

# THE ADVENTURES OF **HYDRANT HANK**

AND THE BROKEN FIRE HYDRANTS





This comic is the third in a series of comic books created by First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group to teach students in grade 3-6 about the Superheroes that make and keep our water safe to use.

PDF copies of this booklet and other educational materials are available from TSAG.

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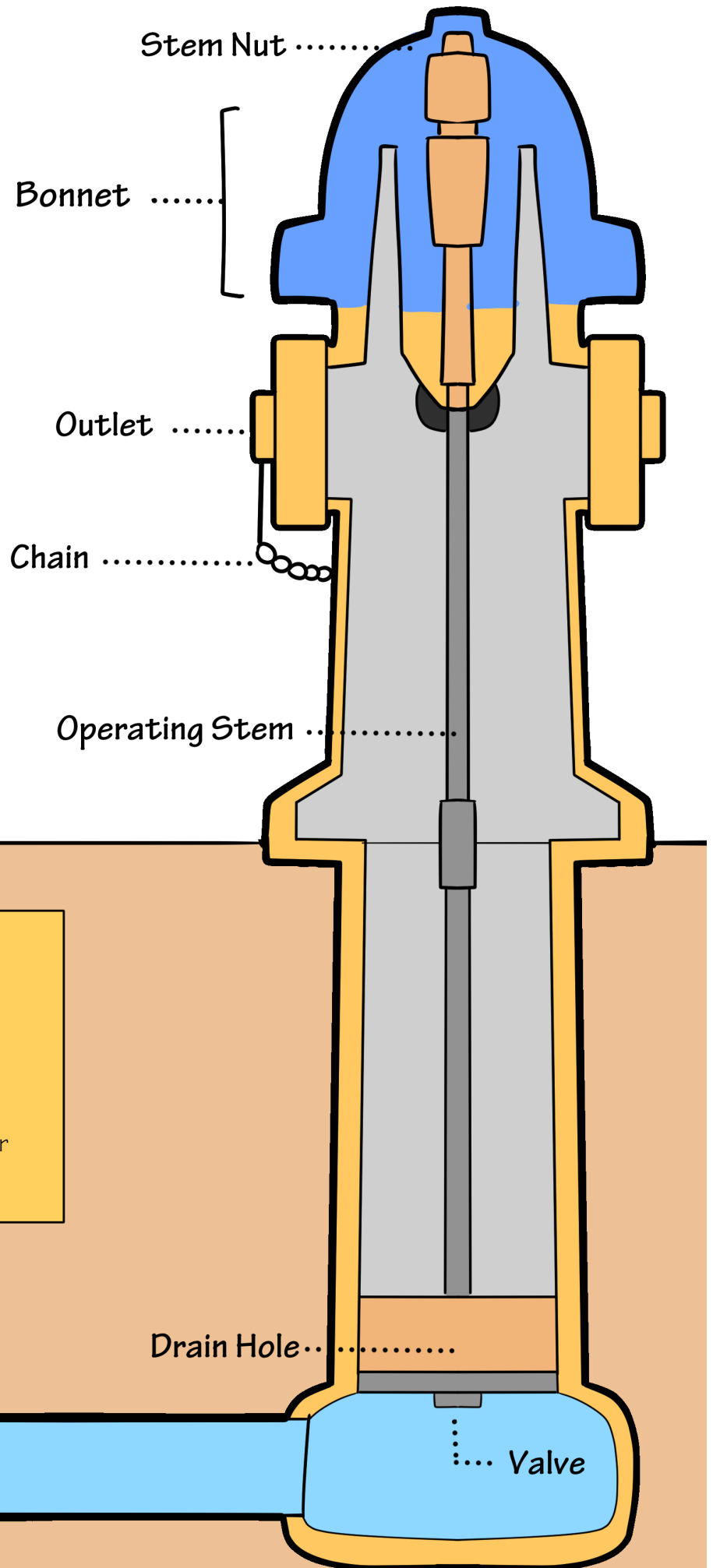
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In Canada we use a fire hydrant called a “dry barrel hydrant”. These hydrants are connected to a communities water distribution system (pipes) and store water below the ground so that the water won't freeze. When fire fighters need to use a dry barrel hydrant, they open the hydrant by turning a operating nut on the top of the hydrant. This causes a valve to open in the bottom of the hydrant and water flows out. Then they close the hydrant and connect their hose and open it again.



These hydrants have parts that are made to break if something hits them. This protects the rest of the hydrant.

In the movies, sometimes you see water shooting out of the hydrant when a car hits it. Those hydrants are called wet barrel hydrants and are only used in warmer climates where it doesn't freeze.

Alberta winters have lots of snow. To keep the roads safe snowplows move the snow either to the side of the roads or dump it into trucks that take it to unused spaces like empty parking lots.

A community will sometimes put flags in the ground to mark where the hydrants is, so people don't drive into them. It also helps the Public Works Department find them so they can clear away the snow from around the hydrant. But sometimes this doesn't happen.....





Last week after a snowstorm in H2O Joes community, the grader had to come and clear away all the snow so that people could go to work, and the children could go to school. The snow was 6 feet high, and the grader driver didn't see the fire hydrants. He accidentally hit the two hydrants in front of the elementary school and knocked them over.





Seriously, How did that happen?

The snow was piled up real high and there were no flags to show where the hydrants were. It looks like no one has cleared away the snow from them for a while.

Uh boss, I just kinda hit a couple of fire hydrants with the grader and knocked 'em over.



*\*Sighs*  
I hope this isn't an expensive fix...

Thanks for reporting it. I will call H2O Joe! He'll know what to do.



Morning, Joe

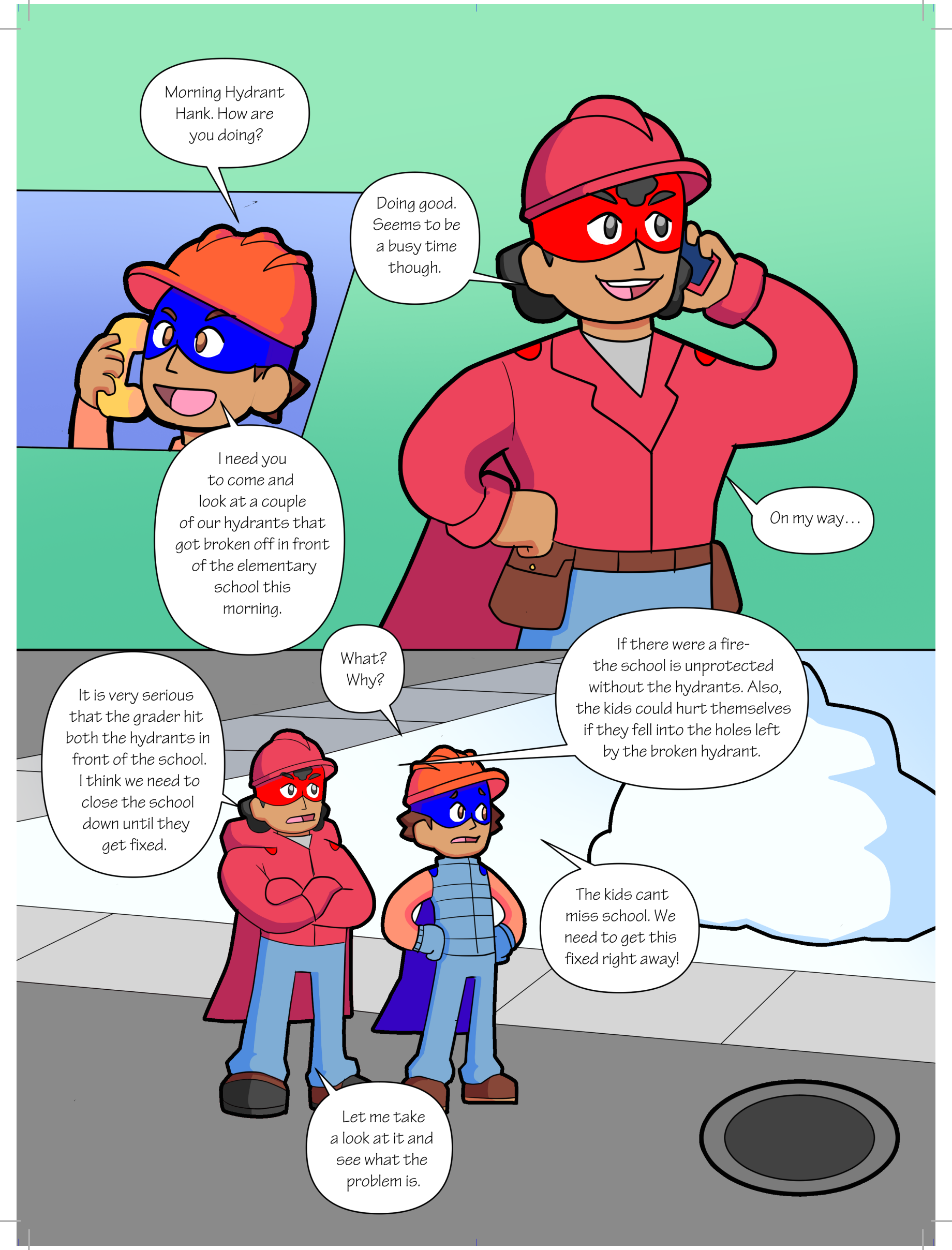
How's it going Public Works Paul?

Not great. One of our graders just knocked over the 2 fire hydrants in front of the school. The snow was piled high and there weren't any flags to show where the hydrants were either.

Wow, what a mess. I will call in Hydrant Hank to help with this.







Morning Hydrant Hank. How are you doing?

Doing good. Seems to be a busy time though.

I need you to come and look at a couple of our hydrants that got broken off in front of the elementary school this morning.

On my way...

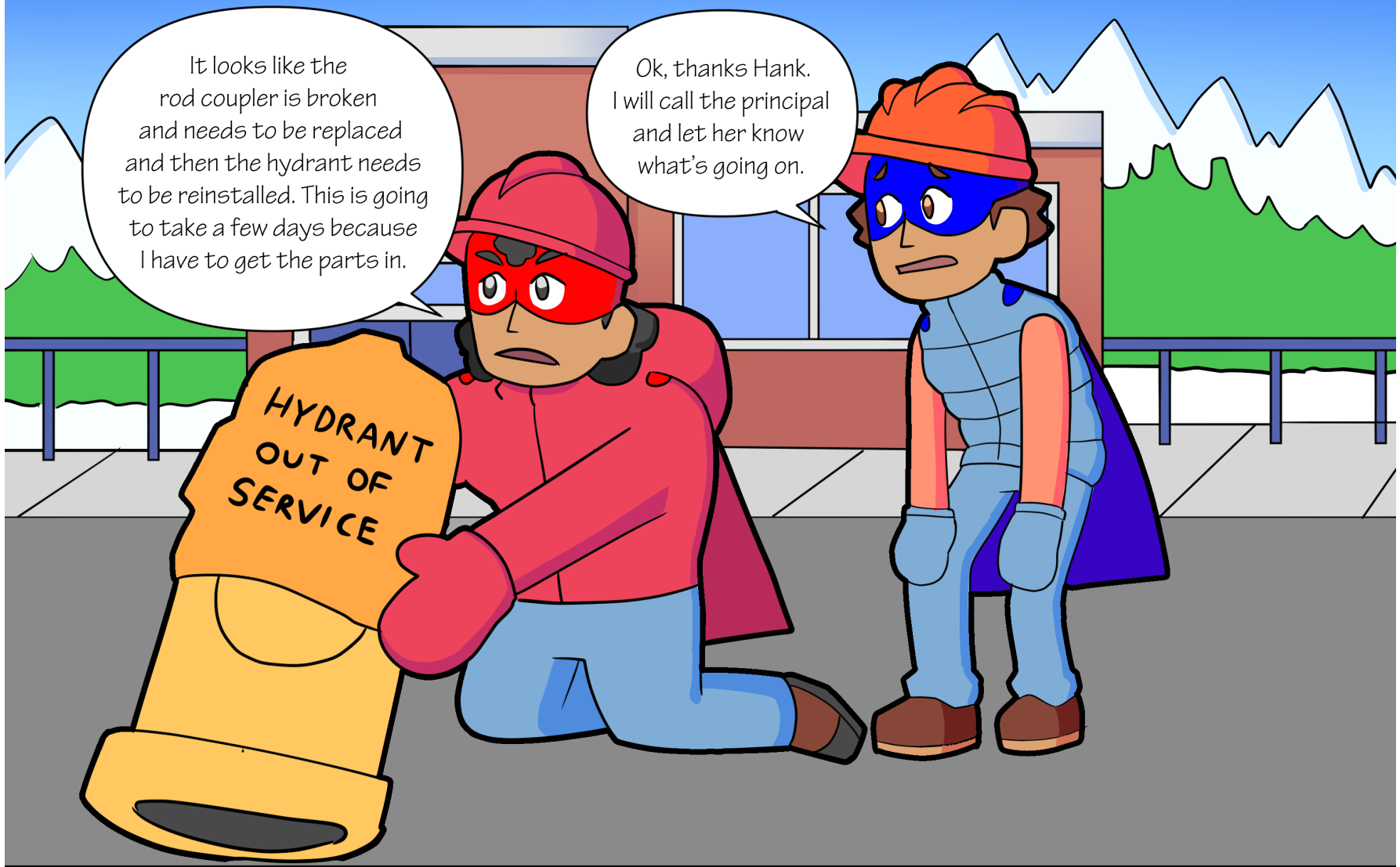
It is very serious that the grader hit both the hydrants in front of the school. I think we need to close the school down until they get fixed.

What? Why?

If there were a fire- the school is unprotected without the hydrants. Also, the kids could hurt themselves if they fell into the holes left by the broken hydrant.

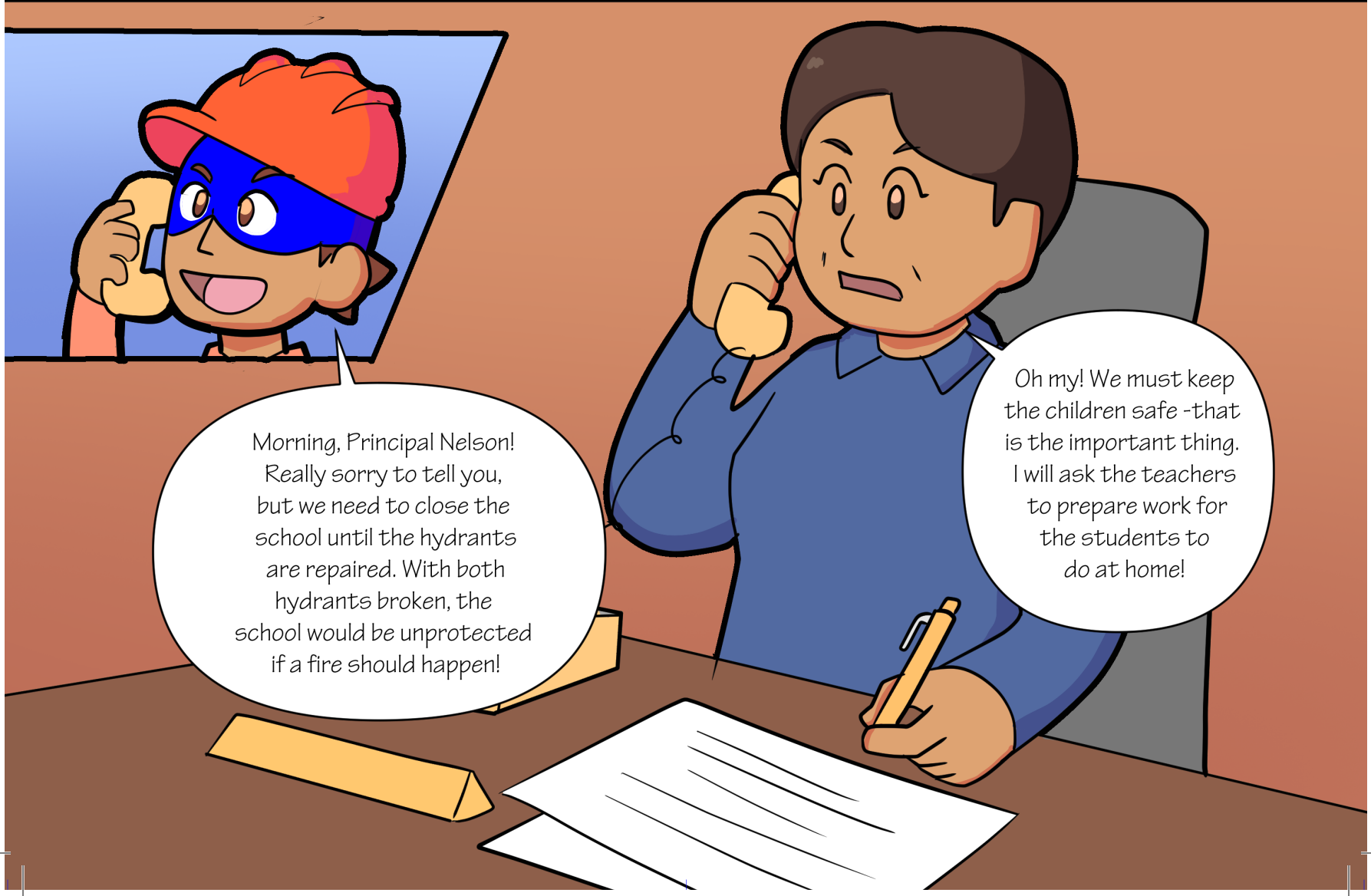
The kids cant miss school. We need to get this fixed right away!

Let me take a look at it and see what the problem is.



It looks like the rod coupler is broken and needs to be replaced and then the hydrant needs to be reinstalled. This is going to take a few days because I have to get the parts in.

Ok, thanks Hank. I will call the principal and let her know what's going on.

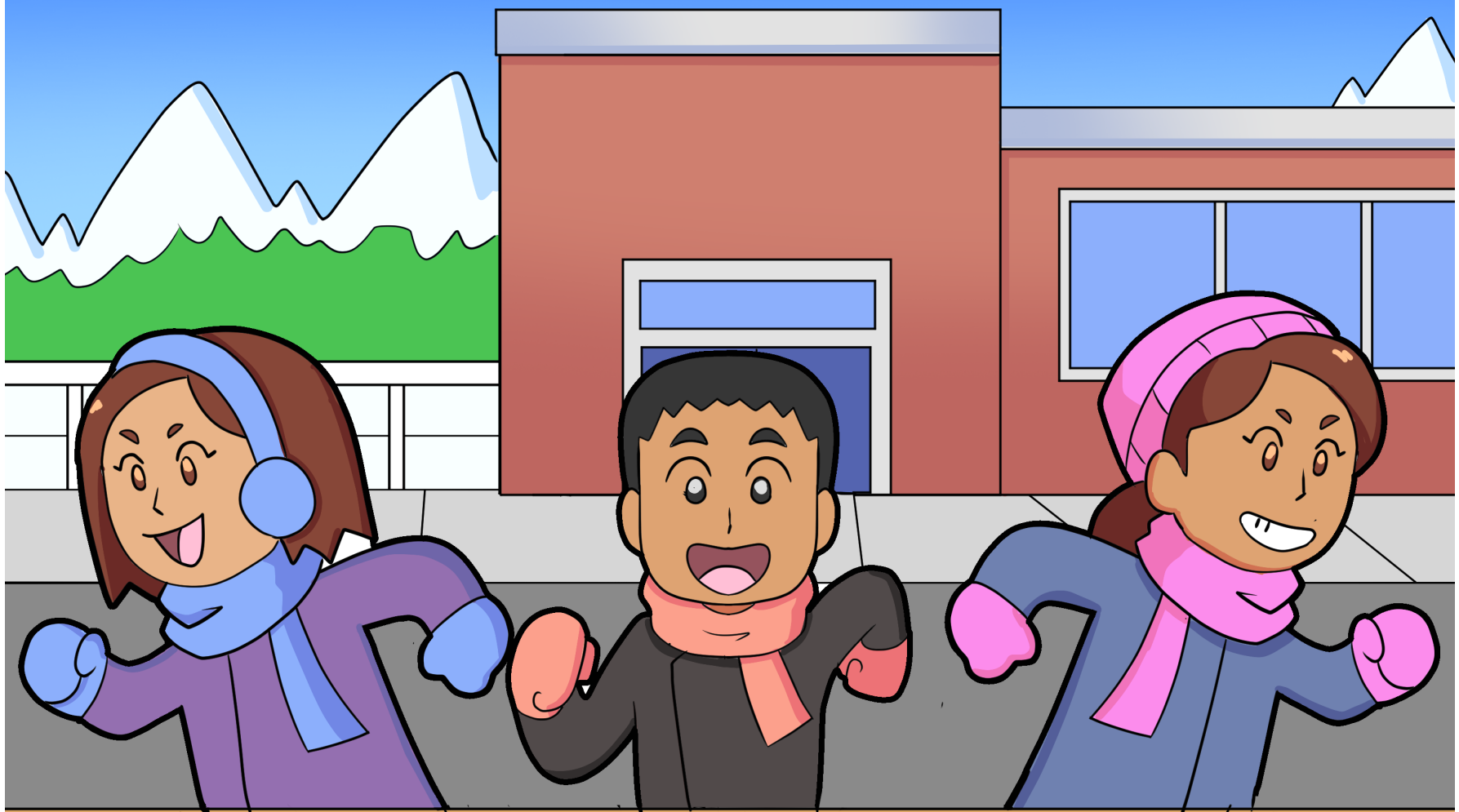


Morning, Principal Nelson! Really sorry to tell you, but we need to close the school until the hydrants are repaired. With both hydrants broken, the school would be unprotected if a fire should happen!

Oh my! We must keep the children safe -that is the important thing. I will ask the teachers to prepare work for the students to do at home!




The children when they found out the school was closing.




The children when they had to do their schoolwork from home.





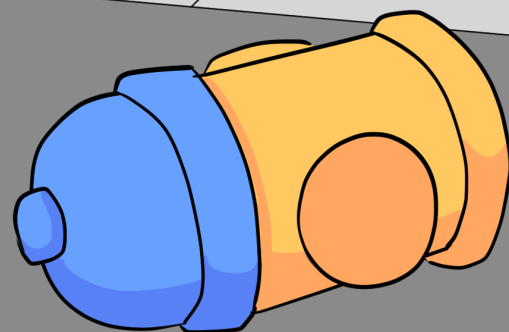
Hey H2O Joe.  
I just got the parts  
in that I need. I can  
meet you any time and  
fix the hydrant.



Great news Hydrant Hank.  
I think the kids are pretty bored  
at home without their friends, and  
some parents have had to stay  
home from work to look after  
their younger children.

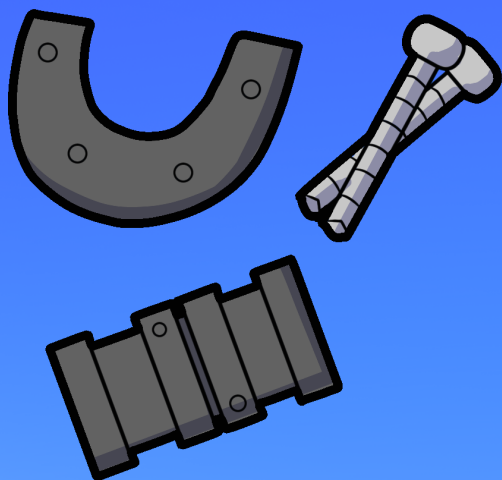
How will you  
fix it Hank?

I need to remove the  
hydrant tops and use my  
traffic repair kit to replace  
the parts. Then I need  
to reinstall the hydrants  
back into position.





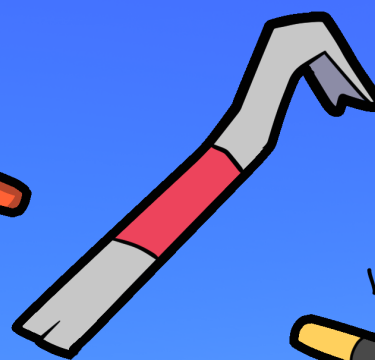
Traffic Repair Kit



Wrench



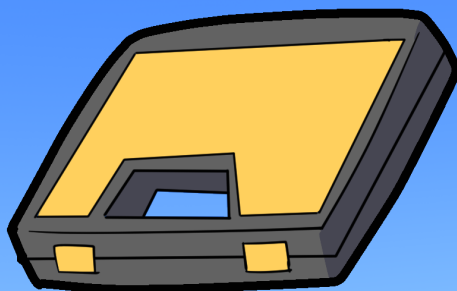
Pry Bar



Valve Key




Socket Set



Anything I can  
do to help?

Nope- handing me the tools  
will help me go faster though.  
Once I get this repaired, I  
need to test it to make  
sure it doesn't leak.





Why are you  
doing it that  
way?

Its easier to this  
way and safer. The fire  
hydrant barrel weighs  
almost 200 pounds.



Okay H2O Joe.  
Its time to test and  
see if there are any  
leaks. Stand clear.

It looks like  
it is working properly ,  
H2O Joe.

Great! I will call the  
principal and let  
her know

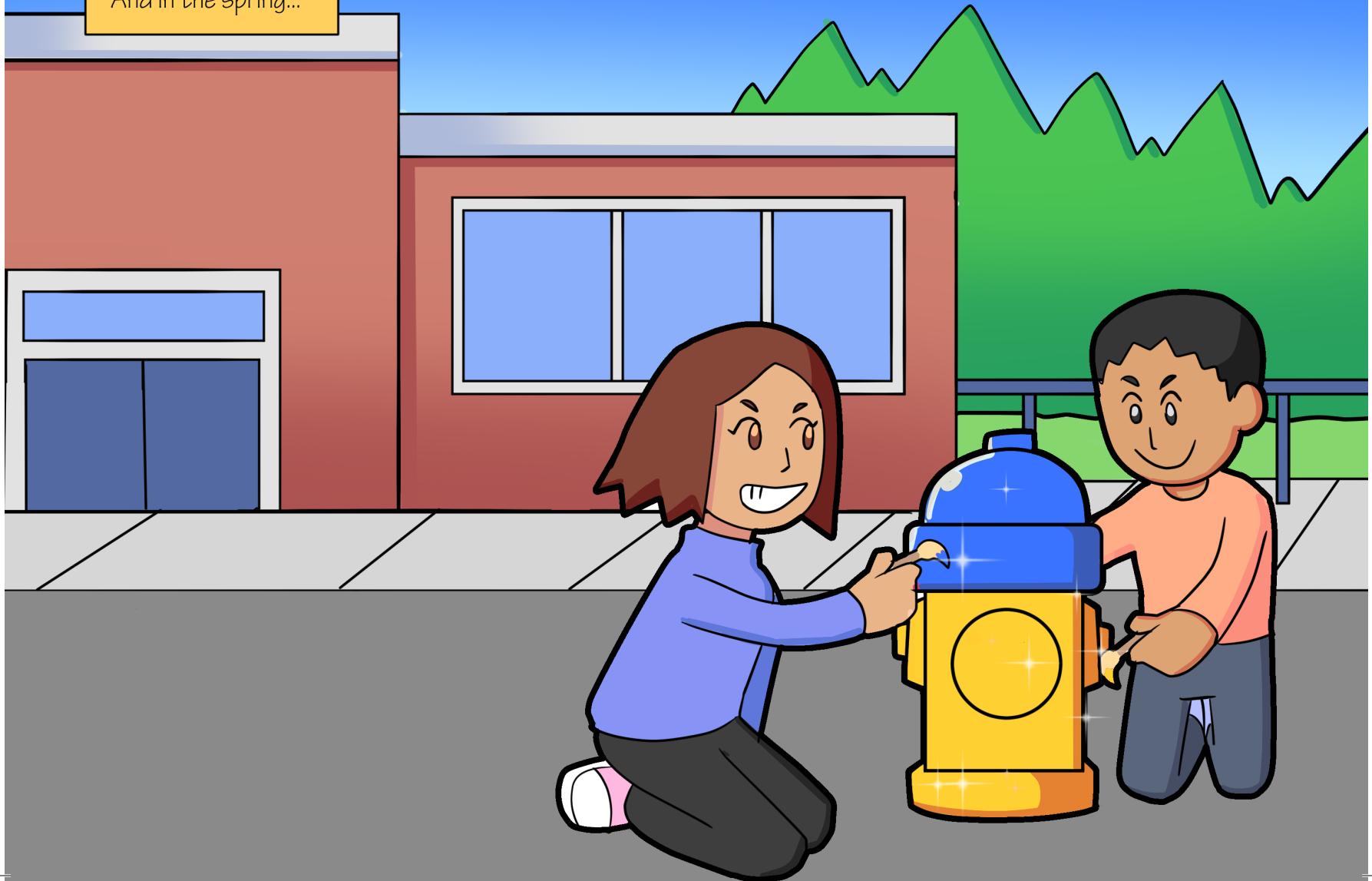




The children had lots of fun pretend skating on the water that HydrantHank released when he tested the hydrant



And in the spring...



# Tear-Out Page:

## Hydrant Hank



Tear-Out Page:

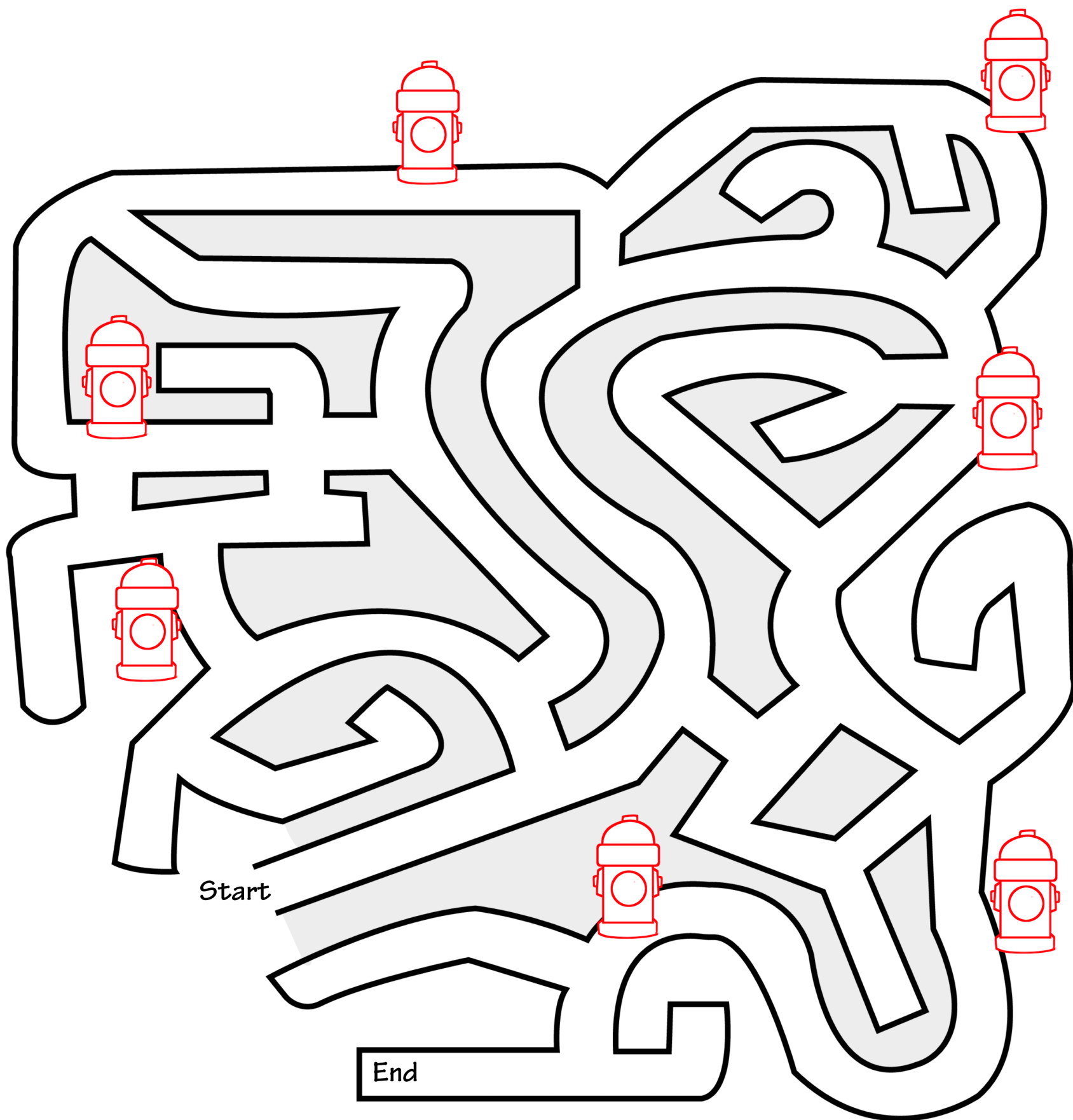
H2O Joe



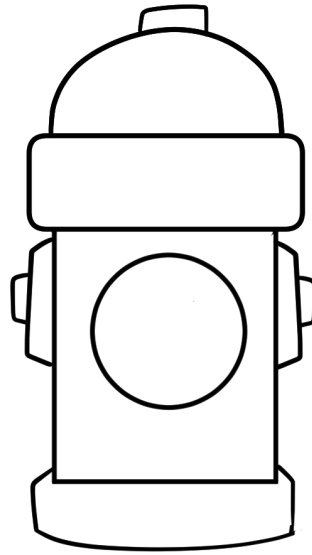


## Home Activity:

Connect all the fire hydrants in the water distribution system.



# For Parents and Teachers: Fire Hydrant Facts



## Fire Hydrant Facts

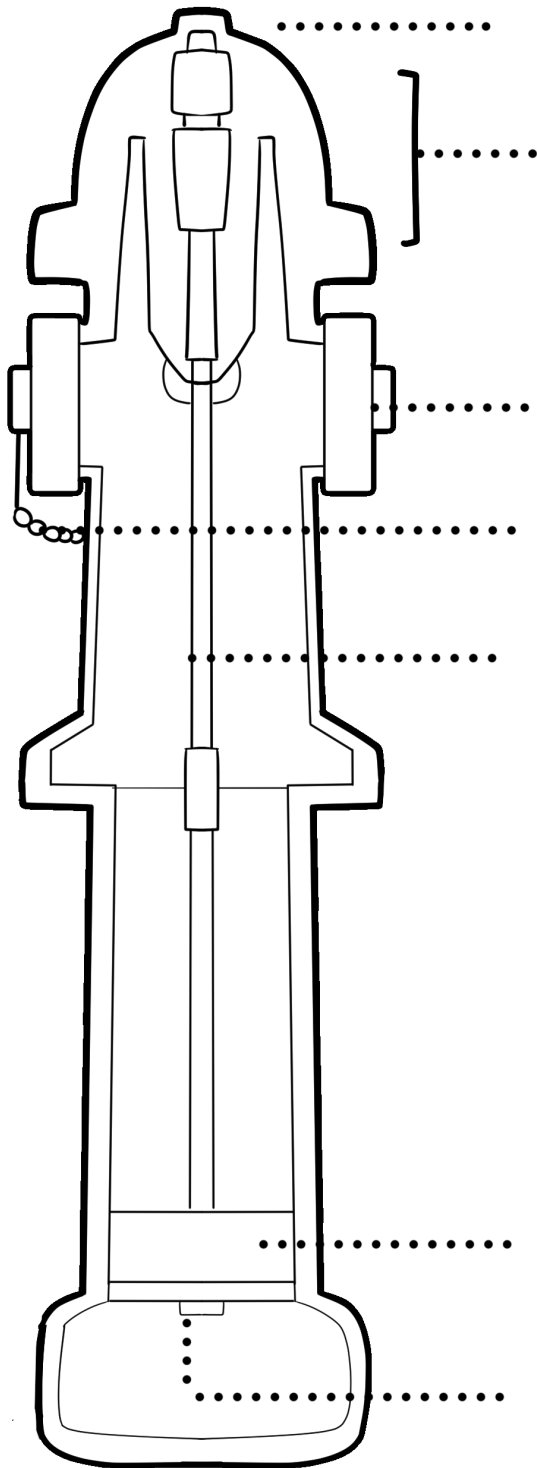
- Covering up a fire hydrant with snow makes it hard for the firefighters to see it when they need it. Always shovel around the hydrant in your neighborhoods.
- Park at least 5 meters from a fire hydrant.
- In the summer ensure that there is at least 2 meters clearance around the fire hydrant.

## Activities you can do with your students or children

- Walk through your community and count the number of fire hydrants and make a list of the colors you see. Look for leaks and see if the hydrant has been serviced. Are they missing any parts (such as fire hydrant nozzle caps)?
- It is very important that nothing such as rocks are inserted into fire hydrants. because It can damage the hydrant and firefighters will not be able to open it during a fire.
- Ask your child to tell their teacher what they found, and she or he can report the problems to the public works department.
- Ask your child to compare their numbers with their friends to see if they got the same number.

# Colouring Activity:

## Colour and label the Fire Hydrant!



### Fun Facts About Fire Hydrants

1. The city of Calgary has more than 16,000 fire hydrants.
2. Fire hydrants are not just used for fighting fires, they are also used for flushing out the water system (to make sure the water is clean).
3. Fire hydrant bonnets can be different colors. The colors tell the firefighters how much pressure the water in the hydrant has.
4. Before there were fire hydrants, people used to form "bucket brigades" to put out fires. People would form a line and pass buckets of water from one person to the next. The final person in the line would use the water to help put out the fire.
5. The water lines that run underground used to be made of hollowed out logs. If there was a fire, the firefighters had to drill a hole in the logs to get the water.
6. Some countries don't have fire hydrants that are above the ground. The hydrants are below the ground and have a metal plate that covers them.

### Terms:

Bonnet

Stem Nut

Chain

Valve

Outlet

Drain Hole

Operating Stem





See you again for H2O Joe's next adventure!