Student-created Comics as a Narrative

Challenge 1: Alignment to National Standards

Kaley Pollard P:3

COMMON CORE
STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE
PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

3.Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences

a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.

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College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences

   b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

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College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

3.Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences

d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

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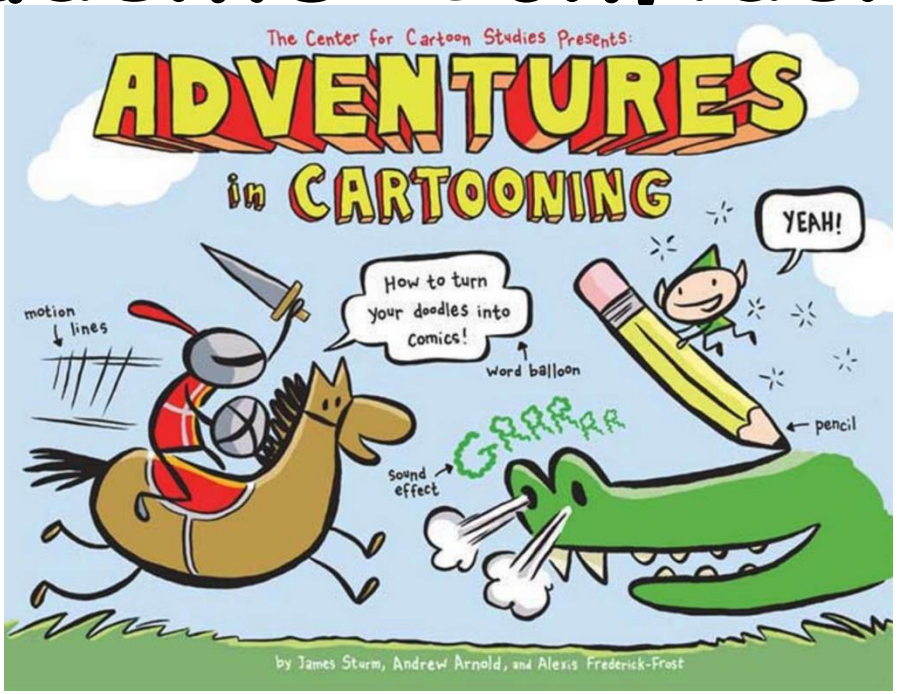
College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

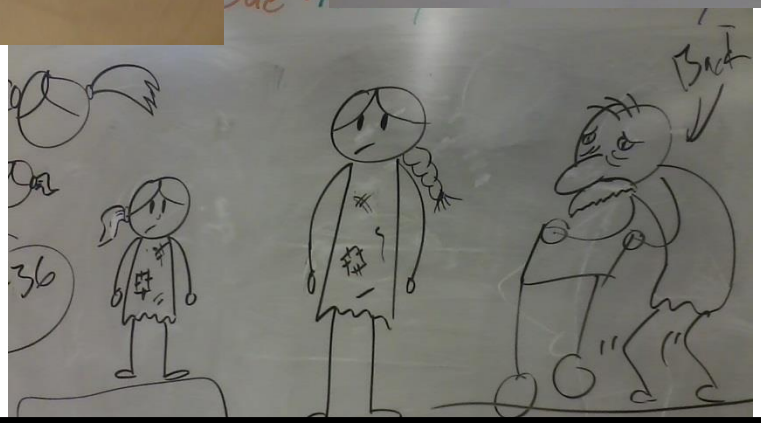
3.Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences

e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

Challenge 2: Building Students' Confidence



James Sturm
Andrew Arnold
Alexis Frederick-Frost



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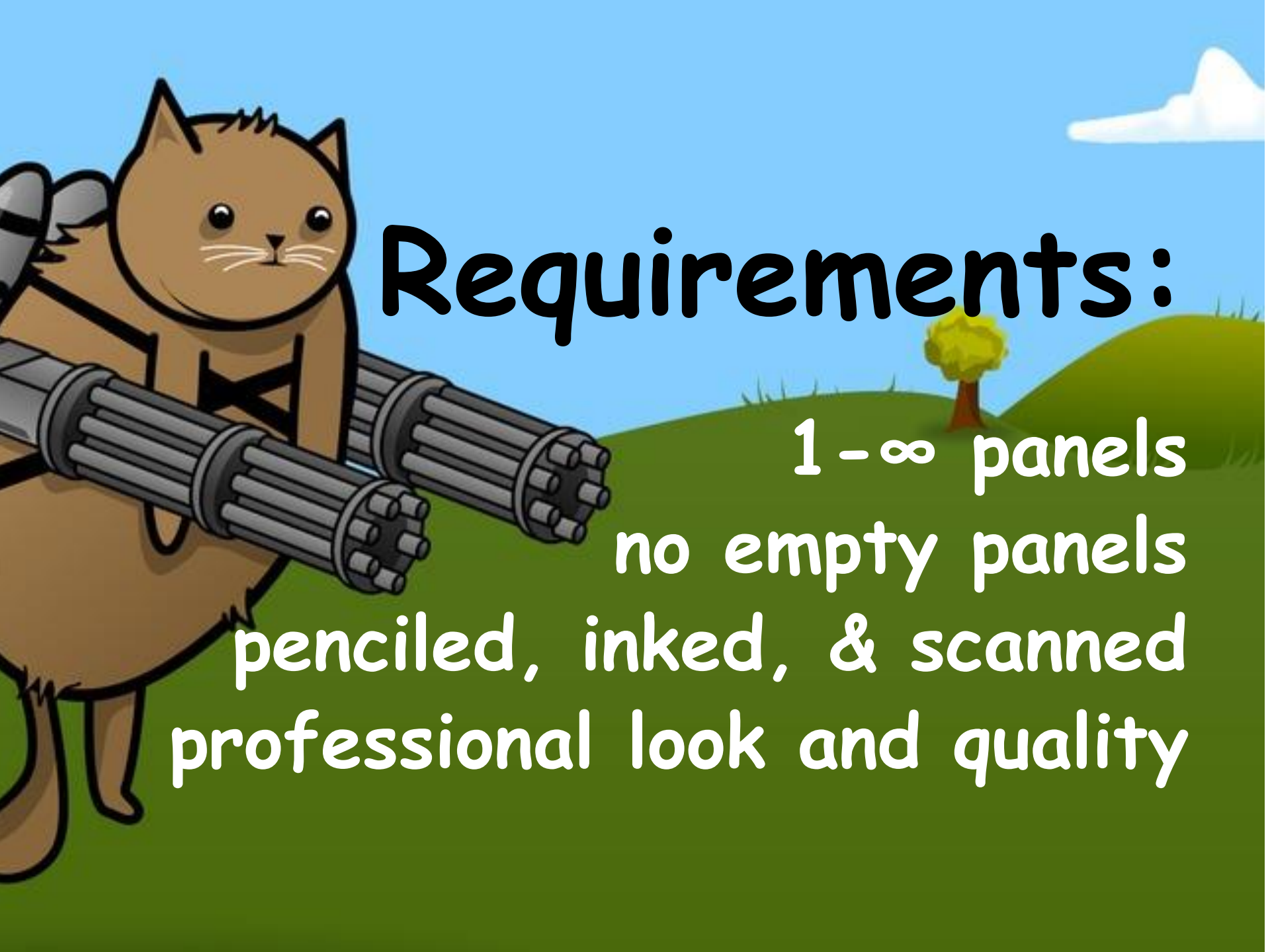
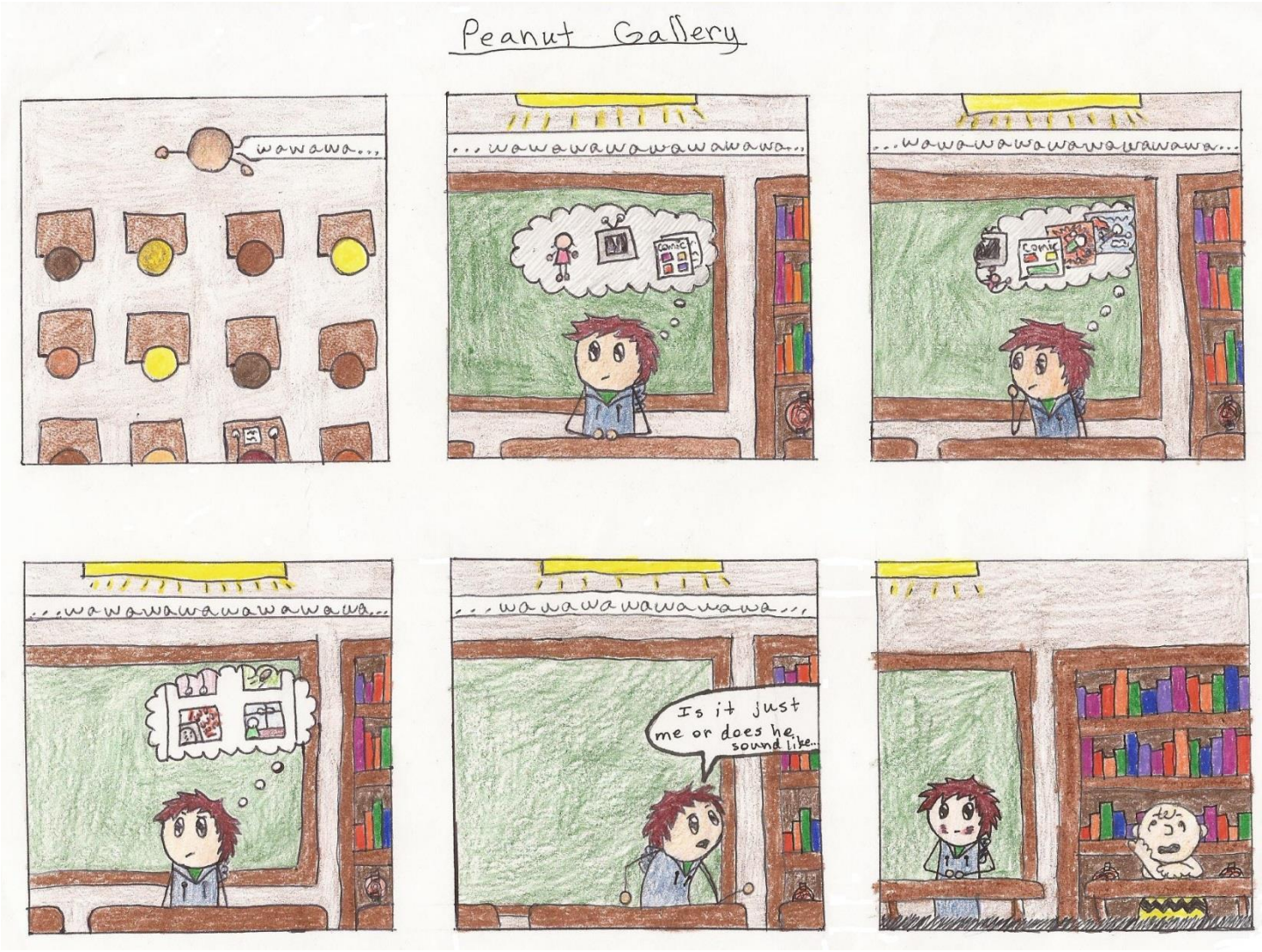
Prompt:

- Create a comic about the high-school experience.

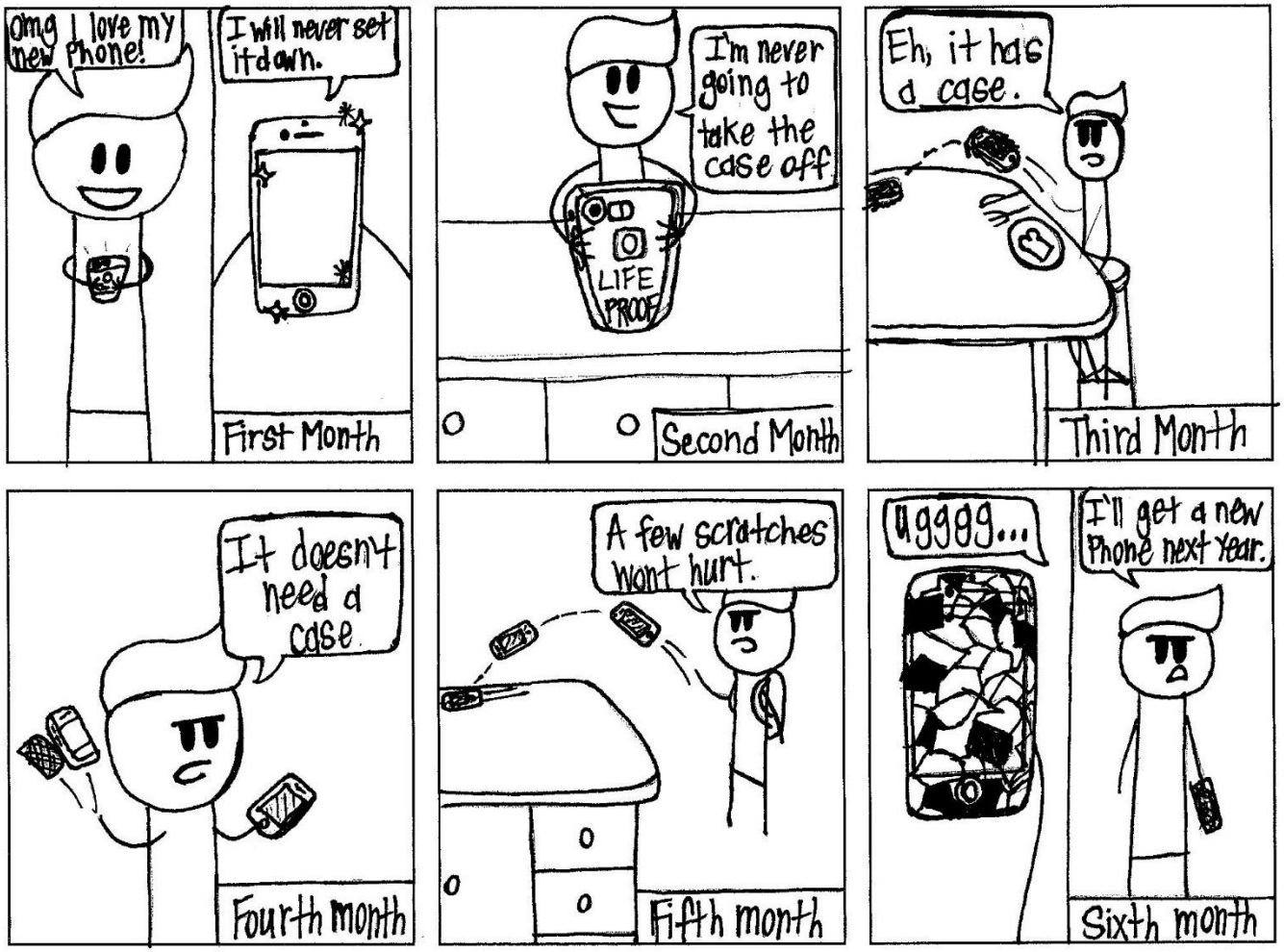

Requirements:
1-∞ panels
no empty panels
penciled, inked, & scanned
professional look and quality

Peanut Gallery

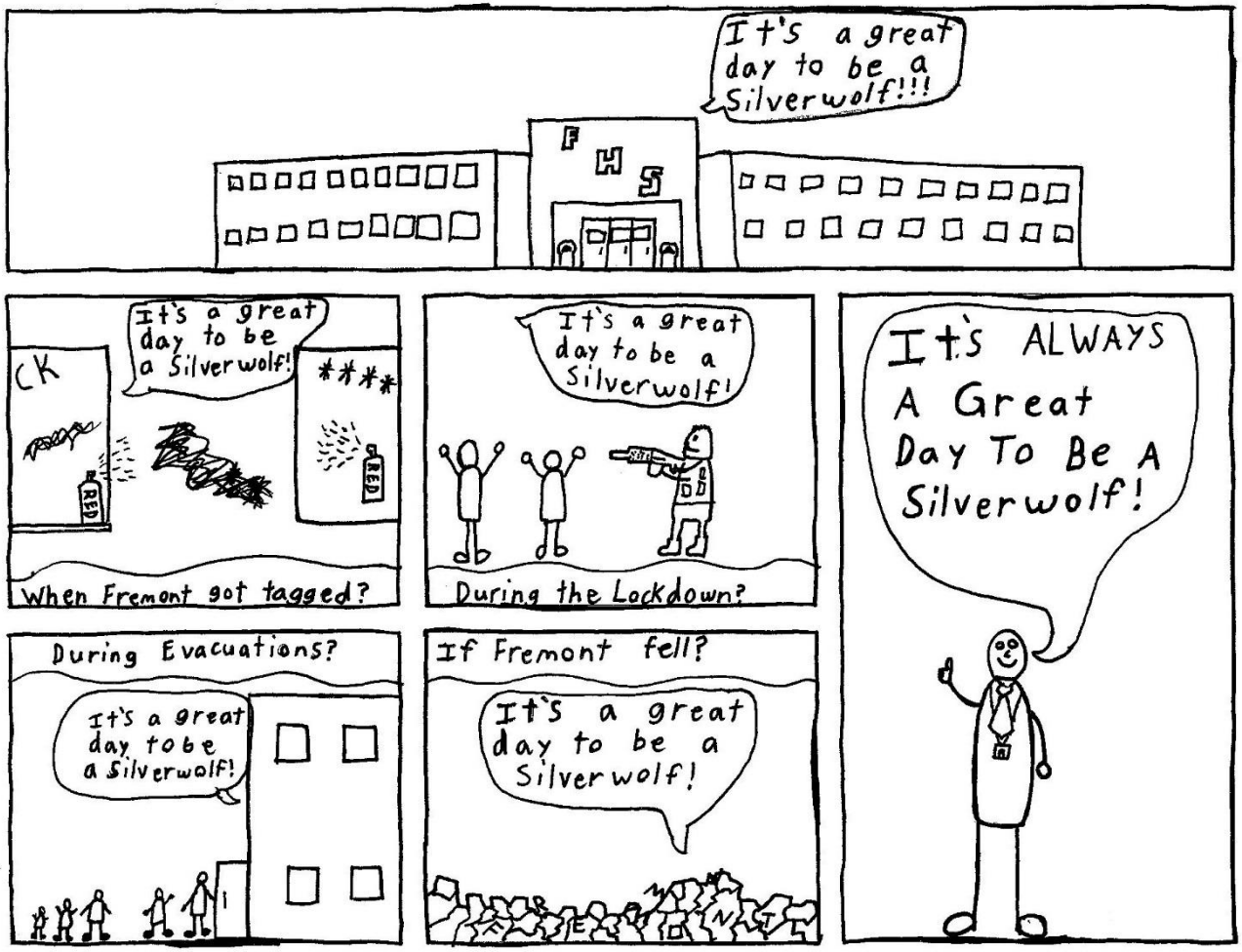


Cole Daz P-2 5/13/15 5/14/15

Life of a new Phone

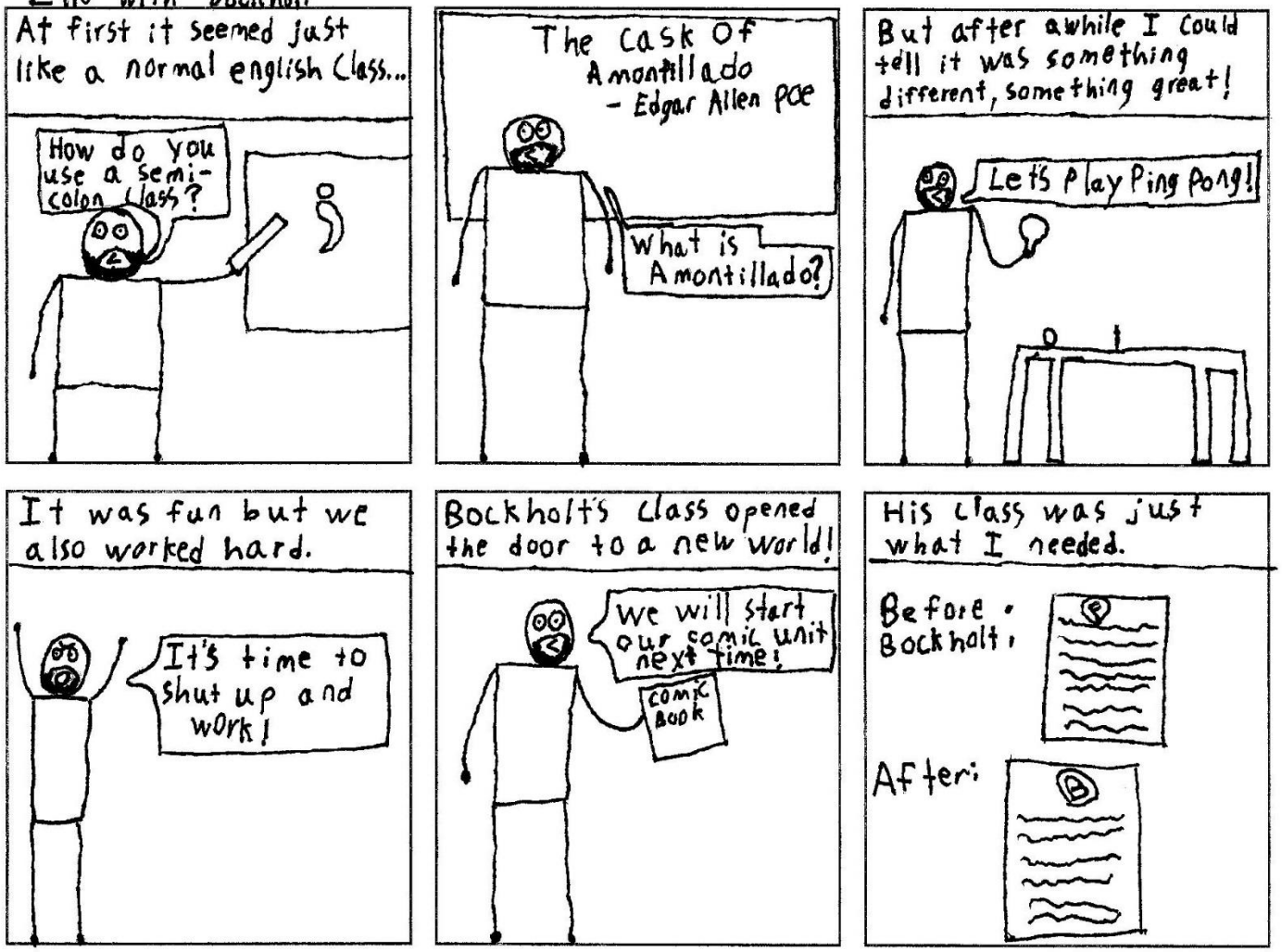


When Is It A Great Day To Be A Silverwolf?



By KC Lindsey

Life with Bockholt



Challenge 3: Assessment

Comic Self Evaluation

Ideas and Creativity

A — My comic is original and insightful. After people read it, they say, "Ha! That was funny/clever/thoughtful/profound!" My comic answers the "so what?" question that plagues artists and writers.

B

C

D — I stole my idea from the internet, or my comic has nothing interesting or unique to say.

Organization and Transitions

A — My comic has a clear beginning, middle, and end. The ending of my comic leaves the reader with a satisfying sense of closure. Each panel logically flows to the next; moments are chosen carefully to guide the reader through the plot. When people read it, they never have to go back and ask, "So, what happened here? I'm confused."

B

C

D — My comic is confusing and disorienting. While someone is reading it, he/she has to stop several times, scratch his/her head, and ask, "So, what happened here? How did you go from here to here? I'm really confused."

Images and Word Choice

A — My comic's images and words work together to seamlessly communicate an idea with clarity. I chose each image and word for a specific purpose, knowing it would have an impact on my readers.

B

C

D — The images and words in my panels leave my readers confused.

Presentation and Quality

A — While I may have only drawn stick figures, they are darn good stick figures. My drawings are clean and neat, and my words are easy to read. It looks like my comic is ready for prom.

B

C

D — My comic is haphazard, sloppy, and messy. It looks like my comic woke up with a hangover.

Effort

A — I probably spent too much time on this because it was a labor of love or because I'm a self-loathing perfectionist who expects nothing less than flawlessness. I did at least one rough sketch, then I penciled and inked my final comic.

B

C

D — Dude, I spent a total of three minutes during lunch on this assignment, and I wrote it on my ketchup-stained napkin.

Reflection Questions:

Write a one+ page reflection on one or more of the following questions.

- Why did you chose the topic you did?
- Chose a panel or two and discuss why you chose the particular images, words, placement, etc. that you did? What effect did you hope to have on your readers? Did those choices work? Why or why not?
- What was your biggest struggle? How did you overcome this challenge?
- What did you like or not like about this comic unit?
- What changes can Mr. Bockholt make for the next time he teaches this unit?

All images on this handout are from The Oatmeal.

Murphy’s Comic Unit

Originally presented at

San Diego Comic-Con International 2016

Autobiographical Comic Books
Mr. Murphy's English 12

PART I: WRITING

Step 01–The Pitch

Write down a pitch for your story. It should be a paragraph that describes the plot, characters, and location for your story. It is a brief outline that goes over the sequence of events and who was involved. Characters need to have a description of their motivation. An important part of this is to determine what it is that you want to say. Did you learn something? Did the event change you? Be sure to have a plot, characters, and a point.

Pitch_____/30

Step 02–The Brainstorm

Brainstorm your ideas for no less than ten minutes of continuous writing. This is a sketch. Get down on your paper. Don't worry about how well this is constructed; You will have time to fix things on the next go around. This will most likely look like a chaotic mess.

Brainstorm_____/20

Step 03–Rewrite

Look at details from your brainstorm and pitch that are important: highlight them. Find things that are unnecessary: cut them. Write out your story into a more organized prose form. Emphasize action and dialogue. Go back and draw a box around ideas to group them into chucks that will become panels. When depicting people in a conversation, avoid using more than one exchange, more than two word balloons, in one panel. Also, avoid more than twenty words in one balloon, or more than forty words per panel. In the end this should end up looking like a script with boxes drawn all over it.

Rewrite_____/20

Step 04–Show and Tell

This is where you start thinking about layout. Draw a line down the middle of a paper. On the left side write "show" and on the right side write "tell." On the show side, describe the action you will draw. On the tell side, write out in script form any dialogue that will be written down, including the narrator. After each panel, draw a horizontal line and start on the next panel. Put the title and credits at the beginning (or the end).

Show	Tell
Nancy is sitting on the couch. Sid sits down next to her. He looks sad. Nancy is surprised.	Narrator: When I got home, I had to face the last person I wanted to hurt. Sid: I hate my life. Nancy: What happened? Was it school?
Sid turns away from Nancy. Nancy leans in towards Sid.	Sid: No, it wasn't that. It's the band. Nancy: Tell me about it.
Close up of Sid as he pauses in pain.	
Close up of Sid as he buries his face in a couch pillow to hide his tears.	Sid: They kicked me out!

Show and Tell_____/30

PART II: DRAWING

Step 01–Character Design and Model Sheets

Do a study of all your main characters. Use a single paper for each character so you can use it for quick reference. Draw them full body from at least two different angles. Practice drawing their face by doing five different emotional states. Write a brief description of their motivation and other important and distinguishing characteristics.

Character Sketch_____/20

Step 02–Layout and Blocking

To paraphrase Bob Ross, big decisions need to be made here. Start thinking about how you want the panels to flow and how you want the characters to interact within each panel. Approach your story as a sequence of interconnected panels that complete a larger idea. Be sure to consider things like establishing shots and line of action. This will be a rough sketch that shows what you are going to pencil in the next step. Characters should only be blocked in using basic shapes. Take pictures with your phone to use as reference if it helps. You can draw small, putting two or four pages on a single piece of paper. Add in your narration and dialogue balloons to make sure you have enough room for your words. The idea is to make sure you have things planned out well in advance before mistakes mean starting over.

Layout and Blocking_____/20

03–Pencils

This is where things get real. Using your layout and Show and Tell script as guides, begin putting things down. Start with light lines, making sure you can fit characters, environment, dialogue, and narration into the panel (this should have been worked out in the precious step). As things progress, use darker lines and finish things up. Use a ruler to make light lines as a guide for your lettering.

Pencils_____/30

04–Ink

You can scan your pages in and ink them digitally, or ink them on the page. This step is to finalize your line work to give a crisp edge to your art and words. Erase any errant pencil marks. Also, if you are working digitally, you can use your computer to drop in your narration and dialog.

Ink_____/20

05–Color and Finalize

If you want to color your comic, you can do so digitally or old school. If you want it to remain black and white, that is acceptable also. Your comic should be scanned in, 300 dpi, and be prepared for submission.

Color and Finalize_____/10

Writing_____/100
Drawing_____/100
Total Points_____/200

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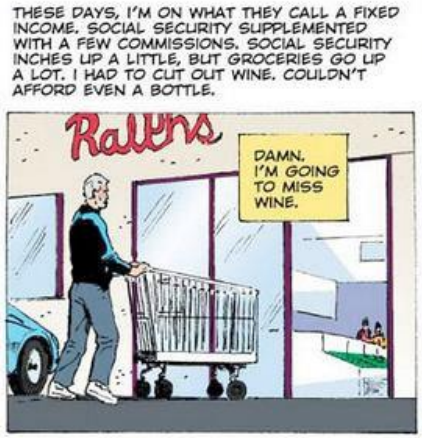
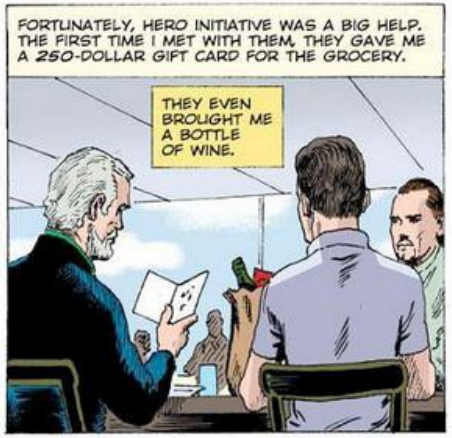
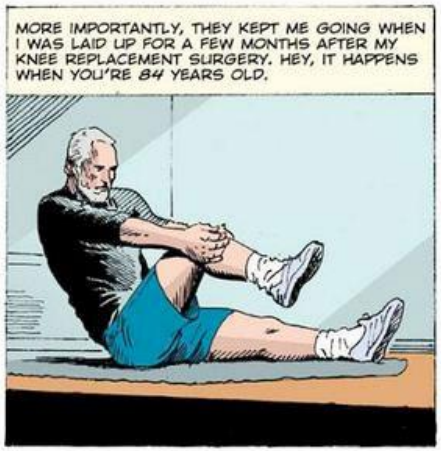
HERO IN ACTION BOTTLE OF WINE







STORY & ART: *RUSS HEATH* · COLORS AND LETTERING: *DARWYN COOKE*

PART I: WRITING

- **Step 01–The Pitch**
- **Step 02–The Brainstorm**
- **Step 03–Rewrite**
- **Step 04–Show and Tell**

PART II: DRAWING

- **Step 01–Character Design and Model Sheets**
- **Step 02–Layout and Blocking**
- **Step 03–Pencils**
- **Step 04–Ink**
- **Step 05–Color and Finalize**

Step 01–The Pitch

- Pitch me your story.
- It should be a paragraph that describes the plot, characters, and location for your story.
- Be sure to have a plot, characters, and a point.
- Pitch_____/30

Step 02–The Brainstorm

- Brainstorm your ideas for no less than ten minutes of continuous writing.
- Brainstorm_____/20

Step 03–Rewrite

- Write out your story into a more organized prose form. Emphasize action and dialogue.
- Go back and draw a box around ideas to group them into chucks that will become panels.
- Rewrite_____/20

Step 04–Show and Tell

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- On the show side, describe the action you will draw.
- On the tell side, write out in script form any dialogue that will be written down, including the narrator.
- After each panel, draw a horizontal line and start on the next panel. Put the title and credits at the beginning (or the end).
- Show and Tell_____/30

Show	Tell
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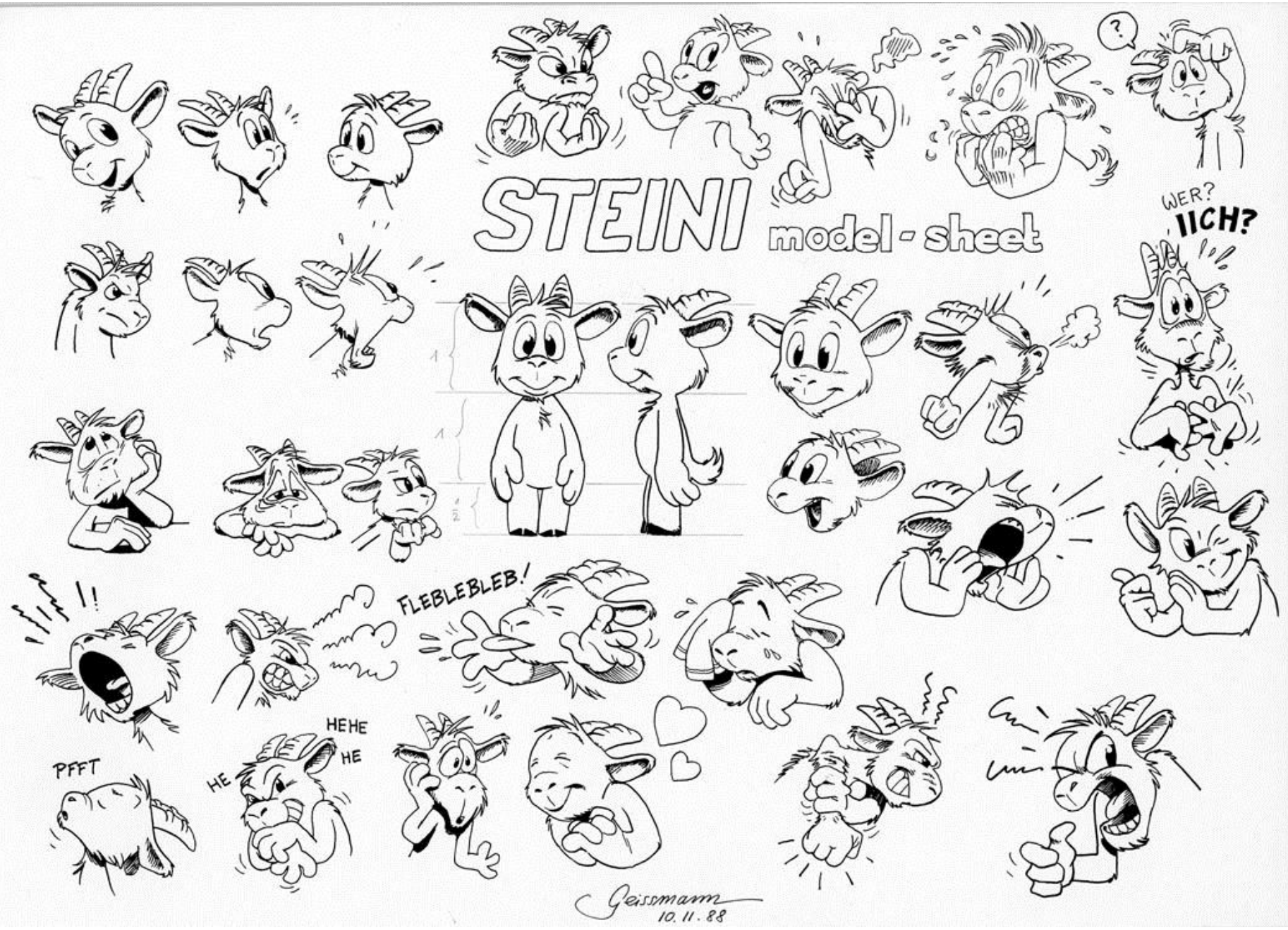
Close up of Sid as he pauses in pain.	
Close up of Sid as he buries his face in a couch pillow to hide his tears.	Sid: They kicked me out!

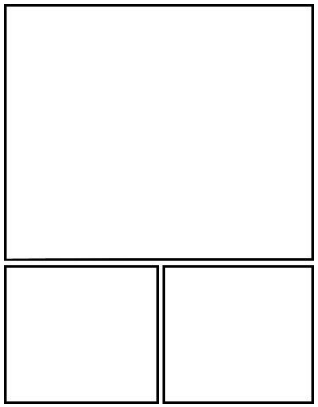
Step 01–Character Design and Model Sheets

- **Step 01–Character Design and Model Sheets**
- Do a study of all your main characters.
- Practice drawing their face by doing five different emotional states.
- Character Sketch_____/20


STEINI
model - sheet
WER?
ICH?
?
FLEBLEBLEB!
PFFT
HE
HEHE
HE
Geissmann
10.11.88

Step 02–Layout and Blocking

- To paraphrase Bob Ross, big decisions need to be made here.
- This will be a rough sketch that shows what you are going to pencil in the next step. Characters should only be blocked in using basic shapes.
- The idea is to make sure you have things planned out well in advance before mistakes mean starting over.
- Layout and Blocking_____/20



Step 03–Pencils

- Using your layout and Show and Tell script as guides, begin putting things down.
- Start with light lines, making sure you can fit characters, environment, dialogue, and narration into the panel
- Pencils_____/30

Step 04–Ink

- This step is to finalize your line work to give a crisp edge to your art and words. Erase any errant pencil marks.
- Ink_____/20

Step 05–Color and Finalize

- If you want to color your comic, you can do so digitally or old school.
- If you want it to remain black and white, that is acceptable also.
- Color and Finalize_____/10

Final Grading

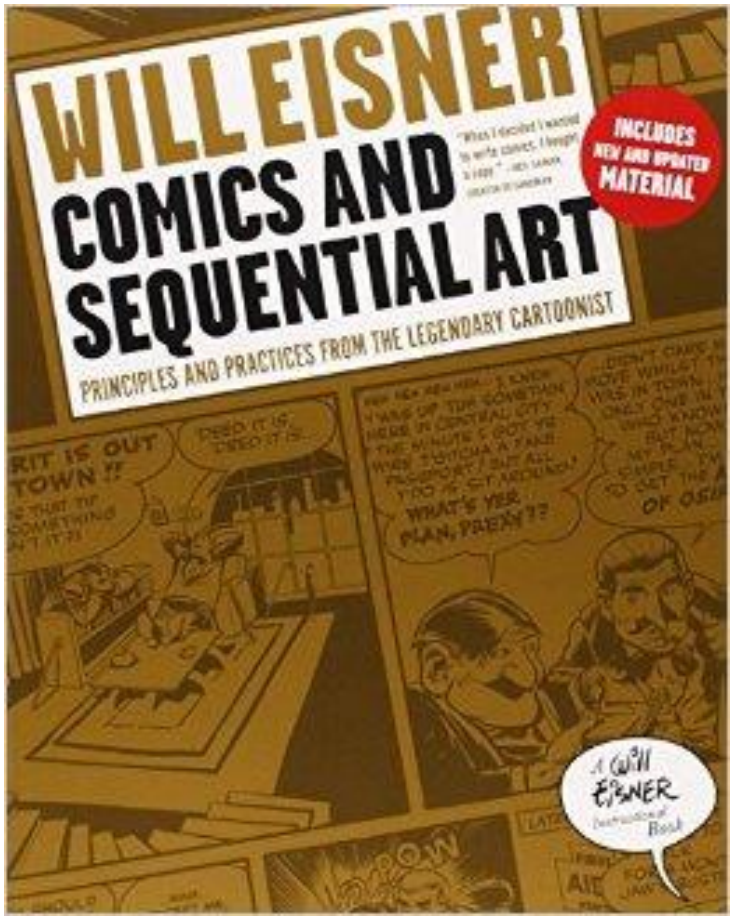
- Writing_____/100
- Drawing_____/100
- Total Points_____/200

Essential Books

Scott McCloud
Understanding Comics

- Scott is the Noam Chomsky of the comics industry

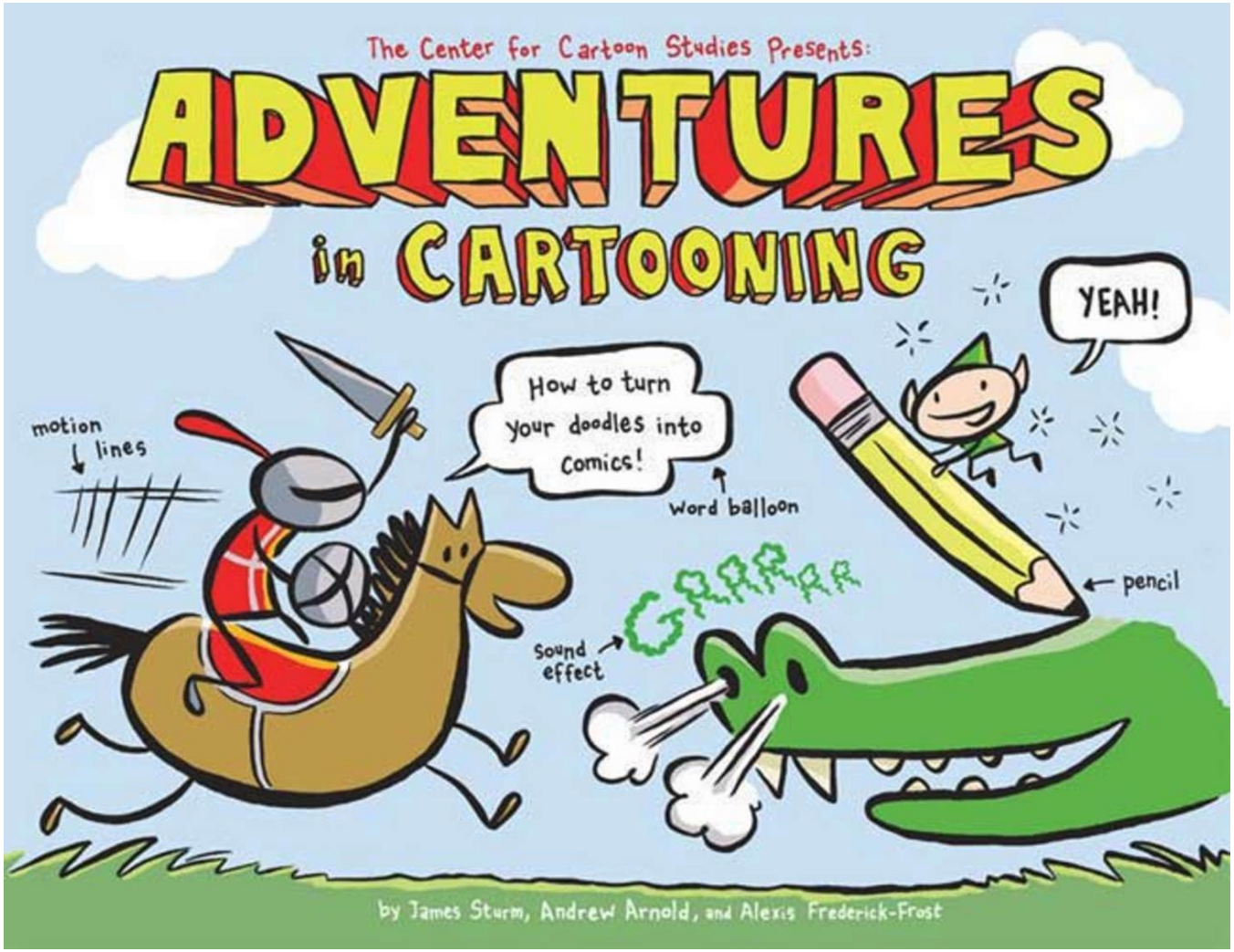
Will Eisner
Comics and Sequential Art



- Will was on the ground floor in inventing the modern comic book and the graphic novel

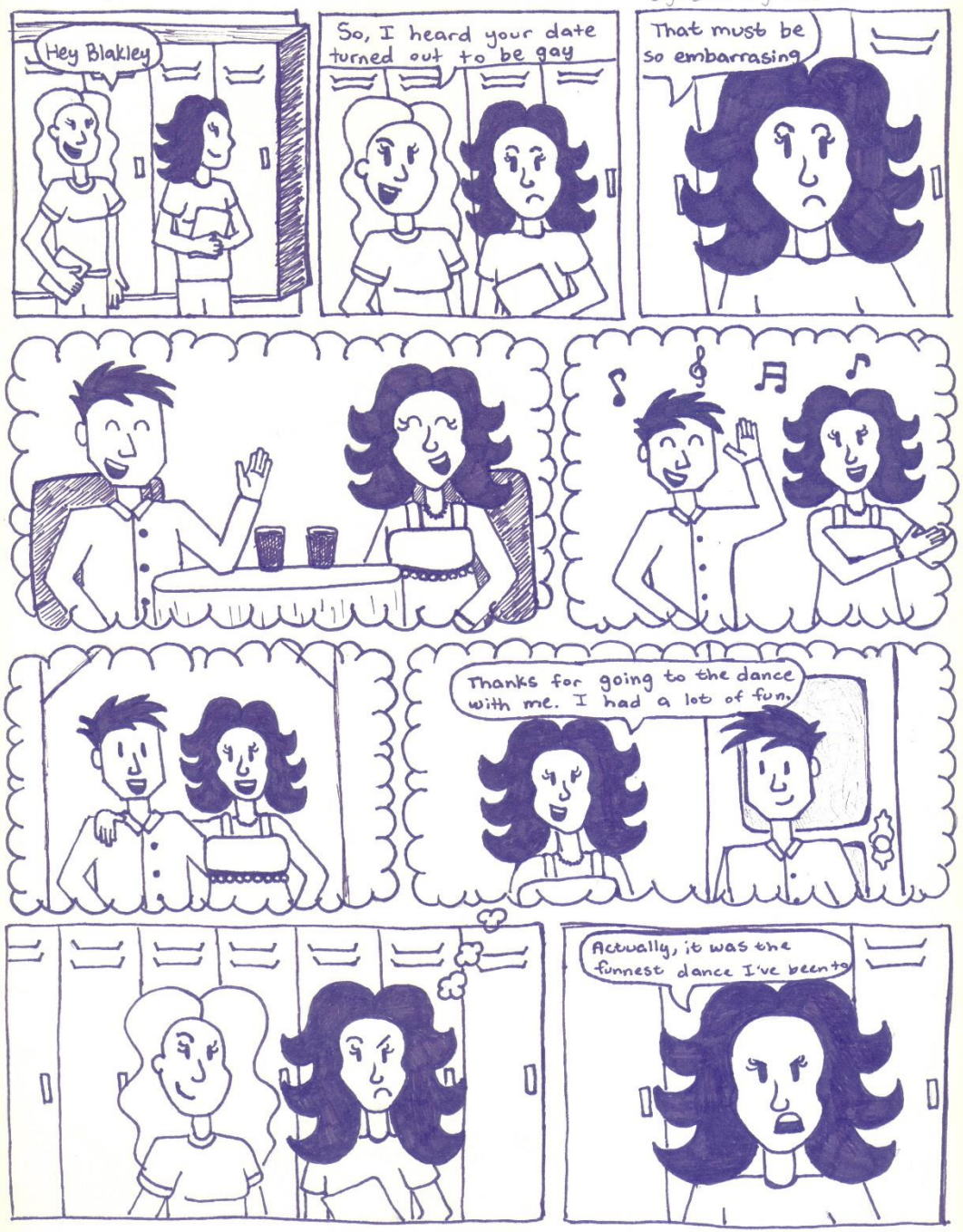
James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, and Alexis Frederick-Frost

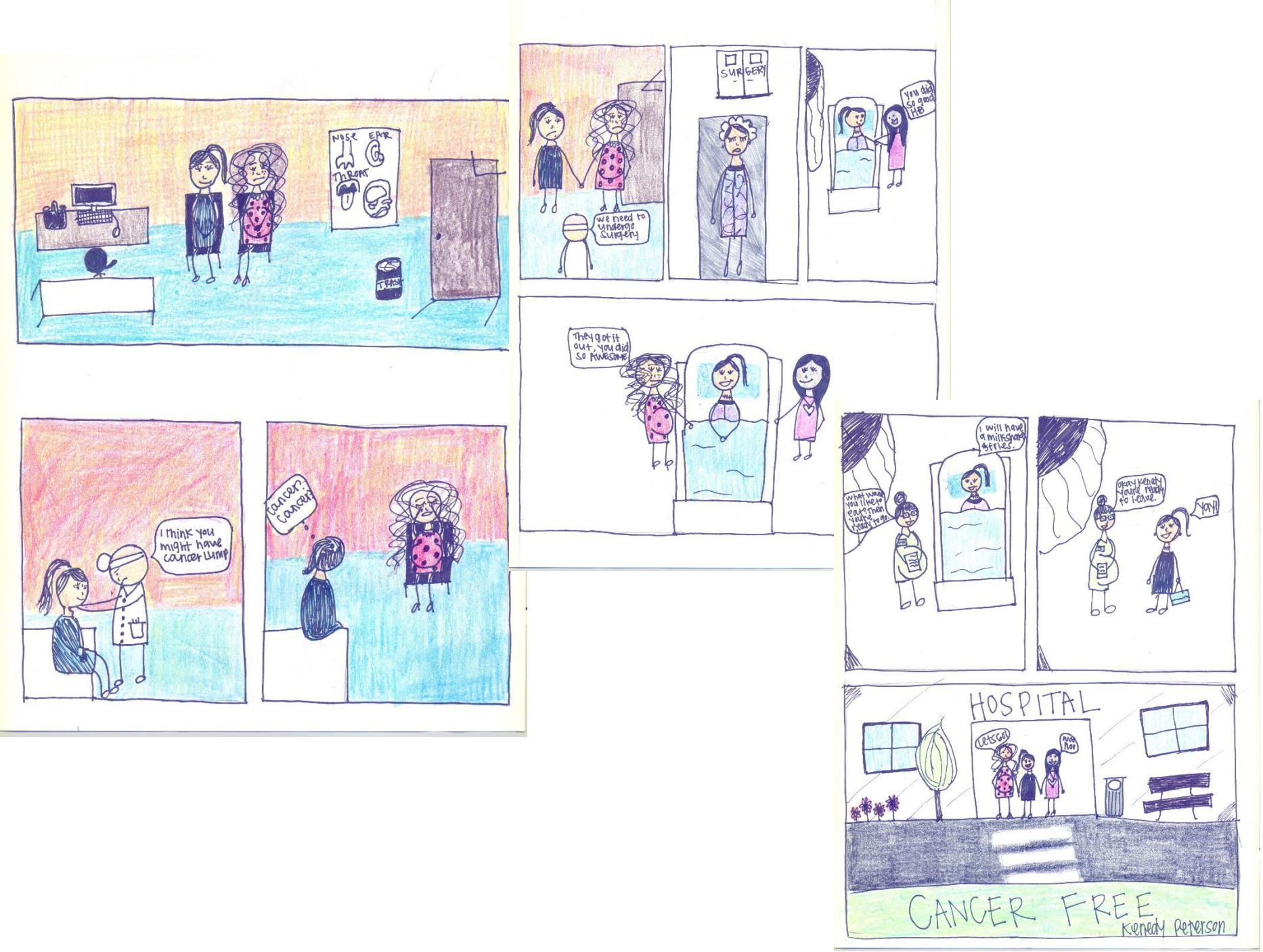
Adventures in Cartooning



Murphy’s Student Examples

By: Blakley Rhees 7th




NOSE
EAR
THROAT
TRASH
I think you might have cancer lump
cancer? cancer?
we need to undergo surgery
SURGERY
You did so good HB
They got it out, you did so AWESOME
what would you like to eat? then you're ready to go.
I will have a milkshake & fries.
okay kenedy you're ready to leave.
Yay!
HOSPITAL
Let's Go!
CANCER FREE
Kenedy Peterson

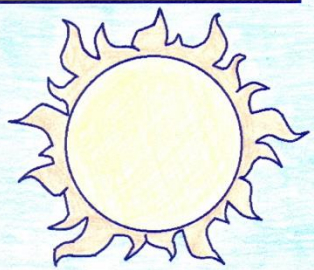
One beautiful day...
let's find the doctor
Check-i
sigh okay
It'll take about 15 minutes
Come on lets turn you on a show
On The Phone-Aunt: She'll be okay don't worry..
I'm gonna worry, She's my daughter
I'm scared
don't worry the doctors are going to take care of you
we're ready
Come on sweety
O.R.
How long will it take?
depends. we'll keep you posted
8 HOURS LATER
sigh Thank goodness when will she be awake?
give it a couple hours. she'll be drowsy
THE END

Nykell Parker

LIMITATIONS

Everyone loves to go out and enjoy the summer sun.

The sun is so bright and beautiful! I absolutely love it!



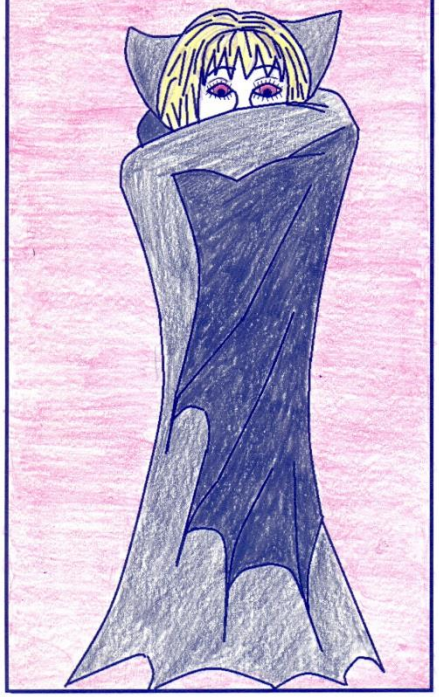
There's just one problem...

...the sun "ABSOLUTELY" HATES ME! It always has and it always will!

In order for you to understand why I say this, you need to know a few things about me.

I AM REALLY WHITE!

I mean I am practically a vampire! I got the whole pale, colorless skin thing going on.



Although... some people say I'm more transparent, like a ghost.

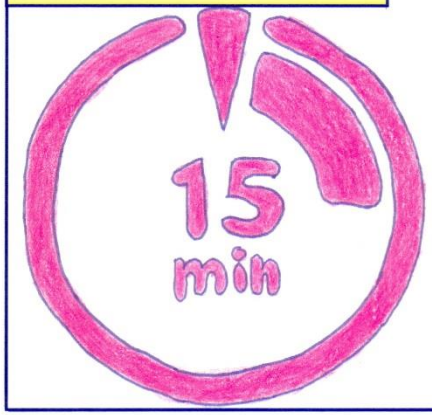
Can't see this... DANANA...NANA...NANA...My-my- my- my whiteness hits you so hard... Makes you say oh my word.

Another thing you need to know about me is that I am kind of allergic to the sun. Yeah... I know it sucks!

If I am out in the sun for to long I get hives and rashes.

When you're like me, sunscreen becomes your best friend during the summer.

I burn so quick and easily that sometimes even 15 minutes out in that sun without sunscreen is too much.



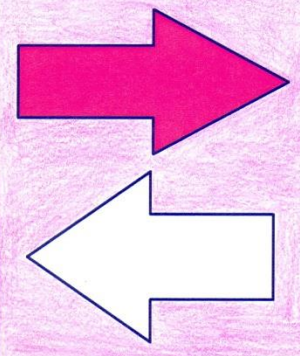
When I get sun burnt, I swell up like a balloon!

I come down with allergy symptoms such as, a runny nose, watery eyes, a cough, and I am left with little to no energy.

There is one last thing you should know about me.

Drum Roll Please.

I don't tan! When I get burnt, I go from red, straight back to white. ***I NEVER GET TAN!***



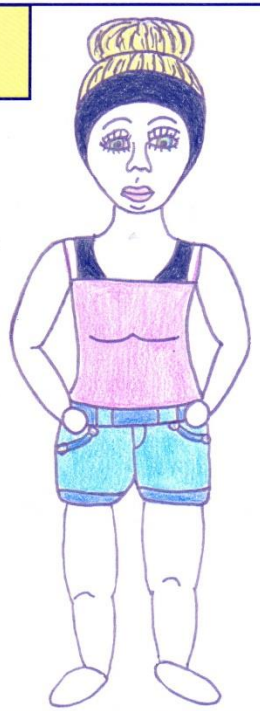
Well... I actually did get "a tan" once....

TWO YEARS AGO..

I was eating breakfast when I realized what a nice day it was. I then thought to myself...

I am going to get a tan!

I immediately went and got changed into something I was sure to get a tan in.



I went outside without applying sunscreen, and began pulling weeds from the flower garden.

The flower garden is covered by the shade from the house. I will be protected from the sun, and get a tan, all at the same time!

15 minutes...

25 minutes...

35 minutes...

45 minutes...

The back of my shoulder itches...

That exact moment I stopped itching my shoulder and dropped everything I was doing! I ran to the closest bathroom. I looked into the mirror and began taking off the clothing on my upper body.

AAAAHHHH!!!

It was terrible! I just stood there staring at my back in disbelief. All while hearing my mother's voice coming from the open bathroom door!

NYKELL ANN PARKER! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, YOU HAVE TO PUT ON SUNSCREEN!

WHEN ARE YOU EVER GOING TO LISTEN TO ME? WHEN I TELL YOU THAT YOU HAVE LIMITATIONS, YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO ME!

MOM, I KNOW! I JUST THOUGHT I COULD GET A TAN! I WAS IN THE SHADE!

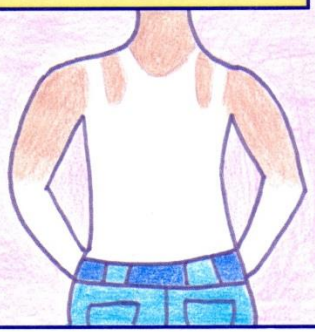
NYKELL, THE SHADE WON'T PROTECT YOU! SUNSCREEN WILL! YOU KNOW THAT EVERY HOUR YOU NEED TO REAPPLY, AND YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TO WEAR SUNCREEN OR YOU WILL DIE!

GET IN A COLD SHOWER AND STAY IN THERE! YOU NEED TO LET THE HEAT OUT, BEFORE IT BURNS EVEN DEEPER! IT WILL ALSO HELP STOP IT FROM BLISTERING EVEN MORE...

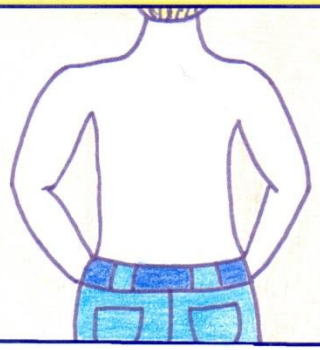
YOU KNOW HOW THE SUN EFFECTS YOU! WHY WOULD YOU BE THIS CARELESS? YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO SICK TOMORROW...

And I was! I was sick for that whole week! And I could barely wear a shirt, lie down, or have anything touching my burn!

In the end, I did get a tan! A REALLY STUPID ONE, but it's still a tan!



Here I am two years later, and that stupid tan just barely went away!



I have learned my lesson! I know I have limitations, and I can't exceed them, or bad things will happen.

So, my advice for you is, don't exceed your limitations. They're there to protect you.

The Nerd in the Classroom

- on Facebook
- www.thenerdintheclassroom.com

All Information handouts from this presentation will be found at:

http://mrbockholt3.weebly.com/ucte.html