

THE MONARCH





A Note for Parents or Caregivers

This comic book is intended for children with epidermolysis bullosa (EB) and their families to enjoy together. The protagonist of this story is a girl, Emmie, who has EB but is defined by so much more than her disease. She is imaginative, studious, friendly, kind, and a self-fashioned superhero.

We hope that, in the process of reading, you can also enjoy the storyline, and we have provided some tips below on how to make reading comic books even more exciting for your child:

- 1 Choose characters that you and your child will portray and read their lines in the comic book.
- 2 At the end of every other page, ask your child what they think will happen next. Then read on and see if they guessed right!
- 3 Ask your child who each character reminds them of in their life.
- 4 Once finished, ask your child what they learned from the book. Ask them if they would have ended the story differently.

How to Read a Comic Book

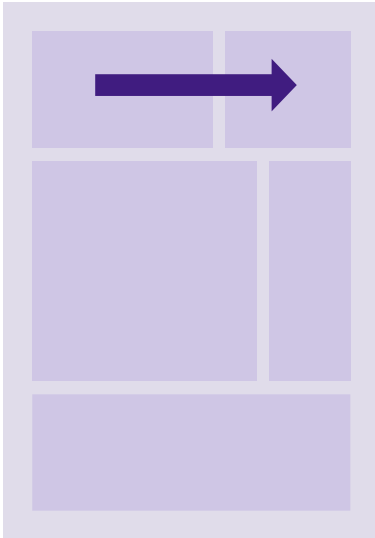


This symbol is called a “talking bubble.” It shows you what a character is saying out loud.

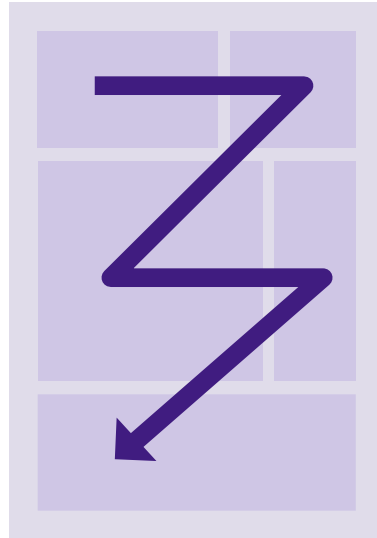


This symbol is called a “thought bubble.” It shows you what a character is thinking (and not saying out loud).

You should read comics left to right...



...and top to bottom



An orange box is a “caption.” Captions tell us more about what’s happening in the story and help to set the stage.

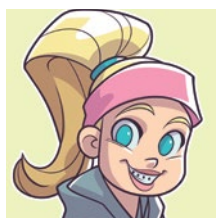


Let's Meet the Characters!



Emily "Emmie" B

Our fearless hero



Lucy - Emmie's Best Friend

Loves to play Farmer's Town, a farming game, with Emmie



Mr. B - Emmie's Dad

Teaches physics at the local community college



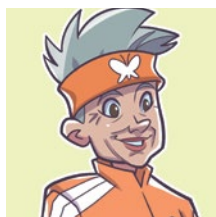
Mrs. B - Emmie's Mom

Plans Emmie's day and works in an office in the city



Sienna - Emmie's New Friend

Able to talk to anyone and a member of The Butterfly Buddiez

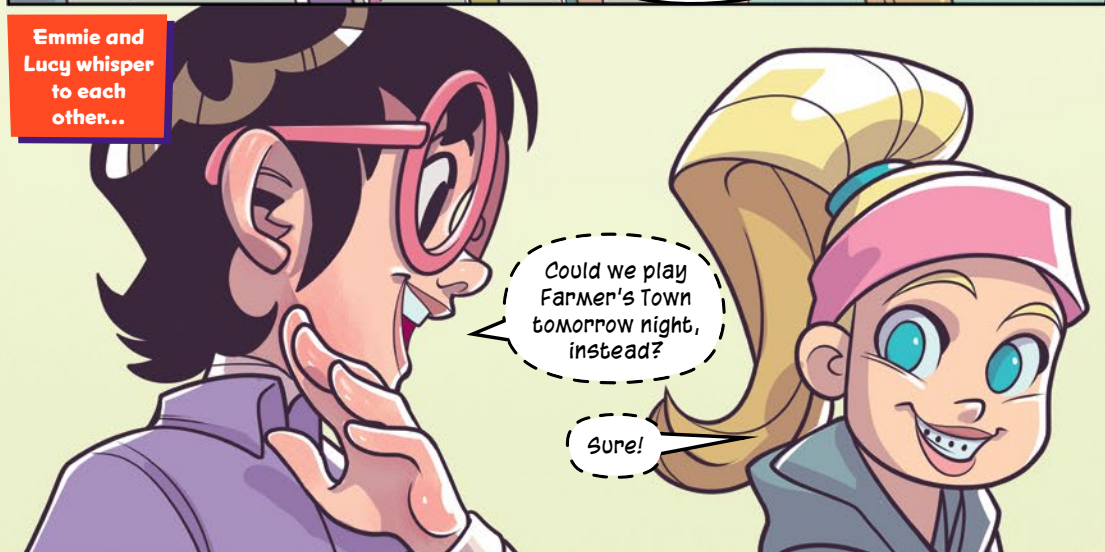
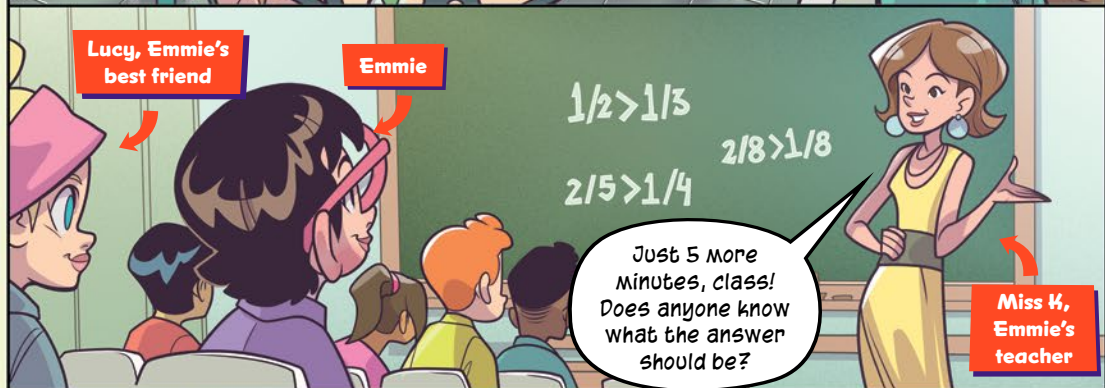


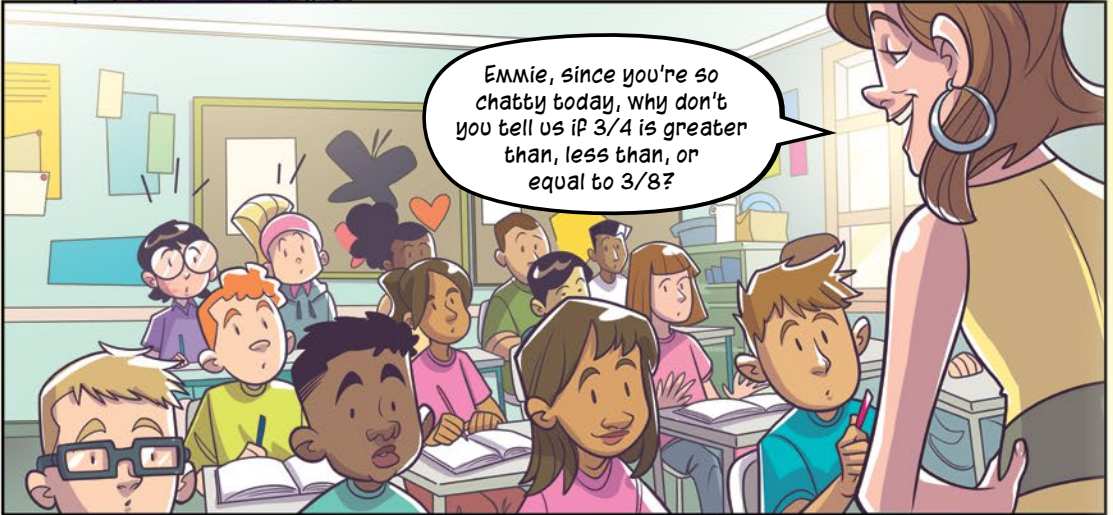
Nana B - Emmie's Grandma

Fluttervale Fishing Champion and former figure skater



Greetings, heroes and sidekicks!
Today is just another day in the quiet town of Fluttervale.
The kids are in school and our hero, Emmie, is in her final class
of the day. Little does she know what's in store for her! Is she
ready for the challenges she might face? Get ready, reader...
Emmie is no ordinary girl.





Emmie loves a challenge. The gears in her brain start turning.

Well, you see...it's quite easy...

We must first draw pie charts for each fraction...

Let's imagine two pies split into 4 and 8 equal pieces...

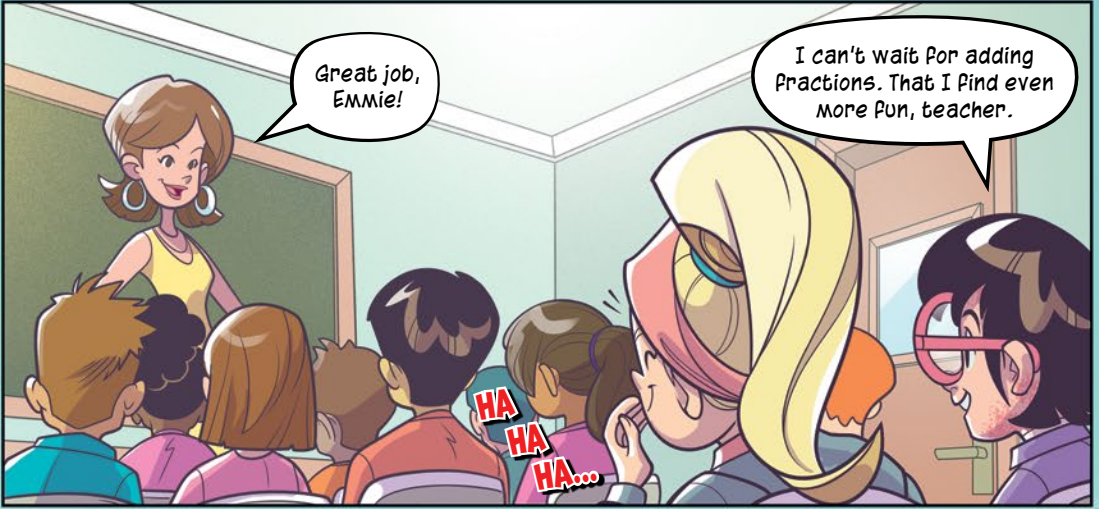
We then fill in 3 pieces of both pies...

And when we do that...

We see, then, that $\frac{3}{4}$ is clearly greater.

Making the answer, Miss K, $\frac{3}{4}$ is greater than $\frac{3}{8}$.





After teaching classes at the local college, Mr. B picks up Emmie at school.



Later in Emmie's bedroom...

Sweet Jimmy Cricket! What's shaking, Emmie!

Emmie is about to start a meeting!

Hey Nana! I wish I could play checkers with you instead...

This is more important! I'll have a chocolate milkshake ready for you when you're finished.

Are you sure this is worth it, Mom?

You got nothing to lose!

I guess so...

Think of it this way, maybe you'll make ONE new friend tonight...

Maybe...I don't know...

Looks like it already started! Have Fun!

And just like that, Emmie meets the Butterfly Buddiez for the first time!

Hello everyone!
Today, we have
one new member
joining us! Could
we all introduce
ourselves?

My name's Lexi! I
love those drawings
in your room.

I'm Robert but
you can call me
Robbie! Nice to
meet you!

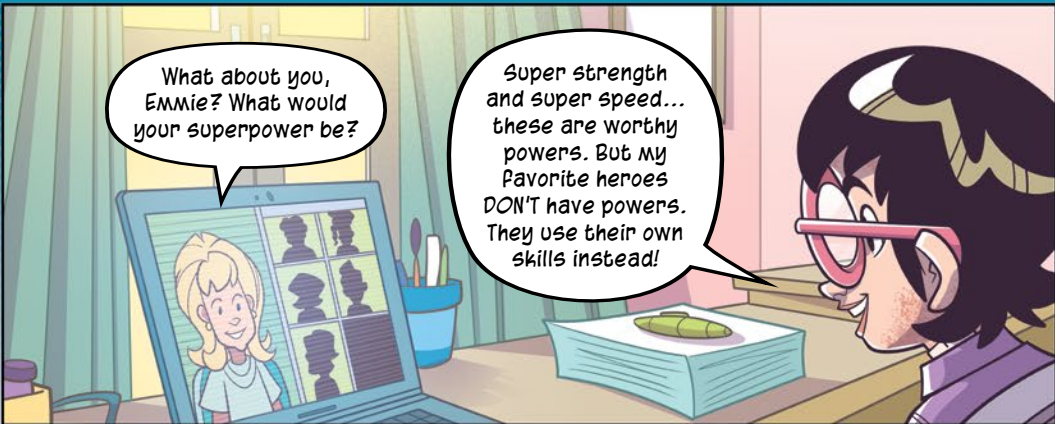
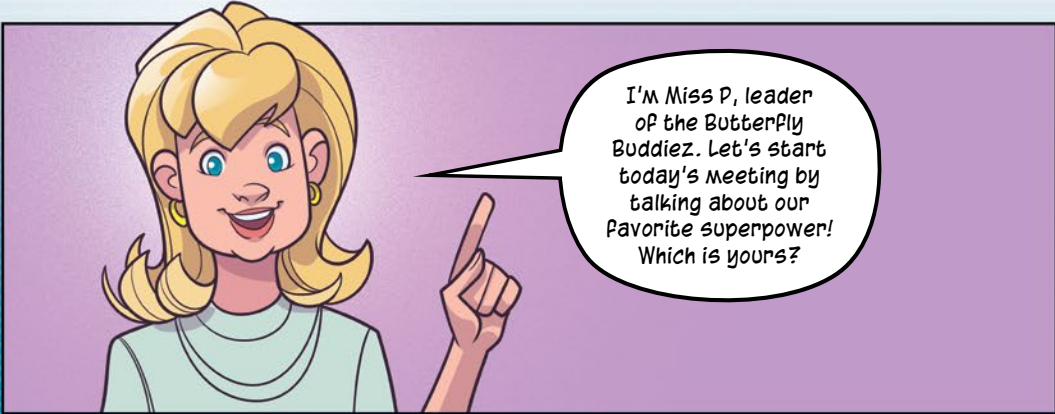


Hi! I'm
Sienna!

Justin,
here!

Hiiii, I'm
Angelica!

Woah! I've
never met so
many people
with EB.



I like that, Emmie!
Now let's get serious.
What are some of the
ways EB affected you
this week?



"On a walk
through the
park with my
mom, I kept
getting weird
looks from
strangers."



"My friend
gave me
this cool
sequined
shirt, but
it hurts my
skin."



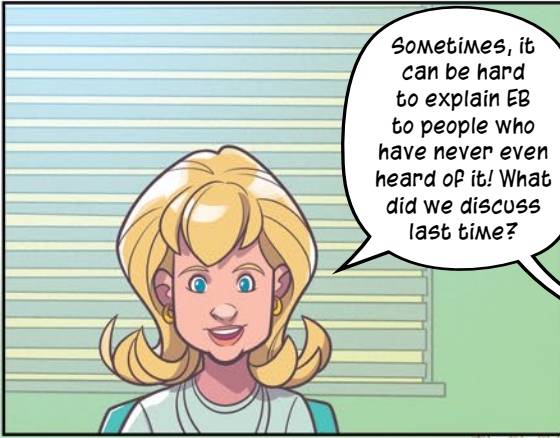
"I went to the
Flutervale
playground and
there was a
group of boys
who wouldn't let
me play games
with them."



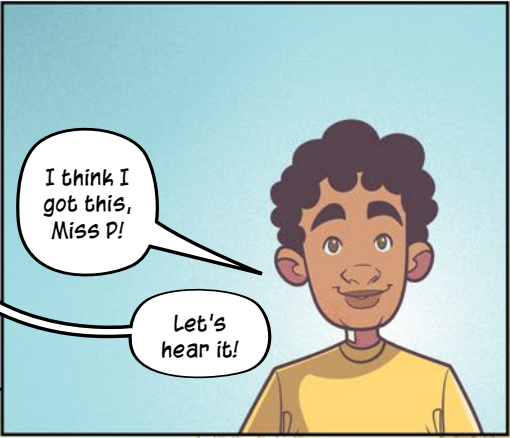
"I went to
my friend's
birthday party
and I couldn't
eat the pizza
they had."



"I just started
at a new school.
It's been kinda
hard to explain
my condition to
the other kids."

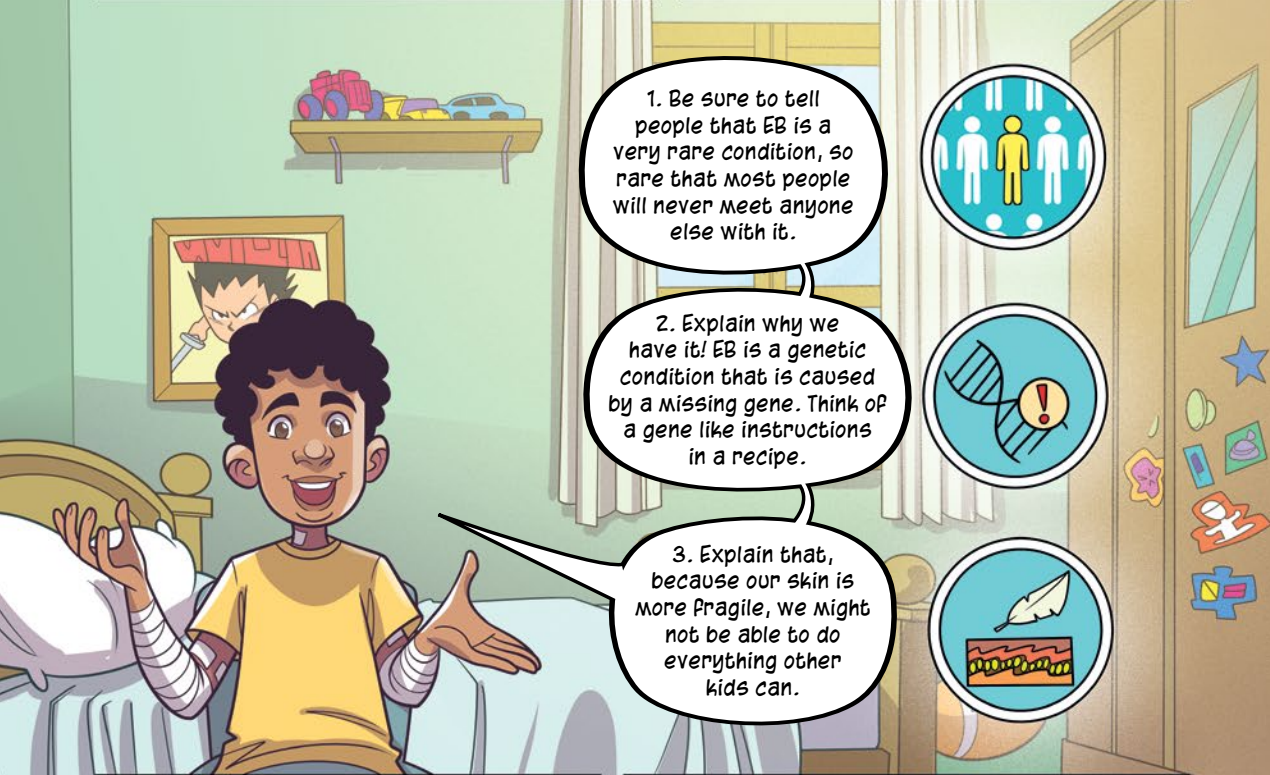


Sometimes, it can be hard to explain EB to people who have never even heard of it! What did we discuss last time?



I think I got this, Miss P!

Let's hear it!



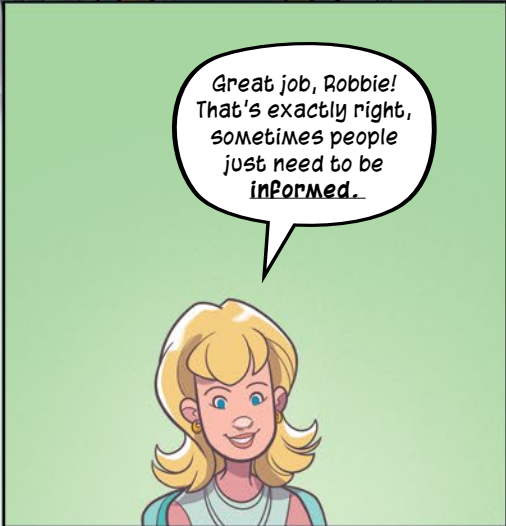
1. Be sure to tell people that EB is a very rare condition, so rare that most people will never meet anyone else with it.



2. Explain why we have it! EB is a genetic condition that is caused by a missing gene. Think of a gene like instructions in a recipe.



3. Explain that, because our skin is more fragile, we might not be able to do everything other kids can.



Great job, Robbie! That's exactly right, sometimes people just need to be **informed**.



The next hour flew by for Emmie, and the meeting soon ends...

After the meeting, Emmie messages Sienna...

TODAY

Hey Sienna! U go to Flutternvale park too??

Yes, do u live in Flutternvale!!?

I do!

No way! Which part of town?

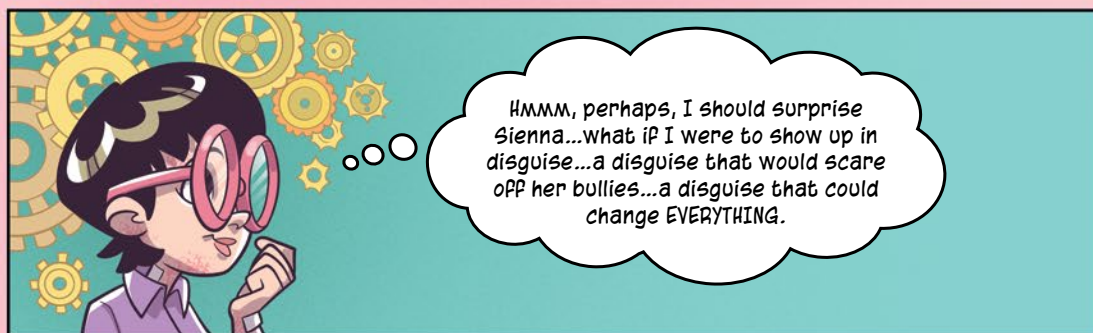
South Green, wbu?

Near Station Street

We should meet at the playground sometime!!!

Saturday? We need to go early before that group I was talking about gets there

Sounds like a plan!



HMMM, perhaps, I should surprise Sienna...what if I were to show up in disguise...a disguise that would scare off her bullies...a disguise that could change EVERYTHING.



Late into the night, Emmie paints and draws all the designs she can think of. Designs for what? Only time will tell...

That Saturday, at the
Fluttervale Playground...

Where is she?
It's almost
11:30...



HALT!
Who goes
there?

What do you
want 4th
grader?

Oh no! 6th
graders!

The 6th graders are known for running this part of the playground. They call it their "Kingdom."

Didn't I say to not come back to The Kingdom, 4th grader?

I...uh...I didn't think anyone was here um... I'm supposed to meet a...Meet a friend...

UH, UH, UH, spit it out would you!

What's wrong with your arms anyway?

Yeah, what are those bandages, 4th grader?

Well since you asked, I have EB.

EB is a genetic condition. That means I can't control it because it's in my genes.

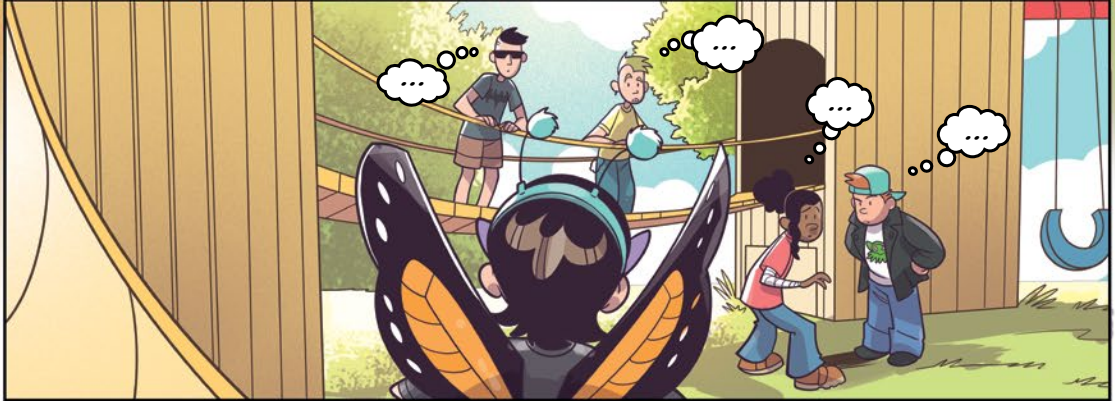
What's a gene?

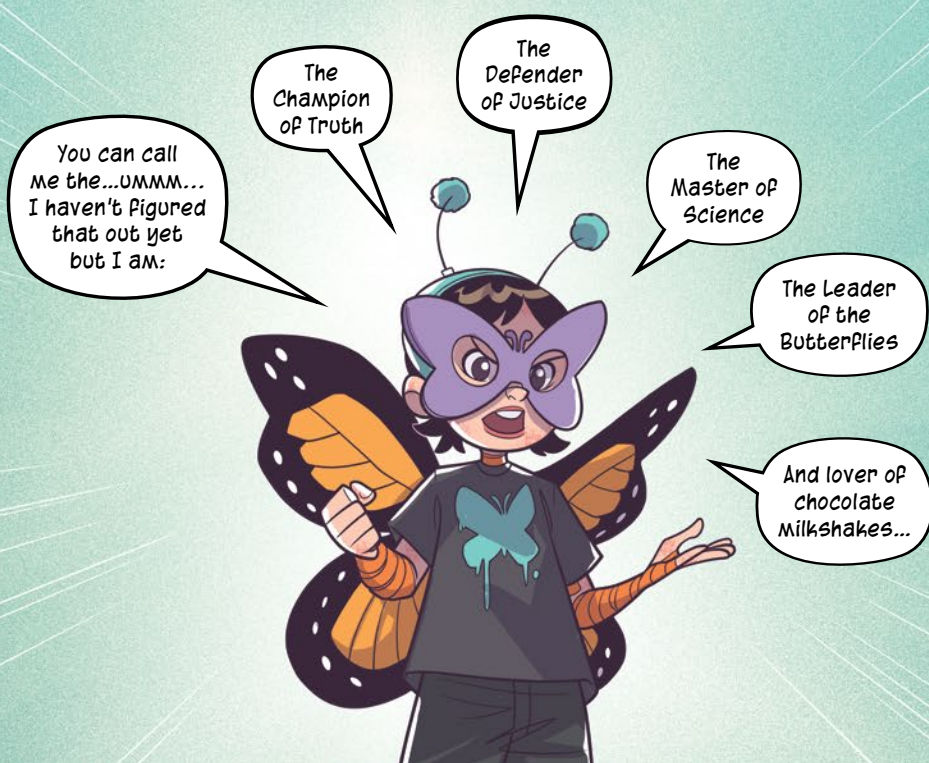
It's...it's...well I don't really remember. But it's in my genes.

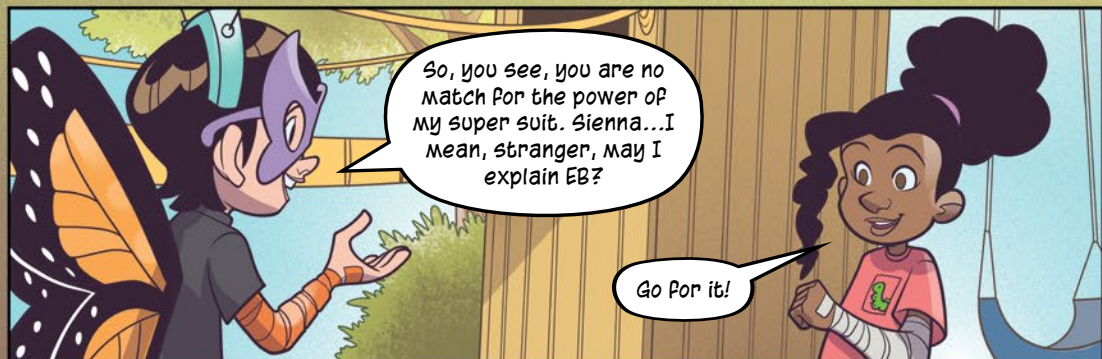
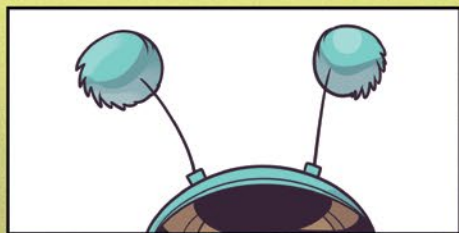
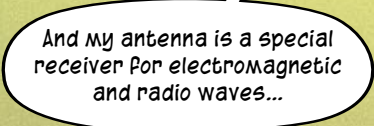
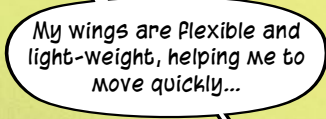
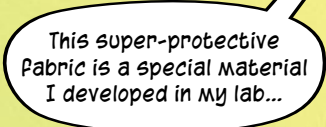
It's in your jeans? Why is it in your pants?

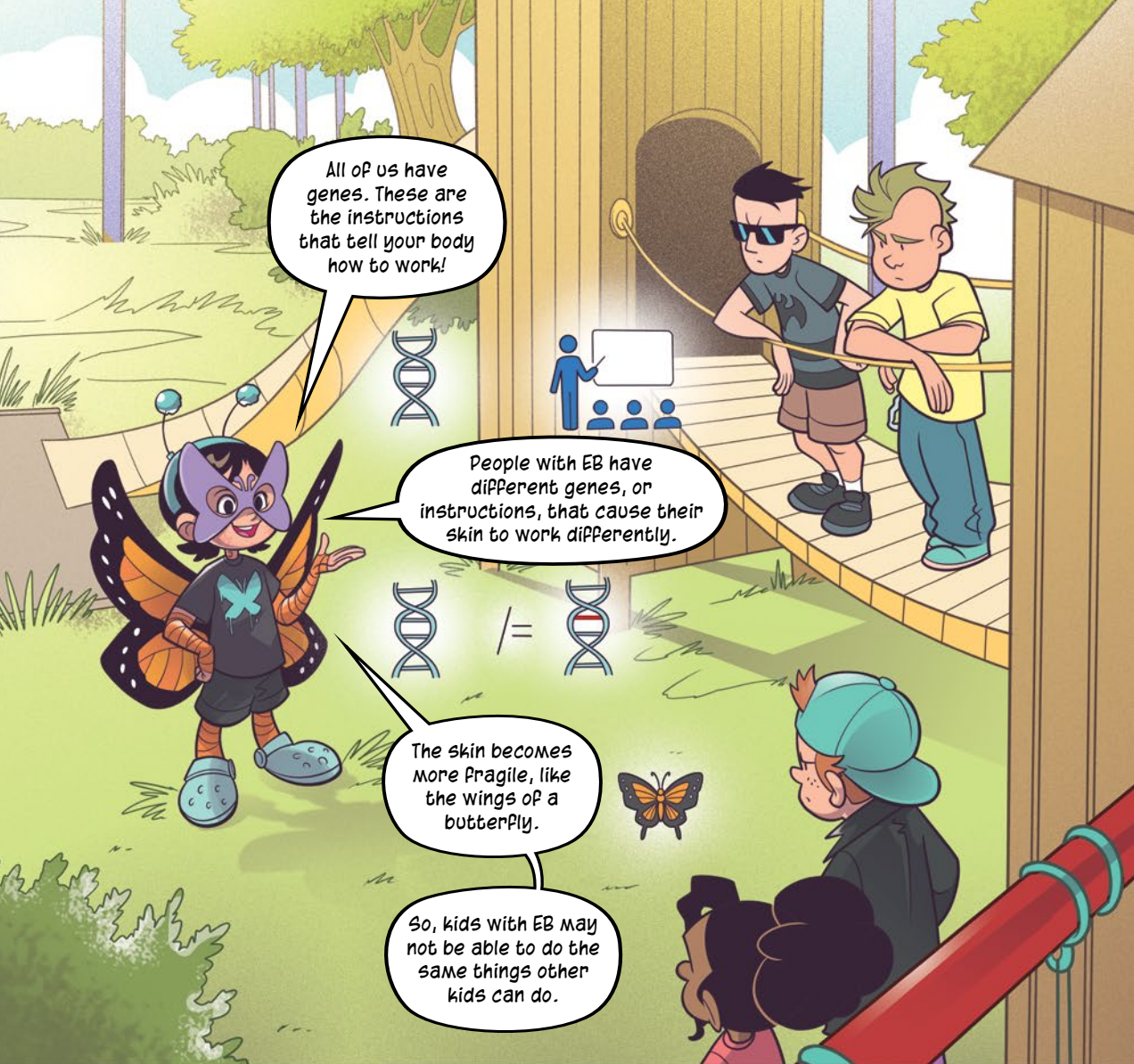
No, not my jeans. My body, it's in my body.

Well, why can't you get it out of your body then!?











Underneath the slide...

See you later,
butterfly girl!

Excuse me,
stranger, do
you have a
second?

Yes! My
name is
Sienna by
the way.

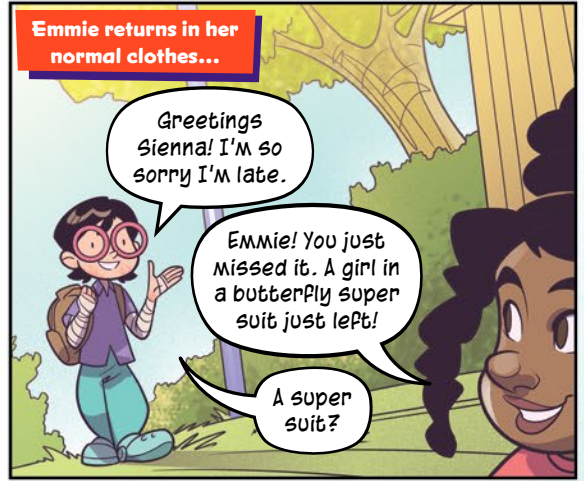
Sienna, my sources
tell me you are a
member of The Butterfly
Buddiez. Take this!

What
is it?

It's a Butterfly Walkie
Talkie! Press the wing
on the side whenever
you need my help.

I will.
Thank you!

I must
leave you
now!



Later in
Mr. B's car...

That certainly
was a quick
play date!

Yes, Dad.
Superheroes
always work
fast.

Did you say,
"superheroes"?

You didn't hear about it yet? A superhero
just visited Fluttersvale park. It must be
all over the news by now!

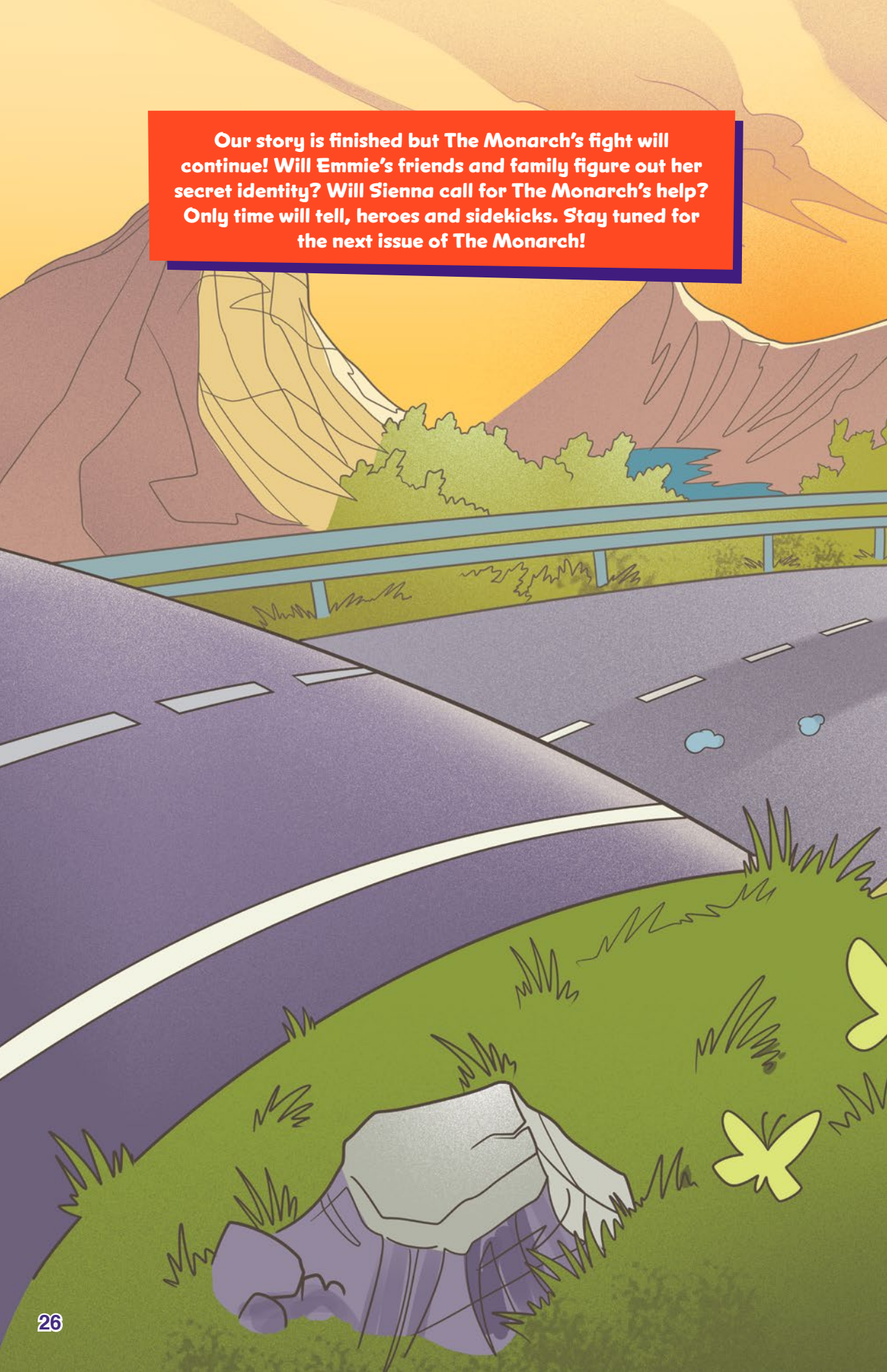
I didn't hear
anything.
What is this
superhero's
name?


She did not
say. But I
believe her
name is...The
Monarch!





Our story is finished but The Monarch's fight will continue! Will Emmie's friends and family figure out her secret identity? Will Sienna call for The Monarch's help? Only time will tell, heroes and sidekicks. Stay tuned for the next issue of The Monarch!





Thank you for
tagging along
with me on our
adventure!

As you can see,
my friends and family
helped me to become
the hero I needed to
be and, with a little
imagination, we can
all find a way to
help others.

I hope you learned more
about yourself today and I
hope you know that you too
are a superhero, who can
inspire the whole world! See
you next time!

THE MONARCH



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