

1 **THE GRASSHOPPER**

I am the Grasshopper. It is too dangerous to tell you my real name. While I wear this mask I am a ... hero. All my life I have studied martial arts from around the world. There is no belt that I don't have. And I have other talents, too. I am as flexible as rubber. As agile as a cat. I use my powers and skills for good, to save others

And despite all that, here I am, a prisoner ...

2

...of MAD EYES BENNETT.

3

I had been chasing Bennett. He had held up the First National Bank. You see, Bennett is an old world outlaw; crime is in his blood. One day something ripped him out of the 19th century and into the present day. Whoever it was also gave him robotic arms. And put him in a very bad mood.

It had been a trap. Bennett's not that clever, though. He must be working for someone else. But who? And why did they want me captured?

4

Well I say, Mr Hopper. I am going to enjoy this.

5

BLAM!

6 **Madame Avalanche!...**

Mysterious and deadly, Avalanche has been one of my most trusted friends for a very long time. It's always great to see her. Especially when she's saving my life.

7

Thanks, but how did you know I was here?

Luck. I'm here for someone else and I just happened to stumble in on you guys.

Someone else?

8

Yeah, someone much worse than Bennett could ever hope to be.

9

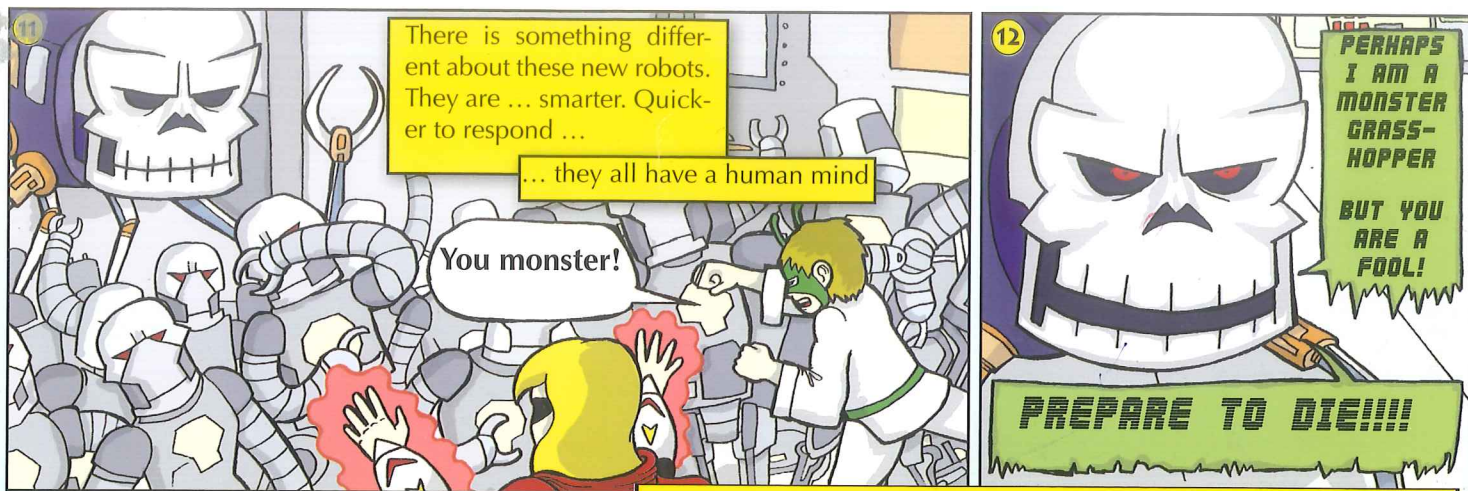
No ... not ...

10 **THE COMBINE!**

A horror of science, the Combine is a machine filled with the brains of scientists. I had fought it many times before, but it always seemed to survive.

Let's do this!

The last time I'd seen it, the Combine was trying to create robotic replicas of world leaders. Who knew what madness it was up to now?



Next Week : The Grasshopper BATTLES THE BRAINS !!

Questions

- 1 What is not one of the Grasshopper's abilities?
 - a robotic arms
 - b flexibility
 - c fighting skills
- 2 Mad Eyes Bennett
 - a is a prisoner.
 - b is a superhero.
 - c is a time traveller.
- 3 Did Madame Avalanche save the Grasshopper on purpose?
 - a Yes, she needed him to defeat the Combine.
 - b No, she wanted to defeat Mad Eyes Bennett.
 - c No, she found him by accident.
- 4 What was the Combine's plan this time?
 - a to transport criminals through time
 - b to create robots with human brains
 - c to create robots that looked like world leaders
- 5 What is the main difference between the heroes and the villains in *The Grasshopper*?
 - a The heroes wear light coloured outfits, while the villains are in dark colours.
 - b The heroes have super powers, while the villains are robotic.
 - c The heroes don't fight by themselves, while the villains never team up.
- 6 The illustrations in the comic are
 - a always from the superheroes perspective.
 - b always from the villains perspective.
 - c constantly changing perspective.

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below.

The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- 7 Something you wear on your face (1)
- 8 To be nimble and quick-moving (1)
- 9 A person who has broken the law (3)
- 10 Awkward step or fall (7)
- 11 Copies of something (10)

Grammar

Find a **verb** (an action word) in these sentences.

- 12 Grasshopper studied martial arts.
- 13 He is sitting against a wall.
- 14 The Combine scraped its claws
- 15 Avalanche smashes through the wall.

Back To The Text...

- 16 Both heroes wear a disguise.
 - a true
 - b false
- 17 This story is complete.
 - a true
 - b false
- 18 Why do you think the Combine calls Grasshopper a fool?
 - a It thinks that he says a lot of stupid things.
 - b It thinks he is foolish for attacking the improved robots.

Sequencing

Look back through the comic. What happens first.

Choose **a** or **b**.

- 19 a We learn that the Combine is an enemy.
b We learn that Avalanche is a friend.
- 20 a We learn of the Combine's plan.
b We see the Combine's robots.

Think About This

- 21 How does the writer show the difference between narration, human speech and the robotic voice?
 - a Mainly by text size.
 - b Mainly by colour.
- 22 Look back at the illustrations. Why do you think Bennett is called "Mad Eyes"?
 - a He is always squinting.
 - b His eyes are predominately red.
 - c His eyes are never seen.
- 23 Look at panel 5 on the front of the card. It is split by
 - a an explosion.
 - b a crack in the wall.
 - c nothing; it is not split at all.

Challenge Option

Design: Draw your own super hero costume.

