

Early Level 4 Fiction – Badge of Honour

Isaac’s knee won’t stop jiggling. He’s sitting in assembly, waiting for Miss Latu to announce the new school captains. What if he’s one of them?

“It’s my great pleasure,” Miss Latu says, “to announce that Fai Tuima and Jess Hutton will represent the girls.”

There are a few cheers.

“And the boys are ... Tomasi Tesi and Isaac Laufo!”

Isaac feels a bubble of pride swell inside him. Everyone’s clapping. He looks around and sees Tomasi get to his feet. They walk up together, along with Fai and Jess. Miss Latu pins a badge to each of their shirts. He looks over at Tomasi, and they grin at each other. They’re going to make an awesome team.

“So,” Isaac asks as they head home, “are you pleased?”

“What?” Tomasi says. He seems to be a long way off.

“About being school captain ... remember?”

“Miss Latu’s so strict,” Tomasi grumbles. “Didn’t you hear her going on?”

They’d met with Miss Latu after assembly – all four of them lined up on the couch in her office.

“Being a school captain is an honour,” Miss Latu said, “and I expect good things. It’s not just a job. You’re role models now – leaders. People will respect you – and you need to respect this.” Miss Latu pointed to the new badges and peered at each of them in turn.