

Middle school
is hard enough
without being the...



NEW KID

JERRY CRAFT

"Funny, sharp, and totally real!
Jordan Banks is the kid
everyone will be talking about!"

-Jeff Kinney

Author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*



SEVENTH GRADER JORDAN BANKS

loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan turns out to be one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Middle school's hard enough without all the unspoken rules and expectations that come with being the new kid! Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

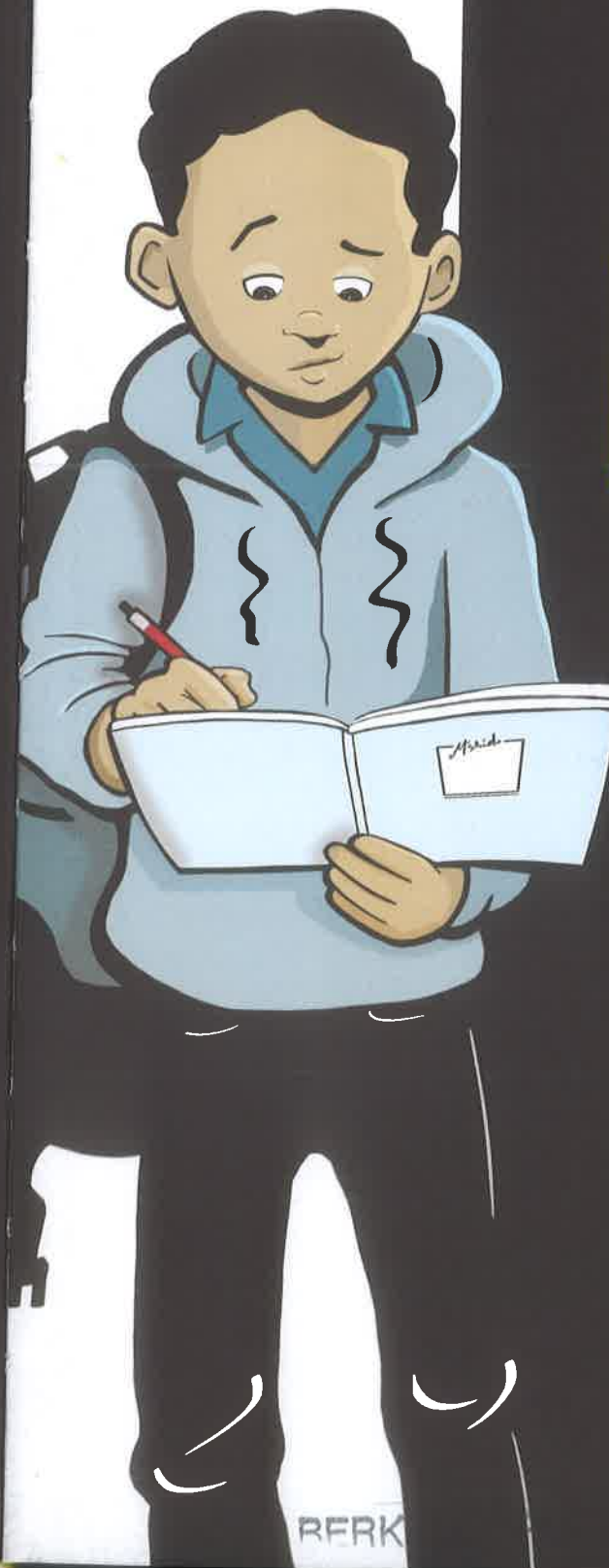
HARPER

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

JERRY CRAFT

NEW KID

WITH COLOR BY
JIM CALLAHAN



HARPER

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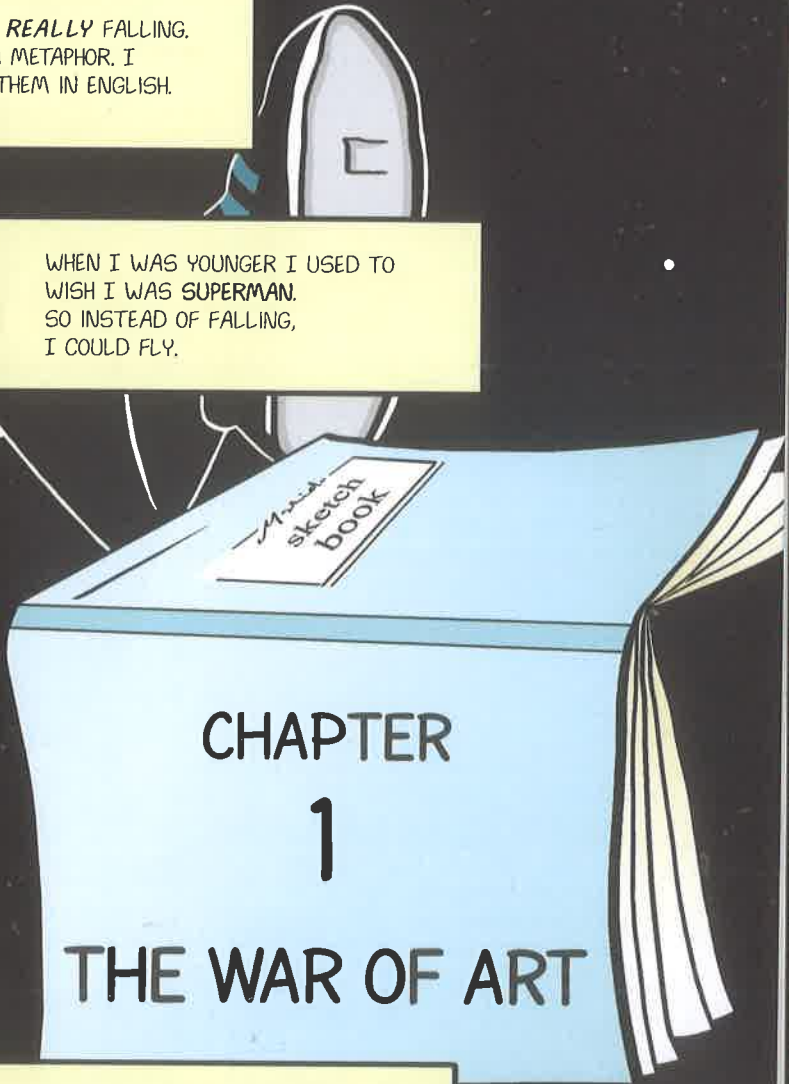
PERK



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

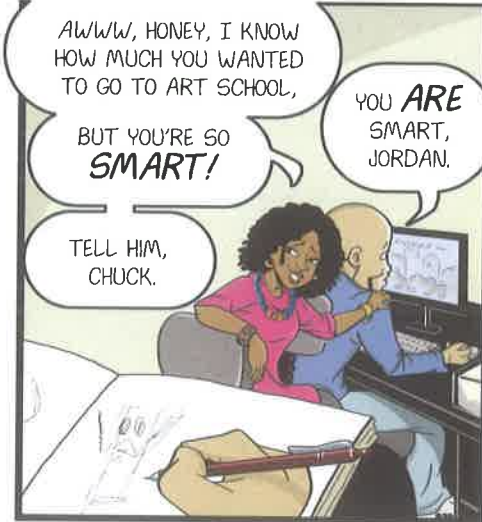
I MEAN, I'M NOT *REALLY* FALLING. THAT'S CALLED A METAPHOR. I LEARNED ABOUT THEM IN ENGLISH.

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



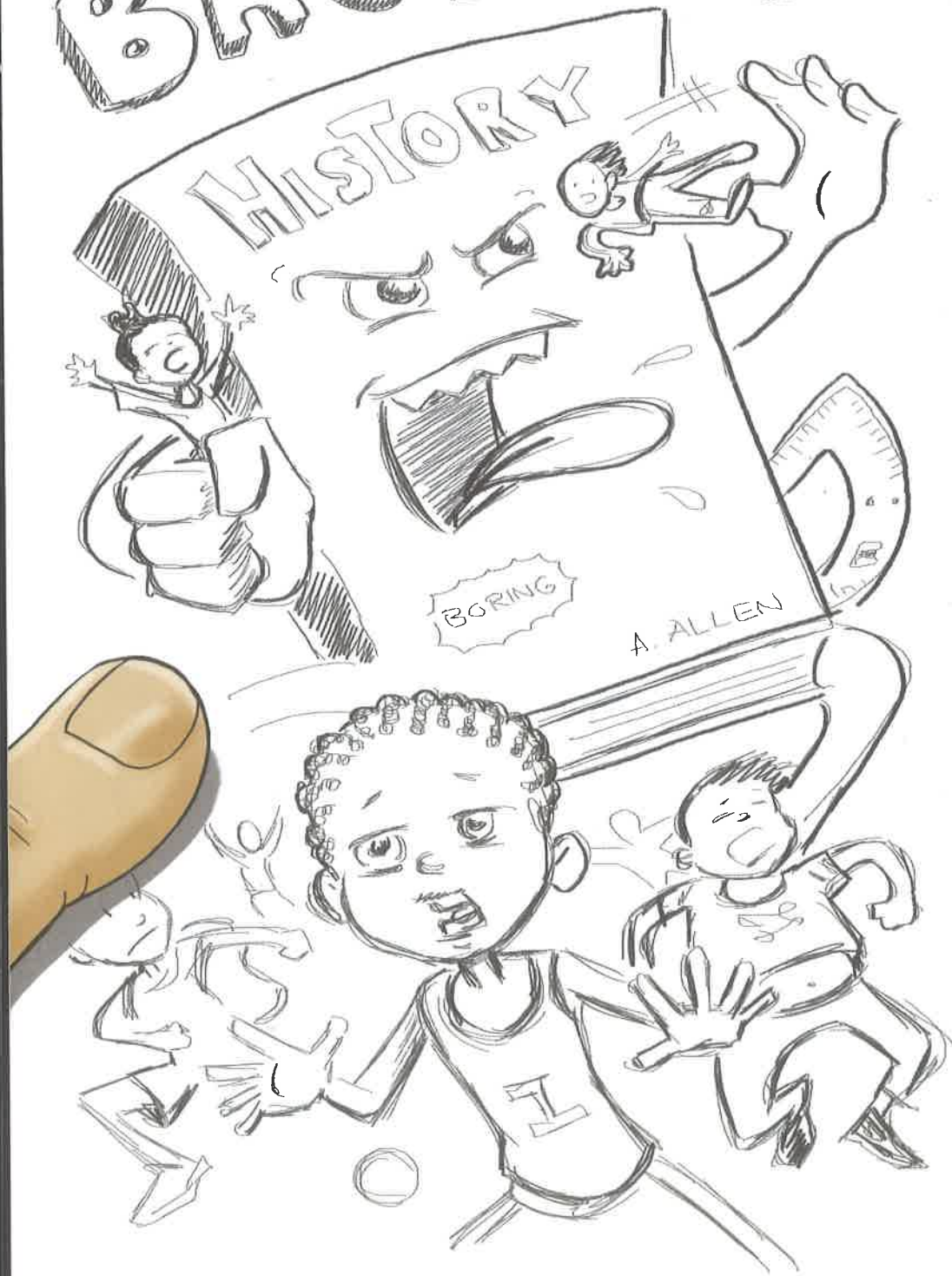
BUT NOW THAT I'M TWELVE, I REALIZE JUST HOW SILLY THAT WAS.





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!!!



DING DONG

UFF!

C'MON, J, I'LL WALK YOU DOWNSTAIRS.

THEY'RE HERE! COME GIVE YOUR MOMMY A HUG,

HAVE A GREAT FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!



BYE, BABY.

SOOOOOO... YOU GOOD?

I GUESS.

WHAT'S A "GUIDE" DO AGAIN, DAD?

THEY SHOW ALL THE NEW KIDS AROUND SCHOOL.

DON'T LET ANYONE TALK DOWN TO YOU,

AND REMEMBER TO SHAKE HIS DAD'S HAND. FIRM GRIP. EYE CONTACT.

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

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

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

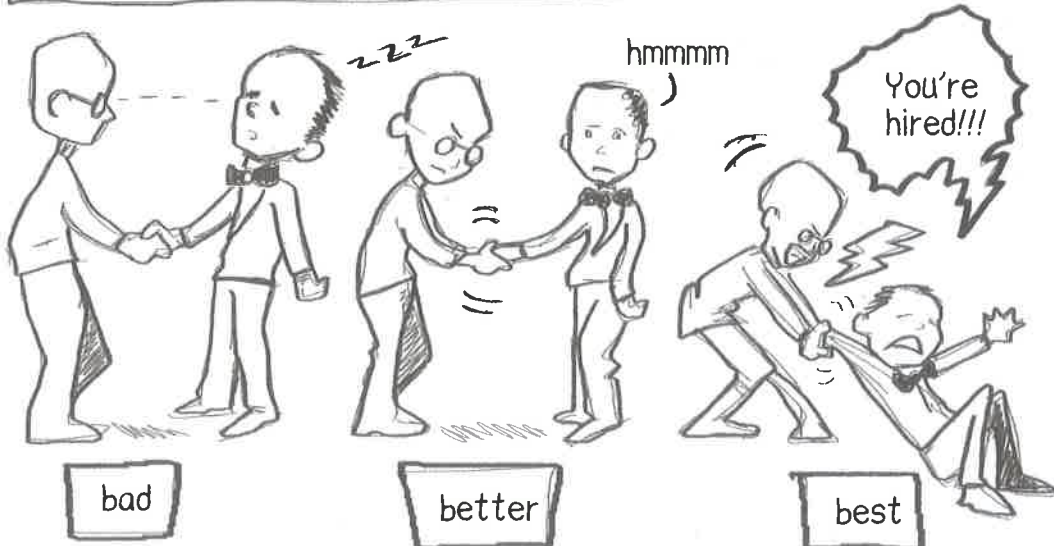
#2 **ALWAYS** look each other in the eye!

Why?

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



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



And here are some other bad things:

cold hands!



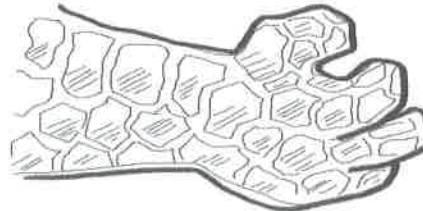
sweaty hands!



dirty hands!



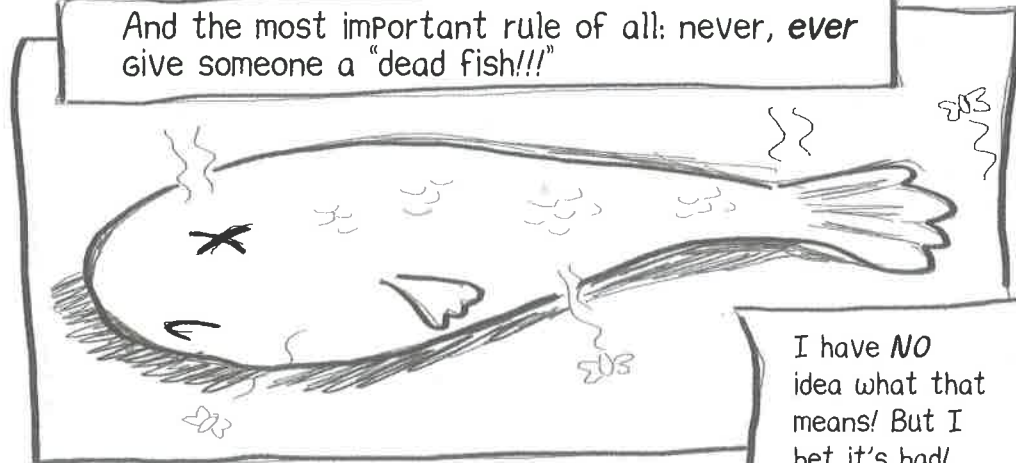
hands too rough



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



STAY IN THE CAR, LIAM.
AND LOCK THE DOOR!



YOU MUST BE JORDAN...
I'M MR. LANDERS,
LIAM'S FATHER.



GO SAY HI TO LIAM,
HE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU.
OH, OKAY.



GOT YOUR KEYS, JORDAN?
YES, DAD.
WALLET?
YEP.
PHONE?
UH-HUH.
HI, MISS NEAL.



STEP 1



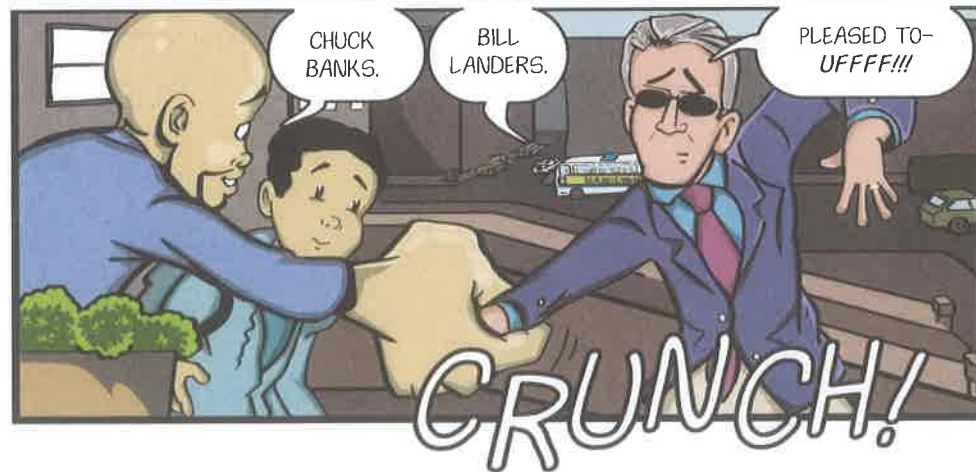
STEP 2

PLEASUED TO MEET YOU, MR. LANDERS,

NAILED IT!



GOOD MORNING, JORDAN.



CHUCK BANKS.

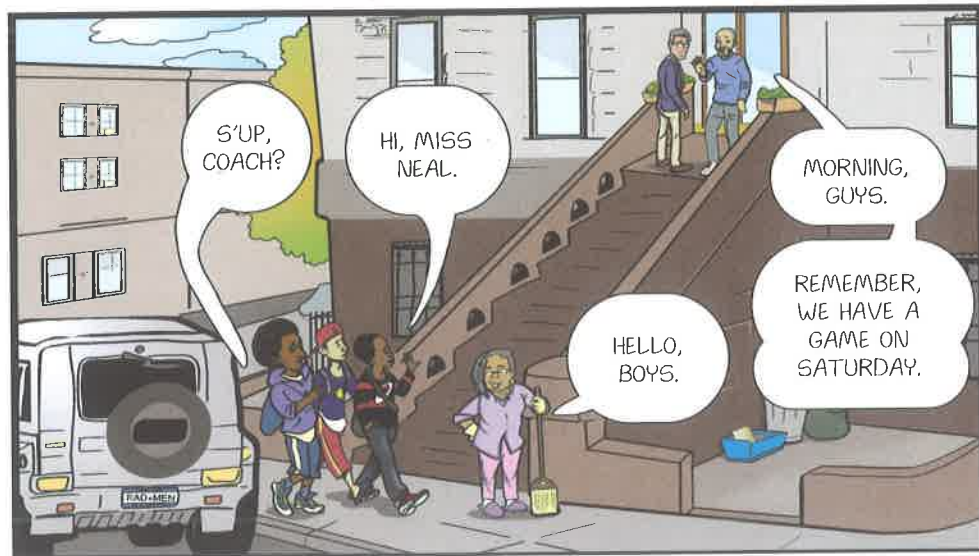
BILL LANDERS.

PLEASUED TO- UFFFFF!!!

CRUNCH!



HEY, LIAM, I'M JOR--





WE'LL HAVE HIM BACK AROUND FOUR.

THANKS, BILL.



GLAD TO HELP.

WE'LL TAKE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET ...

THIS WHOLE THING IS A LITTLE NERVE-RACKING.



I KNOW THIS IS A BIG STEP ...

BUT WHEN HE GETS OUT IN A FEW YEARS ...

YOU'LL SEE THIS WAS THE RIGHT MOVE.



HE'S NOT BEING ARRESTED, MASHEA.

OH, THANK HEAVENS!!!



BUCKLE UP, BOYS.



BYE, BABYYYYY!!

MOM!

Washington
Heights

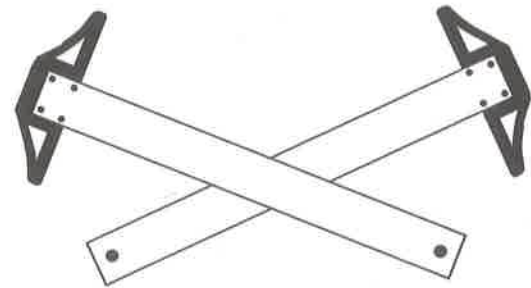


Chapter

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.

WHO'S MR. PIERRE?

UM ... JUST A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.

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





I CAN'T BELIEVE BOTH YOUR DAD **AND** YOUR GRANDFATHER WENT HERE . . .

. . . YOU GUYS MUST **REALLY** LOVE THIS PLACE, HUH?

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD MUCH OF A CHOICE.

OH YEAH, LIAM, I CAN RELATE TO **THAT**.



WOW!



WOW!



Wowwww!



MAN! THIS PLACE IS NO JOKE!



YOU GUYS SURE WEAR A LOT OF PINK.

MOSTLY EVERY-ONE SHOPS AT GRAPEVINE GROVES.



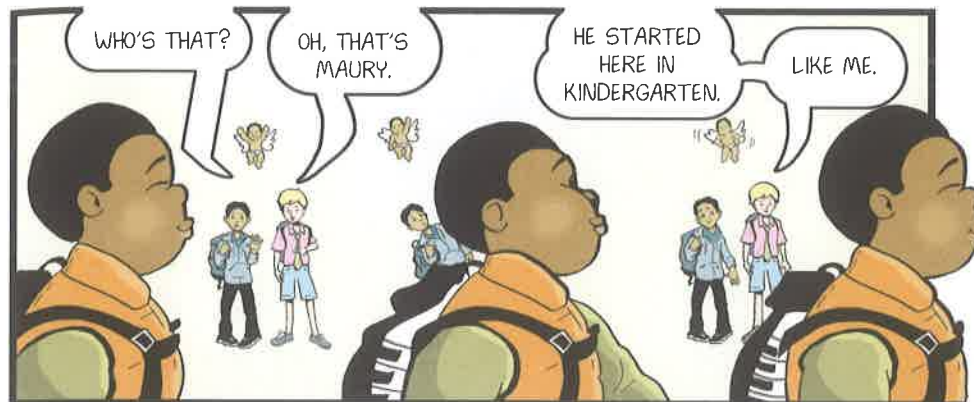
BY THE WAY, IT'S SALMON, NOT PINK.

LOOKS LIKE THE DOLL AISLE OF AN OLD TOYS "R" ...

US!



HALLELUJAH



WHO'S THAT?

OH, THAT'S MAURY.

HE STARTED HERE IN KINDERGARTEN.

LIKE ME.



HE LIVES RIGHT DOWN THE STREET FROM ME AND-

UH-OH ...

WHAT?

DEANDRE AND HIS SIDEKICKS, WINSTON AND ERIC.

THEY'RE SOPHOMORES, REAL JERKS, TOO!



NICE VEST, MAURY-O!

S'UP, MAURY-O?

YEAH, YOU LOOK GANGSTA!



WELCOME TO THE UPPER SCHOOL!

DOES YOUR MOMMY LET YOU PICK OUT YOUR OWN **BIG-BOY CLOTHES** NOW?



WHY DO THEY CALL HIM MAURY-O?

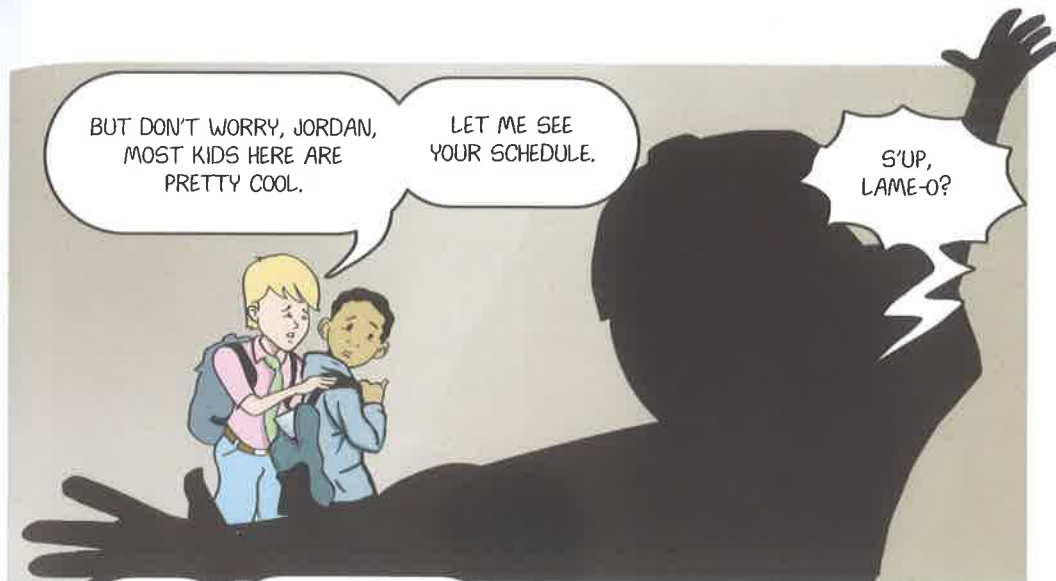
I HEARD 'CAUSE IT RHYMES WITH "OREO." BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT.

OH... I DO...

UNFORTUNATELY.

WHITE ON THE INSIDE.

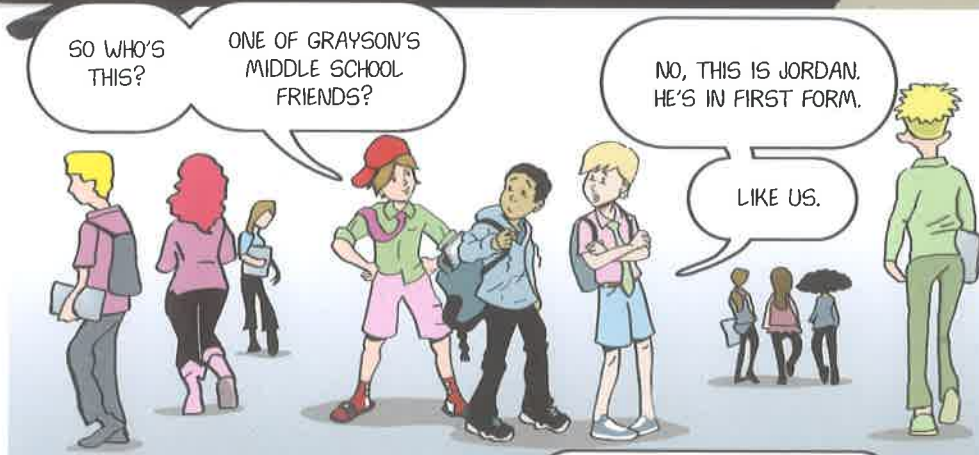
BLACK ON THE OUTSIDE.



BUT DON'T WORRY, JORDAN, MOST KIDS HERE ARE PRETTY COOL.

LET ME SEE YOUR SCHEDULE.

S'UP, LAME-O?

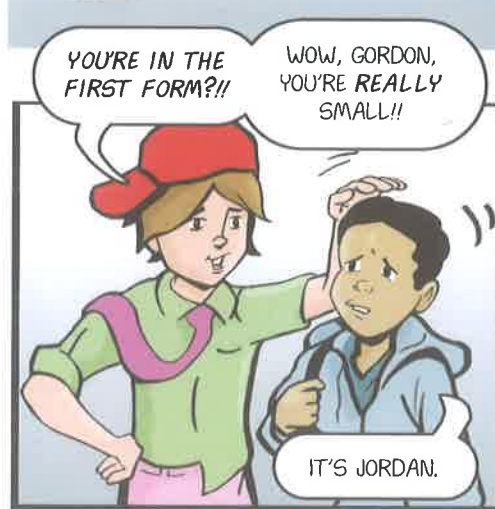


SO WHO'S THIS?

ONE OF GRAYSON'S MIDDLE SCHOOL FRIENDS?

NO, THIS IS JORDAN. HE'S IN FIRST FORM.

LIKE US.



YOU'RE IN THE FIRST FORM?!!

WOW, GORDON, YOU'RE REALLY SMALL!!

IT'S JORDAN.



I'M ANDY. ANDY PETERSON.

SO WHAT SPORT DO YOU PLAY, GORDON?

AND WHAT ARE YOU, ANYWAY?



HUH?!

FORGET IT ... HEY, I'M GONNA BE THE STARTING QUARTERBACK FOR OUR FOOTBALL TEAM ...

... SO I KNOW EVERYONE HERE AT RAD! ...



... C'MON, LET ME GIVE YOU THE SCOOP ON THE KIDS IN OUR FORM.

STARTING WITH ASHLEY AND RUBY WU. GOSSIP GIRLS! SO KEEP AWAY!

ANIME DORK ...

KEEP AWAY!

SHOW-OFF!

KEEP AWAY!

COMPUTER GEEKS.

KEEP AWAY!



AWKWARD KIDS ...

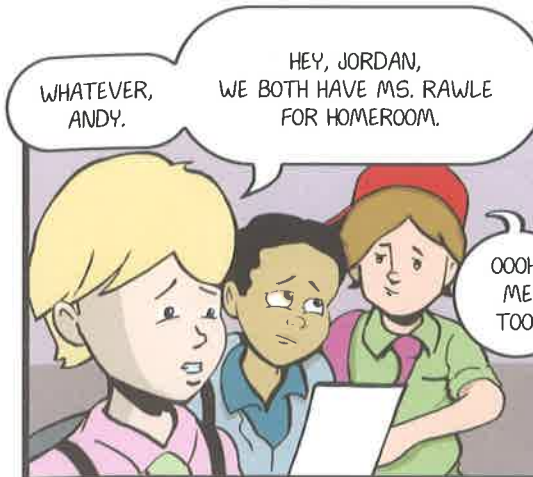
KEEP AWAY!

OTHER NEW KIDS ...

KEEP AWAY!

AND YOU DEFINITELY WANNA KEEP AWAY FROM THE KING OF THE DORKS HERE.

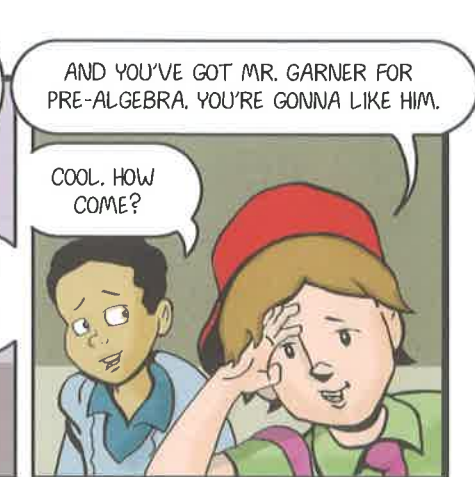
SO THAT JUST LEAVES ME!



WHATEVER, ANDY.

HEY, JORDAN, WE BOTH HAVE MS. RAWLE FOR HOMEROOM.

OOOH! ME TOO!



AND YOU'VE GOT MR. GARNER FOR PRE-ALGEBRA. YOU'RE GONNA LIKE HIM.

COOL. HOW COME?

'CAUSE HE'S ... HE'S ... WELL ... YOU'LL SEE.

RRRRRIIIINNNNNGGGGGGGGG

THERE'S THE BELL. C'MON, LI'L G.

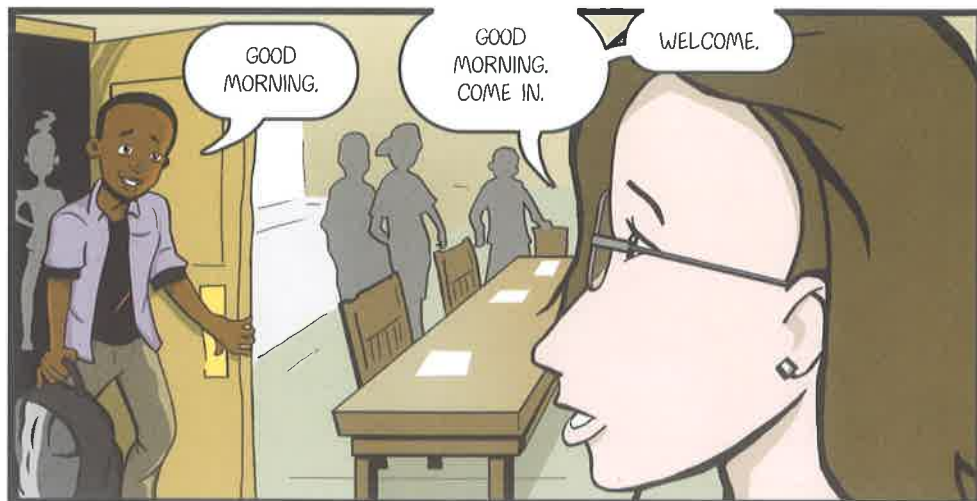
JORDAN!

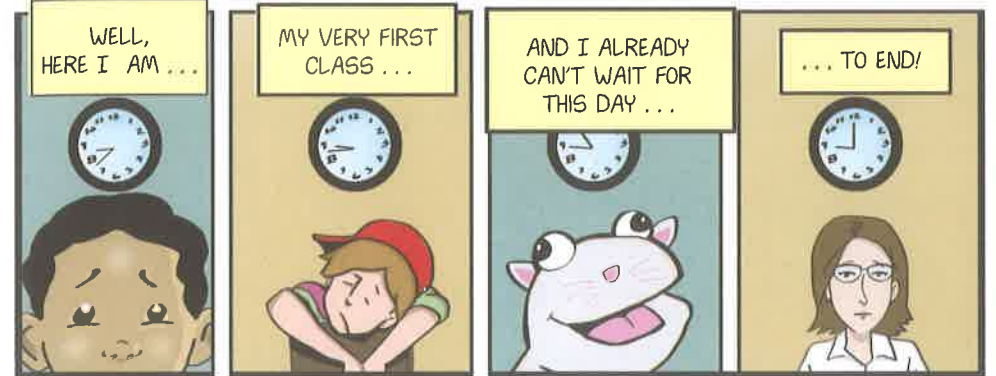
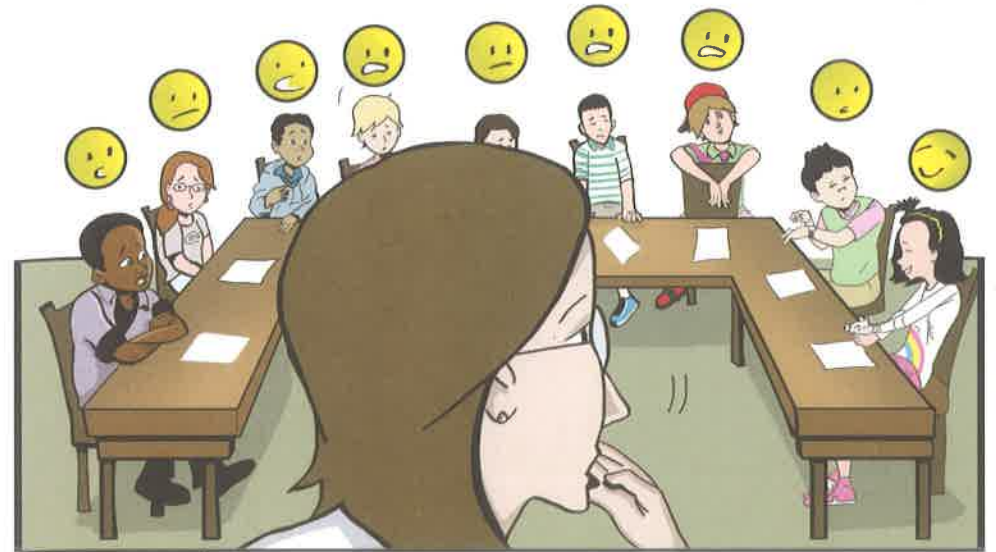
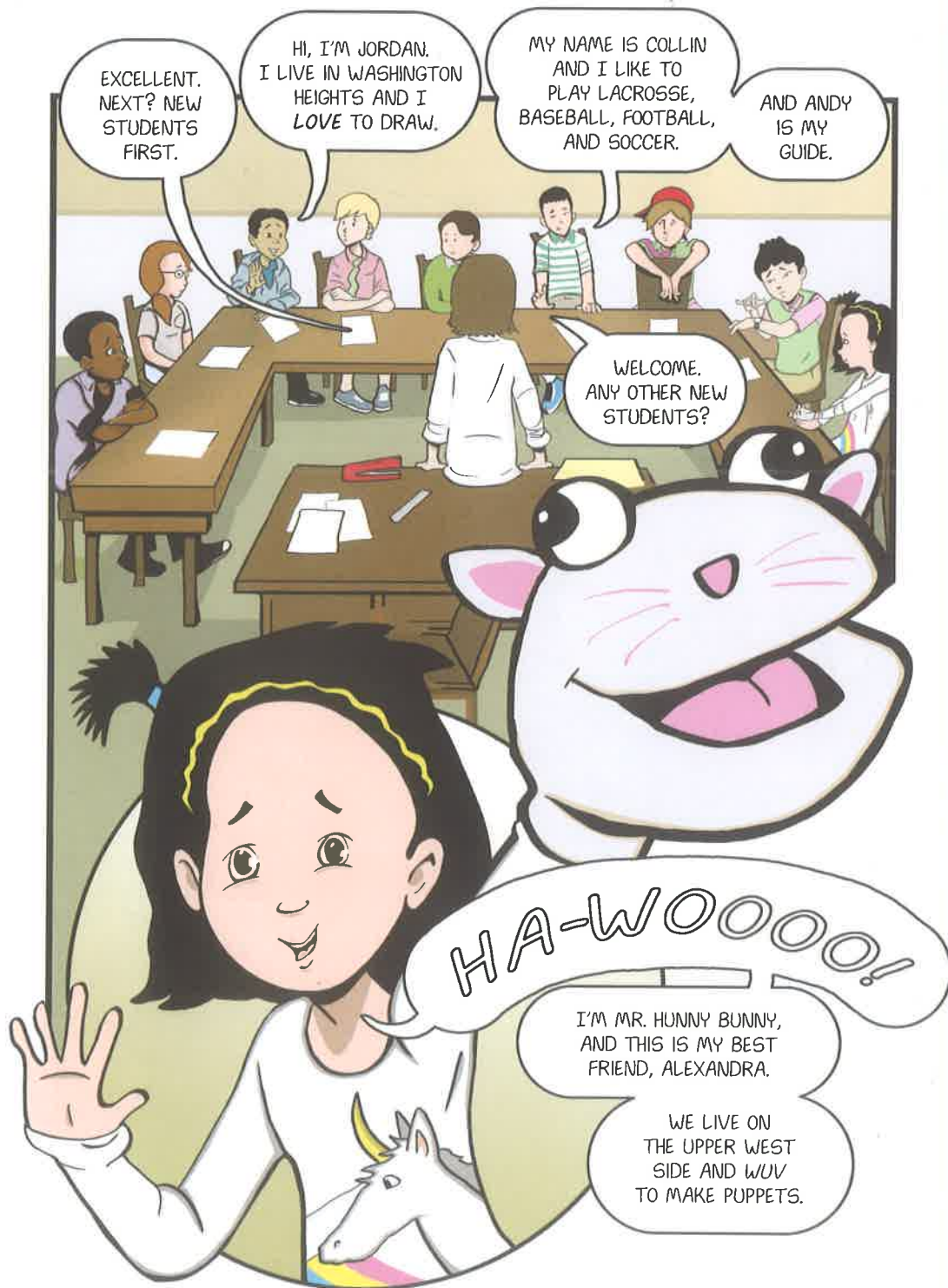


COLLIN!!! WHAT'S UP, DAWG?

YO, ANDY! S'UP?

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. PLEASE SETTLE DOWN. I'M MS. RAWLE.





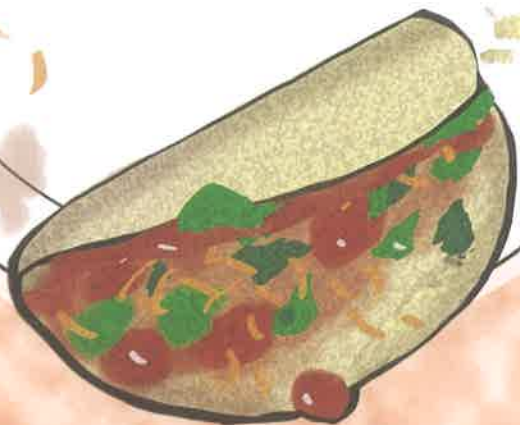
RRRRRIIIINN>NNNGGGGGGGGGG!!!!!!!

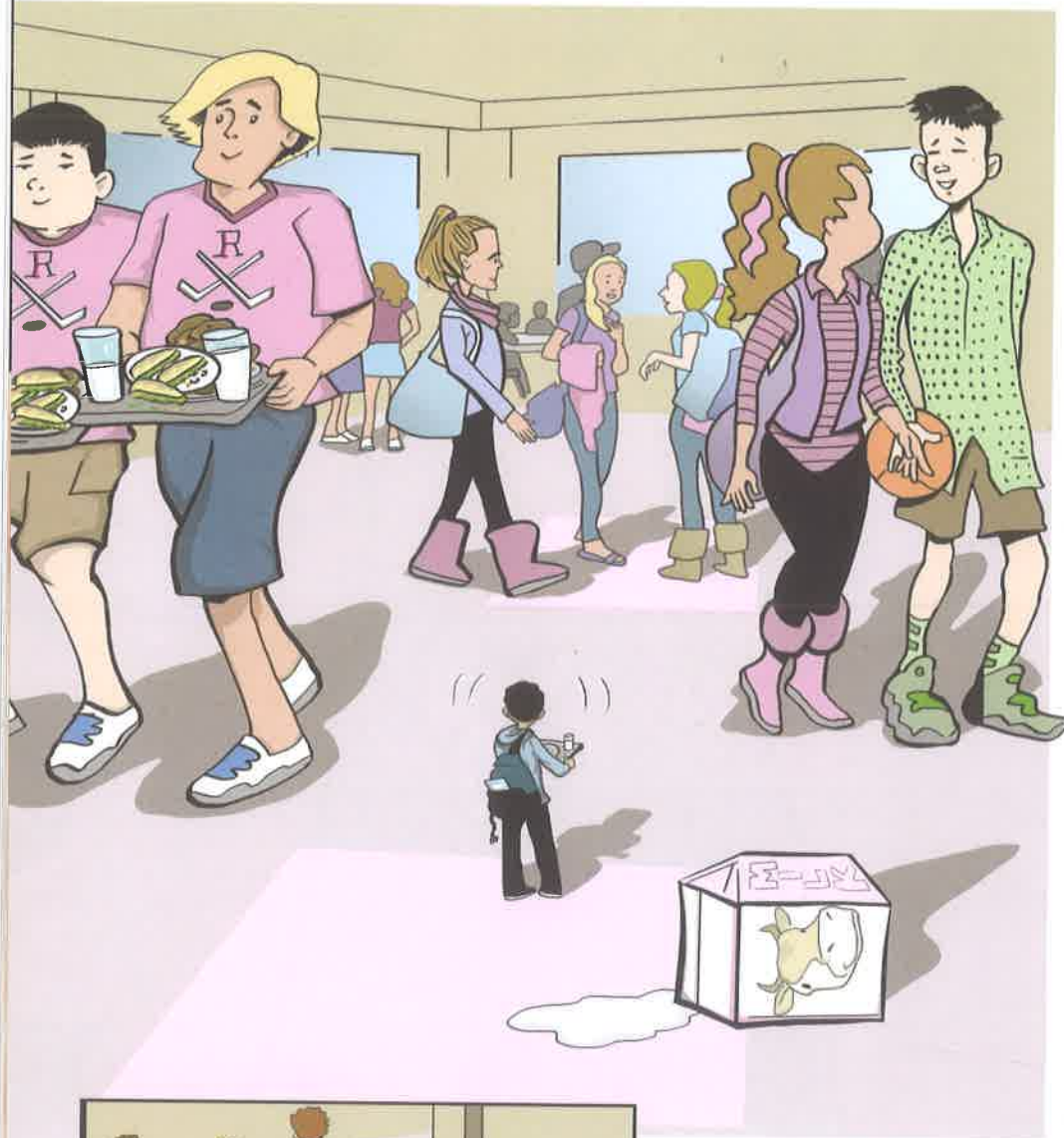




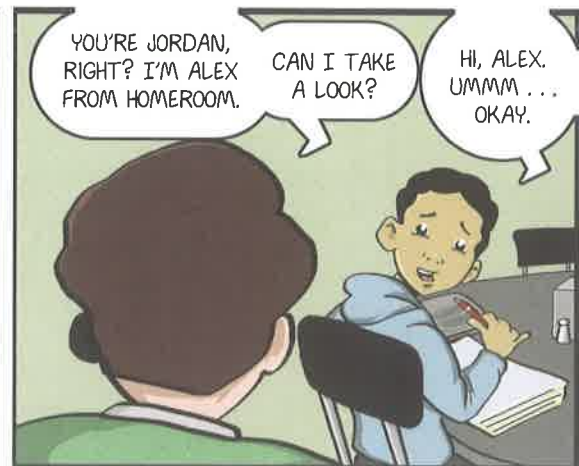
CHAPTER 3

THE HUNGRY GAMES:
STOP MOCKING J





WOW! YOU'RE GOOD!



YOU'RE JORDAN, RIGHT? I'M ALEX FROM HOMEROOM.

CAN I TAKE A LOOK?

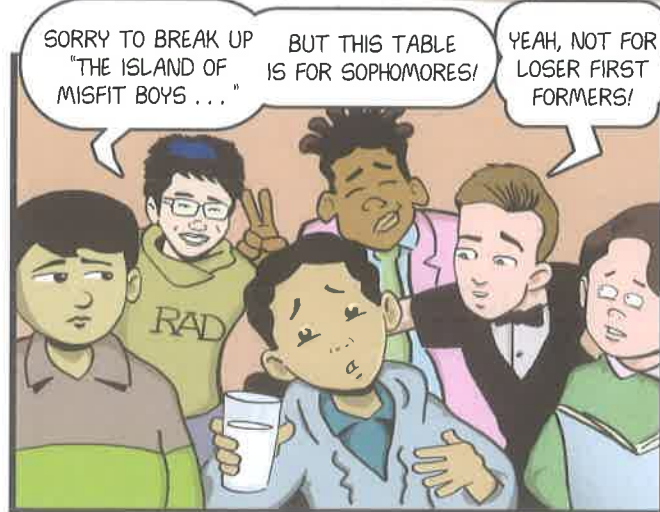
HI, ALEX. UMMMM... OKAY.



HEY, JORDAN. THIS IS RAMON.

HI, JORDAN. WELCOME TO RAD.

THANKS, RAMON!



SORRY TO BREAK UP "THE ISLAND OF MISFIT BOYS..."

BUT THIS TABLE IS FOR SOPHOMORES!

YEAH, NOT FOR LOSER FIRST FORMERS!

SO APPARENTLY THERE'S A SEATING ARRANGEMENT!



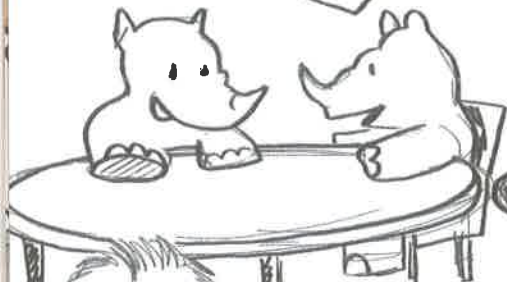
The Dude Pyramid

A Guide to Cafeteria Hierarchy

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) sit closest to the food.



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

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



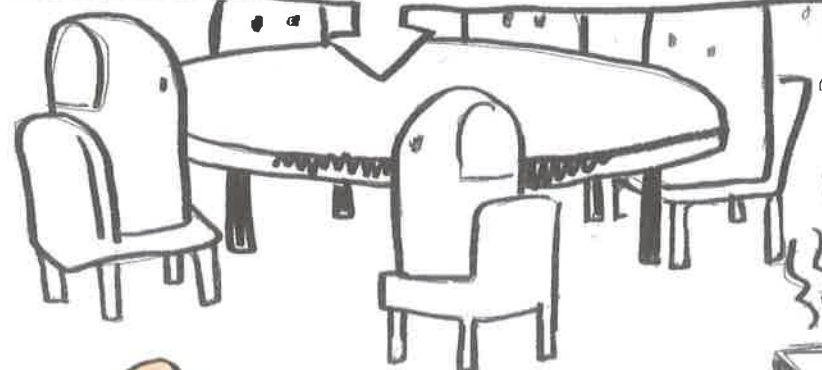
RAD

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

Dorky clubs (Worms) sit 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.



WIND

GARBAGE

Jordan Banks



LOSER FIRST FORM TABLE

HOLA, RAMON.

HEY, ALEX.

WASSUP, LIL G?

HEY, LAME-O!



THIS IS COLLIN. WE GO TO THE SAME BASEBALL CAMP.

DUDE'S A BEAST!

HEY!



HI, COLLIN.

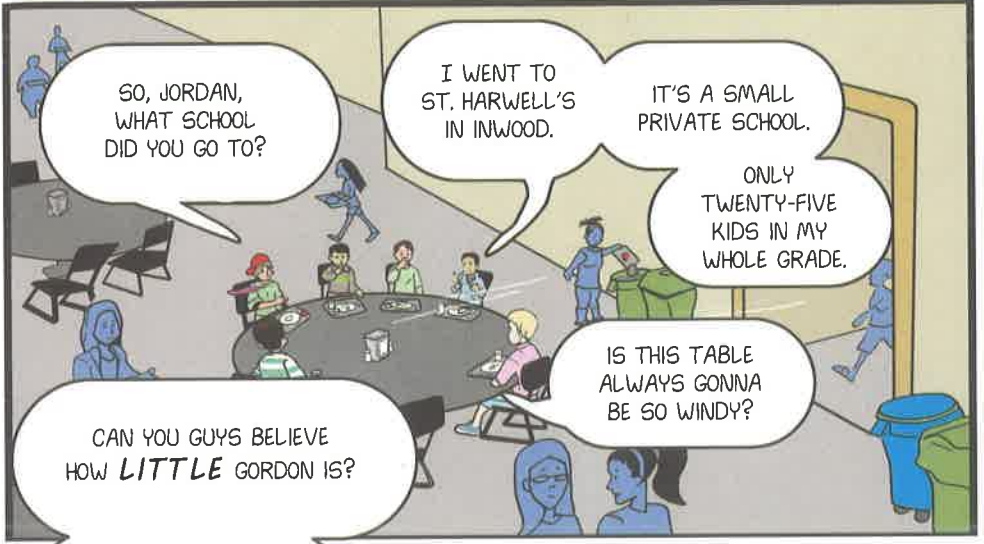
MMM... DON'T YOU GUYS JUST LOVE TACOS?



WELL, MAYBE NOT YOU, RAMON...

I'LL BET YOUR MOM'S ARE A LOT BETTER.

(SIGH)



SO, JORDAN, WHAT SCHOOL DID YOU GO TO?

I WENT TO ST. HARWELL'S IN INWOOD.

IT'S A SMALL PRIVATE SCHOOL.

ONLY TWENTY-FIVE KIDS IN MY WHOLE GRADE.

IS THIS TABLE ALWAYS GONNA BE SO WINDY?

CAN YOU GUYS BELIEVE HOW LITTLE GORDON IS?



I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S THIRTEEN!

I'M STILL TWELVE!



UMM... SO ANYWAY, JORDAN, ARE YOU INTO GRAPHIC NOVELS? LIKE AMULET?

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY KNOW A LOT ABOUT THEM.

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
ANDY 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

HEY,
JORDAN!

OH, HEY,
KIRK!

YOUR DAD SAID
YOU'D BE HOME
AROUND NOW.

SO WHAT'S
BEEN UP?

JUST BUMMED
ABOUT MY
NEW SCHOOL.

YEAH, I
FIGURED. I
KNOW TH-

OH...

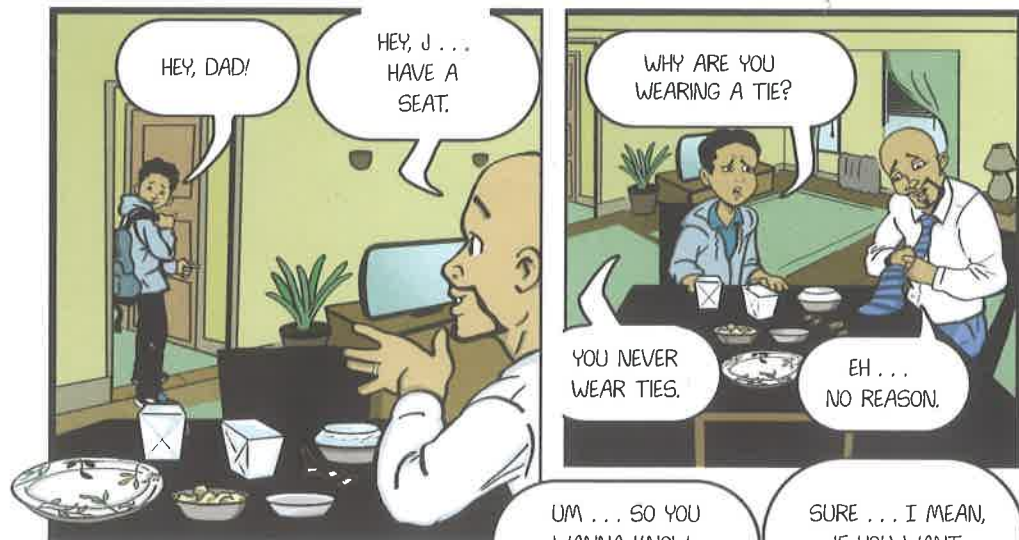
I'LL CATCH YOU
LATER, JORDAN.

KAY, SEE
YA.

WHO'S
THAT?

UMM...
JUST A FRIEND
FROM THE
BLOCK.

\$5,000



HEY, DAD!

HEY, J... HAVE A SEAT.



WHY ARE YOU WEARING A TIE?

YOU NEVER WEAR TIES.

EH... NO REASON.



UM... SO YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT MY DAY?

SURE... I MEAN, IF YOU WANT. UP TO YOU.

THE SCHOOL IS GIGANTIC! THERE ARE A HUNDRED KIDS IN MY GRADE.

SO, HOW WAS THE... YOU KNOW...

DIVERSITY? NOT GREAT. BUT BETTER THAN WE THOUGHT.



I'M USED TO TWENTY-FIVE!

A FEW OF US IN EACH GRADE.



I GUESS THAT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.

HOW DID THEY TREAT YOU?

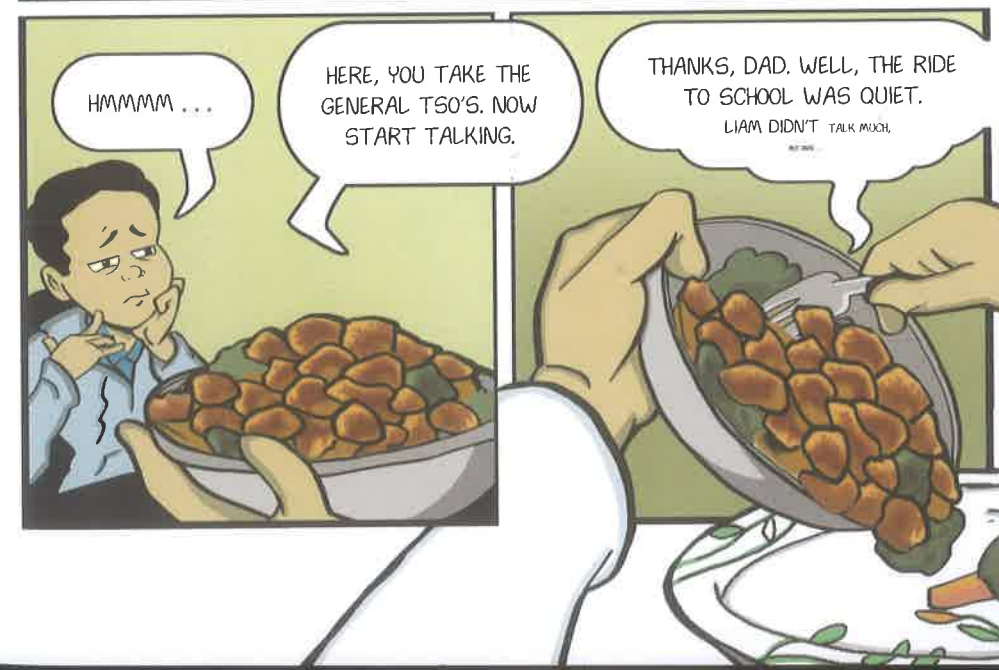
PRETTY GOOD. BUT I'M STARVING. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT WHILE WE EAT.



TOO BAD GRAN'PA'S NOT HERE. HE **LOVES** CHINESE FOOD.

YEAH, I MISS HIM, TOO.

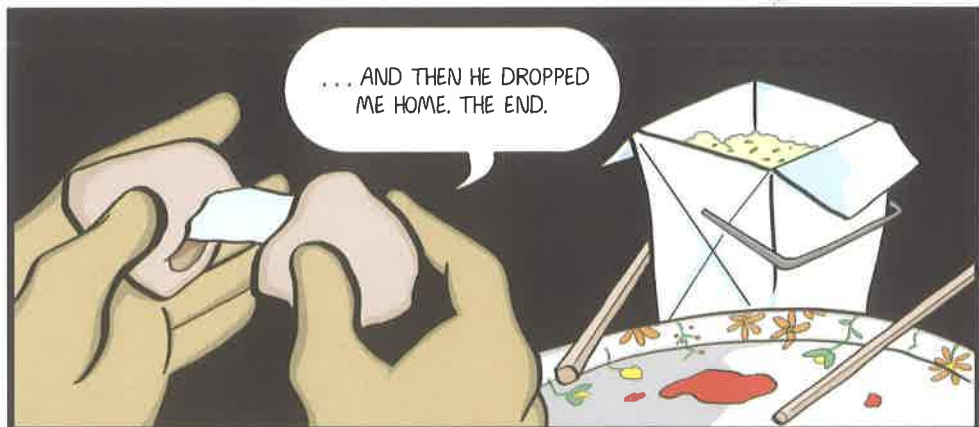
GENERAL TSO'S OR PEPPER STEAK?



HMMMM...

HERE, YOU TAKE THE GENERAL TSO'S. NOW START TALKING.

THANKS, DAD. WELL, THE RIDE TO SCHOOL WAS QUIET. LIAM DIDN'T TALK MUCH.



... AND THEN HE DROPPED ME HOME. THE END.



WOW ... HEY, DID YOU SEE KIRK OUTSIDE?

HE RANG THE BELL EARLIER.



YEAH, HE WAS ON THE STOOP.



BUT I WAS WITH LIAM, SO IT WAS KINDA WEIRD.

HOW COME?



I DUNNO. IT JUST WAS.

HMMM ...



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 ...

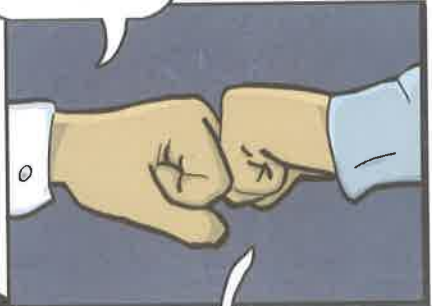
... AND IF YOU STILL DON'T KNOW BY NINTH GRADE ...

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



REALLY, DAD?!!!

REALLY, J.



THANKS!