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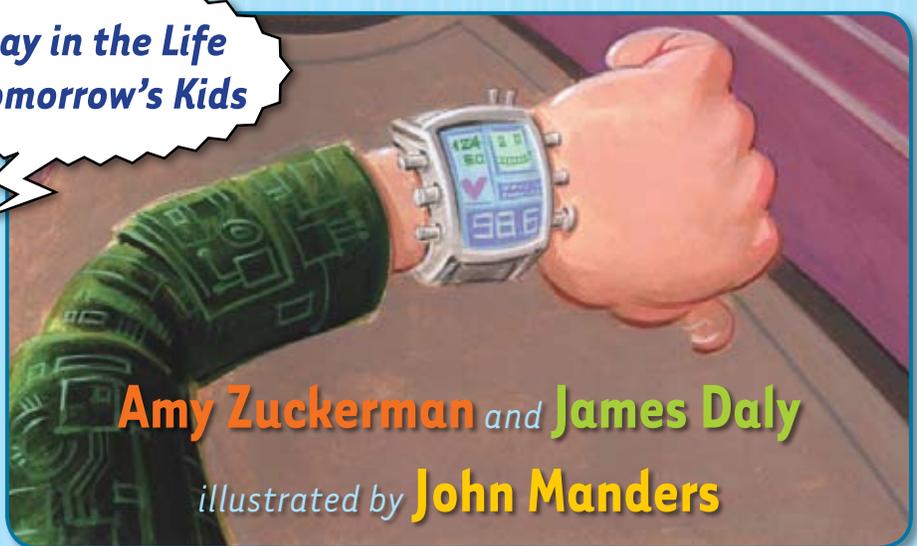


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*A Day in the Life  
of Tomorrow's Kids*



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# THINGS

It happens every day. Turn on the TV and before long there will be a commercial for something “new and improved.” Car styles change. Clothing styles change. All because people—and their tastes—change.

If you ask your parents what life was like when they were kids, you might be surprised to hear that they didn't have many of the things you enjoy today. No cell phones, computers, or DVDs. Some never had VCRs. Ask your grand-parents about their childhoods and you'll learn that some didn't even have television. They listened to programs on the radio, and their imaginations provided the pictures.



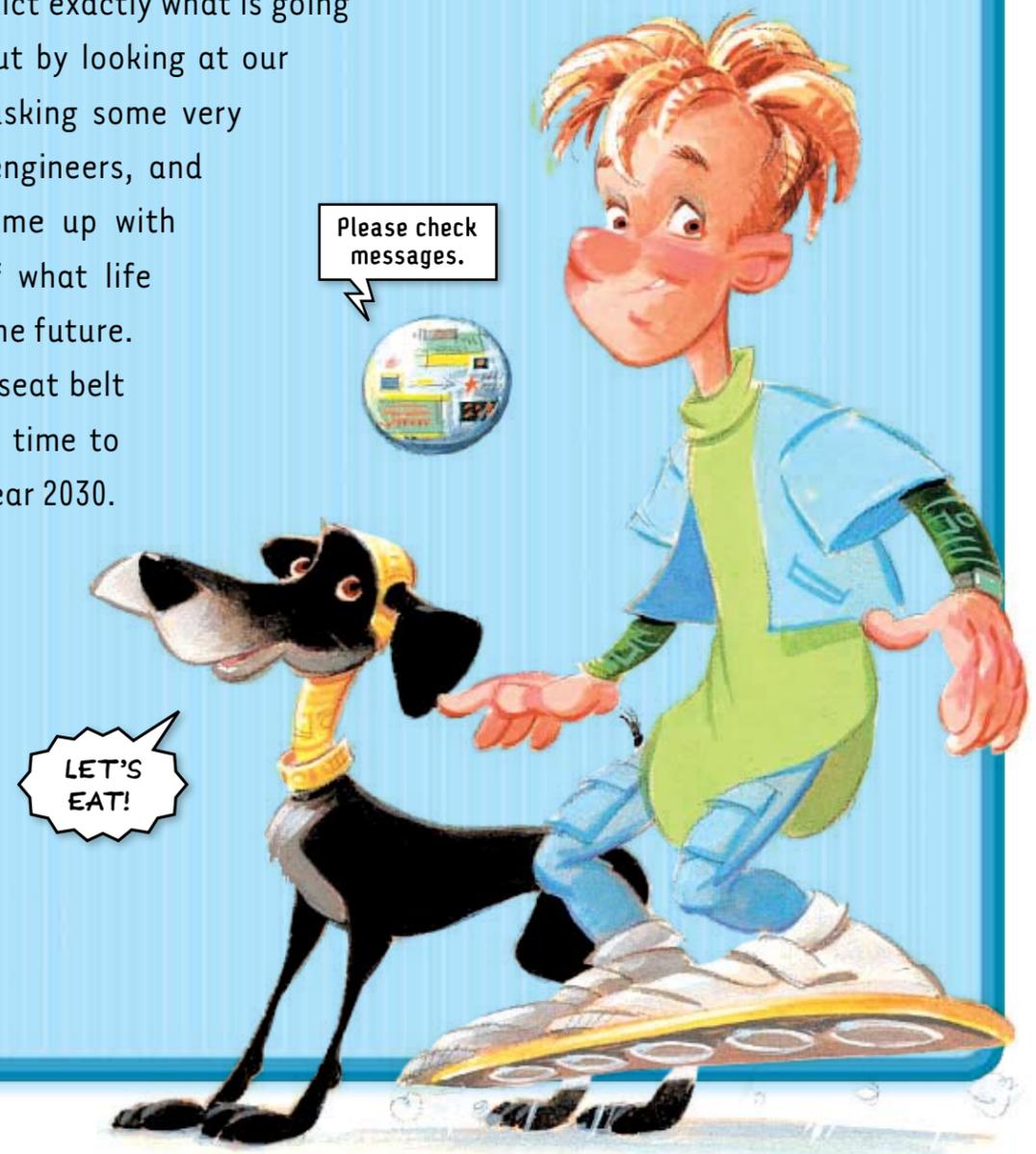
# CHANGE.

Every day, scientists, engineers, and other people with big imaginations come up with new ideas that change our daily lives. Before you know it, one of their inventions might appear in your home or school.

What will a kid's life be like many years from now? What sort of inventions will change kids' daily lives?

No one can predict exactly what is going to happen next, but by looking at our world today and asking some very smart scientists, engineers, and “futurists,” we came up with a credible idea of what life might look like in the future.

So, buckle your seat belt and get ready—it's time to take a trip to the year 2030.



Time to get dressed. Your clothes may not look much different from the clothes of today, but they will do things that today's jeans and jackets can't do. Tiny solar discs woven right into the material will store sunlight and turn it into electricity—enough to run all of your portable electronic gadgets and games.



**M**orning light splashes into your bedroom as you wake up. You yawn and stretch, then notice an orange glow coming from the glass ball that sits on your night table. Someone is trying to reach you on the data orb.

*Ooompf!* Your dog, Willie, jumps on you, barks once, and then says—in perfect English—that he wants to go for a walk. Willie isn't really talking—what you heard is a voice synthesizer attached to his collar. This little computer translates his barks and body movements into simple words and phrases that tell you when he is hungry, playful, or just wants some company.

TIME FOR  
A WALK!

Turning off Willie's speaker so you don't have to listen to him, you reach back to your data orb. An image starts taking shape. It's your friend's face looking at you—just like the witch's crystal ball in *The Wizard of Oz*. "Don't forget to meet me at the skateboard park this afternoon," he says.

The data orb is one of the ways you stay in touch with people in the year 2030. It transmits and receives three-dimensional images from all over the world, so you can see what your friend is doing, what's going on in the neighborhood, or even what's happening at school.

Yes, there's still school in 2030. Sorry!

Clothes made of special plastic conductive fibers can collect and conduct static electricity (like the spark you create when you walk across a rug). In cold weather, these fibers turn dark to collect the sun's warmth, and when it's hot, they will turn lighter in color to reflect it away from you. That means less sweating and shivering.



**M**aking breakfast is easy in 2030, because smart appliances, things like toasters and microwaves, can sense the world around them through sounds, voice, and body heat. These devices use a special computer language and wireless signals to send messages back and forth. You want your toast golden brown and eggs over easy? No problem. It's ready when you come down to breakfast.

**Beep, beep!**  
**Beep, beep!**

That's Clean-a-rella, your housecleaning robot. It can move around the house and do simple tasks like vacuuming and dusting. Housecleaning robots use artificial intelligence—computer programs that give them the ability to make decisions, just like people. Tiny sensors embedded in Clean-a-rella's cover transmit infrared light beams that bounce off objects in its path to keep it from bumping into furniture or running over toys.



Dad's already downstairs in his office. Like many workers in 2030, he runs a home-based business using the Internet, which allows people to live and work in the same place. Working out of homes saves companies the cost of maintaining big buildings that use electricity, heat, and air-conditioning. It also cuts down on pollution, because people don't have to drive their cars to work.

**T**he world outside does not look very different. There are houses and trees and the sky is still blue. But somehow, it isn't the same. For one thing, there are more kids.

In 2030, there are over six million more elementary-school kids in the USA—that means for every five, there is an extra kid. Time to get a bigger school bus! There are many more adults, too. In the United States alone there are over a half billion people; many of them are senior citizens. The odds of you celebrating someone's one-hundredth birthday are three times greater than they were thirty years ago.

Because the population is aging, there is a need for more health-care professionals. Mom's a physical therapist who works with older people at a retirement center a few blocks away. She helps them perform exercises so they can move easier and feel better.

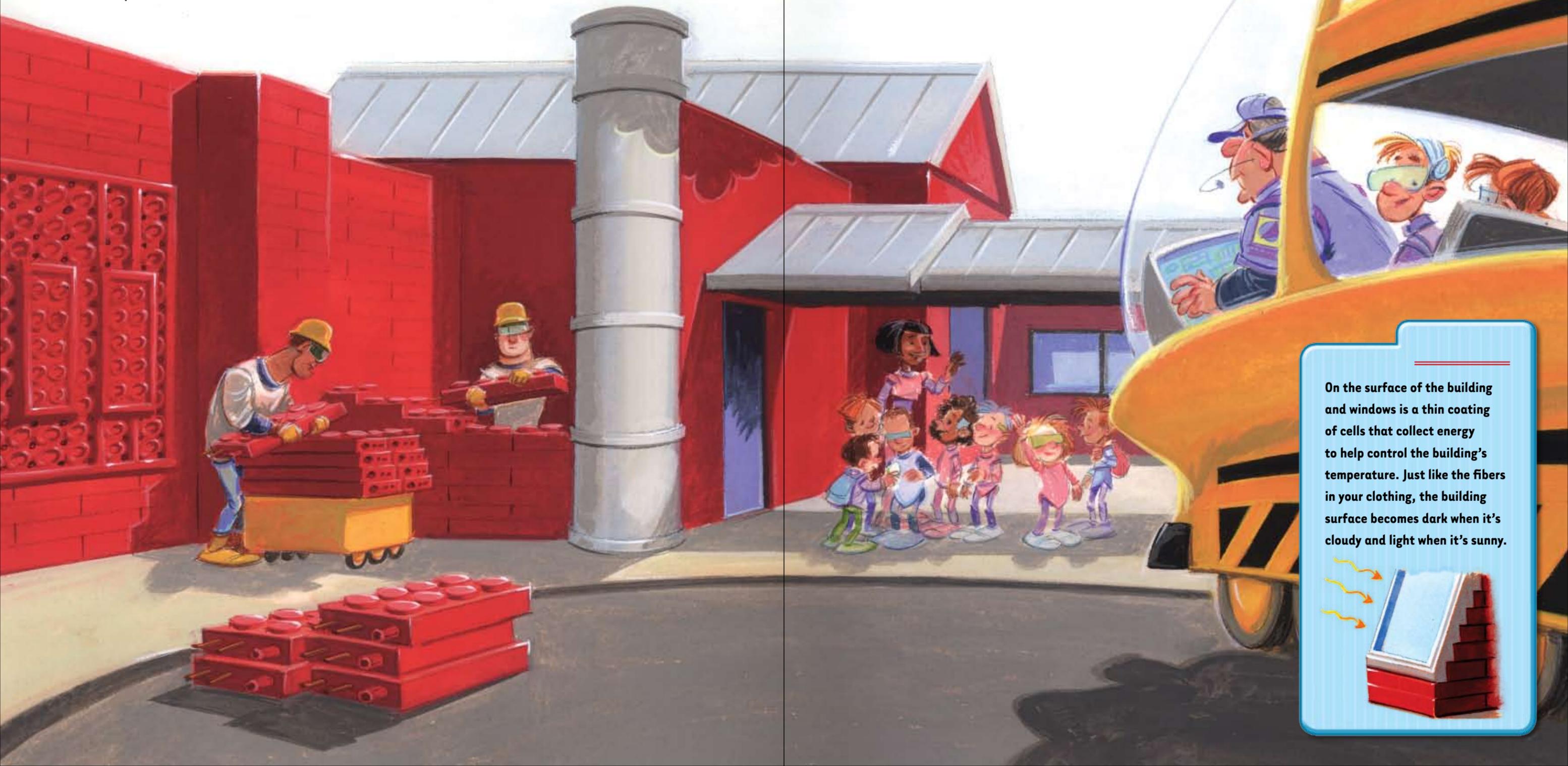


Most people live in suburbs outside the cities in areas called cluster developments. These are houses and apartments that are connected to a common yard or playground. The development in which you live is also an eco-village.

Everything in your eco-village—from the materials used to build houses to the way the lawn is maintained—is good for the earth. The water you use to wash your hands is filtered and then recycled to grow plants. The sun's rays are collected through solar discs that are built into roofs and then converted into electricity to light and cool homes. Large turbines turn wind energy into electricity, and even garbage is reused to help grow flowers and vegetables.



**B**efore long, you arrive at school. The building looks normal. But the way it's made is different. The materials used aren't wood, steel, or even plain concrete. They're special plasticized concrete blocks with built-in wiring and plumbing. They snap together just like toy bricks. You can even move the walls around to change the shape of a room.



On the surface of the building and windows is a thin coating of cells that collect energy to help control the building's temperature. Just like the fibers in your clothing, the building surface becomes dark when it's cloudy and light when it's sunny.



You learn that there are almost 800 million people living in or around the cities of Africa. That's almost the same number of people living in all of Africa at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Because so many people moved to the cities looking for jobs, there is not enough food or shelter to support the population. Many of them are young, because a terrible disease called AIDS killed so many adults in Central Africa during the early part of the century. Tomorrow you'll bring in some dried food for the class collection to the United Nations' African relief operation.

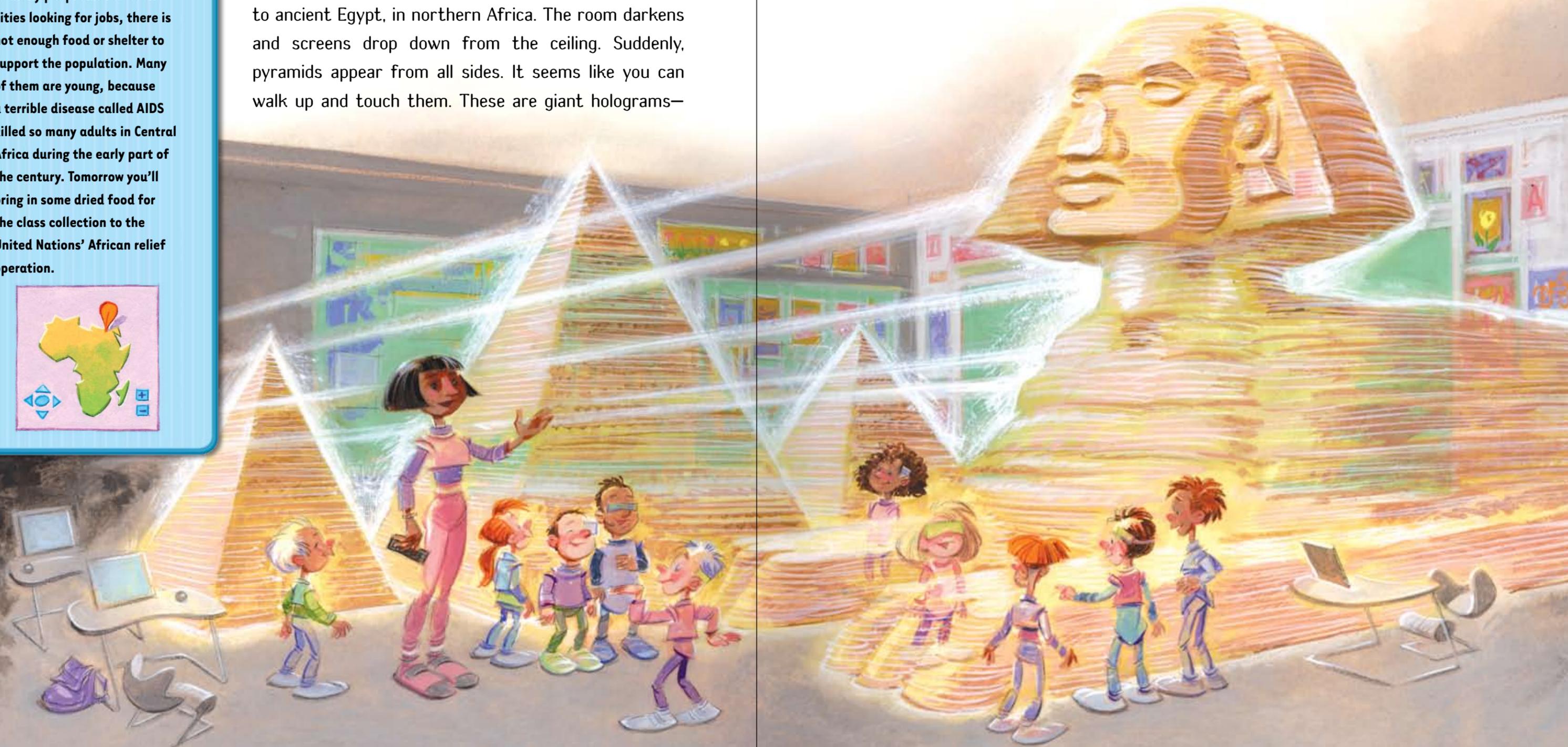


In social studies class your teacher asks you to find an article on your computer about central Africa. By 2030, the Web has become so enormous that you need a tool called a Personal Agent to help you. This humanlike three-dimensional figure asks you all sorts of questions and then gets you just what you need, sort of like your very own butler.

Your teacher announces that it's time for a "trip" to ancient Egypt, in northern Africa. The room darkens and screens drop down from the ceiling. Suddenly, pyramids appear from all sides. It seems like you can walk up and touch them. These are giant holograms—

special photographs made with the aid of a laser. When a hologram is lit in just the right way, a three-dimensional image appears.

By 2030, individual holographic images can be projected so rapidly that they appear to move. That's why you and your classmates feel as though you're traveling through the Egyptian desert and not just watching a movie.



The class down the hall is in the Multimedia Production and Research Center. The students are learning how to use a high-resolution display screen that creates clear pictures from both the front and the back. On the screen you can combine pictures, words, and video just by talking into the computer.

The kids are creating special video presentations of their families. Many of them have relatives all over the world, because in 2030 it's common for people from different countries and ethnicities to marry. One girl goes online to China and asks her dad's sister to say a few words she can record. Then she reaches her mom's cousin in the Dominican Republic, who agrees to transmit some video clips and native music. When the teacher signals, she pushes the Present button and the room is filled with pictures and sounds.

