

# LIKE LAVA IN MY VEINS

AUTHOR OF  
**I AM EVERY GOOD THING**  
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WITH  
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**W**HEN YOU ENROLL AT THE ACADEMY OF KIDS WITH AWESOME ABILITIES (AKWAA), YOU GET TO PICK YOUR OWN SUPERHERO NAME.

BUT I DIDN'T NEED TO MAKE UP ANYTHING.

MY REAL NAME'S ALREADY SUPER—  
**BOBBY BEACON.**

BEACONS LEAD PEOPLE  
AND SHOW THEM THE  
WAY, YOU KNOW?

I HAVE THE POWER  
OF LIGHT AND FIRE.





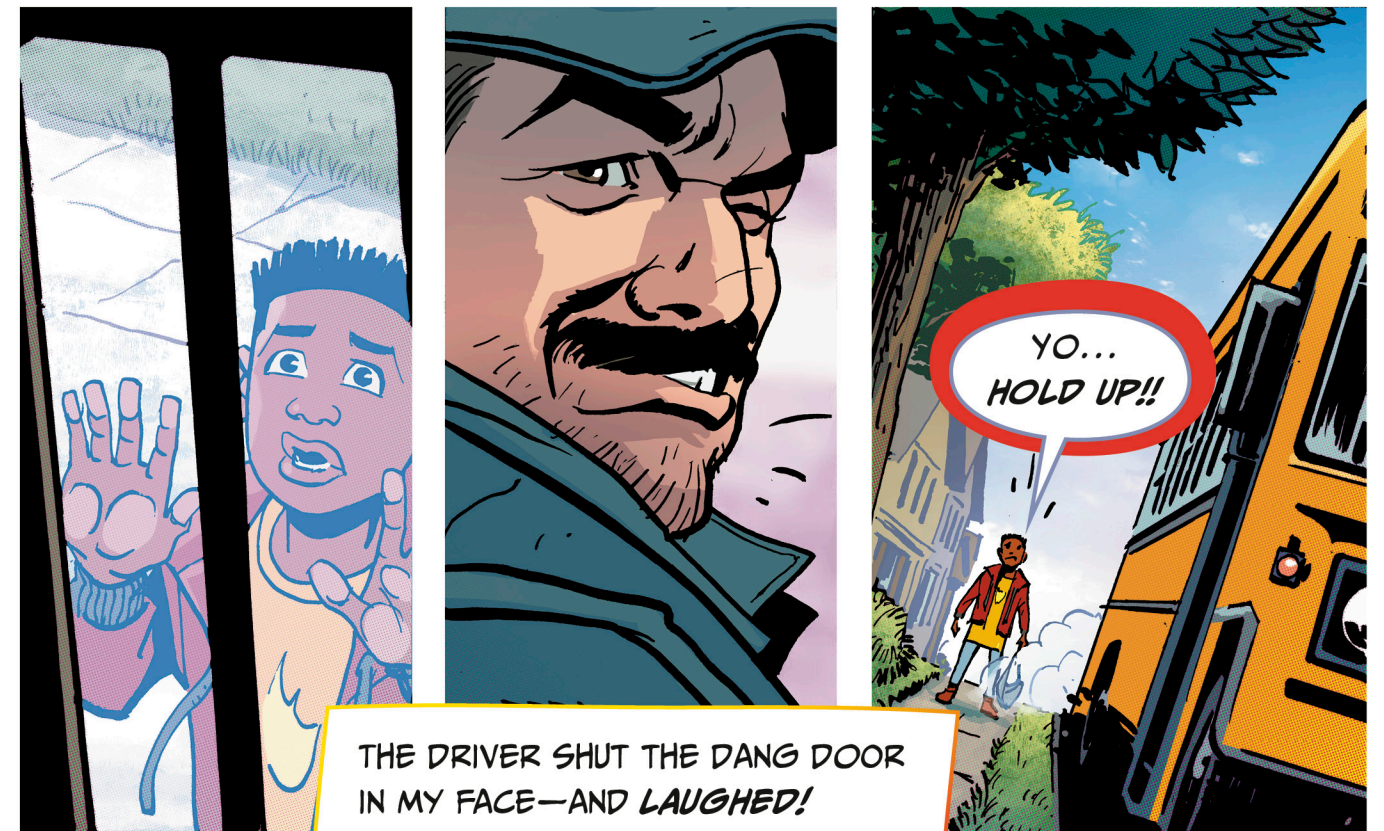
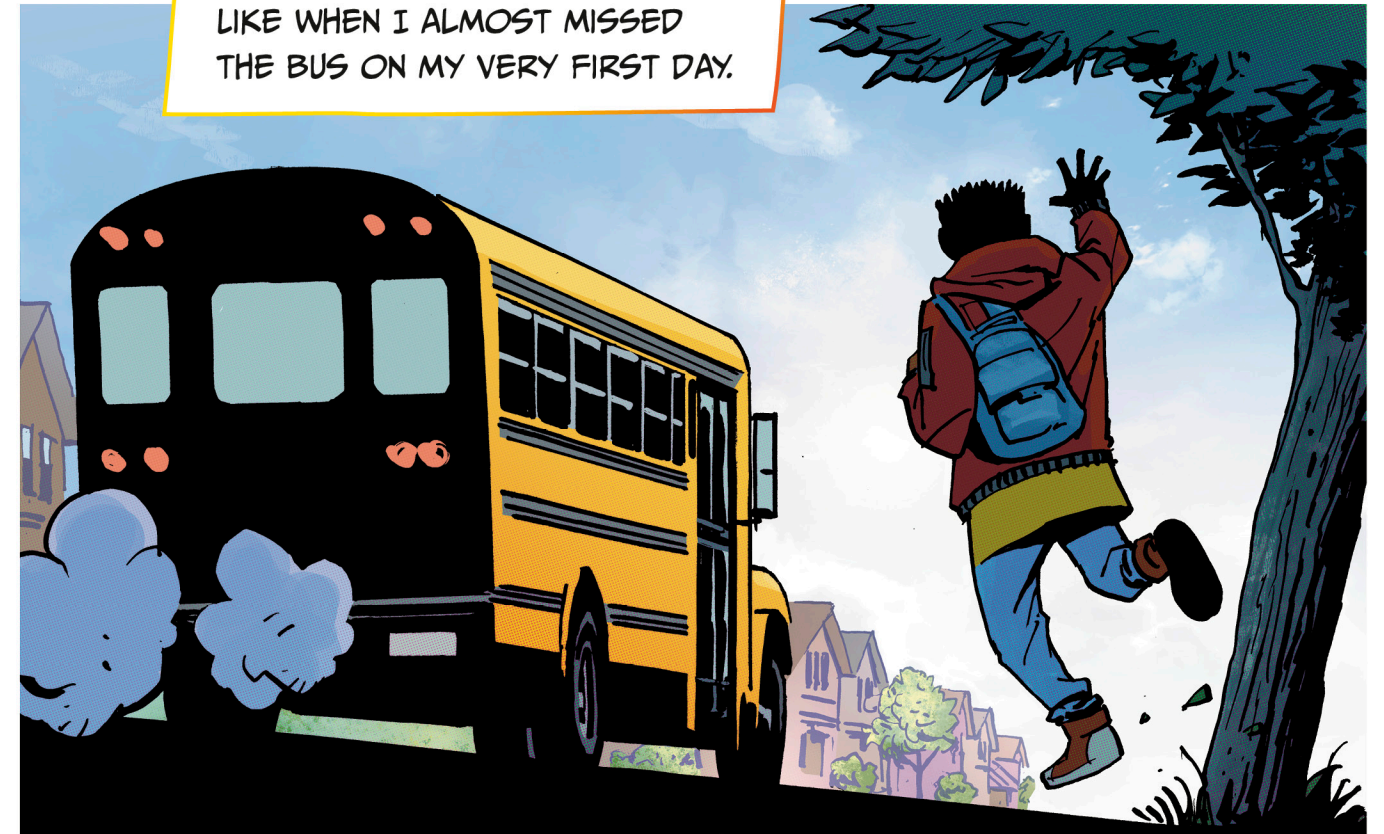
THE MAIN REASON I'M HEADED TO A NEW SCHOOL IS BECAUSE SOMETIMES I HAVE A PROBLEM CONTROLLING MY POWERS.



IT AIN'T EASY.



LIKE WHEN I ALMOST MISSED THE BUS ON MY VERY FIRST DAY.



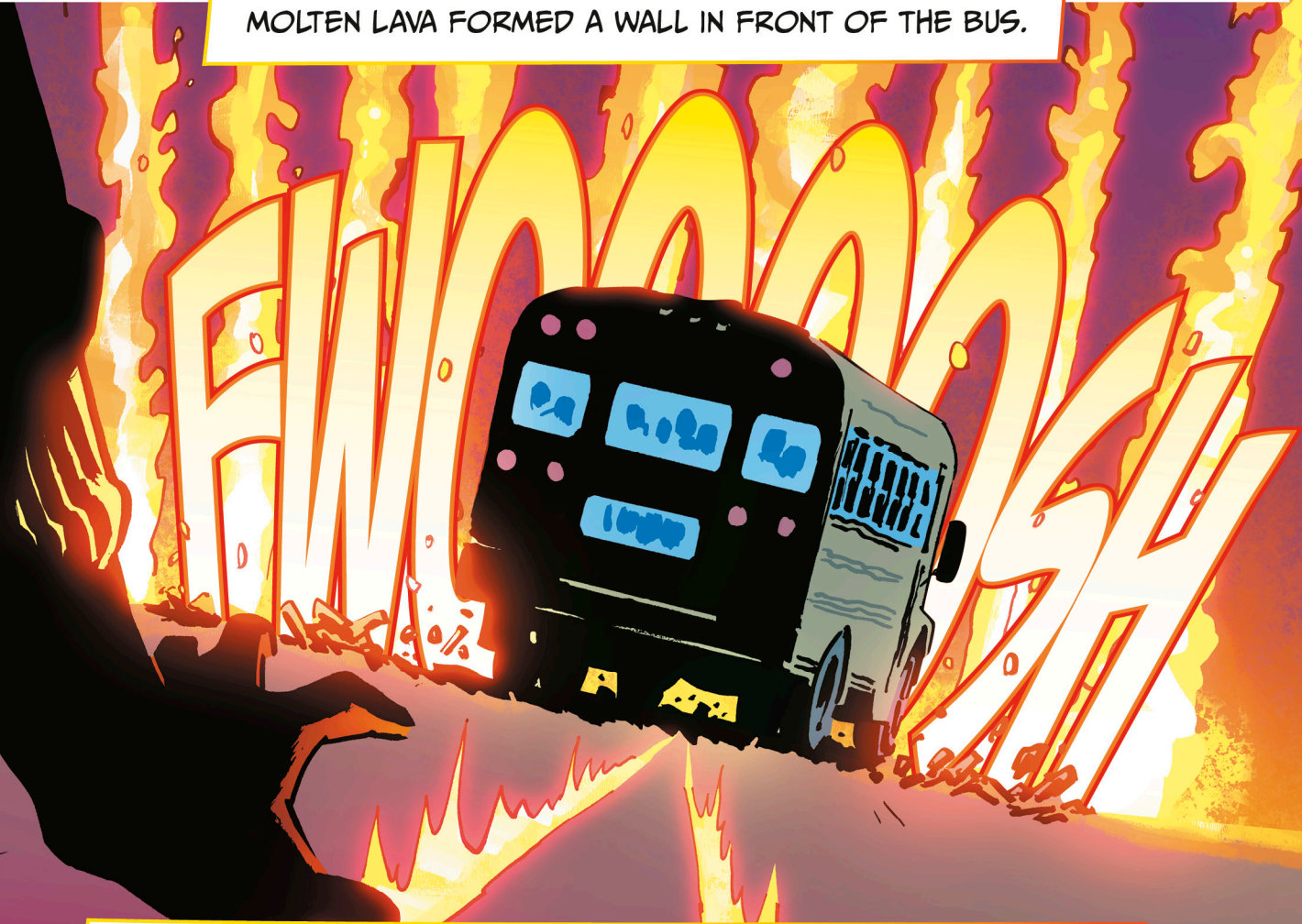
THE DRIVER SHUT THE DANG DOOR IN MY FACE—AND LAUGHED!



HE TRIED TO SPEED OFF, SO I PLACED  
MY PALMS ON THE GROUND.



THE ROAD RIPPED OPEN, AND A TIDAL WAVE OF  
MOLTEN LAVA FORMED A WALL IN FRONT OF THE BUS.



GUESS WHAT? THE DRIVER SLAMMED HIS BOOT ON THE BRAKES  
AND THEN LET ME IN, LIKE HE SHOULD'VE DONE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WE ARRIVED AT THE ACADEMY ON TIME.  
I'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.



THERE WERE GIGANTIC STATUES AND KIDS FLYING  
AROUND WITH EVERY SUPERPOWER IMAGINABLE.



BUT AFTER MY PARENTS HAD A TALK WITH PRINCIPAL WESTVIEW, SOMETHING PRETTY COOL HAPPENED.

THEY SPLIT UP MY CLASS AND ADDED A NEW TEACHER. AS SOON AS I STEPPED MY FOOT IN THE DOOR, I HEARD A NEW VOICE...

★ WELCOME ★  
BOBBY! ★

NOW WE CAN BEGIN!  
THE AMAZING BOBBY  
BEACON IS HERE! SO GLAD  
TO SEE YOU, BOBBY.

MY NAME IS  
MISS BROOKLYN.

SHE REALLY CALLED ME **AMAZING** AND SAID SHE WAS **GLAD** TO SEE ME. THAT STUCK WITH ME ALL DAY.

SHE HAD A CLUSTER OF FRECKLES AROUND HER NOSE, JUST LIKE MY MOM. SHE EVEN WORE HER HAIR UP IN A WRAP, LIKE MY MOM.



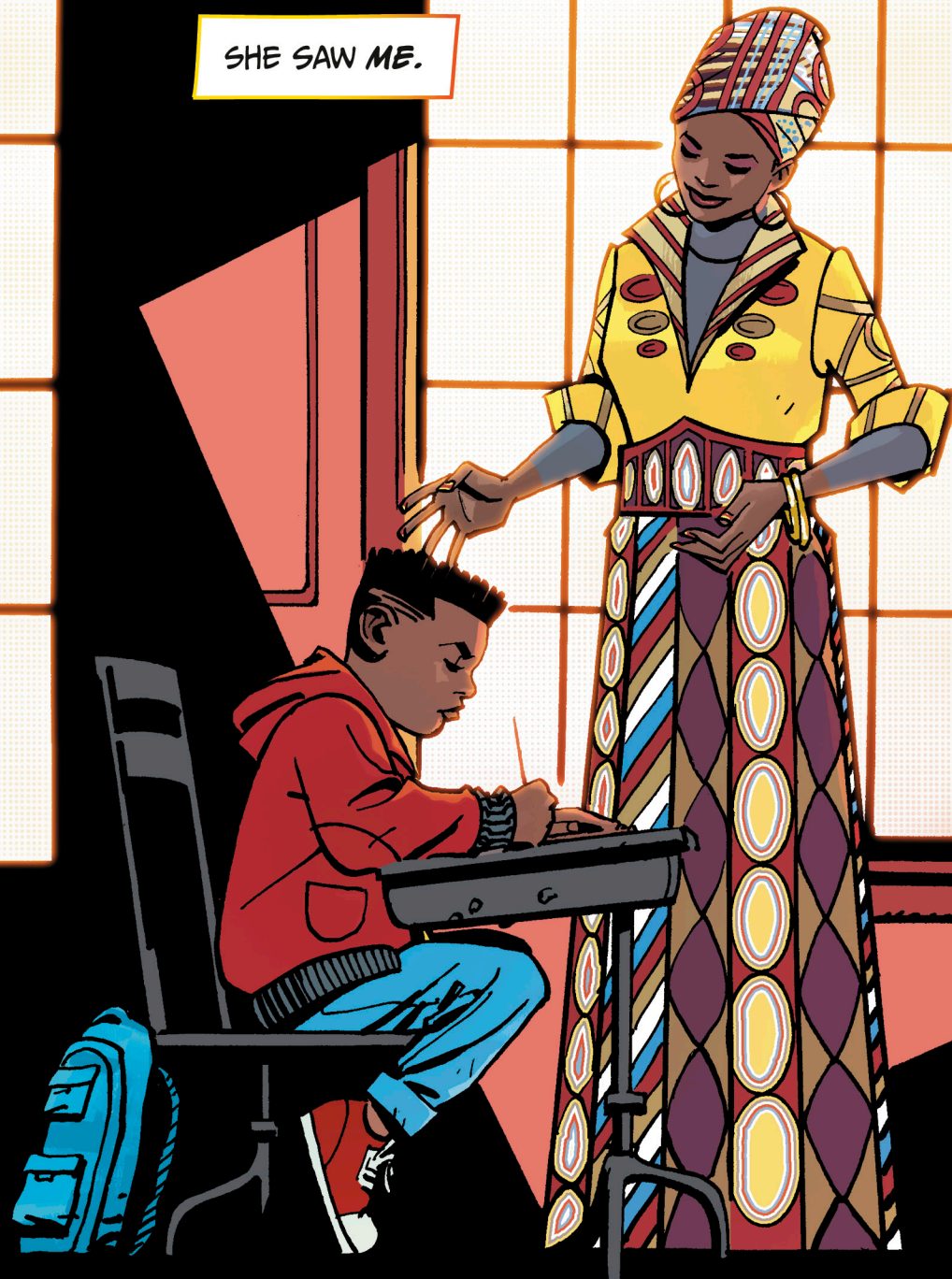
AND JUST LIKE ME, SHE LOVED LANGSTON HUGHES.

*"Look at my face – dark as the night –  
Yet shining like the sun with  
love's true light." –LH*

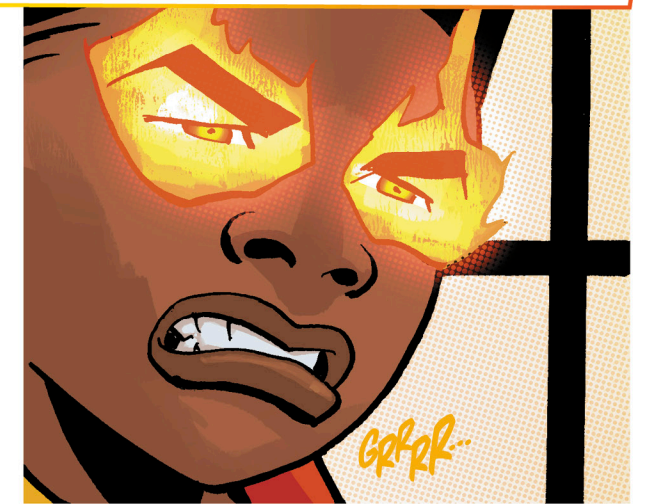
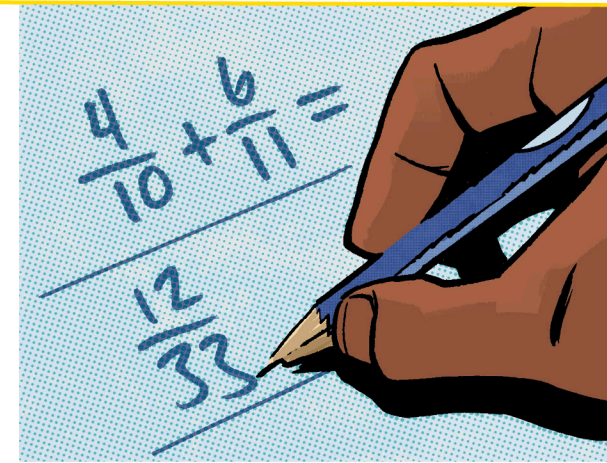


ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT MISS BROOKLYN WAS SHE LISTENED. SHE LET ME TALK WITHOUT RUSHING ME. AND MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE—SHE SAW ME.

SHE SAW ME.



WHEN I GOT FRUSTRATED WITH A MATH PROBLEM AND MY TEMPERATURE BEGAN TO RISE, MISS BROOKLYN CALMED ME DOWN WITH HER SOOTHING VOICE.



CLOSE YOUR EYES, BOBBY, AND TAKE FIVE DEEP BREATHS.



INHALE AND EXHALE SLOWLY. NOW OPEN YOUR EYES AND SAY TO YOURSELF, PEACE, BE STILL...



I DID WHAT SHE SAID, AND IT WORKED! THE BRIGHT ORANGE LAVA THAT COULD USUALLY BE SEEN PUMPING THROUGH MY VEINS CALMED ALL THE WAY DOWN.