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Opening extract from

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel

Written by

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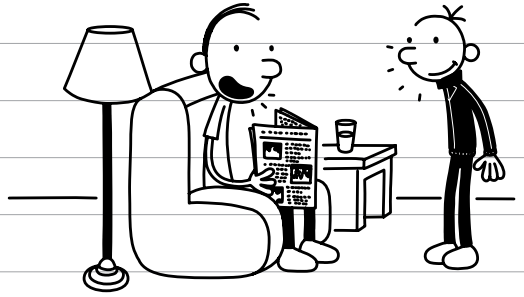
It was a BLACK LEATHER JACKET. I've never seen Dad wear it, so I figured he must've bought it before I was born.

I had no idea Dad owned anything that cool, and it kind of made me see him in a whole new light.

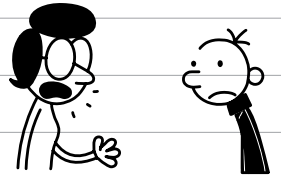


I put it on and went downstairs. Dad seemed pretty surprised to see his old leather jacket, and he said he bought it back when he was first dating Mom.

I asked Dad if I could borrow it, and he said he didn't need it anymore so it was OK by him.



Unfortunately, Mom wasn't on board with the idea. She said the jacket was way too expensive for a middle school student to wear and that I might damage it or lose it.



I told her that wasn't fair, because it was just sitting in the closet gathering dust, so it didn't really matter if something happened to it. But Mom said the jacket sent the "wrong message" and that, besides, it wasn't a winter coat. So she told me to put it back in the upstairs closet.

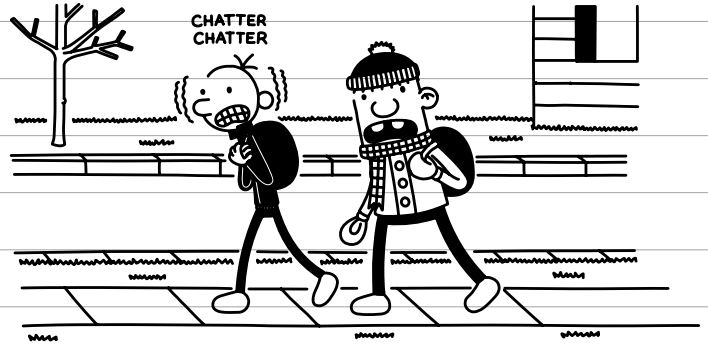
But when I was in the shower this morning, I just couldn't stop thinking about how awesome it would be to wear that thing to school. I knew I could probably sneak it out of the house and put it back in the closet later without Mom even noticing.

So while she was feeding Manny breakfast, I went upstairs, grabbed the jacket, and slipped out the front door.

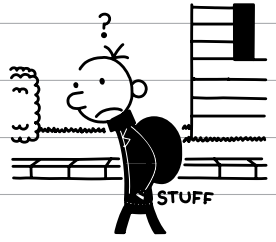


The first thing I have to say is, Mom was right about the jacket not being a winter coat.

That thing didn't have any sort of lining, and halfway to school I was starting to really regret my decision.



My gloves were in my winter coat at home, and my hands were FREEZING. So I shoved them in the pockets of the jacket, but there was something in each one.

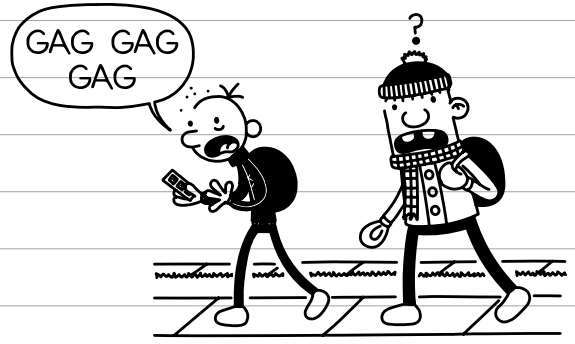


There was a really cool pair of aviator sunglasses in one of the pockets, so that was a bonus. In the other there was one of those picture strips you get at a photo booth in the mall.

At first I didn't recognize the people in the picture, but then I realized it was Mom and Dad.



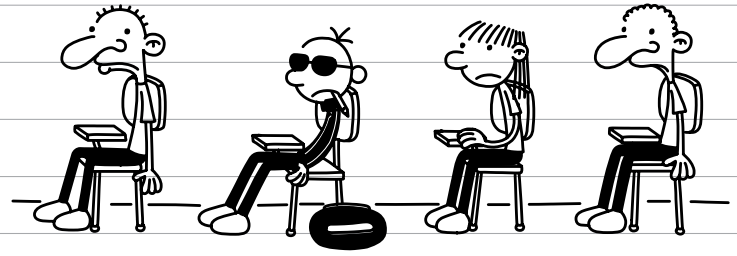
I really wish I hadn't seen that right after eating breakfast.



When I got to school, every head turned in my direction as I walked down the hallway.

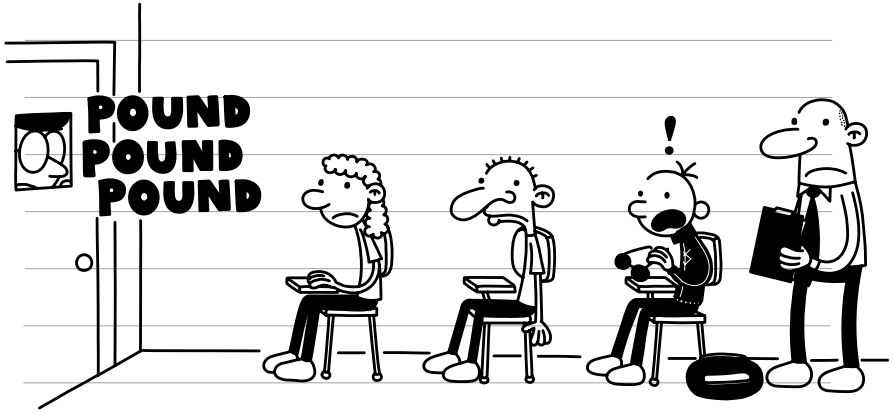


In fact, I got so much attention that I decided to keep the jacket on the rest of the day. I felt like a whole new person in homeroom.

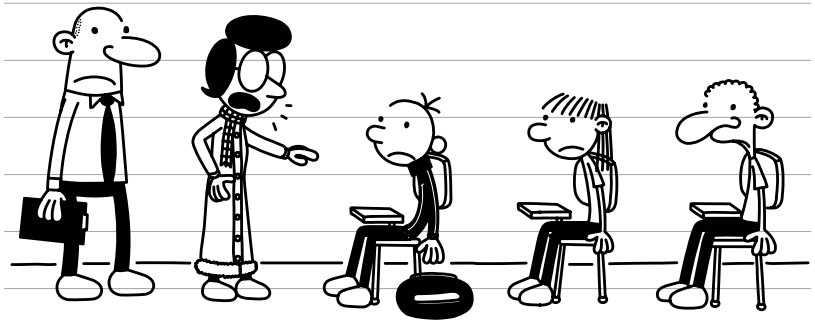


A few minutes before the bell rang to start the day, there was a loud knocking on the little window in the door.

I just about had a heart attack when I saw who it was.

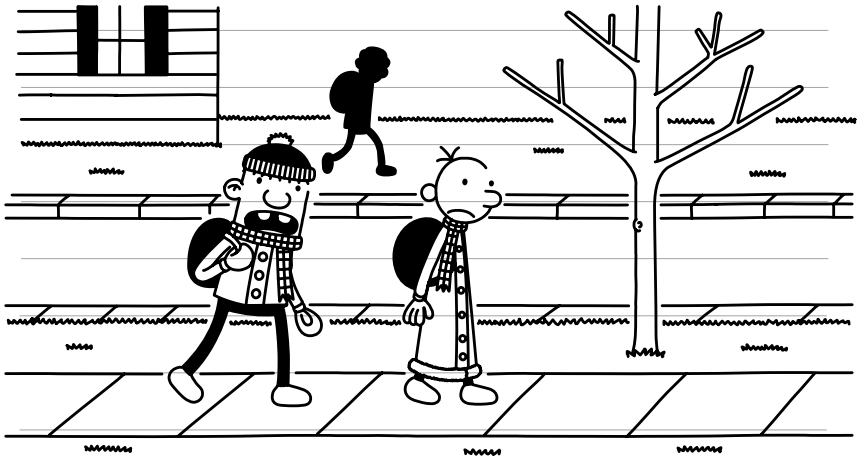


When the teacher opened the door, Mom walked straight to my desk and made me hand over Dad's leather jacket in front of everyone.



I told Mom it was too cold outside for me to walk home without a jacket, so she gave me HER winter coat to wear.

I wasn't too happy about the situation, but at least I was warm on the way home.



Wednesday

By now everybody at school has heard about the guy whose Mom made him wear her winter coat. So this is gonna make it a lot harder for me to find a date to the dance.

