

NAT ENOUGH



MARIA SCRIVAN

 SCHOLASTIC



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NAT ENOUGH

MARIA SCRIVAN



An Imprint of



SCHOLASTIC

For you, reader.
You are more than enough.

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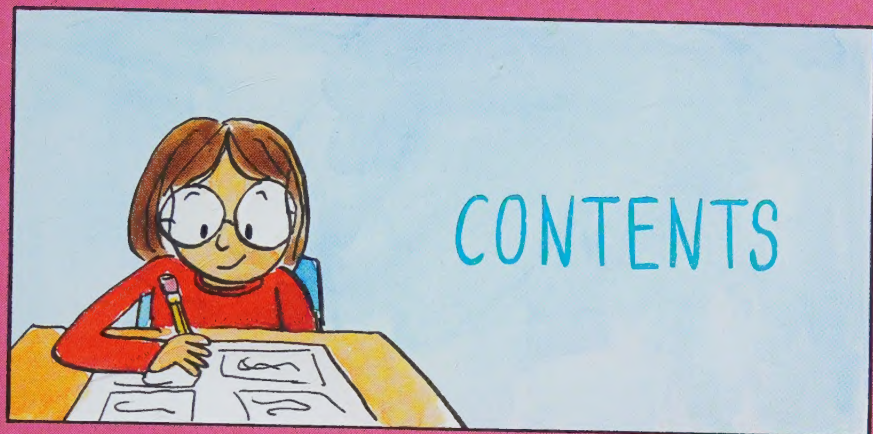
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ALL ABOUT ME!



I LOVE TO WRITE AND DRAW.





I ALSO LOVE TO PLAY WITH MY CAT AND DOG,



RIDE MY BIKE,



AND HANG OUT WITH MY BEST FRIEND, LILY.
MORE ABOUT HER IN A MINUTE.

I AM AN ONLY CHILD,



THOUGH I AM LUCKY TO HAVE SOME PRETTY COOL PARENTS.

DAD

- BRINGS ME COLORING BOOKS WHEN I'M SICK
- TELLS LOTS OF JOKES - SOME ARE FUNNY



MOM

- HELPS ME WITH MY HOMEWORK
- REALLY GREAT AT COMPUTERS AND MATH

ME

AND I AM REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE A DOG AND A CAT.

WE NAMED OUR DOG "TREAT" BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY HE'LL COME WHEN WE CALL HIM.



WE NAMED OUR CAT "CAT" BECAUSE SHE WON'T COME NO MATTER WHAT WE SAY.



I AM MANY THINGS, BUT ONE THING I AM NOT...

...IS "ENOUGH."

enough

ɪˈnəf
ADJECTIVE

1. FILL A NEED. SUIT A PURPOSE. FIT THE BILL.

EXAMPLES:



ATHLETIC ENOUGH



COOL ENOUGH



TALENTED ENOUGH

THEN THERE'S ME:

NOT ATHLETIC
ENOUGH



NOT COOL
ENOUGH



NOT TALENTED
ENOUGH



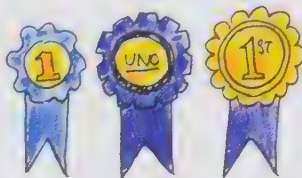
SEE ALSO: NERDY, CLUMSY, AWKWARD.

"ENOUGH" IS ONE OF THOSE WORDS THAT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S SPELLED WRONG EVEN WHEN IT ISN'T.

WHATEVER IT IS, I DON'T HAVE IT.



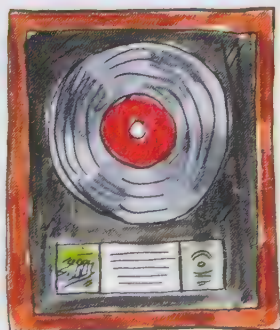
ENOUGH FRIENDS
(ESPECIALLY THE POPULAR ONES)



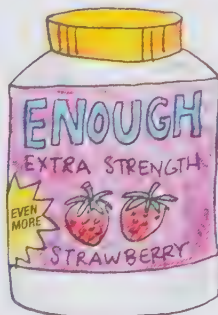
ENOUGH SUCCESS



ENOUGH STYLE



ENOUGH TALENT



EVEN IF IT CAME IN A JAR,
I WOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH OF IT.

BUT AT LEAST I HAVE LILY.



WE'RE TWO PEAS
IN A POD.

AND WE'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS
SINCE SECOND GRADE.

WE DO EVERYTHING TOGETHER.
WE EVEN HAVE A CLUB.

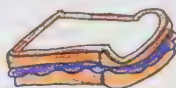
EVERYTHING IN THE CLUB IS
PURPLE BECAUSE THAT'S LILY'S
FAVORITE COLOR. (I LIKE PINK.)



CLUB
SODA



CLUB
CANDY



CLUB
SANDWICH



CLUB SOCKS

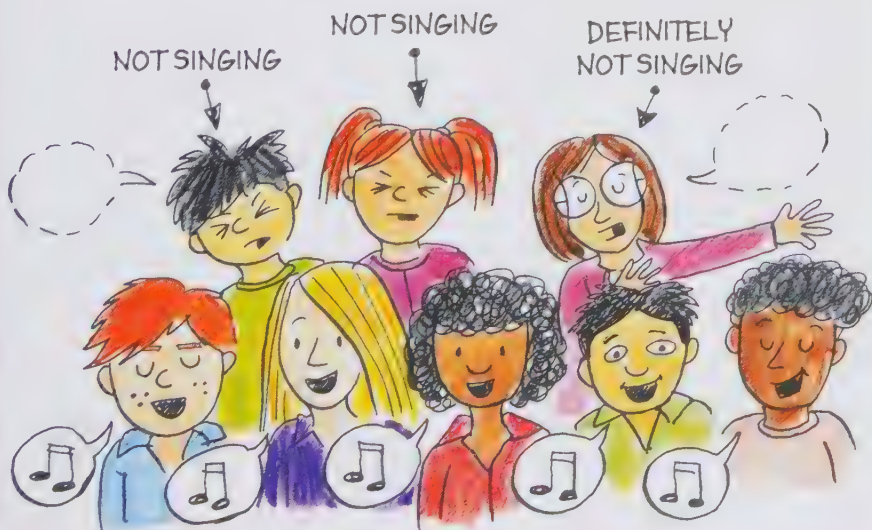


CLUB T-SHIRT

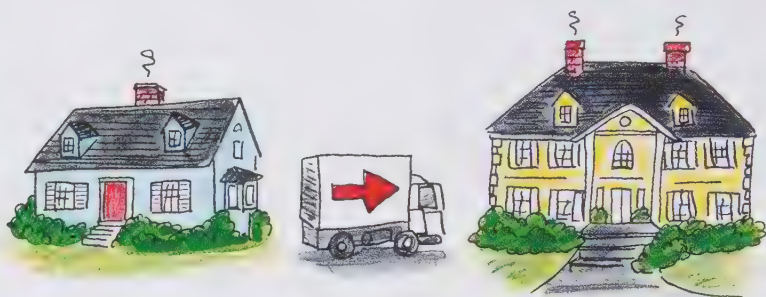
LILY LOVES TO SING, AND I GO TO CHORUS
WITH HER. I CAN'T SING, SO I JUST STAND
IN THE BACK AND PRETEND I'M SINGING.



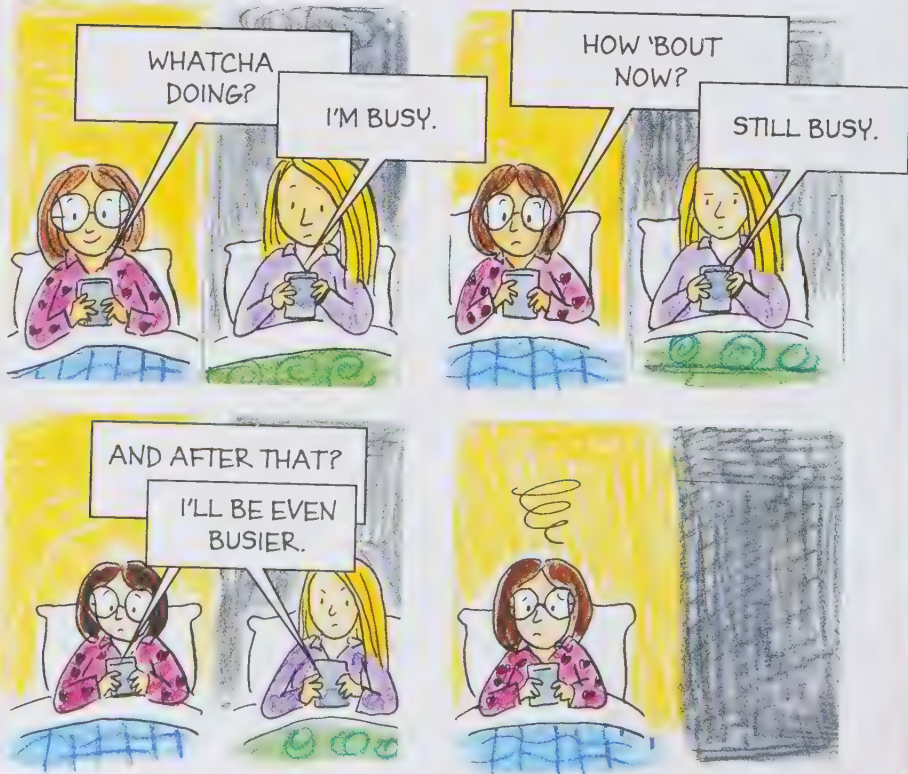
A LOT OF KIDS DO THIS. IF IT WASN'T FOR
THE FRONT ROW, WE WOULDN'T MAKE A SOUND.



OVER THE SUMMER, LILY MOVED TO ANOTHER PART OF TOWN.



EVER SINCE THEN SHE'S BEEN REALLY BUSY.



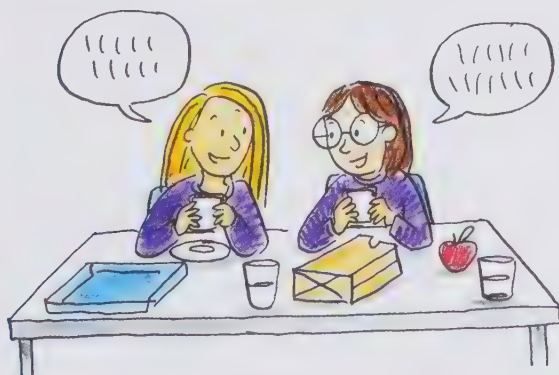
I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE FIRST DAY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL TOMORROW, BUT IT WILL BE WEIRD GOING TO A MUCH LARGER SCHOOL WITH KIDS FROM ALL OVER TOWN.



I'M SO EXCITED LILY AND I HAVE LOCKERS NEXT TO EACH OTHER!

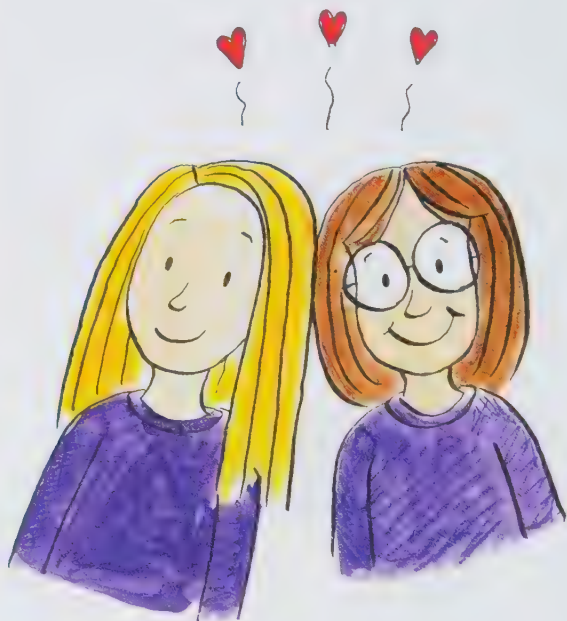


HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE IN THE SAME HOMEROOM!



NO MATTER WHAT, WE CAN EAT LUNCH TOGETHER!

I'M SO HAPPY TO HAVE MY BEST FRIEND
TO SHARE THIS ADVENTURE WITH!



CHAPTER 1 MAGAZINE GIRL

DOG'S LIFE

YOUR TENNIS
BALL AND YOU

MORE
BELLY RUBS
IN LESS TIME

WAG MORE,
BARK LESS

HOW OFTEN
SHOULD YOU
GO TO THE
GROOMER?

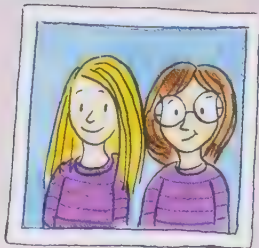
SOFTER FUR,
SHINIER NOSE

HOW TO
GET THE
MOST
TREATS



THE NEXT MORNING I GOT READY FOR SCHOOL...

LILY AND I USUALLY WEAR THE SAME OUTFIT ON THE FIRST DAY. I TEXTED HER...



...BUT SHE'S NOT RESPONDING.



I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WEAR.



MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL, WHO'S THE DORKEST OF THEM ALL?

DON'T PUT ME ON THE SPOT.



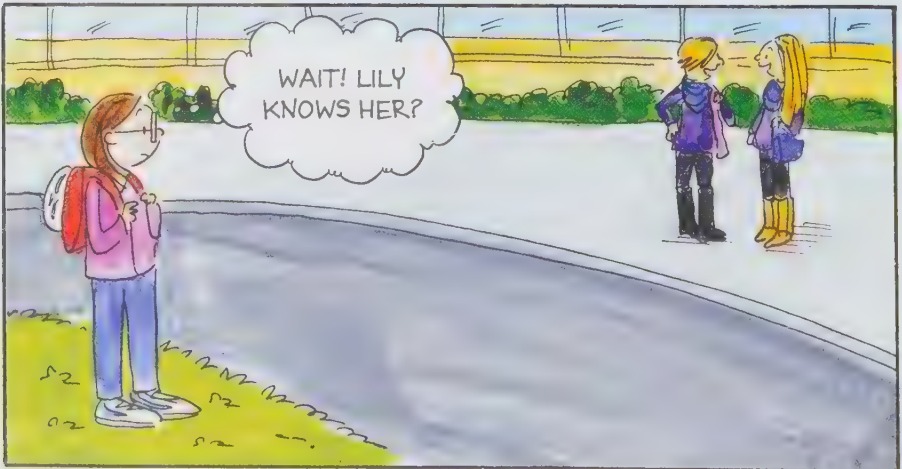
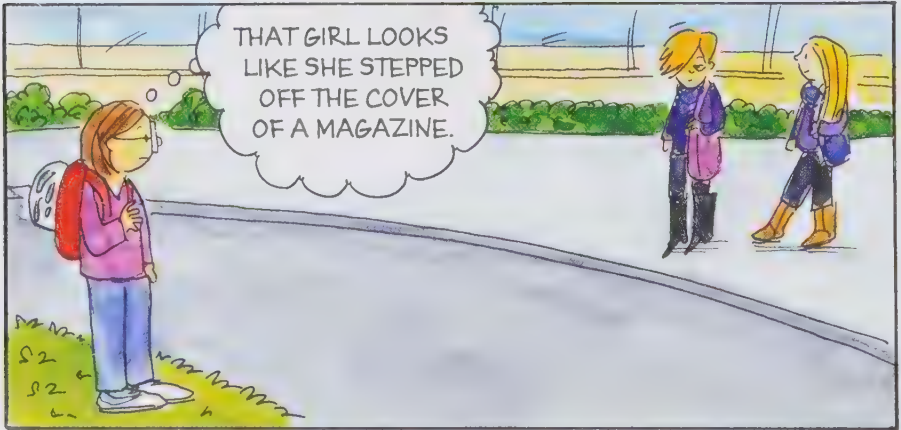
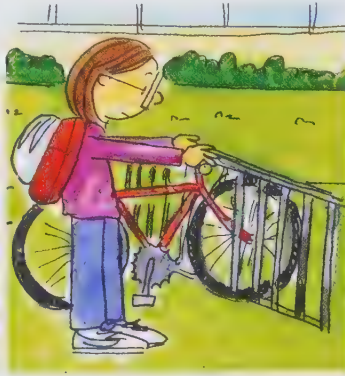
FIRST-DAY-OF-SCHOOL PICTURES ARE THE WORST.

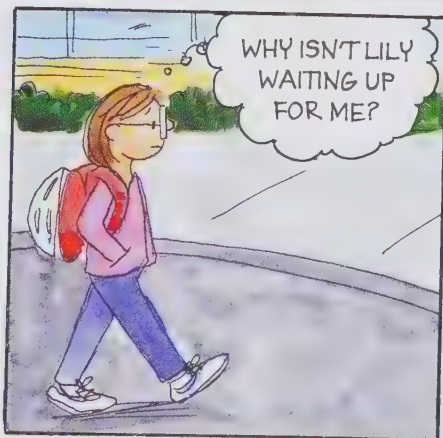
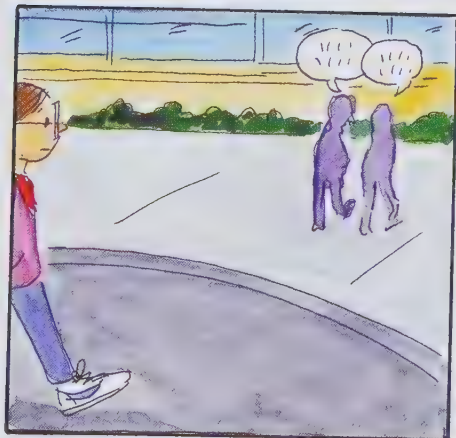
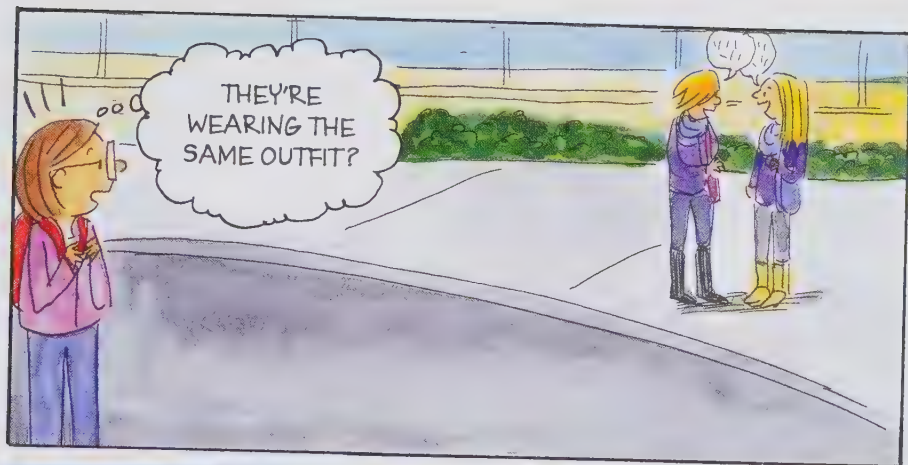


SO ARE FIRST-THING-CHRISTMAS-MORNING PICTURES.
MY MOM DOESN'T LIKE THOSE, EITHER.



I HOPPED ON MY BIKE, EXCITED TO GET TO SCHOOL AND SEE LILY.



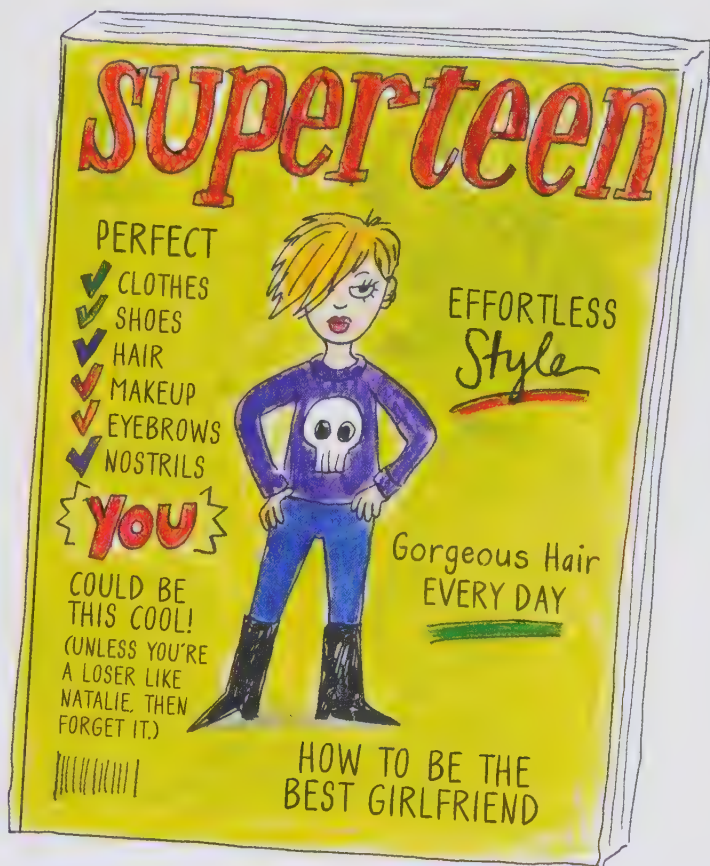


MAGAZINE GIRL

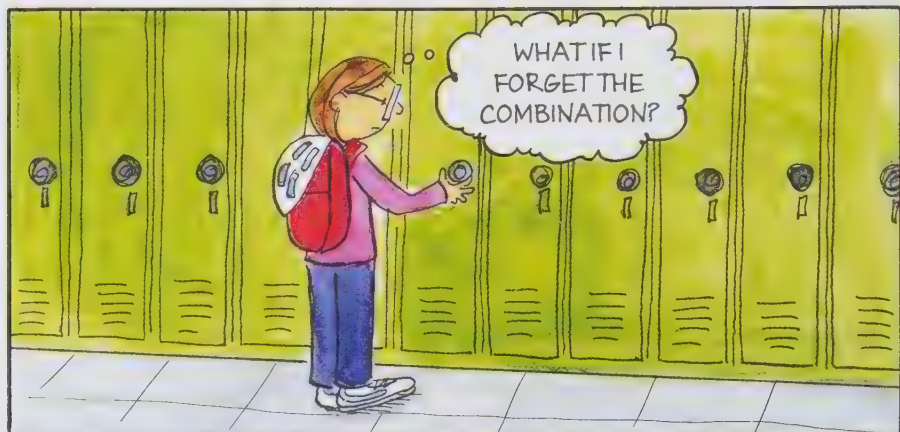


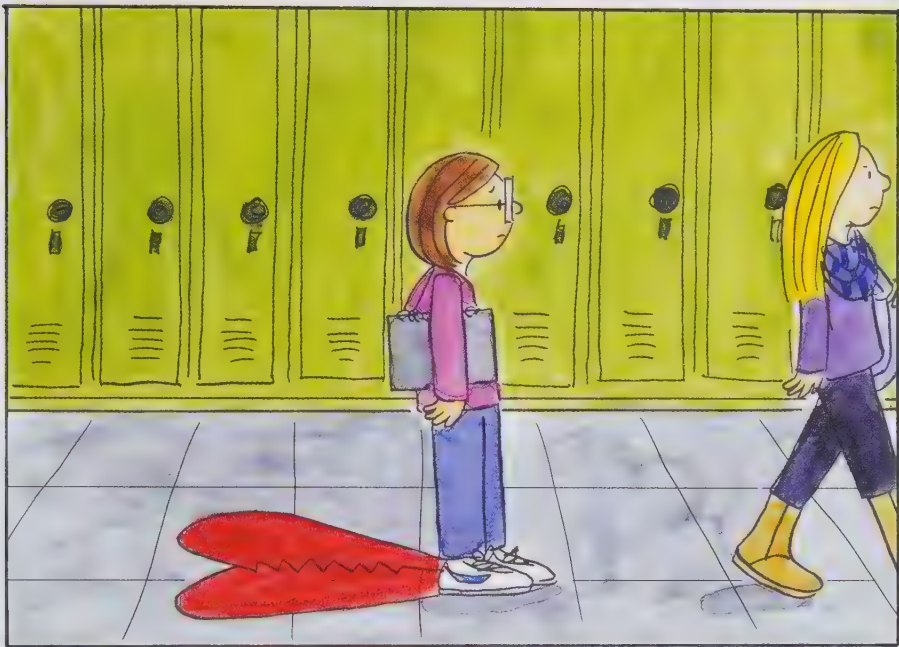
MAGAZINE GIRL HAS HAIR COVERING ONE EYE.
PEOPLE ARE MYSTERIOUS WHEN THEY COVER ONE EYE.

MAGAZINES ARE FUNNY. THEY'RE ALWAYS TELLING PEOPLE HOW TO LOOK AND WHAT TO WEAR AND THINGS THEY SHOULD BE DOING.



MAGAZINES TELL ME THAT MY CLOTHES AREN'T COOL ENOUGH, MY TEETH AREN'T WHITE ENOUGH, MY HAIR ISN'T EDGY ENOUGH, AND MY NOSTRILS AREN'T CUTE ENOUGH. ALSO, I HAVE TOO MANY PORES. (DON'T WE NEED PORES FOR SOMETHING?)





WHAT'S
WITH LILY?

WHY IS SHE
IGNORING ME?

WHAT DID
I DO WRONG?

I FEEL
AWFUL.

I THOUGHT WE
WERE BEST
FRIENDS.

SEE YOU
AT GYM?

DOES THIS HAVE
SOMETHING TO
DO WITH THAT
OTHER GIRL?



CHAPTER 2

HURDLES AND OTHER OBSTACLES



DOG EXERCISES

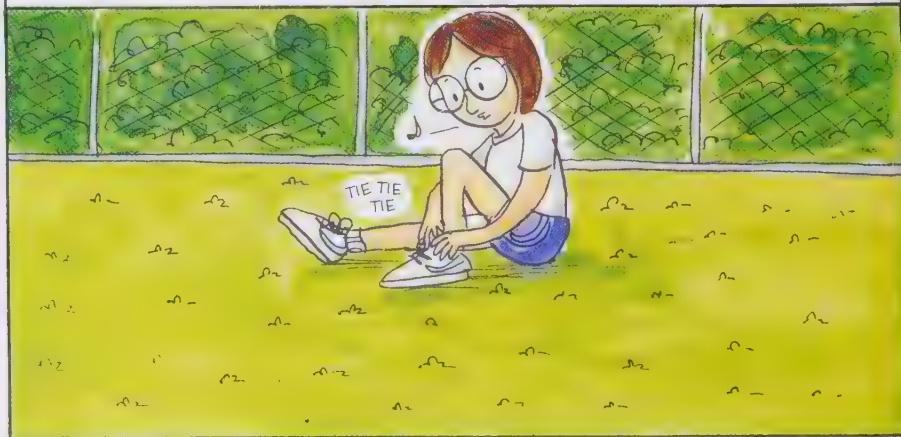


CAT EXERCISES

I HAD TO GO TO GYM CLASS, THE WORST THING EVER.



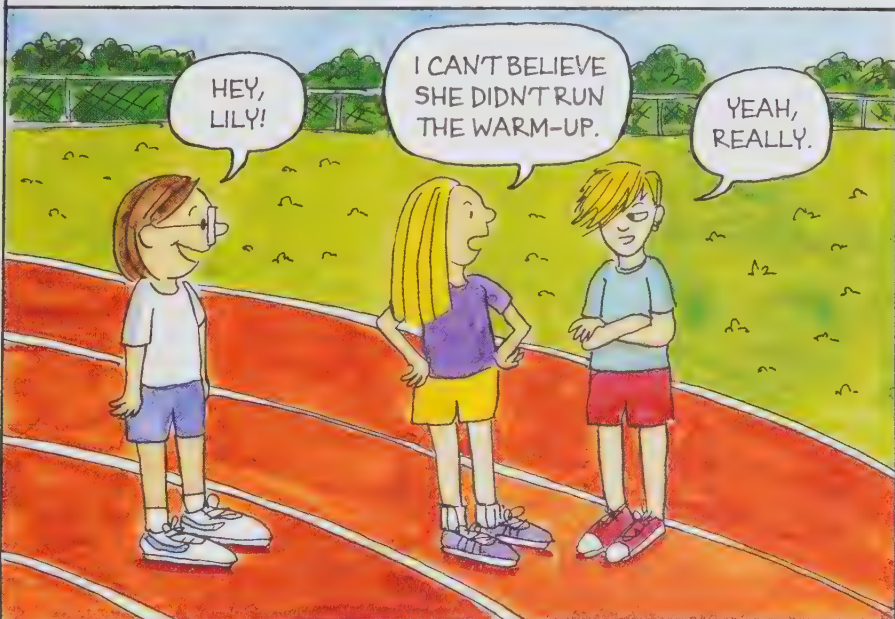
I THOUGHT I COULD AVOID RUNNING IF I TIED MY SHOE FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES, BUT I ONLY ENDED UP MISSING THE WARM-UP.



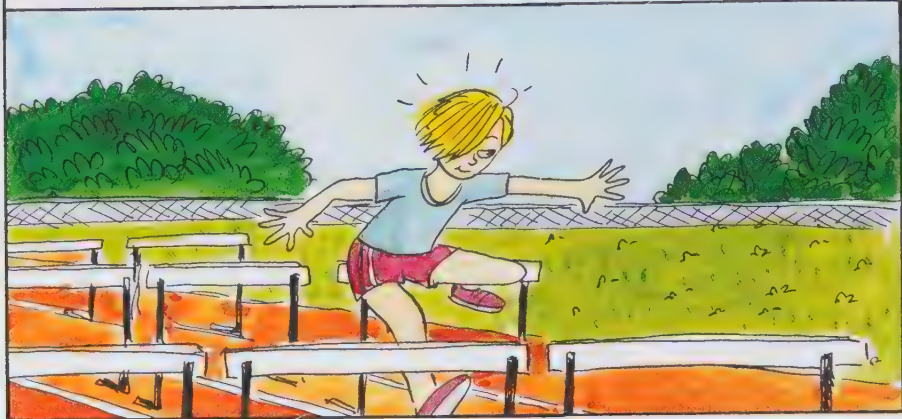
TWO THINGS HAPPENED IN GYM CLASS.
ONE, I SAW THE CUTEST BOY I'D EVER SEEN.



AND TWO, LILY COMPLETELY IGNORED ME.



MAGAZINE GIRL IS A NATURAL ATHLETE.



THE GYM TEACHER WAS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS.

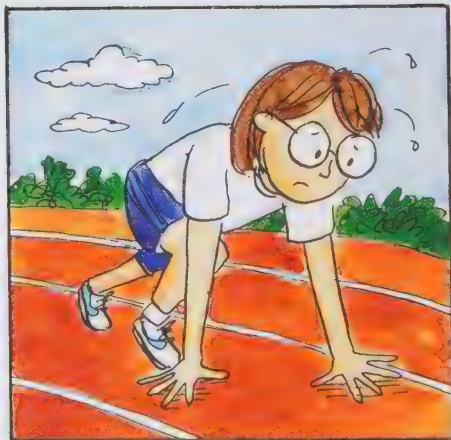
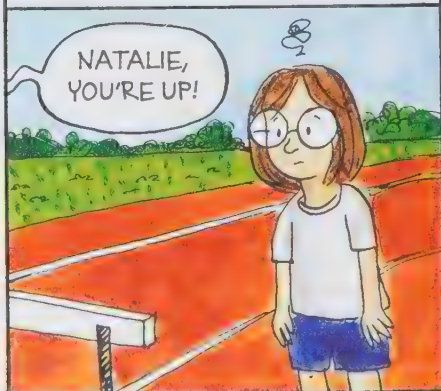


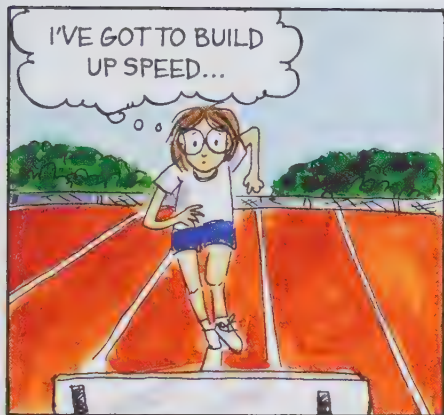
GREAT JOB!
THAT'S A NEW
RECORD!

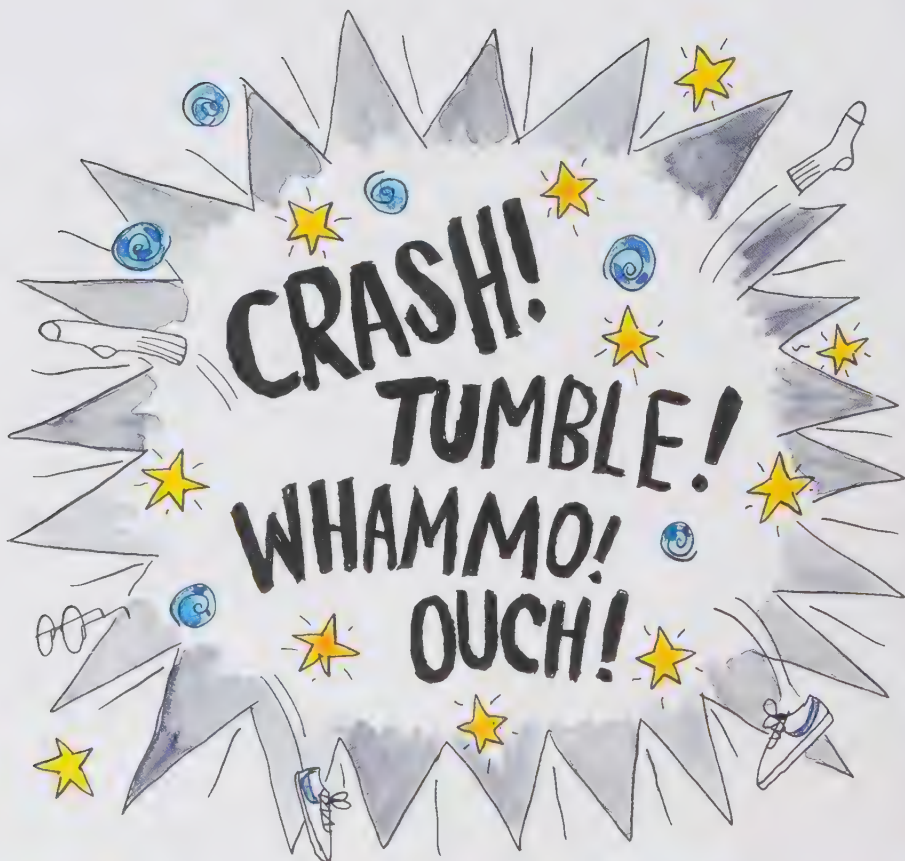


I AM NOT A NATURAL ATHLETE.

NATALIE,
YOU'RE UP!











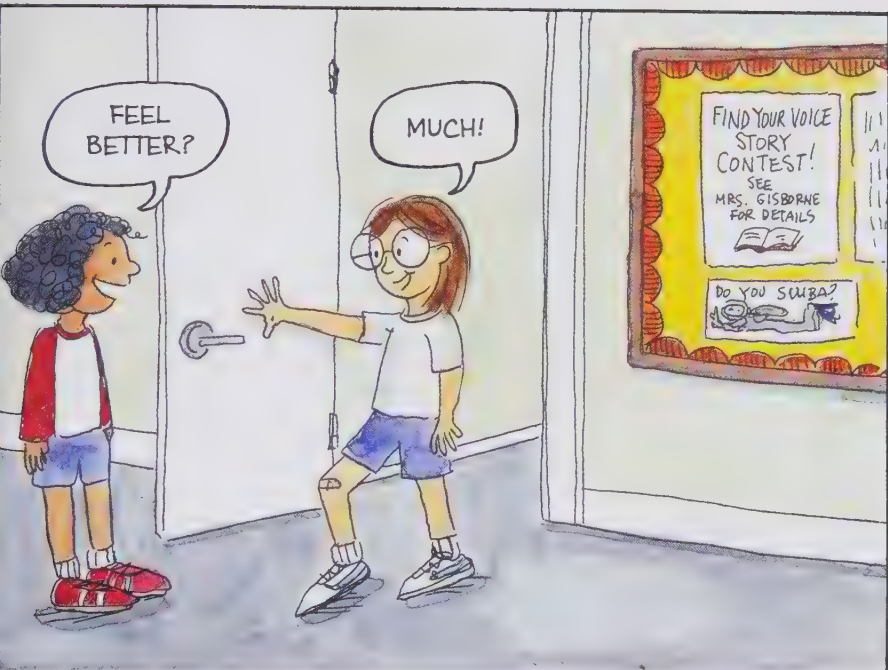
CHAPTER 3

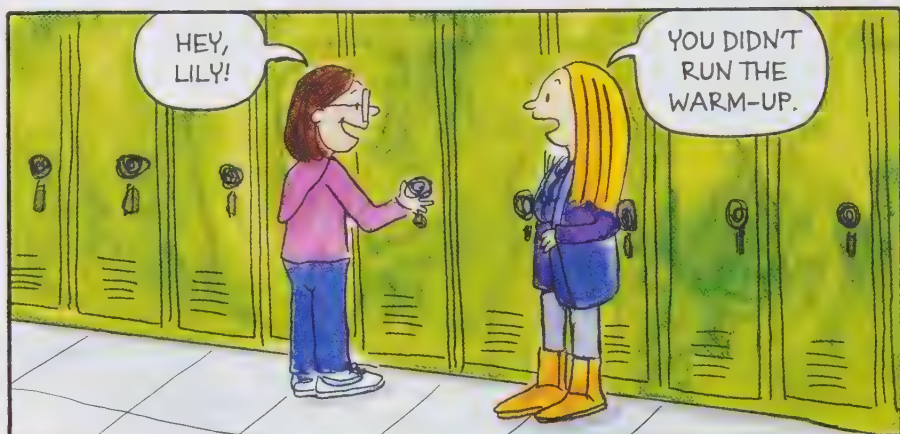
SNOOZEFEST



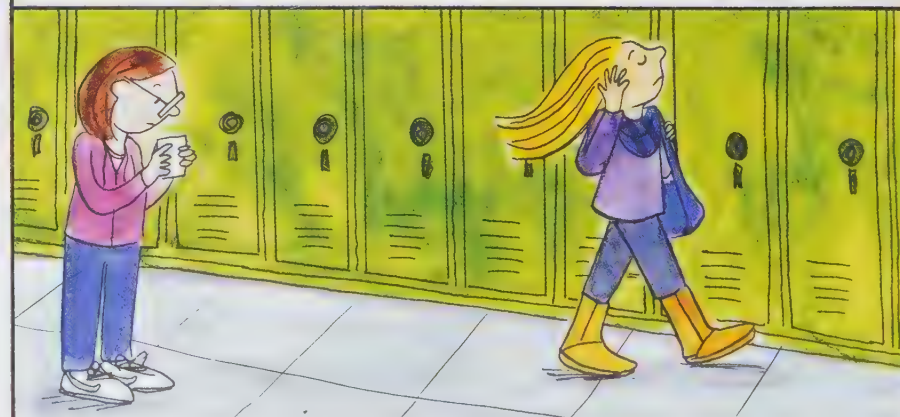
ZOE IS FROM ONE OF THE TWO OTHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THAT FUNNELED INTO MIDWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL.





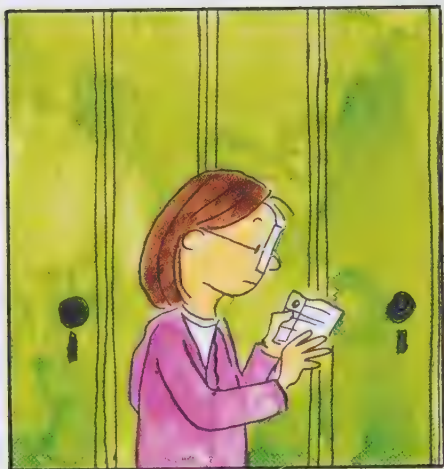


AND WITH A FLIP OF HER HAIR, SHE WAS GONE.



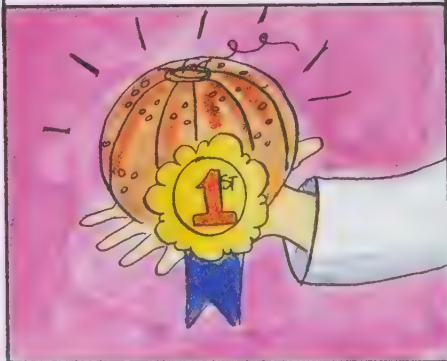


* FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

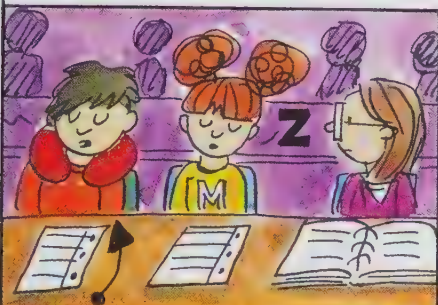


I'M SO NERVOUS, AND MR. KELLY'S LECTURE ISN'T HELPING.

HE WON'T STOP TALKING ABOUT HIS PRIZE MUSKMELON.



THE ENTIRE CLASS WAS
SNOOZING.

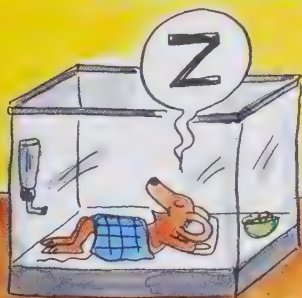


HE WAS SMART TO BRING
A TRAVEL PILLOW

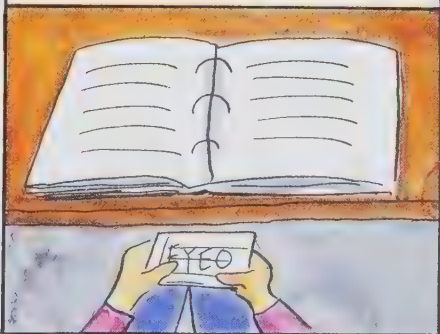
THAT GIRL HAD SO MUCH HAIR
IN HER FACE I COULDN'T TELL
IF SHE'S ASLEEP OR NOT.



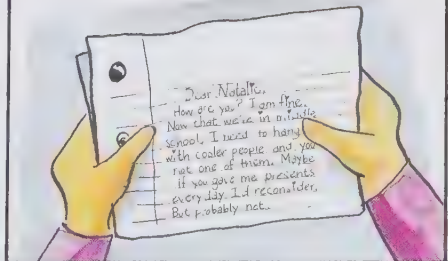
EVEN THE CLASS MOUSE
WAS FAST ASLEEP.



I THOUGHT I COULD SNEAK A PEEK
AT THE NOTE UNDER THE DESK.



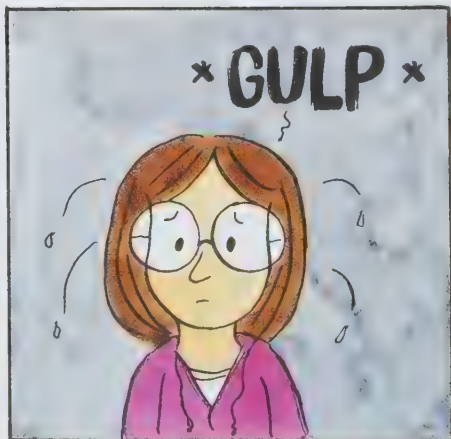
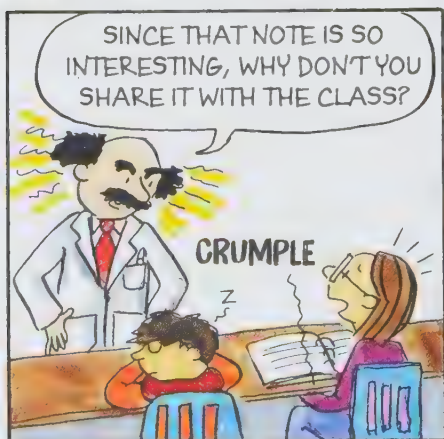
CRINKLE CRINKLE
CRINKLE



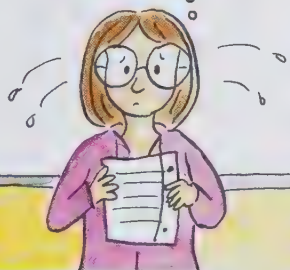
Dear Natalie,
How are you? I am fine.
Now that we're in middle
school, I need to hang out
with cooler people and you're
not one of them. Maybe
if you gave me presents
every day I'd reconsider.
But probably not.

Have a nice life,
LILY

P.S. I'll let you know if I need
help with my homework.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
WORSE: GETTING DUMPED BY
LILY OR TOTAL HUMILIATION.



SUDDENLY EVERYONE WAS
WIDE AWAKE.



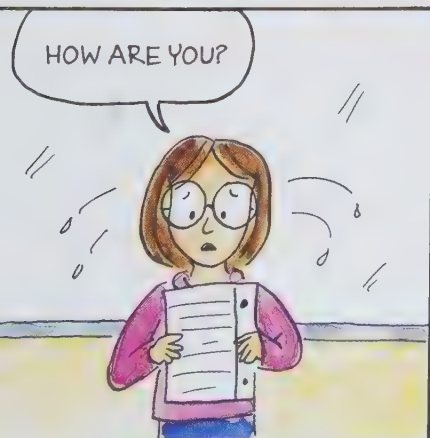
EXCEPT MAYBE THE GIRL WITH
THE HAIR IN HER FACE.



AHEM
DEAR NATALIE,

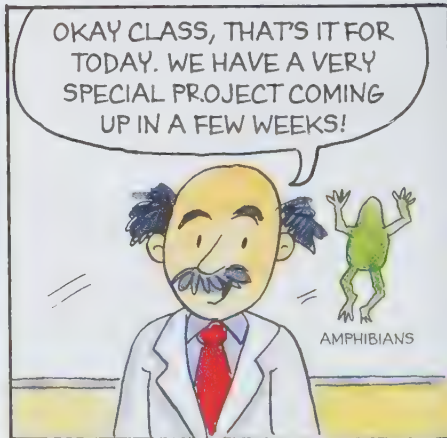
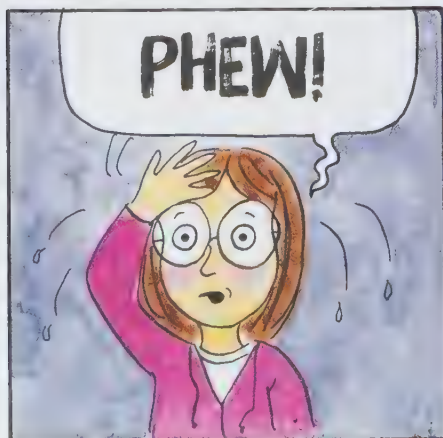


HOW ARE YOU?



I AM FINE...







I MET ZOE FOR LUNCH,
BUT I WASN'T HUNGRY.



SEE FOR
YOURSELF.

WHAT WAS THAT
NOTE ABOUT?



WHO'S
LILY?



SHE'S MY
BEST FRIEND.



SHE SOUNDS
LIKE A WORST
FRIEND.



I'D GIVE YOU
"FRENEMY"
AT BEST.



BUT WE'VE BEEN
BEST FRIENDS SINCE
SECOND GRADE.



WE USED TO DO
EVERYTHING
TOGETHER.



OUCH

SLAM

WE'D HAVE FUN
ON THE SEESAW.

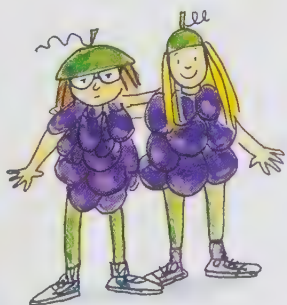
HA
HA!

GRAPE
SODA

GRAPE
JELLY

GRAPE
CANDY

WE HAD A CLUB TOGETHER.
EVERYTHING WAS PURPLE.



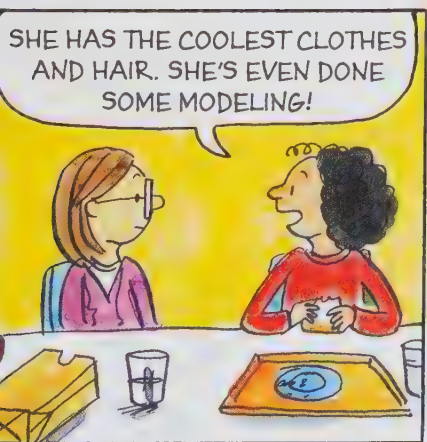
LILY PICKED THE
BEST HALLOWEEN
COSTUMES.

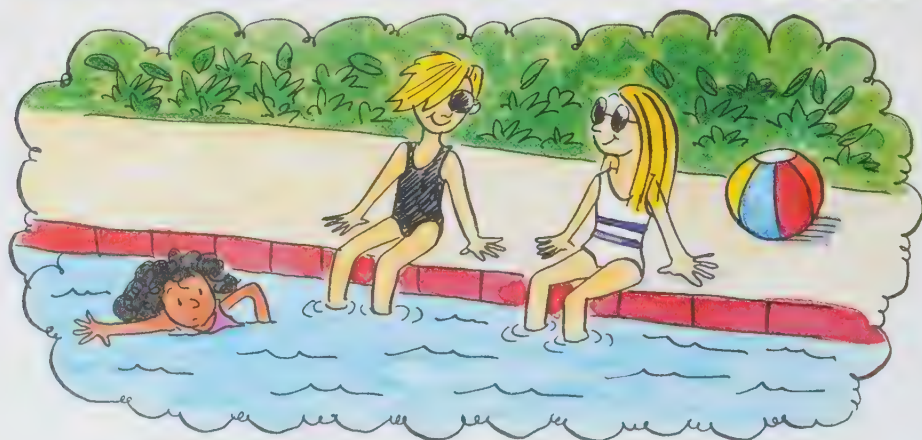


EWWW,
YOU'RE
WEARING
THAT?

SHE WAS ALSO MY
FASHION CONSULTANT.







IT SOUNDS LIKE LILY IS TRYING TO MOVE UP THE FOOD CHAIN.



NO OFFENSE...



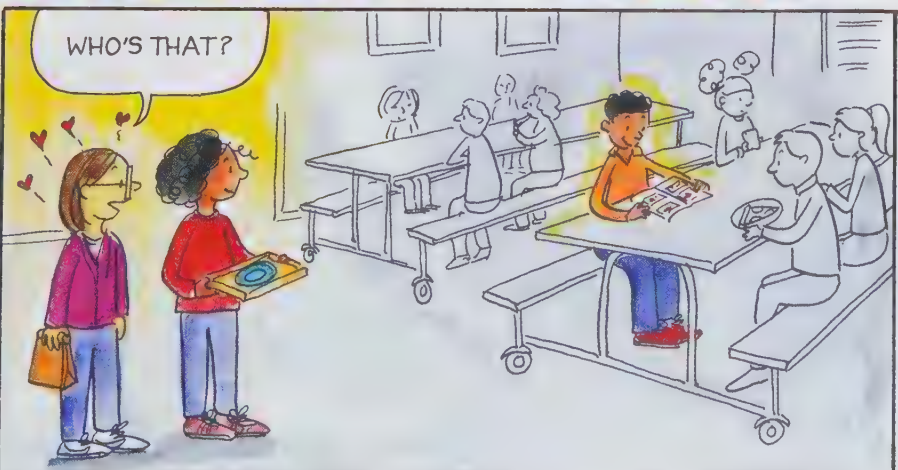
WERE YOU EVER FRIENDS WITH ALEX?



BACK IN FIRST GRADE, BUT I GUESS SHE DIDN'T THINK I WAS COOL ENOUGH, SO SHE STARTED IGNORING ME.



WHO'S THAT?



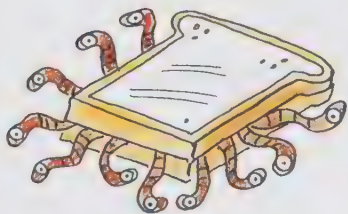


CHAPTER 4

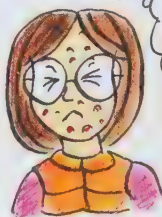
RAINING CATS AND FROGS



THERE ARE PROBABLY WORSE THINGS THAN LOSING
YOUR BEST FRIEND, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANY.



WORM SANDWICHES
(GROSS BUT NOT WORSE)



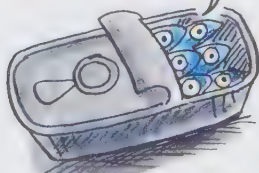
DON'T SCRATCH!
DON'T SCRATCH!
DON'T SCRATCH!

CHICKEN POX
(ITCHY BUT NOT WORSE)

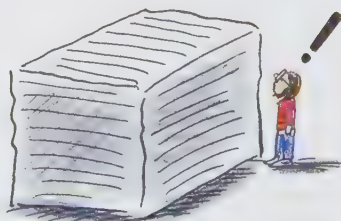


ALIEN ABDUCTION
(WEIRD BUT NOT WORSE)

IS IT CROWDED
IN HERE, OR
IS IT JUST ME?



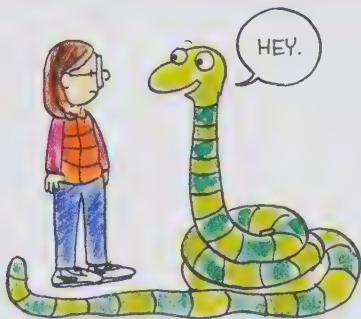
SARDINES
(EWW...STILL NOT WORSE)



HOMEWORK
(BUMMER BUT NOT WORSE)



QUICKSAND
(MESSY BUT NOT WORSE)



GIANT PYTHONS
(SCARY BUT NOT WORSE)

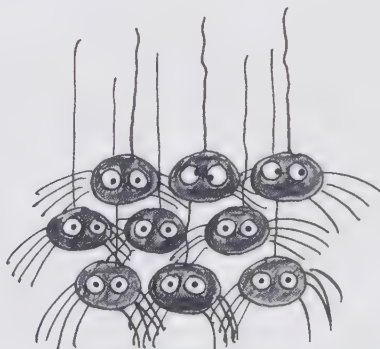
YIKES!



GETTING CHASED BY A GHOST
(CREEPY BUT NOT WORSE)

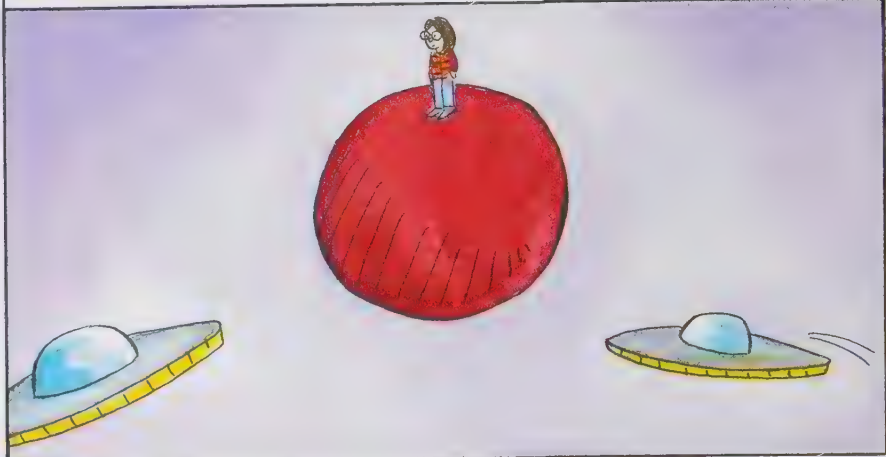
REPORT CARD	
MATH	F
SCIENCE	F
ENGLISH	F
ART	F
GYM	F
BREATHING	F
	F

FAILED REPORT CARD
(BAD BUT NOT WORSE)



LOTS OF SPIDERS
(ALMOST WORSE)

I MIGHT AS WELL GET ABDUCTED BY ALIENS IF
I DON'T HAVE A BEST FRIEND ANYMORE.

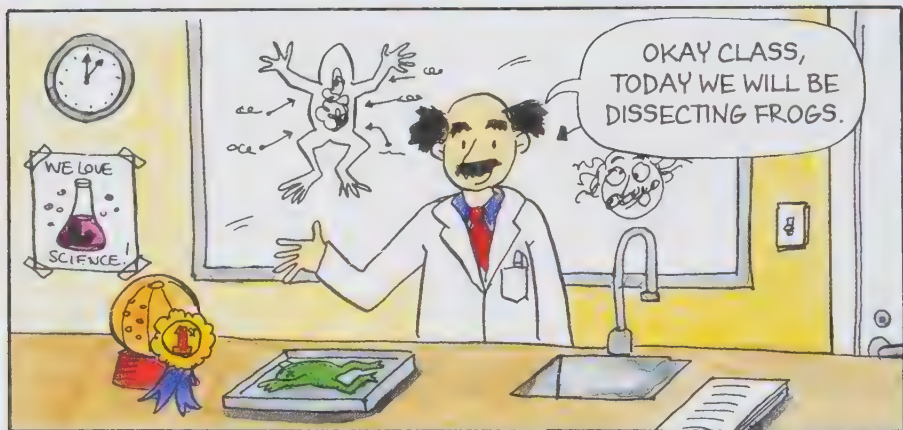




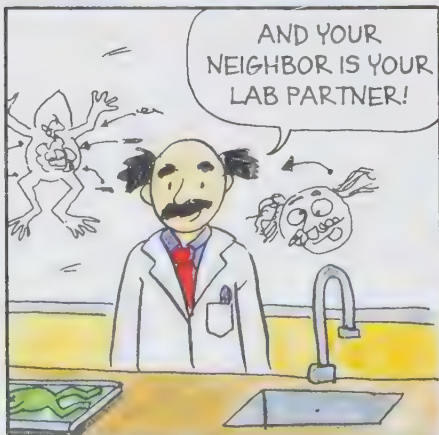
A FEW WEEKS LATER IN
SCIENCE CLASS...



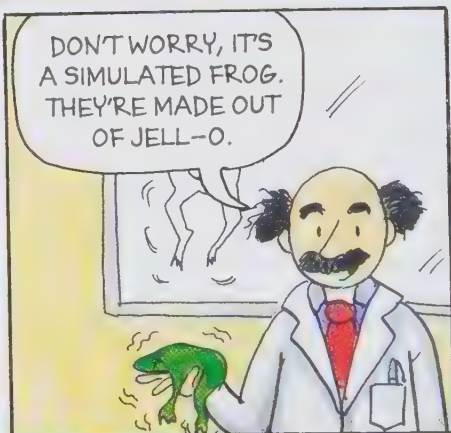
A VERY SMILEY GIRL SAT
NEXT TO ME. TOO SMILEY.



AND YOUR
NEIGHBOR IS YOUR
LAB PARTNER!









MY MOM WAS PRETTY UPSET
ABOUT US DISSECTING REAL
FROGS, SO SHE MADE THEM
OUT OF JELL-O. BUT THERE
WAS ONE PROBLEM...





THE STORE RAN OUT OF LIME JELL-O, SO MY MOM HAD TO MAKE THEM ALL OUT OF DIFFERENT FLAVORS, WHICH WAS WEIRD, BUT AT LEAST THEY SMELLED PRETTY GOOD.



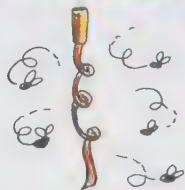


I WAS TOO BUSY DOODLING TO EVEN THINK ABOUT CUTTING INTO THE FROG, EVEN IF IT WAS MADE OUT OF JELL-O.



IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT I'M BEING PUBLICLY HUMILIATED BY LILY,
AND NOW I HAVE MILLIE FLATBOTTOM AS A LAB PARTNER.

STUCK UP
(LIKE FLYPAPER)



BOSSY

PHONY
(NOT THAT PHONE)



FAKE SMILE



ALWAYS FORGETS
MY NAME

(NELLIE)
(NAOMI)
(NANCY)
(NINCOMPOOP)

THINKS SHE'S
BETTER THAN
EVERYONE ELSE



SHE'S NOT A
CHEERLEADER, SHE JUST
LIKES THE "M" FOR
"MILLIE"

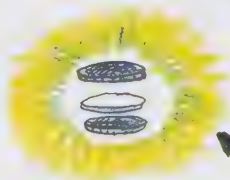
AND

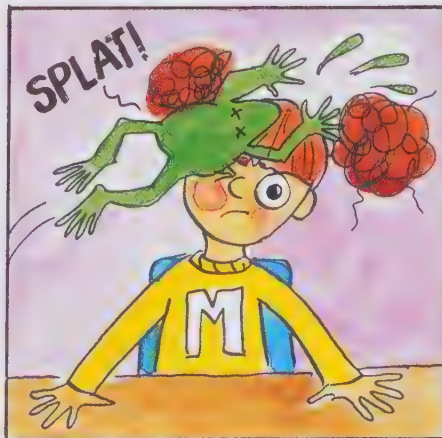
"ME"

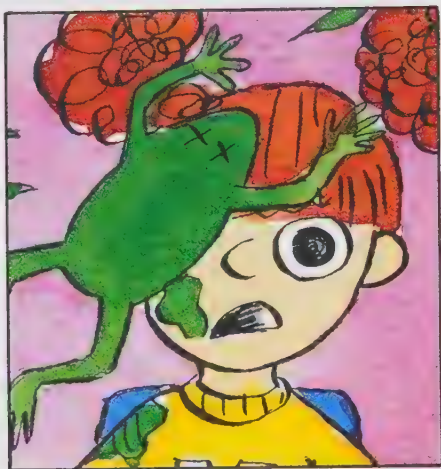
OVERLY
DRAMATIC



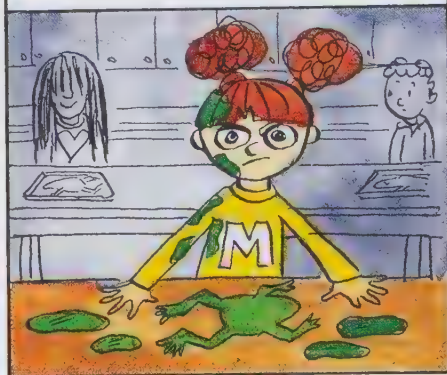
EATS THE CREAM
OUT OF OREOS AND PUTS
THE COOKIE BACK
TOGETHER







A LIME FROG HIT MILLIE
IN THE FACE...

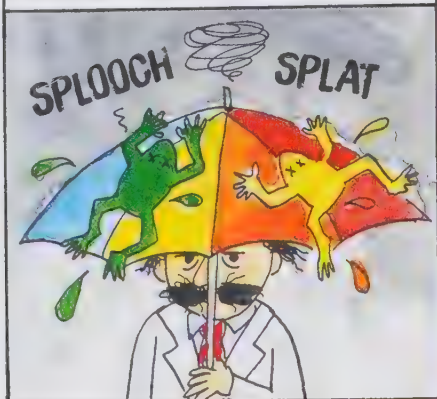


...AND CHAOS BROKE OUT, LEAVING JUICY, SQUISHY,
FRUIT-FLAVORED JELL-O FROGS EVERYWHERE.





MR. KELLY WAS PRETTY UPSET.



AND HE WAS ABOUT TO GET EVEN MORE UPSET.

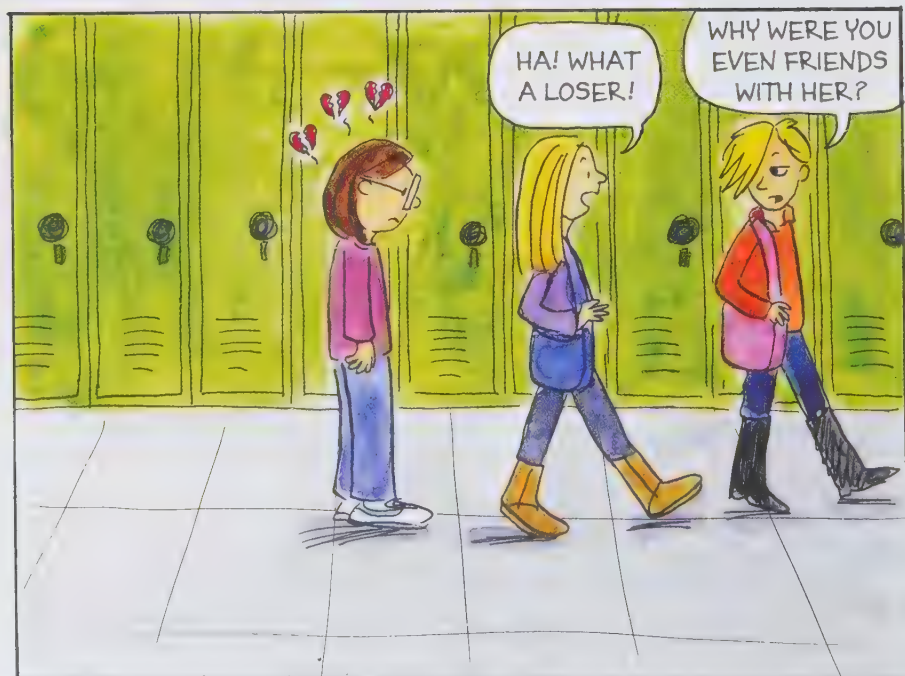
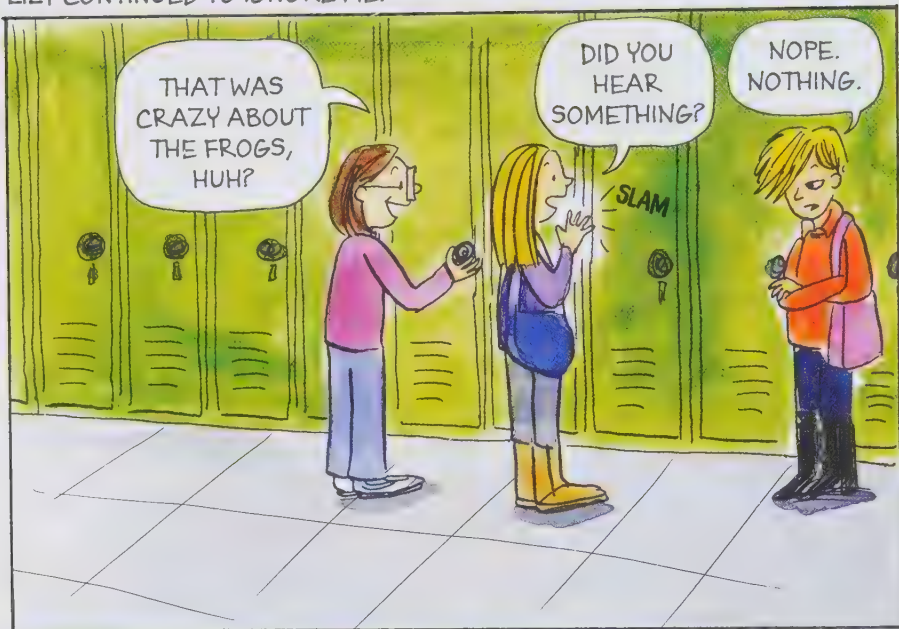


THE GIRL WITH HAIR IN HER FACE ACCIDENTALLY CUT INTO HIS PRIZE MUSKMELON.

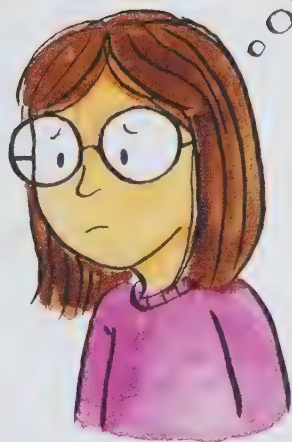




LILY CONTINUED TO IGNORE ME.

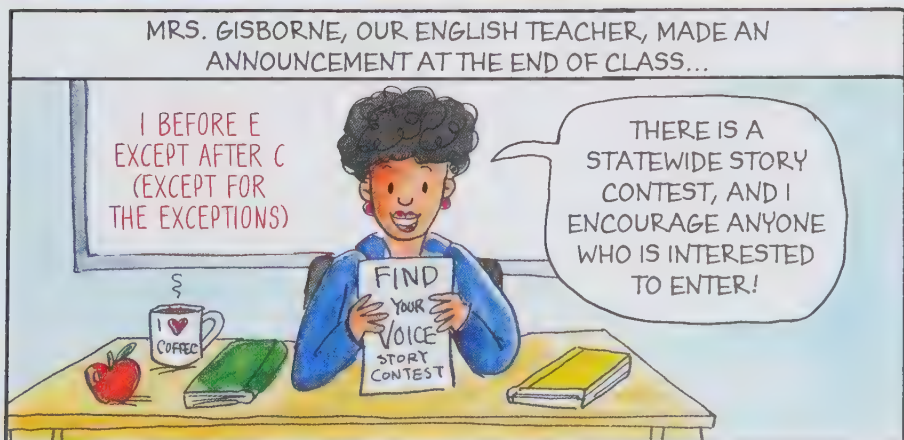


I AM SO LONELY WITOUT LILY.



LATER IN ENGLISH CLASS, ZOE COULD TELL I WAS UPSET.





I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED PRETTY COOL UNTIL LILY CHIMED IN.



SOUNDS LIKE A NERD FEST.



I CAN'T KEEP DOING NERDY THINGS IF I WANT TO GET LILY BACK.





JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THINGS COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE...







NATALIE IS
A DOGGGG!
NATALIE IS
A DOGGGG!

WOOF
WOOF
WOOF



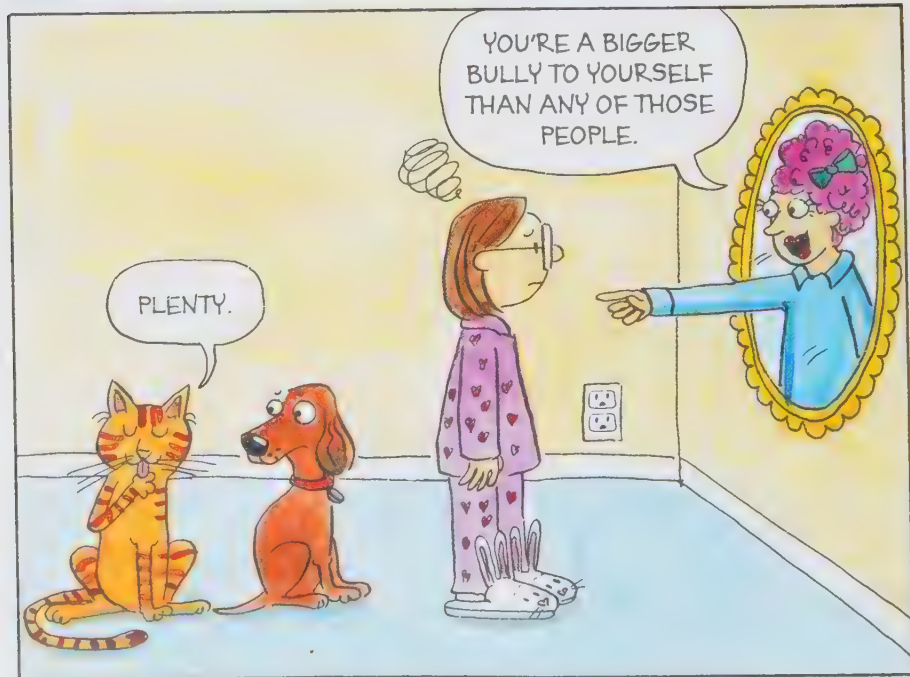
HA HA HA!
WOOF! WOOF!
WOOF!



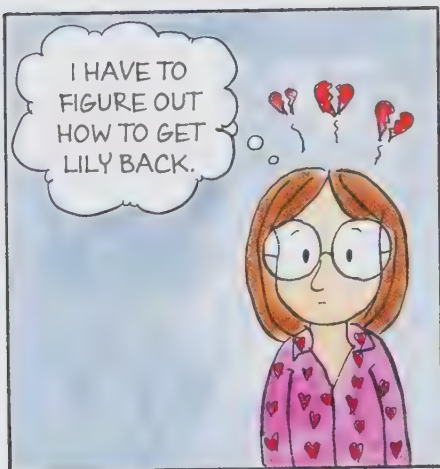
AND THAT'S HOW I MET SHAWN DREARY,
WHO WOULD BARK AT ME ANY CHANCE HE'D GET.











CHAPTER 5 HATS OFF

WHEN THEY SAID,
"LET'S GET A CONE," I
THOUGHT THEY MEANT
SOMETHING ELSE.



OPERATION: GET LILY BACK

STEP 1: LOOK COOLER



OPERATION: GET LILY BACK

STEP 2: DO COOLER THINGS



BECOME A CHEERLEADER



OPERATION: GET LILY BACK

STEP 3: HANG OUT WITH COOLER PEOPLE

SEE YOU LATER
AT FIELD HOCKEY?

YOU
KNOW IT!



OPERATION: GET LILY BACK

STEP 4: GROVEL

HEY, LILY! I DID ALL
YOUR HOMEWORK FOR
THE YEAR AND GOT YOU
PRESENTS, JUST LIKE
YOU ASKED.

AFTER THIS, I'LL
GO CLEAN YOUR
ROOM.

WOW,
NATALIE,
YOU'RE THE
BEST!



I'M SO GLAD
WE'RE BEST
FRIENDS AGAIN!

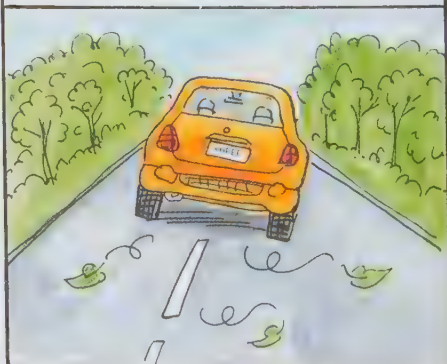
I STARTED "OPERATION GET LILY BACK" BY TRYING TO LOOK COOLER. THE MODEL ON THE COVER OF MY MOM'S MAGAZINE HAD A REALLY COOL HAT. I WAS SURE IF I HAD A HAT LIKE THAT, I'D LOOK COOL, TOO.



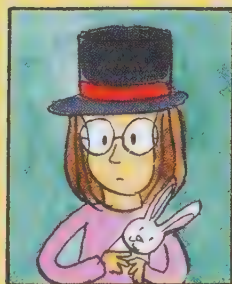
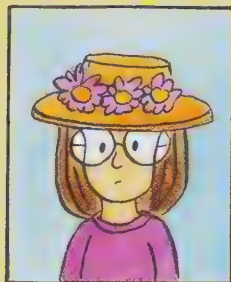
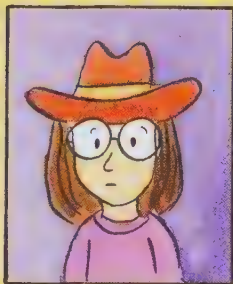
I BEGGED MY MOM FOR AN ADVANCE ON MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT.



SHE AGREED, AND WE WENT TO THE MALL SO I COULD FIND THE PERFECT HAT.



I TRIED ON ALL KINDS OF HATS.

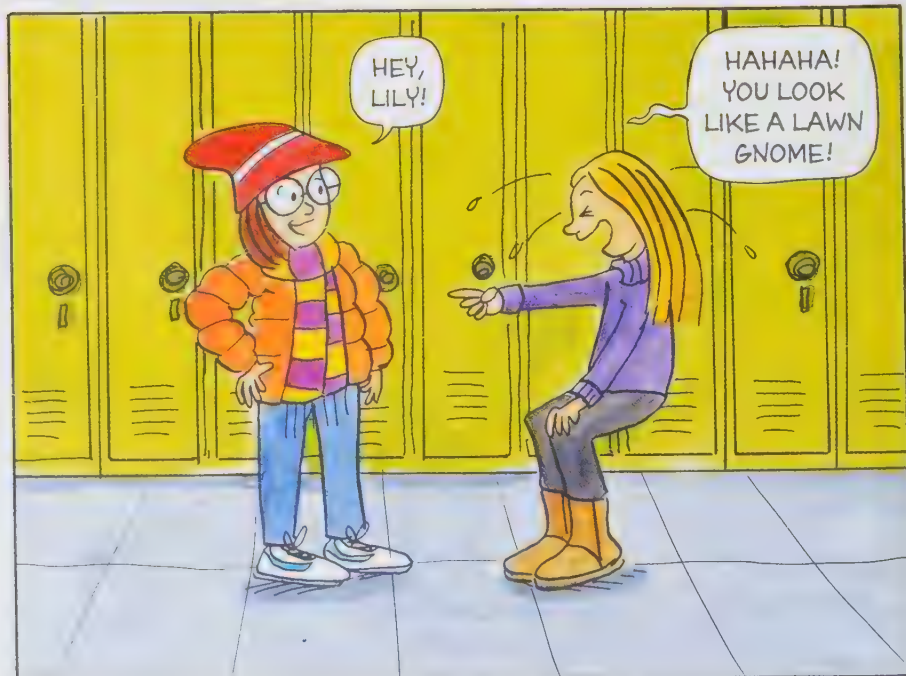


YOU CAN'T GET ANY MORE GLAMOROUS THAN THIS!





THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL, I WAITED BY MY LOCKER
IN MY NEW HAT FOR LILY TO SHOW UP.



HEY,
LILY!

HAHAHA!
YOU LOOK
LIKE A LAWN
GNOME!





THAT WAS NOT THE REACTION
I WAS LOOKING FOR.

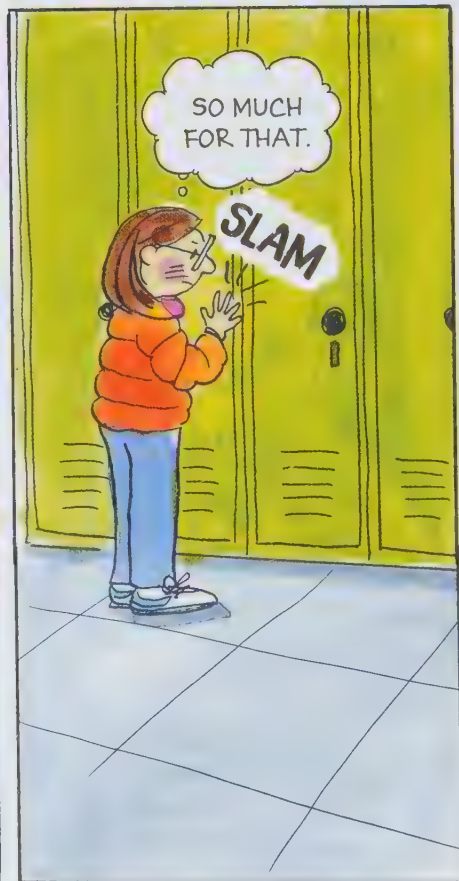


STUPID
HAT.



SO MUCH
FOR THAT.

SLAM



CHAPTER 6

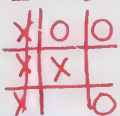
CUPID STRIKES AGAIN



I HAD A HARD TIME LOOKING COOL IN MATH CLASS WHEN MR. SAKE CALLED ME TO LEAVE CLASS EARLY.

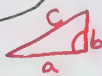
$$\pi = 3.14 \text{ or } \text{pie}$$

$$E=mc^2$$



ALL ALP* STUDENTS, IT'S TIME TO GO!

$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$$



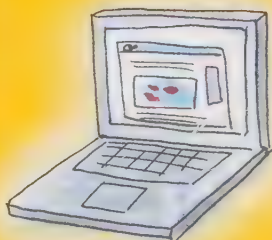
IF THINGS DON'T ADD UP



YOU MIGHT NEED A MATH TUTOR

*ADVANCED LEARNING PROGRAM

TWICE A WEEK I GO TO MY ALP CLASS WHERE WE LEARN ALL KINDS OF STUFF.



COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

HOLA!

BONJOUR!

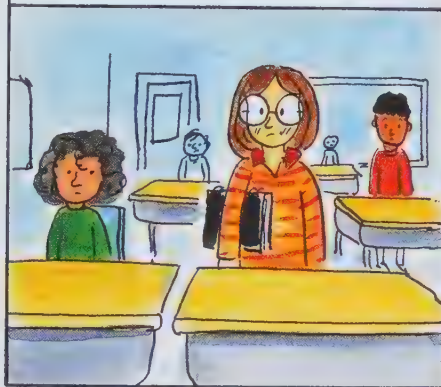
你好

LANGUAGES



AND I'M DOING AN INDEPENDENT STUDY IN CARTOONING.

A FEW OTHER STUDENTS
LEAVE, TOO.



BUT I FEEL LIKE EVERYONE
IS STARING AT ME.



LILY DOESN'T THINK IT'S COOL...

YOU'RE IN ALP?
EWWW! THAT'S
SO NERDY!



IT'S MY FAVORITE CLASS...



I'M SO EXCITED TO SEE DEREK LEAVE FOR ALP, TOO.



MAYBE NOW I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM.







THE MORE I GET TO KNOW DEREK, THE BIGGER MY CRUSH GETS...



ZOE WAITED FOR ME
AFTER CLASS.

I HAVE
THE BEST
IDEA!

WHY DON'T YOU COME TO
BALLROOM DANCING
WITH ME?

LILY AND ALEX WILL BE
THERE. AND DEREK.

DEREK??? I MEAN,
DEREK? SO...?

IT'S SO OBVIOUS YOU
LIKE HIM! IT'S WRITTEN
ALL OVER YOUR FACE.

IT IS?





I WASN'T SURE ABOUT BALLROOM DANCING. BUT IF LILY WILL BE THERE, IT MUST BE COOL. MAYBE IT WILL MAKE ME COOLER TO BE THERE, TOO.



CHAPTER 7

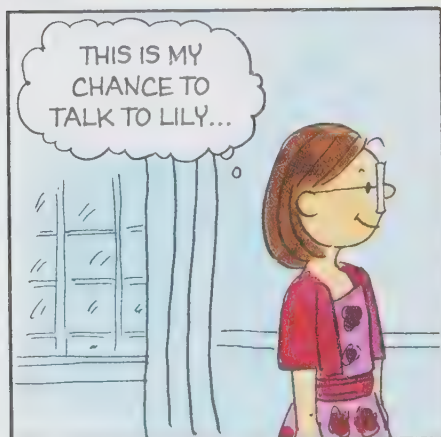
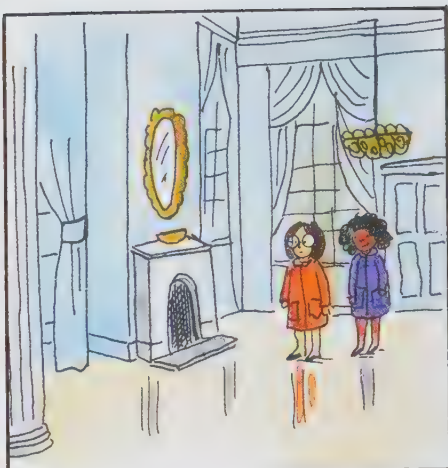
DANCE

(BUT EVERYONE IS WATCHING)

I SHOULD WARN
YOU, I HAVE FOUR
LEFT FEET.

SIGH







SUDDENLY I FELT VERY SMALL .



ALL THE KIDS HAD TO LINE UP ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ROOM TO BE MATCHED UP WITH A PARTNER. I STOOD RIGHT ACROSS FROM DEREK.

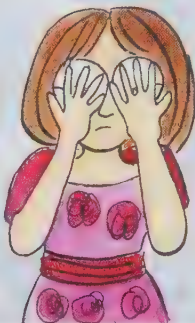


THE INSTRUCTOR KNEW WE'D
STAND NEAR THE PARTNER WE
WANTED, SO SHE SAID:

YOUR PARTNER
IS THE PERSON
DIAGONAL
FROM YOU!



I HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT
THIS. I WAS AFRAID TO LOOK...



IT WAS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.
IT WAS HIM. SHAWN DREARY!



EEK!



IN THIS LESSON,
YOU ARE GOING TO
DANCE WITH A
BALLOON BETWEEN
YOUR HEADS.



THIS WILL HELP
WITH YOUR
POISE AND
POSTURE.



I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAS WORSE: GETTING IGNORED BY LILY OR HAVING TO DANCE WITH SHAWN. I THINK IT'S A TIE.



LILY GOT TO DANCE WITH DEREK.

YOU'RE DOING
IT WRONG!



ZOE GOT STUCK WITH ALEX.

NOT
YOU.

NOT
YOU.



THE GIRL WITH HAIR IN HER FACE ENDED
UP DANCING WITH A COATRACK.

YOU REALLY NEED
TO LOOSEN UP.



BALLROOM DANCING WASN'T FUN...FOR ANYONE. AND I'M
PRETTY SURE I DIDN'T GET ANY CLOSER TO GETTING LILY BACK.



CHAPTER 8

SING LIKE NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU

ARRROOOOOO!



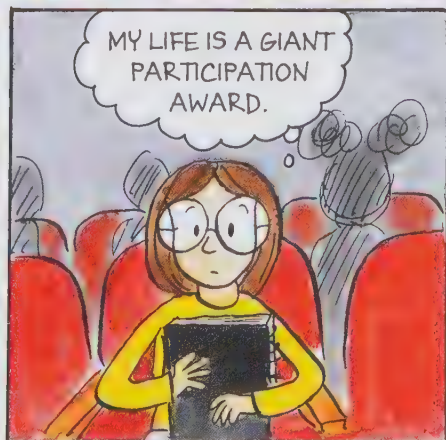
HOLD
ON...



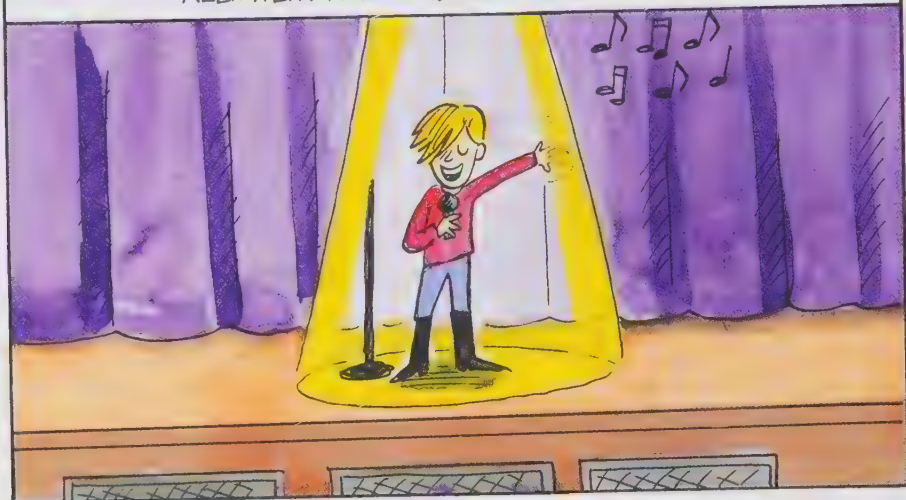
OKAY, GO
AHEAD.



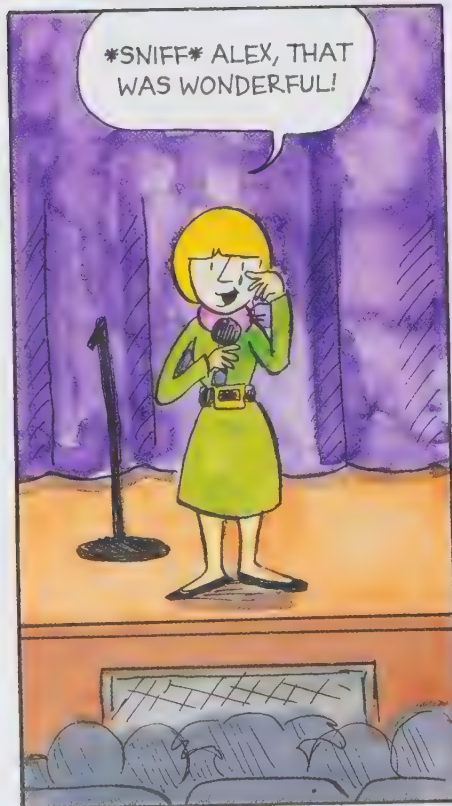




ALEX WENT FIRST AND COMPLETELY NAILED IT.



SNIFF ALEX, THAT
WAS WONDERFUL!



IF MRS. BELLEVILLE GUSHES
ANY MORE ABOUT ALEX, HER
HEAD IS GOING TO EXPLODE.

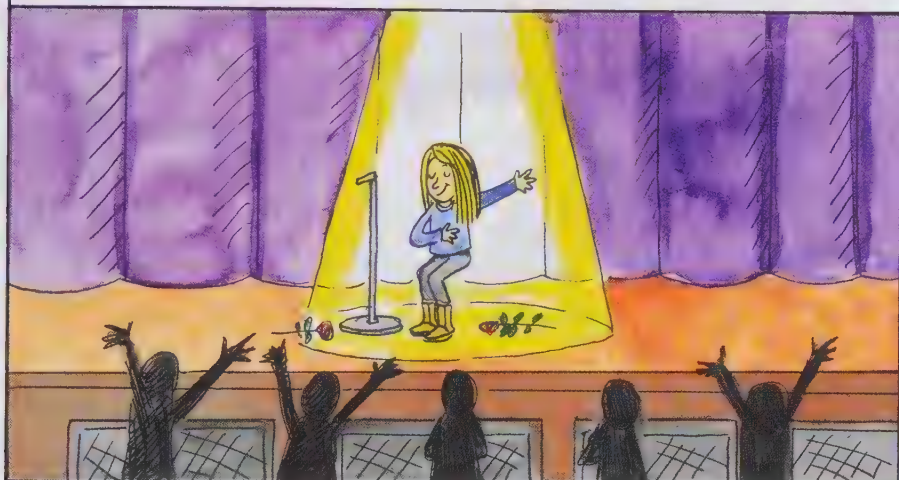


MRS. BELLEVILLE
OR ALEX?

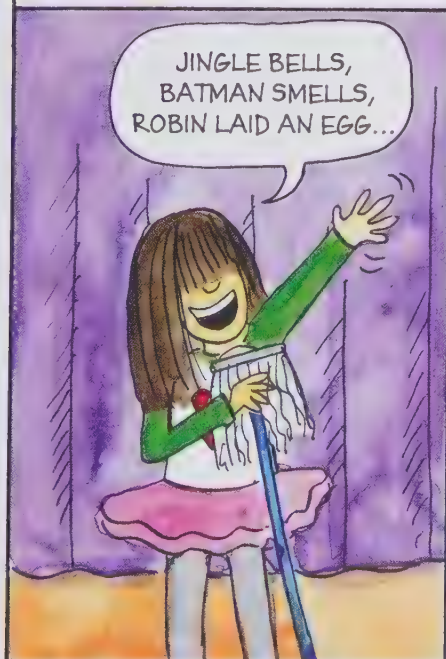
BOTH.



LILY WAS SO GOOD SHE GOT A STANDING OVATION, AND SOMEONE THREW FLOWERS ONSTAGE DURING HER AUDITION!

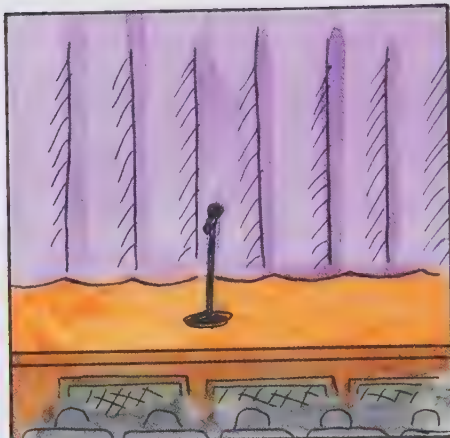
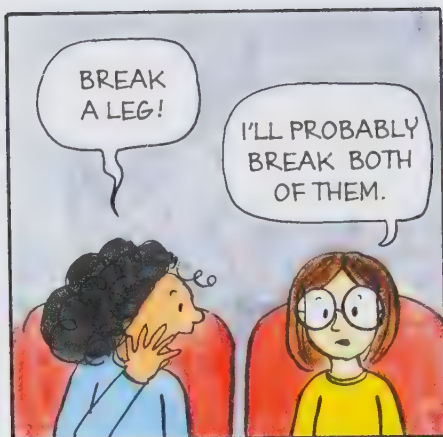


THE GIRL WITH HAIR IN HER FACE
COULDN'T FIND THE MICROPHONE
AND SANG INTO A MOP.



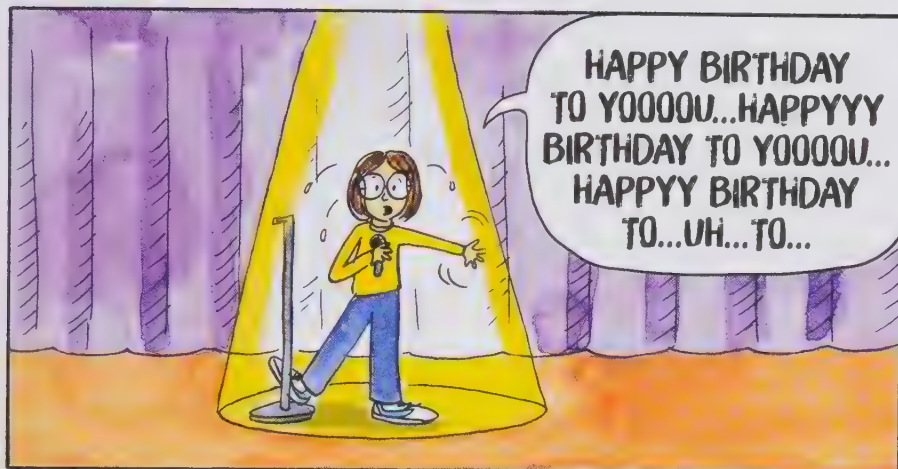
AHEM! NEXT UP,
WE HAVE NATALIE!





THE ONLY SONG I KNOW ALL THE WORDS TO IS "HAPPY BIRTHDAY," BUT I USUALLY SING IT WITH A WHOLE GROUP OF PEOPLE AND CAN GET AWAY WITH MOUTHING THE WORDS LIKE I DO IN CHORUS.







SANTA
CLAUS?!?

WHY DID I
SAY THAT?

DOES HE
EVEN HAVE
A BIRTHDAY?

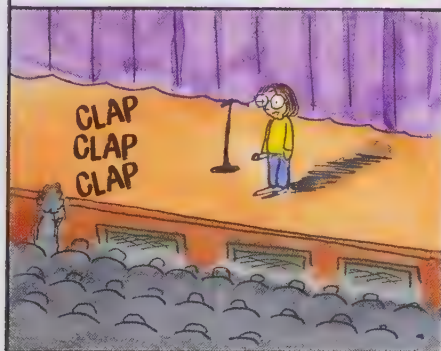
FIRST THERE WERE CRICKETS...



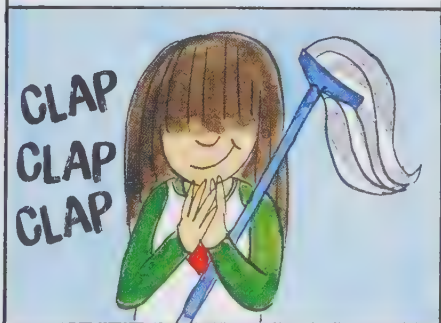
AND THEN THE WHOLE ROOM
BROKE OUT IN LAUGHTER. I DON'T
KNOW WHICH WAS WORSE.



ZOE STOOD UP AND CLAPPED FOR
ME, BUT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE.



WELL, SO DID THE GIRL WITH
HAIR IN HER FACE, BUT SHE
CLAPPED FOR EVERYONE.

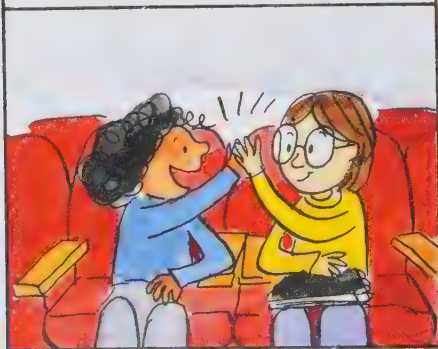


I WANTED TO CRAWL INTO A HOLE.





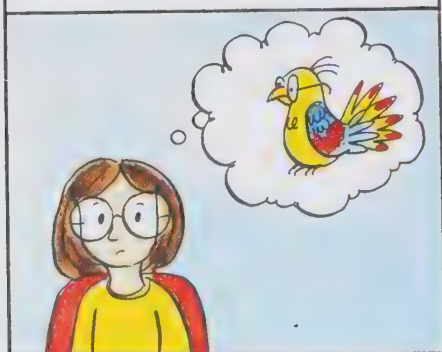
ZOE AND I GOT TO BE BACKUP DANCING ANIMALS.



THE GIRL WITH HAIR IN HER FACE GOT TO BE A TREE.



MRS. BELLEVILLE ASKED ME TO BE A PARROT.



THAT'S GOING TO BE A FUN COSTUME TO MAKE!



CHAPTER 9

COSTUMES, PLEASE

I THINK THE OTHER DOGS
ARE LAUGHING AT ME
WHEN I WEAR THIS.



BECAUSE
THEY ARE!



I WAS SO EXCITED TO DESIGN MY PARROT COSTUME!



BLUE, RED, AND YELLOW FEATHERS SEWN ON TO A BLACK LEOTARD,
HAT WITH DETACHABLE BEAK, ORANGE TIGHTS, AND SNEAKERS

I HELPED ZOE DESIGN HER PENGUIN COSTUME, TOO.



BLACK PANTS, BLACK SHIRT, WHITE BIB,
WHITE HAT, ORANGE BEAK, AND SNEAKERS

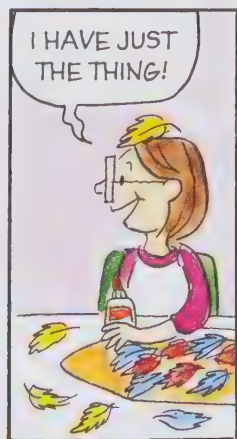
A FEW WEEKS LATER, ZOE CAME OVER AFTER SCHOOL TO WORK ON OUR COSTUMES.

HERE'S A
COSTUME DESIGN
I MADE FOR YOU!



THANKS, NATALIE,
THIS IS AMAZING!
I LOVE IT!





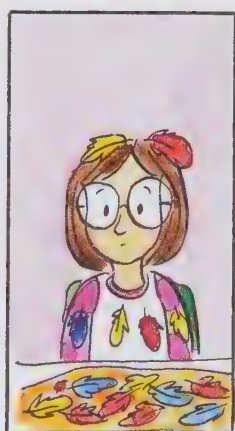
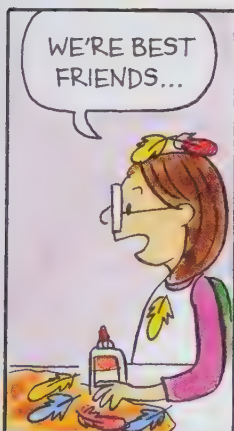
I FOUND THESE PAINT PENS IN
THE GARAGE. THEY WILL BE
PERFECT FOR MY FACE PAINT!



ARE YOU SURE YOU
CAN USE THOSE ON
YOUR FACE?

I CAN'T SEE
WHY NOT!

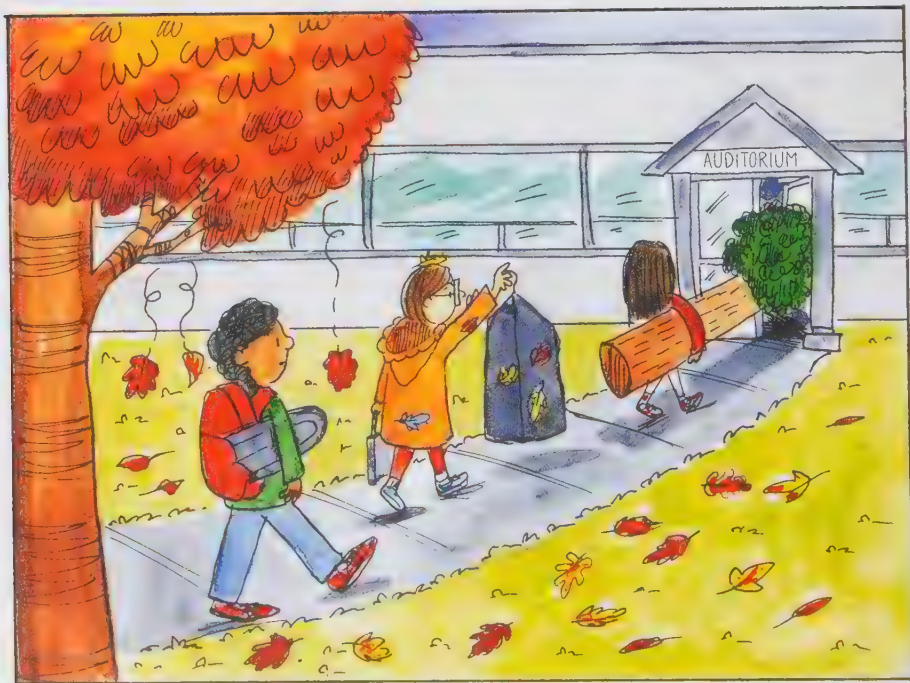




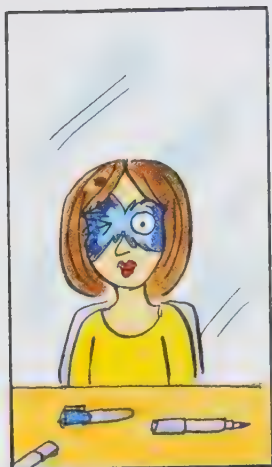


CHAPTER 10 SHOWSTOPPER

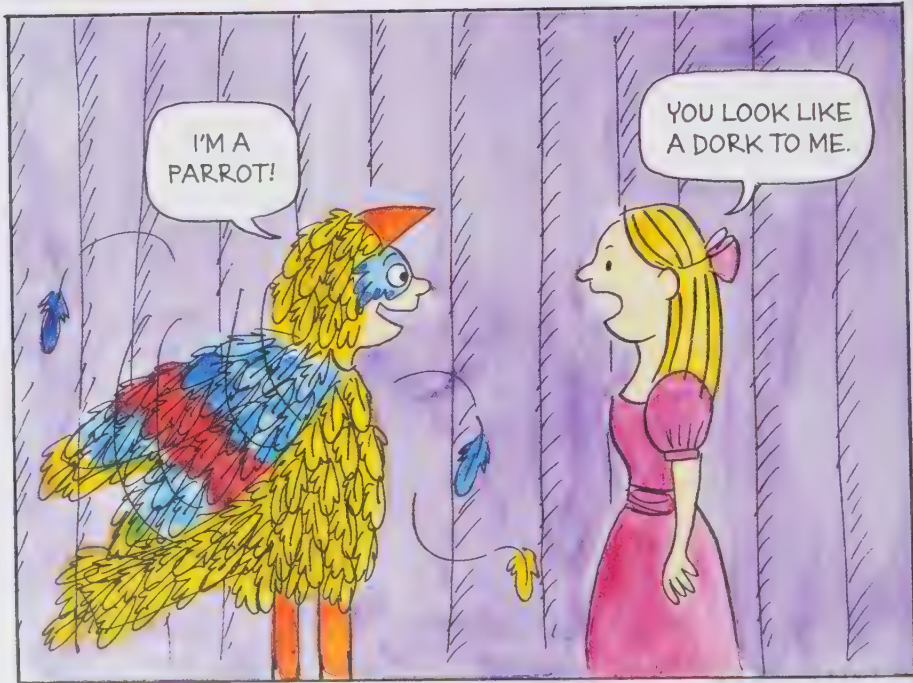
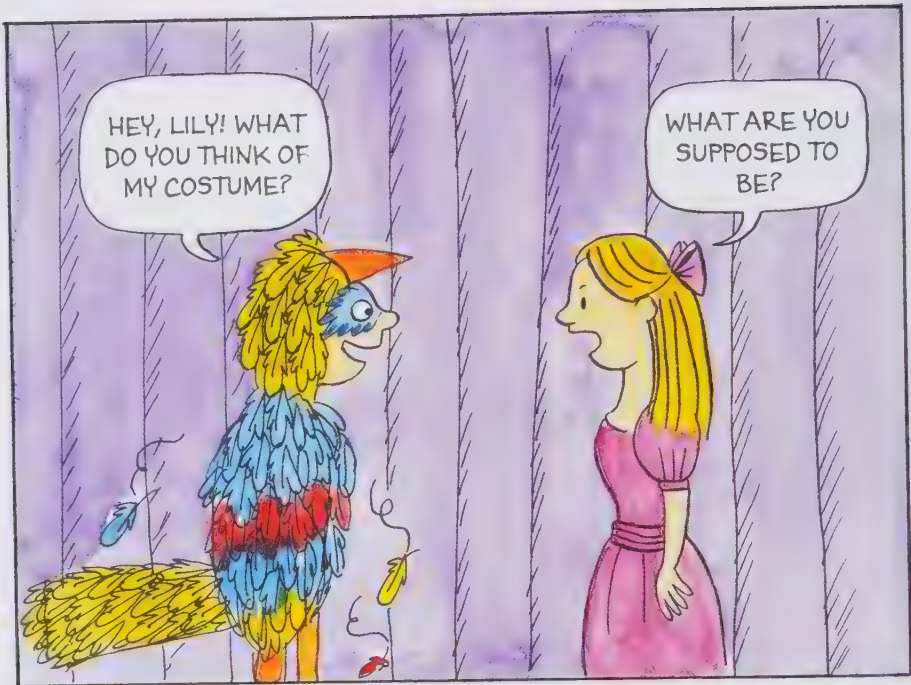






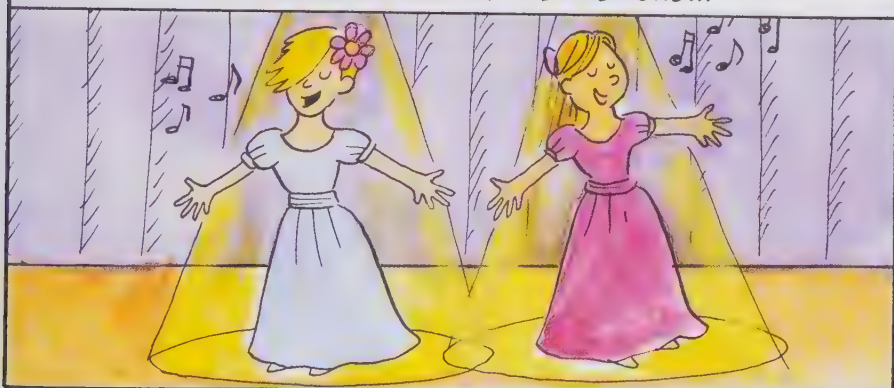








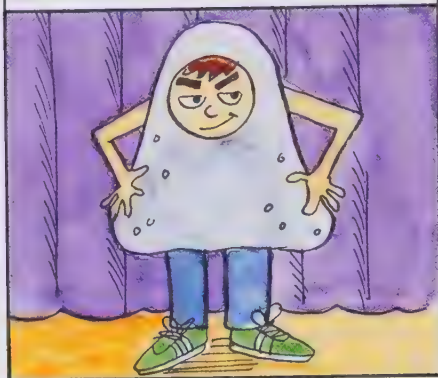
LILY AND ALEX SANG THE OPENING SONG...



WHILE WE WAITED BACKSTAGE FOR OUR TURN.



SHAWN WAS DRESSED
AS A ROCK...



...AND INSISTED ON
SITTING BEHIND ME.



DEREK WAS AN ADORABLE
FROG, BUT HE DIDN'T THINK SO.



THIS IS SO
EMBARRASSING!

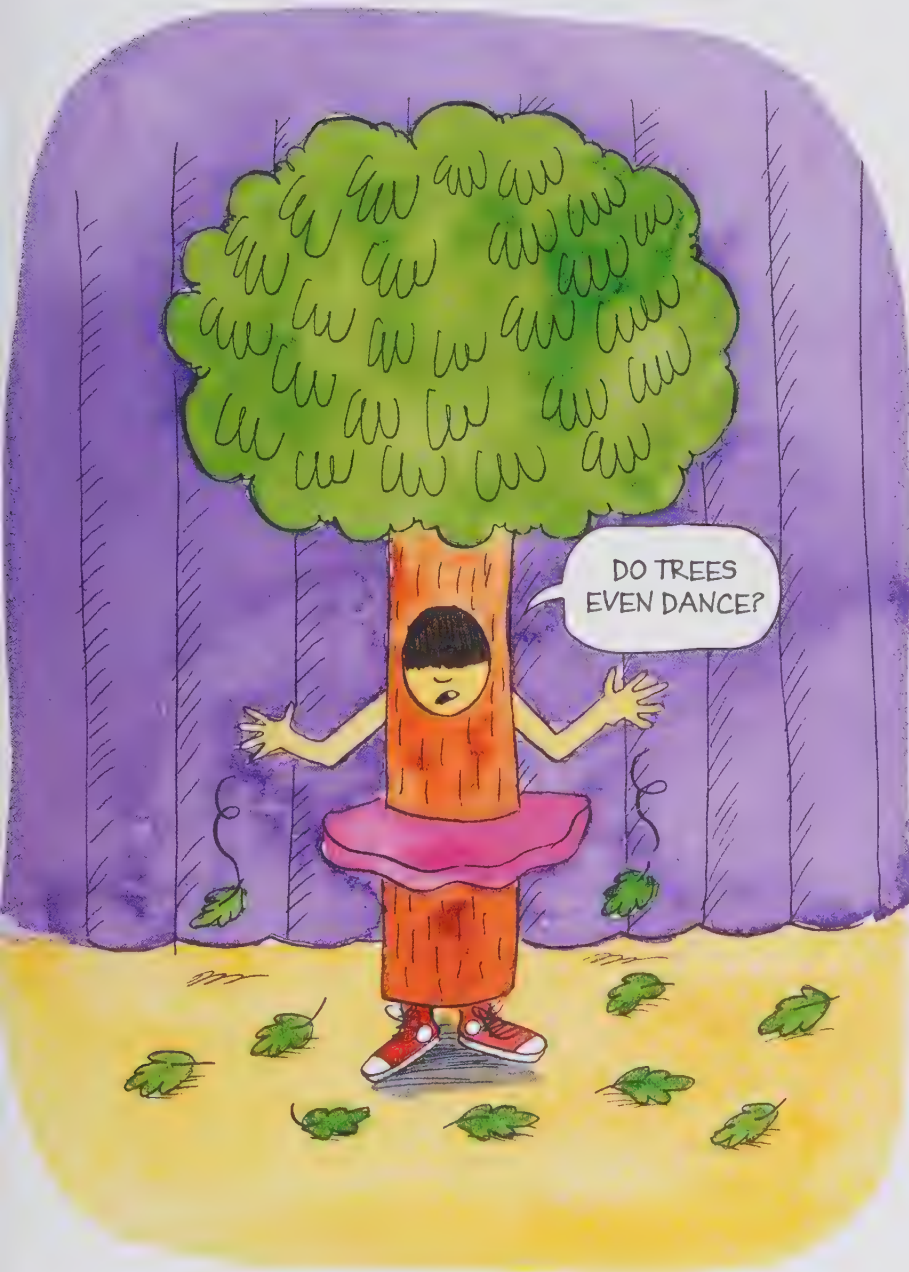


HOW AM I SUPPOSED
TO DANCE IN
FLIPPERS?

FLIP FLOP FLIP FLOP



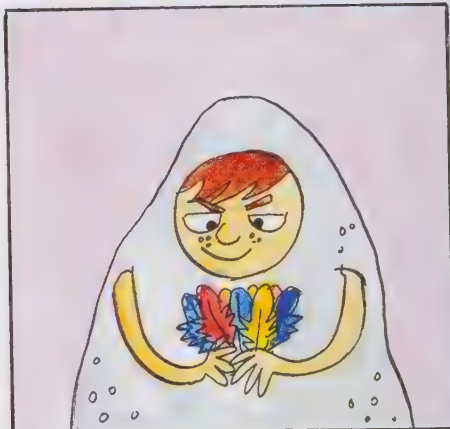
AND THE GIRL WITH HAIR IN HER FACE HAD
A HARD TIME MOVING AROUND AS A TREE.



WE WAITED FOR OUR CUE.



PLUCK



PLACES,
EVERYONE!

THAT'S
US!



MAYBE I SHOULD
HAVE WORN MY
GLASSES.



I GOT TO WALK BEHIND DEREK.



EVERYTHING WAS GOING PRETTY WELL UNTIL WE STARTED DANCING.





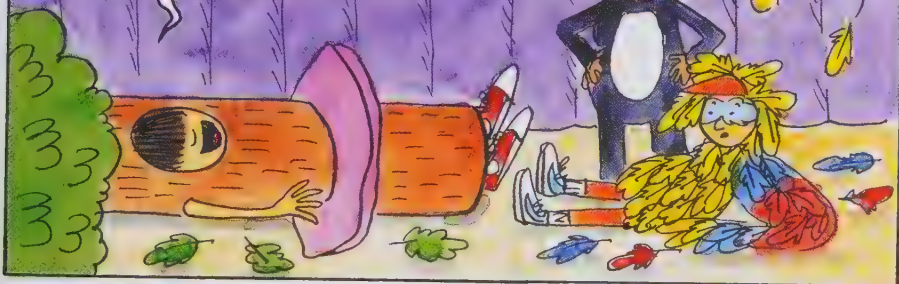
WE WERE ALL HAVING A GREAT TIME UNTIL...







BWAHAHAHAHA!



HAHAHA!

I'M SO
EMBARRASSED!

PLUCK!



ARE YOU
KIDDING?

THAT WAS THE
BEST THING TO
HAPPEN IN THE
ENTIRE SHOW!

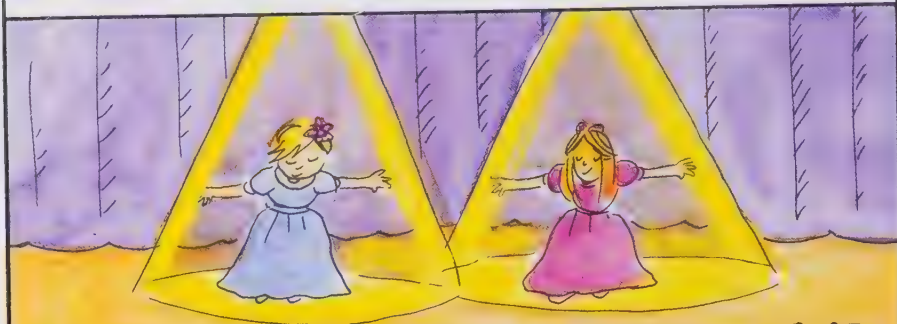




AND THAT'S HOW I MET "THE GIRL WITH
HAIR IN HER FACE," ALSO KNOWN AS FLO.



LILY AND ALEX SANG THE ENCORE AND BOWED.



CLAP

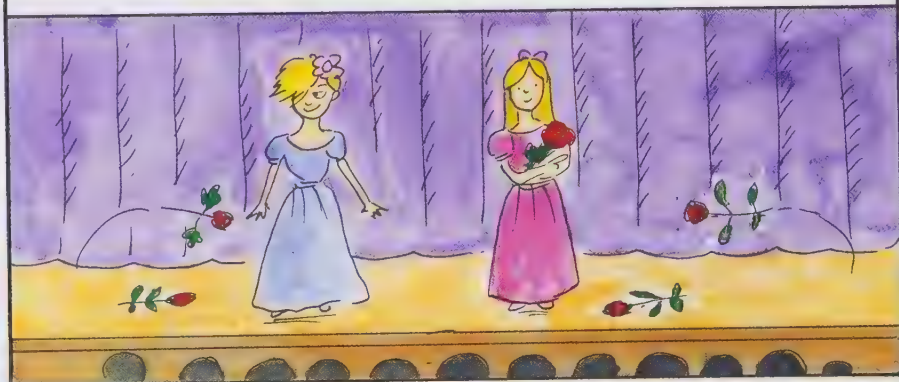
CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

THEY GOT A STANDING OVATION.

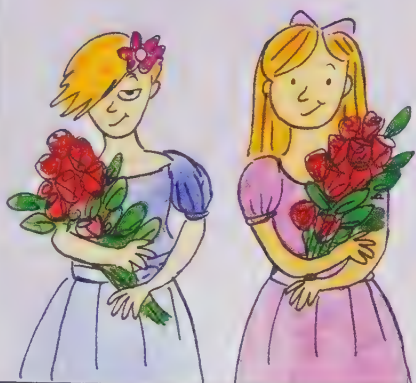


WE ALSO TOOK A BOW, AND THE AUDIENCE ROARED!

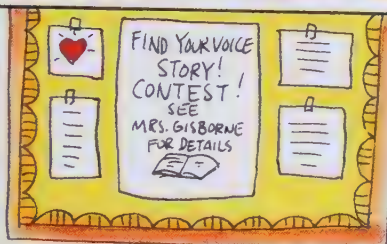


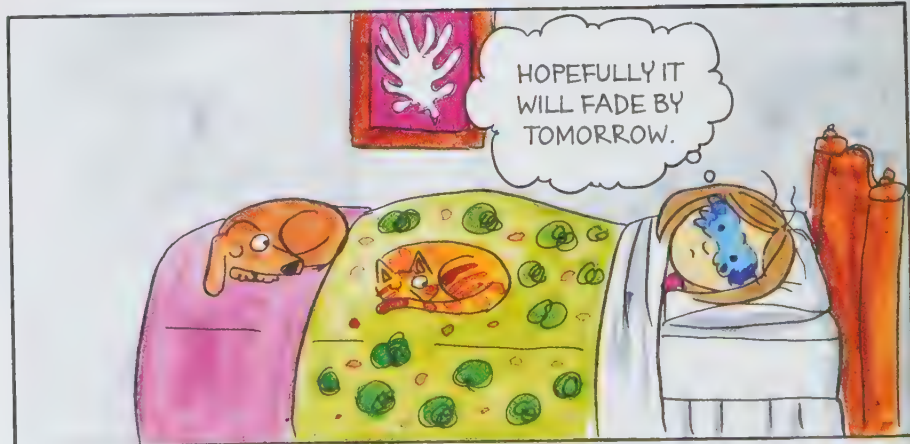
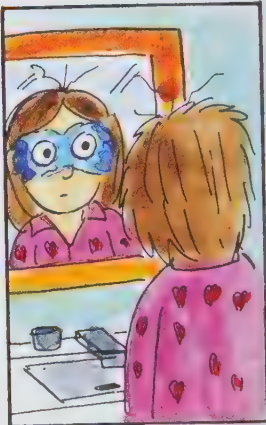
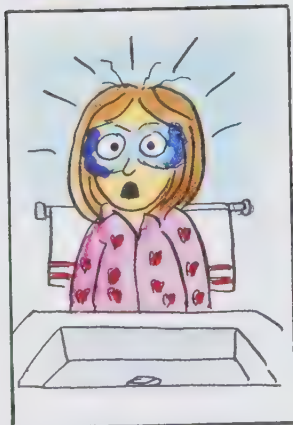
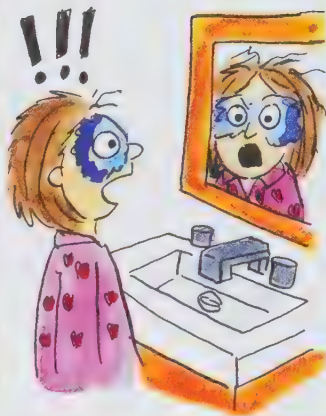
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

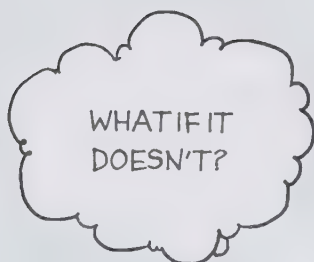
LILY AND ALEX GOT
BOUQUETS OF FLOWERS...



AND I GOT A BOUQUET
OF FEATHERS.









CHAPTER 11

SMOKE AND MIRRORS

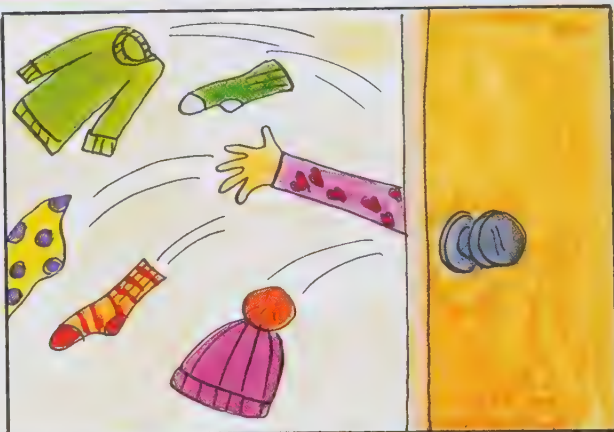
MIRROR, MIRROR,
ON THE WALL,
WHO'S THE...



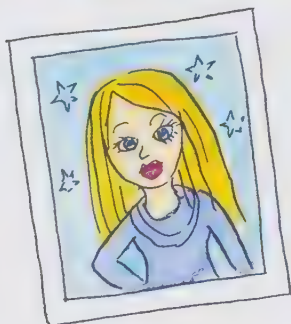
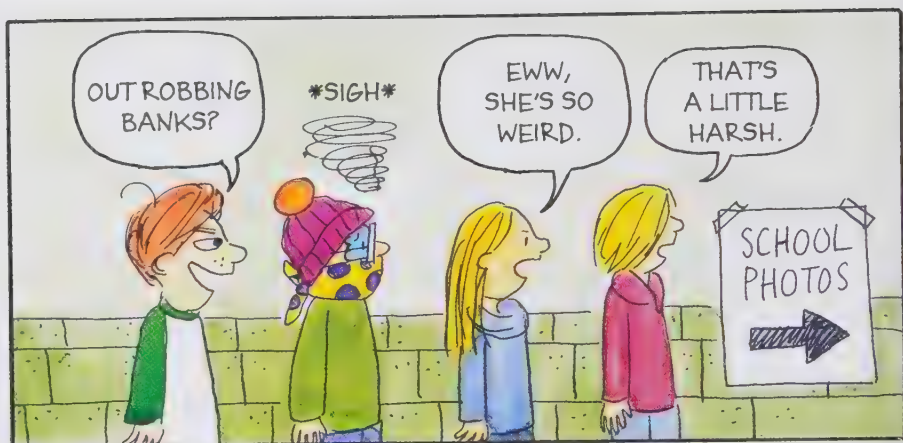
DON'T WORRY,
YOU'RE
PURRFECT!



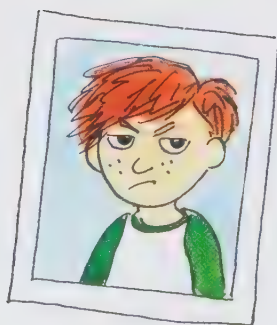
THE NEXT MORNING...



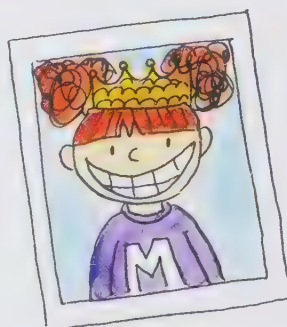




LILY AND ALEX LOOKED LIKE SUPERMODELS.



SHAWN LOOKED
MEAN.



MILLIE WORE
A TIARA.

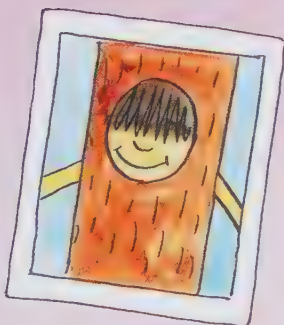
Swoooooon



ZOE LOOKED CUTE.



DEREK LOOKED DREAMY!



FLO WORE HER TREE
COSTUME BECAUSE SHE
LIKED IT SO MUCH.



AND I LOOKED
LIKE I ROBBED
A SKI SLOPE.

LATER AT LUNCH...

THIS IS JUST
PERFECT.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

THAT CLASS PHOTO'S
GOING TO SHOW EVERYONE
HOW BIG OF A DORK I AM!

HEY, DON'T TALK
ABOUT MY FRIEND
THAT WAY!

IT'S JUST A
LITTLE FACE
PAINT.

IT MAKES
YOU UNIQUE.



YOU LOOKED GREAT!



THANKS!



SO DID DEREK!



HAHA! I KNEW YOU LIKED HIM!



CAN I SIT WITH YOU?

SURE!



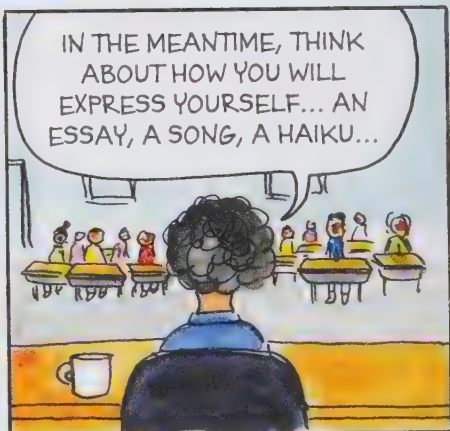




CHAPTER 12

A DAY IN THE LIFE





BUT ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT
WAS HOW TO GET DEREK'S
ATTENTION.



EVERY TIME I LOOK OVER AT
HIM HE LOOKS AWAY.



HE LOOKS
EMBARRASSED.



OH! MAYBE
IT'S MY HAT!

OR, MY
BIRD FACE.



OK, NOW I'M
EMBARRASSED.



AND DON'T
FORGET ABOUT
THE STATEWIDE
STORY CONTEST!



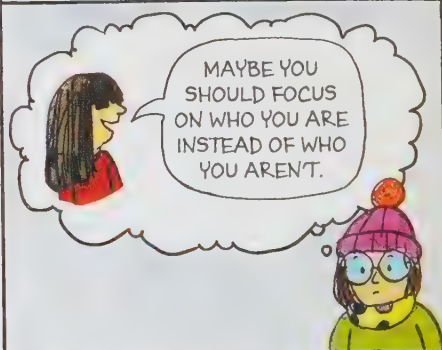
THE WINNER GETS TO
SHARE THEIR WORK
WITH THE ENTIRE
SCHOOL!



AND GETS A SPECIAL
TRIP TO THE STATE
CAPITAL!



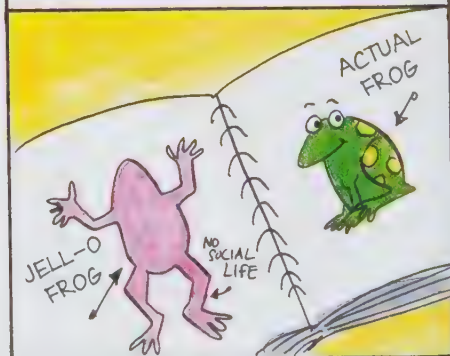
I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT FLO
SAID AT LUNCH.



I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME
THINKING ABOUT WHAT
I'M NOT GOOD AT...



...THAT I NEVER THINK ABOUT
WHAT I AM GOOD AT...



WAIT! THERE IS
SOMETHING I'M GOOD AT.
I'LL DRAW THE CREATIVE
WRITING EXERCISE!





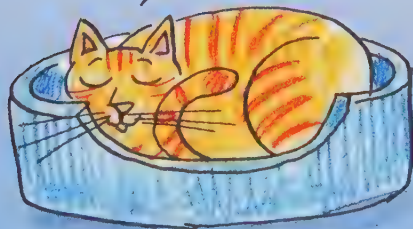
CHAPTER 13

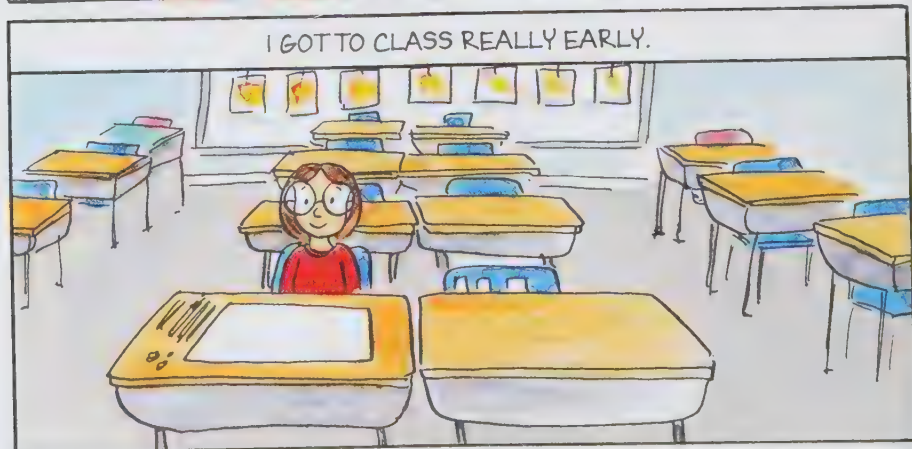
ABOUT TIME

HOW LONG
HAVE YOU
BEEN ASLEEP?

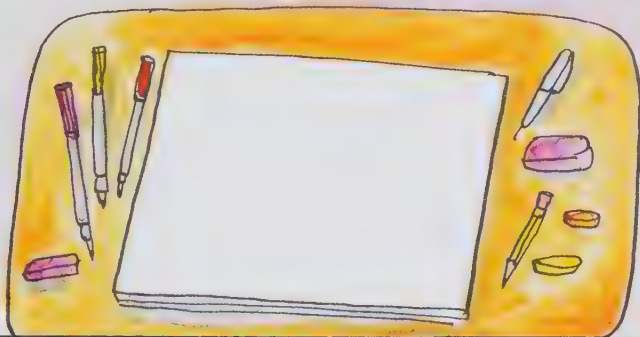


NOT LONG
ENOUGH.





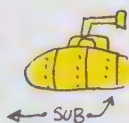
I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO I WANTED TO BE SURE MY DESK WAS ALL SET UP.



HELLO, CLASS, I'M MR. DRIBBLE, YOUR SUBSTITUTE TEACHER.



MRS. GISBORNE IS OUT SICK, SO I WILL LEAD THE IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT.



YOU HAVE EXACTLY ONE HOUR...

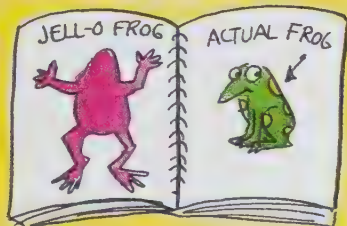


GOOD LUCK!





I ALREADY HAD SKETCHES
OF THE FROG FROM
SCIENCE CLASS.



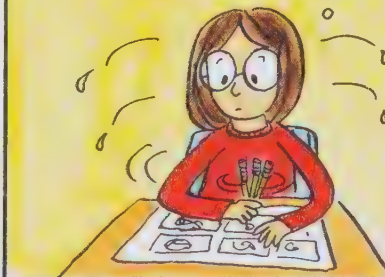
IT'S SO MUCH FUN
MAKING UP A STORY
ABOUT HER.



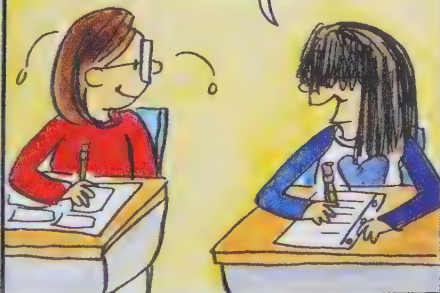
YIKES! ONLY 30 MINUTES
LEFT! I'M NOT EVEN
HALFWAY DONE!



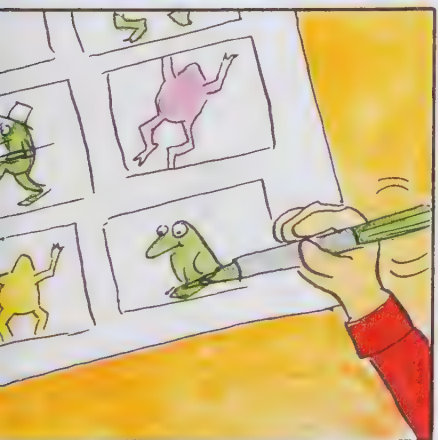
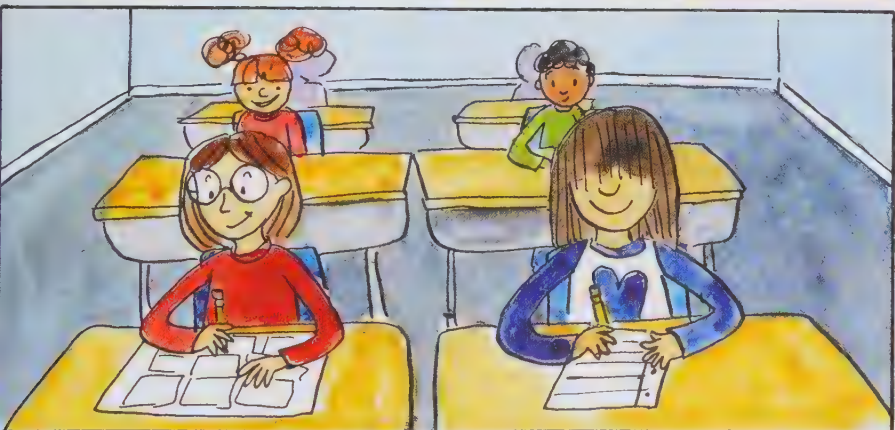
WHAT IF I DON'T
FINISH IN TIME?

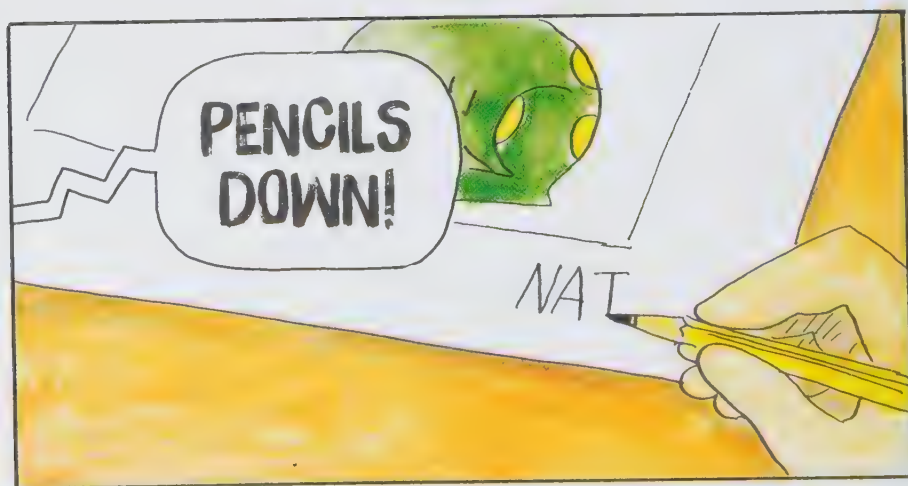


YOU GOT
THIS!









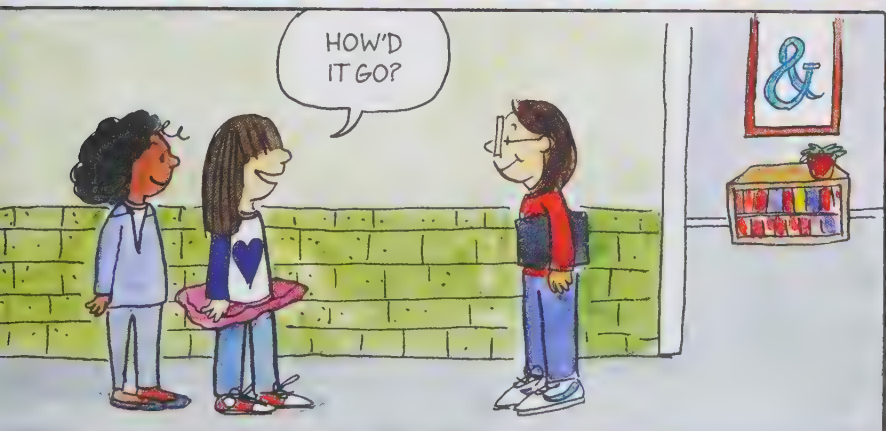
OKAY, CLASS, PUT YOUR
FINISHED WORK HERE ON THE
DESK ON YOUR WAY OUT.



MRS. GISBORNE WILL
REVIEW THEM WHEN SHE
RETURNS TOMORROW.











I COULDN'T WAIT TO GO TO SCHOOL THE NEXT
DAY TO SHARE MY STORY WITH THE CLASS.



CHAPTER 14

WHAT'S THE STORY?

THERE ONCE WAS A DOG WITH A FLEA
WHO SAID, "COULD YOU GET OFF OF ME?"
THE FLEA GRABBED HIS HAT,
AND JUMPED ON THE CAT,
AND GAVE THE CAT ITCHES FOR FREE.



THANKS
A LOT!

THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL...

HELLO,
CLASS!



I'M SO EXCITED TO
HEAR WHAT YOU
CAME UP WITH!

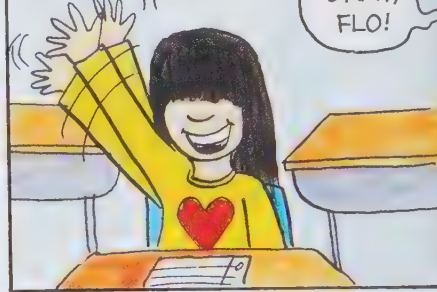


ANY VOLUNTEERS WANT
TO COME UP AND SHARE?



MEEE!

OKAY,
FLO!



FLO, CAN
YOU FACE
THE CLASS?



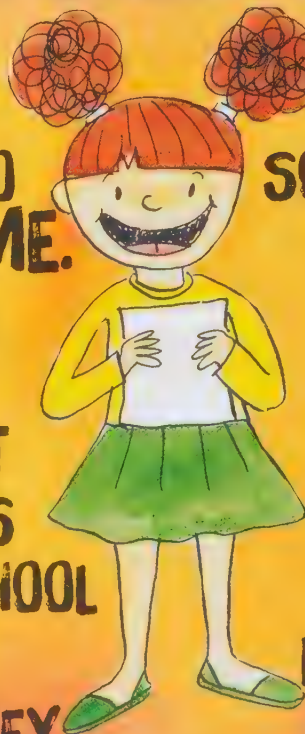
AHEM. I WROTE A
HAIKU ABOUT BELLY
BUTTON LINT.







**MY ESSAY IS ABOUT A DAY IN
THE LIFE OF ME!
AFTER I GET UP, I
SAY OR DO SOMETHING
AWESOME. THEN, AT
SCHOOL, I AM
SUPER SMART
AND GET ALL THE
ANSWERS RIGHT.
AFTER SCHOOL I HAVE A
SNACK. EVERYONE
WISHES THEY WERE ME.**

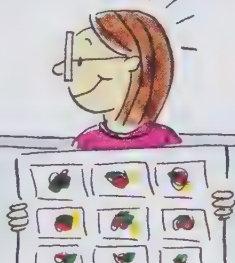




FOR MY IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT,
I DREW A COMIC CALLED "A DAY IN
THE LIFE OF A JELL-O FROG IF SHE
WASN'T MADE OUT OF JELL-O."



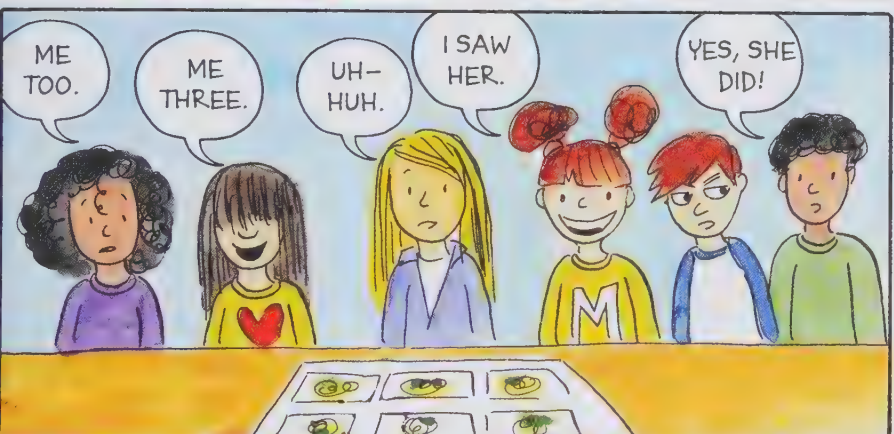
NATALIE, CAN YOU
PLEASE PUT THOSE
ON THE TABLE SO WE
CAN ALL SEE?

















SHOULD I ENTER
THE BOOK CONTEST?

I LOVED WORKING
ON THE COMIC.

I NEVER WIN
ANYTHING.

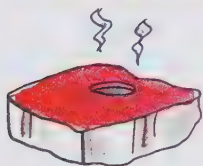
WILL LILY THINK
I'M A NERD?

DO I CARE?

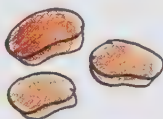
CHAPTER 15

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

LUNCHROOM FOOD



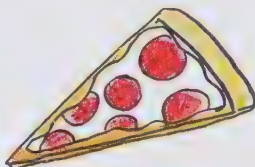
MYSTERY MEAT



MYSTERY NUGGET



MYSTERY FRUIT



PIZZA

ANIMAL FOOD







OR...



WHY DO YOU
CARE WHAT
PEOPLE THINK?

WHY WOULD YOU
WANT TO BE FRIENDS
WITH SOMEONE WHO
IS SO MEAN TO YOU?



FOCUS ON
WHO YOU
ARE.



YOU HAVE SOME
PRETTY GREAT
FRIENDS RIGHT
HERE!







CHAPTER 16

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE

I'D LIKE TO THANK THE
ACADEMY FOR THROWING
ME A BONE...



I GOT TO WORK.



HOW TO MAKE A BOOK:

WHAT YOU NEED:



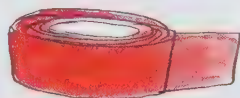
8.5" X 11" PAPER



STAPLES



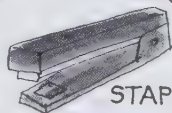
GLUE



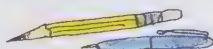
DUCT TAPE
IN A FUN COLOR



ERASER



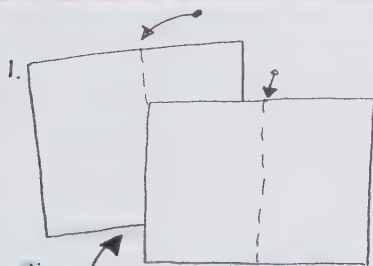
STAPLER



PENS AND PENCILS



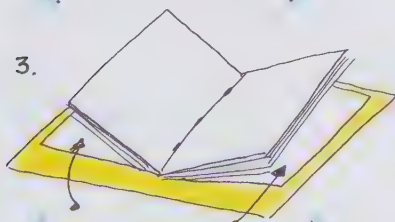
CARD STOCK



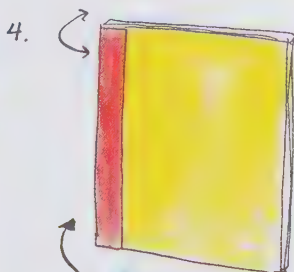
1. FOLD PAPER DOWN
THE MIDDLE



2. STAPLE PAGES
IN THE MIDDLE



3. GLUE THE FIRST AND
LAST PAGES TO THE
CARD STOCK TO
MAKE A COVER



4. FOLD AND PUT DUCT
TAPE ALONG LEFT
EDGE FOR BINDING

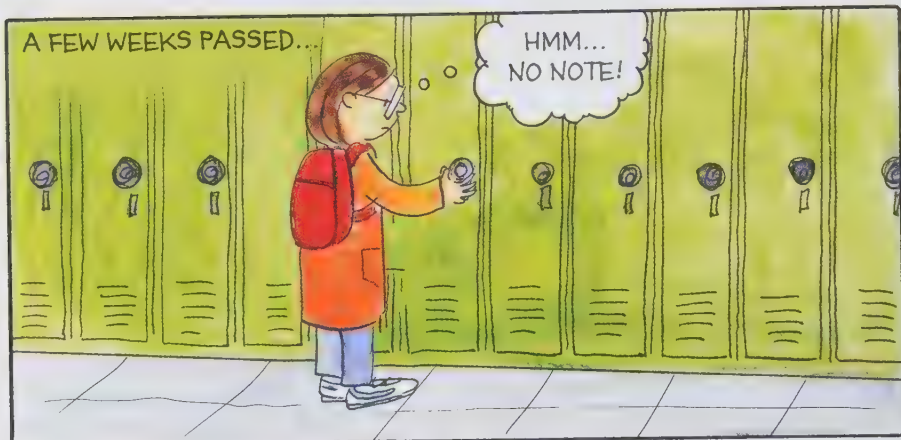
5. HAVE FUN WRITING AND DRAWING YOUR BOOK!

THEN MRS. GISBORNE HELPED ME MAIL MY BOOK INTO
THE CONTEST. WE PUT IT IN A BIG ENVELOPE WITH
CARDBOARD AND EXTRA STAMPS.



AND THEN I WAITED...





THE NEXT DAY IN ENGLISH CLASS...

GOOD MORNING!
I HAVE A VERY SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE!

I HAVE THE RESULTS
FOR THE STATEWIDE
STORY CONTEST!

THIS IS
IT!

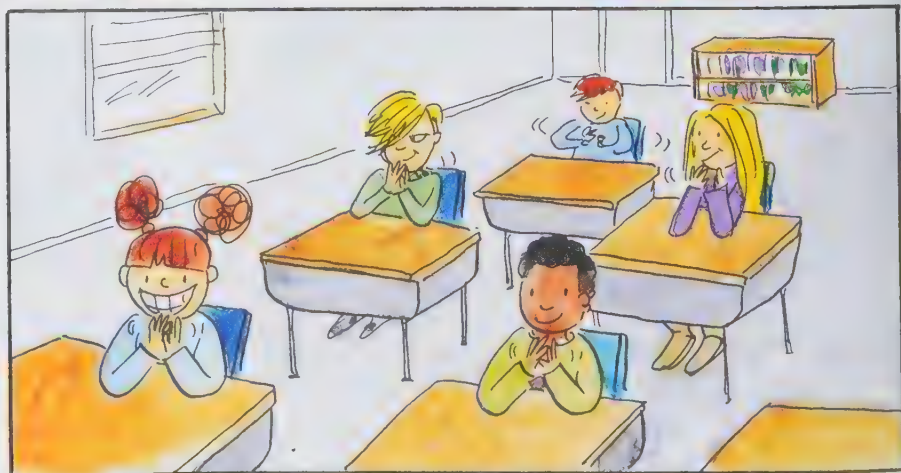
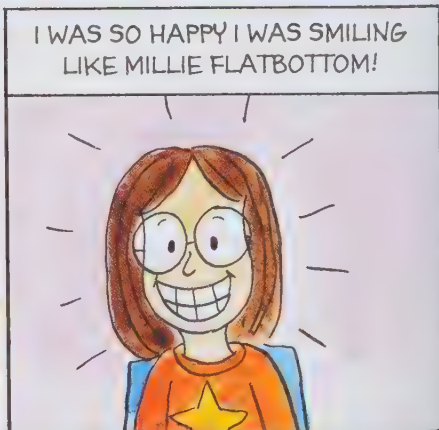
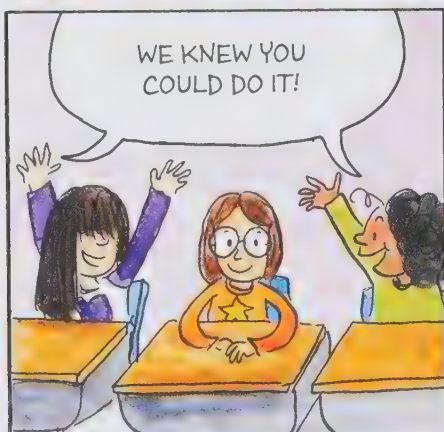
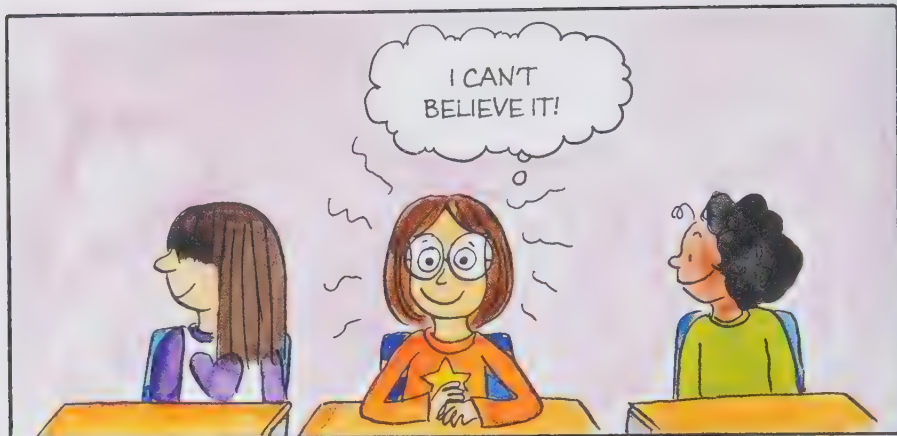
YOU GOT
THIS.

OH PLEASE, PLEASE,
PLEASE NOT ANOTHER
PARTICIPATION
AWARD...



NATALIE!





I WENT TO THE STATE CAPITAL FOR THE AWARDS CEREMONY.



WE GOT OUR AWARDS AND TOOK PICTURES.
EVEN THE GOVERNOR WAS THERE!

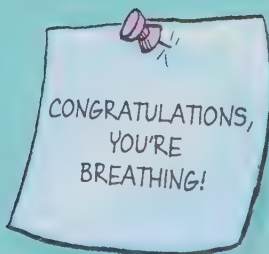


FIRST
PLACE!



I DIDN'T MIND HAVING MY PICTURE TAKEN.
I DEFINITELY WANT A MEMORY OF TODAY!

MY FIRST PLACE TROPHY REALLY STOOD OUT IN
MY SEA OF PARTICIPATION AWARDS.



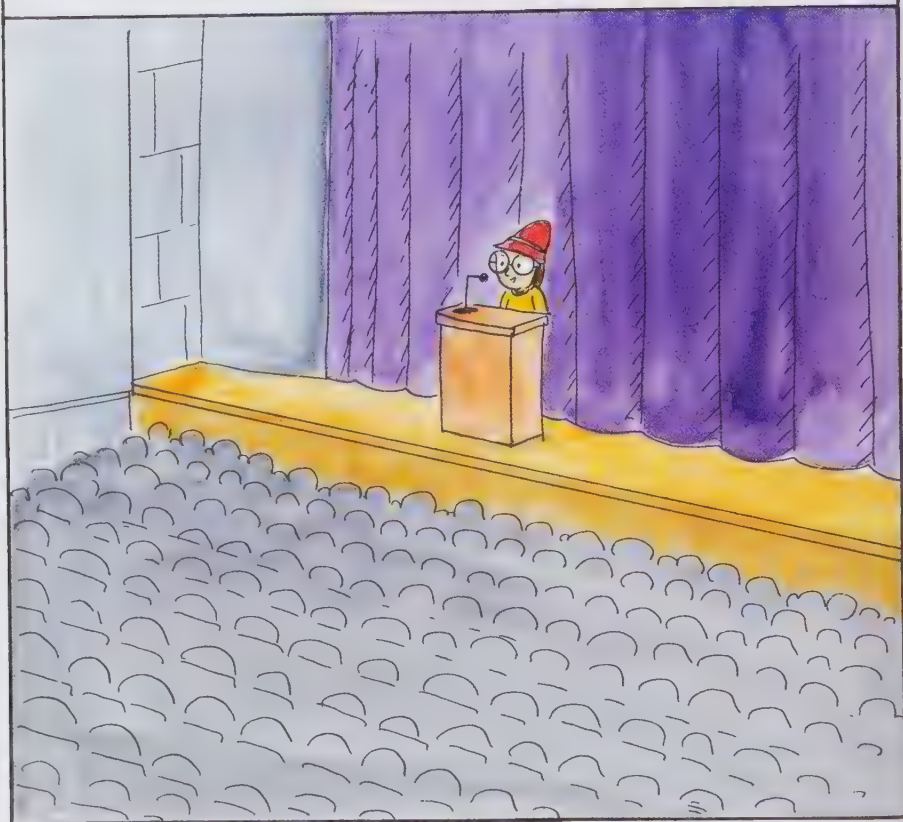


CHAPTER 17

STAND UP

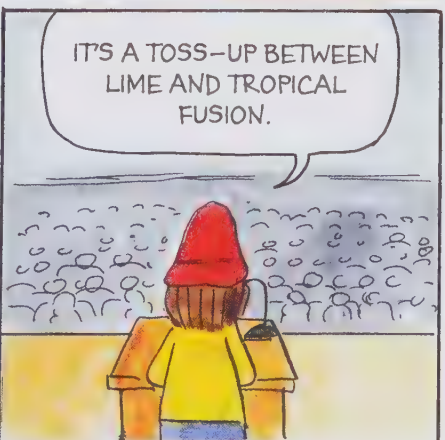
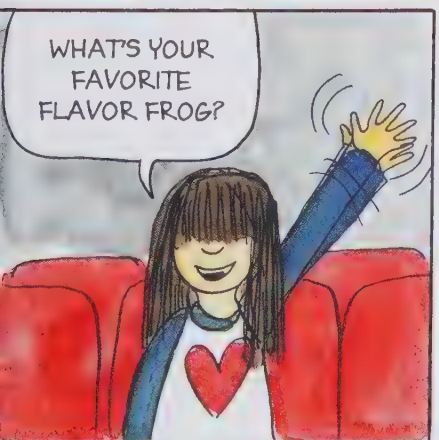


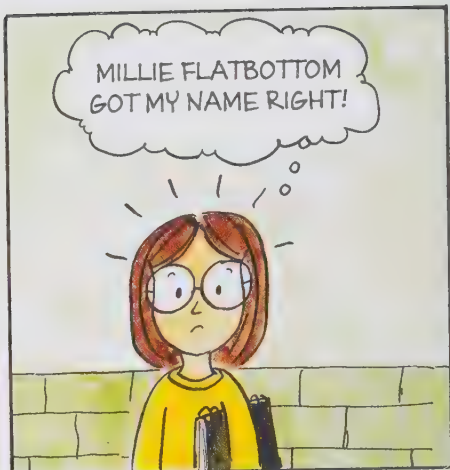
THE NEXT DAY, MRS. GISBORNE ASKED ME TO PRESENT MY BOOK TO THE ENTIRE SIXTH GRADE. I WORE MY FAVORITE HAT.



EVERYONE WAS ASKING ME QUESTIONS...

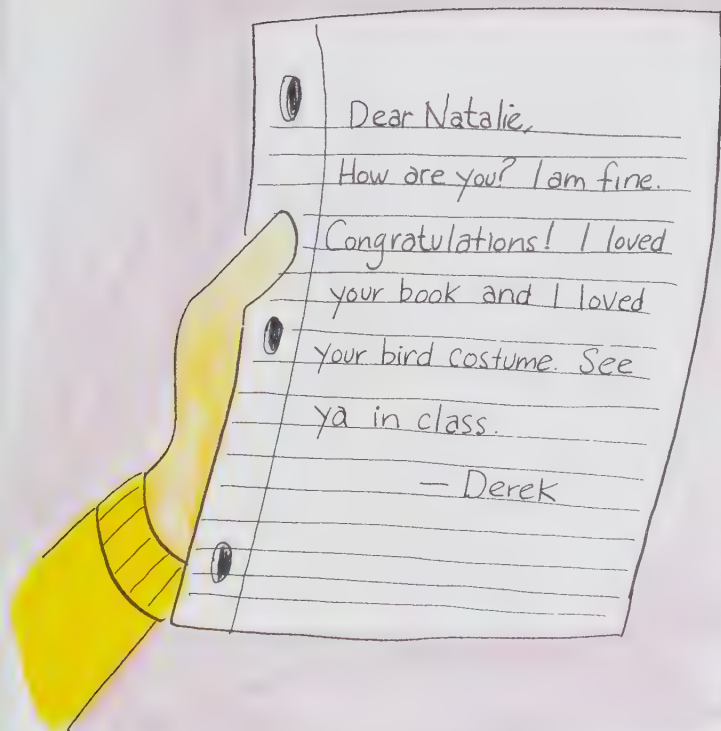












Dear Natalie,

How are you? I am fine.

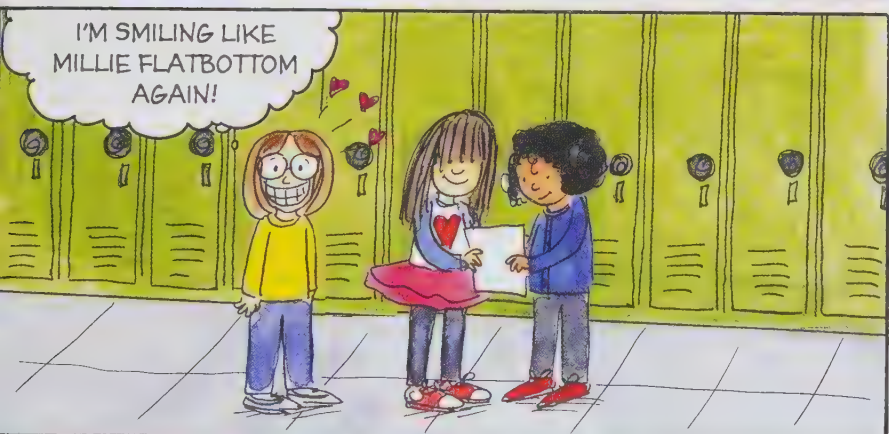
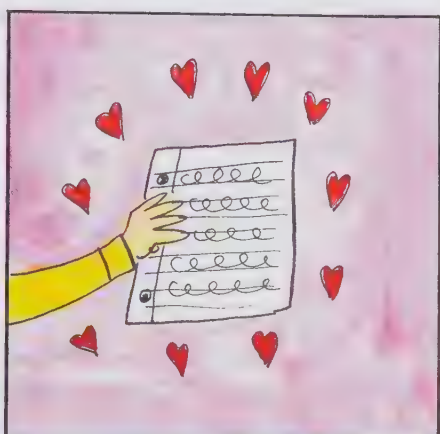
Congratulations! I loved
your book and I loved
your bird costume. See
ya in class.

— Derek



WHAT DID
SHE SAY?

see
see
see
see



I RACED ALL THE WAY HOME!



HE SAID "LOVED."
TWICE!





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FROG IF
SHE WASN'T MADE OUT OF JELL-O

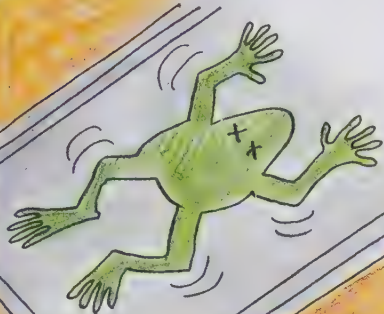


BY NATALIE MARIANO

STRAWBERRY-BAHANA WAS A JELL-O FROG. SHE LIVED
IN SCIENCE CLASS WITH THE OTHER JELL-O FROGS.
LIME, LEMON, ORANGE, RASPBERRY, AND PEACH.



THE FROGS DIDN'T DO MUCH
EXCEPT JIGGLE UNTIL ONE DAY...



...THE SCIENCE TEACHER ADDED
TOO MUCH MAGICAL GROWTH
ELIXIR TO HIS MUSKMELON.



THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION! MUSKMELON AND MAGICAL
ELIXIR SPLASHED ALL OVER THE FROGS!



THEY ALL BECAME REAL FROGS!

NEAT!



LIME

COOL!



LEMON

SWEET!



ORANGE

AWESOME!



RASPBERRY

YIPEE!



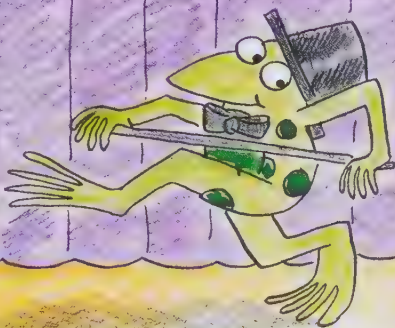
PEACH

YAY!



STRAWBERRY-BANANA

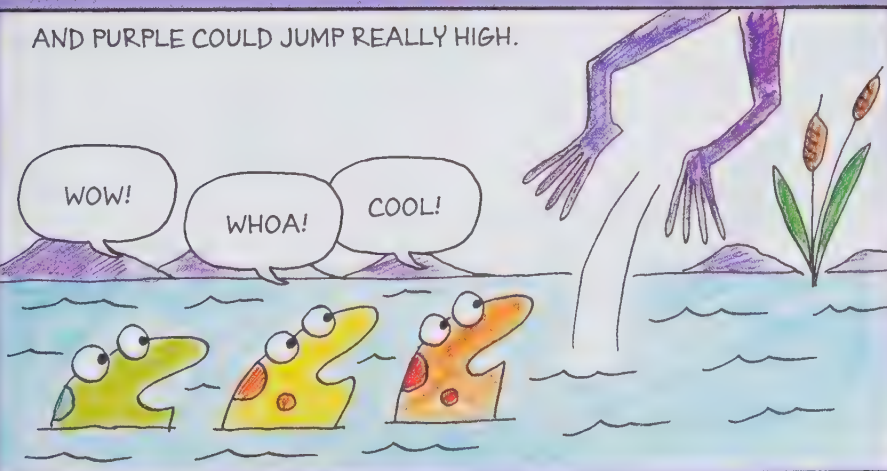
THEY ALL HAD SPECIAL TALENTS. LIME COULD DANCE.



LEMON COULD SING.



AND PURPLE COULD JUMP REALLY HIGH.



BUT STRAWBERRY-BANANA
COULDN'T DO ANY OF THOSE
THINGS.



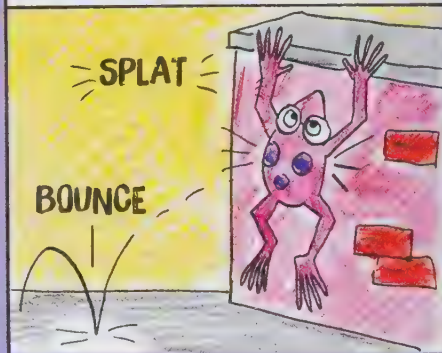
SHE TRIED TO SING...



SHE TRIED TO DANCE...



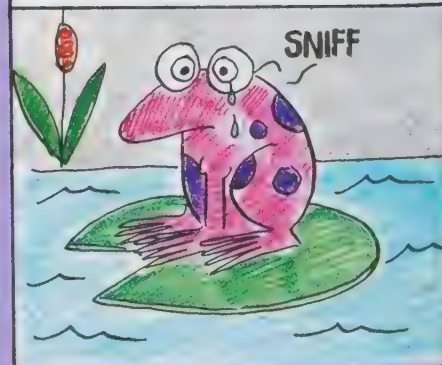
AND SHE COULDN'T JUMP
VERY FAR AT ALL.



I CAN'T DO ANY
OF THOSE
THINGS.



STRAWBERRY-BANANA
FELT SAD.



RASPBERRY AND PEACH HOPPED OVER FOR A VISIT.



WHY THE
LONG FACE?

I CAN'T SING. I CAN'T
DANCE. AND I CAN'T
JUMP VERY FAR.



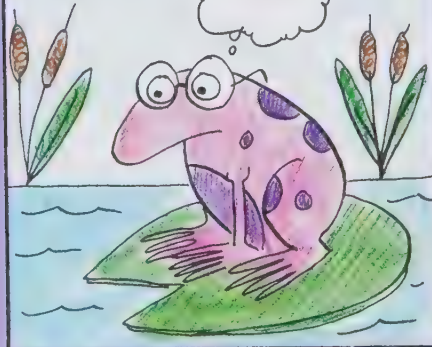
MAYBE YOU SHOULD
FOCUS ON WHO YOU ARE
INSTEAD OF WHO
YOU AREN'T.



WORKS
FOR ME!



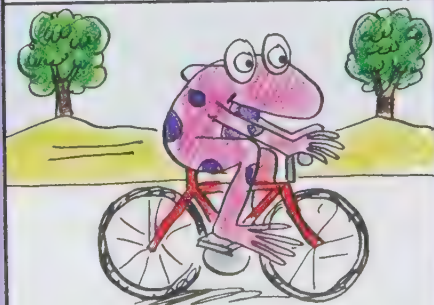
HMM.



WHO AM I? WHAT
CAN I DO?



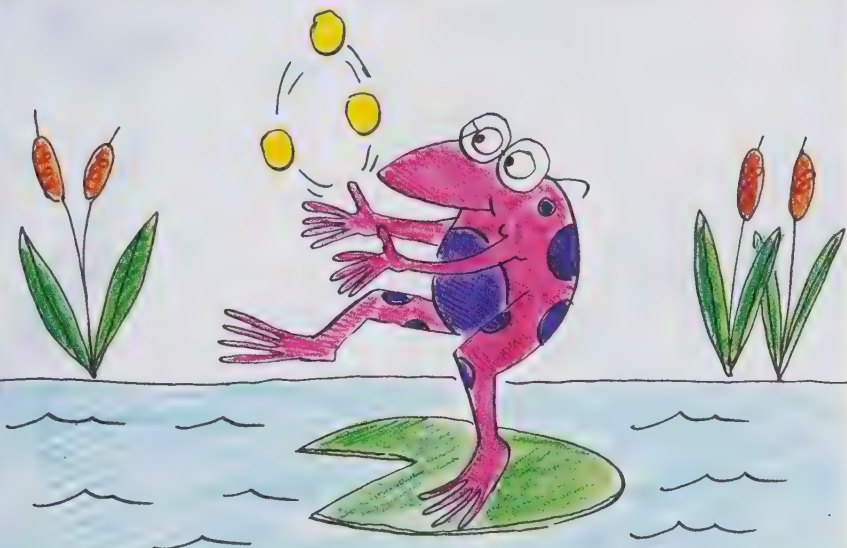
SHE FOUND OUT SHE COULD
RIDE A BIKE.



AND ICE SKATE BACKWARD.



TURNS OUT SHE COULD DO ALL KINDS OF THINGS!

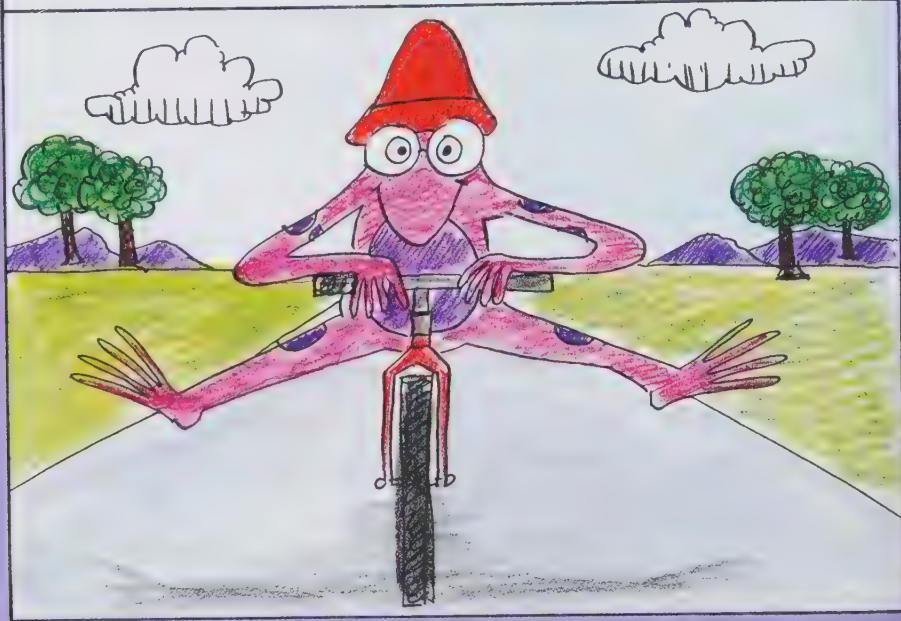


AND SHE WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN FIGURING
OUT ALL THAT SHE COULD DO...



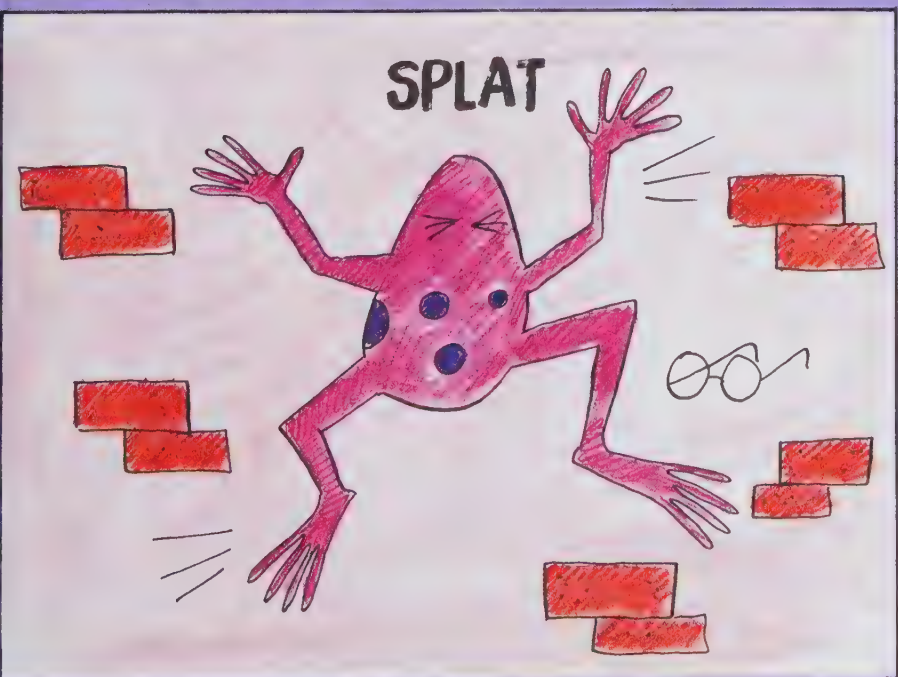
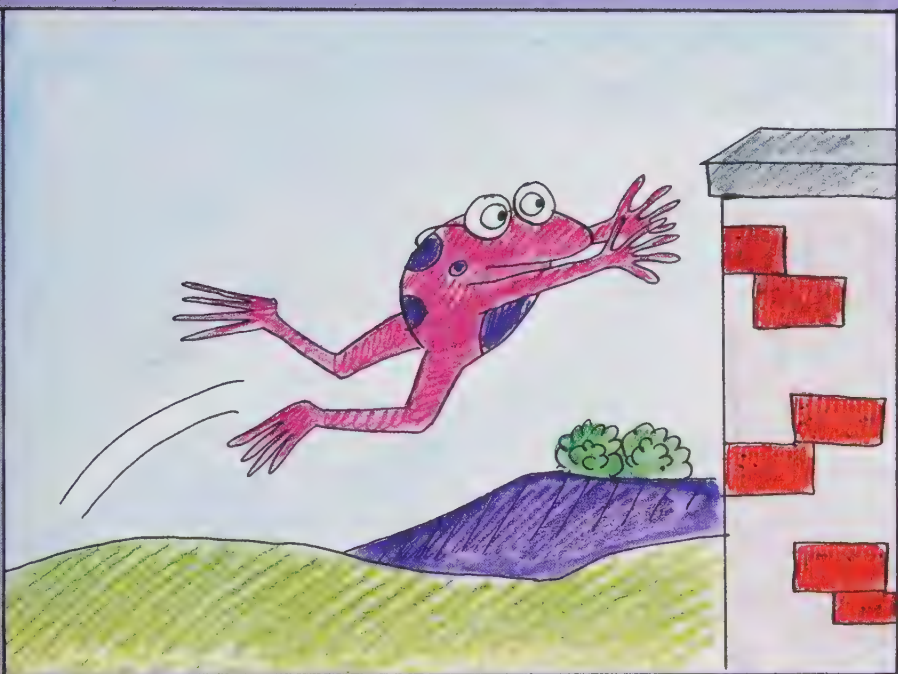
WHAT'S BLACK
AND WHITE AND
RED ALL OVER?

...THAT SHE DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT SHE COULDN'T DO.

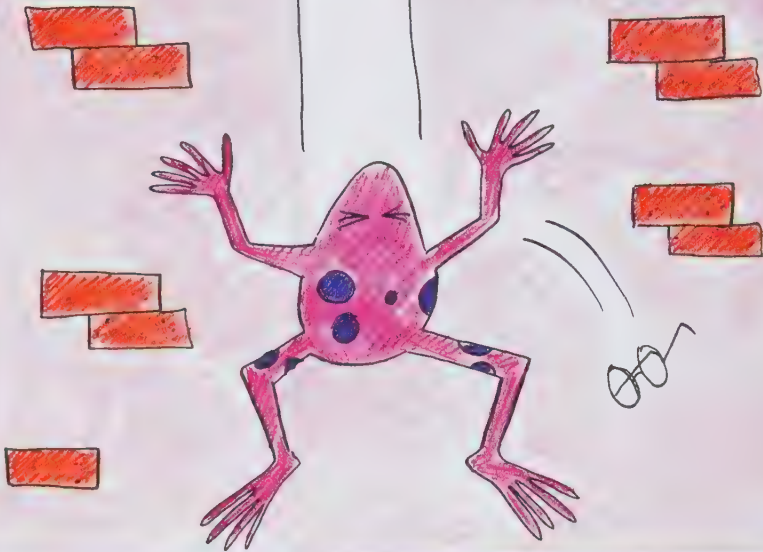


AND MAYBE WITH SOME PRACTICE, SOMEDAY SHE
COULD DO THOSE OTHER THINGS, TOO!





SLIIPPP



MAYBE A LOT
OF PRACTICE.



UNTIL THEN, SHE WAS HAPPY BEING HERSELF.



The End!

NAT



MARIA SCRIVAN is an award-winning cartoonist, illustrator, and author based in Stamford, Connecticut. Her laugh-out-loud syndicated comic, *Half Full*, appears daily in newspapers nationwide and on gocomics.com. Maria licenses her work for greeting cards throughout the United States and United Kingdom, and her cartoons have also appeared in *MAD Magazine*, *Parade*, and many other publications. Visit Maria online at mariascrivan.com.

MAKING FRIENDS ISN'T EASY, BUT LOSING THEM IS EVEN HARDER!



Natalie has never felt that she's enough—athletic enough, stylish enough, or talented enough. And on the first day of middle school, Natalie discovers that things are worse than she thought—now she's not even cool enough for her best friend, Lily! As Natalie tries to get her best friend back, she learns more about her true self and natural talents. If Natalie can focus on who she is rather than who she isn't, then she might realize she's more than enough, just the way she is.



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