

The Cadet's Mess

I've always liked Mr Tuvok from Voyager. Did you know that he left Starfleet for a while and then came back after not being sure if he really liked humans? What if he had decided to learn more about humans by becoming a teacher?

By Lt Cmdr Kirok of L'Stok

It was the start of the new year at school and Christopher's best friend, Thomas, ran over as soon as he saw him in the schoolyard, his impish face alight with excitement.

"Chis! You'll never guess who is taking old Mrs Helmans' place this year!" The words tumbled out, as if they had been held back under pressure, just waiting for Chris to turn up. "We're getting a Vulcan! Can you imagine them handing over the class?"

The seven year-old jumped to one side and made a rather unflattering parody of their teacher from last year. He was able to make his voice sound just like the prim and proper old lady's, "I hope you enjoy torturing the children as much as I have."

He jumped to face the opposite direction, as if talking to himself, striking a severe pose with his arms across his chest and his thin reedy voice going down as far as it could go, "We Vulcans do not enjoy torturing children. We do it without emotion."

Chris laughed at his friends clowning, they had both liked Mrs Helman but had constantly tested the bounds of her patience. She had been tough but fair - she had even been known to make a joke occasionally. Unexpectedly a woman's voice came from the shadow of a doorway on the verandah behind Thomas.

"... and I shall miss you most of all, young Thomas!"

Thomas squinched his eyes up as if he had been hit over the back of the head and did one of his famous Homer Simpson impressions.

"D'oh!"

A second deeper voice came from the shadows, "He is, at least, a good student of History"

Chris and Thomas both jumped as if stung. Mrs Helman and the new teacher stepped out onto the verandah. "Boys, you might as well be the first to meet your new teacher. Say good morning to Mr Tuvok."

"Good Mor-ning Mister Tu-vok" said the two boys in the sing-song, age old manner of school children since ancient Babylon.

By Lt Cdr
Kirok of
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You've Never Had a Teacher Like This!

"Do you really know about "The Simpsons" sir?" asked Thomas. He and Chris had watched all of the ancient "videos" in the small collection of Thomas' father, a professor of some very serious subject.

"I studied them as part of a course on 21st century Earth history. I find the idea that humans might find the idea of a simpleton being in charge of a dangerous power plant to be an interesting commentary on the culture of their time."

The boys nodded and smiled. They'd heard the same from Mr. Mayberry as well but they didn't understand a word he'd said - they just knew it was funny!

Mrs Helman glanced at the PADD she always carried, tucked under her arm. "I'm afraid we must go Mr. Tuvok, we have an appointment with Mrs Pritikin, the principal. Run along boys."

Impulsively, Chris blurted out "Mrs Helman, uh ..." His cheeks started to burn and he looked down, scuffing his shoes in the dust. He looked up and gave a wry smile "I will miss you. Thank you for being a good teacher." Overcome with embarrassment, he went back to his inspection of his shoes.

Mrs Helman coughed and fumbled with her PADD to hide her own fluster at the spontaneous display of respect. She sighed as she looked back at the boys - one staring at the ears of the Vulcan beside her, the other showing nothing but two bright red ears. "Thank you Christopher, now go before you are late for roll call." If she had said one word more she would have had a dead student on her hands because he would have died of embarrassment!

"Yes Mrs Helman." Chris turned and bolted for the playground where the others were already lining up. Thomas though still stood, staring at the new teacher.

Sensing that it was up to him to dismiss the remaining student, Mr Tuvok raised his right hand in the traditional Vulcan salute,

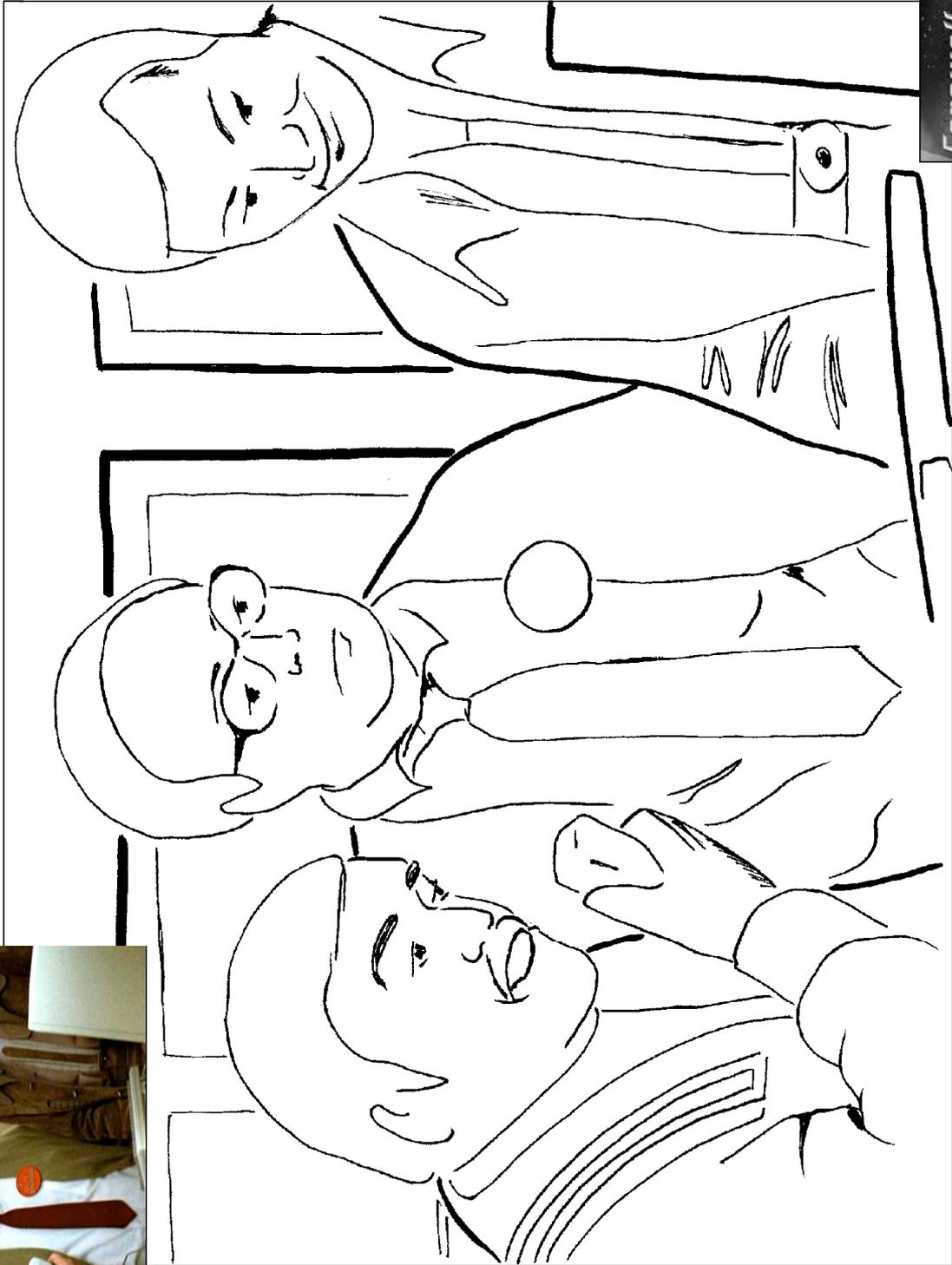
palm forwards, the second and third fingers spread to form a "V". Tom's eyes lit up, I know this he thought, it's the Live Long and Prosper thing that Vulcan's do.

Looking very serious, Mr Tuvok decided to show off his knowledge of one of the classic quotes from Earth history ...

"Don't have a cow, Man."



"Hello Computer ..."



Farewell Scotty
Just For Fun

Name