

Hamish and the Worldstoppers

Hamish and the Worldstoppers is by Danny Wallace. It is about a boy called Hamish, who one day realises that he can do whatever he likes when everything in the world stops, except for him. In this extract, Hamish is in school when he realises that something very strange is happening...

Hamish Ellerby's eyes were the size of satsumas as he sat completely still in his chair.

And he sat completely still because he was totally, utterly petrified.

This was so strange.

5 What on earth was going on?

Seriously – what on *earth*?

It had all happened in an instant. The scariest, coolest, most awful, most brilliant, most horrible, most wonderful thing.

10 Hamish wanted to get up and look around. But he couldn't. He was too frightened even to move a single muscle.

This was *incredi-weird*!

Just a matter of moments ago, gangly Mr Longblather had been leaning forward onto a desk using just his knuckles, the way he always did when he was about to ask Class 4E of Winterbourne School a question.

15 “Who can tell me about soil erosion?” he'd said, and everybody's hearts had sunk at once, because if there's anything more boring than soil erosion then no one's told me about it. Mr Longblather was one of those particularly boring teachers, with a particular talent for making particularly boring things even more particularly boring than normal. In this respect, at least, Mr Longblather was absolutely extraordinary.

20 When the question had been asked, Hamish had stared down at his pencil case and made his special *ooh-let-me-think* face. He ran his hand through the thick black hair his mum called ‘The Mess’ and squeezed his huge greeny-brown eyes shut, like he was really trying to come up with an answer. Sometimes he found this was enough to convince people he was thinking about soil erosion. (Fact: Hamish had never really thought about soil erosion. It was not something he was all that concerned about. To be honest, he didn't even really know what soil erosion was.)

An extract from *Hamish and the Worldstoppers* by Danny Wallace.