

## Only Seem Superhuman

“You know you are a high school teacher when, you are always being watched and maybe even stalked.”

Teachers are role models. Teachers are human and only human. We're not demigods or robots. We are normal people with normal lives and normal limitations. We raise kids and grocery shop. We drink alcohol and go to movies. Sometimes I think students see us as only the mythical Instruct-Thor, and we live at the school in our Stronghold of Seclusion. Or that we shut our systems down at 3:30 pm and reboot at 7:00 am. When students realize we are real people, the ramifications can be rather hazardous.

Brace yourself. I am going to shock you. I shop for tampons. I know, I know. Take a deep breath and accept it. I was in the feminine hygiene aisle when I saw his face disappear around the corner. The face belonged to Michael, a sophomore and avid hunter. Not wanting to engage in conversation while looking at panty shields, I walked down the toothpaste aisle. These encounters usually go one of three ways. The brave ones openly admit they are not scared of seeing you out of your natural habitat and approach you. The scared student simply runs and hides and cannot look you in the eye for a few days. The wily student stalks you, posts video of you on the Internet, and your face ends up on the news.

After three more aisles, I could see Michael gather his courage and approach me. He said, “You’re a girl, right?”