



NUBIA METAMORPHOSIS

By Mrs. Babb, Ms. Paul, and Ms. Joseph's
Periods 1 and 7 at Frederick Douglass Academy III



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Behind the Book's mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

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Behind the Book

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students' work as received from the teacher.

We would like to thank our generous funders: The Korein Foundation, who supported the creation and publication of this class book and The Guru Krupa Foundation, whose contribution made this program possible.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the 9th grade scholars of Frederick Douglass Academy III and the devoted teachers Mrs. Babb, Ms. Paul, and Ms. Joseph, CAS Youth Advocate Ms. Dana Philip, and Elizabeth Valentin, who motivated the scholars to use their inner talents and imagination to craft stories of struggle and triumph. We are especially thankful for Omar Epps and Clarence Haynes for inspiring our scholars to live out their dreams no matter how simple or grand. To never let your present circumstances limit their aspirations because success is dependent on one's ability to work hard for it!



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Both *Behind the Book* and *Nubia: The Awakening* asked Ms. Babb's ninth graders at Frederick Douglass Academy III to consider who they want to become in a world that challenges their identities. How can they identify and unlock their potential? Do the teen refugees of *Nubia*, navigating newfound superpowers in a climate-ravaged New York City, offer guidance? Inspired by Omar Epps' and Clarence Haynes' Afrofuturistic writing, students were challenged to creatively interweave Nubia's 2098 world with the lives that they lead in the Bronx today.

In preparation for a school-wide assembly with the authors, five students volunteered to lead an expert panel. Their thoughtful, thematic questions and professional public speaking blew Omar and Clarence away! Acting as thought partners with the students, the authors offered insight into Nubia's message, finding your voice, and the publishing process.

Bolstered by author feedback, students infused their own superpowers into the story. In either diffusing one of the book's conflicts or creating a new character in their likeness, the class made their impact on the story. Their stories jump off the pages of this book, illustrated with new graphic design software.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

AHSLEY.....	8
PAUL	10
RICARDO.....	12
SADE	14
THANICHA.....	16
TIANA.....	18
MOHAMMED.....	20
KIERA.....	21
KYSHAWN.....	22
KHADIJA	24
ISAIAH	27



PERIOD 1

I Want to be Free!

BY AHSLEY

2082

Hang sat on the floor of a white room. The room had padded walls, floors, and ceilings like those in an insane asylum.

"Why am I here?" he wondered. Since Hang was blind he used his senses to determine what was happening around him. He could hear someone entering the room. He smelled perfume, "It's a woman," he thought. She entered the room with a bottle of some substance in her hand. The woman, Tilly, noticed that Hang wanted to speak but could not get his words out, somehow something was muffling the sound.

He was shaking and apparently nervous. She picked up the plunger from the desk, placed the medicine in the plunger and pressed it against his arm.

"AHHHHHHHH," he cried, but immediately he could feel his body becoming calm. He no longer felt afraid, he laid still on his side and closed his eyes for a moment.

Noticing that he was no longer nervous, Tilly leaves Hang in the room. While she was gone Hang stood up and used his hands to feel what was around him. As he walked he counted marking the room in spaces. The only thought that ran through his mind was escaping, but how?

Finally he felt a wall. He listened carefully to find the keypad on the door. Every 10 seconds it made a low beeping sound. When he heard the tone he moved closer and closer until his hands felt the buttons. "Maybe, if I tried as many combinations as I can," he thought, "I know it's a four digit code." Finally got it.

Hang opened the door slowly, listening keenly for movement. He heard nothing. Using his senses he moved in stealth mode to the staircase. He slowly headed for the first floor but heard a sound of someone approaching. He exited on the 2nd floor. He felt thick curtains hanging at a window, he stood on the sill and hid behind the curtain still and silent.

"wtf look where you are going d*mb*ss, are you f**king blind or sum" his voice was new. I didn't recognize it

at all but assumed it wasn't a guard because of his unprofessional language.

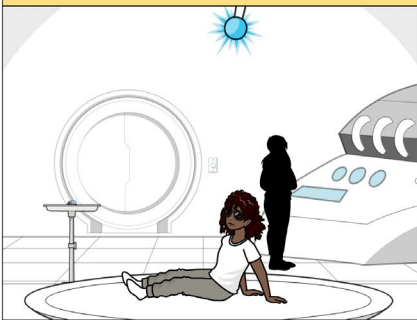
"Umm Yes' ' An awkward silence was surely present, I thought it was obvious the color of sunlight was unpresent on my pupils, they were fully white nothing reflected them. For what I been told they could easily hide with rest of my eyes

"Ah I'm sorry dude I didn't know" His shadow approached him. From his voice he supposed that he was a man and from his figure that he was a big man. Something thinner was present in the dark of his sight, apparently it was his hand? He gently grabbed it trying not to hurt him but the moment he touched it he realized how strong he was.

"Is okay.. Hey, can you help me find the exit? I'm kinda lost here" I put my hand in my neck trying not to show how nervous I was.

"Yeah sure I was going there either way" He smiled and took my hand. That was sweet. I know how to walk. I don't need a guide but I would take his help for once. We started talking like we were old friends. His name was Lencho. He was a year older than me, he was also nubian and he was special like me...

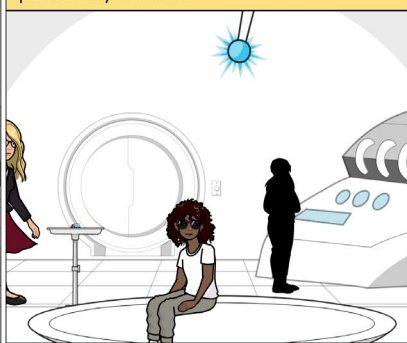
He woke up in a panic, He stood up but a cold pressure was force in his hand. It felt like chains? But why? Wasn't he home? He ask to himself waiting for an answer to come into mine...It was out character this couldn't be home.



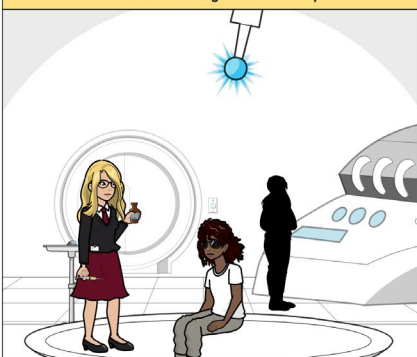
He started to get more nervous. He needs an answer.



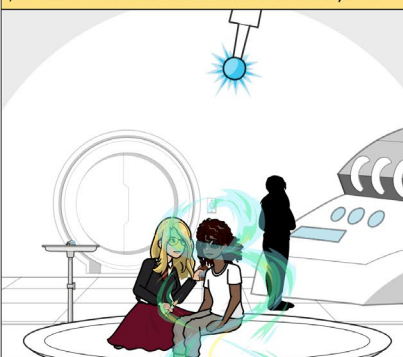
At that moment someone inter the room , because of the sound of the heel and the perfume I perceive, I conclude that it was girl. Maybe I could ask her question why was I here



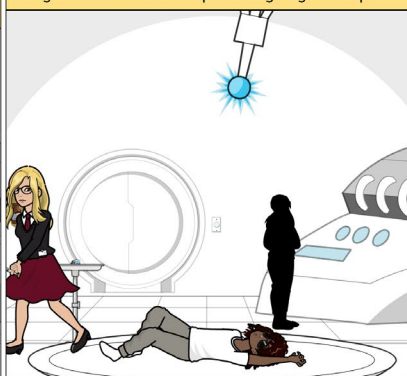
The alerted Tilly that the young boy was feeling overwhelmed and nervous. She went to the room and took out some medicine to give to the boy.



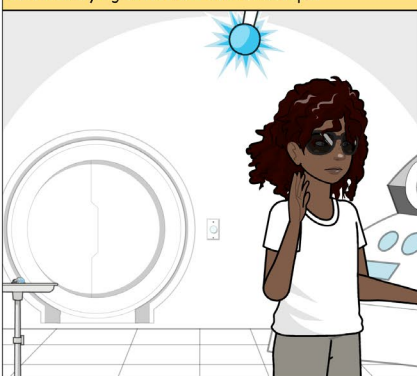
She injected the drug to the boy arm causing him to scream of surprise. When the body process the drug ,he felt calm more calm that he had felt in years



Short after that Tilly left and Hang just stay there in the ground almost to the point of going to sleep.



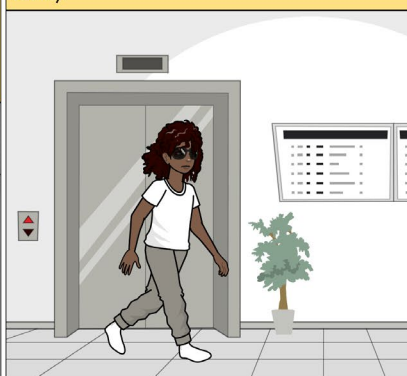
After he make sure she left he stood up walking to the rest wall trying to find the door to escape.



He found the door but there was a problem there was a keypad with a code on it. For what he knew they could 10,000 possible answers. First he try to touch every number seeing all the different sound there was in each one base on the taps that Tilly used when she left the combination should be 8174. He tried it and it was write. The door had open.



he ran out of the room trying to find the exit of this facility.



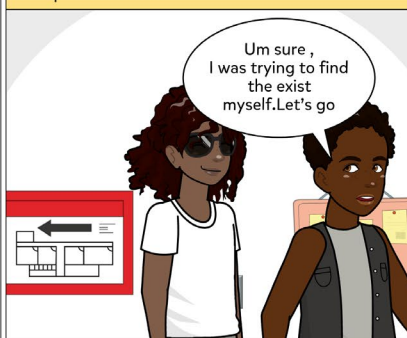
Collided with a body, causing him to almost fall silent but was able to stay on his feet.



Is okay, can you guide me to the exit please?



We both started talking while we try to find the exist. His name was Lencho and he was one year older than me, he talk about stuff he like , what he did and that he was special like me...



BY PAUL

It was like any other day at lunch, the sound of gossip filled the cafeteria faster than people woke up for a Black Friday. Everything new was being discussed with the popular kids. But like any normal day of any week in school, the same boy, Jacob, began harassing me for being the new kid although I have been in school for the past 2 months. Knowing now I guess that I'm still considered new to an extent. "What do you want now Jacob?" I asked him slightly annoyed while returning him a glare. He looked at me with slight surprise but continued what he was gonna say. "Well, I wanted to know why you have that full head of hair, I mean to think you are a sissy is an understatement." He said with a wicked smile and a nasty tone added on. I had enough of his constant remarks about my looks and how I appear more feminine than masculine. So today I decided to give him a piece of my mind. "Ok Jacob, it's time to stop, just cause I have a full head of hair doesn't mean I'm Less of a man." I said, getting louder in my tone. As people heard my voice getting louder the more quiet it had gotten. " And just because I look like a girl doesn't make it right to come up in my business and ask me about my personal looks and life," At this point I got loud and everyone was so silent you would think the lunchroom was a library. "Like seriously could you grow up and stop. Jesus it's always the dumbasses that have something to say." Everyone including Jacob was stunned, even I couldn't believe what I said. I guess Jacob didn't appreciate that for the first time I was advocating for myself. Jacobs' face immediately turned red as he swung his fist directly at my face. Immediately I ducked but I could feel the air swooshing pass my hair. The cafeteria went wild as the students were running toward the action like a mosh pit forcing us into a fighting ring. If I wanted to run now there was nowhere to escape. Jacob swung again but I could not move because of the crowd so I braced for impact and closed my eyes, and anticipated a nasty black eye; but nothing happened. When I opened my eyes I saw a girl holding Jacobs fist. "We're not about to be hitting people, are we Jacob?" the girl asked with an heroic tone. It was Vriana, She was the prettiest girl in the entire school and she was fearless. "Get out of the way Vri, You don't want what's coming to him do ya now!" Jacob seethed with venom. At this point the crowd around us was going wild like if they were watching the best WWE match of their lives. "I would like to see you try it, Pissy boy!" She said in a snarky tone. At this point the whole school gathered around to watch the fight and Jacob was getting a taste of his own medicine by a

GIRL. Vrianna grabbed Jacob by the neck and said, "Now Don't let me ever see you bothering or talking shit to this guy again, Or next time it won't just be me lifting you into the air that happens" was shaking his head rapidly to give her a sign of agreement. After she got the response she had wanted, she dropped the boy right on his ass, then quickly got up and ran. "You ok newbie?" Vriana asked with worry in her voice. It snapped me out of my thoughts and I turned to her. I nodded a yes slowly as I was still in shock. "I'm sorry you have to deal with that divine jerk, They just are mean assholes who don't know when to quit it". Vriana said in a sassy tone. "What is the divine that you mentioned?" I asked in a questioning manner. Vriana looked at me with a puzzled expression as if I was supposed to know what she was talking about. "You serious right now, You don't know what the divine are?" Vriana asked, almost stunned to say it. "I had only just got here a month ago so I dont know alot about this school's history" I said awkwardly, rubbing the back of my neck. before she concluded what she was thinking with a smirk. "Right well, the divine are a gang of jerks who run around thinking they're better than everyone else with their payless sun design jackets and a stick up where the sun don't shine." I laughed at her description of them causing her to laugh along as we walked away from the scene. It was finally my favorite part of the day which was to leave school. As I walked down the broken down sidewalk a voice snapped me out of my trance. "HEY WAIT NEWBIE!" Vriana yelled while running towards me in a hurry. I stopped to let her catch up to me since I was walking pretty fast. "So what's your name?" Vriana asked while gasping for air. "Oh my name is Ramaya and no need to tell me your name. I already know who you are, Vriana" I said with a little bit of glee in my voice. Vriana looked at me then smiled. "It's nice to meet you Ramaya and if you don't mind me asking where are you going?" she asked me blankly. "Oh I usually just go home around this time since I normally don't have friends to go places with," I said in a sad tone. Vriana frowned her face for a couple of seconds but then it switched as fast as it came. "We can be friends! Especially so you don't have to deal with that idiot Jacob anymore" So what do you say, Ramaya wanna be friends?." Sure we can be friends, Especially after you beat Jacob out of sight and mind." Vriana looked at me and laughed "We're gonna be good friends Ramaya" she said in between giggles. "I think so, Vriana" I said with a chirp. Knowing that I was able to make a friend so far gave me a sense of hope for how this school year would go.

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After Sitting in lunch for a while the same bully i have always had, Jacob, had gotten into a fight that led into a fight breaking out but to my surprise i was saved by someone i least expected it to be....



Get outta the way Vri, You don't want what's coming to him do ya now!



I would like to see you try it, Pissy Boy!



As Vriana and Jacob began to duel it out in front of everyone in the cafeteria, i was to stunned to even get words out.



As Vriana dodged the incoming punch from Jacob, She was ready to deliver a blow that would send this boy scared half to death



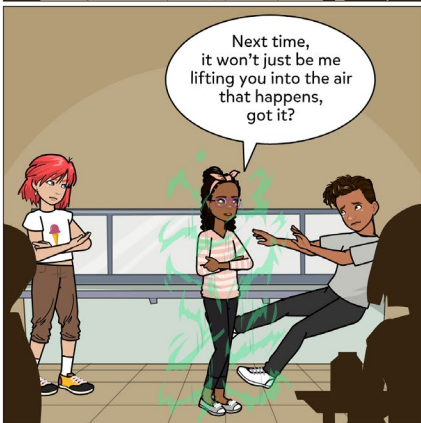
As Vriana delivered this fatal blow, i was scared to see what was gonna happen next.



Vriana had taken Jacob by the shit before he could hit the ground. At this point i was scared at her insane strength but also happy that he was getting what he deserved.



Next time, it won't just be me lifting you into the air that happens, got it?



Now beat it Jacob!

Whatever, Just get away from me!



BY RICARDO

After an argument with the Divine Sns on the school roof Lencho is furious because they disagree with his idea to sell elevation to Nubians at school. Lencho is sick and tired of them not agreeing with any of his suggestions, as Lencho is storming down the stairs he makes his way outside. Lencho is fuming and he spots Kal in a lonely basketball court. Immediately he walks toward him with his fists ready to go, he thinks, "Now I can release some of this anger." Lencho is approaching him, he notices that Kal is not alone. Lencho did care, this was not gonna stop him from fighting him. Before Lencho could shout, "Kal" a dark strong presence came behind him. Lencho turns around quickly, thinking it was another one of the spiders but to his surprise it was Jett.

Jett was another member of the Divine Suns. "What are you doing?" Jett says. "This is none of your business," replies Lencho. .

"Why does Jett always act like he cares?" Lencho thinks. He relentlessly proceeds to walk towards the Spiders in frustration."

"You're gonna get yourself killed" says Jett .Lencho ignores him and keeps walking until he's standing in front of the Spiders.

"What do you want?" says Kal. Lencho doesn't hesitate, and punches Kal right in the face. Then something Lencho never expected happened, the members of the spiders pick up sharp pieces of glass from a broken liquor bottle on the ground. Lencho begins to panic as the gang members hold the glass in a threatening position. Then one of the spiders rushed towards him. However, Right before the sharp glass made contact with Lencho, suddenly the spiders were frozen In place like statues in a museum

"I told you that you were gonna get yourself killed" says a voice from behind. Lencho turned around quickly and there was Jett again."Are you doing this!" screamed Lencho.

Lencho notices a bright blue aura coming from Jett, "how are you doing this? How long have you had this ability?" asks Lencho.

Jett dashes and knocks out the Spiders that began to move again. Jett stares at Lencho and begins to walk towards him. "We can't sell elevation to Nubians" he says.

Lencho stands there frozen, in shock; he couldn't believe what he had just seen Jett do. They've known each other for years and Jett has always been weak and fragile but what he has just seen was different, like he was a different person.

"You can't tell anyone about what you just saw," whispers Jett.

Lencho nods and they begin to walk out the basketball court.



BY SADE

Dark, Windy, and wet. It just had been raining. I walk through the streets of the Bronx. With my hoodie on, headphones in, blaring music. As I walk down the streets. I hear an odd idiosyncratic noise. I would've kept walking. But, I stopped, paused my music, and took my headphones out so I could hear crystal clear. I turned to the left to where the noise had come from. A dark Alley I looked into. I hear another noise but, this time it sounded more like an animal. Which caught my attention. I walked into the alley.

"Hello!" I yelled into the dark alley. As I walked more in the alley the feeling of anxiousness grew. I had multiple thoughts running through my head. As I had gotten closer, closer, and closer. My eyes lay upon a furry creature you would call a cat.

"So you're the one that was making that noise," I said, smiling as the cat meowed. As I walk out of the alley I hear a voice say. "Help!". The voice sounded like a male voice. This voice sounded familiar

"Someone please help me!," the man said.

This time he sounded like he was in pain. I walk further into the alley as I once before. My eyes were placed upon a boy. That boy was Uzochi. I observed Uzochi for a second. He had an open wound that was bleeding .

"Astra, please help me," he said breathlessly. I pondered for a second.

"Why should I help you after you bullied me," I replied.

My mind thought back to years ago, Uzochi and I have known each other all our lives. Until one day he decided that he just didn't care for me anymore. I snap back into reality. I put my guard aside and helped him. Oh another thing, I have powers. My powers consist of healing and manipulation. I held my hand out to where his wound was, I closed my eyes, and I focused on a memory that makes me mad and sad at the same time. As this is happening a sudden color of green emerges from my hands. The feeling of strength comes as I take in Uzochi's pain and swap it for mine. Once the pain settles in then wear off the process is done. Uzochi is now healed and has no pain.

"You have powers," He said. "

I'm pretty sure every nubian does," I replied as I shrugged my shoulders.

"Thank you Astra."

"Your welcome, Uzochi", I said in a very nonchalant way as I walked away.

I don't even bother to ask how this happened to him.

"So you're just going to walk away as if nothing happened," he said.

"Yes, yes I am."

"Look Astra, I said I'm sorry, what more do you want from me?" said Uzochi. "What more do I want from you?" I asked. "Nothing, I want nothing from you, it's not like you bullied me for no reason Uzoch," I said angrily.

"Look i'm sorry that I-"

"Uzochi, I don't want to hear it." I put my hood back, my headphones back in, and played my music. As I walk back out the alley. I thought to myself. Uzochi and I could have been friends but he ruined it. The initial question was: Where did it all go wrong?

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"So you're the one that has been making that noise" I said, smiling at the cat. "Meow". As I'm walking out the alley I hear a voice say. "Help!". The voice had been a male voice. This voice sounded familiar. "Someone please help me!," the man said. This time he sounded like he was in pain. I walk further into the alley as I once before. My eyes were placed upon a boy.



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"Your welcome, Uzochi", I said in a very nonchalant way as I walked away. I don't even bother to ask how this happened to him. "So you're just going to walk away as if nothing happened". He said. "Yes, yes I am". I said. "Look Astra, I said I'm sorry, what more do you want from me?". He said. "What more do I want from you?". I said. "Nothing, I want nothing from you, it's not like you-



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BY THANICHA

Beep, Beep, Beep! was the annoying sound of the alarm. Hope reached over the side of her bed and aggressively hit the off button. She opened her eyes to a beautiful sunny day. "School again," she thought, as she dragged herself out of the bed. Hope got dressed, grabbed a muffin and began walking to school. She hated walking to school since she had to go through her neighborhood. As she walked she witnessed people on drugs, homeless individuals, kids fighting and parents screaming at their children. It was just too loud.

"Two more blocks," she thought and then I'll be at school. Hope walked through the halls and entered her English class.

"Good morning, Ms. Babb," Hope said with a smile while she is walking to her seat

"Good morning Hope"

Mrs. Babb began teaching the class, "So in today's lesson you will continue working on your essays. As she spoke, there was a knock at the door and a kid that I had not seen before was standing there.

Mrs. Babb then announced to the class, "Scholars, we have a new student. Her name is Vriana. Mrs. Babb pointed to a seat and said, "You can sit in that chair." Vriana sat down and Hope realized how confident she looked. She was tanned complexioned, she had long wavy red hair and freckles that seemed to adorn her face. Her eyes were chocolate brown and bright like the sun. All of the boys were staring at her.

After class, I introduced myself to the new girl, Vriana.. "Hi my name is Hope, I think we have lunch together next period. I'm headed there now, if you want to go together.

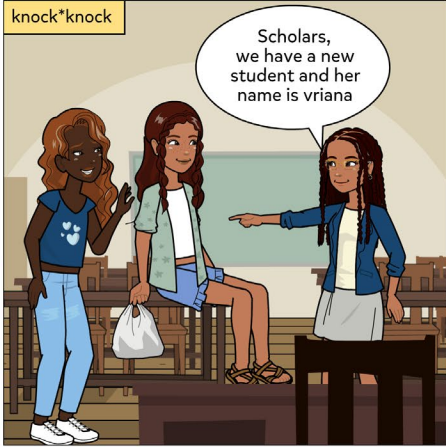
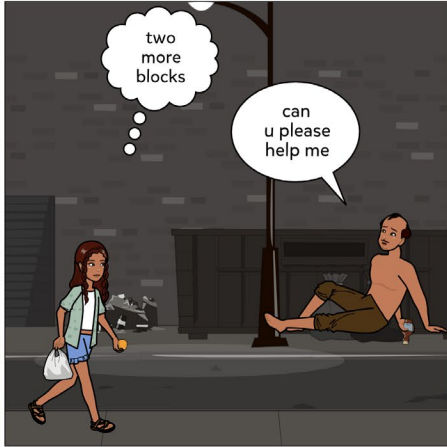
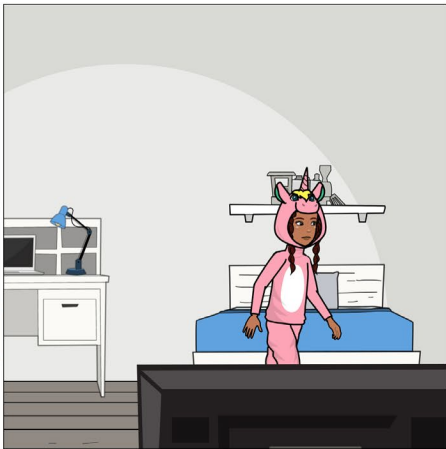
"Sure, thanks" Vriana said.

The girls entered the lunchroom, got their food, and sat at a table. Hope began telling Vriana about the students at school and about the teachers as well. They were laughing and talking about their families. Vriana shared that she was Dominican and Nubian and Hope shared that she was 100% Nubian.

"Hey, some of my friends are meeting me at the mall. Would you like to come? Hope asked.

"Sure, I just have to call my mom to let her know," replied Vriana.

Later on Hope and Vriana went inside the mall "where u wanna go" hope said "I really want to go to forever 21 to buy me some crop tops" Vriana said. We were on the way to Forever 21. We saw a crowd and we went closer. We saw a little girl having a heart attack and looking so pale she was nearly dying when all of sudden Hope had felt something magical going thru her veins and had vision on how to help the girl, hope felt healed and free like the wind, Hope runs to the little girl "what are u doing hope" Vriana said nervously but hope just ignored her and put her hands on the little girls heart and her body just started to turn green with roses around the little girls body hope just see thru her body and how is healing "BUMMMM" the whole mall just turn so bright and the mall was so silent for a second "hello..what happened" the little girl said and the crowd just started to clap "she's alive" the crowd stated, Vriana ran to Hope "your okay i didnt know u had super powers" said Vriana "i'm perfectly fine i didn't know either i just wanna get home i'm tired" said hope heavily breathing "Alright let's get home it's been a long day anyways lol," said Vriana while there both walking out of the mall laughing.



BY TIANA

Absent-mindedly, I greeted whoever walked into this decent looking beat-up shop. "Welcome, welcome, hope you find what you're looking for."

"Yes, we have found what we're looking for!"

I already knew who's light voice it was talking back to me. I whipped my head up from underneath the counter and smiled at Zuberi and Vriana. My smile started to falter slightly when I realized that Zuberi and Vriana never really came here often so they must've needed something. I cleared my throat and asked them what they needed.

"It's a nice day outside." Vriana began, showcasing the sunlight that poured in through the dirty glass like a salesman, "I was thinking maybe the three of us could-"

"No, thank you." I turn down immediately. Whenever she sees this place it's the same thing.

Vriana's face didn't waver. Instead it just grew as bright as the shine the plants had when the water fed them. I push the cactus plant to my right in between us. I bow a hand to it, as if it were her royal highness. It was so green and vibrant compared to the old dirty wood of the counter. There was such a huge contrast between the old and the new- much like Zuberi and Vriana's contrast to each other's clothing or personalities or anything in general related to contrasting them! Vriana looked at me funny and shrugged at the gesture.

"Take it or leave it, a deal of five bucks for this cactus. He's a beauty, just like you!"

At first she didn't take my bait but her face crinkled almost as if she considered it with an ulterior motive. "I'll take it to make you happy, Pear. But if it pricks me, I'm giving it back!"

I fanned a hand at her, she had nothing to worry her big minnie mouse bun head about! I happily pushed the plant to her and thanked her for her patronage. Zuberi strayed from Vriana's side and I watched her walk. It was the walk that said this wasn't her business. So this meant Vriana was going to keep pressing me to get out of the plant shop and hang out with the two of them.

"So, Pear! When are you gonna get out of this shop? You know, make some new friends, have some fun, maybe even get yourself a special someone?" She wiggled her eyebrows at the end of her sentence, almost as if that was the best and most important part.

"No me importa. I don't care. Those kinds of things don't matter right now. I'm on the clock and getting paid, I don't have time for that. Oye, but what you can do is trim the dead leaves off those plants where Zuberi is-"

As if I had called her, Zuberi stood in front of me, setting down an itty-bitty gladiolus flower plant. She pushed the money across the wooden counter and pushed it to me. She made it seem as though we were selling Elevation. Vriana grabbed the scissors, her mind glued to the plant and cut off a dead leaf from Zuberi's new houseplant.

"Why couldn't I have this one? It's much prettier than that cactus!" Vriana whined as she pointed the scissors to the little gladiolus flower.

"The cactus is not ugly. A cactus is just as pretty as you because it's smart enough to store its own water because it knows it's most likely not going to get more. And look, the flowers look like your minnie-mouses." Holding the cactus to her head, I gave her a toothy grin.

My reassurance went to nothing, Vriana was too engaged in playing with the plant Zuberi held with caution.

They look like mothers.

It was hard not to think that with the way Zuberi was holding the plant by its pot in between the crook of her lean arms and Vriana touching the leaves delicately with her long nails. It was almost as if she was cooing at it. I look at the forgotten cactus and pull it towards me.

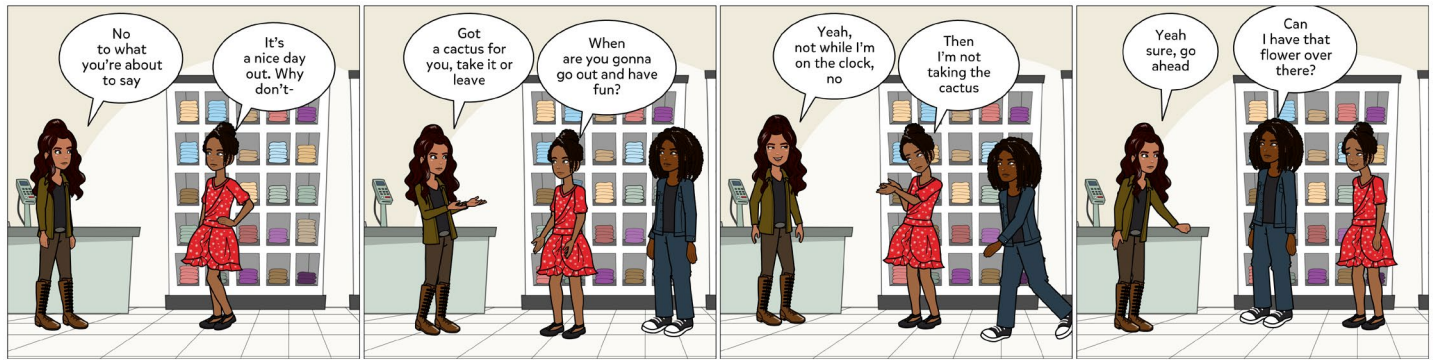
I'll keep you. You'll be coming home with me. They can keep their 'flower of honor'!

"Glad to see yall are enjoying your plant child!" I say looking at them with an eyebrow wiggle.

"I assume this is our que to leave our new friend alone now, Vri. Besides," Zuberi said, looking around the shop one last time before pushing Vriana to the exit. "We should get going anyway. Hey, Pear, what should we name this?"

I shrugged. I pointed a finger from the gladiolus to Vriana, who's standing silhouette looked as sharp as Zuberi's eyes. She nodded, and left to rejoin her best friend's light and glamorous world again. As the bell rang when they left, the place was filled with green quiet.

The room glowed from the big windows pouring with light, flooding the plants mouths with food. The plants



seemed to radiate this flashy lime green energy in the sun- big and small, they all had something sweet and unique about them. Flashing me out of my greenhouse trance, Vriana came in and dropped one more final suggestion:

"Later today, at my place, me, you and Beri are gonna hang out!"

I shook my head. I got ready to say something to her but at that moment, someone barged through the door. Vriana almost jumped out of her skin and I held her shoulder to keep her at bay. I can't see a person's spirit like Zuberi can but I can see what they do before it happens. It's not a power, more like a sense. He looked delirious and strung up on some awful dizzying mess. He didn't seem coherent or sound like it, it was like watching a drunken sailor dance in a royal queen's garden. Eventually the man stumbled onto the counter, almost crashing into Vriana.

"Yall got any beer?" His voice was ragged and heavy. He smelled like dirt and alcoholic garbage.

Vriana began to recuperate her stance and reassume her elegance. "This is a flower shop, sir. We don't know where a bar is."

It felt like the man was about to throw a tantrum. There were two things he could manage to do, hit Vriana or hit me, and I was prepared for either or as I grabbed the knife taped under the wooden counter like a prize possession. Zuberi walked in quietly, her figure gliding through the doorway not even ringing the bell. She grabbed the man's collar and threw him out of the shop.

"Are the two of you ok?" She asked, looking from me to Vriana.

"He wasn't going to do anything, you know."

Zuberi looked at me as if I was spewing nonsense, "He could've hurt the two of you-"

"No, not really. He would've swung at me, missed due to his incoherence, and more so hurt himself."

She knew about the 'sixth sense' I had. Zuberi knew about it and so did Vriana, but Zuberi never took it seriously because it was only half right most of the time. I shrugged off her seriousness and shooed them away.

"Go go, I have to work- and no, I will not be joining you two." I settled, Vriana leaving in defeat and Zuberi leaving troubled.

More work to do, Forgotten Cactus!

Super-HuVillian

BY MOHAMMED

Uzochi was proceeding to show where he will meet someone who will change the world One day as Uzochi was going to a show where all types of superhumans gather to display the different types of superpowers they have. While there, he noticed one guy with fascinating superpowers that were very cool . So after the show he walked up to the man and introduced himself

Uzochi: Hey, Wassup, my name is Uzochi, he said with excitement I saw "your superpowers and I feel like you can help us humans out.

Hey I understand your problem you're having. And I think I will be able to help with my superpowers. It can do the trick! "Superhuman said"

So What do you specifically need help with?"Superhuman questioned"

Why don't I show you so we can take a look around! "Uzochi shouted"

Sounds Great! "Superhuman said"

Uzochi: Here we are! BroomsVllle!

Superhuman: WOah! This place is junk and it stinks really bad. And all these people are poor and homeless and don't have any food. I think I can help, And help the homeless boy away.

Uzochi: ok!

AFTER 16 MINS OF CLEANING.

Uzochi: Wow everybody looks happy and the place looks very clean.

THE NEXT DAY

AS Superhuman and Lencho were walking home.

Uzochi: What's all that commotion going on up ahead?

Superhuman: Let's check it out!

As they were going towards the fight They saw two villains run away in a hurry and found a innocent boy beaten badly

Superhuman: What happened little man?

Boy: I was walking towards the gas station near the alley way when two bad guys jumped on me and started attacking me! he cried

After the shocking encounter, Superhuman and Uzochi Went home and talked about it. They both agreed to turn as a Supervillain because Uzochi: Those were superhero's undercover.

THE NEXT DAY

Superhuman: HAHAAAAHA We've become superhumans and are ready to take over the world and beat people up as they cry in vain!

Later That Day

Superhuman now Supervillain and Uzochi targeted and spotted a man and went to beat him up.

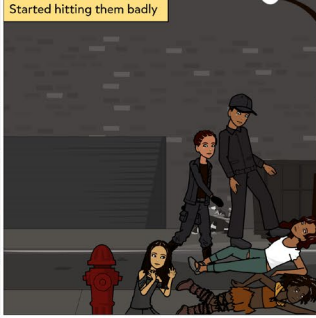
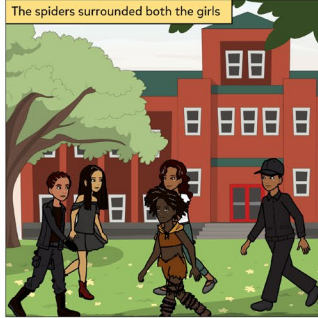
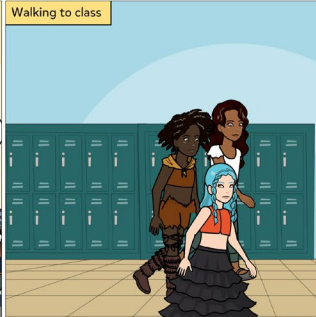
Uzochi: Hurry Lets get away

Luckily the person they attacked was an undercover cop and called for backup as they turned the corner

Cops surrounding the area COPS: Put your hands up you're under arrest!

Uzochi and Supervillain : AHHHHH MANNN!

BY KIERA



With one hand she kept the gang members down with the other she helped her friends until all three members became unconscious



BY KYSHAWN

On a sunny day Me, Kendair, Donte and a few other friends decided to go to a party. Everytime we hung out we would have a competition of who could have the most fun. We all got dressed while we waited to be picked up. Kendair's mom was driving us to go to the party on Soundview. We had to be there by 8:00pm.

"Now yall know I'm about to have the most fun right?" said Kendair.

"No you're not, I'm going to have more fun than you," replied Donte

"Man shut up , yall know im the best dancer of the group ,

"I'm definitely gonna have the most fun," Donte said

That night we made a bet to see who would have the most fun. When we arrived at the party, people were just starting to get there. The room was dark with flashing lights changing colors around the room like a rainbow. People were dancing and there were drinks and food out for those who wanted it. Me and Kendair started talking.

"Kendair, you see those two girls dancing, let's go try to dance with them," I said.

"I was thinking the same thing. What about Donte?"

"He's on his own," said Kyshawn. The boys laughed and then got on the dance floor.

We then proceeded to leave the group and approach the girls.

I told the rest of our friends, Me and Kendair were going to go talk to those two girls and we'll be back later. We went up to them and started a conversation.

"Hi I'm Kyshawn " I said

"hey nice to meet y'all" Kendair said

"Oh we're Brianna and Kiara"

"How old are you guys ?" I asked

"Were 15 and 16 how old are y'all" they said

"I'm 15," Kendair said

"Would ya like to dance with us" I asked

"Sure would love to" Briana says.

So we started to have a good time dancing , laughing and carrying on till we saw these guys fighting about one of them dancing with the other one's girl.

"Get away from my girl" the guy says

"She obviously not your girl if she wanted to dance with me" Lencho says

The rest of the people who were there started to make a circle around

The crowd started yelling, "Fight fight fight!!"

" Kendair that other guy is beating him up Lencho."

" Word, we should go help," Kendair says

"They started to jump Lencho because he was winning."

" Nah we can't just let them jump him we gotta help him,"said Kyshawn"

" So let's help him" says Kendair

"Thanks guys," says Lencho

"No problem man, that just wasn't right" said Kyshawn.

"Yoman I've gotta get out of here," says Lencho

"Well would you like my mom to drop you off?" Kendair asks.

"Yea, thanks that would be cool" Lencho says

Kendair then proceeds to call his mom, explaining the situation to her

"Okay baby, i'll be on my way" Kendair mom says

During the drive home Lencho started explaining to us exactly what was going on in the party. He also started telling us more about his altercation he had been in. after hearing his story it was clear to me that he had angry issue so i told him you have to relax and not to be quick to be fighting and calm done more.

"I'll try my best now can i finish telling you what happened in the party," Lencho says

"The guy got mad because when he came back he saw me dancing with his girl and he started getting mad and tried to hit " Lencho said

" so wait you ain't know she had a boyfriend" I said

"No she said she came by herself " Lencho said

"Oh ok so we can get your number so if you wanna hang sometimes" I said

"Sure if you wanna hang out let me know" Lencho says

"Okay just call me and let me know what time," I said

" Alright guys see you tomorrow have a good night Kendair's mom and thanks for the ride" said Lencho

" Good night, get home safe baby." said Kendair's mom

"Call me when you get home " Kendair said

"Okay bye Kendair's mom" I said

"Goodnight Kyshawn, get home safe." Kendair Mom said

After that day, Lencho started to trust me more. He hang out a lot, and when he gets into an altercation he comes to me for advice or to calm him down. He isn't so quick to fight anymore.

BY KHADIJA

Uzochi and Katalia wait patiently behind the stage under the big white party tent. They rehearse their lines as some Bronx-people take seats, and some stand behind to watch the scene.

"You ready?" Katalia asks Uzochi, her flashcards in her hands as she soothes her fingers through her dark red hair and smiles slightly.

He watches her movements and suddenly the atmosphere has become more intense, his breathing leaving him for a second before he snaps back to reality.

"Yeah," he huffs out, "Kinda nervous though. You?"

She sighs, "Nervous too, but we got this."

Why do I feel like something bad is going to happen? Uzochi thought as Katalia entered the proscenium first.

He ignores the feeling, and pushes through the red curtains that drape heavily to the floor of the stage to breathe in the hot summer air.

"Good afternoon everyone, thank you all for coming to the first award ceremony hosted by Bronx Donations. Today we're here to appreciate the people who volunteered to work with us to provide a healthy community within the Bronx." Uzochi begins as he tightens his hold on the microphone, swallowing his nervousness with each word he speaks.

He glances at Katalia who continues, but his eyes linger on her expressions for longer than he wanted.

How could someone be so beautiful? He thought.

Her eyes shift to his and he swears he feels a sense of euphoria rush through his veins. Uzochi notices her eyes giving him a signal to move aside by the blue clothed table holding the awards.

"Our first volunteer is Santiago Aguilera, with the award of Volunteer of the Year." Katalia announces.

Uzochi shakes the hands of four people before the feeling from before reappears again, but this time more heavily. Katalia observes the shift of emotion on his face as she calls another name.

Did he seriously choose to be out of it right now? What's going on with him? She thought, her eyebrows furrowing unconsciously.

A fake smile takes over her face, "Okay everyone, that is our tenth award, meaning now we have a food break.

Feel free to take anything you like from the tables on your far right."

With her smile instantly dropping, she heads over to Uzochi quickly.

"What happened? U good?" She asks, her worried tone visible.

He sighs, nodding his head as he thinks for a moment.

"I'm okay, I just feel like something bad's gonna happen."

They stood there in silence for a minute. Her confusion was only one, sincerely she did not understand what he wanted to get to.

"Now I'm kinda scared. Did you just start to feel it or since before?" she asked.

Uzochi tried to elaborate but he himself did not know what to explain. He just felt it. Noticing his nervousness, she huffed tiredly and placed her hand on his shoulder.

"If it's because of the nerves, don't worry, everything will be fine. It's just for a couple of minutes."

Her assurance made Uzochi smile gently, and wanting to convey his own peace, even though he felt the fear in his bones, went to sit down to take a break as he watched the people eat. The sudden sound of his ringtone from backstage disrupted him. Katalia hears it and motions for him to answer, but the chill he had earlier came back, ringing in his ears and making him alarmed. He moves the red curtains and sees the vibrating phone on the table. He gulps, reaching for the phone and checks the person who's calling.

Lencho?

"Why the heck is Lencho calling me?" He questions out loud.

Uzochi debates on whether to answer the phone or not, "It must be important," he thought.

As he answers his phone, Lencho's heavy pants are heard.

"Hello?" Uzochi asks, his grip tightening on the phone case.

"Are you at that award thing right now?" Lencho answers, his pants becoming faster.

Something is so wrong.

"Yes, why?"

Katalia enters backstage, holding her clipboard as she comes closer to Uzochi, "What's taking so long?"

Uzochi doesn't respond. Instead, his grip on his phone

loosens and almost makes him fall to the ground. The atmosphere temperature rises above his head as he starts to sweat.

"What did you just say?" His tone is rushed, as if he's in a hurry.

Katalia notices the panic in his voice and moves closer to him to hear the conversation.

"Uzochi, listen carefully. You need to get those people out of there before every last one of them dies. The Divine don't play with time and they don't give a damn about how many people get shot. So I don't care however you do it, just get them all gone before it's on you. You have ten minutes and forty seven seconds to go. And don't call the police, you know things will be worse if you get them involved." Lencho urges.

"I-uh- are you sure this is true?" Uzochi questions.

"He can't just call you to tell us this out of nowhere. Is this even real?" Katalia rolls her eyes.

This better be a prank 'cause I got a future, she thought. She meets Uzochi's eyes, begging him with no words for it to be false but his face says it all. His head feels dizzy out of fear. The chatter of people outside alerted both Uzochi and Katalia, and as he confirms her about the situation, they're forced to spin around and warn the people.

So she wastes no time grabbing the mic and announcing, "Attention everyone! It's been alerted that there will be a shooting in this area in less than ten minutes so please evacuate quickly and take cover! This is not a prank!"

People stood awkwardly, watching her and Uzochi, as if they were in denial, but as Katalia repeated her words, they came to the realization and took off. Time was running out. The sounds of crying and brisk footsteps echoed throughout the tent. Katalia and Uzochi assisted everyone who needed help moving, but all they could focus on was how to escape in time and not leave anyone behind even though there wasn't much time left. Uzochi's phone rings again, startling him as he answers.

"Did you get them out? You have four minutes and twenty two seconds." Lencho urges.

Uzochi looks around the area. Only a few managed to escape quickly, but more than twenty people were still packing. He spots an old guy filling his plate with pasta, as if he doesn't care about anything in the world. Then he looks at Katalia who's trying to get him to leave.

"We're trying. There's still a lot of people here. What do we do?"

Lencho sighs over the phone, "I don't know man, push them out the tent for god's sake."

In another situation Uzochi would laugh at his suggestion but right now his legs are giving up and he's about to drop on the floor. Katalia rushes over to him, asking him about the time. A chill breeze passes through them, giving them goosebumps as they watch the scene without moving.

Lencho leaves the call, and they go back to helping the people leave. He spots a woman looking for something, her head going under each chair.

"Ma'am what are you doing? You have to leave." He tells her.

Her voice is shaky, and she whimpers while continuing to search, "I think my earrings fell off. They cost forty-five grand."

"Ma'am I don't think you should be worrying about that right now when your life is at stake. Please evacuate."

The woman refuses and continues to search through the floor. The sound of sirens are heard loudly, making Uzochi's heart palpitate.

No no no no no no. Crap!

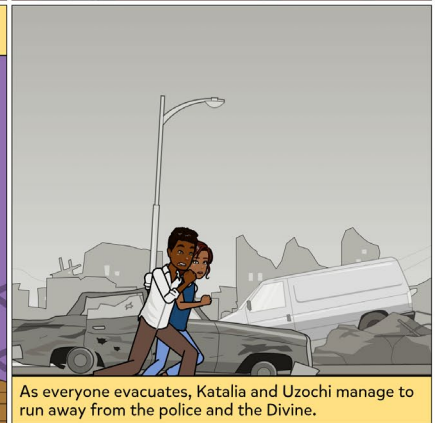
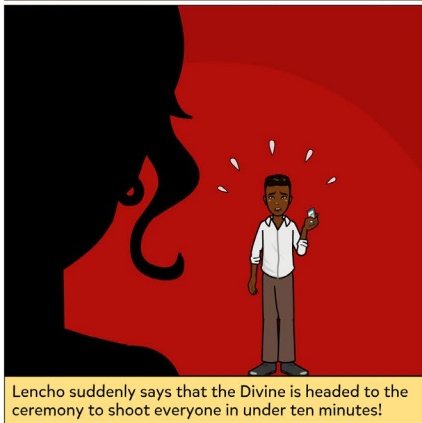
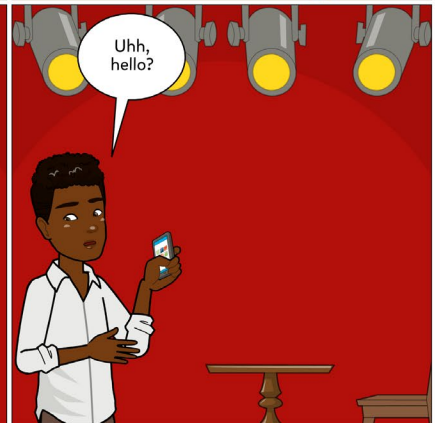
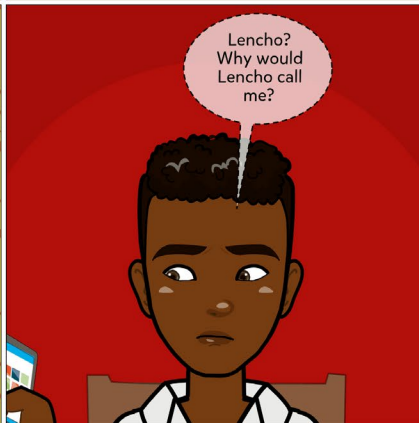
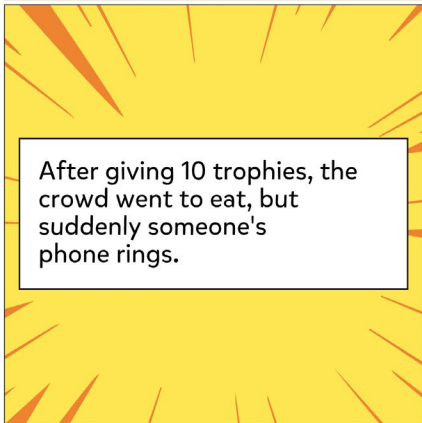
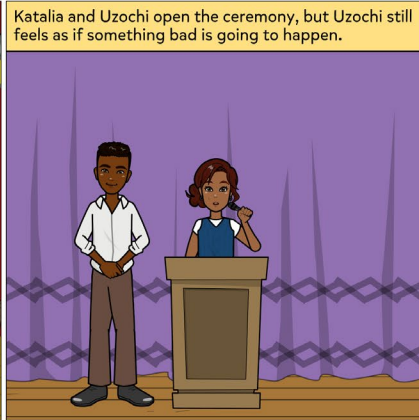
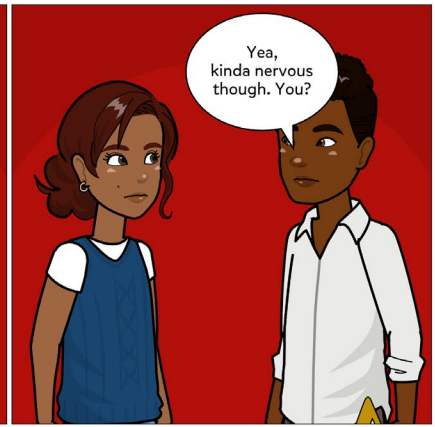
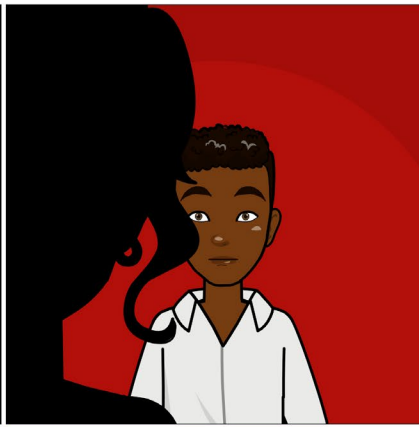
"Fine, if you want to die then that's your decision." He tells the woman.

Making his way to Katalia who was helping a mom with two children leave, he warns her, "Someone called the police. We need to leave before they catch us."

The color on her face leaves for a second, but she nods after she realizes what she has to do, she pulls Uzochi and runs without looking back. The world is gone from her eyes as she only focuses on escaping. Uzochi grabs onto her hand tighter and matches with her pace, zooming through the streets. After about ten minutes of running, they stop behind an old clustered building and try to catch their breath.

"You just left. We just left." Uzochi says, his eyes widening for a second.

Katalia nods, her index finger going over her mouth to motion for them to be quiet so they wouldn't be found. But all they could think about was how they left the people there, not knowing if they'd be alive at the end of the day or not.



Harper leaves the crowded college class. She's glad to go back to her dorm. When she approaches the front door to her room, there are bills piled in front of her wooden door. For the first time, the bills have her name on it. She feels good about it, then feels bad after realizing she actually has to spend her money to pay them. Harper attends Midtown University, one of the biggest schools in the city. Her dorm room has her own posters hiding the cinder blocked white painted walls, and her roommate Isaiah is on his gaming PC. Isaiah is pale, and has long shaggy brown hair. Everyone describes him as a loose cannon, but Harper is very fond of him. Especially since he doesn't annoy her.

"Hey, Harper!!! I got a C+ on my English paper!!" Isaiah exclaims, having an annoyingly enthusiastic voice over such a mediocre grade.

"That's great!!" Says Harper, breaking her face trying to crack a believable fake smile.

Isaiah turns on the television. Fallon Portman, a political figure, is on the screen. He's also Harper's father. Not even some of Harper's closest friends know this. Harper comes from a Japanese mother and a Nubian father. They're now divorced, with Harper living with her mother until college arrived. Due to the negative attitudes surrounding Nubians, Harper lied about her ethnicity, stating she is fully Asian due to her appearance having the advantage to pass as Asian. Soon, the TV screen starts to shake. Isaiah looks confused. Something is coming, and Harper knows exactly what it is.

Harper looks at Isaiah and says, "I have to go, water my plants please. It's gonna be a while."

"Where are you going??" "Vacation," and she quickly leaves the building, Isaiah still looking confused.

Harper takes a cab to a sketchy storage unit building near the Swamp. She looks onto her phone, as headlines are appearing.

"A force takes an attack on Fallon Portman, politician and executive of the Nubian Equality Foundation."

Harper's heartbeat accelerates as she spots her friend Uzochi in the background of where the news anchor is

reporting. She goes into one of the storage units, opening it with her keys. She presses a lever in the unit, revealing a "lair" of sorts for her.

"What a hassle," she thinks. "This Superhero stuff is not easy."

She puts her suit on, being made of what seems to be fabric, nothing fancy. She's a beginner after all. As the minutes rush by, so does she. Going across the city via alleys and rooftops, and then she makes it to the Swamp. From what she sees, there is a swat force mass arresting Nubians, including her father. She knew she had to do something. She decided to distract the guards.

She knows who they work for. The mayor's secret service is meant to intentionally silence the Nubians, but ever since they struck, he's even more determined to destroy the Nubians. She knows she can't defeat someone like the mayor, but she sure can defeat these guards. She throws a rock in the opposite direction of the street, distracting the guards. She knows their IQs are probably low since the swat team's requirements are close to nothing, so they go investigate while most of the Nubians are in cuffs. While they investigate the sound, she goes to the citizens, telling them to be as quiet as possible. She gives them hacking codes to get out of the cuffs.

"Hi dad, shh, don't make a sound. You'll be out of here soon."

"Sweetheart, you need to know this. Mayor Harvey has shut down the NYPD database, so they don't know what's happening. Here's a code to override the system and bring them here to take out the swat team," her dad explains to Harper, who's hyper focused.

"Also, don't use your powers. You know I taught you how to fight well. Where are your weapons?" He asks.

"They're right here, I just have good pockets. Very stealthy." Harper says playfully.

"Now let them out!" She exclaims. She notices Uzochi, and she runs to him. "Oh my god I'm so glad you're okay. Why are you down here?" Harper asks.

"I needed to see my cousin, Lencho. Trust me I'm never coming down here again." He says jokingly.

"Okay, we'll get home safe. I'll see you in class." He salutes

Harper, while running away. The SWAT teams begin to notice that something is wrong. Then panic ensues. The Nubians have escaped! Harper brings out her weapons, and decides to still use her powers. Her ego insists over her father's wishes. She holds a plastic beam, then her hands heat it up, with the beam becoming some kind of fire stick.

"Who are you?" Asks one of the SWAT members.

"Just call me, The Nebula." Harper says, being proud of how well she pulled that off.

They begin approaching her, with guns. They start to shoot. She deflects all the bullets, coming right back to the shooter. The shots don't kill the few she hit. She begins sweeping the guards with her beam, then throwing them away. The last few almost catch her off guard, but she uses her fire powers to burn them off her, as they fall to the ground.

"Wow," That was easy, she thought. Harper begins to start hacking the NYPD database. As soon as she fixes the database and alerts all officers, Mayor Harvey appears. He begins to strangle her, as a reflex, she bites his hand. It cuts deep. She's freed, and runs away into a nearby bush where she is not seen. He's in distress, and then the cops arrive at the scene, possibly seeing his murder attempt.

"Oh my god this is it, he looks so guilty!" She whispers to herself. Then she realizes, he is not going down anytime soon with the power he has. They would never believe her, a woman of color against the mayor of the city, with unlimited connections and power. He may have not been defeated today, but tomorrow holds another opportunity.

She knows justice will come.



That was for the Nubians!

Might not want to celebrate too early.



You won't get away with this!!

Jumping to conclusions, utter stupidity.



You won't get away with this!!

Don't get delusional now, I get away with everything.



You know what, maybe you're right.

I know.



Or maybe I'm just stalling for time you vile person.

Whaa-



Maybe next time, don't mess with us, Mayor.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AMANDA	32
MALAMINE	33
CHARLES	34
DWAYNE.....	36
JAYDEN P.....	38
JAYDEN S.....	40
JAYLA	42
JESUS	44
NANZIE	46
NIXZMARY.....	48
TOBY	50
FREDERICO	52



PERIOD 7

Walking home

BY AMANDA

Let me tell you a story of what happened to me 2 years ago in high school, One day I was walking to go home with some of my friends when we decided to take a shortcut through the park then my friends and I started to talk about a sleepover that we will have in the future and what we will do with our lives when we grow up. Then this guy who was speaking very fast to a language we didn't even know rudely interrupted us. My friends and I brushed it off and kept walking till Amber heard screaming, note: she had a very cool super power that makes her hear from a very far distance. We started walking towards the screaming, then as we got closer we hid behind a bush then Clair said, "Isn't that Vrianna the most popular girl in school," "Omg it is" said Sasha." The girls and I were getting pretty scared that they would see us, "Wait isn't that the spider gang," I said. It looks like they're trying to hurt her. After that I used my power of mind control to stop them from harming her and to go home. As they were leaving Vrianna came to me and said thankyou to me and my friends for saving her from the spider gang after that we had a nice weekend until we went back to school. The spiders targeted my friends and I for what we did that helped Vrianna escaped from them luckily the principal was there and we got back to class but i knew when lunch time came more trouble was ahead.

Lunch Time:

When lunch time came, me and my friends Vrianna and Zuberi sat down at one lunch table and Zuberi was telling me how thankful she was for us saving Vrianna. As we were talking all of a sudden Vrianna got very silent i was worried i asked her are you ok what's wrong she said that she's scared they are going to target them anytime soon, i was scared too but i didn't show it because those people dont scare me they want people to be scared of them but that's not going to stop me from doing what i love and that's hanging out with my friends. As we were talking the spider gang came and interrupted us Kal said someone told me that you were at the park lasted night and one of you stopped us from doing what we do best, we were all silent, then he said so were quiet now... just know whoever did it own up to it now or one of you guys will get seriously hurt. At this point me and my friends were so scared of what they might do to us. I said I wasn't scared but I was very concerned about what they might do. I was about to own up to it when Vrianna spoke

up and said i did it and i'm sorry then he said ok then meet me after school were going to handle things the old school way then Vrianna apologize again i got really mad and told her not to apologize because we all did it if your going to hurt you'll have to hurt all of us. I was really good at fighting and so are my friends so we can handle them then he said alright then it's war.

Outside:

We were in the last 10 minutes of our last class. I couldn't focus at all. You thought I was fearless. I was really shaking now. My legs were shaking, I was sweating very hard and my head was focusing on what's going to happen to me after school or what they're going to try to do to my friends if I run away. After school ended we went outside to the same park we were at when we saved Vrianna once. The spider gang had bats and sticks with them. I was very scared, but now they saw us and started running towards us. We all ran away. We ran and ran and ran until we couldn't run anymore. Once we were cornered we all were tired and sweaty. Kal said, "You really thought you can run away from us, look at you guys vs us ur outnumbered remember this as the worst whooping you can ever have in ur life then out of nowhere." He pulled out a gun and said, " NOW YOU GUYS REALLY GOT ME UPSET!!!!" So I'm going to shoot one of you one by one. Vrianna said, " Are you a psycho you can't shoot us you'll go to jail for the rest of your life," Kal said, " They'll never catch me enough talk whos up first," I said "Me," I couldn't use my power they were useless one of the gang members had a power that they can stop anyone from using their powers. After Kal said alright then stepped right up after he was about to pull the trigger the cops came and I was relieved. 2 years pass till this day and Kal is in jail. They found drugs and an illegal weapon on him and he got 15 years in prison. All my friends and I, even Vrianna, are still friends till this day THE END!!!!

BY MALAMINE

I was in Claremont in 2098 when I met Uzochi. We were in the ghetto of the Bronx. I asked him why he was in 104 high school. And Then he said something! Don't remember about 104. He decided to tell me his secret, but first I said "Fire hand wanted to tell him my secret first."

Uzochi asked, "What's that?" I smiled and started to move my left hand in a circle and my right hand above, soon the fire started to form in my palms. You see, fire hands is a term that people can use to describe a person who can make fire in their hands. Uzochi looked at me with surprise and said "That is magical, I've never seen that before."

I didn't notice but there were people looking at me. Uzochi pushed me in a corner on a side street to keep people from knowing I had a super secret power.

Uzochi scolded me and said "Malamine!

Everyone is looking at you, you must hide in the corner so people won't look at you."

I said "Uzochi, leave me alone!" I wanted to show people my magic, whether they like it or not.

Then Uzochi told me his secret, he said "He had super powers too. He had fast punching hands." I was happy to hear about his secret, I knew if I had to fight any enemies Uzochi would be my sidekick.

We kept walking and I decided to show him the Charles Drew Campus since I went there 4 years ago. I decided to show him around the school. After we walked through the campus I showed him the cafeteria where the three schools are. I showed him the cafeteria that will start from 7 Am To 4 pm every weekday. After we walked around the cafe I decided to show the outside play area that you can do what you want and have fun activities.

"It is only for middle school, What about High School?" Uzochi Said

"No." I said. "Because I went to school there, there were plenty of activities like water balloon fights in April of 2019 & Clothespin Trial & Garden Day."

"Oh, do they have that for young adults?" Uzochi asked, "Yes." I said. "Let's Go To The stairs and see if there are any classes."

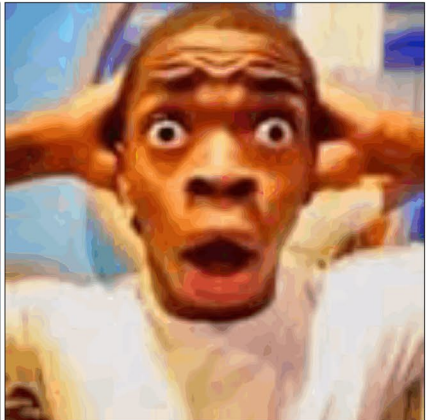
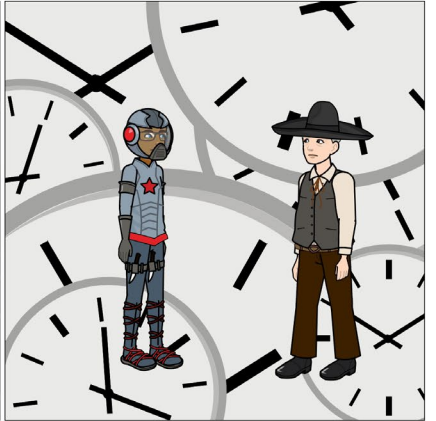
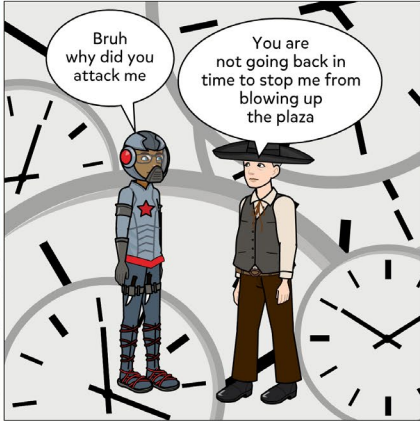
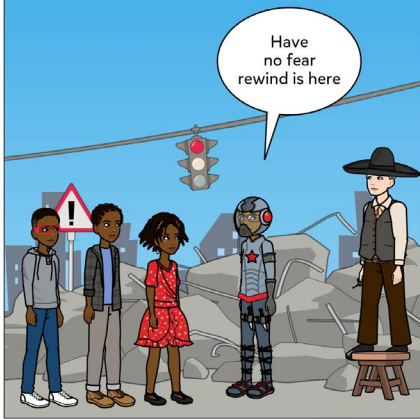
"Okay." Uzochi said. After we talked upstairs we decided to go outside of school. "So that's it," I explained about this school. Before we left the tour of my school, something strange happened. The New Venture gang kids jumped at kappa and we went outside to help. We used our powers to stop the fighting with Kappa. After we stopped the fighting we decided to leave the campus, I waved to him goodbye.

BY CHARLES

Krazen St John blew up the swamp because he doesn't want the Nubians in the swamp because they take up too much space in the swamp. The Plaza 3:42PM Krazen blew up the plaza. "There were a lot of people living in that area. What are you doing? Stop this right now? You just killed 20,000 innocent lives. That was none of your problems." "You don't know what I've been through all these years ever since your people came and disturbed the land. Before your kind came to my city everybody was living their best life. It was sunny, everyone was hanging out with each other going to the movies, the beach and more. Until one day there was a big storm that came out of nowhere and all the people had to get to a higher place in order to stay away from the storm that killed 1,000 people. All of this is happening because your people are coming over to my city and almost destroying some parts of the city when you brought over the storm from your homeland." "What do you mean we didn't

even bring the storm over here. The storm flooded my homeland and we had to find a place to live." "Look over there. It's Rewind. He is here to save us from Krazen St John." "Have no fear, Rewind is here. So what seems to be the problem here?" "There is a guy over there and he blew up the plaza" "Don't worry i will reverse time and stop this from happening". Just then. Rewind was about to go back in time then Krazen St John attacked Rewind. Then they stumbled back when Krazen John was about to blow up the plaza. Then both of them went 2 minutes into the past before Krazen St John was about to blow up the plaza. Then both of the Krazen St Johns saw each other.

The End



Welcome to the Bronx

BY DWAYNE

Uzochi and I have been friends for a long time. We met on an online video game site but Uzochi said he was moving to the Bronx and we decided to meet up at Park Avenue. So I could show him around. He was wearing a dress shirt and pants. He looked very proper. He was black with a big nose.

When I saw me I said, "Yo Uzochi Welcome to the Bronx!

"Uzochi replied, "Yo man! Whatz up! Nice to finally meet you in person. I didn't think the Bronx would look like this man... it's bad!"

Uzochi looked at the homeless man begging for money but everybody kept walking past.

Dwayne felt bad for him, Uzochi walked up and handed the homeless man 10 bucks "Here you go." The homeless man looked grateful. But then Uzochi heard something, it sounded like a woman yelling, but it wasn't near it was 30 blocks away.

Come on Dwayne, he yelled.

"Yo, where you going? Asked Dwayne. As he followed Uzochi. The noise led him into a dark alleyway where he saw a man dressed in all black with a ski mask holding a gun to a Woman's head.

The man holding the gun looked at Uzochi and said, "Who the hell are YOU!" Uzochi's heart dropped because now the man was pointing the gun at him. Uzochi couldn't move.

"I-I-I" he was trembling, "S-top or I will call the police."

The man looked at Uzochi and smiled. "OH yeah do it", the man said.

Uzochi didn't say a word but out of nowhere 3 cops came into the alley and tackled the man to the ground..

Apparently somebody had heard the woman scream and called the cops but Uzochi was still in shock that day.

"Yo, you Okay man? Asked Dwayne "How did you hear that woman?"

"When I turned 17, I noticed that I could hear when people were in trouble.

"Yo, that's cool," said Dwayne

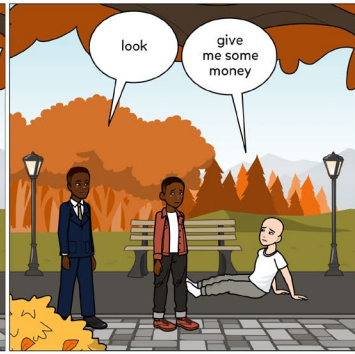
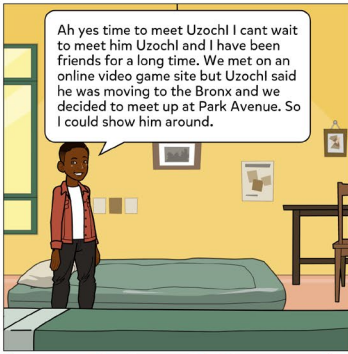
"That's what I thought, but what good is my power if I can't save anyone. You saw me when he had that gun on me, I could move," Uzochi said, in a frustrated tone.

Dwayne felt bad for him. He wanted to get his mind off what just happened. "Look man, Dwayne said, I would rather have some power than none at all. I think your power is cool! Why don't we just hang out for the rest of the day and have fun. I mean that's what we're here for right?

"Right," said Uzochi.

The boys walked up Park Avenue and had a great time.

The End



BY JAYDEN P.

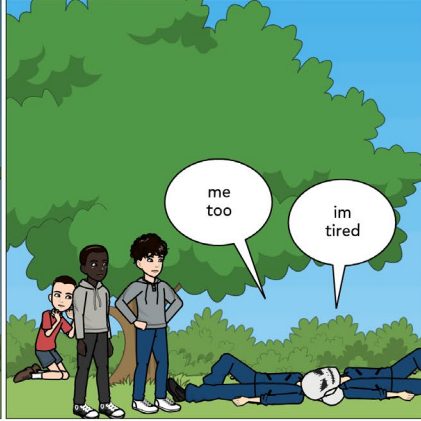
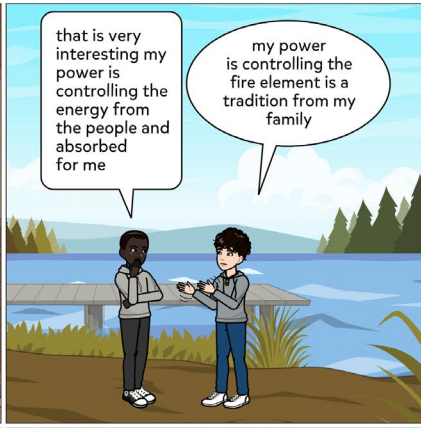
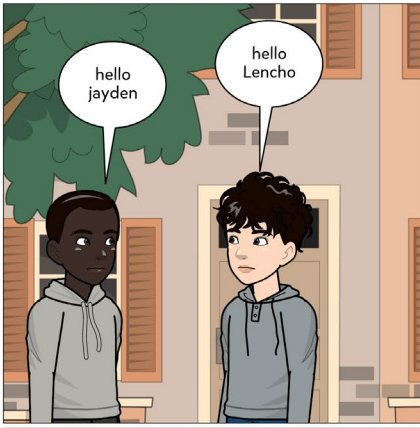
Of all the people in Nubia, I selected Lencho to be my friend because I like the way he acts. He is very cool and calm, just like me. I wanted to invite him to the Bronx to get to know him and he could see the new buildings and take a walk with me. I wanted to show him the area and other stuff like where to eat, good fast food and talk about things about his life and his other friends.

One day we were walking in a little park talking about things we like and playing soccer. As we were walking we saw a man getting robbed by two big strong mean criminals.

Lencho showed me that he had powers. He ran to one of the criminals and put his hand on his back. All of the energy started to come off of the man. He was looking very sleepy. When I saw this I lifted my hands and threw a ball of fire hitting the other criminal making him fall and jump away from the man. Someone must

have called the police because I heard the sounds of the police cars. While the other criminal had fallen from my fire ball. Lencho touched him and all of his energy went away. After the criminals had no energy it was easy to send them to jail.

After this we had to rest for like 15 minutes and went to the grocery store to buy something to eat and drink so that later we would have energy to work again. Lencho asked me "How did you get your powers?" He said with a confused face. "I get my powers from my family tradition." Lencho was surprised of my response, "I was thinking you were new with your powers, you're the first person I met with powers in this world." I replied and said, "mmm that's cool thanks." The two of us left and went home, it was very late and I had a lot of homework.



BY JAYDEN S.

In the book Nubia The Awakening the three characters Uzochi, Zeburi and Lencho are students in school 104 and they have powers. One of the powers that the character Zeburi has is that she can see spirits. Another one of the characters is Uzochi, who has the ability to hear voices and can hear things from afar. If Uzochi and I were friends we would be outside or inside playing a game. Uzochi is a good student, he is intelligent and envious. If there was a situation that Uzochi or any of my friends got into I would help them. My powers would be strength and superspeed. I choose strength because I will be able to protect myself and Uzochi and I choose superspeed so I can run Uzochi to safety. Uzochi and I would be doing a lot of stuff like playing basketball outside. If Zeburi was my friend we would be helping each other practice her martial arts. If Lencho and I were friends I would bring him to my house because he got a little tension between his family members so I would let him stay over.

One day my best friend Uzochi wanted to go outside and play basketball. Uzochi and I have known each other since elementary school. We live a few blocks away from each other and would meet in front of my building every morning to go to school. Uzochi is a hardworking student that cares about his grades. He sometimes helps me out.

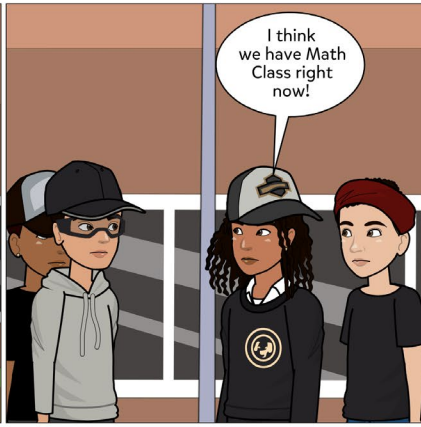
While we were playing basketball, a group of guys approached us and grabbed our ball. "Give me everything you got" one of them said. "Um..Uzochi, do you know these people?" I asked.

"This is a gang that's in my school. They mess with everyone dont worry I can handle this." Uzochi replied. In my head i'm thinking this is the first time i see Uzochi this confident considering he is my best friend i knew since we were kids but i never thought he could do something like this.

Uzochi said "No we aren't scared of you." I was shocked and kinda impressed how Uzochi stood up to these guys. "You can't just walk up to people in a park thinking you can just take whatever you want from them," Uzochi said. "Yes we can because we are the spiders, the toughest gang to ever exist," one of the spiders said. Well i don't think you guys should be called "The Spiders!" You guys should be called rats because you're scaring us right now" Uzochi said.

One of the spiders said "Fine, you're gonna have to take it the hard way." One of the spiders took a swing at Uzochi and Uzochi fell after taking a hit. I realized I had to use one of my powers that I kept from everyone to be able to help Uzochi. I Punched one of the spiders in the chest with my strength and he flew against a brick wall knocking him out and I used my super speed to run the other Spiders to the police station for trying to bully random people in the basketball court. After that incident we went to my house and put ice on Uzochi's face because he had a bruise on his face. We sat down and turned on a video game for us to play and I got a call on my phone. It was Lencho. "Jayden can you come pick me up from the school?" I had to make up for work and I don't have a ride home. I said okay. I told Uzochi what I was doing and I ran off and picked Lencho up but he wanted to go to the store and we went together. We saw Lencho's strict dad in the store. Lencho hid behind something while I just stood there ready to pay for a drink I bought for me and Uzochi and Lencho Father said, "Have you seen Lencho Jayden?" I didn't see Lencho, I lied and he walked out of the store. Lencho came out and said "Whew that was close," "Why were you hiding from your dad Lencho?," I said. Lencho said "Because he is trying to scare me and is strict." So I decided to be nice and let Lencho stay over for a little while and I asked my mom if he could stay over because he got home problems. I ran Lencho to my house and explained how I got my powers. We sat down with Uzochi and played video games together. Uzochi left and went home safely while Lencho stayed and let him sleep on my bed while I slept on the couch until he and his father worked things out.

THE END!



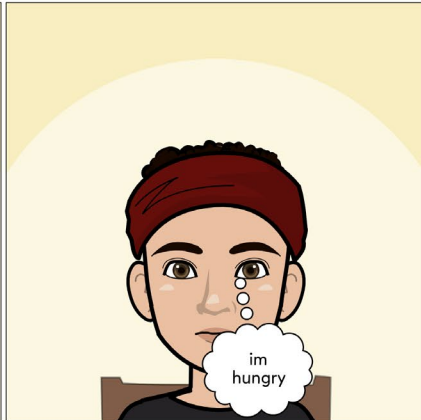
THEY WALK TO CLASS IN 5 MINUTES...



THEY WALK IN THE CLASS..



THEY ALL TURN AROUND



I am one of the lucky ones that has a best friend who is loyal and always has my back, his name is Lencho. He is a risk taker, he's a gang member of "Divine", and he has anger issues but he has my best interest at heart.

Lencho and I met in high school and ever since that day our bond has grown stronger everyday. I can remember, it was a sunny morning when I arrived at school. My friend Lencho came up to me and said "I'm moving to Florida." At that moment when so many emotions were running through my head, I didn't know what to say. But I knew for sure I was going to miss him. All I was able to say was "damn, I'm going to miss you man. I hope we will be able to spend a little more time together before you go."

Lencho said "How about tomorrow we can go to Six flags and enjoy the day". I thought that was a perfect idea.

The next morning when I woke up, I called Lencho. "Hey man, what's up, Where are we meetin' at?"

Lencho said, "Let's meet at the park in 169th."

"Cool, what time?" I asked

"12:00 will be good," replied Lencho

So we met at the park and took the bus to Six Flags. While we were on the bus we began to talk about the first day that we met. "Yo, Lencho, Remember when we met in elementary school and I saw two boys trying to bully you."

"Yeah, you jumped in front of me," said Lencho.

"And those punks ran away, and never bothered you again," said Jay. "Yo I don't know what I'm gonna do when you're gone, man. We've been friends for so long and now you're moving to Florida. What about prom? Graduation? We were supposed to do all of that together."

Lencho held his head down and didn't say a word at first. "Yo it's going to be fine, let's not worry about me leaving, let's just have fun."

"Hey look," said Jay, "we're here. Look at those rides."

The boys got off the bus and walked into the park. There were a lot of people in the park enjoying the rides. This

was the perfect place to be. We got on the line to ride the Joker. While we were on line we heard people yelling and suddenly shots were fired.

Everyone was running for cover. The gunman was headed in our direction, randomly shooting people. He looked at Lencho and suddenly I was like I could hear what he was thinking. He was going to kill Lencho. Immediately, I jumped in front of Lencho, but this time Lencho pushed me to the side. His arms were radiating, like they were on fire. When the gunman shot at him, the bullets were powerless. I couldn't believe it. How was Lencho doing this?

Lencho walks up to the gunman and as soon as Lencho grabs him he loses all energy and drops down to the floor.

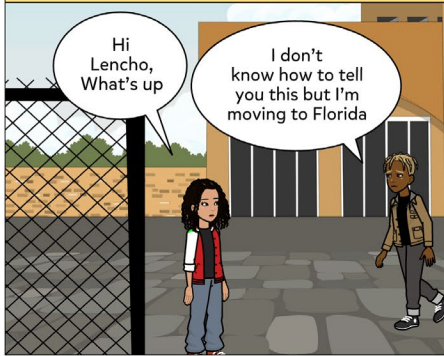
Lencho yelled, "Yo Jayla we gotta go," as the crowd began to create a circle around them. They ran out of the park and headed for the bus depot.

"Yo, Lencho! What was that? How did you do that? Why haven't I seen this before?" asked Jayla.

"I was going to tell you before I left." replied Lencho

At this moment Jay realized that she thought she was protecting Lencho when in reality Lencho was protecting her.

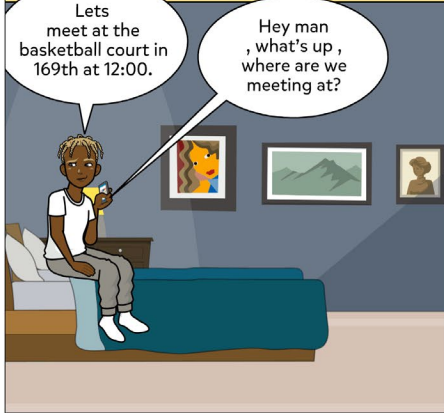
I am one of the lucky ones that has a best friend who is loyal and always has my back, his name is Lencho. We met in high school and ever since our bond has grown stronger everyday. It was a sunny day...



At that moment so many emotions were running through my head, I didn't know what say. But I knew for sure I was going to miss him



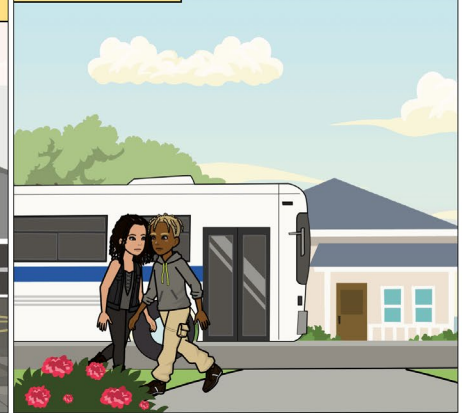
The next morning Lencho got a call from Jay.



We met at the basketball court and took the bus to six flags.



Getting on the bus



While we were on the bus we began to talk about the first day we met.



BY JESUS

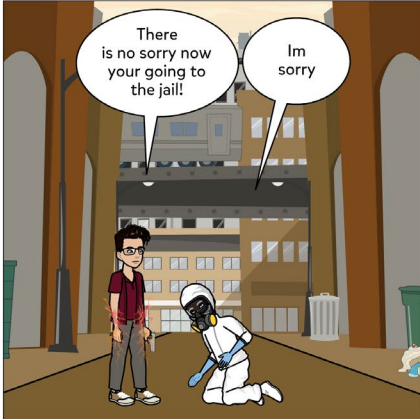
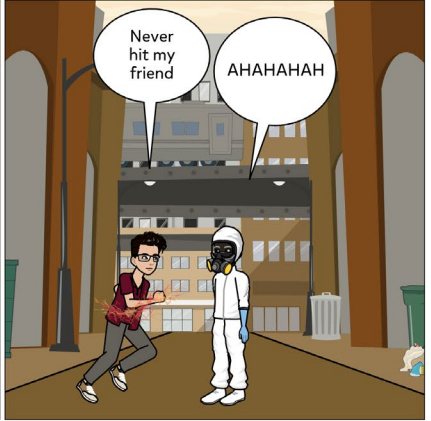
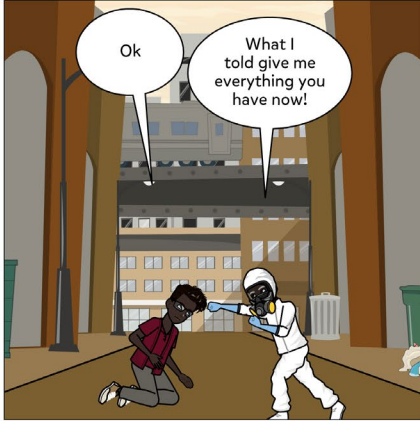
Uzochi and I Lived in the Swamp in New York in 2088. Uzochi and I met at school when we were both in the same Math class together. One day we bumped into each other,Uzochi dropped his books and I helped him pick them up. "Sorry" I said to Uzochi "I'm Jesus" and held out my hand. Uzochi"Replied " no it's my fault sorry. I'm Uzochi" s. We were both in our Last period class and it was Almost time for Dismissal so we left school together to go to the store to get something to eat. I brought Uzochi something to eat and told him I was sorry for earlier. Jesus told him goodbye.We were both going home because after school all I wanted to do was to go home and play the ps 56.

I had been home when my mom had ordered some food on her new iPhone 37. It was night time, I had been playing for 5 hours when I heard somebody knocking at the door . I got up and ran so fast, it felt like two seconds I didn't know what was happening . My mom asked me to go to the store, there was no food to cook. I had to buy everything for her to make some food so I got some rice, chicken and lasagna. As I was coming out of the store I heard somebody scream. I ran to see what it was, dropping the food and running so fast that it felt like just one Second until I reached the sound. I looked in the alleyway and saw Uzochi. He looked so scared a man pointed a gun at him. In a flash I appeared behind the guy and took the gun from him, he tripped, fell on the floor and hit his head. I called Uzochi " Call the cops."

After ten minutes the cops arrived to take the guy to jail. Just then more of his friends popped out of the alleyway and tried to beat the cops to death but I used my strength and my powers to run all around them. Then I used all my strength to punch one of the guys and that guy went unconscious. I took two of the guys' heads and bumped them together so they too would go unconscious. Before the fourth guy could hit the cop, I teleported over to him and took his weapons. Finally the cops took the bad guys in the police car.

I picked up Uzochi, he had blood on his face and bruises so I took him to the hospital to get help for him. On the ride back home from the hospital my mom called "You left three hours ago. "Mom, this crazy thing happened outside." I said nervously. She replied, "I know, I saw the cops outside." I got off the bus and used my powers to instantly appear on my block and go home. As I opened the door she asked "Where's the food I told you to bring"

"I dropped it outside to help a friend" I said nervously and continued "...but then somebody stole it, I tried to look for it and I couldn't find it, so then I brought my friend to the hospital. He was badly hurt. After I dropped him off, I took the bus back home." My mom stopped me and said "If your friend was badly hurt then what about you?" Her eyes looked all over me searching for signs of bruises. "My friend jumped and when I found him the police had come to take away the bad guys." As I said these last words, I wondered if I should tell her the truth. No, I think I'm going to keep it away from her to protect her."



BY NANZIE

A day pledge summer in the year 2098 in one of my walks in the streets of New York at around 7:30 pm. I saw my friend Lencho and another kid on Third Avenue in a dark hallway. I think they were about to take some illicit substance. When I saw them he was against the wall. I knew it was my friend Lencho. Because when I was stopped on the other side of the road, I looked at them and he flipped. I knew for sure it was him and I saw elevation in his hand.

I ran towards him because he is my friend. When they saw me running towards them they started to run away from me. The next morning, when I saw them at school, I decided to ask him, "What are you doing with those people and why when you saw me you ran away as if you had seen a ghost in the street?" He said, "My friends and I were frightened to talk to you." He left without giving me more information. All I saw was him elevating his hands.

At the end of class I decided to talk to him again because he and I have been friends for at least two years now. I saw him and I began talking to him calmly. I was telling him that he can explain everything to me and that I would understand him because I have been his friend for a long time. Finally he decides to explain everything to me and tells me that the day I saw them in the hallway he and his neighborhood friends were about to take elevations.

I asked him, "Who provides you with the drugs?" He replied, "It was mine and my friend, we paid him for it." His breathing was changing, he started talking too fast, his face was sweaty and he was looking from left to right. You didn't need special powers to see that Lencho was lying to me. Anyone who lies often repeats themselves and gives too many details. I have known this boy for years, Lencho never gives too much details, so I decided to do my little investigation. I left and decided to go where I had seen them in the corridor. I started asking the people that were in the neighborhood I had not used my powers on my friend Lencho, I wanted him to tell me the truth but these people were different. I looked them directly in the eyes, staring into their eyes and forcing them with mine to tell me the names of the people in the neighborhood corridor last night.

In my hard research I ended up finding one of the persons that were in the corridor last night.

I used my powers on him, "What were you doing with my friend Lencho last night?" I asked, staring hard into his eyes, forcing him to tell me the truth. He tried to resist me, he tried to take his eyes away from mine. I grabbed his chin and once again locked my eyes to his. "Tell me! What were you doing in the corridor last night?" I stared harder and forced my mind to push him. He told me everything, "I was with Lencho and John. We were trying

elevation. It was so good." I threw him to the floor. I was disgusted, so I went home since I had all the information I needed. Lencho had been taking elevation for a while.

Two weeks passed and I noticed that Lencho didn't come to school anymore. Sometimes when I saw him he looked scared and tired like he hadn't slept all night. It hurt me to see him but he could also do something to me if I approached him. Months passed and I learned from mutual friends that Lencho had been in jail for 4 weeks and he was released yesterday. I was shocked by all this. It was in the present moment that I knew that I had to help my friend because it hurt me a lot to see him like that, while I was looking for him in his usual place I heard a conversation between the new friends of Lencho they say Lencho got weird from this drug and he was planning to lure him to a bridge and push him because he owed a lot of money. I was scared for my friend Lencho so I ran and told him what his friends wanted to do.

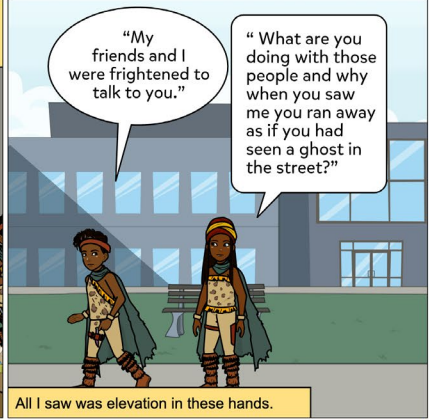
He did not believe me, he thought I was lying. He made it very clear that I was wrong and I just wanted to turn him away from his friends. I had no choice but to use my super power on him to convince that I was telling the truth. I also wanted him to get treatment because he had become really weird. I needed to get close to Lencho to use my powers so I changed the subject and decided to talk about school. "Do you remember Mrs. Fatou?" I said quickly. Lencho stopped and looked at me. He hated Mrs. Fatou, she would make him go to detention at least once a week. I started laughing before I said "She was writing on the board and not looking where she was going, all of a sudden we heard a crack and then boom she fell down. Her heels broke in half. She was too big to be wearing such a small heel. Everyone in the class began to laugh."

"Oh my goodness" he laughed so hard. It was nice to see my friend laughing. I used this opportunity to get closer to him while still laughing. I looked him in the eyes deeply. "I whispered you will never touch elevation again. Right Lencho?" I shook my head yes never losing his eyes. I continued laughing "You believe me Lencho, your friends want to throw you over the bridge. They are not your friends, you must stay away from them."

Three months later Lencho was a new person, he had gone to get treatment and was now attending school regularly. I had my friend back, I felt guilty for using my powers on him but it was worth it to keep him safe.

It was the summer in the year 2098 in one of my walks in the streets of New York at around 7:30 pm. I saw my friend Lencho and another kid on Third Avenue in a dark hallway. I think they were about to take some illicit substance.

I ran behind him and when they saw me they ran away. The next morning, when I saw them at school, I decided to ask him



I knew that Lencho is lying to me because his face was sweaty and he was looking from left to right. I left and decided to go where I had seen them in the corridor. I started asking the people that were in the neighborhood

I started asking the people that were in the neighborhood to tell me the truth. I looked them directly in the eyes, staring into their eyes and forcing them with mine to tell me the names of the people in the neighborhood corridor last night.

In my hard research I ended up finding one of the persons that were in the corridor last night. I used my powers on him the truth.



After he is finished giving me information I threw him to the floor. I was disgusted, so I went home since I had all the information I needed. Lencho had been taking elevation for a while.

Two weeks passed and I noticed that Lencho didn't come to school anymore. Sometimes when I saw him he looked scared and tired like he hadn't slept all night.

Months passed and I learned from mutual friends that Lencho had been in jail for 4 weeks and he was released yesterday. They planning to lure him to a bridge and push him because he owed a lot of money.



When I saw them I told him that these friends wanted to push him off the bridge He did not believe me, he thought I was lying. He made it very clear that I was wrong and I just wanted to turn him away from his friends. I had no choice but to use my super power on him to convince that I was telling the truth.

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BY NIXZMARY

As Uzochi and I walked the hallways of Frederick Douglass Academy III we saw people running toward their classes trying to get there on time. "Hey look, there's Jack playing with his friends" I said pointing to Jack and his group of friends. "I don't understand how he is able to be on top of his class if he plays around a lot," Uzochi said, staring at Jack. "I don't know but I noticed that he never leaves school at dismissal. He always goes somewhere" I said while going to the class. "He probably goes to his basketball practice" Uzochi said putting his backpack down "We should follow him after school to see where he's going" I said taking my book out of my bag "Yessssss" Uzochi said before focusing all his attention on the teacher.

TIME SKIP

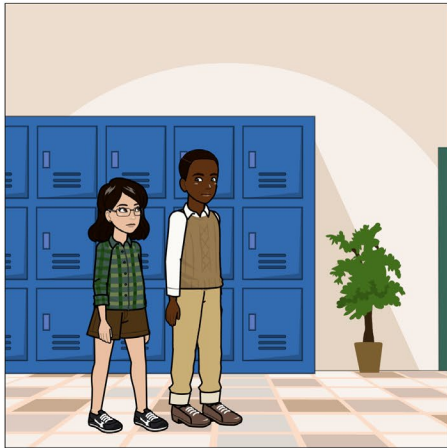
After listening to the teacher talk about stuff i already know i'm glad to be going home until i feel a hand grabbing my arm and pulling me back. Startled, I yelled "omg" yanking my hand back. "Hey calm down, I just wanted to remind you about us following Jack," Uzochi said, patting my back. "oh yeah my bad i forgot" I said putting my bookbag in my locker so it won't bother me. "Alright let's go cause I saw him leave through the back door of the school." Uzochi said while also putting his bookbag in his locker. As we slowly run to the back door to catch up to Jack I notice Lencho waiting there. I pull Uzochi back behind a corner. "What, what happened?" Uzochi said whispering. "What is your cousin doing there with him," I said sneakily pointing to Lencho

"I don't know," Uzochi said before shushing me. "Wait, use your hearing powers to hear," I said whispering. "Basically Jack is buying drugs from Lencho and using them," said Uzochi. "STOP IT JACK" I said yelling to him. "What are you doing here?" said Jack, surprised. "Jack, that's not a good thing to do to stop it." I said smacking the drugs out his hand. "Lencho LEAVE NOW" I said glaring at him. "Whatever i have more people who i can sell" Lencho said leaving. "Jack this is not a good thing to do if you need help we can help you" Uzochi said holding his shoulder. "I need help, I just don't know who to ask" said Jack on the verge of tears. "That's why we are here, to help you with your problems," I said, hugging him. "Alright, thank you" said Jack, hugging me back.

TIME SKIP: 3 months later

Uzochi and I are still scholars along with Jack who is 3 months sober. After the whole incident Lencho got caught selling and he was expelled from the school. Everyone celebrated that! Uzochi decided to meet new people and become friends with them. We all learned a lesson that things may not seem the way they are.

THE END



BY TOBY

After Lencho beat Kal (the gang leader of the spiders) in a 1v1 fight by using his anger induced super strength he went on his way back home going through an alleyway as a shortcut, while going down the alleyway he used his other ability of draining energy which he discovers by accidentally aly draining the energy out of a blind person and feeling a euphoric high from he travels farther down the alleyway aches sprang up all over, as he was pondering on draining more people Lencho heard footsteps behind him and instantly got on guard. He whipped around as he did before to see no one there, the footsteps were gone too.

"It must have been a rat that was running along the all—" Lencho said.

Suddenly, gunshots passed by Lencho from behind just to turn back around to be met again with no one there. Lencho was shocked on how he could hear footsteps behind him that abruptly stopped with after that two shots being fired at him from nowhere after he turned back around to be met with nothing one again, "Who 's there" Lencho exclaimed . "Apparently you have already gotten rid of my target but since you're a part of the divine sons .Taking you out will do," said a voice from outside of the alley echoing all over the enclosed walls.

"Who are you and how do you know about me being in a gang"! Lencho said in an intimidating tone. "Well you didn't really do a good job a counseling you're self in the encounter you had with the spiders gang leader"

"But you see like a larger threat than he is" "it seems like you have a similar ability to mine, while i was watching you're tussle with Kal it seemed like you're strength was increasing with every blow you landed on him so I was sent to deal with you" said the mysterious figure before disappearing.

"Who sent you and why were you after kal"!?!?!?!?!?!? Lencho asked.

"Well you did not really do a good job a counseling you're self in the encounter you had with the spiders gang leader"

"But you seem like a larger threat than he is," "It seems like you have a similar ability to mine, while I was watching your tussle with Kal it seemed like your strength was

increasing with every blow you landed on him so I was sent to deal with you". Monologues the mysterious voice .

"Holy shit! can you please shut up, can you please stop talking"

"I fr dont care." Lencho replied.

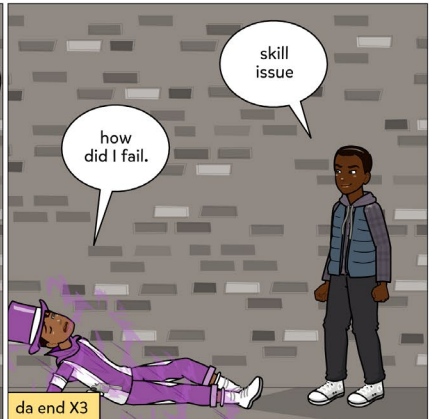
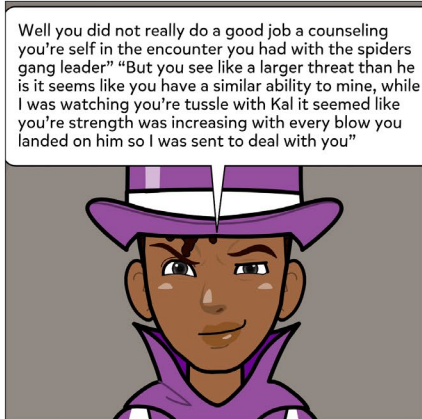
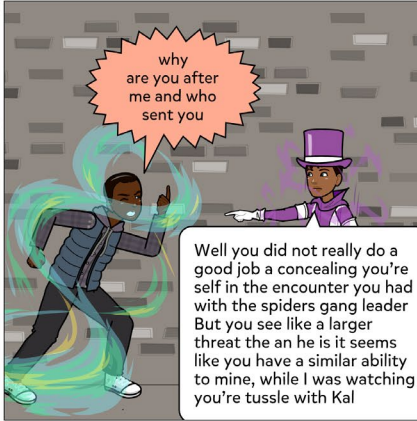
"Well i should get this over with quickly then" says the mysterious stranger, as somehow how he appears out of thin air in front of Lencho immediately going on the offensive by swinging in with a heavy haymaker, Lencho then dodges the attack moving his head down but then out of nowhere the mysterious stranger snaps from the whiffed haymaker to a already winded up punch as if he never through the punch at all, the punch connects with Lincho this time hitting him square in the gut knocking the wind out of him.

"How did you move so fast?" Lencho says with barely enough air to speak.

At that moment Lencho thinks to himself, "Does this guy have some sort of powers like mUzochi and Zuberi and I?"

Lencho falls down to the ground.

"Lencho i hope you can make peace with yourself because this is your end."



BY FREDERICO

Alarm clock goes off, waking me up to the bright sun hitting my face. I felt so drowsy, I didn't even want to get off my bed. But I knew I had to get ready for school. On my way to school I met this kid and his name was Uzochi waiting in the line outside of school. I could tell he's a very friendly person and careful. Already, he's speaking about life and trying to know more about how I am as a person. Some people are different when I meet them. It was just something about him that I could tell, he was good just by his vibes. Uzochi and I headed to our first period class and we sat next to each other. This was a new school year and we decided to be friends after the conversation we had. He helped me with math and science work. I noticed he was very intelligent. After class we spoke a lot about many different things. We were more focused on bonding with each other as friends but honestly he made my first day of school a good day because I thought I was gonna be alone. After School ended, Uzochi and I walked our separate ways as he's waving his hand telling me, "GET HOME SAFE NEW FRIEND" from a long distance and saying the same back.

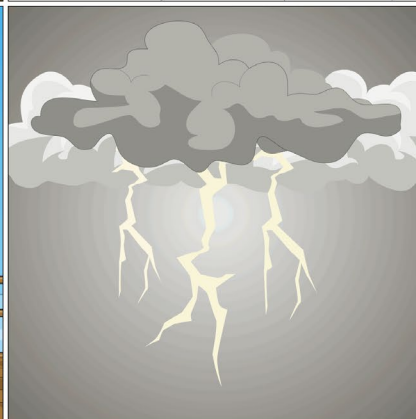
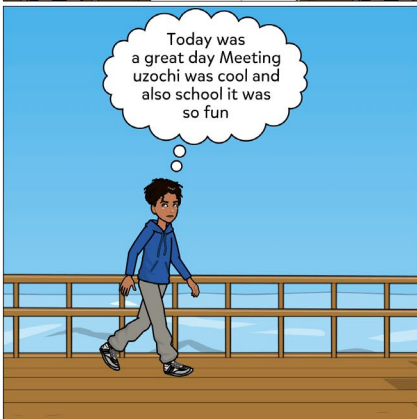
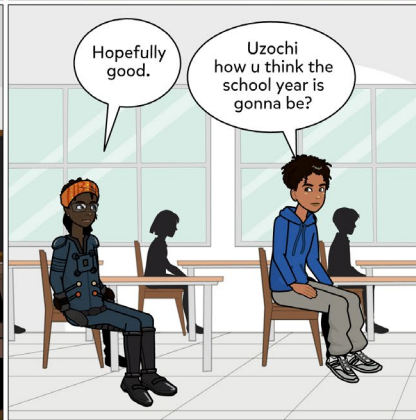
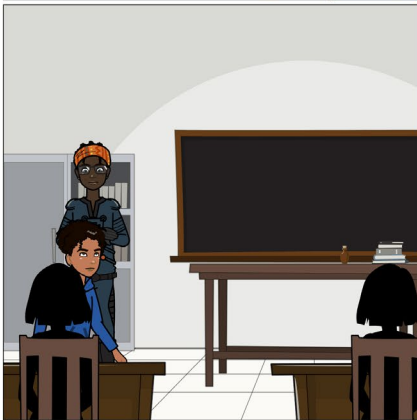
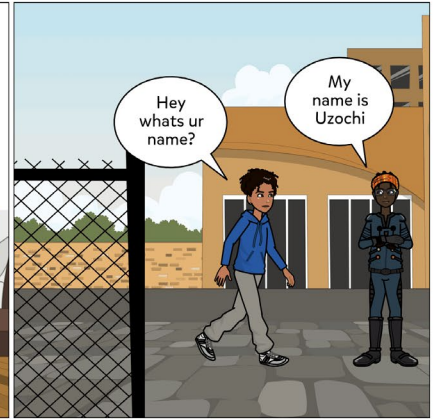
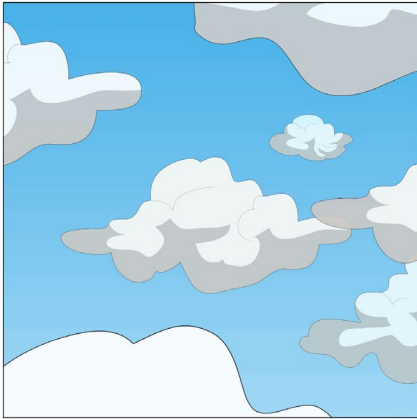
As I was walking home a little shake from the earth had occurred, shocking everyone near me, questioning what that thing was. I thought it was a little earthquake. I Started moving along trying to go home fast Until ALL HELL BROKE the shaking started increasing little by little. It was raining hard and the sky started to turn dark purple. It was like the world was ending. Got home and immediately turned on the news to see what was going on. The news reporter got information from the researchers about the purple glow in the sky and it was like a storm that's very toxic and affects people. I called Uzochi and told him what was going on in the sky. He seemed so confused, sounding like he just woke up from a sleep after school. I explained to him about the situation and he was in shock and thought he was in a dream. It was that confusing. And BOOM BOOM BOOM!!!! As the rumble happened things felt way off. I felt some energy that came into my body. My brain was hurting badly after the energy I received and I was wondering why I was getting affected. Even Uzochi felt that it was a very abnormal feeling, so he asked, "was it a dimension shift all along?" I responded, "probably who knows?" We have a whole outside storm going on, Something we never even saw before. The world changed less than a second and came across a rainy, dark purple storm. It's like a nightmare".

Days passed and nothing changed. We have been having this storm that has been killing people all around the world. The population is decreasing faster and faster each day. Uzochi and I have been trying to survive to see if anything gets better but still no answer. I said to myself ,...I need to go outside and get some stuff, food and water because I ran out of supplies. I didn't want to die of starvation so I had to do something in order

to live. Uzochi didn't want me to know how dangerous this storm would be. He would be afraid if I stepped foot outside, but there was no other choice. Walking outside in this dark raining purplish weather having my umbrella with an oxygen tank and a mask that's all connected into one. The reason people die is because they breathe this toxic chemical that comes from the purple sky which kills them slowly without them realizing. I finally arrived at the supermarket and went inside to peek around for some food. The lights were cut off for some reason and were totally empty. I took out my phone and turned on my flashlight and grabbed a cart near me and started grabbing some food. I heard things moving around like cans and bottles like someone was just walking around or probably throwing them, "so I shout" IS ANYBODY HERE!!!!" hearing my voice again repeats in echo and nobody answered. I was very concerned about my surroundings and had a curious feeling like someone was trying to sneak attack me. I kept looking and found a man sleeping on the floor. I was like " Hey hey what u doing here man?" as I was waking him up he said,

" Nothing, I just dont got a home. I live here for shelter and the food. Why are u taking my food man? Those are my things. I own this shop, mister." I connected into his mind without me doing anything. It was weird it just suddenly happened. I started reading everything he was holding back. He said in his mind, " Man next time I can't let nobody let in my territory everything is mine and I don't want anyone taking my stuff." the strange man said in his head. I left him alone and let him do his own thing, walking home I thought to myself " what was that back there? What did I do? How did I know what he was saying" It was a pretty weird action and feeling. Made it back home to sit and relax because it was a long walk plus with all the equipment I had on it was just so heavy. As I went to sit down my phone was blowing up from Uzochi. I had 20 missed calls, I was thinking that he was worried or something. I answered and he told me he had a solution to the troublesome weather. " I've been working on this machine for a couple of hours to shock the sky to switch back to our normal dimension and hopefully everything will turn back."

Uzochi is very smart and thoughtful for at least trying to help the world from its disaster. If everything works out Uzochi will be the one to save the world. Uzochi and I decided to meet up and went straight to his backyard leading to his machine. " WOW HOW DID U BUILD THIS UZOCHI!?" Uzochi said, " I had the power of tracking things by hearing like if im looking for something i could track the location and teleport to it". We started up a machine and it blasted a yellow beam into the sky and everything shifted back.



ABOUT THE VISITING AUTHORS

Omar Epps is an actor, producer, and rapper who has been writing and creating since he was a child. He was raised in Brooklyn, New York, by his mother, a teacher and school administrator. Epps has been acting for more than 30 years. He is best known for his leading roles in the films *Juice* and *Love & Basketball*, as well as his supporting role on the TV series *This is Us*.



Clarence A. Haynes is a born and raised New Yorker. He served as an associate editor before going on to work as a developmental editor for titles with Amazon Publishing under imprints like 47North, which specializes in sci-fi/fantasy, and Skyscape, which specializes in YA fiction. Clarence lives primarily in Brooklyn; wherever he goes, he tries to surround himself with books.





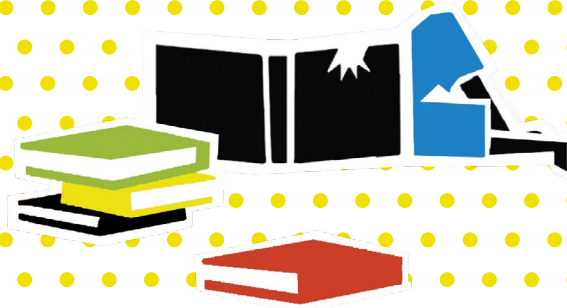
ABOUT THE STUDENT AUTHORS

Our school Frederick Douglass Academy III is housed in one of the poorest congressional districts in the Bronx. Our first-period class consists of risk-takers and adventurers with an array of interests, such as sports, art, music, acting, fashion, and much more. We are excited once again to be in the classroom to share and exchange ideas with our classmates. We believe that each of us has an important contribution to make to the world, as well as each other's development, therefore every voice in the room is valued. Our 7th period is an international melting pot with global citizens from countries such as Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Kenya, and much more; within this context, we share and explore new ideas. The last two years of the pandemic were difficult for us. Yet, we are rising steadily to face the challenges of this ever-changing world and pushing ourselves toward new opportunities and adventures.



ABOUT BEHIND THE BOOK


Behind the Book brings authors and their books into classrooms to build literacy skills and foster a community of lifelong readers and writers. Working with classes from Pre-K through 12th grade, our series of workshops is designed to bring books to life and inspire students to reach their full potential. Behind the Book is embedded in the class curriculum, nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in New York City public school students. All programs meet the Next Generation Learning Standards. The staff who has been behind the books this school year include: Executive Director Andrew Frank, Director of Programs Anmarie Paul, Program Manager & Volunteer Coordinator Alexandra Berndt, Program Administrator Kelly Choi, Curriculum Developers Keturah Abdullah and Roya Nabizadeh, Program Facilitators Tatiana Colgin, Amere Cortijo, Shirly Hernandez, and Elizabeth Valentín, Program Interns Avanti Tulpule, Kaylee Young-Eun Jeong, and Grace Riginos, Director of Development Amanda Carr, Development Manager Roshana Nabi, Operations Manager Christy Hood, Marketing and Communications Strategist Vivian Cruz-Rivera, and Student Book Art Director Adriana Moreno.



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STANDARD 6-12W4: Develop personal, cultural, textual, and thematic connections within and across genres through responses to texts and personal experiences.

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