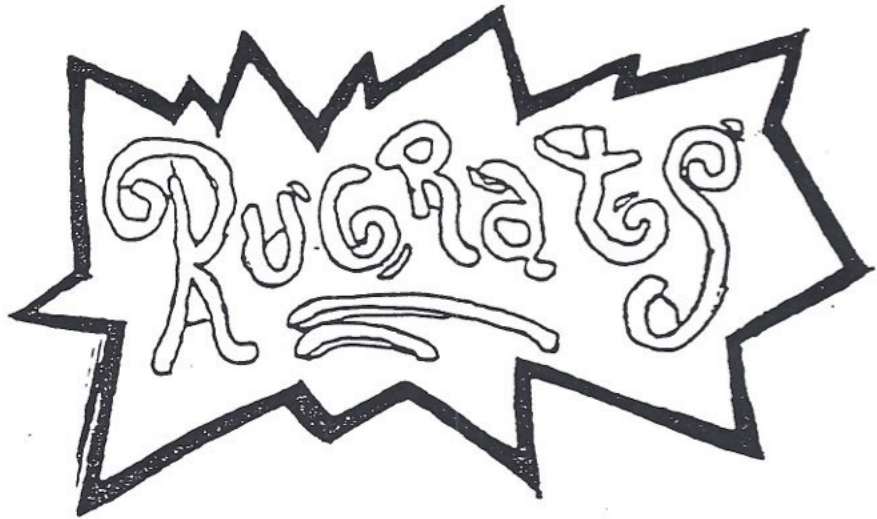


Writer's Bible for



June 10, 1991
Klasky Csupo, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

Rugrats is a show from the point of view of one-year old babies.

The main character is Tommy Pickles, an infant everyman. He and his friends are collectively known as the "rugrats." In the normal everyday life of the adults, the "rugrats" just act like "realistic" little babies, crawling around, getting in trouble, etc. However, as soon as their parents turn their backs, we find out that..

THE RUGRATS CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER!

Through this device, we are allowed to see the world as a baby views and understands it.

As they wobble through life on legs not yet used to walking, Tommy and his rugrat pals will show us the world that exists below our knees, a world where things or events that could seem mundane turn out to be grand, comic adventures.

THE AUDIENCE

Rugrats is a show for kids, ages 6 to 12.

It will air on Nickelodeon at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings, as well as at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings.

Therefore, although kids are the primary target audience, *Rugrats* SHOULD appeal to adults as well.

Rugrats aims to be a sophisticated show for sophisticated children, a show that does not talk down to children, but assumes that they are intelligent and discriminating viewers. *Rugrats* scripts should be written in a funny, contemporary style, like The Simpsons.

POINT OF VIEW

Rugrats is the story of life from a toddler's point of view, and this is the key to the show's uniqueness. We achieve this "baby perspective" by using three main techniques:

1. THROUGH STORY TELLING -- The "A" plot of every *Rugrats* episode is about the kids. Their adventures are always motivated by what Tommy and his friends--one-year-old babies--want, or by one of their misconceived theories about the world.

For example, in the six-minute pilot, they think that a toilet is a living animal that "burped" at them. In "Birthday Party", they think that if they eat dog food, they will become dogs. In "Real or Robots", after getting a glimpse of a 50's Sci-Fi movie on TV, Tommy concludes that his over-tired father must be a robot.

Obviously, the best way to think of these motivational drives is to ask yourself, if you were a one-year-old what would you think? How would you misconstrue the meanings of everyday objects and events?

The best episodes have often been the product of a writer recalling events from his or her own childhood, or from observing the actions of children.

2. THROUGH VISUALS -- Animation is uniquely well-suited to show the world from a baby's point of view because of its potential to exaggerate visual perspective.

From the rugrats' vantage point--around a foot off the ground--things seem gigantic and far away. Kitchen counters are like mountain plateaus, the back yard is a jungle. If Tommy sees a cookie jar on a high shelf that seems to be "a hundred miles away," we can draw his point of view as if the cookie jar were literally a hundred miles away. If Tommy is sitting in the middle of the sandbox in the park, the horizon all around him can be made to look like the Gobi Desert.

This exaggerated perspective is part of the "signature look" of *Rugrats*.

3. THROUGH DIALOGUE -- Because of the fact that the "rugrats" can talk to each other, dialogue may be the most important tool in presenting the babies' point-of-view.

When adults are present, the rugrats play and act as babies, just as grown-ups would expect. But the moment the adults turn their backs, the rugrats huddle and discuss their perceptions of the big, mysterious world. They never talk when adults can hear.

Because this is a show about how babies understand the world, not about "how cute they are," the rugrats do not talk "cute". Instead, they speak to each other with the syntax, grammar and vocabulary of four or five-year-old children. However, their knowledge of the world is no more extensive than that of real babies. Therefore, they are able to make only limited references to things they have not heard or seen in their daily lives.

THE MAIN CHARACTERS

Tommy Pickles	--	one-year-old leader of the rugrats
Stu Pickles	--	Tommy's toy-inventor dad
Didi Pickles	--	Tommy's mom
Grandpa	--	Tommy's fun-loving, but cantankerous gramps
Boris and Minka	--	Didi's immigrant parents
Spike	--	Tommy's loyal mutt
Chuckie	--	Tommy's reluctant, excitable-sidekick
Chuckie Sr.	--	Chuckie's dad
Phil and Lil DeVille	--	Tommy's identical twin pals
Betty DeVille	--	Phil and Lil's mom/Didi's best friend
Howard DeVille	--	Phil and Lil's milquetoast dad
Angelica	--	Tommy's 3-year-old, bullying cousin
Drew Pickles	--	Stu's banker brother/Angelica's dad

THE RUGRATS

The rugrat babies are innocents; they are never knowingly malevolent*.

Their physical actions should be realistic, not fantastic. (This is not a Disney or Warner Brothers cartoon. The characters will not be squashing and stretching. They will not be falling off cliffs and landing in puffs of smoke.) The *Rugrats* universe is a fairly realistic one.

Since they will be animated as realistic babies, they should do things that real babies would do: they can cry and scream, pull on earrings, turn the light switch on and off so often it drives their parents nuts.

However, when they talk, we will discover the complications of their inner characters...

*except for Tommy's cousin Angelica: see description.



TOMMY PICKLES (The Hero)

The son of STU and DIDI PICKLES, Tommy is a basic one-year-old. As with other toddlers, the world for him is a gigantic playground, one he doesn't understand, but loves to poke at and explore. Intelligent, fearless, motivated by curiosity, and an intrepid explorer, Tommy is always willing to venture out into the unknown. As such, he's a born leader to his fellow rugrats.

Tommy is almost always optimistic and eager, convinced there's a "rainbow just over that fence." Once Tommy gets an idea in his head, he sticks to it, no matter what, rallying the other rugrats behind him. Tommy is very imaginative and creative. He loves to

theorize wildly about things he doesn't understand, and to conjure up imaginative schemes to find out if he's right.

For example, in one episode, Tommy leads the other rugrats in a quest for his missing ball, talking them into breaking out of their play pen, and then leading them on a trek across the vast expanse of the next back yard. In another, Tommy theorizes that his dad may be a robot, and takes his friend Chuckie on a scary journey down the hall and into his sleeping father's bedroom to find out if he's right.

As the leader of the gang, Tommy often gets the other rugrats in over their heads. But even after getting chased by a giant dog, or being sorted by a Postal mail machine, or riding a runaway cart through the supermarket, Tommy always remains optimistic to the end, always ready for another adventure.

Tommy is the baby in all of us, and it is through his eyes that most of the *Rugrats* stories are told.

Typical Tommy dialogue:

(When Tommy can't sleep because he's seen a robot Sci-Fi movie on TV.)

CHUCKIE: "Tommy, aren't you sleepy?"

TOMMY: "No...I'm thinkin'."

CHUCKIE: "'Bout what?"

TOMMY: "Robots."

CHUCKIE: "Don't think about that, Tommy. You'll get bad dreams."

TOMMY: "I can't help it because, well...maybe anybody could be robots..."

CHUCKIE: "Like who?"

TOMMY: "Like anybody, Chuckie, like the mail man or the man who sells ice cream, or...or EVEN OUR OWN MOMS AND DADS!"

CHUCKIE: "WHAT!"

TOMMY: "Yeah, maybe our real moms and dads have been taken captured to the planet Mars or somethin'."

CHUCKIE: "Naw, that can't be true."

TOMMY: "I dunno, did you see how my dad looked when he turned off the TV? He didn't look like he usually does. He looked like a...a...robot!"

CHUCKIE: "No, Tommy, stop saying stuff like that! It's not true!"

TOMMY: "Maybe not, Chuckie, but I can't sleep until I find out for sure."

(After seeing a commercial for a new movie called "Reptar" on TV.)

TOMMY: "Hey, you guys, I gotta tell you about this great thing I saw."

PHIL/LIL: "What?"

TOMMY: "Reptar! This big dinosaur on TV. It knocked over some buildings and stuff."

PHIL/LIL: "Wow!"

(After, Tommy's grandfather, Boris has told the kids a scary story about a monster in the old country.)

CHUCKIE: "Boy, that story last night was scary."

TOMMY: "Yeah. And what's weird is, the same thing's going on around here."

PHIL/LIL: "What do you mean?"

TOMMY: "Remember, that big crash in the garage that Chuckie and me toldja about? Well, I saw Spike in the kitchen when it happened. He couldna done it! Someone—or something—is making trouble, and it's not Spike!"

(After seeing his friends Phil and Lil on the TV screen.)

TOMMY: "I don't get it. How can you be here, and be in the TV at the same time?"

LIL: "It's a commercial, Tommy."

TOMMY: "A mercial? What's that?"

LIL: "A COMmercial! That's when they take you to this big room and shine lights on you and shoot you."

TOMMY: (He gulps.) "SHOOT YOU?"

(Regarding his shiny red ball.)

TOMMY: "My grandpa gave it to me. It's my favoritest toy in the whole world...and it's fun. Here, Chuckie, catch!"



CHUCKIE
(The Side-kick)

Tommy's best friend, Chuckie, lives next door to the Pickles. His dad, Charles Sr., looks and talks just like a grown-up version of his son.

Chuckie's a worrier, a bit of a fraidy-cat, and a two-year-old wet-blanket. If Tommy is the optimistic leader of the gang, Chuckie is the eternal pessimist. Reserved and cautious, Chuckie tends to resist Tommy's schemes, always trying to talk his excited friend out of plunging headlong into another wacky adventure.

But Chuckie's more of a follower than a leader. Although always convinced that in the end Tommy's plans will fail, he inevitably goes along with the scheme, loyal to his friends, but complaining the whole time.

Often, in the middle of an adventure, it is Chuckie (the guy who didn't want to do this in the first place) who gets in the most trouble. When Chuckie follows Tommy in a quest for Tommy's missing ball, it is Chuckie who gets his head stuck in a hollow tree, feet wagging in the air. Another of Tommy's quests leads Chuckie onto an old fashioned portable bed which closes up, trapping him in a mattress sandwich with only his head poking out.

Often, when things seem to be at their lowest, Chuckie will break down, upset that Tommy has gotten him into another fine mess. But this is when Tommy pulls a last trick out of his hat, allowing the adventure to continue, and getting the rugrats into more trouble than ever.

Although in the first season, Chuckie has only been used as a side-kick to Tommy, he could potentially be featured in an episode.

Typical Chuckie dialogue:

(Tommy and Chuckie look down into the basement after Tommy's missing glider. Tommy is preparing to go down after it.)

TOMMY: "You know what we gotta do now, don't you Chuckie?"

CHUCKIE: "Yeah. We gotta find somethin' else to play with."

TOMMY: "No, we gotta go down there and get my plane."

CHUCKIE: "Tommy, we can't do that. We're babies. We don't know how to go down stairs."

TOMMY: "Well, we gotta learn sometime."

CHUCKIE: "Yeah, that's true...Maybe next year..."

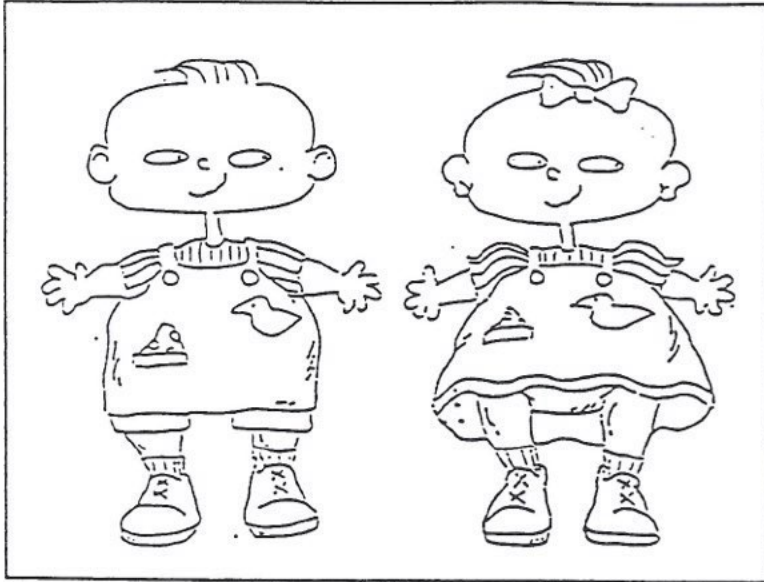
(After he has fallen into a hole the rugrats have dug in the backyard to catch a mythical moose.)

TOMMY: "You okay, Chuckie?"

CHUCKIE: "AM I OKAY? AM I OKAY? First you talk me into breaking out of the playpen. Then you leave me in a hole. Then you get me all wet. And for what? Huh? A moose!? I don't see any moose!? Where's the moose, Tommy!? Where?"

(At the end of a grand adventure trying to find Grandpa's dentures in the park.)

CHUCKIE: "Boy, being old is scary! Your teeth come out, and get lost, and sometimes big ducks eat 'em, and junk."



PHIL AND LIL DE VILLE (The Peanut Gallery)

Phil and Lil are 15-month-old twins who live on the other side of the Pickles. Their parents are Betty and Howard De Ville. Betty is Tommy's mom's best friend.

Although not the types to instigate mischief, Phil and Lil are always willing to participate. As the "Peanut Gallery," they comment on the action; as Tommy's "soldiers", they always go along with his plans.

Fraternal twins of the opposite sex, Phil and Lil look identical. People always mistake them for one another. They do everything together. Half the time they're so much in sync that they speak simultaneously, even finishing each other's thoughts. Other times, they take contradictory points of view, and argue. At these times, they seem like one person fighting with himself, often taking the discussion on some strange tangent that has nothing to do with the plot.

For example, when Tommy pushes forward with his mission to find his missing ball, Phil and Lil argue about which of them should next go over the fence. In "Trial", when faced with telling their version of the crime, Phil and Lil debate which one of them was "it" during a game of tag.

Although in the first season, there has only been one story, "Baby Commercial", featuring Phil and Lil as main characters, their relationship is fertile ground for further plots.

Typical Phil and Lil dialogue:

(Theorizing on what the toilet might be.)

PHIL: "Is that the thing I saw our dog drinking out of? I thought it was a big water dish."
 LIL: "I think it's a fish bowl."
 PHIL: "A fish bowl!? There's no fish in that thing, Lillian."
 LIL: "Well, I saw something swimming around in there, Philip."

(Regarding a pretentious film director dressed in tacky clothes, strutting around a set.)

LIL: "What's he supposed to be?"
 PHIL: "I dunno. Maybe he's some kind of clown."

(Debating who was "it" during a game of tag.)

LIL: "Phil was it."
 PHIL: "Na ah, Lil was it."
 LIL: "Na ah, Phil was it."
 PHIL: "You were it, Lillian."
 LIL: "You were it, Philip."
 PHIL: "You!"
 LIL: "No, you!"

(Debating how to catch a moose.)

LIL: "Dig a big hole."
 PHIL: "No, use a net."
 LIL: "Where're we gonna find a net, Philip?"
 PHIL: "Well, where're we gonna find a shovel, Lillian?"
 LIL: "Hole."
 PHIL: "Net."
 LIL: "Hole."
 PHIL: "Net."



ANGELICA (The Arch-Nemesis)

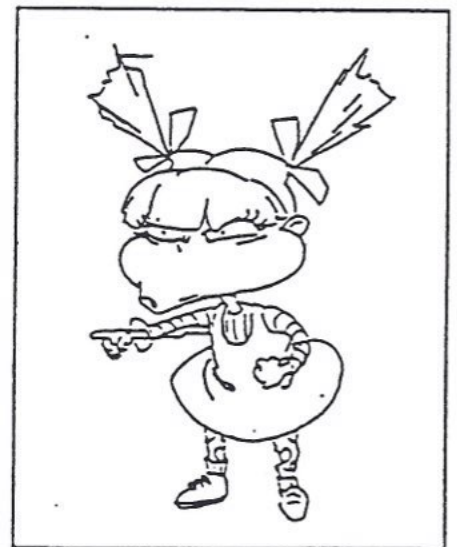
Tommy's 3-year-old cousin Angelica acts and looks sickeningly sweet when she's near any adults. The grown ups all fall for her Shirley Temple act, but as soon as their backs are turned, her true character emerges: the quintessential bully.

Angelica is the oldest and biggest of the rugrats -- a fact she never lets the others forget. When left alone with the other kids, Angelica becomes a tyrant. She loves to use her physical and mental maturity to boss around "the little babies," putting them down, and forcing them to do whatever she wants to do.

Arrogant and self-centered, Angelica has come to believe her own press, buying into all the perfect child hype that her father heaps onto the other adults. She "knows" that she is the cutest girl ever born, the best singer, the most talented dancer, and she takes advantage of every opportunity to show-off for her "adoring public." Angelica loves to put on shows, forcing the other rugrats to be her audience, making them listen to her off-key renditions of classic songs, the lyrics of which she has learned in pre-school and gets totally wrong.

In many Rugrat episodes, Angelica's actions motivate the plot. Something that she does creates a problem that Tommy and the other rugrats have to overcome. For example, in "Barbecue," a story about the rugrats' trek to find Tommy's missing ball, it is Angelica who starts the story by throwing Tommy's ball over the fence. In "The Trial", after breaking Tommy's favorite lamp, Angelica blames the crime on the other rugrats, and forces them to hold a Perry Mason-style trial.

Because she is older than the other rugrats, Angelica has a bit more understanding of the adult world. However, even though she thinks she knows everything, Angelica badly mixes up and misunderstands adult references. When she makes the rugrats put on a mock trial, Angelica calls the jury "the jerky", and the judge "the fudge." Still, she considers herself much more mature than the other rugrats, has seen a lot of TV, loves to play with dolls and other "big kid" toys, and often sighs with disdain at the foolishness of Tommy and his pals.



Typical Angelica dialogue:

(Buttering up her aunt.)

ANGELICA: "Good morning, Aunt Didi, I picked this flower just for you."

DIDI: "Oh, honey, how nice!"

(Forcing the penned-up rugrats to be her audience.)

ANGELICA: "Okay, listen. Here's what we're gonna do. I've been taking dance classes and I'm gonna perform for you."

TOMMY: "Uh-oh."

ANGELICA: "Now, I'm gonna be the beautiful, famous wonderful ballerina who is loved by all the world - and you're gonna be the expectators."

TOMMY: "Hey, Angelica, how come we always have to do what you wanna do?"

ANGELICA: "BECAUSE!"

(Holding Tommy's ball inches out of his reach.)

TOMMY: "Gimme my ball!"

ANGELICA: "Say pretty please with sugar on top."

TOMMY: "Gimme my ball!"

ANGELICA: "Say Angelica is the nicest, prettiest, bestest person in the whole wide world."

TOMMY: "Gimme my BALL!"

ANGELICA: "Well, if you can't be nicer than that, I guess you'll never see your dumb old ball again."

(Riding in the back seat with her doll, Cynthia.)

ANGELICA: "I know, Cynthia. Let's start a club. It's called "the club for all people who's name isn't Tommy."

THE ADULTS

Although children are the main focus of *Rugrats*, adults play an important part of every episode, often providing an inadvertent obstacle to the rugrats' goals, or the "B" plot of a story.

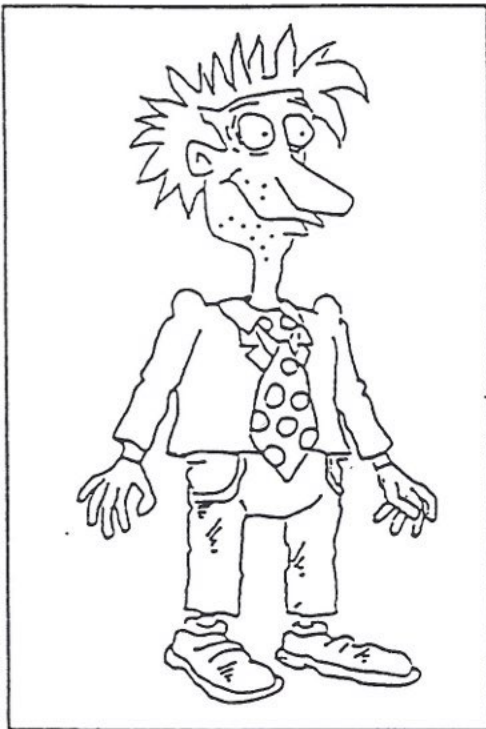
From the rugrats' point of view, the adults are a mysterious wonderment, big, funny people who spend their time doing things the kids don't understand.

Adults have totally different agendas from those of the rugrats. Although they are usually loving and kind to children, the adults always underestimate both the rugrats' abilities and their understanding of the world. Usually, they are completely oblivious to the rugrats' desires and motivations.

In episodes containing an adult "B" plot, the rugrats may inadvertently solve the adult's problem, although the adults never realize this. For example, when Stu takes an important potential client to dinner (and has to take Tommy with him), it is Tommy's wacky adventure through the kitchen that most impresses the client and clinches the deal. When Stu can't get his doll-making machine to work, it is Tommy who inadvertently fixes the contraption by crawling around on it.

In the end, the adults always see the rugrats as innocent angels; while the rugrats look upon the adults as benevolent obstacles.

STU AND DIDI PICKLES – Tommy's thirtysomething father and mother are first-time parents. In terms of knowing how to raise the baby, they're flying blind. They make every attempt to be the perfect responsible parents, but like all adults, they fail to comprehend just how much babies understand.



STU
(Tommy's father)

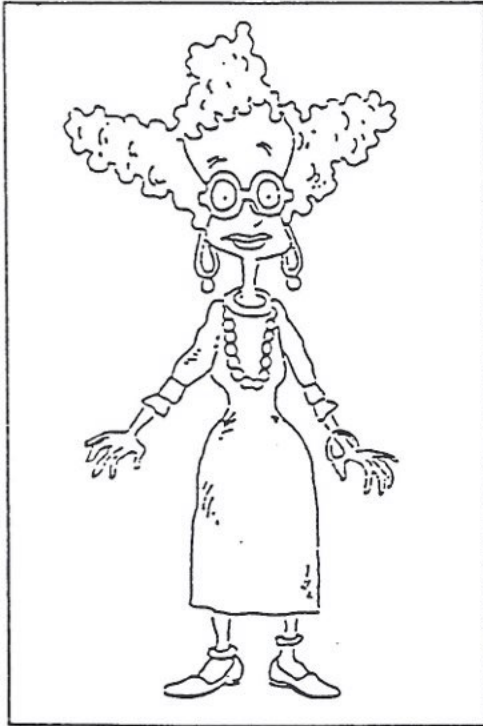
Stu Pickles is a loving, concerned, but absent-minded dad.

A moderately successful small time businessman, Stu runs his own toy manufacturing company, Pickles Industries, out of his work-shop in the basement.

A dreamer, Stu loves to design new toys and invent new gadgets. He often bursts out of the basement with a new overly-sophisticated toy for Tommy to try out, or some overly-complicated kitchen contraption for Didi. Stu loves to describe his inventions in intricate detail to any and all who will listen, often ending with "this is the toy that's going to put Pickles Industries on the map."

Although Stu is basically happy with his life, he can't help competing with his ultra-successful investment banker brother, Drew. Although they love each other, whenever the two brothers get together, they quickly regress into sibling rivalries, arguing like juveniles ("Does not." "Does too.") until Grandpa breaks them up the way he did 20 years ago.

Like most dads, Stu loves his son very much. However, because he is so driven and focused on his work, Stu is fundamentally unobservant, often losing track of the boy, allowing Tommy to crawl off on one adventure after another. For example, in one episode, Stu is so obsessed with picking up a new toy the postman, he doesn't notice that Tommy has crawled into the mail bag and has been taken away.



DIDI
(Tommy's Mother)

Didi Pickles is the classic practical, responsible, but often over-protective mom.

Obsessed with doing things the "right" way, Didi has read all the latest child rearing books and watched every "How to Raise Your Kids" video ever made. However, in her quest to be the perfect mother, Didi tends to over-worry about every little thing that Tommy does or doesn't do, completely unaware of how much Tommy really understands and thinks. Ironically, she's often so preoccupied with being the ideal mom, she fails to notice Tommy taking off on one of his adventures.

For example, in one episode, Didi's so obsessed with planning and carrying out the perfect first birthday, she fails to notice Tommy heading off with the other rugrats to sample dog food in the kitchen.

Didi is loving almost to a fault. She fawns and "gaga"s over Tommy so much that it's almost embarrassing to watch. She treats him like the helpless blank slate she thinks him to be, never realizing how smart and knowledgeable her baby really is.

Typical Didi dialogue:

(Whenever Stu says or does anything particularly goofy.)

DIDI: "Oh, Stu."

(Trying to figure out when to take Tommy for his first dentist appointment.)

DIDI: "Well, according to the Lipschitz baby book, as soon as the first teeth appear, it's time to take the baby to...you know where."

STU: "I just can't believe you want to take him to the dentist."

DIDI: "Don't say "dentist." You'll scare him. Just say "tooth fairy." It sounds nicer."

(Preparing a list for the baby sitter.)

DIDI: "Now, I've got our number at the restaurant, Drew's, Betty's and the pediatrician's...oh, and here's the plumber's number in case the pipes burst."

(Trying to comfort her crying baby.)

DIDI: "Oh, Booboo, what's a mawwew?"

(After Tommy has hit his head on a coffee table while Stu was supposed to be watching him.)

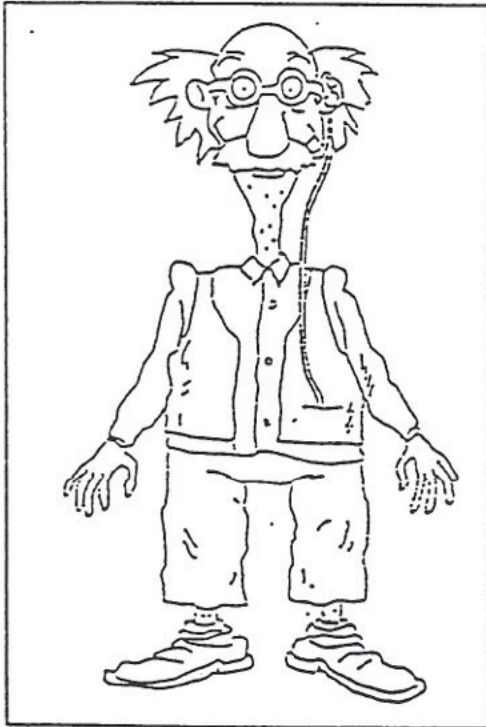
DIDI: "Oh, no! Stu, look at that gigantic bruise!"

STU: "It's just a little bump, Deed."

DIDI: "Just a bump?! Why, he could have a concussion! Maybe I should call the doctor..."

STU: "Didi, he probably just bumped his head trying to get that balloon."

DIDI: "Stu, are you blaming Tommy's concussion on the balloon?"



GRANDPA

Lou Pickles, Tommy's paternal grandfather, is the classic cantankerous, old geezer. He lives upstairs in the Pickles' house, and often acts as a convenient baby sitter for his rugrat grandson, Tommy. Grandpa is indulgent with the kids. As such, he is almost more of a "rugrat" than an adult—functioning as a bridge between the world of the kids and the world of the adults.

Often offering comic relief to the stodgy world of the adults, Grandpa constantly points out the ridiculousness of Stu, Didi and their friends. And, because he's an old guy, he can say just about anything he wants and get away with it.

Although he adores Tommy, Grandpa doesn't approve of Stu and Didi's new-fangled ways of raising the boy. He never fails to mention to Stu and Didi that he was brought up the old-fashioned way, and had

to walk "fif-teen miles through the snow to school," or sail through "fif-teen foot waves," or shovel "fif-teen tons of mud" — even when these possibly exaggerated statistics have nothing to do with the subject at hand.

Although also unaware of Tommy's ability to talk, Grandpa is the only adult with an inkling of what Tommy, whom he calls "Scout," can do. Grandpa alone treats Tommy and the other rugrats like equals, refusing to talk down to them like puppy dogs. Convinced they'll somehow understand, Grandpa loves to tell the rugrats long stories about his own youthful adventures, revelling in tall tales of the "old days," then fading off into a snoring nap.

Just as much as Grandpa loves Tommy, Tommy loves Grandpa. To Tommy, Grandpa is his pal. When he thinks Grandpa needs his help, Tommy rallies the other rugrats to his aid: "When I get sick, who takes care of me? Grandpa! When no one else wants to play, who plays with me? Grandpa! When I sneak out of my room late at night, who's sleeping with the TV on so I can watch it? Grandpa! He's the neatest grown up there is."

But, as much as Tommy loves the old guy, Tommy is never above taking advantage of one of Grandpa's long naps or mesmerizing television marathons to sneak away on an adventure.

Typical Grandpa dialogue:

(Picking up Tommy for a trip to the grocery store.)

GRANDPA: "Come on, Scout, let's go get us some supplies!"

(Relating a tall tale to the rugrats.)

GRANDPA: "...And there we were, just me an your great granddaddy, hunkered down in the shadow of an ee-normous bull moose -- just a hair bigger than this house."

(When Didi and Stu suggest weaning Tommy.)

GRANDPA: "Aw, just give him a bottle! My brother Sparky drank from a bottle for fif-teen years, and he's got a bite like a bear trap."

(After Didi has described the puppet show she has planned for Tommy's first birthday.)

GRANDPA: "A puppet show for one-year-olds?! What is this world coming to? Why, when I was a spud, we didn't have puppet shows. If we wanted entertainment, we went out to the back forty, and pulled up stumps. And we hadda walk fif-teen miles in the snow to get there, too!"



DREW PICKLES
(Stu's Foil)

Although he's clean cut with short, neat hair and glasses, Stu's older brother Drew looks otherwise identical to him. The similarity ends there, however. While Stu is an absent-minded inventor, Drew is a staid investment banker with a somewhat lackluster imagination.

Having vastly different personalities, Drew and Stu often fought with each other when they were kids. These days they get along fine, and Drew often brings his daughter, Angelica over to play with Tommy and the other rugrats. Given time, however, Stu and Drew often backslide into immature sibling-rivalry, forcing Grandpa to break up their petty arguments the way he did 20 years ago.

Drew fiercely loves his 3-year-old daughter Angelica, who he believes to be a Shirley Temple-like cherub. He wishes he could spend every second with his little darling, and is completely unaware of the monstrous bully she becomes when he turns his back.

Typical Drew/Stu dialogue:

(After Stu's doll making machine has failed miserably.)

DREW: "I told you, Stu. You should've hired a professional."
 STU: "Drew, I'm a professional."
 DREW: "Yeah, a professional goof-up."
 STU: "Takes one to know one, Drew."
 DREW: "Takes one to know one times ten."
 STU: "Takes one to know one times a hundred."
 DREW: "Times a thousand!"
 STU: "Times infinity!"

...



BETTY DE VILLE
(Didi's Sidekick)

Phil and Lil's mom, Betty is a big, loud, friendly woman, who talks like a man and always wears sweats. Although they outwardly seem opposites, Didi and Betty are best friends. They often baby sit each other's kids, and there's nothing Betty loves more than going next door to the Pickles' house and celebrating a moment of her life over a cup of instant "International" Swiss mocha.

Although she comes off as a tough gal, always giving a friendly-but-painful back slap, Betty fawns over her twins with the instincts of a mother bear.

A bit of a know-it-all, Betty loves to give Didi child-rearing advice, even though Betty is often in favor of "corralling" the twins behind baby gates and play pens so she can have a peaceful moment alone.

In contrast to his wife, Betty's husband HOWARD, is a small, shy, quiet man who has become used to not getting a word in edgewise. A techno-nerd, Howard has a habit of hanging around the edges of Pickles' parties, and is often easy prey to Stu who is always looking for an audience to whom he can describe his latest invention.



Typical Betty dialogue:

(Giving advice to Betty on how to feed a baby.)

BETTY: "Just laser guide it, Deed. Always works for me."

(After Didi has brought up the subject of weaning Tommy from the bottle.)

BETTY: "Weaning? At one year old? That's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard. My pediatrician Doc Mulligan doesn't even want me ta think about weaning until the twins are two."

DIDI: "I know but the dentist says--"

BETTY: "Did ya get a look at his dental school diploma, Deed? Guy's probably a quack. Last year my cousin Bertha went to a dentist back there in Nebraska. Guy pulled out three molars and an eye tooth. He was gonna yank two front teeth the next week when Bertha discovered the guy wasn't a dentist at all. Turned out he was a fork-lift operator."

(As she arrives at the Pickles' with her husband and an armload of kids.)

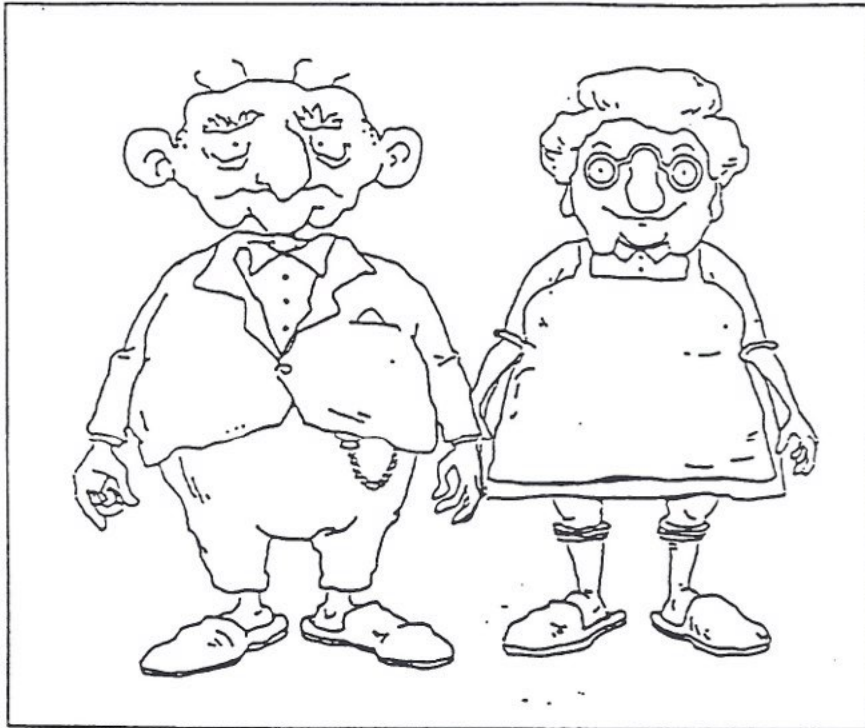
BETTY: "We're totally psyched for this party thing. Aren't we, Howard?"

HOWARD: "Well, Betty--"

BETTY: "Oh, don't mind Howard, Didi. He's just a little frazzed on account of all these kids."

HOWARD: "Actually--"

BETTY: "I mean, the twins are enough of an armload, and today we got little Chuckie. Say, do you think we could just pen these pups."



BORIS & MINKA (Grandparents)

Tommy's maternal grandparents from the old country, Boris and Minka, live on the bottom floor of an old duplex not too far from the Pickles' home.

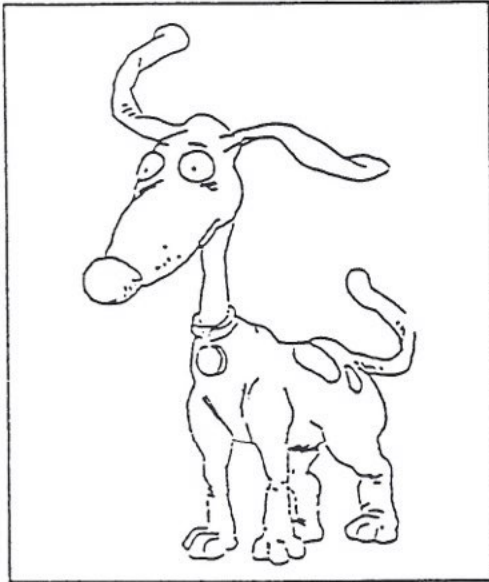
Boris and Minka can't help but argue--it's in their nature. The arguments usually start in English over completely silly things, then disintegrate into their native language, which no one else understands.

When this happens, Boris and Minka become oblivious to the world around them, even to their daughter Didi who struggles to get them to make peace, using new-age psychological techniques that never succeed. Though the other adults tend to watch the spectacle with fascination, the rugrats are not the least bit interested. They simply wait for the adults to get sufficiently distracted, then silently slip away to get at the dog food, the toilet, or whatever they're currently interested in.

Typical Boris and Minka dialogue:

(Regarding Tommy's first birthday cake.)

- BORIS: "What kind of cake is this? It should have been chocolate. In de old country, you never have carrot cake at a birthday party."
 MINKA: "This isn't the old country, or haven't you noticed, Mr. Chocolate cake."
 BORIS: "For you information, chocolate cake is international."
 MINKA: "Suddenly, he's Mr. International."



SPIKE THE DOG

Like most family dogs, Spike is a friendly, loyal mutt whose main interest is food. Stu and Didi consider him a dumb but pleasant member of the family, yet Spike is often more aware of what the rugrats are up to than they are.

He and Tommy share an intrepid interest in, and curiosity about, the world around them. When he's not rescuing Tommy from impending doom, Spike often takes the baby on magnificent adventures through the neighborhood--adventures which Stu and Didi are never aware of.

Note: Animals in *Rugrats* are not Walt Disney characters. They can not talk, and should not have anthropomorphic characteristics. They should just act like real animals. (This includes Spike).

The rugrats talk to their pets as real children would to their pets, but the animals cannot reply. Their relationship should be identical to that of any small child and his pet.

STORY STRUCTURE

- A. Stories should always revolve around the rugrats. Their story is always the "A" plot. The story should involve:
1. a scheme,
 - a. Usually Tommy should dream up the scheme out of benevolent curiosity.
 - b. The result, however, should be wild action that ends up throwing the adults into humorous chaos.
 2. and/or a situation--
 - a. that the adults get the rugrats into
 - b. that the rugrats get themselves into
 - c. or some combination of the two.
- B. The adults can have a problem of their own. Their problem often forms the "B" plot but NEVER the "A" plot.
1. The rugrats always affect its outcome, but
 2. the adults are never aware of the rugrats' effect.
- C. Placing the rugrats in situations appropriate for older people, but that are wrong for babies or small children (such as a high school or retirement home) often work well. Be sure to get them into those situations logically.
- D. We encourage you to explore emotional issues of childhood, emotional issues of adulthood, and the relationship between parents and children (themselves and each other). If you do so, however, be sure to keep it funny and not too preachy.

DO'S AND DONT'S

- A. If there are villains in the story the rugrats should foil them, perhaps inadvertently.
- B. If he's in the story, Spike the dog may have his own goal (like getting at some food meant for humans).
- C. Tommy and the other rugrats often pull tools from secret hiding places.
- D. Especially during a scene that revolves around the adults, one or some of the rugrats can do some annoying thing to confound the adults (ie. grab one's earrings, pens from pockets, etc.)
- E. Didi should always refer to her baby books for answers.
- F. Stu should usually introduce a new, cool toy.
- G. The rugrats should do things that real one-year olds might do: pull on earrings, turn on and off the light switch over and over again, or spontaneously break into tears over some absurdly-unimportant thing, then just as suddenly stop crying when his or her attention is drawn to something more interesting.
- H. Phil and Lil should always
 1. speak simultaneously and/or finish each other's sentences, and
 2. completely disagree about something.
- I. Chuckie should always be reluctant about a Tommy scheme, then go along with it in the end.
- J. Angelica should always be
 1. revoltingly cute around adults.
 2. a monstrous bully to the other rugrats when the adults turn their backs.
- K. When Boris and Minka argue they start in English, then break into their own indiscernible Eastern European language, while Didi futilely tries to talk them into stopping, using her useless new-age psycho babble.

The following things should never happen in any show:

- A. Except for Angelica (who's a bully), the rugrats are NEVER malevolent.
- B. Because we have to act responsibly, never put the rugrats in situations which if imitated at home would result in a child's harm (swallowing medicine, playing with fire, etc.).
- C. The children NEVER talk in front of--and especially to--the adults.
 1. Adults DO NOT KNOW that the rugrats can talk.
 2. Rugrats are to some extent aware of what adults are talking about, but only to the extent that what's being discussed affects them, and even then, they usually misconstrue what's being said.

TECHNICAL STUFF

Rugrats scripts should be formatted like a standard feature screenplay (NOT like a half-hour sit-com), except that you should feel free to describe camera angles, Points of view, and other visual and audio cues in your script. Please use a 12-pitch (ten characters per inch) type face on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, top and bottom margins approximately one inch from the paper edge. Note the sample page included.

Each *Rugrats* episode should be about 19 to 21 pages in length. This should work out to be approximately 11 minutes. Under no circumstances should scenes be numbered.

Writers using IBM compatible computers who, in addition to hard-copy submissions, include their drafts on computer disk, will be loved and revered by the writing staff, but this is by no means a requirement. We'll love you even more if you use Wordperfect, versions 5.0 or later; if you are one of these, notify us and we will supply you with macros (and instructions to use them) that will instantly set up the above formatting.

The writer should include his name, episode title and draft number on a cover sheet for any scripts turned in.

SAMPLE SCRIPT PAGE

↓ 1"

EXT. BACK OF "ROCKET TO MARS" RIDE - NIGHT

1.5" → ANGLE ON REPTAR--he looks around to see if he is being watched. He doesn't see the rugrats, who are hiding behind a corner of scenery. He tears the top off of a box of cereal, sticks the box into the mouth of his mask, and starts to pour the bite-size sugary morsels into his own human mouth. ← 1"

3.5" → ANGLE on rugrats, peering around their corner.

→ CHUCKIE
(whispering)
What's he eating? ← 1" *right margin for character*

3.0" → TOMMY
(whispering)
Wow! Reptar cereal! ← 2.5" *right margin for - parentheticals*

2.5" → ANGELICA
(whispering)
I'm gonna get some! ← 2.0" *right margin for dialogue*

LIL
(horrified whisper)
You can't do that, Angelica!

PHIL
(whispering)
Yeah. Reptar might eat you up or something.

Headless, Angelica marches out from behind the scenery and right up behind Reptar.

ANGELICA
(yelling)
HEY, REPTAR!

Startled, Reptar jumps. Cereal goes flying out of the box.

REPTAR
YEEAAAAH!

Turning around, he sees it's only a little girl and recovers.

↑ 1"

SHORT SYNOPSIS FOR FIRST SEASON OF RUGRATS EPISODES

In the first season, we have produced the following thirteen episodes (twenty-five stories):

SHOW 1 - "Tommy's First Birthday" (BOTH ACTS COMPRISE A SINGLE, 22-MINUTE STORY):

It's Tommy's first birthday. His parents have planned a huge party for him and his pals, but Tommy has other ideas. Convinced that eating dog food will turn him and his buddies into dogs (which seems like a pretty neat idea), Tommy talks his fellow rugrats into sneaking into the kitchen to raid the dog's bowl. When they commandeer a radio-controlled hover-craft to get to it, trouble ensues.

SHOW 2A - "Bar-B-Q Story"

When bullying older cousin Angelica throws his favorite ball over the fence during a fourth of July picnic, Tommy recruits the help of his fellow rugrats for a journey into the neighbor's yard. They quickly find the ball, but just as Tommy's about to grab it, he's confronted by a big nasty dog. As the hound slowly approaches, Tommy panics and lets out a blood-curdling scream. The adults don't hear it, but Tommy's faithful dog SPIKE does. Forgoing the juicy hamburger he was about to grab off the grill, Spike hops the fence and saves Tommy. His infant master atop his back, Spike triumphantly returns to the Pickles yard, where he finds a whole plateful of burnt hamburgers waiting. Fireworks explode in the sky, Tommy hugs his best pal, Spike eats his burgers, and all is well with the world.

SHOW 2B - "Waiter, There's A Baby In My Soup"

When the baby sitter fails to show up, Stu and Didi are forced to take Tommy to an important client dinner at a chic restaurant. During the meal, Tommy slips under the table and into the kitchen where he wreaks havoc, mixing up orders, destroying culinary masterpieces, and generally turning the restaurant into a circus. Stu thinks he's lost it all, but the client is entertained by Tommy's antics. In the end, he grants Stu the deal.

SHOW 3A - "At The Movies"

Stu and Didi take the kids to a hideous kiddy movie at the local multiplex cinema. Although the adults are enthralled by the schmaltzy, cutesy cartoon, the kids are bored, and decide to sneak out of the theater.

The rugrats wander into another theater, upsetting the patrons there, then crawl into the concession counter, where they wreak havoc among the candy and popcorn. They finally end up in the projection booth, where they terrorize the projectionist, entangling the film from eight different movies before making their way back to kiddy movie theater. Stu and Didi are so upset that their movie suddenly burned up in the projector, they never noticed the kids were gone.

SHOW 3B - "Slumber Party"

When bullying older cousin Angelica has to stay over at Tommy's house, she insists that she and Tommy take their nap with the window open, and Tommy catches a cold. That night he has a feverish dream in which his family take on the physical characteristics of the figures in the mobile that hangs over his bed.

SHOW 4A - "Baby Commercial-Take 1"

When they go to a television studio to star in a diaper commercial, twins Phil and Lil wreak havoc, upsetting the entire crew, sending a motorized dolly careening through the stage, and destroying the director's prized set. His great work "ruined," the obnoxious director tells Phil and Lil they'll "never work in this town again," but changes his tune when he discovers that his camera filmed the mayhem--and that the agency guys really love the resulting commercial.

SHOW 4B - "Little Dude"

Needing a changing doll for her home economics class, Didi decides to bring Tommy to the high school where she teaches. Tommy manages to escape into the campus, where he has a high school adventure, culminating in a cafeteria food fight and the befriending of the coolest guy on campus.

SHOW 5A - "Little Miss Lovely"

When they discover that the fishing boat they've been covering is the first prize in the "Little Miss Lovely" baby contest, Grandpa and Stu decide to dress Tommy up as a girl and enter him. But trouble ensues the day of the contest, when the two discover that Stu's brother Drew has also entered Tommy's cousin Angelica, and even worse, has brought Didi along to watch the contest. Realizing that his fraud will be revealed, Stu tries to withdraw Tommy from the contest, but he's too late.

Tommy wins the contest, but he's disqualified when a furious Didi reveals that he's a boy. Nevertheless, Grandpa ends up victorious. Angelica took second prize and won the boat, and as Grandpa points out, she too is his granddaughter.

SHOW 5B - "Tommy At Bat"

When Grandpa wins tickets to a baseball game, he and Stu take Tommy along for his first taste of the grand old sport. All goes well until Tommy loses his grasp on a helium balloon and goes off after it. Unnoticed by Stu and Grandpa, who are caught up in the game, Tommy wanders up into the stands then down onto the field where he ends up being instrumental in a play that wins the game for the home team.

SHOW 6A - "Ruthless Tommy"

Two hoods mistake Tommy for a millionaire's kid and kidnap him. Though they never discover they've got the wrong child, they quickly regret their crime when Tommy wreaks havoc on their hideout, throwing stolen gems down their toilet, vacuuming up thousands of dollars in stolen cash, and generally driving them nuts. In the end, the two hapless crooks return Tommy to his parents, begging them to take him back and promising never to kidnap anyone ever again.

SHOW 6B - "Moose Country"

Stu decides to re-landscape around the house. For him, it's just a little work in the backyard, but to the rugrats it's a jungle adventure. They go looking for a moose and wreak havoc in the yard.

SHOW 7A - "Grandpa's Teeth"

During a Veterans Picnic at the local park in which Grandpa is supposed to play his trumpet, Spike manages to run off with the old man's dentures. Discovering that the concert's about to begin (and that Grandpa won't be able to play without his teeth) Tommy and Chuckie set out to rescue the dentures. Along the way they confront a gaggle of angry geese and turn a pony ride into a stampede, but in the end they get the dentures back to Grandpa just in time for his triumphant trumpet solo.

SHOW 7B - "Momma Truama"

When Didi catches Tommy crayoning on the wall, she coaxes Stu into their taking Tommy to a baby psychologist. Although insisting that he "doesn't believe in shrinks", Stu changes his tune once in the office, and the subject switches from Tommy's problems to Stu's.

Ignored by the preoccupied adults, Tommy wanders out of the office, into an elevator, and onto another floor. From there he meanders through a series of offices, wreaking havoc. He eventually returns to the psychiatrist's office just in time to see the doctor tell Stu that his 55 minutes are up.

SHOW 8A - "Real Or Robots?"

Chuckie is staying overnight with Tommy. Just before bed, the two see a scary movie on TV in which a kid discovers that his dad is really a robot, and Tommy begins to wonder if his own parents may in fact be automatons. After Stu and Didi have retired for the night, Tommy and Chuckie decide to perform certain tests on Stu to find out. They try plugging his nose to see if he really breathes, then try to open Stu's "chest plate" with Tommy's plastic pliers. Suddenly, Stu begins sleepwalking through the house. "YOU WERE RIGHT!" Chuckie yells as the two run away, "HE REALLY IS A ROBOT!!!"

SHOW 8B - "Special Delivery"

Convinced that he's going to get a new baby sibling in the mail, Tommy waits patiently by the door for the mail man to show up one morning. When the surly civil servant comes to the door, Tommy climbs into the postman's bag, and is inadvertently transported to the local mechanized post office, where he's mistaken for a piece of mail and sent down through the production line. He ends up being stamped, boxed and delivered back to Stu.

SHOW 9A - "Monster In The Garage"

When mysterious accidents start occurring in the garage, the adults blame Spike, but Tommy is convinced that his pet pal is innocent. Deciding that the accidents are being caused by a monster, Tommy talks the other rugrats into a garage expedition. Sure enough, there is a monster in the garage, as the rugrats discover to their horror when they see it's ominous shadow on the wall. But the creature emerges into the light and is revealed to be a harmless mouse. Tommy reaches a friendly hand toward the creature a la E.T., but before the two can connect, the adults open the garage door and chase the little "monster" away.

SHOW 9B - "They're Round, They're Mean, They Turn Milk Green"

Tommy is enthralled to see an ad for REPTAR cereal on TV, but Grandpa interrupts Tommy's viewing to take him grocery shopping at the supermarket. Once at the supermarket, Tommy is happily surprised to discover a whole pyramid display of REPTAR cereal boxes, but he's unable to communicate this great discovery to Grandpa. So when the old man becomes preoccupied adding up prices on a calculator, Tommy decides to take matters into his own hands. He hitches their cart to another via a link sausage tow-rope and begins a wild ride through the supermarket, wreaking havoc along the way. He ends up rolling back to Grandpa just in time for checkout, with Grandpa unwittingly buying several boxes of REPTAR cereal.

SHOW 10A - "Candy Bar Creepshow"

The adults build a haunted house for Halloween. Though Didi decides the kids are too small to be allowed in, they sneak in anyway, hoping to get to the candy bars they know are there. Once in the haunted house, the rugrats ignore the "spooky" aspect of the place and just wreak havoc, getting tangled up in the props and convincing Grandpa and some older kids that the place really is haunted.

SHOW 10B - "Weaning Tommy"

After Tommy's first visit to the dentist yields less than satisfying results, Didi decides it's time to wean Tommy from the bottle. How tough can that be?

Tougher than she thinks. Tommy freaks out the minute his bottle is taken away, but Didi holds fast to her resolve, at least for the first day. That night she, Stu and Grandpa discover each other trying to sneak a bottle to Tommy in his bed. As he's already asleep, they agree to wait until morning to give him back his bottle. They head off for bed.

Meanwhile in his crib, Tommy pulls some stuffed toys aside to reveal that not only was he faking sleep, but that he's hidden a bottle away for himself after all.

SHOW 11A - "Touch-Down Tommy"

In a fit of over-protectiveness, Stu invents a set of safety helmets for all the rugrats, so he and the other dads can pen the kids and watch a football game. When bottles are passed out—and Tommy gets chocolate milk—bullying cousin Angelica decides she wants it, and charges Tommy. A game of keep away ensues, which is inadvertently narrated play-by-play by the television set just a few feet away.

Though the rugrats execute a surprisingly effective defense, Angelica manages to intercept the coveted bottle, only to discover that it's empty—its contents sprayed across the living room wall and all over Angelica's pretty white dress. Angelica discovers this at the same moment the moms return home from a shopping expedition. Chaos ensues.

SHOW 11B - "The Trial"

When his favorite clown lamp is broken beyond repair, Tommy demands to know which one of his pals is responsible. No one owns up, so Angelica suggests they have a trial. She appoints Tommy the judge and herself the "persecutor" and immediately proceeds to accuse Phil and Lil, then Chuckie, of being responsible for the incident.

Each recounts the story in a dramatic flash-back, but in the end it appears that each was innocent. Then Tommy begins to realize that Angelica may have committed the crime. As they hound her with questions, Angelica begins to break down.

Finally she confesses to the crime, yelling that of course she broke it, she'd do it again if she had the chance. She laughs obnoxiously, but her bravado fades when she learns that aunt Didi heard the whole confession.

SHOW 12A - "Fluffy Vs. Spike"

Tommy and the rugrats are playing peacefully when Angelica arrives with her new kitty, Fluffy. The new pet looks and behaves as if it were Angelica's equally evil twin. Angelica proceeds to "entertain" the other rugrats while Fluffy proceeds to terrorize Spike.

When Spike is wrongly accused by the adults for some pottery broken by Fluffy, Tommy resolves to clear his pal's name. Ultimately, the kitty and Angelica receive their comeuppance.

SHOW 12B - "Reptar's Revenge"

Stu, Didi, and Grandpa take the rugrats to the Sleazola Bros. Carnival. The kids spot a guy in a rubber Reptar suit, giving out samples of Reptar cereal, and resolve to go find him.

They take advantage of Grandpa's senility to escape into the crowd and find Reptar. Angelica demands a cereal sample, and when the guy only gives her one, she kicks him in the shins and takes off with his stash. Reptar takes off after Angelica who leads him and the pursuing rugrats on a wild chase that culminates in the Tunnel of Love, where they interrupt Stu and Didi in the middle of a kiss.

SHOW 13A - "Graham Canyon"

Stu and Didi take Tommy and Angelica on a car trip to the Grand Canyon. The two rugrats are confused about their goal, and when the family car breaks down on the road, they mistake the repair garage for the Grand Canyon and go exploring it on their own.

While exploring, Tommy and Angelica unwittingly foil the two unscrupulous mechanics who were planning to rip off Stu and Didi. The Pickles family ends up bagging the idea of driving all the way to the Grand Canyon, and turn off at "Clam Canyon", a slip-and-slide water park, which they enjoy considerably, anyway.

SHOW 13B - "Stu-Maker's Elves"

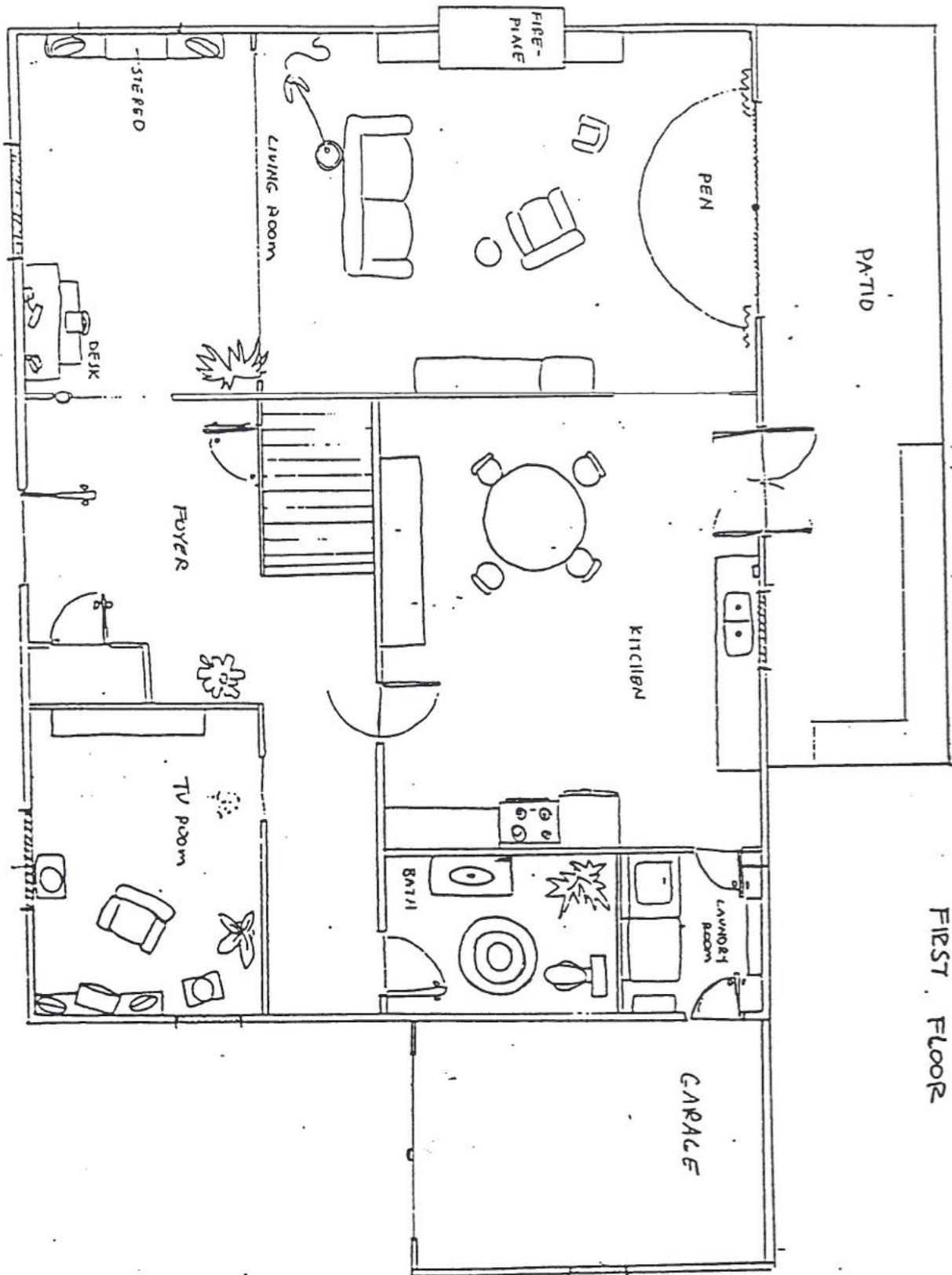
Tommy and Chuckie accidentally toss their glider plane downstairs into the unknown territory of the basement. Although Chuckie is reticent, Tommy leads the way into that dark realm.

Ultimately their search takes them to Stu's Workshop, where they inadvertently fix an invention of Stu's, but not before going on a wild ride down an assembly line.

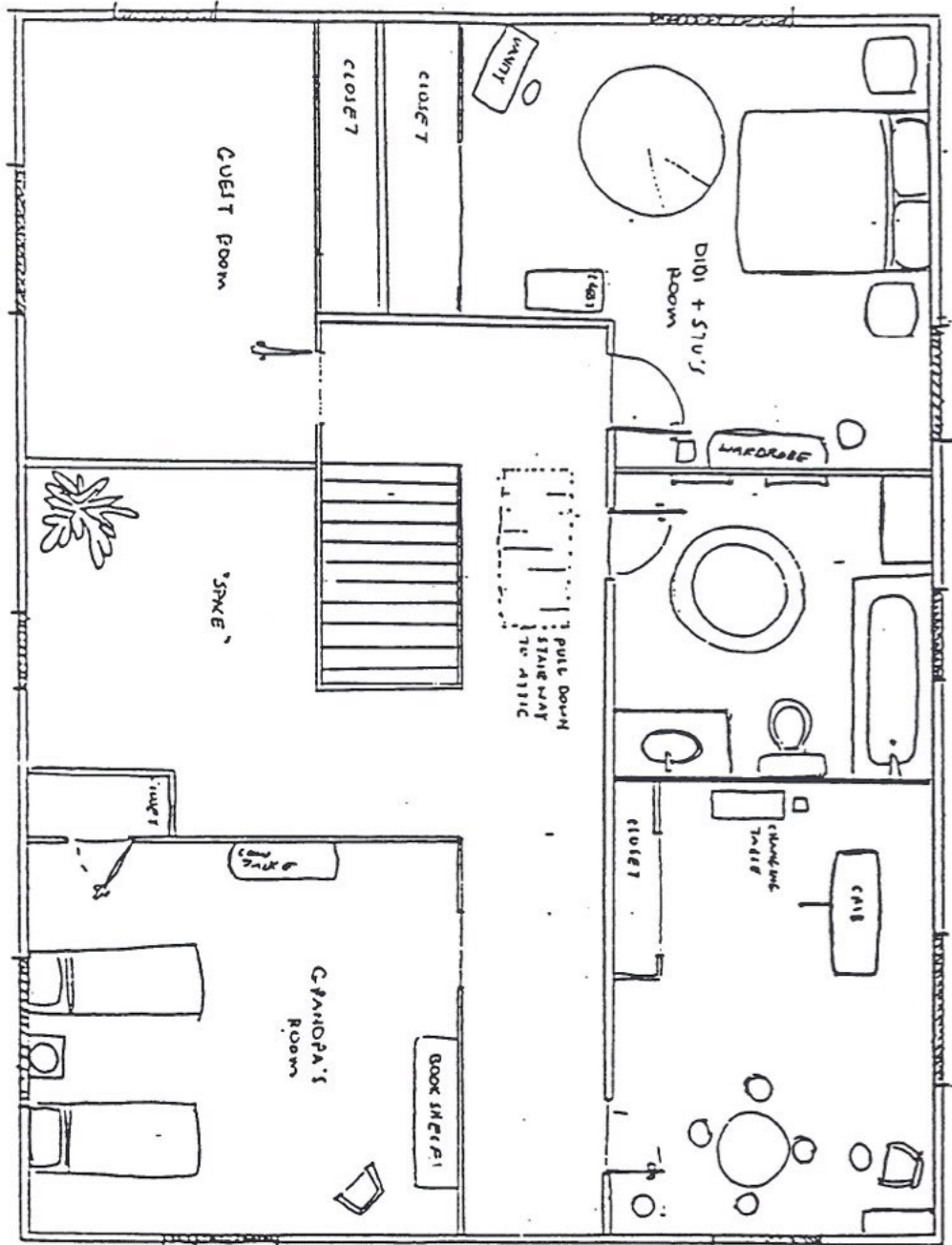
THE FLOOR PLAN

When writing scripts for *Rugrats*, please stick as close as you can to the geography of the following floor plan.

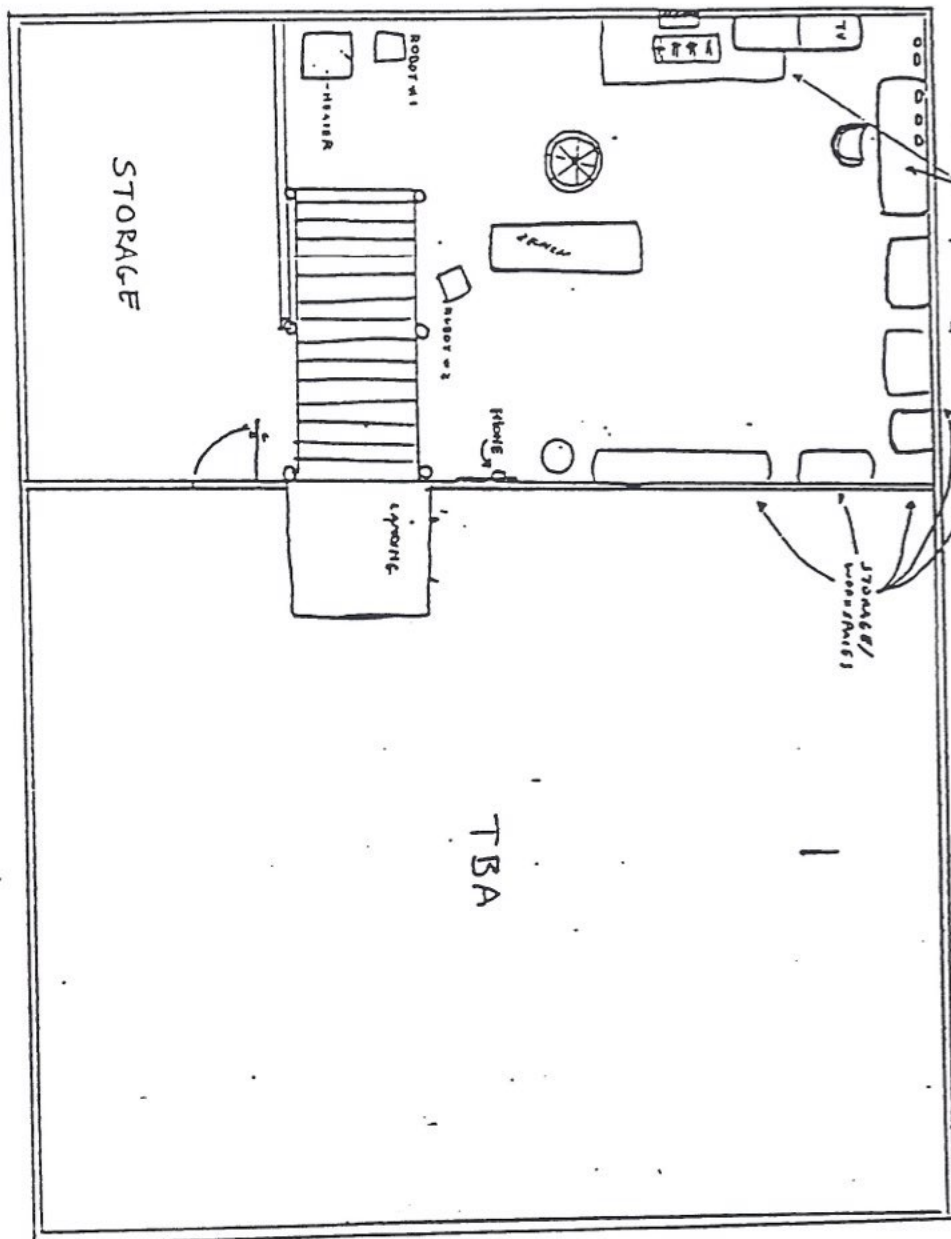
If you have to make any changes to this plan (such as adding or losing a room, or changing the location of a room in the house) in order to make the logic of the story work better, please check with us first.



PICKLES' HOUSE
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



SYNOPSIS FOR SECOND SEASON OF RUGRATS EPISODES

1

Show 1A - "Toy Palace"

Tommy and Chuckie accidentally get left in huge toy store after closing. At first it's all fun and games, but when an oversized gorilla doll goes on a rampage, things start to get scary.

Show 1B - "Yo-Ho-Ho and a Bottle o' Milk"

After Grandpa reads them a pirate story, Tommy, Chuckie, Phil, and Lil imagine that they're buccaneers on the high seas. They battle their nemesis Admiral Angelico and eventually find a long-sought treasure.

Show 2A - "The Big House"

Tommy gets put in a new-age day care center that seems an awful lot like a prison. After winning over the other "inmates," Tommy engineers a jailbreak.

Show 2B - "Chuckie Versus the Potty"

When Chuckie spends a weekend at the Pickles house, he tells Tommy that his father is trying to potty train him. Things just get worse when Angelica torments him by turning the water on and off. In the end, however, Chuckie conquers the potty -- although Angelica has a little accident.

Show 3A - "The Shot"

When Tommy has to go the doctor to get a "rooster shot," he and another baby try to make an escape, wreaking havoc through the hospital. They are finally caught, but end up learning that a shot isn't that scary after all.

Show 3B - "Together at Last"

When Phil and Lil get in a fight over a toy, Betty decides to give them some time apart. Lil goes over to Tommy's while Phil stays home. But they don't stay apart for long, as Tommy and Chuckie help Lil make her way next door to find her brother.

Show 4A - "Showdown at Teeter-Totter Gulch"

Tommy and Chuckie go to a new playground where the peace-loving kids live in fear of a bully called "the Junk Food Kid." Doing his best Gary Cooper, Tommy stands up to the kid and makes the playground a safe place for all toddlers to play.

Show 4B - "Mirrorland"

Didi come home from an antique store with a new mirror. Tommy and Chuckie become convinced that there is a "mirrorland" on the other side. When they cross through the mirror strange things start to happen, and they hurry back to their own world.

Show 5A - "Angelica's in Love"

Angelica gets a crush on a new four-year-old boy who wears a leather jacket and rides a big wheel. Sadly, the romance is broken off when another woman - the boy's mother - takes him away. Angelica is heartbroken until a charming little French boy moves in next door.

Show 5B - "Maximum Golf"

Stu and Drew, planning to take the kids out for ice cream, take a sudden detour to a mini-golf course they enjoyed as kids. The kids, bored by the game, wander off to find "ice cream mountain," the final hole of the golf course, which is designed like a giant sundae. While Stu and Drew bicker over the game, the rugrats have a wild adventure.

Show 6A - "Regarding Stuie"

When Stu is hit on the head by his latest creation, a weather vane, he suffers temporary amnesia and starts acting like a baby. At first the rugrats are only too happy to have this giant toddler in their gang, but when Tommy starts to miss his daddy, they realize they have to turn "Stuie" back into a grown-up.

Show 6B - "Garage Sale"

When the Pickles have a garage sale to get rid of all their extra junk, the rugrats decide to lend a hand. They gather up all the adults' belongings -- from Didi's prized psychology manuals to Stu's brand new stereo -- and take them out to the lawn. Unwittingly, the adults sell off all of each other's stuff and are left, to their astonishment, with an empty house.

Show 7A - "No Bones About It"

Grandpa takes the babies to a natural museum history, where they behold a giant dinosaur skeleton. Tommy, wanting to bring home a souvenir for Spike, who had to stay behind, leads the rugrats on an expedition to get a bone out of the big bone pile. Grandpa frantically pursues them as they wreak havoc in the museum on their quest.

Show 7B - "The Bank Trick"

Tommy and Chuckie, taken with Didi on her errands, mistake the ATM machine for an "M&M" machine. While Didi has to fill out forms in the bank, Tommy and Chuckie explore the place searching for candy. In the process, they upset loan applications, cause havoc on the international markets, and trigger the alarm system.

Show 8A - "Family Reunion"

When Tommy and Angelica are taken to a Pickles family reunion on a farm in Iowa, Angelica tells him that a family reunion is where your parents give you a way to a new family. At the farm, Tommy is put in a big play area with his cousins, all of whom seem to be regional versions of Tommy (his Brooklyn cousin Tony, his southern cousin Tammy). Scared by Angelica's horror story, they all set out in search of their parents, wreaking havoc on the farm, but eventually finding their own parents.

Show 8B - "Let There Be Light"

While Stu is testing a new electrical toy, he accidentally blacks out the entire city. The rugrats, afraid of the dark, surmise that the light must be trapped in the refrigerator. They set out to release it, and after a series of adventures, get the door open just as Stu gets the power on. The house lights up, and the rugrats conclude that they have saved the day.

SYNOPSIS FOR SECOND SEASON OF RUGRATS EPISODES

4

Show 9A - "Grandpa's Date"

Stu and Didi leave Tommy and Chuckie with Grandpa for a night, and the tots prepare for an exciting night of videotapes and ice cream. But when an old flame from Grandpa's past shows up, he hurries them off to bed. Tommy and Chuckie decide they need to help Grandpa make a good impression on his friend -- they put out lots of baby toys and replace his mood music with children's songs. In the end, the plan works; Grandpa's friend loves the kids' antics.

Show 9B - "On the Beach"

Chuckie's father buys him "sea monkeys" -- tiny frozen shrimps -- as pets, but Chuckie feels the sea monkeys would be happier in the ocean. A group trip to the beach affords the rugrats the chance to set the critters free.

Show 10A - "Reptar on Ice"

The rugrats find a little lizard, which they conclude must be the baby of Reptar, the dinosaur character they so adore. When they go to an ice-capades style show starring Reptar, they make their way onto the ice and present the man in the Reptar suit with the lizard. Unfortunately, the man is horribly afraid of reptiles and, freaked out, crashes on the ice.

Show 10B - "Beauty and the Beast"

When Spike begins to smell just a little too ripe, Didi hires a dog groomer to clean him up. But when the rugrats see the picture of what the groomer wants to do to the dog, they set out to free their pal, and in the process create a nightmare for the groomer.

Show 11A - "Superhero Chuckie"

After watching the 1950's TV hero Captain Blasto, Tommy, Phil, and Lil convince Chuckie that he can become a superhero when he dons a purple cape. They outfit Chuckie with a cape and persuade him to stand up to Angelica. The new, brave Chuckie successfully reclaims a toy Angelica had taken, only to discover after the fact that he had lost his cape and challenged her without it.

Show 11B - "Gossip"

Inspired by a Geraldo-style show, Angelica decides to sow discontent among the rugrats by spreading gossip. She sets them all against each other, until they finally catch onto her tricks.

SYNOPSIS FOR SECOND SEASON OF RUGRATS EPISODES

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Show 12A - "Family Feud"

After a game of charades gets a little too intense, the Pickleses and the DeVilles stop talking. The rugrats set out to reunite the parents and, while at first their plans backfire, in the end they turn out successful.

Show 12B - "What the Big People Do"

The rugrats fantasize about what it would be like to be adults. Although their understanding of the adult world is a little bit skewed, they eventually decide they like being babies after all.