

Barbie™

i can be...

the remix!

now with less sexism!

A Computer Engineer



```
public class HelloWorld {
```

```
    public static void main  
        (String[] args) {  
        System.out.println  
            ("Hello, World");  
    }  
}
```

remixed by

Casey Fiesler

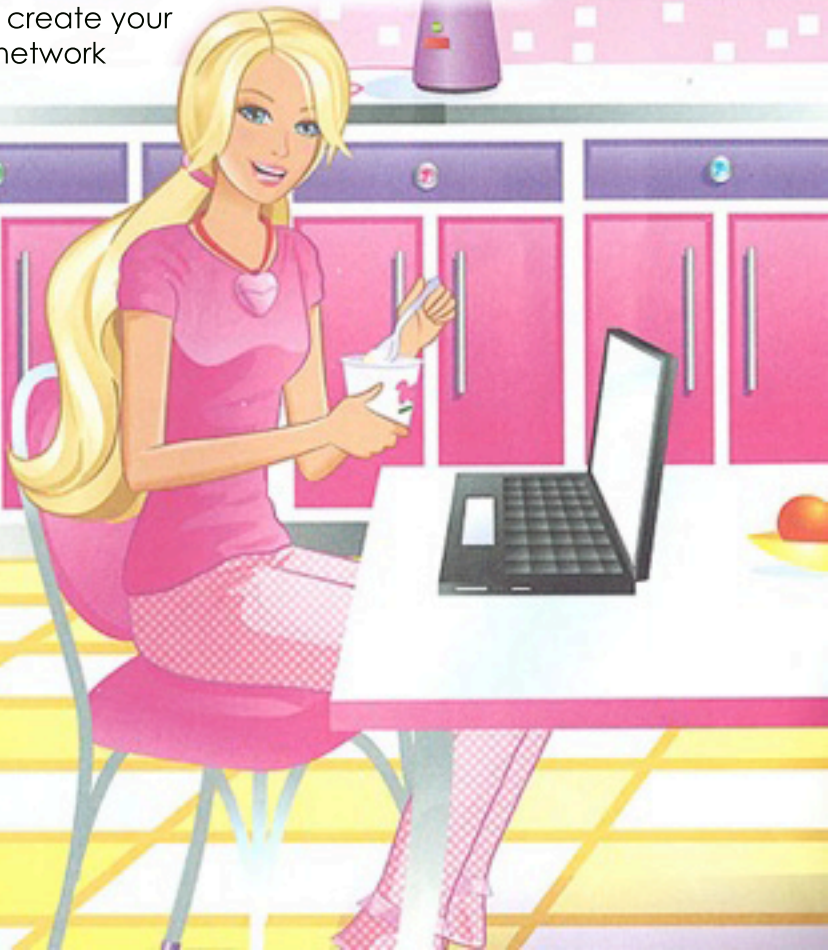
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At breakfast one morning, Barbie is already hard at work on her laptop.

"What are you doing?" asks Skipper. "Playing The Sims? Reading Facebook?"

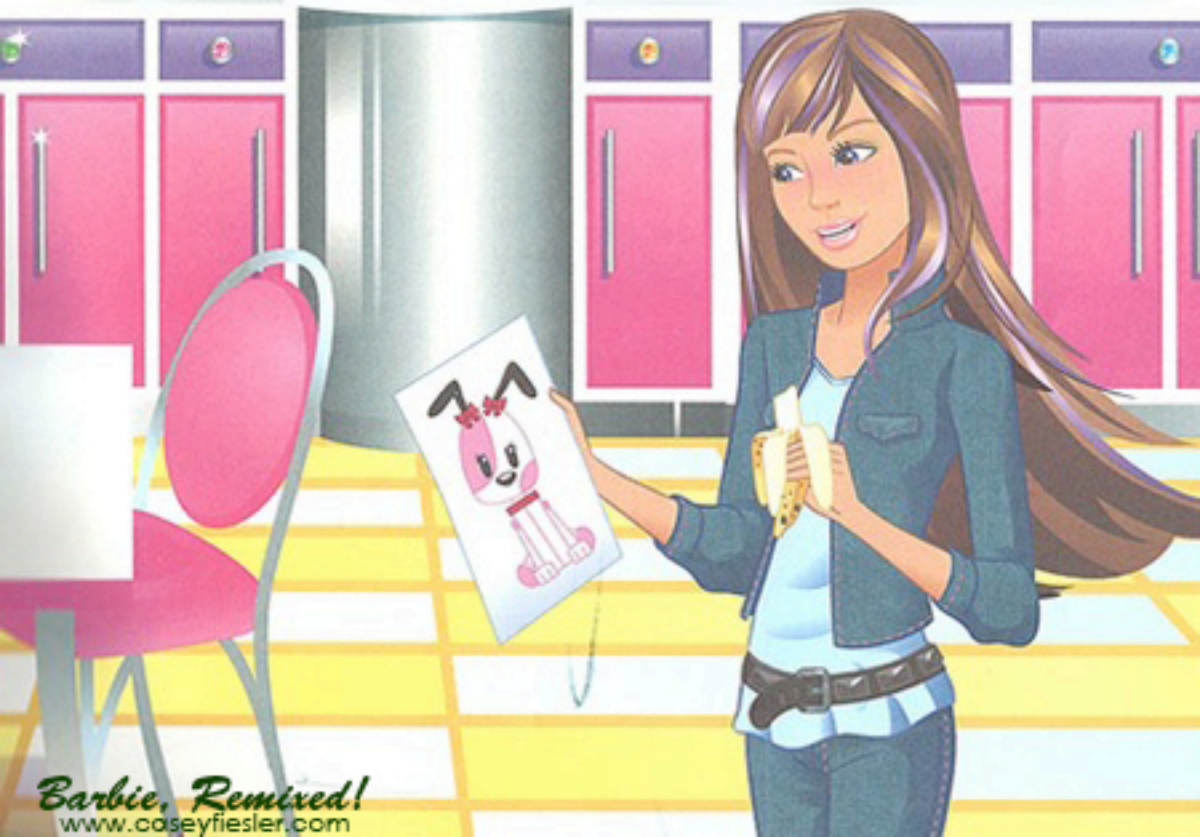
"Nope, I'm creating a new game," explains Barbie. "For kids, since it's so important to get them interested in computer science early - especially girls! Not that there's anything wrong with The Sims or Facebook, Skipper, but you know, you could create your own game or social network someday!"



"Hey, your game has **robot** puppies!" says Skipper, looking over her shoulder at the art. "Robots are **sweet**! Can I play it?"

"Well, it's not quite done yet," Barbie says, smiling. "Really good games are made by a team of people. I'm doing some of the coding now, but Stephen and Brian are helping, too. There are lots of pieces to making a game, like art and music and storyline. Brian drew that puppy. You're a good artist, Skipper. Maybe you could be a graphic designer when you grow up."

Skipper grins. "I love art, but I really love science, too. Physics is my favorite class. I think I want to be a physicist."



Suddenly, Barbie reads something on her screen and looks upset.

"What's wrong?" asks Skipper.

"I just posted a screenshot from the game on Twitter," says Barbie, frowning down at the screen. "Someone replied and assumed that I must have just done the design but Stephen and Brian are coding it."

"But you're the one coding!" says Skipper. "Why would they think that?"

"Because I'm a girl," says Barbie.



"You mean people aren't taking you seriously as a programmer just because you're a girl? Why would I ever want to go into science if I'm not going to be respected?" Skipper said as she picked up her things to get ready to go to school.

Barbie followed her. "But Skipper, you can't let sexism stop you from pursuing science. We need more women scientists. You're just the type of person who can make a difference!"



"Ugh!" Skipper said, scowling at her laptop. "I just want to be judged for the work I do, not based on what gender I am. And the other day a boy in my physics class made fun of my pink laptop."

"Sometimes I don't get taken seriously because of my clothes and hair," Barbie said. "And because I wear makeup. But that doesn't mean that I'm not smart."

"I know," Skipper said, clinging to her awesome pink laptop. "You can like pink **and** be a really good computer programmer."



"Time to go to school!" Barbie says. "I'm going to hack away at this Python code some more and then meet with Stephen and Brian to finish. Hey! Why are you hitting me with a pillow?"

"Oh, sorry," says Skipper. "I was just throwing it onto the bed. Why on earth would we be having a pillow fight right now?"

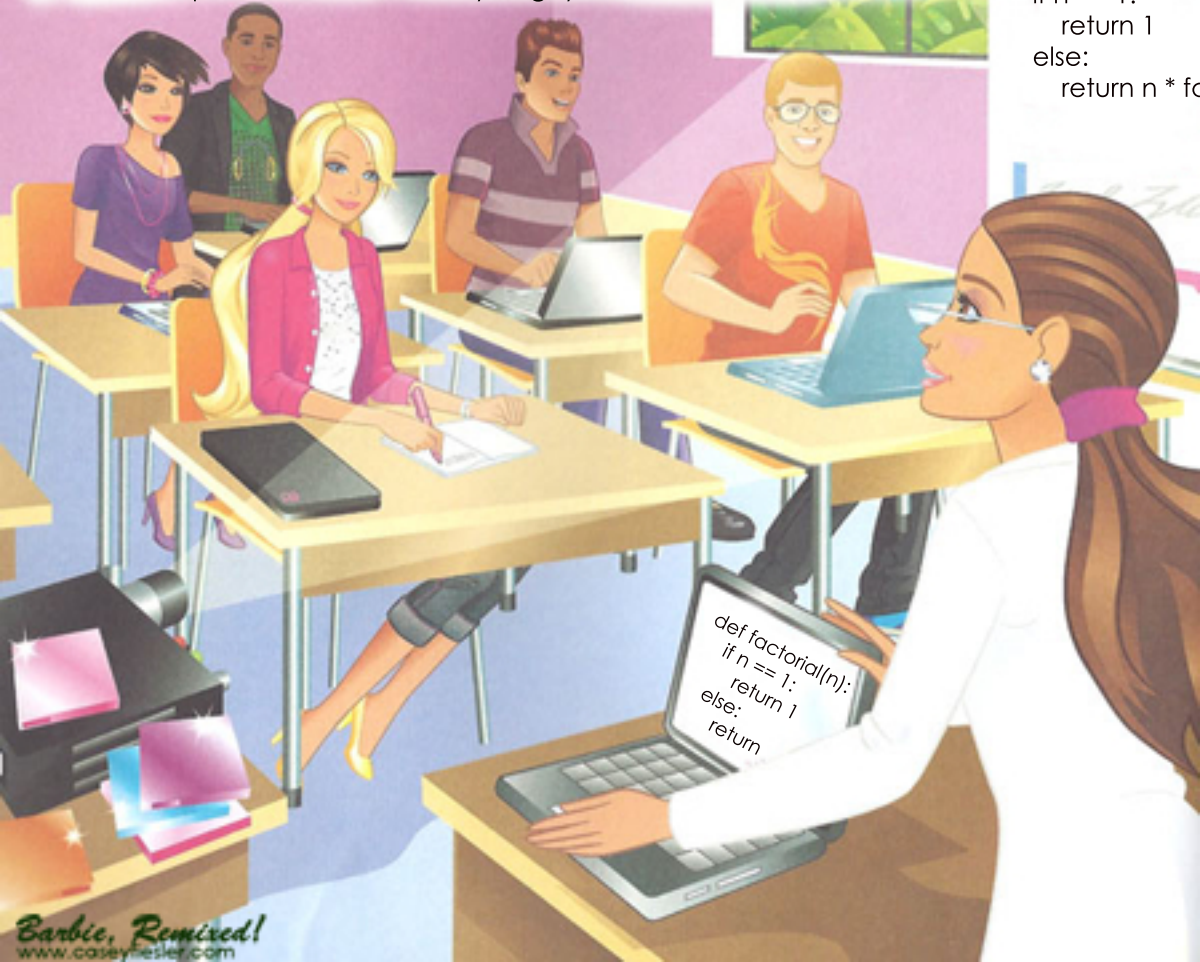


Barbie makes it into her computer science class right before the bell rings. Before they can jump into their lesson on recursion, Barbie raises her hand to ask a question.

"What made you decide to learn computer science, Ms. Smith?" asks Barbie.

"I always liked knowing how things work," says Ms. Smith. "I actually spent years making videogames, just like you want to. But I decided to start teaching because there aren't enough CS teachers in high schools and I think it's so important. Besides, I like you guys." She smiles.

```
def factorial(n):  
    if n == 1:  
        return 1  
    else:  
        return n * fo
```



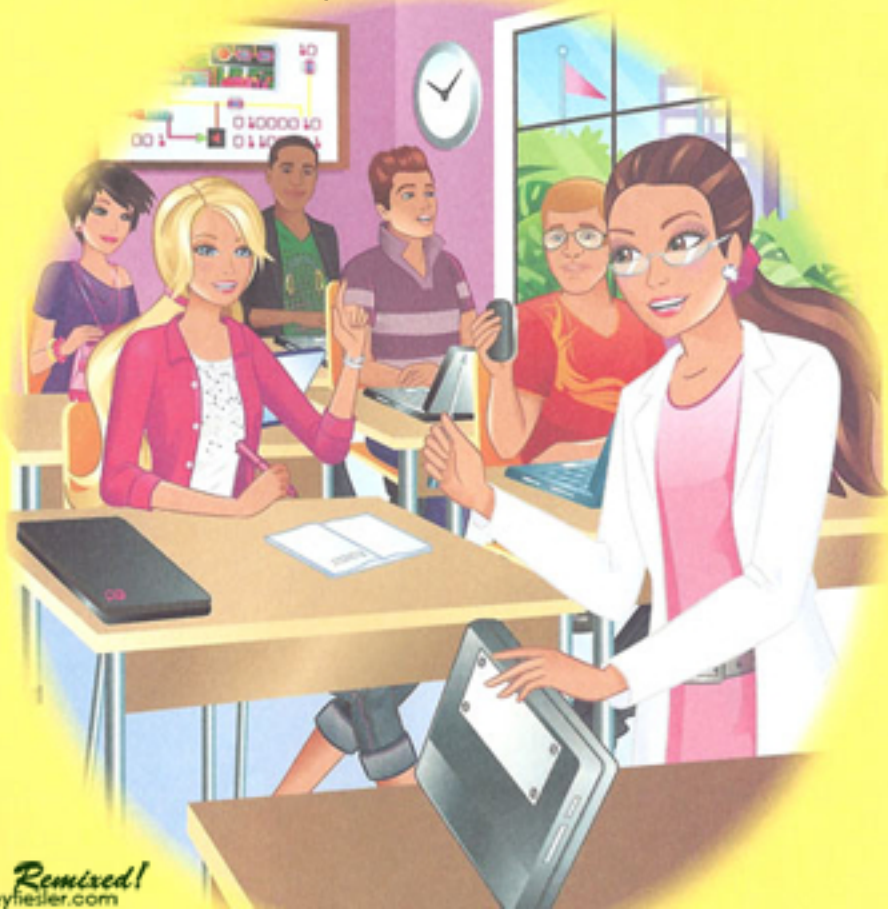
"Did people ever assume that you're not as good at coding just because you're a woman?" asks Barbie.

"Sometimes," Ms. Smith admits. "It was frustrating that I felt like I had to prove myself. But I hope that girls don't let that stop them. We can be computer engineers, too. And you're making such a great start by taking my class!"

"If girls start making videogames, they'll take out all the hot chicks," mutters Ken. "And they'll all be about puppies and picking out hairstyles."

"Don't be a moron, Ken," says Barbie. "You spend more time on your hair than I do."

Ms. Smith looks at Ken. "And based on your last homework assignment, if **you** start making videogames, they'll all have infinite loops. Now why don't you come up here and finish this code for computing factorials?"



After class, Barbie meets with Stephen and Brian in the library and shows them her progress on the game.

"That's awesome, Barbie!" says Stephen, and then brings up the code that he's been working on so it can be added in, too.

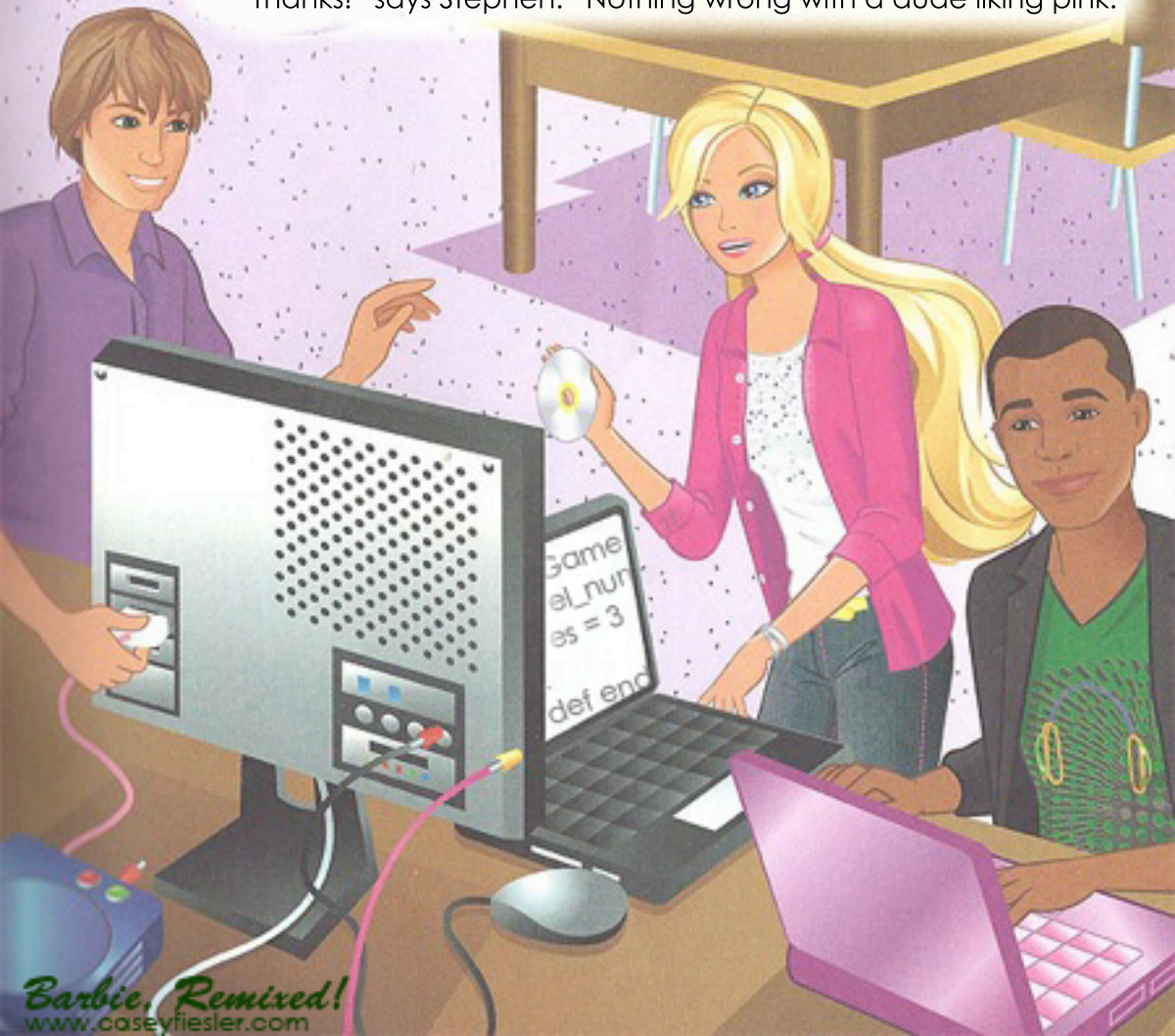
They compile the new code and watch the puppy robots running around and shooting lasers. Awesome!



"I made some more art assets," says Brian. "I'm sorry I can't help you guys more with the coding."

"Not everyone on a design team has to be writing code!" Barbie says. "Besides, we need your help more than ever. Look at this awful UI. Hey, nice laptop, Stephen."

"Thanks!" says Stephen. "Nothing wrong with a dude liking pink."



"This robot puppy game is turning out to be totally sweet!" says Stephen after a long afternoon of work.

"And we're almost done!" says Barbie. "I'm going to go home and get Skipper's input on the physics engine."

"Awesome," says Stephen. "Tell her I'll see her in AP Physics tomorrow!"



When Barbie gets home, she shows Skipper how the game works. They work together to improve the physics engine so that the robot puppies look super realistic when they jump and shoot lasers at the same time.

Barbie shows Skipper where she put her name in the game credits.

"Thanks, Barbie!" says Skipper. "I really feel like I helped. You're right, I shouldn't let anyone make me feel like I shouldn't be a scientist."

Skipper gives Barbie a big hug.





Everyone applauds at Skipper's presentation.

Barbie gives a presentation on the game she and Brian and Stephen made together, and also gives Skipper credit for helping.

Ms. Smith says the game is great, and gives them extra credit for Brian's UI and the physics engine.

"Thanks!" says Barbie. "I learned a lot more about python, and I'm going to teach myself Java next so I'm ahead of the curve when I start college in the fall. I'm going to be a computer engineering major! Thanks for being a great teacher, Ms. Smith. I hope classes like yours encourage more girls to go into STEM fields."

Ms. Smith smiles. Her work here is done.

