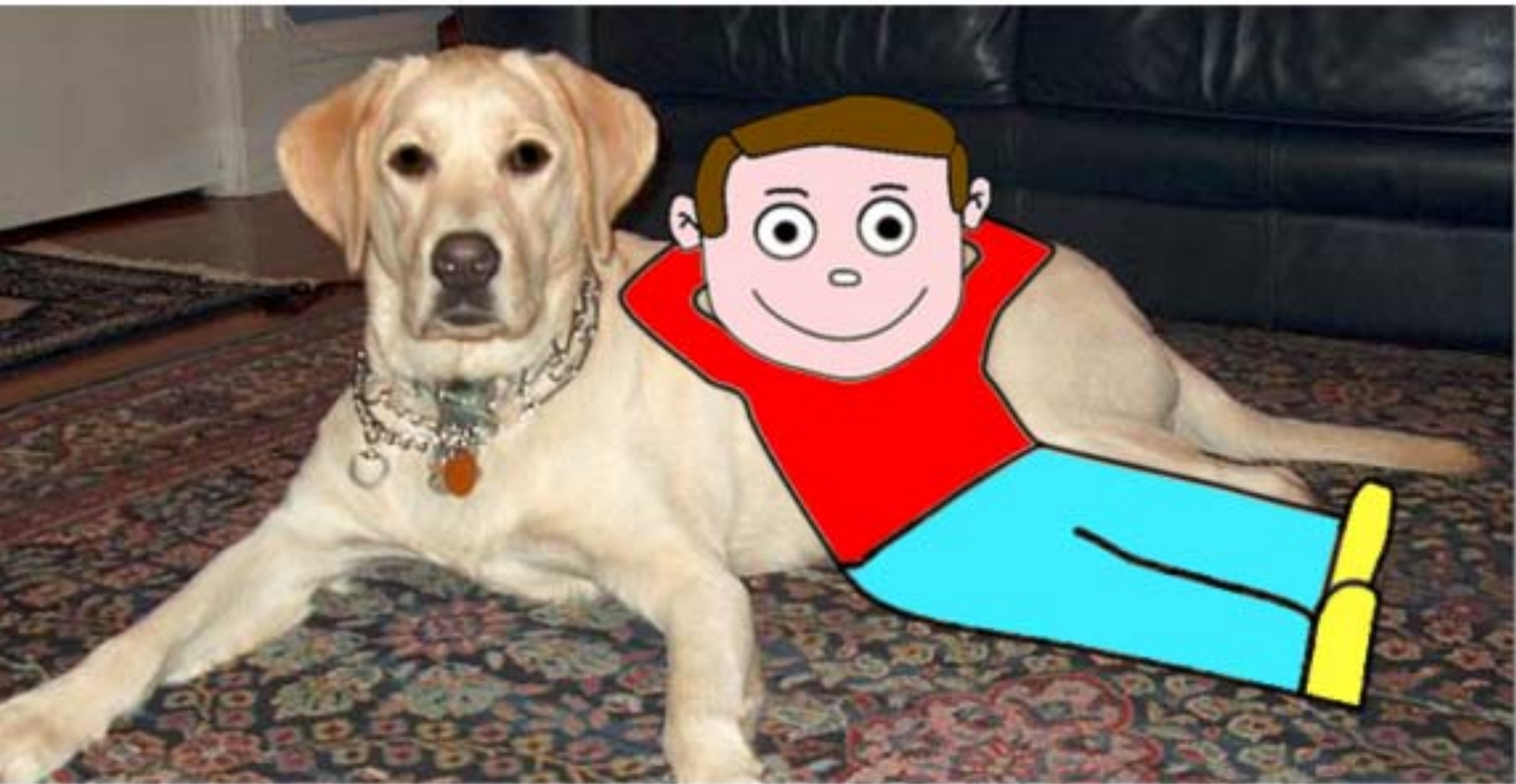


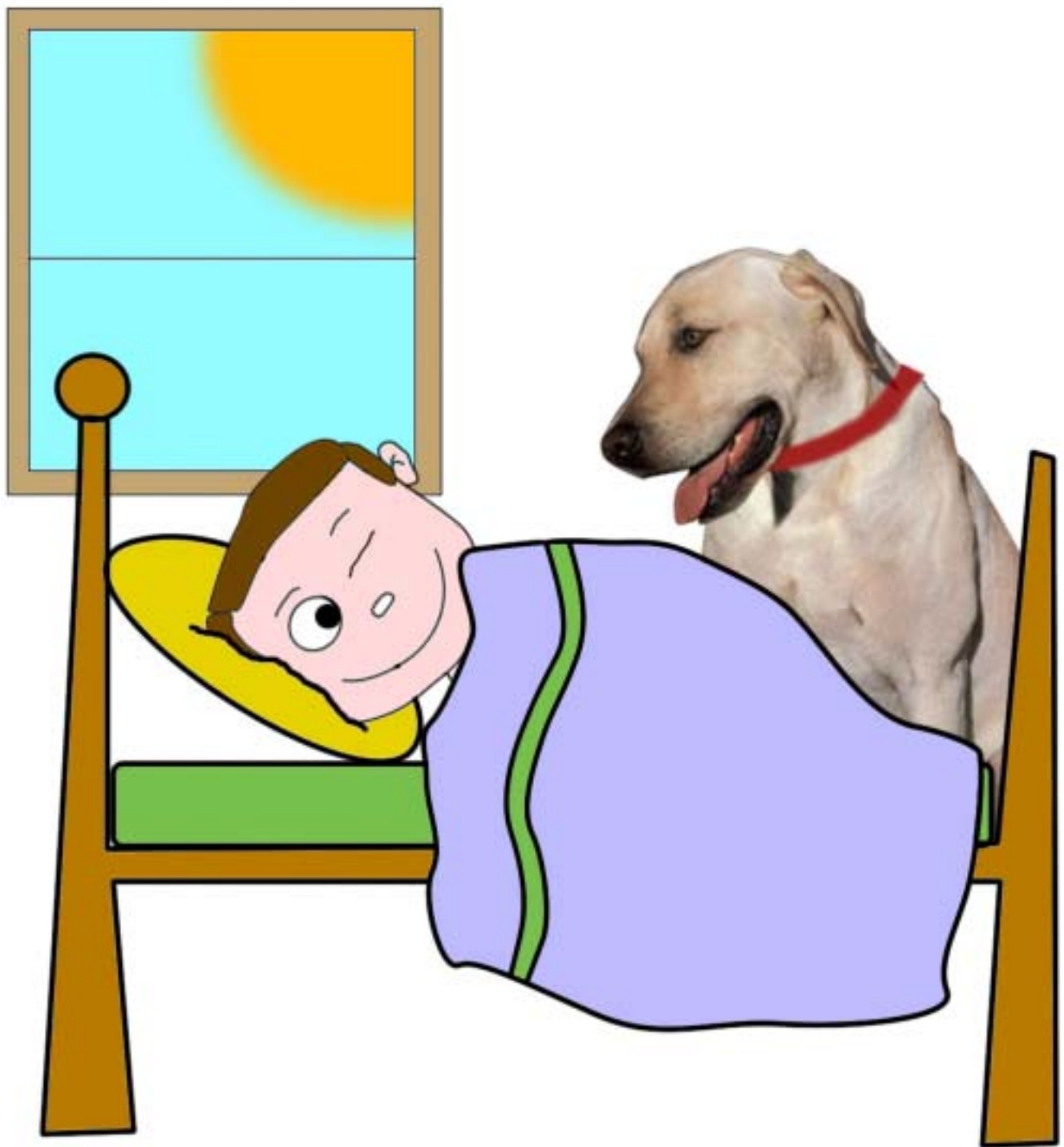
Jake Hall
in

JAKE'S BEST DAY EVER



Featuring Summer Hall

Written and illustrated by
by Lee LaMarche



It was quite a bit earlier than usual when Summer woke up Jake. But Jake didn't want to get up. He was too comfortable.



Finally Jake got out of bed. When he did he noticed that Summer had a note in her mouth. He took it out and read the inside. He was surprised by what it said.



Dear Mr. Hall,

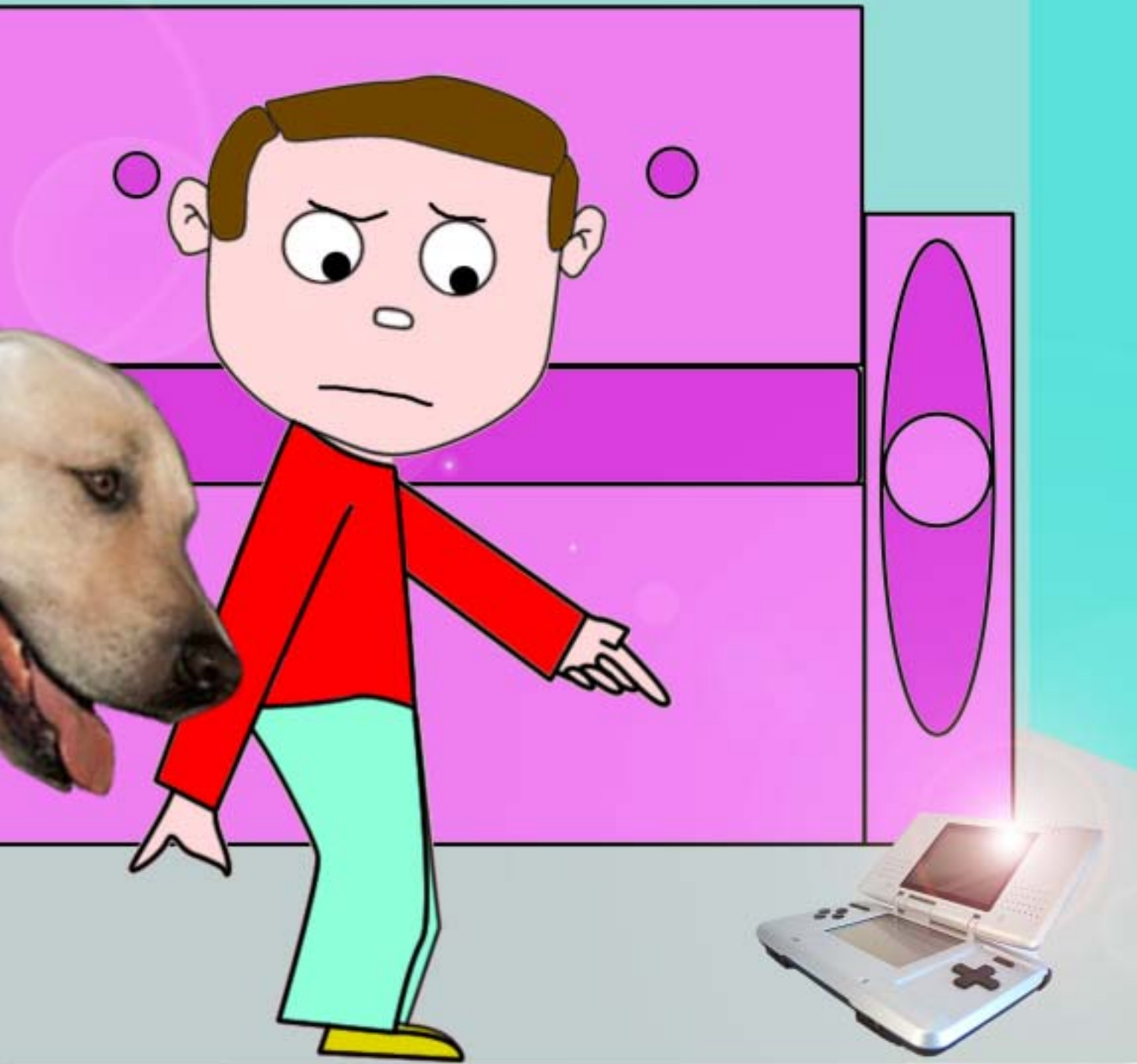
*Can you and your dog
please meet me in my*

*lair on level 1 of the
"Lightcatcher" game?*

I've seen you playing

*and could use your two
hands and your dog's
four paws.*

Jake knew the game "Lightcatcher". He'd almost gotten to the end before. Besides, if he was allowed to bring Summer for help, then he'd have no trouble at all. "Where'd you get the letter, girl?"



Summer led Jake to the family room. She nudged him forward towards his Gameboy. Jake was confused. "You got the letter from my Gameboy?" Before Summer answered, the machine switched itself on and started making weird sounds.



Suddenly, with a brain-clanking bang, Jake felt his body stretch and twist, and he saw Summer's body doing the same. In an instant they were sucked into the Gameboy. All that was left was an empty family room.

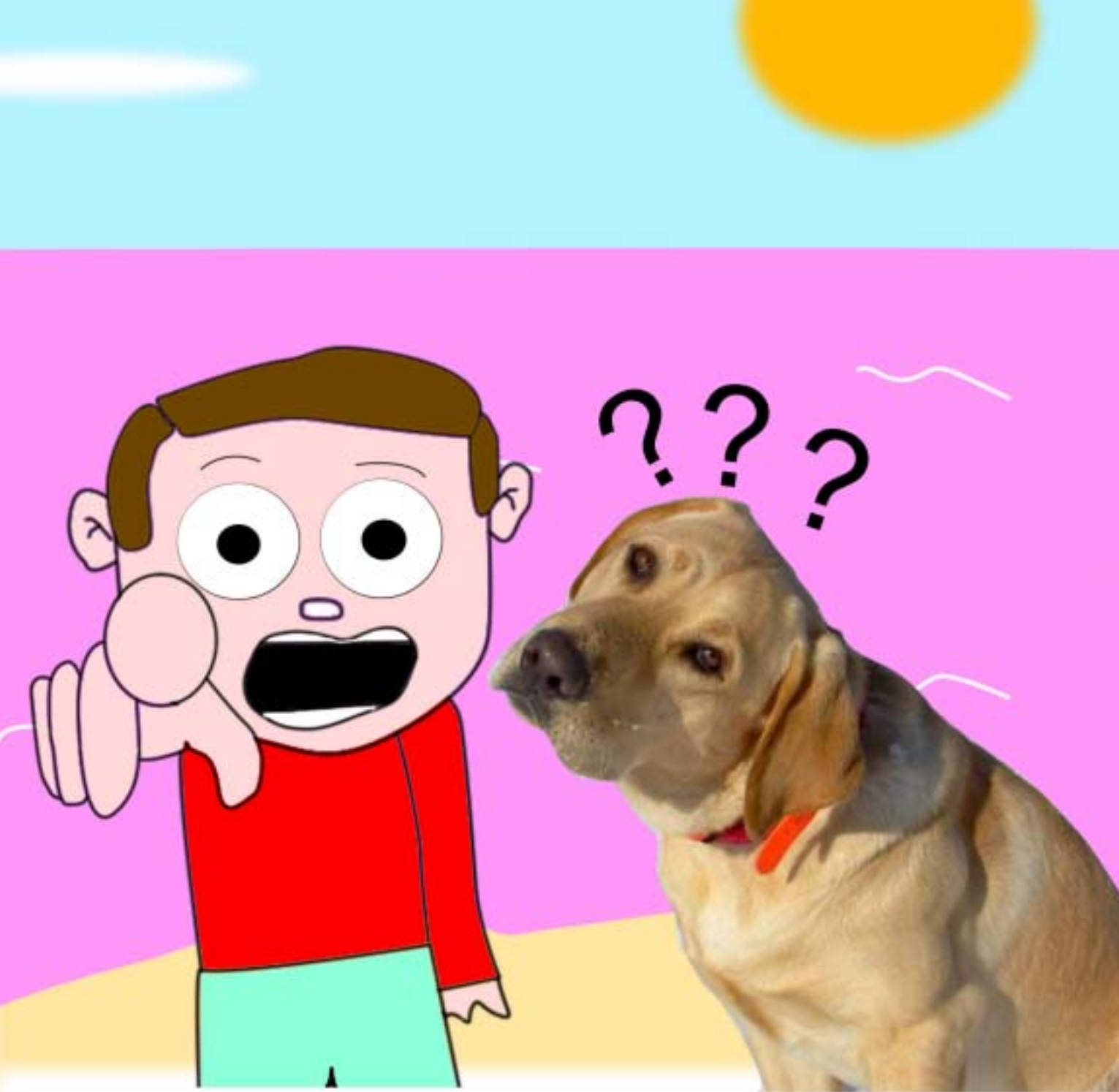
Level: 1 : The Cave



Jake shook his head and looked around. They were in a dark cave. Summer pulled out a flashlight, and they saw an old man. He looked very upset and very dirty. He motioned for them to come closer.

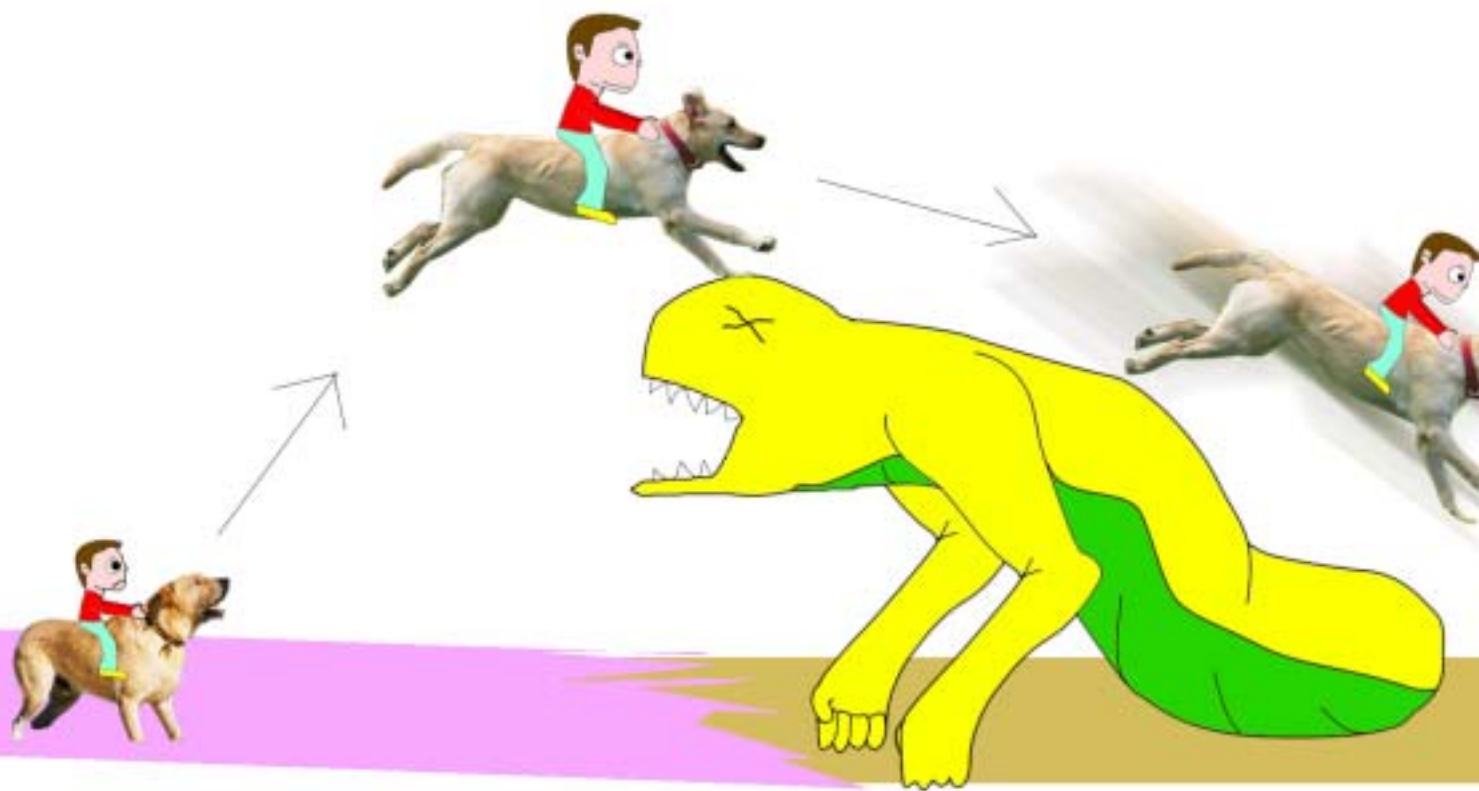


The old man pulled out a map with six symbols on it. He explained that Jake had five “levels” to his journey. He had already been pulled through the screen and was now in the dark cave. He simply needed to pass the beach creature, climb the mountain of cards, catch the blue Light and return it to the cave. Simple, right?



The walk to the beach was rocky. But as they walked farther and farther along the purple ocean, they suddenly came upon the monster who guarded the beach and did not wish for anyone or anything to pass. Summer wasn't sure what it was. But it looked to Jake like some sort of worm with arms or something. It was gigantic and enormous, it was... "ginormous".

Level 2: Beach Monster



Jake put the map into his back pocket and jumped up on Summer's back. Together they rode directly at the creature, who roared in unbelievable rage. At the last moment, Summer leapt into the air, over the head of the creature, bouncing off its head and landing on the other side. As they reached the other side, Jake knew that Summer had saved them both.

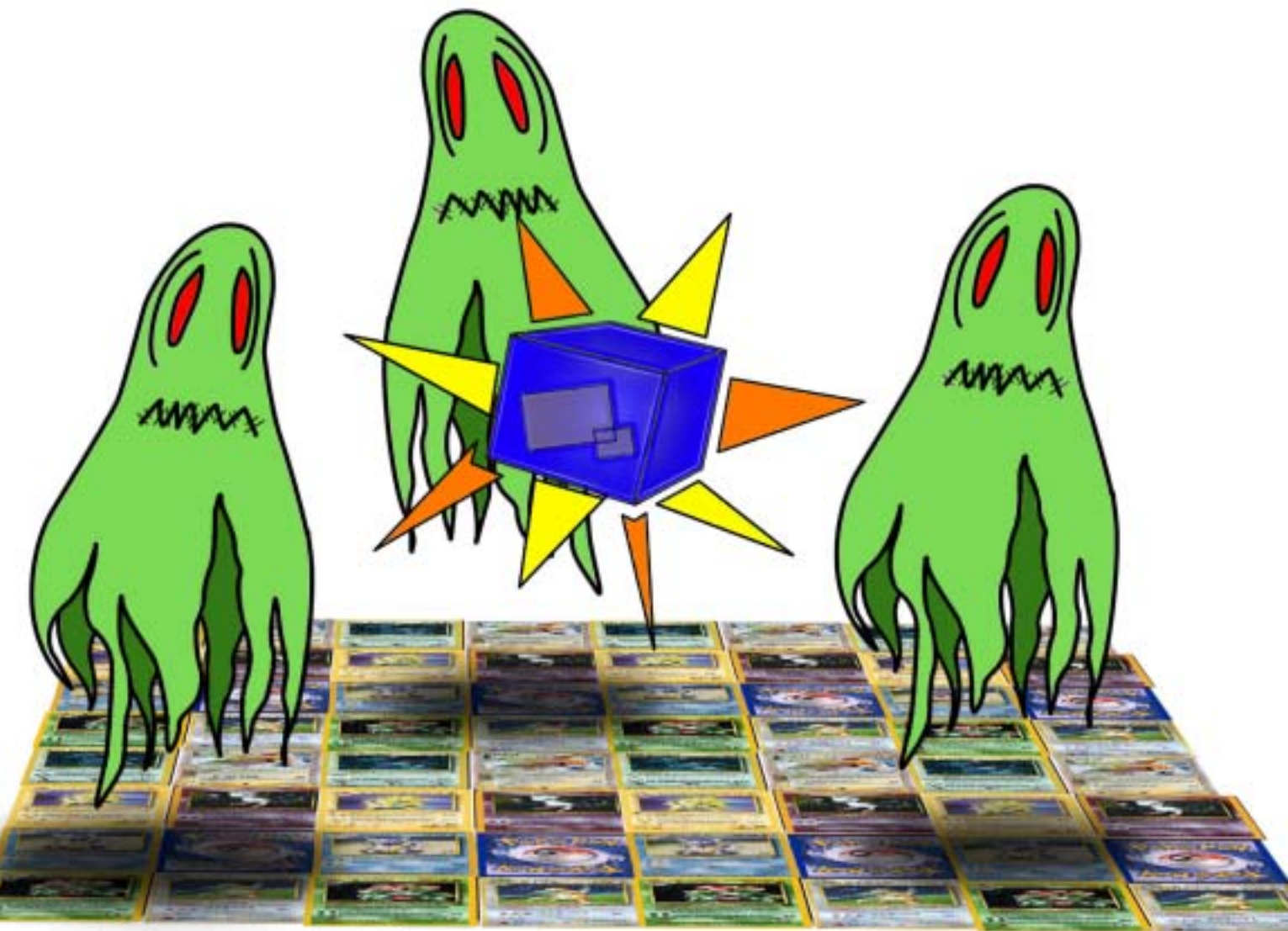


Level 3: Mountain of Cards



But up ahead, Level 3. Jake saw the pile of cards. No. The closer they got, he realized it was not a pile, but a heap. No, it was definitely a mound. No. Not a mound. A mountain. Yes. It was a mountain of cards. He looked up and considered it. Summer didn't even stop, she just started bounding straight up.

Level 4: Find the Light



As they reached the top of the mountain, Jake saw what they had come for. It was the Light of Cavernous. It was floating in mid-air, hovering in a pool of light. But Jake's attention was quickly pulled away, as he realized Summer was growling at three ghouls who guarded the Light menacingly.



Without missing a beat, both Summer and Jake lunged at separate ghouls. When the third saw what was happening to its companions, it flew away, frightened for itself. Jake reached out and quietly pulled the Light out of the air. They had beaten Level 4. Now it was time to return the Light to its rightful owner.

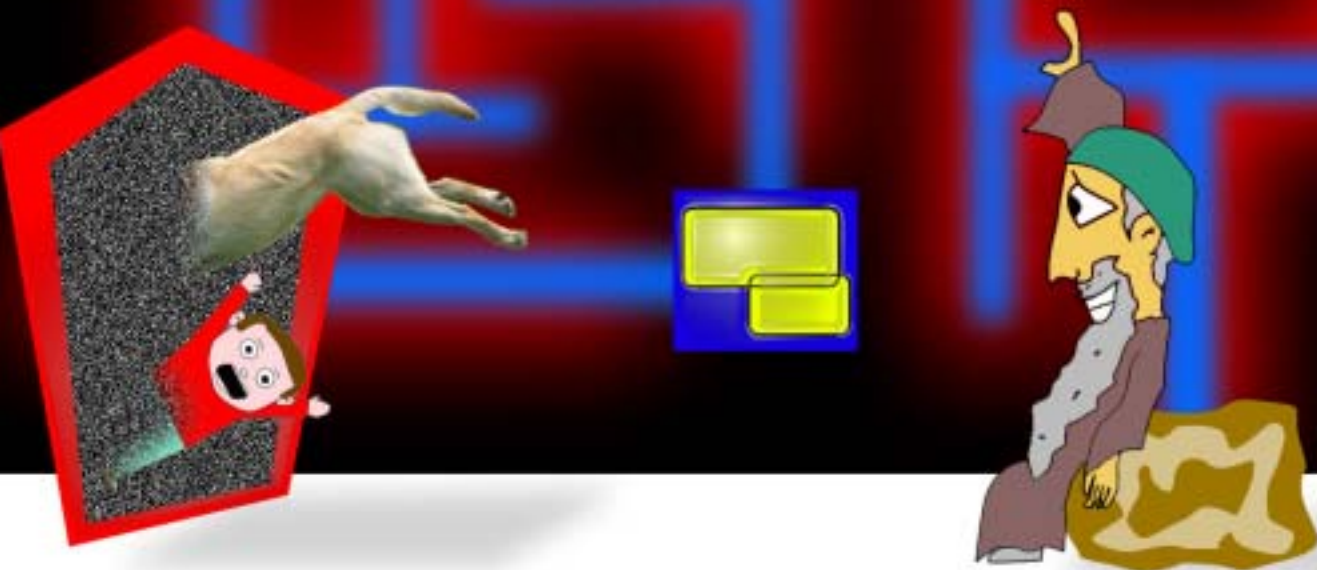


Jake tied the Light of Cavernous to Summer's back, and the two of them ran full speed back down the card mountain. The sun was beginning to set, and they didn't have much time. Jake was already starting to feel tired. But he knew that he and Summer had to return the Light to its rightful owner.

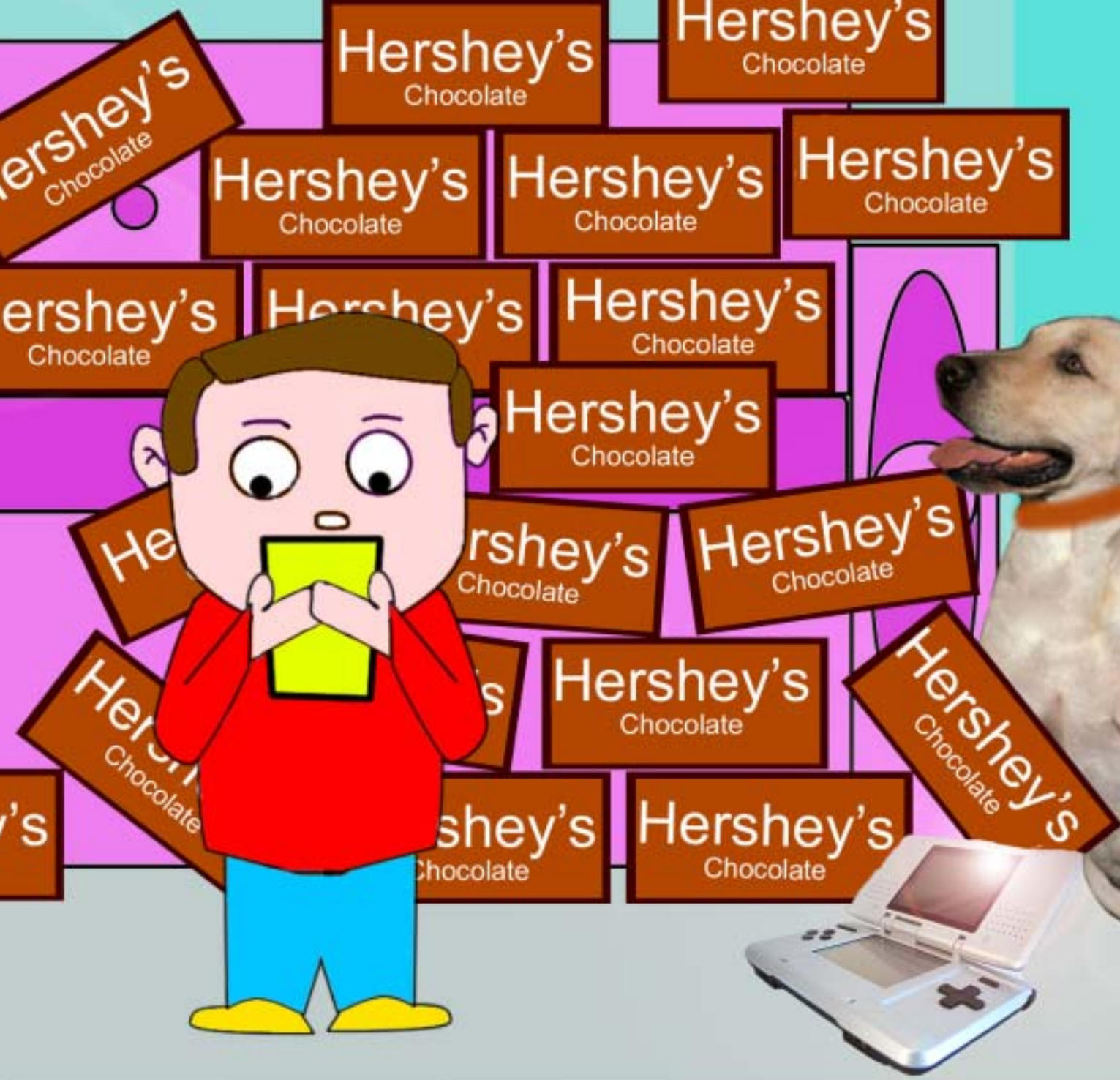
Level 5: The Return of the Lightbringer



“You found it! You found the Light of Cavernous!” The old man cried as they handed it back to him, its rightful owner. They followed him as he walked back into the cave. “You shall be rewarded greatly for this. You have recovered the Light, and that is all that matters.”



The old man put the Light back into its rightful place, and they watched the cave's walls hum and begin to glow a sweet blue. "Now," said the old man, "step back through the screen. Return to your own world and you will find your reward." Summer yawned and stepped through the screen. Jake followed quickly behind.



As they reappeared in Jake's family room, it became clear that something was different. Summer looked around, confused. There were boxes everywhere. Jake picked up a small note and read it out loud. "Dear Mr. Hall, I hope you find this chocolate to be a suitable reward for your troubles." Jake looked up at the boxes and nearly drooled on the floor. All the chocolate, just for him!



And so, with matching sighs, Jake and Summer headed to Jake's bedroom. The sun had set and their stomachs were filled with chocolate. Jake got under the covers and closed his eyes. Summer put her head down on the bed. They both fell asleep among the countless boxes and shared wonderful dreams that lasted throughout the night.

The End