

Miss Riley pages 163-184

School kept going as usual with the football players sulking. After a newspaper man wrote an article about BCMA, they began to get more notice, even from the ladies. Homer though was still in love with Dorothy. Roy Lee, thinks he is crazy for still liking her. Despite Roy Lee Homer still went and helped Dorothy with her homework. He tells her how he is learning trigonometry and how he gets insights about ratios with triangles. She is impressed with him.

His chemistry teacher at school Miss Riley was very inventive. She would do demonstrations with little money the school would give her. She demonstrated oxidation using an explosive chemical reaction. Then and there they knew they found a new rocket propellant.

They used saltpeter and sugar to create a powder. But the powder was too loose so they needed to find a way to hold it together. They tried adding powder glue to the mixture, but the sugar was too soluble, so the powder wouldn't dry. Their next rocket exploded. They decided the fuel collapsed on itself. Then they got the idea of melting it and then using it as rocket fuel. Homer was nervous at first, but then decided he would do it.