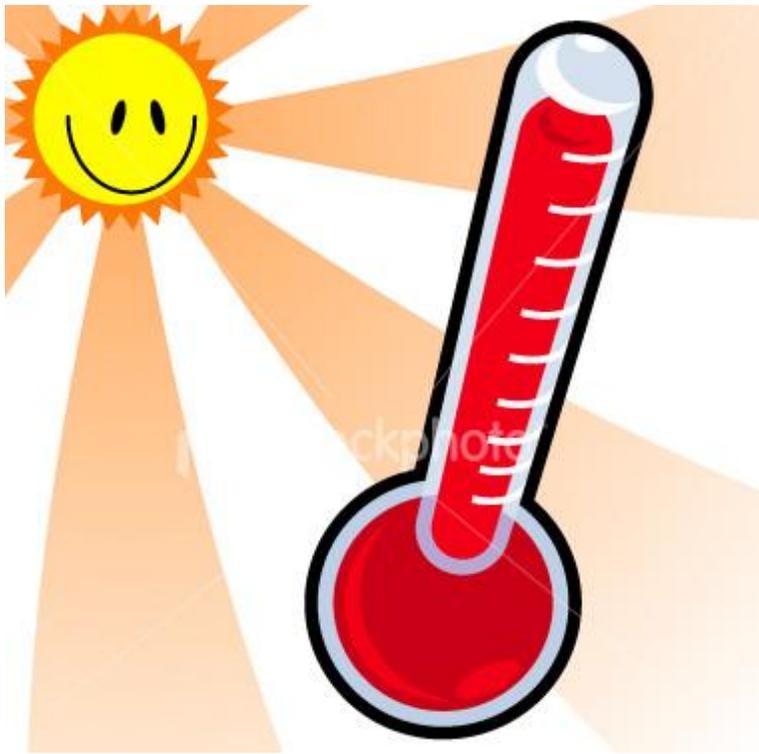


# A World without Civil Engineers

By: Christal Kuriakose  
Christopher Menge,  
Dmitriy Ostapyshyn,  
Jakub Raszczyk,

---

It was a hot, sunny, sizzling summer day. The sun was blazing hot and the only shade available was that from trees or buildings. It was a kind of day where even the wild animals knew not to come outside.



It was the perfect sort of day to spend relaxing at the beach or the pool, which was exactly what 11 year old Charlie wanted to do.





All Charlie wanted to do was go to his friend's pool party and hang out. But his parents wouldn't let him. His father insisted that they were too much work and they would be busy when they finally got Charlie didn't like the agreement. He knew that his father always said that and he didn't want to hear it.

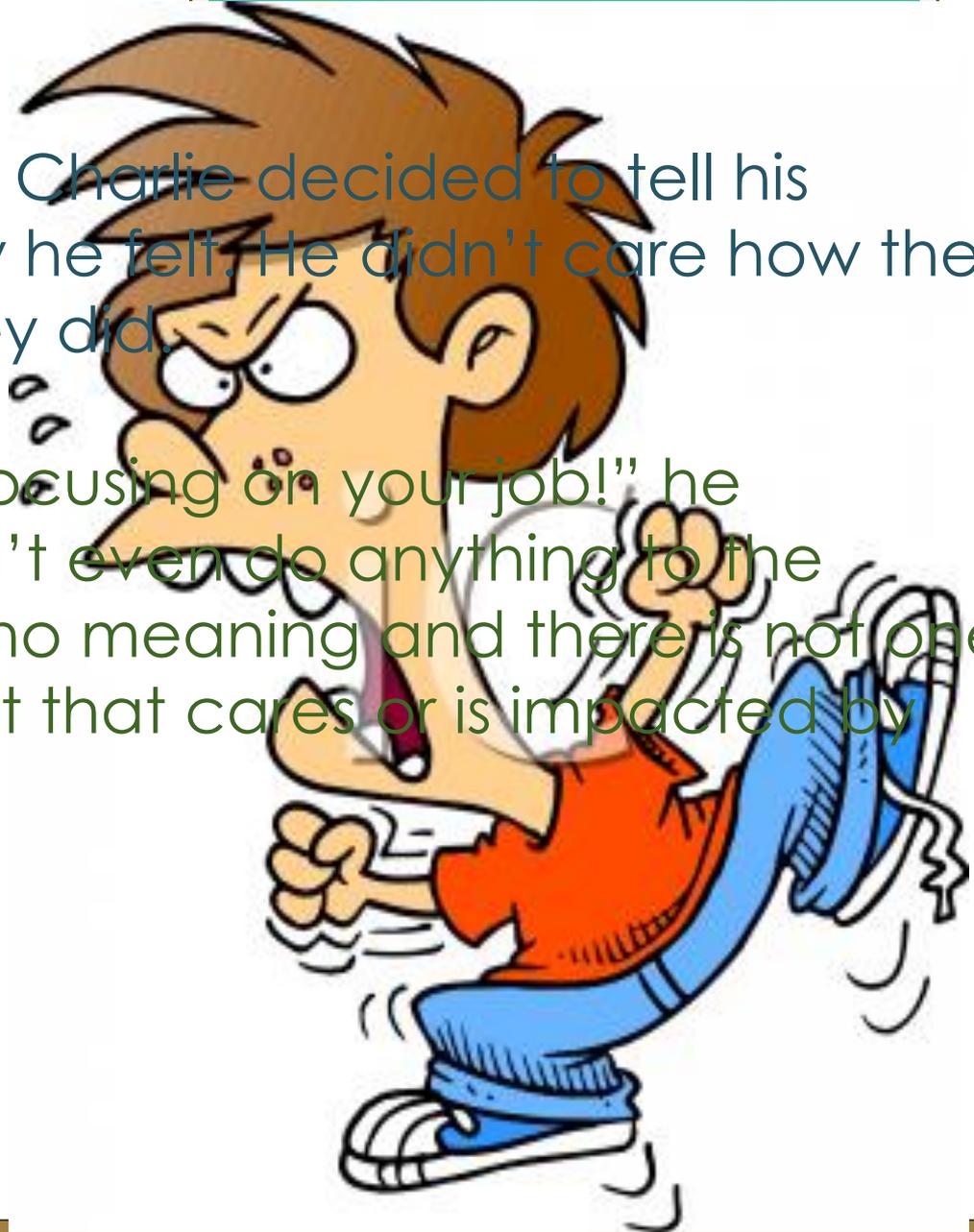


Charlie hated his parents' job. They were both Civil Engineers for a family firm and were always working. They never did what Charlie wanted to do or go anywhere Charlie wanted to go.

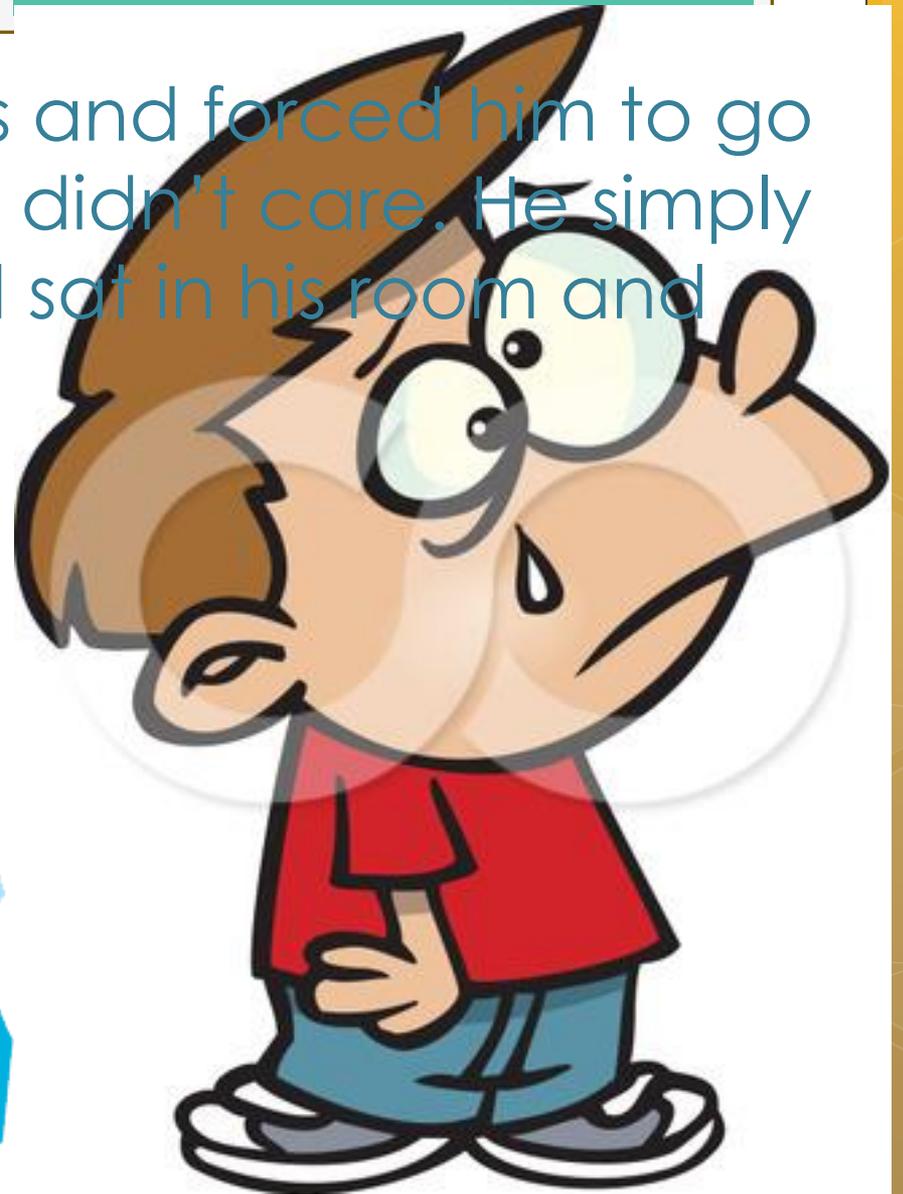


So that summer day Charlie decided to tell his parents exactly how he felt. He didn't care how they reacted or what they did.

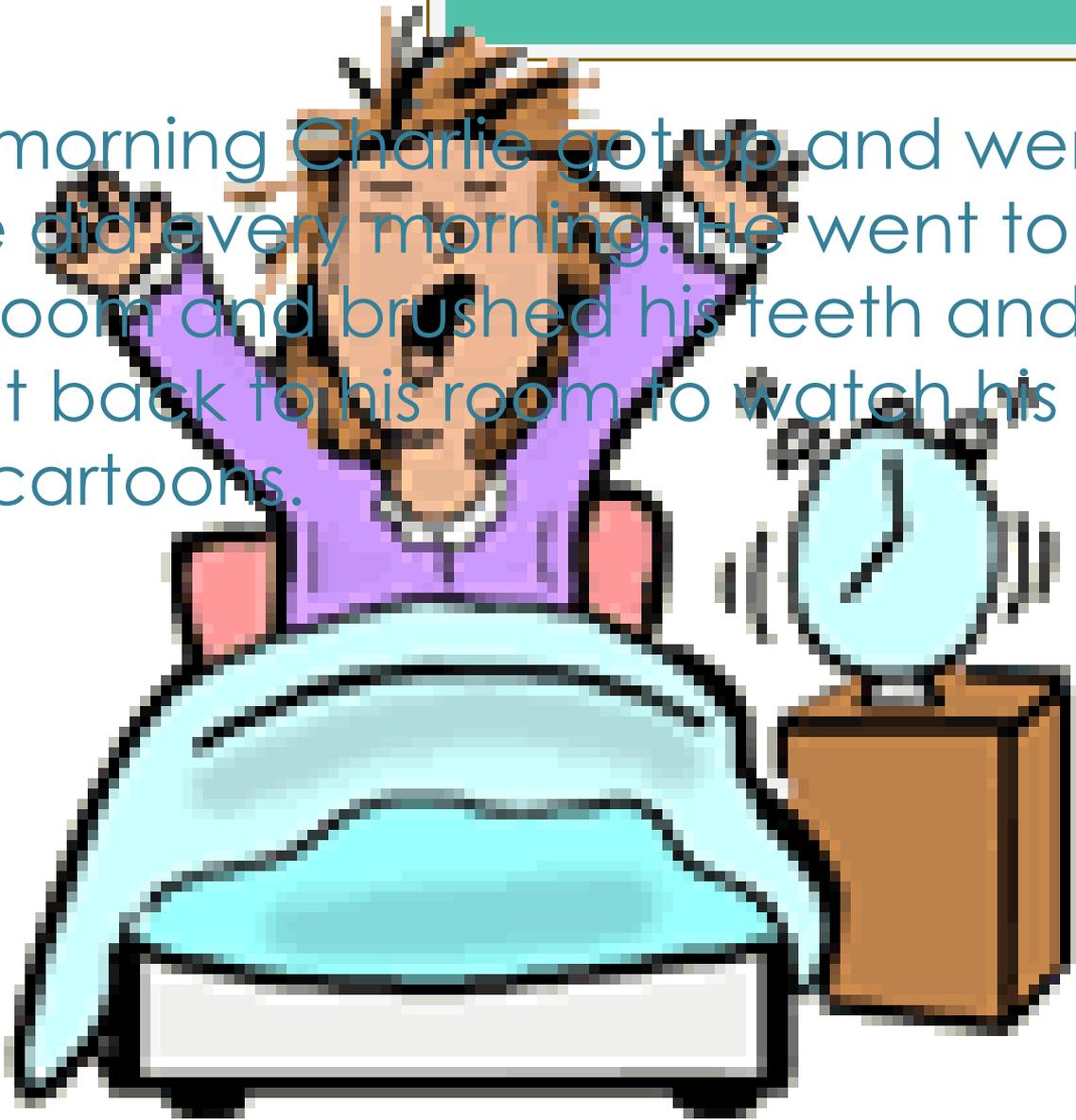
“You need to stop focusing on your job!” he screamed “You don't even do anything to the world! Your job has no meaning and there is not one person on this planet that cares or is impacted by your work!”



His parents were furious and forced him to go to his room. But Charlie didn't care. He simply did what they said and sat in his room and cried himself to sleep.



The next morning Charlie got up and went on like he did every morning. He went to the bathroom and brushed his teeth and then went back to his room to watch his morning cartoons.



Nothing  
out of th  
about to  
day, he  
reflectin



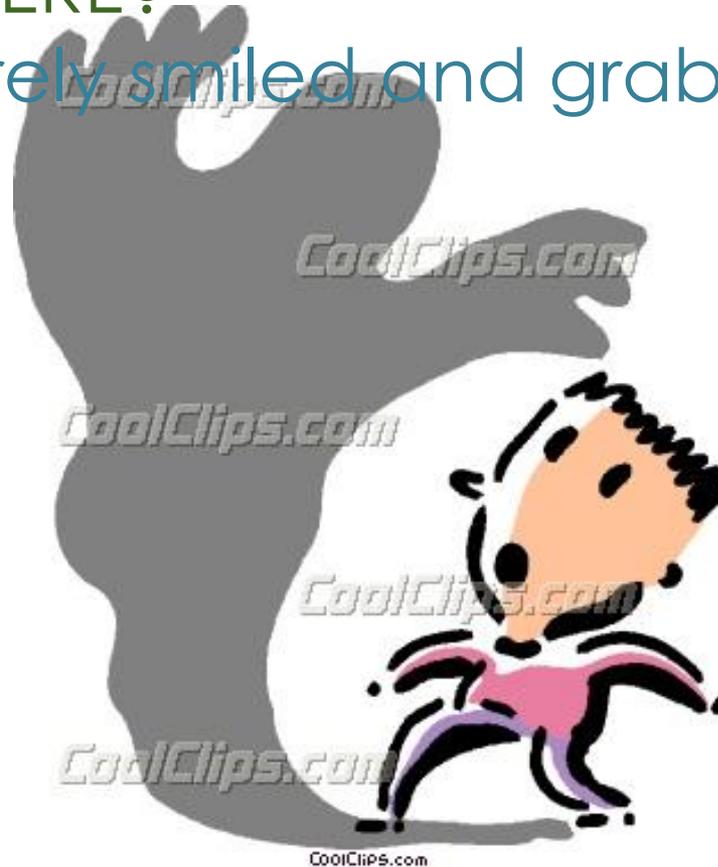
emed  
was  
the  
ring

It was a tall, pale, figure. Charlie instantly turned around and realized that it was not a reflection but an actual person.



“WHO ARE YOU?” he screamed “WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?”

The figure merely smiled and grabbed his shoulder.



She appeared to be a young woman with hair as red as fire and a ghostly body.

“I am here to show you the truth behind the words you speak. I am here to show you a world without Civil Engineers.” she said.



Charlie was frightened and tried his best to escape the clutch of the ghost. “No, we do not have much time,” she reported “You must follow me right now,”

Before Charlie even had to time to breathe an argument, he was standing in a smelly, dirty tunnel.

“Where are we? What are we doing here?” he demanded “I want to go back home!”





“We are in the sewage system right underneath your house. Do you want to know why Civil Engineers are important? They make sure that the water you drink and the water you shower in does not look or smells like this. They are constantly trying their best to protect you!”



Charlie looked around a little bit and then shrugged. “I guess they are helpful. But truthfully, I could just buy water from the supermarket. I do not need them wasting their time trying to help me.”

The ghost sighed. “You don’t understand. Without Civil Engineers, there won’t even be clean water in stores.”

“Well then I’ll just find another way to get my water.”

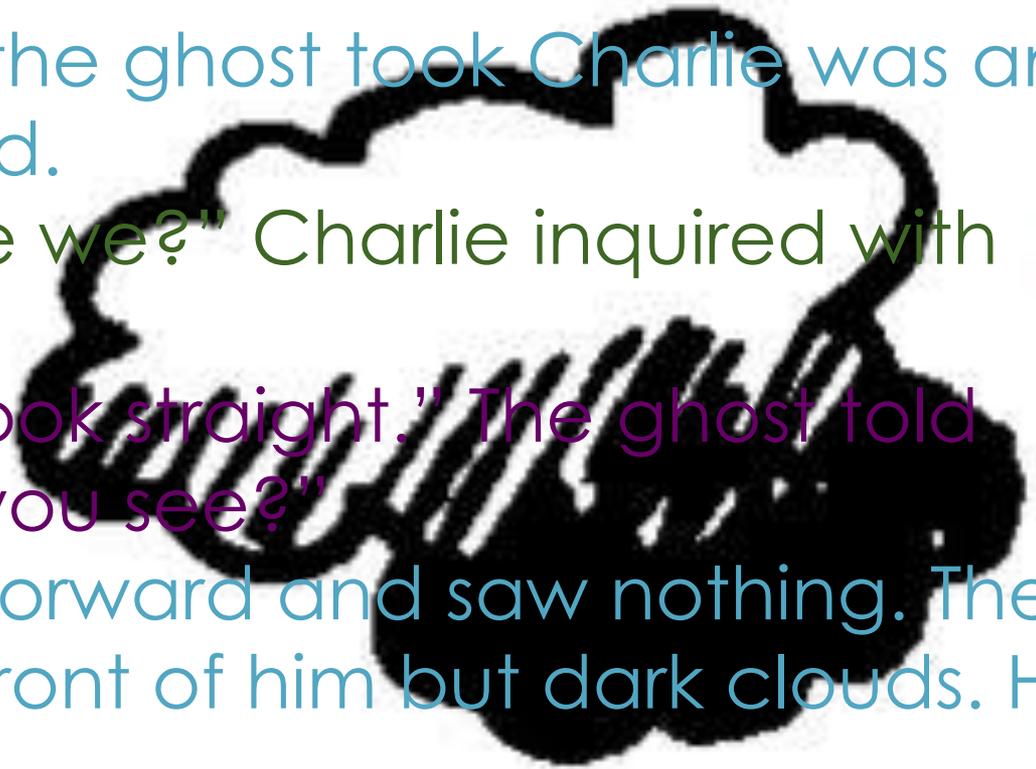
The ghost gave up. “

The next place the ghost took Charlie was an abandoned field.

“Now where are we?” Charlie inquired with fury.

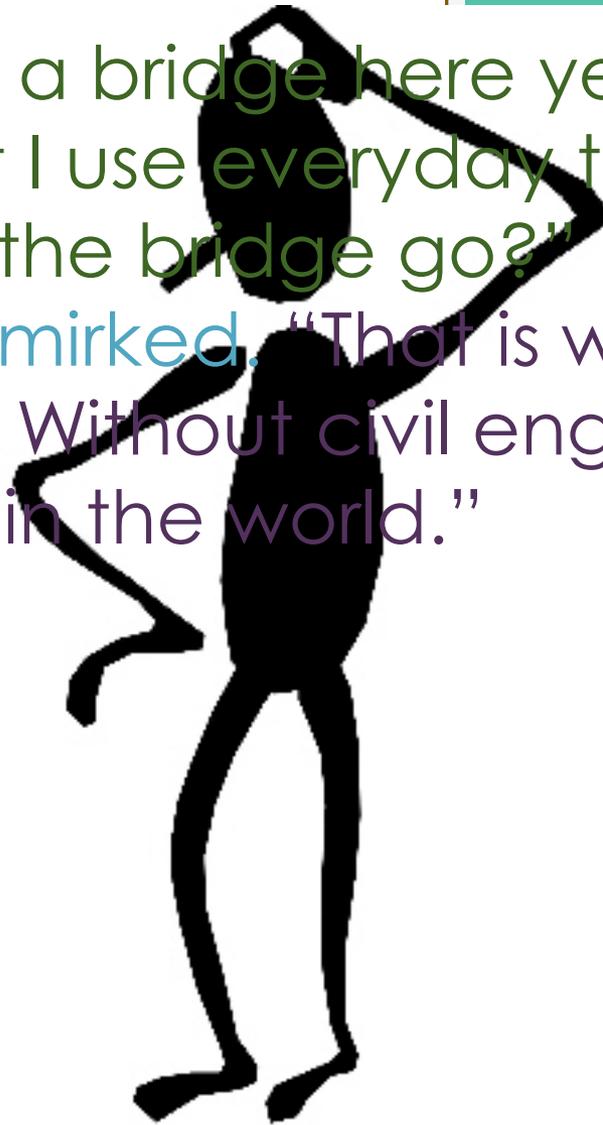
“I want you to look straight.” The ghost told him, “What do you see?”

Charlie looked forward and saw nothing. There was nothing in front of him but dark clouds. He was surprised.



“There was a bridge here yesterday. The bridge that I use everyday to go to school. Where did the bridge go?” he demanded

The ghost smirked. “That is what I am trying to teach you. Without civil engineers, there will be no bridges in the world.”



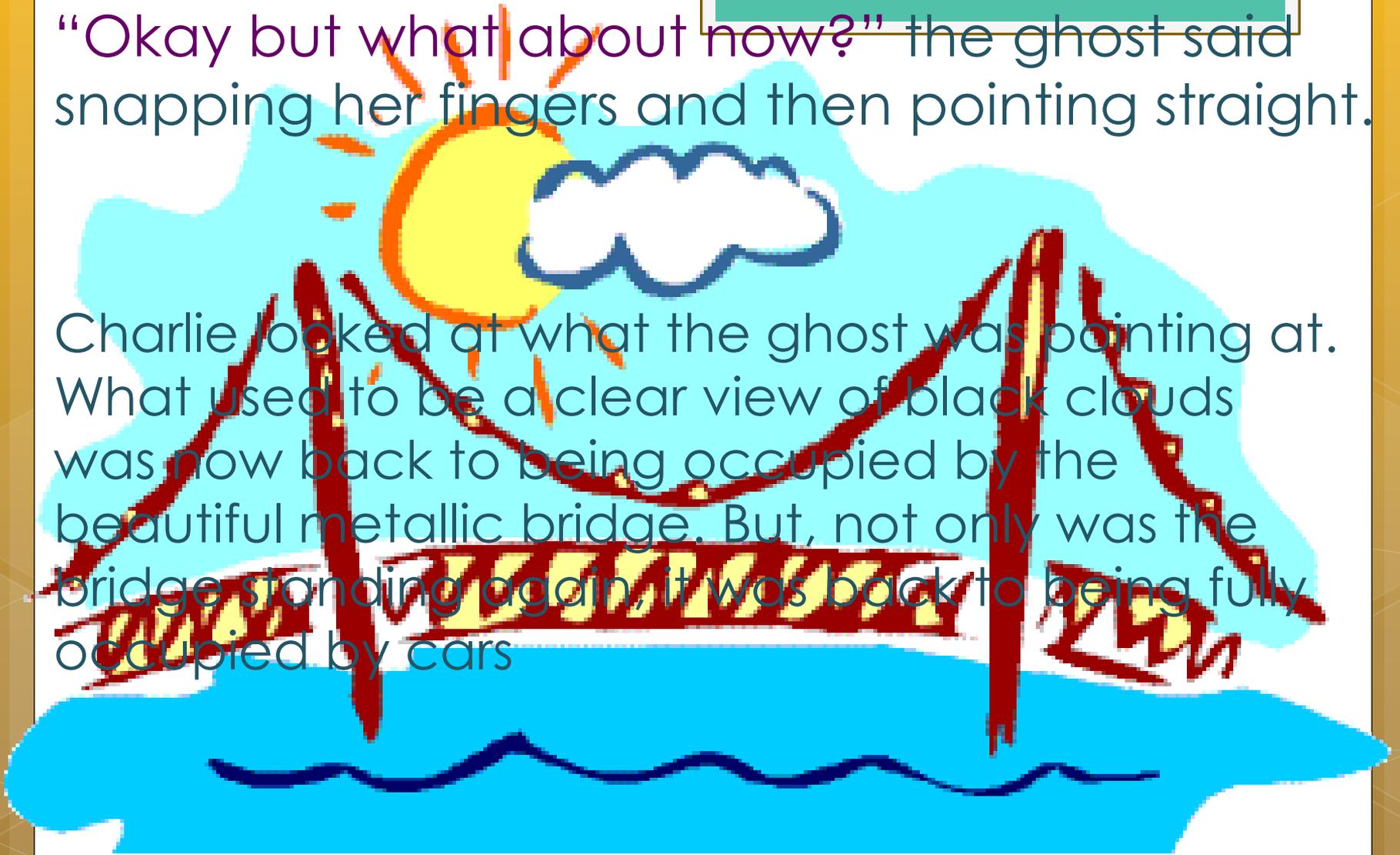


“Exactly. How do you expect to go anywhere with a proper design of a structure. You will always need civil engineers to design the structure. Without calculations done by structural engineers , which is a type of civil engineer, structures will not be guaranteed to sustain earthquakes or wind.”

“Well then I’ll just find another way to get to school,” Charlie disputed.

“Okay but what about now?” the ghost said snapping her fingers and then pointing straight.

Charlie looked at what the ghost was pointing at. What used to be a clear view of black clouds was now back to being occupied by the beautiful metallic bridge. But, not only was the bridge standing again, it was back to being fully occupied by cars

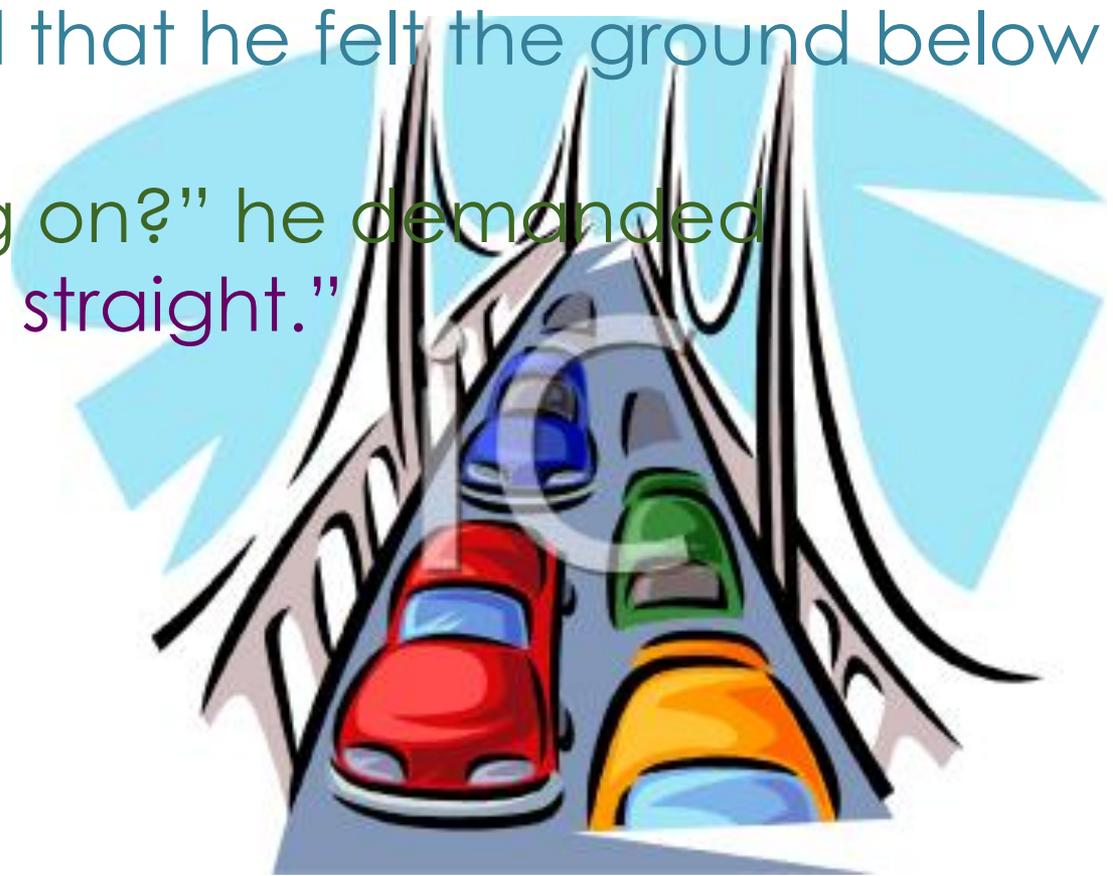


“I don’t get it. The cars are back on the bridge. What do you want me to look at?”

Just as he said that he felt the ground below him shake.

“What is going on?” he demanded

“Keep looking straight.”



Charlie couldn't believe it. "Someone needs to save them! What are you doing just standing here? Why are you showing me this?" he said in tears



“I want you to understand. Without Civil Engineers these bridges will not stand.

It is because of the work your parents do that you and your friends are able to safely go to school every morning. You shouldn't be yelling at them for not taking you places, you should be thanking them for keeping you safe,”



Charlie finally understood. Civil Engineers did more than he ever imagined. Their designs saved thousands of lives every day. It kept thousands of people safe, including himself. Charlie knew that the first thing he was going to do when he woke up that day was go straight to his parents and thank them.





THE END