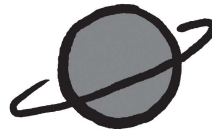


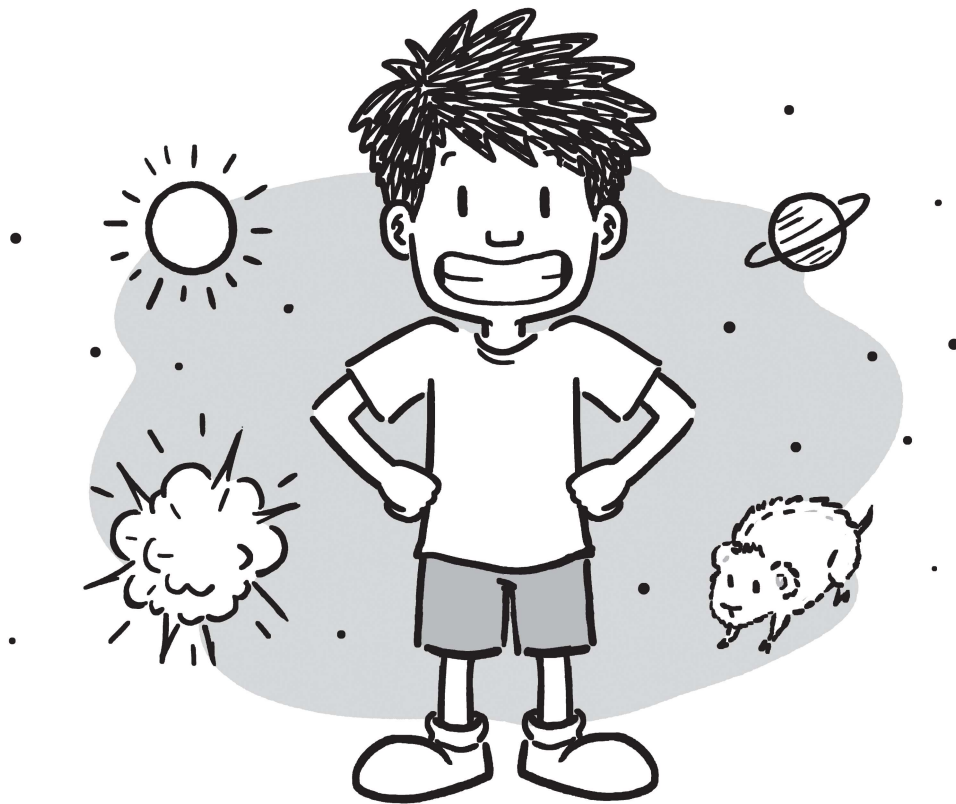


**OLIVER'S
GREAT BIG
UNIVERSE**





OLIVER'S GREAT BIG UNIVERSE



JORGE CHAM

SIMON & SCHUSTER

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To the best mom in the universe
—Oliver







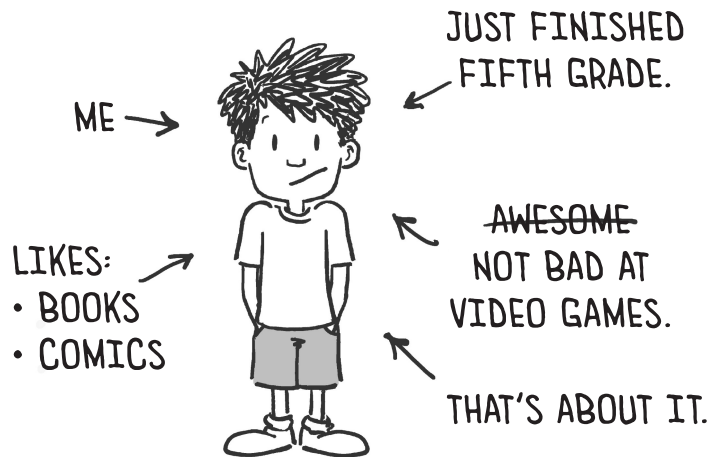
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CHAPTER 1
GAMMA RAYS FROM SPACE



I know what you're thinking. What makes an average eleven-year-old kid like me qualified to tell you anything about the universe?



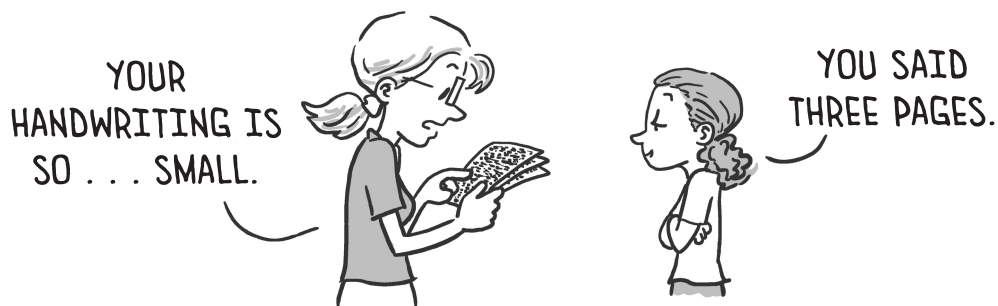
Am I a famous scientist? No.

Am I a super-genius at everything? Not really.

There are definitely smarter kids than me. Take Christopher, for example. He once solved a Rubik's Cube in 12.7 seconds for the school talent show. Blindfolded.



Or Zubi. She once wrote the whole history of the battles of the American Revolution for a three-page class writing assignment.



In fact, there are a lot of talented kids in my class.



ZOE C
PRO SOCCER
PLAYER



MATEO S
AMAZING
ARTIST



GABBY M
CLASS
PRESIDENT



SVEN P
CAN USE HIS ARMPIT
LIKE A MUSICAL
INSTRUMENT

Me? Let's just say my elementary school principal knew me by my first name and I saw the inside of her office more than a typical kid my age should.



But I digress. That's a fancy word for the fact that I get distracted a lot. You'll probably notice that when reading this book.

Sometimes I get distracted while I'm distracted. Like right now, I'm supposed to be practising piano, but instead I'm writing this book. Except that instead of writing this book, I just spent the last fifteen minutes reading a comic book.



But back to the topic. I do pay attention sometimes, and I totally paid attention on a very special day at the end of fifth grade.

DR HOWARD'S PRESENTATION



Throughout the year, Mrs Howard (our teacher) had brought grown-ups in to talk to us about their jobs. Like one time, Devon's grandpa came to tell us about being a geologist. Did you know you can spend your whole life studying just rocks?

