

this is the worst **assignment ever!** I'm **supposed to think up** a story, write it, and illustrate it **by** tomorrow -- **do I look** like a novelist? this is impossible! I can't **tell** stories! -- **what about** your explanation of the **noodle incident?** -- that wasn't a story! that was the unvarnished truth! -- oh, don't be so **modest.** you **deserved** a pulitzer.

do you have **an** idea for your story yet? -- no, I'm waiting for inspiration. -- you can't just turn on creativity **like a faucet.** you **have to be in** the right mood. -- what mood **is that?** -- **last minute panic.**

**if you ask me,** these assignments don't teach you **how to** write. they teach you how to hate to write. -- **deadlines,** rules how to do it, grades ... how can you be creative when someone's **breathing down your neck?** -- **I guess** you should try **not to** think about the **end result too** much and just **have fun with** the process of creating. -- **every time I do** that, I **end up** in the school psychologist's office. -- well, maybe not **that much** fun.

**say,** I've got an idea! -- for your story? -- no, I **thought of a way I won't have to** write **one!** -- oh no. -- **hop in** the time machine, hobbes! we're going a few hours into the future! **I'll have finished** my story **by then,** so we'll just **pick it up** and bring it back to the present! **that way** I won't have to write it! -- something **doesn't make sense** here, and I think it's **me sitting** in this box. -- **relax!** we'll be back **as soon as** we go.

vortex goggles **on? here we go!** -- we'll jump **ahead** to my bedtime and pick up my **completed** homework from my own future! -- then we'll return and we can **goof off** the rest of the evening! -- here we are! you must be the 8:30 calvin. -- **did you have** a good trip? -- no. -- pst! why do you always go on these things?

greetings, 8:30 calvin and hobbes! I'm 6:30 calvin and this is 6:30 hobbes! -- charmed. -- well, **since** we're you from the past, **I suppose** you know why we're here. did you **do** your homework? -- me? no. -- no?! why not? -- because two hours ago I went to the future **to get** it. -- yeah, and here I am! where is it? -- **that's what** I said two hours ago! -- I knew this **would never work**. -- **right as always**, hobbes.

**do you mean to say** it's time for bed and you still **haven't written** our story for school?! -- I **figured** the story was already done! -- how **could it be done** if you didn't write it?! -- **obviously** it **had to be done** before now because it's 8:30 and **I'm supposed to be** in bed. -- wait a minute! if the story **had been written** in your past, that would mean I **should have written** it! -- well, why **didn't you**? -- because I came to the future to pick it up **when it was done**! -- if you **hadn't screwed up** my past, your future wouldn't be like this.

**hold it**. let's **figure this out**. I'm you at 6:30 and you're me at 8:30. **neither** of us did the homework. -- right. -- that means the homework **should have been done** between my time and your time. -- right, **we needed to do** it at 7:30. -- but the 7:30 calvin **clearly** didn't do it, **or** you'd have it now at 8:30. -- yeah. this is his fault! -- that lazy little **punk**! he'll **get us both in trouble**! let's **go get him**!

hobbesses, the 8:30 calvin **and I** are going to go back to 7:30 and **make THAT calvin do** the homework. -- we'll wait here. all this time travel **makes us queasy**. -- we'll **be right back**. - **off we go!** -- this has to be the **least efficient way to write a paper**. -- all this modern technology just **makes people try** to do everything **at once**.

ah ha! here we are, right at 7:30! -- **yikes!** my past and future! -- **put down** that comic book and do our homework! -- yeah! **get to work**, you **loafer!** -- hey! why should I do all the work? **either** of you could do it too! -- but I didn't at 6:30 and now it's 7:30. -- and at 8:30 it will be **too late**. you're the last chance. -- now are you gonna start writing, or **do we have to pound** you? -- **go ahead and** hit me! my future self will be **the one who hurts!**

you know, hobbes, if the 7:30 calvin **is at all like** the 6:30 and 8:30 calvins, **I'll bet** he isn't going to write the story. -- you're right, hobbes. -- **why don't we** write a story **while we're waiting** for them? -- yeah! calvin could use it for his class **then**. -- I'll **write it down** and you can illustrate it! -- ok, now what should our story be **about?** -- calvin's not here. let's write about him! -- hoo hoo! drawing calvin is easy! **you** just make a big mouth and add some hair!

look, guys, you can't **gang up on** me! -- **oh yeah?** why not? -- because we're all the same calvin! **in** one hour, the 6:30 calvin will be me and in another hour we'll both be the 8:30 calvin! -- that means you guys will have to suffer **whatever** you do to me. -- oh yeah. -- **oops**. -- **whose dumb** idea was it **anyway?** his?!

we're back but we didn't get the homework. -- now it's 8:30 again and we're **doomed**. -- **here you go! hobbes and I** wrote a story for you while you were **gone!** -- **you did?!** -- ha ha! we're **all done!** we can go back to 6:30 now! thanks, hobbesses! you guys are **life-savers!** -- calvin? -- it's mom! hurry! hobbes, get in! -- we'll be you in a couple hours! **so long!** -- aren't you in bed **yet?** -- don't come in! I'm, uh, **changing into** my PJs.

did you write your story for class tomorrow? -- **sort of.** -- **what do you mean**, sort of? -- well, hobbes helped and I had to **do** a lot of time traveling. -- is your story written or not? -- oh, it's written. I just **haven't read** it.

all right, calvin, **go ahead**. what's your story about? -- I don't know but I'm sure it's good. my story is entitled „how hobbes, the handsome tiger, **saves the day... no thanks to** calvin, the time traveling chowderhead. WHAT?!“ -- **is there a** problem? -- **there will be** for a certain stripey furball **when I get home**.

OK, YOU! -- me? -- this story you wrote is about **me trying** to **get out of writing** the story! you **made** my time traveling sound like lunacy! and the illustration! you drew **the three of me** fighting! I was the **laughing stock** of the whole class! -- what grade did I get? -- um... a+. she wrote, „very creative. the tiger narration was a clever touch. I'm glad you're finally **applying yourself.**“ **BUT EVEN SO!!** -- a+?? maybe I should send this to the new yorker.