

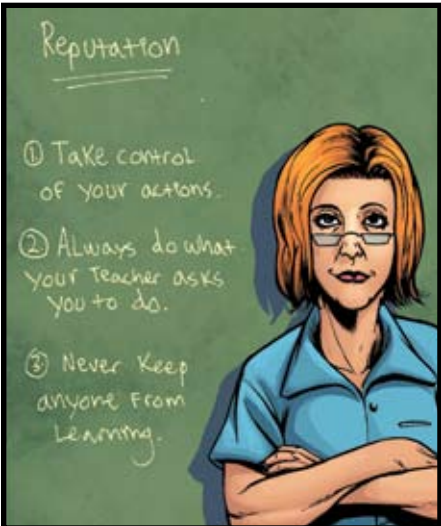
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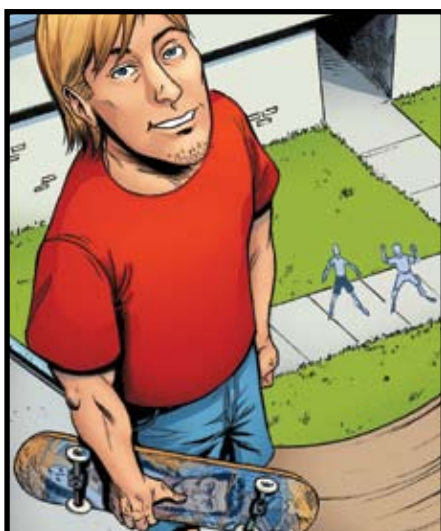
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Is It Worth the Risk?

Chapter 1

Rob was a young man who loved adventure. He loved for things to be thrilling and fun. His favorite teacher, Mrs. Allison, always had to keep an eye on him. Rob's dad had changed jobs, so he had changed schools before, but he would always remember Mrs. Allison. He thought she had eyes in the back of her head. However, if it



had not been for those eyes, there is no telling what he might have done. Rob's mother thought he was born with a sense of joy in doing new things. She liked to tell a story about Rob when he was two and a half years old.

Rob's parents were entertaining guests in the living room. Rob escaped out the back door. He climbed the trellis on the side of the house. He walked across the roof and yelled down the chimney, "Mommy, can you hear me?"

His parents could hear him giggling and laughing.

They freaked out and ran outside to find him. They arrived in time to see little Rob run across the roof, leap from the house, and land in his sandbox. He barely missed the metal toy trucks buried in the sand.

His dad rushed over, grabbed him up, and checked to see if he still had all his fingers and toes. "I think he is all right," he said with a sigh of relief. At that moment, his mom went into a faint and fell to the ground!



Chapter 2

As Rob was growing up, it was plain to see he had a love for things that were exciting. He got a kick out of doing things most others would be afraid to do. His mother, however, had to see a doctor to try to stop the fainting spells.



When Rob was four, he jumped on his tricycle and chased after the garbage truck for several blocks because he wanted to be a truck driver.

At six, he tried to capture poisonous snakes to take to the zoo keeper.

At ten, he skateboarded down the cement ramp on the sides of Interstate Highway 212.

Some other “fun” things Rob liked to do as he grew up included jumping from the railroad bridge to the creek below and playing matador with the big bull in the neighbor’s field.

He loved to race on his motorcycle but never wore a helmet. He did rock climbing without safety equipment and practiced bungee jumping from the top of the cliff. The list went on and on.



Chapter 3

A lot of these things would have been okay if Rob had used a little common sense. He didn't have any fear in his body, and he forgot that safety should always come first.

Rob's job coach at his new school, Ms. Thomas, helped him get a job at The Sports Store. It was the kind of job Rob really liked because he was surrounded by all the kinds of things he loved doing.

He had trouble at work, though, because he kept doing risky things while on the job. The final straw came when he was supposed to be stocking shelves. He decided he would jump from one shelf to another.

He was having a great time until he jumped a little short on the last shelf. He had to grab on with his fingertips. The shelf started swaying back and forth.

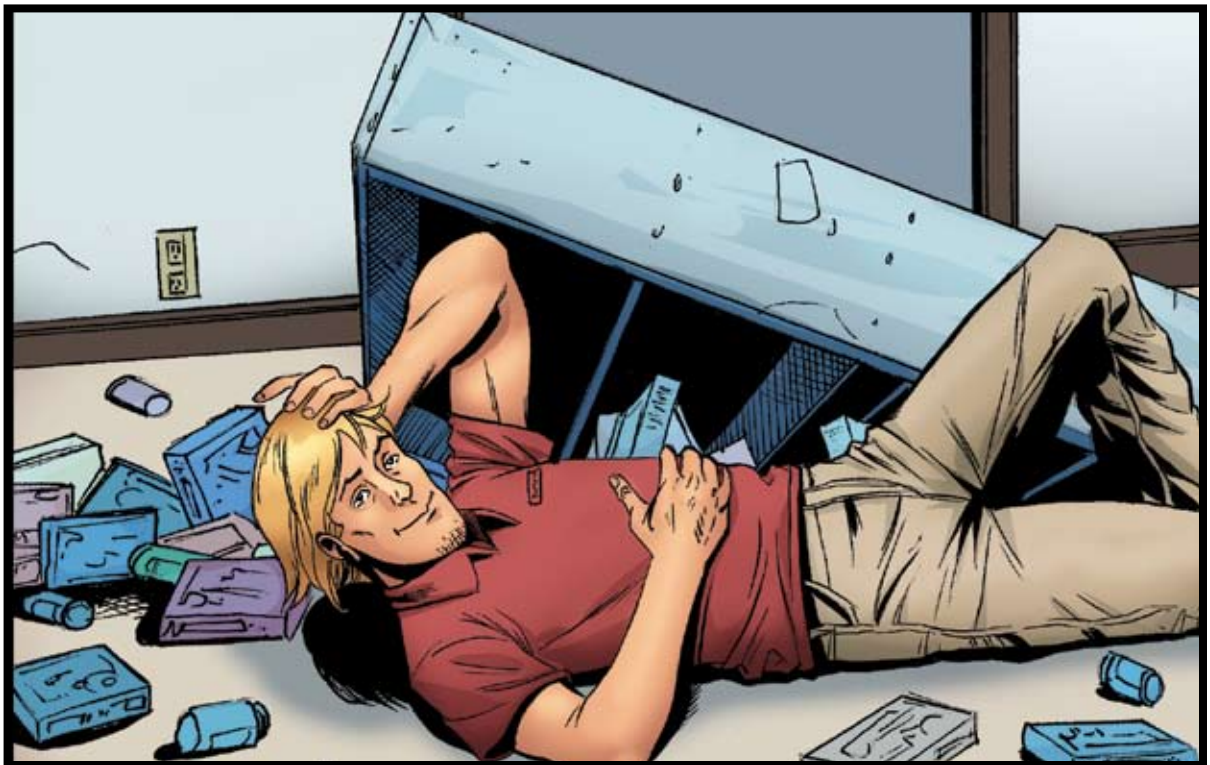
He yelled to all of the customers, "Run for your lives on Aisle 10!"

The people cleared out just in the nick of time as Rob and 1,759 fishing lures came crashing loudly to the floor.

How did Rob know there were exactly 1,759 fishing lures?

Well, he had to count them all and put them back where they belonged!

At least Rob thought, "I'm glad Mother wasn't in the store at the time of the crash, because Dad would be taking her to the doctor again!"



Chapter 4

Rob's new job coach, Ms. Thomas, had a meeting with his parents. She told them Rob was a hard worker and well mannered, but his sense of adventure was going to get him fired. They were all concerned because Rob would be graduating next year, and they knew he would have to settle down to hold a job.

Since it was almost summer time, Ms. Thomas suggested a summer camp. She had heard a lot of good things about Camp Attainment.

Can you think of a way to help Rob get his risky behavior in control?



Self-Determination Dictionary

Aa

actions – things you do

adventure – an exciting event

afford – to have enough money to buy things

aim – a goal or purpose

aisle – an open way for walking between shelves in a store

aquarium – a glass container in which living animals or fish are kept

Bb

behave – act right; do the right things

budget – a special plan to help you decide how to spend your money

Cc

caption – words that tell about a picture in a newspaper

career – what a person does to make a living

catchy – cute and easy to remember

chef – a cook

choose – make up your mind

chow – a slang word for *food*

community – a city or town where people live and work

condiment – something you put on food to make it taste better

confident – sure of yourself.

counter – a small object used to count or keep score

Dd

dangerous – unsafe; can cause pain or injury

detail – a small step that is carefully done in a process

difficult – hard to do

discussion – a talk that is given about a subject or idea

dodge – move quickly to get out of the way

dull – not interesting; boring

Ee

effort – a strong attempt to do something

embarrassing – a feeling of being uncomfortable

emergency – something that happens suddenly and calls for quick action

employee – a person who works for someone else and gets paid

entertaining – having as a guest

express – the fastest way; without many stops

Ff

faint – become dizzy and pass out

former – coming before; in the past

frenzy – a wild outburst or action

Gg

grounded – when the privilege of leaving home or hanging out with friends is taken away

Hh

habit – something you have done so many times that you do it without thinking

hysterical – having wild fits of laughing or crying

Ii

incident – something that happens in real life

inflatable – it swells out when air is put into it

issues – problems that need to be solved

Jj

jungle gym – a framework of metal bars where children can climb, hang, and play

Mm

margin – small amount

matador – a bull fighter

menu – a list of food to choose from at a restaurant

miniature – very small in size

minnows – very small fish that are used for bait

mission – a special job you are sent out to do

Nn

neighborhood – a small part of a town

Oo

opportunity – a time that is right to do something

Pp

panic – a sudden, wild fear

personalities – habits and behaviors that make one person different from another person

polite – nice; kind; having good manners

practice – to do something over and over again so you will be good at it

praise – to say good things about

pretend – to make believe

privilege – a special reward or right given to a person

proof – anything used to show that something is true or correct

Rr

realistic – seeing things as they really are

reputation – what people think about how you act

restaurant – a place where you buy meals and eat them

rickety – weak and shaky

routine – a regular way of doing something

rude – having no respect for others; not polite

rule – a direction that is given to control the way a person acts

Ss

safety – freedom from danger

saint – a very kind and patient person

self-control – in charge of your own feelings or actions

shallow – not deep

sigh – to let out a deep breath with a soft sound

solution – an answer to a problem

spotlight – a place where you will get noticed

strive – to try very hard

suddenly – happening quickly; without warning

surgery – an operation where a doctor removes or repairs part of the body

surprised – how you feel when something happens you don't expect

Tt

terrified – filled with fear; scared very badly

thrill – a strong feeling of excitement

training – getting ready for a job by practicing the skill

Vv

veterinarian – a doctor who takes care of animals

Ww

wedged – packed in very closely

weird – very odd or strange