

Read and Think Storybook 13A

Things are Popping! and other stories

Things are Popping!	1
The Smartest Artist	15
Our Tip-Top Shop	24
What to Bee, Bee, Bee.....	46

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Things are Popping!



On a busy corner, right in the middle of Bumbleton, is a factory where things are always jumping. In fact, things are not **just** jumping; they are popping, for this factory is Plunky Popover's Popcorn Factory. All day, men inside the factory are busy making popcorn to ship all over the city.



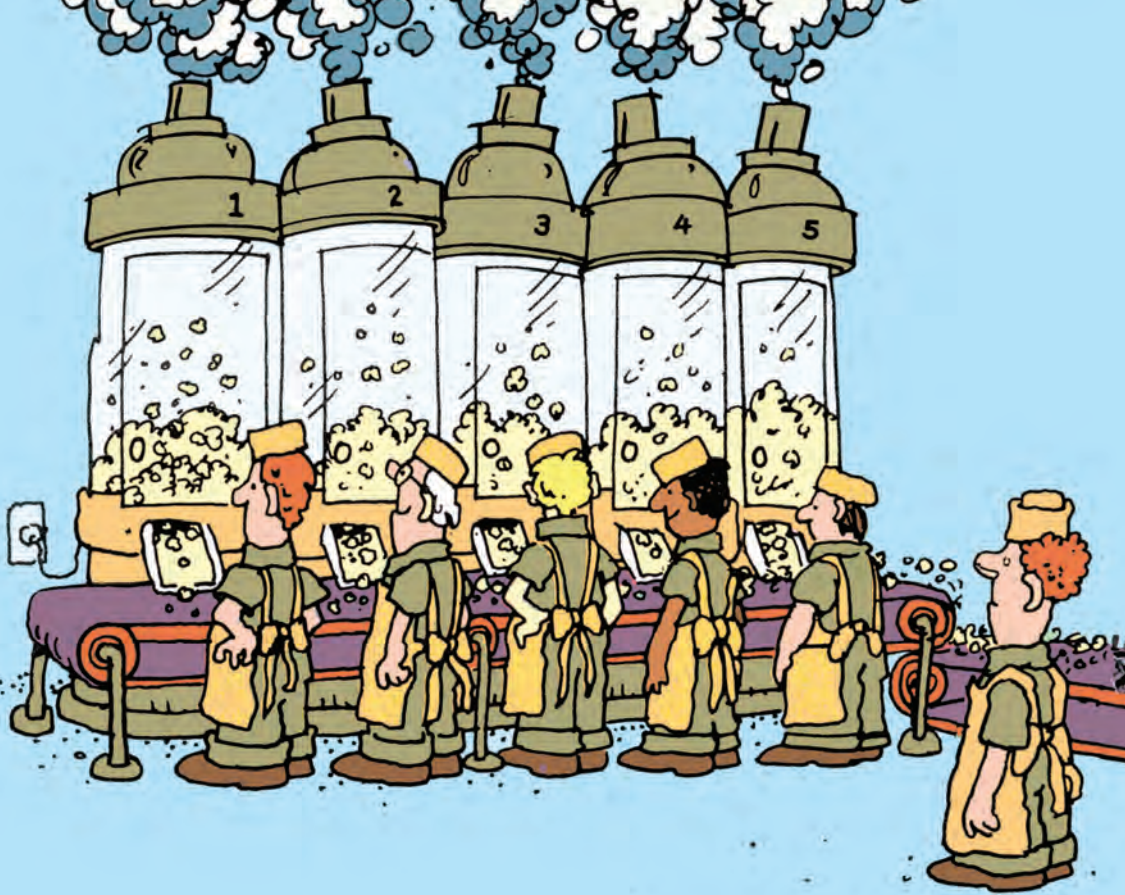
Plunky, the owner of the factory, spends a lot of time rushing from here to there, checking to see that all the work is being done just right.

Every man in the factory does his own job. He never gets to do anybody else's job. This works fine for everybody... everybody, that is, except Mort-the-Salter.

All day, Mort stands and presses the button that turns a lever, that tilts a shaker, that salts the popcorn. Then the popcorn goes into big plastic bags to be sent all over the city.

You must understand that Mort-the-Salter does his job well, but he does not **like** salting the popcorn. The truth is that Mort wants to work at a different job in the factory.

There are five men that Mort wants to work with, and they all do the same thing. They work all five of the huge factory popcorn poppers. And there they stand all day, popping corn in the big poppers. When a batch of corn is popped, the men fill up the poppers... and pop some more.



Mort watches the men at the poppers, and wishes they'd trade places with him. Mort thinks that if he works very hard and does his job very well, some day Plunky Popover may ask him to be a popper of popcorn. Then his grandest wish will have come true.