



SUNNY ON ALERT!

A Seizure-Alert
Dog Story



by Spencer Brinker

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by Spencer Brinker

illustrated by Robin Lawrie

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CHAPTER 1

A Classroom Surprise

“Hey Raj, can you believe it?” said Allison as she approached the street corner where her best friend was waiting for her. The two sixth graders walked to Mastiff Middle School together every morning.

“Believe what?” asked Raj. He stuffed the copy of *Science Dogs*, a book he had been reading, into his backpack.

“Mr. Calhoun’s making me work with Max on the **ancient** Egypt research project,” said Allison. “You know, that strange kid who almost never came to school last year, and who had to wear a helmet during recess and gym class? He’s supposed to finally show up today.”

“Oh, yeah,” said Raj. “But it’s already October—where’s he been? And. . . .” He paused. “What’s wrong with him anyway?”

Allison unzipped her backpack and took out a stack of Golden Sunrise crackers wrapped in crinkled wax paper. She handed a cracker to Raj. “I don’t know where he’s been. It has something to do with **epilepsy**.” Then she added, “That’s what he has.”

“Oh, right,” said Raj, reaching for another cracker as they walked. “Um, what is that, exactly?”

“Epilepsy? I don’t know . . . *exactly*,” said Allison. “But I think something is wrong with his brain.”



Raj and Allison turned the corner and walked down Woofington Street. They stopped for a few minutes in front of Mrs. Baxter's house to pet her terrier, Gizmo. The dog waited on the lawn for them every morning.

After a few more blocks, Allison and Raj arrived at school. They followed the flow of students through the front doors and down the hallway. Then they walked into their classroom and took their seats. Allison scanned the room. "I don't see him," she whispered to Raj. "Maybe he's not coming today."

The bell rang, and Mr. Calhoun closed the class door. "Good morning, everyone," he said. "As you know, we're starting our research projects on ancient Egypt. With your partner, you'll begin brainstorming topics."

Tap, tap, tap. There was a soft knock at the door, and Mr. Calhoun stopped speaking. He walked over and opened the door as Allison and Raj glanced at each other.



Ms. Sante, the school nurse, leaned in through the doorway, smiled, and said, "Hi!" Her arm was draped over the shoulder of a thin boy with brown hair. His head was bent down. As she walked him into the class, the students could see that the boy was leading a beautiful golden retriever on a leash. The dog, who was wearing a red vest, wagged its tail and looked happily around the room.

