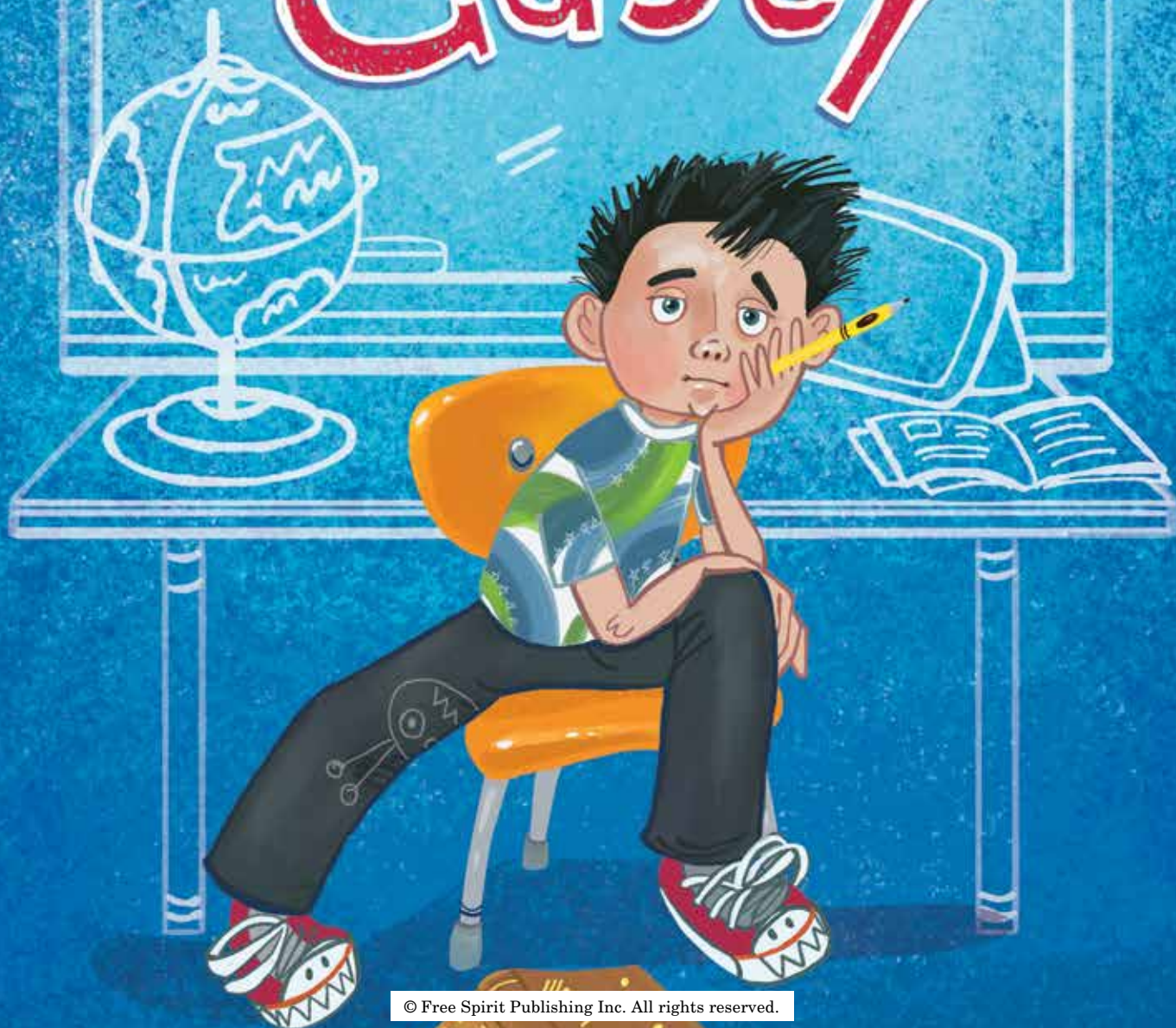


Coasting Casey



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Shannon Anderson
Illustrated by Colleen Madden

Coasting Casey

A Tale of Busting Boredom in School



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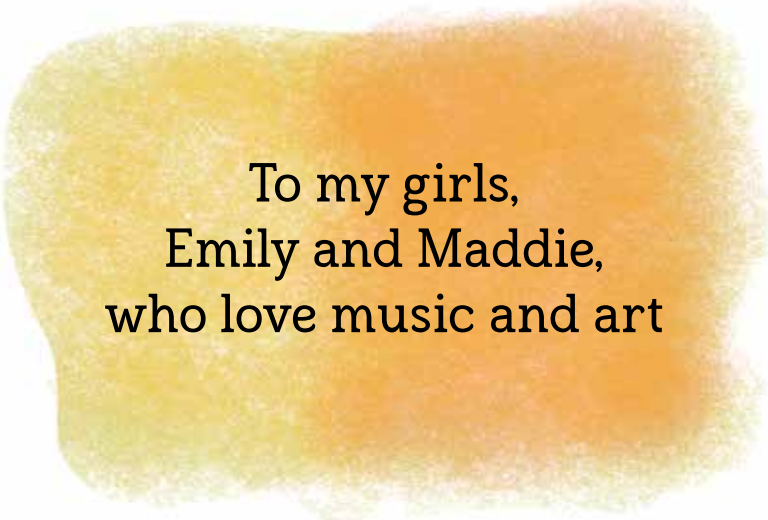
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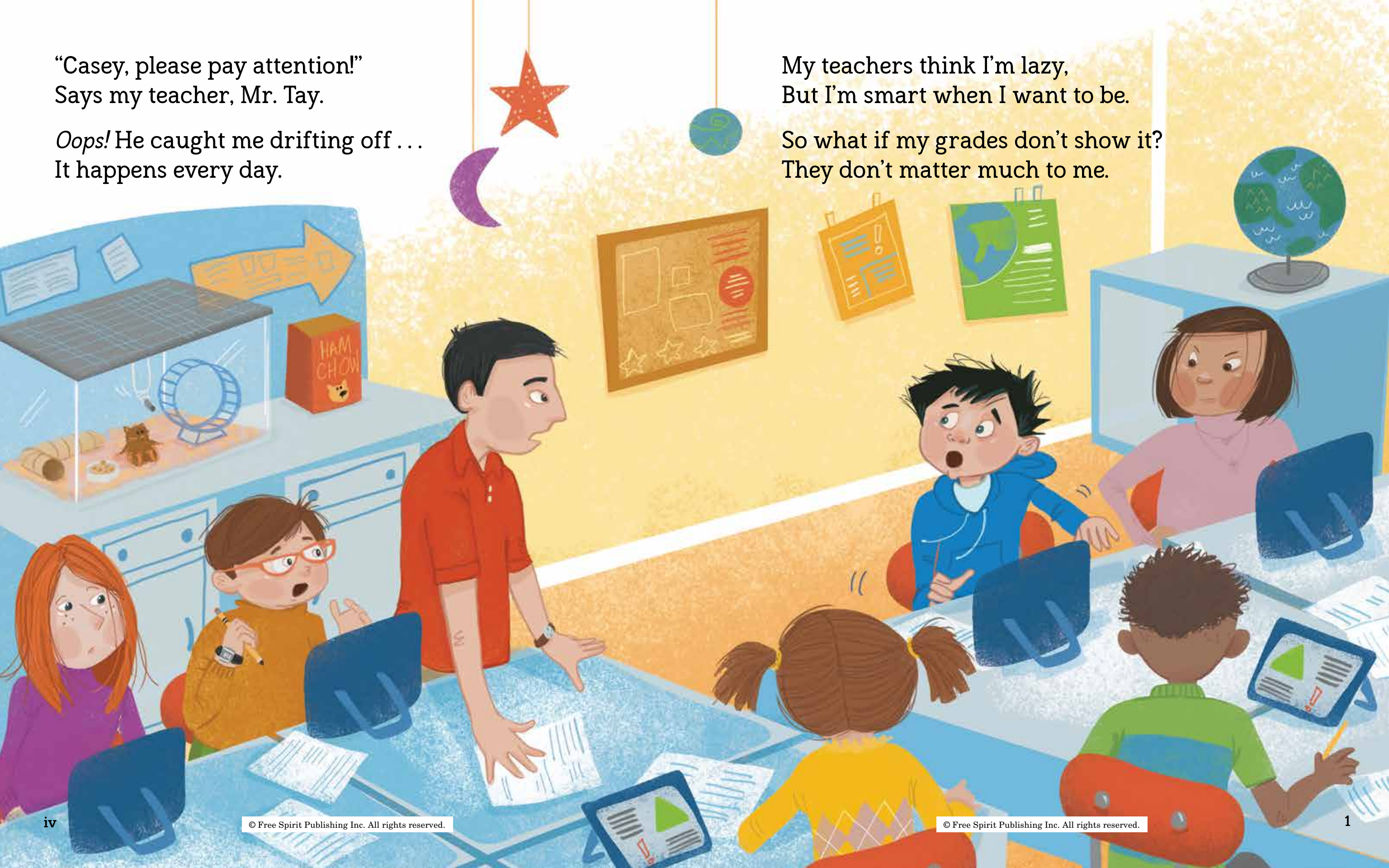
To my girls,
Emily and Maddie,
who love music and art

“Casey, please pay attention!”
Says my teacher, Mr. Tay.

Oops! He caught me drifting off . . .
It happens every day.

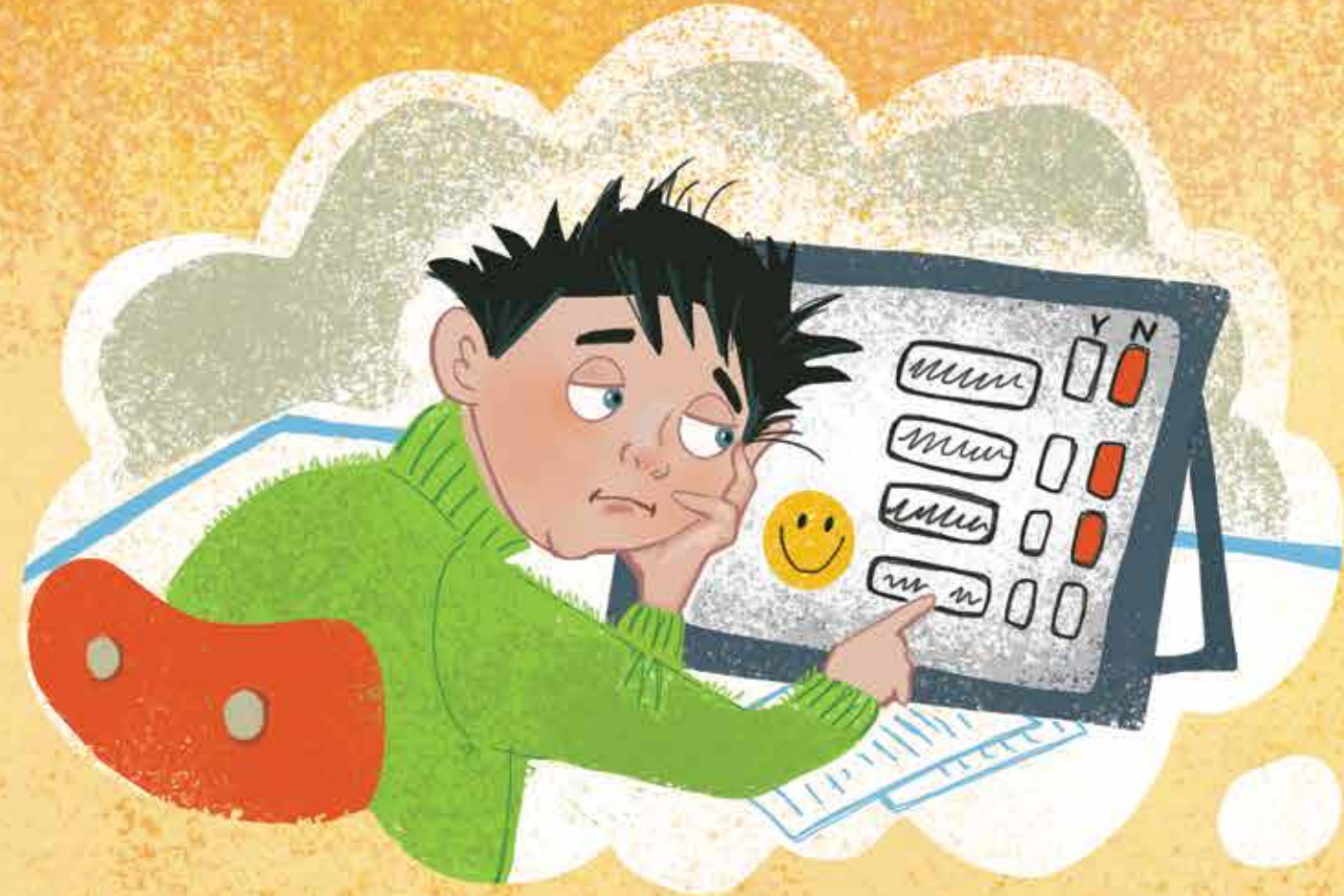
My teachers think I’m lazy,
But I’m smart when I want to be.

So what if my grades don’t show it?
They don’t matter much to me.



My teachers say I'm coasting,
That I only do "well enough."

Sometimes I'm just so bored, I say:
"I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS STUFF!"





A Note to Students

I've been a teacher for over twenty years. Although I always look forward to what each day brings at school, I know not all students feel the same way. How about you? You may know that learning in school is important for your future. But how can you make sure that while you're learning, you're also getting the chance to explore your interests? If you love drawing or making music, like Casey, how can you use those skills to help you in other subjects?

For starters, you can talk to your teacher! Teachers can't usually take away the things that are a struggle for you, or that you find boring. But they *can* let you add something to those subject areas to make them more fun and interesting. For example, if you told your teacher you have a passion for poetry, maybe you could write a poem about something you're learning in history, and then share it with your class. If you like to move or play, you could come up with a game to help the class practice a new concept, or add motions to facts that you need to memorize.

Teachers love seeing students full of ideas and eager to learn. So share your thoughts and your interests and your excitement with your teacher, and see what cool plans you can come up with together. And then, tell me all about it. You can write to me at help4kids@freespirit.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

—Shannon Anderson

Discussion Questions and Activities

Casey's story can be a jumping-off place for conversation, reflection, and fun. The following questions and activities offer some ideas to get started. Feel free to adapt them and add your own.

Explore the Story

Discuss Casey's story and his feelings and ideas about school. Refer back to particular pages of the book as needed, and ask children questions such as the following to start a discussion about doing your best:

- Why do you think the story is called *Coasting Casey*? What does it mean to "coast"?
- Why wasn't Casey doing his best in school? Are there times when you feel like you don't do your best? If so, why?
- Why do you think Casey feels bored at school? What does it mean to be bored? What things do you find boring, and what are some ways you could make them more interesting?
- On page 5, why do you think Casey pictures himself running on a hamster wheel? Have you ever felt that way? If so, when? What did you do?
- Why do you think Principal Clark doesn't get mad at Casey when he is sent to her office? If you were the principal, how would you have handled the situation?
- What might have been different about this story if the principal had told Casey that she didn't want to see him drawing at school unless he was in art class?
- What does Casey love to do? How does Casey figure out a way to combine what he loves with what he once thought was boring? What do *you* love, and how could you combine this with your learning?
- Why does Casey decide to try to turn his "snores" into "scores," and how does he do this? How do you think he feels about the changes he's made?
- How was Casey able to use his love for drawing on his math assignment?
- Why do you think Casey earned an effort award?
- How can *you* make learning even more fun?

