



The next day, Dany is back at UPU



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Since I can not ask
Pupon questions ...



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Since I can not ask
Pupon questions ...

I should get in contact
with the other
professors



The next day, Dany is back at UPU

I'm still concerned about
the secret message that
someone delivered under
my door...

*Every good coding practice
was originally just a trick.*



Professor
Pumpkin

That is the door.
Tommy says that she is a
chill and lovely lecturer



Knock Knock!



Knock Knock!


I hope that
she is not busy

Wait ...
What if Tommy was
being sarcastic!



Please come in






Hey,
how's it going?



YES! She looks like
a decent person!


I'm Miss Pumpkin.
How can I help
you today?





I'm Miss Pumpkin.
How can I help
you today?


Hi Professor Pumpkin,
I have some ...

The scene is set in a computer lab or office during sunset. A female professor with short reddish-brown hair and glasses, wearing a brown blazer, stands on the right, smiling. A male student with dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue hoodie, is on the left, looking nervous with his hands clasped. The room has large windows in the background showing a warm orange glow from the setting sun. A desk with a lamp and a computer chair is visible between them.


I'm Miss Pumpkin.
How can I help
you today?

Hi Professor Pumpkin,
I have some ...

questions about programming
and I was wondering
if you could help me

A woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a blue blazer, is sitting at a desk in an office. She is smiling and looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. The man is wearing a blue hoodie. A speech bubble from the woman contains the text "Is it true that...". The office has large windows in the background, and the scene is lit with warm, golden light.

Is it
true
that...



Is it
true
that...

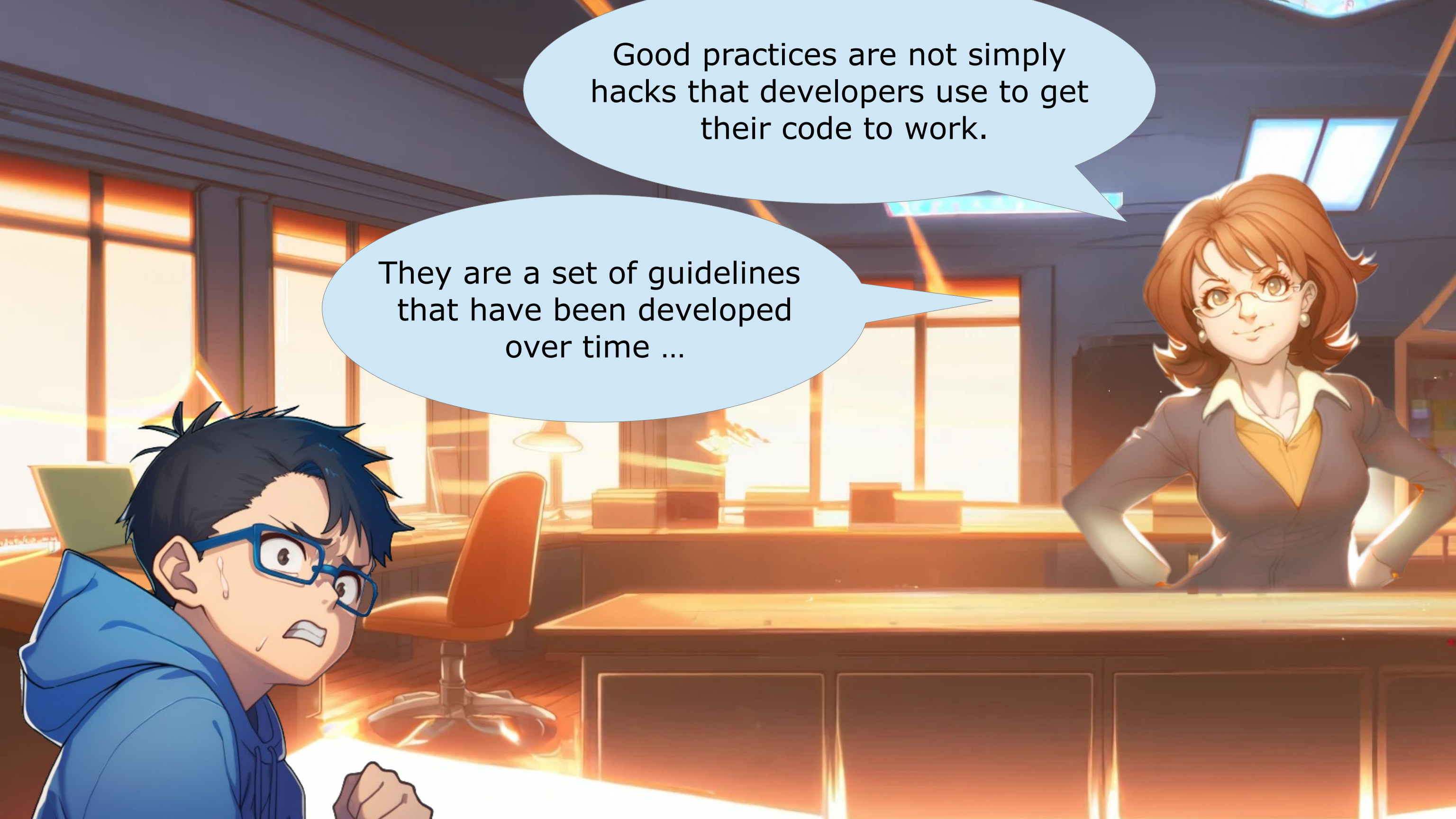
all good programming practices
were originally just tricks?

Yes,
for an appropriate
definition of trick.

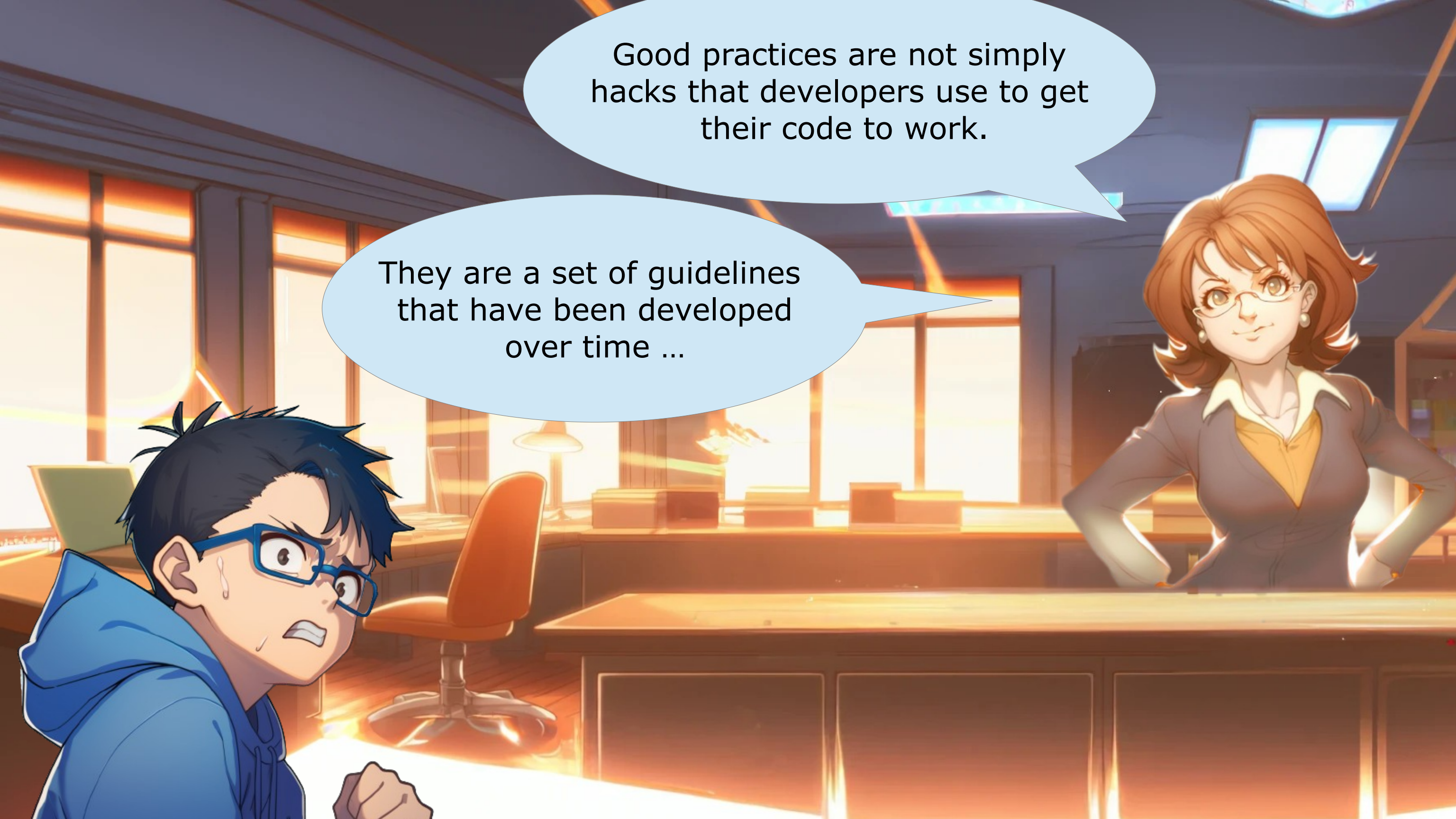


Good practices are not simply
hacks that developers use to get
their code to work.

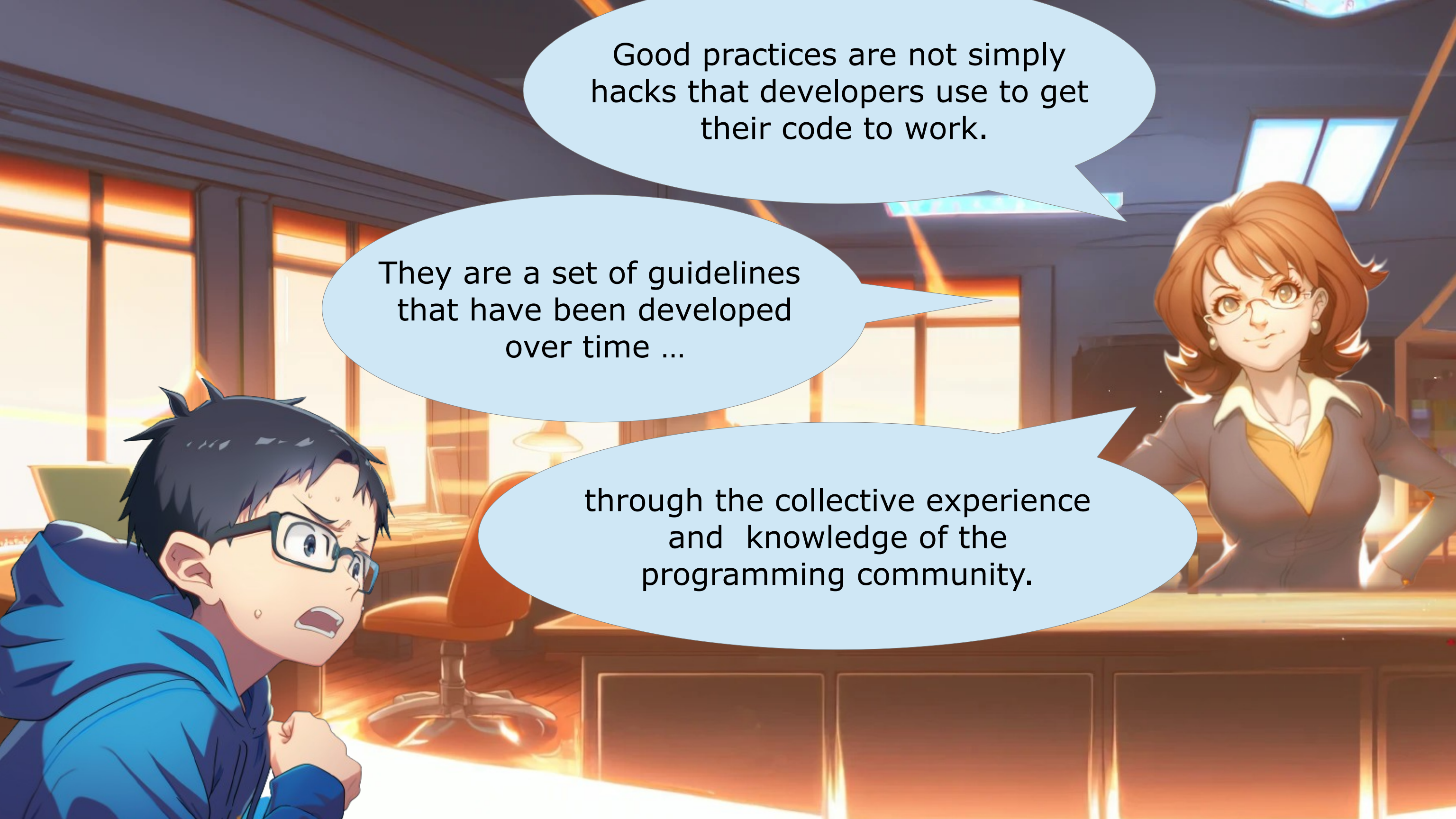




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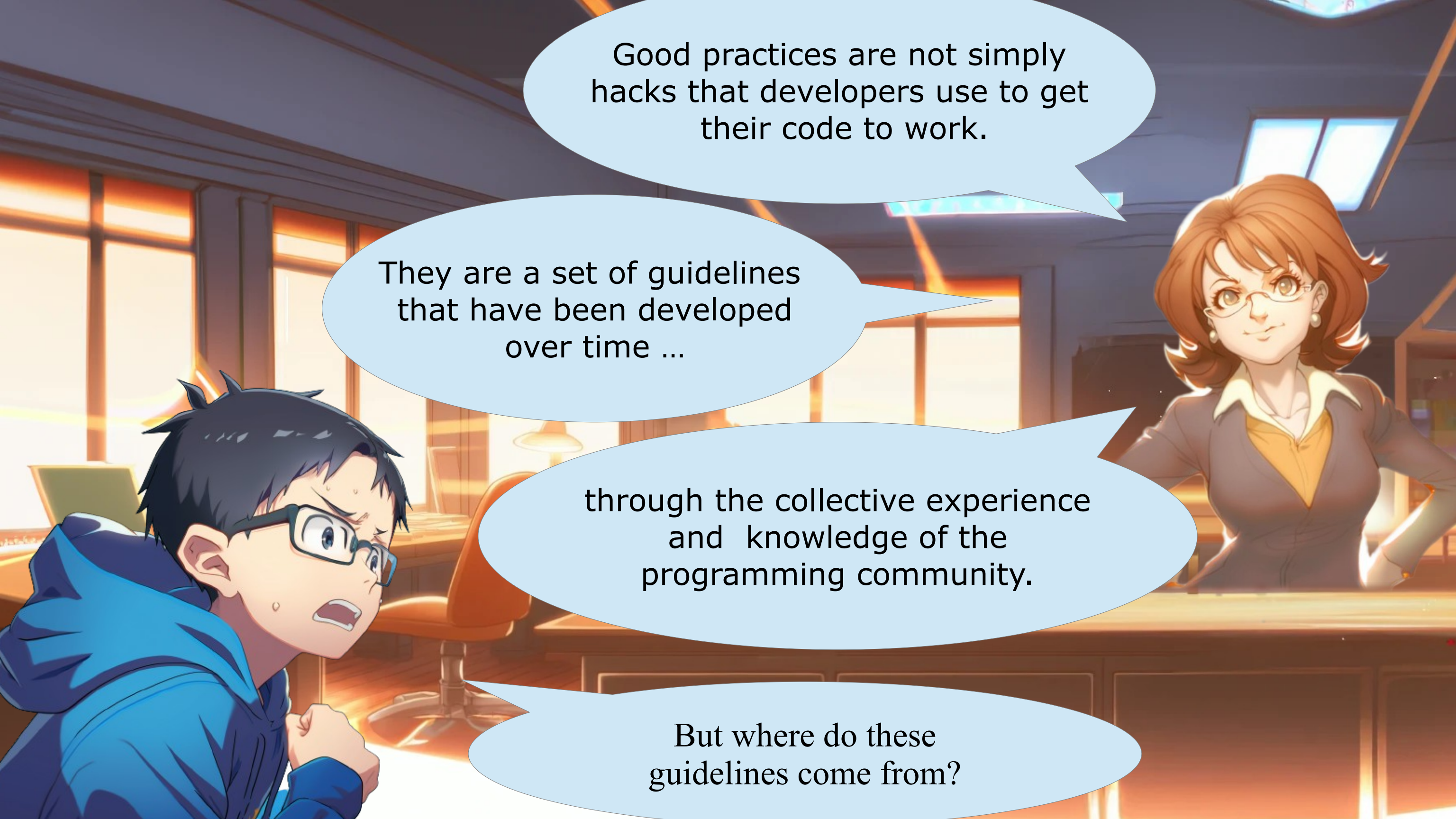
They are a set of guidelines
that have been developed
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They are a set of guidelines
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over time ...

through the collective experience
and knowledge of the
programming community.



Good practices are not simply hacks that developers use to get their code to work.

They are a set of guidelines that have been developed over time ...

through the collective experience and knowledge of the programming community.

But where do these guidelines come from?

They are discovered by regular
programmers, ...





They are discovered by regular
programmers, ...

desperately trying
to combine
existing features ...



They are discovered by regular
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desperately trying
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existing features ...

to somehow
produce a
better result



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So, it it all built upon
human desperation

Can you give me an example?



Can you give me an example?

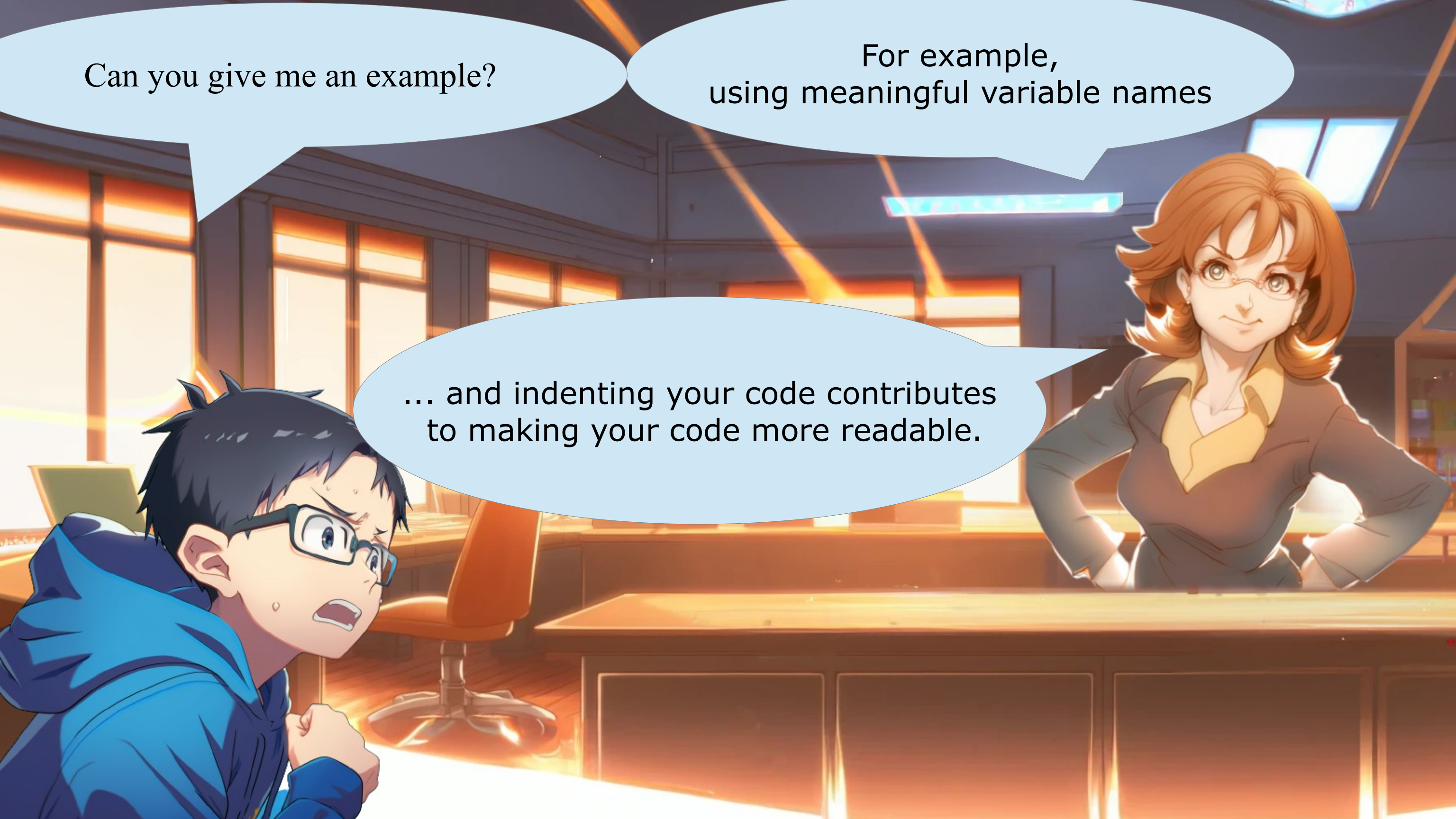
For example,
using meaningful variable names



Can you give me an example?

For example,
using meaningful variable names

... and indenting your code contributes
to making your code more readable.





Can you give me an example?

For example,
using meaningful variable names

... and indenting your code contributes
to making your code more readable.

Yes, indentation;
one of the most well established
programming practices!

Surely it was not born as a trick!



Surely it was not born as a trick!

Well, how else do you think
'indentation' was discovered?



Surely it was not born as a trick!

Well, how else do you think
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In the early days of programming,
indentation may have been
seen as more of a trick ...





Surely it was not born as a trick!

Well, how else do you think
'indentation' was discovered?

In the early days of programming,
indentation may have been
seen as more of a trick ...

to make code more readable,
relying on the otherwise
meaningless white spaces.

As the field of computer science
and programming evolved, ...





As the field of computer science
and programming evolved, ...

indentation became widely
accepted as a best practice
and it is now a fundamental
aspect of programming



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Same for JavaDocs.
JavaDocs are a trick, ...



As the field of computer science
and programming evolved, ...

indentation became widely
accepted as a best practice
and it is now a fundamental
aspect of programming

Same for JavaDocs.
JavaDocs are a trick, ...

in the sense that they leverage the
pre-existing syntax of multi-line
comments to generate documentation.

And what about more semantic concepts,
like 'Separation of concerns'?



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like 'Separation of concerns'?

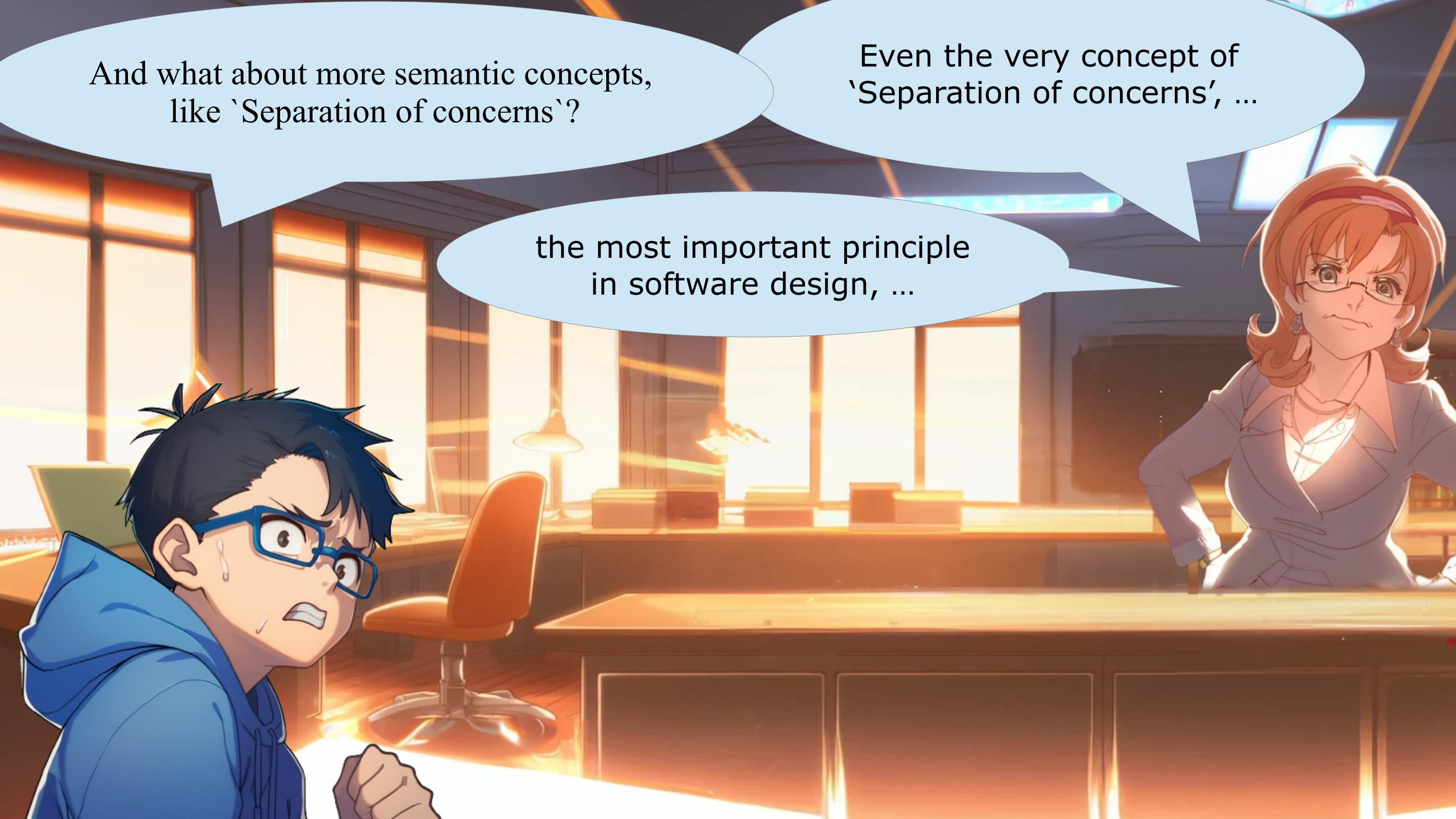
Even the very concept of
'Separation of concerns', ...

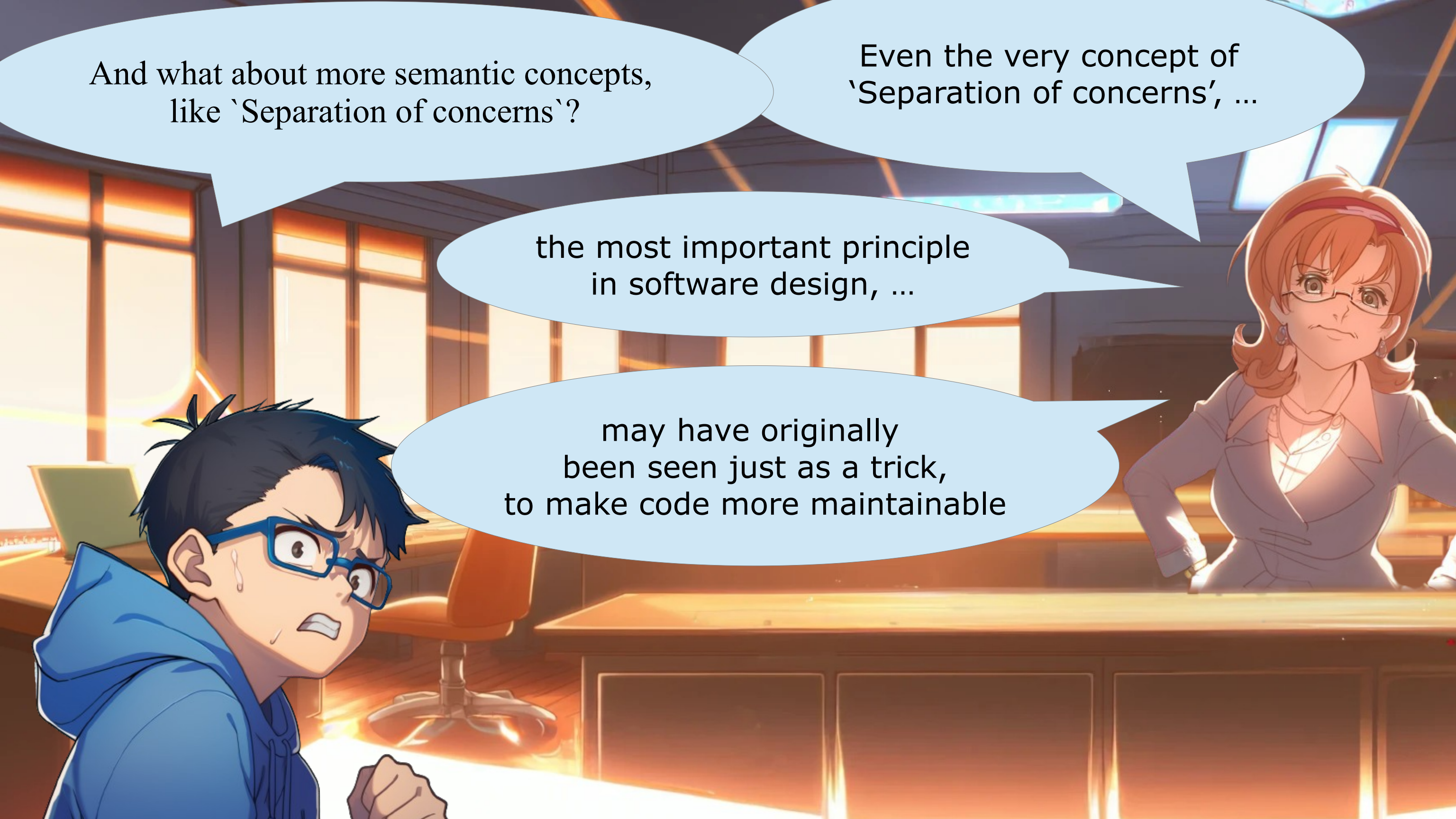


And what about more semantic concepts,
like 'Separation of concerns'?

Even the very concept of
'Separation of concerns', ...

the most important principle
in software design, ...





And what about more semantic concepts,
like 'Separation of concerns'?


Even the very concept of
'Separation of concerns', ...

the most important principle
in software design, ...

may have originally
been seen just as a trick,
to make code more maintainable


Remember:
what is considered a trick
and what is ...





Remember:
what is considered a trick
and what is ...

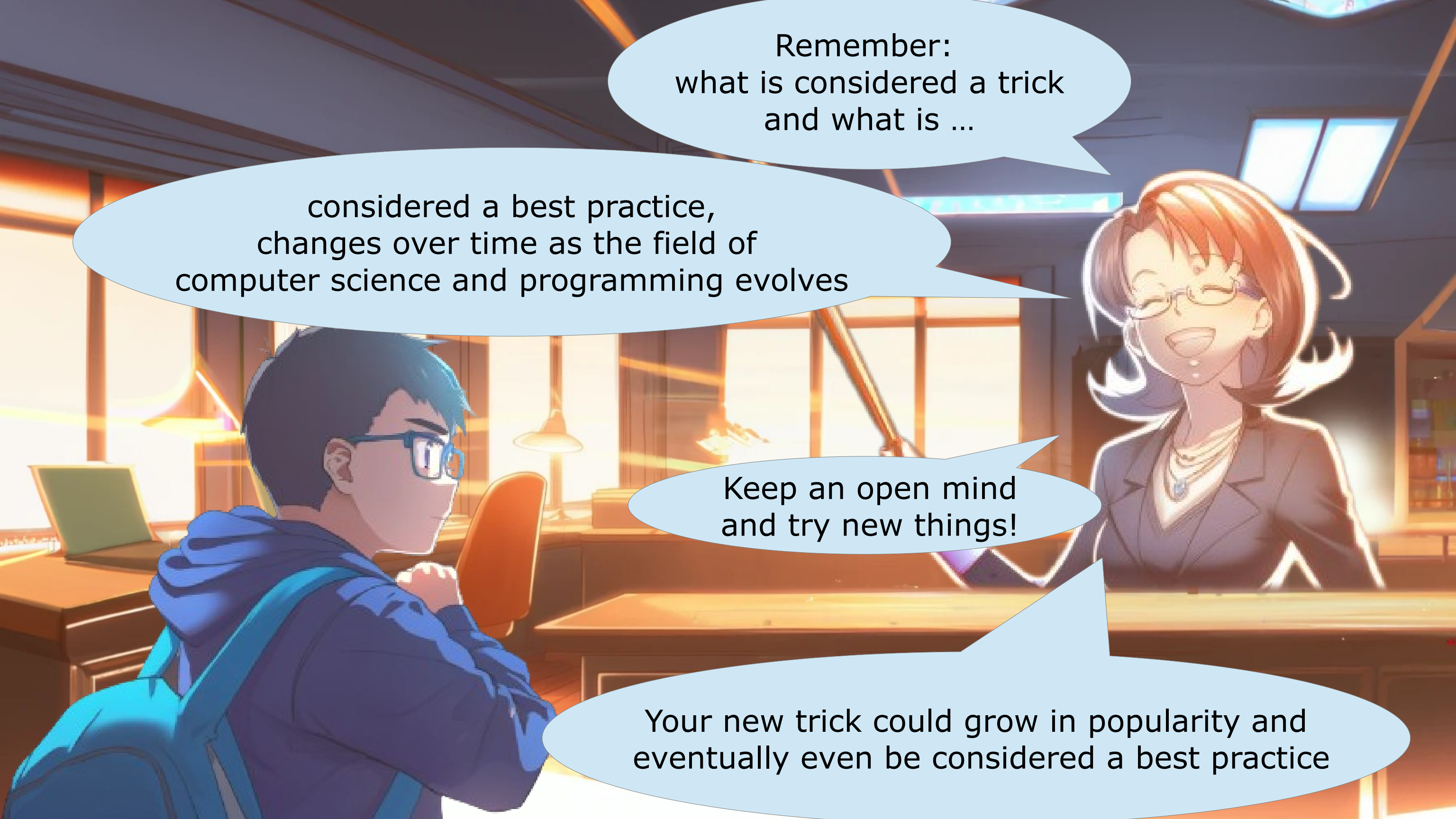
considered a best practice,
changes over time as the field of
computer science and programming evolves



Remember:
what is considered a trick
and what is ...

considered a best practice,
changes over time as the field of
computer science and programming evolves

Keep an open mind
and try new things!



Remember:
what is considered a trick
and what is ...


considered a best practice,
changes over time as the field of
computer science and programming evolves

Keep an open mind
and try new things!

Your new trick could grow in popularity and
eventually even be considered a best practice


Our understanding of what
an elegant solution is
changes over time.





Our understanding of what
an elegant solution is
changes over time.

What we consider a trick today
might be considered
an elegant solution
tomorrow

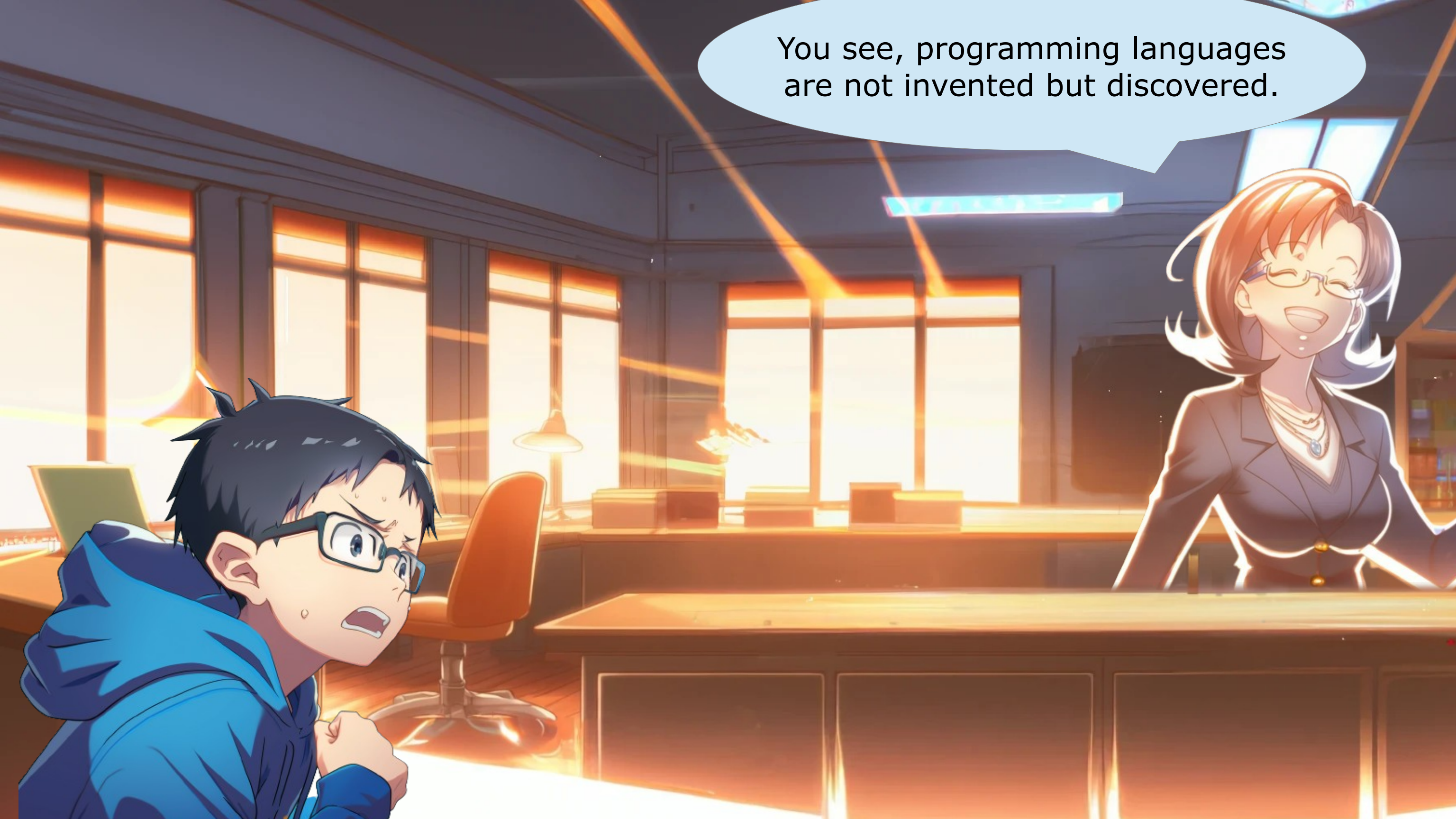


Our understanding of what
an elegant solution is
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What we consider a trick today
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an elegant solution
tomorrow

But... what about the design
decisions of the original
language creators?

You see, programming languages
are not invented but discovered.



The initial intent of the original language creators is pretty much irrelevant.

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Programming languages are just tools that we use to communicate with computers, and ...






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as our understanding of computers and their capabilities evolves, so does the way we use languages to interact with them.



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You see, programming languages are not invented but discovered.


Programming languages are just tools that we use to communicate with computers, and ...

as our understanding of computers and their capabilities evolves, so does the way we use languages to interact with them.

It can't be!

So this is why programming languages
are constantly evolving,






So this is why programming languages
are constantly evolving,

and new languages and frameworks
are constantly being developed.

Because we still have not
figured out what it even means
to make software right!



An anime-style illustration of a man with spiky black hair and blue-rimmed glasses, wearing a blue hoodie. He is sitting at a desk in an office, looking extremely stressed with wide, frantic eyes and a sweat-drenched face. His mouth is open in a gasp. The office background features large windows with warm, golden light streaming in, suggesting sunset or sunrise. A woman with short, wavy reddish-brown hair and glasses stands behind the desk, smiling confidently with her hands on her hips. She is wearing a grey blazer over a yellow top. The scene is set in a modern office with desks, chairs, and various office supplies visible in the background.

Because we still have not
figured out what it even means
to make software right!

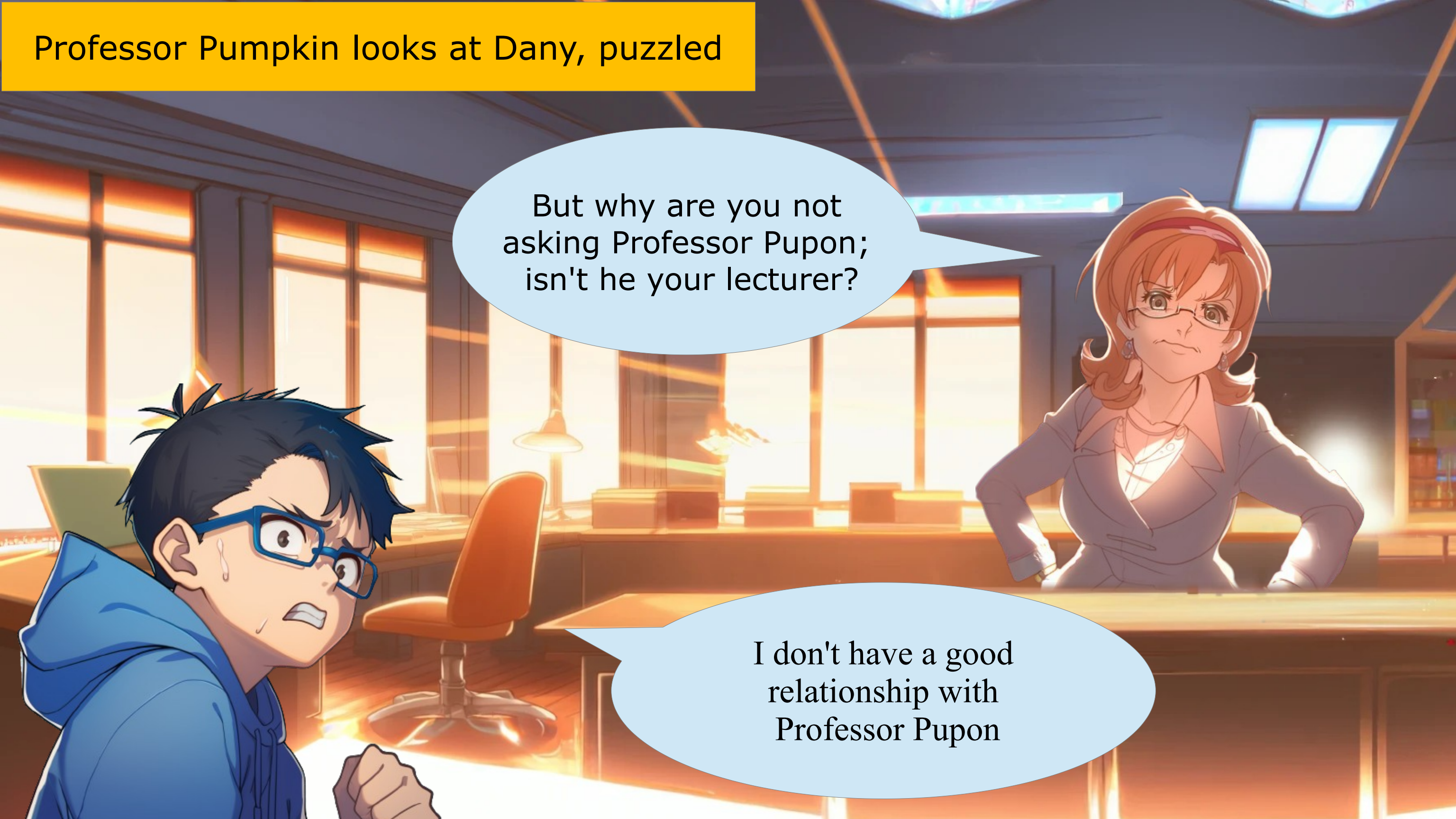
Well, there is one thing that
we have figured out:
Lambdas are good.

Professor Pumpkin looks at Dany, puzzled

But why are you not asking Professor Pupon; isn't he your lecturer?



Professor Pumpkin looks at Dany, puzzled

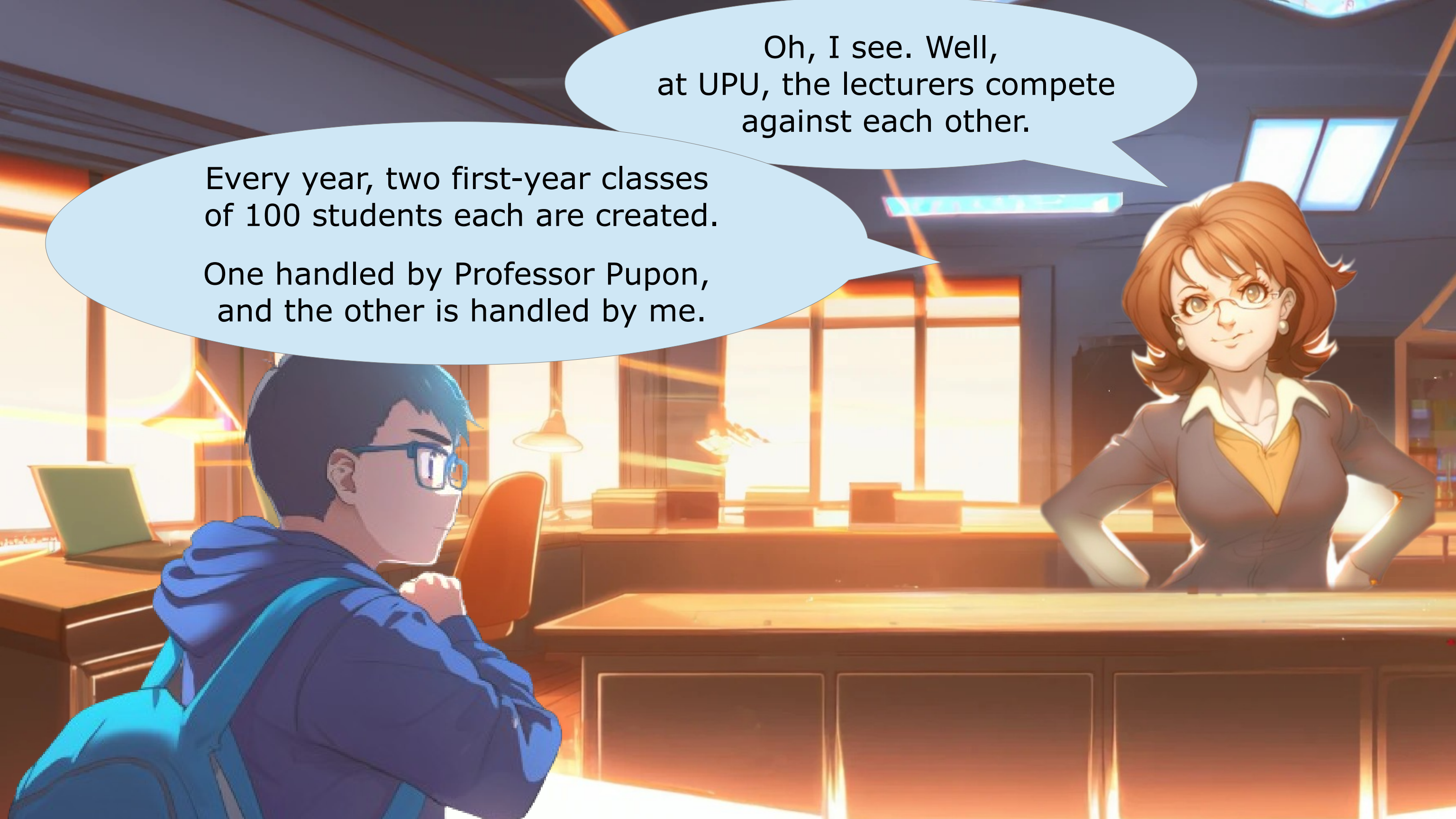


But why are you not asking Professor Pupon; isn't he your lecturer?

I don't have a good relationship with Professor Pupon

Oh, I see. Well,
at UPU, the lecturers compete
against each other.

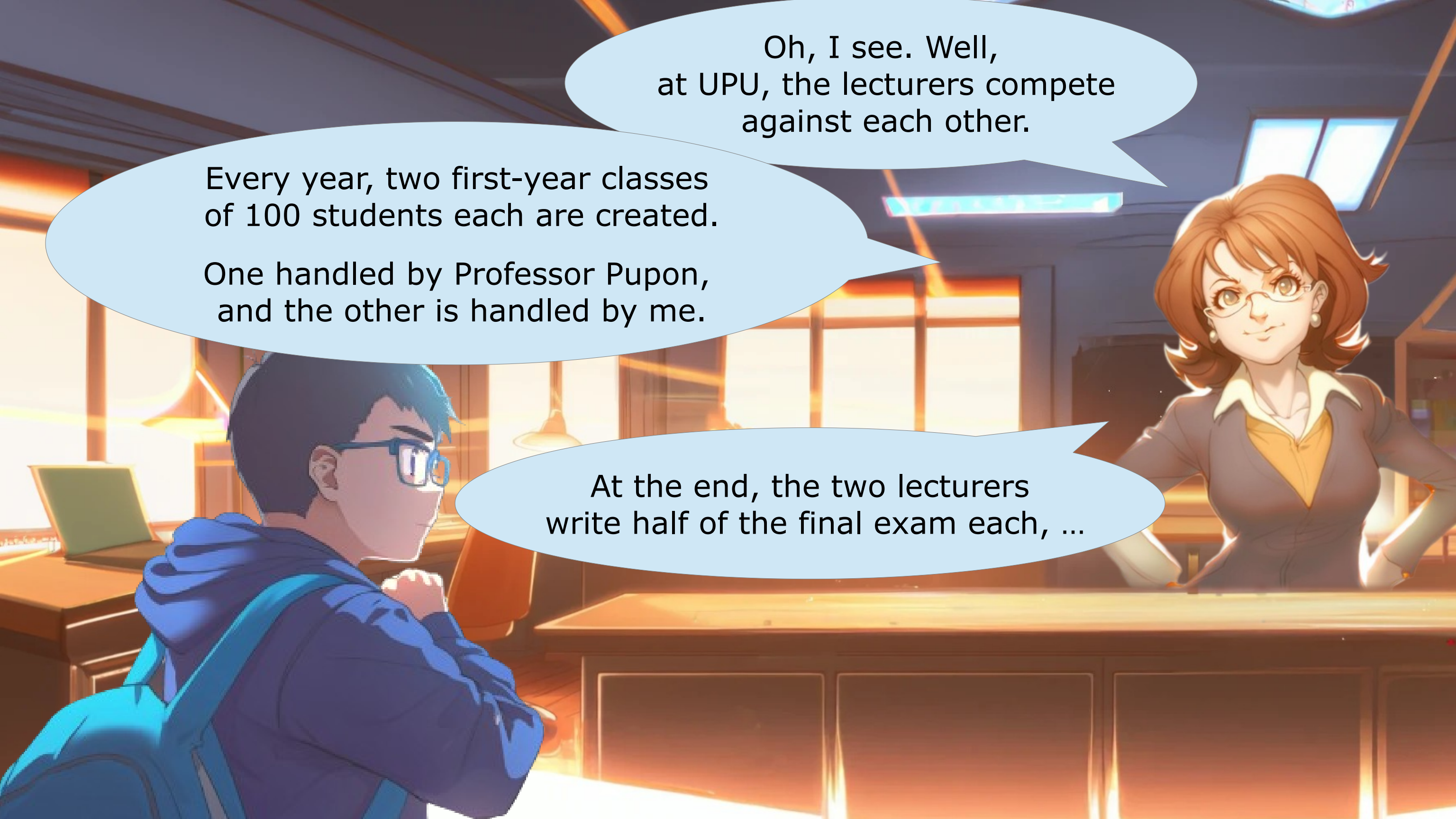




Oh, I see. Well,
at UPU, the lecturers compete
against each other.

Every year, two first-year classes
of 100 students each are created.

One handled by Professor Pupon,
and the other is handled by me.




Oh, I see. Well,
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Every year, two first-year classes
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At the end, the two lecturers
write half of the final exam each, ...



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Every year, two first-year classes
of 100 students each are created.

One handled by Professor Pupon,
and the other is handled by me.



At the end, the two lecturers
write half of the final exam each, ...


and we will mark anonymized scripts.
The lecturer whose students
are the most successful wins

Professor Pumpkin is embarrassed

What is the prize
that you compete
so fiercely for?



Professor Pumpkin is embarrassed



What is the prize
that you compete
so fiercely for?

The winning lecturer has the right
to select and fail an extra student
who would otherwise have passed


Profes

is the prize
compete
ly for?

The winning lecturer has the right
to select and fail an extra student
who would otherwise have passed

So if Professor Pupon wins,
he could fail me independently
of my score or performance?






So if Professor Pupon wins,
he could fail me independently
of my score or performance?

Yes,
technically speaking,
he could.

How can this be fair
for the students!





How can this be fair
for the students!

And why,
why are you competing to
get such a disgusting privilege

Oh, no Dany, you are misunderstanding.





Oh, no Dany, you are misunderstanding.

Failing a student in the first year instead of condemning them to spend an unbounded amount of time studying programming ...



Oh, no Dany, you are misunderstanding.

Failing a student in the first year instead of condemning them to spend an unbounded amount of time studying programming ...

could be the best form of love and respect toward such a student



Oh, no Dany, you are misunderstanding.

Failing a student in the first year instead of condemning them to spend an unbounded amount of time studying programming ...


could be the best form of love and respect toward such a student

Especially when we are sure that they would never be able to complete their studies.




See you
next time!





See you
next time!

So, any time I
help my friends,
like I did in the
last lab, ...



See you
next time!

So, any time I
help my friends,
like I did in the
last lab, ...

I'm making it
easier for Pupon to
win and fail me.





I want to help my friends
pass the courses, but by
helping them ...

What should I do?





03: Java Screams!



Credits

- Story: Marco
- Art: MidJourney, NijiJourney, Dall-E
- - Wording: Marco, chatGPT
- Composition: Marco
- Thanks to all my friends for providing great feedback!