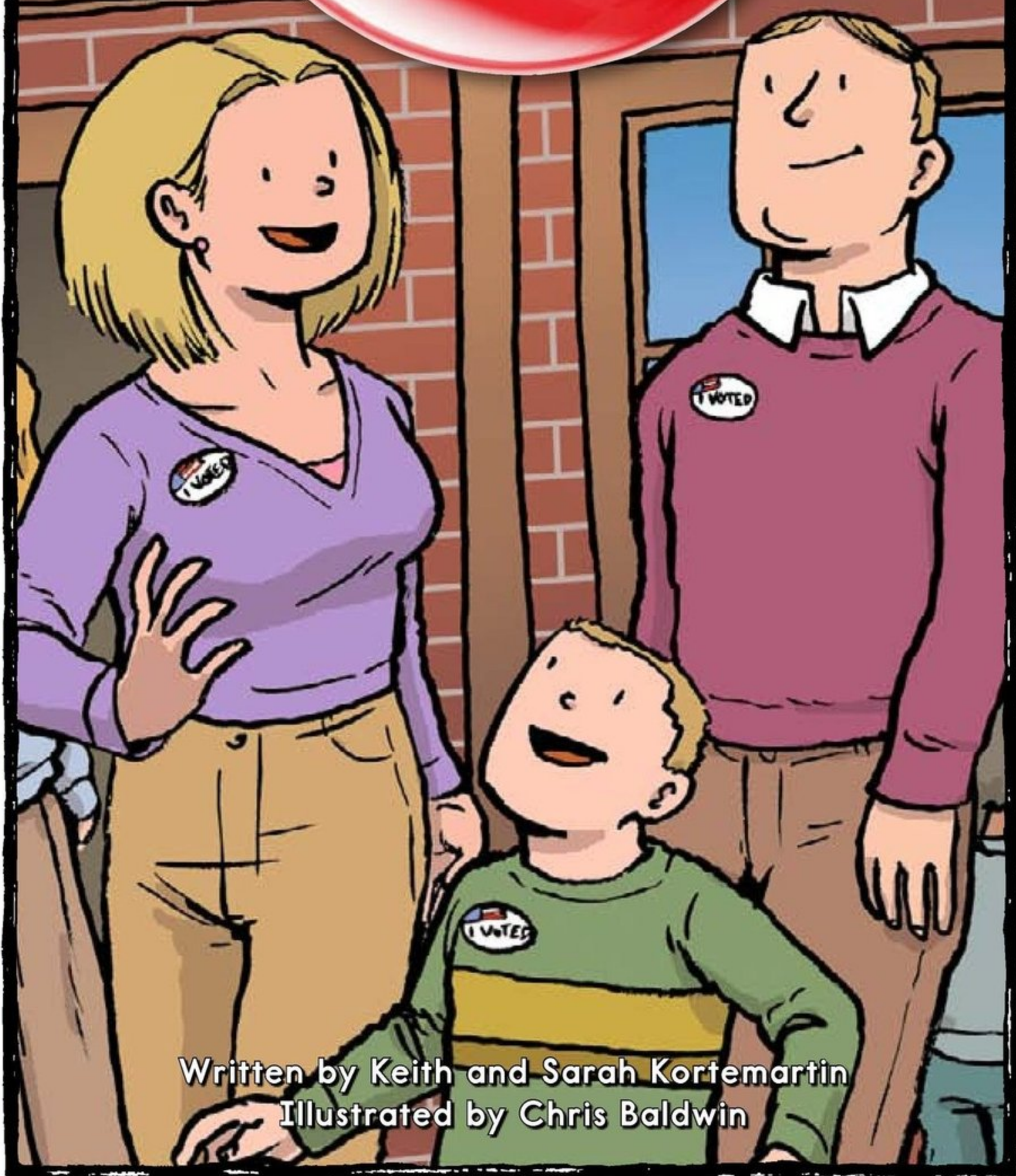


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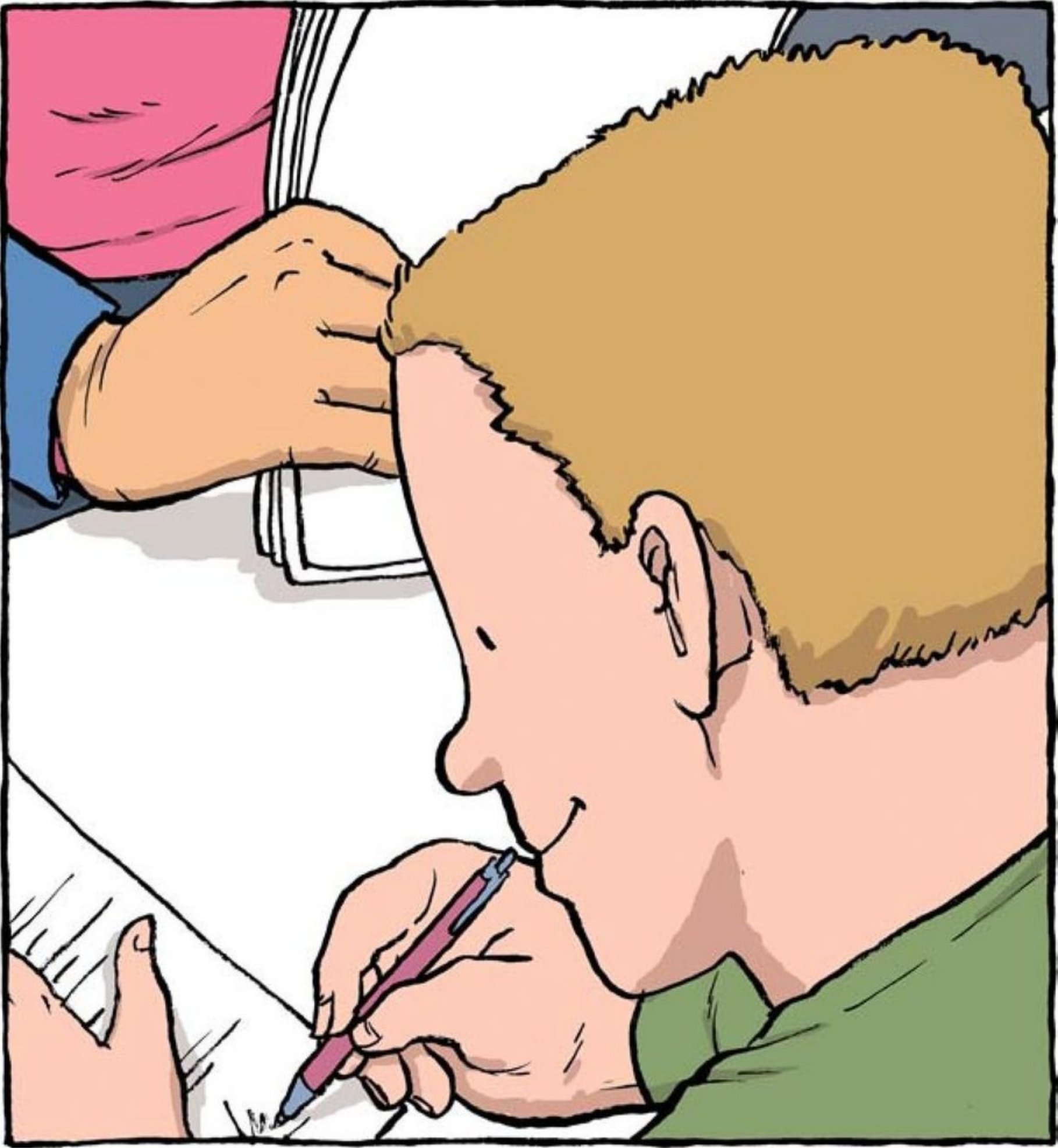
Can I Vote?



Written by Keith and Sarah Kortemartin
Illustrated by Chris Baldwin

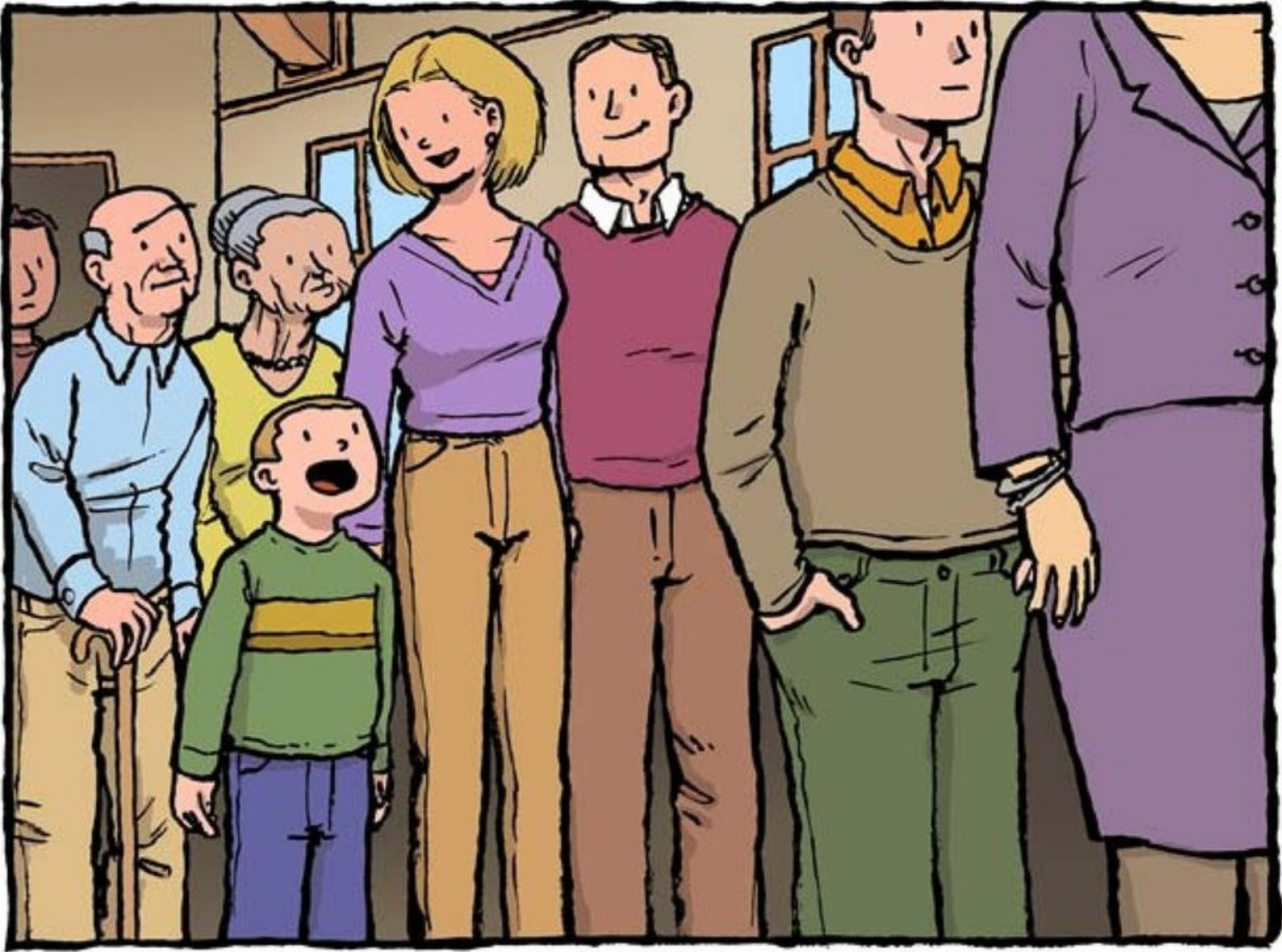
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Written by Keith and Sarah Kortemartin
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Leo stood on tiptoe, looking at the line of people inside the community center. “What are all these people doing?” he asked his mom.

“They’re here to vote, like us,” said his mom.

“They’re all going to help pick the next **president**?” asked Leo.

“The president and the other people in the **government**,” said his dad.

Leo and his parents waited in line. As they moved closer to the front, Leo saw several people writing at a table.

“Are they voting?” he asked his parents.

“Not yet,” said his mom. “That table is for voter **registration**. You have to register before you can vote. Your dad and I registered already, so when it’s our turn, we can go straight to those booths.” She pointed at a row of booths with curtains around them.

“Then what happens?” Leo asked.

“There’s a computer inside the booth,” said Dad. “The computer will record our votes.”





“Cool,” said Leo. “I wish I could vote, too.”

“Sorry, Leo,” said Mom. “You can’t vote yet. You’ll have to wait until you’re eighteen.”

“I know,” said Leo. “It’s not fair.”

“Voting is a big **responsibility**,” said Dad. “That’s why only adults can vote.”



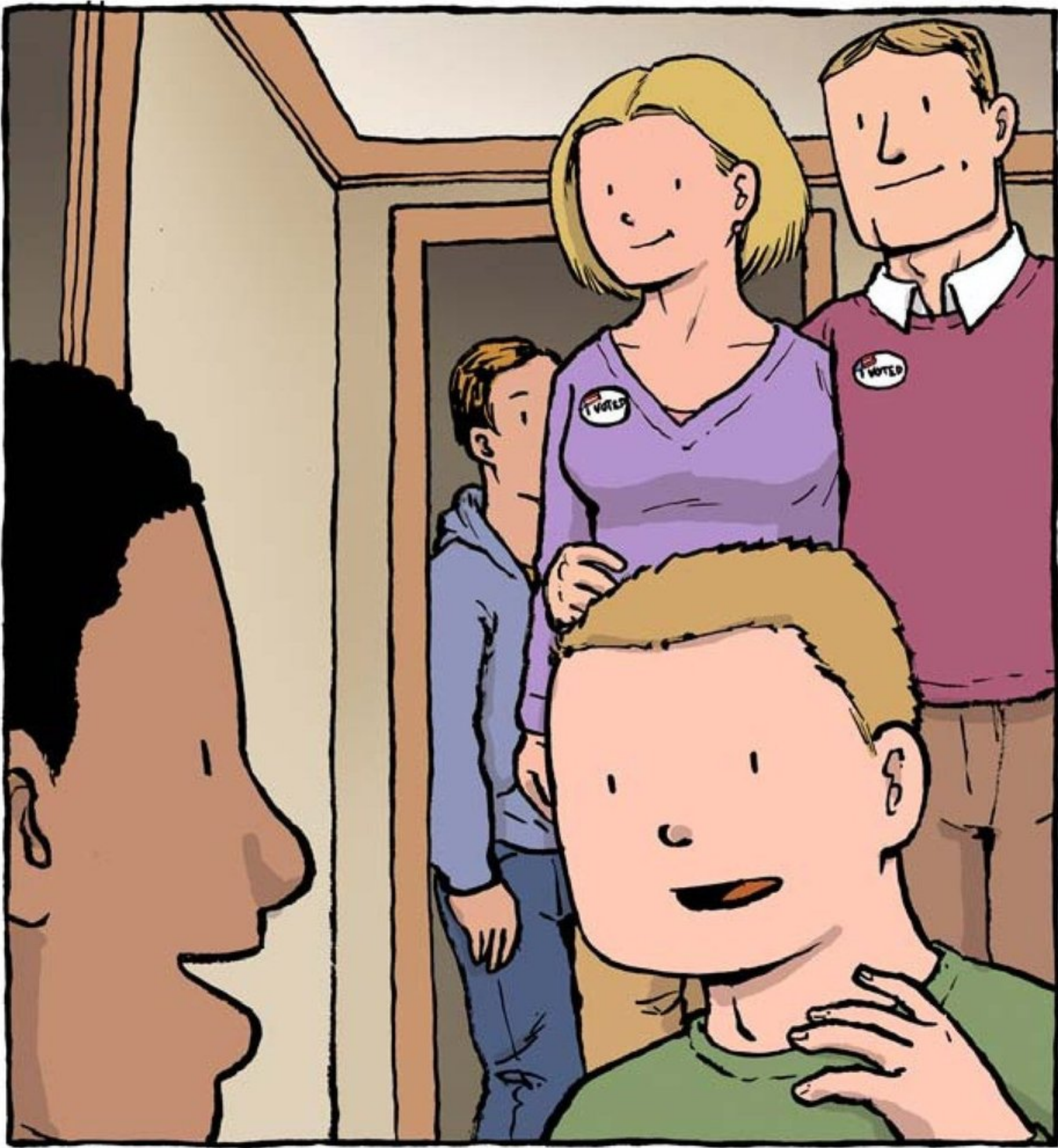
They reached the front of the line.
Leo's parents went into the booths.
As he waited for them, Leo thought,
I still want to vote.



When they left, Leo saw some kids from school standing by another row of booths outside.

“What’s this for?” Leo asked his classmate Billy.

“We’re voting,” said Billy.



“Don’t we have to wait until we’re eighteen?” asked Leo.

“It’s a practice **election**,” Billy explained. “Kids all over the country are voting, just like the adults. Do you want to get in line and register? Then you can vote, too.”

“Can I vote, Mom?” Leo asked.

“Sure, Leo,” his mom said.

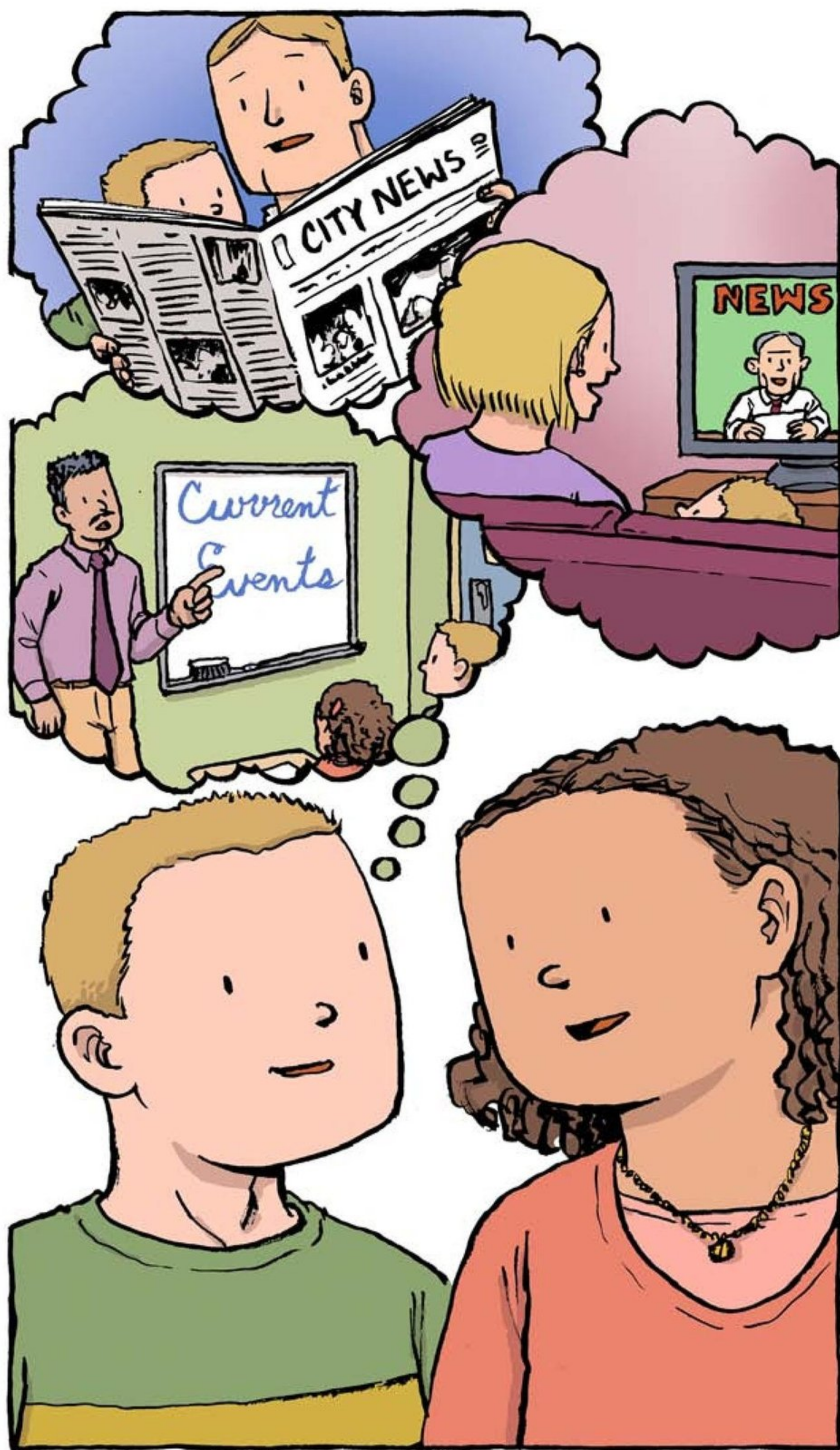
Leo got in line next to his friend Mary.

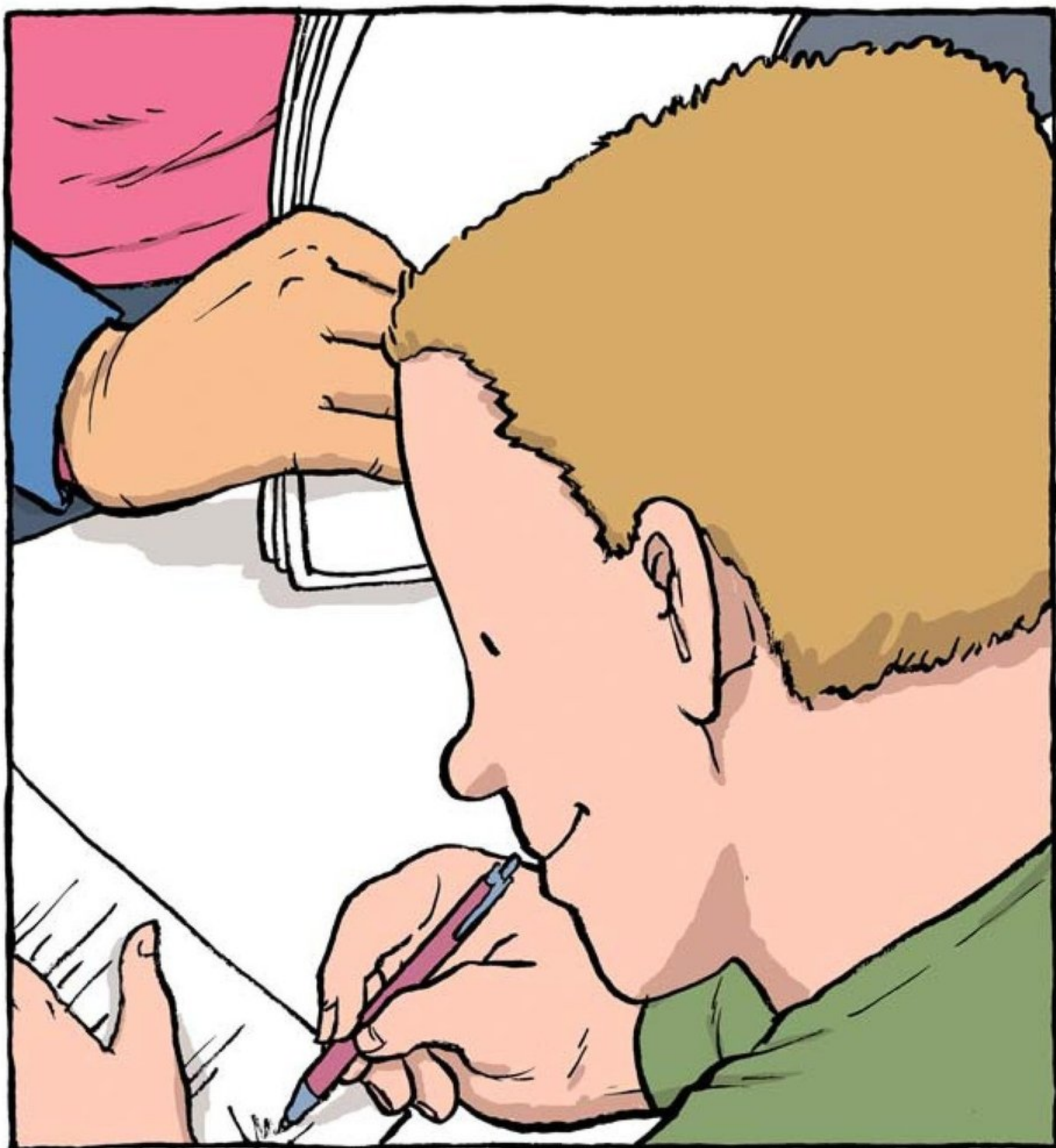
“Who are you going to vote for?” asked Leo.

“I’m not going to say. Voting is a secret,” said Mary. “That’s why there are curtains around the booths.”

“How will I know who to vote for?” asked Leo.

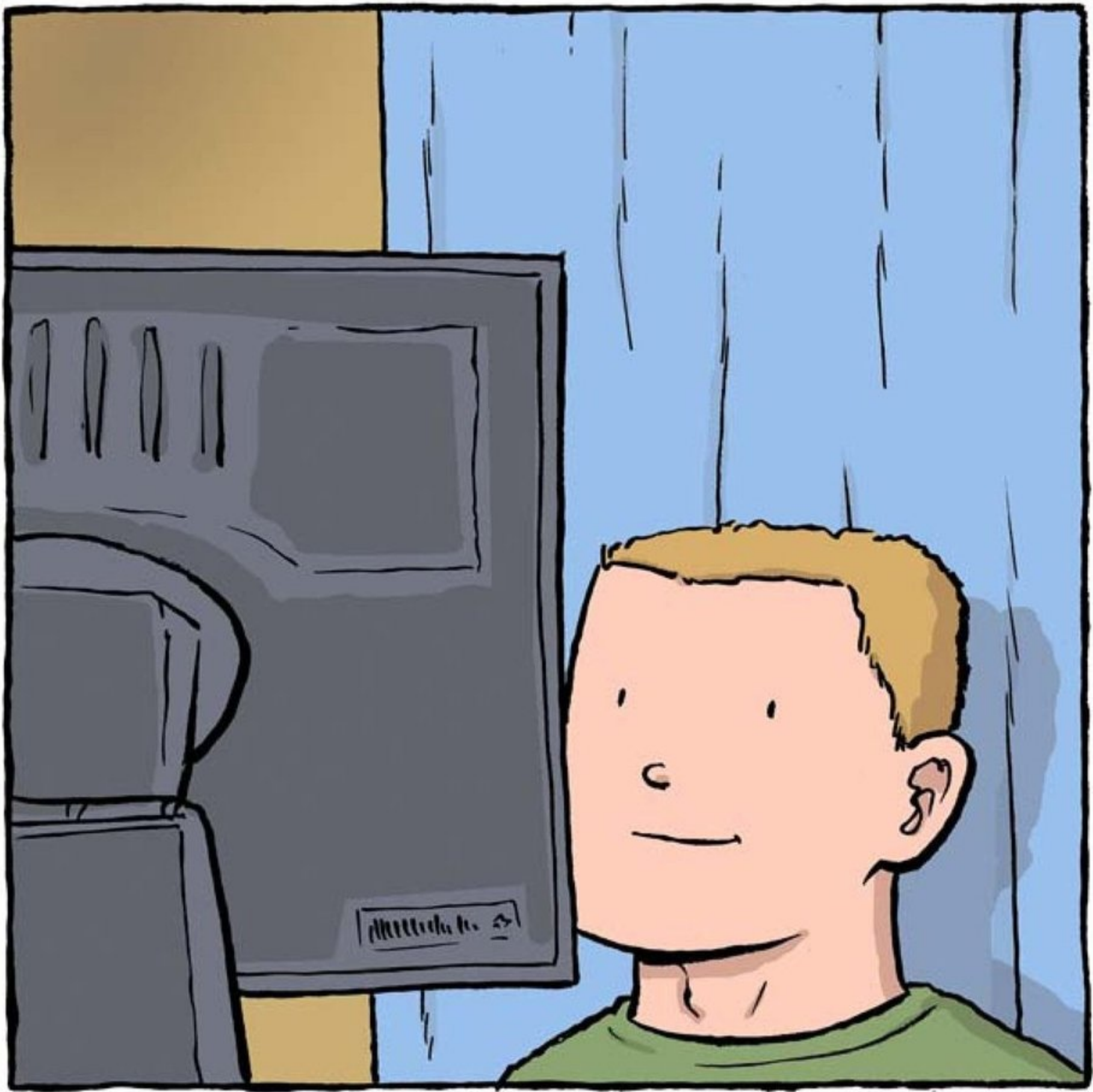
“My parents said you should read the newspaper, watch the news, and decide for yourself,” answered Mary.





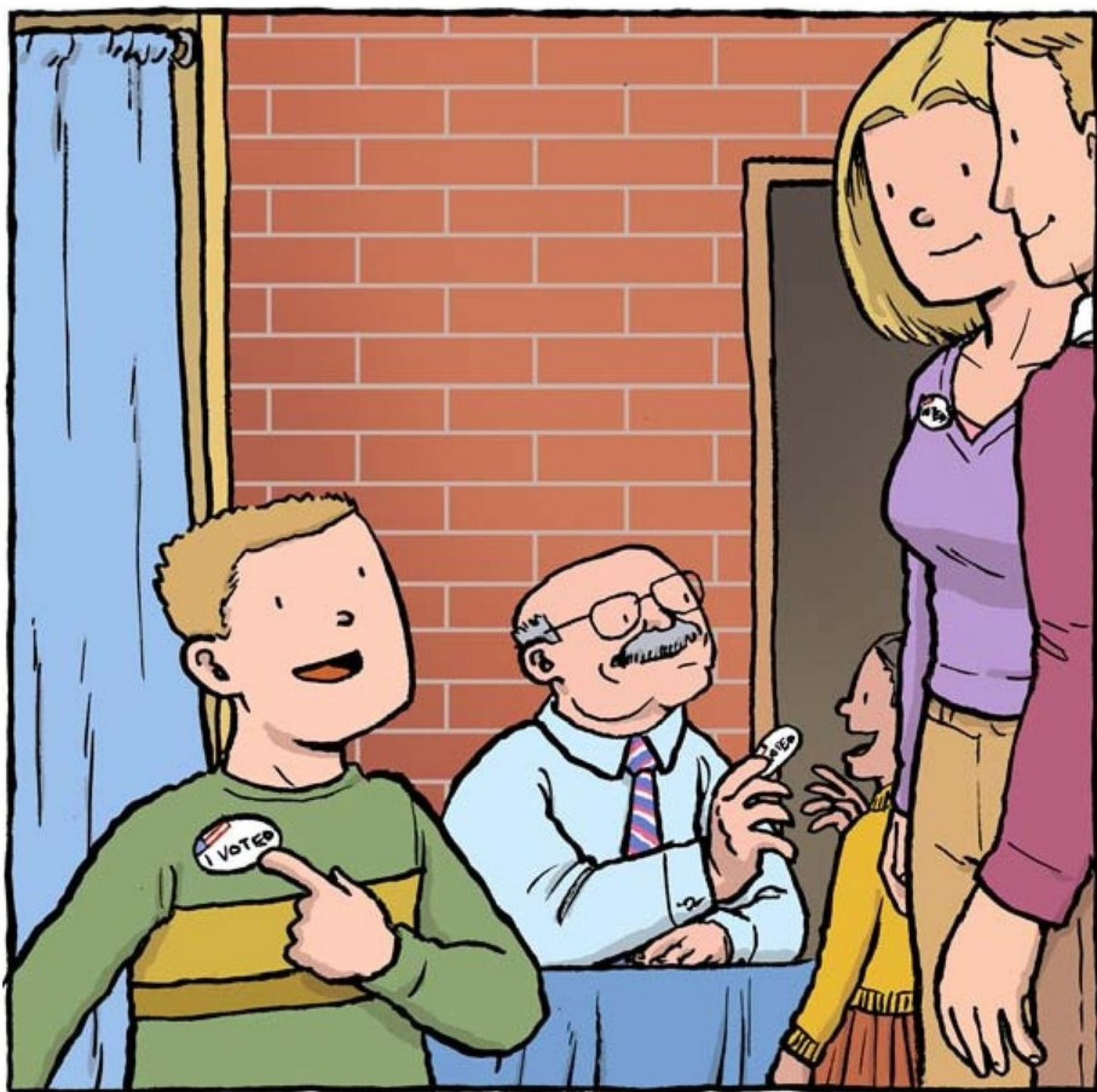
Leo thought about this. He remembered what he had learned about the **candidates**.

At the registration table, Leo wrote down his name, grade, and address. He felt grown-up as he signed his name at the bottom of the card.



Inside the voting booth was a table with a computer on it. On the screen, Leo saw a list of names. There were candidates for president and other government officials.

Leo thought about all the candidates. Then he began to vote. He touched the screen next to each of his choices.



When he came out of the booth, he got an “I Voted” sticker. It looked just like the sticker his parents wore. The man at the booth also gave Leo the name of a website on a card.

“You can look online to see the election results,” the man said.



Leo went back to his parents.

“I wonder if the kids will choose the same person as the adults,” he said.

“We’ll find out soon,” said Leo’s mom. “Let’s go home and check out the website.”

Glossary

candidates (<i>n.</i>)	people who seek to be elected (p. 12)
election (<i>n.</i>)	the act of selecting a person for government office by voting (p. 9)
government (<i>n.</i>)	a group of people who have the power to make and enforce laws for a country or area (p. 3)
president (<i>n.</i>)	the leader of the government in some countries (p. 3)
registration (<i>n.</i>)	the act of entering information for an official record (p. 4)
responsibility (<i>n.</i>)	something a person is supposed or expected to take care of (p. 6)

Can I Vote?
Level M Leveled Book
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