

ISSUE
#6

THE ADVENTURES OF HEMILIOS

BACK TO SCHOOL!



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GREEK
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY

Courtesy of



THE ADVENTURES OF **HEMILIOS**

BACK TO SCHOOL!



THAT SEPTEMBER AFTERNOON, HEMILIOS WAS FEELING EXCITED. THE SCHOOL YEAR WAS STARTING THE NEXT DAY AND HE COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE HIS FRIENDS!

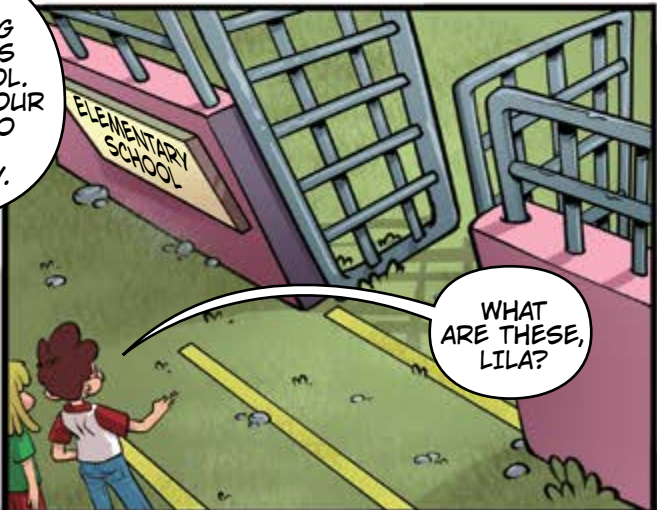
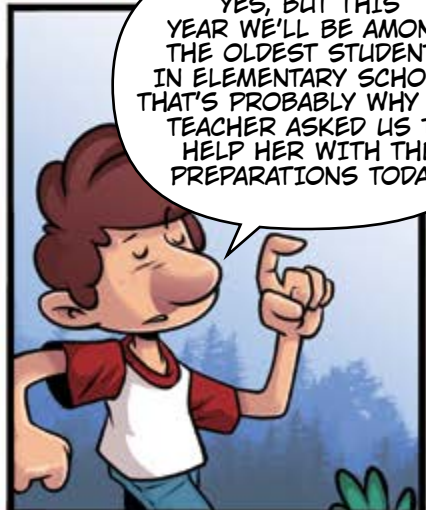


BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON THAT MADE HEMILIOS SMILE.

WE'LL BE IN SIXTH GRADE THIS YEAR! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

THAT NEXT YEAR WE'LL BE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND WE'LL BE FIRST-GRADERS?

YES, BUT THIS YEAR WE'LL BE AMONG THE OLDEST STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THAT'S PROBABLY WHY OUR TEACHER ASKED US TO HELP HER WITH THE PREPARATIONS TODAY.



WHAT ARE THESE, LILA?



HMM, I THINK I KNOW WHAT THEY ARE!



THIS SUMMER, WE WENT ON A CARAVAN TRIP TO THE PELOPONNESE AND STAYED AT A CAMPSITE.

WE STAYED BY THE SEA!
WE SWAM ALL DAY LONG
AND PLAYED ALL SORTS
OF GAMES IN THE SAND.



WE TOURED THE
NEARBY VILLAGES
AND BOUGHT LOCAL
PRODUCTS.



THAT'S WHERE I
SAW THESE LINES
FOR THE FIRST
TIME. WHEN I
ASKED MY DAD, HE
SAID THAT THEY
HELP US KEEP THE
PROPER
DISTANCES FROM
OTHER
TRAVELLERS.



YOU'RE RIGHT! I SAW THEM TOO, DURING OUR HOLIDAYS THIS SUMMER.



THIS YEAR, WE WENT TO OUR VACATION HOME IN KOS, A REALLY BEAUTIFUL ISLAND!



WE WENT TO THE BEACH EVERY DAY AND MY FRIENDS THERE WERE IMPRESSED WITH MY SWIMMING PROGRESS, THANKS TO WHAT GIANNIS DRYMONAKOS TAUGHT ME!



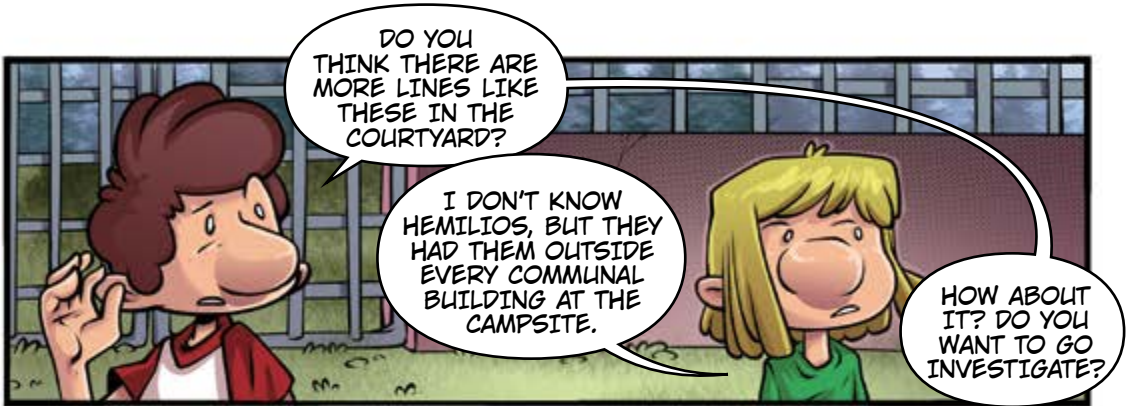
ONE DAY, WE VISITED THE SMALL NEARBY ISLANDS BY BOAT.



WE SWAM ON SECLUDED BEACHES AND THE OLDER KIDS EXPLORED THE SEABED WITH SNORKELS.



I NOTICED THE YELLOW LINES AT THE PORT AND MY MUM EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE FOR KEEPING THE PROPER DISTANCES WHEN DISEMBARKING FROM THE BOAT.



DO YOU THINK THERE ARE MORE LINES LIKE THESE IN THE COURTYARD?

I DON'T KNOW HEMILOS, BUT THEY HAD THEM OUTSIDE EVERY COMMUNAL BUILDING AT THE CAMPSITE.

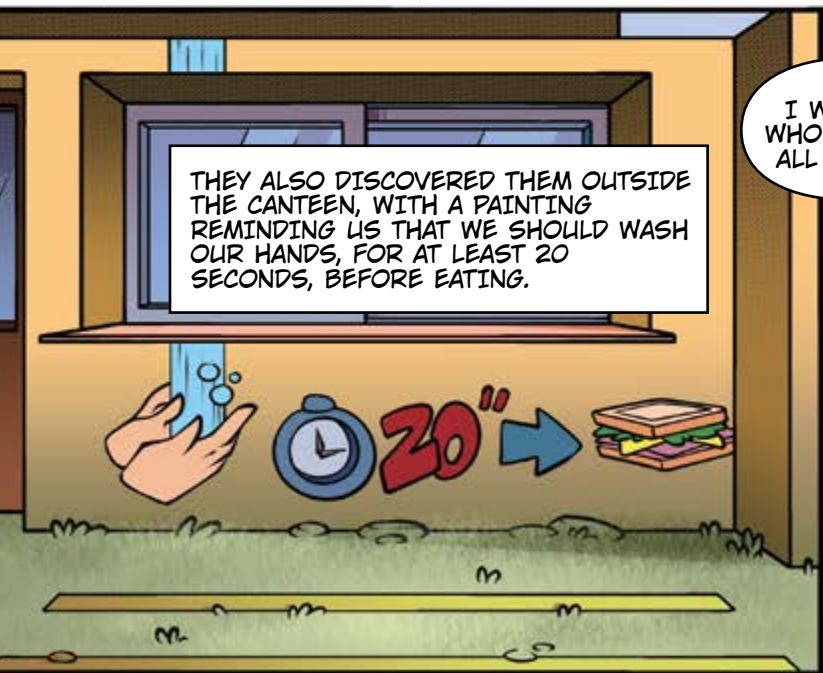
HOW ABOUT IT? DO YOU WANT TO GO INVESTIGATE?



LET'S GO!



HEMILOS AND LILA ALSO FOUND THE LINES OUTSIDE THE TOILETS, ALONG WITH A PAINTING THAT REMINDED THEM THAT THEY HAD TO WASH THEIR HANDS AFTER EVERY VISIT.



THEY ALSO DISCOVERED THEM OUTSIDE THE CANTEEN, WITH A PAINTING REMINDING US THAT WE SHOULD WASH OUR HANDS, FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS, BEFORE EATING.



I WONDER WHO PAINTED ALL THESE?

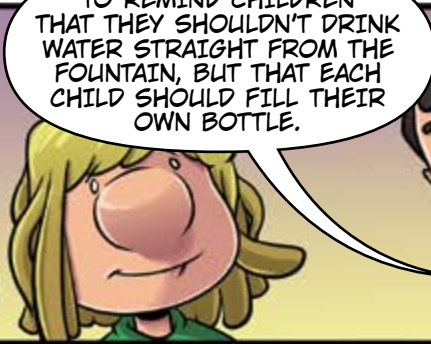
LOOK OVER THERE, BY THE WATER FOUNTAINS.



GOOD MORNING, I'M HEMILIOS AND THIS IS MY FRIEND, LILA. DID YOU PAINT ALL THESE?

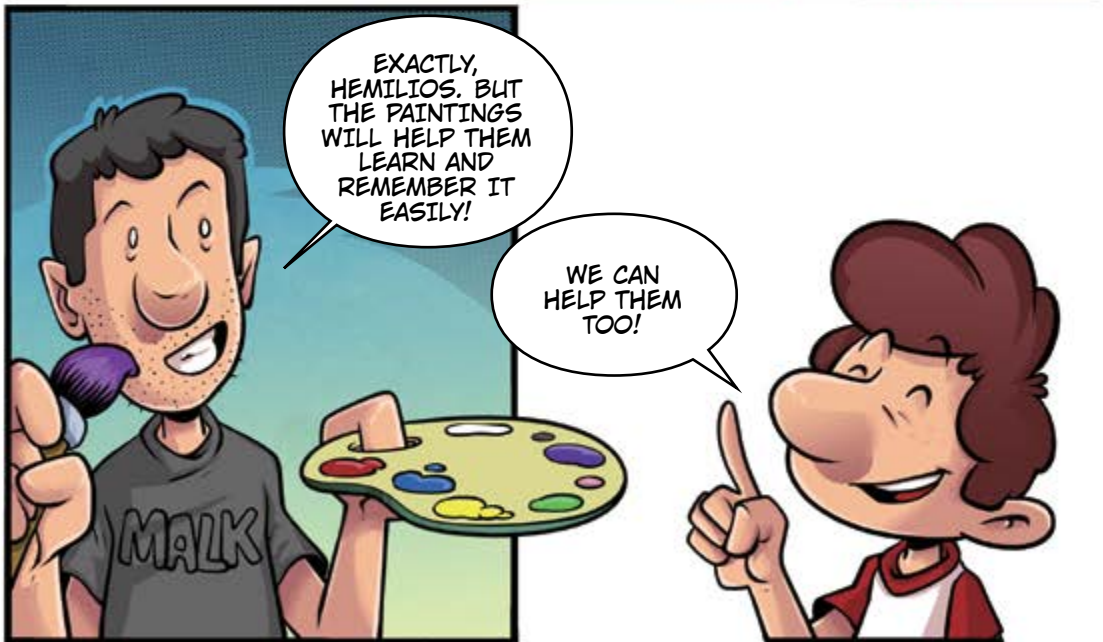
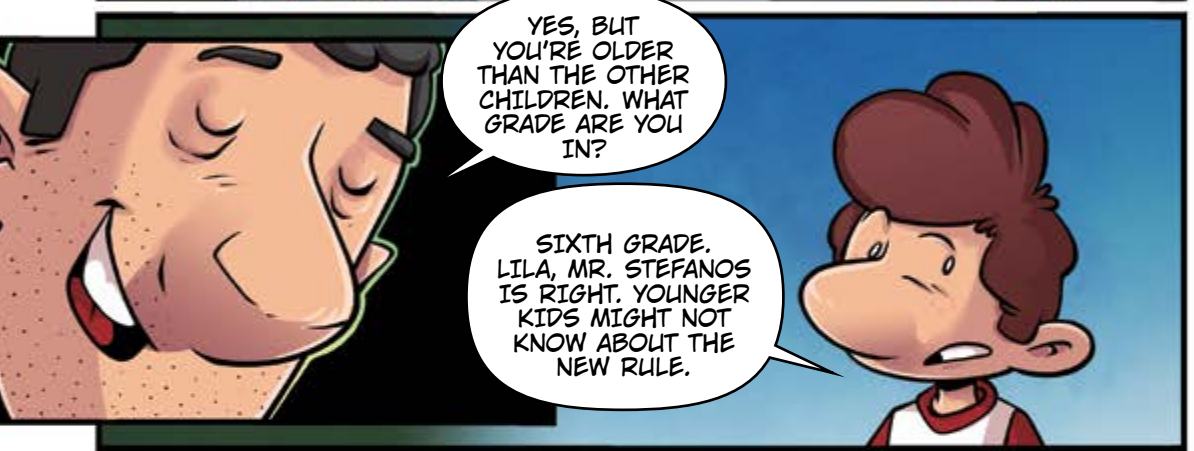
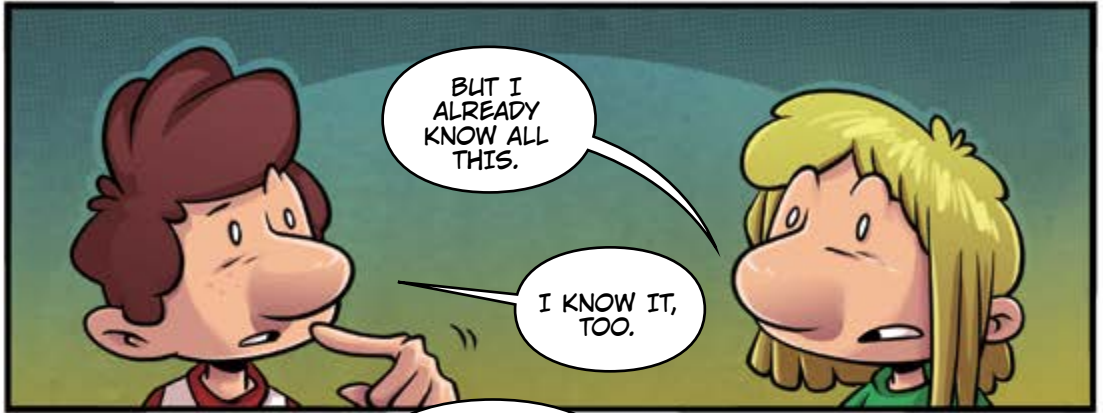


HI KIDS. I'M STEFANOS. YES, I PAINTED THEM. DO YOU LIKE THEM?



VERY MUCH! WHAT'S THE REASON FOR THESE PAINTINGS, MR. STEFANOS?

TO REMIND CHILDREN THAT THEY SHOULDN'T DRINK WATER STRAIGHT FROM THE FOUNTAIN, BUT THAT EACH CHILD SHOULD FILL THEIR OWN BOTTLE.





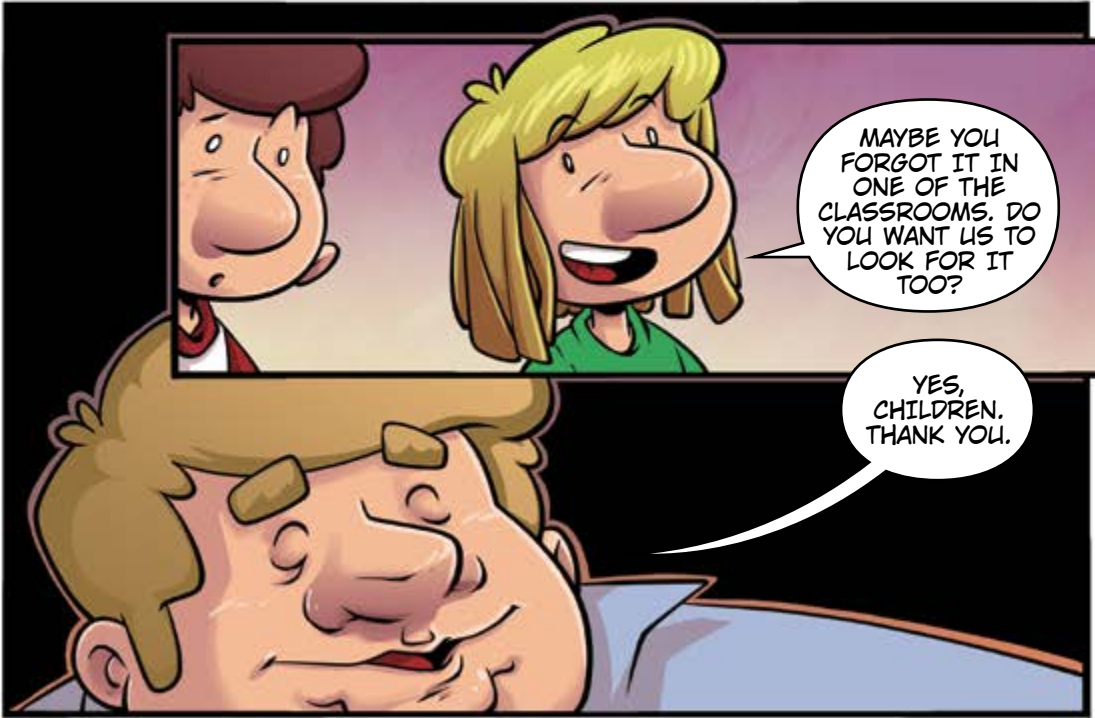
CHILDREN?
THANK GOODNESS
I FOUND YOU! I
CAN'T FIND MY
BRIEFCASE! HAVE
YOU SEEN IT?



NO,
PRINCIPAL.



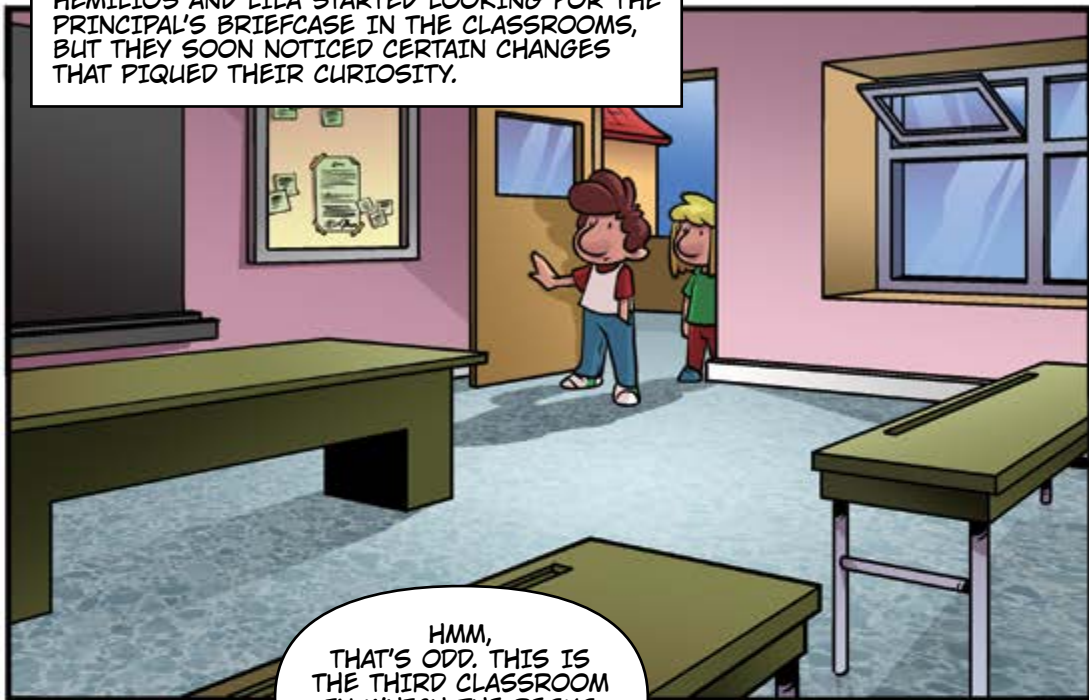
IT HAS
IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN
IT! I WAS LAST HOLDING
IT IN THE BASEMENT, WHEN
WE WENT TO GET SOME
DESKS. I CAN'T REMEMBER
WHERE I LEFT IT
AFTERWARDS.



MAYBE YOU
FORGOT IT IN
ONE OF THE
CLASSROOMS. DO
YOU WANT US TO
LOOK FOR IT
TOO?

YES,
CHILDREN.
THANK YOU.

HEMILOS AND LILA STARTED LOOKING FOR THE PRINCIPAL'S BRIEFCASE IN THE CLASSROOMS, BUT THEY SOON NOTICED CERTAIN CHANGES THAT PIQUED THEIR CURIOSITY.



HMM, THAT'S ODD. THIS IS THE THIRD CLASSROOM IN WHICH THE DESKS ARE SO FAR APART FROM EACH OTHER.

YES, IT'S GOOD TO KEEP OUR DISTANCES INSIDE THE CLASSROOMS, TOO.



BUT IF THEY ARE SO FAR FROM EACH OTHER, THEN THEY MUST ALSO BE FEWER.

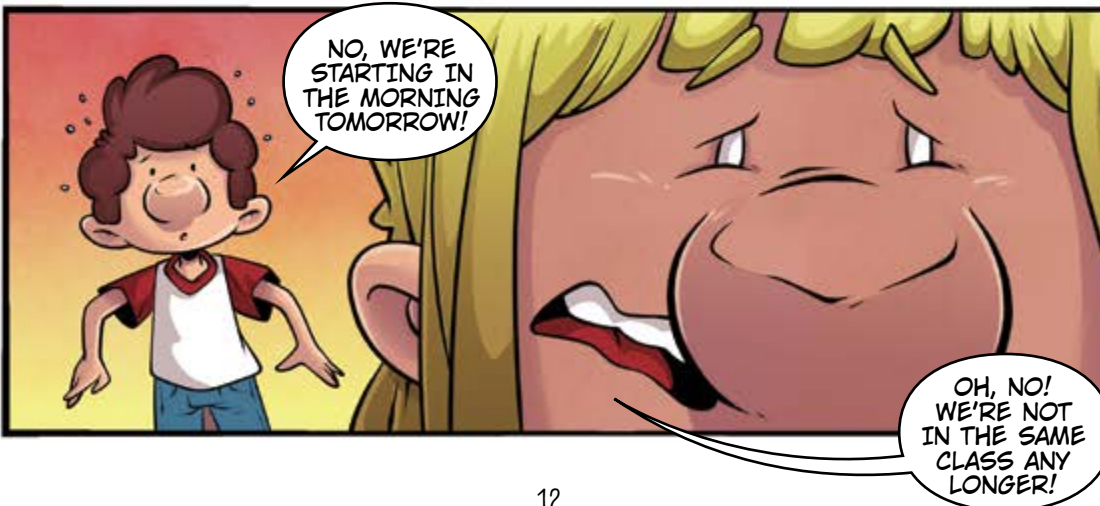
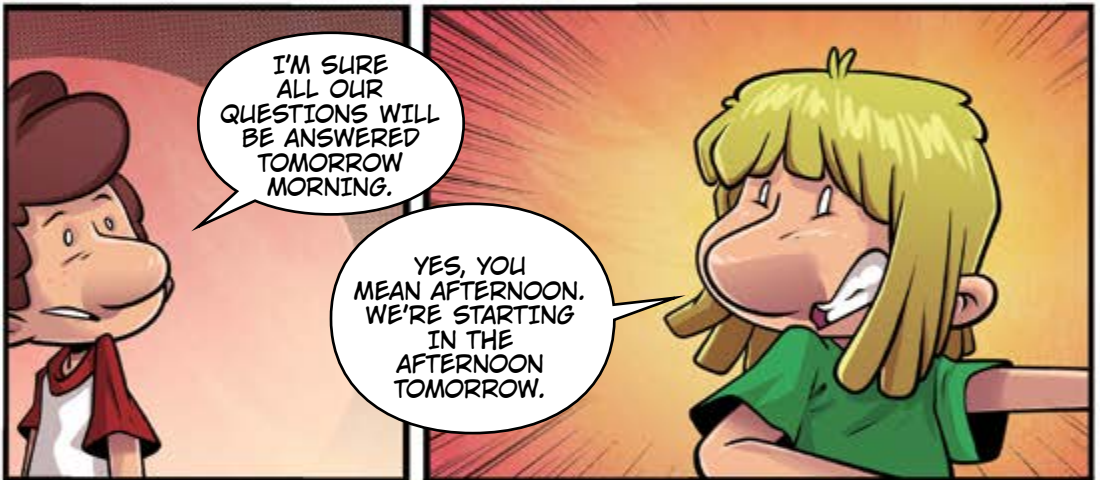
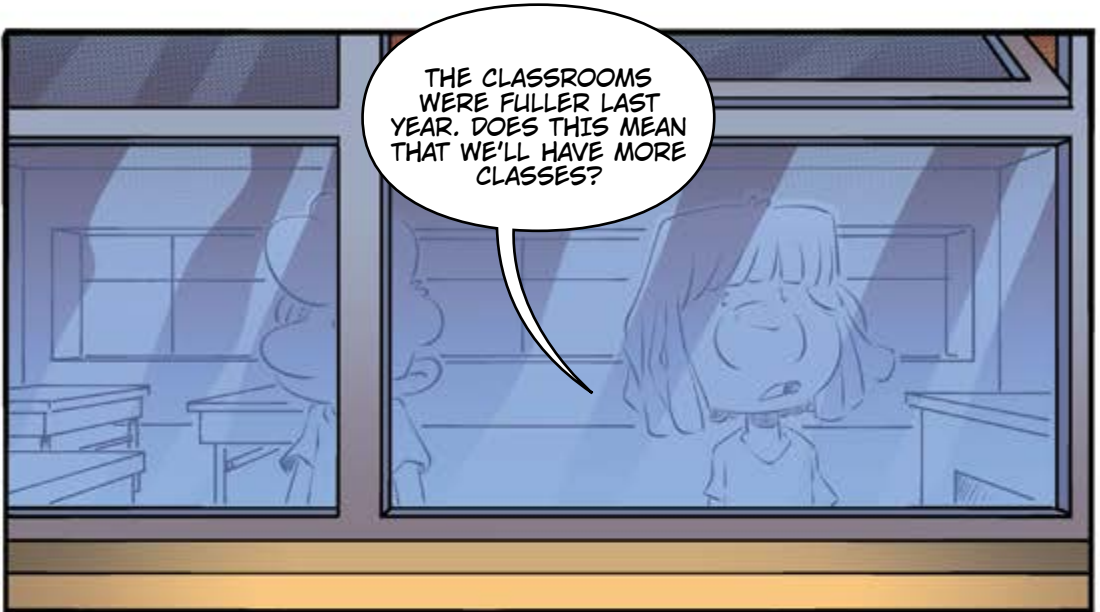


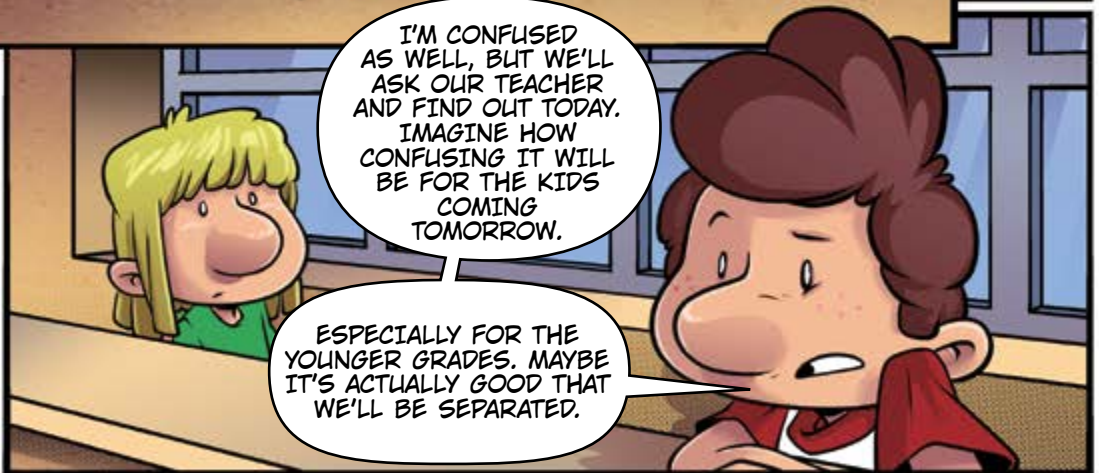
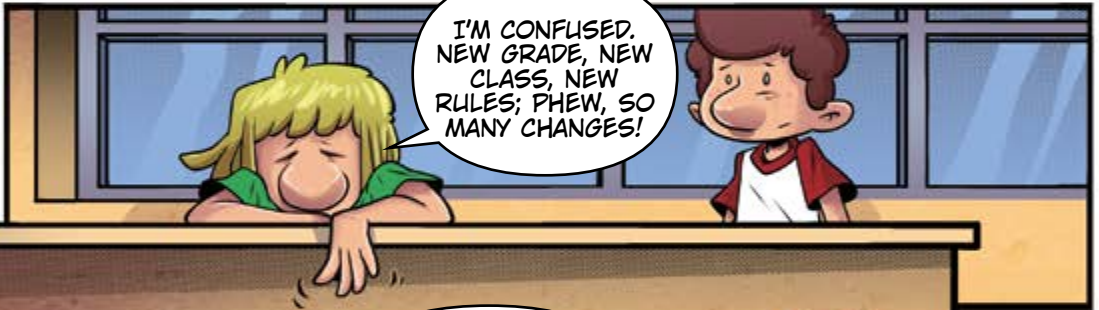
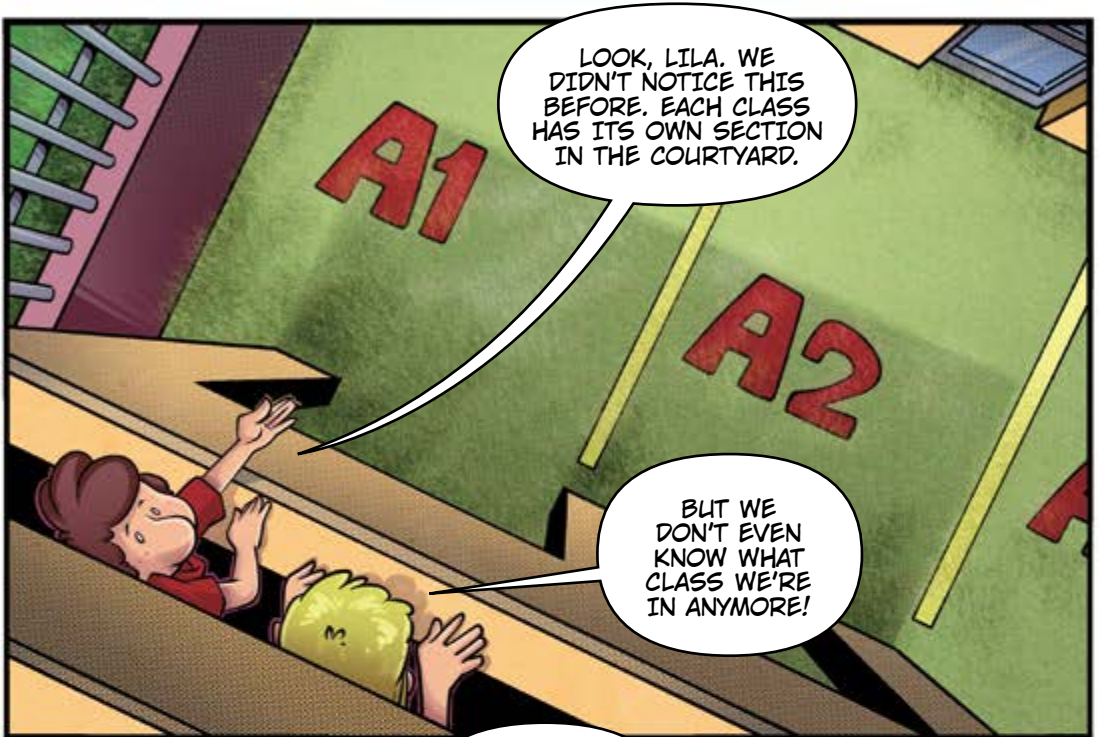
1...
2... 3...
4...



YOU'RE RIGHT.





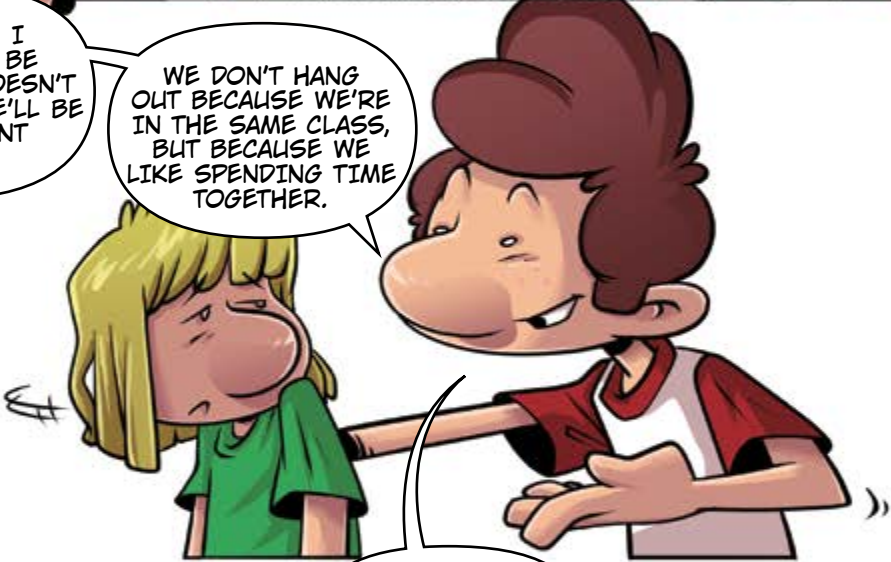




WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? DON'T YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS ANYMORE?

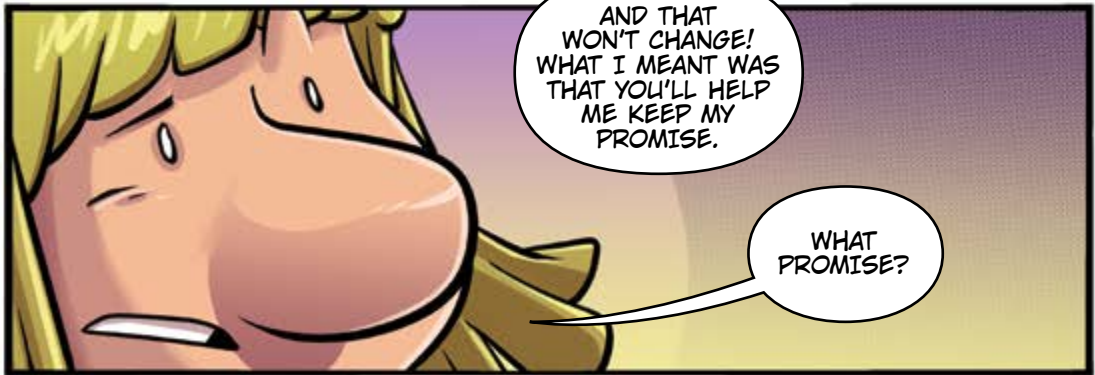
OF COURSE I WANT US TO BE FRIENDS. IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT WE'LL BE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES.

WE DON'T HANG OUT BECAUSE WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS, BUT BECAUSE WE LIKE SPENDING TIME TOGETHER.



AND THAT WON'T CHANGE! WHAT I MEANT WAS THAT YOU'LL HELP ME KEEP MY PROMISE.

WHAT PROMISE?





LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED 5 YEARS AGO, ON MY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.



THAT DAY, EVERYTHING SEEMED UNFAMILIAR AND STRANGE.



ON THE FIRST BREAK, I WAS SITTING AT THE EDGE OF THE COURTYARD AND DIDN'T HEAR THE BELL.



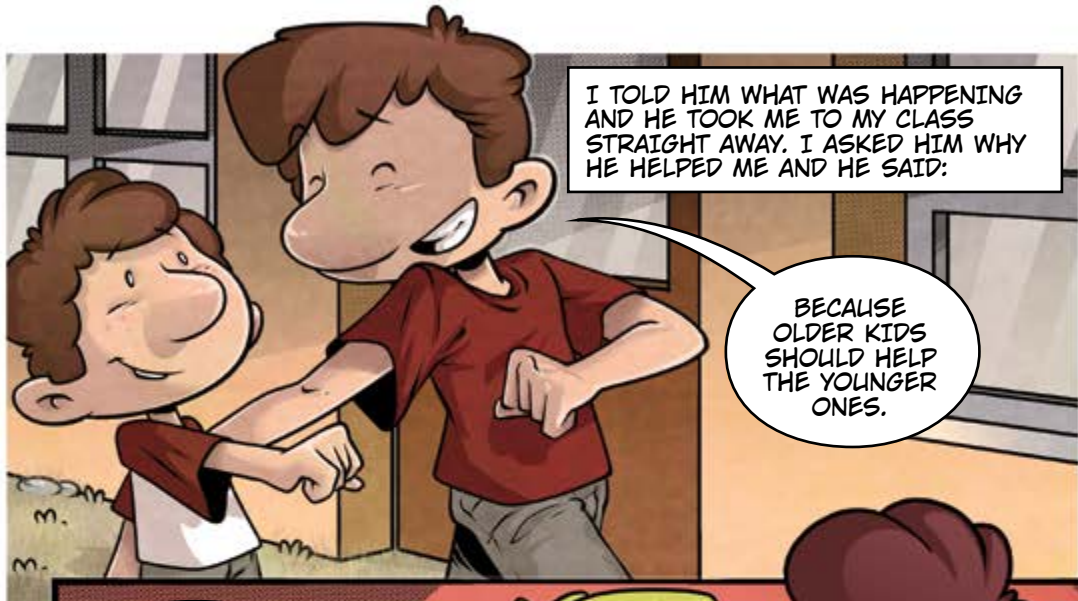
UNTIL I REALIZED THAT ALL THE KIDS HAD GONE INSIDE AND I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHICH CLASS I WAS IN!



I WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO OPEN THE DOOR TO A CLASSROOM AND ASK. I WAS AFRAID THAT I'D GET A SCOLDING IF A TEACHER SAW ME...



THAT WAS WHEN I MET STAMATIS. I LATER FOUND OUT HE WAS IN SIXTH GRADE.



I TOLD HIM WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND HE TOOK ME TO MY CLASS STRAIGHT AWAY. I ASKED HIM WHY HE HELPED ME AND HE SAID:

BECAUSE OLDER KIDS SHOULD HELP THE YOUNGER ONES.

THAT WAS WHEN I MADE A PROMISE TO MYSELF: WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL HELP YOUNGER KIDS, TOO.

THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT THAT, IF WE'RE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HELP ME KEEP THAT PROMISE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



IT'S A DEAL!



BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE PRINCIPAL'S BRIEFCASE. LET'S KEEP LOOKING FOR IT!

WHEN THEY STEPPED OUT INTO THE HALLWAY, THEY SAW THEIR TEACHER AND THE PRINCIPAL, WHO HAD JUST FOUND HIS BRIEFCASE.

MISS, IS IT TRUE THAT HEMILIOS AND I WILL BE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES?

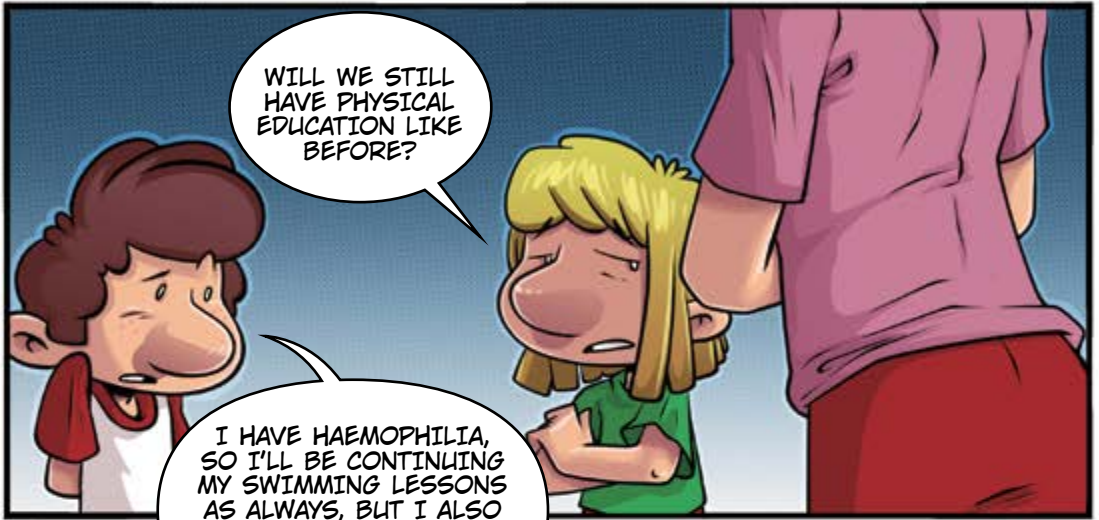
AND THAT DESKS WILL BE SO FAR APART SO THAT WE CAN FOLLOW THE SAFETY DISTANCES?

YES, AND...

CHILDREN, ONE QUESTION AT A TIME! I KNOW YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND I'M HERE TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.

THEIR TEACHER CONFIRMED THEIR SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE DISTANCES BETWEEN THE DESKS, AND ABOUT THE USE OF PROTECTIVE MASKS. THE DISTANCES THAT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED AT THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE, AT THE CANTEEN AND AT THE TOILETS. SHE ALSO TOLD THEM ABOUT FREQUENT AND PROPER HAND WASHING.

EACH STUDENT WILL WEAR A MASK, HAVE THEIR OWN WATER BOTTLE, PENCIL CASE AND BOOKS, RIGHT CHILDREN?



WILL WE STILL HAVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION LIKE BEFORE?

I HAVE HAEMOPHILIA, SO I'LL BE CONTINUING MY SWIMMING LESSONS AS ALWAYS, BUT I ALSO LIKE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT SCHOOL AND I WOULDN'T WANT IT TO STOP.



MISS, WHY DO WE HAVE THESE CHANGES THIS YEAR?

BECAUSE WE HAVE TO LEARN TO PROTECT OURSELVES AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, AS LONG AS WE FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF EXPERTS.



WELL, IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, YOU KNOW YOU CAN COUNT ON US!

IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, SCHOOL STARTED AND HEMILOS AND LILA WERE HAPPY TO SEE THEIR FRIENDS AGAIN.



HOWEVER, THEY DIDN'T FORGET THEIR PROMISE AND IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE WORD TO GET AROUND.



HEMILOS AND LILA BECAME FAMOUS AND ANYONE WHO HAD A QUESTION WOULD ASK THEM.

SOON, MORE OF THEIR CLASSMATES FOLLOWED THEIR EXAMPLE.

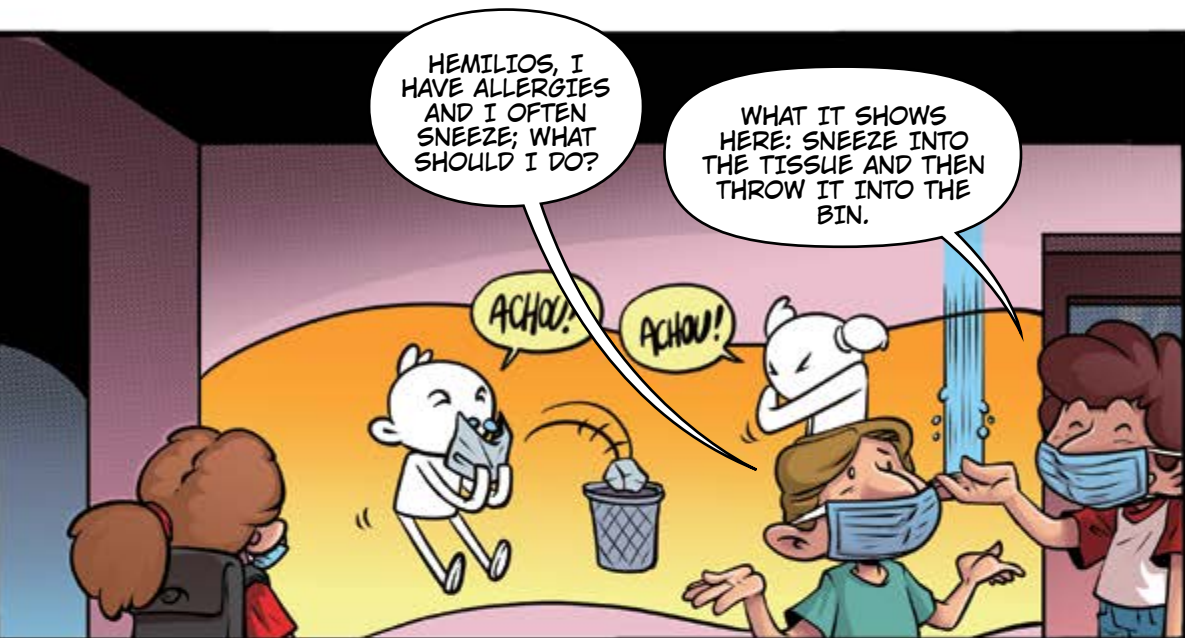


APART FROM THE TEACHERS, MR. STEFANOS' PAINTINGS WERE ALSO THERE TO GUIDE THEM.



PARTICULARLY THE ONE INSIDE THE BUILDING'S MAIN ENTRANCE.





HEMILIOS, I HAVE ALLERGIES AND I OFTEN SNEEZE; WHAT SHOULD I DO?

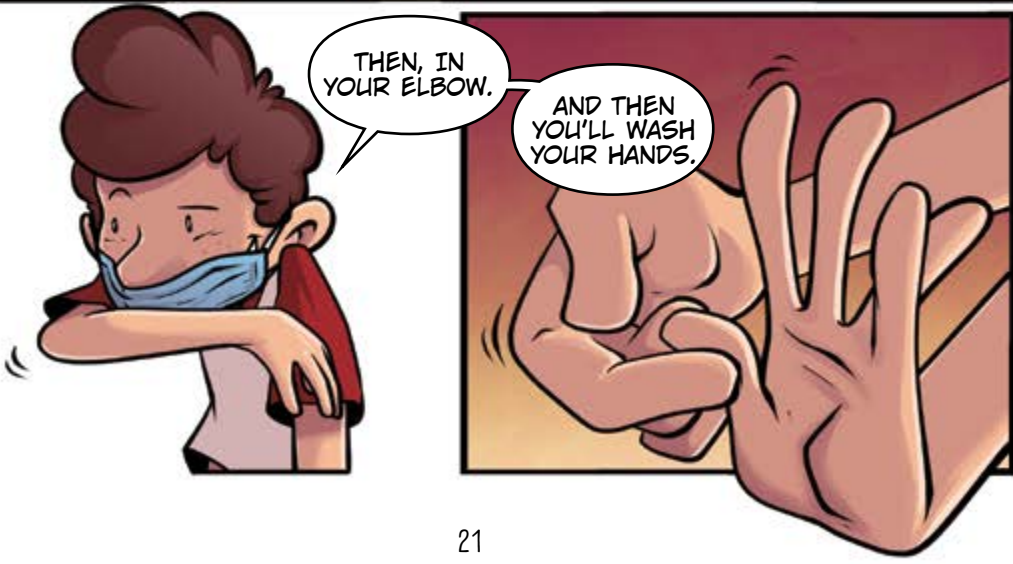
WHAT IT SHOWS HERE: SNEEZE INTO THE TISSUE AND THEN THROW IT INTO THE BIN.

ACHOU!

ACHOU!



AND IF I DON'T HAVE A TISSUE? I SOMETIMES RUN OUT.



THEN, IN YOUR ELBOW.

AND THEN YOU'LL WASH YOUR HANDS.



ARE YOU SURE?

YES, AND YOU SHOULD ALWAYS TAKE CARE NOT TO TOUCH YOUR EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH WITH YOUR HANDS.



SEE? AND, IF YOU FORGET OR AREN'T SURE ABOUT SOMETHING, YOU CAN ASK YOUR TEACHER.

HEMILOS, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? ALL THE KIDS IN MY CLASS ARE TALKING ABOUT YOU AND ARE WONDERING WHY YOU HELP US.

BECAUSE A FRIEND ONCE TAUGHT ME THIS: OLDER KIDS SHOULD HELP YOUNGER ONES.

TELL YOUR FRIEND I SAID THANK YOU.

I PROMISE! I'LL TELL HIM AT THE FIRST CHANCE I GET.

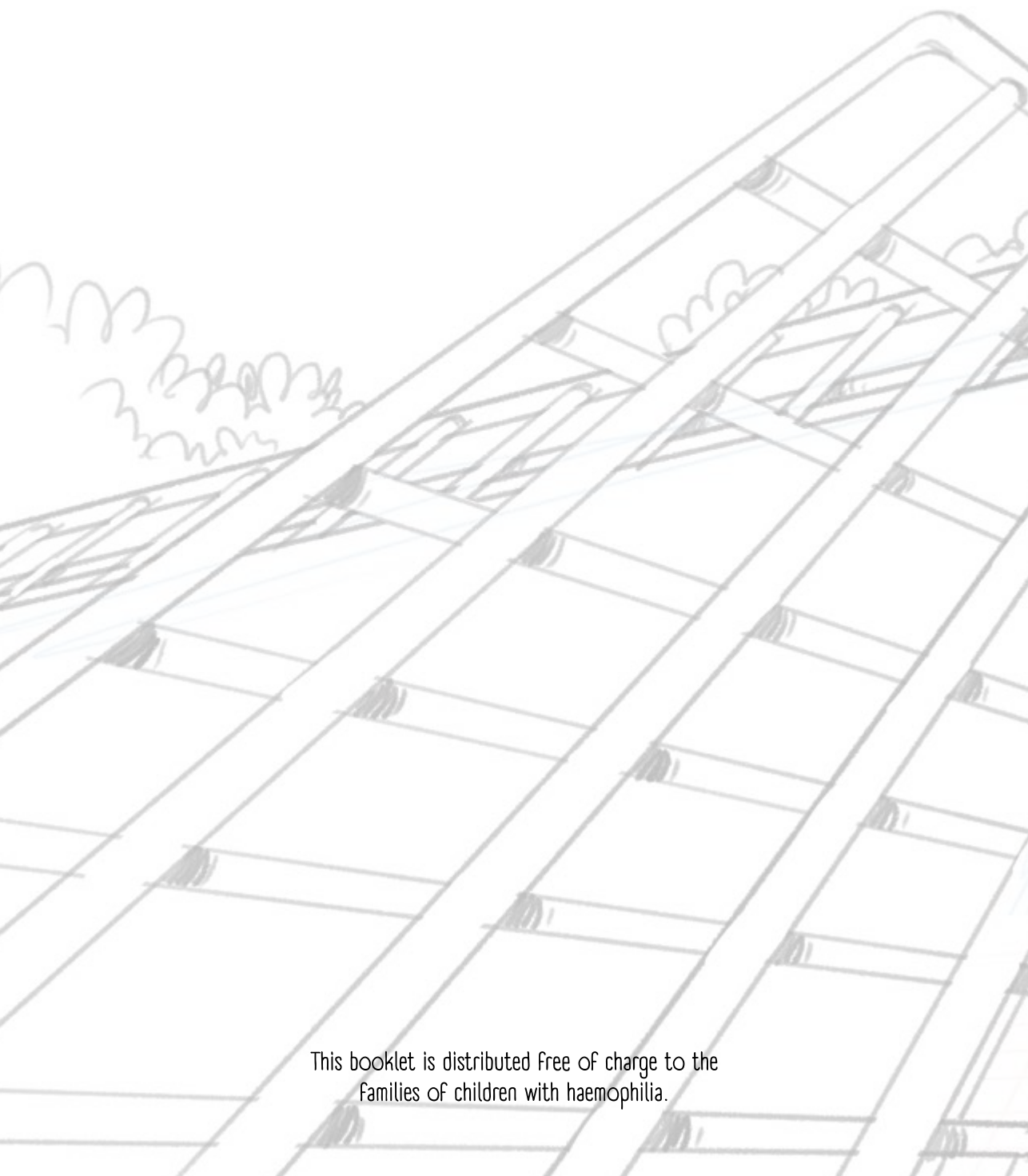
CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE?

WHAT?

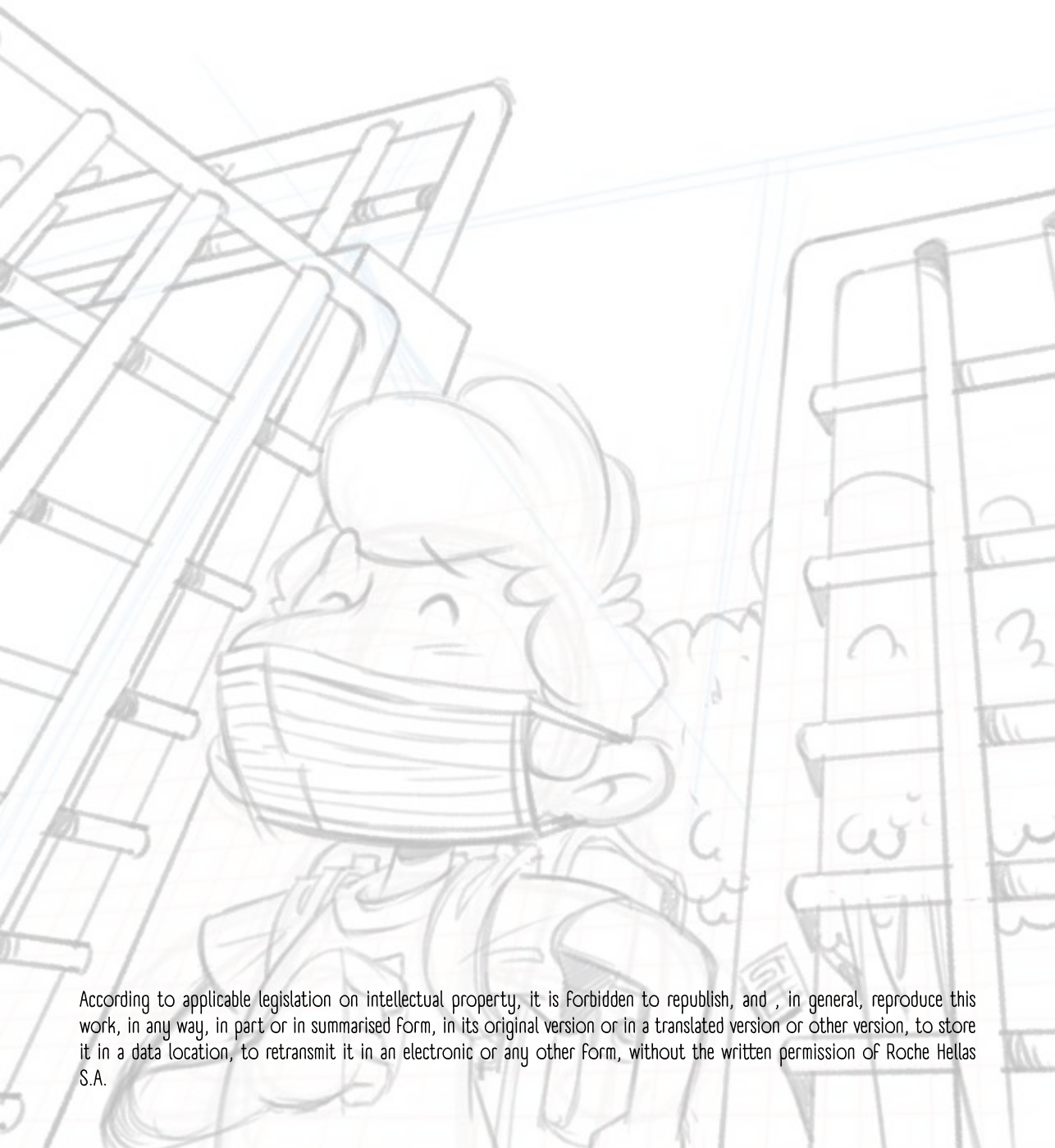
WHEN I GROW UP AND GO TO SIXTH GRADE, I PROMISE I'LL BE LIKE YOU!

THE END.





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The new school year is starting and Hemilios is excited, as he will be attending sixth grade. On the day before the school opens, Hemilios and Lila have gone to help their teacher with the preparations. However, it's not long before they notice certain changes both in the classrooms and in the courtyard. The two friends explore the school's courtyard and classrooms and discover that everything has been done in order to help students follow the new rules against the coronavirus. In the following days, they will help their classmates follow the new rules, reminding everyone that the older kids should help the younger ones!

Visit the website aboutaemophilia.com to read the whole series in digital form.

