

# SCENES FROM THE EPIC LIFE OF A TOTAL GENIUS

BY STACEY MATSON



## GET CREATIVE!

1. Have you ever been really excited about an event (like a party) that turned into a total flop? Write a journal entry about what this was like.
2. Draw or describe what your scariest zombie would look like.
3. Can you think of a new club for your school? What would it be called? Write out the rules for the club—you can make them serious or funny. Create an eye-catching logo that gets across the name and the focus of your new club.
4. Write an email as if it came from Kennedy. How could you tell an email was from her even if her email address wasn't at the top and/or the email wasn't signed? Could you do the same with Von or Robbie or Arthur?
5. Write a newspaper assignment or a response to one of Arthur's articles, as if it came from Mr. E.—don't forget to add at least one pun!
6. Arthur often manages to tell the facts in a newspaper story but make it "all about his opinion" at the same time. How does he manage to do this? Write a column about a school event as if Arthur were writing it.
7. Choose a character we never hear from directly in the book, like Catie, Caleb or Arthur's dad. Write a journal entry from their point of view about something that happens in the book. What do you think their voices sound like?

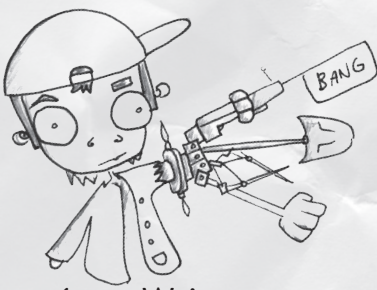


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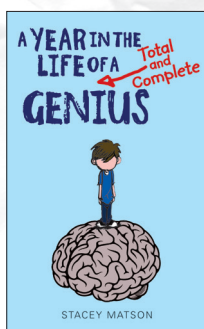
## CREATE YOUR OWN EPIC SCENES

1. Write a newspaper article by Von about winning the Terry Fox Jr. High Terry Fox Run. How does it differ from how Arthur would write it?
2. Write a two-page script of a funny or dramatic scene with at least two characters. Record and edit the scene.
3. Create a doodle showing Robbie and his brother in a conflict situation. Make sure they appear different from each other.
4. Write an email exchange between Ms Whitehead, Mrs. Ireland and Mr. Everett, showing how each of them views Arthur differently.
5. Write one of the notes that Arthur leaves in Kennedy's locker. What does he say to her?

## TALK ABOUT IT



1. Do you think Arthur was cheating by returning the camera but still not telling the whole truth to the Arts Camp owners?
2. If you were in Arthur's situation and had to choose between Robbie and Kennedy (or Kennedy and Anila), could you choose? Who would you choose? Why?
3. Is Anila being too serious about her various causes? Why or why not?
4. What does Arthur want from his dad? Is Arthur being too hard on his dad for not "being more like his mom"?
5. Why do you think Von irritates Arthur so much?



*If you haven't already, read the first book:*

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A  
TOTAL AND COMPLETE GENIUS  
BY STACEY MATSON

*Watch for the continuing misadventures of Arthur Bean  
in the final book of the trilogy—coming in **Fall 2016!***