

SPECTRA

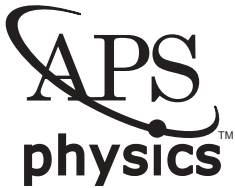
TURBULENT TIMES



Written by
Rebecca Thompson, Ph.D.

Illustrated by
Kerry G. Johnson





PhysicsQuest: Spectra -Turbulent Times!

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TURBULENT TIMES

WRITTEN BY REBECCA THOMPSON, PH.D. • ILLUSTRATED BY KERRY G. JOHNSON

Everything has calmed down at Nikola Tesla Middle School for Lucy "Spectra" Hene and her friends since their adventure with Tiffany Maxwell and her Demon in Issue #4. Over the last few months, Lucy has managed to focus on her training with the swim team. We start this tale with Lucy and her swimmates training at the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center in Pasadena, California.



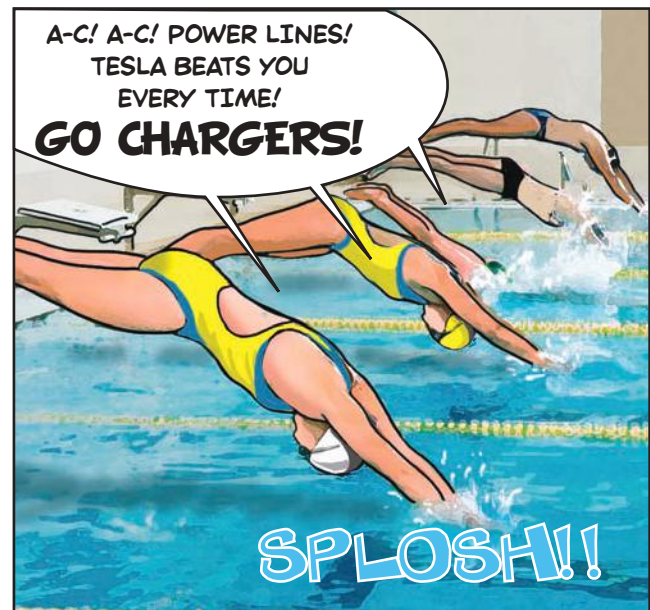
C'MON CHARGERS!
GET BACK IN THE WATER!
YOU'VE GOT ONE MORE SET.
AFTER THAT, YOU ALL GET
TO COOL DOWN.

YOU'VE ALL WORKED HARD,
BUT THIS ONE IS GOING TO
BE ROUGH. ARE YOU READY?



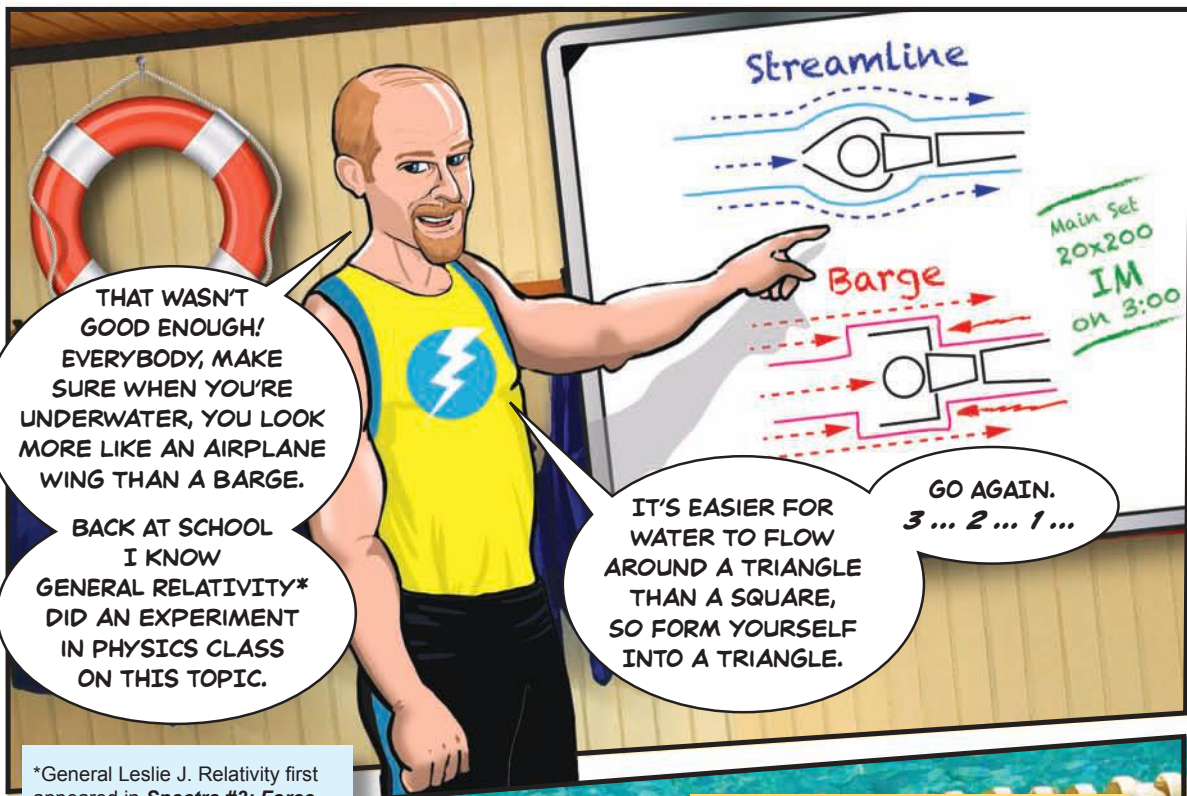
AWHH COACH! WE'RE TIRED!
CAN WE TAKE A BREAK?

I THOUGHT I WAS TRAINING
WINNERS, NOT *WHINERS!*
REMEMBER, EVERY TIME YOU WHINE,
THAT'S ANOTHER 100 METERS
ADDED TO YOUR "WHINING" SET.
NOW GET READY.
3... 2... 1...



A-C! A-C! POWER LINES!
TESLA BEATS YOU
EVERY TIME!
GO CHARGERS!

SPLOSH!!



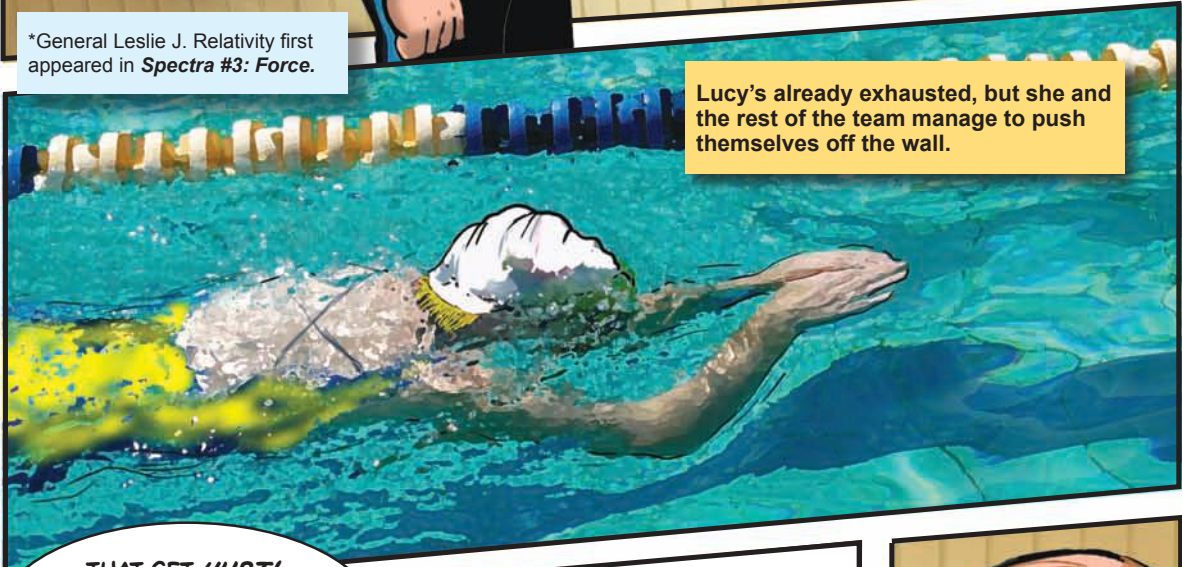
THAT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH! EVERYBODY, MAKE SURE WHEN YOU'RE UNDERWATER, YOU LOOK MORE LIKE AN AIRPLANE WING THAN A BARGE.

BACK AT SCHOOL I KNOW GENERAL RELATIVITY* DID AN EXPERIMENT IN PHYSICS CLASS ON THIS TOPIC.

IT'S EASIER FOR WATER TO FLOW AROUND A TRIANGLE THAN A SQUARE, SO FORM YOURSELF INTO A TRIANGLE.

GO AGAIN.
3... 2... 1...

*General Leslie J. Relativity first appeared in *Spectra #3: Force*.

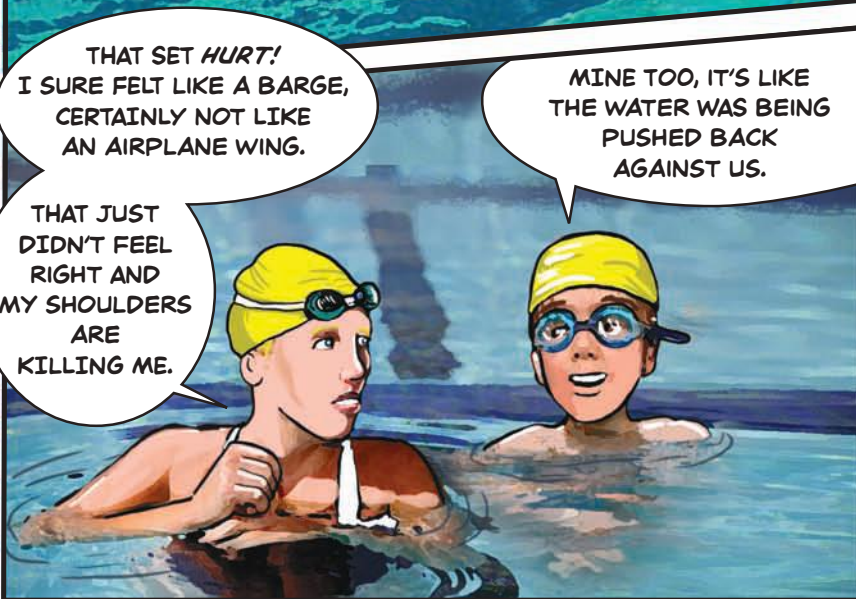


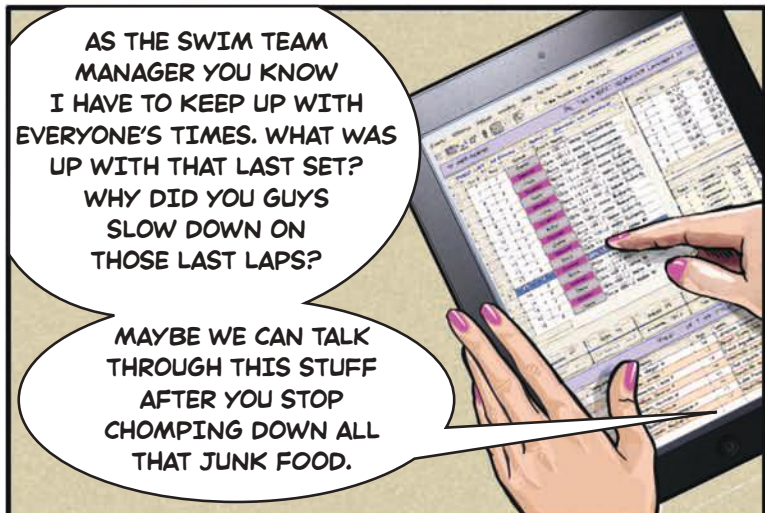
Lucy's already exhausted, but she and the rest of the team manage to push themselves off the wall.

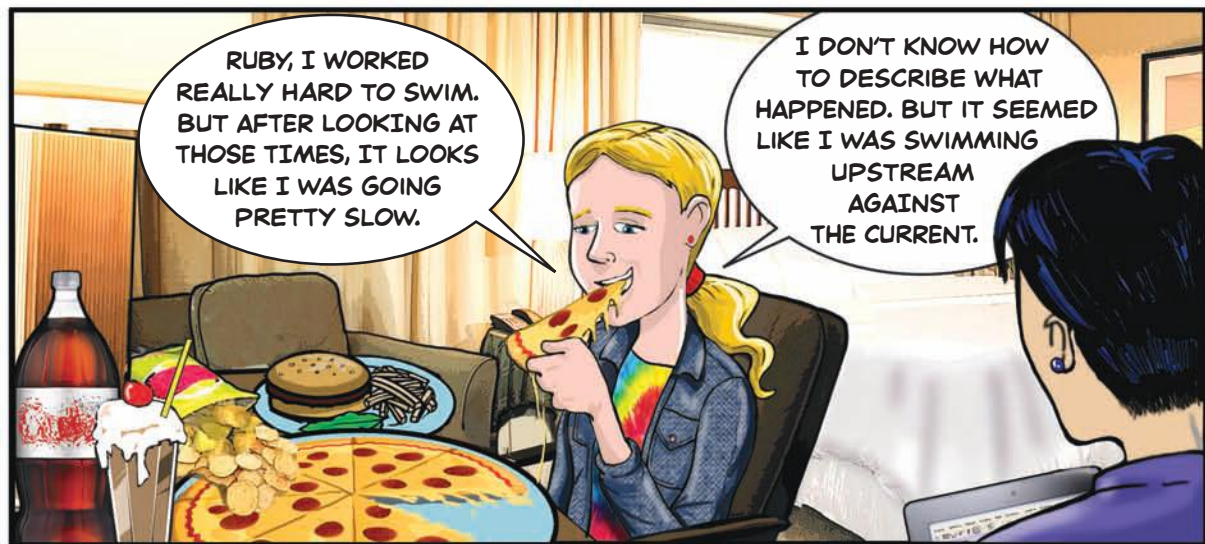
THAT SET HURT! I SURE FELT LIKE A BARGE, CERTAINLY NOT LIKE AN AIRPLANE WING.

MINE TOO, IT'S LIKE THE WATER WAS BEING PUSHED BACK AGAINST US.

THAT JUST DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT AND MY SHOULDERS ARE KILLING ME.







RUBY, I WORKED REALLY HARD TO SWIM. BUT AFTER LOOKING AT THOSE TIMES, IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS GOING PRETTY SLOW.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED. BUT IT SEEMED LIKE I WAS SWIMMING UPSTREAM AGAINST THE CURRENT.



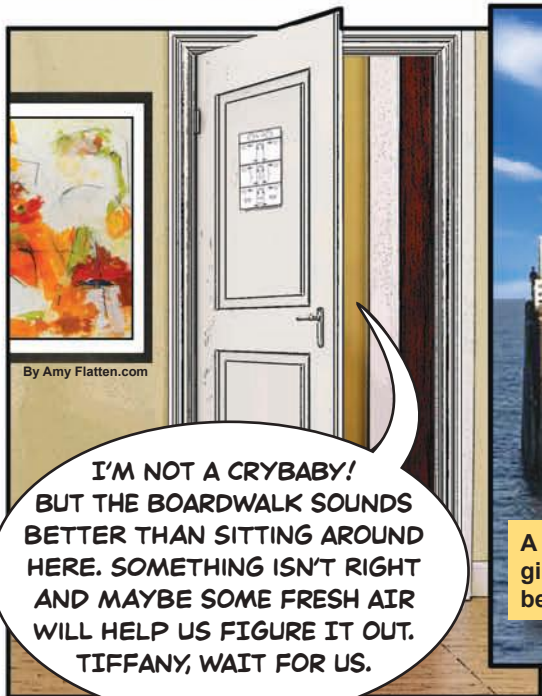
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, "HOBBIT", BUT "I" WAS GOING PLENTY FAST.



LUCY, DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH, EVERYONE WAS SLOW.

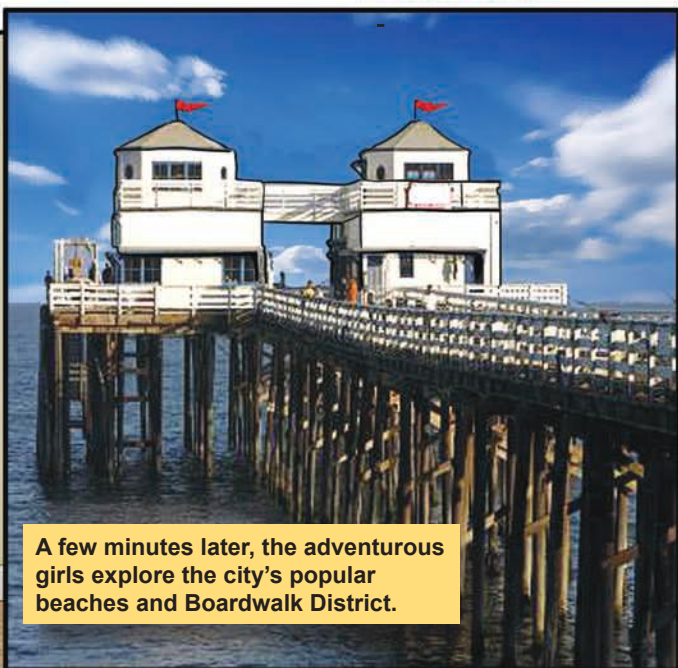


ALRIGHT CRYBABIES, I'M GOING TO THE BOARDWALK TO HAVE SOME FUN. YOU CAN JOIN ME IF YOU WISH, BUT DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW ME, I DO HAVE AN IMAGE TO UPHOLD.

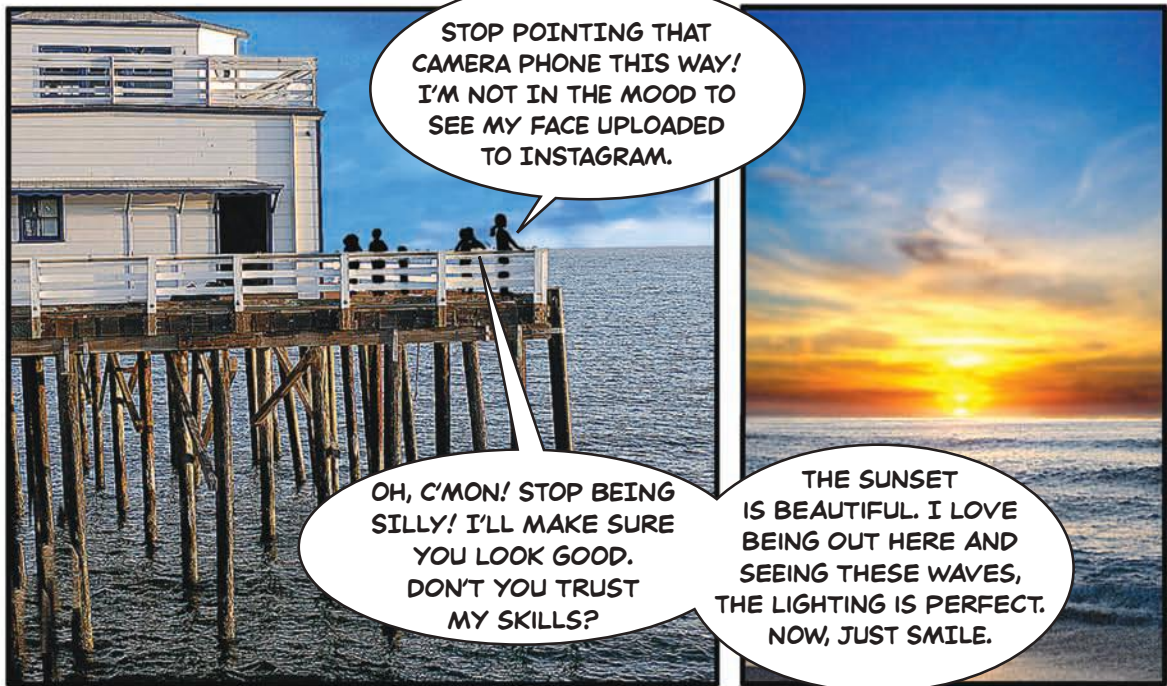


By Amy Flatten.com

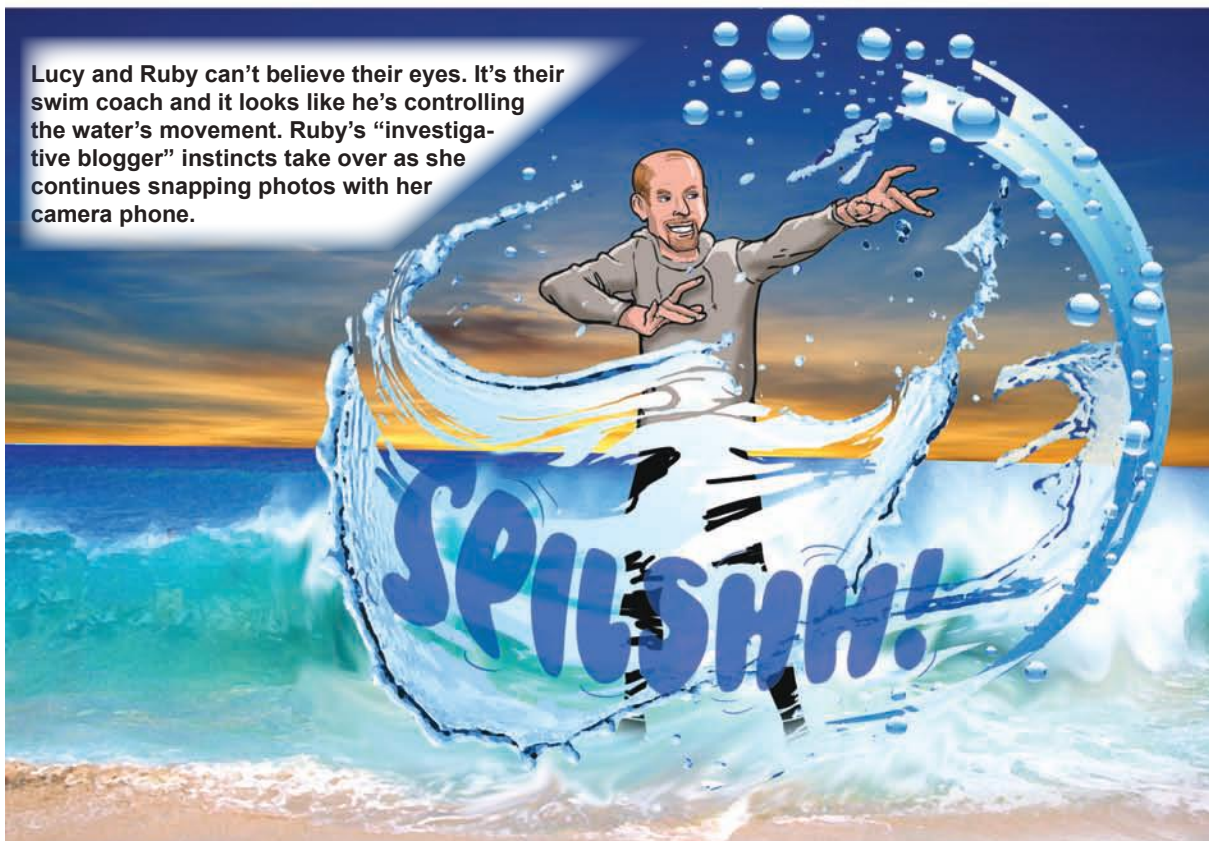
I'M NOT A CRYBABY! BUT THE BOARDWALK SOUNDS BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND HERE. SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT AND MAYBE SOME FRESH AIR WILL HELP US FIGURE IT OUT. TIFFANY, WAIT FOR US.



A few minutes later, the adventurous girls explore the city's popular beaches and Boardwalk District.



Lucy and Ruby can't believe their eyes. It's their swim coach and it looks like he's controlling the water's movement. Ruby's "investigative blogger" instincts take over as she continues snapping photos with her camera phone.



They head down to the beach, and try not to be seen by coach Henri Toueaux.

WHOA! THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT NORMAL. THE WAVES ARE CRASHING AWAY FROM THE BEACH NOT ON TO IT. BUT HOW CAN COACH BE DOING THAT.

IT'S AGAINST THE LAWS OF PHYSICS?

LUCY, YOU TURN INTO A **LASER**. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE ONE TO SAY SUPERPOWERS AREN'T POSSIBLE.

POINT TAKEN! JUST KEEP TAKING THE PHOTOS.

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I'M MAKING THIS HAPPEN, BUT WOW, THIS IS **AMAZING!** WATER CAN DO WHATEVER I TELL IT TO DO. NOT ONLY IS THIS FUN, IT'S A GREAT WAY TO TRAIN THE SWIM TEAM. WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO BEAT THAT THOMAS A. EDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL AT THE MEET THIS YEAR!

UNLESS THERE ARE REALLY HYPER DOLPHINS OUT THERE! IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE COACH IS MAKING THE WATER DANCE

LOOK AT THE WAY IT FLOWS, TWISTS AND CATCHES THE MOONLIGHT. IT'S BEAUTIFUL!



GET BACK! HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY. I DON'T WANT HIM TO SEE US. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

WE HAVE TO WIN! THEY CAN'T WIN AGAIN, I WILL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF SEQUOIA UNIVERSITY QUICKIE COACHING SCHOOL.

I ALWAYS COME IN SECOND, BUT NOT THIS YEAR. NOT WITH THIS POWER! THE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE MINE! **MINE I SAY!**



In the morning, the swim team flies back home. Still confused at what they saw last night, Lucy nor Ruby mention it to the coach or the other swimmers.



Back at Nikola Tesla Junior High School

WELCOME BACK!
HOW WAS THE
TRAINING IN CALI?
YOU HARDLY SENT
ME ANY TEXT
MESSAGES.
I WAS WORRIED.



KAS, IT WAS **BRUTAL!**
I'VE NEVER SWUM SO HARD
IN MY LIFE. IT FELT LIKE
THE WATER WAS FIGHTING
AGAINST ME WITH EACH LAP.

LET'S MEET UP
AFTER SCHOOL;
BRING GORDY.
RUBY AND I WILL
FILL YOU IN.

Later that day, the friends meet up at the Pizza Joint. They tell the guys about the coach's alleged powers.

SEE LUCY, YOU LOOK
GREAT IN THAT PIC.
THAT'S DEFINITELY
A PROFILE
PHOTO.

RUBY, PLEASE FOCUS!
WE'RE TRYING TO SEE IF
YOU GOT A PICTURE OF
COACH MOVING WATER
AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN
FIGURE OUT HOW
HE DOES IT.

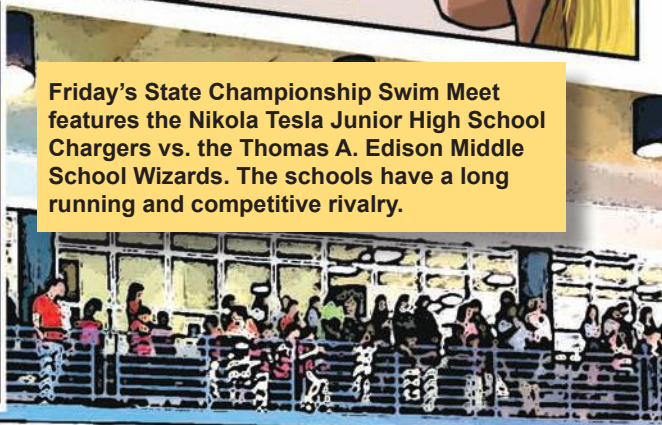
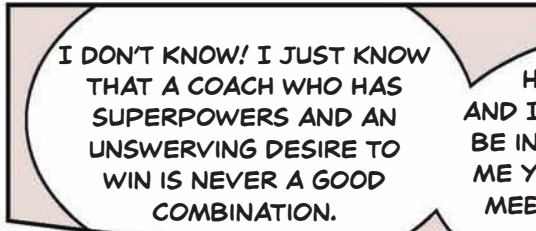
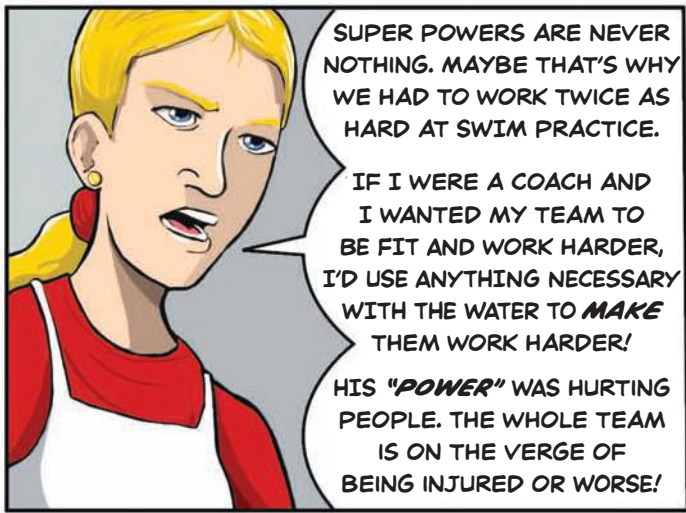
IF WE HAVE
A PICTURE, WE
CAN PROVE IT
IF WE NEED TO.



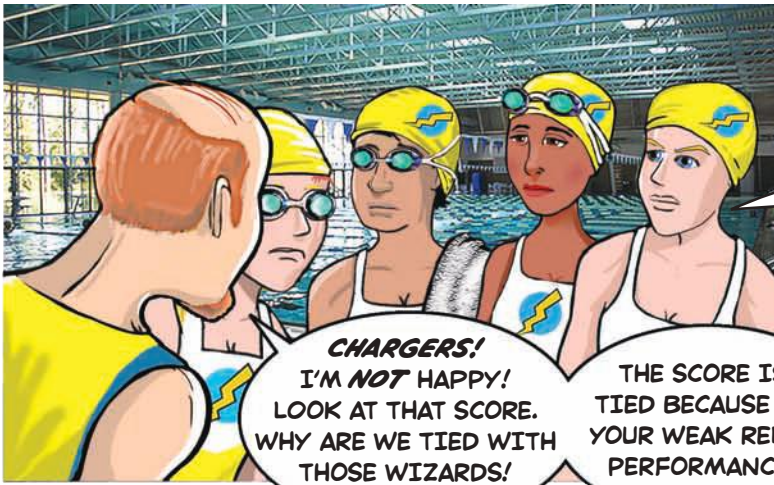
IT'S BLURRY, BUT
LOOK AT THIS ONE,
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S
WATER GOING THE
WRONG WAY OR JUST
A SMUDGE.

WELL, IT'S NOT CONVINCING
AT ALL. MAYBE IT WAS NOTHING.
AND EVEN IF IT WAS SOMETHING,
MAYBE IT DOESN'T MATTER,
IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS
HURTING ANYONE.





*To find out why Nikola Tesla believes Thomas Edison owes him \$50,000; see PhysicsQuest 2008 *Nikola Tesla and the Electric Fair*



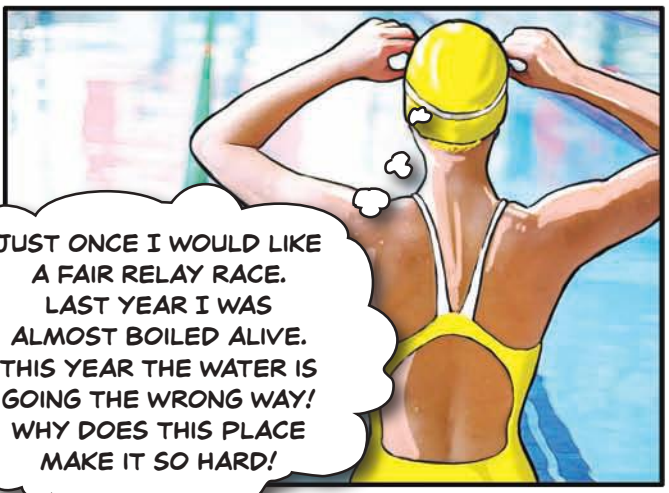
COACH, YOU WORKED US SO HARD AT PRACTICE THAT ALL OUR SHOULDERS AND LEGS ARE ACHING! I CAN BARELY SWIM!

CHARGERS!
I'M *NOT* HAPPY!
LOOK AT THAT SCORE.
WHY ARE WE TIED WITH THOSE WIZARDS!

THE SCORE IS TIED BECAUSE OF YOUR WEAK RELAY PERFORMANCE!



STOP MAKING EXCUSES, LUCY. GET READY FOR THE NEXT RACE! AND JUST TO MAKE CERTAIN OF VICTORY, I WILL BE TO USING MY "SPECIAL" GIFT ...



JUST ONCE I WOULD LIKE A FAIR RELAY RACE. LAST YEAR I WAS ALMOST BOILED ALIVE. THIS YEAR THE WATER IS GOING THE WRONG WAY! WHY DOES THIS PLACE MAKE IT SO HARD!

TO WIN IT ALL!

A crazed coach H2O uses his power of water manipulation to attack the other team. He doesn't stop at the Edison Middle School swimmers. He also goes after the Edison and Tesla Middle School fans. No one is excluded from the chaos.



WE'VE GOT TO STOP COACH! I'M NOT FAN OF EDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL EITHER, BUT HE'S REALLY HURTING PEOPLE!

HE'S TOO POWERFUL AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY LASER POWERS CAN DO AGAINST HIM!

I HAVE AN IDEA! C'MON LET'S HEAD TO THE CAFETERIA.



OK! BUT I THINK IT'S TIME FOR **SPECTRA** TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE!



The quartet of young heroes burst into the school's kitchen.



OVER THERE, GET THE KETCHUP, IT'S THICK!

BUT GUYS, ISN'T THERE WATER IN KETCHUP?

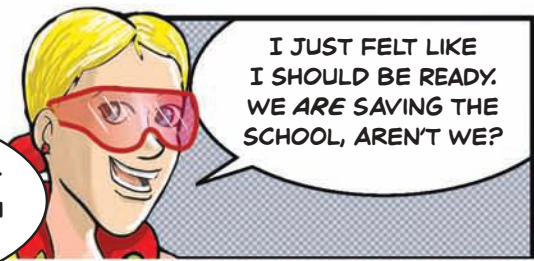


YOU'RE RIGHT RUBY, REMEMBER WHAT WE LEARNED IN PHYSICS CLASS. WE'RE JUST GOING TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM, NOT TRAP HIM. WHEN YOU MOVE KETCHUP, IT BECOMES EASIER TO MOVE. LUCY, HELP ME WITH THIS **CORN STARCH!**



HOW IS A LASER SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU MOVE STUFF?

A LASER CAN'T, BUT YOU CAN! AREN'T YOU A SWIMMER WITH BIG ARMS? FORGET THE LASER STUFF AND HELP! BTW, WHY ARE YOU IN YOUR SPECTRA OUTFIT?



I JUST FELT LIKE I SHOULD BE READY. WE ARE SAVING THE SCHOOL, AREN'T WE?

The group takes all the corn starch they can carry to the pool.



HEY COACH, OVER HERE! IF YOU WANT TO ATTACK SOMEONE, ATTACK ME! I'M THE ONE THAT LOST THE BIG RELAY. IT'S MY FAULT WE LOST!

LUCY?!!

While the coach is distracted by Spectra, Gordy, Ruby and Kas take the tops off the corn starch.

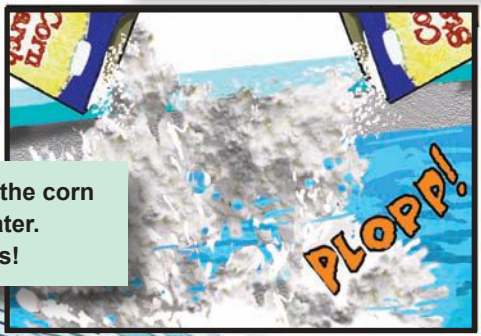
The coach focuses his attention on Spectra and he loses control of the pool's water. He stumbles and falls back into the pool.

Spectra yells, "Guys, the plan is working."



DUMP IT NOW!


Everyone dumps the corn starch into the water. They make a mess!



FOOLISH CHILDREN, YOU CAN'T TRAP ME!

HE HA! DE HA! HA DA!

Coach attempts to continue his outburst at the aquatic center. He tries to create a vortex and only succeeds in mixing the corn starch and water even more. The more he tries to move the water, the thicker the mixture becomes.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I'M ALL POWERFUL WITH
WATER. I CAN MOVE
ANYTHING. BUT, WHY
CAN'T I MOVE NOW?

UHH, COACH,
IT'S CALLED,
PHYSICS!

HUH? BUT
THE LAWS OF
PHYSICS DON'T
APPLY TO ME!

APPARENTLY,
THIS ONE DOES.
HA HA HA!
SORRY!

I'M GLAD WE
STOPPED HIM,
THOUGH I'LL MISS
THOSE VIBRANT
WATER
PATTERNS.

SPECTRA, WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO USE
YOUR LASER POWERS IN THIS ADVENTURE?
I MEAN, THE GANG HAS SORT OF
COME TO EXPECT IT. AND YOU DO
HAVE FANS OUT THERE THAT
WANT TO SEE YOU IN ACTION.



WELL, SINCE I'M
STILL SUITED UP!
HOW ABOUT I BOUNCE AROUND
A BIT IN DIFFERENT COLORS FOR MY
CLOSING ACT. KAS, GET ON THE LOUD
SPEAKERS AND PLAY SOME MUSIC.
LET'S END WITH A DANCE PARTY
WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE POLICE
TO TAKE AWAY COACH H2O!



ZOOM

THE END?

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Presents the comic book series:

SPECTRA

MISS ALIGNMENT

Issue #1 & #2

GORDY

GENERAL RELATIVITY

Issue #3

*Tiffany Maxwell
& The Demon*

Issue #4



Collect All 5 Issues!



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