

THE ADVENTURES OF...

THE UMBRELLA GANG

#NEURODIVERSITY



ADHD 
FOUNDATION
Umbrella Project

DEKKA
COMICS



AWARDS
FOR ALL
SCOTLAND

LOTTERY FUNDED

ADHD 
FOUNDATION
The Neurodiversity Charity



Film
Forever

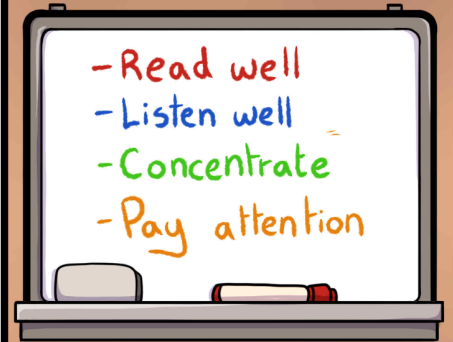
THIS IS *ST. SHELTER'S* SCHOOL. HOME TO PUPILS OF ALL AGES, SHAPES, SIZES AND TYPES.



BUT EVEN THOUGH IT HAS SO MANY DIFFERENT TYPES, THE SCHOOL ONLY TEACHES IN ONE WAY.



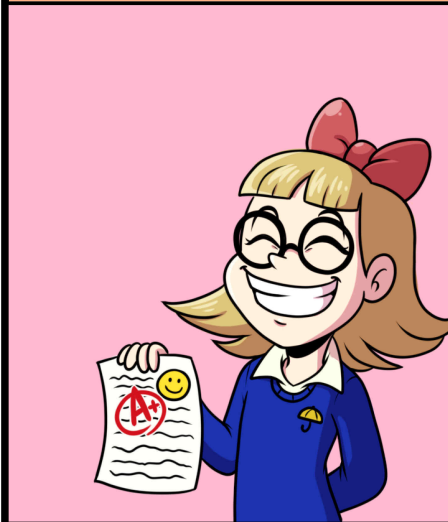
YOU HAVE TO BE GOOD AT **READING, LISTENING, CONCENTRATING AND PAYING ATTENTION** TO GET GOOD GRADES.



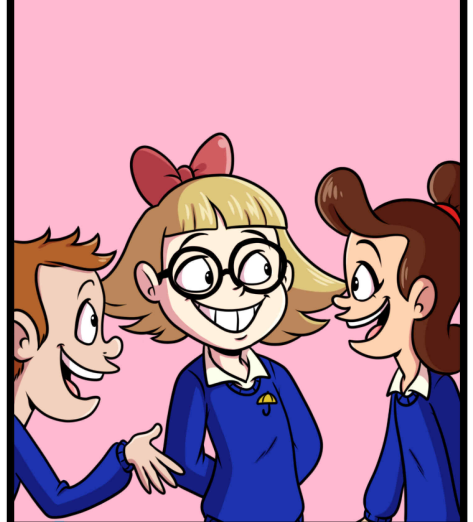
YOU HAVE TO READ STUFF FROM TEXTBOOKS AND LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE TEACHER TO DO WELL.



IF YOU'RE GOOD AT READING AND LISTENING, YOU'LL DO VERY WELL IN THIS SCHOOL.



EVEN BETTER, YOU MAY BE SEEN AS "SMART". PEOPLE MAY EVEN LOOK UP TO YOU.



BUT IF YOU'RE **NOT** SO GOOD AT IT, WELL....



YOU MIGHT FEEL THE OPPOSITE OF "SMART" EVERY DAY IN CLASS. YOU MIGHT FEEL RATHER STUPID.



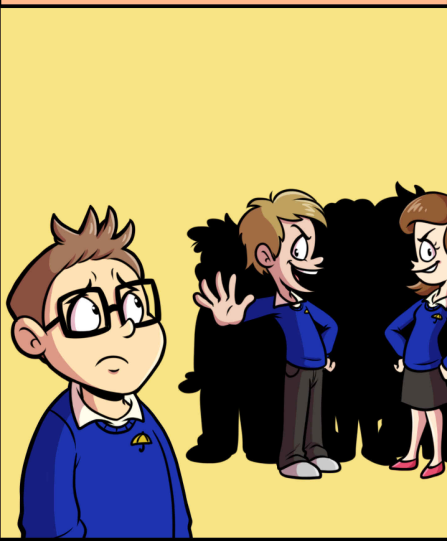
YOU MIGHT WORRY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE THINKING YOU'RE STUPID, AND ABOUT YOUR PARENTS FINDING OUT.



WORSE STILL, OTHER CHILDREN MAY ACTUALLY SEE YOU AS STUPID – DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH YOU'RE STRUGGLING.



THIS CAN LEAD TO YOU FEELING BAD ABOUT YOURSELF. IN FACT, IN SOME SCHOOLS LIKE ST.SHELTER'S....



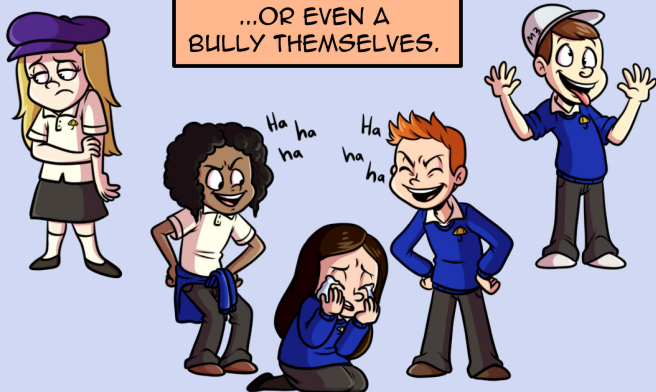
...IT CAN EVEN LEAD TO BULLYING!



THIS IS WHY SOME CHILDREN IN ST.SHELTER'S SCHOOL MAY NOT PUT THEIR HANDS UP IN CLASS.

THEY DON'T WANT TO DRAW THIS ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES. OR THEY MAY BECOME A CLASS CLOWN...

...OR EVEN A BULLY THEMSELVES.



ANYTHING TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE UNWANTED ATTENTION AND JUDGEMENT OF OTHER PUPILS.



ST.SHELTER'S SCHOOL MEANS WELL, BUT LIKE MOST SCHOOLS IT TEACHES IN **ONE PARTICULAR WAY.**

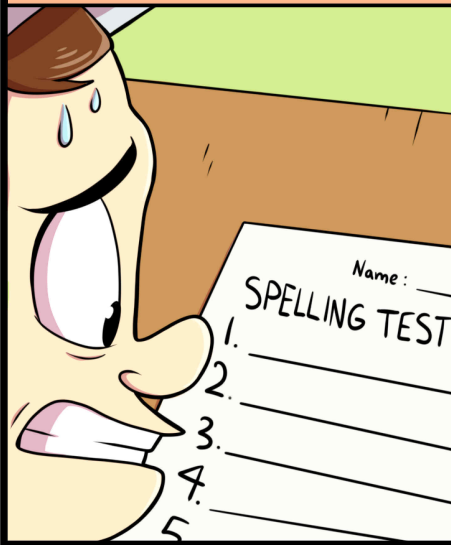
AND WHEN YOU ONLY TEACH IN ONE WAY, YOU'RE BOUND TO GET WINNERS AND **LOSERS.**



FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU HAVE **ADHD** YOU MIGHT STRUGGLE WITH ATTENTION AND HYPERACTIVITY DURING CLASS.



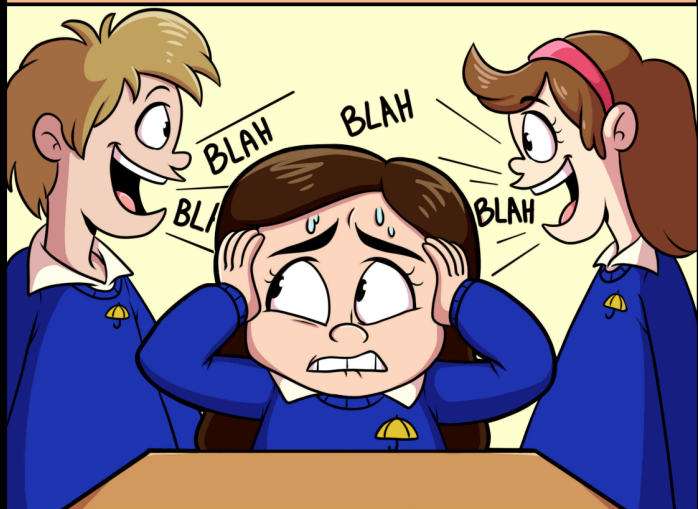
OR **DYSLEXIA**, WHICH CAN CAUSE SLOW WRITING SPEEDS AND MAKE READING AND WRITING WORDS PARTICULARLY HARD.



KICKING A BALL, TYING A SHOELACE, OR EVEN HOLDING A PENCIL IS TRICKIER FOR SOMEONE WITH **DYSPRAXIA**.



AUTISM AFFECTS HOW SOMEONE EXPERIENCES THE WORLD. IT MAKES MAKING FRIENDS HARDER AND LOUD NOISES IN A ROOM DIFFICULT TO COPE WITH.



TOURETTE'S SYNDROME (TS) CAN CAUSE "TICS"; IMPULSES TO MAKE STRANGE NOISES, SHOUT, OR EVEN MAKE NASTY COMMENTS.



THERE ARE OTHERS TOO. **DYSGRAPHIA** MAKES ORGANISING AND PROCESSING INFORMATION HARDER.

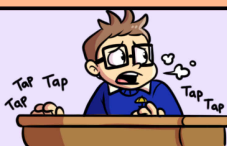


DYSCALCULIA IS LIKE DYSLEXIA BUT FOR NUMBERS RATHER THAN WORDS.

THESE MIND CONDITIONS ARE ALL EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE CALL **NEURODIVERSITY**. 1 IN 5 PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE NEURODIVERSE, WHICH IS A LOT!



DEPRESSION IS A MOOD DISORDER THAT CAN MAKE YOU FEEL VERY DOWN ALL THE TIME.



AN **ANXIETY** DISORDER CAN MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GOING MAD AND RAISE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE.



ALL OF THESE ARE NOT DISEASES. THEY ARE THE WAY SOME PEOPLE'S MINDS WORK.

THEY'RE NOTHING TO DO WITH INTELLIGENCE, BUT IN SCHOOL THEY MIGHT LOOK LIKE WEIRDNESS OR STUPIDITY.

SCHOOL CAN BE A VERY UNHAPPY PLACE FOR A LOT OF THESE PEOPLE. MANY JUST SEE THEM LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING "WRONG" WITH THEM.

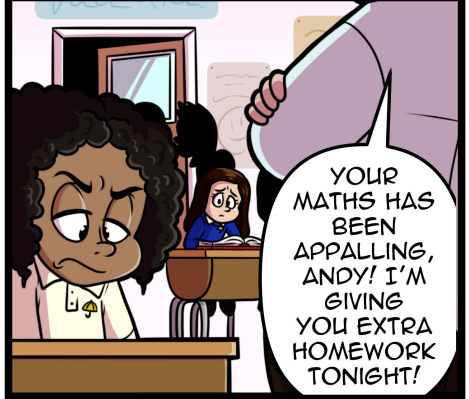


AND UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T WANT IT TO BE TRUE...



...SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE TREATED LIKE THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU.

BUT THIS ISN'T A STORY ABOUT THE NEGATIVES OF PUPILS WHO HAVE SOME FORM OF NEURODIVERSITY.

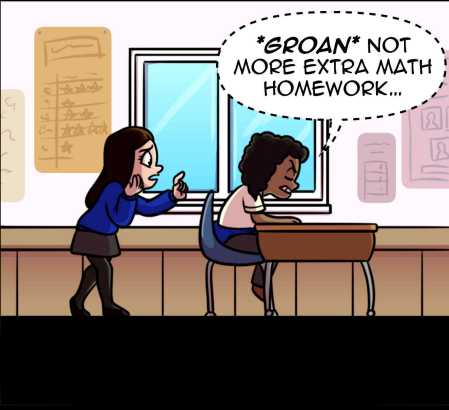


YOUR MATHS HAS BEEN APPALLING, ANDY! I'M GIVING YOU EXTRA HOMEWORK TONIGHT!

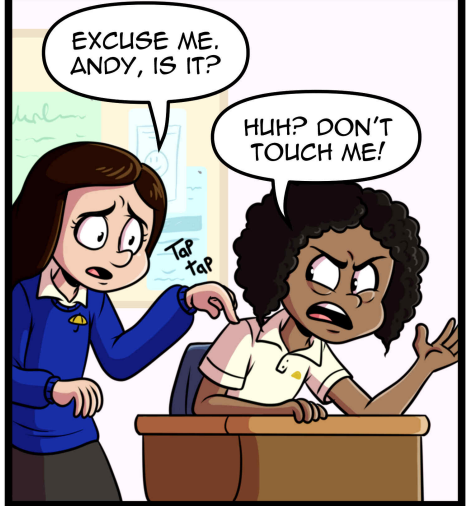
IT'S ABOUT THE GREAT POSITIVES...



...AND WHAT NEURODIVERSITY CAN BRING TO A SCHOOL IF WE TRY TO UNDERSTAND IT BETTER.



GROAN NOT MORE EXTRA MATH HOMEWORK...



EXCUSE ME. ANDY, IS IT?

HUH? DON'T TOUCH ME!

SORRY. I JUST COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE TEACHER GIVE YOU EXTRA MATH HOMEWORK.



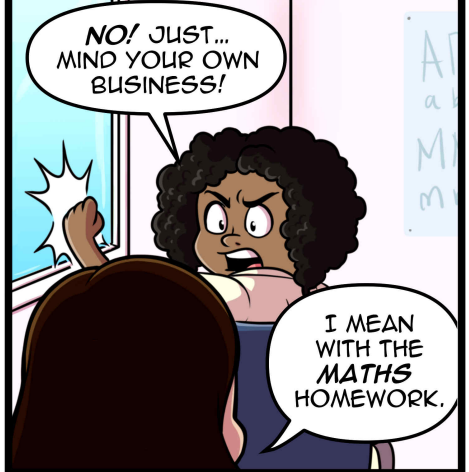
YEAH, WELL WHAT'S IT TO YOU? LEAVE ME ALONE, Y-

ANDY OFTEN TRIES TO COVER UP HIS TICS.



SH-FFFFF!!

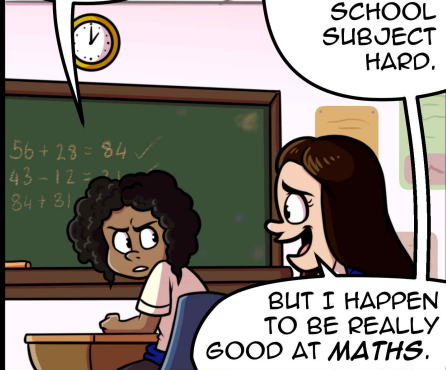
EM... CAN I HELP YOU?



NO! JUST... MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

I MEAN WITH THE MATHS HOMEWORK.

REALLY? YOU'D HELP ME? BUT... WHY?



I JUST KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FIND A SCHOOL SUBJECT HARD.

BUT I HAPPEN TO BE REALLY GOOD AT MATHS.

FINE. BUT AS LONG AS WE DO IT PRIVATELY SO I DON'T HAVE TO BE SEEN WITH YOU.

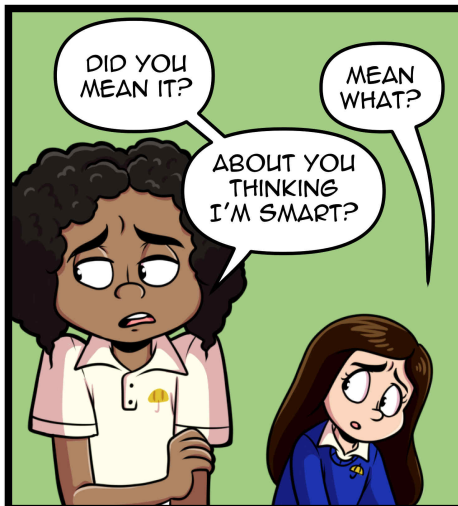
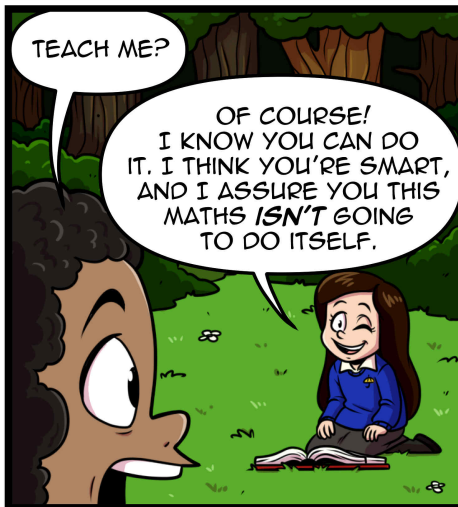
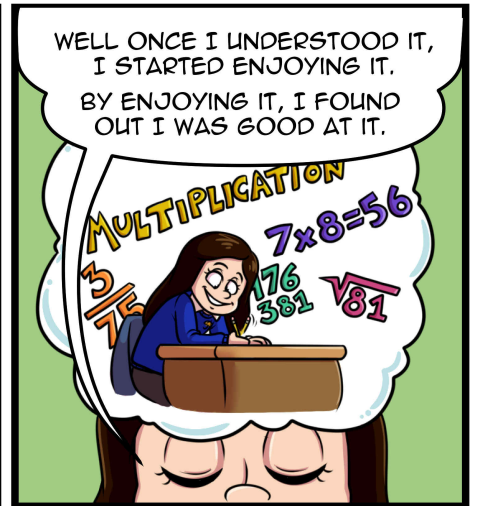
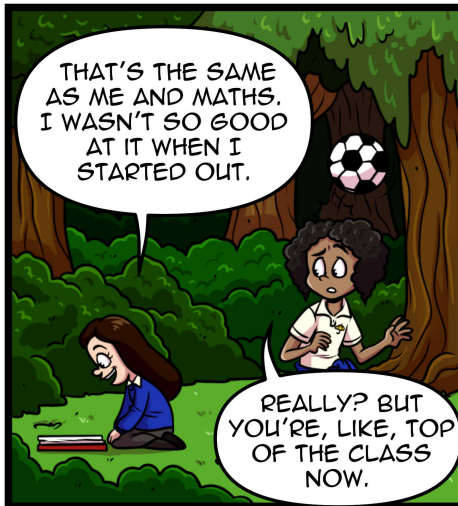


I KNOW JUST THE PLACE.

SO AT LUNCHTIME, SIENA TAKES HIM TO A SECURE PLACE IN THE PLAYGROUND WHERE SHE VISITS REGULARLY.



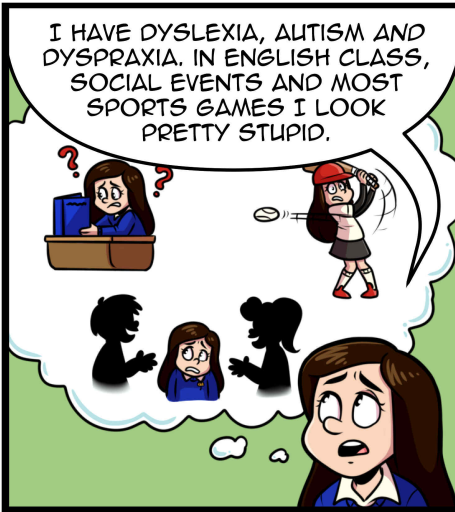
SHE'S NEVER TOLD ANYONE ELSE ABOUT IT BEFORE.



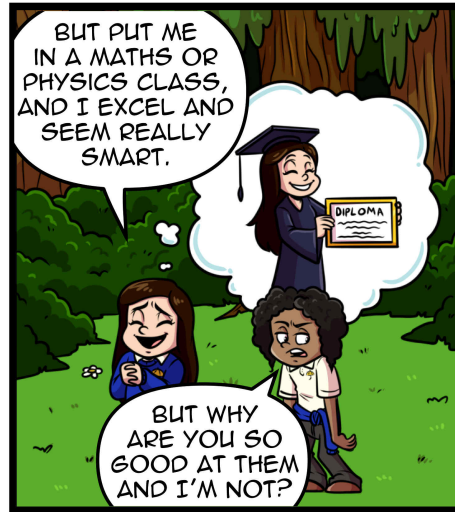


I THINK YOU'RE SMART BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE IN CLASS IN THE WAY YOU DO TEND TO BE PRETTY SMART.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

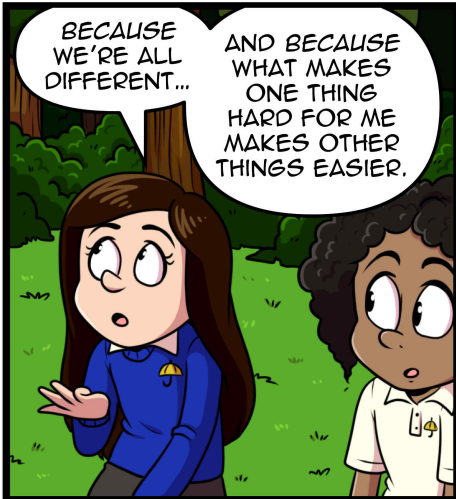


I HAVE DYSLEXIA, AUTISM AND DYSPRAXIA. IN ENGLISH CLASS, SOCIAL EVENTS AND MOST SPORTS GAMES I LOOK PRETTY STUPID.



BUT PUT ME IN A MATHS OR PHYSICS CLASS, AND I EXCEL AND SEEM REALLY SMART.

BUT WHY ARE YOU SO GOOD AT THEM AND I'M NOT?



BECAUSE WE'RE ALL DIFFERENT...

AND BECAUSE WHAT MAKES ONE THING HARD FOR ME MAKES OTHER THINGS EASIER.



JUST LIKE YOU AND FOOTBALL. I'LL BET NOT EVERYONE CAN DO THAT TRICK YOU DID BACK THERE.

HEH-HEH. YOU'RE RIGHT; THAT'S JUST A LITTLE THING I INVENTED MYSELF.



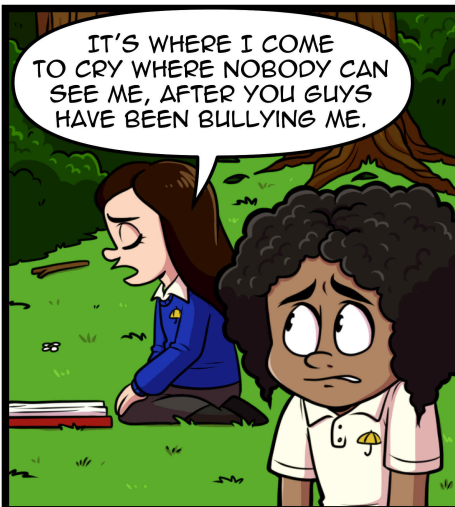
YOU KEEP GETTING ME BETTER AT MATHS, AND I'LL GET YOU BETTER AT FOOTBALL ONE DAY. IS THAT A DEAL?

HAHA! DEAL!



YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER SEE THIS PLACE OF MINE.

I WAS GONNA SAY: HOW LONG'VE YOU BEEN COMING HERE FOR AND WHY?

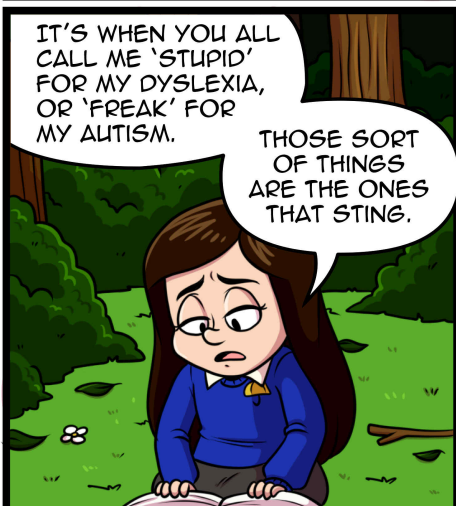


IT'S WHERE I COME TO CRY WHERE NOBODY CAN SEE ME, AFTER YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN BULLYING ME.



LIKE THE TIME WE PUSHED YOU IN THE CORRIDOR BEFORE CHEMISTRY?

THOSE BITS AREN'T SO BAD. ANYONE CAN GET PUSHED IN THE CORRIDOR.



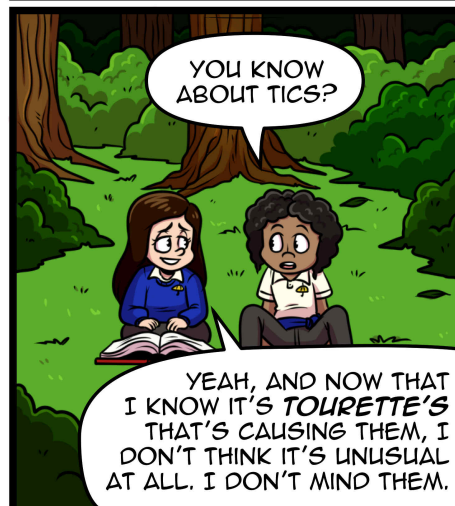
IT'S WHEN YOU ALL CALL ME 'STUPID' FOR MY DYSLEXIA, OR 'FREAK' FOR MY AUTISM.

THOSE SORT OF THINGS ARE THE ONES THAT STING.



I'M... I'M SO SORRY. I'M JUST AFRAID THEY'LL CALL ME THOSE THINGS FOR MY 'TICS' IF I DON'T JOIN IN,

YOU MEAN MAKING UNCONTROLLABLE SOUNDS OR MOVEMENTS? REALLY REPETITIVE THOUGHTS?



YOU KNOW ABOUT TICS?

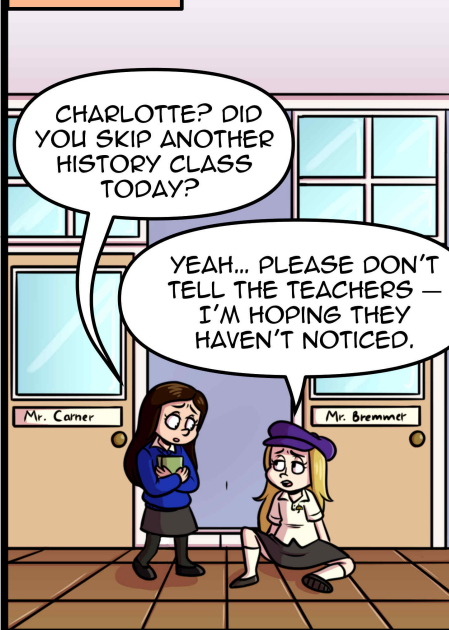
YEAH, AND NOW THAT I KNOW IT'S TOURETTE'S THAT'S CAUSING THEM, I DON'T THINK IT'S UNUSUAL AT ALL. I DON'T MIND THEM.

AND SO THE TWO BECOME FRIENDS THAT DAY, AND AGREE TO MEET THE NEXT DAY AFTER SCHOOL TOO.



THEY ALSO THINK ABOUT WHO ELSE THEY CAN INVITE ALONG WHO HAS NEURODIVERSITY, LIKE THEM.

NEXT DAY...



CHARLOTTE? DID YOU SKIP ANOTHER HISTORY CLASS TODAY?

YEAH... PLEASE DON'T TELL THE TEACHERS — I'M HOPING THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED.

MY ADHD AND DEPRESSION MAKES MY CONCENTRATION TERRIBLE.

SO PAYING ATTENTION IN AN ALREADY BORING CLASS IS A BIT... STRESSFUL FOR ME.



WHAT I'M CRAVING TO DO IS ACTING, BUT THE SCHOOL DOESN'T DO LESSONS FOR IT.

IF WE COULD PERFORM THE HISTORY, CLASS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER, (AND FUN).

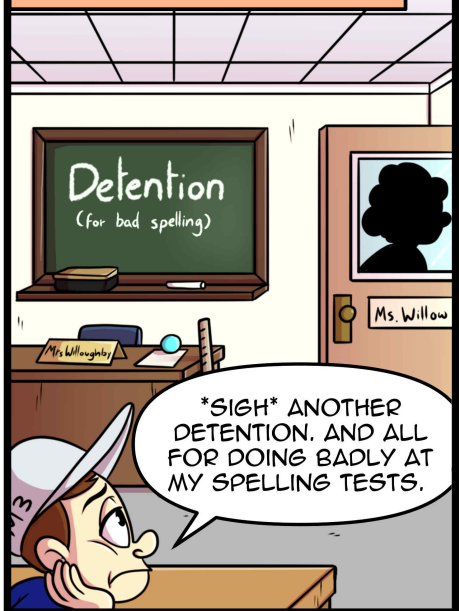


YOU KNOW, ME AND A FRIEND HAVE A LITTLE HANG-OUT GOING ON AFTER SCHOOL.

I THINK YOU MIGHT ENJOY IT, AND EVEN FIND IT HELPFUL.



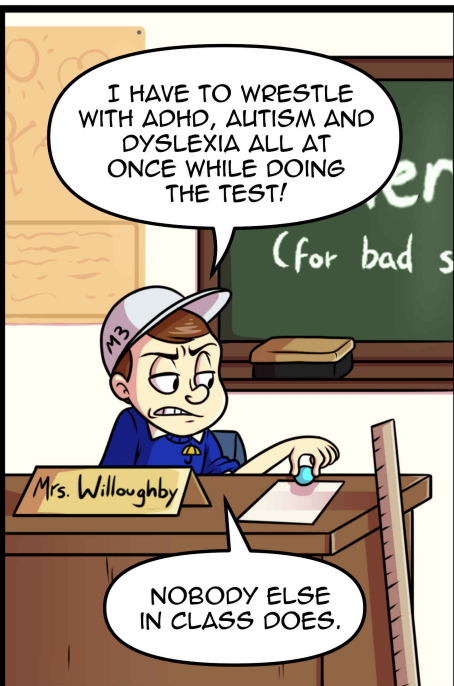
LATER STILL, AFTER SCHOOL...



SIGH ANOTHER DETENTION. AND ALL FOR DOING BADLY AT MY SPELLING TESTS.

I HAVE TO WRESTLE WITH ADHD, AUTISM AND DYSLEXIA ALL AT ONCE WHILE DOING THE TEST!

NOBODY ELSE IN CLASS DOES.

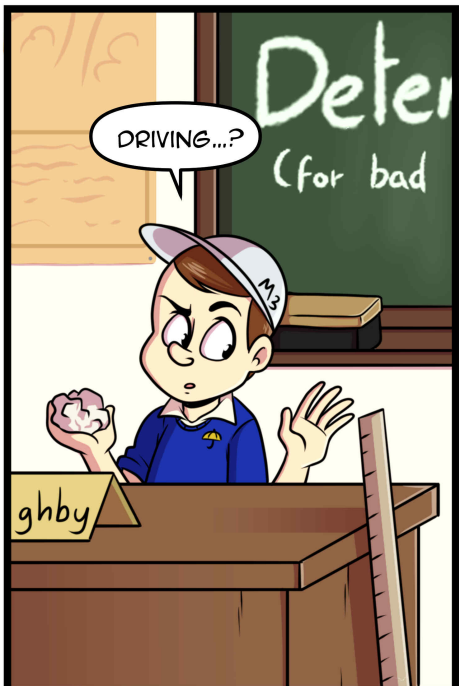


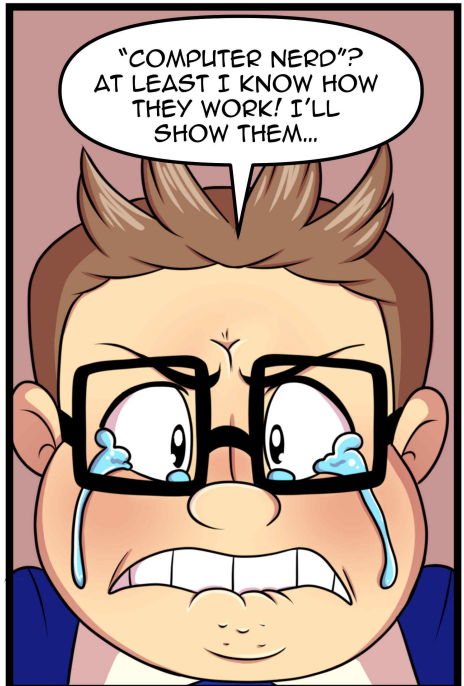
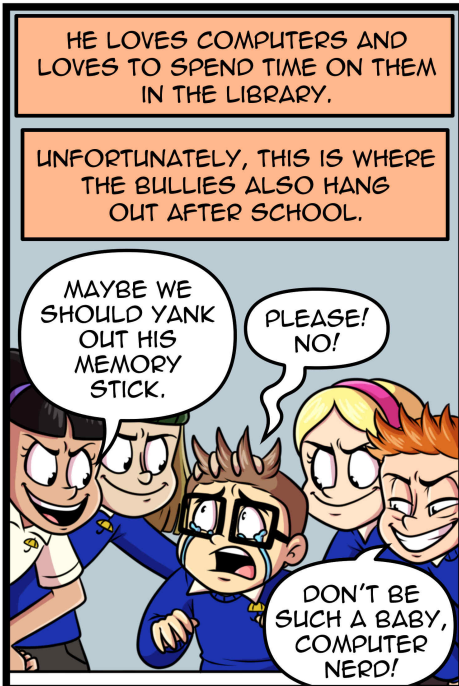
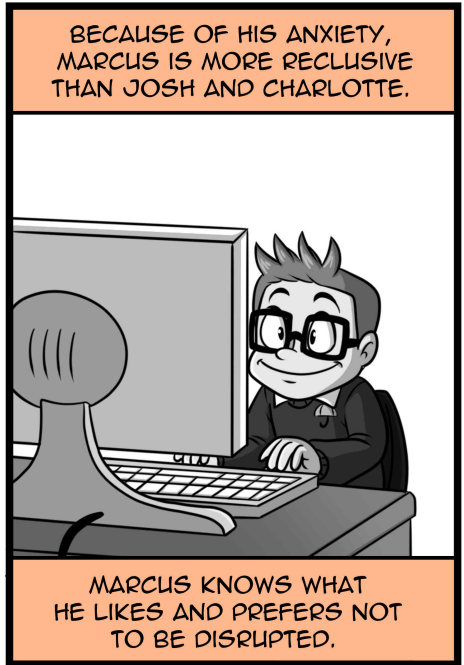
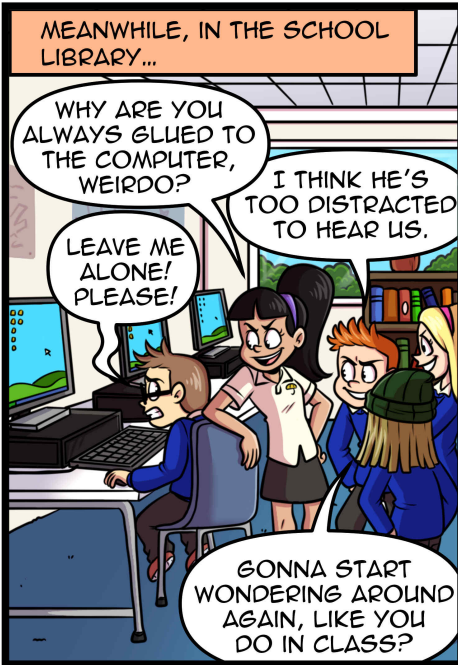
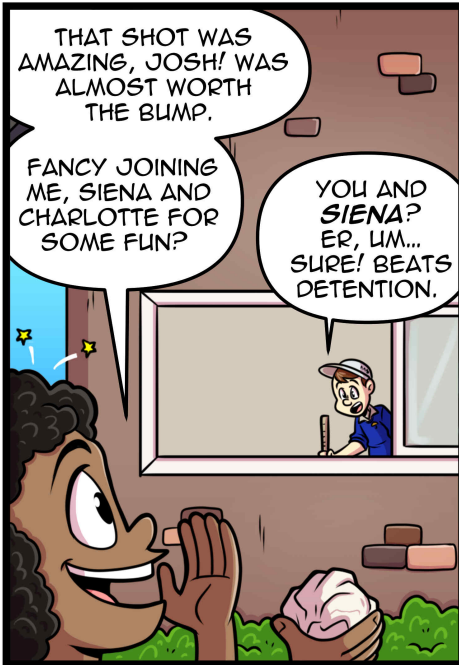
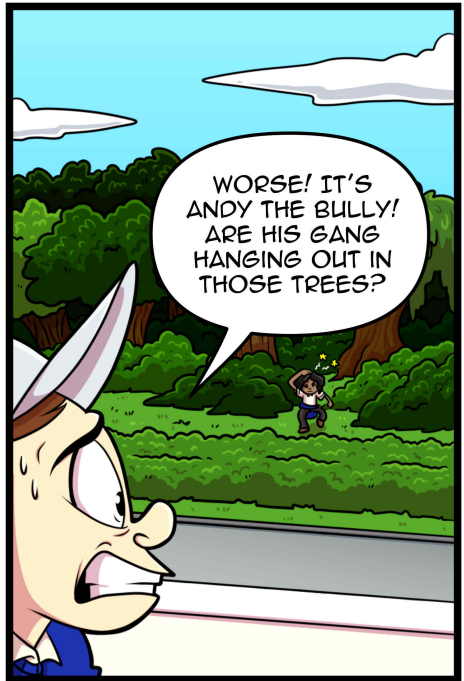
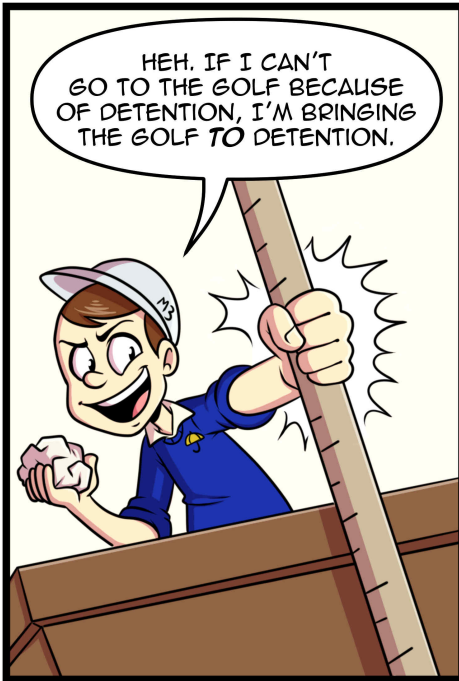
AND NOW I'M GOING TO MISS THE GOLF ON TV, BECAUSE I'M STUCK HERE.

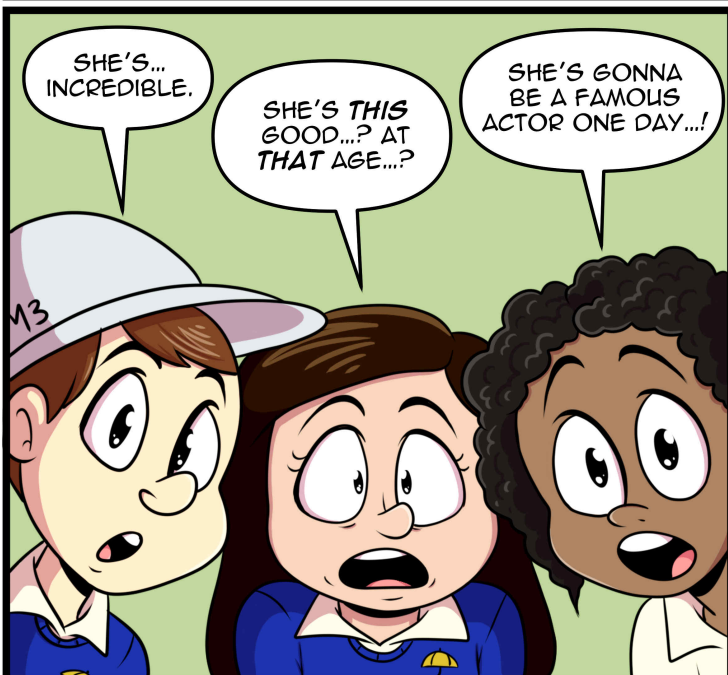
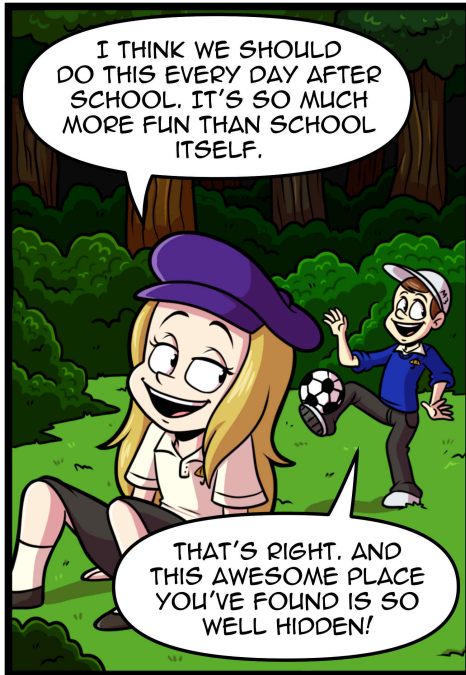
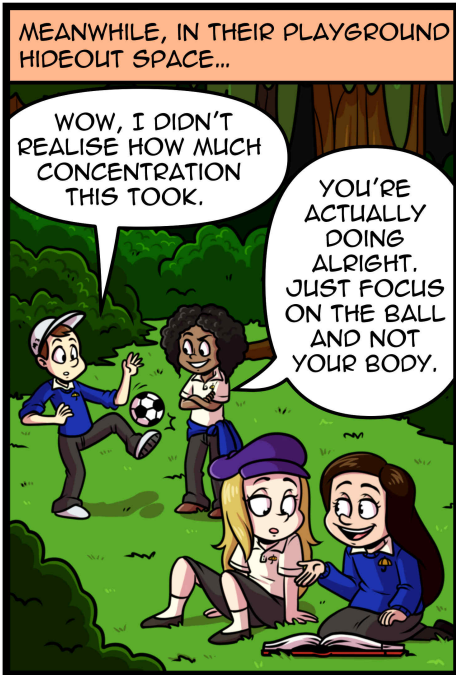
THE INJUSTICE OF THIS IS DRIVING ME NUTS!



DRIVING...?



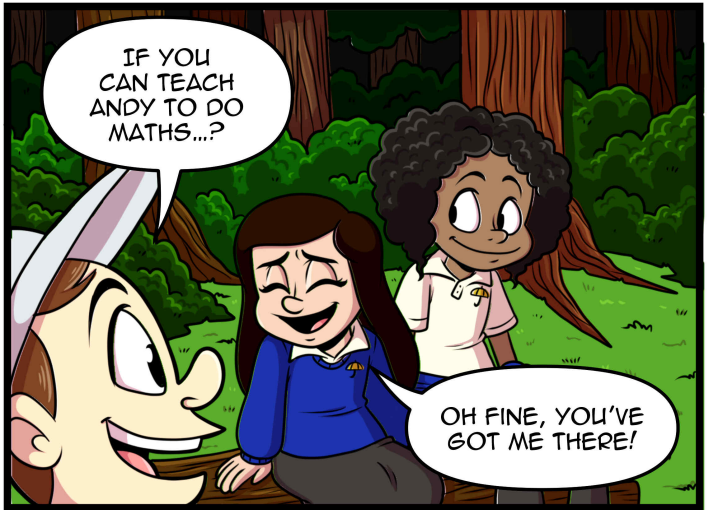






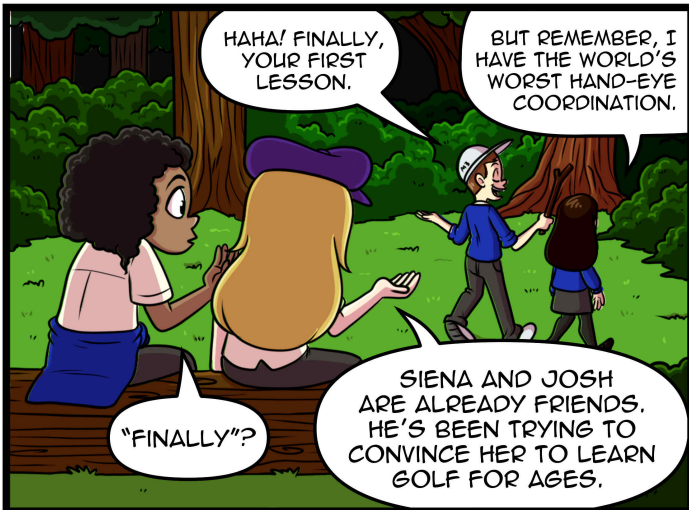
MY TURN NOW! SIENA, WANT TO LEARN A BIT OF THE OLD GOLFING?

EM, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING THINGS WE'RE GOOD AT, RIGHT?



IF YOU CAN TEACH ANDY TO DO MATHS...?

OH FINE, YOU'VE GOT ME THERE!

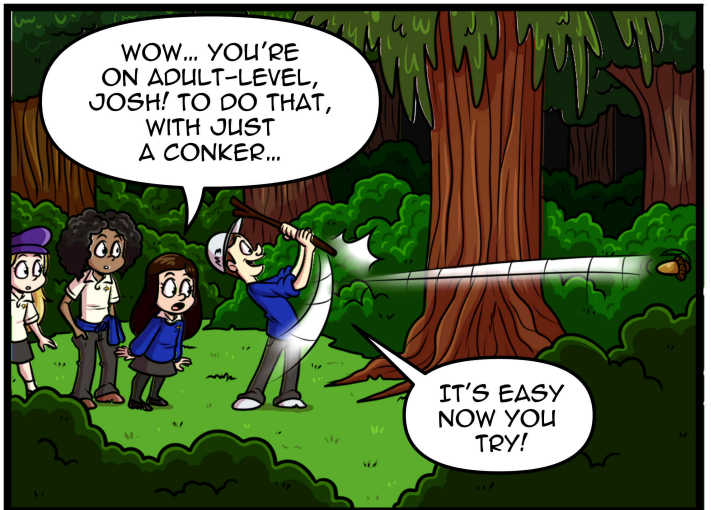


HAHA! FINALLY, YOUR FIRST LESSON.

BUT REMEMBER, I HAVE THE WORLD'S WORST HAND-EYE COORDINATION.

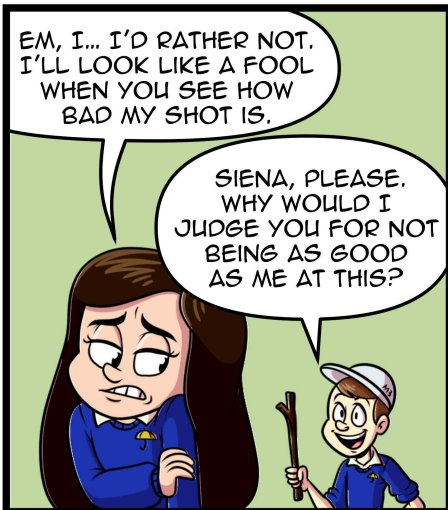
"FINALLY"?

SIENA AND JOSH ARE ALREADY FRIENDS. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE HER TO LEARN GOLF FOR AGES.



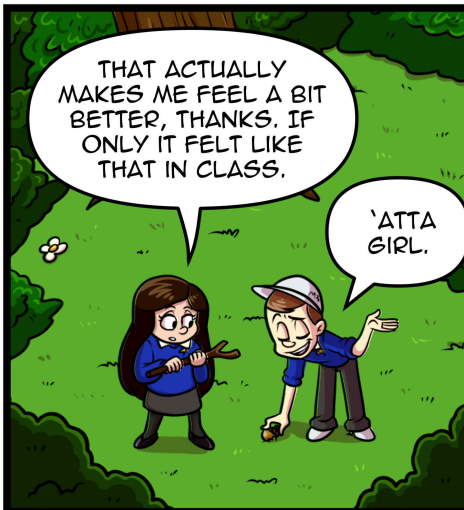
WOW... YOU'RE ON ADULT-LEVEL, JOSH! TO DO THAT, WITH JUST A CONKER...

IT'S EASY NOW YOU TRY!



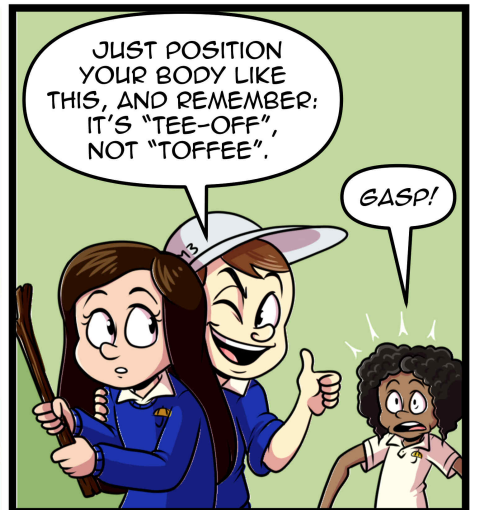
EM, I... I'D RATHER NOT. I'LL LOOK LIKE A FOOL WHEN YOU SEE HOW BAD MY SHOT IS.

SIENA, PLEASE. WHY WOULD I JUDGE YOU FOR NOT BEING AS GOOD AS ME AT THIS?



THAT ACTUALLY MAKES ME FEEL A BIT BETTER, THANKS. IF ONLY IT FELT LIKE THAT IN CLASS.

'ATTA GIRL.



JUST POSITION YOUR BODY LIKE THIS, AND REMEMBER: IT'S "TEE-OFF", NOT "TOFFEE".

GASP!

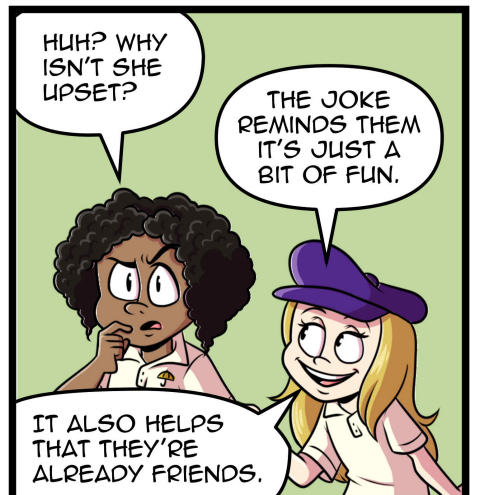


OH NO... HE JUST MADE FUN OF SIENA'S DYSLEXIA. SHE'S REALLY SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT



HAHAHA! WELL YOU'RE THE ONE IN DETENTION FOR BAD SPELLING, MISTER.

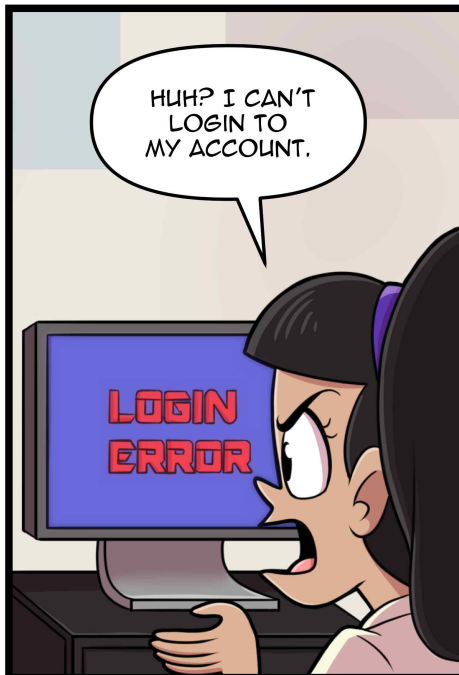
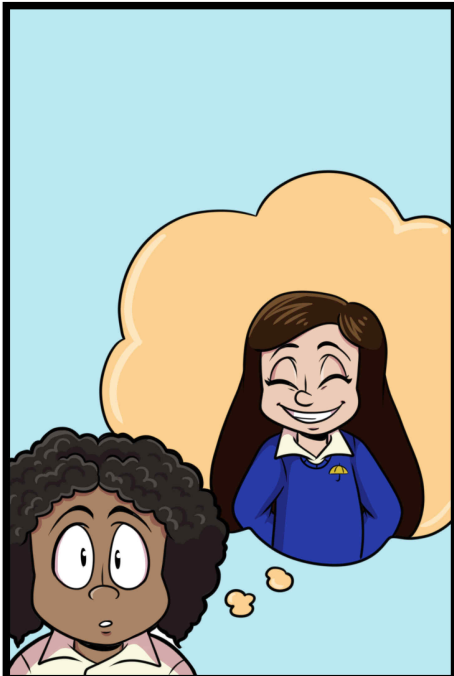
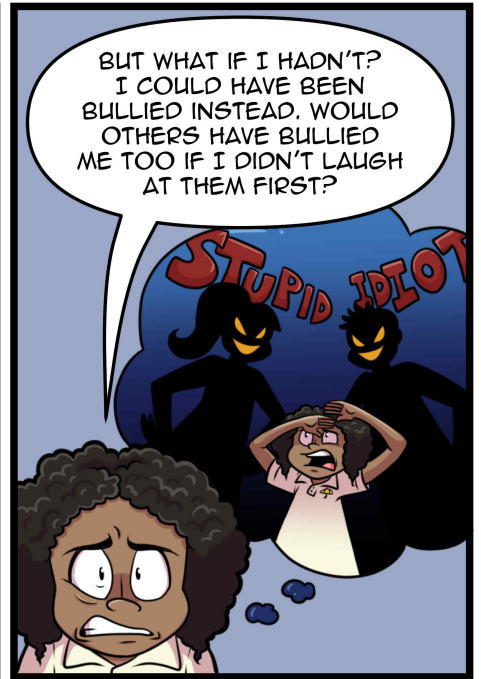
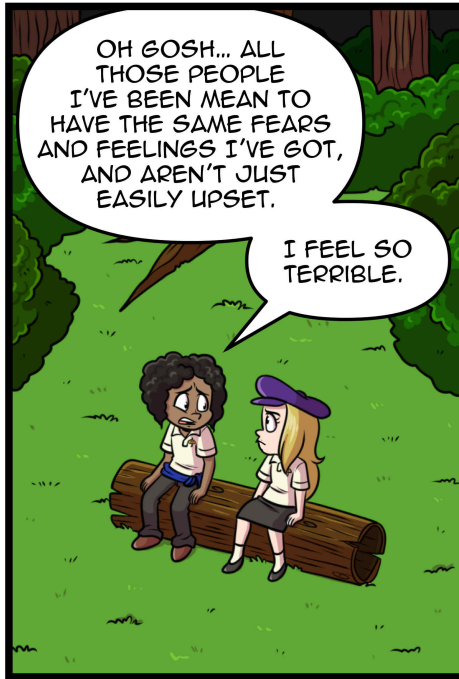
OW, HAHA!

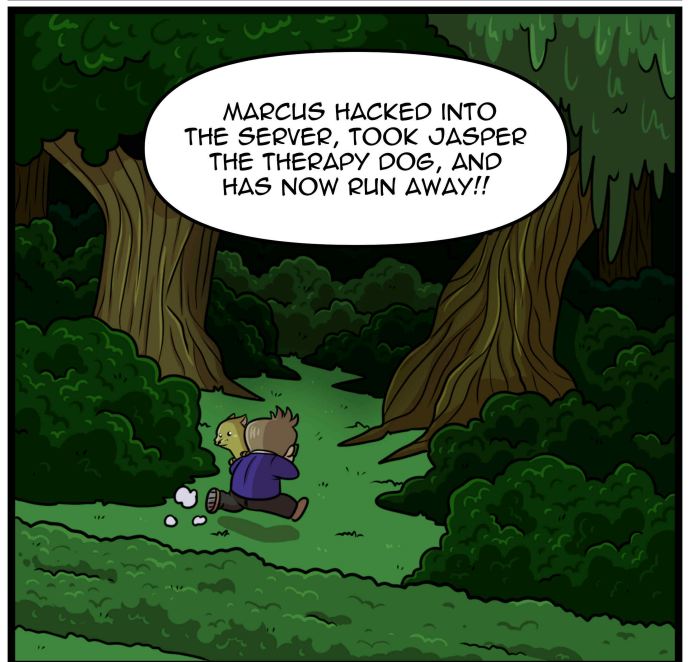
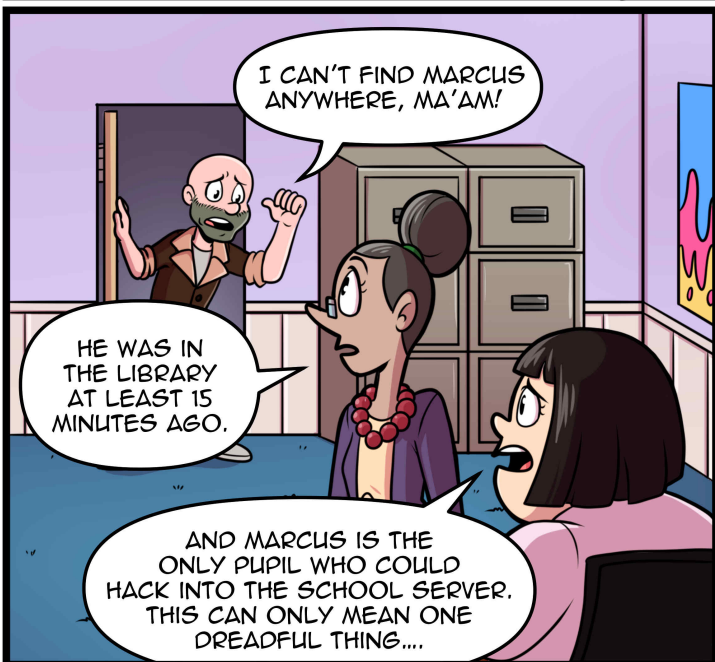
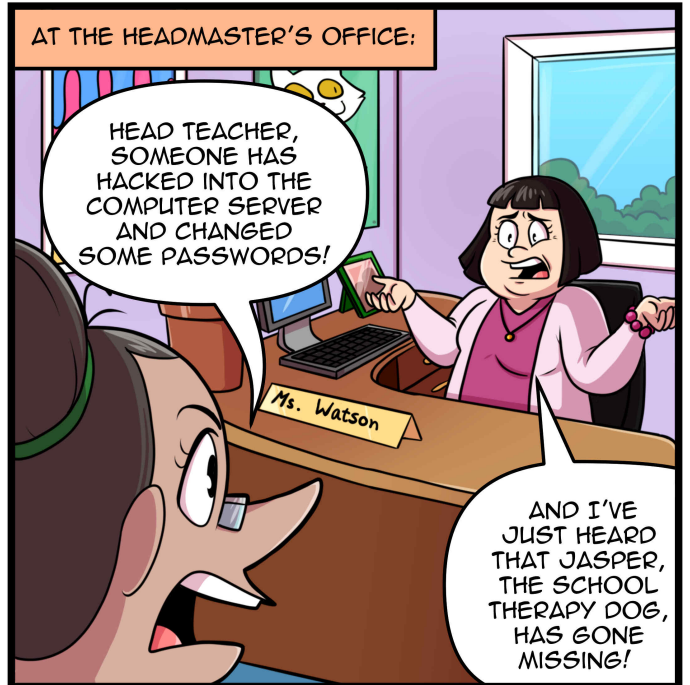
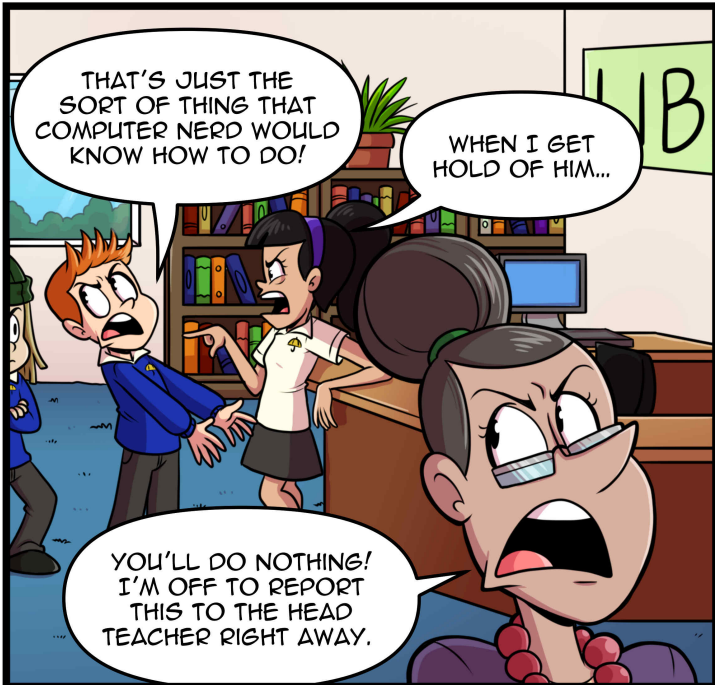
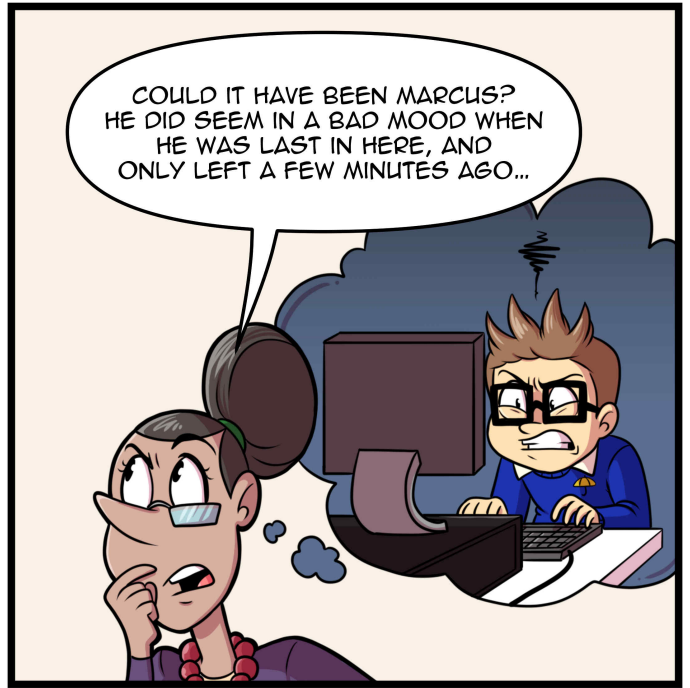
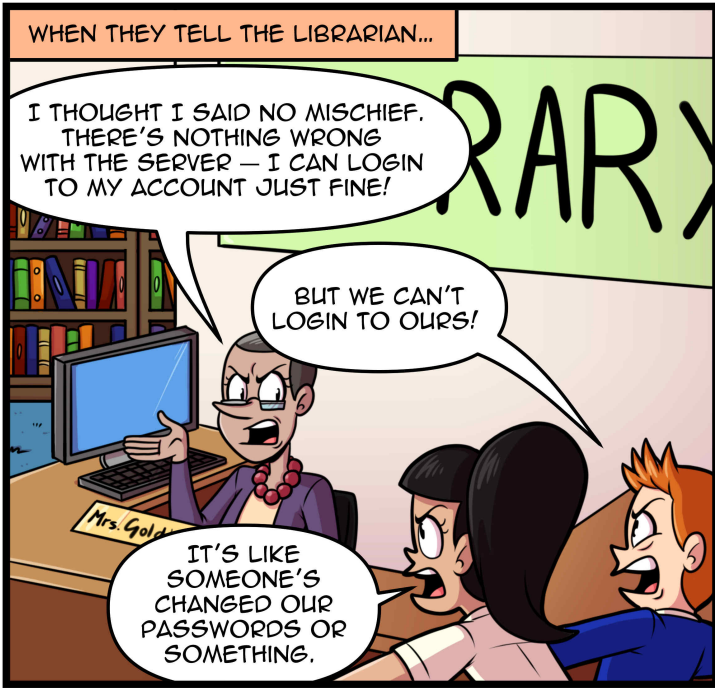


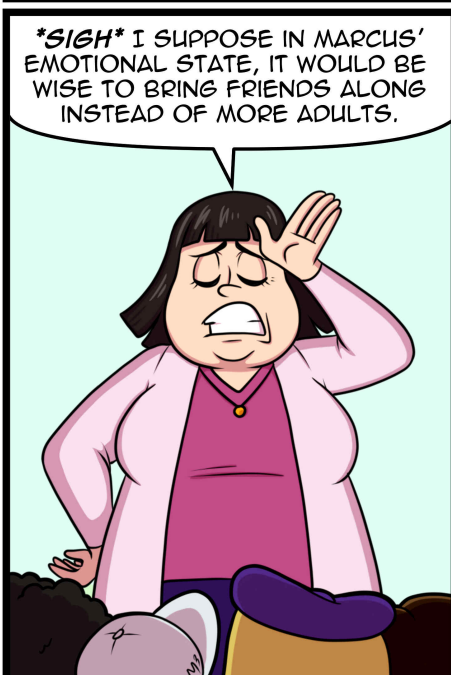
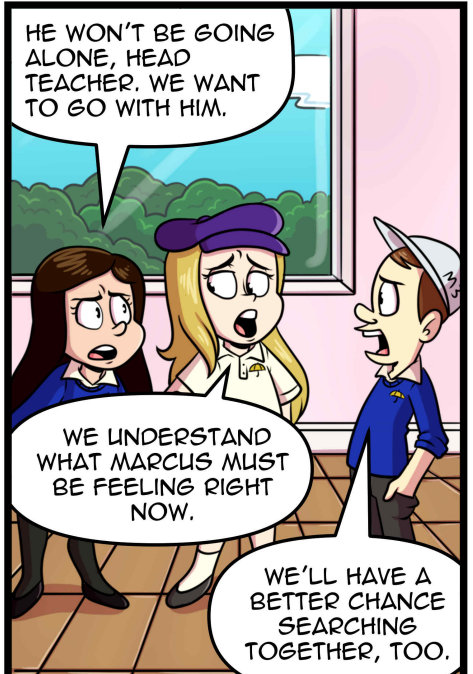
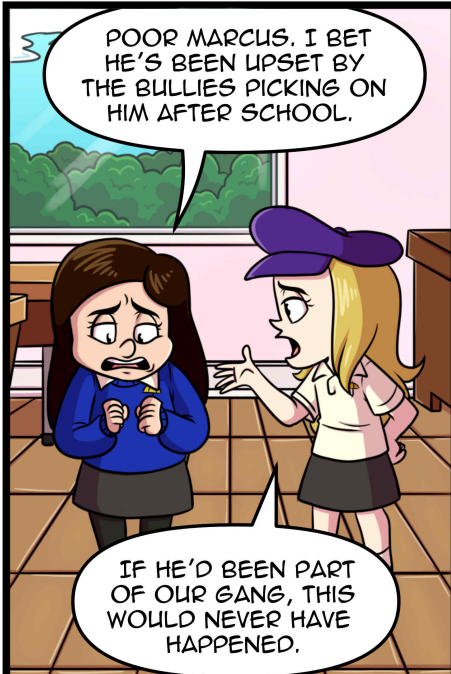
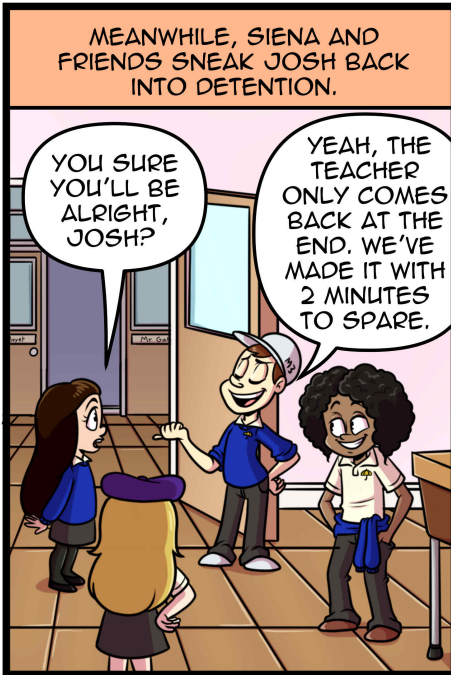
HUH? WHY ISN'T SHE UPSET?

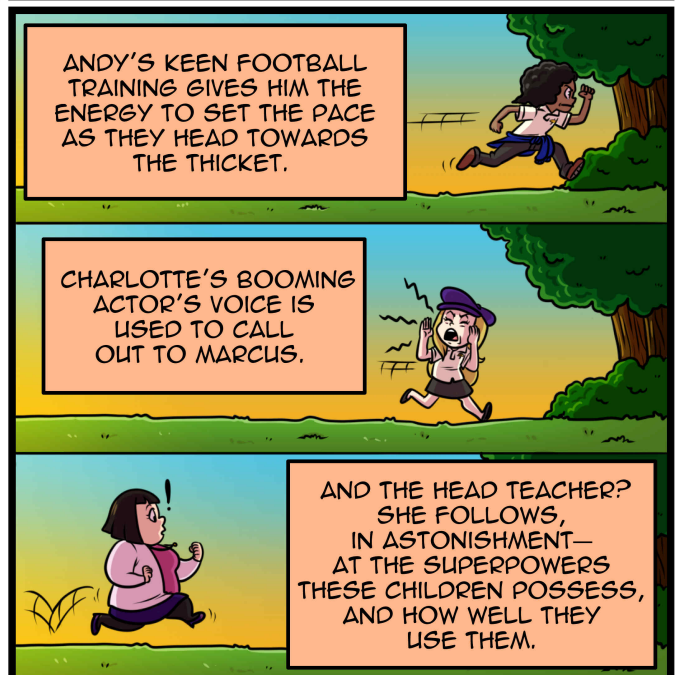
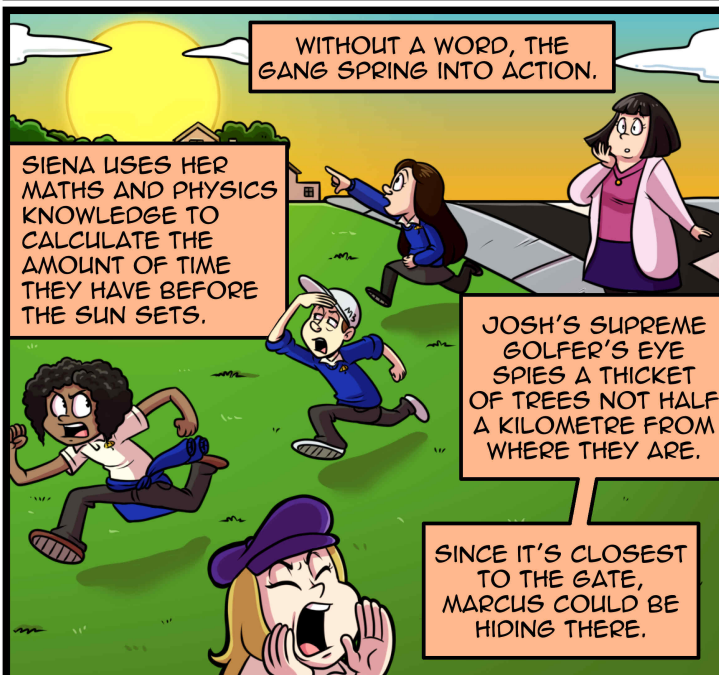
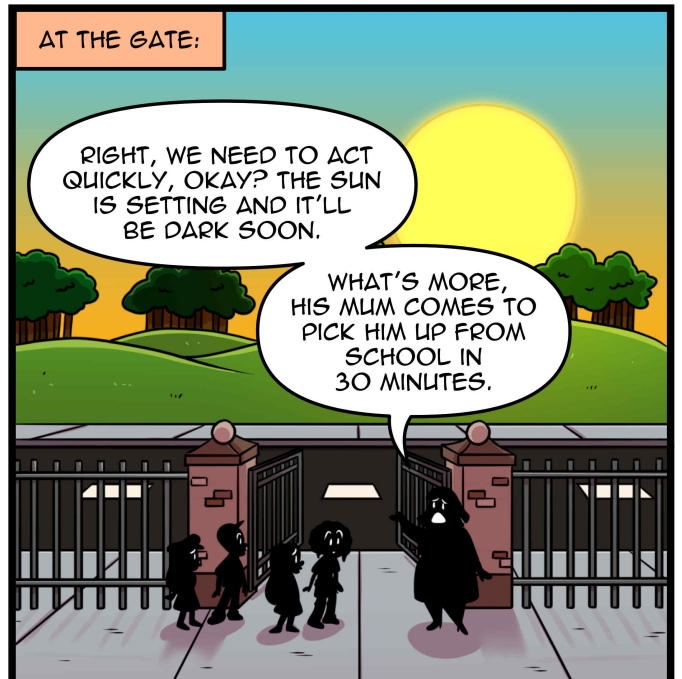
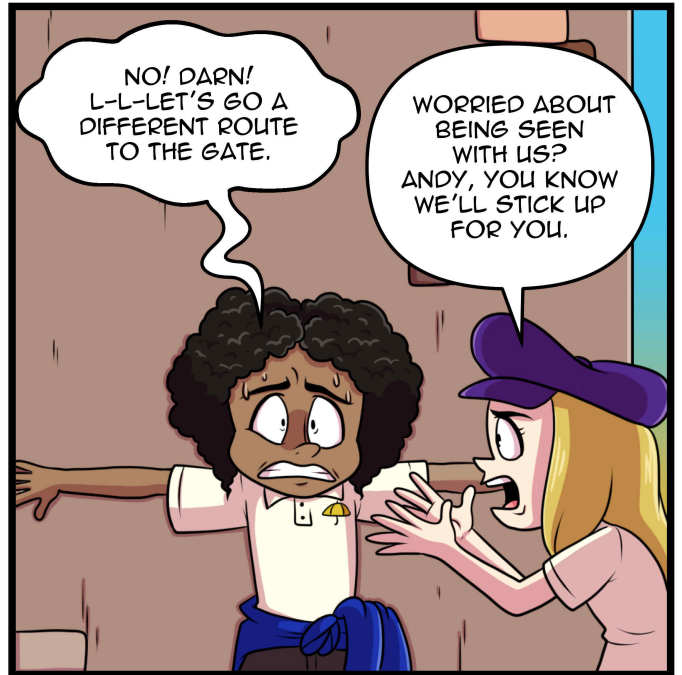
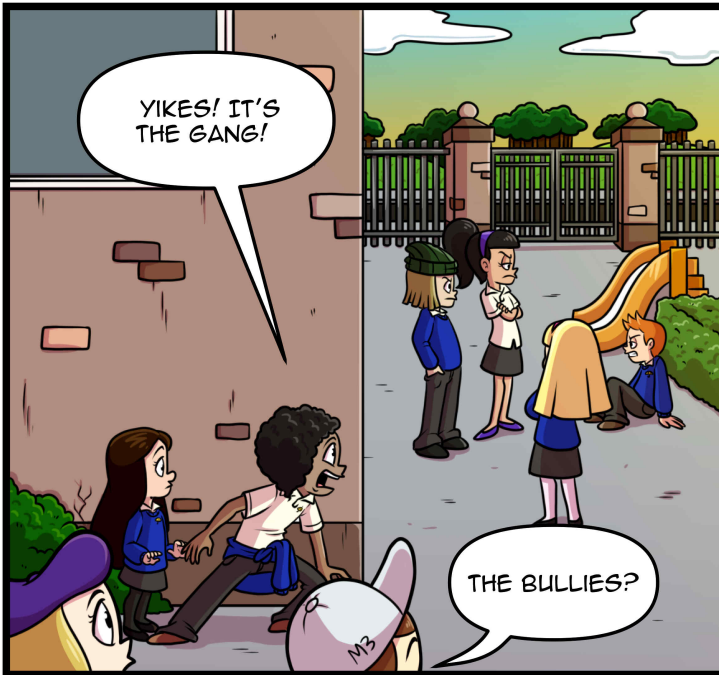
THE JOKE REMINDS THEM IT'S JUST A BIT OF FUN.

IT ALSO HELPS THAT THEY'RE ALREADY FRIENDS.











WHILE THEY SEARCH, POOR MARCUS HAS RAN DEEP INTO THE WOODS WITH JASPER...

I... I THINK WE'RE LOST, JASPER. I'M GETTING SCARED.

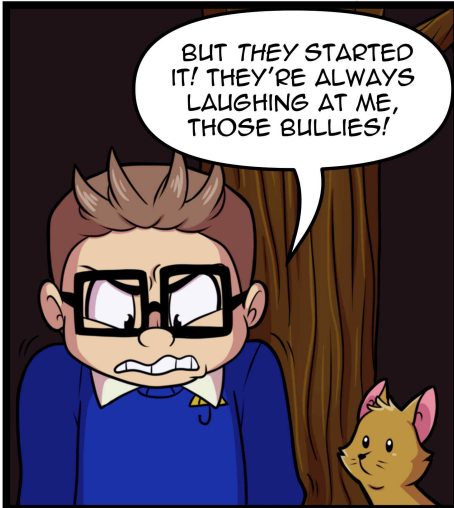


AWWW. BUT YOU ALWAYS MAKE ME FEEL BETTER. THANKS BOY.



I'M SORRY JASPER, IT'S MY FAULT FOR TAKING US BOTH OUT HERE.

I WAS SO ANGRY AND AFRAID, I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT WHAT I WAS DOING.



BUT THEY STARTED IT! THEY'RE ALWAYS LAUGHING AT ME, THOSE BULLIES!



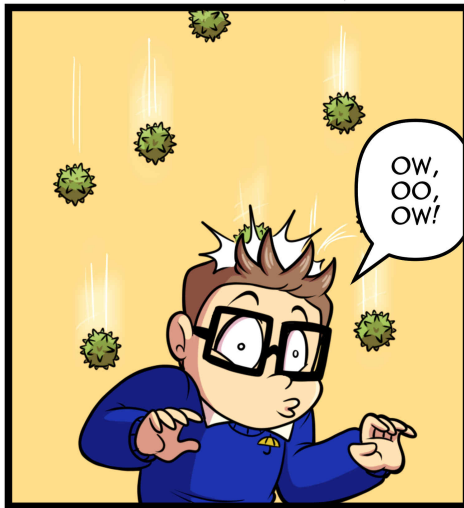
BUT I HATE BEING LAUGHED AT! I HATE, HATE, HATE IT!



BONK!



HAHA! THAT LOOKED SO SILLY, JASPER!

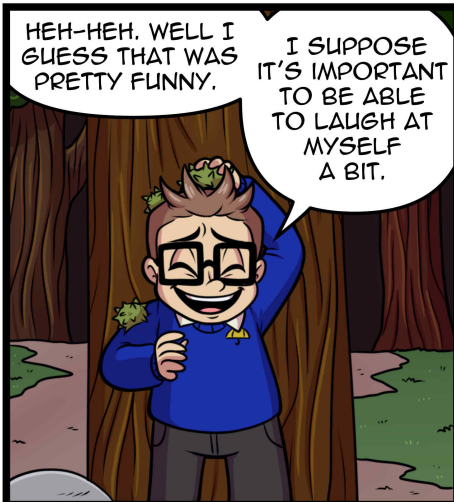


OW, OO, OW!



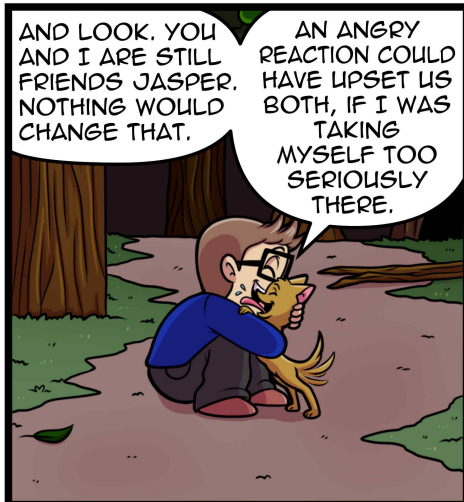
HEY, THAT'S NOT... I COULD HAVE BEEN...

WRF WRF WRF!



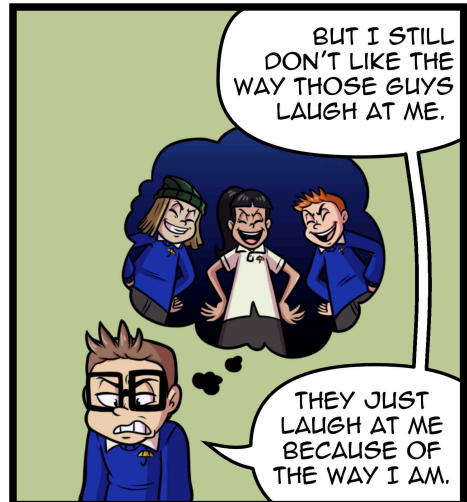
HEH-HEH. WELL I GUESS THAT WAS PRETTY FUNNY.

I SUPPOSE IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO LAUGH AT MYSELF A BIT.



AND LOOK. YOU AND I ARE STILL FRIENDS JASPER. NOTHING WOULD CHANGE THAT.

AN ANGRY REACTION COULD HAVE UPSET US BOTH, IF I WAS TAKING MYSELF TOO SERIOUSLY THERE.



BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE THE WAY THOSE GUYS LAUGH AT ME.

THEY JUST LAUGH AT ME BECAUSE OF THE WAY I AM.

AND SO WHAT, HUH? SO WHAT IF I'M BETTER AT COMPUTERS THAN OTHER THINGS.

SHOULD I LAUGH AT ANYONE WHO'S NOT GOOD AT COMPUTERS?

Heh heh heh

NOPE.

Wah wah wah

NO! I DON'T WANT TO BE A BULLY.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE WHO I AM JUST SO I DON'T GET BULLIED EITHER.

SUDDENLY!

GASP! IT'S THE BULLIES!

Rustle! Rustle!

I'LL BET THEY'VE COME TO GET ME BACK FOR CHANGING THEIR PASSWORDS.

YOU KNOW WHAT? LET THEM DO THEIR WORST. I'M NOT GOING TO BE AFRAID OF THEM JUST BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE ME.

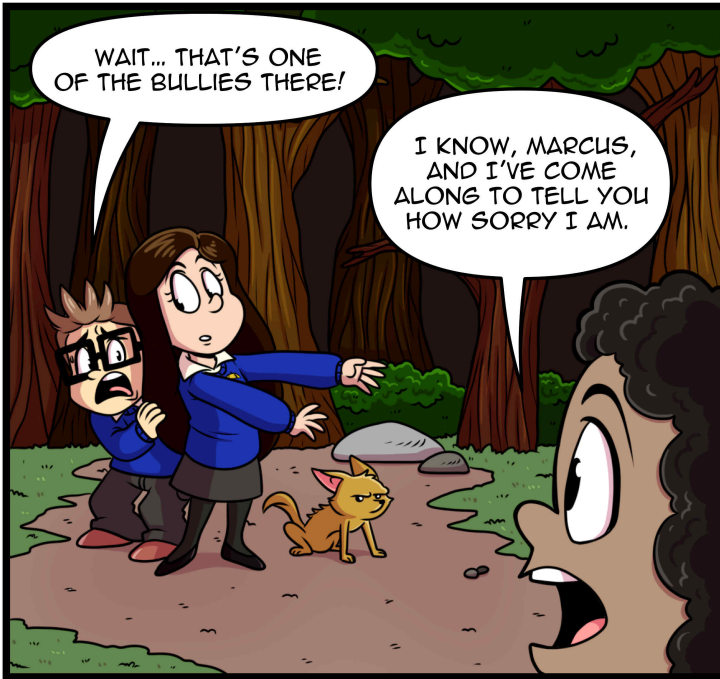
BULLY ME IF YOU LIKE! I'M NOT SORRY FOR NOT BEING **YOUR** KIND OF NORMAL!

SIENA?

SORRY SIENA. I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THE BULLIES.

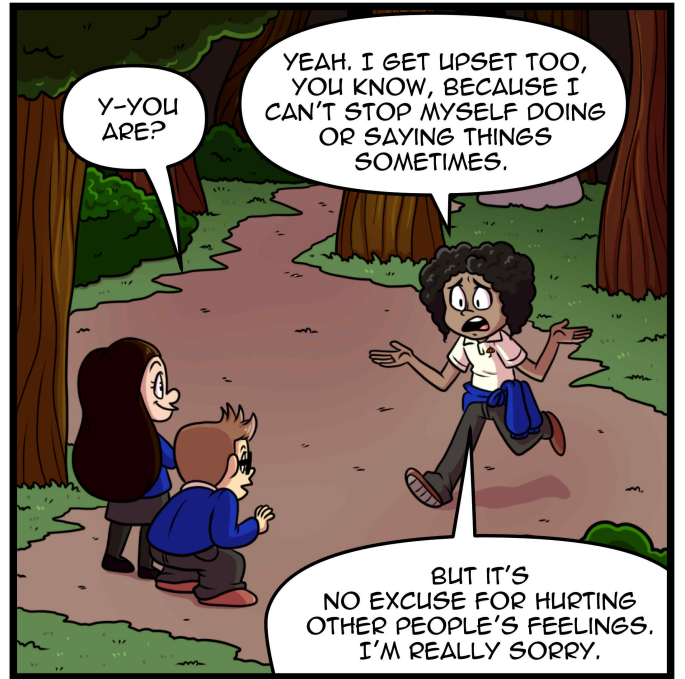
THAT'S QUITE ALRIGHT MARCUS. THAT'S A VERY INTERESTING THING YOU JUST SHOULDED.

YOUR LITTLE MONOLOGUE HELPED US FIND YOU. THANKS FOR MAKING IT LOUD.



WAIT... THAT'S ONE OF THE BULLIES THERE!

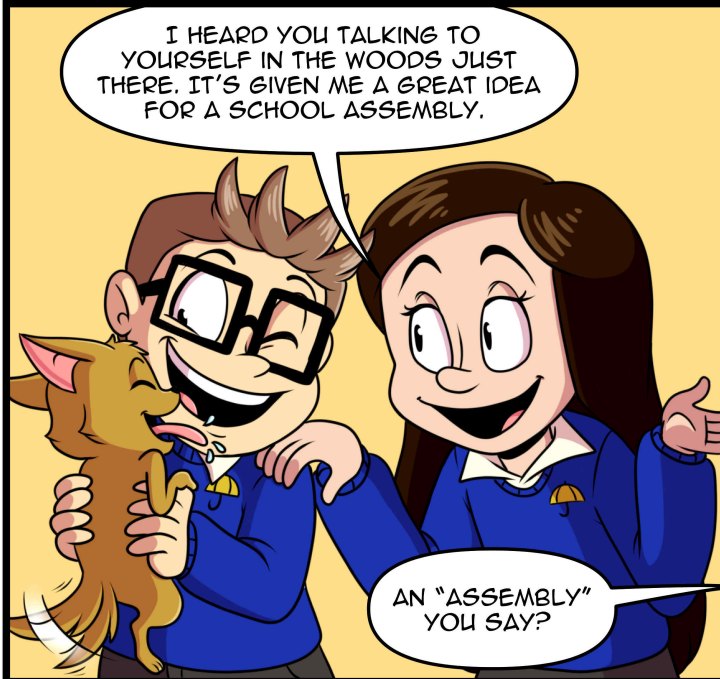
I KNOW, MARCUS, AND I'VE COME ALONG TO TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM.



Y-YOU ARE?

YEAH. I GET UPSET TOO, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE I CAN'T STOP MYSELF DOING OR SAYING THINGS SOMETIMES.

BUT IT'S NO EXCUSE FOR HURTING OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS. I'M REALLY SORRY.



I HEARD YOU TALKING TO YOURSELF IN THE WOODS JUST THERE. IT'S GIVEN ME A GREAT IDEA FOR A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.

AN "ASSEMBLY" YOU SAY?



PHEW! YOU YOUNGSTERS ARE HARD TO KEEP UP WITH.

MARCUS AND JASPER! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALRIGHT.

HEAD TEACHER?! YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME? NOT ANGRY?



I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED.

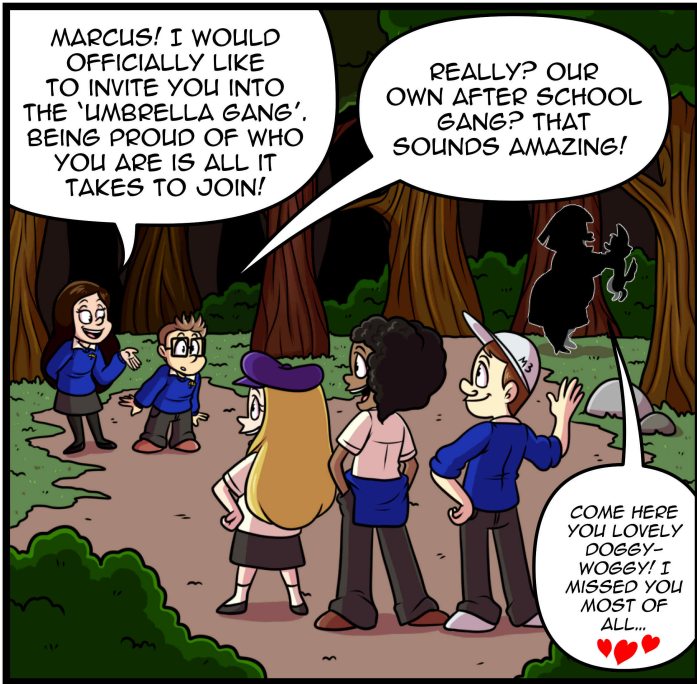
AND I'M SORRY FOR THOSE BULLIES. BUT YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND HACKING PEOPLE'S COMPUTERS EITHER.



I GUESS I SHOULD BE PUNISHED, HUH?

WELL, I'D SAY THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE TODAY HAS BEEN PUNISHMENT ENOUGH, DON'T YOU?

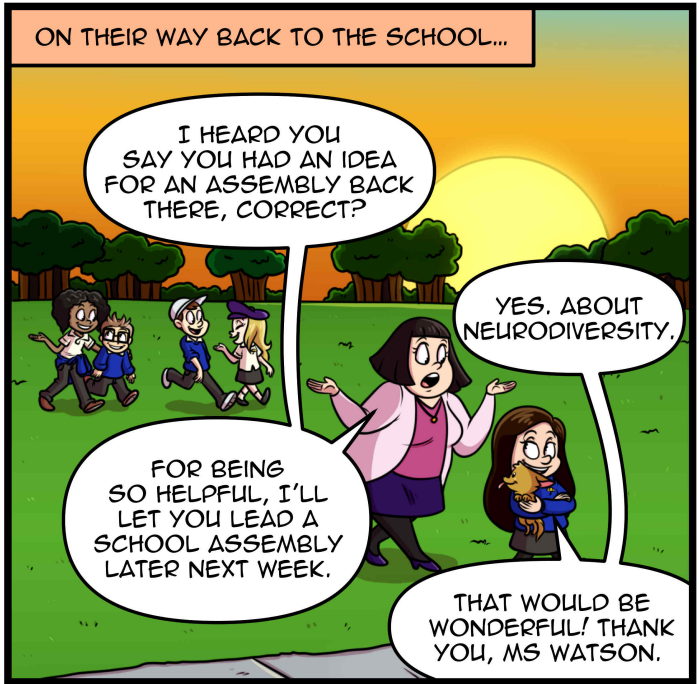
(WISH YOU WERE JUST AS UNDERSTANDING WHEN IT CAME TO MY SPELLING...)



MARCUS! I WOULD OFFICIALLY LIKE TO INVITE YOU INTO THE 'UMBRELLA GANG'. BEING PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE IS ALL IT TAKES TO JOIN!

REALLY? OUR OWN AFTER SCHOOL GANG? THAT SOUNDS AMAZING!

COME HERE YOU LOVELY DOGGY- WOBBY! I MISSED YOU MOST OF ALL...
♥♥♥



ON THEIR WAY BACK TO THE SCHOOL...

I HEARD YOU SAY YOU HAD AN IDEA FOR AN ASSEMBLY BACK THERE, CORRECT?

YES. ABOUT NEURODIVERSITY.

FOR BEING SO HELPFUL, I'LL LET YOU LEAD A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY LATER NEXT WEEK.

THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL! THANK YOU, MS WATSON.

SO SIENA AND THE UMBRELLA GANG DISCUSS TOGETHER THEIR IDEAS OF WHAT THIS ASSEMBLY COULD BE LIKE.



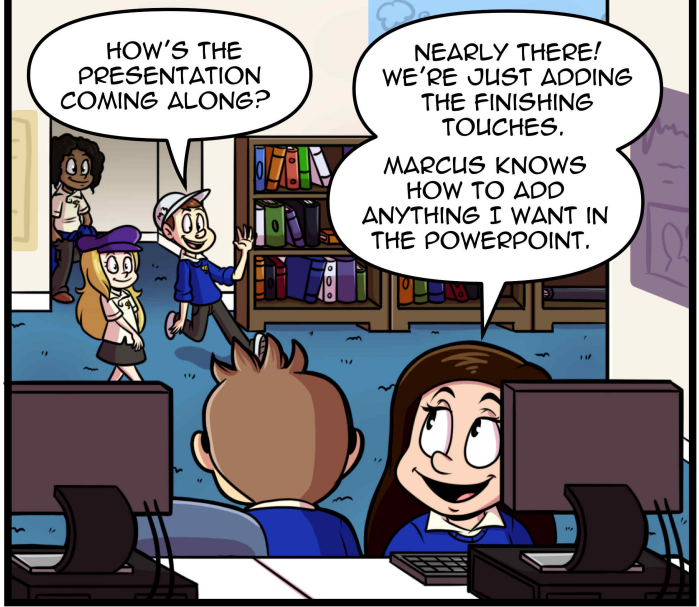
SIENA SPENDS DAYS WRITING A SPEECH FOR THE ASSEMBLY. ANOTHER OF HER SUPERPOWERS IS PUBLIC SPEAKING, YOU SEE.



AND MARCUS HELPS HER PUT TOGETHER A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION TO GO WITH HER SPEECH.



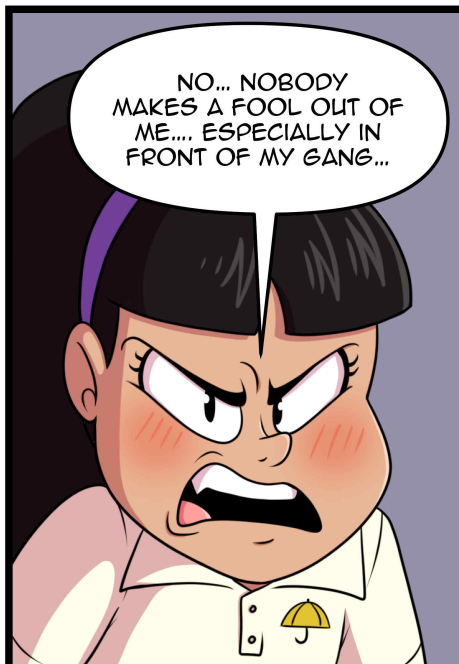
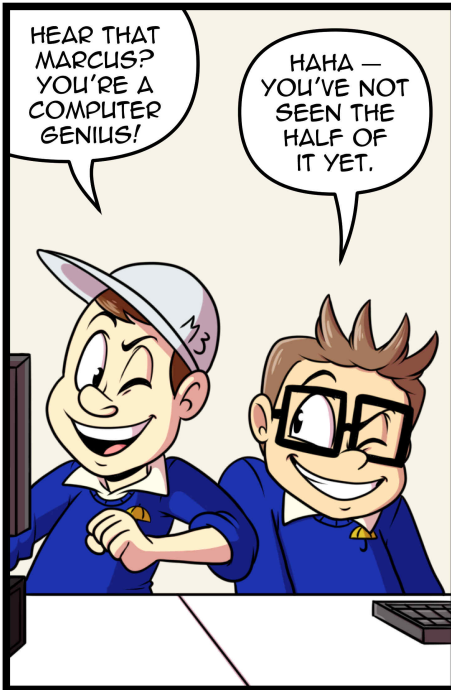
LUNCHTIME THE FOLLOWING WEEK:

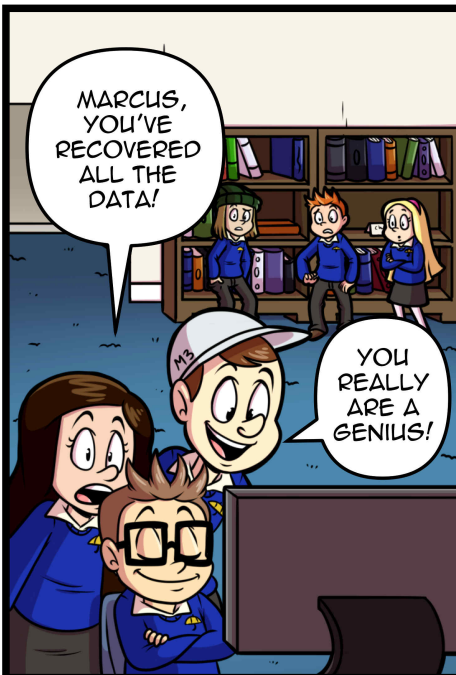
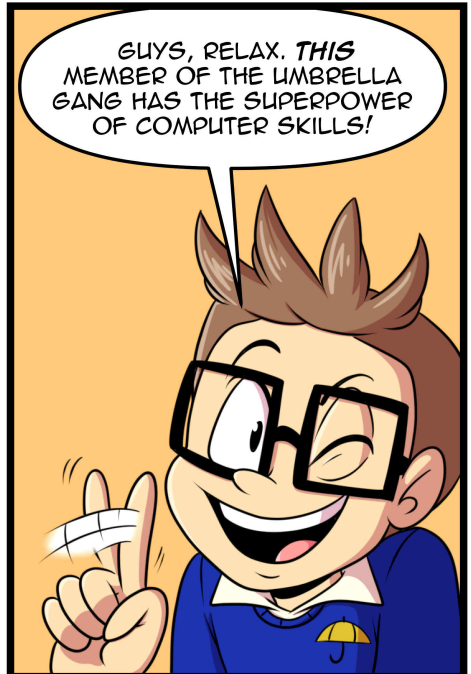
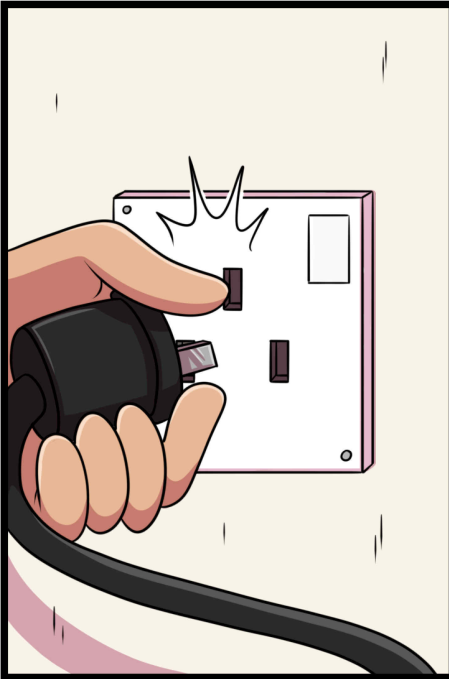


HOW'S THE PRESENTATION COMING ALONG?

NEARLY THERE! WE'RE JUST ADDING THE FINISHING TOUCHES.

MARCUS KNOWS HOW TO ADD ANYTHING I WANT IN THE POWERPOINT.





NO! WE HADN'T SAVED!

PLINK!

TURNING OFF THE COMPUTER THAT WAY MIGHT CORRUPT THE DATA!

WHY DID YOU DO THAT LORRAINE?

THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR. YOU COULD GET INTO REAL TROUBLE FOR THAT.

YOU THINK I CARE? STAY AND FEEL SORRY FOR THESE JERKS IF YOU LIKE. I'M OFF!

THE COMPUTER'S BACK ON, BUT THE DATA REALLY HAS BEEN CORRUPTED...

A WHOLE WEEK'S WORK GONE IN AN INSTANT, AND THE ASSEMBLY'S TOMORROW.

GUYS, RELAX. THIS MEMBER OF THE UMBRELLA GANG HAS THE SUPERPOWER OF COMPUTER SKILLS!

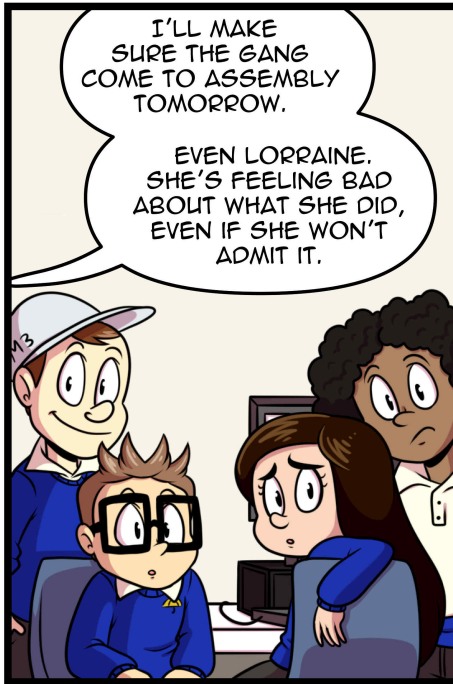
DATA IS RECOVERABLE. I'LL GET IT BACK FOR YOU IN NO TIME.

MARCUS, YOU'VE RECOVERED ALL THE DATA!

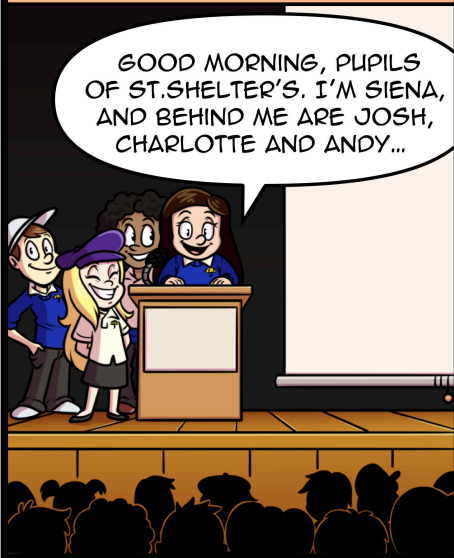
YOU REALLY ARE A GENIUS!

COME ON GUYS, LET'S... LET'S JUST GO.

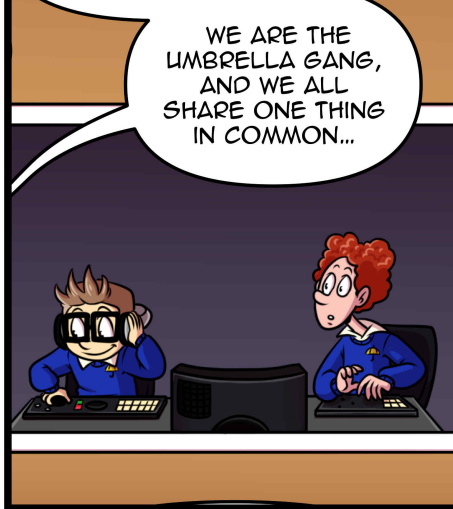
WOW... LOOK AT HIM GO.



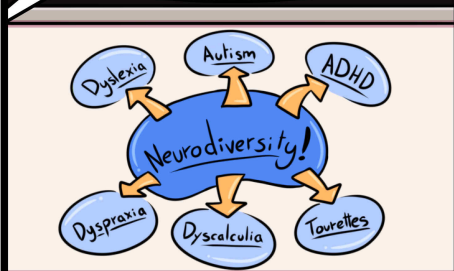
NEXT DAY, SIENA'S ASSEMBLY IS READY TO BE PRESENTED BEFORE THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.



AND RUNNING OUR POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ON THE PROJECTOR, IS MARCUS.



NEURODIVERSITY IS A TERM THAT RESPECTS THE DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH THE BRAIN CAN BE.

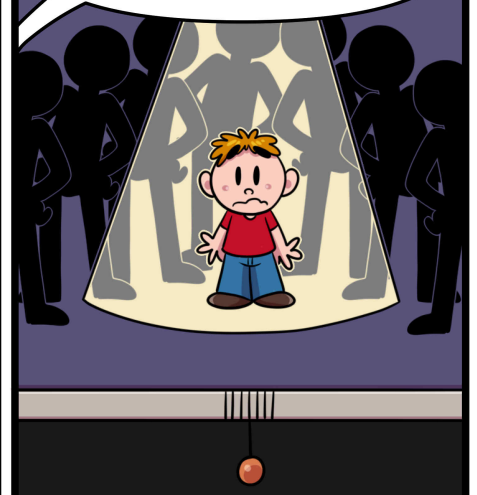


BIG COMPANIES LIKE APPLE AND MICROSOFT ACTUALLY LOOK FOR PEOPLE WITH NEURODIVERSITY, VALUING THEIR DIFFERENT WAYS OF THINKING.

BUT BEING ONE OF THESE "DIFFERENT" BRAINS IS LIKE ALWAYS BEING IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY WHERE THE LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND WAY OF THINGS IS NEITHER NATURAL NOR EASY FOR YOU.



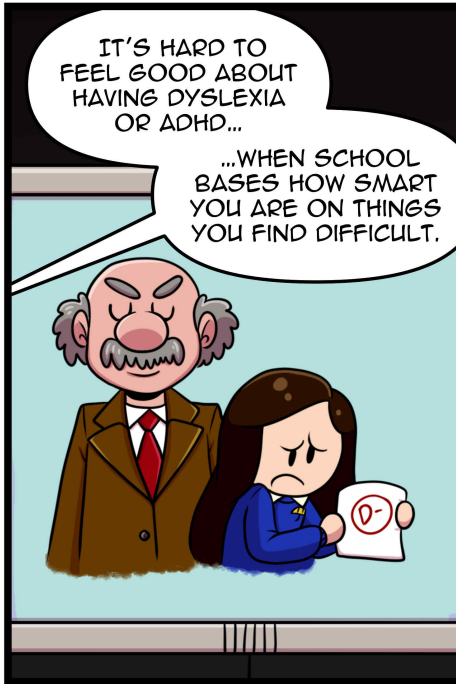
IT'S NOT EASY BEING DIFFERENT. IT MEANS YOU STAND OUT AND YOU MAY FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T BELONG, AND THAT PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND YOU.





I'VE BEEN BULLIED AT SCHOOL FOR MOST OF MY LIFE. I'VE BEEN JUDGED AND MISUNDERSTOOD.

I'VE TRIED TO BE LIKE SOMEONE ELSE TO NOT STICK OUT FROM THE CROWD.



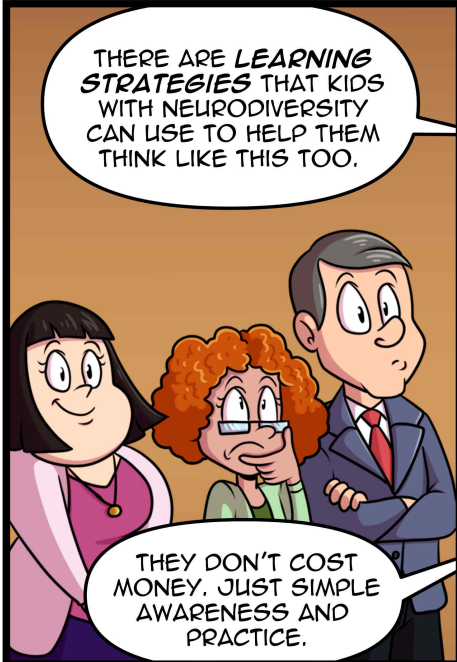
IT'S HARD TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT HAVING DYSLEXIA OR ADHD...

...WHEN SCHOOL BASES HOW SMART YOU ARE ON THINGS YOU FIND DIFFICULT.



BUT NOW I'VE STOPPED PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE ELSE AND STOPPED APOLOGISING FOR WHO I AM.

INSTEAD, I GAVE MYSELF PERMISSION TO BECOME WHO I WAS MEANT TO BE.

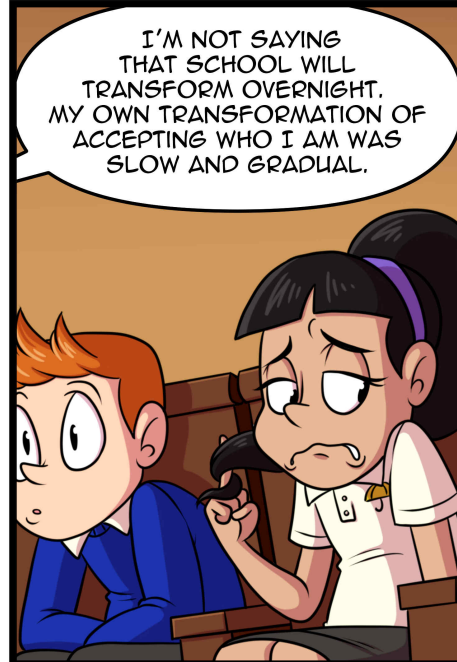


THERE ARE **LEARNING STRATEGIES** THAT KIDS WITH NEURODIVERSITY CAN USE TO HELP THEM THINK LIKE THIS TOO.

THEY DON'T COST MONEY. JUST SIMPLE AWARENESS AND PRACTICE.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW STRATEGIES THAT CAN HELP:

1. Use more pictures, so you don't need to rely on words alone.
2. Ask for more time to finish tasks and homework.
3. Use **GREEN** pens rather than **RED** when marking mistakes, and ask the teacher to do the same.
4. **Executive Functioning:** Learn how to concentrate on a task and manage your distractions.



I'M NOT SAYING THAT SCHOOL WILL TRANSFORM OVERNIGHT. MY OWN TRANSFORMATION OF ACCEPTING WHO I AM WAS SLOW AND GRADUAL.



BUT REALISING YOU'RE NOT DUMB, AND BEING PROUD OF THE DIFFERENCES THAT MAKE YOU WHAT YOU ARE....

...IF WE CAN THINK LIKE THAT, THEN MAYBE SCHOOL CAN BECOME A GREAT PLACE FOR **EVERYONE** ONE DAY.



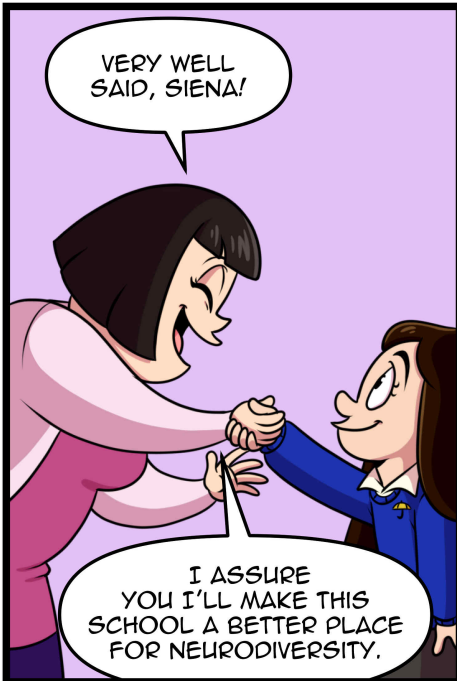
SO WHERE DO WE START MAKING THIS CHANGE? JUST BE THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF, BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE OF YOU AND THAT IS WHAT MAKES YOU **EXTRAORDINARY**.

YEAH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



SHE MAKES ME THINK ABOUT MY OLDER BROTHER.

MAYBE I CAN HELP MY LITTLE SISTER WITH HER HOMEWORK.



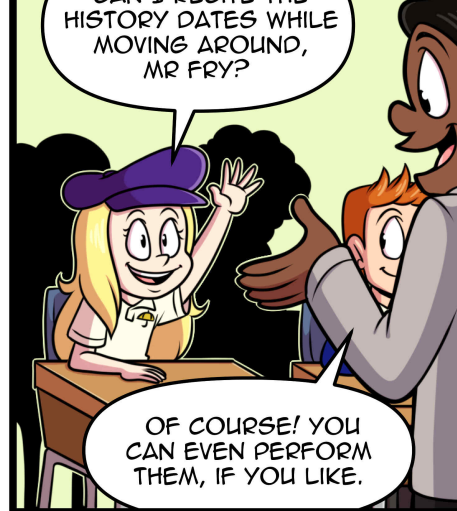
VERY WELL SAID, SIENA!

I ASSURE YOU I'LL MAKE THIS SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE FOR NEURODIVERSITY.

AS SIENA SAID, THE TRANSFORMATION WASN'T OVERNIGHT. BUT OVER TIME, THE SCHOOL BEGAN TO HELP STUDENTS SHINE THROUGH THEIR SUPERPOWERS.



THEY ARE NOW UNDERSTOOD MORE IN CLASS.



CAN I RECITE THE HISTORY DATES WHILE MOVING AROUND, MR FRY?

OF COURSE! YOU CAN EVEN PERFORM THEM, IF YOU LIKE.

OTHERS ARE EDUCATED ON NEURODIVERSITY, INCLUDING THE TEACHERS.



PUPILS ARE HELPED RATHER THAN PUNISHED FOR THEIR STRUGGLES.



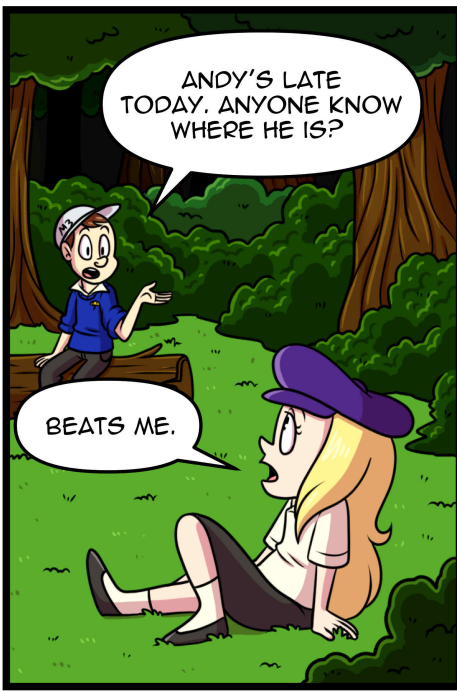
CAN YOU STAY BEHIND 10 MINUTES AFTER CLASS SO I CAN HELP YOU IMPROVE?

SURE, MRS WILLOUGHBY! MUCH BETTER THAN AN HOUR'S DETENTION!

BUT THE BEST PLACE OF ALL IN THIS SCHOOL FOR NEURODIVERSITY IS THE UMBRELLA, WHERE THE UMBRELLA GANG HANGOUT EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL.



EVERY DAY THEY GET TO PRACTICE BEING PROUD OF WHO THEY ARE.



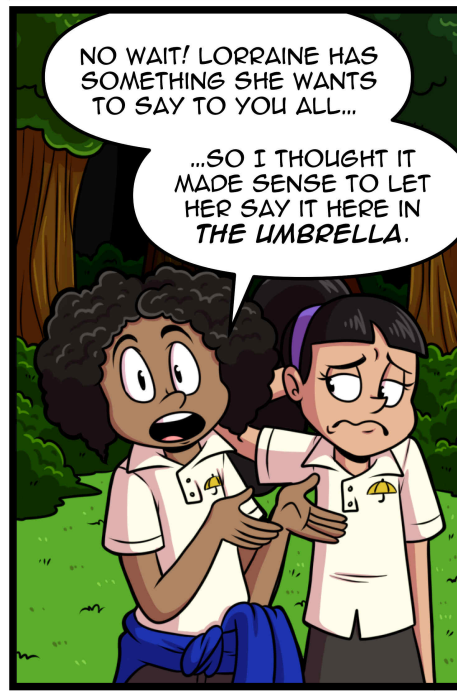
ANDY'S LATE TODAY. ANYONE KNOW WHERE HE IS?

BEATS ME.



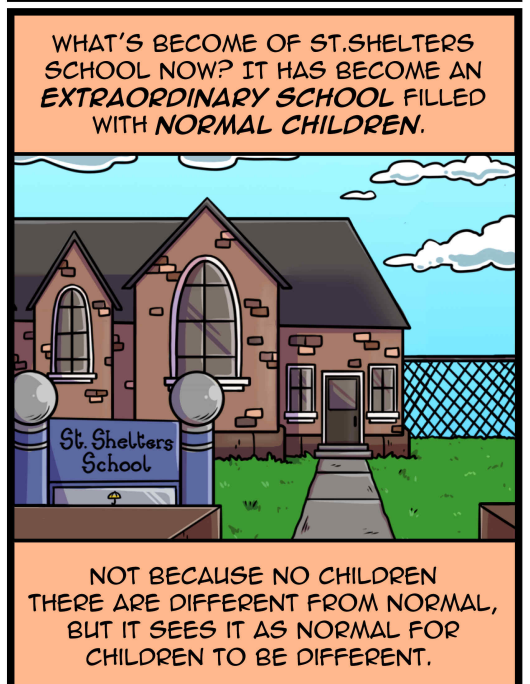
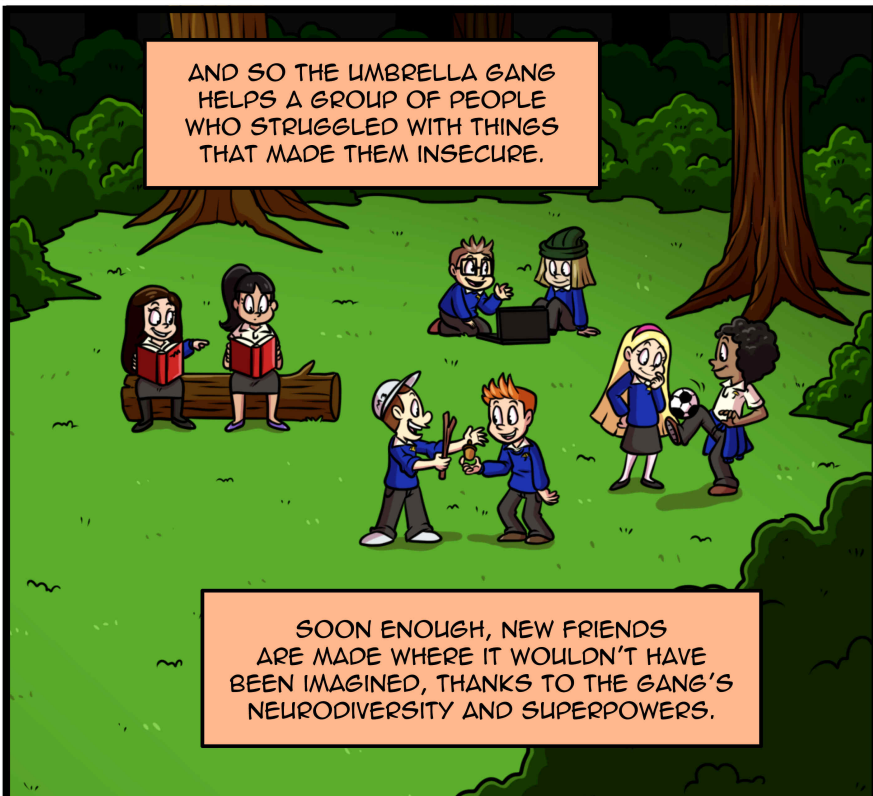
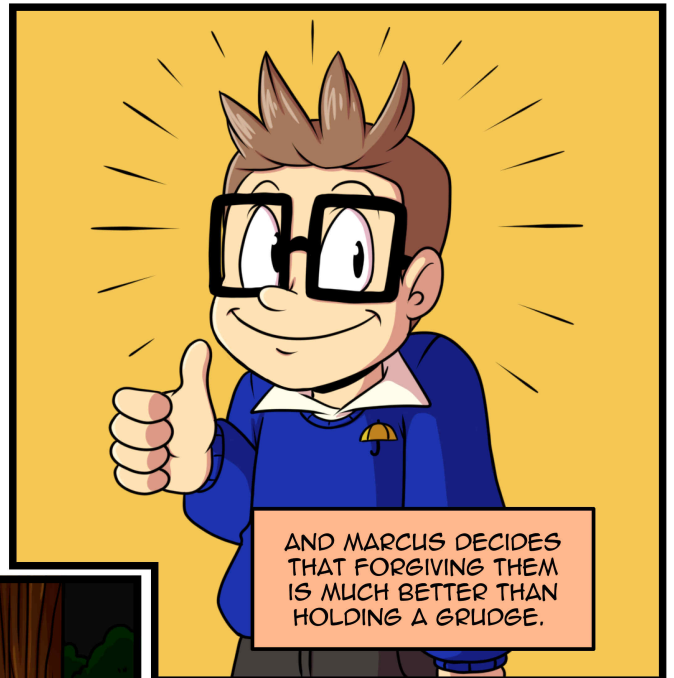
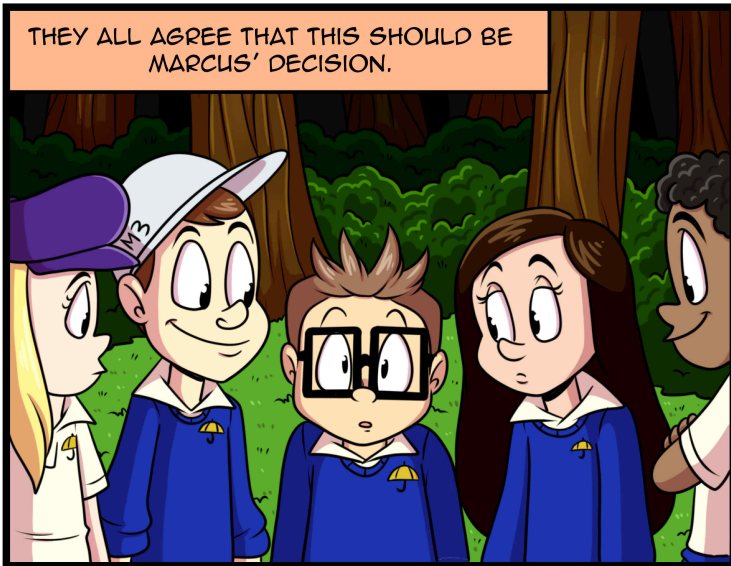
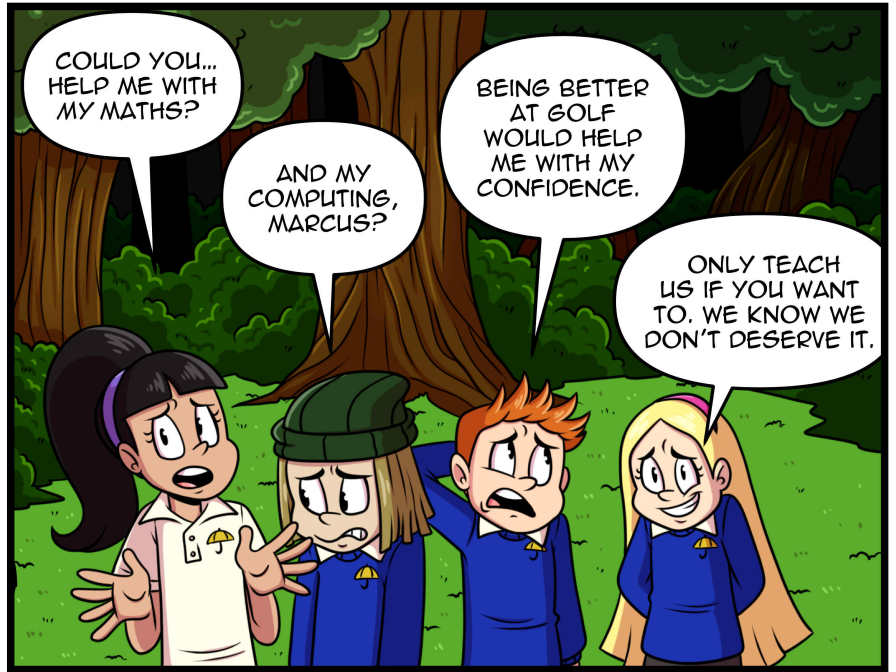
HUH?! HE'S BROUGHT THE BULLIES WITH HIM!

HAS HE... REJOINED THE BULLIES AGAIN?



NO WAIT! LORRAINE HAS SOMETHING SHE WANTS TO SAY TO YOU ALL...

...SO I THOUGHT IT MADE SENSE TO LET HER SAY IT HERE IN THE UMBRELLA.



A word from Dr Tony Lloyd:

CEO of the ADHD Foundation



“I hope you have enjoyed reading about the lives and adventures of the Umbrella Gang. This group of young people who are all ‘neurodiverse’ and like many of you have ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia or Dyscalculia. We know that the five young people you have read about in this comic book story, all know what it is like because the characters are based on real young people. Charlotte, Andy, Marcus, Josh and Siena are all ‘Neurodiversity Ambassadors’ at the ADHD Foundation. Like you, the five members of the Umbrella Gang are exceptionally talented, intelligent and have achieved great things – even though they don’t always score an A grade. These five young people are outstanding in their work to help others understand that having a learning difference does not stop you from achieving your potential and accomplishing great things. In real life Charlotte is a successful actress, Josh is world champion sportsman in Golf, Siena is a genius at Maths and Marcus – well Marcus is amazing at so many things but especially computers!



Until the next edition of the comic when you will learn more about the Umbrella Gang, we wish you every success in all you do. Remember that having a brain that works differently is much in demand by many businesses – your brain can do things a computer can not do! Being neurodiverse makes you incredibly creative and intelligent in ways that are not always measured in school exams. You are gifted in so many ways. I am sure that every one of you who is reading this is amazing at something! I wish I had understood this better when I was at school. I was always forgetting things and I was often late for school in the mornings. It was difficult having ADHD as child but I didn’t let it stop me from working hard for what I wanted to achieve. I hope you have been inspired by the Umbrella Gang and I would like to hear about your amazing abilities. So if you want to share them, speak with you parents or teachers and ask them to contact me at the ADHD Foundation to tell me about your superpowers!”



Charlotte

Josh

Siena

Andy

Marcus

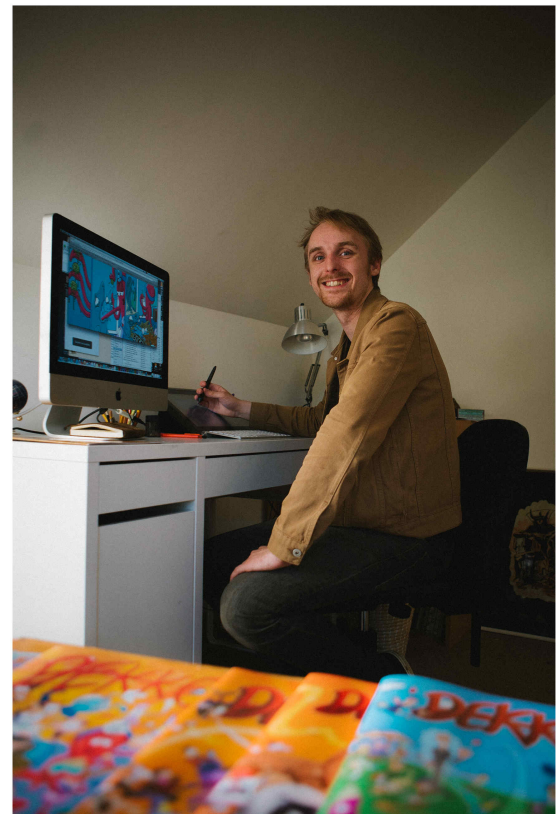


YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEM, AS WELL AS STUFF TO HELP WITH YOUR NEURODIVERSITY, AT WWW.ADHDFFOUNDATION.ORG.UK

Rossie Stone & Dekko Comics:

My name is Rossie Stone. I am dyslexic and struggled with school for most of my life, as well as finding it difficult to fit in. It was an honour for me and my team to write the story and do the art for this comic. The Umbrella Gang related quite personally to my own experiences at school, as it may to many other children and adults reading it. I'm excited to work on the next adventure Tony Lloyd has in store for this comic series... Stay tuned!

Dekko Comics is my company, and we turn school subjects like maths, english, history and more into comic stories so that they are easy and fun to read for everyone. If you'd like to find out more, or try some Dekko Comics for yourself, please visit our website at www.dekkocomics.com.



Do you find school difficult? Maybe you might even have dyslexia, autism, or some other form of *neurodiversity*. We invite you to read this comic story about five friends who help each other focus less on their school struggles and more on their “superpowers”.

