

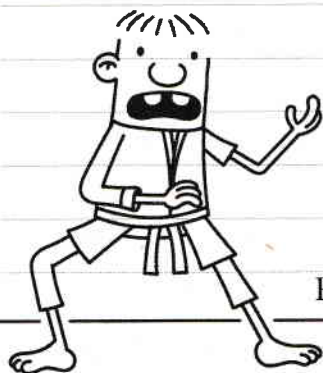
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DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

FIGHT or FLIGHT

by Jeff Kinney



PUFFIN

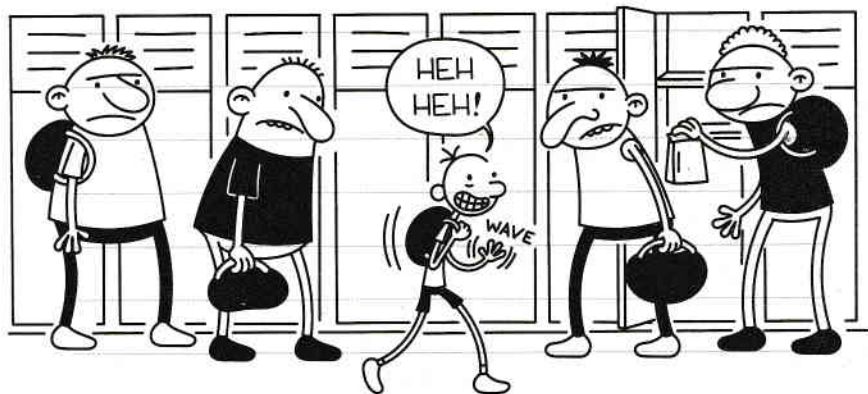


Thursday

In school they taught us about this scientist who studied animals that lived on some remote islands. That's where he came up with the theory of "survival of the fittest."



Well, I'm sure this Charles Darwin guy was smart, but his idea doesn't explain a person like ME.



It's true that the strong survive, but so do the ones who are smart enough to not get themselves killed. And I thank my ancestors for making good choices, because if they didn't, I wouldn't even be here.

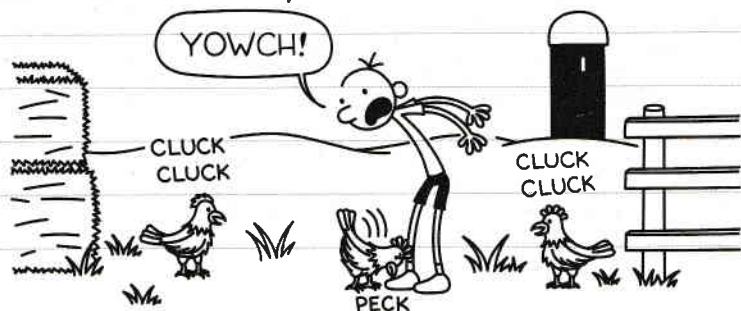


I read that a few hundred years ago, if you were too scared to go into battle, they'd dip you in hot tar and cover you in feathers as punishment.

And even though I'm sure it would be a little uncomfortable, it would be better than getting taken out by a cannonball.



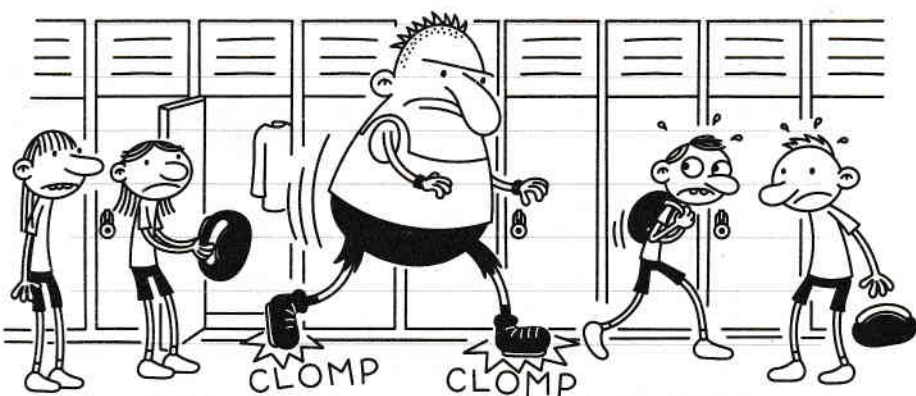
I guess that makes me a chicken, but I'm OK with it. I don't know how chickens got a reputation for being scared in the first place, though, because I've run into some pretty aggressive ones in my life.



They say chickens have a "pecking order," where the big ones pick on the little ones. And that's exactly how it is at my middle school.

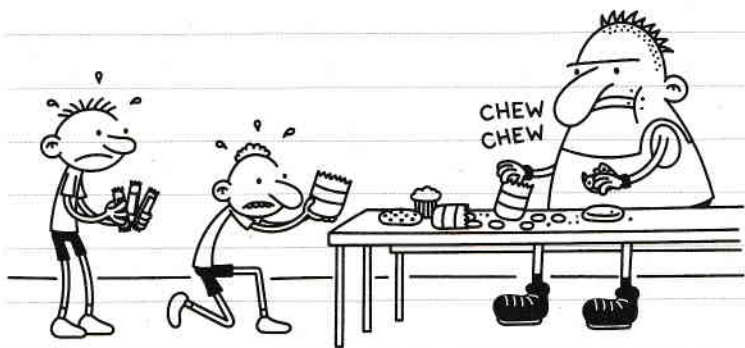


The kid who's at the top of the pecking order is Zander Wrexham, who everyone calls Z-Rex. He's gotten held back so many times that he's supposed to be a high school junior by now.

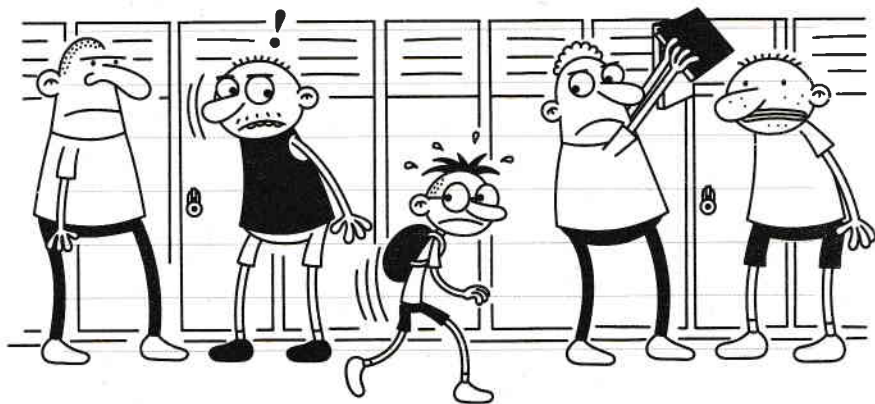


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Zander is so tough that he doesn't even need to do any bullying. When he sits down in the cafeteria, kids hand over their snacks in advance.



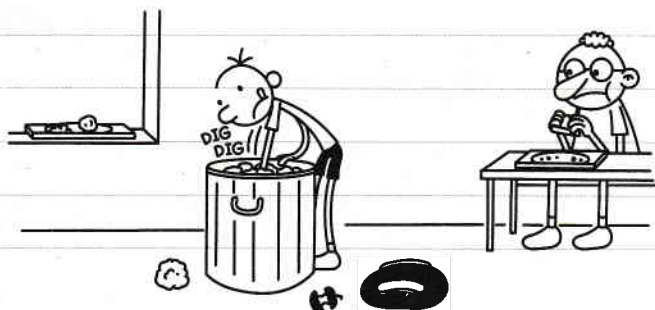
I'm somewhere near the bottom of the pecking order, but at least I'm not at the ACTUAL bottom. That spot belongs to Jarrett Jollifee, who everyone calls the Bully Magnet. There's just something about Jarrett that attracts bullies to him like flies to honey.



I guess he must give off some kind of scent or pheromone. Whatever it is, somebody should study it, because whoever figures out what's in that kid's DNA could package it and turn it into something useful.



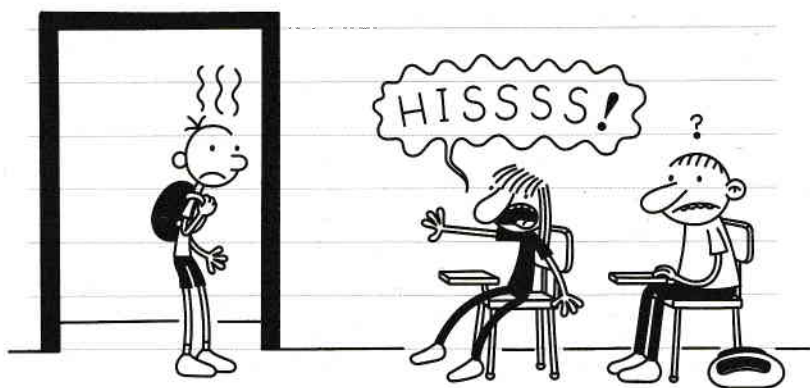
In fact, I've been trying to get a saliva sample from Jarrett. But it's no fun going through the trash in the cafeteria to find one of his used popsicle sticks.



My brother Rodrick says that bullies can SMELL fear, so I've been loading up on my dad's cologne every morning to cover whatever chemicals my body's producing.



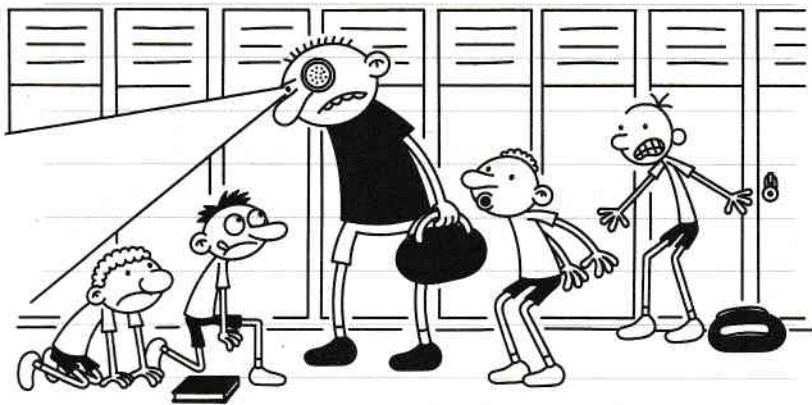
If there's a smell that attracts bullies, there must be something that drives them AWAY, and I've been doing a little experimenting. This morning I rubbed garlic on my clothes, which didn't seem to have any effect on the bullies. But it DID bother Evelyn Trimble, who everyone says is a vampire.



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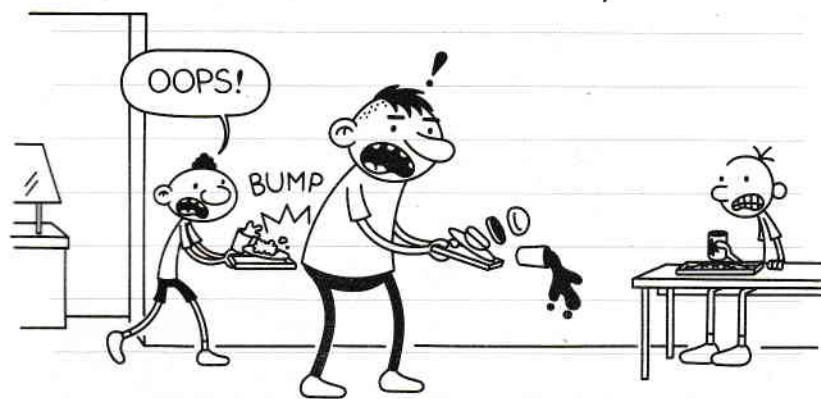
The way I see it, middle school is like a game where the goal each day is to not be "it." So you never wanna call too much attention to yourself.

I do my best not to make eye contact with any bullies when I'm in the hallway, which isn't always easy. But luckily, Harris Cooper got an eye infection and has to wear a patch, which takes care of half the problem.

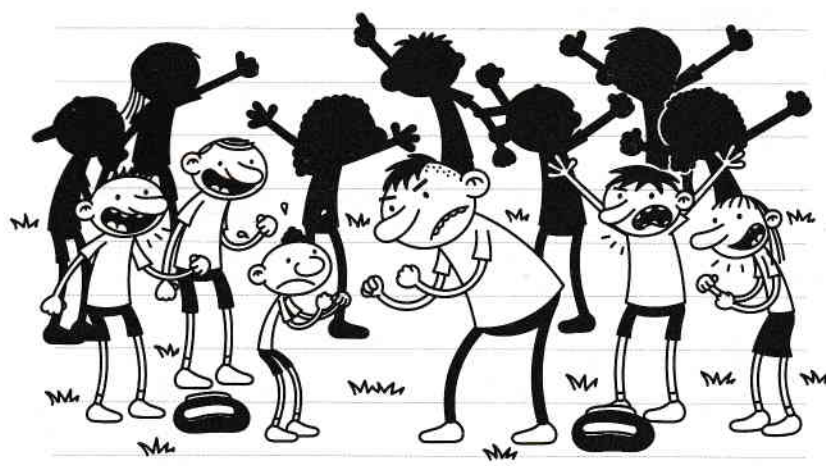


The time that's the most dangerous is the walk home from school, where it's easy to get singled out. But I've come up with a few tricks to keep bullies at arm's length.

The thing is, even if you're doing your best to steer clear of bullies, it's easy to slip up. And that's exactly what happened when Darius Reedy bumped into one in the cafeteria today.



Before Darius knew it, he was in a full-blown fight with a kid twice his size.

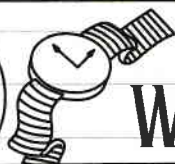


Getting in a fistfight with a bully is my worst nightmare. For one thing, I like being able to breathe through my nose, which might be a challenge for Darius going forward.



Even if I somehow managed to land a punch, I'd worry about breaking a finger or a thumb. Because that would totally mess up my plans for becoming a hand model.

I'M GONNA NEED ANOTHER FIVE TUBES OF THAT MOISTURIZER, FAST!



LUXE
WATCHES

