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## Relationships

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## Vali: Relationships

The parade of substitute teachers started again, but this time the class decided to try and teach ourselves. We read, we discussed, we looked up literary resources online and we quizzed each other weekly. Near the end of the semester, we even gave ourselves a final exam. We each took a different short story we'd read during the year and wrote our own stories in the style of the selected author.

The school administration had no idea what to make of us. Some of us even continued reading and writing during the summer. For shame! Near the end of the summer break, word spread that Mr. Boone was coming back to teach, but our joy at this news was overshadowed by our concern for him.

On his first day back at school, Nathan Boone felt fear, shame, and some hope. He had wanted to make a difference last year, had worked hard to reach the kids, but knew he had failed in the end. His mind and his body chemistry had betrayed him.

The school administration had been more understanding than he expected, so he took them up on the offer to return to the classroom in the fall. He wasn't a quitter, and he'd worked hard over the summer to manage his illness. He knew he just needed to get back in there and start again.

As he entered the building, students were mulling around their lockers, so he kept his gaze low and started down the hallway to his classroom.

"Hi, Mr. Boone. Welcome back!" someone shouted down the hall and he froze.

"Hi, Mr. Boone," on his left.

"It's good to see you again, sir," on his right.

"We missed you, Mr. Boone," said a young lady coming up behind him.

He looked around and saw Leticia wearing a brightly colored t-shirt emblazoned with the exclamation, "Eureka!" As he turned back, he noticed scattered along the hallway were other students from his last year's class wearing similar t-shirts inscribed with some of his other catchphrases: "Shazam!", "Holy Moly", "Yippee Ki Yay" and "Éccola!"

"Thank you, thank you," Mr. Boone whispered, as he wiped his eyes.

"Ding, ding, ding, Mr. Boone!" declared Stevie, "I think we have a winner!"



*Eye of the Storm (at right),*  
Linnea, Sardina

*Relationships (at left),*  
Aleksandra Vali