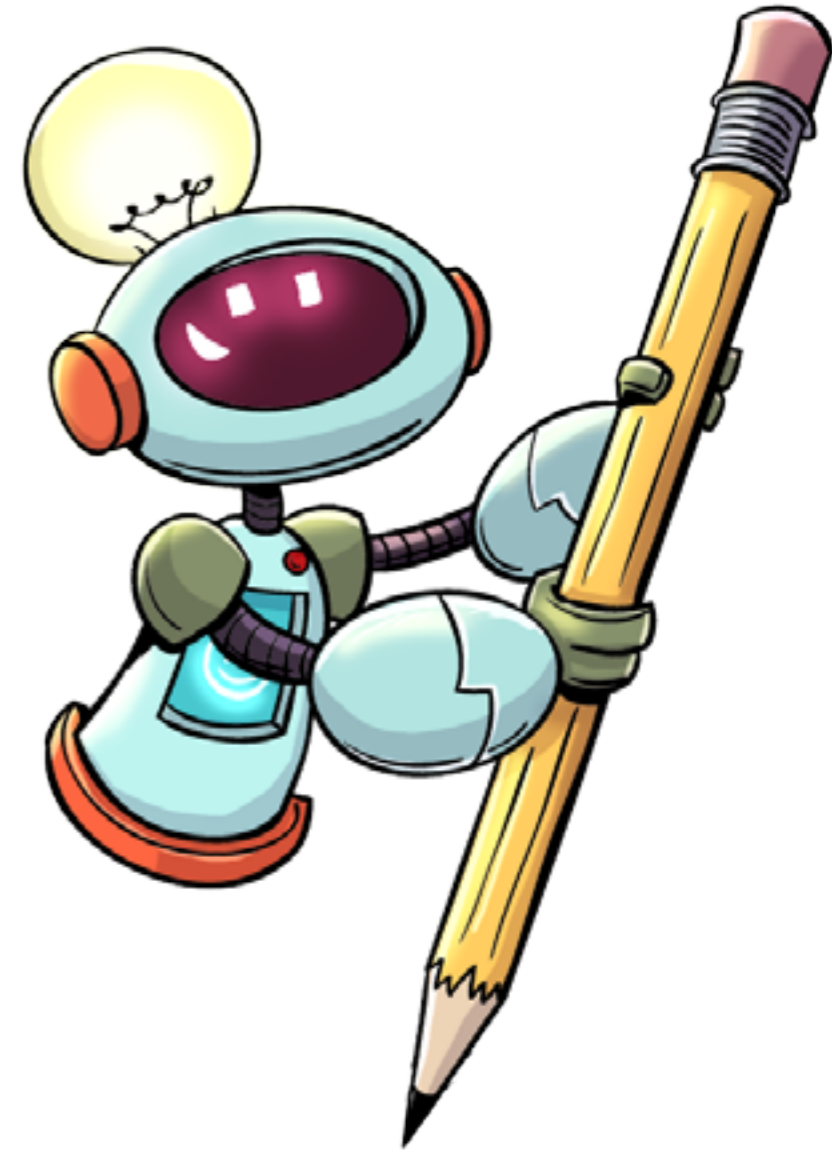


HOPE & POWER

ANTHOLOGY 1
AMERICAN ENGLISH GLOBAL COMICS VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM
INAUGURAL COHORT



American English Global Comics Virtual eXchange Program Pilot
U.S. Department of State ★ Office of English Language Programs





In January of 2020, the Virtual Engagement and Materials Development Team in the Office of English Language Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, began to recruit English Access Microscholarship teachers for the first-ever Virtual Exchange Program. Our office wanted to find a way to combine traditional teacher-training with a hands-on approach to using and teaching with materials and educational technology tools. For this pilot, the team wanted to use the recently-published comic book about comics in the classroom, *Panels and Perspectives: Creating Comics in the EFL Classroom*, to create a program centered on using comics in the classroom to learn English, visual literacy, and empower learners to share their own stories with a global audience. And with that, the first American English Comics Virtual Exchange Program was pilot born.

The original plan was to have Access classes connect online through synchronous meetings on a regular basis over the 10-week period. However, the global spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic began to close schools everywhere, and many of the teachers had no students, or were required for the first time to teach online instead of face-to-face.

The Virtual eXchange (VX) team quickly regrouped and created opportunities and classroom matches between teachers with classes, teachers without classes, and teachers with hybrid classes. By providing support to our teachers in the exchange, they were able to thrive. They learned many aspects of using comics in the classroom. What was magical was the bond between the participants and the facilitators. The sense of global camaraderie during this time of the pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

JACQUELINE GARDY, EDITOR

ABOUT THIS VOLUME

In this anthology volume, you'll find the stories of our teachers, centered on the topics of access to education, empathy and understanding, healthcare and wellness, gender equity, and climate change.

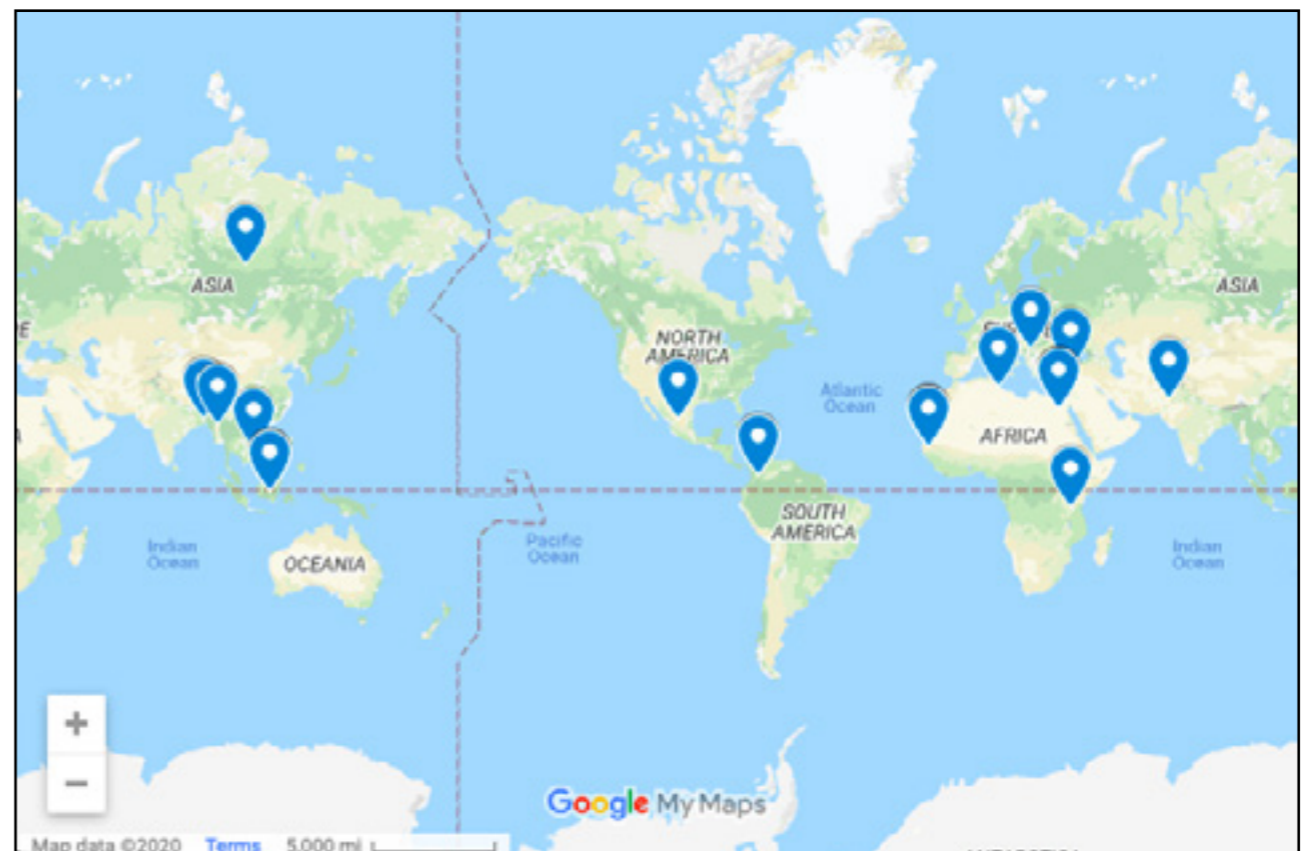
As the project manager and editor of this anthology, it has been an incredible experience to work with these talented teachers from across the globe. And, a project this ambitious wouldn't have been possible without the rockstar team of facilitators, Dr. Jennifer Williams, Dan Ryder, and Tim Smyth, and the incredible guidance of Regional English Language Officer and Branch Chief Diane Millar. Last but not least, a huge thank you to the support from the Office of English Language Programs RELO offices around the world, for your support and exceptional nominations of these program participants.

Jacqueline Gardy



EDITOR'S NOTE

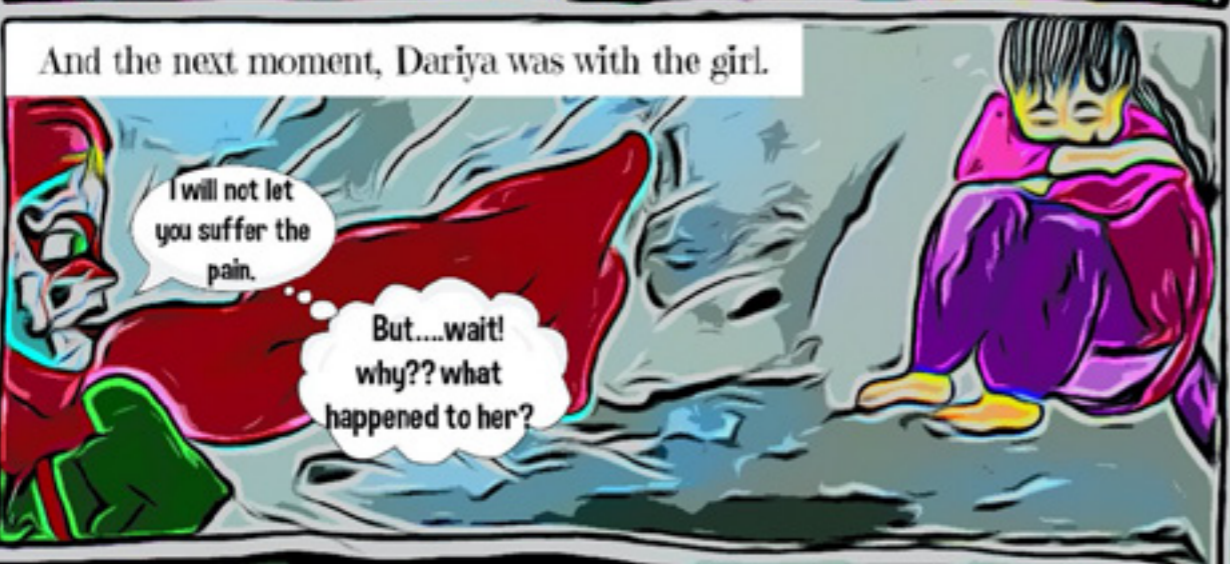
Please note the stories you'll find below contain a variety of perspectives and viewpoints, that may or may not reflect the U.S. Department of State's foreign policy. The comics have been left un-edited to capture the teacher's voices in full. We hope you enjoy this collection of stories!







With the power of mask, Dariya could see a girl sobbing her heart out.



And the next moment, Dariya was with the girl.

The girl got scared but before she could say something, Dariya used her powers to know the girl's story.



The girl had secured position in school and is looking forward to get admission in college on scholarship.



The college administration apologized for not giving admission due to limited seats.



And the man was bribed to give admission to another girl and so has made changes to the merit list.



Faiza Amjad works in Pakistan with 13-19 year-old students and has been teaching for three years. This is her first year in the Access program.

After participating in the program, Faiza anticipates several positive changes for her and her organization. She feels AE Comics VX provided her deeper insight into comics and strengthened her skills, and thus she performs her job in a better way. She believes her acquired knowledge and confidence will benefit her students and their developing language skills.

Faiza was a contributing member of this cohort, always interacting and sharing her amazing ideas. We are excited to see what she and her students create in the future.





Dariya who is a young, veracious girl. She has a supernatural mask that she found in an old house where she shifted along with her family. It was a framed mask. However, she opens it up as she noticed something unusual about it. And that is how she came to know about its supernatural powers.

Now, we call her the defender of education. She takes every chance to make positive changes to the education system and is always ready to cope up with the related challenges.



ACCESS TO EDUCATION



MANSOUR SY NDIAYE

SENEGAL

Mansour Diagne, a teacher since 1996, brought wisdom, kindness, positivity, and creativity from his home in Senegal. Mansour has been an Access teacher since 2008. After attending a recent international workshop in Dakar, he began to see the power of comics in the classroom.

While participating in the AE Comics VX experience, Mansour shared that he believes comics enable students to be better readers. Students can develop interpretation skills, creativity, critical thinking, and collaborative learning. He hopes to share this learning with other access teachers in Senegal through RELO Dakar and by initiating a workshop with teachers of English at his institution.



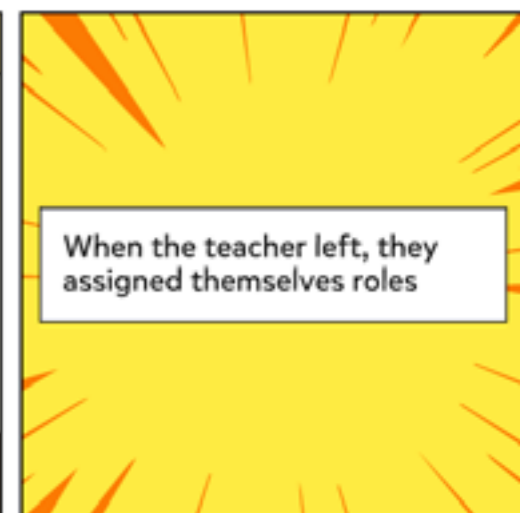
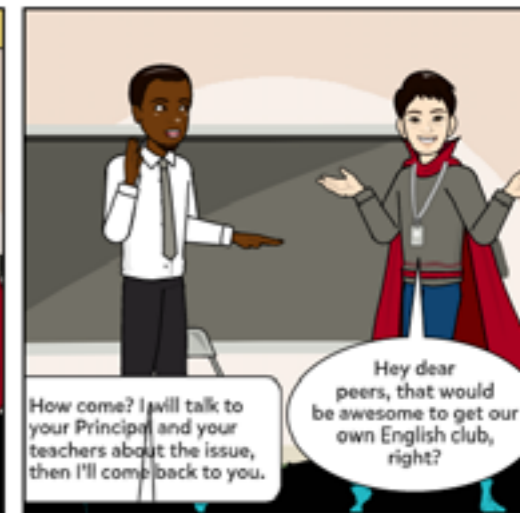
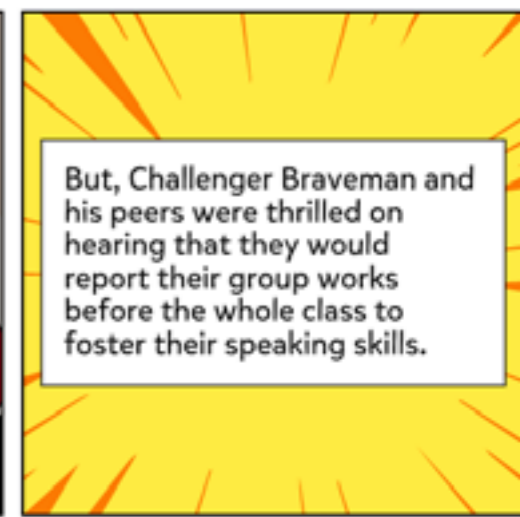




Hello everyone. Glad to share with you my superhero. He wants to serve his community through raising awareness on how to keep the earth greener and greener every day. He knows it's a huge challenge but he is determined to change the world for the better.

*Let me introduce you to:
THE GREEN WARRIOR. I used heromachine 3.0 to create him.*





MANSOUR SY DIAGNE

SENEGAL

Mansour Sy Diagne of Senegal shared, “This training was unique in the sense that it was multidimensional. We learned about comics, new technology tools, and international culture with our peers.”

As an experienced teacher of twenty-four years and an Access teacher for nine years, Mansour Sy was a mentor and a learner and demonstrated the power of lifelong learning for all AE Comics VX participants. Mansour Sy prepared accounts for students to use digital tools and found ways for students without internet to access the new learning.

“I think there is value in teaching with comics and graphic novels because it is a way to foster learning through fun and creativity. I strongly recommend this program to my colleagues because it enables them to professionally develop. They will learn by doing.”







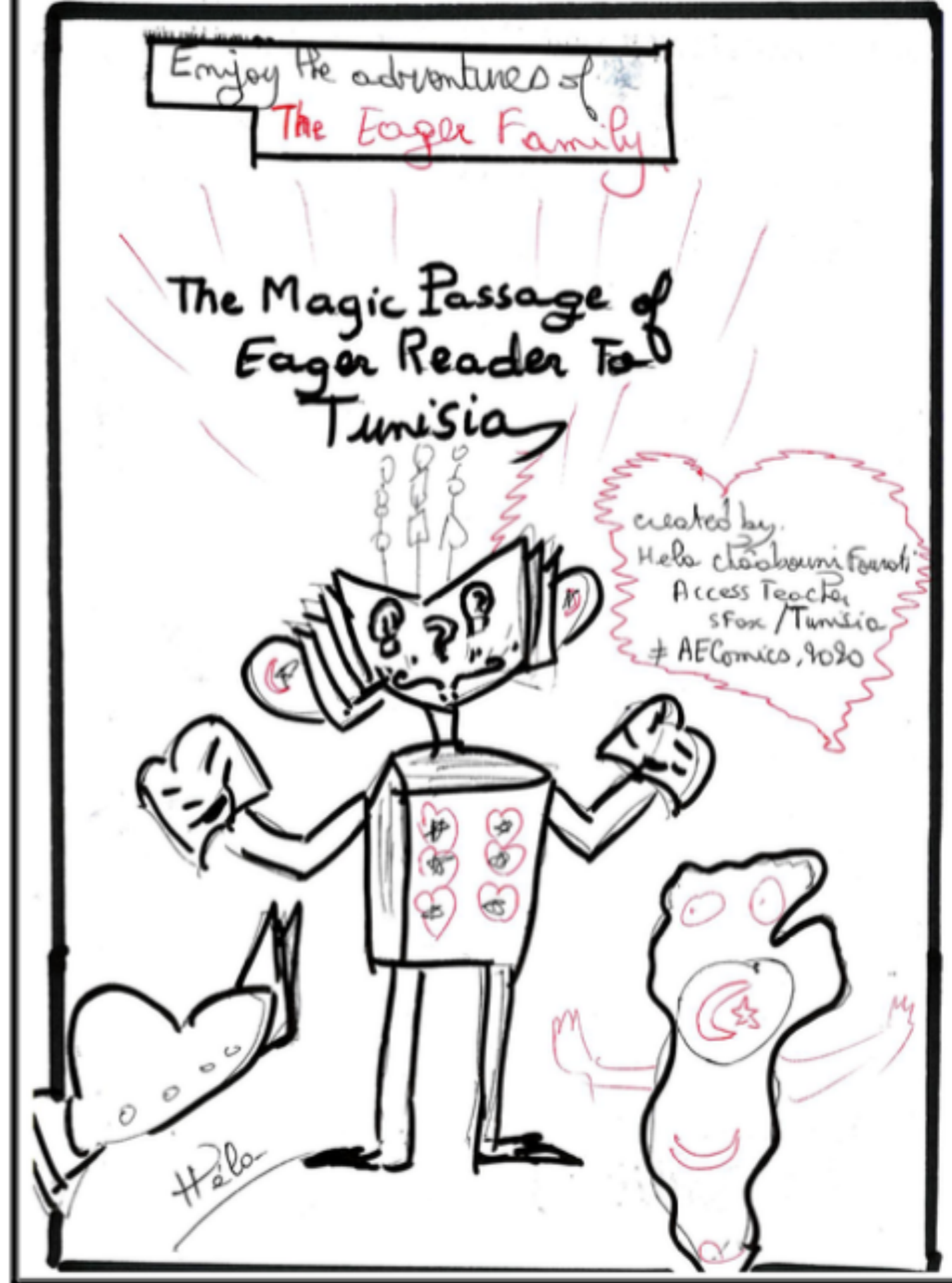
My superhero's name is Mr. Challenger. He was an Access student. When he started the Access program, he was very shy and got nervous and unconfident when it came to speak before an audience.

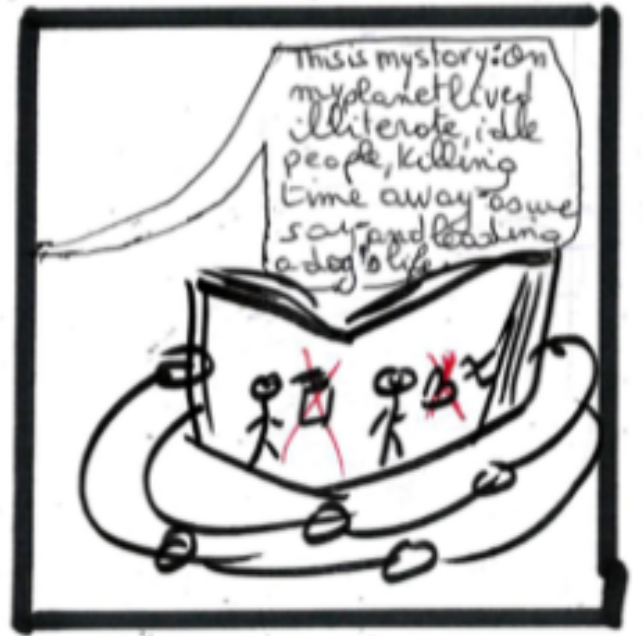
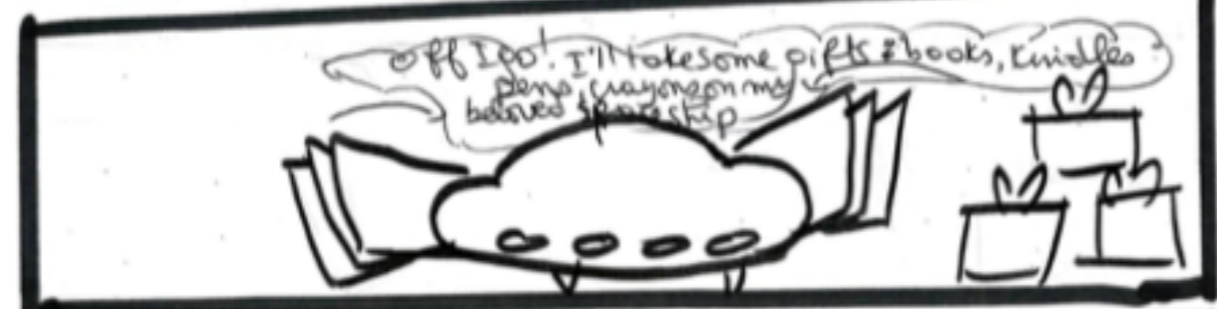
Also, there was no English club in his middle school. He also noticed that intermediate and advanced intermediate students were reluctant to express themselves in English inside and outside of the school. He was determined to make a change for the better. So he sought advice from his Access teacher who promised to help to make that dream happen.



HELA CHAABOUNI FOURATI

TUNISIA





The book opened alone and started talking.

You've just got one hour to read me and answer my questions. Once done your planet will see the light again and everything will change to the better.

That's how we discovered the magic, pleasure and benefit of reading book. Books save lives, you know? Thanks to books we're the most knowledgeable creatures of this world. I hope you'll be like us soon.

Today is your DAY. Just relax, take it easy, open your eyes and look at me. A new YOU you'll see.

Eager Reader blinked his eyes three and in a loud voice said:

rain pain!

Make black hair brains.

Make hair beats beat at the sight of a book.

Make them the stars of their nations.

Make sure they lead a happy and bright life.

Just after the magic words and blinks:

Hey bro! Thanks for the books.

Any more books to enjoy reading?

I've a strong itching for books. Any books about change?

Any books about personal development?

ANY COMIC BOOKS? I've a sudden urge to read them only to make memo.

Anything about beauty and intelligence?

I can't have a DIY book. Can't be idle as!

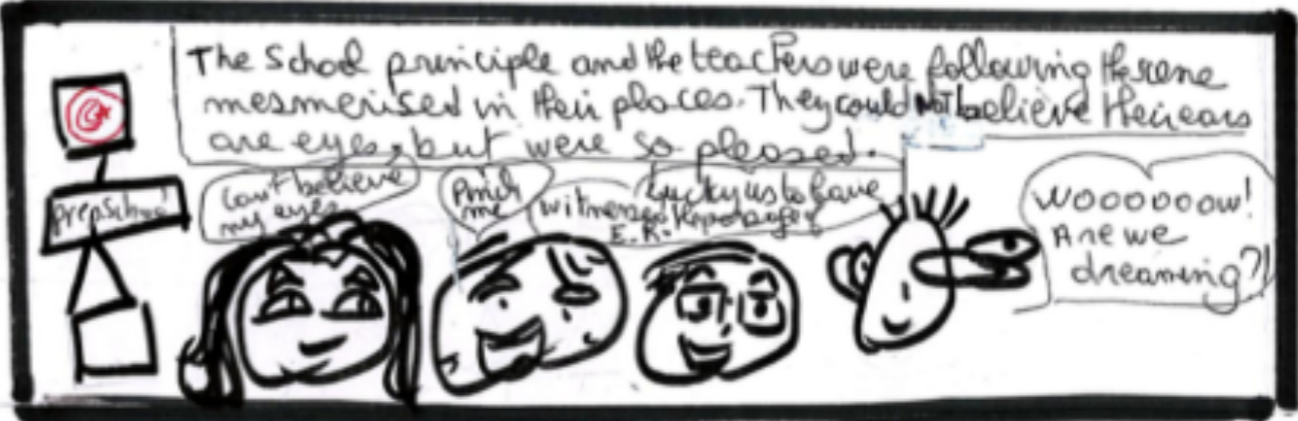
Help me help my country prosper. Happy to be part of the nation of the 1/100th read.

Eager Reader was so happy he accomplished his mission well. He looked at them waving his hands.

I've to leave now. your mission is to pass the flame of learning and reading to at least 100 people. Once done, my elder bro Eager Reader will feel it and will soon pop up with more treasures. BYE NOW.

Hela Chaabouni Fourati joined the AE Comics VX community from Tunisia. With over thirty-three years as a teacher, she brought great experience combined with a mindset of curiosity and learning.

“To me, any new learning experience is more than welcome. My life motto is ‘when you stop learning, you start dying.’”



Eager Reader is my superhero to combat reluctance to reading with his vibrating, reluctance-to-reading-detecting hair.

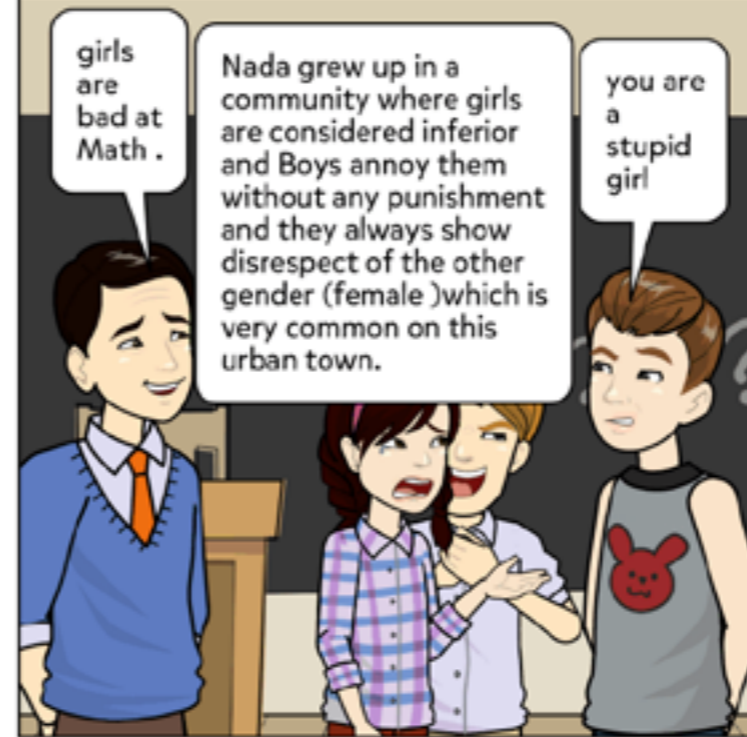
Caring about others, knowledgeable with great communication and magical powers, he manages to turn some young students into lifelong happy eager readers and the stars of their nations.

He also involves them in taking a role in the process by passing the flame of reading to others. I tried to make my story convey all I have in mind about the power of books on readers and their nations: pleasure, happiness, quest of knowledge, enlightenment, and transformation to the best.

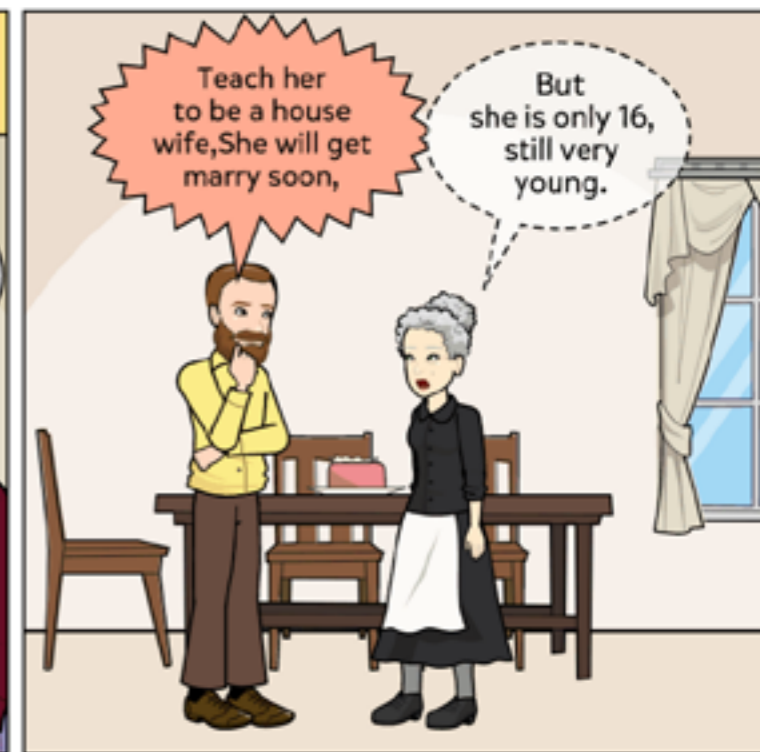


Eager Reader was one of its most proactive and caring citizens. It had something very special: a hair that detects reluctant readers: The more reluctant, the stronger the vibration and the pain in its head.





Her hate to school led her to fail, her parents got mad at her and decided to push her stop studying. Nada can not help it ,she hates the whole world now.



NAHLA GALAL

EGYPT

Her parents announced that soon she will be married because they do not have enough money to spend on two children .Nada got shocked and sad,



They forced her on marrying an old man ,more than 20 years older.It is the end of life for Nada who now know that she would be a copy of her mother and like all the other girls in her town .



Hopelight showed up flying towards them,they got surprised ,scared and shocked ,Nada tried to run thinking suspiciously about what is going on.



after many years Nada was a mom for 4 kids ,they do not go to school and help around the house.Her husband became very old man now.



Nada`s husband passed away leaving her with four dropouts.She wishes they could learn and be good educated people.



Hopelight started fixing the community by helping children know their rights and fight for keeping their innocence pure .She implanted hope and light within a community that needs reclaiming.



Nahla Galal is from Egypt and has been teaching for sixteen years. She is an Access teacher, tutor, and private language school principal for students ages 14-16.

“I believe that teaching using comics and graphics is an extremely enjoyable method for both students and teachers. It has a great motivation as it adds fun and excitement to the educational process and makes students willing to learn.”

After AE Comics VX, Nahla hopes to share the experience with her colleagues and her feeling that comics can make acquiring a new language easy and desirable to students.



My superhero is Ms. Stlightpow. Her name is coming from three elements that make her personality: strength, light, and power.

She represents women who have the strength to fight and they bring their rights by being able to fight for them. She is the light of the world as she bury the darkness and spread out the light. Her power is the pillar for helping the world. Simply, she is every true Mom in



**ABEER
KOREITEM**
EGYPT



Abeer Koreitem of Egypt has been teaching for four years and an Access teacher for one. She teaches 15-19 year-old students and joined AE Comics VX to improve her abilities to facilitate the learning process while exchanging different experiences with teachers all over the world.

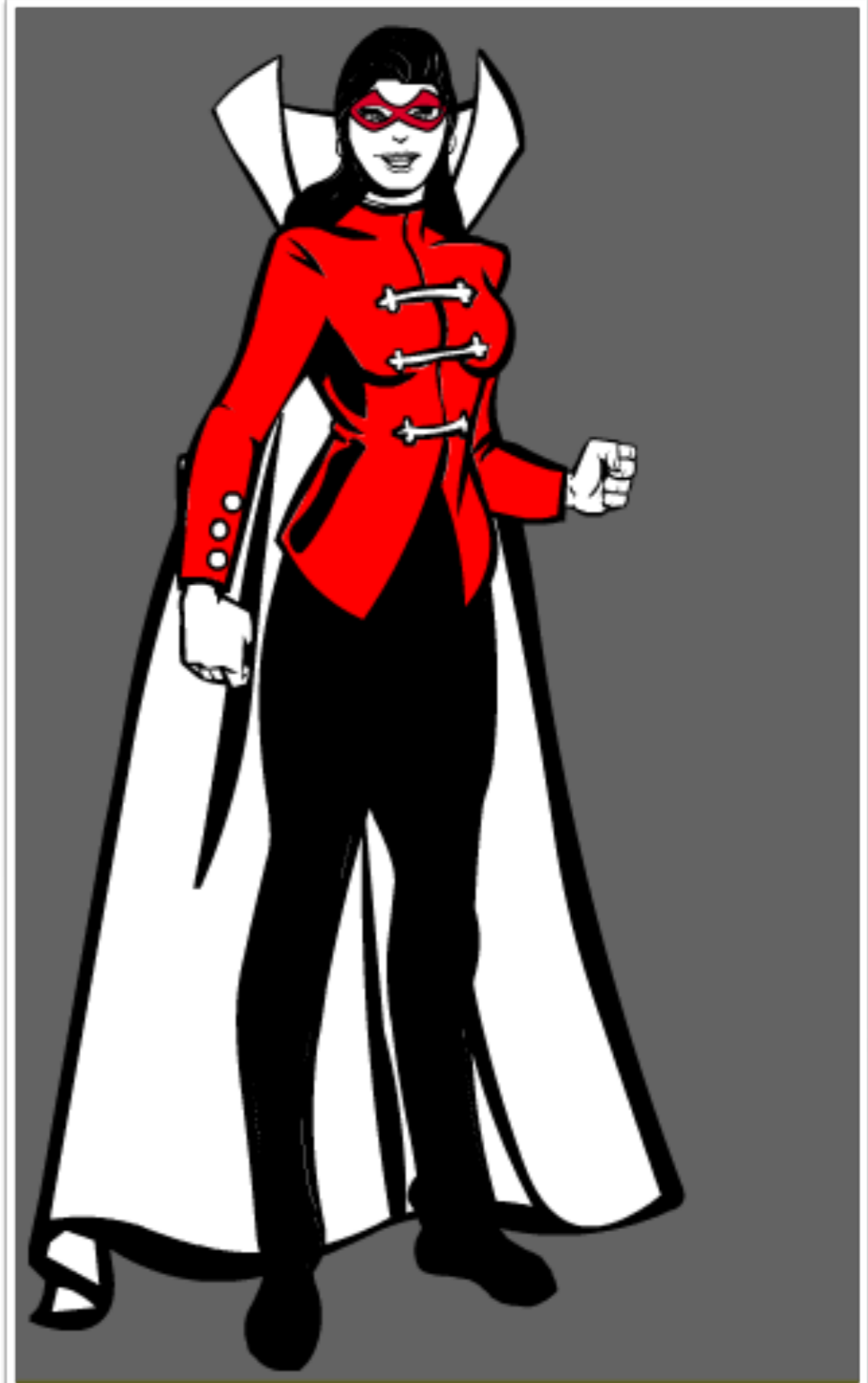
Abeer thinks comics are a great way to discover students' mindsets and understand them well. She hopes to push students to make comics and express their personal experiences in pictures and word bubbles.

"It's an experience of a lifetime for me as I wasn't a big fan of art and using it in class. However, I feel comfortable and I DID IT for the time of my life to draw." As a member of this community, Abeer inspires us with her comics. In fact, Inspire is the name of her superhero she created.



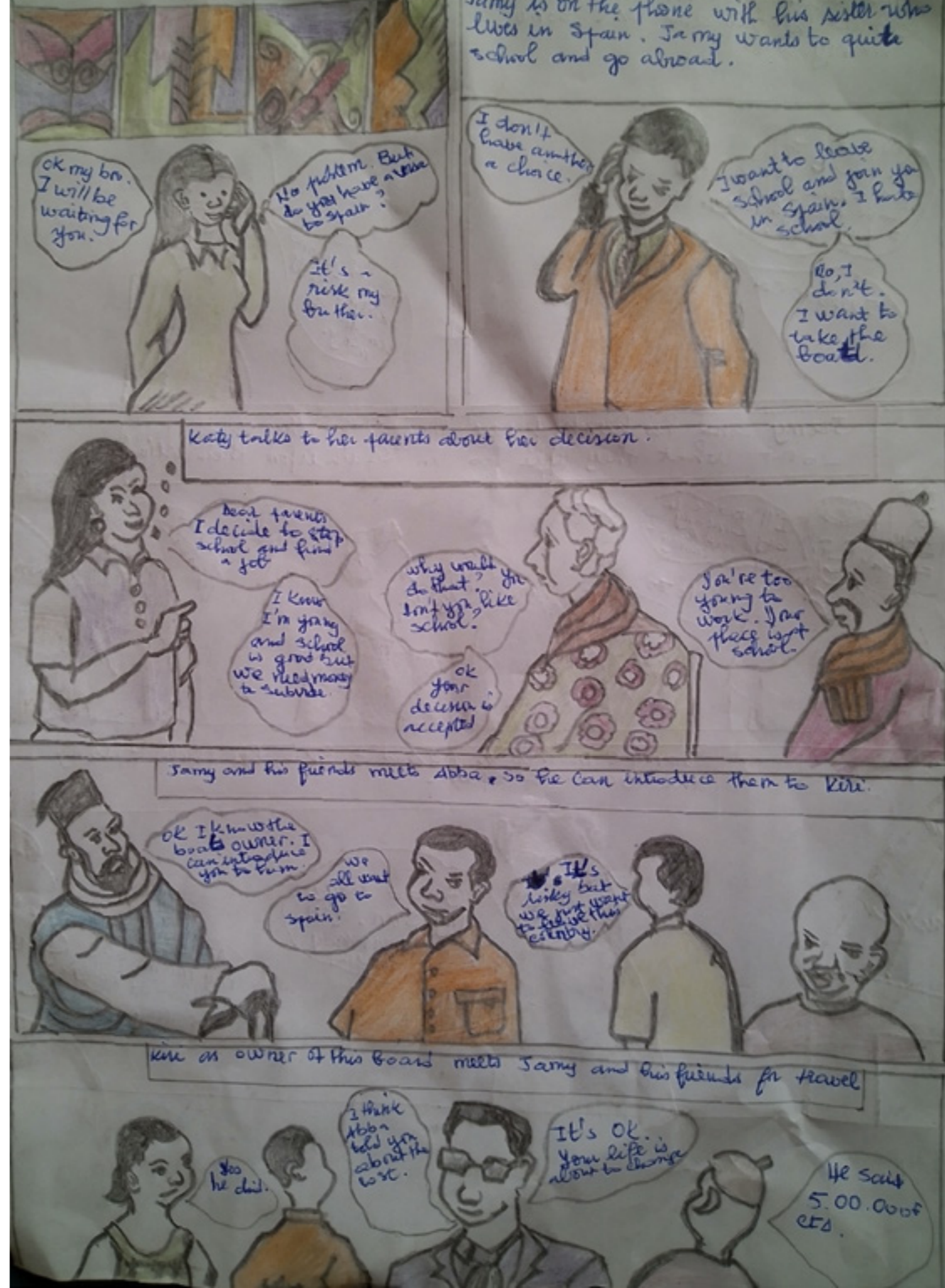
Inspire is my superhero with flying super power. She is a smiling lady who inspires disappointed people and provides them with their needs to learn and to be a success.

She has mixed colors of the Egyptian flag, red, black, and white. Red refers to hope, power, and shining. Black refers to freedom and liberty. White refers to peace, friendliness, and pureness.



SEYDOU SY OBAMA

SENEGAL



Jerry calls back his sister to inform about the trip and ask some money.

We are taking the boat next week but I don't have enough money to pay for it.

500,000 Fcfa

How much do you need?

Ok. There is no problem. I will send you the money.

Jerry and his friends prepare their trip. They talk about what they will do in Spain upon their arrival.

I'm so excited to go to Spain.

I'll work to buy it if I get money.

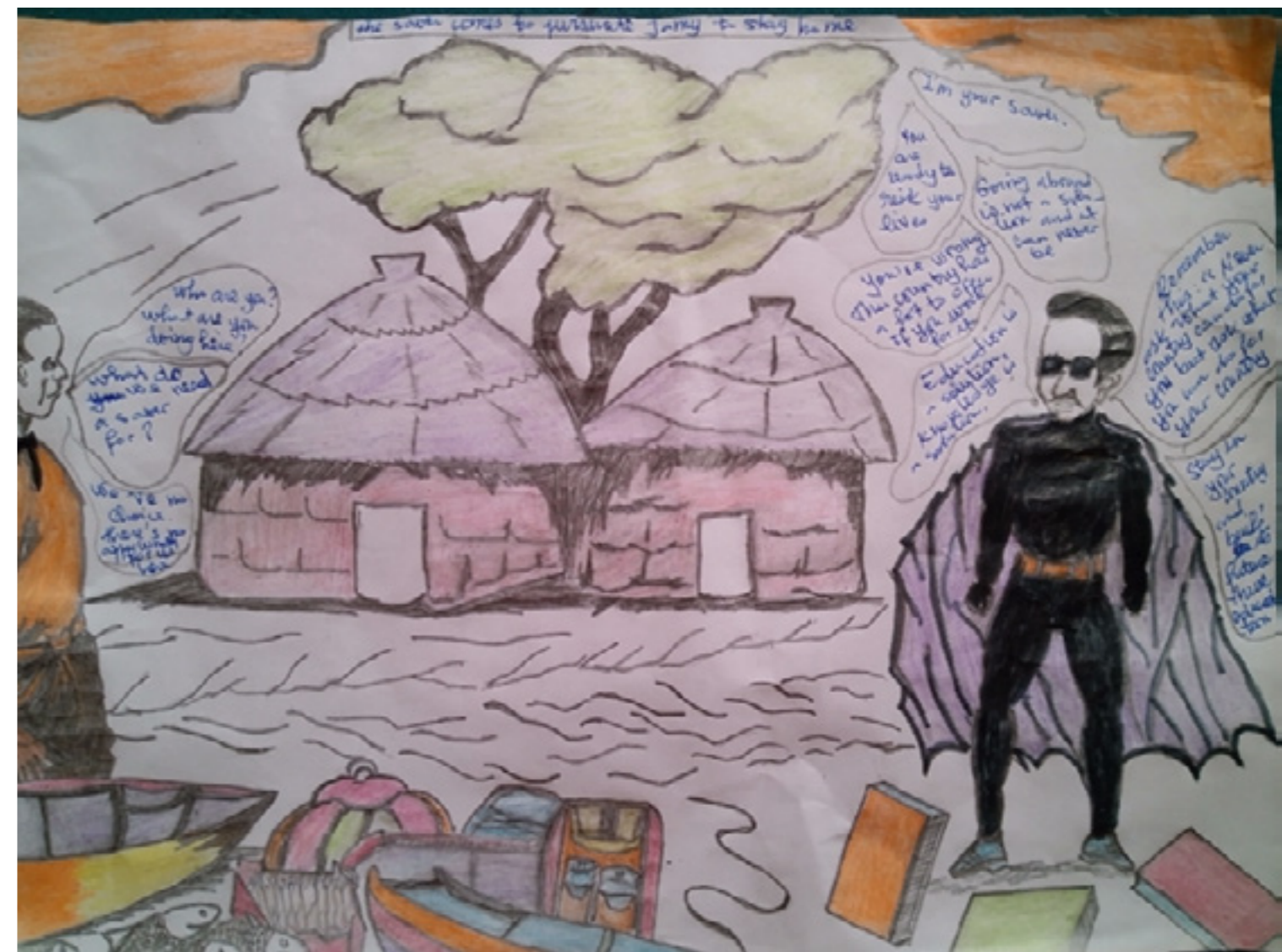
Metro
I'll be a teacher

I'm going to study in Spain.

Jerry's mother is so sad to see her child taking the boat to Spain.

Good bye my son. I'll always pray for you.

Don't be sad my mum. I'll get out of here for you.



Seydou Sy Obama, known to us as “Obama” joined AE Comics VX from his home country of Senegal. He has been teaching for five years and has been an Access teacher for a year and a half

Obama believes, “There is value in teaching with comics and graphic novels because it allows students to work with tools they will inevitably face in real life contexts. If they learn and practice, today they get the opportunity to role play what society will require them to play in the real world tomorrow.” Obama told us that he hopes to share his new learning of comics in the classroom with his students, colleagues, and even on his English talk show on YouTube.



My superhero represents a great man of our community who has patriotism and a love for education. His main mission is to save the community from lack of education and illegal immigration. The role of the hero in this story is to persuade people to believe in education and make them understand that they can stay home and succeed.

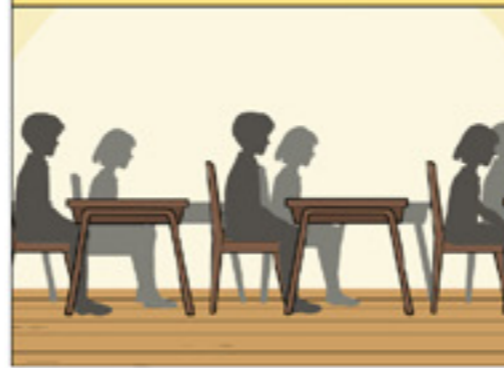


ACCESS TO EDUCATION

SELDA SARAÇ

TURKEY

Education was a mess in many parts of the world for those who could not afford to pay for their education. There was a huge gap between the private and public school kids. It has always been like this, but in recent years the gap has become wider and wider because of governments' ineffective and selfish policies.



Students in many public schools were being taught simple things that would not help them to be accepted by a prominent university.



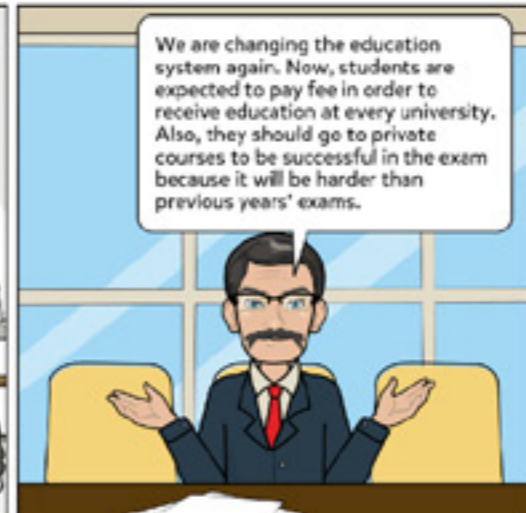
The situation was better for wealthy families. They did not have to worry about their future.



Life was more stressful for the underprivileged kids.



Derin was in the woods thinking about her new superpower. She could change the world for the better. She could help people to get better education.



Derin got extremely angry when she heard the President's speech. She had to do something about it. She rushed to the office.



At the end of the year, they were celebrating their graduation. They were content with the President's decision.



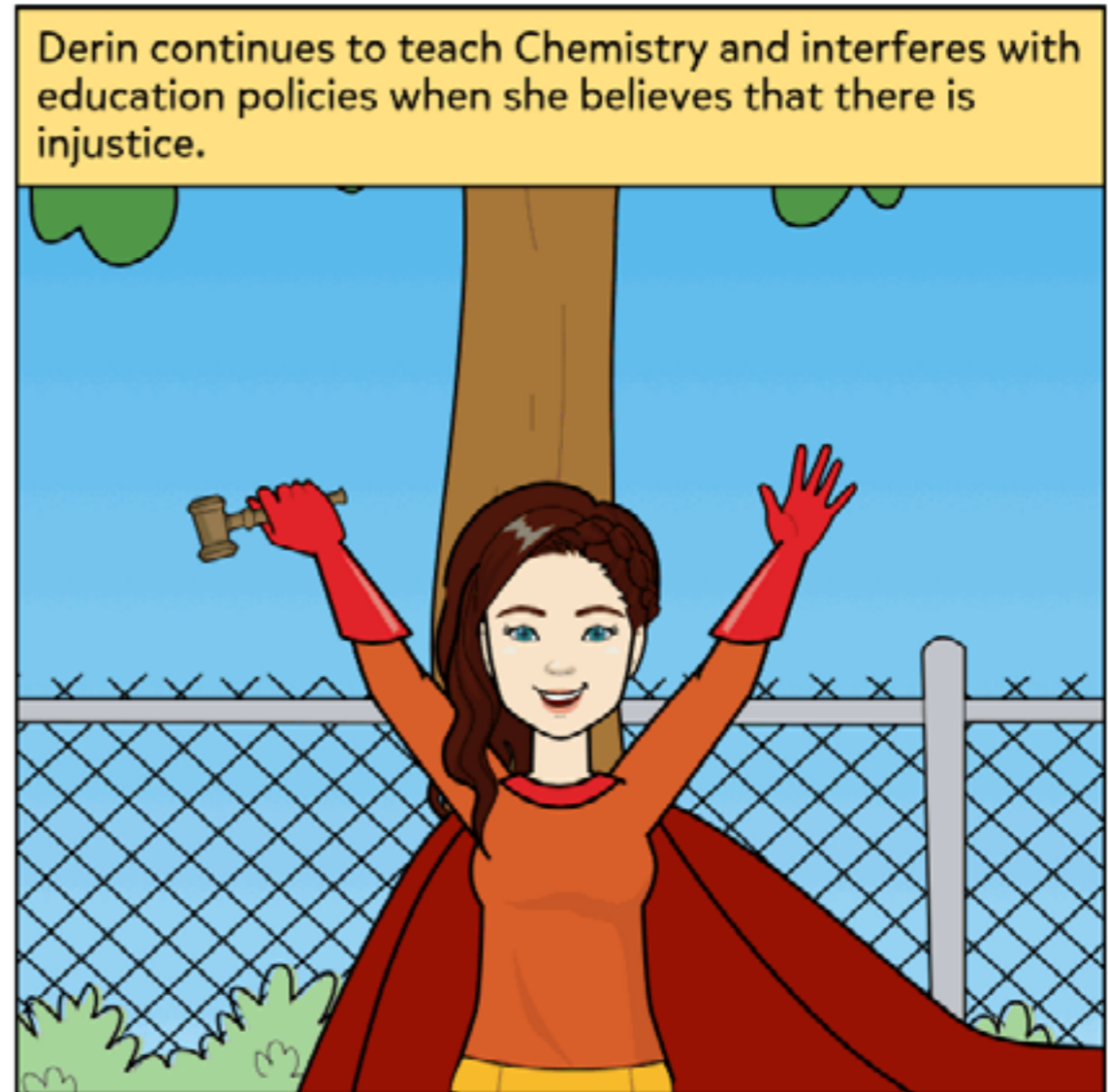
Selda Sarac is a teacher in Turkey where she works with 14-16 year-old students. She has been teaching for six years and as an Access teacher for one.

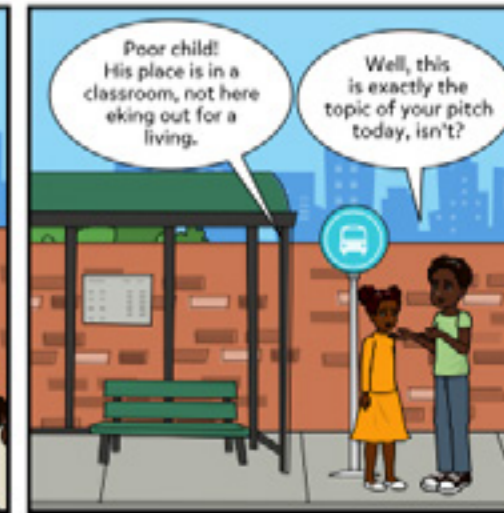
Selda originally joined AE Comics VX to learn how to integrate comics into her teaching to help motivate reluctant readers and encourage the joy of reading. As she had been previously teaching graphic novels such as *Maus* and *Persepolis*, she brought an understanding of the powers of creativity and story.

My superhero's name is Derin, the Justice Maker. Derin means "depth" in Turkish. I wanted to emphasize the depth in her character with her name.

She was created during a dangerous scientific experiment. She was helping her professor and things went wrong and she was exposed to highly toxic chemicals. However, it did not kill her but made her physically and mentally stronger thanks to the Professor.

Derin's uniform includes just three colors; yellow, red and orange. She has a gavel to provide justice for disadvantaged students. Derin reflects such values as respect, sensitivity and justice, and these values are important to my nation.





AMADOU ABDOULAYE SECK

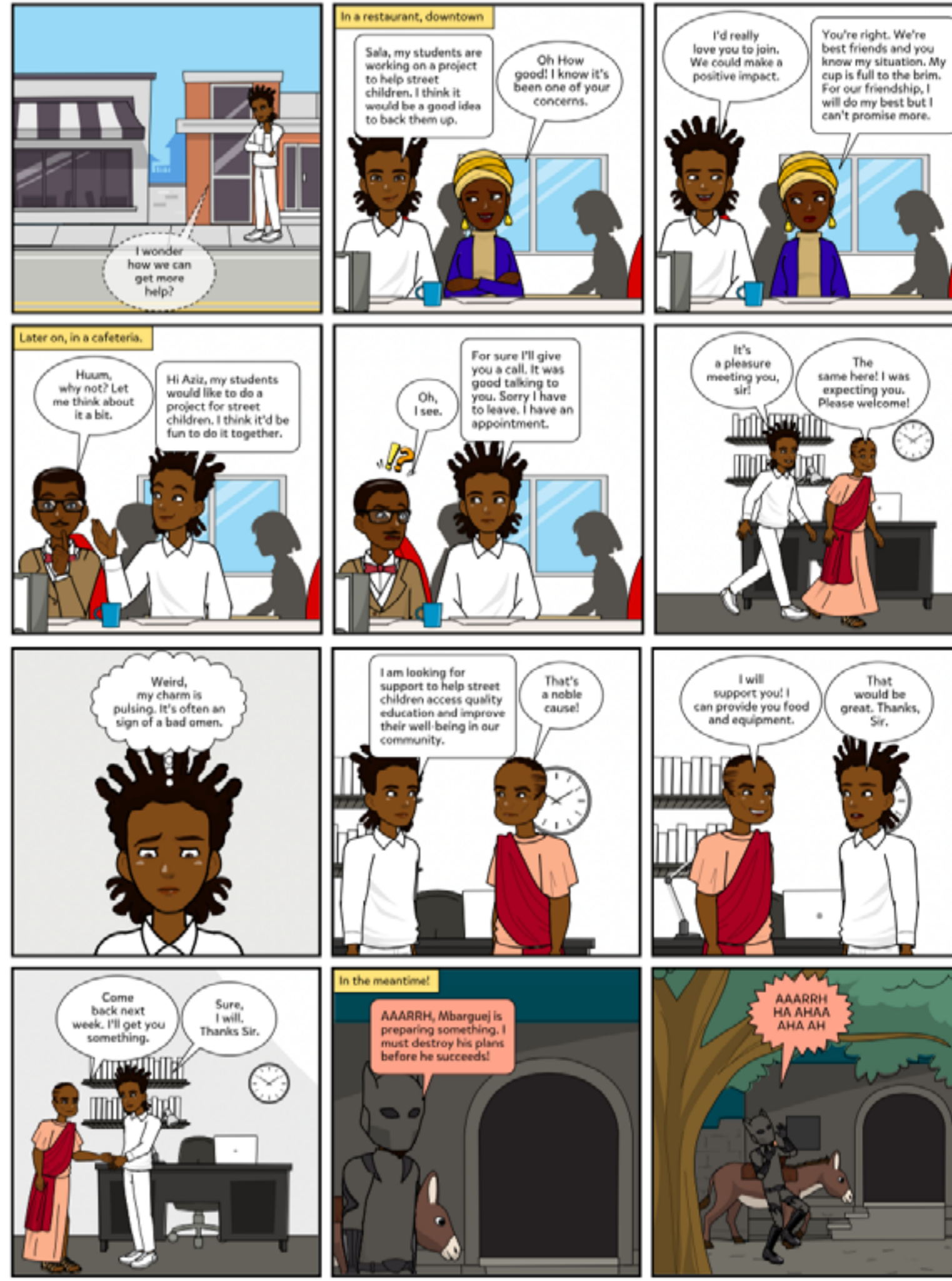
SENEGAL

Amadou Abdoulaye Seck joined us from Senegal. He has been teaching for fourteen years, has been an Access teacher for eight, and currently teaches 14-16 year olds.

He joined the AE Global Comics VX experience because he believes comics and graphic novels unlock students' imaginations, boost language skills, and stimulate critical thinking.

"I would definitely recommend this experience to colleagues because this experience opens up a whole new avenue in teaching with creativity. It will equip teachers at any level of expertise with the right skills and knowledge to use comics in the classroom."

We thank Abdoulaye for his commitment to supporting students in Senegal and around the world.





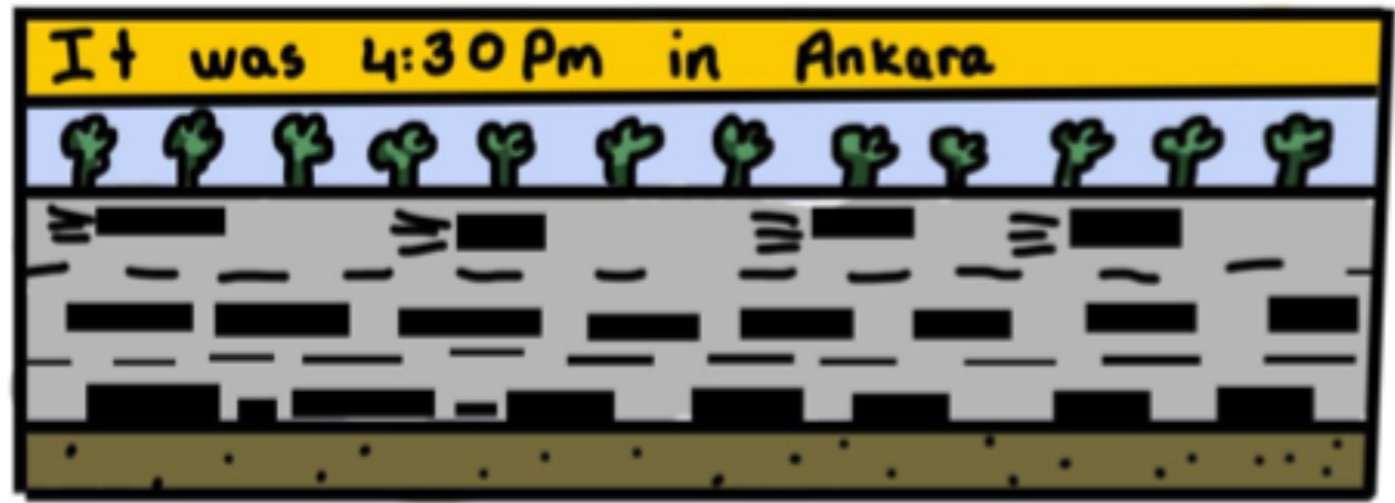
Mbargedj Siggi is a superhero who wants to address social justice issues. His family has been discriminated against due to poverty. He is a protector and justicier, a fighter for justice. He is a teacher with superpowers. He has two personalities, ordinary and superhero.

One of the social issues he has in heart to tackle is children's right to quality education. At its worst, this social issue is represented in the phenomenon of street children.



ISMET CAVUSOGLU

TURKEY



Page 1

“Be open-minded, and get ready to have lots of fun!” These are the words of advice Ismet Cavusoglu has for future AE Comics VX participants.

Ismet has been teaching for ten years and has been an Access teacher for one year. Since he had used memes and GIFs in the classroom, Ismet was looking to add comics for instruction as well.

Ismet’s work inspired a group conversation around ways to create a genderless superhero. He challenged us to think beyond the page and make connections to life and events of today.



Page 2

Adventures of HOPE

I did not want to create a male superhero, because there are lots of them, and I did not want to create a female superhero, because then I have to give her a feminine physical appearance. Instead, my superhero is genderless.

In English it may create confusions whether to say she or he, but in Turkish it would not be a problem since it is a gender-neutral language.

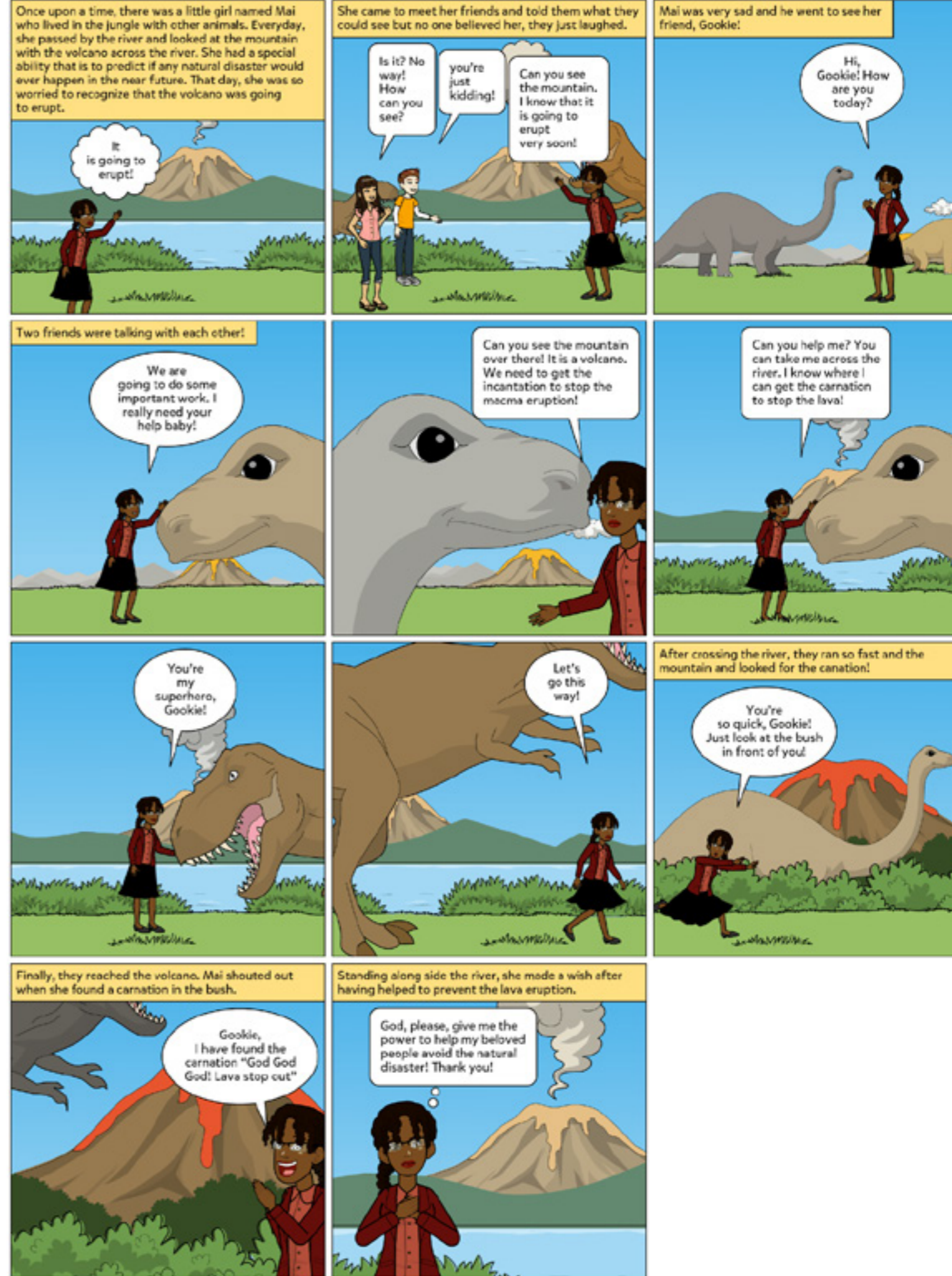
I named my hero "Hope" which is used as a unisex name in Turkey. What sparked while I was creating my hero was that I wanted it to be relatable to everyone from every different background regardless of gender, and race.



EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING

MAI THI THUY DUNG

VIETNAM



Joining AE Comics VX from Vietnam, Mai Thi Thuy Dung signed up ready for a learning experience that would allow her to meet Access teachers and to learn more ways to teach English. As a teacher of seven years, now in her second year as an Access teacher, Mai believes comics give students opportunities to engage with authentic materials, to have fun, and to build language skills, vocabulary, and an appreciation of other cultures.

For Mai, participating in a virtual exchange allowed her to learn cultures from all around the world with no travel required! She felt the smaller group sizes encouraged interaction and enabled everyone to share their voices and ideas.



My superhero is Libra Princess, who will bring equality to any place where is necessary. People will tend to treat each other with inequality due to the wealth, power, social status influence.

Therefore, wherever there is inequality, Libra Princess appears and uses her magic chopstick to spread the equality. People will receive what they are deserved to receive, including awards, praise, respect and even punishment.

As a result, people become more and more honest and do good things.



**MOHAMMAD
FATHY
ABUL-HASAN
MAHMOUD**

EGYPT

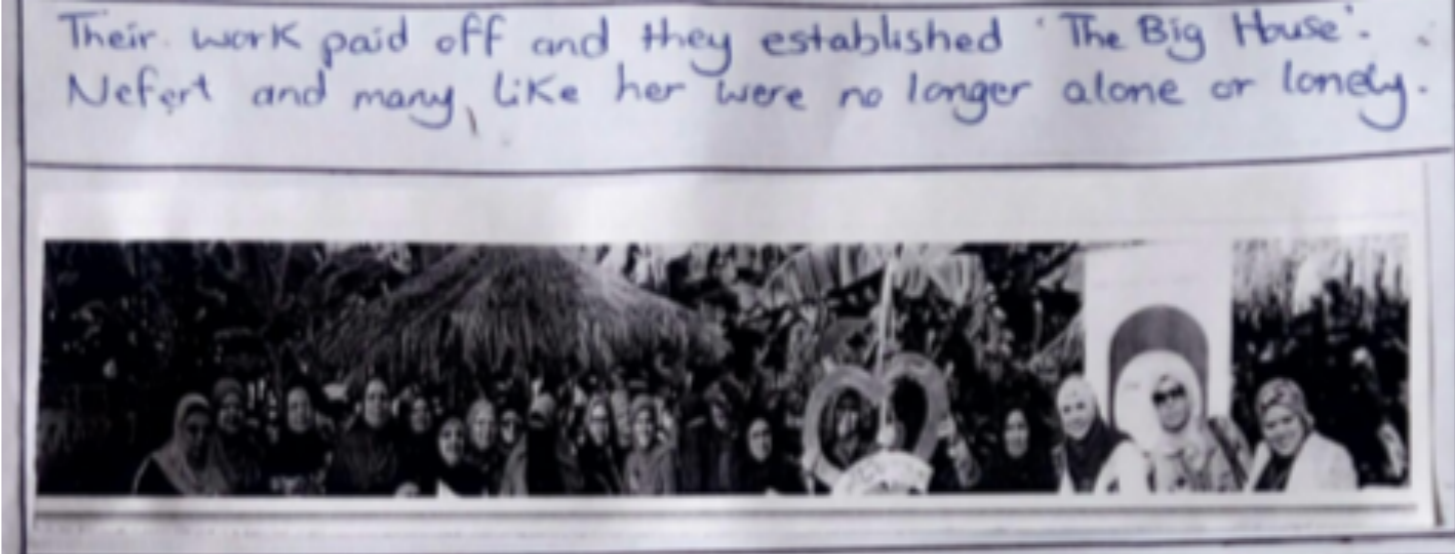
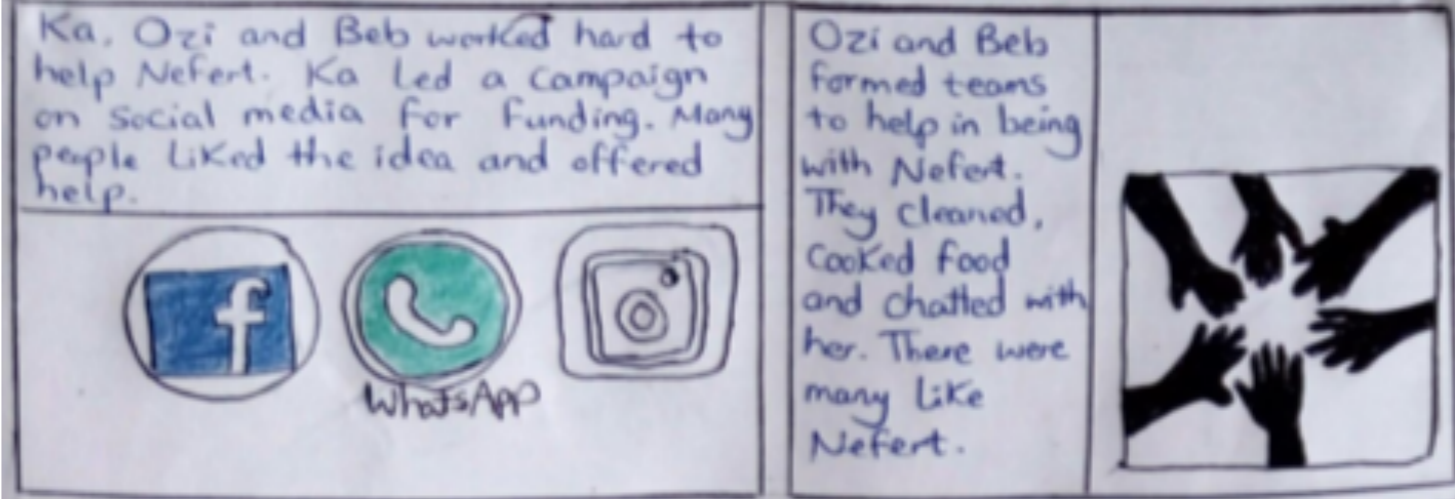


A teacher with twenty years of experience and three years as an Access teacher, Mohammad Fathy Abul-Hasan Mahmoud joined the AE Comics VX community from Egypt.

Always ready to help and support anyone, Mohammad doesn't just wait for people to seek him out. He observes with empathy and reaches out selflessly to offer friendship and ideas to anyone was in need.

Now that he has completed the program, he is not wasting any time. Mohammad has already started lessons with his Access students inviting them to express themselves by drawing and explaining, thinking about real-life superheroes, and sharing out in the Facebook group.

"This is unique and new. It is not the traditional way of giving lectures about pedagogical theories or approaches. It is learning wrapped in a sandwich of fun and excitement."



You don't have to own superpowers to be a superhero. When you give a hand to solve a problem in your community, you are a SUPERHERO





Ka is a young man who is 17 years old. He came to see Nefert, sad and alone. He is clever at social networking sites. He is a volunteer in a local charity. With the help of his two sisters, they could establish a place for the elderly to have the right care and love.

His name means 'soul' in the Ancient Egyptian Language.



EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING

Chapter 1- There's Hope



In a small and humble rented apartment in Bogotá a single mom, Mary, lived with her three kids: Linda, Andy and Daniel.



Every morning Mary had to go out to work leaving kids alone at home while classes were resumed and they could go to back to school.



The kids tried to have some fun while mom was away. However, Mr. Park, the house owner, often yelled at them because he was always annoyed.



**SARA
PEÑA**
COLUMBIA

Sara Pena joined the AE Comics VX from Bogotá, Colombia where she has been teaching English to youth and adults for fifteen years. She is new to the Access program.

Sara entered the program inspired by teens she had been working with who had developed ideas using storytelling, drawing, and design. After exploring new techniques and approaches to hone her own skills, she is already starting to integrate comics in the classroom with her current Access students.





*Let me introduce my superhero,
Lady Hope — Kids' Protector.
Lady Hope is the superhero
name given to Yenica, a graceful
teen who, after being mistreated
and abused at home, was
rescued by a senior fairy that
turned her into a sweet but brave
Kids' Protector.*

*Lady Hope has the power to take
away suffering and sorrow from
children's hearts and transform
those feelings into peace and joy
using her magic wand.*



EMPATHY & UNDERSTANDING

ANUM REHMAN

EGYPT

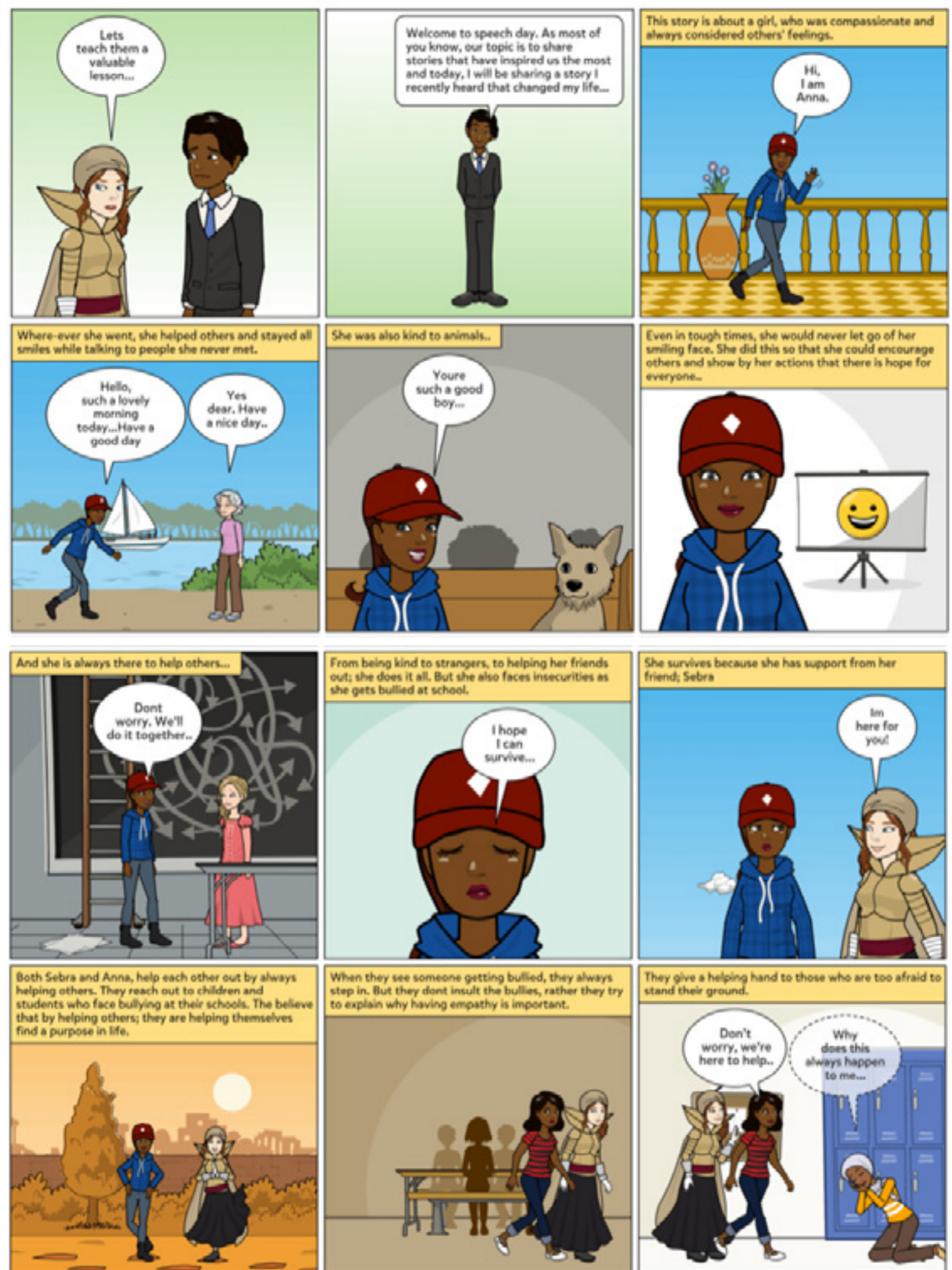


Anum Rehman joined the AE Comics VX experience from Pakistan. This is the second program she has participated in since becoming an Access teacher three years ago. She currently teaches students ages 13-19.

Anum joined this experience to explore new teaching methods that would make teaching and learning in the classroom more fun. She believes comics enhance creative abilities and hopes to use these techniques to foster creative writing with her students.

“I really appreciate this opportunity. It has helped me grow intellectually and develop a network of open communication with teachers across the globe.”

We are grateful for Anum and her contributions to our AE Comics VX community. As you can see, with her comic hero, Sebra, Anum is focused on creating a world that is empathetic and inclusive.





Sebra is a local superhero. She loves to talk to others and listen to their problems. She's against all forms of intolerance including bullying at schools or at home. She's an advocate for being kind to people of all colors, creeds, and religions. She believes that being empathetic can bring huge changes in the way we treat and see others in the society.





**SARA
MERINO**

MEXICO

Sara Merino lives in Puebla, a state near Mexico City. She has been teaching for fourteen years and mainly works with young adults at the university and with teenagers as an Access teacher, which she has been doing for nine years. Recognizing that many teens love reading comics, Sara joined AE Comics VX seeking a new way to support her students to improve in their writing abilities.

Sara believes virtual exchange through comics enables students to gain new insights on global issues through perspectives of others. "I would like to make comics to raise awareness about ecological problems and I think through the use of comics teens could understand the problem and think about the urgent solutions."



Here is my superheroine called Faith. She is an intelligent woman who defends women, pets, poor people or anyone in danger of violence.

She loves nature and in her free time she gardens; for that reason, she is a scientist. She promotes the use of eco-products to prevent pollution.

She looks like a strong girl, but she is good at making friends, loves reading and her dog.



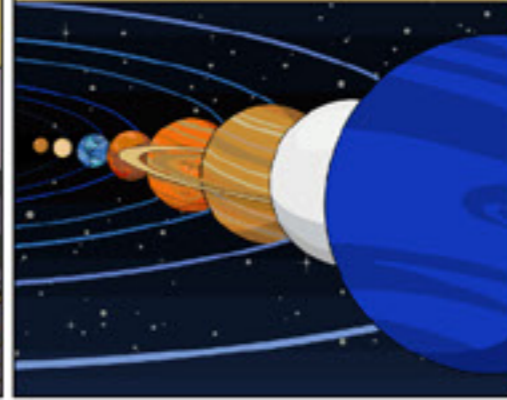
HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

**NUSRAT
TAHSIN**
BANGLADESH

The Earth is not in good condition. The wave Pandemic turns the life of human upside down. Everyone is in lockdown ... waiting for the cure. The elderly are in the highest risk. The economy of many places is about to collapse. The educators are confused how to teach effectively. Social tolerance is also at risk. Only positive thing is the damaged environment is improving.



A long time ago the Olympian Gods used to meddle in human life on earth, but in the modern era, they prefer not to do it a lot... they just observe... but maybe it will be an exception this year.



An emergency meeting is held among the Olympian gods to help the humankind.



Zeus - god of the sky and the king of Olympus.



Hera: Goddess of marriage; Wife of Zeus and the queen of Olympus.



Apollo: god of music and healing



Hades: King of Underworld or dead



Our superhero: Healer. He may look ordinary but He is the savior. He is the descendant of Apollo on Earth.



I have received an urgent message from Hades. He will brief the situation.

Zeus, why did you call for this emergency meeting suddenly?



Greetings Zeus and Hera. Sorry for calling abruptly.



The situation of the underworld is out of control. The whole earth is shaken by the pandemic covid 19 virus. Underworld is flooded by the dead. Please order Apollo to help the human.

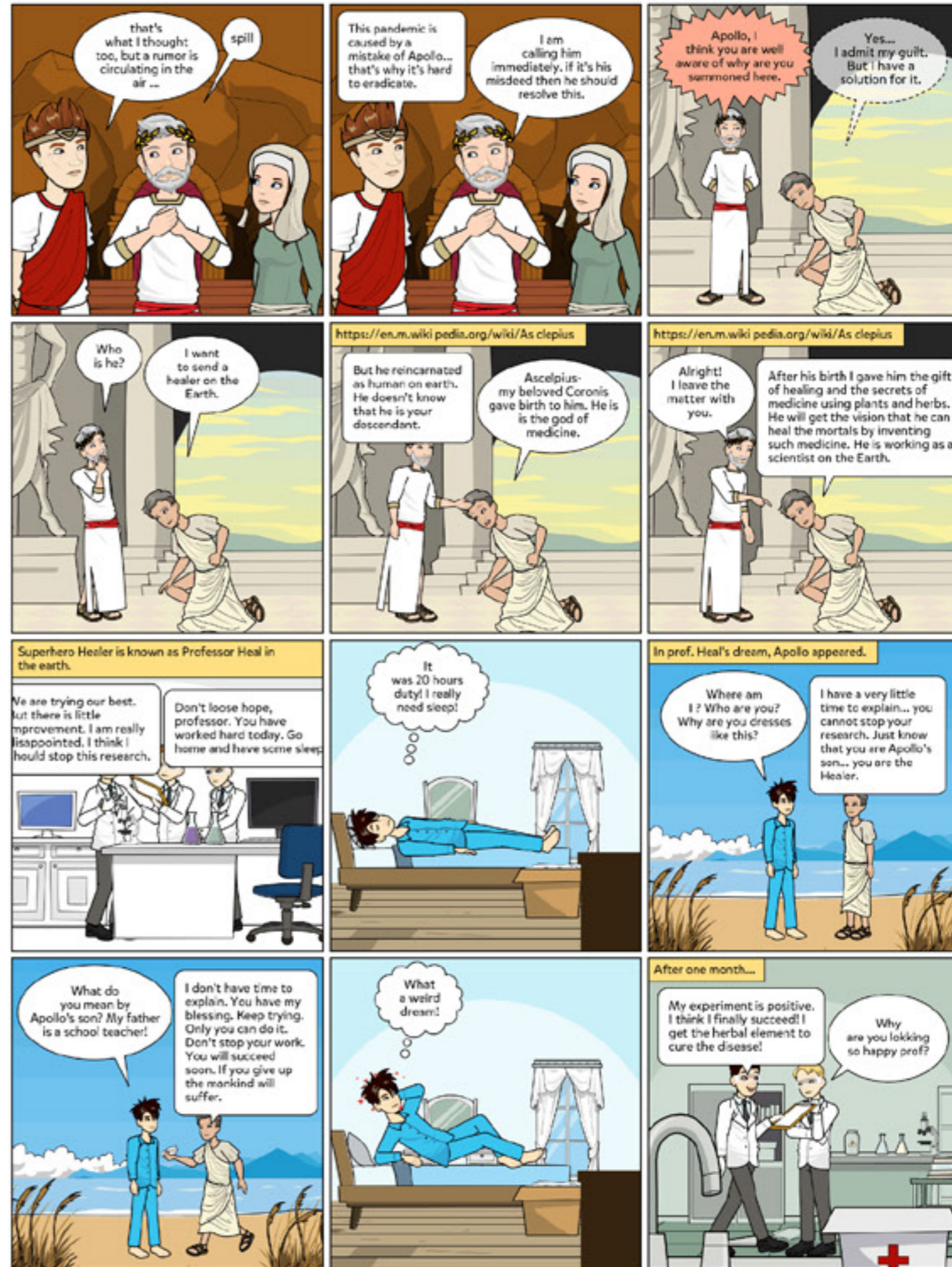


But this is the age of science. We shouldn't interfere in human's matter. They will deal with their own way.



Nusrat Tahsin joined AE Comics VX from Bangladesh. She has been teaching for six years with four years as an Access teacher. Through her experience she learned that that comics are “not just childhood fantasy or means of entertainment. It’s more than that and a useful tool in teaching.”

Nusrat believes learning through comics reduces pressure on students. Her best advice to those who are beginning to create: “Take your time, be patient and you will overcome. The comics world is really interesting.”

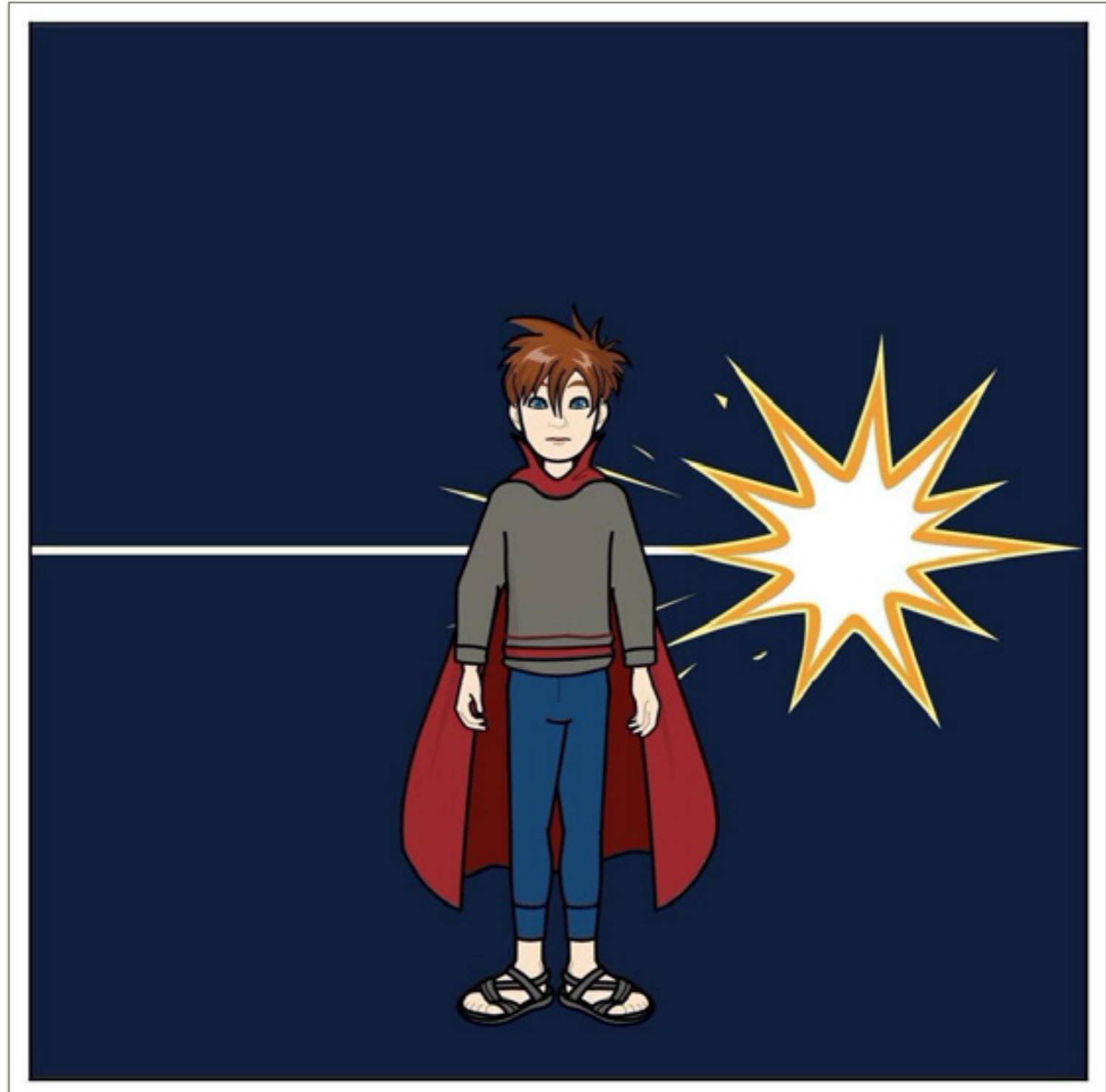




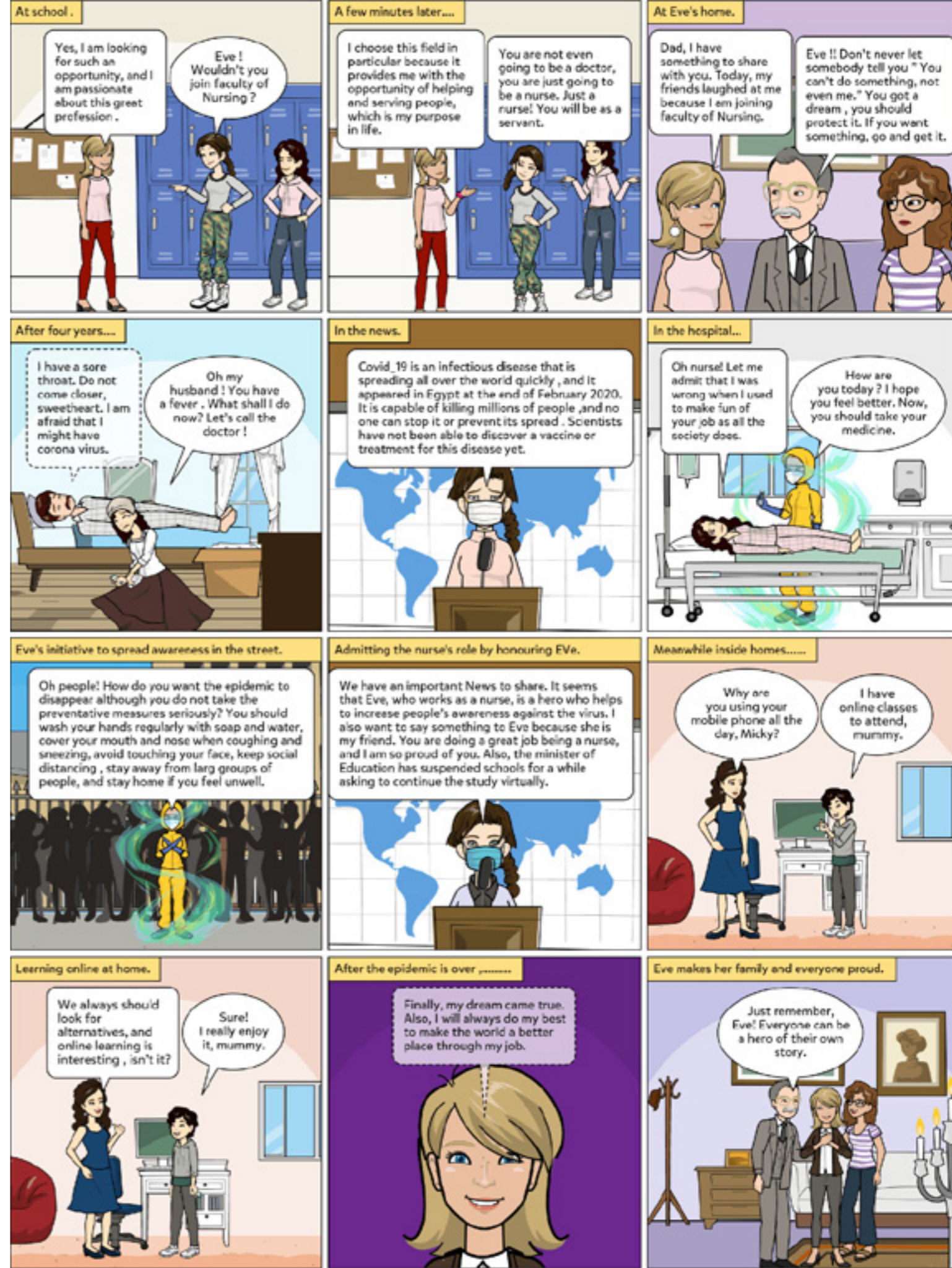


My superhero is Mr. Healer, a scientist. But there is a secret that no one knows: he is the son of Apollo — the god of healing.

His real name is Asclepius — the god of medicine. He reincarnated as human on the earth and now working as a scientist. He wants to invent medicine that will cure humans from deadly viruses. His goal is to serve the human by providing his invention free to all.



**SOMAIA
HAMDY
ABDELMOTALB
ELNAGGAR**
EGYPT



In Egypt, Somaia Hamdy Abdelmotalb Elnaggar is a university lecturer, IELTS trainer, and Access teacher where she works with 15-18 year-old students. She originally joined in AE Comics VX as she was interested in using technology to connect to and learn from others around the world.

“Involving comics and graphic novels in teaching has a very effective impact in the teaching process for many reasons. One of the assumptions is students are having fun while they are learning and we can relate this point to the affective filter and how it reduces the anxiety of our learners and spreads joy and fun in the classroom.”



My hero's name is Eve. Her name is very symbolic as it refers to life. She represents the woman character in the Egyptian society.

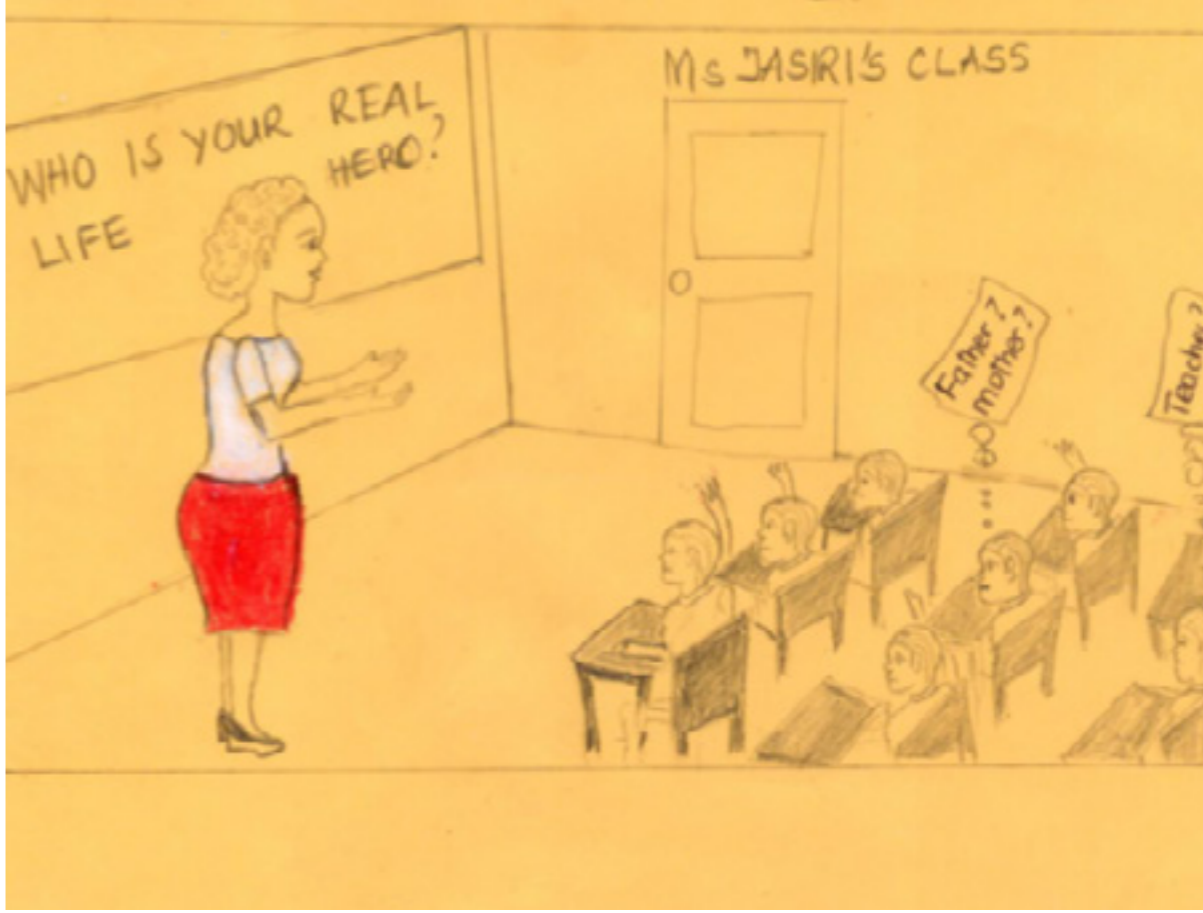
Some jobs are not appreciated but the hero reveals that if you have a passion, just follow it. Make the change that the world seeks, and you never know that you might be the impact that the world needs as the role of our hero during the current issues.



GENDER EQUITY

**OLIVER
KIMATHI**
TANZANIA





Oliver Kimathi joined AE Comics VX from Tanzania. She has been a teacher for eighteen years and an Access teacher for nearly two.

Oliver feels comics and graphic novels are great tools to develop learners' creativity, motivation, and problem-solving skills as well as instilling reading habits. She believes comics support students to educate the community and to study art, geography, Tanzanian culture and traditions, and motivational speeches.

Oliver is looking to share the knowledge acquired in this exchange to others through teachings and trainings.

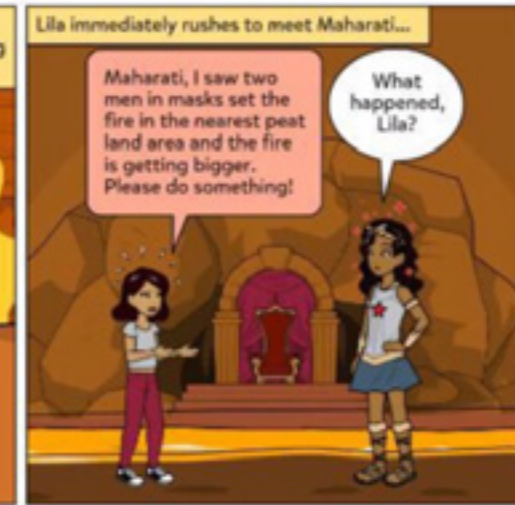


My superhero is Jasiri, a Swahili word for a brave person. She changed the prevailing condition for girls in her community which was practicing arranged and early marriage for girls.

She wears her school uniform and a magic flag behind her back and holds books and a red colored pen. She holds books and a pen to represent education for girls, a peaceful way to modify the traditions and customs that affect girls' lives.

Her magic flag gives her strength to travel quickly and to many places and the heroic glasses enable her to see the 'unseen' that is done to girls all over the country.





Corry Antang is a lecturer at her university in Indonesia and an access teacher through the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta. She has been teaching for eleven years and with the Access program for two years.

Corry joined AE Comics VX in hopes the program would give her new insights on teaching English in the classroom. Teaching with comics is quite a new method in her city. AE Comics VX also gave her the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences with Access teachers from other countries.

Corry brought her appreciation for different cultures and an eager, positive attitude to our community. Throughout the experience, she was able to connect comics to her students, and she looks forward to using the methods and tech tools she learned about with larger groups in the future.



Maharati is a Bornean superhero who was created by me. She has intellectual giftedness as is her name's meaning. (Maharati means someone who has intellectual ability higher than average in Dayak language.) She is concerned about environmental problems in Borneo Island and she wants to raise people's awareness before it is too late.



**WEIKA
BARATHAYOMI**
INDONESIA



Weika Barathayomi brought ten years of teaching experience to AE Comics VX. She has been an Access teacher for a year and a half, teaching senior high school students in Serang Site, Indonesia.

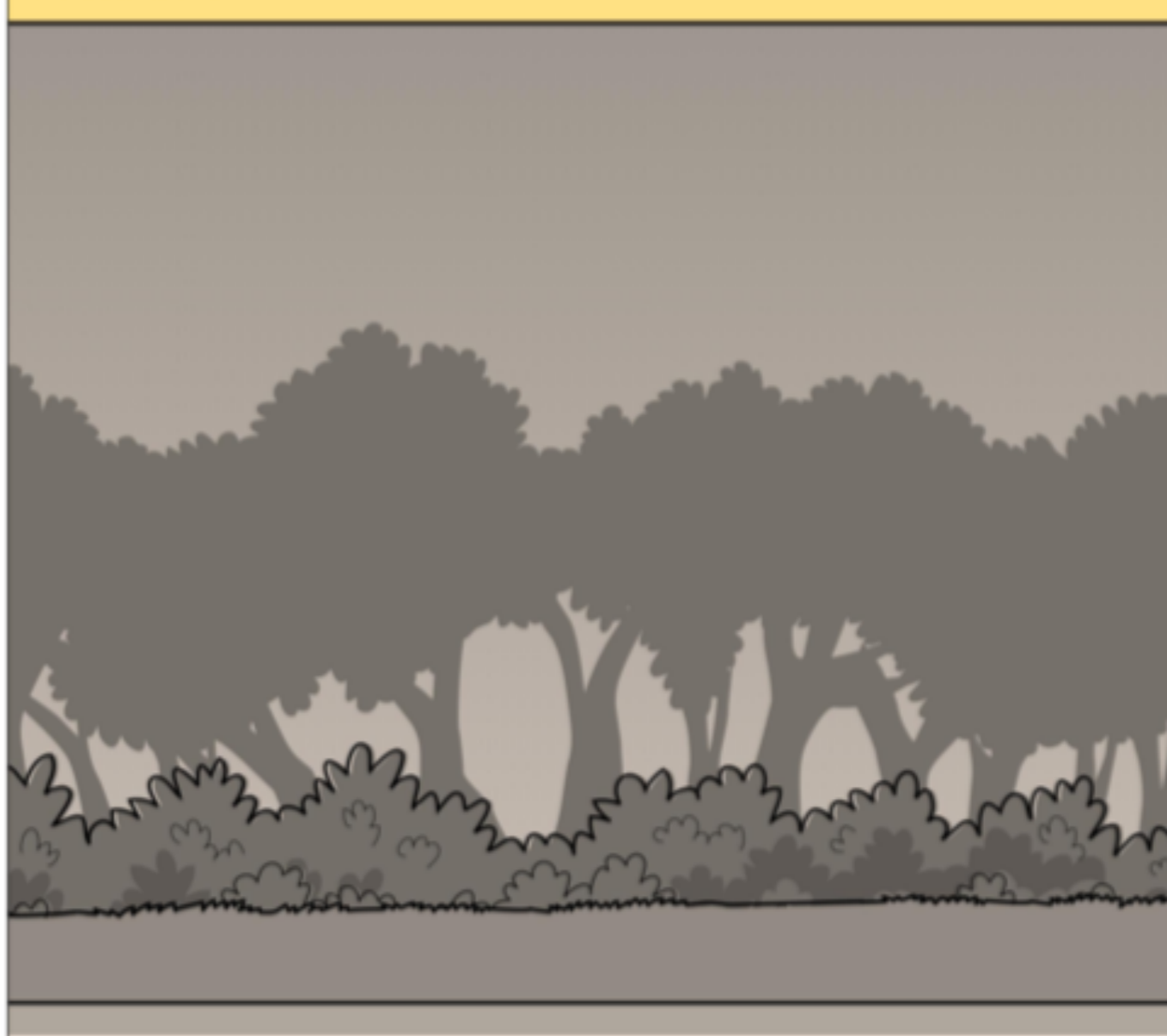
Weika believes there is value in teaching with comics and graphic novels, especially in teaching reading.

“After following this course, I can say YES — everyone can make comics!” She plans to create and share an “Image of the Week” with her students as a way to easily curate and distribute content in a visual way.





Once upon a time, deep in the forest, there lived a king of rhinos.

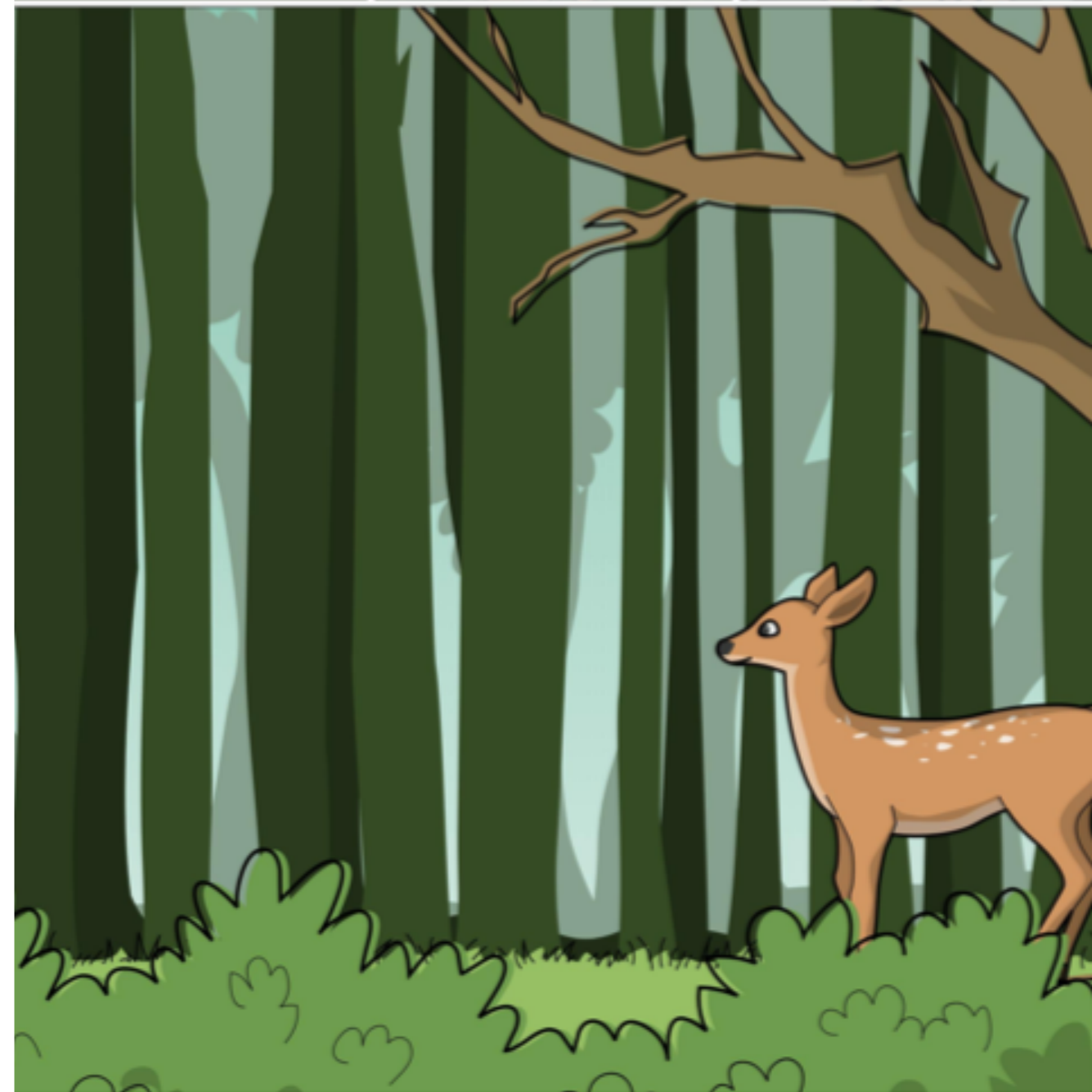


He protected a crash of rhinos from the scariest creature, human.

He is strong, magical, and mystical. Only the chosen one can see him.

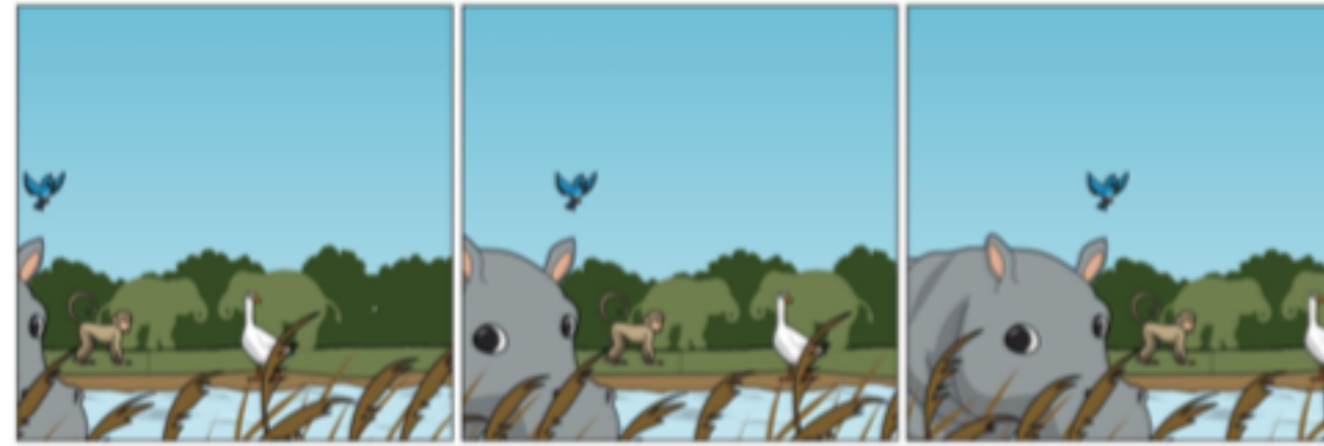
Once a person see him in the eye, magical things will happen.



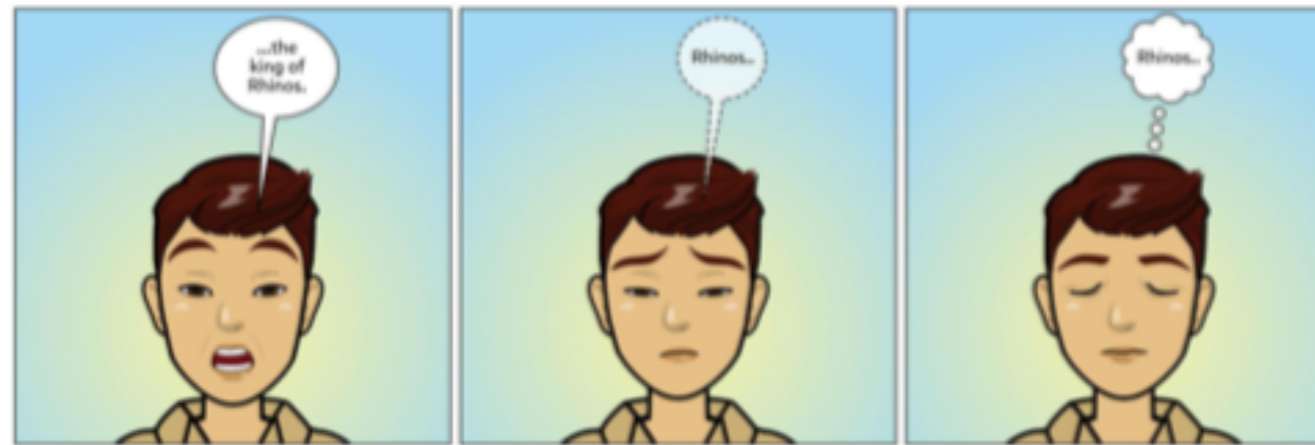




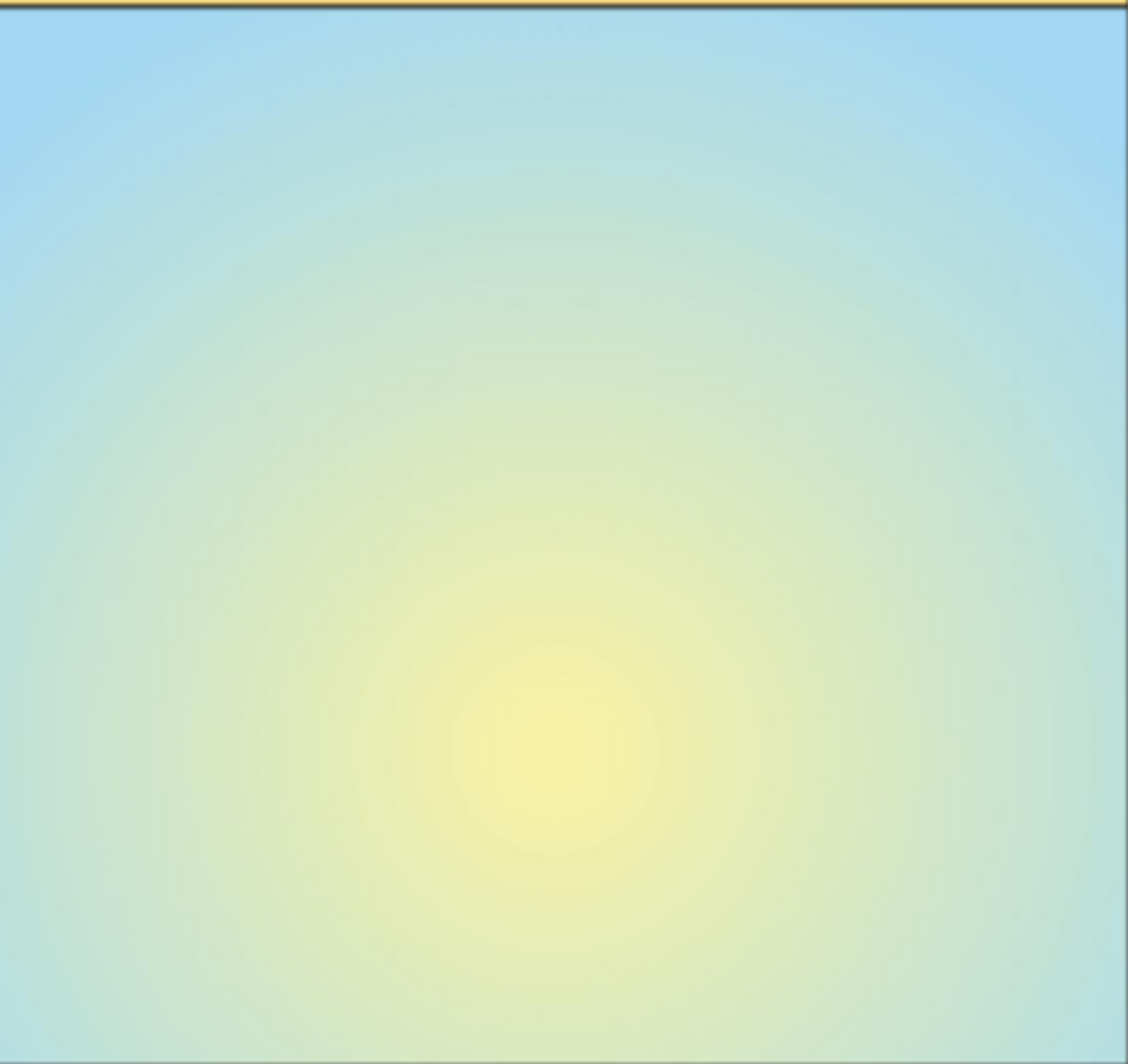
I saw it ran this way. It ran so fast. Hmm... I never knew this place. Am I lost?



Tttthat's..



As the sun shines, magical things are happening.



A new superhero is born.



Fingers are as hard as rhino horn.

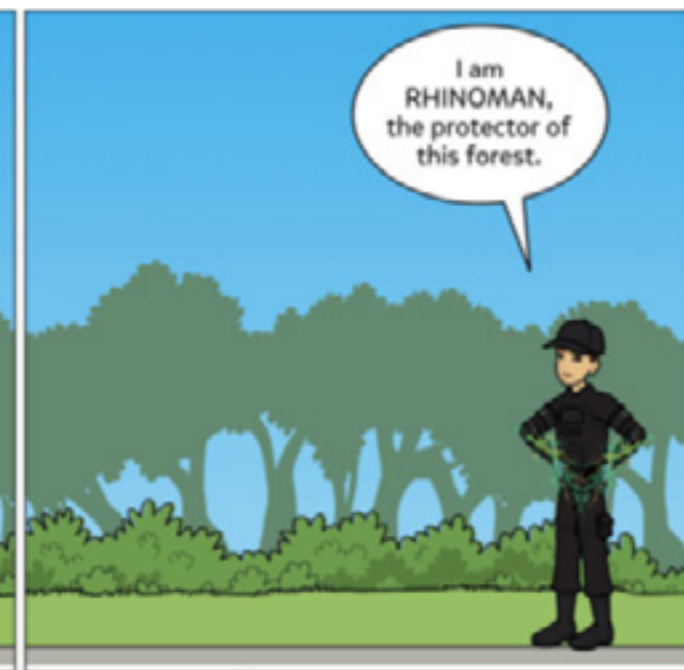
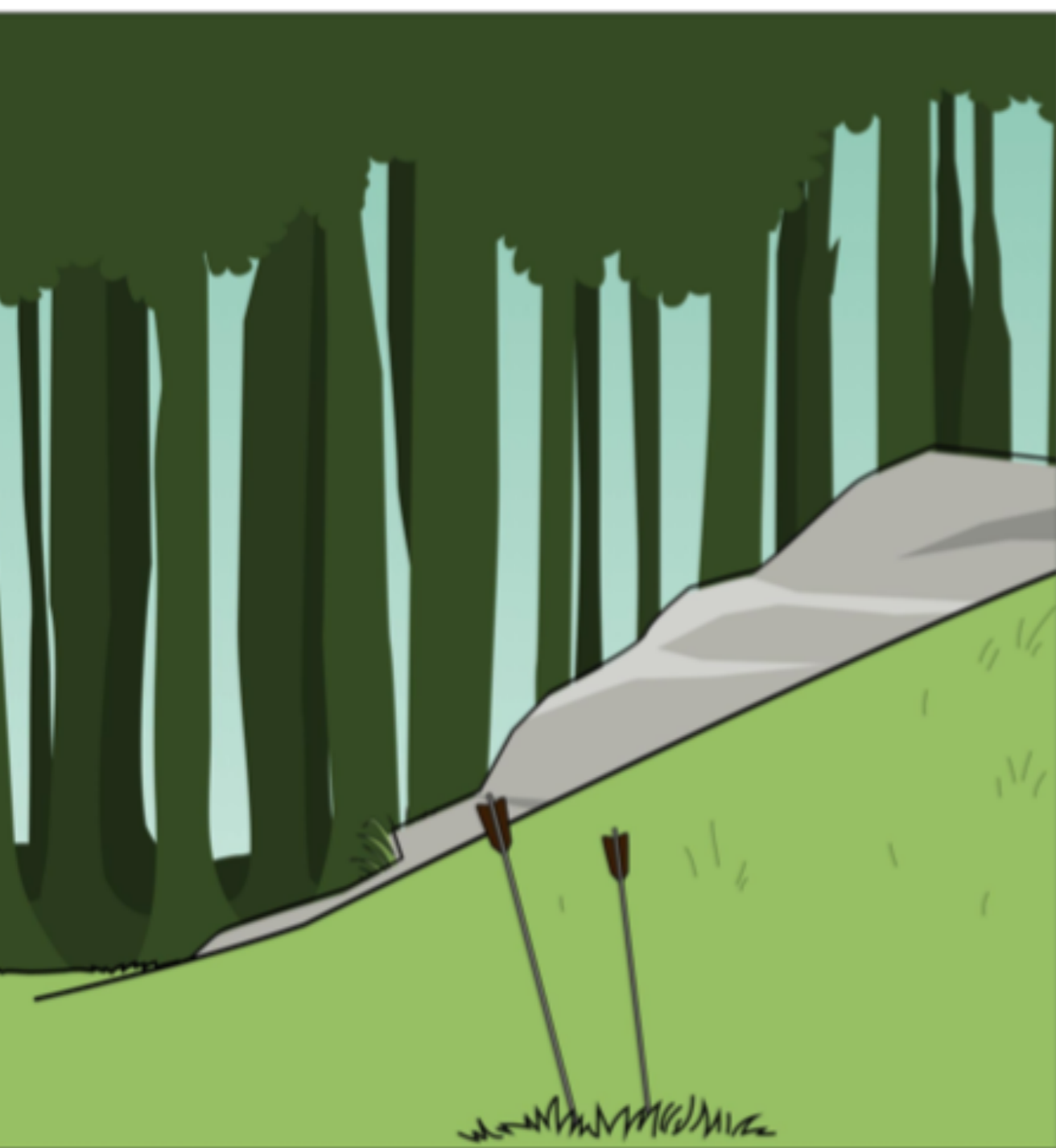
Hands are as strong as rhino power.

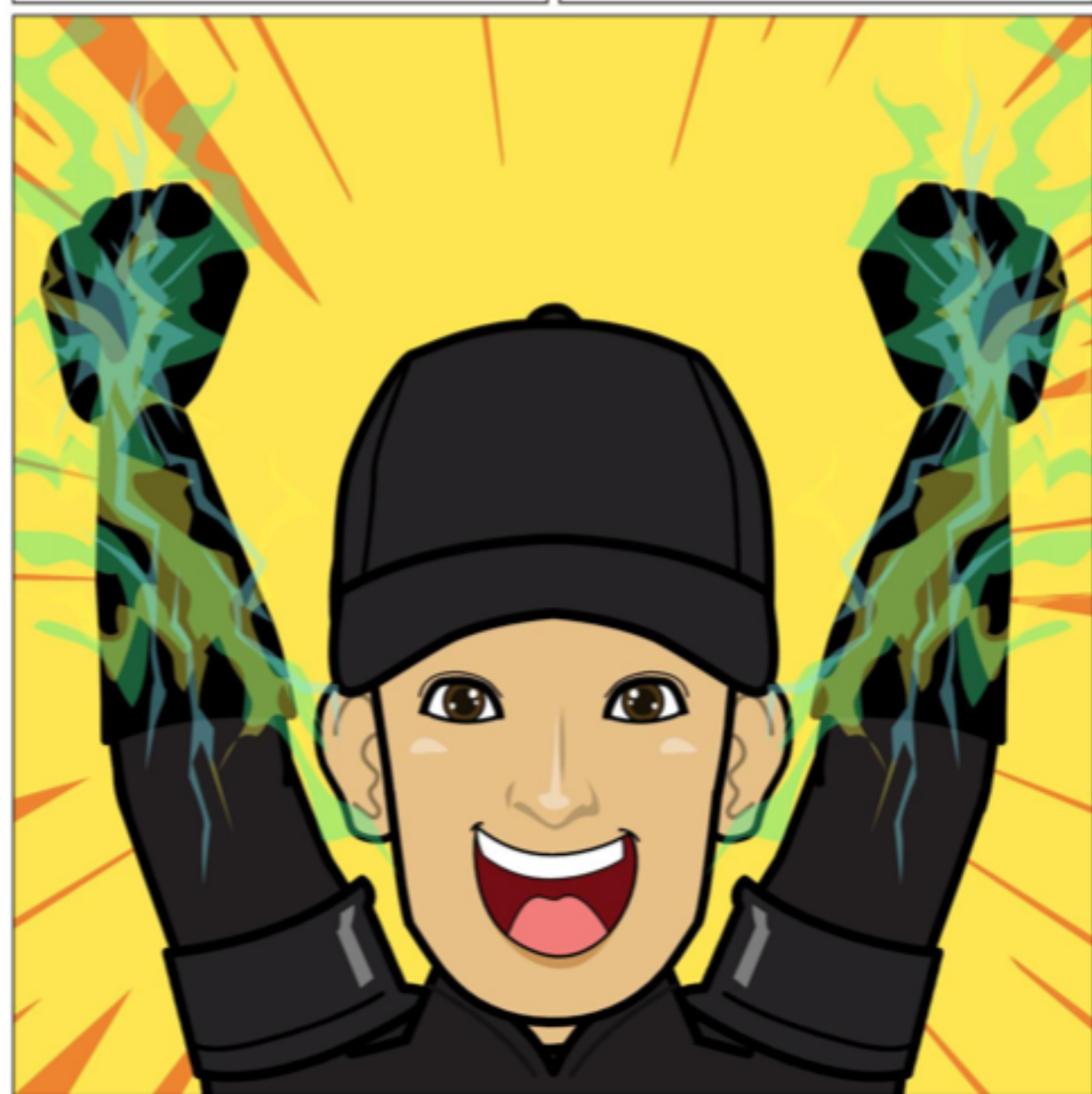
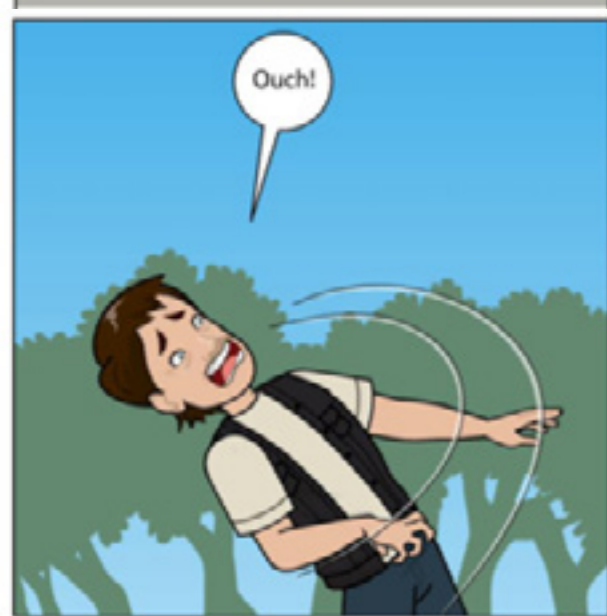


Dark gray, thick body armor.











My superhero name is RHINOMAN. He is the protector of Ujung Kulon Forest. He obtained his power by looking at the mystical King of Rhino in the eyes. He is strong, magical, and mystical. He has fingers as hard as a rhino horn, hands are as strong as rhino power, and a clear mind and pure heart. He wears dark gray thick body armour.

His missions are to protect one-horn rhino and other animals in Ujung Kulon from extinction and from greedy poachers, save the environment by planting more trees, and keep the beach clean.



CLIMATE CHANGE

MIYIYI CHO BURMA

PP and her friends are on a short trip to the beach. She is looking outside the window and see a lot of plastic bags among the bushes.



At the beach, when her friends are enjoying beach activities, she is curious about environment.



On the way back home, she can't help thinking about plastic bags and wants to do something.



She talks her friends about plastic bags when they meet at school next day.



Next weekend, they make bags with their old clothes. And they sell them on a busy street in downtown with 500 MMK for a bag.



When they meet at school the following week,



They finally start their plan for growing trees.



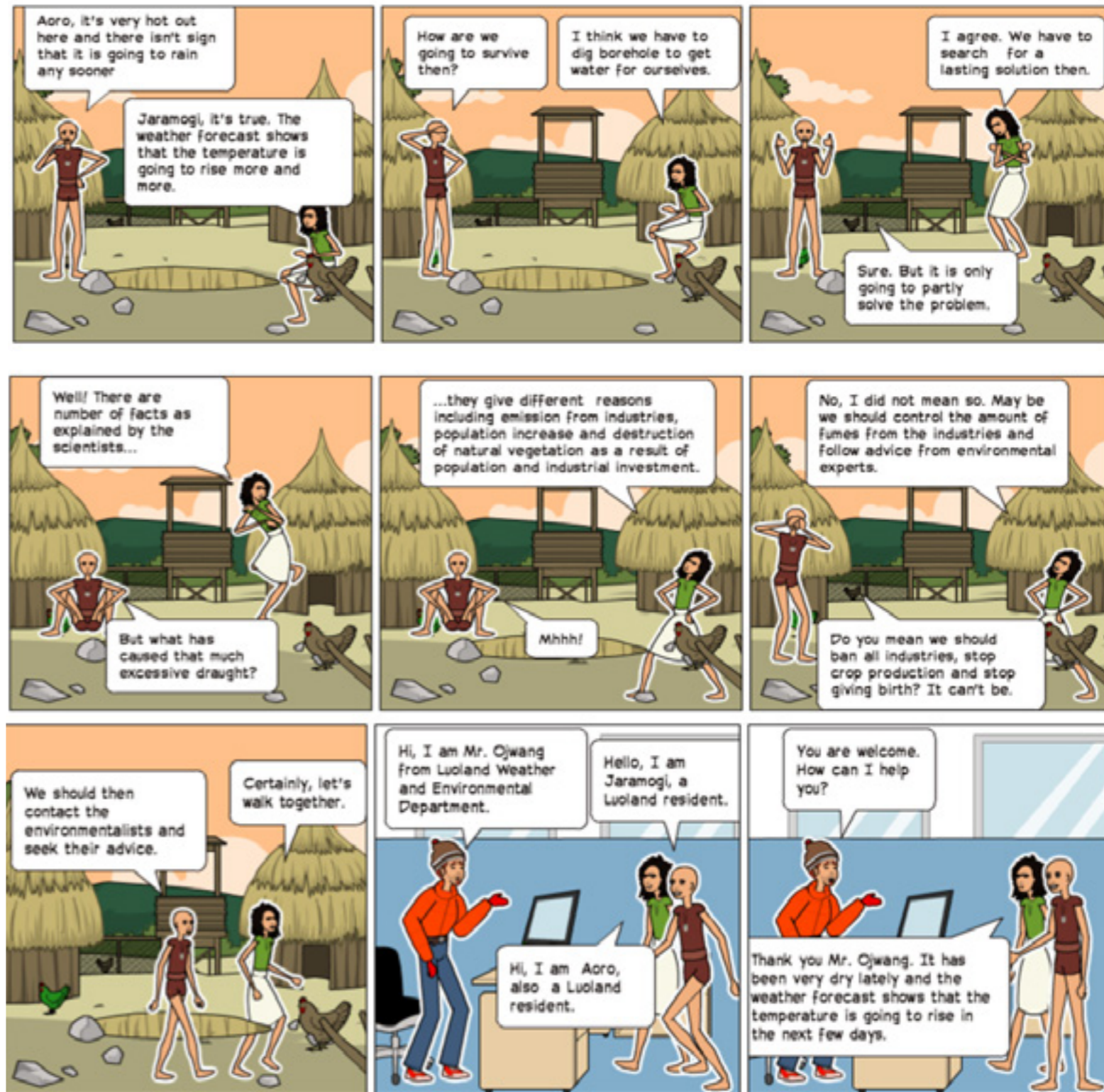
Mi Yi Yi Cho, known to us as Yee Yee, joined the AE Comics VX experience from Myanmar. She has been teaching for nine years and serving as an Access teacher for six.

Yee Yee shared that she originally applied to the program because she was interested in learning new things for the classroom and to hear from other Access teachers from other countries. She now plans to add comics to her toolkit of final projects, ranging from presentations to role playing to now offering comics as an option for demonstrating learning.



Peace Pie (PP) has the superpower of supernatural vision. With his power, he saves our earth to be healthy again. What made me happy when I created this hero was he is the one who we need and helps us till our next generation.





Petro Okoth joined AE Comics VX from Tanzania where he has been a teacher for eight years and a practicing Access teacher for two years.

As English language is the primary language of instruction in Tanzania secondary school classrooms, Petro joined this program to develop new skills to teach his students. During this experience he was able make his dream of connecting Access class to Access class a reality.

“My advice to the future participants is that they should be willing to leave their comfort zone and have fun with their fellow teachers and facilitators. The program is full of fun and enjoyable if one leaves one's comfort zone.”





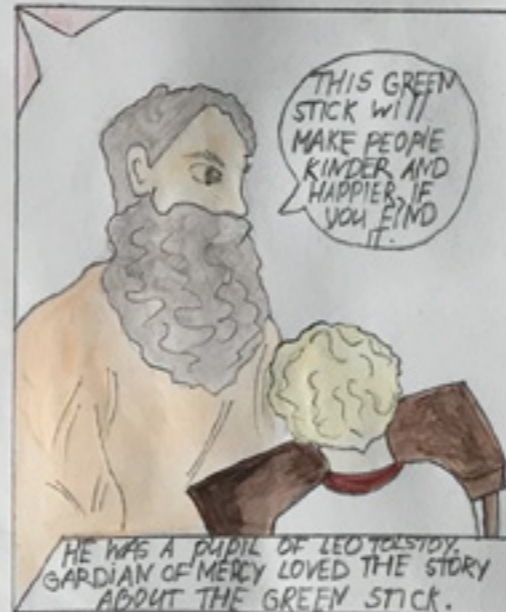
My superhero is Sibuur the Savior. He has a supernatural power to persuade and transform people's minds. The name is derived from Luo mythology.

He is a superhero who had a power to defeat his enemies in by physical strength. Unlike the Sibuur in Luo mythology, he uses persuasive superpower to transform the community.



OLGA PORTYANNIKOVA

RUSSIA



Olga Portyannikova represented Russia in the AE Comics VX experience. She has been teaching for eleven years and teaching English for nearly seven years with students of all ages, from 4 to 30.

Prior to joining AE Comics VX, Olga and her Access teacher team in Tula, Russia, had already done work with comics in the classroom examining Russian-American stereotypes.

“I think comics attract students’ attention a lot. You can teach the history of your own country as well as other cultures using them.”





This is the Guardian of Mercy. The product of imagination of a person born not far from Tolstoy's family state. While I was creating my superhero I was proud of my motherland and my history. It helped me a lot to get the ball rolling. The most challenging was to connect my superhero with the problems we face in our community. To be honest our city is wonderful!



Several participants in the inaugural AE Comics VX cohort were fortunate to have students with which the participants could test new strategies.

This space includes excerpts from comics created by Access students around the world.



Students of Wieka Barathayomi's Access class, Indonesia



Students of Hela Chaabouni's Access class, Tunisia



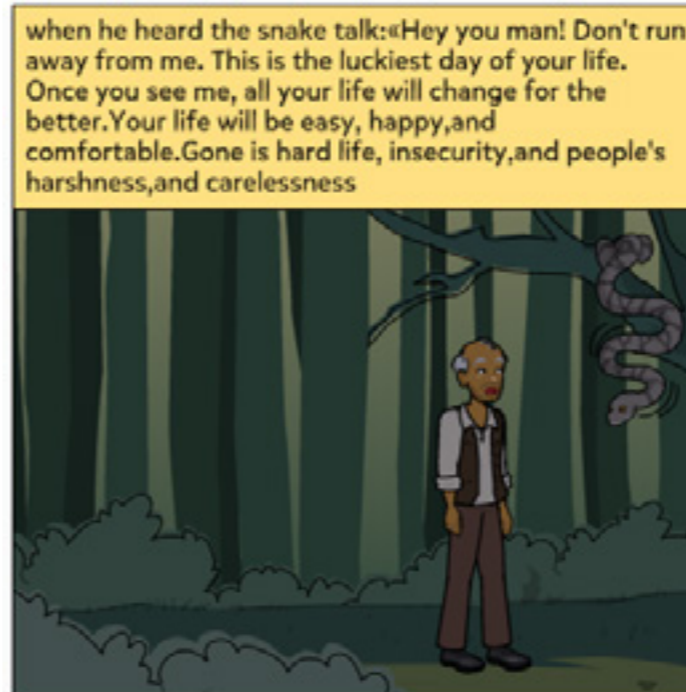
Dasha Denisova, Lisa Vorobyova, Vitalik Khodakov, Russia

STUDENT WORK

ACROSS THE ACCESS GLOBE



Maria Yozhikova and Ekaterina Karavaeva, Russia



Yessine ben Ayed, Tunisia



Corry Norhidayah Fitriani, Indonesia



Krasnov Artyom and Veronica Boriskina, Russia

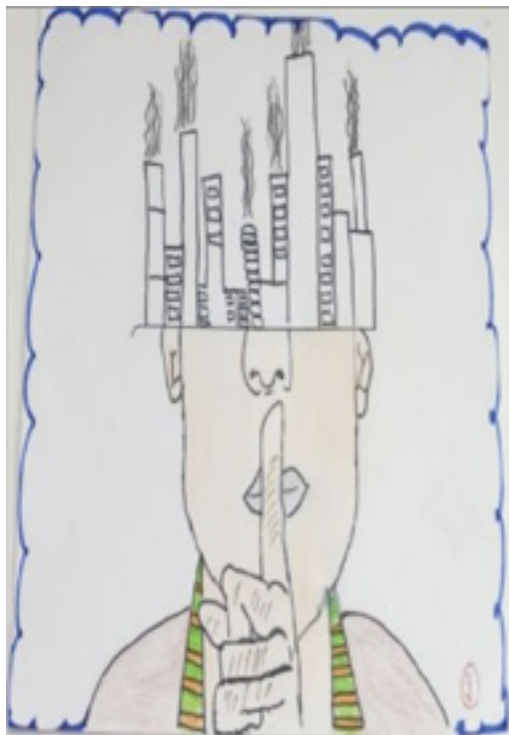


Azmi Hairullah, Indonesia

We can find a super hero in the field of doctors, and in these difficult circumstances, they put their lives at risk for us. They are really deserve this title. (The white army of Egypt).



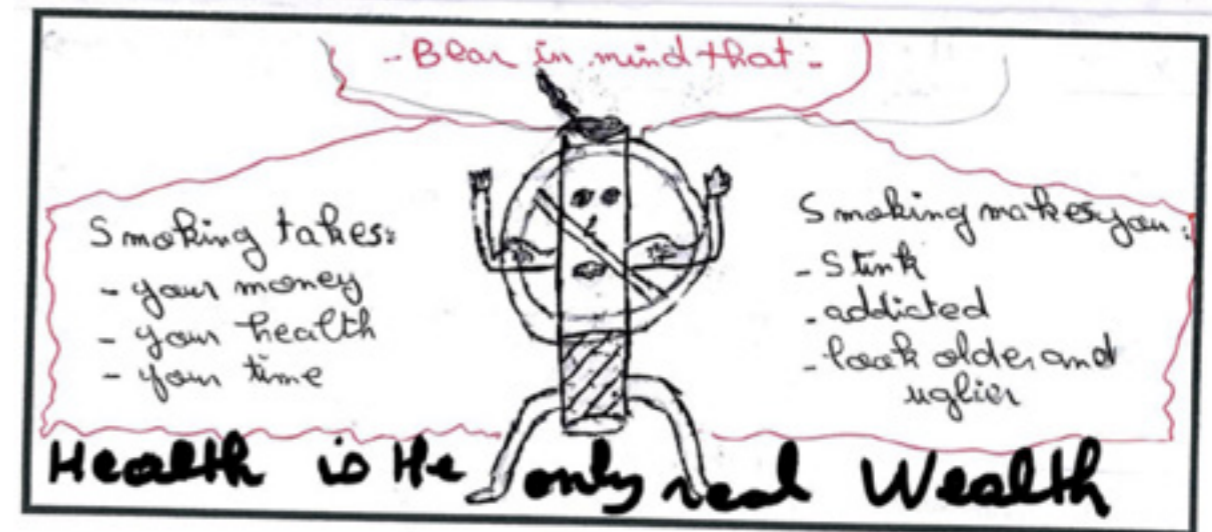
Eslam Emam, Egypt



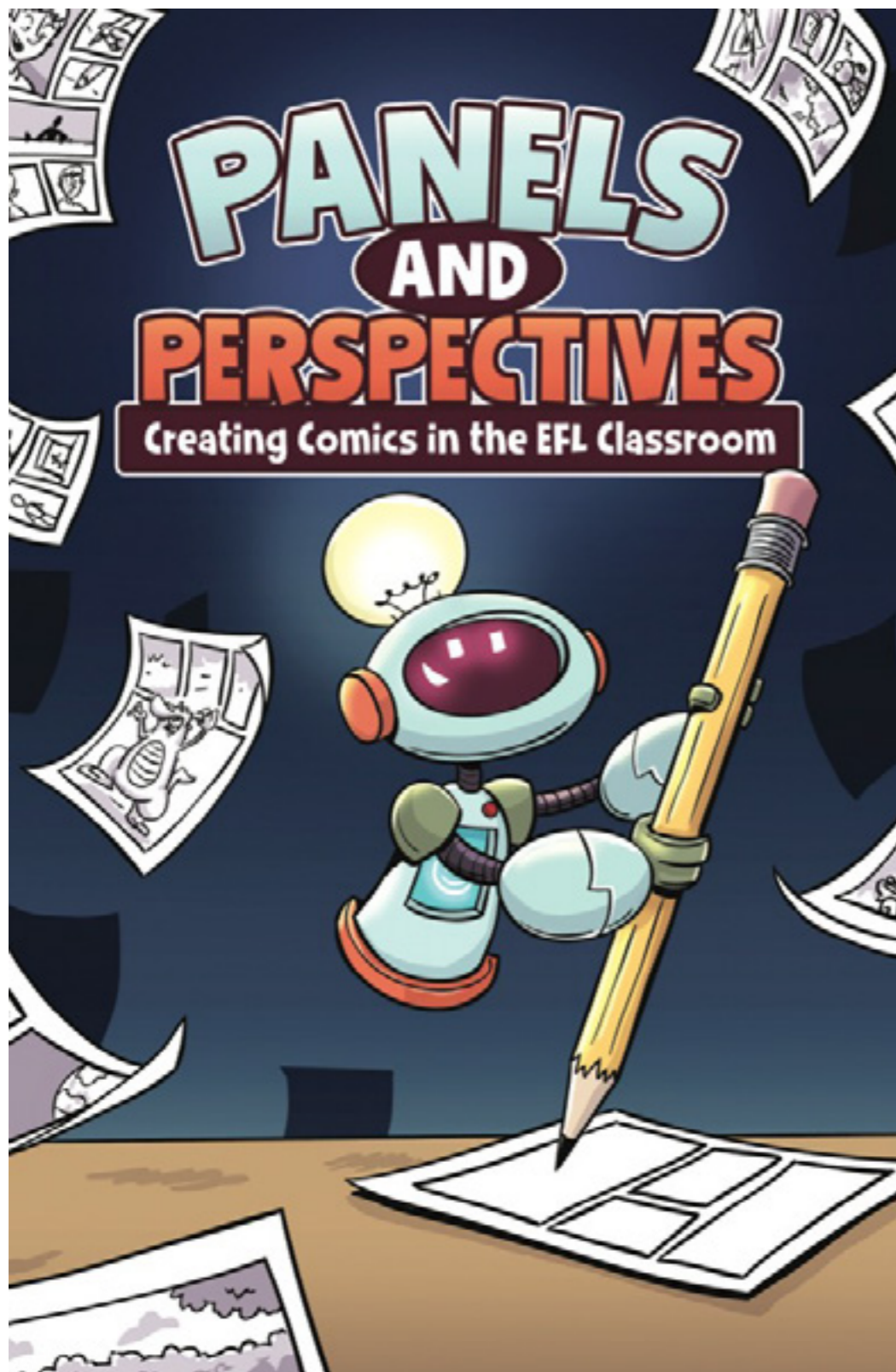
Hi My name is Happiness maker
I am a super hero who has the ability to change ideas and words negatively to positive ..♡



Meena Ashraf, Egypt



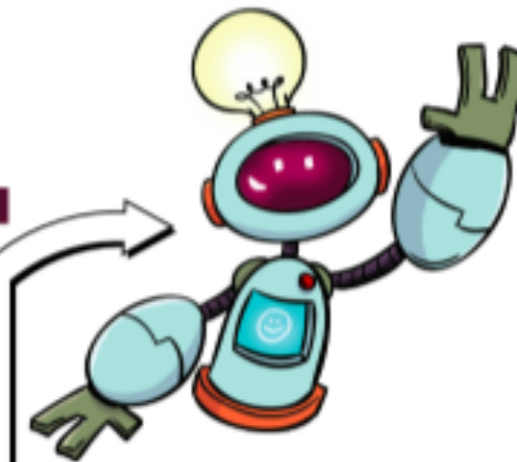
Yessine Ben Ayed & Khadija Chaahouni, Tunisia



PANELS AND PERSPECTIVES

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Pages 1-3 Introduction 	Pages 4-5 History 	Pages 6-8 Structure of Comic Books
Pages 9-11 Tools to Make Comic Books 	Pages 12-17 Storytelling 	Pages 9-11 Why and How to Make Comic Books

Created by:

DAN RYDER • WRITER
JOSH ALVES • ARTIST
JACQUELINE GARDY • EDITOR

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