

TEN WORD TALES No. 6

# The Ninth Ninja

by The Story Spinner

## CHAPTER 1



Josh looked out of his bedroom window at the wet November evening and saw a garbage truck splashing and beeping as it collected the rubbish from house after house in his road. The bin men were shadowy figures moving in the rain. He wondered if it felt like a good or bad job, to collect what everyone hated, the yucky leftovers of food and packaging, leaflets and letters, old newspapers and unwanted household items?

His homework was to list heroes: he had mentioned those who fought great battles and those who did difficult things. He had included doctors, nurses and carers, postmen and teachers, bus drivers and shop assistants, all of whose jobs sometimes needed bravery.

He added “bin men” to his list.

He was wondering about adding super-heroes as well, when his mum called up the stairs. “Time for tea.”

His mum was a doctor AND made very good Spaghetti Bolognese, which made her a super-hero as far as he was concerned.

He did not see that in the wet darkness a giant hand was rising up out of the garbage truck.

Later, as he lay in bed, Josh was still thinking about heroes. He liked stories where the heroes were unlikely because that made him think that even though his life was ordinary, one day something extraordinary might happen. Unknown to him, something extraordinary was happening outside his window at that very minute.

*Watch out for Chapter 2 tomorrow!*