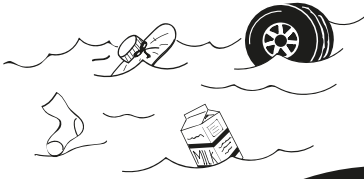


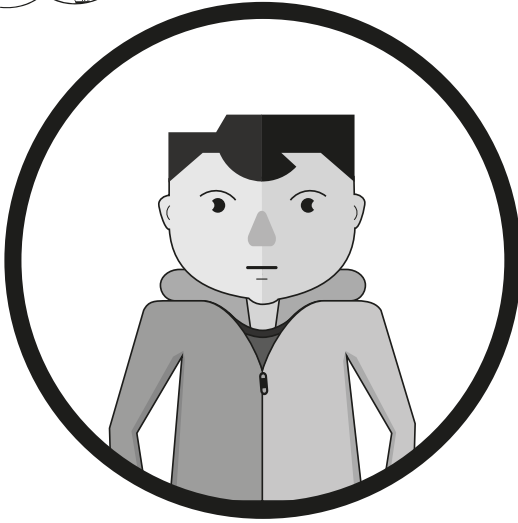
KILLER FLOOD



JEFF GOTTESFELD



MEET THE



Dan

Age: 12

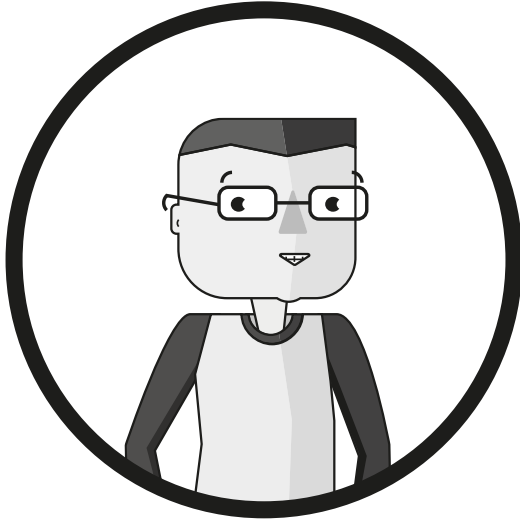
Fun Fact: memorized almost all numbers in his phone

Future Goal: to be an Olympic swimmer

Biggest Fish Caught: a seven-pound largemouth bass

Best Quality: stays calm under pressure

CHARACTERS



Pete

Age: 12

Fun Fact: no one has ever beat him at his favorite video game

Future Goal: to be an all-star baseball player

Favorite Card Game: pinochle

Best Quality: overcomes fears

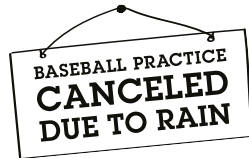
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RAIN

Darkness filled the sky. Lightning flashed and thunder roared. Rain was pouring down.

Dan looked out the window. “It’s never going to stop.”

His best friend, Pete, watched the rain too. He sighed. “I know. It’s been raining for a week. I miss being outside.”



The boys were at Mr. and Mrs. Catbay’s house. They were Dan’s neighbors. He and

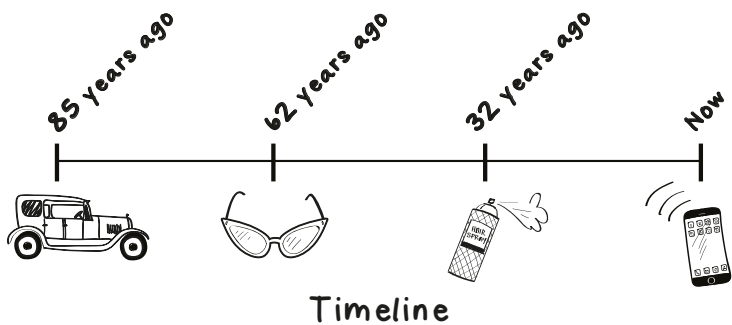


Pete liked visiting the couple. This week, the boys had visited several times. All the rain was keeping Dan and Pete indoors. Being inside was more fun with the Catbays.

Mr. Catbay was playing a card game with the boys. He looked up. “Well, I’m tired of being sore. My hands always ache when it rains.”

His wife made a funny face. “George, your hands hurt when it’s sunny too.”

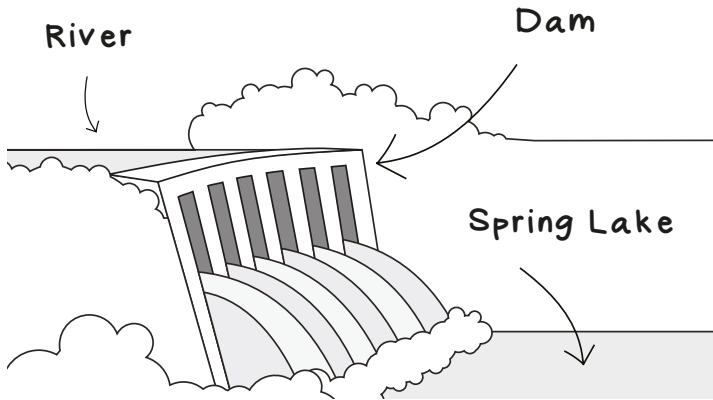
Mr. Catbay put down his cards. He rubbed his hands. “Dear, you’re right. I’m 85 years old. My hands ache all the time. Rain just makes it worse.”



“I think you should take your medicine, Mr. Catbay.” Dan grabbed the pills.

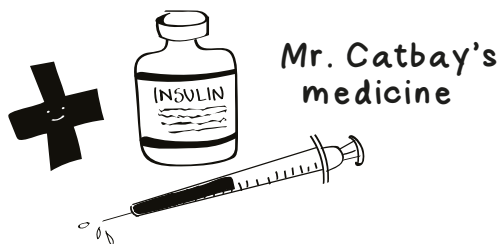
He loved his neighbors. Mrs. Catbay made the best cookies. Her husband liked taking Dan fishing. They always went to Spring Lake.

Water from a river drained into the lake. A dam there prevented flooding. Fish seemed to like that area.



The Catbays welcomed Dan and Pete. The boys helped with the couple’s needs. Mr. and Mrs. Catbay had fun with them too.

Dan was especially attentive to Mr. Catbay. Pills helped control Mr. Catbay's blood sugar. He had to check the level regularly. It couldn't get too high or low. When it did, he had to get a shot. This was special medicine. Without his medications, Mr. Catbay could die.



“Okay, Dan.” Mr. Catbay picked up his pill bottle. “But don’t worry about me. I’m going to live for 150 years. Remember?”

Dan chuckled. “That’s right. I almost forgot.”

“Here you go, George.” Mrs. Catbay handed her husband a glass of water.



Pete checked the time. “Let’s play one more game.”

He would be sleeping over at Dan’s tonight. Their parents had gone to a movie. It would be ending very late.

The boys’ parents loved the Catbays too. They wanted their sons to have fun with the couple. But Dan and Pete could not stay too long. Mr. and Mrs. Catbay needed their rest.

“Another game sounds good to me.” Mr. Catbay rubbed his hands again. “Dan, you deal this one.”

“Got it!” Dan grabbed the cards.



The boys left after the game. They returned to Dan's house. Dan fed his cat, Milo. After that, he and Pete played video games.

Later, Dan texted his parents. "Had fun with the Catbays. Fed Milo. Going to bed. See you later."

His mom texted back. "Sounds good. Sleep well."

Dan plugged his phone into its charger. Then he set the phone on his desk.

His bedroom had bunk beds. Dan took the top bunk. Pete was on the bottom one.

Soon their cell phones made a sound. It was an odd noise.

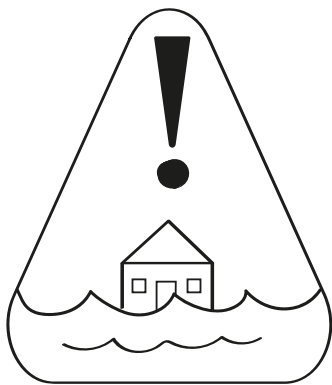
"What's that?" Dan asked.

Pete checked his phone. "It's a flash flood warning."



Dan climbed down from the top bunk. He turned on the light. Then he grabbed his phone. “Yep. We’re getting too much rain. The lake might flood. Its water is rising.”

FLOOD



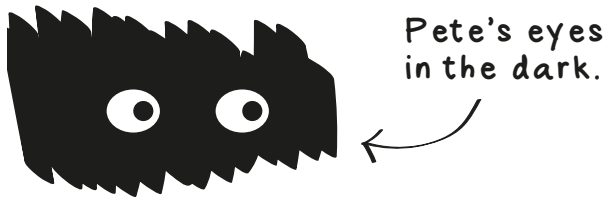
WARNING!



STRANGE SOUND

Dan climbed back up to his bunk. “I forgot the light. Can you turn it off, Pete?”

“Sure.” Pete flipped the light switch.



The rain was loud on the roof. *Is it coming down harder?* Dan wondered.

“Do you remember the last flash flood?” Pete asked.

Dan stared at the ceiling. “Yeah, it was two years ago, right?”



“I think so.” Pete adjusted his pillow. “They closed Main Street for a day. The baseball field was under water for a week. This town is in a valley. That’s the problem. Water just builds up.”



“Maybe you should take a break from baseball.” Dan chuckled. “Learn to swim instead.”

“No way! I don’t care about swimming. Nothing is better than baseball.”

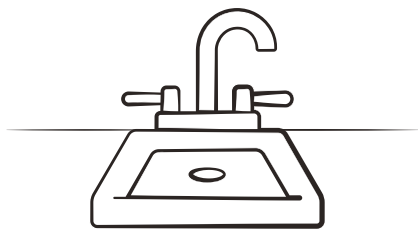
Dan sat up. “Hey, be quiet. I think I hear something. It sounds like water is running. Maybe it’s in the bathroom.”

“You brushed your teeth last. Did you forget to turn off the water?” Pete asked.

Dan climbed down. “No, I don’t think so. I never forget to do that.”

He flipped on the light. Then he walked down the hallway. The noise was like a gurgle. It started sounding louder to him as he walked.

Dan checked the bathroom. Water was not running. Still, the sound continued.



He called out to Pete. “There’s no water running in the bathroom. But I still hear something. I’m going to keep looking.”

“Okay, dude,” Pete called back.



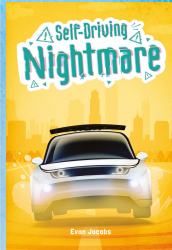
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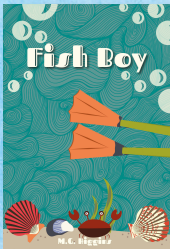
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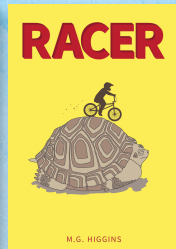
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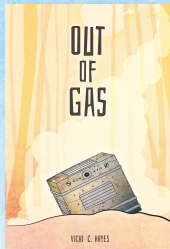
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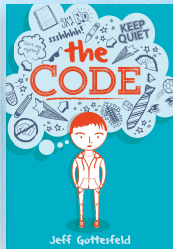
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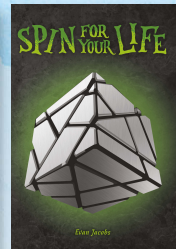
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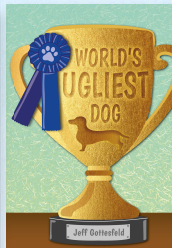
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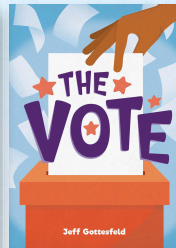
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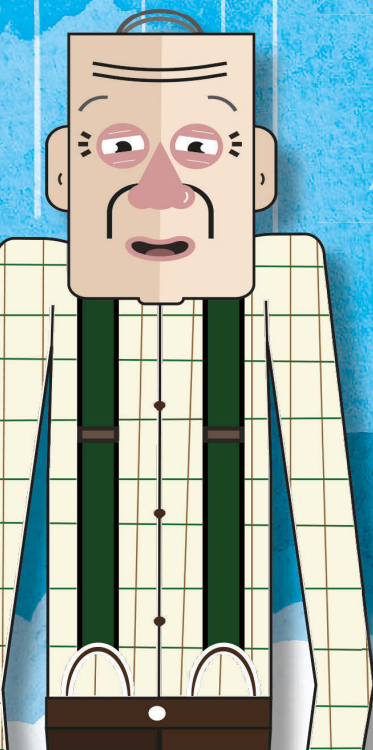
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KILLER FLOOD

What happens if this
rain doesn't stop?




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