

LAURIE Do you want to read it now?

JAKE No, I'm not good at it. I like numbers better.

Jake opens the comic to a certain place and hands it to her; he joins in at points.

'When mild mannered Clark Kent'.

LAURIE 'When mild mannered Clark Kent walked into the Daily Planet the next morning: "Clark, where have you been?"

"Geewillakers, Mr. Kent you should've seen it! The Metropolis Subway water main was blown up! Thank goodness Superman arrived and got everyone out alive."

"Yes, thank goodness for Superman. You must have slept through the whole thing, Clark."

"Yes, I suppose I must have, Lois."

~~JAKE 'Yes, I suppose I must have, Lois.'~~

START

LAURIE 'Lois'. I bet that's a word you could read. It's spelled L-O-I

JAKE 12, 15, 9, 19.

LAURIE What?

JAKE 12, 15, 9, 19. 'Lois'.

LAURIE Is that a Superman code or something?

JAKE Superman's secret power.

LAURIE Secret power? I don't get it.

JAKE The letters.

LAURIE The letters?

JAKE In the word.

LAUIRE In the word 'Lois'?

JAKE Definitely.

LAURIE Wait a minute. Those numbers are 'Lois'?

JAKE Definitely.

LAURIE No way. What was the first number again?

JAKE 12.

LAURIE Twelve. 12 is... 'L'?

JAKE The twelfth letter of the alphabet.

She quickly counts on her fingers to the letter 'L'

LAURIE And 'O'...

JAKE Fifteenth letter of the alphabet.

LAURIE *(counts out three more letters; looks at the comic)* What about... 'Clark'?

JAKE 3, 12, 1, 18, 11.

LAURIE *(she looks at the comic)* What about 'Geewillikers'?

JAKE 7, 5, 5, 23, 9, 12, 12, 9, 11, 5, 18, 19.

LAURIE *(astounded)* What about my name?

No response

Can you do 'Laurie'?

JAKE That's not in the comics. It's only words I see in the comics.

END

~~LAURIE What about if I write it down so you can see it like the words in the comics?~~

~~JAKE I'm not sure.~~

~~Laurie writes her name and shows it to Jake; he looks at it for only a second.~~

~~JAKE 12, 1, 21, 18, 9, 5.~~

Diane enters.

DIANE I thought you were almost ready!

SIMON I am.

DIANE C'mon Simon, you know I have an early committee meeting. By the time I load my exams in the car and the traffic at the rotary --

SIMON Almost done.

DIANE Jake?

~~*She and Jake share their habitual thumbs up; Diane leaves.*~~

START

SIMON ~~*(to audience)* Me on the other hand -- I'm terrible with numbers -- just ask my math teacher, Mr. Pythagoras. And I suck at drawing. My art teacher will tell you that. But spelling? P-Y-T-H-A-G-O-R-A-S: Pythagoras. I won two spelling bees a couple of years ago. Mom says he got the numbers and I got the letters.~~

JAKE THE UNTOLD STORY OF SUPERMAN'S POWERS I CAN'T FIND IT IT'S LOST WHERE IS IT WHERE IS IT WHERE IS IT??!!!!

SIMON *(to himself)* Uh oh. *(sense of urgency)* It's okay, we'll find it...

Simon searches, Jake, so agitated and in distress he cannot help, jumping up and down with his hands over his ears, repeating 'WHERE IS IT!' over and over. Simon accidentally gets too close to Jake.

JAKE NOT SO CLOSE PLEASE NOT SO CLOSE!!!!!!

SIMON Sorry...

He coaches Jake.

Remember your social story: 'When I'm upset I take deep breaths.'

Jake tries to take deep breaths.

JAKE When I'm upset, I take deep breaths.

Jake continues to take deep breaths, perhaps referencing an 'emotion thermometer' drawing on the wall. Simon finds the comic and gives it to Jake; he calms somewhat.

SIMON Two more.

Jake slowly calms. This should not be rushed; rather a sense of having to travel a distance to get close to the green 'calm' bulb point on the thermometer.

SIMON Okay?

Jake takes one more breath.

JAKE Okay.

END

~~*Jake systematically and meticulously places the comic and other items in his knapsack.*~~

SIMON *(to the audience)* It's Autism. Every kid with Autism is different, but for him if things change or go wrong; unexpected stuff happens; loud noises; bright lights; even if you touch him, he loses it. I know it's not his fault but sometimes? It really sucks.

Diane enters.

DIANE Simon!

Simon gets dressing.

All set, Boy Wonder?

JAKE Definitely.

DIANE *(spots Jake's newest drawing; quietly enthusiastic)* Jake, it's remarkable! I love the shading on the cupola.

SIMON *(to the audience)* C-U-P-O-L-A. Means roof or something.

JAKE We have to go now - I don't want to be late!

DIANE *(gently)* Remember.

JAKE *(calm and focused toward her even if there is no eye contact)* I don't want to be late.