

DIARY
of a
Wimpy Kid
OLD SCHOOL



THE #1
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Jeff Kinney

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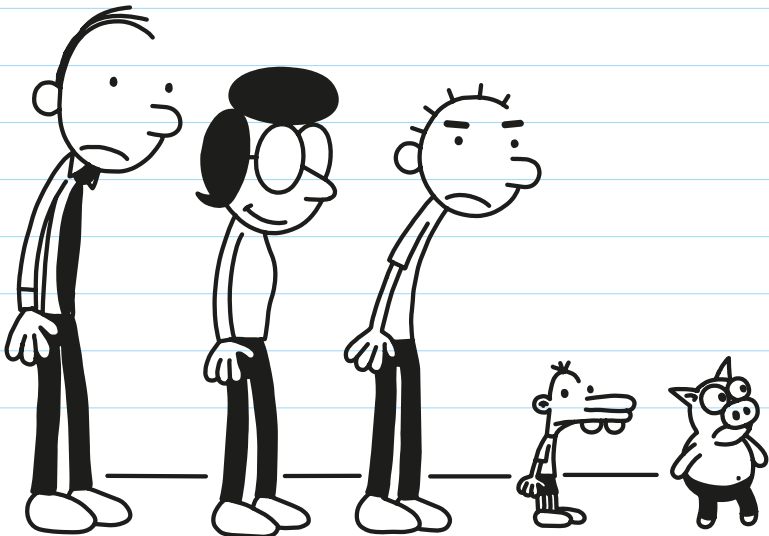
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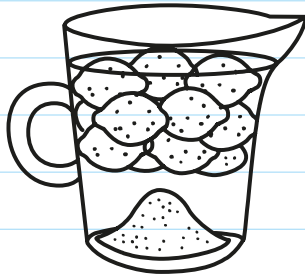
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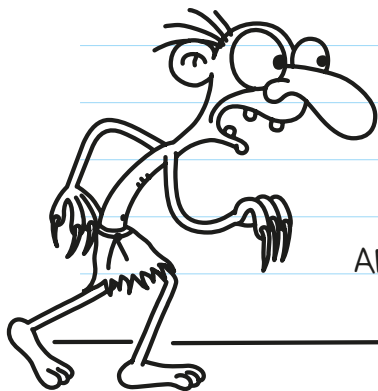
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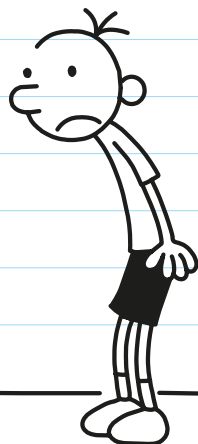
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TO DAD

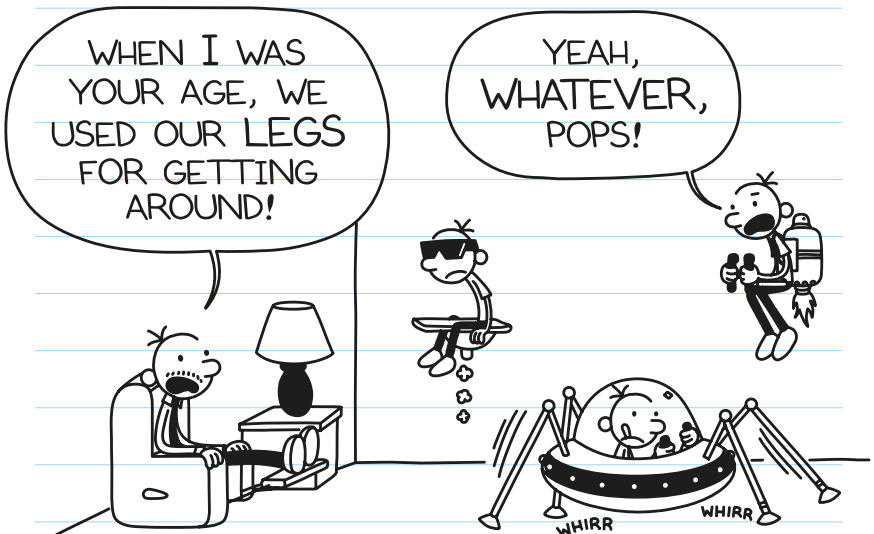
SEPTEMBER

Saturday

Grown-ups are always talking about the "good old days" and how things were so much better when THEY were kids.

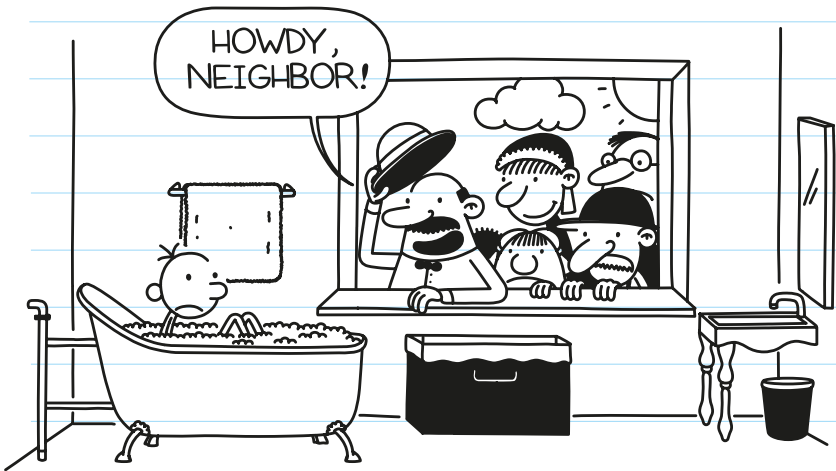
But I think they're just jealous because MY generation has all this fancy technology and stuff they didn't have growing up.

Believe me, I'm sure when I have kids of my own, I'm gonna be the exact same way my parents are NOW.



Mom's always saying that when SHE was younger, it was great because everybody in town knew everybody else and it was like one giant family.

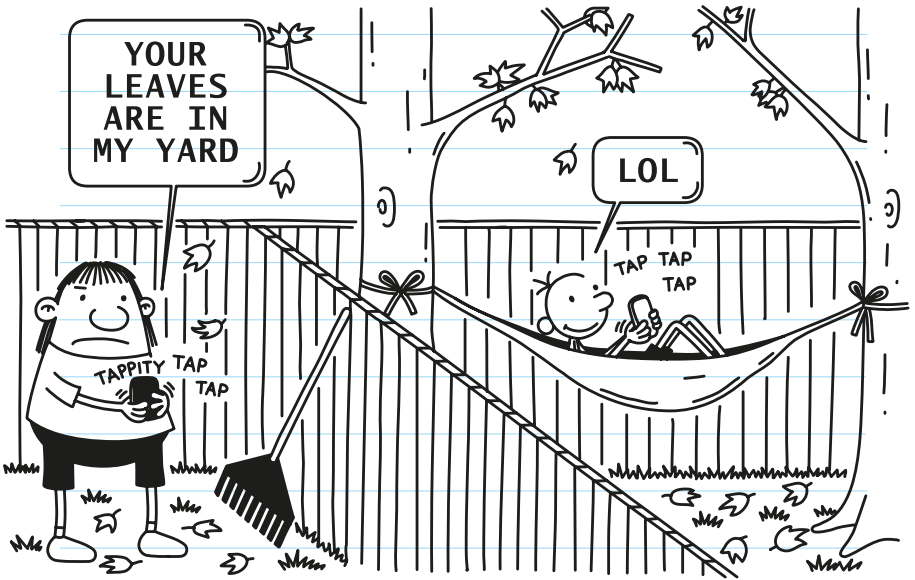
But that doesn't sound so great to ME. I like my privacy, and I really don't need everyone knowing my personal business.



Mom says the problem with society these days is that everybody's got their nose in a screen and nobody takes the time to get to know the people who live around them.

I don't really see eye to eye with Mom on that issue, though.

Personally, I think a little separation is a GOOD thing.



Lately, Mom's been going around town with a petition to get people to stop using their phones and electronic gadgets for forty-eight hours.

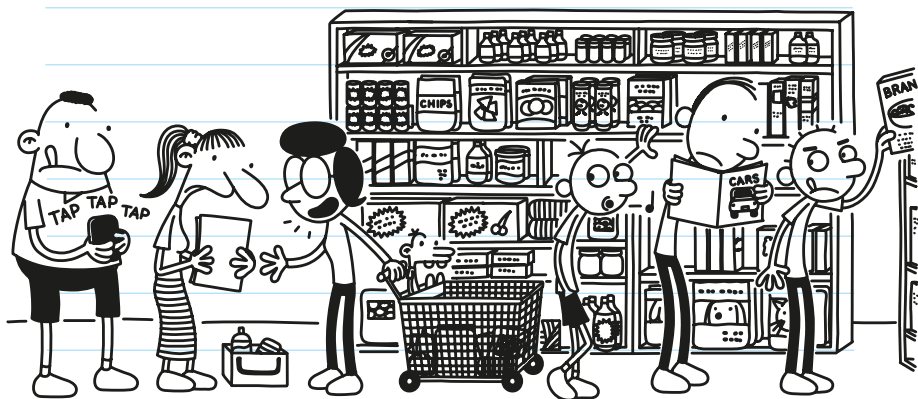
Let's UNPLUG to RECONNECT!

Electronics are cluttering our lives! Let's put down our devices for a weekend and get to know one another! Who's in?

1. _____ 41. _____
2. _____ 42. _____
3. _____ 43. _____

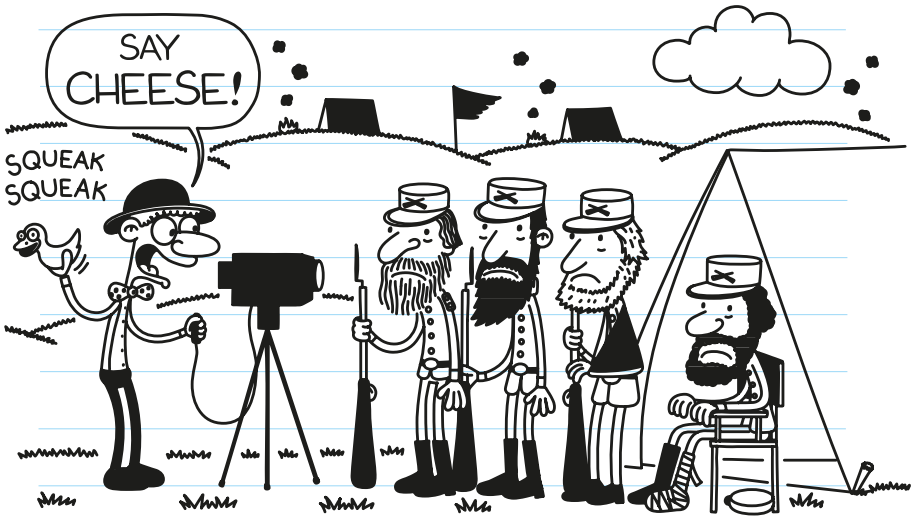
Mom needs a hundred signatures before she can take the petition to Town Hall, but she's having trouble getting people to put their names on it.

I'm just hoping she gives up on this idea soon, because it's kind of exhausting for the rest of us to pretend we don't know her.



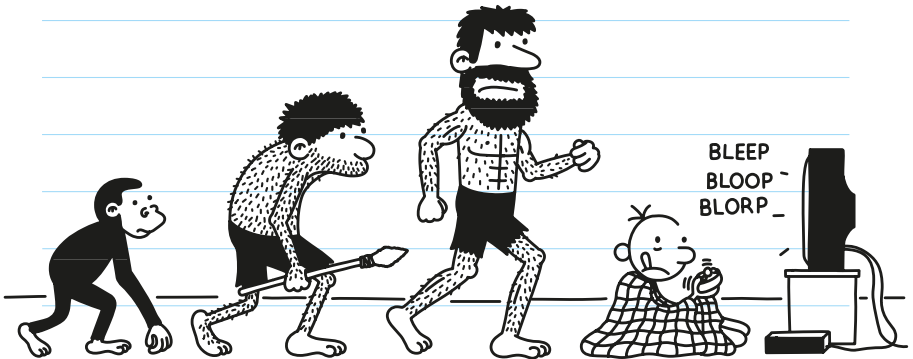
I really don't understand why Mom thinks we need to go BACKWARD, anyway. From what I can tell, the old days weren't that much fun.

If you think about it, you never see anyone in those black-and-white photos SMILING.



In the old days, people were just a whole lot
TOUGHER than they are today.

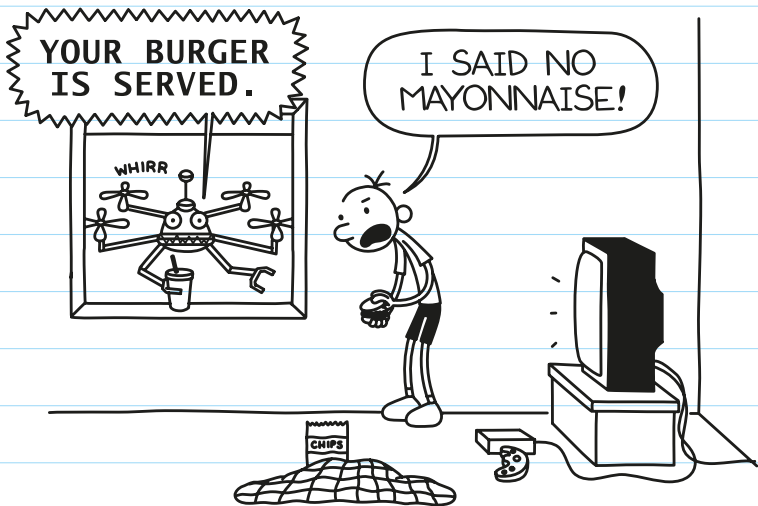
But human beings have EVOLVED, and now
we need things like electric toothbrushes and
shopping malls and soft-serve ice cream to survive.



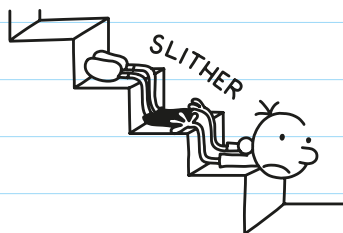
I bet our ancestors would be pretty disappointed with the way we turned out. But once somebody invented air-conditioning, there really was no turning back.



We've gotten so spoiled that pretty soon we won't even have to leave our homes if we don't want to.

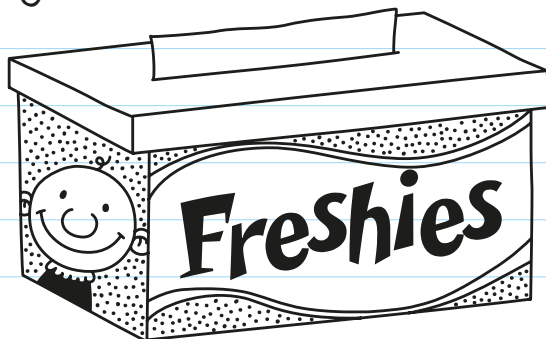


In fact, the way we're headed, I'll bet a thousand years from now human beings won't even have SPINES.

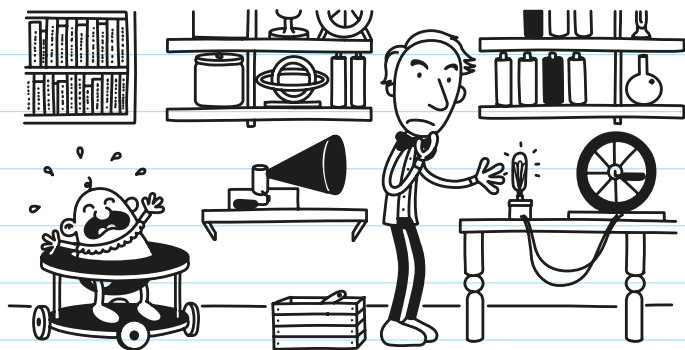


Some people complain that all this technology has made us soft. But if you ask me, that's not necessarily a BAD thing.

There are all SORTS of luxuries nowadays that make people's lives better. Take baby wipes, for example. People were using regular toilet paper for hundreds of years, and then all of a sudden some genius came up with an idea that was a total game changer.



What really amazes me is that it took so LONG for people to come up with the idea. I seriously can't believe the guy who invented the lightbulb didn't see baby wipes coming.



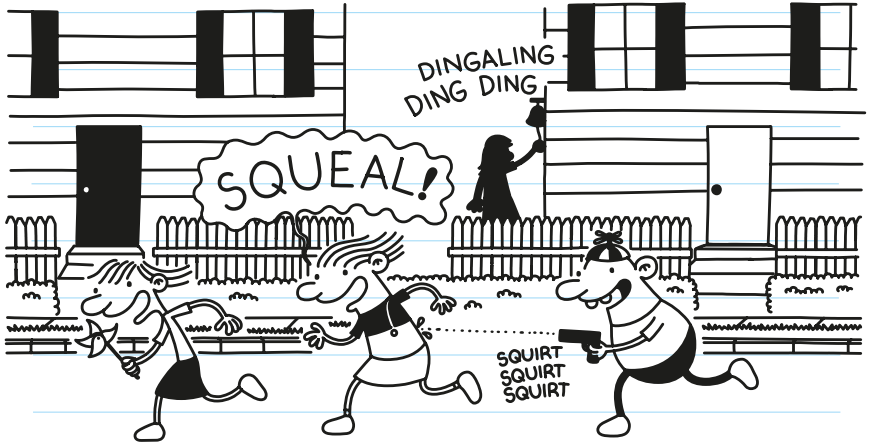
And who KNOWS what crazy thing someone's gonna come up with next to make our lives easier. Whatever it is, though, I'll be the first in line to buy it.

But if Mom had HER way, we'd be living like people did before there were computers and cell phones and baby wipes.

And I really don't want to imagine living in a world without baby wipes.

Sunday

Dad says that when HE was growing up, in the summertime kids played outside all day, until they got called home for dinner at night.



Well, that's pretty much the OPPOSITE of the way MY summer went this year.

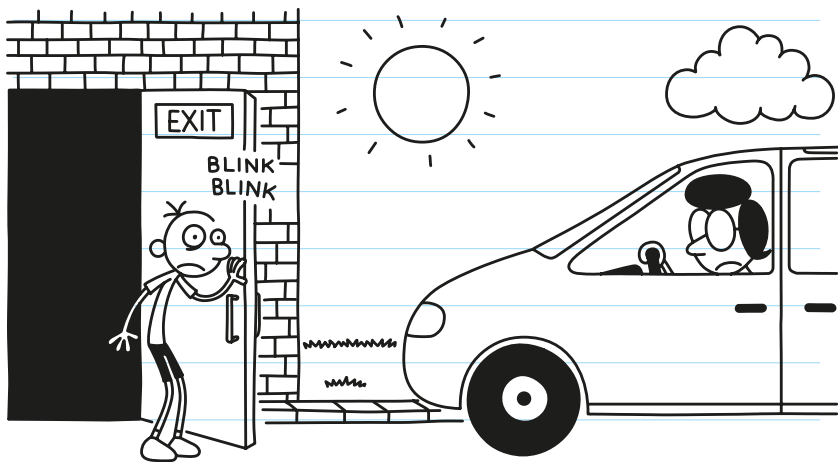
I spent July and August at Film Camp, where all I did was watch movies in an air-conditioned theater for eight hours a day.

The main reason I signed up for Film Camp was because I thought it was for people who are SERIOUS about movies, like ME.

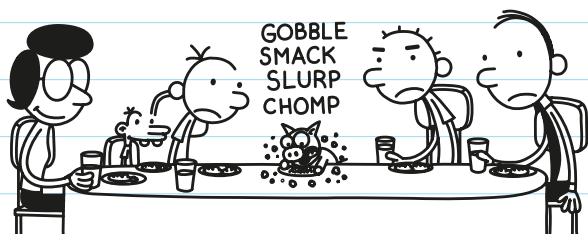
But I found out it was REALLY just a place where parents could dump their kids off for some cheap babysitting.



The downside of spending that much time in a dark theater is that at the end of the day it took a half hour for my eyes to adjust to the sunlight.

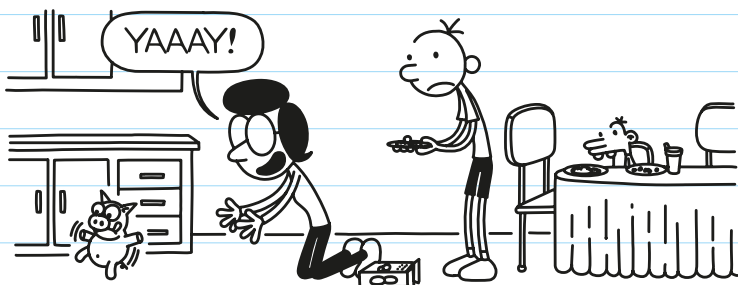


The other reason I signed up for Film Camp was to get out of the HOUSE. Ever since we got a pet pig, it hasn't been a lot of fun being home. Especially not at DINNER.

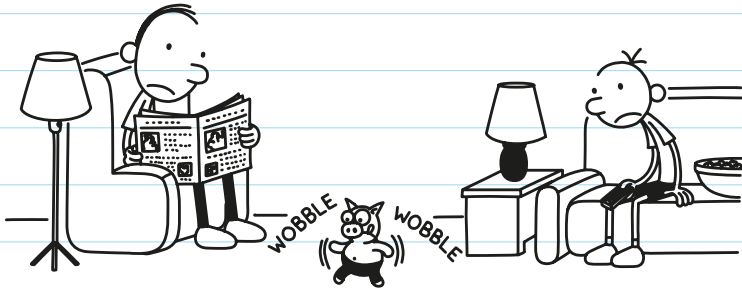


For the record, I think it's a TERRIBLE idea letting the pig eat at the table, because it ALREADY thinks it's a human being. And the last thing we need is for it to think it's on equal footing with the rest of us.

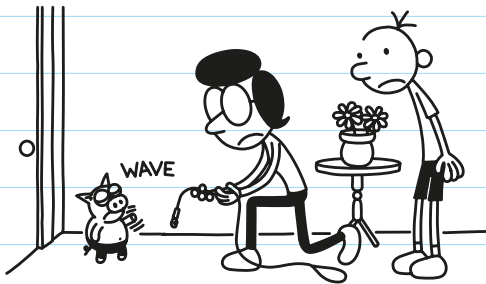
Right after we got the pig, Mom thought it would be fun to teach it some tricks. So she would give the pig a cookie when it stood on its hind legs.



But the pig learned to WALK like that, and it hasn't been on all fours ever since. To make matters WORSE, my little brother, Manny, put a pair of his shorts on the pig, so now it's like we're living in the house with a Disney character.

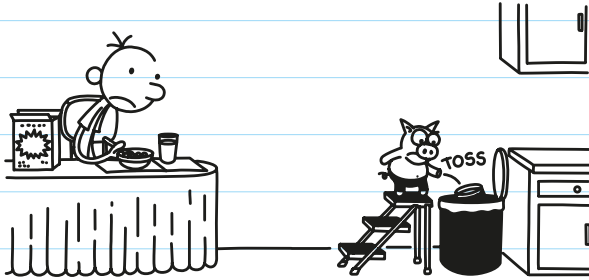


Mom used to take the pig outside, but after it started walking upright, it decided it was too good for its leash.



Mom was worried that if the pig ran off we'd never find it, so she got a collar with one of those GPS tracking chips in it.

But every time Mom put the collar on the pig, within five minutes it would be back OFF. And don't even ask me how the pig did THAT, since pigs don't even have THUMBS.



So now the pig just comes and goes as it pleases, and who KNOWS where it spends its time. What really stinks is that I have a curfew but the pig DOESN'T.

