

Troubles with Rocky

Life in town was running its course. The afternoon school shift was getting closer, and that was definitely not Luka Bošković's favourite time of the day.

I hope I won't run into Rocky today!

Yeah, right... If I go down this way, it will happen for sure...

Mashan has already started stealing... I'll have to find another way to school...

Maybe I could try this way, over the fence...

Good... They are not here yet, and I hope they won't come at all...

Well, well... look who's sneaking through the back alleys!

The kid's getting cheeky! He was going to avoid us! I wanted to forgive him today, but I've changed my mind!

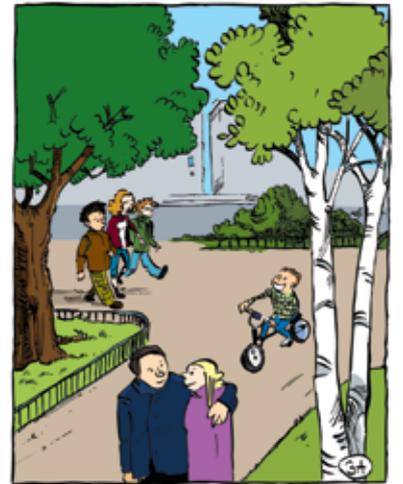
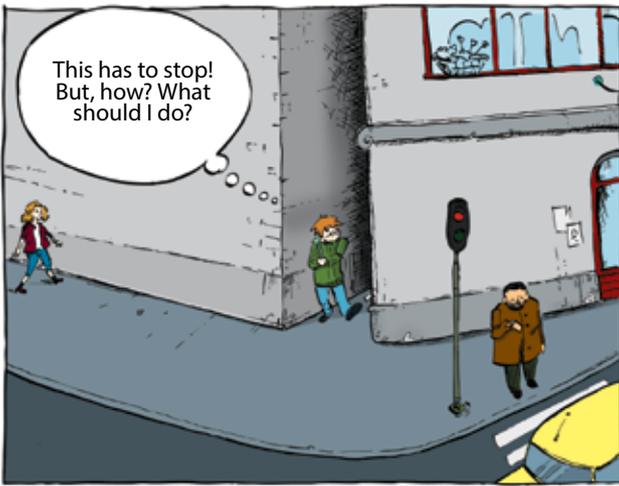
I wanted to forgive him today, but I've changed my mind!

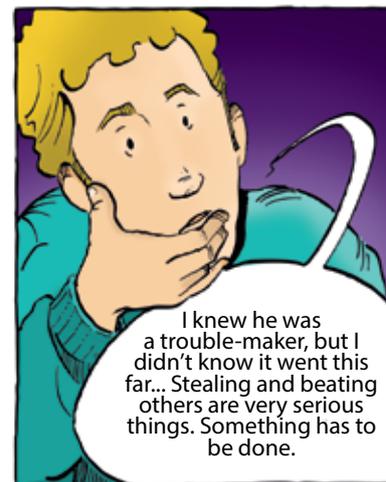
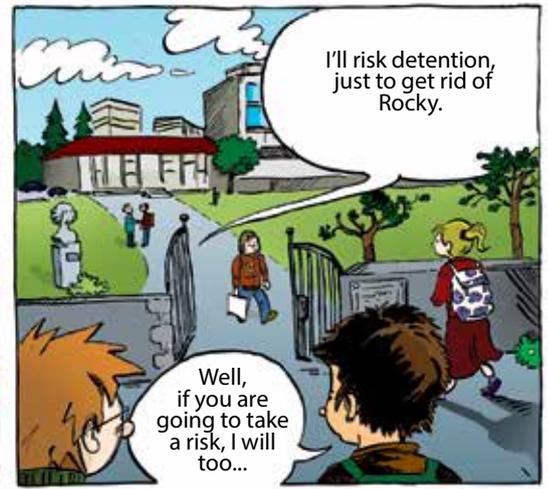
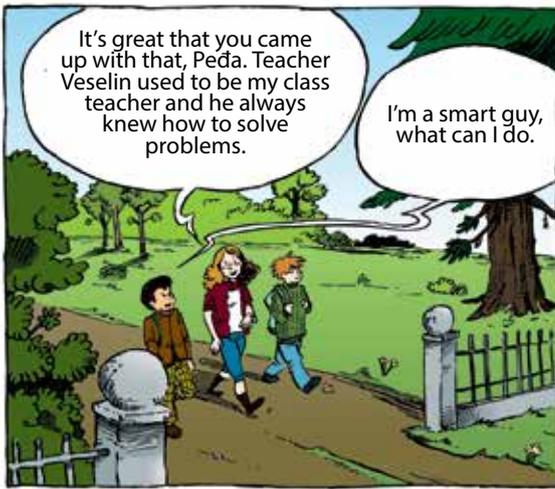
And he was going to pass by without saying "Hello"...

Give me the cash!

I don't have it...









God knows... His parents got divorced and now he lives with his father... It seems the time has come to find out what's going on in their house...



Okay, teacher...

We'll meet after the fifth class... I'll wait for you by my car, then we are going to pay Rocky a visit...



And don't be late like you were for the first class!

Don't worry, teacher... We will be on time like a Swiss watch...

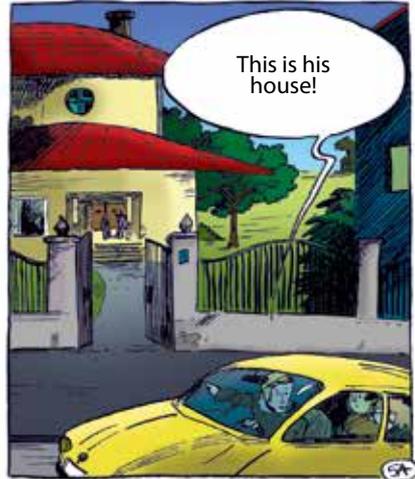


After the fifth class...

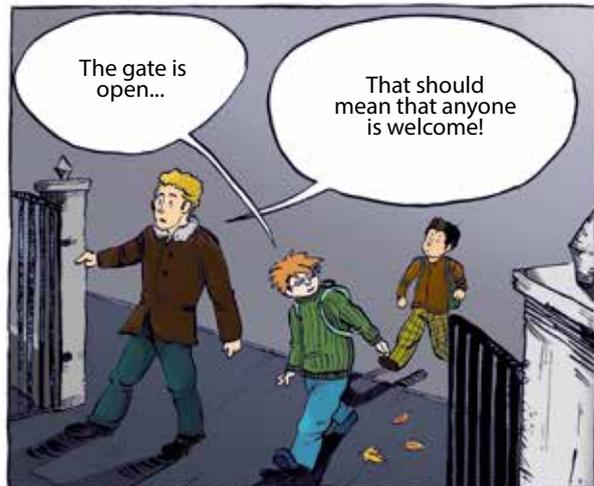
You're here... Hop into the back seat...



We'll be there soon... As soon as we leave this part of town with new buildings and enter the streets with old houses...

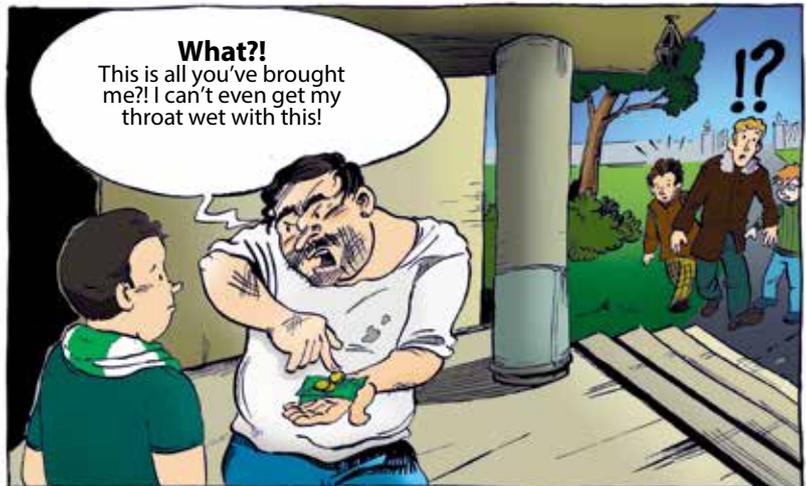


This is his house!



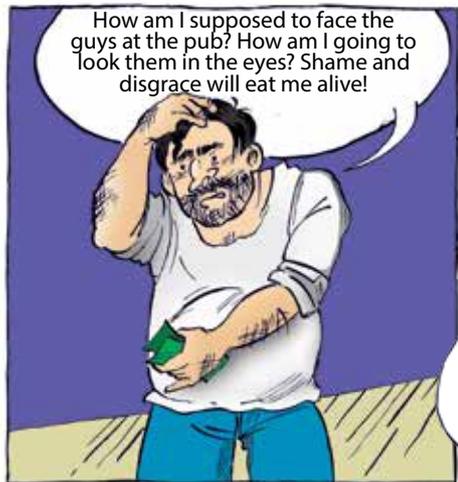
The gate is open...

That should mean that anyone is welcome!



What?!

This is all you've brought me?! I can't even get my throat wet with this!

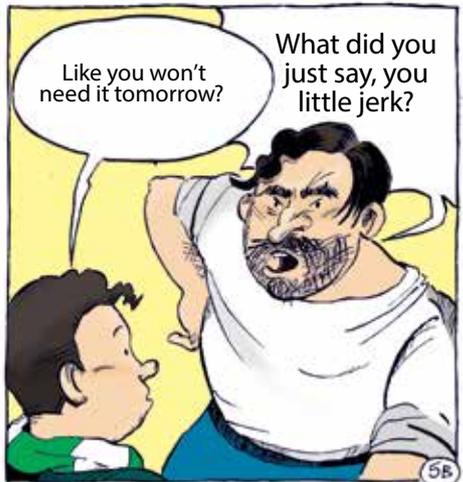


How am I supposed to face the guys at the pub? How am I going to look them in the eyes? Shame and disgrace will eat me alive!



I'll do better tomorrow... I'll bring you more money! I promise!

Tomorrow? I need it today, not tomorrow!



Like you won't need it tomorrow?

What did you just say, you little jerk?



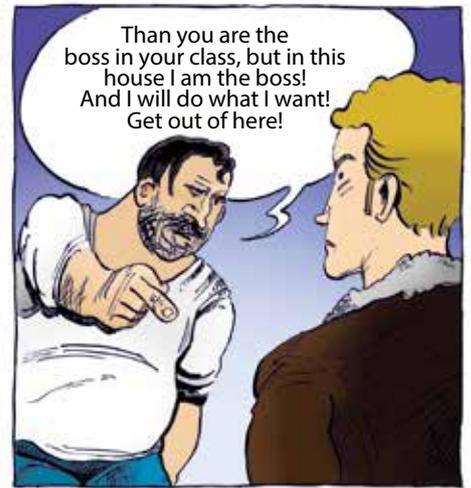
I'll show you...

Wait, sir!
There is no
need for such
violence!



Who the hell
are you?!

I am Nikola's
class teacher!



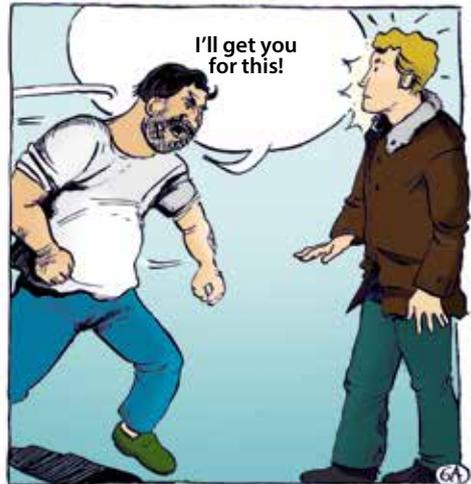
Than you are the
boss in your class, but in this
house I am the boss!
And I will do what I want!
Get out of here!



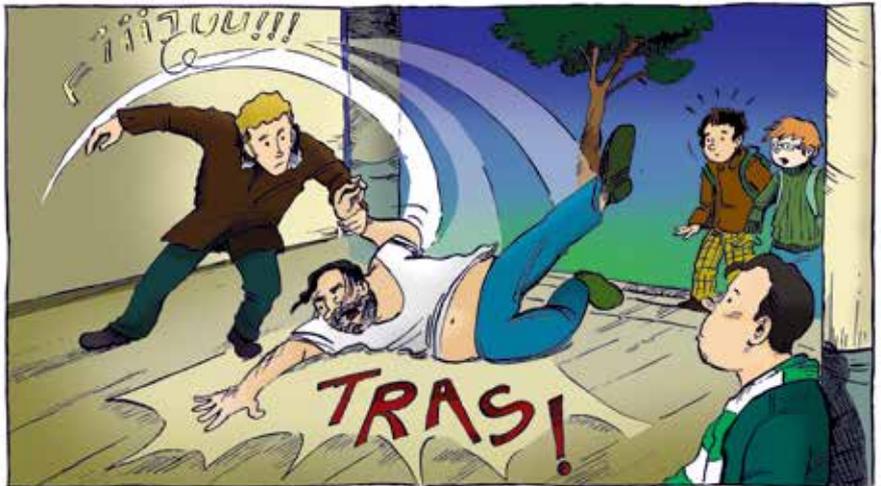
I'm sorry, but no!
Moreover, I told the boys
to call the police. They'll help
you with your
intoxicated state!



You called the police to my
house?! How dare you?! But
it doesn't matter anyway...
I'll get you for this!



I'll get you
for this!



Ouch... My back!

It's your own
fault for messing
with the
wrong guy!



Yeah... How could you
know that teacher Veselin
is also an instructor at the
judo club „Youth“...



Teacher... What
about me? What will
happen to me
now?

Well, we are going to place
you in a home or shelter
until your mother comes
for you! I have already
called her and she will come
tomorrow morning!



Okay, but don't take me to a shelter... I'll sleep here and I won't cause trouble... I swear!

I don't know, Nikola. The house looks good from the outside, but inside...



Just like I thought... Total chaos... It's good that you didn't catch some infection! We won't risk another day.



But, there is no need for him to go to a shelter...

Do you have a better idea, Luka?



I just talked to my parents and they agreed that Nikola can sleep at our house until his mom comes to pick him up!



Well, I guess that's okay... What do you think, Nikola?

I think... That's the best option for me... I'll try not to disturb anyone...



After a while...

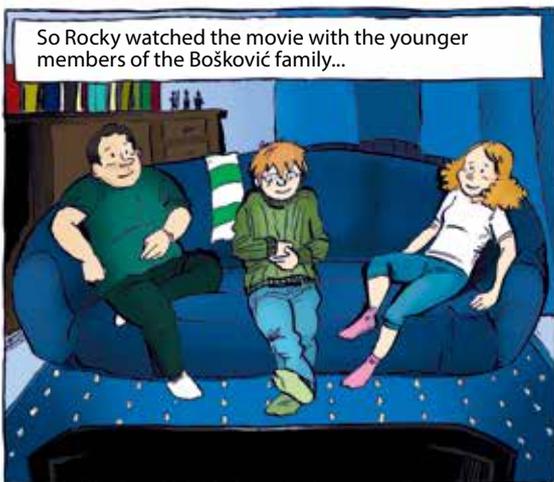
Peđa and I are leaving... See you tomorrow when Nikola's mother arrives!

I hope I won't bother you so much and...

Welcome, Nikola!



Bother us?! Nonsense! Feel at home in our house! I've prepared a good movie for us to watch!



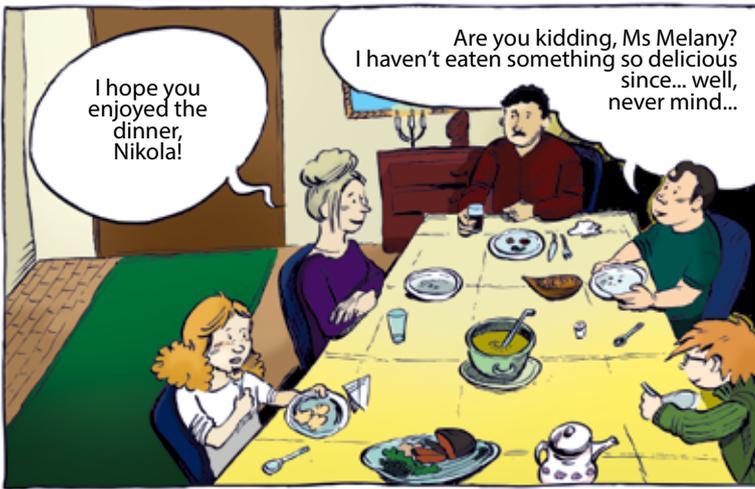
So Rocky watched the movie with the younger members of the Bošković family...



Then Luka and Rocky played games, while Vanja helped her mom prepare the dinner.

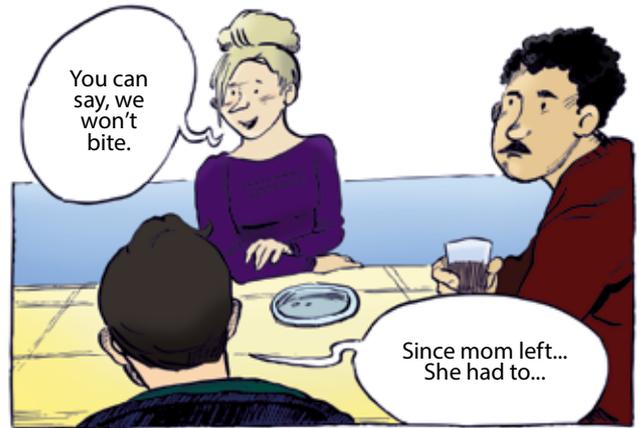


I know you could play all night, but I'm sorry... Dinner is on the table!



I hope you enjoyed the dinner, Nikola!

Are you kidding, Ms Melany? I haven't eaten something so delicious since... well, never mind...



You can say, we won't bite.

Since mom left... She had to...



She had to leave because father insulted and beat her. She moved back with her parents in Herceg Novi. Father was always threatening to kill her...



And being as he is, I think he's capable of doing such a thing...

Don't think about the past, Nikola... We can't change it...



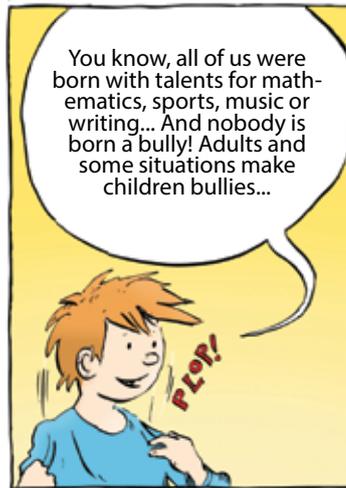
Think about what tomorrow will bring. A lot can be done tomorrow, but first we have to get a good night's sleep.

Come on, guys... straight to bed!



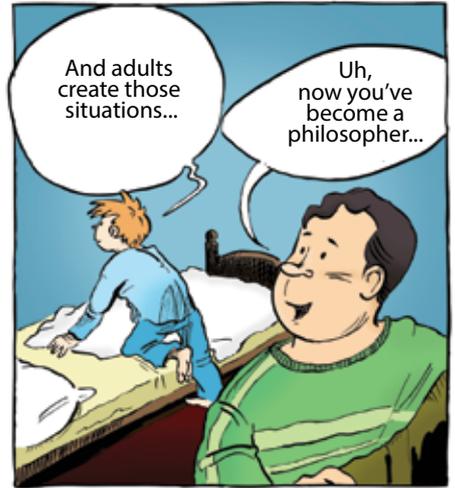
You know, Luka, you surprised me! I was beating you up, taking your money and who knows what else, and you offered me a home!

You know, Nikola, despite all that you did to me, I felt you are not so bad... You are not a bully... I saw that in your eyes...



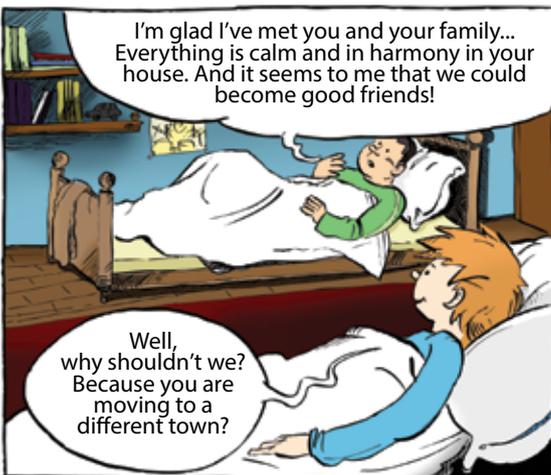
You know, all of us were born with talents for mathematics, sports, music or writing... And nobody is born a bully! Adults and some situations make children bullies...

Flop!



And adults create those situations...

Uh, now you've become a philosopher...



I'm glad I've met you and your family... Everything is calm and in harmony in your house. And it seems to me that we could become good friends!

Well, why shouldn't we? Because you are moving to a different town?



Well, that's why we have e-mail, Skype and other useful stuff. We also have holidays, and you will live in Herceg Novi. Expect me for summer break!

If you don't come, I won't fail to really beat you up...



That's the most pleasant threat that I've got from you, Rocky... Sorry... Nikola, good night...

Good night, Luka...

THE END