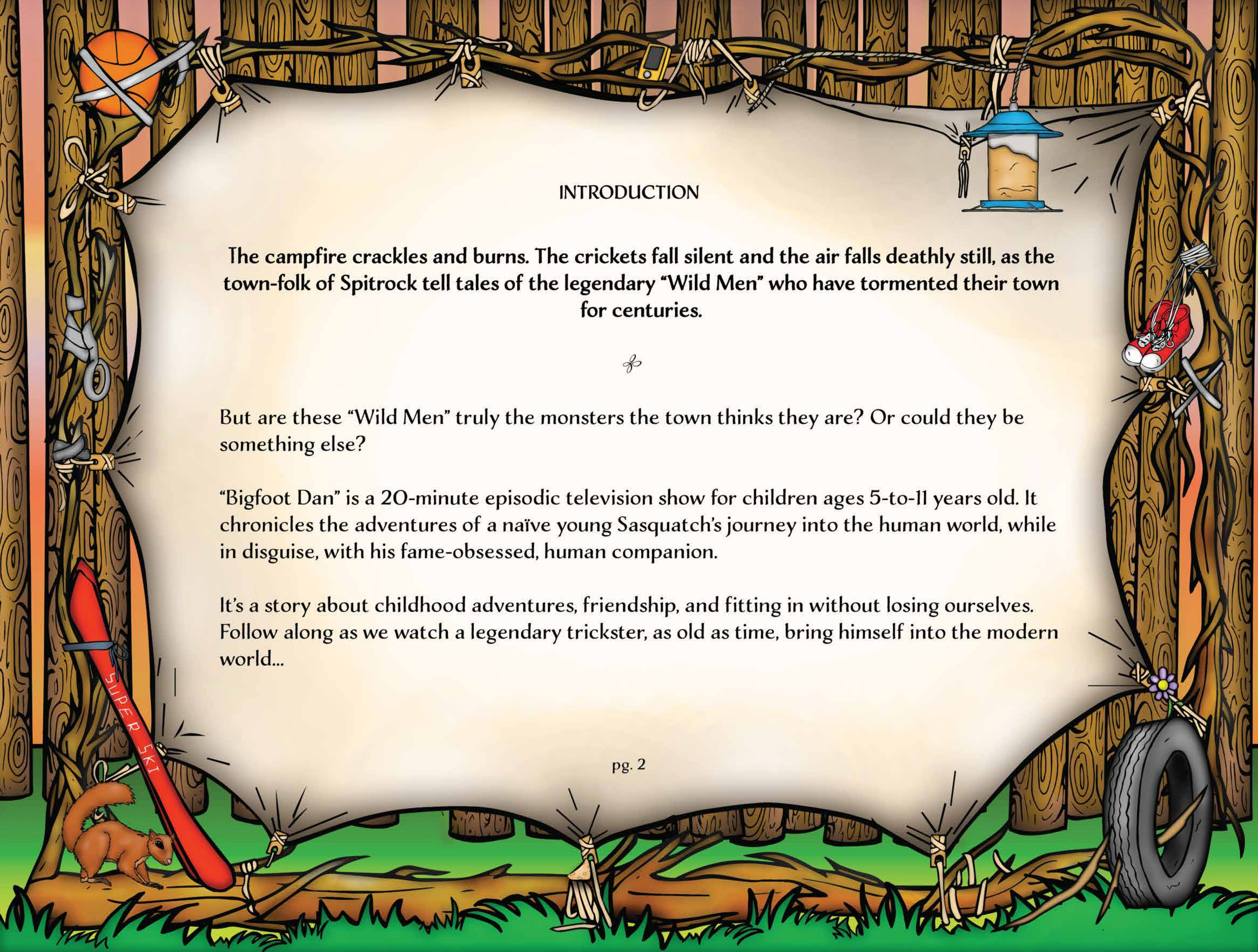


BEFORE
DAN



SASQUATCH TOURS

THE
SPITROCK
WILDMAN



INTRODUCTION

The campfire crackles and burns. The crickets fall silent and the air falls deathly still, as the town-folk of Spitrock tell tales of the legendary “Wild Men” who have tormented their town for centuries.



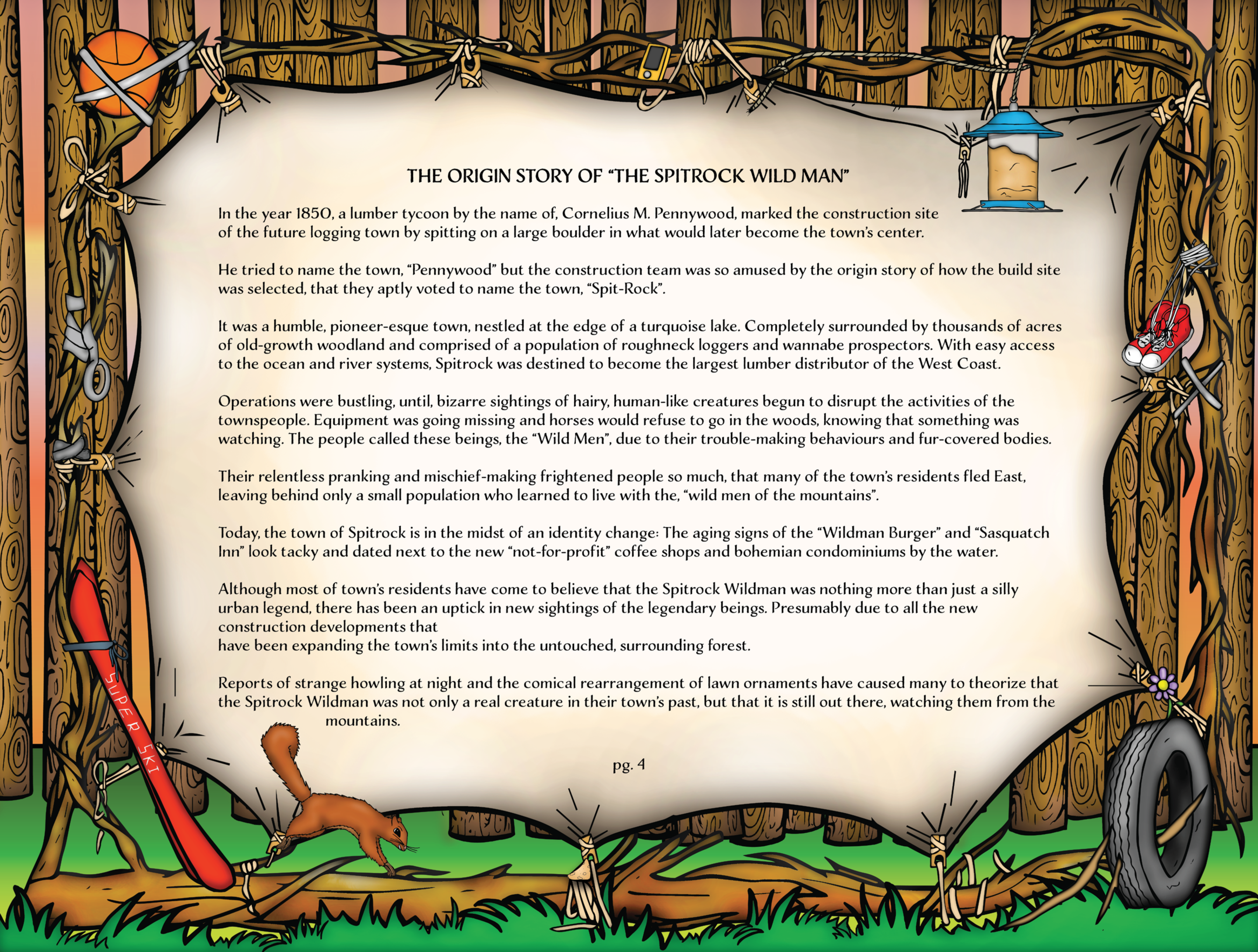
But are these “Wild Men” truly the monsters the town thinks they are? Or could they be something else?

“Bigfoot Dan” is a 20-minute episodic television show for children ages 5-to-11 years old. It chronicles the adventures of a naïve young Sasquatch’s journey into the human world, while in disguise, with his fame-obsessed, human companion.

It’s a story about childhood adventures, friendship, and fitting in without losing ourselves. Follow along as we watch a legendary trickster, as old as time, bring himself into the modern world...



SPITROCK, MAY, 1895



THE ORIGIN STORY OF “THE SPITROCK WILD MAN”

In the year 1850, a lumber tycoon by the name of, Cornelius M. Pennywood, marked the construction site of the future logging town by spitting on a large boulder in what would later become the town's center.

He tried to name the town, “Pennywood” but the construction team was so amused by the origin story of how the build site was selected, that they aptly voted to name the town, “Spit-Rock”.

It was a humble, pioneer-esque town, nestled at the edge of a turquoise lake. Completely surrounded by thousands of acres of old-growth woodland and comprised of a population of roughneck loggers and wannabe prospectors. With easy access to the ocean and river systems, Spitrock was destined to become the largest lumber distributor of the West Coast.

Operations were bustling, until, bizarre sightings of hairy, human-like creatures began to disrupt the activities of the townspeople. Equipment was going missing and horses would refuse to go in the woods, knowing that something was watching. The people called these beings, the “Wild Men”, due to their trouble-making behaviours and fur-covered bodies.

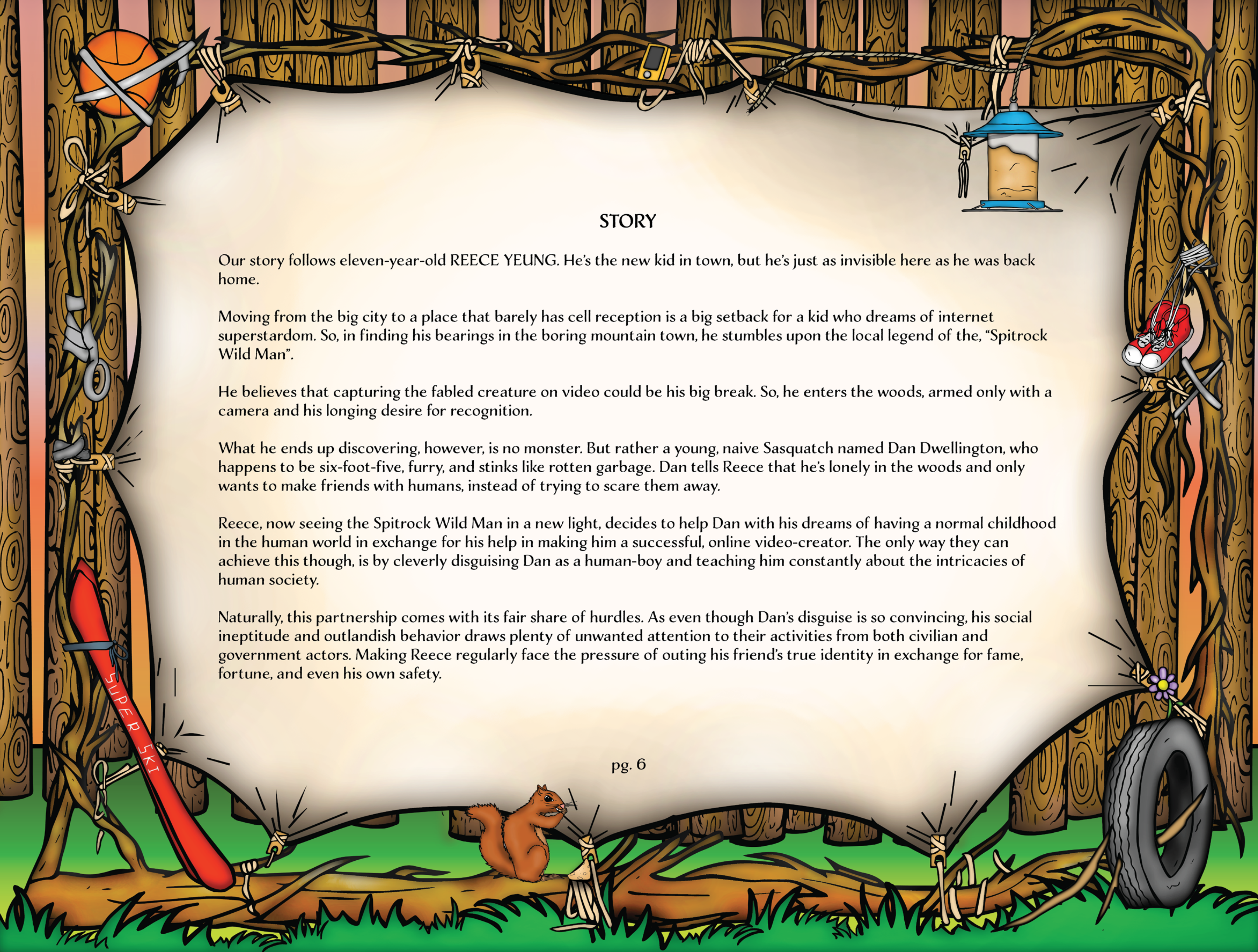
Their relentless pranking and mischief-making frightened people so much, that many of the town's residents fled East, leaving behind only a small population who learned to live with the, “wild men of the mountains”.

Today, the town of Spitrock is in the midst of an identity change: The aging signs of the “Wildman Burger” and “Sasquatch Inn” look tacky and dated next to the new “not-for-profit” coffee shops and bohemian condominiums by the water.

Although most of town's residents have come to believe that the Spitrock Wildman was nothing more than just a silly urban legend, there has been an uptick in new sightings of the legendary beings. Presumably due to all the new construction developments that have been expanding the town's limits into the untouched, surrounding forest.

Reports of strange howling at night and the comical rearrangement of lawn ornaments have caused many to theorize that the Spitrock Wildman was not only a real creature in their town's past, but that it is still out there, watching them from the mountains.





STORY

Our story follows eleven-year-old REECE YEUNG. He's the new kid in town, but he's just as invisible here as he was back home.

Moving from the big city to a place that barely has cell reception is a big setback for a kid who dreams of internet superstardom. So, in finding his bearings in the boring mountain town, he stumbles upon the local legend of the, "Spitrock Wild Man".

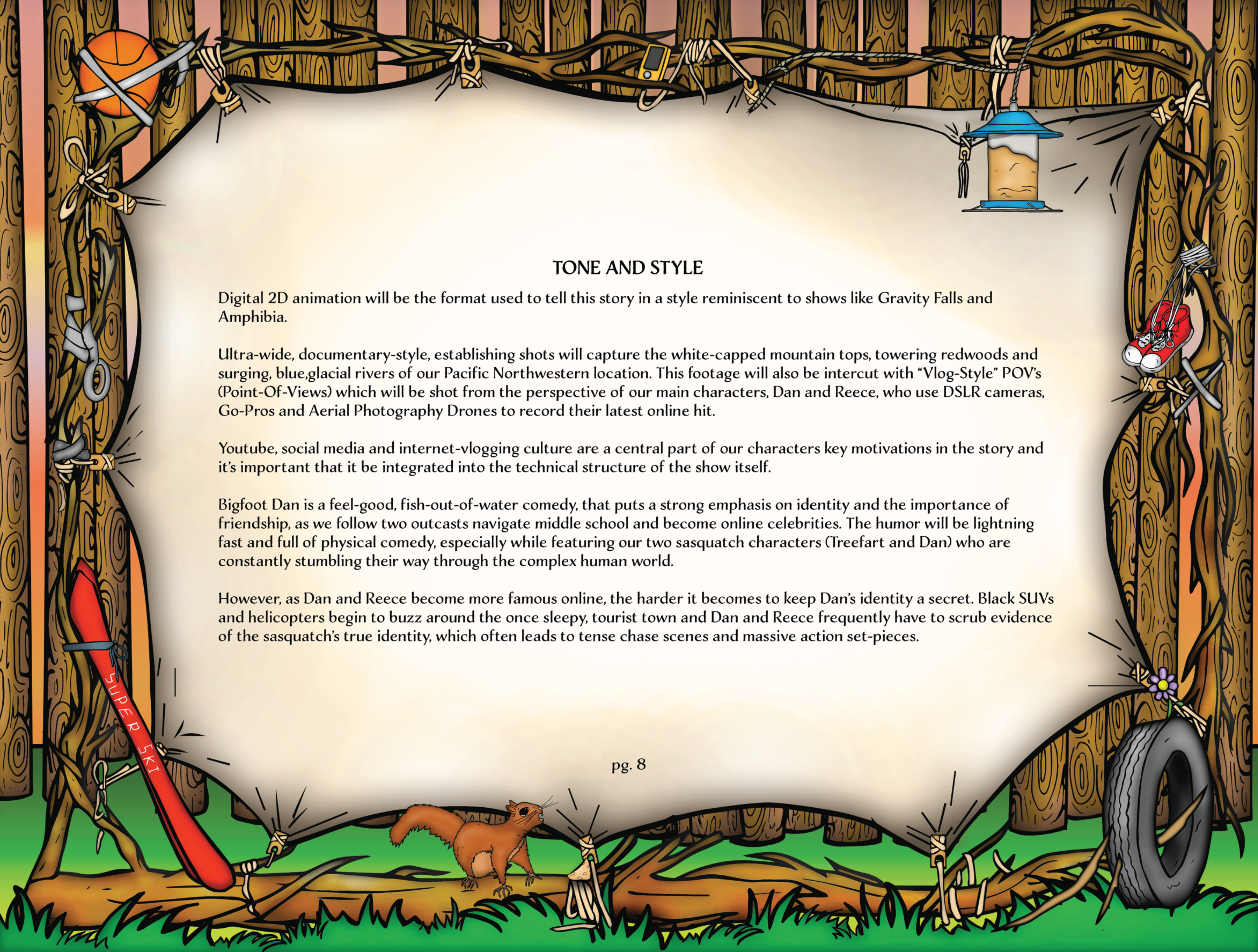
He believes that capturing the fabled creature on video could be his big break. So, he enters the woods, armed only with a camera and his longing desire for recognition.

What he ends up discovering, however, is no monster. But rather a young, naive Sasquatch named Dan Dwellington, who happens to be six-foot-five, furry, and stinks like rotten garbage. Dan tells Reece that he's lonely in the woods and only wants to make friends with humans, instead of trying to scare them away.

Reece, now seeing the Spitrock Wild Man in a new light, decides to help Dan with his dreams of having a normal childhood in the human world in exchange for his help in making him a successful, online video-creator. The only way they can achieve this though, is by cleverly disguising Dan as a human-boy and teaching him constantly about the intricacies of human society.

Naturally, this partnership comes with its fair share of hurdles. As even though Dan's disguise is so convincing, his social ineptitude and outlandish behavior draws plenty of unwanted attention to their activities from both civilian and government actors. Making Reece regularly face the pressure of outing his friend's true identity in exchange for fame, fortune, and even his own safety.





TONE AND STYLE

Digital 2D animation will be the format used to tell this story in a style reminiscent to shows like Gravity Falls and Amphibia.

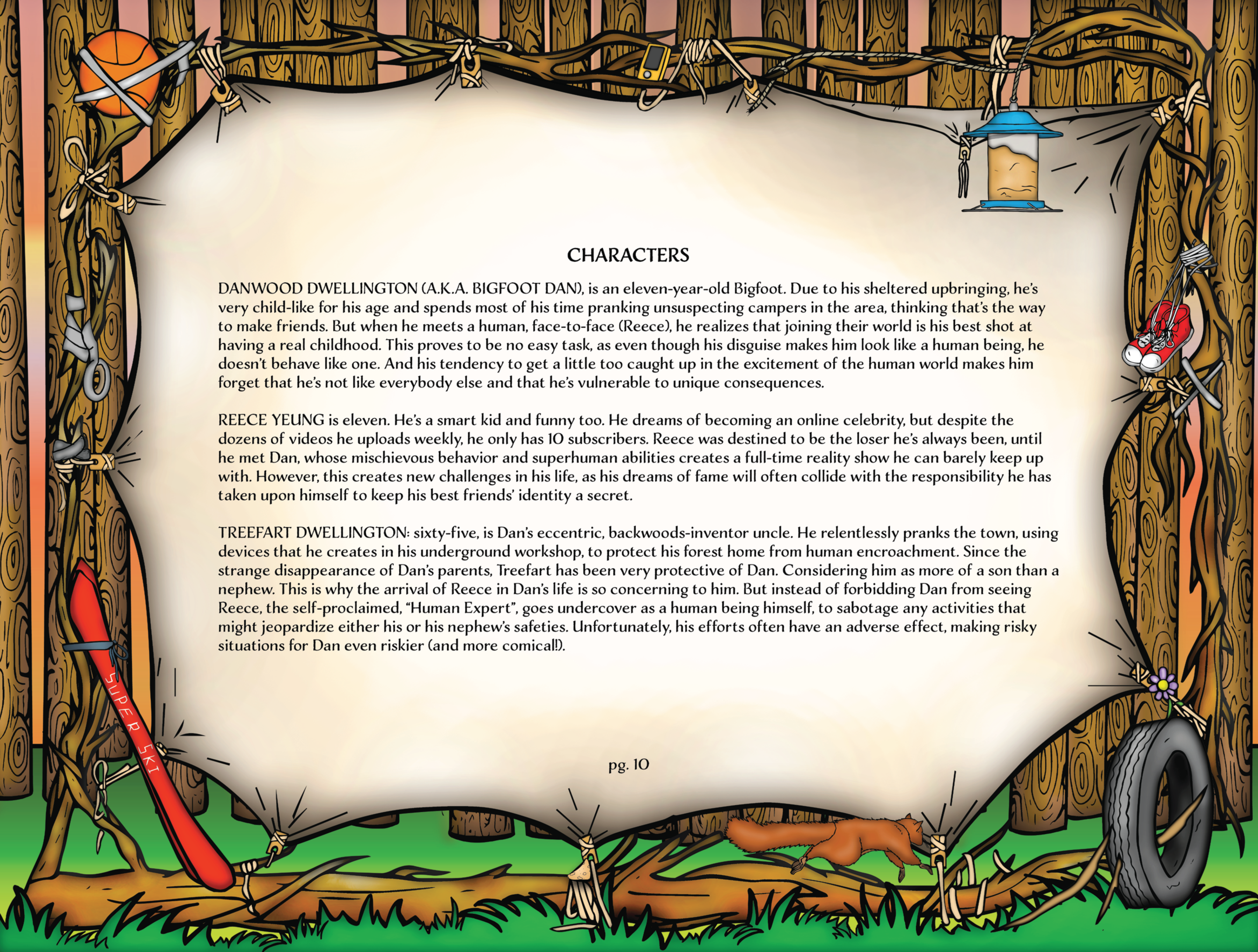
Ultra-wide, documentary-style, establishing shots will capture the white-capped mountain tops, towering redwoods and surging, blue, glacial rivers of our Pacific Northwestern location. This footage will also be intercut with “Vlog-Style” POV’s (Point-Of-Views) which will be shot from the perspective of our main characters, Dan and Reece, who use DSLR cameras, Go-Pros and Aerial Photography Drones to record their latest online hit.

Youtube, social media and internet-vlogging culture are a central part of our characters key motivations in the story and it’s important that it be integrated into the technical structure of the show itself.

Bigfoot Dan is a feel-good, fish-out-of-water comedy, that puts a strong emphasis on identity and the importance of friendship, as we follow two outcasts navigate middle school and become online celebrities. The humor will be lightning fast and full of physical comedy, especially while featuring our two sasquatch characters (Treefart and Dan) who are constantly stumbling their way through the complex human world.

However, as Dan and Reece become more famous online, the harder it becomes to keep Dan’s identity a secret. Black SUVs and helicopters begin to buzz around the once sleepy, tourist town and Dan and Reece frequently have to scrub evidence of the sasquatch’s true identity, which often leads to tense chase scenes and massive action set-pieces.



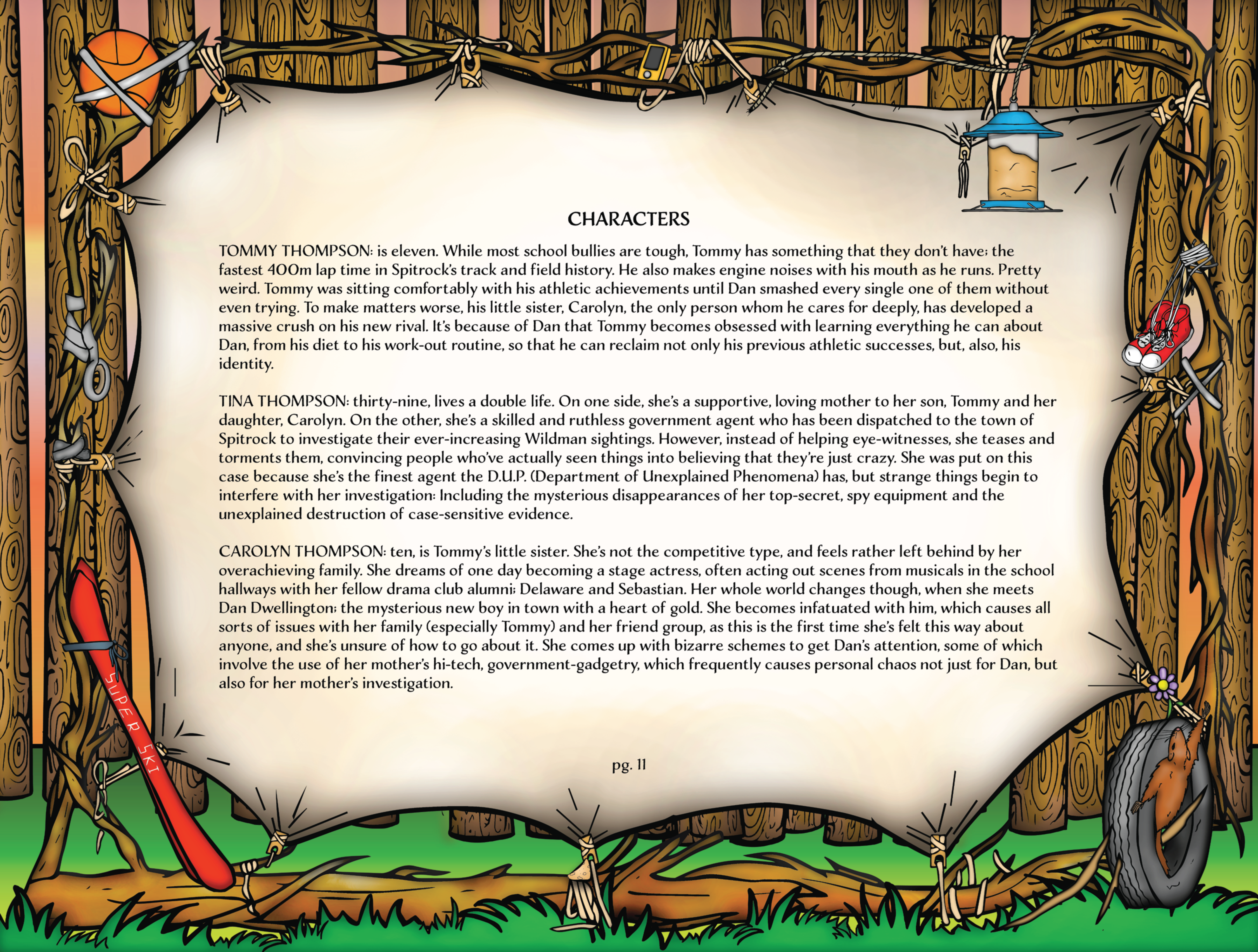


CHARACTERS

DANWOOD DWELLINGTON (A.K.A. BIGFOOT DAN), is an eleven-year-old Bigfoot. Due to his sheltered upbringing, he's very child-like for his age and spends most of his time pranking unsuspecting campers in the area, thinking that's the way to make friends. But when he meets a human, face-to-face (Reece), he realizes that joining their world is his best shot at having a real childhood. This proves to be no easy task, as even though his disguise makes him look like a human being, he doesn't behave like one. And his tendency to get a little too caught up in the excitement of the human world makes him forget that he's not like everybody else and that he's vulnerable to unique consequences.

REECE YEUNG is eleven. He's a smart kid and funny too. He dreams of becoming an online celebrity, but despite the dozens of videos he uploads weekly, he only has 10 subscribers. Reece was destined to be the loser he's always been, until he met Dan, whose mischievous behavior and superhuman abilities creates a full-time reality show he can barely keep up with. However, this creates new challenges in his life, as his dreams of fame will often collide with the responsibility he has taken upon himself to keep his best friends' identity a secret.

TREEFART DWELLINGTON: sixty-five, is Dan's eccentric, backwoods-inventor uncle. He relentlessly pranks the town, using devices that he creates in his underground workshop, to protect his forest home from human encroachment. Since the strange disappearance of Dan's parents, Treefart has been very protective of Dan. Considering him as more of a son than a nephew. This is why the arrival of Reece in Dan's life is so concerning to him. But instead of forbidding Dan from seeing Reece, the self-proclaimed, "Human Expert", goes undercover as a human being himself, to sabotage any activities that might jeopardize either his or his nephew's safeties. Unfortunately, his efforts often have an adverse effect, making risky situations for Dan even riskier (and more comical!).



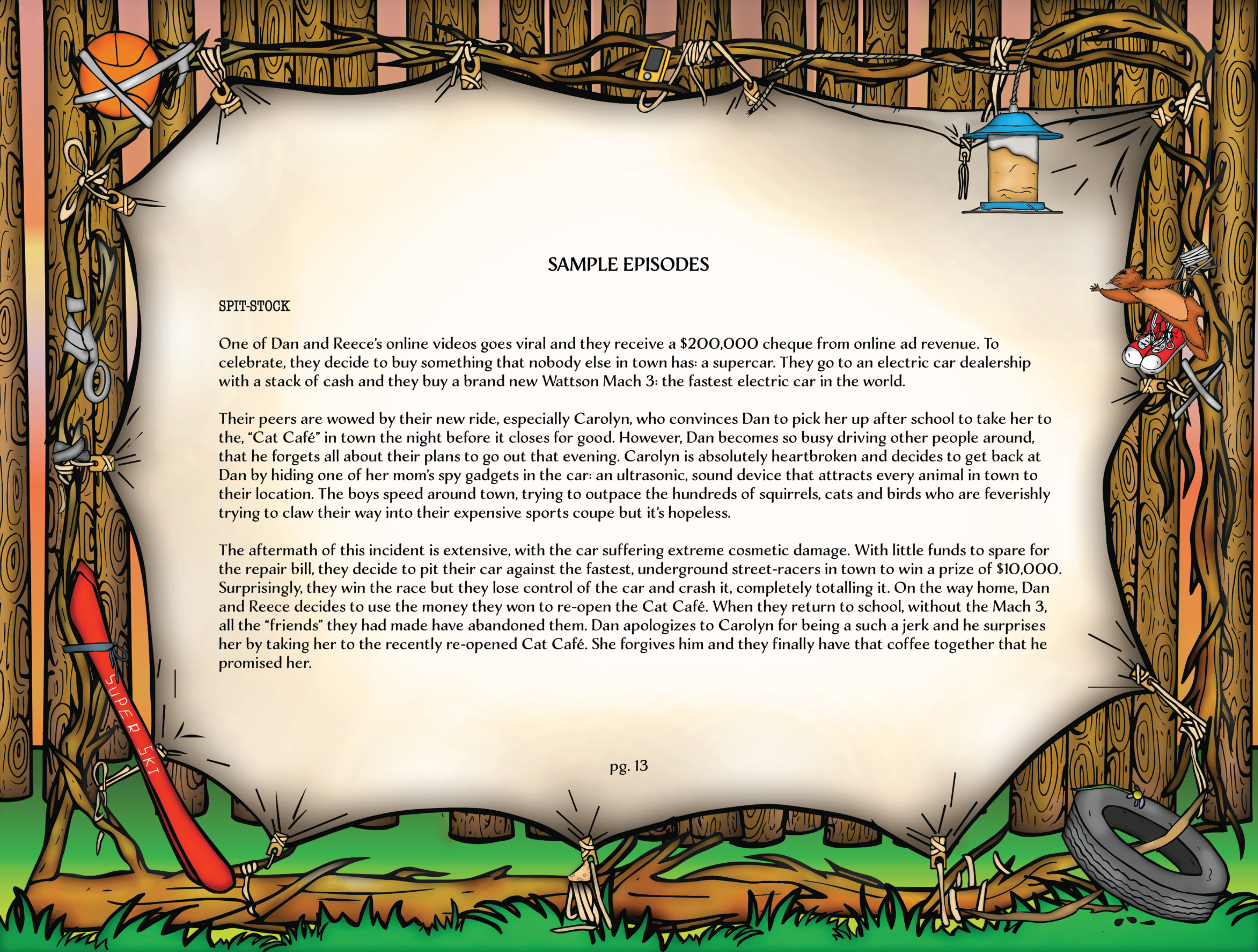
CHARACTERS

TOMMY THOMPSON: is eleven. While most school bullies are tough, Tommy has something that they don't have; the fastest 400m lap time in Spitrock's track and field history. He also makes engine noises with his mouth as he runs. Pretty weird. Tommy was sitting comfortably with his athletic achievements until Dan smashed every single one of them without even trying. To make matters worse, his little sister, Carolyn, the only person whom he cares for deeply, has developed a massive crush on his new rival. It's because of Dan that Tommy becomes obsessed with learning everything he can about Dan, from his diet to his work-out routine, so that he can reclaim not only his previous athletic successes, but, also, his identity.

TINA THOMPSON: thirty-nine, lives a double life. On one side, she's a supportive, loving mother to her son, Tommy and her daughter, Carolyn. On the other, she's a skilled and ruthless government agent who has been dispatched to the town of Spitrock to investigate their ever-increasing Wildman sightings. However, instead of helping eye-witnesses, she teases and torments them, convincing people who've actually seen things into believing that they're just crazy. She was put on this case because she's the finest agent the D.U.P. (Department of Unexplained Phenomena) has, but strange things begin to interfere with her investigation: Including the mysterious disappearances of her top-secret, spy equipment and the unexplained destruction of case-sensitive evidence.

CAROLYN THOMPSON: ten, is Tommy's little sister. She's not the competitive type, and feels rather left behind by her overachieving family. She dreams of one day becoming a stage actress, often acting out scenes from musicals in the school hallways with her fellow drama club alumni; Delaware and Sebastian. Her whole world changes though, when she meets Dan Dwellington; the mysterious new boy in town with a heart of gold. She becomes infatuated with him, which causes all sorts of issues with her family (especially Tommy) and her friend group, as this is the first time she's felt this way about anyone, and she's unsure of how to go about it. She comes up with bizarre schemes to get Dan's attention, some of which involve the use of her mother's hi-tech, government-gadgetry, which frequently causes personal chaos not just for Dan, but also for her mother's investigation.



A whimsical forest scene with a wooden fence made of vertical logs. A yellow birdhouse hangs from a branch on the right. A squirrel in red sneakers is climbing a tree on the right. A red ski with 'SUPER SKI' written on it is leaning against a tree on the left. A yellow mobile phone is hanging from a branch in the center. The ground is covered in green grass and brown leaves.

SAMPLE EPISODES

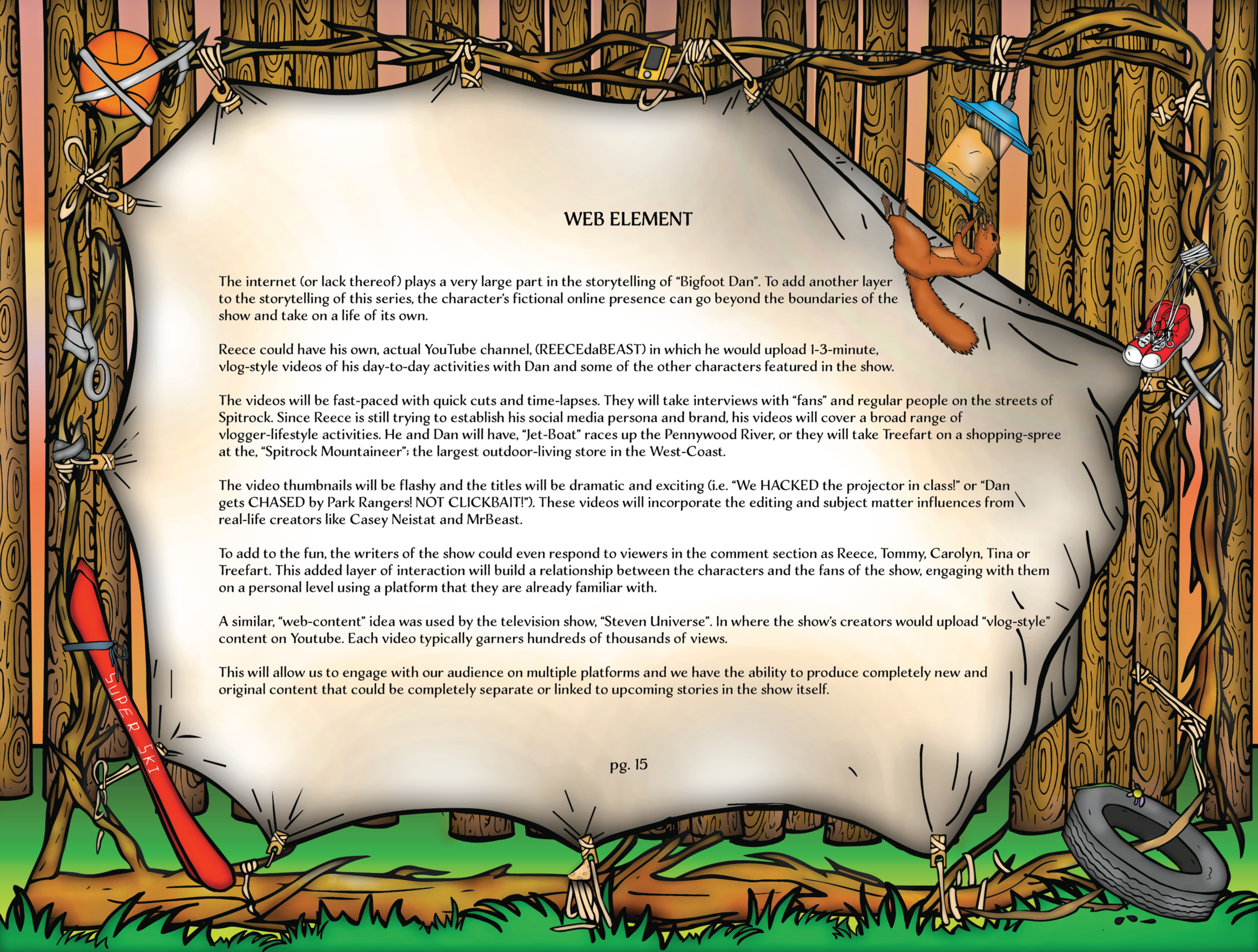
SPIT-STOCK

One of Dan and Reece's online videos goes viral and they receive a \$200,000 cheque from online ad revenue. To celebrate, they decide to buy something that nobody else in town has: a supercar. They go to an electric car dealership with a stack of cash and they buy a brand new Wattson Mach 3: the fastest electric car in the world.

Their peers are wowed by their new ride, especially Carolyn, who convinces Dan to pick her up after school to take her to the, "Cat Café" in town the night before it closes for good. However, Dan becomes so busy driving other people around, that he forgets all about their plans to go out that evening. Carolyn is absolutely heartbroken and decides to get back at Dan by hiding one of her mom's spy gadgets in the car: an ultrasonic, sound device that attracts every animal in town to their location. The boys speed around town, trying to outpace the hundreds of squirrels, cats and birds who are feverishly trying to claw their way into their expensive sports coupe but it's hopeless.

The aftermath of this incident is extensive, with the car suffering extreme cosmetic damage. With little funds to spare for the repair bill, they decide to pit their car against the fastest, underground street-racers in town to win a prize of \$10,000. Surprisingly, they win the race but they lose control of the car and crash it, completely totalling it. On the way home, Dan and Reece decides to use the money they won to re-open the Cat Café. When they return to school, without the Mach 3, all the "friends" they had made have abandoned them. Dan apologizes to Carolyn for being a such a jerk and he surprises her by taking her to the recently re-opened Cat Café. She forgives him and they finally have that coffee together that he promised her.





WEB ELEMENT

The internet (or lack thereof) plays a very large part in the storytelling of “Bigfoot Dan”. To add another layer to the storytelling of this series, the character’s fictional online presence can go beyond the boundaries of the show and take on a life of its own.

Reece could have his own, actual YouTube channel, (REECEdaBEAST) in which he would upload 1-3-minute, vlog-style videos of his day-to-day activities with Dan and some of the other characters featured in the show.

The videos will be fast-paced with quick cuts and time-lapses. They will take interviews with “fans” and regular people on the streets of Spitrock. Since Reece is still trying to establish his social media persona and brand, his videos will cover a broad range of vlogger-lifestyle activities. He and Dan will have, “Jet-Boat” races up the Pennywood River, or they will take Treefart on a shopping-spree at the, “Spitrock Mountaineer”; the largest outdoor-living store in the West-Coast.

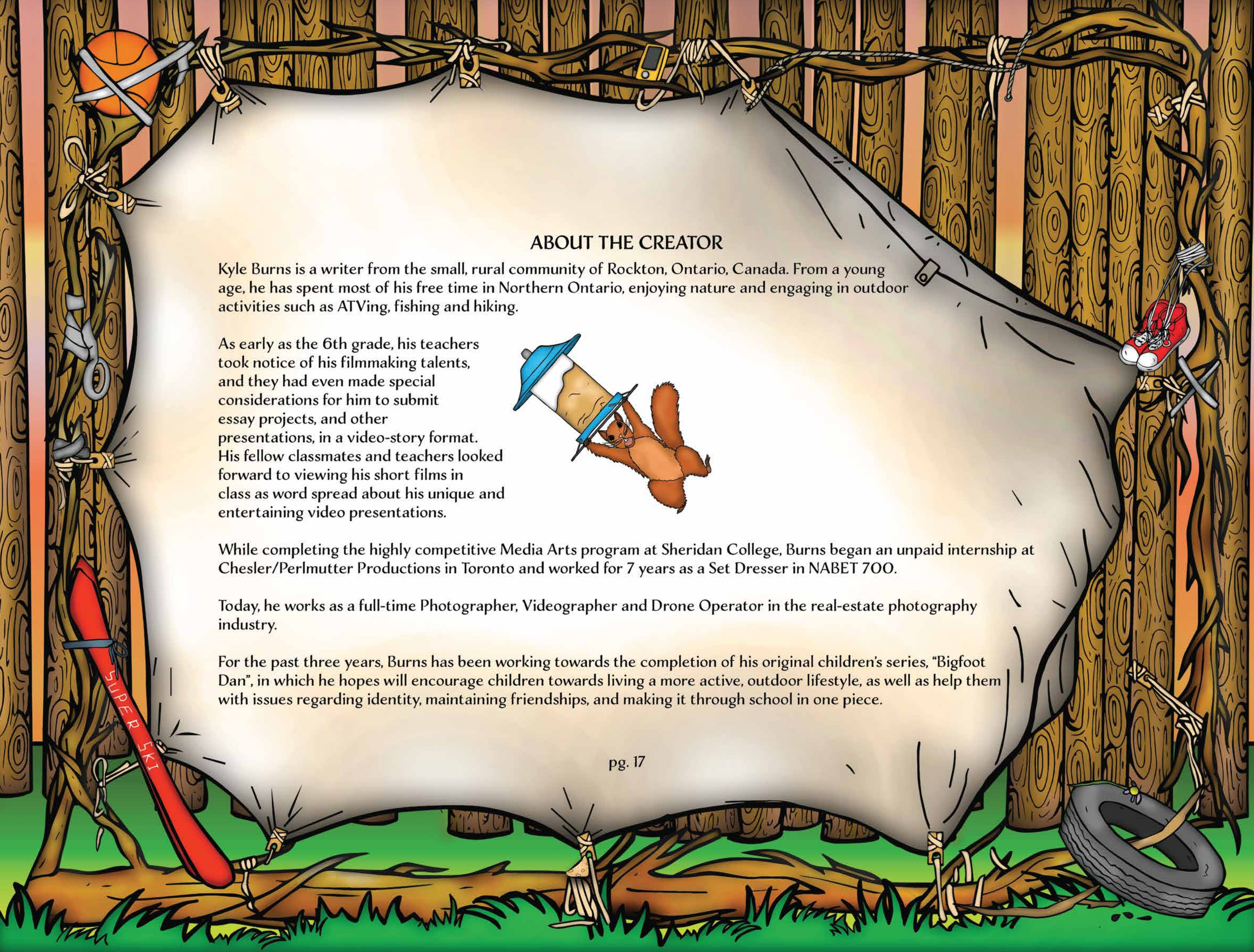
The video thumbnails will be flashy and the titles will be dramatic and exciting (i.e. “We HACKED the projector in class!” or “Dan gets CHASED by Park Rangers! NOT CLICKBAIT!”). These videos will incorporate the editing and subject matter influences from real-life creators like Casey Neistat and MrBeast.

To add to the fun, the writers of the show could even respond to viewers in the comment section as Reece, Tommy, Carolyn, Tina or Treefart. This added layer of interaction will build a relationship between the characters and the fans of the show, engaging with them on a personal level using a platform that they are already familiar with.

A similar, “web-content” idea was used by the television show, “Steven Universe”. In where the show’s creators would upload “vlog-style” content on Youtube. Each video typically garners hundreds of thousands of views.

This will allow us to engage with our audience on multiple platforms and we have the ability to produce completely new and original content that could be completely separate or linked to upcoming stories in the show itself.





ABOUT THE CREATOR

Kyle Burns is a writer from the small, rural community of Rockton, Ontario, Canada. From a young age, he has spent most of his free time in Northern Ontario, enjoying nature and engaging in outdoor activities such as ATVing, fishing and hiking.

As early as the 6th grade, his teachers took notice of his filmmaking talents, and they had even made special considerations for him to submit essay projects, and other presentations, in a video-story format. His fellow classmates and teachers looked forward to viewing his short films in class as word spread about his unique and entertaining video presentations.

While completing the highly competitive Media Arts program at Sheridan College, Burns began an unpaid internship at Chesler/Perlmutter Productions in Toronto and worked for 7 years as a Set Dresser in NABET 700.

Today, he works as a full-time Photographer, Videographer and Drone Operator in the real-estate photography industry.

For the past three years, Burns has been working towards the completion of his original children's series, "Bigfoot Dan", in which he hopes will encourage children towards living a more active, outdoor lifestyle, as well as help them with issues regarding identity, maintaining friendships, and making it through school in one piece.



THE END.