

House of Dreams Redux

Part 3

Areg5

CRYO-FREEZE
CHAMB

A-12

SEPARTECH INC.

MINUTES LATER...



I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH MRS. GIBSON, JON.



YEAH, YOUR OLD FLAME IS REALLY NICE, DAD-O. YOU MUST BE PSYCHED TO BE IN HER CLASS, HUH?

I'M JUST GLAD SHE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME.




I WOULD THINK THAT UNLIKELY. YOU WERE GETTING ALONG WELL WITH RUTHIE...

SHE'S COOL! SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE MRS. GIBSON USED TO.

I INVITED HER OVER FOR A PLAY DATE TOMORROW.

YOU... YOU DID?



I DID, IF THAT'S OK. NOW, I FILLED OUT ALL OF YOUR FORMS, BUT I WASN'T SURE HOW TO ANSWER THE GENDER IDENTITY QUESTION.

I WANTED TO DISCUSS IT WITH YOU.

HUH?
WHAT'S TO DISCUSS? I'M A BOY!

I NOTICED YOU'RE WEARING DANA'S OLD UNDERWEAR WHEN WE WERE AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...

IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED ABOUT IF YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A GIRL, DAD-O.



I'M NOT ASHAMED, AND I SEE MYSELF AS A BOY!

HAHA... UH HUH. HE WOULDN'T LEAVE ME ALONE UNTIL I LET HIM WEAR MY OLD PANTIES, MOM.

SHE MADE ME WEAR THEM, MOM!!

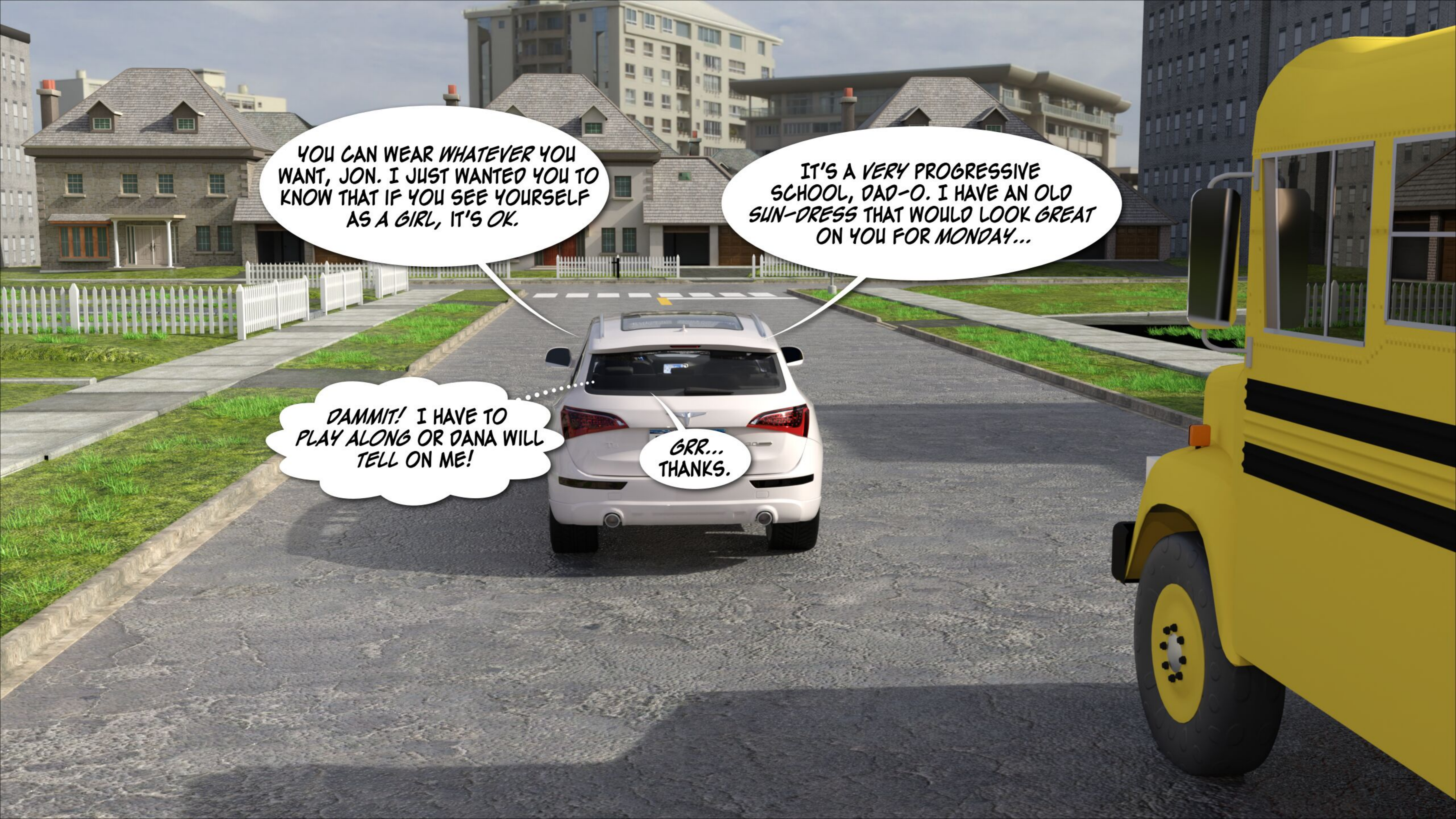
NO FIGHTING IN THE CAR, KIDS.


YOU CAN WEAR WHATEVER YOU WANT, JON. I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT IF YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A GIRL, IT'S OK.

IT'S A VERY PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL, DAD-O. I HAVE AN OLD SUN-DRESS THAT WOULD LOOK GREAT ON YOU FOR MONDAY...

DAMMIT! I HAVE TO PLAY ALONG OR DANA WILL TELL ON ME!

GRR...
THANKS.



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a yellow sleeveless top and blue jeans, is walking through a doorway. She is holding the hand of a young boy with dark hair, wearing a black t-shirt with a green dinosaur and the word "Roar!" on it, and khaki shorts. Another woman with dark hair is standing behind them. The scene is set in a room with a wooden floor, a patterned rug, and a window with curtains. A small table with a picture frame and a phone is visible on the left.

HOW ABOUT GETTING YOUR TEST OUT OF THE WAY? THEN YOU CAN HAVE THE REST OF THE DAY TO YOURSELF.

AWWW... BUT I WANTED TO GO IN THE POOL.

THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR ASSIGNMENT.



OK.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THE TEST, YOU CAN GO IN THE POOL BUT ONLY UNDER SUPERVISION.

I'LL MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T DROWN, MOM.

THANK YOU, DEAR.



I KNOW HOW TO
SWIM, MOM!

LIKE A
BABYSITTER?!

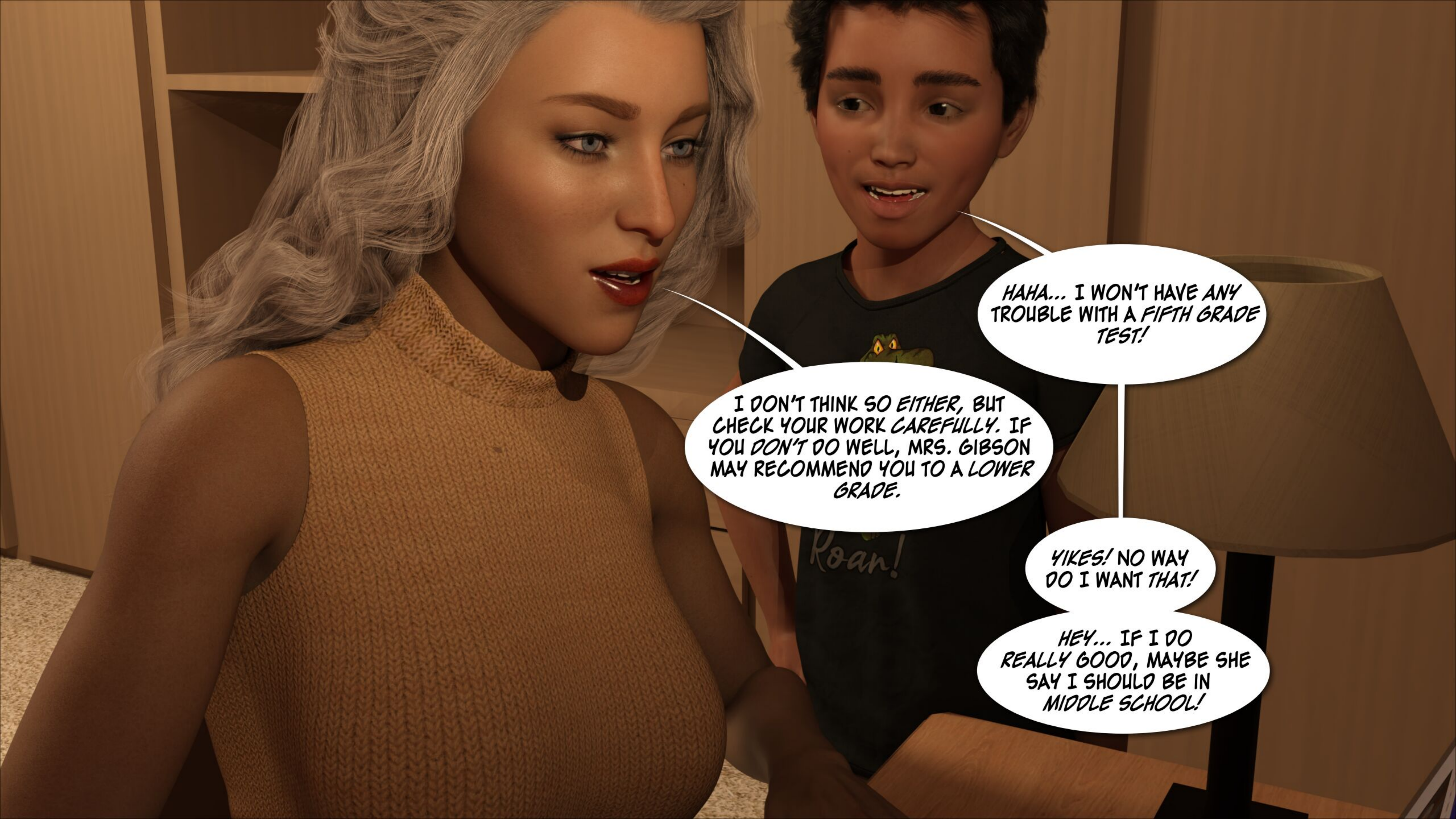
I KNOW YOU DO, SWEETIE.
MOMMY WOULD JUST BE MORE
COMFORTABLE IF DANA KEPT AN EYE
ON YOU.

LIKE A SITTER, JON.
YOU'RE NOT A BABY.

THANK GOD FOR THAT!
OK, SINCE I'M TEN,
I GUESS SHE CAN BE MY
SITTER.

I AM GLAD YOU'RE IN
AGREEMENT. I'LL PULL UP THE
SITE, AND YOU CAN GET
STARTED.





HAHA... I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH A FIFTH GRADE TEST!

I DON'T THINK SO EITHER, BUT CHECK YOUR WORK CAREFULLY. IF YOU DON'T DO WELL, MRS. GIBSON MAY RECOMMEND YOU TO A LOWER GRADE.

YIKES! NO WAY DO I WANT THAT!

HEY... IF I DO REALLY GOOD, MAYBE SHE SAY I SHOULD BE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage and answer the questions relating to it.

On one full-moon night every fall, the rivers and lakes of Thailand are dotted with twinkling candles. The Thais are celebrating "Loi Krathong," or "Floating Leaf Cup Day."

No one knows for sure how this lovely custom got started. Some say it was started 700 years ago by a wife of a king who wanted to surprise and please her husband. Others say it started even longer ago as a special religious ceremony. But however it began, it is delightful.

Families always used to make their floats, or little boats, from banana leaves torn into strips and woven into the shape of a bowl. Then they beautifully decorated them with flowers. Now, while many families still make their own floats, others simply buy them. Modern floats may be made of banana leaves or plastic. All of them still hold a lighted candle, a flower, a stick or two of sweet-smelling incense, and a coin.

On the holiday evening, families gather at parks near lakes, rivers, or



canals for outdoor dinners. Adults sit on mats and visit with their neighbors while children play tag or hide-and-seek. In some cities, blazing fireworks and dancers in shining silk costumes entertain the crowd.

Many men and women sell things. People sell floats to those who have not made them at home. Other people sell balloons in various shapes and colors or clever toys made of bamboo. Food sellers offer noodle soup, dried fish, candy, little cakes, roasted chicken, and bamboo tubes filled with sticky rice cooked in coconut milk. They pour soft drinks into small plastic bags, whirl a rubber band around the top, and stick in a short straw.

Then, when the full moon rises, families light the candles and set their little boats afloat. The waterway soon twinkles like a fairyland with candles bobbing in their floats and fireworks reflecting in the water.

THIS'LL BE A
PIECE OF CAKE!

GOOD. NADIA SHOULD BE HERE SOON. IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE IN THE GYM.

OK, MOM.

THIS IS EASY! I READ THE WHOLE THING! NOW, THE QUESTIONS...



1

Paragraph 2 of this selection is mainly about —

- A** how this holiday might have begun
- B** what the floats are made of
- C** when the holiday takes place
- D** what people eat during the holiday

2

To understand more about the meaning of the floating leaf cups, the reader should ask —

- A** how the floats are kept from being burned by the flame
- B** why a coin is placed in the float
- C** what happens to all the floats when the holiday is over
- D** how much store-bought floats cost

3

After reading the title, what should you expect to learn from this selection?

- A** How to make your own candles
- B** Ideas for new recipes
- C** Why we celebrate the Fourth of July
- D** Where a candlelit holiday is celebrated

4

Which detail in the selection shows that this is a relaxing holiday?

- A** Families spend the evening eating, playing, and visiting.
- B** People spend hours making floats.
- C** There are many different kinds of food to buy.
- D** It is held in autumn.

UM...



I BETTER READ IT
AGAIN. I CAN'T MESS
UP!