

SEBBIE UNIVERSE

THE ANTIDILUVIAN MATHS TEST

When our class came in from break, there were chocolate chip cookies on every desk.

On the board, in big wobbly letters, it said:

MATHS TEST

“That sounds ancient,” said Jensen, who loves football more than anything. “Like... before referees.”

There were no questions on the page. Just big numbers and little drawings—raindrops, boats, and circles.

Suddenly, we heard a rumble of thunder.

The numbers started growing bigger, like a scoreboard going wild. 1... 2... 4... 8... 16...

“They’re doubling!” Jensen shouted. “Like when the other team keeps scoring!”

The raindrops on the page multiplied. The boat drawing floated higher. The cookies felt a little squishy, like the air was getting damp.

“We have to stop the score!” someone yelled.

Leo grinned. “In football, when things get crazy, you pass in a circle to keep control.”

So we drew a big circle around the numbers. We counted in a steady rhythm, like passing a ball around the pitch. The numbers slowed. The thunder quieted. The raindrops stopped climbing.

Everything went still.

Our teacher walked in, holding a whistle. “Why are you all drawing circles?”

We looked down. The page was blank.

But our cookies were still there.

And in tiny crumbs on Jensen’s desk, shaped like a football, was one word:

WIN.