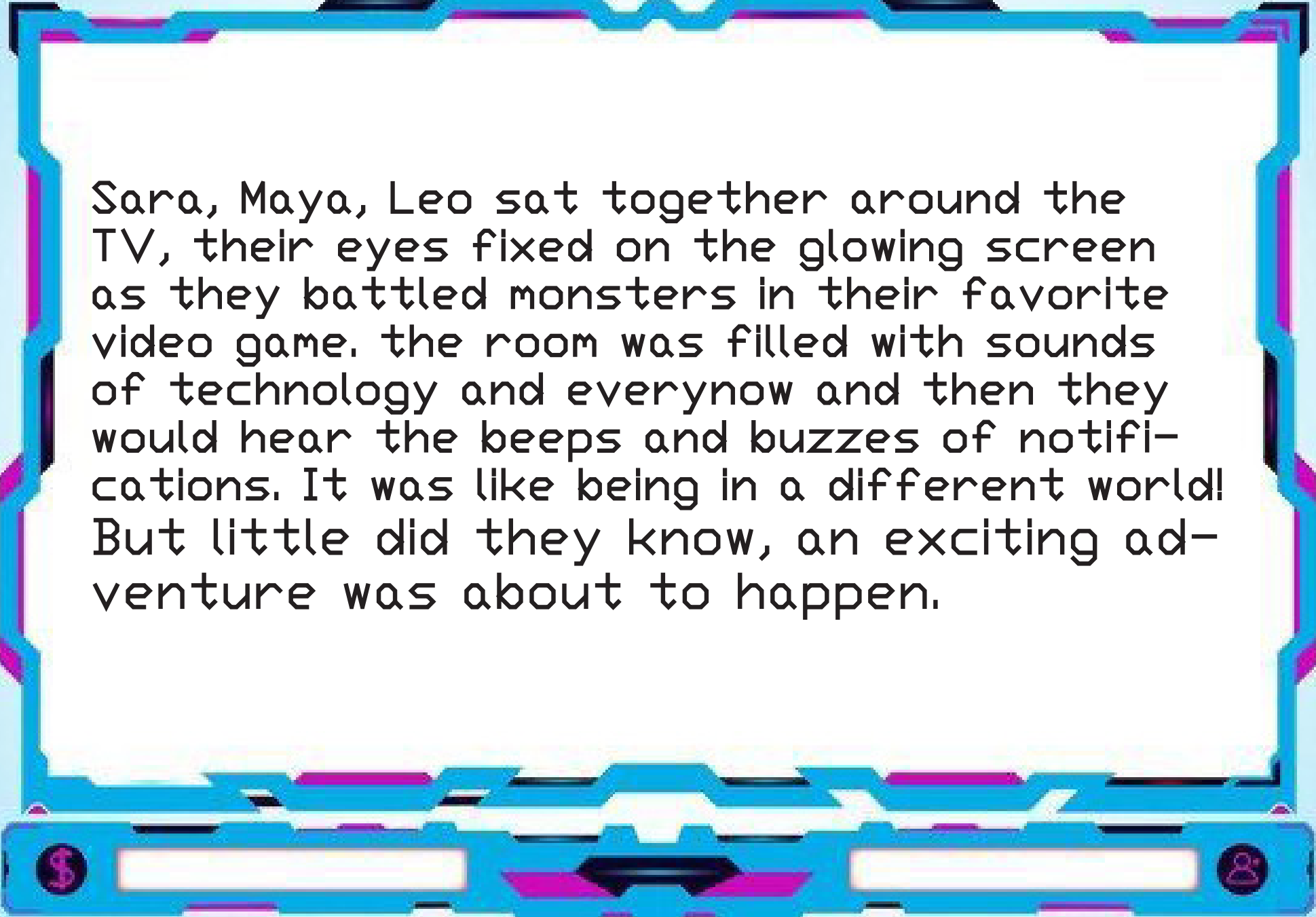


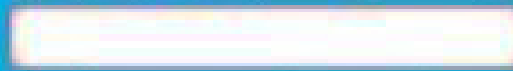


Is Angelo Right?

*Written by: Yasmina Sayegh
Illustrated by: Malak Sayegh*



Sara, Maya, Leo sat together around the TV, their eyes fixed on the glowing screen as they battled monsters in their favorite video game. the room was filled with sounds of technology and everynow and then they would hear the beeps and buzzes of notifications. It was like being in a different world! But little did they know, an exciting adventure was about to happen.





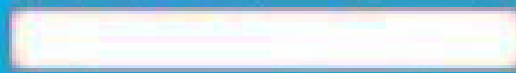
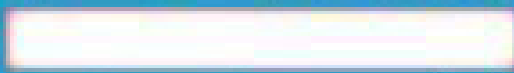
As the clock rang at 12 midnight, something strange happened.

The screen went off, and suddenly the room went completely dark. It was like they were taken to a whole new world!





Sara screamed, "What's happening?" Leo tried to reach for his phone, but it was off. Maya looked at her smartwatch, which showed nothing but a black screen. "It's like everything's... off?" Maya said, her eyes super wide with confusion and fear.





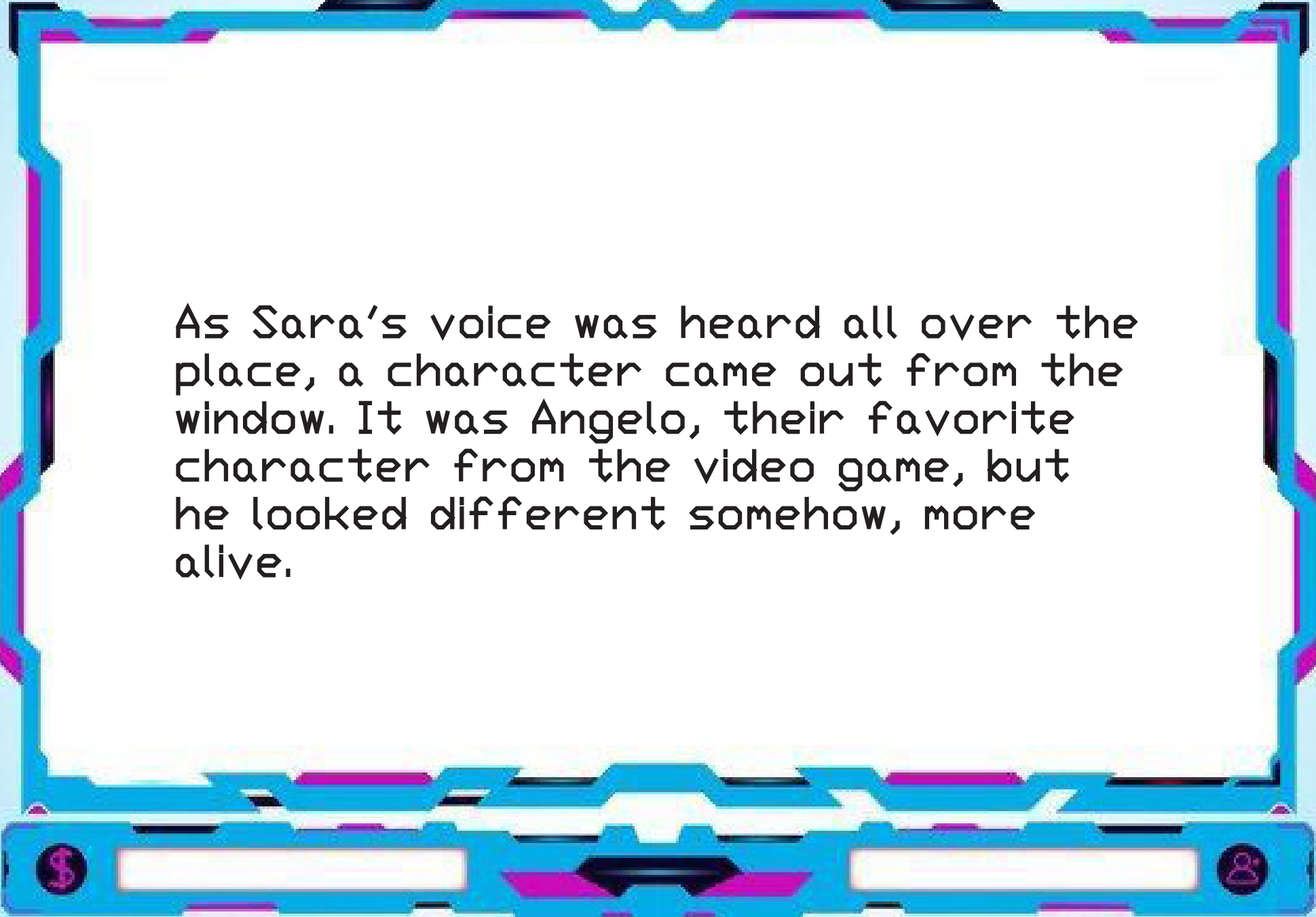
Suddenly they all heard a whooshing sound. As the lights came back on, "Where are we?" Leo asked, his voice full with fear. As they found themselves in a familiar place with familiar voices.





While they were discovering the place which had different rooms, Maya jumps and says: "LEO, SARA, WE ARE IN THE VIDEOOO GAMEEEEE".





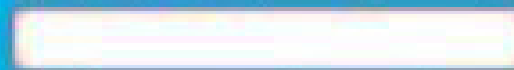
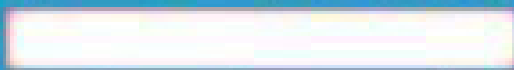
As Sara's voice was heard all over the place, a character came out from the window. It was Angelo, their favorite character from the video game, but he looked different somehow, more alive.



"Welcome, brave adventurers", Angelo said, "I have been waiting for you to come, for great adventures". Angelo became serious. He said, "an evil monster wants to destroy this planet and everyone who lives on it. We can only expect to put an end to it by working together".



“It’s like this,” Angelo continued, leaning in as if sharing a secret. “Imagine your favorite video game is a big, friendly dragon. You love playing with it and having fun adventures together. But sometimes, if you play too much and forget to do other things you love, like playing outside and spending time with friends, the dragon can grow too big and start making problems.”



Leo's eyes opened wide. "So, technology is like our dragon, if we spend too much time with it, it can become a big, scary monster?" he asked, trying to understand what Angelo said.

They think that their life would be so nice if that is how they spend their day.





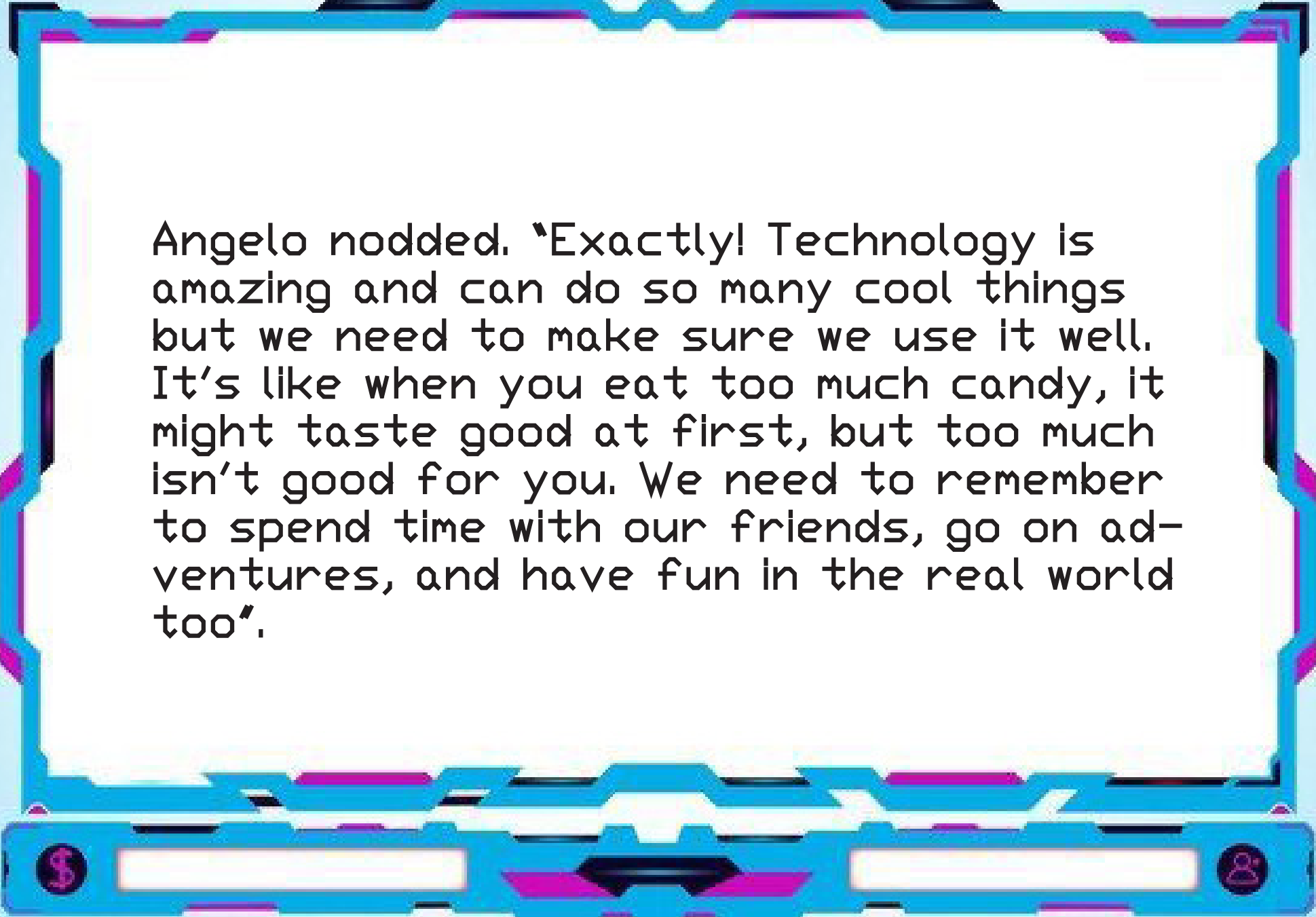
"But... I can't imagine life without my favorite YouTube videos, video games, and Roblox. How am I going to chat with my friends ever again?" Sara said.

Maya nodded her head, with tears. "I can't go without watching my favorite TikTok videos", she admitted.

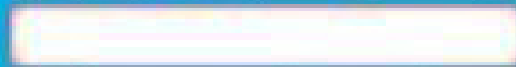
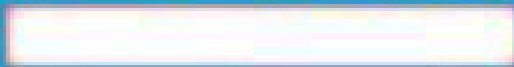
Leo sighed, "Maybe this is a chance for us to discover new games and experiences rather than technology," he said. "We can create our own adventures, just like the characters in our games".

Maya's fear began to go away as she said. "And who knows? Maybe we'll find something even more exciting than TikTok!"





Angelo nodded. "Exactly! Technology is amazing and can do so many cool things but we need to make sure we use it well. It's like when you eat too much candy, it might taste good at first, but too much isn't good for you. We need to remember to spend time with our friends, go on adventures, and have fun in the real world too".



Sara smiled, "So if we work together and find a balance between using technology and enjoying other things, we can stop the monster from getting even bigger and keep having fun adventures, right?"





