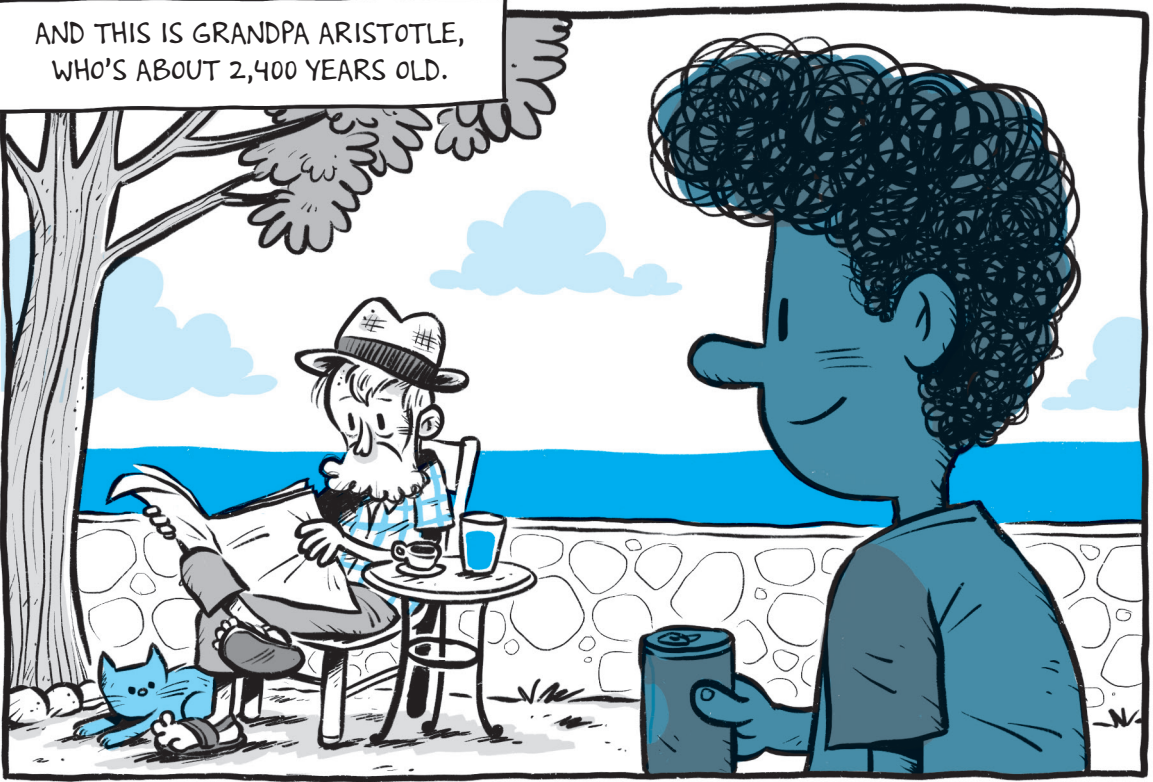


THIS IS GRANDPA'S HOUSE.



AND THIS IS GRANDPA ARISTOTLE,
WHO'S ABOUT 2,400 YEARS OLD.



I'M LOU AND EVERY SUMMER I SPEND A MONTH AT MY GRANDPA'S ORCHARD.

IT'S AWESOME HERE!

HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS...

SWIMMING IN THE SEA..

PLAYING CRAZY GAMES...

GOING ON BIKE RIDES...

EATING GREAT FOOD...

AND STAYING UP LATE ON THE BEACH.

THE PERFECT CHILL SUMMER!

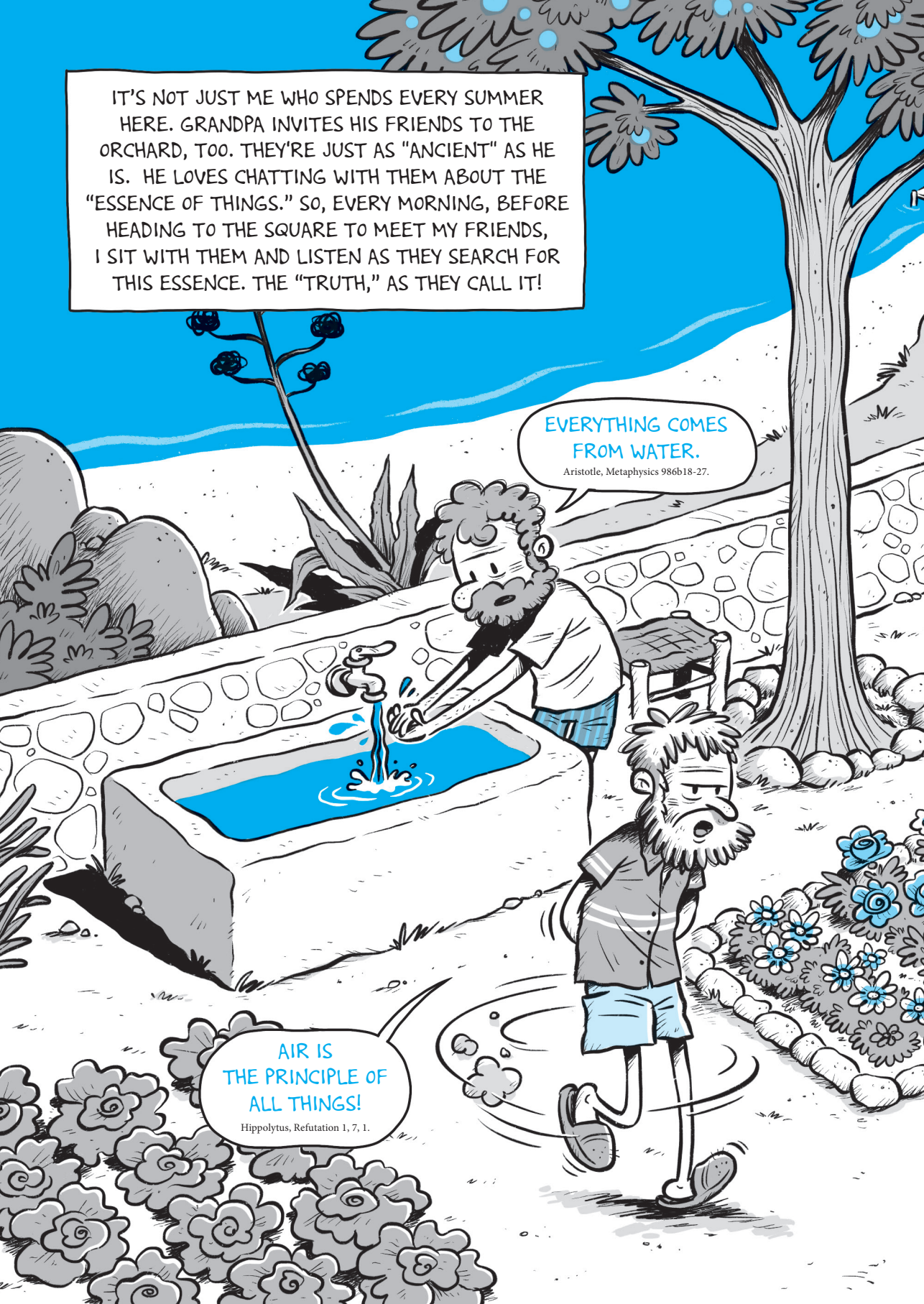
IT'S NOT JUST ME WHO SPENDS EVERY SUMMER HERE. GRANDPA INVITES HIS FRIENDS TO THE ORCHARD, TOO. THEY'RE JUST AS "ANCIENT" AS HE IS. HE LOVES CHATTING WITH THEM ABOUT THE "ESSENCE OF THINGS." SO, EVERY MORNING, BEFORE HEADING TO THE SQUARE TO MEET MY FRIENDS, I SIT WITH THEM AND LISTEN AS THEY SEARCH FOR THIS ESSENCE. THE "TRUTH," AS THEY CALL IT!

EVERYTHING COMES FROM WATER.

Aristotle, Metaphysics 986b18-27.

AIR IS THE PRINCIPLE OF ALL THINGS!

Hippolytus, Refutation 1, 7, 1.

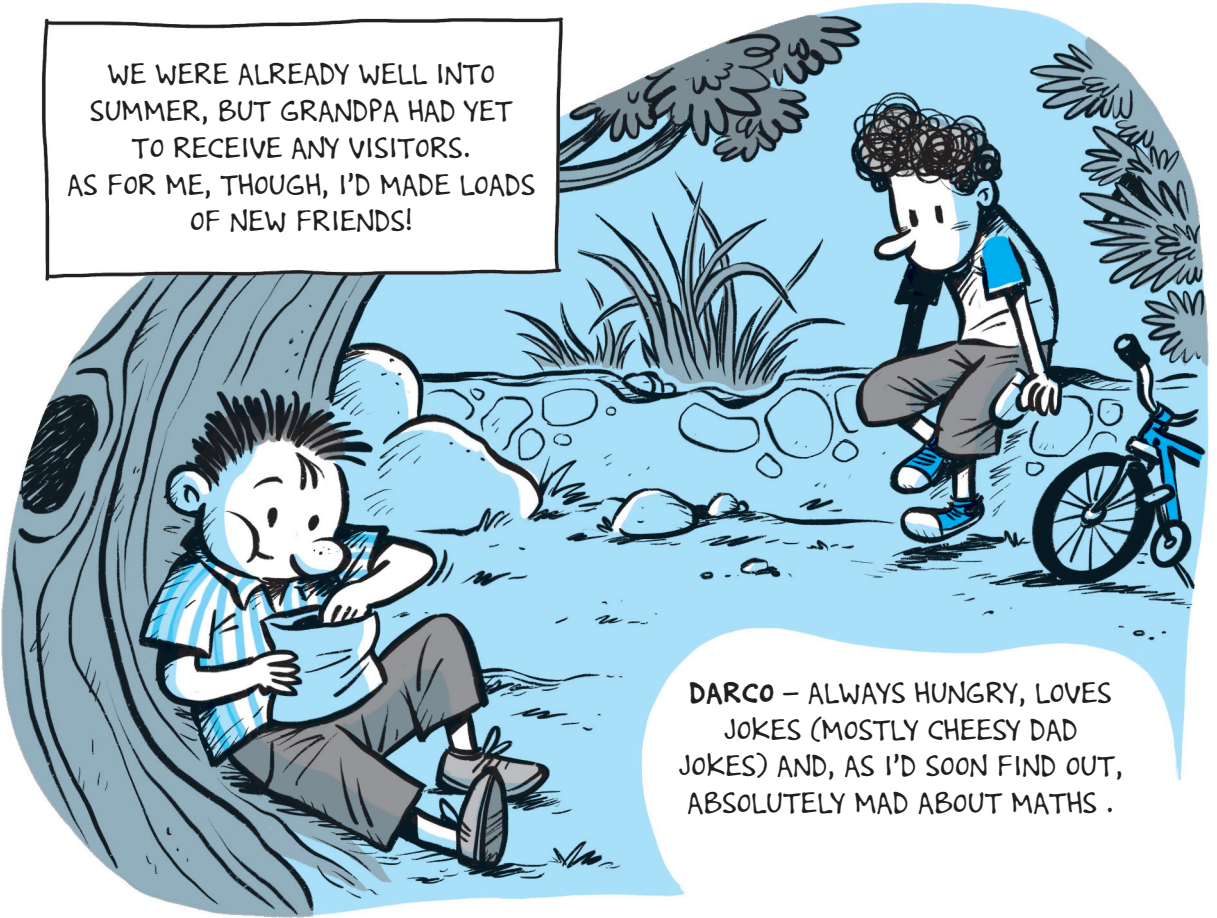




I LOVE LISTENING TO THEM TALK, BECAUSE IT HELPS ME DISCOVER ANOTHER DIMENSION OF THIS WORLD. I'M STARTING TO REALISE THAT EVERYTHING—AND I MEAN EVERYTHING—CAN BE MIND GAMES.

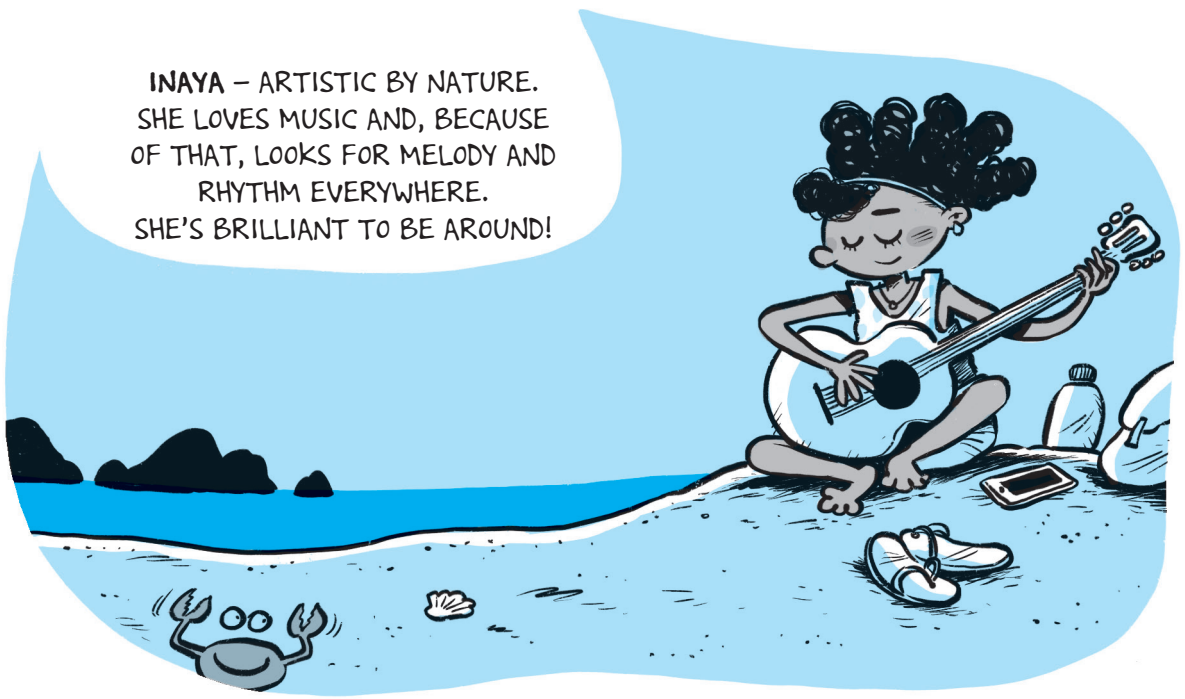


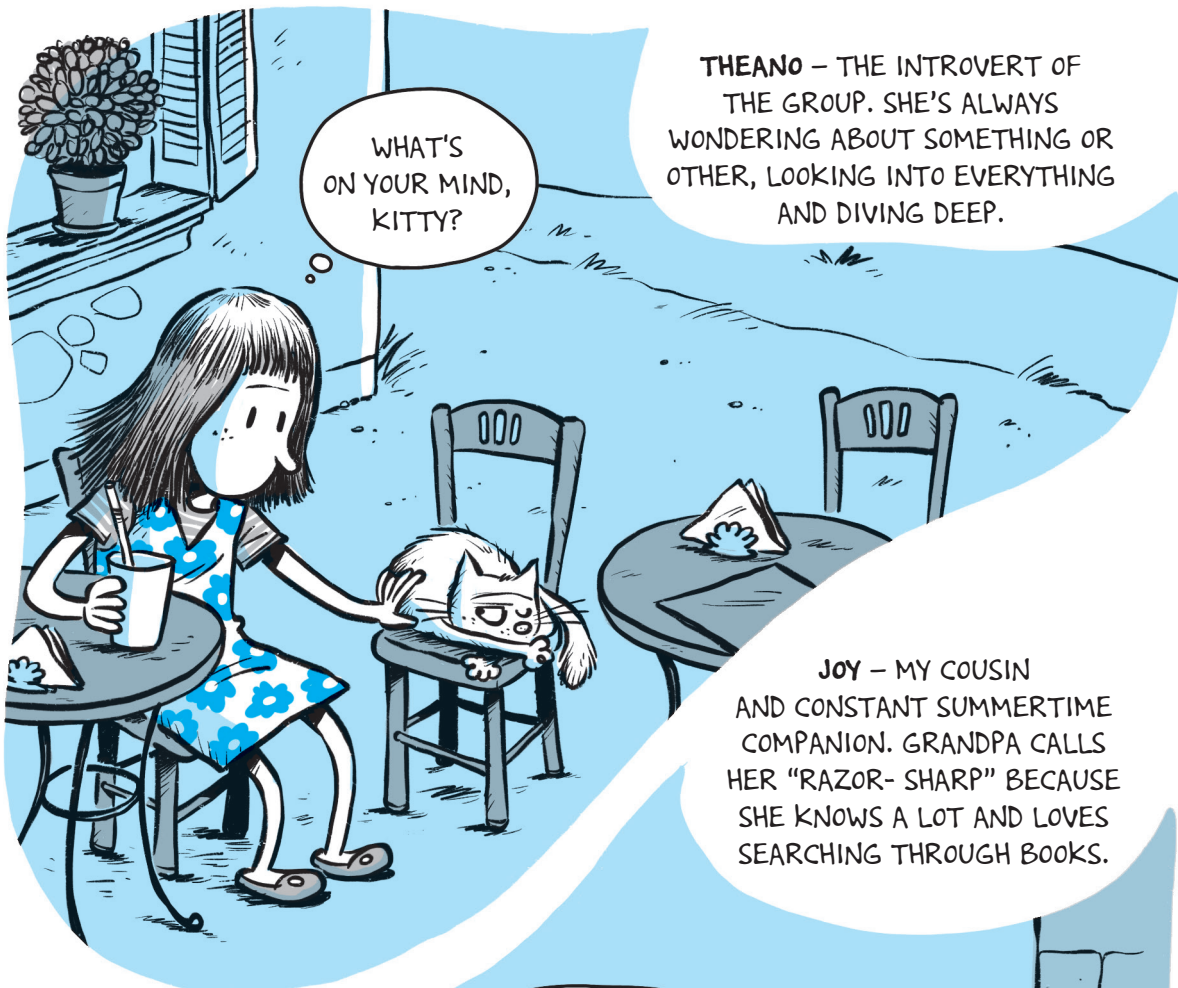
WE WERE ALREADY WELL INTO SUMMER, BUT GRANDPA HAD YET TO RECEIVE ANY VISITORS. AS FOR ME, THOUGH, I'D MADE LOADS OF NEW FRIENDS!



DARCO – ALWAYS HUNGRY, LOVES JOKES (MOSTLY CHEESY DAD JOKES) AND, AS I'D SOON FIND OUT, ABSOLUTELY MAD ABOUT MATHS .

INAYA – ARTISTIC BY NATURE. SHE LOVES MUSIC AND, BECAUSE OF THAT, LOOKS FOR MELODY AND RHYTHM EVERYWHERE. SHE'S BRILLIANT TO BE AROUND!

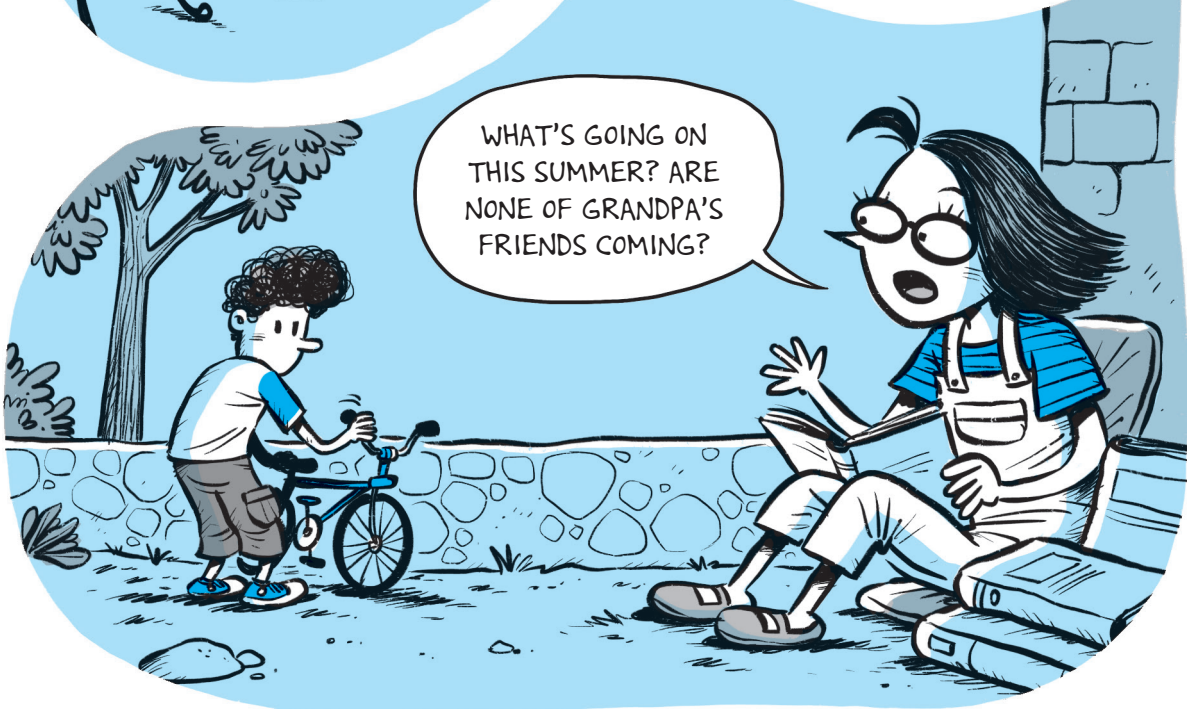




WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, KITTY?

THEANO – THE INTROVERT OF THE GROUP. SHE'S ALWAYS WONDERING ABOUT SOMETHING OR OTHER, LOOKING INTO EVERYTHING AND DIVING DEEP.

JOY – MY COUSIN AND CONSTANT SUMMERTIME COMPANION. GRANDPA CALLS HER "RAZOR-SHARP" BECAUSE SHE KNOWS A LOT AND LOVES SEARCHING THROUGH BOOKS.



WHAT'S GOING ON THIS SUMMER? ARE NONE OF GRANDPA'S FRIENDS COMING?

JOY ALWAYS HAS A GREAT TIME WITH GRANDPA'S FRIENDS BECAUSE...

THEY GIVE ME FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

ALL RIGHT, THEY GIVE ME FOOD FOR THOUGHT TOO, BUT I'M USUALLY LEFT WITH SOME ENOOOOOOOORMOUS QUESTIONS...

HEY, LOU!
I JUST ASKED YOU ARE NONE OF GRANDPA'S FRIENDS COMING THIS SUMMER?

... I DON'T KNOW. I DID SEE HIM AIRING OUT THE GUEST ROOM TODAY, THOUGH. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I FIND OUT.

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.

THE NEXT MORNING

