

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 131: What if kids could sleep at school?](#)

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Transcription by Keffy

[Rising harp scales followed by the What If World theme song.]

Lyrics: What if kittens played the glockenspiel? And what if unicorns were real? What if you could fly or travel back in time, we welcome you to What If World. What If World. This is What If World.

[Gentle bell music.]

Mr. Eric: Hey there folks, and welcome back to What If World, the show where your questions and ideas inspire off-the-cuff stories. I'm Mr. Eric, your host, and today I am super excited. I am about to introduce to you one of the coolest kids musical artists out there, Secret Agent 23 Skidoo!

Cactus: Hey, what's happening, man? How you doing?

Mr. Eric: I'm great! I'm so excited to have you here. I've listened to a lot, a lot of your music, in preparation for this episode so I'm really excited.

Cactus: Thanks, man. I appreciate it.

Mr. Eric: You also go by Cactus, is that okay?

Cactus: Yeah, absolutely go by Cactus. That's pretty much what I go by all day long except for when I'm dreaming.

Mr. Eric: All right, hey Cactus. First, I'd like to play a quick question from a patron named Ferrin.

Ferrin: Hi, this is Ferrin, my favorite thing is presents. My what if question is what if pigs could fly? And what if a friendly monster was weird? Lalalalala [laughs].

Mr. Eric: Wow, Ferrin, I heard a little noise out of ya, you might want to get that checked out. What do you think, pigs could fly? You think we could fit that into a story?

Cactus: Oh yeah, man. Most definitely.

Mr. Eric: Awesome, awesome, so let's get one more question to make it extra wacky and wild, and this is from a listener named Emerson.

Emerson: Hi, my name's Emerson. I am 11 years old and my what if question is what if kids could sleep at school? Thank you.

Emerson's Parent: Thank you!

Mr. Eric: Whoa, Emerson. Sleeping? At school? I've heard of that happening every once in a while, but usually you get in trouble for it.

Cactus: I definitely did that.

Mr. Eric: Me too, but once or twice. Especially in the library. You know, you find a nice quiet corner. Don't try this at home, kids. You will get in trouble.

Cactus: I definitely had that happen, too.

Mr. Eric: And kids we have a super, super special treat. Not only are we answering two questions, we're also using Secret Agent 23 Skidoo's song to inspire our story.

You know, since it's going to be about sleep, Cactus, you have a song called "Broken Dreams," right?

Cactus: Yeah, that's right. "Broken Dreams" is kind of like a MoTown throw-back type of thing. Not that you kids are definitely going to understand what MoTown throwback means, but you're going to know in just a second because this is a wild story in itself.

So, taking all these stories with these questions, putting them together in a blender, I think this about to get crazy.

Mr. Eric: I agree. And we'll even play the song "Broken Dreams" for you at the very end of the episode so you can feel how it helped inspire this whole episode. So, let's find out what if pigs could fly and a friendly monster was weird?

Cactus: Mm-hmm.

Mr. Eric: And what if kids could sleep at school?

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: It's summer time in What If World and Zack is very, very excited because he's getting a visit, today from his uncle Cactus.

Mamma Jamma: Zack! Come down here.

Mr. Eric: Said his mom, Mamma Jamma. And Zack ran down the stairs to give a big hug to...

Zack: Uncle Cactus! Mamma Jamma said that you have a present for me!

Cactus: Yes, that's right. You know what I've got for you? Is a one-time only special exclusive trip straight to sleep-away camp.

Zack: Whooooaaa. Oh, cool, cool, cool, cool, cool!

Mr. Eric: And Zack started packing right away. He grabbed out his backpack and started filling it with his laptop, his tablet, his smart phone, his virtual reality goggles and...

Zack: Almost forgot!

Mr. Eric: A television?

Zack: Okay, Uncle Cactus!

Cactus: No no no no no... Zack, you're not gonna need any of that stuff at sleep-away camp. Trust me.

Zack: Huh?

Cactus: I'm gonna take this and put it where it goes right over here in the trash can.

Zack: Aww...

Mamma Jamma: Oh my goodness!

Zack: Oh, okay, well, I trust you, Uncle Cactus. So let's go to sleepaway camp, whatever that is!

Mr. Eric: So Uncle Cactus and Zack walked outside to meet a big old boar. He kind of looks like a pig meets a pilot. He had those goggles on and an aviator cap, and he had big get wings growing out of his back.

Zack: Hi... hi Mr. Pig. Can I call you Mr. Pig?

Call me Captain Boar! Welcome to Porcine Airlines. It's gonna be a great, great trip today. It's nothing but smooth sailing, I hope, because to be honest I'm pretty afraid of flying. I've never really liked it very much—

Zack: Huh?

Captain Boar: But it's gonna be fine or my name isn't Captain Bear, or wait, Boar.

Zack: Well, if you say so, Captain Boar. Okay, bye-bye Uncle Cactus. Thank you so much.

Cactus: Yeah, have a good time at sleep-away camp, man. You're gonna dig it.

Mr. Eric: And Zack, with Cactus's permission, hopped on Captain Boar who put himself on autopilot.

Zack: Oh, wow... we're taking off already. Uh-oh!

Mr. Eric: Zack quickly strapped himself in with his seatbelt and off they flew. Captain Boar's eyes were closed tightly the whole time.

Captain Boar: [Making nervous pig noises] Not nervous at all... not nervous at all, hmm-mm...

Mr. Eric: He only opened his eyes when he started playing a video game on a little hand-held device. And with his other hoof he started shoving chips and junk food.

Captain Boar: [Nervous pig eating noises.]

Mr. Eric: Zack did his best to tune out Captain Boar.

Captain Boar: I'm not nervous at all...

Mr. Eric: While playing on a smuggled smart watch that he strapped onto his wrist.

[Time skip noise.]

Mr. Eric: It was late at night when they finally arrived to meet their fellow campers.

Zack: Okay, Captain Boar! Thanks for the ride. It was actually pretty smooth despite all of the junk food that kept flying in my face. So I'm gonna go meet my fellow campers!

Captain Boar: Yeah, actually! So am I! Let's meet your fellow campers! I'm going to sleep away camp, too to fix my nightmares about flying.

Zack: That sounds like a really good idea. Well, come along, Captain Boar! We'll have our first sleepaway camp as friends.

Captain Boar: Yeah, that sounds like a good idea. I'm not nervous about it at all.
[Nervous noises]

Mr. Eric: They walked into their sleep-away camp, which looked a lot like a school. Kind of really like a laboratory. And saw many desks... and some of the kids had pressed buttons on their desks and stretched them out into beds.

Zack: Um, this is weird.

ProfessOgre: Welcome to sleep-away camp. I'm ProfessOgre and you're at the sleeporatory. Now it's late at night so everyone go straight to sleep and dream about all the amazing things you've done today.

Zack: So sleep-away camp is really like dream school? Oh. Okay, well, goodnight ProfessOgre, I guess.

ProfessOgre: Good night.

Zack: Good night Captain Boar.

Captain Boar: Oh, good night. This is a pretty comfortable bed and I'm gonna go to sleep and try to get some... [snores loudly and and ridiculously]
[Screaming in his sleep] FLY TO THE AIRPORT! The BATHROOM IS TOO SMALL!]

Zack: It's just... he's having nightmares right away. How am I gonna sleep through this.

Mr. Eric: And finally, fitfully, Zack was able to fall asleep, too. But he didn't have any dreams for some reason. And the next day he woke up and all the other kids at camp were excitedly chatting to each other about their amazing dreams.

Kid: I dreamt that I was a watermelon and I kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger!

Kid 2: I dreamt that I was a pair of scissors but somebody stole my soul!

Kid 3: I dreamt that I was a person dreaming about a person dreaming about a person dreaming about a person dreaming about a person dreaming about...

Zack: Okay, okay! Yeah, okay. Yeah, I get it. That sounds like a really interesting dream. Oh... Captain Boar, everyone's having better dreams than me.

Captain Boar: That's better than having nightmares.

Zack: You know what, I used to have bad dreams all the time. And Mamma Jamma taught me that if I wanted to have better dreams, I needed to eat healthier food and go to bed a little early and get lots of exercise and talk about my feelings.

Captain Boar: That's like what I do. I'm afraid of flying and I love to eat junk food and I get up at least three times a night and I play video games.

Zack: Yeah, I noticed. I think maybe we should try something else today. Um... here!

Mr. Eric: And Zack ran off towards the cafeteria and there was a big plate of healthy spinach and creamed corn and chicken and right next door there was a trough full of broccoli strudel for Captain Boar.

Zack: See, if we get off to a healthy meal, that's a good start.

[Eating noises]

Captain Boar: This is good! This is the best kind of strudel.

Mr. Eric: After he finished eating out of his smart trough, a screen popped up on it, bloop, and Captain Boar started playing video games.

Captain Boar: That's right! Bloo bloo! Broccoli Strudel man's coming to get you! You'll never escape my strudel rage.

Zack: Oh, hey, uh, Captain Boar, maybe we should put down the smart trough and go outside and play. We're on a camp in the clouds. I tell ya what, if you give up your smart trough...

Mr. Eric: And Zack took off his smart watch.

Zack: I'll give up this and there'll be no more video games for the whole camp.

Captain Boar: Oooh! No more video games the whole time?

Zack: The whole ti-well, let's just try one day first, huh?

Captain Boar: Okay, I think... I think I can try one day.

Zack: Okay!

Mr. Eric: And they put their video games away and ran outside to play.

Zack: You said that you're afraid of flying, huh?

Captain Boar: Yeah, that's right. I'm afraid of flying so much I don't even jump!

Zack: Well, I think I've got an idea for that.

Mr. Eric: And Zack called over a bunch of the other kids in class and together they lifted Captain Boar up into the sky.

[Various groans]

Zack: Now we're gonna run ahead and you're gonna get to feel like you're flying all on your own, okay?

Captain Boar: Oh, I don't know. I'm pretty far off the ground!

Mr. Eric: And off they ran, and they were all getting a lot of exercise, even Captain Boar who was kicking his little pig legs along with them!

Kids: He's so heavy!

Oh, I can't do this much longer!

I've got to put him down!

Zack: You're flying, you're flying!

Captain Boar: [Laughing] Oh, this is all right!

[Time skip noise.]

Mr. Eric: After a long day of play, they sat down, feeling quite sleepy.

Zack: Uh, ProfessOgre?

ProfessOgre: What is it, Zack? I'm here to help.

Zack: Oh, I was just hoping maybe I could stay up tonight to help make sure that my friend, Captain Boar doesn't have nightmares.

ProfessOgre: Oh, sure, sure. You can stay up as long as you want, although you're gonna have to outrun all these kids flying towards you on pigs. That's the catch.

Mr. Eric: And Zack looked up to see that he was no-longer in the sleeporatory, he and Captain Boar were out on the clouds again and the clouds, in fact,

were starting to fade away beneath them as a horde of children on flying pigs jetted toward.

- Captain Boar: Ooh, not nervous at all...
- Zack: I think we're in a bad dream together already.
- Captain Boar: Not nervous at all! Doot de doot de doo!
- Zack: Captain Boar, the clouds are disappearing beneath us, it's time for us to fly.
- Captain Boar: Oh, I don't know. You know me, I don't really like to fly very much.
- Zack: All right, I'll tell you what. I'll turn into a pig and you turn into a boy and you can fly on me, this time.
- Captain Boar: Okay, okay. That sounds much better, thank you.
- Zack: Okay, okay. [Snorting] Climb on board!
- Captain Boar: Okay, let me strap in here. Okay. Doot de doo. It's much better like this, I think.
- Mr. Eric: Captain Boar had turned into a little boy and Zack into a big flying pig. And off they flew just as all the kids flew around them.
- Zack: All right, we're about to fly right off the edge of this cliff.
- Both: [Scream]
- Mr. Eric: And... Captain Boar suddenly realized that Zack wasn't a flying pig. He hadn't been flying his whole life. He didn't really know what he was doing... and soon they were plummeting rapidly towards the ground.
- Zack: Captain Boar! I... I think I'm in over my head, here! A little help!
- Captain Boar: Trade places with me now, jump on my back! I've got this one.
- Mr. Eric: And he turned back into a flying boar.
- Captain Boar: [Straining and making engine noises]
- Mr. Eric: Zack rode on top of him, whoosh and whizz! He was all over the skies!
- Zack: Wow!

Kids: Awesome!
That boar can really move!

Captain Boar: Not nervous at all! Not nervous at all!

Mr. Eric: And for the first time since singing that song, Captain Boar wasn't nervous at all.

Zack: We're really flying!

Mr. Eric: And as they looked around, the stormy skies started to brighten and the kids flying around on their own pigs seemed happy.

Zack: You know, I think this isn't a bad dream anymore. I think maybe this is a good dream.

Captain Boar: Yeah, I'm having a good time. If you're having a good time, too, then that means everyone in the dream is having a good time.

Mr. Eric: And after a long night of adventures in the sky.

Zack: Oh, this is so fun! I feel great!

Captain Boar: I feel great, too! That was a really great dream.

Cactus: Yeah, man. I also feel great. I have the best dreams at sleep-away camp, you know what I mean?
[Record scratch.]

Zack: Uncle Cactus? What are you doing here?

Cactus: What do you mean, what am I doing here? This is my dream.

Zack: Whoa... it's like I'm dreaming about a person dreaming about a person dreaming about a person dreaming about a person...

Mr. Eric: The end.
[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Oh man.

Cactus: Nice. [Crosstalk]

Mr. Eric: Folks at home, that... we did not know that that was gonna be the ending.

Cactus: Yeah.

Mr. Eric: Cactus, I want everyone in the whole world to learn about Secret Agent 23 Skidoo. I mean—

Cactus: Thanks, man. I really appreciate the opportunity to come on here because storytelling and imagination are the greatest things in the world. And any chance I get to work those things together to make something awesome happen, is always a gift, so I appreciate it.

Mr. Eric: I really appreciate the gift of having you on my show and I know the folks at home are gonna love it. So, thanks again, and we'll hang out again, soon.

Cactus: Right on.

Mr. Eric: All right, have a good one.

Cactus: Peace, man.

Mr. Eric: I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, Grammy-winning musical artist Secret Agent 23 Skidoo for coming on our show, and all you kids at home who try to have full, active days so you can get a good night's sleep and maybe some adventurous dreams.

Secret Agent 23 Skidoo gave us permission to play you out to his song, "Broken Dreams." I hope you enjoy it.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

["Broken Dreams" by Secret Agent 23 Skidoo plays]