



WAKE-UP CALL

AFTER PLAYING FIFA ONLINE WITH COBY TILL ONE THIRTY A.M. LAST NIGHT, YOU WAKE THIS MORNING TO THE SOUND OF MOM ARGUING ON THE PHONE WITH DAD.



QUESTIONS

DID YOU MAKE UP YOUR BED? YEAH. CAN YOU PUT BANANAS IN MY PANCAKES, PLEASE?

DID YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK?
YEAH. CAN WE PLAY A QUICK GAME OF PING-PONG, MOM?

AND WHAT ABOUT THE READING. I DIDN'T SEE YOU DOING THAT YESTERDAY.

MOM, DAD'S NOT EVEN HERE.





PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SPEND LESS TIME PLAYING XBOX AT ALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT.

HUH?

OH, YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW?

I'M SICK OF READING HIS STUPID WORDS, MOM I'M GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP DOING THIS

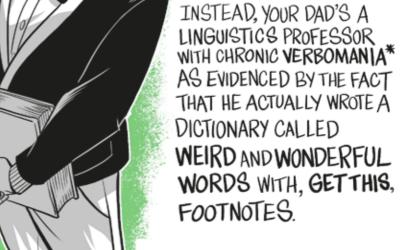
WHY COULDN'T YOUR DAD

BE A MUSICIAN LIKE JIMMY LEON'S DAD OR OWN AN OIL COMPANY LIKE COBY'S?

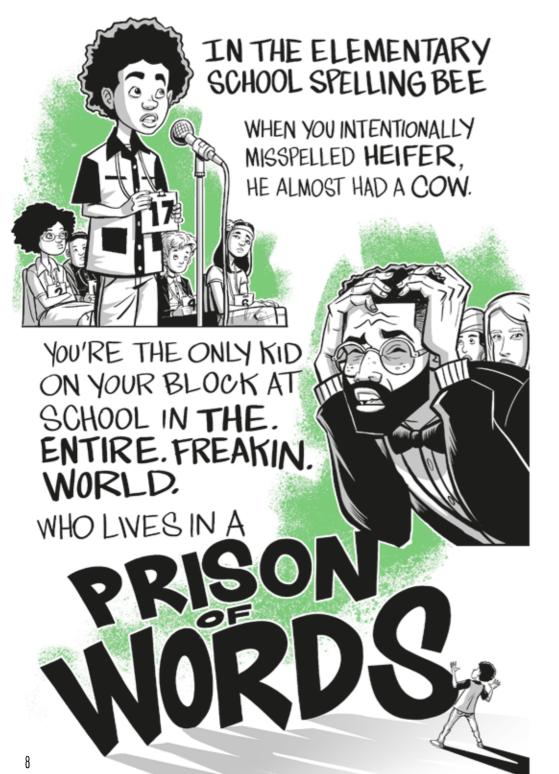
BETTER YET, WHY COULDN'T HE BE A COOL DETECTIVE DRIVING A SLEEK SILVER CONVERTIBLE CAR

> LIKE WILL SMITH IN BAD BOYS?

INSTEAD, YOUR DAD'S A LINGUISTICS PROFESSOR WITH CHRONIC VERBOMANIA* AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT HE ACTUALLY WROTE A FOOTNOTES.



* VERBOMANIA [VURB-OH-MEY-NEE-UH] NOUN: A CRAZED OBSESSION FOR WORDS. EVERY FREAKIN' DAY I HAVE TO READ HIS "DICTIONARY," WHICH HAS FREAKIN' FOOTNOTES. THAT'S ABSURD TO ME. KINDA LIKE ORDERING A GLASS OF CHOCOLATE MILK, THEN ASKING FOR CHOCOLATE SYRUP ON THE SIDE. SERIOUSLY, WHO DOES THAT PSMH!



HE CALLS IT THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.

YOU CALL IT

SMANSHAK

AND EVEN THOUGH
YOUR MOTHER FORBIDS
YOU TO SAY IT,
THE TRUTH IS





GDDY-UP

SHE HOLLERS,
SMASHING THE
BALL TO THE EDGE
OF THE RIGHT CORNER
OF THE TABLE WITH SO
MUCH FORCE,

IT SENDS YOU DIVING INTO THE LAUNDRY STACK, TRYING AND FAILING TO LOB IT BACK.



LOSER DOES THE DISHES TONIGHT.





YOU'RE A ONE-TRICK PONY,
YOUNG BOY.

STICK TO SOCCER, SHE JOKES, THEN HEADLOCKS YOU, HITS YOU ON THE BACKSIDE WITH HER PADDLE, AND SOAKS YOUR FOREHEAD IN KISSES AFTER BEATING YOU FOR THE FOURTH GAME IN A ROW.