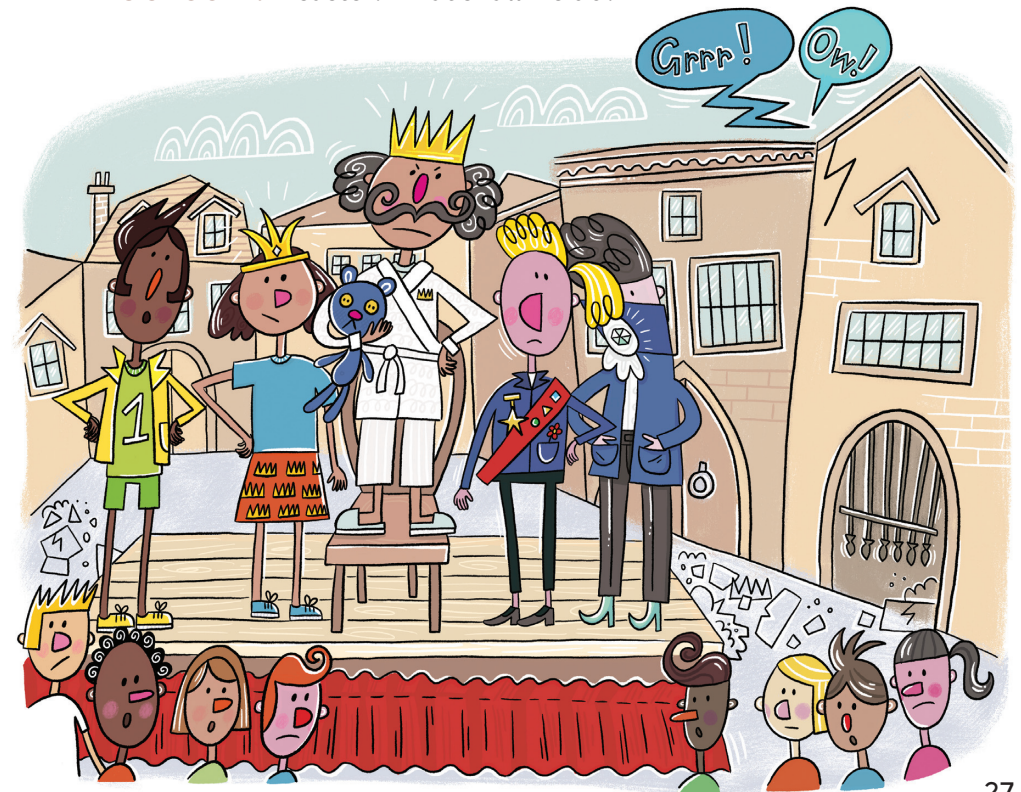
**CITIZENS.** Boo!

**KING SNOOZE.** It's knocking over walls and houses. And, worst of all, it's knocking over statues of me!

**MONSTER** (off-stage). Grrr! Ow! What was that? It hurt my shin!

**CITIZENS.** There goes another statue!

**KING SNOOZE.** Disaster! What shall we do?





**PRINCESS BIFFELDA** (flexing her muscles).

We must fight the monster, of course.  
Join me, brave citizens. I, Princess  
Biffelda, will lead you to victory!

**CITIZENS** (shouting). Fight! Fight! Fight!

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT**. No, don't do that. I, Sir  
Hides-a-Lot, know of a magic cupboard.  
We could all hide in it until the monster  
goes away.

**CITIZENS**. Hide! Hide! Hide!

**SIR SPEEDY** (doing leg stretches). I, Sir  
Speedy, say no to fighting and no to  
hiding. Citizens, join me and run away.  
We'll find another city that's free  
of monsters.

**CITIZENS**. Run! Run! Run!

**ROYAL ADVISOR**. I, the Royal Advisor,  
say no to fighting, hiding, and running.  
Citizens, we should talk to the monster.  
We need to find out why it's knocking  
things over.

**CITIZENS**. Talk! Talk! Talk!



**KING SNOOZE** (yawning and cuddling his teddy). That's a lot of ideas.  
Which one should we choose? (He talks to his teddy.) I hate making  
decisions, don't I, Mr Teddykins?

**ROYAL ADVISOR** (rolling his eyes). Why do we bother having a king at all?



**PRINCESS BIFFELDA**. If Daddy won't choose, how do we decide?

**ROYAL ADVISOR**. In far-off lands where they don't have kings,  
people make decisions by voting. Shall we try that?

**CITIZENS**. Yes, let's vote!

**MONSTER** (off-stage). Roar! Ouch! What was that? I hurt my toe!

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT**. Please hurry, the monster's getting closer.

**ROYAL ADVISOR**. Every citizen will have one vote. You must choose  
whether we fight, talk, run, or hide. Let's get voting!

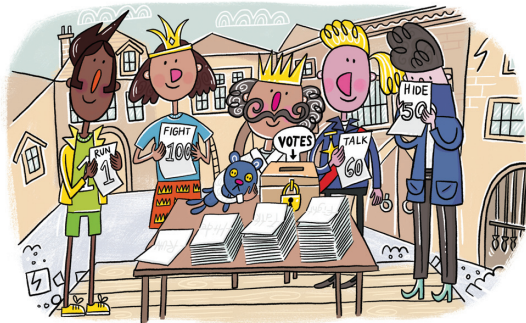
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**Scene Three.** *The town square a little while later. KING SNOOZE (with his teddy) is sitting at a table on the stage, beside a large box labelled “Votes”. He has four piles of voting papers in front of him.*

**KING SNOOZE.** Teddykins and I have finished counting the votes.

*He writes the total votes for each idea on separate pieces of paper and hands them out. PRINCESS BIFFELDA gets the “Fight” total, the ROYAL ADVISOR the “Talk” total, SIR HIDES-A-LOT the “Hide” total, and SIR SPEEDY the “Run” total. They hold the totals above their heads for the CITIZENS to see.*

**KING SNOOZE.** Fight has one hundred votes, talk has sixty, hide has fifty, and run has one.



**PRINCESS BIFFELDA.** Yay! Fight wins!

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT.** But that’s not fair. Most people don’t want to fight.

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** That’s right. If you add together all the votes for talking, hiding, and running, it comes to one hundred and eleven votes.

**KING SNOOZE.** That’s eleven more than the votes for fighting.

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT, SIR SPEEDY, and the ROYAL ADVISOR (together).**  
Yay! We win!

**PRINCESS BIFFELDA.** But how does that work? We can’t talk, hide, and run at the same time.

**KING SNOOZE.** You’re right – we’d better fight.

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT.** Wait a minute. Let’s not be hasty.

**SIR SPEEDY.** Yes, let’s think about it.

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** Perhaps we can work something out together.

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT, SIR SPEEDY, and the ROYAL ADVISOR**  
*go into a huddle. After a lot of whispering, they turn to*  
**KING SNOOZE.**

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** We’ve worked it out. We’ll take it in turns. Talk got the most votes of the three non-fighting ideas, so we’ll try that first.

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT.** If talking doesn’t work, we’ll all hide.

**SIR SPEEDY.** And if the monster finds us, we’ll all run away.

**KING SNOOZE.** Splendid! That’s settled. We’ll start by talking to the monster and telling it to not touch my statues.

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** Or the city wall.

**CITIZENS.** Or our houses.

**KING SNOOZE.** Oh, yes, them too. Look out, here comes the monster!

**MONSTER** (*stumbling onto the stage blindly, arms outstretched*). Who’s there? I heard voices.

**KING SNOOZE.** It is I, King Snooze and my loyal citizens. You have knocked down half our city, and we demand to know why.



**MONSTER** (*looking surprised*). Oh, no, have I really? I'm sorry, I didn't realise. I lost my glasses this morning. I can't see anything without them. I keep tripping over and crashing into things.

**CITIZENS**. Oh, poor monster.

**ROYAL ADVISOR**. I've an idea. If we help find your glasses, will you help us rebuild our city?

**MONSTER**. Oh, yes, I promise. I am very sorry for all the damage I've done.

**ROYAL ADVISOR** (*addressing the CITIZENS*). I think we should celebrate our successful vote and an end to the destruction of our city.

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT**. We could celebrate with a game of hide and seek!

**SIR SPEEDY**. Or a running race!

**PRINCESS BIFFELDA**. Or a wrestling competition!

**KING SNOOZE**. I think we should all have a snooze.

*He lies down and starts snoring, cuddling his teddy.*

**ROYAL ADVISOR**. They're all great ideas, but how shall we decide?

**EVERYBODY**. Let's vote!



illustrations by Beck Wheeler



# Let's Vote on It!

by Simon Cooke

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