Mr. Ravioli questions

1. Who is Charlie Ravioli and what is unusual about his relationship with Olivia?
2. What is a paracosm? According to the reading, are they generally good are bad?
3. On page three, Gopnik compares New Yorkers to people in Rome and Paris. What does he say is the difference?
4. Why is Gopnik upset when he learns who Laurie really is?
5. In the second to last paragraph, Gopnik writes “busyness is our artform.” In your own words, explain what this means. Then, explain whether or not you think this is realistic and healthy: can busyness be a good thing? Is Gopnik’s busyness an “art”?
6. Reread the final image of the essay in the last paragraph. Is the tone here positive or negative? Which words convey the tone and how? Why does Gopnik end the article this way?
7. Based on this essay, do you think the Gopniks should have left New York? Why or why not?
8. Are we too busy? Or, as Gopnik says, has busyness become a good thing—a sort of American art form? Explain a specific part of your life that shapes your answer?

Alternative: Rather than write out these answers, you could draw them as a comic strip (like we did with Thoreau)

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