

SAVE THE DAY

Lock It Away



Every Kid can be a Safety Superhero when we teach them how!



To the Superheroes Around Us:

True strength isn't about power — it's about making smart choices and staying safe. This book is here to help you understand the importance of gun safety, so you can protect yourself and those around you.

I dedicate this book to my son, Jon, who will forever hold a place in my heart. Though you are no longer with me, your memory is the guiding force behind this work. Your life—and the heartbreaking loss of it—has inspired me to create this resource, so that other children can stay safe and make informed choices.

Leesa Ross

Founder of
Lock Arms for Life

About This Project

This book was made possible through a grant from the City of Austin's Office of Violence Prevention, with the goal of raising awareness and educating kids about safe gun handling and storage.

Let's Keep the Conversation Going!

Explore the E-book and find additional resources about gun safety online at *GET ACTIVE*. Together, we can prevent gun injuries and save lives, starting today.



About Lock Arms for Life

Lock Arms for Life is a nonprofit organization based in Central Texas, committed to ensuring that every gun is locked when not in use. We raise awareness about the importance of safe gun storage, educate children, teens, and adults on proper handling, and provide locks and resources to help families safeguard their homes and communities. Safe storage is proven to prevent accidents, self-harm, and theft—protecting people, pets, and property. Learn more at www.lockarmsforlife.org.

About the Austin Office of Violence Prevention

Founded in 2021, the Austin Public Health Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) invests in the safety and well-being of those most affected by violence in Austin/Travis County. For more information, visit www.austintexas.gov/ovp.

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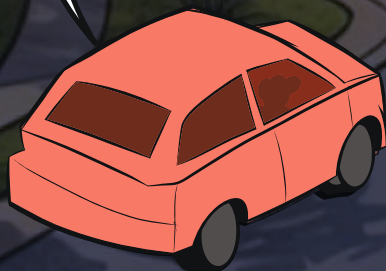
And thank you to everyone else who helped get this book completed!

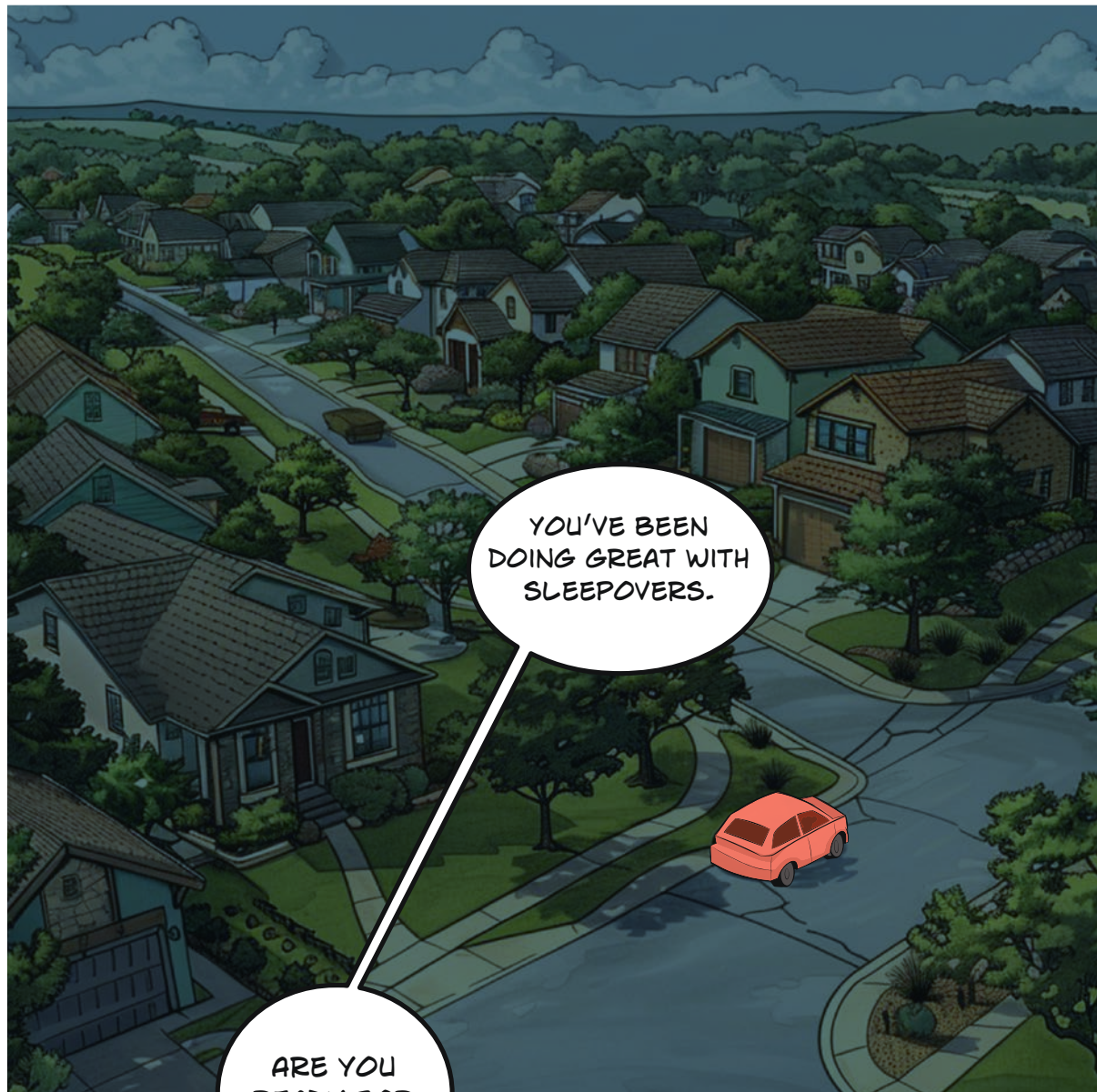


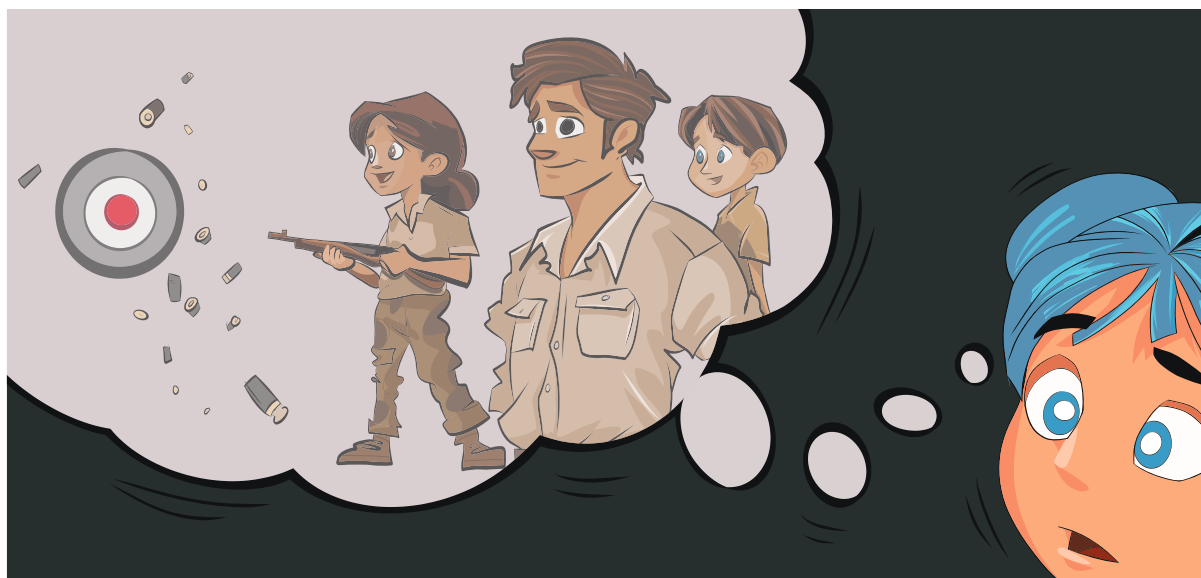
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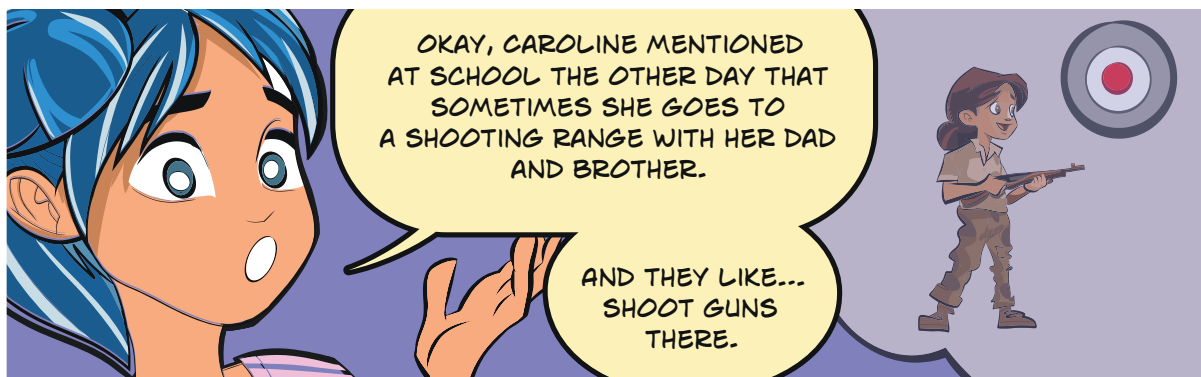
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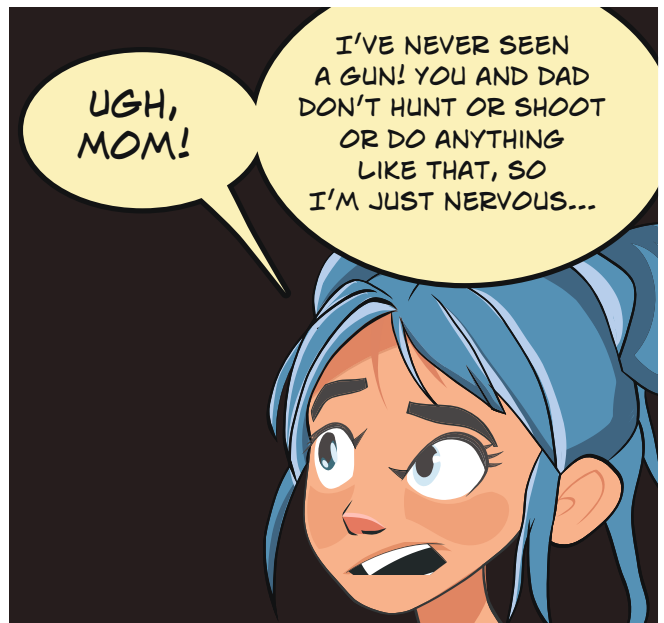
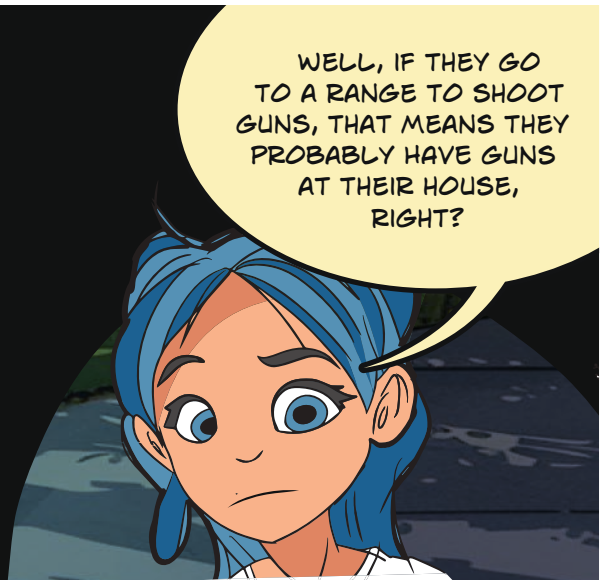
THIS IS
THE HOUSE.

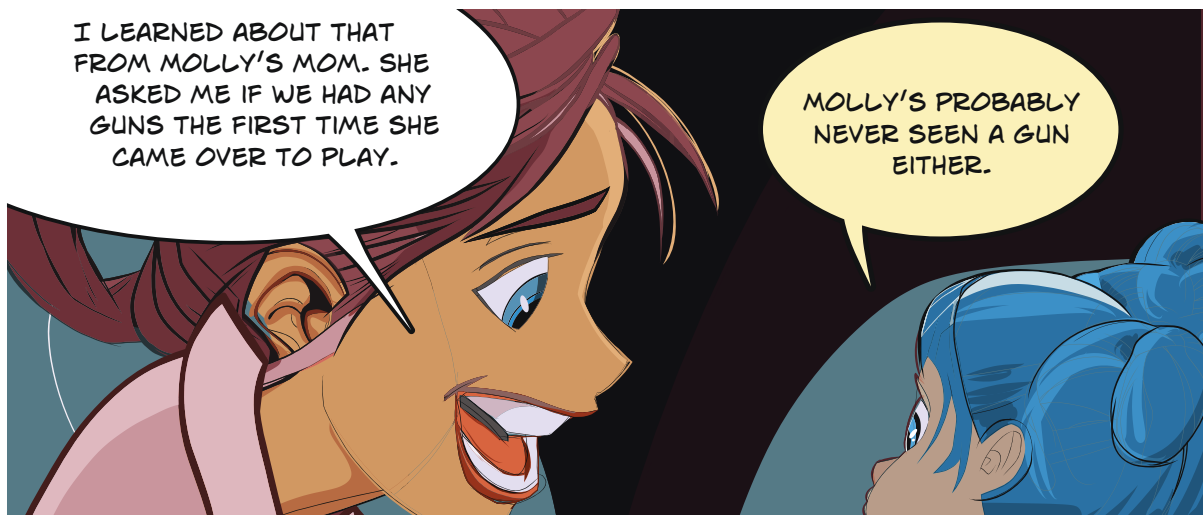
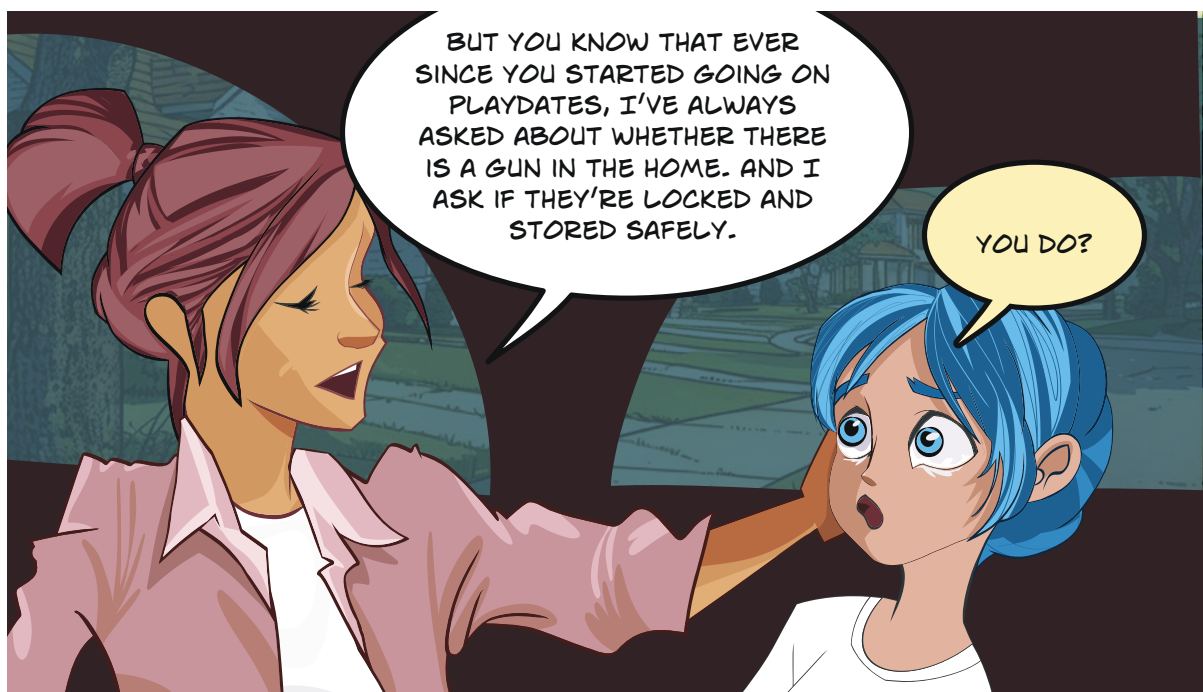
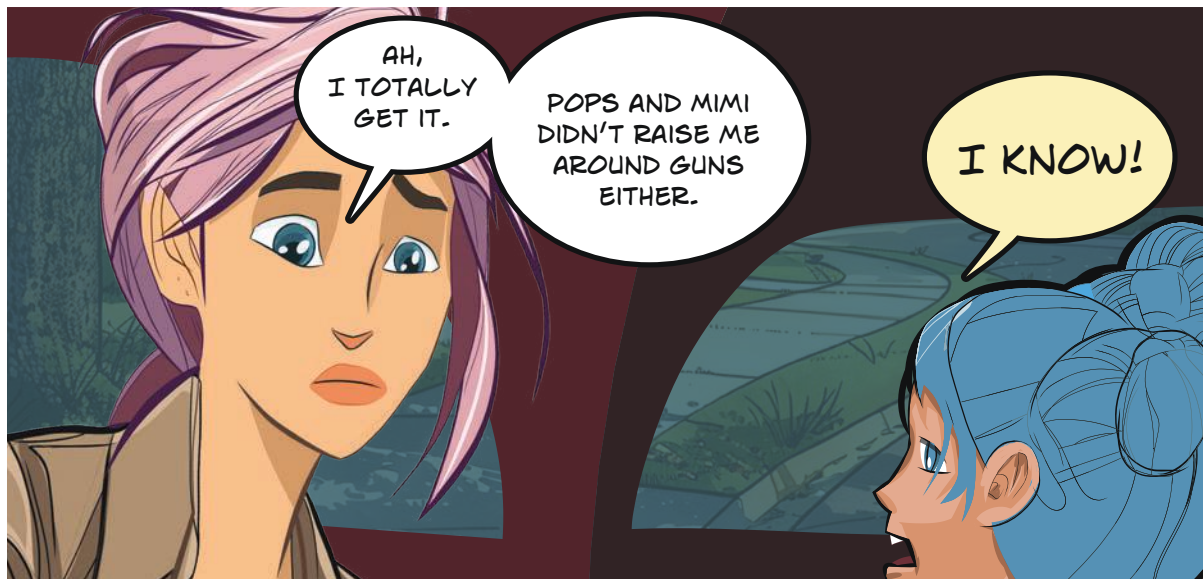


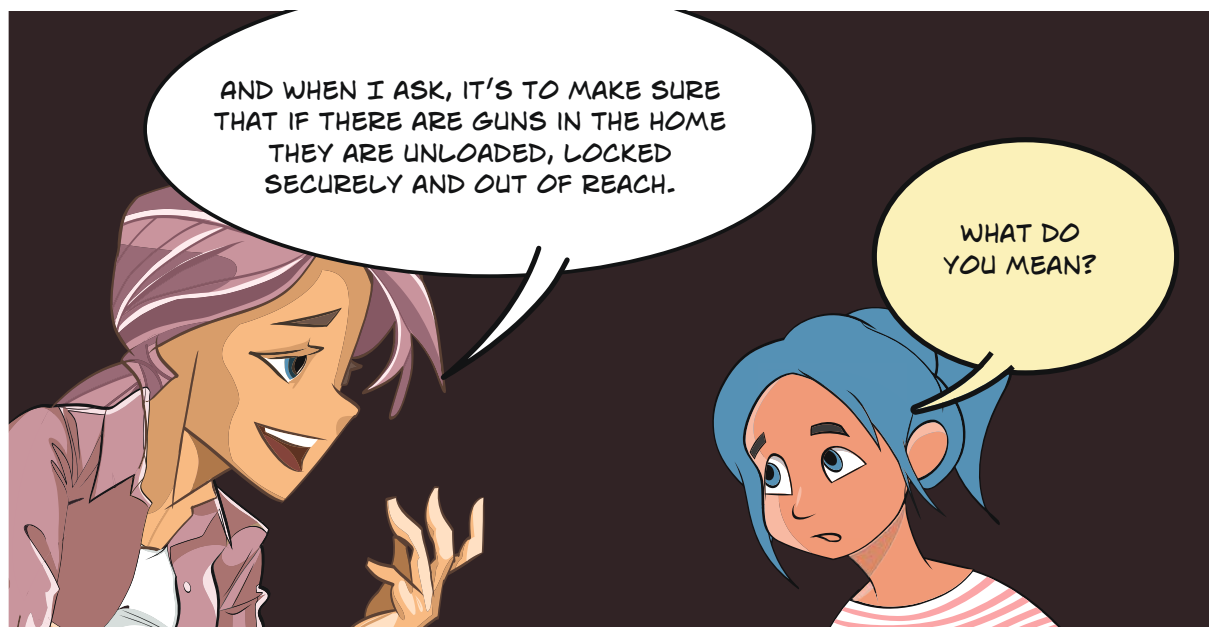
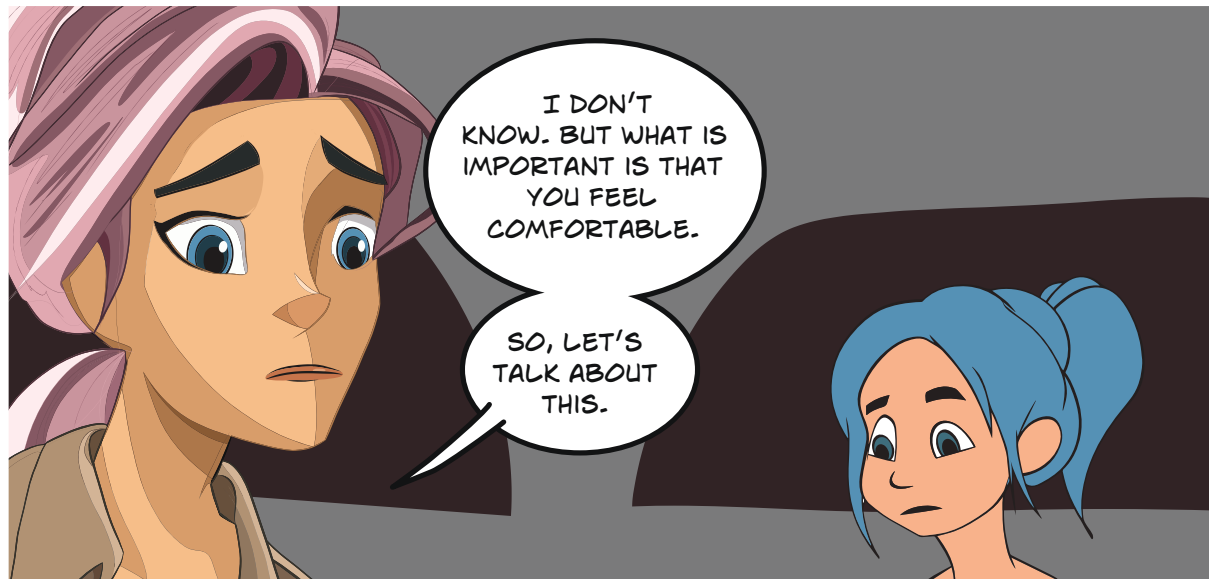


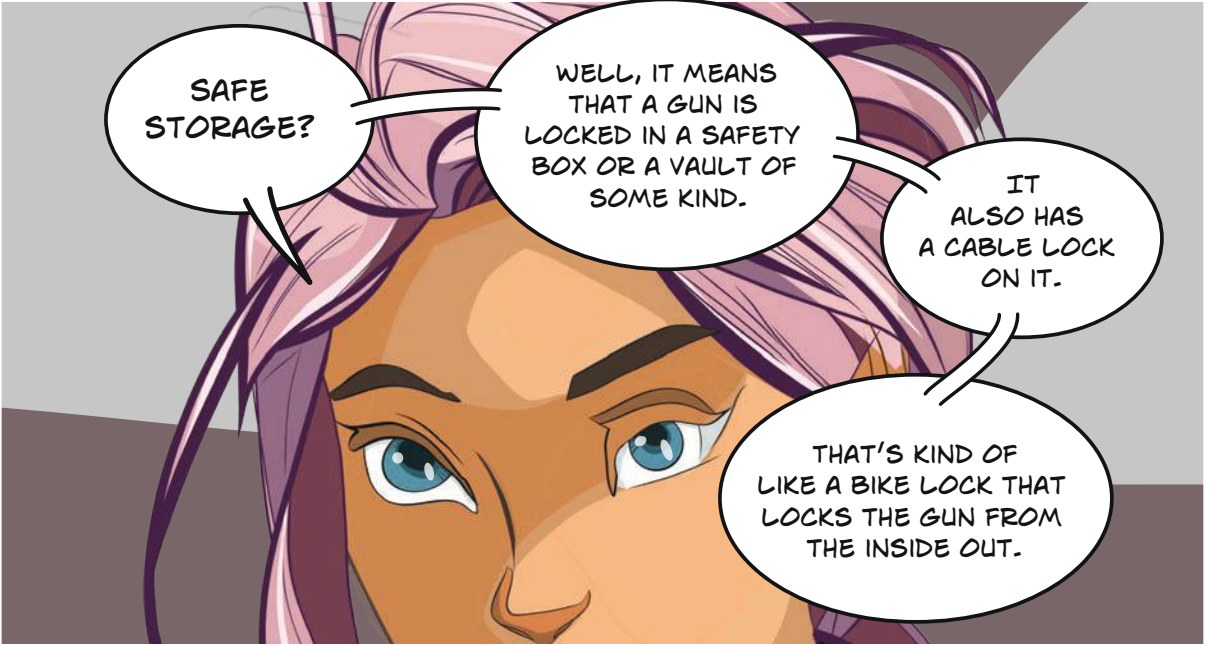










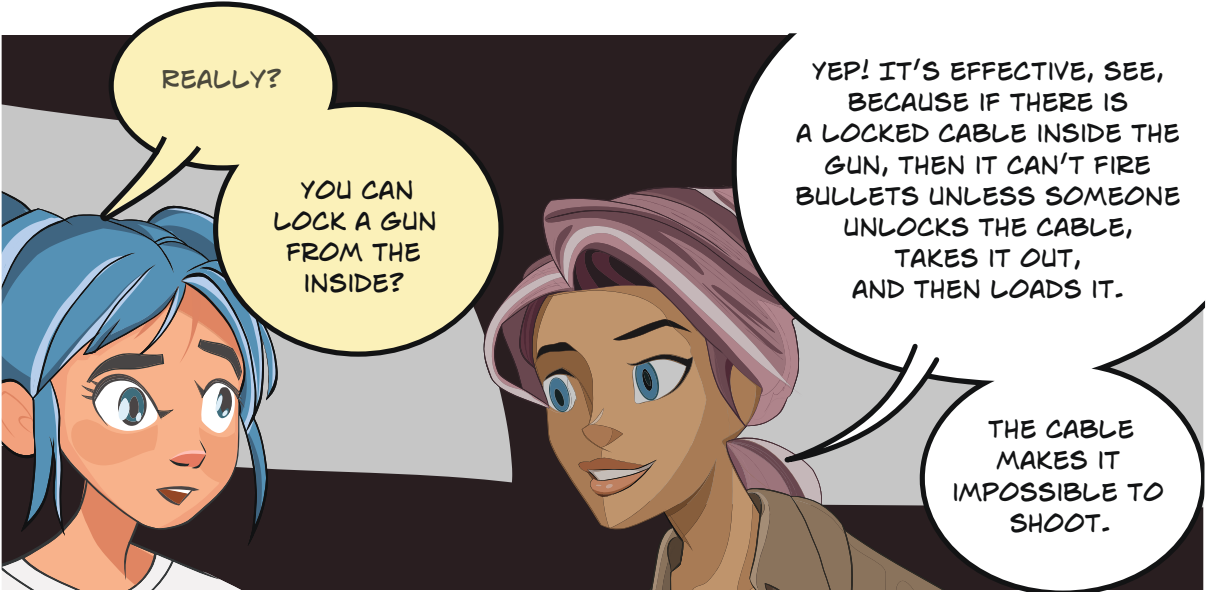


SAFE
STORAGE?

WELL, IT MEANS
THAT A GUN IS
LOCKED IN A SAFETY
BOX OR A VAULT OF
SOME KIND.

IT
ALSO HAS
A CABLE LOCK
ON IT.

THAT'S KIND OF
LIKE A BIKE LOCK THAT
LOCKS THE GUN FROM
THE INSIDE OUT.

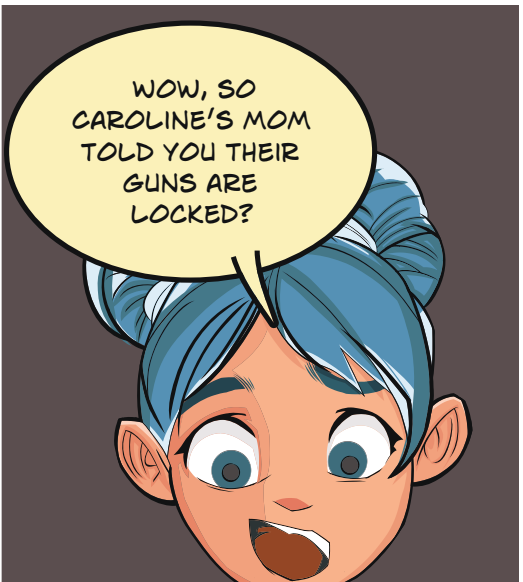


REALLY?

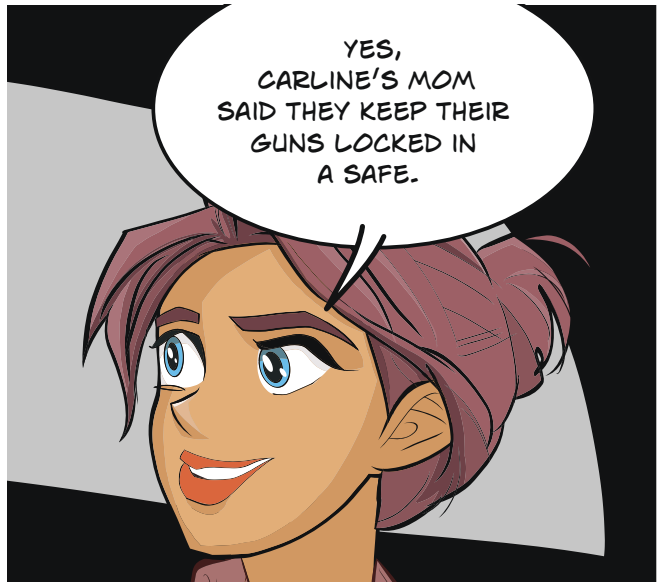
YOU CAN
LOCK A GUN
FROM THE
INSIDE?

YEP! IT'S EFFECTIVE, SEE,
BECAUSE IF THERE IS
A LOCKED CABLE INSIDE THE
GUN, THEN IT CAN'T FIRE
BULLETS UNLESS SOMEONE
UNLOCKS THE CABLE,
TAKES IT OUT,
AND THEN LOADS IT.

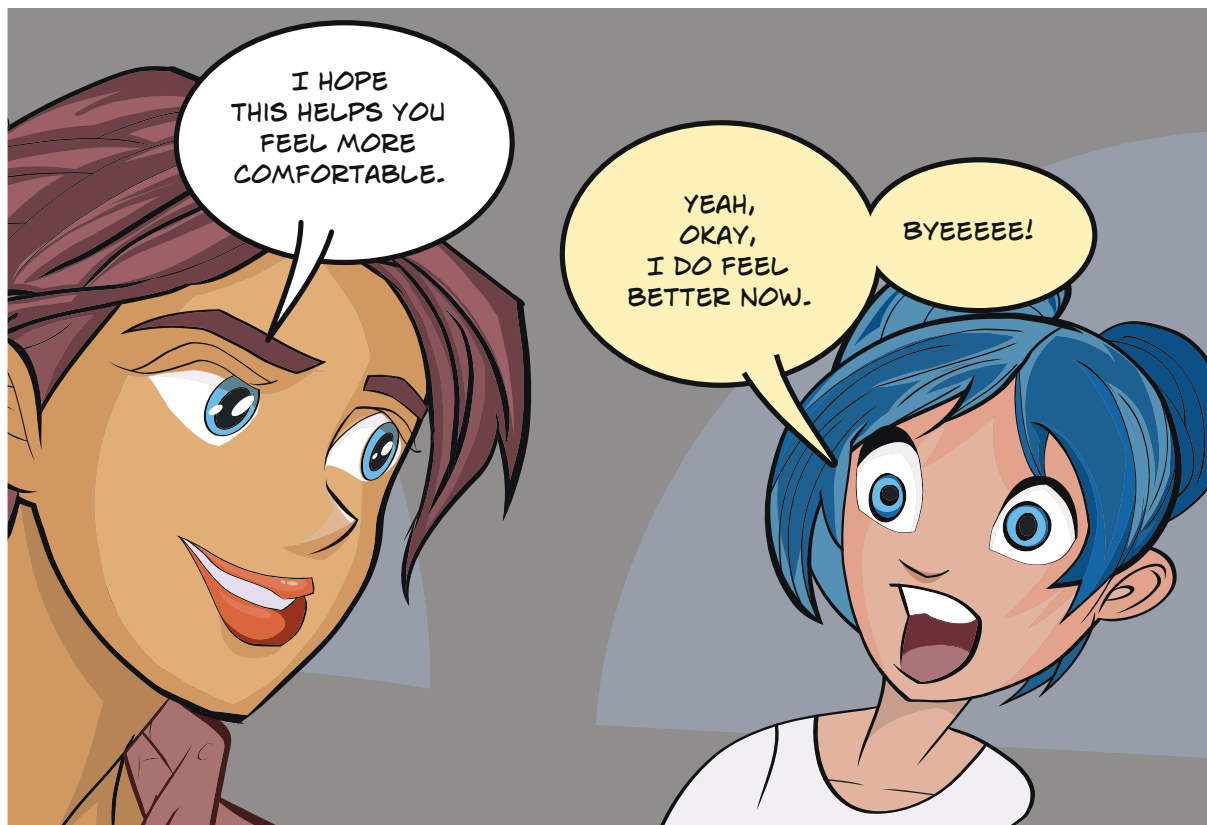
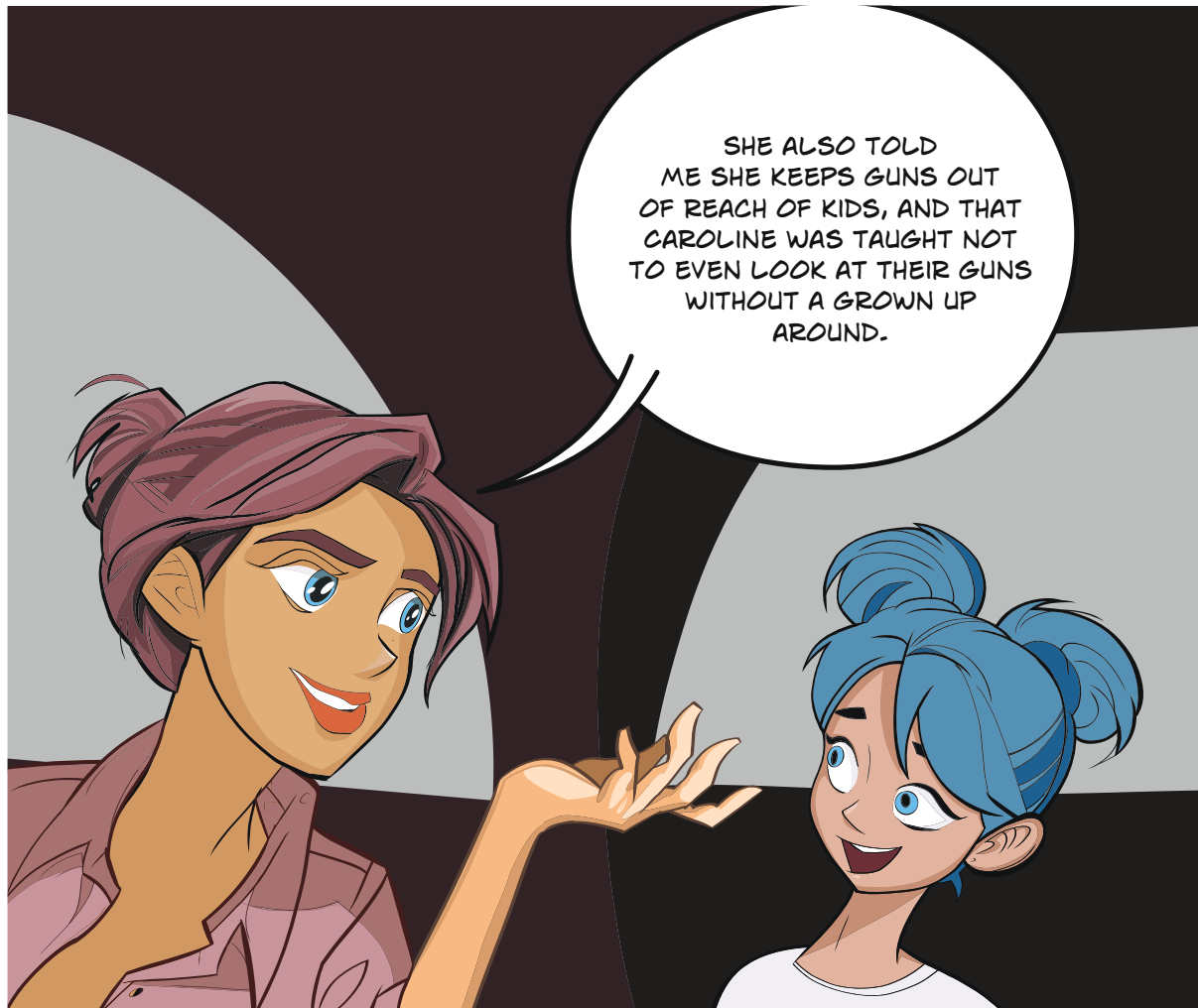
THE CABLE
MAKES IT
IMPOSSIBLE TO
SHOOT.



WOW, SO
CAROLINE'S MOM
TOLD YOU THEIR
GUNS ARE
LOCKED?



YES,
CARLINE'S MOM
SAID THEY KEEP THEIR
GUNS LOCKED IN
A SAFE.





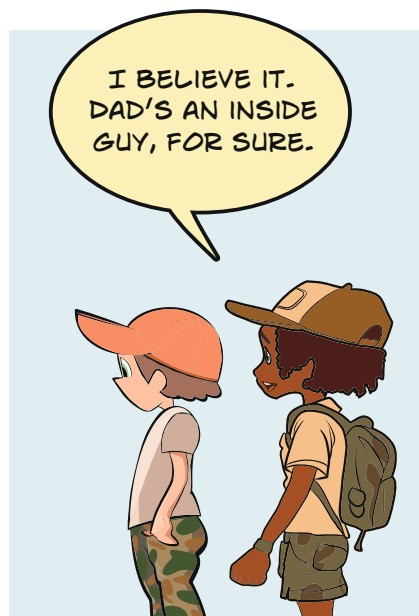
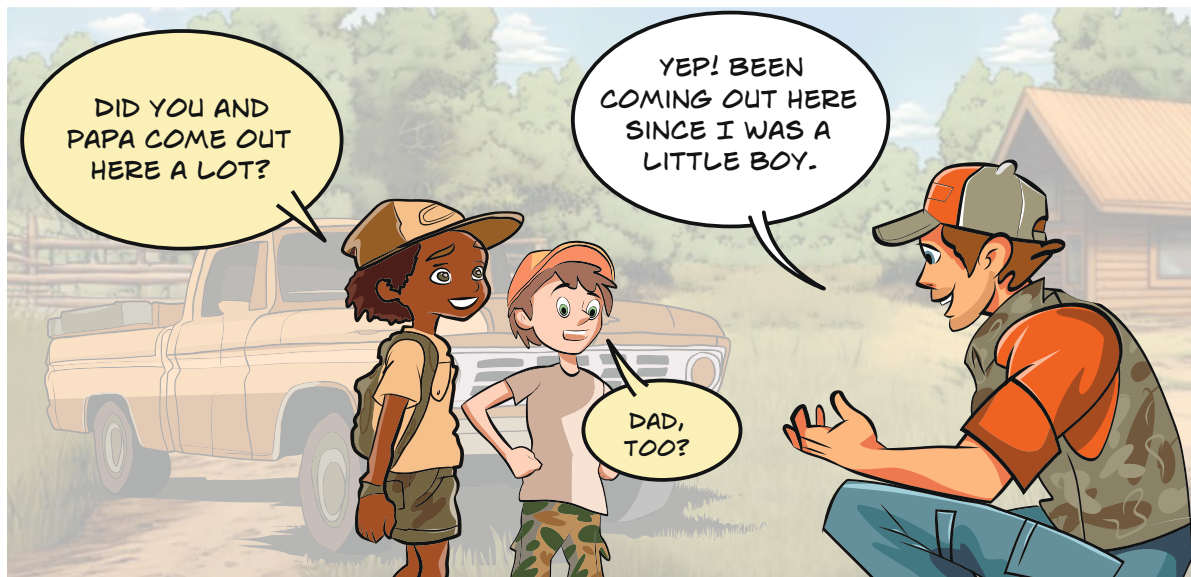
Safe Hunting

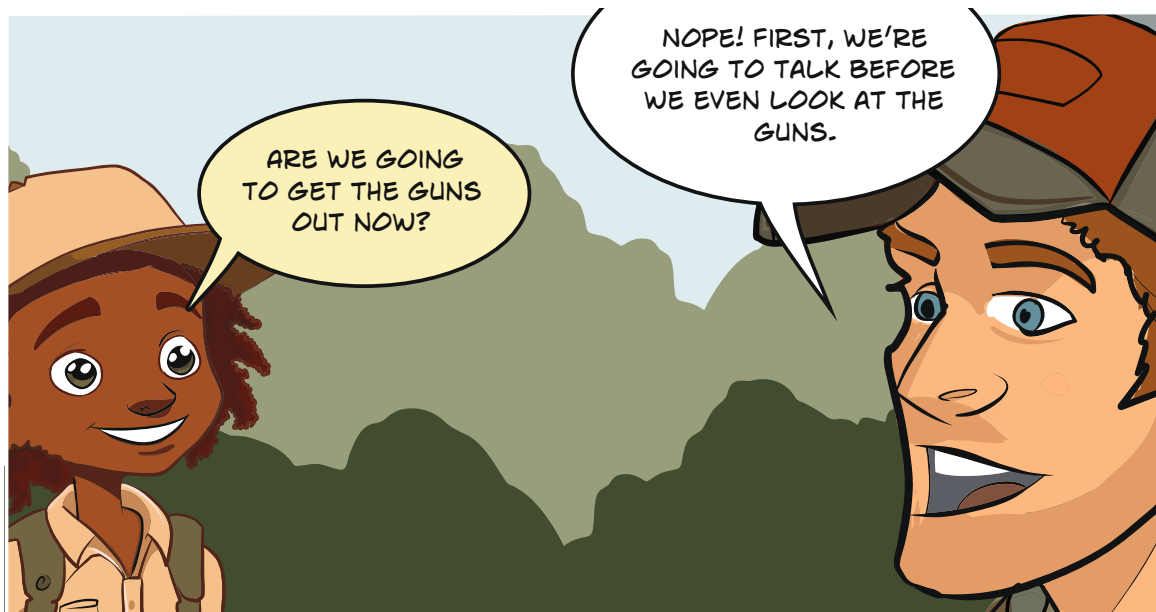
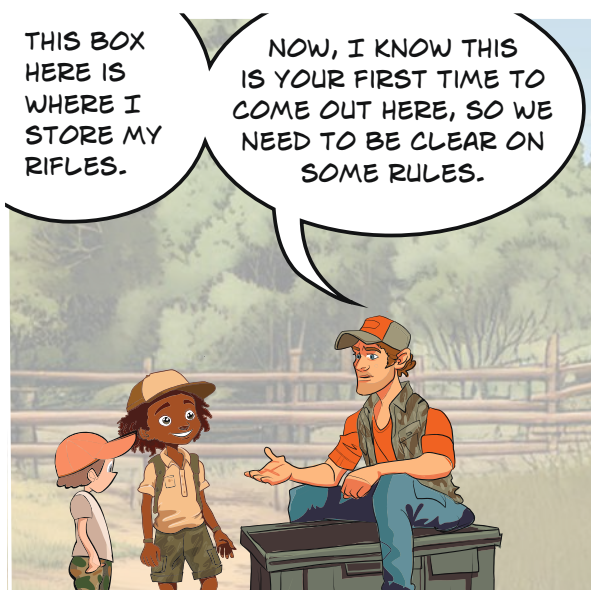
ALRIGHT BOYS,
THIS IS
THE PLACE!

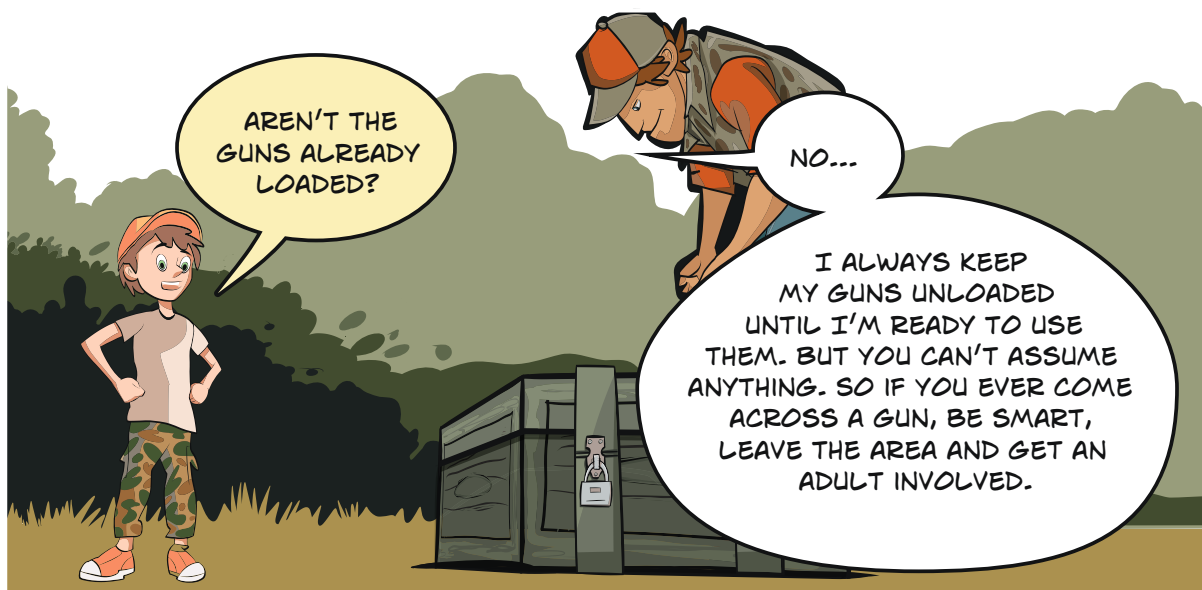
WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

THIS IS SO
COOL UNCLE
CAM.

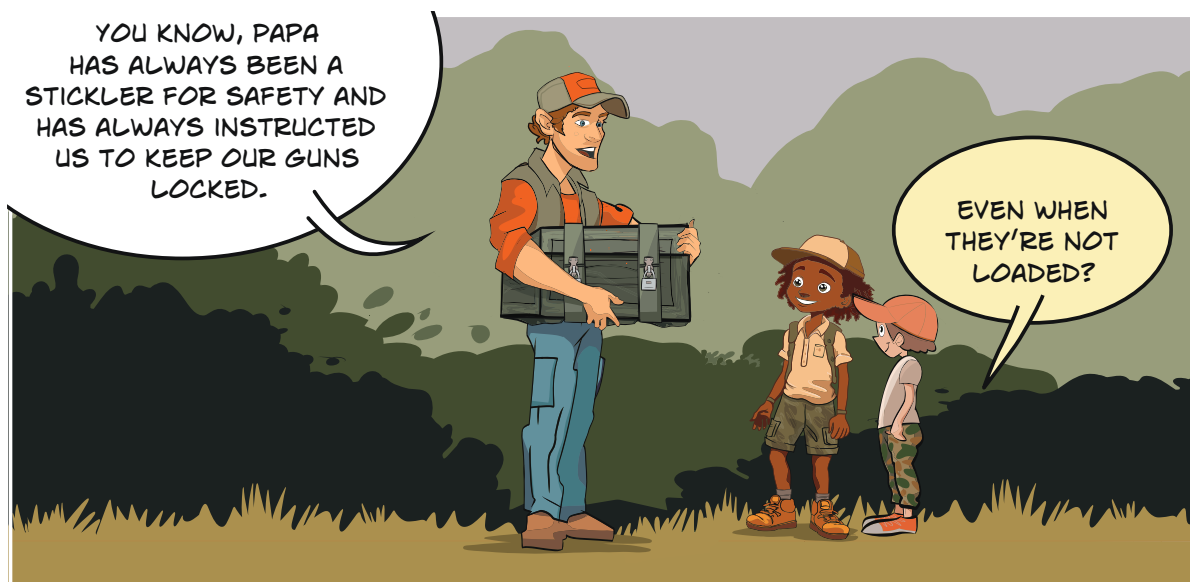
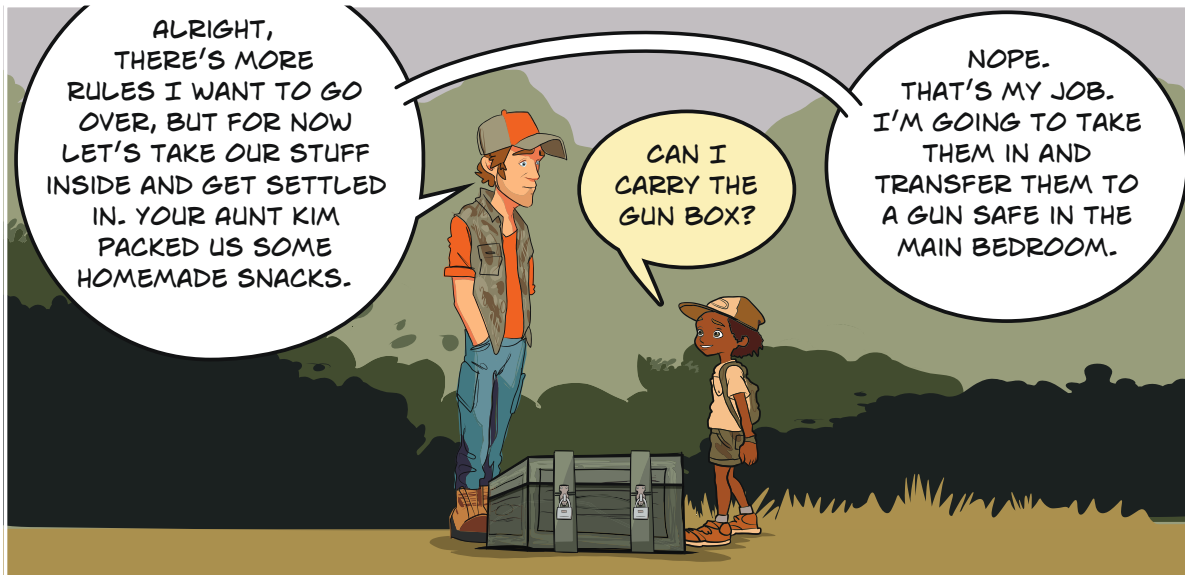












Leave the GUNS for Games

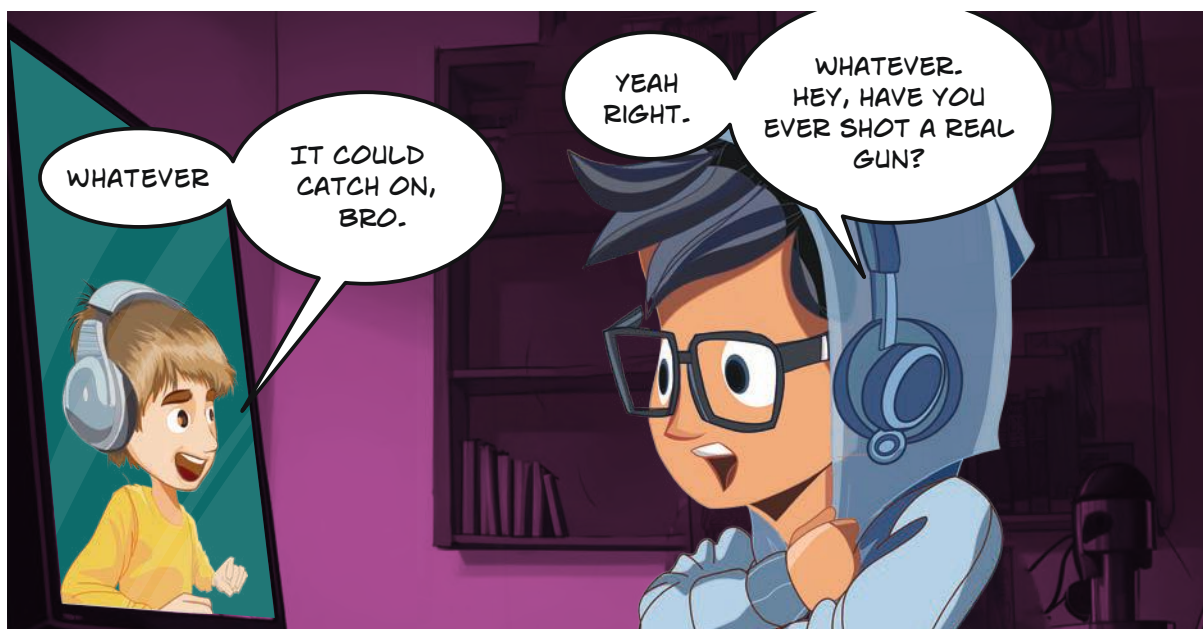
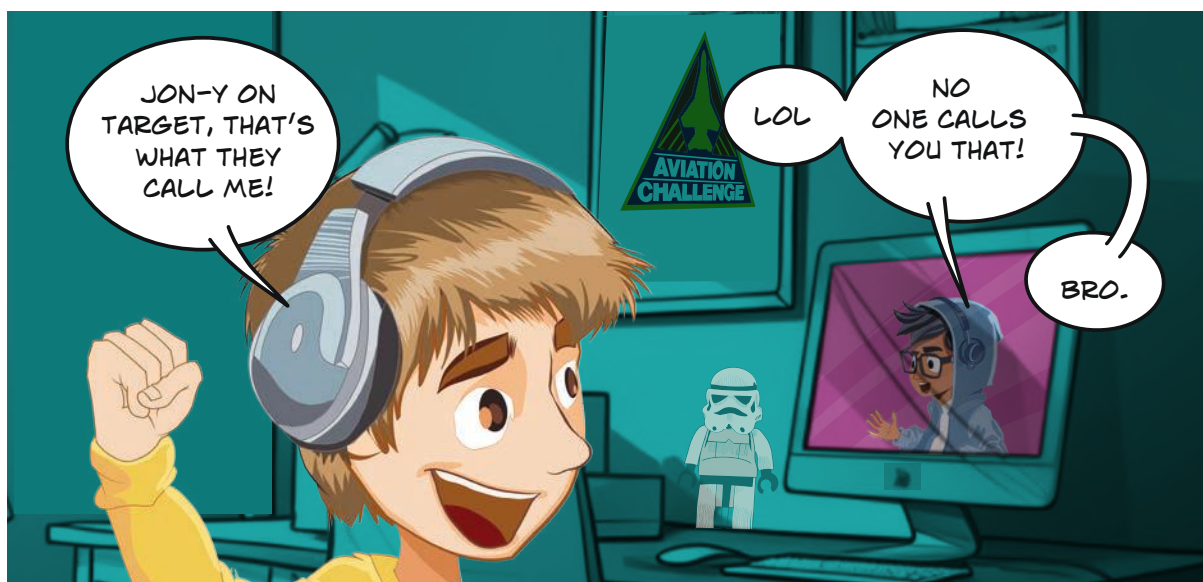
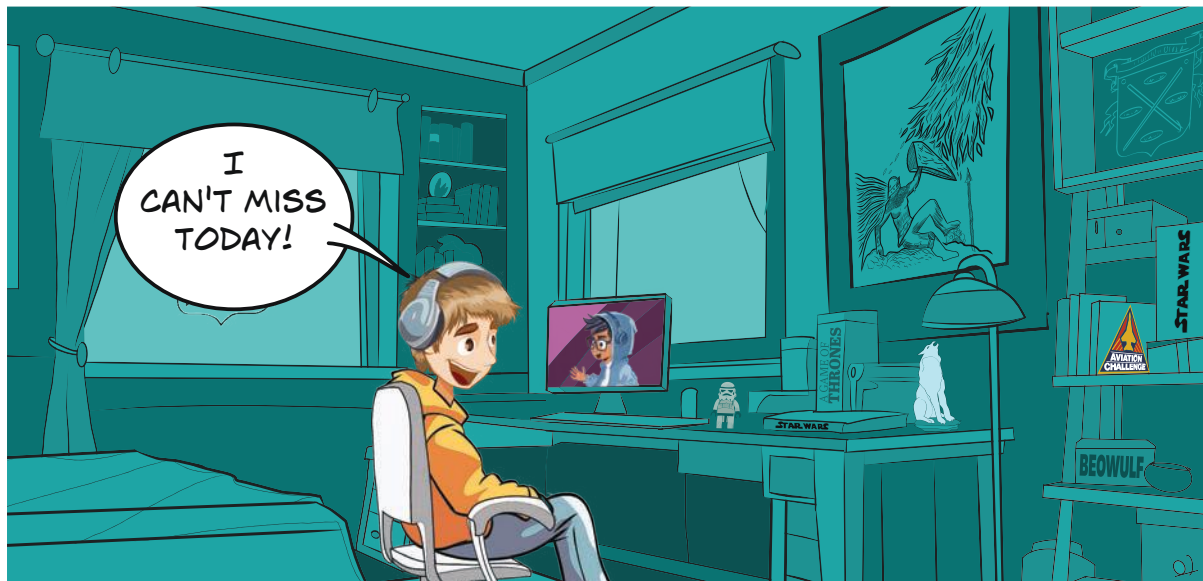
YES!

GOT
'EM!!

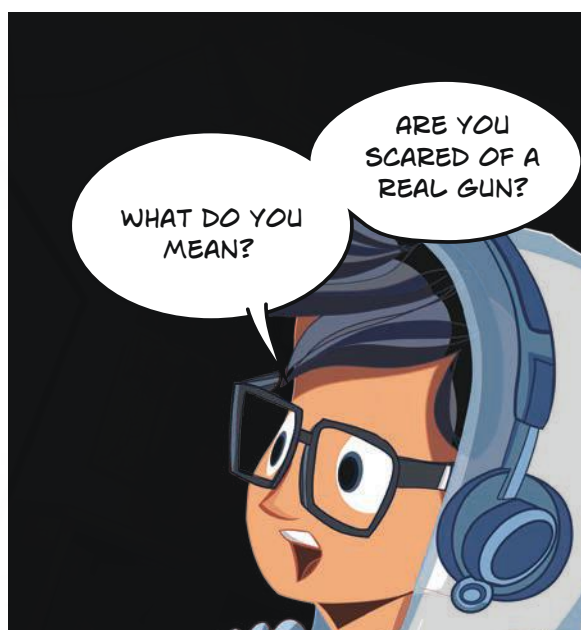
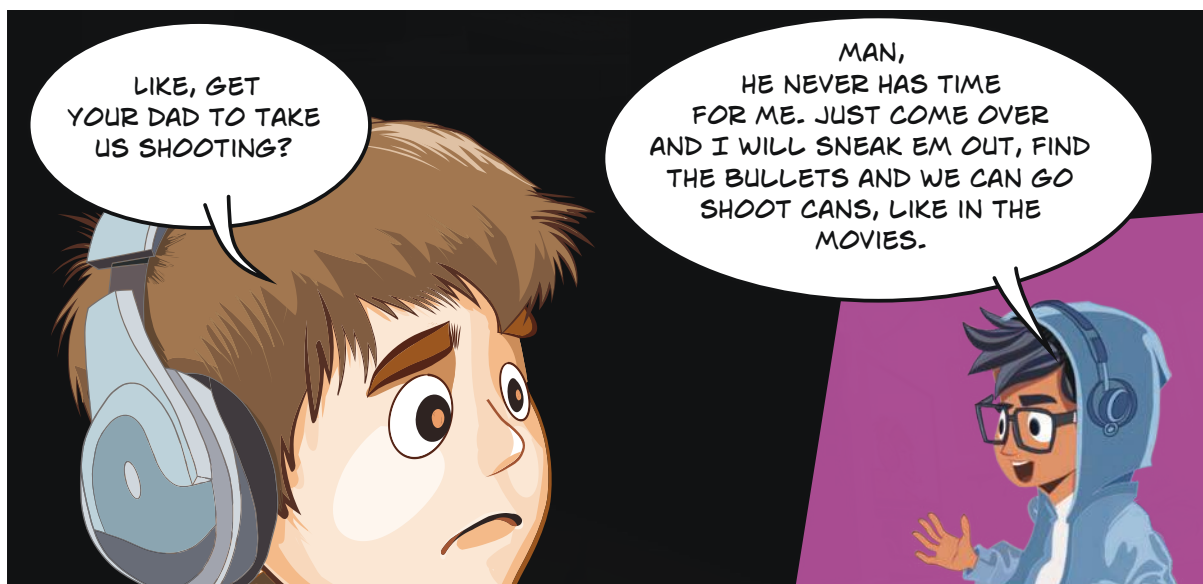
WHO'S GETTING
IT NEXT?

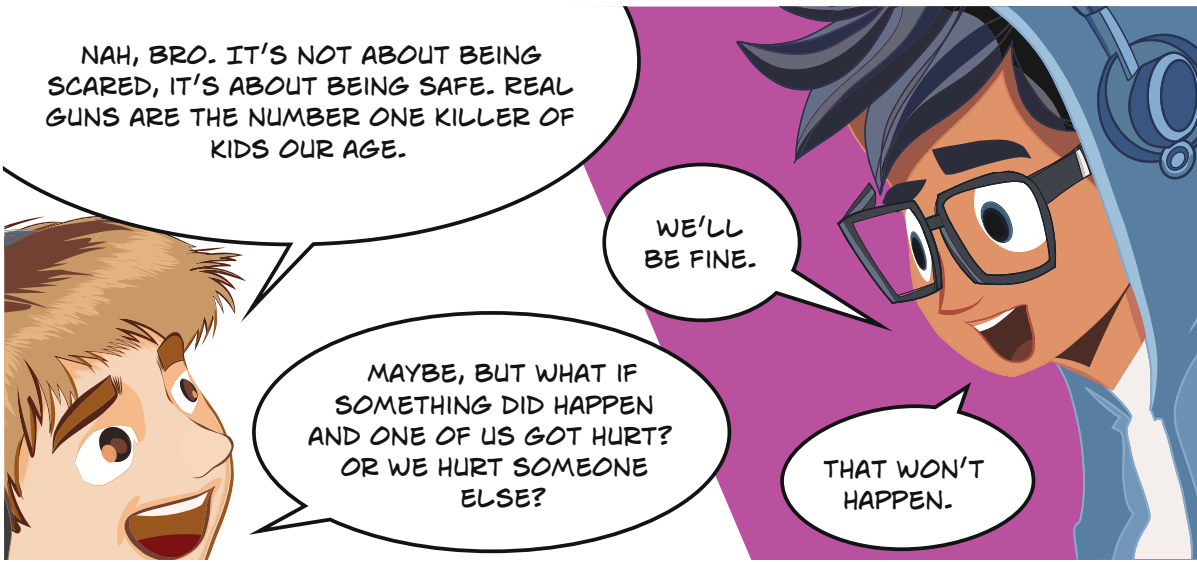
OH YEAH!











NAH, BRO. IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING SCARED, IT'S ABOUT BEING SAFE. REAL GUNS ARE THE NUMBER ONE KILLER OF KIDS OUR AGE.

WE'LL BE FINE.

MAYBE, BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING DID HAPPEN AND ONE OF US GOT HURT? OR WE HURT SOMEONE ELSE?

THAT WON'T HAPPEN.



YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT. AND I'M NOT GOING TO RISK IT.



SO YOU'RE GONNA LIVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE SCARED? YOU'RE SO BRAVE IN THE GAME!

YEAH BRO IT'S A GAME. THOSE GUNS CAN'T HURT ANYONE WHO IS ACTUALLY REAL. AND IF WE GOT CAUGHT, MY MOM WOULD KILL ME AND NEVER LET ME HANG OUT WITH YOU AGAIN.



I GUESS I'LL
FIND SOMEONE ELSE
TO PRACTICE SHOOTING
WITH ME.



YEAH, HOW
ABOUT YOUR DAD?
YOU NEED TO BE SAFE
WITH REAL GUNS.



FINE. I'LL WAIT
UNTIL MY DAD CAN
TAKE ME.



COOL. MAYBE I CAN
COME TOO SOMEDAY. WHEN
YOUR DAD IS READY TO
TAKE US.

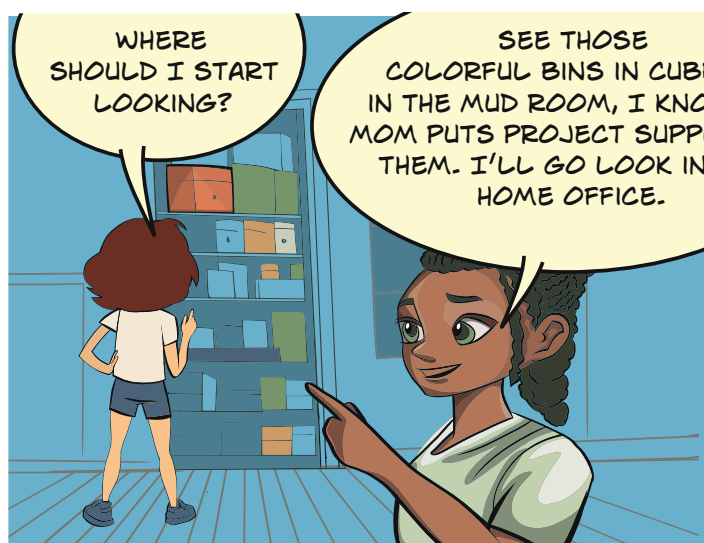
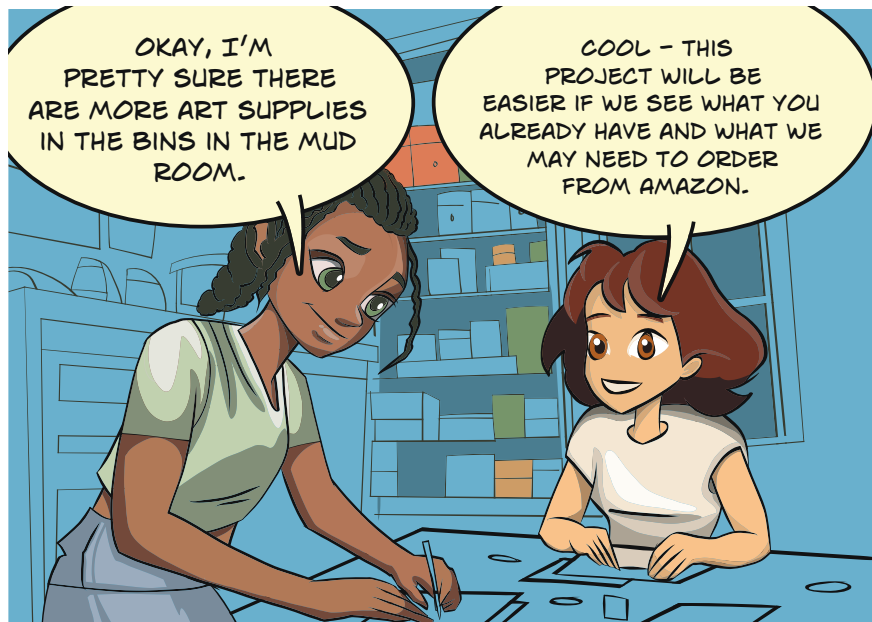


NICE. I'LL ASK
HIM ABOUT IT.
C'MON, LET'S DROP IN
SOMEWHERE HOT!

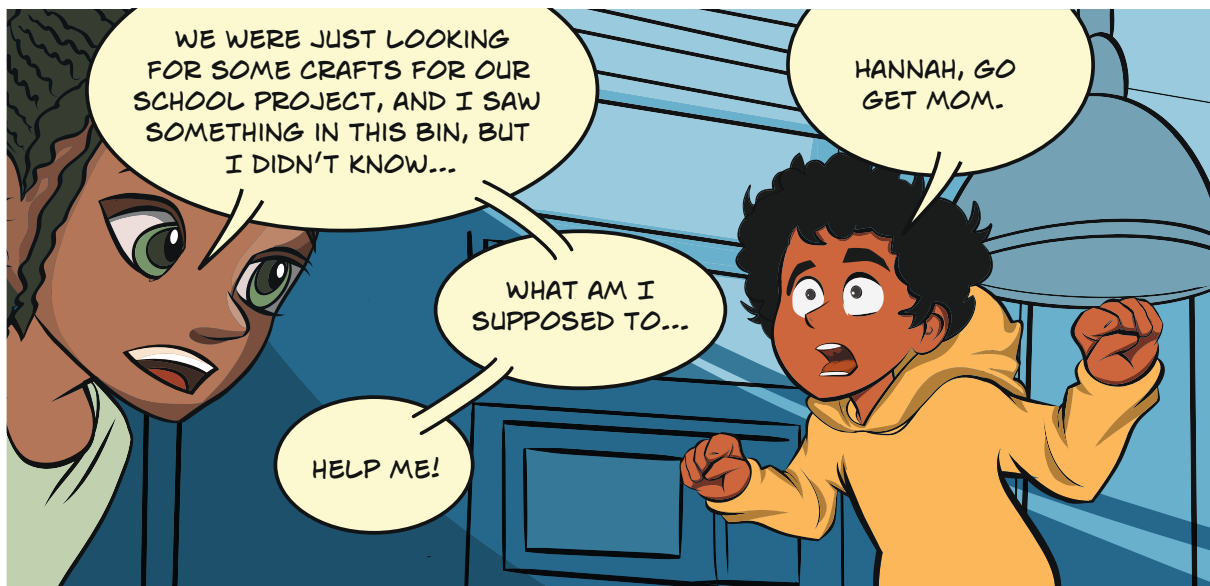


The Discovery

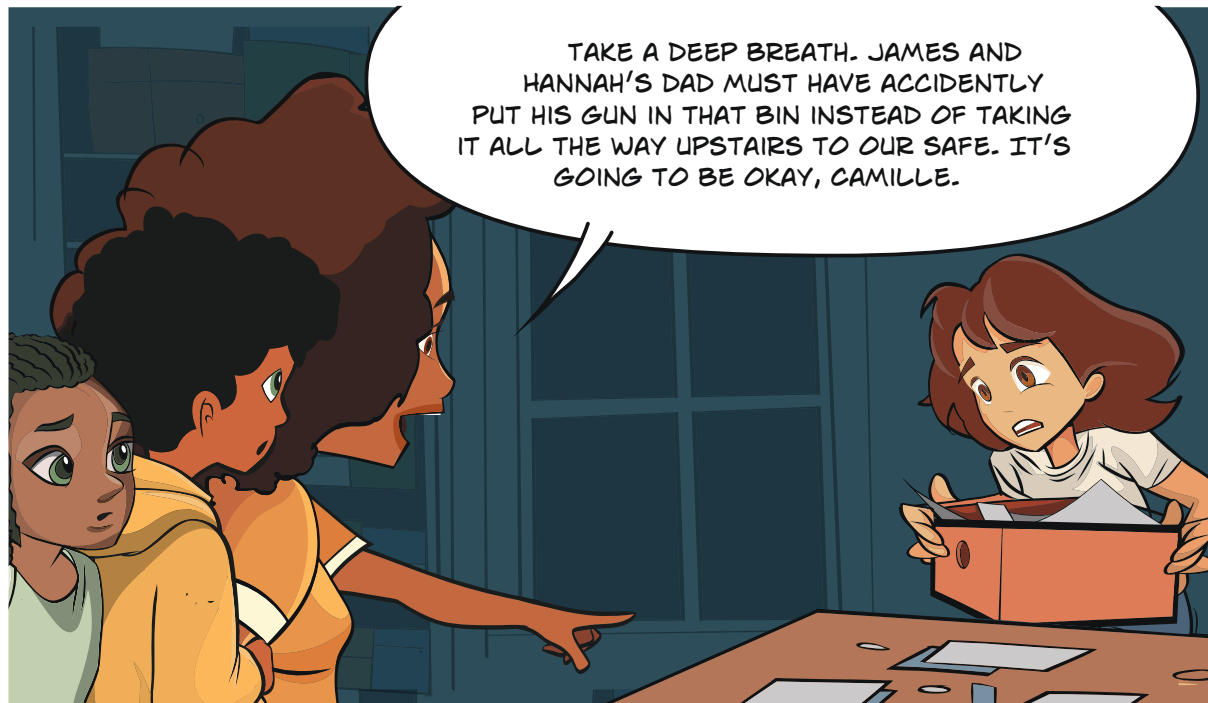


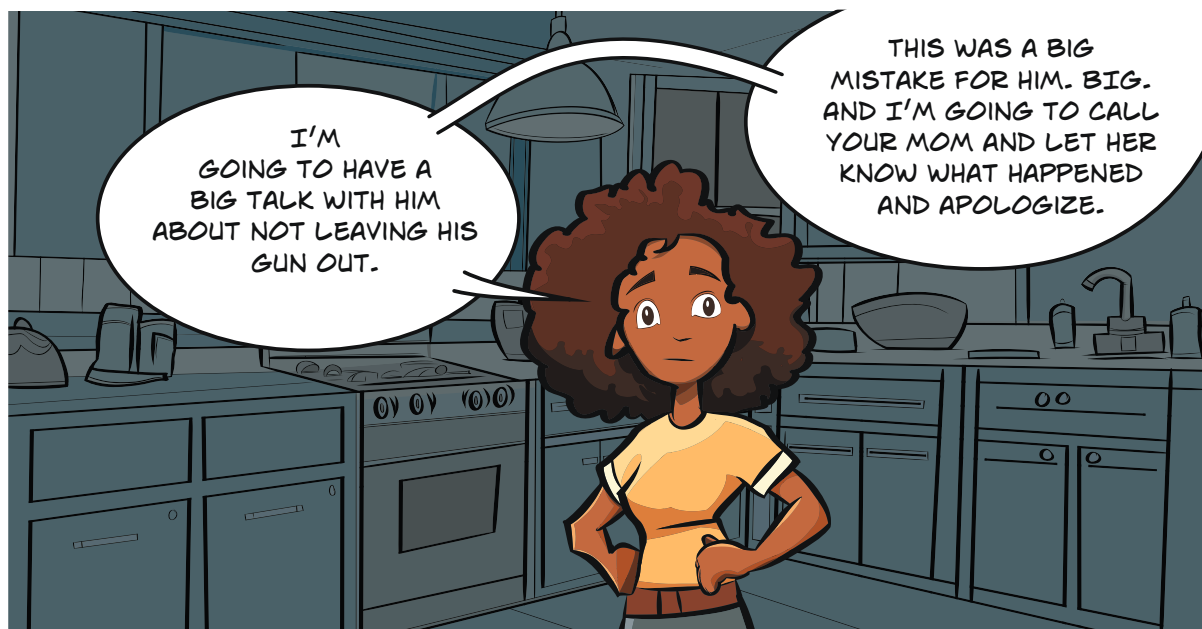
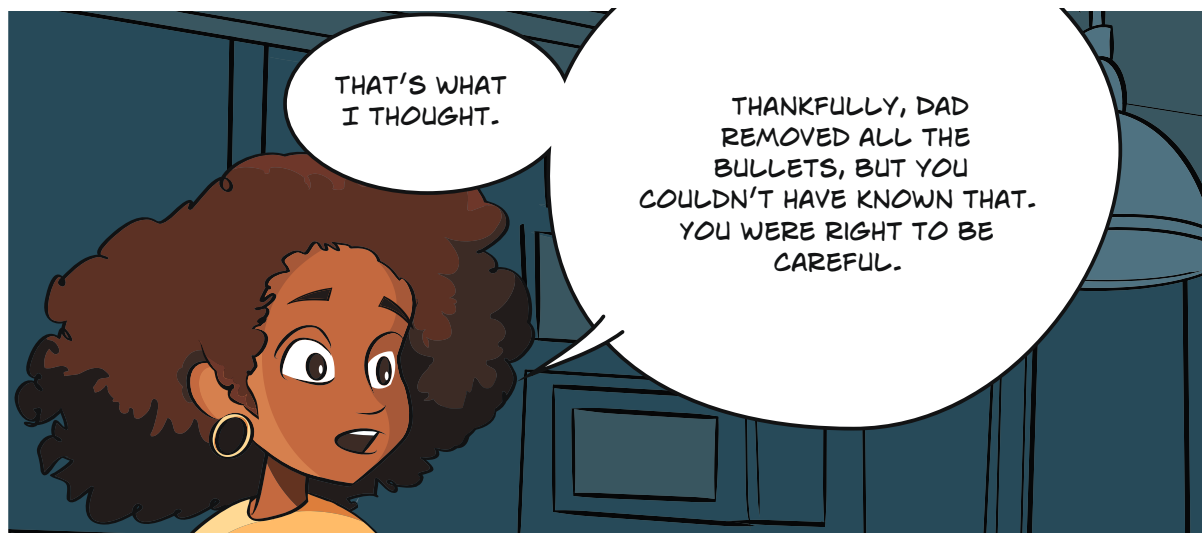


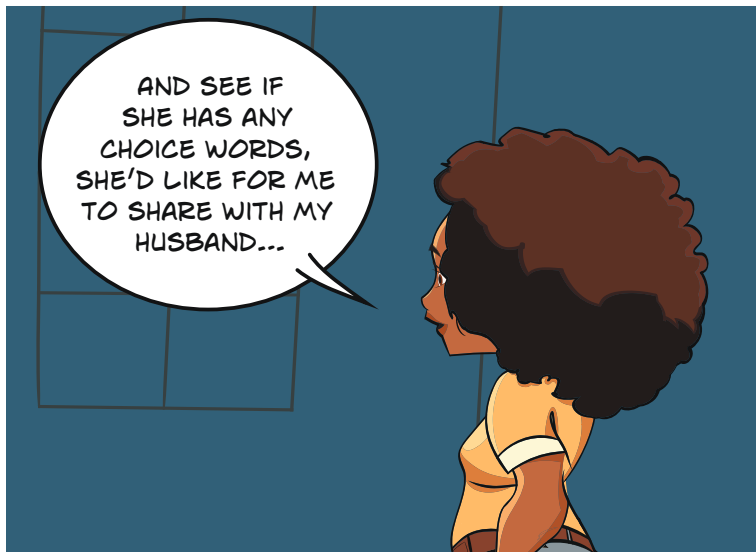




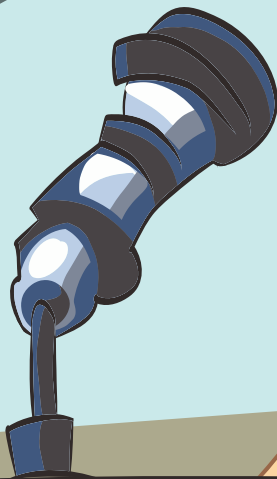


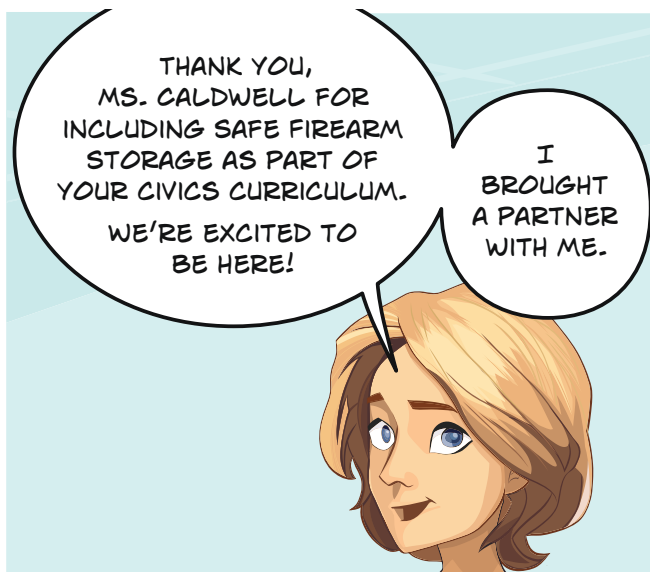
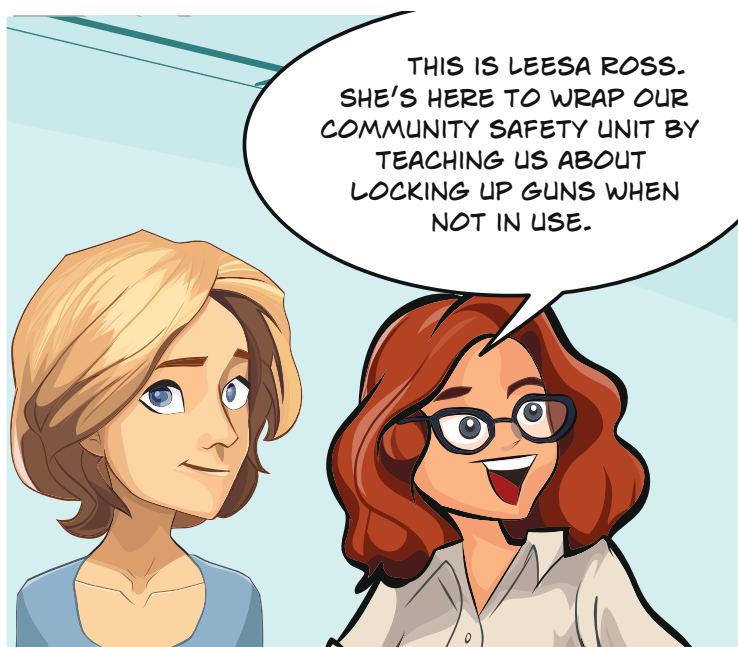
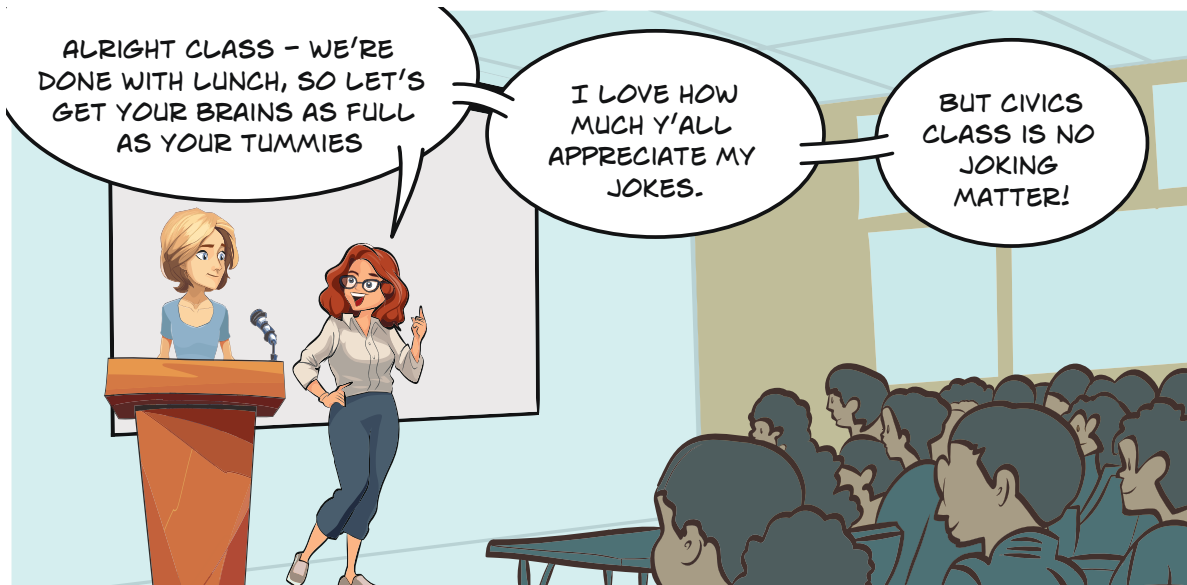






***Get
Active***





THIS IS
LOUIS.

HE'S A RETIRED POLICE
OFFICER AND A RETIRED SCHOOL
TEACHER. HE VOLUNTEERS WITH
LOCK ARMS FOR LIFE TO EDUCATE
ABOUT SAFETY.

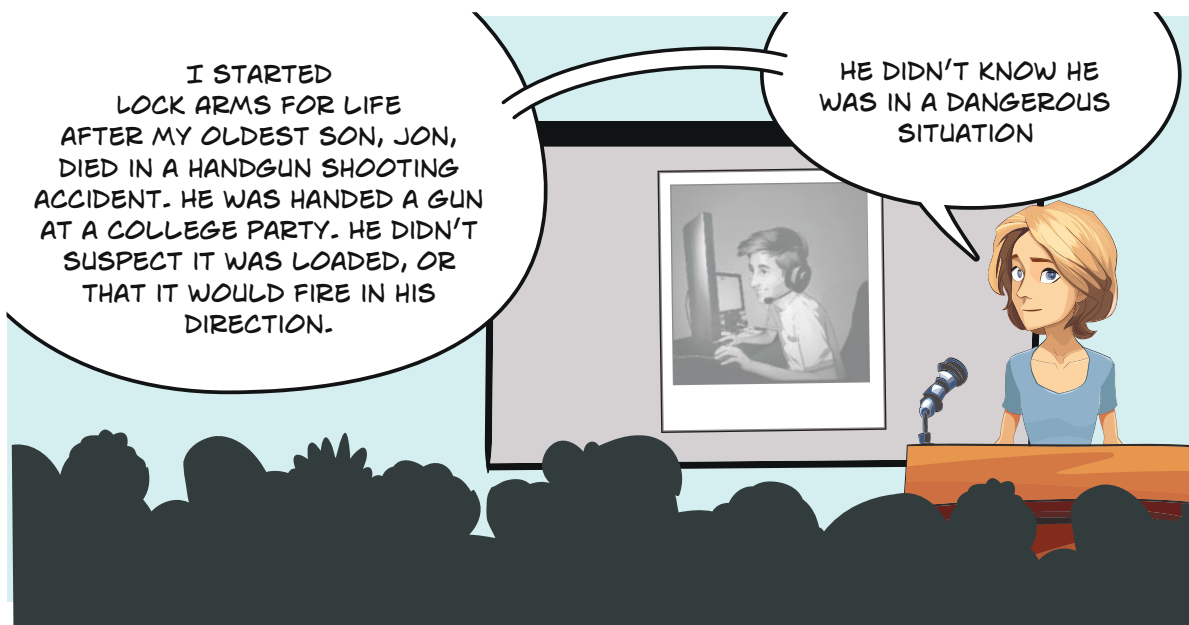


HE'LL HELP
ANSWER YOUR
QUESTIONS - AND
CLICK THE SLIDES!

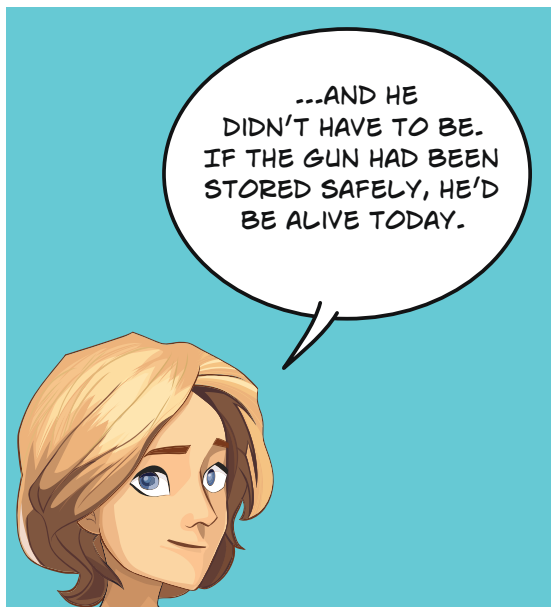


I STARTED
LOCK ARMS FOR LIFE
AFTER MY OLDEST SON, JON,
DIED IN A HANDGUN SHOOTING
ACCIDENT. HE WAS HANDED A GUN
AT A COLLEGE PARTY. HE DIDN'T
SUSPECT IT WAS LOADED, OR
THAT IT WOULD FIRE IN HIS
DIRECTION.

HE DIDN'T KNOW HE
WAS IN A DANGEROUS
SITUATION



...AND HE
DIDN'T HAVE TO BE.
IF THE GUN HAD BEEN
STORED SAFELY, HE'D
BE ALIVE TODAY.



AFTER MY DEEPEST
SADNESS PASSED, I LOOKED FOR WAYS
TO PROTECT KIDS, TEENS, AND YOU
ADULTS FROM GUN TRAGEDIES. THAT'S
WHY I TEACH PEOPLE TO

GET ACTIVE

FOR SAFE GUN STORAGE AND
HANDLING.



GET
ACTIVE
MEANS:

A - ALWAYS SECURE
GUNS IN HOMES
AND VEHICLES

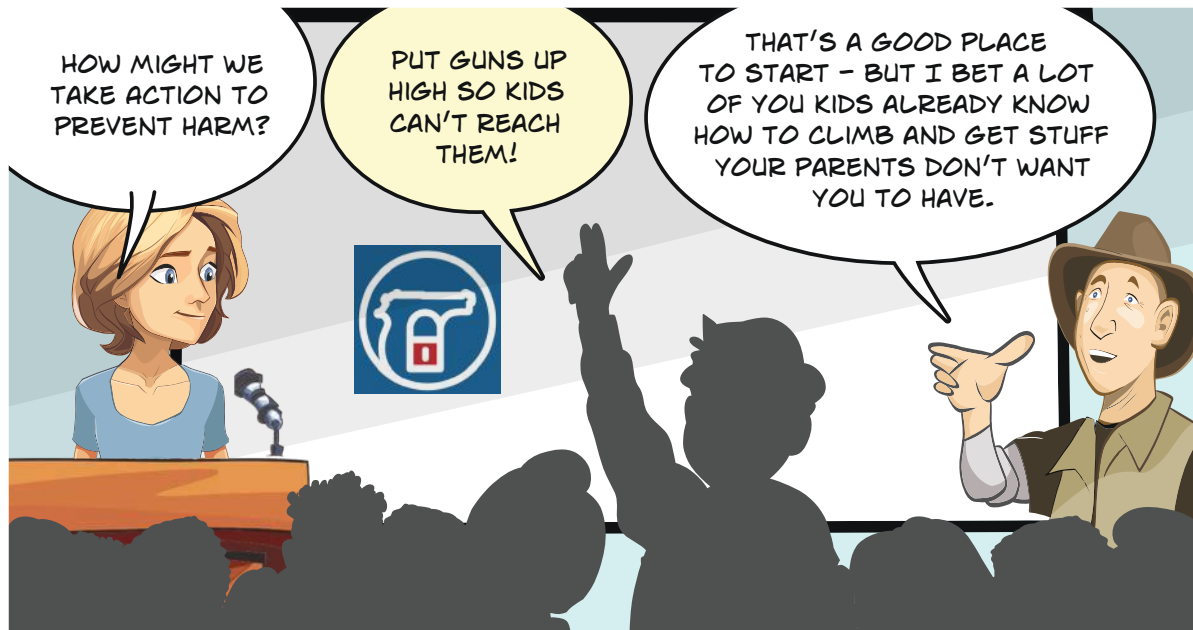
C - CULTIVATE
RESPONSIBLE
BEHAVIOR

T - TAKE STEPS TO
PREVENT HARM

I - INQUIRE ABOUT
UNSECURED GUNS IN
OTHERS' HOMES

V - VOICE YOUR
CONCERNS ABOUT
GUN SAFETY

E - EDUCATE YOUR
PEERS ABOUT
GETTING ACTIVE



HOW MIGHT WE TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT HARM?

PUT GUNS UP HIGH SO KIDS CAN'T REACH THEM!

THAT'S A GOOD PLACE TO START - BUT I BET A LOT OF YOU KIDS ALREADY KNOW HOW TO CLIMB AND GET STUFF YOUR PARENTS DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE.

IF SOMEONE IS HAVING A REALLY, REALLY BAD DAY OR WANTS TO CAUSE ANOTHER PERSON HARM, WE WANT GUNS TO BE LOCKED AND UNABLE TO BE FIRED. AND LOCKED GUNS ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE STOLEN.

ALL THESE STEPS MAKE YOU MORE SAFE FROM HARM.

SO IT REALLY NEEDS A LOCK?

YES

GUNS SHOULD ALWAYS BE LOCKED WHEN NOT IN USE.



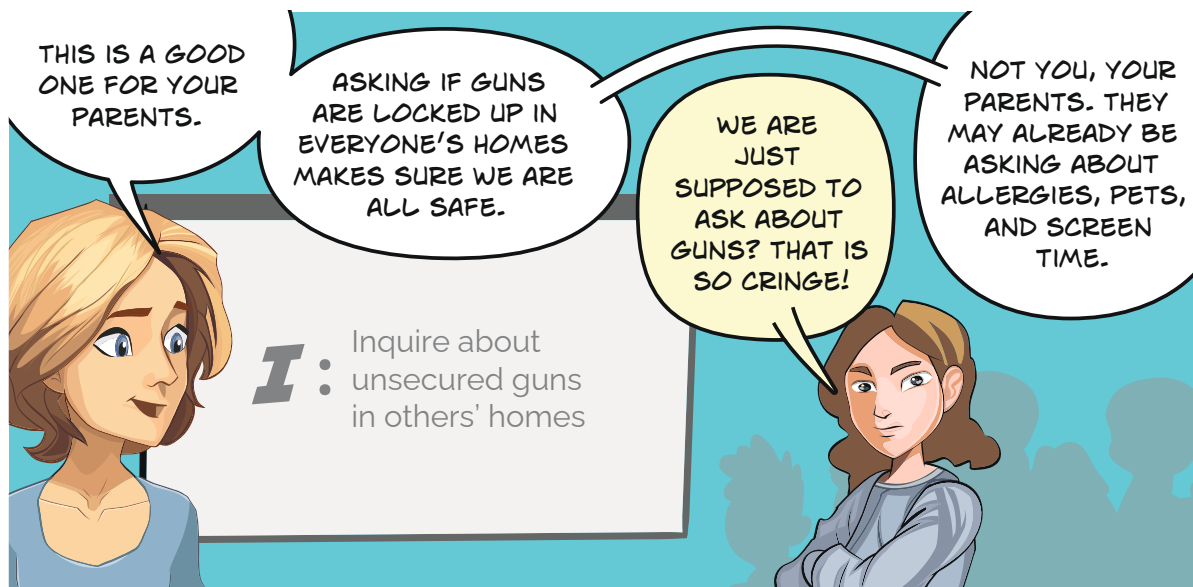
THIS IS A GOOD ONE FOR YOUR PARENTS.

ASKING IF GUNS ARE LOCKED UP IN EVERYONE'S HOMES MAKES SURE WE ARE ALL SAFE.

WE ARE JUST SUPPOSED TO ASK ABOUT GUNS? THAT IS SO CRINGE!

NOT YOU, YOUR PARENTS. THEY MAY ALREADY BE ASKING ABOUT ALLERGIES, PETS, AND SCREEN TIME.

I: Inquire about unsecured guns in others' homes



AS A POLICE OFFICER AND A TEACHER, MY JOB WAS TO SAY SOMETHING WHEN I SAW SOMETHING THAT COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR KIDS.

THAT'S WHAT WE MEAN BY VOICE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT GUN SAFETY - WE DON'T WANT TO WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU SAW SOMEONE WAS ABOUT TO STEP IN A HOLE?

YELL STOP!

EXACTLY! WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY AROUND GUNS, YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF AND TO YOUR FRIENDS TO SPEAK UP FOR SAFETY.



I CAN TELL Y'ALL ARE READY TO EDUCATE YOUR PEERS ABOUT GUN SAFETY.

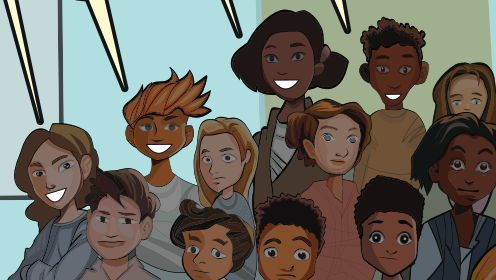
STOP

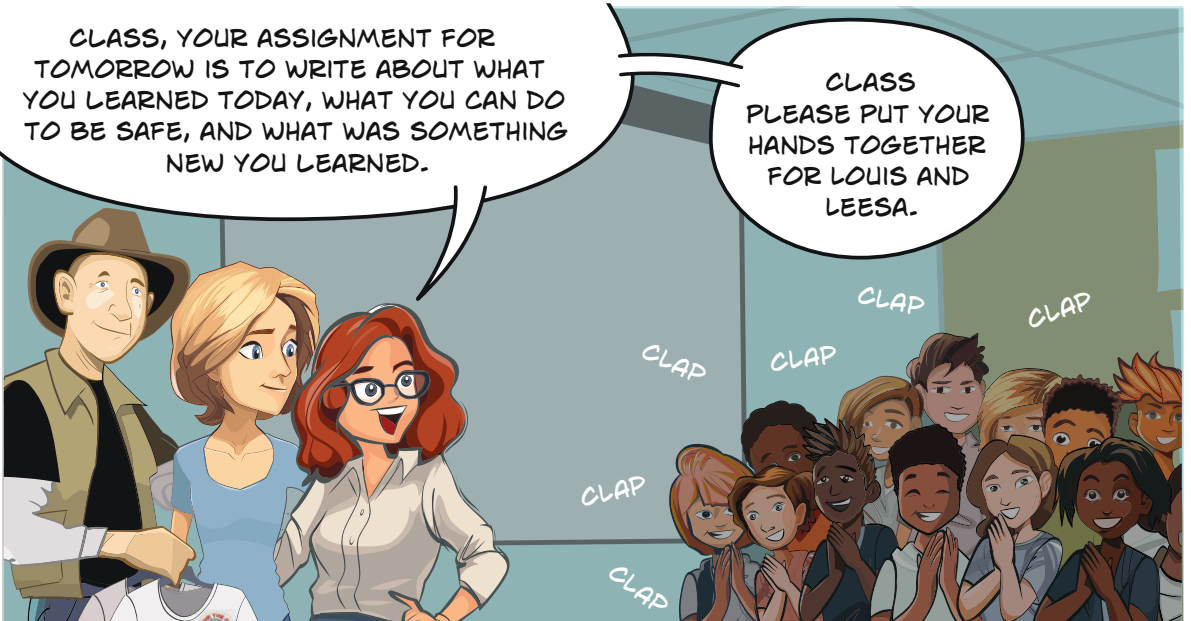
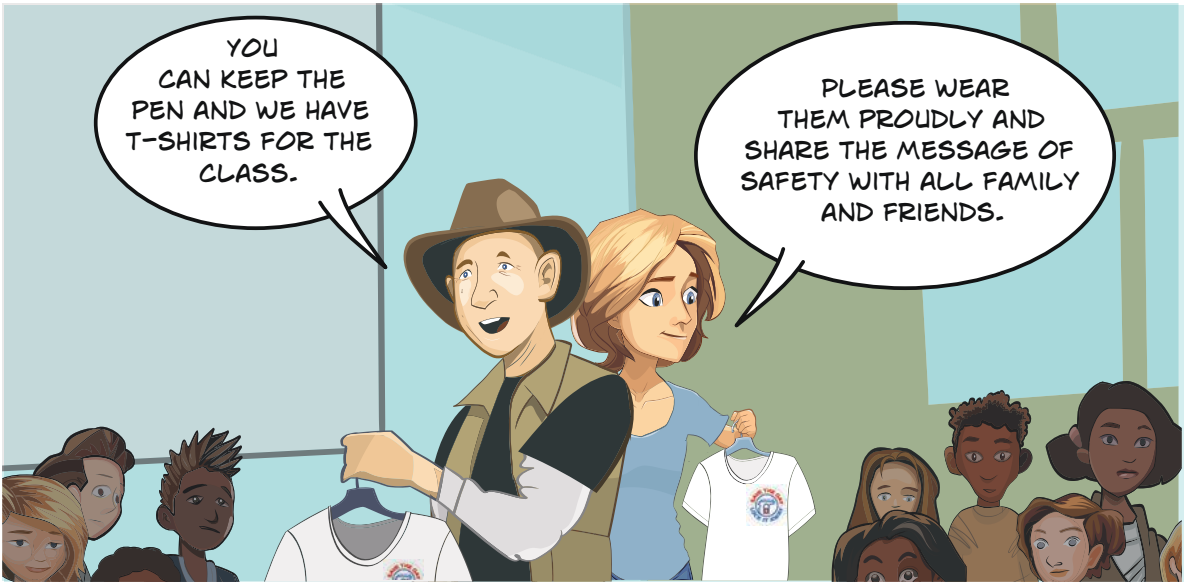
DON'T TOUCH IT

LEAVE THE AREA

TELL A GROWN UP

If you see a gun:
Stop! Don't touch it,
leave the area and
tell a grown up.







GET **ACTIVE** For Firearm Safety

Let's have a dialogue about firearm safety

Pledge of Responsibility for Safety:

- ☐ I won't touch a gun unless an adult is with me.
- ☐ If I find a gun by myself, I won't go near it and will tell an adult.
- ☐ If I notice a gun, I will make sure to find a grown-up and tell them right away.
- ☐ I'll help my friends and family remember to store guns safely so no one gets hurt.
- ☐ I will *Lock Arms for Life* to keep everyone safe.

Name _____

Email _____

Signature _____

We can't solve the problems if we don't talk about the issues. Let's talk.



To learn more, go to: www.LockArmsForLife.org



GET
ACTIVE
FOR SAFETY.



LEARN MORE



<https://lockarmsforlife.org/save-the-day-lock-it-away/>