

Written By  
Erin O' Connor

Illustrated By  
Mike Goldstein

# The Glass Half Empty



# The Glass Half Full



The Glass  
Half Empty

The Glass  
Half Full

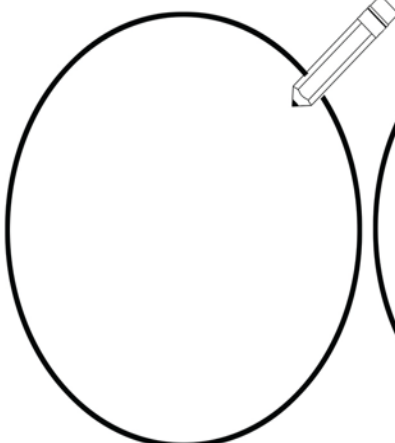


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**Author**  
Erin



**Reader**  
This book  
belongs to:

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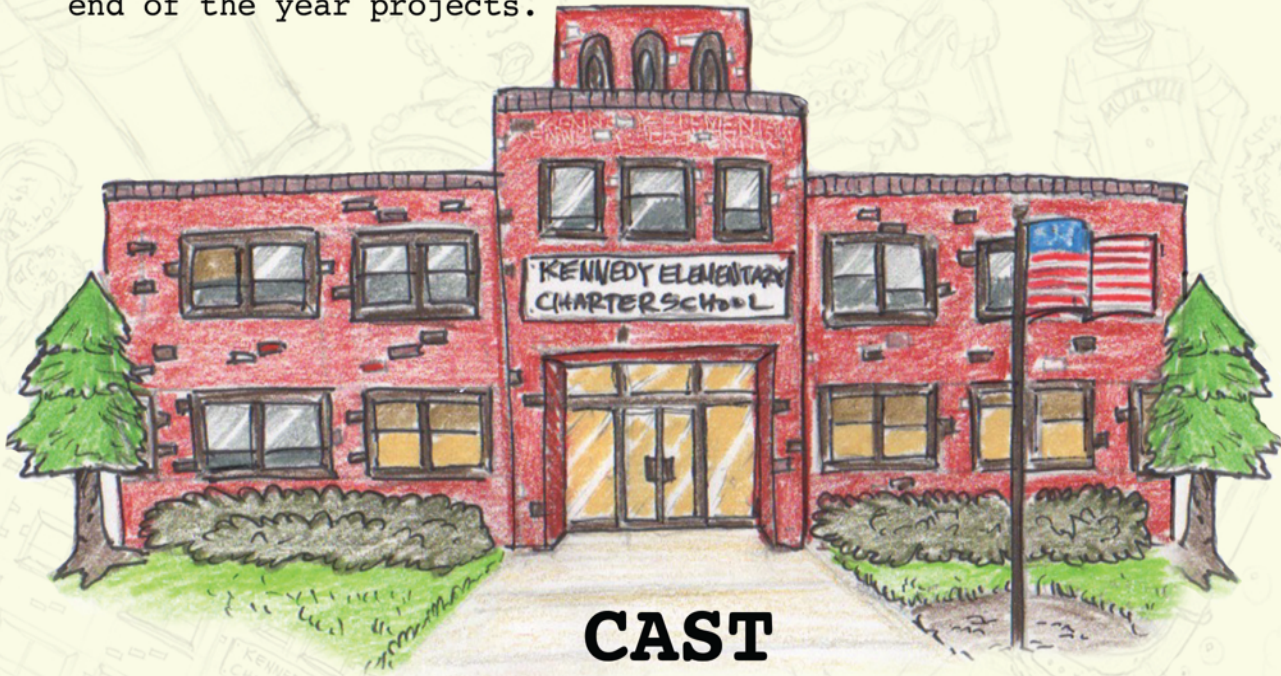
**Illustrator**  
Mike

The Glass Half Empty The Glass Half Full

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**Setting**...The action takes place in the Kennedy Elementary School auditorium. Mr. Spivey's 4th grade class is presenting its' end of the year projects.



## CAST

Jake and Blake Goldstein...10 year old identical twins... Although the boys look the same, they dress differently, wear their hair differently and behave differently.



Jake



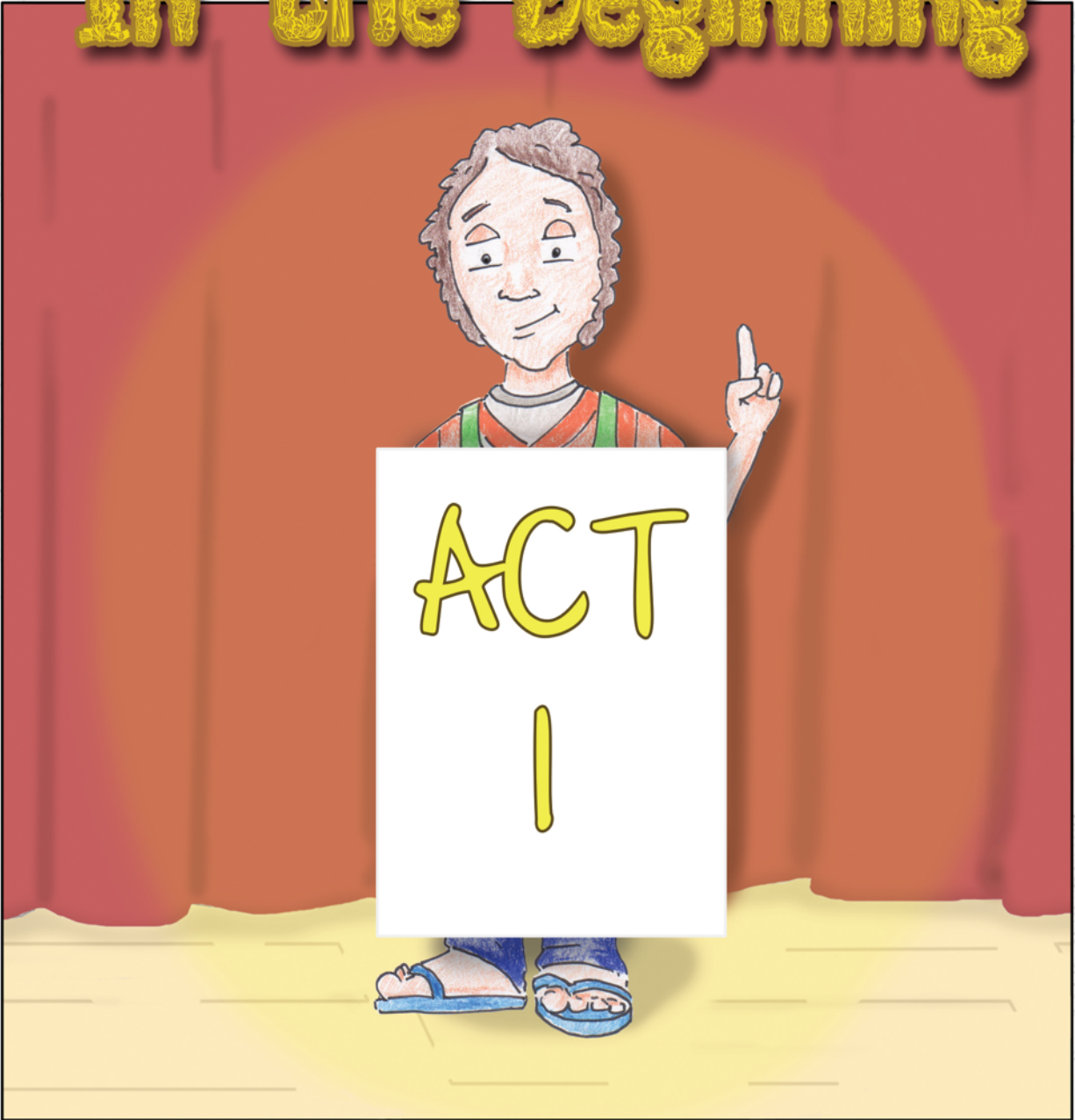
Blake



Mr. Spivey

Mr. Spivey... The host and 4th grade teacher. He is a big man, 6 feet tall and 220 pounds. He is 45 years old, with kind eyes and a friendly smile.

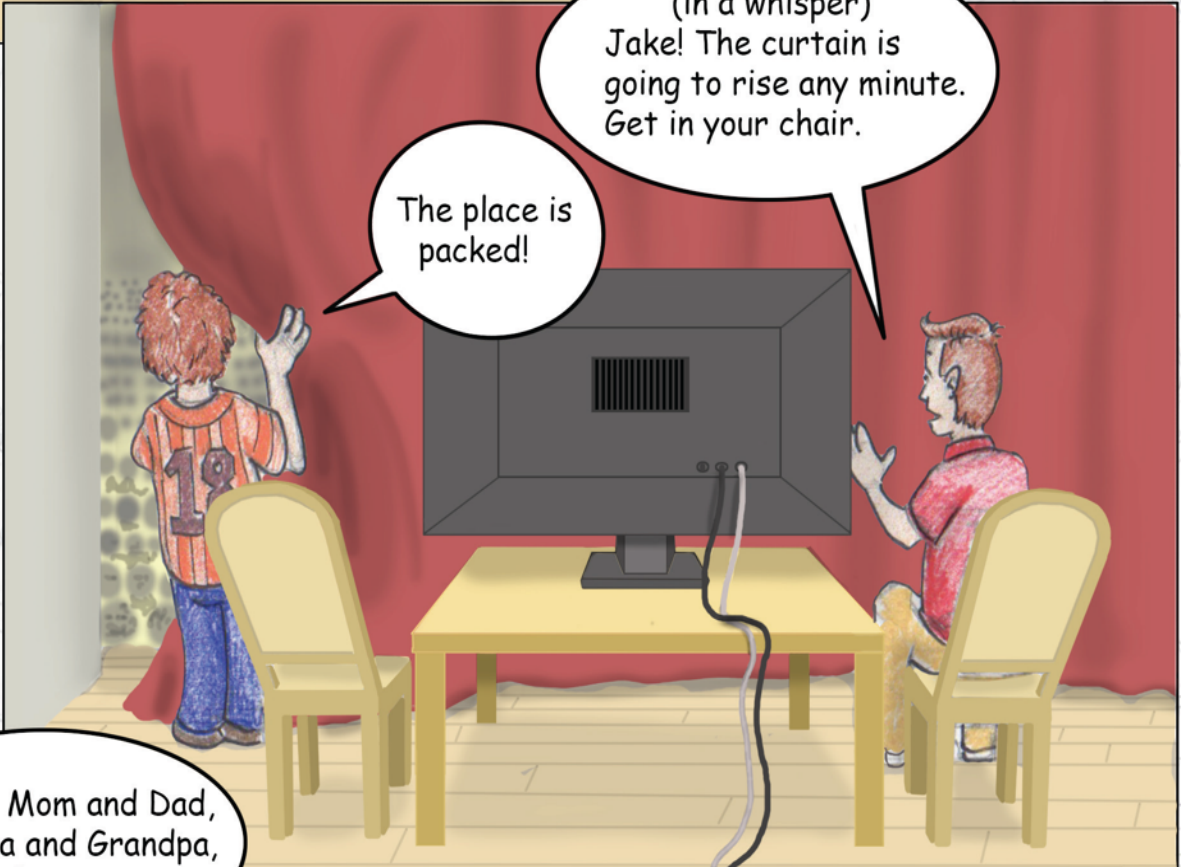
# In the Beginning



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



The school auditorium... every seat is taken. There is a lot of chatter going on.



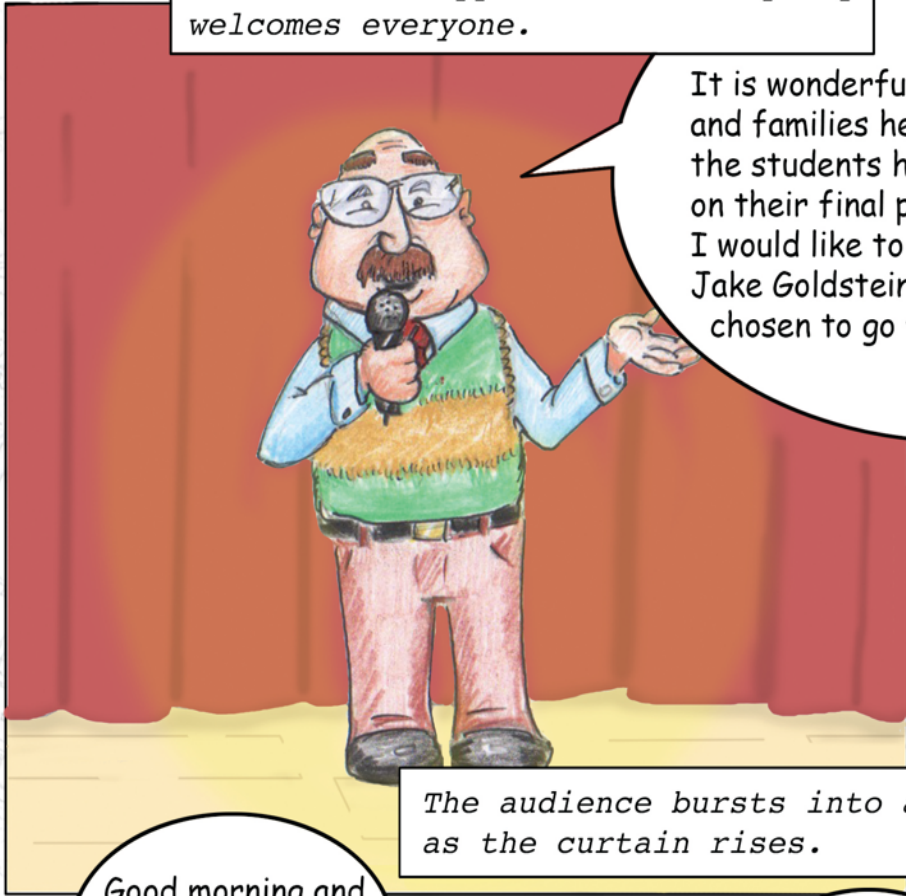
(in a whisper)  
Jake! The curtain is going to rise any minute. Get in your chair.

The place is packed!

There's Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, Nana and Pops...



*The audience applauds as Mr. Spivey welcomes everyone.*



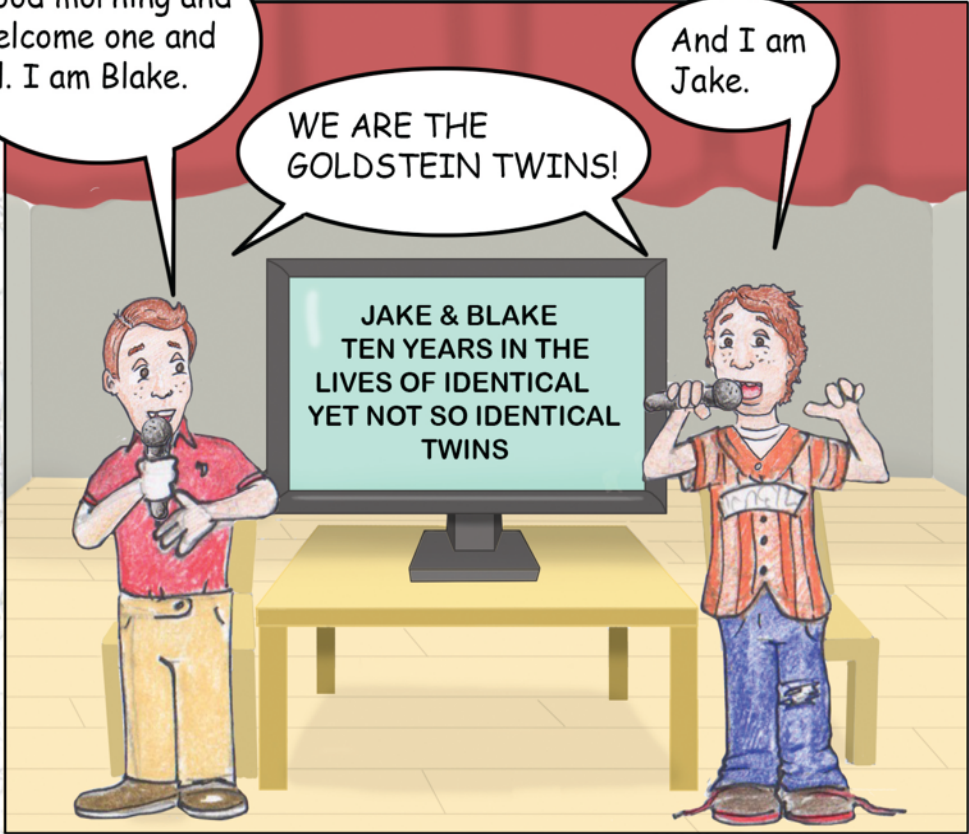
It is wonderful to see so many friends and families here today. As you will see the students have done an amazing job on their final projects. I would like to introduce Blake and Jake Goldstein who have chosen to go first.

*The audience bursts into applause as the curtain rises.*

Good morning and welcome one and all. I am Blake.

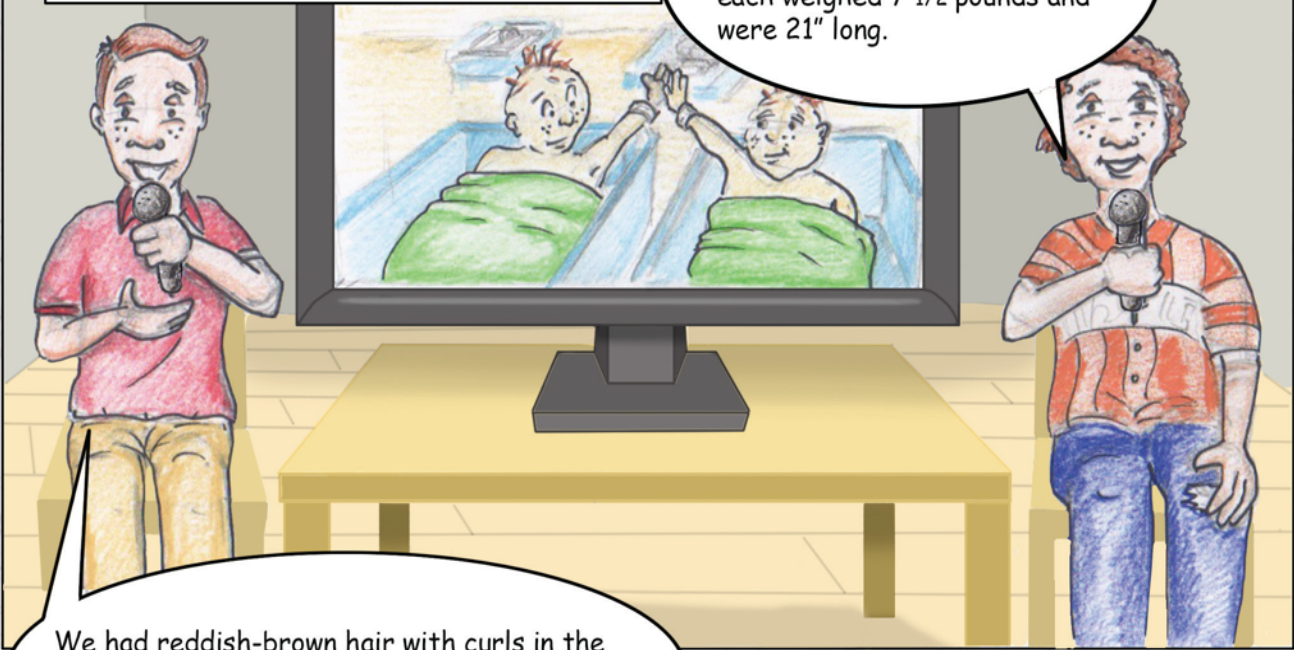
**WE ARE THE GOLDSTEIN TWINS!**

And I am Jake.



The boys sit back in their chairs as Blake presses the remote to display the television's first slide.

When Blake and I were born we were identical in every way. We each weighed 7 1/2 pounds and were 21" long.

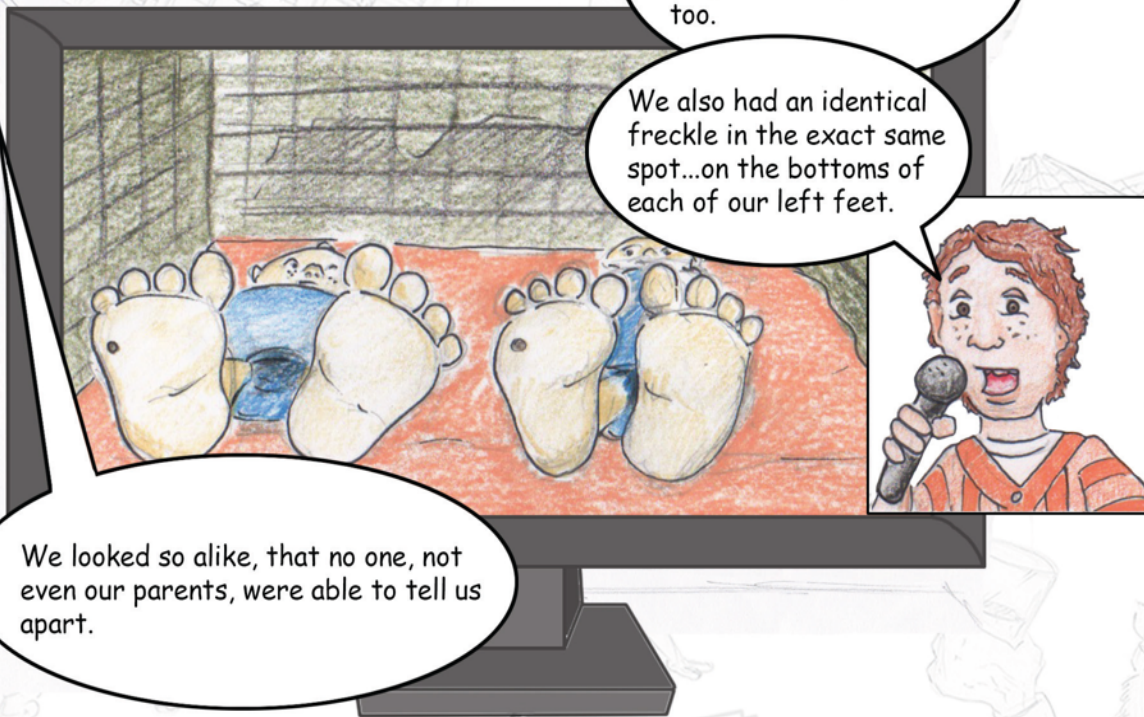


We had reddish-brown hair with curls in the exact same places. Our eyes were brownish-gold and our eyebrows curved identically.

Notice that our ears, our noses and our mouths are shaped exactly the same, too.

We also had an identical freckle in the exact same spot...on the bottoms of each of our left feet.

We looked so alike, that no one, not even our parents, were able to tell us apart.



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



With a simple click of the remote, Jake changes the slide.

As you can see from this picture, our mom and dad loved to dress us exactly the same...



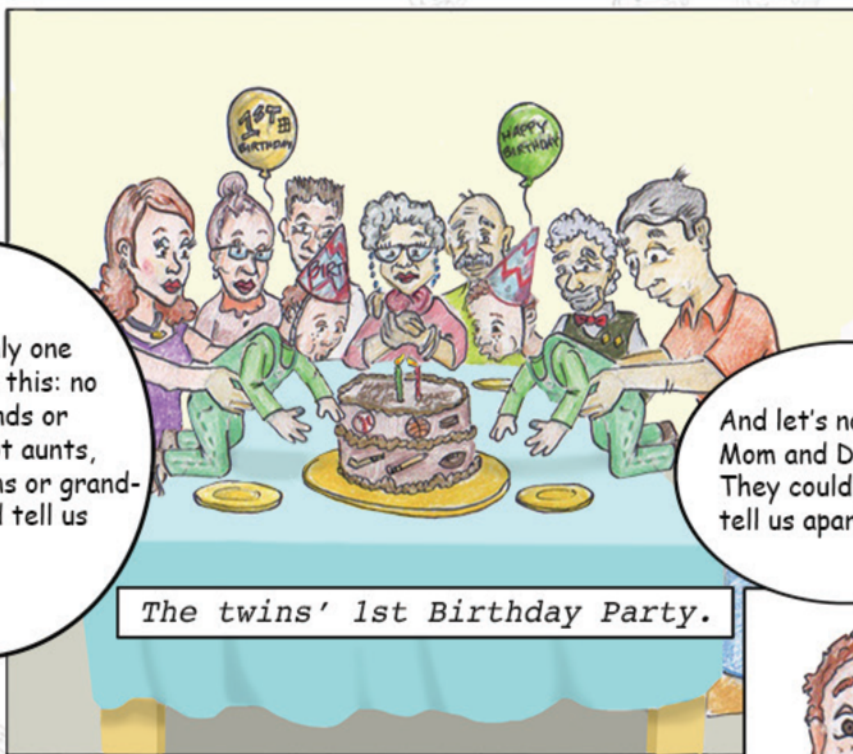
Always! This is a common ritual among parents of twins.



Blake changes the slide.

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE

There was only one problem with this: no one, not friends or neighbors, not aunts, uncles, cousins or grandparents could tell us apart!



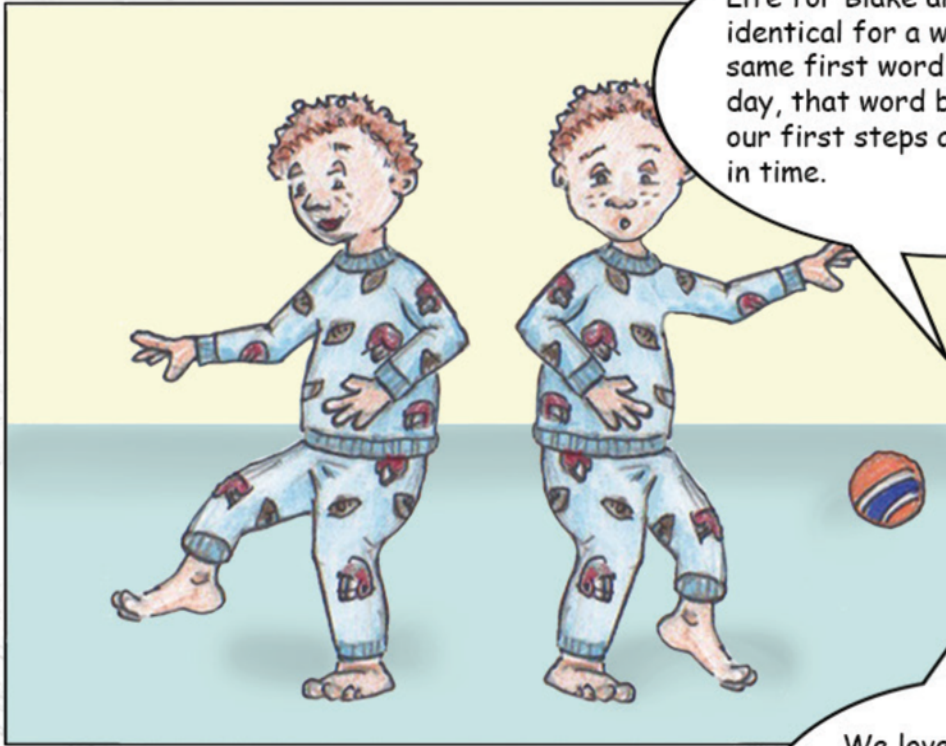
*The twins' 1st Birthday Party.*

And let's not forget Mom and Dad, Blake. They couldn't even tell us apart.



If you will all look closely at my left thumb in this birthday photo you will see that it is painted with blue nail polish. This is how the problem of who's who was solved.



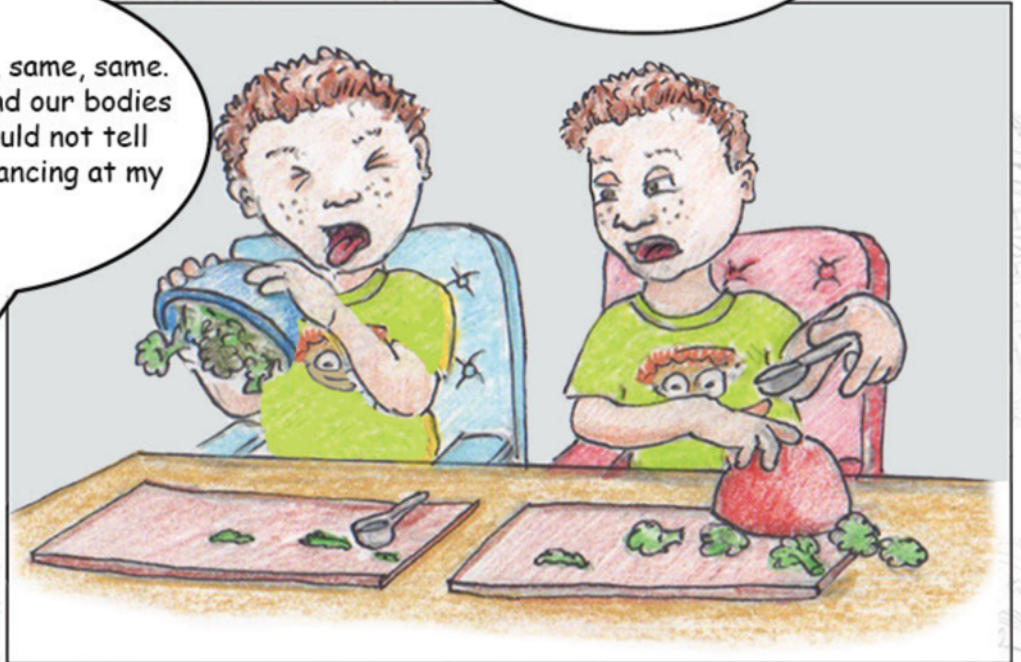


Life for Blake and me stayed identical for a while. We spoke the same first word on the very same day, that word being "ball". We took our first steps at the same moment in time.



We loved and hated the same foods, and we did everything together from playing to bathing to sleeping.

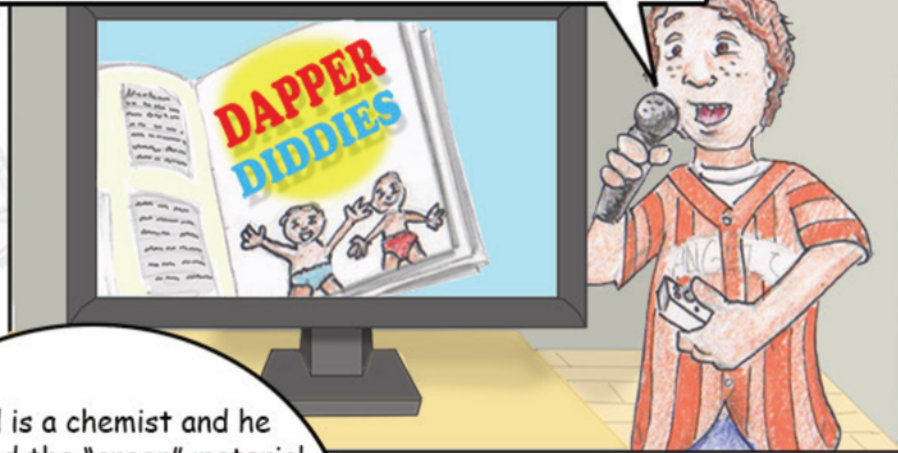
We were the same, same, same. As our hair grew and our bodies grew people still could not tell us apart without glancing at my thumb.



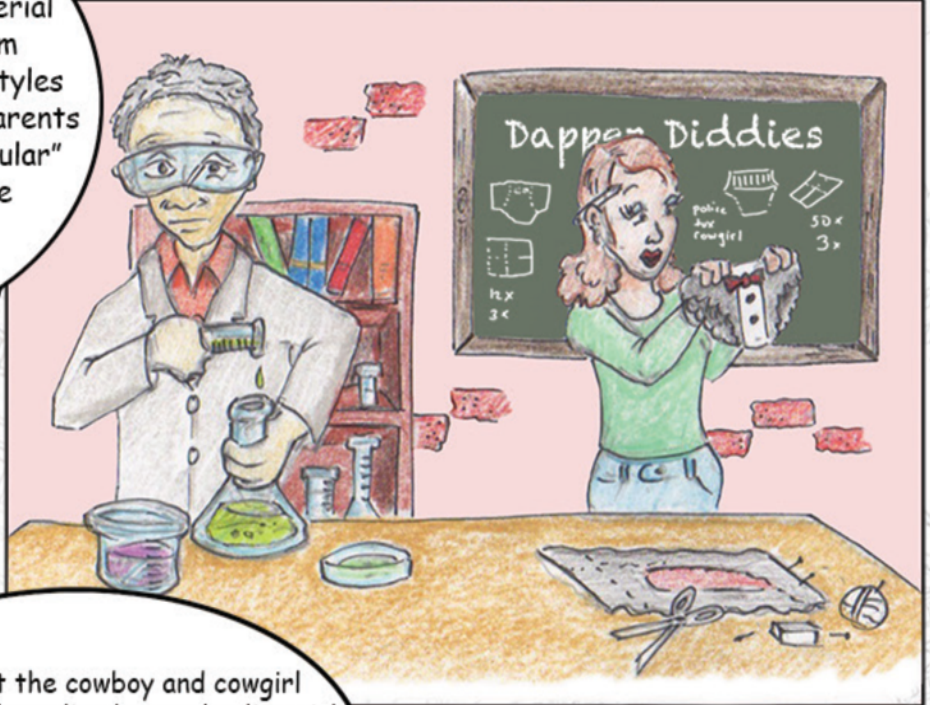
PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE

A BOY AND HIS DOG  
... HOME

These two adorable toddlers are Blake and myself. When we turned 2 our parents invented a biodegradable and stylish diaper that took off like hotcakes.



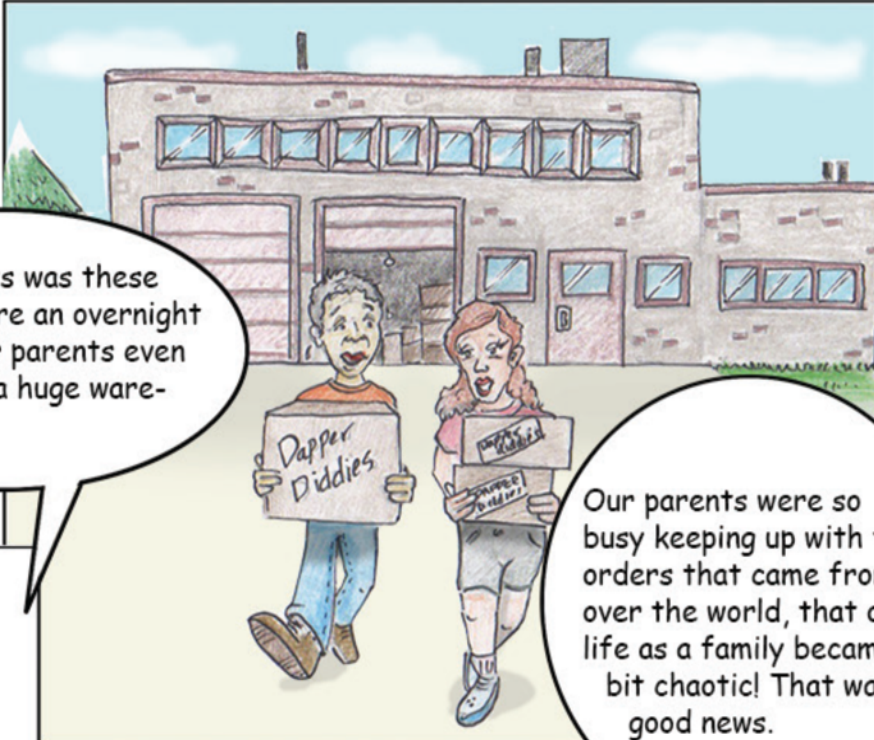
My dad is a chemist and he invented the "green" material for these diapers. My mom created some very cute styles for this online product. Parents could buy the "always popular" tuxedo diaper, or the cute party dress diaper...




Don't forget the cowboy and cowgirl diddie...or the police boy and police girl diddie. Soon came cotton tee shirts, designed by mom, to go with these diapers. The good news was these products were an overnight success.




PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



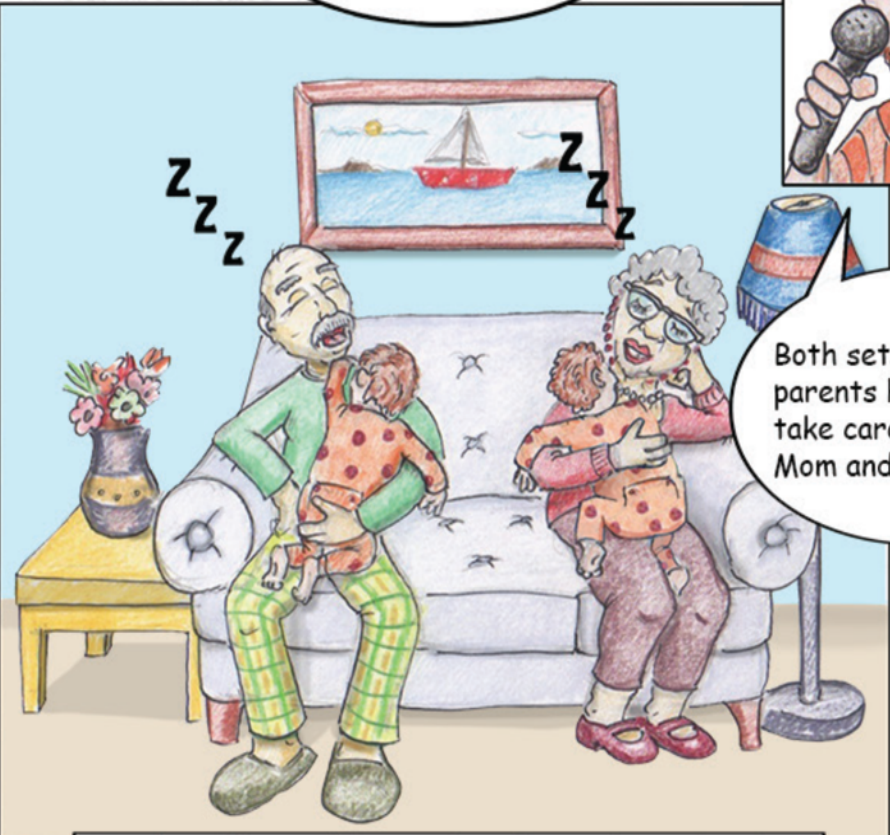
The bad news was these products were an overnight success. Our parents even had to rent a huge warehouse.



Our parents were so busy keeping up with the orders that came from all over the world, that our life as a family became a bit chaotic! That was good news.




But the business took a toll on all of us...

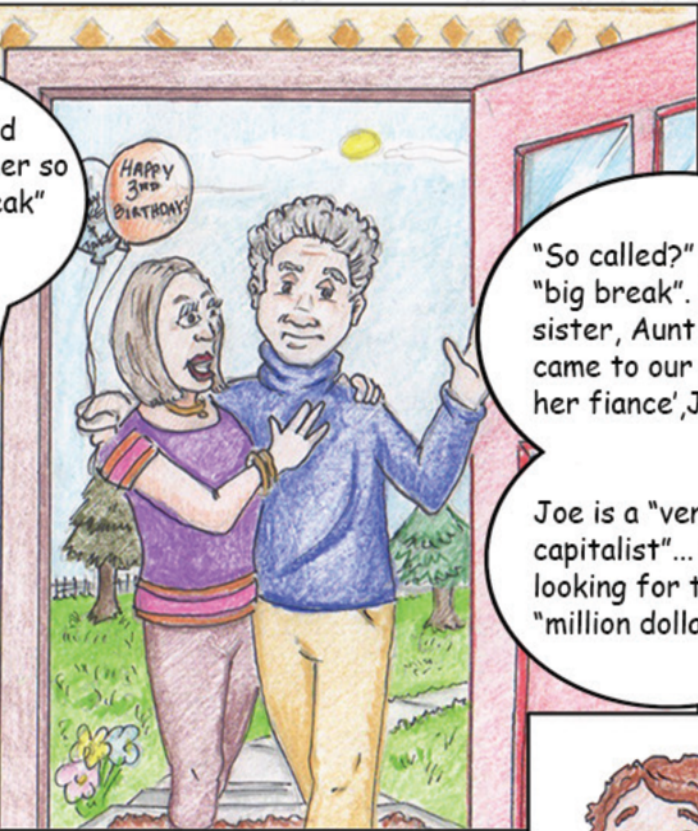


Both sets of Grandparents had to help take care of us while Mom and Dad worked.

Again, the audience laughs and applauds.



Then on our 3rd birthday another so called "big break" came!



"So called?" It was a "big break". Our dad's sister, Aunt Elaine, came to our party with her fiance', Joe.

Joe is a "venture capitalist"... always looking for the next "million dollar" deal.



By the end of our third birthday party our parents signed away Dapper Diddies to "soon to be uncle" Joe for an enormous amount of money...millions in fact!



All this money gave our family financial freedom...a fantastic blessing for the Goldstein family.

True! We could now afford to move from our very small apartment to a brand new four-bedroom house. But, it was this move that brought about "The Change"!



Must you be so dramatic Blake? Life is all about change...and change is good.

Our new house was definitely something special. Mom and Dad didn't need to work so we spent several weeks making our new house...



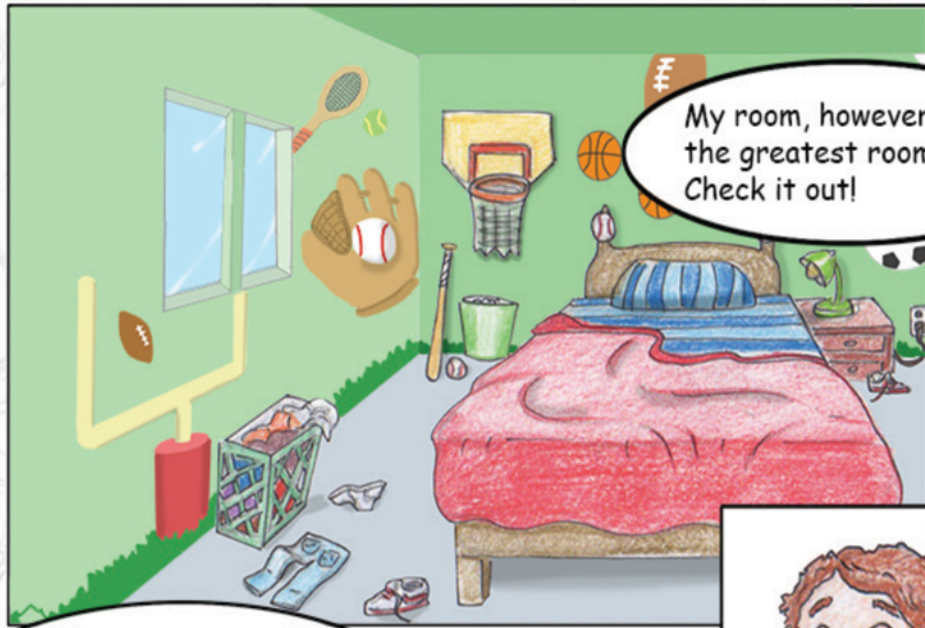
A home. We bought new furniture for all the rooms and new appliances for our "state of the art" kitchen. There was a big empty space off our two-car garage that became our dad's laboratory.

Dad had so many more "potentially million dollar" ideas up his sleeve. His home lab was a mad scientist's dream-come true!



*The audience applauds lightly.*

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



My room, however, was the greatest room of all! Check it out!

I totally admit that the walls were pretty cool, thanks to Mom. But my room, though not so artsy, was awesome.



My "self-made" structures of skyscrapers and giant buildings were displayed on shelves all around the room. It looked like New York City.

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE





Speak for yourself, Buddy. It was you who snuck into bed with me every night. I was happy to be away from your messy self.

Our whole family was happy with our new living arrangement, but I must admit, Blake and I had some trouble adjusting to sleeping alone...in our own rooms.

I was adapting to being my own person...and that takes time after almost 4 years of total togetherness.

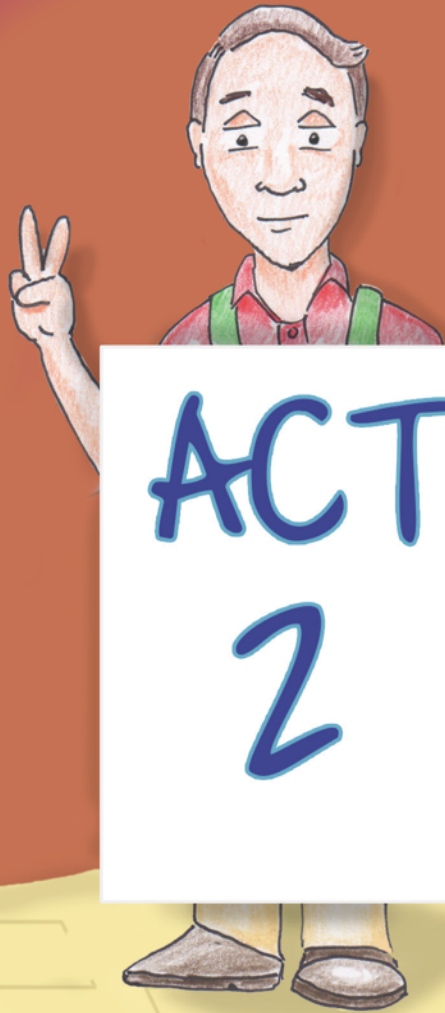
Maybe so, but you never told me to leave and you did tell me you missed my company.

AND SO CONCLUDES  
ACT I...

*The audience snickers at the boys' conversation as the scene fades and the curtain falls.*

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE

# Evolving Right Along



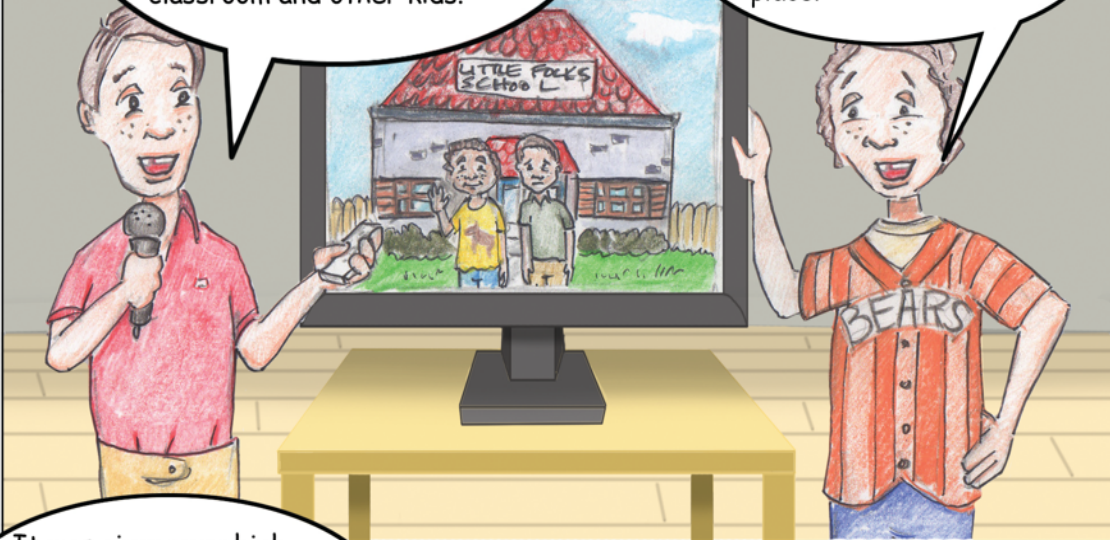
ACT  
2

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

The curtain rises on Blake and Jake Goldstein in their same positions on stage. The 50" screen is still between them.

Once we had turned four, our mom and dad decided that Jake and I should go to preschool. They wanted us to get used to a classroom and other kids.

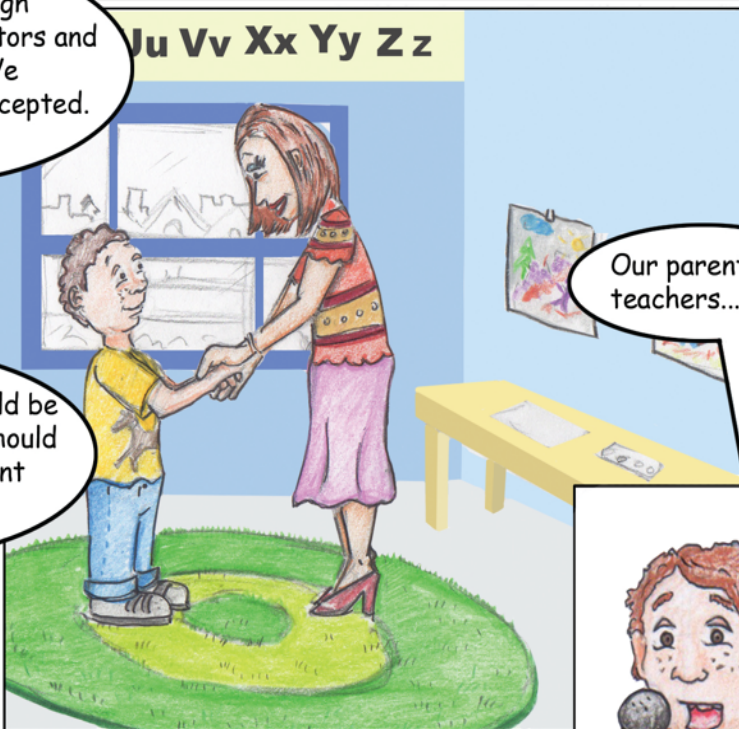
I couldn't wait to go to school and Little Folks Preschool was a really cool place.



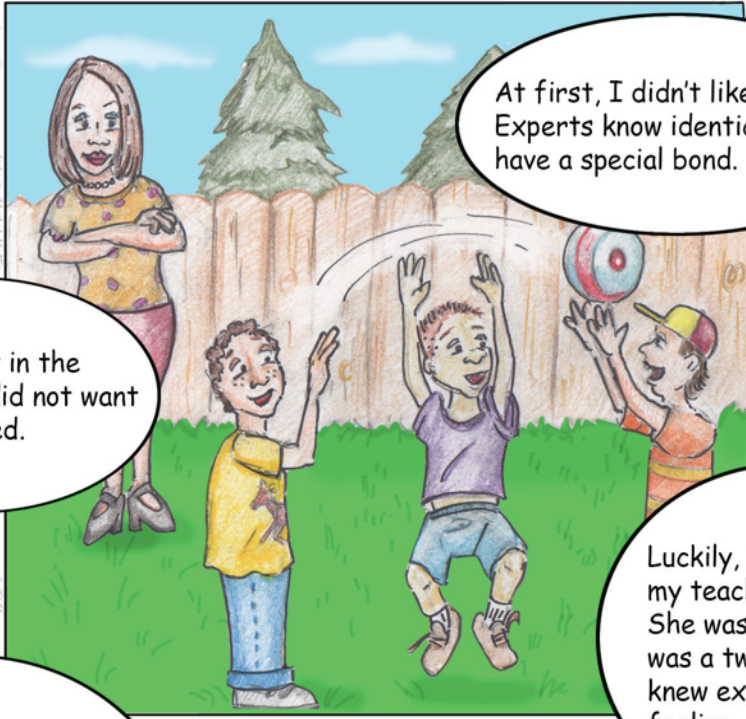
It was given very high marks among educators and so it was settled. We applied and were accepted. They all agreed,

That Jake and I should be separated...that we should learn to be independent from each other.

Our parents and teachers...



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME



At first, I didn't like this plan. Experts know identical twins have a special bond.

It is true that in the beginning we did not want to be separated.

Luckily, I really liked my teacher, Miss Ilene. She was super nice and was a twin herself. She knew exactly how I was feeling.

Mr. Mike was the perfect teacher for me. His hobby was building Lego structures and one whole area of the class-room was set up for kids interested in this.



Miss Ilene told me when she was separated from her twin sister in pre-school, her teacher helped her make friends with everyone. With her help, I had tons of friends by the end of our first week.



Isaac and Jon became my best friends. We loved building structures together. Too many friends are a waste of time. It's much better to have one or two close friends.

And, so, our differences grew!



PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

While I took pride in looking my best, my hair always neat, my clothes always matching, my shoes tied perfectly by me...




I liked flip-flops and vans...tying shoes was such a waste of time. I loved sports team tee shirts and jeans...and longer hair, like a musician.



*The audience laughs and applauds. They are enjoying the twins. The boys, looking somewhat surprised, smile at each other, happy with their success so far.*

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME




Mom wanted to do something for the community and decided that she would take Sophie to service dog school. Sophie passed her classes with honors.



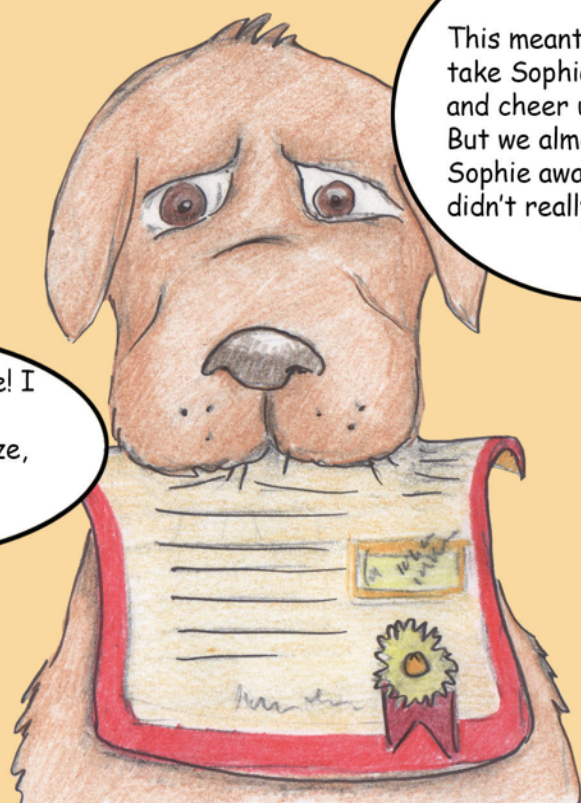
When Blake and I were 5, we adopted Sophie Dog from a shelter.

*The audience laughs.*



This meant that Mom could take Sophie into hospitals and cheer up sick people. But we almost had to give Sophie away because Blake didn't really like dogs.

That is not true, Jake! I was allergic and she always made me sneeze, wheeze and tear...so annoying!



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME



Anyway, Mom started taking Sophie to visit an assisted living home.

In case you don't know, people who can't take care of themselves often live in these places...It is mostly full of old people.

Mom thought it would be good for Blake and me to go with Sophie and her once a month. She said we needed to give back to those in need.

There are lots of ways to give back but Mom had to take us to the old folks home for some unknown reason!

You can tell from this photo that everyone enjoyed it when Blake, Sophie and I showed up...everyone except Blake that is...



*The audience giggles.*

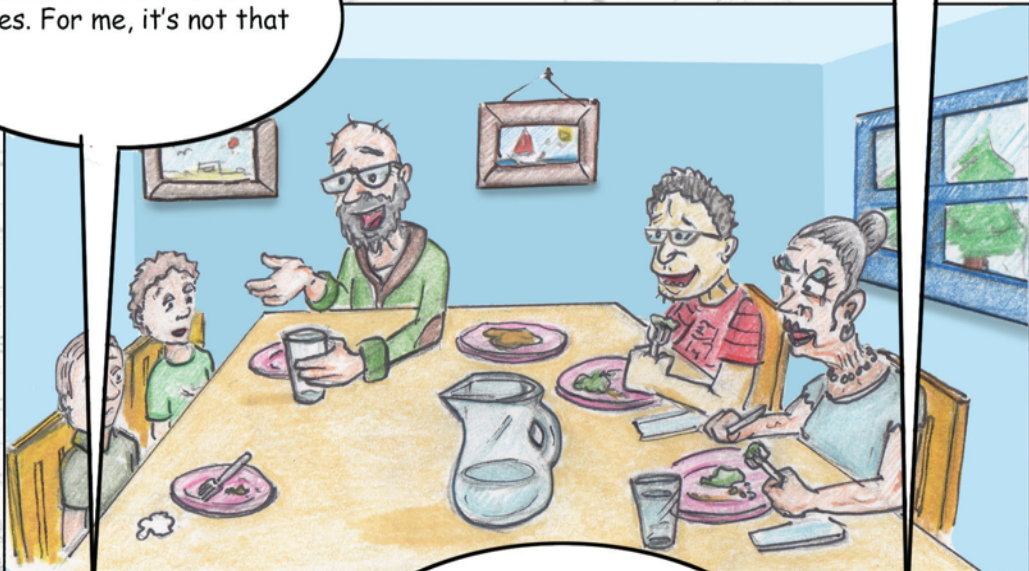


PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME



I made lots of friends but my favorite was Stan The Man. He was 90 years old and taught me some amazing magic.

Jake makes friends wherever he goes. For me, it's not that easy.



PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

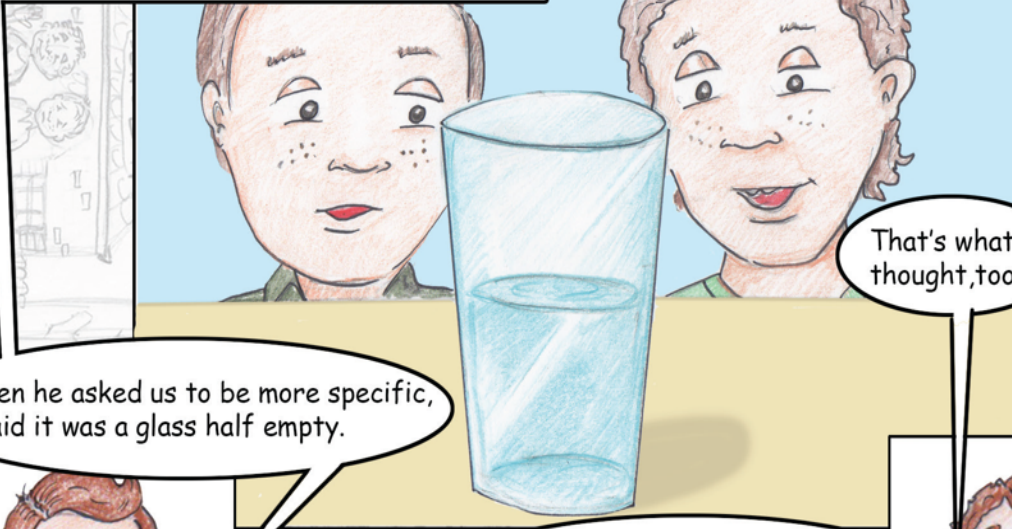


One day, during lunch, Stan The Man performed an experiment. He put a glass of water on the dining room table and asked Blake and me to describe what we saw.





It seemed like a silly question to me but I played along. I told him the obvious...It was a glass of water.



That's what I thought, too.

When he asked us to be more specific, I said it was a glass half empty.



I corrected Blake by saying it was a glass half full.



Then Stan The Man laughed and said, "I knew it...I knew it!"

Since I was only 5 1/2 I didn't get it and told Stan so. Then he said, "Blakie it's an old expression...people who see the glass half empty are described as pessimists. People who see the glass half full are called optimists. Jakie is more the optimist and you are more the pessimist."



GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

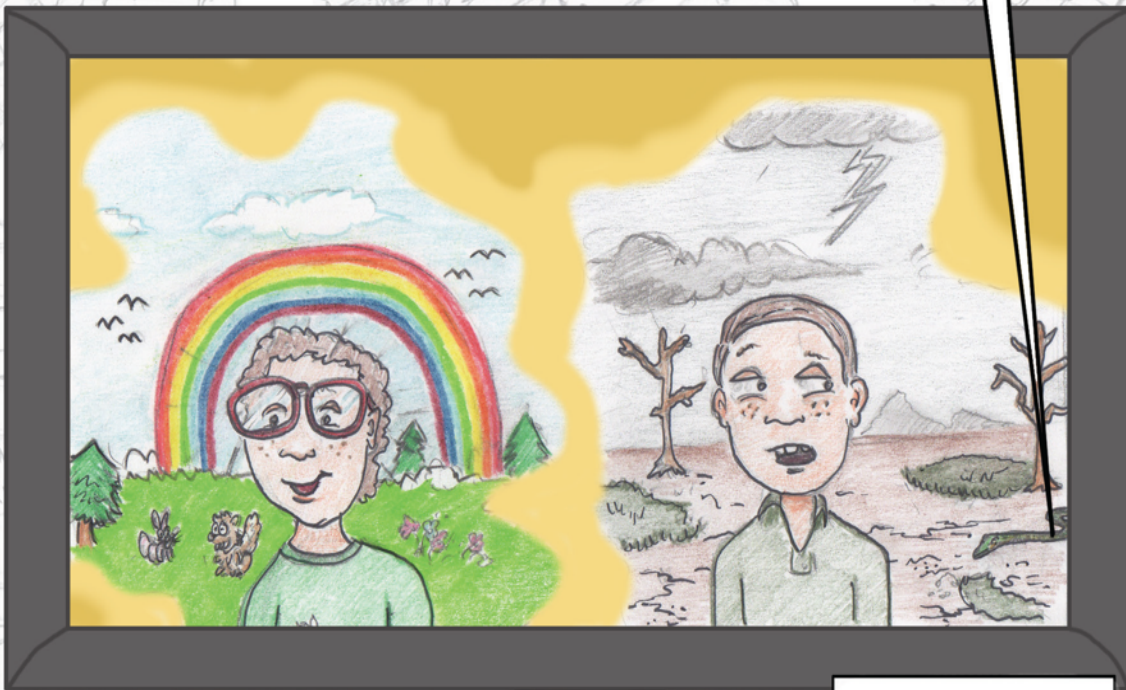


We had no idea what he meant by rose-colored glasses.

Blake and I were still clueless so Stan the Man tried again. "Jake, you see the world through rose-colored glasses. To you, life is wonderful and marvelous. And Blake, well, you know life just ain't so."

*(Speaking to the audience)*  
You all know "ain't" is bad grammar, right?

*The audience laughs.*



Finally, Stan The Man made everything simple. He said, "You boys come and visit here a lot. Jakie, you make it fun for yourself by looking forward to my silly magic tricks and the chocolate pudding. Blakie, you don't like being here. It all seems yucky to you. Same situation...two points of view."



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

I suddenly realized that we were like opposite ends of a magnet...one with a positive charge and the other with a negative charge. Both are important to life.



And we also learned from Stan's wisdom that no one was right or wrong...it just was!

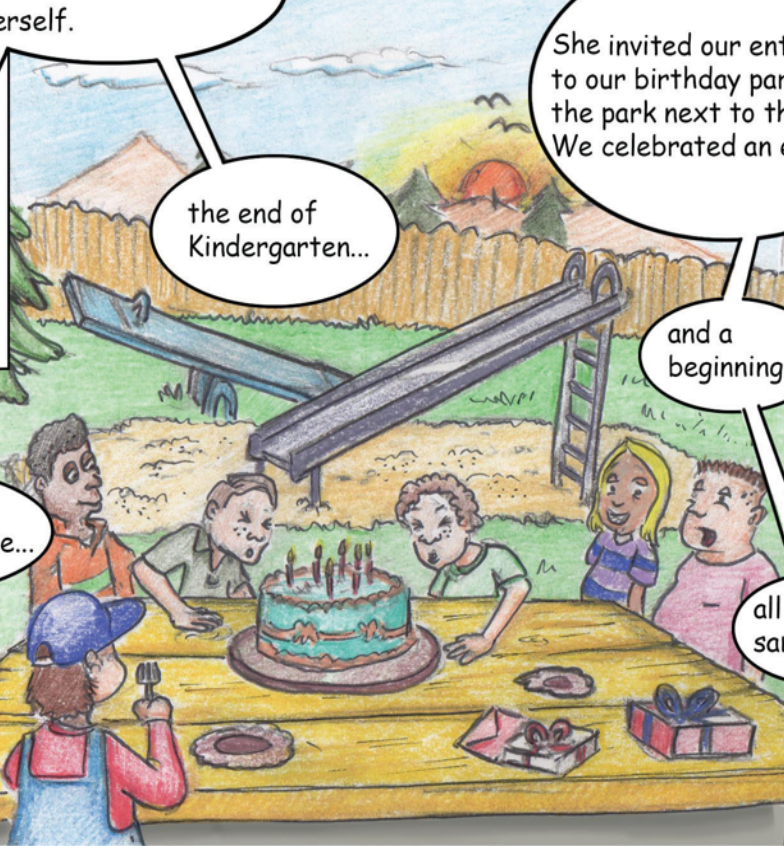




Blake and I graduated from Little Folks School two days before our 6th birthday.



Mom baked a big cake, which she decorated herself.



the end of Kindergarten...

She invited our entire class to our birthday party at the park next to the school. We celebrated an end...

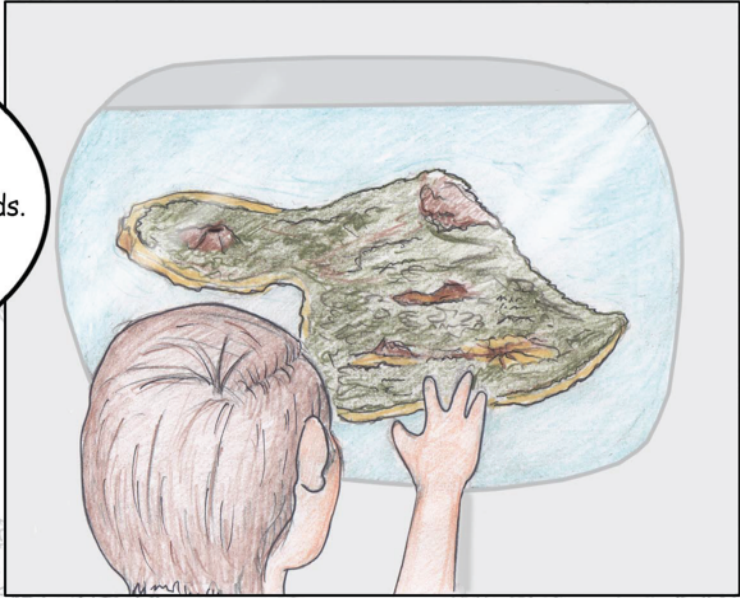
and a beginning...

the beginning of our 6th year of life...

all at the same time.

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

On our birthday, Mom, Dad, Jake and I flew to the island of Maui, in the Hawaiian Islands. We rented a home there for the entire summer.



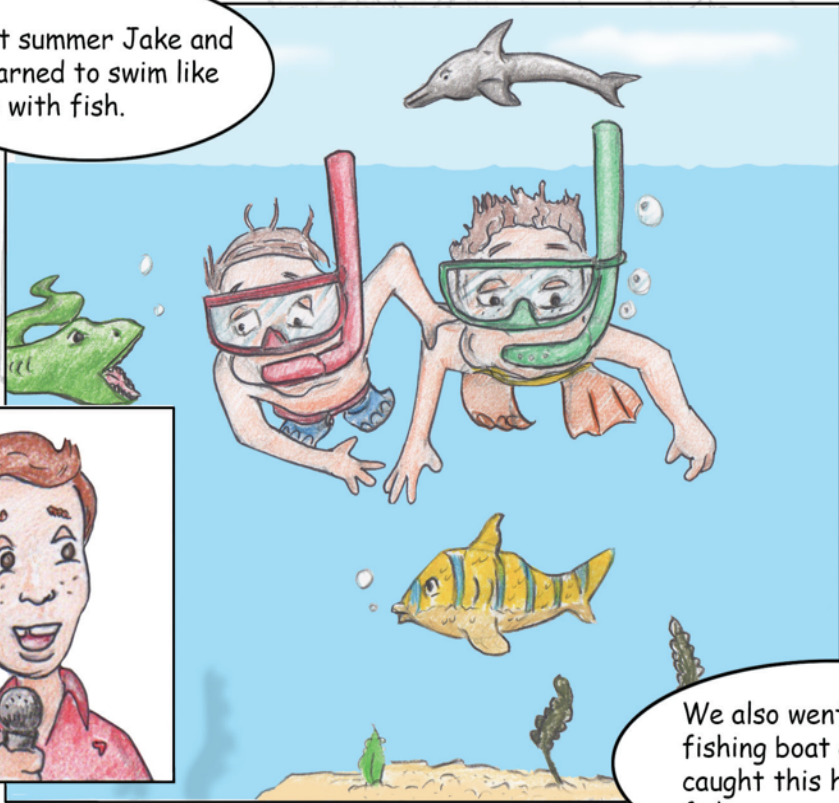
It had 5 bedrooms, a beautiful infinity pool and an incredible view of the blue-green ocean, which lay beyond. Friends and family came and went all summer long.



KENNE  
CHARTER

PHILADELPHI  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

That summer Jake and I learned to swim like fish with fish.



We also went out on a big fishing boat and Dad caught this huge swordfish.

Needless to say, it smelled disgusting!

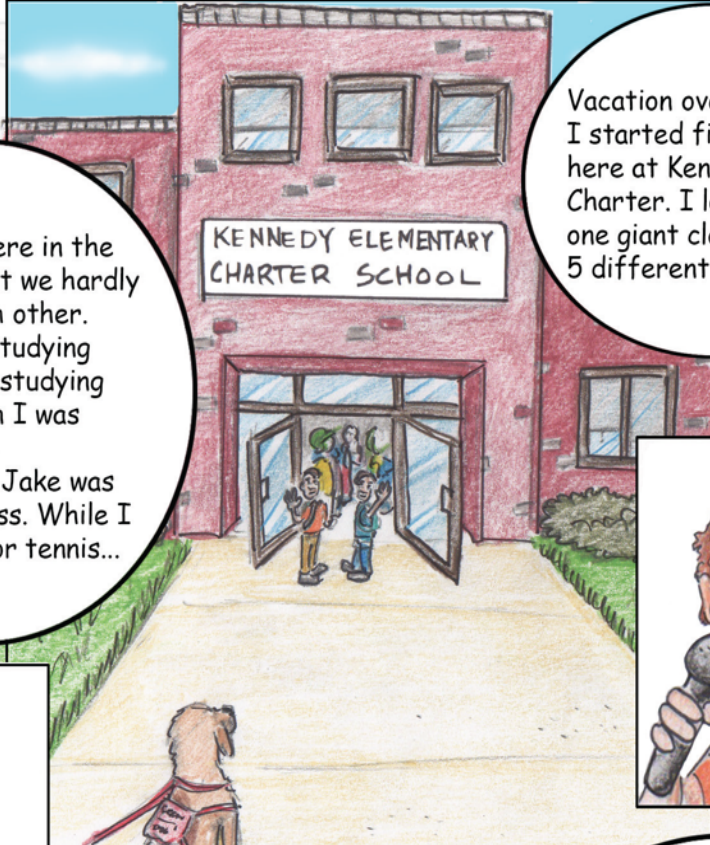
The point is Dad was so proud...just look at that smile on his face.

*The audience is amused at Blake's twisted face, showing how awful the fish smelled.*

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and soon we returned home.

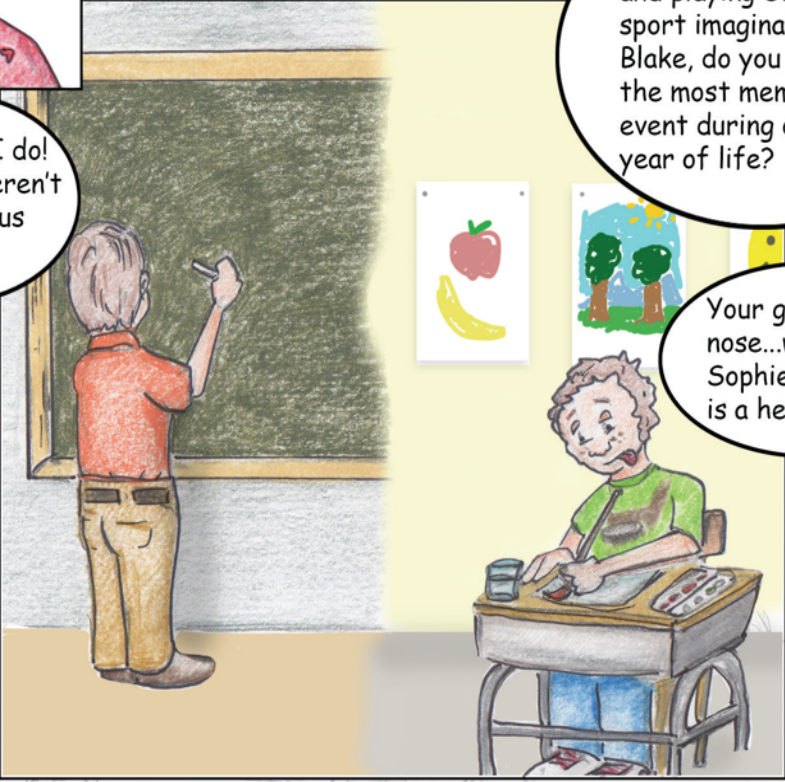


PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME



Jake and I were in the same class but we hardly ever saw each other. When I was studying math, he was studying writing. When I was doing science experiments, Jake was in reading class. While I played piano or tennis...

Vacation over, Blake and I started first grade here at Kennedy Charter. I loved being in one giant classroom with 5 different teachers.



Of course I do! And if it weren't for my genius nose...

I was banging on bongos and playing every team sport imaginable. But, Blake, do you remember the most memorable event during our 6th year of life?

Your genius nose...what about Sophie...her nose is a hero too...

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

So here's what happened (speaking to audience). It was a cold rainy day in February...Jake and I were on winter break. Dad was working in his lab...

Mom, Nana, and Grandma had gone shopping...looking for sales and bargains...



As usual...

Typical...



I was fully focused on a Lego construction project in my room...

Sophie and Jake were constant companions and they loved to jump in puddles and become muddy messes after storms!



What else is new...And Sophie and I were out puddling after a two-day long rainstorm.

Sooo much fun!

The audience laughs at this.

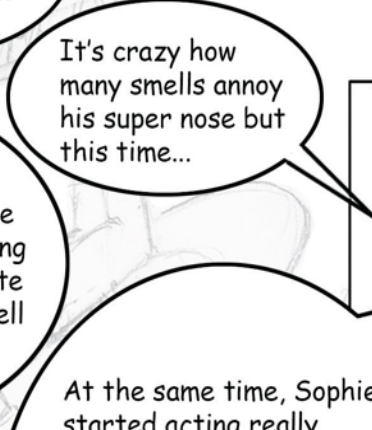
PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME





So, the truth is, I have a super sensitive nose.

That's right... my nose saved our lives. (To the audience) While building my replica of the White House, I began to smell something weird.



It's crazy how many smells annoy his super nose but this time...

At the same time, Sophie started acting really nervous. She stopped puddling and ran to the kitchen door, whining and barking. I knew something was wrong and so I let her in, knowing I would be in big trouble for tracking in so much mud!



At the same time I followed the smell into the kitchen. Sophie was barking like crazy at the laundry room door. Dad soon joined us, hearing the commotion and smelling the smoke.

GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

He handed me his cell phone saying, "Call 911. Tell them our house is on fire!" Then he opened the laundry room door and found an inferno.

He quickly grabbed the fire extinguisher.



A massive fire... (He explains to the audience).



Dad knew he would not be able to stop this blaze with only one fire extinguisher so he shut the door again and made us all get out of the house at once.



The four of us waited on the curb and within 5 minutes the fire trucks reached our street.

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME



Our city newspaper featured firefighters putting out the fire and congratulating Sophie and Blake for their gifted noses. They were big heroes.



A well-deserved title for my dog and me.

That's right, you heard correctly...from then on Sophie and Blake became best friends and all of Blake's allergies disappeared forever. After the fire Blake came out of his shell.



What shell...I was never...



It's my turn, buddy...Anyway, strangers and friends alike would stop and talk with Blake everywhere we went. I was really proud of my brother. I finally felt like we were identical twins again.

We still had different hairdos and different clothes and stuff, but I must admit the boost to my confidence made me start to see life in a more positive way...the glass half full as Stan The Man would say.

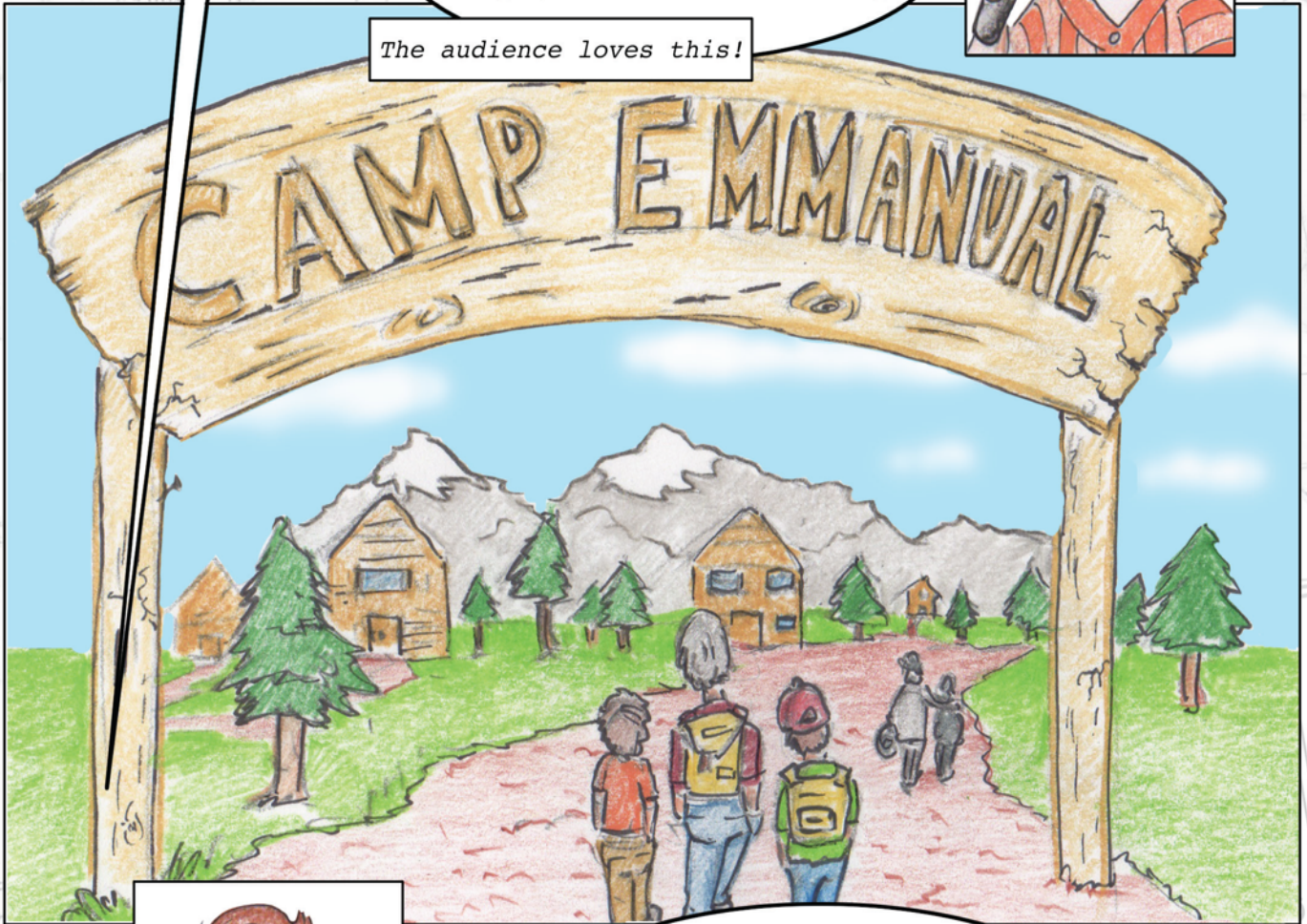
PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

Two days after school ended in June,

And two days before our 7th birthday...

Our Temple had its annual father/son sleep away camp. Dad, Blake and I left Mom and Sophie for five days of hiking, sports and father/son bonding.

*The audience loves this!*



It really is a fantastic campground. It should have been an awesome time except for one unfortunate moment, which changed everything that week...that summer...and our entire 7th year of life.

A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

True. Two hours into our camp experience, two counselors along with some dads and sons...

Jake, Dad and me included...

Started a three-mile hike...destination waterfall and swimming hole.



Unfortunately, one mile in...

I tripped over a bolder and landed awkwardly...

Who goes on hikes wearing flip-flops...



PHILIP  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

Needless to say, that was the end of camp for that year.

It was a hard birthday!

Jake hurt a lot. He had to have surgery to fix his leg. None of us were in a birthday party mood

It was brutal and hospitals are the pits...especially when you have to lie around like this...(referring to the picture on the screen).



In my desperation to put a smile on Jake's face again, I tried to help him see the good in this painful situation. Mom and Dad tried really hard, also. They brought all of Jake's favorite foods and his favorite movies. We all played hours and hours of board games letting Jake win the whole time.

What? You never told me that!



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME



Sophie never left his side and for the 5 days he was hospitalized, I never left his side either.

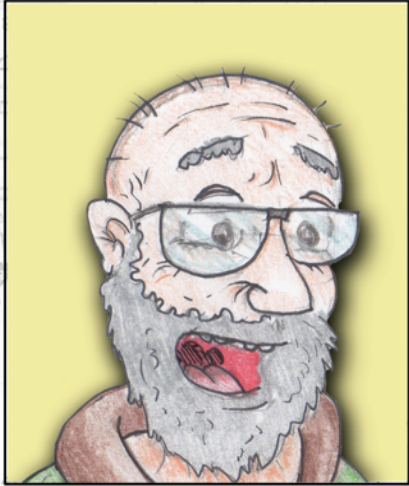
I was miserable...everything was Glass Half Empty! I was negative and pessimistic for the first time...ever! Seeing life through rose-colored glasses was a thing of the past.



(Blake chuckles) Three good things happened on day 4 though, which helped to turn things around a little.

The doctors took me down from traction!

You got to stand and walk with Mom and a nurse holding you up.



And my great old friend, Stan the Man, wheeling himself in a wheel chair, made a surprise visit.



PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

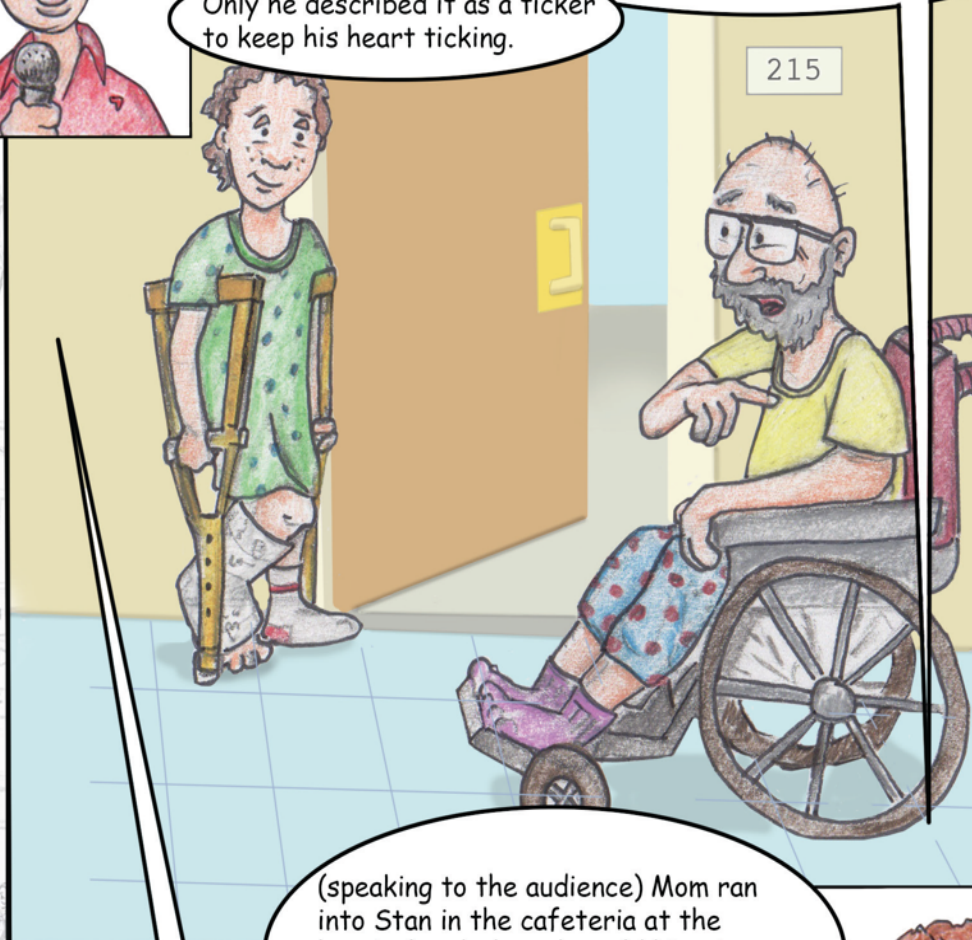
I couldn't believe my eyes...and, for the first time in my life, I was so happy to see him.

Stan was 92 years old and had just had heart surgery.

He got a pacemaker.

That's like a battery put inside, next to your heart, to keep it beating.

Only he described it as a ticker to keep his heart ticking.



(speaking to the audience) Mom ran into Stan in the cafeteria at the hospital and when she told him about my broken leg, he rushed on up to see me.

Stan is the best happy medicine in the world! He made Jakie feel better at once.

Well, not exactly at once, Blake.



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME



He noticed our role reversal right away.

He had never heard me complain about anything before this.

Which had become your favorite past time in the hospital.

And you used to always run away from him. But, when you saw him speed into my room that day, you acted like he was your long lost Great Grandfather...

Things change dude...

Stan stayed all afternoon teaching us poker. When he left he said that seeing life in a "Glass Half Empty" way happens sometimes when a person has a hard knock. He said it is difficult to see the "Glass Half Full" when you are afraid and in pain.

He said, "Wonders never cease" when he realized I was trying to see everything in a "Glass Half Full" type of way! At first, I did this for your sake (speaking to Jake), but (to the audience) then I realized I was feeling happier when I looked at life in a positive way.

Stan is the greatest guy...

And a great teacher...

And friend!

(To the audience) Luckily, I got to go home the very next day...



KENNEDY ELEMENT  
CHARTER SCHOOL

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

The audience sympathizes with moans of support when they see the next slide.



What a production that turned out to be!

Hey...What happened to those rose-colored glasses?

The audience laughs.



**HOSPITAL +**

**GAZETTE**  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME



The summer dragged by. The worst thing about it was the cast on my leg.

The audience responds in various ways...chatter, giggles, and light applause.



Who knew you would go crazy because of the itching under your cast.

Leave it to my Dad and his great invention...Mr. Scratcher.

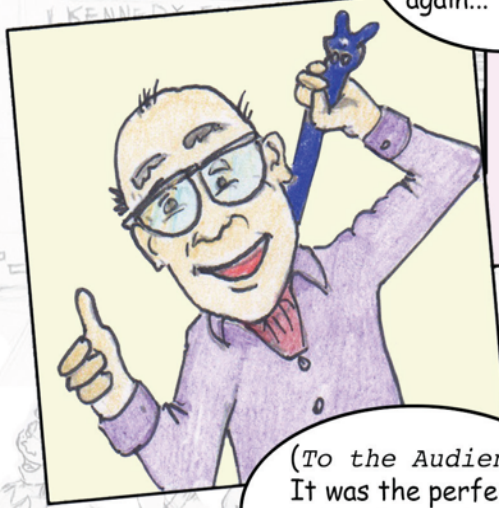
Mr. Scratcher was a scratching tool made of thin aluminum.

It fit down my cast and relieved that horrible itching!

Genius! Dad and Uncle Joe became business partners again...



And the result was Mr.Scratcher.com...



A very successful website! Check it out...Get your own Mr. Scratcher for those hard to reach itches.

(To the Audience) It was the perfect hobby for my injured brother.

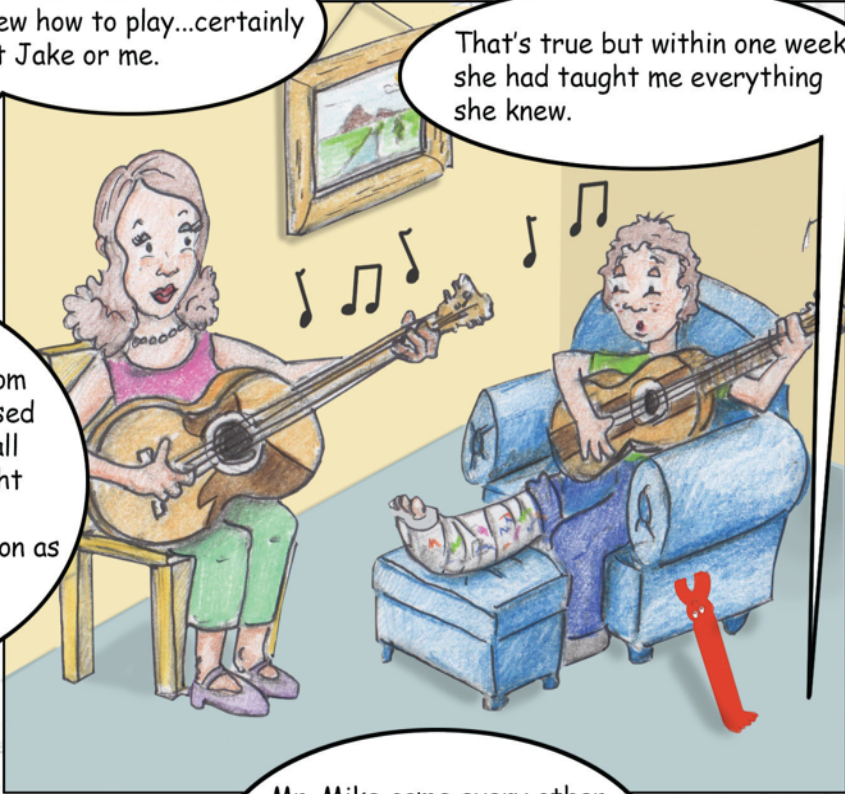
Being itch free definitely helped my bad moods. But, even better than that...My Dad bought me a kid's size guitar.





And who knew that Mom knew how to play...certainly not Jake or me.

That's true but within one week she had taught me everything she knew.



That's when I had Mom email Mr. Mike. He used to play at preschool all the time and he taught private lessons. He agreed to take Jake on as student.

Mr. Mike came every other day to jam. He taught me everything he knew that year. He told me I was a natural...

I have to admit, Jake, you were pretty good! (To the audience) Soon I started accompanying them on the keyboard...I was a natural, too.

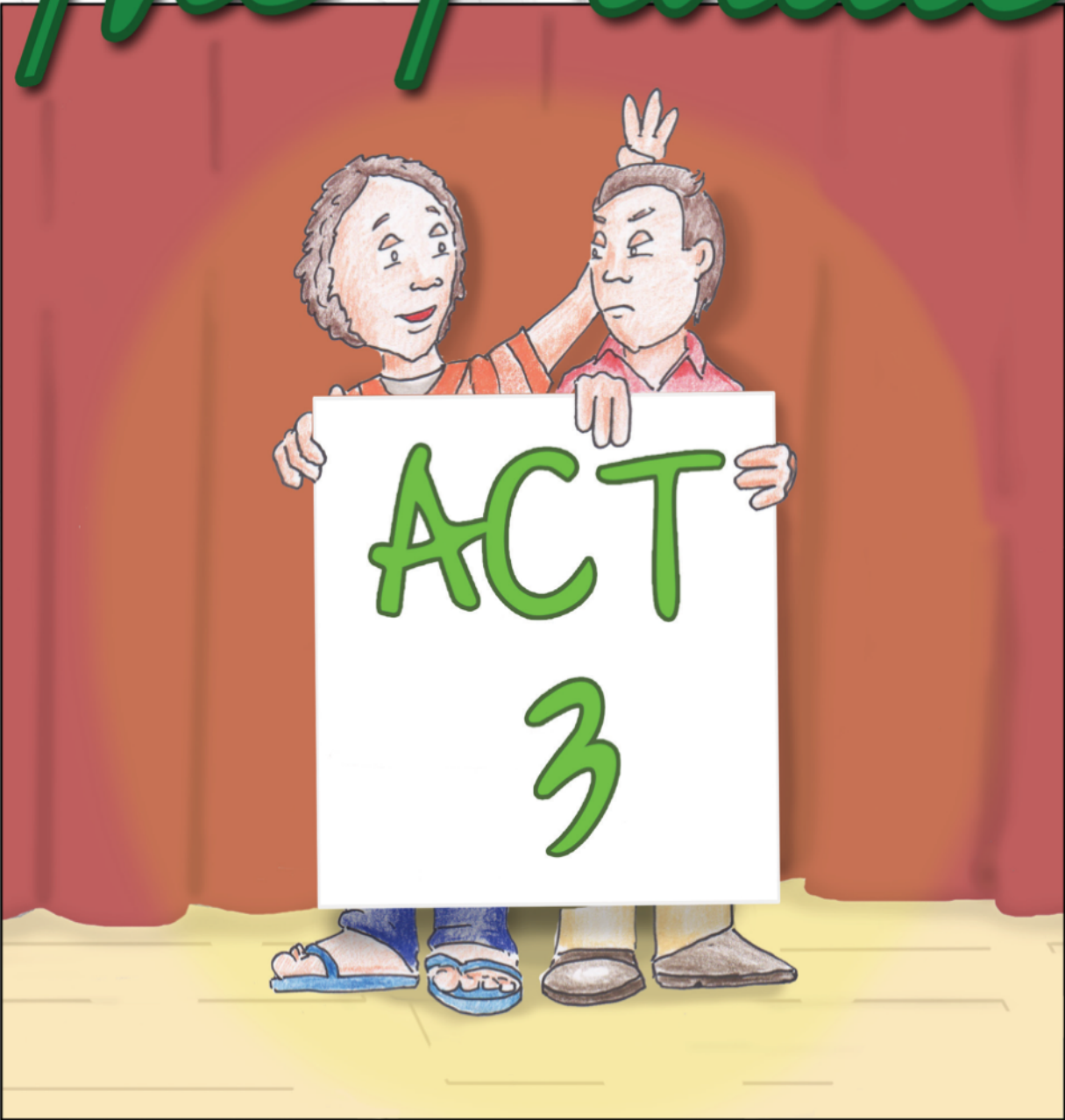


"The Rose Colored Glasses Band" was born!

The audience applauds...

PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE  
A BOY AND HIS DOG  
SAVE FAMILY HOME

# The Finale

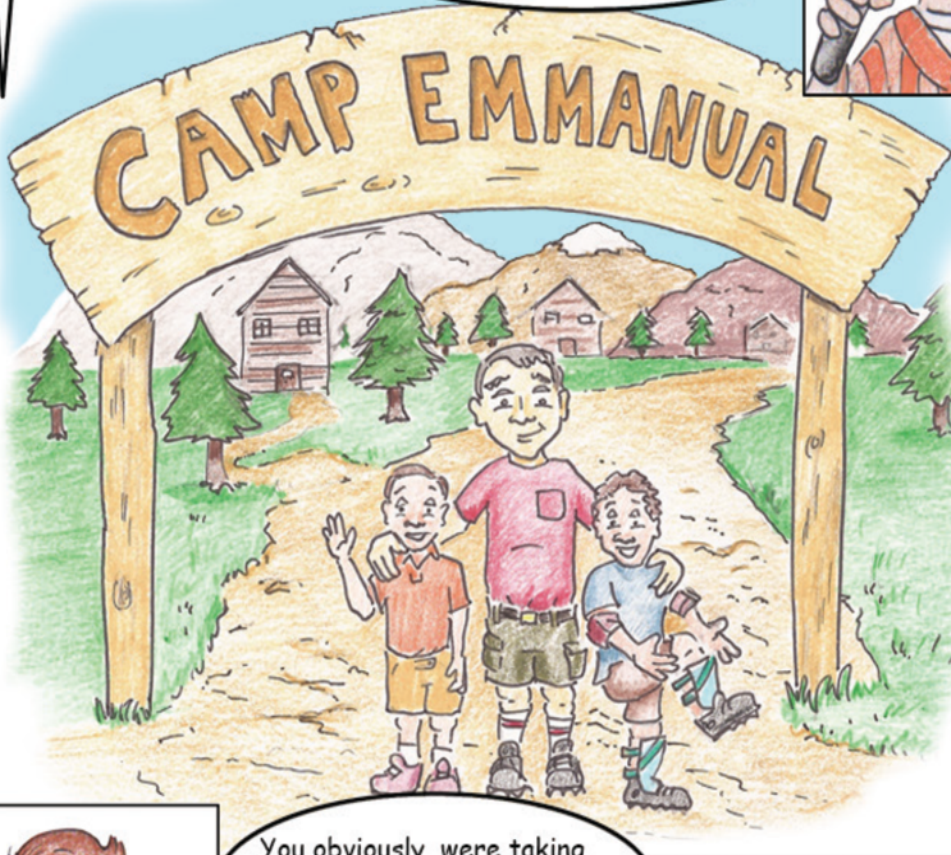


PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE

That would be the summer of our eighth birthday...

That's right...you guessed it...the following summer...

Blake, Dad and I returned to Camp Emmanuel. I was prepared for hiking this year!



You obviously, were taking no chances...but, really? Shin guards and elbow pads?

*The audience enjoys this.*

This time I was prepared for the worst...

*Jake points to the audience...*

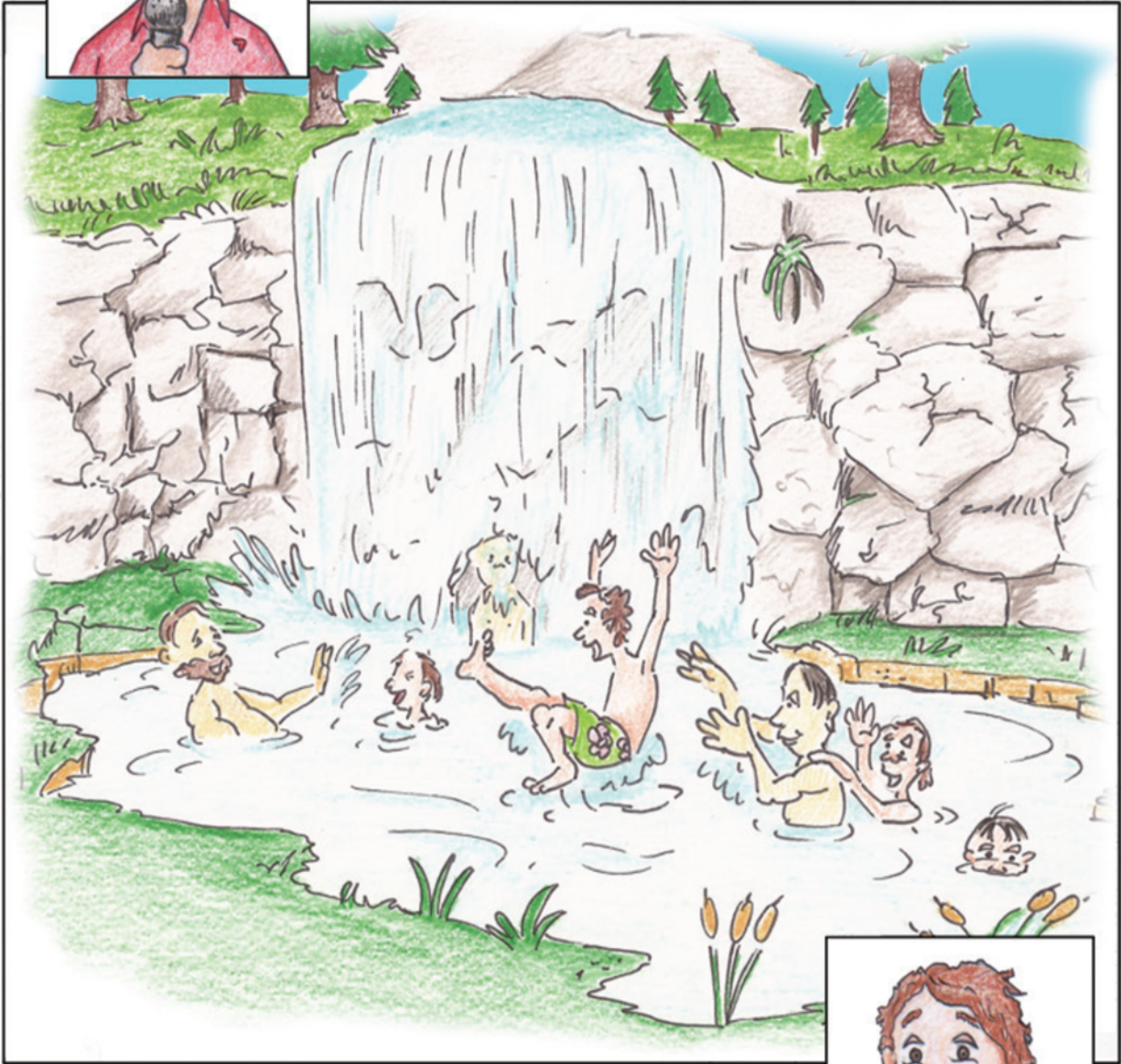
Or, in other words,

The audience responds...GLASS HALF EMPTY!

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



This is the waterfall and swimming hole which was the goal not reached the year before.



Needless to say...It was a blast.





After Jake's broken leg was healed Mom enrolled both of us in swimming classes. We swam all year in an indoor pool.

Our coach worked us hard.

Needless to say, Jake was a natural.



I'm sure I'm not the only one who hates chlorine!

Blake...not so much.



But it all paid off that summer because we both swam great at camp...without goggles or a nose guard.

*The audience laughs.*

*The audience applauds.*





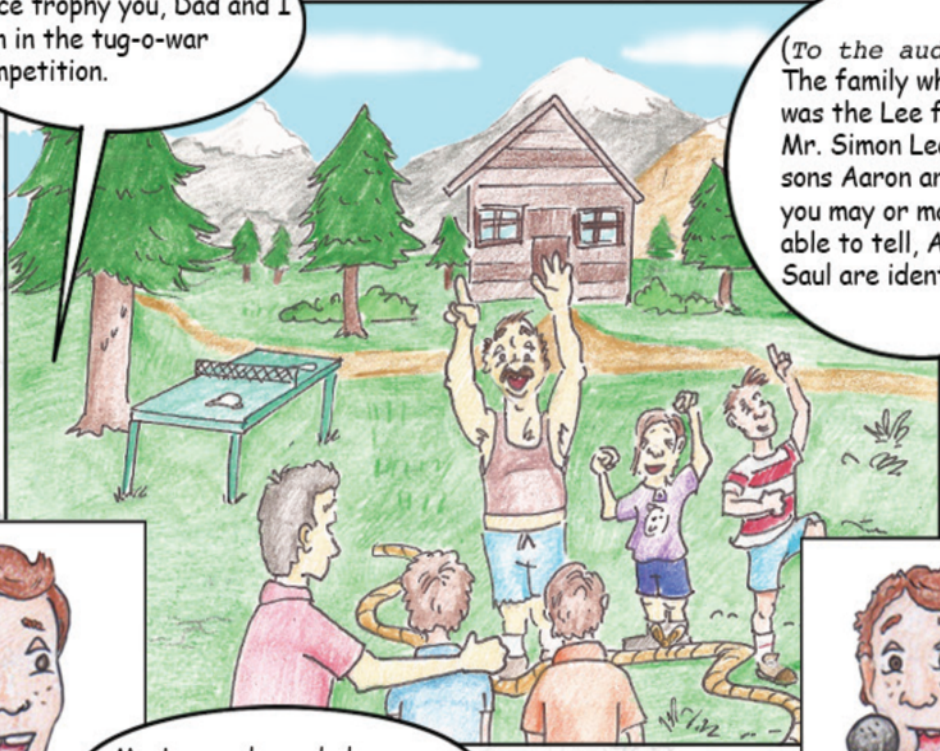


Just so you don't think I'm a total nerd,

Yup. My bro took first place in the Ping Pong tournament that summer.

But truthfully... That was pretty nerdy, (To the audience) I took 3 First Place trophies... one for swimming, one for rock climbing and one for soccer.

Let's not forget the 2nd place trophy you, Dad and I won in the tug-o-war competition.



(To the audience) The family who beat us was the Lee family... Mr. Simon Lee and his sons Aaron and Saul. As you may or may not be able to tell, Aaron and Saul are identical twins.

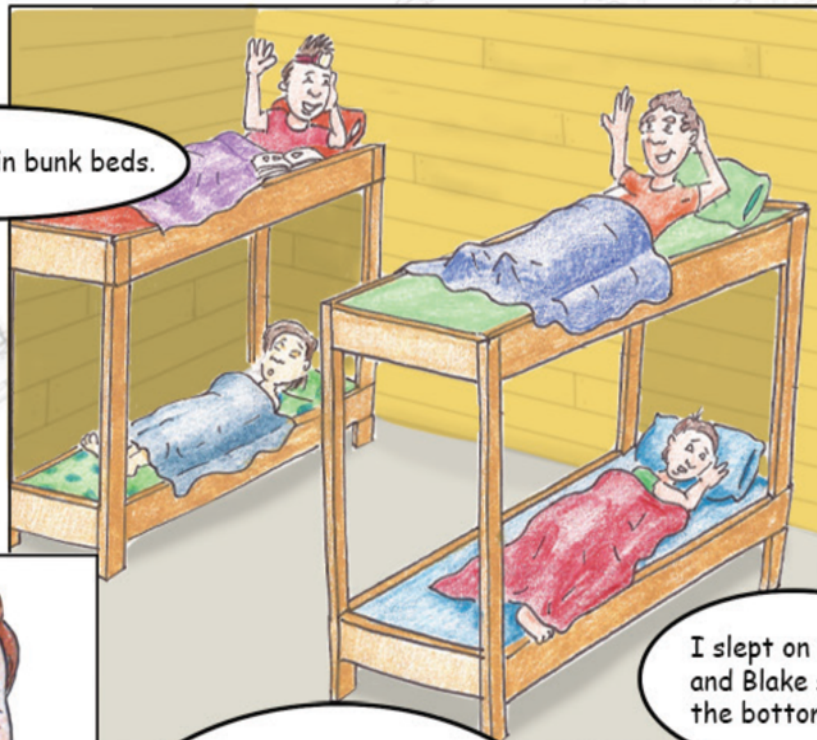


Mr. Lee and our dad were roommates.



There were two dads for each adult room.

The kids slept in bunk beds.



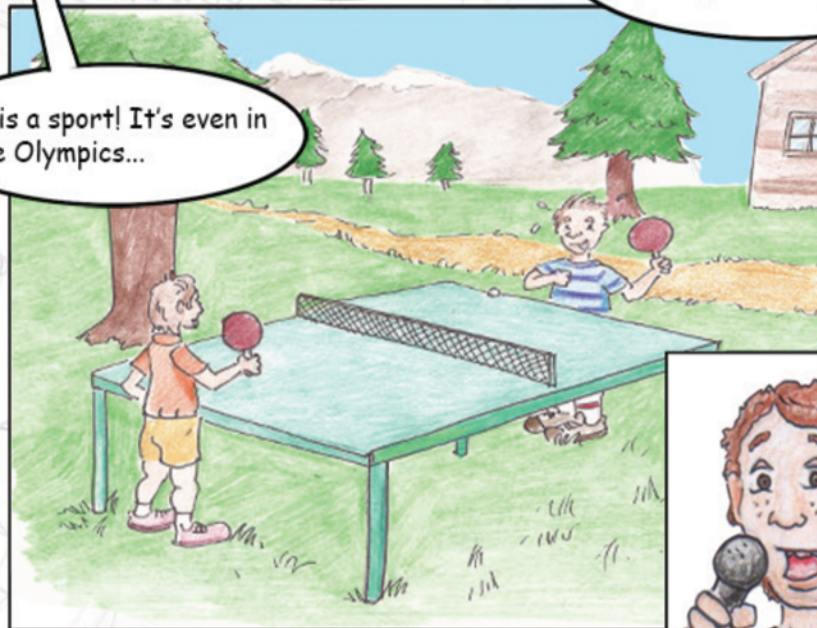
I slept on the top and Blake slept on the bottom.



Aaron and Saul slept on the bunk next to us. Aaron and I became great friends right from the start. He and I played Ping pong whenever possible. We both loved the sport!

What are you talking about? Ping Pong isn't a sport?

It is a sport! It's even in the Olympics...



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



It was really exciting to watch them.



Saul and I were best friends from the get go. We were stars on our soccer team and I barely beat him in free style swimming.



We loved competing against each other, which made us better and better in all our sports.



Yeah, but it was such a pain the way you guys loved playing tricks on Aaron and me...so annoying!



(to the audience) As you can see, my brother, Mr. Negative, was back to his old self...with a new best friend who shared his same point of view...

The audience laughs...

PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE

Every night we had a campfire. We sang songs and told scary stories.



And roasted marshmallows.

It was a great time except for the bugs and mosquitoes that ate me alive!



Even though you douced yourself with bug repellent!

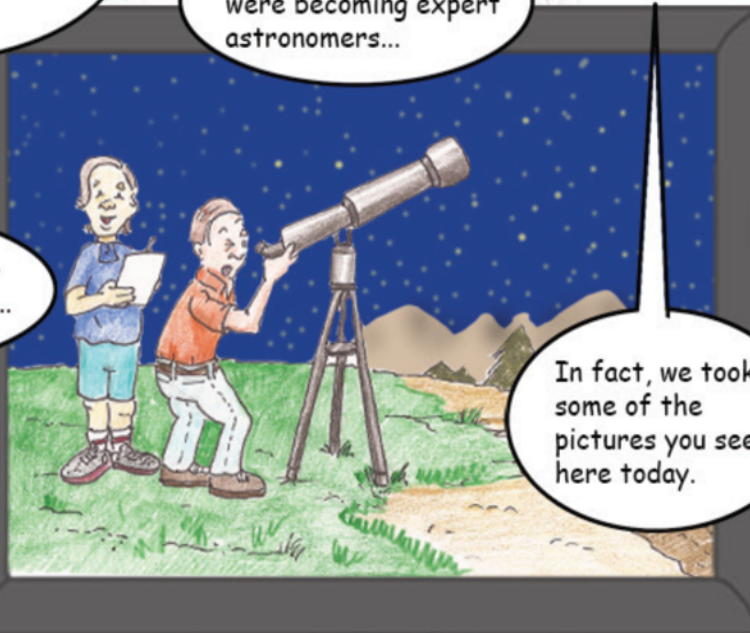


*The audience laughs...*

This sky was the greatest memory for me from our days at Camp Emmanuel...It was textbook!

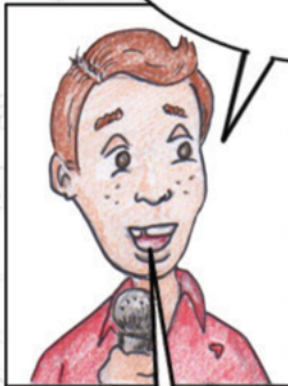
While Blake and Aaron were becoming expert astronomers...

Jake and Saul were becoming expert photogs...



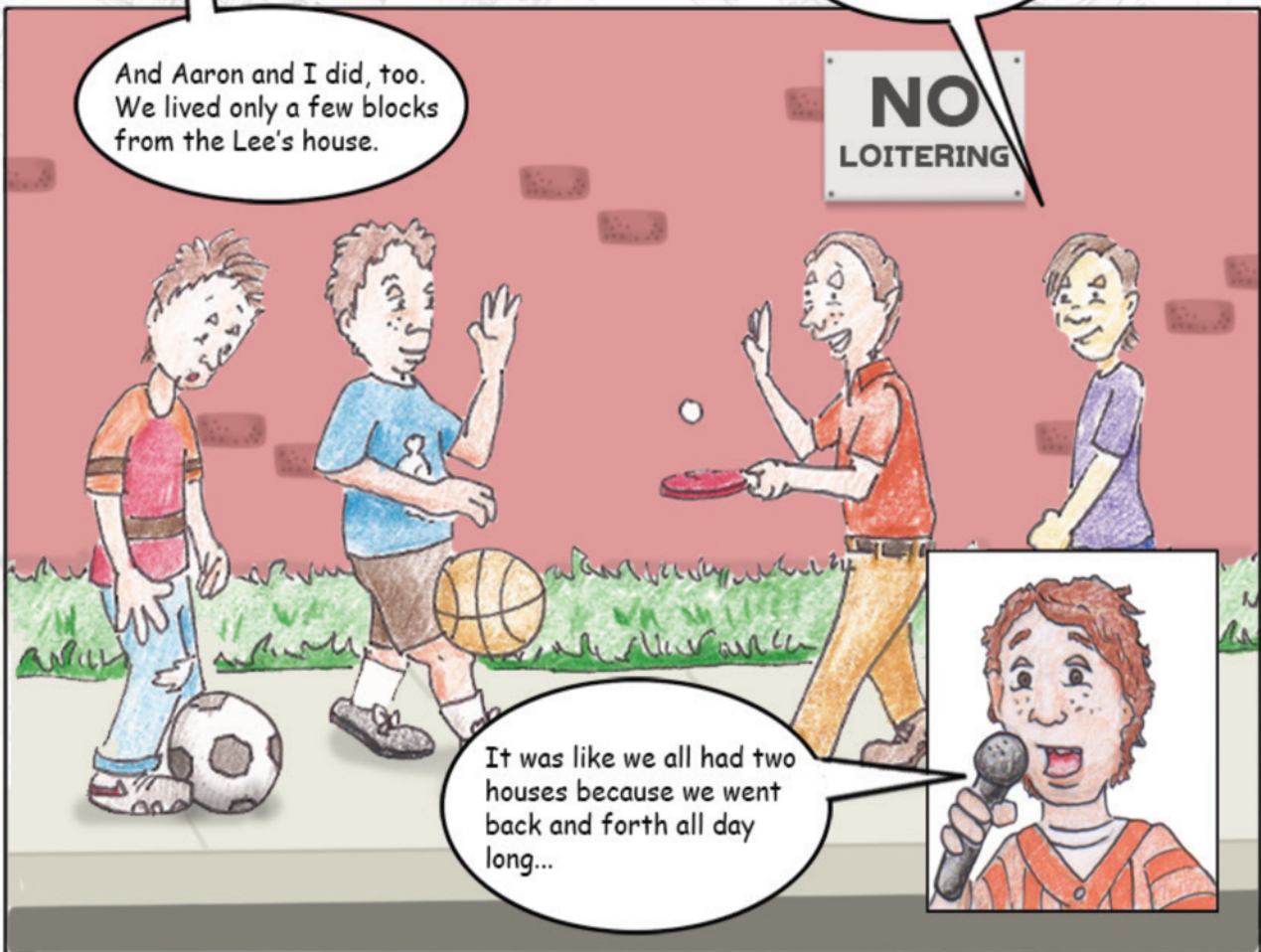
In fact, we took some of the pictures you see here today.

The rest of the summer flew by. Dad and Mr. Lee became best friends. They hung out a lot and talked about how to make Earth a better place.



Saul and I hung out every day.

And Aaron and I did, too. We lived only a few blocks from the Lee's house.



It was like we all had two houses because we went back and forth all day long...



It wasn't all sports, though. Both Aaron and Saul loved our band!



They loved to watch Mr. Mike, Blake and me jam...

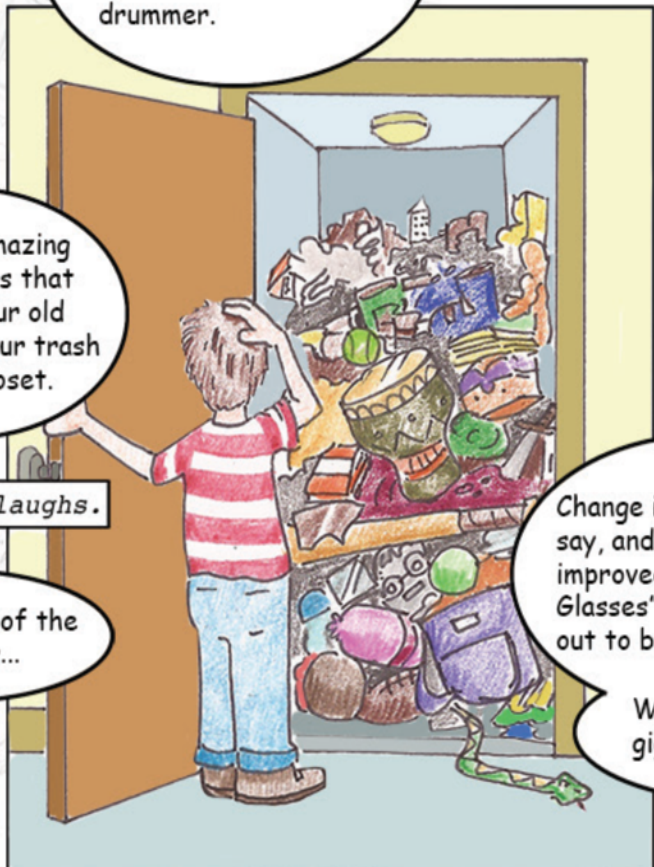
Which we did every other day.

Aaron and Saul had taken piano lessons for 3 years, so they each took turns jamming with us.



But we became great when Saul discovered bongos in my closet and decided he would be our drummer.

The most amazing thing of all is that he found your old bongos in your trash heap of a closet.

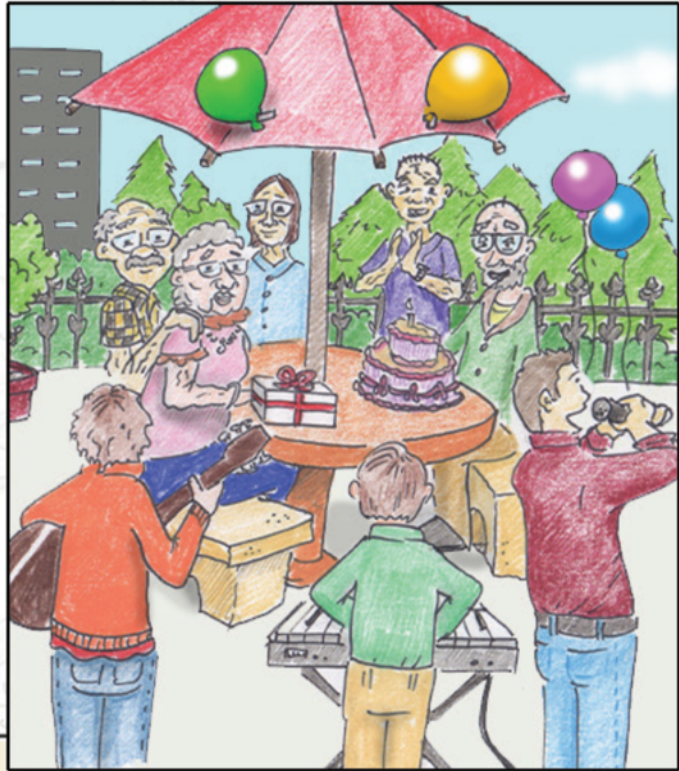


*The audience laughs.*

By the spring of the following year...

Change is good, I always say, and the new and improved "Rose Colored Glasses" Band turned out to be great!

We were hired for 3 gigs.



We played at Stan The Man's 93rd birthday party, which was held at our local park in the month of April...



We also played at our parent's 10th wedding anniversary in May and...

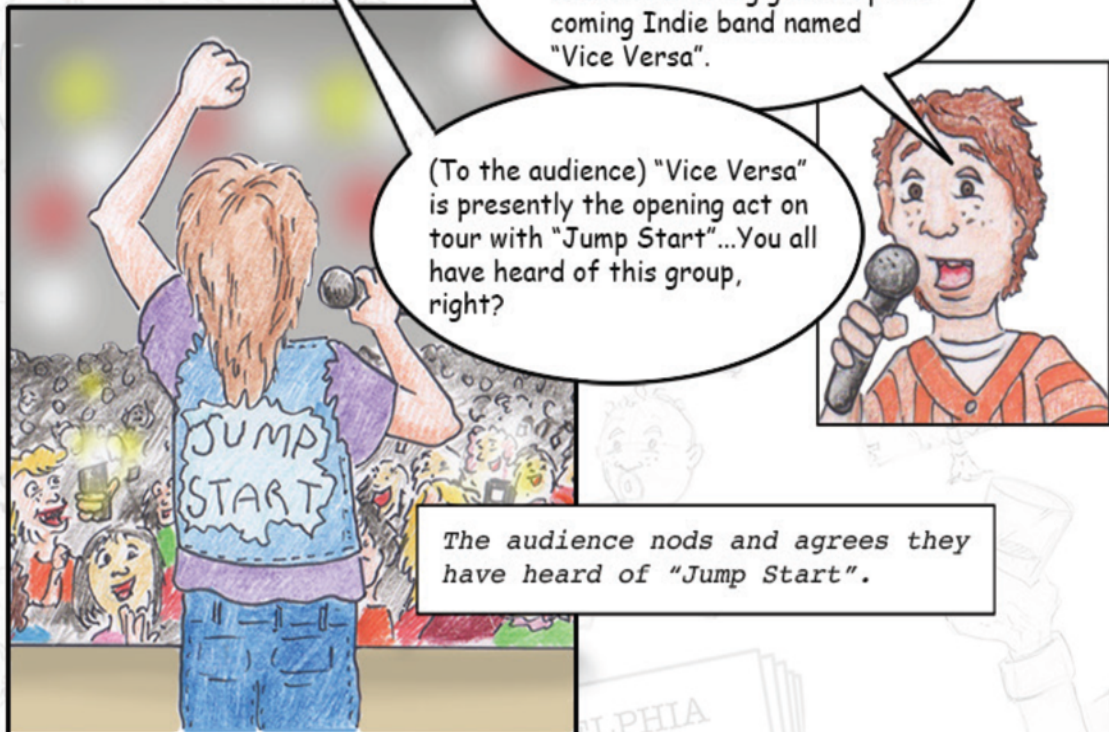
PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE

In June, just before our 9th birthday, we played at Mr. Mike's going away party...the saddest day of my life! We were totally deserted.



I have to admit, it came as a surprise to all of us when Mr. Mike announced that he had been offered a gig in an up and coming Indie band named "Vice Versa".

(To the audience) "Vice Versa" is presently the opening act on tour with "Jump Start"...You all have heard of this group, right?



The audience nods and agrees they have heard of "Jump Start".





I am really happy for Mr. Mike... and he didn't desert us. (To the audience) Mr. Mike has face time with us every Saturday so he can direct our rehearsals.



Saul now plays drums as well as bongos, depending on the song we're playing. But Aaron has switched to a base guitar.



We are the new and improved version of our old selves.



Blake still plays keyboards but I now play an electric guitar...more powerful and super fun!

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



That's true.

We're barely 10!

Our band now plays twelve different songs...Three are originals written by us.

Mr. Mike thinks we have a lot of potential in the world of music. We could be stars some day!



It's a dream, Blake. Besides, everyone loved us at the school fundraiser this year...(he turns to the audience)...Am I right?

*The audience erupts in applause!*



It is great to play with our two best friends...and it was fun becoming "The Kennedy School Ensemble Band" that night.

I knew the optimist was in you somewhere, bro...

Glass Half Full isn't my natural way but...

It's the fun way!



Fourth grade at Kennedy has flown by.

We have had great teachers and great friends.

Aaron and Saul left their old school and enrolled in Kennedy this year.



And we are actually "All Stars" in our school orchestra...not to brag or anything.

*The audience applauds with gusto!*

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



Aside from all this, however, Jake and I got the shock of a lifetime this year when, in December...

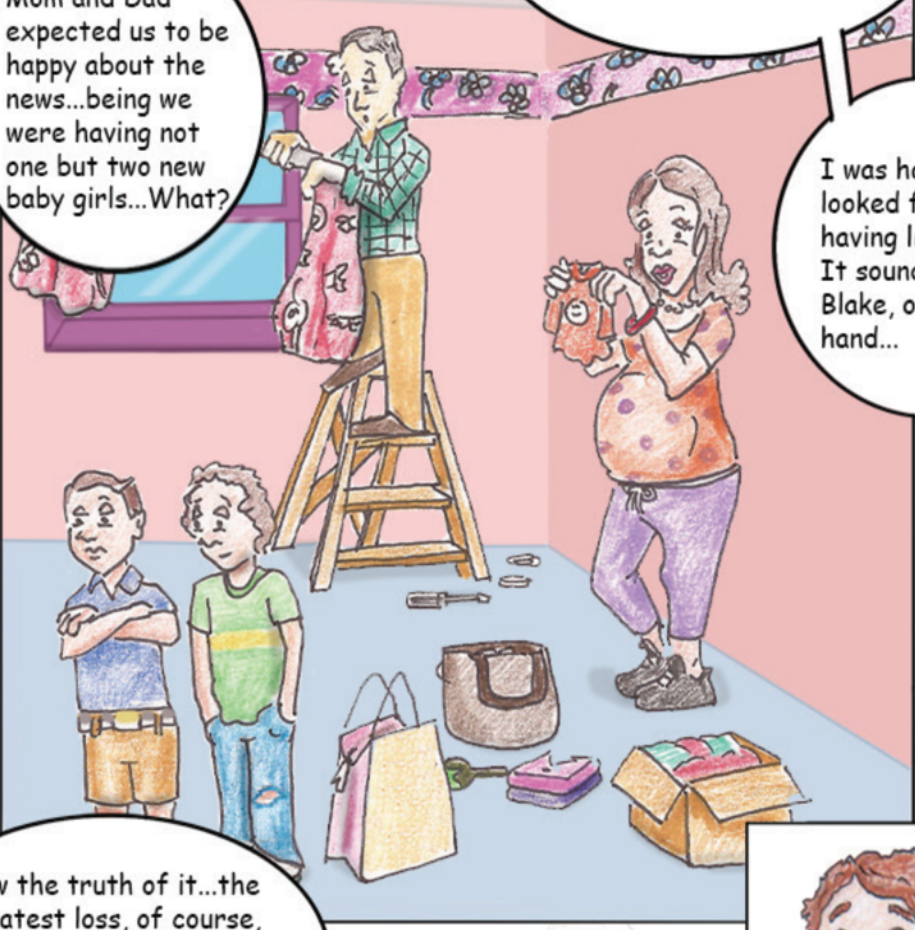
They actually said, "Sit down boys, we have some interesting news."

Our mom and dad told us we were expecting...

That was an understatement. The interesting news was that Blake and I were going to be brothers.

Mom and Dad expected us to be happy about the news...being we were having not one but two new baby girls...What?

I was happy and looked forward to having little sisters. It sounded like fun! Blake, on the other hand...



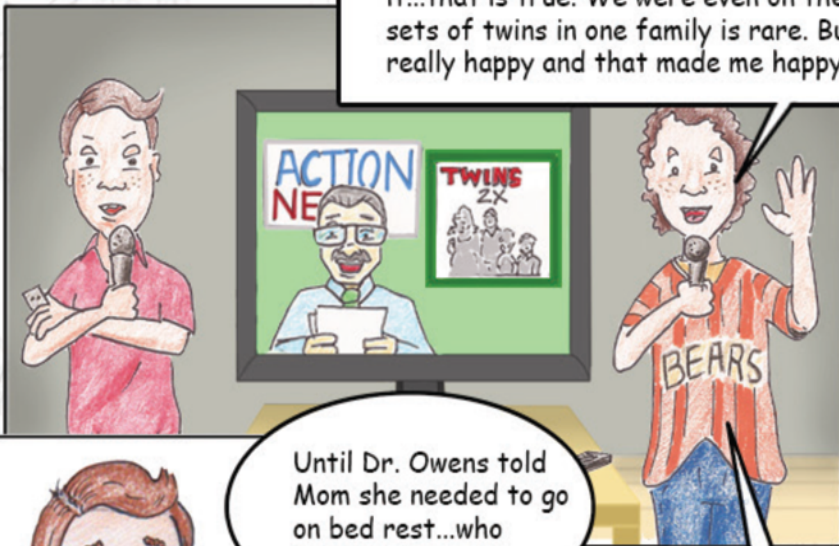
Saw the truth of it...the greatest loss, of course, being our parents' attention...not to mention the mess, the noise and the constant distraction.

Of course!

Our days of glory were coming to an end...everyone said so.



Our family and friends did make a pretty big deal of it...that is true. We were even on the local news since two sets of twins in one family is rare. But Mom and Dad were really happy and that made me happy, too.



Until Dr. Owens told Mom she needed to go on bed rest...who knew?

...It happens.



Yeah, well, even though Mom and Dad said it was no big deal...

And that was the truth.

(To the audience) I hardly slept until the babies were born.

(To the audience) Guess who slept with me for 6 weeks.



PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



Our beautiful little sisters, Shana and Anna, were born happy and healthy.



(To the audience) They have been the center of attention in our family from that day to this!

Who cares? They deserve it. And now that they can smile and laugh, they're terrific! They totally love us!

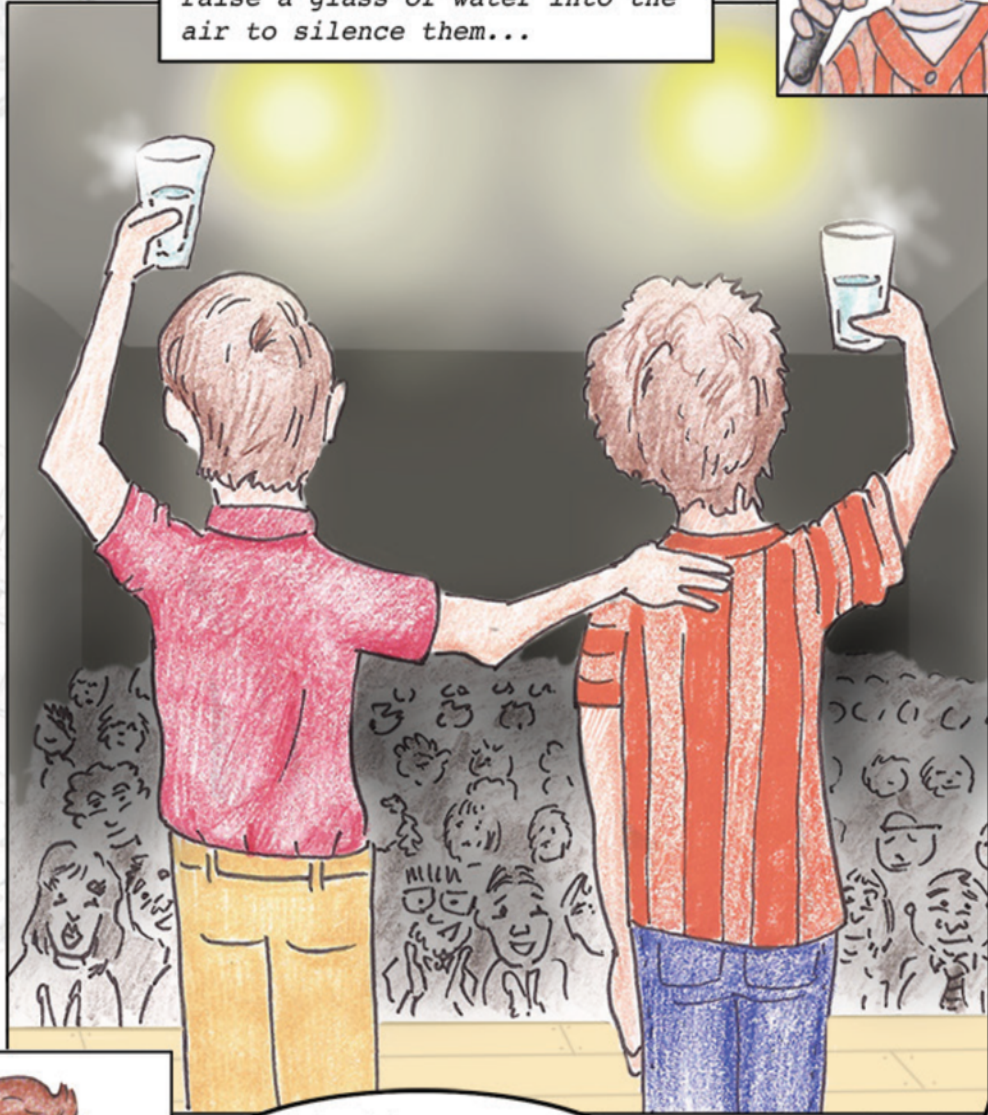
They cry a lot, they spit up on us all the time and they get all the attention from our parents...

And now our family is bigger and better than ever...the more the merrier is true...for me anyway.



And this is where our journey ends...for now!

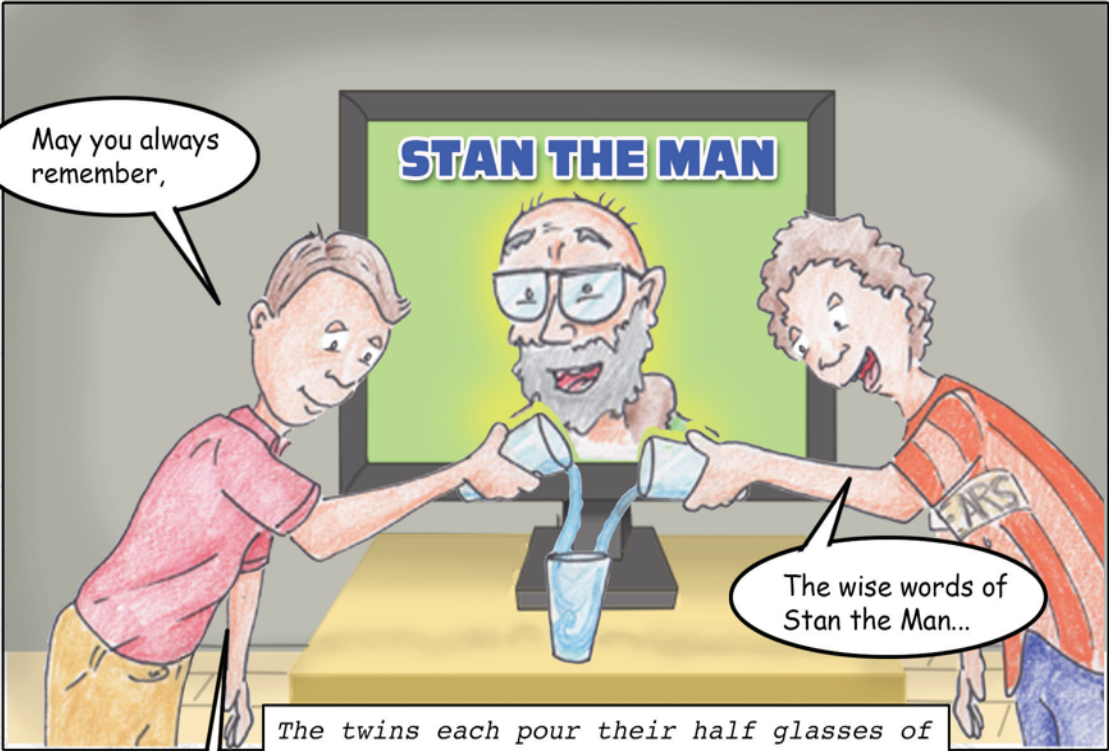
The audience moans and starts to applaud but Blake and Jake each raise a glass of water into the air to silence them...



A toast to you, our audience...me with my glass half empty...

And me with my glass half full...

PHILADELPHIA  
GAZETTE



May you always remember,

The wise words of Stan the Man...

The twins each pour their half glasses of water into a separate glass making one full glass of water.

When added together...

You will have it all!

The audience applauds like thunder as the curtain falls.



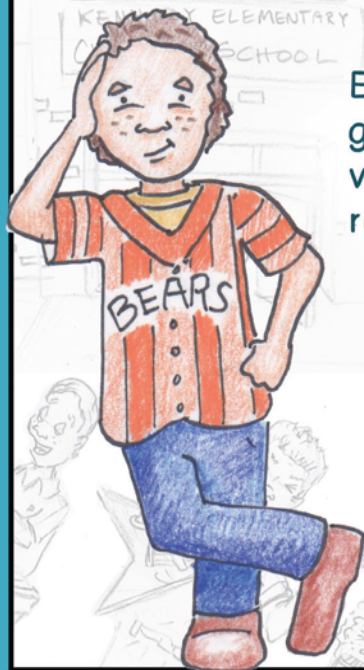


An expression we all have heard at one time or another, Glass Half Empty/ Glass Half Full examines the lives of identical twin boys, 10 years of age, who demonstrate this reality to a "T". Written in comic book format and as a play of 3 acts, the reader becomes immersed in the autobiographical journey of Jake and Blake.

Act 1: (entitled, "In The Beginning") The reader learns that during the first 3 years of these identical twins' lives, they are indeed identical... in every way.

Act 2: (entitled, "Evolving Right Along") The reader sees that the twins are really quite different, although still "identical". After their parents sell a business for millions, many changes occur. The boys react quite differently to the same good fortune.

Act 3: (entitled, "The Finale") The reader will hopefully conclude that positive and negative thinkers each have their worth...one is not necessarily better than the other.



Erin O'Connor and Mike Goldstein have blended their gifts...Erin as writer, Mike as illustrator, creating this valuable little book, which will benefit all those who read it.

