The Magic Computer Mouse

Illustrated by Stefano Tognetti
Marco: Great, no school! It’s Sunday!
Oh, no! It’s raining!
Marco: I want to go to England.
I must write to Kate.

Dear Kate. How are you?
I'm fine.
Maggie: Hi, I’m Maggie.
Marco: Wow! Hi Maggie!
Maggie: What’s your name?
Marco: Erm... my name? Oh, my name’s Marco.
Maggie: Why are you sad?
Marco: My friend Kate is in England.
Maggie: Why is she in England?
Marco: She’s English. She’s my penfriend.
Maggie: Hm... an English penfriend.
Can you speak English?
Marco: Erm... yes.
Maggie: Count to ten in English then!
Marco: One, two, three...

Maggie: What are the colours of the rainbow?
Marco: Red, yellow, green...
Maggie: Last thing! Now describe your bedroom in English!
Marco: Well... there's a bed. On the bed there's a brown teddy bear. There's a computer on the desk... and there are lots of books. There's a big wardrobe. Oh... there's a ball under the chair. And... there's a poster of Bologna football team on the wall! It's my favourite team!
Marco: Wow! This isn’t a computer mouse. It’s a real mouse!
Maggie: Yes, that’s right! I’m Maggie, the magic computer mouse. Now you can go to England! Close your eyes!
Marco: But... why?
Maggie: Close your eyes and spell your name.
Marco: M.A.R.C.O.

Now you spell your name!
Marco: Help! Help! Mum... Dad... Maggie?
Maggie: Hey Marco, I'm here. I'm in your pocket. Quick! What colour's a London taxi?
Marco: Erm... is it white?
Maggie: Wrong!
Marco: Oh dear! Is it black?
Maggie: Right!
Marco: Hey Kate... it's me, Marco!
Kate: Marco, from Italy? On the computer!?
Marco: Quick! Type your name and surname!
Kate: OK. K.A.T.E. J.O.N.E.S.
Marco: And your address.
Kate: Wow Marco! You’re here! You’re in my bedroom!
Marco: Yes. Look it’s me!
Kate: Oh! What’s that in your pocket?
Marco: This is Maggie. She’s my computer mouse.
    She’s magic!
Cat: Hisss!
Maggie: Squeak, squeak!
Mum: Kate! Hurry up! It’s time for school.
Kate: Come on, Marco! Let’s go to school!
Marco: School? What day is it?
Kate: Monday, of course! Let’s go! It’s late.
Kate: What’s 15+19 Marco?
Marco: Erm... I don’t know. Thirty three?
No, thirty four!
Kate: Erm... let’s see. Yes, that’s right!
Marco: Oh no, Kate! Where’s Maggie?
Marco: Is she under the desks?
Kate: No, she isn’t!

Marco: Is she in the kitchen?
Kate: No, she isn’t!
**Kate:** Where is she?
**Marco:** Is she in the toilets?
**Kate:** No, she isn't!

**Marco:** Is she in the playground? Oh Maggie, where are you?
Marco: Are you in the computer Maggie? Oh! The computer is ordering me to do things!

Put your hands on your head!

Touch the floor!

Turn around!

Look at the teacher!
Teacher: Argh! There's a mouse on the computer!
Marco: Ah, there you are Maggie. Maggie is my mouse!
Children: Your mouse?
Marco: Yes, she's from a computer!
Children: Ha! Ha!

Look at the teacher!
**Teacher:** Oh, look at the time. It's four o'clock!
**Kate:** Bye, Miss. See you tomorrow.
**Teacher:** Bye, Kate. Bye, Marco.
Maggie: I don’t like cats. Come on Marco. Let’s go home to Italy!
Marco: Wait a minute. Let’s finish the computer game.
Kate: Yes, let’s finish it!
Maggie: Oh come on, please! Let’s go!
Marco: Bye, Kate.
Kate: Bye, Marco. Here's a photo of us at school. Please write.
Marco: OK.
Maggie: Close your eyes, Marco. Now spell Italy.
Marco: I.T.A.L.Y.

Now you spell Italy!

Maggie: Close your eyes and count from ten to one.
Marco: Ten, nine, eight...

Now you count from ten to one!
**Marco:** I'm home! Where are you Maggie? Are you in my pocket? Are you in the computer?

**Maggie:** Squeak, squeak!

**Marco:** Oh, there you are! But you're not Maggie! You're just a computer mouse!
Maggie: No, I’m not. I’m Maggie, the magic computer mouse! Let’s write to Kate!

'The End'