

*Your Life in*

# COMICS

*100 Things for Guys to Write and Draw*



INTERNET  
CONNECTED

*Created by Bill Zimmerman, artwork by Tyler Page*

An interactive digital comic book from [MakeBeliefsComix.com](http://MakeBeliefsComix.com)



*Your Life in*

# COMICS

***100 Things for Guys to Write and Draw***

*created by Bill Zimmerman, artwork by Tyler Page*

Copyright © 2010 by Bill Zimmerman

Artwork by Tyler Page

All rights reserved under International and Pan American Copyright Conventions. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without express written permission of the publisher, except for brief quotations or critical reviews.

The author welcomes your comments and suggestions that you would like to see included in future editions.

Please write to:

William Zimmerman, Guarionex Press Ltd.

201 West 77 Street, New York, NY 10024

Email: [billz@makebeliefscomix.com](mailto:billz@makebeliefscomix.com)

Thank you.

For other e-books and print books by Bill Zimmerman, visit [www.makebeliefscomix.com/eBooks/](http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/eBooks/) or <http://www.billztreasurechest.com>

This book which you have downloaded is presented in the form of an interactive digital journal. It allows you to directly type your thoughts into the designated areas on each of the book's pages. When you finish typing, simply save the document until the next time you are inspired to make new entries. If you like, you can also print out the pages and draw in the blank areas.

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

---

DATE BEGUN:

---



This book is dedicated to my dad, who used to bring home the Sunday comics each week and who bought me my first comic book. With thanks to my editor, Douglas Fehlen, for all his encouragement and great help in finding the websites cited throughout this book.

—B.Z.

## Dear Reader,

You know how most other books give you all the words and illustrations so you don't have a say about what happens? Well, this book isn't like that. Instead, it's a do-it-yourself comic book where you can tell stories from your life. There are also cartoons where you get to decide what happens to other characters—just follow the prompts and fill in the **talk** and **thought** balloons to determine what the people say and think. Their fate is in your hands! You'll also find pages where you can draw comic strips of your own.

What kind of stuff will you write about and draw in this book? It's up to you. Some of the pages are funny and some are serious. Many are about family, friends, or other people you know. A lot are about things you may have experienced in your life, others probably not. (Unless maybe you *have* met space aliens or done some time traveling). One quality all the pages share is that they are incomplete. They need your imagination to be finished. All you need is something to write with and your good ideas.

Time to enjoy yourself. Have fun!

Sincerely,

*Bill Zimmerman*


**P.S.** For more fun, visit my website ([www.makebeliefscomix.com](http://www.makebeliefscomix.com)).

There you can create comic strips and share cartoon ideas of your own.





## Before You Get Started . . .

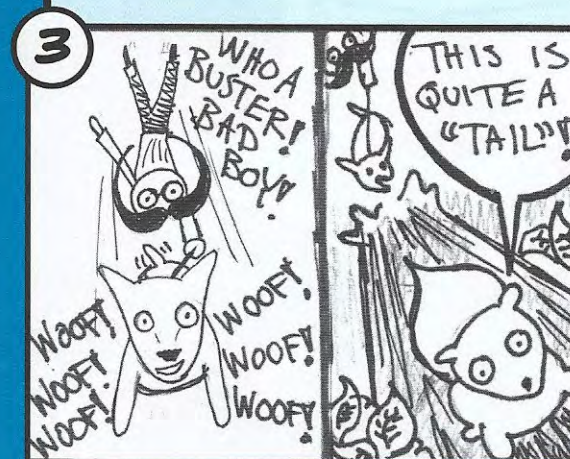
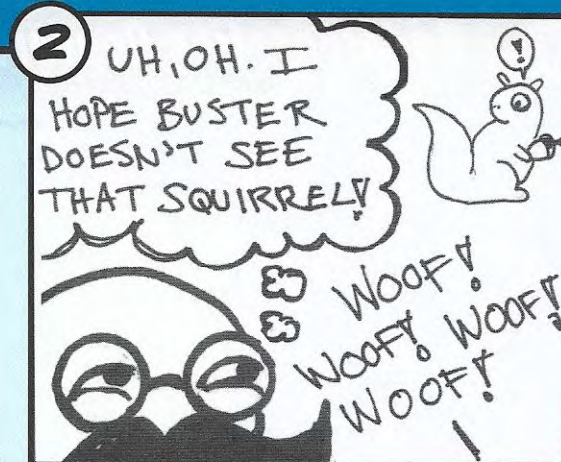
Many of the activities in this book let you fill in talk and thought balloons to complete comics. You'll also have the chance to draw comics of your own. Whenever you see this logo  start drawing.

If you don't think you can create the kind of detailed drawings you might see in some comic books, don't worry. Creating comics is all about finding the style that's right for you. You can make really complex drawings to tell your stories if you want, but simple illustrations are okay, too.

Like this guy, who we'll call Mister Mustache, and his dog, Buster:



Once you have your first scene, the next step is pretty simple . . . just make something happen. It can be anything you want. Like maybe Mister Mustache and Buster walk by a squirrel eating nuts in the park. What do you think will happen next?



That's all it takes. Once you begin a comic strip, you can make it go wherever you like. If you're lucky, your story might even take on a life of its own.



**Disclaimer:** Your comic strip stories can be a lot less corny than this one! Remember, just use your imagination!



1

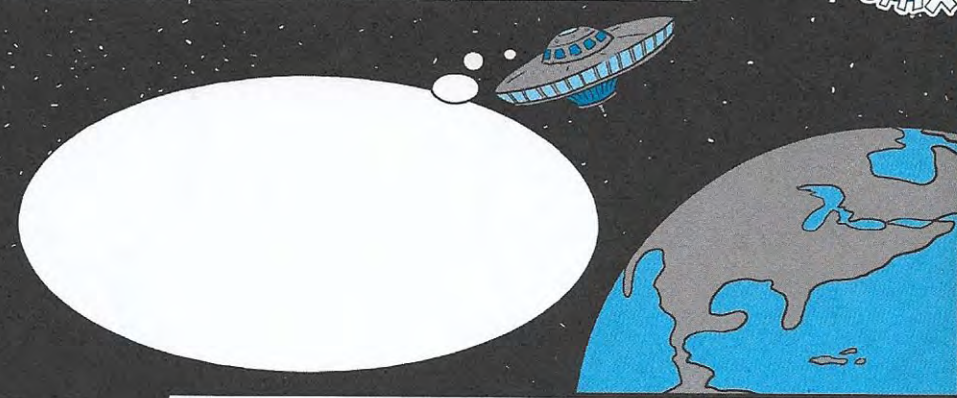
## An Interesting Conversation



*Put words in their mouths.*

2

## When Aliens Landed on Earth



THEN ...

Large white rectangular area for writing the 'THEN' section of the story.

AFTER THAT ...

White rectangular area for writing the 'AFTER THAT' section of the story.

FINALLY ...

White rectangular area for writing the 'FINALLY' section of the story.

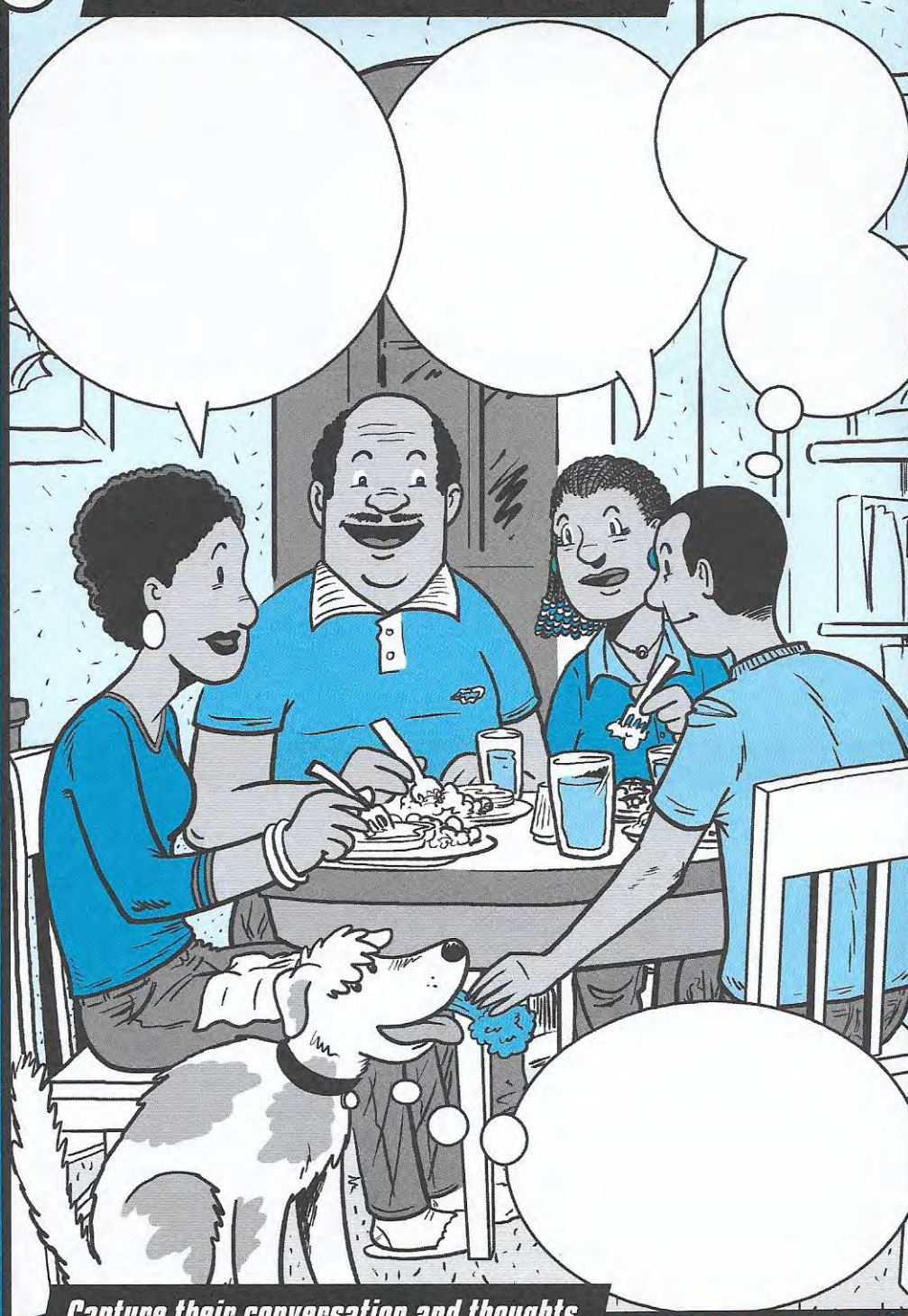
Interested in real efforts to track down life in space? Visit the NASA website ([www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)) to find updates on the International Space Station, Hubble Space Telescope, Mars orbiter, and other projects helping us learn more about the universe.



Type or draw in the white spaces. Print this page to draw.



3

*A family sits down to dinner.**Capture their conversation and thoughts.*

4

MY HAPPIEST MEMORY IS . . .

*Hollywood is making a movie about your life.*

1) What's it called? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Who's playing you? \_\_\_\_\_

3) Is it a comedy, adventure, drama, or something else? \_\_\_\_\_

4) What's the storyline? \_\_\_\_\_



5

**What's so funny?**

6



IF I WERE PRESIDENT,  
I WOULD . . .

If your plans in life really do include becoming president (hey, you might do an amazing job), you'll need to know a lot about the world. Check out this United Nations website ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)). It has all kinds of info on each member country and the biggest challenges our planet faces.





7

*These guys are competing in a rap showcase.*



*Give them lyrics.*

8

*He has so many things on his mind.*







THAT'S SO  
AWESOME!



I LOVE TO . . .

**Top 3 Most Important Things in My Life**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_





Like what you see? Make a website of your own at a blog hosting site. A few popular (and free) sites are WordPress ( [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org) ), Blogger ( [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) ), and Blogsome ( [www.blogsome.com](http://www.blogsome.com) ). These sites take you through step-by-step directions for creating fun websites. You can also create your own profile page at an online community (see #75 for some options).



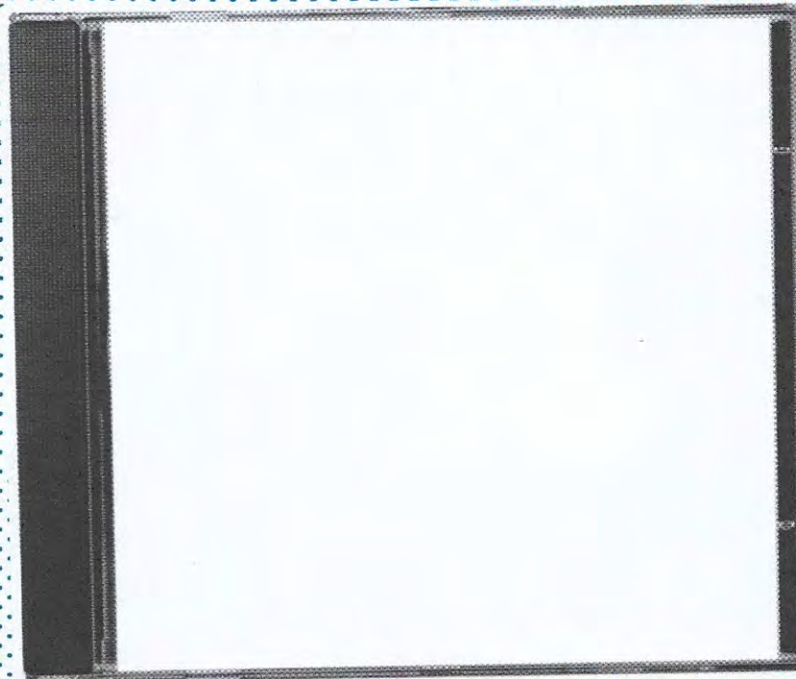




*Write a text message to a friend.*



*Draw a CD cover for an album you and your band have recorded.*





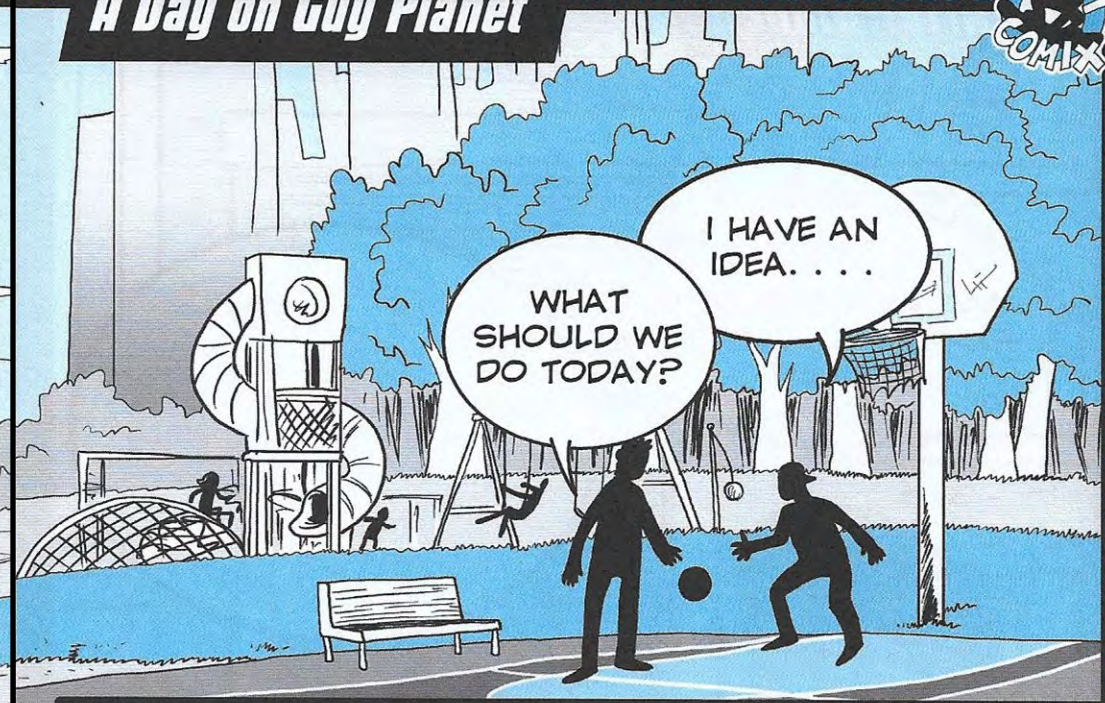
15

*Two best friends invent a cool new greeting.*

16

*Helpful Advice*



**LATER ...****STILL LATER ...****AT MIDNIGHT ...****LATER ...****STILL LATER ...****AT MIDNIGHT ...**



18

**After Dinner****Put words in their mouths.**

19

*You're working on a scientific discovery that will change the world. Draw and explain your idea.*

*Did you know that when a dolphin or whale sleeps, half of its brain shuts down while the other half is active? Because these water mammals must rise to the surface of the ocean to breathe, they cannot completely go unconscious or would risk dying. Visit Science News for Students ([www.sciencenewsforkids.org](http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org)) for all kinds of interesting facts about our planet.*



**Type or draw in the white space. Print this page to draw.**



20

# A Hope for the Future



21

# Ghost Story



THE NEXT MORNING ...





THE CRAZIEST THING I  
EVER DID WAS . . .

*You can be any person from history . . .*

1) Who would you be? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Why? \_\_\_\_\_

3) How would you change history? \_\_\_\_\_

Want to brush up on your knowledge of famous figures from history?  
Learn about heroes and tyrants from the near and distant past at  
Kidipede ([www.historyforkids.org](http://www.historyforkids.org)).





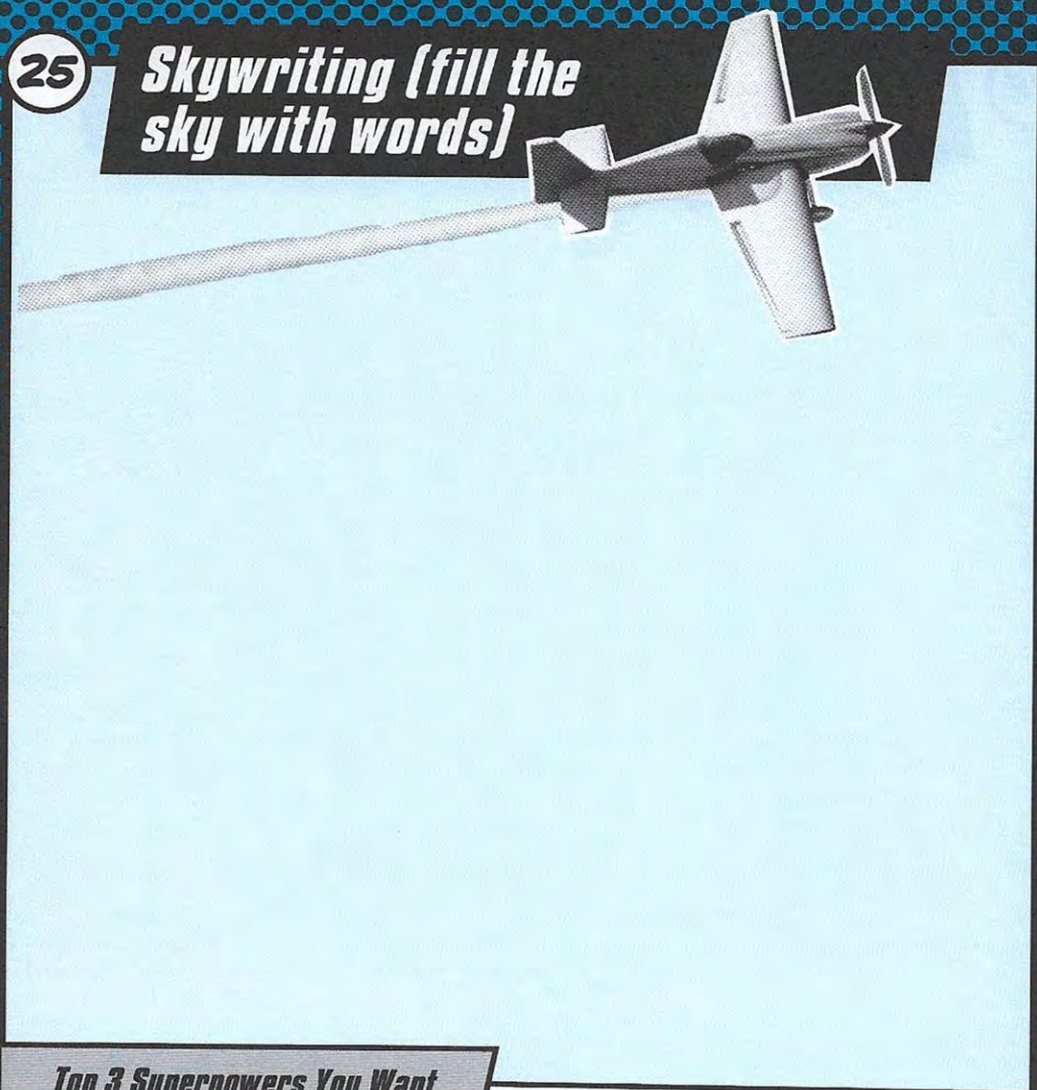
24

**What's going on here?**



25

**Skywriting (fill the sky with words)**



**Top 3 Superpowers You Want**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Take your superpowers and create your superhero physique. It's no sweat at the website of Marvel Comics ( [www.marvel.com/create\\_your\\_own\\_superhero](http://www.marvel.com/create_your_own_superhero) ), where you can morph yourself into a lean, mean, evil-fighting machine.





26

*Draw yourself playing with your favorite sports or music star. (Or add your photos together in a collage.)*

*You have an idea for a new reality TV show.*

1) What's it called? \_\_\_\_\_

2) What happens? \_\_\_\_\_

Print this page to draw.

27

*Your Notebook Cover*



*Who is your best friend and why?*

Type or draw in the white space. Print this page to draw.



28



*Imagine you're an adult and have a son. What advice or helpful words do you offer him?*

29

## *A Trip in a Time Machine*



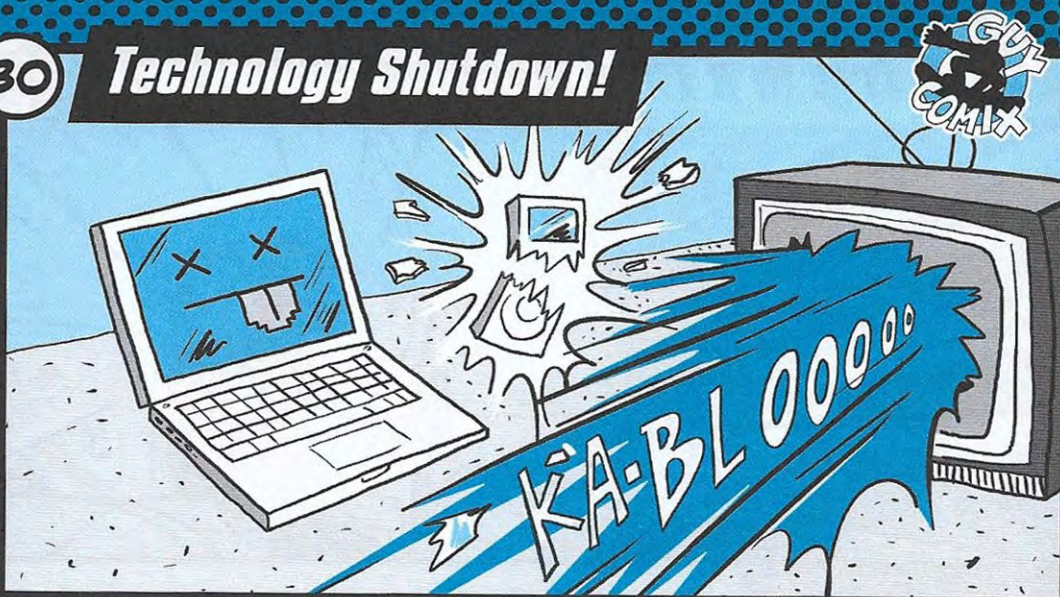
*HIS ARRIVAL*

*HE MEETS SOMEONE  
OR SOMETHING*

*TO STAY OR  
RETURN HOME?*



# Technology Shutdown!



How will you survive three days without your electronic gadgets?

FIRST DAY

SECOND DAY

THIRD DAY



THE HOLIDAY I LIKE MOST IS . . .

A graffiti wall (fill it up)



32

**What's the plan?**



33

**April Fools: A Day for Practical Jokes**



AT SCHOOL ...

AT HOME ...

WITH FRIENDS ...



34

*Their First Meeting*

35

*An Interesting Question*



36

## Thinking About the Future



37

## Draw an Embarrassing Moment

### Top 5 Fun Things to Do

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_





MY BIGGEST  
ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR  
HAS BEEN . . .

*Accomplishing your goals  
can take a lot of hard work.  
Sometimes it's nice to have a little  
help along the way. The Boys and Girls  
Clubs of America ([www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)) and  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America  
([www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org)) connect teens with  
adult mentors.*







AT SCHOOL ...

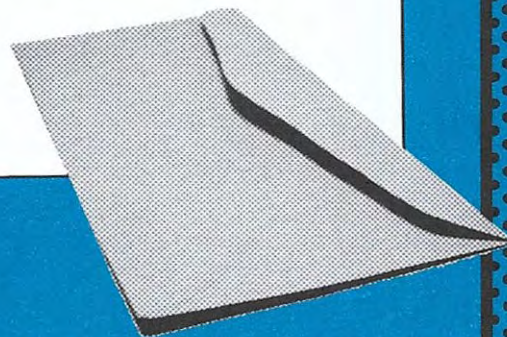
AT HOME ...

WITH FRIENDS ...

INVISIBLE GUY REVEALED

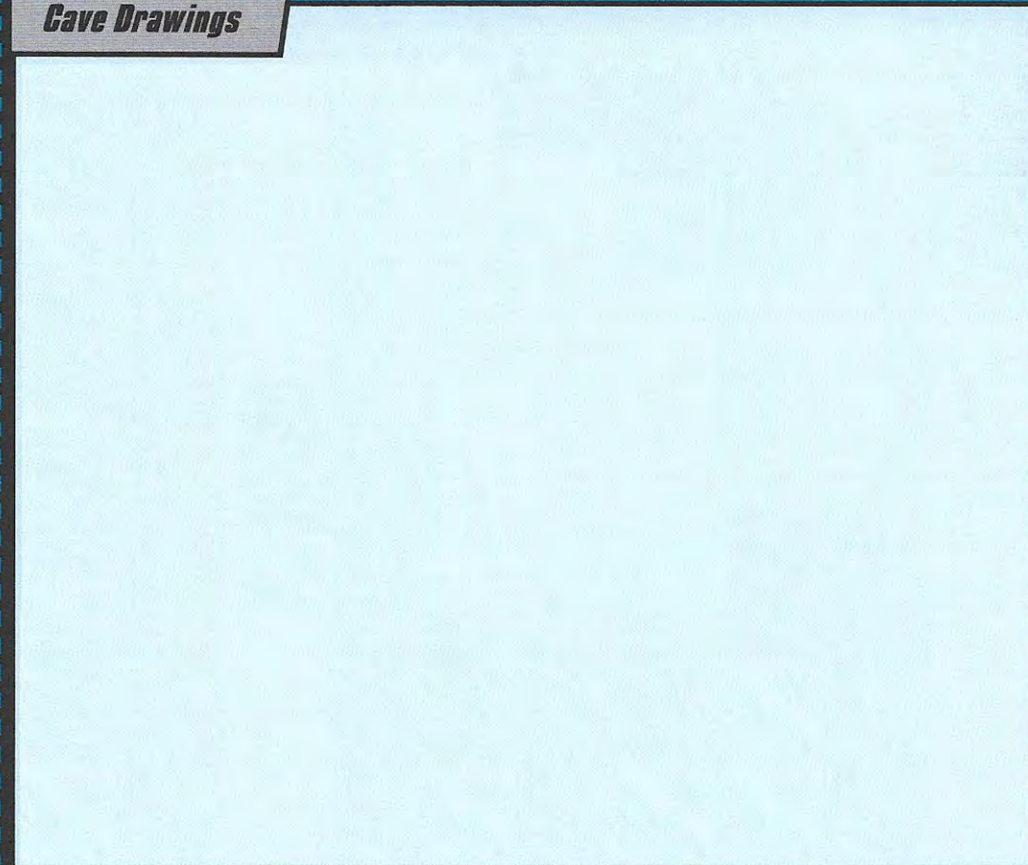


*You've received a very important letter.*



I HATE . . .

*Cave Drawings*



Visit National Geographic Kids ([www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com)) for lots of cool facts about our planet and past civilizations. With information on science, history, space, animals, and other topics, the site is sure to take you to new worlds.





44

**What's up?**

45

**Write something in a secret language that no one but you can figure out.**

Write the translation upside down just in case you forget the secret code. Or write everything backward so the only way to read your writing is by holding it up to the mirror.

Are you really into codes? Go online and check out the Cryptoclub ([www.cryptoclub.org](http://www.cryptoclub.org)) to create all different kinds of codes. Programs can help you break down codes containing any letters and numbers. There are also jokes and games that let you put your code-cracking skills into action.

**Type or draw in the space. Print this page to draw.**





I'M SORRY ABOUT . . .

*Words for a new song you are writing.*



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Lyrics: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

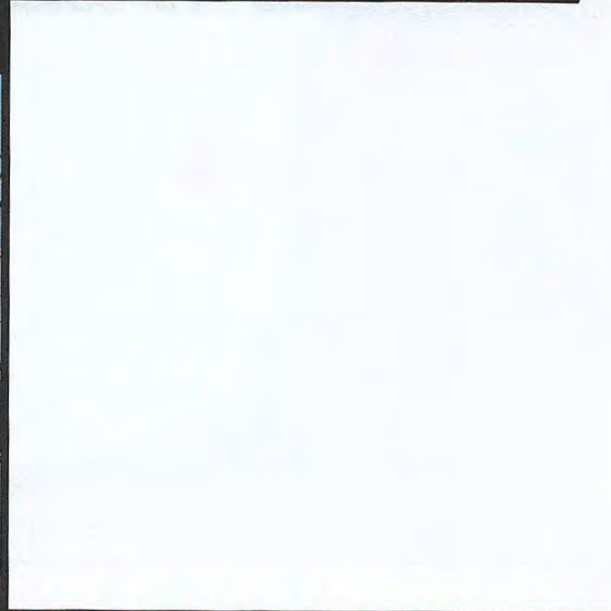
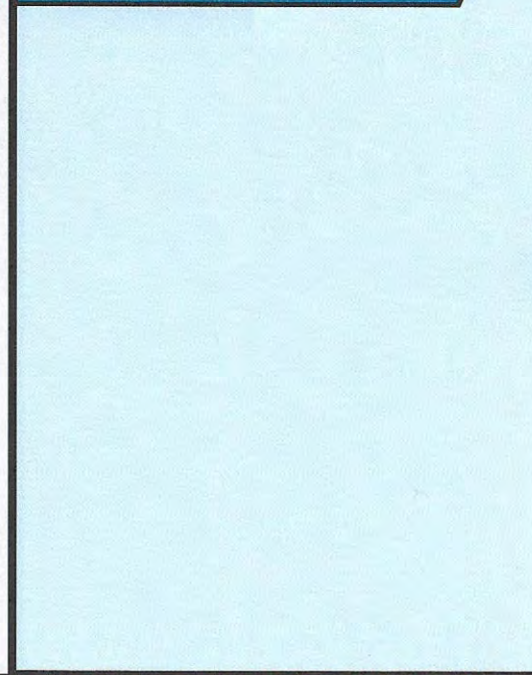
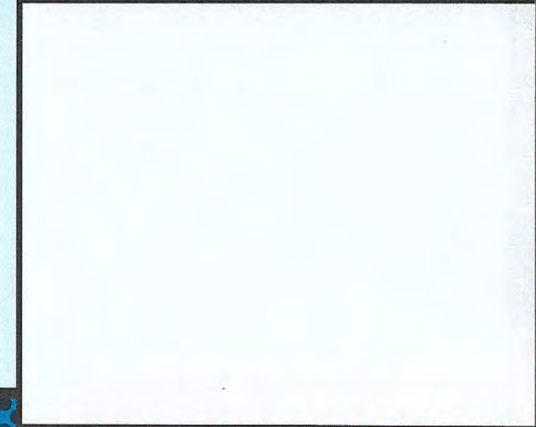
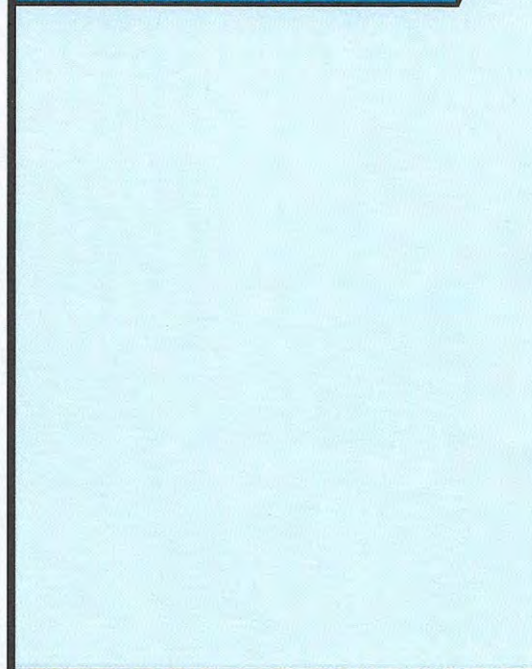
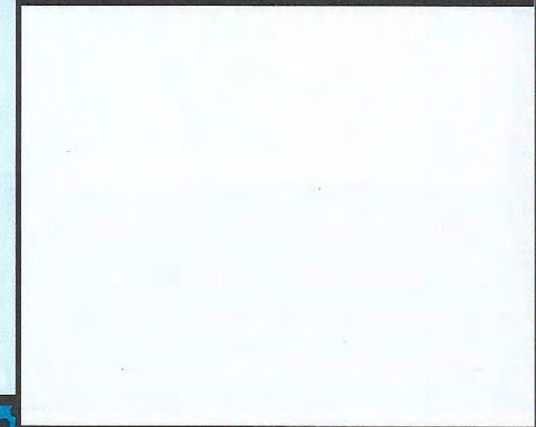
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



*AT THE COFFEE SHOP . . .**AT THE MOVIES . . .**SAYING GOOD-BYE . . .**AT THE COFFEE SHOP . . .**AT THE MOVIES . . .**SAYING GOOD-BYE . . .*



**No one knows this about me:**

You can write this in your secret code or language (see #45).

**Who's your hero and why?**

(Add a photo or draw the person if you like. Print this page to do this.)

Heroes are everywhere. The My Hero Project ([www.myhero.com](http://www.myhero.com)) has stories about people from all over the world who have accomplished extraordinary things. Visit the site to learn more about famous and everyday heroes who are changing the world one person at a time.

**On the billboard, write a message to the world.****My Invention (what it does and what it looks like)**

Do you have a lot of interest in gadgets? Visit How Stuff Works ([www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)) for the secrets behind how computers, machines, and all kinds of other things function.





51

**On a Drive**

*Deep down, what does this boy want to ask or say to his dad?*

52

**A Typical Day with the Family****BREAKFAST**

Blank space for drawing or writing.

**GOING OUT TOGETHER**

Blank space for drawing or writing.

**HANGING OUT AT HOME**

Blank space for drawing or writing.



53

*Design a new kind of school locker and decorate it.*



*Write the story of your life in no more than 140 characters.*



Mastered telling your life story in 140 characters or less? Think you could do it in six words? Log on to [www.smithteens.com](http://www.smithteens.com) to learn more about six-word memoirs, a national project in which teens sum up their lives in half a dozen words.



**Print this page to draw.**

54



THE MOST IMPORTANT  
THING I KNOW IS . . .

*What place would you like to visit? Why?*

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

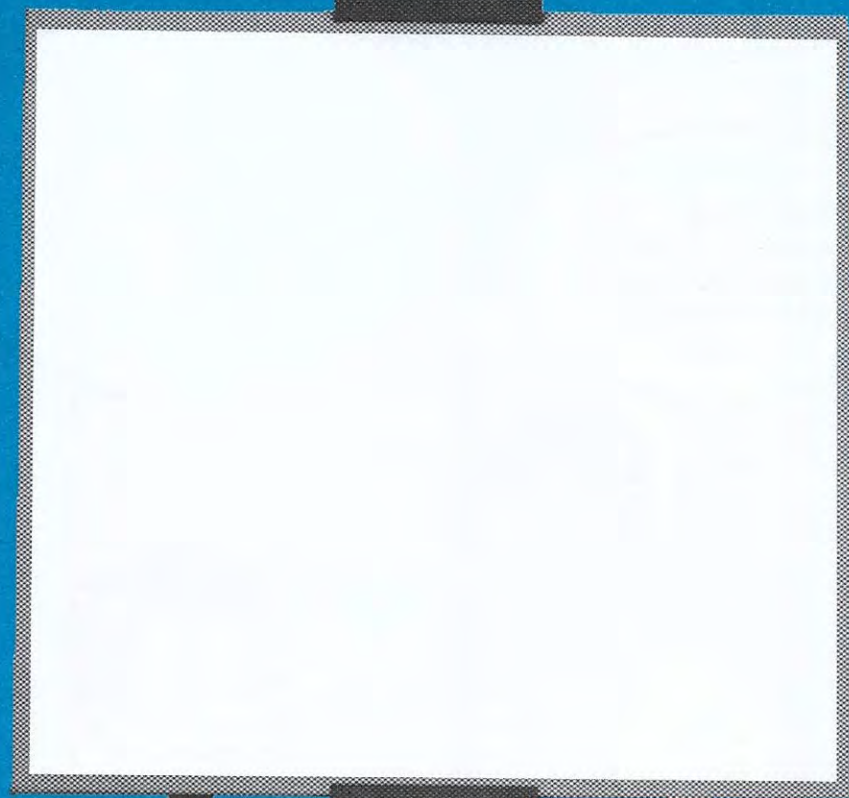
\_\_\_\_\_



55

**A Challenge**

56

**A canvas awaits your sketch.****Top 5 Favorite Websites**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_





THE ONE THING THAT  
DRIVES ME CRAZY IS . . .

*It's your high school reunion 25 years from now, and you are a big success. What have you achieved?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Have a goal you'd like to reach? Sometimes another person helping can make all the difference in the world. Mentor ([www.mentor.org](http://www.mentor.org)) is an organization that connects teens with adults who can share knowledge about different careers or interest areas.





59

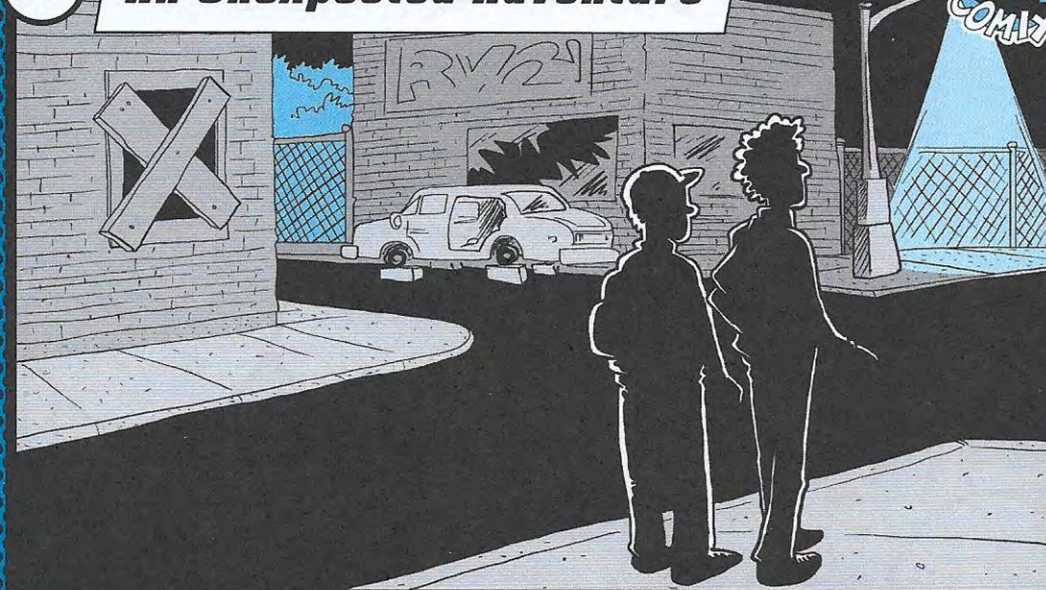
# Play the gossip game.



*Start a rumor in the first balloon and keep it moving.  
How does it change? What's the final message?*

60

# An Unexpected Adventure



S  
U  
D  
D  
E  
N  
L  
Y  
...

THEN ...

FINALLY ...



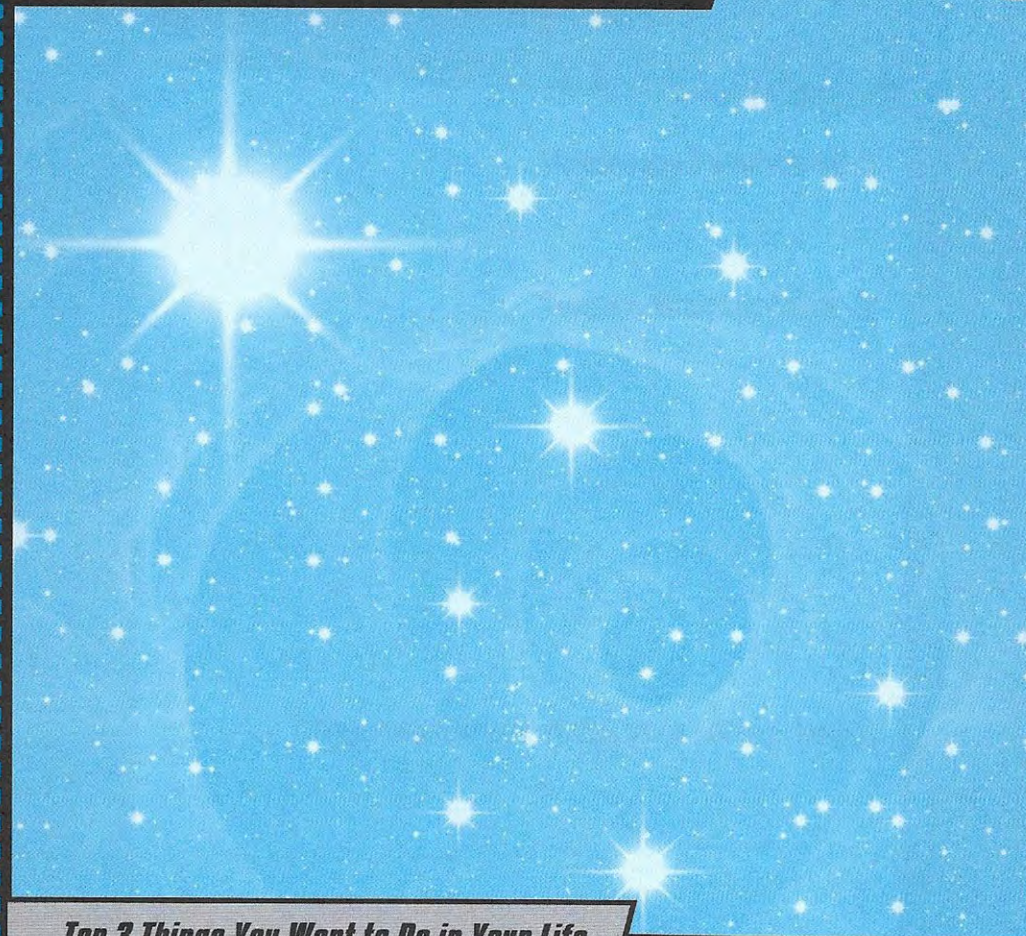
61

*What's the morning buzz today?*

62

*He's thinking about his goal.*





*Top 3 Things You Want to Do in Your Life*

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_



1) What book did you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Which character are you? \_\_\_\_\_

3) How does the story change now that you're in it? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a hard time finding books that are right for you? A lot of guys have this problem. That's why one famous author, Jon Scieszka, created a website called GuysRead ([www.guysread.com](http://www.guysread.com)). You can log on for some great reading recommendations and links to the websites of your favorite authors.





**AT SCHOOL ...****AT HOME ...****WITH YOUR FRIENDS ...****AT SCHOOL ...****AT HOME ...****WITH YOUR FRIENDS ...**



68

# *What's she thinking?*



69

# *A Daydream*





70

A TIME WHEN SOMEONE  
HELPED ME WAS . . .

*Create a Mission Impossible for your best friend.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

71

## Three Wishes



MAKE YOUR  
BIRTHDAY WISHES!

WISH 1:

WISH 2:

WISH 3:



72

*What are they so excited about?*

73

*A Knock-Knock Joke*





- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Create an avatar to represent you on the Web.



If it's okay with adults at home, join one of the online communities at Club Penguin ([www.clubpenguin.com](http://www.clubpenguin.com)), Whyville ([www.whyville.net](http://www.whyville.net)). These virtual worlds allow you to create your own character and environments not to mention hang out with your friends.





76

*A Grandfather's Good Words*

77

*Good things are happening in his life.*



78

# What's on their minds?



79

## Your Life in Comics



YOUR EARLIEST  
MEMORY

MEETING YOUR  
BEST FRIEND

A HUGE ACCOMPLISHMENT

ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT



80

*You've created a new extreme sport.*

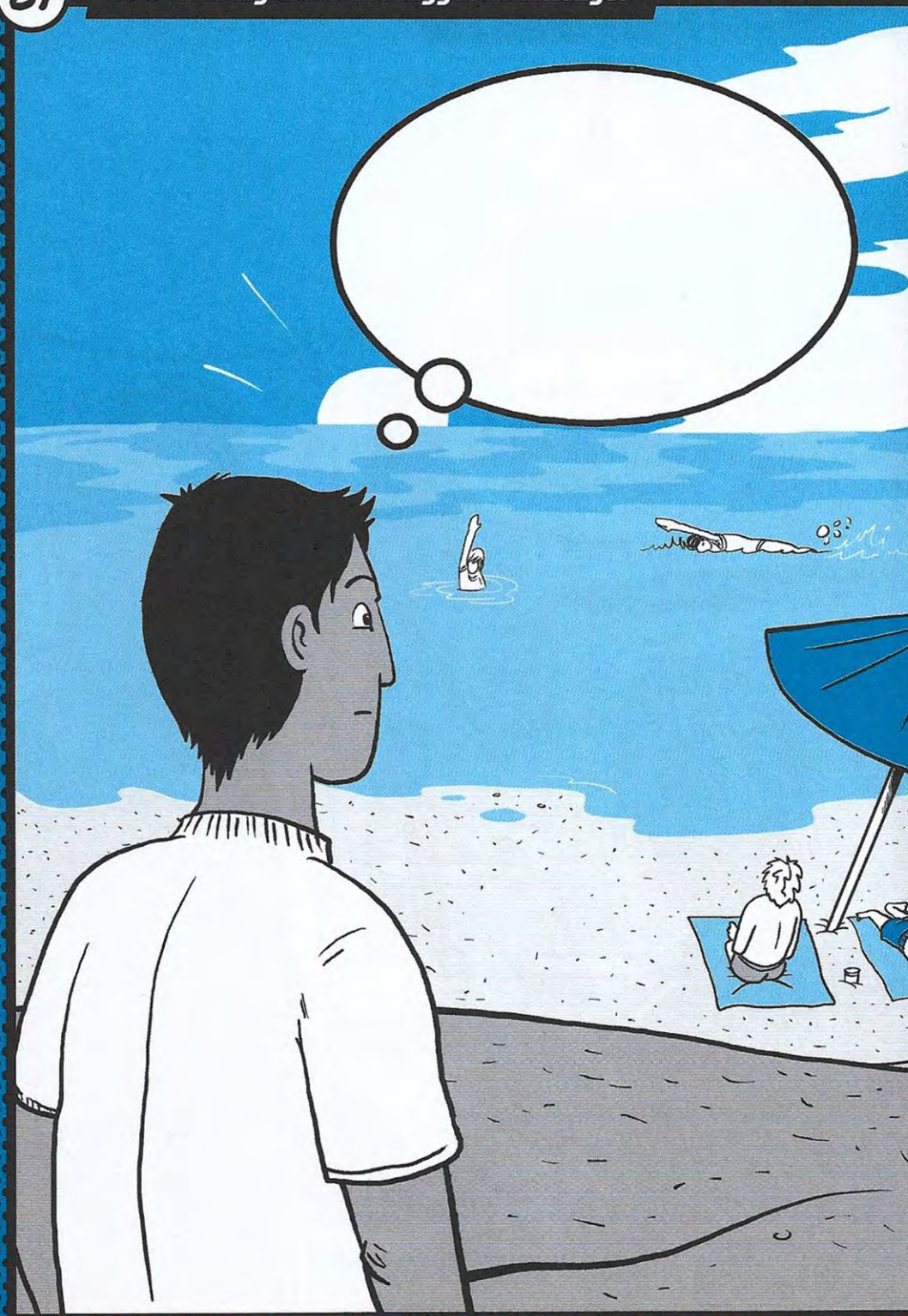
1) What's it called? \_\_\_\_\_

2) How do you do it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_3) How do you win? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_*Design a robot to make your life easier.*

Okay, say you wanted to build this robot or another cool invention that will change the world. What could you do? One option: Visit the BKFK website ([www.bkfk.com](http://www.bkfk.com)), a place where you can find inventing tips and enter inventions in contests. (Winners' ideas are made into products!) There are also profiles of other young people and their innovations to get you inspired.



81

*He's thinking about his biggest challenge.*



82

## Some Good Advice



83

## A Promise You Have Made to Yourself

*Draw the best bedroom of all time.*



84

**What can his friend say to help him?**



85

**Plan for the Perfect Birthday**

### *The Ultimate Menu*

**Breakfast**

**Dinner**

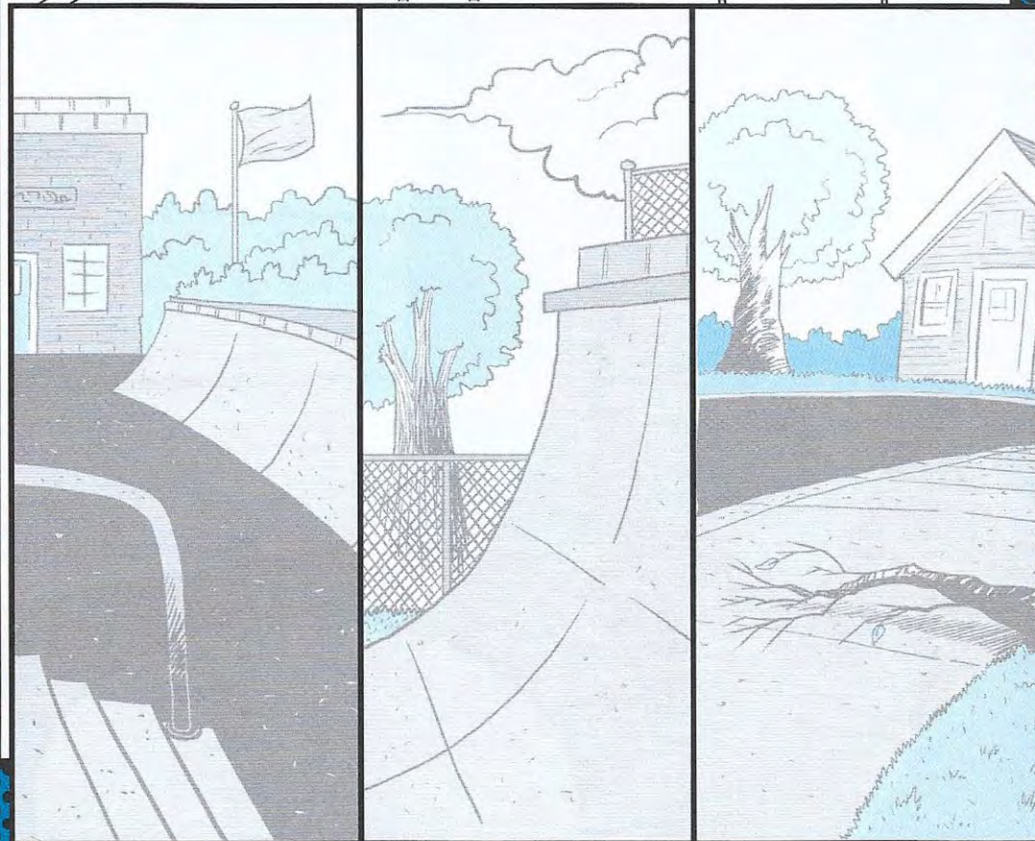
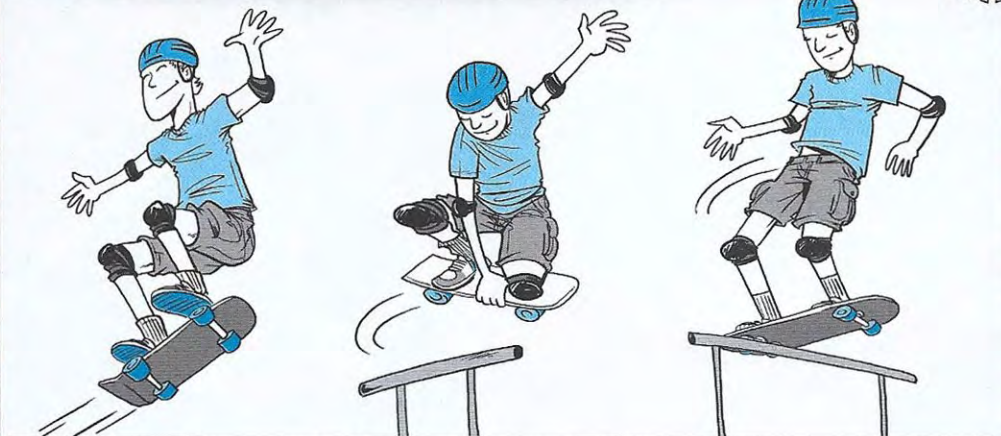
**Lunch**

**Drinks**

Have questions about food, fitness, friendship, life? Visit **BAM! Body and Mind** ([www.cdc.gov/bam/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/bam/index.html)) for fun games and interesting information about all kinds of stuff that matters. There's also expert advice on topics like puberty and getting along with others.







Want to learn some wild moves of your own? Get a deck up by visiting Skateboard Science at Exploratorium ([www.exploratorium.edu/skateboarding](http://www.exploratorium.edu/skateboarding)). Here you'll find the science behind skateboarding tricks and how you can perform them.





38

*An Important Conversation*

39

*In the morning . . .*



90

## A Proud Moment



91

## Predictions for the future

TRANSPORTATION  
IN THE YEAR 2040

NEW SUPERHERO  
IN THE YEAR 2050

NEW INVENTION IN THE YEAR 2075

ANOTHER PREDICTION











Does learning about nutrition have to be boring? Not a chance. [Nutrition.gov](http://Nutrition.gov) ([www.nutrition.gov/subject/life-stages/children/kids-corner](http://www.nutrition.gov/subject/life-stages/children/kids-corner)) has games and activities about eating well and feeling good. There are also links to more fun.



*Your luckiest day (what happened?)*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---











***IN HIGH SCHOOL******AT YOUR JOB******HANGING WITH FRIENDS******WITH YOUR FAMILY***





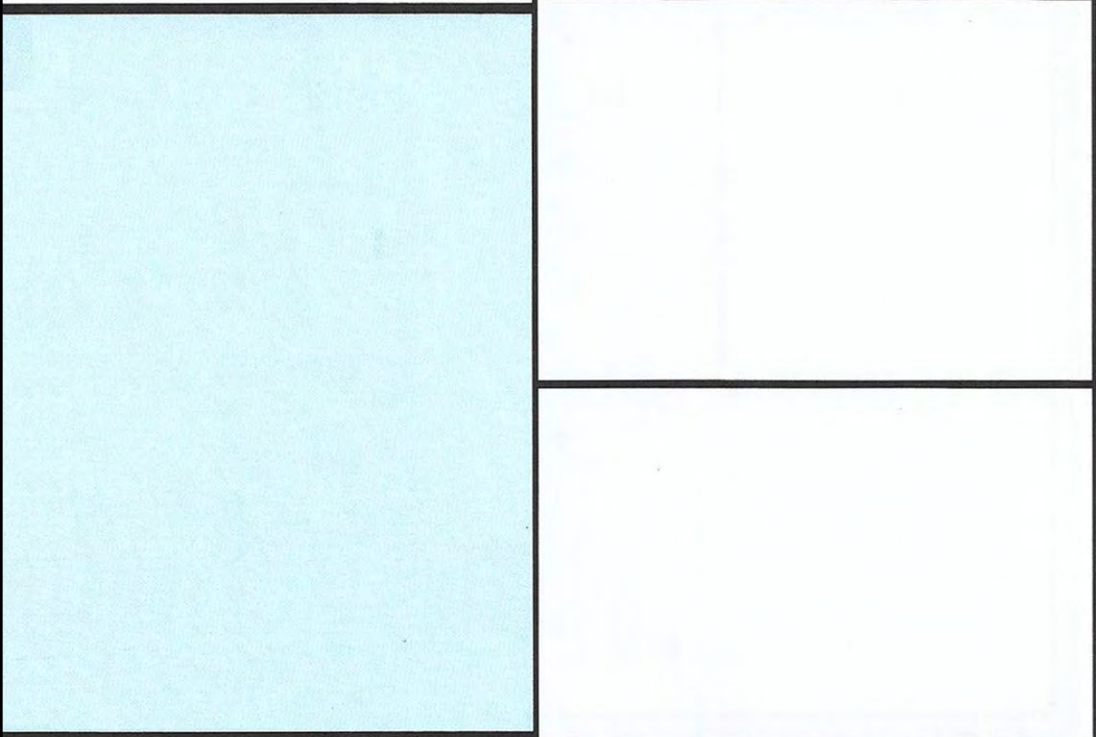
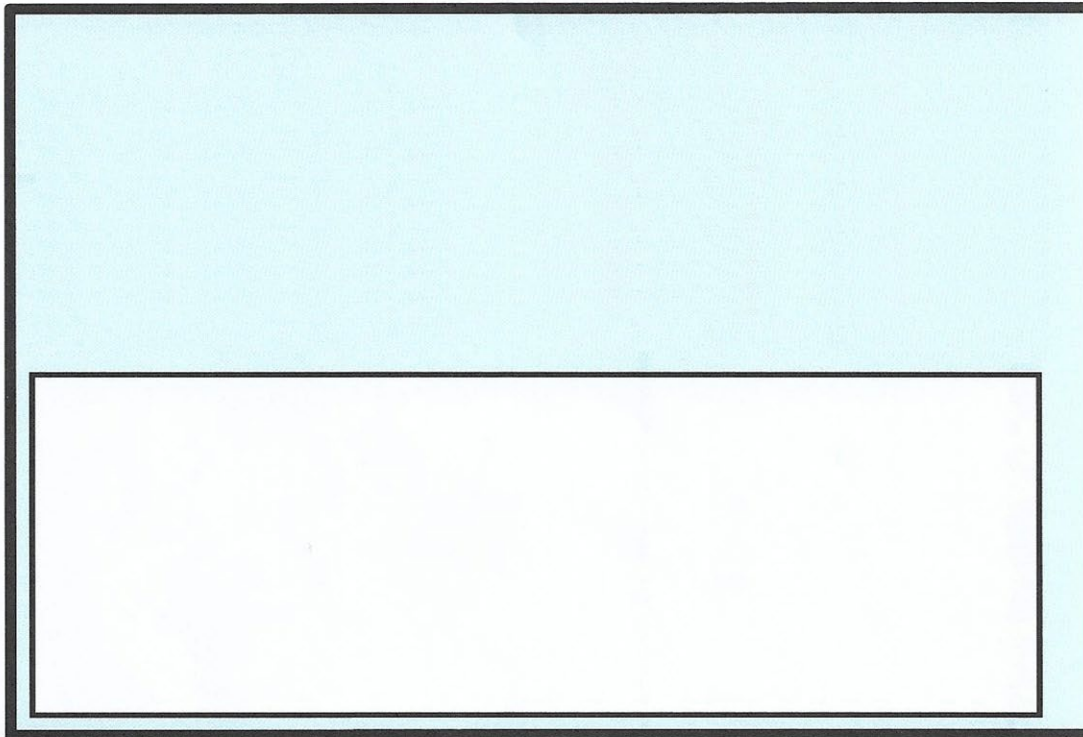
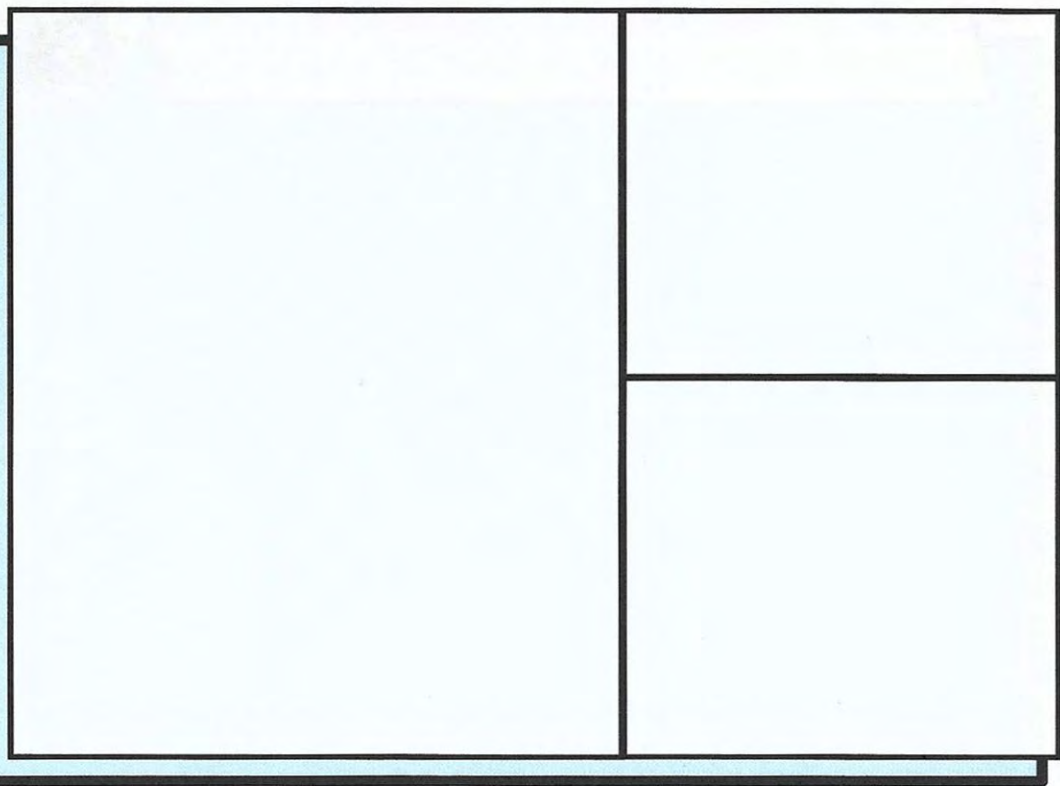
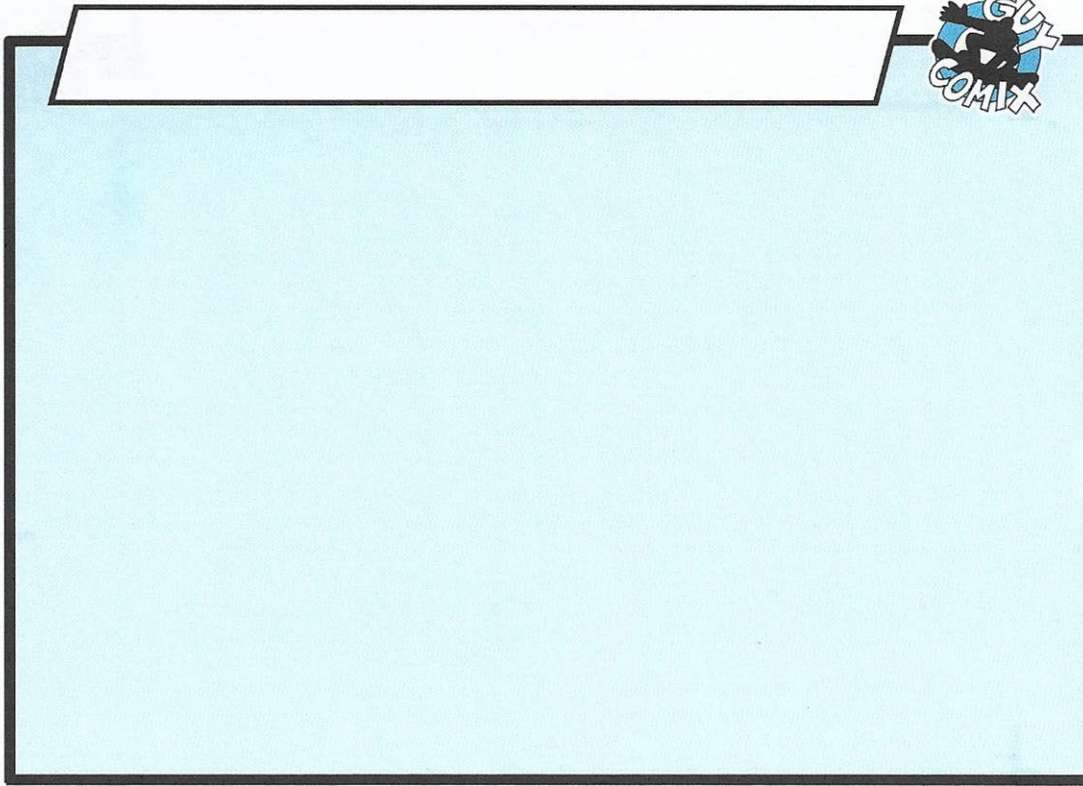
USE THESE PAGES  
TO DRAW MORE  
STORIES FROM  
YOUR LIFE!



TITLE GOES HERE











--

--

--

--


--

--

--

























<div data-bbox="121 39 959 140"></div> <div data-bbox="105 157 1108 487"></div> <div data-bbox="105 487 663 808"></div> <div data-bbox="663 487 1108 808"></div>	<div data-bbox="1148 65 1664 808"></div> <div data-bbox="1664 100 2194 473"></div> <div data-bbox="1664 473 2194 800"></div>
<div data-bbox="105 868 1108 1241"></div> <div data-bbox="105 1241 1108 1584"></div>	<div data-bbox="1177 881 1664 1612"></div> <div data-bbox="1664 881 2217 1255"></div> <div data-bbox="1664 1255 2217 1612"></div>









## ***A Note from the Author***

Ever since I was a boy, I've loved comics because they're so simple. They don't require long paragraphs to tell a story. Instead, only a few words are needed for the characters to share their lives. I hope you've enjoyed using comic strips to tell stories from your life.

Now that you've finished, I'd like to learn about any ideas you have for creating comics. It's possible I will work on another book like this in the future, and your comic strip ideas might be a perfect fit. When you send ideas, include your name and address along with parent permission to use your suggestions. If I am able to use one of your ideas in a future book, you will get a free copy.

Send ideas for comic strips or other activities to:

**Bill Zimmerman**

MakeBeliefsComix.com

201 West 77 Street, Suite 6A

New York, NY 10024

Or email: [billz@makebeliefscomix.com](mailto:billz@makebeliefscomix.com)

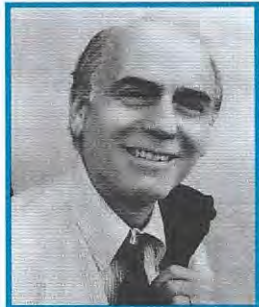
If you find the work we are doing as useful to your life, please consider making a small financial contribution to us at PayPal.com at:

<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Contribute/>

And please share our work with your friends, family members and colleagues. Thank you.



## About the Author



Bill Zimmerman has been a journalist, a prize-winning newspaper editor, and an author for many years. Much of his work has been directed toward empowering young people and helping families become closer. Bill's books include *Pocket Doodles for Artists*, *Pocket Doodles for Kids*, *Doodles & Daydreams*, *100 Things Guys Need to Know*, *My Paper Memory Quilt*, *Lunch Box Letters*, *How to Tape Instant Oral Biographies*, *A Book of*

*Questions*, *Make Beliefs*, *Make Beliefs for Kids of All Ages*, *Lifelines*, *The Little Book of Joy*, *Dogmas*, *Cat-e-Chisms*, *A Book of Sunshine*, *My Life: An Open Book*, *Idea Catchers for Kids*, and *Butterfly Wishes*.

Bill is the creator of MakeBeliefsComix.com, where visitors can create their own comic strips online. The site is used by students and teachers in more than 180 countries to teach literacy, reading, writing, and storytelling and has received the Parents' Choice Foundation Recommended Award. Bill also teaches writing and reading to young people and immigrant students learning English. He is available for speaking engagements addressing positive youth development.

## About the Illustrator



Tyler Page lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Cori Doerrfeld (who is also an artist), and their daughter. He has made comics and illustrations for local and international clients as well as published six of his own graphic novels. Tyler was nominated for an Eisner Award in 2003 and received a Xeric Foundation grant in 2007 to publish the first volume of his comic series "Nothing Better." When he's not drawing, Tyler serves

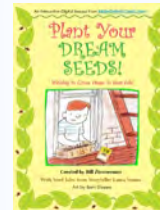
as the Director of Print Technology Services at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

***Your Life in Comics: 100 Things for Guys to Write and Draw*** is part of a series of free interactive digital journals published by MakeBeliefs Comix.com. They are part of our mission to help people of all ages discover their writers' voices and express their deepest thoughts through writing.

### The other e-books are:

#### Plant Your Dream Seeds!

Writing to  
Grow Hope in Your Life



#### Hummingbird Joy:

A Book of All the Things  
That Make You Happy



**A Book of Questions:**  
A Playful Journal to Keep  
Thoughts & Feelings



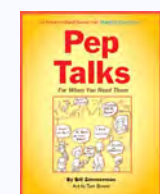
#### Words I Wish Someone Had Said to Me As A Kid



#### MakeBeliefsComix FILL-ins

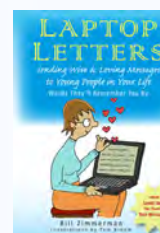


#### Pep Talks for When You Need Them



#### Laptop Letters:

Sending Wise &  
Encouraging Messages to  
Young People in  
Your Life



#### Write What You Know:

An Interactive Book  
Where You and I Share All  
the Important Things We  
Know in Life



**Something to Write  
About:** Writing Prompts  
for English Language  
Learners and Literacy  
Students



**MakeBeliefs**  
to Spark  
Your Writing

To download any of the e-books on this  
page click here:

[www.makebeliefscomix.com/eBooks/](http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/eBooks/)



# *Your Life in* **COMICS**

***100 Things for Guys to Write and Draw***

## ***A do-it-yourself comic book just for guys***

What's more fun than reading comics? Making your own.

*Your Life in Comics* lets you do just that. Most other books give you all the words and illustrations so you don't have a say about what happens. Well, this book isn't like that. Instead, it's an interactive comic book where you can tell stories from your own life. There are also cartoons where you get to decide what happens to other characters. Fill in the talk and thought balloons to show what the people say and think—their fate is in your hands! Other fun freestyle activities let you doodle, make lists, and write about cool stuff in your life. There are also websites with great games, fast facts, and more cartooning activities.

**Bill Zimmerman** has written more than a dozen books used by families, children, and schools, including *100 Things Guys Need to Know*, *Pocket Doodles for Kids*, and *Pocket Doodles for Artists*. Bill also is the creator of [MakeBeliefsComix.com](http://MakeBeliefsComix.com), an interactive website where users can create comic strips.

**An interactive digital comic book from [MakeBeliefsComix.com](http://MakeBeliefsComix.com)**



**You want to have fun?  
Look inside!**