

# If I Were in Charge

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book

Word Count: 347

## Connections

### Writing and Art

What would you do if you were in charge of the school?  
Draw a picture and write about it.

### Social Studies

Do you think Helga's rules are fair or unfair? Why?  
Share your ideas with a partner.

LEVELED BOOK • J

# If I Were in Charge

1 m m m m  
2 m m m m m  
3 m m m m



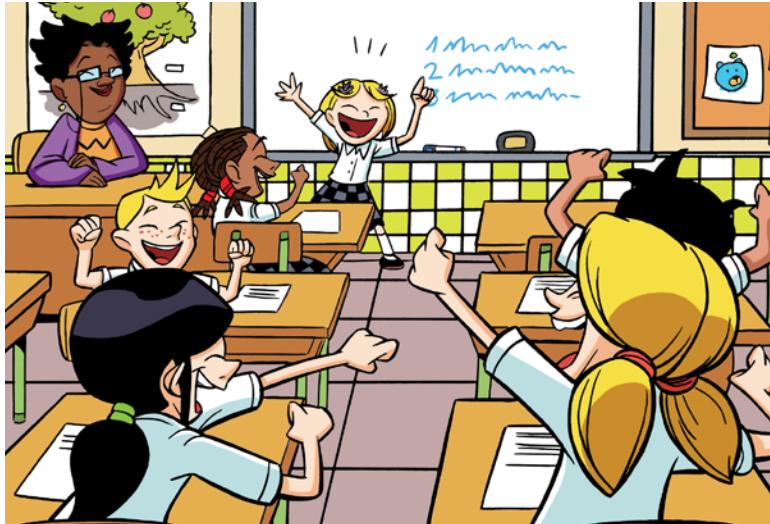
Reading A-Z

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Illustrated by Alex Lopez

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# If I Were in Charge



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## Focus Question

What would Helga do if she were in charge of her school?  
What do the students think about her ideas?

## Words to Know

charge

cheered

favorite

groaned

prune

run

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Level J Leveled Book  
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## Correlation

### LEVEL J

Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



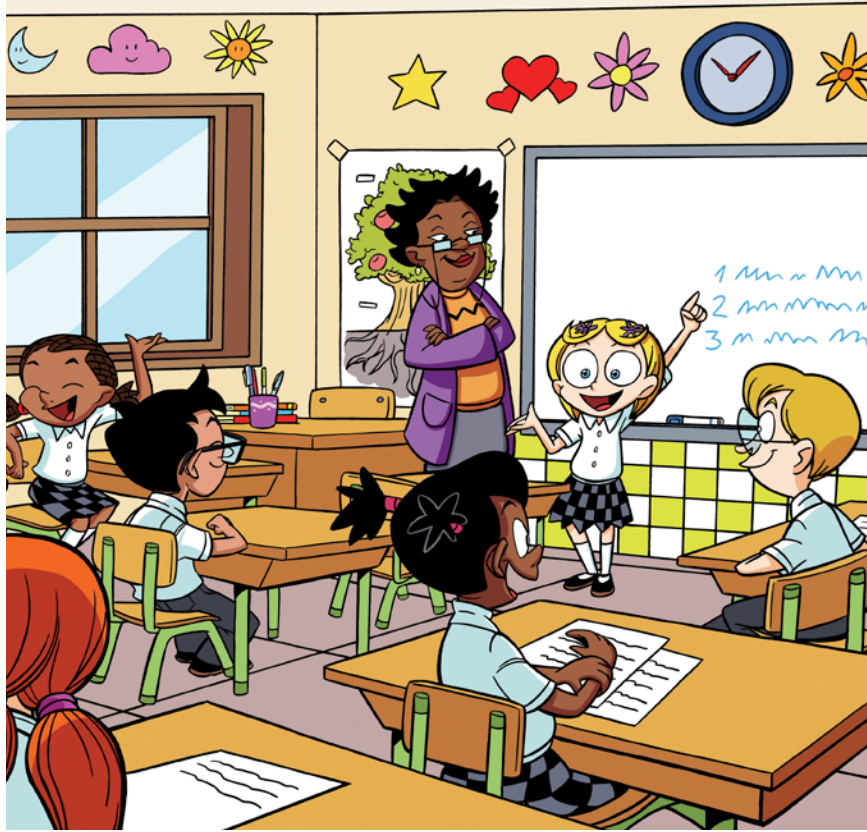
“Helga, it’s your turn to give your speech in front of the class,” Mrs. Jones said.

“What would you do if you were in **charge** of the school?” she asked.



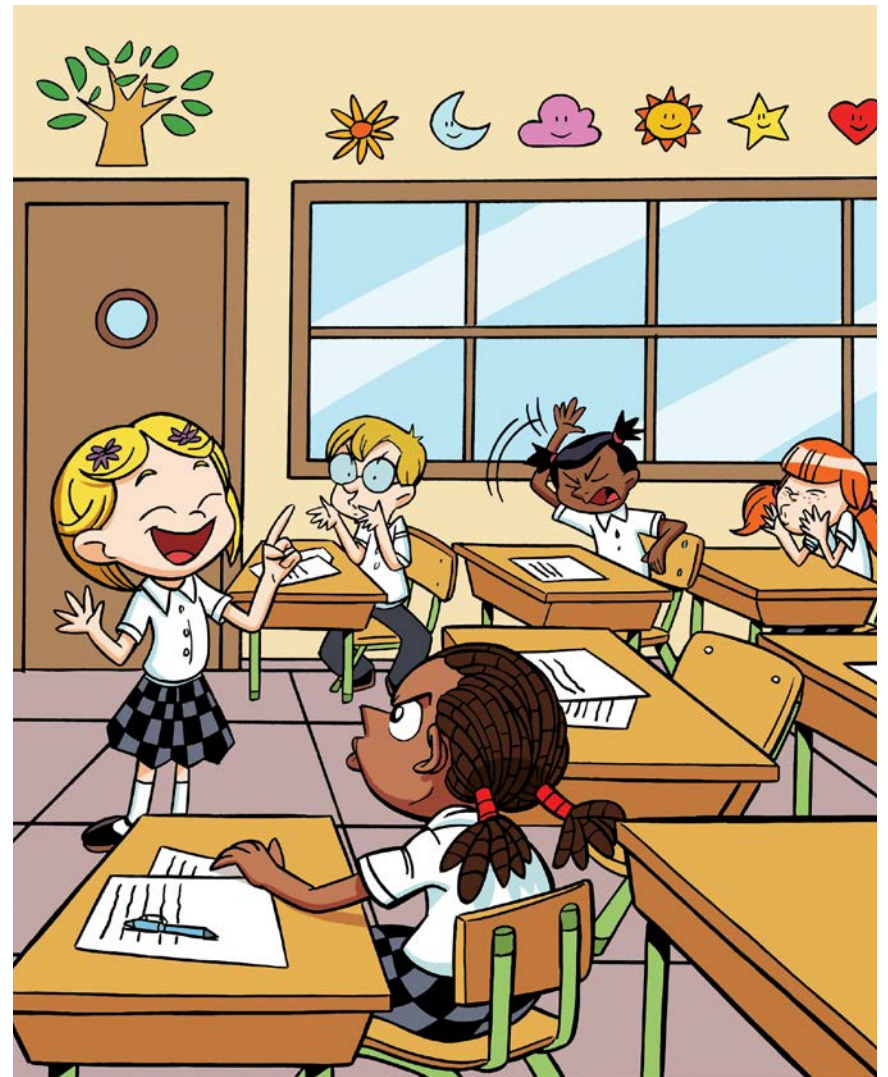
Helga walked to the front of the classroom and wrote three ideas on the board.

1. Uniforms: No!
2. Fruit Juice: Yes!
3. Helga: Yes!

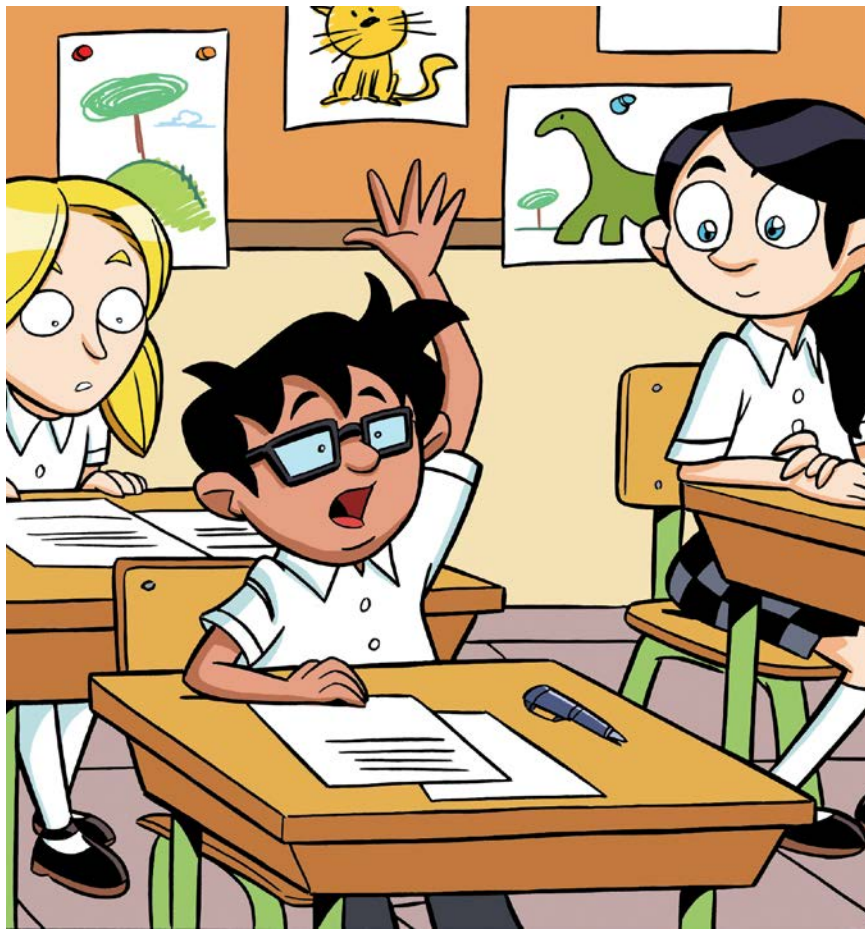


“If I were in charge of the school,  
I’d make three changes,”  
Helga said.

She pointed to her first idea.  
“First, there would be no more  
school uniforms,” Helga said.  
“Yay!” the class **cheered**.



“Kids could wear whatever they  
want, as long as it’s purple,”  
Helga said.  
“Awww!” the class **groaned**.



“What if we don’t have purple clothes?” Mario asked.

“Then you won’t be allowed into the school,” Helga said.

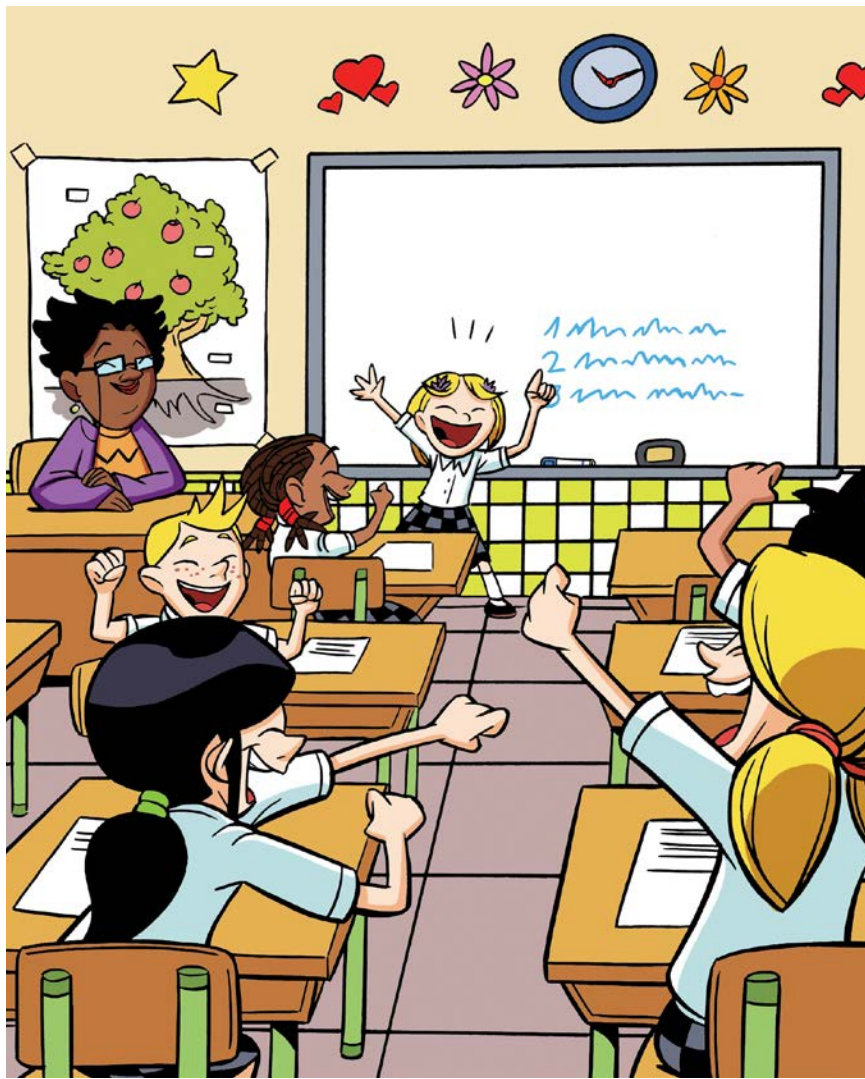
“Anyone not wearing purple will be sent home,” she added.



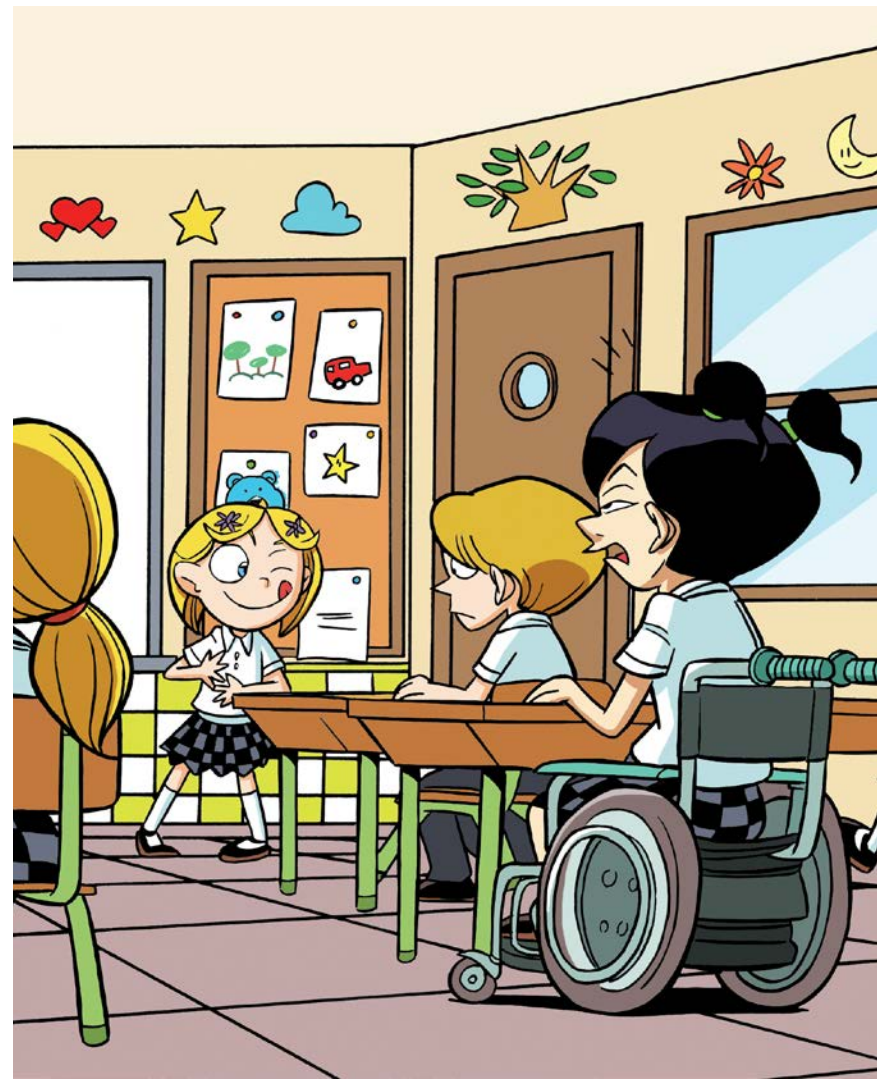
“Then I’ll never be able to come to school,” Mario said.

“Sure you will,” Helga said.

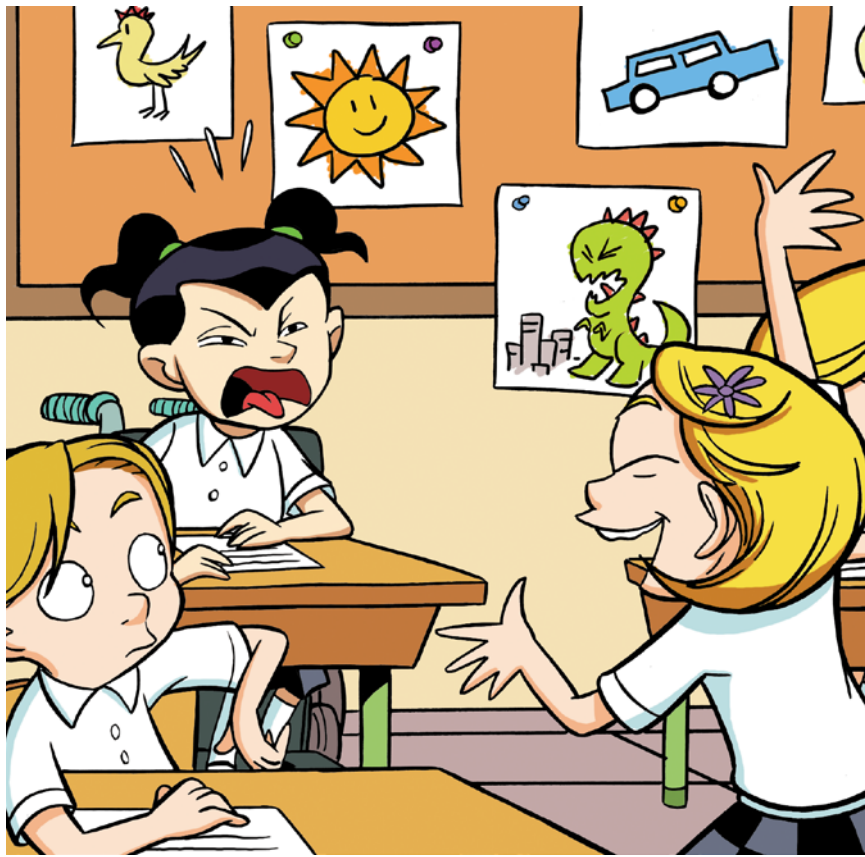
“You will just have to make purple your new **favorite** color,” she smiled.



Helga pointed to her next idea.  
“Second, we will get free fruit juice  
at every lunch,” she said.  
“Yay!” the class cheered.



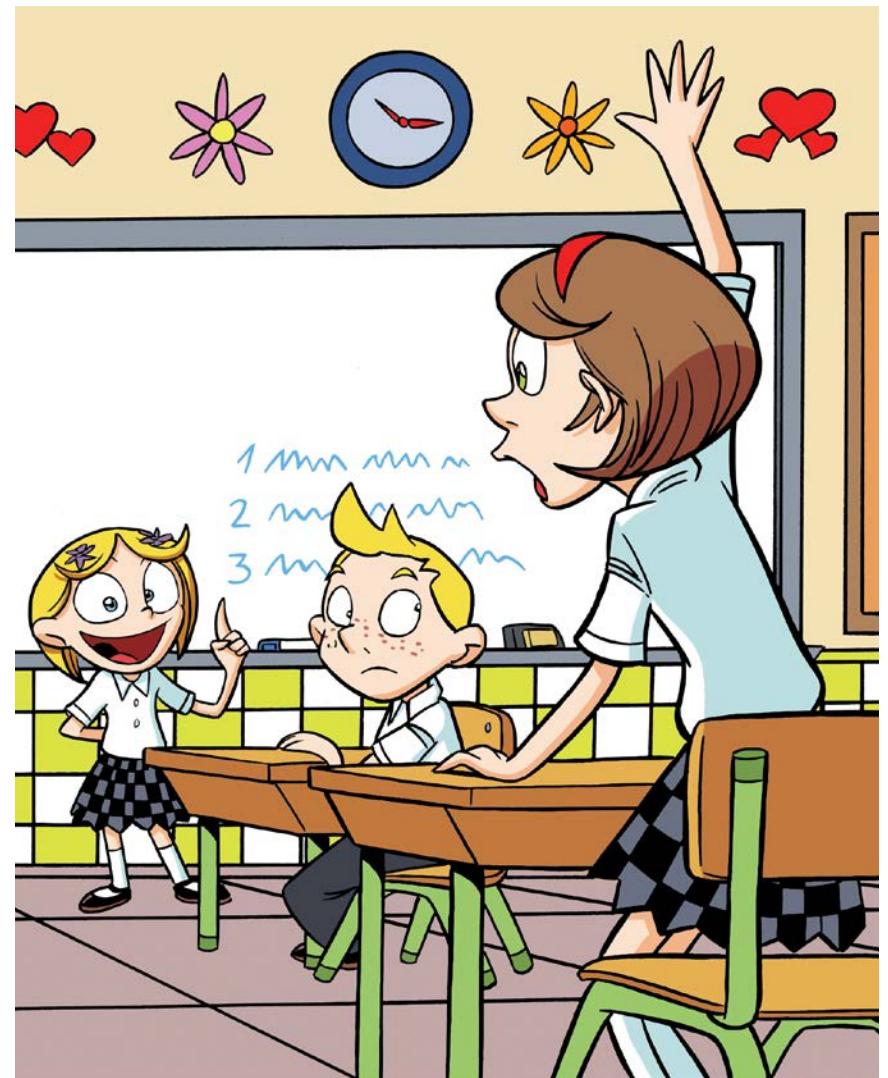
“The fruit juice will be **prune** juice—  
the best kind of fruit juice,”  
Helga said.  
“What?” Amy asked.



“Also, the drinking fountains will no longer have water, because water is boring,” Helga said.

“The drinking fountains will all have yummy prune juice instead,” she smiled.

“Prune juice is gross!” Amy said.



“You’ll learn to love it when you drink it every day,” Helga said.

“I’ll just bring water from home,” Terry said.



“No, you won’t,” Helga said.  
“When I **run** the school, no one will be allowed to drink water,” she stomped.  
“You will only drink prune juice,” she smiled.  
“Awww!” the class groaned.



“Thank you, Helga,” Mrs. Jones said.  
“Maybe it’s best that you’re not in charge of the school,” she laughed.





“I didn’t get to give my last idea,”  
Helga said, pointing at the board.  
“When I am in charge, you will all  
change your name to Helga.  
That way, you can be more like me,”  
she smiled.  
“No!” the class screamed.

## Glossary

- charge** (*n.*) the responsibility for the care or management of someone or something else (p. 3)
- cheered** (*v.*) shouted with excitement and approval (p. 5)
- favorite** (*adj.*) liked more than all other similar things (p. 8)
- groaned** (*v.*) made a low, wordless sound to show pain, unhappiness, or disapproval (p. 6)
- prune** (*n.*) a dried plum that is black or dark purple and wrinkled (p. 10)
- run** (*v.*) to manage or have control over something (p. 13)