ENERGETIC ESCAPE!

REBECCA THOMPSON, PH.D. • SCOTT ARNOLD • ROEL TORRES
They are about to find out that today is their lucky day.

In fact, they love it so much they made a video about why their school should be featured in a special issue that will profile one lucky middle school.

Students like pizza at Pizza Pi, soccer games, avoiding homework, and most of all reading Fetch magazine.

Tesla Junior High is the average American middle school.
YOU GUYS!!!
YOU GUYS!!!
FETCH JUST CAME OUT AND WE'RE GONNA BE IN IT!

THEY PICKED TESLA FOR THE SCHOOL PROFILE.

WOW, I GUE/S_S THAT VIDEO OF THE GENERAL DANCING TO THE FREE RADICALS’ HIT, “THIS TIME IT’S REAL” WORKED.

A SELFIE FROM THAT MADE OUR HOLIDAY CARD THIS YEAR.

I WONDER WHAT THIS IS GOING TO BE LIKE.

SOMEHOW I THINK THIS WILL TURN INTO AN ADVENTURE.

LIFE WITH US IS NEVER BORING.

YOU ARE READY FOR A FUN RIDE ON THE FETCH EXPRESS?

THOUGHT SO!
WE'RE NOT JUST GOING TO PROFILE THE SCHOOL, WE'RE GOING TO FILM TESLA JUNIOR HIGH WHEN YOU STOP BEING NICE AND START GETTING REAL.

THREE TEAMS OF FOUR WILL BE LOCKED IN THE SCHOOL FOR 24 HOURS, THROWN CRAZY CHALLENGES, AND HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN BACKSTAGE PASSES TO THE FREE RADICALS.

THANKS FOR WORKING TOGETHER EVERYONE! WE REALLY MADE FETCH HAPPEN, I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE. I KNOW THIS WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF MANY OF YOUR LIVES, SO LET'S NOT SCREW IT UP. GO TEAM!
It's clear Dr. Daniel isn't very happy, but after having a carousel on her roof a few months ago I can't blame her.

You all are in, right? I'm already training.

Tell him I'm out. I need a break. Let the adventure happen to someone else this time.

I'm so excited! I know I am going to get picked. I am great at this stuff!

Um, I thought he hated that band?

He does like winning. Besides, if he gets picked as a team captain, we can all be on a team and go to the show.

Dude, check out my push-ups!

You don't even know what the challenges are.

Lucy, you have got to do this with me! You're key.

Kas is bugging me, too. Whatever, just say I'm in. We both know I'll get dragged into anyway.

I knew you'd cave.

Lucy's in. I'll design the t-shirts, at least we can look good while saving the world.
Energy! There are different types, kinetic and potential. Pendulums have both. So do these balls. Watch this.

You put your name in this morning, right?

Yes I did.

I really hope we don’t get picked, but given our history, I doubt we’ll be that lucky.

I guess we’ll have to wait and see.

These balls both have the same amount of potential energy.

As they fall they’ll gain kinetic energy and then bounce back to have potential energy.

The bigger ball will slam into the smaller one on its way up and give it more energy.

Told you he’d hit himself in the face. Pay up!

Aw man, you put your name in right?

Nah, I’ll get to it. Wouldn’t want to ruin my slacker image.

Don’t mess up! I want on a team!

Oof!

$1 please.

Drat.

I’ll get there. I’ll pick you first if I end up captain. ’Kay?

Ok.

Yes I did.
If you’re going to turn my school upside down at least don’t take too much time.

Where’s your school spirit, Danny? And our first team captain is KAS...

Um... I can’t pronounce this but I’m guessing there’s only one of you. Get up here. Second captain is... Tiffany Maxwell!

You started this, Tiffany. You might as well finish it!

Gordy! Get up here! You are now on Team, um, Air Guitars!

WOO-HOO!!

GASP!!!

Wha... um, no. I don’t want to.

I don’t think you have a choice. You have to go up there.

I, uh, Tiffany, why did you do this?

I’m picking Lucinda Hene for the Princess Patrol. You are now part of the Princess Patrol. Tiaras will be issued tomorrow.

What? Like I was going to let you losers take the superhero.

Fine, just do it.

We all know her team’s gonna win. And I want to win.

I am going to that concert.

I am going to that concert.
YOU’D THINK SHE’D HAVE GOTTEN NICER. I CAN’T BELIEVE THIS.

HOW COULD SHE DO THAT! AFTER ALL WE DID FOR HER!

I GUESS PEOPLE DON’T REALLY CHANGE.

How could she do that! After all we did for her!

You’d think she’d have gotten nicer. I can’t believe this.

I guess people don’t really change.

At least the rest of you got to be together. I know it sucks, but it’s not like I’m going to help Tiffany. You all can win without me.

You have sound powers. Remember?

Oh yeah, I keep forgetting. Cool!

And Gordy, you’re a genius, and Ruby can craft her way out of anything. You got this. I’m just sad I won’t be able to go to the concert with you.

Sorry, Luce. But we have to talk strategy. I know you won’t help Tiffany--

--but you might say something accidentally. We’ll catch up tomorrow.

Oh, yeah, I keep forgetting. Cool!

My room. Now we’re planning. Bring LaCroix, I’m out.


Ugh, it’s Tiffany.

So...
Everyone ready? We’re going to have some fun and film it all. You up for a little challenge?

Of course you are! You got that General to dance in Go-Go boots. You can do anything.

Why is this so early?

Two hours to be a Viking!

Of course you have 2 hours’ til you have to compete and I’m not even going to tell you where.

Here’s how it’s gonna work.

Princess Patrol, Air Guitars, shake hands. Because...

Oar’s Fair in Love and War!

Hey hey hey!

Everyone ready? We’re going to have some fun and film it all. You up for a little challenge?

I’m gonna give you a clue and you have 2 hours’ til you have to compete and I’m not even going to tell you where.

Your next challenge is waiting at the end of this one.

Your first challenge is to find your “Supply” room.

If you know the school as well as you say you do, won’t be a problem.

And your time starts.... Now!

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Oar’s Fair in Love and War!
A/n_Na, have you had a chance to read the clue yet? We should probably get started.

Actually, my name is A/n_Na.

Open it, Katy. Whatever, open it.

They really gave us a lot to work with. I wonder what we have to do.

WOW. Tons of fabric and books. I can work with this.

Well, obviously we need to build a boat. The only water in the school is the swimming pool so we probably have to cross that.

Row, row, row yourselves gently down the stream
Wearily, wearily, wearily, wearily
Don't run out of steam
Go, go, go real fast
Don't become a meme
Barely, barely, barely, barely
Beat out the other team

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Wearily, wearily, wearily, wearily
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What, like it's hard?
Lasergirl, what's your plan?

I have no idea. I'm not a sailor. I can swim, but clearly that's not what we needed to do.

You have those super powers. Use them!

First off, how is a laser going to help us build a boat.

Second, Shhhhhhh!!!

The school thought you were joking. No one can know!

Why are you asking me? You're the captain, captain!

Why not?

Don't you read comics?

It never ends well when people learn about a secret identity.

Nerd, of course I don't. If you won't help, let's figure something else out.

I can swim, but clearly that's not what we needed to do.

The school thought you were joking. No one can know!
It looks like we have to build a boat and race the other team in the pool.

Puzzles are easiest when we break them down.

We need a boat, a sailor, and some way to power the boat.

Wow, there's a lot of stuff here. We could make an amazing boat.

I thought I was captain!

You are, but I figured you were just going to ask me what to do anyway.

You know me well. Carry on.

We'll break into teams. Kas and Debbie, you build the lightest boat you can. We only need to carry Ruby.

But you're stronger. You'd row across faster.

The swimming princesses are stronger than me. We need to win with brains, not brawn. We can do this.
Isn't this just an energy problem? The boat needs kinetic energy from somewhere.

How do we get potential energy to transfer to the boat?

Wha...

I pay attention sometimes. Particularly when the General hits himself in the face with a tennis ball.

I wish we could just make a sail and blow the boat across. There doesn't seem to be a lot of stuff in here that would make a good oar. Wind would work a lot better. If only we had a hyper powered fan. That's not a terrible idea. We can make a wind machine with what we have here.

Kas, can you make a sail out of the window shade?

Rubby, can you help Debbie make the boat?

Light, fast, and you-size. I'll get started on the wind machine.

Kas, where's that bowling ball?

I'm on it!
Mic check's g/o, bo/s. We're rol/Ling.

Alright, hold tight till you get the ok.

Party on, dudes! Air Guitars rule! We ready to spin, Gordy?

I still don’t understand why you had two hand mirrors in your backpack. I don’t even have one!

That’s obvious. I need a way to check the back of my hair.

I bet you’re happy I have them now, though.

I’ll just be happy when it’s over.

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You doing ok? What did you guys put together? It looks complicated.

Gordy did it. I think it will be great. I was really impressed.

The boat could use some paint, but we worked with what we had.

Good luck. I hope you win.

Well done, teams! You figured it out and are ready to rock.

First one to the other side wins, but your clue is over there.

No matter what you did, but I hope, for your sake, it works.

Air Guitars, I have no idea what you did, but I hope, for your sake, it works.

On my count. 3... 2... 1... Row!
Row faster! No wonder I always beat you in the pool faster!

I'm doing the best I can. You aren't helping. If you don't pay attention to what you're doing, you're going to...

Ouch!

You pulled me in!!!

Get off me, you're going to...

Ahhh!

How did you manage to screw this up? We just had to row!

You hit me first.

And if you hadn't grabbed me, I could have won.

Just get across. You've made it clear you know how to swim.

I can't wait till this is over.
Hold on, Ruby, here we go!

It's working.

The potential of the brick gives the propeller kinetic energy, and Ruby the lead, through wind.

Go physics!!

Wheeewwww! It works!

Gordy, you are a genius!

Wind it up again! Hurry, they're gaining.

One more drop should do it. Oh, wait, no need to rush.

Tiffany just pushed Lucy in the water. As long as this works, we'll win!

Here we go! I don't want to win by default. I want to really win. Ready, set, drop!

Congratulations, Team Air Guitars!

You made it and you aren't even wet. Well done.

You'd better not screw the next one up, too.

I've never seen anything like that.

We look forward to seeing what you'll do in...

...the next challenge!

Good job, guys! You rocked it!
THE PENDULUMS NEED A SMALL FIX. ONE SHOULD BE HANGING DOWN AND ONE HELD UP.
I AM SO SORRY THAT WASN'T CLEAR IN THE OUTLINE AND I JUST CAUGHT IT NOW.

THE FIRST ONE SHOULD BE HELD UP.

THE SECOND ONE IN THE ROW SHOULD BE HANGING DOWN, NOT HELD UP.

TO MOVE ON TO DINNER, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THE LAST CHALLENGE--
YOU NEED TO GET THROUGH THE OBSTACLE COURSE.

THE FIRST TEAM TO GRAB ALL THE FLAGS AND BREAK THE FINISH LINE TAPE WINS.

AIR GUITARS ARE IN THE LEAD BUT PRINCESS PATROL HAS A CHANCE TO CATCH UP.

AND YOU ALL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET MESSY!

OH! IT'S LIKE THAT OLD SHOW, SUPER MESSY TRIPLE BET. I LOVED THAT SHOW!

LUCY, YOU'D BETTER PULL OUT SOME SUPER-HERO STUFF AND WIN THIS.
I'D WIN IF I WERE RUNNING, BUT I DON'T GET MESSY.

THERE IS SLIME IN THAT POOL. NO WAY.

OK, BUT I HOPE YOU WIN.

Nah, Tiffany would kill us all. Let's just do our best? It looks fun anyway.

YOU READY, RUBY? WANT TO JUST STICK TOGETHER? WE CAN MAKE IT LOOK CLOSE AND MAKE SURE YOU WIN.

Well, I wouldn't be sad if you won and avoided the wrath of Tiffany.

AIR GUITARS ARE IN THE LEAD BUT PRINCESS PATROL HAS A CHANCE TO CATCH UP.

AND YOU ALL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET MESSY!

The first one should be held up.
The second one in the row should be hanging down, not held up.

I am so sorry that wasn't clear in the outline and I just caught it now.

There is slime in that pool. No way.

The first one should be held up.
The second pendulum will start moving any minute. 
Coupled pendulums are nuts.

Oh no! Ruby!! Are you ok?

Uff. I knew better.

Oh good. Ruby’s catching up. Tiffany really will kill me if I don’t pull off the win.

At least the General taught us about bouncing balls and energy.
That was a memorable lesson for sure.

AHHHHHH!!!! Almost there!

WooHoo! Done! One step closer to freedom and one less angry Tiffany! Thanks, physics!

Finish
The first two were just warmup, this is the big one and I want it all on video.

Let’s scare the bejeezus out of them.

The monsters, creepy cell phones, and main power switch ready to go?

Yeah, boss. We’re ready to roll. They won’t know what hit them.

I’m having some problems with camera 1, but it will be up and running soon. They haven’t seen the cameras so we’re in the clear.

Ok. The first hour will be kinda boring. Run grad dinner and then the fun will start.

The doors just locked. I hope everyone got to the bathroom.

I think we have to try and get out of here. It’s like an escape room.

I’m guessing the first team out gets tickets.

This is all you, nerds. Lucy, Anna, Steve. Get to it. I have some Toy Blast to catch up on.

Fine. Alright, guys. What have we got here?

This is clearly a series, but I don’t remember which one.

Oh! It’s the Fibonacci series! I learned about it on that math show, Circle 2. You add one number to the previous number to get the next number.

We’re missing 13 and 55. 5+8 is 13 and 21+34=55.

Let’s write that down and figure out what it means.
GUSS WE
NEE TO FIGURE
OUT HOW TO
ESCAPE.

SINCE
THE TEAMS
ARE TIED THE
FIRST ONE OUT
WILL GET
TICKETS I
GUESS.

WE
NEED TO
FIGURE OUT
WHAT THINGS
ARE CLUES
AND WHAT
AREN’T.

HMM.
THES PAINTINGS
DON’T LOOK RIGHT.
IT’S GOT TO BE
A CLUE.

SHE’S
MISSING HER
FAMOUS PEARL
EARRING. THAT’S
EASY. THERE’S A
CLOCK MISSING
HERE.

UGH.
I KNOW
THERE’S SOMETHING
MISSING FROM THE BACK-
GROUND IN THIS
ONE BUT I CAN’T
REMEMBE WHAT.

IS THERE
A CLOCK
SOMEWHERE?
OR MAYBE
A PEARL
EARRING?

A CLOCK SEEMS
LIKE A BETTER
BEAT. START
LOOKING.

HMM.
THERE’S
A PEARL
AT 55.

WHAT’S
MISSING FROM
THE SCREAM?
A MAN! THAT’S
IT. THE MAN IS
AT 12:00.

I FEEL
LIKE I’VE
HEARD THAT
SONG.

LOOKS
LIKE WE
HAVE
TO DO IS AT
5 MINUTES TO
MIDNIGHT.

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11:50 P.M.: After several acrostics, coding, paintings, feats of strength, and lots of soda, our heroes have learned that at midnight they have a shot at escaping. If they miss their chance, they are stuck till morning. Worse yet, no free radicals.

We're ready to roll, Ruby. You found the safe?

Yep. The combo is 666, and we have 5 minutes to spare.

This seems messed up.

According to our calculations, we'll open the safe with the 666 code and find 4 cell phones, each with a number and its phone number written on it.

At exactly midnight, phone 1 will call 2, 2 will call 3, 3 will call 4, and 4 will call one.

I don't see how this will work.

We don't really have another options.

If it doesn't work, we'll try again or wait till morning.

Hopefully they'll at least give us a bathroom break.

Guys, there's chanting in the woods, moving shadows and the combo is 666. Is anyone else getting nervous? This doesn't seem right.

Grrraaaahhh.

Nah, it will be fine. They wouldn't hurt us. Let's do this thing.

Quit being nervous. We're fine. I'm not afraid of the dark, are you?

No. But this is getting creepy. I think I saw a shadow in the hall, and I suddenly have no cell reception.

At least we figure this out.

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Grrraaaahhh.

Nah, it will be fine. They wouldn't hurt us. Let's do this thing.
Ugh, I keep telling you guys the noise in the woods is just wind.

Um, Ms. Maxwell, there's something moving out there. And it sounds like chanting. I don't like this.

Um, according to our results we are supposed to go to a creepy sounding website at exactly midnight, with no moon out, and chanting in the woods. This is basically a red flag factory. What are they going to do to us? A concert isn't worth this.

You all are impossible. I have tried "Bloody Mary" at every sleepover ever with no results. Get it together and quit being babies. Where's the computer?
Looks like we were right. 4 cell phones each with numbers.

OK, everyone take one. I'm not looking forward to this.

The only thing that could make it worse is a power outage.

AHHHH HHHHH!!!!

Ruby, why did you say that? Turn on the phones so we can at least get some light.

OK, maybe you all were right and this is going in a bad direction. Though the best way out is through. We have 3 minutes.

AHH HHHHH HHHHHHH!

Ugh.

We're still doing this. Lucy, you ready?

Nope.


I don't like this at all. I want out now.

I am really scared. This is not what we expected. What is going on here.

It's just a power glitch. We're fine.

My hands are shaking so much I'm not sure I can successfully hit enter.

"Blind Maiden?"

How can that be anything but bad?

They think this is real and have no idea scaring them wields and getting it on film was the goal of this whole thing. There aren't even any concert tickets.

Perfect. They are terrified.

You're getting this on film, right? This is...
No, you really shouldn’t have.

No, you really shouldn’t have.

No, you really shouldn’t have.

No, you really shouldn’t have.

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No, you really shouldn’t have.
3...
2...
1...
GO!

AHHHH!
NOT OK!

THAT'S
US. THAT'S
US! WHAT IS
THIS?

NO
NO!
HE'S HERE!
HE'S BEHIND
US!

PANT,
GASP,
HUFF...

LET ME
OUT LET ME
OUT LET ME
OUT!

I...
CAN'T...
BREATHE...
ASTHMA...
CAN'T...
BREATHE...

OH NO,
WE HAVE TO
GET HELP! WHAT
IS THIS MESS?
WHAT'S EVEN
HAPPENING?

STAND
BACK. I CAN DO
THIS.

STEVE,
ANN, YOU'RE
ABOUT TO SEE
SOMETHING
WEIRD.

PLEASE
DON'T TELL
ANYONE,
K?

I WOULDN'T
DO THIS IF
I DIDN'T
HAVE TO.
Wasn’t going to be a part of this, I said. Isn’t working out perfectly, I said. Engaging laser mode, Light.

This is working out perfectly. Well done, team.

This is going to make amazing footage. Wouldn’t want to be them, though. Um, boss, you might want to turn around.

Lucy, is that you? This is horrible. I didn’t know the school was haunted.

Are you ok? I broke us out of our room. Let’s get you out of here too.

I’m sorry you had to save the day again, but not sorry you did. Let’s go.

Wow. I have got to get a pic of this. No one will believe me.

Don’t video, run! Also, don’t post that. I don’t want everyone to know.
I thought I heard someone in here! Who are you?

Nolan R. Gibbs and your secret is about to go viral.

This is much better than I’d planned.

I was just going to scare you a little.

Maybe start a small fire.

You try to drown us, cover us in slime, and scare my friends half to death.

Tiffany will have to go the hospital.

The others are going to have nightmares for years.

All for what? Ratings for your lousy magazine?

It’s not worth hurting people over that.

But what are you going to do about it?

Fine, go for it. Nowadays anyone can doctor some video and no one will believe you.

I just happened to grab the tapes.

From the A.V. room.

Seems you recorded your setup.

Including the blow torches.

And I just happened to record this whole conversation.

Oh, and we’ll take 8 backstage passes to the concert. Please. You owe us.

You’re done in this business.


Nolan R. Gibbs?


We’re going to show the world what you did to us.

You’re going for it.

You’re going to show the world what you did to us.

We’re going to show the world what you did to us.

From several angles no less.

But what are you going to do about it?

There’s nothing you can do about it.

And I just happened to record this whole conversation.

Including the blow torches.

I just happened to grab the tapes.

From the A.V. room.

Seems you recorded your setup.

And I just happened to record this whole conversation.
What did they do to them? This is hilarious!

Told you this would be good. Ha!

Tiffany falling in the pool is my favorite.

Why did they have to do video? It could be worse.

At least he didn’t post the screaming video.

Guess he kept his promise.

But why did he have to post that slime video? They can’t smell it.

OMG, there he is. Haha-haha!

His reputation will never recover.

Did you see him fall down the stairs while taking a selfie? Classic.

Whatever, at least one of my smarter moments finally got captured on film.

Love your shirt.

This might have ended in a disaster of a night, but what’s new.

At least this one ended in meeting the Free Radicals.

And a great party. Huh. I guess most of our adventures end in a party. Whatever, let’s dance!
Keep up with the latest in the world of physics and the original laser superhero

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