

# ANSWERING THE CALL<sup>OF</sup> DUTY

By Samuel Barton



Written by Samuel Barton  
Illustrated by Mahmood Alkhaja

# CHARACTERS



## Jacob

Jacob Garcia is very popular and has many friends at his school. He is the captain of the football team and involved in many school clubs: student council, robotics, and the school newspaper. Jacob and his best friend, Jason, have been playing sports together since they were in kindergarten. Although Jason is often in trouble and mean to other students, Jacob never tries to convince him to do the right thing.

## Jacob's Father

Mr. Garcia is an *upstanding* and most respected member of the community. As an *ambassador*, Jacob's father is constantly traveling to different countries. He was the best athlete of his high school, student body president, captain of the debate team, and was lead *delegate* of his school's Model United Nations. Even though he is often away from home, Mr. Garcia spends all of his time with his family when he can.



## Jason

Jason comes from a respectable family in their community. His father is the owner of an insurance company which allows him to buy Jason whatever he wants. Jason is smart, but lazy. He only works hard at sports and school assignments he enjoys, and is often in the principal's office. He gives Jacob a ride to football practice everyday in his brand new Mustang convertible.

## Cameron

Cameron has always been the smallest boy in his class, but was always one of the smartest. He is often bullied by athletes and ignored by his teachers because he is quiet and tends to blend in. Cameron loves games of logic and is a talented mathematician. He wishes to attend an *elite* university and dreams of becoming a world class physicist.



## Jacob's Mother

Jacob's mother is a lawyer at a local law firm, and hopes to make partner very soon. Despite the fact that she is very busy with work, she always makes time for Jacob. Jacob's mother attends all of his football games sitting with Jason's mother. Both mothers went to high school together and have been friends ever since.

## Principal

Although a large, loud, and outspoken man; Jacob's principal has a warm heart of gold. He has been the head of the school for 25 years. He was also a teacher for 10 years prior to his *administrative* position. Growing up with 5 younger brothers and sisters, Jacob's principal had always taken care of children. It can easily be said that he was meant to be a teacher and principal.





Cover me! Cover me!  
He's on my tail!

I got him!  
I got him!



Jacob! Come downstairs. We need to talk.

Dome, that crawler! Don't let it get you.

Yeah, yea.... I'll get it.

Dude, last time you rage quit when a zombie got you.

Gotta go, Jacob out.

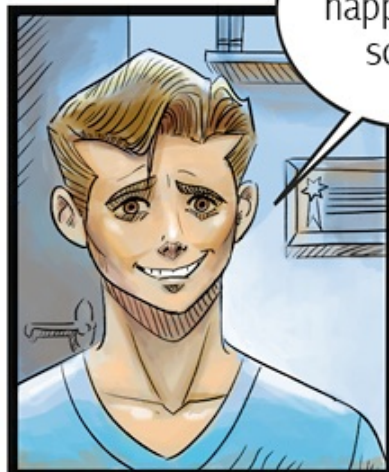
Jacob was now nervous. His father had been away on a business trip the past two weeks and they haven't spent much time together since he'd been back. Jacob went down the stairs and into his father's office. He stood in front of his father's desk.



Sit down son.

Your principal just called. Do you want to tell me what happened at school?

Nothing.  
Nothing happened at school.





That's your answer; are you sure that's how you want to answer me?



I know dad.

Your principal told me that you were *bullying* a boy named Cameron in school. Is this true?

O.K. son, listen to me. These last two weeks have been difficult being apart from each other.

My work will keep us apart for some time, but that doesn't mean I don't love you or think about you.

This past week in school, Jacob and his friends were picking on a boy in the hallway. They were calling him names, knocked down his books, and Jacob pushed him into the lockers. They were seen walking down the hallway laughing with each other as Cameron gathered his things.



Yes.



This is really surprising to me son. This is not how your mother and I have raised you. We have taught you to *respect* others, right? What do we always tell you?

To treat others like I want to be treated.

Jacob thinks about when he was younger walking through town with his parents. It was a warm sunny day and everyone was happy. They were on their way to visit his grandparents when they passed a homeless man on the street. Jacob asked why the man was so dirty. His father explained that he was homeless and took Jacob to the street vendor to buy some food for the man. Jacob gave the man the food and saw joy in the man's eyes as he thanked them all.

That's right. The principal told me you were calling Cameron names and pushing him in the halls. Is this true?



But the other boys were doing it to! That boy is weird!



So that makes it right to bully another person because your friends are doing it?



Do you like it when people make fun of you? Remember your basketball game two years ago?



My shorts fell down and everyone laughed at me...



How did that make you feel?



Sad and embarrassed.

Of course it did, anyone would feel that way. Then what happened?

My friend helped me up and we eventually won the game.



That's right. Did anyone make fun of you after you made the winning basket?



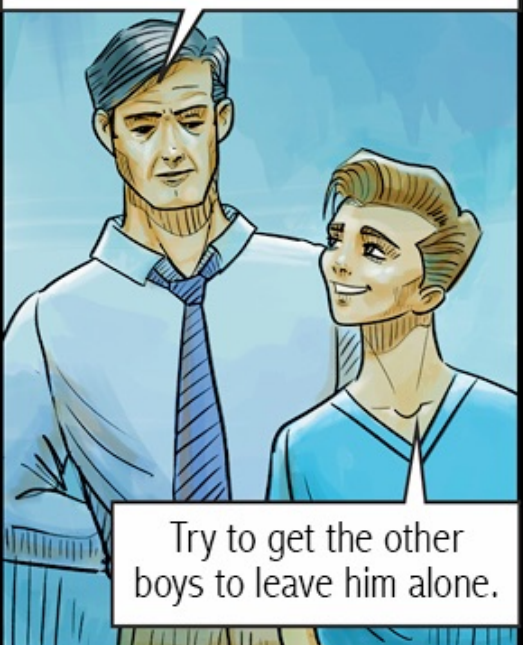
No.

Do you think your friend knew how you were feeling at that time?



Yes.

Now, what do you think would have been the right thing to do at school?



Try to get the other boys to leave him alone.

That's right. Sometimes you can *defuse* a situation by turning the attention to the one doing the bullying.



What do you mean?

Well, do you remember when your friend Jason cried all night when he stayed over?



Oh yeah, that was really annoying.

Exactly. If you see him bullying someone you can stand up for the other kid by saying something like, "Hey! Are you really going to make fun of him?"



What about the time you cried for your mommy all night at my house?"

Oh, I see! So I can change the focus and make the bully feel embarrassed.



Right! That's called *empathy*—trying to see what it's like from someone else's *perspective*.

Jacob looks at his father as though he is a super hero. He remembers his father teaching him how to swim and how his father could swim laps for what seemed like hours. He remembers how his father taught him to kick a football and would kick it what seemed 5 kilometers, or how he could do 25 pull-ups.



Well son, I don't know what your principal has in line for you



at school but you will be punished here at home.

Aww, dad! C'mon! I learned my lesson...

I'm glad you did Jacob, but there are always *consequences* for your actions, no matter how big or how small.



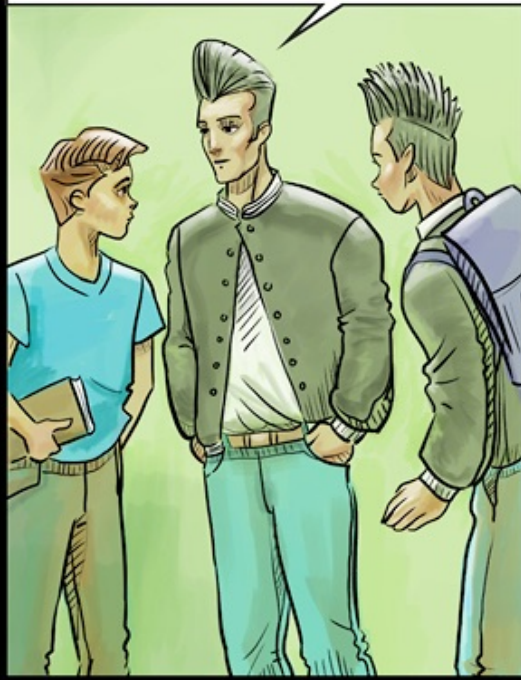
Come with me.



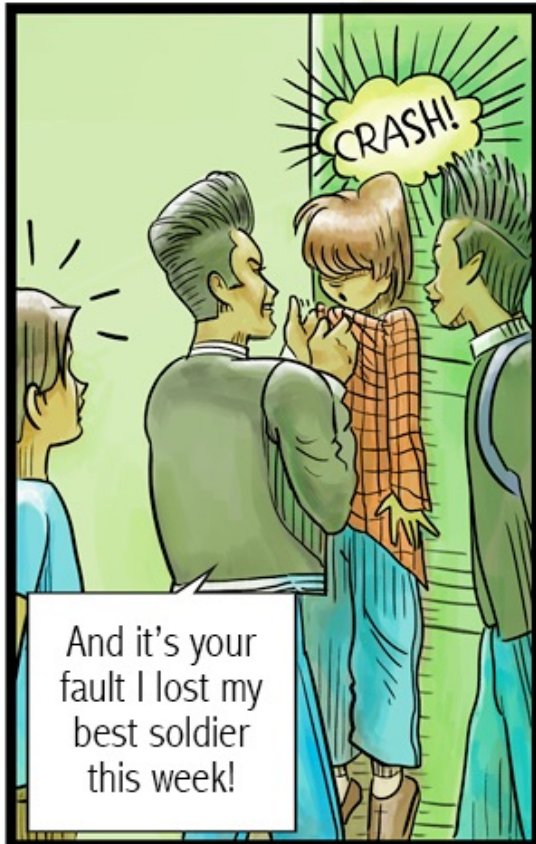
You can have this back next week if I receive a good report from your principal.



Yo Jake, did you see that noob get killed yesterday on *C.O.D.*?



Oh, that's right you don't have your Xbox. Ha-ha!

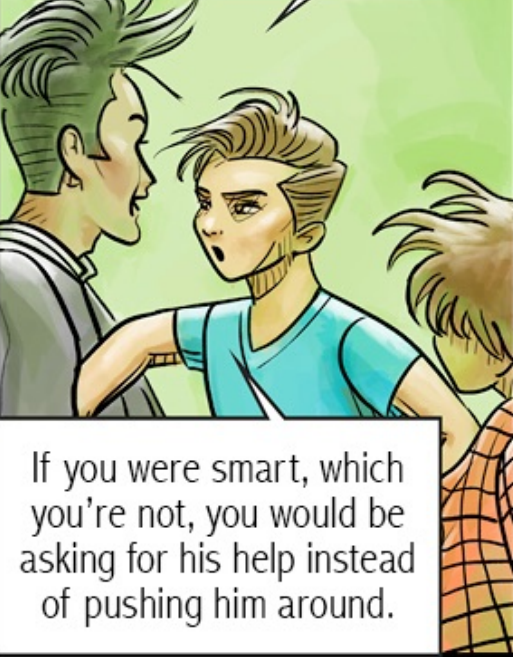


And it's your fault I lost my best soldier this week!

Nerd!



What?! You're going to stick up for this punk?



If you were smart, which you're not, you would be asking for his help instead of pushing him around.

Didn't you just fail a math test? If you were working with him instead of making his life *miserable*,



he could have helped you pass.

Aren't you an A+ student in math?



Yes

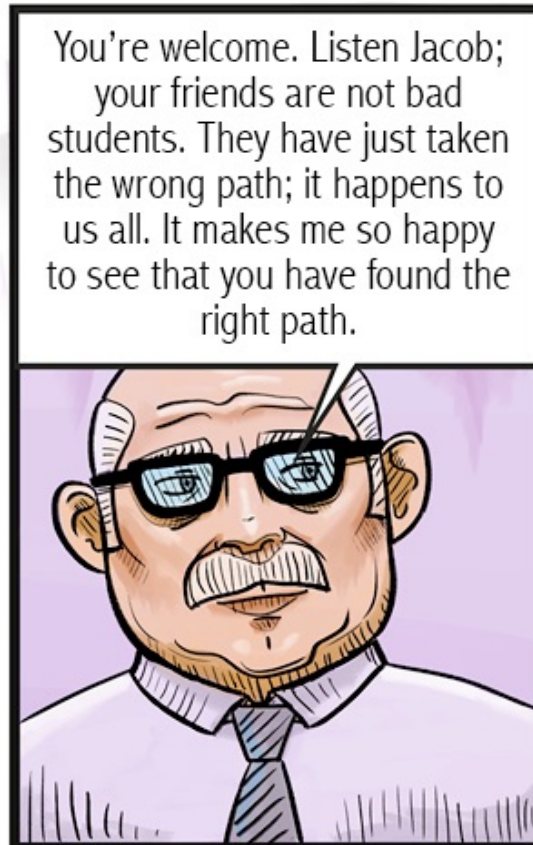
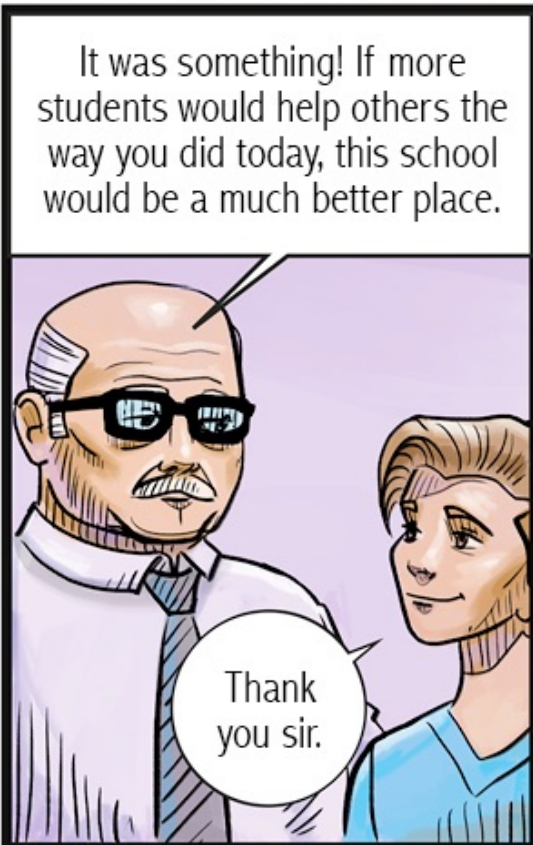
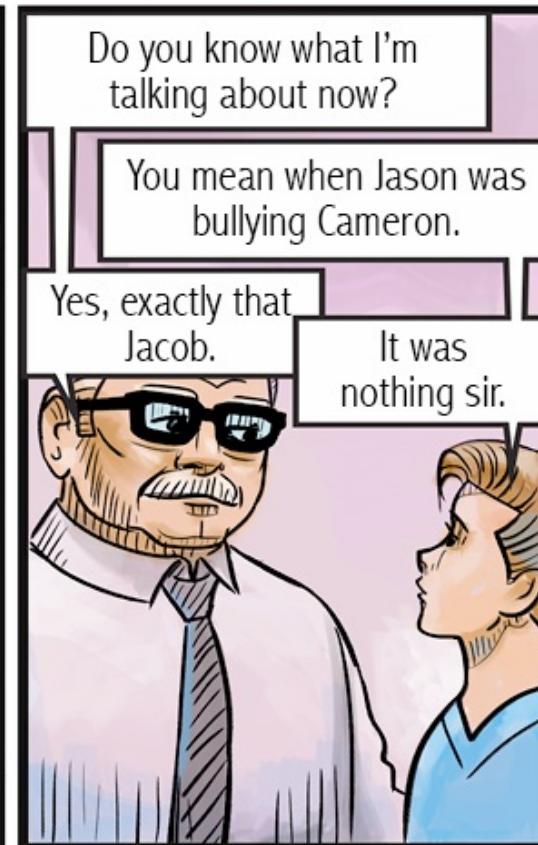
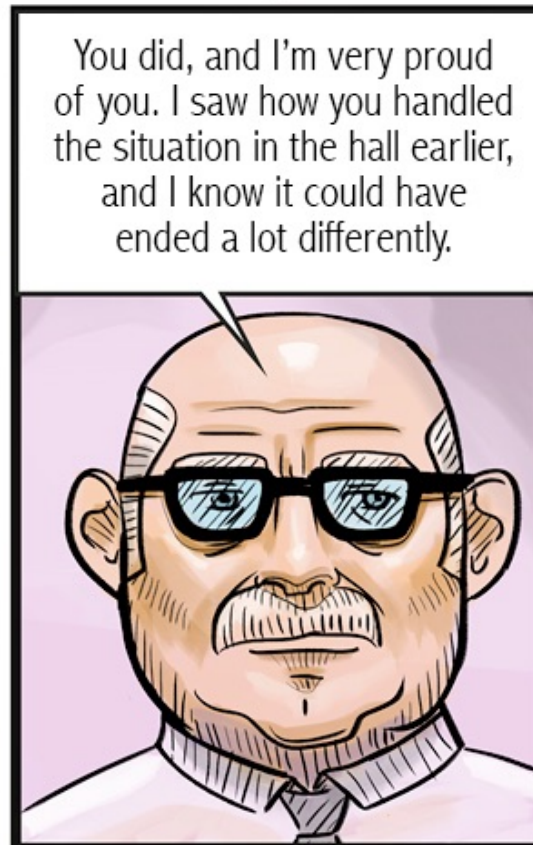
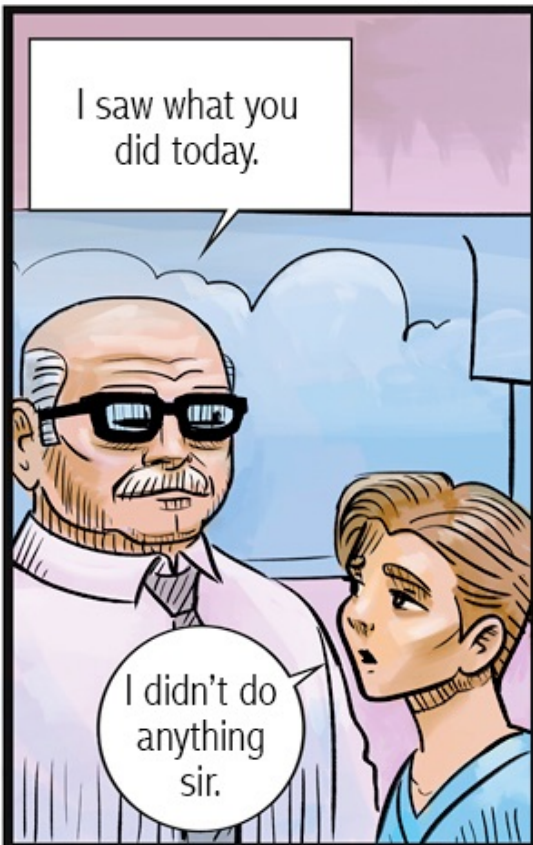
Dude! What are you thinking?

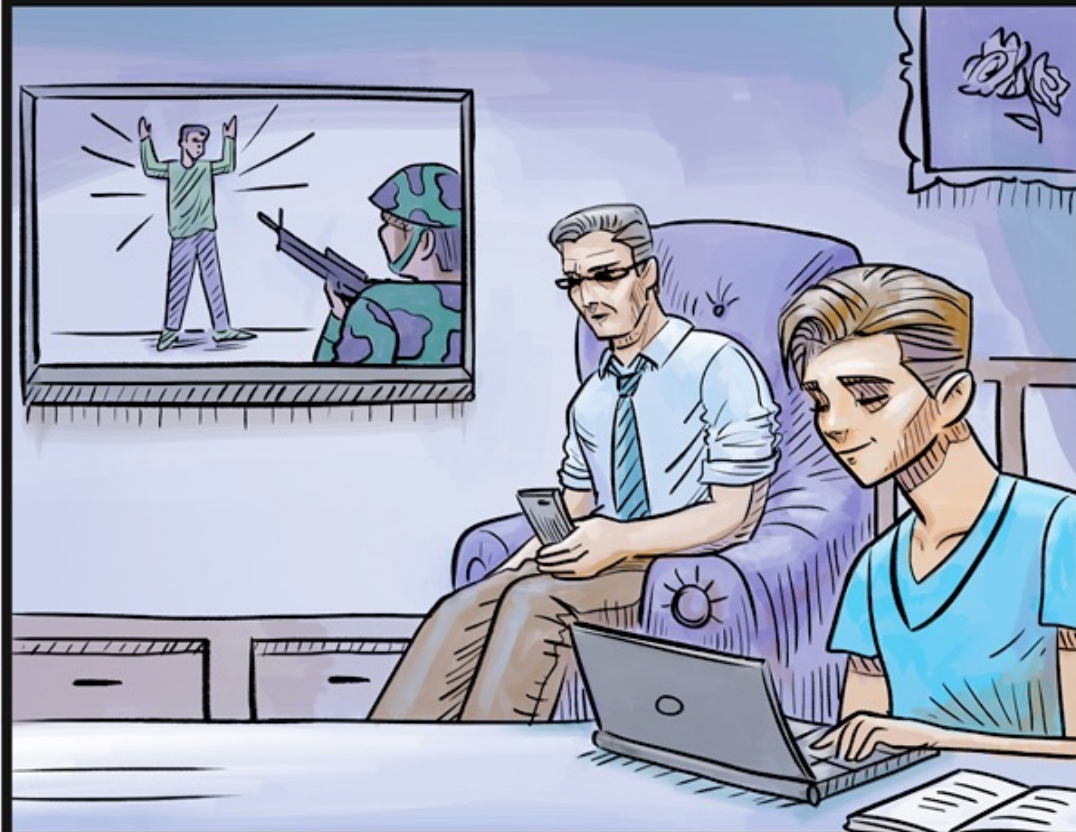


What?

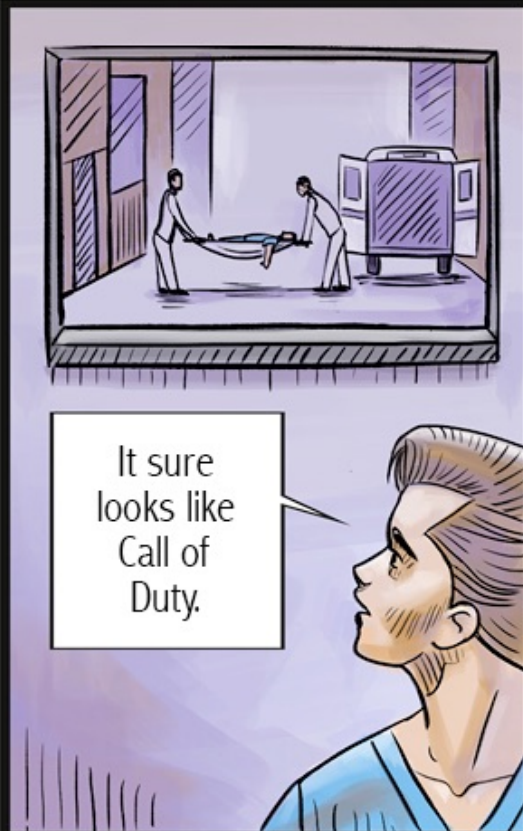
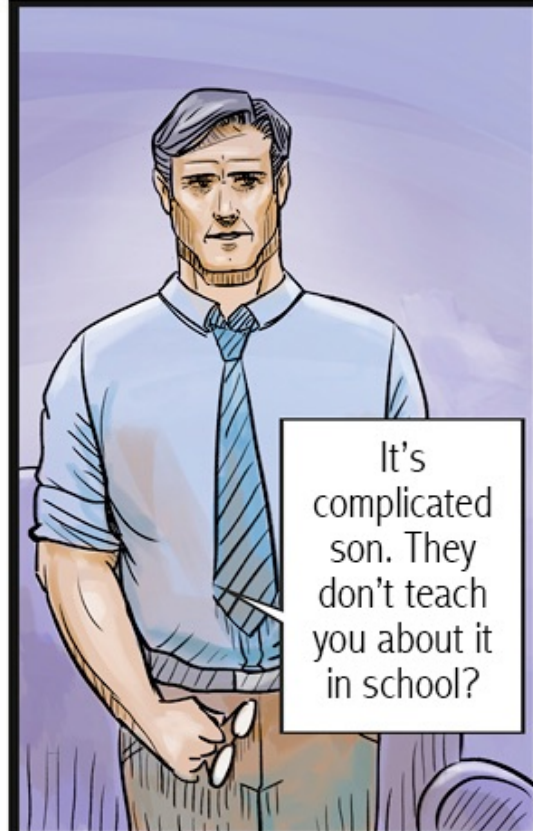


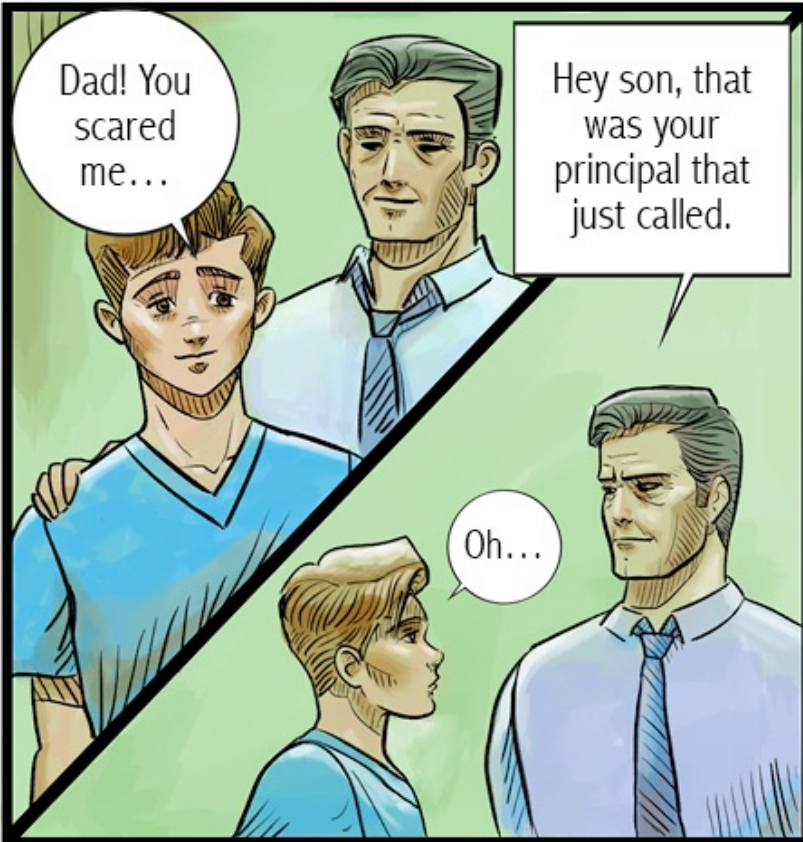
I've got class; I'll talk to you guys later.

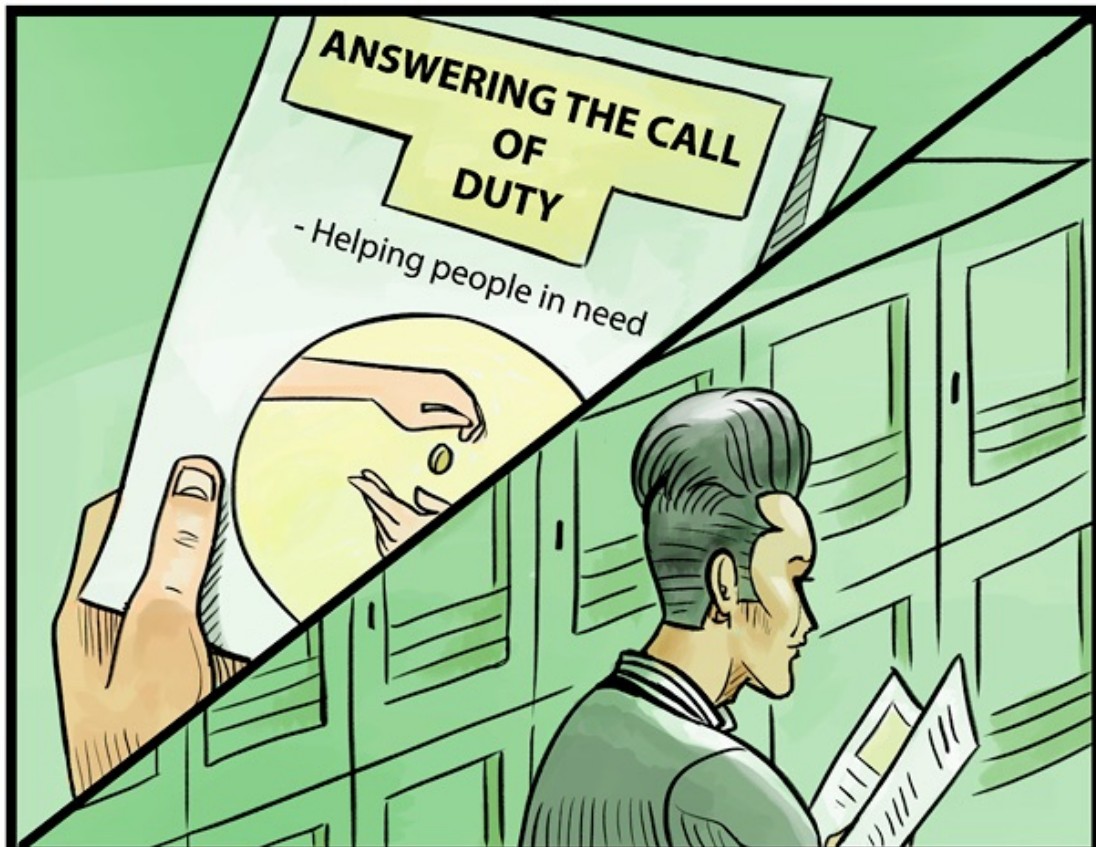




Nothing, just checking some emails. Do you need any help with your homework?



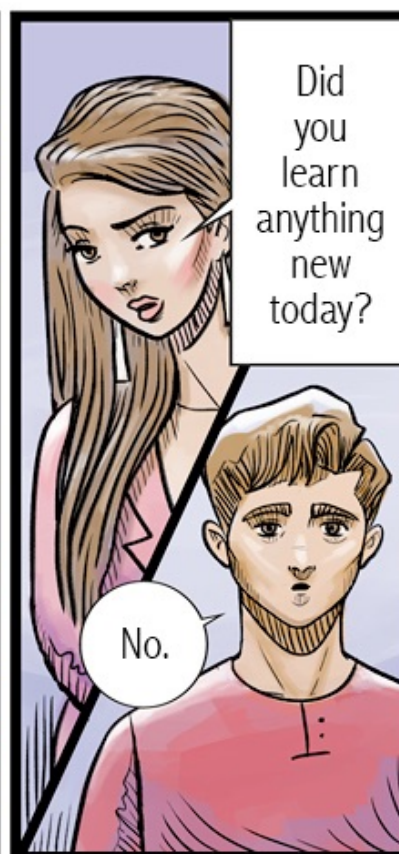






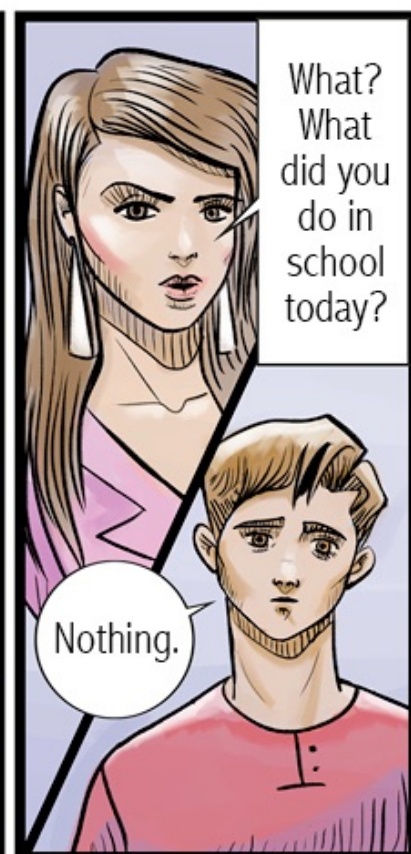
How was school sweetie?

Good.



Did you learn anything new today?

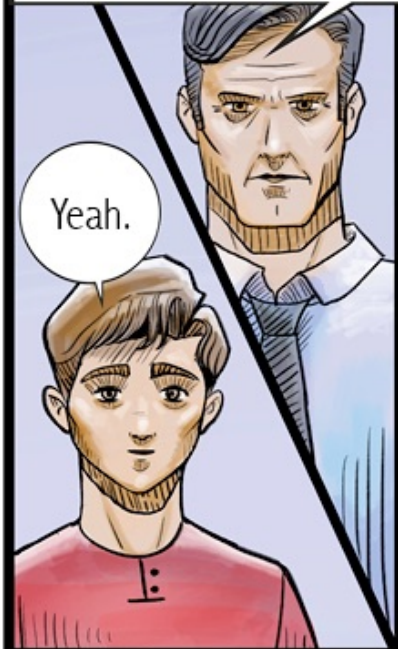
No.



What? What did you do in school today?

Nothing.

Jacob, your mother told me that while she was putting your laundry away she noticed your Xbox was missing.



Yeah.

Well, what happened to it?



I sold it.

Why would you do that?

Cameron and I are starting a charity for people in need called: ANSWERING THE CALL OF DUTY – Helping People In Need.



We are raising money for people that are in *crisis* and need food, supplies, and medical help.



Isn't that the name of a video game?

Yeah, Call of Duty.



Thanks mom!

That's a *clever* name for a charity!



I'm really proud of you son!

Is this because of our talk the other day?

It is. I started feeling empathetic for those people in need. Also *ashamed* that I'm here playing a video game about killing people while people are really dying in the world.



We have all these nice things and some people have nothing.



That's great son! I am so proud of you!

Thanks dad!

But you didn't have to sell your Xbox, that was a gift.



I know, but we needed money to start the charity. Since I was feeling bad about the bullying and the violent video games I decided to sell it.



Well-done Jacob, but I want you to remember: never feel ashamed for the nice things we have. Your mother and I work very hard for everything you see. When you are older you will also buy nice things for your family. Just make sure you are taking care of yourself as well as those who are less *fortunate*.

O.K. dad.



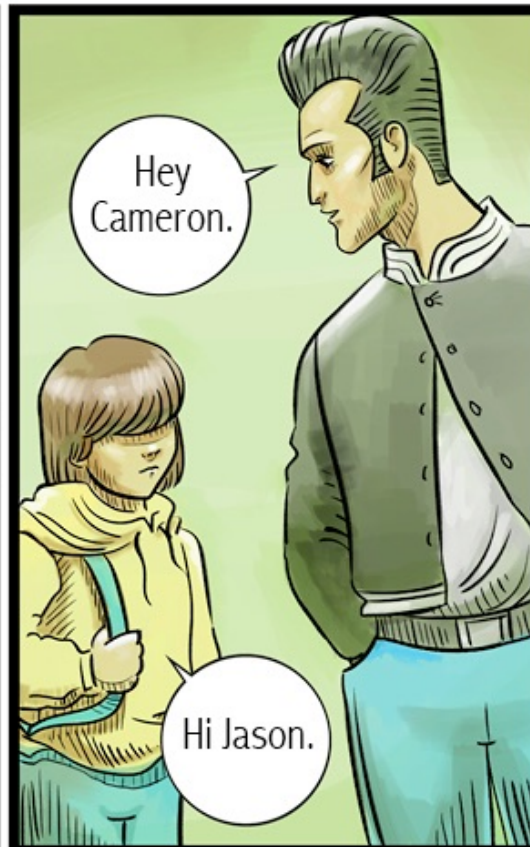
Answering the call of duty  
Helping people in need



Hey man, you been playing any C.O.D.?

No, I sold my Xbox remember?

Oh, yeah. I forgot.



Hey Cameron.

Hi Jason.

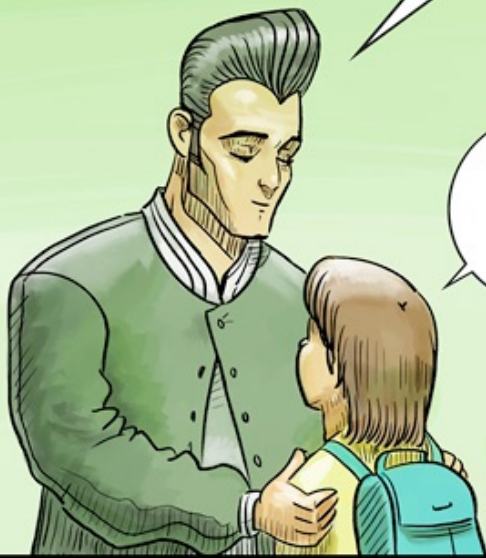


Listen man, I want to apologize for being mean to you before.

That's O.K.

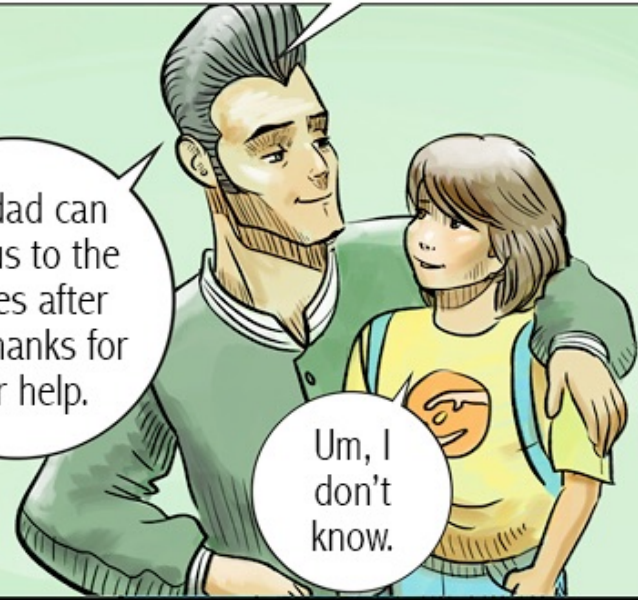
I know it hurt your feelings and I'm sorry.

No Cameron! It's not O.K.! You can't let people push you around like that. What you say is, "I accept your apology, but don't let it happen again." Got it.



Thanks Jason.

Listen, Cameron, I was wondering if maybe you could help me with my math homework. I have a test coming up and if I don't do well I'll fail the class. What do you say?



My dad can take us to the movies after as a thanks for your help.

Um, I don't know.

Oh, come on. Jacob you want to come too?



Yeah, sounds great! What do you think Cameron?



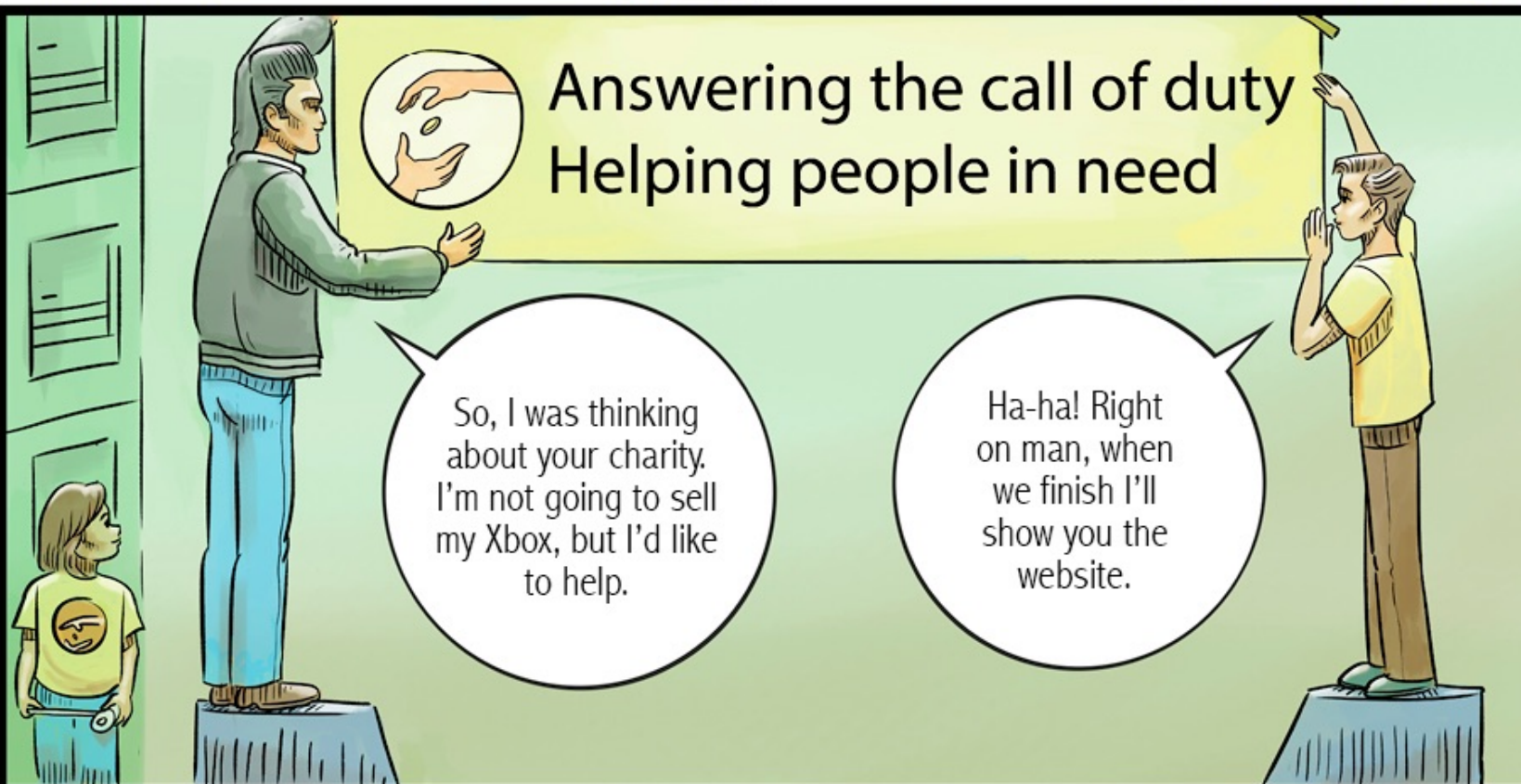
O.K., yeah! Sounds good!

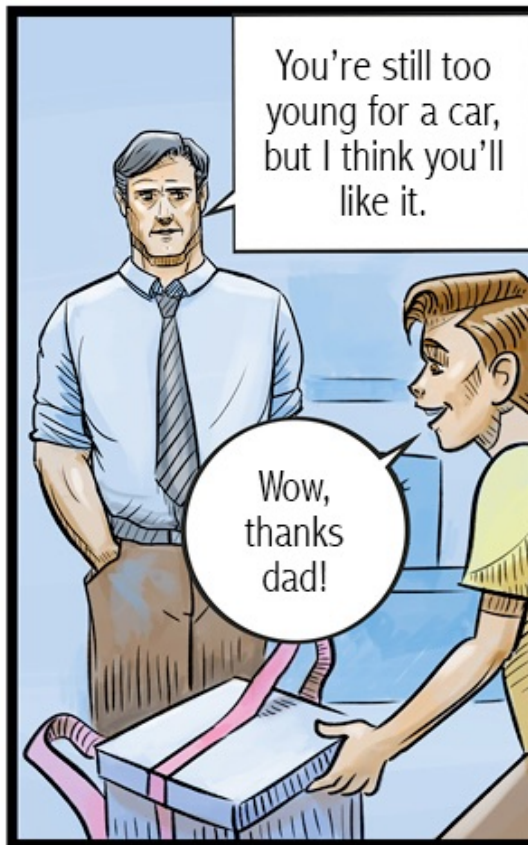
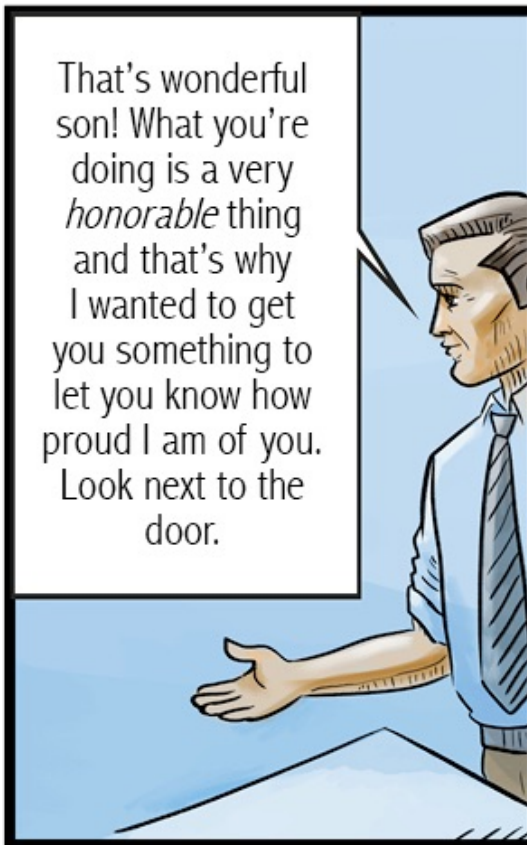
## Answering the call of duty Helping people in need

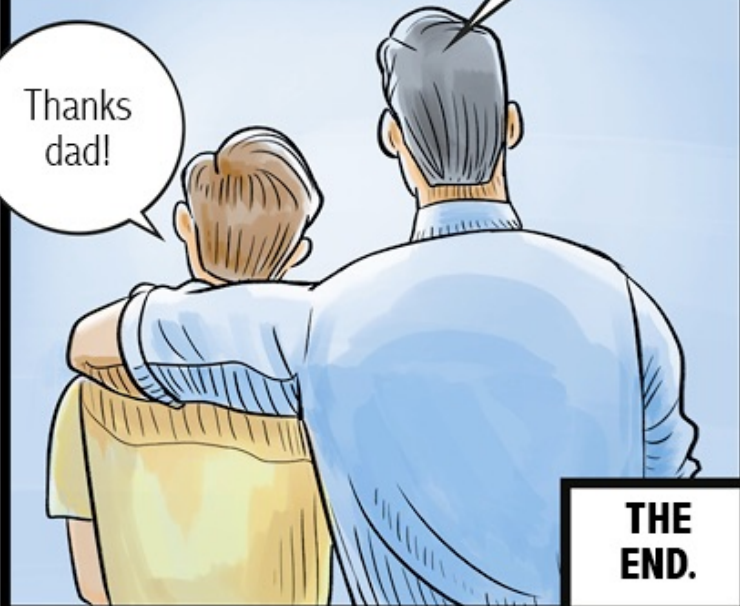
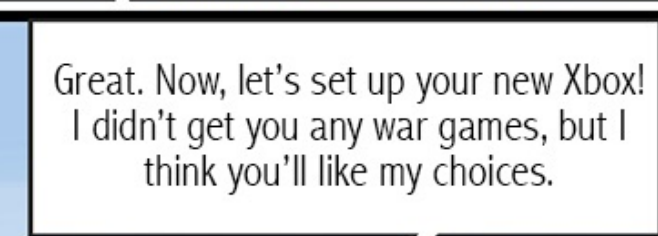
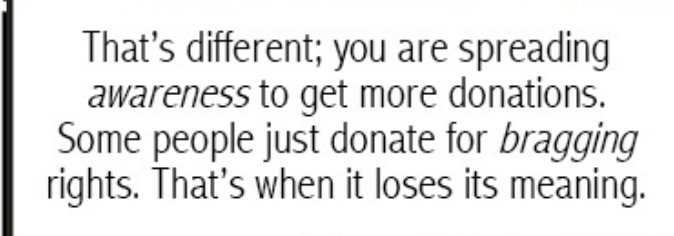
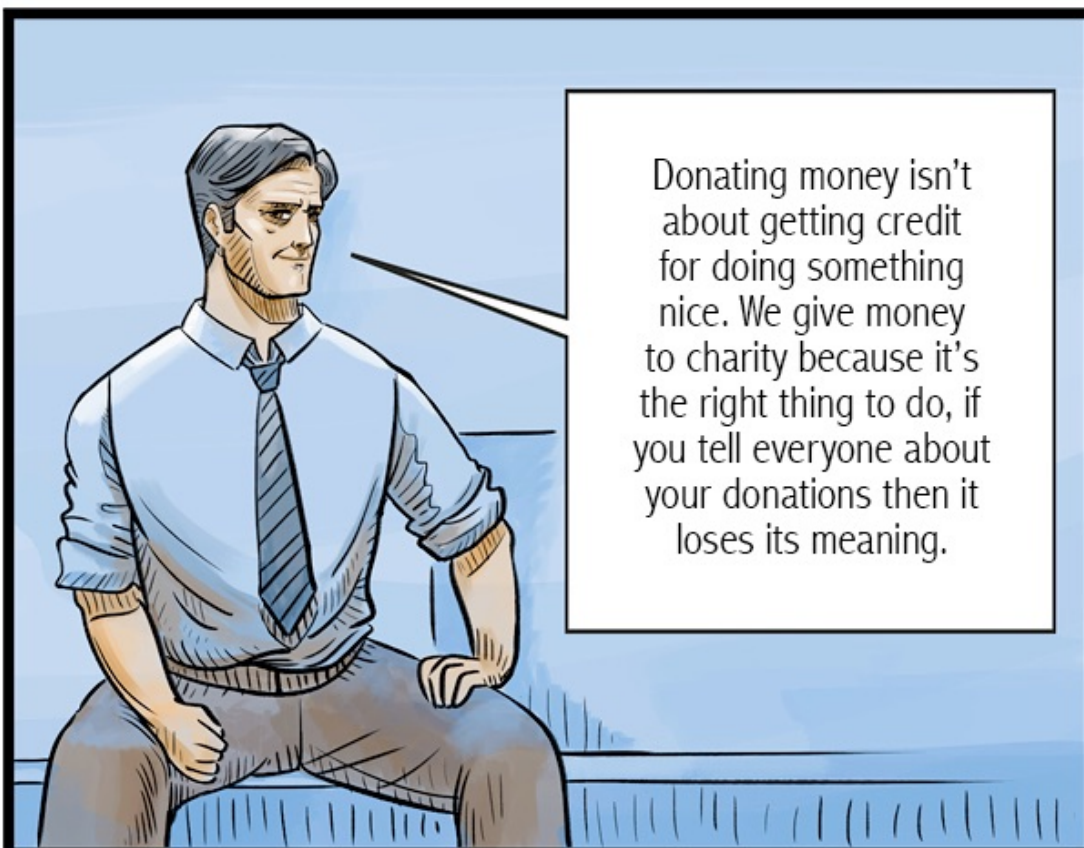
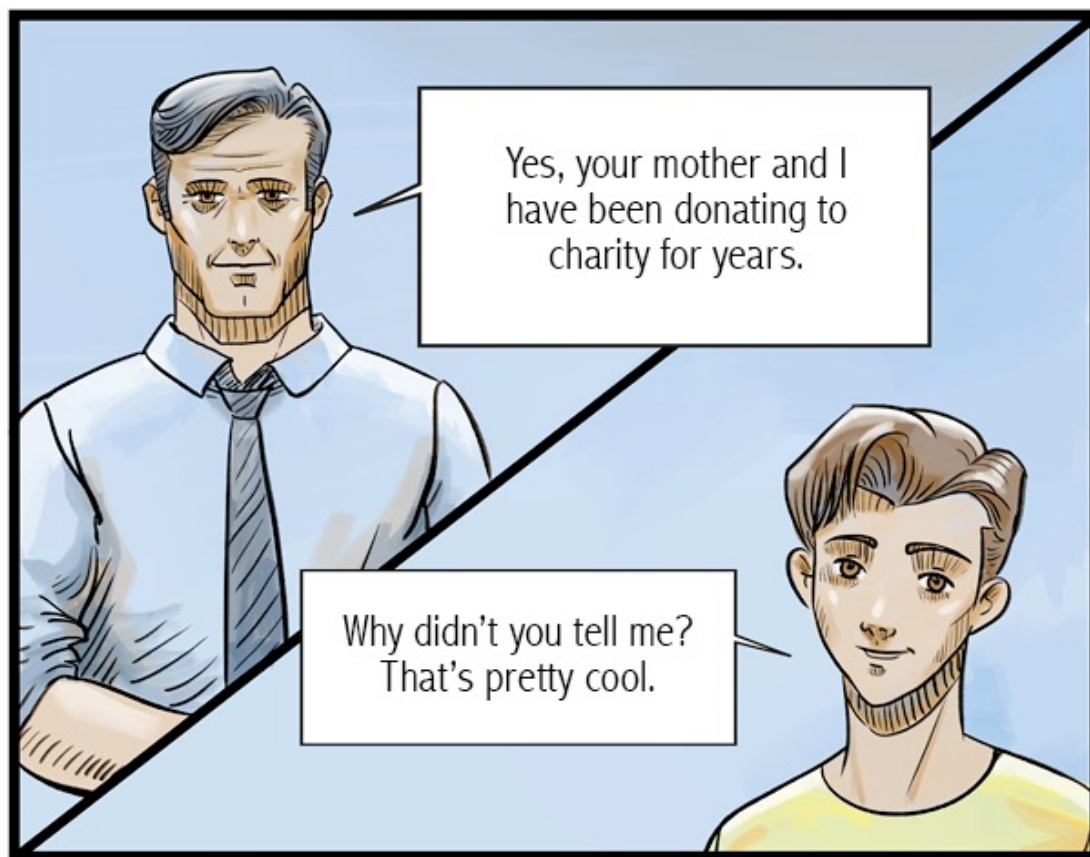


So, I was thinking about your charity. I'm not going to sell my Xbox, but I'd like to help.

Ha-ha! Right on man, when we finish I'll show you the website.







**THE END.**

# GLOSSARY

**Administrative** (ad ☆ min ☆ i ☆ stray - tiv) *adjective* - a type of job that runs a business or school

**Ambassador** (am ☆ bass ☆ a ☆ der) *noun* - a person sent as the main representative for his or her government in another country

**Ashamed** (a ☆ shaymed) *adjective* - when a person feels bad for something they have done

**Awareness** (a ☆ weyr ☆ ness) *noun* - the act of making people aware of something

**Bragging** (braa ☆ ging) *verb* - telling people about something you have done even if they don't want to know

**Bullying** (bull ☆ ee ☆ ing) *verb* - making someone feel bad for no good reason

**Charity** (chair ☆ i ☆ tee) *noun* - a group of people who collect money, food, or supplies for people who cannot get these things themselves

**Clever** (kle ☆ ver) *adjective* - smart or witty

**C.O.D.** *noun* - an acronym for the video game "Call of Duty"

**Consequences** (con ☆ se ☆ kwen ☆ sez) *noun* - bad or negative results of an action caused by someone

**Crisis** (cry ☆ sis) *noun* - a bad situation that may leave people without money or a home

**Defuse** (di ☆ feeooz) *verb* - to take the attention away from a current situation

**Delegate** (del ☆ a ☆ get) *noun* - a person chosen to speak, or represent, others

**Donation** (doe ☆ nay ☆ shun) *noun* - money, food, or supplies given to others at no cost

**Elite** (eel ☆ eat) *adjective* - the best, of highest quality

**Embarrassed** (em ☆ bear ☆ rest) *adjective* - an uncomfortable feeling someone may have from a situation

**Empathy** (em ☆ peth ☆ ee) *noun* - the understanding of someone else's feelings or situation

**Fortunate** (for ☆ chew ☆ net) *adjective* - to be lucky or to get nice things or treatment from others

**Honorable** (on ☆ er ☆ abol) *adjective* - an action deserving of high excellence

**Miserable** (miz ☆ er ☆ abol) *adjective* - to feel really bad about something

**Organization** (or ☆ gan ☆ eye ☆ za ☆ shun) *noun* - a business or company

**Perspective** (per ☆ spek ☆ tiv) *noun* - the way in which someone may see something

**Respect** (ree ☆ spekt) *noun* - to treat someone very well or have very good feelings for them

**Upstanding** (up ☆ stand ☆ ing) *adjective* - honest, respectable

**Violent** (vi ☆ o ☆ lent) *adjective* - hurtful actions toward another

# ABOUT US



## **Samuel Barton**

Hi readers! My name is Sam, better known as Mr. Sam by my students. I am a fifth grade teacher who has been teaching in Bahrain since 2012. "Answering the Call of Duty" is the first book I have ever written. As an avid reader and huge fan of comic books, this book is a dream come true for me. I am a husband, father, and teacher, but I have found a new passion for writing, drawing (very poorly) comic panels, and working with a talented team to make my graphic universe come to life. I really hope you enjoyed the book and maybe learned something too.

## **Mahmood Alkhaja**

Hey guys! My name is Mahmood. I have been drawing since I was five years old. I really love painting, but with all the new creative applications I mostly use digital media for my art. When it comes to art I like to focus on feelings, details, style, and different textures that expose beauty, glamour, elegance, and luxury. My portfolio is a mixture of digital art as well as traditional, commercial and editorial illustrations, character designing, concept art, and storyboards. As this is my first comic book as well, I am really excited to see the characters come alive. I hope that you enjoy the art as much as I have had making it.

**ANSWERING THE  
CALL<sup>OF</sup> DUTY**

**THANK YOU  
FOR READING**

Written by Samuel Barton  
Illustrated by Mahmood Alkhaja

# ANSWERING THE CALL<sup>OF</sup> DUTY

Have you ever seen someone being bullied, or have been bullied yourself? It can be a difficult situation to stand up for someone or even yourself. For Jacob it was a difficult but rewarding journey to stop bullying in his school. He found a way to keep his friends, make a new one, and start a charity to help people in need. Maybe Jacob can help you answer the call of duty.

