

Science Adventures with the



Sciences Adventures with the Thunderbolt Kids

Grade 5

by Siyavula and the Shuttleworth Foundation

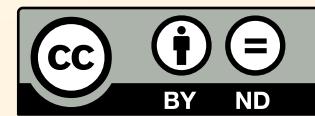
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ATTRIBUTION

The Thunderbolt Kids characters and graphical stories in this book were developed as part of the Kusasa project (www.kusasa.org), initiated and funded by the Shuttleworth Foundation (www.shuttleworthfoundation.org/). This project aimed to develop analytical and creative thinking in Grade 4,5 and 6 learners through the use of character role models, experiments, simple computer modelling and carefully-sequenced lesson plans. The characters and stories were used with the permission of the Shuttleworth Foundation in these science adventures and the related Grade 4-6 Natural Science and Technology workbooks.

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1. FISH AND FROGS

ON A SUNNY SATURDAY MORNING, THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS KEEP BUSY BY THE RIVERSIDE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK
WOULD HAPPEN IF
THERE WERE NO
GRAVITY? WOULD RAIN
STILL FALL?

I'M GONNA TAKE A
WILD GUESS AND SAY
THAT YOU'RE STILL
READING THAT BOOK
OF QUESTIONS.





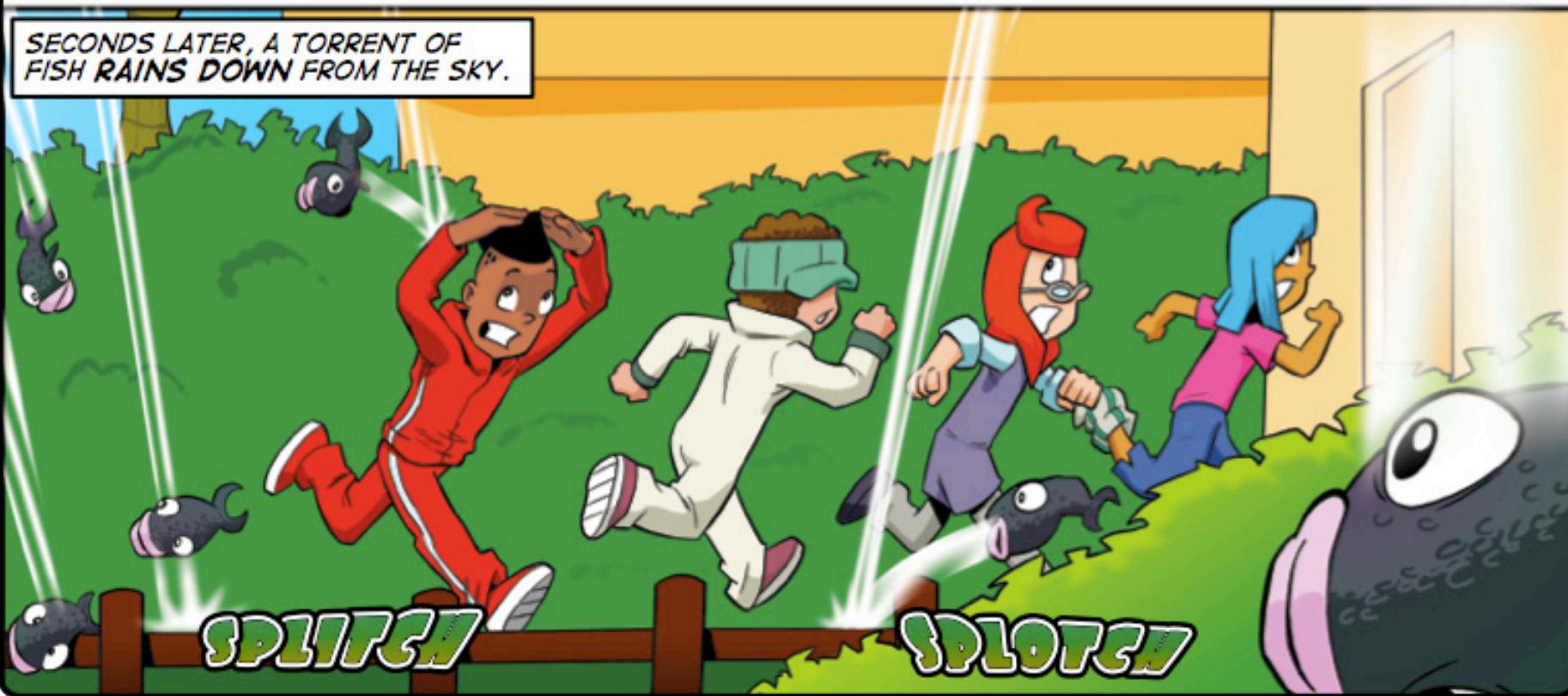




LOOKING UP TO THE SKY, THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS KNOW FOR SURE THAT JOJO DEFINITELY DIDN'T DO IT.



SECONDS LATER, A TORRENT OF FISH RAINS DOWN FROM THE SKY.







BUT NOT EVERYONE HAS SUCH COOL REACTIONS TO STRANGE EVENTS.

FISH ARE FALLING FROM THE SKY! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?

* ?! *



THE ALIENS ARE COMING!!!



LAZLO'S FREAKING OUT. WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE DOES TOO!





RIGHT AWAY JOJO KNOWS THE ANSWER TO TWO OF SOPHIE'S QUESTIONS AND HE REACHES FOR THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE.



AND WE CAN ASK DR ROBERT'S FROM THE ANIMAL SANCTUARY FOR HELP. HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT FISH AND WEATHER ON THE ISLAND.



THE CAUSE OF THE RAINING FISH IS MUCH MORE OBVIOUS FROM DR ROBERTS'S OFFICE AT THE SANCTUARY.

RAINING *FISH*?! JEEPERS! THE **WATERSPOUT** MUST HAVE SUCKED THEM OUT OF THE RIVER AND DROPPED THEM UPRIVER!









JOJO RUSHES PAST TIA
AT LIGHTNING SPEED!



JOJO, NO!



FOR
GOODNESS
SAKE, LAZ,
THERE ARE NO
ALIENS!

JUST ASK YOURSELF:
WHAT IS THAT BLUE
STUFF? IT'S WATER!
AND IT'LL SUCK YOU
INTO THE CLOUDS IF
YOU DON'T GET INSIDE
NOW!



ALTHOUGH LAZ WON'T LISTEN TO REASON...

NO! THEY'RE COMING! AND THEY'LL PUNISH THE ONES WHO DON'T BELIEVE!

LAZ, COME ON! GET A GRIP!

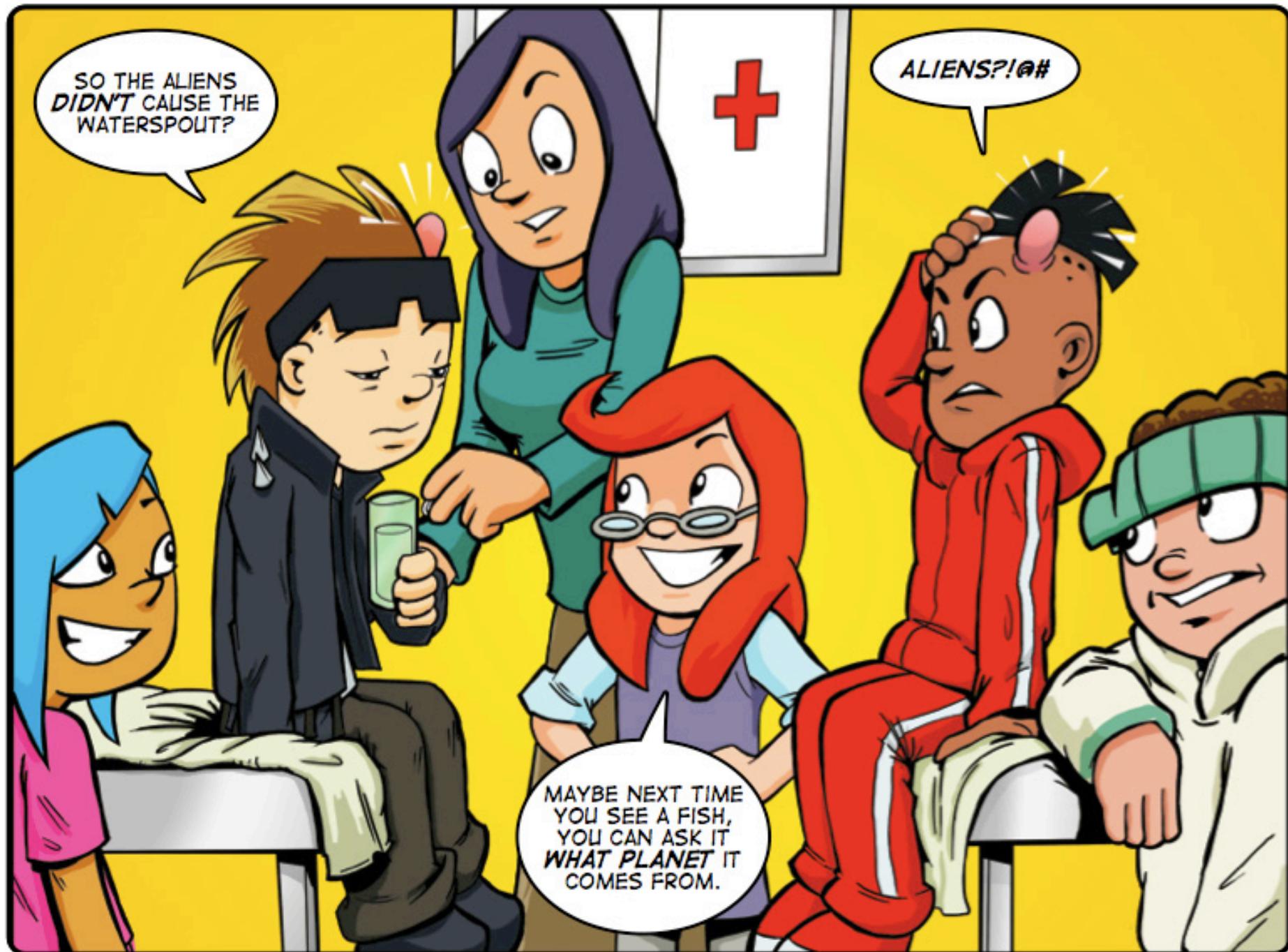
THONK

... JOJO GETS A LITTLE HELP FROM A COCONUT.

AND, LIKE AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE, HE DODGES THE PALM DATES AND COCONUTS ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE SCHOOL.



WELL... ALMOST
ALL THE WAY.

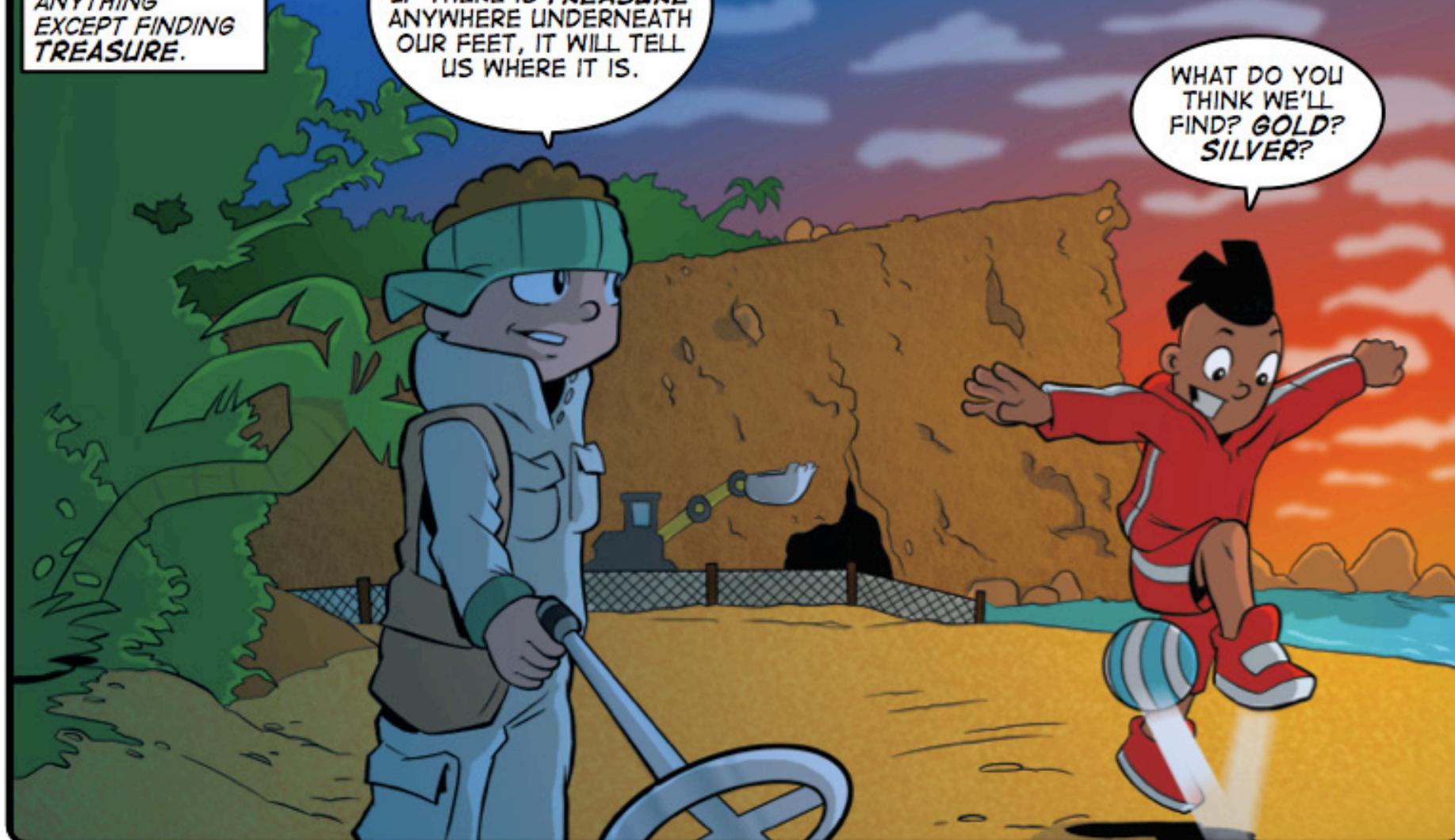


2. THE FORBIDDEN BEACH

EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALMOST SUNSET, AND THEY SHOULD BE HEADING BACK TO SCHOOL, TOM AND JOJO CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT FINDING TREASURE.

THIS METAL DETECTOR IS AMAZING! IF THERE IS TREASURE ANYWHERE UNDERNEATH OUR FEET, IT WILL TELL US WHERE IT IS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'LL FIND? GOLD? SILVER?



A MINUTE LATER,
THE METAL
DETECTOR BEEPS
AND TOM FINDS HIS
FIRST TREASURE.



LOOK!

UH... IS IT
VALUABLE?

I HAVEN'T
GOT A CLUE.

WHY DON'T
WE CHECK OUT
THAT BEACH
OVER THERE?



MANY ADVENTURES BEGIN BY BREAKING THE RULES, BUT SOME RULES SHOULD NOT BE BROKEN.

COME ON!
THERE'S NO
ONE HERE.

I DON'T THINK THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA. THERE ARE **NO ENTRY** SIGNS EVERYWHERE.

SEE? THERE'S
NOTHING TO
WORRY ABOUT!

CRIKEY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S **BENEATH THE SURFACE** HERE, BUT THE **METAL DETECTOR** IS GOING CRAZY!



BUT THE BOYS
DON'T STICK
AROUND TO FIND
OUT THE ANSWER.



LATER THAT NIGHT...



I CAN'T **BELIEVE** I
LET YOU TALK ME INTO
SNEAKING OUT! WE
COULD GET EXPELLED
FOR THIS!

WILL YOU STOP
WHINING?! THIS
IS **BIG STUFF**!

WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR, THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS WANDER ABOUT THE BEACH HOPING TO SEE SOMETHING THAT EXPLAINS THE MYSTERY OF THE GIANT SEA MONSTER.

I ONLY CAME WITH TO PROVE THAT THERE IS A **RATIONAL EXPLANATION** FOR WHAT YOU SAW.

OUCH!

OW, OW,
OW, OW,
OUCH!



BUT NO AMOUNT OF SCEPTICISM
CAN PREPARE THE THUNDERBOLT
KIDS FOR WHAT THEY SEE NEXT.

LOOK
BEHIND
YOU!



AND THE ONLY
THING THEY
CAN DO IS RUN!

AAGH!

AAGH!

AAGH!

AAGH!

AND SCREAM!

AND IF THEIR TROUBLES
WEREN'T ENOUGH...

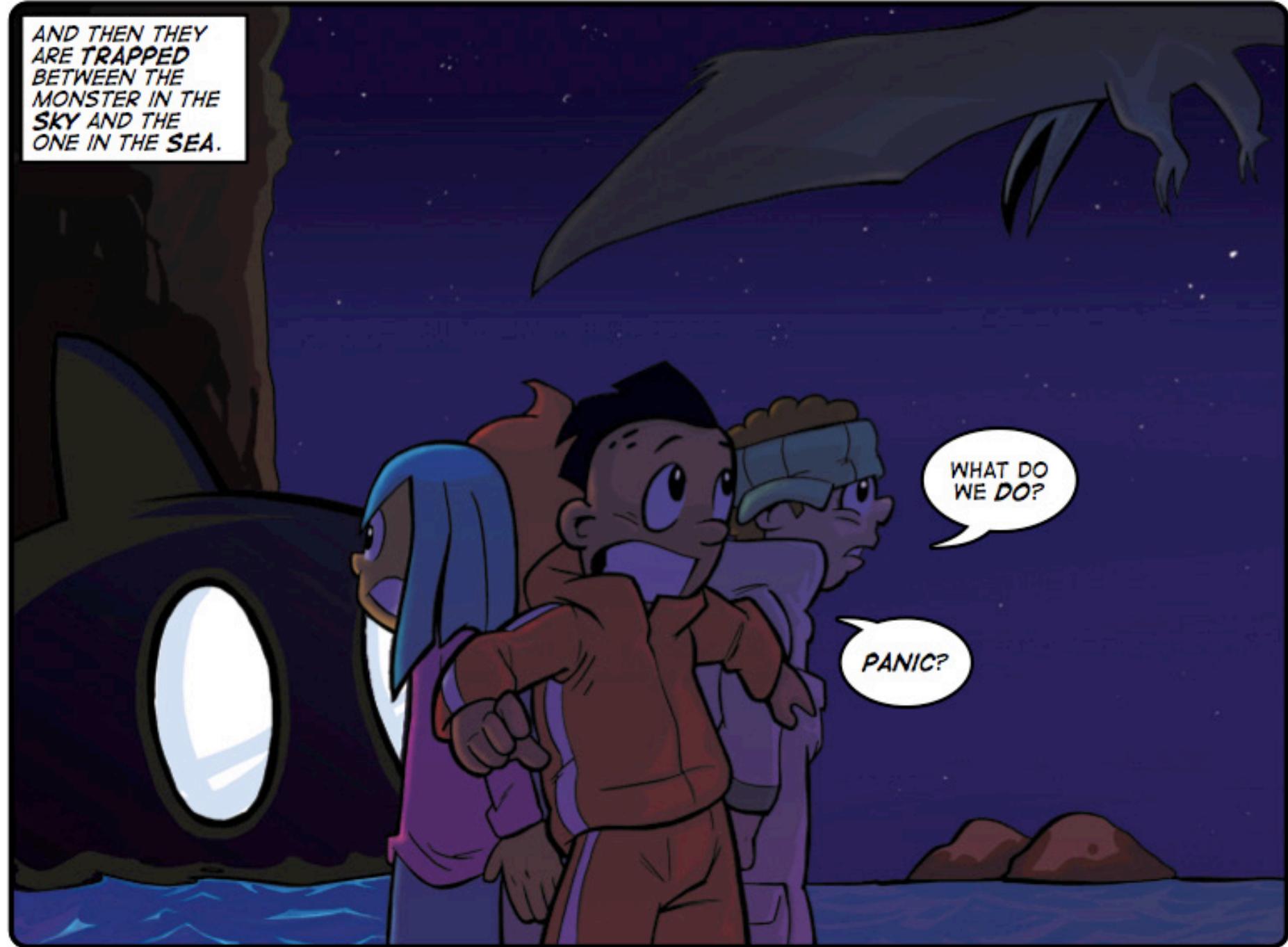
I THOUGHT
THESE THINGS
WERE EXTINCT!

LOOK! THE SEA
MONSTER!

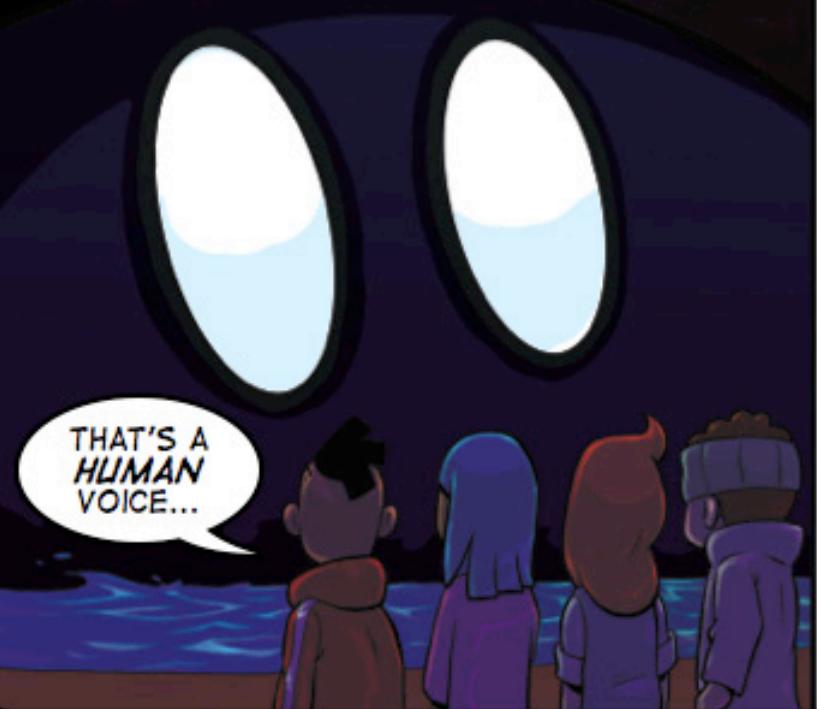
THE AIR SEEMS TO CHILL
AS THE GIANT MONSTER
BREAKS THE SURFACE
OF THE WATER.

SLOOSH

AND THEN THEY
ARE TRAPPED
BETWEEN THE
MONSTER IN THE
SKY AND THE
ONE IN THE SEA.



SUDDENLY A DEEP VOICE BOOMS OUT.



AND THEN THE MYSTERY DEEPENS AS THE MONSTER'S MOUTH OPENS WITH A CREAK AND REVEALS THE METALLIC CAVE WITHIN.

CREEAK





BUT STRANGER THAN ANYTHING THEY HAVE SEEN IS THE SIGHT OF THE MAN WHO EMERGES FROM THE MOUTH OF THE MONSTER AND POINTS A REMOTE CONTROL AT THE PTERODACTYL.

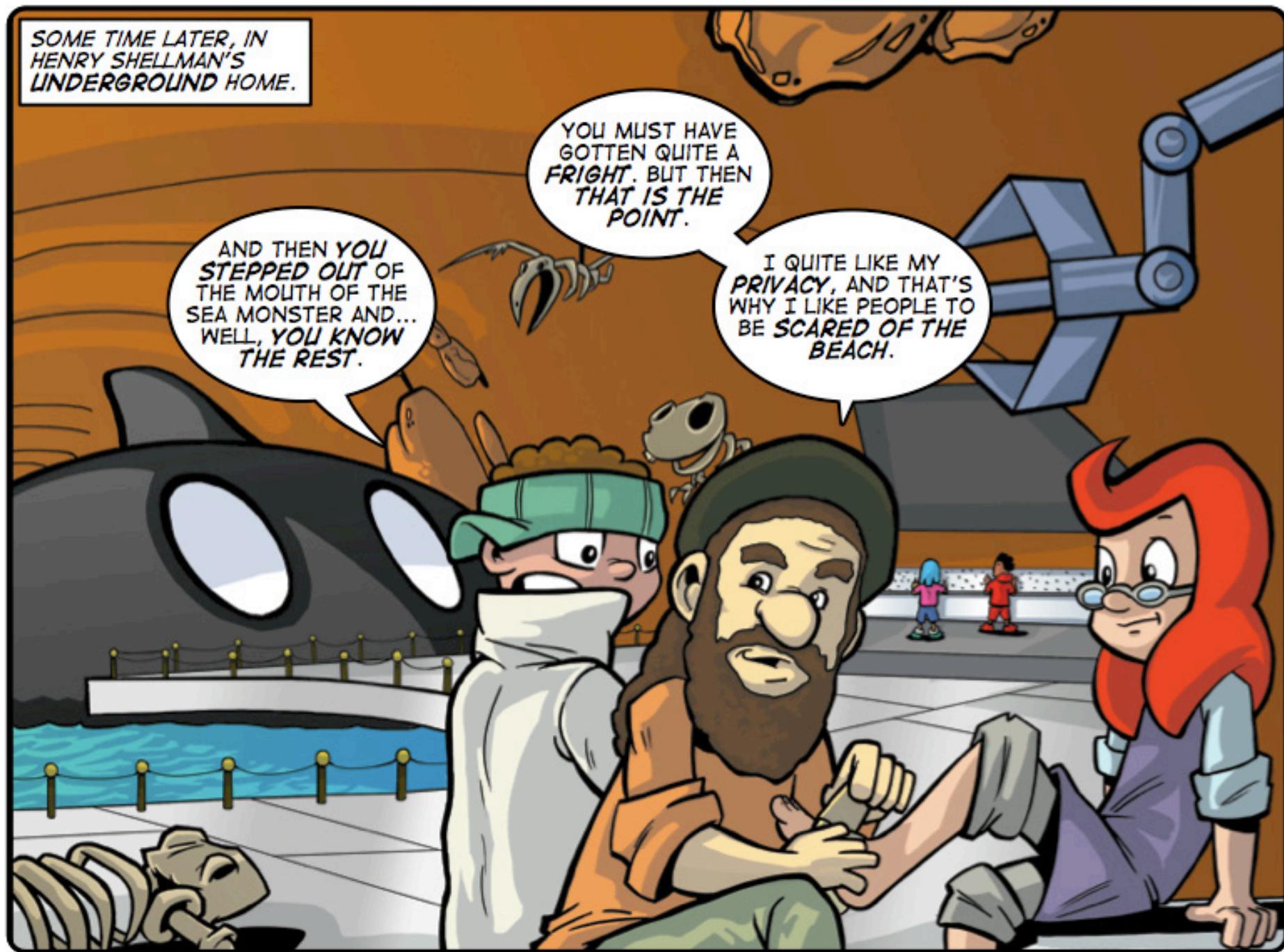


SOME TIME LATER, IN
HENRY SHELLMAN'S
UNDERGROUND HOME.

AND THEN YOU
STEPPED OUT OF
THE MOUTH OF THE
SEA MONSTER AND...
WELL, YOU KNOW
THE REST.

YOU MUST HAVE
GOTTEN QUITE A
FRIGHT, BUT THEN
THAT IS THE
POINT.

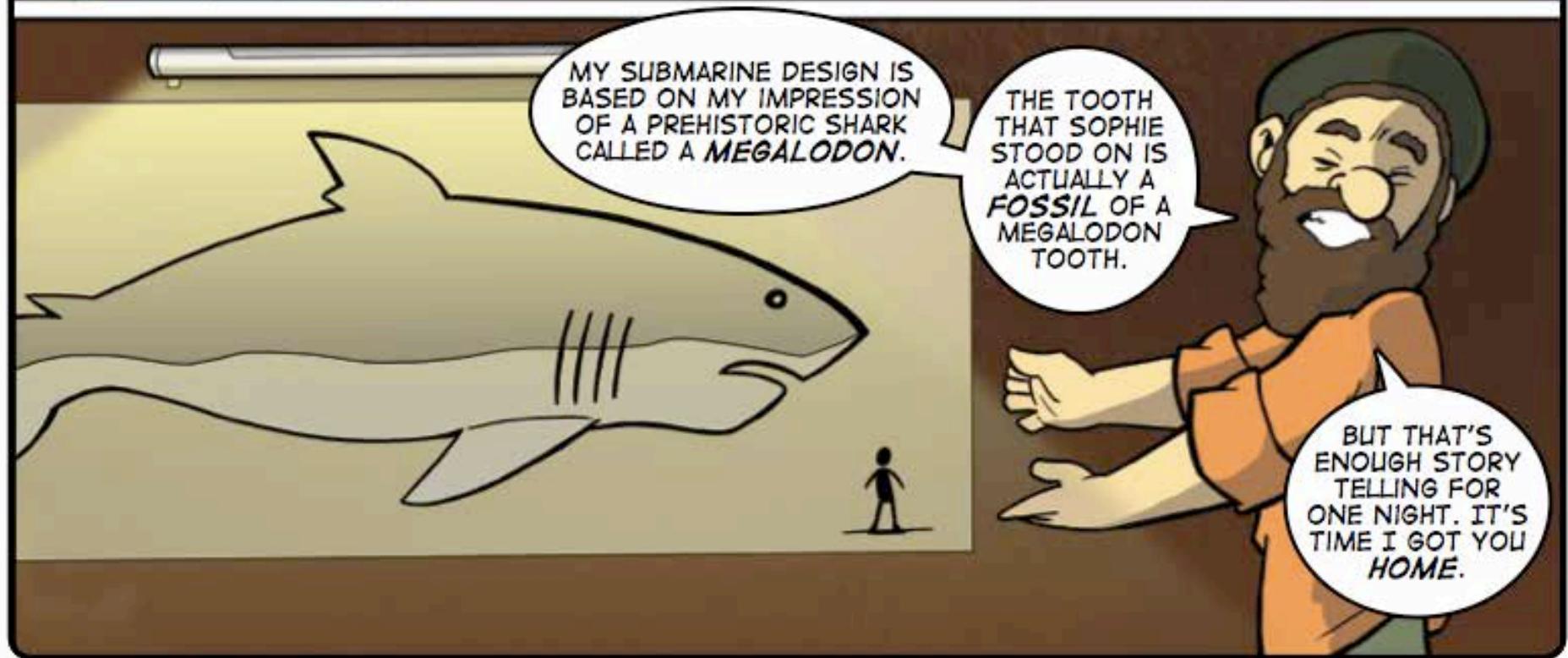
I QUITE LIKE MY
PRIVACY, AND THAT'S
WHY I LIKE PEOPLE TO
BE SCARED OF THE
BEACH.











IT'S A LONG RIDE BACK TO SCHOOL. THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS KNOW THAT THEY MAY BE IN TERRIBLE TROUBLE. BUT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO SNEAK BACK IN WITHOUT TIA FINDING OUT WHERE THEY'VE BEEN.



THE NEXT DAY, IN CLASS...



TODAY WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT FOSSILS. BUT APPARENTLY **SOME OF YOU** ALREADY KNOW ABOUT FOSSILS!

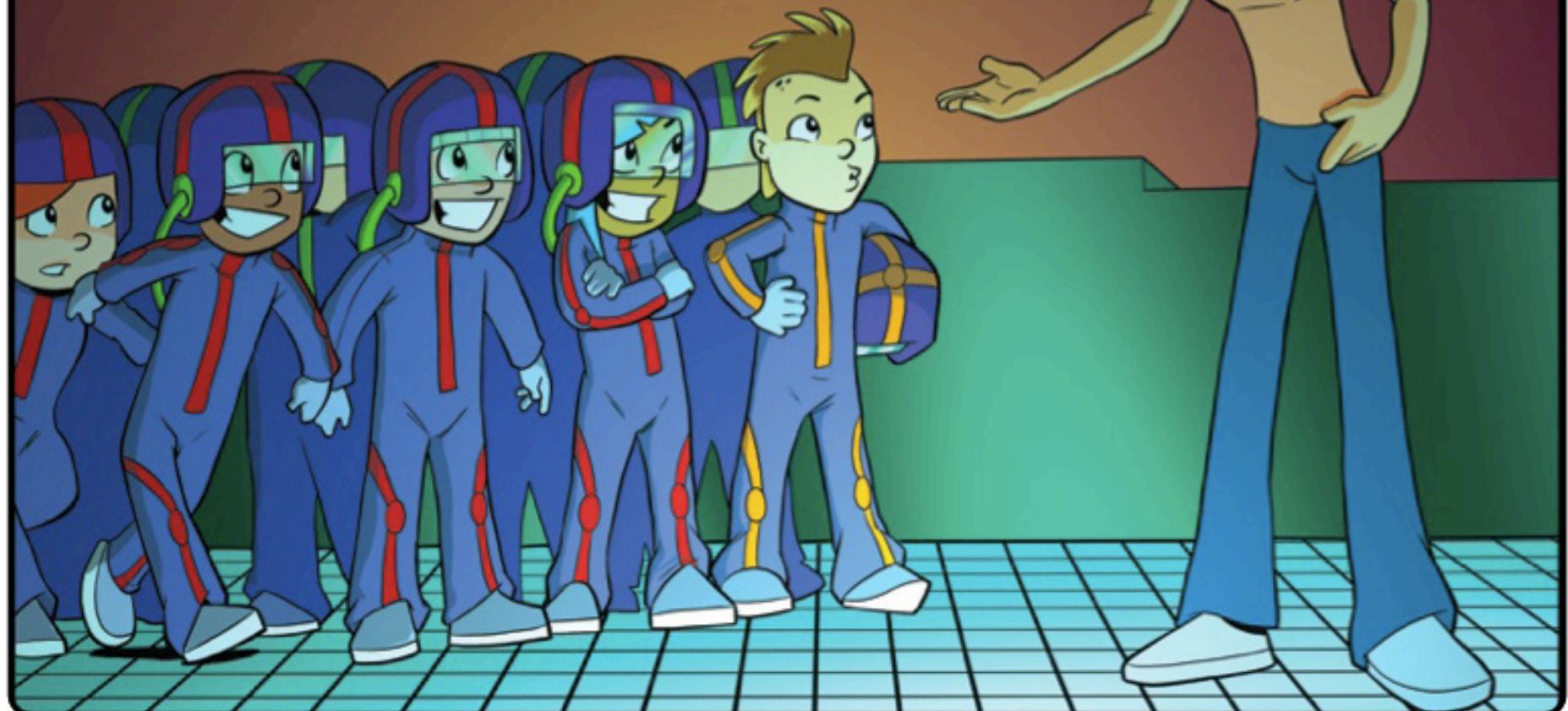
3. THE GAME OF DEATH

ANOTHER ADVENTURE IN THE VIRTUAL REALITY MACHINE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

TODAY WE'RE PLAYING A GAME IN THE VR MACHINE. YOU WILL PLAY IN GROUPS OF FOUR.

IF YOU GET REALLY STUCK, YOU'LL FIND THAT HELP WILL POP UP RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

RIGHT, YOU FOUR! YOU'RE UP FIRST.





IN THE VR STUDIO, TIA PLUGS IN THE REMAINING GROUPS TO THEIR OWN GAMES.

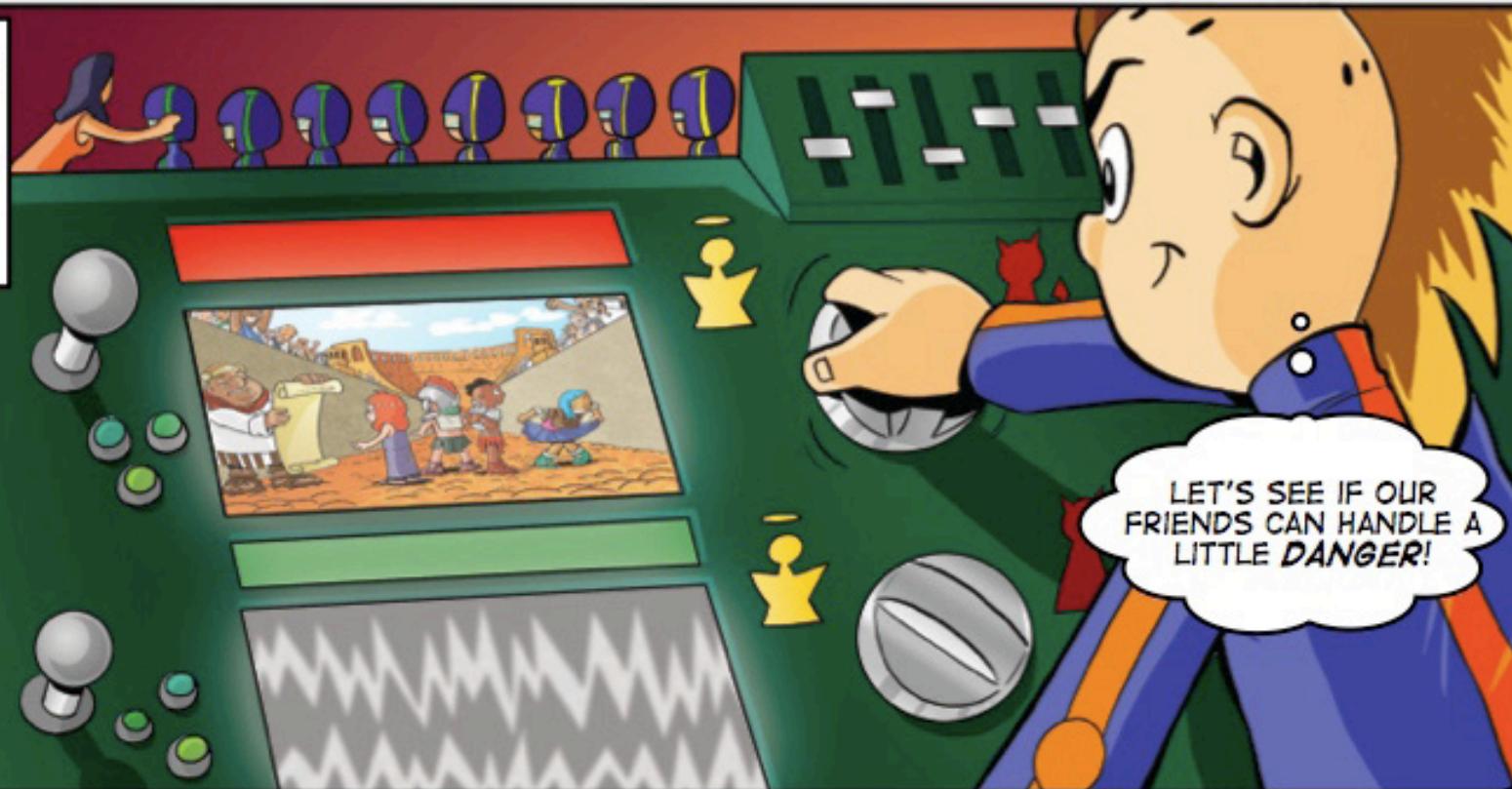


YOUR TURN NEXT.
DON'T WORRY!
THERE'S NOTHING
DANGEROUS IN THE
GAME!

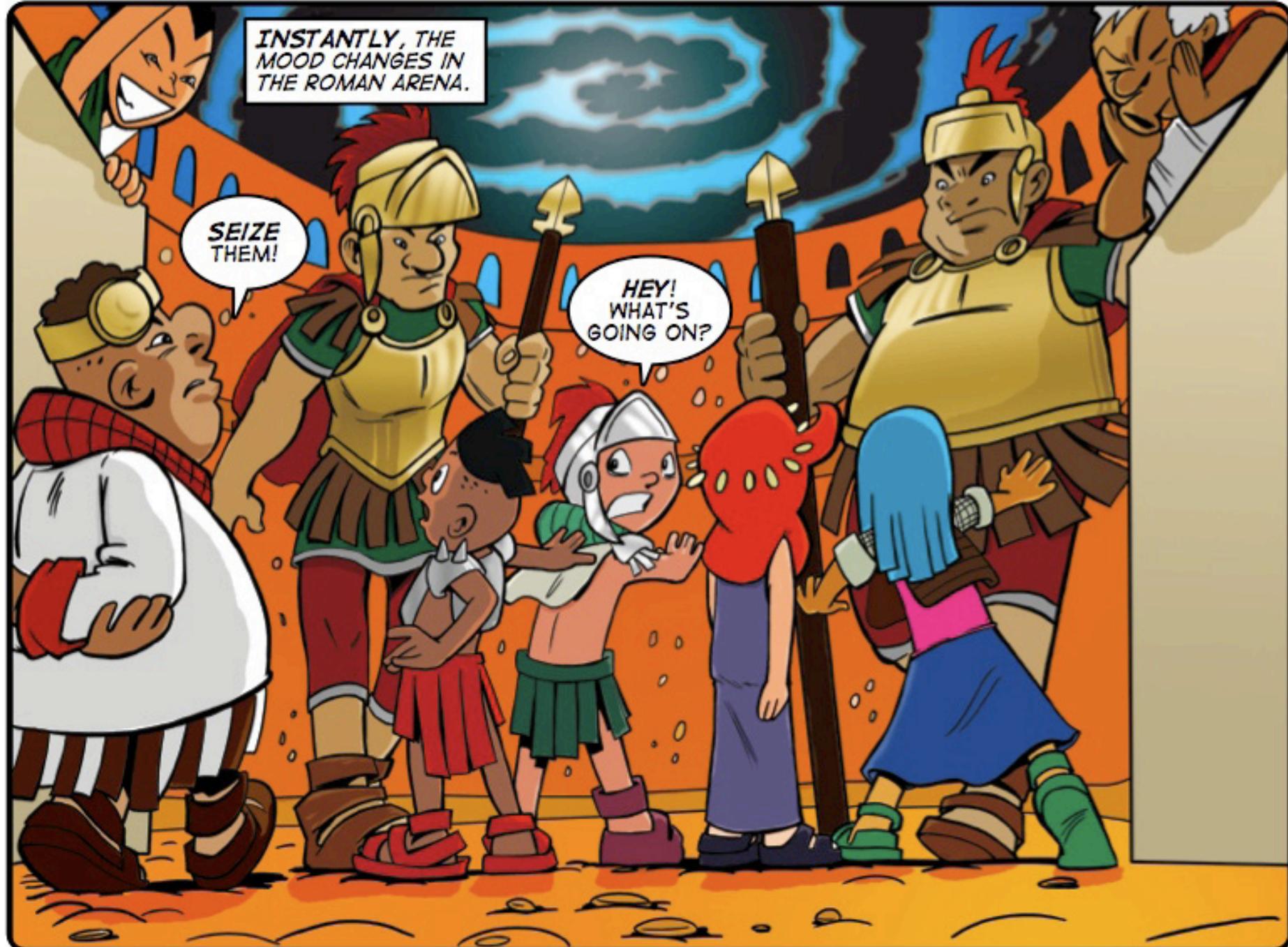


HMM...
NOTHING
DANGEROUS,
EH?...

BUT WITH A
SINGLE TURN OF A SINGLE
DIAL, LAZLO
CHANGES THE
FATE OF THE
THUNDERBOLT
KIDS.



LET'S SEE IF OUR
FRIENDS CAN HANDLE A
LITTLE DANGER!







MEANWHILE, LAZLO AND HIS FRIENDS ARE HAVING A MUCH EASIER TIME IN THEIR VERSION OF THE GAME...

IT'S A SIMPLE TEST OF WITS, SIR. YOU'LL LOVE IT!

WELCOME, YOUNG GENTS! I HOPE YOU ARE COMFORTABLE UP THERE!

AND BACK IN DARK ARENA,
FARRAH MEETS
A NEW FOE.



I HOPE YOUR
FRIENDS ARE
QUICK THINKERS.
YOUR LIFE
DEPENDS ON IT.



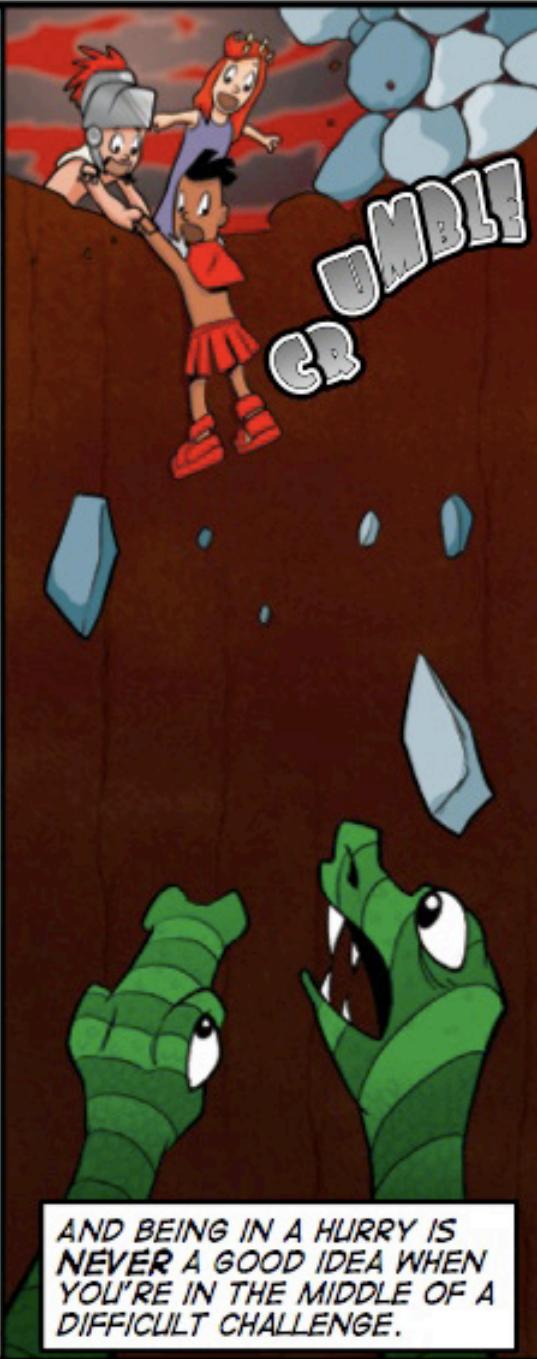
YOU MUST
COMPLETE THE
CHALLENGES, OR
YOUR FRIEND
IN THE CAGE
WILL DIE!



IN THE ARENA BELOW, THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS FACE THEIR FIRST DEADLY CHALLENGE.

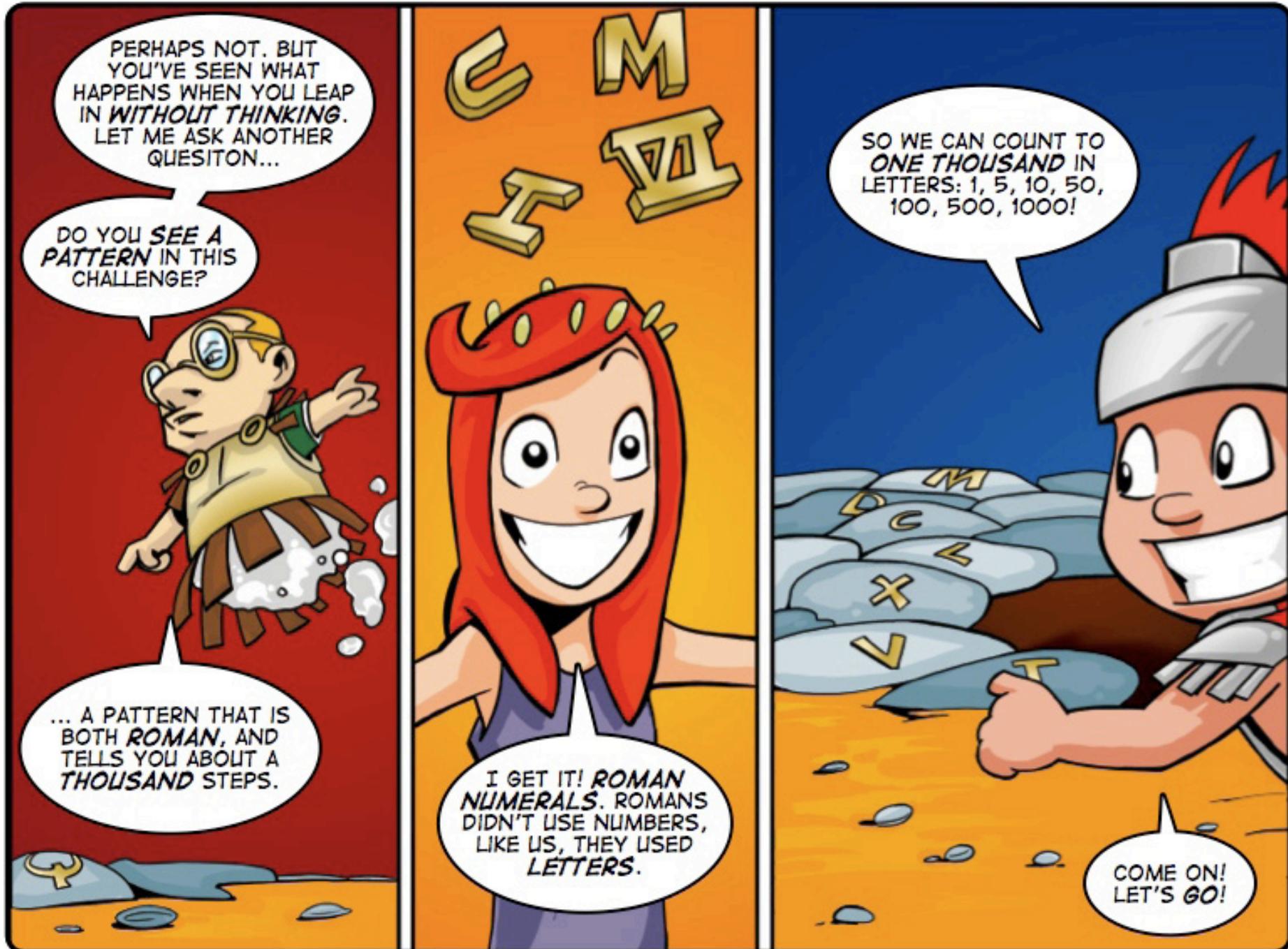


YOU HAVE UNTIL
THE SANDS IN THE
HOURGLASS RUN
OUT TO WALK A
**THOUSAND
STEPS** ACROSS
THIS FLOOR.





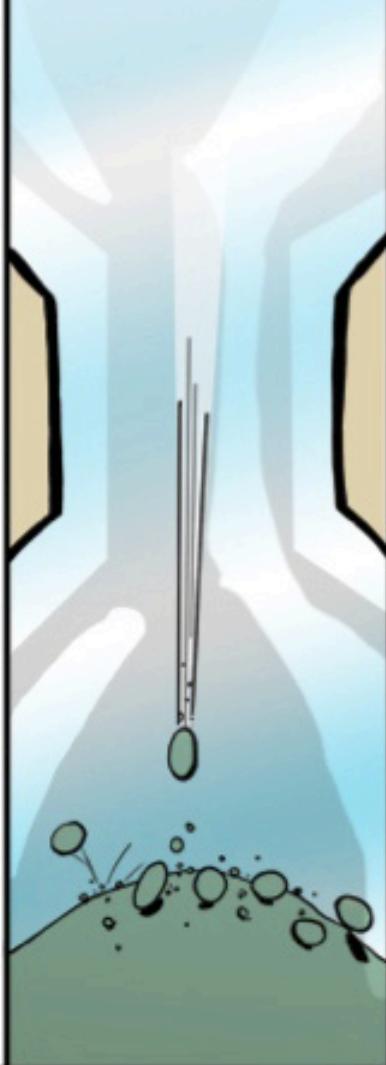




ARMED WITH CONFIDENCE,
THEY SKIP OVER THE ROCKS
WITHOUT FEAR OF THE DEADLY
SNAKES BELOW.

AND AS THE LAST
GRAIN OF SAND
FALLS THROUGH THE
HOURGLASS, THE
FLOOR CAVES IN
BEHIND THEM.

BUT SUDDENLY, IN FRONT OF THEM, A DEADLY
MACHINE OF SPINNING RAZOR BLADES RISES
OUT OF THE EARTH.



WHEN THE FAT MAN LAYS DOWN THE CHALLENGE, THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS CANNOT BELIEVE THEIR EARS.



MEANWHILE, GEORGE POLYA CAN BARELY BELIEVE HIS EARS AS HE LISTENS TO THE "1000-STEP" CHALLENGE IN LAZLO'S GROUP.







AS THE EMPEROR SEES THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS DESTROY HIS MACHINE, HE LETS OUT A TERRIBLE SCREAM.

BUT HE WOULD BE EVEN MORE UPSET IF HE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING BEHIND HIM.

GOOOOD
KITTY. BAAAAD
EMPEROR.

* MEOW *

GNAAA!

AND AT THAT MOMENT, THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS CROSS THE FINISH LINE AND EXIT THE VIRTUAL REALITY MACHINE.

JUST AS FARRAH VANISHES FROM THE CAGE.

AND HER NEW FRIEND STARTS TO LOOK DIFFERENTLY AT HIS OLD MASTER.

BACK IN THE VIRTUAL REALITY CONTROL ROOM, TIA HAS A WORD WITH LAZLO.

LAZLO, I COULD PUNISH YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

BUT INSTEAD I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU ALONE TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH TOM, JO, SOPHIE AND FARRAH.



HI, LAZ!



GOOD TO SEE YOU, LAZ!

BZZ

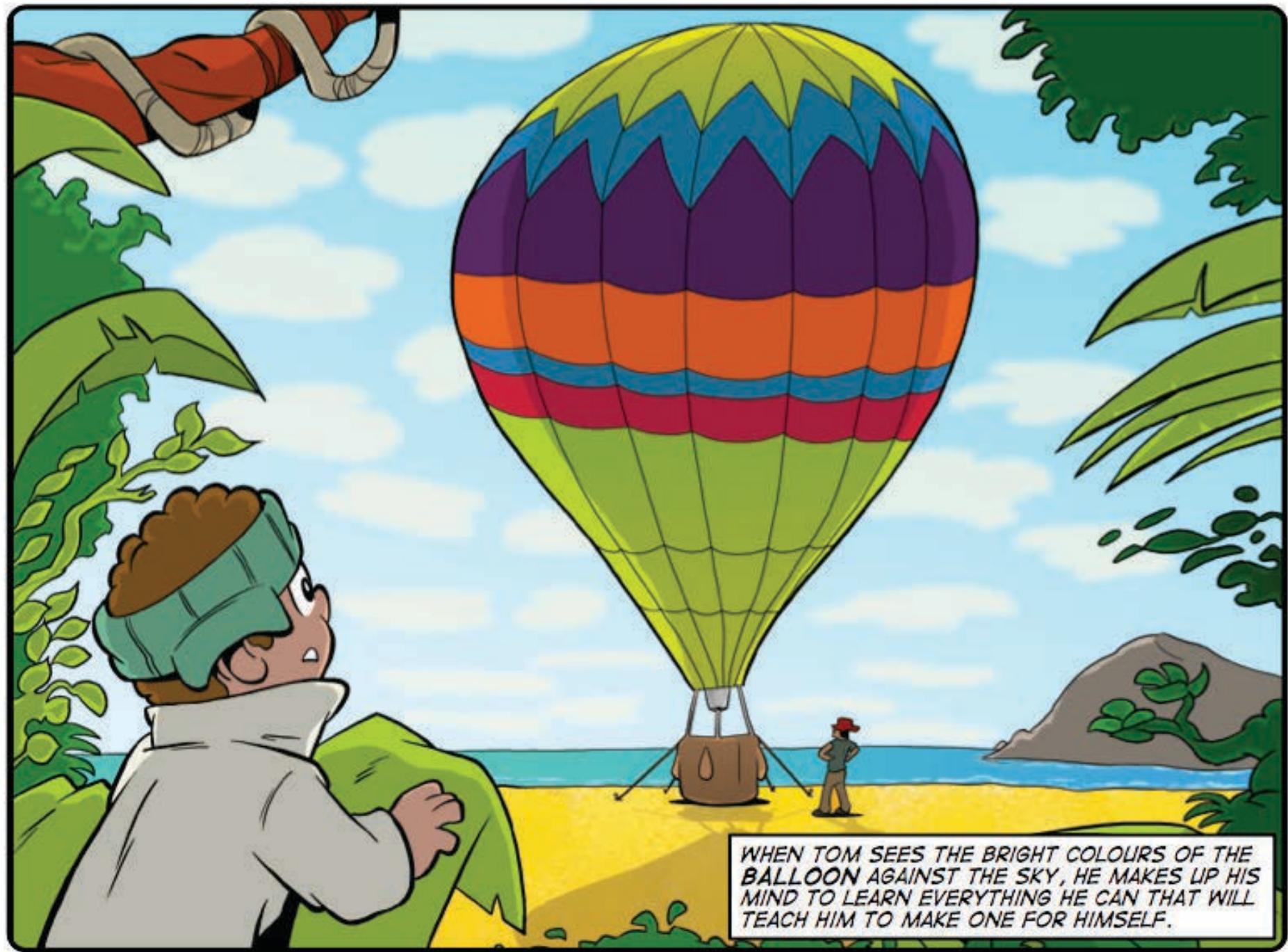


HOW WAS YOUR GAME, LAZ?



I HOPE IT WAS AS FUN AS OURS, LAZ!

4. THE BALLOON BET



WHEN TOM SEES THE BRIGHT COLOURS OF THE BALLOON AGAINST THE SKY, HE MAKES UP HIS MIND TO LEARN EVERYTHING HE CAN THAT WILL TEACH HIM TO MAKE ONE FOR HIMSELF.

TOM NEVER WAISTS TIME WHEN HE'S INTERESTED IN SOMETHING.

HI, I'M TOM.
FROM THE
THUNDERBOLT
SCHOOL OF
THINKING.

HOW DO YOU DO,
TOM. I'M BASIL.
FROM THE SKY!

HE GOES STRAIGHT TO THE **BEST SOURCE**
OF INFORMATION AND HE ASKS ALL THE
QUESTIONS HE CAN THINK OF.

THERE'S A LOT OF
INFORMATION
YOU NEED TO THINK
ABOUT TO MAKE A
BALLOON WORK
SAFELY...

SO HOW
DOES IT
WORK?



THE NEXT DAY...

MY AIM IS TO
WORK OUT HOW
TO SEND A
BALLOON INTO
THE UPPER
ATMOSPHERE!

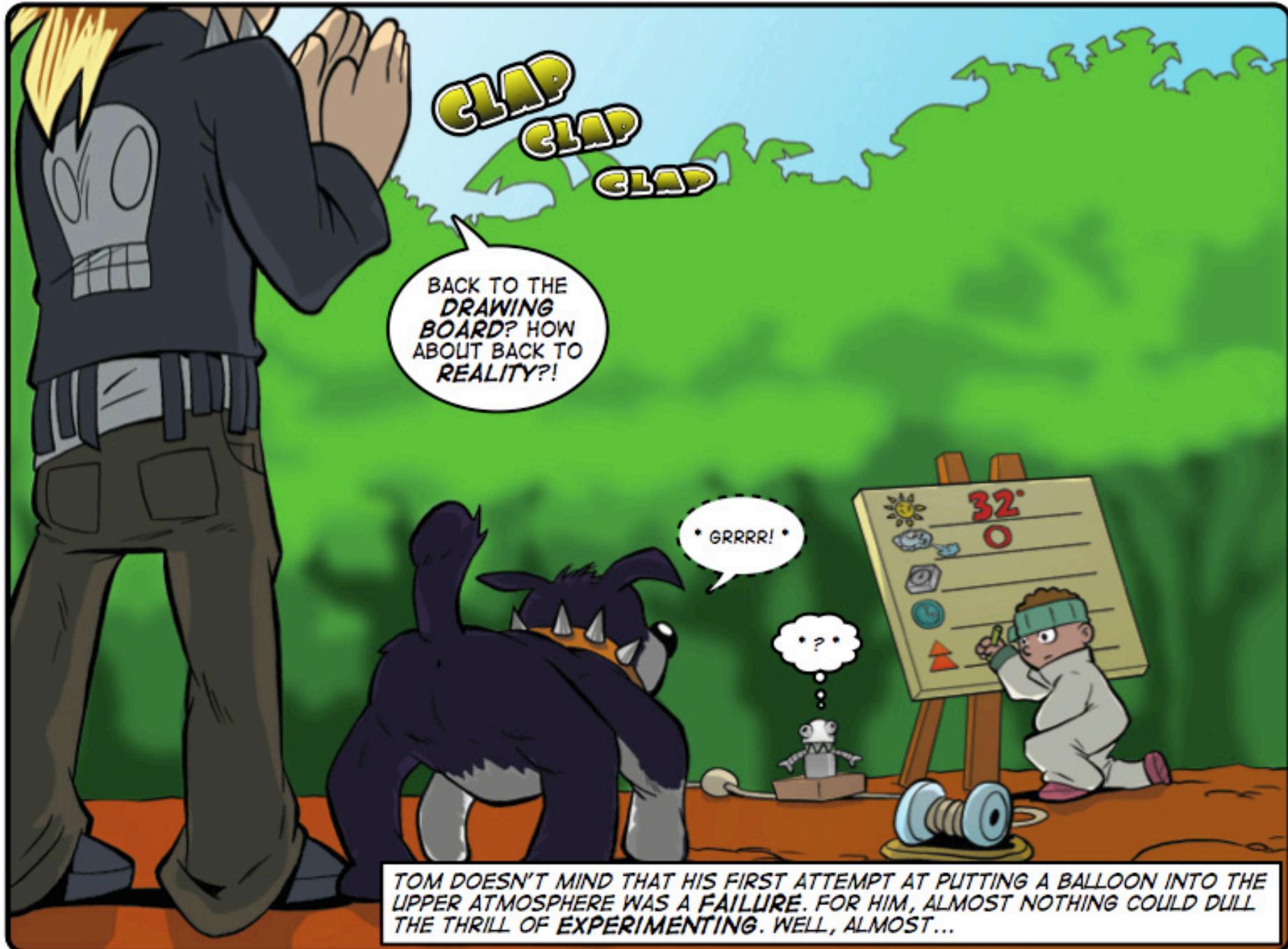
TEMPERATURE,
WIND SPEED AND
DIRECTION, AIR
PRESSURE, TIME
AND ALTITUDE!

I WILL DO A
SERIES OF
EXPERIMENTS.
EACH TIME I WILL
RECORD THE
SAME
INFORMATION.

32°
O









THEN, CAUGHT UP IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, TOM MAKES A PROMISE THAT HE IS NOT SURE HE CAN KEEP.

EXACTLY! I'LL SEND MY ROBOT UP IN THE BALLOON, AND THEN WE'LL KNOW EXACTLY HOW HIGH IT GOES!



AND LAZLO KNOWS IT.

HA! THE LAST DAY IN THE LIFE OF TOM'S ROBOT. I WOULDN'T MISS THAT FOR THE WORLD!





THE NEXT DAY...

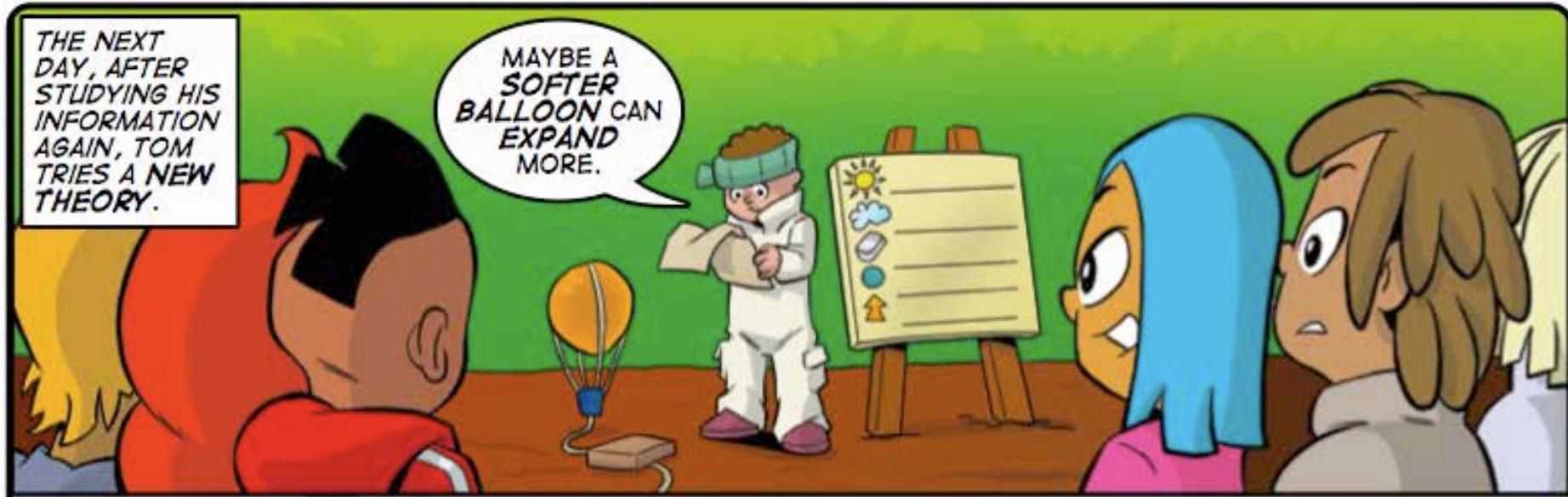
AFTER EXAMINING ALL THE INFORMATION HE RECORDED, TOM COMES TO A FEW CONCLUSIONS.

YESTERDAY I USED TOO MUCH GAS. THE AIR PRESSURE ON THE BALLOON WAS TOO GREAT, SO IT POPPED RIGHT ABOVE ME.

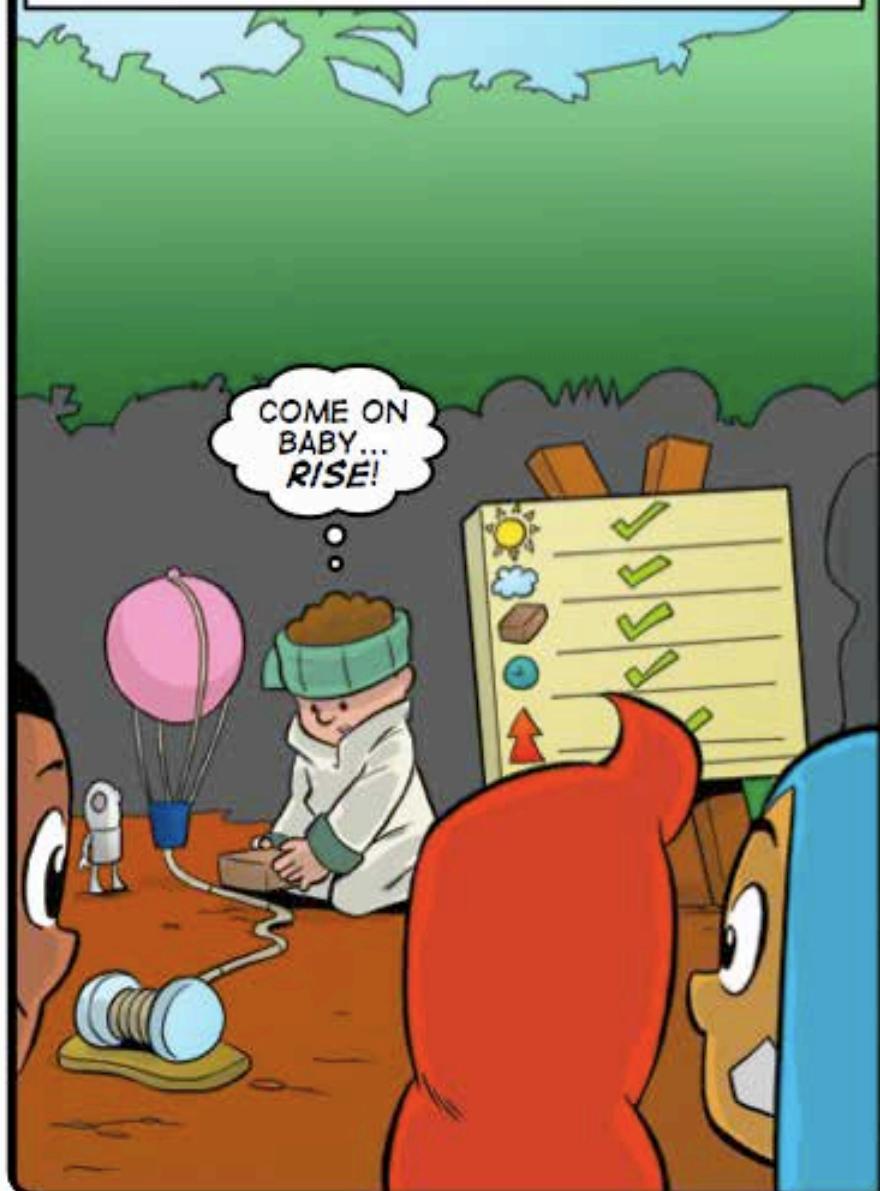


AND SO TRIES AGAIN. THIS TIME WITH LESS GAS. AND THE RESULTS ARE EXTRAORDINARY.





AFTER ANALYSING ALL THE INFORMATION HE HAS COLLECTED, TOM IS SURE THAT THE CONDITIONS TODAY ARE PERFECT TO SEND A BALLOON INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE! HE LIFTS THE BRICK...



AND SECONDS LATER, THE ROPE FLIES OFF THE SPINDLE.



LATER THAT NIGHT...

WHAT GOES UP,
MUST COME
DOWN...

SO WHAT
GOES UP AND
COMES DOWN
SAFELY?

SAFELY
AND
SLOWLY?

... ONE THOUGHT
MAKES HIM THINK...

EUREKA!

AND THEN TOM SPENDS THE REST OF
THE NIGHT TURNING THAT ONE EUREKA
THOUGHT INTO SOMETHING REAL!

... QUESTIONS TURN
TO THOUGHTS,
UNTIL EVENTUALLY...

THE NEXT DAY, AS
TOM PREPARES
HIS ROBOT TO
TRAVEL UP WITH
HIS BALLOON...

HIYA,
LAZ!

WHY ARE
YOU SO
CHEERFUL?!



GRRRR-
RUFF!



I'VE FITTED MY
ROBOT WITH AN
ALTIMETER. WHEN IT
COMES BACK DOWN
TO EARTH, WE'LL
KNOW EXACTLY HOW
HIGH IT WENT.

DOWN TO
EARTH? IN
PIECES, YOU
MEAN?

* !@#\$ *

SNARL-
ROW-GR-
RUFF!

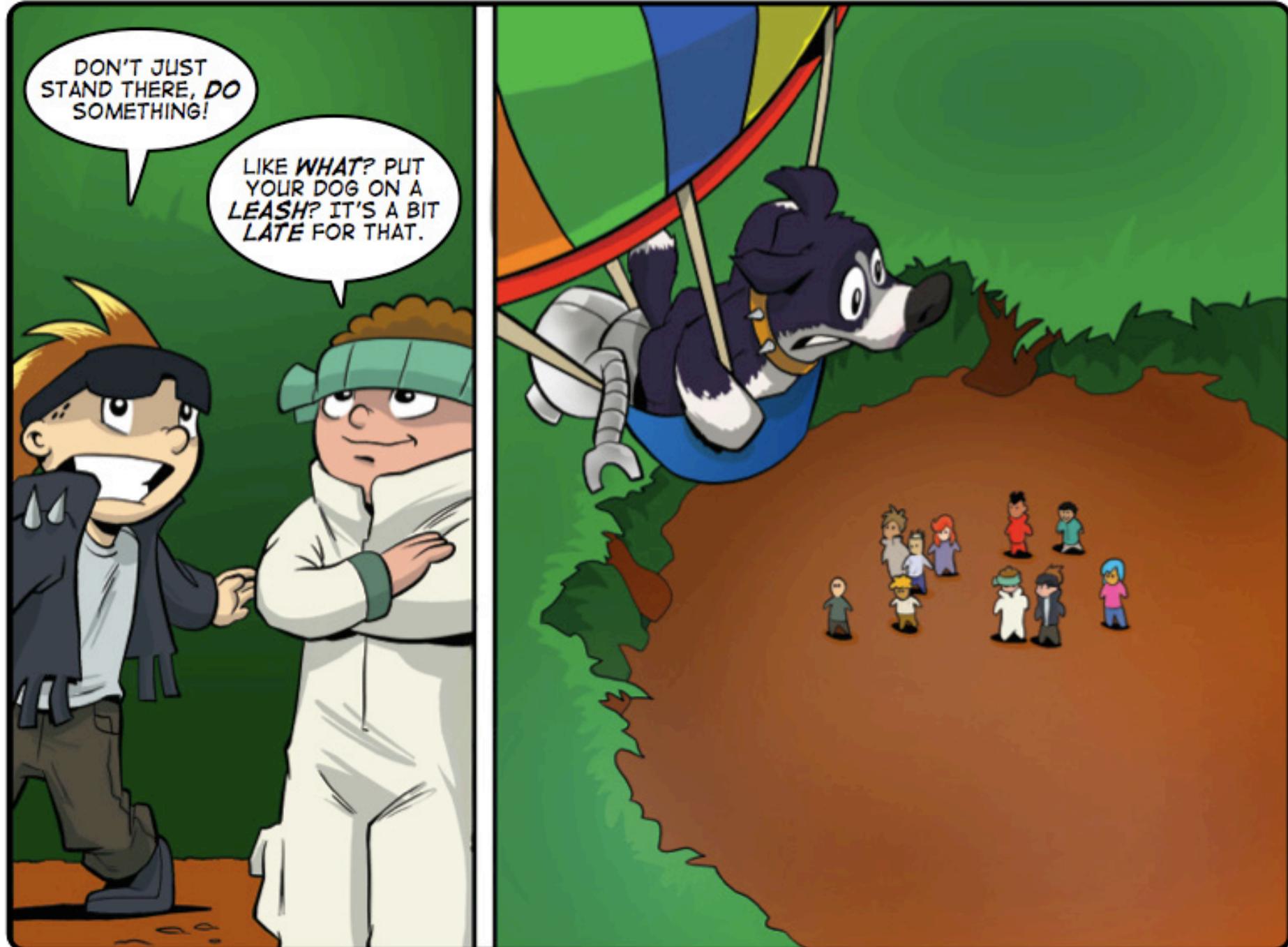
ALL IS GOING
WELL, UNTIL...

UNTIL
LAZLO'S
DOG
JUMPS
OUT OF
HIS GRASP
AND INTO
THE
BASKET!



WHOA!

REX! NO!



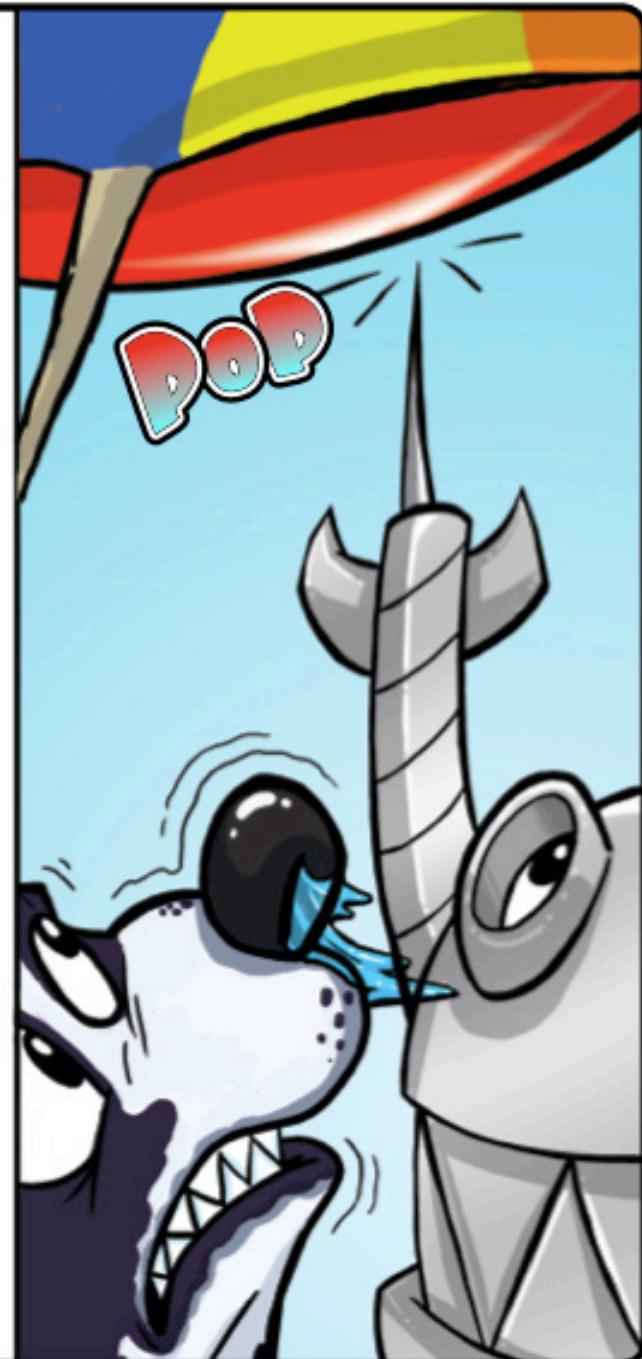


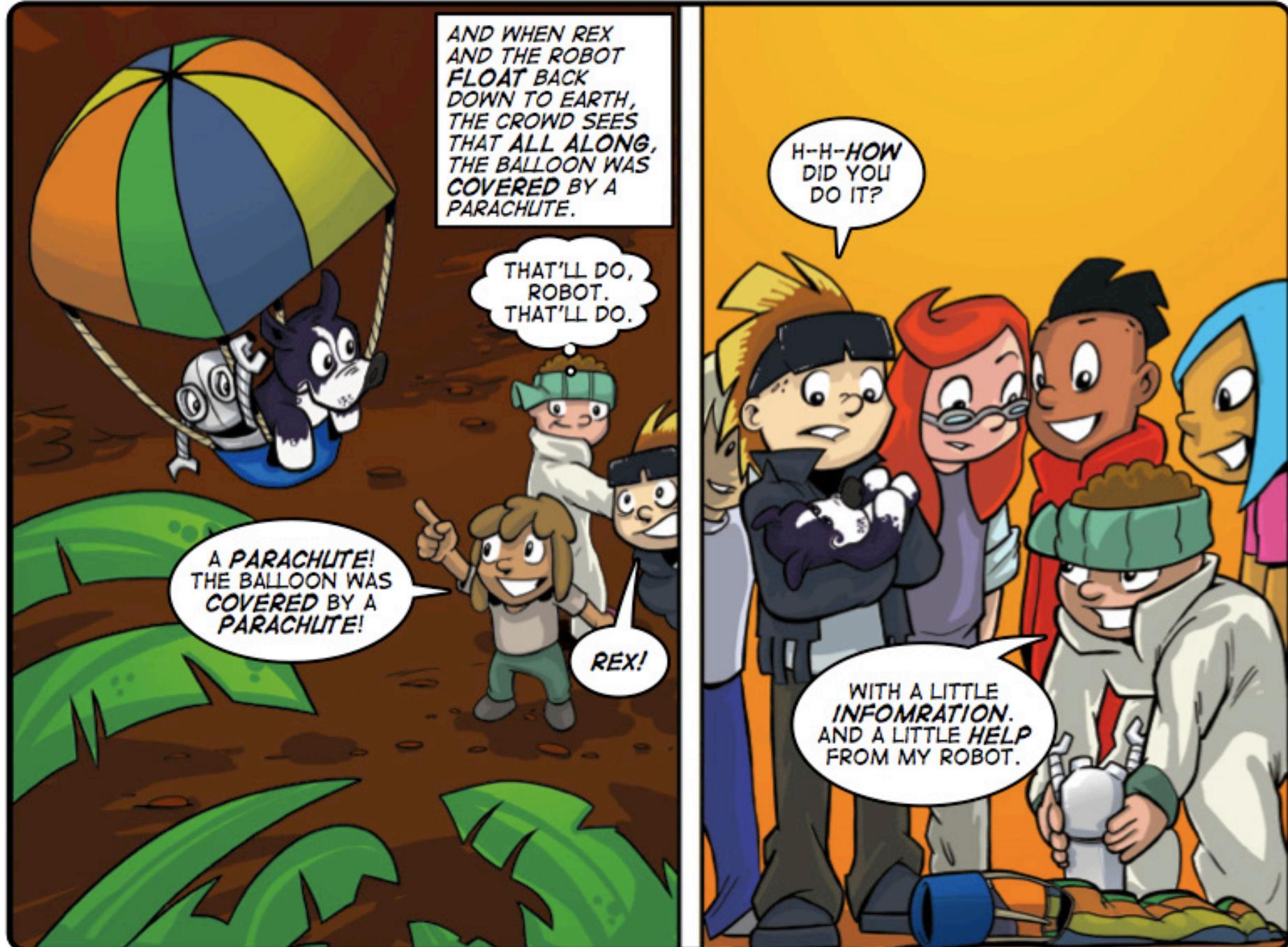


AND WHEN THUNDERBOLT
ISLAND IS JUST A BLOB OF
GREEN BELOW...



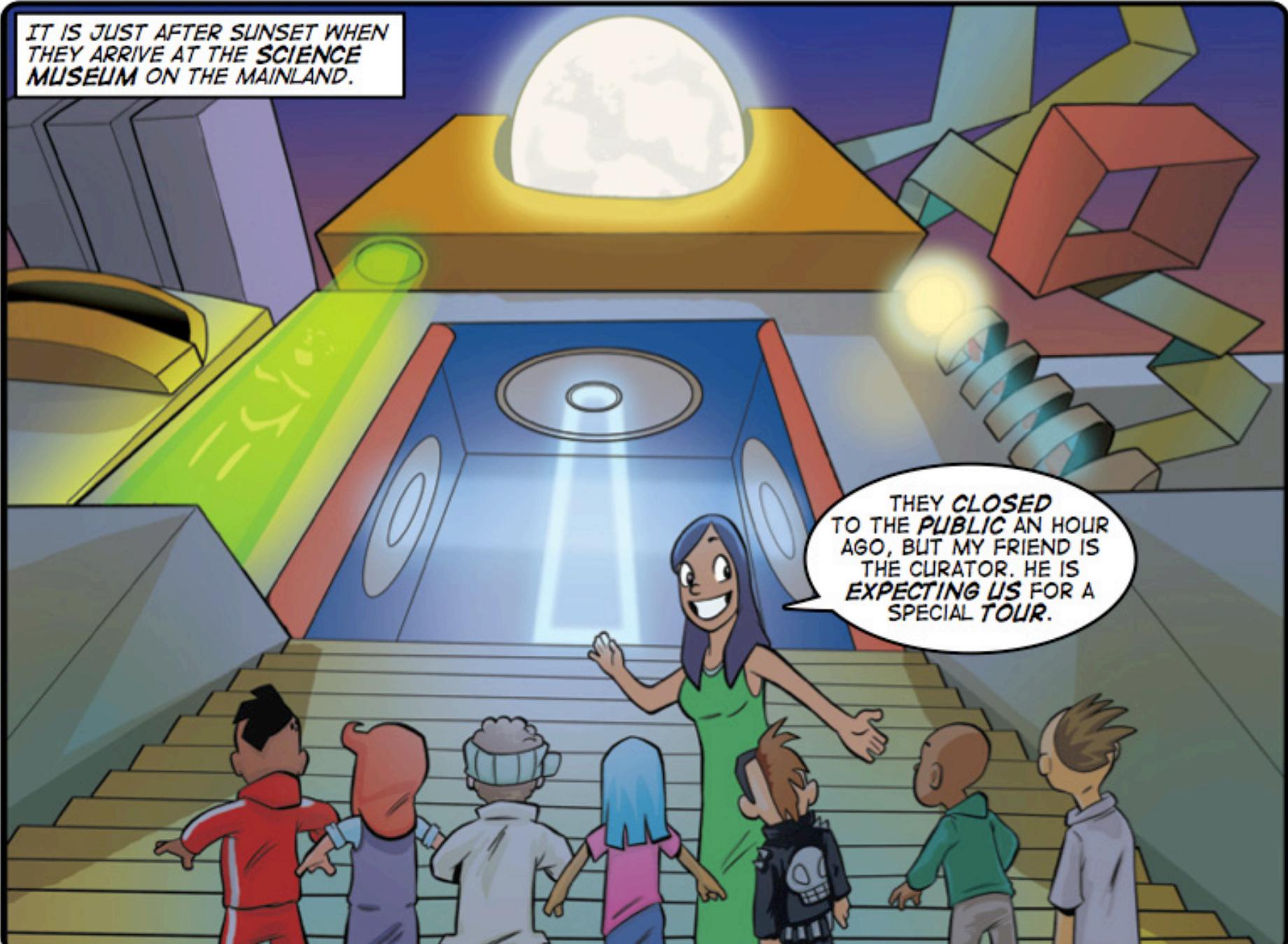
AND WHEN THE AIR BEGINS
TO FREEZE POOR REX, THE
ALTIMETER SENDS A
SIGNAL TO TOM'S ROBOT
TO POP THE BALLOON!



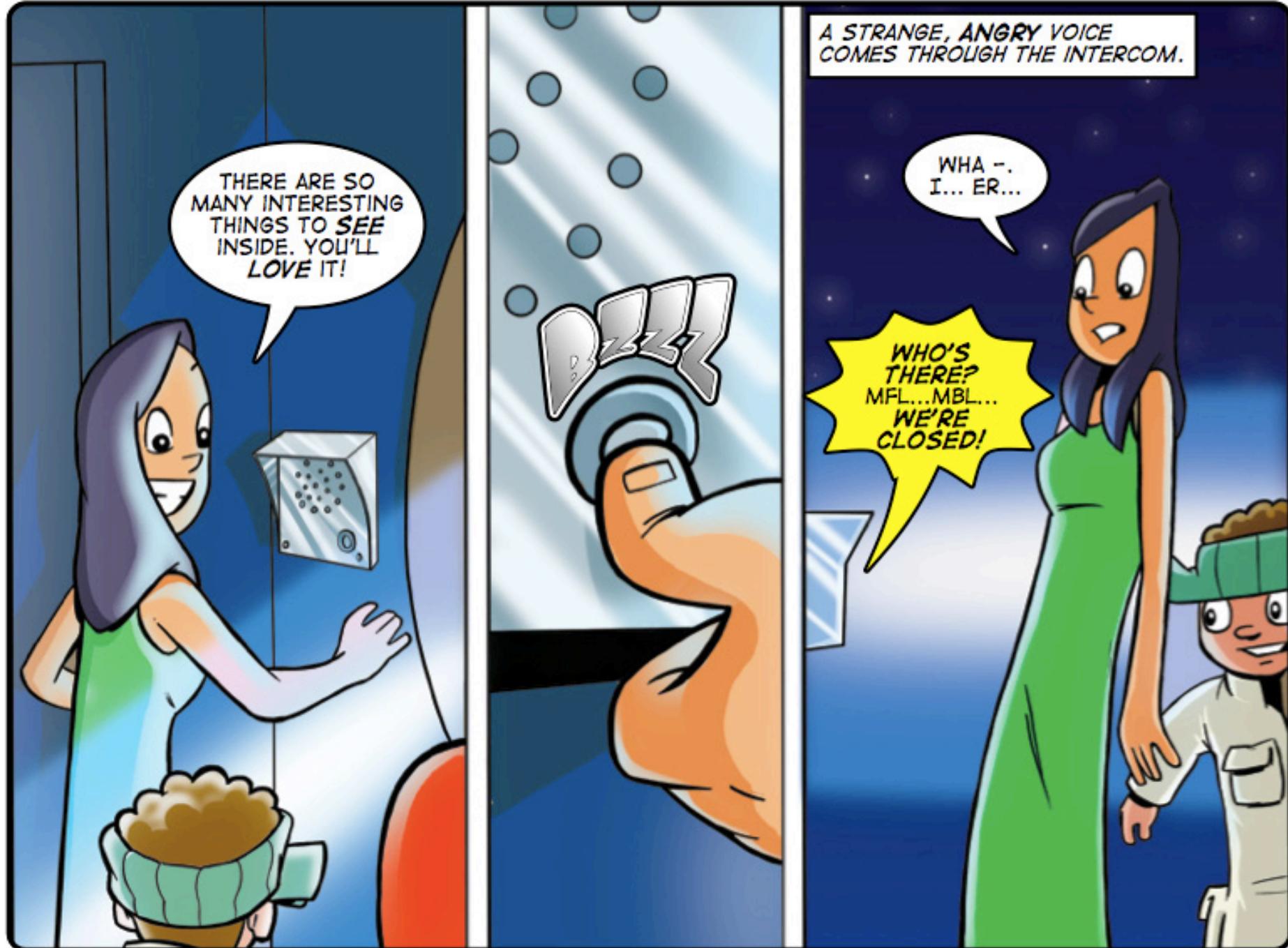


5. PHILOSOPHERS STONE

IT IS JUST AFTER SUNSET WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM ON THE MAINLAND.



THEY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AN HOUR AGO, BUT MY FRIEND IS THE CURATOR. HE IS EXPECTING US FOR A SPECIAL TOUR.



BUT, A SECOND LATER, THE STRANGE VOICE IS REPLACED BY THE FAMILIAR SOUND OF TIA'S FRIEND, THE CURATOR.



TIA? UH... FORGIVE ME. NEW STAFF. DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING. MY NEW... UH... ASSISTANTS WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.



TIA! DR KAY HAS TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU. I AM ELVIRA AND THIS IS KLAUS. WE'RE DR KAY'S NEW ASSISTANTS.

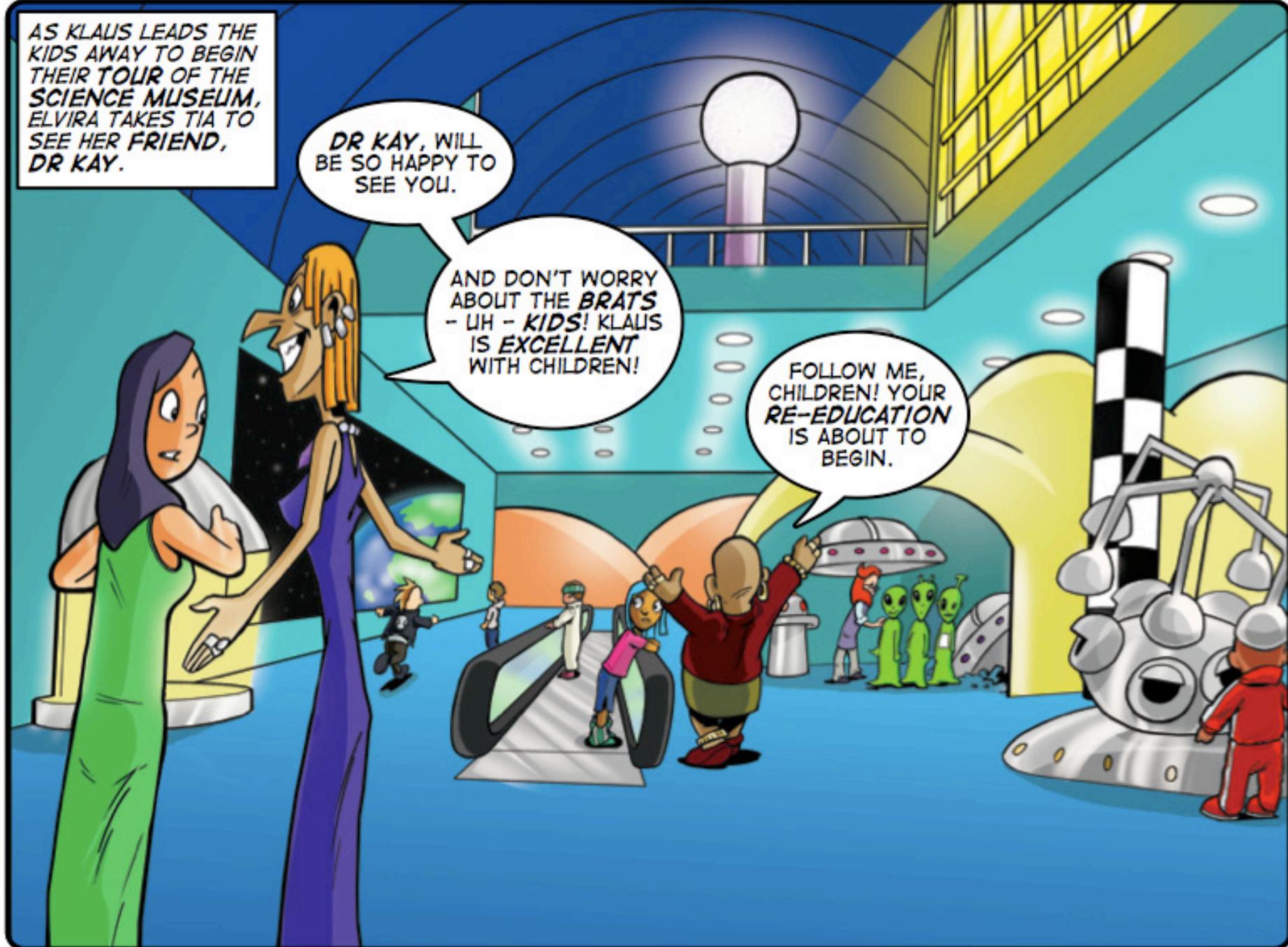
AS PROMISED, THE CURATOR'S ASSISTANTS ARRIVE IN A MINUTE. BUT THEY DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE SCIENTISTS...

AS KLAUS LEADS THE KIDS AWAY TO BEGIN THEIR TOUR OF THE SCIENCE MUSEUM, ELVIRA TAKES TIA TO SEE HER FRIEND, DR KAY.

DR KAY, WILL BE SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU.

AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE *BRATS* - UH - *KIDS!* KLAUS IS EXCELLENT WITH CHILDREN!

FOLLOW ME, CHILDREN! YOUR *RE-EDUCATION* IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.



SECONDS LATER,
TIA IS GONE, AND
THE THUNDERBOLT
KIDS ARE LEFT IN
KLAUS'S HANDS.

ALL RIGHT,
KIDS, LET'S
LEARN ABOUT
SOME OF THE
**GREAT
FALLACIES**
OF SCIENCE.

BUT, BEING SCEPTICAL CHILDREN, THEY
ARE IMMEDIATELY SUSPICIOUS.

FALLACIES?
MISTAKEN
BELIEFS? THIS GUY
DOESN'T SOUND
LIKE A SCIENTIST
AT ALL.

SOMETHING'S
NOT RIGHT. WE
BETTER KEEP AN
EYE ON HIM.



MEANWHILE, ELVIRA LEADS TIA TO DR KAY'S OFFICE...

HE'S RIGHT IN HERE.

... AND INTO A TRAP!

DO AS WE SAY
AND NO ONE
GETS HURT.

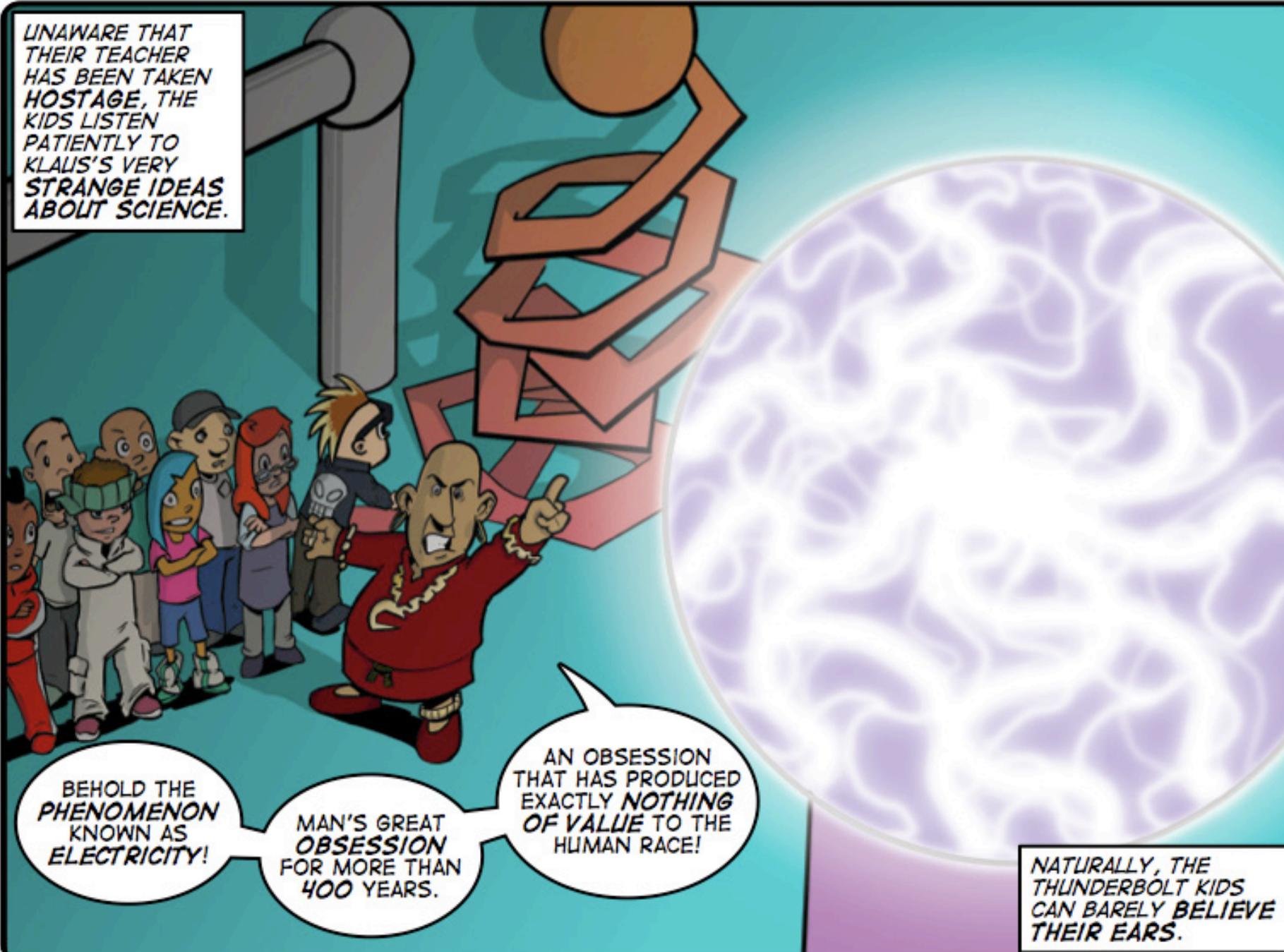
ELVIRA, HAS
KLAUS GOT THE
BRATS UNDER
CONTROL?

OF COURSE,
GUSTAV! THEY
WILL BE NO
TROUBLE AT
ALL!

ALEX! ARE
YOU
ALRIGHT?



UNAWARE THAT THEIR TEACHER HAS BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE, THE KIDS LISTEN PATIENTLY TO KLAUS'S VERY STRANGE IDEAS ABOUT SCIENCE.



NOR CAN THEY HOLD
THEIR TONGUES.

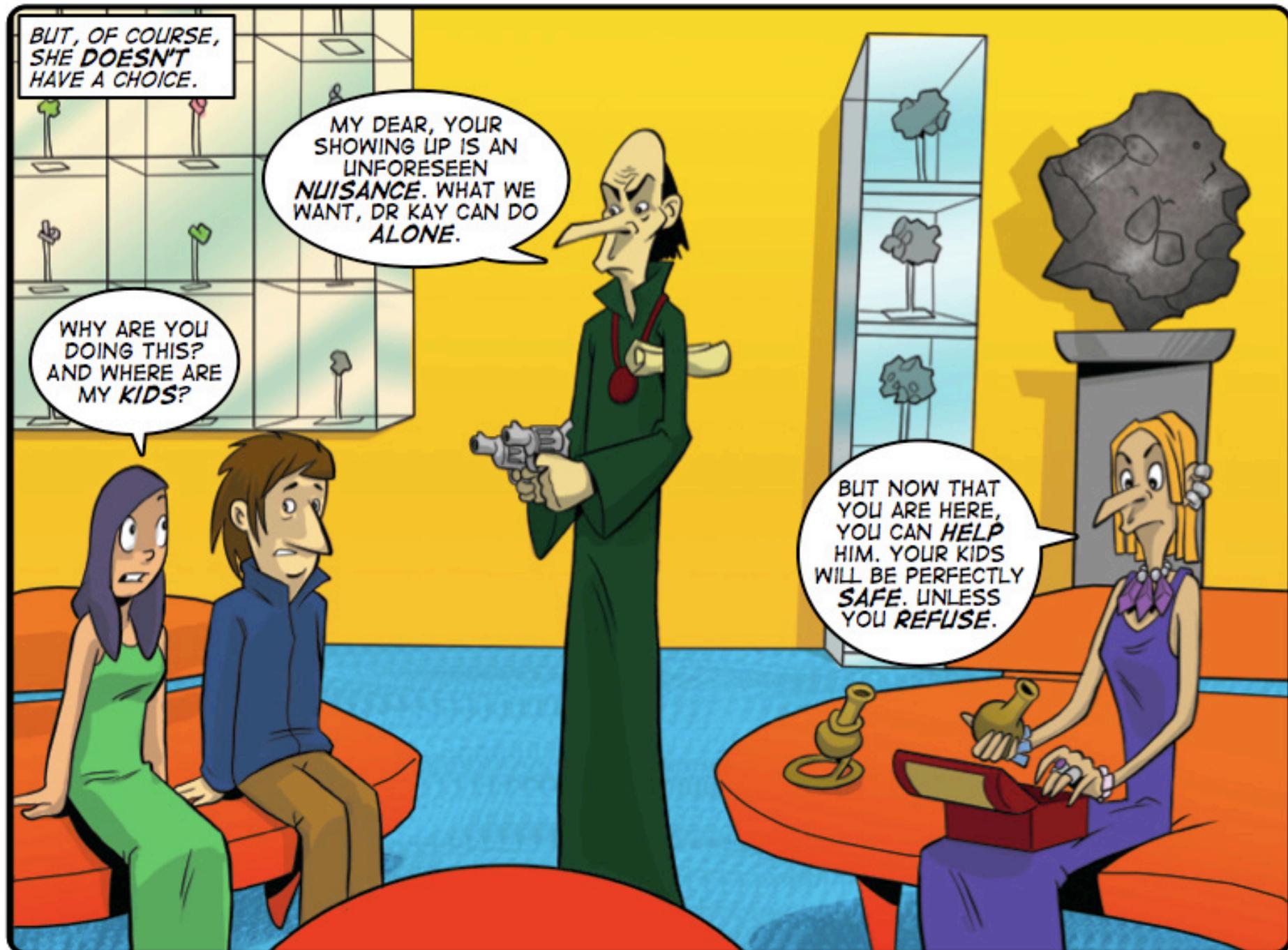
SO WHAT ABOUT
ELECTRIC LIGHT? OR
REFRIGERATION?

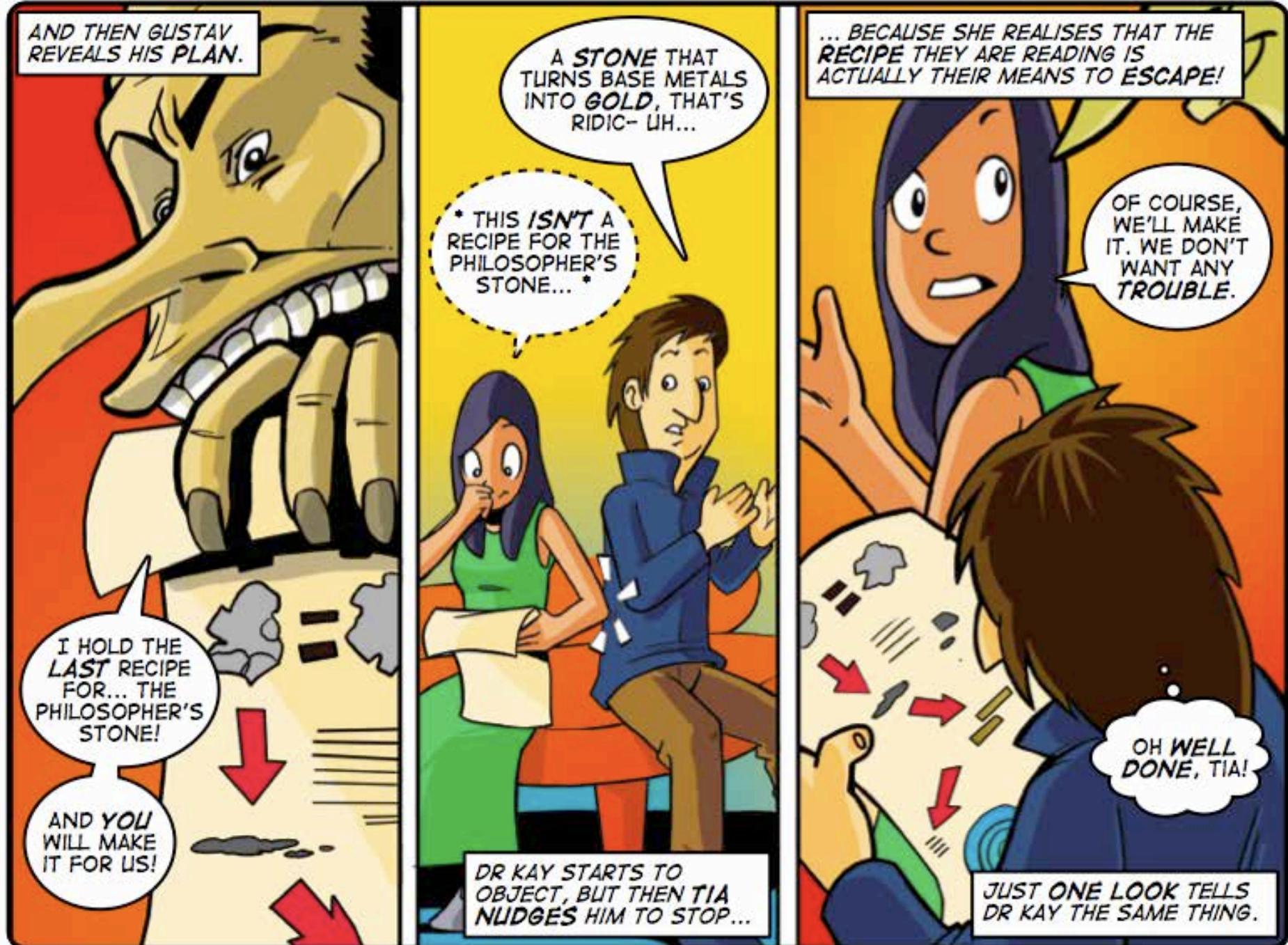
YEAH, OR HEATING?
OR ANYTHING AT ALL
THAT'S ELECTRONIC?

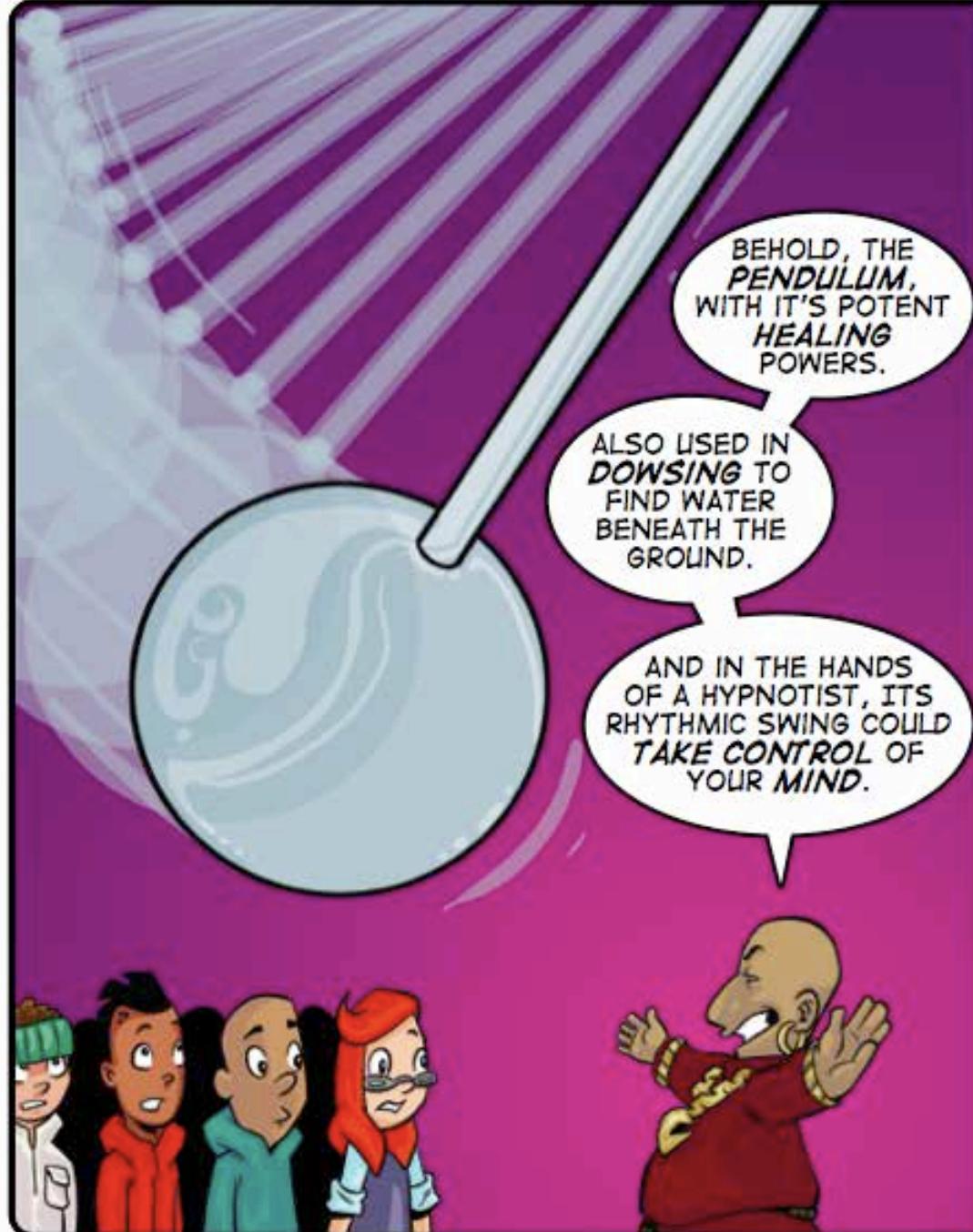
OR ANY OF THE MILLION
INVENTIONS THAT DEPEND
ON ELECTRICITY TO MAKE OUR
**LIVES BETTER, SAFER AND
LONGER!**

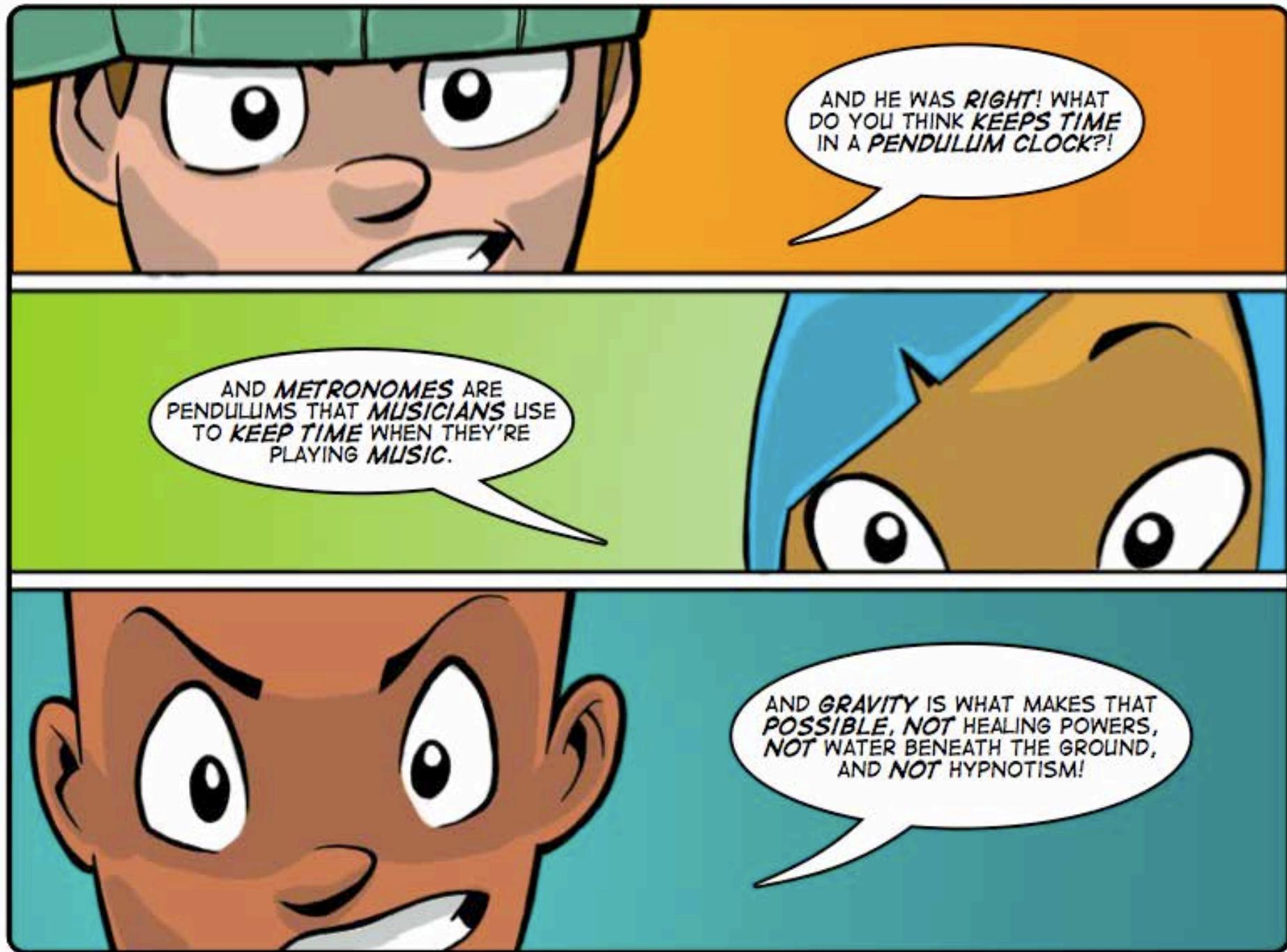


















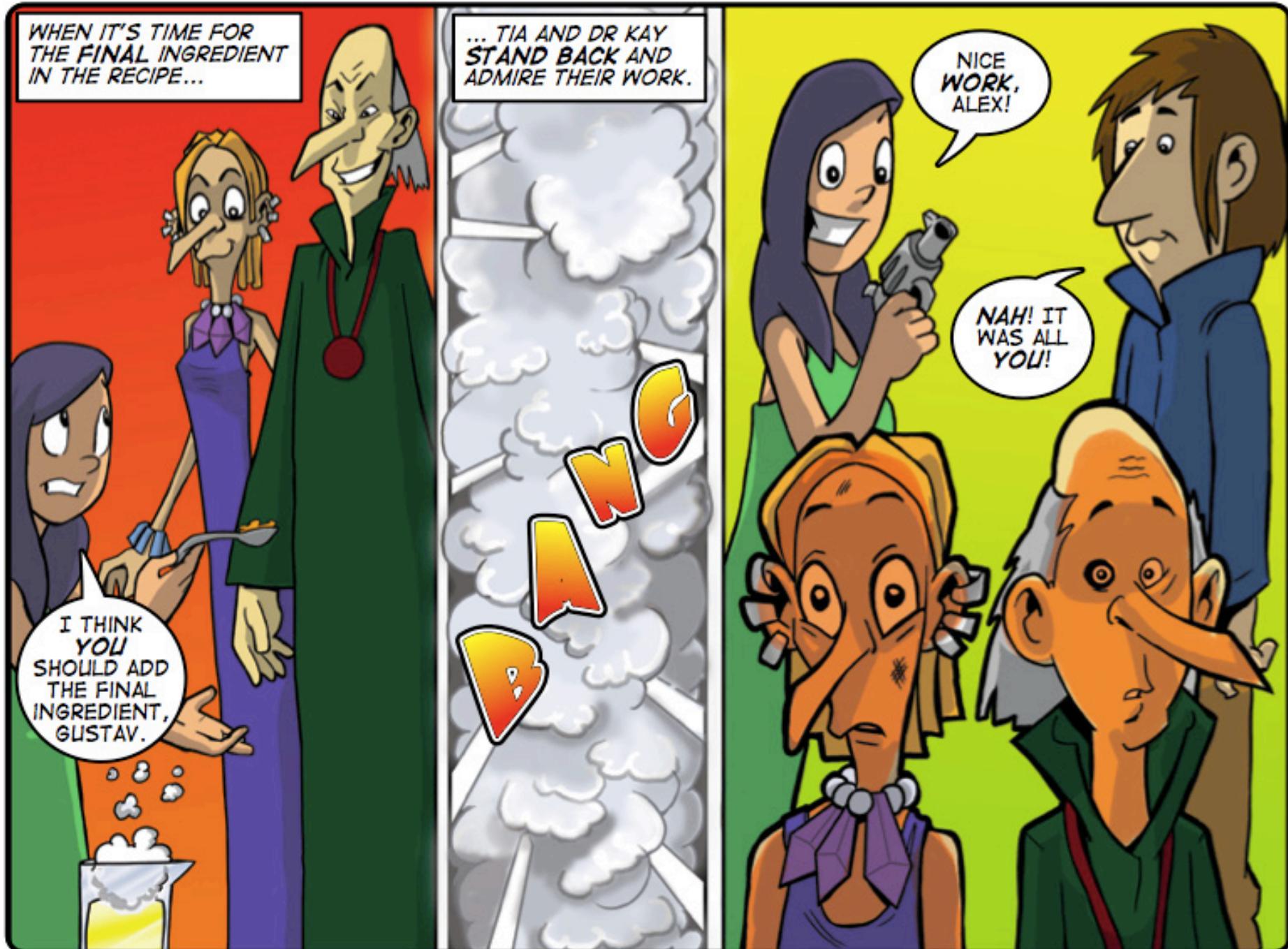
WITH THE SNEAKY FLICK OF A SWITCH, JOJO TURNS ON THE GIANT ELECTROMAGNET. AND IF TOM'S WORK IS SUCCESSFUL, IT SHOULD BE WAY MORE POWERFUL THAN NORMAL.

THEN HE TURNS THE POWER TO MAX!

IMMEDIATELY, THE MAGNET STARTS TO PULL... ON KLAUS'S JEWELLERY!







WHEN THE DUST SETTLES (AND WHEN THE ELECTROMAGNET IS SWITCHED OFF) THE POLICE LEAD THE LUCKLESS CRIMINAL TRIO AWAY.

A FIRECRACKER RECIPE? CAN YOU BELIEVE THEY FELL FOR THAT?

FOLKS WHO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT SCIENCE WILL FALL FOR ANYTHING.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO REPAIR MY ELECTROMAGNET.

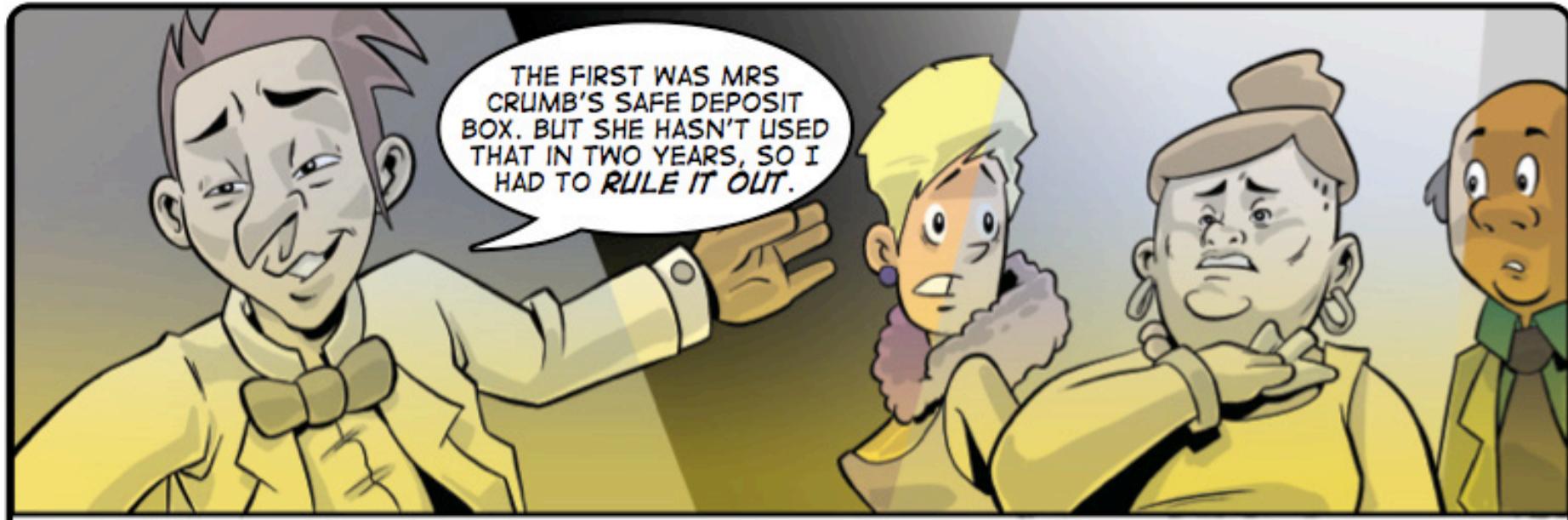
UH... YEAH.
SORRY ABOUT THAT!

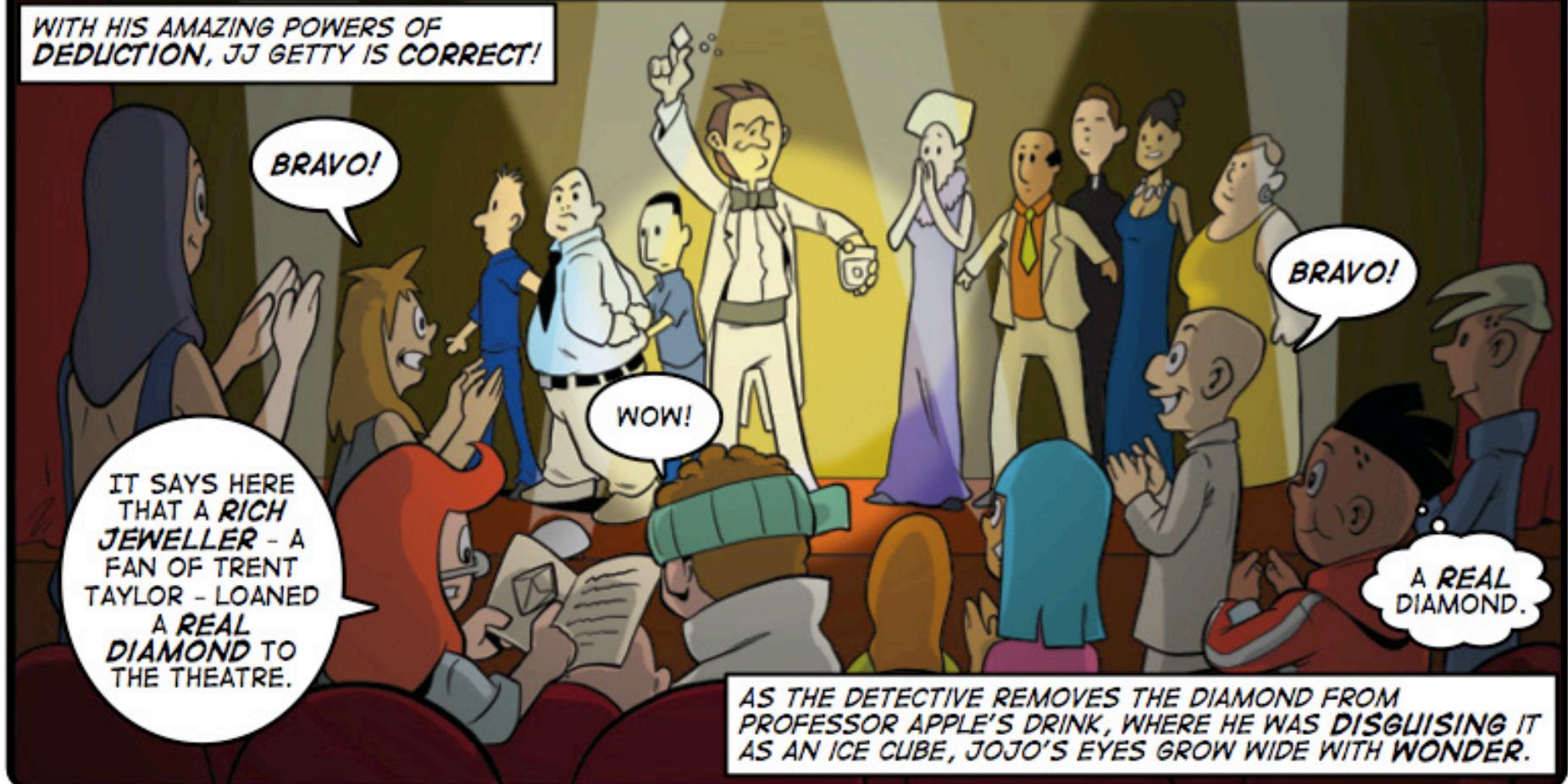
6. DIAMOND DECEPTION

THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE, JJ GETTY, PLAYED BY THE FAMOUS ACTOR, TRENT TAYLOR, IS ABOUT TO EXPOSE THE DIAMOND THIEF!

AND SO I DEDUCED THAT THERE ARE ONLY THREE PLACES THAT THE DIAMOND COULD BE.







AFTER THE SHOW, JOJO EAVESDROPS WHILE HE THINKS OF A PLAN TO SEE THE DIAMOND.





JOJO HEADS TOWARDS THE ACTORS' DRESSING ROOMS TO MEET TRENT TAYLOR.

BUT THEN HE HEARS THE ACTOR SAY SOMETHING THAT MAKES HIM DROP THE CANDY HE'S HOLDING.

AND THEN HE SEES SOMETHING THAT PARALYSES HIM WITH SHOCK.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT THE FOOL FELL FOR THE SAME TRICK HE HAS WATCHED ON STAGE EVERY NIGHT?!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS DONE. THE DIAMOND IS OURS!

AS HE TURNED TO OPEN THE SAFE, I DROPPED THE REAL DIAMOND IN MY DRINK AND GAVE HIM THE FAKE.



*JUST AS JOJO BEGINS TO
REALISE THAT TRENT TAYLOR IS
NOTHING MORE THAN A THIEF...*



*... A PAIR OF HEAVY HANDS
GRABS HIM FROM BEHIND.*

*YOU
SHOULDN'T
LISTEN AT
DOORS,
BOY!*

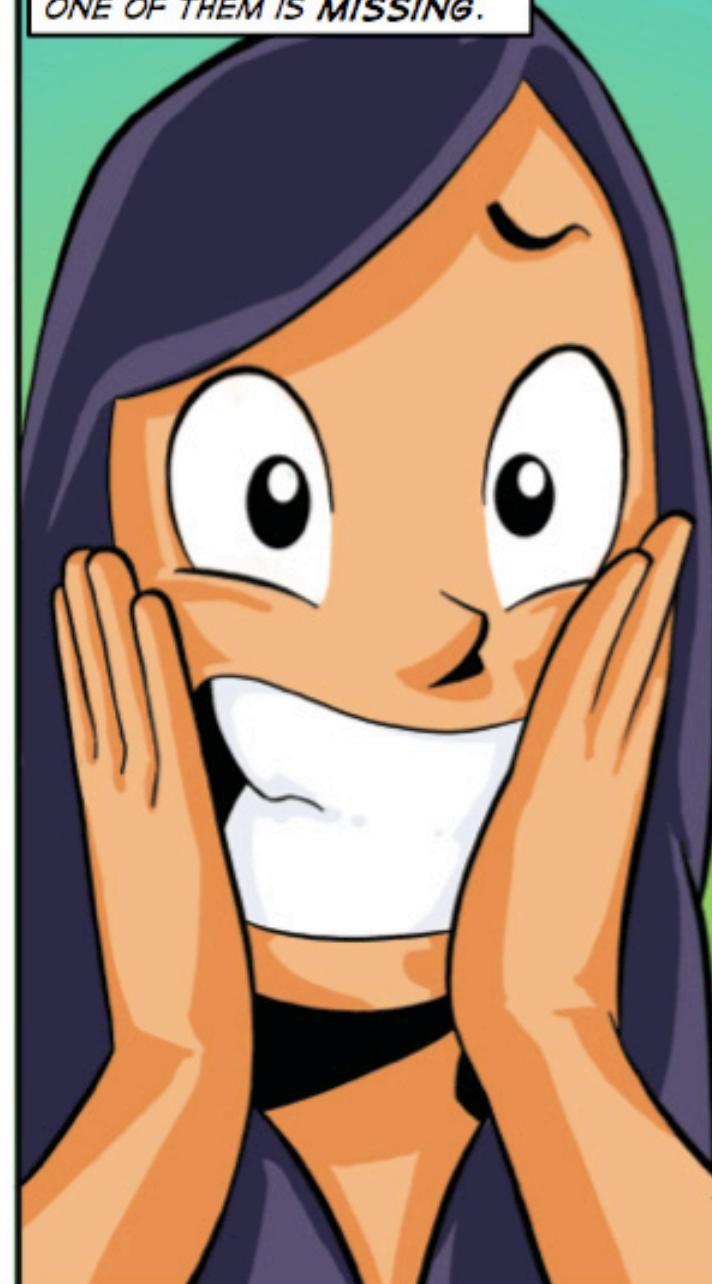
?!



IN THE FOYER OF THE THEATRE, TIA GETS THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS READY TO LEAVE.



BUT THEN SHE REALISES THAT ONE OF THEM IS MISSING.



WHEN TIA ASKS FOR HELP, THE THEATRE SECURITY GUARD REASSURES HER.



AND THEN AN OLD LADY SAYS SOMETHING THAT GIVES HER HOPE.

I SAW A YOUNG BOY RUN OVER TO THE ARCADE ABOUT 20 MINUTES AGO.

SEE?
TOLD YA!



A SECOND LATER, TIA IS OUT THE DOOR WITH THE SECURITY GUARD.

DON'T MOVE! I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE.

BUT...

AND THE MOMENT SHE'S GONE, SOPHIE, FARRAH AND TOM BEGIN TO WORK OUT WHAT HAS REALLY HAPPENED TO THEIR FRIEND.

BUT THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. JUST BECAUSE "KIDS ALWAYS SNEAK OUT," THAT DOESN'T MEAN JOJO DID.

YEAH! AND DID YOU SEE THAT OLD LADY'S GLASSES? SHE COULDN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JOJO AND AN ELEPHANT!

I'M WITH YOU. NOTHING LOGICAL IN THAT!

WITH THE SIMPLE USE OF LOGIC, THEY ARE
ALREADY ONE STEP CLOSER TO FINDING JOJO.

JO CAN BE A LITTLE
NUTS SOMETIMES, BUT
HE WOULDN'T LEAVE
THE BUILDING.

AND BESIDES, HE'D BE
MORE INTERESTED IN
SEEING THE DIAMOND THAN
IN PLAYING VIDEO GAMES.

SO HE WOULDN'T
LEAVE? AND HE'D
RATHER SEE THE
DIAMOND THAN PLAY
VIDEO GAMES?

IF YOU'RE **BOTH**
RIGHT, THEN HE
MUST STILL BE IN
THE BUILDING!



KNOWING THAT JOJO
WANTED TO SEE THE
DIAMOND, THE KIDS
MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE
MANAGER'S OFFICE.



JUST AS THEY
REACH THE DOOR,
THEY HEAR...



INSIDE THE OFFICE,
THE OWNER OF THE
DIAMOND GROWLS
ANGRILY TO THE
THEATRE MANAGER.



MEANWHILE, IN A
ROOM FULL OF OLD
THEATRE PROPS...



AFTER LOCKING JOJO IN THE SARCOPHAGUS,
TRENT TAYLOR TURNS TO HIS ACCOMPLICES:
THE ENTIRE CAST OF THE PLAY!



MEANWHILE, IN THE VIDEO
ARCADE ACROSS THE STREET.



MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE
THEATRE MANAGER'S OFFICE.



BUT HOW COULD
HE HAVE **SWITCHED**
THE **DIAMONDS**?
HE WAS STANDING
RIGHT **IN FRONT**
OF ME?!



BUT FARRAH
KNOWS THAT
WHAT THE
DIAMOND
OWNER SAYS
IS **NOT**
LOGICAL.

EXCEPT
WHILE YOU
WERE
OPENING
THE SAFE...



THEN HE
WOULD HAVE HAD
A FEW **SECONDS**
TO SWITCH THE
DIAMOND WHILE
YOUR BACK WAS
TURNED.



BUT THE JEWELLER
DOESN'T TAKE KINDLY
TO FARRAH'S THEORY.

YOU THINK
I'M STUPID?

MAYBE THE
REASON YOUR
FRIEND IS
MISSING IS
BECAUSE HE
STOLE MY
DIAMOND!

AND SOPHIE DOESN'T TAKE KINDLY TO THE
LACK OF LOGIC IN THE JEWELLER'S THEORY.

JUST BECAUSE
BOTH ARE MISSING
UNDER THE SAME ROOF,
DOES **NOT** MEAN THEY'RE
CONNECTED!

THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS FIND THEIR WAY TO THE ACTORS' DRESSING ROOMS.

IF FARRAH IS
RIGHT ABOUT
TRENT TAYLOR,
THEN THAT'S
WHO WE NEED
TO SEE.

AND IT DOESN'T
TAKE MUCH TO
CONVINCE THE
JEWELER TO
COME WITH THEM.

WHAT'S IN
HERE?

CHECK THIS
OUT. JOJO WAS
EATING THESE
SWEETS ALL
THROUGH THE
PLAY.

WHEN THEY OPEN THE DOOR THEY FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF CANDY TO THE SARCOPHAGUS.



WHEN FARAH OPENS THE SARCOPHAGUS, JOJO CAN'T WAIT TO SPEAK.

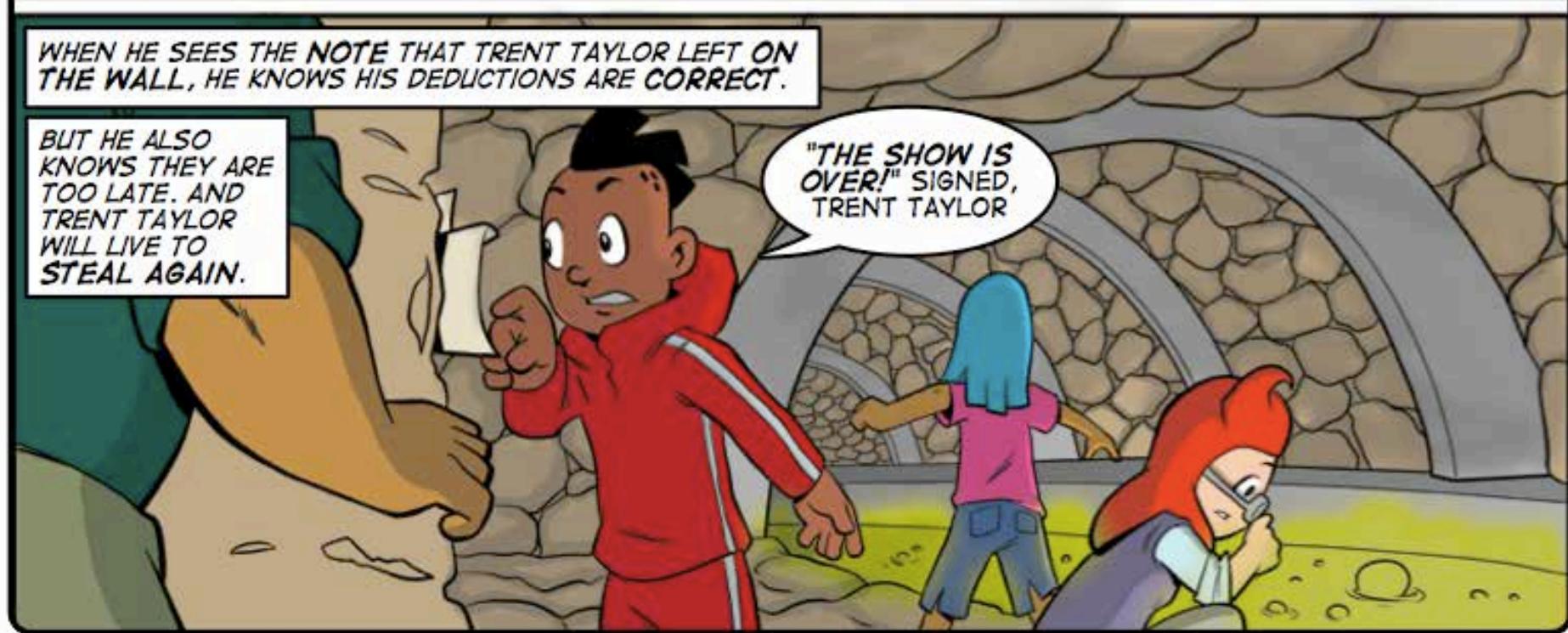


JOJO USED ALL THE THINGS HE HEARD TRENT TAYLOR SAY TO DEDUCE WHERE HE HAD GONE.



WHEN HE SEES THE NOTE THAT TRENT TAYLOR LEFT ON THE WALL, HE KNOWS HIS DEDUCTIONS ARE CORRECT.

BUT HE ALSO KNOWS THEY ARE TOO LATE. AND TRENT TAYLOR WILL LIVE TO STEAL AGAIN.



BACK ON STAGE, A FEW MINUTES LATER.

YES,
INSPECTOR,
YOU HEARD
CORRECTLY:
TRENT TAYLOR
STOLE THE
DIAMOND.

OH, BOY,
ARE YOU A
SIGHT FOR
SORE EYES!

I THINK I PREFER BEING "ON" THE STAGE TO BEING UNDER IT.

THAT IS NOT THE BOY AT ALL. DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!

7. THE VOLCANO

THE ONE THING THAT IS EASY TO PREDICT ABOUT THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS,
IS THAT THEY WILL ALWAYS DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY FROM EACH OTHER.





BUT NOT EVEN THEIR JOKES CAN PREDICT WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS.



A LITTLE WHILE LATER, ON TOP OF THE HILL, THE SOURCE OF THE SMOKE IS OBVIOUS. AND RIGHT AWAY, THE KIDS FORGET ABOUT THEIR AEROPLANES.

IT'S COMING FROM THE VOLCANO! BUT TIA SAID IT WAS DORMANT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?

IT MEANS NOTHING UNTIL WE KNOW MORE.

WELL WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!





BACK AT SCHOOL, THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS FIND LAZLO PREACHING TO A CROWD. RIGHT AWAY, THEY SMELL TROUBLE!







AFTER A LITTLE RESEARCH, THE STRANGE HAPPENINGS AT THE VOLCANO START TO MAKE SENSE.

THAT EGGY SMELL COULD BE CAUSED BY **SULPHUR** FROM THE VOLCANO.

THE HOT WATER IN THE POOLS COULD BE CAUSED BY **HEAT** FROM UNDER THE VOLCANO.

AND IF **HEAT** IS RISING OUT OF THE CONE THAT COULD BE WHAT MADE OUR PAPER PLANES FLY SO HIGH.

IF ALL THIS IS TRUE, THEN THE VOLCANO COULD BE ABOUT TO ERUPT.

BUT WE HAVE TO BE **MORE CERTAIN!**



AN HOUR
LATER, NEAR
THE VOLCANO.

I DON'T WANNA
SEEM LIKE A CHICKEN,
BUT MAYBE WE
SHOULDN'T GET SO
CLOSE THIS TIME.

IF WE'RE GONNA
PREDICT AN
ERUPTION, THEN THE
RESPONSIBLE THING
TO DO IS LOOK FOR
REASONS WE MIGHT
BE *WRONG*.

OK, OK, WE'RE
RIGHT *BEHIND*
YOU!

* I WISH WE WERE
A FEW HUNDRED
MÈTRES BEHIND
YOU... *

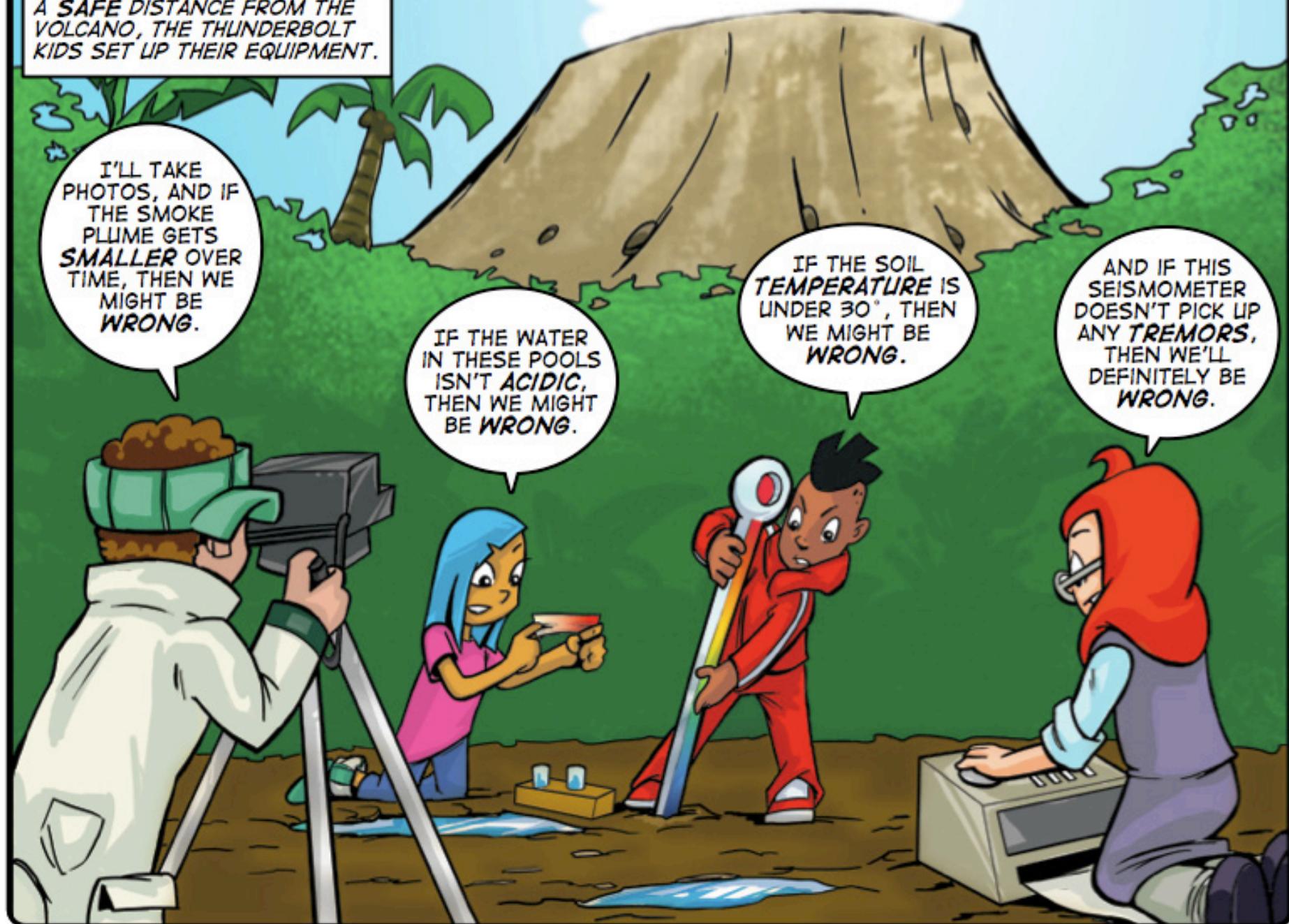
A **SAFE DISTANCE** FROM THE VOLCANO, THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

I'LL TAKE PHOTOS, AND IF THE SMOKE PLUME GETS **SMALLER** OVER TIME, THEN WE MIGHT BE **WRONG**.

IF THE WATER IN THESE POOLS ISN'T **ACIDIC**, THEN WE MIGHT BE **WRONG**.

IF THE SOIL **TEMPERATURE** IS UNDER **30°**, THEN WE MIGHT BE **WRONG**.

AND IF THIS SEISMOMETER DOESN'T PICK UP ANY **TREMORS**, THEN WE'LL DEFINITELY BE **WRONG**.



THE FACTS DON'T LOOK GOOD.
BUT THERE IS A LITTLE HOPE.

OH NO! THE
PLUME GOT
BIGGER. THERE'S
NO QUESTION
ABOUT THAT!

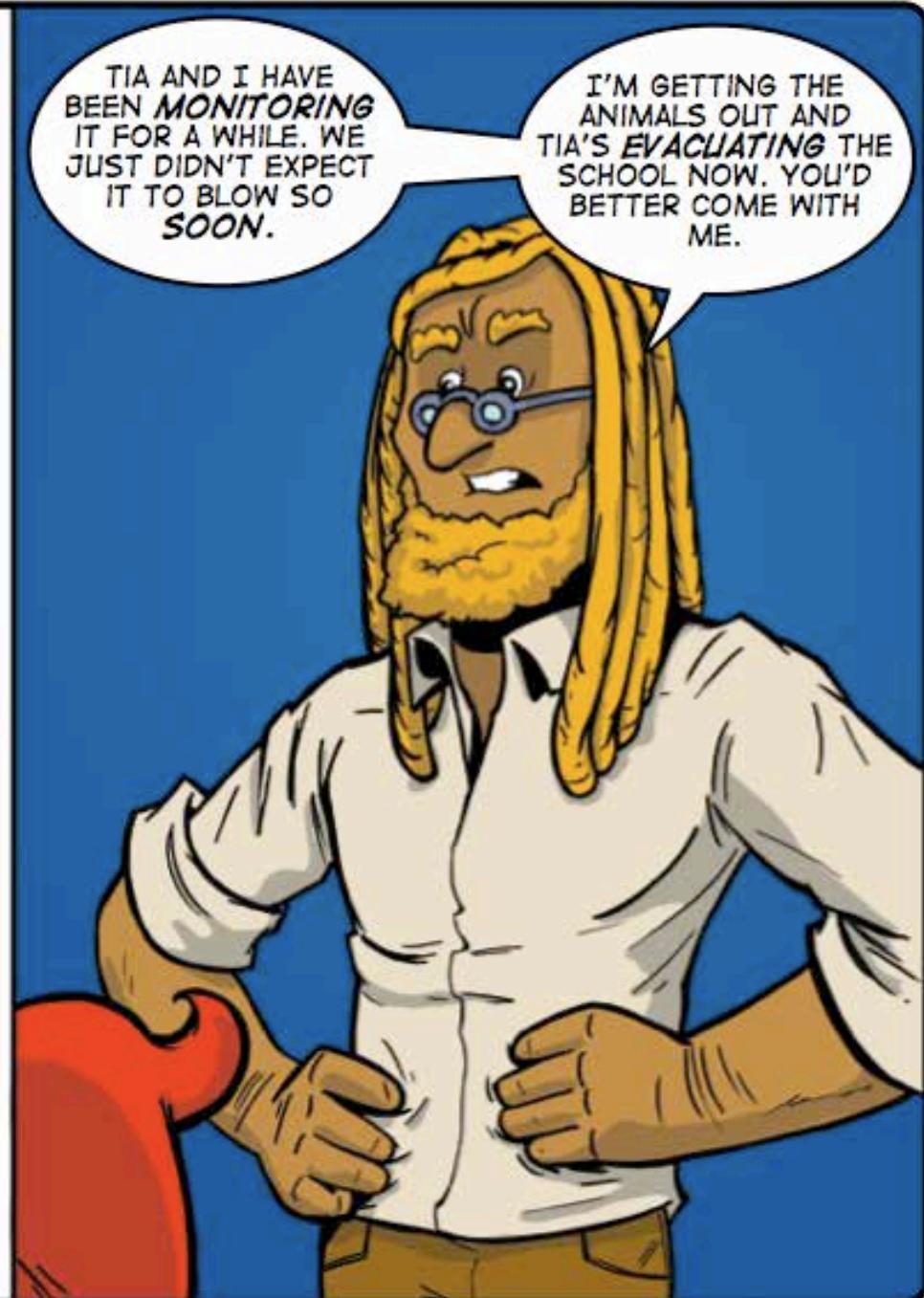
THE WATER IS
PRACTICALLY
ACID!

THE SOIL IS
SO **HOT** YOU
COULD COOK
AN EGG IN IT!

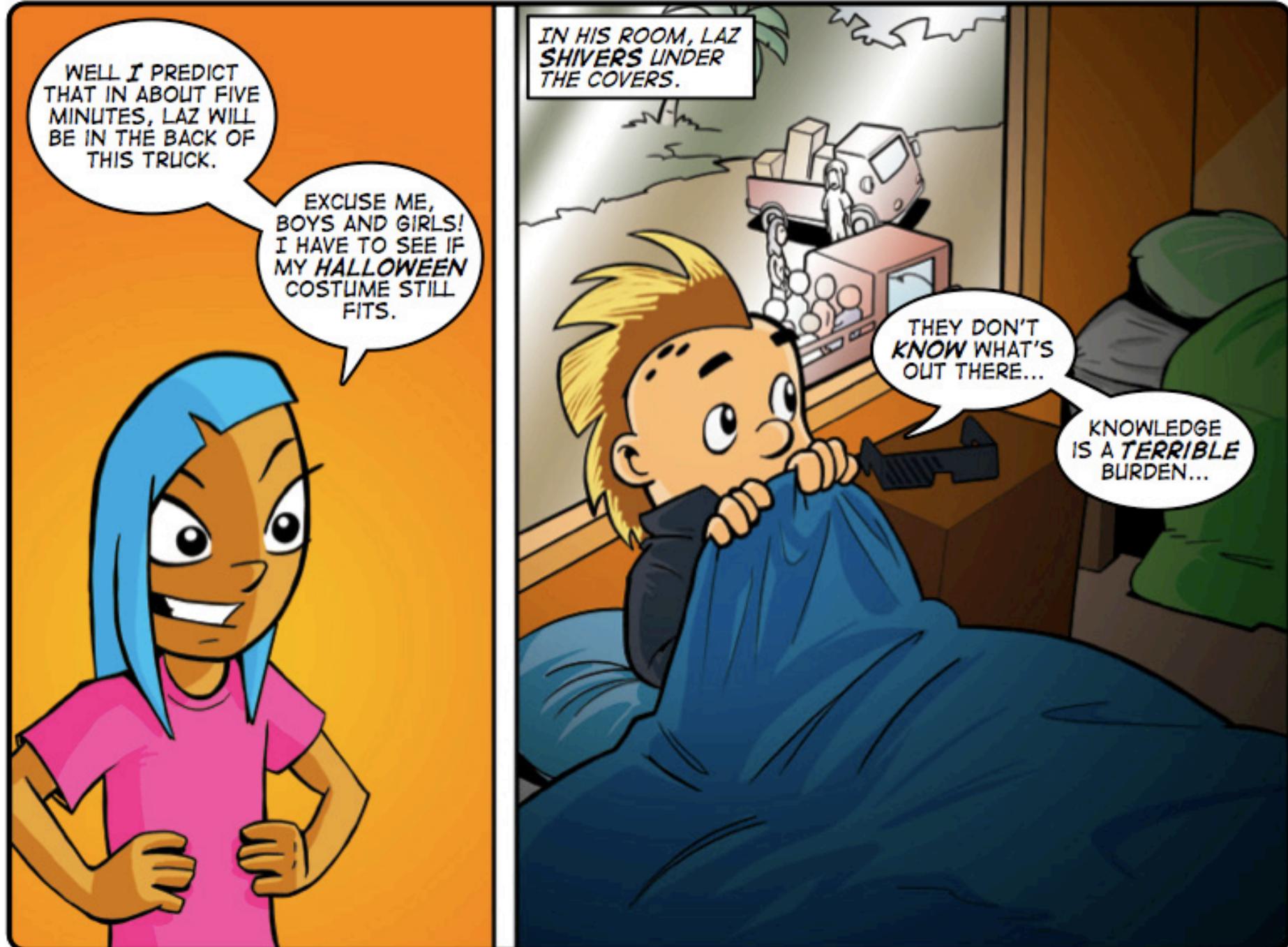
BUT THE MOST
IMPORTANT SIGN
IS MISSING! NO
SEISMIC ACTIVITY.
NO SHAKES!



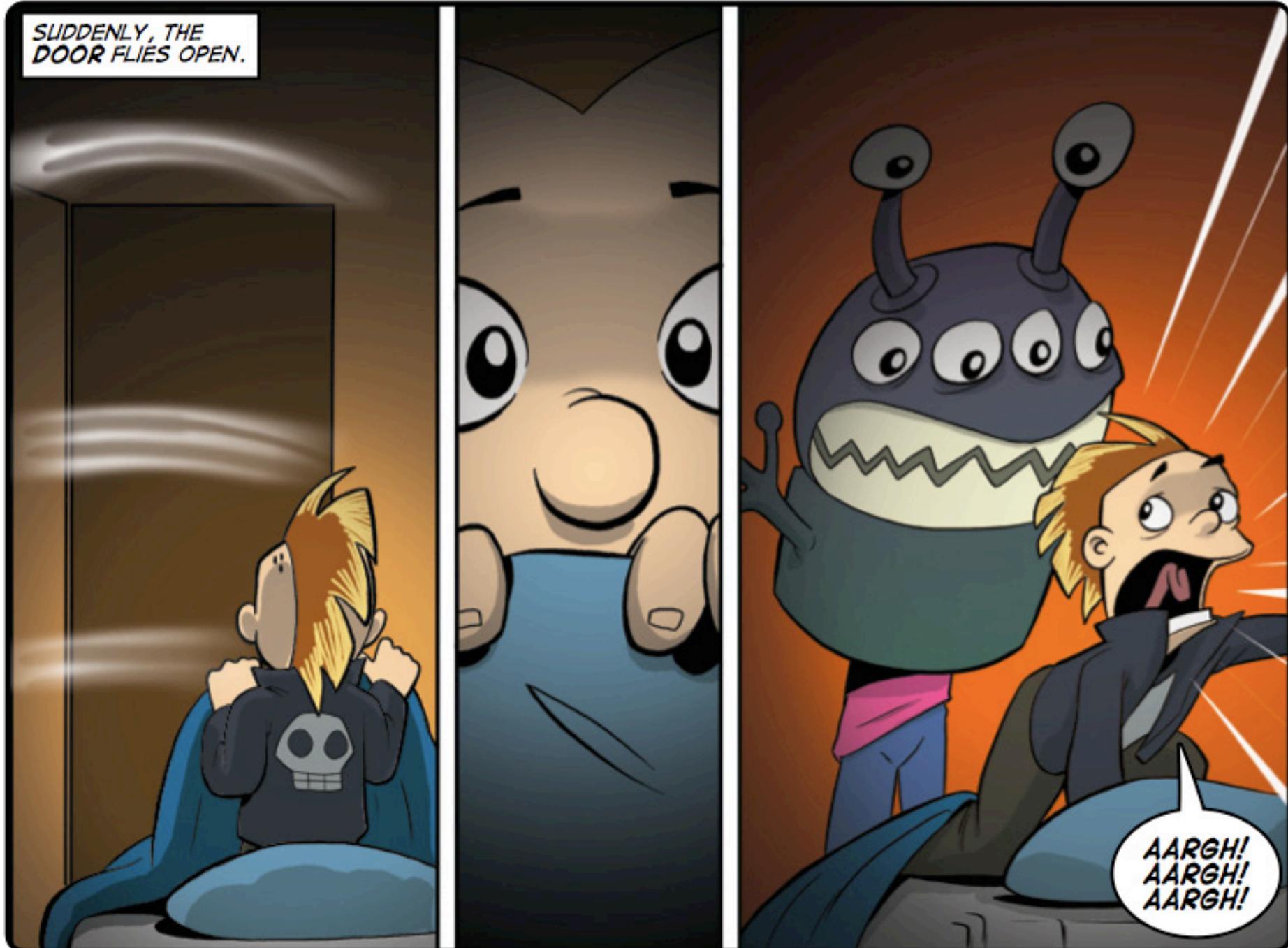


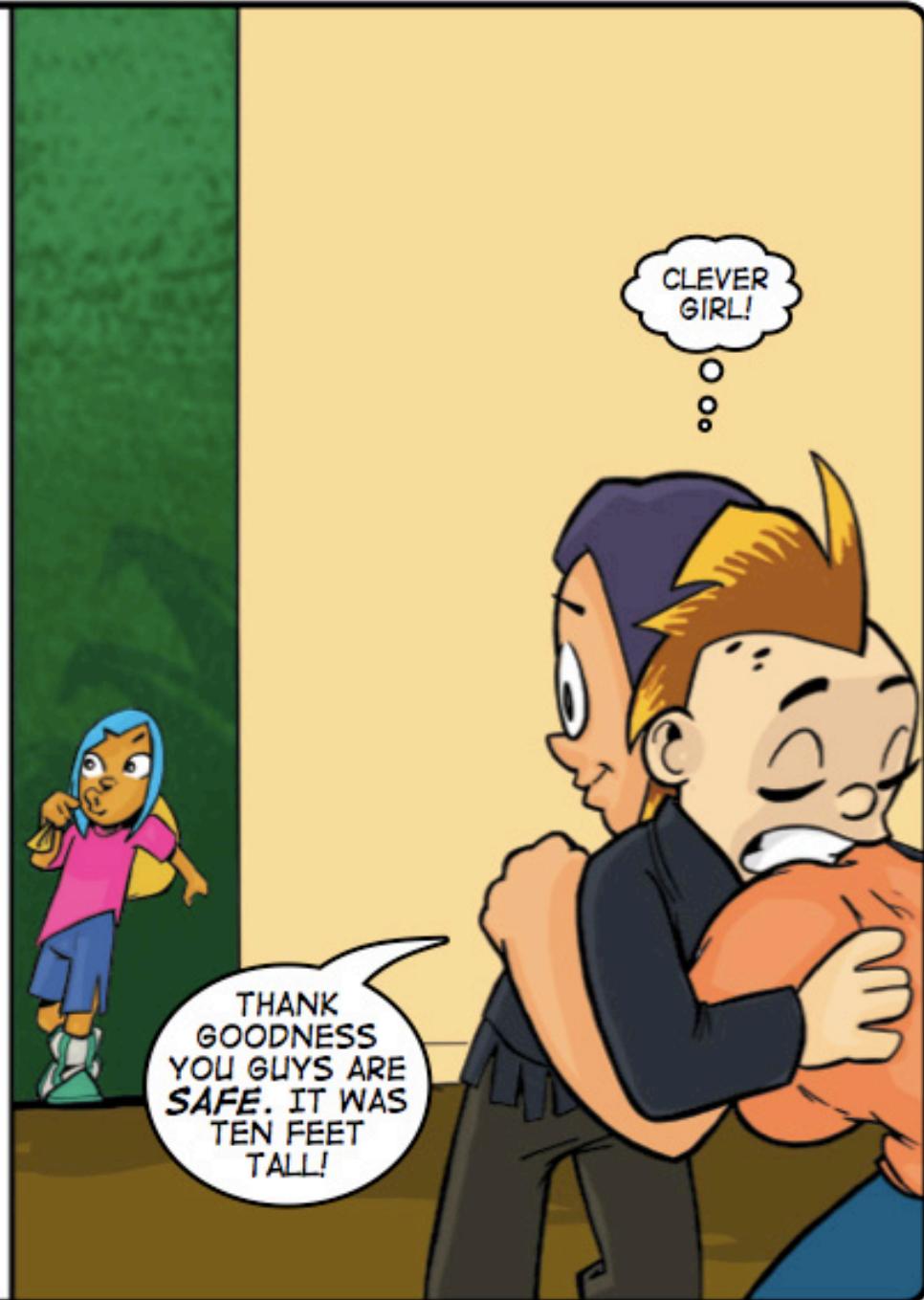




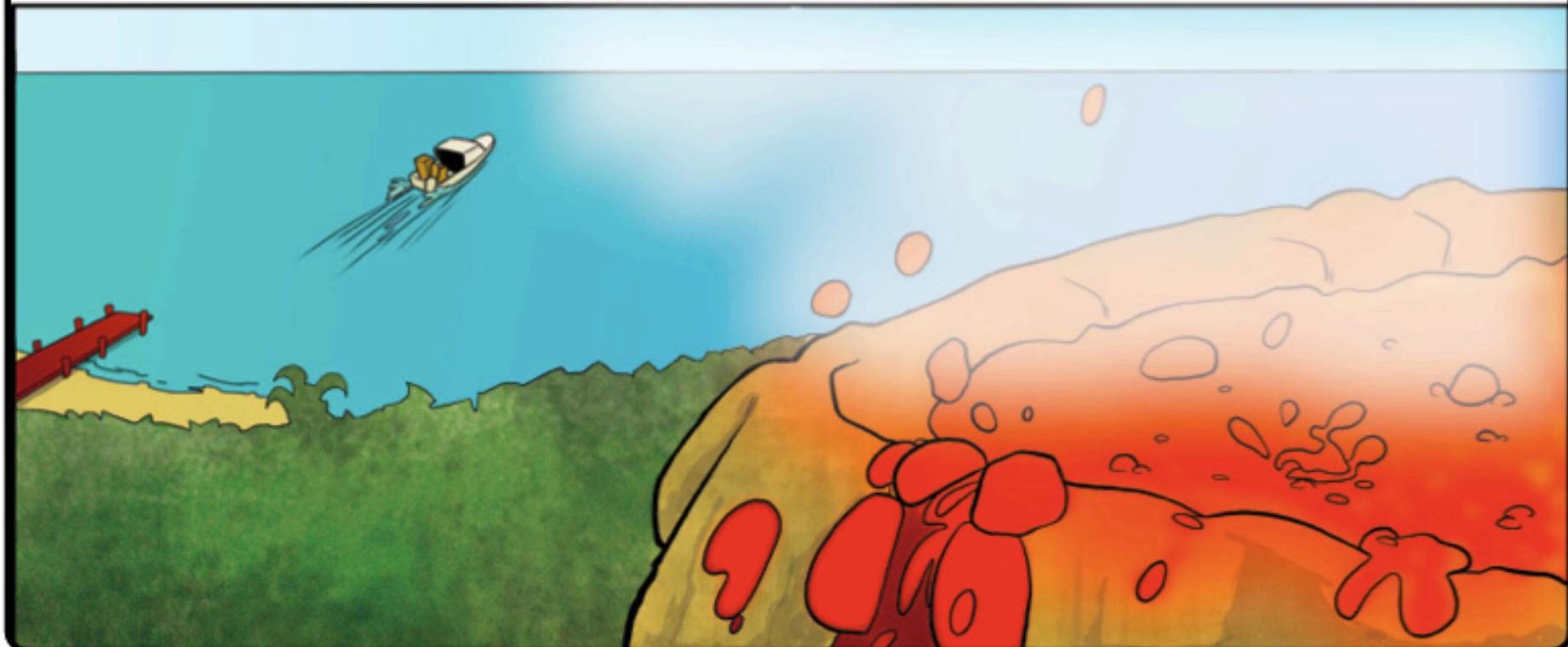
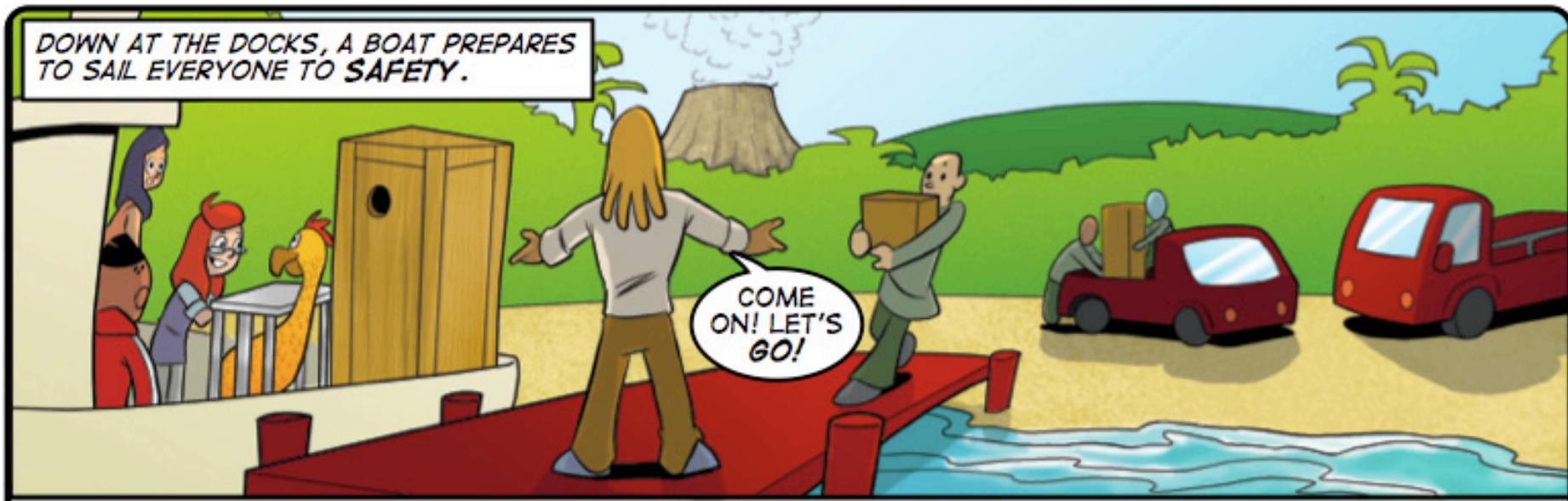


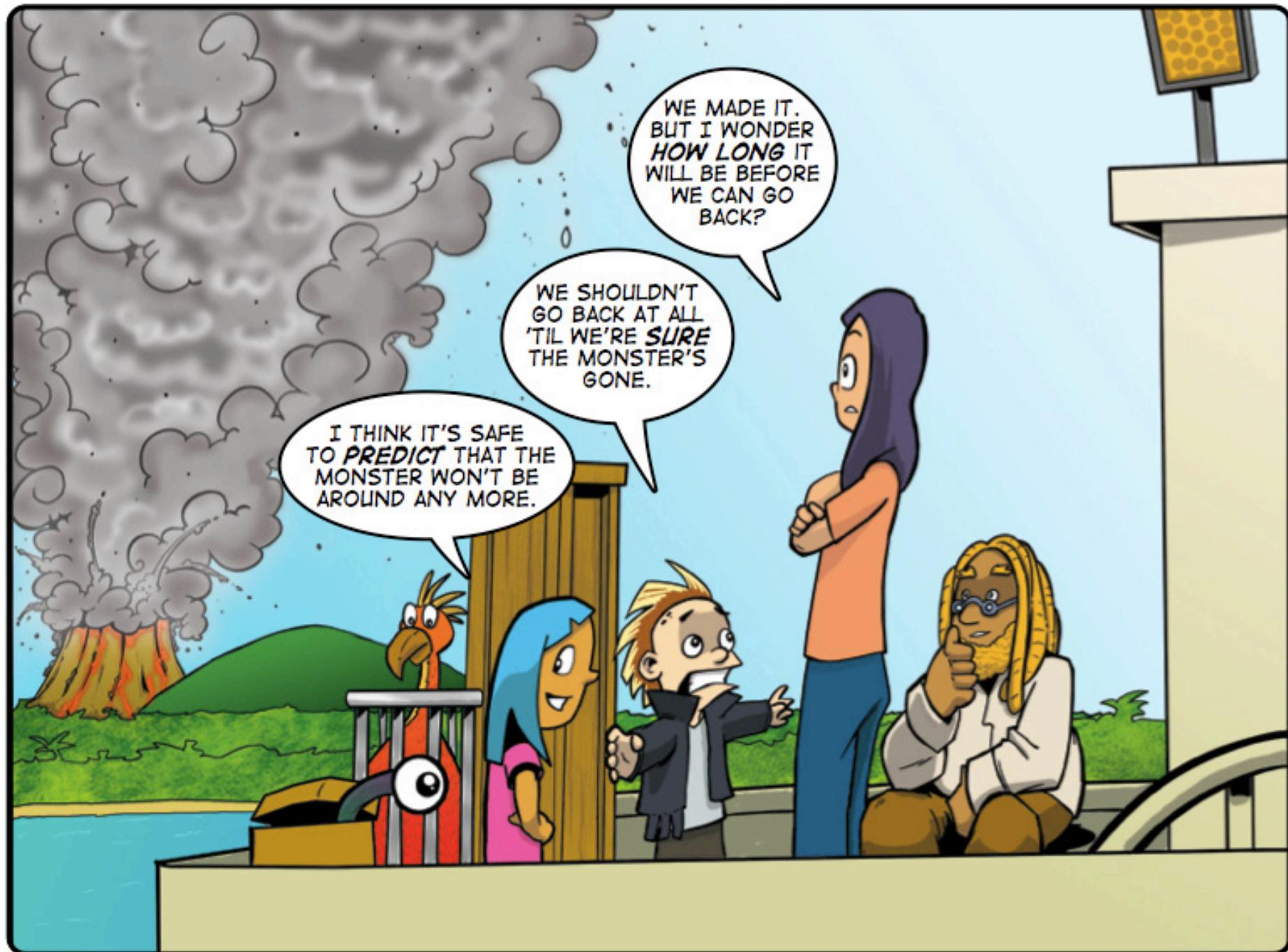
SUDDENLY, THE
DOOR FLIES OPEN.





DOWN AT THE DOCKS, A BOAT PREPARES TO SAIL EVERYONE TO SAFETY.





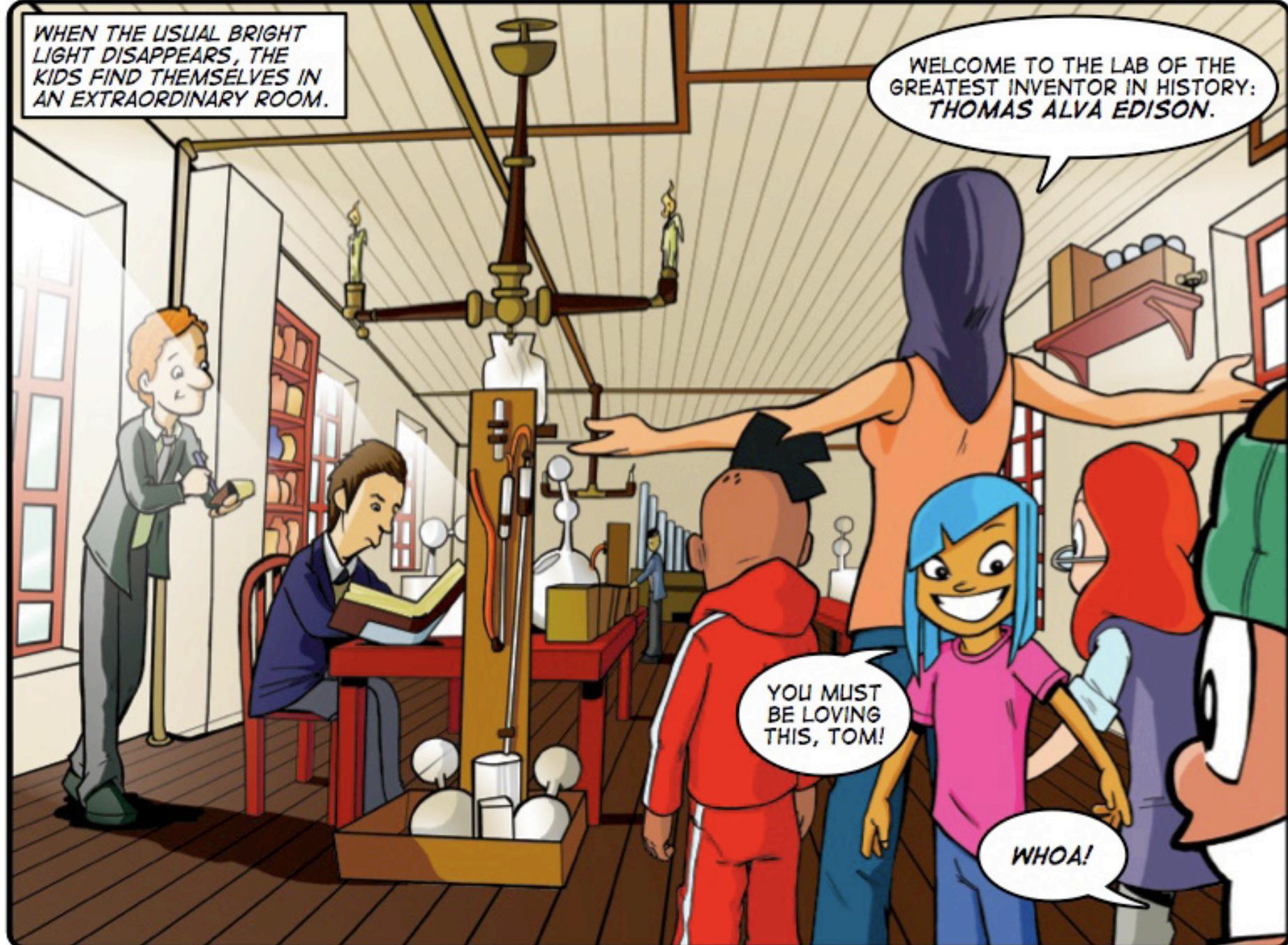
8. SNAKES ALIVE

AN ADVENTURE IN THE VIRTUAL REALITY
MACHINE DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN THAT
YOU ARE GOING SOME-WHERE...



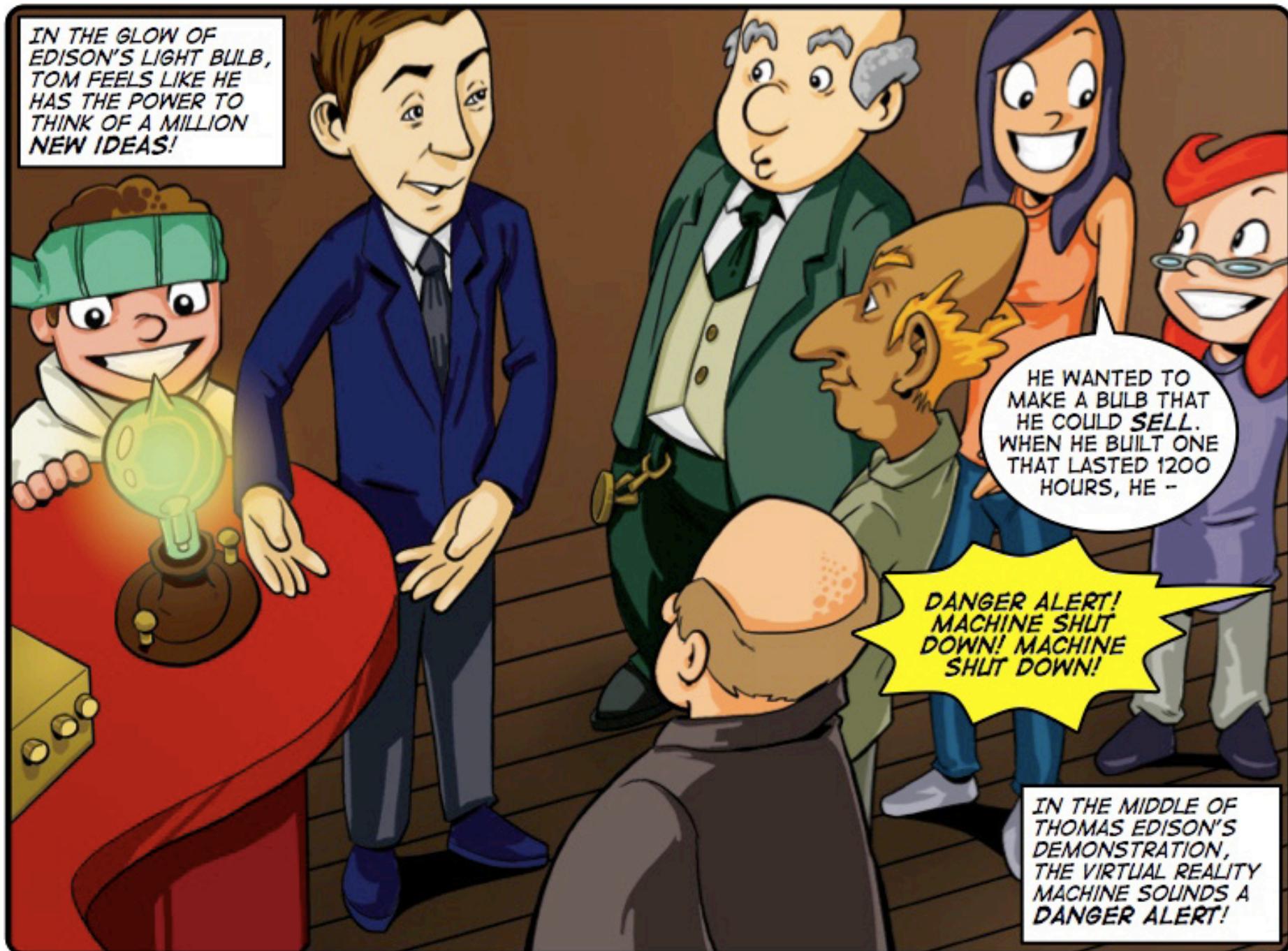
WHEN THE USUAL BRIGHT LIGHT DISAPPEARS, THE KIDS FIND THEMSELVES IN AN EXTRAORDINARY ROOM.

WELCOME TO THE LAB OF THE GREATEST INVENTOR IN HISTORY: THOMAS ALVA EDISON.





IN THE GLOW OF EDISON'S LIGHT BULB, TOM FEELS LIKE HE HAS THE POWER TO THINK OF A MILLION NEW IDEAS!



SUDDENLY, THE VIRTUAL WORLD SLIPS AWAY AND THE THUNDERBOLT KIDS ARE PULLED BACK INTO REALITY.



A BLAZING FIRE ON THE HILLSIDE PAINTS THE SKY ORANGE.

DON'T WORRY, GUYS. THERE ARE **FIREBREAKS** SO THE FIRE WON'T REACH US.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE FIREBREAKS WON'T STOP THE **SNAKES**...

SNAKES!?!@#



WHILE SOME KIDS SHIVER IN FEAR, TOM REALISES THAT THIS IS HIS CHANCE.

FIRE SCARE THE ANIMALS, SO THEY COME DOWN HERE.

THE SCHOOL WAS INFESTED WITH SNAKES LAST TIME!

IT'S HIS CHANCE TO INVENT SOMETHING GREAT!

WAIT UP!

THE SNAKETRAPS WE USE AREN'T PERFECT, BUT LUCKILY NONE OF THE SNAKES ARE VENOMOUS.

THERE'S NO TIME, JOJO! WE MUST GET STARTED RIGHT AWAY!







AND WITHIN A FEW MOMENTS MORE, TOM DISCOVERS HOW HE CAN MAKE A BETTER SNAKE TRAP...

WHOA! THIS ONE USES *LIVE* MICE OR CHICKENS!

I AM **NOT**
KILLING MICE OR CHICKENS!



THAT IS, A TRAP THAT WILL DO THE JOB, BUT **DO NO HARM!**

NO PROBLEM! I'LL USE FAKE BAIT: MICE MADE OF *SOCKS*! THEN EVERYONE WHO FEELS LIKE FARAH WILL BUY ONE!



BUT ONE LOOK OUT THE WINDOW
IS ENOUGH TO ENSURE THAT NOT
EVERYONE IS HAPPY FOR LONG.

THEY'RE COMING!
THEY'RE FOLLOWING
THE SMELL OF FEAR!!!

SMELL?

THE SCALY
CREATURES
SLITHERING THEIR
WAY TOWARDS THE
SCHOOL HEAR THE
SOUND OF TOM
BEING INSPIRED
BY A NEW IDEA.

EUREKA!

GRAB ALL THE
SOCKS YOU
CAN AND
FOLLOW ME!

AN ANNOUNCEMENT COMES OVER THE INTERCOM, BUT THE KIDS ARE TOO FULL OF THE THRILL OF ADVENTURE TO STOP AND LISTEN.

* EVERYONE PLEASE STAY IN YOUR ROOMS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. *

UP TO THE LAB! WE NEED *LIVE* MICE. AND CHICKENS!

AS LONG AS OUR BAIT *SMELLS* LIKE MICE OR CHICKENS, THE SNAKES SHOULD GO FOR IT.

AS LONG AS WE'RE *NOT* KILLING ANYTHING!



UP IN THE LAB, TOM SETS UP A PRODUCTION LINE.



GUYS!
STUFF THE
SOCKS TO
MAKE THEM
LOOK LIKE
MICE.

THEN RUB
THEM ON THE
REAL MICE AND
CHICKENS TO
**RUB OFF THEIR
SCENT**.



THE MICE
LOOK GREAT.
AND THE
BOXES WILL
WORK WELL
AS TRAPS.

BUT IF THE
MICE DON'T MOVE
THEN THE SNAKES
WON'T TAKE THE
BAIT. **HOW DO I
MAKE THEM
MOVE?**



JUST AS PRODUCTION IS ALMOST COMPLETE, THEY GET A SURPRISE VISITOR.

ANY GOOD REASON WHY YOU ARE *NOT* IN YOUR ROOMS?

OR PERHAPS I SHOULD ASK YOU WHY YOU ARE SCRUBBING THAT CHICKEN WITH A PAIR OF SOCKS?



A FEW MINUTES - AND A LOT
OF EXPLAINING - LATER.

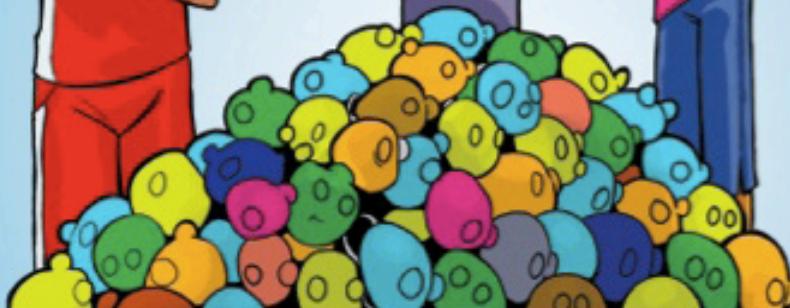
OK, YOU'RE OFF THE
HOOK. FOR NOW! BUT
ONLY BECAUSE I NEED
MORE SNAKETRAPS.

GREAT! BECAUSE
WE NEED YOUR
HELP TO MAKE
THESE THINGS
MOVE.

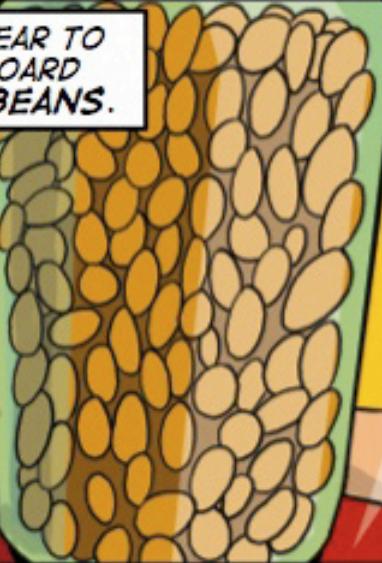
YEAH,
SNAKES
DON'T LIKE
LAZY BAIT.

I'VE THOUGHT OF
GEARS, SPRINGS,
MOTORS AND EVEN
PUPPET STRINGS.

BUT I DON'T HAVE
THE TIME TO MAKE
ANY OF THEM WORK.



AS THE PROBLEM BECOMES CLEAR TO HER, TIA OPENS A STORE CUPBOARD AND REACHES FOR A JAR OF BEANS.



WHAT'S THAT NOISE?



MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS. THEY'RE NOT REALLY BEANS. THEY'RE SEEDS.

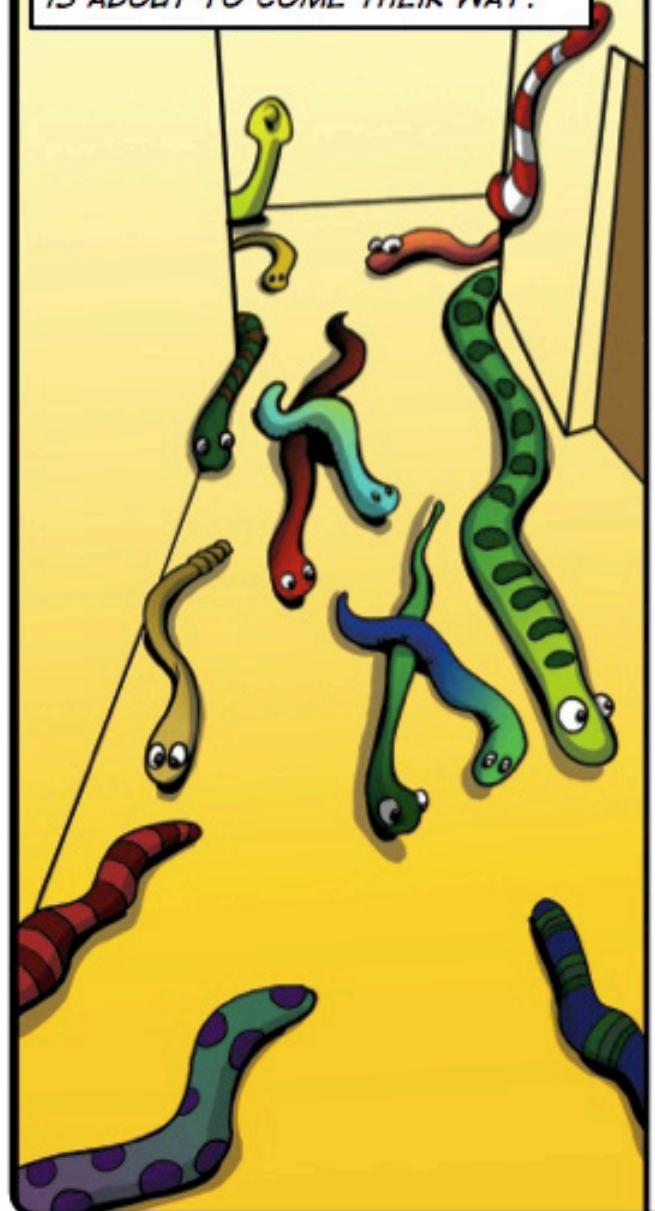
BUT A CERTAIN KIND OF MOTH LAYS ITS EGGS INSIDE THEM, AND WHEN THE LARVAE MOVE THEY MAKE THE SEEDS "JUMP".

OK, GUYS,
YOUR WORK
HERE IS DONE.
STEP ASIDE
AND LET JOJO
TAKE OVER!

THEY'LL KEEP THE BAIT JUMPING ALL DAY LONG!

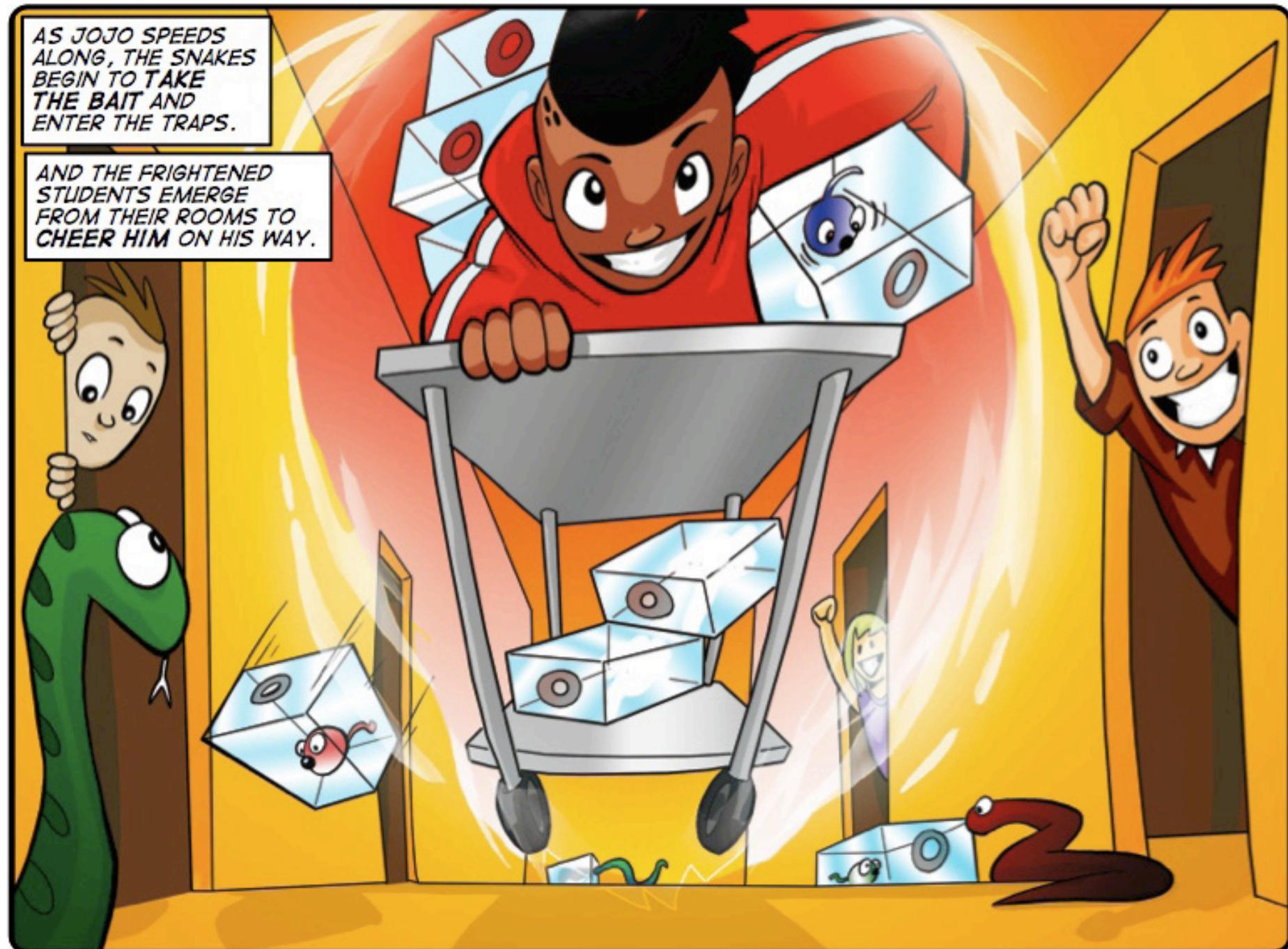


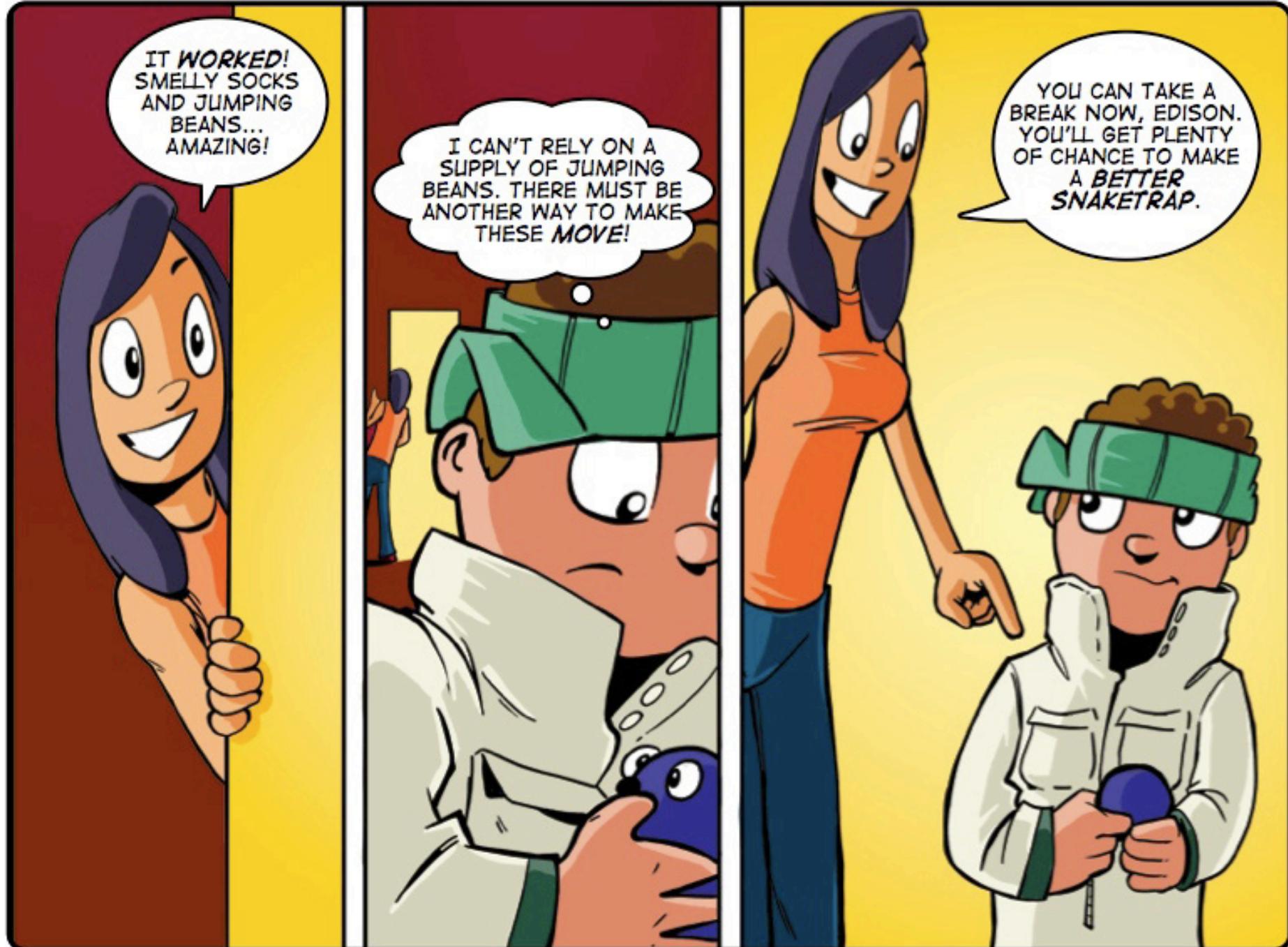
IN THE CORRIDORS OUTSIDE THE LAB, THE **SLITHERING SERPENTS** HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS ABOUT TO COME THEIR WAY.



AS JOJO SPEEDS ALONG, THE SNAKES BEGIN TO TAKE THE BAIT AND ENTER THE TRAPS.

AND THE FRIGHTENED STUDENTS EMERGE FROM THEIR ROOMS TO CHEER HIM ON HIS WAY.





ONCE THE FIREFIGHTERS HAVE PUT OUT THE FIRE, THEY COME DOWN TO THE SCHOOL TO FETCH THE SNAKETRAPS.

HOW CAN WE
THANK YOU, TOM?
YOU'VE DONE HALF
OUR WORK DOWN
HERE.

I THINK WE'D
ALL BE VERY HAPPY
IF YOU TOOK THE
SNAKES **FAR AWAY**
BEFORE LETTING
THEM GO.

I'M PRETTY
SURE THEY'RE
GONNA BE
HUNGRY! AND
ANGRY!

SCIENCE ADVENTURES WITH THE HUNDEBROLT KIDS

