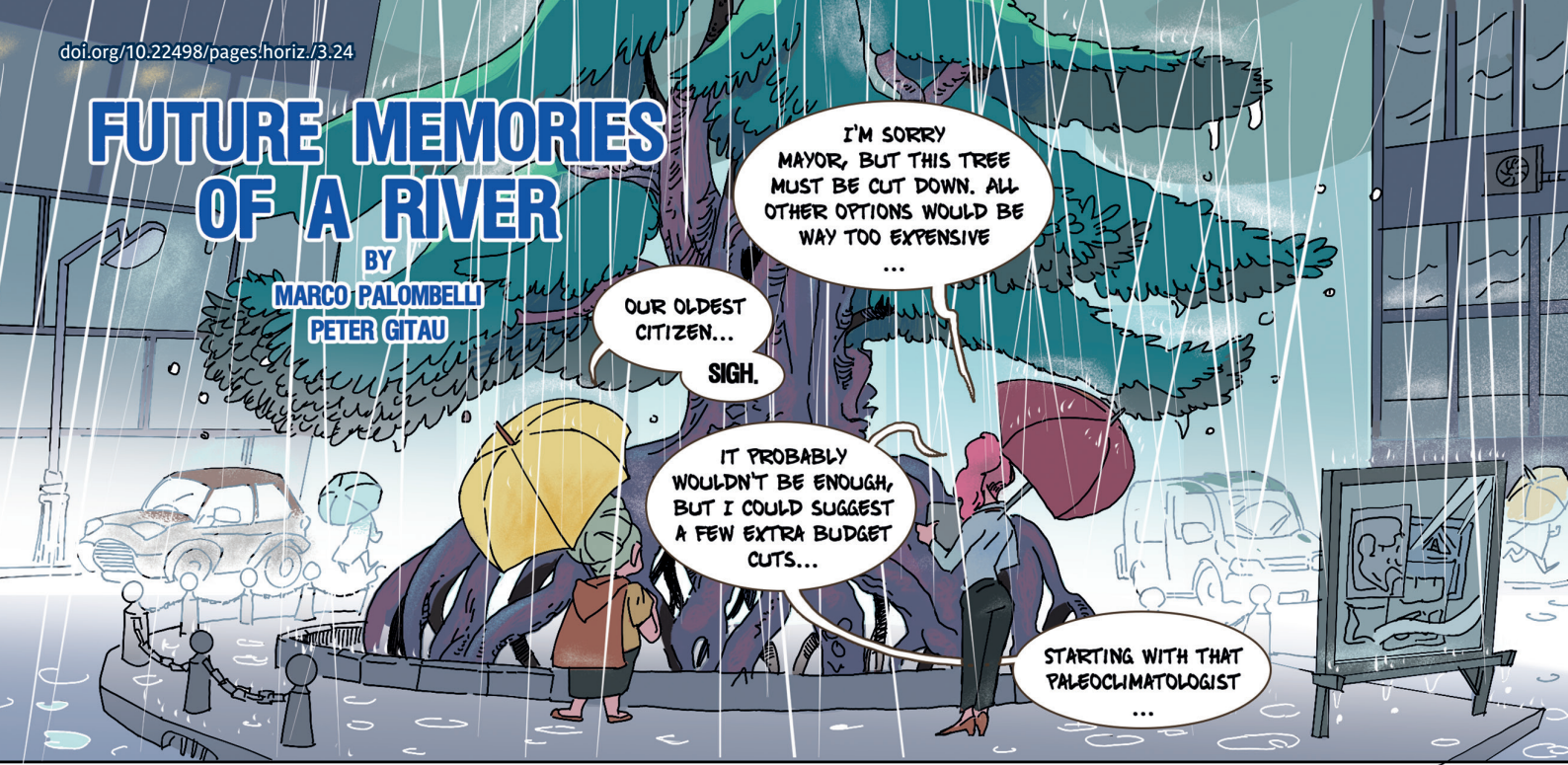


# FUTURE MEMORIES OF A RIVER

BY  
MARCO PALOMBELLI  
PETER GITAU

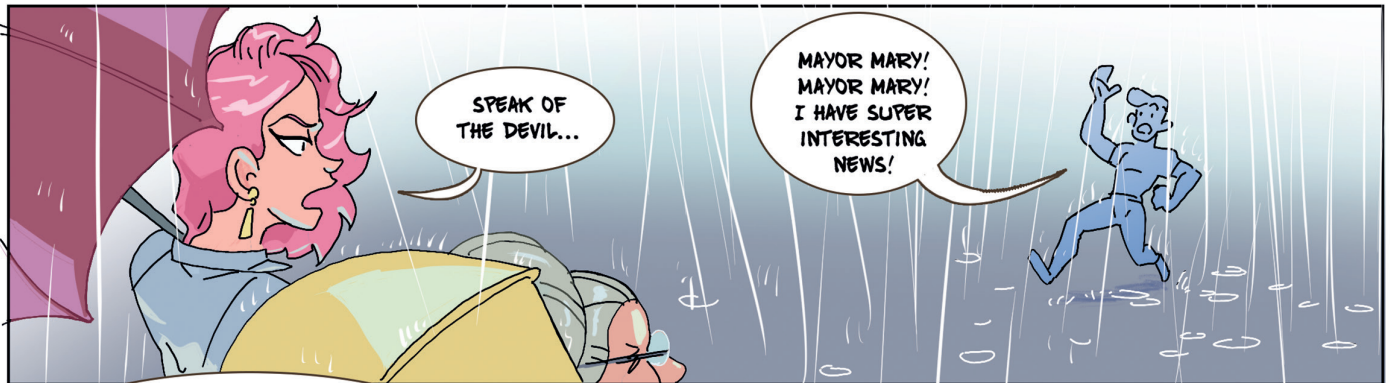


I'M SORRY MAYOR, BUT THIS TREE MUST BE CUT DOWN. ALL OTHER OPTIONS WOULD BE WAY TOO EXPENSIVE ...

OUR OLDEST CITIZEN...  
SIGH.

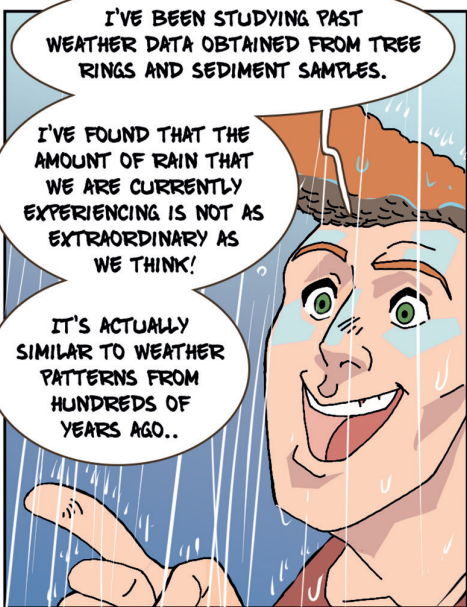
IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH, BUT I COULD SUGGEST A FEW EXTRA BUDGET CUTS...

STARTING WITH THAT PALEOCLIMATOLOGIST ...



SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

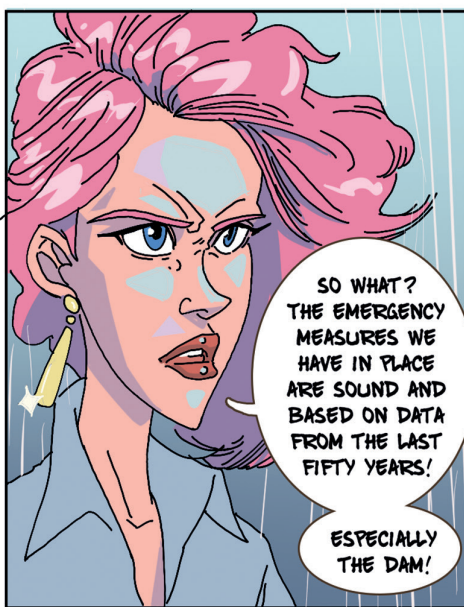
MAYOR MARY! MAYOR MARY! I HAVE SUPER INTERESTING NEWS!



I'VE BEEN STUDYING PAST WEATHER DATA OBTAINED FROM TREE RINGS AND SEDIMENT SAMPLES.

I'VE FOUND THAT THE AMOUNT OF RAIN THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING IS NOT AS EXTRAORDINARY AS WE THINK!

IT'S ACTUALLY SIMILAR TO WEATHER PATTERNS FROM HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO..



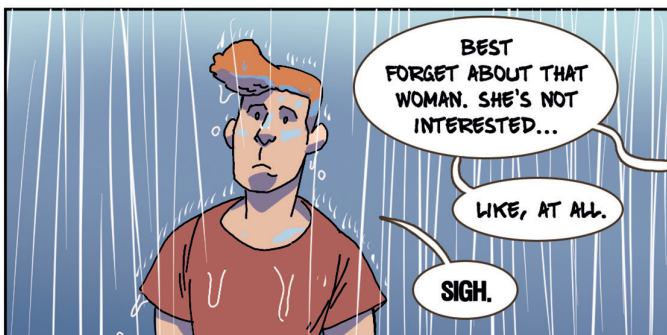
SO WHAT? THE EMERGENCY MEASURES WE HAVE IN PLACE ARE SOUND AND BASED ON DATA FROM THE LAST FIFTY YEARS!

ESPECIALLY THE DAM!



WE COULD ADD THIS HISTORICAL DATA NEXT TIME THE EMERGENCY PLAN IS REVISED!

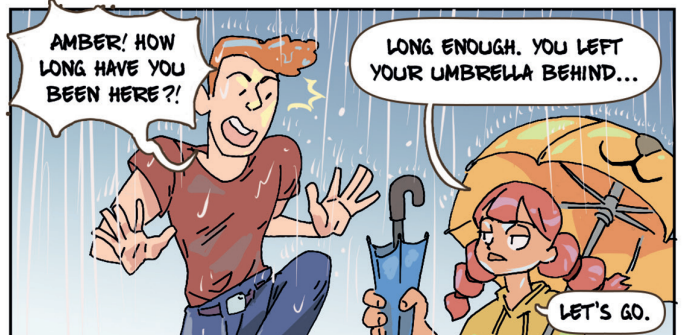
WE DON'T NEED MORE NUMBERS! WHAT DIFFERENCE COULD SUCH OLD INFORMATION MAKE ANYWAY?!



BEST FORGET ABOUT THAT WOMAN. SHE'S NOT INTERESTED...

LIKE, AT ALL.

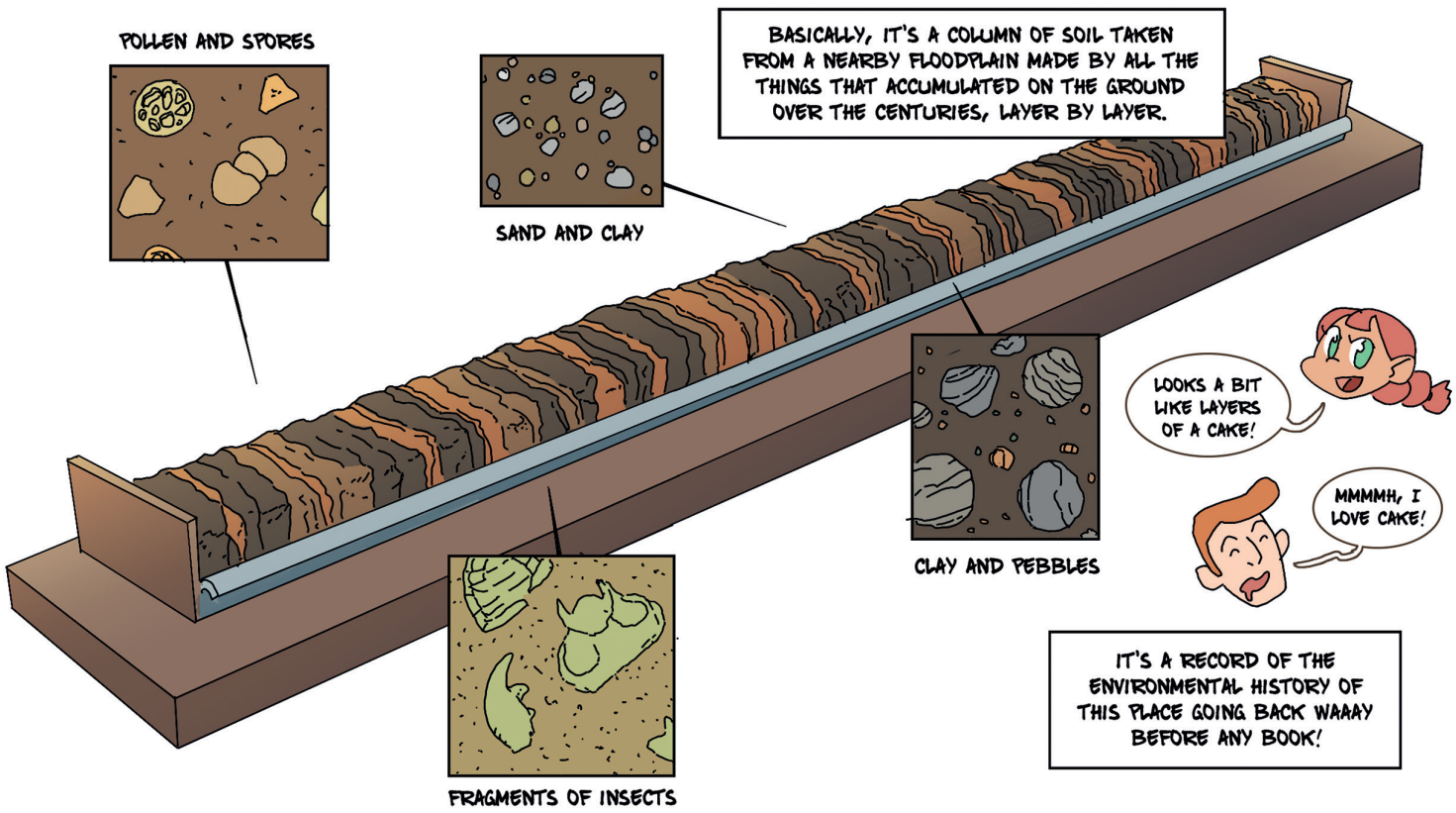
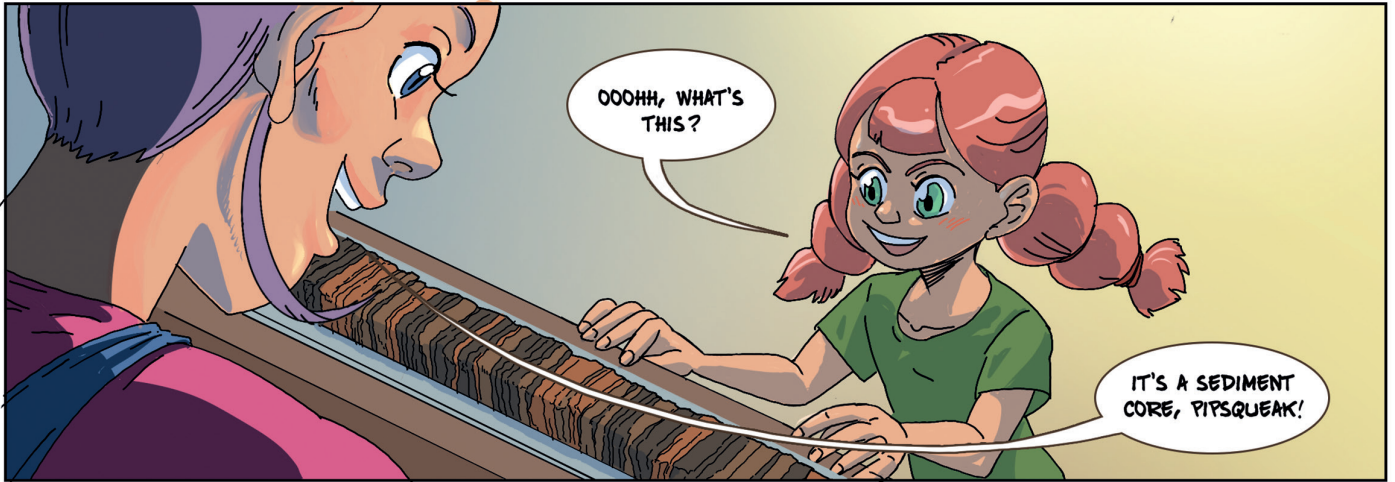
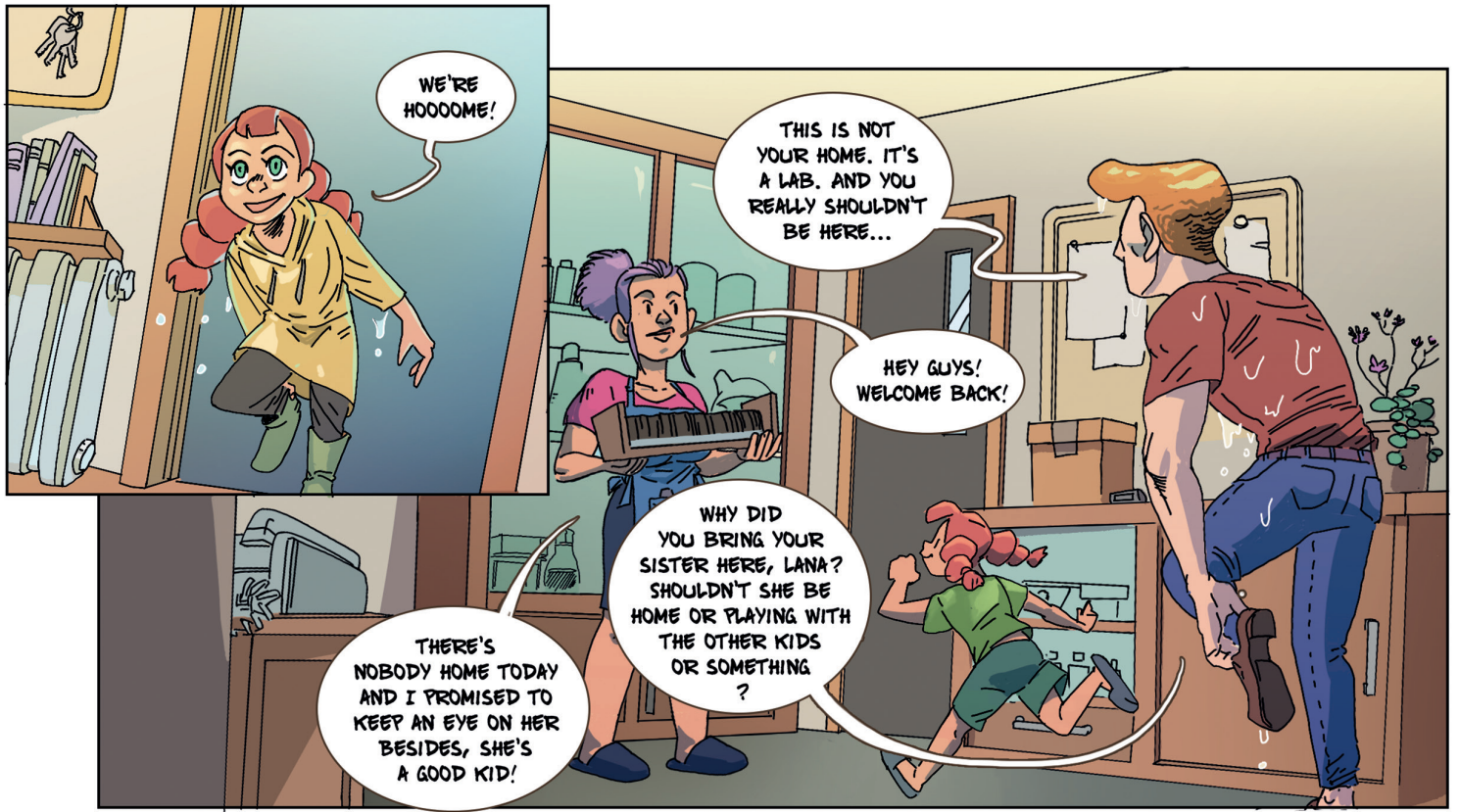
SIGH.



AMBER! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?!

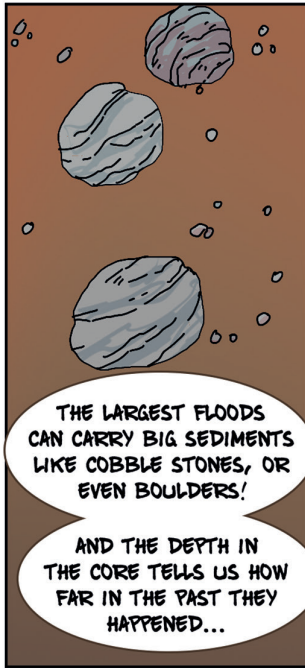
LONG ENOUGH. YOU LEFT YOUR UMBRELLA BEHIND...

LET'S GO.



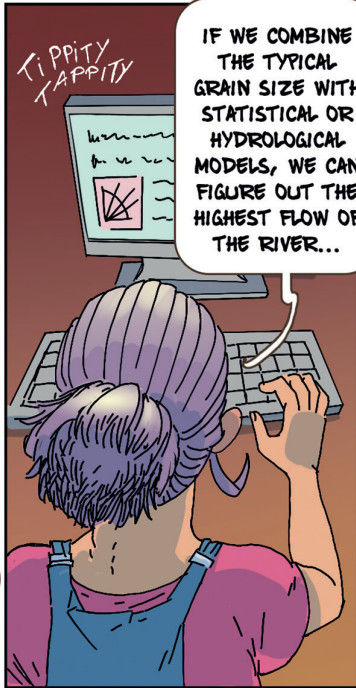


BY LOOKING AT THE GRAIN SIZE OF SEDIMENTS IN THE VARIOUS LAYERS, WE CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT PAST FLOODS...



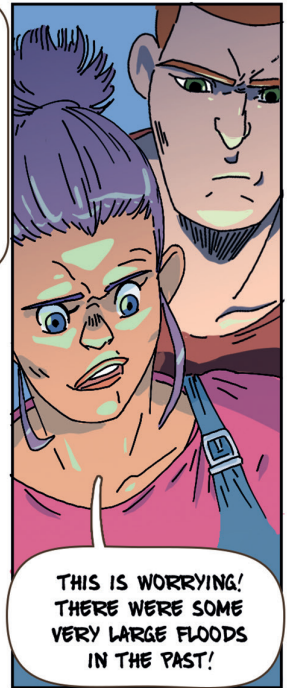
THE LARGEST FLOODS CAN CARRY BIG SEDIMENTS LIKE COBBLE STONES, OR EVEN BOULDERS!

AND THE DEPTH IN THE CORE TELLS US HOW FAR IN THE PAST THEY HAPPENED...

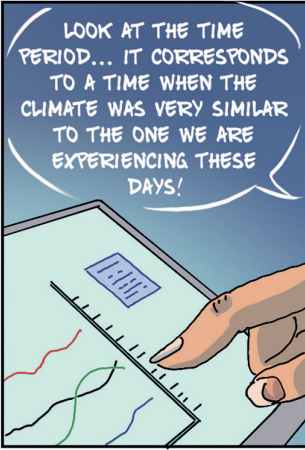


TIPPITY TAPPITY

IF WE COMBINE THE TYPICAL GRAIN SIZE WITH STATISTICAL OR HYDROLOGICAL MODELS, WE CAN FIGURE OUT THE HIGHEST FLOW OF THE RIVER...



THIS IS WORRYING! THERE WERE SOME VERY LARGE FLOODS IN THE PAST!

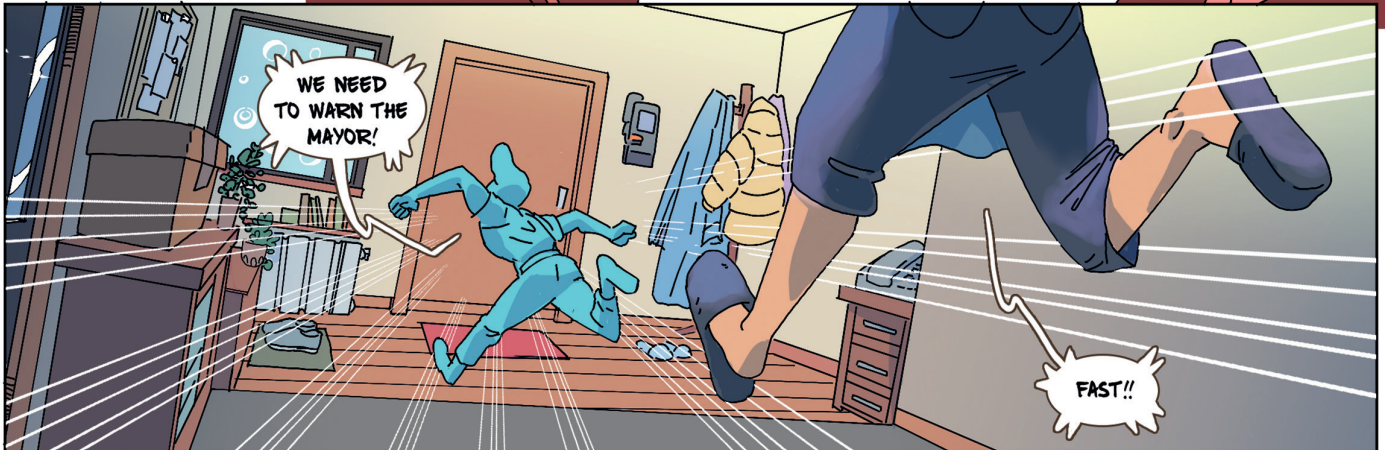


LOOK AT THE TIME PERIOD... IT CORRESPONDS TO A TIME WHEN THE CLIMATE WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THE ONE WE ARE EXPERIENCING THESE DAYS!



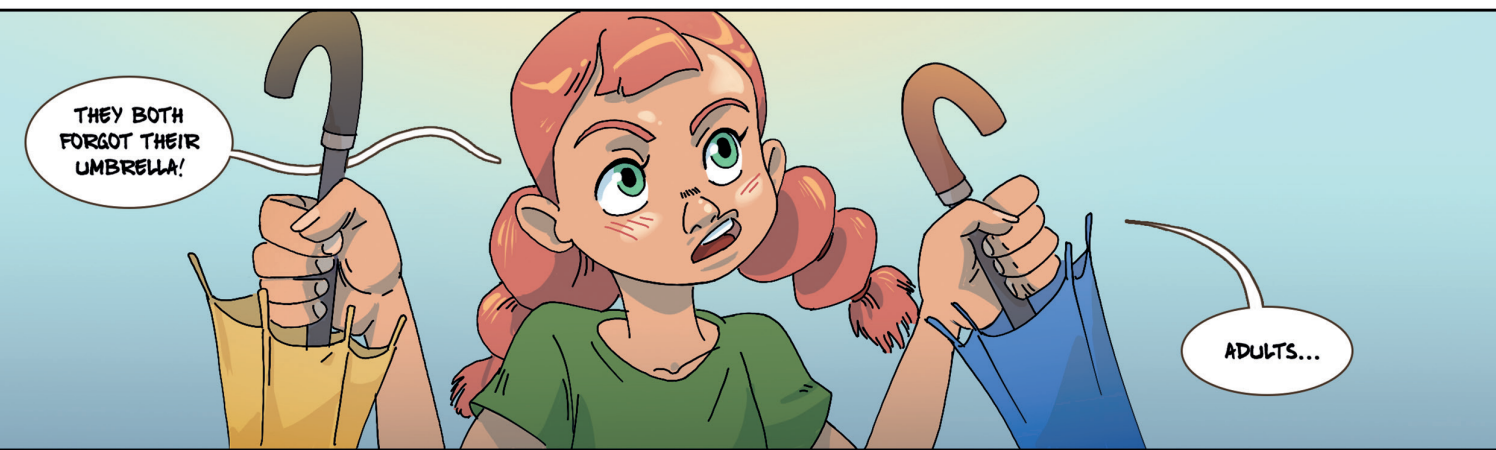
CAPACITY OF THE DAM IS BASED ON DATA THAT ONLY GOES BACK AS FAR AS 50 YEARS AGO!

...AND IN THAT PERIOD THE RIVER NEVER GOT HIGHER THAN 7 METERS!



WE NEED TO WARN THE MAYOR!

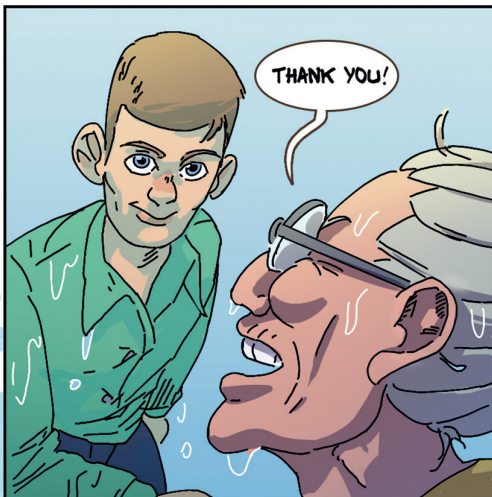
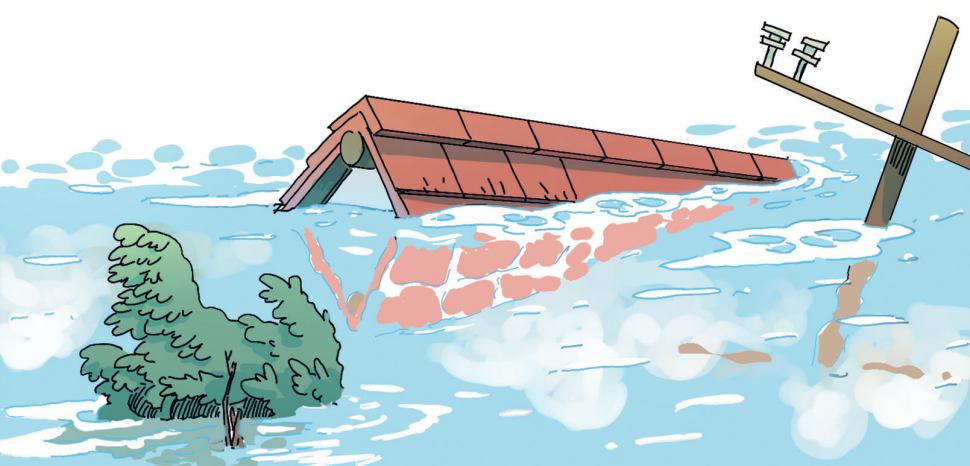
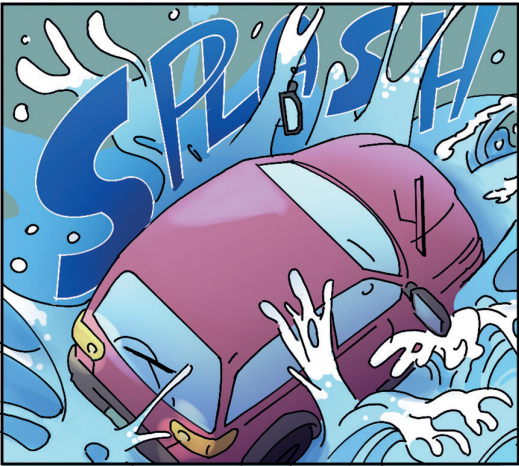
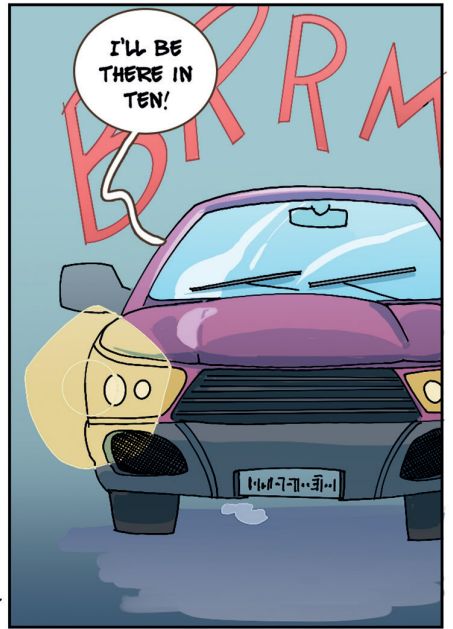
FAST!!



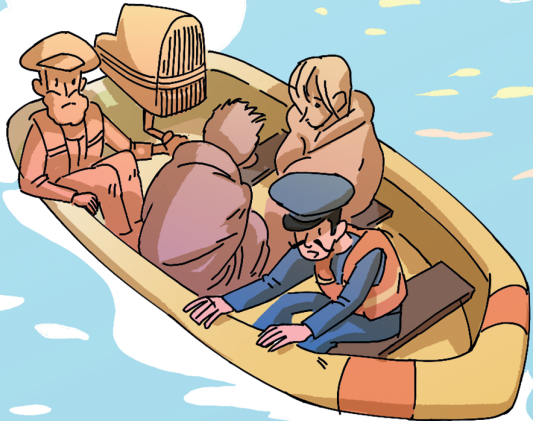
THEY BOTH FORGOT THEIR UMBRELLA!

ADULTS...





FOLLOWING THE TORRENTIAL RAINS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE RIVER POSINNO HAS GROWN TENFOLD, FLOODING THE TOWN OF LICARIONE...



...HOWEVER, THANKS TO A LAST MINUTE EVACUATION ORDER, THE WORST WAS AVOIDED AND THE FEW CITIZENS CAUGHT BY THE FLOOD'S WATERS ARE BEING RESCUED AS WE SPEAK.



THE ALARM WAS RAISED BY SCIENTISTS WHO WERE STUDYING THE ANCIENT EVOLUTION OF THE RIVER...



THE PAST CAN TEACH US MANY SECRETS. THE MORE WE UNCOVER ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR LAND, THE MORE WE SHOULD HEED ITS TEACHINGS AND USE THE KNOWLEDGE WE, SOMETIMES QUITE LITERALLY, UNEARTH.

END