



Hot Mess



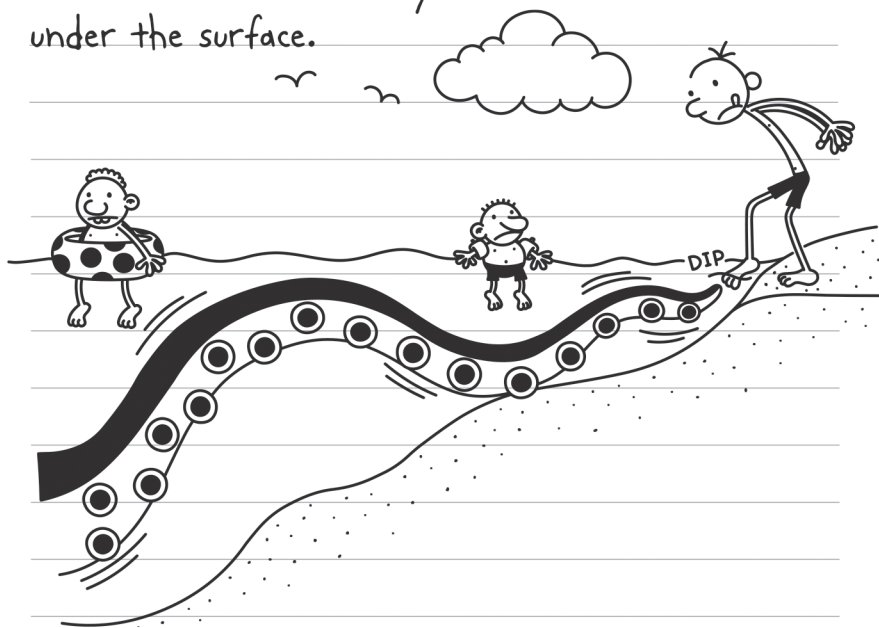
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HILARIOUS
Wimpy Kid
book yet!



OOK IN
AFRIKAANS!

Once everyone got settled, Mom tried to get us to join her down at the water for a swim. But I already decided before we got here that I wasn't going swimming on this trip, for a BUNCH of reasons.

For starters, in the ocean, you can't see through the water, which means you never know what's under the surface.



And even though Mom told me there hasn't been a shark attack on Ruttynneck Island in a hundred years, I don't wanna be the one to break the streak.

Mom always says that sharks are misunderstood, and that they're not really a threat to humans. But all you need to do is take one look at how many teeth a shark has in its mouth to know that they're made for one purpose, and that's BITING.

The only GOOD thing about sharks is that they've got a fin on their back that pops out of the water, so at least you know when one is coming. Or at least MOST of the time you do.



But if a shark somehow gets born WITHOUT a fin one day, it's gonna be bad news for us humans. So I'm just hoping sharks don't suddenly mutate into the no-fin variety.

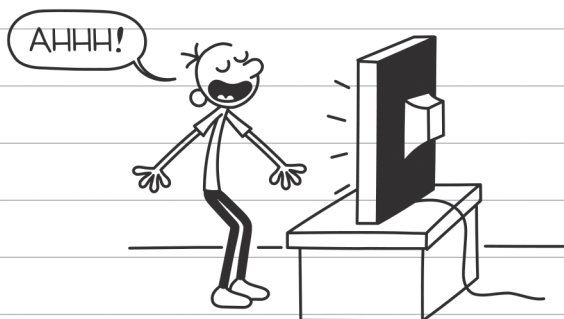
I learned about evolution in science class, and how animals adapt with mutations.

Anteaters used to have short noses, and then one was randomly born with a LONG one. It was easier for that guy to get at the ants deep in their anthills, which meant it could get more food. And after that, the short-nosed anteaters got left in the dust.

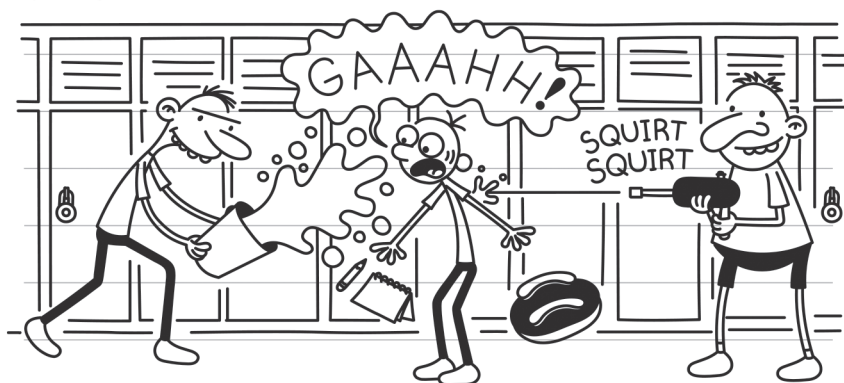


The same sort of thing might happen with human beings, and somebody could be born with some weird change that gives them an advantage over everyone ELSE.

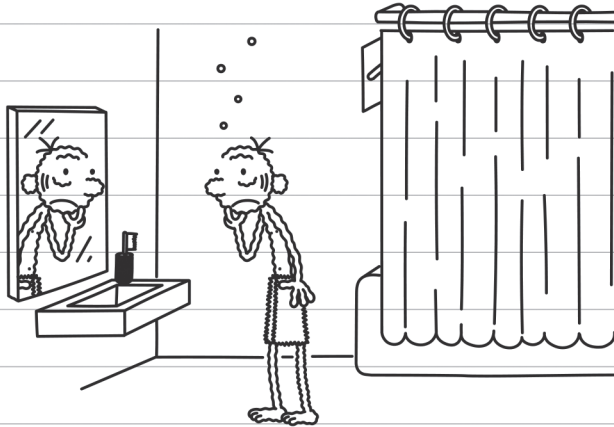
But sometimes it takes millions of years for there to be even a small change in a species, which means I won't live long enough to see it happen. So I've been exposing myself to lots of gamma rays to hurry things along.



This kid at school named Albert Sandy always says that one day people are gonna develop gills so they can breathe underwater. And even though that sounds kind of awesome, I hope it doesn't happen to me FIRST, because the bullying would be pretty terrible.



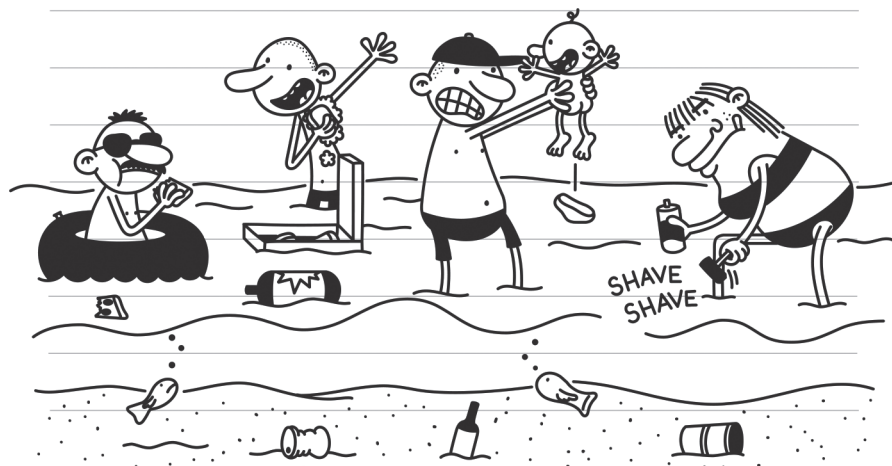
If we need to live underwater one day, I'm gonna have to wear a wet suit full-time. My skin gets wrinkly after twenty minutes in the bathtub, so I can't imagine what it would look like after a week of living in the ocean.



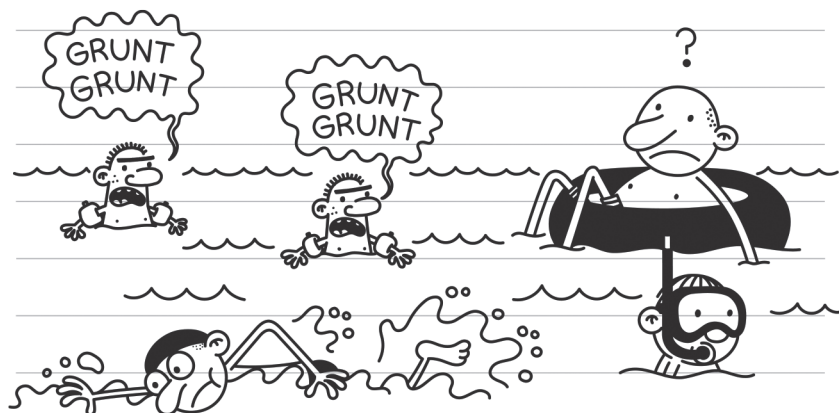
Living underwater might not be that bad, actually. For one thing, nobody will get bent out of shape about the small stuff, like juice spills.



But if the ocean is our future home, we need to start treating it better. And it's not too hard to see why sharks are always biting people.

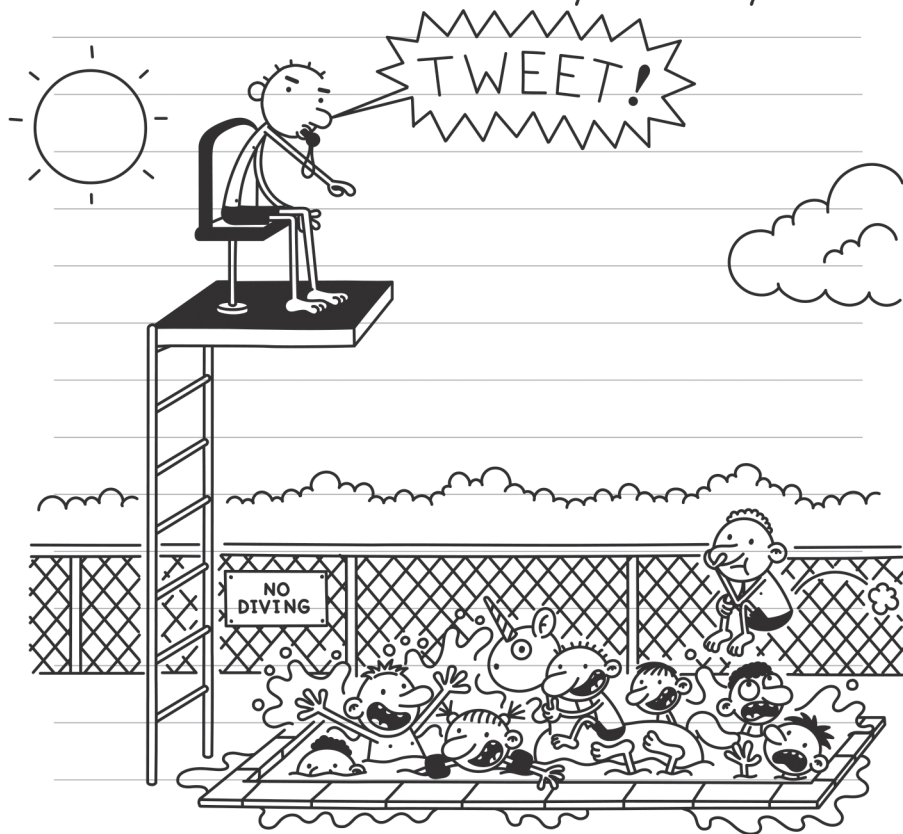


Something that annoys me is that Aunt Gretchen ENCOURAGES her twins to pee in the ocean. At least, I'm just hoping that's ALL they're doing in there.



Even if I DID want to swim in the ocean today, I wouldn't feel safe doing it. The lifeguards are all teenagers, and I wouldn't put my life in the hands of someone who isn't even allowed to vote.

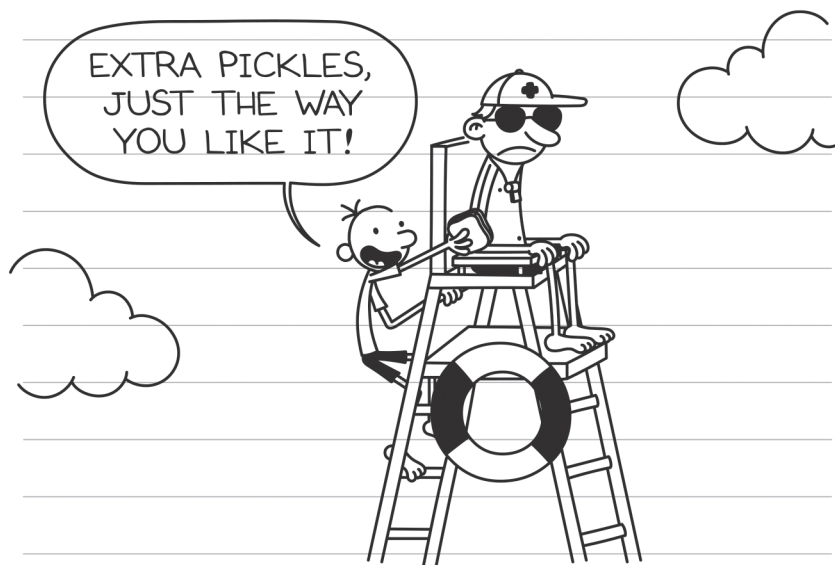
Dad used to be a lifeguard back when he was a teenager, so he's been trying to get Rodrick to earn his lifesaving certificate. But it's kind of hard for me to imagine Rodrick in charge of anyone's safety.



One of the reasons I stopped swimming at the beach is because I got nervous the lifeguards weren't paying enough attention.

So whenever we'd go to the beach, I'd always introduce myself to them to make sure they knew my name and what I looked like. That way, I figured I had a better chance of getting rescueded if I was struggling out there.

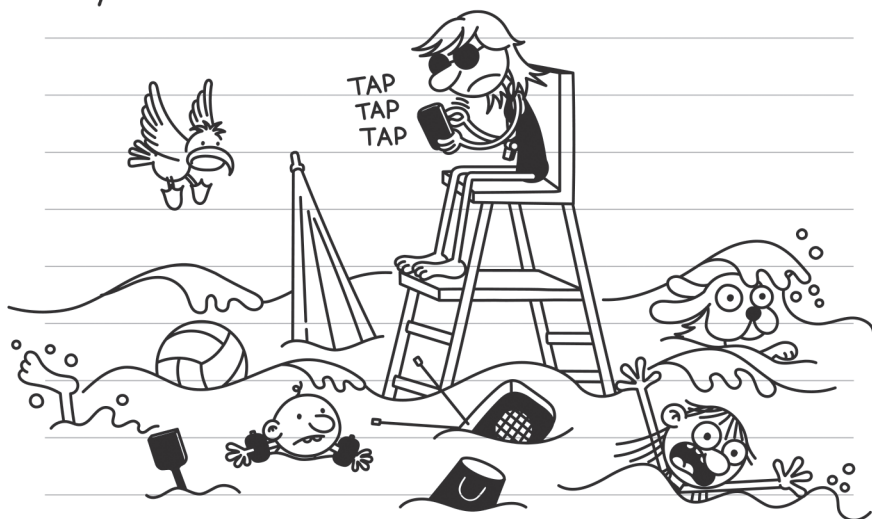
I'd even bring them snacks a few times a day, because you've gotta take care of the people who take care of YOU.



It's the same reason I never forget to send my pediatrician a Christmas card during the holidays.



I could tell the lifeguards at Rattyneck Island were totally distracted with their phones. And if a rogue wave comes crashing to shore, I doubt they'd even NOTICE.



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