

JADEN TOUSSAINT, THE GREATEST

EPISODE 1: THE QUEST FOR SCREEN TIME



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Prologue

SPEAKS KINDNESS, OOZES CONFIDENCE.



JADEN
TOUSSAINT

Specializes in: knowing stuff. And also, ninja dancing. He's really, really good at ninja dancing.

WANTED AND ACTION BY THE



OWEN

Extreme dinosaur
safari bungee
jumping?
Owen is your guy.

EVIL

Don't let the cuteness
fool you. This girl packs a
punch.



WANTED AND ACTION BY THE

THE FRIENDS

CICADA HUNTER AND MATH WIZARD



SONJA

Also draws
excellent rainbows.

WINSTON

Can quote stats
from every World
Cup final.*

*that he has been alive for



WANTED AND ACTION BY THE

SPOTS

WEN

Extreme dinosaur
safari bungee
jumping?
Wen is your guy.

EVIE

Don't let the cuteness
of you. This girl packs a
punch.



EXCELS AT: REINING IN CHARGE.

THE FRIENDS

SONJA

Also draws
excellent rainbows.

WINSTON

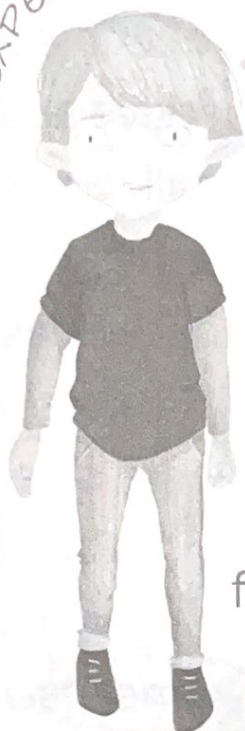
Can quote stats
from every World
Cup final.*

*that he has been alive for



SPOTS HURT FEELINGS AND DISTRACTED GOALIES.

JOKESTER AND ACTION EXPERT.



OWEN

Extreme dinosaur safari bungee jumping?

Owen is your guy.

EVIE



EXCELS AT: REINING IN CHARGE.

Don't let the cuteness fool you. This girl packs a punch.

THE FRIENDS

CICADA HUNTER AND MATH WHIZ.



SONJA

Also draws excellent rainbows.

WINSTON



SPOTS HURT FEELINGS AND DISTRACTED GOALIES.

Can quote stats from every World Cup final.*

*that he has been alive for

THE FAM

Mama:

Loving. No nonsense. Most often seen reading fantasy books or experimenting with bean desserts. Gives good hugs.



Baba:

Tall. Competitive. Competitive about being tall. Gives great piggy back rides. Prefers to be called "baba" which means "father" in Swahili. Does not speak Swahili.

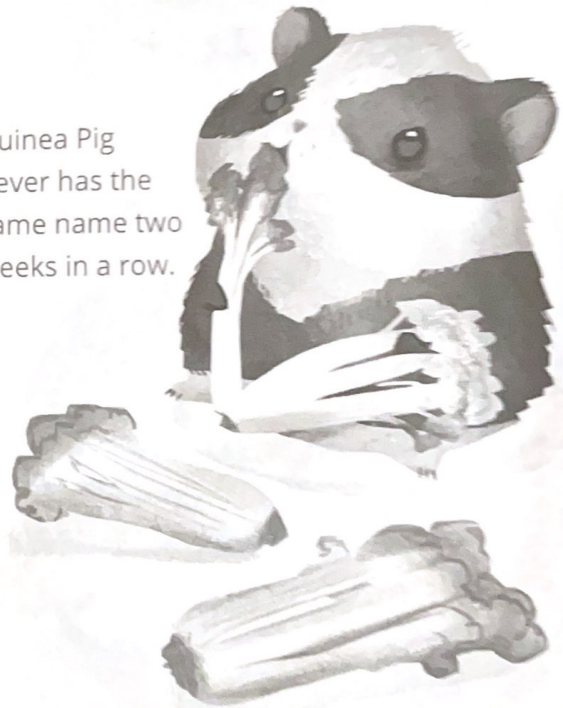
Sissy:

Reader. Writer. Animal lover. Once gave up meat for 6 months, but was broken by the smell of turkey bacon. Plans to be the 1st PhD chemist to star in a Broadway musical.

ANIMAL OF MYSTERY

???????

Guinea Pig never has the same name two weeks in a row.



This week, you may call him Zed.

Chapter 1

THE TROUBLE WITH BOOKS



Jaden Toussaint hated to read.

I mean he
really,



totally, honest to goodness



hated
reading, and
he avoided
it whenever
possible.

Unless there was a book light involved.
Who doesn't like book lights?
Right?



The most annoying thing was, everyone in Jaden Toussaint's family was a reader.

His mom read fantasy books.

His sister read about fighting cats and Greek gods.

His father read books about becoming a better basketball, football, and soccer coach despite the fact that he actually programmed software for a living.

The three man
defense...

... they could think of
no way of getting rid
of Smaug...

4



Why was that annoying?

Because it made Jaden Toussaint feel lonely.

That was the real trouble with books. All that attention focused on the pages (and not on him) made Jaden Toussaint feel left out.

Grumble. Grumble. Discontent.

Um... guys? Guys?
Is anybody gonna play
with me? Hello?

You speak
from your heart,
young Firepaw.

5



Jaden Toussaint was a people person.

He liked to play
Toranpu cards



and conduct
experiments

and be
an animal
adventurer.



Everybody knows that you can't do any
of that by yourself. Well...you can, but it
wouldn't be nearly as much fun.

It was especially not fun when grown-ups
kept telling you to tone your creature
adventuring down to a dull roar.

Who ever heard of a lion with a dull roar?
Ridiculous.



Once, Jaden Toussaint's father had been trying to finish reading *Rugby for Dummies*. Even though they were in the park with lots of other things to do, JT felt *so* lonely.

His father had taken pity on him and let him play with his phone—for 10 whole minutes—while he read the last few pages.

Those 10 minutes were grand. They were glorious. They were better than ice cream. Jaden Toussaint had never felt more brilliant. And for him, that was really saying something.

In the short but oh-so-sweet time the phone was in JT's possession, he added purple chickens to a farm, spelled 17 words, and learned that the name for a group of flamingoes is "flamboyance." A flamboyance of flamingoes. How cool is that?

The sum total of human knowledge was in the palm of his hand! With this smartphone he could do ANYTHING.



Chapter 2

NEED. MORE. SCREEN TIME.

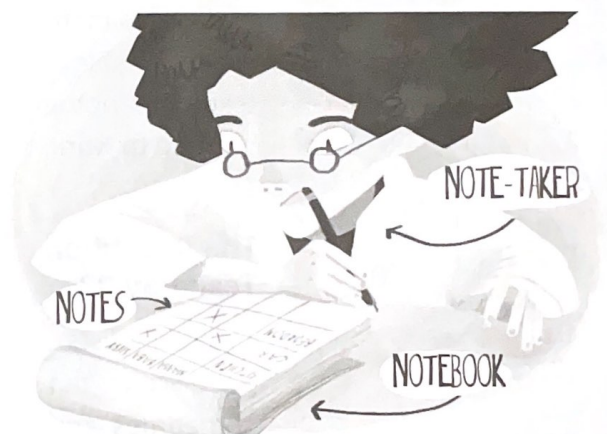
Computer? Smart phone? Smart tv? Tablet? It didn't matter. Jaden Toussaint had tasted his destiny, and he wanted more. Luckily, as a scientist, he had the tools he needed to figure it out. Asking for things over and over had sometimes gotten him what he wanted in the past, so maybe repetition would work. He decided to start with that.

The Repetition Test: Day 1

He asked his sister in the kitchen. He asked his mother in the car. He asked his father in the bedroom. No luck.



Jaden Toussaint, the note-taker, noted these failures in his notebook, but otherwise took no note of them. He pressed on.



The Repetition Test: Day 2

This time he asked his mother in the kitchen, asked his father in the car, and his sister in her bedroom. That didn't work either.

But not to worry! Trying again and again is a part of the scientific method. Every good scientist knows that you might have to try hundreds, even thousands of times before your experiment is a success. And Jaden Toussaint was nothing if not a good scientist.

	Mom	Ben
Kitchen	x	x
Car	x	x
Living Room	x	x
Bedroom	x	x
Bedroom	x	x
Park	x	x
Restaurant	x	x
Walking Home	x	x
Walking to School	x	x
Dinner	x	x
Breakfast	x	x
Kitchen (begging)	x	x
Car (begging)	x	x
Living Room (begging)	x	x
Bedroom (begging)	x	x
Bedroom (begging)	x	x
Park (begging)	x	x
Restaurant (begging)	x	x
Walking Home (begging)	x	x
Walking to School (begging)	x	x
Dinner (begging)	x	x
Breakfast (begging)	x	x
Kitchen (pleading)	x	x
Car (pleading)	x	x
Living Room (pleading)	x	x
Bedroom (pleading)	x	x
Bedroom (pleading)	x	x
Park (pleading)	x	x
Restaurant (pleading)	x	x
Walking Home (pleading)	x	x
Walking to School (pleading)	x	x
Dinner (pleading)	x	x
Breakfast (pleading)	x	x

commented with location, tone of voice, and time of day. No matter which variable he tested for, nothing seemed to work.

The Repetition Test: Day 23

Even scientists get discouraged sometimes, and Jaden Toussaint was beginning to think that he might never get screen time again.

But all that changed when Miss Bates stepped in.

Chapter 3

MISS BATES' CLASS



Miss Bates was the world's most perfect kindergarten teacher.

