

THE ADVENTURES OF...

THE UMBRELLA GANG

#NEURODIVERSITY



ADHD 
FOUNDATION
Umbrella Project

DEKKA
COMICS



AWARDS
FOR ALL
SCOTLAND
LOTTERY FUNDED

ADHD 
FOUNDATION
The Neurodiversity Charity

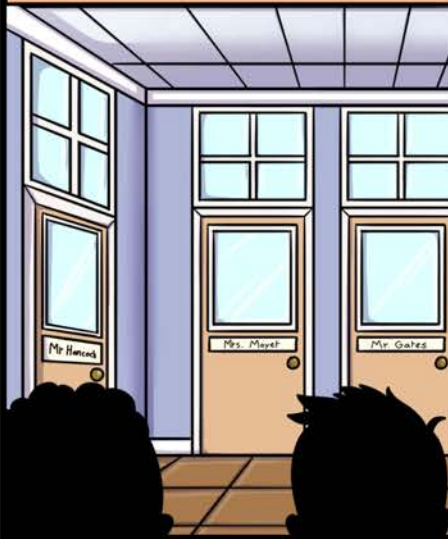


Film
Forever

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.

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.

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



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.

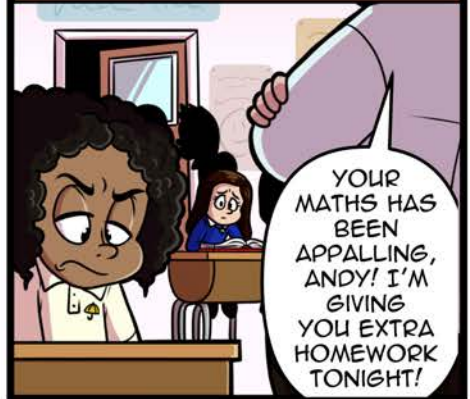


AND UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T WANT IT TO BE TRUE...



...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!!

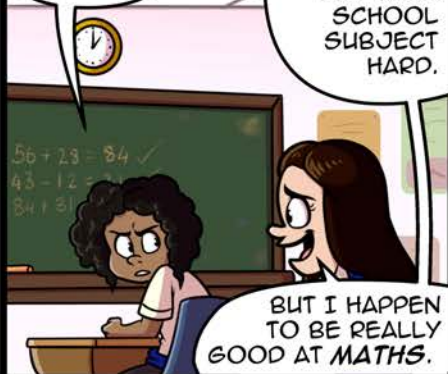
EM... CAN I HELP YOU?



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.

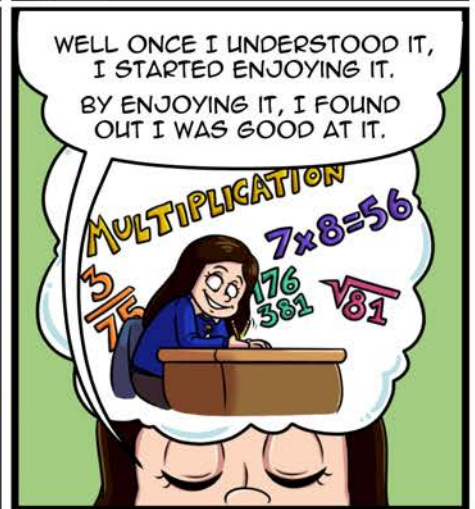
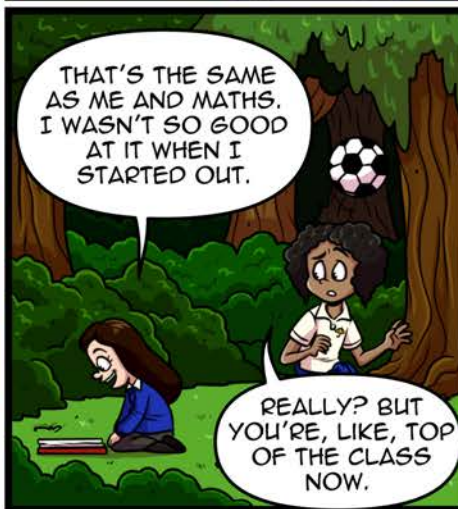


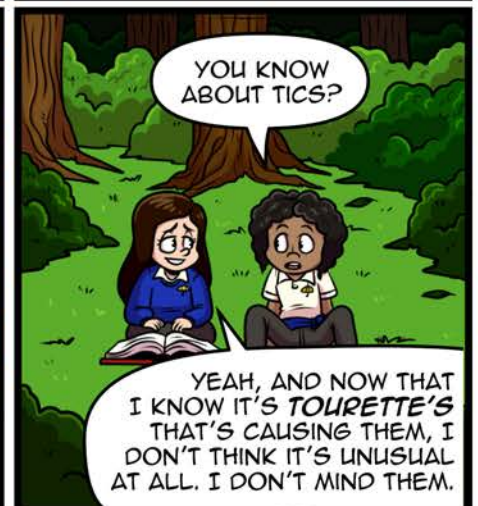
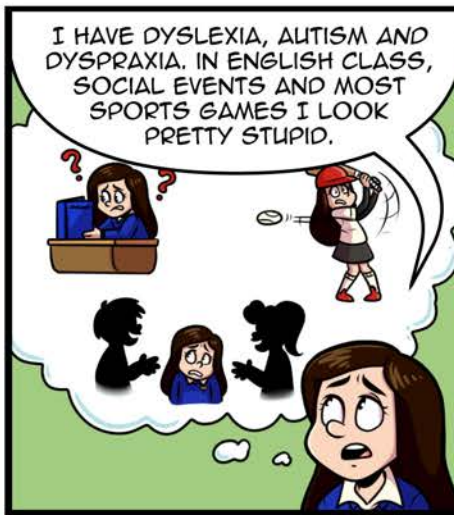
I KNOW JUST THE PLACE.

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.





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.



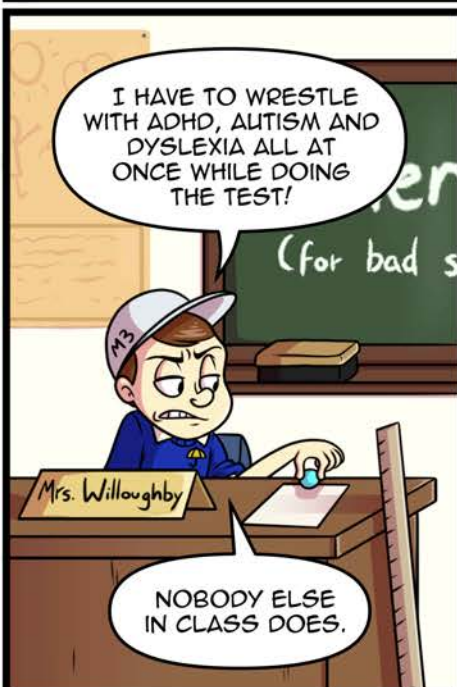
LATER STILL, AFTER SCHOOL...



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.



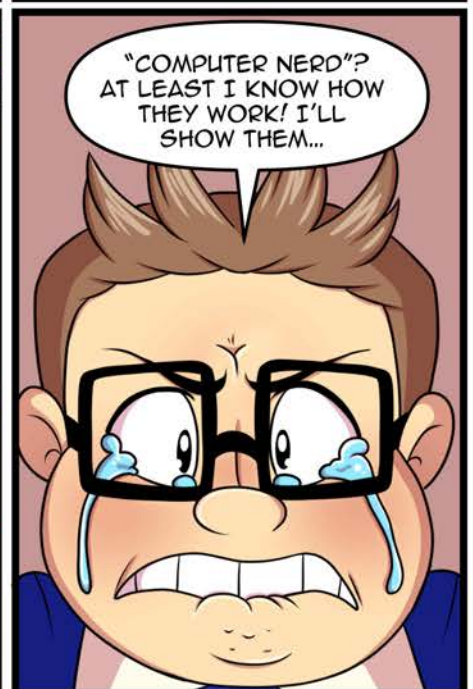
AND NOW I'M GOING TO MISS THE GOLF ON TV, BECAUSE I'M STUCK HERE.

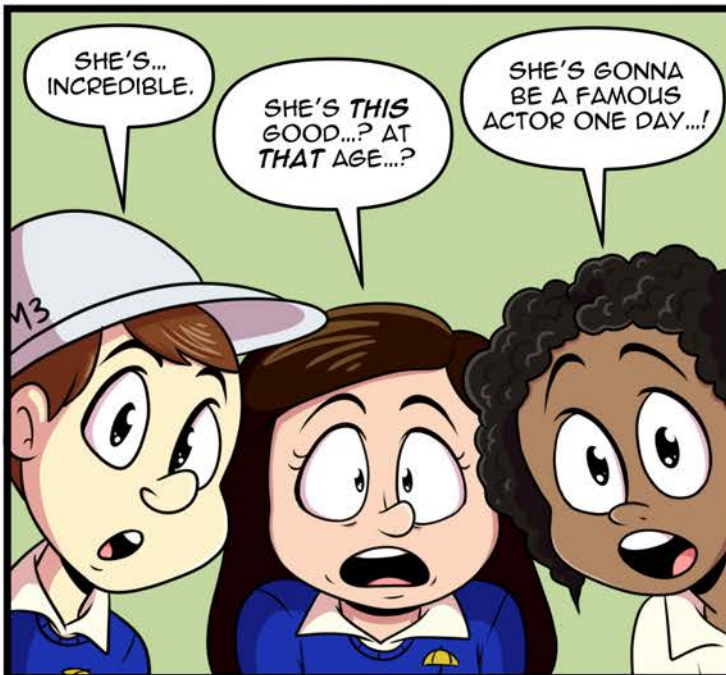
THE INJUSTICE OF THIS IS DRIVING ME NUTS!

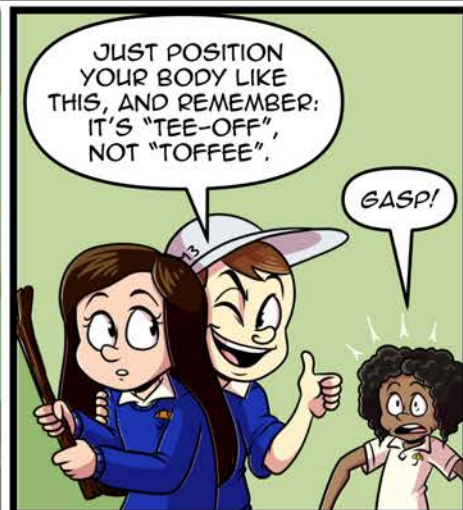


DRIVING...?

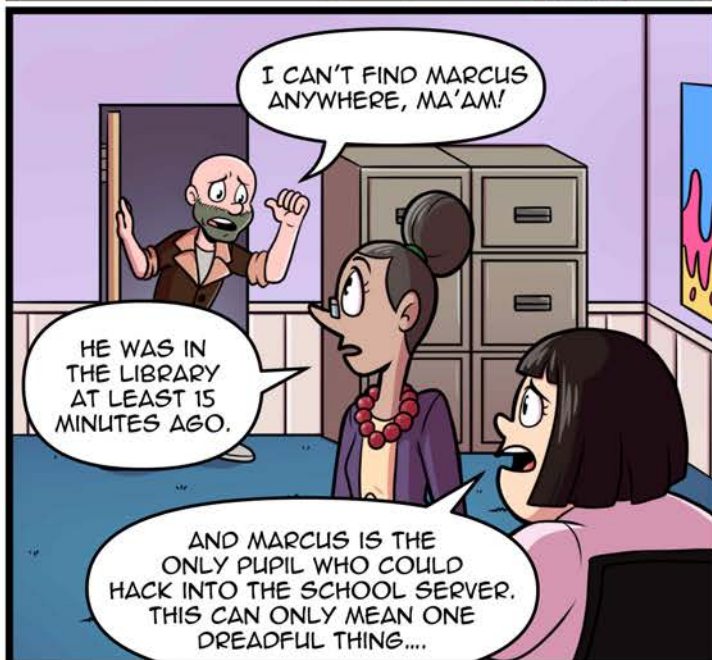
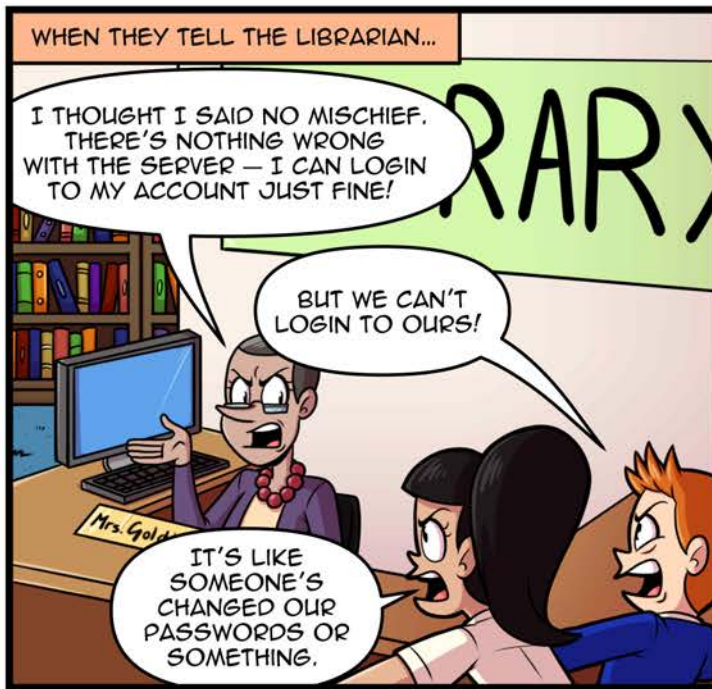


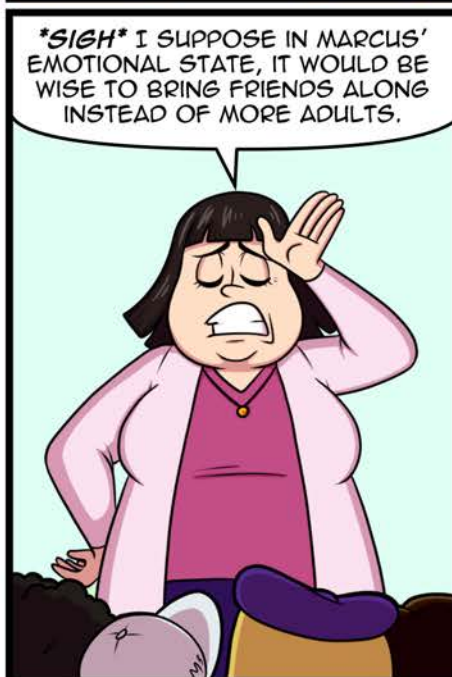


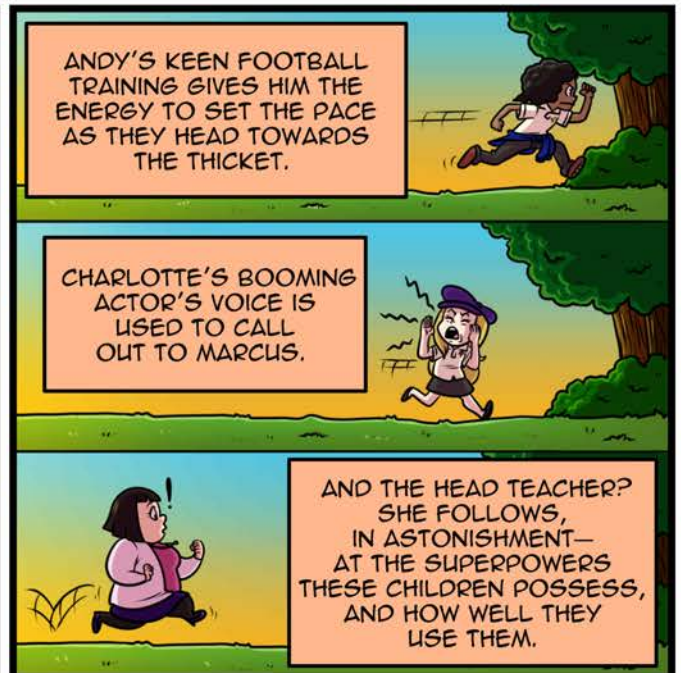
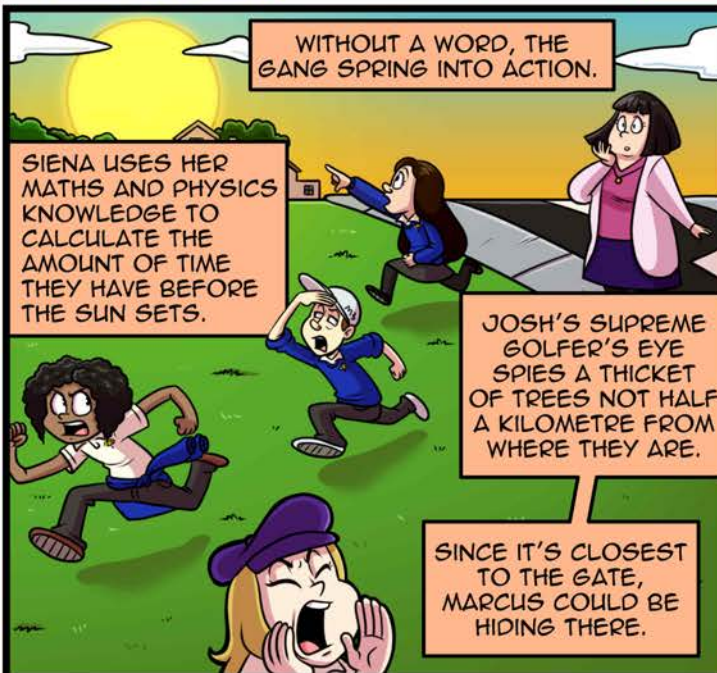
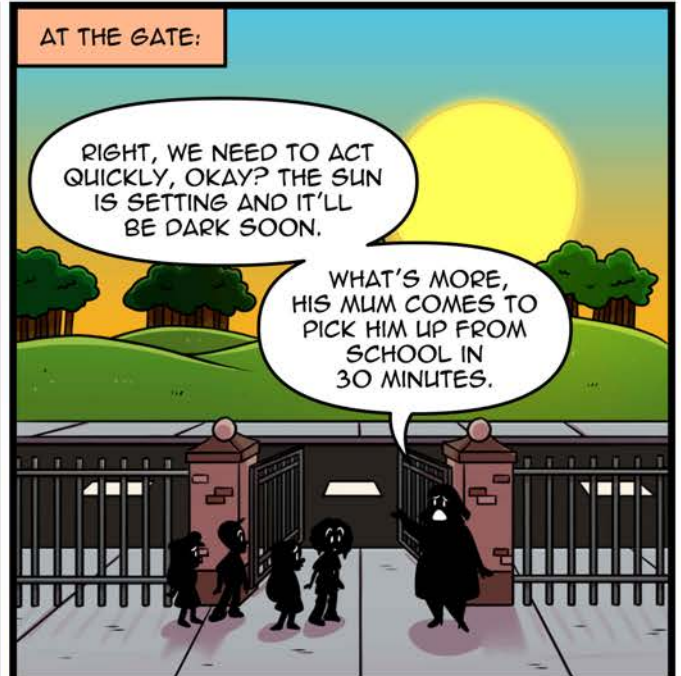




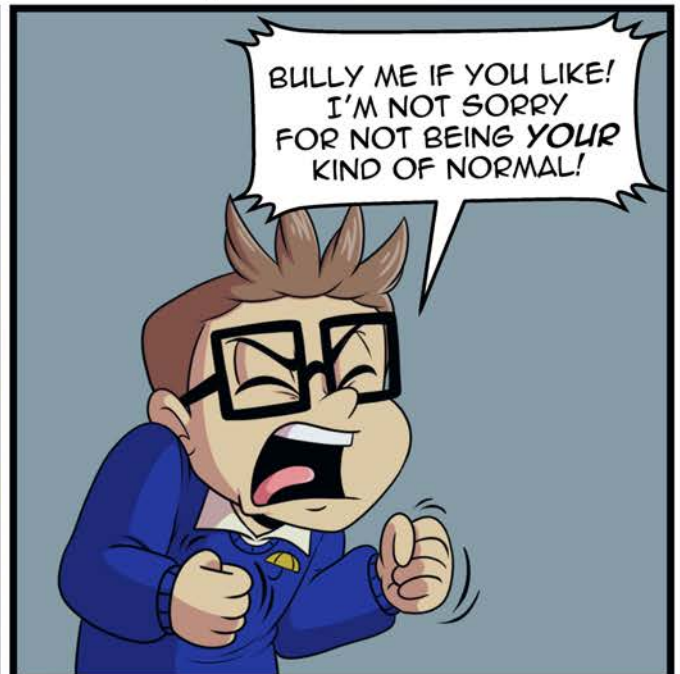
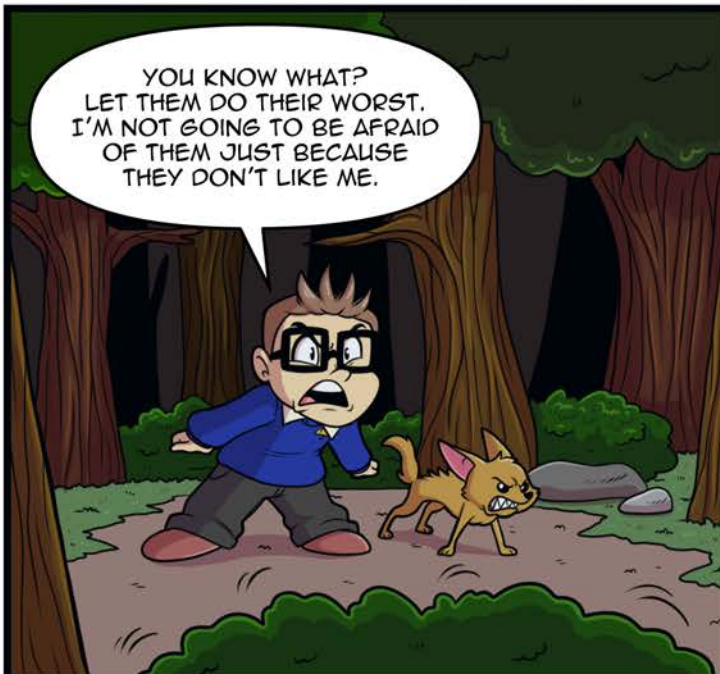


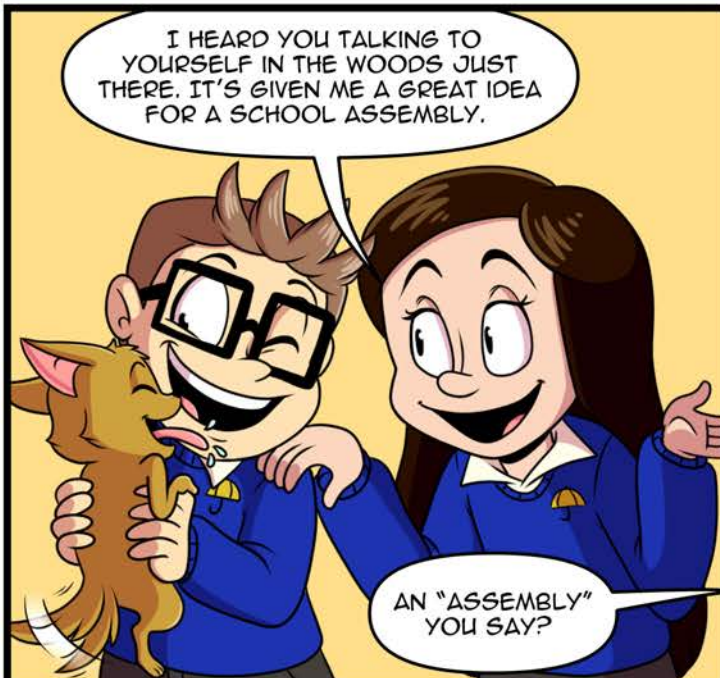


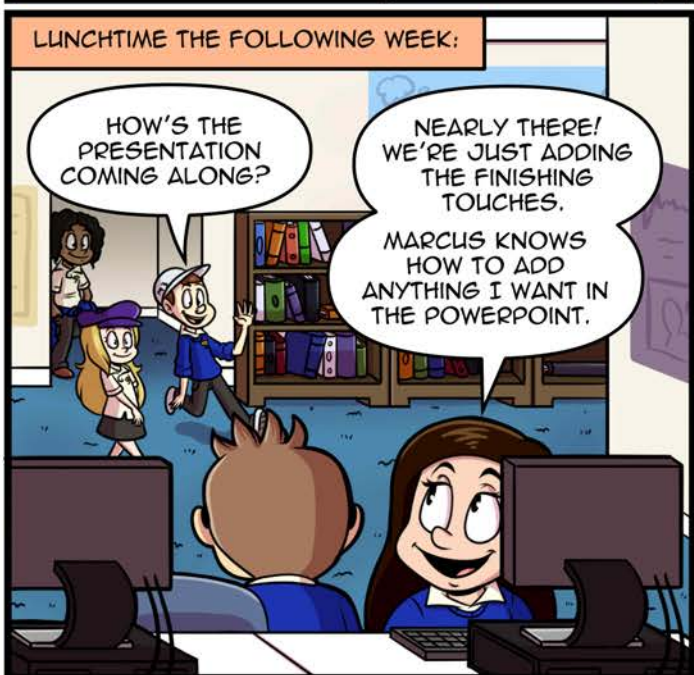
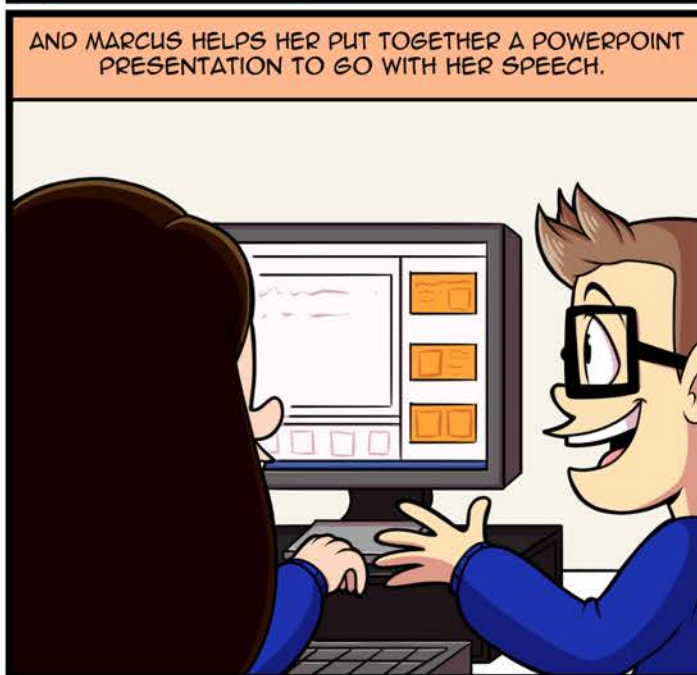
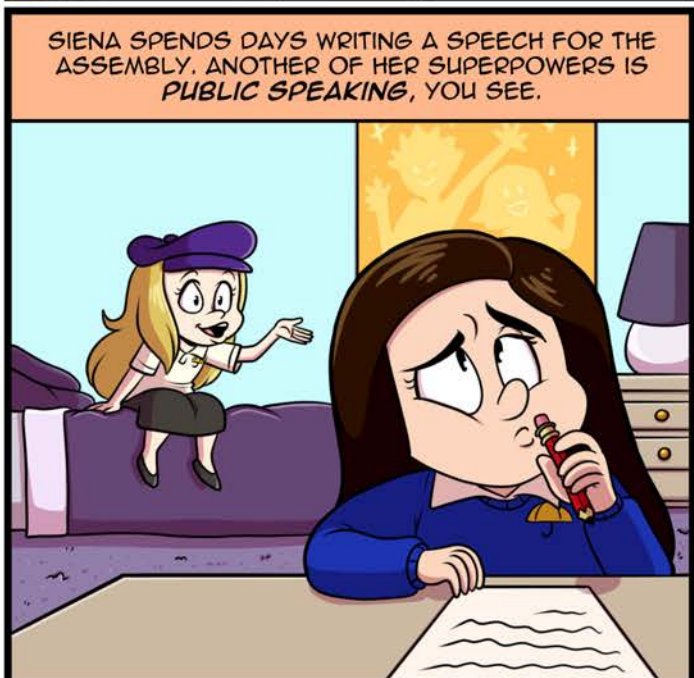
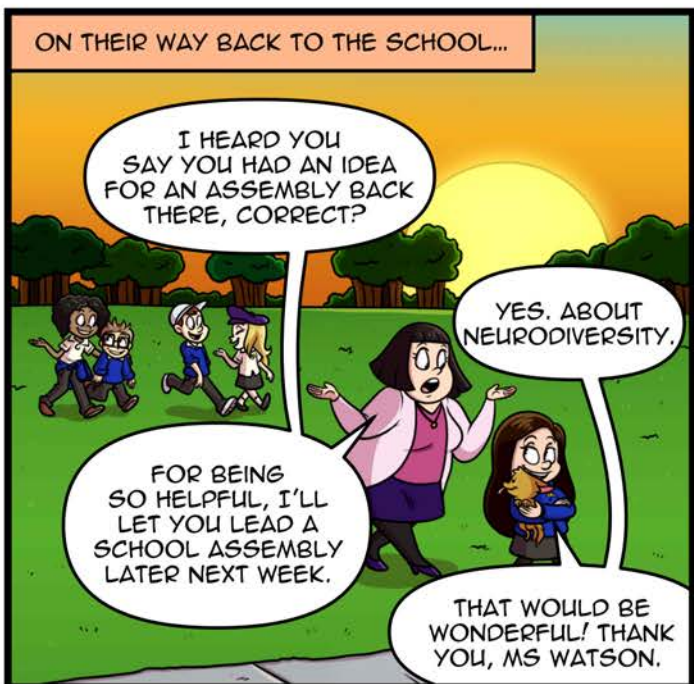


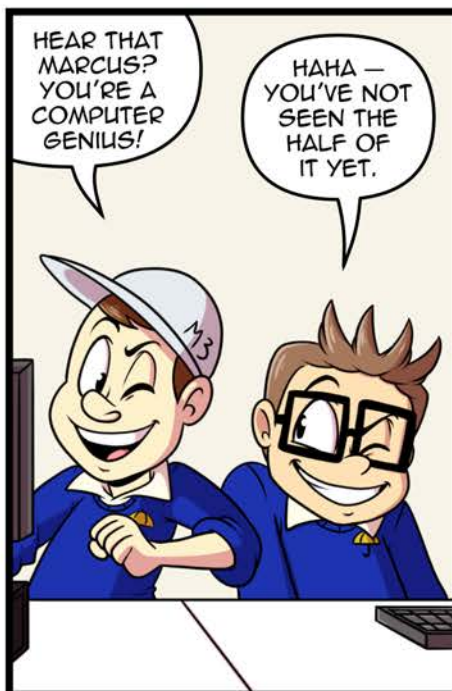


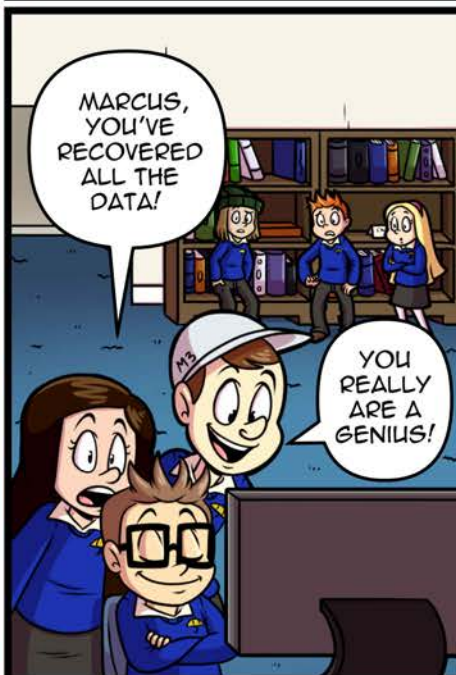
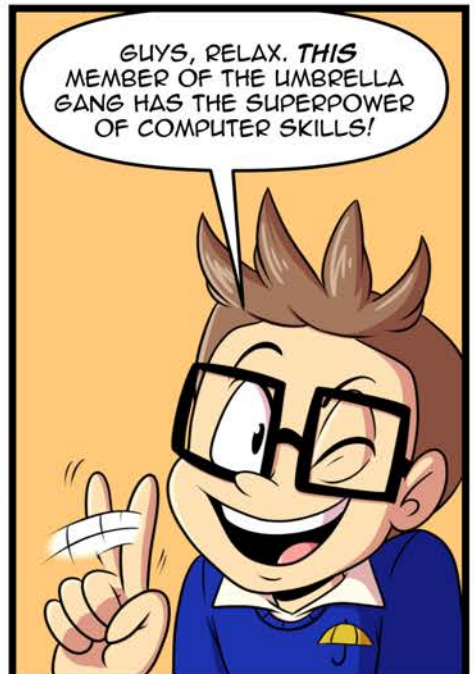
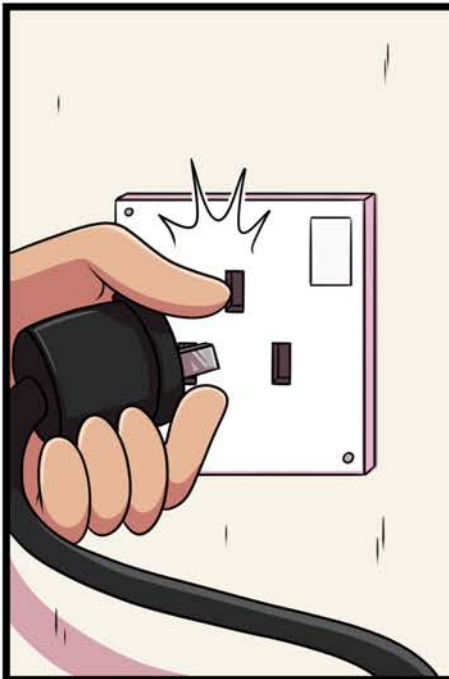


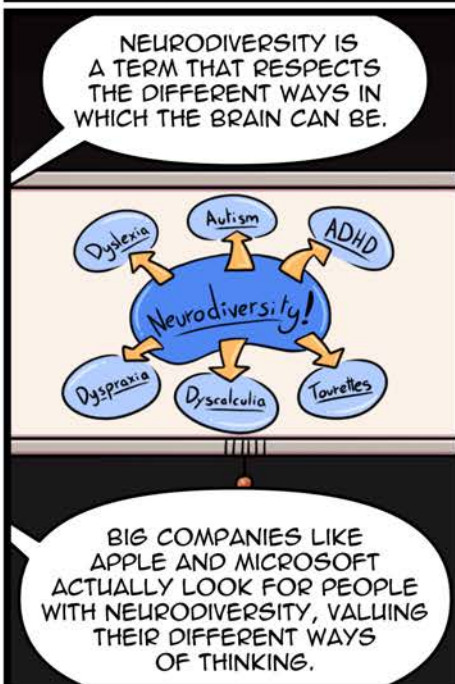


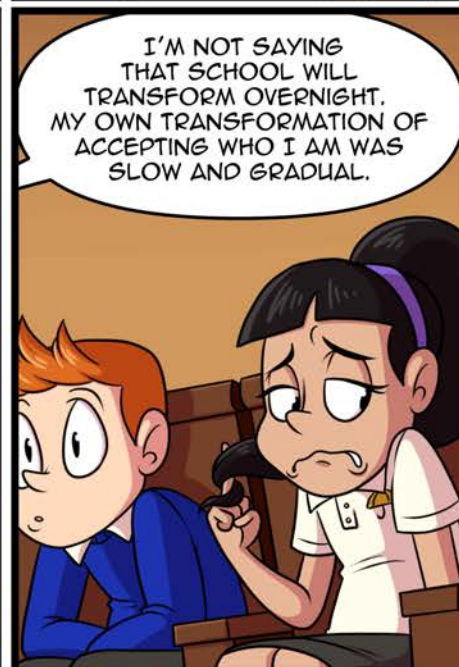
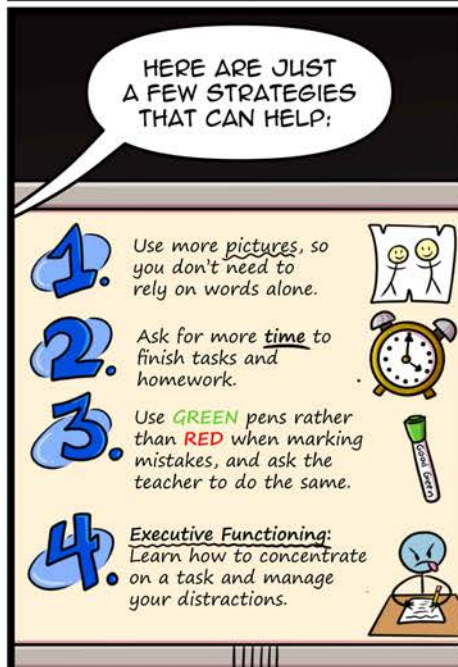
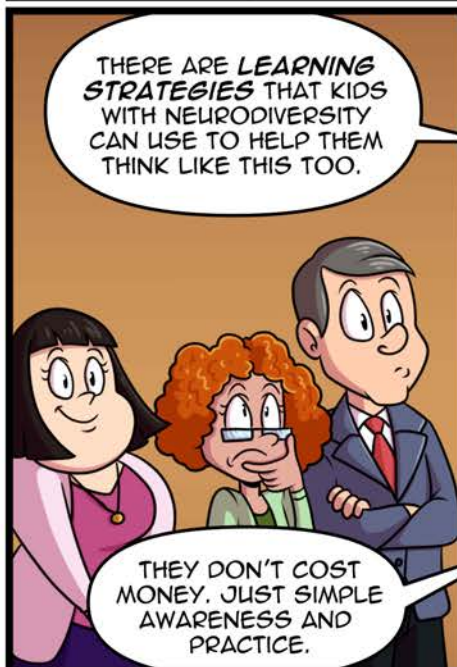
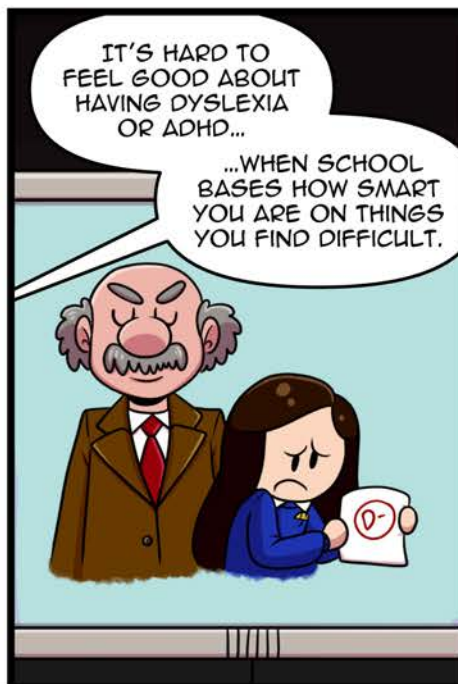


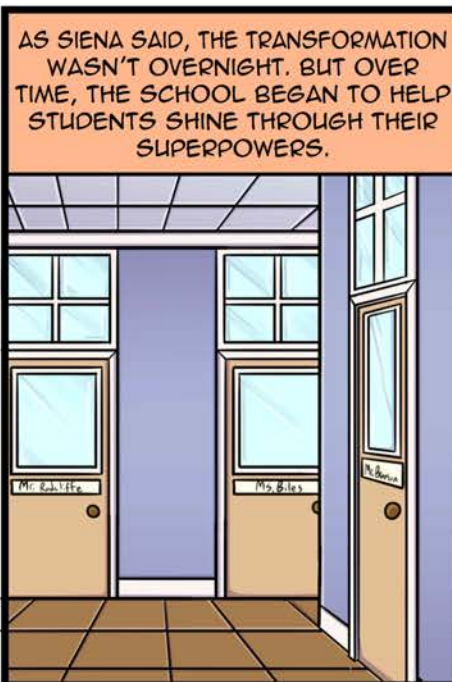


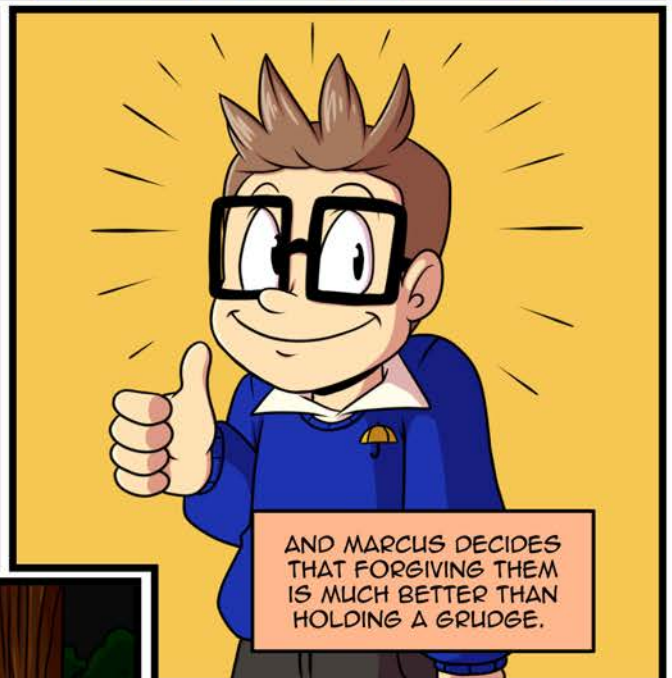












A word from Dr Tony Lloyd:

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

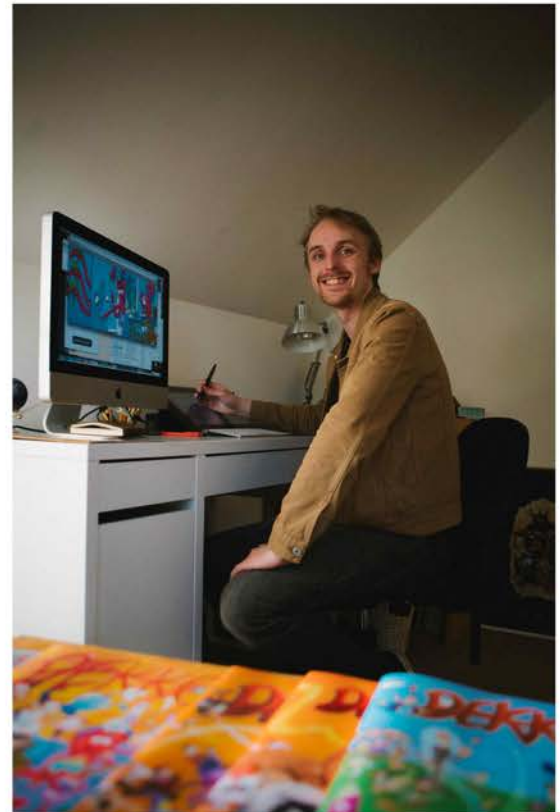


YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEM, AS WELL AS
STUFF TO HELP WITH YOUR NEURODIVERSITY, AT
WWW.ADHDFFOUNDATION.ORG.UK

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”.

