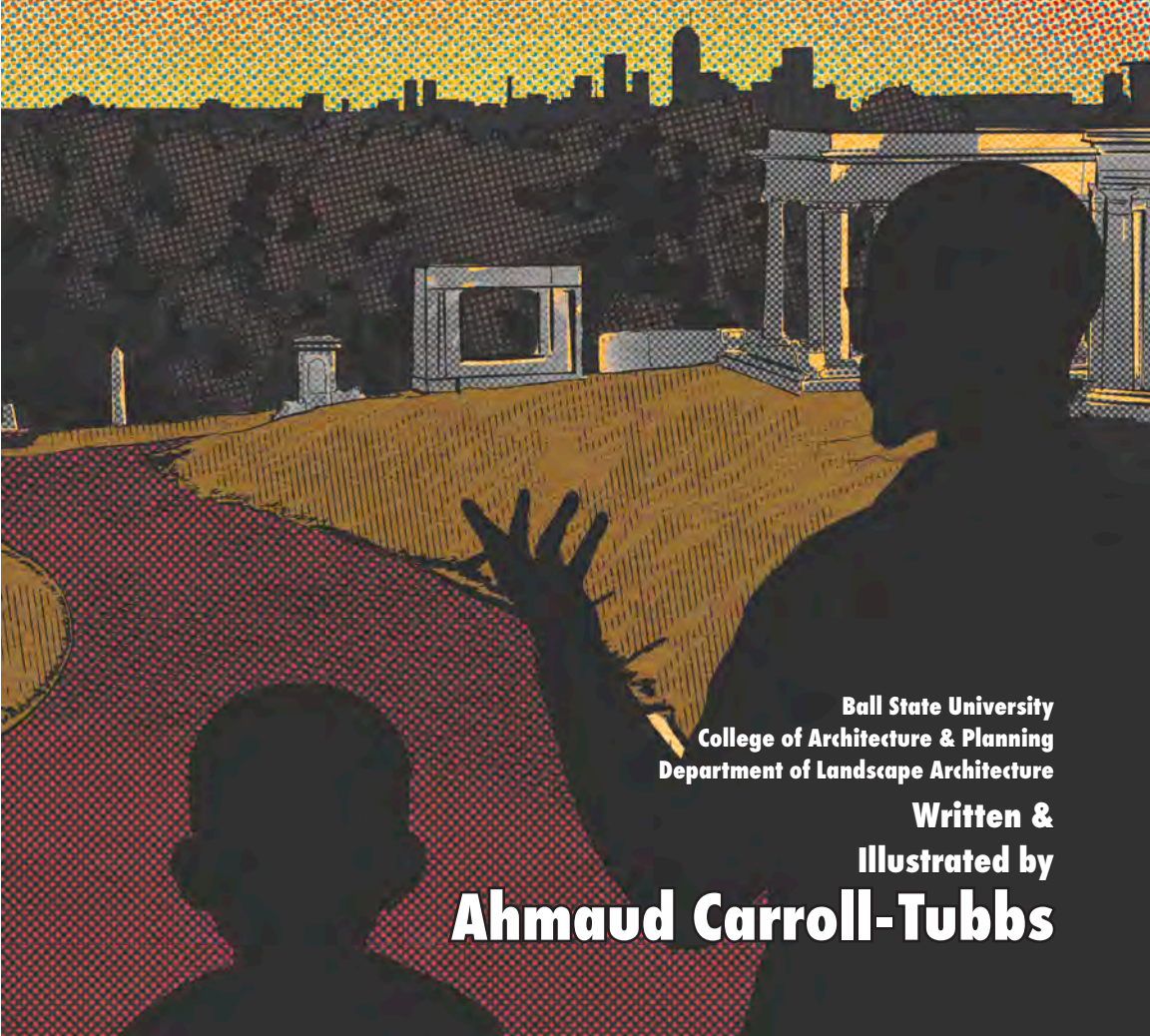


TWO LEAVES OF THE SAME STEM



LA 498
STORIES BY
DESIGN
MAY. 2026



Ball State University
College of Architecture & Planning
Department of Landscape Architecture

Written &
Illustrated by
Ahmaud Carroll-Tubbs

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OF THE SAME
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Canopy & Confluence
PRESS

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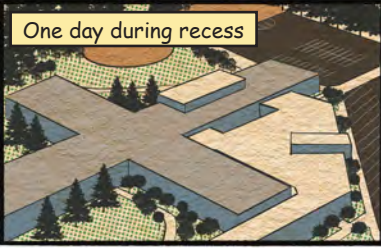
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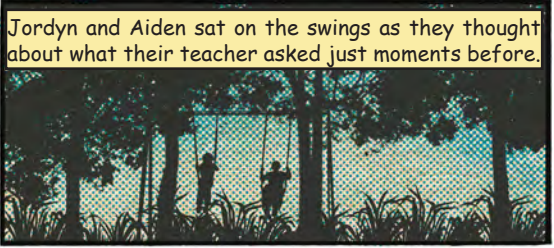
All illustrations included were done digitally on procreate using the Watercolor, Trees, Grass, People and Paving Brush set by Land Space Architecture, the 120 Procreate Tree Brush set by The Art Mood Studio, the Procreate Fence and Gate Brush set by Palette Art Workshop, and the Kraftone Color Formula Brush set by True Grit Texture Supply.

This book is dedicated to my awesome niece and nephew, as well as my incredible family and friends.

One day during recess



Jordyn and Aiden sat on the swings as they thought about what their teacher asked just moments before.



Their teacher Ms. Knight asked them to look for leaves that belong to the same stem.

Do you think Ms. Knight is talking about that plant over there? It has three leaves.

No, remember when Ms. Knight said leaves of three, leave them be.

Oh yeah, that's posion ivy. What about that one over there? It only has two.

I don't know. She could be talking about any plant.



Just then Ms. Knight called her class back inside.

Back in class

Alright class, did anyone notice how many leaves each stem had?

Well that's because each stem has a job and sometimes that job takes a certain number of leaves to do.

For example, lets imagine that the stems we are going to talk about today have four leaves. Each leaf of this stem is for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Yes but, Ms. Knight, how come some of the stems had more leaves than others?

Does anyone think they might know someone else who is a part of this stem?

Ms. Knight sees Jordyn's hand is raised

Yes, Jordyn. Do you know anyone who also works in stem?

Yes, I think my uncle does.

That's what I was going to say Ms. Knight.



Okay Jordyn and Aiden,
how do you know your uncle
works in stem?

Is he a scientist,
a technologist,

an engineer,

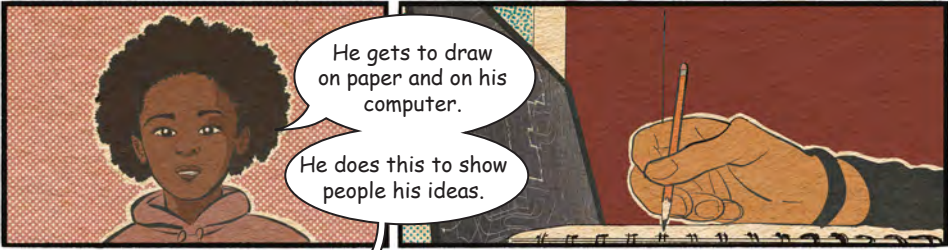
or a mathematician?



No, but he said he has
to solve problems in creative
ways.

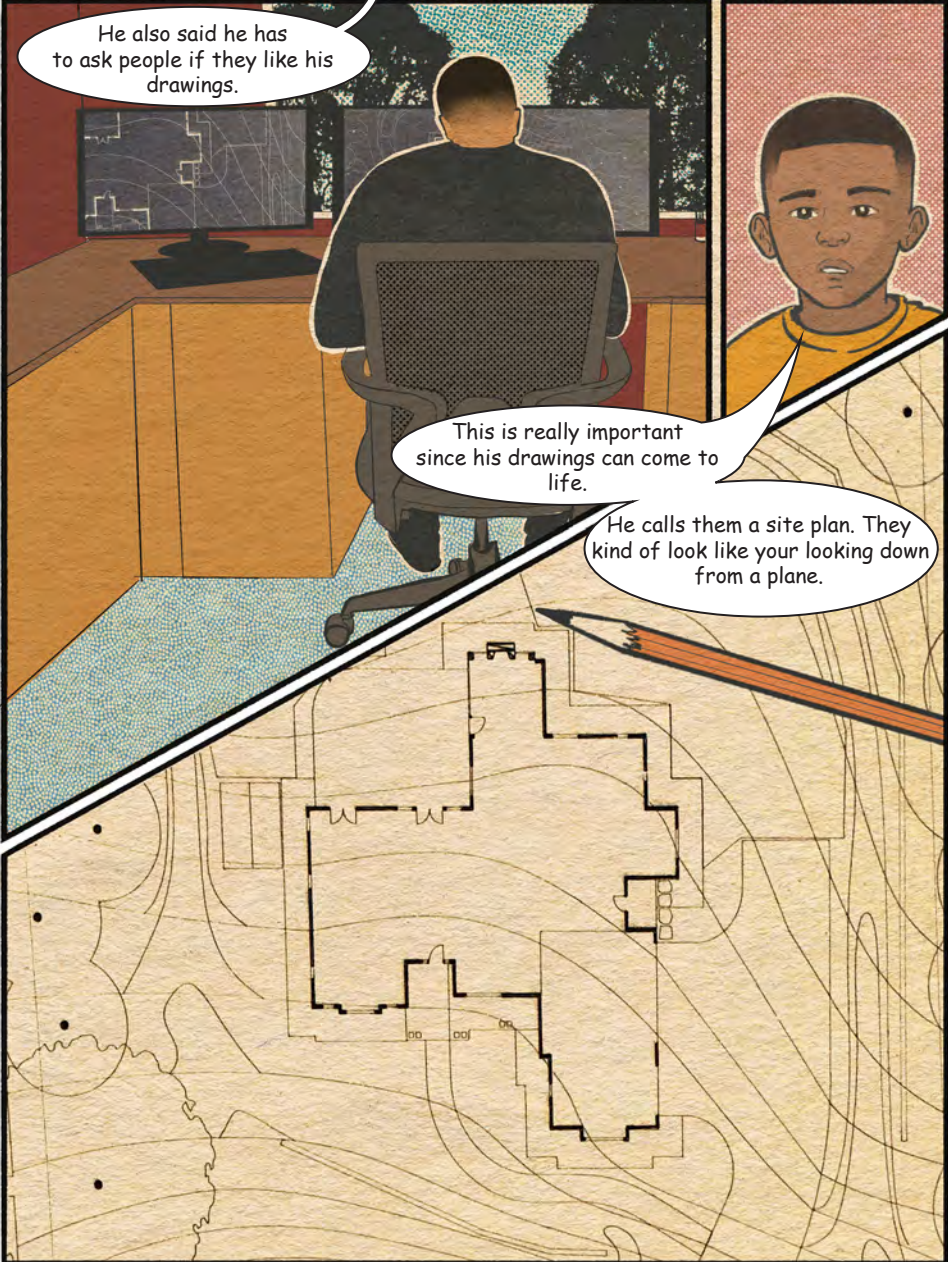


Yeah, he said he gets to
design things.



He gets to draw on paper and on his computer.

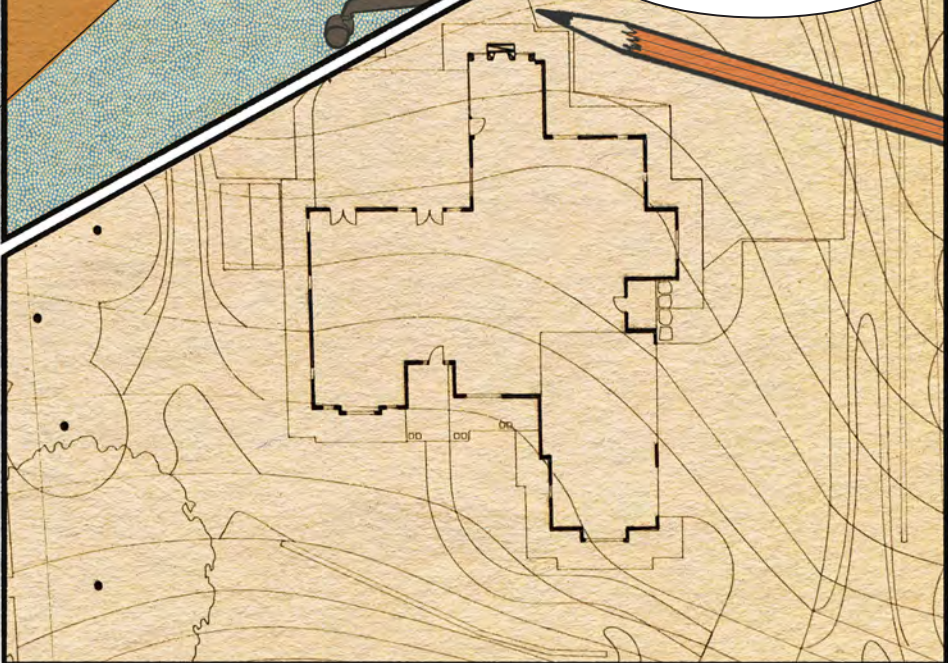
He does this to show people his ideas.



He also said he has to ask people if they like his drawings.

This is really important since his drawings can come to life.

He calls them a site plan. They kind of look like your looking down from a plane.





Okay, what is the first thing your uncle does at his job?

My uncle told me he has to think about what's already there. Once he finds a place to work on, then he has to write down if there are...

buildings,

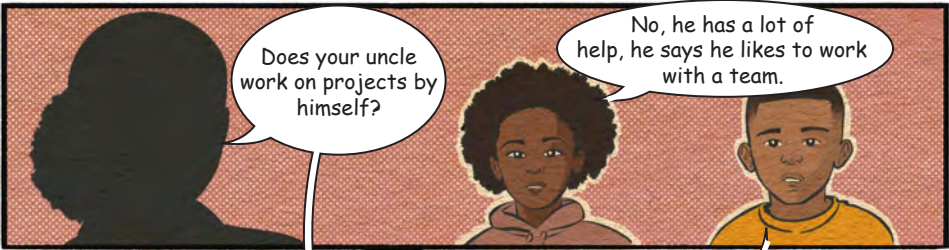
and trees,

and water,

and where the sun shines.

He also has to see if there are streets, sidewalks, and if the ground is flat or not.





Does your uncle work on projects by himself?

No, he has a lot of help, he says he likes to work with a team.



Why does your uncle design?

He says that having a team helps him solve hard problems. He says each project is like puzzles and they need everyone's help to put them together.

He says it makes him feel like he's making the world a better place for people, animals, and nature.

He's always wanted to use his skills to do positive things. He says that working in stem lets him do that.

What are some things your uncle designs?

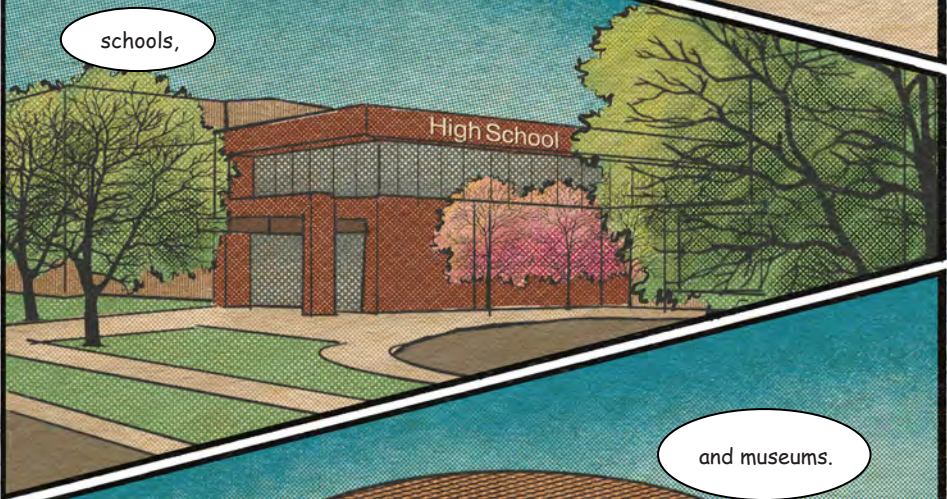


My uncle designs....

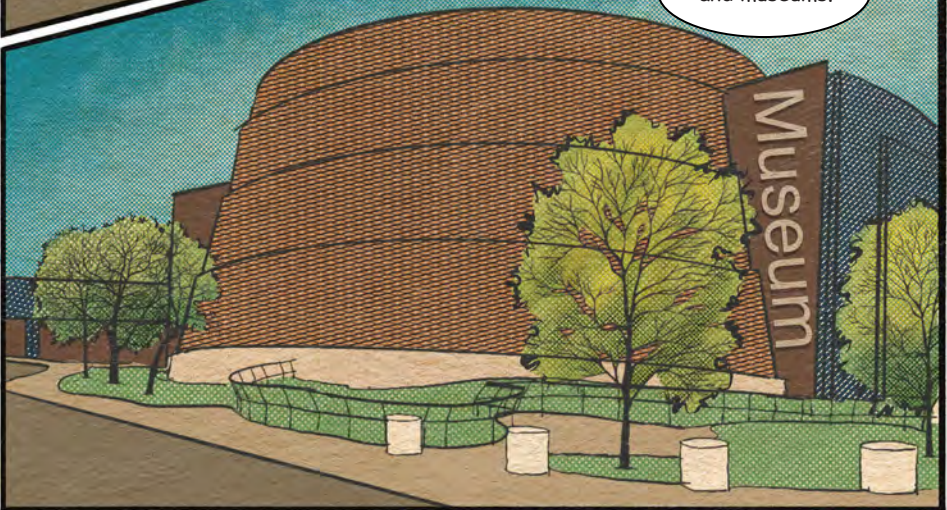


Houses,

schools,



and museums.



Confused,
Aiden says

But I
thought, Uncle
saide he likes to
design



Parks,



playgrounds,



and gardens.



Okay you guys,
there has got to be some
explanation for what your
uncle designs. He can't
design everything.

That would be a lot
for one person to do,
right?



But there's not one
Ms. Knight...

there's two.



Yeah Ms. Knight we have two uncles.



They just look alike...



So we thought we were talking about the same person.



Wait a minute..

but if there are two of them, what is their job called then? Do they have the same job?

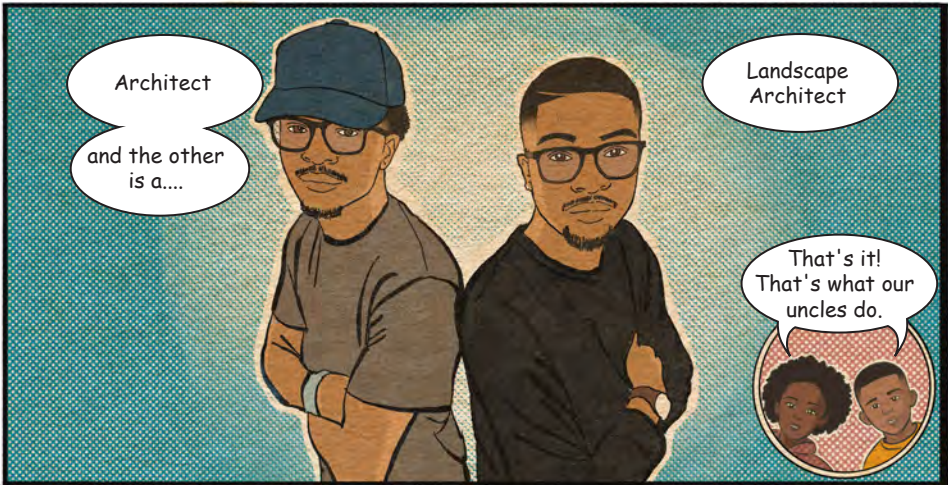


I don't remember.



That's okay, I think I can guess what your uncles do. It seems like your uncles really like that their jobs help improve our comfort, health and safety through design.

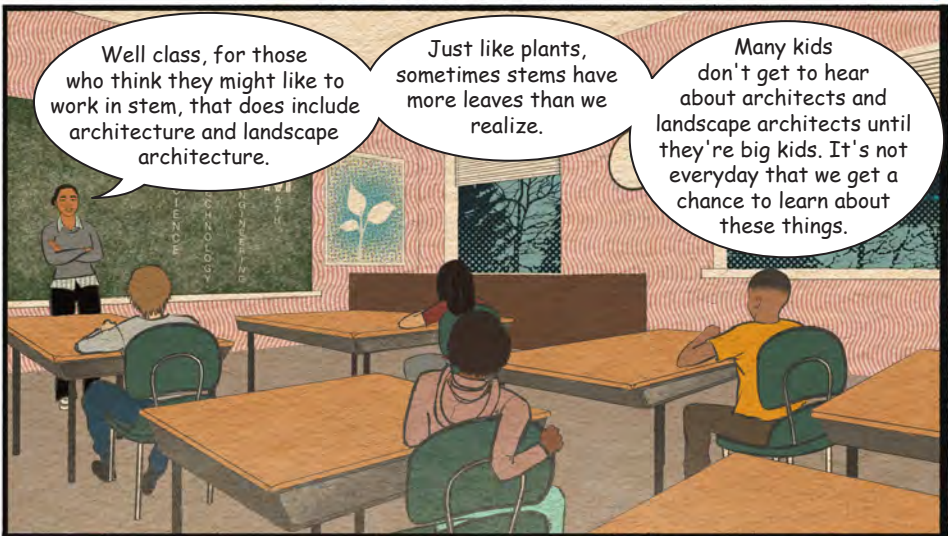
And based on how you both described your uncles, If I had to guess their job, it sounds to me that one of your uncles is an.....



Architect
and the other
is a...

Landscape
Architect

That's it!
That's what our
uncles do.



Well class, for those
who think they might like to
work in stem, that does include
architecture and landscape
architecture.

Just like plants,
sometimes stems have
more leaves than we
realize.

Many kids
don't get to hear
about architects and
landscape architects until
they're big kids. It's not
everyday that we get a
chance to learn about
these things.



And you don't
have to know how
to draw like an artist
or be an expert on all
plants and materials to
do these jobs either.
Those are helpful, but
will also come with
time and
experience.

In fact, all
you have to do is
dream and work
together

the way two
leaves on the
same stem do.

Meet the Author

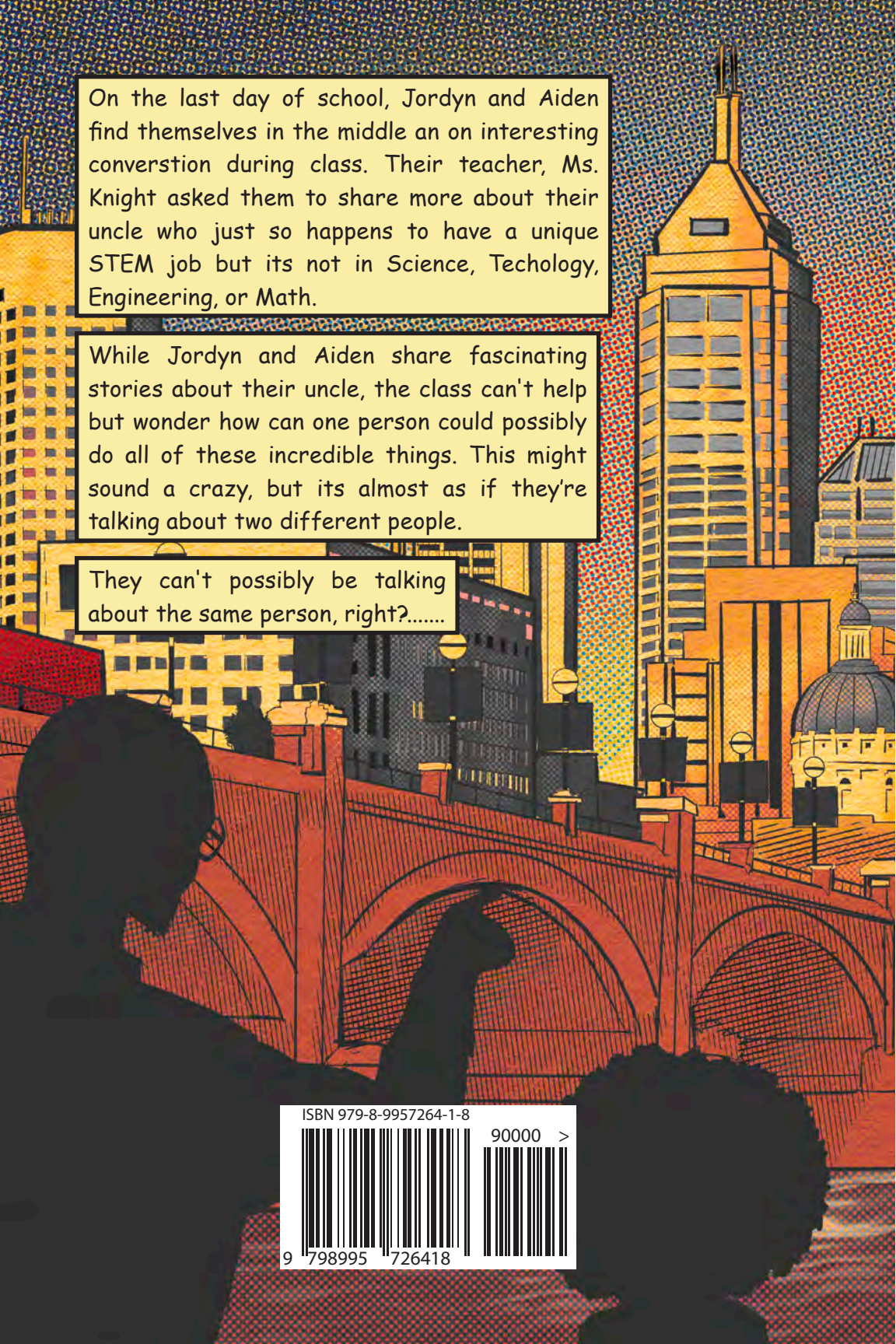


My name is Ahmaud Carroll- Tubbs and growing up , I used to wonder what profession would allow me to use my interests and talents to genuinely make the world a better place. I was always drawn to realm design and had a passion for creating art. But these interests were equally rivaled by my love for the outdoors. After graduating high school, I enrolled in Ball State University's CAP (College of Architecture and Planning) program intending to pursue a degree in architecture. Little did I know, I would soon discover that landscape architecture existed and that my future goals would take an interesting turn. That year I made the decision to set my sights on becoming a landscape architect and I have since not regretted that decision. What I love most about landscape architecture is the fact that I get to play a larger role in creating outdoor spaces capable of leaving a positive impact on the world.

Now meet the Author's Twin



My name is Andre Carroll-Tubbs and up until college, I had spent most of my childhood creating art and developing a greater attention to details. When I enrolled at Ball State, I chose to pursue a degree in architecture because it allowed me to turn what I loved most about my childhood into a career. I learned that architecture was the product of patience, service, and art, which really spoke to me. As a future architect, my love for art is always involved in the design process. This approach encourages me to ask why and who I am creating for. Just like art, architecture also showed me the quality that comes with time and patience. I love that architecture challenges me to set what I think will work to the side and focus on what communities need first. This process alone has shown me how important it is to be patient before designing and only then was I able to see what architecture had to offer me.



On the last day of school, Jordyn and Aiden find themselves in the middle of an interesting conversation during class. Their teacher, Ms. Knight asked them to share more about their uncle who just so happens to have a unique STEM job but it's not in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.

While Jordyn and Aiden share fascinating stories about their uncle, the class can't help but wonder how one person could possibly do all of these incredible things. This might sound a little crazy, but it's almost as if they're talking about two different people.

They can't possibly be talking about the same person, right?.....

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