

# OPEN EYES, OPEN MIND!

## 小乖的人類觀察日誌

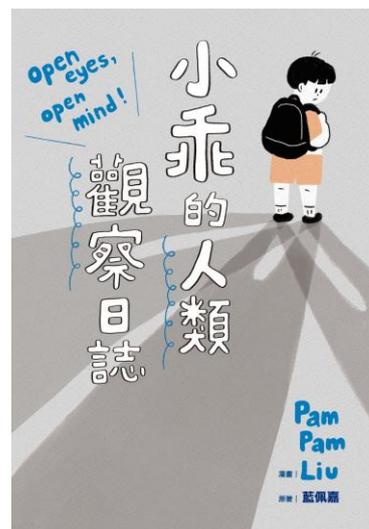
*If you could really “get to know someone”, whom would you choose? Taking a real world case study as inspiration, this graphic novel follows an innocently curious fifth grader as she attempts to understand what’s really going on in the minds of the people around her.*

Everyday life for fifth-grader Angel revolves around classes, classes, and more classes. In addition to regular schooling and endless piles of homework, she also attends after-school cram courses, art classes, and even piano lessons. As if that weren’t enough, she just received a vexing new assignment in art class. The teacher instructed the class to “get to know someone” as part of their semester project. But what does it mean to really know someone?

Having no idea where to begin, Angel turns to her mother, whose answer is, “Don’t take it so seriously. Just make it up!” Having no other options, Angel begins observing the people closest to her: her friend at school, her cousins from the countryside (a difficult older boy, and a clingy girl), the talkative girl in her art class, and the competent and confident daughter of her mother’s coworker who attends an international school, among others.

Angel looks up to all of these people in one way or another, but as she “gets to know them”, she realizes that each of them also has their own private troubles. With the end of the semester rapidly approaching, Angel has to hurry up and choose someone to be the subject of her project. But whom should she choose?

Taking her inspiration from a real world case study described in the work of sociologist Lan Pei-Chia, artist/writer Pam Pam Liu approaches parent-child relationships from a perspective of childlike innocence, depicting the family dynamics of each child in the story with gentle humor and an eye for life-like detail. The graphic novel’s swift pacing and light touch nonetheless reveals startling depths. As



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she delves past the surface appearance of family life, Angel not only discovers the private conflicts and doubts of those around her, she also matures in the process, leading to a surprising and heartwarming conclusion that will resonate with readers long after the story ends.

## Comic & Story by Pam Pam Liu

Illustrator and graphic novelist Pam Pam Liu is also a talented animator and musician. Her work spans the range from darkly absurdist fantasies to true-life stories like her highly acclaimed *Good Friend Cancer*. Her other graphic novels include *A Trip to the Asylum* and *When My Brother Was a Kid*. In 2018, she spent one year as artist-in-residence at La Maison des Auteurs in Angoulême, France.

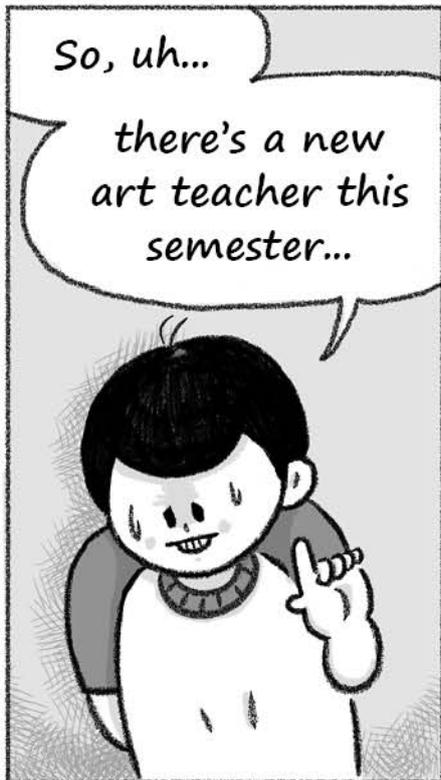
## Inspired by Lan Pei-Chia 藍佩嘉

Lan Pei-Chia is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at National Taiwan University where she serves as director of the Global Asia Research Center. Her research interests include gender, family, international migration, and social inequality. Her first book *Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domestic Workers and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan* and its Chinese language adaptation received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Book Award from the American Sociological Society and the Taipei Book Fair Award. Her second book, *Raising Global Families: Parenting, Immigration, and Class in Taiwan and the US*, compares the parenting practices of Taiwanese immigrant parents in the US with their counterparts in Taiwan, demonstrating the variety of parenting strategies used to cope with the challenges of immigration and globalization.



## Chapter 1

# Getting to Know Someone?





*"Getting to know a person"?*

*What's this?  
It better not be one  
of those so-called  
"creative" assignments.*

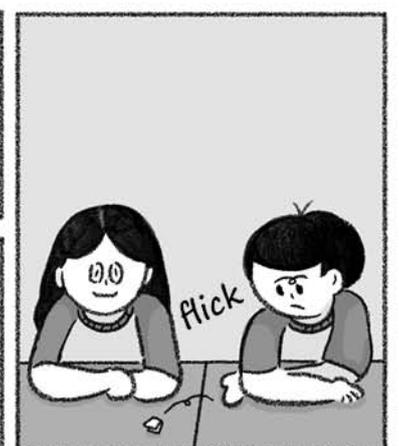
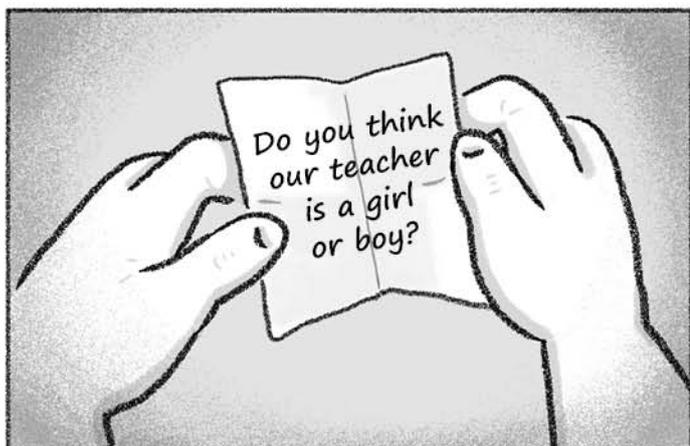
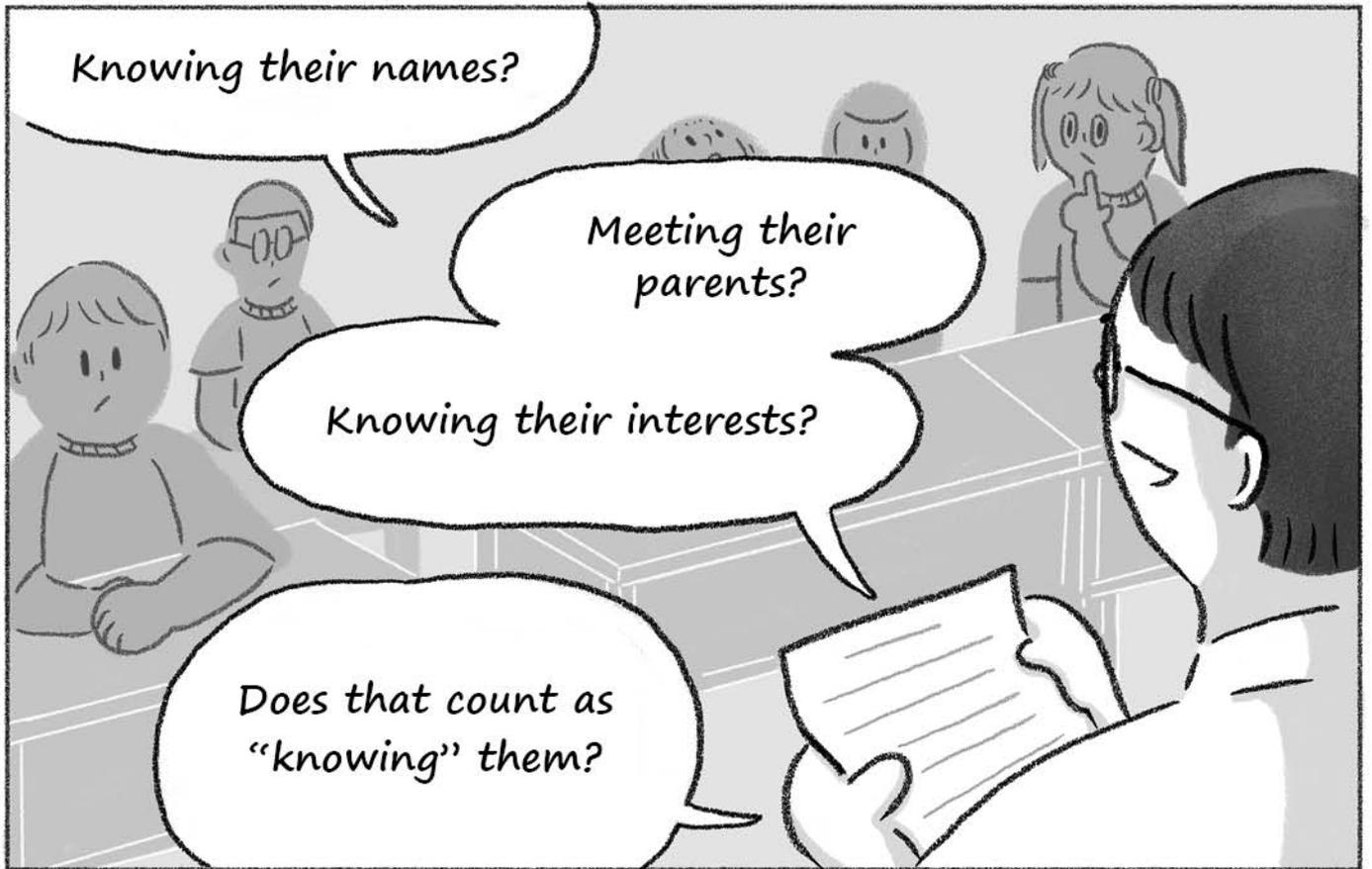


*All they do is tire me out!*

*What does it  
mean to "get to  
know" someone?*



*Does it  
mean...*



Well, I'm often asked  
"are you a boy or a girl?"

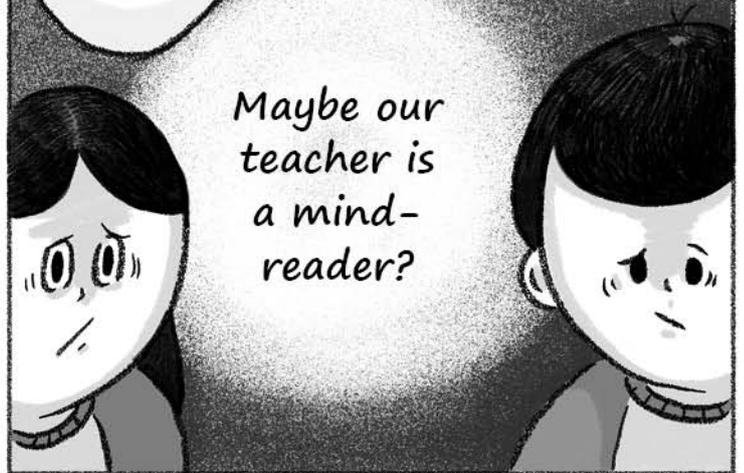
So I hope you can  
explore more ways of  
getting to "know" a  
person beyond their  
appearance or  
clothes.



Did teacher know  
we were just talking  
about this?



Maybe our  
teacher is  
a mind-  
reader?

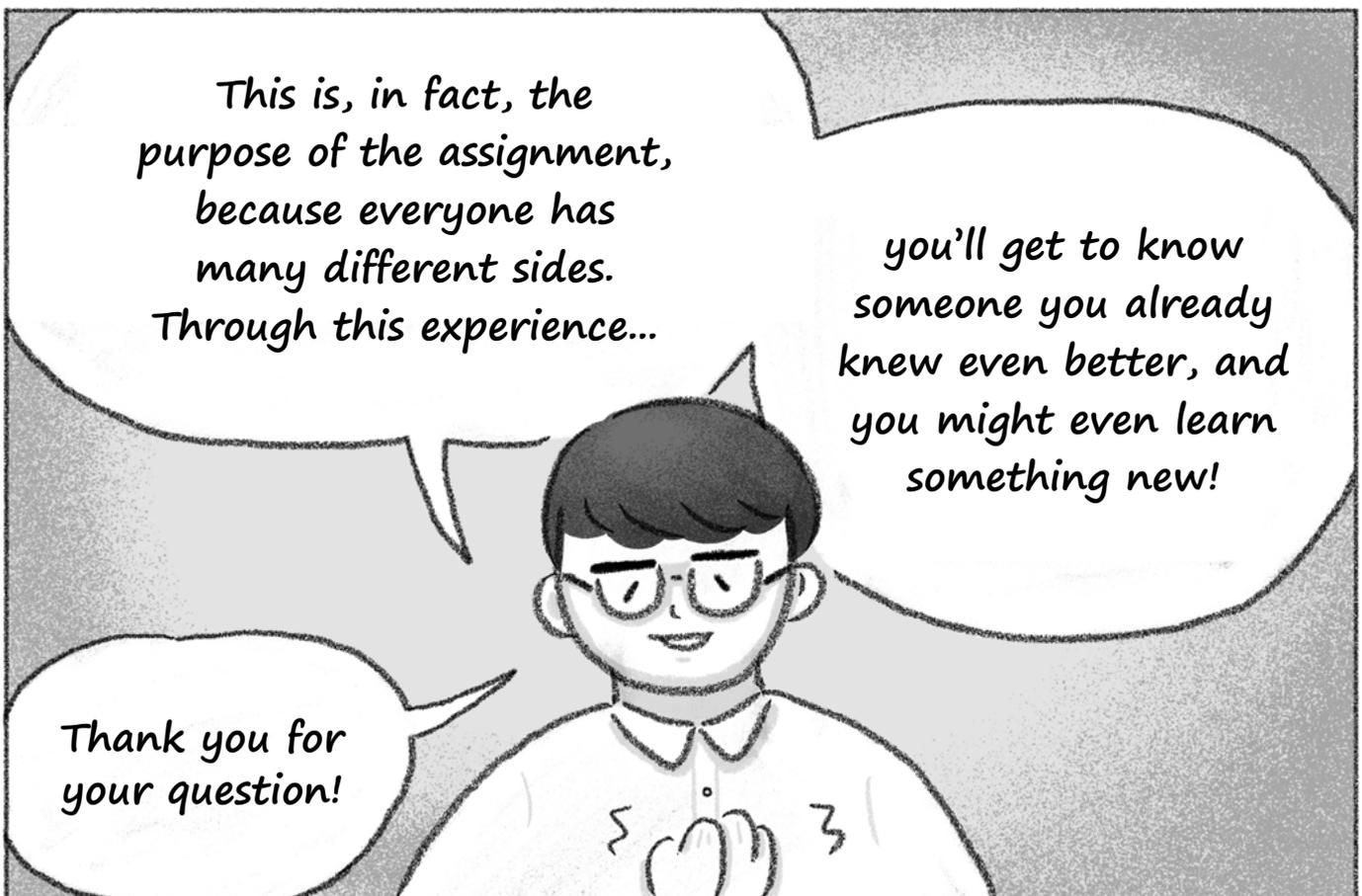
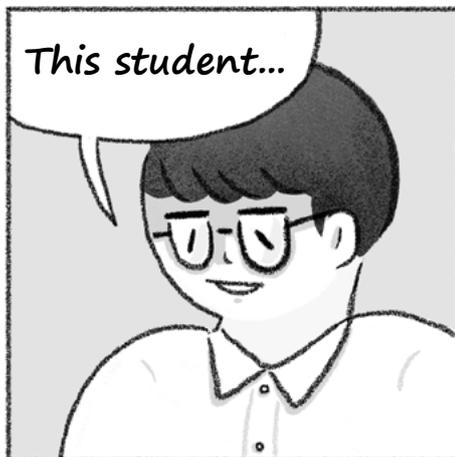


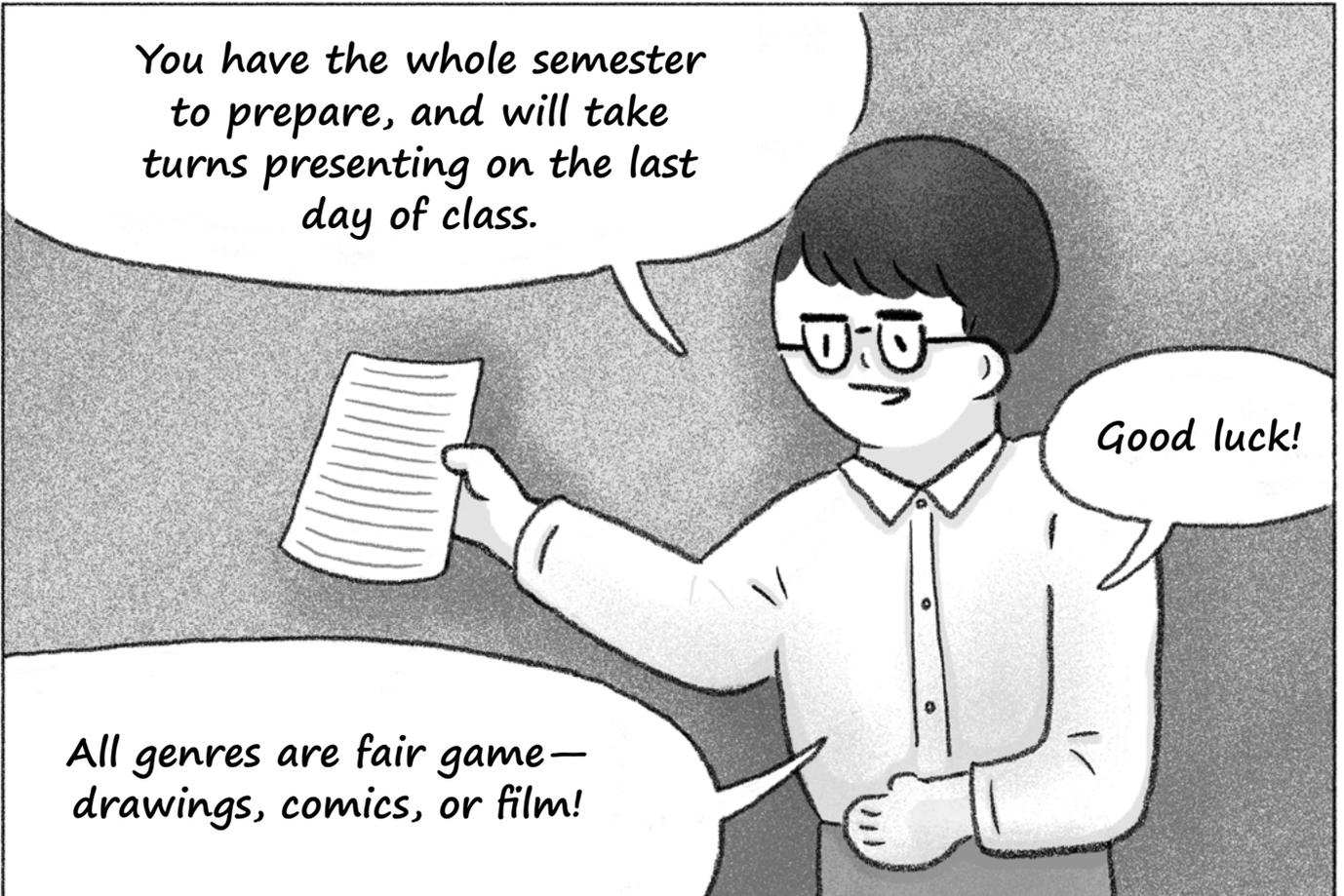
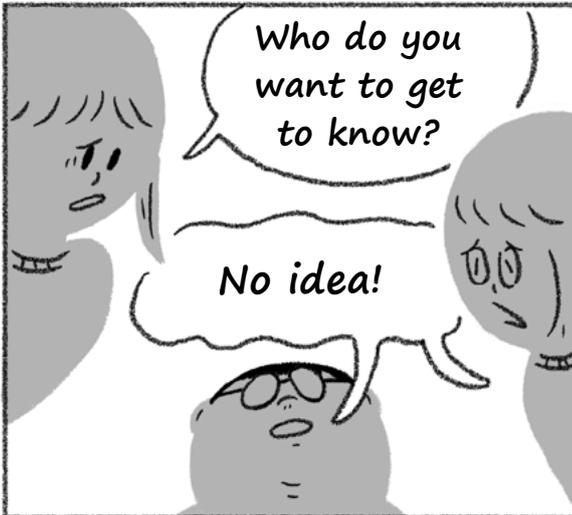
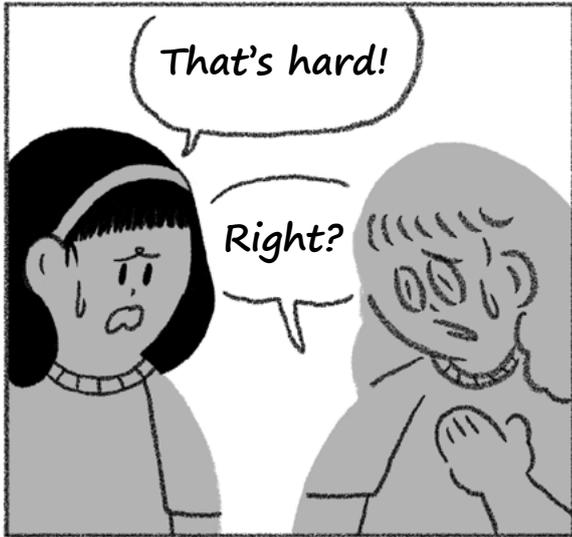
You are free to choose  
who you want to  
get to "know".

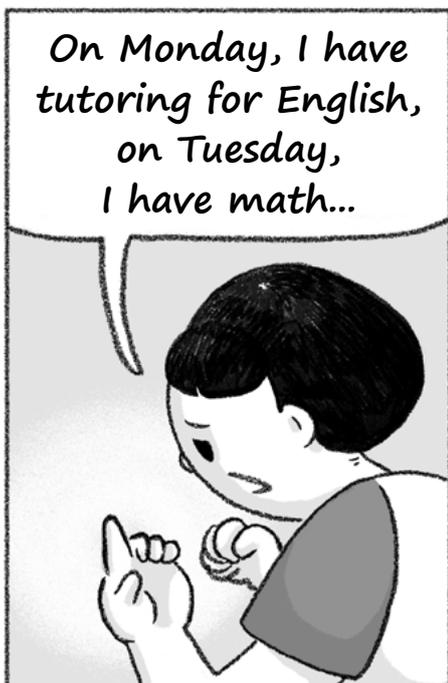
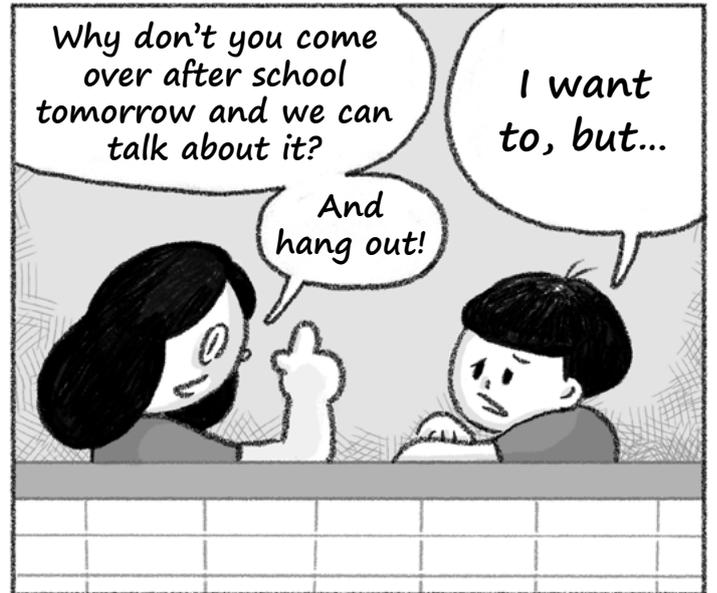
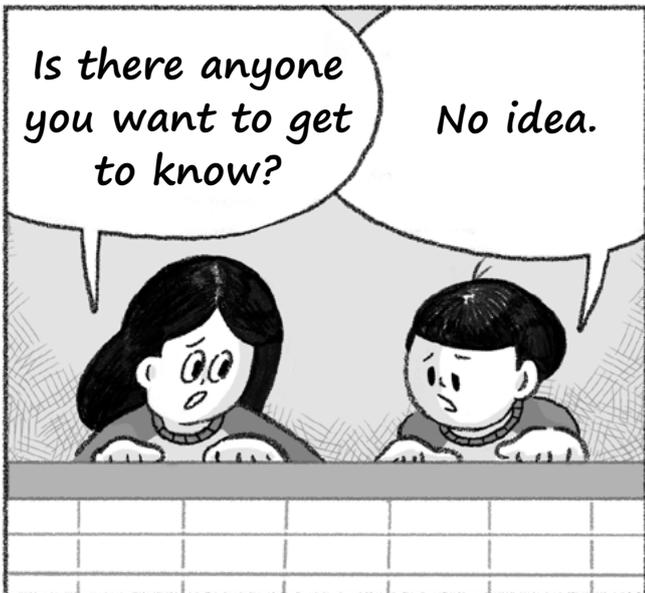
And you can choose any  
art medium to showcase who  
you got to know, how you  
got to know them, and  
what you learned.

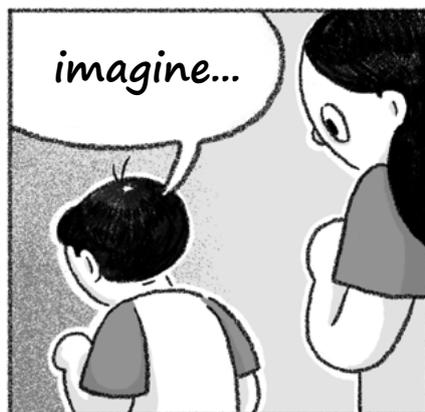
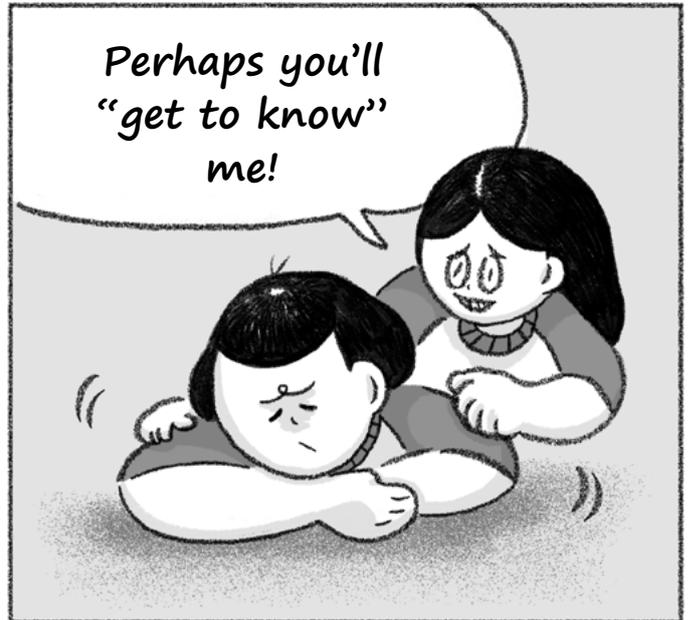
Any  
questions?

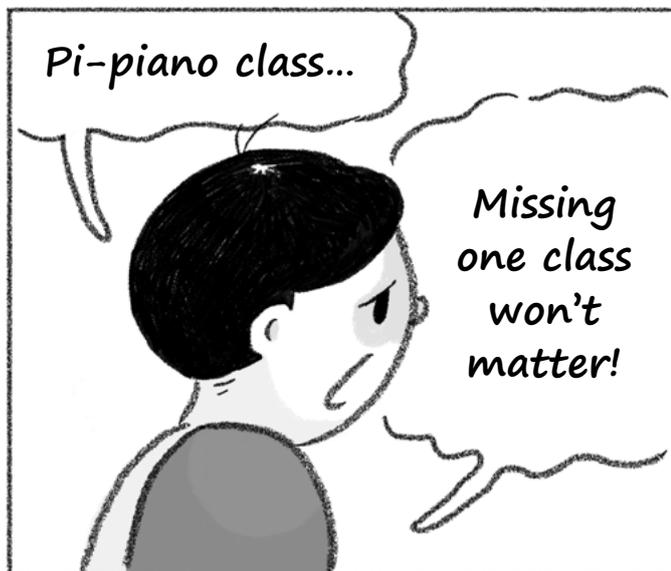
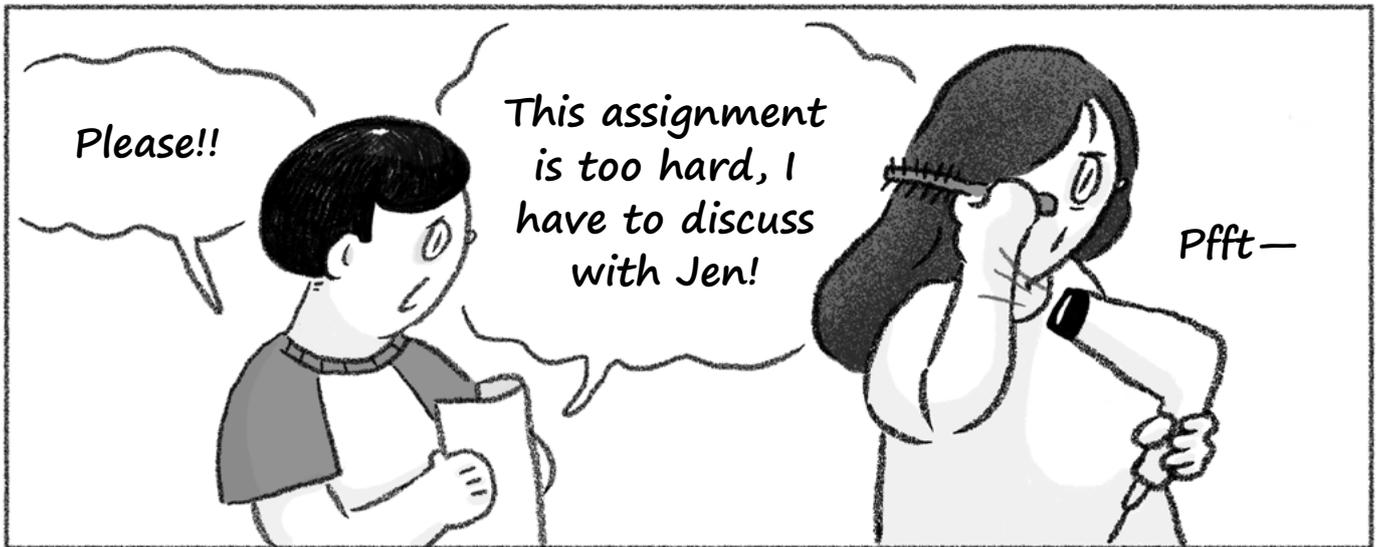
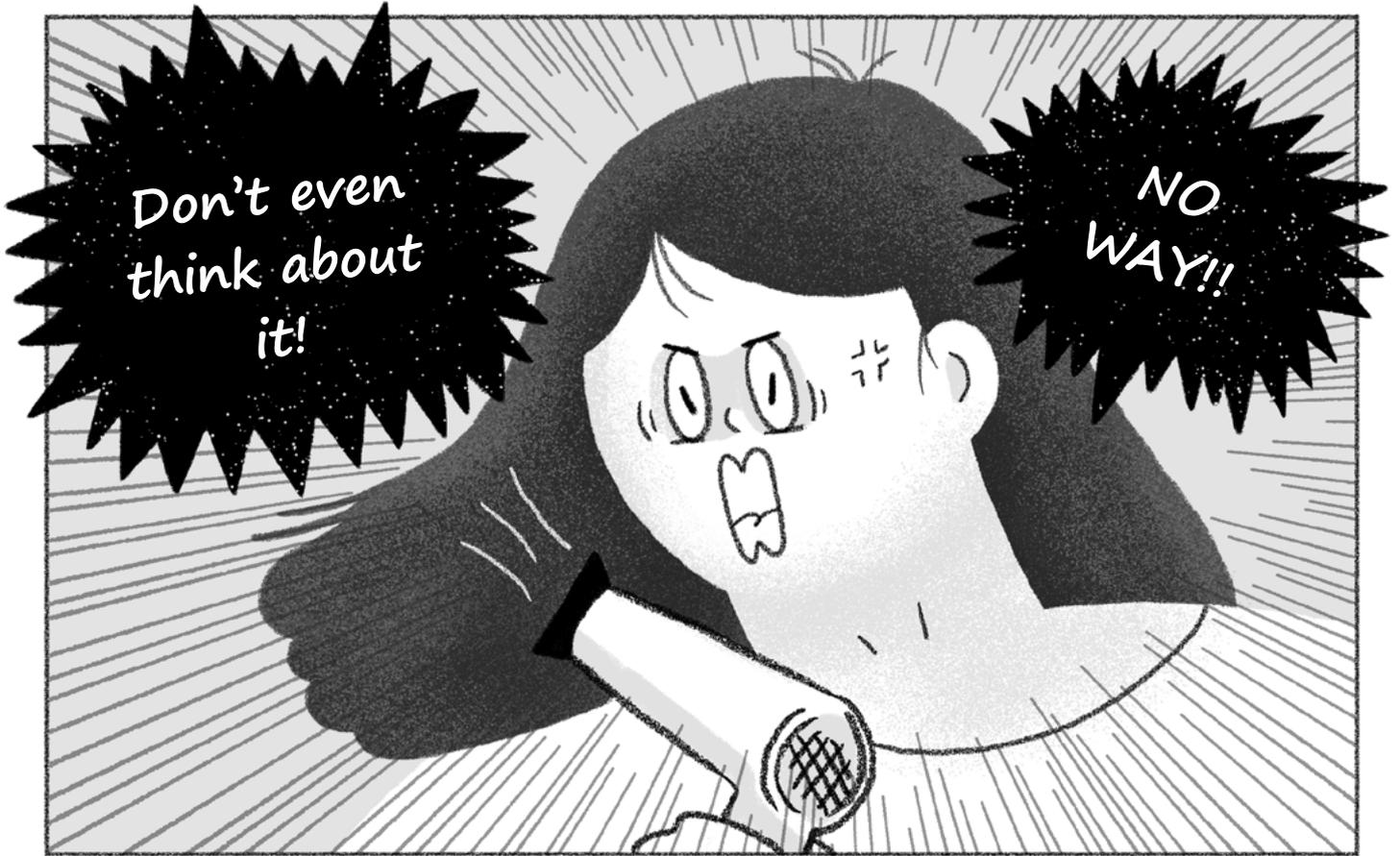


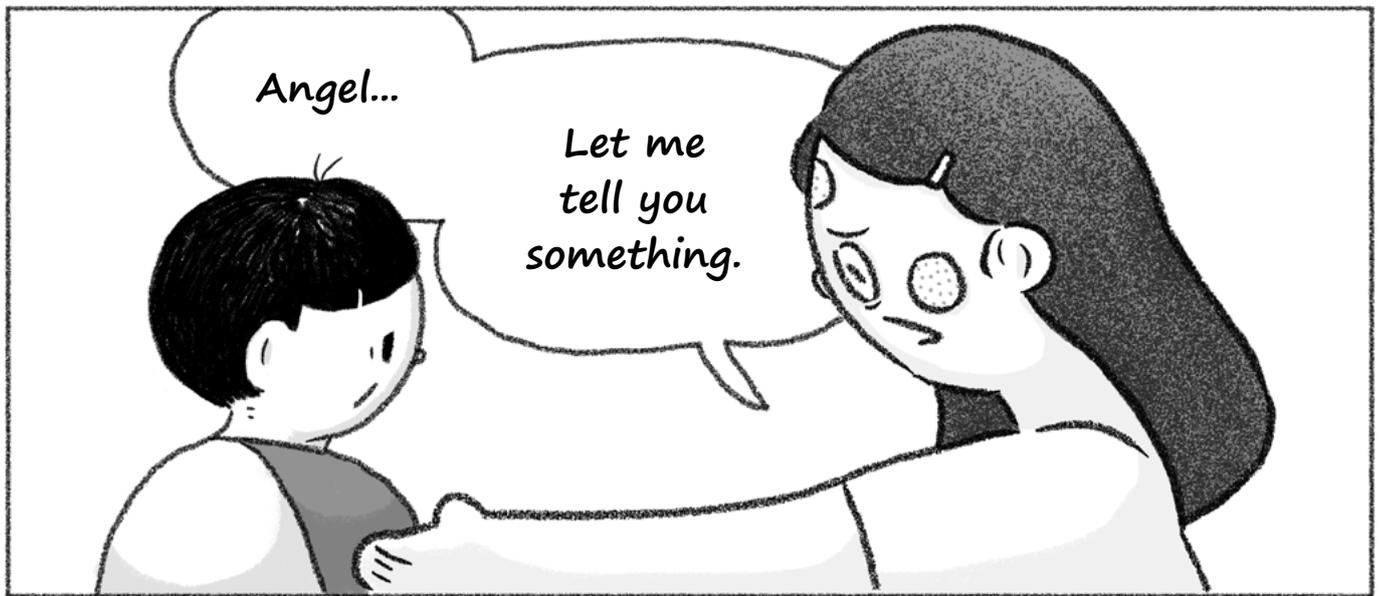










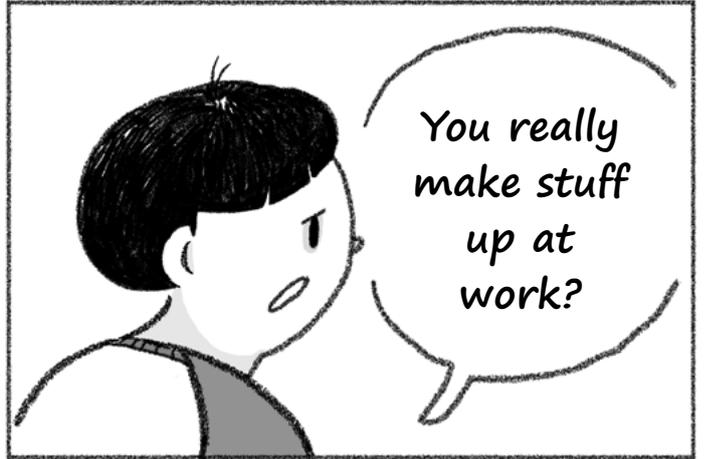


At work, every business proposal I write is made-up. So just make stuff up for this one!



Mom isn't even...

listening to me...



You really make stuff up at work?

OF COURSE!  
Every-



day!

In that case...

Teach me how.

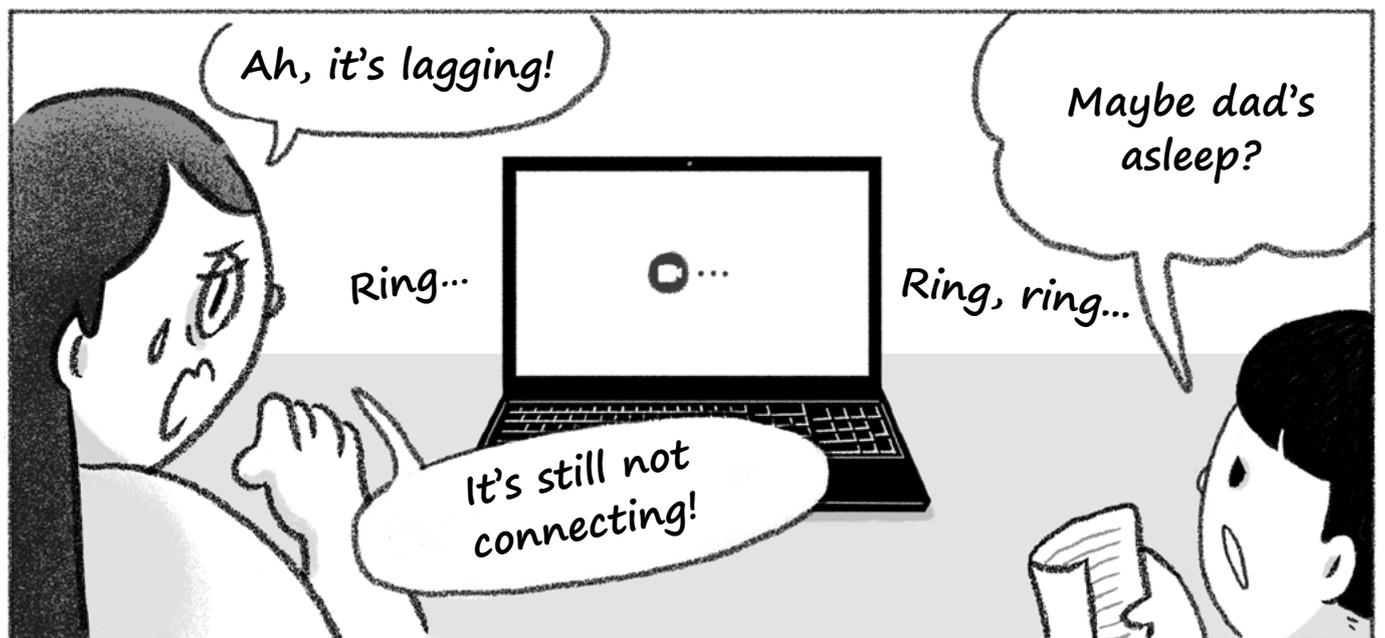
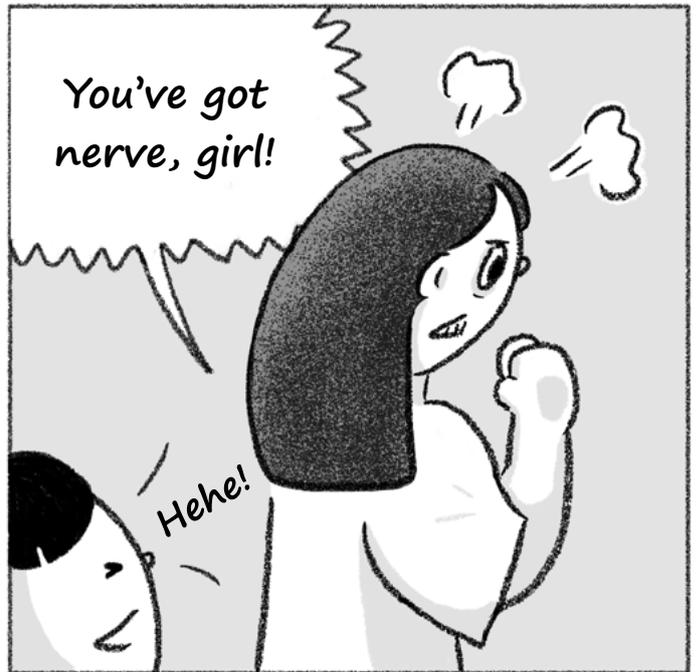


I don't know!

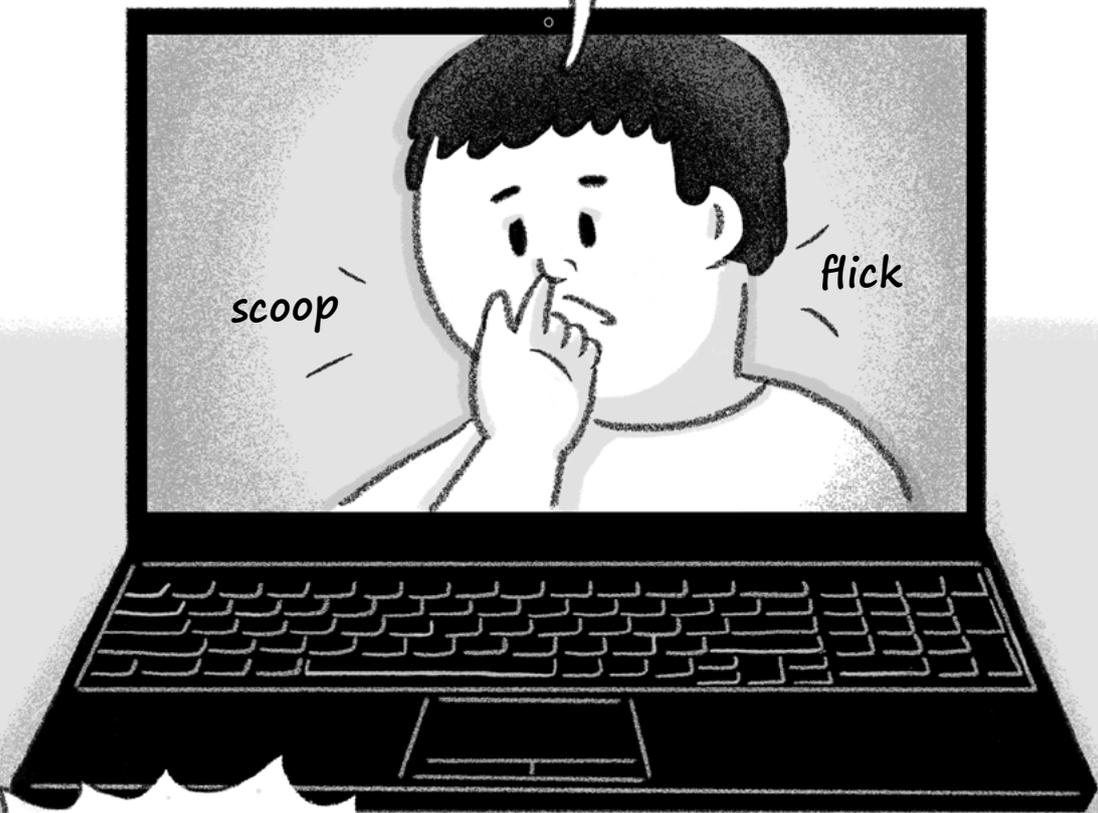


Help me make stuff up—



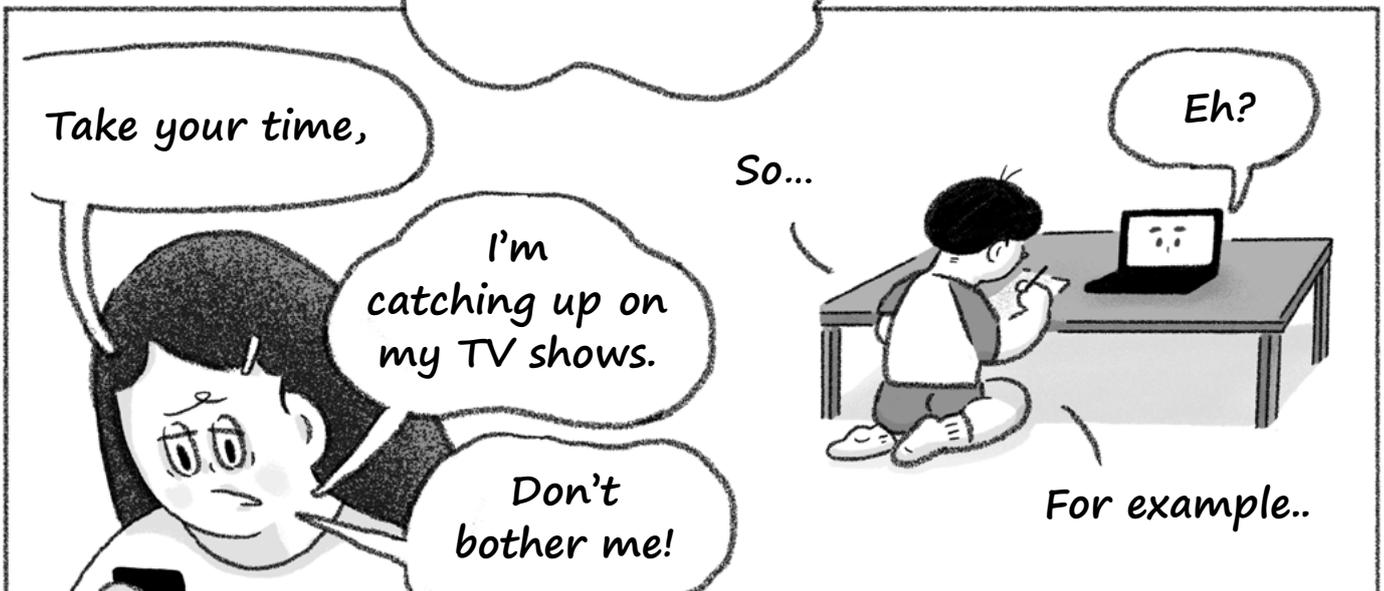
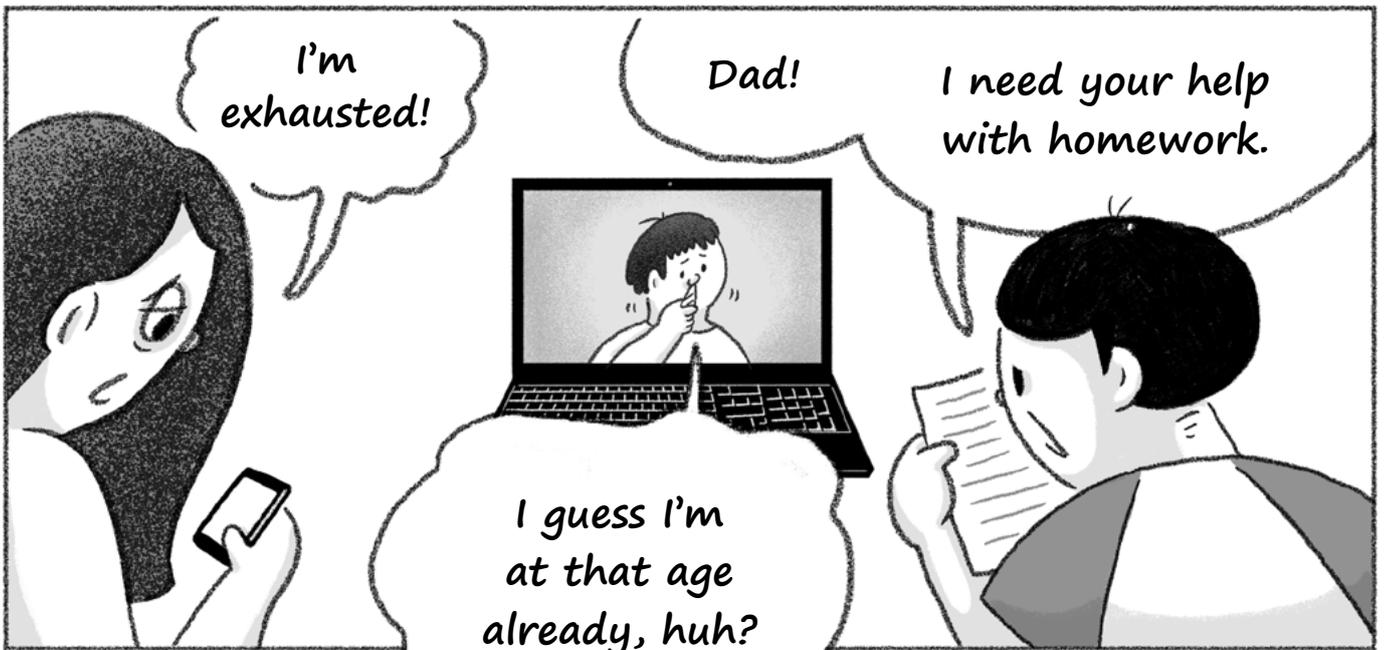
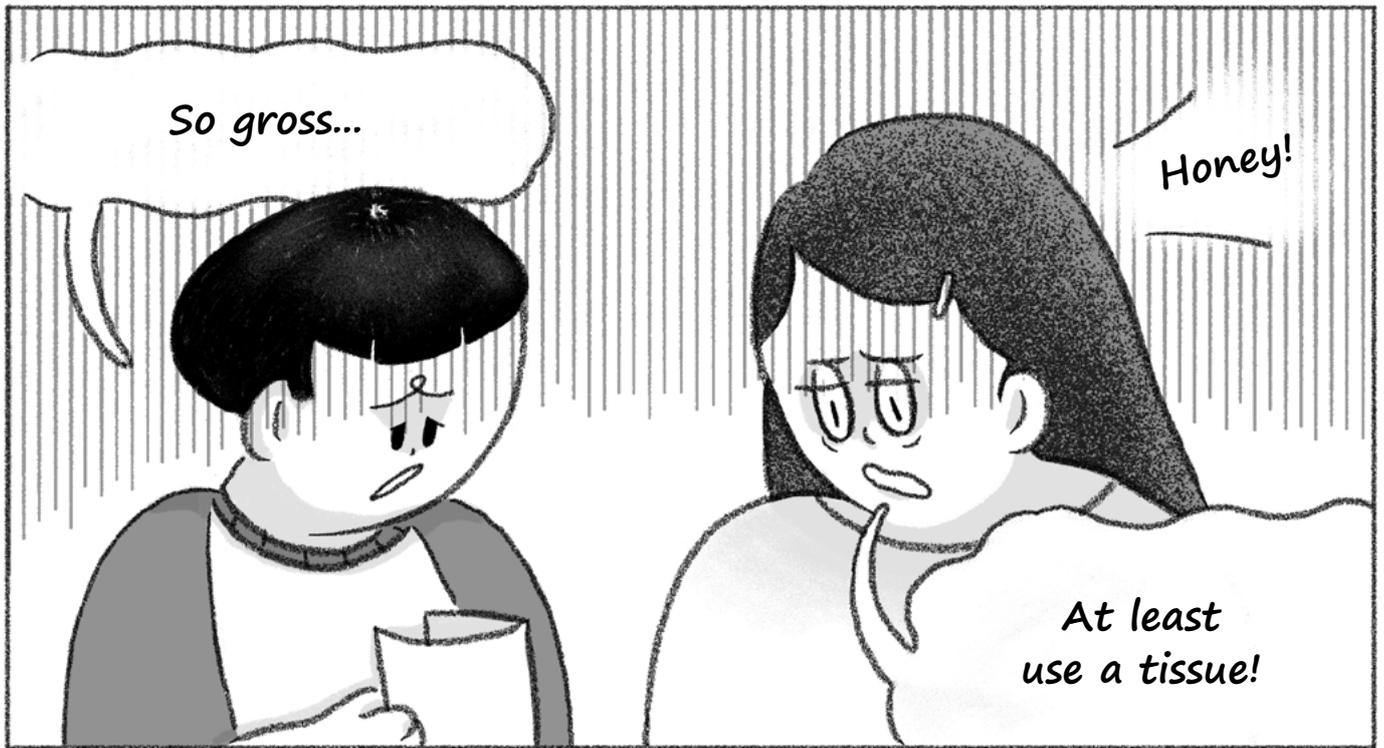


You were looking for me?  
That's weird.



YOU'RE PICKING  
YOUR NOSE?

DAD,  
THAT'S GROSS!



Why, I thought only schools in Western countries would assign this kind of homework.



Not bad!

Dad's got this. The point of assignments like this is...

blah  
blah

blah  
blah



Dad...

talks too  
much!



It's best to find someone who's interesting and has a strong sense of style.

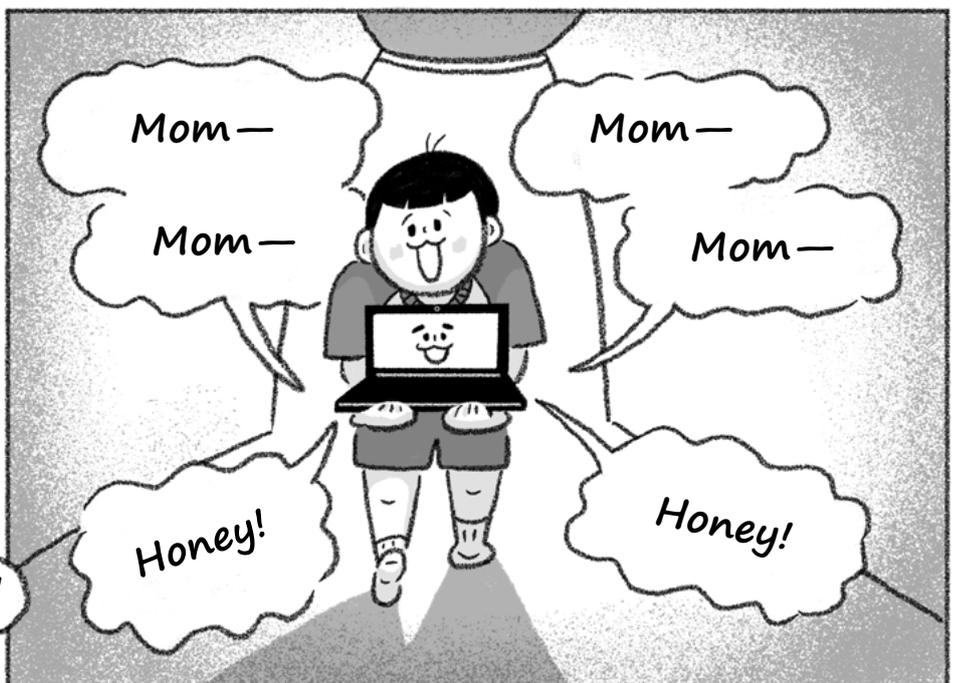
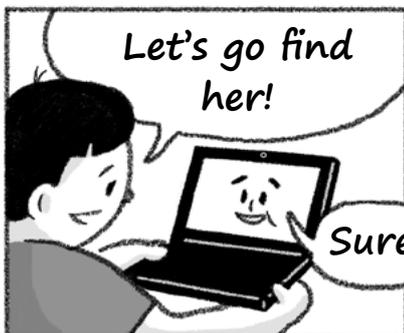
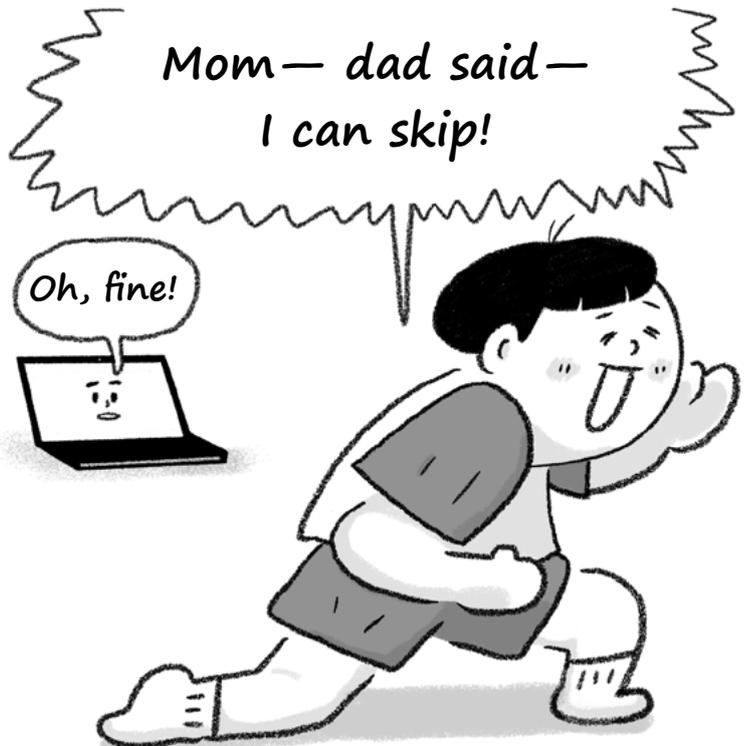
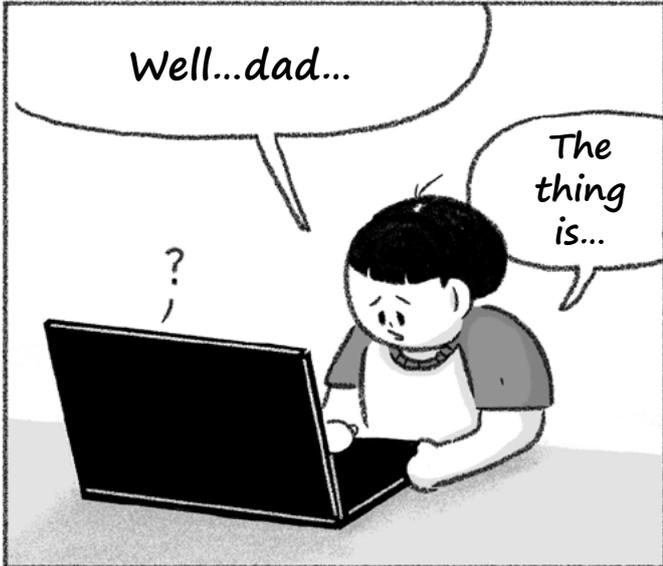
That would make your assignment easier!

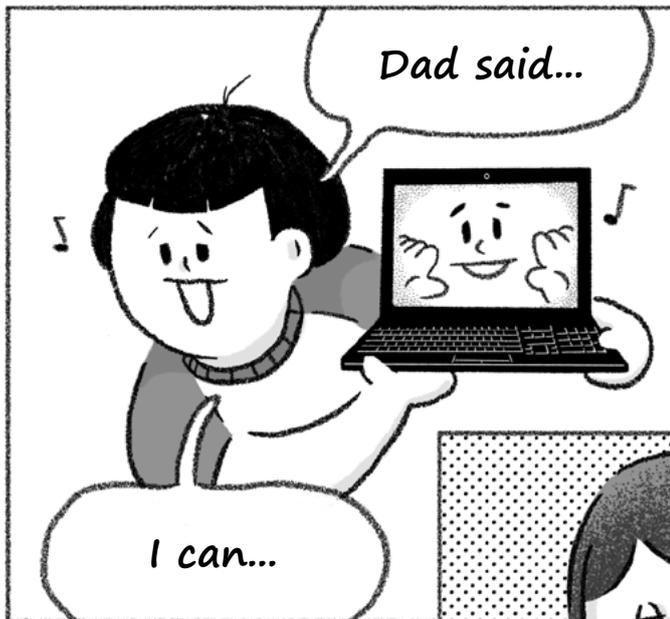


Your dad, for example, is a perfect choice.

What do you think? Wanna get to know your dad?

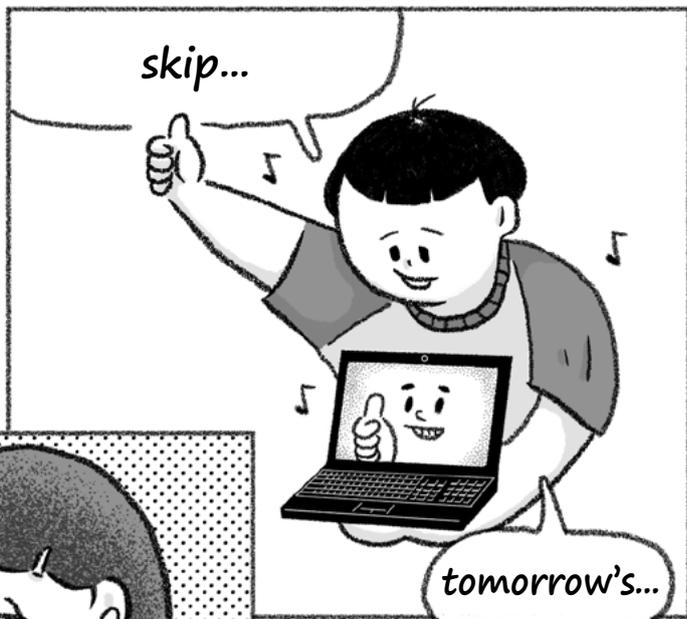






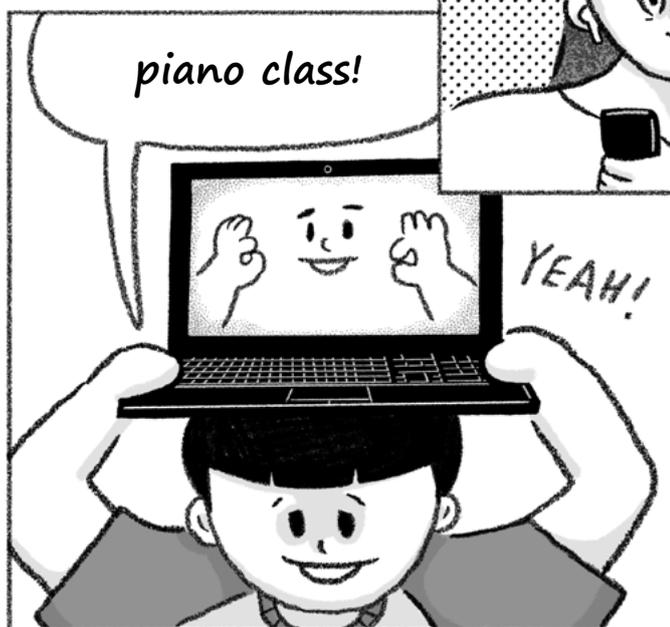
Dad said...

I can...



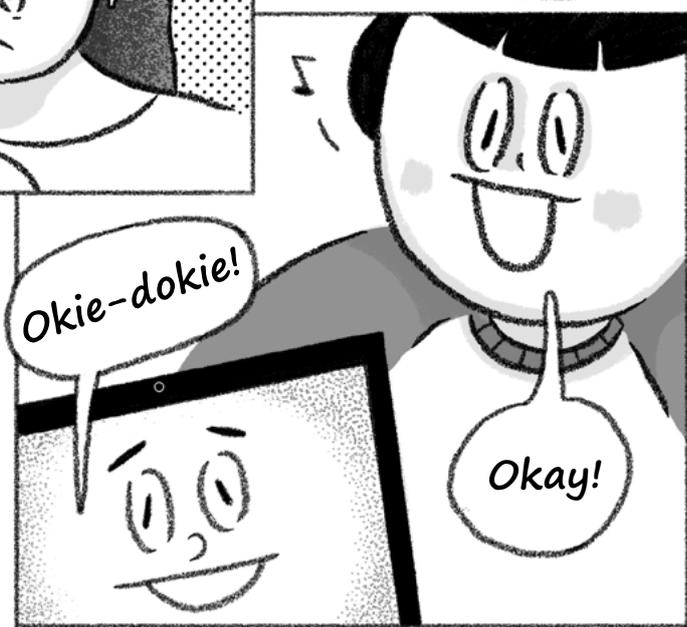
skip...

tomorrow's...



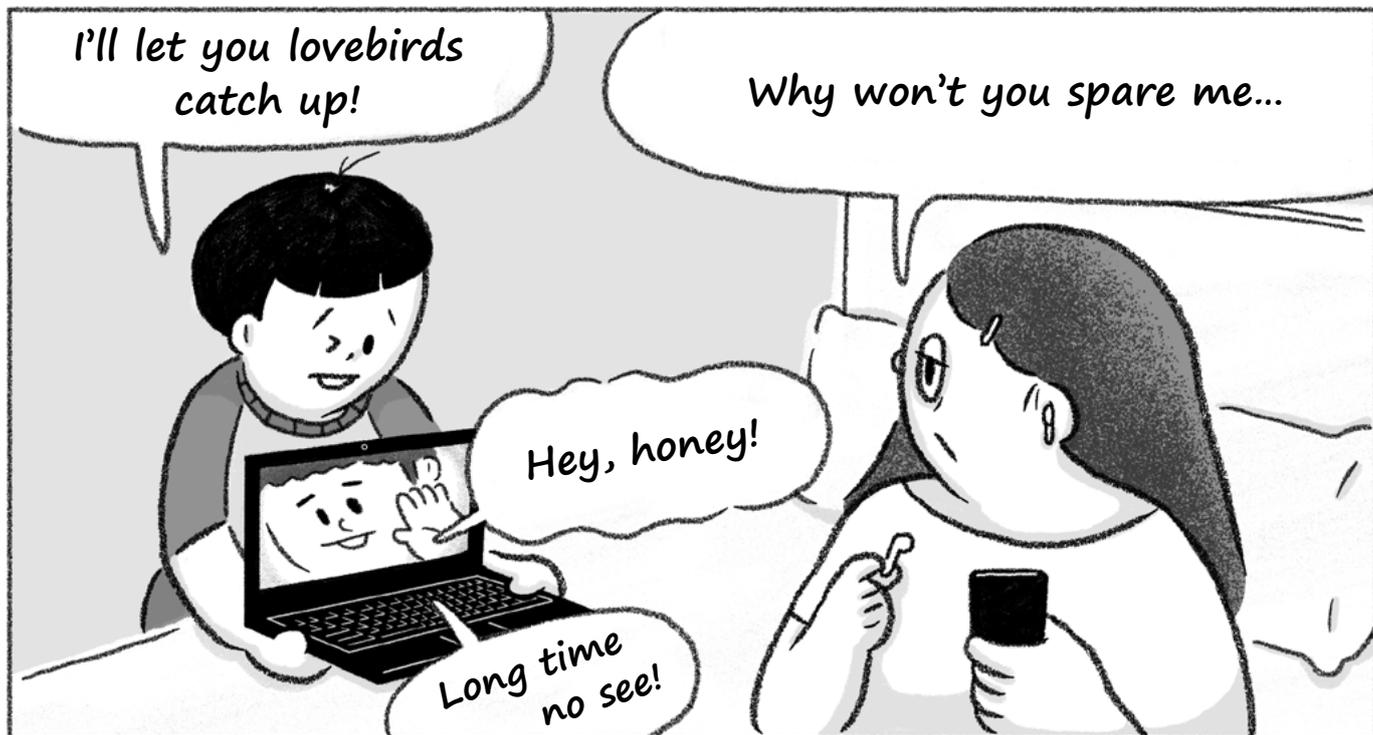
piano class!

YEAH!



Okie-dokie!

Okay!



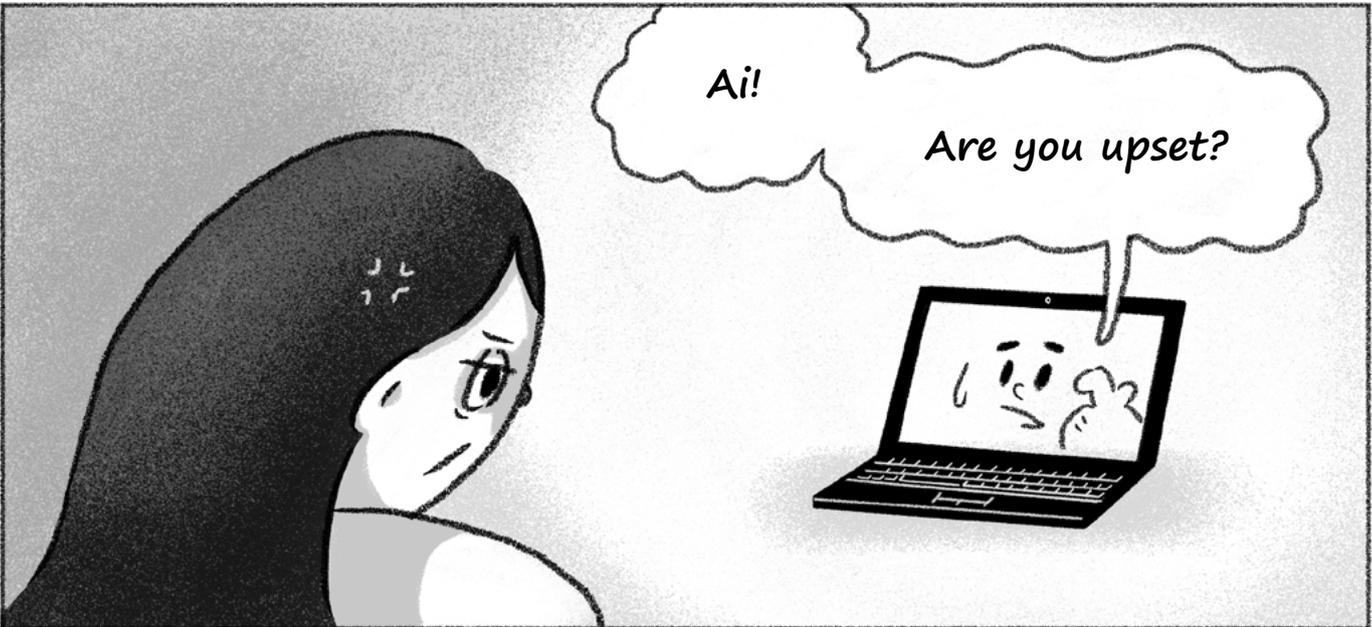
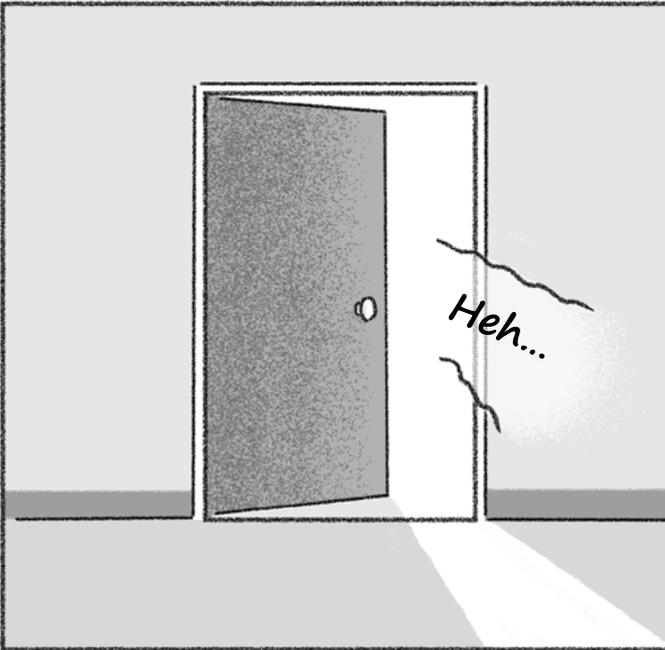
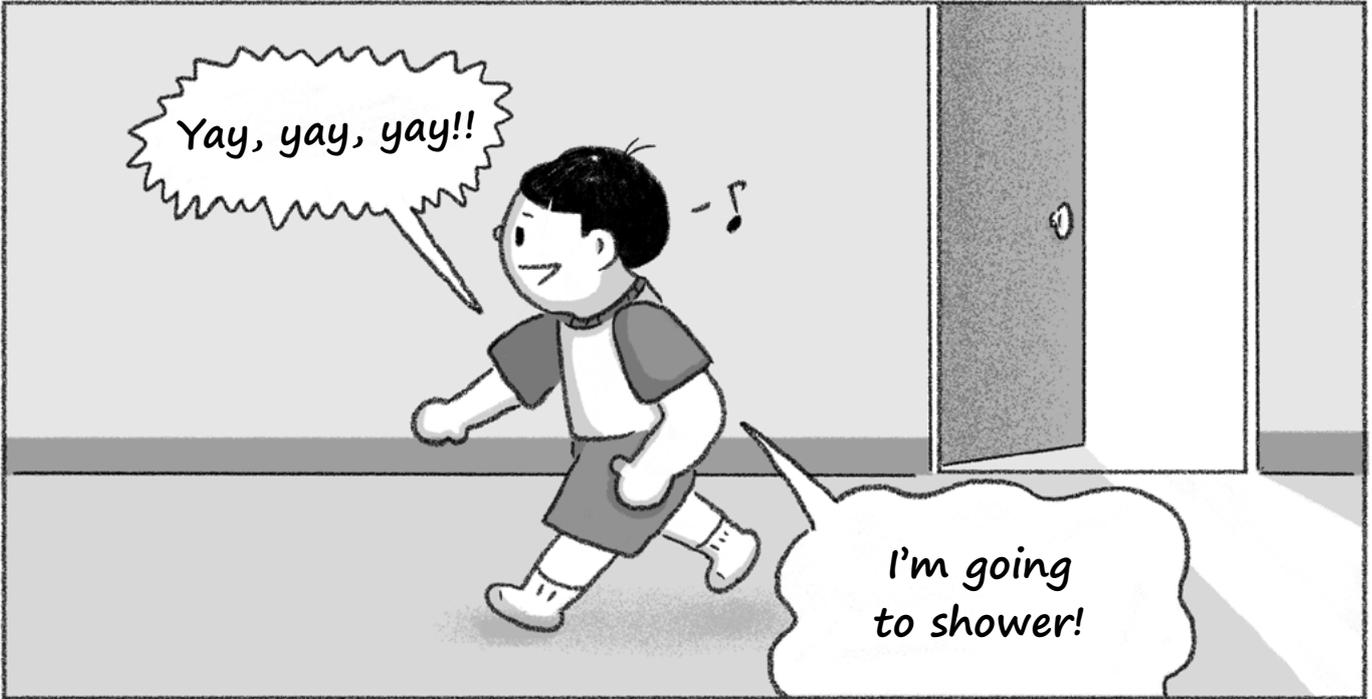
I'll let you lovebirds catch up!

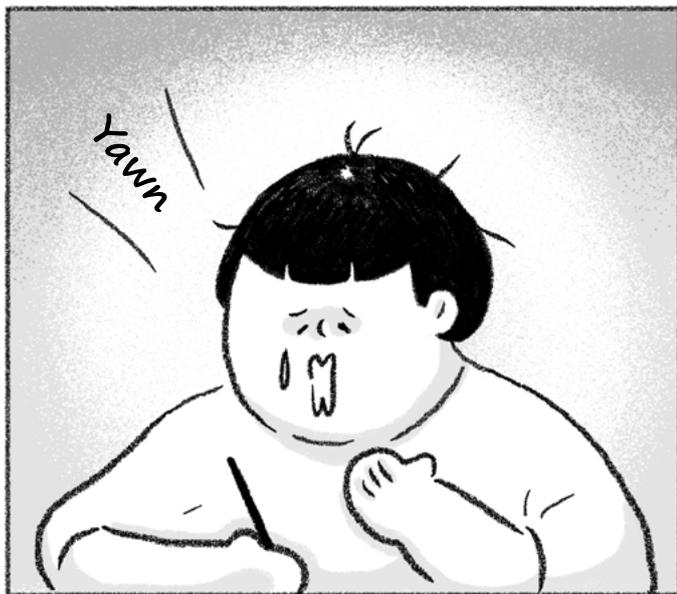
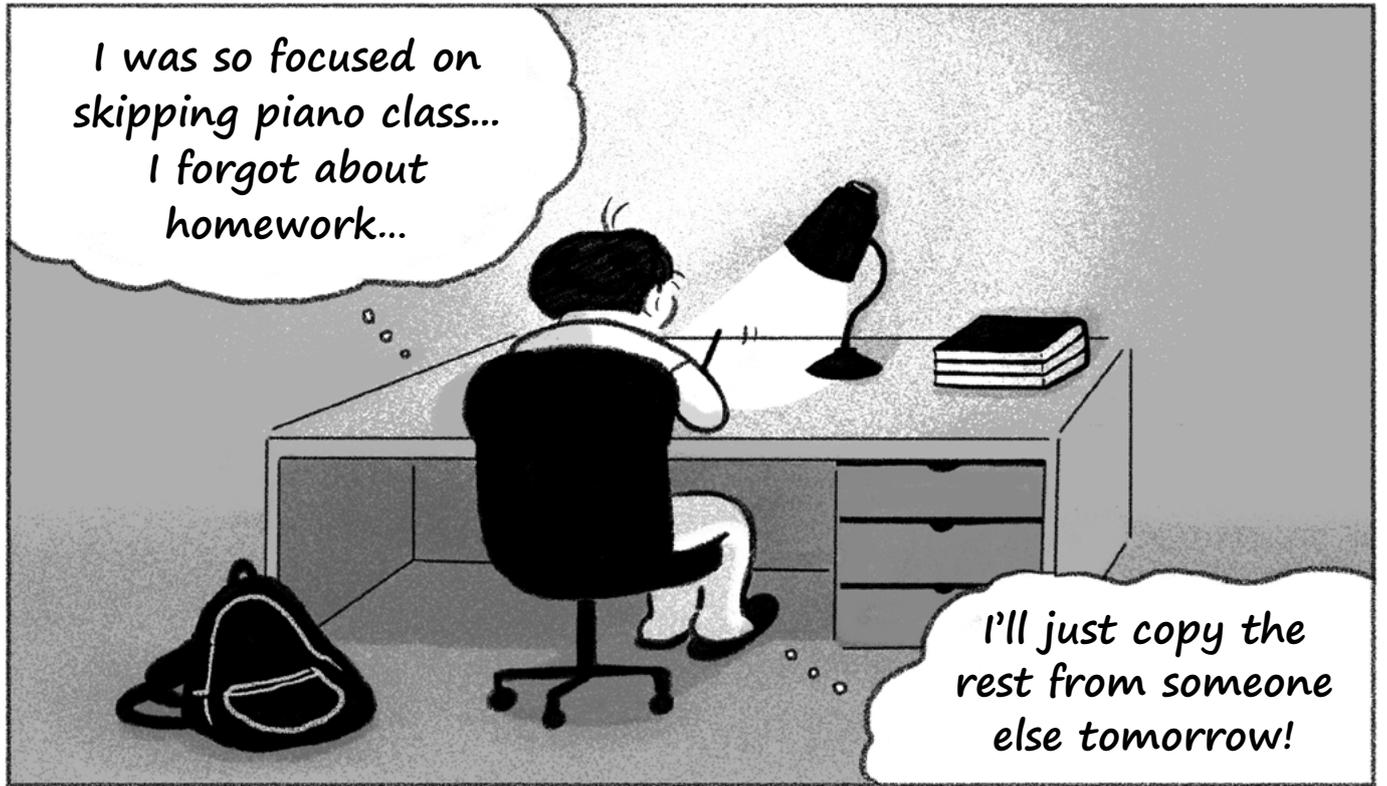
Hey, honey!

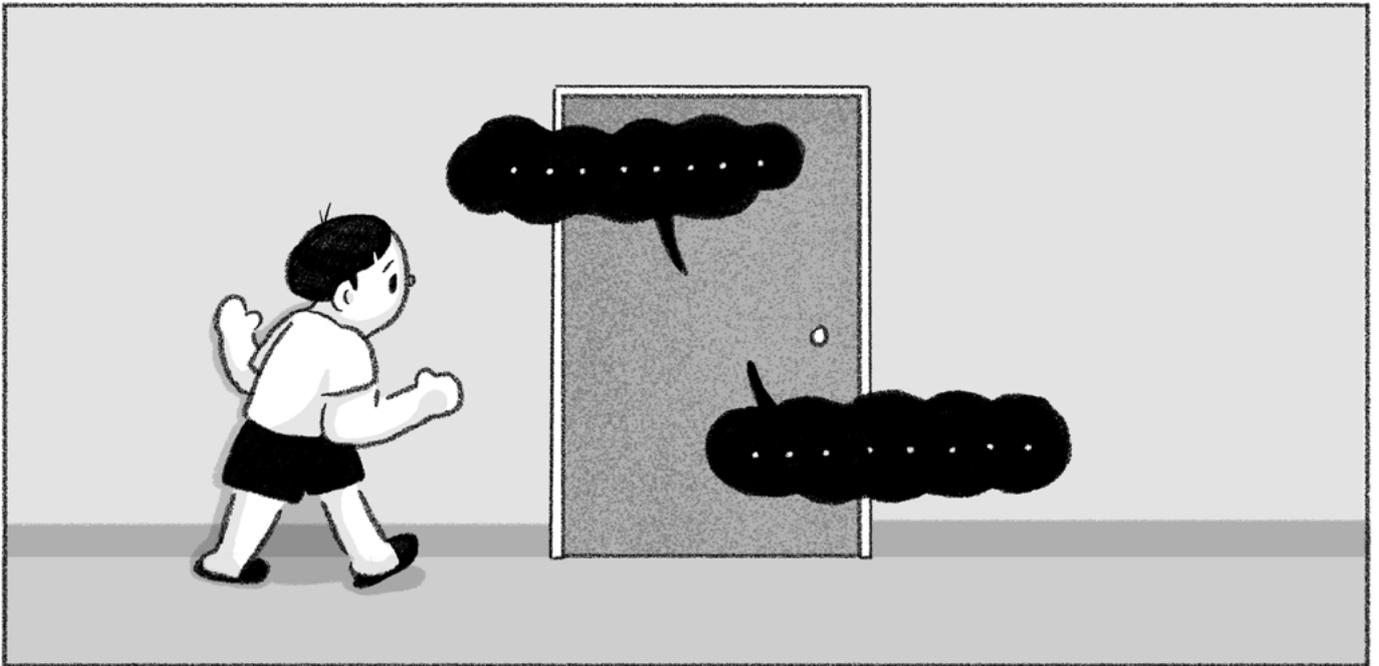
Long time no see!

Why won't you spare me...









If you spoil her, she'll never  
listen to what I say!

34  
77

Aiyo, it's just one lesson,  
can't she go to a friend's house?

No!! How can you be so carefree?  
I raise her and go to work all  
on my own, I've got everything  
planned out already!

I'm sorry. It won't happen again,  
my dear—

Sorry for what? I'm always  
the bad cop. All I ask is that you  
come home once in a while  
and be a dad to her!

Don't be upset! I have no  
choice either, because of  
work — we discussed this...



