TRANSMISSIONS: GONE VIRAL

METRO CITY SCIENCE TEAM -ORIGIN STORY





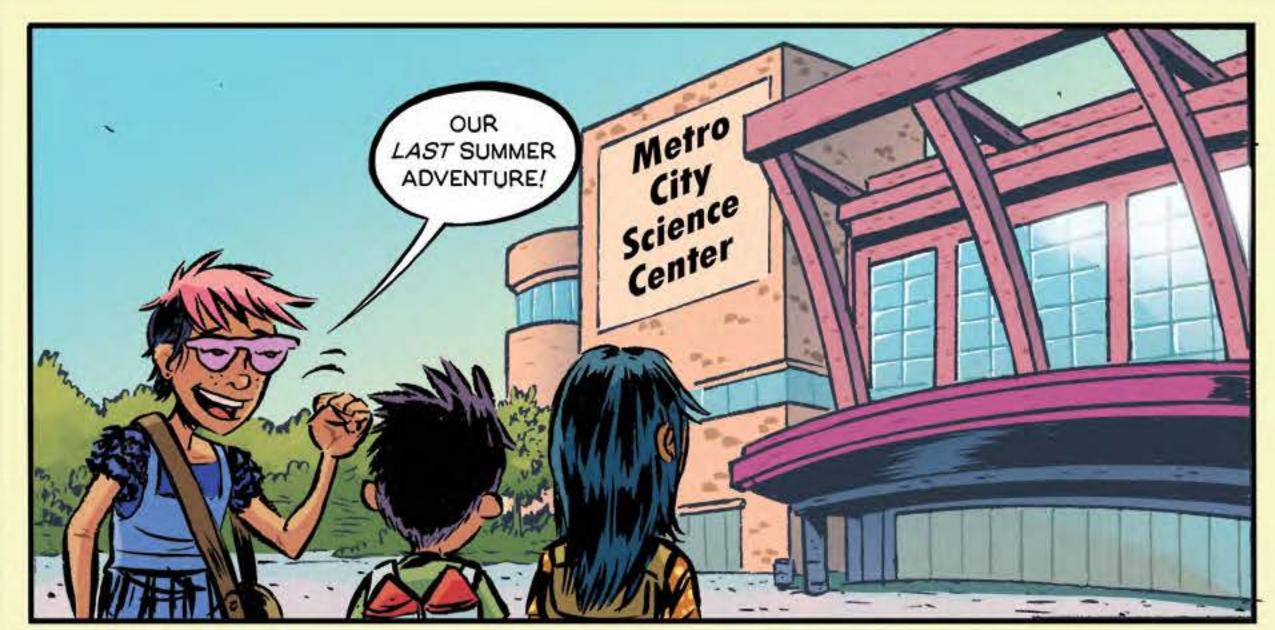






























SPECIAL TALENTS

- · Getting the facts
- Blogging
- · Overseeing Eduardo



#ALIENHUNTER

EDUARDO is obsessed with aliens, loves video games and taking care of Bruno.



WHAT IF...?

SPECIAL TALENTS

- · "What if" scenarios
- · Stumbling onto the right answers
- $\cdot \ \text{Horsing around}$



RAN is soft-spoken and thinks things through before speaking.



SPECIAL TALENTS

- · Collecting evidence
- · Organizing details
- · Using microscopes

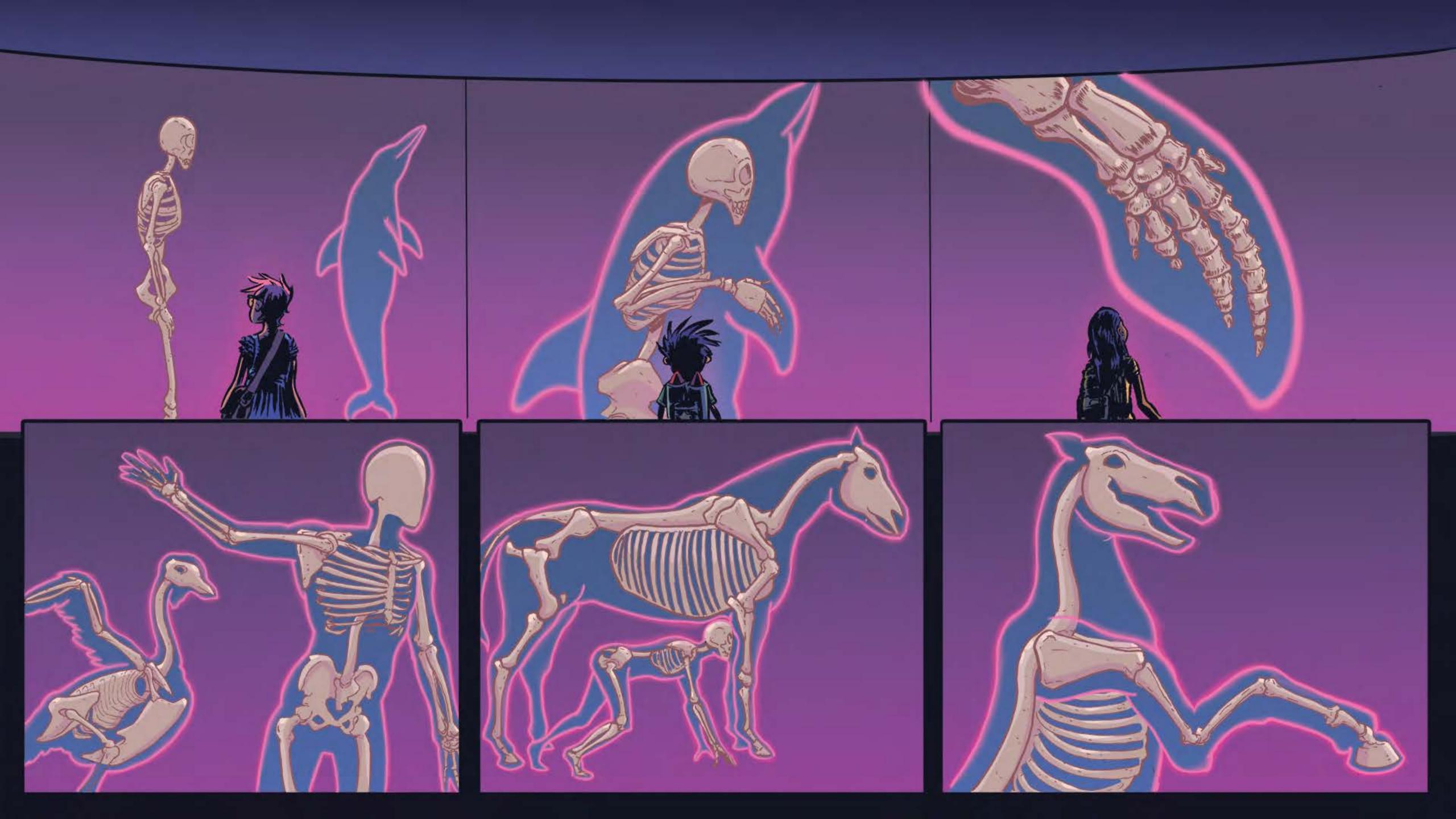






















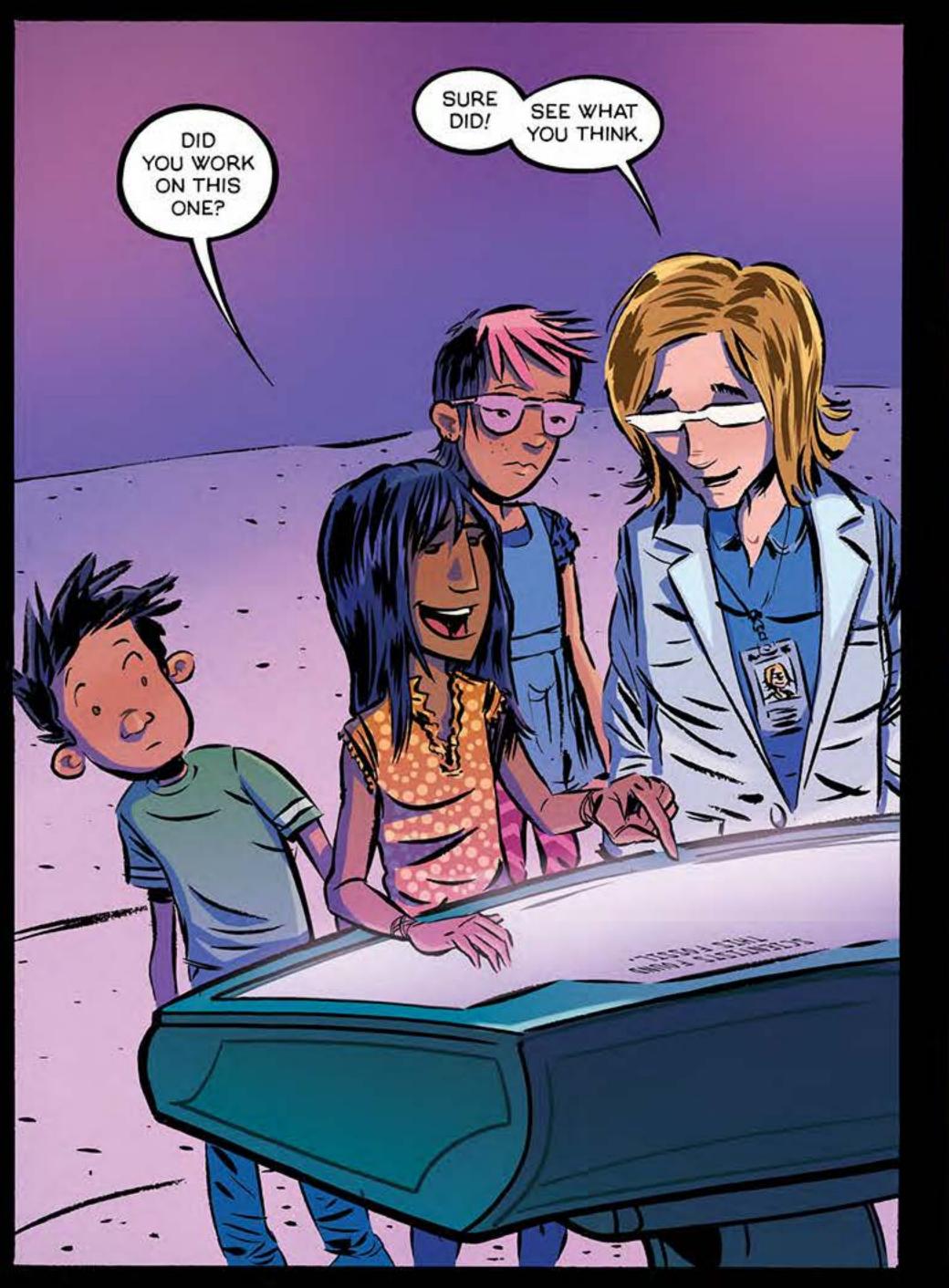


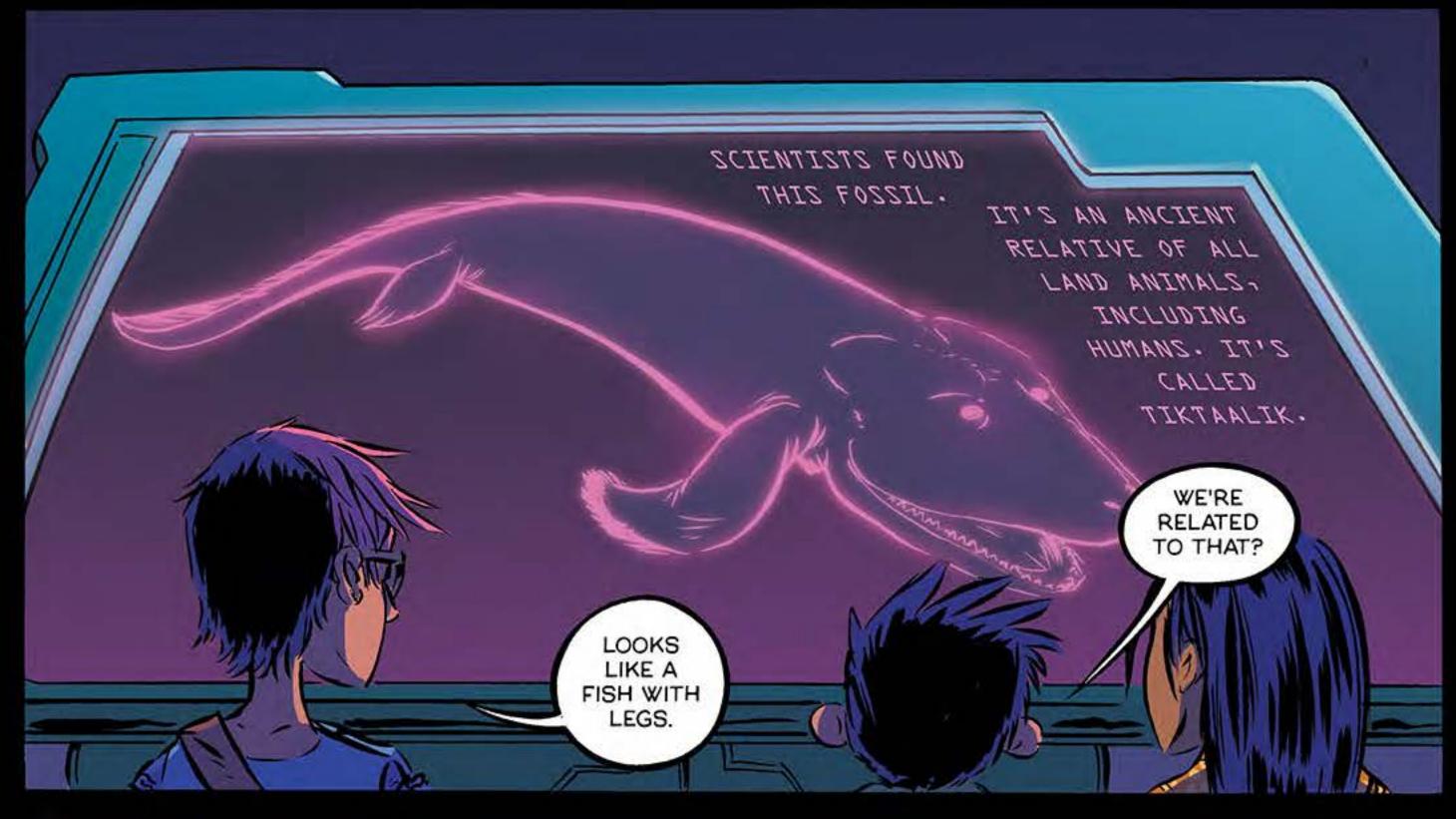


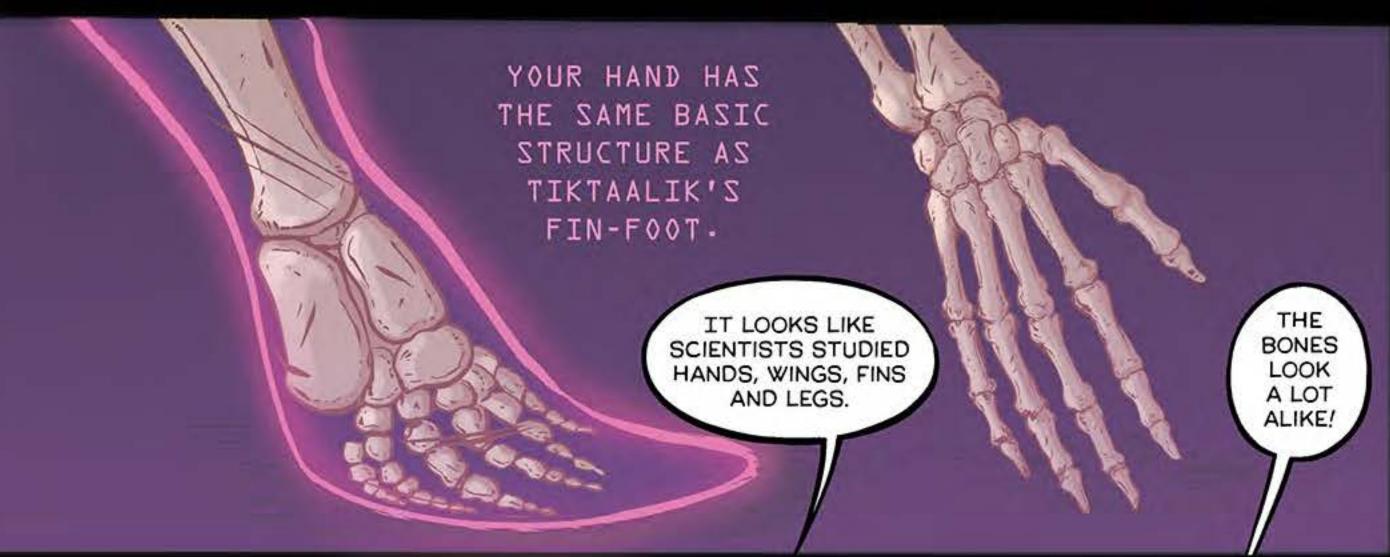






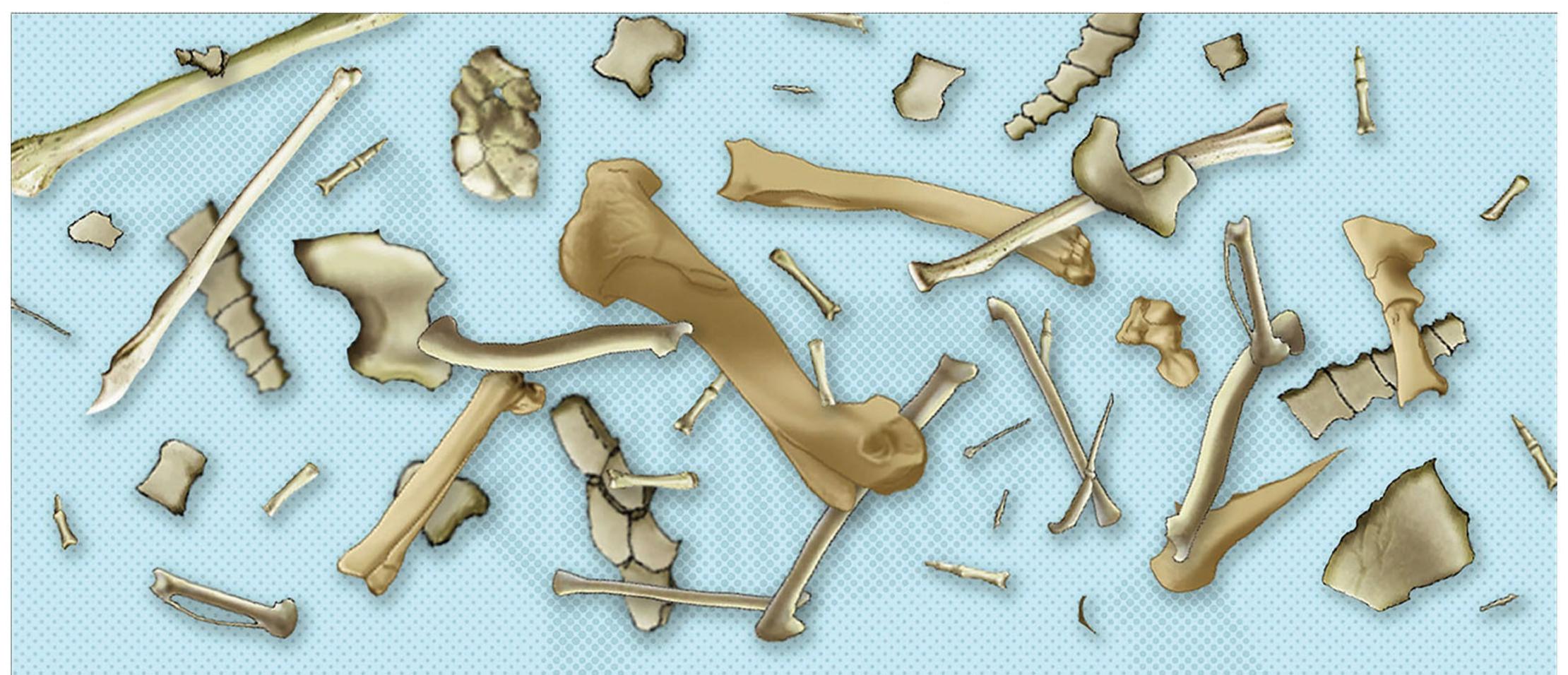




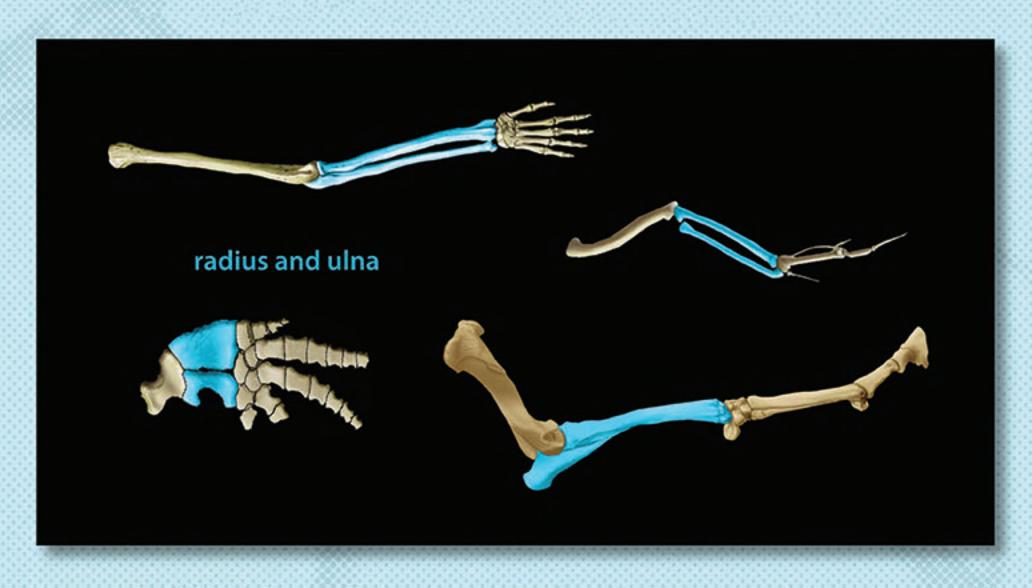




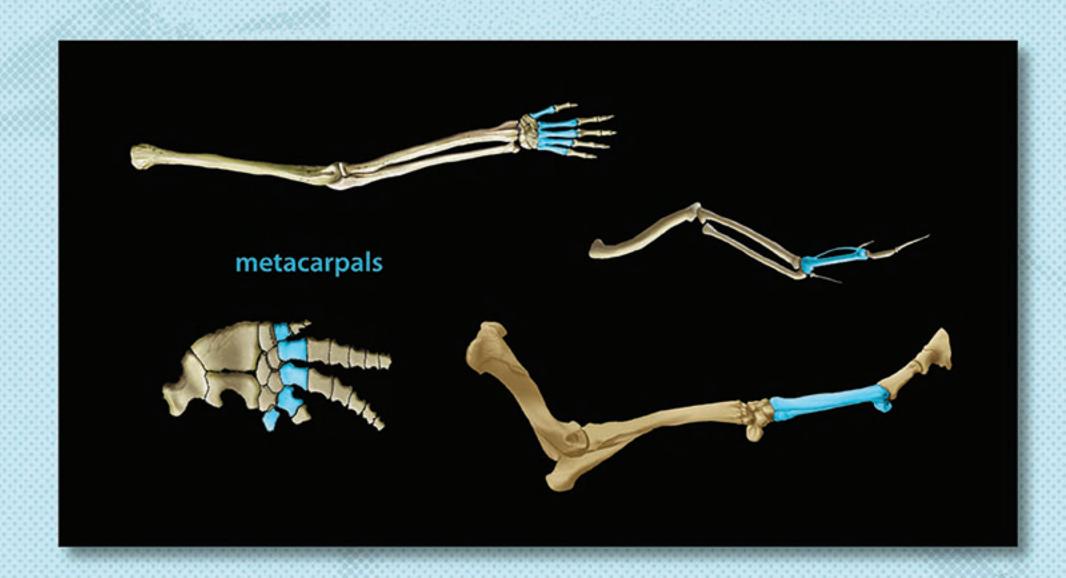
Build a Body



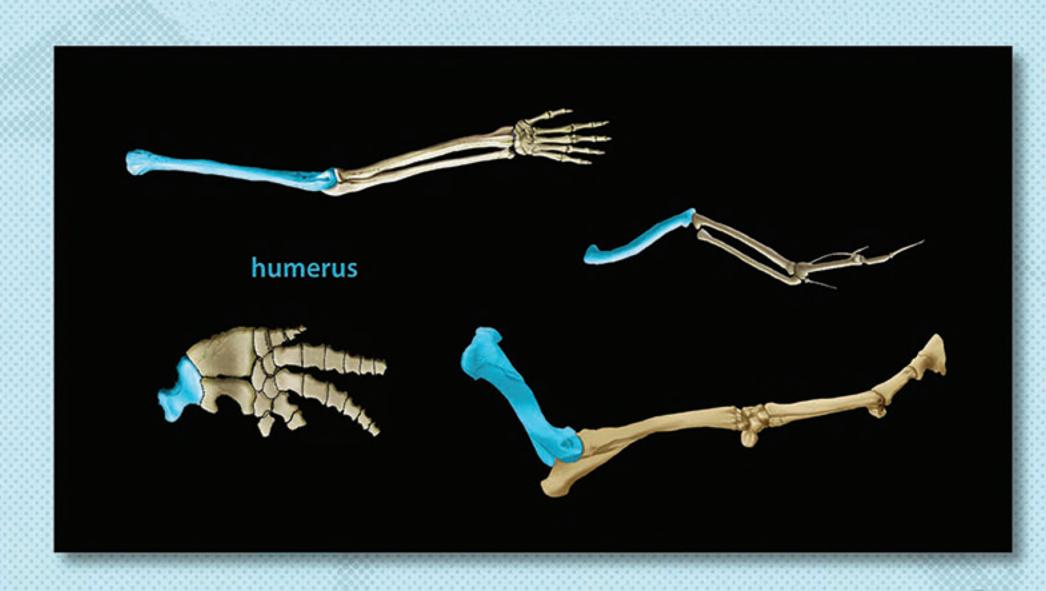
Fins, fingers and feet look different on the outside. But inside, they have many similar bones.



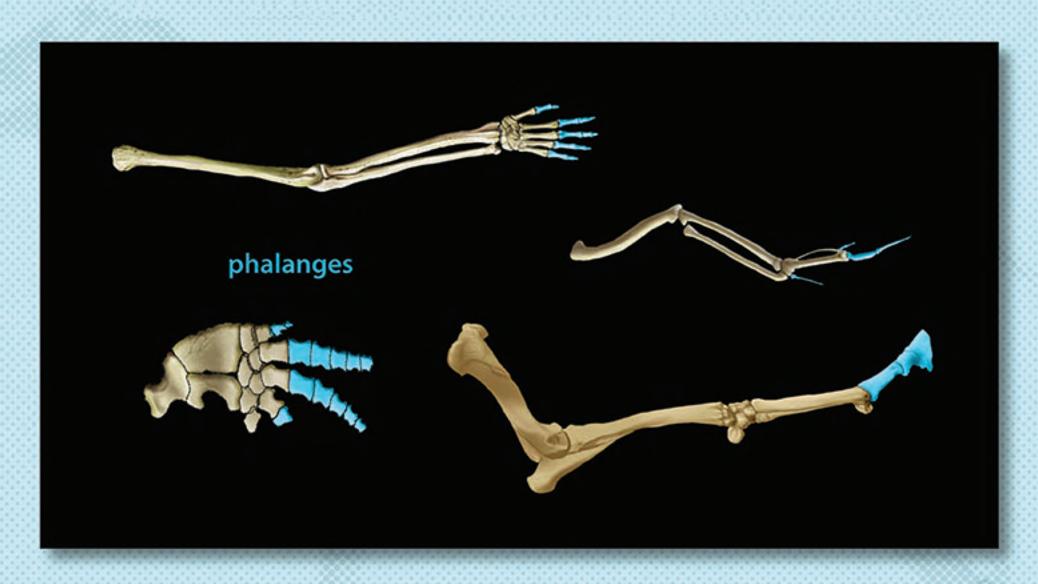
The radius and ulna bones are separate in some animals and fused together in others.



Metacarpals are in the hand, wing and fin, but also in the lower leg.



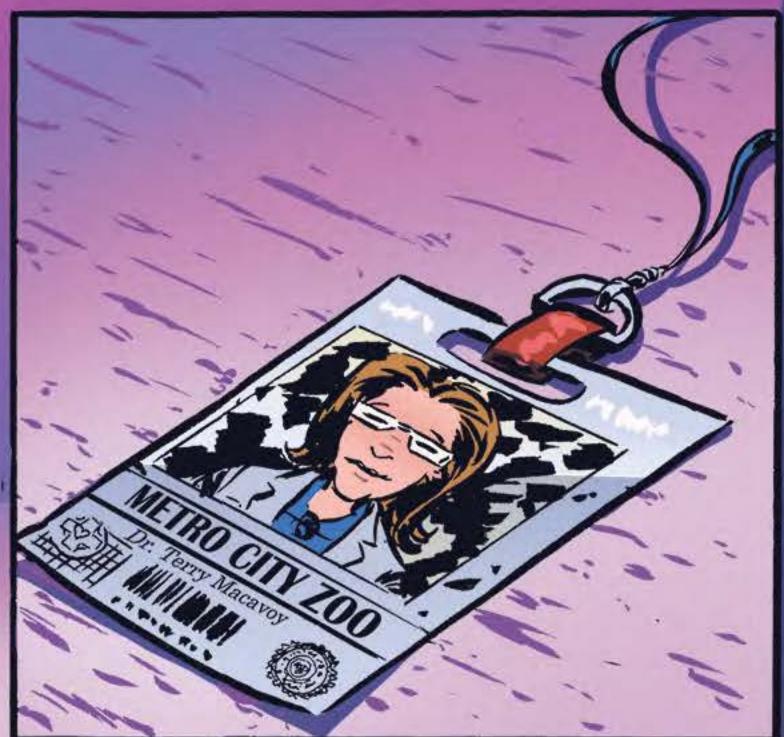
The humerus bone often ends at the elbow, if there is an elbow.



Phalanges are finger bones in hands, foot bones in hooves, and the tips of wings and fins.





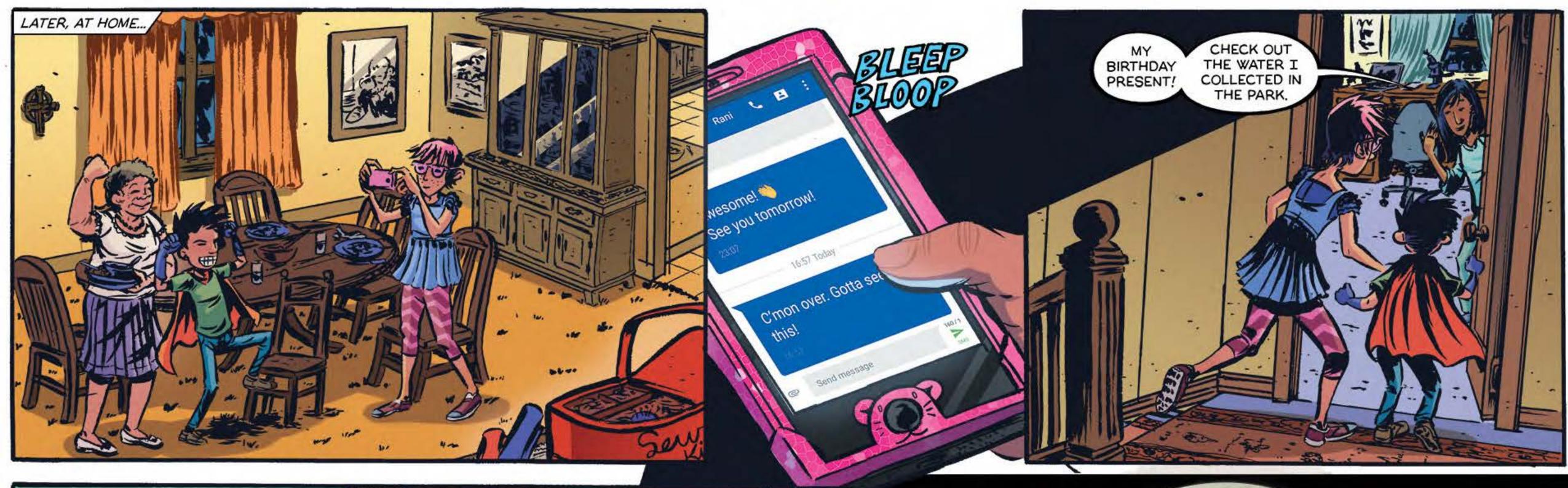












IS

THINGS?





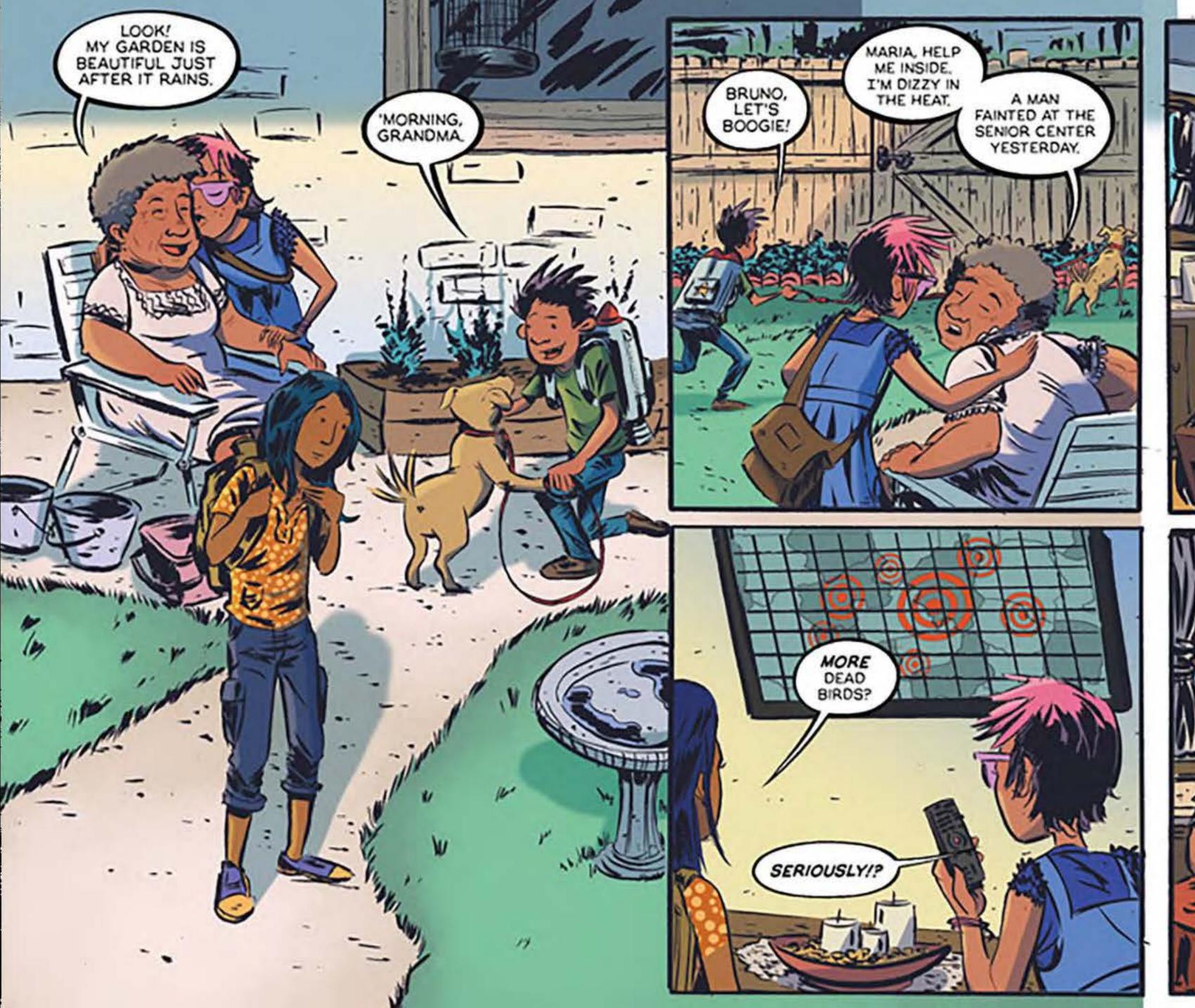








































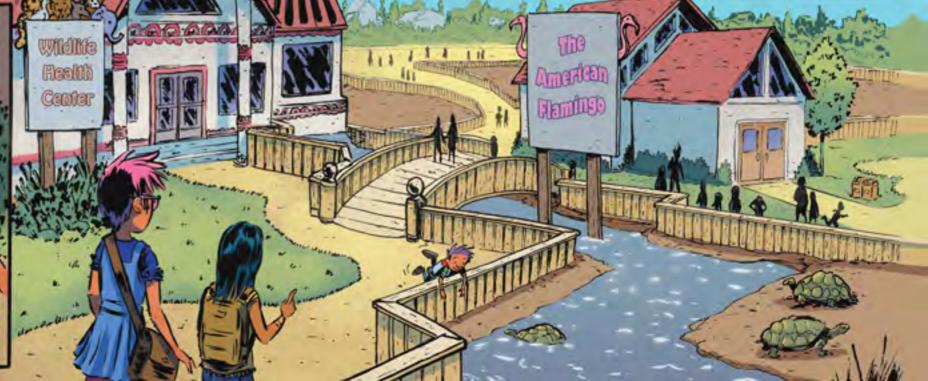






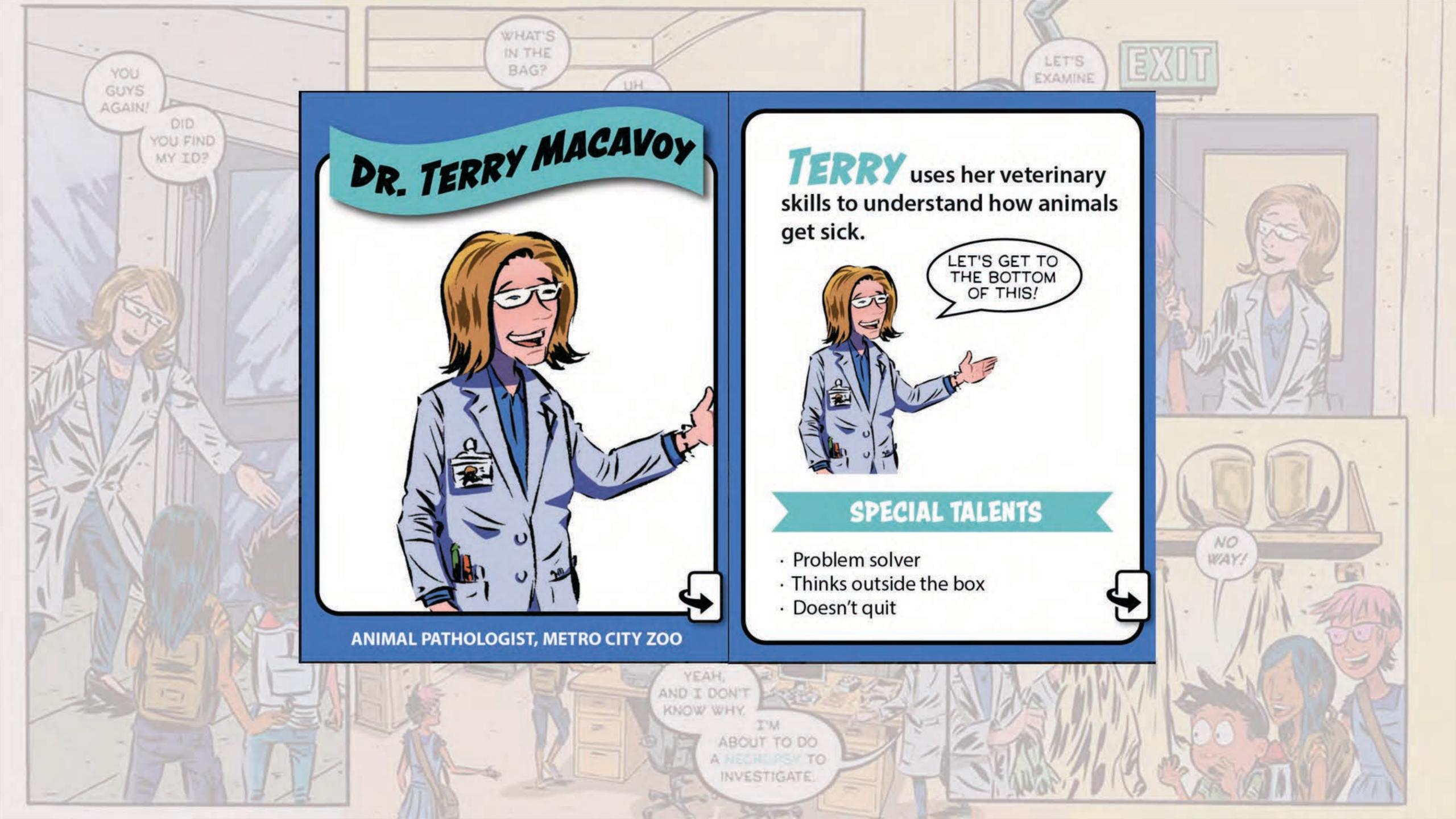




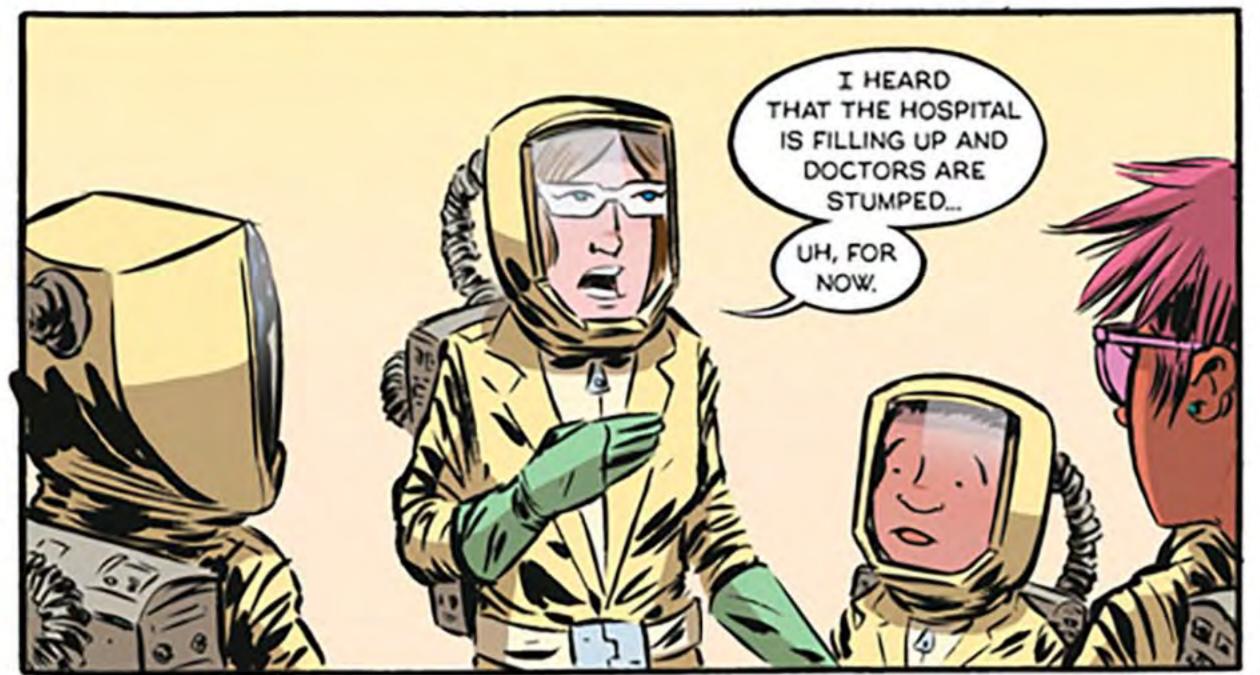


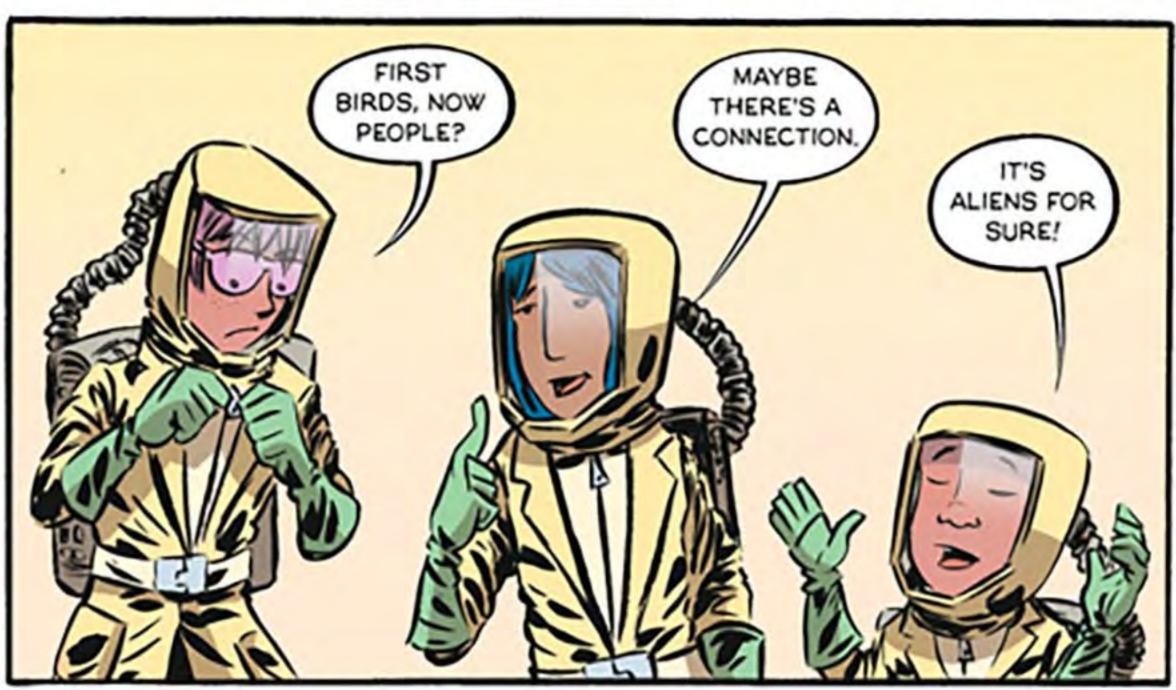


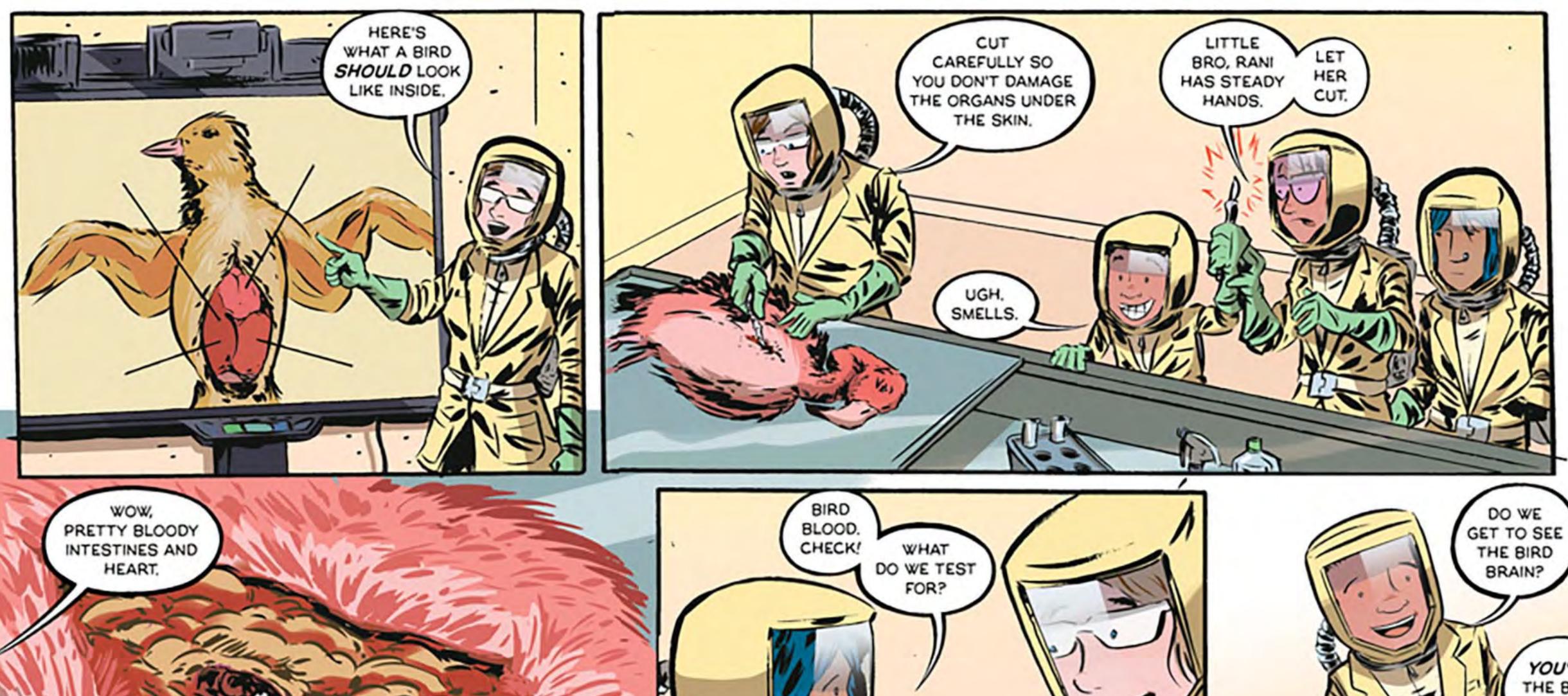








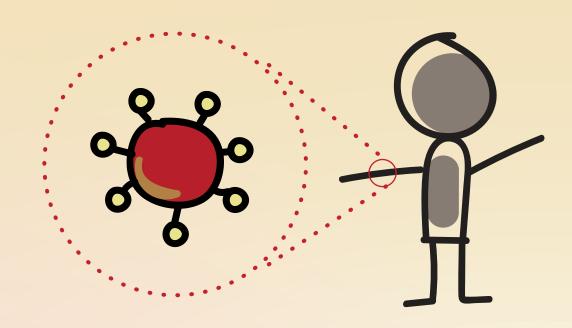




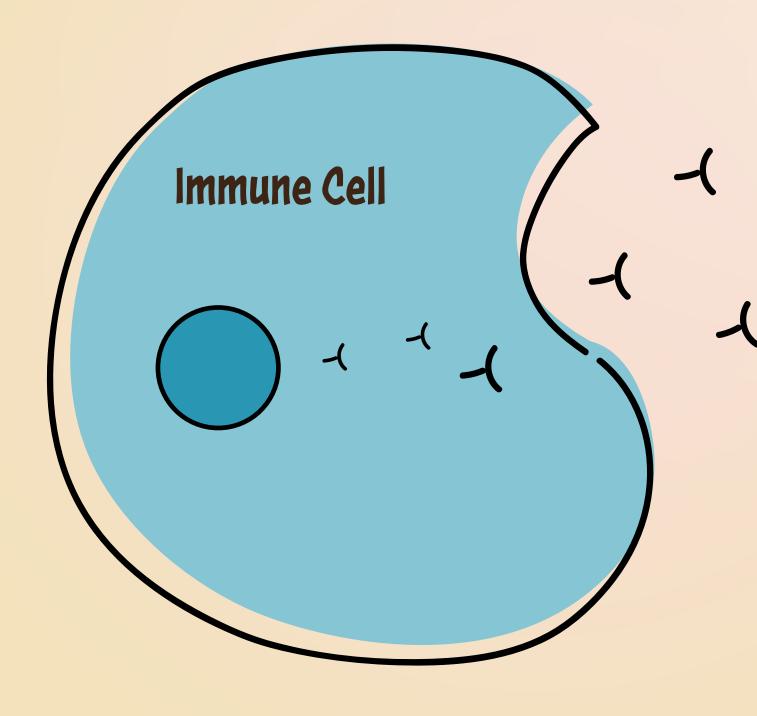


How Antibodies Work

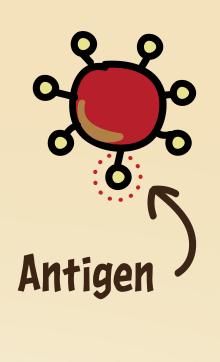
Each type of microbe has a unique chemical ID called an *antigen*. In the body, the immune cells read antigens of invading microbes, such as viruses.

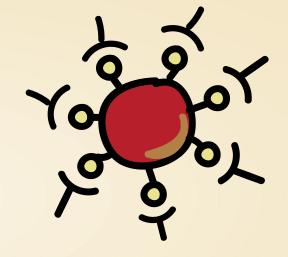


Microbe



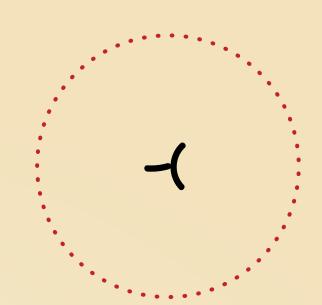
Immune cells in the blood produce chemicals called *antibodies* that are unique to each antigen.





Antibodies attach to each microbe preventing the invading microbe from causing an infection.

Antibody



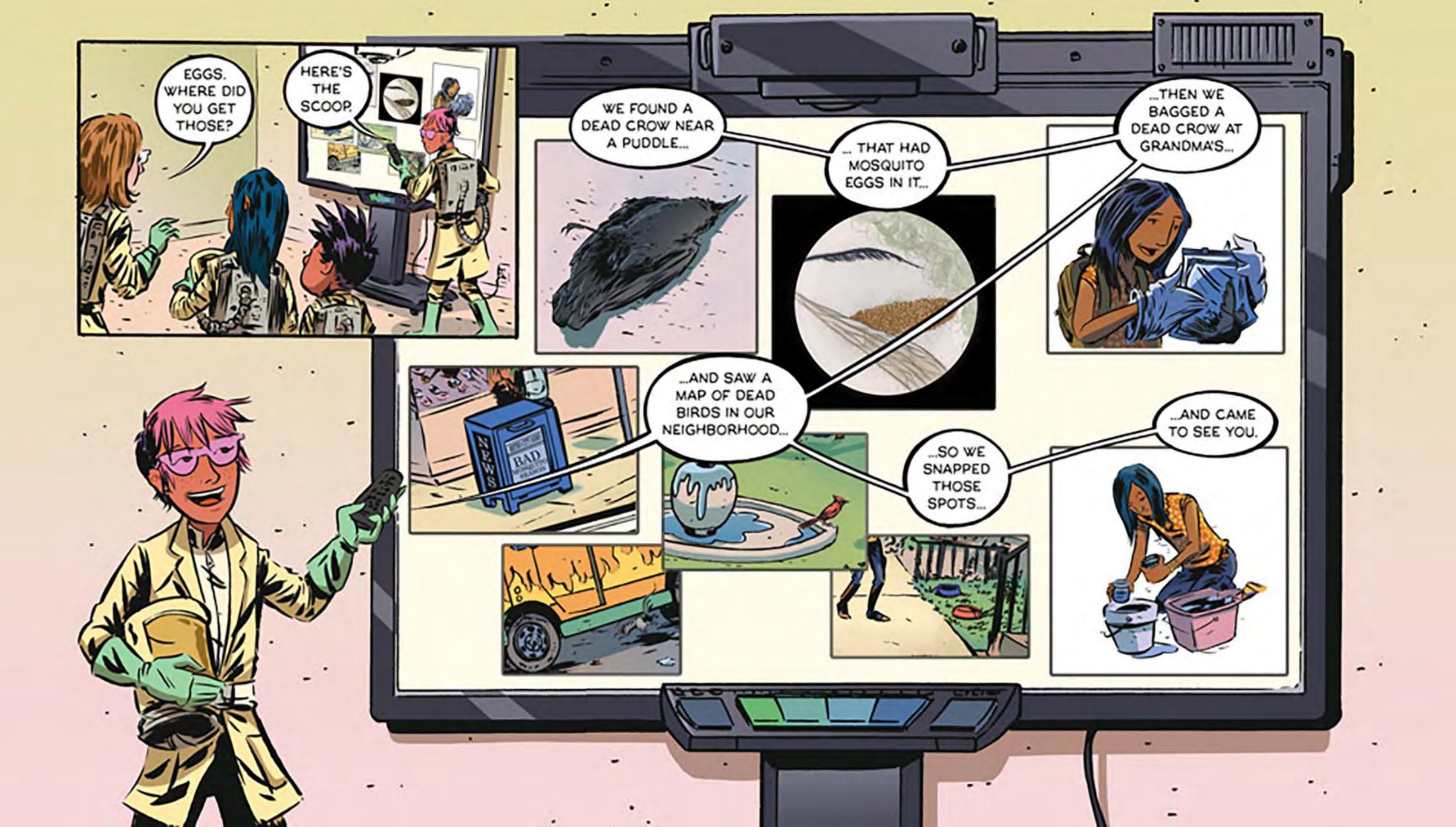
Testing for specific antibodies in the blood is one way of detecting a type of infection.

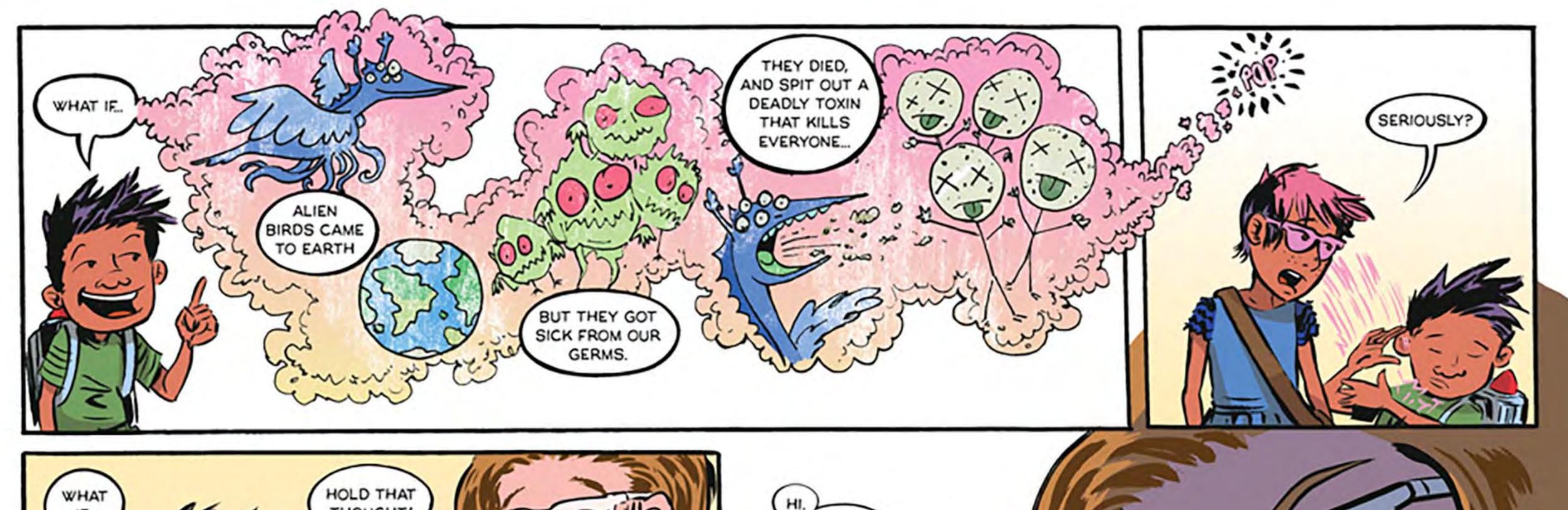
A MICROBE IS AN ORGANISM THAT'S TOO SMALL TO SEE WITHOUT A MICROSCOPE.







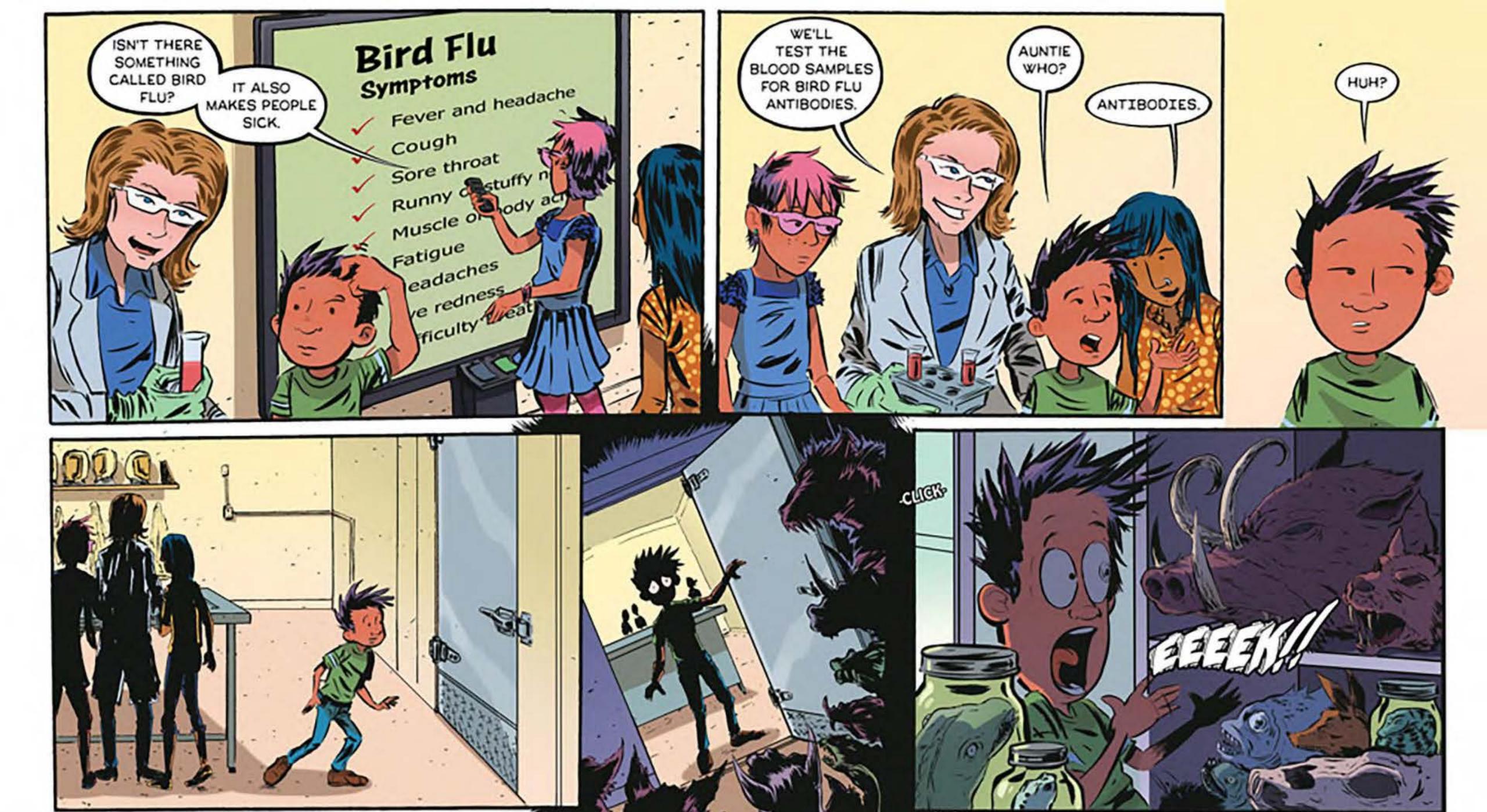


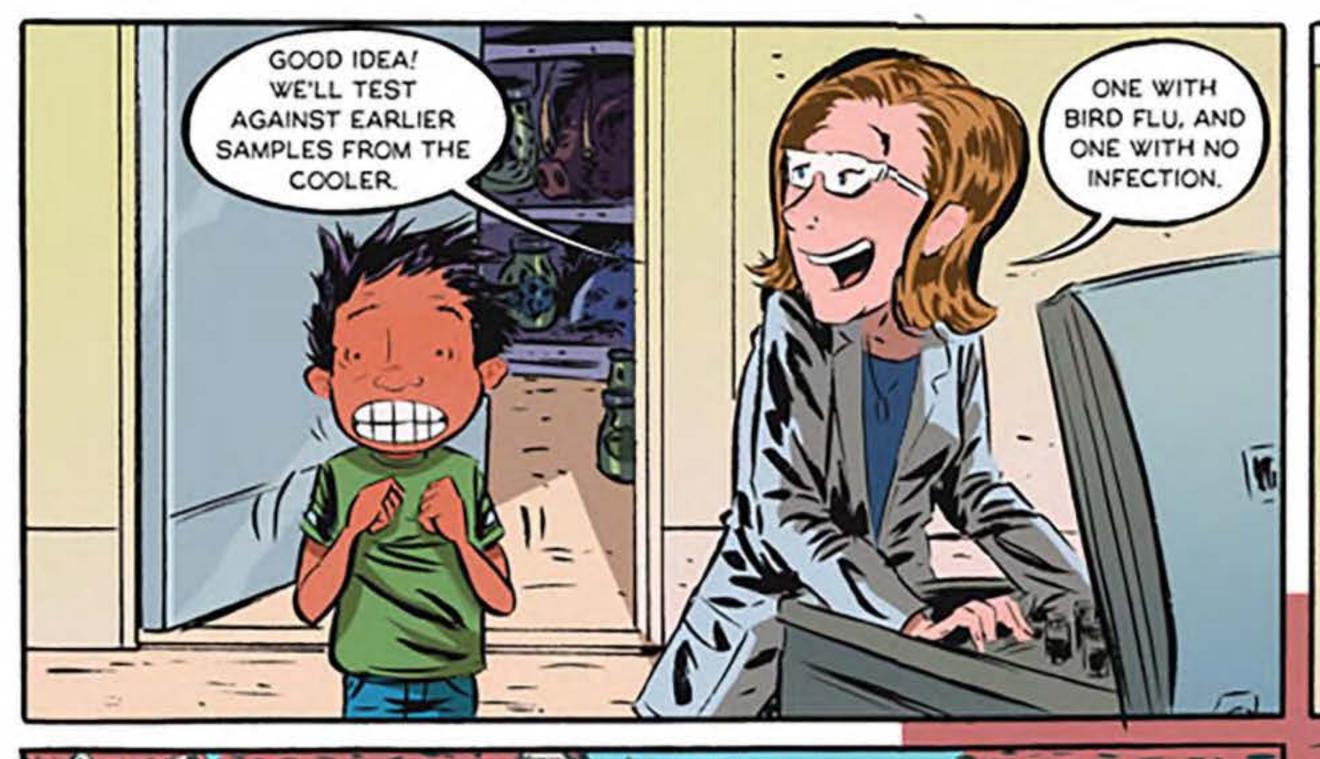


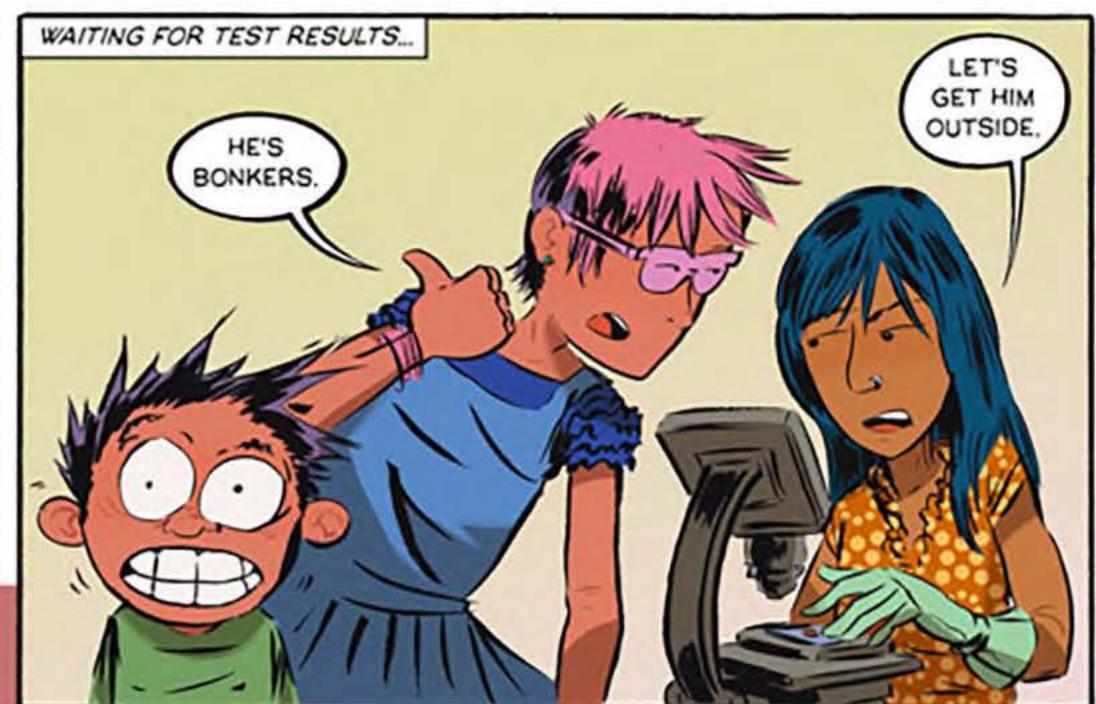












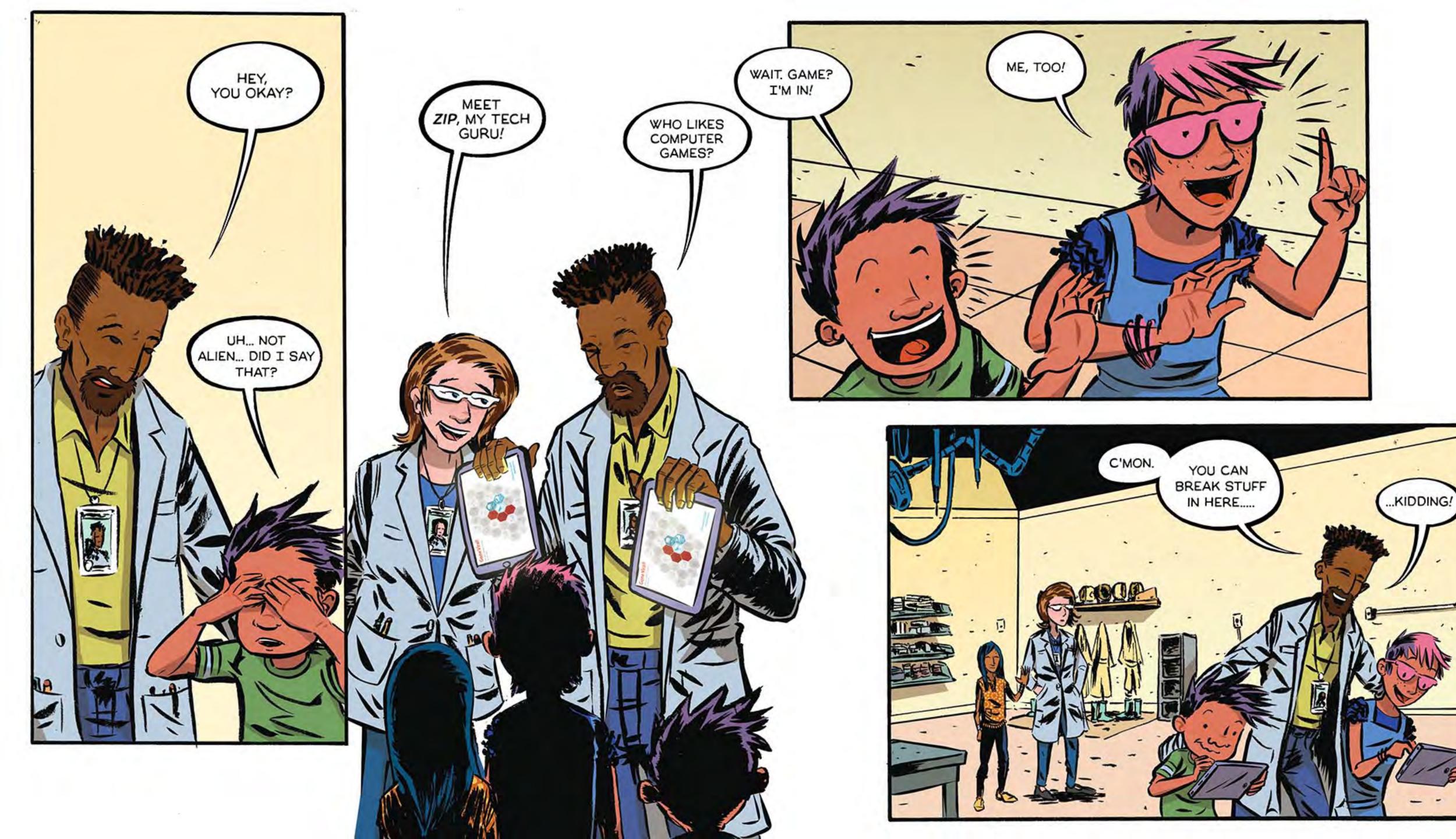


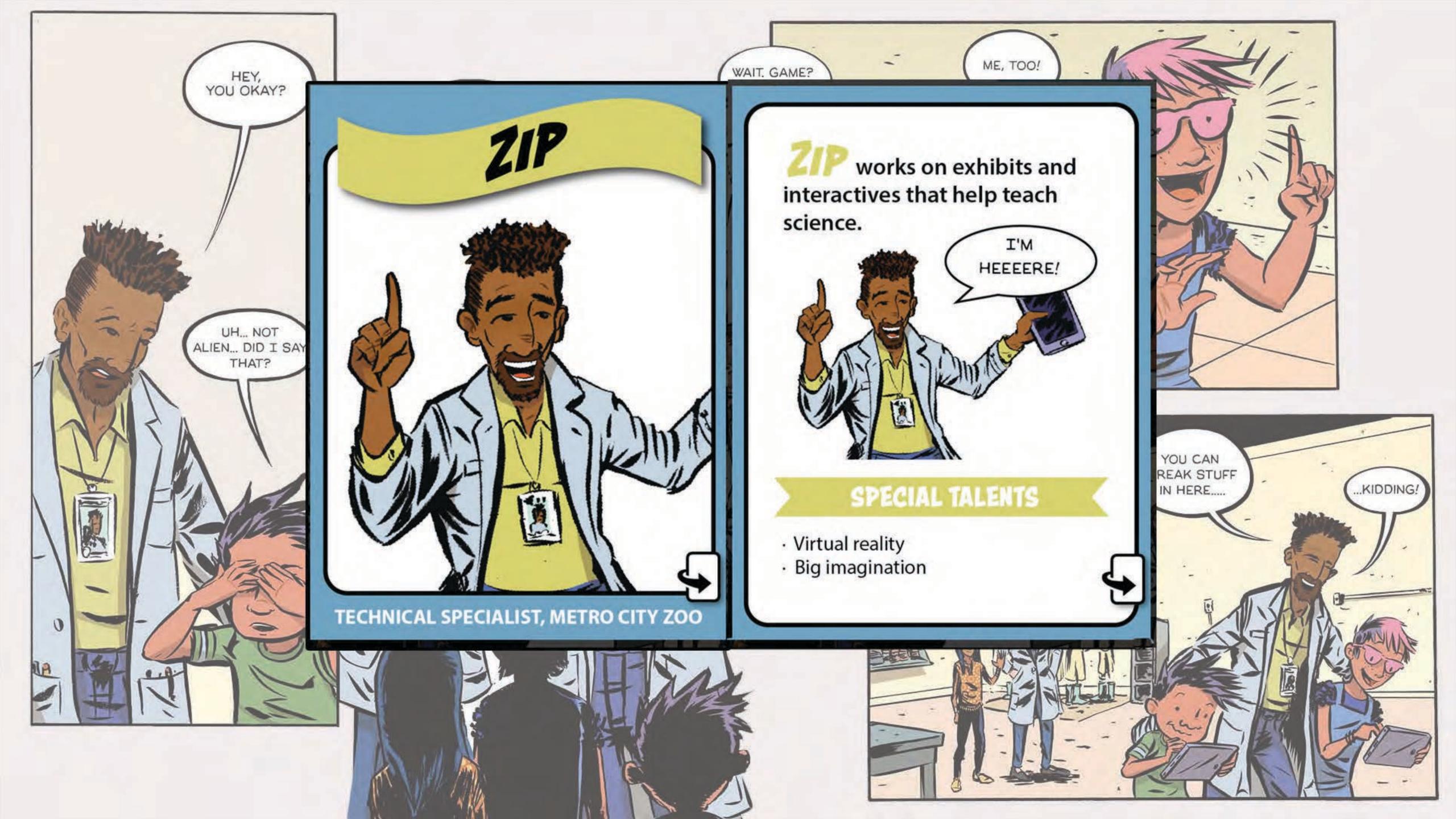


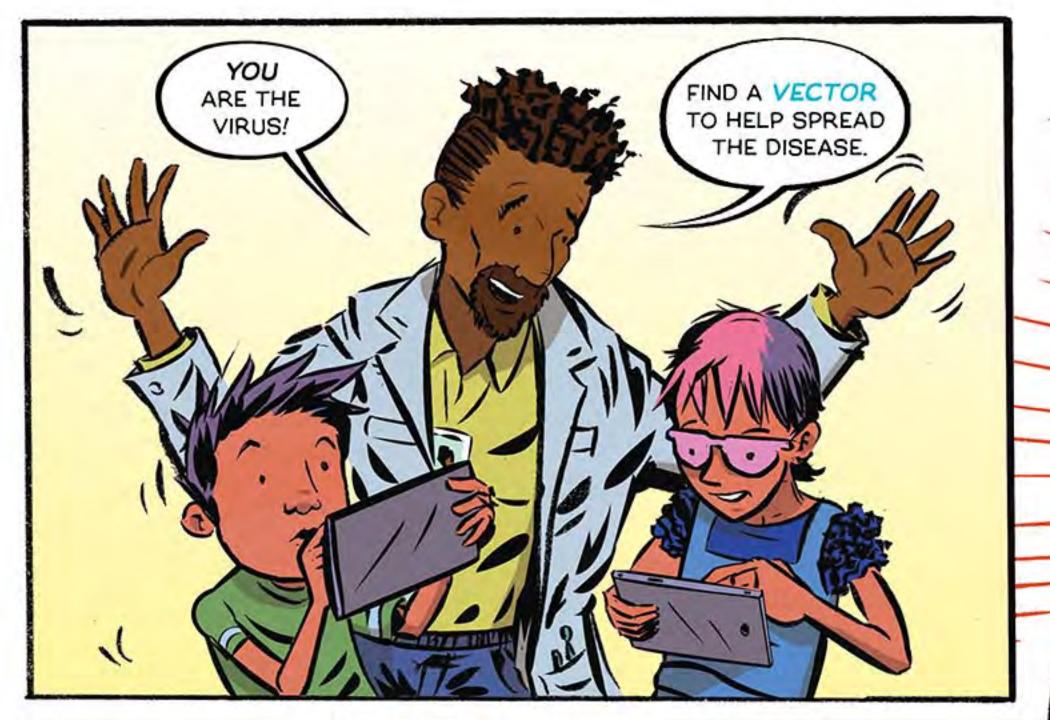




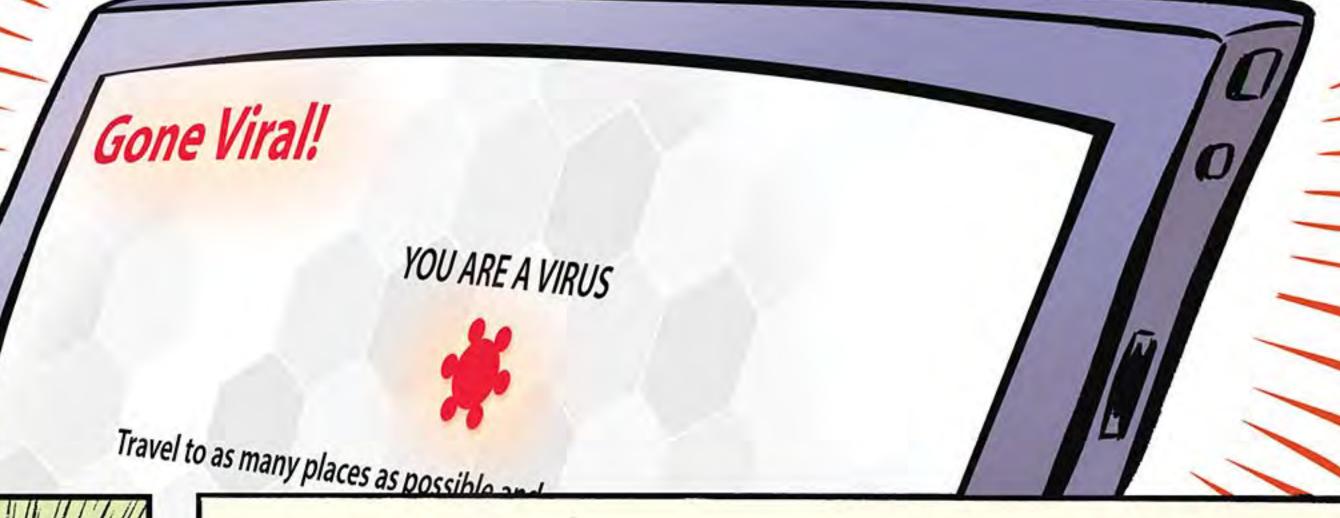








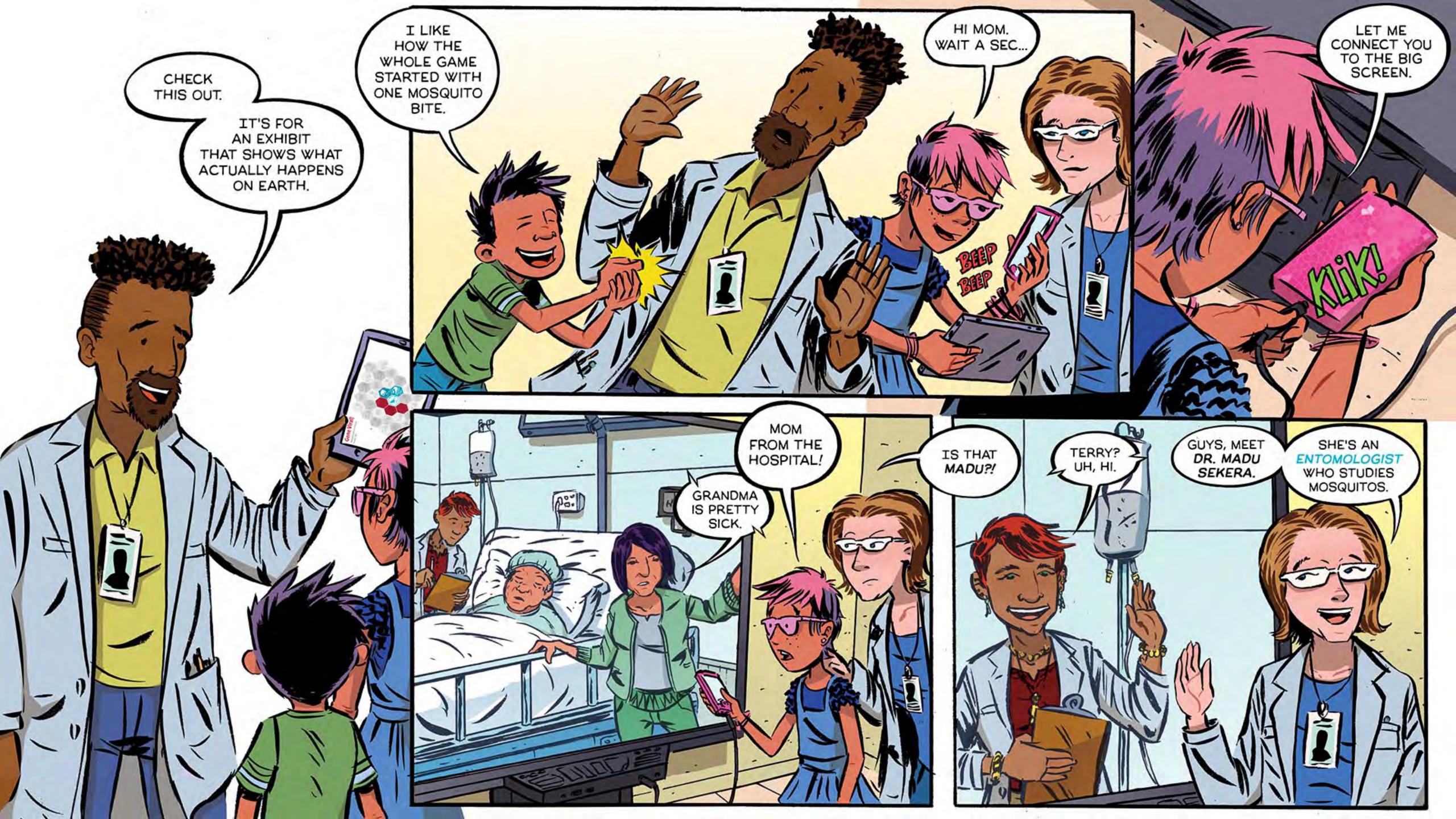






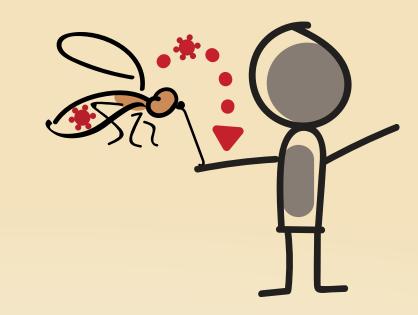




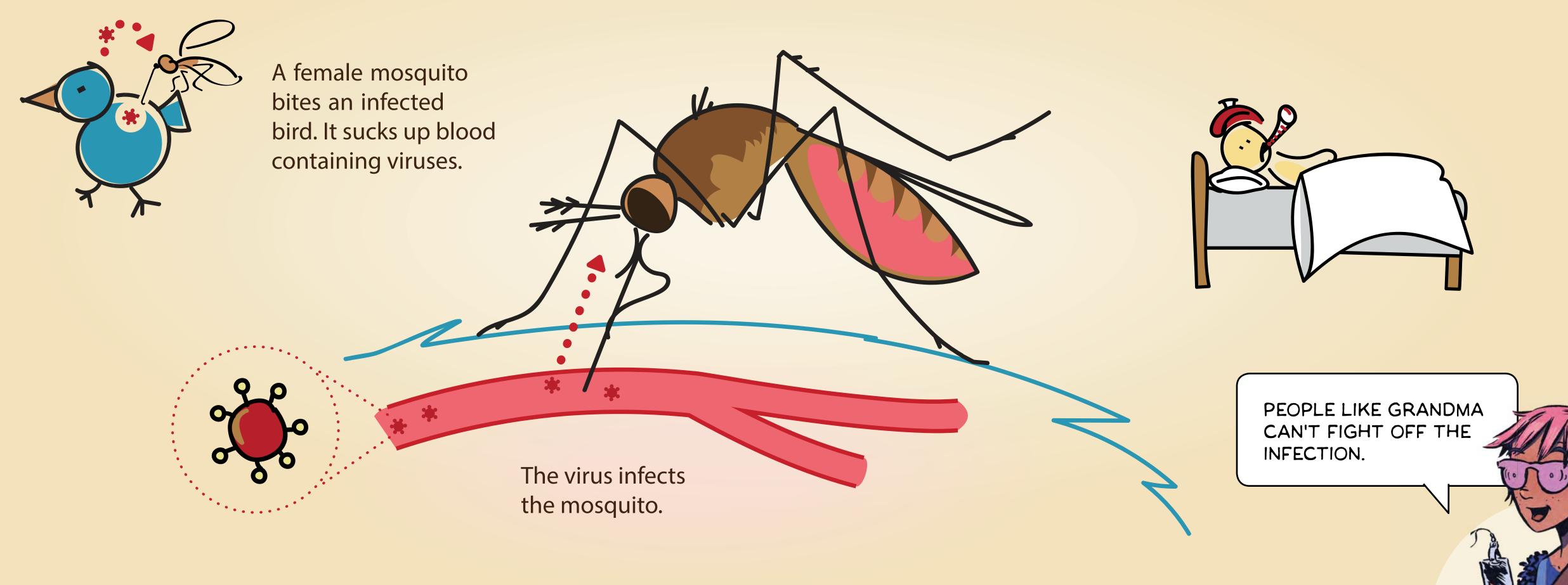


Blood Suckers Deliver Diseases

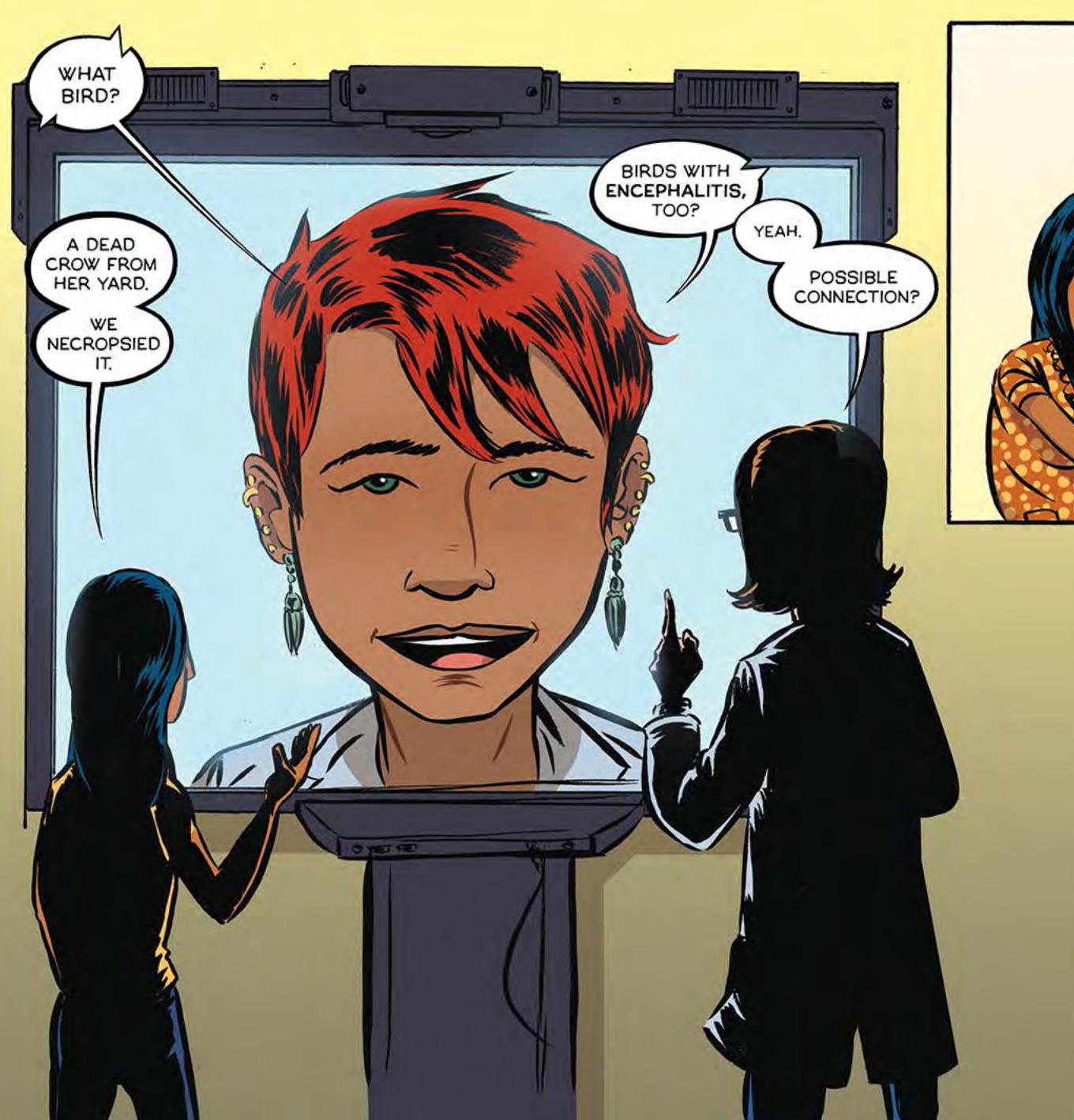
A single mosquito can move, or transmit, a disease-causing virus, bacteria or other microbe from one animal to another, including a person.



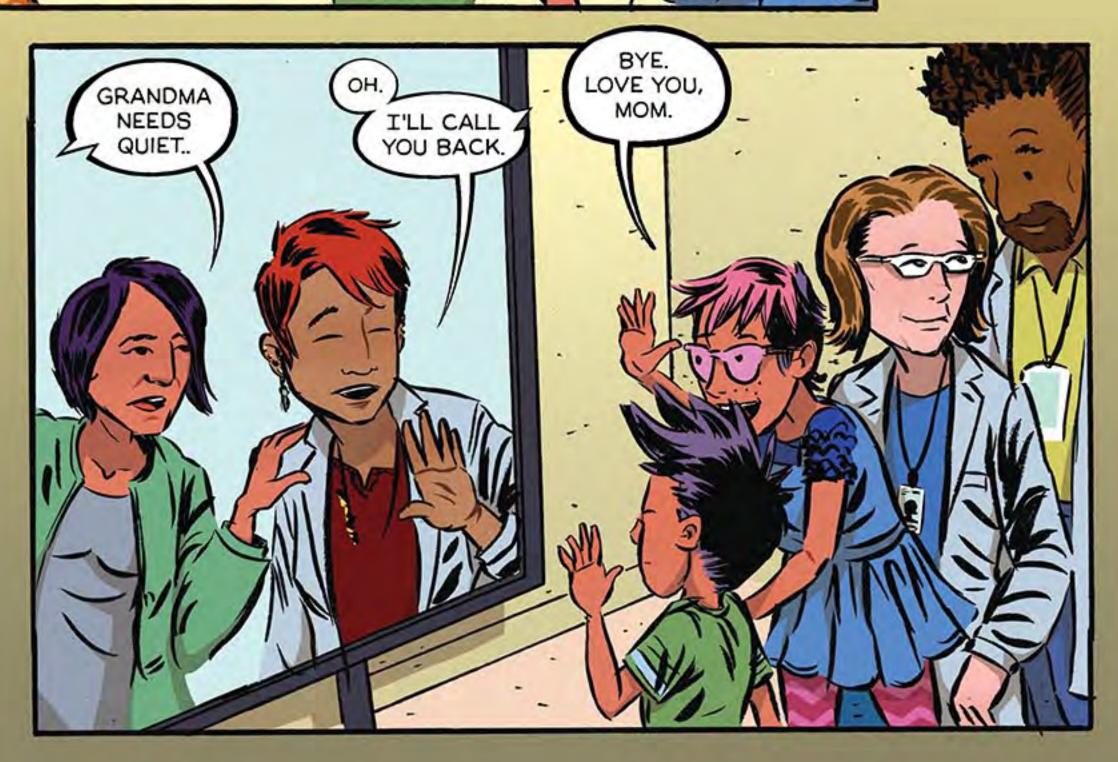
When that mosquito sucks blood from another bird or a horse or human, it also injects saliva carrying the virus and infects them.



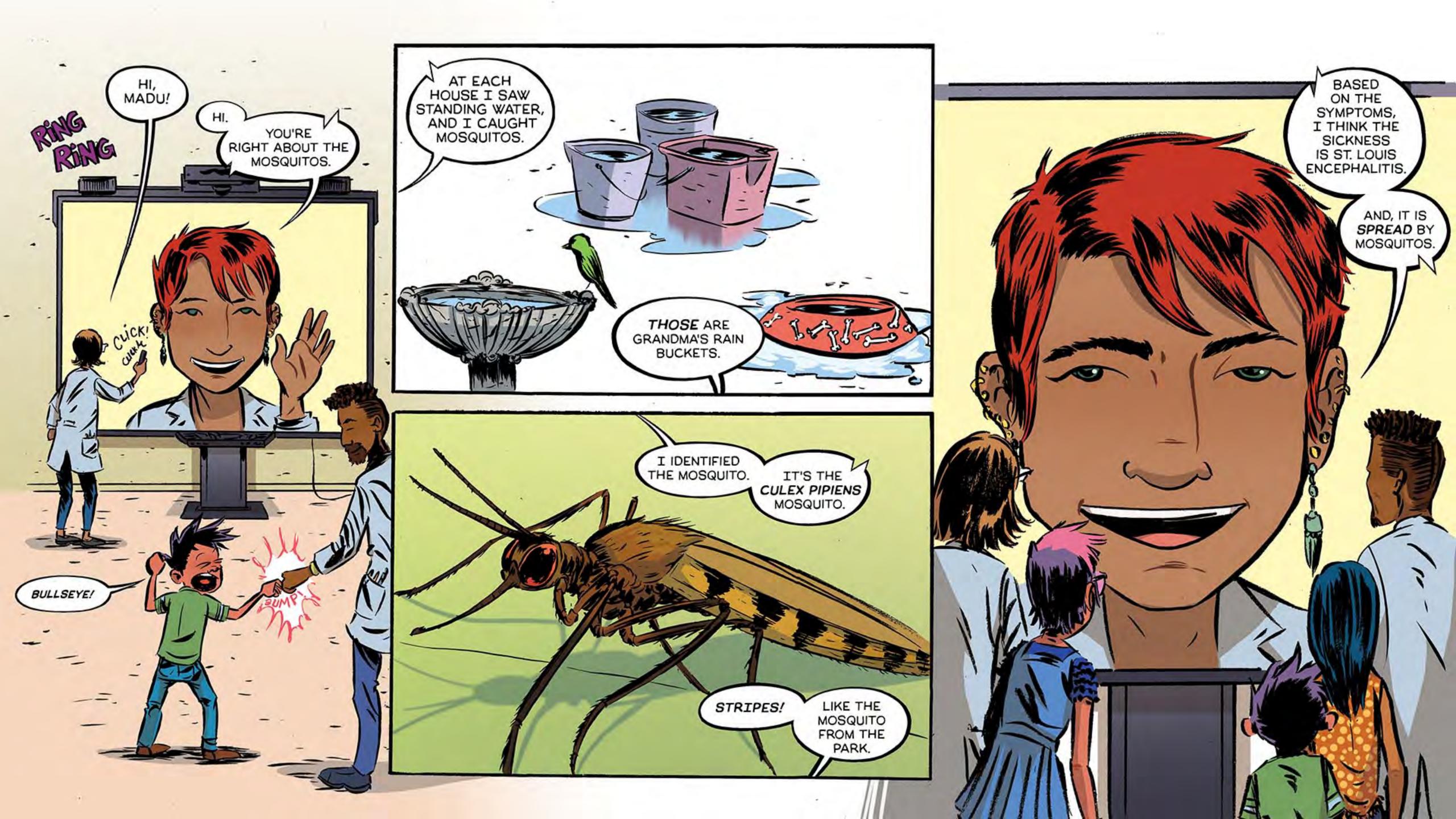












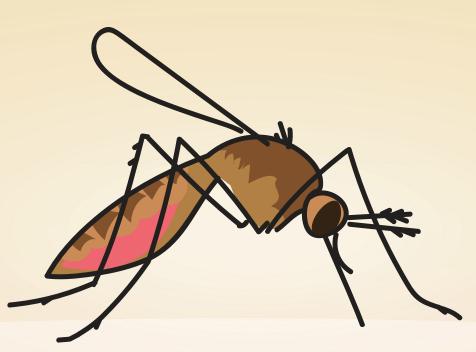
Making More Mosquitos

Mosquito eggs need water to hatch. Some species' eggs can survive in dry soil, but they hatch when a rainstorm floods the dirt. Small pools of water in places like the crooks of trees trunks, garbage cans, old tires or drainpipes are enough for mosquitos to reproduce.

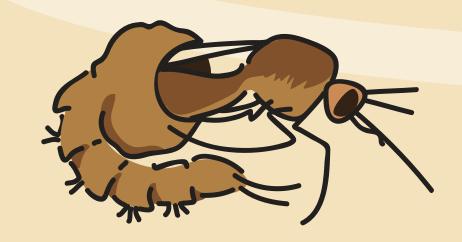
Adult female lays eggs on water surface.

WE SAW THAT WITH THE MICROSCOPE!

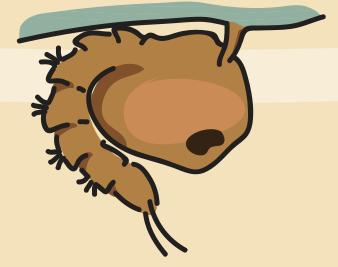




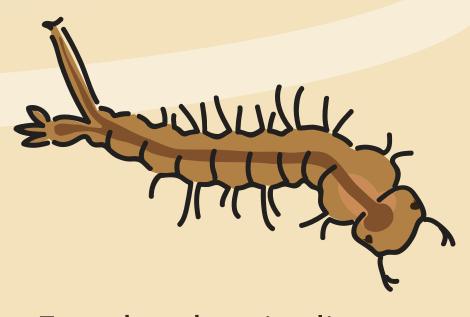




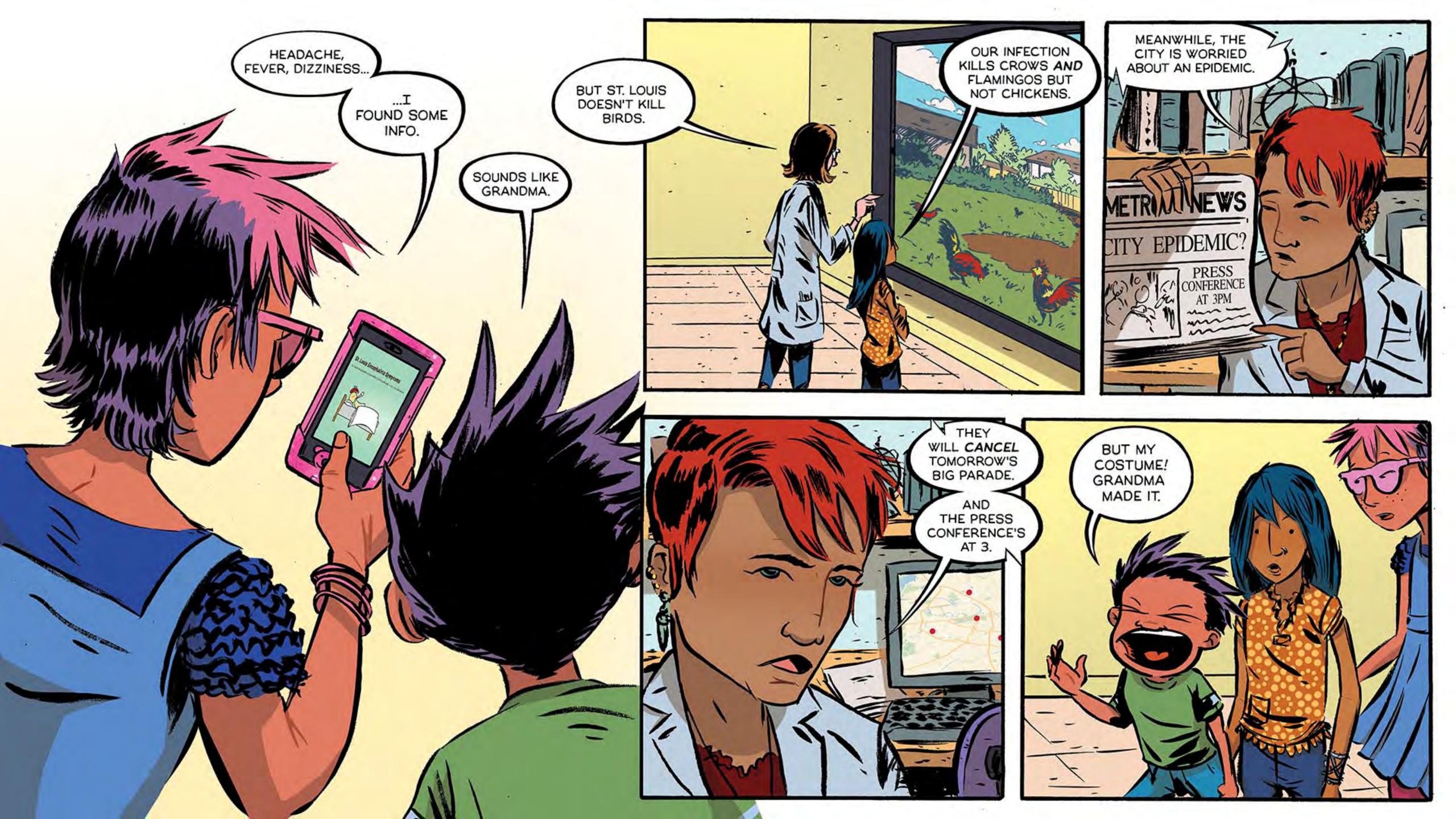
Pupae develop into mosquitos that fly away.



Larvae develop into pupae, still in the water.



Eggs hatch wriggling larvae that live in water.



St. Louis Encephalitis Symptoms

St. Louis Encephalitis is named for a 1933 outbreak in St. Louis, Missouri.

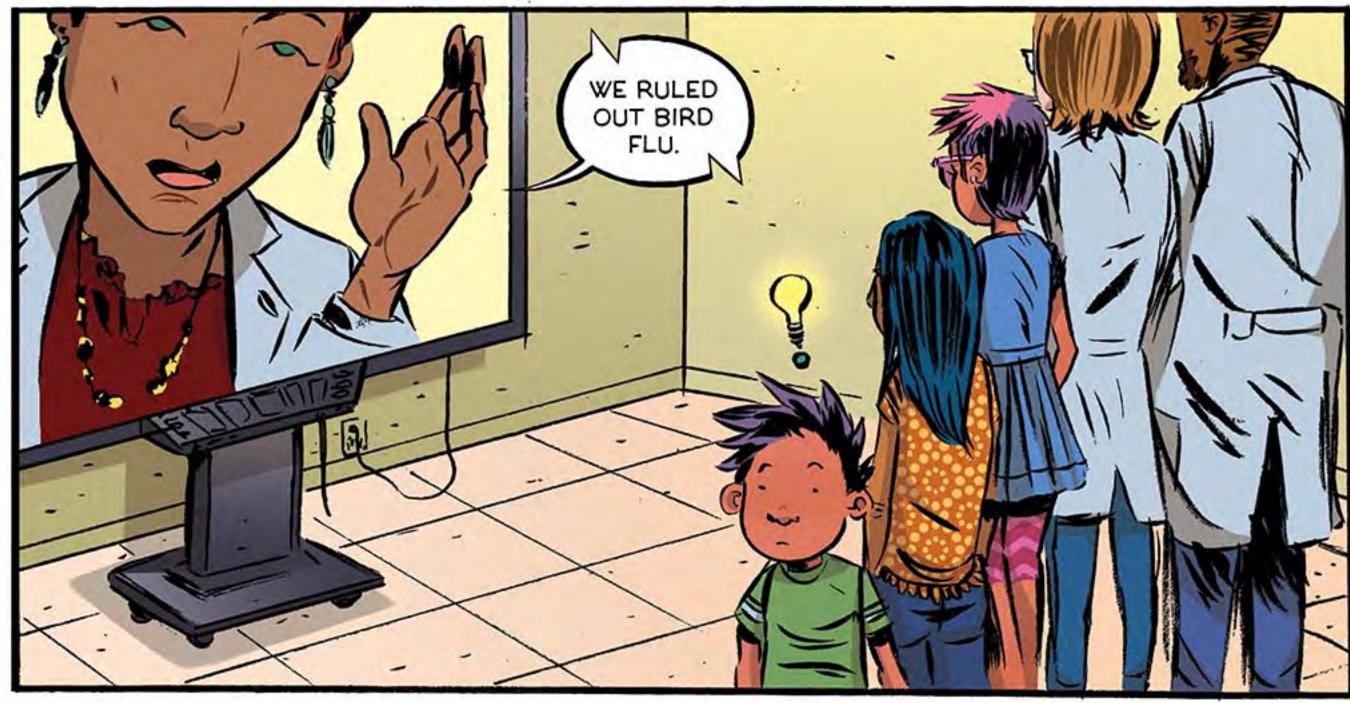


St. Louis Symptoms

- ✓ Fever and headache
- ✓ Stiff neck
- ✓ Feeling dizzy and disoriented
- ✓ Paralysis

GRANDMA HAD SOME OF THESE SYMPTOMS.

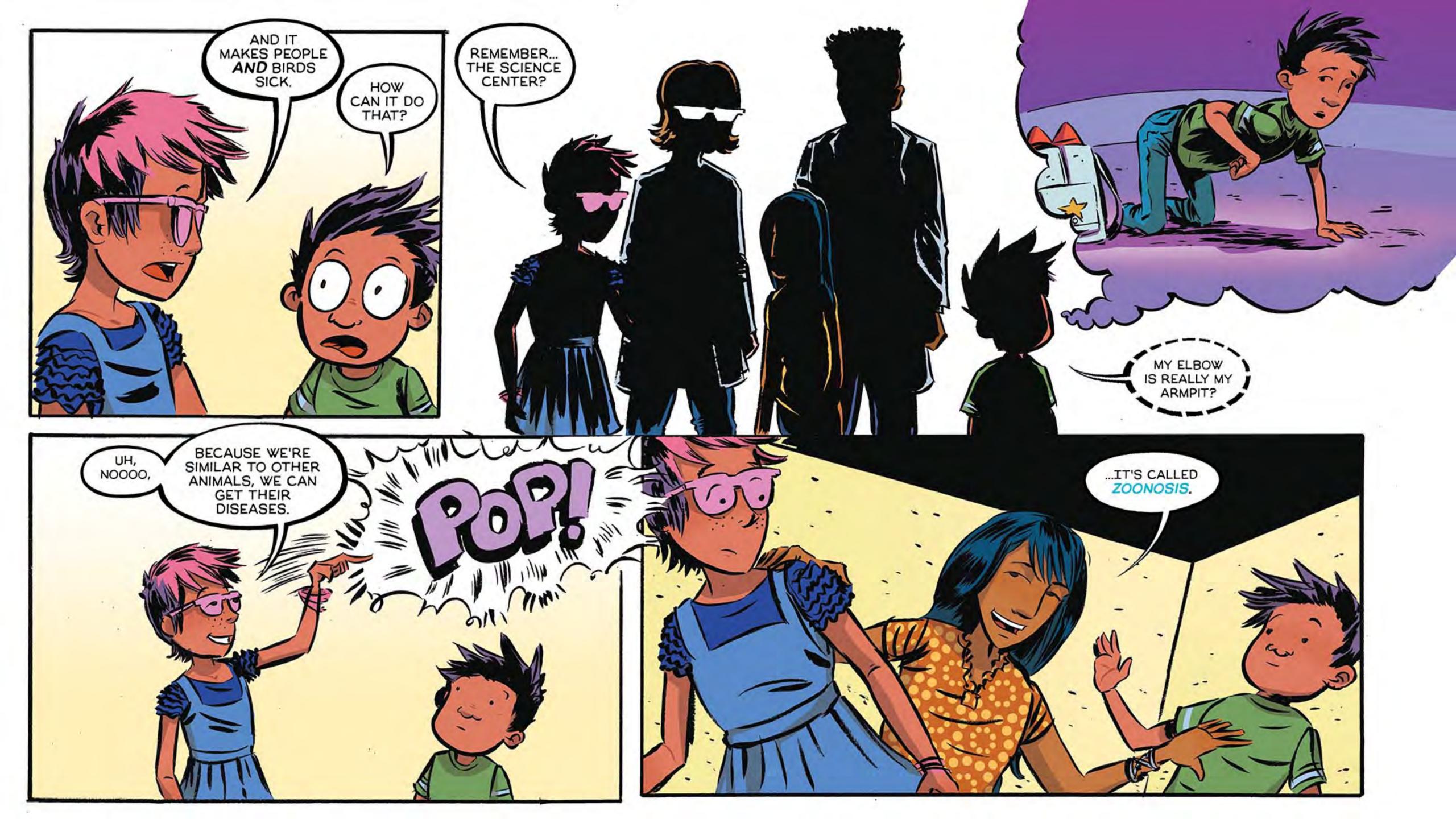








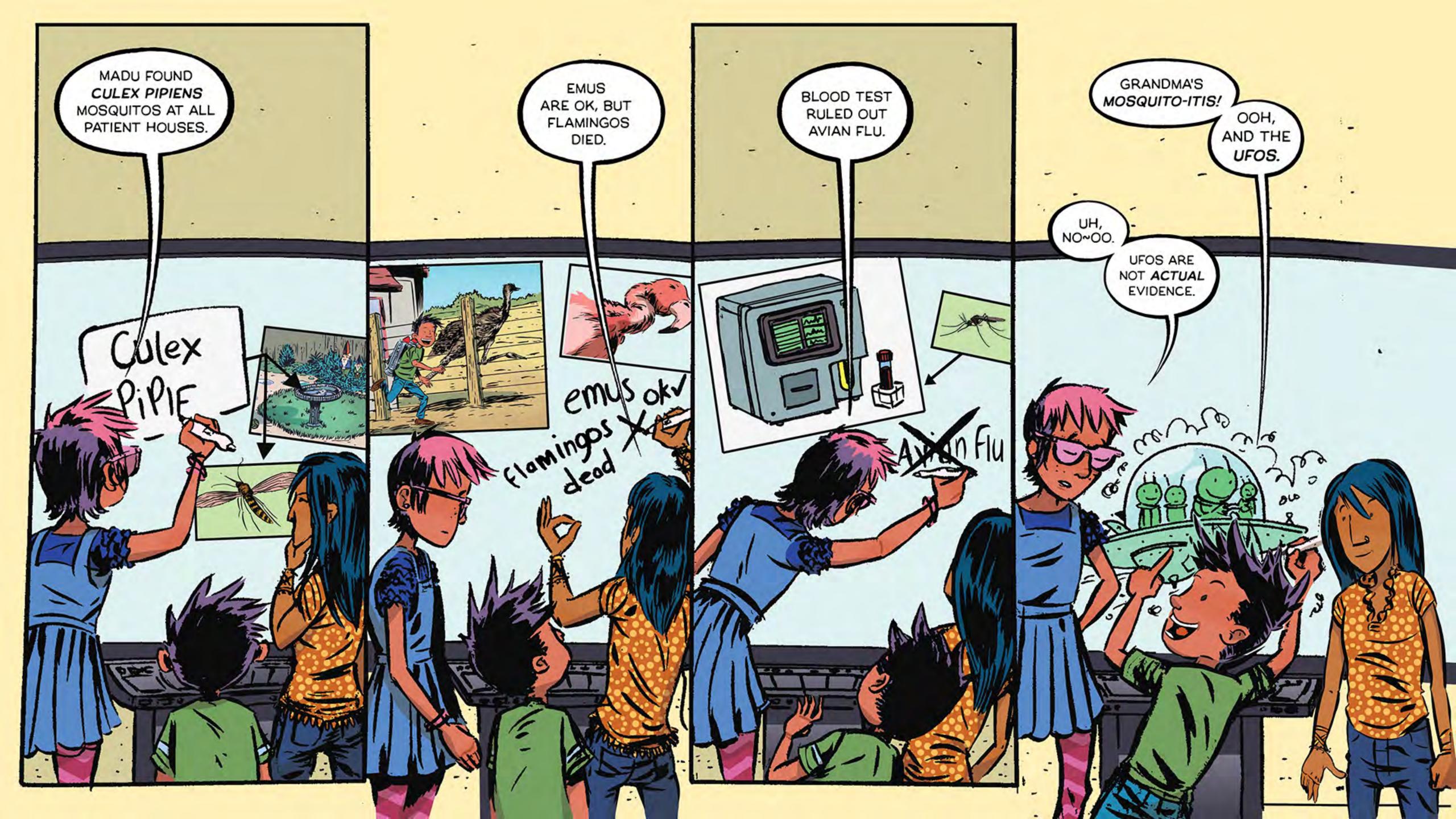


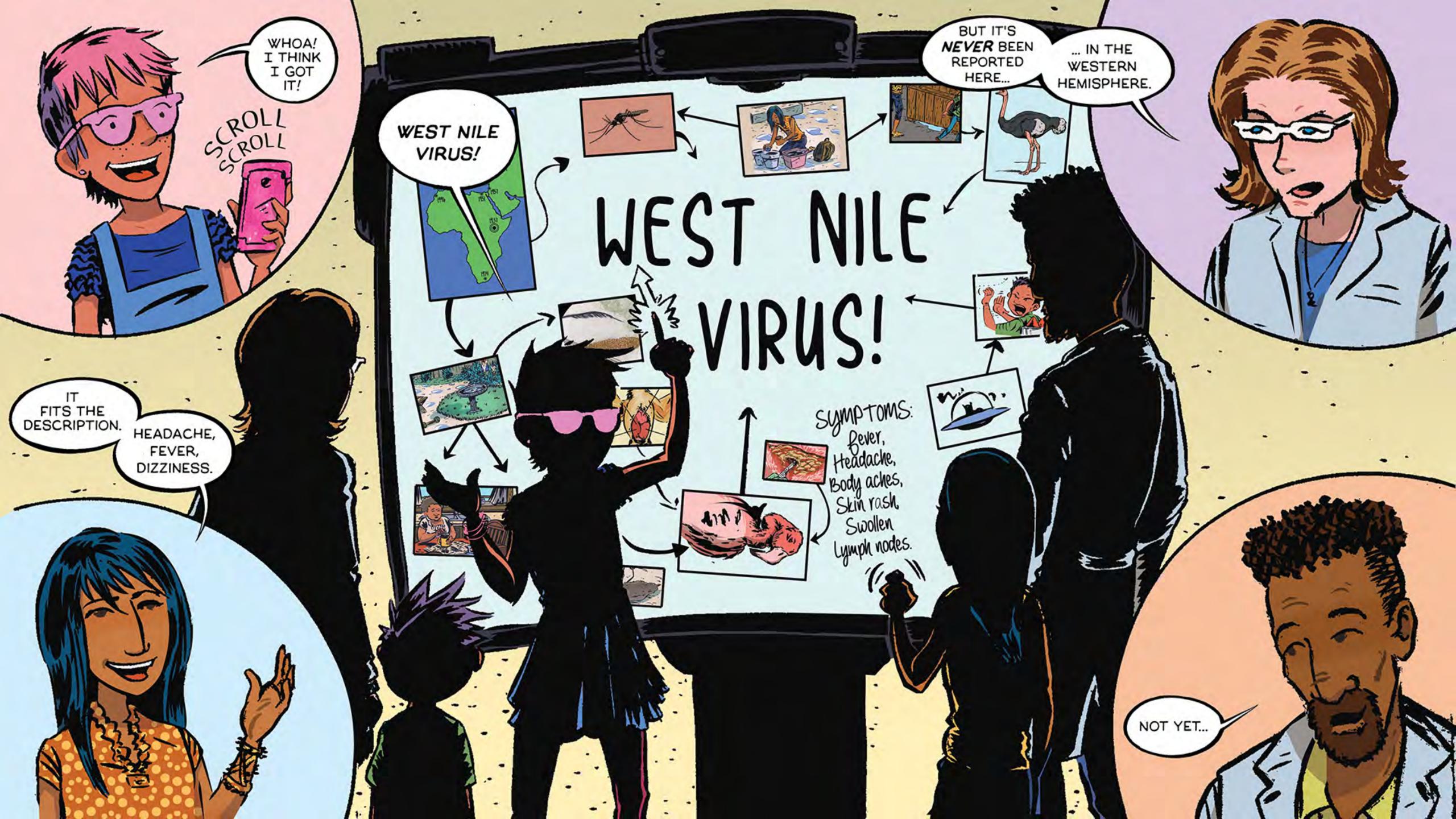












West Nile Virus or St. Louis Encephalitis?

In 1999, a mysterious illness stumped doctors in the New York City region. A total of 62 patients had symptoms, and seven died. Many more were infected but didn't get sick.

Named for a 1933 outbreak in St. Louis, MO, St. Louis Encephalitis is a lot like West Nile virus. It causes similar symptoms, making it hard for doctors to tell the diseases apart.



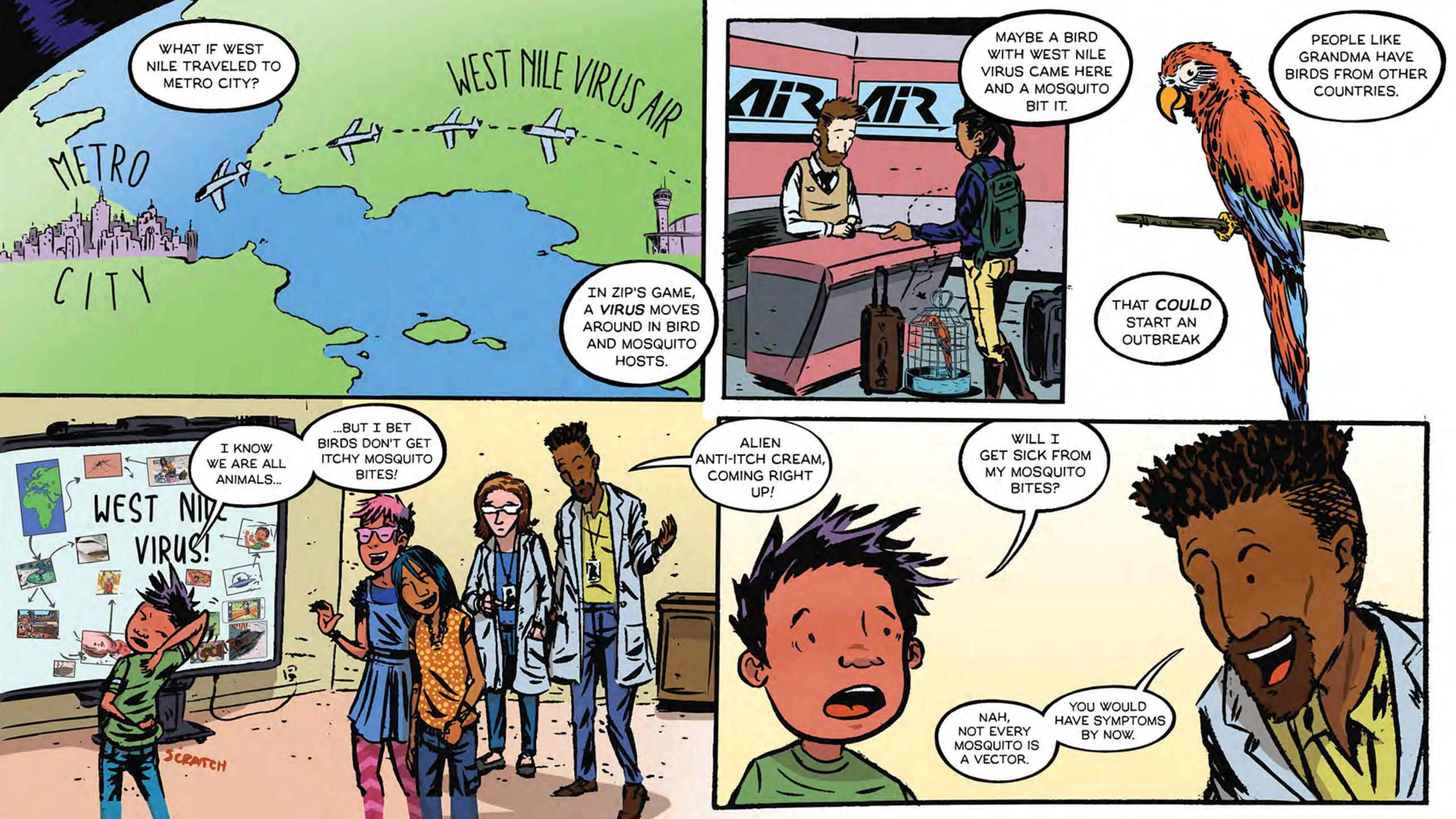
West Nile Symptoms

- ✓ Fever and headache
- ✓ Stiff neck
- ✓ Feeling dizzy and disoriented
- ✓ Paralysis
- ✓ Feeling tired and weak
- ✓ High fever
- ✓ Loss of muscle control
- ✓ Muscle tremors and seizure

St. Louis Symptoms

- ✓ Fever and headache
- ✓ Stiff neck
- ✓ Feeling dizzy and disoriented
- ✓ Paralysis

WEST NILE VIRUS AND ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS.

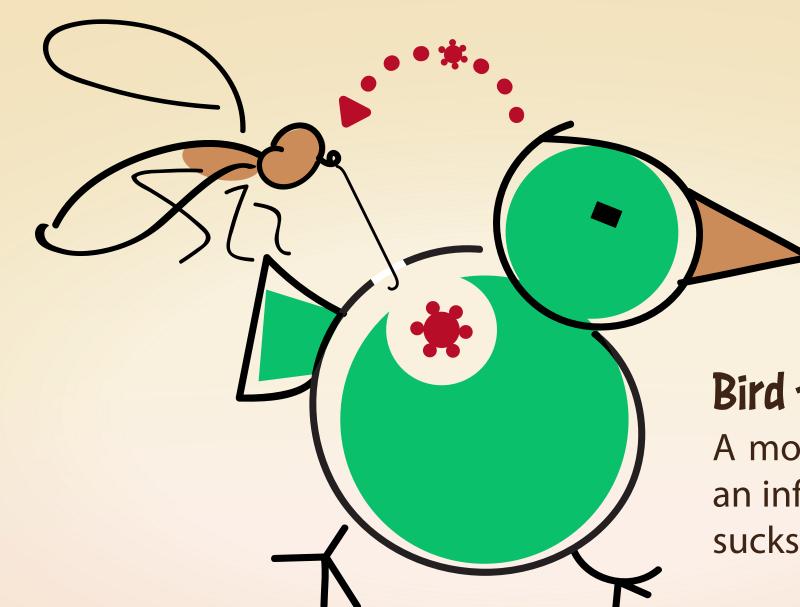


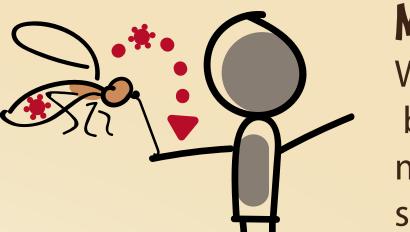
How West Nile Virus Spreads

Here are some ways that West Nile Virus gets around:

Mosquito to Bird

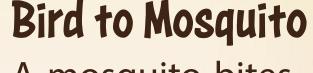
The infected mosquito may bite uninfected birds. Some birds die but others live and and can spread the virus.



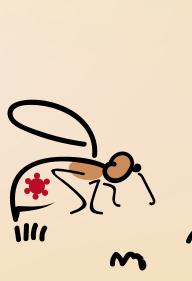


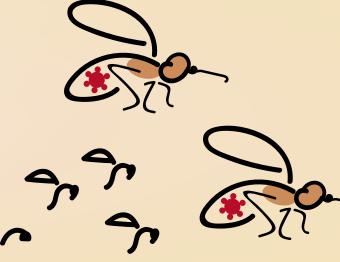
Mosquito to Mammal

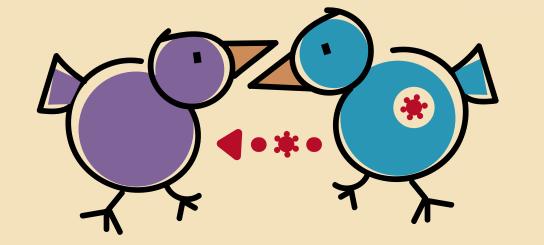
When a mosquito bites a human or other mammal, they can get sick. But they cannot pass on the virus through new mosquito bites.



A mosquito bites an infected bird and sucks up the virus.







Bird to Bird

An infected bird can spread West Nile virus to other birds at watering holes of breeding grounds.

NO LASER BEAMS NEEDED!



Mosquito to Mosquito

An infected mosquito can pass the virus to her offspring, which are born infected.

West Nile Virus Outbreaks

We know West Nile virus has been infecting people since 1937, when it was first identified. The disease spread — most likely by mosquitos and birds — throughout Africa, into Asia and then to Europe.

Outbreaks

1937 West Nile region

1951 Egypt

1957 Israel

1962 France

1974 South Africa

1996 Romania

1996 Morocco

1997 Tunisia

1998 Italy

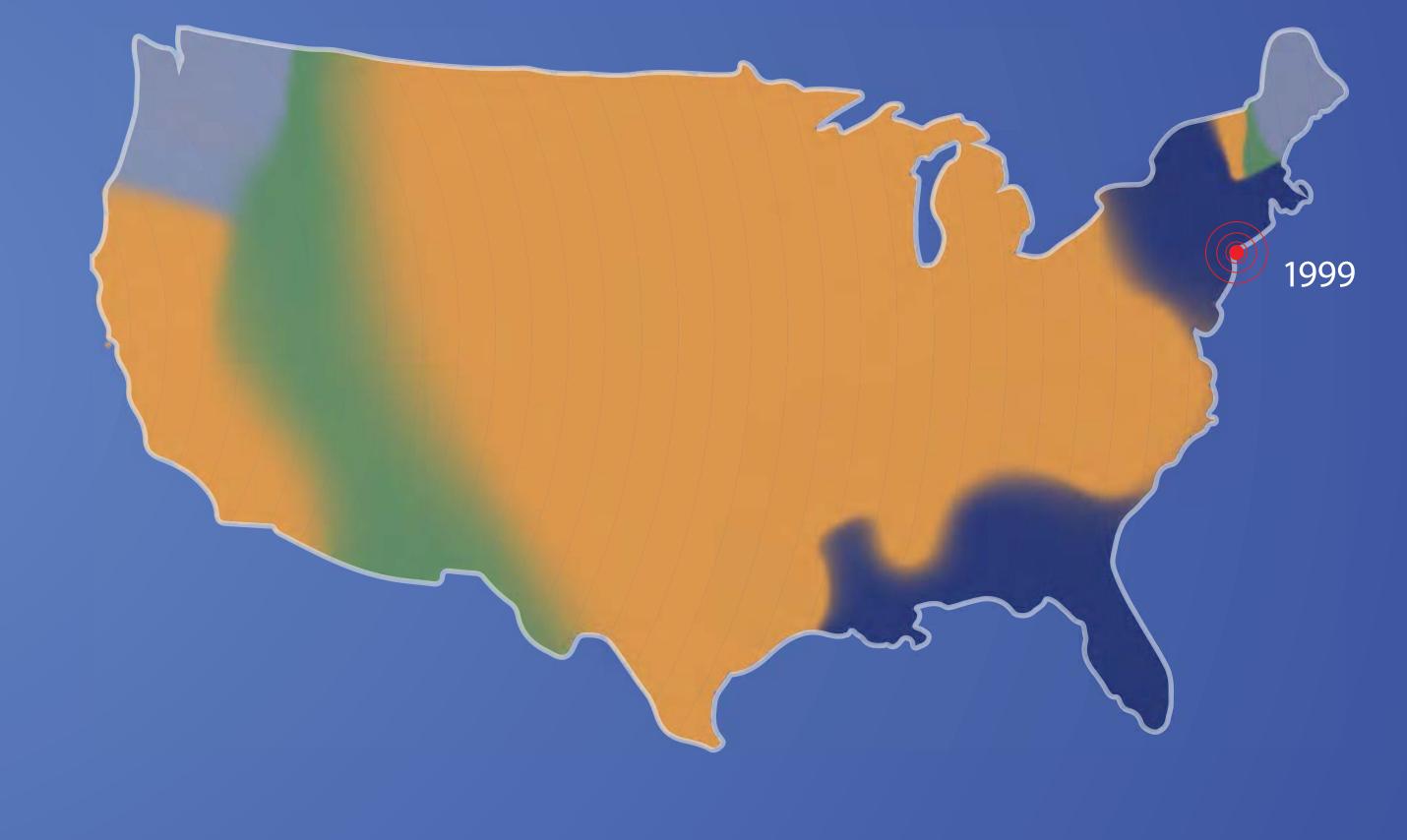
1999 Vovlgrograd



West Nile Virus Outbreaks

No one knows exactly how, but in 1999 the disease moved to North America—specifically to New York City and surrounding area.

By 2003, West Nile virus spread across the country, making about 10,000 people sick. This disease remains a threat throughout the United States.



2002

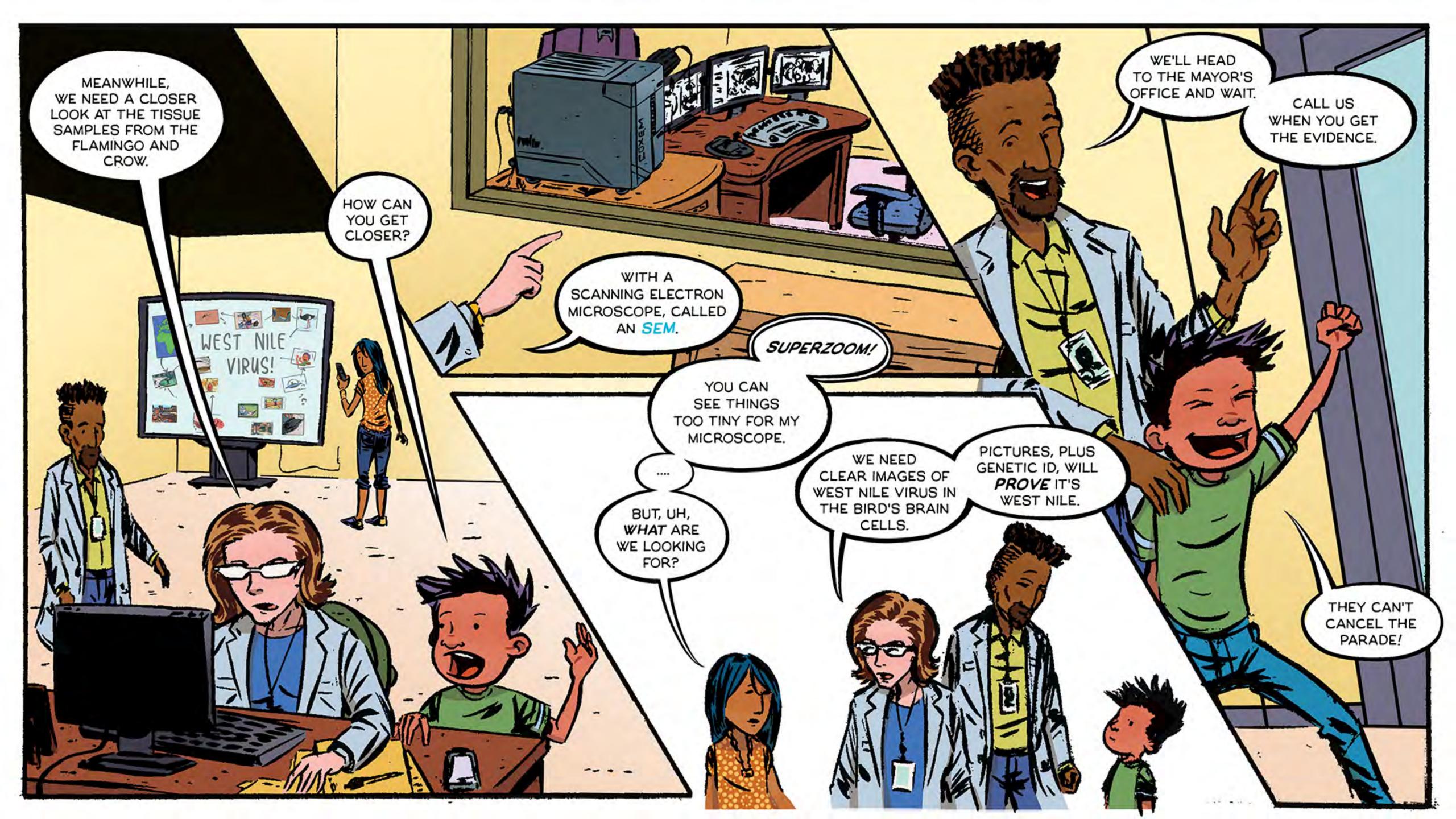
2003

2001

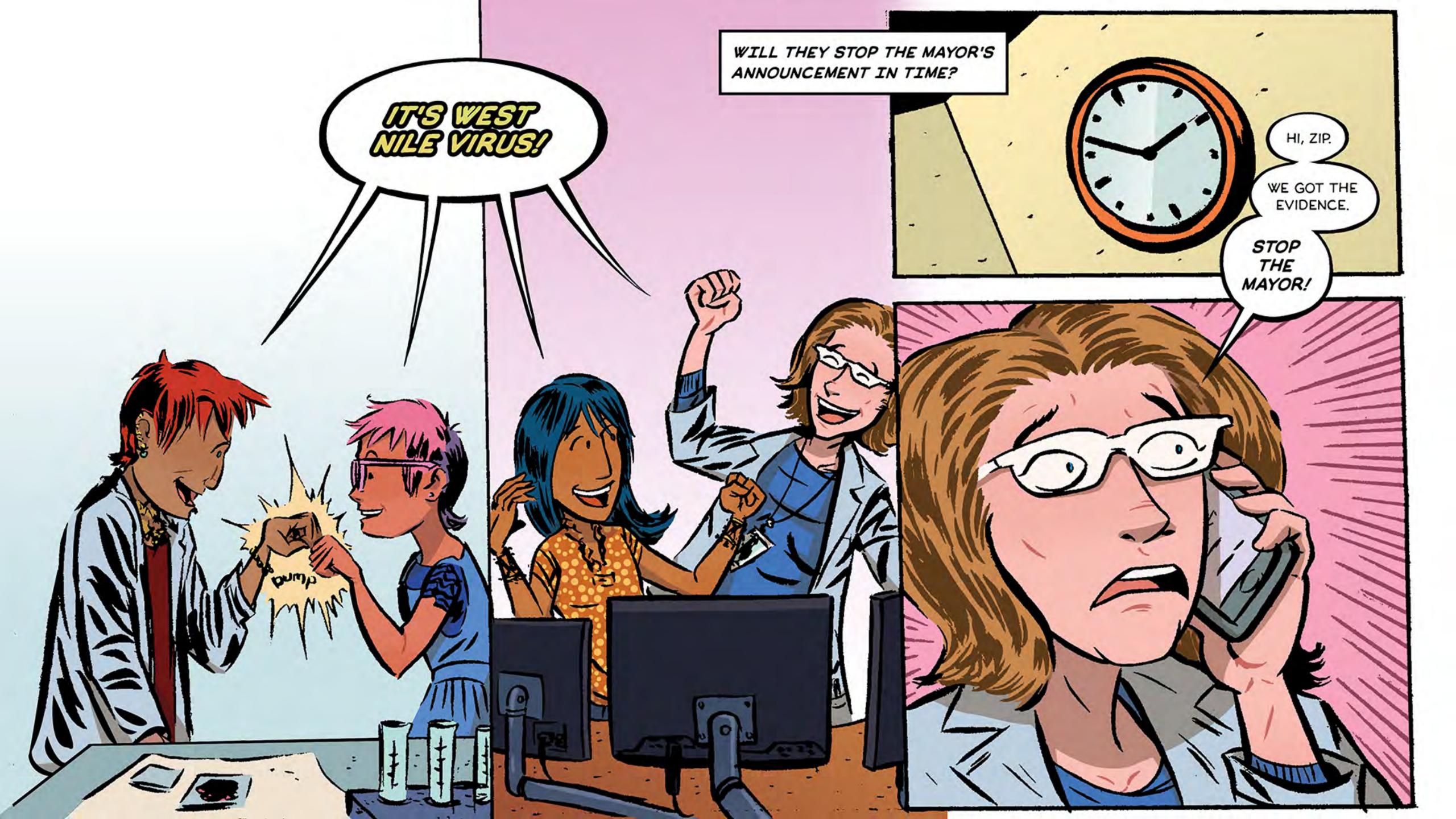
No Outbreak

















Dr. Tracey McNamara

When Dr. Tracey McNamara became a veterinarian, she didn't know she would help solve one of the biggest medical mysteries ever to hit New York City. In 1999, birds began mysteriously dying at the Bronx Zoo, where she was the Senior Zoo Pathologist. Meanwhile, people were also dying of a mystery disease in the city's hospitals.

Wildlife World Conservation Society's Wildlife Health Center, New York City, 1999



Government officials said the cause was St. Louis encephalitis. But Dr. McNamara knew that her evidence pointed to something different—something new to New York City. She didn't give up investigating until she found the truth.

The sickness was caused by
West Nile virus. This was the first
time it appeared in North America.
Dr. McNamara is a science hero!
Her work helped protect millions
of people and animals in New York
City and beyond.

THIS SUPER SCIENCE SLEUTH CRACKED THE WEST NILE VIRUS CASE!

Dr. Varuni Kulasekera

Whether it's the swamps in the Amazon or still ponds on Staten Island, nothing stops Dr. Varuni Kulasekera from hunting mosquitos. In 1999, New York City called her in to inspect the homes of hospital patients suffering from a mysterious illness. She found *Culex pipiens* mosquitos at all of the houses. Since these mosquitos spread disease, Dr. Kulasekera helped solve the West Nile virus mystery.

Tasmania, circa 2016



After this outbreak, Dr. Kulasekera became Medical Entomologist for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. There, she monitored New York's mosquito populations there for three years. Her work counting and identifying mosquitos helped New York City decide when to spray insecticide to reduce the risk of more West Nile outbreaks.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF MOSQUITOS CAN SPREAD DIFFERENT DISEASES.



Glossary

ANTIBODIES

Take care. When a microbe invades your body, unique chemicals, called antibodies, are created for each type of microbe. These antibodies tell your immune system to protect you against the invaders.

ENCEPHALITIS

Now, don't get a big head! Really! This inflammation, or swelling, of the brain is usually caused by an infection.

ENTOMOLOGIST

Imagine life as an insect. That's what an entomologist does. These scientists study everything about insects, like where they live, how they grow and how to control their populations.

MICROBES **4**0

Get the microscope! These tiny organisms, like viruses or bacteria, are too small to see without zooming in--sometimes WAY in.

NECROPSY

Dead things don't lie. Animal pathologists perform this examination of dead animals to find out how and why they died. They look for evidence of diseases or injuries.

PATHOLOGIST 🐠

Disease detective at your service! A pathologist studies how diseases make plants and animals sick and sometimes kill them.

S.E.M. 🐠

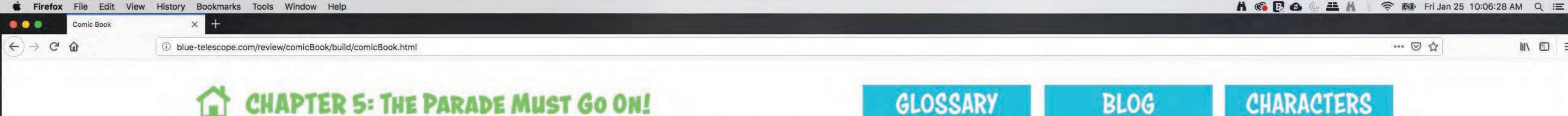
It stands for Scanning Electron Microscope. This very high-powered microscope can super zoom and magnify teeny tiny organisms, including viruses.

VECTOR

Dangerous things can come in small packages like vectors. These small organisms, such as mosquitoes, ticks or sand flies, carry and spread viruses and other microbes from infected animals to healthy ones.

ZOONOSIS 🐠

Sound catchy? Zoonosis is a disease that can be spread from other animals, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish to humans.



Afterword

How do germs get to the United States to infect us? It is interesting to understand how West Nile virus arrived in Queens. West Nile virus was first noticed in the West Nile region of Uganda, East Africa in 1937. It infected migrating birds, which carried the virus to Israel, causing outbreaks in and around Israel.

The genetic strain of the West Nile virus that infected birds and people in Queens in 1999 was the same strain that existed in Israel, but we do not know how the virus came to Queens. We can look to other diseases to get some clues: In 1994, three people were infected with malaria near a Parisian airport. The only logical explanation was that an infected mosquito hitched a ride in an airplane from Africa, escaped fumigation, and flew a few miles where it bit those people.

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CHARACTERS

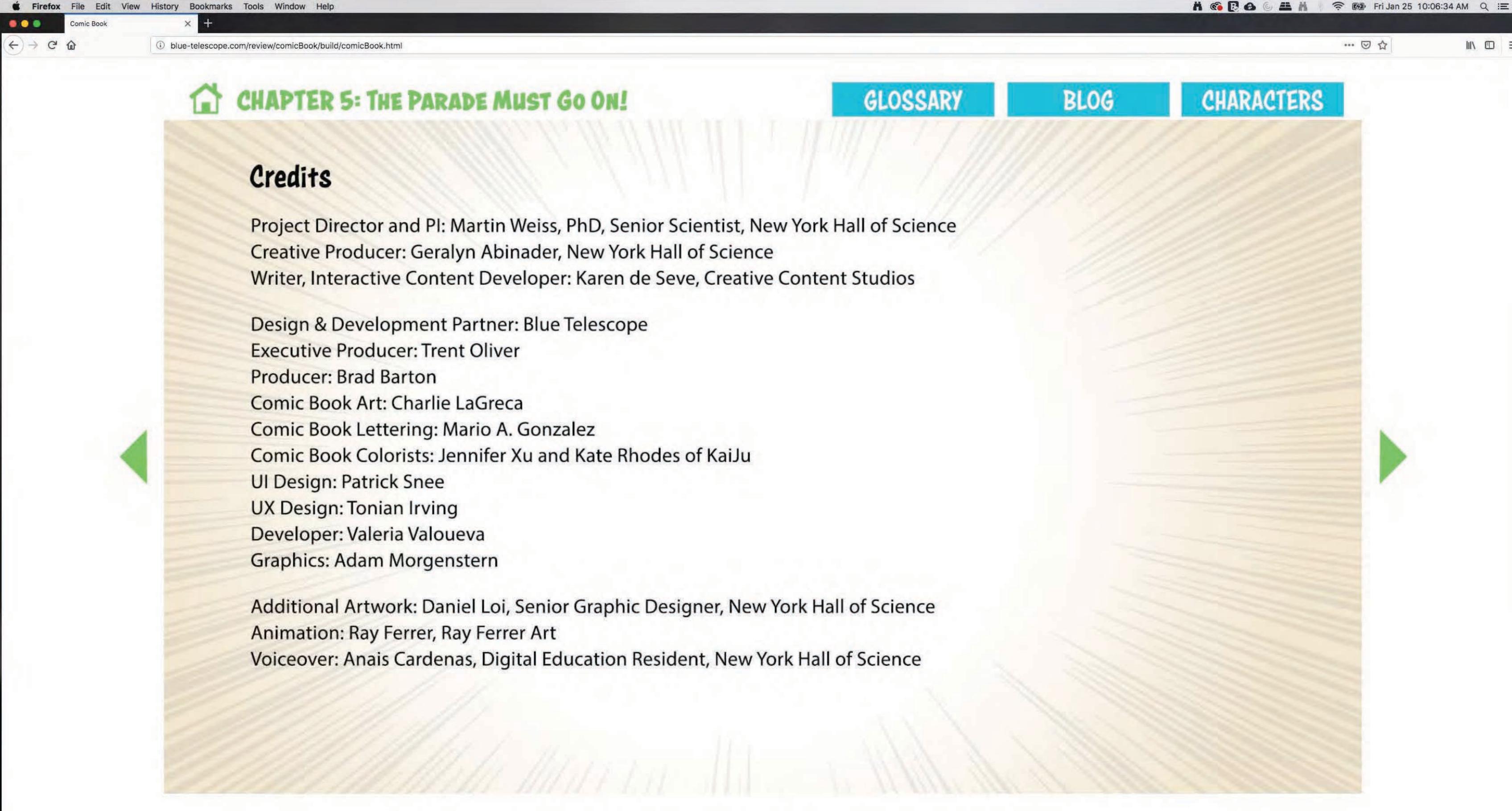
Afterword (continued)

Other diseases like HIV, and perhaps West Nile virus, are thought to have arrived in the United States with people who may not have known they were infected. People also smuggle wildlife into the country and it's possible that an infected bird escaped and spread West Nile virus. But why Queens? Queens is home to New York City's two large international airports, making it the prime location for the outbreak.

Every year, tens of thousands of us get sick from germs carried by animals. Zoonotic germs can be spread by direct contact (touching an animal), indirect contact (touching something an animal touched), by a vector (like mosquitos) and through food. To avoid getting infected, wash your hands after contact with animals, and use insect repellant to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas. Though it's best to avoid scratches or bites from animals, if you do get any, wash these carefully and fully with soap and water.

- Martin Weiss, Ph.D, Senior Scientist, New York Hall of Science

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CHAPTER 5: THE PARADE MUST GO ON!

GLOSSARY

BLOG

CHARACTERS

Credits (continued)

Michaela Labriole, Director of Strategic Education Initiatives, New York Hall of Science

Research & Development Team, New York Hall of Science Harouna Ba, Senior Scientist/Director of SciPlay Cornelia Brunner, Senior Advisor Laycca Umer, Program Coordinator

Rose Pozos, Research Assistant Wren Thompson, Research Assistant

Guest Editor and Advisor Tracey McNamara, DVM, Professor of Pathology College of Veterinary Medicine Western University of Health Sciences

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