

EVAN JACOBS



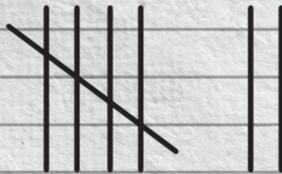
# QWIK CUTTER





# STATS OF SHAWN MILLER'S TARDINESS

HOW MANY TIMES SHAWN HAS BEEN LATE TO CLASS THIS WEEK



HOW MANY  
TIMES SHAWN  
HAS BEEN IN  
TROUBLE FOR  
BEING LATE

→ 0

11:43 PM

TIME SHAWN STARTS  
HIS HOMEWORK



FAVORITE GAMING  
HEADSET



## CHAPTER 1

### FADE-IN

Get to class!” EJ’s voice boomed.

EJ was the head security guard at Cube Middle School. He was tall and muscular. He wore workout clothes every day.

Seventh grader Shawn Miller always heard his voice. If you were outside when class started, you always heard it. You could be anywhere on campus. Some students said they could hear it inside the classrooms too.

Shawn was outside when class started. He was always late.

Today he had to stay behind after second period. He needed extra time to do his math test. He was unorganized. And he started the test late. By the time he got going, some kids were done.

Shawn's third-period class was Advanced Video Production.

He loved it. He loved making movies. His favorite ones were horror films. He wanted to be a director someday. But he knew he would have to be more organized to see his dream come true.

Mr. Murphy, the video production teacher, was cool. He directed music videos when he wasn't working at Cube. He also uploaded his videos. The students could watch them on YouTube.

Still, as cool as he was, even Mr. Murphy got tired of Shawn always being late.

Shawn gritted his teeth as he sprinted across campus. He was sweating through his black T-shirt.

He hated that his second- and third-period classes were on opposite ends of the school.

*Mr. Murphy won't care about that,* he reminded himself.

Somehow he got to video production with five seconds to spare.

He barely heard anything Mr. Murphy said all period. He was working on his science homework. It was due next period. It was assigned three days ago. But that didn't matter. He was always late.

He liked the subject. Wormholes.

He loved anything having to do with time travel. He loved learning about outer space. One day, he hoped to make a movie about it. He even wanted to shoot the movie in space.

Shawn eyed the clock. *Five more minutes,* he told himself.

He just had a few more science questions to complete.

“Don't forget,” Mr. Murphy said. “Your summer projects are due tomorrow.”

This news normally made students groan. But this wasn't English class. Nobody in Advanced Video Production complained about projects. They all loved being in this class.

“You can either upload them tonight. Or turn them in on a DVD. Or a flash drive. Or an SD card.”

“Summer project?” Shawn blurted out.

He was thankful his table partner, John Gomez, was the only one who heard him. John was Shawn's best friend. They had known each other since fourth grade. They both loved technology and making movies. Shawn loved to shoot movies. John loved to edit. They planned to start a production company someday.

“Yeah,” Amanda Nguyen said smartly behind her big black glasses. “Mr. Murphy has only been talking about it since forever. Duh!”

Shawn ignored her. She had always hated him. He had called her “four eyes” for all of first grade. But that wasn't the reason why Amanda disliked

him. It was because he never got in trouble. For being unorganized. For being late.

Studying late.

Turning in his assignments late.

Sure, he had to stay after class a lot. But his grades never suffered.

Amanda despised this about him. She was super organized. She was on top of things. She was always on time. Always first to raise her hand.

The bell rang. Class was over.

“Have you started editing your project?”

Shawn asked John.

“Yeah,” John said as he slid his iPad into his backpack. “Haven’t you?”

“What do you think?” Amanda snapped before he could answer. “Does Shawn Miller ever do anything on time? Does he ever do anything without having to be reminded to do it a million times?”

Amanda turned and left in a huff.

Shawn was used to her insults. He didn’t say

anything back. He didn't have anything to say anyway.

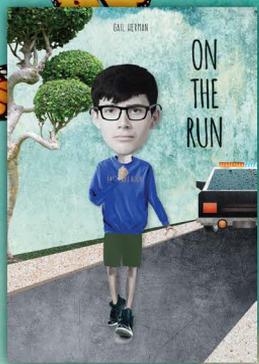
"We shot all that footage over the summer," John said as he headed for the door. "You mean you haven't even started cutting it?"

"It was assigned too early," Shawn said. He walked out of the class with John. "I forgot about it."

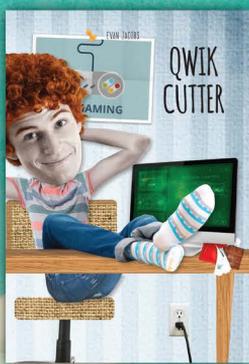
"Well, it's due tomorrow. What are you gonna do?"

"I'll get it done." Shawn said confidently. "I always get it done."

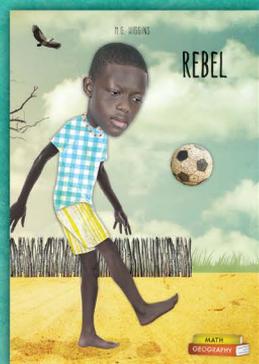
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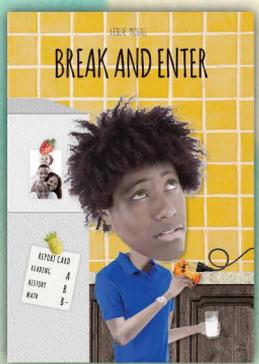
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OH, SHAWN. YOU ARE ALWAYS LATE. BUT DO YOU EVER REALLY GET IN TROUBLE? YOUR GRADES ARE GREAT. YOU'RE SMART. EVERYONE LIKES YOU. WELL, EXCEPT AMANDA. BUT SOMEDAY YOU ARE GOING TO LEARN YOUR LESSON. AND THAT DAY IS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK.



 **SADDLEBACK**  
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING  
[www.sdlback.com](http://www.sdlback.com)

LEXILE 250L HL

ISBN: 978-1-68021-106-1



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