

Branches

Panel 1

The world as seen from space. On land, portions of the area are red and green. Red represents deaths and green represents births. As mentioned in the dialogue, there are almost 2.5 more daily births than deaths and the distribution of color should reflect this.

Narrator (V.O.): My little sister was born on December 14, 1997. She was born the same day as 359,702 other people. That same day, 140,855 people died.

Narrator (V.O.): Hello

Narrator (V.O.): Goodbye.

Panel 2

Research facility. Swiss astronomer looking at a computer monitor in a dashboard. Since this is late 90's technology, the dashboard has many buttons and the monitor is ancient compared by today's sophisticated standards. There is a bright light in the monitor's center. Need to research and provide reference photos. The event described in the dialogue is true. Beppo Sax was a gamma-ray telescope attached to a satellite created by the Swiss and Italians. On this day, it captured a brightness so far away.

Narrator (V.O.): Astronomers detected a bright gamma-ray explosion 12 billion light years away.

Swiss Astronomer: Bye bye, baby star.

Panel 3

Close-up of gears inside a wind-up music box. The gears are not moving.

Narrator (V.O.): The music box Grandma Henrietta gave me when I was 4 stopped working.

Panel 4

Northern Moroccan beach along the Mediterranean Sea. The majority of the panel is the sea filled with floating purple jellyfish. Some people are on the beach, but no one is in the water. This event is not true.

Narrator (V.O.): For 13 hours, a swarm of jellyfish reigned over the majority of Morocco's northern coast. They disappeared as mysteriously as they arrived.

Panel 5

First time we see the narrator. She is 5 years old in the remaining panels. She is sitting in the hospital's waiting room. Her feet dangle, too short to touch the floor. Beside her in the next seat is her father. He has his head against the wall, looking at the ceiling. A million things are going around his head that his daughter's words barely breach his attention. Since there is a bit of dialogue, it might be easier to have an empty seat between them to allow for the word balloons.

Narrator (V.O.): I made up two words.

Narrator : Hey. Dad. Is skupple a word?

Father: Crupple?

Narrator: No. Skupple.

Father: Nope.

Narrator: Great. How about potrink?

Panel 6

Narrator is sitting alone at a hospital cafeteria table. She has a plastic fork in one hand and a plastic knife in the other. In front of her is a stack of pancakes cut up and drenched in syrup. Five empty syrup containers are by her plate. Also, by the plate is a chocolate milk carton with a straw inside. She is cutting and eating so fast that the speed is exaggerated, since we are in a child's memory.

Narrator (V.O.): When I first learned about pancakes.

Narrator: I never want to eat anything else for the rest of my life.

Panel 7

Outside the baby display room in the maternity ward. The "camera" is in the room, but we can only see the first row of babies in the foreground. On the other side of the window is the father with the narrator hoisted up, cradled in one of the father's arms. They are both facing us, looking into the room. The narrator is pointing to a baby near the corner. The father points to a baby on the other side of the room with his free hand.

Narrator (V.O.): Most important, it was the day I was introduced to my best friend.

Narrator : That her?

Father: What? No. The ugly one over there is your new sister.