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DOMINOES

Series Editors: Bill Bowler and Sue Parminter

The Wrong TrousersTM

Text adaptation by Bill Bowler

Based on Nick Park's Oscar[®]-Winning Characters

The Dominoes edition of *The Wrong Trousers* is based on Nick Park's Oscar[®]-Winning Characters. Nick Park is a three-time Academy Award[®] winner in the category of Best Animated Short for the films *Creature Comforts*, *The Wrong Trousers* and *A Close Shave*. All three films were created at Aardman, where Nick is a Co-Director with founders Peter Lord and David Sproxton. At Aardman, Nick has also served as a director and animator on numerous projects including pop promos, title sequences and inserts for children's television.

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ACTIVITIES

BEFORE READING

- 1 In *The Wrong Trousers* you are going to read about Wallace, Gromit and the penguin.



Who has these things in the story? What do you think?
Mark them W (Wallace), G (Gromit), or P (the penguin).



a ☐ collar and lead



e ☐ a toy train



b ☐ slippers



f ☐ a tape measure



c ☐ a card



g ☐ a kennel



d ☐ a glove



h ☐ cheese

- 2 Why is the story called *The Wrong Trousers*? Finish the sentence.

Because Wallace puts on different trousers one day, and he . . .

- a ☐ loses all his money. c ☐ does bad things in his sleep.
b ☐ can't remember his name. d ☐ loses his best friend.

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1

Happy Birthday, Chuck!

It was early in the morning on Wednesday 12th. Gromit the dog sat at the table in the **kitchen** of the little house at 62 West Wallaby Street and made breakfast. Suddenly he remembered something. He got up from the table and went to look at the **calendar** near the door. Wednesday 12th was his birthday. There it was on the calendar in blue pen – ‘Gromit’s **birthday**’. Gromit took a pen and put a big blue X through the number 12.



kitchen the room in the house where people make things to eat

calendar a book with all the days of the year in it, often with a different month on every page

birthday the day when someone was born

sad not happy

card something that you send to someone on their birthday

‘It’s my birthday today and my friend Wallace is sleeping,’ he thought, and he felt **sad**. Wallace wasn’t a dog. He was a man, and Gromit lived with him at 62 West Wallaby Street.

Gromit looked at his watch. It was nine o’clock. Just then he heard a noise at the front door. ‘There! That’s the postman!’ he thought. ‘Perhaps I’m going to get some birthday **cards** this morning. Let’s go and see!’

1

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There were six letters by the front door when Gromit arrived there, and he looked at all of them carefully. Most of them were letters for Wallace. Letters in brown **envelopes** asking for money. But there was one envelope – a green one – for Gromit.

With all six letters in his mouth, Gromit ran back to the kitchen. Suddenly a **toy** train **shot** out in front of him. He stopped for a minute. The train went past and then he ran on, back to the breakfast table. There were lots of different **machines** in Wallace and Gromit's house in West Wallaby Street.

Back in the kitchen, Gromit sat down at the table and opened the green envelope. It was a birthday card with a picture of a smiling dog on the front, and when he opened it, it played *Happy Birthday to You!*

Gromit put the card on the table and looked at it sadly. Only one birthday card on his birthday!

Just then a red **light** over his head began to go on and off.

Upstairs Wallace was in bed. There was a red **button** next to his bed. It said *Breakfast* on it. Wallace hit it again and again. *Breakfast* said the red light in the kitchen over Gromit's head.

envelope a paper cover that you put on a letter

toy something that a child plays with

shoot (*past shot*) to move quickly, or to use a gun

machine something that does work for people

light something that you can see which tells you when a machine is working

button a small round thing that you push to make a machine work

Down in the kitchen Gromit moved a **lever** behind his chair. At once, up in Wallace's room, the head of the bed moved up. At the same time a door opened in the **floor** at the foot of the bed. The table in the kitchen was right under this door. Suddenly



Wallace shot out of bed, crying 'Gromit!' He shot down through the door in the floor, and was soon downstairs, sitting in his chair at the kitchen table.

'Well Gromit, my *Getting Up in the Morning Machine* worked well,' said Wallace, and he began to eat his breakfast. 'But perhaps I can make it work better. I hit the chair very fast that time. **Cracking** breakfast, Gromit!' he went on.

Gromit read his **newspaper** and said nothing.

'Any letters today?' asked Wallace. Gromit gave him his letters.

Wallace opened the first brown envelope and took out a very long letter asking him for lots of money.

'Oh dear!' said Wallace, looking at the long letter carefully. He looked at all the brown envelopes in his hand. 'We must be more careful with money, Gromit!'

Gromit put his birthday card on the table. It played *Happy Birthday* slowly and sadly, but Wallace wasn't interested in birthday cards just then.

Wallace went to look in his money box. There was only thirty pence in it.

lever a long thing that you move to make a machine work

floor the place in a room where you stand or walk

cracking very good

newspaper people read about new things that happen every day in this

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present something that you give to someone on their birthday

chuck my friend

collar something that a dog wears round its neck

lead a person takes one end of this in their hand, the other end goes on a dog's collar

'Look at that!' he said. 'And those **presents** weren't cheap.' He put his hand over his mouth and looked at Gromit. Oh no! He didn't want Gromit to know about his presents just then.

Gromit looked at Wallace, and his ears went up excitedly. 'Perhaps I'm going to get something more for my birthday,' he thought.

'Well, Gromit. What's on the 9.05 train?' said Wallace. 'Oh look! Here it comes now!'

Wallace's little toy train came through the kitchen door and shot past the table. Quickly Wallace took a little present off it. 'What's this?' he said and he put the present on the table in front of Gromit. 'Happy birthday, **chuck**!'

Gromit quickly opened his birthday present. It was a red dog **collar** and **lead**.

'You wanted a collar!' said Wallace, laughing. 'Here, let's put it on you.'



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Wallace helped Gromit to put on his collar.

‘Now people can see you come from a good home,’ he said, ‘But that isn’t all. Come and look in here.’

Gromit went into the front room. Something stood there in the dark. A new machine perhaps? It began to make a noise and it came out from behind the door. It was a big, walking, present! It walked nearer and nearer to Gromit on its two big legs. Gromit felt very afraid.

Suddenly the thing stopped and Gromit saw a small card on the front of it: *To Gromit, love Wallace* said the card.

Because Gromit was afraid, in the end Wallace opened this second present. But what was it? Green and black trousers!? Yes. But they were trousers with blue buttons and red levers.

‘They’re **Techno**-trousers!’ said Wallace.

techno- to do
with machines



YOU HAVE REACHED THE END OF THE SAMPLE.

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