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Opening extract from

Dog Days: Diary of a Wimpy Kid

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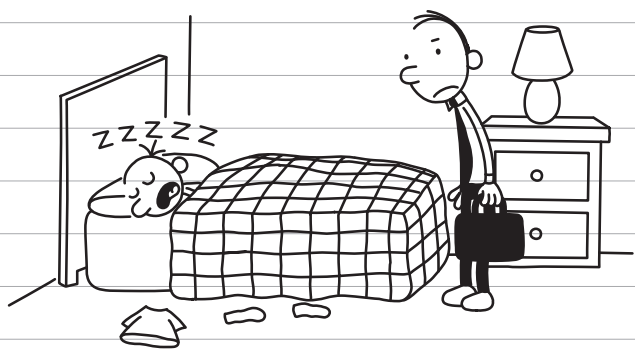
Monday

Even though me and Dad see eye to eye on "Li'l Cutie", there are still a lot of things we butt heads over. The big issue between us right now is my sleep schedule. During the summer I like to stay up all night watching TV or playing video games and then sleep through the morning. But Dad gets kind of crabby if I'm still in bed when he gets home from work.

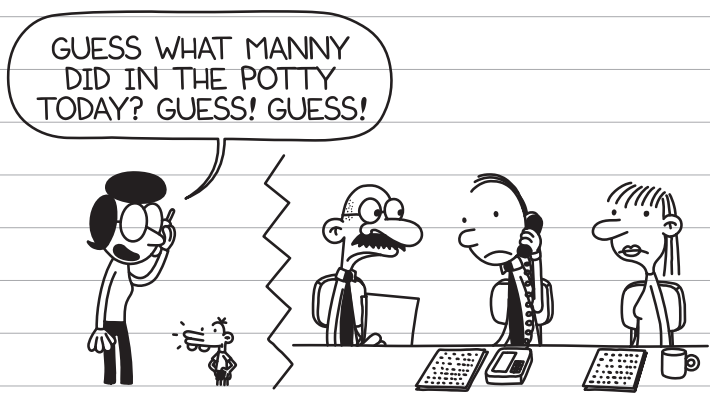


Lately, Dad's been calling me at noon to make sure I'm not still asleep. So I keep a phone by my bed and use my best wide-awake voice when he calls.

I think Dad's jealous because he has to go to work while the rest of us get to kick back and take it easy every day.

But if he's gonna be all grumpy about it, he should just become a teacher or a snowplough driver or have one of those jobs where you get to take summers off.

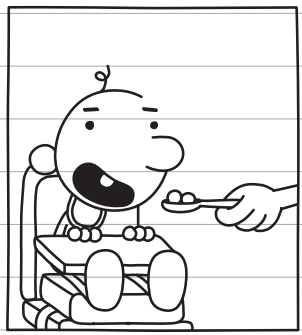
Mom's not really helping improve Dad's mood, either. She calls him at work about five times a day with updates on everything that's going on around the house.



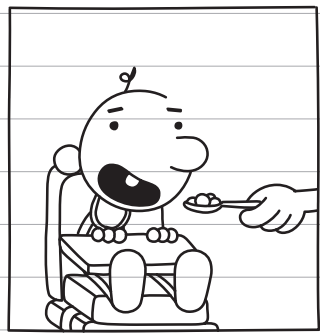
Tuesday

Dad got Mom a new camera for Mother's Day, and lately she's been taking lots of pictures. I think it's because she feels guilty about not keeping up on the family photo albums.

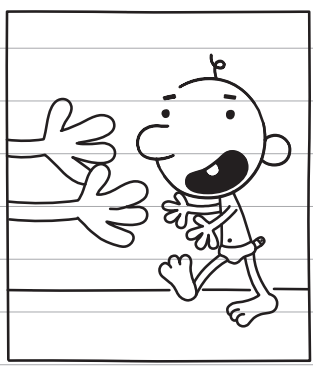
When my older brother, Rodrick, was a baby, Mom was totally on top of things.



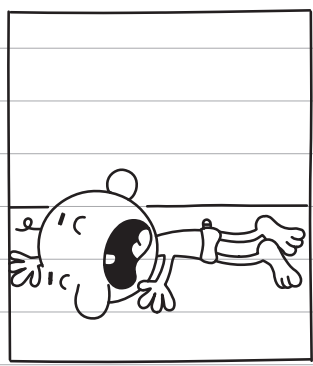
Rodrick's first time trying peas



Rodrick's second time trying peas



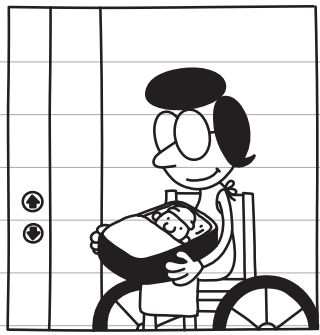
Rodrick's first steps



Kaboom!

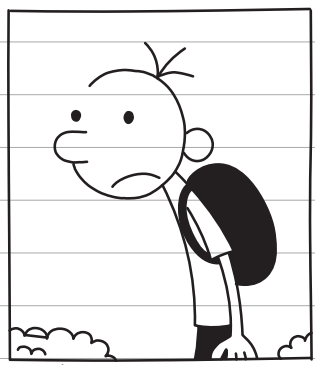
Once I came along I guess Mom got busy, so from that point on there are a lot of gaps in our official family history.

Welcome Gregory to the world



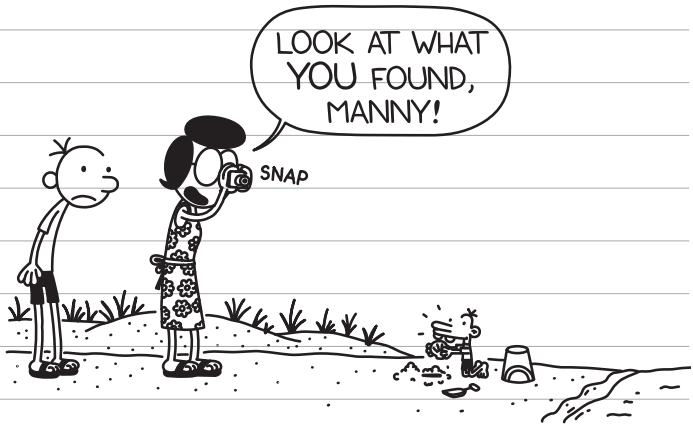
Taking Gregory home from the hospital

Gregory's 6th birthday party

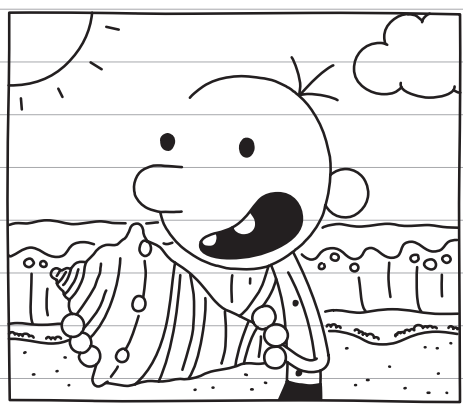


Gregory's first day of middle school

I've learned that photo albums aren't an accurate record of what happened in your life, anyway. Last year, when we were at the beach, Mom bought a bunch of fancy seashells at a gift shop, and later on I saw her bury them in the sand for Manny to "discover".



Well, I wish I hadn't seen that, because it made me re-evaluate my whole childhood.



Gregory really "digs" seashells!

Today Mom said I was looking "shaggy", so she told me she was taking me to get a haircut.

But I never would've agreed to get my hair cut if I knew that Mom was taking me to Bombshells Beauty Salon, which is where Mom and Gramma get THEIR hair cut.

I have to say, though, the whole beauty salon experience wasn't that bad. First of all, they have TVs all over the place, so you can watch a show while you're waiting to get your hair cut.

Second, they have lots of tabloids, those newspapers you see in the checkout lines at grocery stores. Mom says tabloids are full of lies, but I think there's some really important stuff in those things.