Thomas McAlister was going to the principal’s office due to certain charges including burying his homework in the recycle.

Little did the teachers know that recycling is good.

While walking down the corridor, he began pondering the events of last evening.

So he had accidentally dropped his assignment in the recycle. Right.

Thinking back, though, he remembered that his dog had put it in the recycle.

Wait no, it had been his neighbor’s dog.

Actually, it was a mutant dog. An evil mutant dog.

No, an evil scientist’s monster mutant dog. No! It was actually an evil scientist’s dinosaur!

Thomas was glad he had such an astounding memory.

He stepped into the principal’s office, and sat down in the chair. What an evil chair...

Principal Howard looked up with stern eyes, and a small huff.

What an evil man...

“I understand you have failed to bring in your homework for the fourth day in a row for no apparent reason. This behavior needs to stop.”

Thomas had stopped listening at the ‘for no apparent reason’.

“Actually, there is a reason. And a good one at that. You see,—”

“Hang on – is this another one of your ‘convincing reasons’?” Principal Howard interrupted.

“Another one?”

“Thomas, don’t tell me you’ve forgotten all those make-believe stories you’ve told me over the last few days.”

A grave expression crossed Thomas’s face. “Oh no, Mr. Howard, in the case of all those stories, I was really just joking.”

“Joking?” Principal Howard asked, raising an eyebrow.
“Yes.” Thomas said, in a grim tone. “The whole time what I was really doing was joking.”

“Hmm…” Principal Howard said skeptically.

“This time, however,” Thomas said, brightening up, “it is a one hundred percent true story.”

He looked expectantly at Principal Howard, who sighed and said, “Fine, get it out of your system.”

Thomas immediately leaped into action.

“First you need to know that this really boils down to my dad’s fault. So you should call his parents, not mine,” he began, recalling the last time his grandparents had visited, bringing him a remote control car and a book series. “The reason it’s my dad’s fault is because he’s an inventor.”

“Hang on,” Principal Howard interrupted. “You’ve told me so far that your dad is both a caveman and an evil scientist. Now an inventor?”

“No no no, I was joking, remember?”

Principal Howard sighed.

“Anyway, he’s an inventor.

“So yesterday he was working on a new invention, a toaster that can cool things down. He invented the toaster, you know.”

“I doubt your dad invented the –”

“Well, he did. And it’s rude to interrupt.

“So he was working on an invention, like I told you. When I got home from school and immediately began my homework I heard a whirring sound downstairs in dad’s inventing room. I went down to see what is was, and – actually wait.

“First you need to know how the…t-o-a-s-t-e-r…reptaot works. The reptaot can travel whatever you want cooled down back to the ice age, let it cool off for a minute, then teleport it back.

“Anyway, I went downstairs to see what it was, homework in hand. The reptaot was glowing and whirring, and I saw a bagel inside it. I looked around and saw the bathroom door shut, and the light on.
I went to turn off the retsoat, but right before I unplugged it, the invention exploded and sucked me into its vortex.

"It was very cold, but because of the explosion, I needed some cooling off. I looked around for my homework and was relieved to find it was safe in the ground beside me. I also found the bagel and ate half of it.

"I searched for the ruins of the retsoat, and put the pieces in a pile. I knew how to invent a little, from my dad, so I started putting it back together. It took me two hours to rebuild it, and I was dismayed that I would have to miss so much valuable time that could have been spent on my homework, but there was —"

"Hang on," Principal Howard interrupted. "You wouldn't have lost any time if you traveled back to where you —"

"Yes, yes." Thomas said over Principal Howard. "But it was still very cold, and I was just dying to do my homework. So once I had finished, I took a good look at it, and I was pretty sure it would now work as a time machine, although it wasn't perfect. I grabbed my homework and bagel, set it in the retsoat, sat down on the retsoat, and pushed down the knob.

"The retsoat whirred and glowed, and floated up in the air. Then it blasted off and pulled me through a long tunnel of glowing lights. It was very fast, and I had to hold on for dear life. Oh, and I was also clutching my homework. Then suddenly, a man in a tiny hot air balloon with a built in time machine appeared in the air next to me.

"Hello," he said. "How do you do?"

"Not very great," I said. "This toaster is very cold and slippery, and I am terrified that I might lose my homework."

"Well, you might as well hop in here," he said, reaching out to me. I reached out, but I wasn't close enough.
“Quick, before we get to the right time!” I yelled as the retsaoz zapped, and started shaking. “I don’t think the retsaoz will make it!” He leaned down and rummaged through his basket, and came out with a cane. I grabbed it and pulled myself inside his time machine. But then, as I set the retsaoz down and pressed cancel, my homework flew out of my hands.

“No!” I cried, grabbing the cane and jumping on the side of the basket, holding on to the rope. I swung the cane, but I was too late.

“Stop the time machine!” I yelled. The man quickly pressed a button, and suddenly we were surrounded by trees.

“We looked around and stepped out of the time machine. Then I looked up and saw something white up in the trees.

“Look!” I shouted. The man looked up. “Also, what’s your name?”

“Bob.” he said. “And good eye.”

“But how do we get up there?” I asked Jerry.”

“Now wait a minute, I thought his name was Bob.” Principal Howard said.

“Well, Jerry was his last name. Bob Jerry turned to look at me, but gasped, looking behind me. I whirled around and saw a pterodactyl standing right in front of me. It roared and showed its hundreds of pointy teeth.”

“No no, that’s a tyrannosaurus.”

“Right. Or a pterodactyl. The pterodactyl roared and gnashed its teeth. But then, my hand bumped against something cold in my pocket, and quick as lightning, I grabbed the bagel and threw it into the pterodactyl’s beak. It happily chomped down the bagel, then reached out and nuzzled me with its beak.

“I jumped up on its back and —”

“Now wait just a minute, a pterodactyl is a wild dino—”
"Yes, yes. So I flew up and grabbed my homework assignment, then touched down and set it in the time machine. Bob cheered, and started walking towards the time machine, when a mighty roar sounded from the jungle. A gigantic T-Rex stepped out of it.

"The time machine!" Bob yelled.

"Now just a minute," an evil voice said from the top of the T-Rex. Bob gasped. "It is I, Bob Jerry, your worst enemy, Bob Yrrej!"

"Really the time machine!" I yelled. I jumped into the basket and, using my knowledge of time machines, fired up the engine. Bob leaped into it beside me. I typed in the date and time of before I left as the dinosaur charged at us. I pressed the ‘go’ button right as it reached us. Suddenly we were in the time tunnel thing, but I saw to my horror that the T-Rex was holding on to the time machine, and more importantly, grabbing my homework.

"Then, I arrived in my house along with Bob, evil Bob, and the T-Rex. The T-Rex hit its head on the ceiling and fell over, dropping my assignment into the recycle. It roared, but before it could do anything, I grabbed good Bob’s hat, stuffed it in the retsaot, turned it on, then threw it at the T-Rex. But the T-Rex dodged, and it fell into the recycle. The dinosaur roared again, but Bob grabbed the cane and threw it at the T-Rex, which fell over, evil scientist and all, into the recycle, which disappeared in a puff of smoke.

"Then, we heard a toilet flush from the bathroom, and we knew we weren’t done yet.

"Quick!" Bob shouted.

"When dad came out of the bathroom, he found a cooler with a nicely cooled off bagel inside."

Thomas smiled triumphantly at the principal.

Principal Howard sighed. "Bring it in tomorrow."