

THICKO

A personal story by Rossie Stone

At school, I was always a struggler.

Staring out the window, getting into trouble, always lagging behind everyone else... the usual.

This is because reading is a difficult thing for me.

I could spend an hour trying to read two pages of a textbook...

...and still not know what was going on.

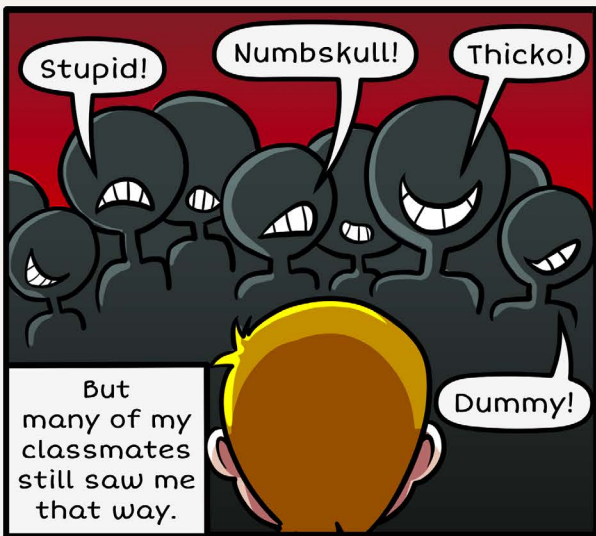
Trying to understand what I was reading was like having to break through a thick sheet of ice in order to get through to the juicy story or facts inside.

But I enjoyed reading COMICS, because the visuals told these stories as much as the words. My visual sense could take the lead.

But in school, where most of the work depended on reading...

welllllll... you can imagine how I did.

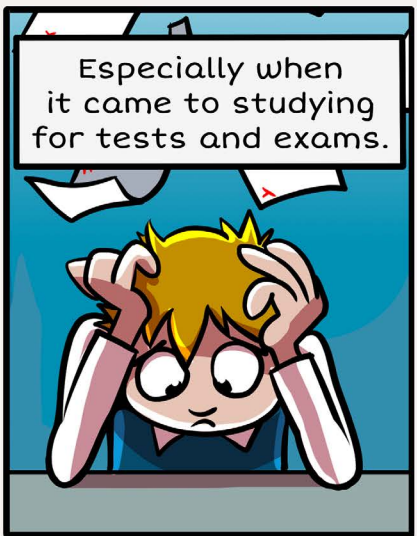
When I was 11, I was diagnosed with dyslexia. This was a relief, because I found out my difficulties weren't a matter of me being stupid!



But many of my classmates still saw me that way.



I hated being thought of as thick-headed. I worked hard, but nothing seemed to help.



Especially when it came to studying for tests and exams.

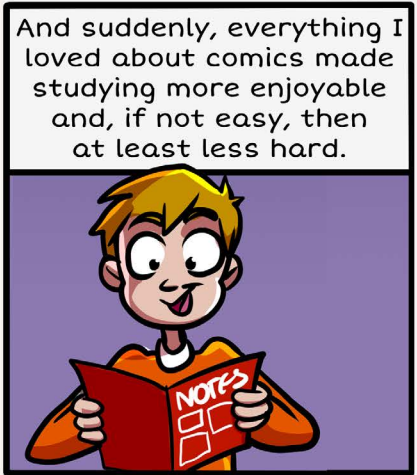


Until one day, when I was nearly finished with school,

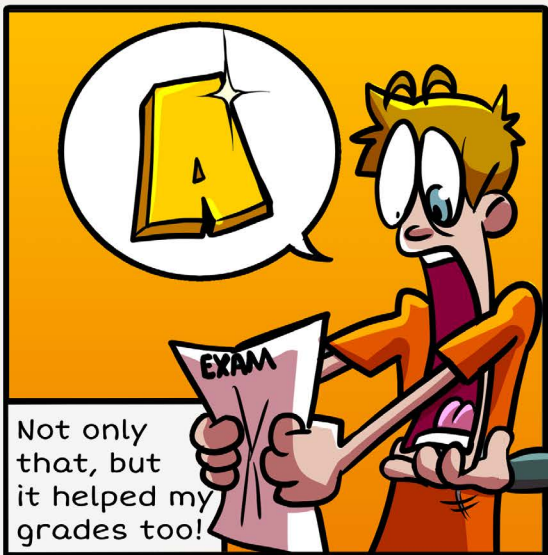
I decided that if I couldn't control what grade I got, I could at least try to ENJOY studying.



So I turned some of my notes for a big test into COMIC STRIPS.



And suddenly, everything I loved about comics made studying more enjoyable and, if not easy, then at least less hard.



Not only that, but it helped my grades too!



So what have I been doing since then? I've gone back to school...



...to make educational comics to help struggling readers like me. Life has some funny turns, doesn't it?

Rossie Stone is the founder of Dekko Comics and a guest artist for Understood, a nonprofit whose mission is to help the 1 in 5 kids with learning and attention issues get the support they need to succeed in school and in life. Get free resources at u.org

Copyright © 2019 Understood.org USA LLC

Understood

for learning & attention issues