

NEW
KiD





NEW KID

JERRY CRAFT

HARPER

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

New Kid

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First Edition


To all the Jordan Bankses of the world.

To my family, Jay, Aren, and Autier.
thank you for making me a better person.

Thanks to my agent, Judy Hansen,
my editor Andrew Eliopoulos, and the team
at HarperCollins for embracing my vision.

Thanks to Marva Allen, Pam Allyn, Debra Lakow
Dorfman, David Saylor, Andrea Davis Pinkney,
and Andrea Colvin for inspiring me along the way.

And last but not least, thanks to Barbara Slate,
Jim Keefe, Ray Billingsley, M'shindo Kuumba,
Eric Velasquez, Danni Ai, and Jennifer Crute
for making me a better artist.



THIS IS HOW I FEEL EVERY SINGLE DAY OF MY LIFE, LIKE I'M FALLING WITHOUT A PARACHUTE.



I MEAN, I'M NOT *REALLY* FALLING.
THAT'S CALLED A METAPHOR. I
LEARNED ABOUT THEM IN ENGLISH.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER I USED TO
WISH I WAS SUPERMAN.
SO INSTEAD OF FALLING,
I COULD FLY.

CHAPTER 1

THE WAR OF ART

BUT NOW THAT I'M TWELVE,
I REALIZE JUST HOW
SILLY THAT WAS.





I SHOULD WISHED I WAS **BATMAN!** WHEN YOU HAVE A JET, YOU DON'T NEED TO FLY.

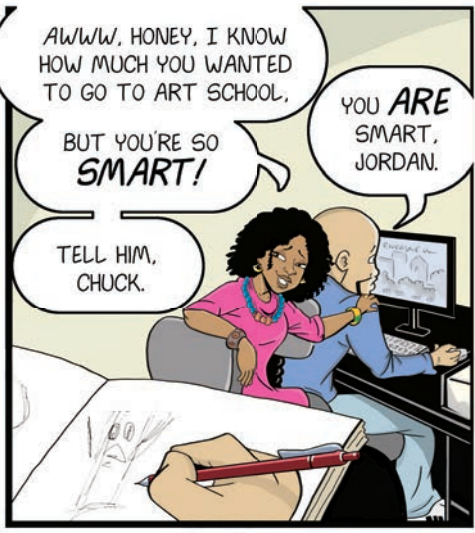
JORDAN, ARE YOU LISTENING?

WHY CAN'T YOU SEE HOW **AMAZING** THIS PLACE IS?

JUST LOOK AT THEIR WEBSITE, HONEY!

YOU'VE SHOWN ME A **JILLION** TIMES, MOM.

YES, IT'S AWESOME.

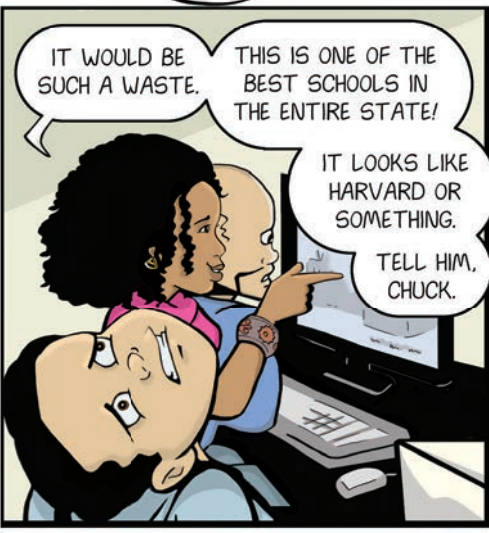


AWWW, HONEY, I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WANTED TO GO TO ART SCHOOL,

BUT YOU'RE SO **SMART!**

TELL HIM, CHUCK.

YOU **ARE** SMART, JORDAN.



IT WOULD BE SUCH A WASTE.

THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST SCHOOLS IN THE ENTIRE STATE!

IT LOOKS LIKE HARVARD OR SOMETHING.

TELL HIM, CHUCK.



BACK TO

HISTORY



SCHOOL!



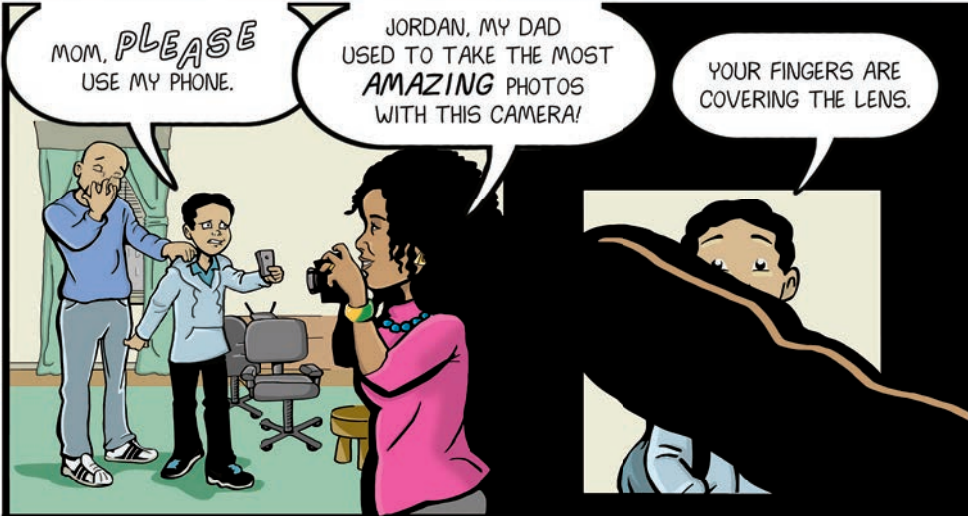


UH ... WELL ... THE DRAWING IS GREAT ...

BUT LET'S NOT SHOW MOM. OKAY?

YEAH, I FIGURED.

FOUND MY CAMERA!
LET'S HURRY BEFORE YOUR GUIDE ARRIVES.



MOM, *PLEASE* USE MY PHONE.

JORDAN, MY DAD USED TO TAKE THE MOST *AMAZING* PHOTOS WITH THIS CAMERA!

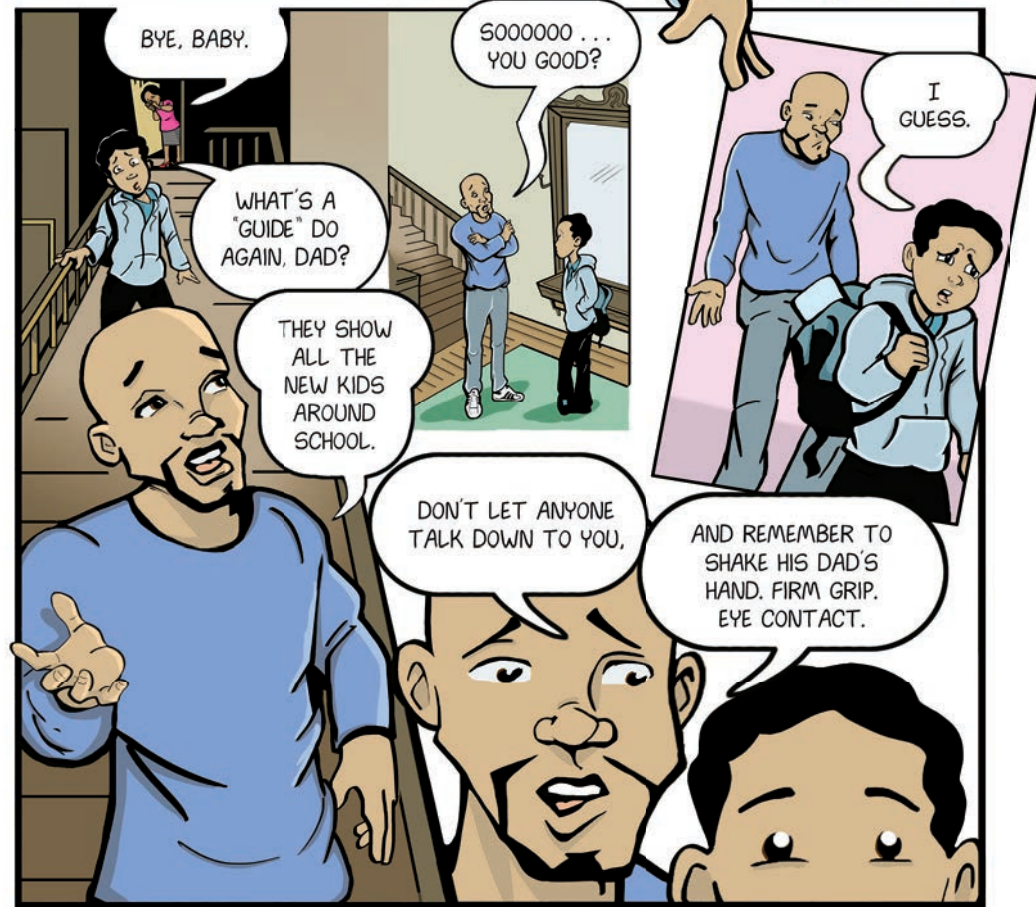
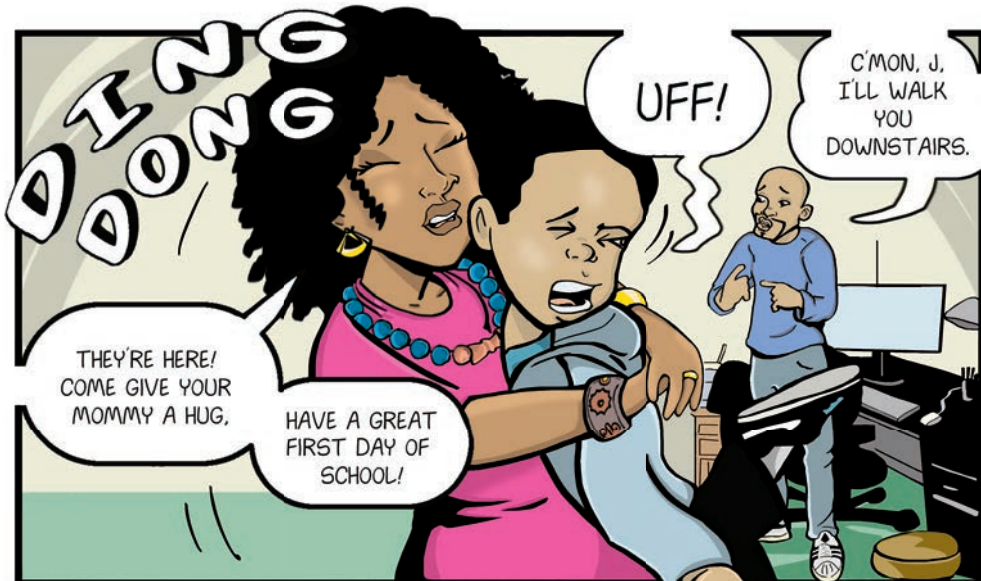
YOUR FINGERS ARE COVERING THE LENS.



OKAY, SMILE. BABY ...

MORE ...

JORDAN!!!



My Dad's Tips for Being a Man! "Shaking Hands"

The handshake is one of the most important rituals on earth.

Why?

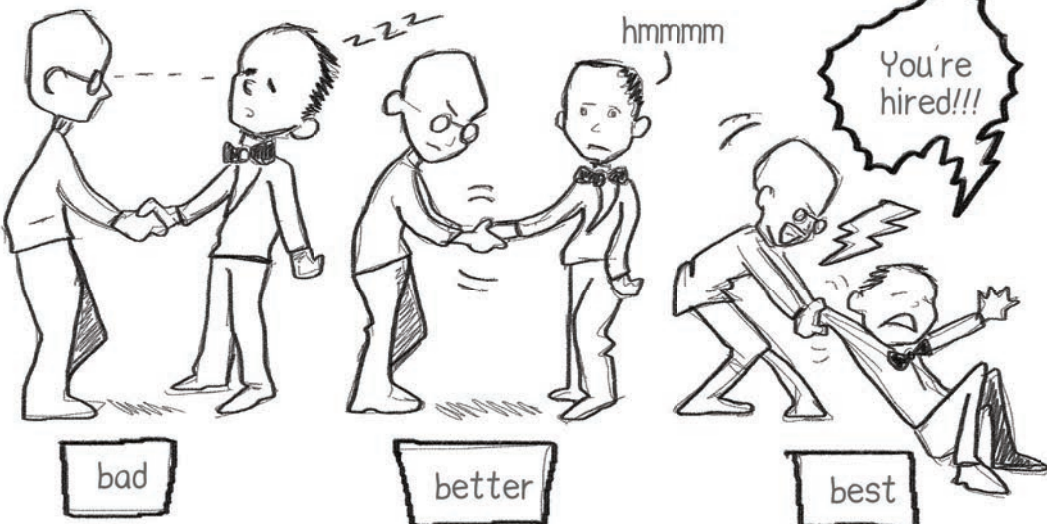
I don't know. Nobody does! But here's how to do it.

step #1 *ONLY*
use your right hand... even if you're a lefty.

#2 *ALWAYS*
look each other in the eye!



#3 Remember, the firmer your grip, the more that people will respect you.



And here are some other bad things:

cold hands!



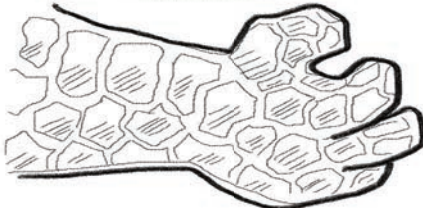
sweaty hands!



too many fingers!



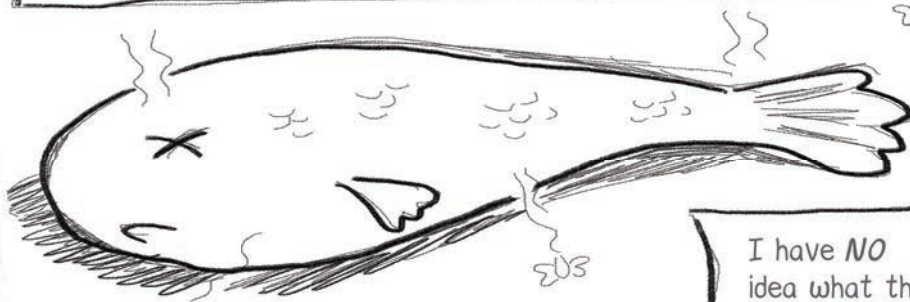
hands too rough



hands too soft

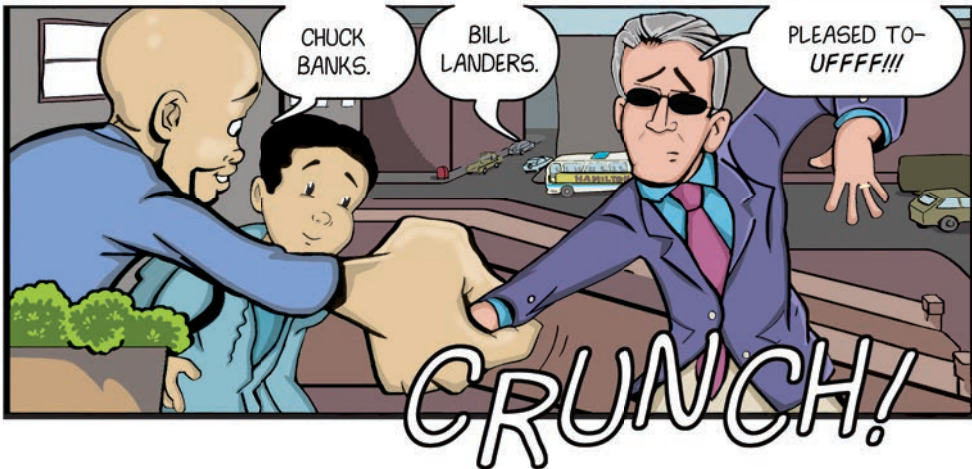
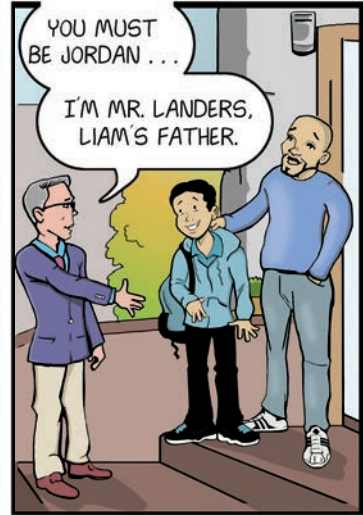


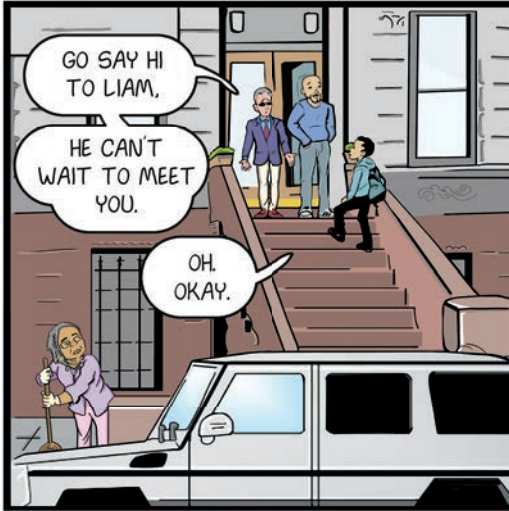
and the most important rule of all never, ever give someone a "dead fish"!!!

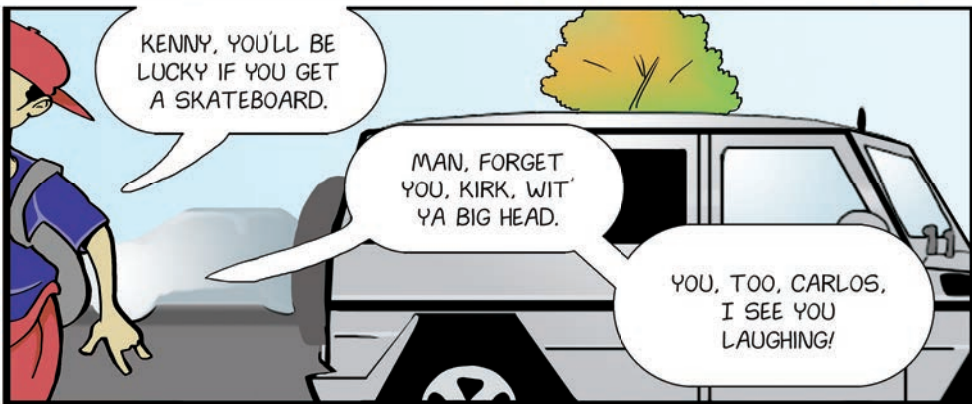
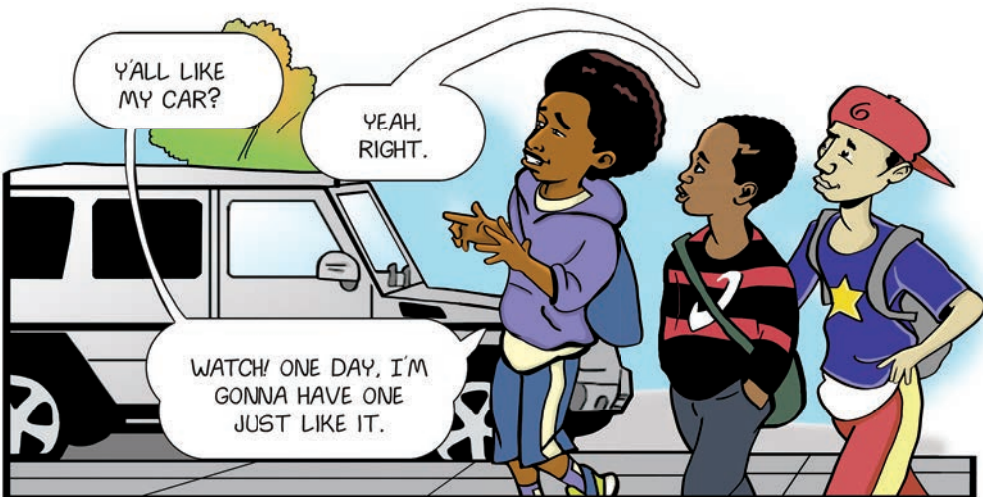
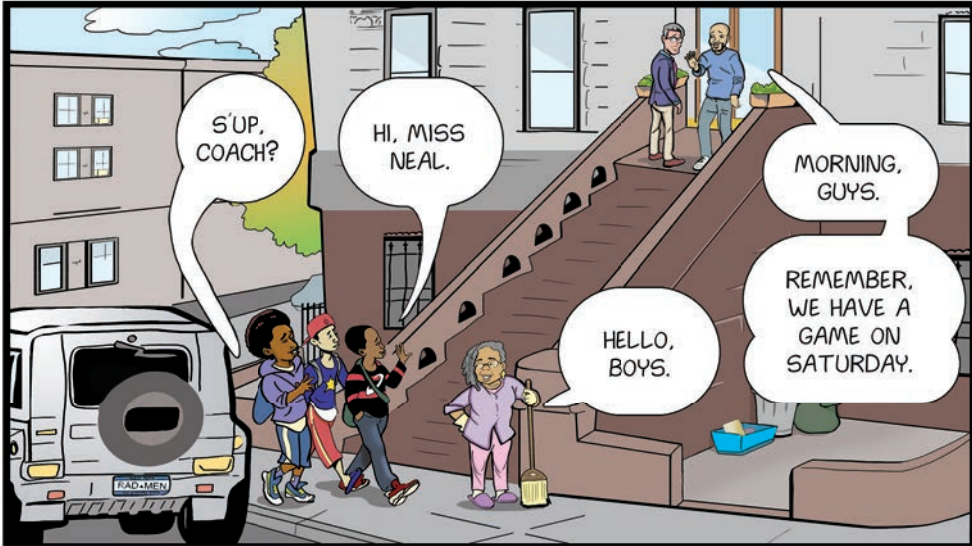


I have NO idea what that means! But I bet it's bad!

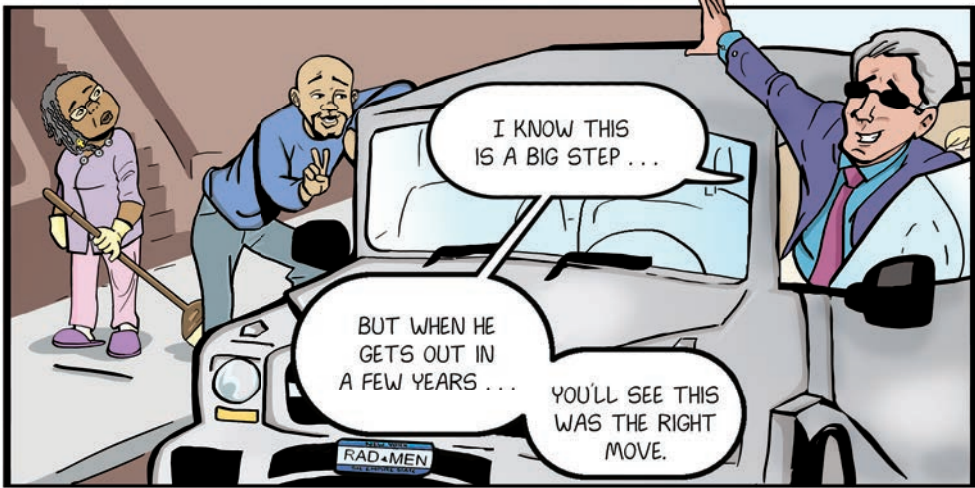
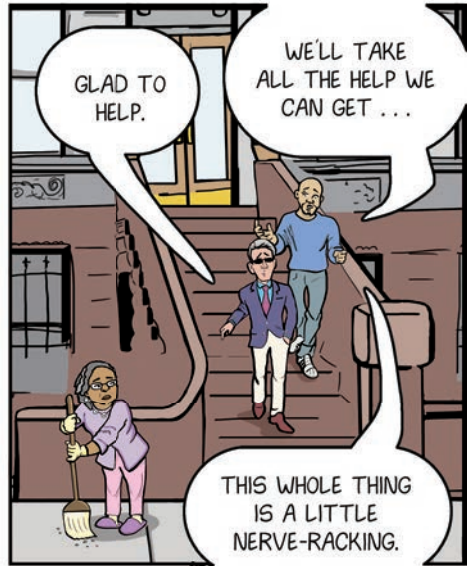
Jordan Banks

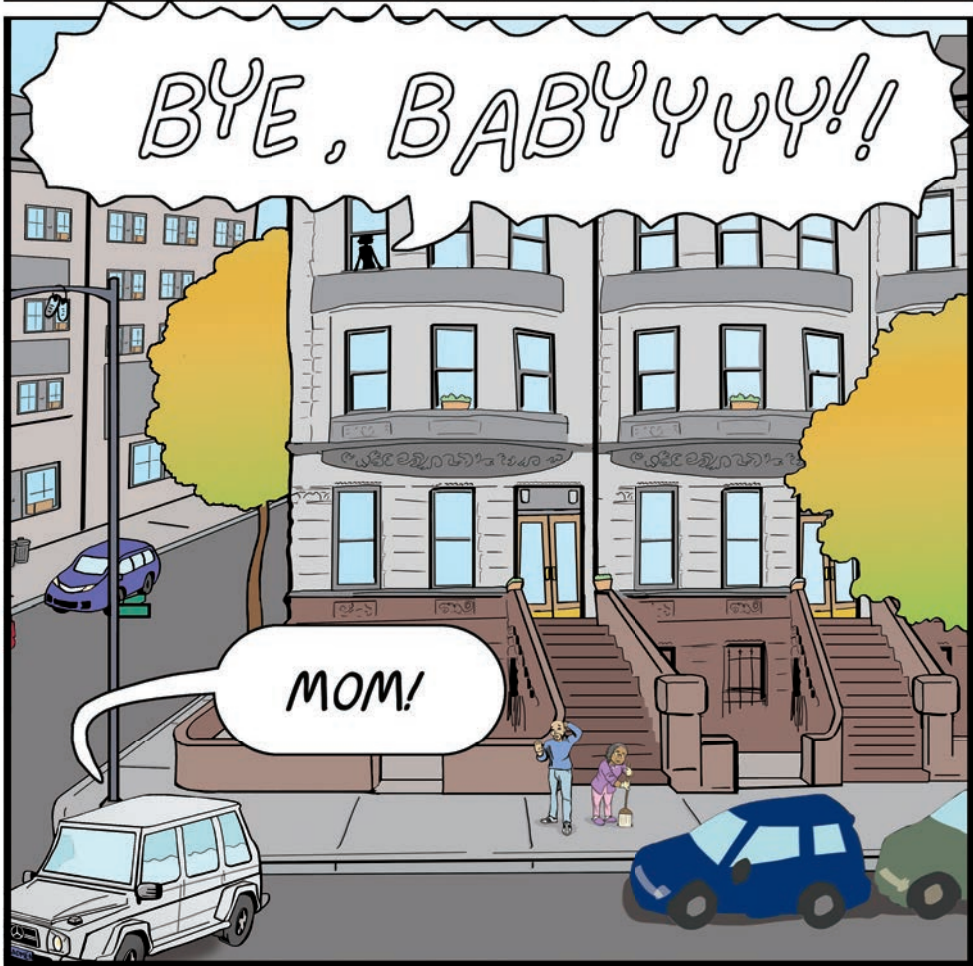






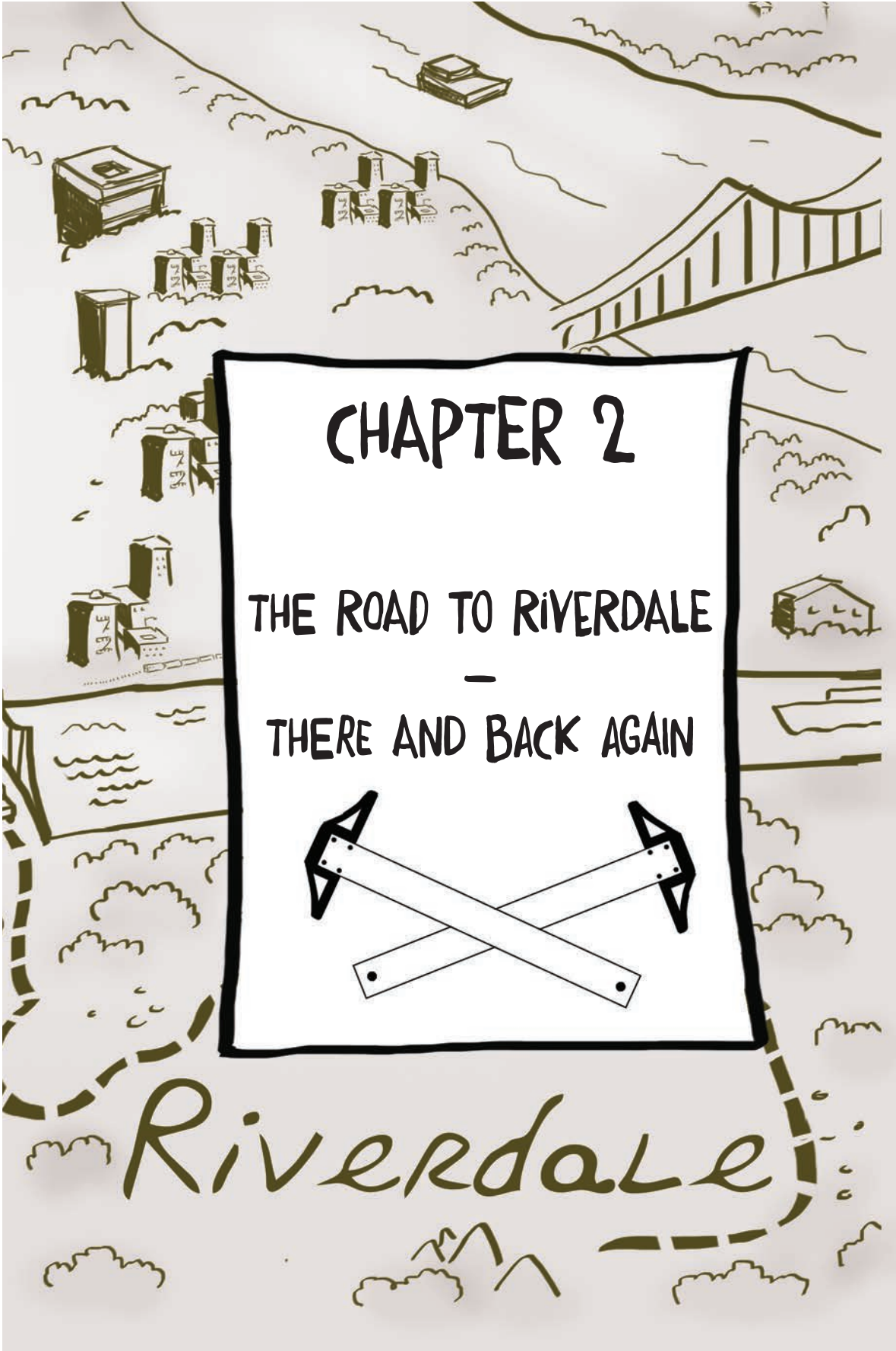








Washington
Heights

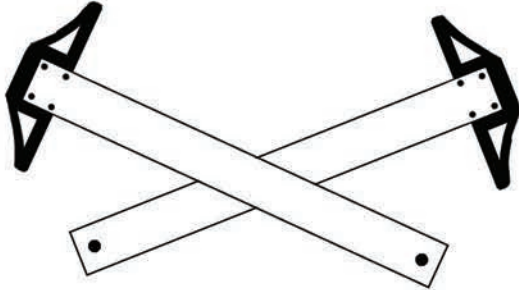


CHAPTER 2

THE ROAD TO RIVERDALE

—

THERE AND BACK AGAIN



Riverdale

» THE ANNUAL FIRST-DAY-OF-SCHOOL ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE.



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS ZOMBIES

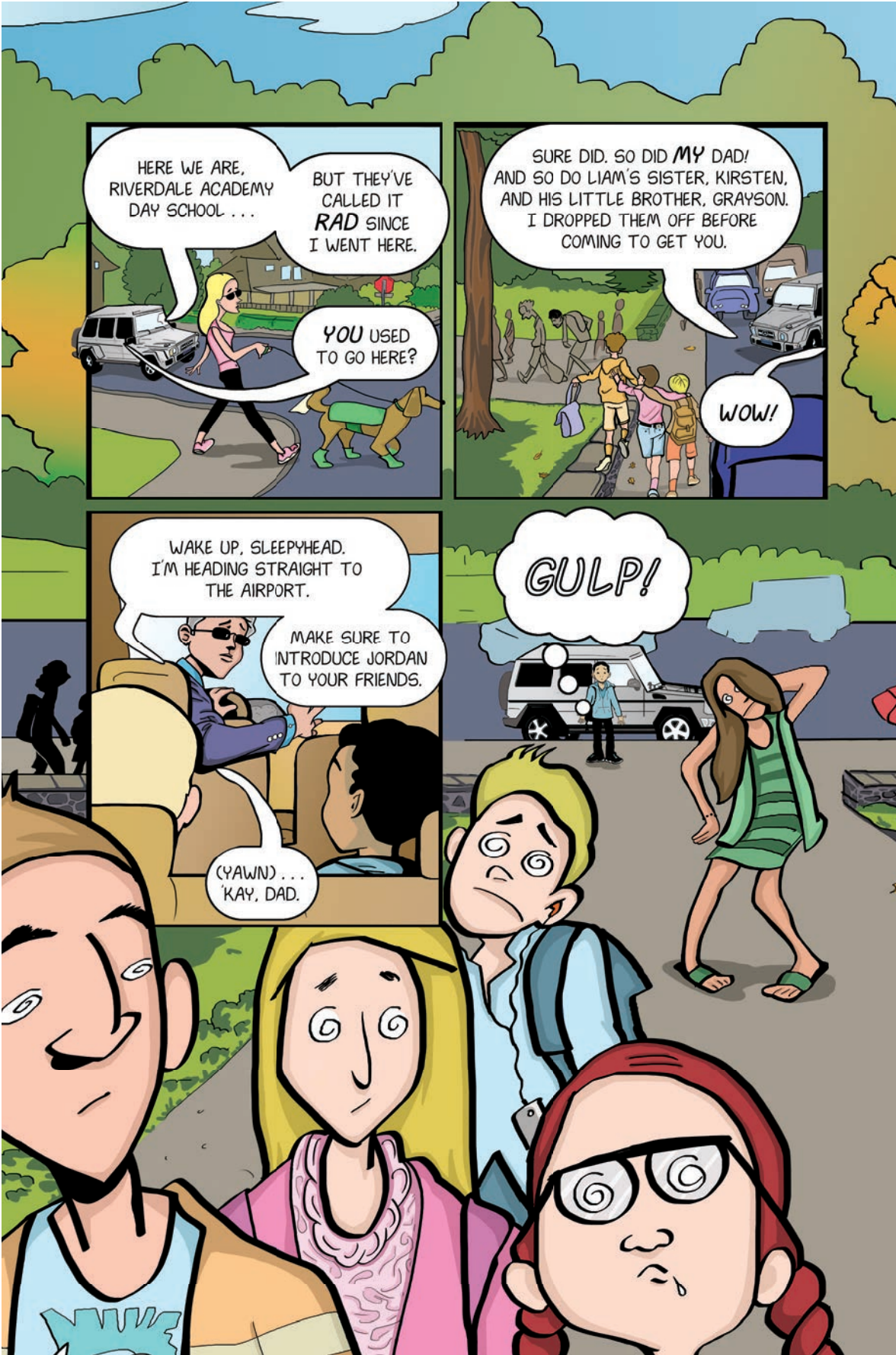


INWOOD ZOMBIES



KINGSBRIDGE ZOMBIES





HERE WE ARE, RIVERDALE ACADEMY DAY SCHOOL ...

BUT THEY'VE CALLED IT **RAD** SINCE I WENT HERE.

YOU USED TO GO HERE?

SURE DID. SO DID **MY** DAD! AND SO DO LIAM'S SISTER, KIRSTEN, AND HIS LITTLE BROTHER, GRAYSON. I DROPPED THEM OFF BEFORE COMING TO GET YOU.

WOW!

WAKE UP, SLEEPYHEAD. I'M HEADING STRAIGHT TO THE AIRPORT.

MAKE SURE TO INTRODUCE JORDAN TO YOUR FRIENDS.

(YAWN)... KAY, DAD.

GULP!



MR. PIERRE
WILL PICK
YOU GUYS UP.

MOM WILL GET
YOUR BROTHER
AND SISTER.

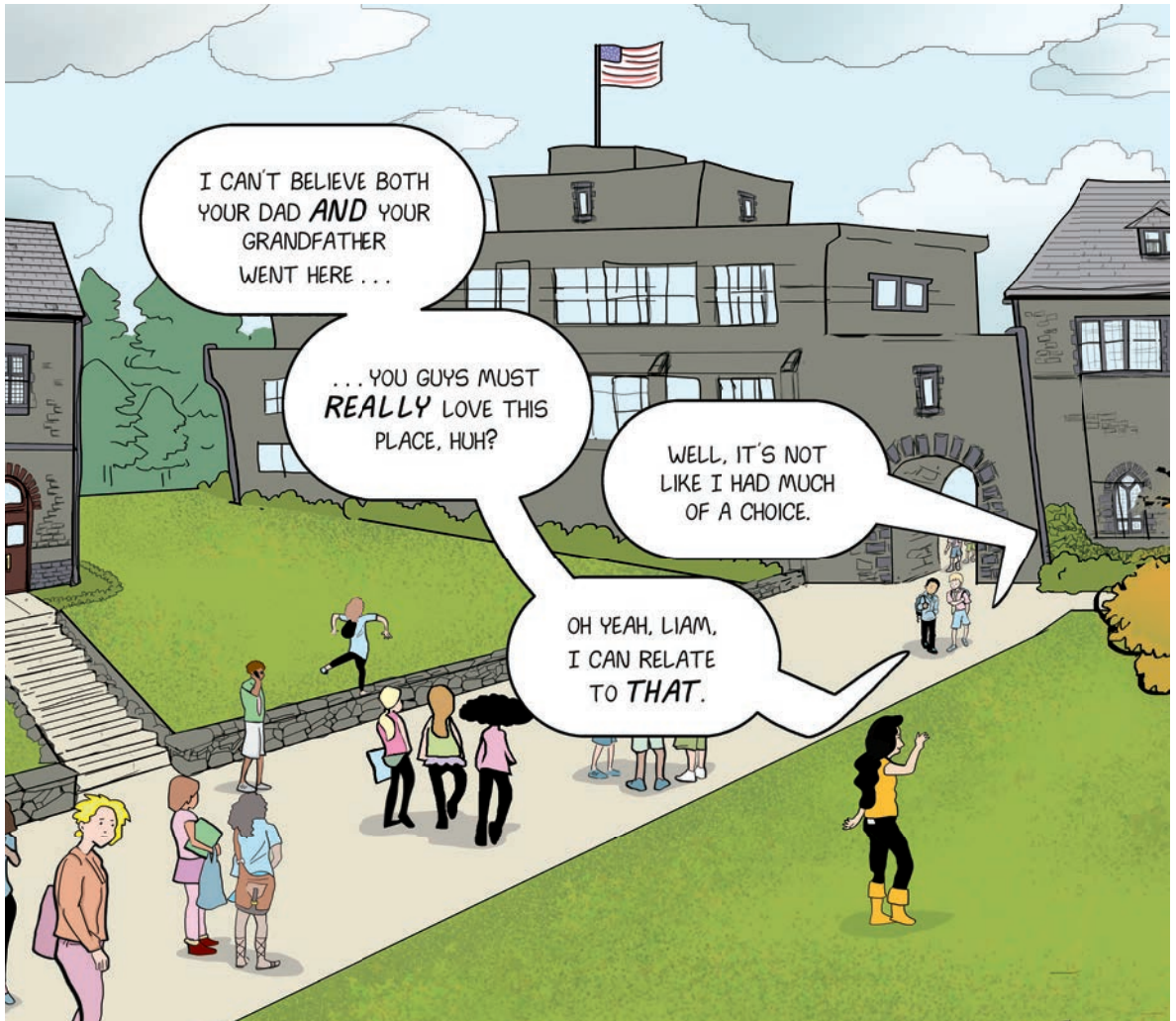
RIVERDALE

WHO'S MR.
PIERRE?

UM... JUST
A FRIEND OF
THE FAMILY.

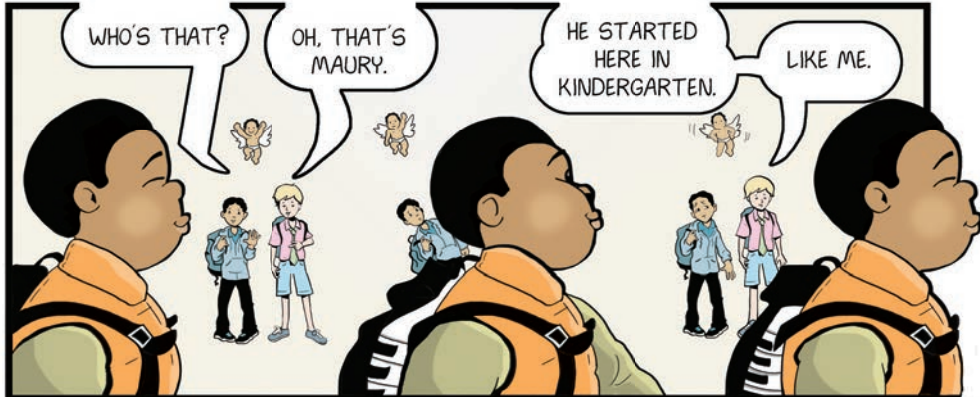
C'MON, WE DON'T
WANT TO BE LATE.

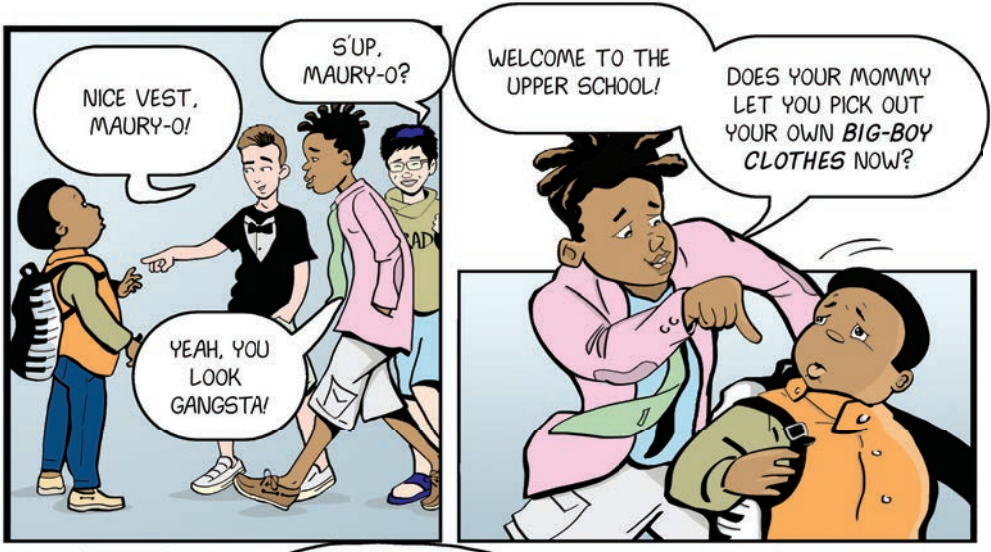
RAD

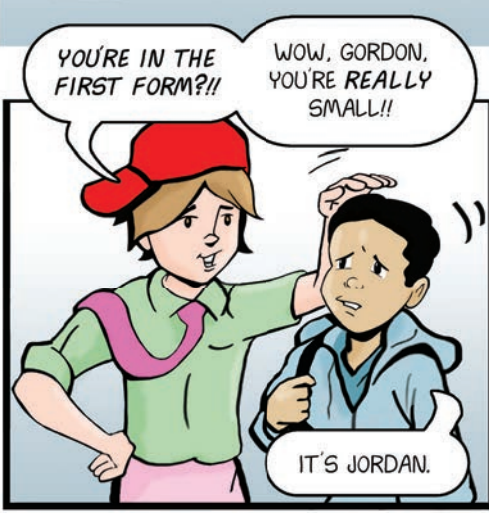
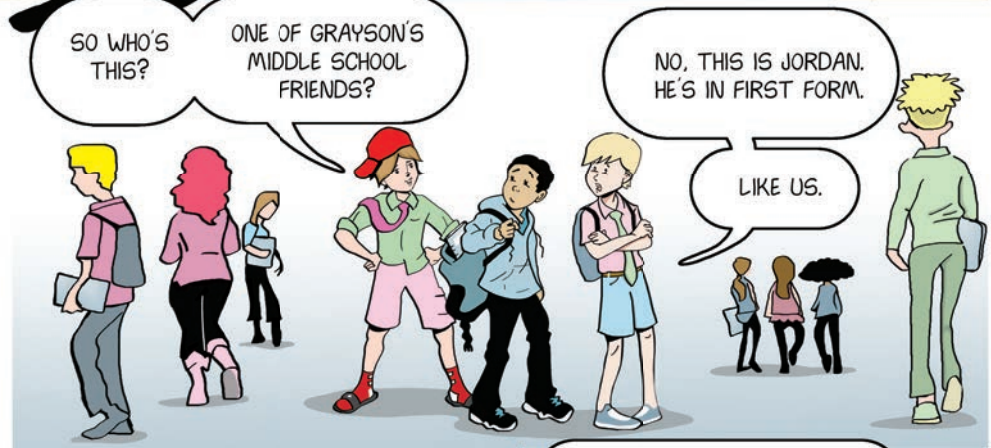
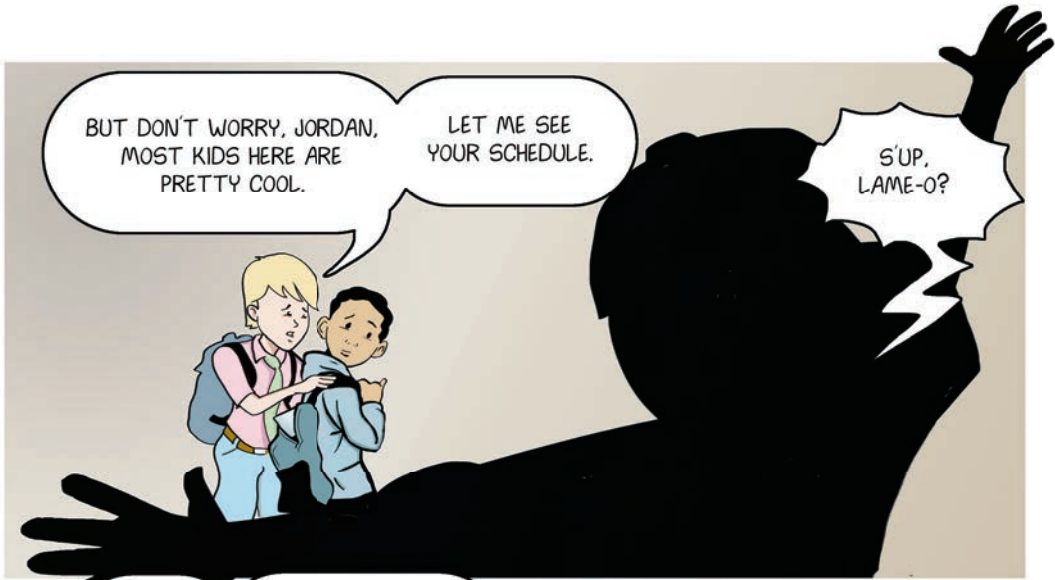


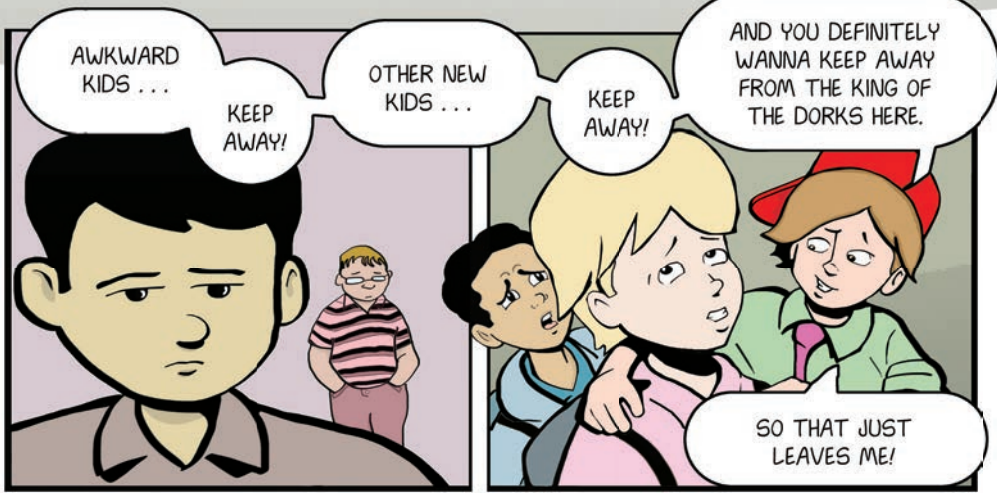
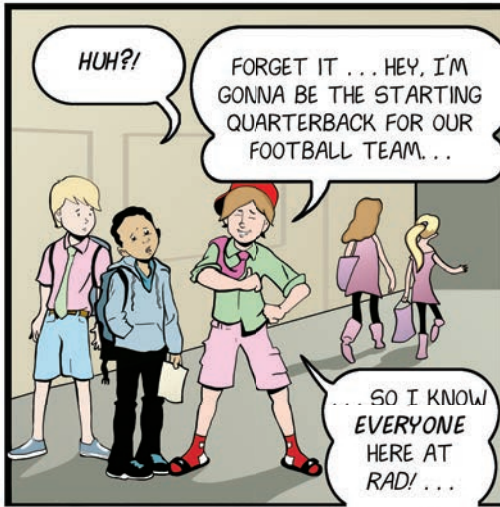


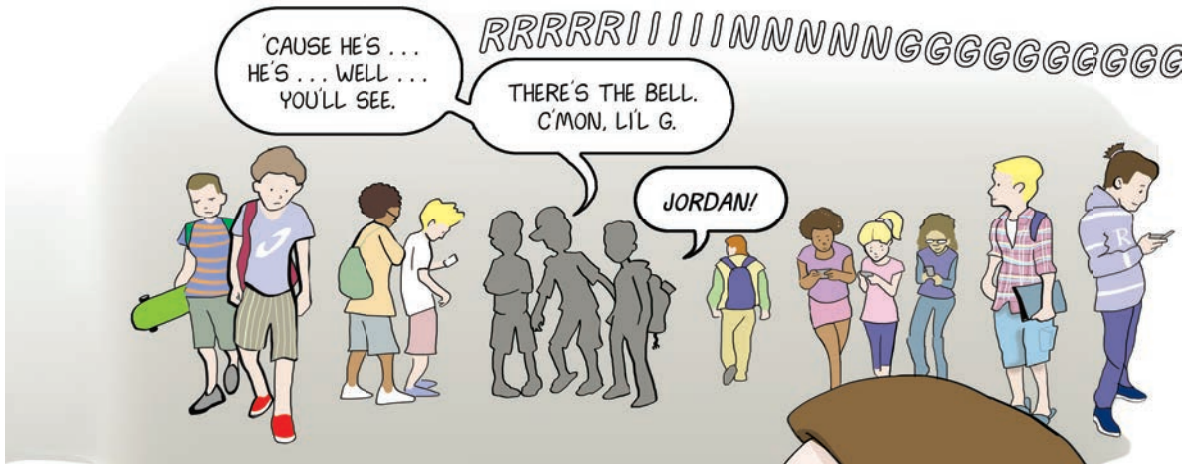
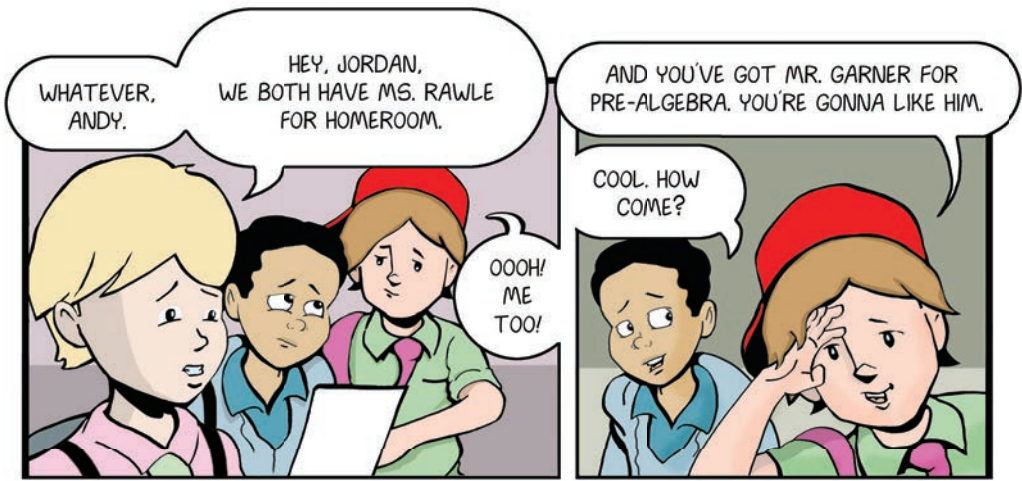




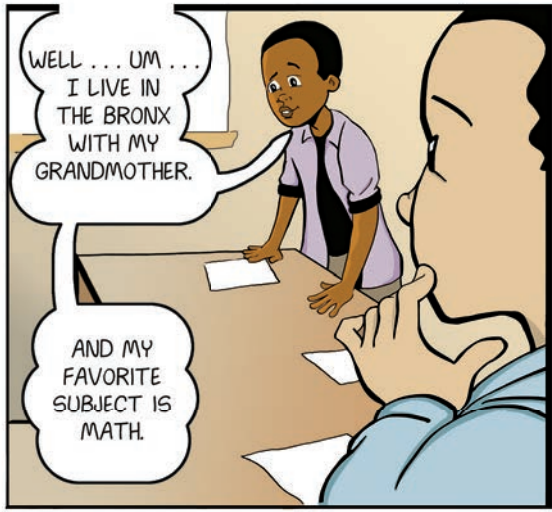




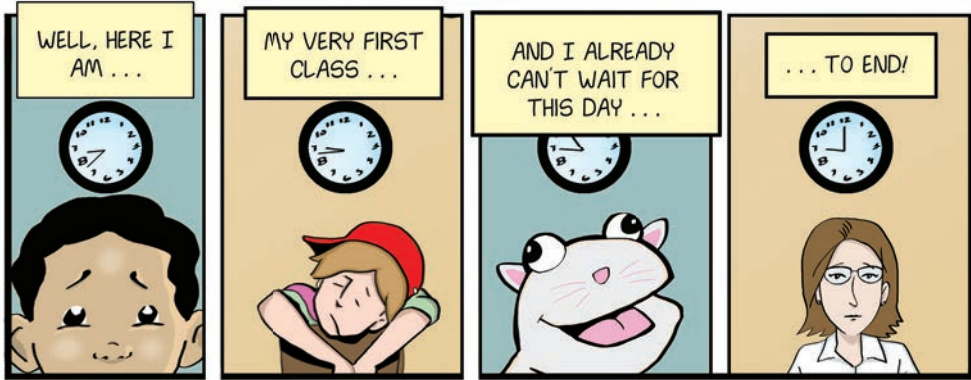




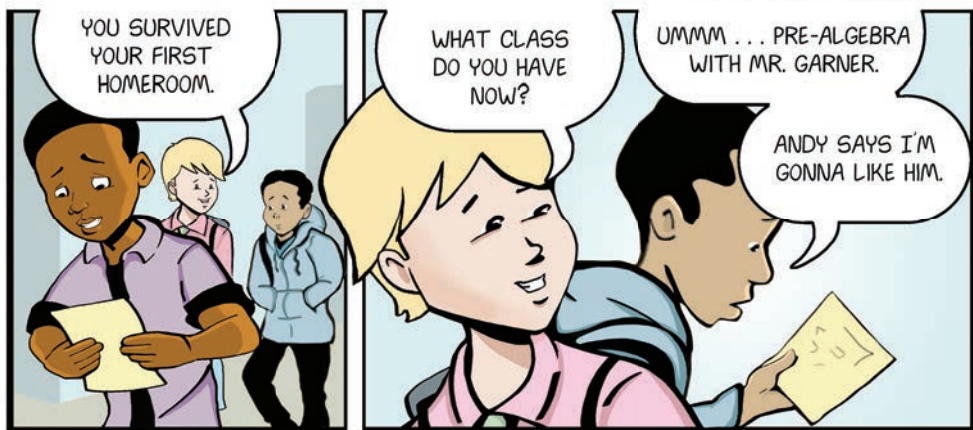


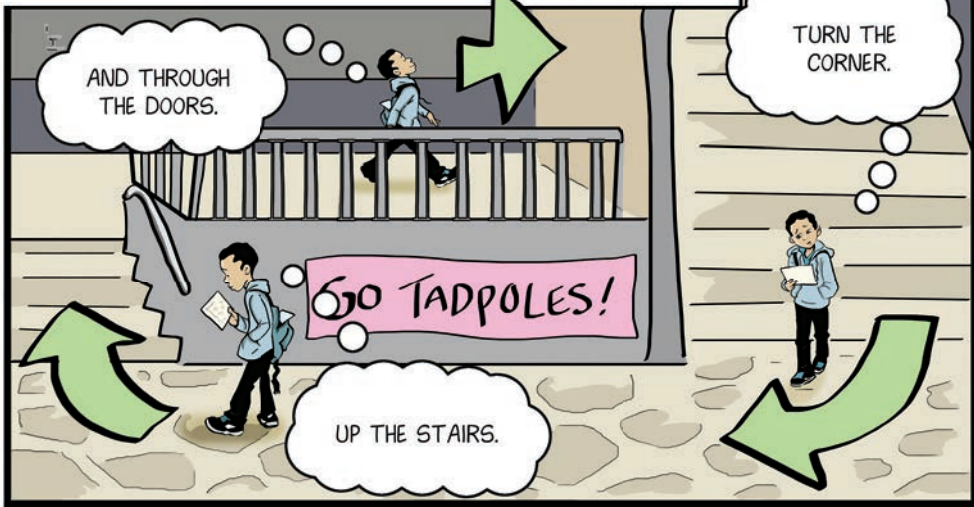
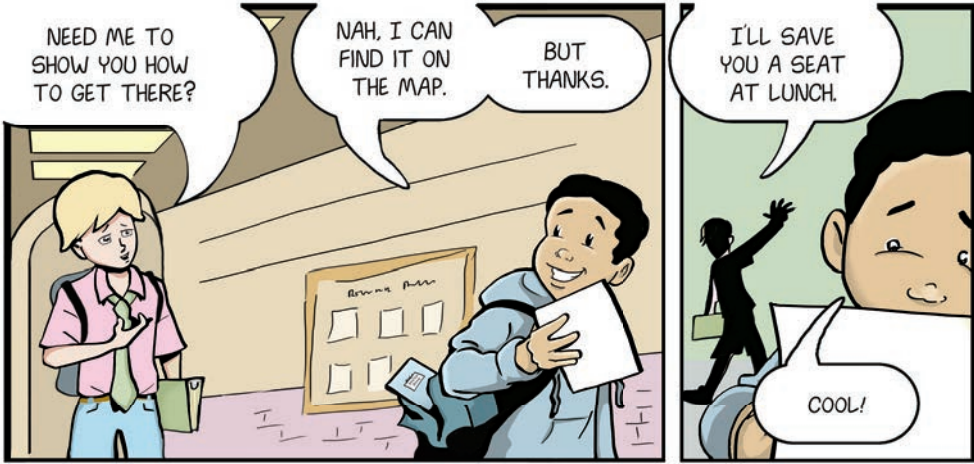


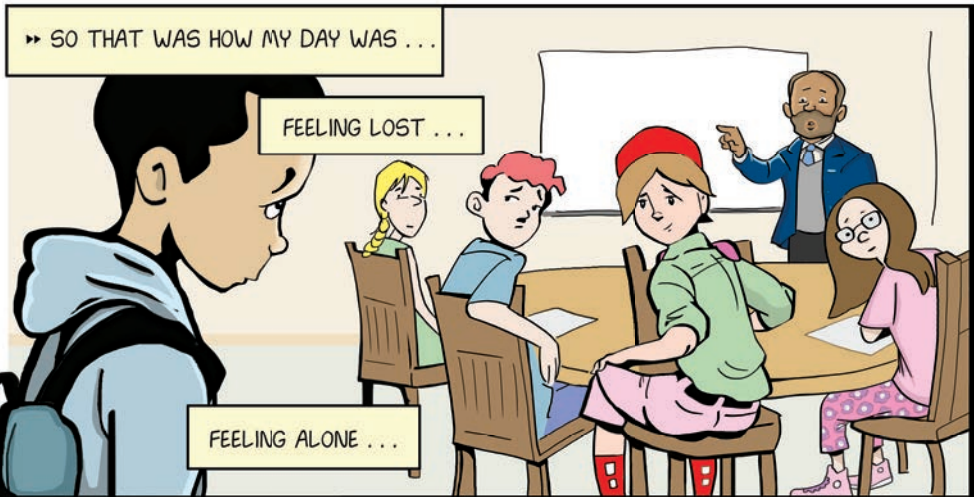
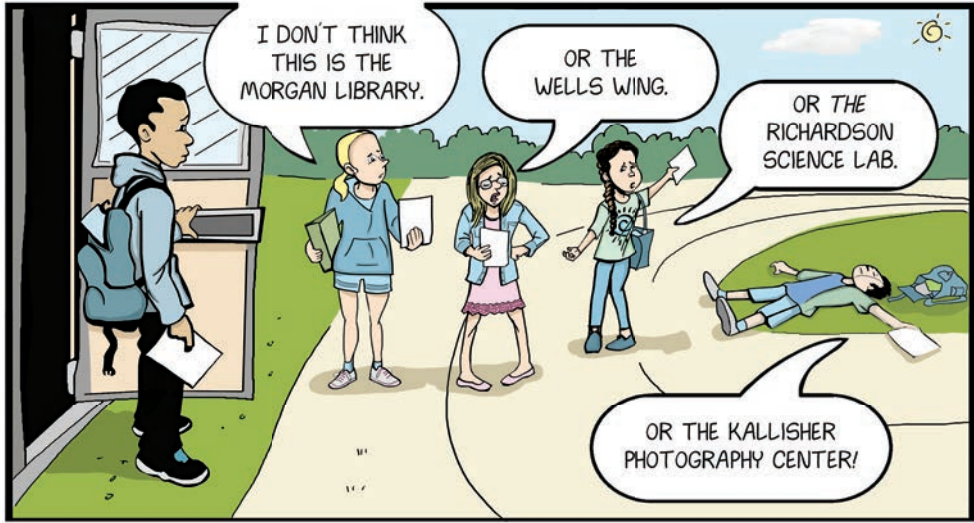


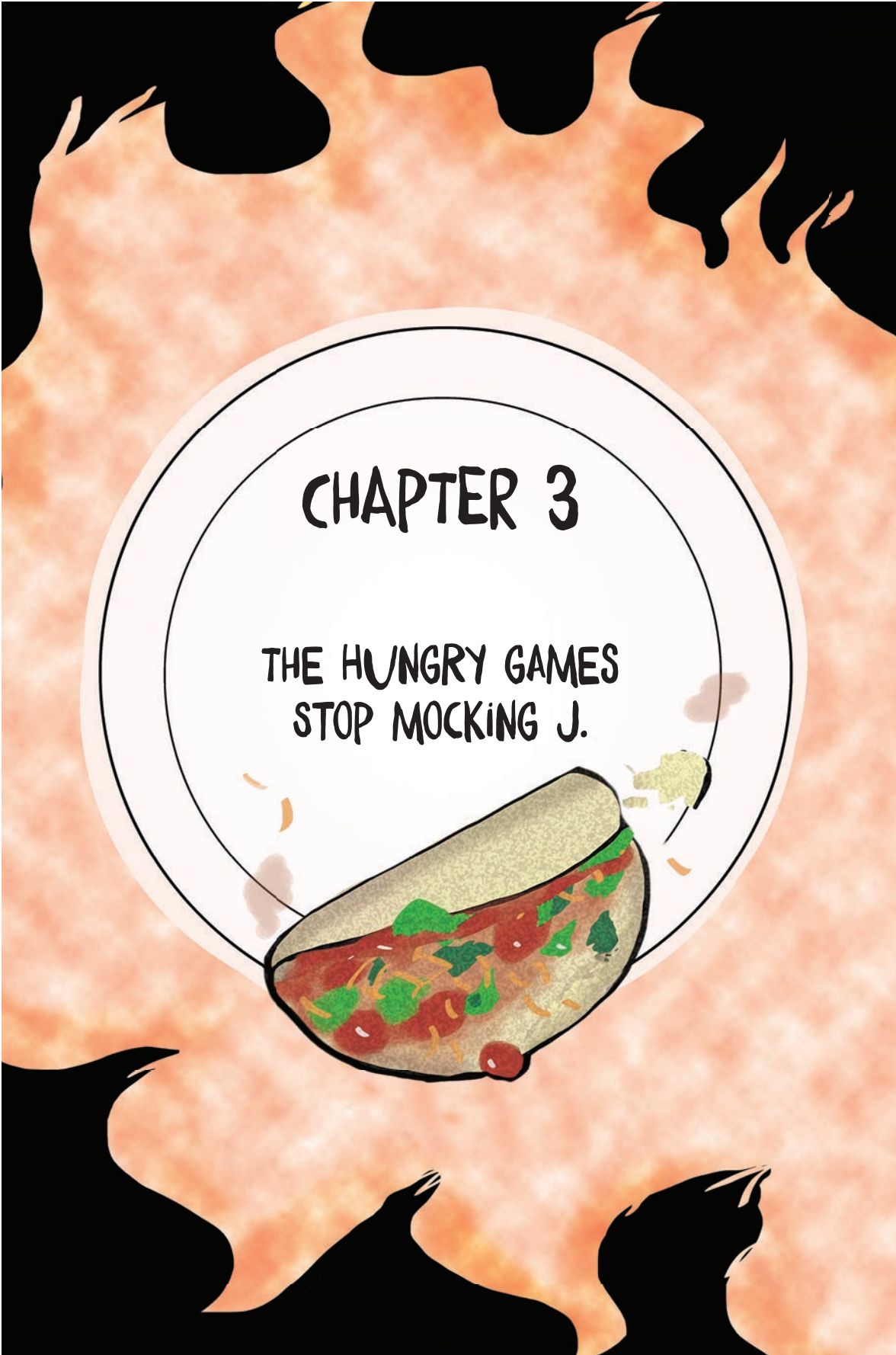


RRRRRIIIINNNGGGGGGGGG!!!!!!!







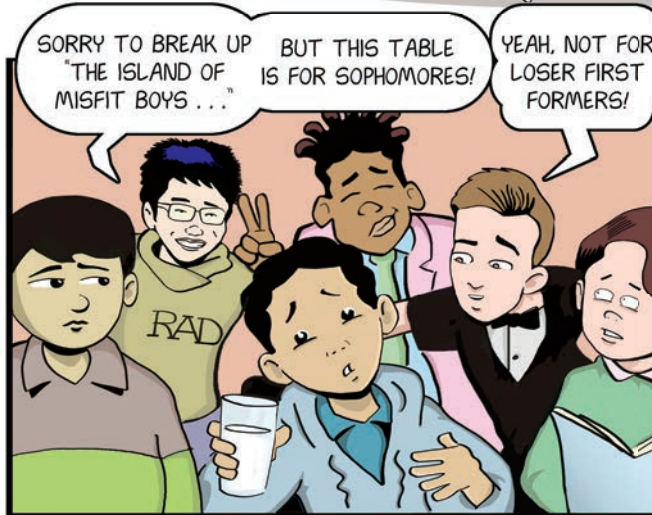
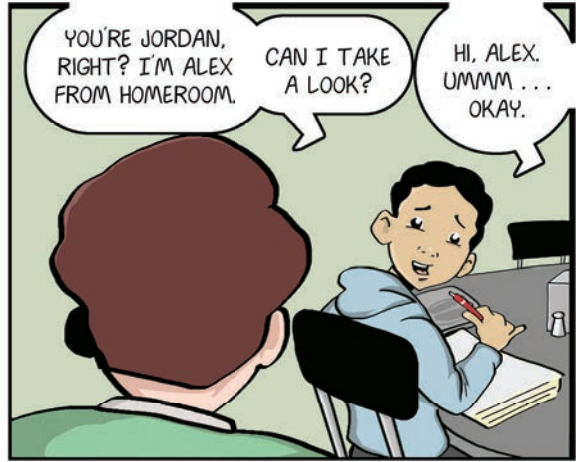


CHAPTER 3

THE HUNGRY GAMES
STOP MOCKING J.







The Dude Pyramid

A guide to Cafeteria Hierachy

Regular seniors (Wolves) get the window seats.



The Upper-Class Black Table (Rhinos)



Juniors (Foxes) get their own section in the middle.



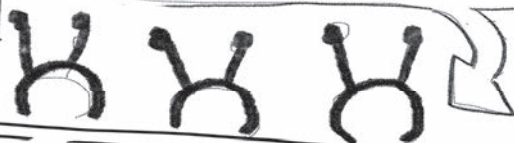
Kids who don't speak English that well- (Mice) fill up the gaps in between.



Sophomores (Owls) closest to the food



Freshmen (Ants) go around the wall without the windows.



Senior athletes (Lions) get the cool corner with windows.

RAD

Theater kids (whatever lions eat) get stuck sitting next to senior Jocks.

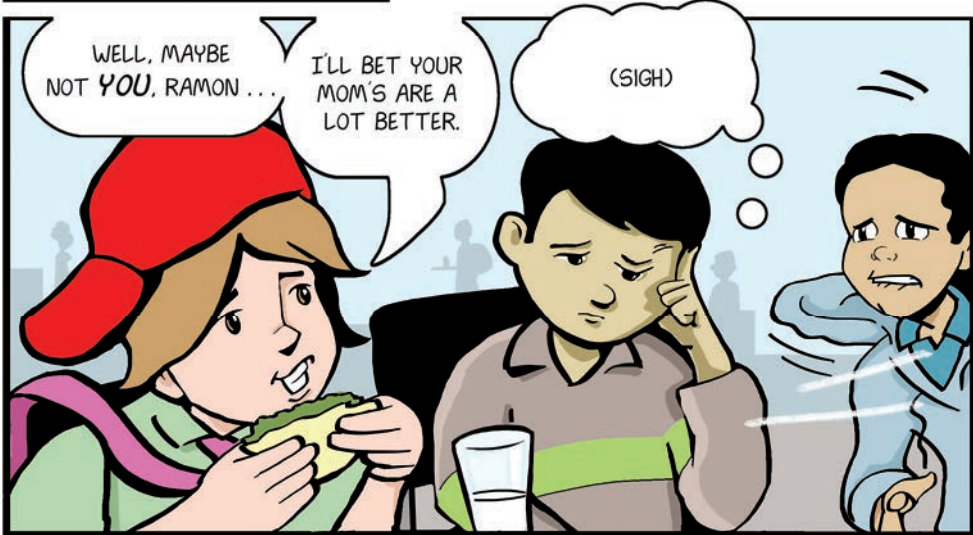
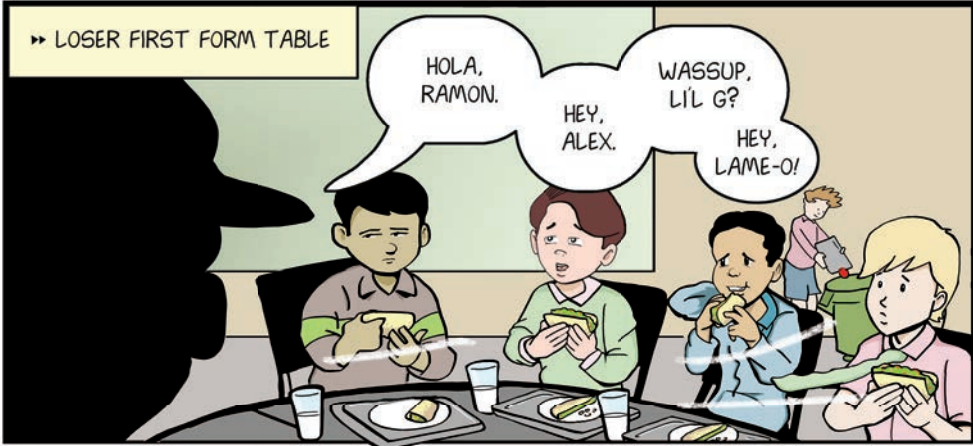
Dorky clubs (Worms) next to the brick wall.

And then there's US, seventh and eighth graders, also called first and second formers (Toenail Fungus). We get to sit in front of the drafty doorway next to the trash cans.

GARBAGE

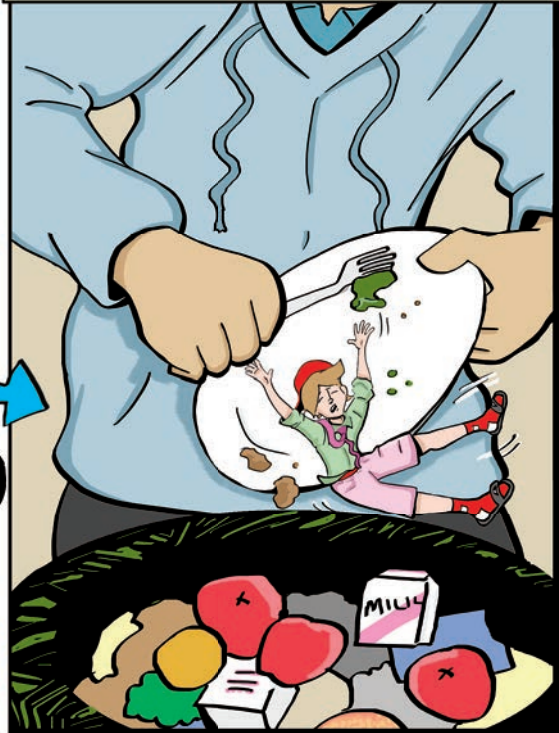
Jordan Banks

WIND



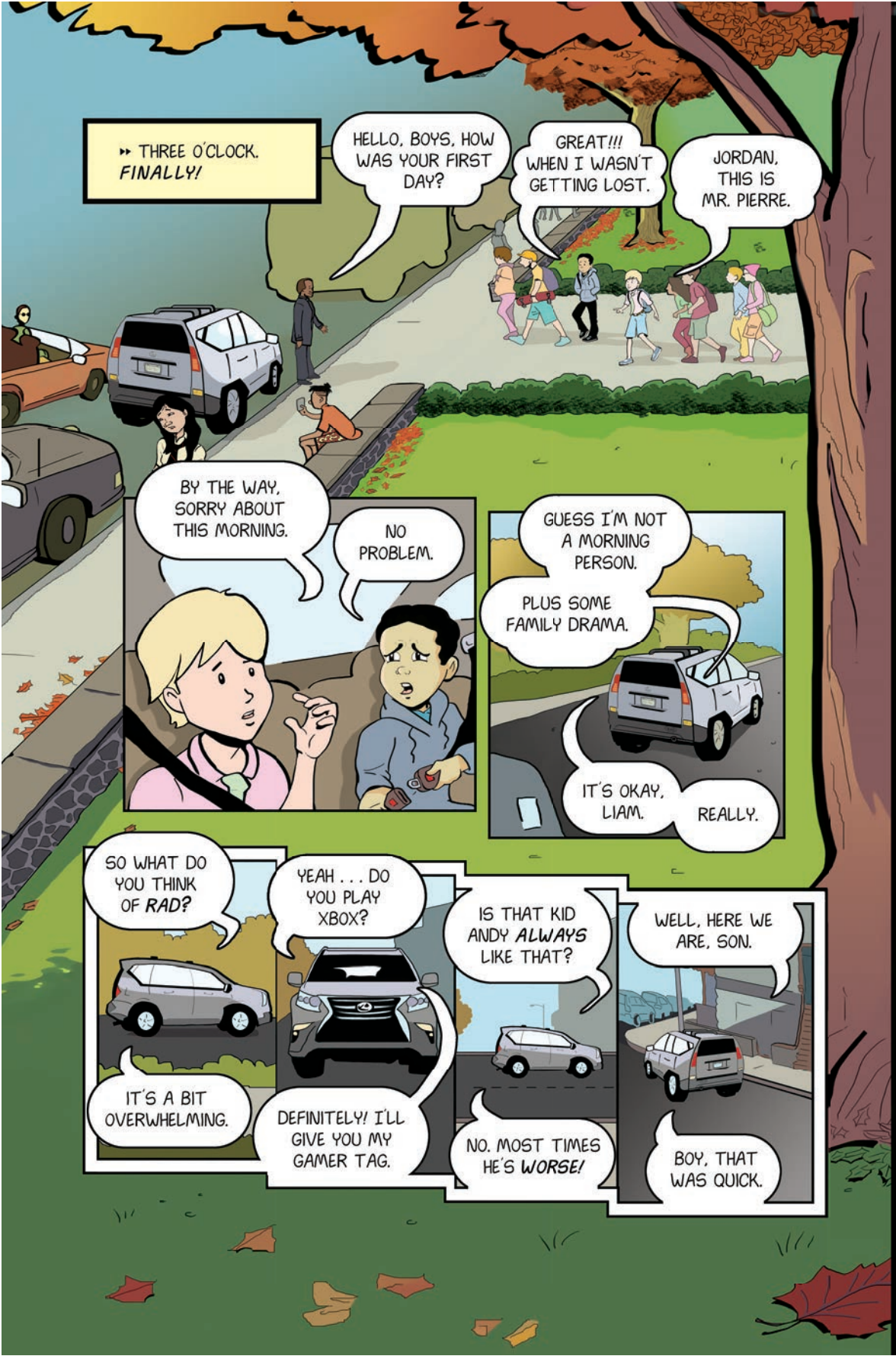


► LUNCH WAS FUN. LIAM, ALEX, AND RAMON WERE COOL. COLLIN WASN'T TOO BAD. BUT I COULD HAVE *REALLY* DONE WITHOUT ANDY.









» THREE O'CLOCK.
FINALLY!

HELLO, BOYS, HOW
WAS YOUR FIRST
DAY?

GREAT!!!
WHEN I WASN'T
GETTING LOST.

JORDAN,
THIS IS
MR. PIERRE.

BY THE WAY,
SORRY ABOUT
THIS MORNING.

NO
PROBLEM.

GUESS I'M NOT
A MORNING
PERSON.

PLUS SOME
FAMILY DRAMA.

IT'S OKAY,
LIAM.

REALLY.

SO WHAT DO
YOU THINK
OF RAD?

YEAH... DO
YOU PLAY
XBOX?

IS THAT KID
ALWAYS
LIKE THAT?

WELL, HERE WE
ARE, SON.

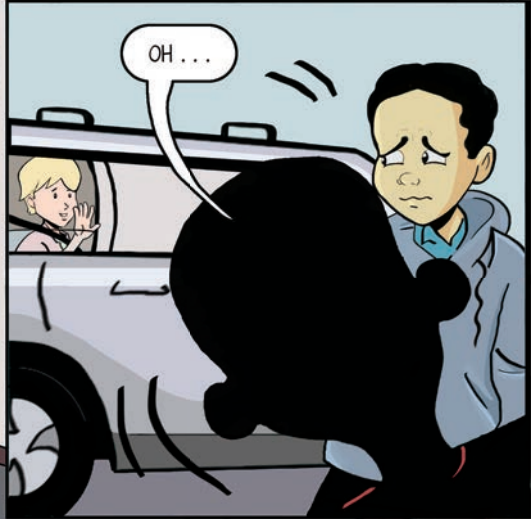
IT'S A BIT
OVERWHELMING.

DEFINITELY! I'LL
GIVE YOU MY
GAMER TAG.

NO. MOST TIMES
HE'S WORSE!

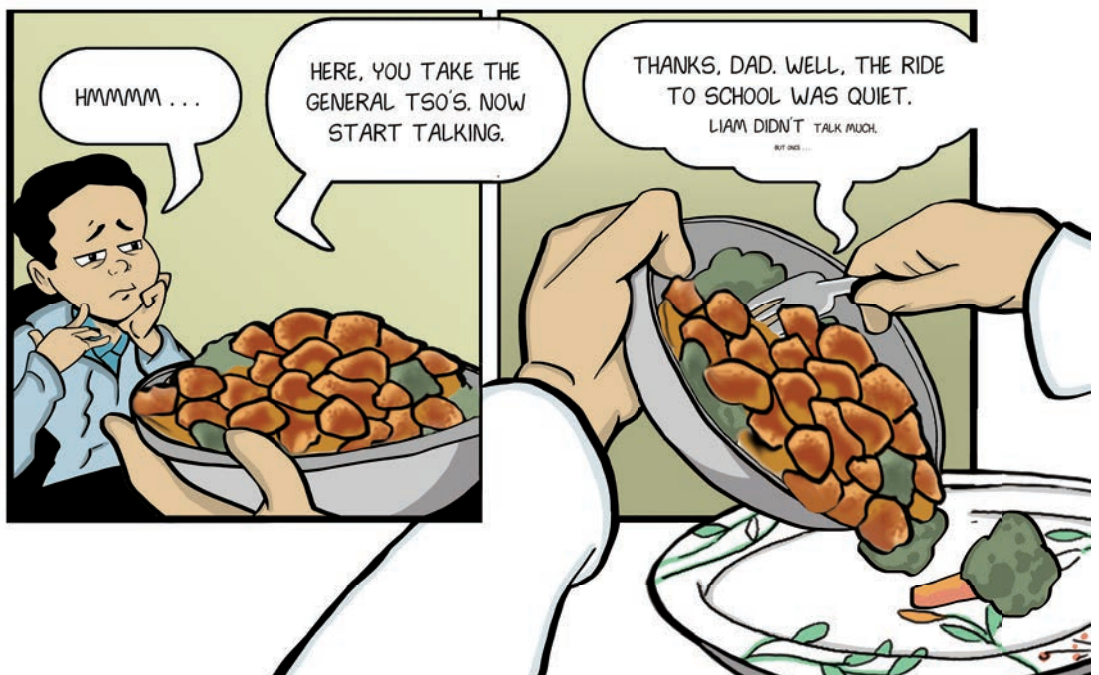
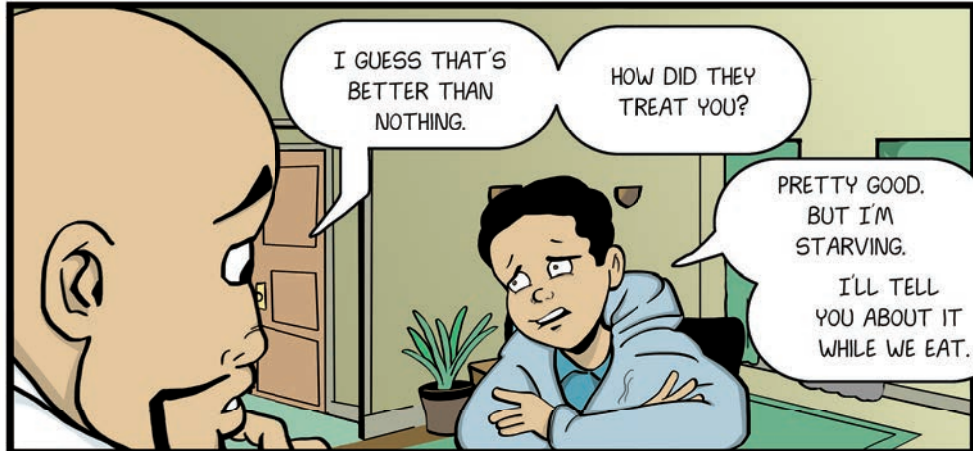
BOY, THAT
WAS QUICK.

J Max Bond Jr
Way



\$5,000
\$5 - \$5000 32
\$50 - \$5000 32









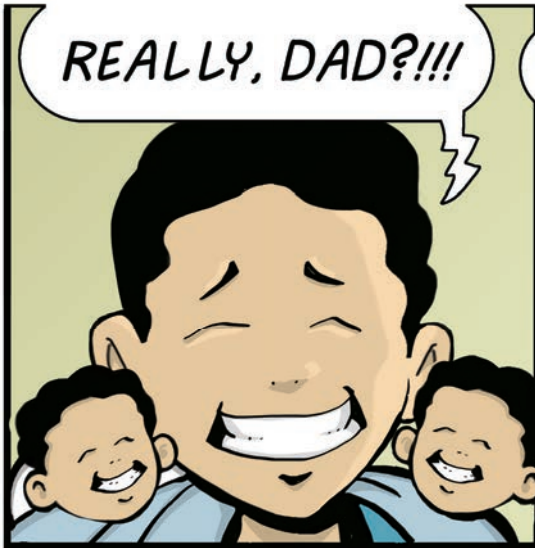
SO WHAT'S YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE SCHOOL? DO YOU THINK YOU'LL LIKE IT?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW, DAD. I JUST FEEL LIKE I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWERS TO ANYTHING.

YEAH, I FEEL YA, SON. TELL YOU WHAT, JUST GIVE IT A SHOT ...

... AND IF YOU STILL DON'T KNOW BY NINTH GRADE ...

... I'LL TALK TO YOUR MOTHER ABOUT SENDING YOU TO ART SCHOOL.



REALLY, DAD?!!!




REALLY, J.



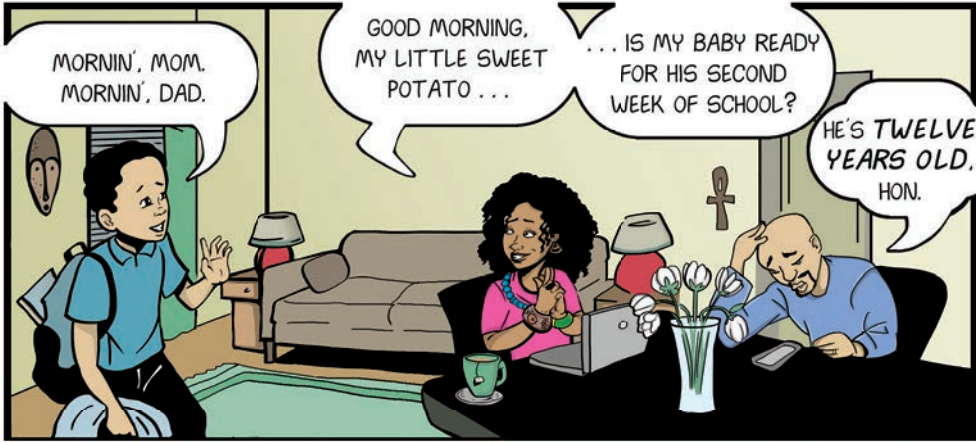
THANKS!

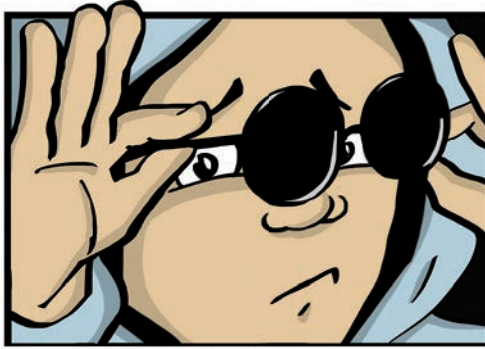


CHAPTER 4

UPPER, 
UPPER 
WEST
 SIDE
STORY





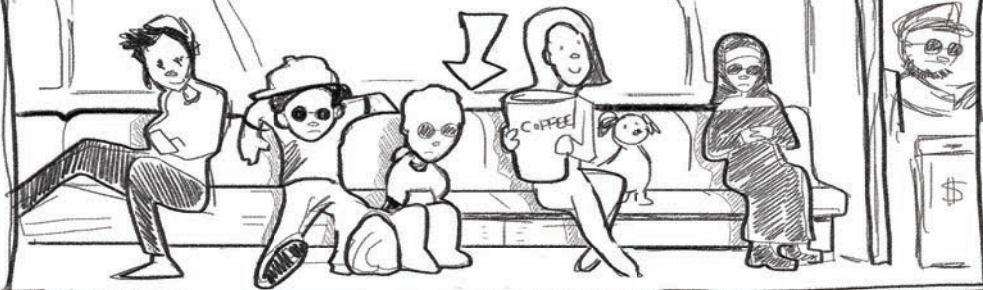


Jordan's Tips for Taking the Bus

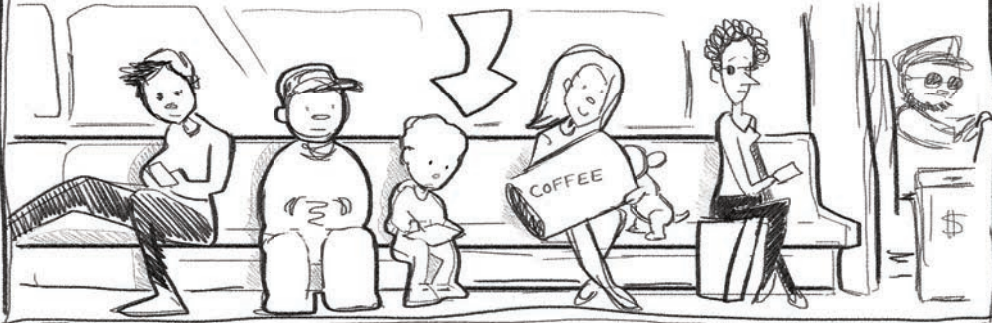
Fitting in on the ride to school is hard work!
I have to be like a chameleon.
For example, in Washington Heights,
I try to look tough.



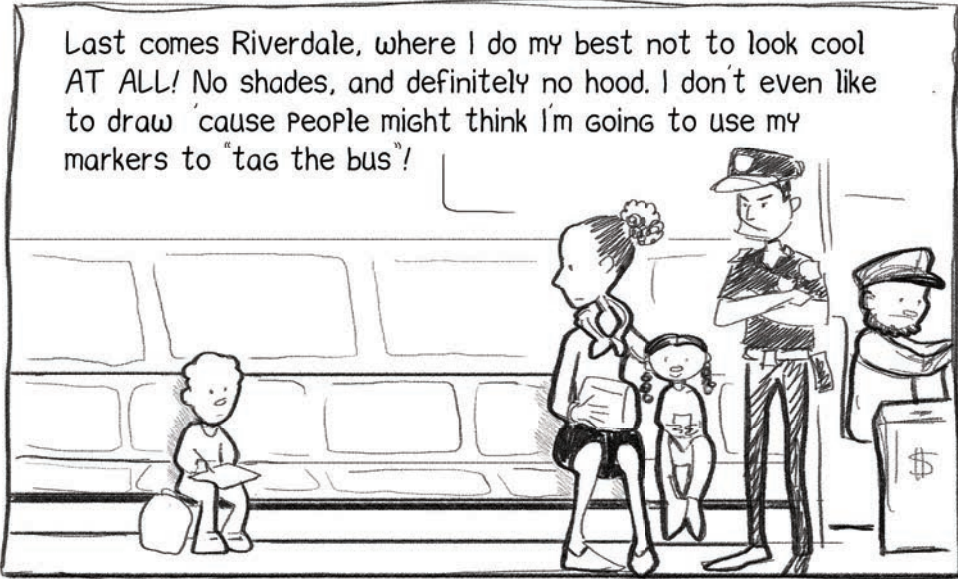
Inwood is a little different, so I can lose the hood.
No one ever smiles in the morning, so you won't catch
me doing that either!



Kingsbridge is where all of the public school kids get off,
so it's okay to take off my shades. I can even draw!



Last comes Riverdale, where I do my best not to look cool AT ALL! No shades, and definitely no hood. I don't even like to draw 'cause people might think I'm going to use my markers to "tag the bus"!

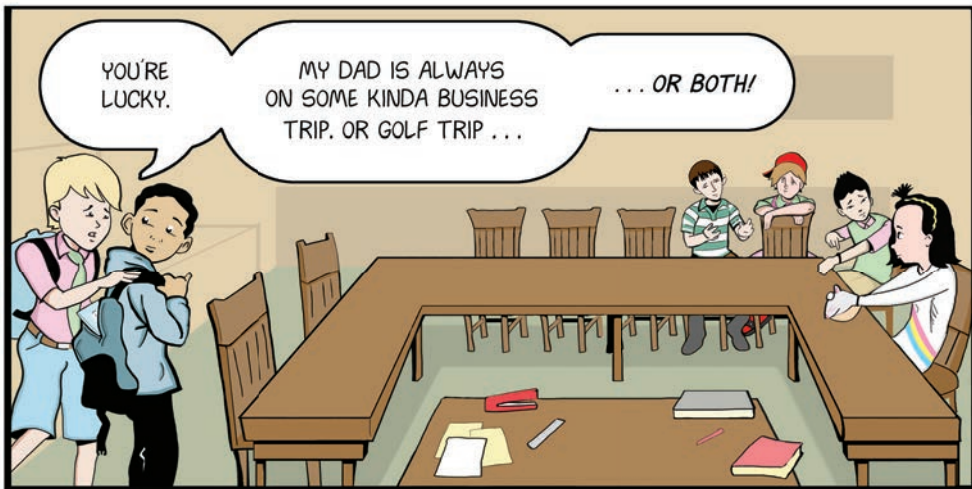
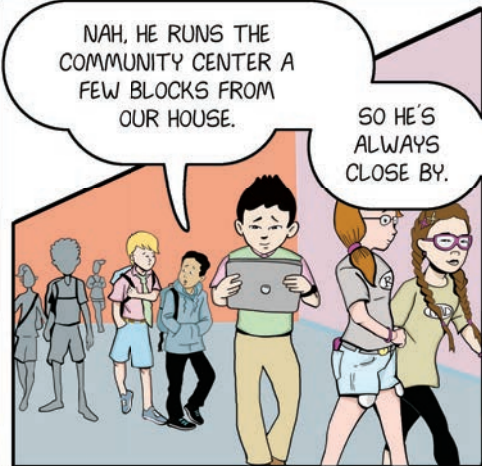
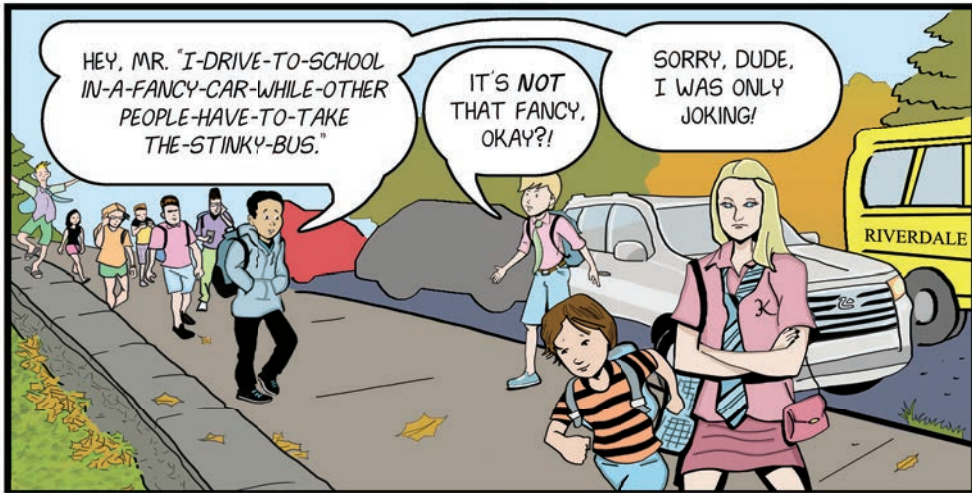


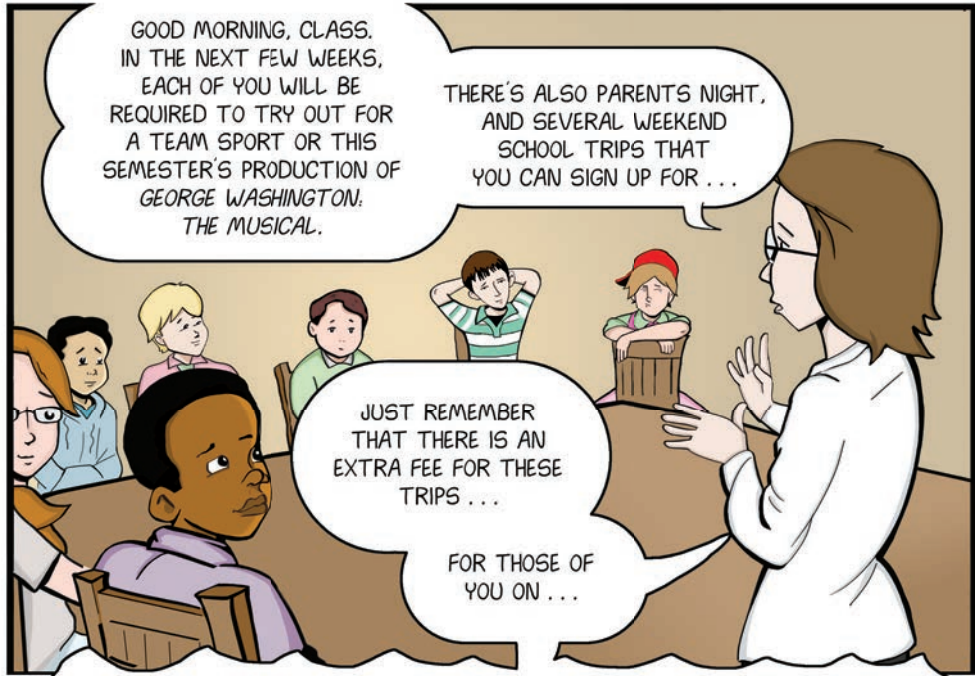
I LOVE quadratic equations, don't you?



Man! By the time I get to school, I'm exhausted!!!

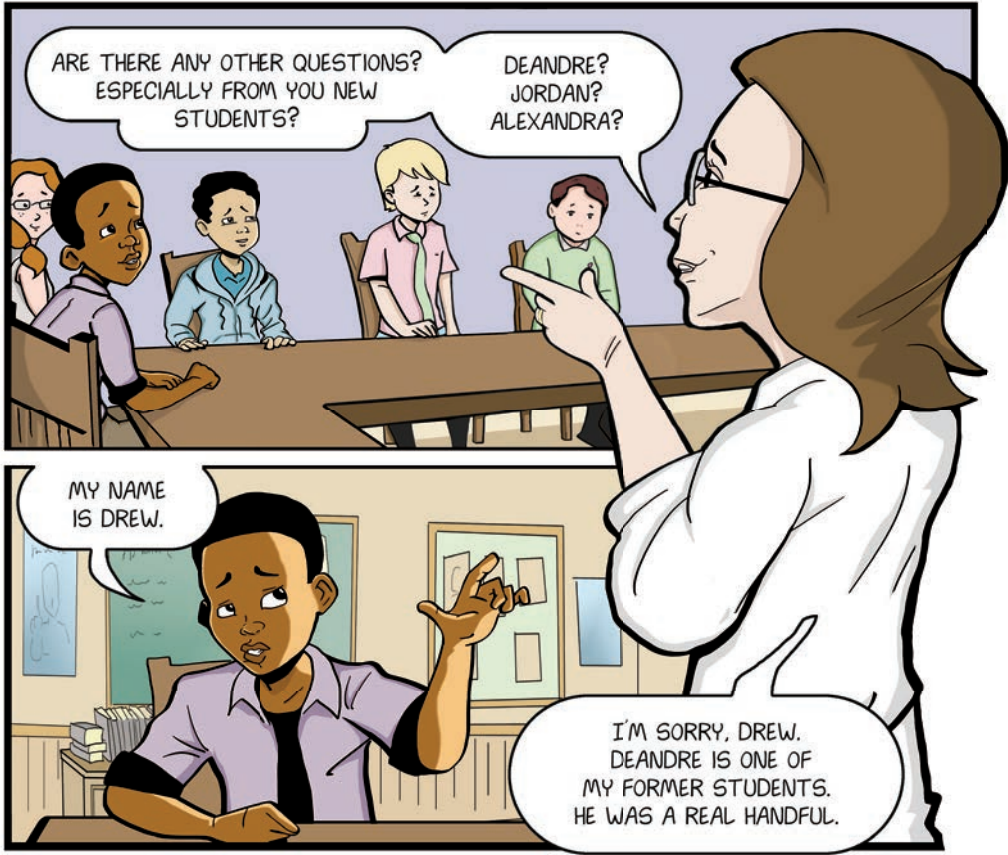






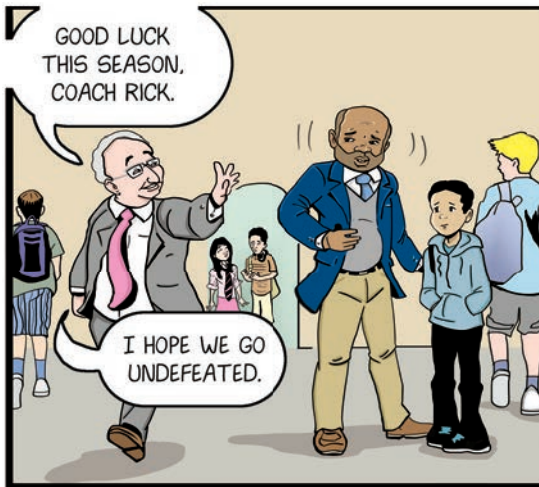
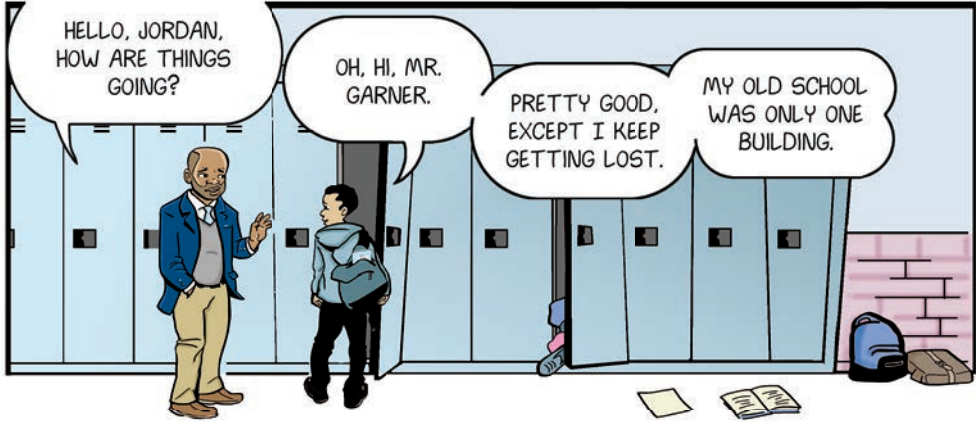
FINANCIAL AID ...

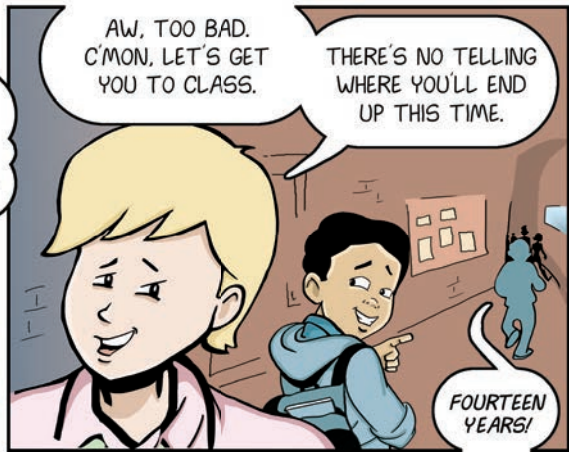
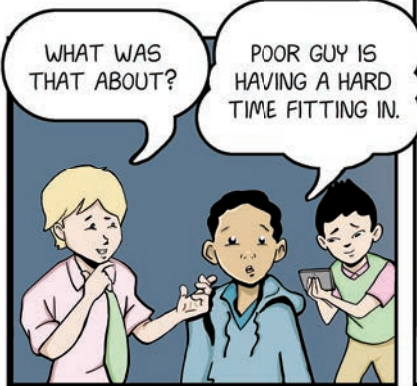


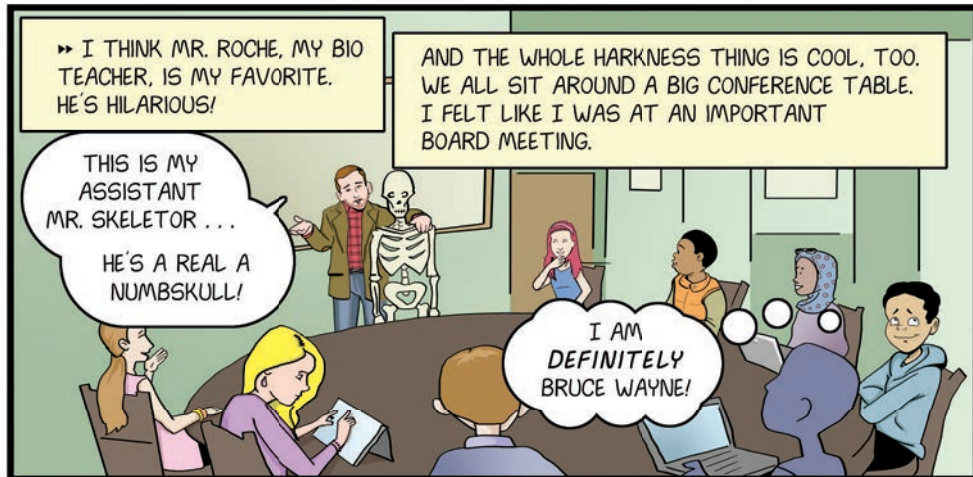


RRRRRIIIINNNGGGGGGGGGG!!!!!!!

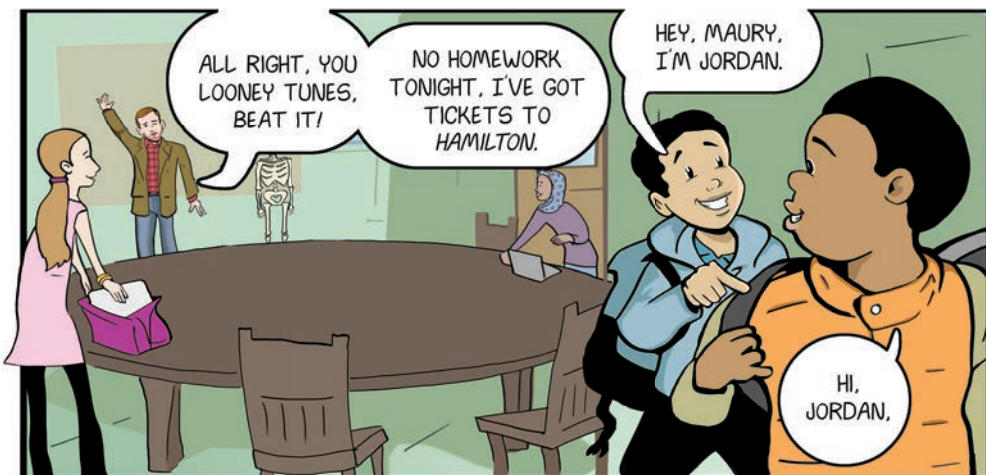








RRRRRIIIINNNNNGGGGGGGGGG!!!!!!!

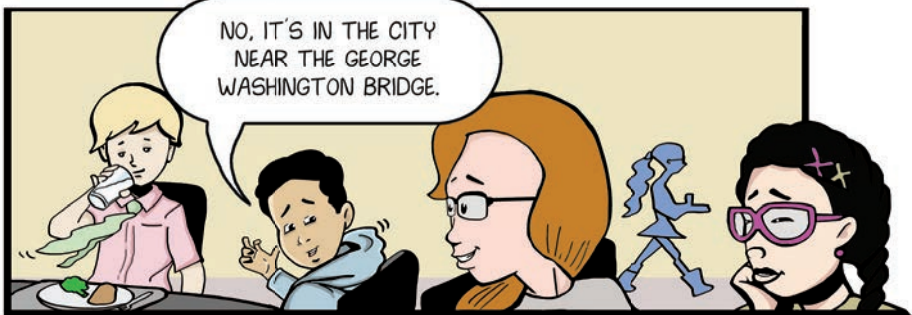


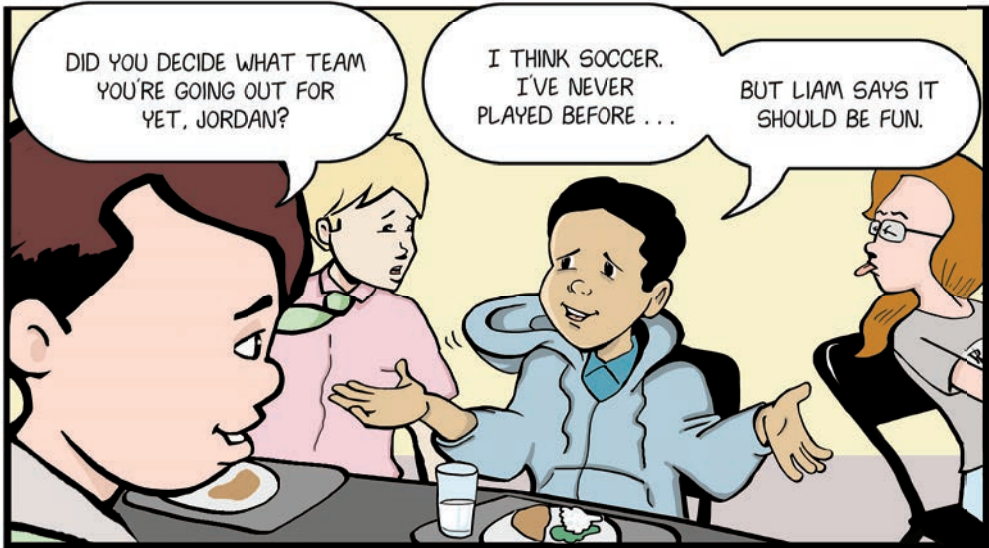
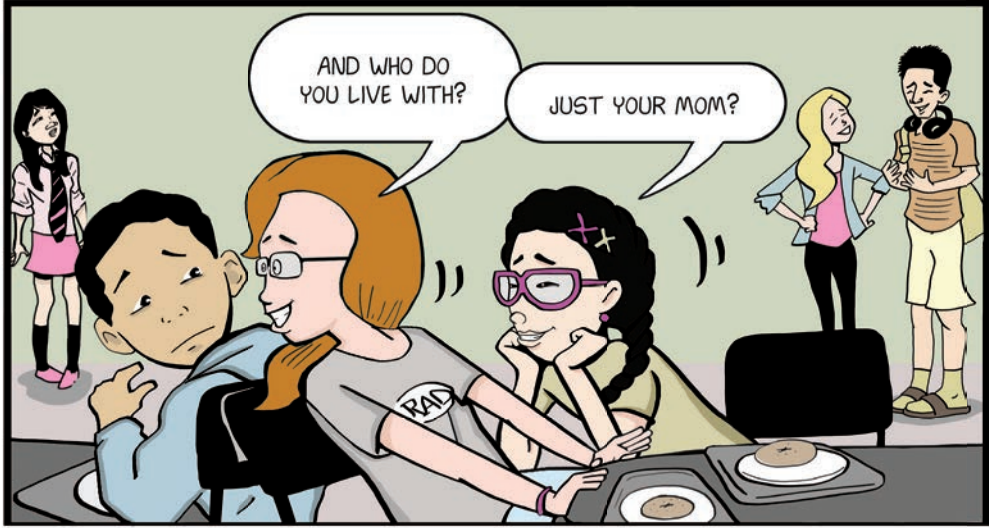




AND A DAILY VISIT FROM THE THREE HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE! I'M STILL NOT SURE WHICH ONE IS WORSE.











CHAPTER
5

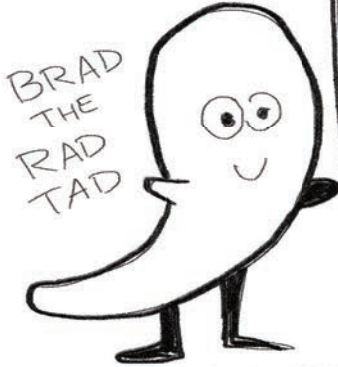
CLEATS,
PLAY,
GLOVES!

FRANCIS

FRANCIS

Jordan's Guide to Fall Sports

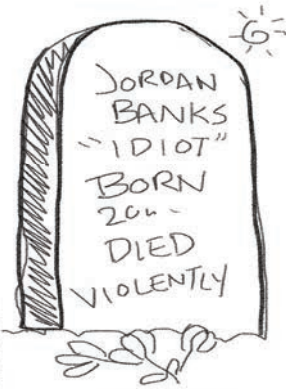
First of all, our team name is *The Riverdale Academy Tadpoles*, or *The RAD Tads!* Ugh!



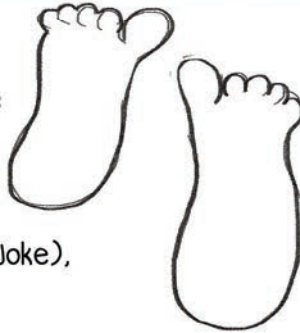
This semester, everyone has to join a team or go out for the musical. I can't sing!



I thought about football, but then I thought about this!



My other choices are cross country, volleyball, competitive yoga, ultimate Frisbee (no joke), and soccer.



Even though I've never played before, Liam told me that all I needed to make one of our five soccer teams is a couple of these.

Team 1: Varsity



Team 2: Junior Varsity



Team 3: Thirds



Team 4: Lower Form A Team



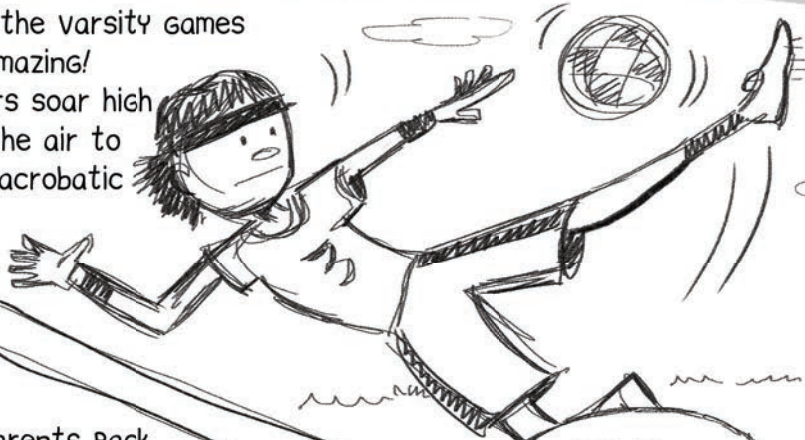
Team 5: Lower Form B Team



Guess which one I made.

They even made me captain because I'm the only kid who NEVER threw up during practice AND has never had a concussion.

Now, the varsity games are amazing! Players soar high into the air to make acrobatic kicks!



And parents pack the stands to cheer for their kids.



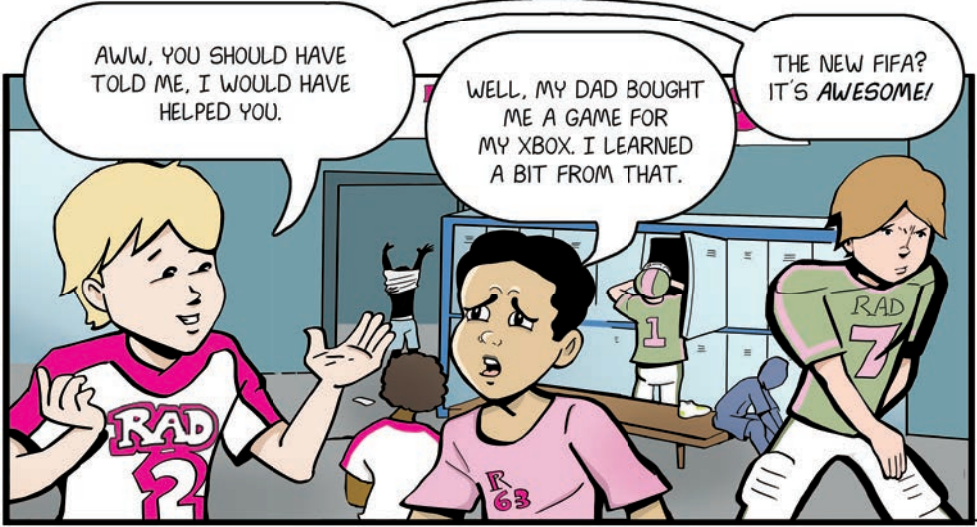
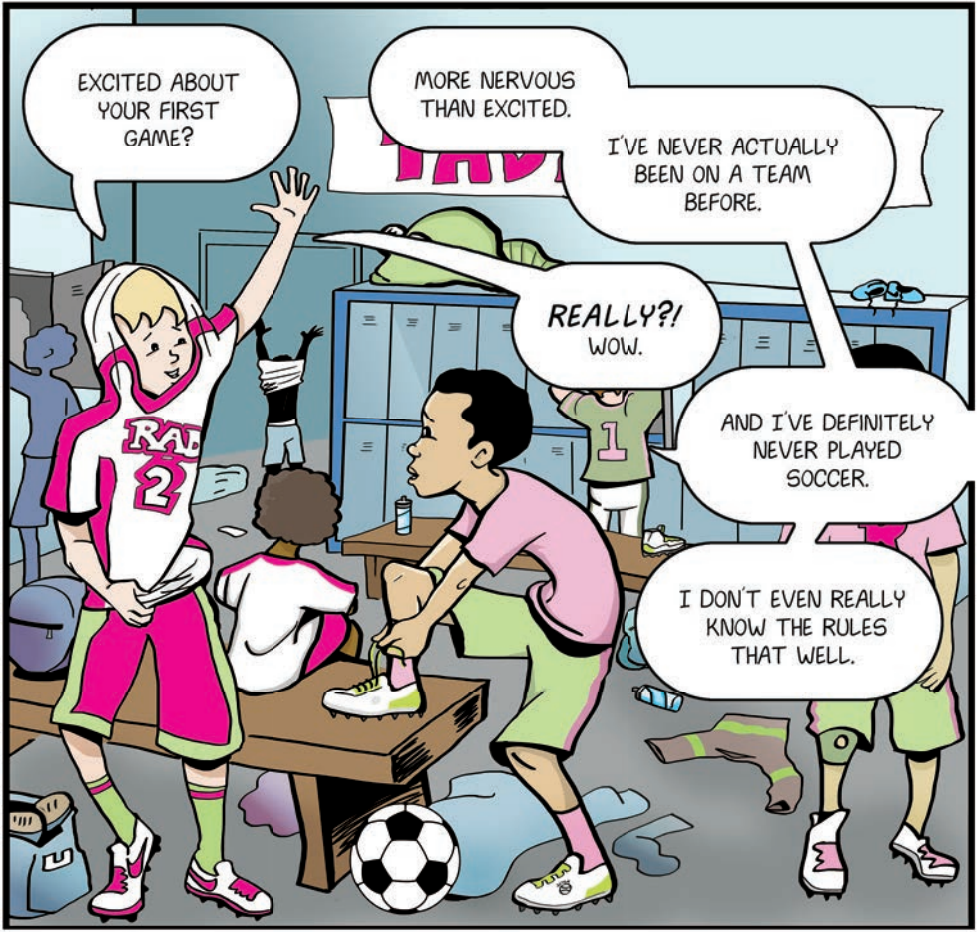
Meanwhile *OUR* games look more like they're casting for a low-budget karate movie.



Jordan Banks

Parents use the time to check email or play *Words with Friends*.





PUH-LEASE! YOU DON'T KNOW MY DAD. I NEVER GET NEW GAMES.



HEY, ANDY, CONGRATS ON BEING THE STARTING QUARTERBACK!

WHATEVER, MAN!



DIDN'T YOU HEAR? ANDY'S NOT THE STARTING QB ...

HE IS!



I ALREADY KNEW, I JUST WANTED TO MAKE HIM SALTY.

GOOD LUCK, JORDAN. I HOPE YOU WIN.

YOU, TOO, LIAM.

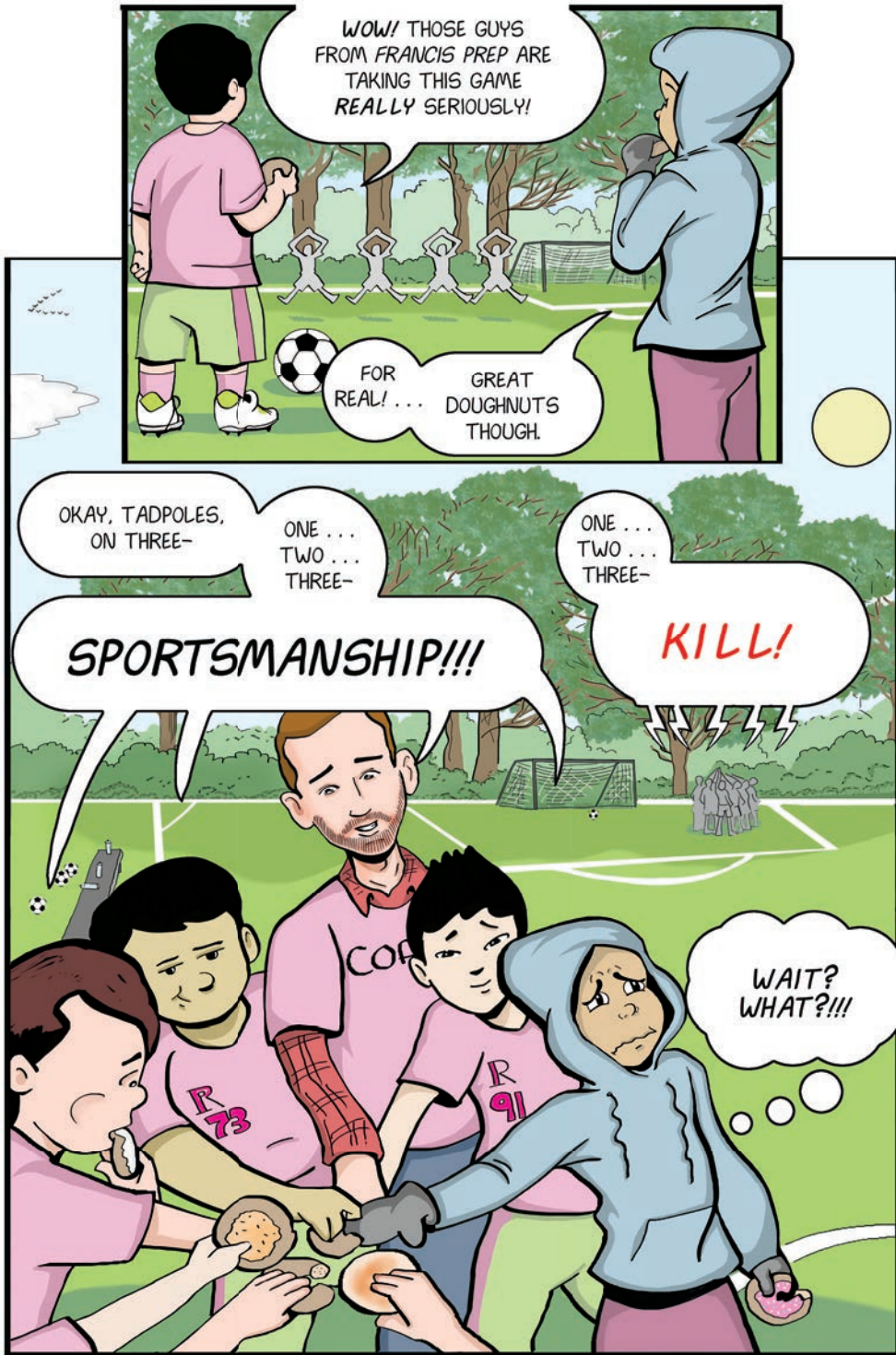
▶ LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

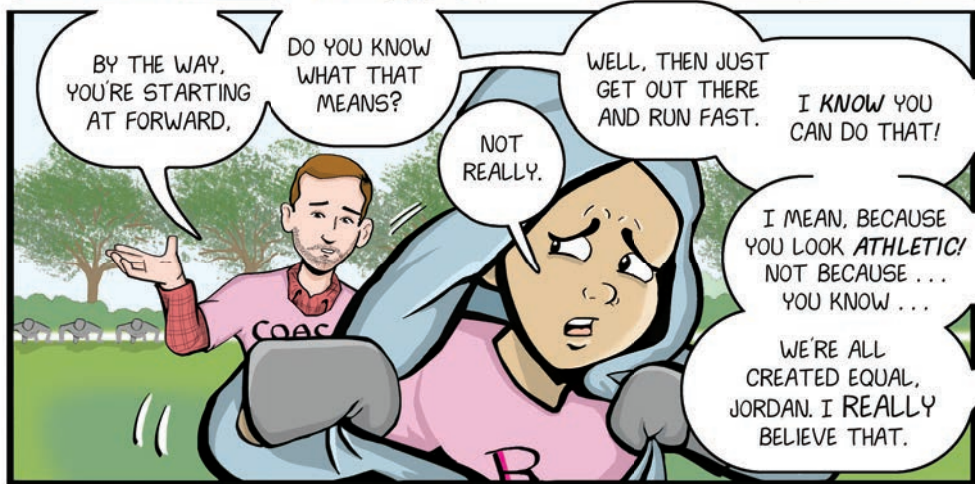
THE REAL
COACH RICK!

COOL SOCCER
UNIFORMS



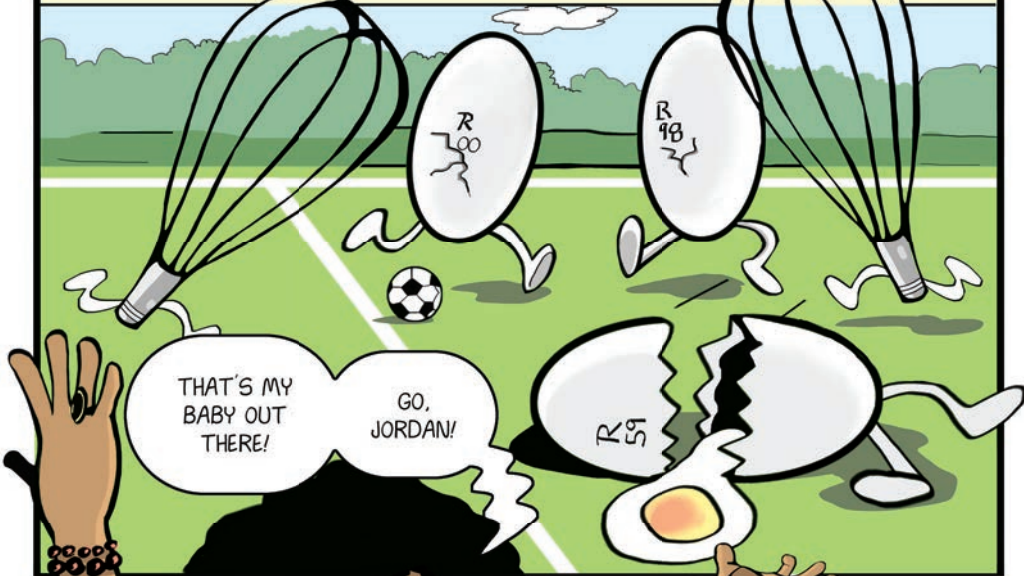


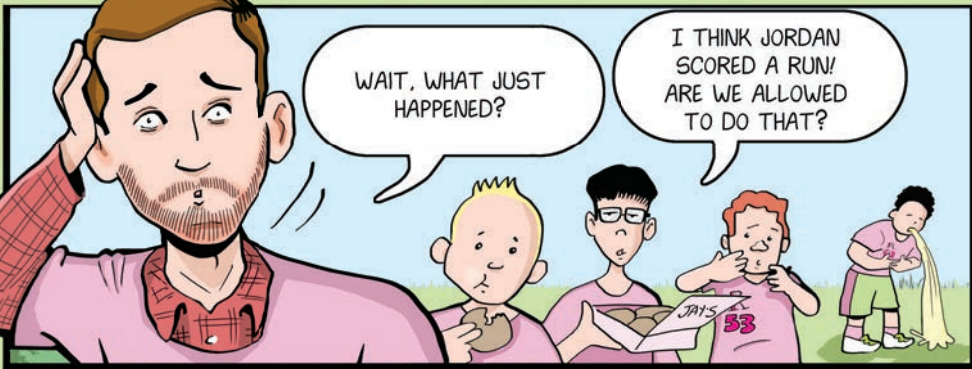
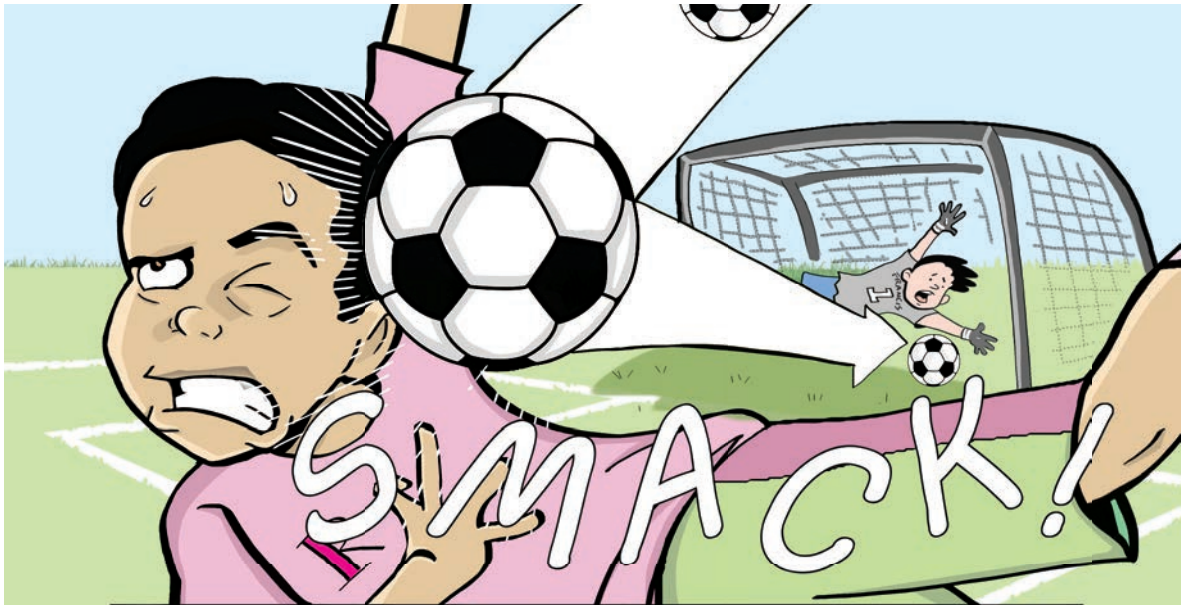






»THE GAME WAS TIED IN THE FIFTY-THIRD MINUTE. (ACTUALLY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT I HEARD IT ON TV ONCE AND IT SOUNDS COOL!) IN REALITY, WE WERE BEING BEATEN LIKE A BUNCH OF EGGS!



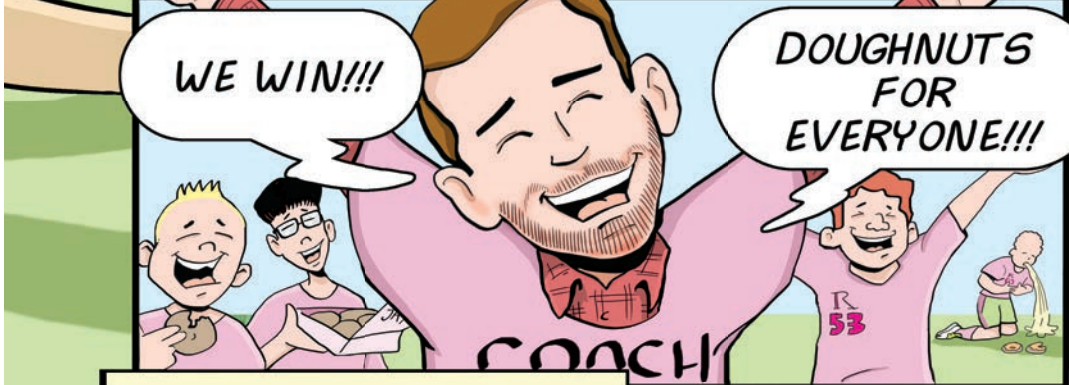




WHOA!
CHECK OUT
HIS CELLY!

I DIDN'T KNOW HE
COULD DANCE.

NOW THAT'S A
CELEBRATION!



WE WIN!!!

DOUGHNUTS
FOR
EVERYONE!!!

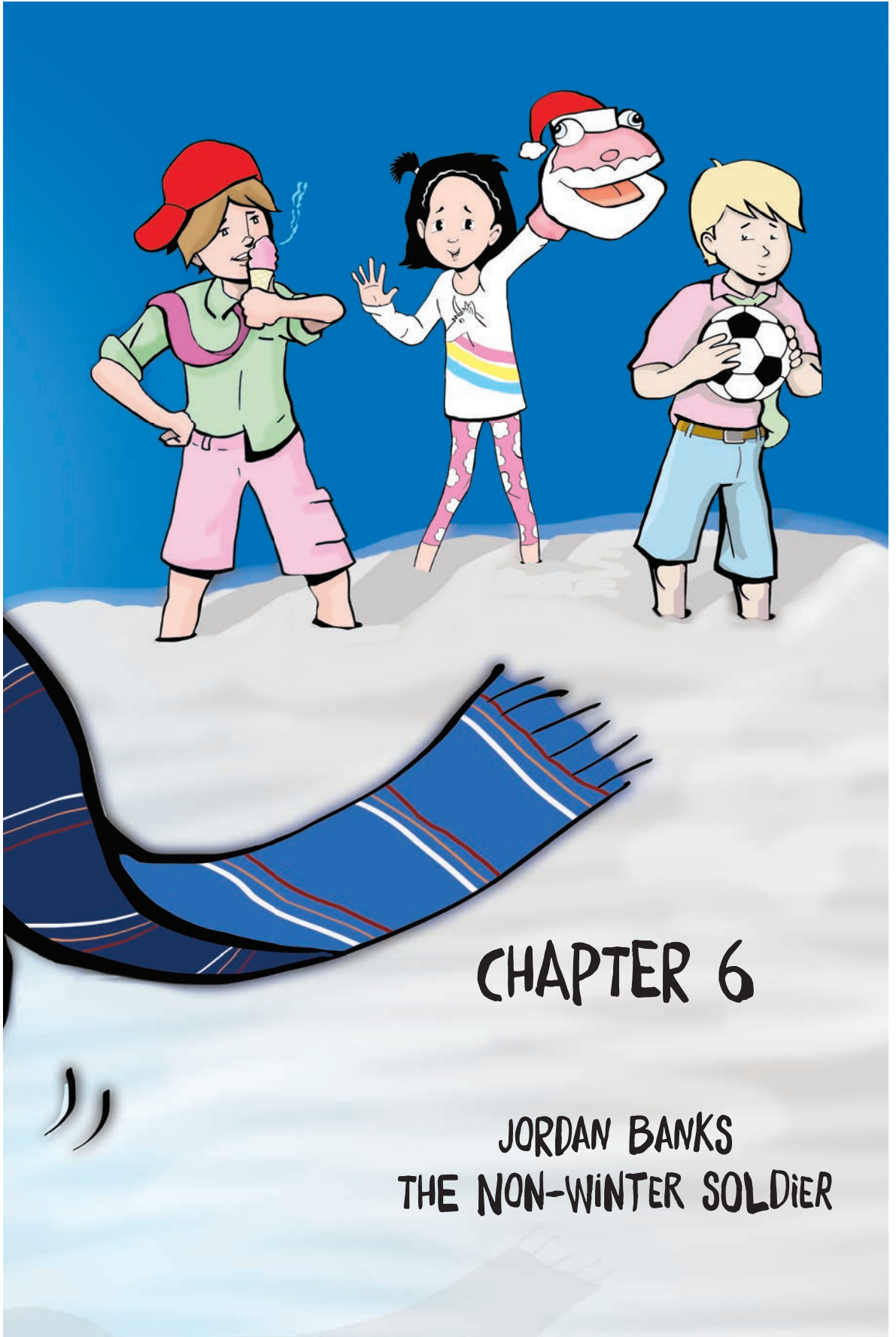
WE DIDN'T EVEN COME *CLOSE*
TO WINNING. IN FACT, WE LOST 11-1!
BUT MY GOAL WAS THE FIRST ONE
THAT A FIFTH'S TEAM HAD SCORED
IN *SEVEN YEARS!*
AND IT WAS THE *ONLY ONE* THAT
WE WOULD SCORE ALL SEASON.

HOME	VISITOR
1	11
SHOTS ON GOAL 9	SHOTS ON GOAL 124



STILL, I ENDED UP LIKING SOCCER A LOT MORE THAN I THOUGHT. IT WAS NICE BEING ON A SCHOOL TEAM WHO KNOWS-MAYBE I'LL EVEN GO OUT FOR A *SPRING SPORT* (EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE OPTIONAL). BUT HOPEFULLY ONE THAT PLAYS INDOORS ... WITH *HEAT!*

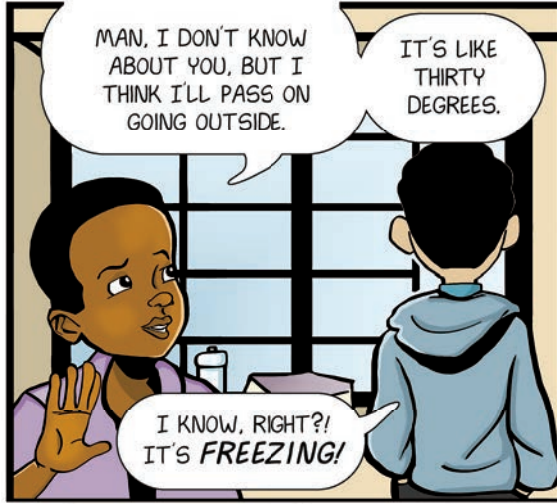


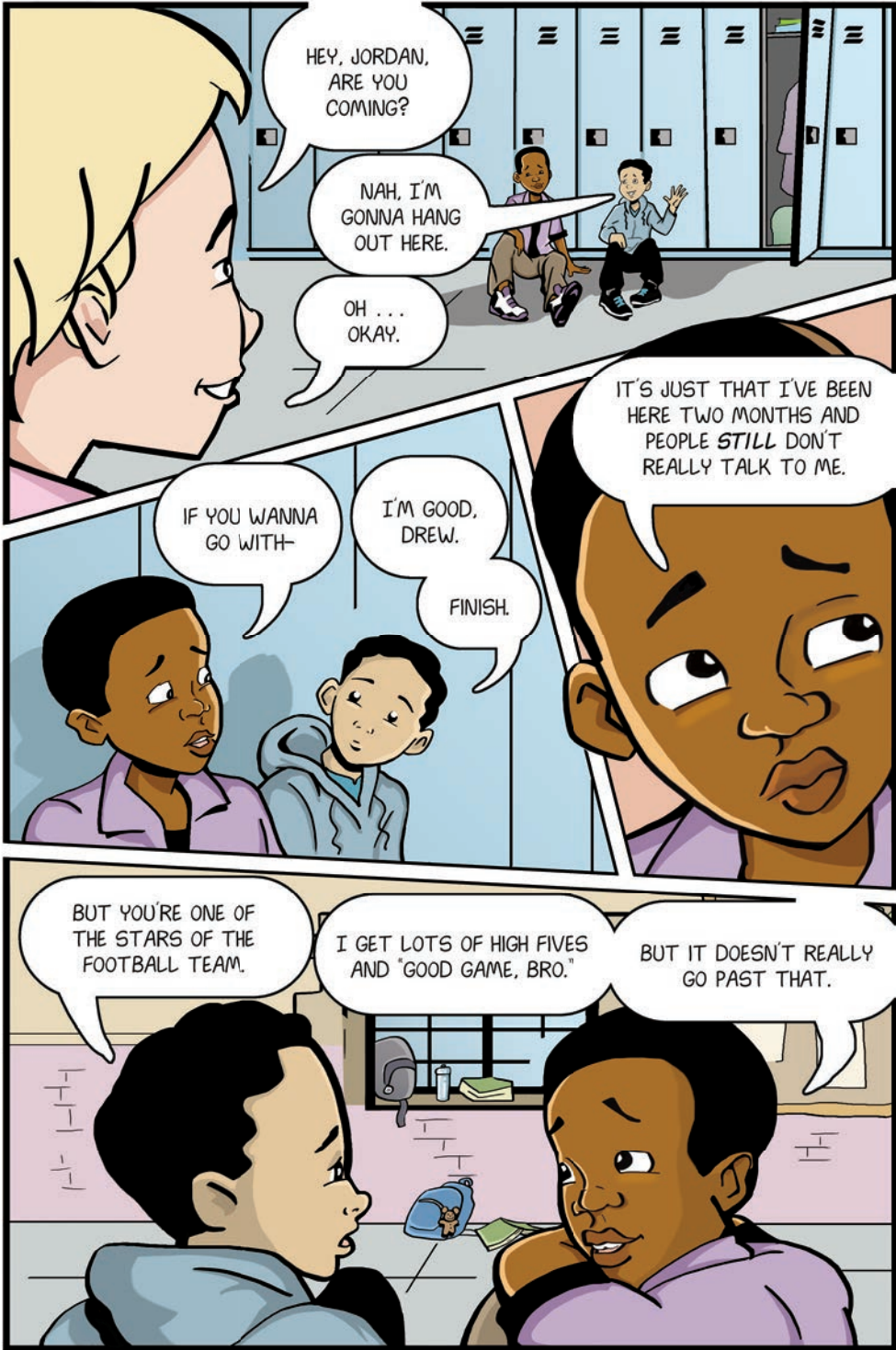


CHAPTER 6

JORDAN BANKS
THE NON-WINTER SOLDIER











SEE? THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT BOTHER ME. LIKE WHENEVER A CLASS TALKS ABOUT SLAVERY OR CIVIL RIGHTS-

EVERYONE STARES AT YOU, RIGHT? AND FINANCIAL AID!

I EVEN GOT STARED AT WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT *MINORITY* PARTNERSHIPS IN BUSINESS.

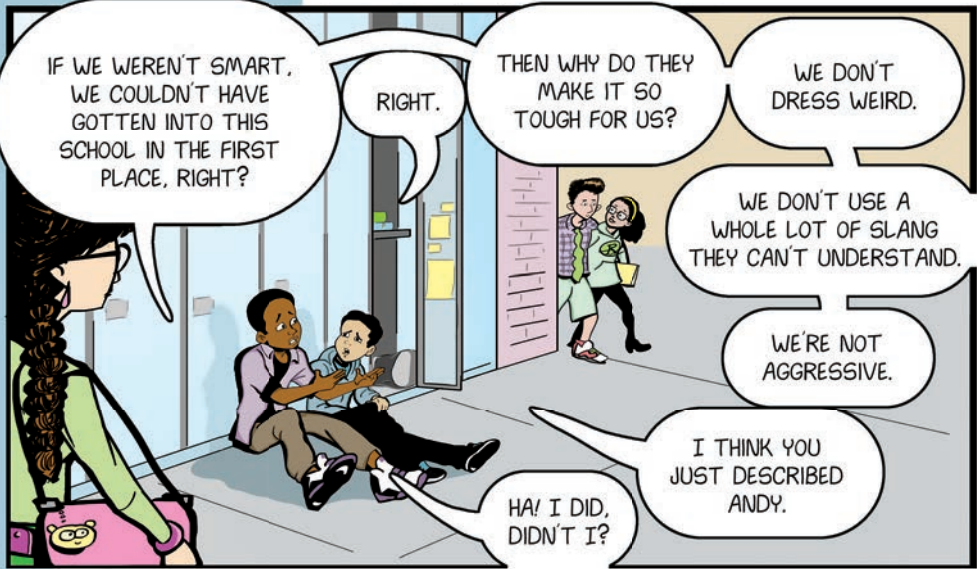
UGH!
SO DO YOU EVER TELL YOUR PARENTS HOW YOU FEEL?

IT'S JUST ME AND MY GRANDMOTHER. AND I DON'T WANNA WORRY HER. YOU KNOW THAT GENERATION DOESN'T LIKE TO COMPLAIN.

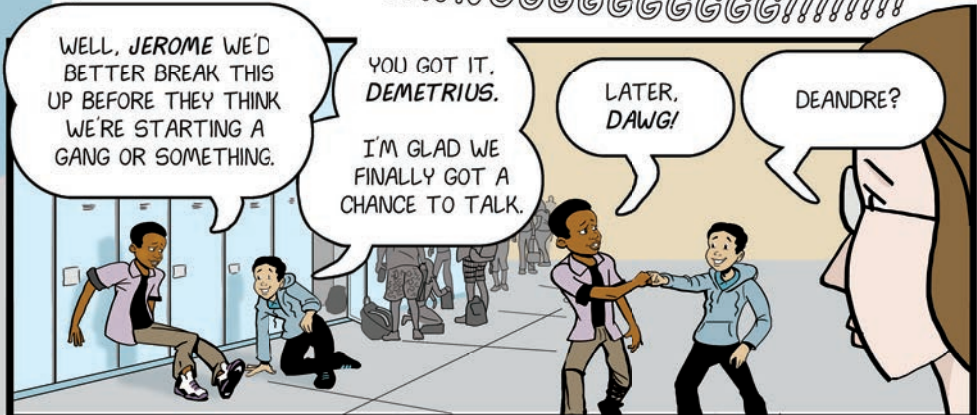
FOR REAL!
MY GRAN'PA *NEVER* COMPLAINS.

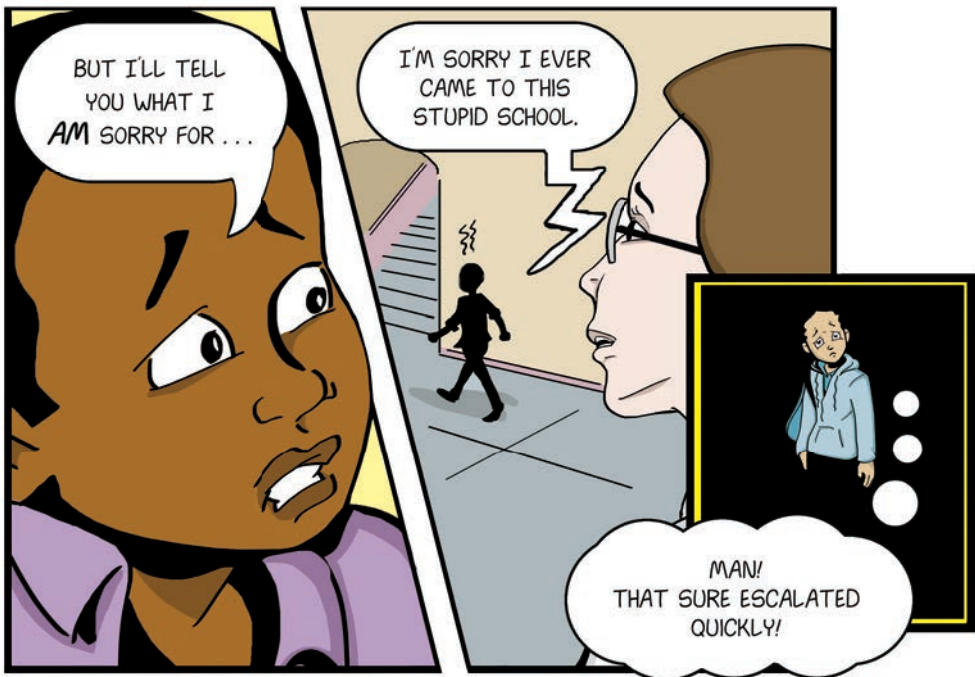
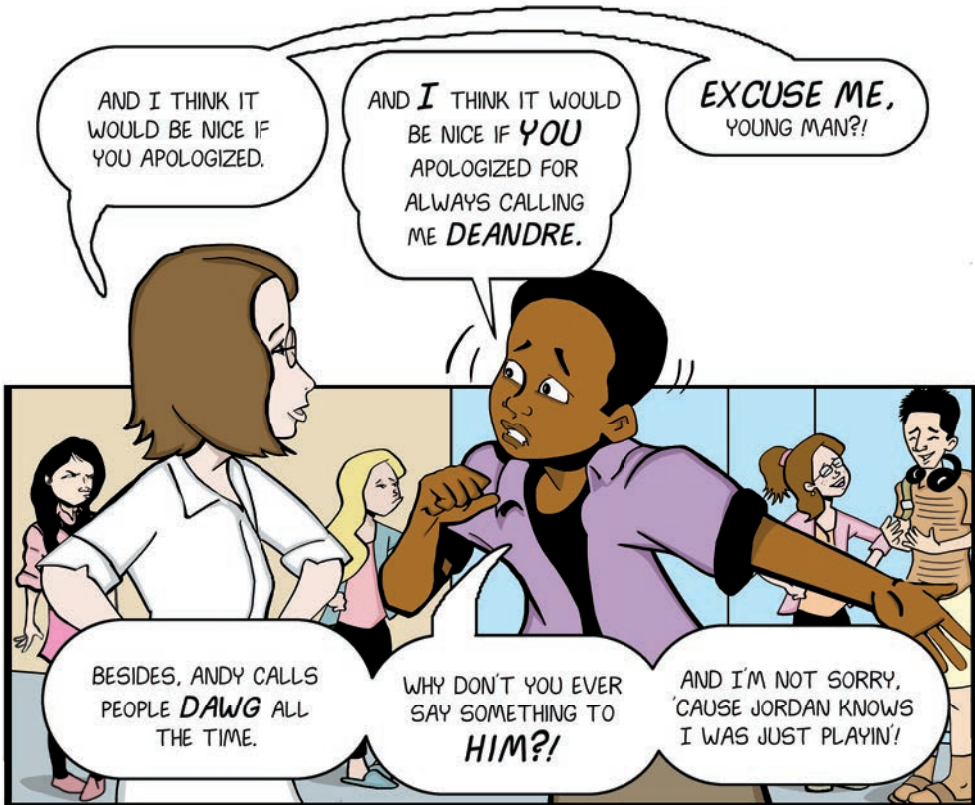
SHE SAYS THAT IN ORDER TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL ONE DAY, I NEED TO GET USED TO BEING A "FLY IN THE BUTTERMILK"!

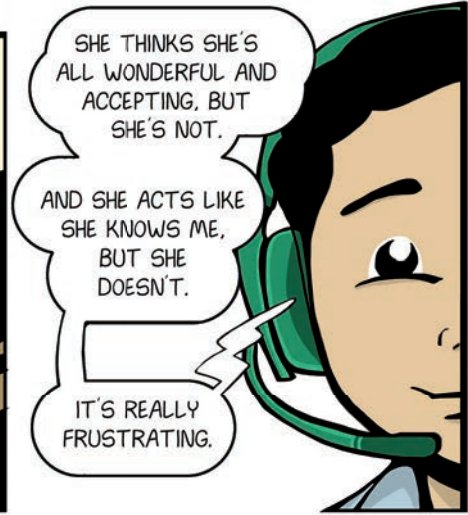
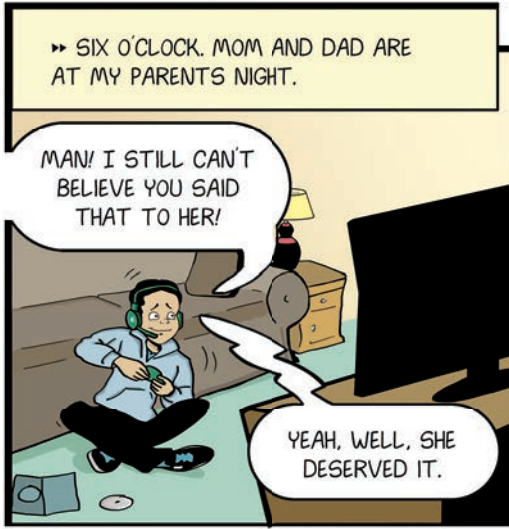
A FLY IN THE ...
WOW! I NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE.



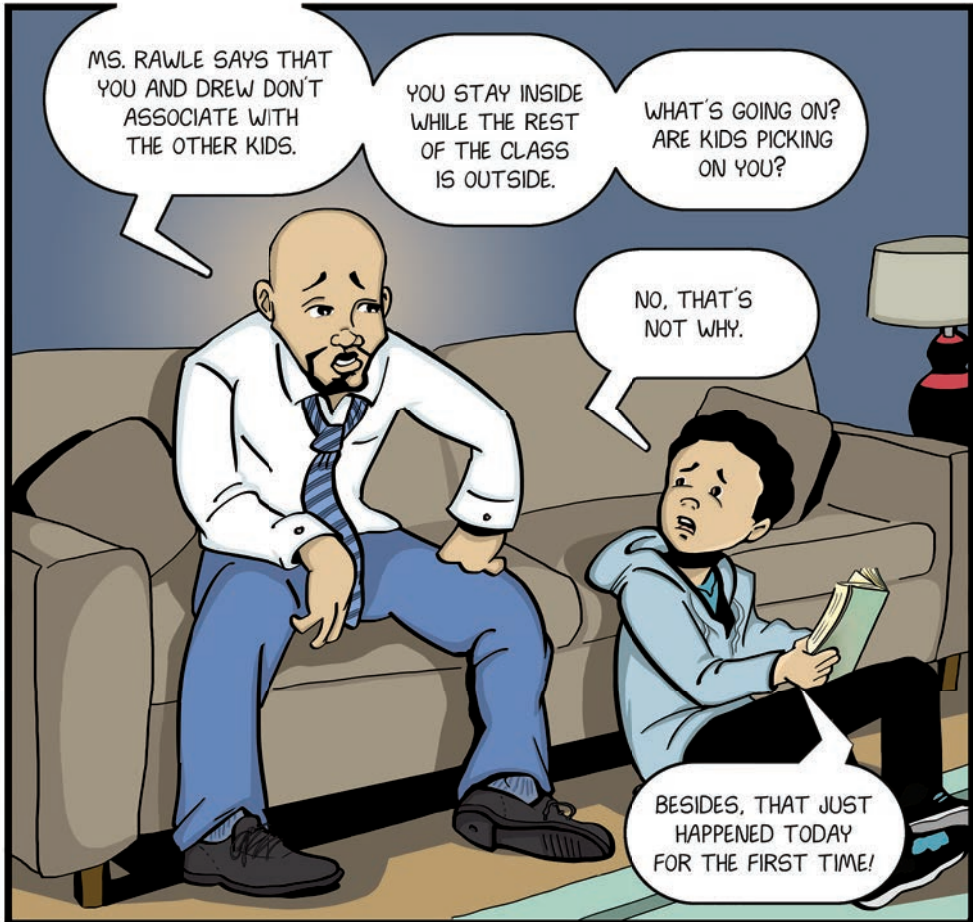
RRRRRIIIINNNGGGGGGGGGG!!!!!!!













SO ... UMMM ...
WHAT DID MY OTHER
TEACHERS SAY?

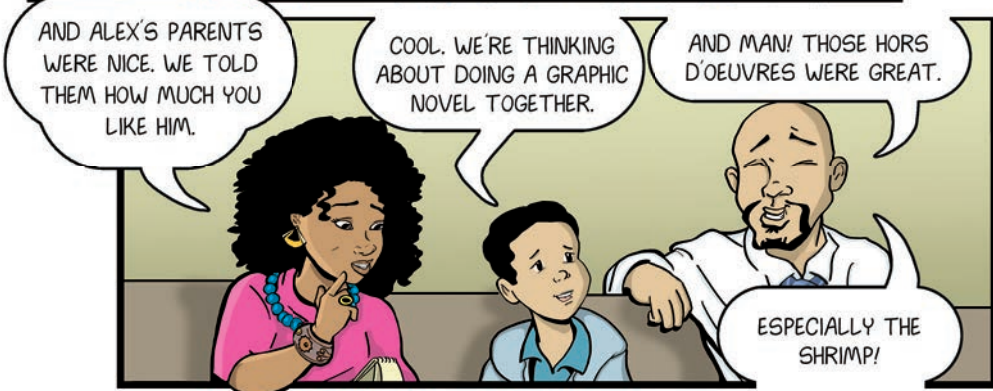
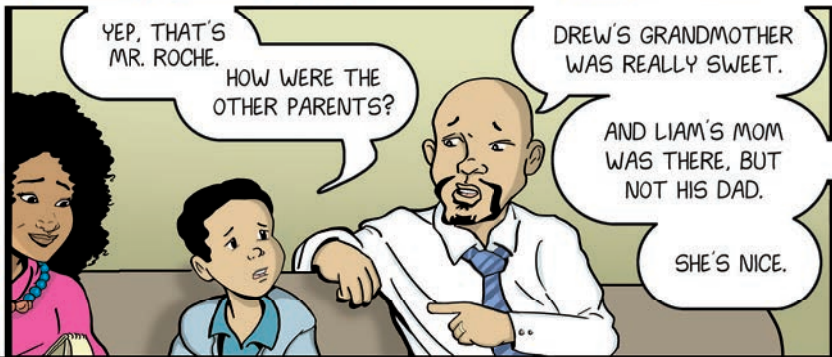
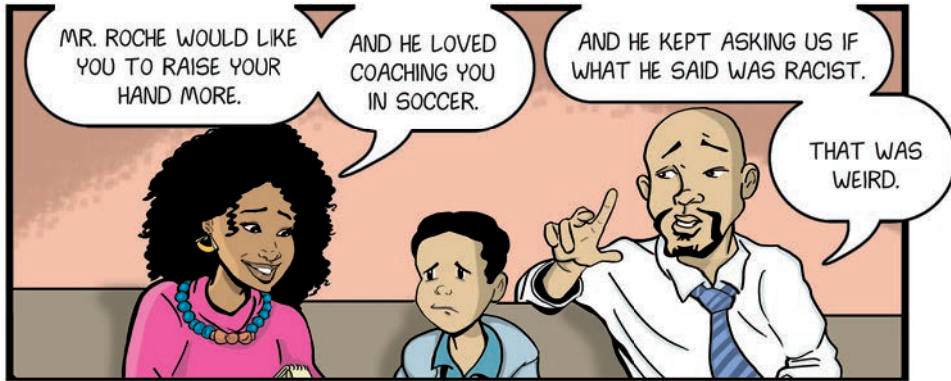
I TOOK NOTES.
MS. BROSNAN SAID YOU HAND
IN YOUR WORK ON TIME
AND ARE DOING WELL.



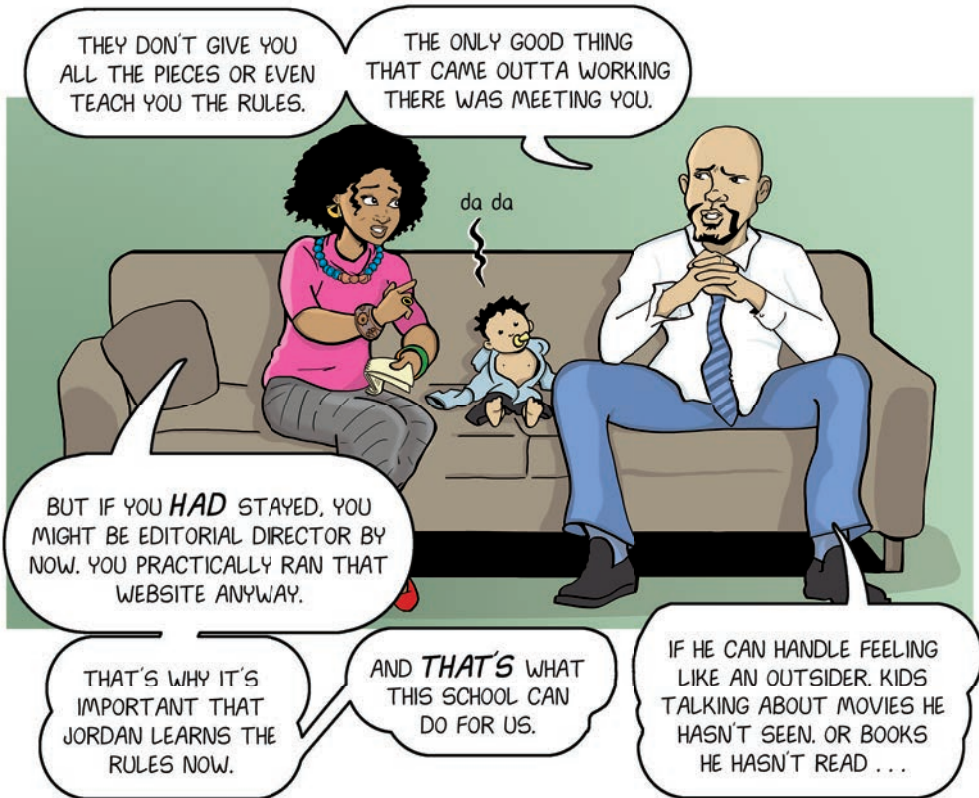
MS. RAWLE SAYS YOU'RE
VERY WELL-SPOKEN AND
WELL-BEHAVED.

WHICH WOULD BE A
COMPLIMENT IF YOU WERE
IN **KINDERGARTEN**.

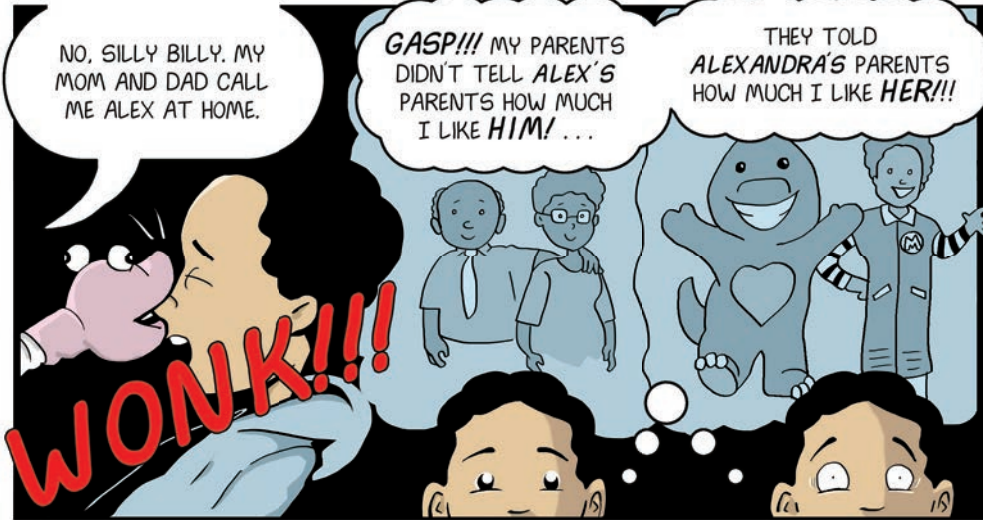
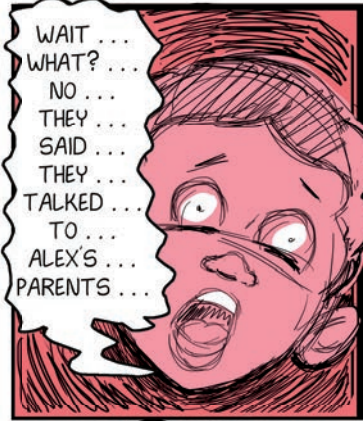
MR. GARNER SAID
YOU'RE DOING WELL
IN PRE-ALGEBRA.





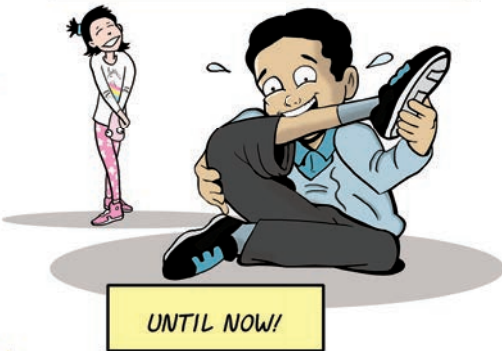




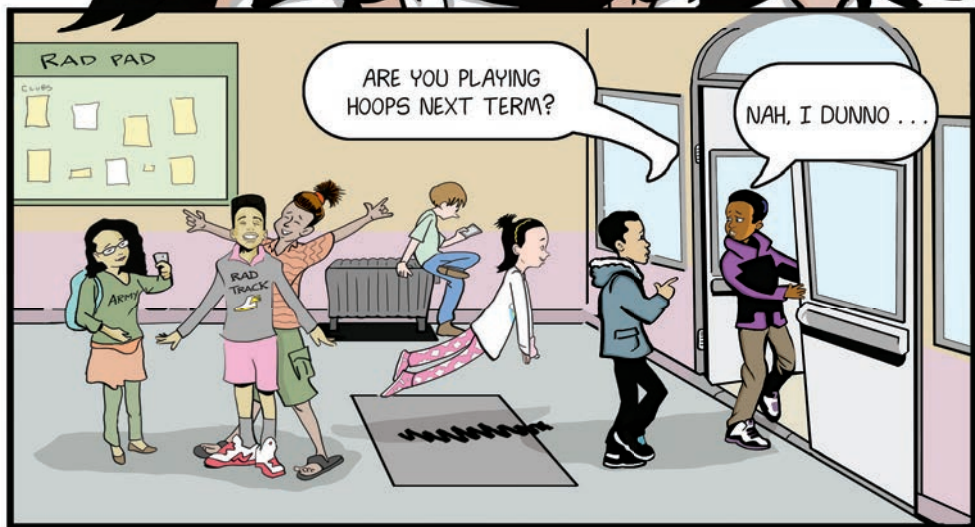
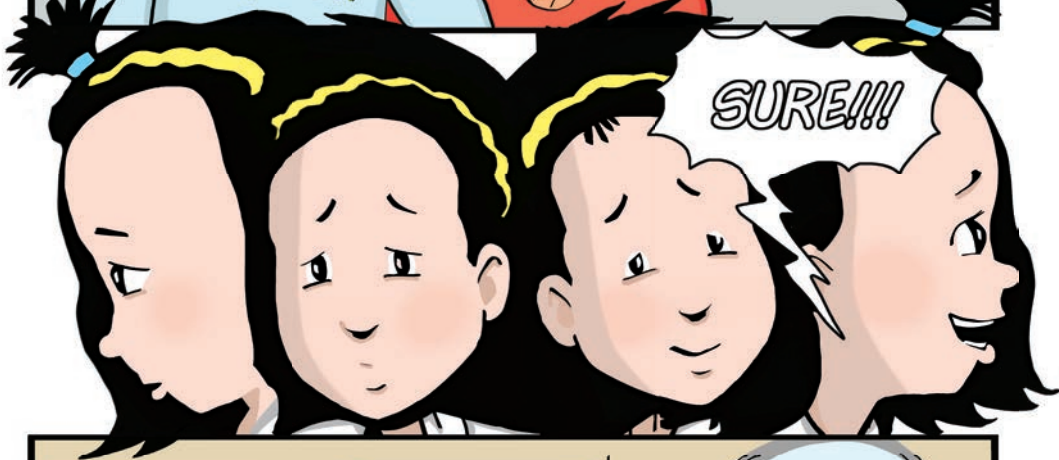
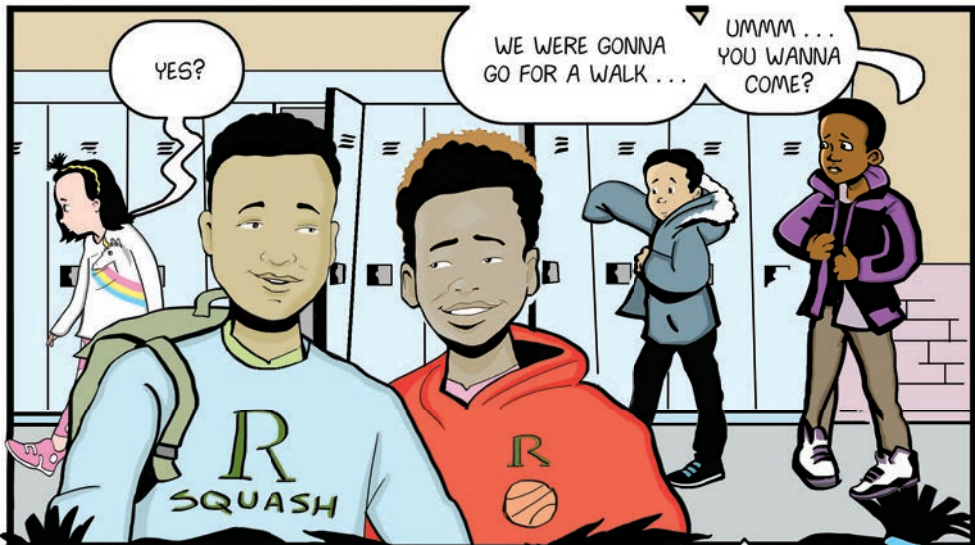


THEY SAY THAT THERE ARE SOME ANIMALS THAT WILL CHEW OFF THEIR OWN LEG TO GET OUT OF A TRAP. I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT ...

THEN I THOUGHT OF MY GRAN'PA WHO SAYS, "YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIKE EVERYONE, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A JERK ABOUT IT, EITHER!"









I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE EVERYONE ASSUMES I PLAY BALL ...

AND THAT KINDA BOTHERS ME.

OH, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN.

PEOPLE ALWAYS ASSUME THINGS ABOUT ME, TOO.

SO WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND, JORDAN?

WHO? YOU MEAN LIAM?

YOU KNOW, I DUNNO ... I GUESS HE GOT AN EARLY START ON HIS THANKSGIVING BREAK.



WHAT ABOUT YOU, LeBRON?

NAH, I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR MY LACK OF HEIGHT ...

AND SPEED ...

AND MY ONE-INCH VERTICAL.

I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT SPORTS, GUYS,

BUT I *AM* ONE OF THE SET DESIGNERS FOR THE MUSICAL.

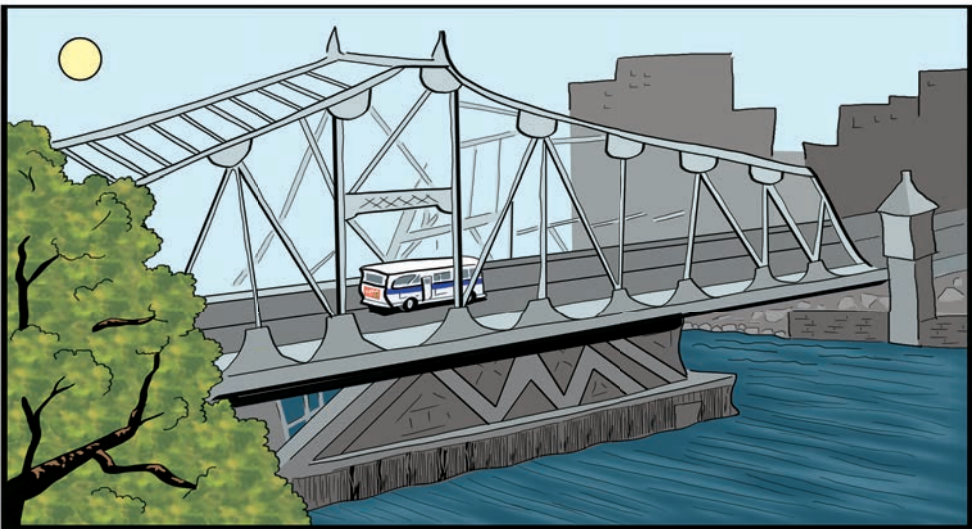
NICE, ALEXANDRA! I'LL BET YOU'LL BE REALLY GOOD.

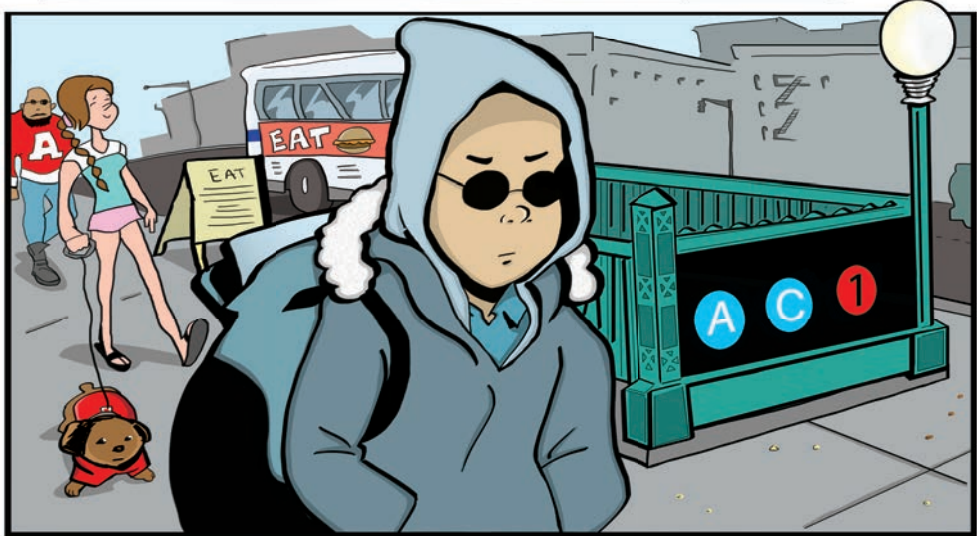
YOU DO?!! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

HAVE A GREAT BREAK, ALEXANDRA. I'LL TEXT YOU TONIGHT, JOAKIM.

SOUNDS GOOD, DeMARCUS.

THANKS AGAIN, GUYS.

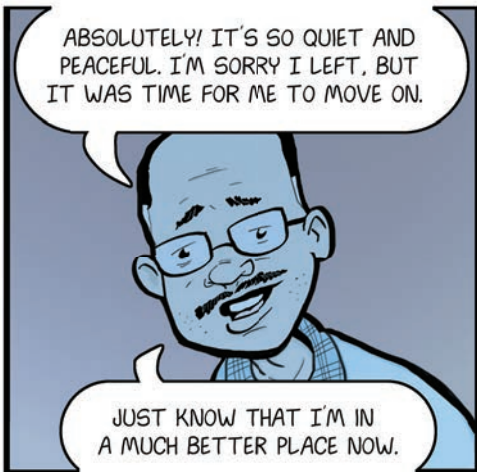
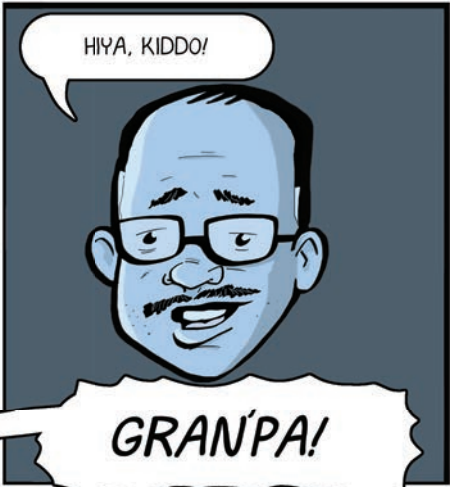


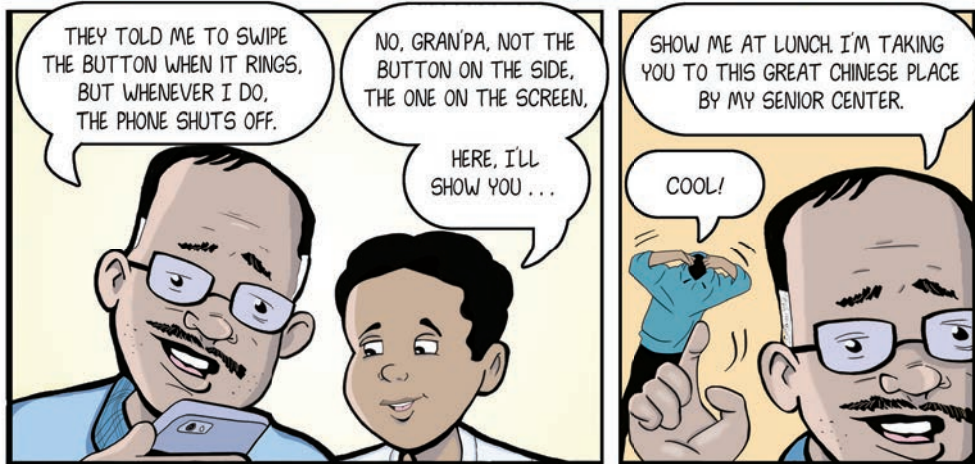
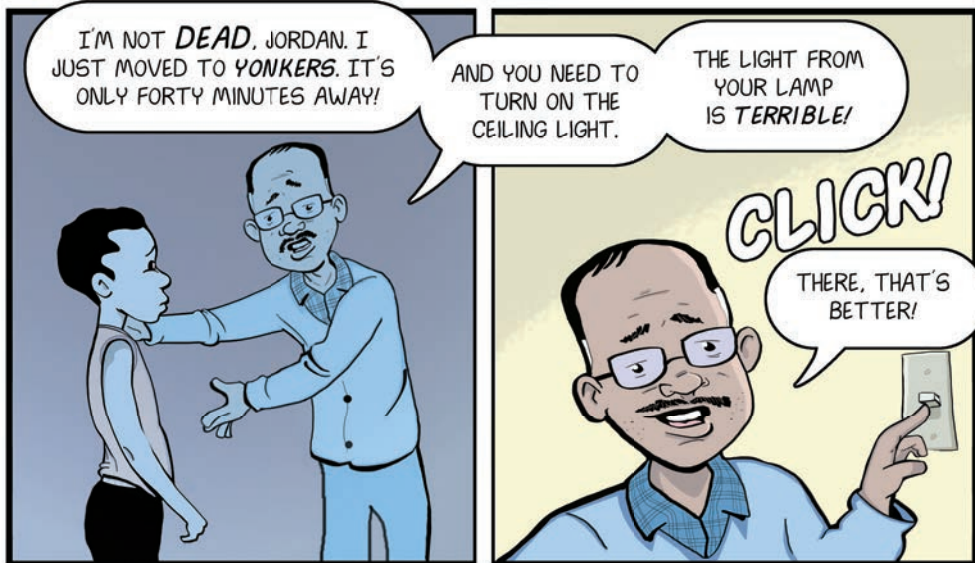


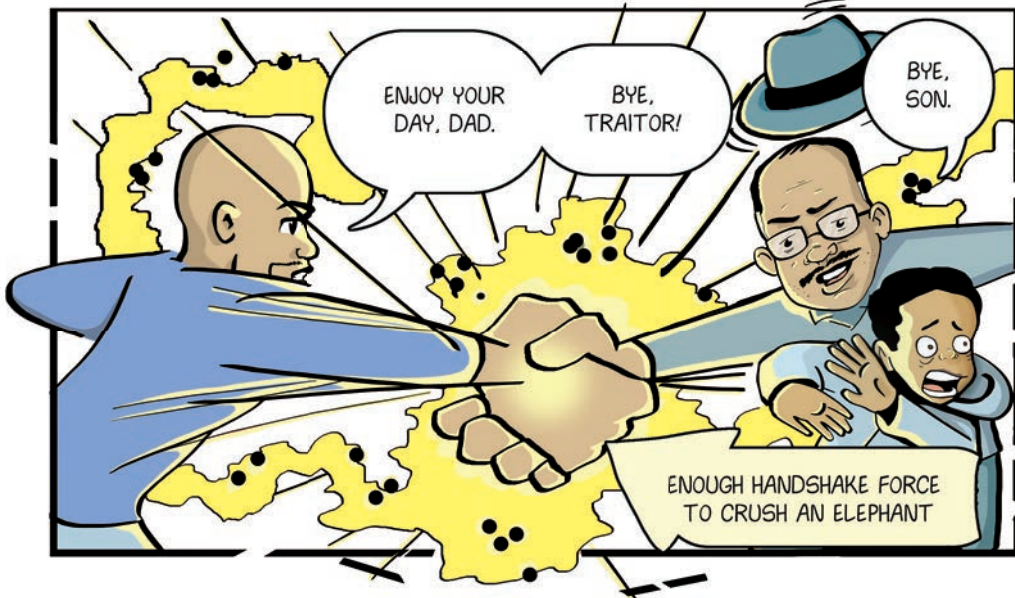
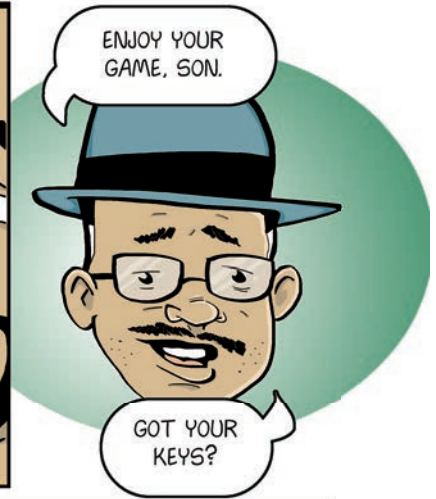
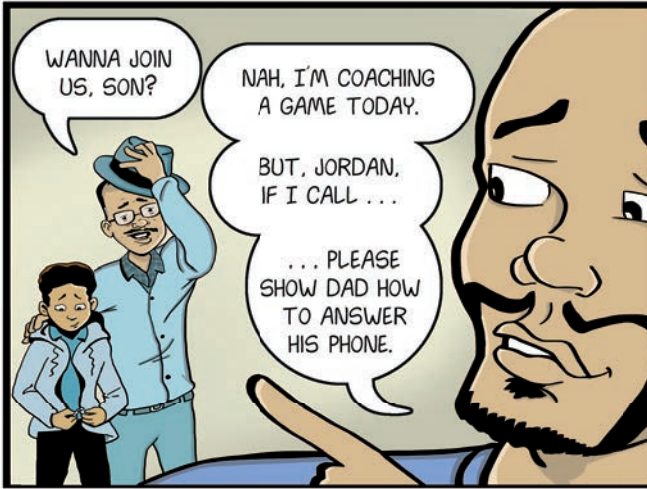


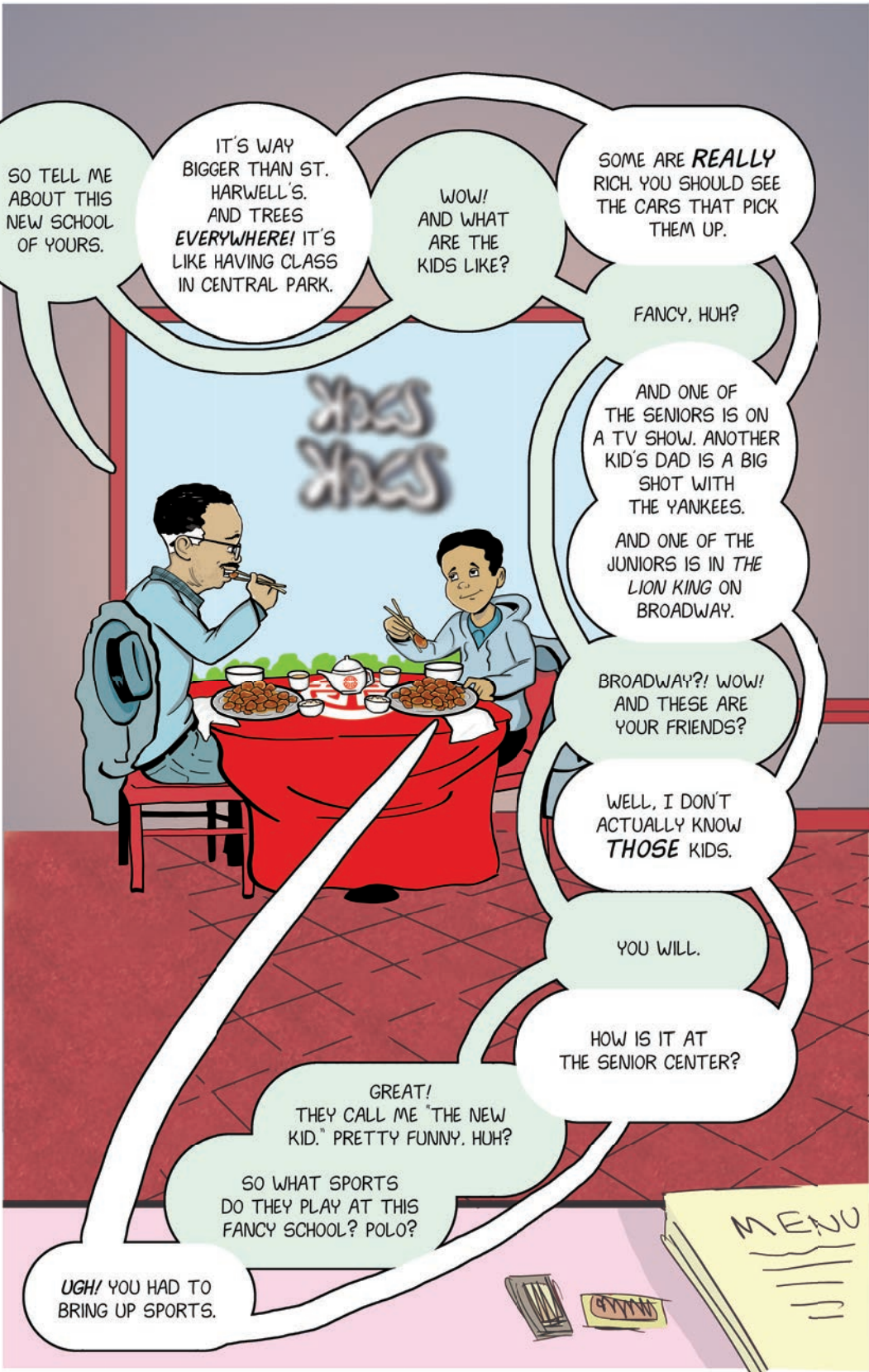


» THANKSGIVING BREAK. WHEN I WOKE UP ON SATURDAY, I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT MY GRAN'PA. AND THEN ...









SO TELL ME ABOUT THIS NEW SCHOOL OF YOURS.

IT'S WAY BIGGER THAN ST. HARWELL'S. AND TREES EVERYWHERE! IT'S LIKE HAVING CLASS IN CENTRAL PARK.

WOW! AND WHAT ARE THE KIDS LIKE?

SOME ARE **REALLY** RICH. YOU SHOULD SEE THE CARS THAT PICK THEM UP.

FANCY, HUH?

AND ONE OF THE SENIORS IS ON A TV SHOW. ANOTHER KID'S DAD IS A BIG SHOT WITH THE YANKEES.

AND ONE OF THE JUNIORS IS IN *THE LION KING* ON BROADWAY.

BROADWAY?! WOW! AND THESE ARE YOUR FRIENDS?

WELL, I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW **THOSE** KIDS.

YOU WILL.

HOW IS IT AT THE SENIOR CENTER?

GREAT! THEY CALL ME "THE NEW KID." PRETTY FUNNY. HUH?

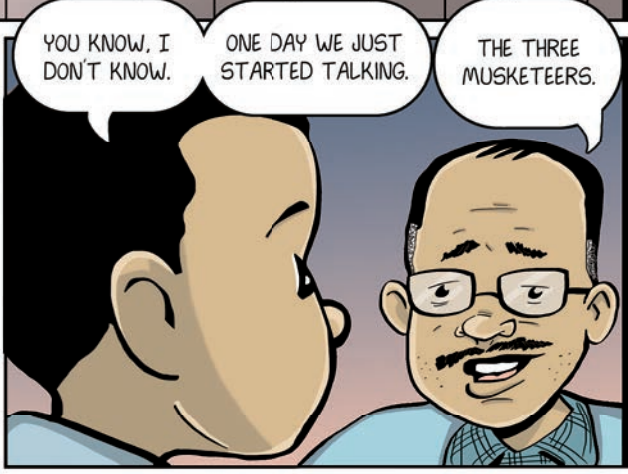
SO WHAT SPORTS DO THEY PLAY AT THIS FANCY SCHOOL? POLO?

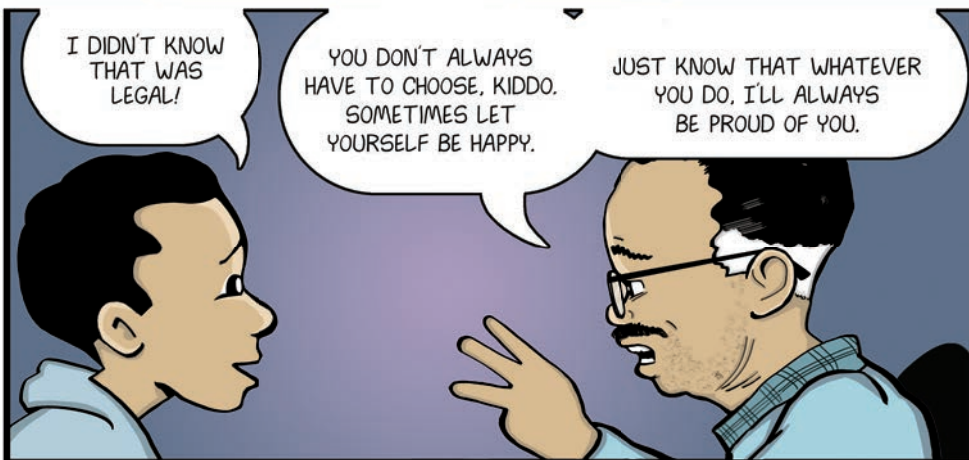
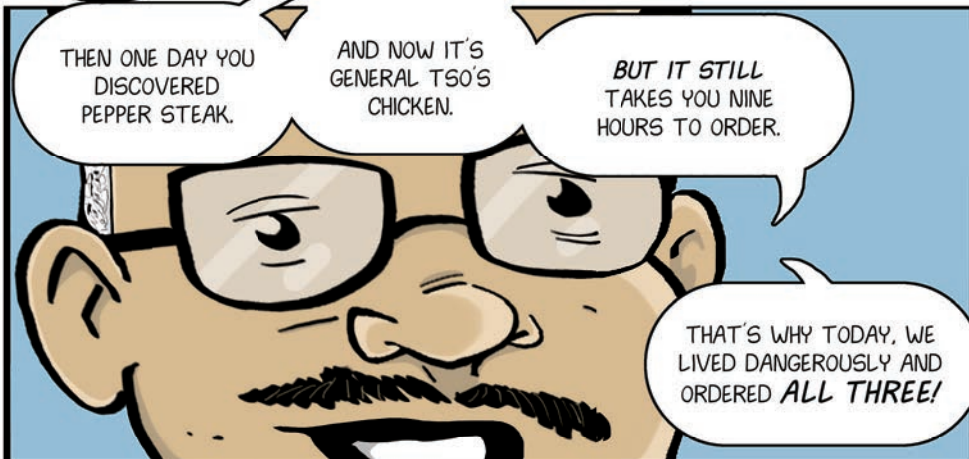
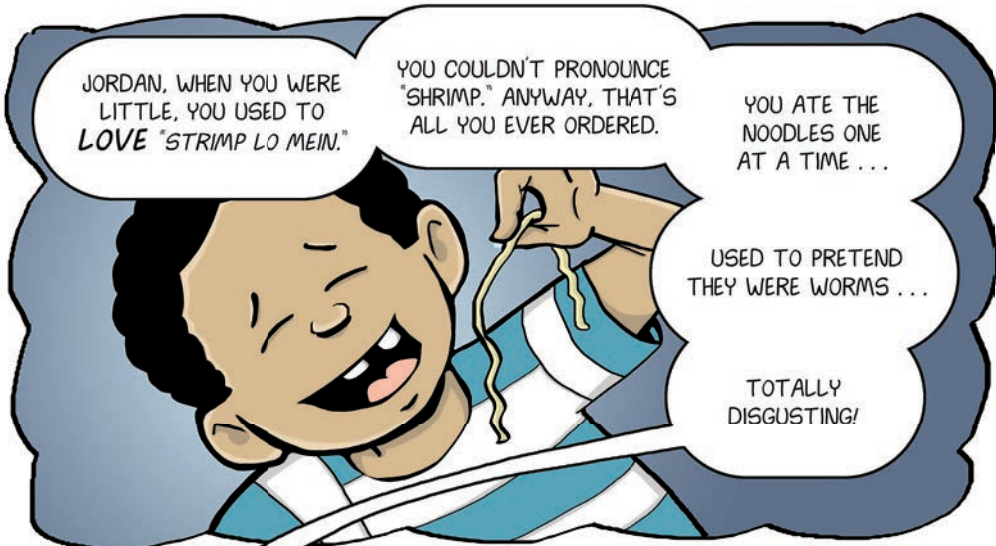
UGH! YOU HAD TO BRING UP SPORTS.

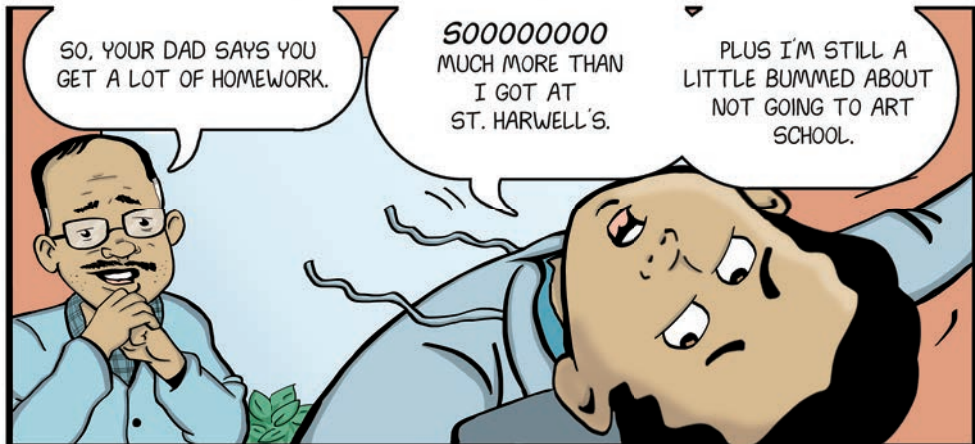
MENU

GYMNA





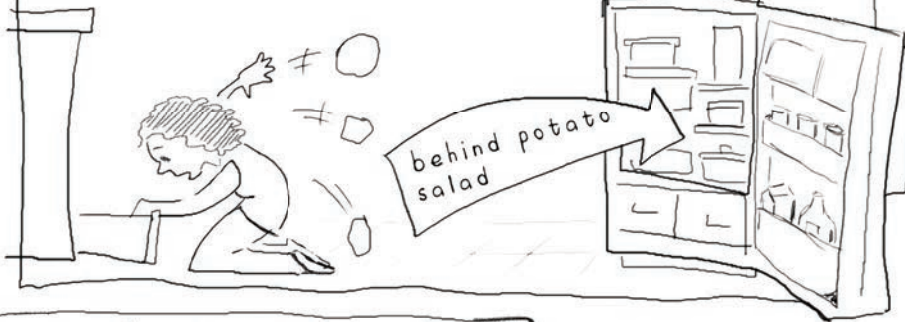




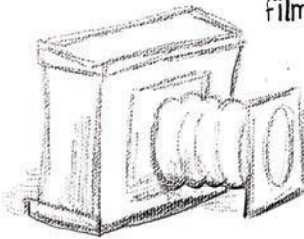
Taking Photos with My Mom

A Tale of Terror!

First, my mom can NEVER find her camera. It could be anywhere!



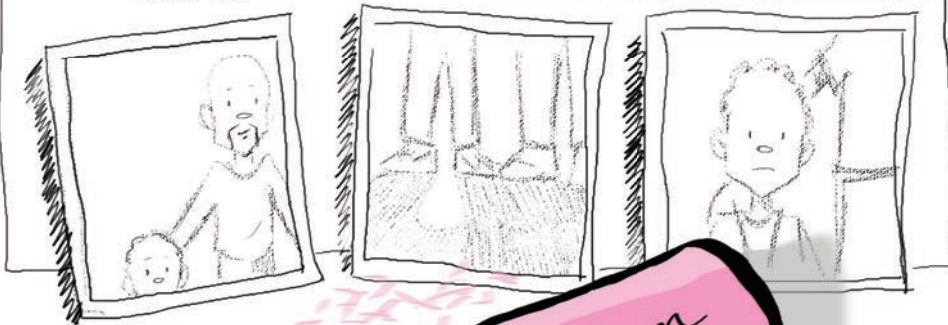
Plus, it's really old! It used to be her dad's, so she refuses to get a new one or use her phone. It still uses something called film! Google it!



Then she makes us take a *Jillion* shots in hopes that a few of them might *actually* turn out good.



But they almost never do!

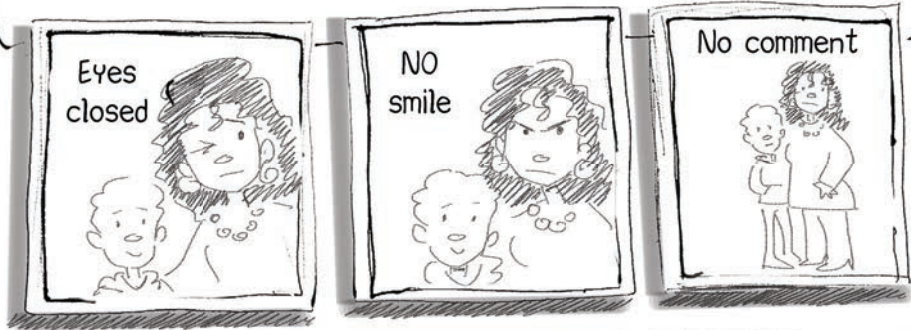


Furman
Eraser

Then it's HER TURN to pose for a *Jillion* pics.
Sometimes she even changes her clothes between shots.
And shes ALWAYS asks a *Jillion* questions.



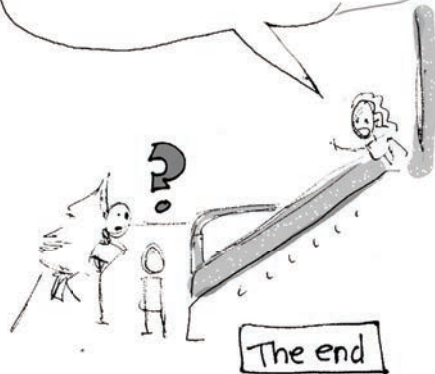
And this is how THOSE come out ...



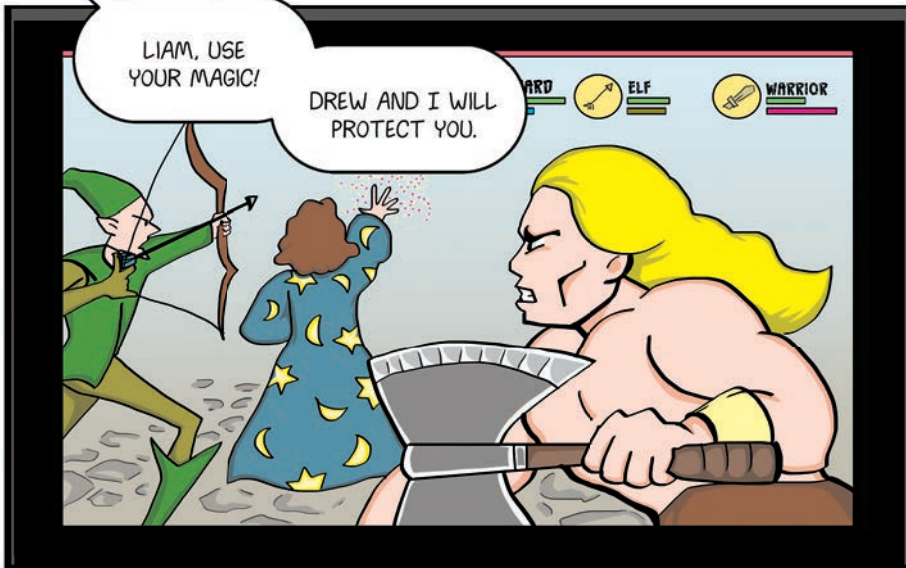
But the worst part is that
by the time she gets
her photos developed
(that's right, developed!)
and sees how BAD they are,
it's usually too late to do
anything.

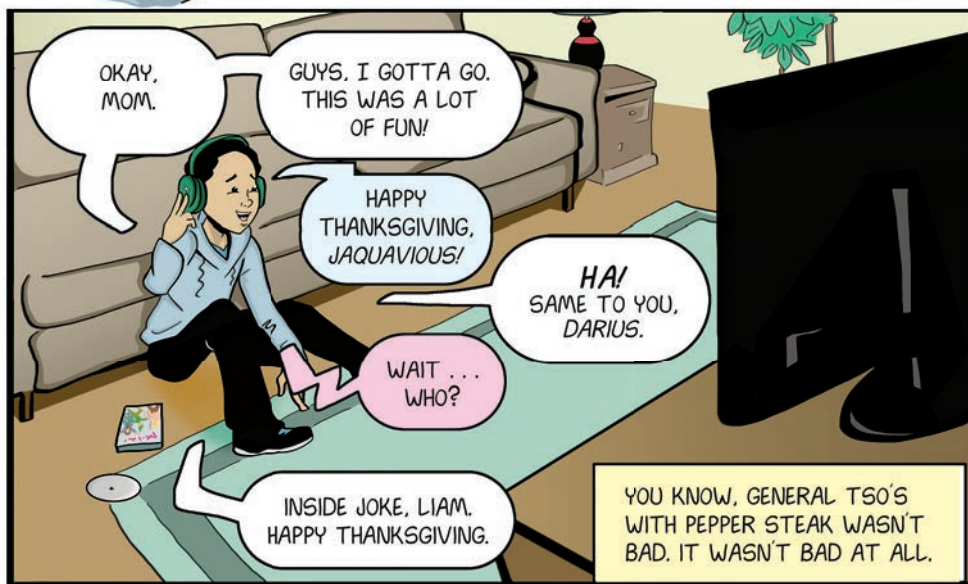
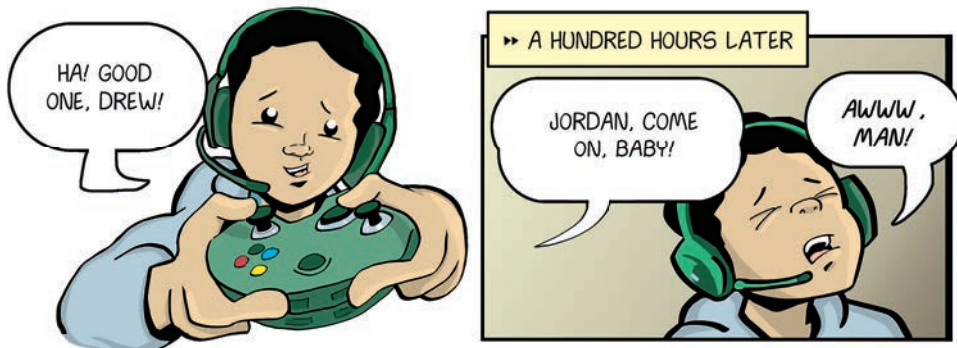
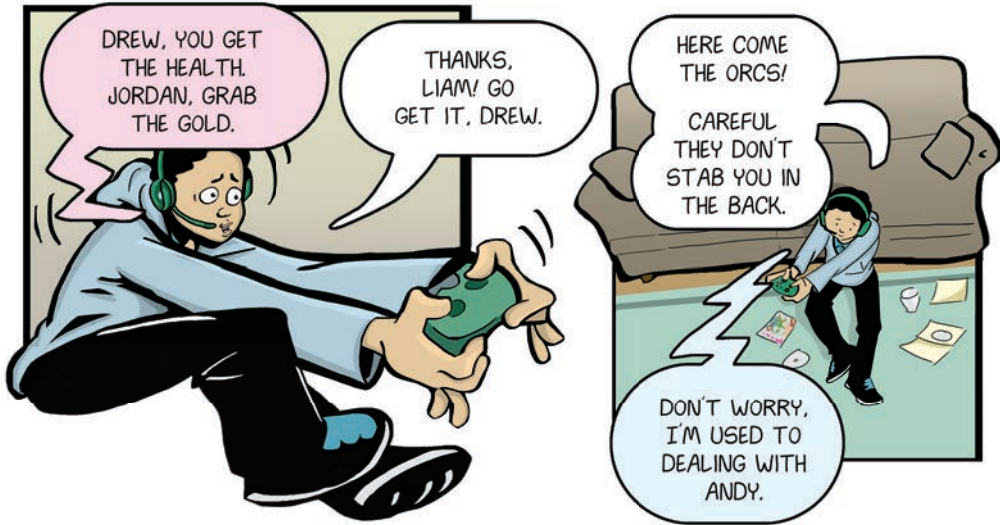


Wait, Chuck. Bring the tree
back inside, we have to retake
our Christmas photos!



Jordan Banks







TURKEY

STRING BEANS

CANDIED YAMS AND MARSHMALLOWS

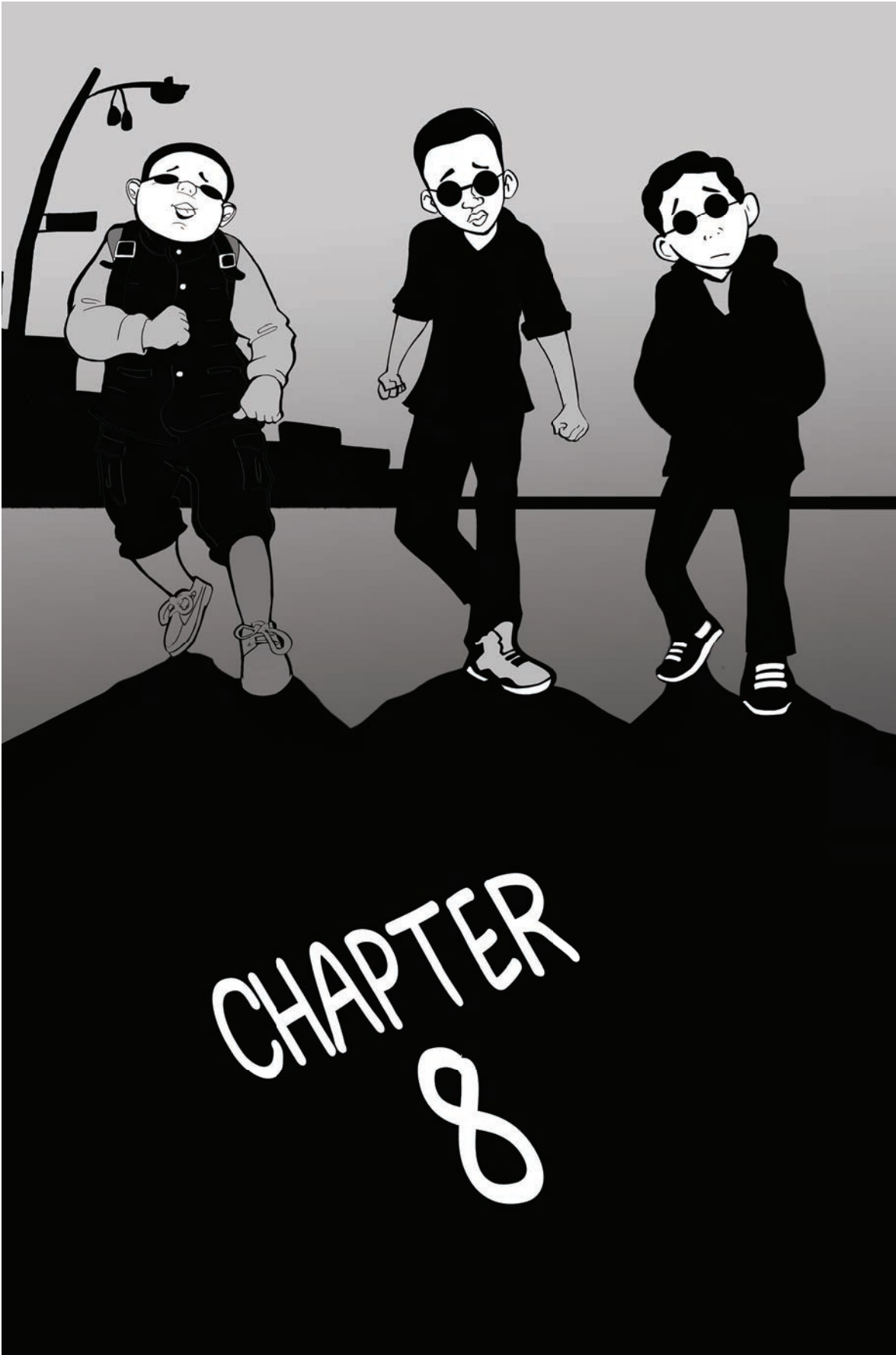
CORN BREAD

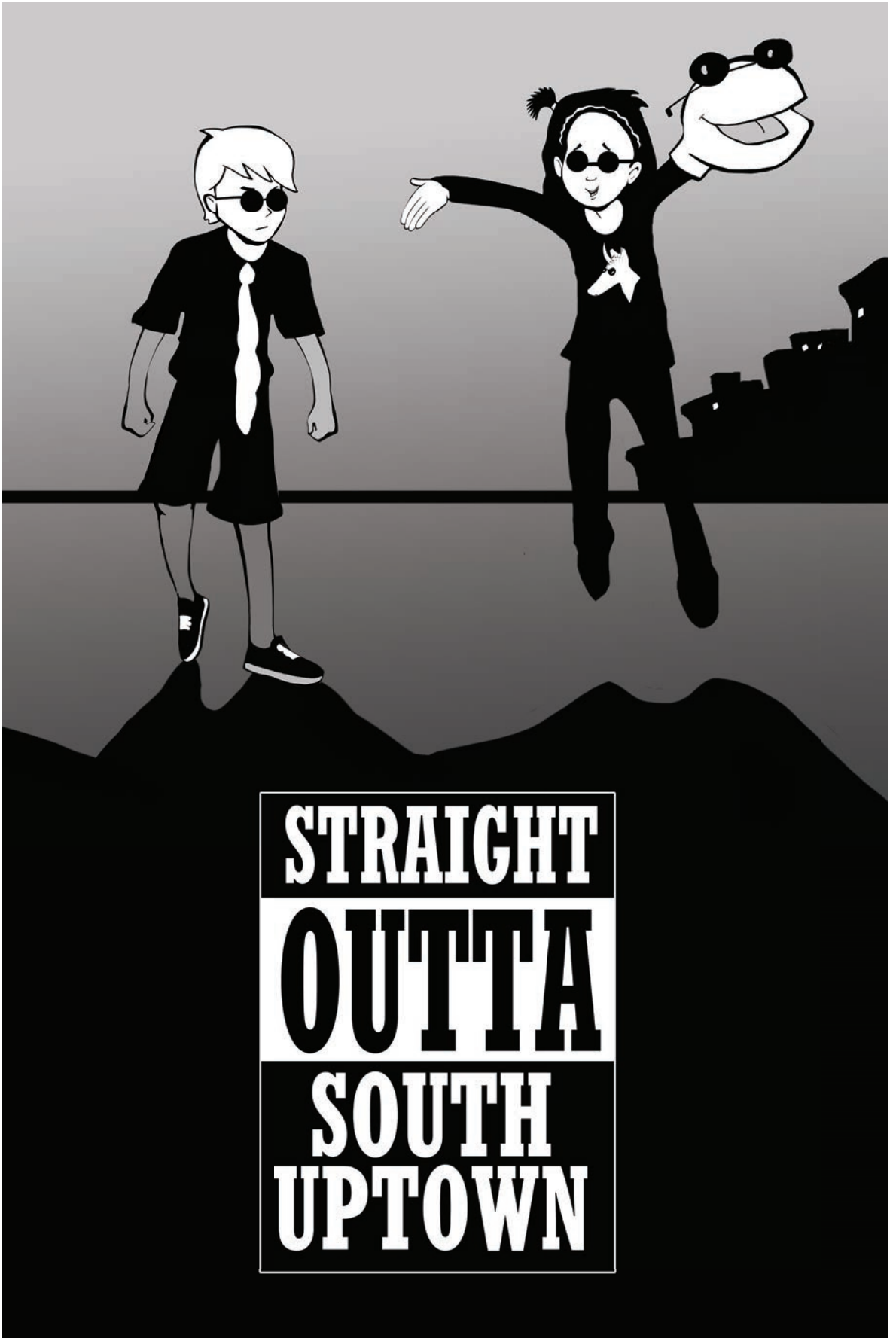
» THANKSGIVING DINNER WITH MOM, DAD, GRAN'PA,
MISS NEAL, AUNT MARGO, COUSIN BOBBY, AND ME.



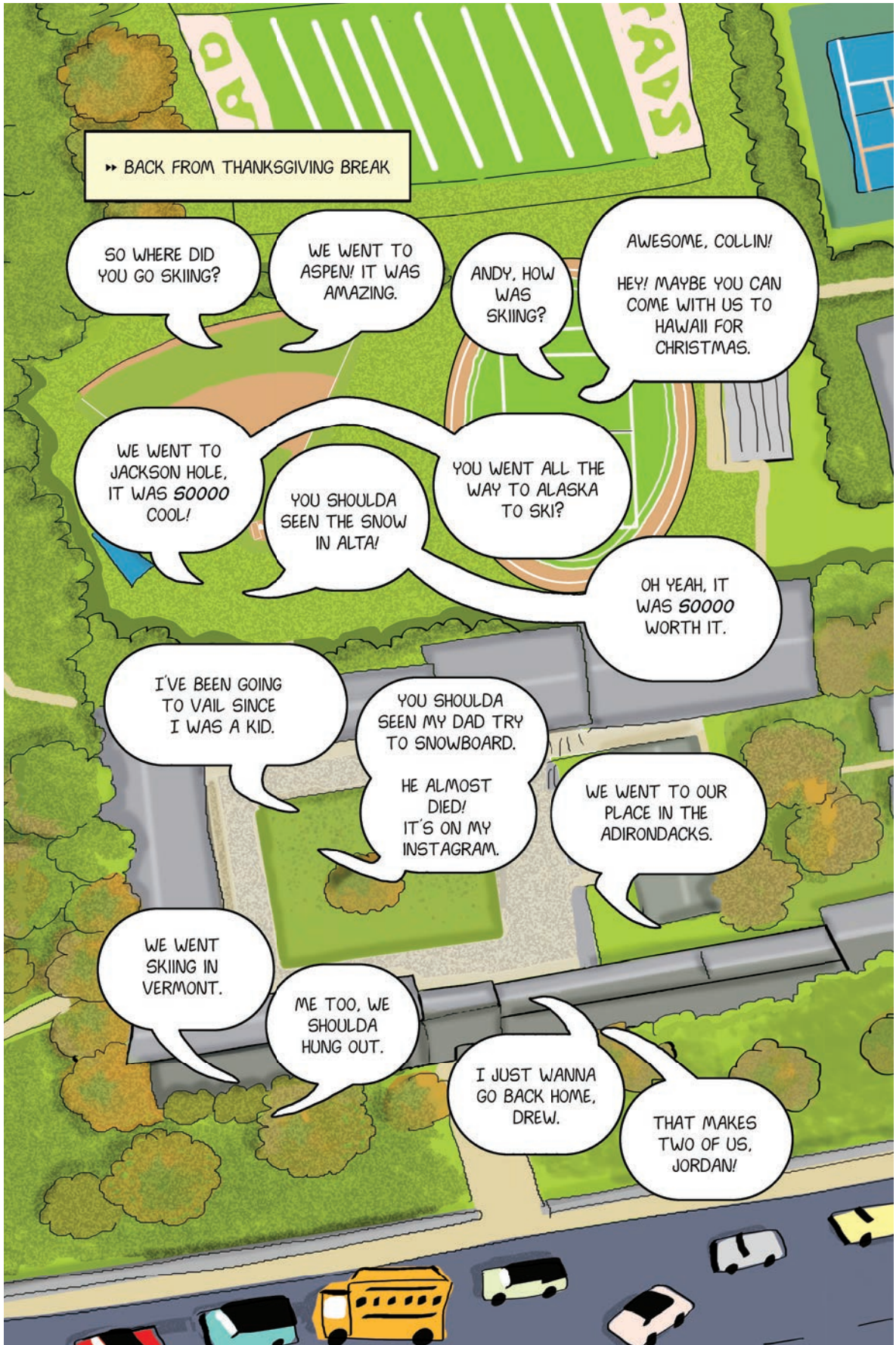
COLLARD GREENS

MAC AND CHEESE





**STRAIGHT
OUTTA
SOUTH
UPTOWN**



» BACK FROM THANKSGIVING BREAK

SO WHERE DID YOU GO SKIING?

WE WENT TO ASPEN! IT WAS AMAZING.

ANDY, HOW WAS SKIING?

AWESOME, COLLIN! HEY! MAYBE YOU CAN COME WITH US TO HAWAII FOR CHRISTMAS.

WE WENT TO JACKSON HOLE, IT WAS 50000 COOL!

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE SNOW IN ALTA!

YOU WENT ALL THE WAY TO ALASKA TO SKI?

OH YEAH, IT WAS 50000 WORTH IT.

I'VE BEEN GOING TO VAIL SINCE I WAS A KID.

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN MY DAD TRY TO SNOWBOARD.

HE ALMOST DIED! IT'S ON MY INSTAGRAM.

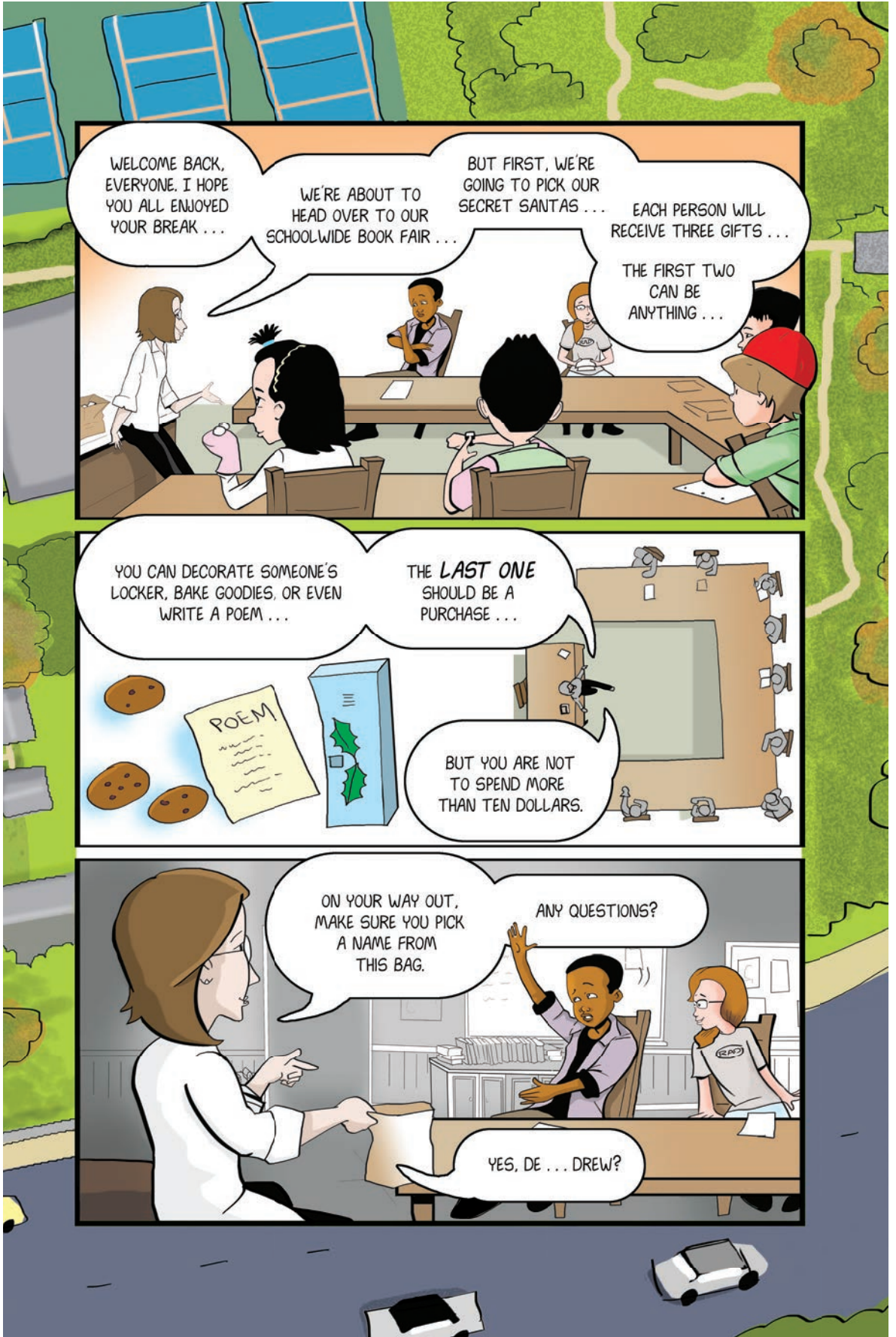
WE WENT TO OUR PLACE IN THE ADIRONDACKS.

WE WENT SKIING IN VERMONT.

ME TOO, WE SHOULD'VE HUNG OUT.

I JUST WANNA GO BACK HOME, DREW.

THAT MAKES TWO OF US, JORDAN!



WELCOME BACK, EVERYONE. I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOYED YOUR BREAK ...

WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAD OVER TO OUR SCHOOLWIDE BOOK FAIR ...

BUT FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO PICK OUR SECRET SANTAS ...

EACH PERSON WILL RECEIVE THREE GIFTS ...

THE FIRST TWO CAN BE ANYTHING ...

YOU CAN DECORATE SOMEONE'S LOCKER, BAKE GOODIES, OR EVEN WRITE A POEM ...

THE *LAST ONE* SHOULD BE A PURCHASE ...

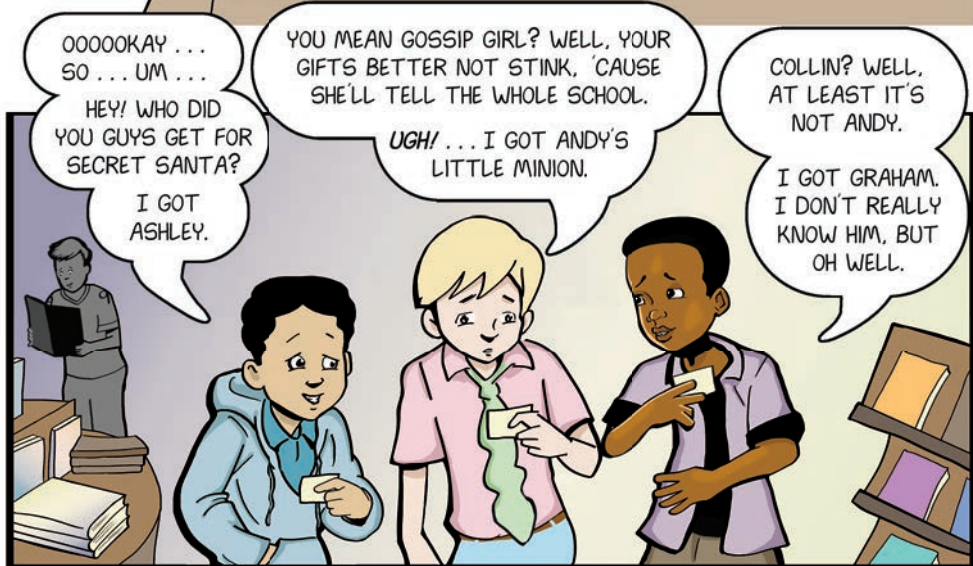
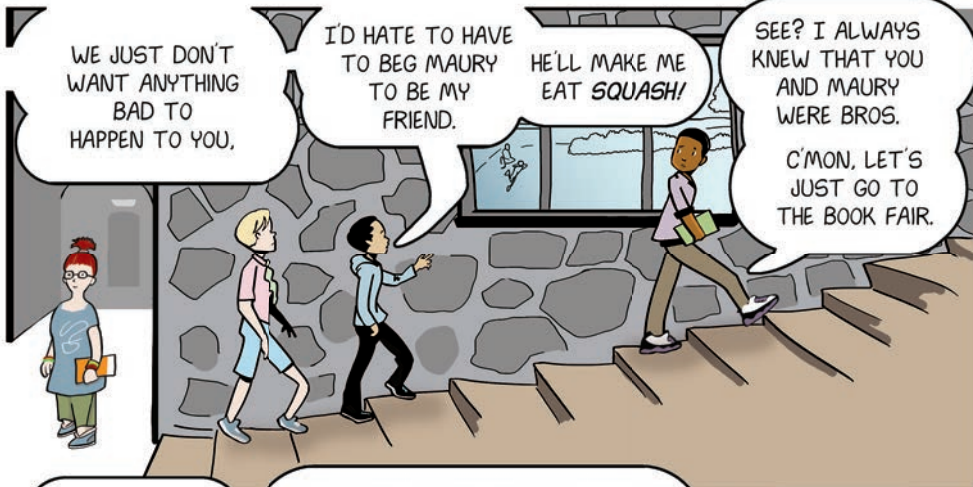
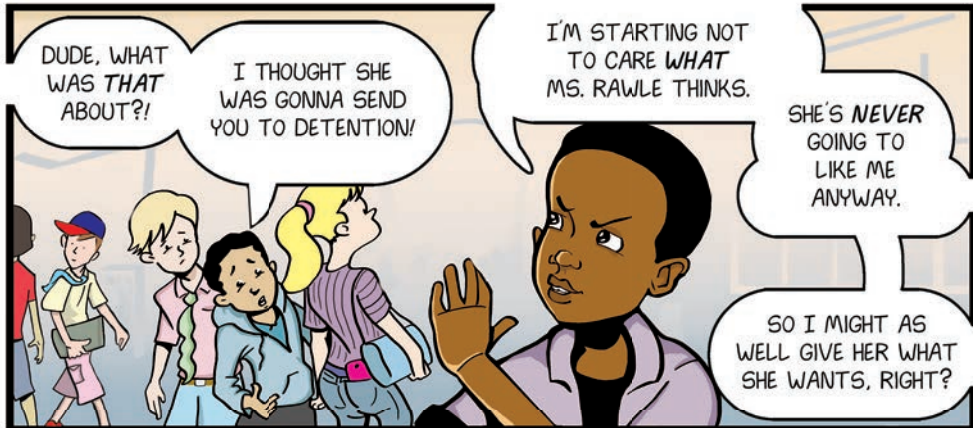
BUT YOU ARE NOT TO SPEND MORE THAN TEN DOLLARS.

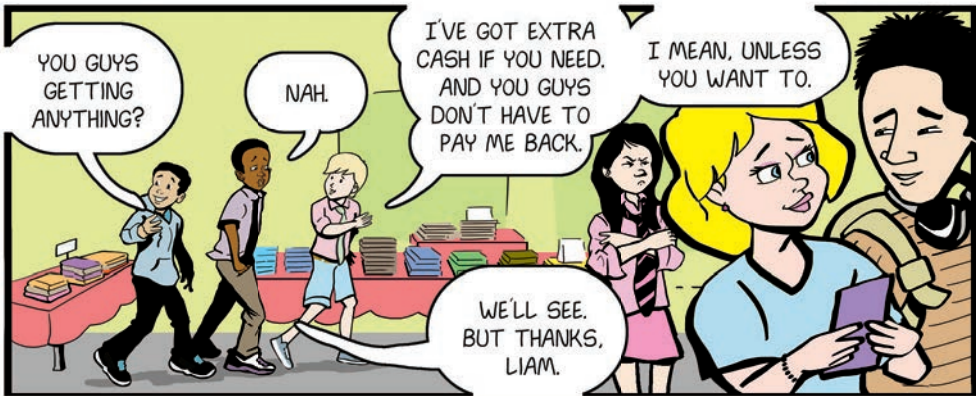
ON YOUR WAY OUT, MAKE SURE YOU PICK A NAME FROM THIS BAG.

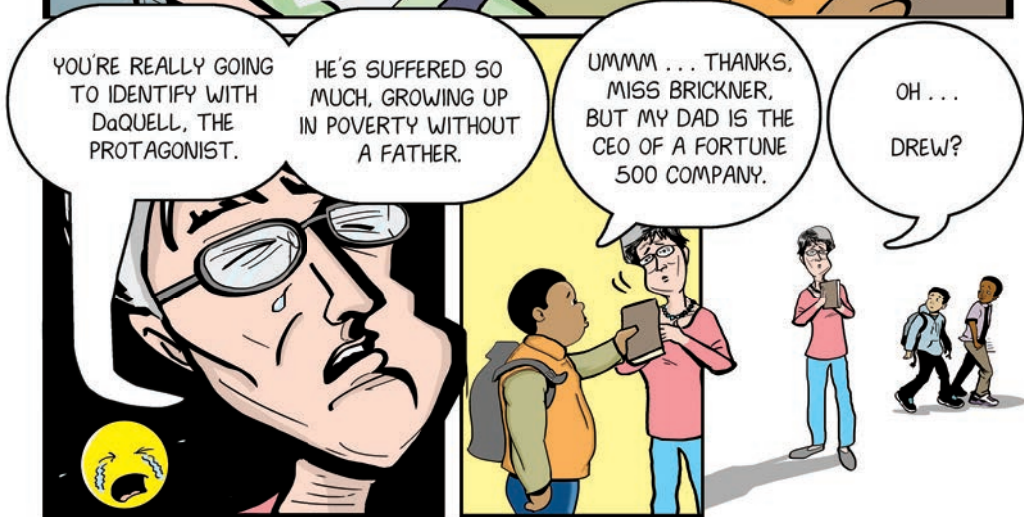
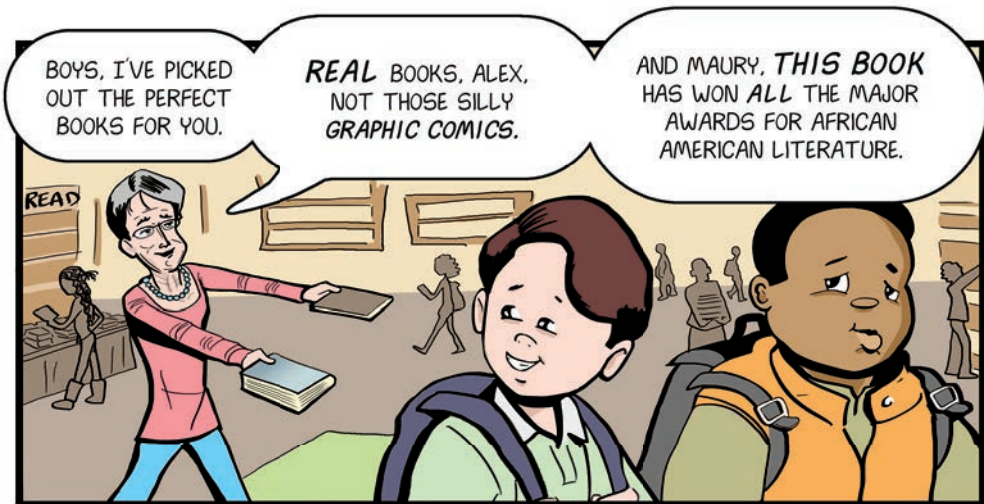
ANY QUESTIONS?

YES, DE ... DREW?









Judging Kids by the Cover of Their Books!

MAINSTREAM BOOKS



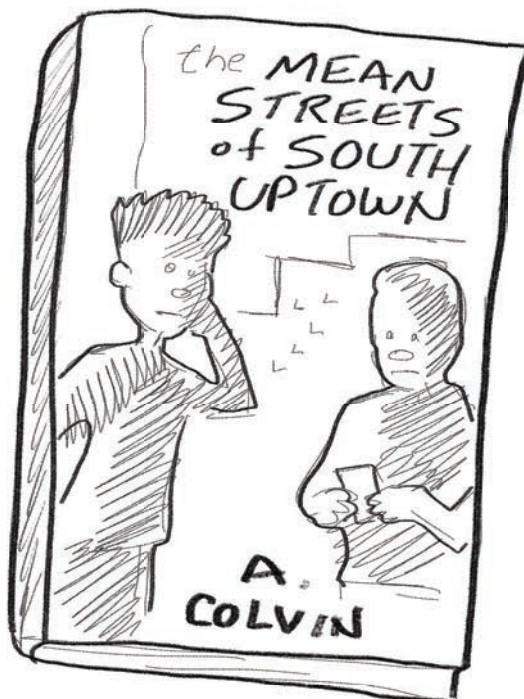
MAINSTREAM BOOK COVERS:

Cool, colorful illustrations
full of magic and hope!

MAINSTREAM BOOK PLOTS:

Prince Aimii leaves his dull
life to slay a dragon,
rescue Princess Brea, and
prove to his father that
one day he'll make
a worthy king.

AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKS



AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOK COVERS:

A depressing photograph full
of realism and hopelessness.

AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOK PLOTS:

After moving to his third
city in three years, DaQuell
"Scooter" Jackson must
decide if he will pursue his
dream of being in the NBA
or join a notorious gang.



MAINSTREAM BOOK HEROES.

- * Lives in a magical kingdom!
- * Lives in a stable home!
- * Wants to live better!
- * His father is king!

REVIEWS:

A thrilling magical tale that is sure to inspire readers of all ages to never give up until they have found the treasure they seek.

-School Library Journal



AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOK HEROES:

- * Lives in the hood!
- * Lives in a broken home!
- * Just wants to live!
- * His father is gone!

REVIEWS:

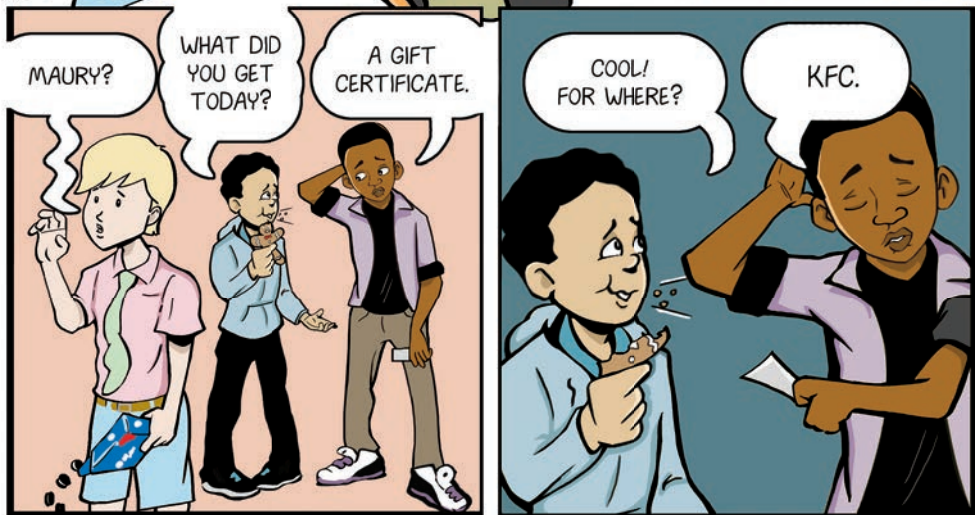
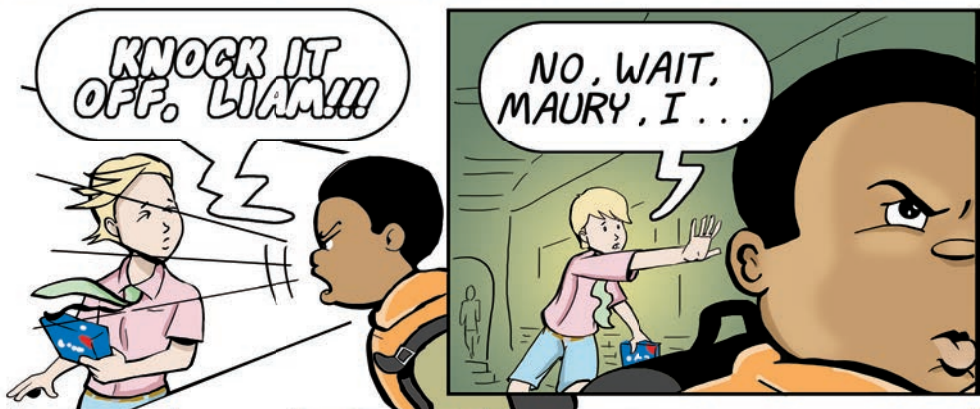
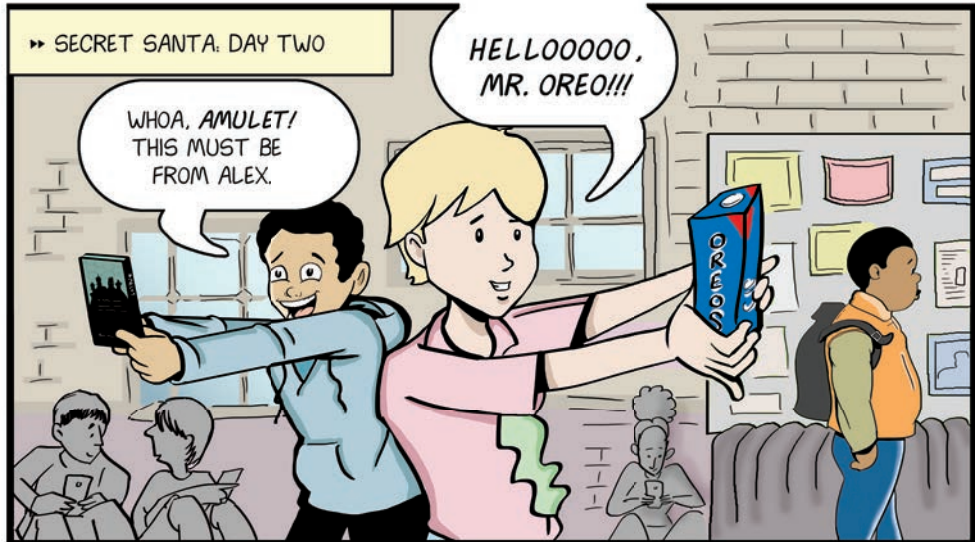
A gritty, urban reminder of the grit of today's urban grittiness.

-Jet magazine



Jordan Banks





» SECRET SANTA: FINAL DAY

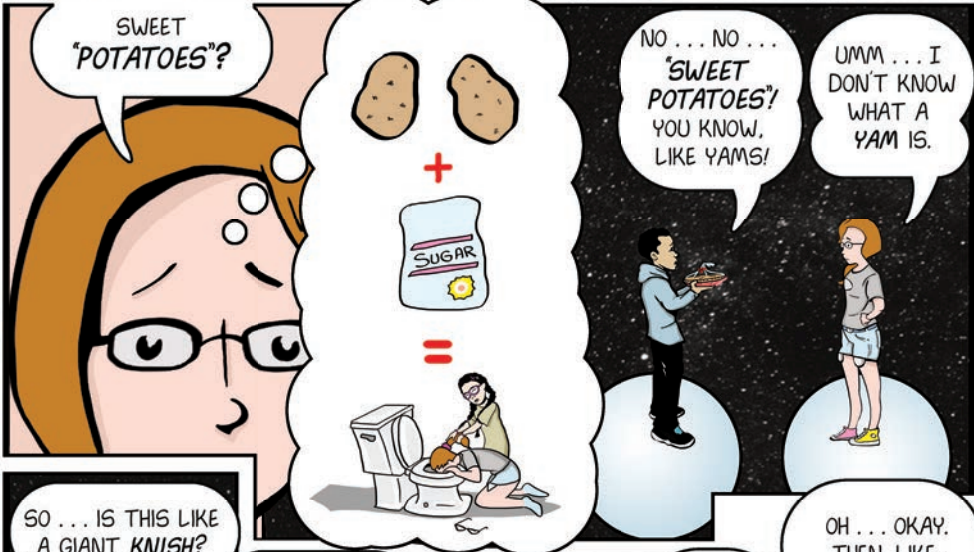


SURPRISE, ASHLEY, I'M YOUR SECRET SANTA!

A PUMPKIN PIE! THANKS!



NO, IT'S SWEET POTATO. I HELPED MY DAD MAKE IT!



SWEET "POTATOES"?

NO... NO... "SWEET POTATOES" YOU KNOW, LIKE YAMS!

UMM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT A YAM IS.



SO... IS THIS LIKE A GIANT KNISH? BUT SWEET?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT A KNISH IS.

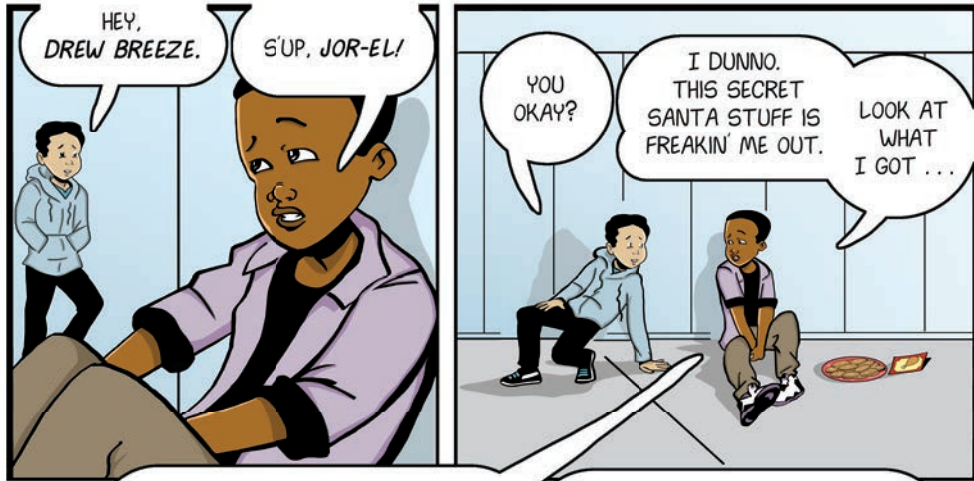
HMMM... OKAY... HAVE YOU EVER HAD SWEET POTATO FRIES?

SURE, THEY'RE AWESOME!

OH... OKAY. THEN, LIKE, THANKS FOR THE YAM PIE, JORDAN.

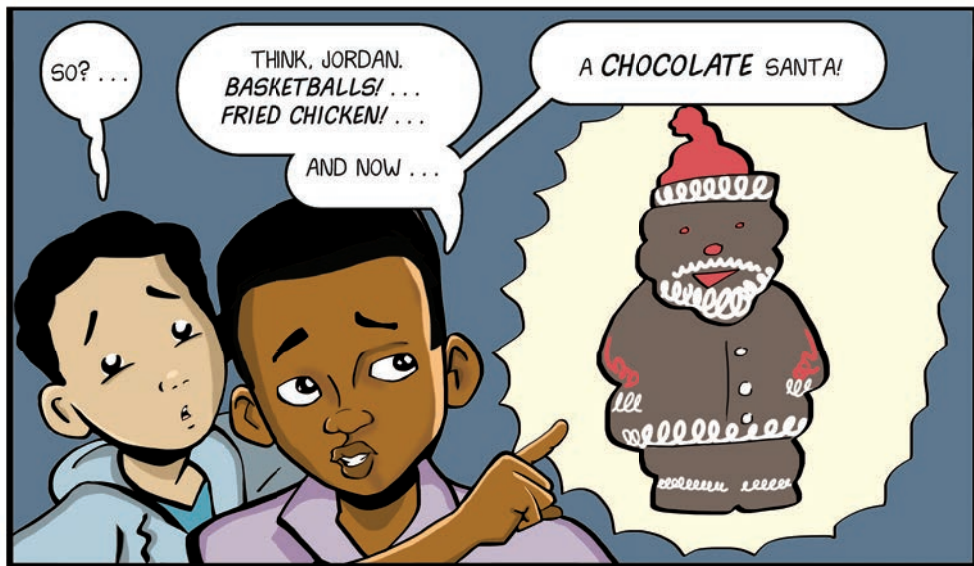


YOU'RE WELCOME?



DAY ONE: COOKIES SHAPED LIKE **BASKETBALLS**.

DAY TWO: A GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR **KFC!**





JORDAN.

WELLLLLLLLLL ...

OH ... I GET IT.

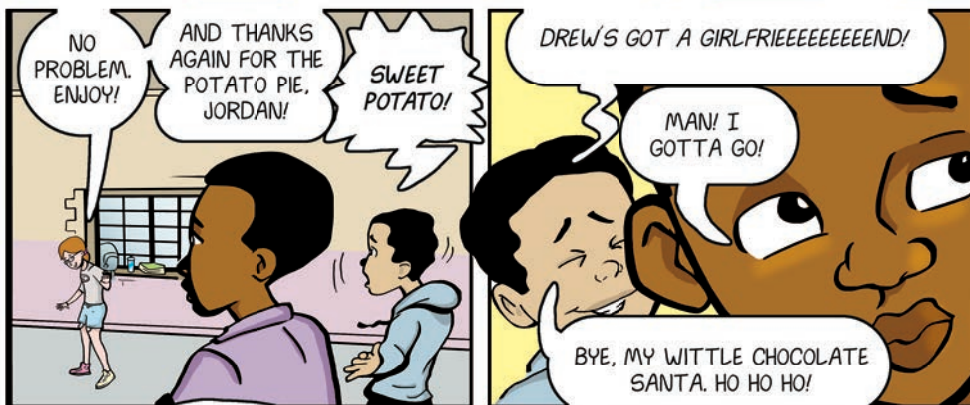


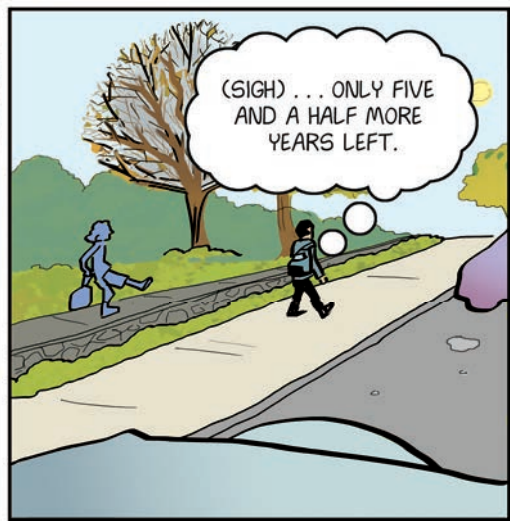
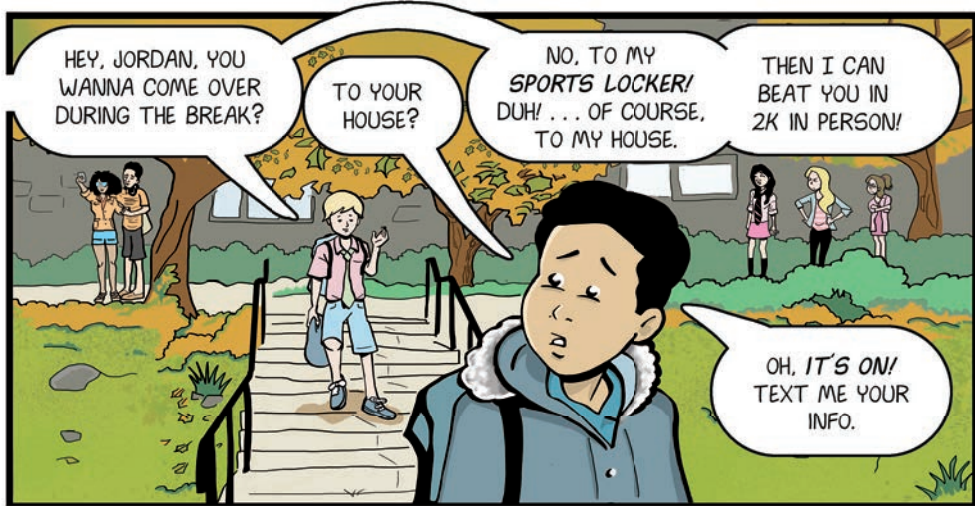
BUT DON'T YOU ACTUALLY LIKE ALL THAT STUFF?

WELL, YOU KNOW THAT. BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE ELSE GIVE ME THESE THINGS?

ANDY!







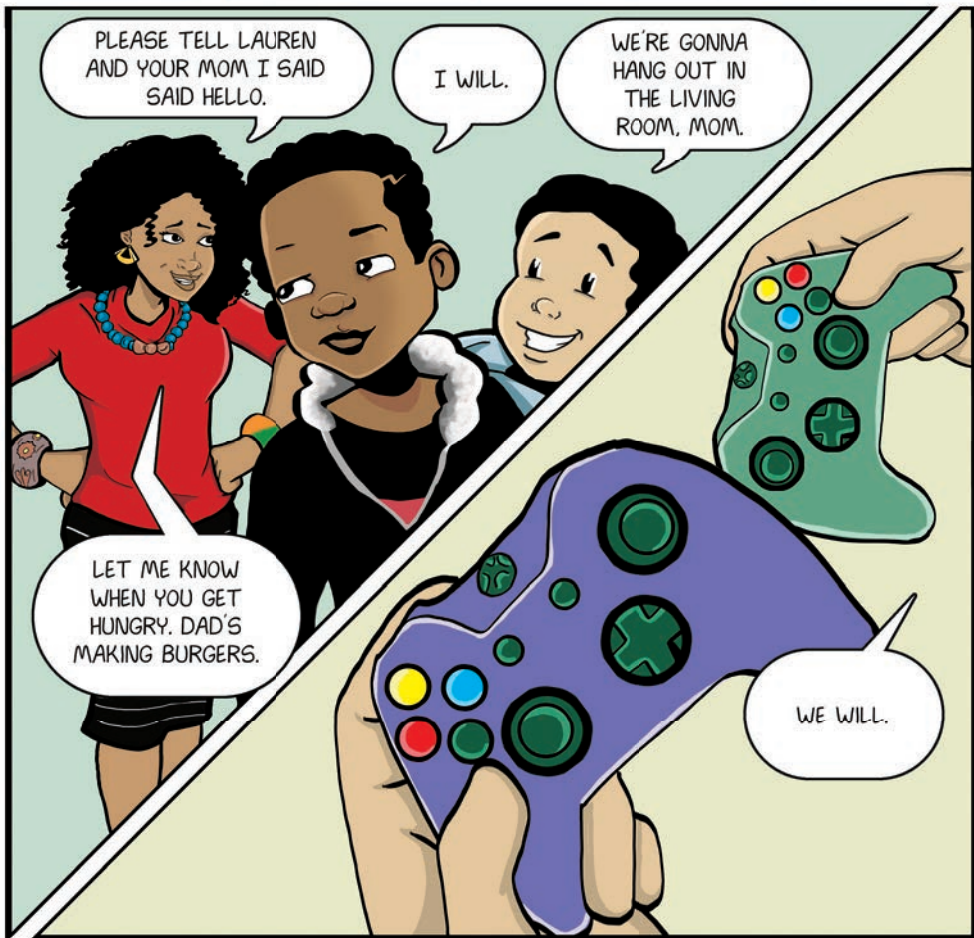
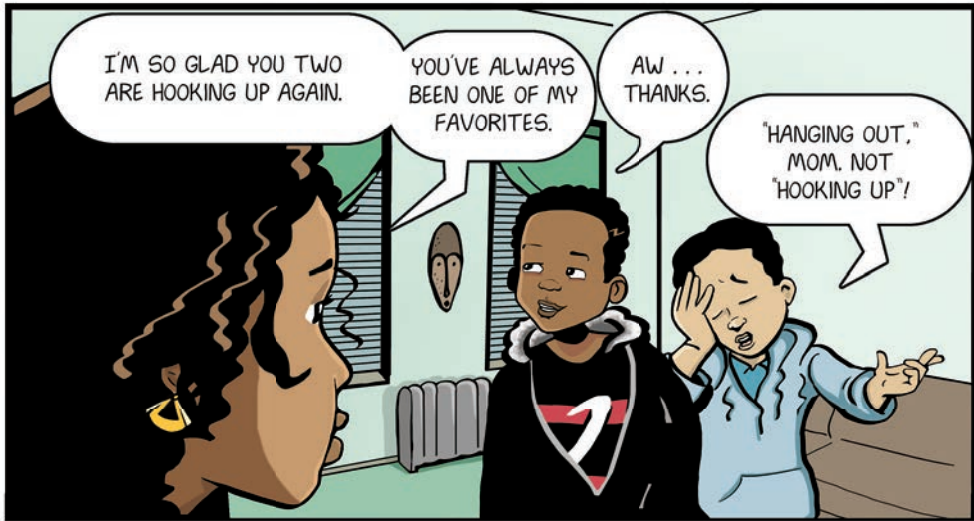


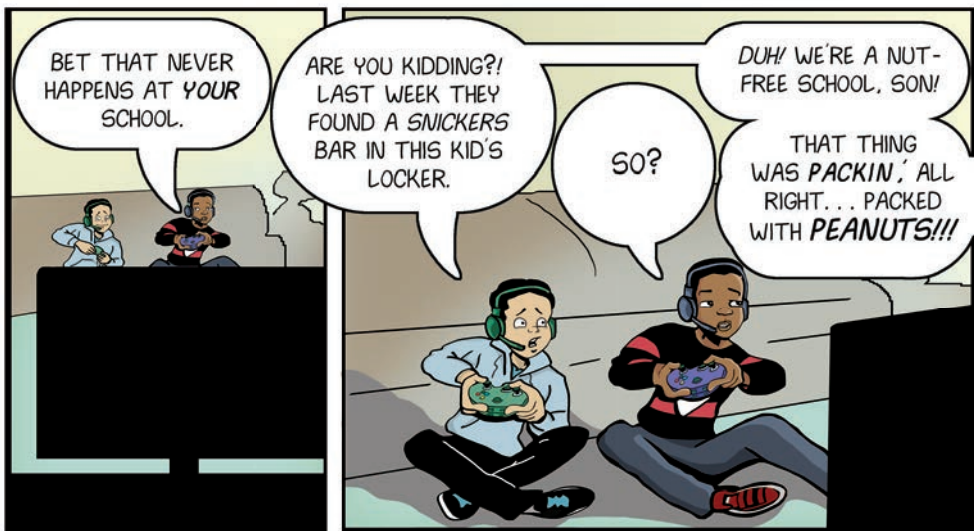
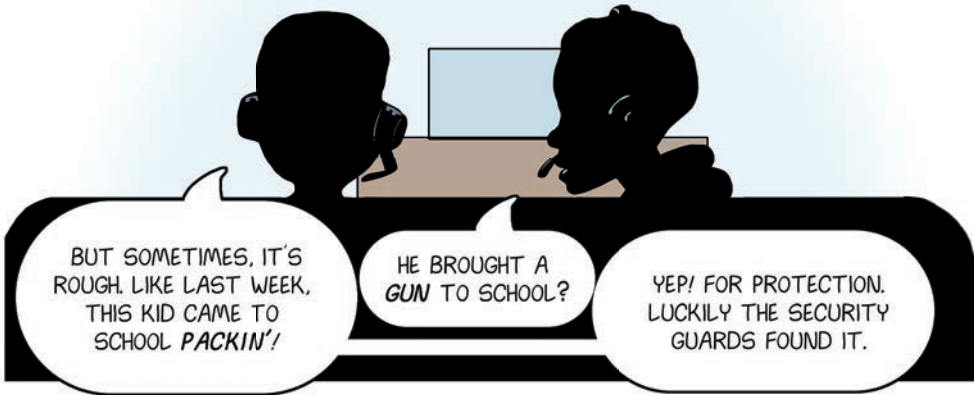


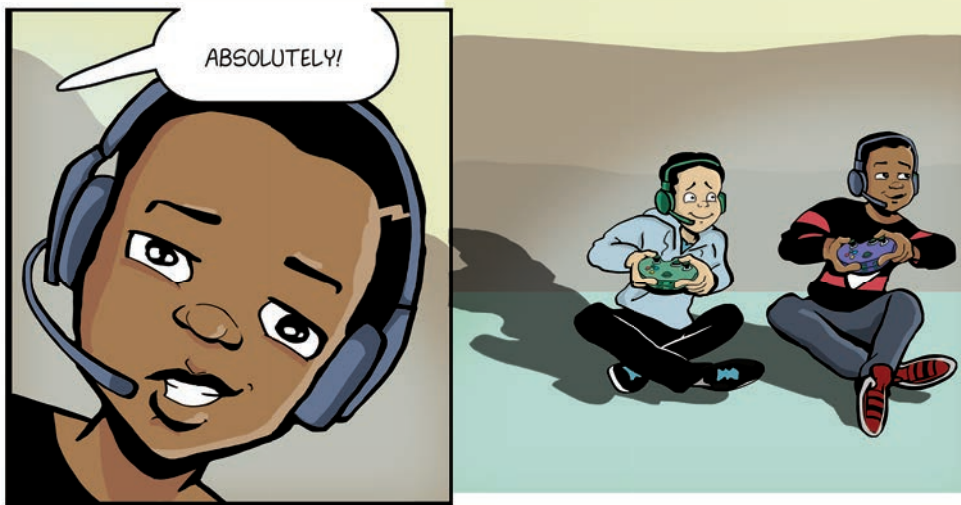
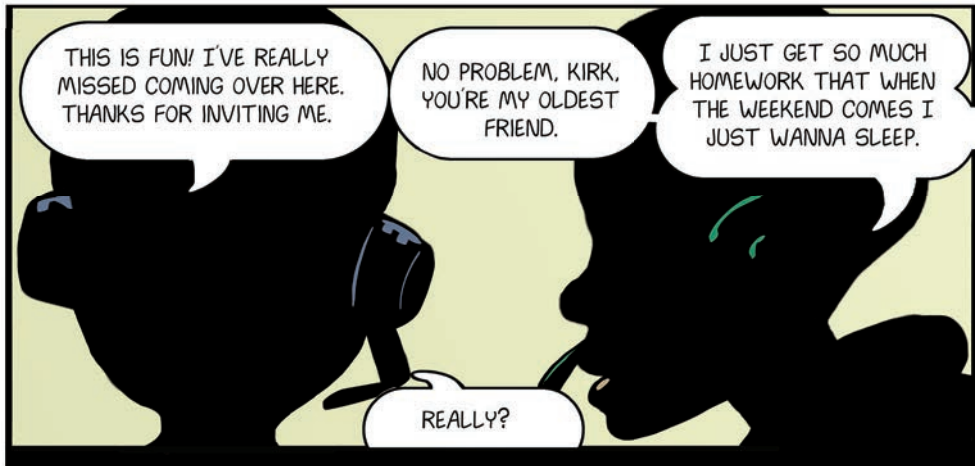
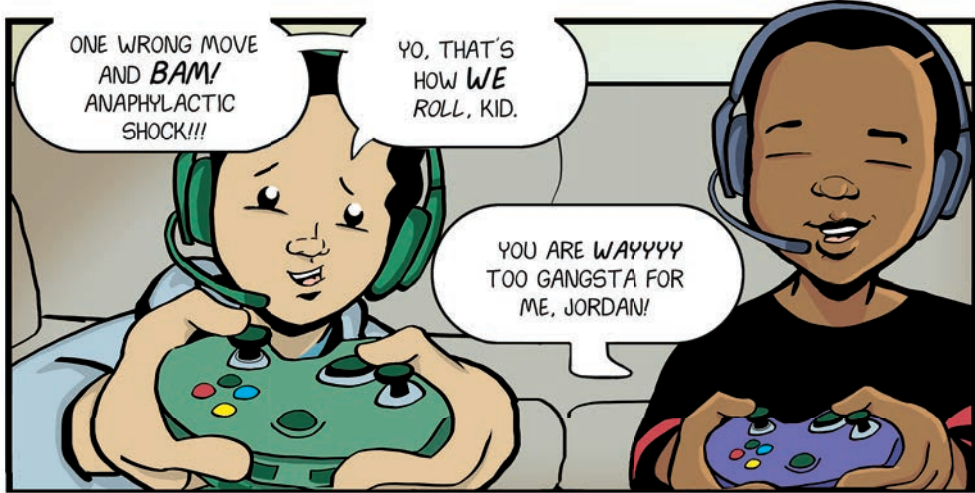
CHAPTER 9

A CHRISTMAS STORY











» A FEW DAYS LATER, IT WAS TIME TO VISIT "PEPPER STEAK."

DAD, THIS WHOLE "NOT JUDGING THING" IS REALLY FREAKING ME OUT.

SO YOU THINK HIS FAMILY IS POOR BUT PRETENDS TO BE RICH?

LIAM NEVER PRETENDS TO BE ANYTHING.

HIS SHOES ARE BEAT UP. HE NEVER BRAGS . . .

BUT THEN AGAIN, HIS DAD DRIVES A MERCEDES.

AND WHO'S MR. PIERRE?

LANDERS

WHO KNOWS, JORDAN? MAYBE THEY USED TO BE RICH AND LOST IT ALL IN ONE OF THOSE SCAMS.

IN ANY CASE, JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T TREAT HIM ANY DIFFERENTLY. OKAY, SON?

'K, DAD.

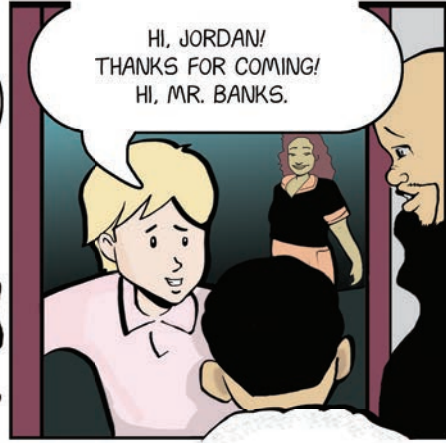
YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR DESTINATION.

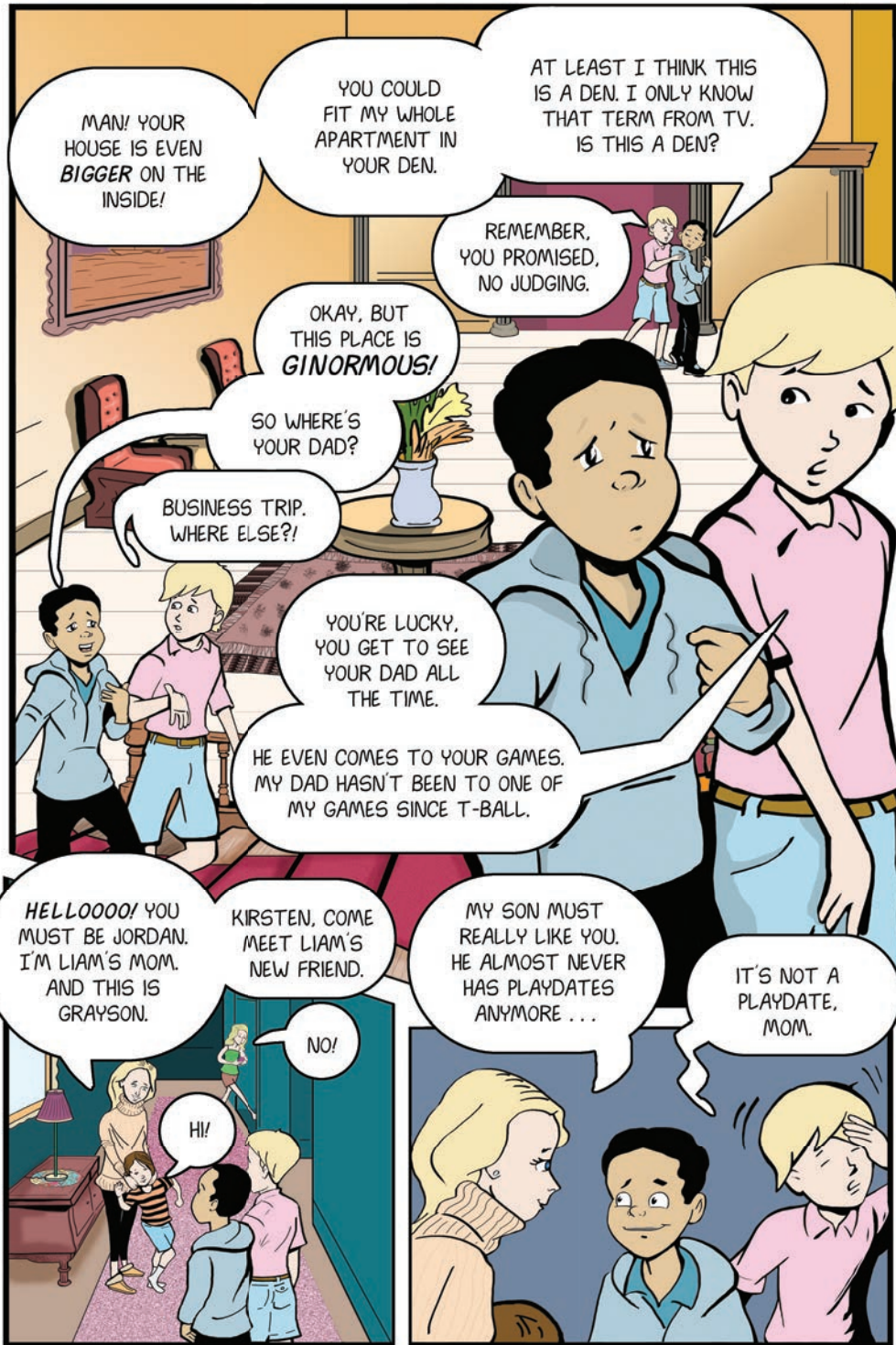


IS THIS JUST
ONE HOUSE?!

MY WHOLE LIFE, I'VE
ONLY HEARD MY DAD
CUSS TWO TIMES...

THIS WAS THE THIRD.





MAN! YOUR HOUSE IS EVEN **BIGGER** ON THE INSIDE!

YOU COULD FIT MY WHOLE APARTMENT IN YOUR DEN.

AT LEAST I THINK THIS IS A DEN. I ONLY KNOW THAT TERM FROM TV. IS THIS A DEN?

REMEMBER, YOU PROMISED, NO JUDGING.

OKAY, BUT THIS PLACE IS **GINORMOUS!**

SO WHERE'S YOUR DAD?

BUSINESS TRIP. WHERE ELSE?!

YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU GET TO SEE YOUR DAD ALL THE TIME.

HE EVEN COMES TO YOUR GAMES. MY DAD HASN'T BEEN TO ONE OF MY GAMES SINCE T-BALL.

HELLOOOO! YOU MUST BE JORDAN. I'M LIAM'S MOM. AND THIS IS GRAYSON.

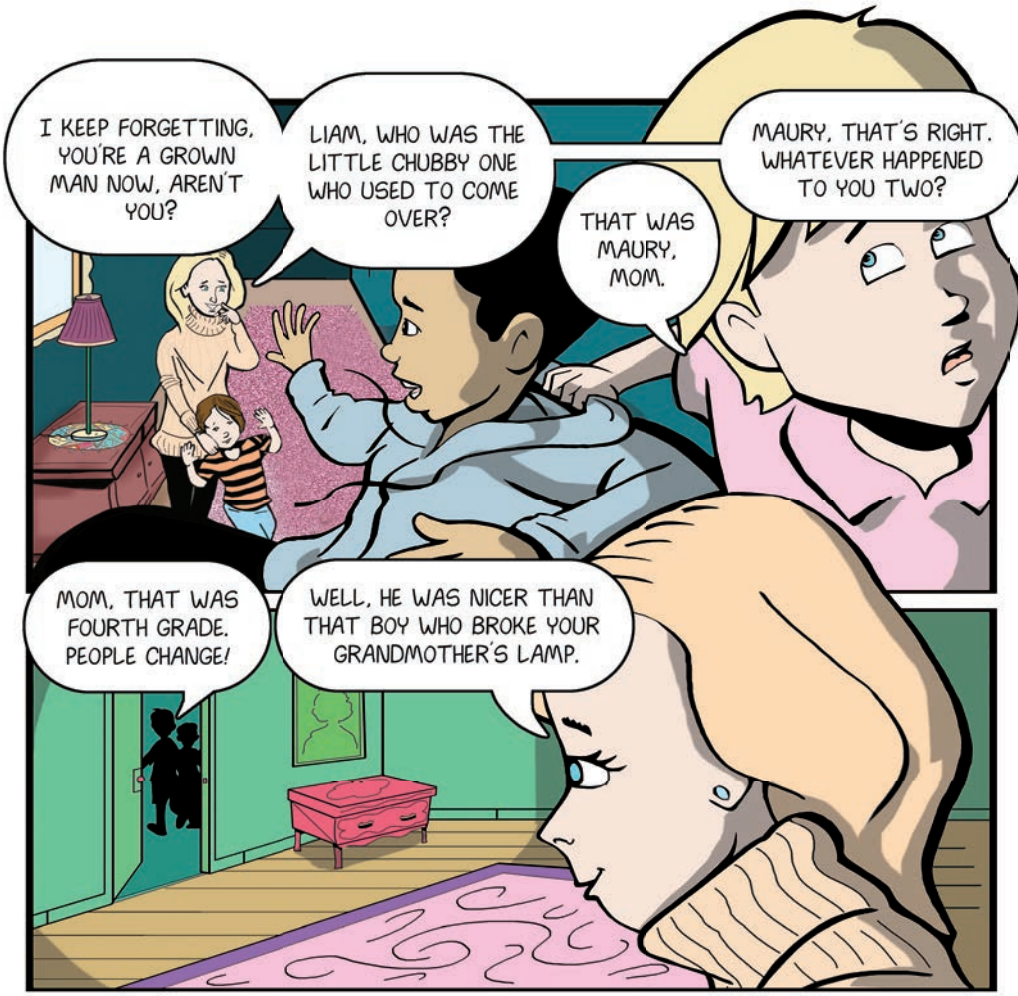
KIRSTEN, COME MEET LIAM'S NEW FRIEND.

NO!

HI!

MY SON MUST REALLY LIKE YOU. HE ALMOST NEVER HAS PLAYDATES ANYMORE ...

IT'S NOT A PLAYDATE, MOM.



I KEEP FORGETTING, YOU'RE A GROWN MAN NOW, AREN'T YOU?

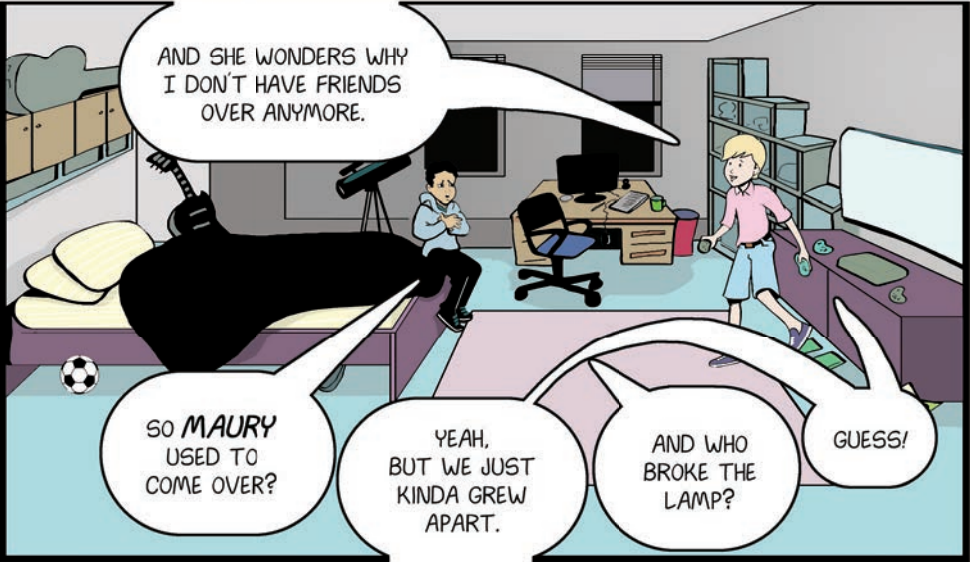
LIAM, WHO WAS THE LITTLE CHUBBY ONE WHO USED TO COME OVER?

THAT WAS MAURY, MOM.

MAURY, THAT'S RIGHT. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOU TWO?

MOM, THAT WAS FOURTH GRADE. PEOPLE CHANGE!

WELL, HE WAS NICER THAN THAT BOY WHO BROKE YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S LAMP.



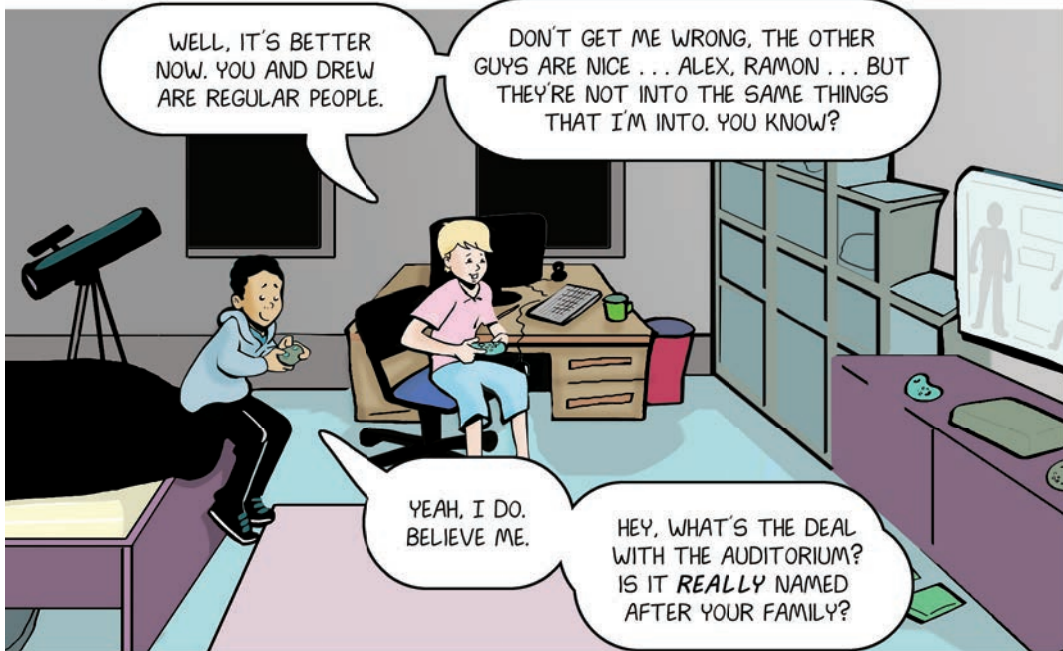
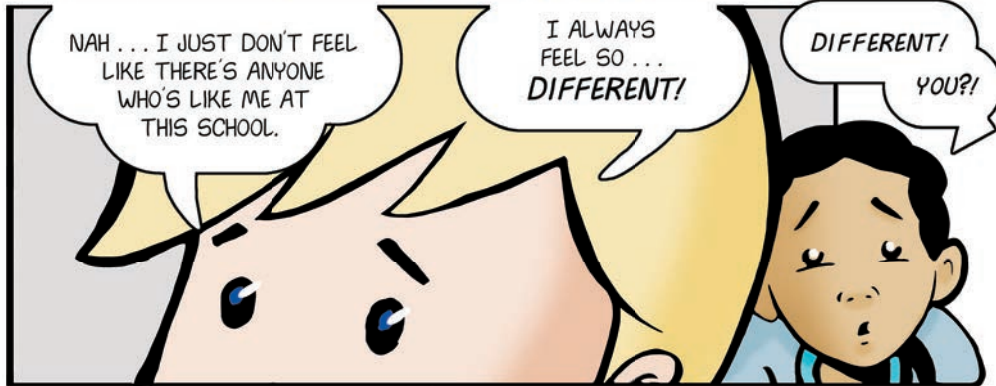
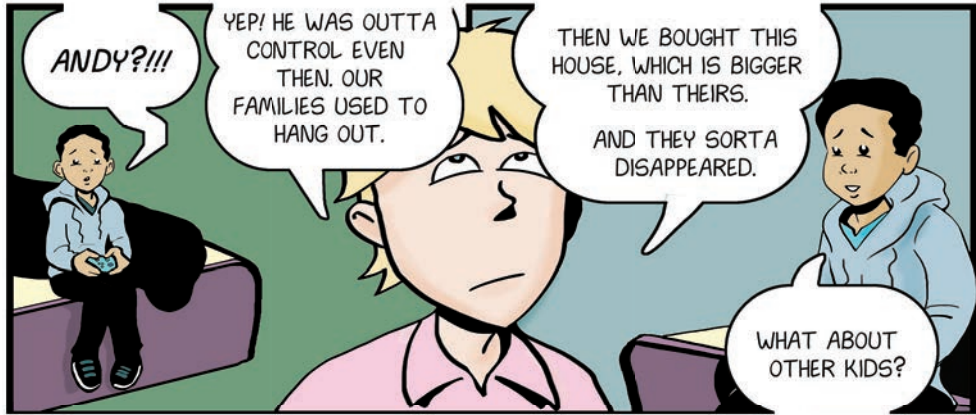
AND SHE WONDERS WHY I DON'T HAVE FRIENDS OVER ANYMORE.

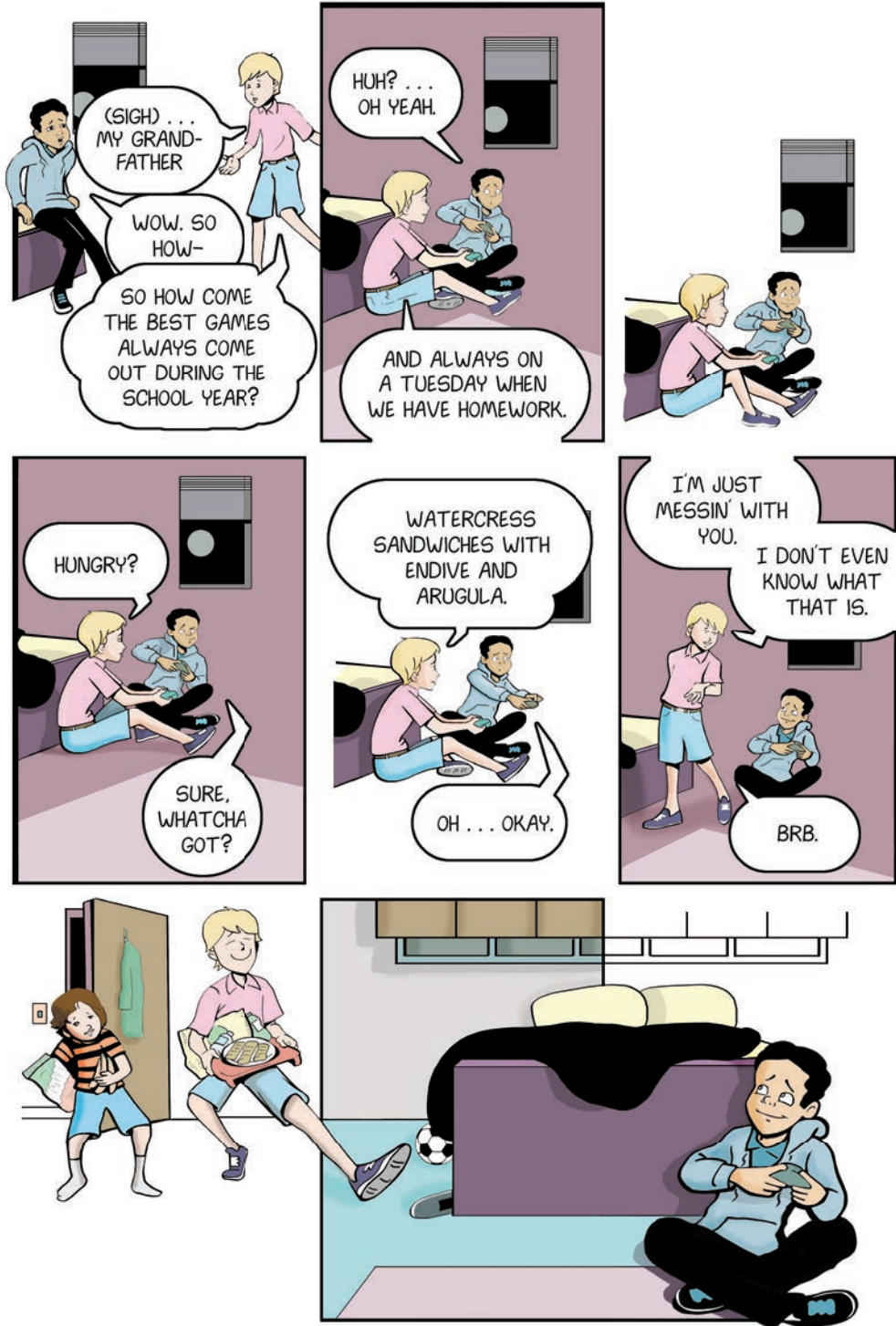
SO MAURY USED TO COME OVER?

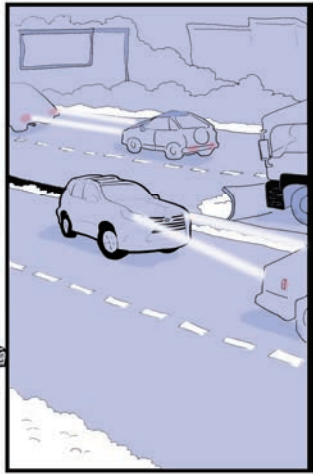
YEAH, BUT WE JUST KINDA GREW APART.

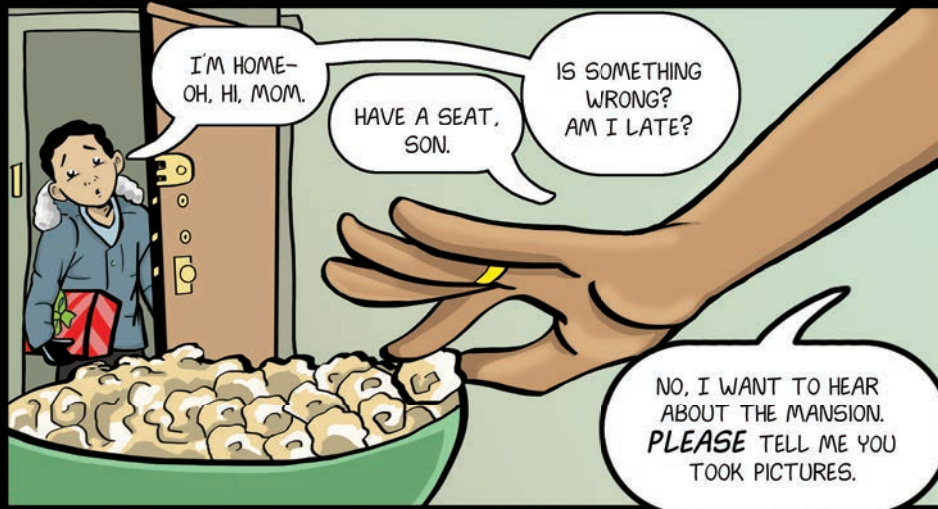
AND WHO BROKE THE LAMP?

GUESS!









I'M HOME-
OH, HI, MOM.

HAVE A SEAT,
SON.

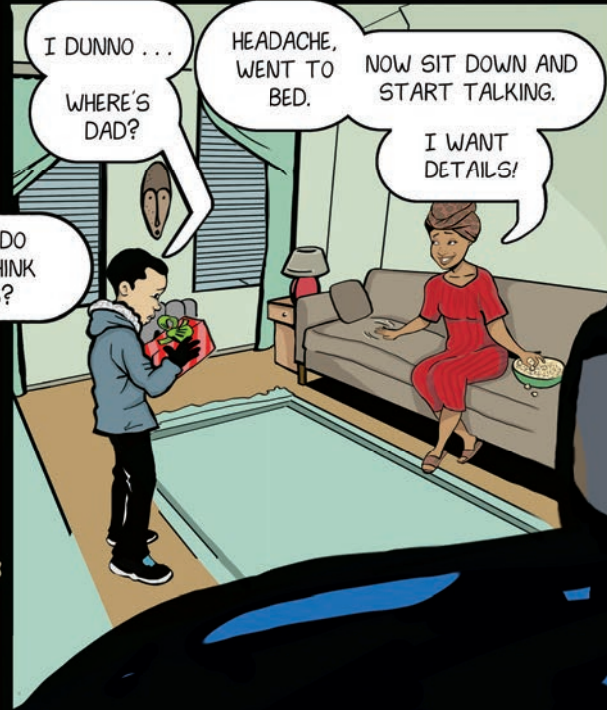
IS SOMETHING
WRONG?
AM I LATE?

NO, I WANT TO HEAR
ABOUT THE MANSION.
PLEASE TELL ME YOU
TOOK PICTURES.



OOOOH ...
DID HE GIVE YOU
A CHRISTMAS
PRESENT?

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
IT IS?

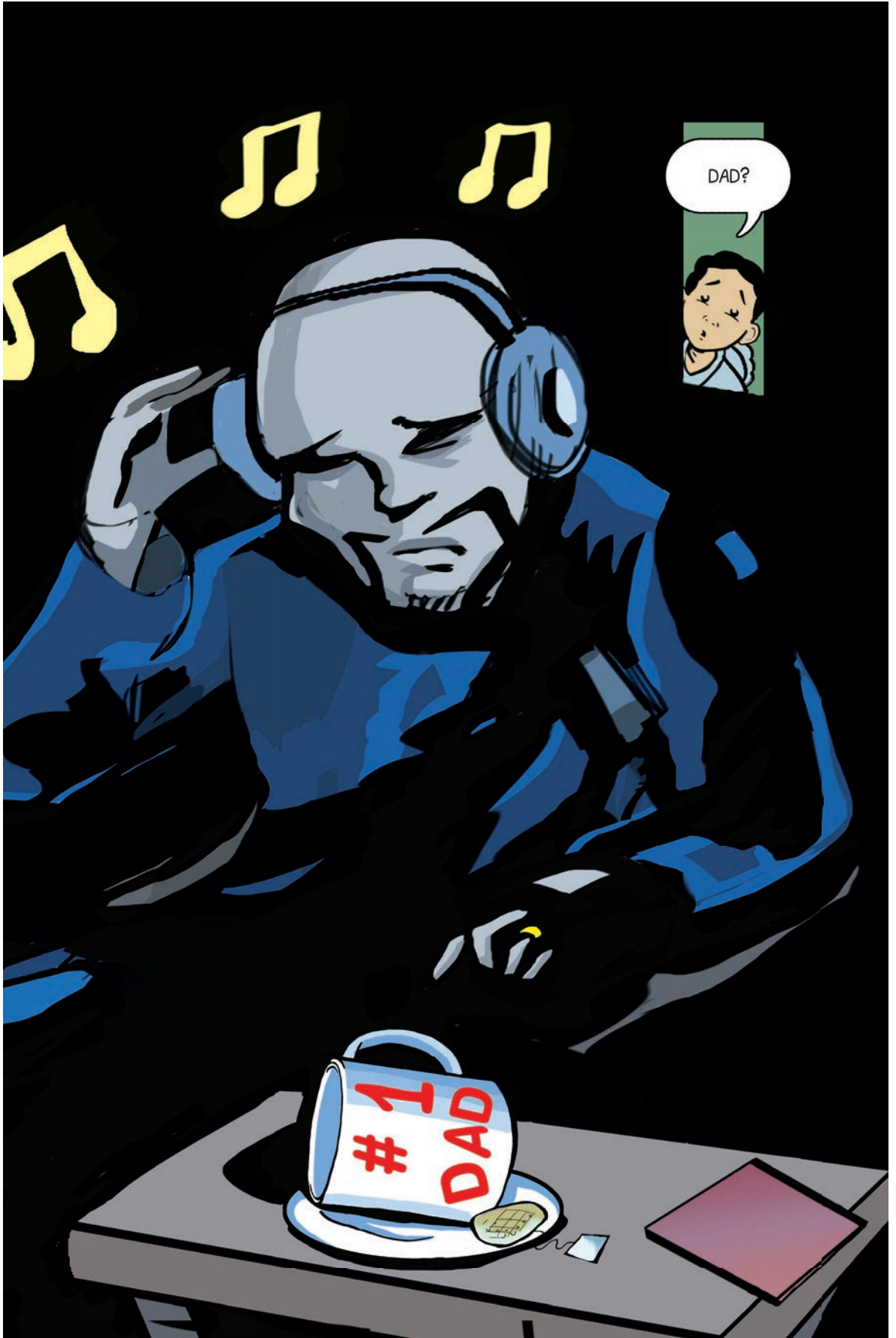


I DUNNO ...
WHERE'S
DAD?

HEADACHE,
WENT TO
BED.

NOW SIT DOWN AND
START TALKING.

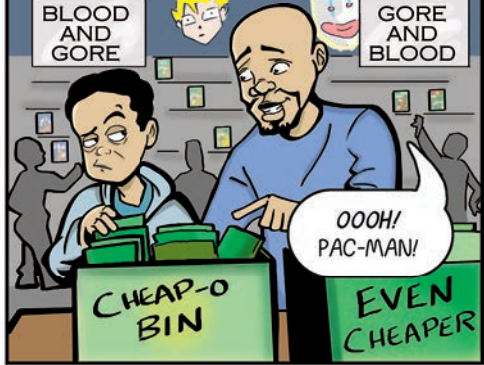
I WANT
DETAILS!



» X-MAS DAY. THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH THAT I WANT. BESIDES THE NEW NBA 2K!



BUT I KNOW IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE. I CAN **NEVER** GET GAMES UNTIL THEY DROP BELOW FIFTY DOLLARS.



WHICH IS WHY I'M ALWAYS SO FAR BEHIND ON MADDEN.



BUT WHAT I **REALLY** WANTED, NO ONE COULD GIVE ME ... A **GROWTH SPURT!** THAT WOULD BE **AWESOME!**

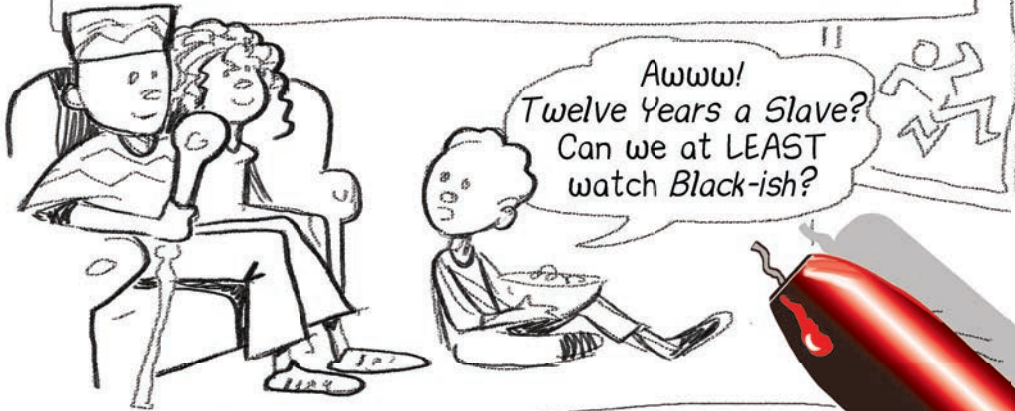


WOW! THANKS, GUYS!

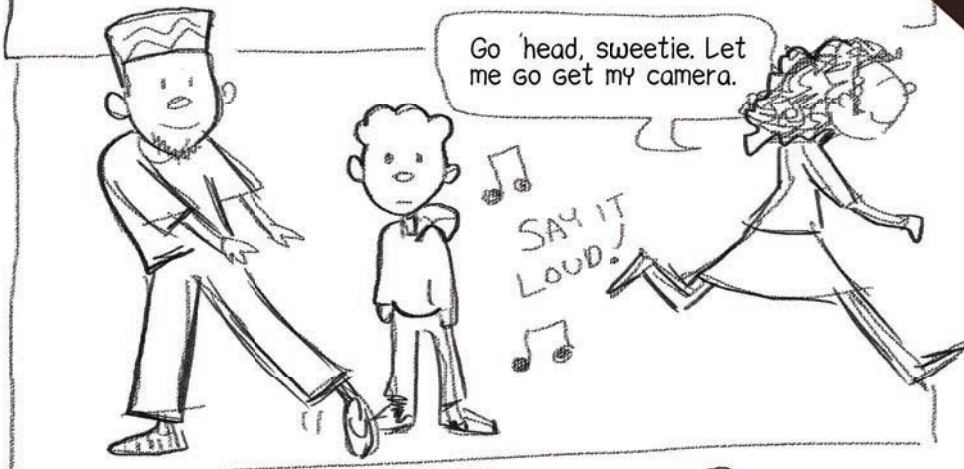




And while everyone else was still watching *A Christmas Story* and *Frosty the Snowman*, we had already moved on.



We also listened to a lot of old music, including the Godfather of Soul himself, James Brown.



Then once my soul had been properly repaired inside our apartment, it was time to fix it outside as well.

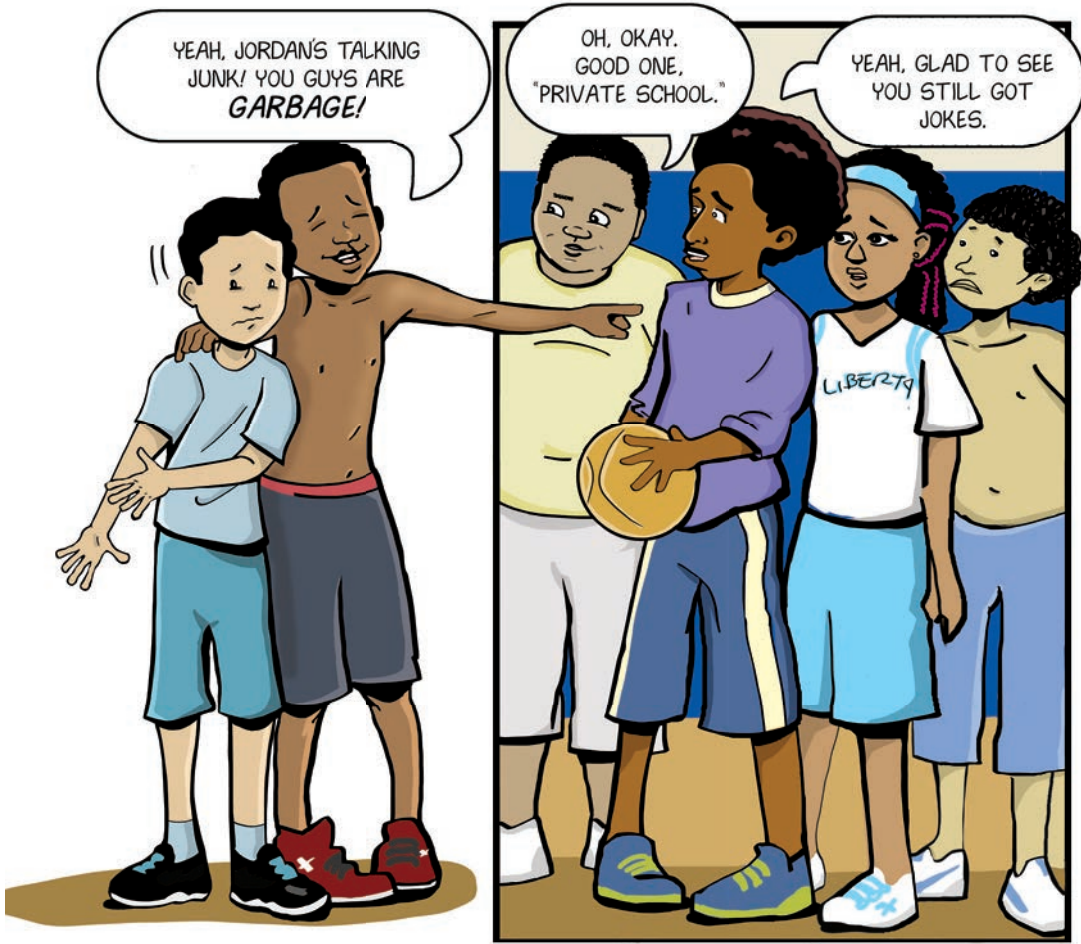
Jordan











**THE SOCKY
HORROR
PICTURE
SHOW**

CHAPTER 19





Tales of the Not-So-Dark Knight!

I wish I was Batman!



Not just for all the cool reasons.



I am VENGEANCE!

Nice to meet you.

Or the fact that he's rich.



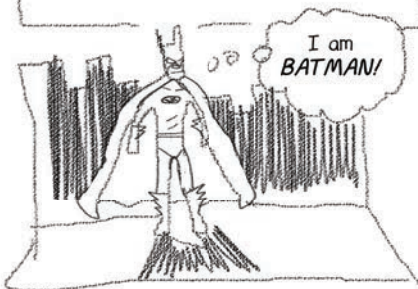
Not just rich, sooooooo rich!

I wish I was Batman so that I could fit in anywhere! One minute he's at a board meeting.



I am Bruce Wayne!

And the next, he's in the most dangerous part of town. Completely fearless!



I am BATMAN!

Although, he never seems to have any friends.

Hey, Alfred, wanna play cards again?



I am QUITTING!

But luckily that's not me anymore.



But unlike me, Batman is always in control of EVERYTHING!



NO PICKLES!!!



And I really love how Batman always stands up for the little guys.



Because usually that "little guy" is me!

Mom, can I go to art school?



NO!

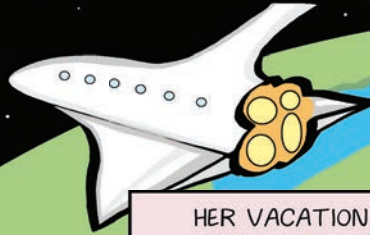


GOOD AFTERNOON, I'M ASHLEY MARTIN, AND WELCOME TO THE RAD VACATION REVIEW . . .

A LOOK AT THE WINNERS AND LOSERS DURING OUR HOLIDAY BREAK.



THE BIGGEST WINNER HAD TO BE CAMRYN MEADOWS, WHOSE DAD CHARTERED THE SPACE SHUTTLE TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR IN ORBIT.



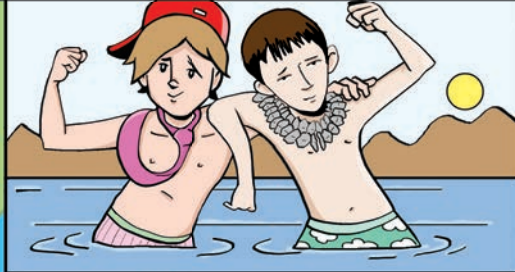
HER VACATION WAS LITERALLY "OUT OF THIS WORLD"!

ROBBY D. WAS A CLOSE SECOND. HIS FAMILY SPENT CHRISTMAS WITH HIS HOLINESS THE POPE!



AHHH . . .ROME SWEET ROME!

MEANWHILE, ANDY WENT TO HAWAII WITH HIS TRUSTY MINION COLLIN. "THANK GOODNESS WE DIDN'T GO TO HAWAII!," SAID **EVERYONE!**

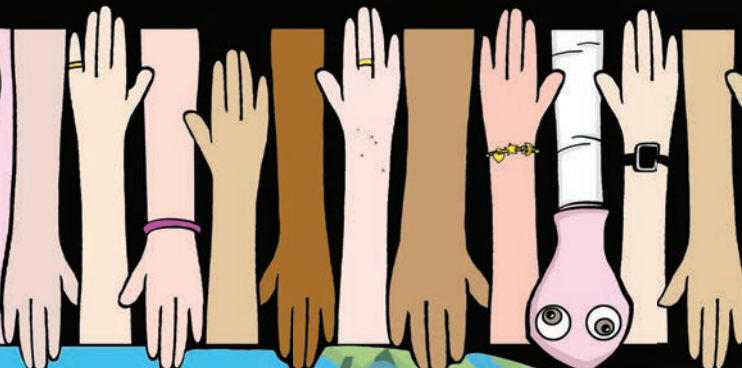


VACATION LOSERS INCLUDE JORDAN, DREW, MAURY, ALEX, RAMON, AND THAT CREEPY PUPPET GIRL.



ACTUALLY, WE WENT TO OUR VILLA IN TUSCANY.

I STAND CORRECTED.



(SIGH) ... IT WAS BAD ENOUGH I HAD TO GO THROUGH THIS AT ST. HARWELL'S!

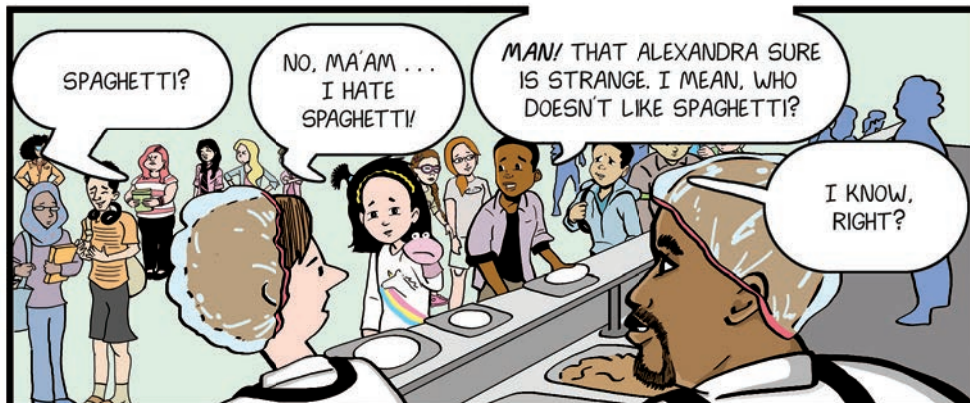


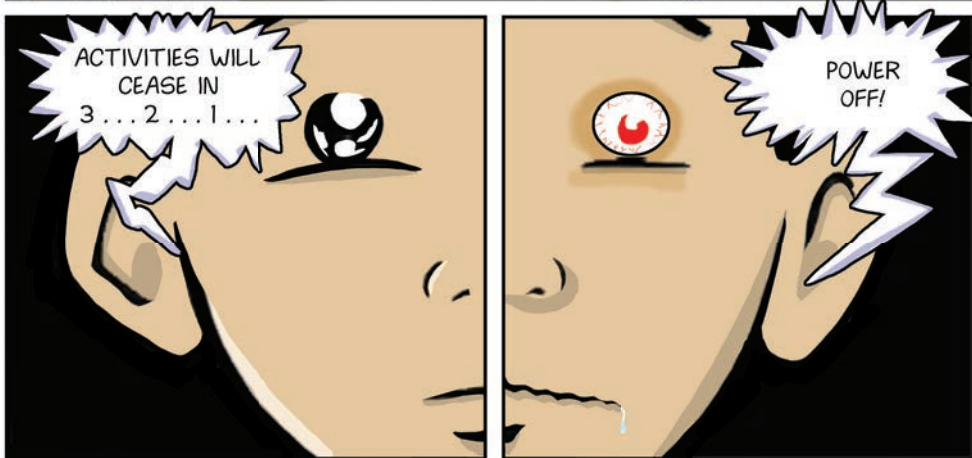
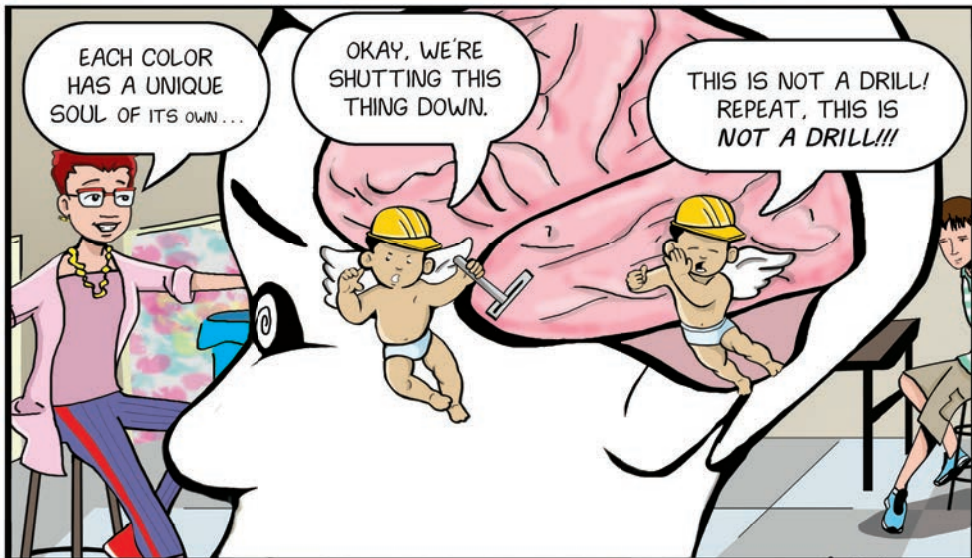
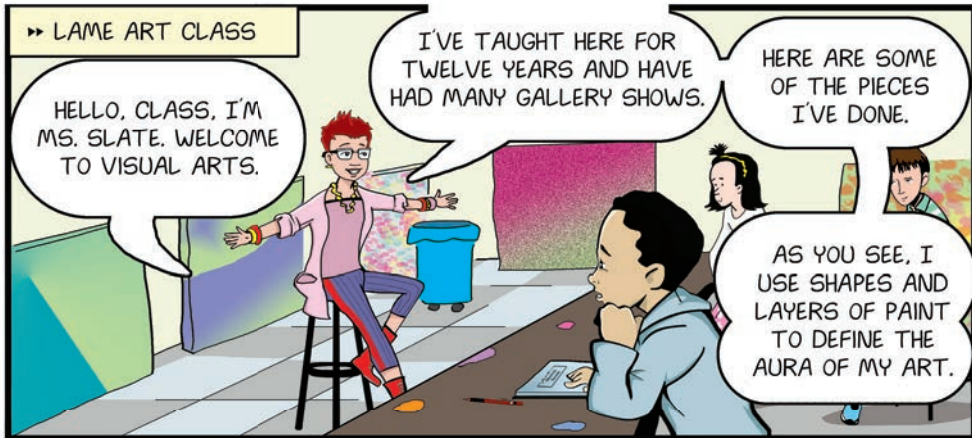
BUT THIS FEELS EVEN WORSE.

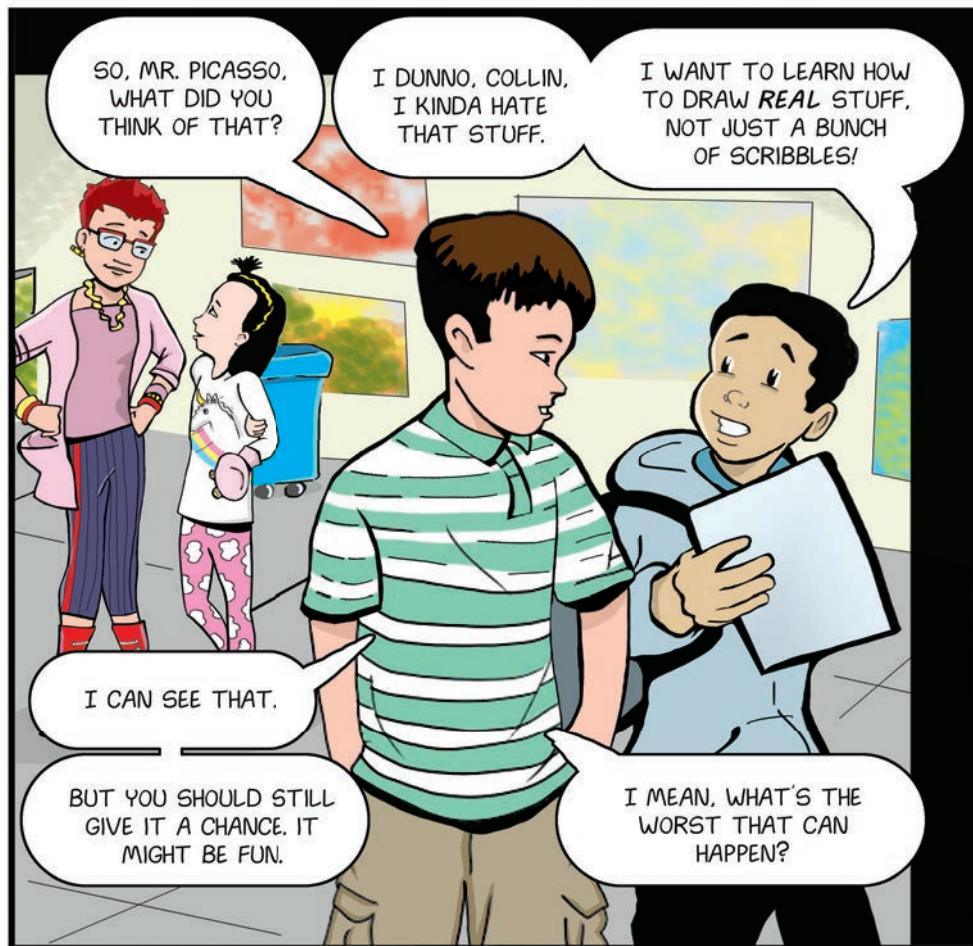
FLASHBACK

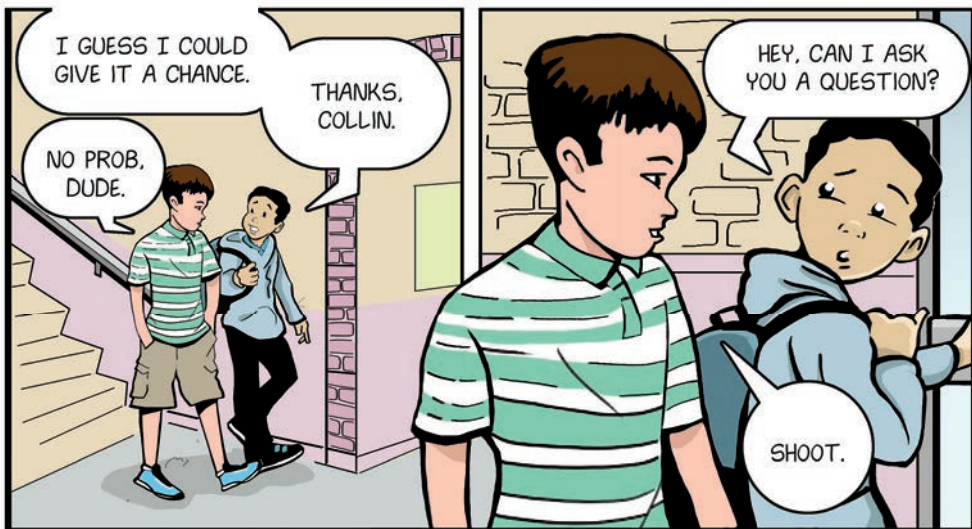


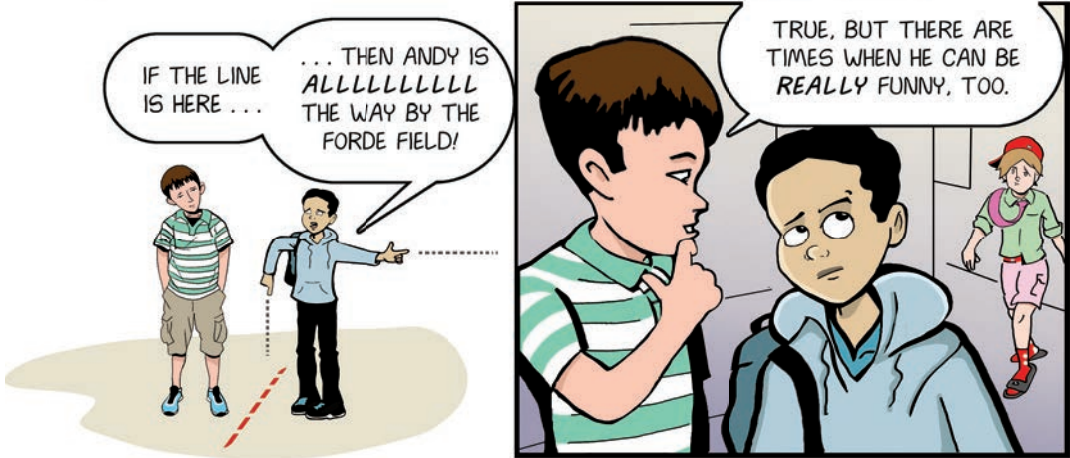
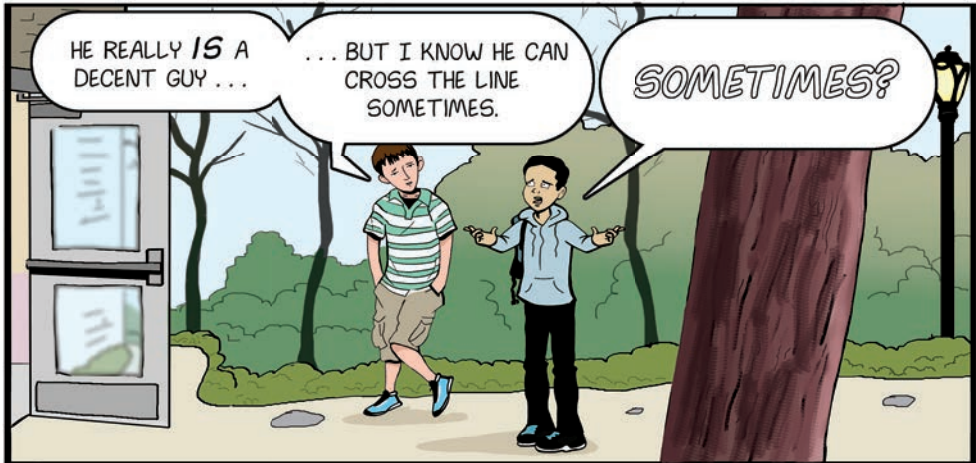


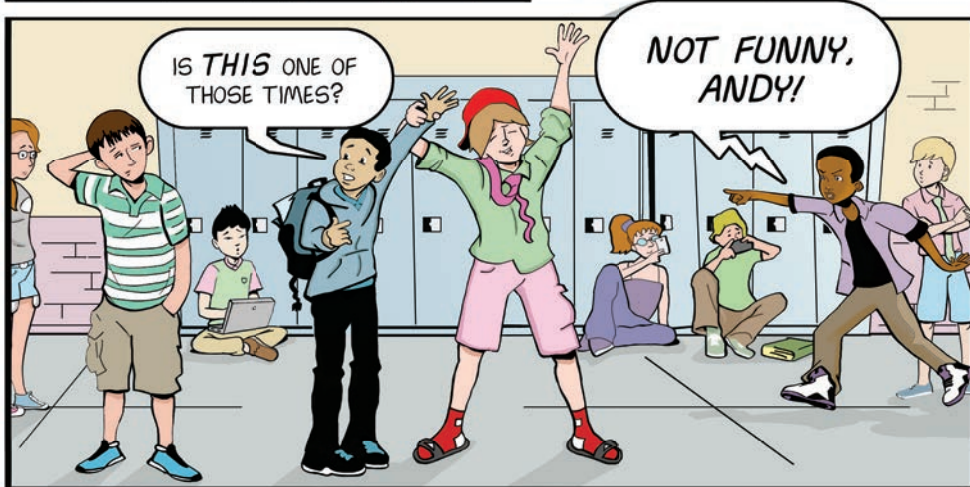


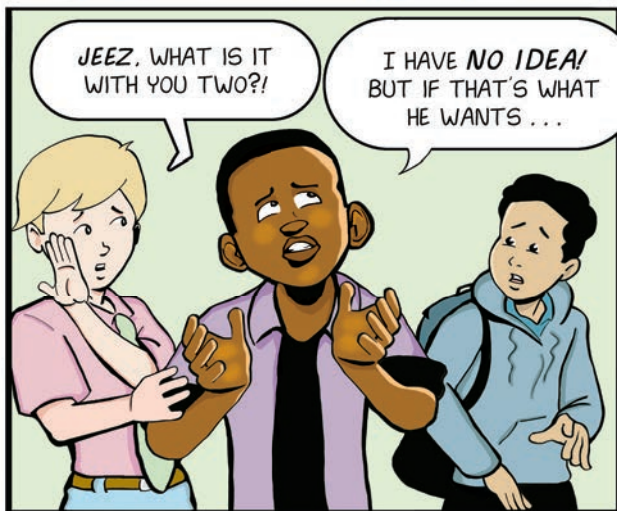
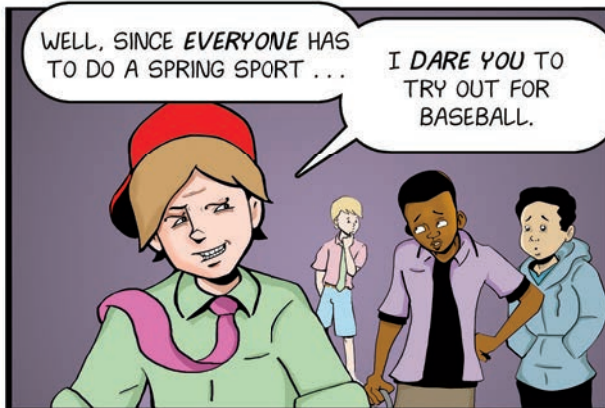
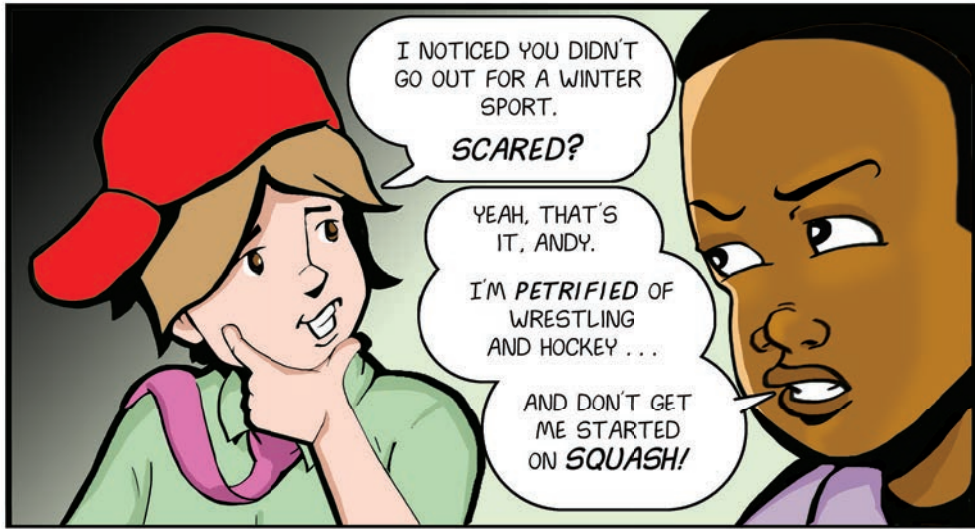








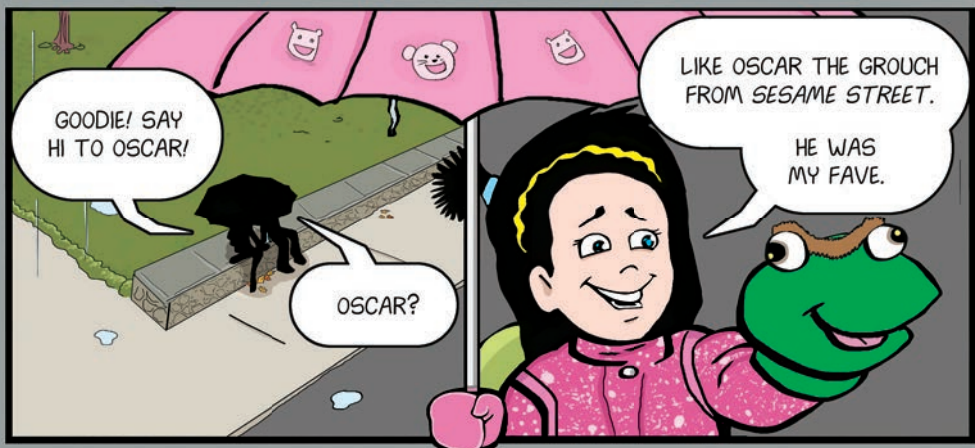
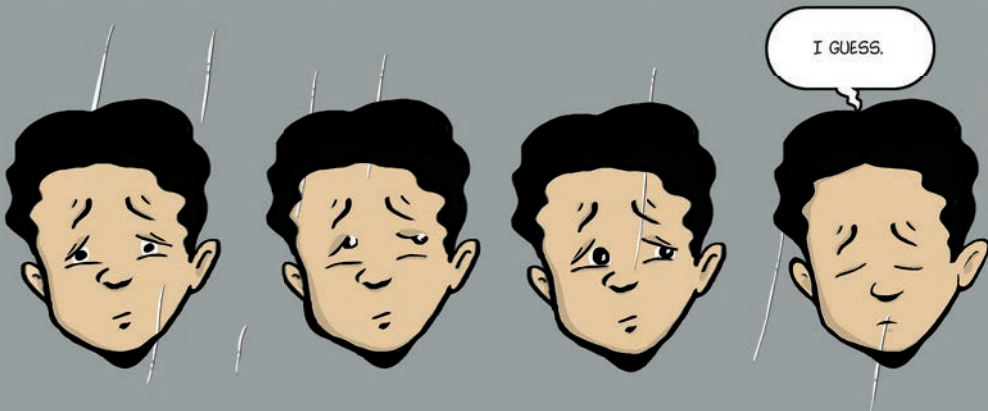


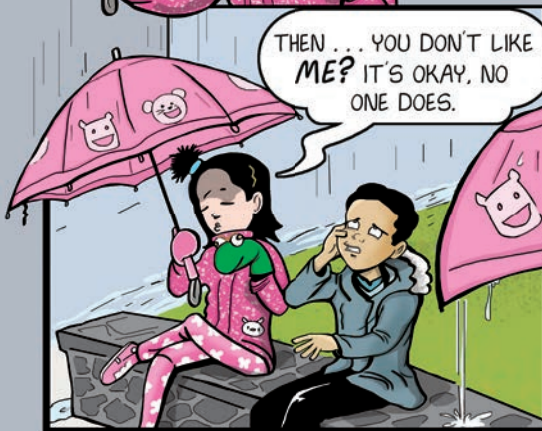


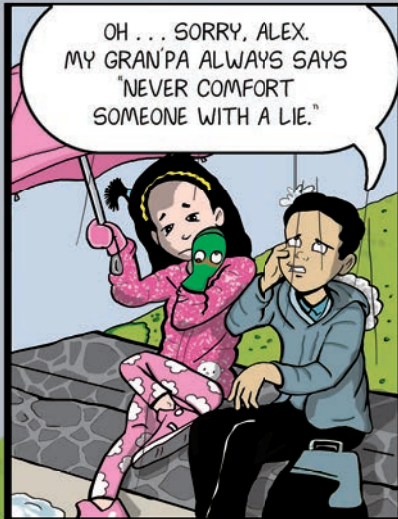








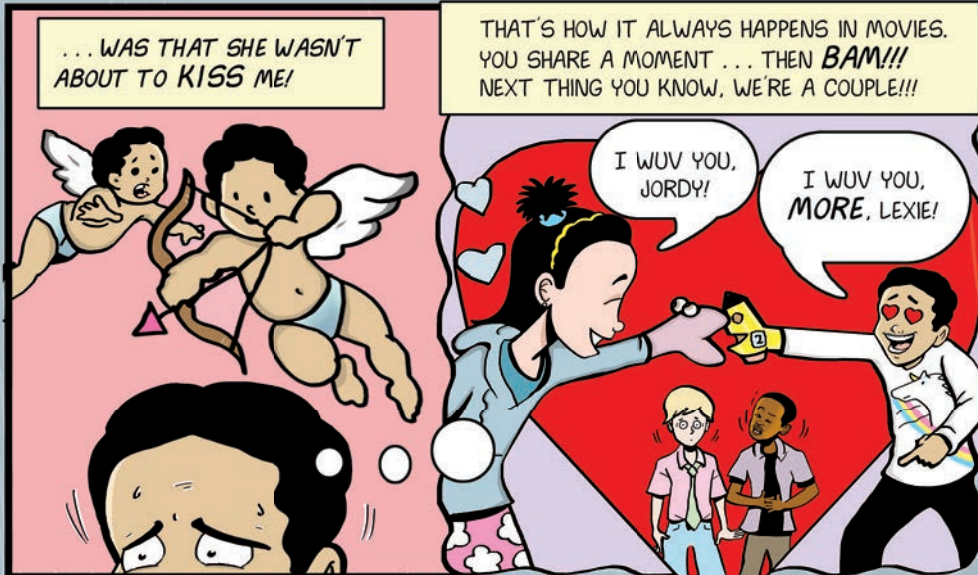




SO THERE I WAS, IN THE RAIN, TALKING TO THE WEIRDEST KID IN MY GRADE. MAYBE EVEN THE **WHOLE SCHOOL** ...

... HOPING WITH ALL MY MIGHT THAT MAYBE SHE'S NOT AS WEIRD AS EVERYONE **THINKS** SHE IS. AND **MAYBE** SHE'LL STOP CARRYING AROUND THOSE STUPID PUPPETS. AND STOP TALKING IN THAT ANNOYING PUPPET VOICE SO PEOPLE WOULD SEE HOW NICE SHE IS.

BUT DEEP DOWN, WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR MOST OF ALL ... AND I MEAN **REALLY** HOPING WITH ALL MY MIGHT ...



... WAS THAT SHE WASN'T ABOUT TO KISS ME!

THAT'S HOW IT ALWAYS HAPPENS IN MOVIES. YOU SHARE A MOMENT ... THEN **BAM!!!** NEXT THING YOU KNOW, WE'RE A COUPLE!!!

I WUV YOU, JORDY!

I WUV YOU, MORE, LEXIE!

SO I MADE SURE THAT WE **NEVER** STOPPED TALKING. GIRLS ALWAYS KISS YOU DURING AWKWARD PAUSES.

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION, ALEX?

SURE.

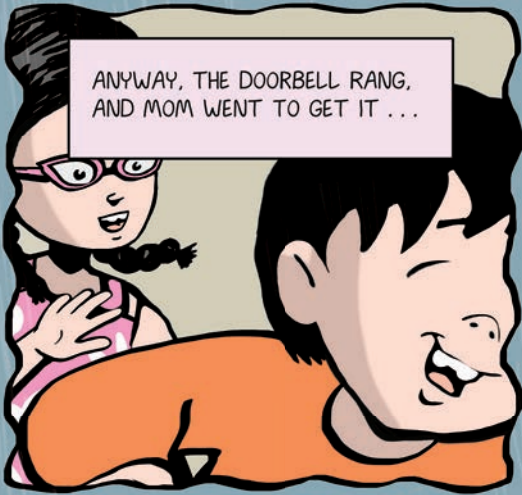
WHAT'S UP WITH THE PUPPETS?

OH ... WELL, IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TALK ABOUT. BUT I GUESS I CAN TELL YOU. YOU'RE NEVER MEAN TO ME, JORDAN.

UMM ... ONE DAY I WAS PLAYING WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER IAN ...

... MY MOM WAS MAKING SPAGHETTI. SHE USED TO MAKE IT EVERY WEDNESDAY.





ANYWAY, THE DOORBELL RANG,
AND MOM WENT TO GET IT ...



IAN'S ARM HIT MOM'S POT.
I SAW IT FLIP OVER, LIKE
IN SLOW MOTION.



I PUSHED HIM OUT OF THE WAY
SO HE WOULDN'T GET BURNED.



HE DIDN'T.



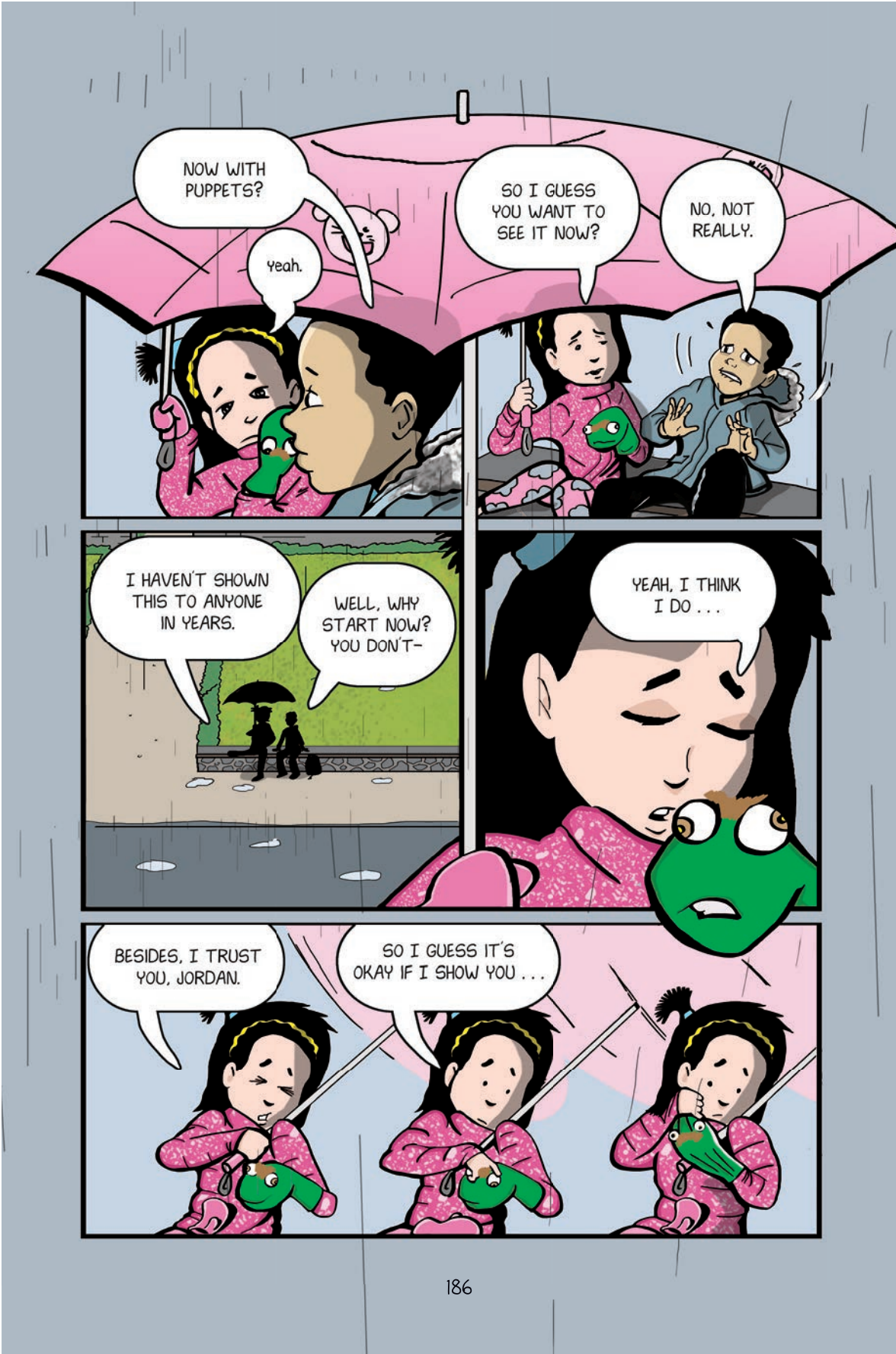
BUT *I* DID.
ON MY HAND,
AND A LITTLE
BIT ON MY ANKLE.



I'VE BEEN TRYING
TO HIDE IT
EVER SINCE.

WITH
BANDAGES ...

THEN GLOVES ...



NOW WITH PUPPETS?

Yeah.

SO I GUESS YOU WANT TO SEE IT NOW?

NO, NOT REALLY.

I HAVEN'T SHOWN THIS TO ANYONE IN YEARS.

WELL, WHY START NOW? YOU DON'T-

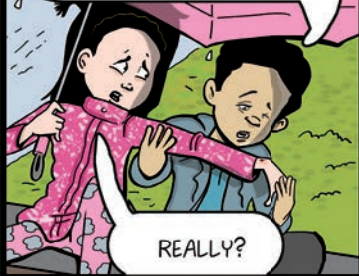
YEAH, I THINK I DO...

BESIDES, I TRUST YOU, JORDAN.

SO I GUESS IT'S OKAY IF I SHOW YOU...



OH ... ACTUALLY IT'S NOT THAT BAD. I REALLY DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL TEASE YOU ABOUT IT, ALEX.



REALLY?

HEY, IT'S OUR PARENTS.

PROMISE NOT TO TELL?



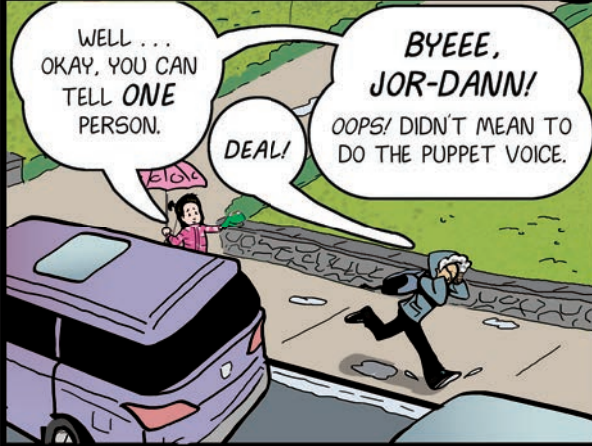
BUT WHY? YOU SAVED YOUR LITTLE BROTHER. YOU'RE A HERO!!!

WELL ... OKAY, YOU CAN TELL **ONE** PERSON.

DEAL!

BYEEE, JOR-DANN!

OOPS! DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THE PUPPET VOICE.



SORRY I'M LATE. HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

WHERE DO I START?





CHAPTER 11

FIELD OF SCREAMS



The Baseball Hall of Shame!

When spring came we had the choice of baseball, crew, tennis, fencing, and some sport where you catch a ball with a net on a stick. That looked really hard.

I've never played any of those sports in real life, but at least I knew the rules from playing Major League Baseball 2K6 on Xbox. And watching games on TV.



For once, Drew didn't know how to play any of those sports either. Mainly because where he lives, there are even fewer parks than where I live.



The good news is that they put us on the same team. The bad news is that since so many kids went out for the net-on-a-stick game, they only had enough players for one lower-form baseball team. That meant Andy was on our team, too!



Jordan Banks

Then we found out why so few kids go out for baseball. His name is Coach Jim Bumdoody!

First of all, how can you not laugh at a name that has both "bum" and "doody" in it?

I'll tell you how: because rumor has it that some "hot dog" (that's what they call show-offs) made that mistake back in 1997.

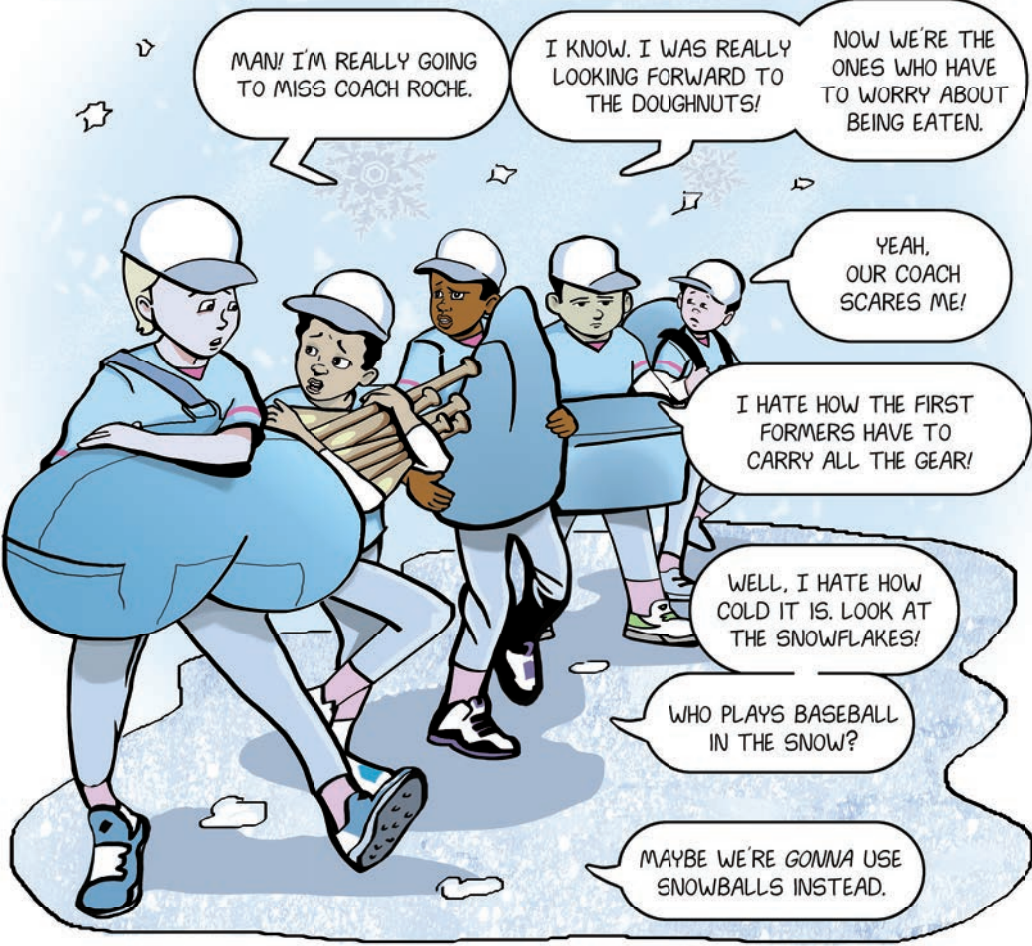


And the coach ate him while his horrified team watched. I mean literally, too. Swallowed him whole!



That was one hot dog that didn't even need mustard.

» OUR FIRST BASEBALL GAME OF THE SEASON.



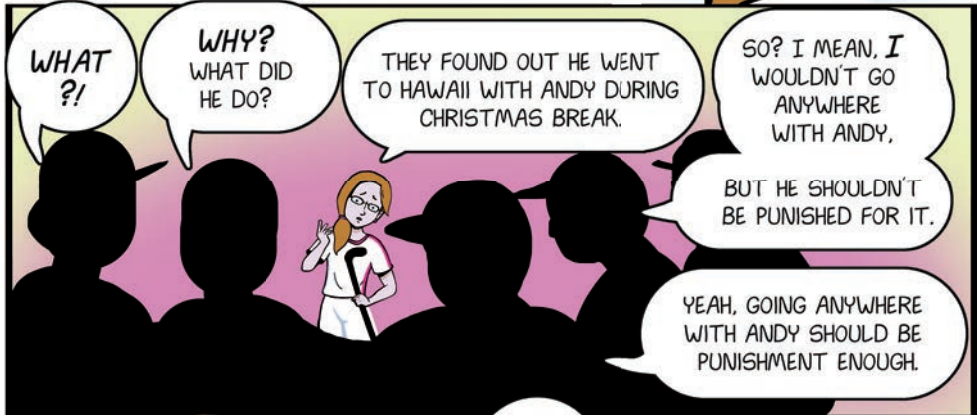


OMIGOSH!
DID YOU
GUYS HEAR?

NO, WE WERE
PLAYING
BASEBALL.

YOU MEAN
WATCHING
BASEBALL.

HEADMASTER HANSEN JUST
ASKED COLLIN'S FAMILY TO
LEAVE THE SCHOOL!



WHAT
?!

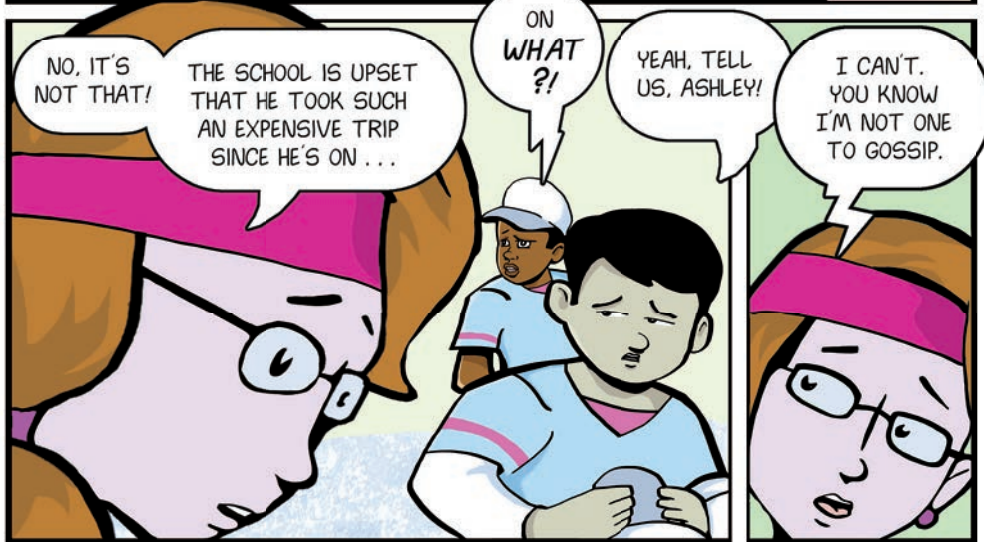
WHY?
WHAT DID
HE DO?

THEY FOUND OUT HE WENT
TO HAWAII WITH ANDY DURING
CHRISTMAS BREAK.

SO? I MEAN, I
WOULDN'T GO
ANYWHERE
WITH ANDY,

BUT HE SHOULDN'T
BE PUNISHED FOR IT.

YEAH, GOING ANYWHERE
WITH ANDY SHOULD BE
PUNISHMENT ENOUGH.



NO, IT'S
NOT THAT!

THE SCHOOL IS UPSET
THAT HE TOOK SUCH
AN EXPENSIVE TRIP
SINCE HE'S ON . . .

ON
WHAT
?!

YEAH, TELL
US, ASHLEY!

I CAN'T.
YOU KNOW
I'M NOT ONE
TO GOSSIP.

A Public Service Announcement

Hello, I'm Oprah Winfrey, and I need your help to tackle a serious problem.



Because there's something going around your school and you may not even know about it.



Something bad!!!

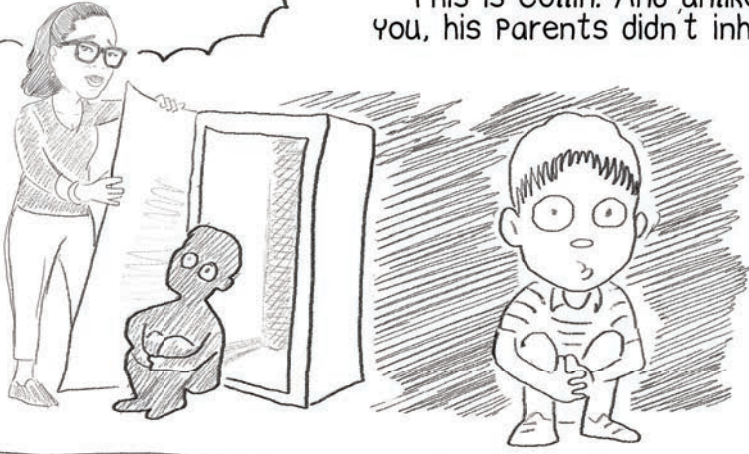
And the worst part is that some of your own friends may be on it.



What are they on?

Financial aid!!!

This is Collin. And unlike many of you, his Parents didn't inherit wealth.



His dad isn't an investment banker, and his mom didn't go to law school.

But despite their shortcomings, they still want the best for Collin.

Like sending him to a school like this.



But they can't do it without people like you. Won't you please help my buddy Collin for just pennies a day?

Yes! Yes, I will, Michelle Obama!

Oprah!

Hooray, I can go to school!

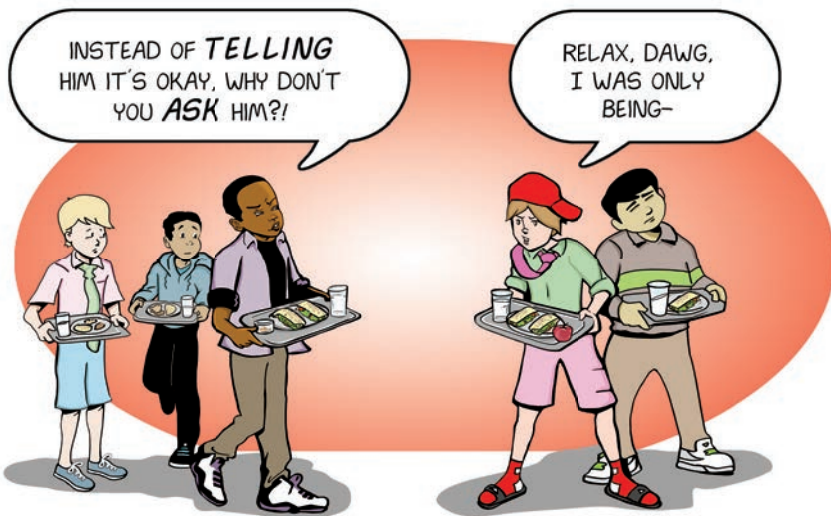
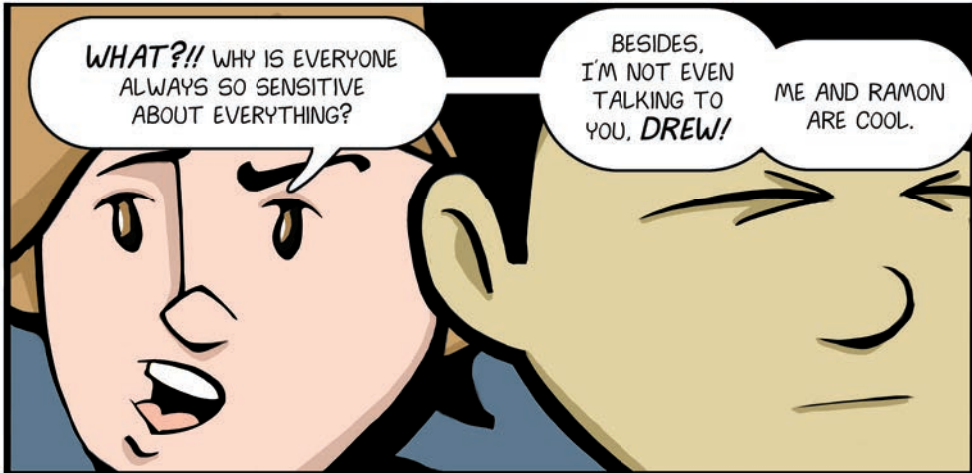
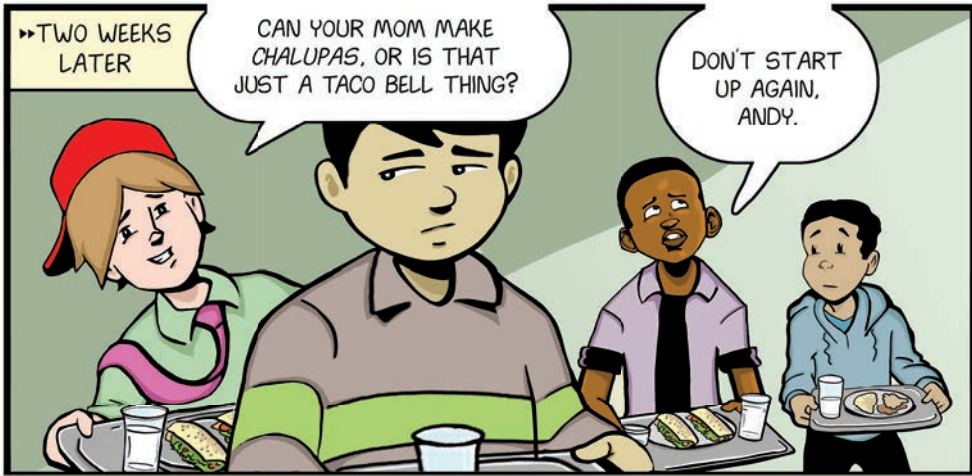


Jordan Banks











A JERK!
THAT'S WHAT
YOU WERE
BEING!

YOU'RE JUST
JEALOUS THAT I
GOT TO PLAY
BASEBALL WHILE
YOU AND YOUR
FRIENDS RODE
THE PINE.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!!!

WHAT I DO CARE
ABOUT IS THAT
YOU THINK YOU
CAN SAY AND
DO WHATEVER
YOU WANT TO
PEOPLE.

AND NO ONE
EVER CALLS
YOU OUT ON IT!

I COULDN'T
CARE LESS
ABOUT
BASEBALL!

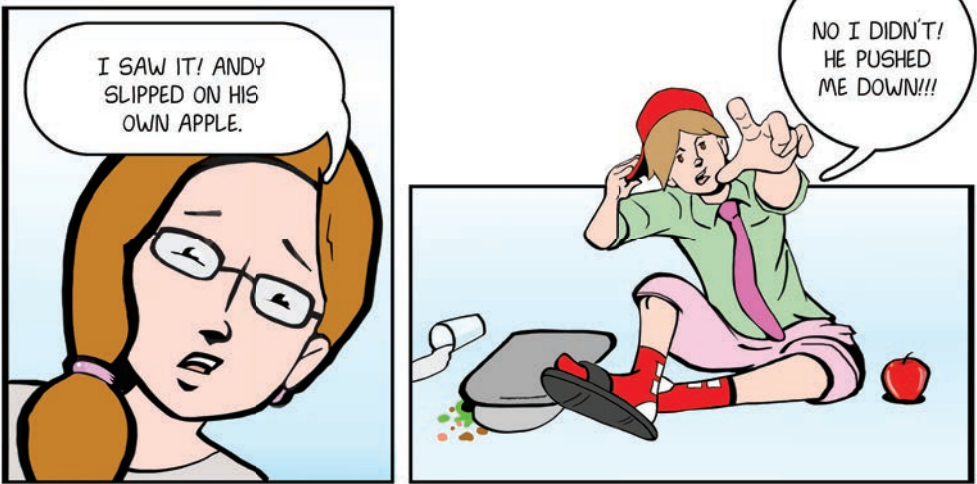
YOU'RE ALWAYS
PICKING ON ME!
AND THE ONLY REASON
YOU BEAT ME OUT FOR
QUARTERBACK WAS
BECAUSE ...

BECAUSE
WHAT, ANDY?!!

YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE
COLLIN LEFT YOU'VE BEEN
TEN TIMES WORSE!
AND YOU WEREN'T EVEN ALL
THAT NICE TO HIM EITHER!







AND AT THAT
MOMENT, IT
ALL BECAME
TOO MUCH!

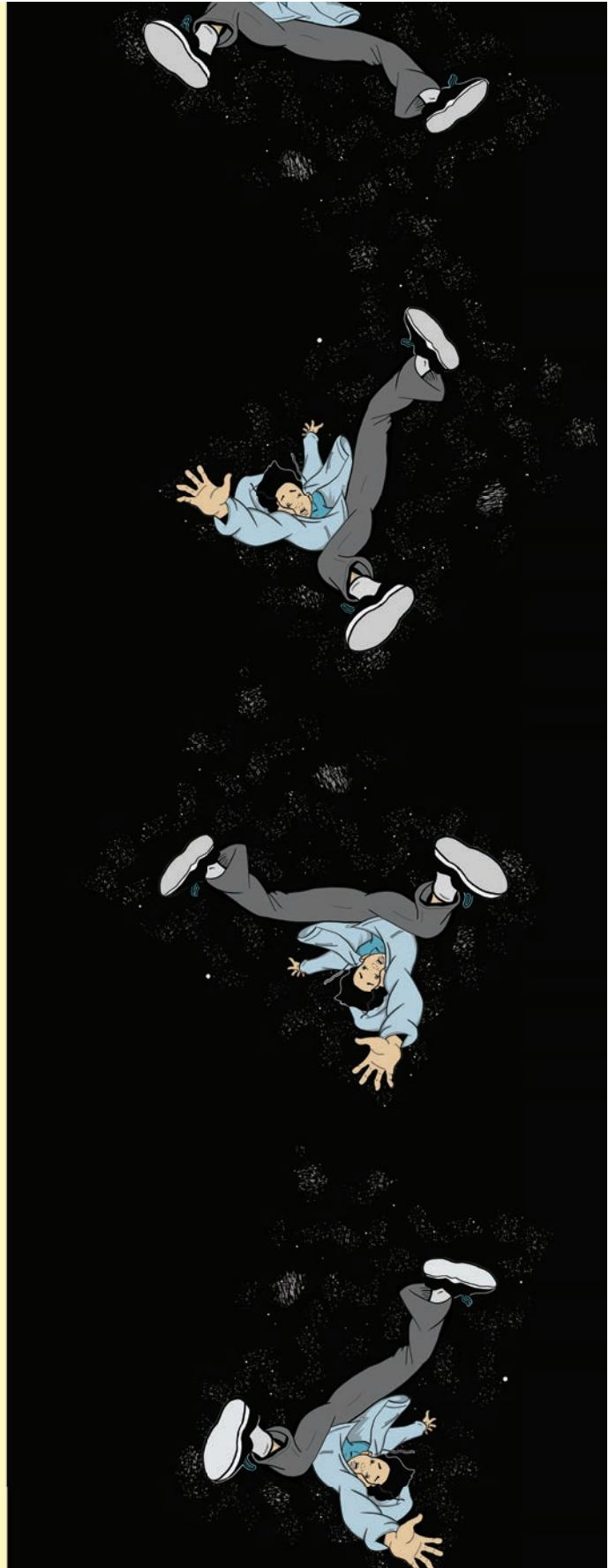
TOO MUCH OF KIDS
LIKE ME TRYING
TO FIT IN.

TOO MUCH OF KIDS WHO
SHOULD FIT IN TRYING
HARD NOT TO.

TOO MUCH OF GOOD KIDS
BEING BLAMED FOR
BEING BAD!

TOO MUCH OF BAD
KIDS GETTING
REWARDED FOR THEIR
MEAN BEHAVIOR!

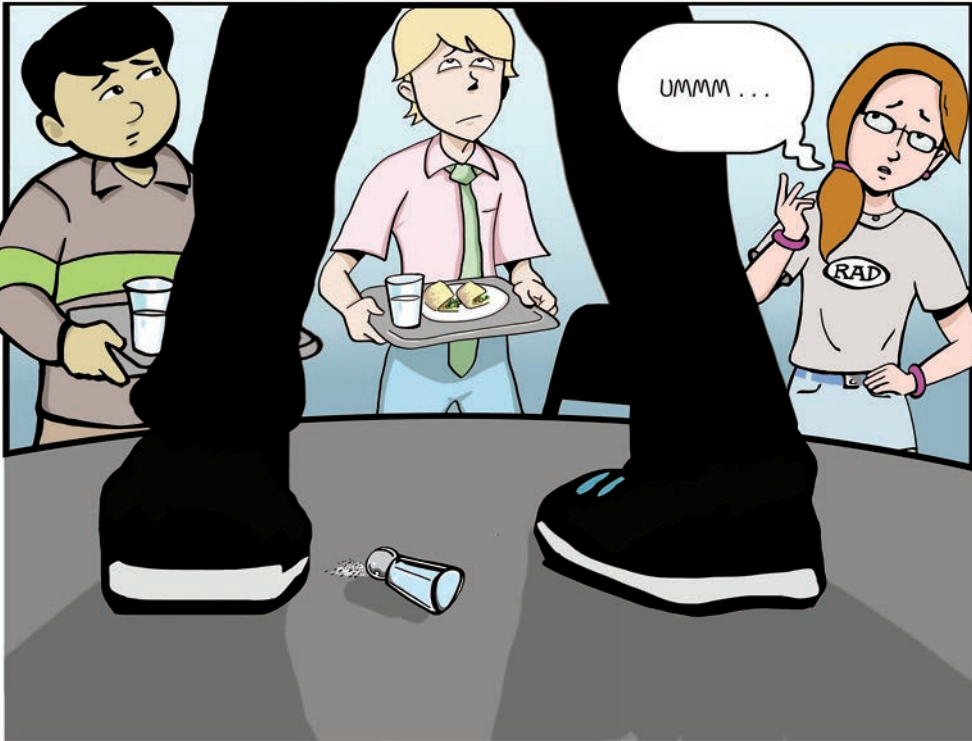
AND WAYYYY
TOO MUCH
OF ME FEELING
LIKE I'M NEVER IN
CONTROL OF
ANYTHING!

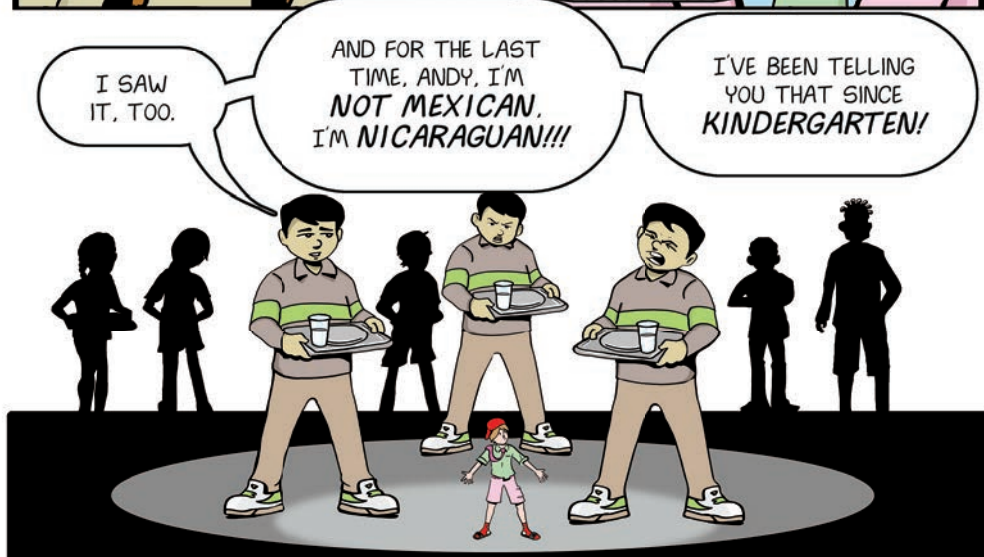
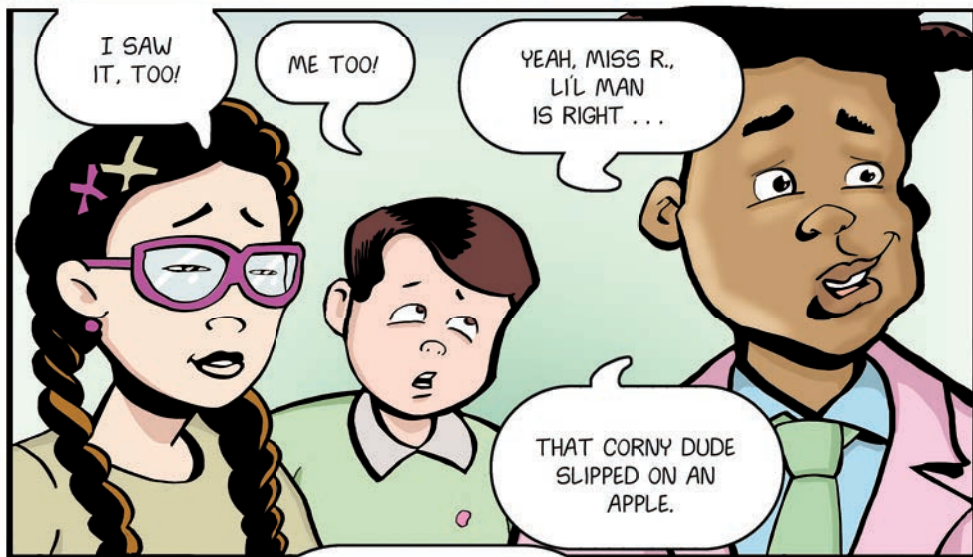
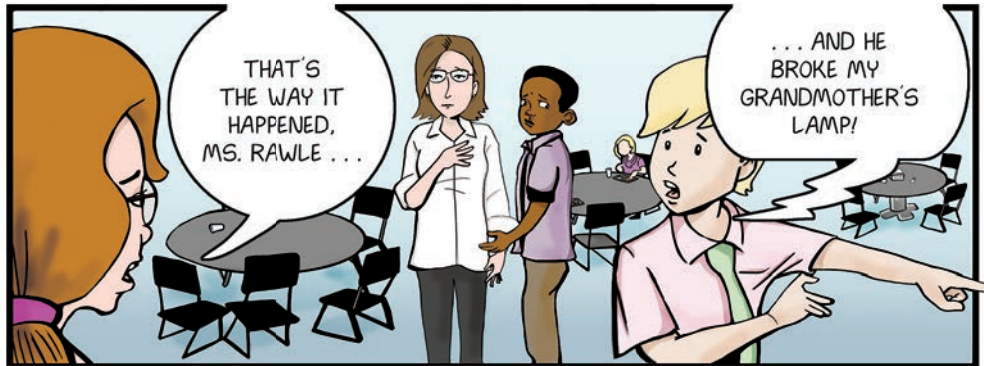


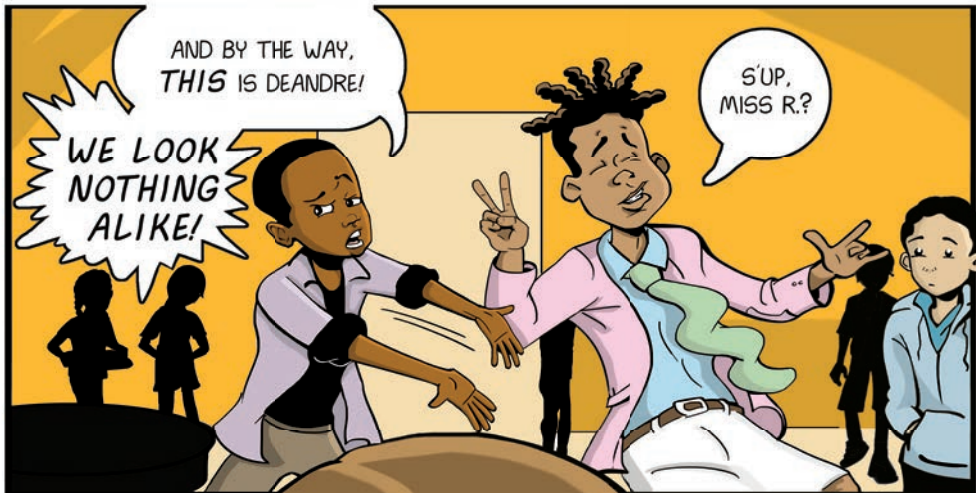


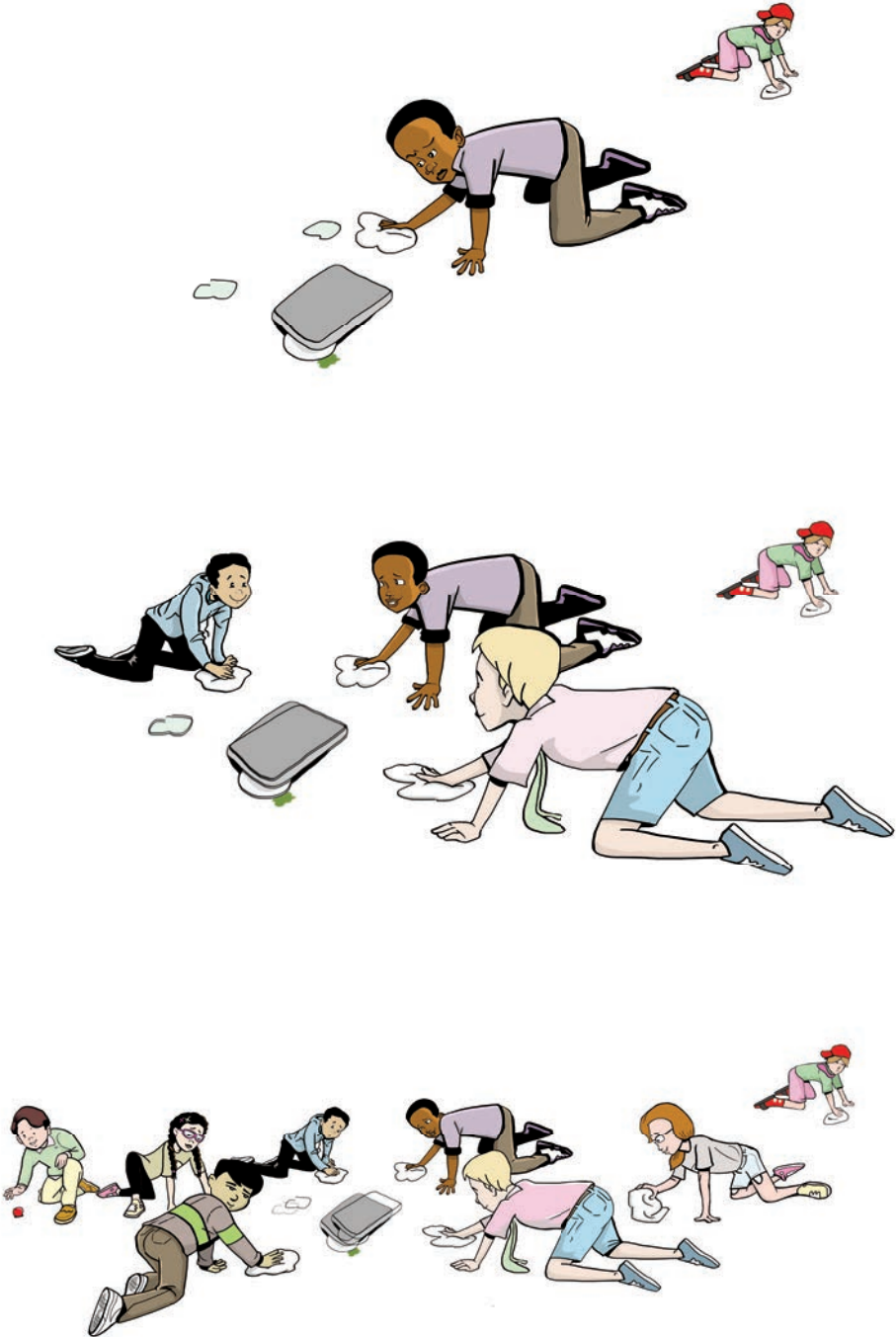
UNTIL NOW!



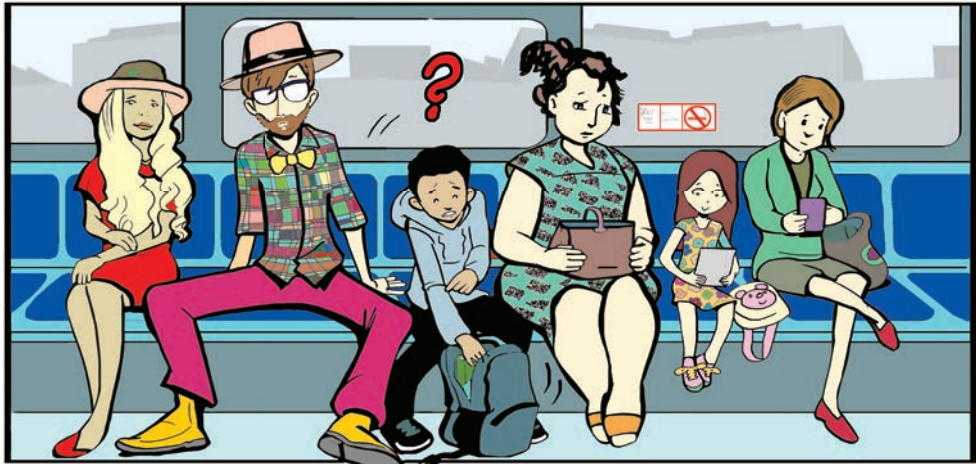
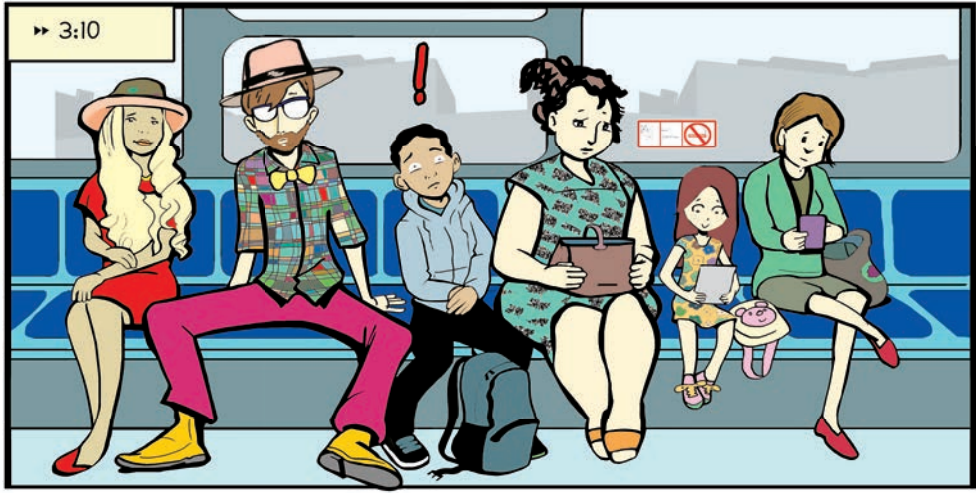




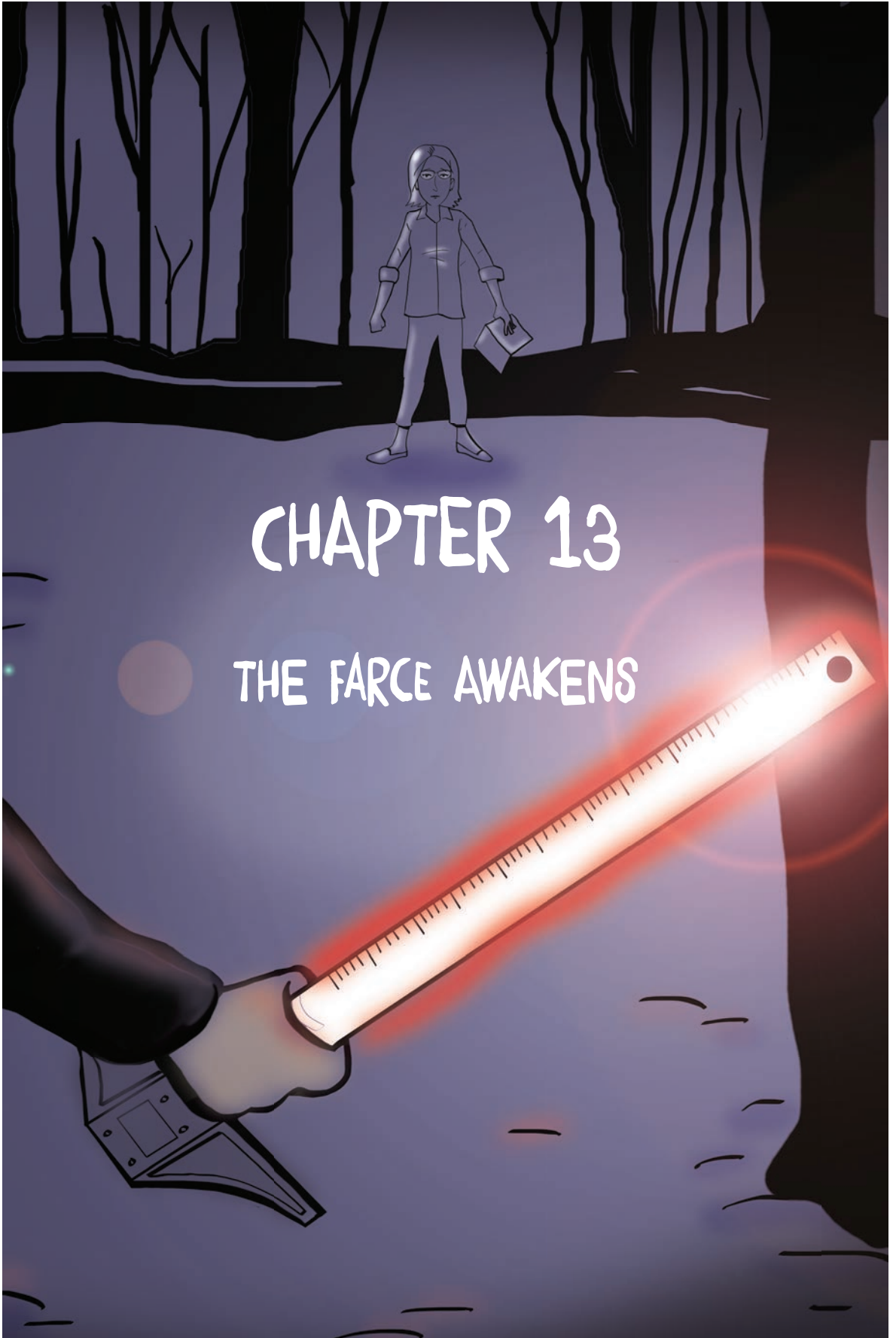












CHAPTER 13

THE FARCE AWAKENS

▶ I TOSSED AND TURNED ALL NIGHT WORRYING ABOUT MY SKETCHBOOK.





Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones, but at LEAST Get My Name Right!

I used to think that when someone called me a name, that was the worst thing ever!



But you know what? I can deal with "Fathead" because my head isn't really fat.



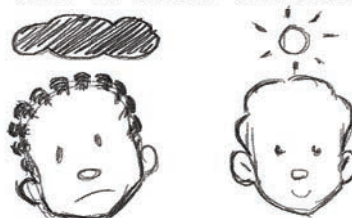
or names like "Stinky" because I don't stink. (For the most part!)



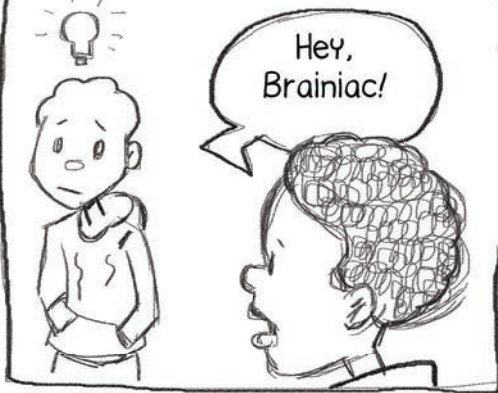
I've even gotten used to Shorty, Oreo, Light (which is short for light-skinned) and a thousand other names that I've been called.



Because most times those names come from insecure people who want me to feel as bad about myself as they do about themselves.



OR, in some cases, they may even be Jealous of me.



But you know the worst name that someone can call me?

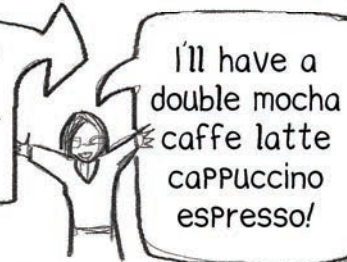
STUPID
GEEK

Someone ELSE'S name!



Because that means they're not even taking the time to look at you long enough to even find something to insult!

But they can remember this!



They're saying that you're not even worth their time and are ...

IN

SIG
NIF

I
CANT!



Jordan Banks







BUT HOW CAN I BE
ATTACKING THE SCHOOL
IF ALL THIS STUFF
REALLY HAPPENS?

I MEAN, NO OFFENSE,
BUT YOU CALL DREW
BY THE WRONG
NAME *ALL THE TIME*.

AND THE YEAR IS
ALMOST OVER.

AND SOME KIDS *DO* LOOK
DOWN ON KIDS ON
FINANCIAL AID.

AND KIDS *STARE*.

ALL THE TIME!

IT'S NOT ALWAYS
EASY BEING
SO DIFFERENT!

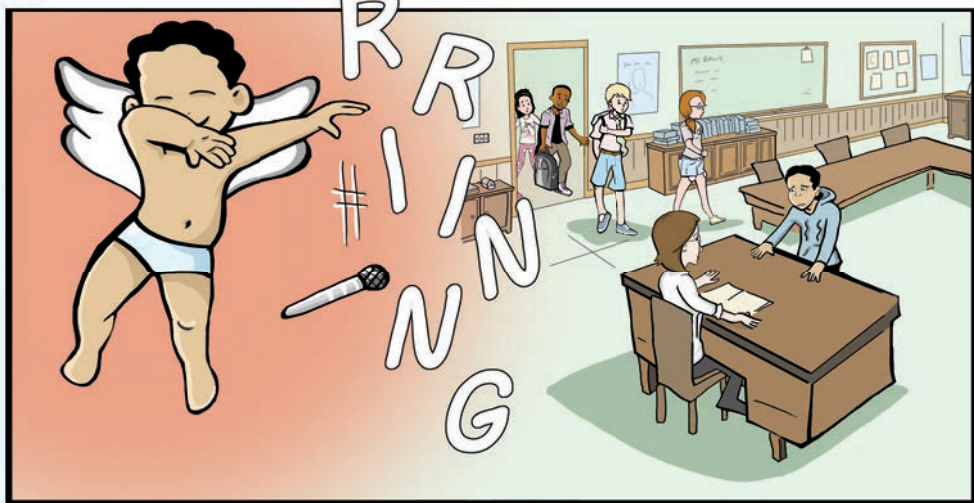
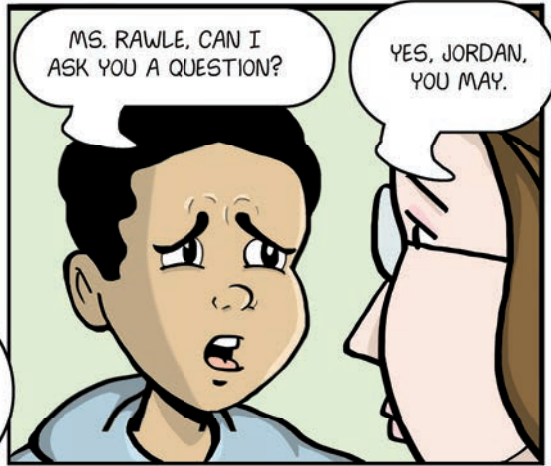


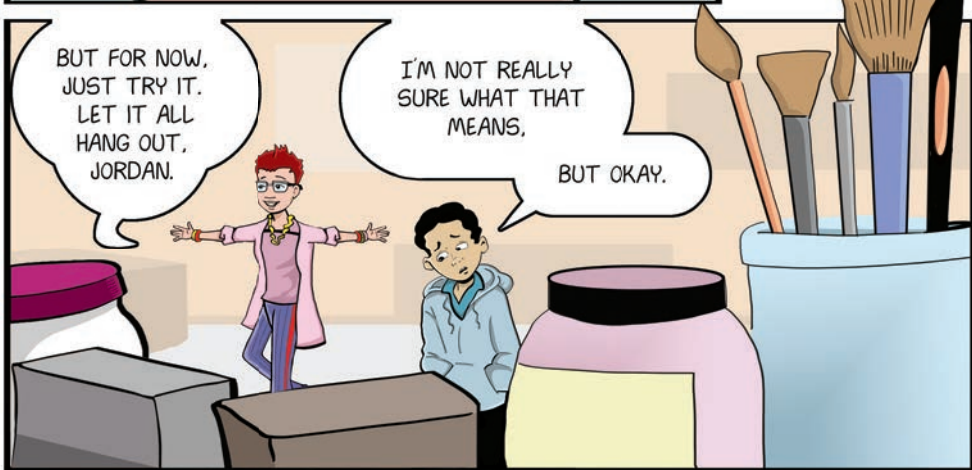
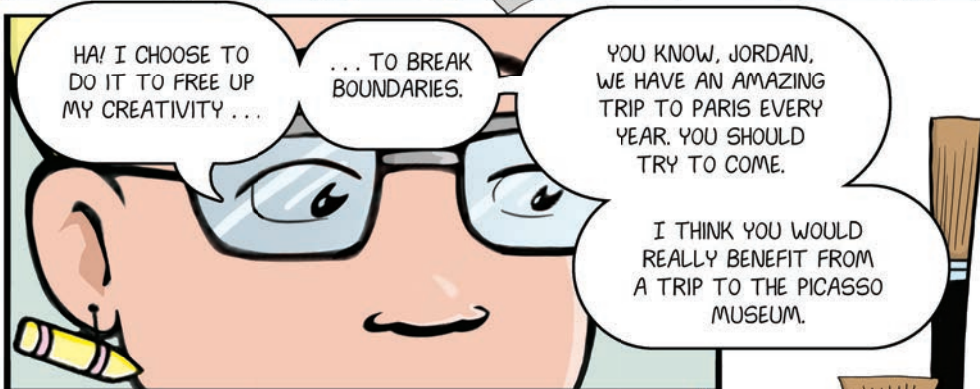
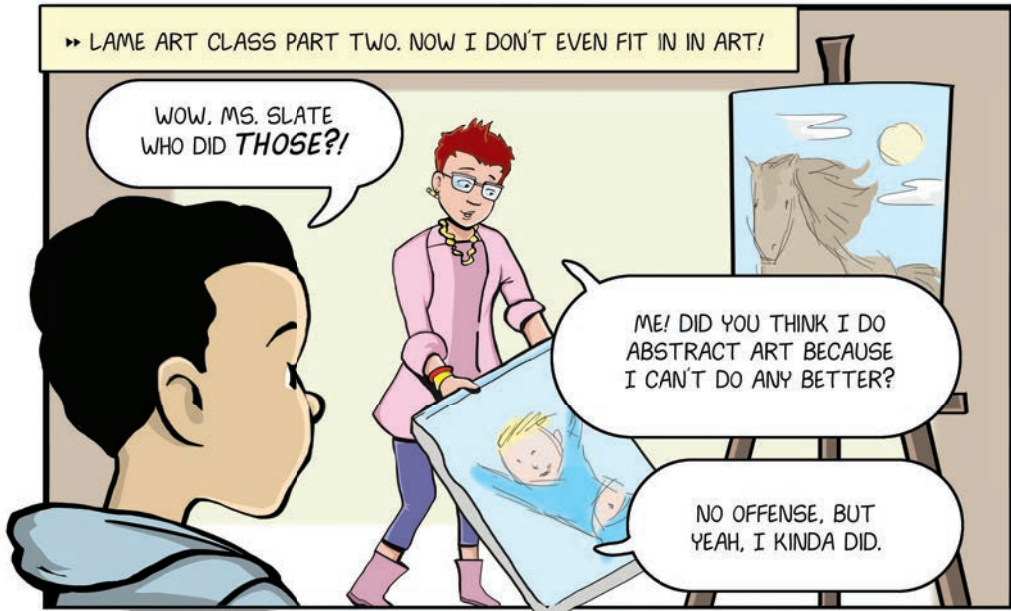
BUT JORDAN, BEING
DIFFERENT IS A BLESSING.
IT'S WHAT MAKES
YOU SPECIAL.

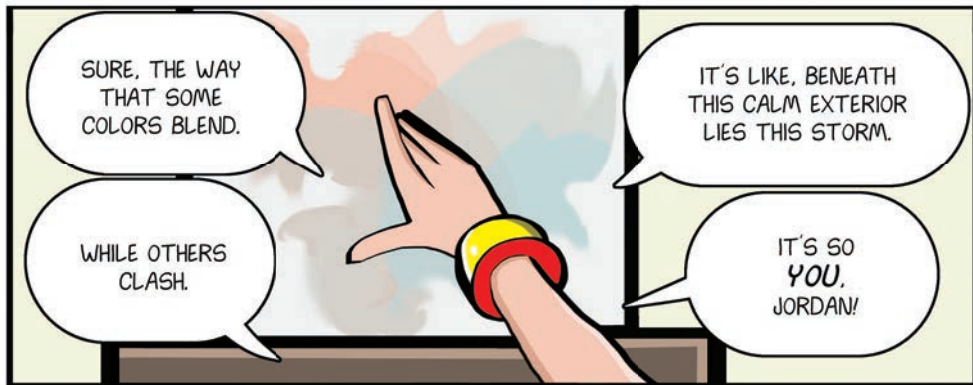
I'M TIRED OF
BEING SPECIAL!
BEING SPECIAL
STINKS!

YOU AND DREW SHOULD BE PROUD
TO BE HERE. I KNOW *I AM*.
JUST EMBRACE THE SCHOOL
AND ALLOW IT TO EMBRACE
YOU BACK.

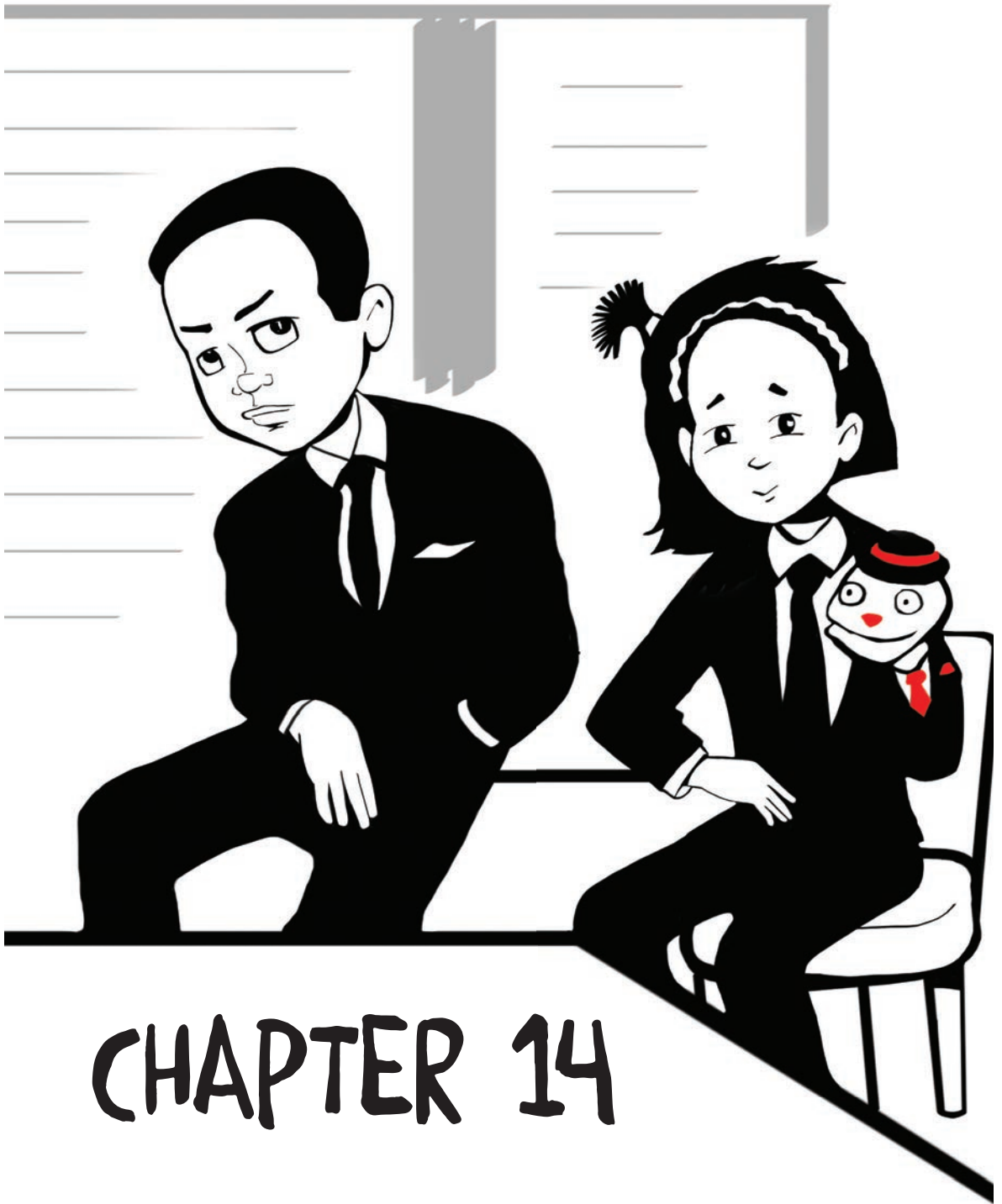
I JUST WANT YOU TO
BE HAPPY, JORDAN.











CHAPTER 14

RAD MEN

» TWO WEEKS LATER.

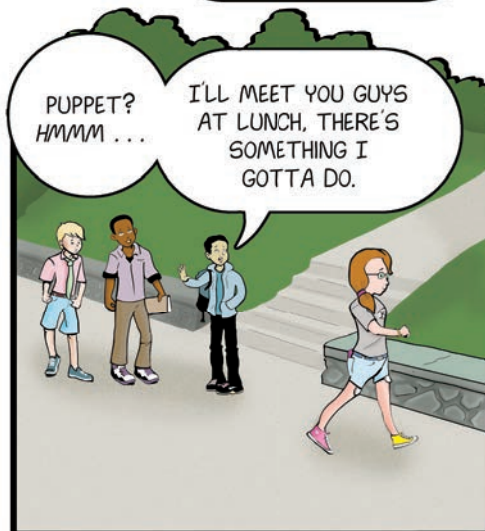
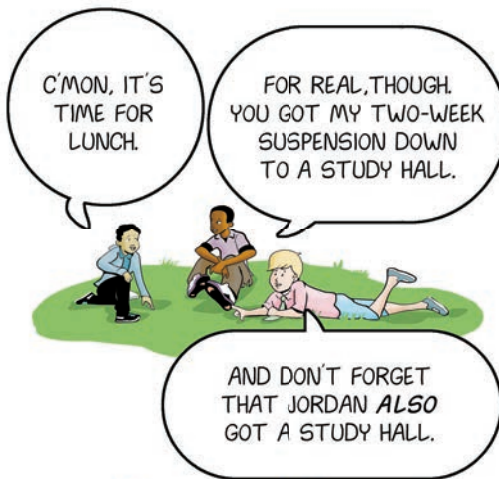
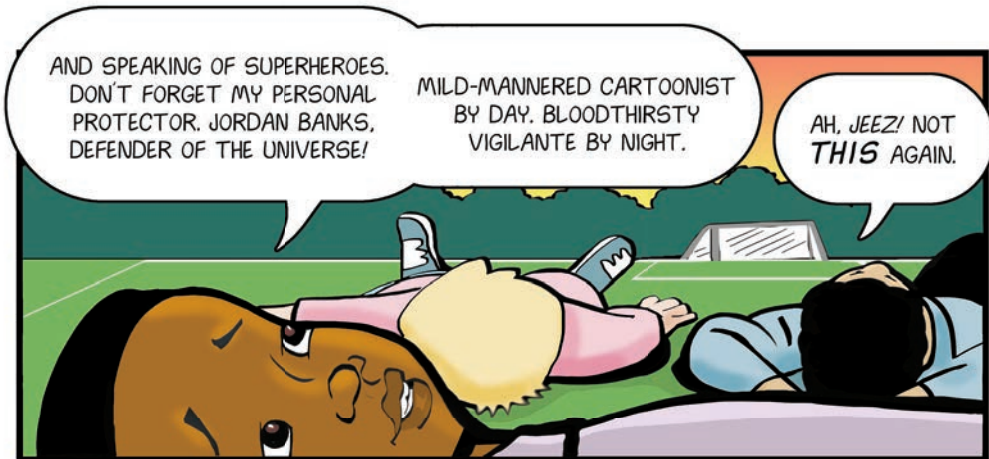
WHO DO YOU THINK IS FASTER,
THE FLASH OR QUICKSILVER?

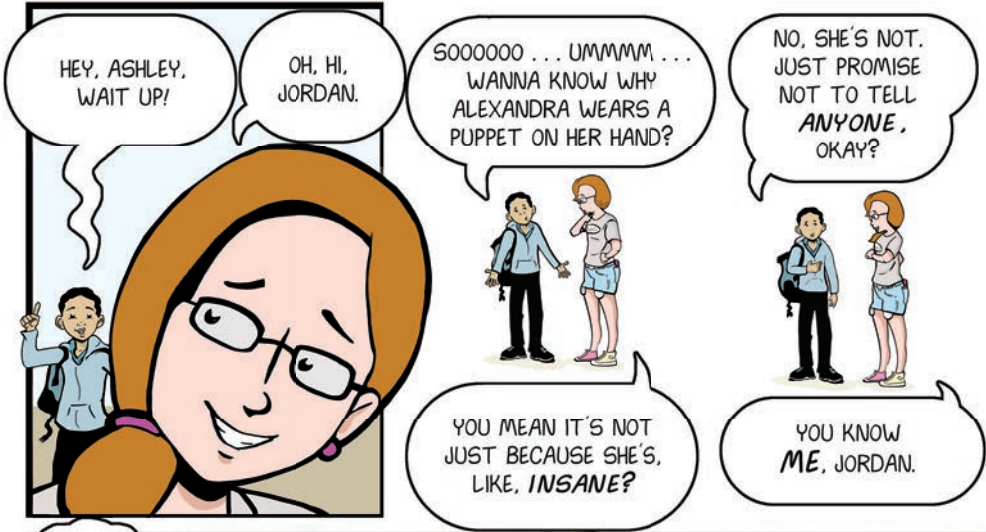
OH, THAT'S EASY. THE FLASH.
WHO WOULD WIN, WOLVERINE
OR DEADPOOL?

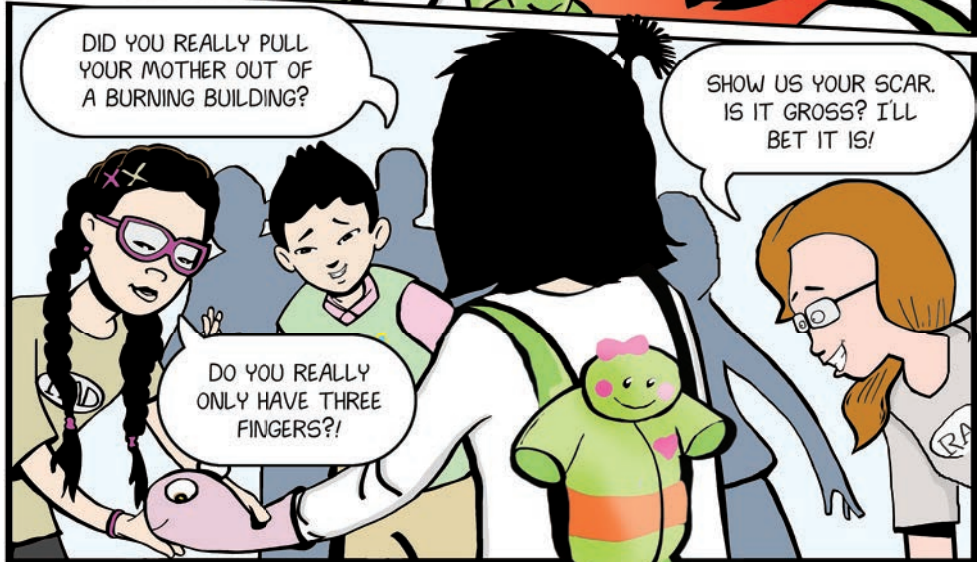
THAT'S TOUGH,
I'M GONNA SAY
WOLVERINE.

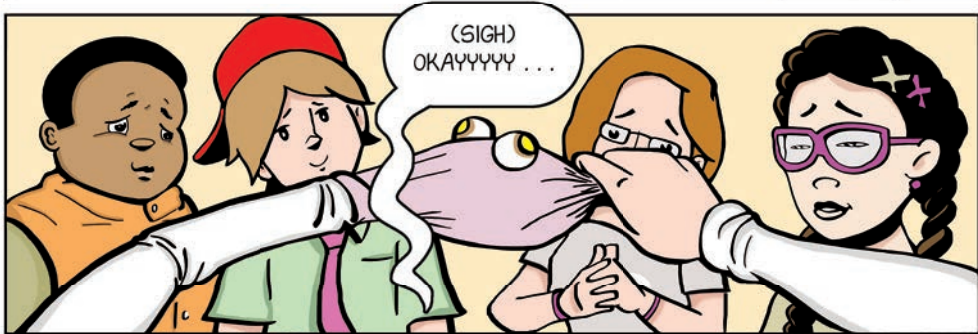
BATMAN OR THE
BLACK PANTHER?

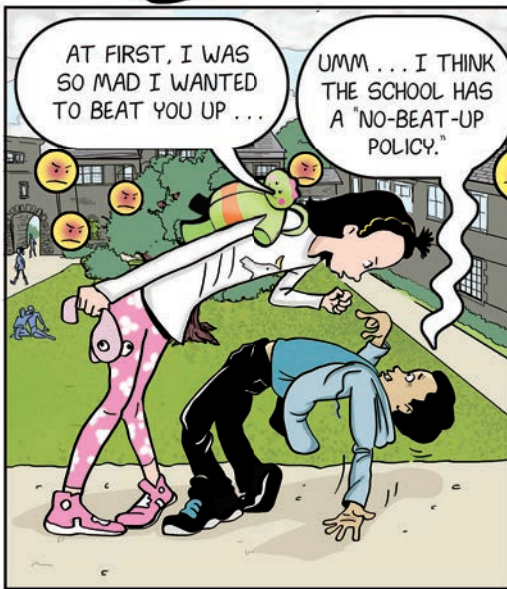
I THINK THAT
ONE'S A TIE!

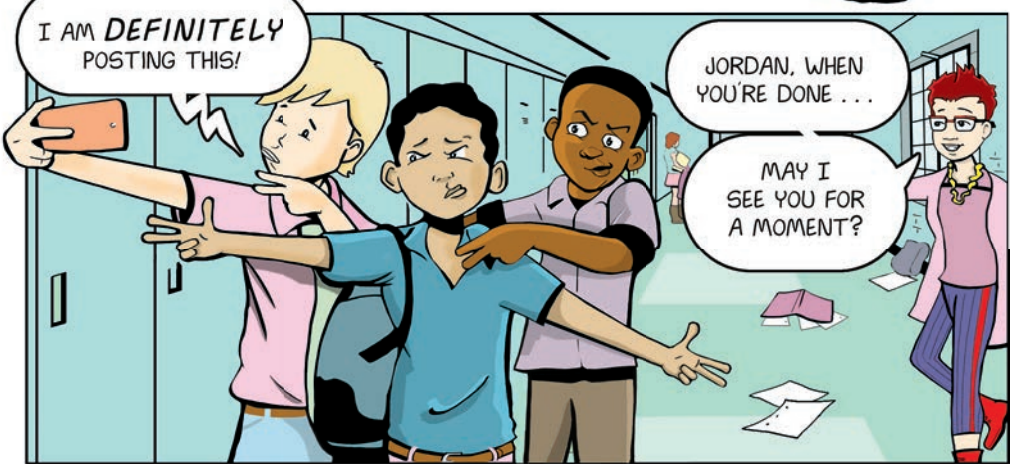
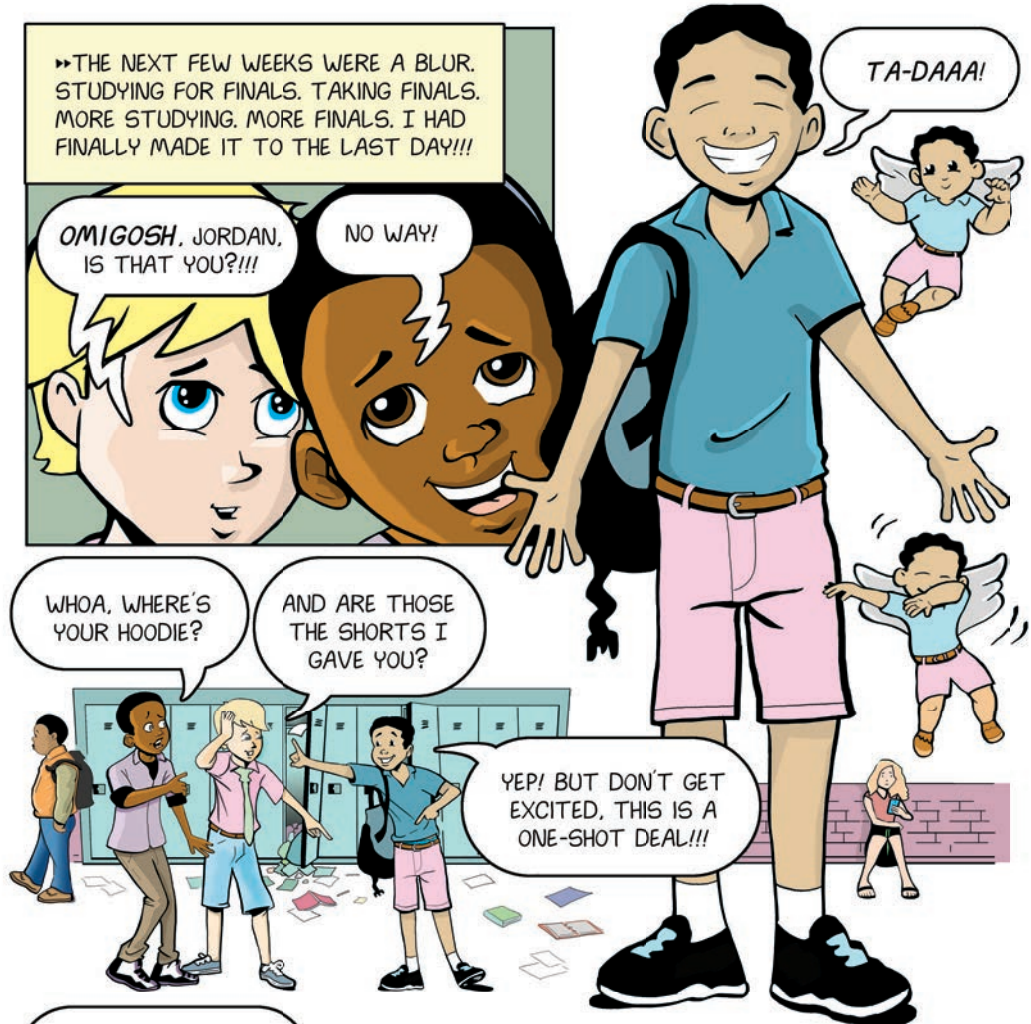


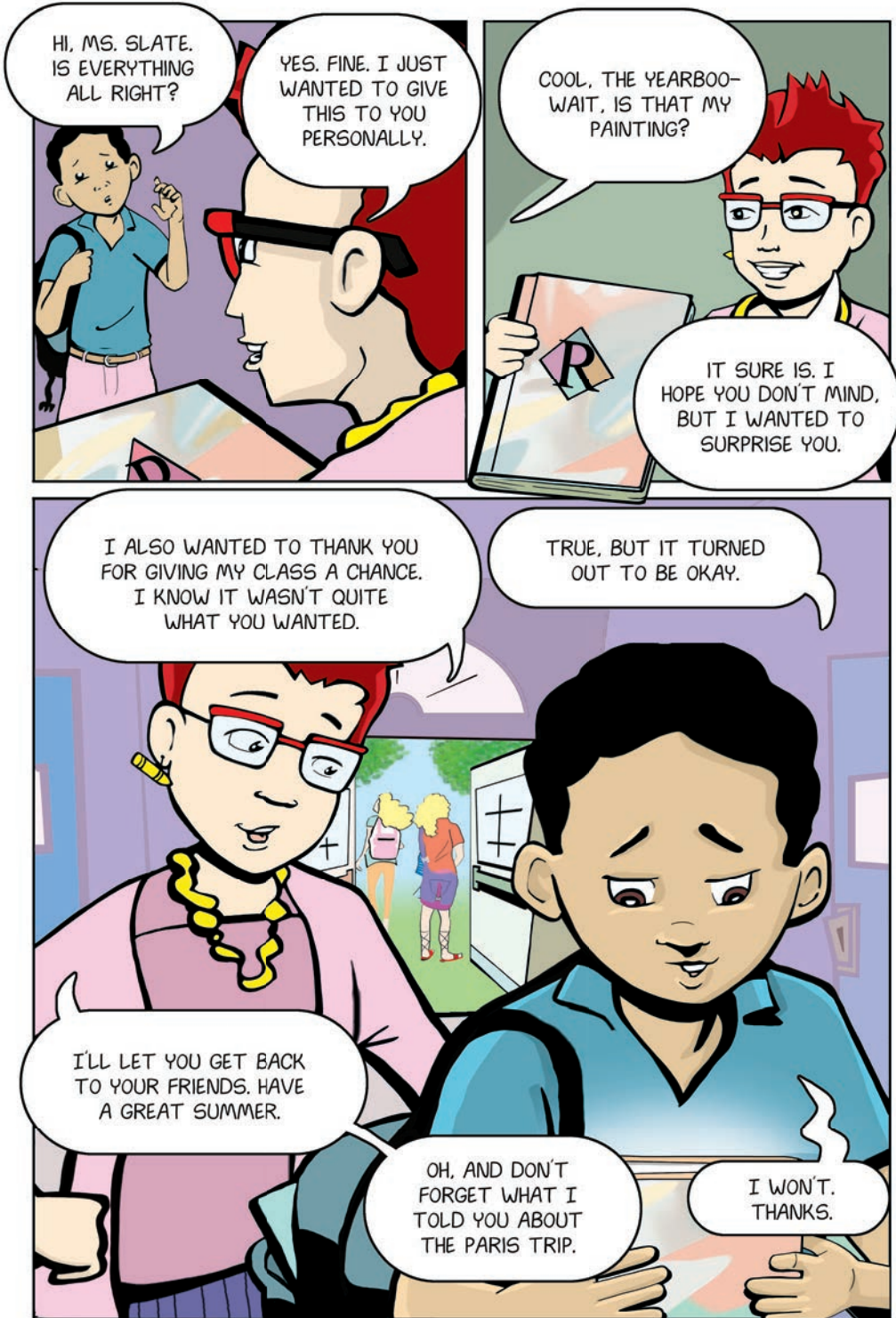














CHECK IT OUT, I DID THE COVER.

YEAH, CONGRATS!

REALLY?! THAT'S COOL!

WE'RE GOING TO GO GET OURS. BE RIGHT BACK.

YOU KNOW, MAYBE THIS *IS* PRETTY GOOD.





WHY WON'T ANYONE SIGN MY YEARBOOK?!

ALL RIGHT, FINE! FORGET YOU GUYS!



WOW, JORDAN, LOOK AT YOU!

HEY, ALEX.

WILL YOU DRAW A CARTOON IN MY YEARBOOK?

ONLY IF YOU DRAW ONE IN MINE, TOO.

OKAY, BUT DON'T LAUGH.



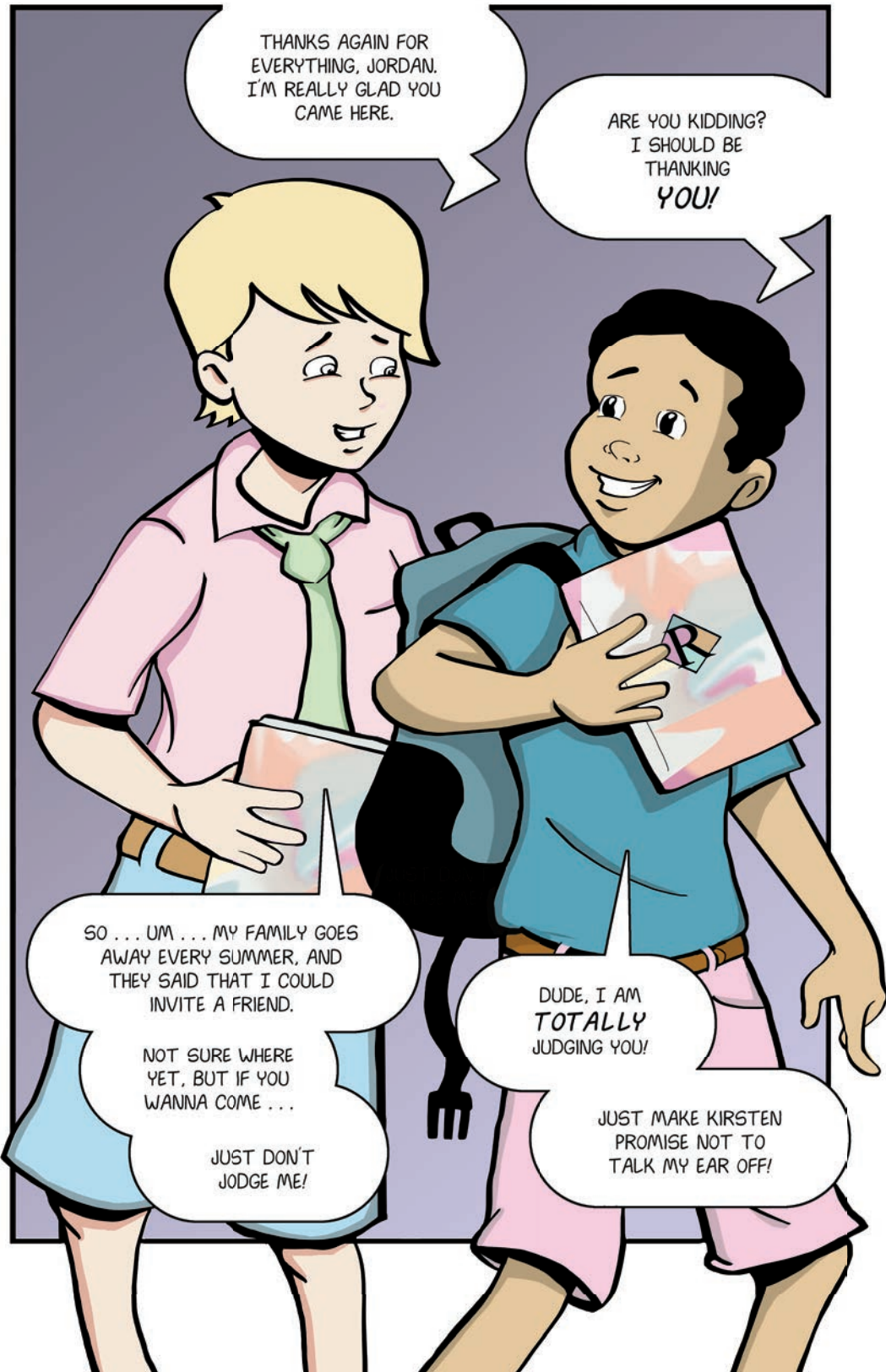
AND THANKS AGAIN FOR AMULET. IT WAS AWESOME!

I'LL HAVE TO CHECK OUT THE OTHERS.

COOL! YOU MIGHT LIKE THE BONE SERIES, TOO.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, GUYS.

YOU, TOO, ALEX!



THANKS AGAIN FOR EVERYTHING, JORDAN. I'M REALLY GLAD YOU CAME HERE.

ARE YOU KIDDING? I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU!

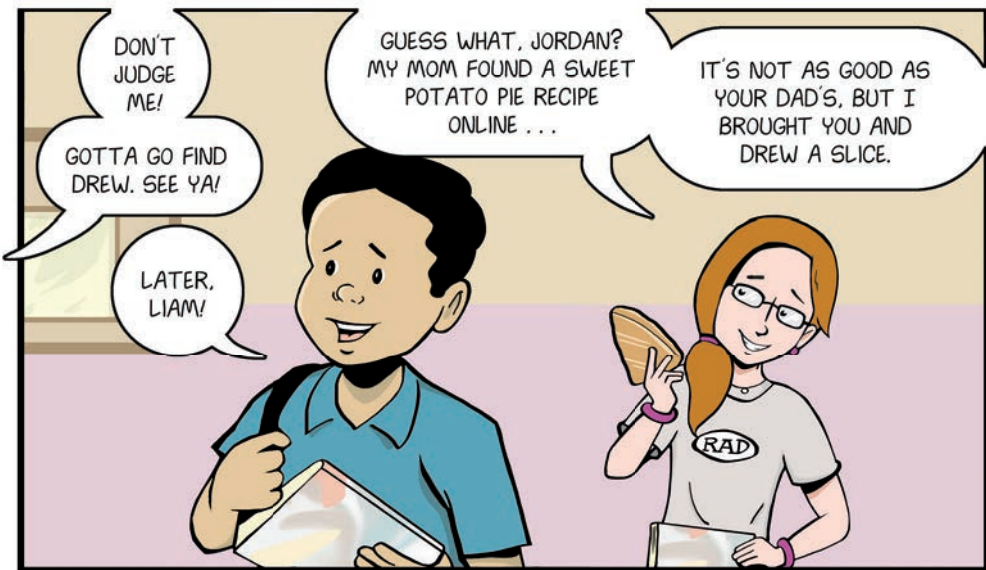
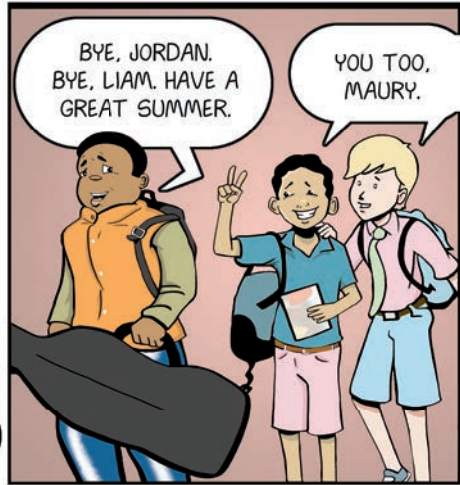
SO ... UM ... MY FAMILY GOES AWAY EVERY SUMMER, AND THEY SAID THAT I COULD INVITE A FRIEND.

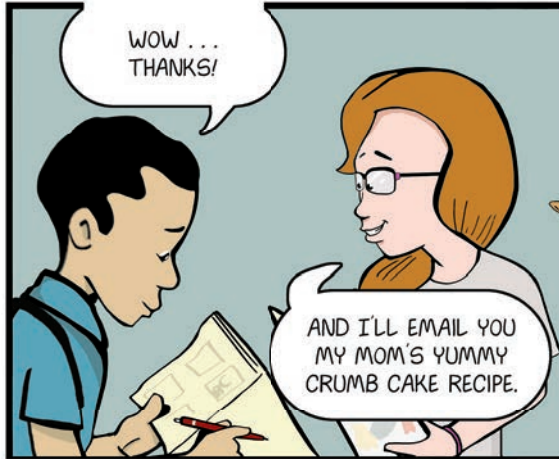
NOT SURE WHERE YET, BUT IF YOU WANNA COME ...

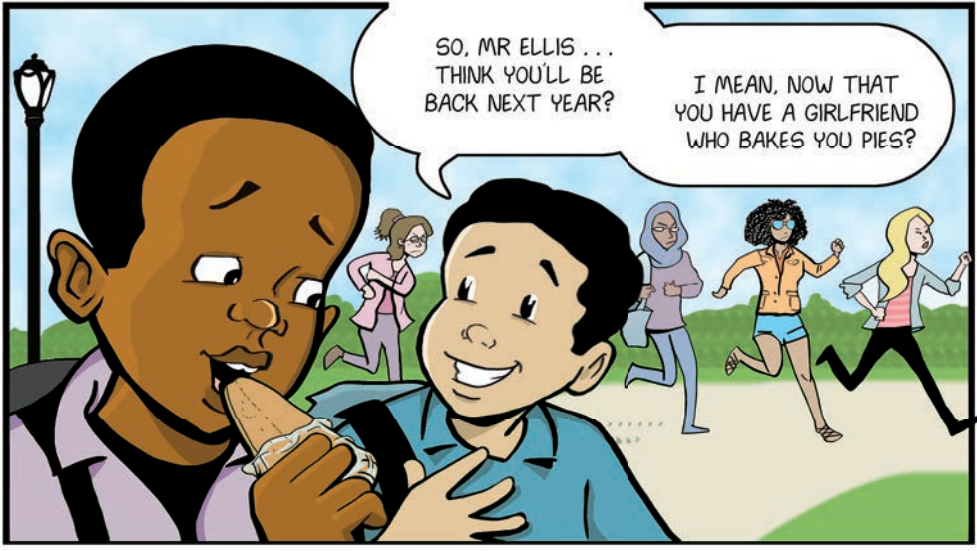
JUST DON'T JUDGE ME!

DUDE, I AM **TOTALLY** JUDGING YOU!

JUST MAKE KIRSTEN PROMISE NOT TO TALK MY EAR OFF!

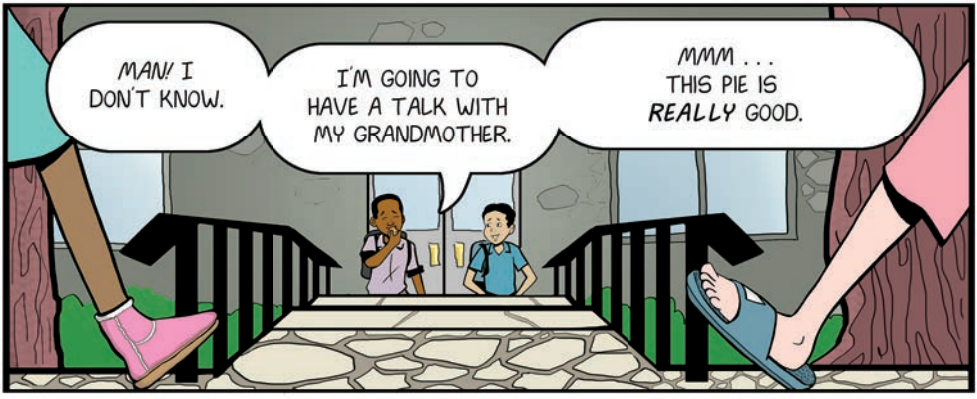






SO, MR ELLIS ...
THINK YOU'LL BE
BACK NEXT YEAR?

I MEAN, NOW THAT
YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND
WHO BAKES YOU PIES?



MAN! I
DON'T KNOW.

I'M GOING TO
HAVE A TALK WITH
MY GRANDMOTHER.

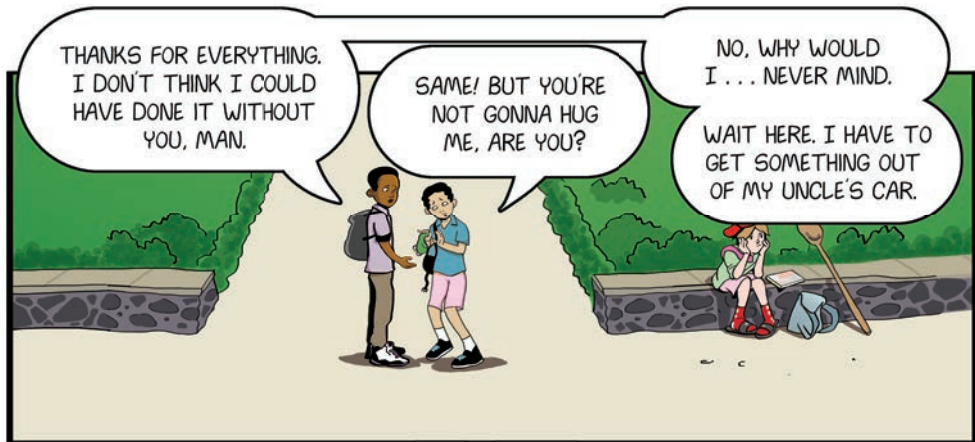
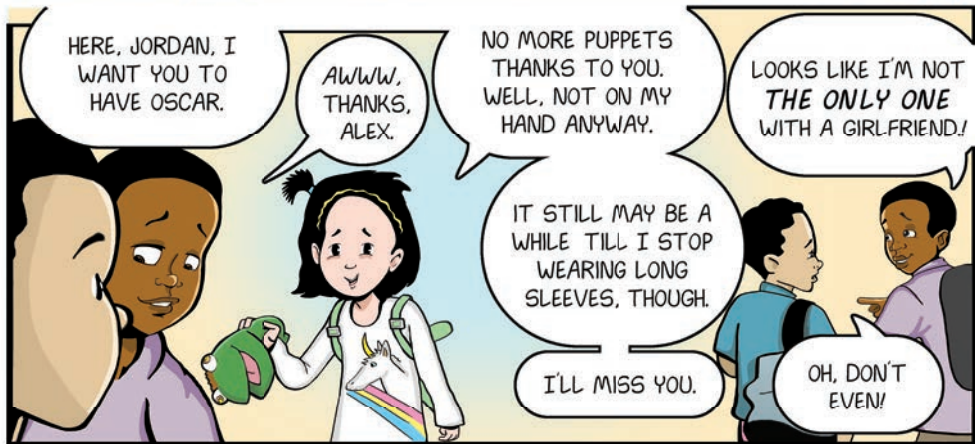
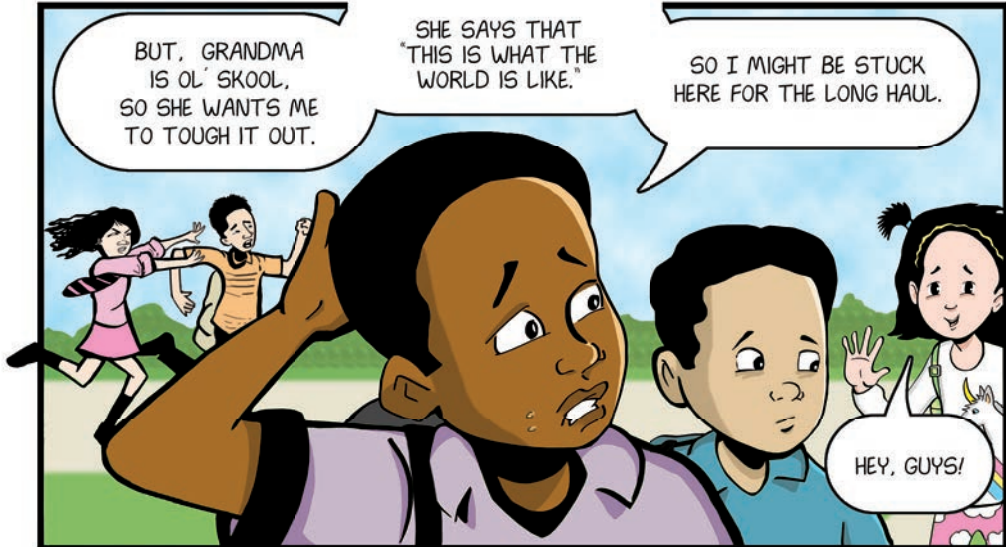
MMM ...
THIS PIE IS
REALLY GOOD.



ON ONE HAND, I FEEL LIKE
I LEARNED A LOT, WHICH
IS WHY I CAME HERE ...

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND,
I ALMOST GOT SUSPENDED
EVEN THOUGH I MADE HONOR
ROLL EVERY SEMESTER.

I'M NOT SURE
I CAN GET
OVER THAT.





THANKS,
LIL G! ...



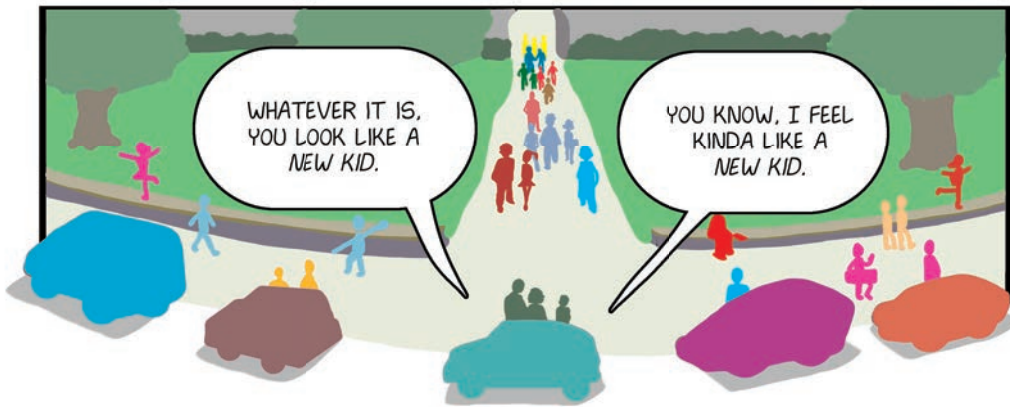
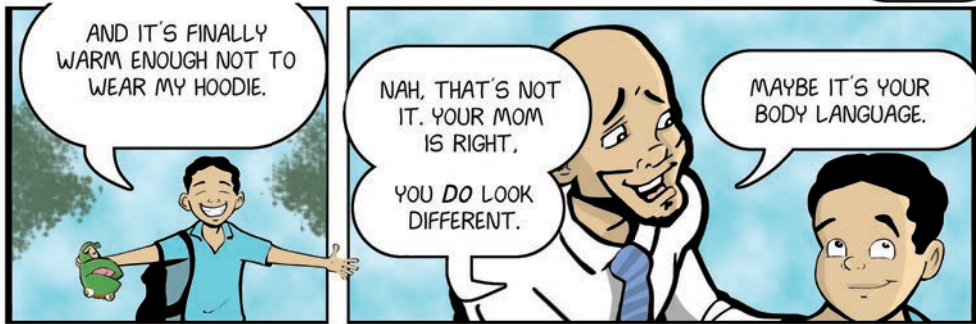
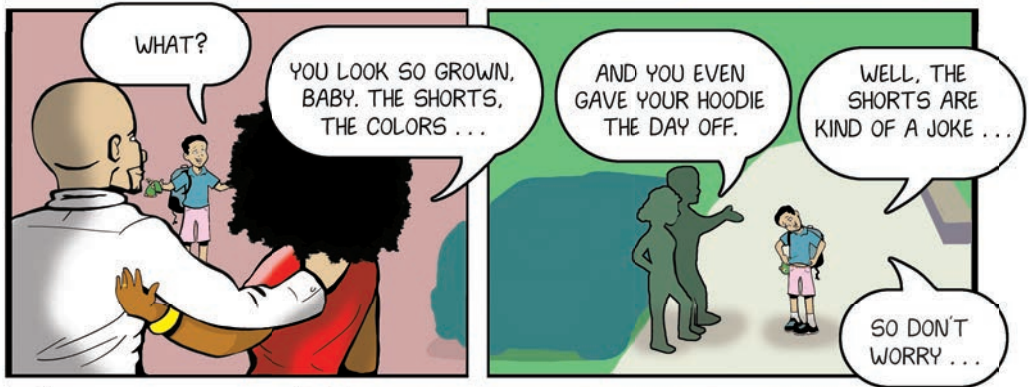
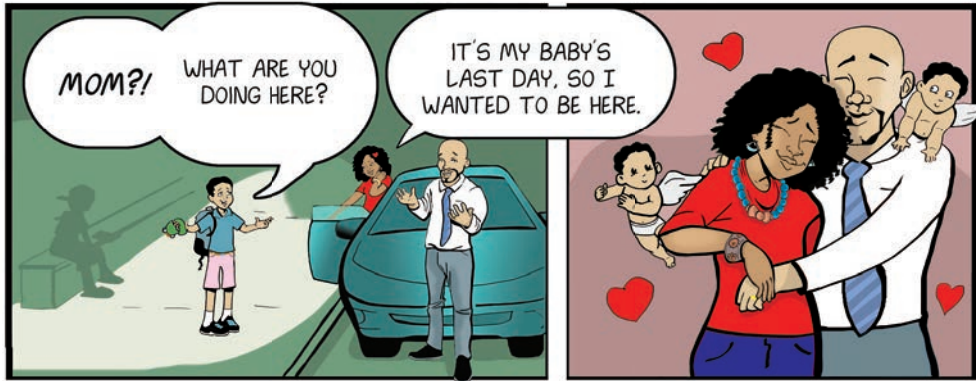
... I MEAN, "JORDAN."
HAVE A GREAT
SUMMER.

SEE YOU NEXT
YEAR, BUDDY.











NOT THAT WE DON'T LOVE THE *OLD* KID...

OH, I KNOW, MOM.

WHATCHA GOT, J?

A PRESENT FROM DREW.

WELL, THAT WAS NICE OF HIM.

the **MEAN STREETS** of **SOUTH UPTOWN**
A. COLVIN
Author of the best selling **THE MAGIC OF THE MAGICAL MAGICON**

