

the
misadventures
of **MAX
CRUMBLY**

Middle School Mayhem

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with Nikki Russell

SIMON & SCHUSTER

NEW YORK LONDON TORONTO SYDNEY NEW DELHI

Honestly, dude! YOU would have freaked out too!

Anyway, after what seemed like forever, I finally managed to escape through the ventilation system.

But as I was passing the computer lab, I accidentally stumbled upon three burglars in the process of stealing the school's brand-new computers! It was SURREAL!

I started thinking about how I'm such a LOSER that kids at school call me BARF ~~because I accidentally threw up my oatmeal on Thug's shoe in PE class.~~

~~Sorry, but if you had seen those pus-filled ZITS on his face up close, you would have thrown up too!~~

Anyway, I FINALLY had the chance to completely CHANGE my pathetic life. HOW?!

By stopping the burglars and saving the school's computers ~~while at the same time impressing Erin, president of the computer club!~~

~~But don't get it TWISTED! It's not like I'm crushing on her or something! I BARELY know the girl!!~~

And then, **BOOM!!**

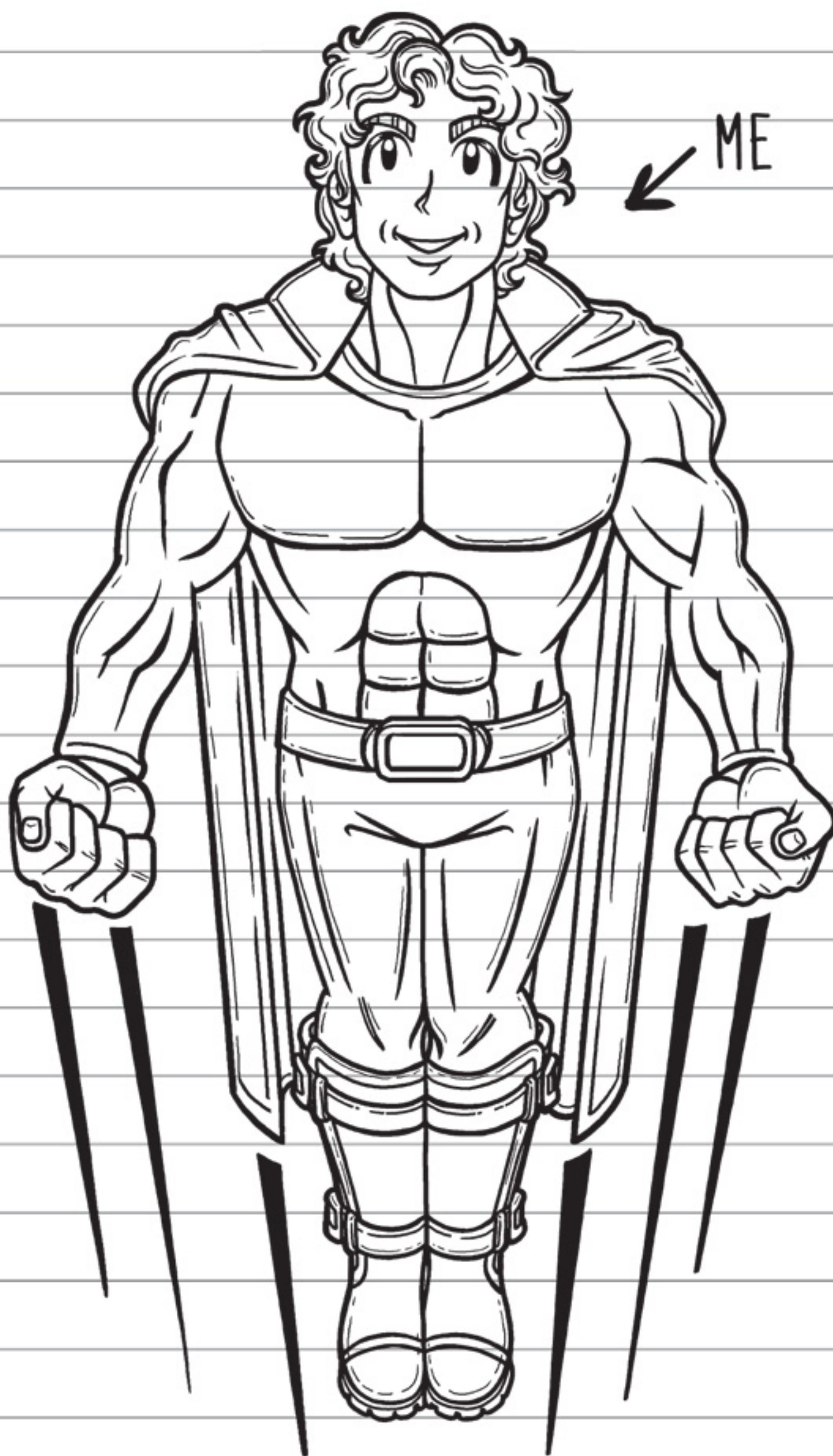
My rep would BLOW UP, and I'd instantly go from ZERO to HERO!

SWEET!!

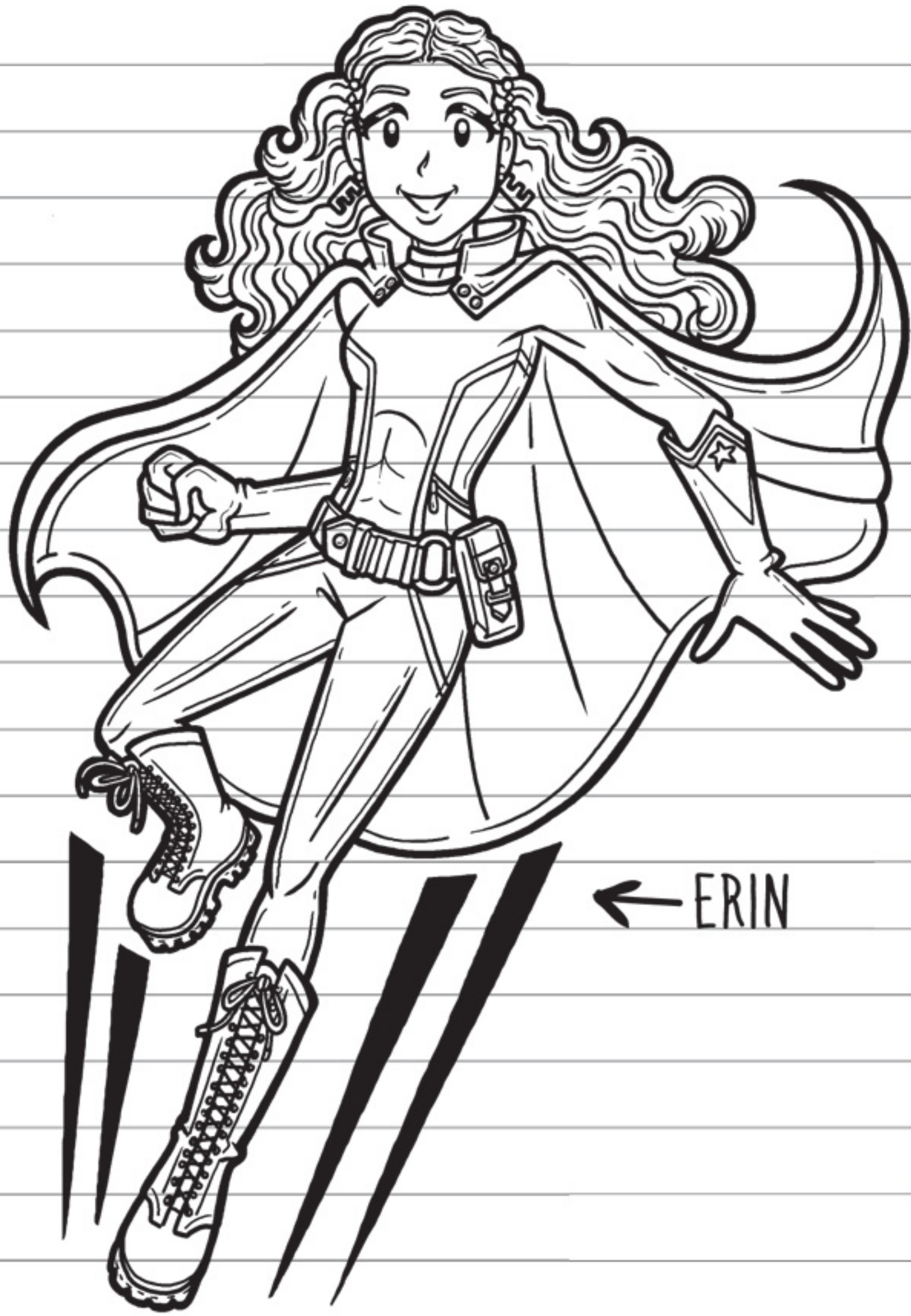
This, my friends, is the very STRANGE but TRUE tale of how I fought EVIL and INJUSTICE in the DANK, DARK, DANGEROUS halls of South Ridge Middle School.

I've documented every detail in my journal, *The Misadventures of Max Crumbly*, which I keep with me wherever I go. So let's pick up right where I left off in my last entry....

I had just outsmarted those bungling burglars and was BLASTING through my school like a rocket to go exchange intel by cell phone with my trusty sidekick, Erin!....

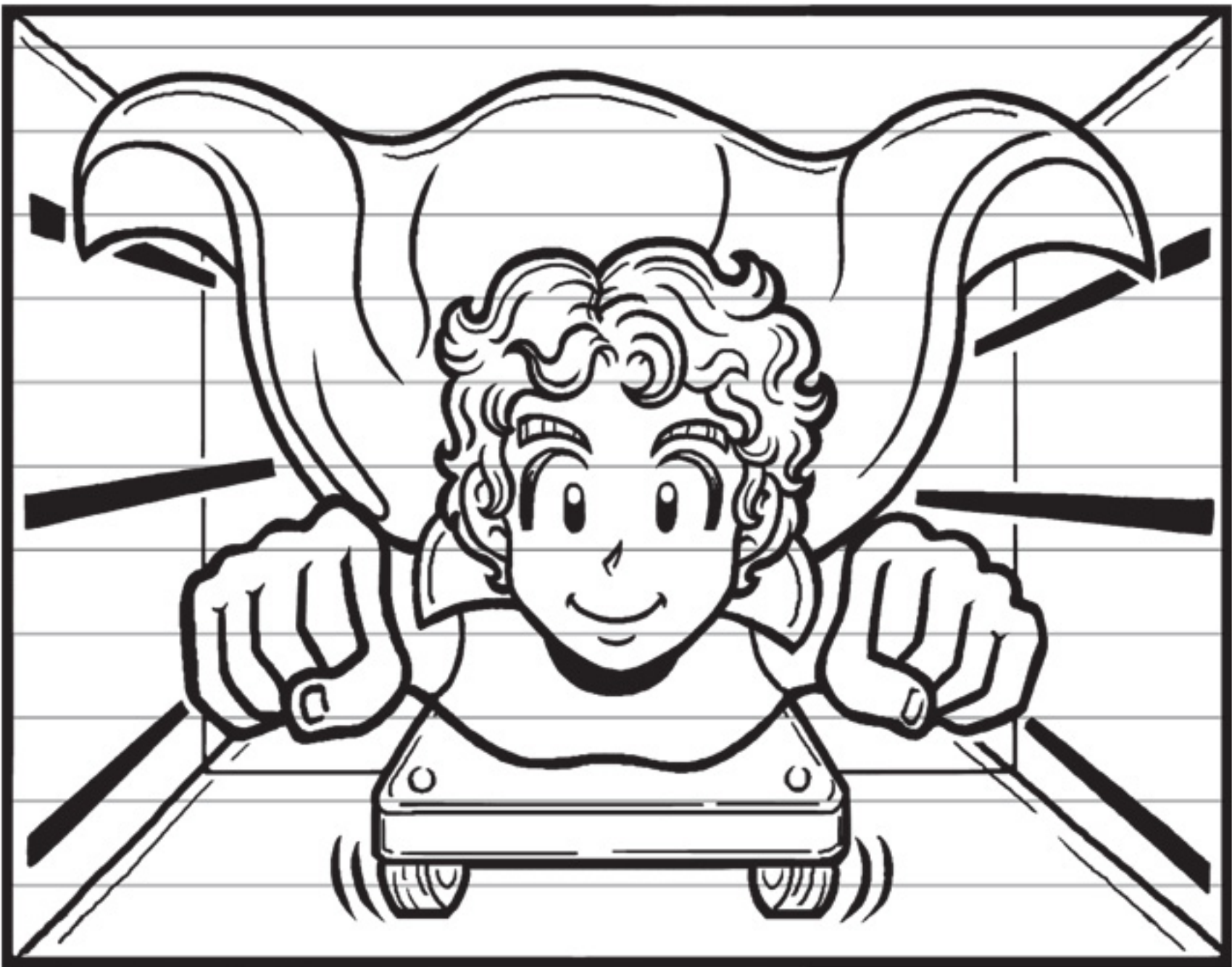
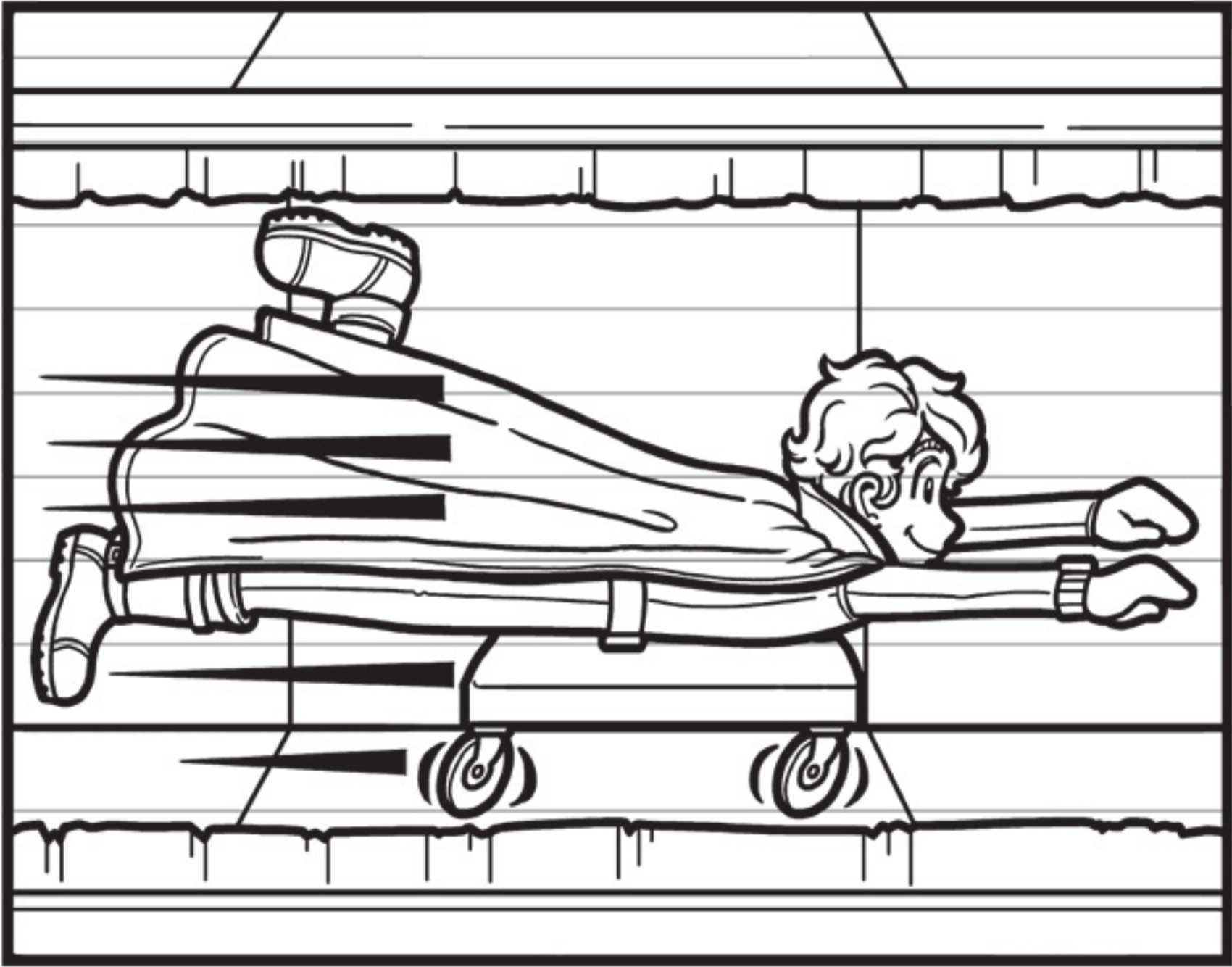


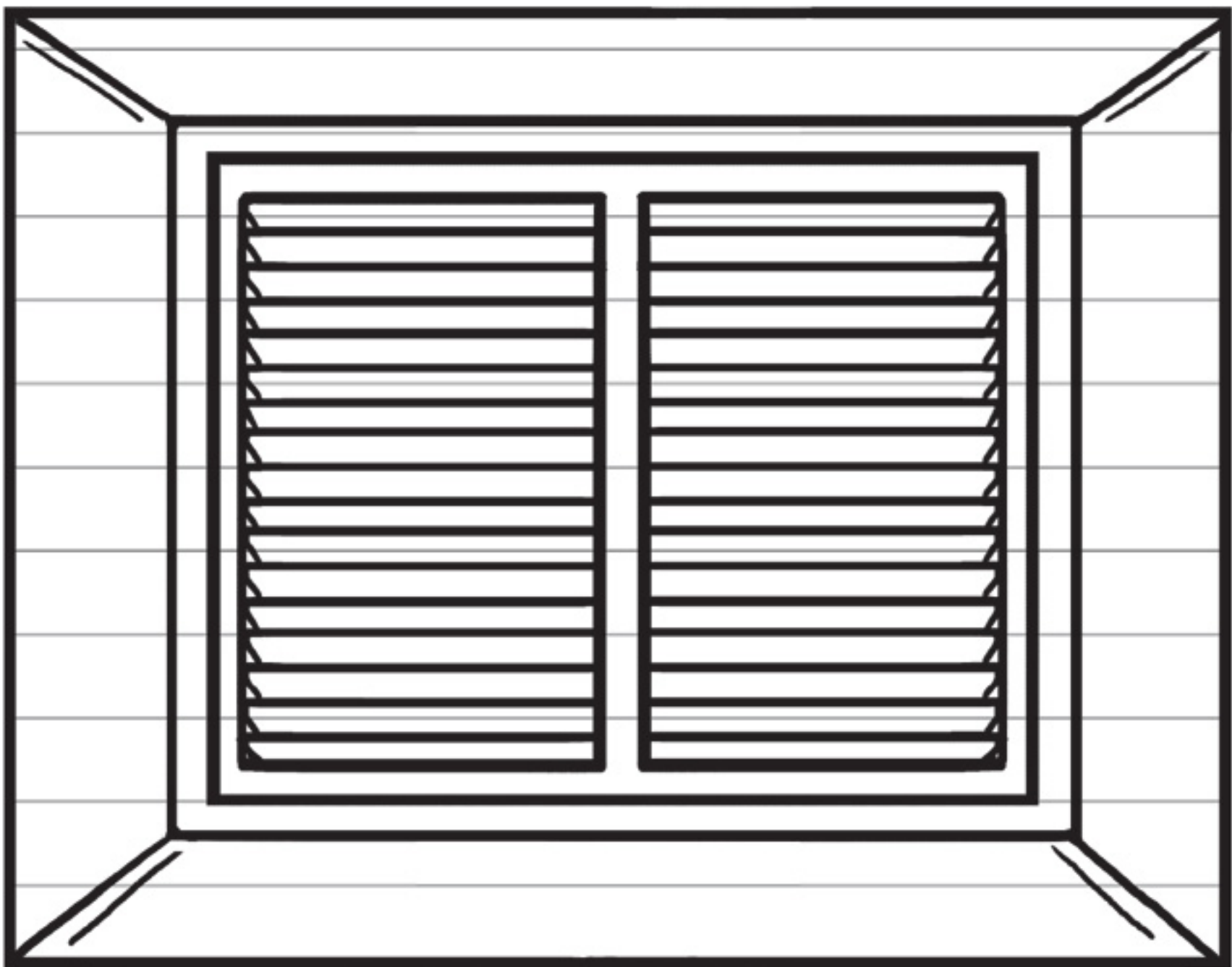
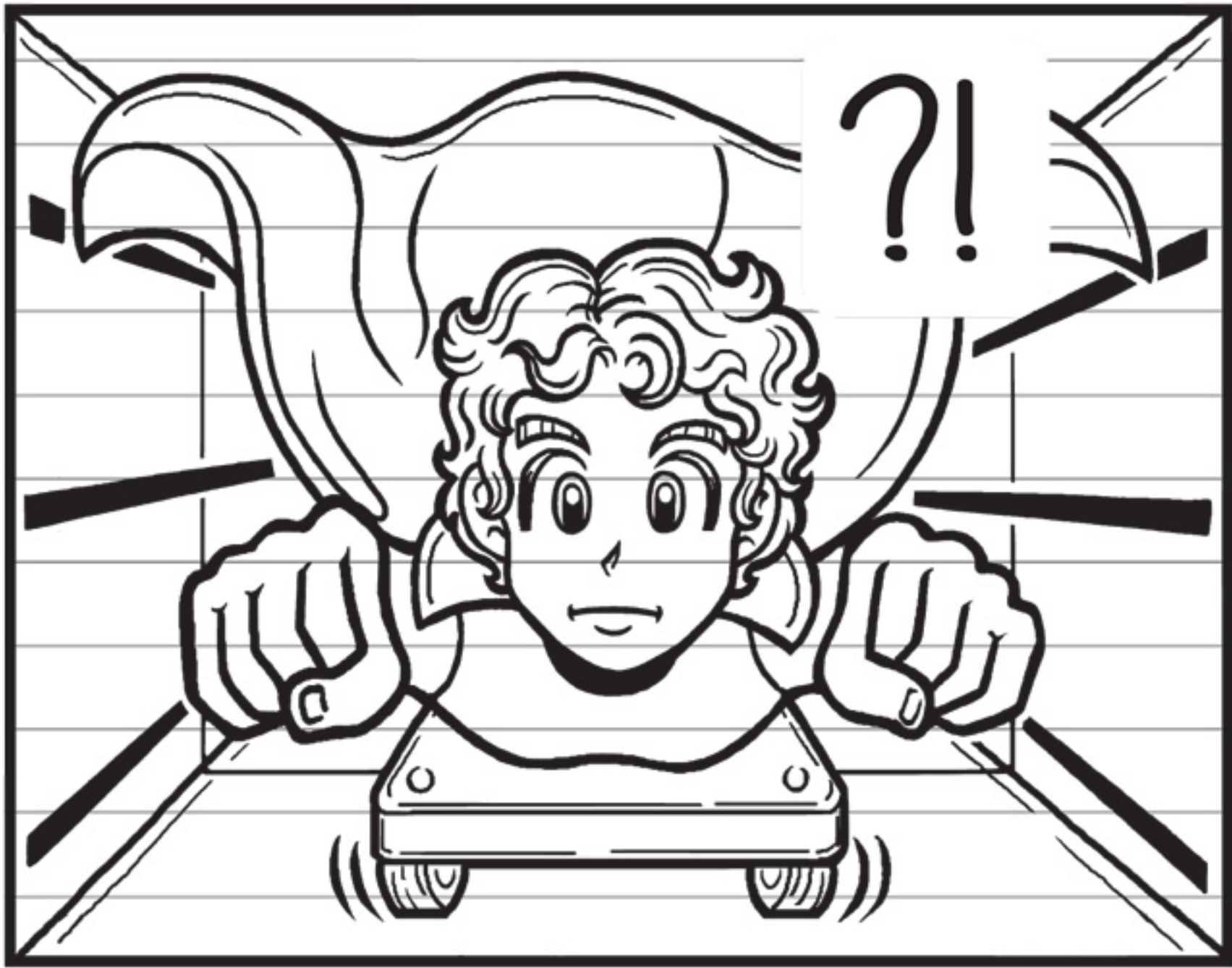
ME, AS MIGHTY MAX, BLASTING
THROUGH THE SCHOOL!!

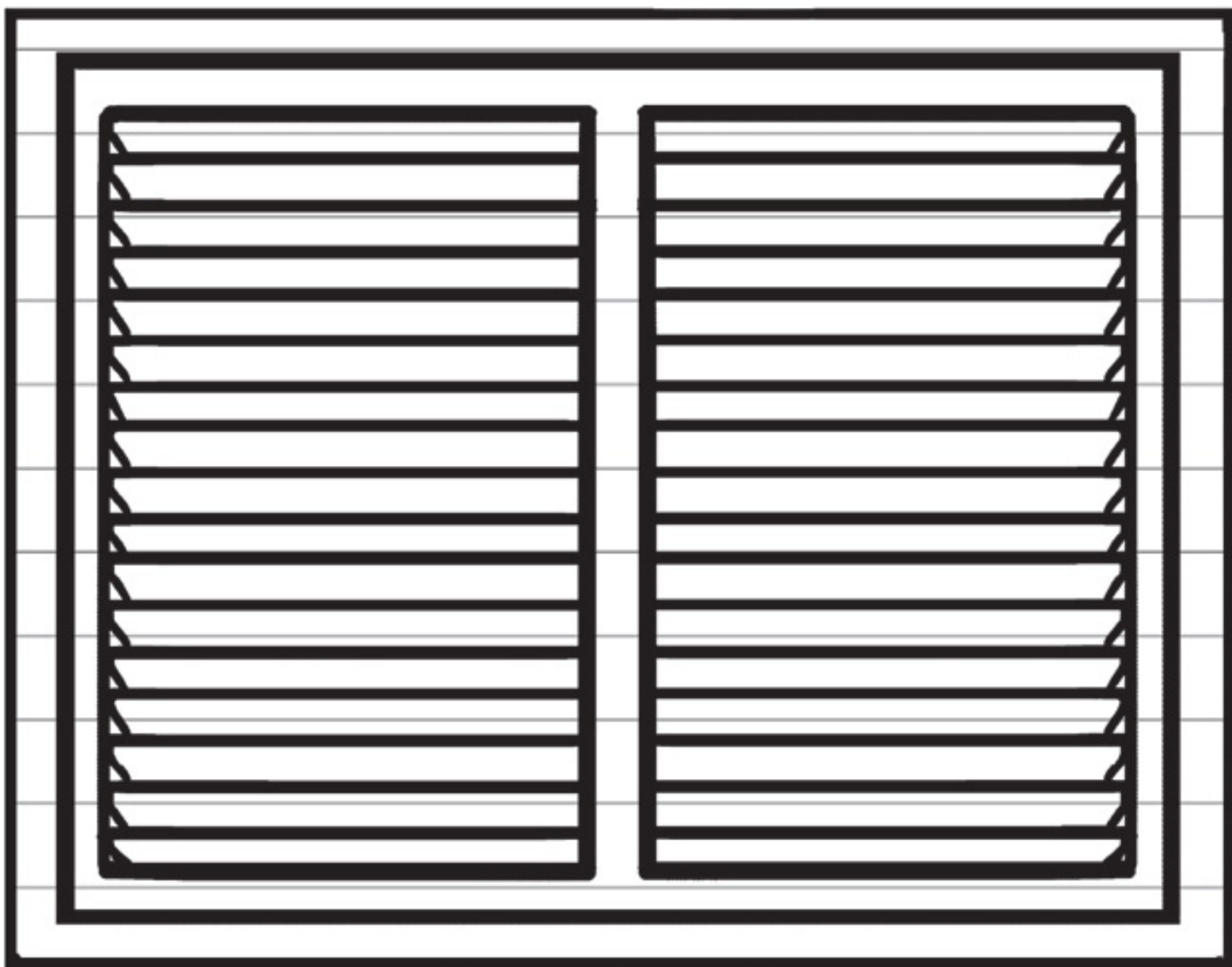


ERIN, MY SUPERHERO BFF!

Okay, I'll admit I may have exaggerated a little.
This is what REALLY happened.....













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It was the . . .

WORST.

DAY.

EVER!!

THE MISADVENTURES OF MAX CRUMBLY

(IMPORTANT STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW IN THE EVENT OF MY MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE)

1. From Hero Back to Zero
2. A Mighty Meat Monster Mess!
3. Dude, I Think My Locker Is Busted!
4. Would You Like Fries with That?
5. Don't Call Me! I'll Call You!
6. A Very Dark and Twisted Tale
7. Ralph Vents His Frustrations
8. Why Old Dudes Should Never, Ever Wear Saggy Pants!
9. Hanging Out in My ~~Man~~ Max Cave
10. Phone-y Friends Forever?
11. Tales from a Middle School Ninja
12. Beware of Fuzzy Green Buns!
13. Attack of the Cookie Muncher!
14. Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire!
15. How Not to Wrestle a Thug
16. How to Rope a Dope!
17. How to Get Grounded Until Your Twenty-First Birthday!
18. Have a Happy Birthday! NOT!!
19. I Make My Great Escape!
20. Attack of the Killer Toilet!—Part 2

21. How My Dreams Went Right out the Window

22. Dumpster-Diving Dude

23. When Life Is a Dumpster!

24. Blinded by the Light

25. Yet Another Mortifying Misadventure of Max Crumbly

1. FROM HERO BACK TO ZERO

I knew middle school was going to be challenging, but I never expected to end up DEAD in the computer lab, wearing a SUPERHERO COSTUME, with four slices of PIZZA stuck to my BUTT!

My morning actually started out pretty normal....



Hey, I'm NOT stupid! I KNEW I wasn't superhero material! But that never stopped me from staring in the mirror and wishing ...



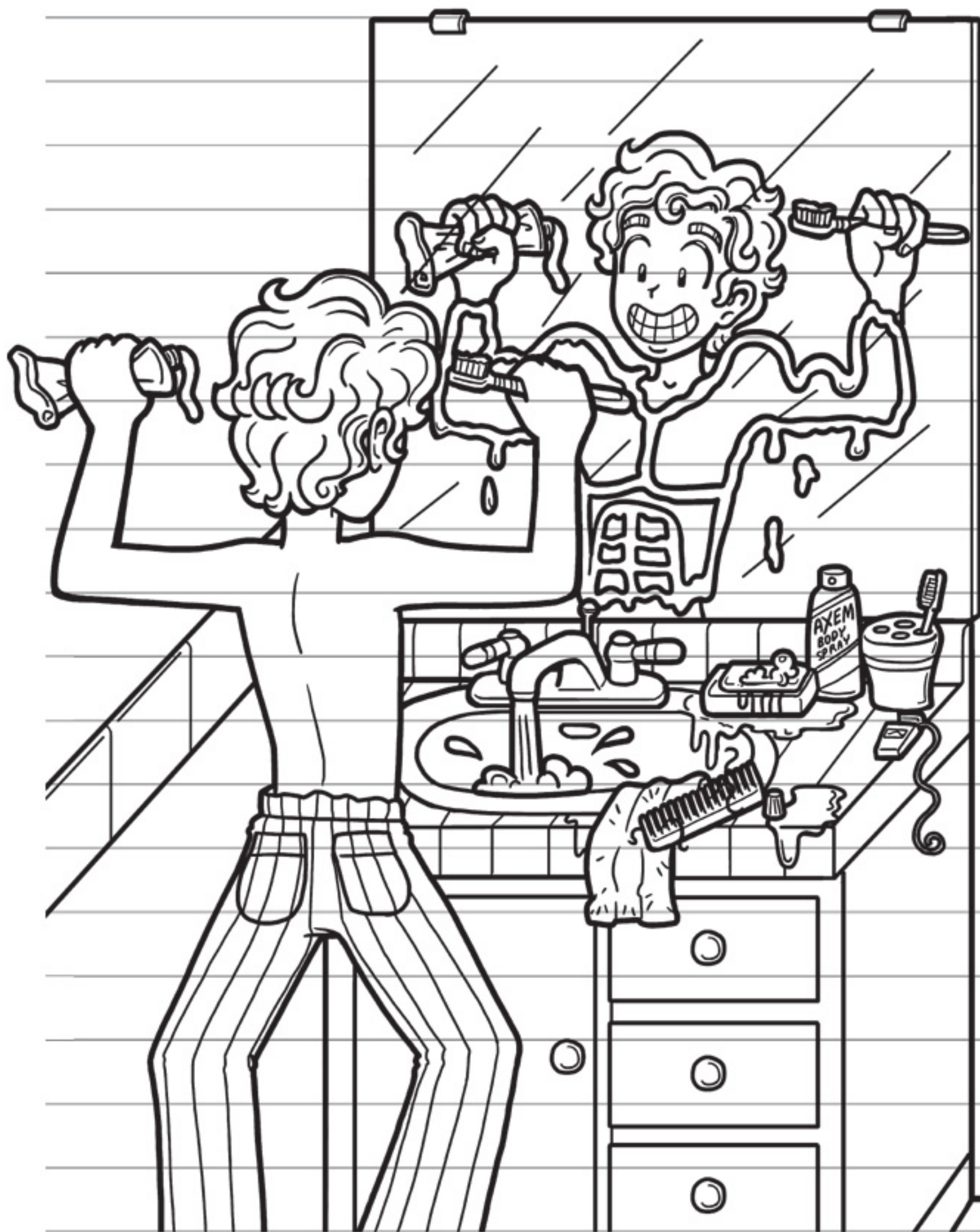
... that one day an average kid like me could actually make a difference. You know, do something great!

Yeah, right! WHO was I kidding?! My situation was HOPELESS! I could never change the world....



But then I had a brilliant idea! Just maybe, I could CHANGE the MAN in the mirror! HOW?....

By using my knowledge of anatomy, my awesome drawing skills . . .



AND AN ENTIRE TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE!!

~~Yeah, you're right. I guess you could call me kind of... WEIRD!~~

~~But it's all GOOD! Most of the famous superheroes and infamous villains are ALSO a little disturbed. So I like to think of it as untapped potential.~~

You're probably sitting there wondering HOW I managed to create such a HUMONGOUS MESS (I mean the mess at my school, NOT the mess in my bathroom).

It all started when ~~Doug~~ Thug Thurston shoved me into my LOCKER after school. Unfortunately, I was trapped inside there for HOURS!!

I'm not going to lie to you! I totally FREAKED!

But give me a break!

I was all alone. In a dark and creepy school building. Locked INSIDE my locker.

For possibly an ENTIRE THREE-DAY WEEKEND!