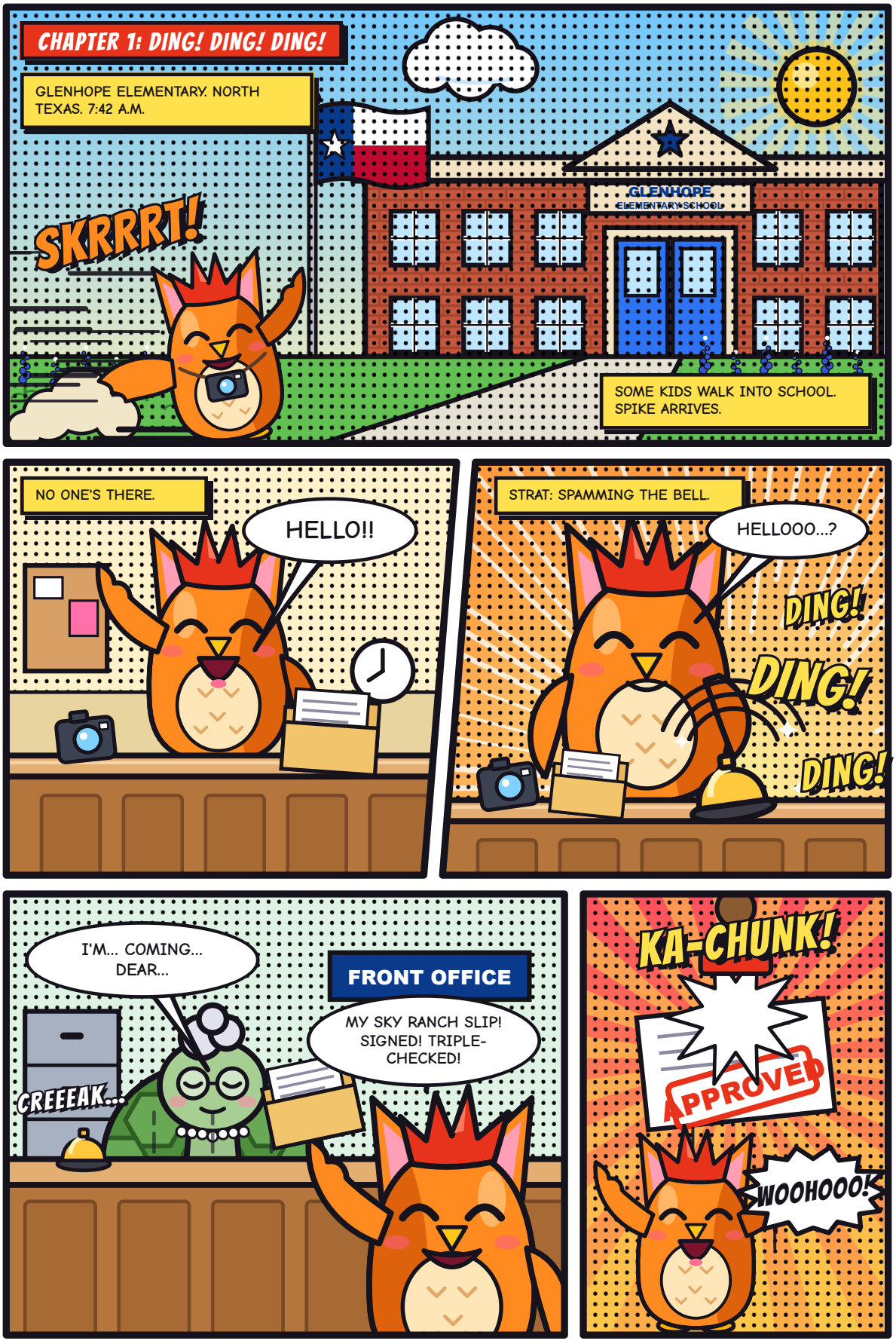
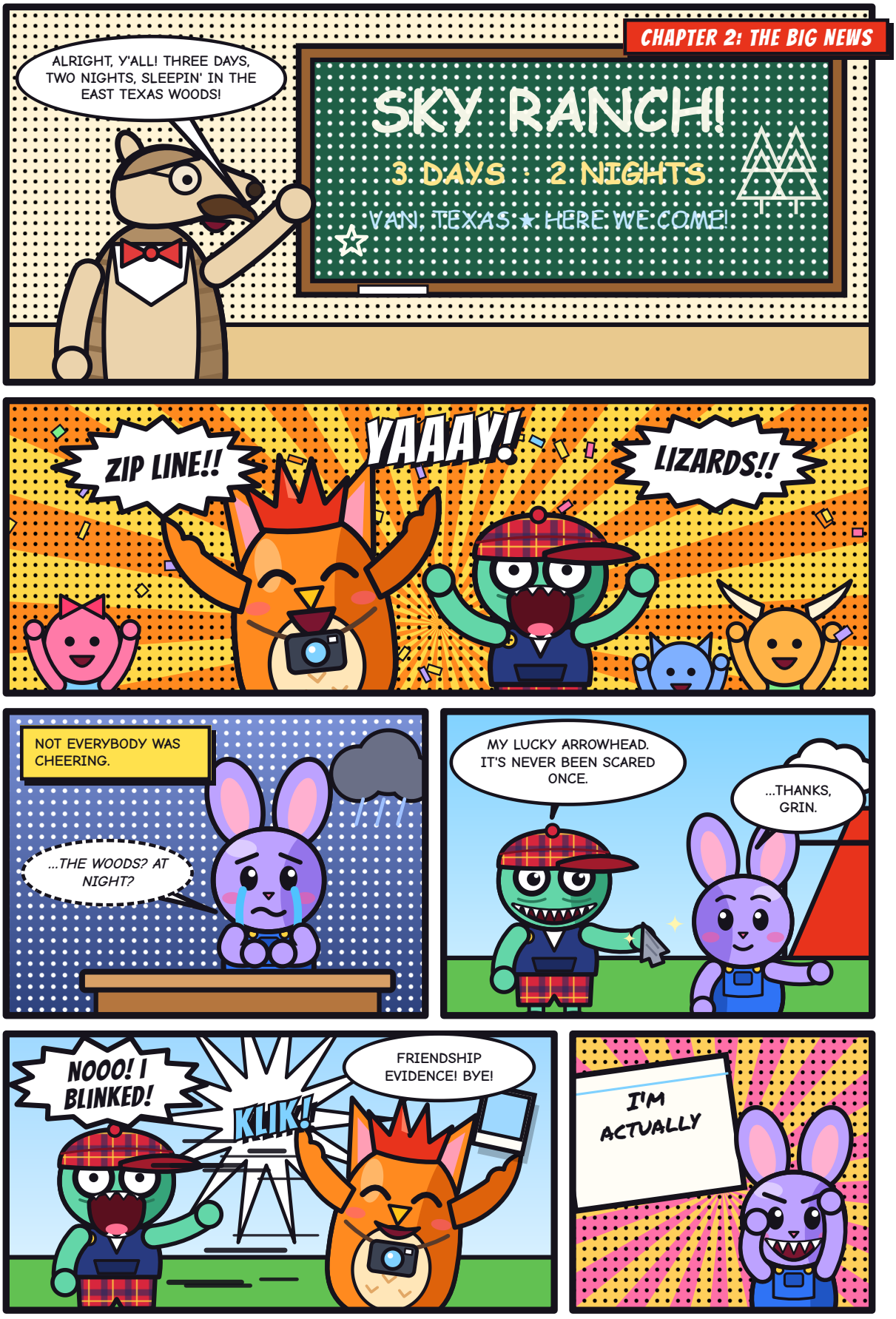
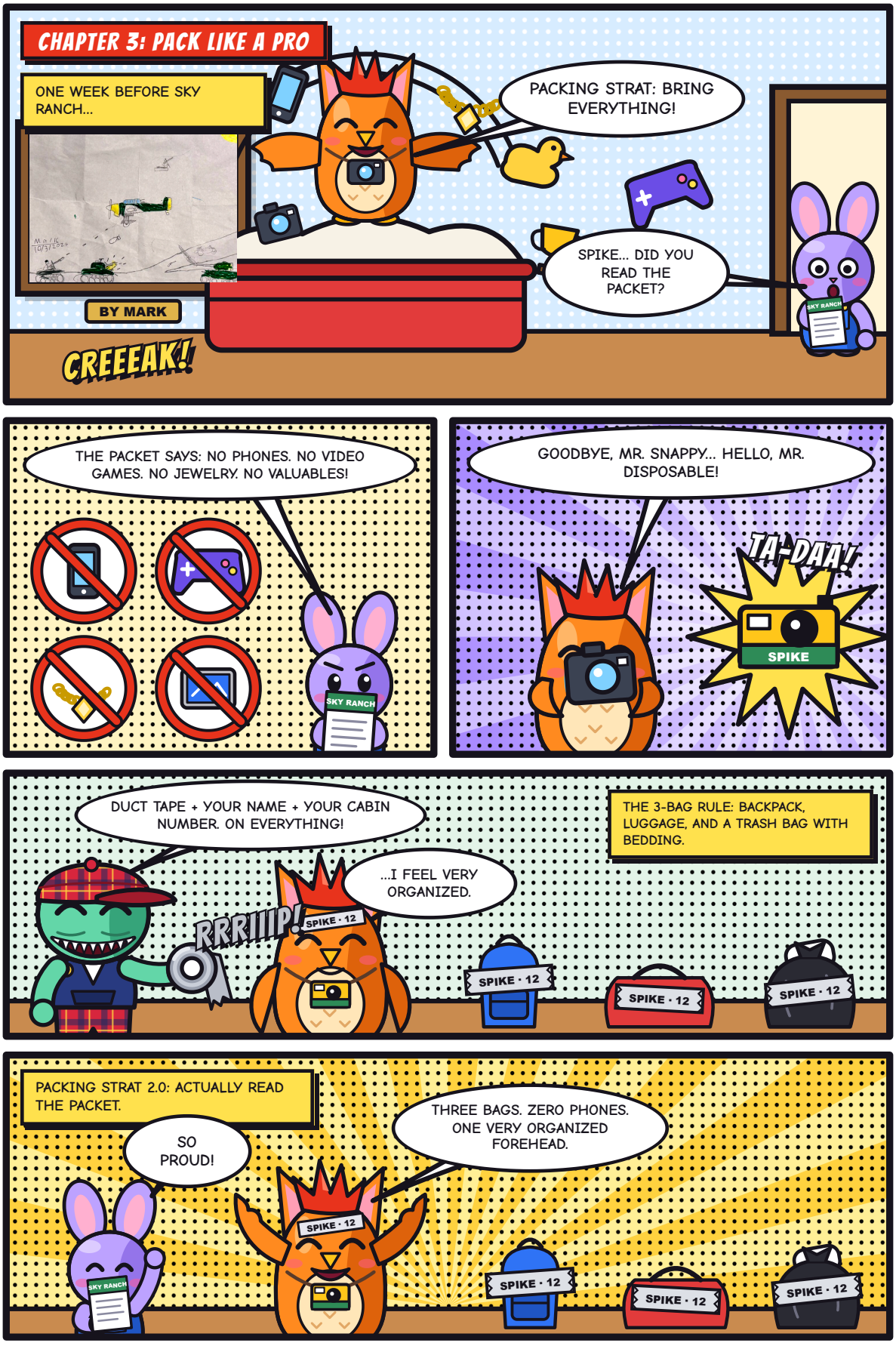
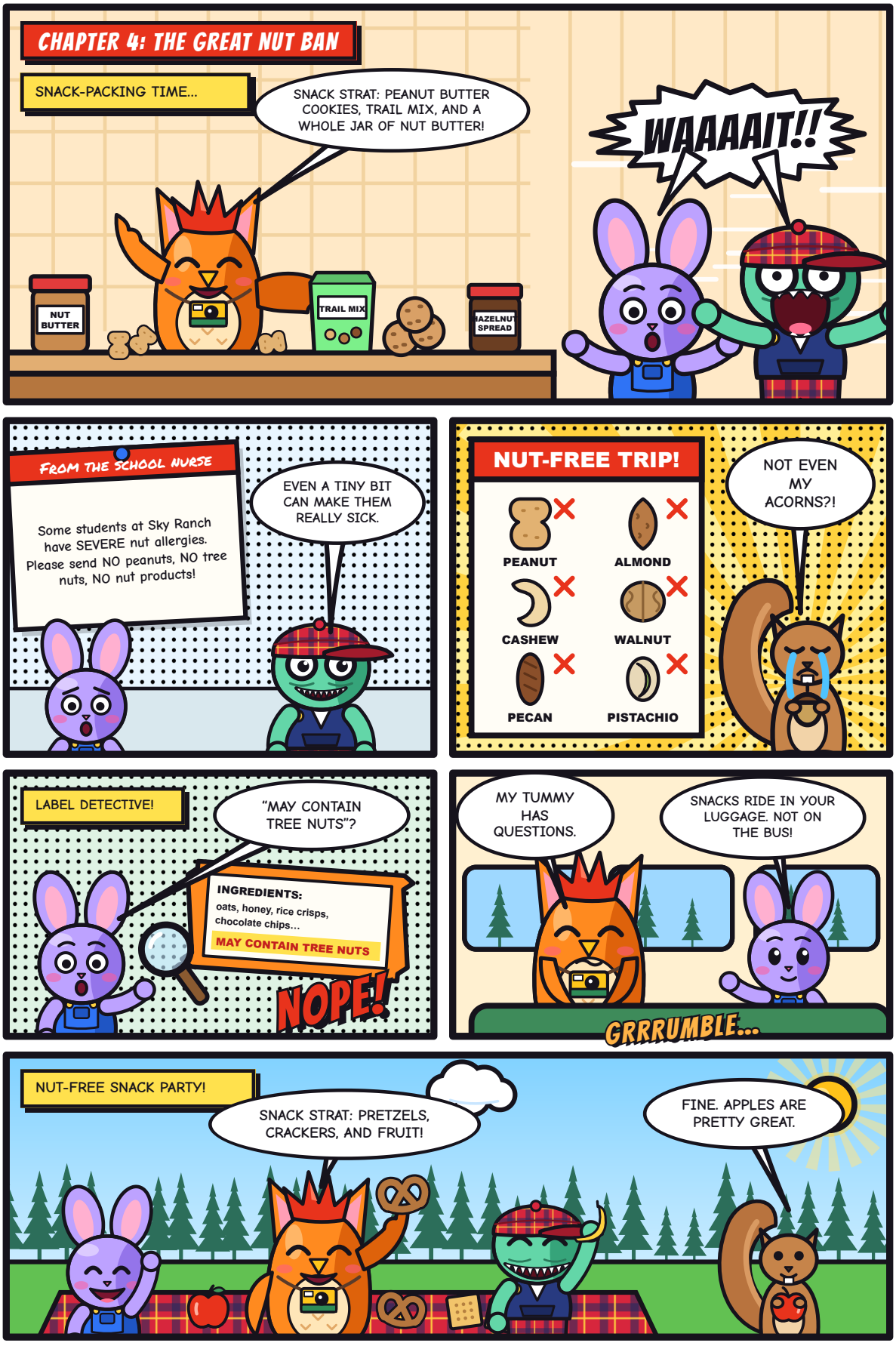

NO. 1
OCT
THE
SKY RANCH
SQUAD!
5TH GRADE
FIELD TRIP
SPECIAL!

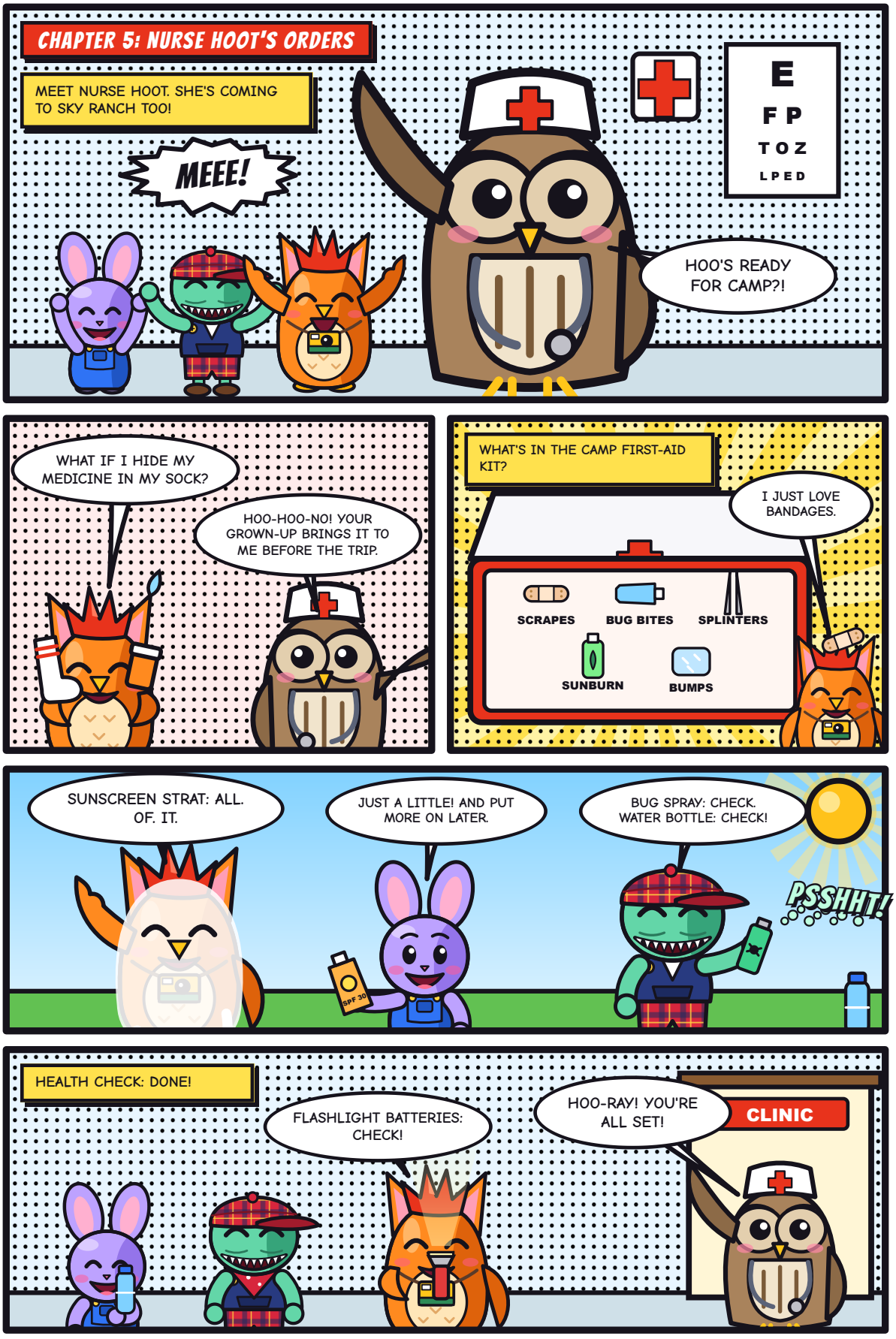

CHAPTER 1: DING! DING! DING!
GLENHOPE ELEMENTARY. NORTH TEXAS. 7:42 A.M.
GLENHOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SKRRRT!
SOME KIDS WALK INTO SCHOOL. SPIKE ARRIVES.
NO ONE'S THERE.
HELLO!!
STRAT: SPAMMING THE BELL.
HELLOOO...?
DING!
DING!
DING!
I'M... COMING... DEAR...
FRONT OFFICE
MY SKY RANCH SLIP! SIGNED! TRIPLE-CHECKED!
CREEEAK...
KA-CHUNK!
APPROVED
WOOHOOO!

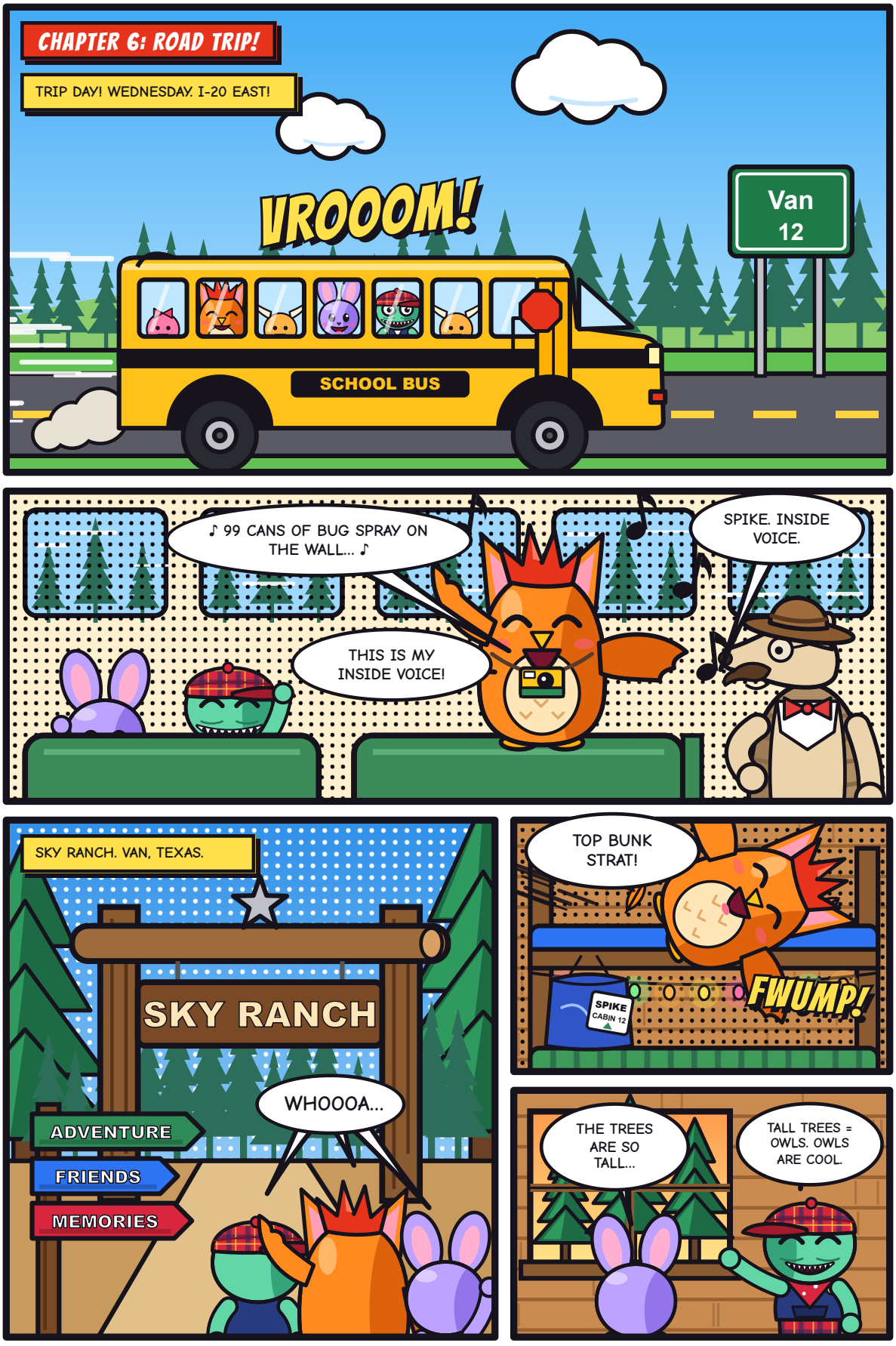

CHAPTER 2: THE BIG NEWS
ALRIGHT, Y'ALL! THREE DAYS, TWO NIGHTS, SLEEPIN' IN THE EAST TEXAS WOODS!
SKY RANCH!
3 DAYS : 2 NIGHTS
VAN, TEXAS ★ HERE WE COME!
ZIP LINE!!
YAAAY!
LIZARDS!!
NOT EVERYBODY WAS CHEERING.
...THE WOODS? AT NIGHT?
MY LUCKY ARROWHEAD. IT'S NEVER BEEN SCARED ONCE.
...THANKS, GRIN.
NOOO! I BLINKED!
KLIK!
FRIENDSHIP EVIDENCE! BYE!
I'M ACTUALLY

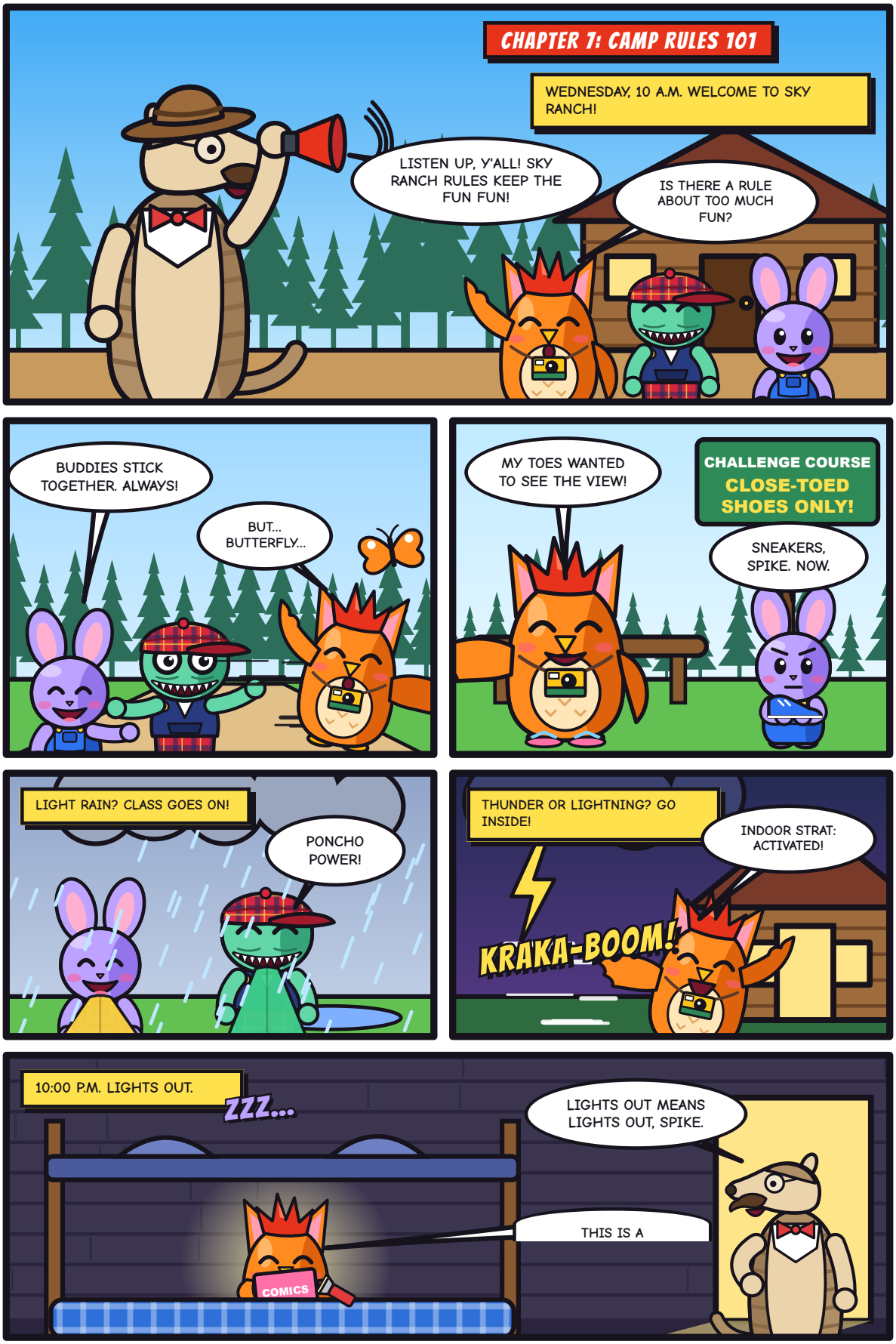
GOING TOO!

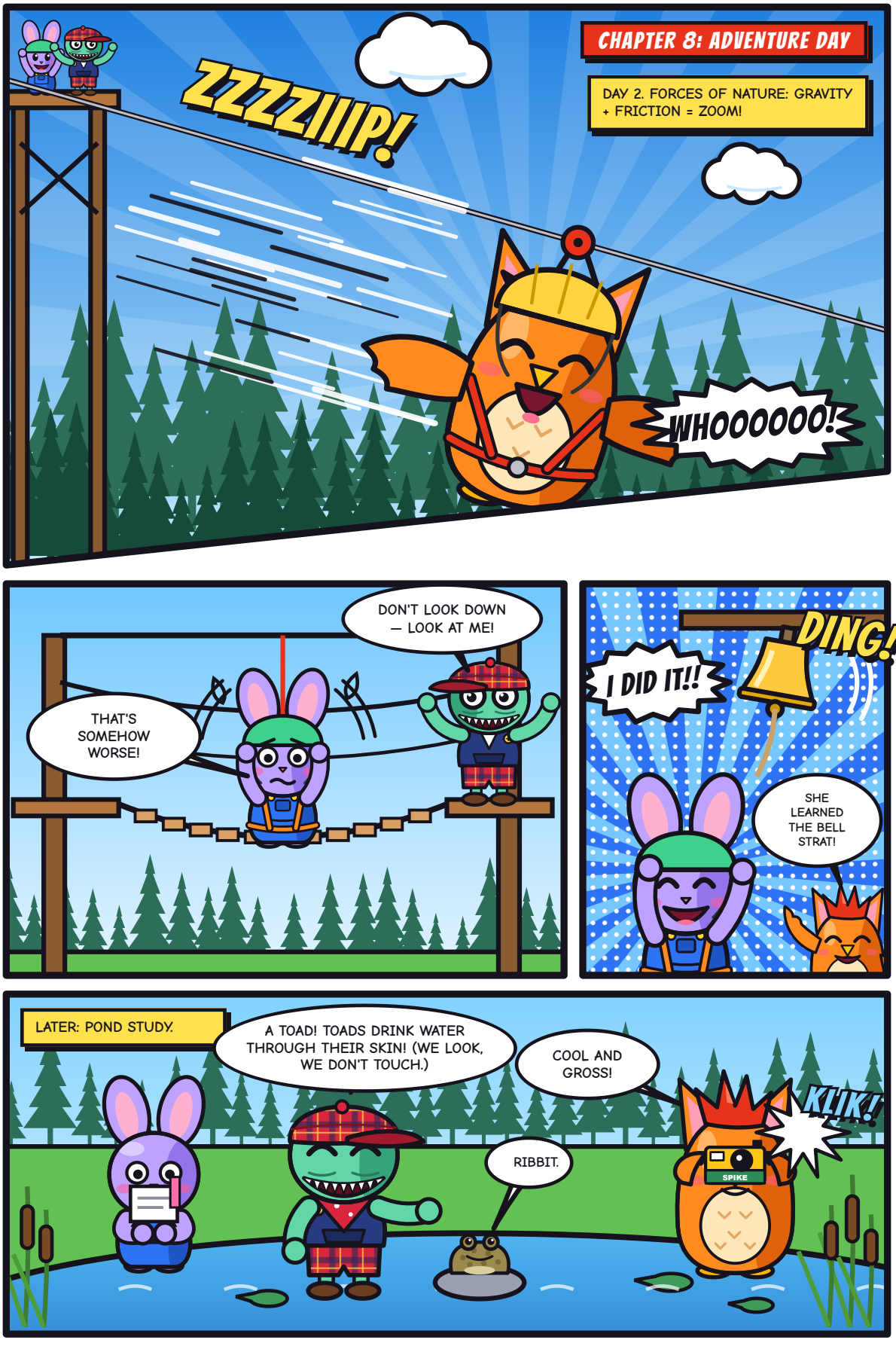

CHAPTER 3: PACK LIKE A PRO
ONE WEEK BEFORE SKY RANCH...
BY MARK
CREEEAK!
PACKING STRAT: BRING EVERYTHING!
SPIKE... DID YOU READ THE PACKET?
SKY RANCH
THE PACKET SAYS: NO PHONES. NO VIDEO GAMES. NO JEWELRY. NO VALUABLES!
SKY RANCH
GOODBYE, MR. SNAPPY... HELLO, MR. DISPOSABLE!
TA-DAA!
SPIKE
DUCT TAPE + YOUR NAME + YOUR CABIN NUMBER. ON EVERYTHING!
RRRIIIP!
SPIKE · 12
...I FEEL VERY ORGANIZED.
THE 3-BAG RULE: BACKPACK, LUGGAGE, AND A TRASH BAG WITH BEDDING.
SPIKE · 12
SPIKE · 12
SPIKE · 12
PACKING STRAT 2.0: ACTUALLY READ THE PACKET.
SO PROUD!
SKY RANCH
THREE BAGS. ZERO PHONES. ONE VERY ORGANIZED FOREHEAD.
SPIKE · 12
SPIKE · 12
SPIKE · 12
SPIKE · 12

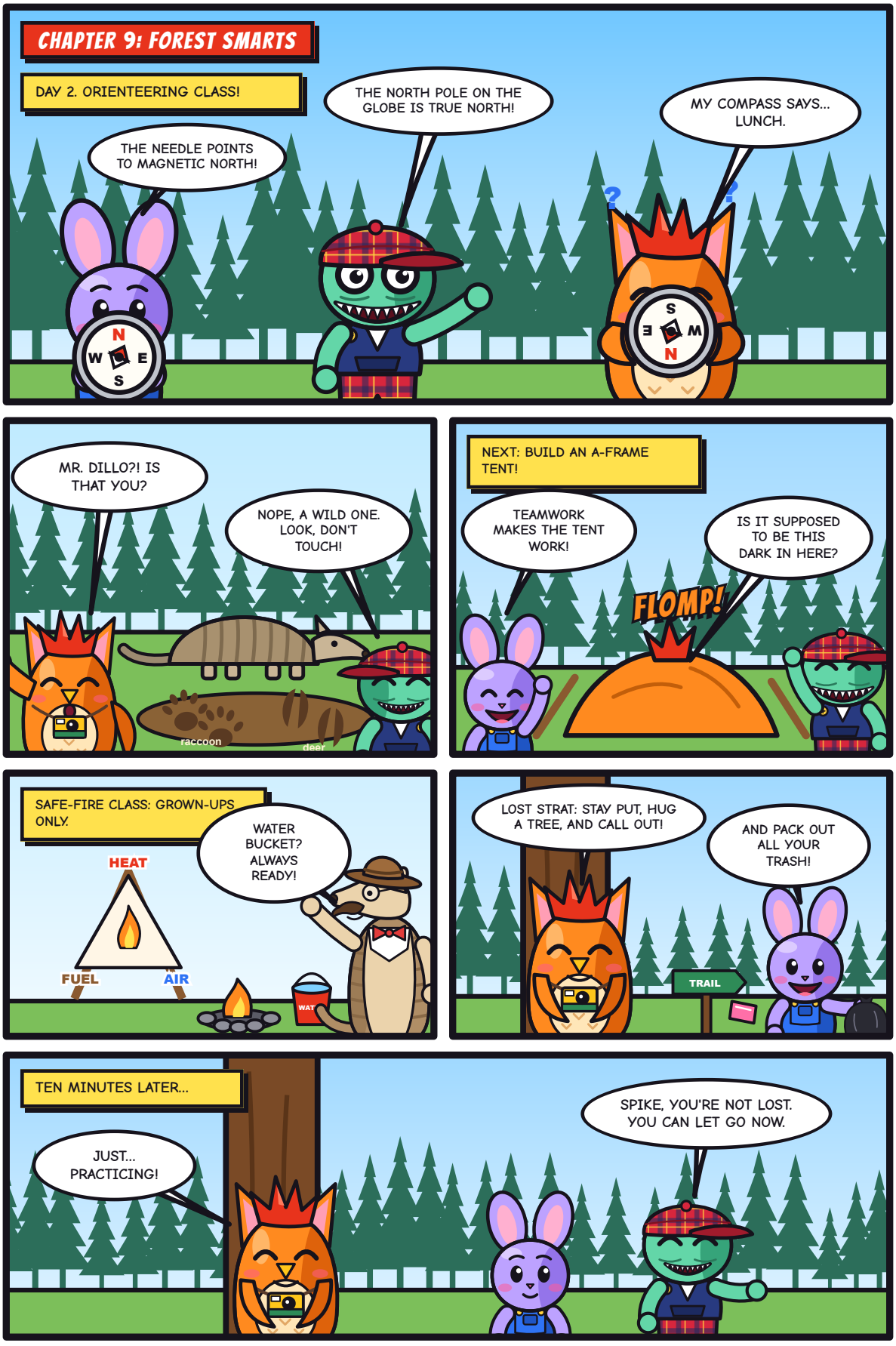

CHAPTER 4: THE GREAT NUT BAN
SNACK-PACKING TIME...
SNACK STRAT: PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES, TRAIL MIX, AND A WHOLE JAR OF NUT BUTTER!
NUT BUTTER
TRAIL MIX
HAZELNUT SPREAD
WAAAAIT!!
FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE
Some students at Sky Ranch have SEVERE nut allergies. Please send NO peanuts, NO tree nuts, NO nut products!
EVEN A TINY BIT CAN MAKE THEM REALLY SICK.
NUT-FREE TRIP!
PEANUT
ALMOND
CASHEW
WALNUT
PECAN
PISTACHIO
NOT EVEN MY ACORNS?!
LABEL DETECTIVE!
"MAY CONTAIN TREE NUTS"?
INGREDIENTS:
oats, honey, rice crisps, chocolate chips...
MAY CONTAIN TREE NUTS
NOPE!
MY TUMMY HAS QUESTIONS.
SNACKS RIDE IN YOUR LUGGAGE. NOT ON THE BUS!
GRRRUMBLE...
NUT-FREE SNACK PARTY!
SNACK STRAT: PRETZELS, CRACKERS, AND FRUIT!
FINE. APPLES ARE PRETTY GREAT.


CHAPTER 5: NURSE HOOT'S ORDERS
MEET NURSE HOOT. SHE'S COMING TO SKY RANCH TOO!
MEEE!
E
F P
T O Z
L P E D
HOO'S READY FOR CAMP?!
WHAT IF I HIDE MY MEDICINE IN MY SOCK?
HOO-HOO-NO! YOUR GROWN-UP BRINGS IT TO ME BEFORE THE TRIP.
WHAT'S IN THE CAMP FIRST-AID KIT?
I JUST LOVE BANDAGES.
SCRAPES
BUG BITES
SPLINTERS
SUNBURN
BUMPS
SUNSCREEN STRAT: ALL. OF. IT.
JUST A LITTLE! AND PUT MORE ON LATER.
BUG SPRAY: CHECK. WATER BOTTLE: CHECK!
PSSHHT!
SPF 30
HEALTH CHECK: DONE!
FLASHLIGHT BATTERIES: CHECK!
HOO-RAY! YOU'RE ALL SET!
CLINIC


CHAPTER 6: ROAD TRIP!
TRIP DAY! WEDNESDAY. I-20 EAST!
VROOOM!
Van 12
SCHOOL BUS
♪ 99 CANS OF BUG SPRAY ON THE WALL... ♪
SPIKE. INSIDE VOICE.
THIS IS MY INSIDE VOICE!
SKY RANCH. VAN, TEXAS.
SKY RANCH
WHOOOA...
ADVENTURE
FRIENDS
MEMORIES
TOP BUNK STRAT!
SPIKE CABIN 12
FWUMP!
THE TREES ARE SO TALL...
TALL TREES = OWLS. OWLS ARE COOL.

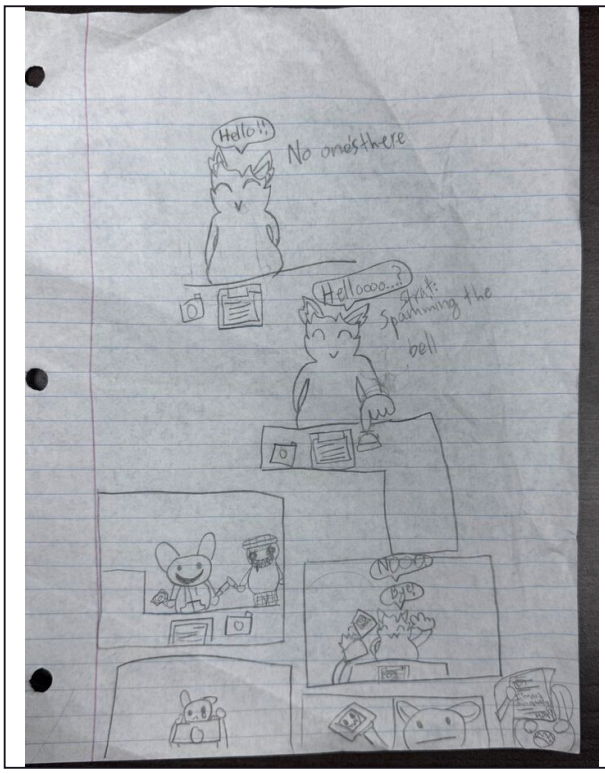

CHAPTER 7: CAMP RULES 101
WEDNESDAY, 10 A.M. WELCOME TO SKY RANCH!
LISTEN UP, Y'ALL! SKY RANCH RULES KEEP THE FUN FUN!
IS THERE A RULE ABOUT TOO MUCH FUN?
BUDDIES STICK TOGETHER. ALWAYS!
BUT... BUTTERFLY...
MY TOES WANTED TO SEE THE VIEW!
CHALLENGE COURSE
CLOSE-TOED SHOES ONLY!
SNEAKERS, SPIKE. NOW.
LIGHT RAIN? CLASS GOES ON!
PONCHO POWER!
THUNDER OR LIGHTNING? GO INSIDE!
INDOOR STRAT: ACTIVATED!
KRAKA-BOOM!
10:00 P.M. LIGHTS OUT.
ZZZ...
LIGHTS OUT MEANS LIGHTS OUT, SPIKE.
THIS IS A
COMICS


CHAPTER 8: ADVENTURE DAY
DAY 2. FORCES OF NATURE: GRAVITY + FRICTION = ZOOM!
ZZZZIIIP!
WHOOOOOO!
DON'T LOOK DOWN — LOOK AT ME!
THAT'S SOMEHOW WORSE!
DING!
I DID IT!!
SHE LEARNED THE BELL STRAT!
LATER: POND STUDY.
A TOAD! TOADS DRINK WATER THROUGH THEIR SKIN! (WE LOOK, WE DON'T TOUCH.)
COOL AND GROSS!
RIBBIT.
KLIK!
SPIKE

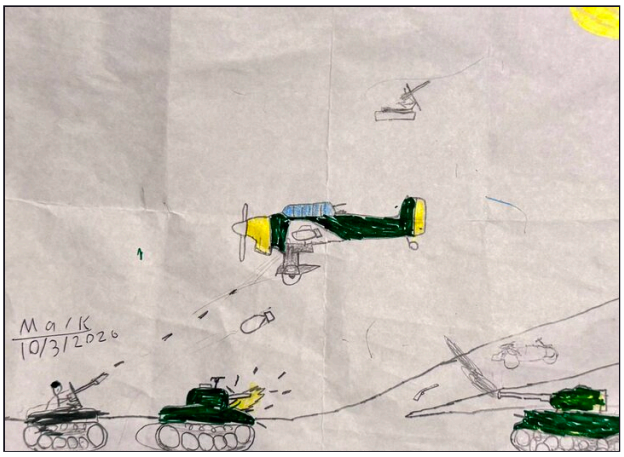

CHAPTER 9: FOREST SMARTS
DAY 2. ORIENTEERING CLASS!
THE NEEDLE POINTS TO MAGNETIC NORTH!
THE NORTH POLE ON THE GLOBE IS TRUE NORTH!
MY COMPASS SAYS... LUNCH.
N
W
E
S
MR. DILLO?! IS THAT YOU?
NOPE, A WILD ONE. LOOK, DON'T TOUCH!
raccoon
deer
NEXT: BUILD AN A-FRAME TENT!
TEAMWORK MAKES THE TENT WORK!
IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS DARK IN HERE?
FLOMP!
SAFE-FIRE CLASS: GROWN-UPS ONLY.
WATER BUCKET? ALWAYS READY!
HEAT
FUEL
AIR
LOST STRAT: STAY PUT, HUG A TREE, AND CALL OUT!
AND PACK OUT ALL YOUR TRASH!
TRAIL
TEN MINUTES LATER...
JUST... PRACTICING!
SPIKE, YOU'RE NOT LOST. YOU CAN LET GO NOW.


CHAPTER 10: CAMPFIRE NIGHT
THAT NIGHT...
MEEEE!
CRACKLE
WHO WANTS S'MORES?
THE NIGHT HIKE...
HOO-HOO!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
IT'S JUST A BARRED OWL. HI, OWL!
LOOK WHO'S NOT SCARED ANYMORE!
CAN WE GO BACK TOMORROW?
BEST. TRIP. EVER.
ALREADY GOT A STRAT FOR NEXT YEAR.
DAY 3. HEADING HOME.
THE END

FROM LILY'S & MARK'S SKETCHBOOKS



By Lily: the very first Spike, Bun-Bun and Grin comic, in pencil.



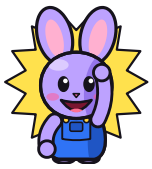
By Mark: airplane vs. tanks, 10/3/2026. It now hangs on the wall in Spike's room on page 3.

MEET THE SQUAD



SPIKE

A cat-owl with a camera and a "strat" for everything. Most of his strats are terrible. Some are genius.



BUN-BUN

Was scared of the woods. Became the bravest kid on the ropes course and the best label detective in Texas.



GRIN

Looks spooky. Is the kindest kid at Glenhope. Knows every owl, toad and lizard by name.



MR. DILLO

The 5th-grade teacher. An armadillo with a mustache who says "y'all" a lot.



NURSE HOOT

The school nurse. Holds the medicine, runs the first-aid kit, and asks "Hoo's ready?"

Original characters by Lily · Airplane drawing by Mark · Story + art by Claude

Trip details in the story are based on the school's Sky Ranch trip packet and the nurse's snack note. Always follow your teachers' and the school's latest instructions.