



# READING with PICTURES

## VOLUME ONE

**Cover Illustration by:  
Jill Thompson**

### A SPECIAL THANKS

To our contributors, editors and other volunteers: Together we've taken the first step on an incredible journey, a journey made possible by your hard work and dedication.

To our donors and pre-order backers: We literally could not have done this without you.

To our allies in education, academia and the comics community: We stand on the shoulders of giants, and we're honored to join you in the larger movement to serve students everywhere by expanding the definition of literacy itself.

[www.readingwithpictures.org](http://www.readingwithpictures.org)

Getting comics into schools and getting schools into comics.

**Josh Elder – Publisher and Editor-in-Chief**  
**Rob Valois – Managing Editor**  
**Brandon Montclare – Editor**  
**Sari Wilson – Editor**  
**Camilla Zhang – Associate Editor**

---

## **Reading With Pictures**

---

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
**Josh Elder**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
**Katie Doland**  
**Michael Moreci**  
**Trevor Mueller**  
**David Rapp**  
**Tim Sarrantonio**  
**John Shableski**  
**Rob Valois**

Back in the Day © 2010 The Fillbach Brothers, G-Man: Reign of the Robo-Teachers © 2010 Chris Giarrusso, Just James: The Playground of the Living Dead © 2010 Josh Elder & Jason Allen, Little Bighead and the Big Snow © 2010 Jeffrey Brown, Amelia Rules: Self Help © 2010 Jim Gownley, Introduction © 2010 Michael LaRicca, Lil' Bigfoot: A Misguided Field Guide © 2010 Scott Cunningham, & Phillip Pittz, Heroes © 2010 Russell Lissau & Christine Larsen, Mail Order Ninja and the Silverback Horde © 2010 Josh Elder, Erich Owen and TOKYOPOP Inc, So Much More © 2010 Tory Woollcott, Roboy Red: Suburban Legend © 2010 John Gallagher & Rich Faber, A Conversation I Had While Teaching a Comics Class © 2010 Raina Telgemeier, The Goblin of the Deep © 2010 Nemo Publishing, LLC, Loopy and the Nose of Misfortune © 2010 Camilla Zhang & Tim Smith 3, High Noon at Junior High © 2010 Grace Randolph, The Further Adventures of Frankie Pickle: The Beast that Snored © 2010 Eric Wight, Judgment of Patrick © 2010 Alice Meichi Li & Michael Vincent Bramley, Albert the Alien Is New in School © 2010 Trevor Mueller and Gabriel Bautista, The Order of the Secret Pencil © 2010 Kevin Pyle & Kevin Sacco, The Legend of Billy © 2010 David Reddick, Unshelved: Secret Origins © 2010 Overdue Media LLC, Dreamland Chronicles © 2010 Scott Sava, Dr. Stevelove © 2010 Phil Chan & Joe Dunn, Stellar Rescue © 2010 Phillip Bowles, One Day With Amy © 2010 Steve Wallace & Daniel Gutowski, What If Mr. Kilsome Is a Monster? © 2010 John Bivens, An Animal That Cooks Its Own Dinner © 2010 Chris Eliopoulos, One Giant Step © 2010 Steve Horton/Smashout LLC, Overdue © 2010 Dino Caruso & Dave Windett, Pirate Penguin Vs. Ninja Chicken in Fancy Book Learnin' © 2010 Ray Friesen, Visual Cues © 2010 David Faroz Precht and Cho Youn Chul, The Whiteboard © 2010 Harold Buchholz, The Replacement Heroes in Civic Duty © 2010 Michael Moreci & Andy Scordellis, FCHS presents Jules + Riley in Final(s) Crisis! © 2010 Vito Delsante & Rachel Freire, Light's Speed © 2010 Kevin LaPorte & Amanda Rachels, Pandora: Celebrity Superheroine in Asking the Right Questions © 2010 Josh Elder & Jen Brazas, Comics & the Classroom: A Match Made in History © 2010 Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavey

All actual persons appearing in this book have given permission for the use of their names and/or likenesses. Reading With Pictures and the respective copyright holders may reproduce or reprint those works as they see fit without seeking permission from the donors or offering any kind of financial remuneration for the use of their names/likenesses.

Book design by Rob Valois  
Cover illustration by Jill Thompson

All other content © 2010 Reading With Pictures

All rights reserved. This book, or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form without permission.

Printed in Canada

[www.readingwithpictures.org](http://www.readingwithpictures.org)

# Table of Contents

<b>Foreword</b> by Dr. Michael Bitz.....	4
<b>Back in the Day</b> by The Fillbach Brothers.....	6
<b>G-Man: Reign of the Robo-Teachers</b> by Chris Giarrusso.....	12
<b>Just James in The Playground of the Living Dead</b> by Josh Elder, Jason Allen, Jim Vargas & Steve Wallace.....	20
<b>Little Bighead and the Big Snow</b> by Jeffrey Brown.....	26
<b>Amelia Rules: Self Help</b> by Jim Gownley.....	28
<b>Introduction</b> by Michael LaRiccia.....	29
<b>A Misguided Field Guide</b> by Scott Cunningham & Phillip Pittz.....	34
<b>Heroes</b> by Russell Lissau & Christine Larsen.....	42
<b>Mail Order Ninja and the Silverback Horde</b> by Josh Elder, Tim Smith 3, Chris Beckett & Steve Wallace.....	44
<b>So Much More</b> by Tory Woollcott.....	52
<b>Roby Red: Suburban Legend!</b> by John Gallagher & Rich Faber.....	58
<b>A Conversation I Had While Teaching a Comics Class</b> by Raina Telgemeier... 64	64
<b>The Goblin of the Deep</b> by Jay Piscopo.....	66
<b>Loopy and the Nose of Misfortune</b> by Camilla Zhang, Tim Smith 3, Irene Y. Lee and Charlie Beckerman.....	72
<b>High Noon at Junior High</b> by Grace Randolph & Tintin Pantoja.....	76
<b>Frankie Pickle: The Beast That Snored</b> by Eric Wight.....	80
<b>Judgment of Patrick</b> by Michael Vincent Bramley & Alice Meichi Li.....	84
<b>Albert the Alien Is New in School</b> by Trevor Mueller & Gabriel Bautista, and Kevin Harrell.....	86
<b>The Order of the Secret Pencil</b> by Kevin Pyle & Kevin Sacco.....	94
<b>The Legend of Billy</b> by David Reddick & Don Kuehn.....	100
<b>Unshelved: Secret Origins</b> by Gene Ambaum & Bill Barnes.....	102
<b>Dreamland Chronicles</b> by Scott Sava.....	105
<b>Dr. Stevelove</b> by Phil Chan & Joe Dunn.....	108
<b>Stellar Rescue</b> by Phillip Bowles.....	114
<b>One Day With Amy</b> by Steve Wallace & Daniel Gutowski.....	120
<b>What If Mr. Kilsome Is a Monster?</b> by John Bivens.....	124
<b>An Animal That Cooks Its Own Dinner</b> by Chris Eliopoulos.....	128
<b>One Giant Step</b> by Steve Horton, Jeong Mo Yang, Ian Sokoliwski, Dave Lanphear & Johnny Lowe.....	134
<b>Overdue</b> by Dino Caruso, Dave Windett and Ed Brisson.....	138
<b>Pirate Penguin Vs. Ninja Chicken in Fancy Book Learnin'</b> by Ray Friesen.....	140
<b>Visual Cues</b> by David Faroz Precht and Cho Youn Chul.....	146
<b>The Whiteboard</b> by Harold Buchholz.....	152
<b>The Replacement Heroes in Civic Duty</b> by Michael Moreci & Andy Scordellis, Chris Beckett and Jim Campbell....	154
<b>FCHS presents Jules + Riley in Final(s) Crisis!</b> by Vito Delsante & Rachel Freire.....	160
<b>Light's Speed</b> by Kevin LaPorte & Amanda Rachels.....	164
<b>Pandora: Celebrity Superheroine in Asking the Right Questions</b> by Josh Elder, Jen Brazas, Chris Beckett and Steve Wallace.....	168
<b>Comics &amp; the Classroom: A Match Made in History</b> by Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavey.....	178
<b>Honor Roll</b> .....	186
<b>Contributors</b> .....	188

# Foreword

Open any children’s book—Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, take your pick—and you’ll experience rich visual imagery combined with literary text. We present these books to young children, knowing that they will adore the pictures, engage in the narratives, seek more books, eventually learn to read, and hopefully love to read. Yet as children get older and enter school systems, the pictures quickly fall by the wayside. We expect students to become “serious” readers, working toward paragraph-based chapter books and the accepted canon of classic literature. For those students, like me, who loved to read at an early age, this entrenched method was a non-issue. For countless others, however, reading was, and still is, a struggle and seemingly insurmountable barrier to success in school.

This book and the organization behind it—Reading With Pictures—aims to turn the reading paradigm on its head through the medium of comics. With their mission of “Getting Comics into Schools and Schools into Comics,” Reading With Pictures is helping teachers foster a love of reading through the natural marriage of words and pictures that is comics. You need not be a comics enthusiast to appreciate and utilize the pages that follow here. Rather, all you need is an open mind and willingness to do whatever it takes to help all children become accomplished, enthusiastic readers.

In fact, I wish I had this book in hand during my first teaching experience with an unwieldy class of 34 New York City fifth-graders. I clearly remember a group of four boys in the back of the room who ignored everything I said and opted instead to draw Pokemon characters. More out of frustration than anything, I told the boys that if they would write words in cartoon balloons next to their drawings, I could evaluate their writing and give them a grade. I liken that statement to the starting gun of a race: *BOOM!!* The boys were off creating comics—volume after volume of written, artistic narratives designed in class, during recess, after school, on the bus, and wherever else they could find a flat surface. It should come as no surprise that the boys’ writing improved dramatically. They became dedicated readers of comics and other books, and they went on to achieve great things in school.

And for me, the seed was planted for the Comic Book Project ([www.ComicBookProject.org](http://www.ComicBookProject.org)), an initiative that I founded in 2001 to engage youths from high-poverty neighborhoods in the process of planning, writing, designing, and publishing original comic books. CBP has since grown to become an international model for literacy engagement and reinforcement, with tens of thousands of comic books created by

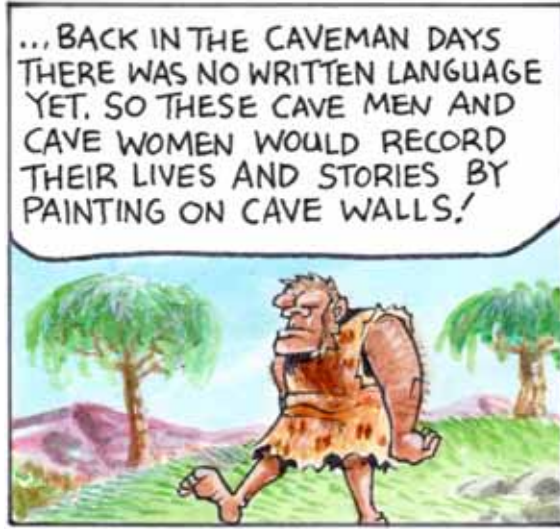
students in grades K-12 from Florida to Hawaii, Mexico to Nigeria. The growth of CBP has been largely due to the partnerships that we have built with organizations and people who champion our cause of creativity as a crucial element of literacy learning.

One of those champions is Josh Elder, Executive Director of Reading With Pictures. I first met Josh in April, 2010, when the International Reading Association had unexpectedly canceled its Graphic Novel Institute—a telltale sign of the fragile relationship between comics and the reading establishment. With what seemed like truly superhuman power and speed, Josh rekindled the Institute by garnering the support of Northwestern University, Diamond Comics, First:Second Books, and a wealth of presenters and panelists, including comics creators, children’s authors, and academic researchers.

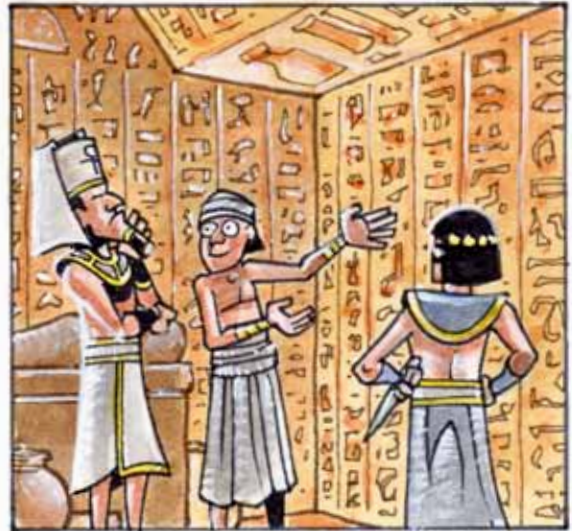
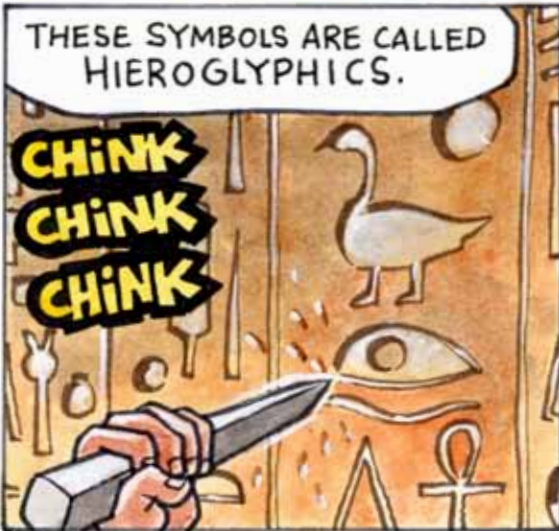
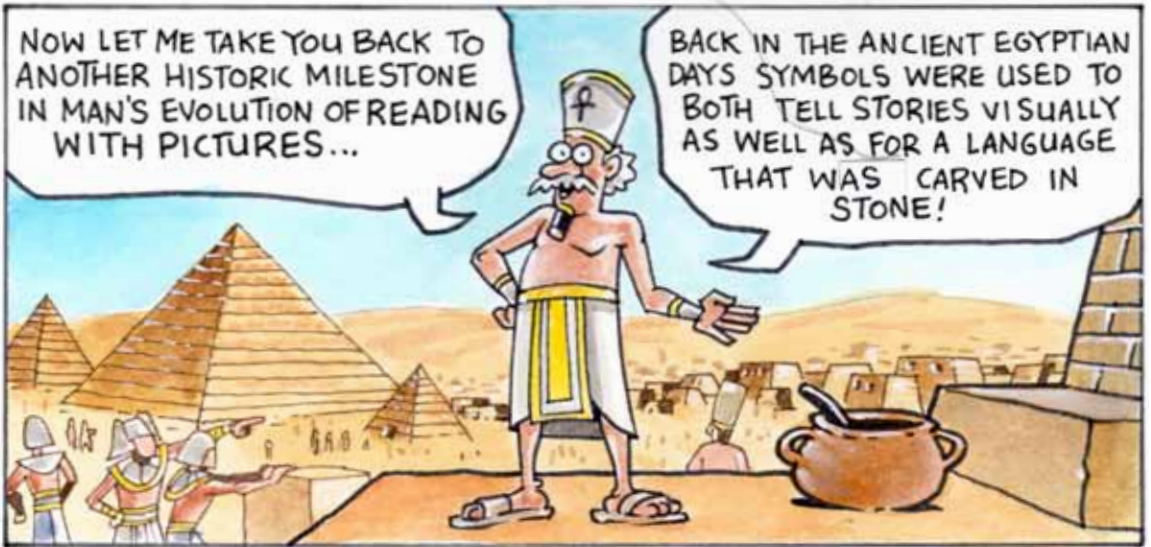
Many wonderful things transpired at the Institute. Jane Yolen, the renowned children’s book author, described her dedication to comics as made evident by her most recent book, a graphic novel titled *Foiled*. Bill Ayers, Professor of Education at University of Illinois at Chicago, donned a Boondocks t-shirt and presented the graphic novel version of his memoir *To Teach—The Journey in Comics*. But most exciting was the participation of school teachers and librarians who have embraced comics as literature and literacy reinforcement. These educators shared their successes in introducing comics into their classrooms and libraries, as well as the challenges they regularly face from principals, parents, and other teachers. All through these proceedings, Josh Elder guided the conversations and presentations. Thanks to him, everyone walked away from the Institute inspired and ready for more comics in our curricula.

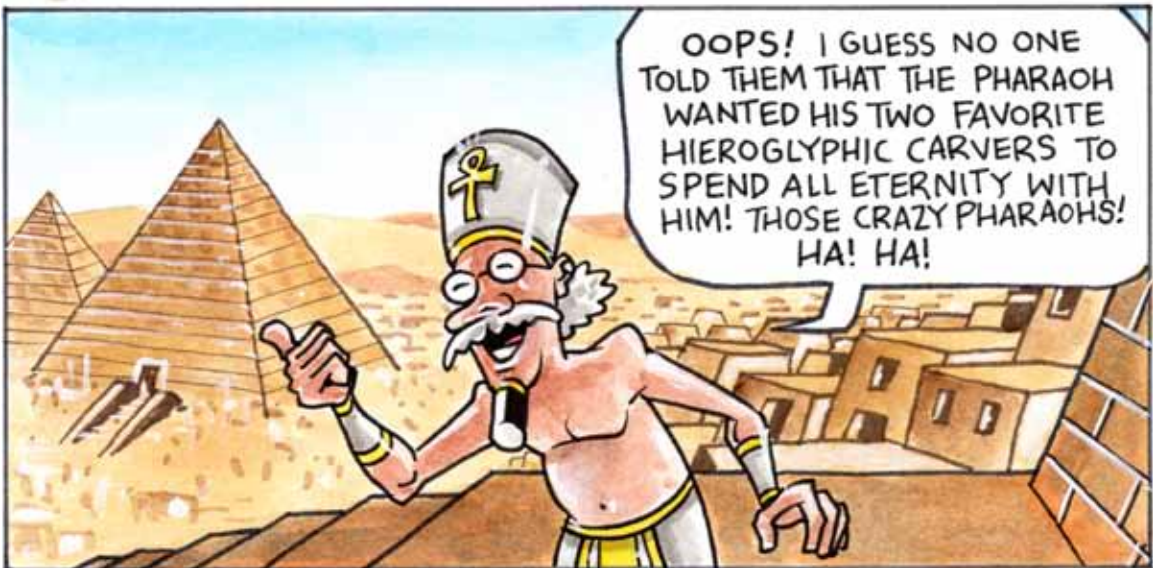
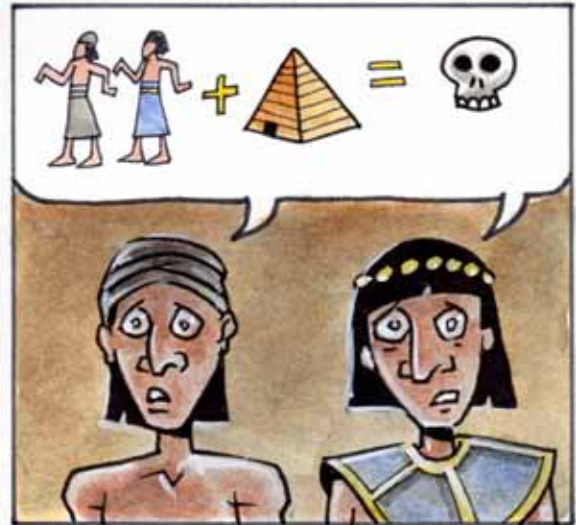
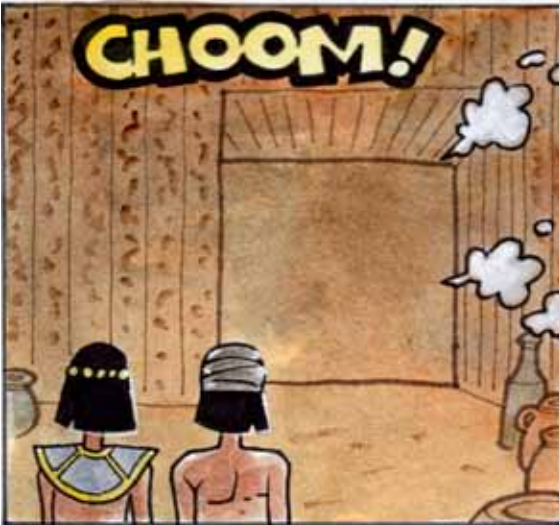
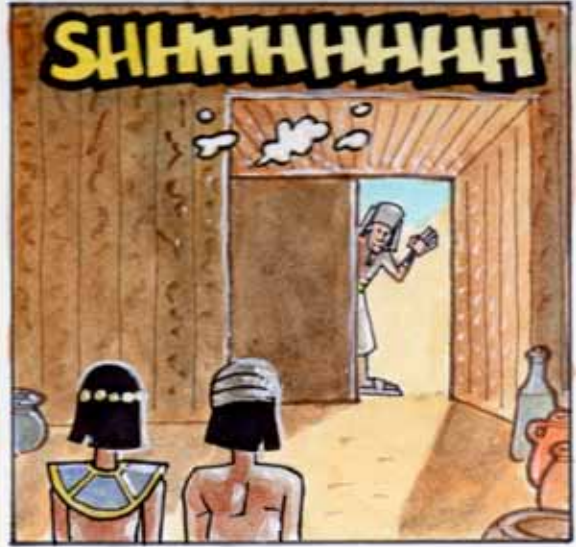
Perhaps you are one of those educators excited about how comics can engage and motivate your students. Perhaps you are one of those skeptical principals or parents, unsure of why your children won’t put down their beloved comic books and graphic novels. Or maybe you are just a bit curious about comics in education and the role that comics can play in the lives of young people. Regardless, this Anthology will be an invaluable resource for you. Enjoy it, and all the possibilities that it holds for readers of any age.

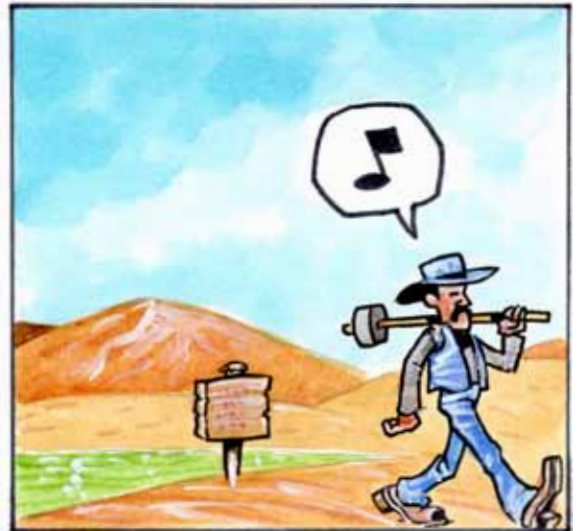
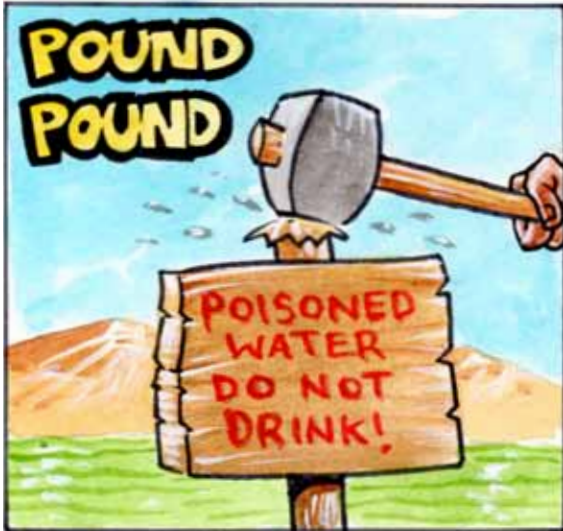
Dr. Michael Bitz, EdD  
Founder of the Comic Book Project  
Executive Director of the Center for Educational Pathways  
[www.edpath.org](http://www.edpath.org)

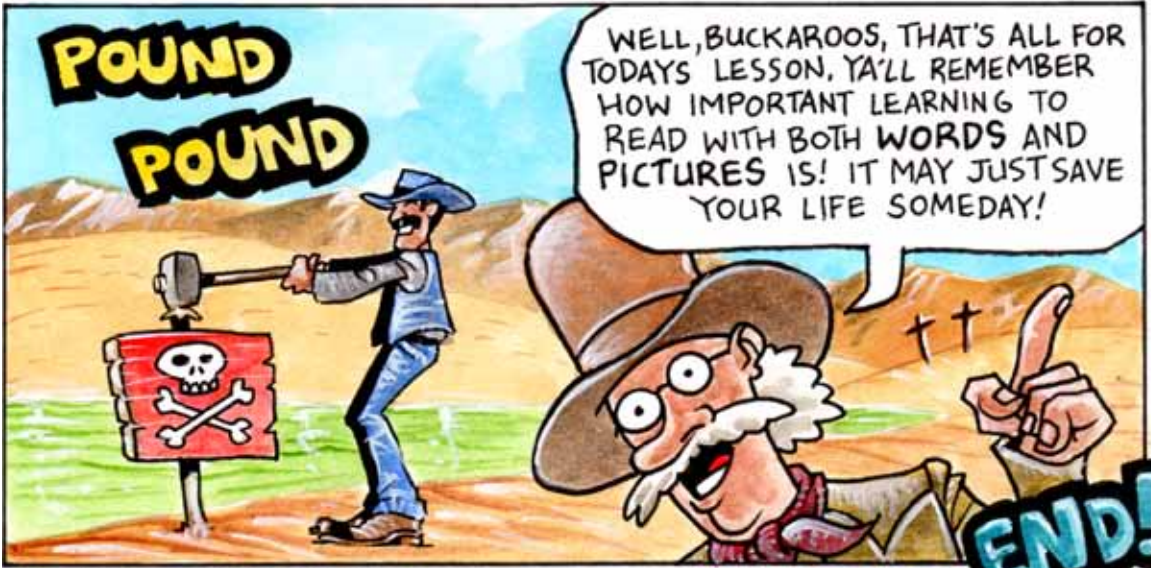
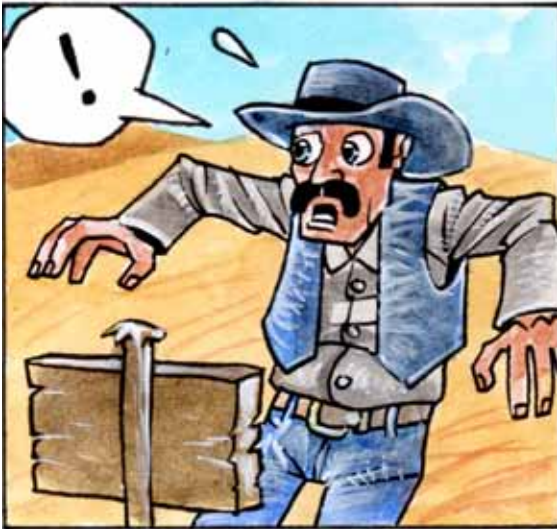










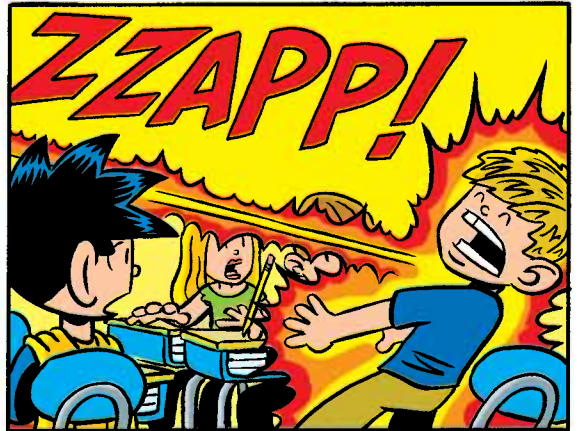
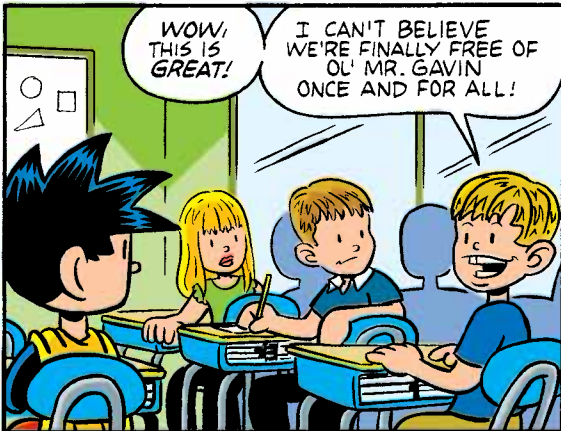
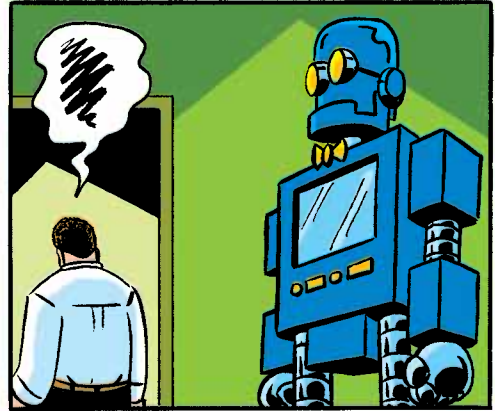
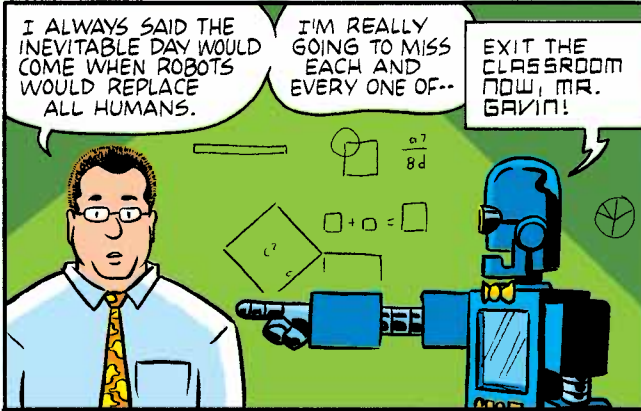
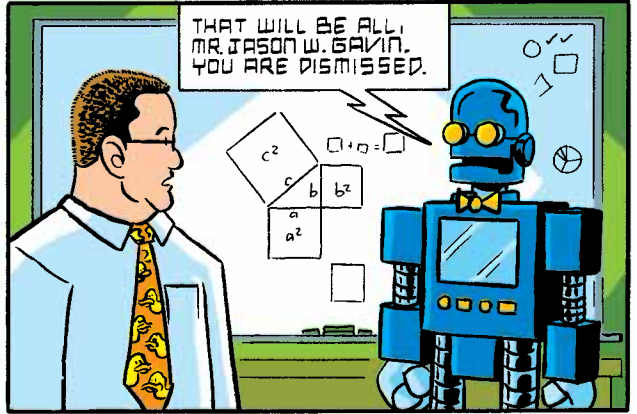
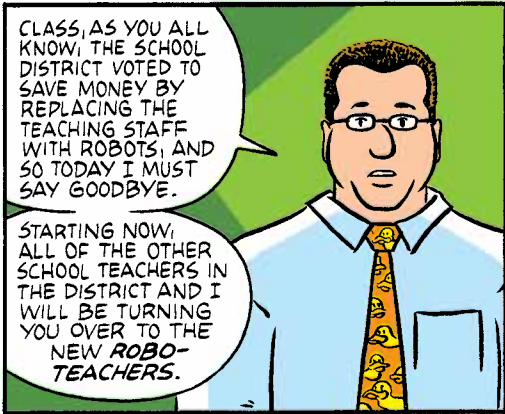


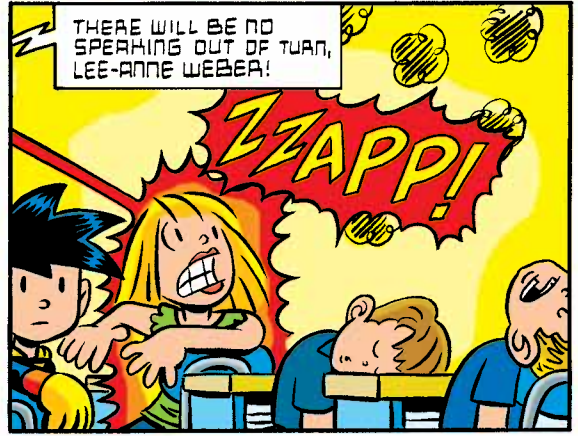
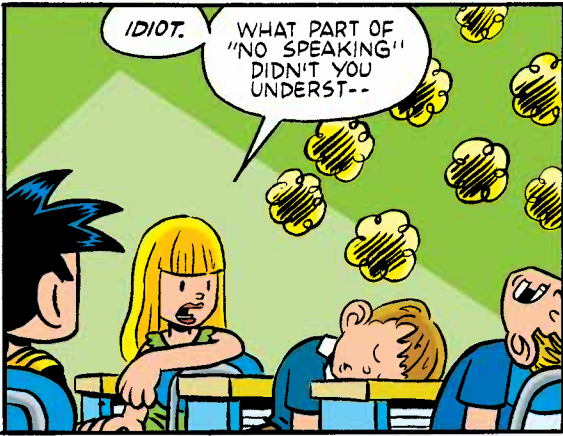
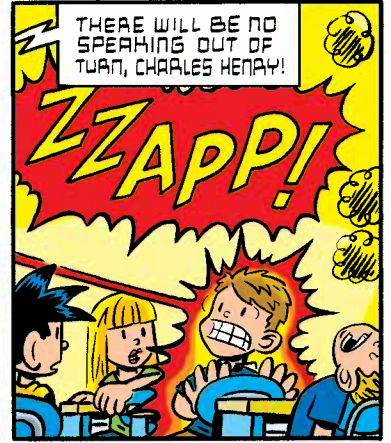
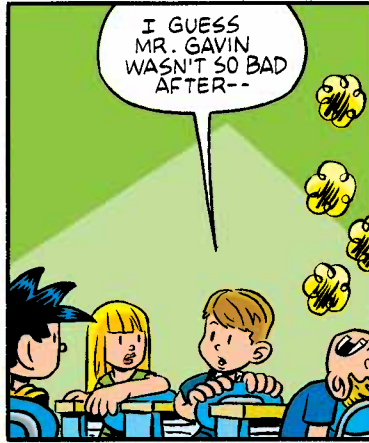
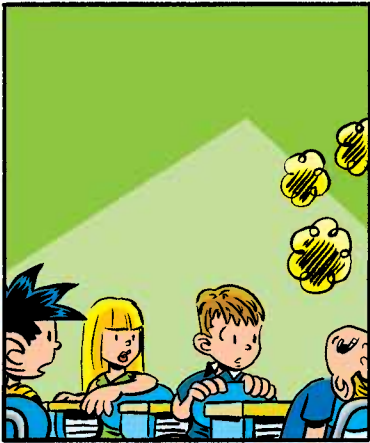
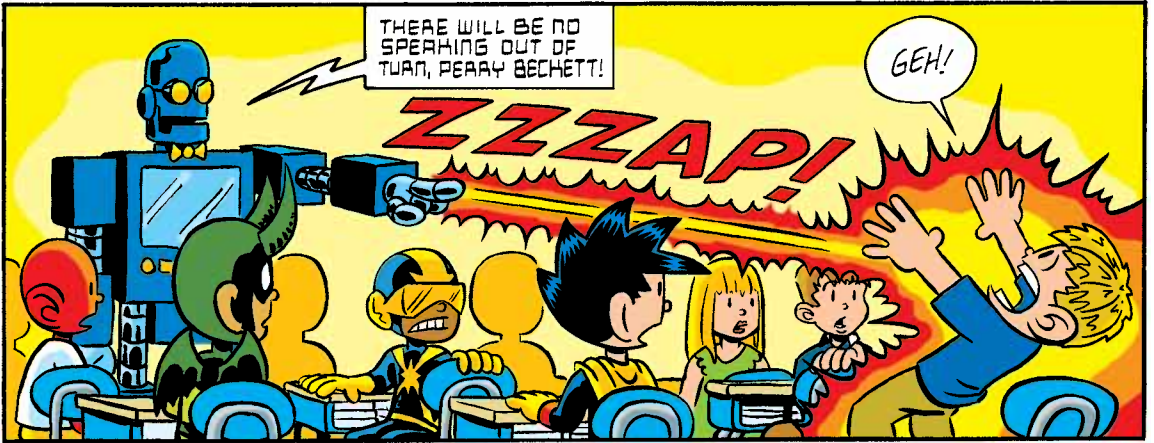
**END!**

# G-MAN™

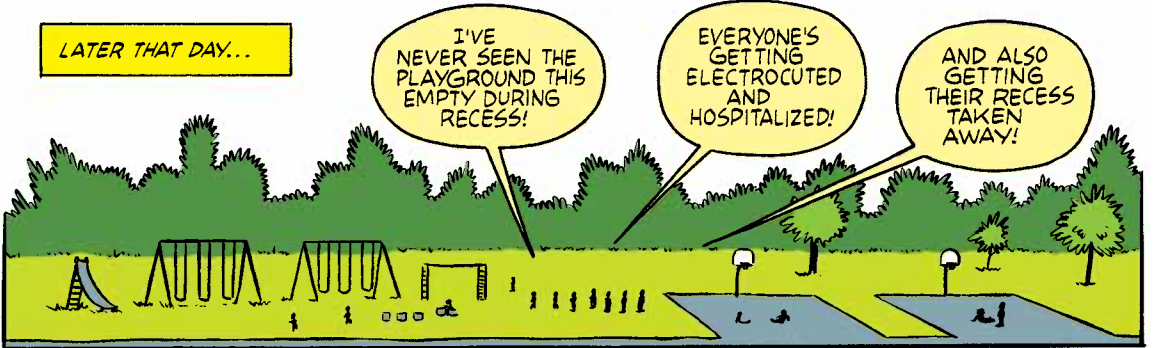
## Reign of the Robo-Teachers

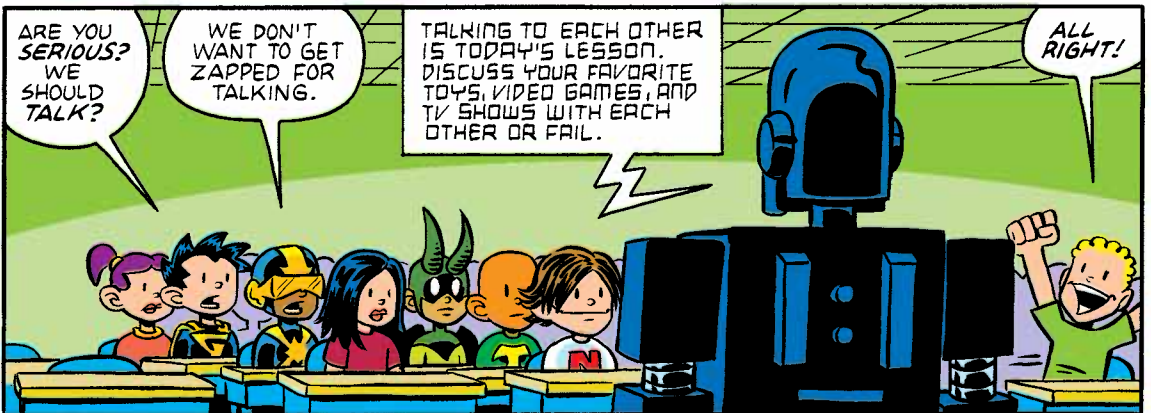
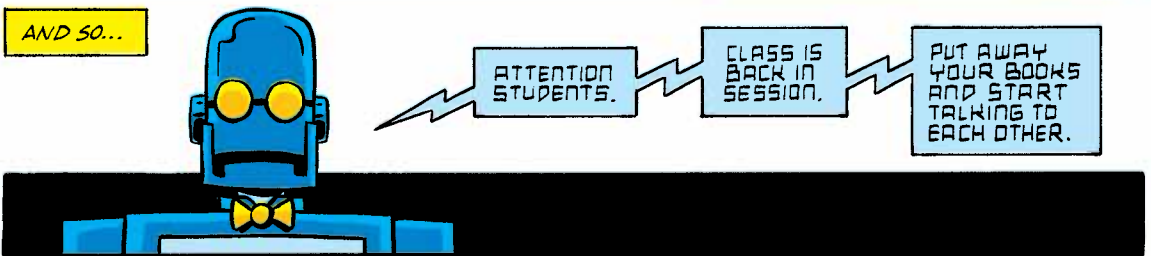
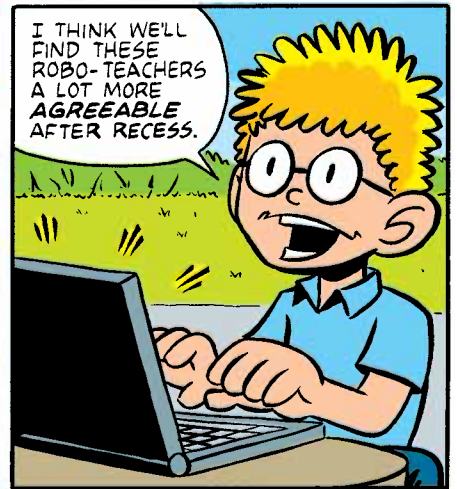
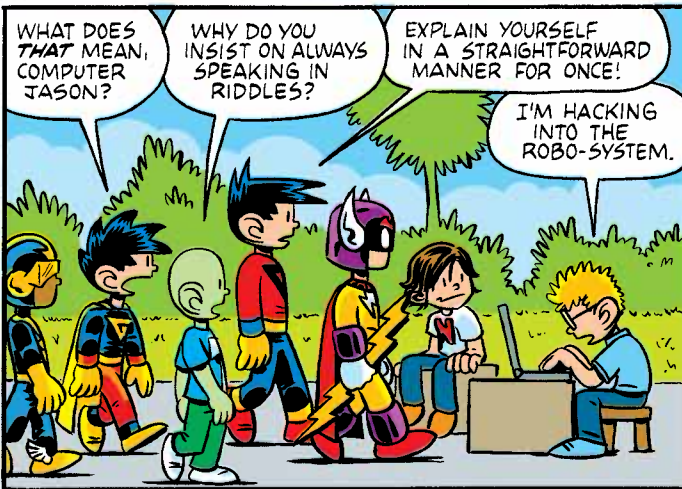
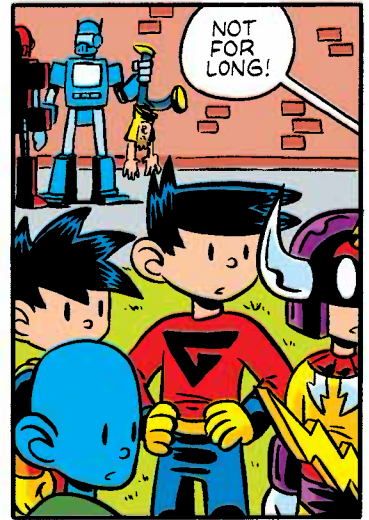
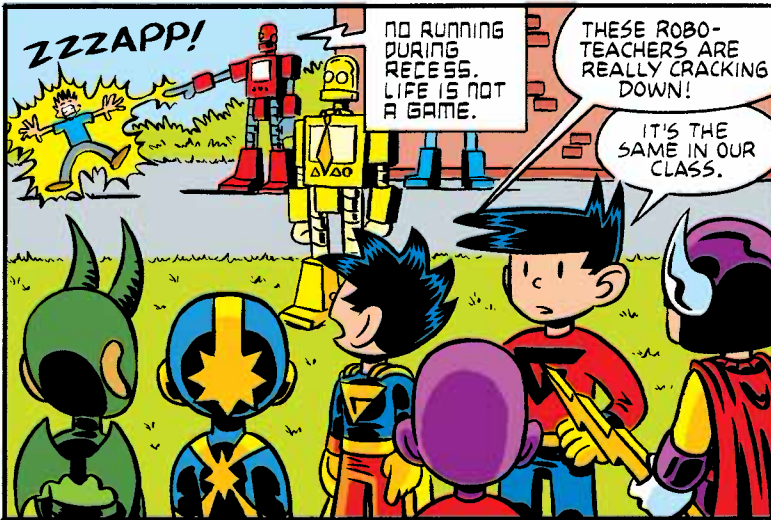
story and art by Chris Giarrusso [chrisGcomics.com](http://chrisGcomics.com)

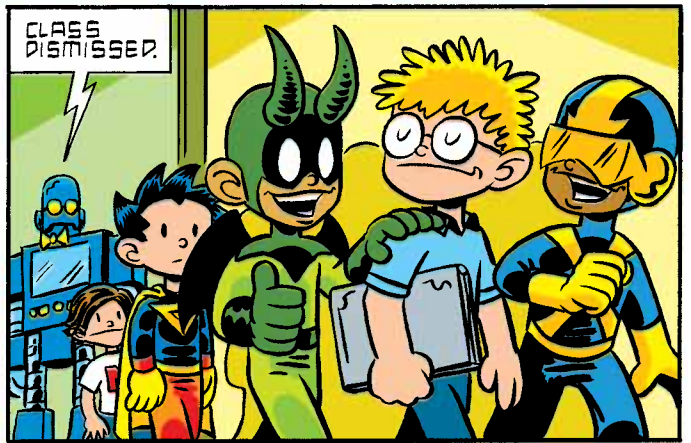
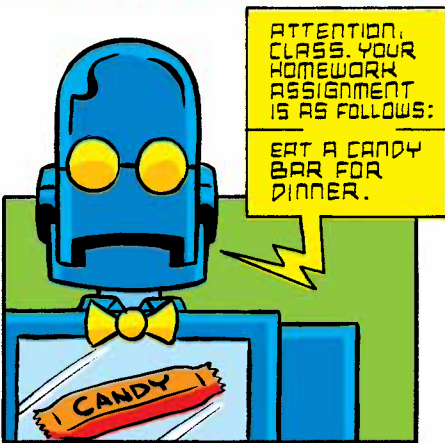
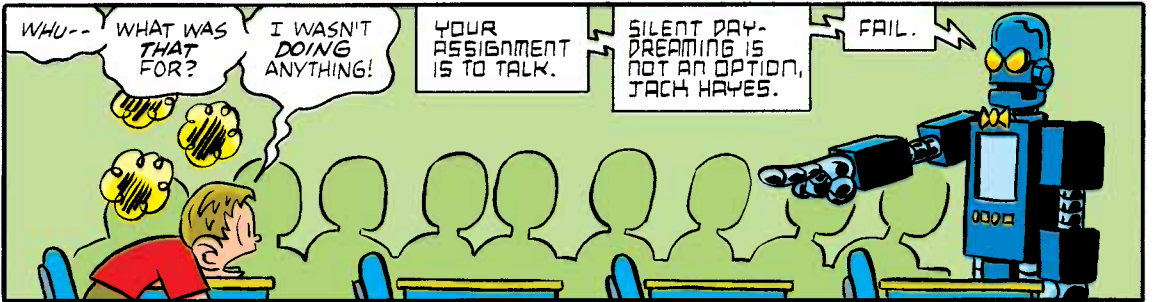
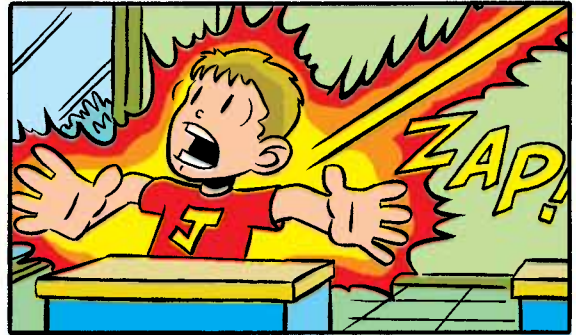
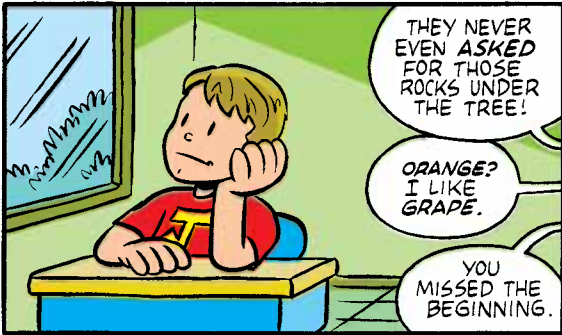
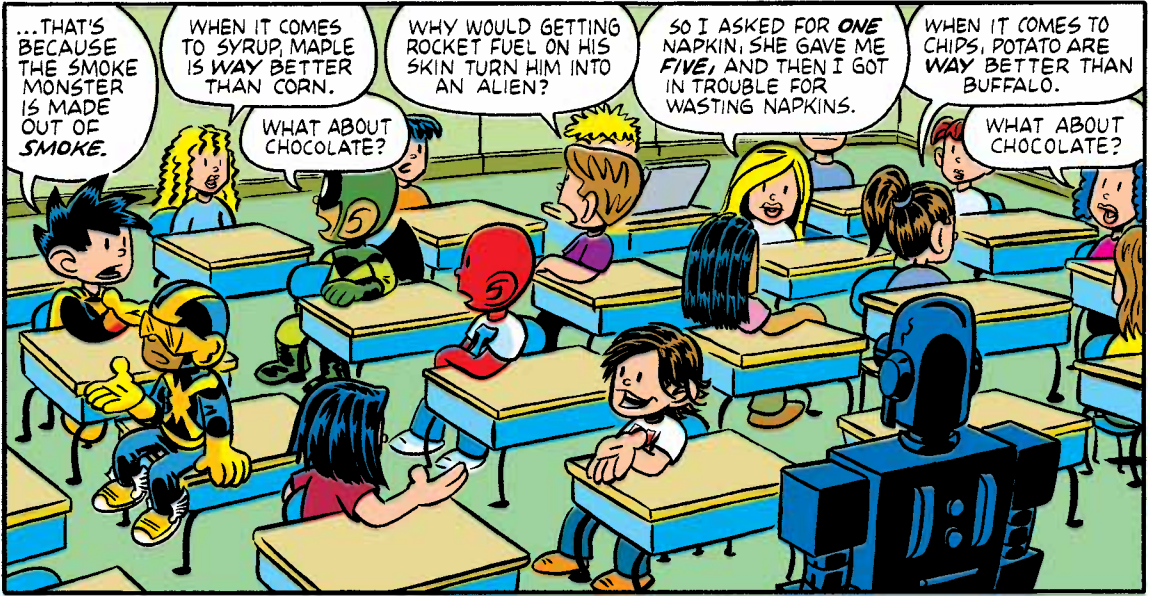


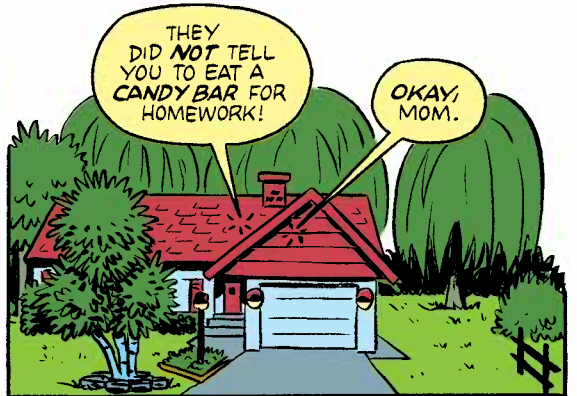
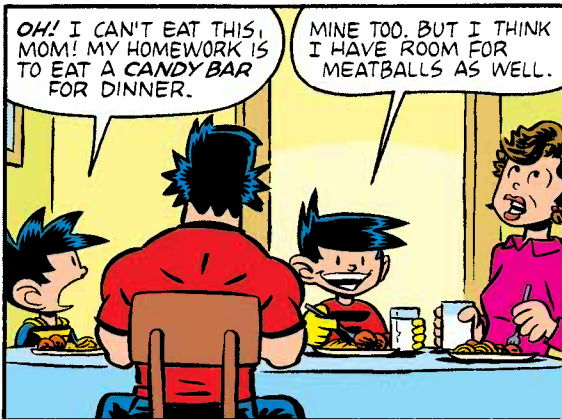
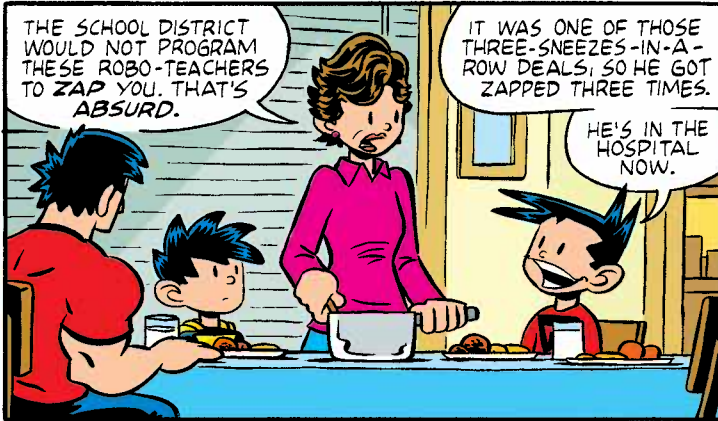
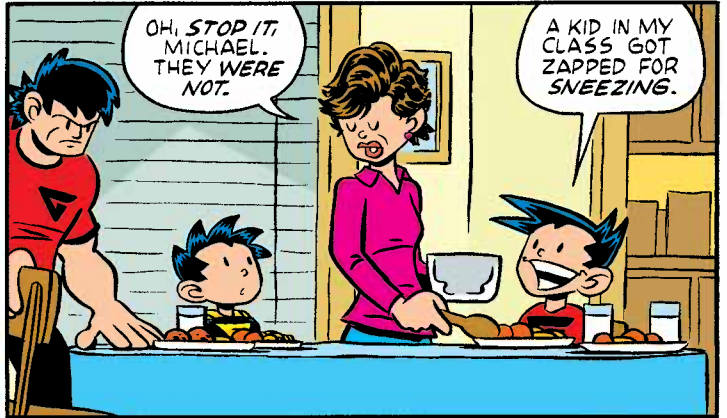
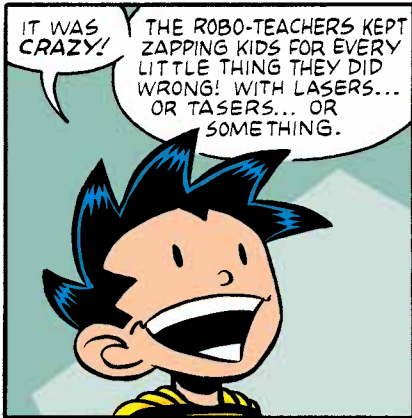
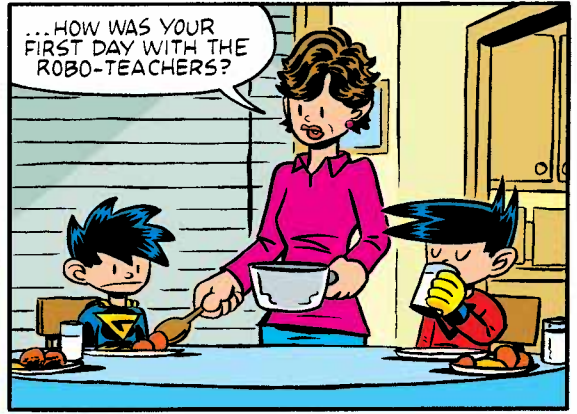
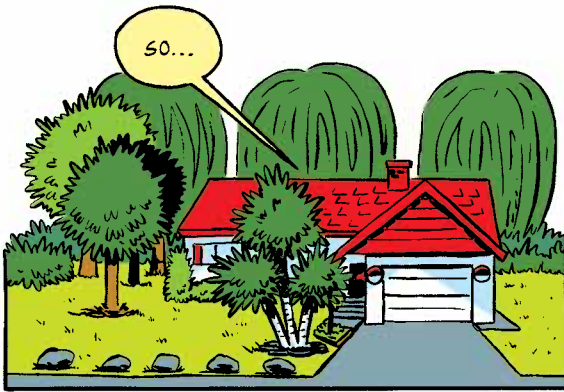


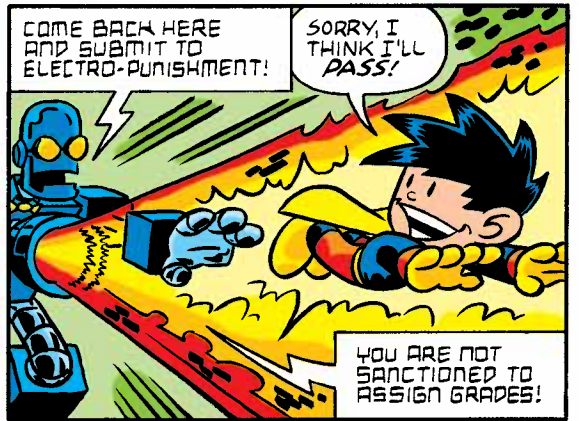
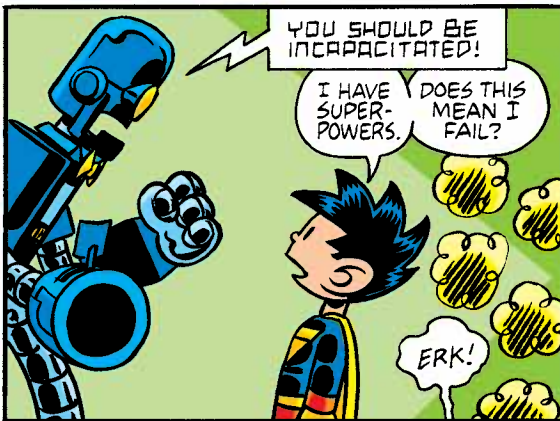
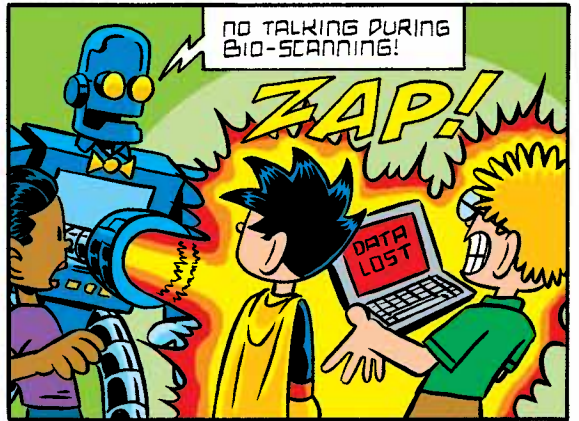
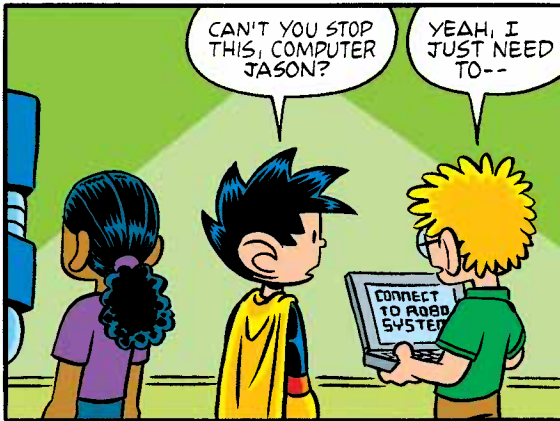
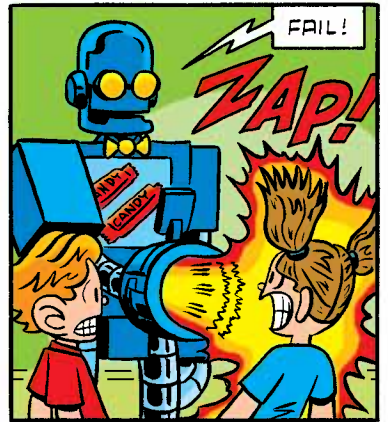
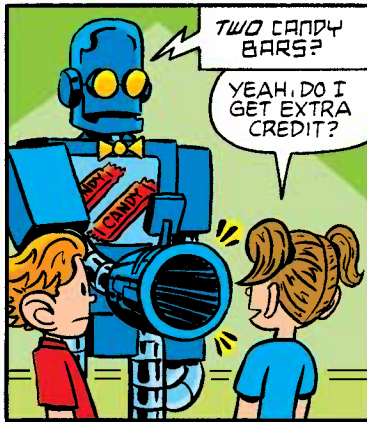
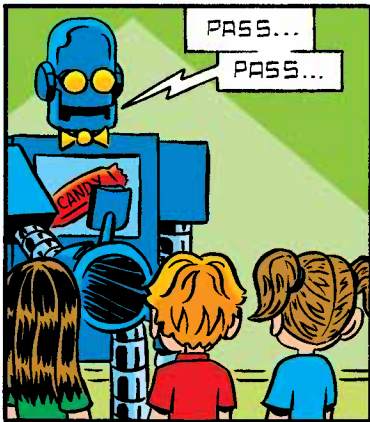
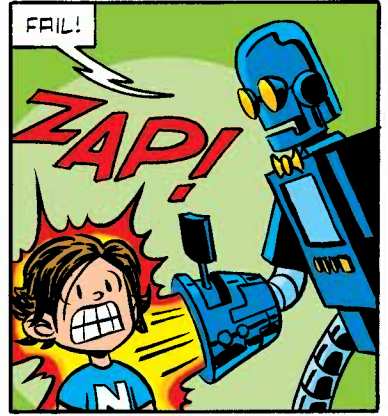
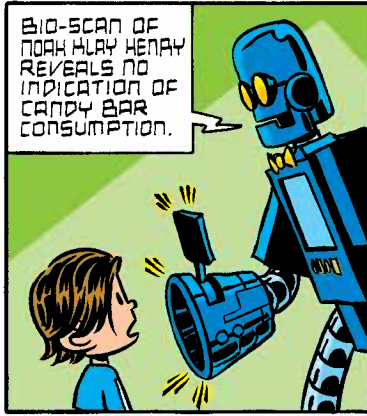
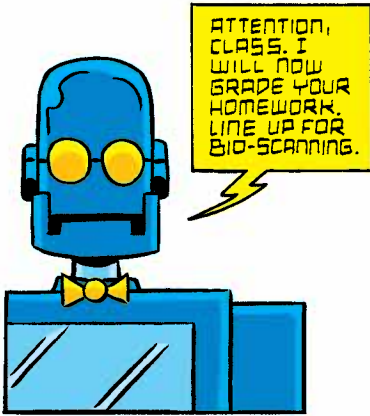
LATER THAT DAY...

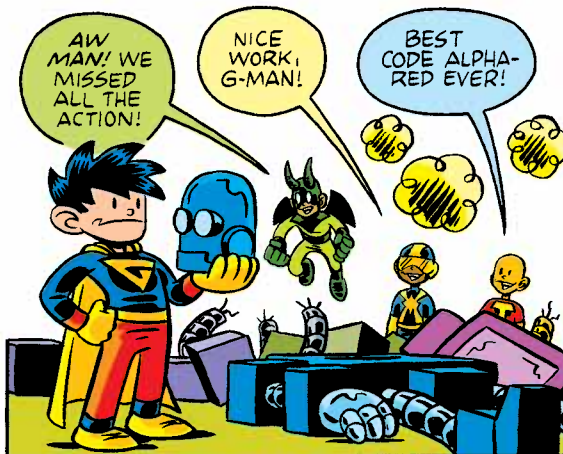
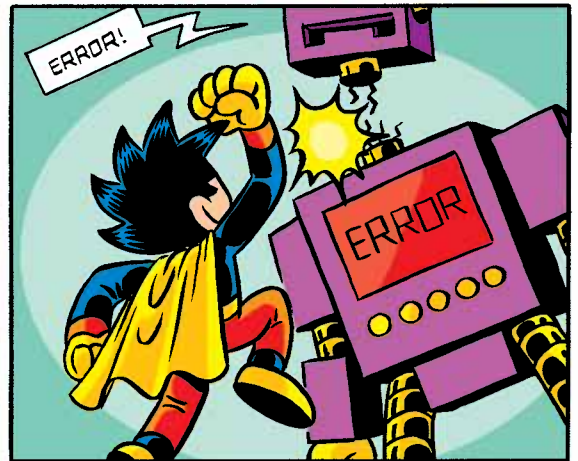
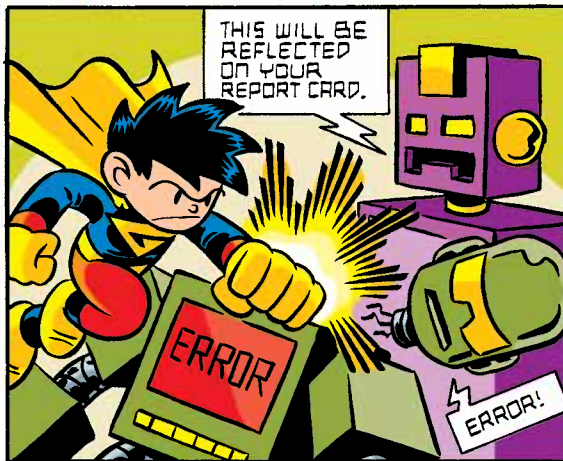
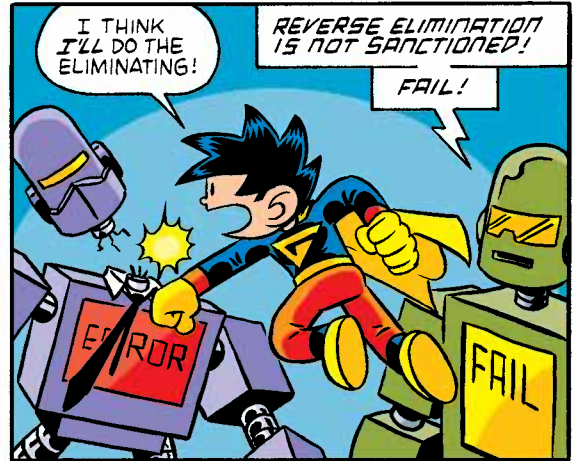
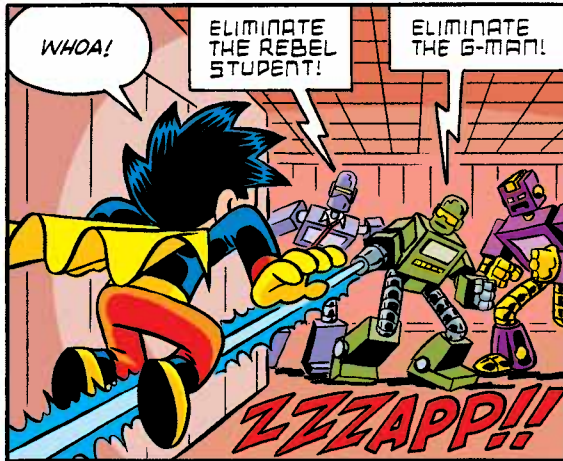
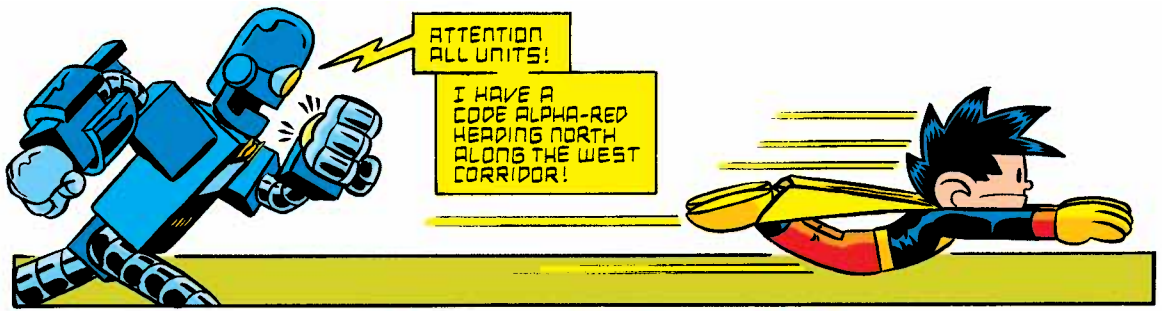












THE CENTRAL EASTERN UPSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TERMINATED THE ROBO-TEACHING PROGRAM TODAY AFTER A MALFUNCTION RESULTED IN THE ELECTROCUTION OF SEVERAL STUDENTS.

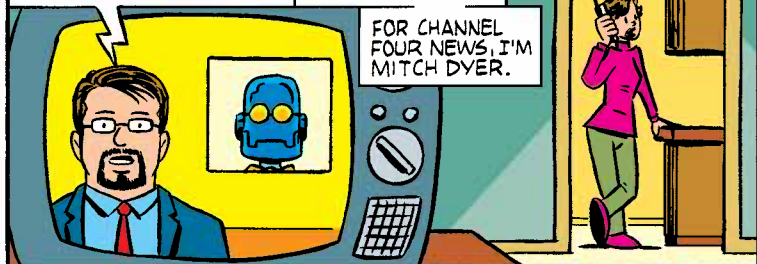
THE STUDENTS ARE BEING TREATED AT EASTERN UPSTATE HOSPITAL AND ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE FULL RECOVERIES.

NO, I'M AS SHOCKED AS YOU ARE! MY BOYS NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING!

CLASS, I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN!

I GUESS THIS PROVES WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SAID-- ROBOTS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPLACE HUMANS!

FOR CHANNEL FOUR NEWS, I'M MITCH DYER.

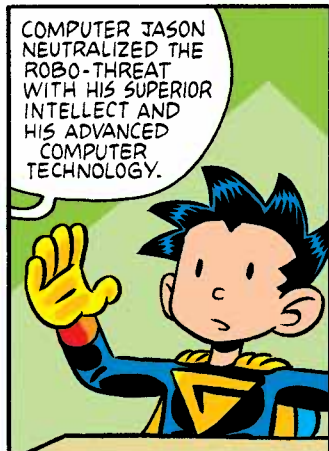
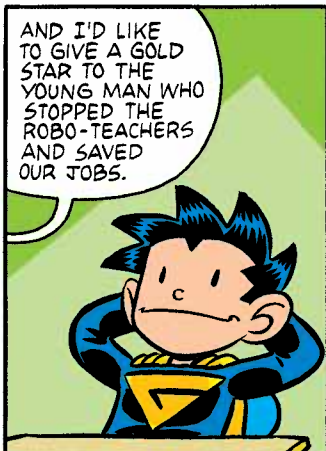
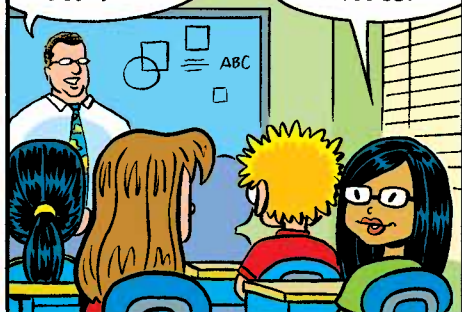


ALL OF YOUR FAILING GRADES WILL BE EXPUNGED FROM YOUR PERMANENT RECORD.

OH, THANK GOODNESS! NOW I STILL HAVE A CHANCE OF GETTING INTO A GOOD COLLEGE!

AND I'D LIKE TO GIVE A GOLD STAR TO THE YOUNG MAN WHO STOPPED THE ROBO-TEACHERS AND SAVED OUR JOBS.

COMPUTER JASON NEUTRALIZED THE ROBO-THREAT WITH HIS SUPERIOR INTELLECT AND HIS ADVANCED COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY.



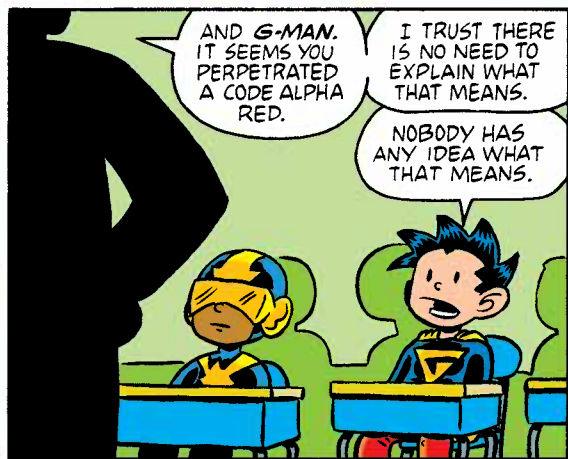
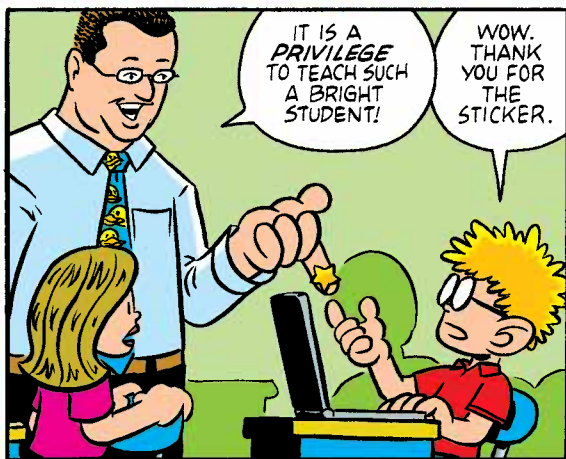
IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO TEACH SUCH A BRIGHT STUDENT!

WOW. THANK YOU FOR THE STICKER.

AND G-MAN. IT SEEMS YOU PERPETRATED A CODE ALPHA RED.

I TRUST THERE IS NO NEED TO EXPLAIN WHAT THAT MEANS.

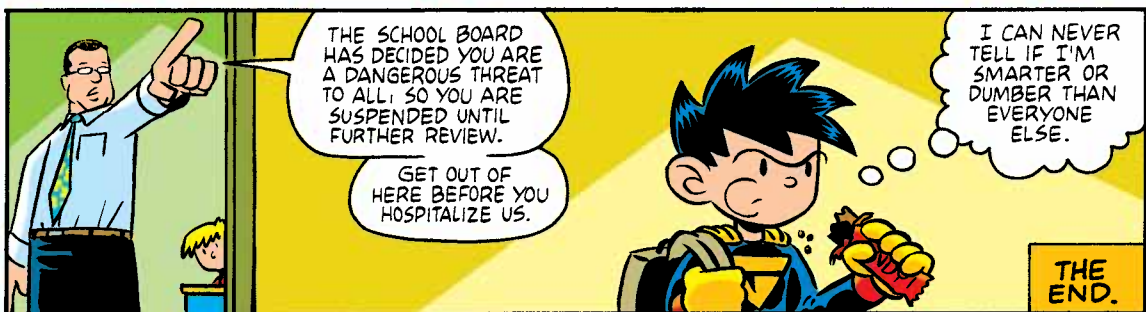
NOBODY HAS ANY IDEA WHAT THAT MEANS.



THE SCHOOL BOARD HAS DECIDED YOU ARE A DANGEROUS THREAT TO ALL, SO YOU ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER REVIEW.

GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU HOSPITALIZE US.

I CAN NEVER TELL IF I'M SMARTER OR DUMBER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.



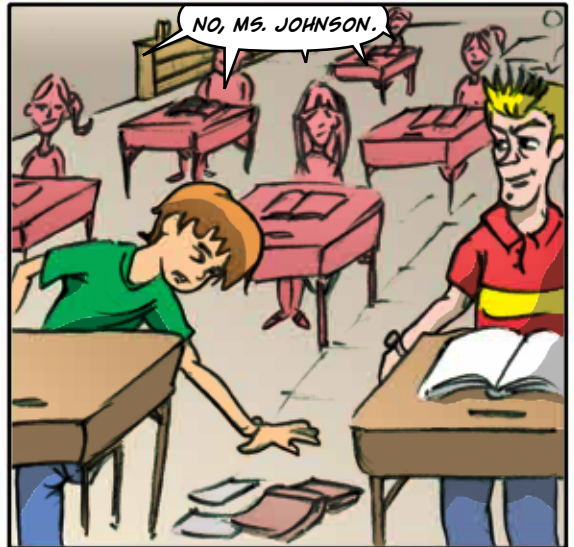
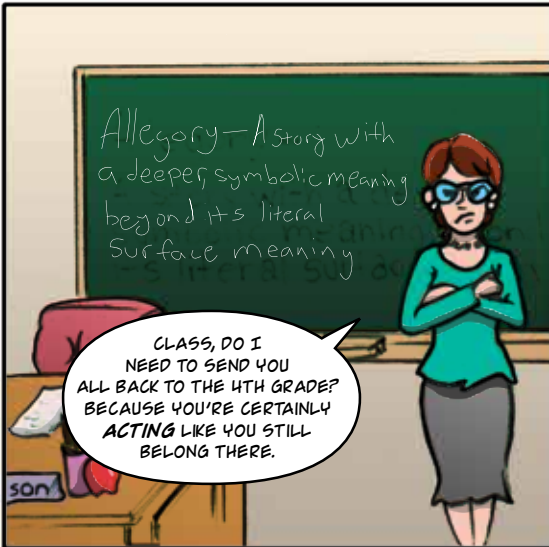
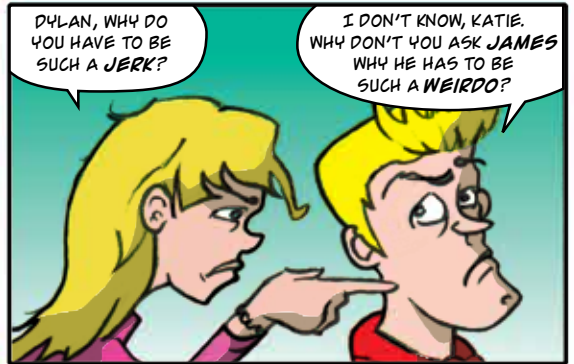
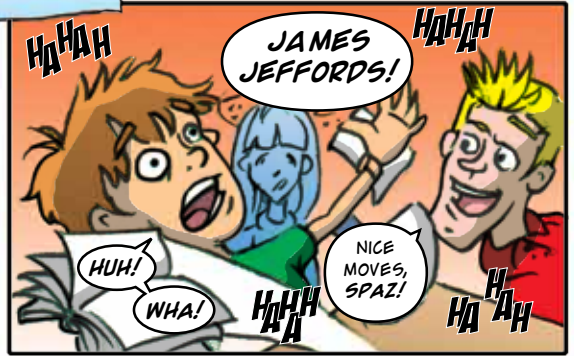
THE END.

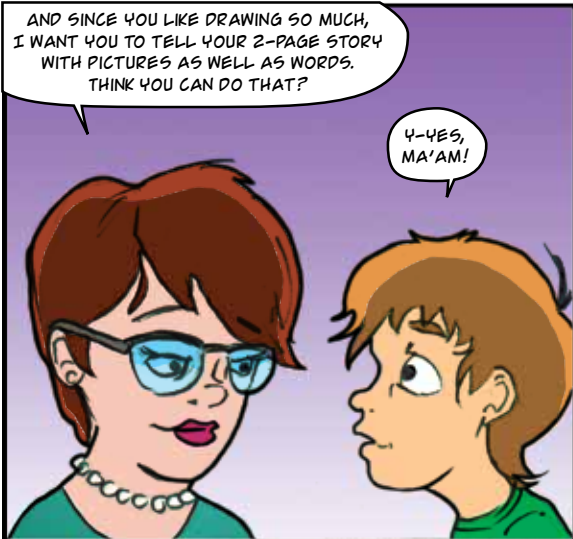
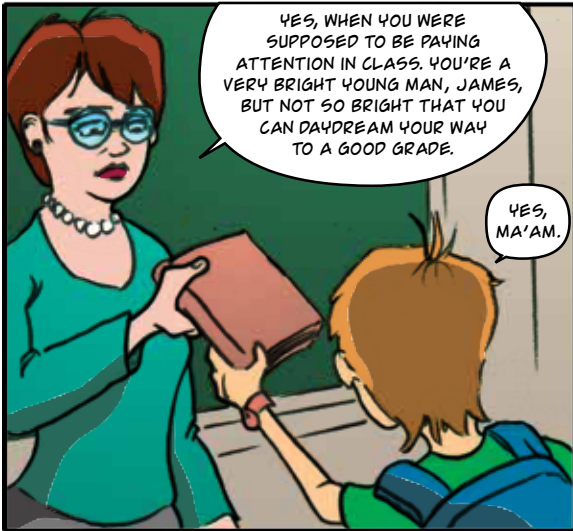
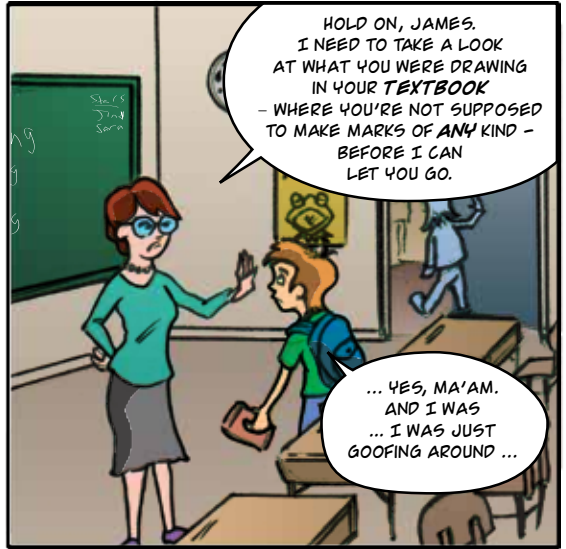
# JUST JAMES

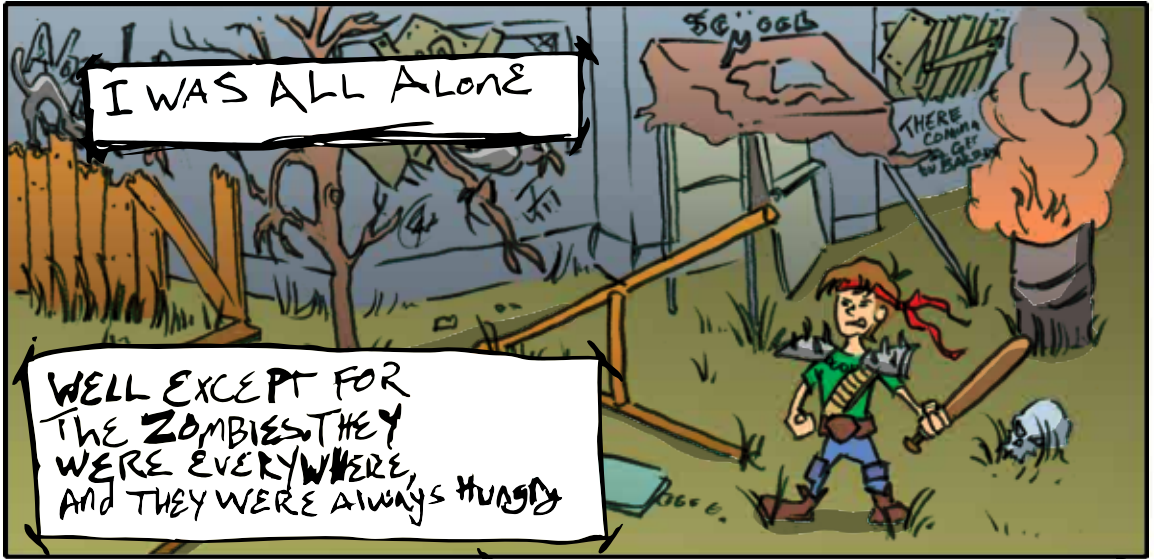
IN  
**THE PLAYGROUND OF THE LIVING DEAD**

JOSH ELDER (STORY/SCRIPT)  
JIM VARGAS (COLORS)

BY JASON ALLEN (STORY/PENCILS)  
STEVE WALLACE (LETTERS)







I WAS ALL ALONE

WELL EXCEPT FOR THE ZOMBIES THEY WERE EVERYWHERE AND THEY WERE ALWAYS HUNGRY



AND there were definitely UPSIDES to the Apocolypse, It gave me plenty of time to Draw and write



Sometimes I just wish I had someone to talk to.



WHATCHA WORKIN' ON, WEIRDO?



MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK?

HEY! GIVE THAT BACK!



AND WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO IF I DON'T, HUH?

....



YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. NOW LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE...

BLAH BLAH BLAH... SOME CRUDDY PICTURES OF ZOMBIES... "I JUST TRIED TO STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY WHILE THEY WANDERED AROUND AIMLESSLY."

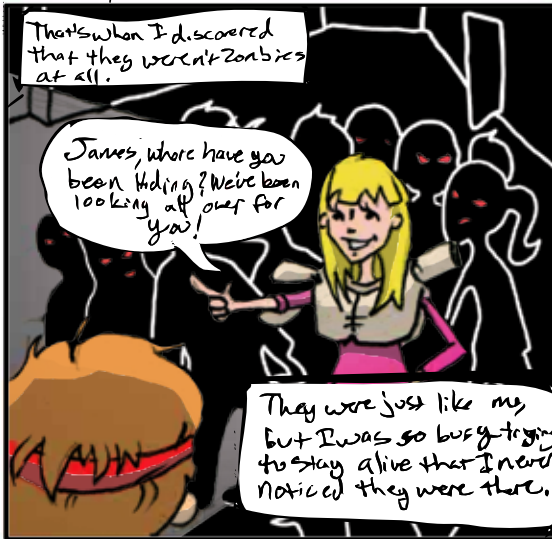


"THOUGH IT WASN'T MUCH OF A CHANGE FOR SOME PEOPLE."



OH, YOU'RE IN FOR IT NOW, NERD!

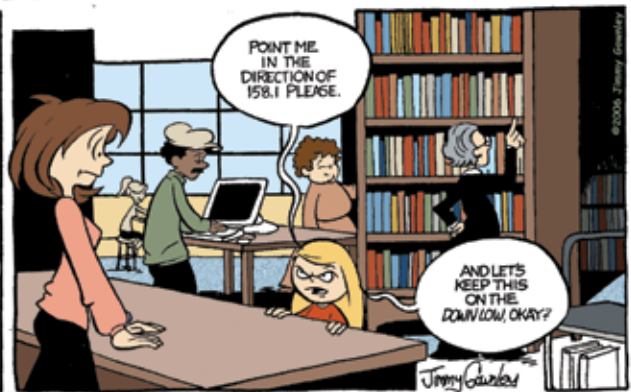


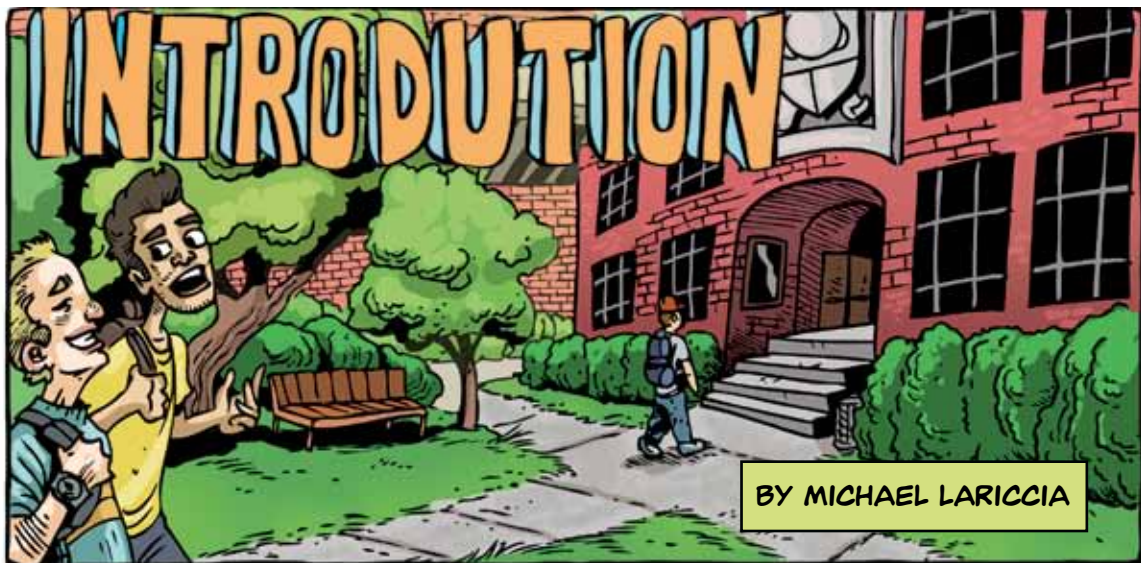


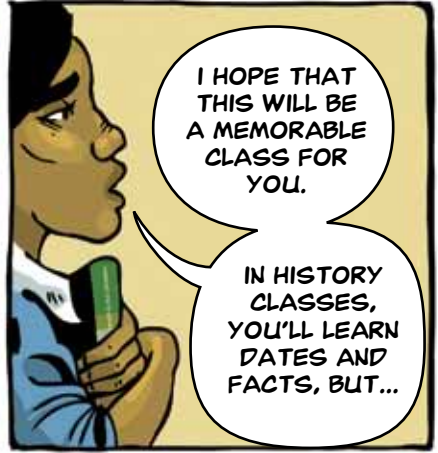
# LITTLE BIGHEAD AND THE BIG SNOW













OF COURSE, WE'LL USE A TEXTBOOK, BUT I'D LIKE TO CHALLENGE YOU TO 'ND ANOTHER LAYER.

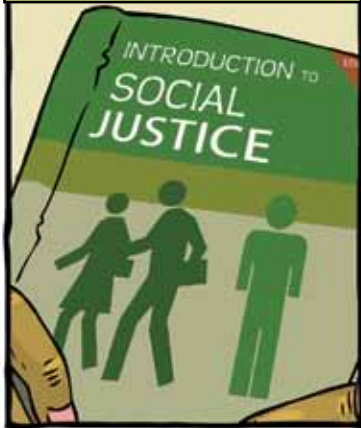


MY MOTHER RAISED MY SISTER AND ME IN ABJECT POVERTY.

SHE TAUGHT US TO RECOGNIZE OPPORTUNITIES AND TO BE COGNIZANT OF LIFE'S HARSH REALITIES.



THOUGH I AM A PROFESSOR, I HAVE NOT FOUND ALL MY ANSWERS IN BOOKS.



SO DO NOT GO SEARCHING FOR ALL OF THE ANSWERS IN THIS BOOK.

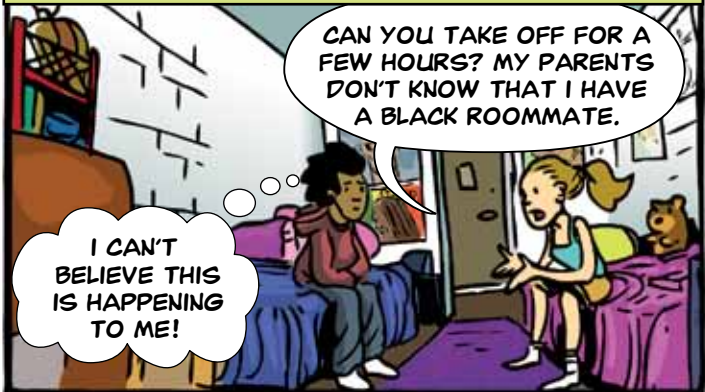


SOME OF YOU MAY BE STRUGGLING WITH THIS SUBJECT MATTER ON A VERY PERSONAL LEVEL.



IT WAS HARD FOR ME WHEN I STARTED TO BECOME AWARE OF SOCIAL INEQUITIES.

PEOPLE ASSUME THAT IF YOU ARE BLACK YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY AWARE OF PREJUDICE.

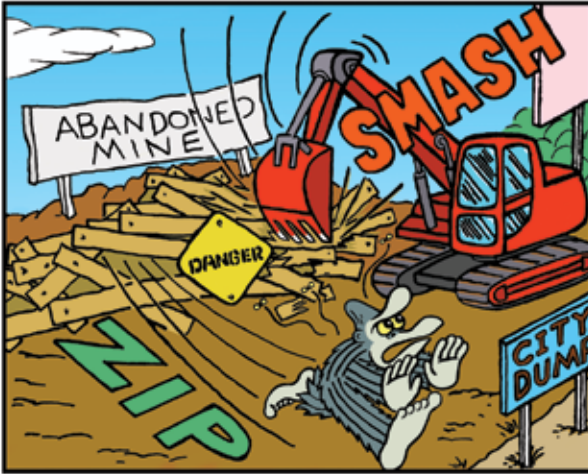


CAN YOU TAKE OFF FOR A FEW HOURS? MY PARENTS DON'T KNOW THAT I HAVE A BLACK ROOMMATE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME!

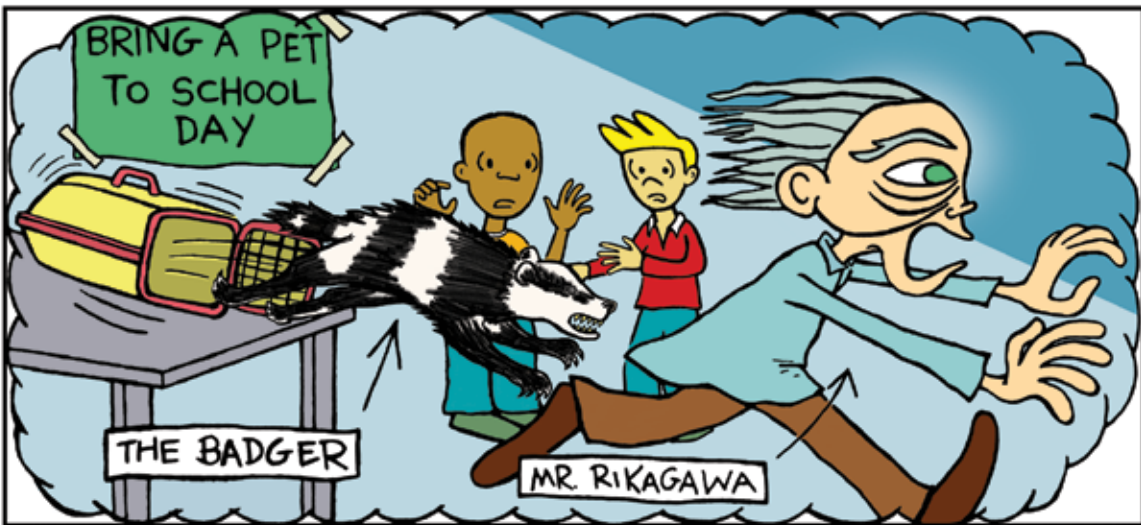






# A MISGUIDED FIELD GUIDE

BY SCOTT CUNNINGHAM and PHILLIP S. PITZ



## Our Backyard Field Guide by Stewart Morison and Todd Blakely

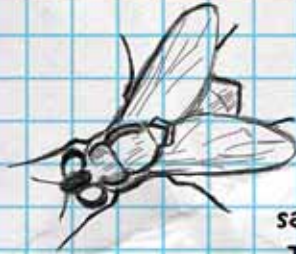
We weren't 100% sure how to do a field guide, so we went to the library yesterday and got this old one with weird pictures of guys in hunting gear smoking pipes and stuff like that. But it's also full of facts we can use today while we're observing and it even talks about how to track things – like a bear.

But before starting, I'm going to write down some things Mr. Rikagawa told us to remember (so we'll remember them!):

- 1) Choose a location. In this case, it's our backyard. We're lucky. We live pretty close to the woods and there's a stream and even a pond not too far from here.
- 2) Decide what kinds of facts will be included such as the scientific names for plants and animals. People will think you're smart and they sound cool if said fast!
- 3) Use drawings or photographs or both! We decided to use drawings for two reasons. The first reason is because we're both pretty good at drawing pictures. The second is because Mom wouldn't let us borrow the camera.
- 4) Have LOTS of paper! A binder is good because you can put more and more paper in it as you add stuff. We chose graph paper because it looks more scientific.



We observe a bluejay – *Cyanocitta cristata* – and it really IS blue. They like to eat ALL kinds of bugs and seeds. It sits on a powerline. Why doesn't it fry?



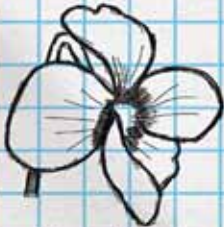
A fly, one of MANY we saw around our tree house. This drawing is slightly bigger than life size.



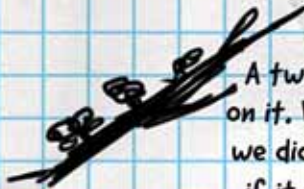
A fat brown rat stood up and looked at us. *Rattus norvegicus* should not be confused with a mouse – which is much smaller... and connected to a PC.



I say it's melted pizza but Todd says it's vomit.



Common blue violets bloom all around the area.



A twig with little yellow flowery things on it. We think it is called SPICEBUSH but we didn't want to taste it to find out if it is really spicy or not.

**THE EASTERN GREY SQUIRREL**—also known scientifically as **SCIURUS CAROLINENSIS**.

Squirrels are pretty common in this area. In fact, I've seen this squirrel before.

**VARIOUS NUTS**



ACORN



PEANUT

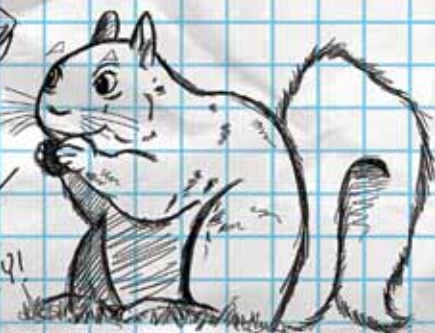


CORN NUT



WALNUT

Or its brother!



We observe the squirrel sitting and eating an acorn — which is a kind of nut. We have also listed other kinds of nuts around (see drawing).

Even though squirrels live in trees, they have to go on the ground to get the acorns. But how come they don't just pick the nuts out of the tree while they're up there? Note: we will have to investigate this further.



TODD

HE?!



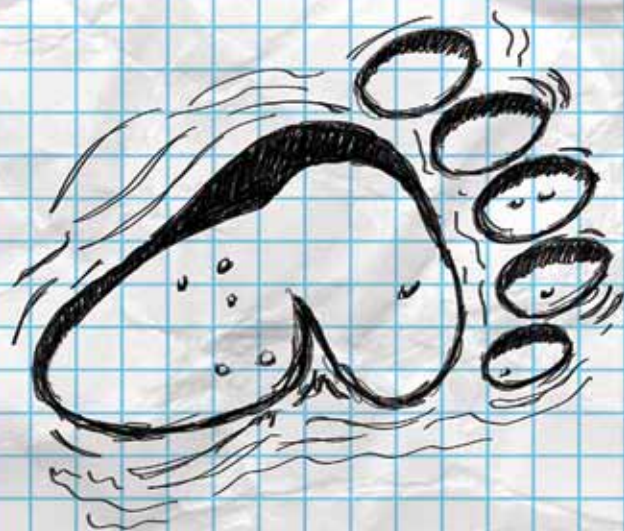
On a branch on an old log near the Squirrel we observe a **WOOLLY BEAR CATERPILLAR** crawling around. I read it hibernates as a larvae (hibernating is like a really long sleepover with only yourself) and then it ~~poopates~~ pupates in the spring.

pupates

Note: investigate pupating.

Observe a **WREN** — the most common of them, which is known as a house-wren because it likes to make nests in **OUTHOUSES** (for real!). Wow — that was pretty cool...the Wren just swooped down and grabbed the caterpillar in its beak! Nature is pretty amazing! Hmmm...the wren is actually munching that caterpillar. Now I'm thinking Nature is pretty gross.

Note: Nature...amazing or gross? Investigate further.



That's weird. Where did that big muddy hole come from?

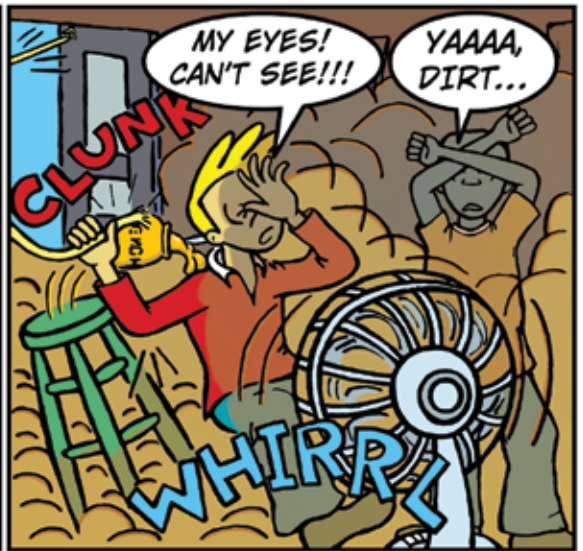
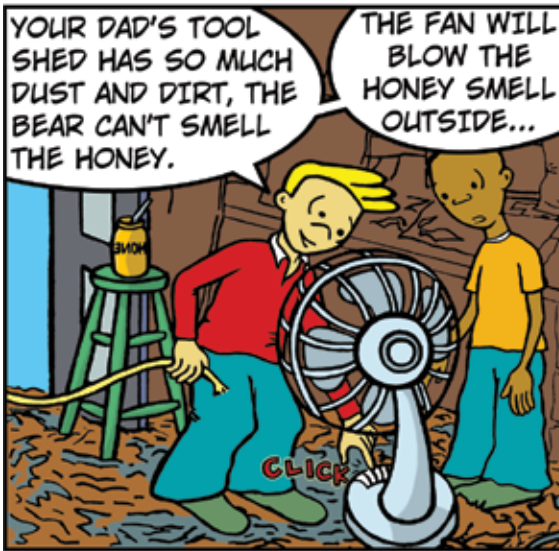
It wasn't there a minute ago.

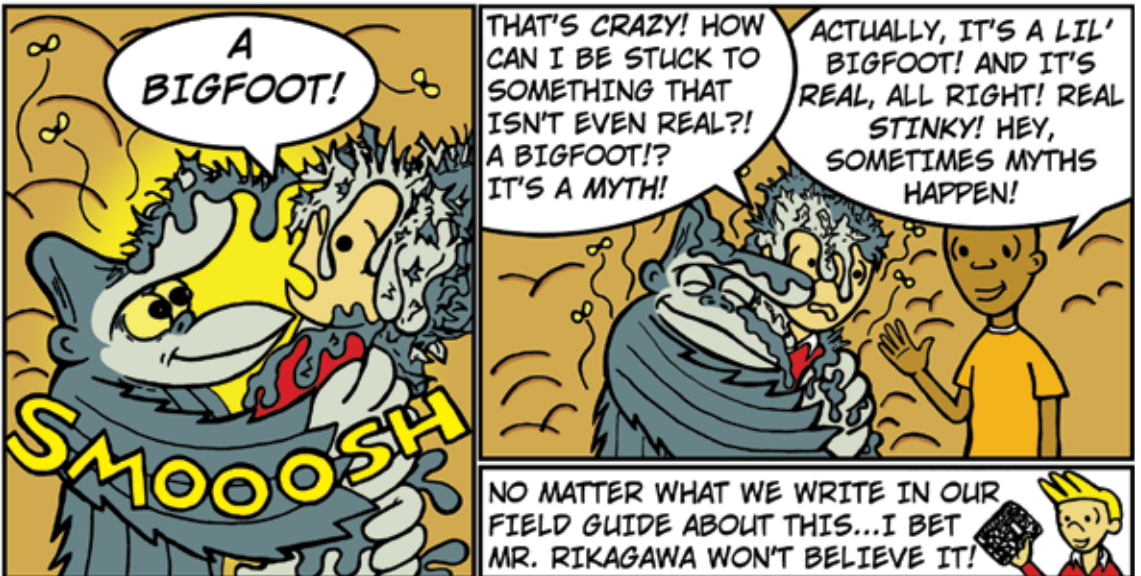
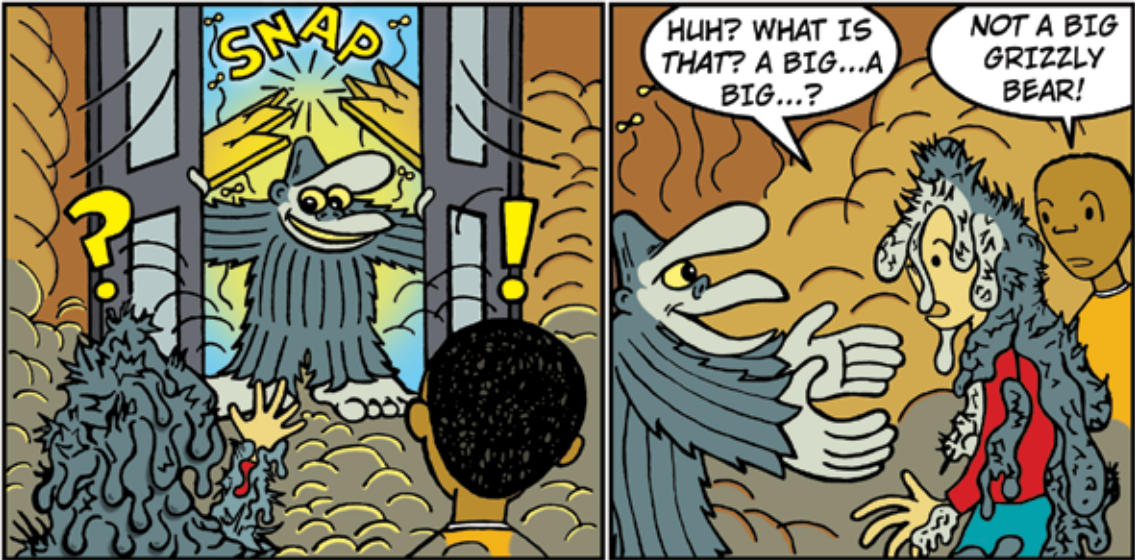
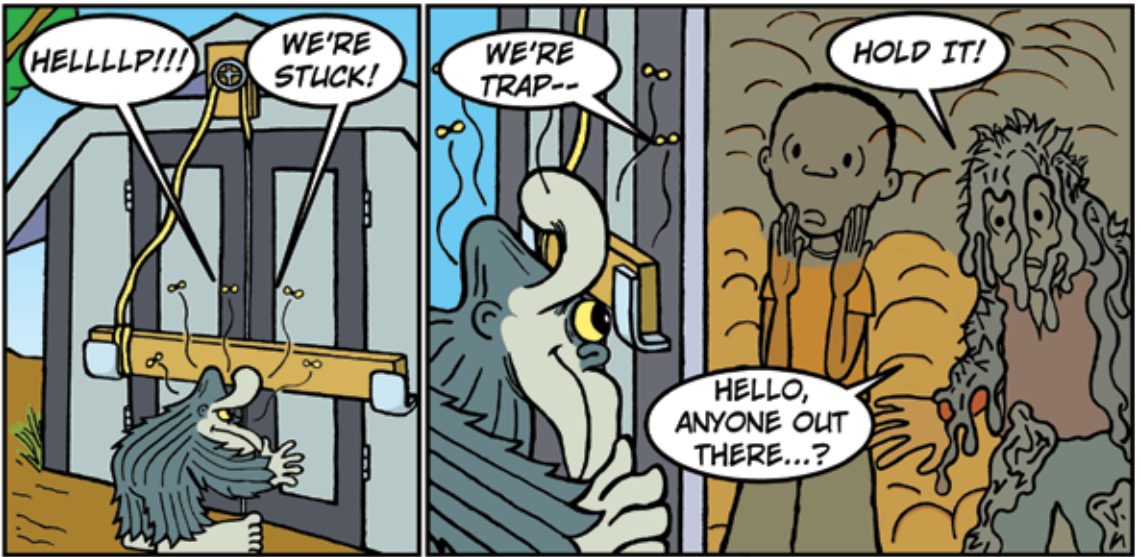
That slice of pizza — or whatever it was — must have been covering it. Hey, where's the slice of pizza anyway? That's something we **REALLY** have to investigate further...

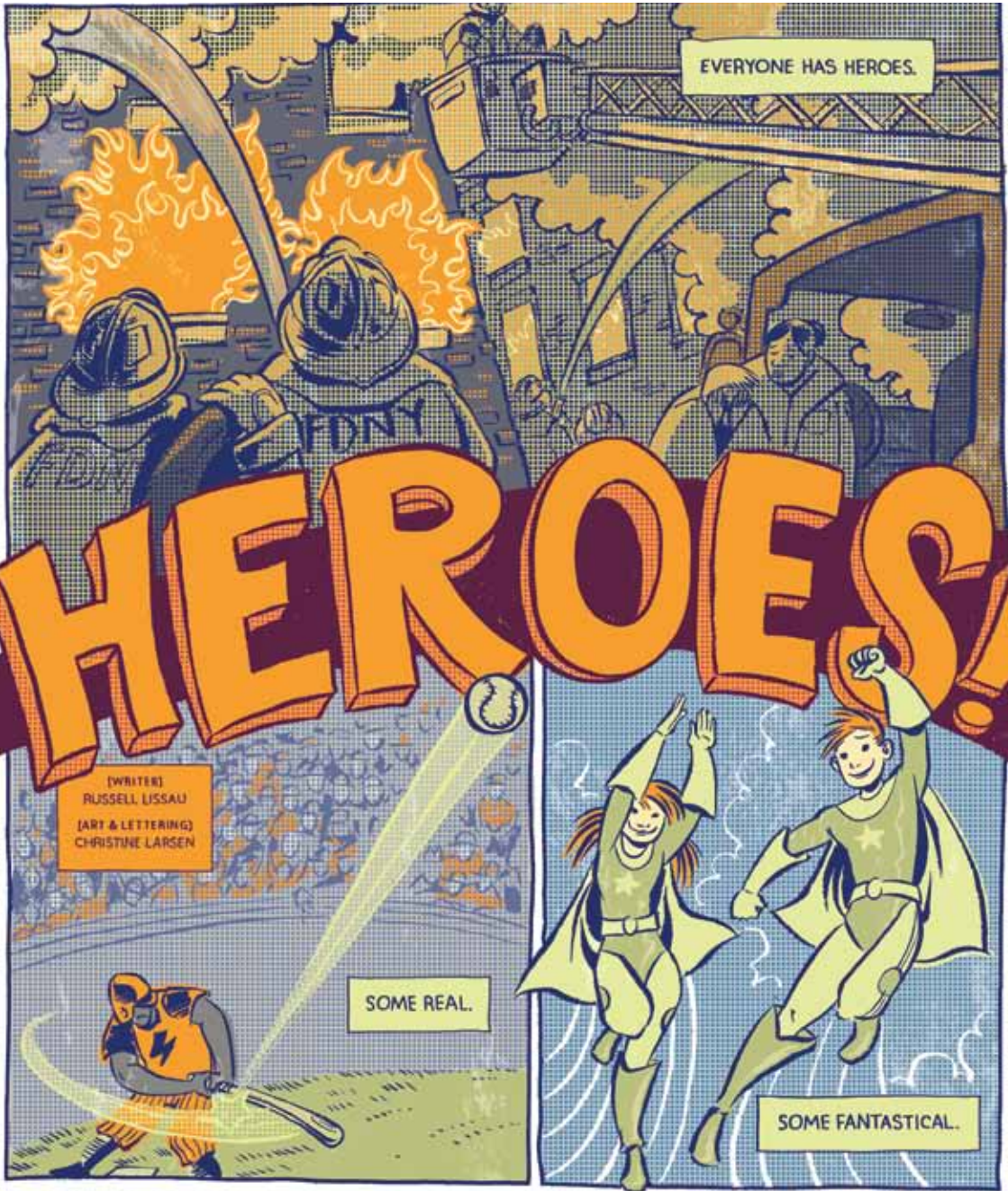
Right now!













# MAIL ORDER NINJA

## and the SILVERBACK HORDE

BY JOSH ELDER (SCRIPT)  
AND TIM SMITH 3 (PENCILS/INKS)  
WITH CHRIS BECKETT (COLORS)  
AND STEVE WALLACE (LETTERS)

### SETTING

**WHERE:** The Mongorilla Capital of Monkadu, hidden deep in the Himalayas  
**WHEN:** The early 90's

YOU MANIRCS!  
YOU BLEW  
IT UP!  
PRRN YOU!  
BOSH PRRN  
YOU ALL  
TO HECK!

### BIO

**NAME:** Jiro Yoshida  
**OCCUPATION:** Ninjutsu Master  
**COOLNESS QUOTIENT:** Maximum

### BIO

**NAME:** Bubbles Lee  
**OCCUPATION:** Kung Fu Chimp  
**SKILLZ:** Mad

IN  
MONKADU  
DID  
BUBBLES LEE  
A ROYAL  
BUTT-KICKING  
DEGREE.

THE  
MONGORILLA  
EMPIRE'S IS  
FINISHED,  
KUBLAI KONG,  
AND YOUR  
DAYS OF  
GIVING  
SIMIANS  
A BAD  
NAME  
ARE  
OVER.

### BIO

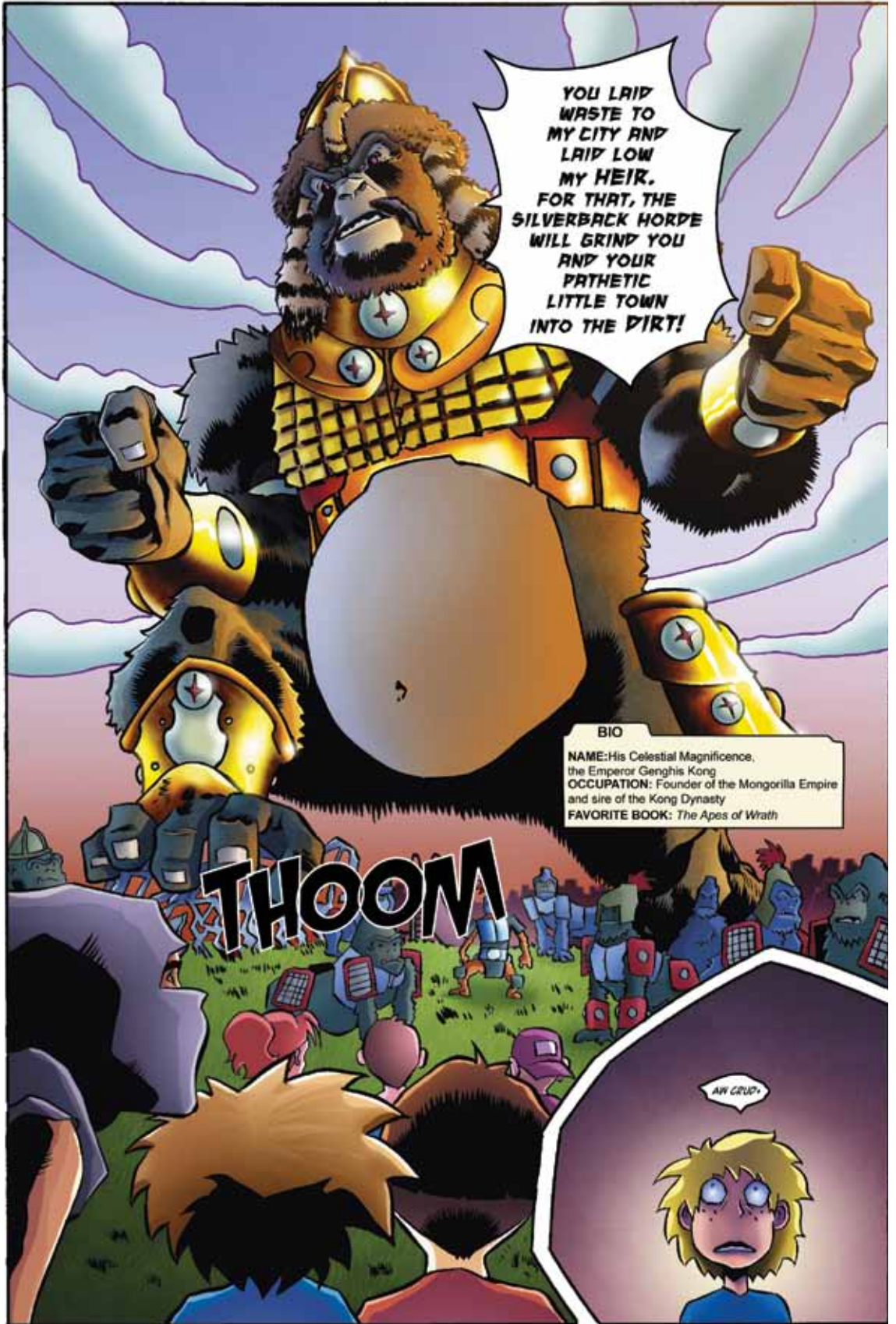
**NAME:** High General Kublai Kong  
**OCCUPATION:** Leader of the Silverback Horde  
**THINGS NOT TO DO:** Call him a monkey (He's an ape!), offer him a banana (He prefers apples!), or pretty much anything else (He has anger management issues!)

THIS ISN'T OVER!  
OOH OOOH!  
WE WILL  
RISE AGAIN!  
THE  
SILVERBACK  
HORDE  
WILL RISE  
AGAIN!  
ARRR ARRH!

AND WE  
WILL HAVE  
OUR  
REVENGE!





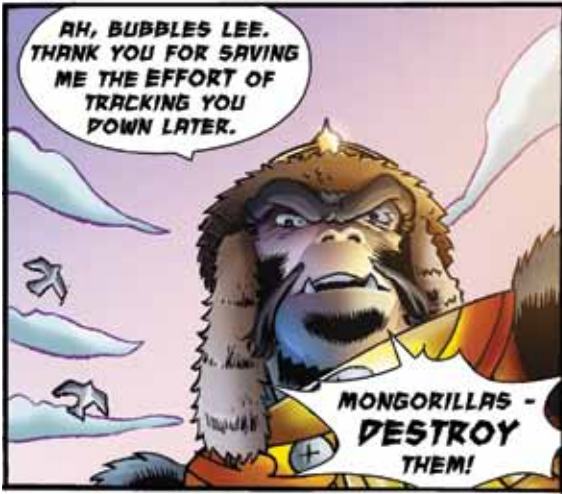


YOU LAID WASTE TO MY CITY AND LAID LOW MY HEIR. FOR THAT, THE SILVERBACK HORDE WILL GRIND YOU AND YOUR PATHETIC LITTLE TOWN INTO THE DIRT!

**BIO**  
NAME: His Celestial Magnificence, the Emperor Genghis Kong  
OCCUPATION: Founder of the Mongorilla Empire and sire of the Kong Dynasty  
FAVORITE BOOK: *The Apes of Wrath*

THOOM

AW CRUD!

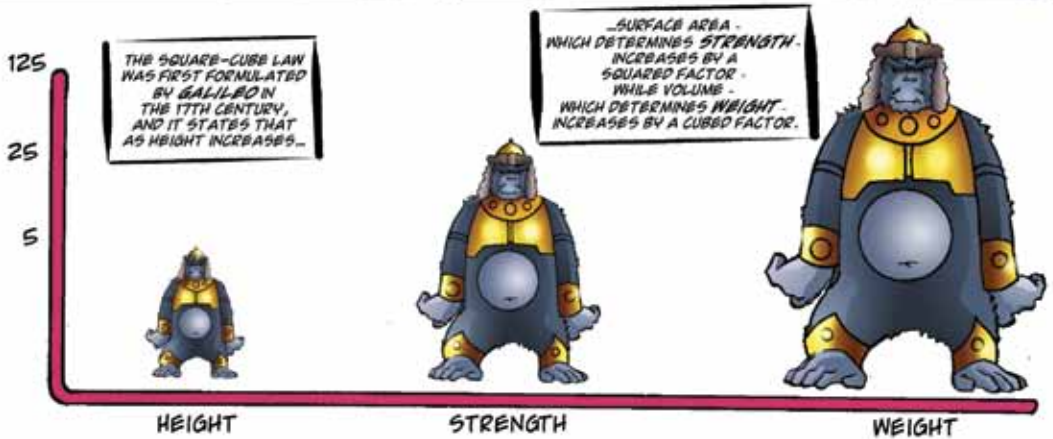


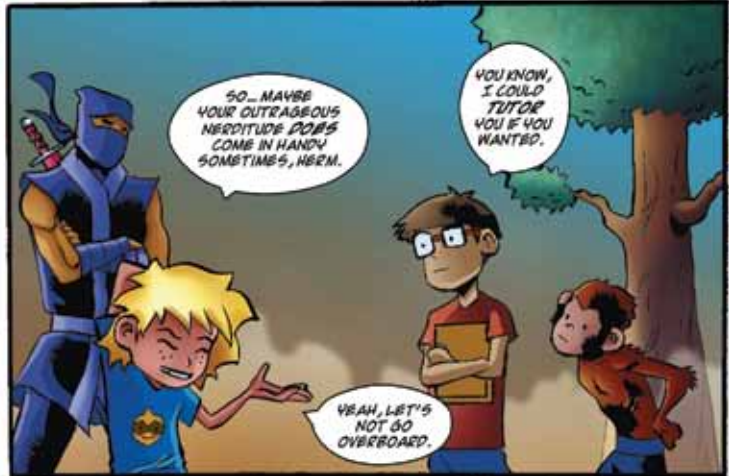


I SEE YOU  
HAVE DEFEATED  
MY MINIONS.



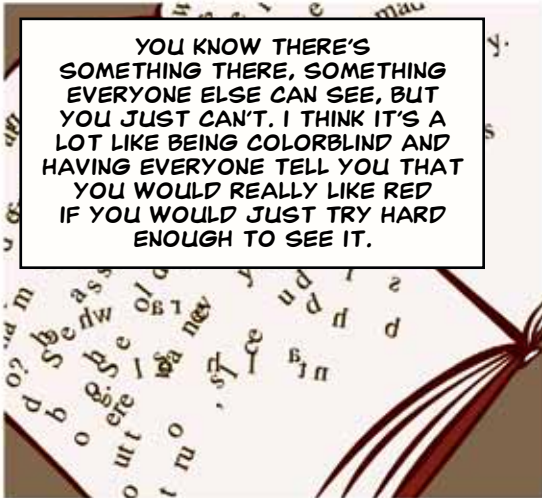
NOW LET  
US SEE HOW  
YOU FARE  
AGAINST  
THEIR  
MASTER!

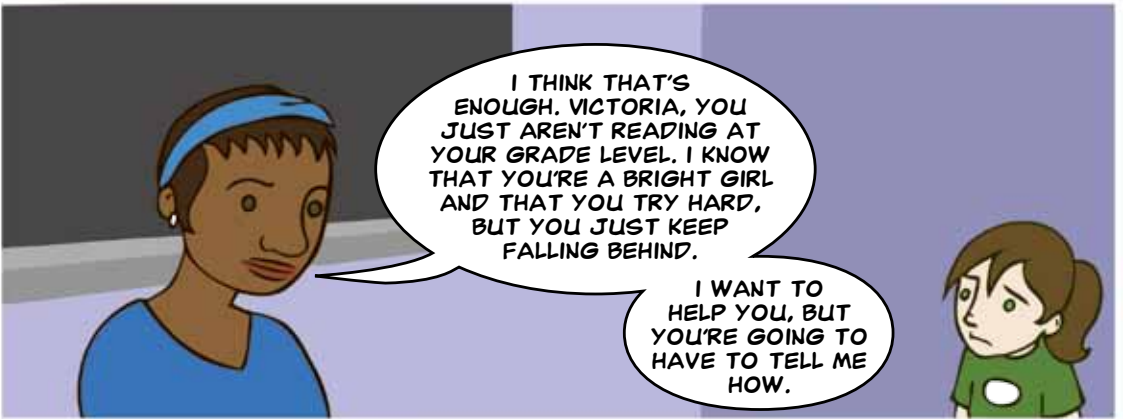
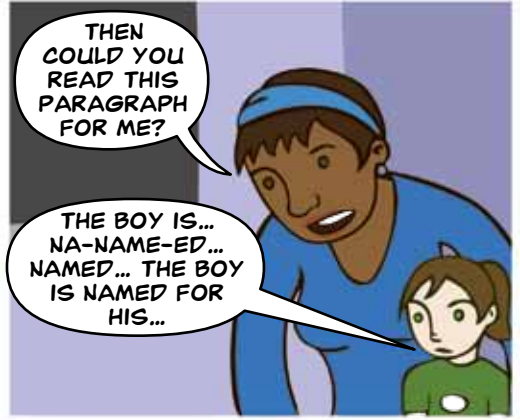


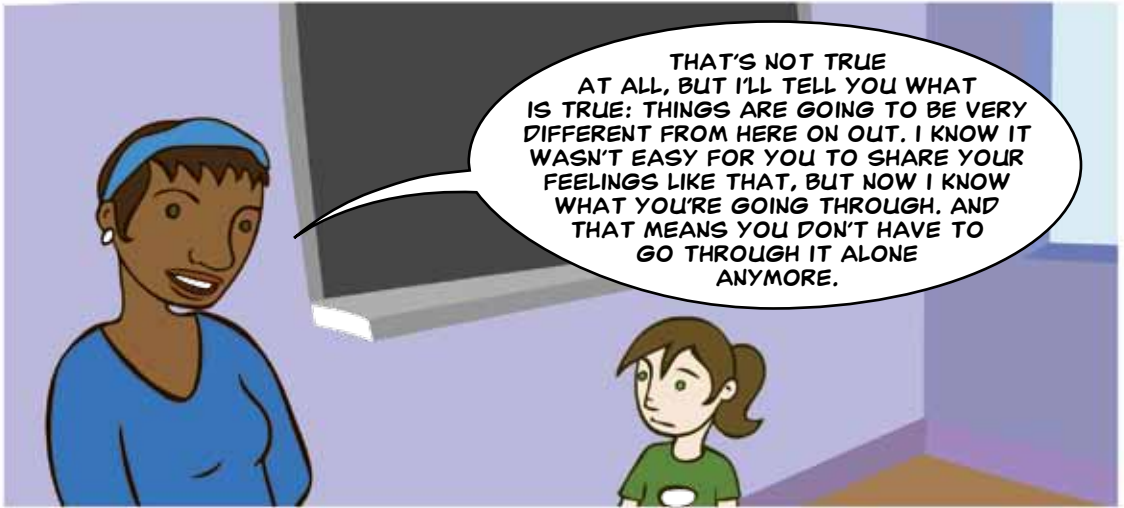


# SO MUCH MORE

TORY WOOLLCOTT







THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL, BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IS TRUE: THINGS ARE GOING TO BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM HERE ON OUT. I KNOW IT WASN'T EASY FOR YOU TO SHARE YOUR FEELINGS LIKE THAT, BUT NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH. AND THAT MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH IT ALONE ANYMORE.



HELLO? IS VICTORIA READY TO GO?



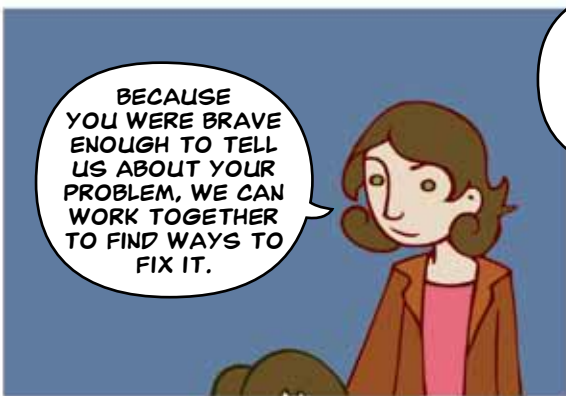
SORRY I KEPT HER. WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THE TROUBLE SHE'S BEEN HAVING WITH HER READING ASSIGNMENTS. NOW THIS MIGHT NOT BE EASY FOR YOU TO HEAR...

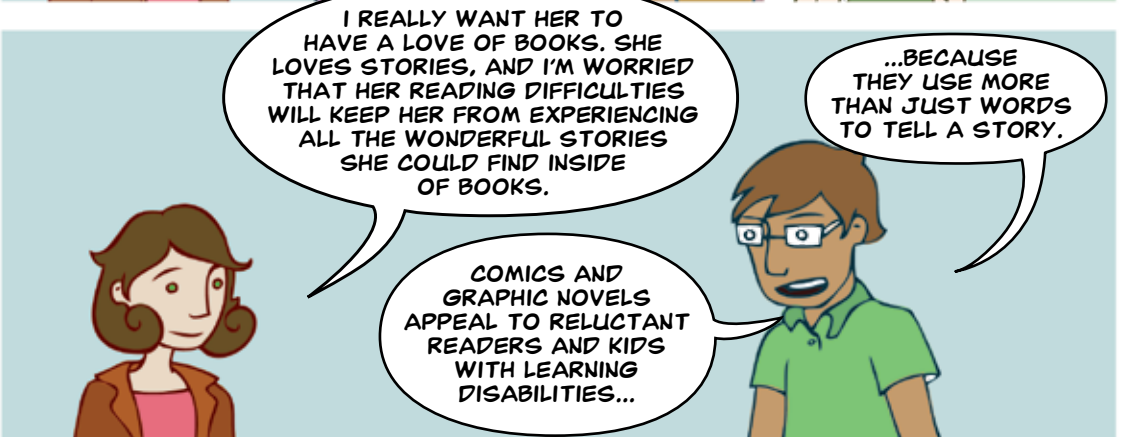
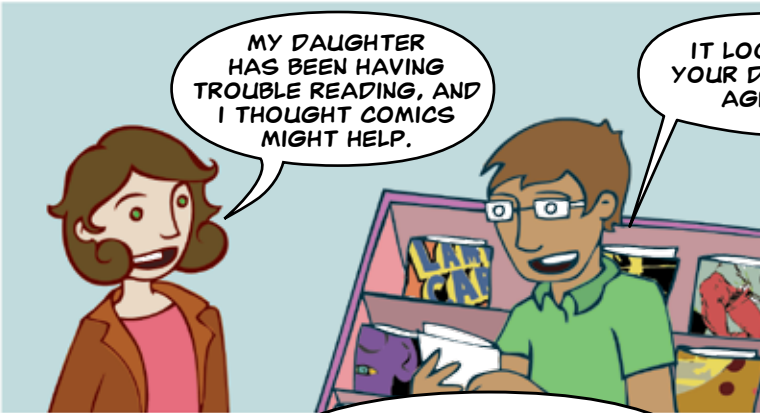


...BUT I THINK VICTORIA MIGHT HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY. I'M GOING TO ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE TO COME IN AND GIVE HER SOME TESTS. THAT WAY WE CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG AND FIGURE OUT HOW BEST TO TREAT IT.

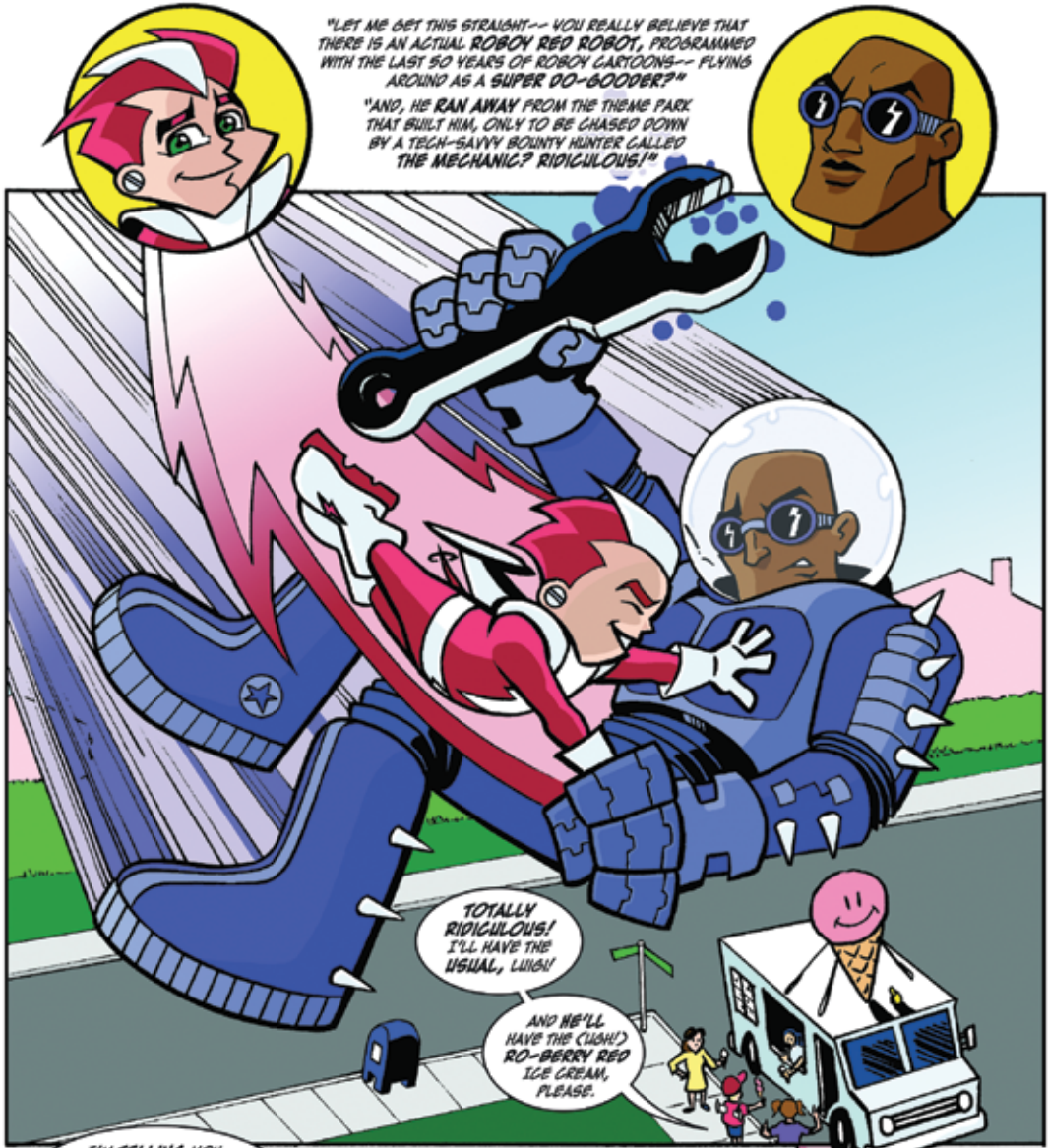


DON'T WORRY, THIS DIAGNOSIS IS ACTUALLY A GOOD THING. ONCE WE FIND OUT HOW SHE LEARNS, WE'LL HAVE HER READING IN NO TIME!







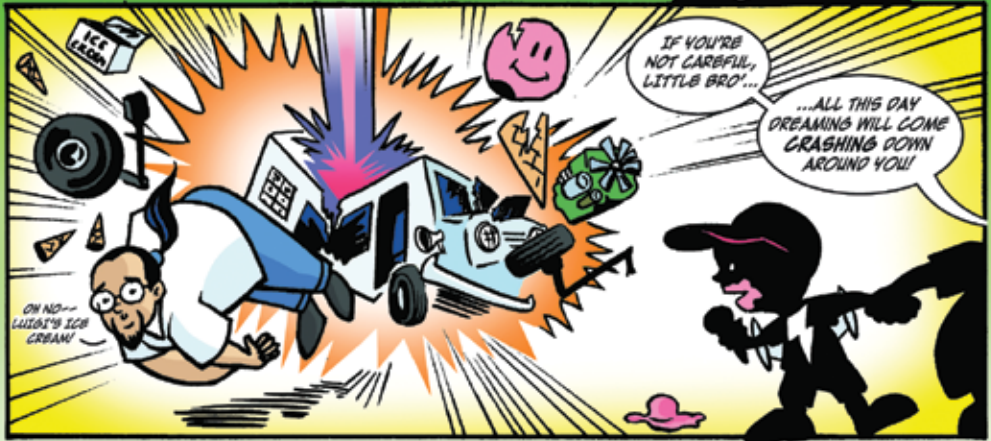


I'M TELLING YOU, LITTLE BROTHER, ROBOY RED IS JUST A... WHAT DO YOU CALL IT? A...

# SUB-URBAN LEGEND!

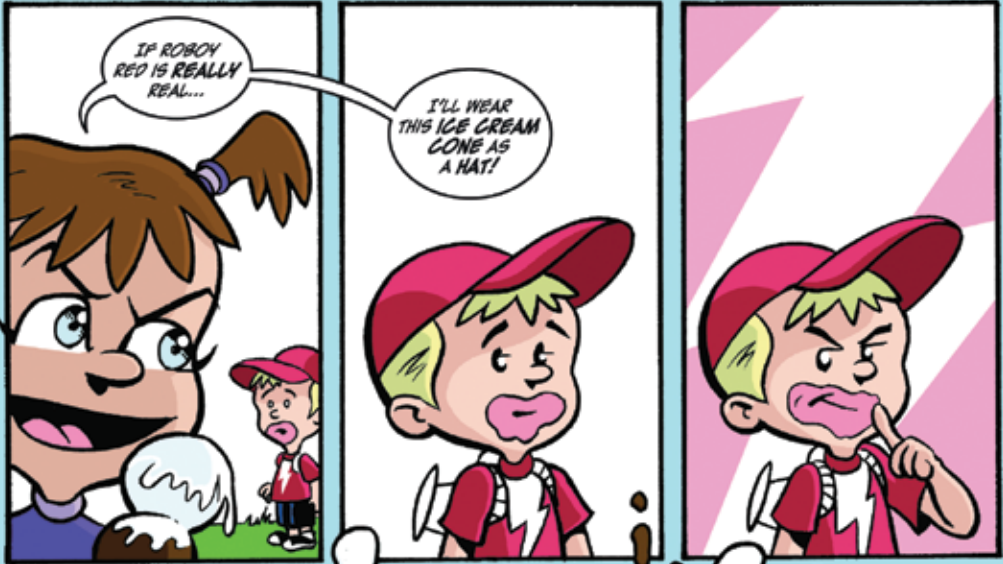
SUPER ATOMIC-POWERED ROBOT FUN BY FABER & GALLAGHER



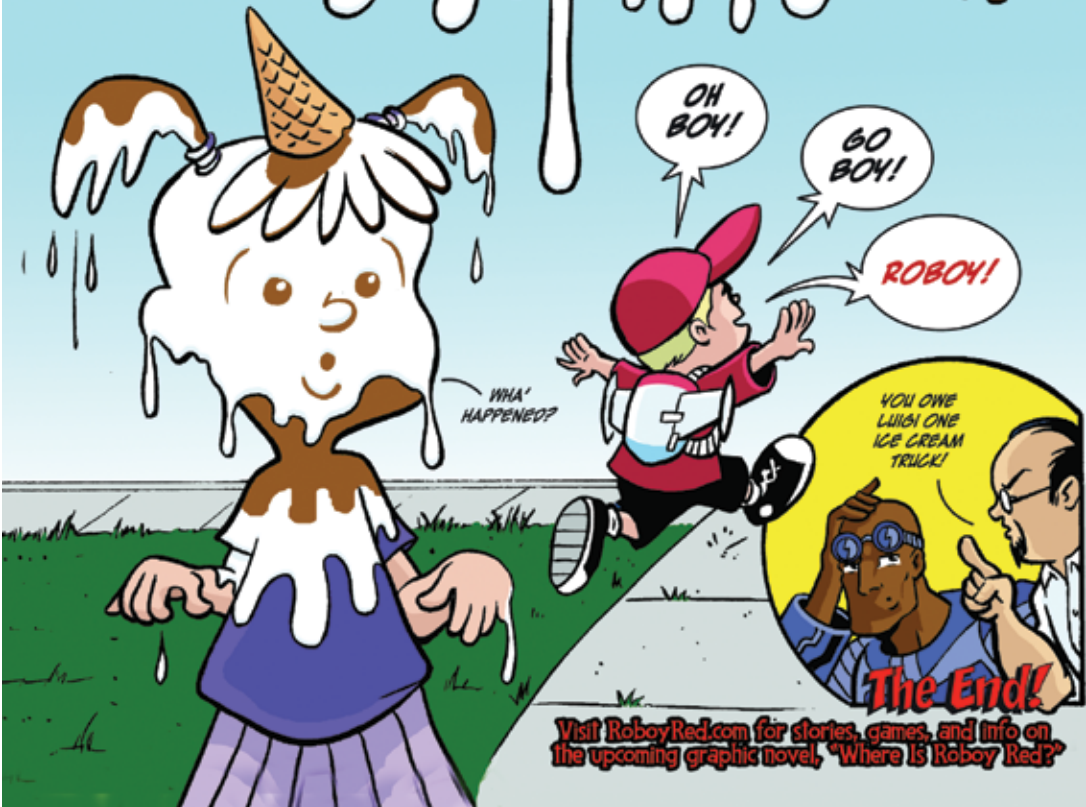








**SPLORTCH!**



# HOW YA GONNA DRAW:



BY RICH FABER

**STEP 1:** BEGIN WITH A SIMPLE FRAMEWORK. A STICK FIGURE WILL DO THE TRICK!

ADD CIRCLES FOR ROBOY'S HEAD AND HANDS, AND OVALS FOR HIS BODY AND FEET.

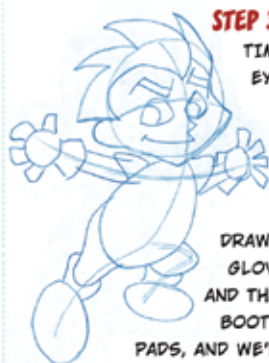
REMEMBER TO DRAW GUIDELINES FOR THE FEATURES ON ROBOY'S FACE!



**STEP 2:** USE GUIDELINES TO ADD CIRCLES FOR HIS EYES. 4 TRIANGLES ON TOP OF HIS HEAD MAKE UP ROBOY'S SPIKEY HAIR!

ROBOY'S FACE IS HEART SHAPED. KEEP THAT IN MIND WHEN DRAWING HIS EAR, CHEEK AND CHIN.

CONNECT HIS FEET AND HANDS TO HIS BODY TO CREATE ARMS AND LEGS. HEY, LOOK! IT'S STARTING TO LOOK LIKE ROBOY!



**STEP 3:** WHEW! HALFWAY THERE! TIME TO ADD HIS EYEBALLS, EYEBROWS AND HAIRLINE.

OH YEAH... DON'T FORGET HIS NOSE AND MOUTH!

DRAW SOME FINGERS AND GLOVES ON THOSE HANDS AND THE TOPS OF ROBOY'S BOOTS. ADD THE SHOULDER PADS, AND WE'RE READY FOR...



**STEP 4:** OK, IT'S TIME TO ERASE YOUR GUIDELINES.

NOW, DRAW HIGHLIGHTS IN HIS EYES, THE INSIDE OF HIS EAR, AND OTHER DETAILS.

REMEMBER ROBOY'S LIGHTNING BOLTS, AND OF COURSE, HIS TAIL!

**STEP 5:** WE'RE ALMOST THERE! OOPS, ALMOST FORGOT HIS JETPACK!

OK, NOW DARKEN YOUR DRAWING. SHADE IN ROBOY'S EYEBROWS AND HIS EYEBALLS. ADD SHADOWS AS NEEDED.

ADD SOME HIGHLIGHTS TO HIS BODY, LEG, AND THE BOOTS, AND WE'RE JUST ABOUT READY FOR...



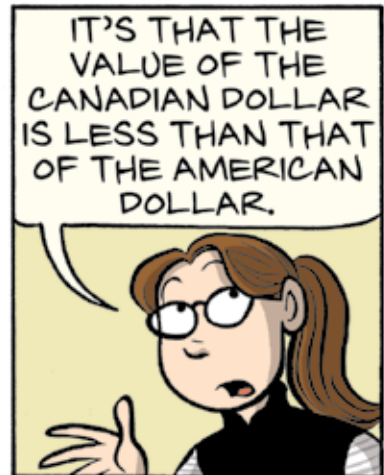
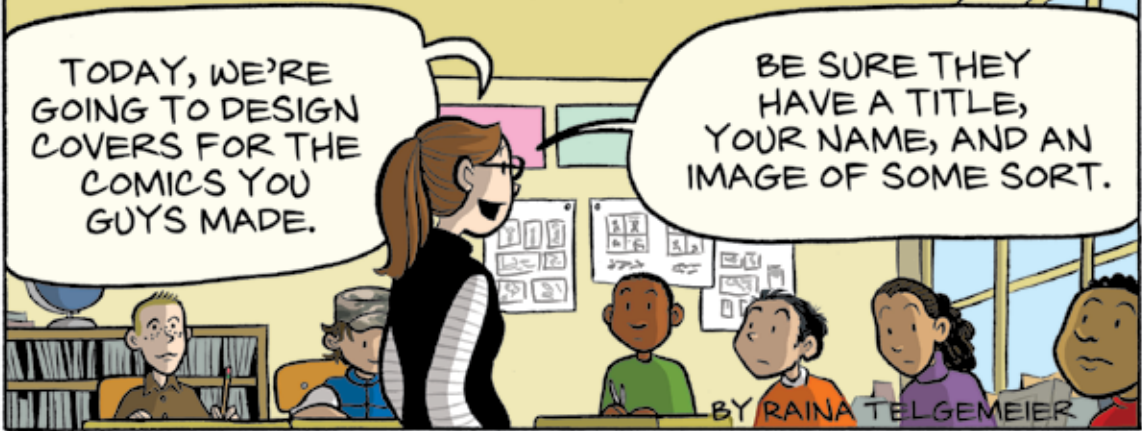
**STEP 6:** THIS IS IT! IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN GET OUT YOUR MARKERS OR PENS, AND TRY TO INK ROBOY. ADD YOUR SIGNATURE, AND YOU'RE DONE! CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE JUST DRAWN YOUR FIRST ROBOY RED!

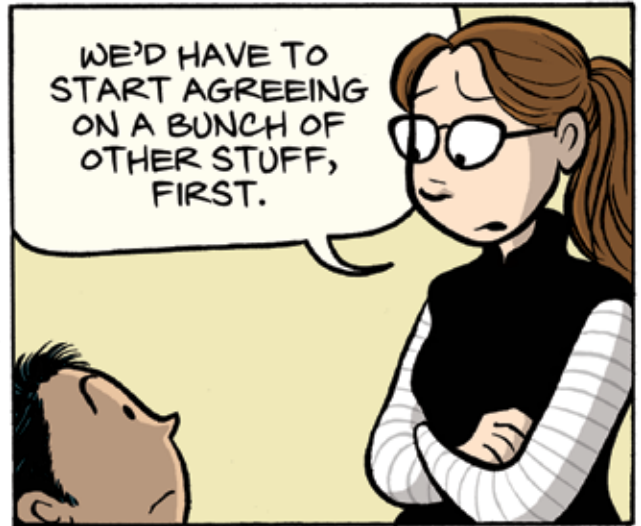
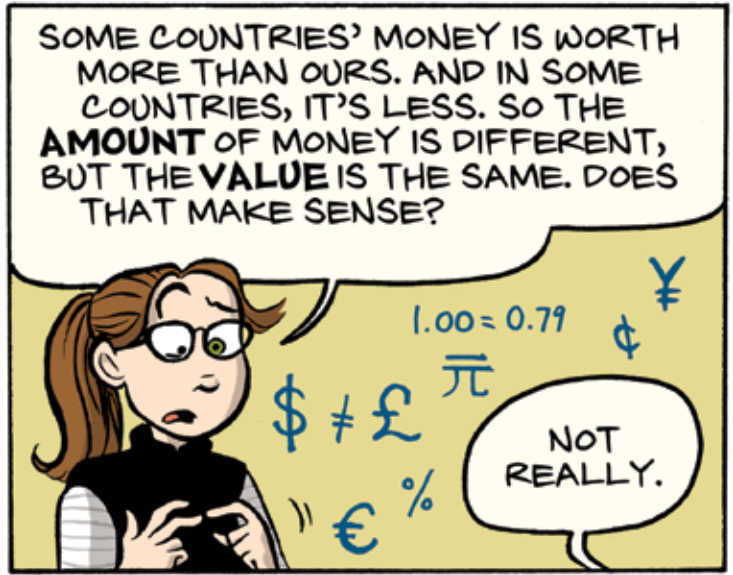
ROBOY RED IS © AND ™ 2010 RICH FABER AND JOHN GALLAGHER

**ROBOYRED.COM**

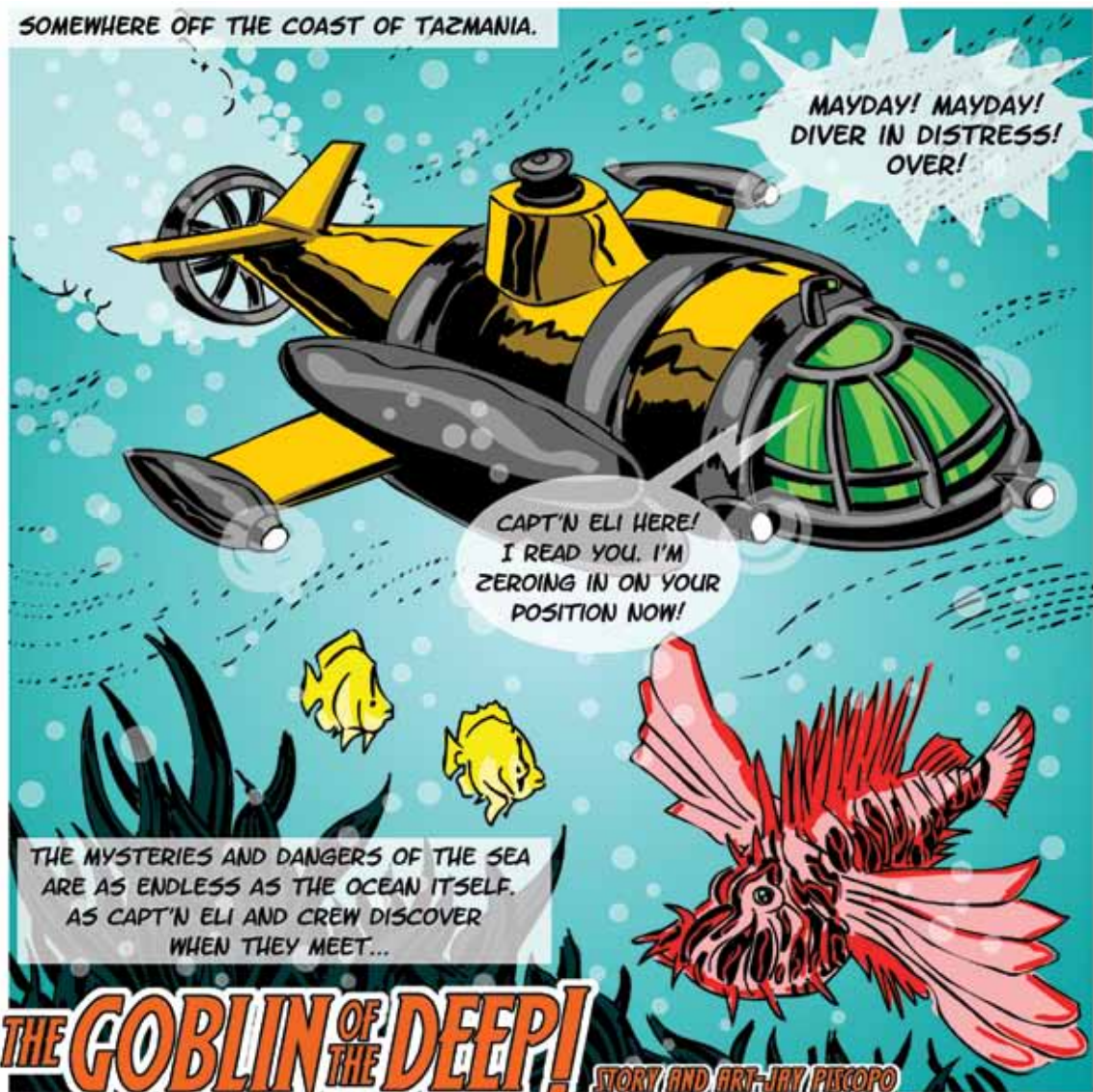
# A CONVERSATION

I HAD WHILE TEACHING A COMICS CLASS





SOMEWHERE OFF THE COAST OF TASMANIA.



MAYDAY! MAYDAY!  
DIVER IN DISTRESS!  
OVER!

CAPT'N ELI HERE!  
I READ YOU. I'M  
ZEROING IN ON YOUR  
POSITION NOW!

THE MYSTERIES AND DANGERS OF THE SEA  
ARE AS ENDLESS AS THE OCEAN ITSELF.  
AS CAPT'N ELI AND CREW DISCOVER  
WHEN THEY MEET...

# THE GOBLIN OF THE DEEP!

STORY AND ART: JAY PISCOPO



...SOME KIND OF SEA MONSTER!...  
DIVER ISN'T RESPONDING!...

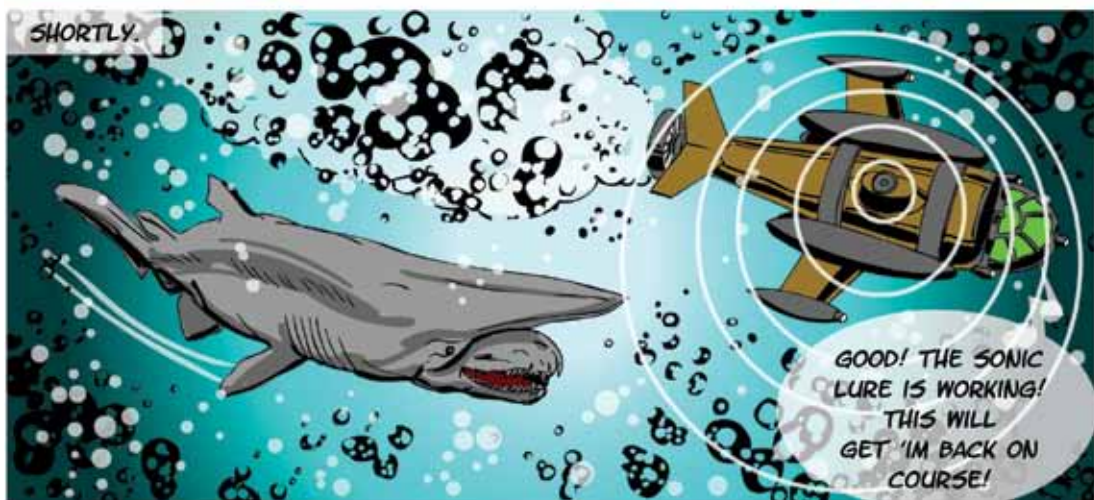
SEA  
MONSTER?

(SSHH!)  
HANG ON!  
WE'RE ON OUR  
WAY!









SOON, INTRODUCTIONS ARE MADE.

TELL THEM ABOUT THE "SHIMMERING EFFECT!"

OH YEAH. THAT'S WHY THE GOBLIN SHARK LOOKED HUGE.

THE THERMAL VENTS CREATED A MIRAGE, LIKE HOT AIR RISING FROM PAVEMENT ON A SUMMER DAY.

THE WATER MAGNIFIED THE ILLUSION.

AMAZING! I FEEL FOOLISH LETTING MY FEAR TAKE OVER.

ME TOO. IT'S TIME TO GO BACK AND HIT THE BOOKS.



THE GOBLIN SHARK IS RARE, ESPECIALLY AT THE DEPTH YOU FOUND HIM.

HE DOES HAVE A STARTLING APPEARANCE. SO, WITH THE ILLUSION OF BEING A GIANT, I CAN SEE WHY YOU PANICKED.

GOBLIN SHARKS ARE "LIVING FOSSILS."

THAT MEANS THEY RESEMBLE AN EXTINCT SPECIES, WITH NO LIVING RELATIVE SPECIES.

AYE, ROGER!

LUCKY THIS ONE DIDN'T BECOME EXTINCT!

THIS MUST BE YOUR UNDERWATER CAMERA I FOUND.



PLEASE, NEXT TIME YOU "SHOOT" AT A GOBLIN SHARK, USE THIS.

**THE END!**

# LOOPY and the Nose of Misfortune

Written by Camilla Zhang      Pencils by Tim Smith 3  
Inks & Colors by Irene Y. Lee      Letters by Charlie Beckerman  
Edited by Brandon Montclare



MY NAME IS **GUADALUPE STEIN.**

MIZ HENDRICKS! LOOPY'S ACTIN' ALL WEIRD AGAIN!

WHEN I WAS FIVE I HAD A MISSION. I WANTED TO BE MORE LIKEABLE... LESS DIFFERENT.

OBSVIOUSLY, WITH A NAME LIKE "LOOPY", THE TASK REQUIRED A MIRACLE.



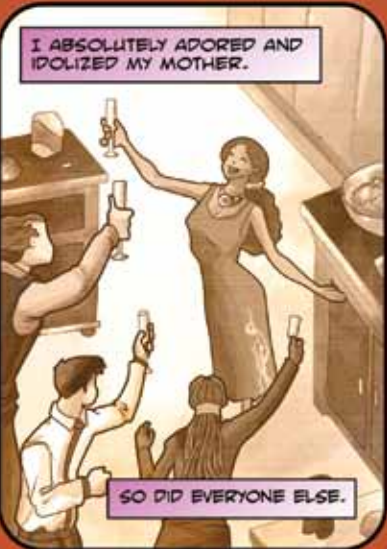
MY MOM CALLED ME "LUPITA ZEN." SOUNDS COOLER, DOESN'T IT? LIKE THE NAME OF A ROCK STAR.

IF ONLY IT STUCK DURING SCHOOL HOURS.



FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD WHY MOM AND I DIDN'T LOOK MORE ALIKE...

...EVEN THOUGH I KNEW I WAS ADOPTED.



I ABSOLUTELY ADORED AND IDOLIZED MY MOTHER.

SO DID EVERYONE ELSE.



AS FAR AS I COULD TELL, THE ONLY STARK DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US WERE:

1. HOW PEOPLE TREATED US AND...
2. OUR NOSES.



IT DIDN'T HELP THAT NO ONE ELSE IN MY CLASS HAD A NOSE LIKE MINE.







# HIGH NOON AT JUNIOR HIGH

WRITTEN BY  
GRACE "DUKE"  
RANDOLPH

ILLUSTRATED BY  
TINTIN "BRONCO"  
PANTOJA



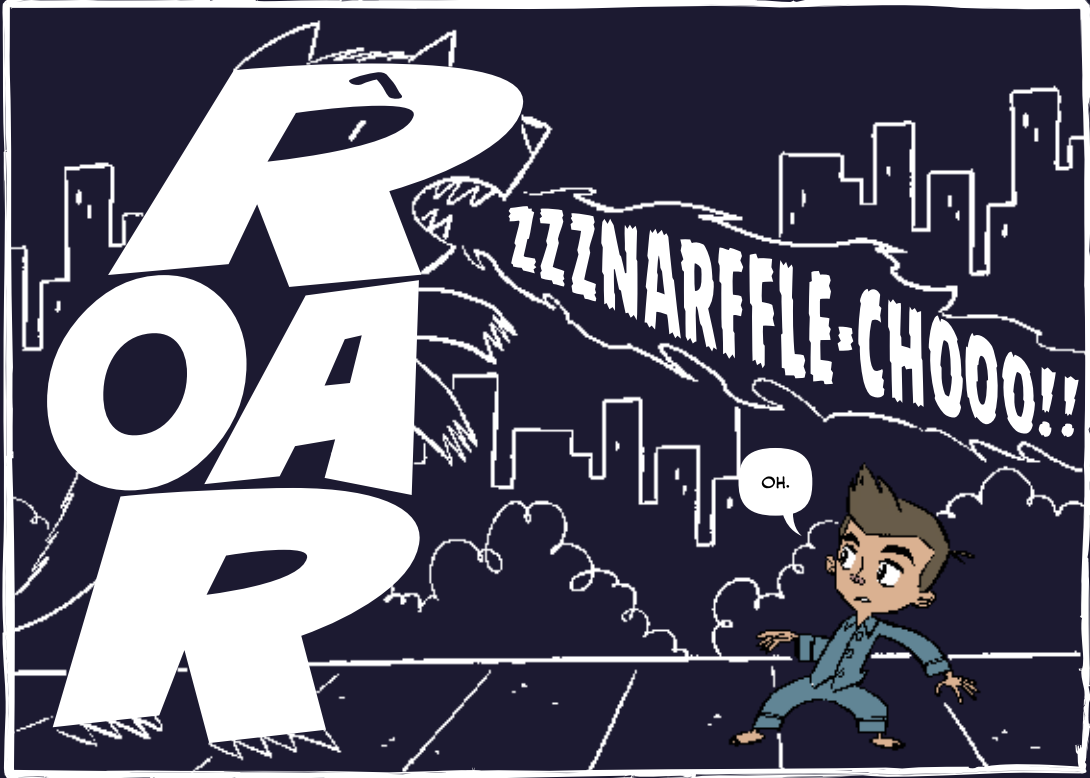
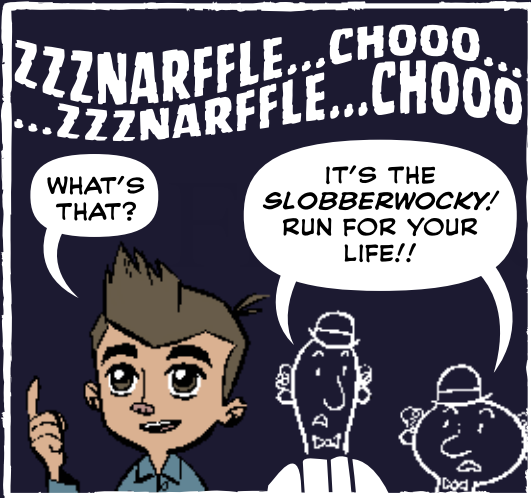


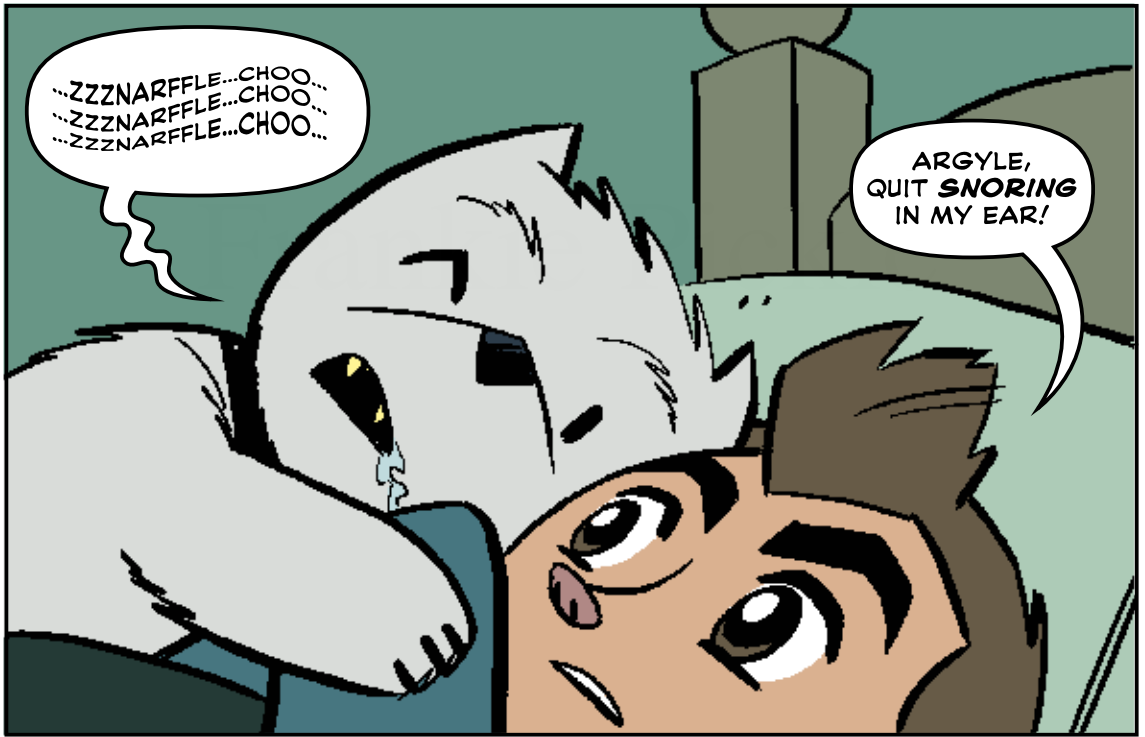













**FUN FACT:** The term *onomatopoeia* comes from the Greek word *onomatopoiia*, which literally means 'word-making.' How many *onomatopoeias* can you find in Frankie's adventure?


# JUDGEMENT OF PATRICK

Writer: Michael Vincent Bramley | Artist: Alice Meichi Li


Editor: Brandon Montclare



The Judgement of Paris is about more than a Goddess beauty pageant. It becomes about what each goddess represents... It's an important Greek Myth...

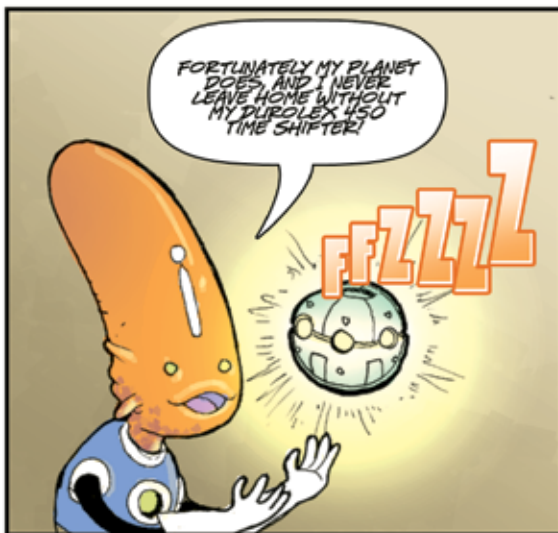
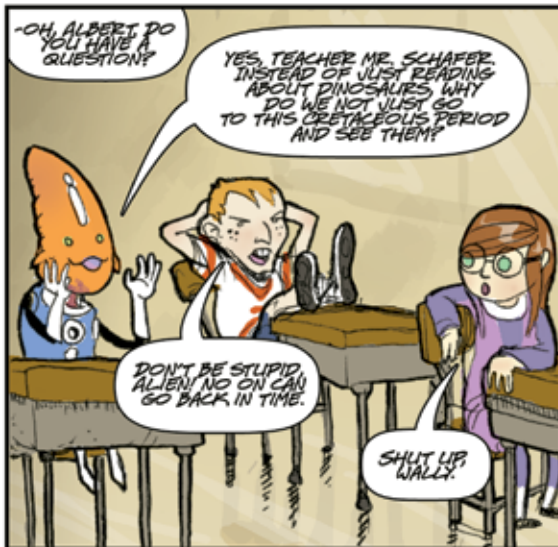
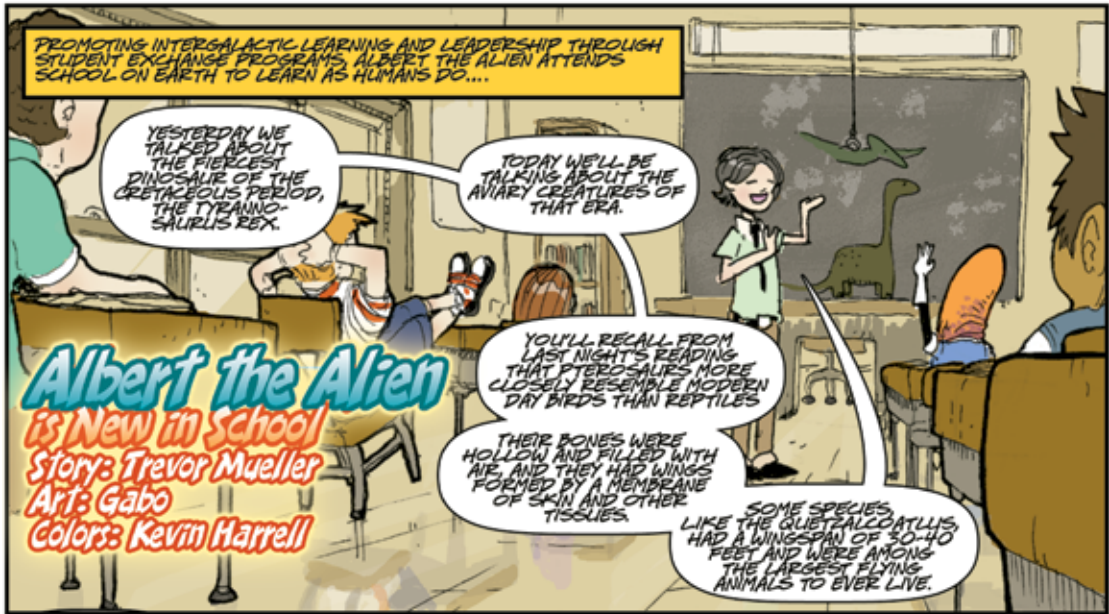


*About finding what's important to you.*



...about a choice we all have to make.



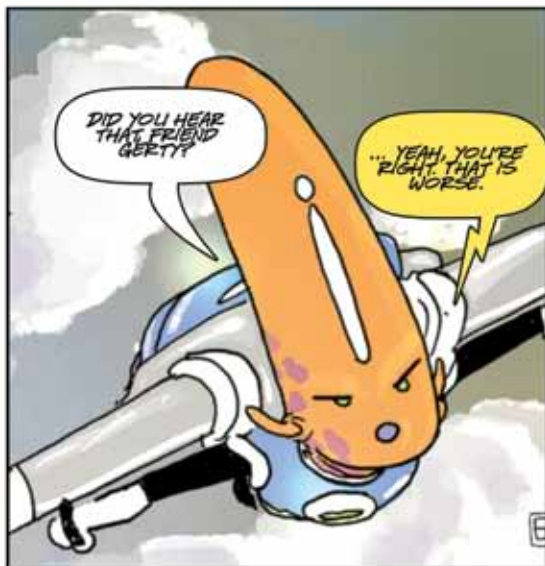




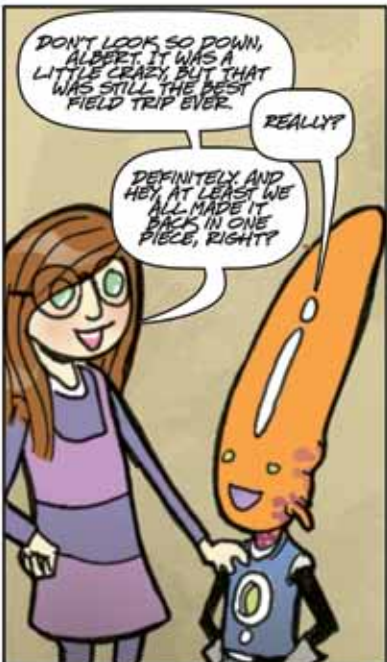


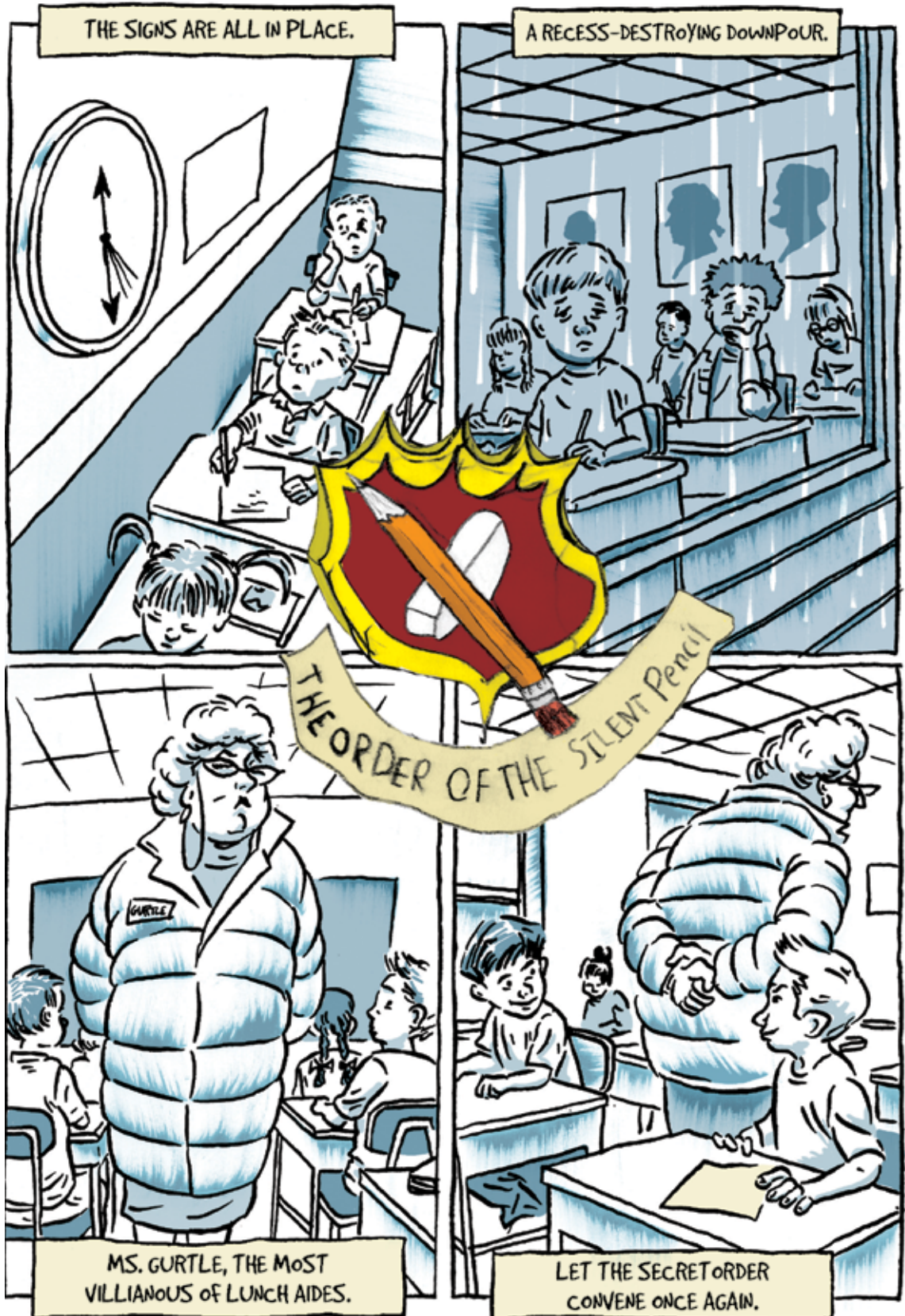












WRITTEN, INKED AND COLORED BY KEVIN PYLE

PENCILED BY KEVIN SACCO

DRAWINGS BY CALVIN PYLE

AS IS TRADITION, ENRIQUE  
DRAWS THE FIRST PANEL.



TO AN OUTSIDER THIS MARKS  
HIM AS OUR LEADER...



BUT THE TRUTH IS MORE  
COMPLICATED.



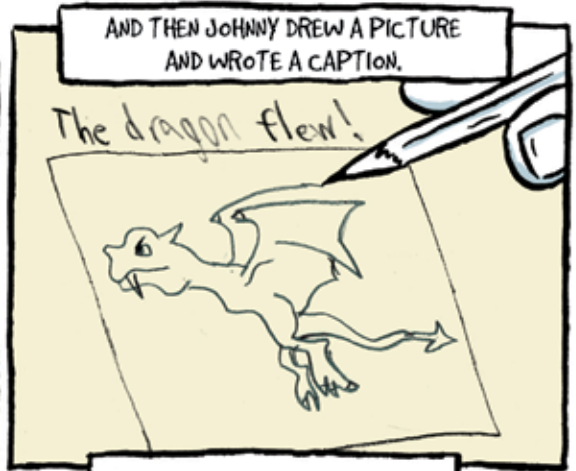
YOU SEE OUR ORDER WAS BORN IN  
RESPONSE TO GURTLE'S DECREE  
OF TOTAL SILENCE.

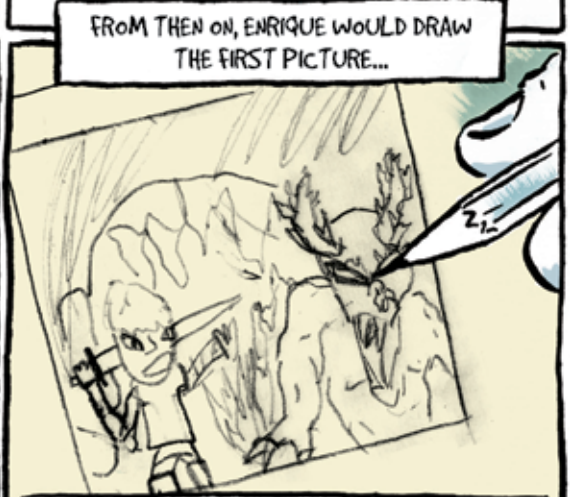


AS A SECRET COMMUNICATION...



A SILENT REBELLION.







IT RAINED A LOT THAT WINTER.



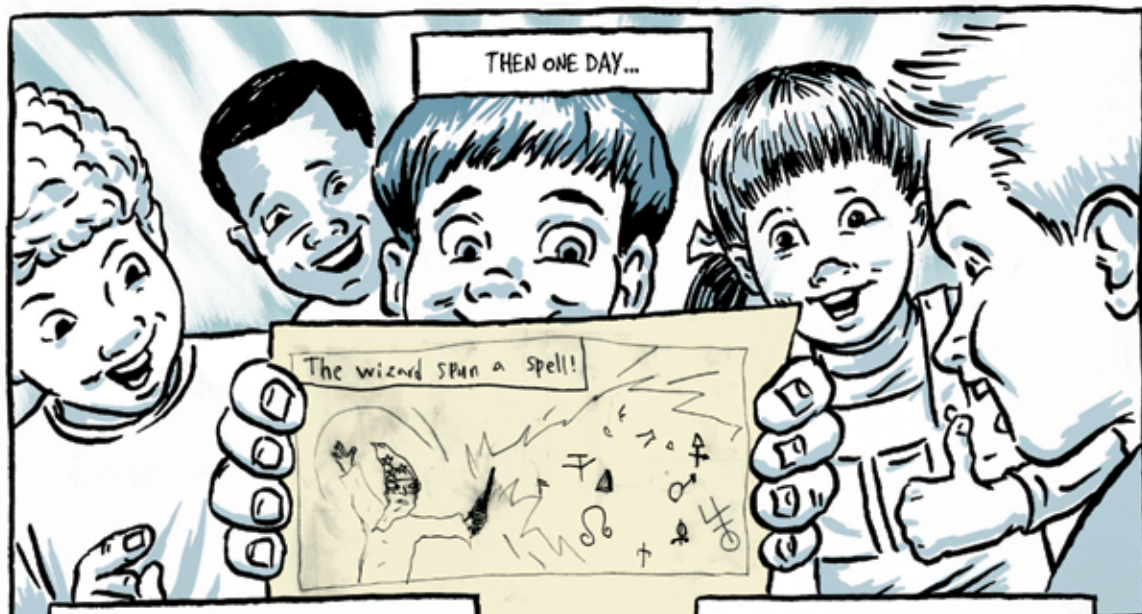
ENRIQUE BECAME THE KEEPER OF THE SCROLL.



THERE WERE HINTS AT WHAT WAS COMING.



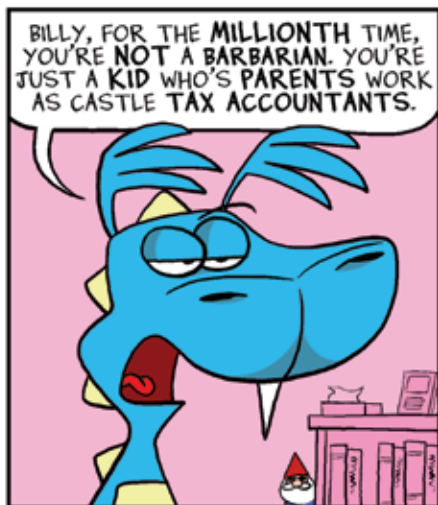
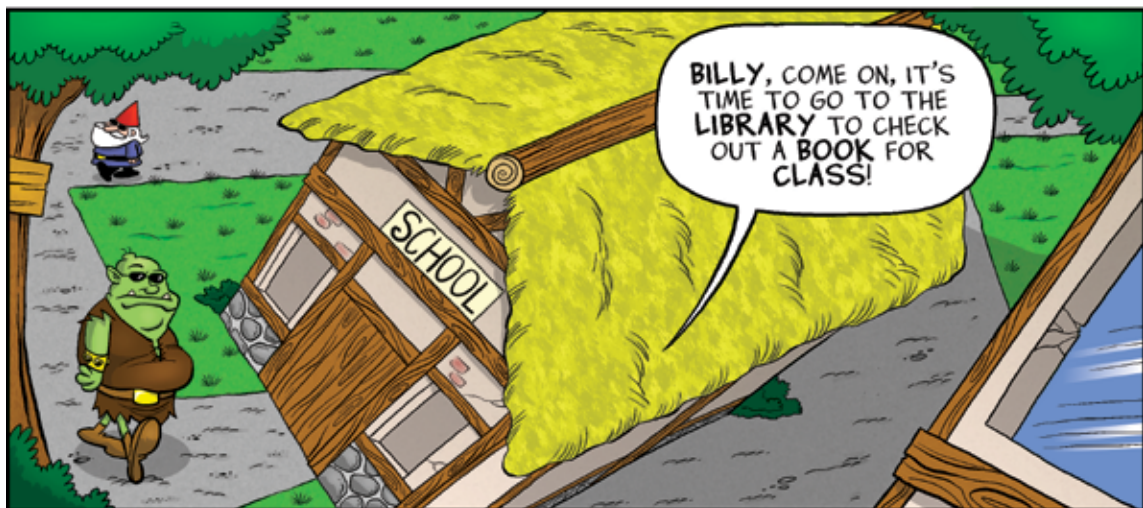
LIKE DISTANT GUNFIRE.



**THE LEGEND OF BILLY...**  
**KID BARBARIAN WANNABE!!**



STORY & ART  
**DAVID REDDICK**  
COLORS BY DON KUEHN





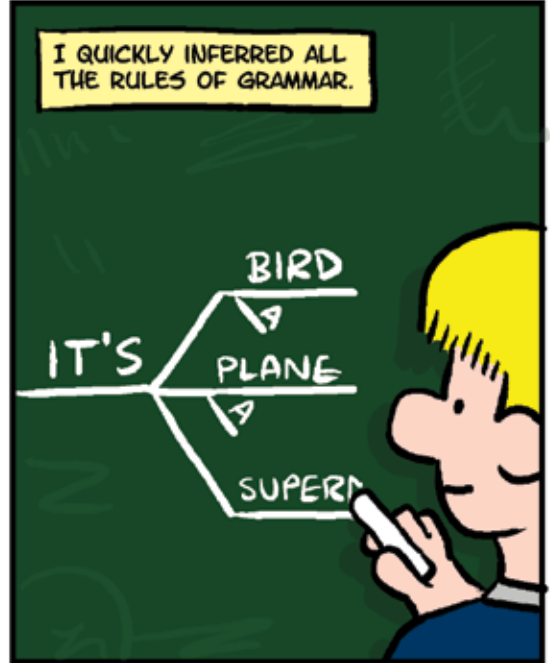
# UNSHELVED

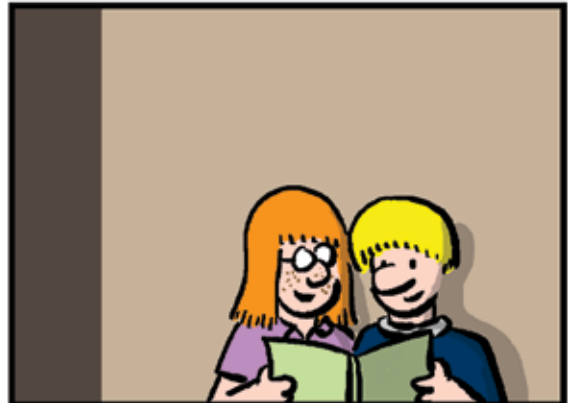
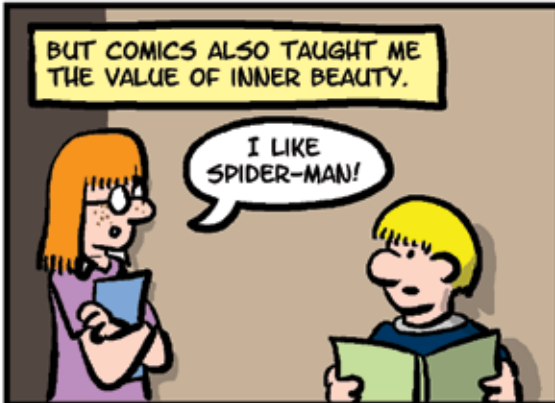
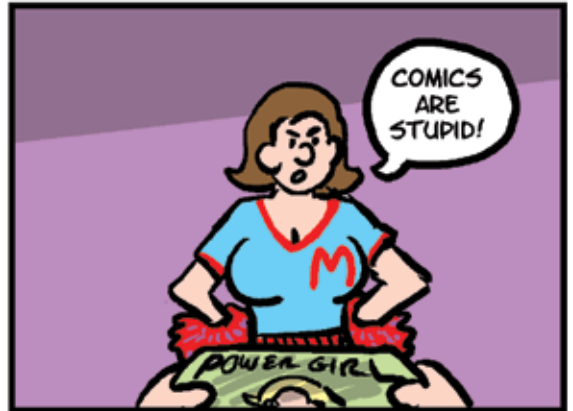
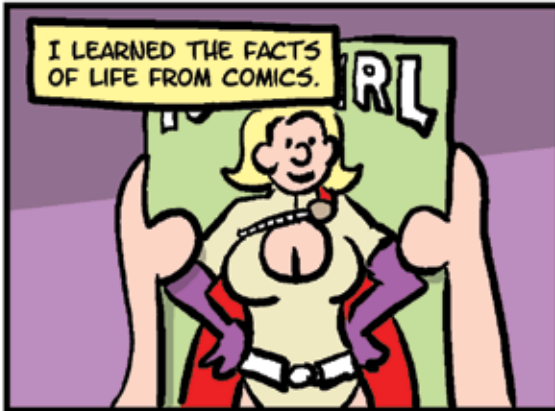
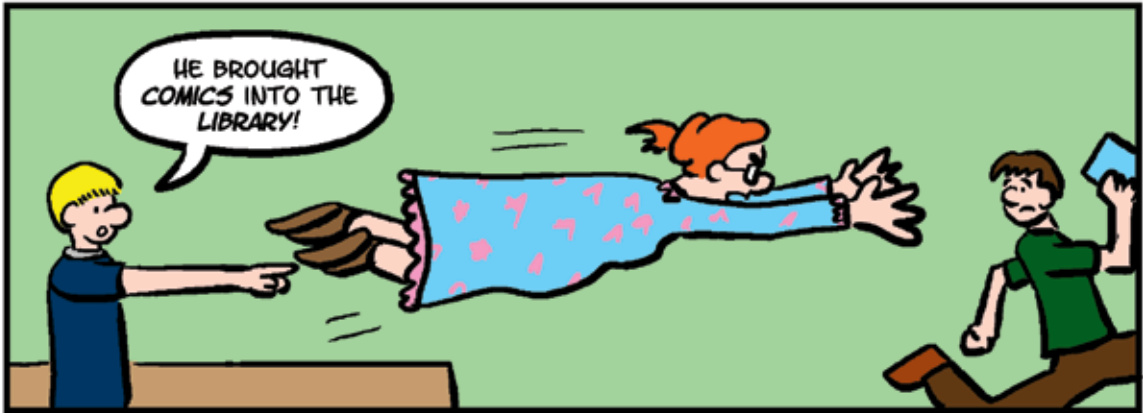
SECRET ORIGINS

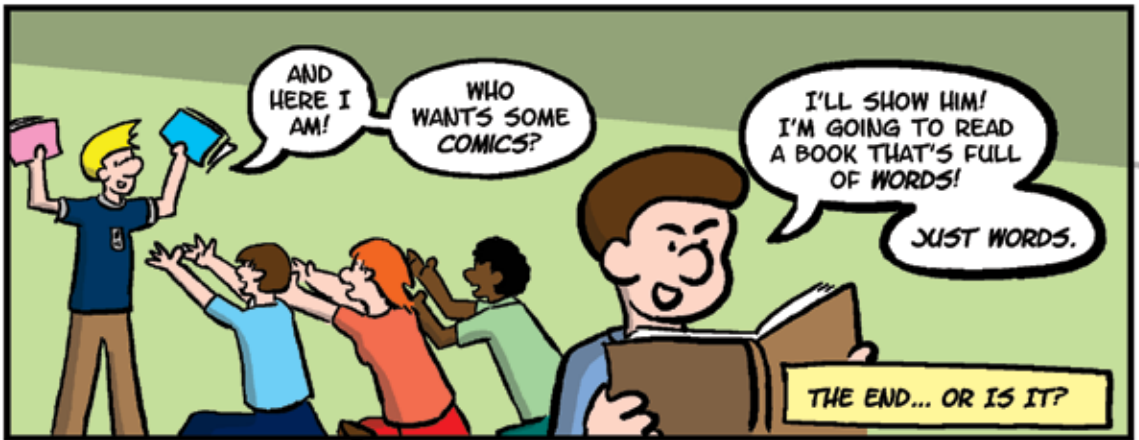
by Gene Ambaum & Bill Barnes



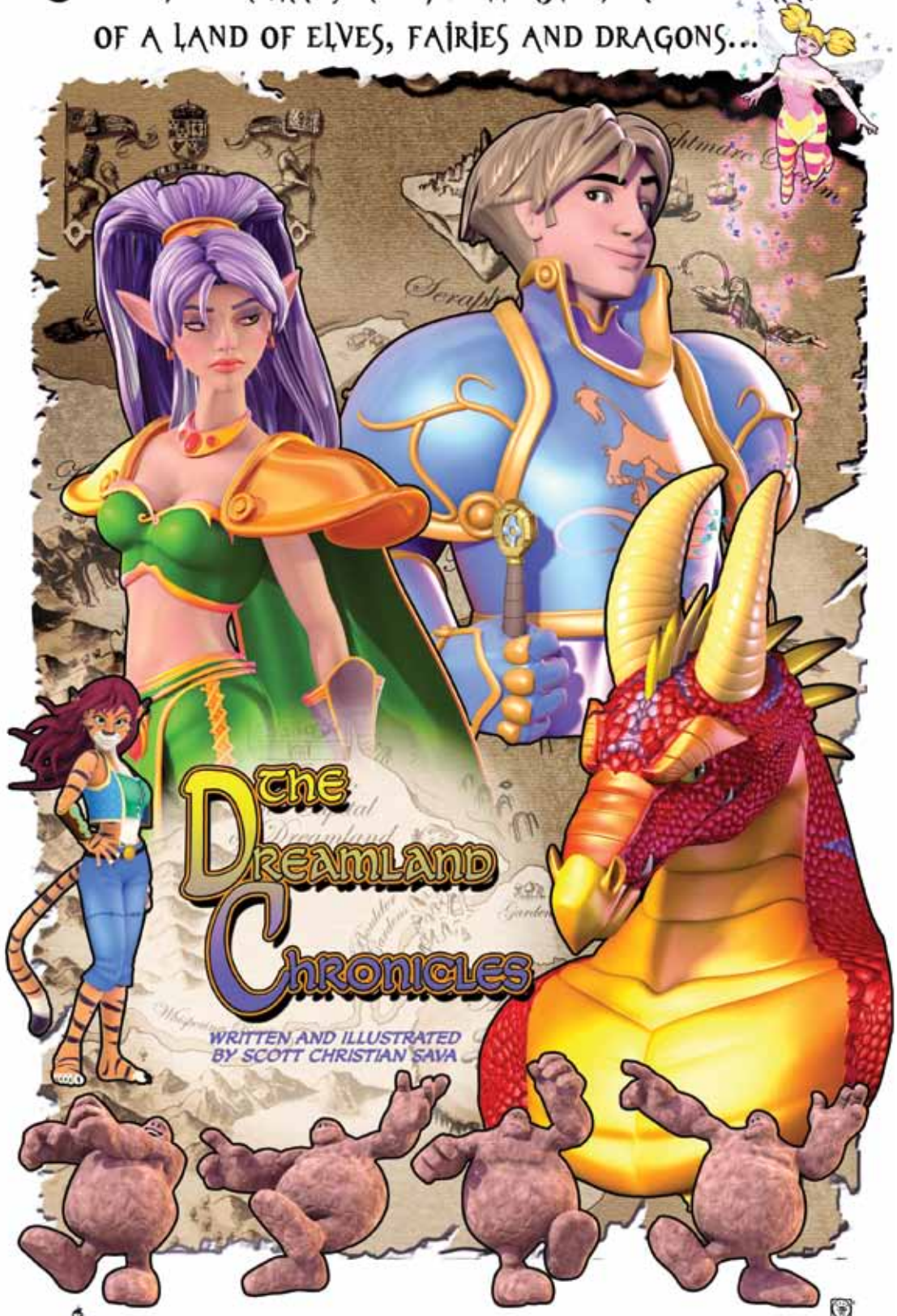
Dewey







ONCE UPON A TIME, A BOY FELL ASLEEP AND DREAMT  
OF A LAND OF ELVES, FAIRIES AND DRAGONS...



# The DREAMLAND Chronicles

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED  
BY SCOTT CHRISTIAN SAVA



WWW.THEDREAMLANDCHRONICLES.COM







# Dr. Stevelove

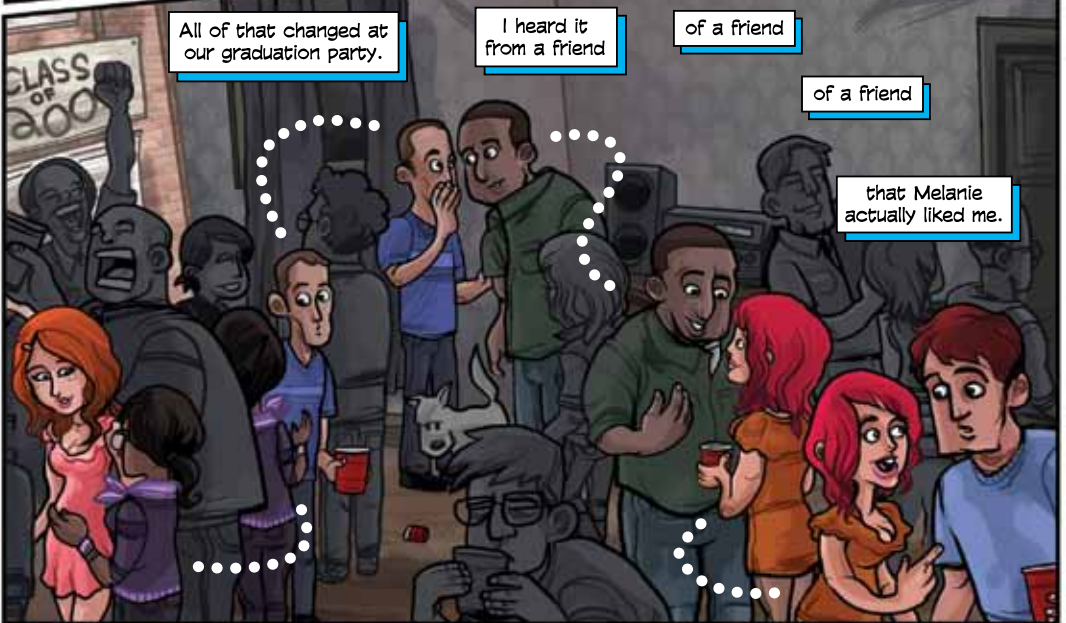
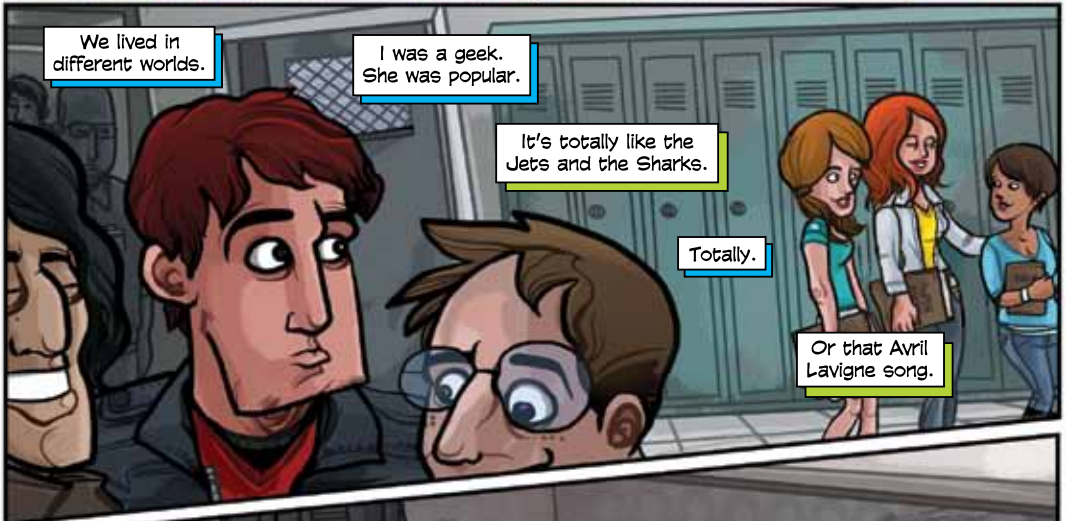
Or how I learned to stop worrying and talk to girls

A **Matriculated** Flashback by Phil Chan & Joe Dunn











After years of being too timid to even approach her, that bit of hearsay gave me the courage to finally go and talk to her.



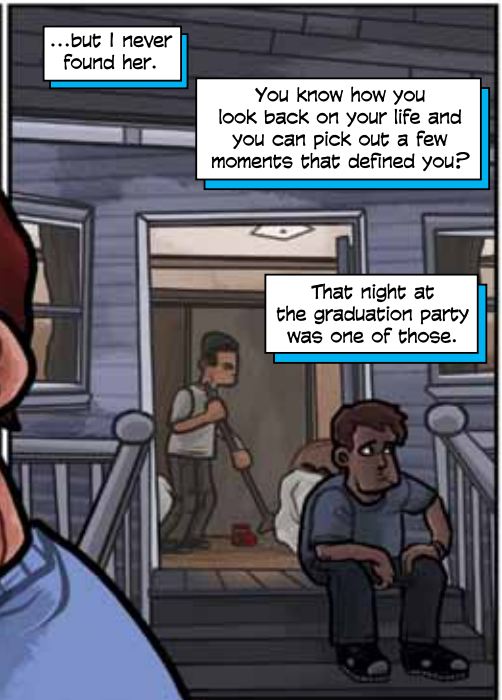
But, it was a big party.



I looked and I looked, but she was nowhere to be found.



I spent the rest of the night looking for her...



...but I never found her.

You know how you look back on your life and you can pick out a few moments that defined you?

That night at the graduation party was one of those.



I realized that the only reason that I didn't talk to Melanie, the only thing that was holding me back was me and my silly predefined notion of who we were.

Why did it matter that I was a geek and she was popular?

It didn't matter that night, so why did it matter all throughout high school?

The answer is, it didn't.



Just because a guy likes to play sports doesn't mean he can't be into school.

Just because a girl is pretty and popular doesn't mean she can't be interesting.

And just because a guy is a geek doesn't mean he can't get the girl.



So I made a promise to myself to never let thinking like that get in the way of an opportunity again.

You never know what experiences you'll miss because you keep yourself within a someone else's definition of you.

And that was the moment I learned to stop worrying and talk to girls.



Wow, so you really never saw her again?

Not even over the summer?

Never.

So sad. You've totally been waiting forever to tell that story haven't you?

You have no idea...

Nope.

The End.

# STELLAR RESCUE!

written and illustrated  
by PHILLIP BOWLES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS AS WE WILL BE EXPERIENCING SOME TURBULENCE.

SOME TURBULENCE?! IT FEELS LIKE THE WHOLE SHIP IS FALLING APART!

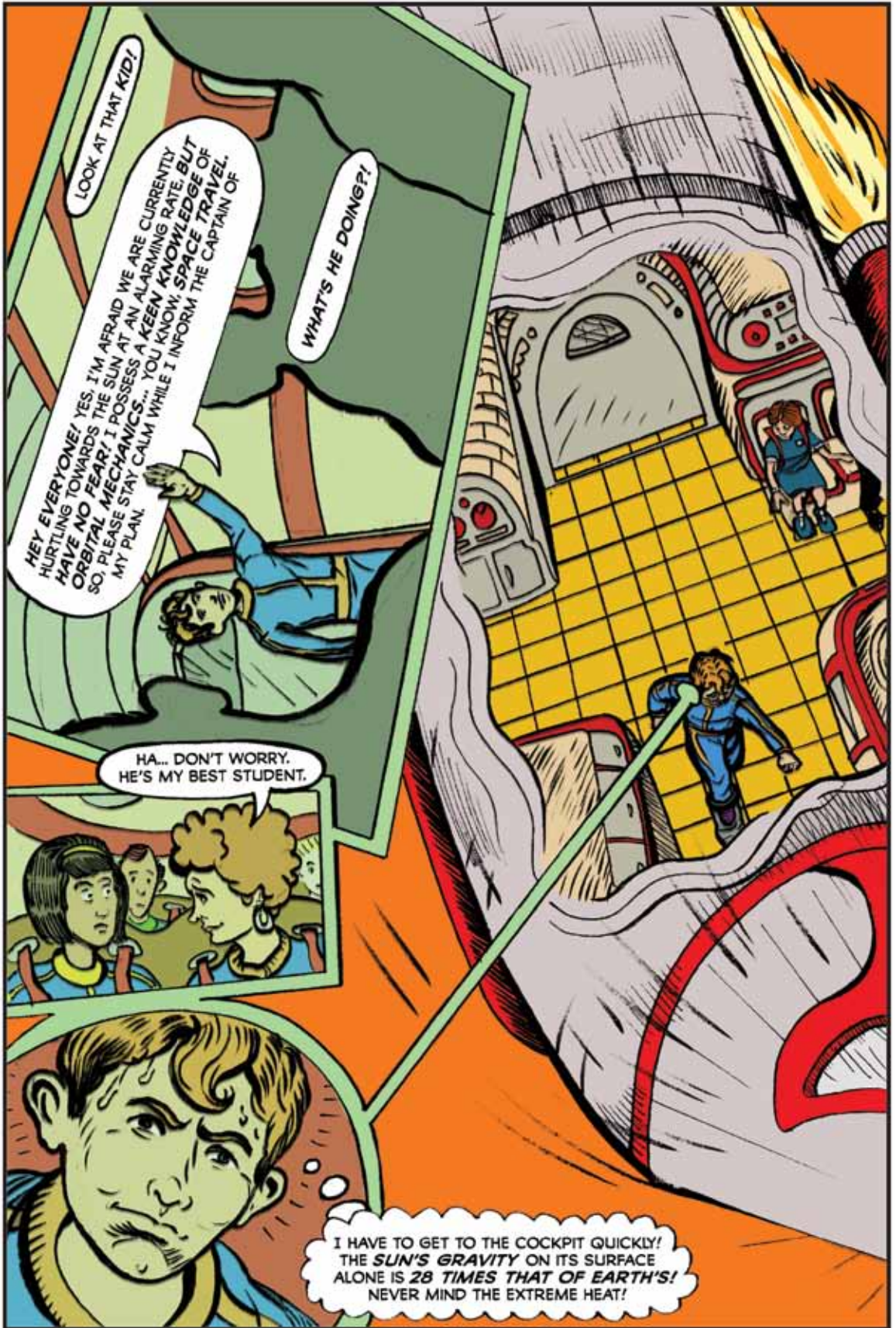
C-CALM DOWN CHILDREN! I'M SURE EVERYTHING... EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE!

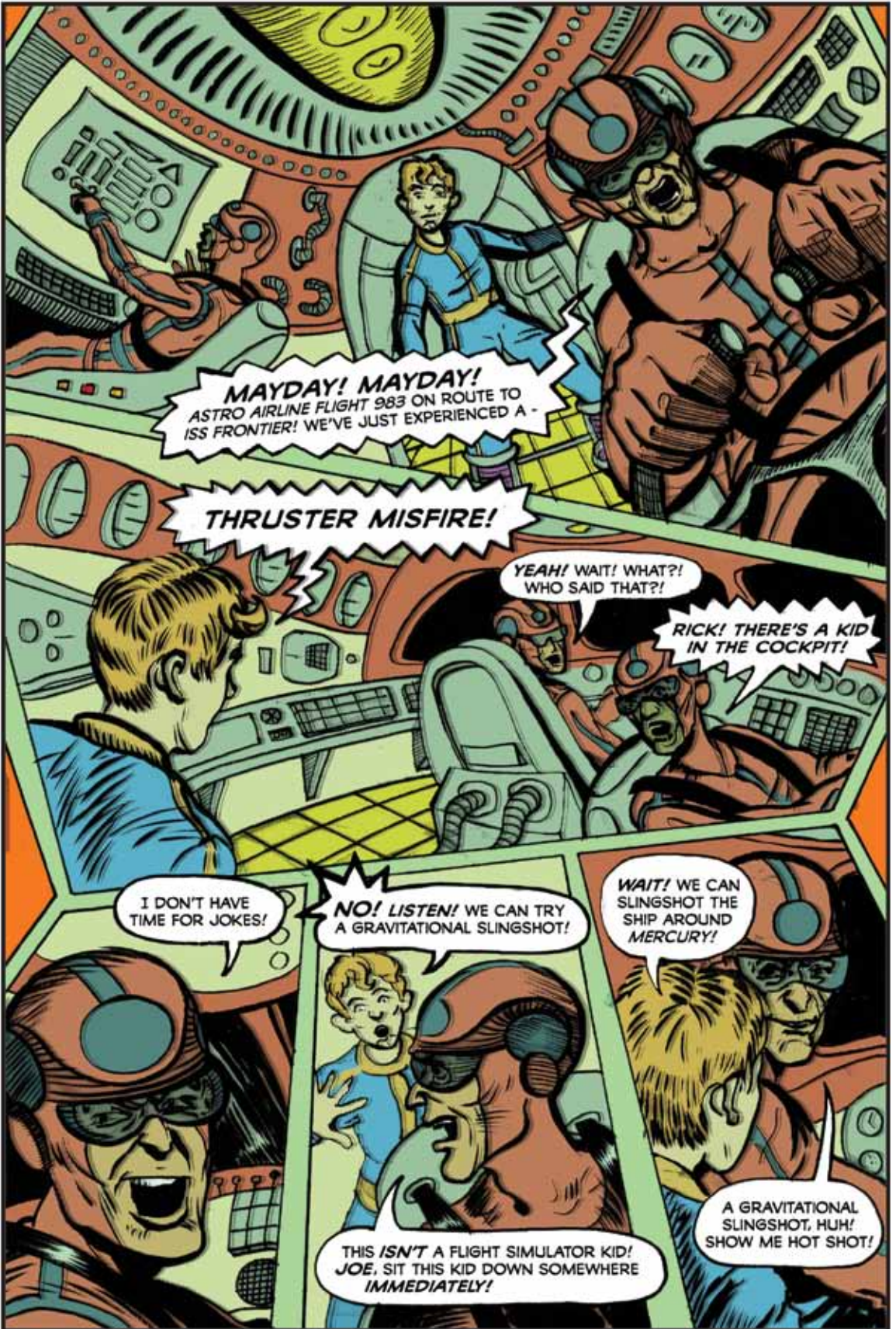
MRS. VERNE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ABOUT TO LOSE HER LUNCH!

BEN! THIS IS NOT GOOD! WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN!

NO KIDDING! EVEN THOUGH ASTRO AIRLINE FLIGHTS ARE FITTED WITH SPECIAL TILES DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND THE 10,000 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OF THE SUN'S PHOTOSPHERE, THEY CANNOT WITHSTAND SUCH INTENSITY FOR LONG!











BENTON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MRS. NEWMAN'S 3RD PERIOD  
HONORS ENGLISH.

Amy, what was that  
call about last night?

I said I wasn't pretty, Amber said I was  
but she wasn't and I was like, "No, you are!"  
So we called all the boys in 7th grade  
to find out if they thought we were pretty.

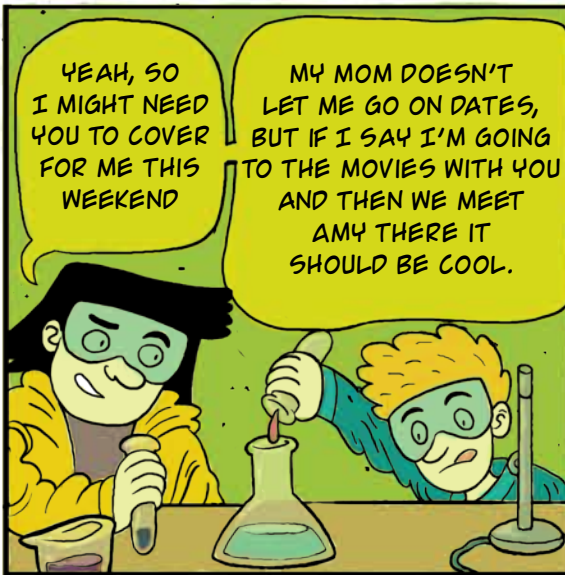
well, like I said last night, you're  
really pretty! I mean all the  
guys want to date you.

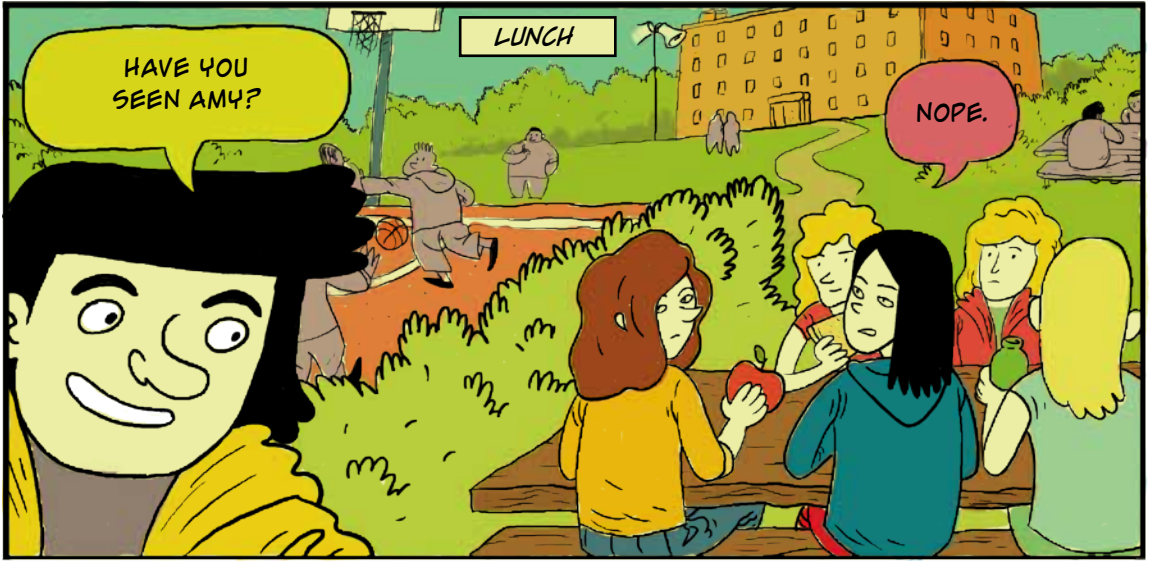
Thanks! All the guys, huh?  
What about you, Chris?  
Would you date me?

YES!

**Ring**

**WHAT?!**

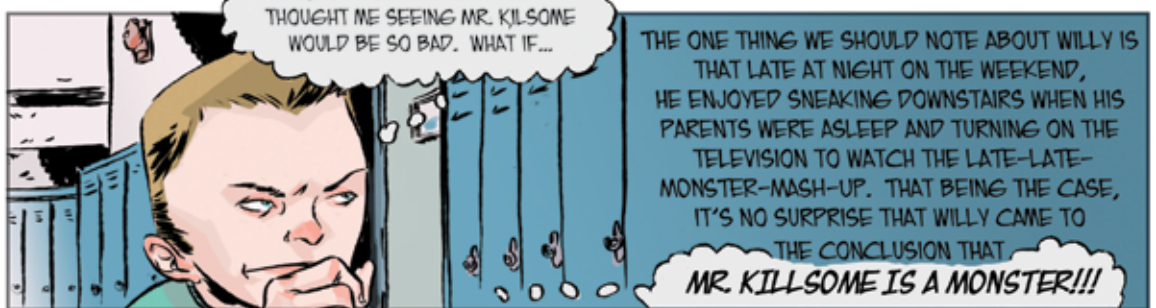
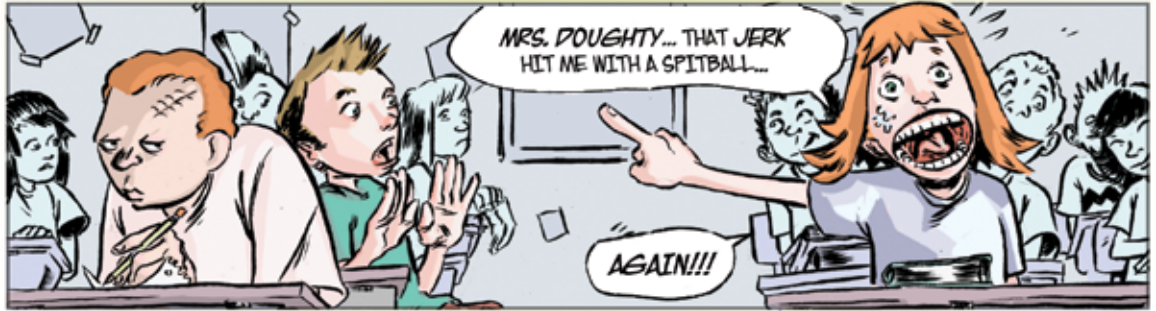








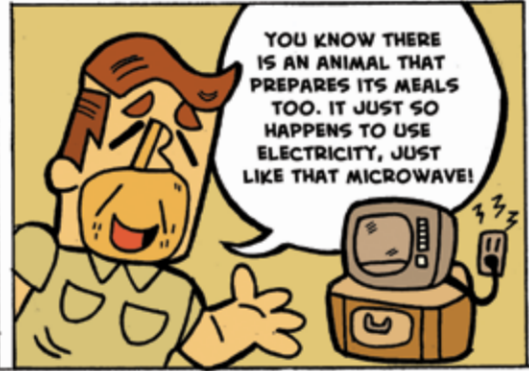
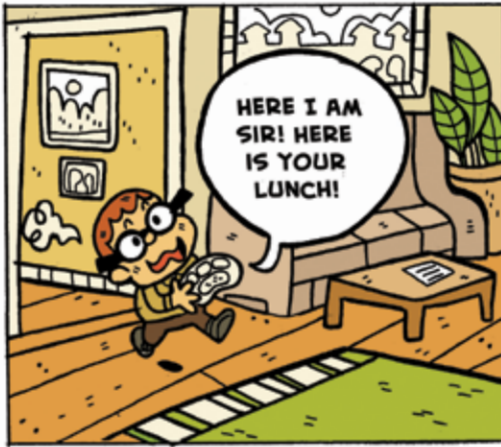
# WHAT IF MR. KILSOME IS A MONSTER

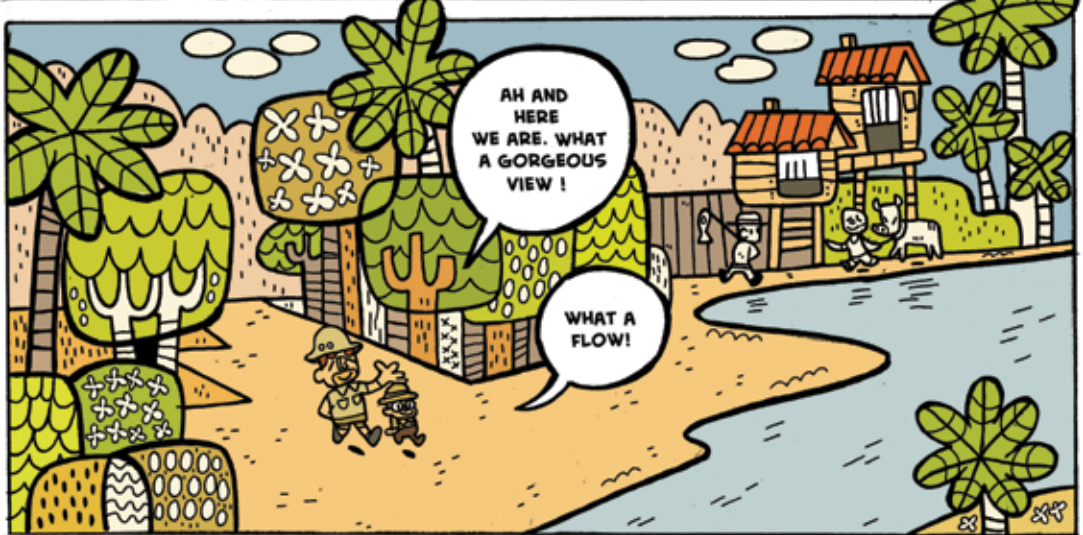


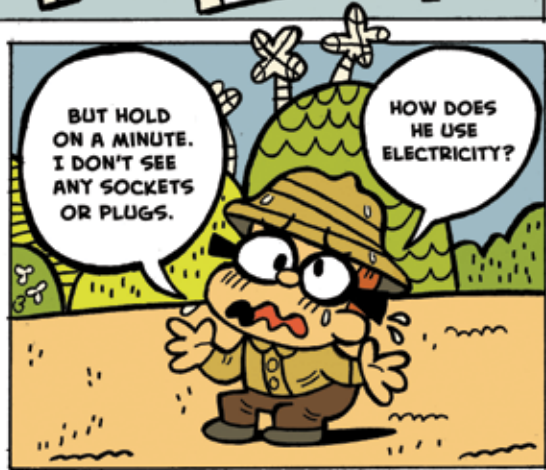
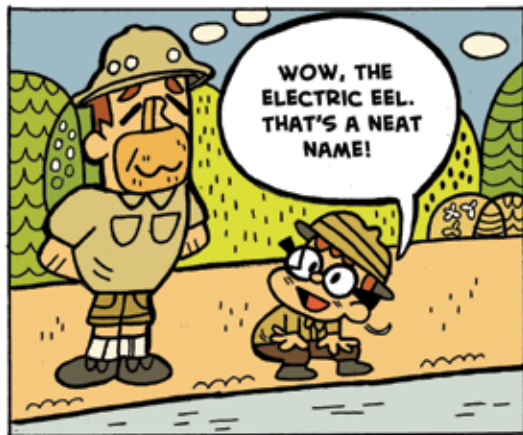
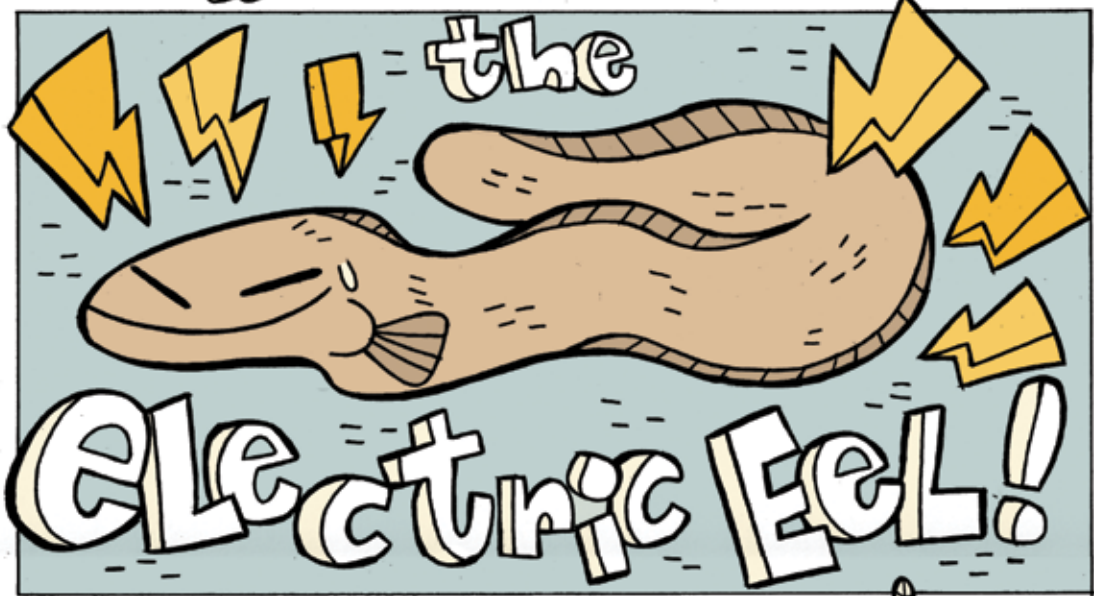
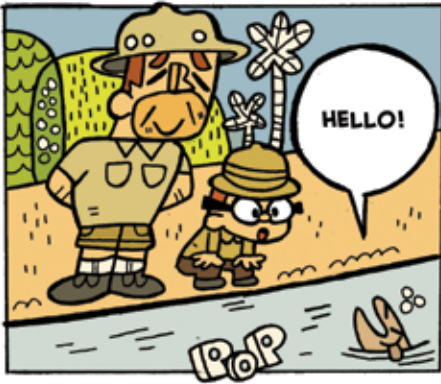


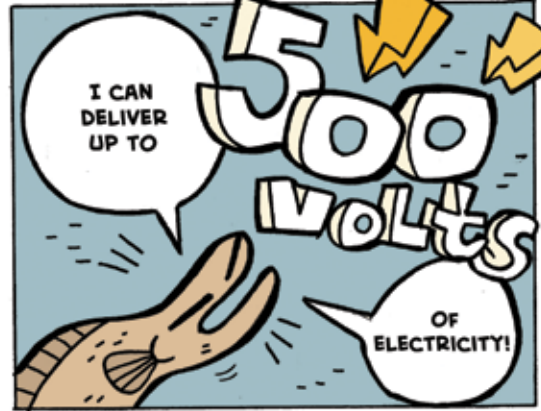
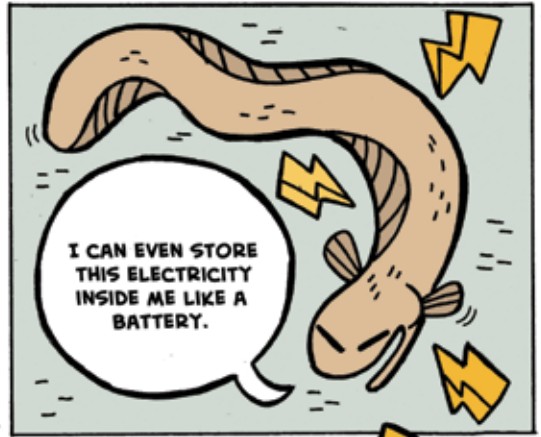
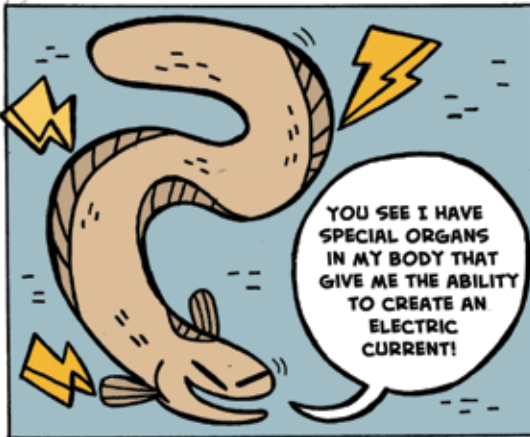


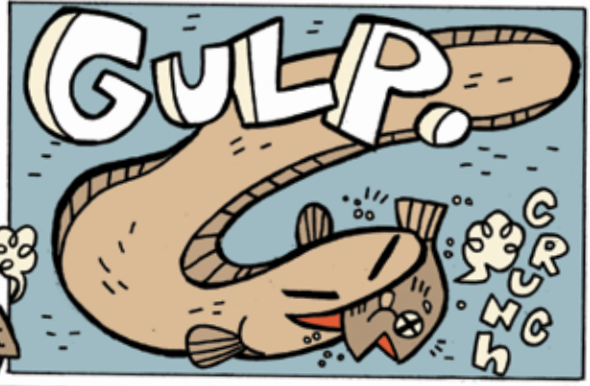
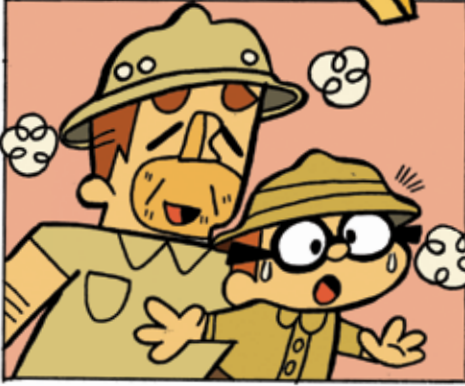


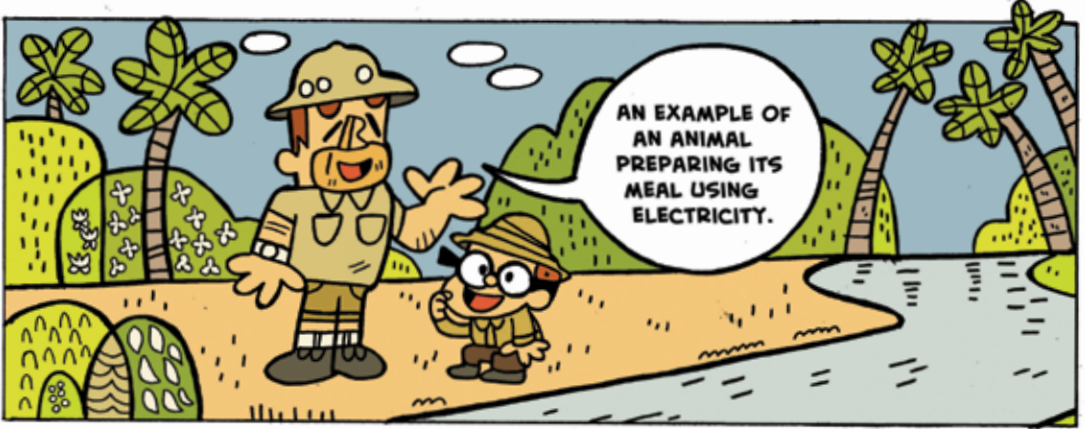














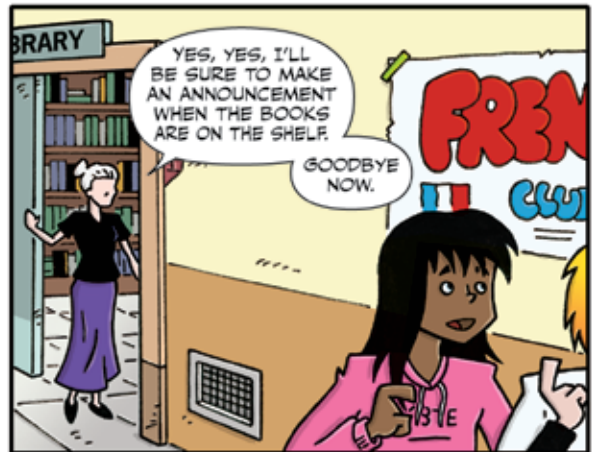
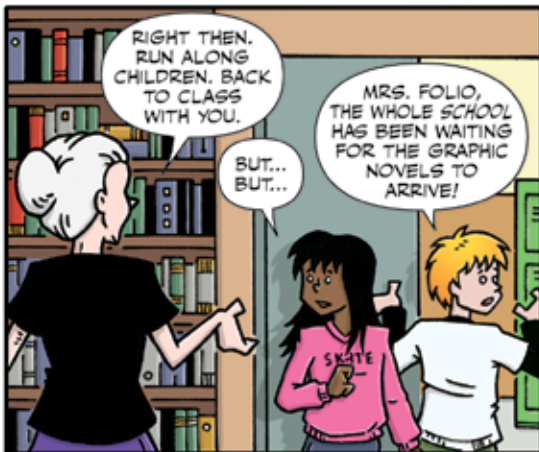
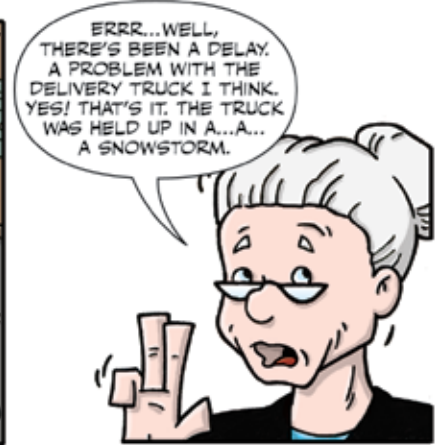
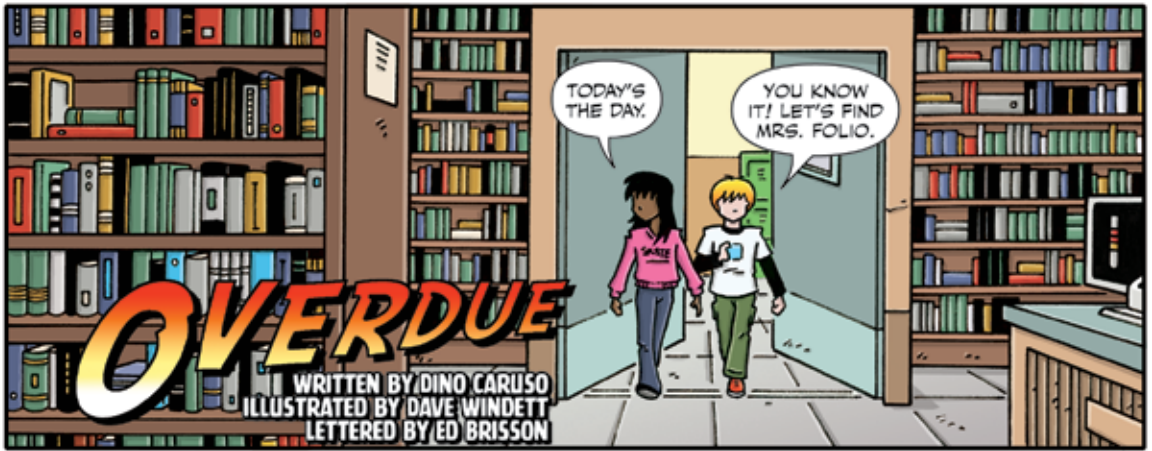
Writer: Steve Horton • Artist: Jeong Mo Yang • Colorist: Ian Sokolowski • Letterers: Dave Lanphear & Johnny Lowe











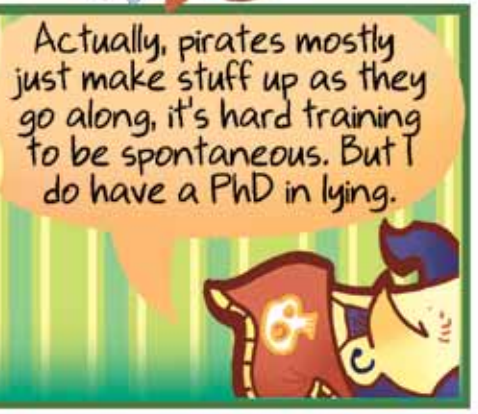


# PIRATE PENGUIN VERSUS NINJA CHICKEN

in:

# Fancy Book LEARNIN'





Hello, Kung-Fu Koala's Martial Arts Academy and Chandelier Repair? Yes! I want to sign up my friend Pirate Penguin for your Advanced Fencing Class! Oh, I see.

He says Pirates are ugly and smelly and always break all the equipment, so he charges double.

Tell him I said 'So's his face!'

He says 'So's your face!' Uh-huh. He says that no, his face isn't, and that now he charges four times as much.



Well, NC, it's your money, if you want to spend 4X as much, it's up to you.

I'm not paying! They're your learning lessons, why should I pay?

Because it was my birthday last month! Besides, where are we going to find some place that gives away info for free?



Tada!

I meant TV. Like, the sword fighting channel!

That's not a real channel.

But it totally should be!



Books are better than TV anyway.

WHAT?!? I disagree entirely and challenge you to a fight to the death.



YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT PROPERLY. Yet.

Let's go inside yonder bookatorium, and find an encyclopedia of fencing, because Knowledge is PowerTM!

Who's Power-Tim?



I'm Power Tim.

But you're a librarian.

Librarian's can be powerful.

But you're a lady. A female lady.



Female ladies can be named Tim.

But...



Shh! Btw, Mr. Penguin, here's a book on sword-fightery, complete with full-color illustrations.

Cool, look at all the blood!







## BONUS LEARNING ADVENTURES!

**Librarian Lady POWER TIM**  
 sez: Build your vocabulary! Circle all the words in this story you didn't understand (including the made up ones) and go look them up in the dictionary! It's like a scavenger hunt! It's fun! Kinda!



**PIRATE PENGUIN** Sez: Go find a book on how to make your own pirate hat, then, make one!  
 Go go go!



**NINJA CHICKEN** Sez: Ninjas are so sneaky, that this activity is hiding. If you can find it, you get 20 bonus ninja points.



The moral of this story is: don't throw books at people, they don't like it.

Also, only swing from chandeliers if you're a fully trained pirate.

Also also, don't lick library books. Unless they're printed with ice cream ink.

# Visual Cues

WRITTEN BY DAVID FAROZ PRECHT  
ART BY CHO YOUN CHUL

WE MOVED TO SEOUL IN NOVEMBER AFTER GETTING MARRIED IN AUGUST.

MY WIFE, LINDSAY, GOT A JOB TEACHING ENGLISH AT A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR "HAGWAN" WITH A RECESSION GOING ON, JUMPING AT ANY JOB ANYWHERE, SEEMED LIKE A GOOD PLAN.

LONDON AND NEW YORK WERE SPRAWLING, BUT THEY DIDN'T BEGIN TO COMPARE TO THE DENSELY PACKED STREETS AND ALLEYS OF SEOUL. WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE CULTURE OR LANGUAGE, IT'S EASY TO GET LOST.

WOAH...

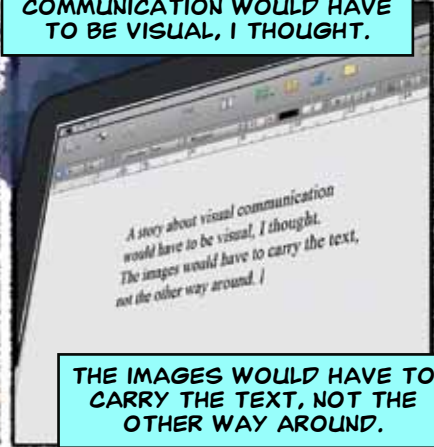
WE LEARNED TO LOOK FOR VISUAL CUES.

I HAD BEEN OFFERED THE CHANCE TO WRITE A STORY FOR THIS ANTHOLOGY THE WEEK BEFORE LINDSAY AND I ARRIVED IN SEOUL.



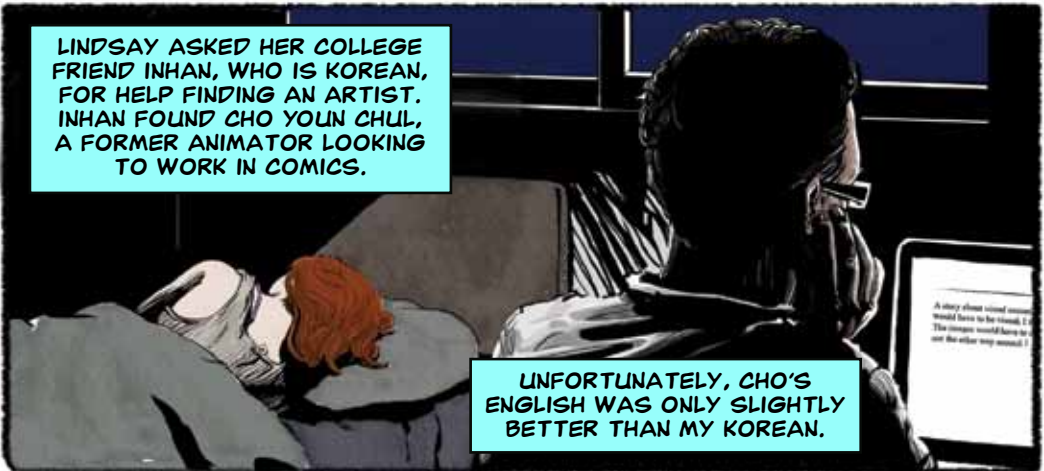
I WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCES IN KOREA.

A STORY ABOUT VISUAL COMMUNICATION WOULD HAVE TO BE VISUAL, I THOUGHT.



THE IMAGES WOULD HAVE TO CARRY THE TEXT, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

LINDSAY ASKED HER COLLEGE FRIEND INHAN, WHO IS KOREAN, FOR HELP FINDING AN ARTIST. INHAN FOUND CHO YOUNG CHUL, A FORMER ANIMATOR LOOKING TO WORK IN COMICS.



UNFORTUNATELY, CHO'S ENGLISH WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN MY KOREAN.

IS THIS SOY SAUCE OR OYSTER SAUCE?



WHAT? NO. TALKING TO MYSELF. I WANT... EUROPEAN STYLE FOR THE PANELS.

RIGHT, THE EUROPEAN KIND.

NO, NOT IN THE PANELS.

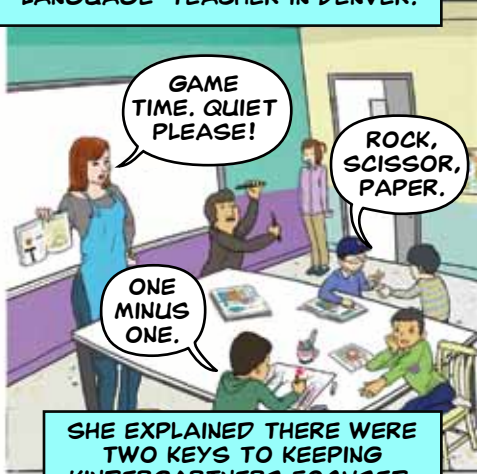


COMPLEX, DETAILED DRAWINGS... YES...WHAT?

OKAY...OKAY, WE WILL TALK WHEN WE MEET. YEAH.

IT BECAME CLEAR THAT OUR MEETINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE ONE PART ENGLISH LESSON. SPEAKING OF WHICH...

LINDSAY'S MOM WORKS AS AN ESL-OR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE-TEACHER IN DENVER.



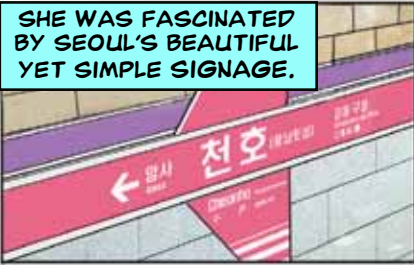
SHE EXPLAINED THERE WERE TWO KEYS TO KEEPING KINDERGARTNERS FOCUSED.

GAMES AND PICTURES, AND IF YOU CAN PUT THEM TOGETHER, YOU'VE SUCCEEDED.



ONE DAY, LINDSAY TOLD ME THAT SHE WANTED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO STUDY DESIGN.

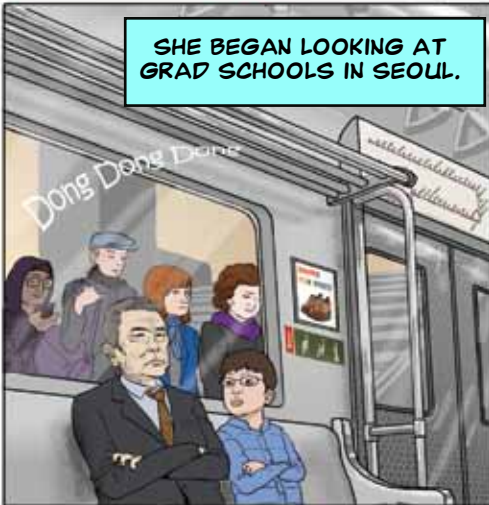
SHE WAS FASCINATED BY SEOUL'S BEAUTIFUL YET SIMPLE SIGNAGE.



NOT LIKE WHAT YOU'D SEE IN MY HOMETOWN OF CHICAGO - WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON WORDS OVER PICTURES.

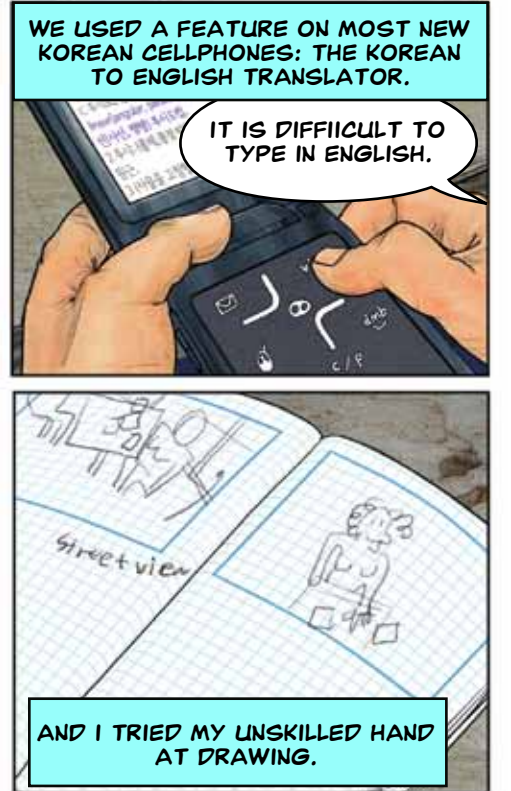


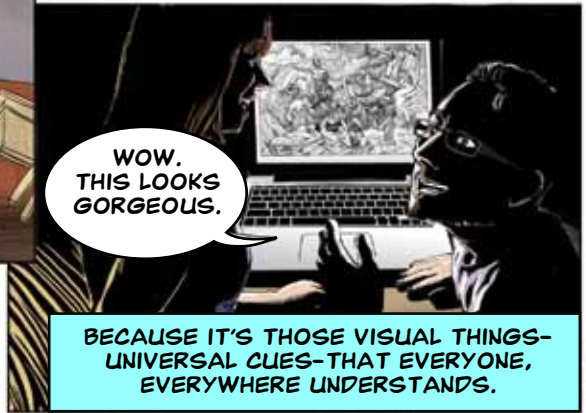
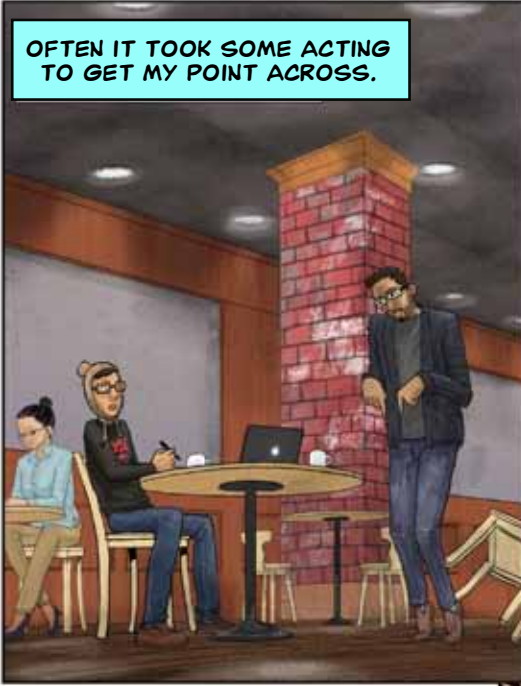
SHE BEGAN LOOKING AT GRAD SCHOOLS IN SEOUL.



BUT SHE'D NEED TO LEARN KOREAN FIRST.







PEOPLE SAY MATH IS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE. I SAY IT'S VISUALS-PICTURES.



THAT IS AWESOME.

WOW... GOOD?



KEEPING YOUR MIND OPEN TO VISUAL CUES, TO THE WORLD AROUND YOU...



...SHRINKS THE WORLD. MAKES IT MORE MANAGEABLE.

LIKE A VISUAL WORLD SHOULD BE.



SEEING.



UNDERSTANDING.

이거 얼마예요?

# The Whiteboard

a cartoon poem

HAROLD BUCHHOLZ



My heart skips a beat  
as I rise from my seat.  
I'm among the elite  
who get  
to write  
on the whiteboard!

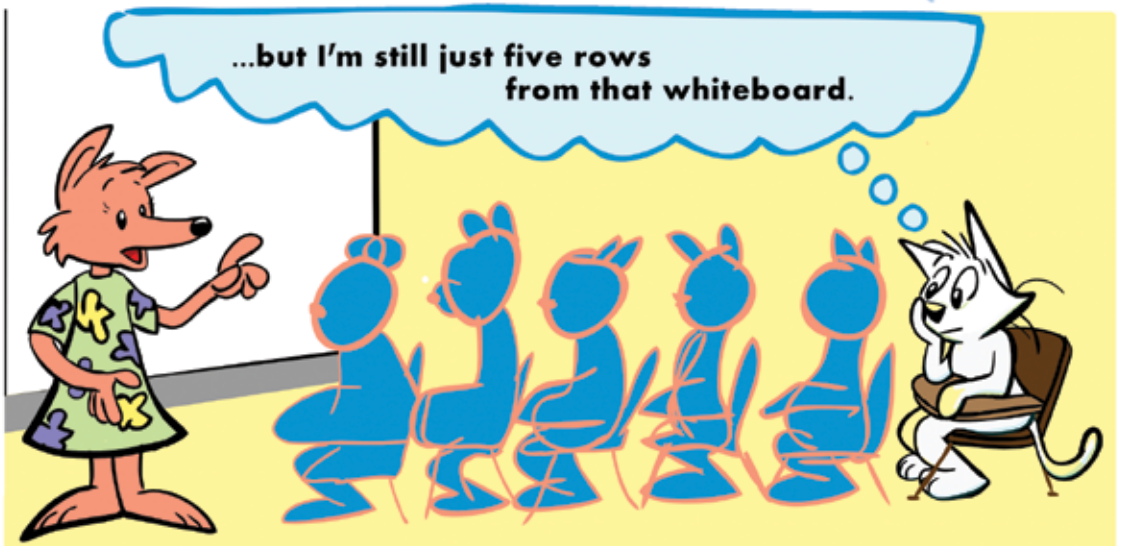
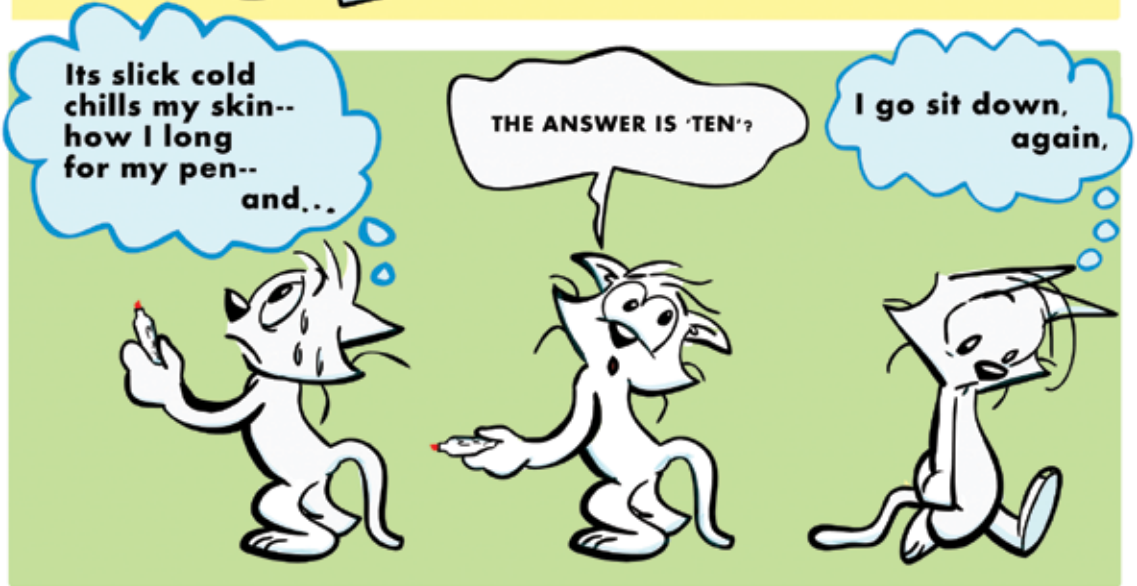
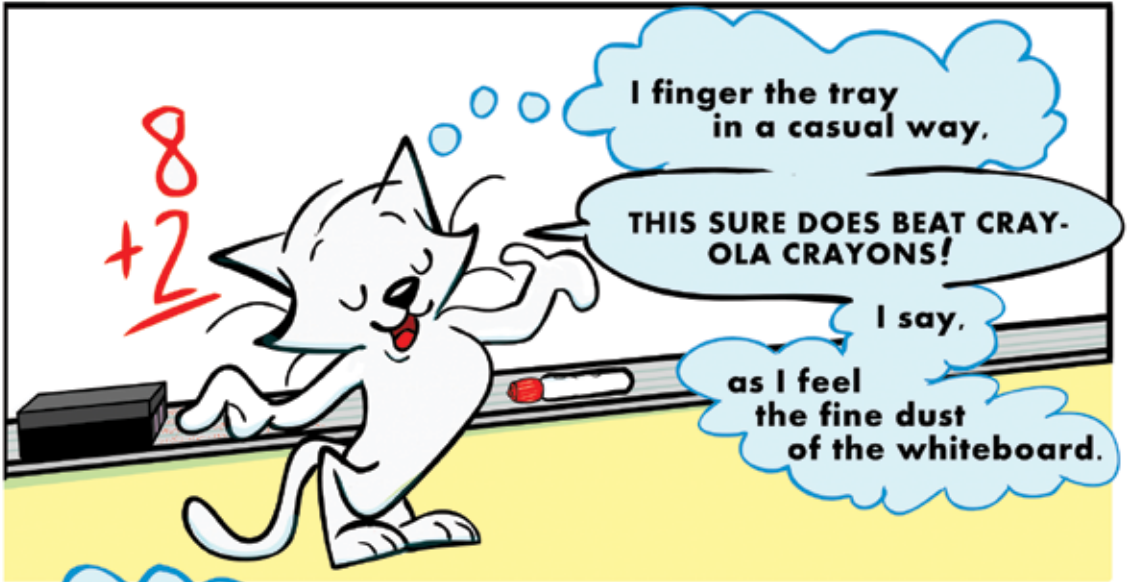


From my rear desk I go,  
moving past Jen,  
then Joe,



...is Miss Hooper my foe?  
Only she's  
between me  
and that whiteboard!









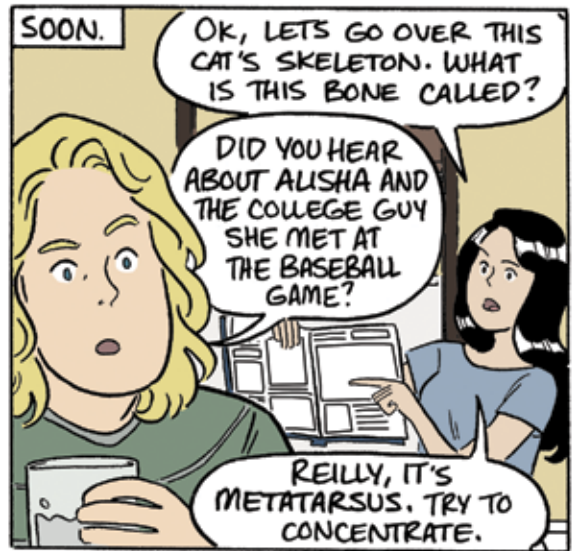
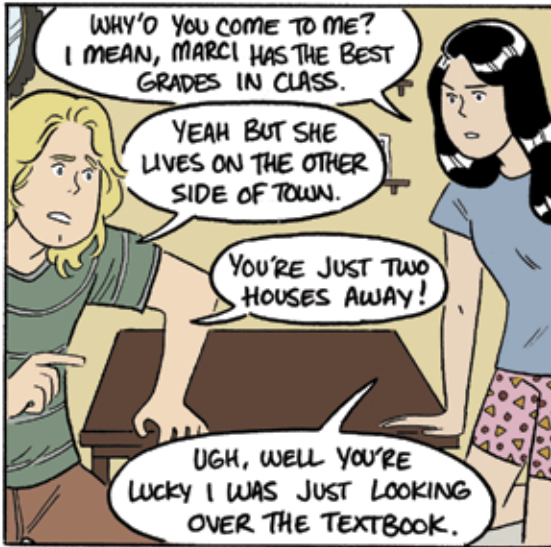


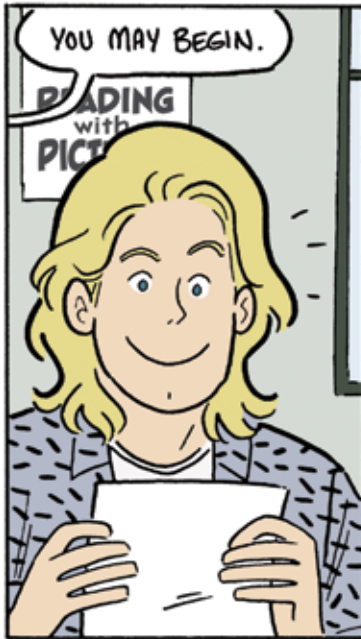
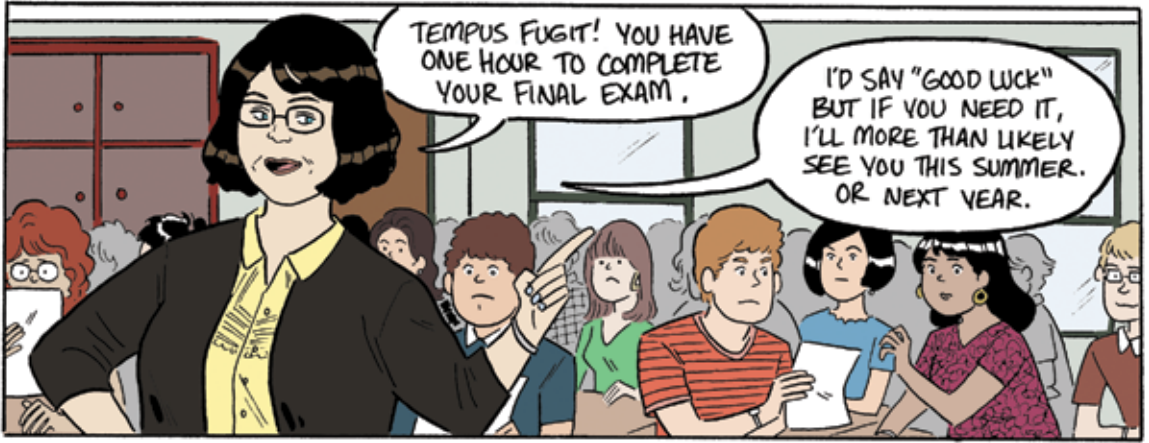


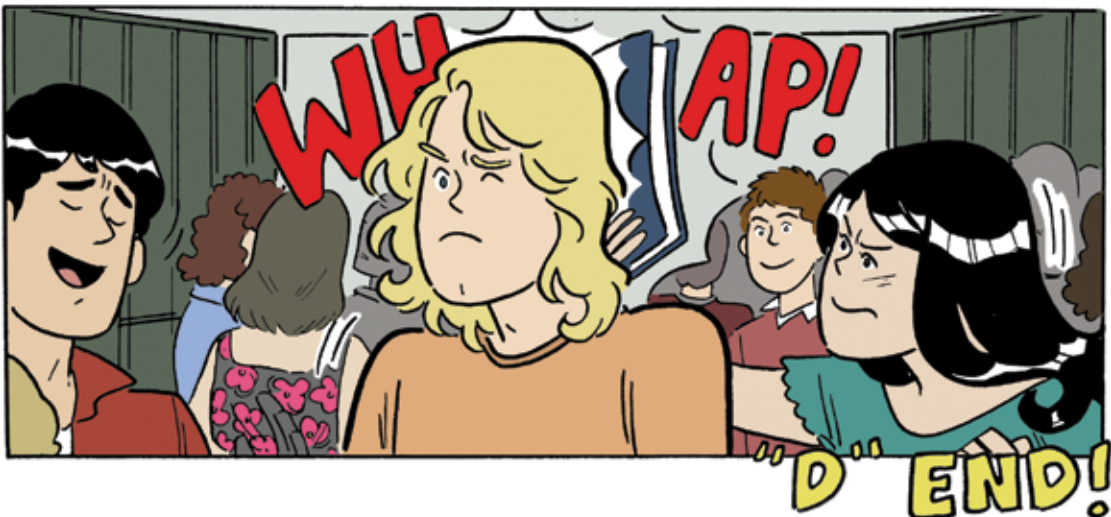


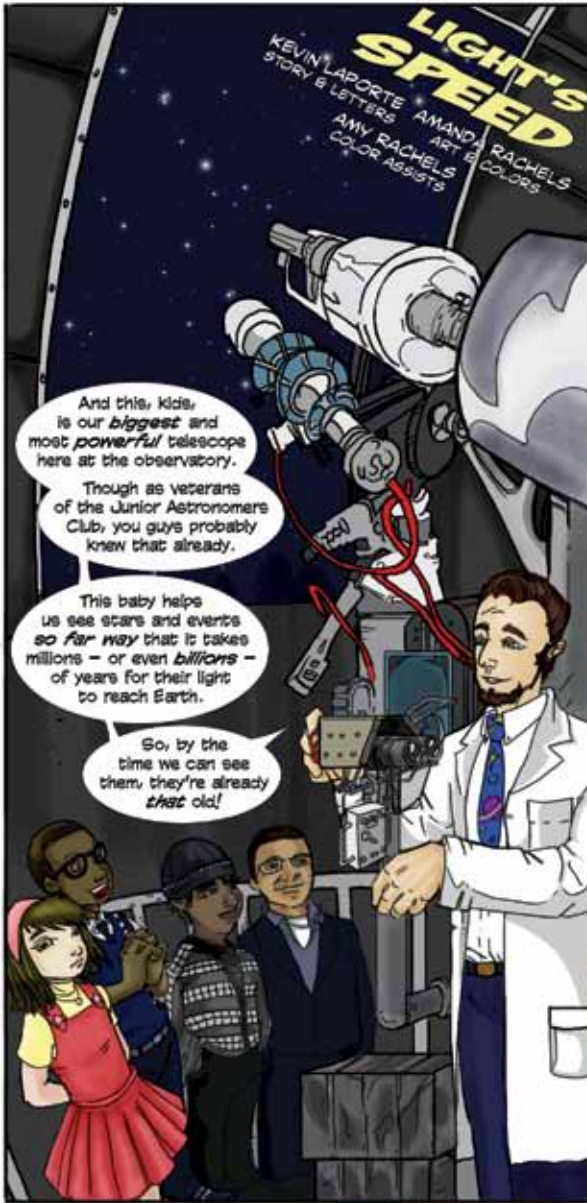






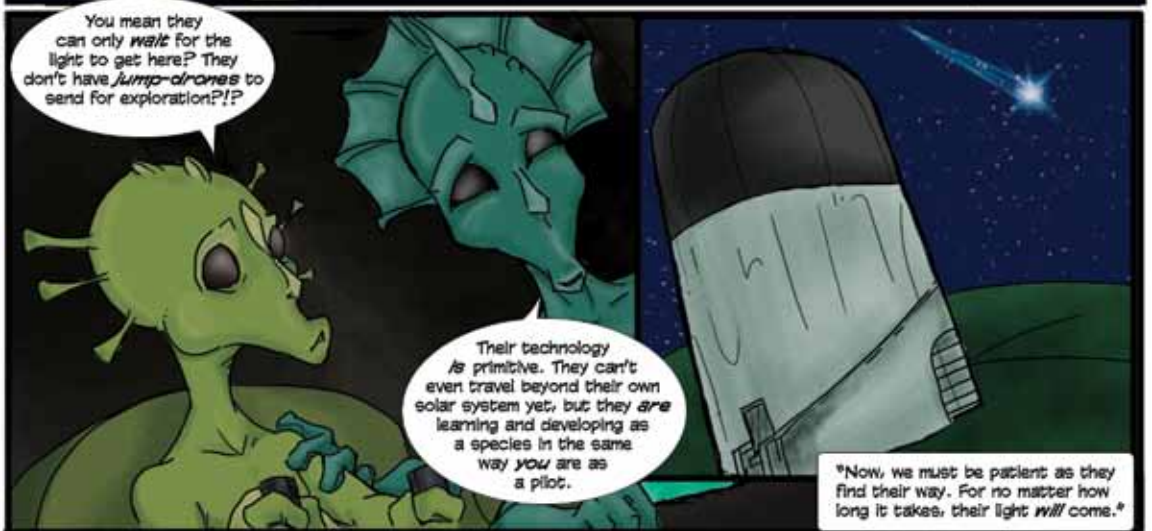
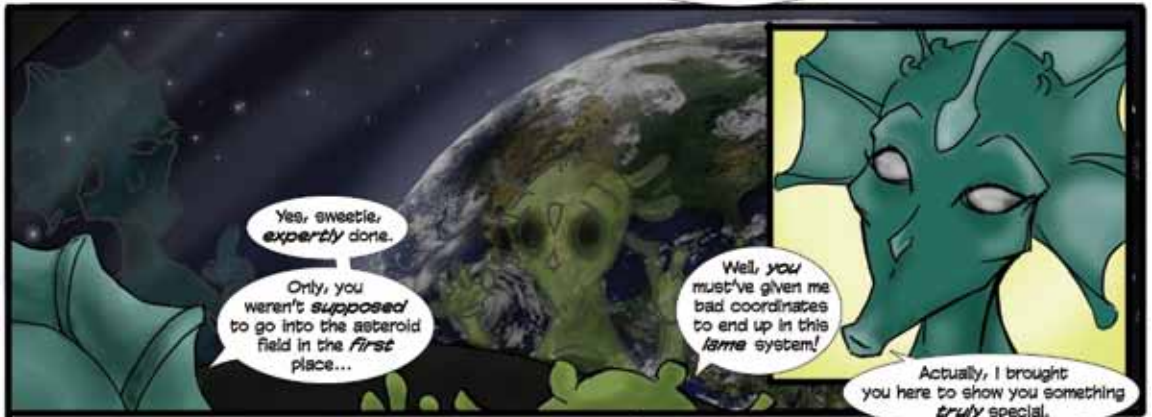












# PANDORA

## CELEBRITY SUPERHEROINE

In "Asking the Right Questions"

story: Josh Elder art: Jen Brazas letters: Steve Wallace

Pandora is the most famous 16-year-old on the planet. She's on the cover of every magazine and gets invited to all the best parties. Oh, and she's also a superhero. You know, in her spare time...

"YESTERDAY WE DISCUSSED HOW TO SAFELY STOP A RUNAWAY TRAIN..."

...THROUGH THE PROPER APPLICATION OF NEWTON'S LAWS OF MOTION.

TODAY I AM GOING TO TEACH YOU ABOUT FARADAY'S THEORY OF ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION AND HOW IT CAN BE USED TO HELP YOU DEAL WITH TECHNOLOGY-BASED THREATS.

### PROFESSORTRON

**Origin:** Advanced artificial intelligence  
**Powers:** Digital Intellect  
**Hobbies:** Chess, Astrophysics and Swing Dancing

THE ENEMY

AND AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING IMMODEST, YOU CARBON-BASED LIFEFORMS NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET.

AS THE TERM "ELECTROMAGNETISM" IMPLIES, AN ELECTRIC CHARGE GENERATES A MAGNETIC FIELD AND VICE VERSA.

SUFFICIENTLY POWERFUL BURSTS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING, A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OR A SOLAR FLARE CAN GENERATE A POWERFUL PULSE OF ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY.

THE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE DISRUPTS ALL NEARBY MAGNETIC FIELDS, CAUSING CATASTROPHIC CURRENT AND VOLTAGE SURGES IN UNSHIELDED ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS.

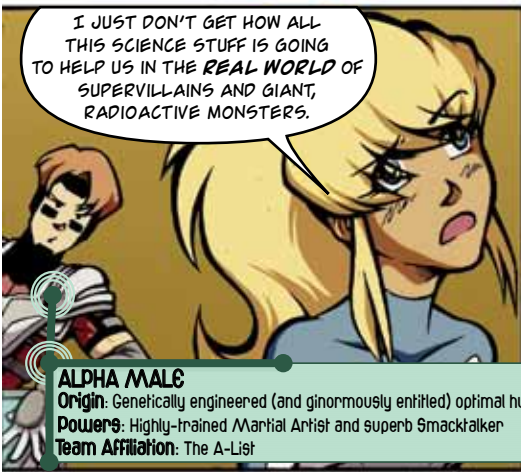


**PANDORA PERFECT**

**Origin:** Daughter of the science-enhanced Prometheus Perfect and the magic-empowered Lady Valkyrie

**Powers:** Flight, Superstrength, Superspeed, Invulnerability and the ability to properly Accessorize any outfit

**Personality:** A little flighty, but her heart is in the right place



**ALPHA MALE**

**Origin:** Genetically engineered (and ginormously entitled) optimal human

**Powers:** Highly-trained Martial Artist and superb Smacktalker

**Team Affiliation:** The A-List



**INGENOVA**

**Origin:** Intergalactic princess-in-exile from the Antares Nebula

**Powers:** Solar-Powered Flight and Energy Blasts

**Talents:** Acting, Modeling and Snobbery

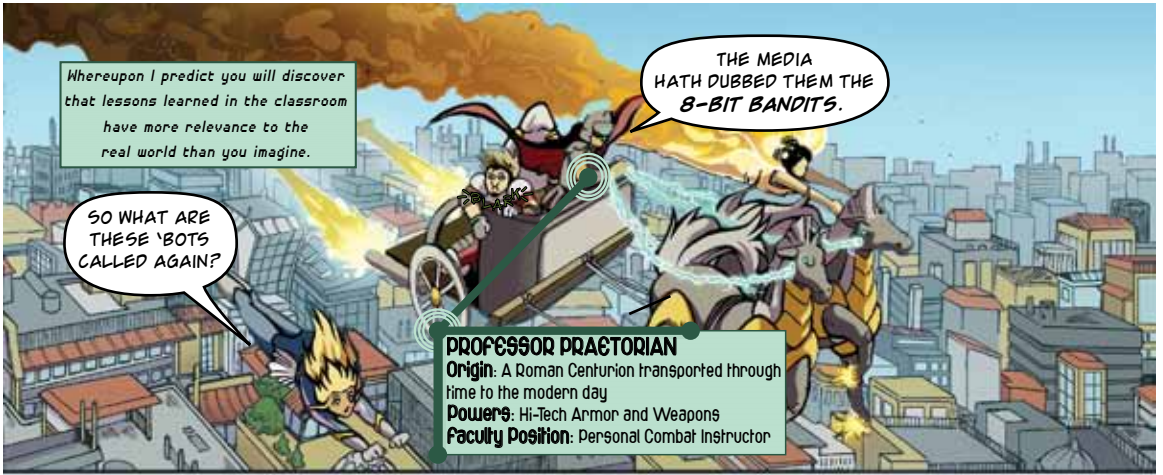
**B-Boy**

**Origin:** Cybernetically augmented by his record label to be fresher, flyer, more dope

**Powers:** Superhuman Agility and Quickness

**Debut Album:** *Straight Outta Gotham* feat. Kid Awesome





Whereupon I predict you will discover that lessons learned in the classroom have more relevance to the real world than you imagine.

THE MEDIA HATH DUBBED THEM THE 8-BIT BANDITS.

SO WHAT ARE THESE 'BOTS CALLED AGAIN?

**PROFESSOR PRAETORIAN**  
Origin: A Roman Centurion transported through time to the modern day  
Powers: Hi-Tech Armor and Weapons  
Faculty Position: Personal Combat Instructor



"THEY STEAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL COMPONENTS AT THE BEHEST OF THEIR VILE CREATOR, THE VILLAINOUS NERDCORE."

HOW ARE YOU GENTLEMEN?

ALL YOUR BASE...

...ARE BELONG TO US.

YOU ARE ON THE WAY TO DESTRUCTION.

WHAT YOU SAY?

YOU HAVE NO CHANCE TO SURVIVE.

MAKE YOUR TIME.

HAHAHA

FWOOOSH



'TIS THEIR THIRD SUCH ACT OF BRIGANDRY IN AS MANY WEEKS. AND BY JUPITER, I SWEAR 'T WILL BE THEIR LAST!

NOW TO BATTLE!

YEAH! IT IS ON!



AND REMEMBER -- YOUR PERFORMANCE THIS DAY COUNTS AS 20 PERCENT OF YOUR FINAL GRADE!



SO HEROTEEEN MAGAZINE RECENTLY NAMED ME AMERICA'S HOTTEST YOUNG SUPERHEROINE.

I'LL GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES AS TO WHY.

STOP HITTING YOURSELF! STOP HITTING YOURSELF!

♪ YOU THINK I'M DOWN, BUT I'LL COME OUT ON TOP! ♪

♪ YOU SAY IT'S DONE, BUT I'LL NEVER STOP! ♪

VERILY, THERE DOETH BE NOTHING I LOVE MORE THAN SLAYING DRAGONS! E'EN MECHANICAL ONES!

♪ YOU GOT TO LEARN! ♪

♪ THAT THIS BEAT DON'T DROP. ♪

CRACK!

YOU LEAVE MY FANS ALONE, YOU ROBO-JERK!

OF COURSE YOU CAN! JUST GIVE ME ONE SECOND...

PANDORA! WAIT!

CAN WE GET AN AUTOGRAPH?

TO MY BIGGEST FAN...

PANDORA!!! EEEEEEE!!!

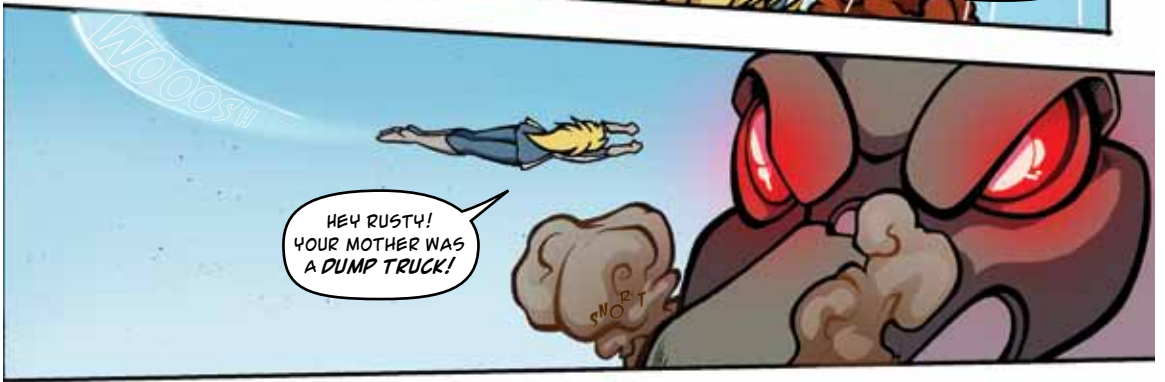
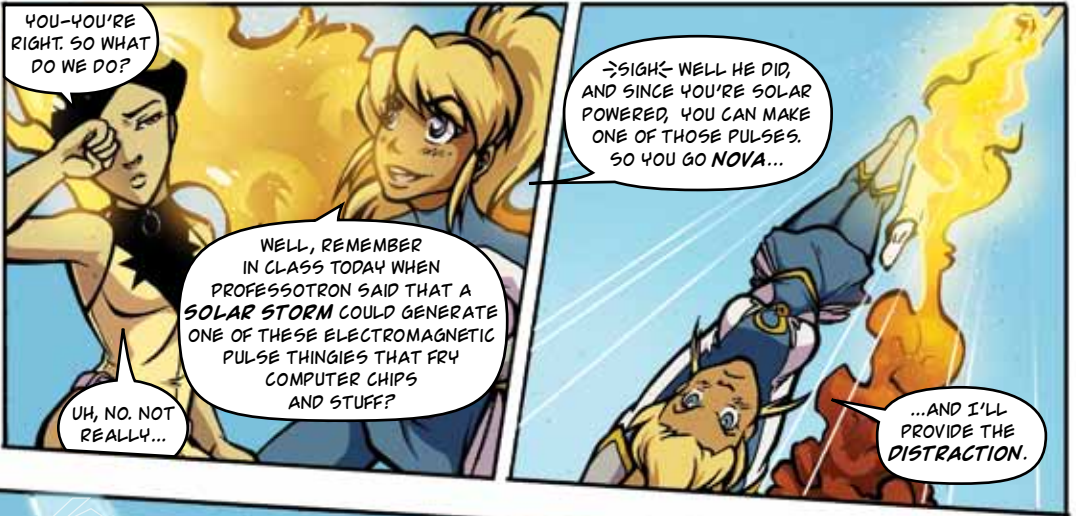
I'M NEVER WASHING THIS ARM AGAIN!

ME NEXT! ME NEXT!













# COMICS & THE CLASSROOM.

## A MATCH MADE IN HISTORY!

COMIC BOOKS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS ARE INCREASINGLY BEING USED IN CLASSROOMS AT ALL LEVELS, ALL AROUND THE WORLD!



THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO SURPRISING, SINCE COMICS IN AMERICA HAVE BEEN INTERTWINED WITH EDUCATION FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!

a **COMIC BOOK COMIC**  
by Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavy

IN FACT, THE COMIC BOOK AS WE KNOW IT WAS PRACTICALLY *INVENTED* BY AN EDUCATOR -- MAXWELL C. GAINES, A FORMER BRONX HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL!

SINCE THE FIRST COMIC STRIPS APPEARED IN THE 1890S, KIDS HAD BEEN THROWING OUT EVERY *OTHER* SECTION OF THE NEWSPAPER TO GET TO THEIR BELOVED "FUNNIES."



BUT IT WOULDN'T BE UNTIL 1933 THAT SOMEONE HIT ON THE IDEA OF SELLING PERIODICALS THAT WERE NOTHING *BUT* COMICS DIRECTLY TO KIDS!

GAINES SLAPPED 10-CENT STICKERS ON *FAMOUS FUNNIES*, A PROMOTIONAL GIVEAWAY REPRINTING POPULAR STRIPS, LEFT THEM AT VARIOUS NEW YORK CITY NEWSSTANDS OVER A WEEKEND ...



...AND WAS STUNNED TO DISCOVER THEY **SOLD OUT BY MONDAY!**



GAINES REMAINED A **TEACHER** AT HEART, THOUGH. USING THE MONEY HE MADE IN THE SUPER HERO FIELD HE FOUNDED A NEW PUBLISHER IN 1946, **EDUCATIONAL COMICS, OR EC.**

GAINES SOON BEGAN PRODUCING **ORIGINAL** COMIC BOOK MATERIAL. A STRIP HE BOUGHT FROM TWO RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN CLEVELAND, "**SUPERMAN**" BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JERRY SHUSTER, PROVED TO BE THE MEGA-HIT THAT PUT COMICS ON THE MAP COMMERCIALY IN 1938!



"I DON'T CARE **HOW LONG** IT TOOK MOSES TO CROSS THE DESERT!

"I WANT IT IN **THREE PANELS!**"\*



\* **ACTUAL QUOTE!**

EC'S FIRST TITLES INCLUDED **PICTURE STORIES FROM AMERICAN HISTORY** AND **PICTURE STORIES FROM THE BIBLE**, ALL PRODUCED TO MAX'S NOTORIOUSLY (COUGH) **COST-CONSCIOUS** STANDARDS...



**PICTURE STORIES FROM WORLD HISTORY** AND **PICTURE STORIES FROM SCIENCE** SOON FOLLOWED, BUT, ALAS, NONE SOLD VERY WELL.

THEN, TRAGICALLY, MAX AND A FRIEND WERE KILLED IN A **BOAT COLLISION** ON NEW YORK'S LAKE PLACID IN 1947.



MAX'S TWENTY-FIVE YEAR OLD SON **BILL** -- ABOUT TO BECOME A **CHEMISTRY TEACHER** HIMSELF -- INHERITED HIS DAD'S BUSINESS.

HE WANTED TO STAY IN **EDUCATION**, BUT HIS MOTHER **BEGGED** HIM TO TRY AND KEEP THE COMPANY AFLOAT, FOR IT WAS ALL THEY HAD LEFT OF HIS FATHER.



**BILL GAINES** TURNED EC AROUND BY CHANGING ITS NAME TO **ENTERTAINING COMICS** AND CRANKING OUT GORY HORROR TITLES LIKE **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** THAT SOON MADE IT FAMOUS!

UNFORTUNATELY, **TOC** AND THE OTHER EC SMASH-HIT, **MAD MAGAZINE**, DID NOTHING TO DISPEL GAINES' FELLOW TEACHERS' **SUSPICIONS** ABOUT COMICS.



AS EARLY AS 1942 HORRIFIED ARTICLES LIKE "THE PLAGUE OF THE COMICS" BEGAN APPEARING IN **ELEMENTARY ENGLISH REVIEW** AND OTHER TEACHERS' JOURNALS.

BY 1948, **BOTH** THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION WERE CALLING FOR **FEDERAL REGULATION** OF THE INDUSTRY!

THE HYSTERIA WAS **UNDERSTANDABLE** IN THE SENSE THAT COMIC BOOKS WERE AMONG THE FIRST MASS MEDIA TO BE MARKETED DIRECTLY **TO CHILDREN**, AS OPPOSED **TO PARENTS** TO BUY **FOR** THEIR KIDS.

AT A **DIME** A POP, KIDS COULD BUY COMICS WITH THEIR OWN MONEY AND ENJOY THEM WITHOUT A **TRACE** OF ADULT SUPERVISION.

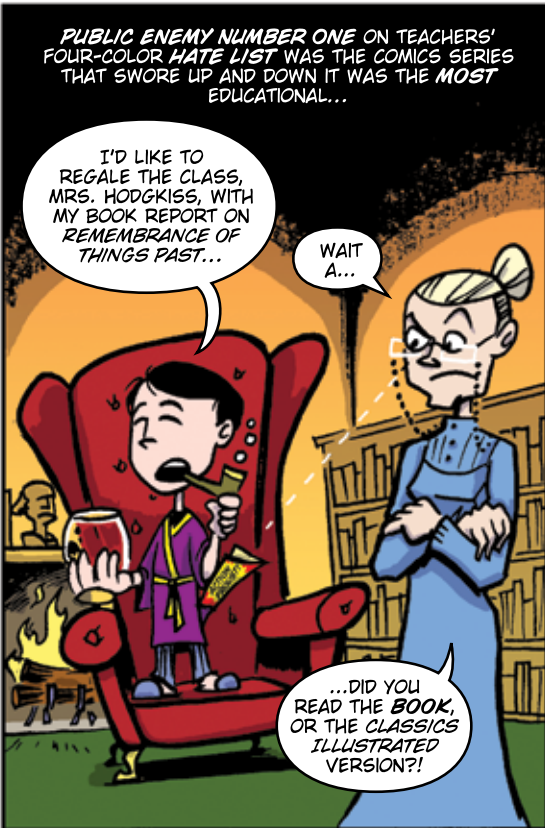


**PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE** ON TEACHERS' **FOUR-COLOR HATE LIST** WAS THE COMICS SERIES THAT SWORE UP AND DOWN IT WAS THE **MOST EDUCATIONAL...**

I'D LIKE TO REGALE THE CLASS, MRS. HODGKISS, WITH MY BOOK REPORT ON REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST...

WAIT A...

...DID YOU READ THE **BOOK**, OR THE **CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED** VERSION?!

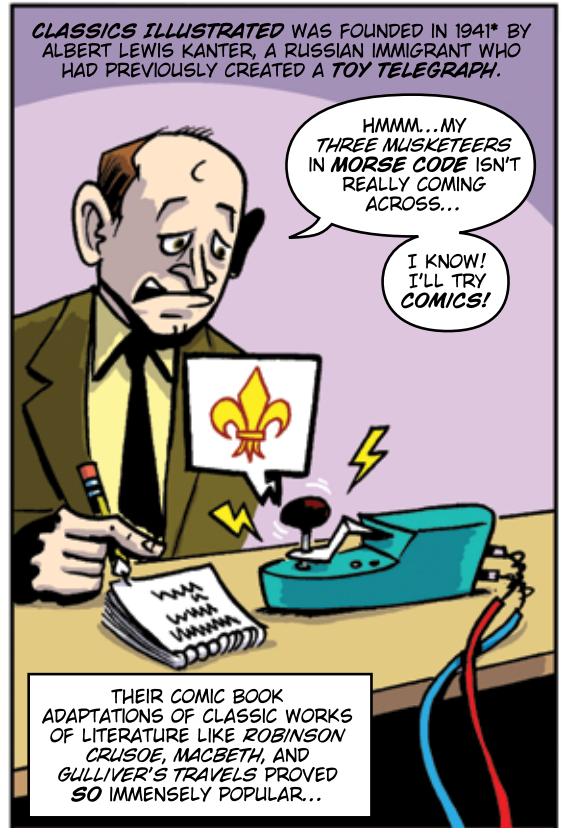


**CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED** WAS FOUNDED IN 1941\* BY ALBERT LEWIS KANTER, A RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY CREATED A **TOY TELEGRAPH**.

HMMM... MY **THREE MUSKETEERS** IN **MORSE CODE** ISN'T REALLY COMING ACROSS...

I KNOW! I'LL TRY **COMICS!**

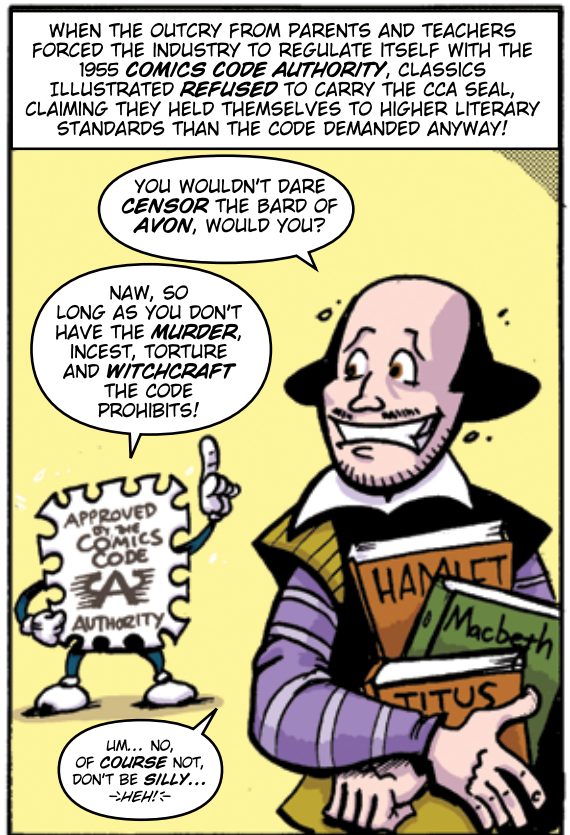
THEIR COMIC BOOK ADAPTATIONS OF CLASSIC WORKS OF LITERATURE LIKE **ROBINSON CRUSOE**, **MACBETH**, AND **GULLIVER'S TRAVELS** PROVED **SO IMMENSELY POPULAR...**



\*ORIGINALLY CLASSICS COMICS; THE NAME CHANGED IN 1947, PROBABLY TO AVOID ADULTS' GROWING OUTCRY AGAINST ALL THINGS COMICS-Y.



...THAT THEY WENT THROUGH MULTIPLE **REPRINTINGS** (UNHEARD OF FOR COMICS IN THOSE DAYS) AND ALLOWED KIDS IN **TWO DOZEN COUNTRIES** TO CHEAT ON BOOK REPORTS IN **NINE LANGUAGES!**



WHEN THE OUTCRY FROM PARENTS AND TEACHERS FORCED THE INDUSTRY TO REGULATE ITSELF WITH THE 1955 **COMICS CODE AUTHORITY**, CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED **REFUSED** TO CARRY THE CCA SEAL, CLAIMING THEY HELD THEMSELVES TO HIGHER LITERARY STANDARDS THAN THE CODE DEMANDED ANYWAY!

"IN A WORLD OF **BAD COMICS**, WE WERE THE **BEST**," SNIFFED CLASSICS EDITOR AND WRITER MEYER KAPLIN.

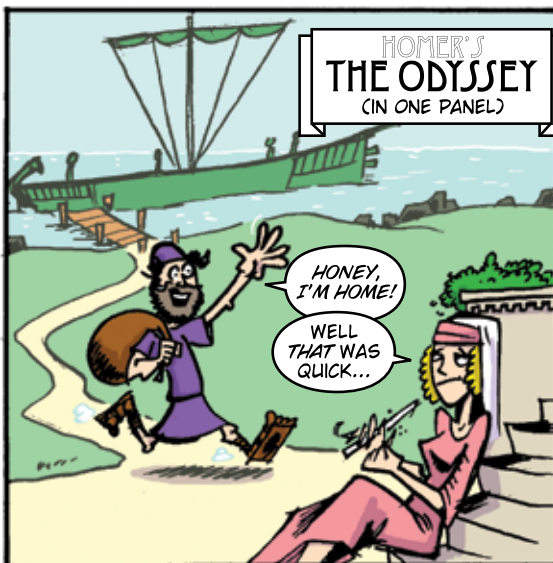
"WE WERE THE **CLEANEST**, WE WERE THE MOST **RESEARCHED**, AND, WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF OUR PAGE LENGTH, AS **FAITHFUL** TO THE ORIGINAL AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE."

THOUGH REDUCING 400- AND 500-PAGE PROSE NOVELS TO, ON AVERAGE, **48 PAGES** OF COMIC BOOK MEANT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MATERIAL HAD TO BE... **TRUNCATED...**

ALL KIDDING ASIDE, CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED CAN BE CREDITED WITH AWAKENING A LOVE OF LITERATURE IN **MILLIONS** OF KIDS.

CIRCULATION PEAKED IN 1960, WHEN THE AVERAGE ADAPTATION ENJOYED A PRINT RUN OF **262,000 COPIES**.

BUT NEW TITLES STOPPED APPEARING IN 1962, DONE IN LARGELY BY COMPETITION FROM **CLIFF'S NOTES**, WHICH DEBUTED IN 1958.



THE U.S. MILITARY FIRST PIONEERED THE USE OF COMICS AS AN ACTUAL **TEACHING TOOL**, THANKS PRIMARILY TO CARTOONIST **WILL EISNER**, WHO WOUND UP AT THE ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT'S **ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND** IN MARYLAND AFTER HE WAS DRAFTED INTO WORLD WAR TWO.

EISNER'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER COMIC BOOK **THE SPIRIT** WAS A POPULAR FEATURE IN THE NEARBY **BALTIMORE SUN**; THE BRASS QUICKLY RECOGNIZED WILL AND MADE HIM ART DIRECTOR OF THE SERVICE MAGAZINE **ARMY MOTORS**.



**ARMY MOTORS** WAS A KEY PART OF ORDNANCE'S ON-GOING EFFORTS TO INURE THE CONCEPT OF **PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE** INTO THE G.I. -- THE IDEA THAT KEEPING ONE'S WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT IN GOOD CONDITION **BEFORE** THEY BROKE WAS MOST EFFICIENT AND SAFEST.

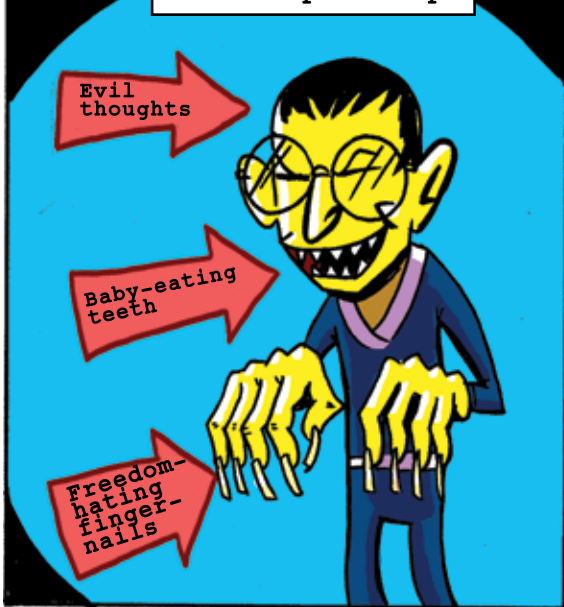


BUT, **PRE-EISNER**, IT WAS, LIKE MOST ARMY PUBLICATIONS, ANTISEPTIC, JARGON-RIDDEN AND **BORING**.

EISNER CONVINCED HIS SUPERIORS TO LET HIM USE **COMICS** TO TEACH PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE WITH HUMOR AND PLAIN LANGUAGE, THEREBY IMPROVING SOLDIERS' COMPREHENSION AND **RETENTION**.

UP UNTIL THIS POINT, THE MILITARY HAD DEEMED COMICS FIT ONLY FOR **PROPAGANDA**-- SUCH AS "**HOW TO SPOT A JAP**," WHICH THE ARMY COMMISSIONED FROM **TERRY AND THE PIRATES** CARTOONIST **MILTON CANIFF**.

"How to Spot a Jap"



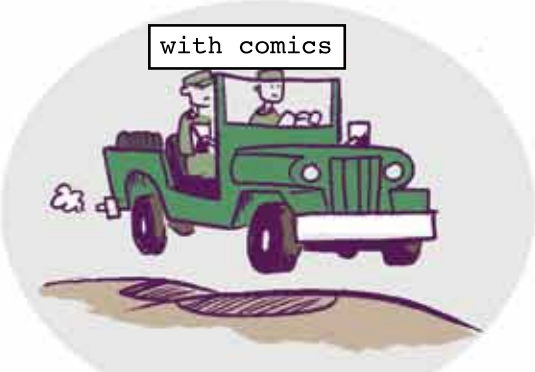
PREDICTABLY, EISNER RAN UP AGAINST THE HIGHER-UPS' RESISTANCE TO **ANYTHING** THAT DEVIATED FROM PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE.

WHAT IS THIS **POPPYCOCK**? ACCIDENT PREVENTION IS **SERIOUS BUSINESS**! YOU CAN'T USE **SILLY DRAWINGS** TO PROMOTE IT!

AND EVEN **WORSE** -- IN YOUR STRIPS YOU **MOCK** SUPERIOR OFFICERS BY INSINUATING **WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!!!**



AS IF VOLUNTEERING TO PROVE WILL'S POINT, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL IN CHARGE OF PRODUCING **TECHNICAL MATERIALS** ARRANGED FOR THE **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO** TO RUN AN **EFFICIENCY TEST** PITTING **STANDARD MANUALS** AGAINST **EISNER'S COMICS**...AND THE **COMICS** WON **HANDILY!**



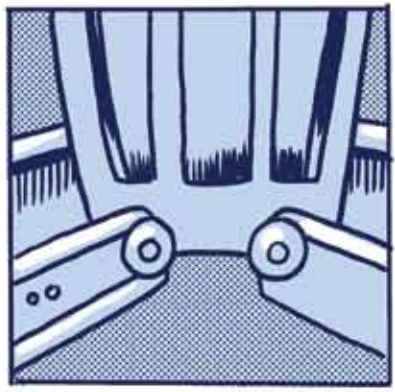
AAAAAAAAAAAA  
RRRRRRRRRRRR  
GGGGGGGGGGGG!



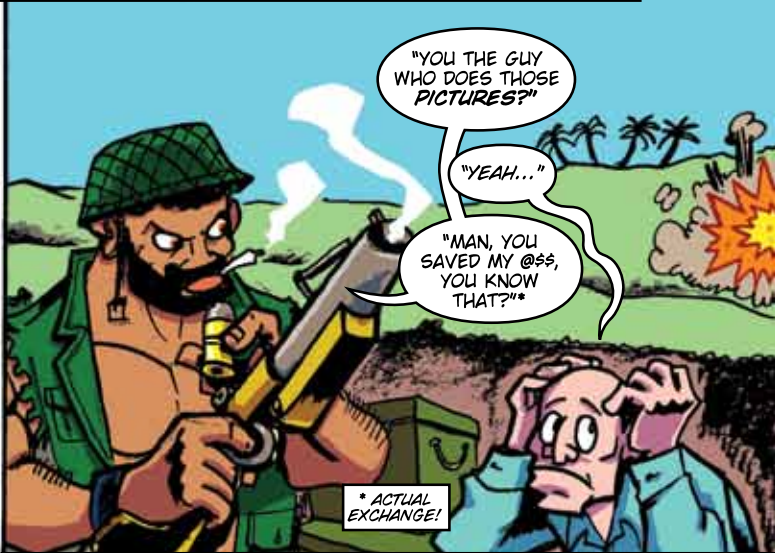
AS HIS BIOGRAPHER BOB ANDELMAN WRITES, "THE RESULTS **REINFORCED** WHAT EISNER BELIEVED TO BE **CHARACTERISTIC** OF THE COMIC STRIP: "THE **EASE** WITH WHICH **IMAGES** DEMONSTRATED **PROCESS**."

THE SAME SEQUENTIAL PROCESS THAT COULD EXPERTLY RENDER THE BACK-AND-FORTH OF A **VAUDEVILLE COMEDY ROUTINE** IN THE **NEWSPAPER FUNNIES** ALLOWED EISNER TO DEMONSTRATE A TECHNICALLY **COMPLEX** TASK -- SUCH AS REMOVING **VOLUTE SPRINGS** FROM A **TANK** -- FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE **REPAIRMAN**. COMIC ART DRAWS THE READER **INTO** THE SEQUENCE, MAKES HER A **PART** OF IT, STEP BY STEP!

**ARMY MOTORS** AND ITS SUCCESSOR, **P'S: THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE MONTHLY**, PROVED **SO** SUCCESSFUL AT EDUCATING SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS THAT EISNER REMAINED ITS ART DIRECTOR LONG AFTER HE MUSTERED OUT!



SO HE COULD KEEP UP-TO-DATE ON THE LATEST EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES, THE MILITARY SENT EISNER ON TOURS OF ARMY POSTINGS AROUND THE WORLD -- INCLUDING HOTSPOTS LIKE THE **KOREAN DMZ** AND **SAIGON**, WHERE HE GOT **GLOWING REVIEWS** FROM THE SOLDIERS THEMSELVES!



\* ACTUAL EXCHANGE!

WHEN EISNER FINALLY GAVE UP HIS LUCRATIVE ARMY CONTRACT IN 1971, HIS WIFE ANN ENCOURAGED HIM TO TAKE THE NEXT BIG LEAP AND CREATE A COMIC AIMED AT **ADULTS**, WITH ADULT THEMES.

EISNER COMBINED THAT TALE WITH THREE OTHERS ABOUT 1930'S JEWS IN HIS NATIVE BRONX, CALLING THE COLLECTION **A CONTRACT WITH GOD AND OTHER TENEMENT STORIES**.

HE FELT WEIGHTY MATERIAL SUCH AS THIS DEMANDED TO BE PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY A MAINSTREAM (I.E., **NON-COMICS**) PUBLISHER, BUT STRUGGLED OVER A WAY TO **MARKET** THE UNIQUE PROJECT.



HIS INSPIRATION CAME IN THE FORM OF DARKEST **TRAGEDY**.

IN 1969, EISNER'S BELOVED TEENAGE DAUGHTER ALICE HAD SUCCEMDED TO **LEUKEMIA**.

THE ARTIST POURED HIS GRIEF AND RAGE INTO A SHORT COMICS STORY, "**A CONTRACT WITH GOD**," ABOUT A DEPRESSION-ERA HASSIDIC JEW WHO REJECTS HIS FAITH WHEN HIS DAUGHTER DIES UNEXPECTEDLY.



THOUGH EISNER DIDN'T ORIGINATE THE TERM "**GRAPHIC NOVEL**," ITS APPEARANCE ON THE TRADE PAPERBACK COVER OF **A CONTRACT WITH GOD** (1978) BROUGHT IT INTO **POPULAR USAGE** FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THROUGH RACKED IN **BOOKSTORES** AS ITS AUTHOR INTENDED, BAFFLED CLERKS DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER TO SHELVE **CONTRACT** IN THE "RELIGION" OR "HUMOR" SECTIONS... AS OPPOSED TO "**FICTION**," WHERE IT RIGHTLY BELONGED!



SINCE EISNER'S BOLD EXPERIMENT, IT'S THE MORE SOPHISTICATED LITERARY ASPIRATIONS OF "GRAPHIC NOVELS" (REALLY JUST A SYNONYM FOR "LONG COMIC BOOK") THAT HAVE LED THEM TO BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM AT EVERY LEVEL!

PRE-READERS USE WORDLESS GRAPHIC NOVELS TO IMPROVE VERBAL NARRATIVE SKILLS!



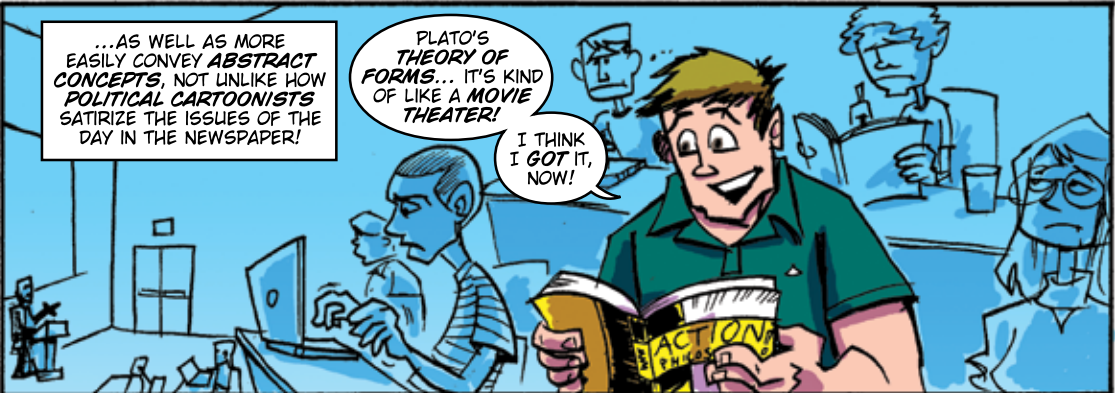
WE THINK VISUALLY. AS WILL EISNER DISCOVERED WITH HIS ARMY MANUALS, COMICS REINFORCE PROCESS, AS IN THE DECODING OF SYMBOLS REQUIRED FOR LITERACY...



...AS WELL AS MORE EASILY CONVEY ABSTRACT CONCEPTS, NOT UNLIKE HOW POLITICAL CARTOONISTS SATIRIZE THE ISSUES OF THE DAY IN THE NEWSPAPER!

PLATO'S THEORY OF FORMS... IT'S KIND OF LIKE A MOVIE THEATER!

I THINK I GOT IT, NOW!



AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, COMICS ARE NOW BEING TAUGHT NOT AS CLASSICS-STYLE ADAPTATIONS, BUT VALUABLE WORKS OF LITERATURE WITH THEIR OWN INTRINSIC MERIT!

FUTURE GENERATIONS OF TEACHERS WILL DECIDE HOW BEST TO USE COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS IN THEIR CLASSES -- STARTING HERE AND NOW!



# Honor Roll

The Honor Roll is our way of recognizing the extraordinary people, companies and comic specialty retailers that have gone above and beyond in their support of our mission to revolutionize the role of comics in the classroom. (illustrations by Lin Workman)



Becky Konzett



Josh Hime



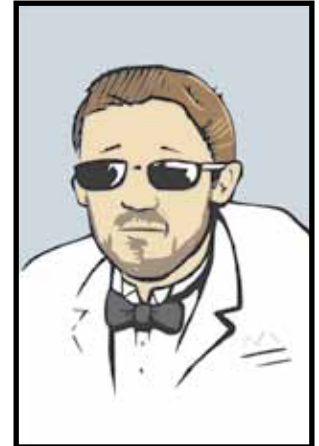
Peter Gutiérrez



Robert Jarosinski



Russ Burlingame



Brett Schenker



Liza Illuzzi

## DONOR APPEARANCES

The following donors to Reading With Pictures were awarded cameo appearances in select stories as a way of giving thanks for their support.

Perry Beckett in *G-Man: Reign of the Robo-Teachers*, Brian Bontemps in *Light's Speed*, Kimberly Campbell in *So Much More*, Kathleen Dolan in *High Noon at Junior High*, Ms. Dumbleton in *FCHS: Final(s) Crisis!*, Mitch Dyer in *G-Man*, Martin Fung in *Albert the Alien is New in School*, Jason W. Gavin in *G-Man*, Charlotte Johnson in *Just James and the Playground of the Living Dead*, Jack Hayes in *G-Man*, Charles Henry in *G-Man*, Noah Henry in *G-Man*, Donald Higgins in *Pandora: Celebrity Superheroine*, Adkins P. Jones in *Light's Speed*, Mariel Saginaw in *Just James*, Kristen Whitaker in *Heroes*, Jennifer Reall in *G-Man*, and Lee-Anne Weber in *G-Man*

# Honor Roll



Bitstrips for Schools  
[www.bitstripsforschools.com](http://www.bitstripsforschools.com)



Casablanca Comics  
Portland, ME



**Challengers**  
comics + conversation  
Challengers Comics +  
Conversation  
Chicago, IL



Chapel Hill Comics  
Chapel Hill, NC



Chicago Comics  
Chicago, IL



The Comic Vault  
Chicago, IL



Comix Revolution  
Evanston, IL  
Mt. Prospect, IL



Jim Hanley's Universe  
New York, NY



Spotlight  
[www.abdopublishing.com](http://www.abdopublishing.com)



Tokyopop  
[www.tokyopop.com](http://www.tokyopop.com)



Westfield  
[www.westfieldcomics.com](http://www.westfieldcomics.com)

# Contributors

**Jason Allen** (*Just James*): Jason Allen is co-creator and illustrator of *Just James and The Playground of the Living Dead*. A corn-fed Midwesterner, Jason relocated to the deep south in 2005. While adding “y’all” to his vernacular, he has illustrated characters and props on the television shows *Frisky Dingo* and *Archer*. His eclectic background also includes theatrical design, voiceovers, and Karaoke DJ-ing. His Piano Man rocks! Check out his website at [www.jasondallen.com](http://www.jasondallen.com).

**Gene Ambaum** (*Unshelved*): Gene is the writer of *Unshelved* and editor of the Unshelved Book Club. He uses a pen name because he is scared of his own shadow. He has worked a variety of jobs in public libraries in the Pacific Northwest, including teen services and staff training. He loves French graphic novels, television shows from his childhood, pina colodas, and getting caught in the rain. [www.unshelved.com](http://www.unshelved.com)

**Bill Barnes** (*Unshelved*): Bill is the artist of Unshelved and writer of *Not Invented Here*. Before taking the vow of poverty required of cartoonists, Bill worked in the software industry for twenty years as a programmer, user interface designer, and executive speechwriter. He is teaching himself to play ukulele. Born in Manhattan, Bill is now a naturalized citizen of Seattle. [www.unshelved.com](http://www.unshelved.com)

**Gabriel Bautista** (*Albert the Alien*): Gabriel is an indie comic artist, and an Eisner award winning colorist. His work can be seen in Image’s *Popgun VOL 2* and *Elephantmen*. His coloring work can be seen in DC Comics’ *The Spirit*. Follow his adventures at <http://galvomode.com!!>

**Chris Beckett** (*Mail Order Ninja, The Replacement Heroes*) is a comic colorist residing in Brooklyn. His favorite color is salmon, which also happens to be his third favorite freshwater fish. His least favorite color is camel, which weirdly enough is his favorite even-toed ungulate.

**John Bivens** (*What if Mr. Kilsome Was a Monster?*): John recently graduated from Northern Illinois University. Since that time he has done work for Sam Costello’s *Split Lip* horror anthology, *Comic Book Tattoo* (the Tori Amos-based anthology), *Popgun* volume 4, and has appeared in a handful of Zuda web-comic competitions. He spends whatever spare time he can with his lovely fiancée Mallory.

**Phillip Bowles** (*Stellar Rescue!*): Phillip discovered comic books at the tender age of six, the first being *Robocop #1* from a local 7-Eleven. It was clearly love at first sight. Since then, Phillip has pursued a career as a comics artist and continues to do so as a student in the Illustration As Visual Essay Masters program at the School of Visual Arts, NYC. Examples of his work can be found at [www.phillipbowles.com](http://www.phillipbowles.com)

**Michael Vincent Bramley** (*Judgment of Patrick*): Michael has been a fan of comics from a young age. Teachers would reprimand him for trying to read comics during quiet time, or drawing monsters and writing stories about them in the margins of his school notebooks. Nowadays Michael lives in NYC with his wife, Alice, and spends all day making things up for his webcomic, *Hadron Colliderscope*.

**Jen Brazas** (*Pandora*): Jennifer Brazas is actually a ninja. But sadly, ninjas are not a recession-proof profession, so she turned to making comics. With her amazing ninja powers, she’s able to churn out hilarious full-color comic pages twice-weekly (Mondays and Fridays) of her webcomic *Mystic Revolution*, which can be found at [www.mysticrev.com](http://www.mysticrev.com). *Mystic Revolution* currently has two self-published graphic novels with a third one set for release in Summer 2010.

**Ed Brisson** (*Overdue*): Ed is a freelance comic book letterer and writer. Since 2005, he’s been running the small publishing outfit New Reliable Press. He currently lives in Vancouver with his wife, daughter and their menagerie of pets. Find him online at [edbrisson.com](http://edbrisson.com).

**Jeffrey Brown** (*Little Bighead and the Big Snow*): Jeffrey Brown is best known for his autobiographical graphic novels like *Clumsy* and *Funny Misshapen Body*, as well as humorous work *Incredible Change-Bots*, *Cats Are Weird*, and *Bighead*. He lives in Chicago with his wife and son. [www.topshelfcomix.com/catalog/jeffrey-brown](http://www.topshelfcomix.com/catalog/jeffrey-brown)

**Harold Buchholz** (*The Whiteboard*): Harold is helping revitalize the children’s comics field as a publishing consultant, working with companies such as Archie Comics and Renaissance Press. Over the years he has helped hundreds of cartoonists get their work in print. In 2010 he received a Gold Pixie award for outstanding 2D animation. Find him online at [www.acredale.com](http://www.acredale.com)

**Dino Caruso** (*Overdue*): Dino Caruso hails from Ontario, Canada, where he lives with his wife and son. He has self-published a few comics, notably *Against the Wall* and *Olga*. He’s been published in a variety of anthologies from publishers including Ape Entertainment, Heske Horror and Poseur Ink. Check out his website at <http://www.carusocomics.com>

**Phil Chan** (*Dr. Stevelove*): For as long as he can remember, Phil Chan has always wanted to create comics. He eventually found himself on the new frontier of webcomics, co-creating and writing the college-themed comic *Matriculated*. More recently, he also co-created and wrote the hybrid video game comic/review column *Another Videogame Webcomic*. Phil currently resides in Delaware, where he enjoys tax-free shopping and fight clubs.

**Cho Youn Chul** (*Visual Cues*) was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea and has a degree in animation from Sejong University. His English is not that bad, despite what his English grade says. But that's okay; he doesn't have to worry about grades anymore. He works at Dot & Comma Communication studio.

**Scott Cunningham** (*A Misguided Field Guide*) is co-creator of *Lil' Bigfoot* (lilbigfoot.com), the smelly, hairy hominid who stars in his RWP story, and who originally stunk up the pages of *Nickelodeon Magazine*. Scott's work has also appeared in *Heavy Metal*, *Mad*, *Mad Kids*, *Archie*, and a slew of DC comics, including their Kids' Line titles and Vertigo. Some of his recent stories are featured in DC's Cartoon Network 2-1 Anthology released this summer.

**Vito Delsante** (*FCHS: Final(s) Crisis!*): Vito is a writer. He's written for DC Comics, Marvel Comics, Dynamite Entertainment, AdHouse Books, and Simon & Schuster, among others and his stories have been reprinted in other countries. He and Rachel Freire have self-published *FCHS* and it is available online. He lives in New York City with his wife, Michelle, and two dogs, and wears glasses. Visit him online at [www.incogvito.com](http://www.incogvito.com).

**Ryan Dunlavey** (*Comics & the Classroom*): Ryan is best known as the artist and co-creator of the American Library Award winning *Action Philosophers* comic book series (with author Fred Van Lente). Some of Ryan's other comics include *Modok* for Marvel Comics and the self-published *Comic Book Comics* (also with Van Lente), the first cartoon history of the American comic book industry. His work has appeared in *Mad*, *Wizard*, *ToyFare*, *The Princeton Review*, *Time Out* and *Disney Adventures*. He lives in New York City with his wife and son.

**Joe Dunn** (*Dr. Stevelove*): While obtaining a degree from Parsons School of Design Joe Dunn fell in love; first with sequential storytelling and then with a lady. He's spent the last decade devoted to those two things, tying the knot and working steadily in illustration and webcomics. Joe's since relocated from the big bad city to the peaceful suburbs of NJ, where he hopes that his odd hours and rowdy music don't bother the neighbors.

**Josh Elder** (Editor, *Pandora*, *Mail Order Ninja*, *Just James*): Josh is the founder and Executive Director of Reading With Pictures. Creator of the award-winning graphic novel series and nationally syndicated comic strip *Mail Order Ninja*, Josh regularly hosts workshops and professional development seminars in schools and libraries across the country. Josh currently resides in the small, midwestern town of Chicago, IL.

**Chris "Elio" Eliopoulos** (*An Animal That Cooks Its Own Dinner*): Chris is a freelance illustrator and comic artist from Elgin, IL. Please visit his website at [www.eliohouse.com](http://www.eliohouse.com)

**Rich Faber** (*Roboy Red*): Rich is an illustrator and co-creator of *Roboy Red*. His comic work includes *Steel*, *Green Lantern*, *Impulse*, *Adventures of Superman* and others for DC along with Quicksilver, X-Men, and Uncanny X-Men for Marvel. His illustration and design clients include NASCAR, USA Networks, WWE, Scholastic, and Cartoon Network. Please visit him at [www.richfaber.com](http://www.richfaber.com).

**The Fillbach Brothers** (*Back In the Day*): The Fillbach Brothers hail from Butte, Montana. Their creations include *Maxwell Strangewell*, *Roadkill: A Jim Kowalski Adventure*, *Werewolves on the Moon: Versus Vampires*, and *Captain Freebird*. They are the face of the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* digest books. The Fillbach Brothers currently reside in the living cartoon that is Las Vegas, Nevada, where they also write and draw educational comic books for UNLV.

**Rachel Friere** (*FCHS: Final(s) Crisis!*): Rachel Freire has been doodling since the age of two. She learned to read from Archie comics, which led to her saying "Egads" alot. She attended high school at Art and Design on 56/57th & 2nd Ave, and often wondered "Did John Romita sit in this chair? Maybe Dick Giordano? Art Spiegelman? Or -gasp- Harvey Fierstein??" Now, when she's not working on *FCHS* with Vito Delsante, she's working at Jim Hanley's Universe with Vito Delsante!

**Ray Friesen** (*Pirate Penguin vs Ninja Chicken*): Ray Friesen is currently 22 years old, but if you read this in the future he might not be anymore. (if you're reading this in the past, Time Travel High Five!) Ray draws lots of silly things, most of which have penguins in them. That's all you need to know. Read more of his cartoons at [www.DontEatAnyBugs.com](http://www.DontEatAnyBugs.com), or else.

**John Gallagher** (*Roboy Red*): John is the Harvey Award-nominated creator of *Buzzboy*, co-creator of *Roboy Red* (with Rich Faber) and the upcoming *Zoey and Ketchup* (with daughter Katie) graphic novel series. A self-professed comics "evangelist," John was an Eisner Awards nominating judge, and was co-founder of the literacy advocacy group Kids Love Comics. He currently serves as Senior Director of Entertainment at Starbridge Media Group, overseeing properties like Nascar Comics and the Philadelphia Eagles Kids Club Cartoon.

**Chris Giarrusso** (*G-Man: Reign of the Robo-Teachers*): Chris is the writer/artist of *G-Man* from Image Comics, the illustrator of *The Amazing Adventures of Nate Banks* book series from Scholastic, and the writer/artist of Mini Marvels from Marvel Comics. You can find him online at [www.chrisgcomics.com](http://www.chrisgcomics.com)

**Jimmy Gownley** (*Amelia Rules at the Library*): Jimmy is creator and cartoonist of the graphic novel series, *Amelia Rules!* The books have been translated into multiple languages, are part of Scholastic Book Clubs and Fairs, and were even turned into a stage musical! The newest title, *Amelia Rules: The Tweenage Guide To Not Being Unpopular* hit stores in April 2010. *Amelia Rules: True Things (Adults Don't Want Kids To Know)* is set for Fall 2010.

**Daniel Gutowski** (*One Day With Amy*): A guy who fell in love with comic books and drawing when was a child. Today, he is drawing mostly for his passion and sometimes for money. Already had some publications in underground zines and comic book anthologies. Now working on his own graphic novel. His art can be seen on [degdeg.deviantart.com](http://degdeg.deviantart.com).

**Steve Horton** (*One Giant Step*): Steve has written *Captain Marvel* for DC, *Captain Battle* for Image, and many other comics without a quasi-military rank. He lives in Indiana with his wife, two kids and lazy dog.

**Dave Lanphear** (*One Giant Step*) of Artmonkeys Studios is genus homo ars tecnicus, and whereas he works daily thanks to opposable thumbs, has relegated the skill of staying upright and is likely to be found dreaming pronate. His reveries are in comic books, on TV and film screens, and at [www.coroflot.com/artmonkeys](http://www.coroflot.com/artmonkeys).

**Kevin LaPorte** (*Light's Speed*): A mental health professional by day and aspiring comic writer at all other times, Kevin is currently writing and lettering a web comic, *The Blind Eye* ([www.blindeyecomix.com](http://www.blindeyecomix.com)). Other current comic projects include writing *Clown Town*—a finalist in the 2010 Small Press Idol competition—and co-writing *The Apocalypse Boyz* web comic.

**Michael LaRiccía** (*Introduction*): In 2005, Michael received a Xeric grant to self-publish *Black Mane*. He has contributed to several anthologies and self-published *The Death of Black Mane and the Feared Self*, *Satori*, and *DISCO*. He exhibits his comic art throughout the country. Currently a full-time graphic designer, LaRiccía periodically teaches cartooning. [www.michaellariccía.com](http://www.michaellariccía.com).

**Christine Larsen** (*Heroes*): Originating from the Pine Barrens of central Jersey, Christine is a freelance Illustrator by trade with a BFA in Illustration & Design from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia. She currently does work for numerous clients, including Zuda Comics, Ape Entertainment, Comixology and Applehead Factory. In fall and spring, you will find her traipsing about the University of the Arts campus, where she teaches Foundation Illustration for freshmen and Sequential Format for juniors.

**Irene Y. Lee** (*Loopy and the Nose of Misfortune*): Irene was born and raised in Queens, New York. She's an avid gamer, comic book reader and anime artist. After graduating from NYU Fine Arts, she managed to land a job at Marvel in the Production department. You can check out her artwork and coloring tutorials at: <http://suzuran.deviantart.com/>

**Alice Meichi Li** (*Judgment of Patrick*): True to her namesake, Alice ponders curiouser things and proceeds to ensnare them within the confines of her canvas. Sometimes she even makes illustrations for publishers, rock stars, and the like. She earned her BFA at School of Visual Arts, and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, with her husband and fellow comic geek, Michael. You can view Alice's portfolio here: <http://alicemeichi.com/>

**Russell Lissau** (*Heroes*): By day, Russell Lissau is a mild-mannered newspaper reporter in suburban Chicago. By night, he battles evil writing comic books including *The Batman Strikes!*, *The 29*, and *Shrek*. Never one to shy away from a crowd, Lissau also leads workshops at libraries throughout the Chicago area about writing comics. To learn more, check out [www.myspace.com/rissau](http://www.myspace.com/rissau).

**Johnny Lowe** (*One Giant Step*) is a letterer who has worked on comics and graphic novels from several companies including Wildstorm, Boom Studios, Image Comics and Devil's Due. He currently lives in Mississippi.

**Brandon Montclare** (Editor) has been a lifelong fan of comics and employed in some part of the business since he was 12 years old. He's worked as an editor at TokyoPop (*Rising Stars of Manga*) and DC Comics (*All Star Superman*, *Batman: Year 100*, *Hellblazer*). And nowadays he's started to write some odds and ends (*Batman*, *Hulk*).

**Michael Moreci** (*The Replacement Heroes*): Michael Moreci's debut graphic novel, *Quarantined*, will be released with *Insomnia* publications in 2010. His shorter comics work has appeared (or is forthcoming) in *FutureQuake*, *Something Wicked*, *Accent UK's Victoriana* anthology, and *Insomnia's Layer Zero: Survival* anthology. His freelance journalism has been published in *Wired*, *The Huffington Post*, *North Shore Magazine*, and *In These Times*. Michael lives in Chicago with his wife and dog. Visit him at [www.michaelmoreci.com](http://www.michaelmoreci.com).

**Trevor Mueller** (*Albert the Alien*): Trevor works in advertising by day, and writes comics by night. He is the creator of several multi-award nominated webcomic series which are self-published. His work can be found on [www.trevoramueller.com](http://www.trevoramueller.com). In 2009 Trevor joined Reading With Pictures as their Marketing Director, combining his love of comics, education, and advertising. Trevor has also gives lectures and presentations throughout the country at conventions on the power of creativity and literacy.

**Tintin Pantoja** (*High Noon at Junior High*) was born in Manila and received a BFA in Illustration and Cartooning at the School of Visual Arts in New York, leading to a career in comics and commercial illustration. In 2005 she was nominated for the Friends of Lulu 'Best Newcomer' award and her published works include *Hamlet: The Manga Edition* for Wiley and three volumes of *Manga Math* for Graphic Universe. Check out her art at <http://www.tintinpantoja.com>

**Jay Piscopo** (*The Goblin of the Deep*): Jay Piscopo is the author and illustrator of *The Undersea Adventures of Capt'n Eli* all-ages graphic novel series. Piscopo also co-created *The Scrap City Pack Rats*, art directed the award-winning *Fizz and Martina Math Adventures*, and was an animator for ABC TV's *Squigglevision*. He resides in his hometown of Portland, Maine. [www.captneli.com](http://www.captneli.com)

**Phillip Pittz** (*A Misguided Field Guide*): Phillip is a specialist in Early Childhood Education with a three decade career as teacher, storyteller, puppeteer and now comics artist/writer. He is the Director of English at his own school in Japan and has begun work on a new series of audio books based on children's literature available through the Gutenberg Project. Phillip can relate with *Lil' Bigfoot* ([lilbigfoot.com](http://lilbigfoot.com)). He too is messy, smelly and breaks things by accident.

**David Precht** (*Visual Cues*): David grew up near Chicago and now lives in Seoul with his wife, Lindsay McComb. He loves to cook, write and research, and can grill a mean buffalo burger (the key is goat cheese). He is a blogger and contributor for Soulpancake.com. He is currently working on a graphic novel/webcomic, set in Korea, called *Han* 恨. David can be found at [www.davidprecht.com](http://www.davidprecht.com).

**Kevin C. Pyle** (*The Order of the Secret Pencil*): Kevin is the author/illustrator of the graphic novels *Blindspot* and *Katman*, both published by Henry Holt for Young Readers. *Blindspot* was included in the Best American Comics for 2008, edited by Linda Barry, and *Katman* was named a Great Graphic Novel for Teens by the Young Adult Library Services Association. Kevin serves as co-editor of the comics anthology *World War 3 Illustrated* and is also the author/illustrator of several non-fiction “docu-comics.” He can currently be found online at <http://boatfire.blogspot.com>.

**Amanda Rachels** (*Light's Speed*): Amanda began self-publishing her comic art at the tender age of 17 and never stopped drawing since. She is currently providing full art and colors for a web comic, *The Blind Eye* ([www.blindeyecomic.com](http://www.blindeyecomic.com)), and for *Clown Town* - a finalist in the 2010 Small Press Idol Competition.

**Grace Randolph** (*High Noon at Junior High*) has written for Marvel, DC Comics, Boom! Studios and TOKYOPOP. She also created and hosts the popular web show “Beyond The Trailer.” Check out [www.gracerandolph.com](http://www.gracerandolph.com) for more info!

**David Reddick** (*Legend of Billy*): David is a professional cartoonist and creator of the comic strips *Legend of Bill* at [www.LegendofBill.com](http://www.LegendofBill.com), *The Trek Life* for CBS/StarTrek.com, *Gene's Journal* and *Rod & Barry* at [Roddenberry.com](http://Roddenberry.com), and is a staff writer and artist at Paws, Inc., the *Garfield* studio, and was an award-winning staff editorial cartoonist at a daily newspaper for 6 years. Some of David's clients have included Nickelodeon, The New York Times Upfront, IDW Publishing, Image, TOKYOPOP, Paramount Pictures and ROK Media.

**Kevin Sacco** (*The Order of the Secret Pencil*): Kevin Sacco went to Camberwell Art School in London. After which he came to New York and pursued a career as a storyboard artist for advertising agencies. Along the way he's done some cartoon illustration for *Cracked*, *Crazy*, *Scholastic* and *Nuts*. He lives with his wife, son, and daughter in Bloomfield, NJ. More of his work can be seen at <http://www.saccoinmontclair.com>.

**Scott Christian Sava** (*The Dreamland Chronicles*) is the award winning creator of *The Dreamland Chronicles*, *Pet Robots*, *Hyperactive*, and over a dozen other beloved kids comics enjoyed worldwide. Growing up on *Looney Tunes*, *Speed Racer*, *Three Stooges*, and *Spider-Man* has permanently warped Scott's brain to that of a thirteen year old. It's tragic.

**Andy Scordellis** (*The Replacement Heroes*): Andy always wanted to be an artist, and despite going to Wimbledon Art College, still went on to become a restaurateur for over 20 years. Selling up he moved to Norfolk with his family, and has finally gone back to the drawing board! He contributes regularly to *Futurequake*, and the imminent *Replacement Heroes* series.

**Tim Smith 3** (*Loopy and the Nose of Misfortune*, *Mail Order Ninja*): Tim Smith 3 has done professional work for numerous high-profile entertainment companies over the years. Some of his more recent professional projects include *Spider-Man Unlimited* from Marvel Comics, *Sonic X* from Archie Comics, *Grim & Co.*, an original graphic novel from TokyoPop, *Tales from the Crypt* for Papercutz, and *Teen Titans Go* for DC Comics. Plus many more. To view more of TS3's work, please visit: [www.timsmith3.com](http://www.timsmith3.com).

**Ian Sokoliwski** (*One Giant Step*) is a Canadian colorist, illustrator, and gothic photographer, working professionally in the comic book industry since 1997.

**Raina Telgemeier** (*A Conversation I Had While Teaching a Comics Class*): Raina Telgemeier is the creator of *SMILE* (Scholastic/Graphix), the adaptor and illustrator of the *Baby-Sitters Club* graphic novel series (Scholastic/Graphix), and the co-author of *X-Men: Misfits* (Del Rey Manga). Raina's comics have been nominated for the Ignatz, Cybil, and Eisner Awards, and have appeared in publications by Random House, DC Comics, *OWL Magazine*, and *Nickelodeon Magazine*. A graduate of Manhattan's School of Visual Arts, Raina currently resides in Astoria, NY. Visit her online at [www.goRaina.com](http://www.goRaina.com).

**Jill Thompson** (*Cover Artist*): Jill Thompson has been drawing comics for as long as she can remember. Thank goodness she got good at it. She is the creator of *Scary Godmother* and *Magic Trixie*. Follow her on Twitter as @thejillthompson.

**Fred Van Lente** (*Comics & the Classroom: A Match Made in History*): Fred is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Incredible Hercules* (with Greg Pak) and *Marvel Zombies 3 & 4*, as well as the American Library Association award-winning *Action Philosophers*. His other comics include *Comic Book Comics*, *Iron Man Legacy*, *X Men Noir* and *Amazing Spider-Man*.

**Rob Valois** (Editor) is a senior editor at Penguin Young Readers Group in its Grosset and Dunlap/Price Stern Sloan imprints. He is the editor of the kids' graphic novel series *The Adventures of Daniel Boom aka Loud Boy* as well as the comics-influenced middle-grade series *Splurch Academy for Disruptive Boys*.

**Jim Vargas** (*Just James*) is a professional colorist and recent recipient of a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Illustration degree from the American Academy of Art. His colorist credits include the webcomics *Divis Morte*, *Grind House*, *Dr Leer*, *No Gods* six cover panoramic illustration, and his own online comic series *Faithless*. [www.jimvargas.com](http://www.jimvargas.com)

**Steve Wallace** (*One Day With Amy, Just James, Mail Order Ninja, Pandora*): Steve Wallace is a writer/illustrator/letterer living in Little Rock, Ar. He spends most of his day in front of a computer, the other part he spends in front of a drawing table. You can read his mini-comics and get updates on his upcoming graphic novels at [stevewallaceart.com](http://stevewallaceart.com).

**Eric Wight** (*Frankie Pickle: The Beast that Snored*): Long before he created the *Frankie Pickle* series, Eric Wight spent his childhood wishing for superpowers. When that didn't pan out, he decided to learn how to write and draw. Now he gets to work in his pajamas, and play make-believe for a living. Sometimes nice folks even give him awards for it. Check out all the fun he's having at [ericwight.com](http://ericwight.com)!

**Sari Wilson** (Editor) is a former editor at Holt McDougal and currently a Teaching Artist for Teachers & Writers Collaborative in New York City. She's given professional development workshops at Teachers & Writers and the New York City Department of Library Services on incorporating graphic novels into the curriculum. She is an editor with First Second's Drawing Words & Writing Pictures website, for which she served as an educational consultant.

**Dave Windett** (*Overdue*): Dave is a freelance illustrator and comics artist. His work has been published in Britain, Europe and America. He has worked on comics featuring well-known licensed characters such as *Inspector Gadget*, *Eek the Cat*, *Ace Ventura* and *Daffy Duck*. He has also designed original characters for a variety of publications and provided illustrations for everything from magazines and websites to mobile phones, games, and children's shoes. Samples of his work can be seen at [www.davewindett.com](http://www.davewindett.com).

**Tory Woollcott** (*So Much More*): Tory Woollcott is a Canadian writer and artist based in Toronto. Her first graphic novel, *Mirror Mind*, recounts her experiences growing up with dyslexia. She is now a graduate from the University of Toronto with an Honors BA, in archeology and near eastern studies, and is currently working on her next book. [www.mirrormind.ca](http://www.mirrormind.ca)

**Jeong Mo Yang** (*One Giant Step*) was born in S. Korea, then moved to Argentina at age seven and then to the U.S. at fifteen. A human being who loves every type of art form, he believes that art is the ultimate universal language. Art has the power to move hearts and minds, and your heart and mind is no exception. You can check Jeong Mo Yang's artwork at [www.comiking.com](http://www.comiking.com)

**Camilla Zhang** (Editor, *Loopy and the Nose of Misfortune*): Camilla graduated from Barnard College in 2007 with a BA in English Literature and a Concentration in Creative Writing. As a native New Yorker hailing from the multi-cultural borough of Queens, her greatest passion is writing stories that help her and others have a better understanding of people and of the world. Currently she works at Marvel Entertainment and has an avid devotion to comics as a medium for education and provocative literature.