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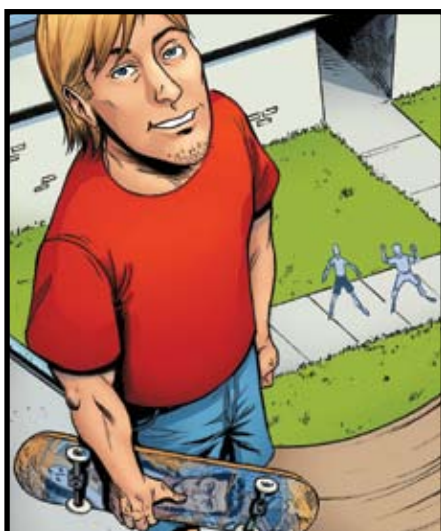
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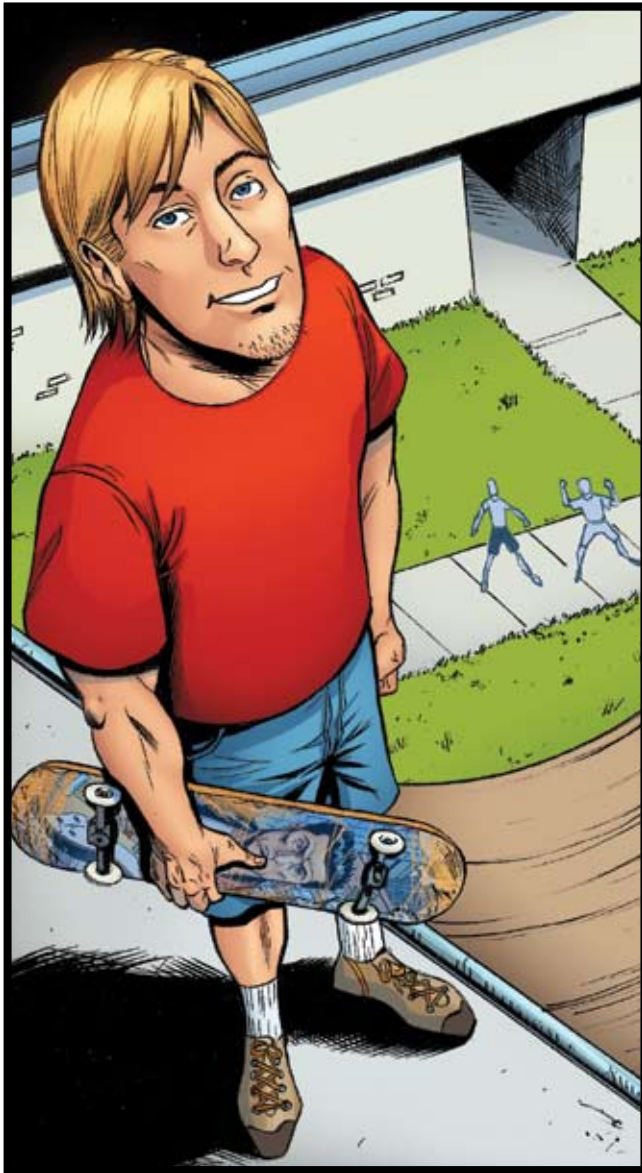


## Dictionary.....133

# Is It Worth the Risk?

## Chapter 1

Rob was a young man who loved adventure. He loved for things to be thrilling and fun. His favorite teacher, Mrs. Allison, always had to keep an eye on him. Rob's dad had changed jobs, so he had changed schools before, but he would always remember Mrs. Allison. He thought she had eyes in the back of her head. However, if it



had not been for those eyes, there is no telling what he might have done. Rob's mother thought he was born with a sense of joy in doing new things. She liked to tell a story about Rob when he was two and a half years old.

Rob's parents were entertaining guests in the living room. Rob escaped out the back door. He climbed the trellis on the side of the house. He walked across the roof and yelled down the chimney, "Mommy, can you hear me?"

His parents could hear him giggling and laughing.

They freaked out and ran outside to find him. They arrived in time to see little Rob run across the roof, leap from the house, and land in his sandbox. He barely missed the metal toy trucks buried in the sand.

His dad rushed over, grabbed him up, and checked to see if he still had all his fingers and toes. "I think he is all right," he said with a sigh of relief. At that moment, his mom went into a faint and fell to the ground!





## Chapter 2

As Rob was growing up, it was plain to see he had a love for things that were exciting. He got a kick out of doing things most others would be afraid to do. His mother, however, had to see a doctor to try to stop the fainting spells.



When Rob was four, he jumped on his tricycle and chased after the garbage truck for several blocks because he wanted to be a truck driver.

At six, he tried to capture poisonous snakes to take to the zoo keeper.

At ten, he skateboarded down the cement ramp on the sides of Interstate Highway 212.

Some other “fun” things Rob liked to do as he grew up included jumping from the railroad bridge to the creek below and playing matador with the big bull in the neighbor’s field.

He loved to race on his motorcycle but never wore a helmet. He did rock climbing without safety equipment and practiced bungee jumping from the top of the cliff. The list went on and on.



## Chapter 3

A lot of these things would have been okay if Rob had used a little common sense. He didn't have any fear in his body, and he forgot that safety should always come first.

Rob's job coach at his new school, Ms. Thomas, helped him get a job at The Sports Store. It was the kind of job Rob really liked because he was surrounded by all the kinds of things he loved doing.

He had trouble at work, though, because he kept doing risky things while on the job. The final straw came when he was supposed to be stocking shelves. He decided he would jump from one shelf to another.

He was having a great time until he jumped a little short on the last shelf. He had to grab on with his fingertips. The shelf started swaying back and forth.

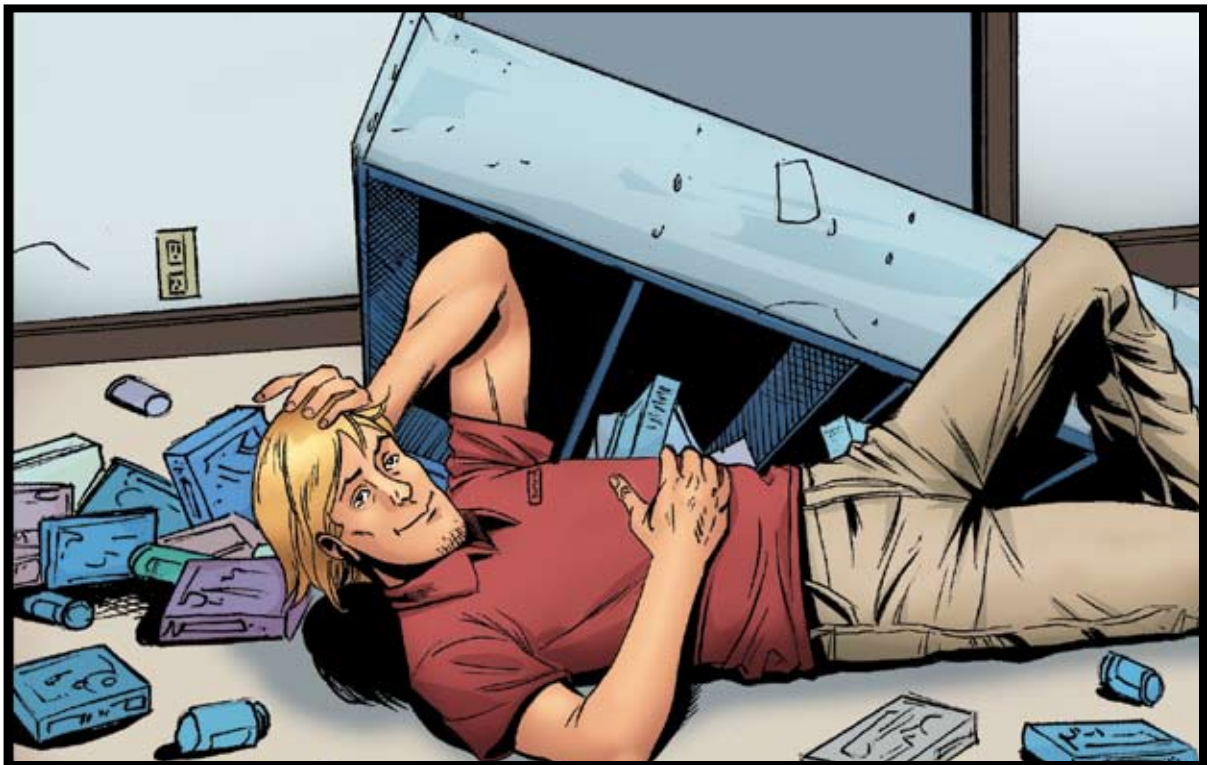
He yelled to all of the customers, "Run for your lives on Aisle 10!"

The people cleared out just in the nick of time as Rob and 1,759 fishing lures came crashing loudly to the floor.

How did Rob know there were exactly 1,759 fishing lures?

Well, he had to count them all and put them back where they belonged!

At least Rob thought, "I'm glad Mother wasn't in the store at the time of the crash, because Dad would be taking her to the doctor again!"



## Chapter 4

Rob's new job coach, Ms. Thomas, had a meeting with his parents. She told them Rob was a hard worker and well mannered, but his sense of adventure was going to get him fired. They were all concerned because Rob would be graduating next year, and they knew he would have to settle down to hold a job.

Since it was almost summer time, Ms. Thomas suggested a summer camp. She had heard a lot of good things about Camp Attainment.

Can you think of a way to help Rob get his risky behavior in control?



# Self-Determination Dictionary

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## Aa

**actions** – things you do

**adventure** – an exciting event

**afford** – to have enough money to buy things

**aim** – a goal or purpose

**aisle** – an open way for walking between shelves in a store

**aquarium** – a glass container in which living animals or fish are kept

## Bb

**behave** – act right; do the right things

**budget** – a special plan to help you decide how to spend your money

## Cc

**caption** – words that tell about a picture in a newspaper

**career** – what a person does to make a living

**catchy** – cute and easy to remember

**chef** – a cook

**choose** – make up your mind

**chow** – a slang word for *food*

**community** – a city or town where people live and work

**condiment** – something you put on food to make it taste better

**confident** – sure of yourself.

**counter** – a small object used to count or keep score

## Dd

**dangerous** – unsafe; can cause pain or injury

**detail** – a small step that is carefully done in a process

**difficult** – hard to do

**discussion** – a talk that is given about a subject or idea

**dodge** – move quickly to get out of the way

**dull** – not interesting; boring

## Ee

**effort** – a strong attempt to do something

**embarrassing** – a feeling of being uncomfortable

**emergency** – something that happens suddenly and calls for quick action

**employee** – a person who works for someone else and gets paid

**entertaining** – having as a guest

**express** – the fastest way; without many stops

## Ff

**faint** – become dizzy and pass out

**former** – coming before; in the past

**frenzy** – a wild outburst or action

## Gg

**grounded** – when the privilege of leaving home or hanging out with friends is taken away

## Hh

**habit** – something you have done so many times that you do it without thinking

**hysterical** – having wild fits of laughing or crying

## Ii

**incident** – something that happens in real life

**inflatable** – it swells out when air is put into it

**issues** – problems that need to be solved

## Jj

**jungle gym** – a framework of metal bars where children can climb, hang, and play

## Mm

**margin** – small amount

**matador** – a bull fighter

**menu** – a list of food to choose from at a restaurant

**miniature** – very small in size

**minnows** – very small fish that are used for bait

**mission** – a special job you are sent out to do

## Nn

**neighborhood** – a small part of a town

## Oo

**opportunity** – a time that is right to do something

## Pp

**panic** – a sudden, wild fear

**personalities** – habits and behaviors that make one person different from another person

**polite** – nice; kind; having good manners

**practice** – to do something over and over again so you will be good at it

**praise** – to say good things about

**pretend** – to make believe

**privilege** – a special reward or right given to a person

**proof** – anything used to show that something is true or correct

## Rr

**realistic** – seeing things as they really are

**reputation** – what people think about how you act

**restaurant** – a place where you buy meals and eat them

**rickety** – weak and shaky

**routine** – a regular way of doing something

**rude** – having no respect for others; not polite

**rule** – a direction that is given to control the way a person acts

## Ss

**safety** – freedom from danger

**saint** – a very kind and patient person



**self-control** – in charge of your own feelings or actions

**shallow** – not deep

**sigh** – to let out a deep breath with a soft sound

**solution** – an answer to a problem

**spotlight** – a place where you will get noticed

**strive** – to try very hard

**suddenly** – happening quickly; without warning

**surgery** – an operation where a doctor removes or repairs part of the body

**surprised** – how you feel when something happens you don't expect

## Tt

**terrified** – filled with fear; scared very badly

**thrill** – a strong feeling of excitement

**training** – getting ready for a job by practicing the skill

## Vv

**veterinarian** – a doctor who takes care of animals

## Ww

**wedged** – packed in very closely

**weird** – very odd or strange