

LEARNING and GROWING-UP

*This book is a gift for:*

.....

*From:*

.....

*For:*

.....



*“To err is human, but human error is nothing  
to what a computer can do if it tries”*

*Agatha Christie*



**Piotr Haraszewski**

# SECURE COMPUTER!



**kefas**  
PUBLISHER

Illustrations by JM Blasi

*I dedicate this book to my grandson Adam.  
I hope that he will always be eager to listen  
to his parents who truly love him from the bottom  
of their hearts and care for his health and safety.*

*Author*

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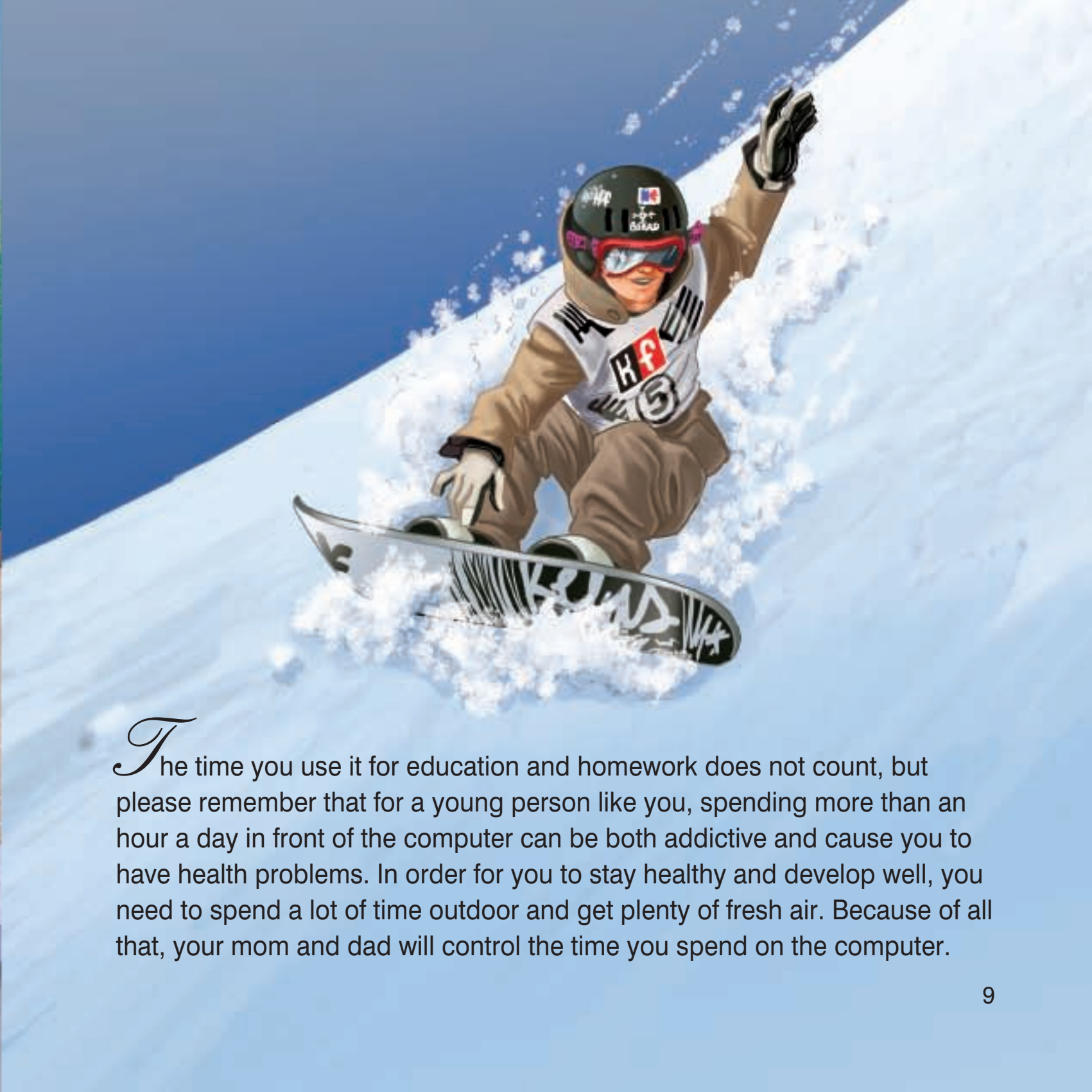
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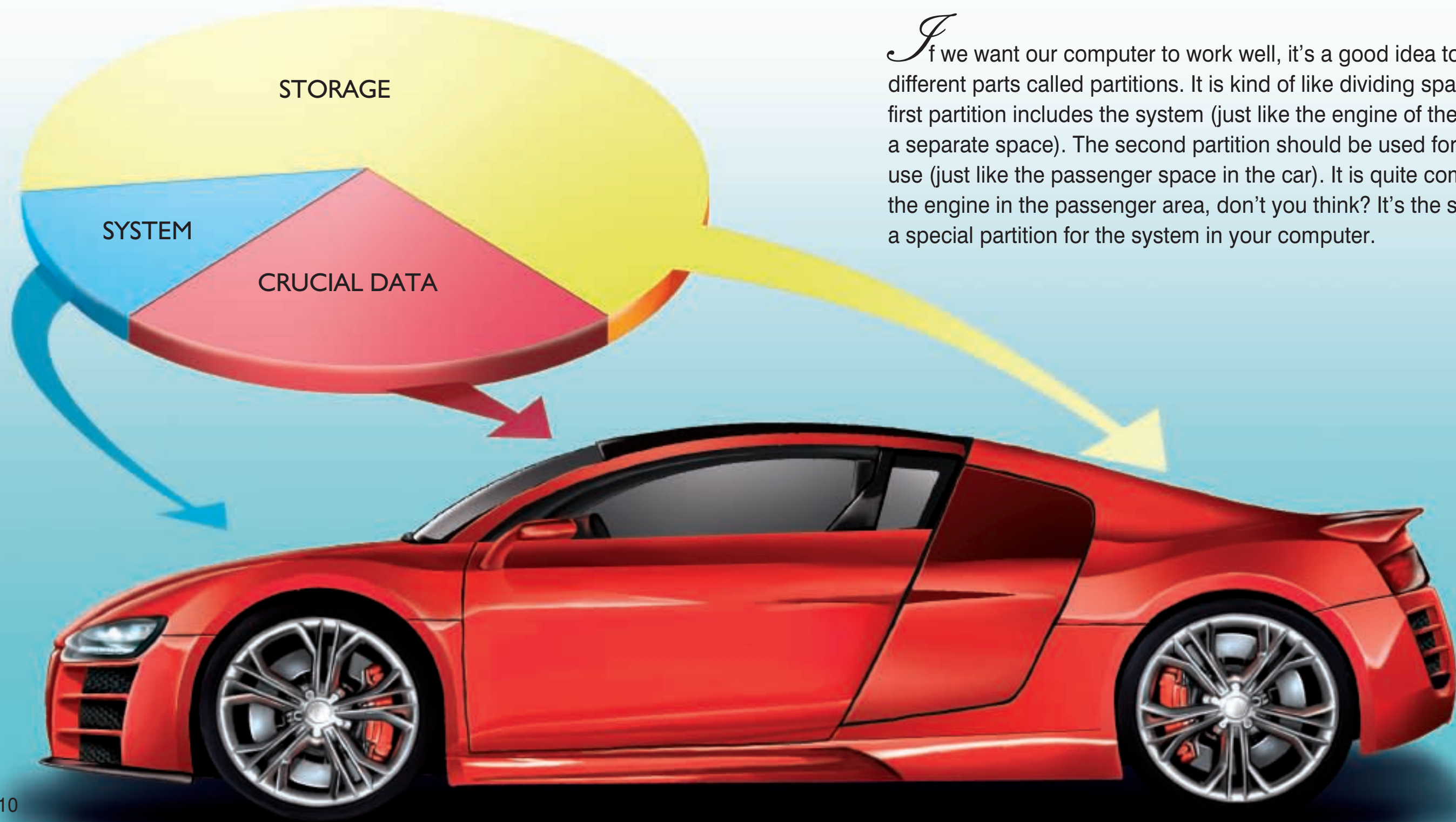
*I*t was a great day for Adam.  
His parents gave him his very first  
computer for his birthday.

*W*hen they set it up, Adam's dad said:  
— Adam, a computer is a wonderful machine if you know how to use it properly, but if it's used in a wrong way or for wrong motives, it can cause a lot of trouble. That's why I think it would be good to decide how many hours a week you can play on it.





*T*he time you use it for education and homework does not count, but please remember that for a young person like you, spending more than an hour a day in front of the computer can be both addictive and cause you to have health problems. In order for you to stay healthy and develop well, you need to spend a lot of time outdoor and get plenty of fresh air. Because of all that, your mom and dad will control the time you spend on the computer.



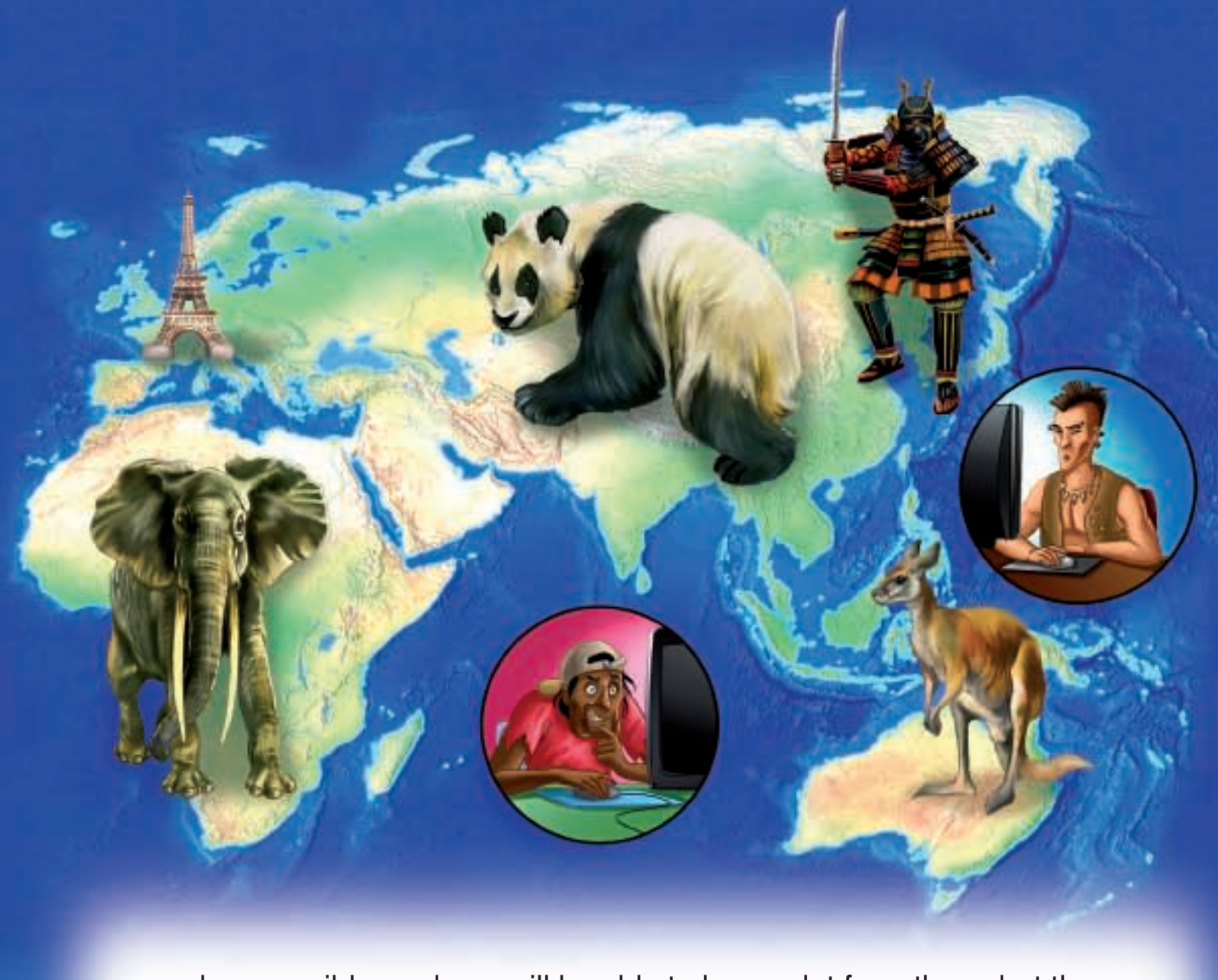
*I*f we want our computer to work well, it's a good idea to divide it into three different parts called partitions. It is kind of like dividing space in a car. The first partition includes the system (just like the engine of the car is placed in a separate space). The second partition should be used for the data you often use (just like the passenger space in the car). It is quite comfortable not having the engine in the passenger area, don't you think? It's the same way with having a special partition for the system in your computer.



The third partition should be dedicated to data you don't use very often – similar to luggage in the trunk of your car. As you will learn later, this is a really good idea which helps to protect the information on your computer.



Once your machine is set up and ready, you will no doubt want to explore the world. That's what the Internet is for. Just remember – said Adam's dad – millions of people have access to the Internet. Some of them are wise



and responsible, and you will be able to learn a lot from them, but there are others who are depraved, crazy or have mental problems. Those people fill the Internet with their sick ideas and try to infect others with them. It's like a sickness.





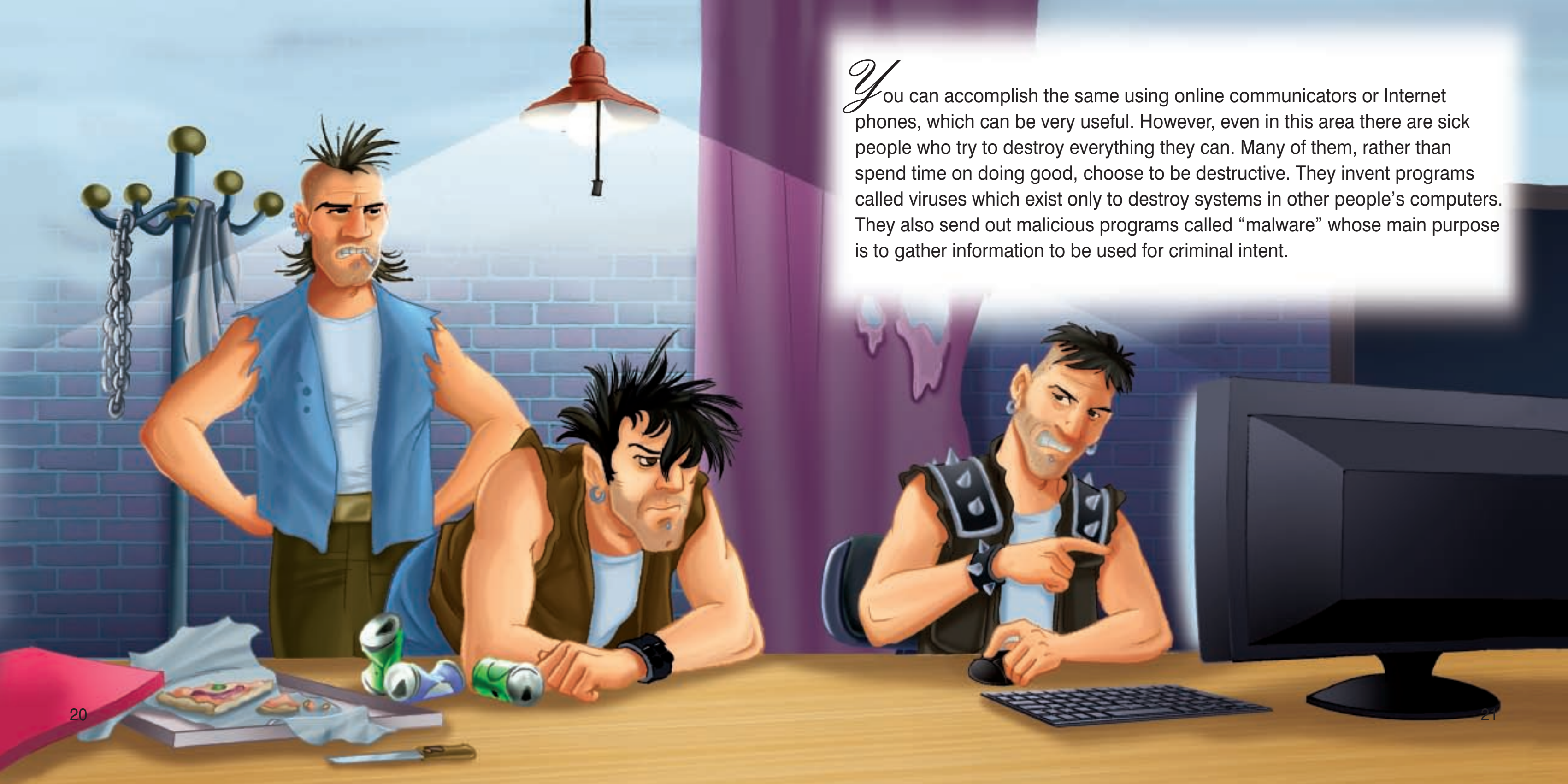
*J*ust like we protect our bodies from bacteria by avoiding them, we should protect ourselves from the Internet sites whose main purpose is to corrupt our minds. Try to remember this simple rule: if you wouldn't allow someone to enter your house or your car, you shouldn't let them enter your computer, either. This will save you from many problems. Computer experts have a saying: "Garbage in, garbage out". In real life it means that if you fill your mind with trashy information, your value system will soon suffer degradation.





The Internet provides wonderful tools which people use to increase the quality of their work and education. Examples of that are search engines, encyclopedias, online dictionaries or even electronic mail. In the past, letters took months to reach their destination. Today, you can send an email message which will reach very far away places within seconds.





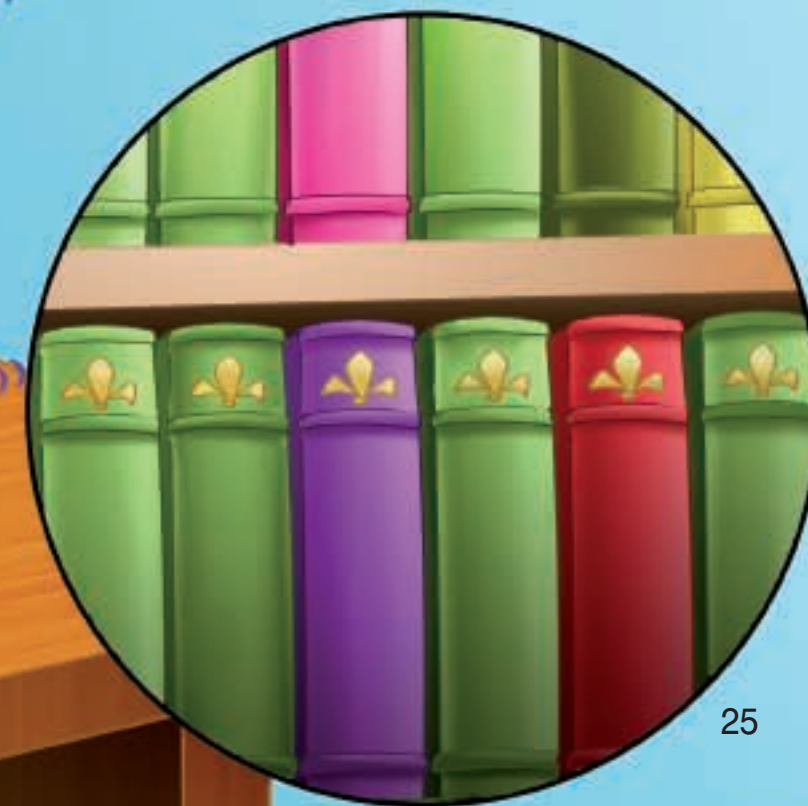
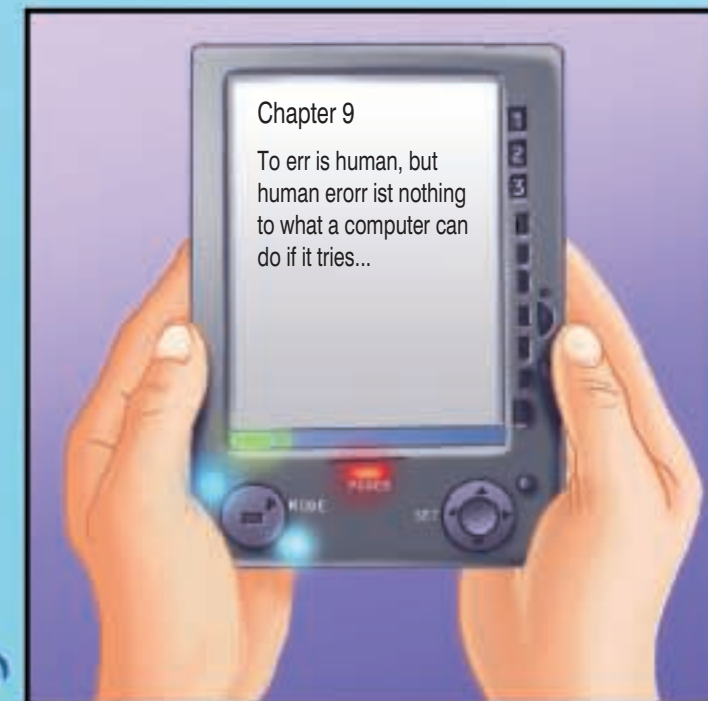
*You* can accomplish the same using online communicators or Internet phones, which can be very useful. However, even in this area there are sick people who try to destroy everything they can. Many of them, rather than spend time on doing good, choose to be destructive. They invent programs called viruses which exist only to destroy systems in other people's computers. They also send out malicious programs called "malware" whose main purpose is to gather information to be used for criminal intent.



*B*efore we start using our new computer, it is a good idea to equip it with a good firewall program and other antivirus and anti-malware programs. When you check your email, remember one important principle: Do not read anything that comes from an unreliable source. Those messages are called 'spam' and you should immediately delete them without reading no matter how interesting or attractive they seem. This is where the saying "curiosity killed the cat" is appropriate. When you are curious enough to open attachments that come with these messages, you can easily kill your computer.



*You* already know that many people use the Internet in a wrong way. Stay away from them! There are, however, a lot of fantastic resources which you can access instantly from your own home. Those include online libraries and encyclopedias.



*I*f you are looking for information to help you write your homework on any subject, all you need to do is type a few key words and thousands of



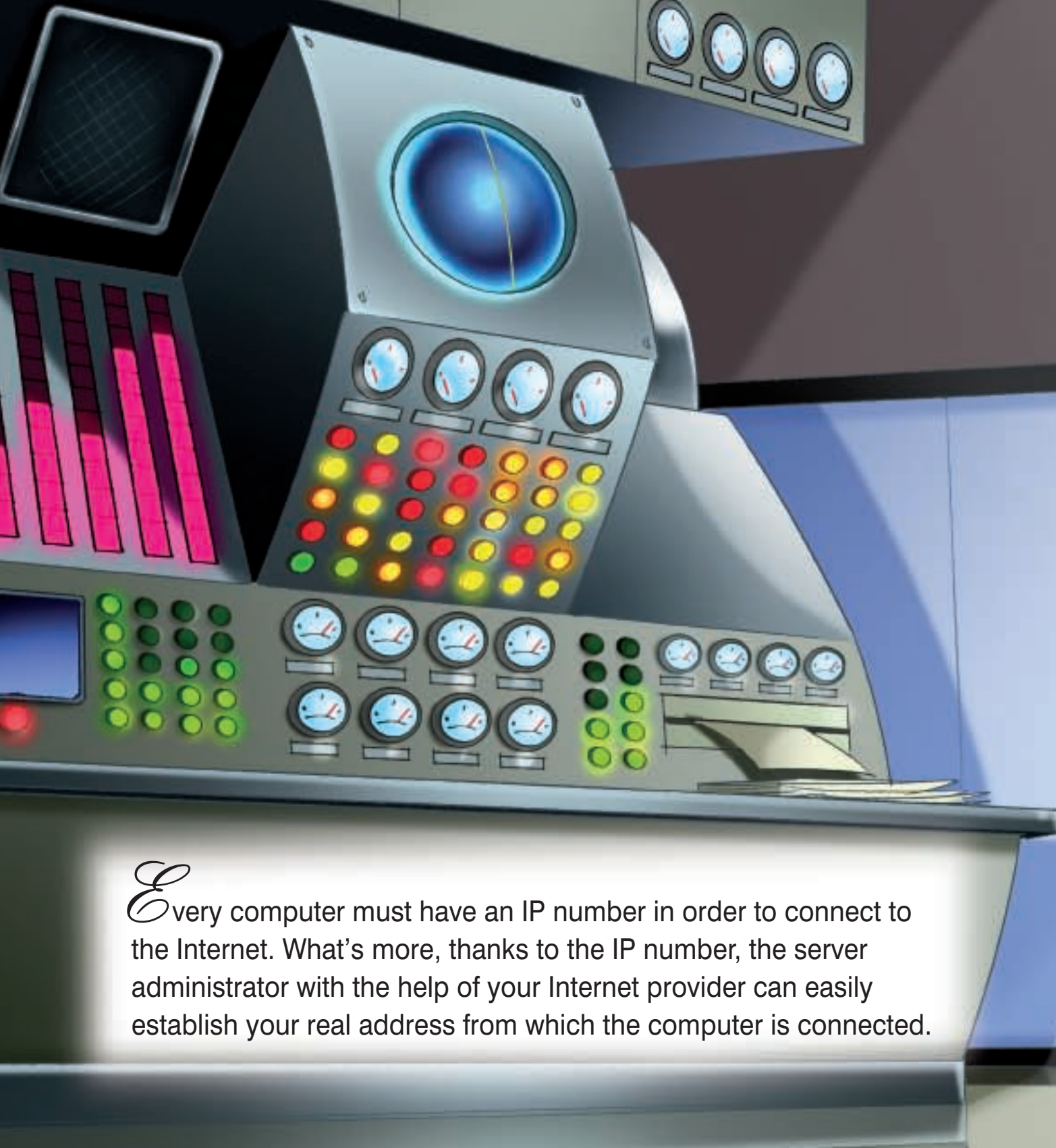
results from all around the world will appear on your screen. If you don't want to spend weeks on separating the useless information, you should learn how to use the system of filters which are included in all good search engines. This will help you get the information you need a lot faster.





*R*emember Adam – said his dad – A lot of people think that when they're surfing the net, they are anonymous, but they are wrong! Every server administrator can easily find out the IP address of your computer.

This is a unique computer address which helps to identify what Internet pages you visit, who you write email message to or what files you download onto your computer.



That alone should cause you to be very wise when using your computer. Because each IP number is different, the Police can catch people who break the law on the Internet.



Every computer must have an IP number in order to connect to the Internet. What's more, thanks to the IP number, the server administrator with the help of your Internet provider can easily establish your real address from which the computer is connected.



*F*ortunately, not every Internet user is capable of finding out your computer's location, and not all personal data can be obtained from the IP number. This is why it is very important that you do not make available any of your detailed information, like your home address or the address of the school you go to. Never give out your telephone number, credit card number or any other personal data. Making any of these details available can put you and your family in danger.



There are many people who use the Internet to try and trick you into giving them your personal information. Don't let them fool you!



When you purchase products online using your credit card, you have to make sure to check two things:

- does the online shopping site have a secure transaction certificate (which means that the web site address begins with https://), in other words, is the site's data encrypted?
- does the bank that issued your credit card offer cancellation of payments made to dishonest online vendors?





And one more thing: if you're using social networks such as Facebook, Twitter or MySpace, never, under any circumstances, give out your passwords to anyone, not even your best friend. Many people who have done it later regretted being so careless.





Besides electronic mail, other ways of communicating online are available. They are called 'messengers'. They allow for real time written communication commonly known as 'internet chatting'. When you're chatting with your friends or family, this is a great tool to stay in touch and talk to others.

*I*nternet chatting can be great, but there are many perverted men or women who try to gain the trust of people they want to hurt. They woo their victims with sweet talking messages and slowly gain their trust by telling them all kinds of compliments and nice things. Once they have succeeded in making themselves harmless and trustworthy, they do what they can to extract seemingly unimportant details which will help them learn who their victims are and where they live. With time, they suggest meeting somewhere in town. If this happened to you and you agreed to meet, you could lose your life or be abducted, and your family would go through the nightmare of losing their child or being blackmailed. Many young girls have been kidnapped in this way and used for terrible things. No one ever heard of them again. Police statistics describe tens of thousands of such cases. Remember, never chat with strangers.

I AM 21, I HAVE BLUE EYES  
AND I AM A COLLEGE  
PENTATHLON CHAMPION



No doubt you have encountered some of the computer games popular among teenagers. Some of them are available on line, others can be downloaded onto your computer. I would like to give you a serious warning.



There are very few good games. The overwhelming majority of games available on the market right are full of brutality and violence. The manufacturers of these games claim that they are harmless and actually help teens to release aggression. That is a lie! They do stimulate aggression and cause permanent changes in the young people's minds.





Police statistics show that the increasing number of crimes committed by youth, including brutal assaults with cruelty, is a direct result of the “training” some of these young people receive from what they see on the monitor while playing the games. Another dramatic side effect is that, with time, their conscience becomes less and less sensitive.



*Y*oung, teenage bandits are often more cruel and more vicious than most old repeat criminal offenders, and they are deprived of any feelings. They are indeed a product of sick minded people with warped personalities, who do not care what effects their games are having on teenagers as long as they are making good profit from them.

To protect yourself from being harmed, you will be wise to avoid those kinds of games and the people who are addicted to them.







You have most likely heard of people called PIRATES. In the old days, criminals who managed to run from law formed bands of pirates and traveled the world's seas attacking cargo ships to pillage goods. They did this for profit having no regard for other people's ownership. They sold the stolen goods at special markets in their bases at the prices which were far below the true value.



*T*oday, the situation is not much different. When we surf the sea of the Internet, we also bump into contemporary pirates who steal other people's goods and sell them from their bases (or servers) for a much cheaper price. Sometimes they send their agents to public markets so that they can sell illegal movies, computer programs or music CDs.

Remember: these people are criminals, and purchasing goods from them is called profiteering and it's punishable by law. If one of your friends is a minor and he or she buys stolen goods, please tell them that their parents will be punished for what they are doing. It's the law.



*I*n order for your computer to work properly, you have to take care of its hygiene, just like you care for the hygiene of your body. To do that, you should check the available updates for your computer system and the



programs you use at least once a week. These updates are like vaccination shots which make your hardware more resilient.



Just like it is important to keep our house clean, because then everything can be found easily and quickly, we should keep our disc in order. At least once a month use a disc defragmenting program. This program will arrange

the data on the disc in such a way, that the computer will have a faster access to it and work better. Thanks to dividing the system into partitions, the defragmentation is even more effective.



*A*lways remember to make backup copies of your data. It is very important, especially when your hard disc breaks and when your system gets attacked by viruses or malware. When that happens, instead of struggling to repair your computer for days, you can simply format your disc and recreate your data from the backup disc, so that everything looks



just like before it broke down. This will take a lot less time and is much safer. You should always make a copy of an image of each partition separately. If a virus attacks your system, all you will have to do is reinstall the system partition only. Your data will be safe. That is one of the benefits of dividing your system into partitions.



Now, that we are at the end, I would like you to realize one important thing. Your computer and the Internet in themselves are neither good nor bad. They're just part of today's technology. The way you will use them will show



what kind of person you are. I hope you will not disappoint me. I would very much like to be proud of who you are.



*A*dam looked at his dad with admiration and said:

— Daddy, I had no idea you have to be so careful when you're on the Internet. Many of my friends don't even know half of these things and they are sure that using the Internet from their homes is perfectly safe. Thank you very much that you love me enough to care for me and my safety. I will do my best not to disappoint you.

