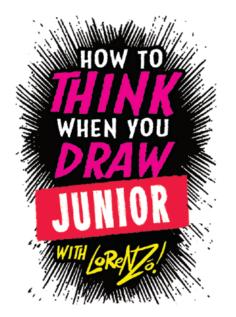


HOW TO DRAW COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF THE S

WELCOME TO...



HOW TO DRAW COMICS

THIS IS A SPECIAL FREE DOWNLOADABLE BOOK, MADE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS IN SCHOOL OR AT HOME, IN WHICH YOU WILL CREATE CHARACTERS, COME UP WITH STORY IDEAS, DESIGN WORLDS, LAY OUT PAGES, WRITE DIALOGUE, AND DRAW YOUR OWN MINI COMIC STORY!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

CHILDREN, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CARERS! PRINT THE BOOK OUT (RECOMMENDED), OR WORK FROM A SCREEN.

THE COURSE IS DIVIDED INTO 10 DAYS, WITH UP TO FIVE SESSIONS PER DAY. YOU CAN WORK THROUGH IT ALL IN ONE GO, OR SPREAD IT OVER A LONGER PERIOD. EACH SESSION HAS A TUTORIAL AND AN EXERCISE.

RECOMMENDED AGE GUIDE:

CHILDREN AGED 5 - 7: WORK THROUGH THE BOOK WITH AN ADULT WHO CAN HELP EXPLAIN EACH IDEA TO YOU.

CHILDREN AGED 8 - 10: WORK THROUGH THE BOOK ON YOUR OWN, OR WITH A FRIEND. YOU MAY NEED A LITTLE HELP FROM AN ADULT AROUND SOME OF THE MORE COMPLICATED IDEAS.

CHILDREN AGED 11 - 13: WORK THROUGH THE BOOK ON YOUR OWN, OR WITH A FRIEND.

EVERYONE ELSE AGED 14 AND UP: ALTHOUGH THE BOOK IS DESIGNED FOR YOUNGER READERS, THERE ARE LOTS OF IDEAS AND TRICKS IN HERE YOU MAY FIND USEFUL!

I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT! L

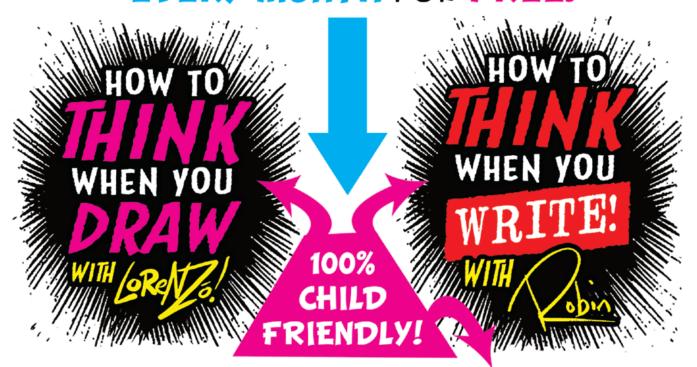
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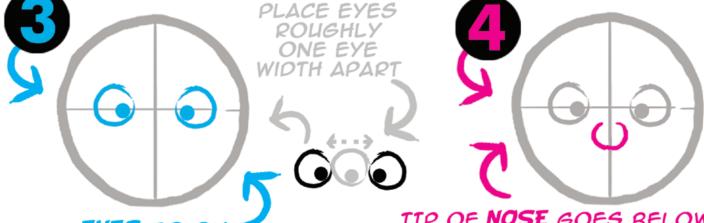
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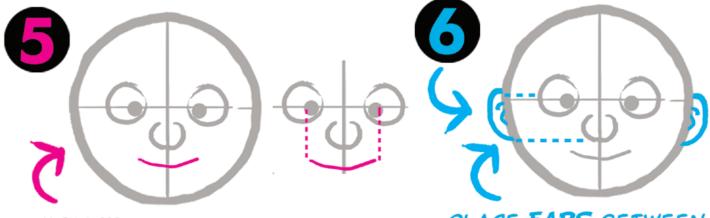
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EYES GO ON 'VERTICAL LINE

TIP OF **NOSE** GOES BELOW EYES ON HORIZONTAL LINE



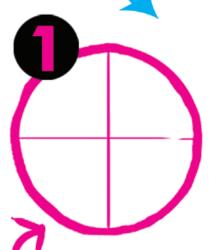
MOUTH IS ROUGHLY THE SAME WIDTH AS THE CENTRE OF THE EYES PLACE **EARS** BETWEEN MIDDLE OF EYES AND TIP OF NOSE



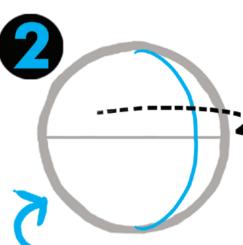


ANGLES

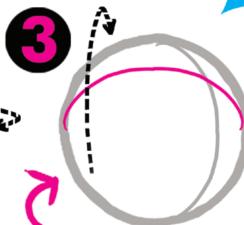
IN COMICS, BEING ABLE TO DRAW YOUR CHARACTERS FROM LOTS OF DIFFERENT ANGLES IS REALLY USEFUL. REMEMBER, THE HEAD IS A 3D SHAPE.



IMAGINE THE CIRCLE IS A SPHERE, OR BALL



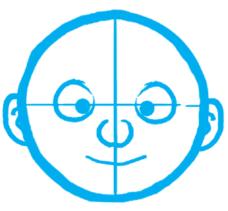
IF WE TURN IT TO THE SIDE, THE VERTICAL LINE WILL APPEAR CURVED



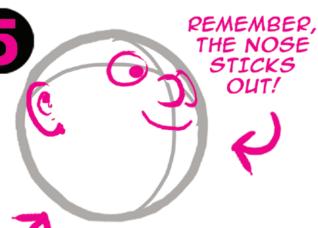
IF WE TILT IT UP OR DOWN, THE HORIZONTAL LINE WILL APPEAR CURVED

оит!





AS YOU KNOW WHERE THE FEATURES SIT ON THE LINES ...

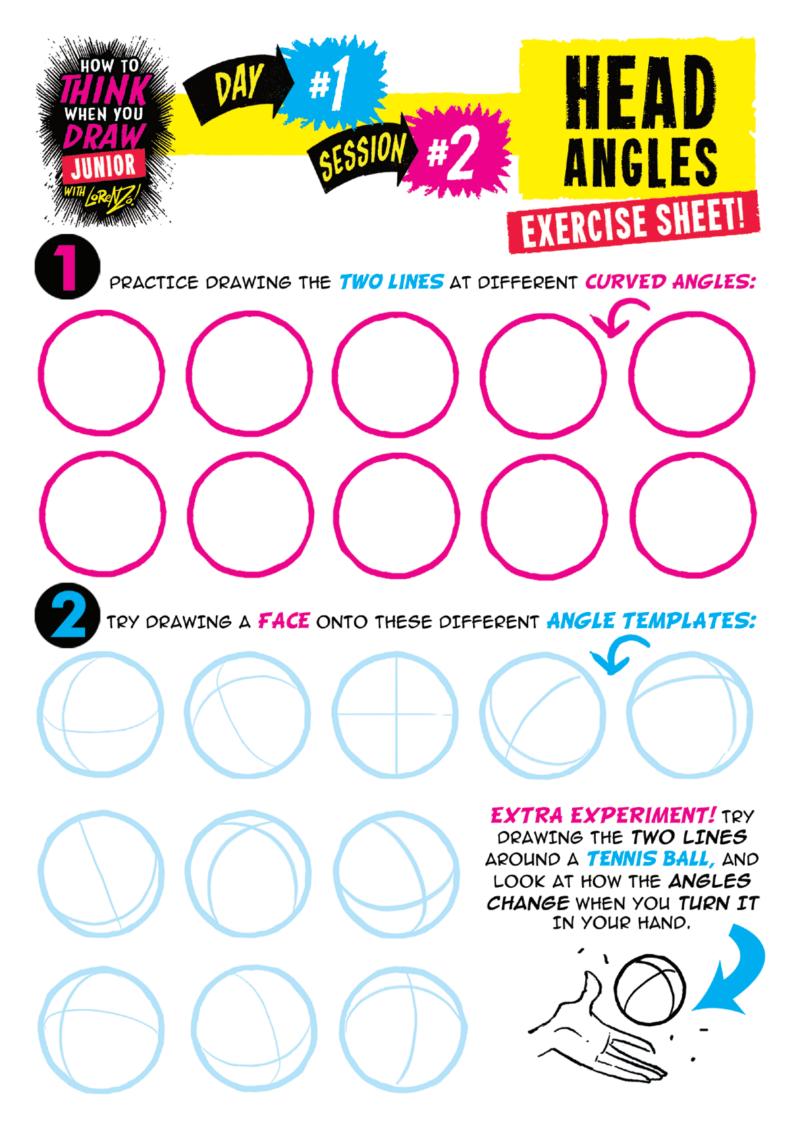


...YOU CAN NOW DRAW THE FACE LOOKING UP!

EXTRA NOTE:

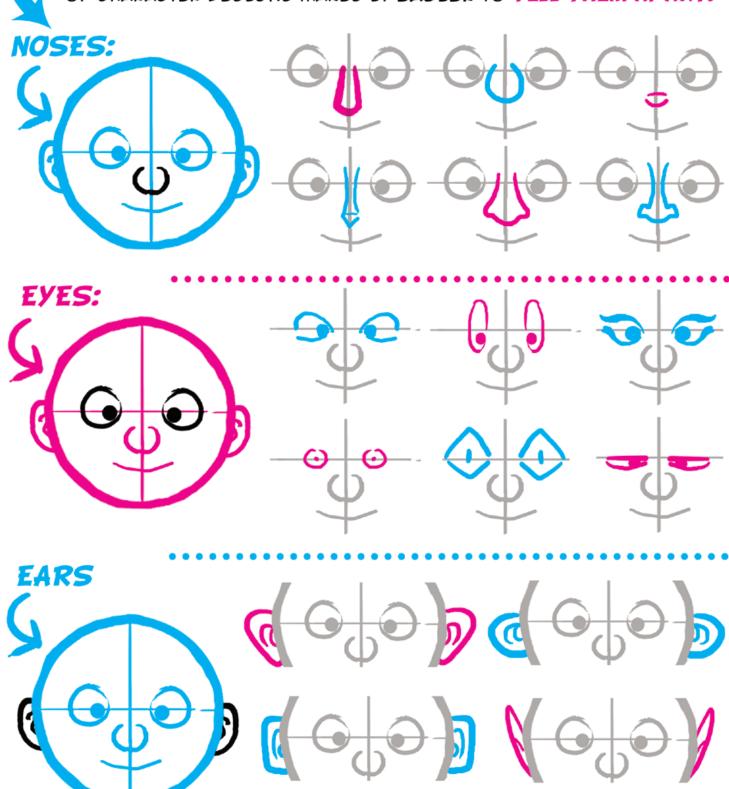
IF THE EYES ARE CIRCLES. WHEN WE SEE THEM FROM AN ANGLE, THEY BECOME OVALS!







ALL FACES ARE **DIFFERENT**, AND IN **COMICS** HAVING A **WIDE RANGE**OF CHARACTER DESIGNS MAKES IT **EASIER** TO **TELL THEM APART!**







DIFFERENT FEATURES

CHANGING ONE FEATURE
MAKES A TOTALLY DIFFERENT

EXERCISE SHEET!



DRAW FOUR DIFFERENT NOSES ON THESE HEADS:





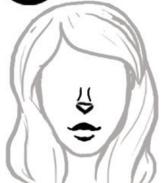


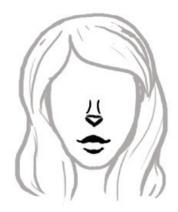


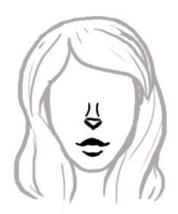




DRAW FOUR DIFFERENT PAIRS OF EYES ON THESE HEADS:











DRAW FOUR DIFFERENT EARS ON THESE HEADS:

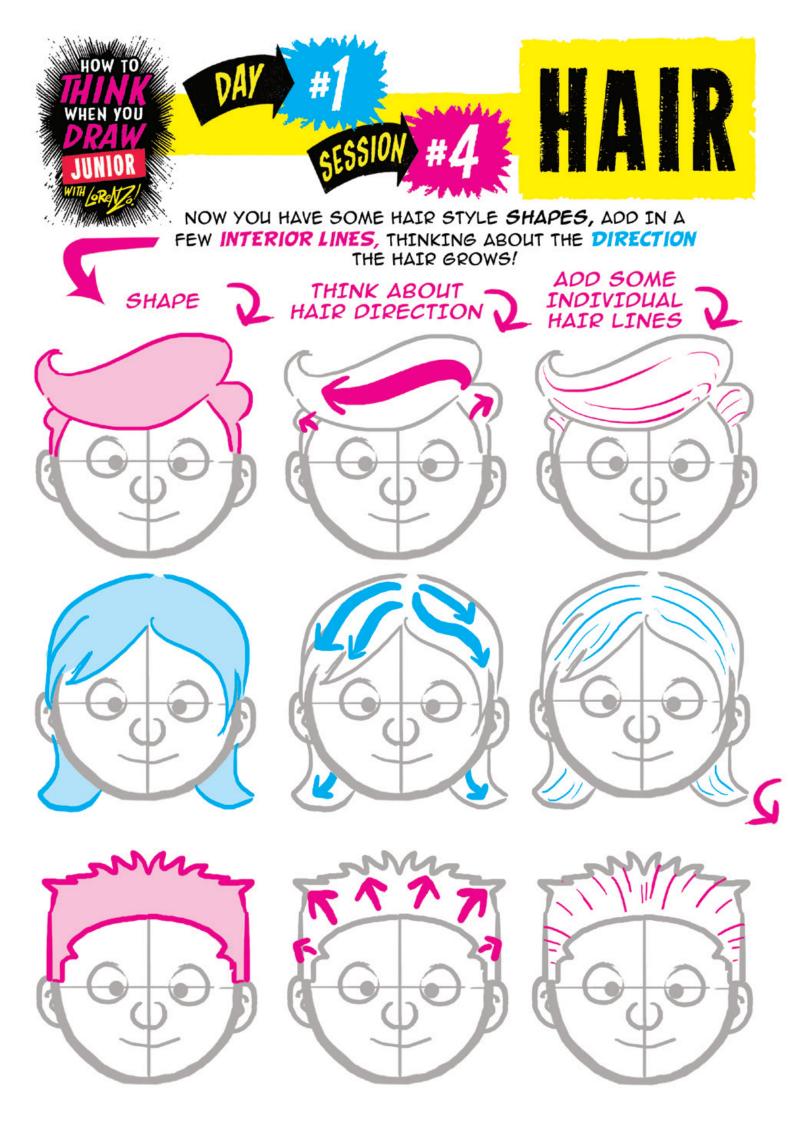




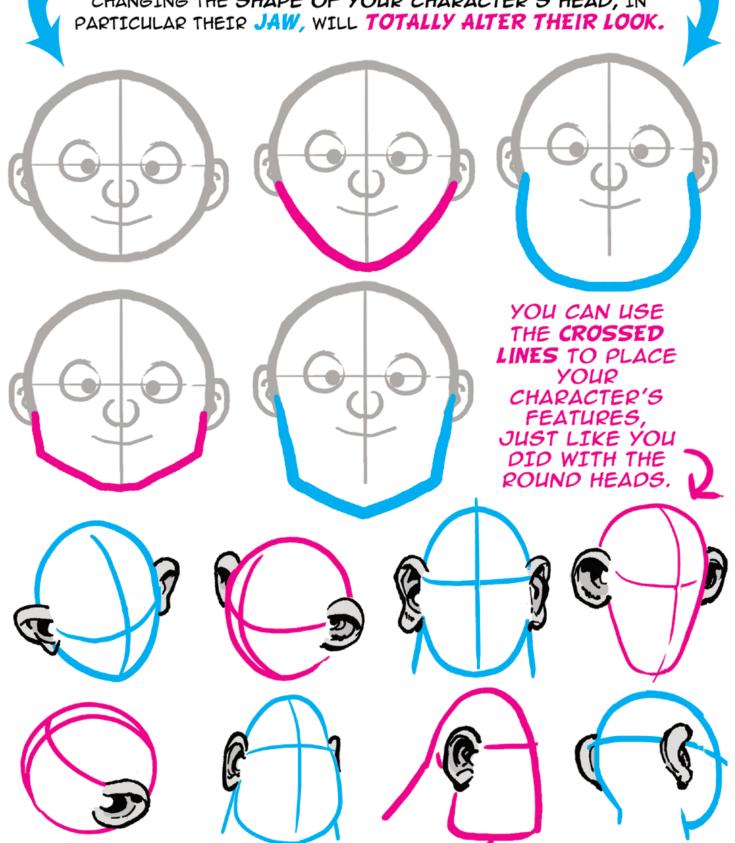














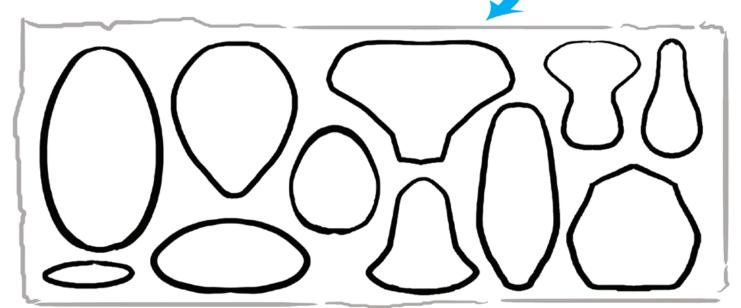




EXERCISE SHEET!



DRAW A ROUGH RECTANGLE ON A PAGE, AND FILL IT WITH AS MANY **DIFFERENT HEAD SHAPES** AS YOU CAN, FITTING SHAPES INTO **EVERY SPACE**.

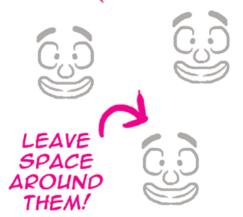


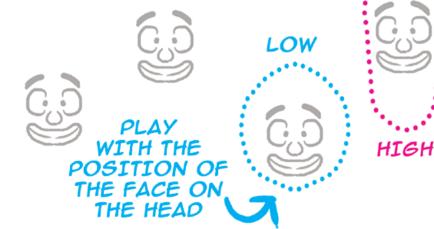
ADD FACES TO YOUR HEADS. TRY TO MATCH THE OVERALL SHAPE OF THE FEATURES TO THE SHAPE OF THE HEAD.

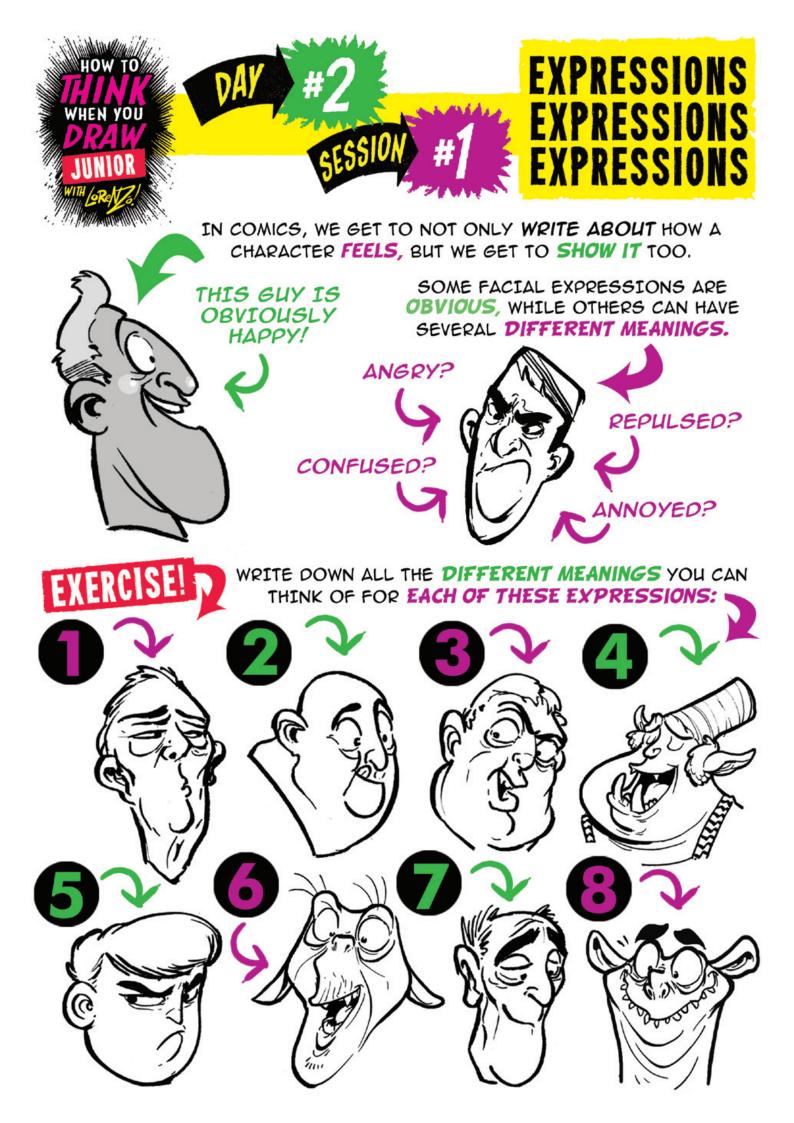
ROUNDED FACE= ROUNDED FEATURES



ANOTHER DRAWING EXPERIMENT - QUICKLY SKETCH A SET OF SIMILAR FACES ON A PIECE OF PAPER, THEN DRAW THE HEAD SHAPES AFTERWARDS.



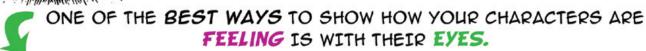








EYES AND EYEBROWS





EYEBROWS HAVE A "THROUGH LINE" ALONG WHICH BOTH BROWS RUN



























THINK ABOUT
HOW THE
EYEBROWS
"SQUASH" THE
EYES!

BECAUSE THE EYEBALL IS ROUND, WHEN YOUR CHARACTER LOOKS TO THE SIDE, THE PUPIL BECOMES AN OVAL.





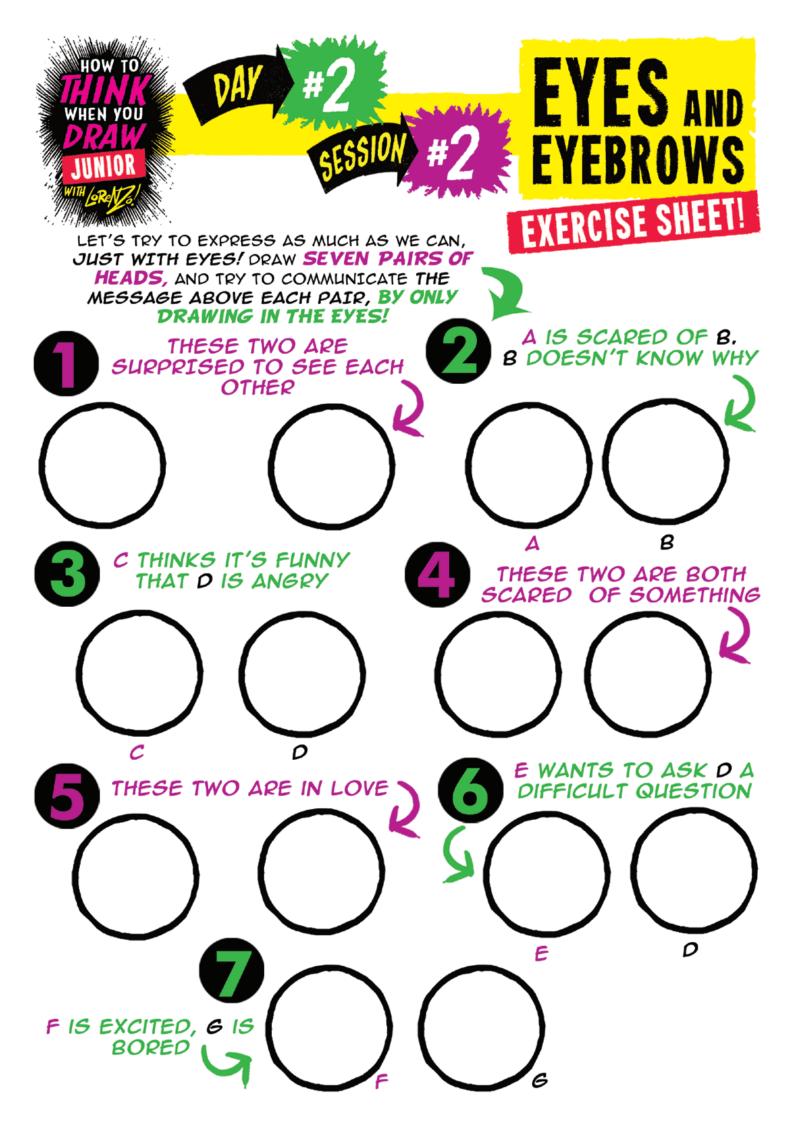
BY THINNING, OR PUTTING A BREAK

IN, THE EDGE OF THE
EYELINE WE CAN
MAKE THE EYES FEEL
LIKE THEY'RE REALLY
LOOKING HARD:













MOUTHS



WHEN DRAWING MOUTHS, YOU CAN CREATE LOTS MORE PERSONALITY BY USING ASYMMETRY.

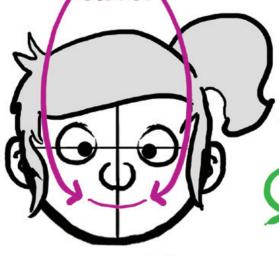


WHEN A MOUTH IS SYMMETRICAL, IT IS THE SAME ON BOTH / SIDES.

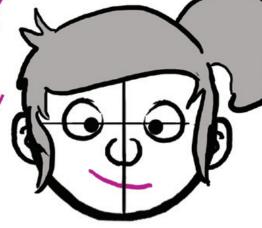
BUT, YOU CAN MAKE THE MOUTH ASYMMETRICAL (DIFFERENT ON EACH SIDE) BY ADDING A

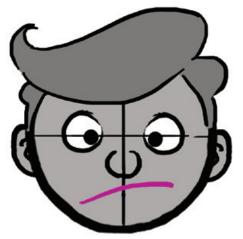
TILT ...

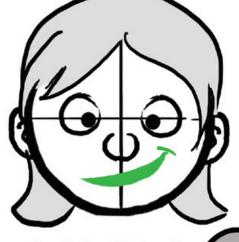
SEE THE
DIFFERENCE?

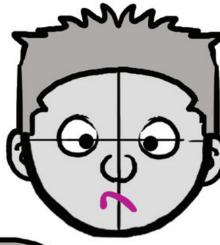


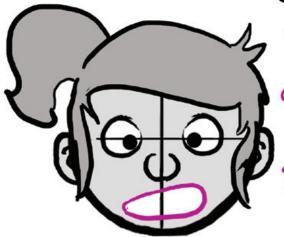
... OR BY HAVING
THE MOUTH SHOW
MORE ON ONE
SIDE THAN THE
OTHER:





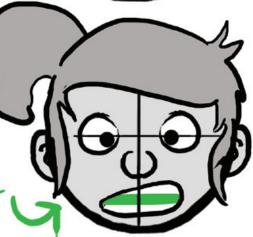






ALSO WORKS
WITH MOUTH
OPEN WIDER
ON ONE SIDE
THAN ON THE
OTHER...









EXERCISE SHEET!

WE DON'T JUST FEEL 'HAPPY' OR "SAD" -THERE ARE DIFFERENT LEVELS TO OUR FEELINGS. DRAW SOME MOUTHS TO COMMUNICATE THESE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EMOTION.















ANNOYED



QUITE CROSS





























NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE ALL THE IDEAS AROUND DRAWING FACES AND MAKE UP SOME OF YOUR OWN CHARACTER HEADS!



HOW OLD ARE THEY?

WHAT IS THEIR CORE MOOD (CHEERFUL, MOODY, EXCITABLE, ETC)?

ARE THEY **NEAT**, **SCRUFFY**, OR **A BIT OF BOTH?**

HOW DO THEY BEHAVE IN SCHOOL OR AT WORK - ARE THEY ENTHUSIASTIC, LAZY, HARD WORKING?

DO THEY WEAR ANY ACCESSORIES, LIKE HATS, CAPS OR HAIR CLIPS?

DO THEY HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS, OR DO THEY PREFER TO BE ALONE?

DO THEY TELL EVERYONE EVERYTHING, OR CAN THEY KEEP A SECRET?

ONCE
YOU'VE
DESIGNED
YOUR
CHARACTER,
TRY DRAWING
THEM PULLING
DIFFERENT
EXPRESSIONS!

ASKING QUESTIONS LIKE
THIS ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER
AS YOU DRAW WILL HELP YOU
CAPTURE MUCH MORE
PERSONALITY!

ALL
DONE?
WHY NOT
DESIGN
YOUR
CHARACTER
A FRIEND,
OR AN ENEMY!
REMEMBER TO
MAKE EACH
CHARACTER LOOK
DIFFERENT!





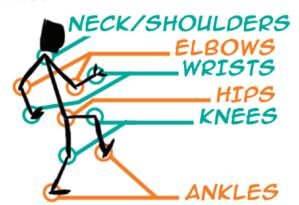
STICK FIGURES

BEFORE WE DESIGN OUR CHARACTERS IN FULL, LET'S PRACTICE DRAWING DIFFERENT POSES JUST USING STICK FIGURES.



OUR STICK FIGURE IS GOING TO HINGE AT THE FOLLOWING TEN POINTS:





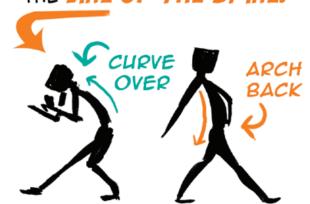
THE BEST WAY TO GET MORE LIFE INTO YOUR STICK FIGURES IS TO ADD CURVES.







THE MOST IMPORTANT CURVE IS THE LINE OF THE SPINE.



ONLY TOTALLY STRAIGHT WHEN IT'S RELEVANT TO THE POSE



ADDING CURVES TO THE ARMS
AND LEGS ADDS EVEN MORE









STICK FIGURES

EXERCISE SHEET!

DRAW AS MANY **DIFFERENT** STICK FIGURE POSES AS YOU CAN THINK OF! TRY **SPORTS**, **CLIMBING**, **DANCING**, **FIGHTING**, **LAUGHING**, **STRETCHING**, **TALKING**, **READING**, ETC, ETC, ETC!

HERE'S A FEW IDEAS:



HOW TO

THINK

WHEN YOU

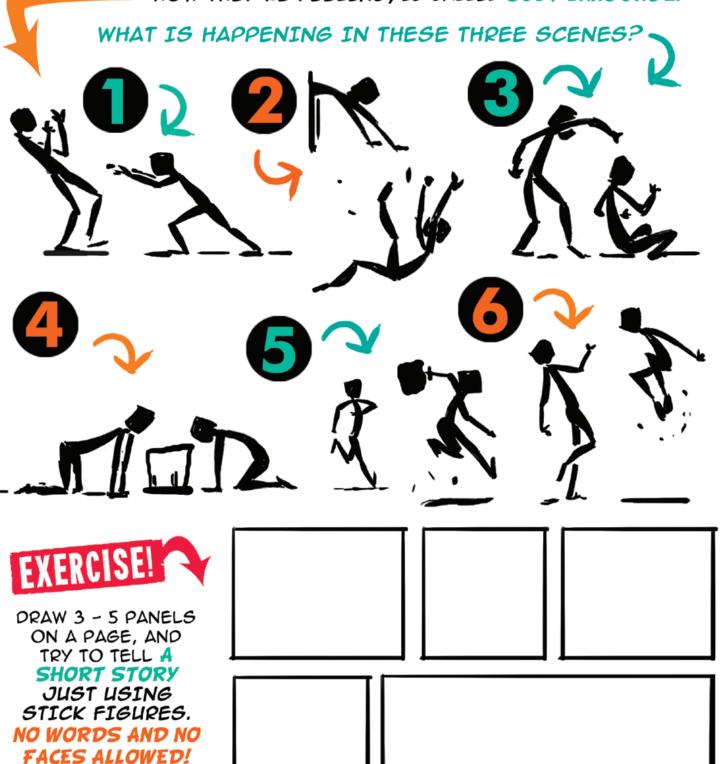
DRAW

JUNIOR



BODY LANGUAGE

IN COMICS, THE ART IS THERE TO TELL THE STORY AS MUCH AS THE WORDS ARE. THE WAY YOUR CHARACTERS' POSES TELL THE READER SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE DOING, OR HOW THEY'RE FEELING, IS CALLED BODY LANGUAGE.







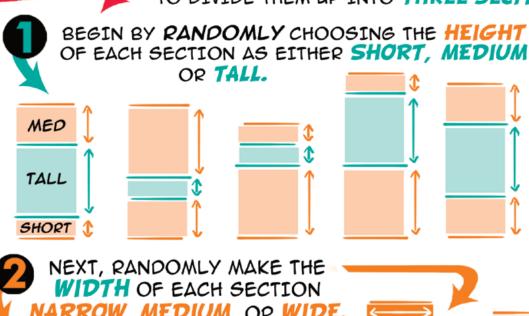


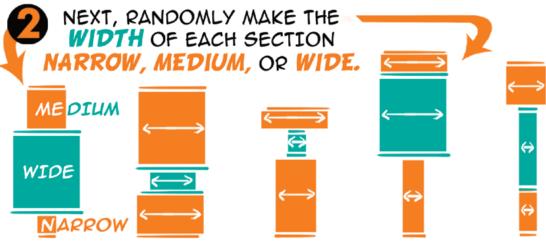
SESSION #3

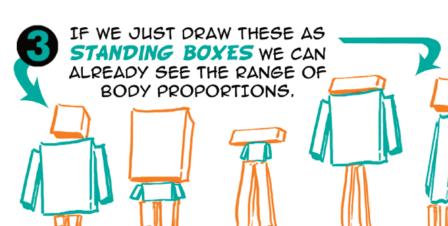
CHARACTERS COME IN ALL **SHAPES AND SIZES**, A **RANGE** OF "CHARACTER DESIGNS" IS **REALLY IMPORTANT** FOR MAKING EACH ONE **STAND OUT** IN YOUR COMIC.



A GREAT APPROACH FOR DESIGNING A WIDE RANGE OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS IS TO DIVIDE THEM UP INTO THREE SECTIONS.







CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE!



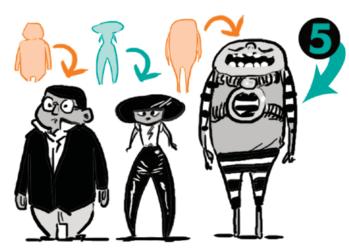




BODIES

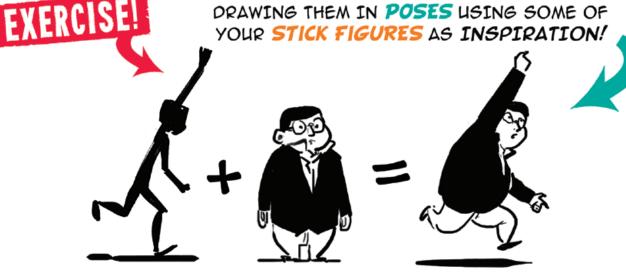
CONNECT THE SHAPES USING EITHER CURVED OR ANGLED LINES.





WITH YOUR PROPORTIONS IN PLACE, DRAW SMALL THUMBNAIL **SKETCHES** OF CHARACTERS WITHIN THEM. TRY LOTS OF DESIGNS FOR EACH SHAPE, IT ALWAYS **WORKS!**

ONCE YOU HAVE A FEW DESIGNS YOU LIKE, TRY DRAWING THEM IN POSES USING SOME OF YOUR STICK FIGURES AS INSPIRATION!







MOTION LINES

YOU CAN ADD **TONS** OF **ACTION AND MOVEMENT** TO YOUR COMICS BY USING A FEW **MOTION LINES** - LITTLE MARKS WHICH GIVE YOUR READER **A BETTER INDICATION** OF WHAT'S HAPPENING!

TO SHOW HOW

DIFFERENT

EFFECTS CHANGE

THE FEELING OF

THE ACTION, LET'S

TAKE ONE POSE,

AND USE LOTS OF

DIFFERENT

EFFECTS.







NO MOTION LINES

SMALL PUFFS OF SMOKE

SMALL "ZIP" LINES



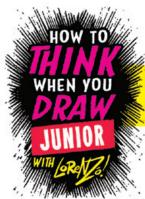
SWEEPING ARM MOVEMENT

BOUNCING LINE SMALL MOVEMENT LINES AND DUST CLOUD

LANDING IMPACT SPLASH



SKETCH SOME QUICK CHARACTERS DOING SOMETHING ACTIVE - PRACTICE DIFFERENT WAYS OF USING MOVEMENT LINES, SWOOSHES, PUFFS OF DUST, ETC, TO GIVE MORE MOVEMENT TO WHAT THEY'RE DOING!





COSTUMES & CLOTHING



YOUR CHARACTER'S CLOTHES OR COSTUME ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF WHO THEY ARE, SO SPENDING A LITTLE TIME THINKING ABOUT THE DETAILS WILL HELP A LOT!

FABRIC HAS VEIGHT, SO IT HANGS.



CREASE LINES TAPER FROM

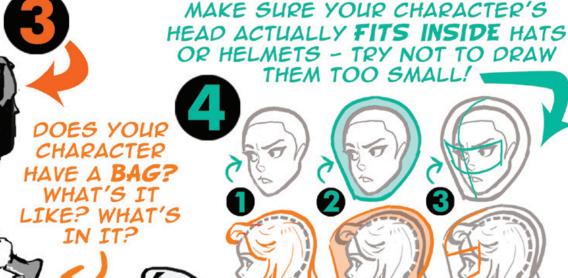


CLOTHES CAN BE MADE OF ALL











THEM TOO SMALL!



MORE IDEAS ON THE NEXT

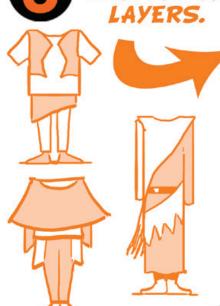




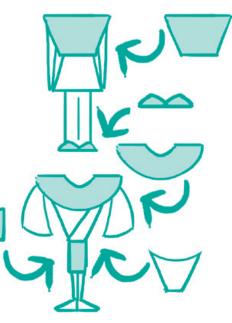
COSTUMES & CLOTHING





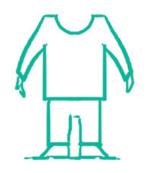








REMEMBER CLOTHES **DON'T** ALWAYS FIT PERFECTLY, AND CLOTHES THAT AREN'T A PERFECT FIT CAN **TELL A STORY** ABOUT YOUR CHARACTERS.











DRAW SOME CHARACTER OUTFITS, TRY TO
THINK ABOUT WHAT MATERIALS THE CLOTHES
ARE MADE OF, WHEN THEY WERE MADE

(ANCIENT, MODERN, FUTURISTIC, ETC) AND
WHY YOUR CHARACTER WEARS THEM!



SILHOUETTES

YOUR CHARACTER'S OVERALL SHAPE, INCLUDING DETAILS LIKE COSTUME, PROPS (OBJECT LIKE SWORDS, ETC) AND HAIR, WHEN SEEN AS A SINGLE SHAPE BLOCKED IN BLACK, IS CALLED THEIR SILHOUETTE.





IOW MANY OF THESE CHARACTERS CAN YOU NAME, JUST FROM THEIR SILHOUETTES!







SILHOUETTES



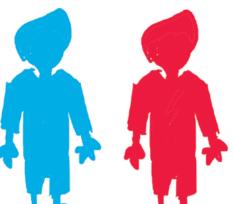




THESE THREE CHARACTERS
MAY LOOK DIFFERENT...

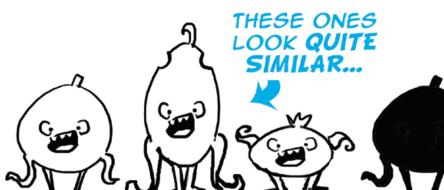






...BUT IF WE TURN THEM INTO SILHOUETTES, WE'LL SEE THEY'RE ALL IDENTICAL!







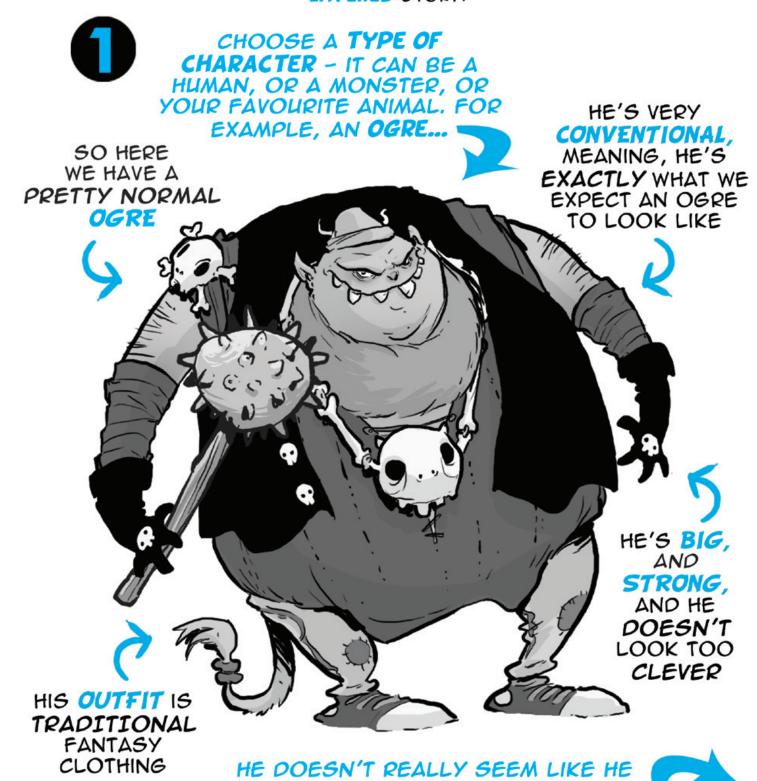


DRAW QUICK SKETCHES OF THREE CHARACTERS -COLOUR EACH IN BLACK, AND SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY THEM EASILY.

NOW TRY TO DRAW A GROUP OF CHARATERS WHOSE SILHOUETTES ARE REALLY DIFFERENT!



WE CAN USE OUR CHARACTER'S **CLOTHING**, **OR UNIFORM** TO TELL A **LAYERED** STORY!



HAS MUCH OF A STORY, BUT ...

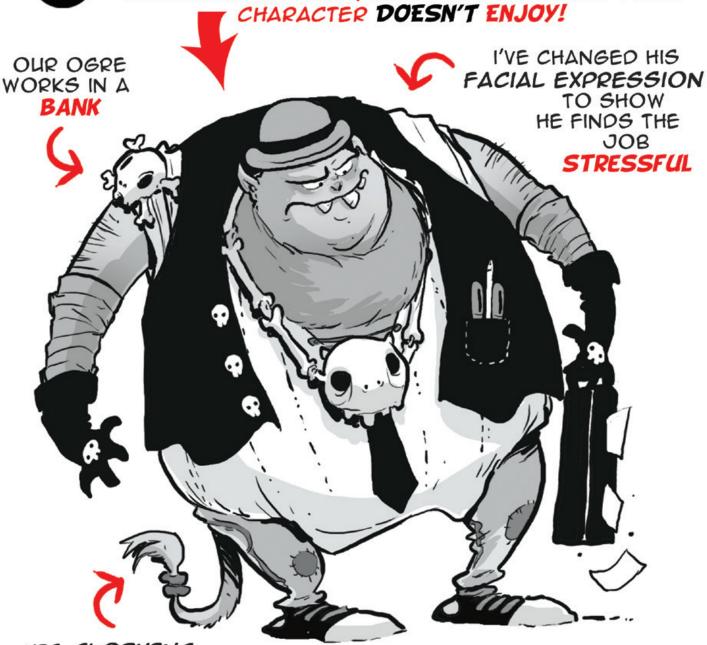




STORY THROUGH DESIGN



NOW WRITE DOWN A **JOB** FOR YOUR CHARACTER, IT CAN BE BORING, OR DIFFICULT, OR TIRING, BUT WHATEVER THE CASE, MAKE IT A JOB THAT YOUR



HIS CLOTHING
DOESN'T FIT
BECAUSE HIS JOB
DOESN'T SUIT HIM,
THIS IS CALLED A
VISUAL METAPHOR!

NOW OUR CHARACTER HAS MORE INTEREST, MORE OF A STORY, BUT WE NEED ONE MORE LAYER...





STORY THROUGH DESIGN

NOW IMAGINE A HOBBY OR INTEREST FOR YOUR CHARACTER, SOMETHING THEY'D MUCH RATHER BE DOING! BUT DON'T MAKE IT OBVIOUS - TRY TO THINK OF SOMETHING UNLIKELY, SOMETHING WHICH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TYPE OF CHARACTER





THE OGRE WE DESIGNED BY MIXING IN A JOB AND A HOBBY NOT ONLY LOOKS MORE INTERESTING, BUT HE MAKES IT VERY EASY FOR US TO START TELLING A STORY.

WE COULD TELL HIS STORY FROM ANY TIME POINT IN THE OGRE'S LIFE...

THE **PAST** - HOW DID THE OGRE ENDED UP WORKING IN A BANK?
THE **PRESENT** - WHAT IS A DAY IN THE BANK LIKE, FOR THE OGRE?
THE **FUTURE** - HOW DOES HE BECOME A PROFESSIONAL BIRD WATCHER?

OR A STORY ABOUT WHAT MOTIVATES HIM ...

WHY THE OGRE DOESN'T LIKE HIS JOB AT THE BANK?
WHY HE LOVE BIRDS SO MUCH?



- - CHOOSE A CHARACTER TYPE (HUMAN, MONSTER, YOUR FAVOURITE ANIMAL, ETC)
- 2
- GIVE THEM A JOB THAT THEY DON'T LIKE, AND THAT DOESN'T FIT THEIR CHARACTER TYPE
- 3
- GIVE THEM A HOBBY THAT THEY WISH WAS THEIR JOB. AGAIN, THIS WORKS BEST IF THE HOBBY IS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CHARACTER TYPE
- 4
- DRAW YOUR CHARACTER, REMEMBERING TO PUT THEM IN A UNIFORM FOR THE JOB, AND ADD ELEMENTS OF THE HOBBY
- 6

WRITE DOWN THREE DIFFERENT ONE SENTENCE STORY IDEAS YOU COULD TELL ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER



THE REAL POWER OF DRAWING IS THAT YOU CAN BRING EVERYTHING TO LIFE!





CHOOSE SOME RANDOM OBJECTS (ANYTHING)
YOU WANT!)

I CHOSE: A SHOE, A MUSHROOM AND A BOOK

DRAW THEM AS CHARACTERS! THINK ABOUT HOW THEY BEND/MOVE. DO THEY HAVE A FACE? ARMS AND LEGS? ETC!



THINK ABOUT HOW YOUR NEW OBJECTS MIGHT SPEAK?
HOW MIGHT THEY BEHAVE? WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES?

THIS EXERCISE IS GREAT FOR DISCOVERING HOW **EASY** IT IS TO CREATE **ORIGINAL, UNUSAL CHARACTERS** WITH **THEIR OWN PERSONALITY.**











WHERE DOES YOUR CHARACTER COME FROM?

ARE THEIR CLOTHES OLD OR NEW, CLEAN OR DIRTY?

HOW TALL ARE THEY?

WHAT DO THEY **DO?** DO THEY HAVE A **JOB?**

ARE THEY **FAST OR SLOW, FIT OR LAZY?**

WHO OR WHAT DO THEY CARE MOST ABOUT?

WHAT IS THEIR NAME? DO THEY HAVE A HIDDEN IDENTITY?

ONCE
YOU'VE
DESIGNED
YOUR
CHARACTER,
TRY DRAWING
THEM IN
DIFFERENT
POSES!

ASKING QUESTIONS LIKE
THIS ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER
AS YOU DRAW WILL HELP YOU
CAPTURE MUCH MORE
PERSONALITY!

ALL
DONE?
WHY NOT
DESIGN
YOUR
CHARACTER
A CAR
OR AN ANIMAL
THAT THEY TRAVEL
AROUND ON!



SHOWING THE WORLD

THE WORLD THAT YOUR STORY TAKES PLACE IN IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANY OF YOUR CHARACTERS...



...BUT DRAWING BIG ENVIRONMENTS IN EVERY PANEL OF YOUR COMIC CAN BE A BIT DAUNTING!



LUCKILY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO! YOU CAN USE A SIMPLE TRICK TO SUGGEST THE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT HAVING TO DRAW IT ALL!

LET'S SAY WE'RE DRAWING A JUNGLE SCENE. WE DON'T HAVE TO DRAW ALL THIS....



...BECAUSE, LOOK! THIS STILL TELLS US WE'RE IN THE JUNGLE...



...AND, IN FACT, SO DOES THIS!



WE ONLY NEED
A FEW LITTLE
DETAILS FROM
THE
ENVIRONMENT,
TO SUGGEST A
FAR BIGGER
WORLD.



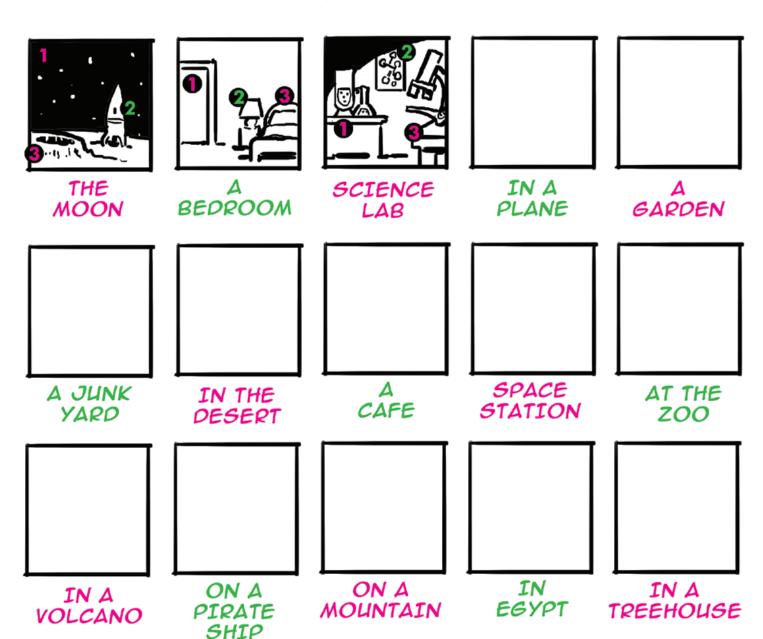
YOU CAN TELL YOUR READER ABOUT WHERE YOUR STORY IS SET JUST BY USING THREE KEY ELEMENTS!



DRAW SOME SMALL, ROUGH PANEL BOXES. TRY TO DRAW JUST THREE THINGS FOR EACH LOCATION, AS DECRIBED BELOW - I'VE DONE THE FIRST FEW FOR YOU.



KEEP YOUR PICTURES SIMPLE - NO NEED FOR MUCH DETAIL!





YOU CAN SET YOUR COMIC STORIES ANYWHERE - IN A LIBRARY, ON A TRAIN, BY THE SEA, ANYWHERE! THE MORE INTERESTING THE PLACE, THE MORE ENJOYABLE IT WILL BE TO WRITE ABOUT AND DRAW!

DIFFERENT PLACES HAVE DIFFERENT UNIQUE FEATURES, WHICH YOU CAN USE AS A PART OF YOUR STORY.



IMAGINE YOU'RE WRITING A STORY IN WHICH A CHARACTER IS **SEARCHING FOR A LOST TRESURE.** FOR EACH OF THE LOCATIONS BELOW, THINK OF
HOW THE LOCATION CAN MAKE IT **EASIER** OR **HARDER** TO FIND THE
TREASURE.

I'VE DONE THE FIRST COUPLE FOR YOU.

LOCATION	HOW IT MAKES IT HARDER TO FIND TREASURE	HOW IT MAKES IT EASIER TO FIND TREASURE
THE ARCTIC	SNOWSTORMS COVERING UP A SECRET ENTRANCE	CHARACTER SEES THE TREASURE THROUGH ICE
A SCHOOL	SO MANY PEOPLE, HARD TO SEARCH IN SECRET	BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY HELP TO SOLVE CLUES
THE JUNGLE		
A BATTLE SHIP		
A MUSEUM		
EIFFEL TOWER		

ONCE YOU'VE FINISHED THE ABOVE EXAMPLES, WRITE DOWN YOUR THREE FAVOURITE PLACES, AND DO THE EXERCISE FOR THOSE, TOO!





FOREGROUND MIDGROUND BACKGROUND

A COMIC PANEL IS LIKE A WINDOW THAT WE LOOK THROUGH.
SOMETIMES WE WANT TO SHOW OUR READER A BIG VIEW OF OUR WORLD.

TO GET THIS FEELING OF LARGE, DEEP SPACES, YOU CAN USE A SIMPLE IDEA - SEPARATE THE PARTS OF YOUR IMAGE INTO THREE AREAS:

FOREGROUND - ELEMENTS THAT ARE CLOSE TO US.

MIDGROUND - ELEMENTS THAT ARE A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY

BACKGROUND - ELEMENTS THAT ARE A LONG WAY AWAY.



BACKGROUND





BELOW YOU CAN SEE HOW YOU CAN SUGGEST A LARGE AREA JUST USING SIMPLE FOREGROUND, MIDGROUND AND BACKGROUND SHAPES...!























DRAW SOME SMALL RECTANGLES. IN EACH RECTANGLE, DRAW A SIMPLE ENVIRONMENT, BASED ON EACH OF THE IDEAS BELOW, DIVIDED INTO FOREGROUND, MIDGROUND AND BACKGROUND.



FOR EACH PICTURE, USE...
A DARK COLOUR FOR THE FOREGROUND SHAPES,
A MEDIUM COLOUR FOR YOUR MIDGROUND SHAPES,
AND A LIGHT COLOUR FOR YOUR BACKGROUND SHAPES.



		,
TREES	MOUNTAINS	A CITY
A BATHROOM	A CAR CHASE	A TEMPLE
A FLYING HOUSE	A PLAYGROUND	INSIDE A CAVE
GIANT MONSTER	SPACE STATION	Δ ΕΔΙΡΘΡΟΊΝΟ





YOUR WORLD

CHOOSE WHERE
THE CHARACTER
YOU CREATED
EARLIER IN THE
WEEK LIVES THIS CAN BE
A HOUSE,
A TOWN,
AN ISLAND,
A COUNTRY,
ANOTHER
PLANET, ETC.



IMAGINE YOUR CHARACTER IS SENDING YOU A POSTCARD

FROM THAT
PLACE. DRAW
THE POSTCARD,
AND WRITE A
MESSAGE FROM
YOUR CHARACTER
ABOUT WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO
LIVE THERE ON
THE BACK.



POSTCA	RD	

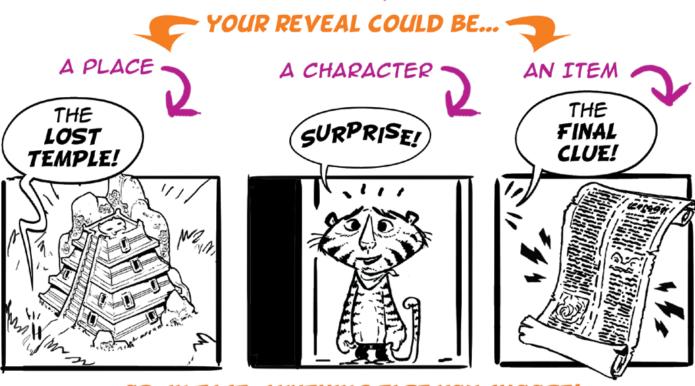




YOU HAVE A CHARACTER, AND A PLACE THAT THEY LIVE, IT'S TIME TO PLAN YOUR SHORT COMIC STORY!

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL YOUR STORY IN SIX PANELS, WITH ONE PANEL CONTAINING A BIG VISUAL REVEAL.

A VISUAL REVEAL IS WHEN SOMETHING IMPORTANT IN YOUR STORY IS SHOWN TO THE READER, USING THE ART.



...OR, IN FACT, ANYTHING ELSE YOU CHOOSE!

A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE
IN MIND WHEN YOU
MAKE A COMIC IS
"SHOW, DON'T TELL"
- MEANING THAT THE
MORE OF THE STORY
YOU CAN
COMMUNICATE WITH
THE ART, THE BETTER!



TAKES A
LONG TIME
TO
DESCRIBE,
BUT IN
COMICS
WE CAN
JUST
SHOW IT!



COME UP WITH A **ROUGH IDEA** FOR WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN YOUR STORY, INCLUDING **WHEN** THE VISUAL REVEAL WILL BE - THE **BEGINNING**, THE **MIDDLE**, OR **THE END?**



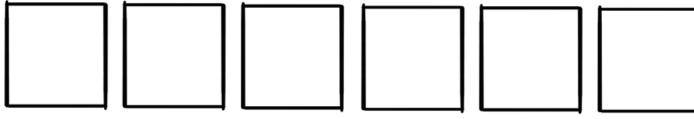


WITH YOUR **ROUGH IDEA** OF WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR STORY, IT'S TIME TO **DIVIDE** THE STORY UP INTO **SIX PANELS.**

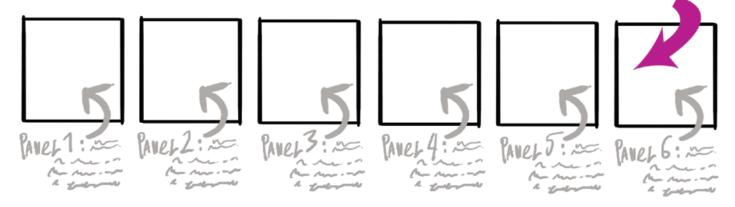


START BY DRAWING SIX SMALL SQUARES IN A ROW.





NOW SPLIT YOUR WHOLE STORY IDEA INTO SIX MOMENTS, EACH OF WHICH WE'LL ASSIGN TO A PANEL. WRITE DOWN ROUGHLY WHAT HAPPENS IN EACH PANEL. IF YOUR STORY IS TOO BIG TO FIT INTO SIX PANELS, THEN YOU NEED TO MAKE IT A LITTLE SMALLER.



NOTE WHICH OF YOUR PANELS CONTAINS THE MAIN VISUAL
REVEAL. NOW SKETCH VERY TINY "THUMBNAIL" DRAWINGS (QUICK,
SIMPLE, SMALL SKETCHES JUST TO SHOW THE
CHARACTERS/ITEMS/ENVIRONMENT NEEDED FOR EACH PANEL).













VISUAL REVEAL





WE'RE GOING TO START BUILDING OUR COMIC SCRIPT! THIS IS A BIT LIKE A SCREENPLAY FOR A MOVIE OR A FILM.



BEFORE YOU FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT YOUR CHARACTERS WILL BE SAYING, LET'S DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS AROUND THEM IN YOUR STORY. WE WILL DIVIDE EACH PANEL INTO: SETTING (WHERE YOUR PANEL IS SET)

ACTION (WHAT HAPPENS)

AND

CHARACTERS (WHO IS IN THE PANEL).



FOR EXAMPLE:















SETTING: A harbour, it's a sunny day.

ACTION: Two characters are walking along talking.

CHARACTER(S): Noodle and Scruff, best friends.



WRITE DOWN DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE **SETTING**, **ACTION** AND **CHARACTERS** FOR **EACH** OF YOUR **SIX PANELS**. IF YOU HAVE THE **SAME CHARACTERS** IN MOST OF THE PANELS, ONLY NOTE DOWN WHEN A **NEW** CHARACTER ENTERS.



IT'S TIME TO WRITE **WHAT** YOUR CHARACTERS **SAY!** THIS IS CALLED **DIALOGUE**.

FOR YOUR COMIC SCRIPT WE'RE GOING TO WRITE THE DIALOGUE, BUT WE'RE ALSO GOING TO INCLUDE THE STAGE DIRECTIONS, THIS TELLS US WHAT YOUR CHARACTERS ARE DOING AS THEY SPEAK.

FOR EACH PANEL YOU NEED TO WRITE:

CHARACTER NAME + WHAT THEY'RE DOING + WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

FOR EXAMPLE:



STAGE DIRECTION:

NOODLE is talking to SCRUFF. Noodle looks worried, while Scruff is smiling.

DIALOGUE:

Noodle: "Scruff, we only have ten minutes before the boat leaves!"

Scruff: "Don't worry, Noodle, it's just around this next corner!"



WRITE DOWN STAGE DIRECTIONS AND DIALOGUE FOR EACH OF YOUR SIX PANELS.



WE ROUGHED UP OUR THUMBNAIL SKETCHES USING SIX SQUARE PANELS OF THE SAME SIZE, BUT IN MANY COMICS THE PANELS ARE ALL DIFFERENT SIZES, DEPENDING ON THE SPACE THAT'S NEEDED FOR THE ART AND SPEECH BUBBLES, AND HOW IMPORTANT CERTAIN PANELS ARE IN THE STORY.



1

LOOKING AT YOUR SCRIPT, STAGE DIRECTIONS, AND YOUR PANEL THUMBNAILS, DECIDE WHICH PANELS NEED TO BE BIGGER, AND WHICH DON'T NEED AS MUCH SPACE:















MEDIUM

SMALL

MEDIUM

MEDIUM

BIG K

SMALL

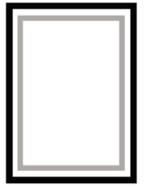
NOTE: YOUR REVEAL PANEL SHOULD BE BIG!

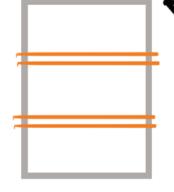
ORAW A

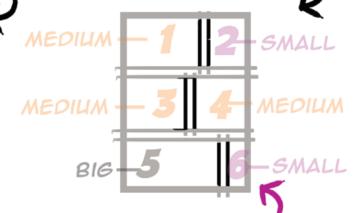
RECTANGLE
ON AN A4 OR A3
SHEET LIKE
THIS:

NOW, DIVIDE THE RECTANGLE INTO **THREE EQUAL ROWS** LIKE THIS:

FINALLY, DIVIDE EACH ROW INTO TWO PANELS BASED ON YOUR NOTES ABOVE











SPEECH BUBBLES

MAKING SURE YOUR **SPEECH BUBBLES** FIT, AND THAT THERE'S ROOM FOR ALL THE **DIALOGUE** IN EACH PANEL IS IMPORTANT. SO, WE'RE GOING TO DRAW OUR SPEECH BUBBLES IN **FIRST.**

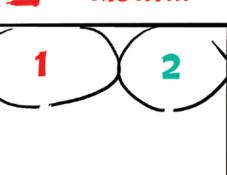
A FEW NOTES ON SPEECH BUBBLES:

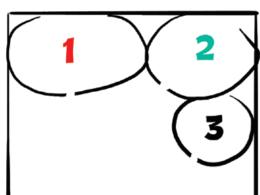


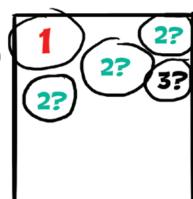


...AND TOP TO BOTTOM...





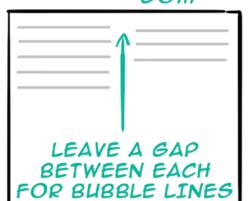




DON'T DRAW
THE BUBBLE
FIRST! INSTEAD
DRAW SOME
LIGHT PENCIL
LINES WHERE
THE TEXT WILL
60...







Below or secutor.

...AND DRAW THE
BUBBLES
AFTERWARDS.
DON'T DRAW THE
TAILS ON YET.







SPEECH BUBBLES

IF YOU USE A CAPTION BOX (THOSE LITTLE TEXT BOXES WHICH SET THE SCENE ON A PANEL, OR SAY "MEANWHILE...", ETC), THE CAPTION BOX IS USUALLY PLACED BEFORE THE SPEECH BUBBLE:

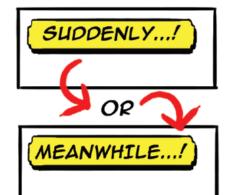


THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CAPTION BOX

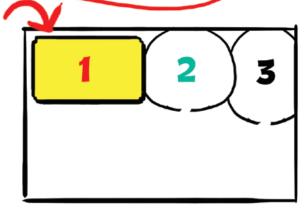
IT GOES HERE IT CAN BE USED FOR SAYING THINGS LIKE.

"THE SUN RISES OVER HOLIDAY ISLAND, AND TROUBLE IS BREWING..."

OR YOU CAN JUST USE THEM FOR THINGS LIKE...



GENERALLY, / YOUR CAPTION BOXES SHOULD COME BEFORE ANY SPEECH BUBBLES IN A PANEL:



EXERCISE!



USING YOUR COMIC SCRIPT TO GUIDE YOU. MARK OUT LINES FOR ALL YOUR DIALOGUE, AND ANY CAPTION BOXES YOU WANT TO ADD.



CAREFULLY FILL IN THE DIALOGUE



DRAW IN THE SPEECH BUBBLES











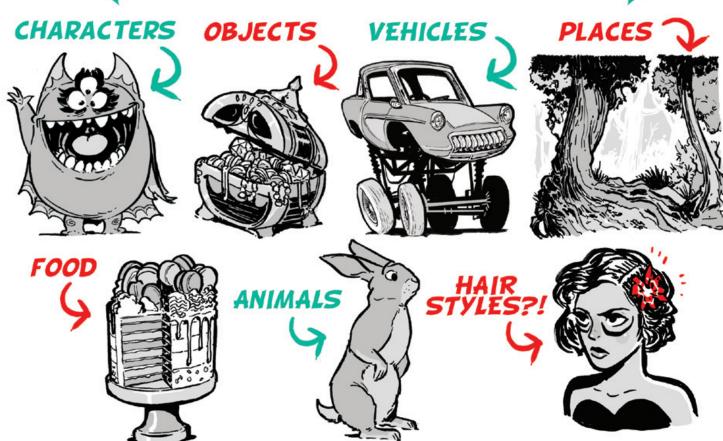
YOUR BEST ART COMES FROM EXPERIMENTING AND PLAYING WITH A VARIETY OF IDEAS, SO IT'S WORTH TAKING SOME TIME TO DEVELOP THE EXTRA CHARACTERS, ITEMS AND ENVIRONMENTS WITHIN YOUR COMIC STORY, BEFORE YOU DRAW THEM ON THE FINAL PAGE.

THE DESIGNS YOU CREATE AS YOU WORK OUT HOW YOU WANT THESE ELEMENTS TO LOOK ARE CALLED CONCEPT ART, WHICH REALLY JUST MEANS IDEAS ART - DRAWING DIFFERENT IDEAS FOR HOW SOMETHING COULD LOOK UNTIL YOU FIND THE ONE YOU LIKE THE BEST.



YOU MAY NEED CONCEPT ART FOR...





EVEN TINY CHAGES CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

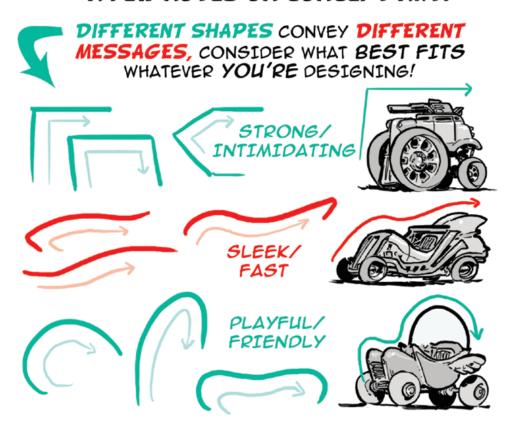






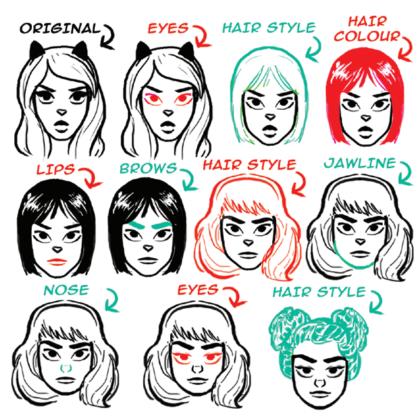
CONCEPT

A FEW NOTES ON CONCEPT ART:



YOU **DON'T** HAVE TO DRAW **COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DESIGNS** FOR EACH IDEA -SOMETIMES CHANGING **JUST ONE THING** WILL CREATE A **TOTALLY NEW CHARACTER!**







LOOKING AT YOUR COMIC SCRIPT, IN PARTICULAR THE SETTINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EACH PANEL, WRITE DOWN THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN YOUR STORY, OTHER THAN YOUR MAIN CHARACTER (INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE CHARACTER, ONE OBJECT AND ONE ENVIRONMENT IN YOUR LIST)

WRITE THEM DOWN:

1	
2	
6	
4	
6	

CHOOSE THE **TWO THINGS** ON THE LIST THAT YOU'RE MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO DRAWING, AND DO **THREE DIFFERENT DESIGNS** FOR EACH.

FOR THE **REMAINING THREE ITEMS** ON THE LIST, JUST DO **ONE OR TWO** DESIGNS FOR EACH.

NOW OUT OF THE DESIGNS YOU'VE DRAWN, CHOOSE YOUR
FAVOURITE FOR EACH ONE.

IF YOU FINISH EARLY AND WANT TO DRAW MORE, HAVE A GO AT DRAWING YOUR EXTRA CHARACTERS FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES.







THIS IS IT! YOUR PAGE IS READY, WITH SPEECH BUBBLES IN PLACE, AND YOUR CHARACTERS, WORLD AND CONCEPT ART PREPARED. ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO DRAW THE PAGE!





THINK WHEN YOU DRAW:

TAKE YOUR TIME! NO NEED TO RUSH, TAKE IT ONE PANEL AT A TIME.

USE YOUR DESIGNS AS REFERENCE -THEY'LL GUIDE YOU!

YOUR THUMBNAILS WILL HELP PLAN OUT WHERE EVERYTHING GOES.

SKETCH LIGHTLY - DRAW LIGHTLY WITH A PENCIL FIRST, BEFORE DRAWING OVER WITH A THIN PEN.

USE SOUND EFFECTS - CRASH! BOOM! KABLOOIE! IT ALL HELPS TO ADD TO THE ACTION!

DON'T WORRY IF ITS NOT PERFECT -DRAWING COMICS IS MEANT TO BE FUN! JUST GO FOR IT!

> REMEMBER, YOU'RE TELLING A STORY THAT **OTHER PEOPLE** CAN ENJOY, SO MAKE SURE IT'S **CLEAR**, AND **EASY TO READ!**

ALL
DONE?
WHY NOT
COLOUR
YOUR PAGE?
DON'T FORGET
TO KEEP THE
COLOURS
THE SAME FOR
CHARACTERS, ETC.



BY NOW YOU SHOULD HAVE FINISHED YOUR COMIC STORY, BUT THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING! YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHARACTERS TO LIFE IN THEIR OWN WORLD, AND NOW IN THIS FINAL PART OF OUR COMICS-MAKING WORKSHOP YOU GET TO CHOOSE WHERE YOU WANT TO GO NEXT!

THERE ARE **SO MANY PARTS TO MAKING A COMIC**, DURING THE PROCESS OF MAKING **YOUR OWN**, YOU MAY HAVE FOUND ONE THING THAT **YOU ENJOYED** DOING **MORE THAN ANY OTHER**.

IT COULD BE THE WRITING, DESIGNING THE CHARACTERS, DRAWING THE ACTION, COLOURING THE PANELS, LAYING OUT THE PAGE. WHATEVER IT WAS, IF YOU ENJOYED IT, YOU CAN EXPLORE IT FURTHER IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS.

CHOOSE ONE OR MORE OF THESE ACTIVITIES TO EXPAND YOUR COMIC STORY FURTHER!

CREATE A
COMIC COVER
FOR YOUR
STORY

WRITE THE **NEXT**PAGE OF THE

STORY

DESIGN A **LOGO** FOR YOUR STORY

DESIGN SOME
MORE FRIENDS
FOR THE
CHARACTERS IN
YOUR COMIC

WRITE A NEW
SHORT STORY
SET IN THE
WORLD OF
YOUR COMIC

DRAW SOME
MORE PICTURES
OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
YOUR
CHARACTERS
LIVE IN

WRITE A
"BLURB" TO
DESCRIBE WHAT
HAPPENED IN
YOUR STORY

POUGH OUT A
PLOT FOR A
LONGER
ADVENTURE

DESIGN SOME
NEW COSTUMES
FOR YOUR
CHARACTERS

DO AS MANY AS YOU WANT TO, YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOUR STORIES AND ART WILL TAKE YOU!