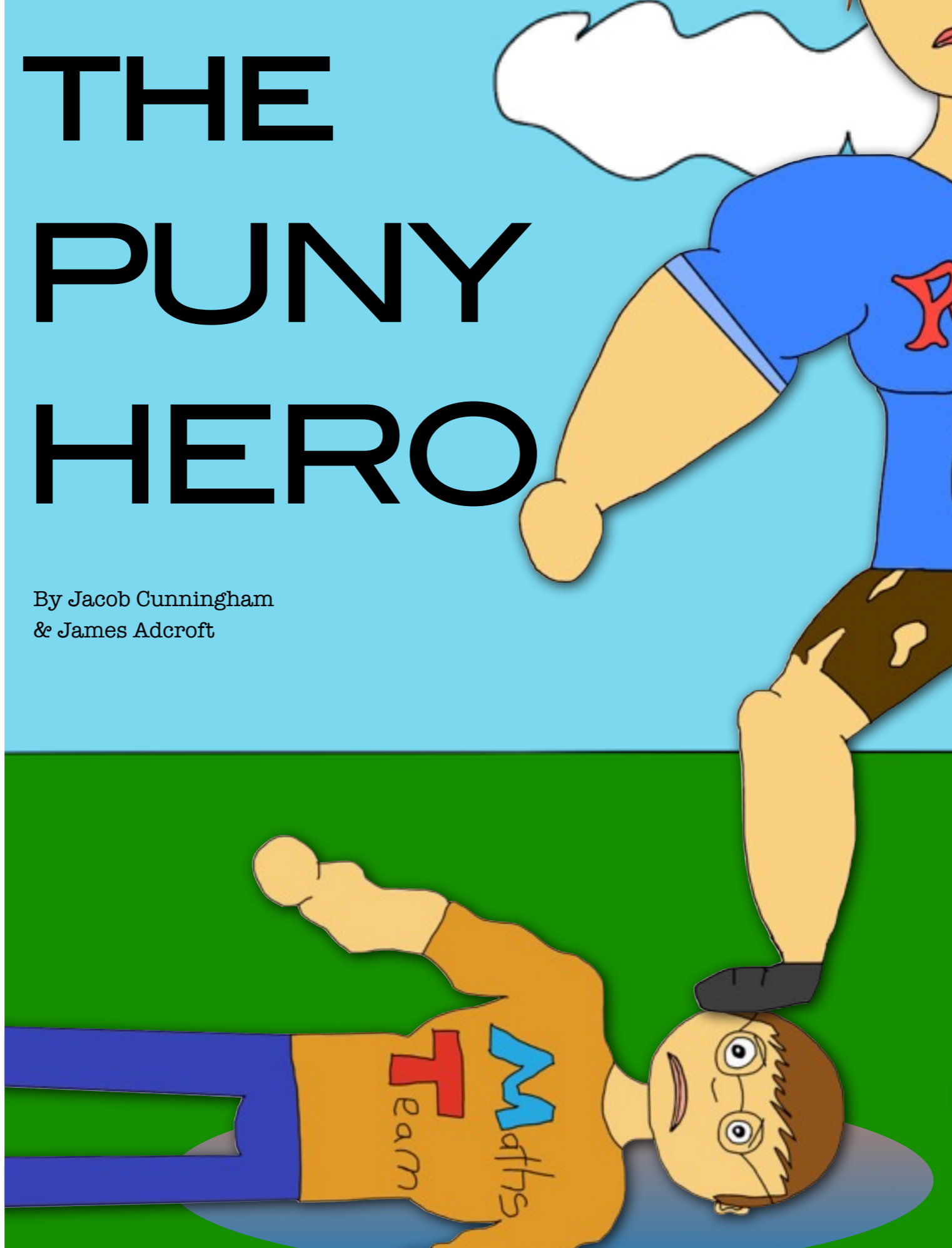


THE PUNY HERO

By Jacob Cunningham
& James Adcroft



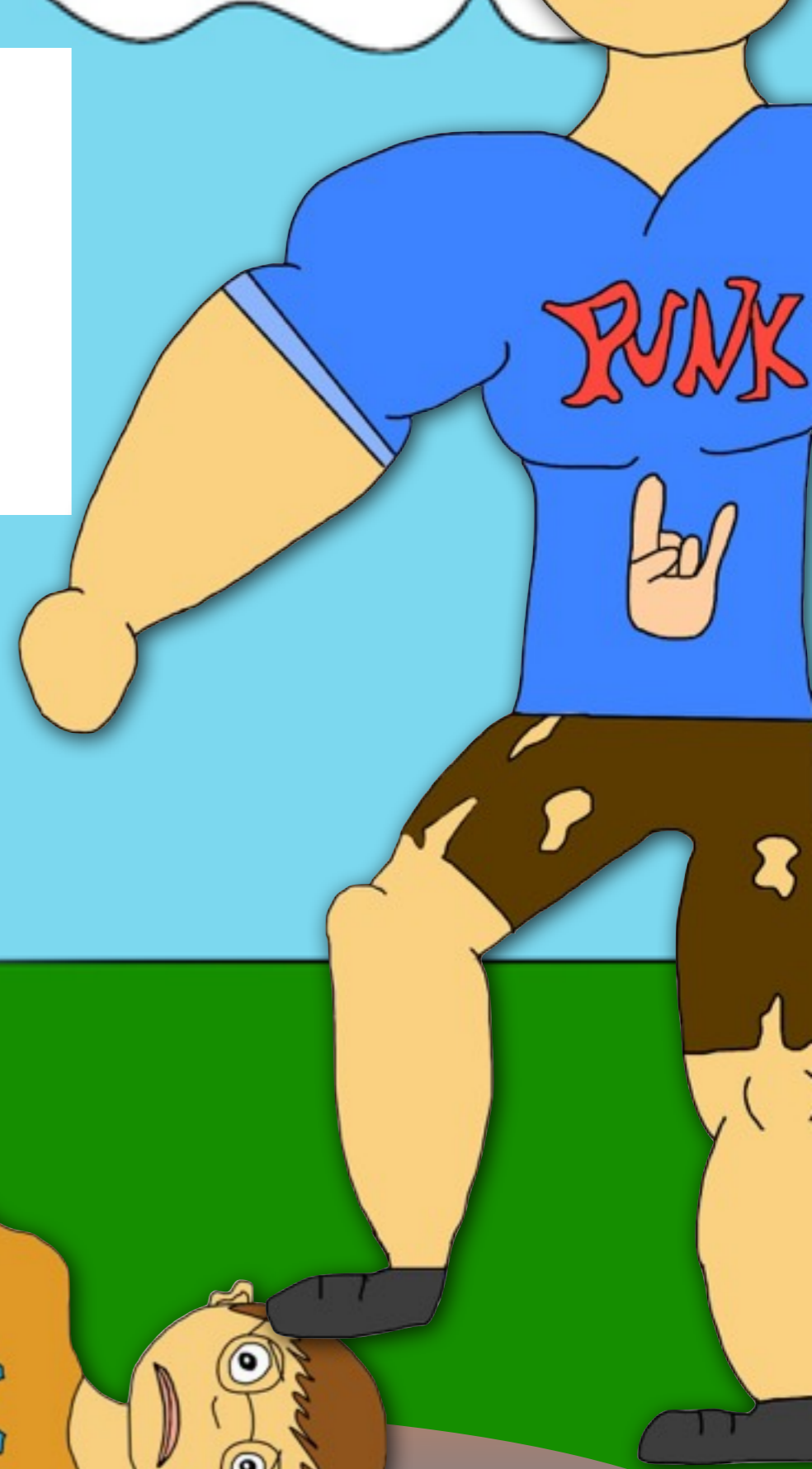
It was another depressing day for Alan as he walked through the cold steel gates of Apple Town Primary, holding his important science papers.



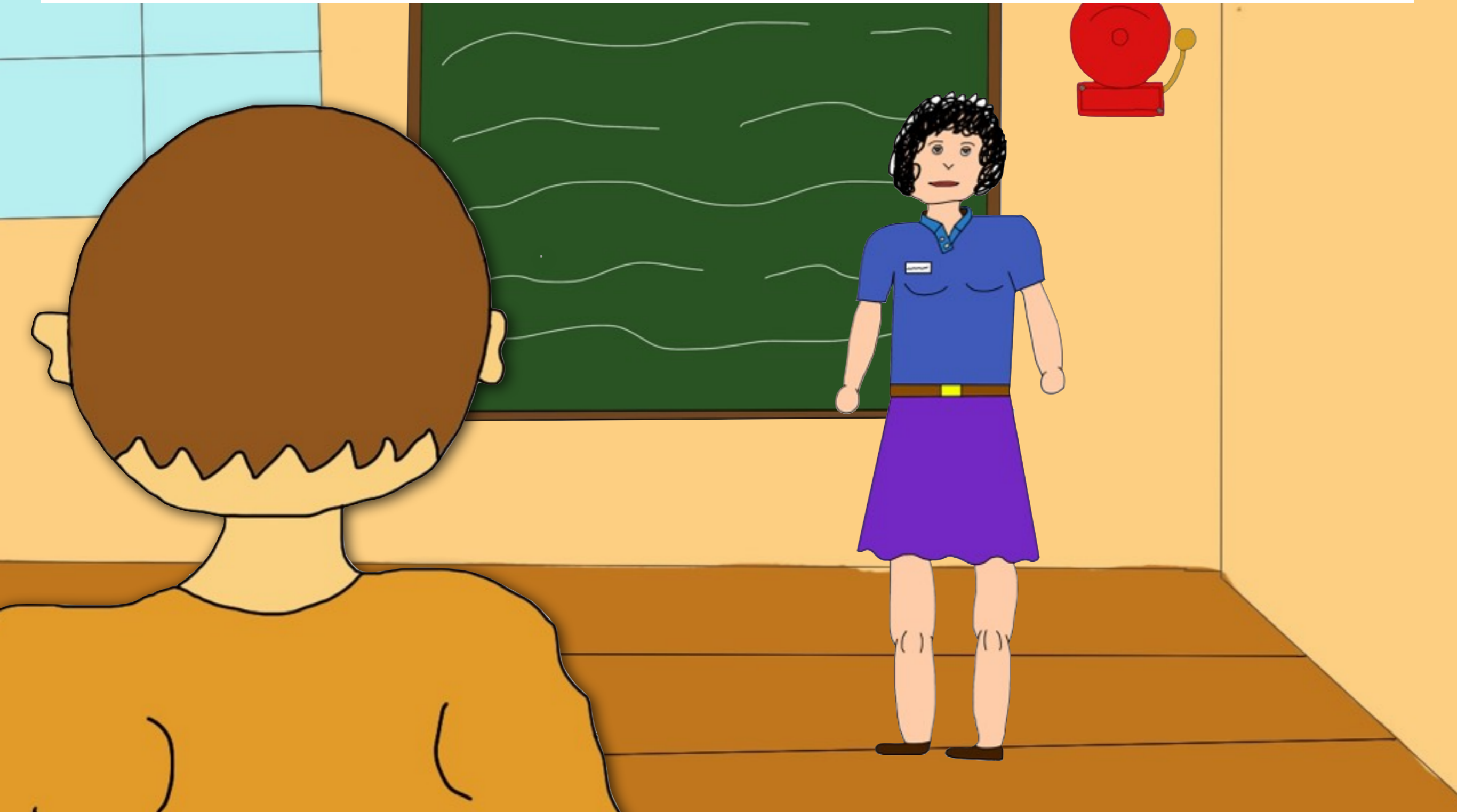


Suddenly, out of nowhere appeared Gus, the massive school bully who had more muscles than brains. With one explosive kick to the stomach, Alan was instantly winded.

Alan crumpled down into a muddy puddle, hardly able to breath. His valuable science papers lay ruined, saturated in the water.

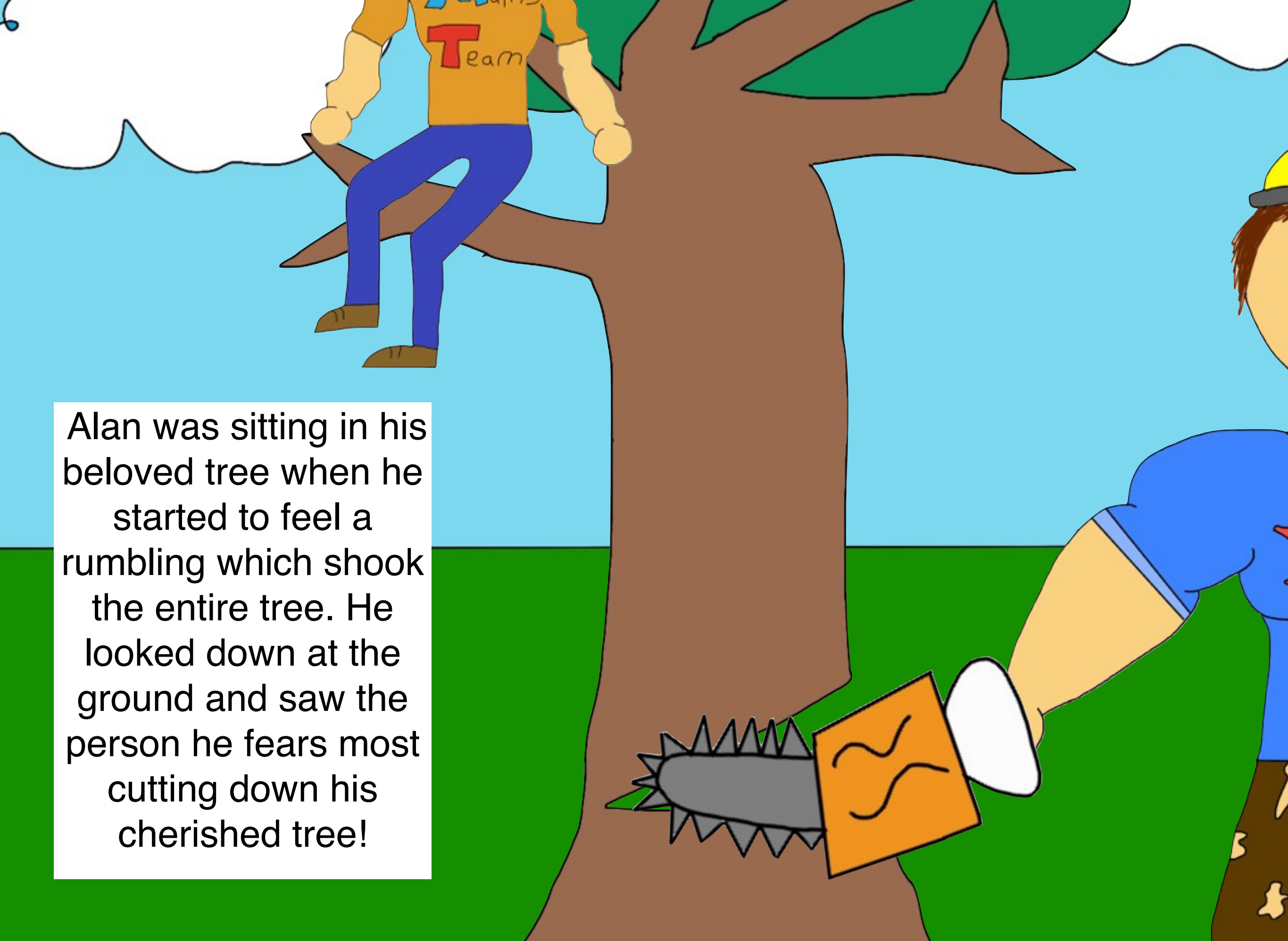


Alan sat in the classroom waiting to go out to recess. His mind drifted as he considered of all of the terrible, horrible, no good things that Gus would probably do to him next.





The school bell rang and Alan ran to climb his favorite apple tree where he always sat to eat his recess.

A cartoon illustration showing a man in a yellow shirt with a red 'T' and 'Team' on it, and blue pants, sitting on a tree branch. Below him, another man in a blue shirt and yellow pants is using a chainsaw on the ground. The background is a simple landscape with a blue sky, green grass, and a brown tree trunk. The man with the chainsaw is wearing a yellow hard hat and has a white object in his hand. The chainsaw has a grey blade and an orange handle with a white button.

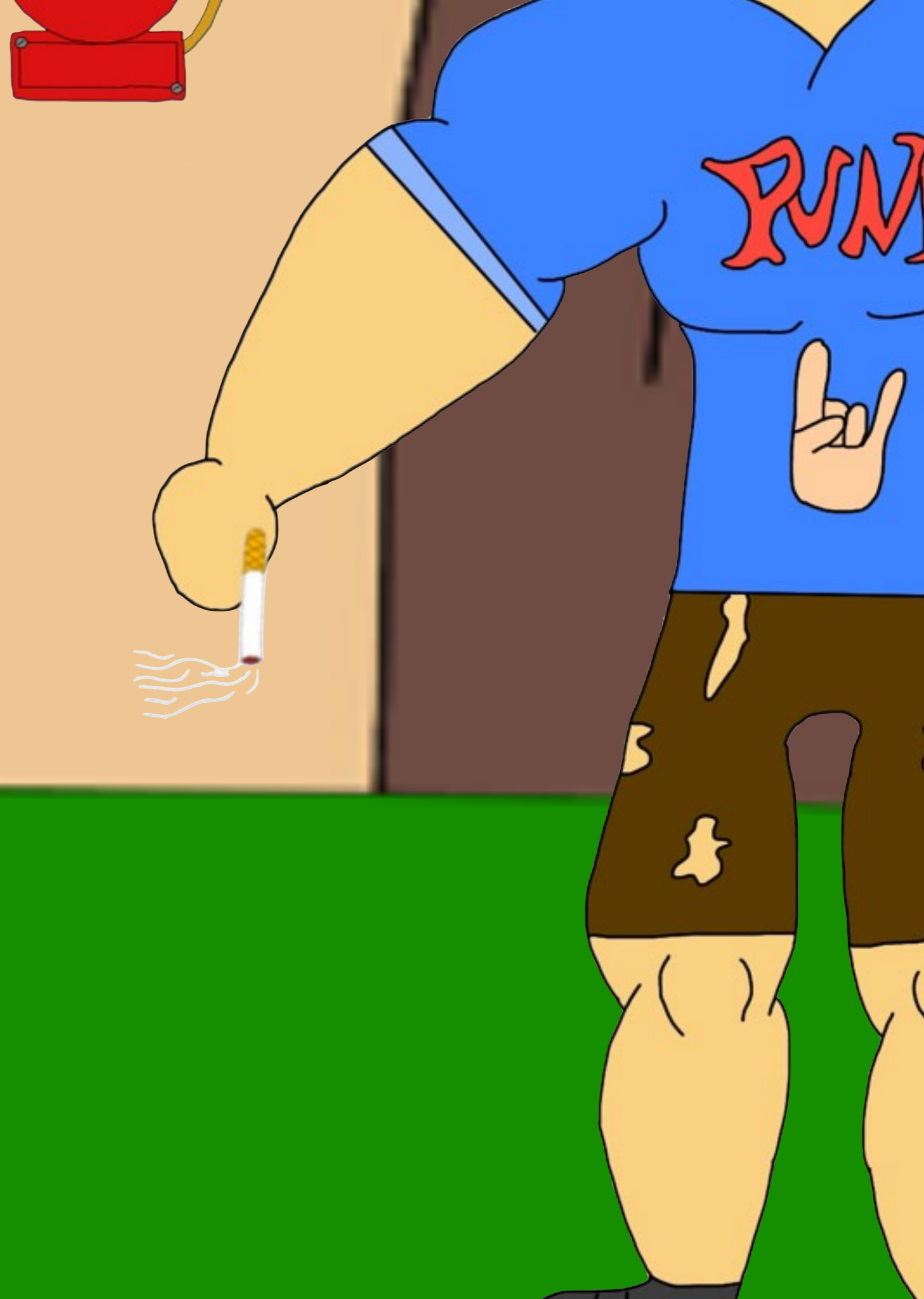
Alan was sitting in his beloved tree when he started to feel a rumbling which shook the entire tree. He looked down at the ground and saw the person he fears most cutting down his cherished tree!

CRACK! The tree started falls to the ground. Alan tried to jump to safety but his shoelace caught on a branch and he hit the ground with a thump as the tree landed on top of him.



Gus laughed and lit a cigarette but just before he was able to take a breath of smoke, the school bell rang. He dropped the cigarette and strolled inside without realising what he had done.

The cigarette lands on a small piece of paper that quickly erupts from a tiny ember into a fire that rapidly engulfs the building.





APPLE TOWN
PRIMARY

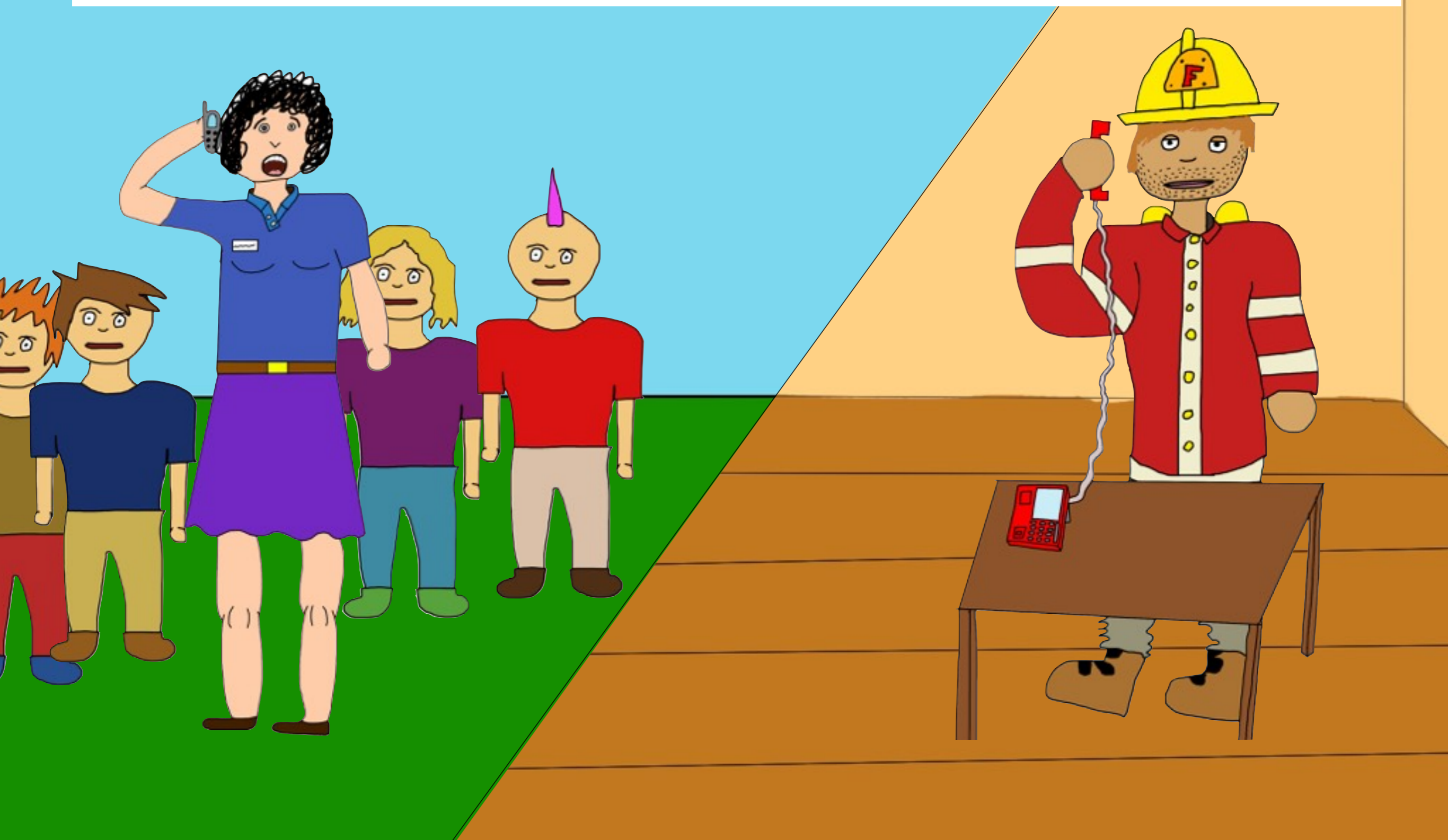
The fire quickly spreads and in a flash the school door is consumed by the furious flames which start to lick the building.

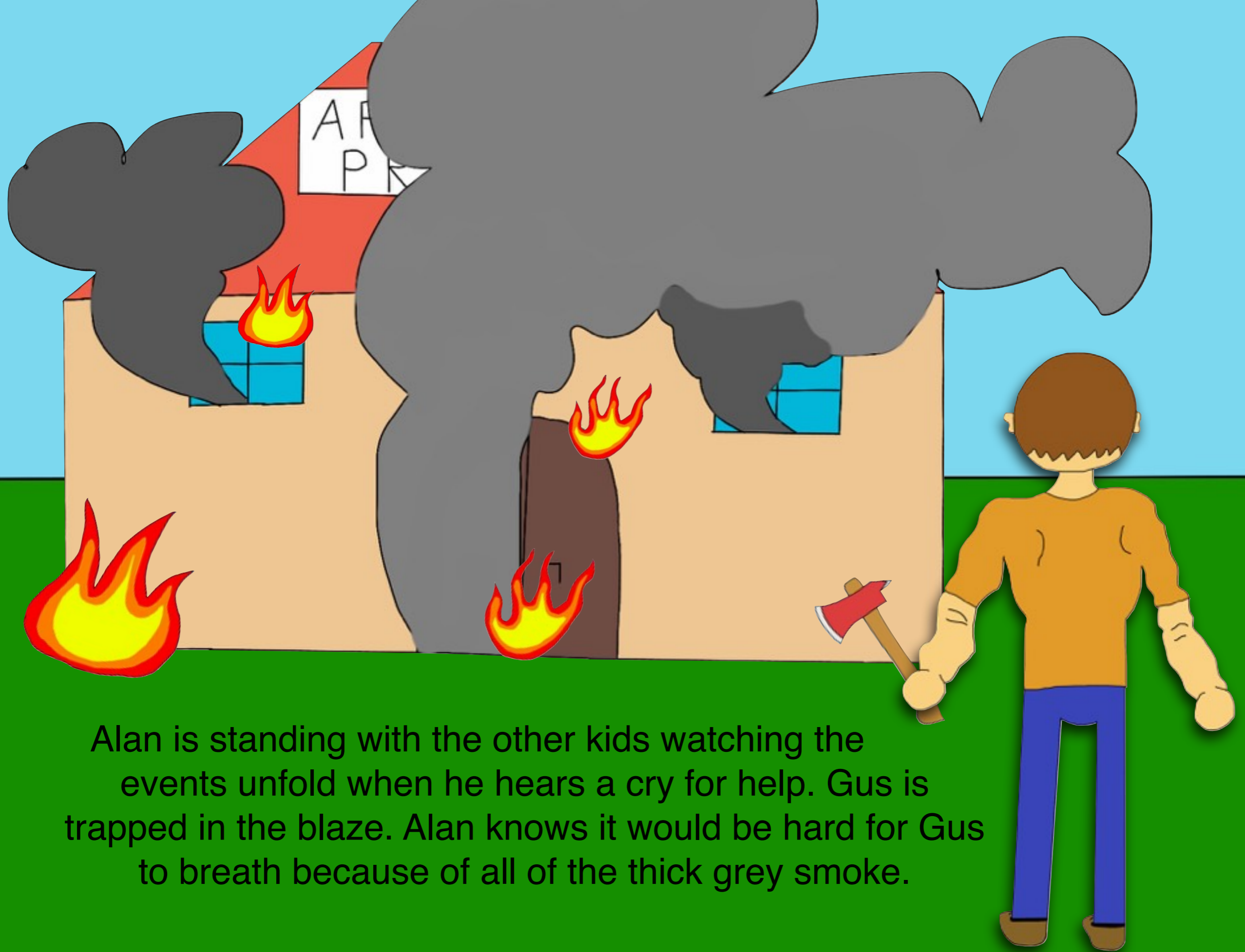
The students of Apple Town Primary run out the burnt door through the flames in a terrible panic.



Alan's teacher, Miss Hawks, quickly calls 000. Soon they hear the siren and see the blue and red flashing lights of a fire truck being driven by fireman Rick.

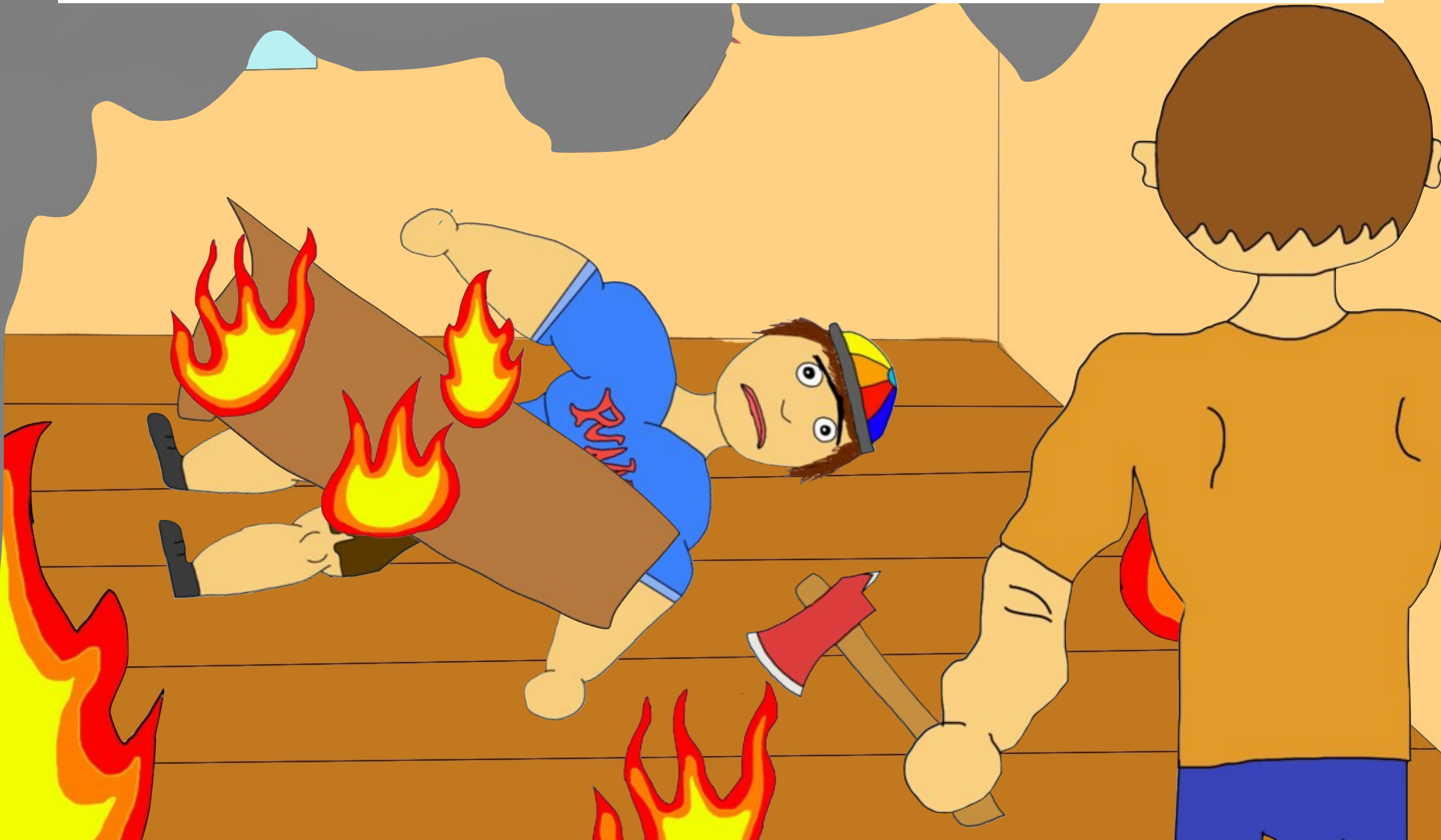
Rick swiftly connects the hose to a fire hydrant and sprays the ravenous blaze.

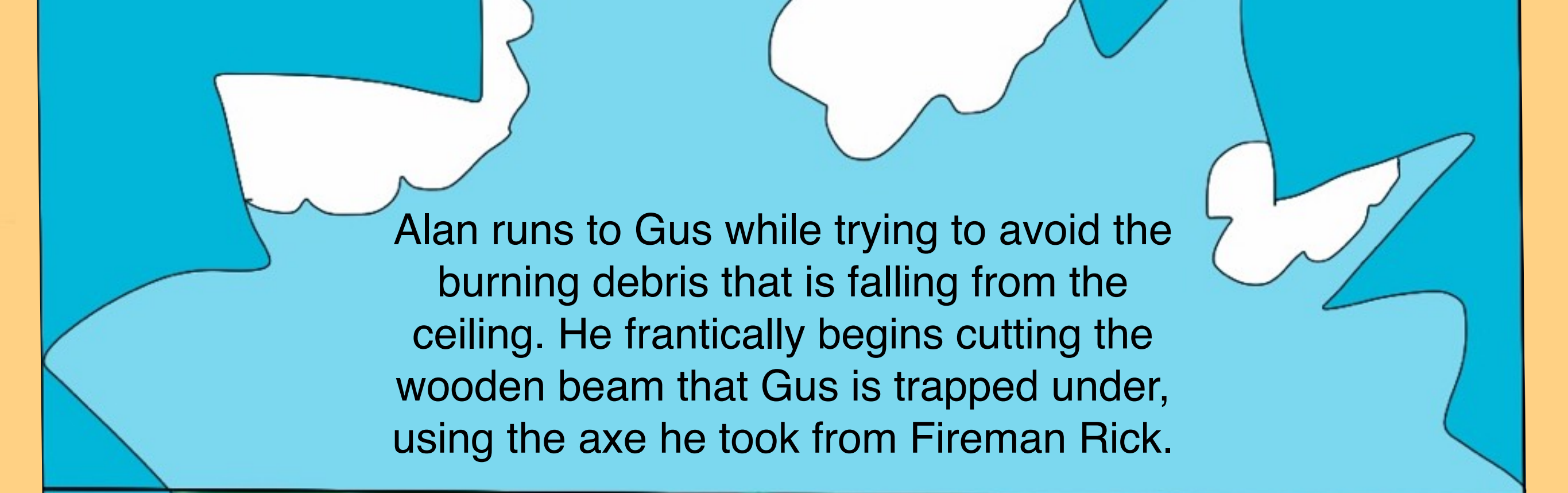




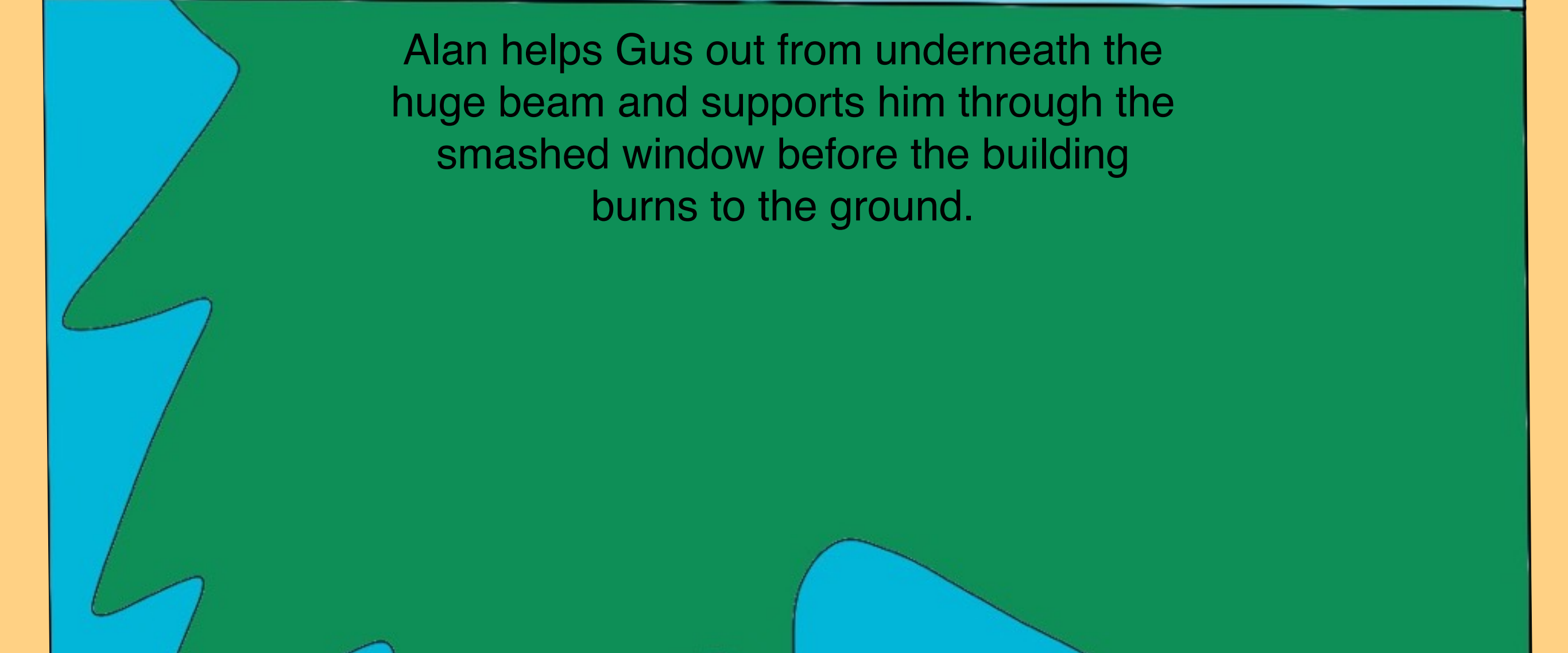
Alan is standing with the other kids watching the events unfold when he hears a cry for help. Gus is trapped in the blaze. Alan knows it would be hard for Gus to breath because of all of the thick grey smoke.

Alan rushes into the burning building with no regard for his own safety because he knows that he must save Gus from the flaming inferno. As soon as Alan enters the charred doors, he can feel the intense heat of the ginormous flames.





Alan runs to Gus while trying to avoid the burning debris that is falling from the ceiling. He frantically begins cutting the wooden beam that Gus is trapped under, using the axe he took from Fireman Rick.



Alan helps Gus out from underneath the huge beam and supports him through the smashed window before the building burns to the ground.

There is a huge sigh of relief when Alan and Gus lay on the grass, safe from the burning building. From that terrible day onwards, Alan, the pint sized hero, is celebrated for his bravery. Especially by Gus!

