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Opening extract from  
**Big Book of Bad Things**

Written by  
**Michael Rosen**

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# Michael's Big Book of Bad Things Part 1

I noticed that my mum and dad were different.

This is how it was:

I go to the bathroom. I'm cleaning my teeth.

Chooka chooka chooka.

Shee shee shee.

And I notice that the toothbrush  
is a bit wobbly.

*Mmm, it's a bit wobblee.*

Take it out of my mouth.

Bend it.

Bendy bendy bendy

Bendee bendee –

CRACK!

*Try to stick it back together.*

*No good. I'll have to tell Mum.*

*Better make up a story . . .*

*'Er . . . I was cleaning my teeth*

*REALLY HARD . . . and . . . er . . .*

*The toothbrush broke.'*

*Yes, that's what I'll say.*

Go downstairs with the two bits of  
toothbrush.

Into the kitchen.

‘Hi, Mum . . . well, er . . . I was cleaning my  
teeth

REALLY HARD . . . and . . .’

I open my hands to show her the two bits  
of toothbrush.

She looks at them.

‘Not to worry,’ she says,

‘it’s only a toothbrush.

It’s no big deal. We’ll just get another one.’

And that’s that.

But . . .

a few minutes later my dad comes in.

‘Hi, everybody. Anything happen today?’

‘No, no, no,’ we say, ‘nothing much.

Sky’s still blue.’

‘Nothing at all?’

‘Nope. Nothing at all.’

But then my mum says,

‘Oh, hang on. Yes, there was something.

Something funny. Michael was in the  
bathroom

cleaning his teeth so hard the toothbrush  
broke.

And my dad says,  
'Cleaning his teeth so hard the toothbrush  
broke?  
I've never heard of anyone cleaning their teeth  
so hard that the toothbrush broke.  
Michael, what's all this about  
cleaning your teeth so hard the toothbrush  
broke?'

And I say,  
'Oh yeah, right. Yeah. Look. You see,  
I noticed that the toothbrush was a bit  
wobbly and . . .'

And he says,  
'Wobbly? Wobbly? How do you mean  
wobbly?'

And I say, 'Yeah, and I was interested to see  
if it was a bit bendy and . . .'

And he says,  
'What's that you're doing with your hands?  
That bendy thing?'

And I say,  
'Oh yeah, right, I was just trying to see if . . .'

And he says,  
'Oh, I'm beginning to get the picture:  
bendy bendy bendy –  
CRACK!'

You see, he's got it out of me.  
He's taken me in for questioning  
and he's found out exactly what happened  
without me telling him.

And then he REMEMBERED IT.  
He remembered and remembered and  
remembered it,  
so the next time I did a  
BAD THING  
he could remind me of it.  
So, maybe I was sitting on my brother's head  
for half an hour or something  
and he comes in and says,  
'What do you think you're doing?'  
And I say,  
'Oh yeah, I'm sitting on my brother's head  
for half an hour.'  
And he says,  
'Oh yes, like the time you went to the  
bathroom  
and  
bendy bendy bendy –  
CRACK!'

It's like he had written it down  
in a book.

Michael's BIG BOOK of BAD THINGS.

