

YOUR STORY MATTERS

A compilation of comics by Black youth in Durham Region



YOUR STORY MATTERS



Compiled and edited by:
Kelvin (Nyeusi-Mawazo) Gumbs
of Black Sun Comics - blacksuncomics.com

INTRODUCTION

Some of the earliest memories I have are of my mother reading me story books before bed. As much as I hated going to bed early while everyone else got to stay up late, I always looked forward to reading with her. Jack and the Beanstalk, Mother Goose, Hansel and Gretel – having her recite those stories provided a moment of connection and safety for me.

As a current avid reader, I think it's that early connection to stories that developed my love for reading and my belief in the power of storytelling. Stories can transform our point of view. Stories bind us together.

From January to February 2024, Revitalized worked with several Durham-based Black youth to build their own comic book. The goal of this project was to not only provide them with a product they could be proud of, but also help our community to understand more about their world. In this compilation of comics, you'll read stories from several Black youth who have used their creativity and power of their prose to share their experiences with their community. It's our goal to use this anthology to transform our thoughts and understanding about Black Durham youth, and to prepare a future for them where they can thrive.

I hope you enjoy reading their stories as much as I do. Happy reading!

Regards,

Jasmyne Julien

Founder of Revitalized Reintegration Services - revitalized.ca

Please note that this book includes stories that explore sensitive themes.



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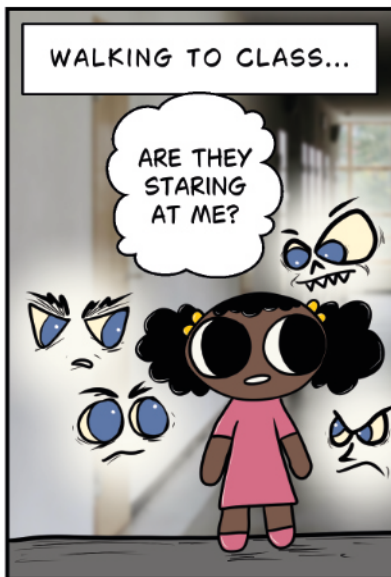
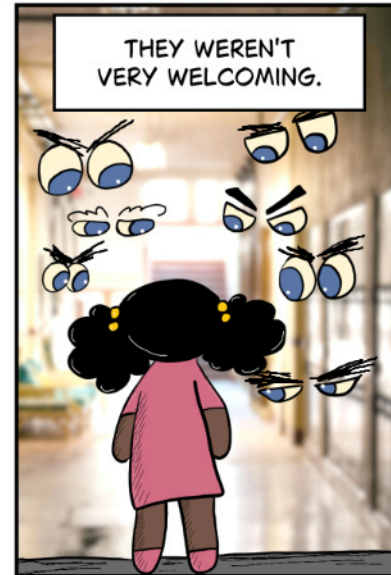
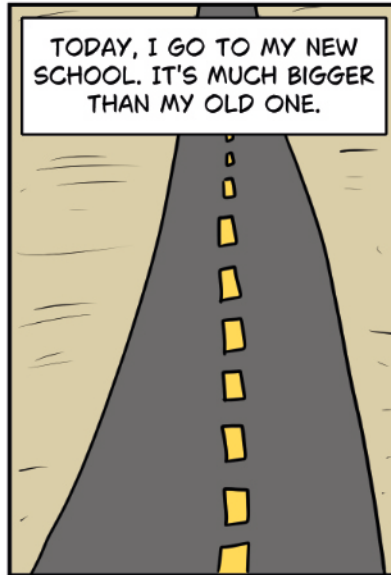
MAYBELLE'S NEW SCHOOL

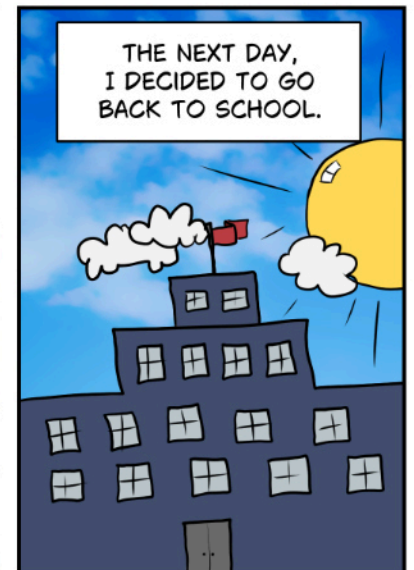
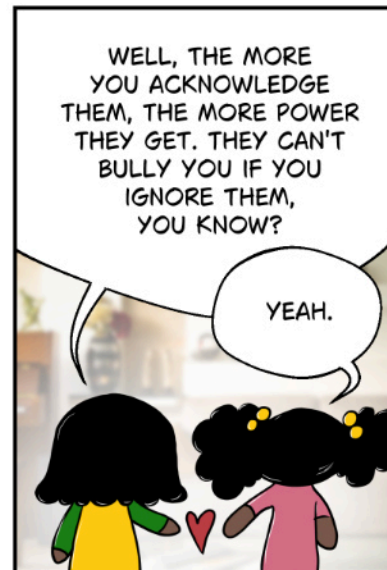
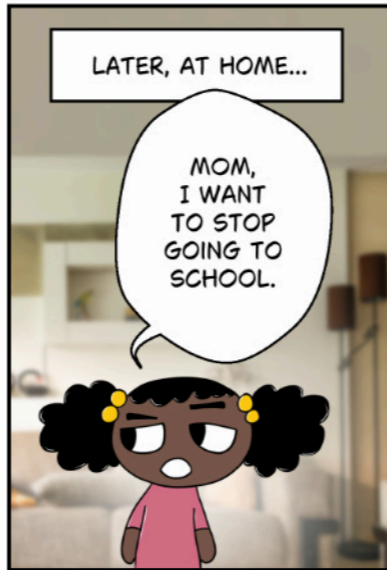
By RJ

Biography

RJ

RJ is a 15 year-old high school student. She's currently researching different fashion careers and aspires to be a designer. She also enjoys listening to and making music.







2

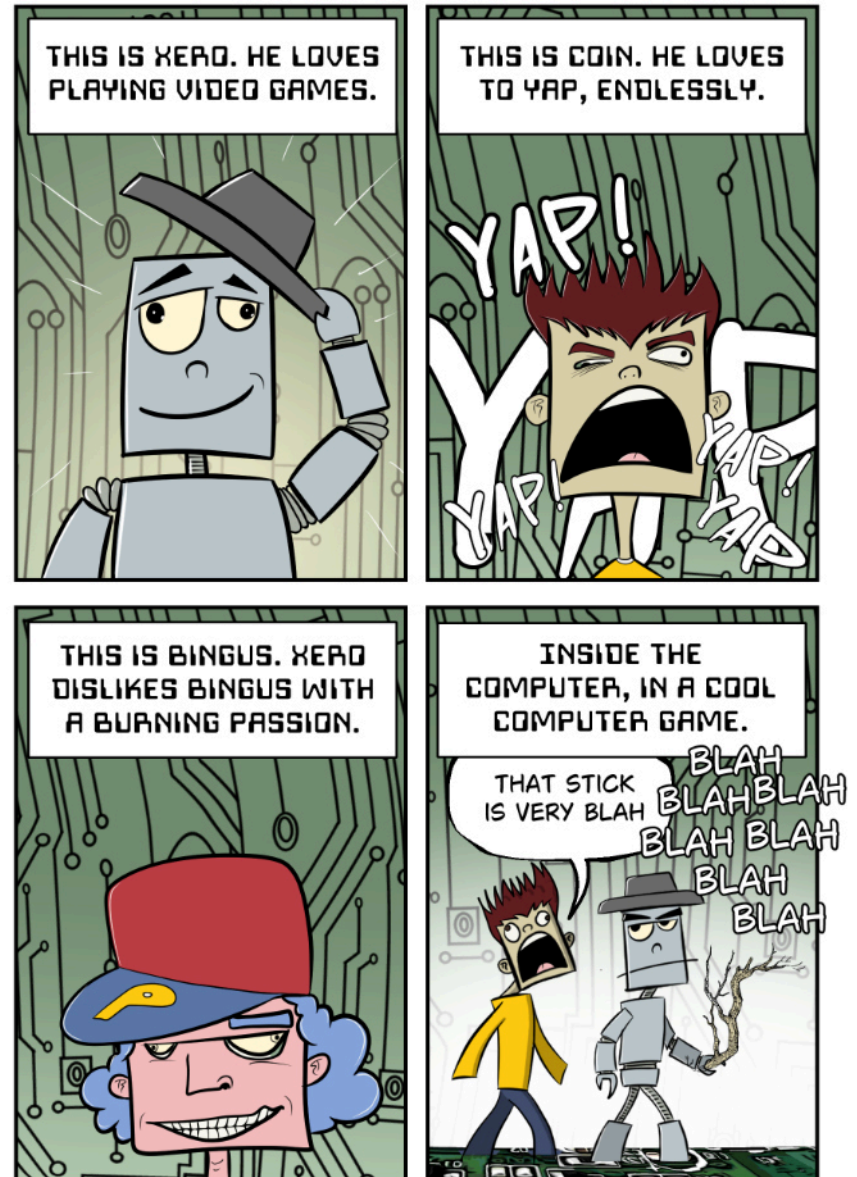
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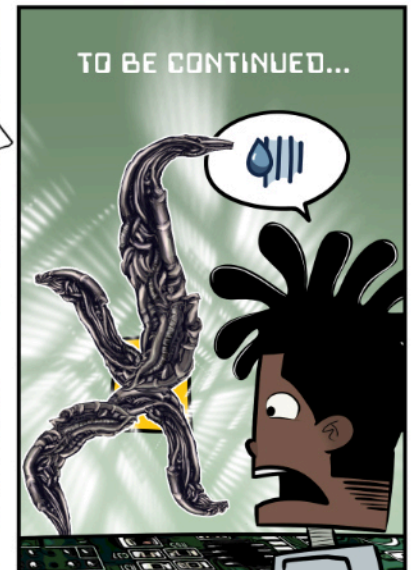
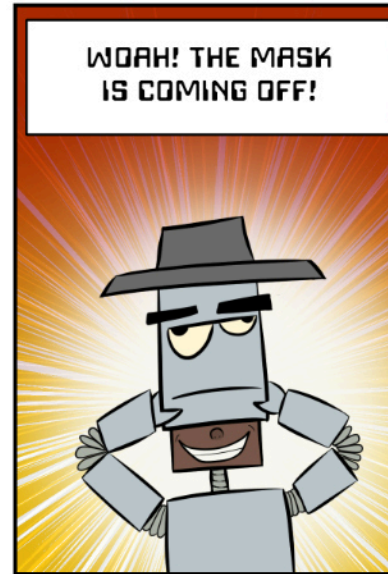
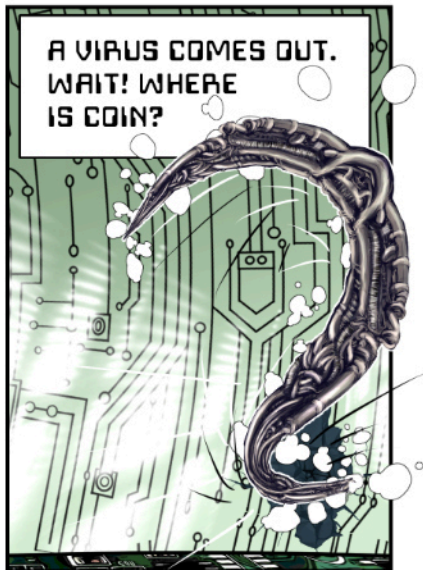
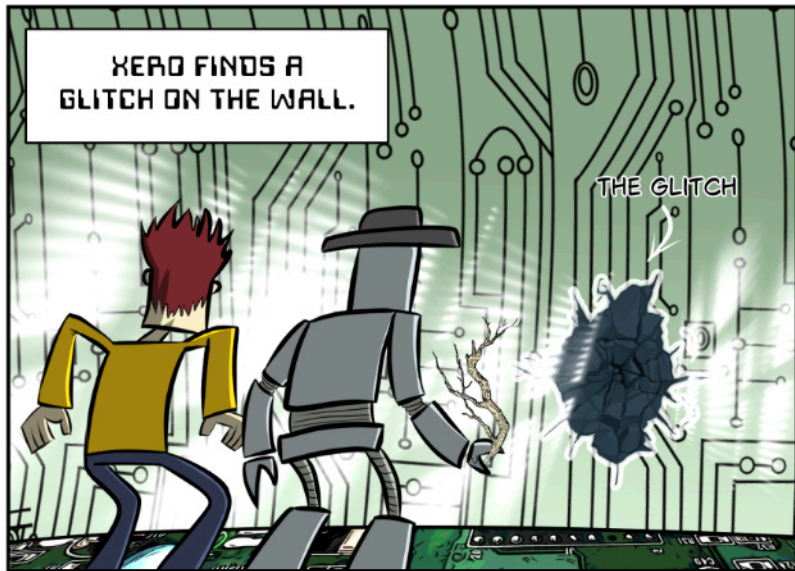
By ITMDL

Biography

ITMDL

My name is ITMDL I love fedora's and animals. I really enjoy creating graphics and playing games on-line. My favourite game is Terraria. When I grow up I want to be a computer engineer and create my own games!





3

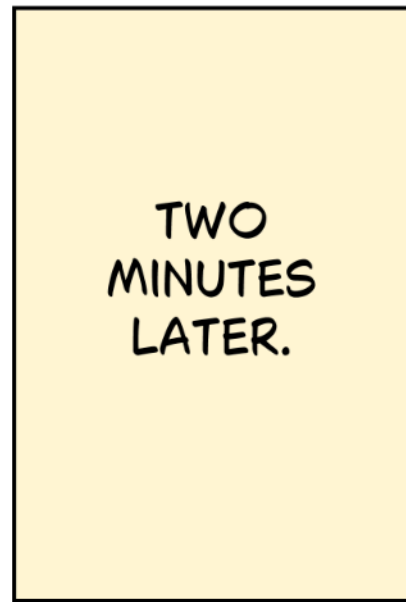
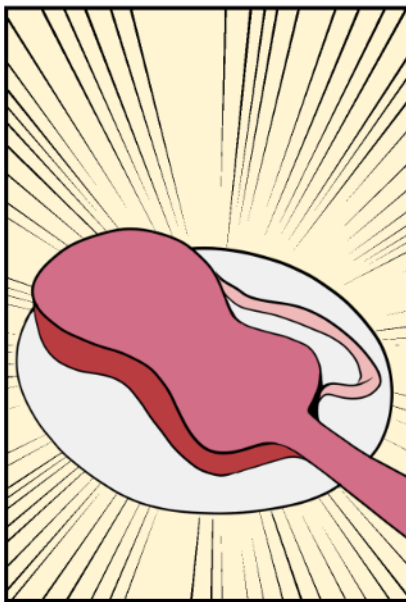
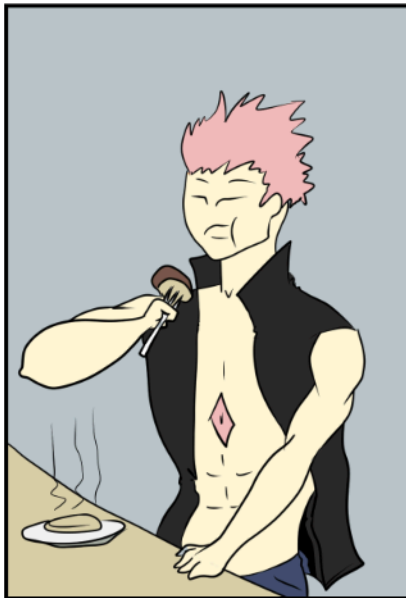
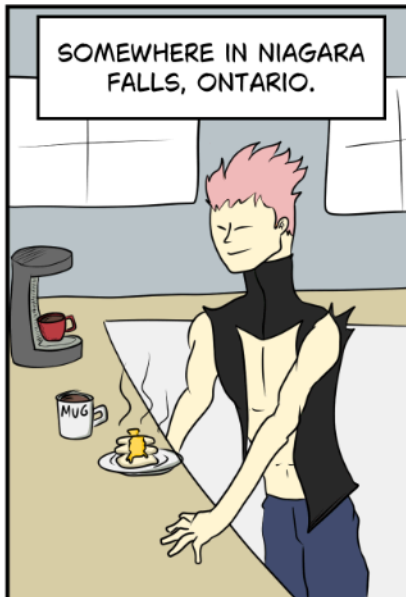
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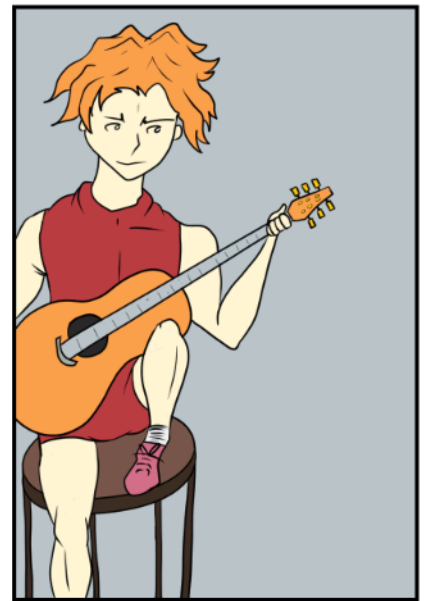
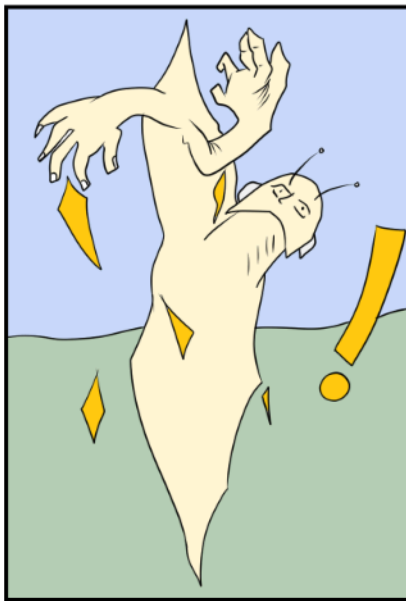
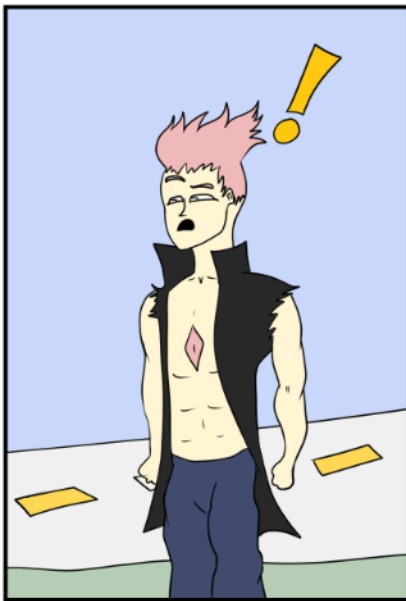
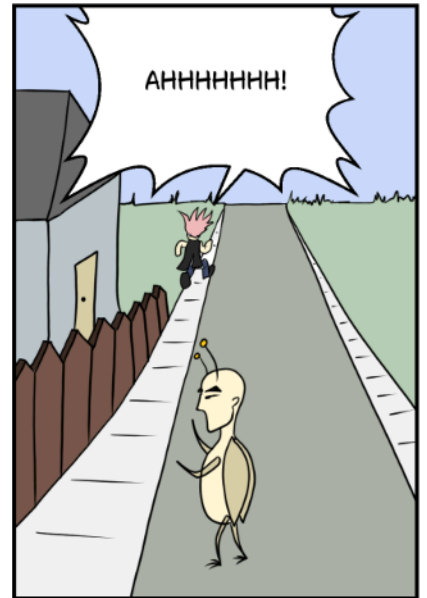
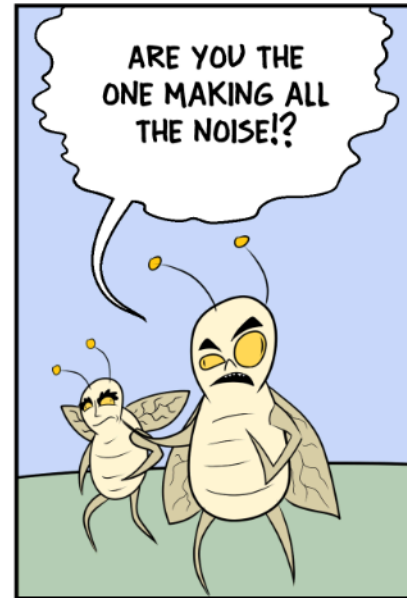
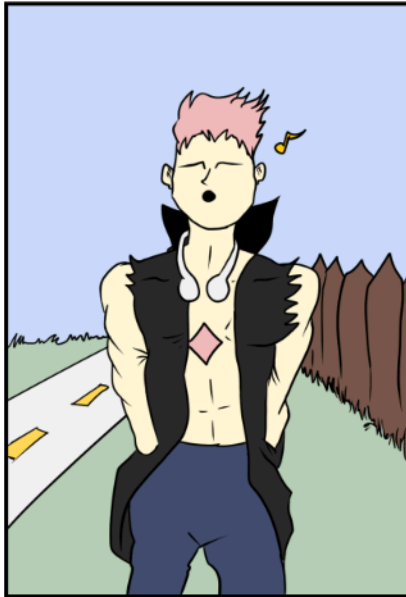
By JT

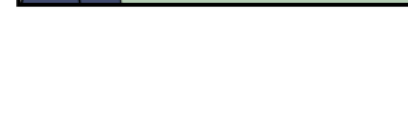
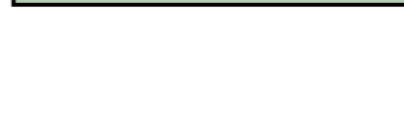
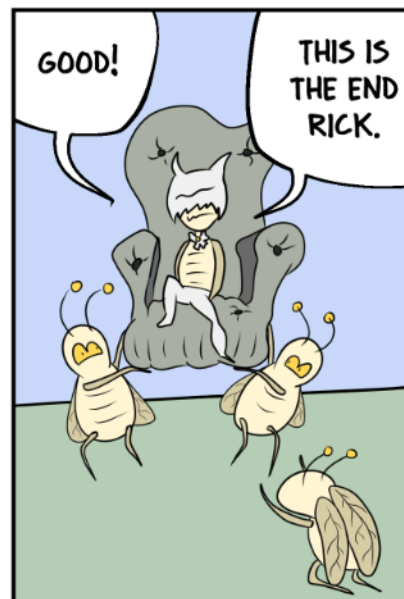
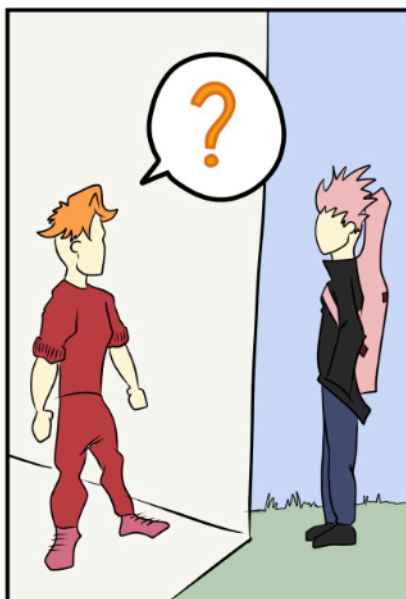
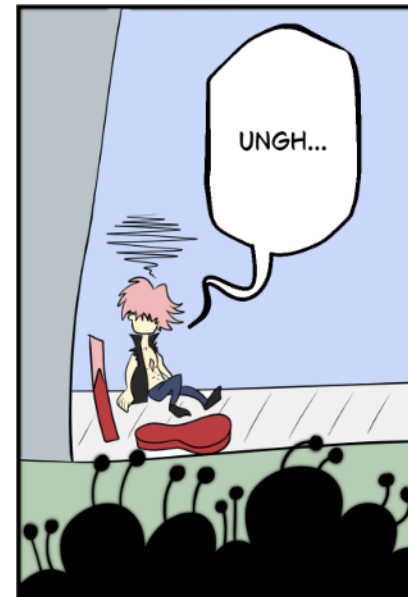
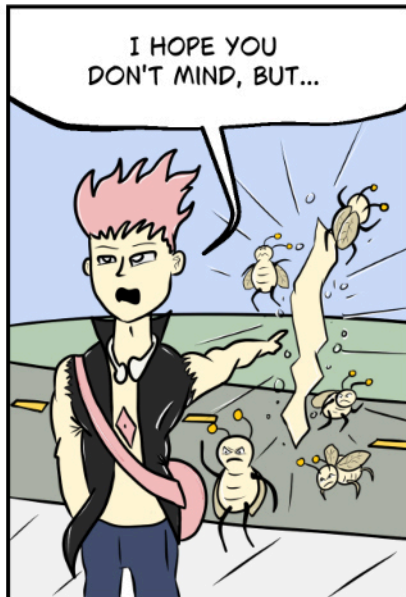
Biography

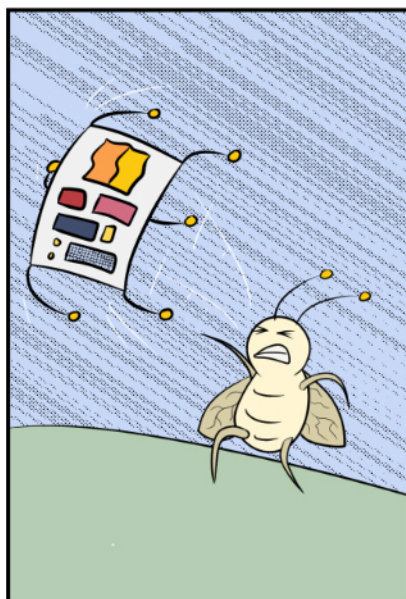
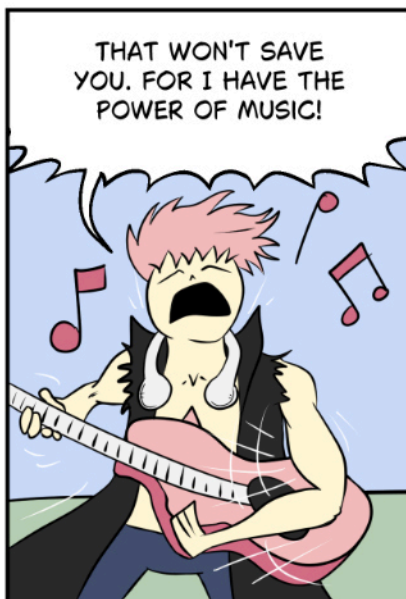
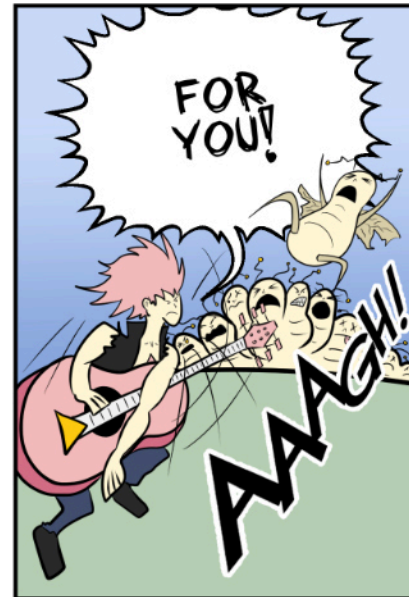
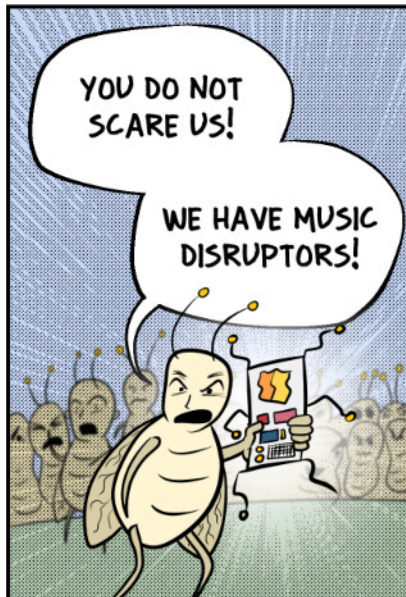
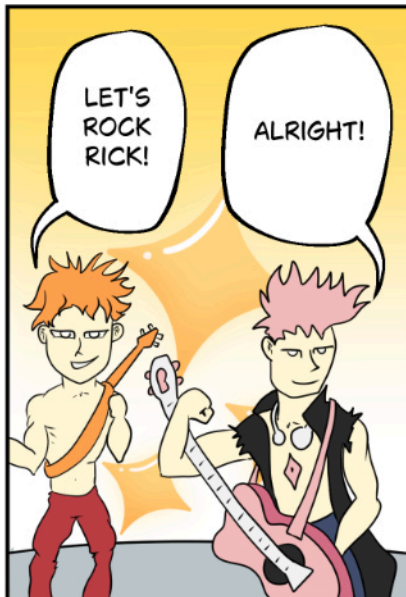
JT

JT is 16 years old and loves drawing. If it were up to him he would be drawing all day and all night. His pet peeve are people that don't like music and when he gets older he wants to be a professional cartoonist.









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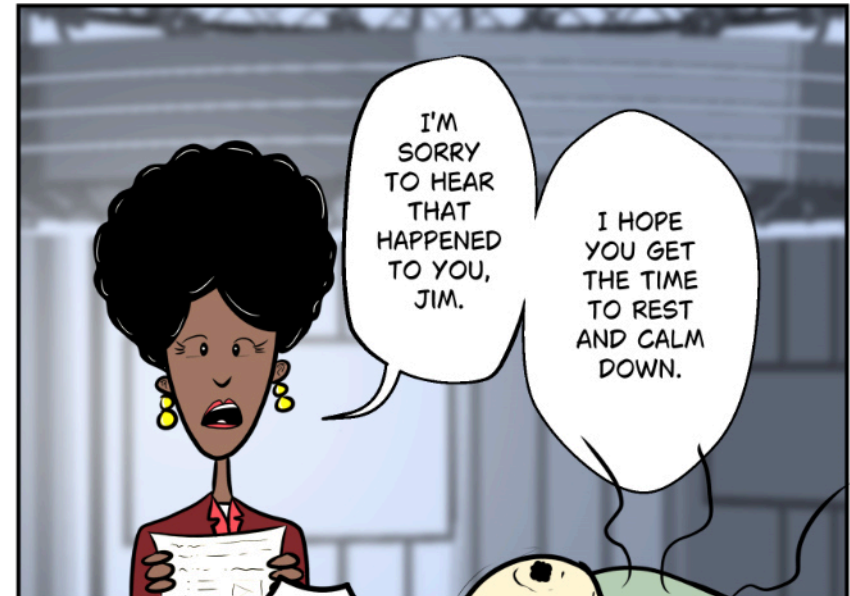
SHARK ATTACK

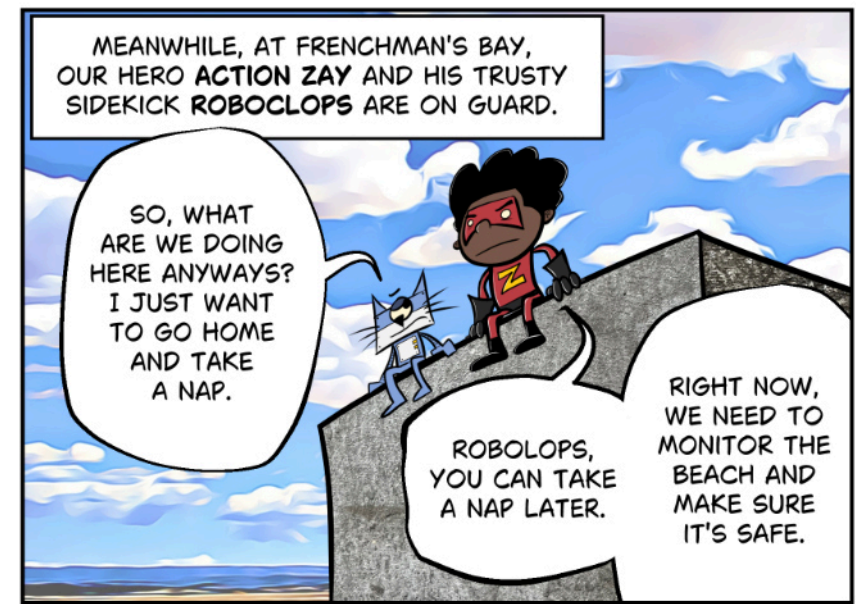
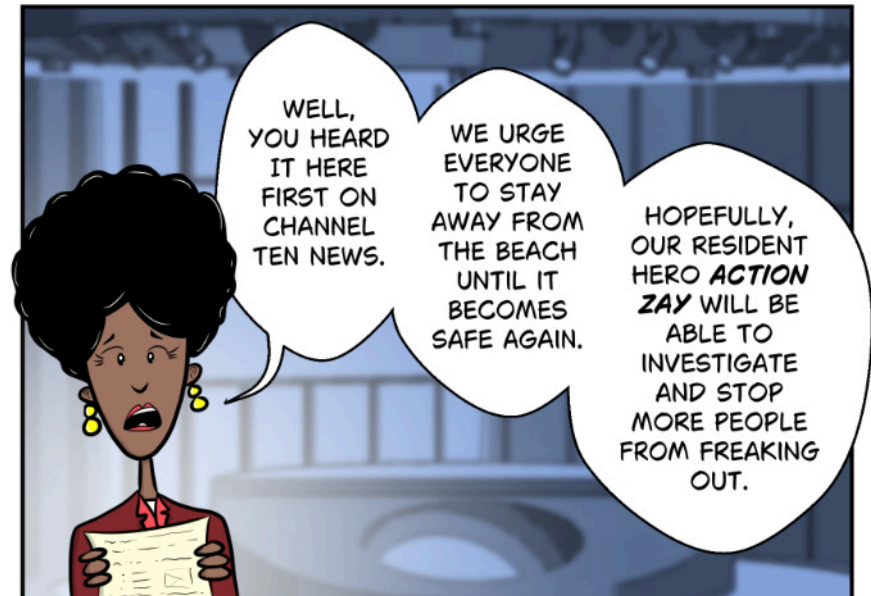
By IG & his Dad

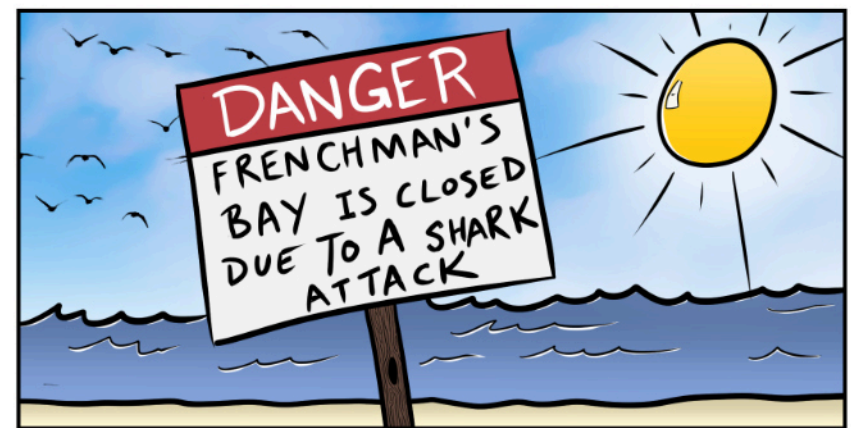
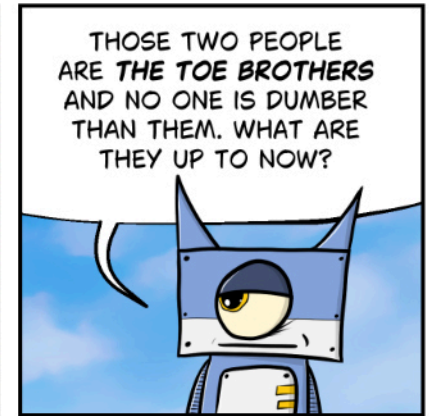
Author Biography

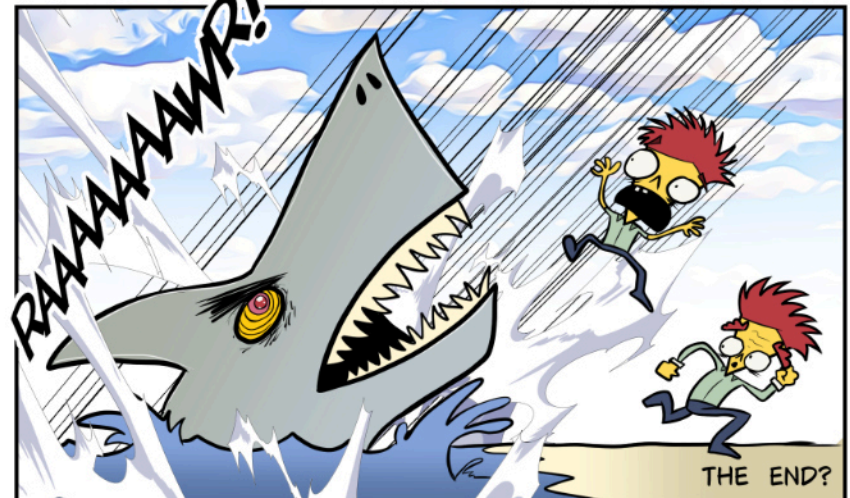
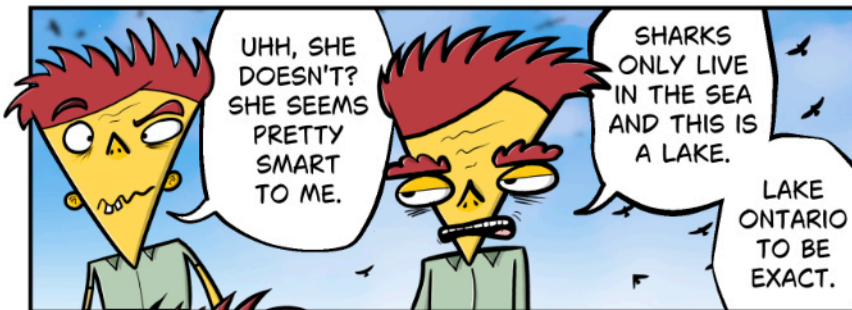
IG

IG is 10 years old. He loves drawing, writing in his journal, making books, building snow forts, hanging out with his cousins and friends and tobogganing on his sled named “Motherboard”. When he grows up Isaiah wants to be a Lawyer and an Artist.









THANKS FOR READING.
WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED
ALL THE STORIES.

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Region's Building Safer Communities program,
and the Community Safety and Well-Being Fund.

To learn more about Durham's Region's Community
Safety and Well-being Plan, visit Durham.ca/CSWB





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