

## Sponge Cake Man

### Discussion questions to encourage critical thinking.

*These questions and any others you can think of can be discussed after reading the story together. Don't ask them all at once.*

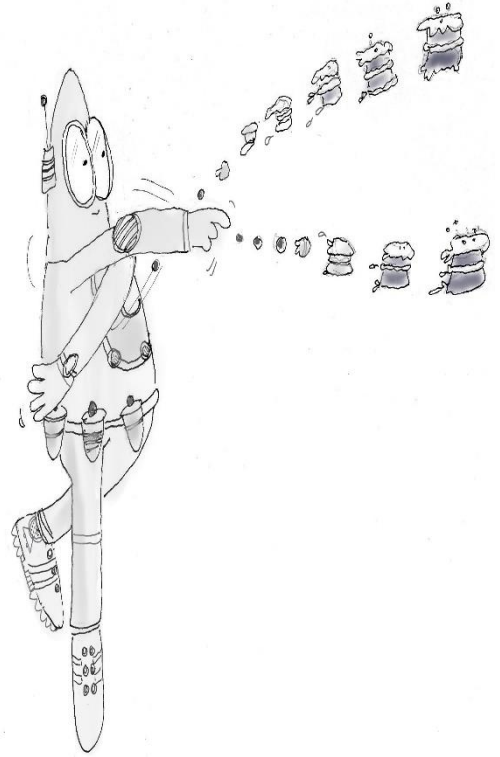
*The experience of reading is supposed to be enjoyable and not an inquisition.*

*Many questions can be asked as you are reading the story or before you turn to a new page ask, what do you think will happen next?*

*The answers I have provided are a guide only and I have not addressed all issues otherwise we could have a new novel on our hands.*

*Your child may think up some amazing responses, reasons and opinions.*

*Encourage unusual, creative or original ideas.*



Do you think Francis's grandmother Phyllis should have made the suit and put her grandson in danger? Why?

*Most children will probably agree with her actions as she had to do something to protect Francis from the bullies at school. She most likely felt very confident in the suit's special features to keep him out of trouble and deal with bad guys.*

Do you think that there should be an island like 'End' where really bad folk are sent? Why?

*Answers will vary..sounds like a good idea. Keeps them away from other folk and at very little cost... No returning to society to lead a better life!*

Gabriella Nightingale wanted to put up more murals, planters and parks throughout the city. (page 85) What do you think of her ideas and have you any suggestions how you would add to, or change your town or city?

Which villain troubles you the most? Why?

*Hmmm, lots to pick from – aliens, Cockroach, Grabbers, Mayor, Headmaster, Punks, Baker and the mysterious Michael (page 194)*

Any thoughts on who Michael could be?

*A secret at the moment...maybe we find out in book 2.*

Francis's entire family lived and worked in Phyllis's apartment building.

What do you think of this idea?

*Maybe a good discussion point – everyone available to help each other. Grandparents there to look after children while parents working. Family there to look after grandparents as they get older. Mediterranean and other cultures example... everyone useful and contributing to family life long into old age.*

## Creative activities & Imagination Boosters

Make a drawing of your own Sponge Cake Man suit. What special features would you add?

Mavis designed and made special helicopters, hovercraft and aircraft in her rooms (*page 185*) Design your own craft.

Try making Blossoming Queenie's Beautiful Very Berry sponge cake. (*page 215*) You may like to ask the main chef of your family to help....*just a suggestion.*

Or you could visit the Ripe Delicatessen in Auckland and see if they have one to try. If not, grab something else yummy to munch. Gemma and Cher from this story might be working there on the day you visit....ask.

Design a mobile scooter (*page 206*) that has everything you could possibly need. Maybe even a cool sidewalk scooter for youngsters.

Did you spot the very small bird in some of the illustrations?

He's in this one.

