



Bookmark

The Story Corner

A gift of stories and
games for you
to share and
enjoy

INSIDE: lots of fun for ages 5-10
Stories, games and activities
Enter Our Competition
to win a prize bundle!

ISSUE 10

Hi everyone!

We're Sandra Marrs and John Chalmers and we make graphic novels (sometimes under the name Metaphrog). John writes and Sandra draws, and we love to build stories together.

Reading comics is the best thing! It's exciting, it makes you laugh, think, learn, and travel with your mind. And the great thing is that you can make your own! All you need is paper and a pencil. It can be anything you like and there's no right or wrong way to do it.

We grew up reading comics (one of our favourites was *Tintin*) and it made us want to make comics. So, it's our dream job! Each new story is an adventure which takes us into a different world. It's an amazing feeling being creative: it gives you a voice and you can share your imagination with others.

Our latest graphic novels are the twisted tale *Harris and Grace*, and the historical adventure story *Freya*. They're both set in Scotland where we live. It's an atmospheric place, perfect for a spooky story, and somewhere anything can happen.

Take care and have fun reading!

Sandra & John



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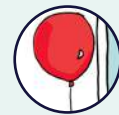


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Can Agent 9 save the world from a complete flood-a-geddon?



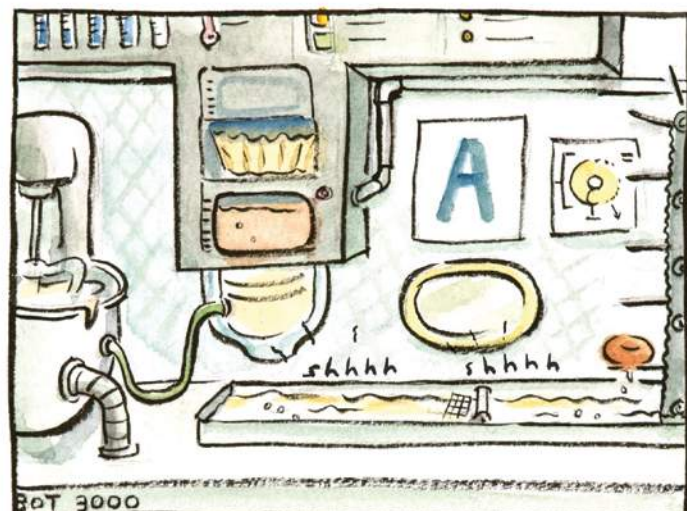
Enter our competition!24

Draw your own Graphic Novel character

The adventures of NORMA AND BELLY BY Mika Song

START
HERE





Draw Some Squirrels



By: _____

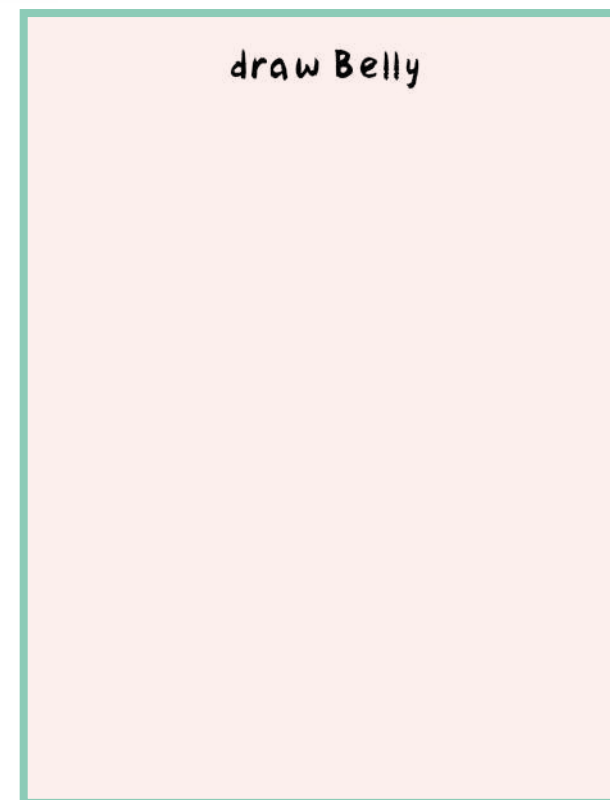
How to draw Belly



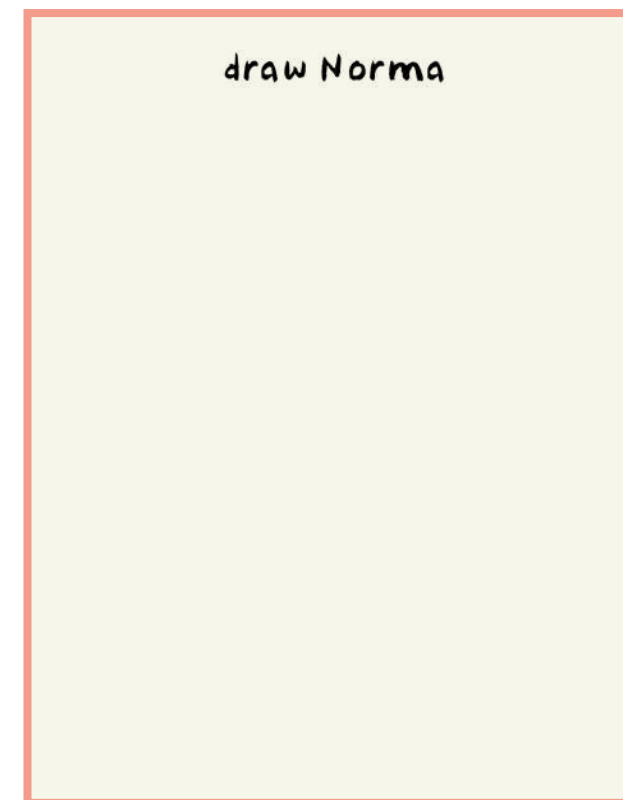
How to draw Norma



draw Belly



draw Norma

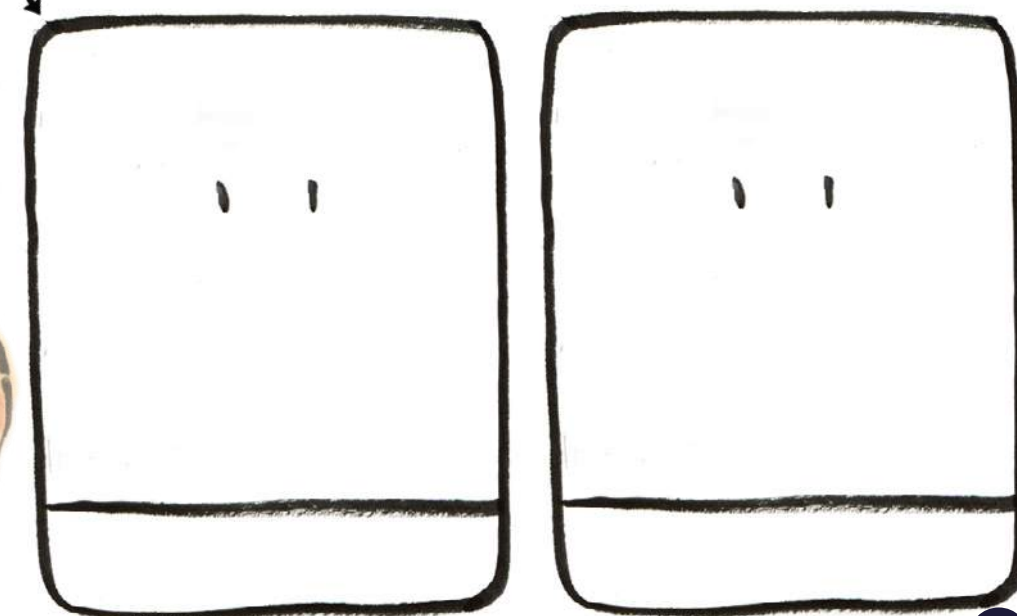


Add bodies to the eyes to create your own squirrels. Give your squirrels names!

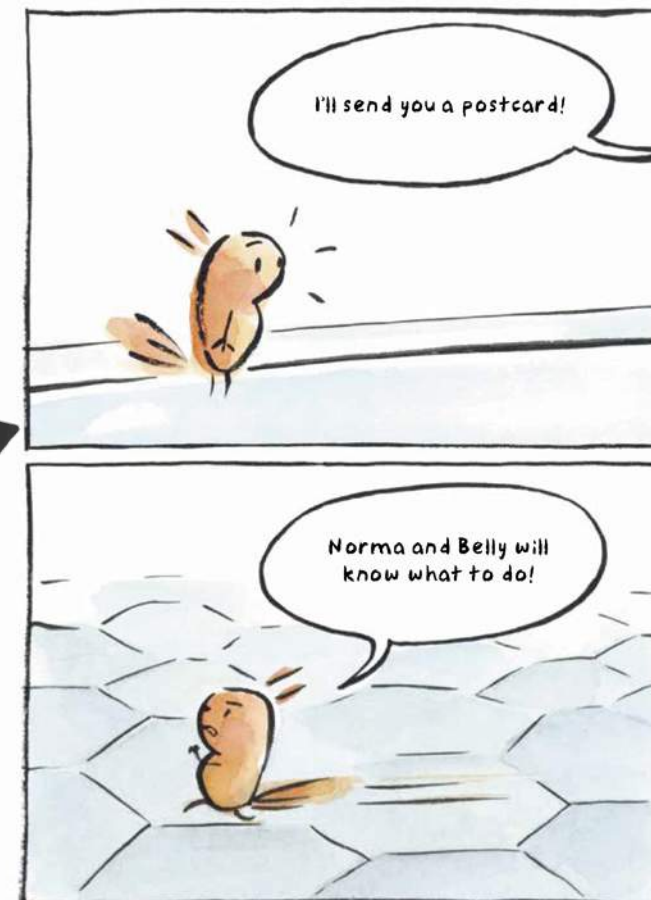
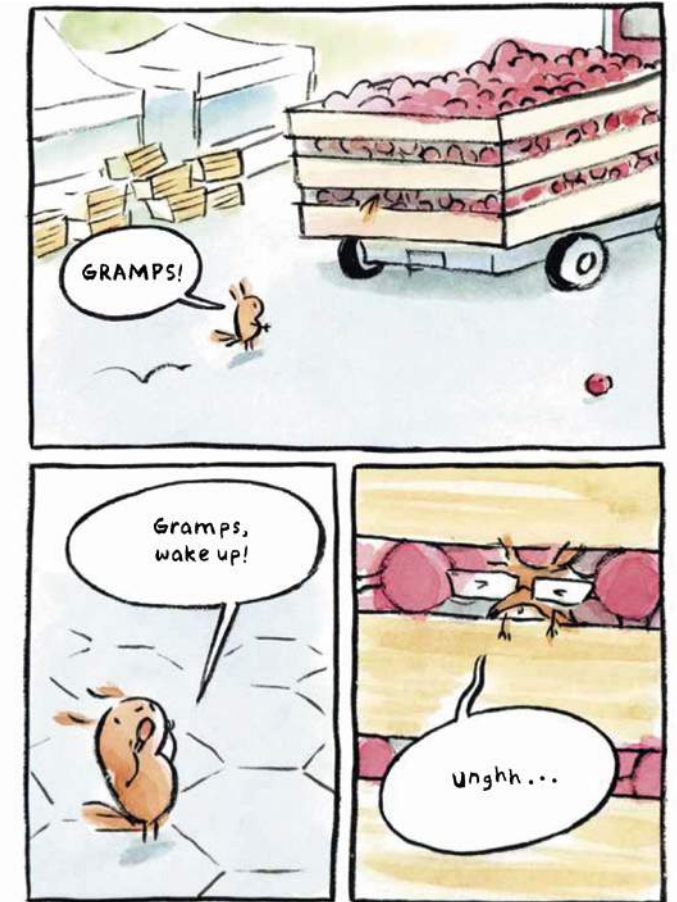
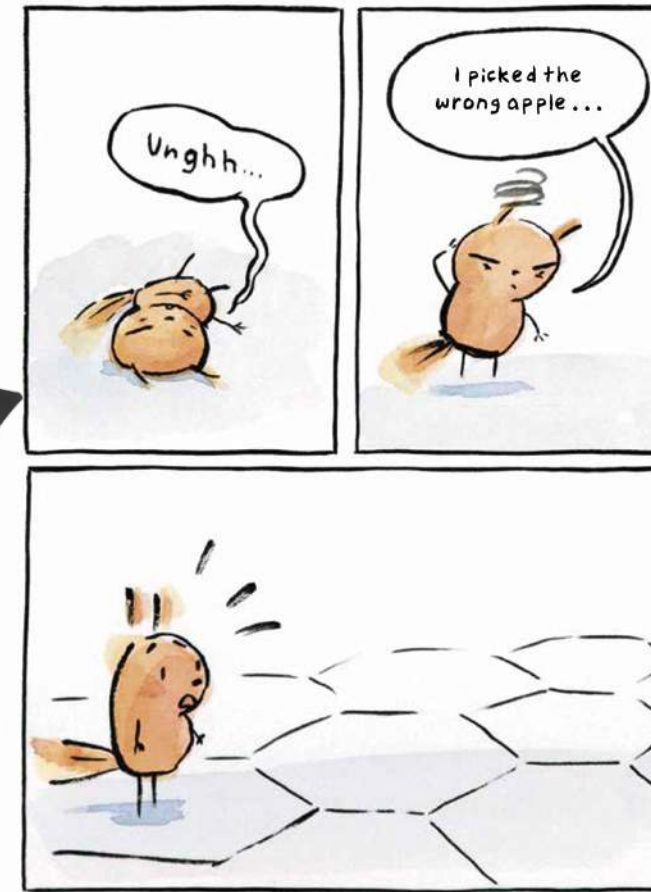
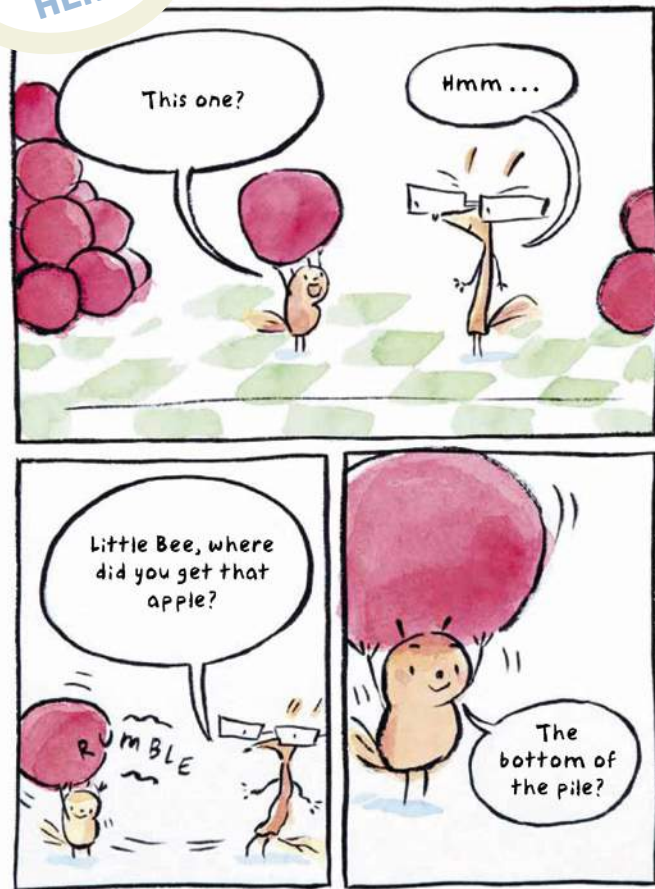
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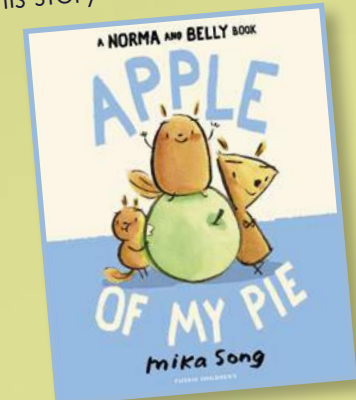
from Pushkin Children's



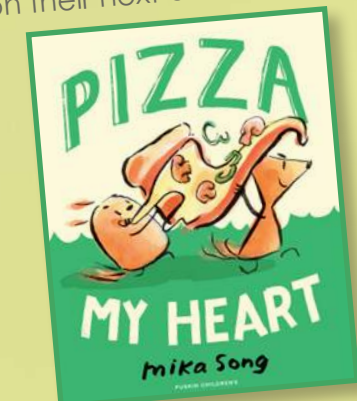
START
HERE



This story is an extract from;



Catch up with Norma and Belly on their next adventure in...



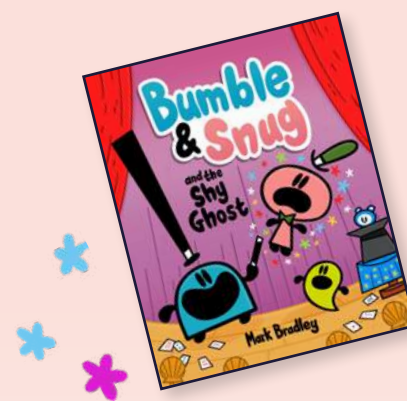
from Pushkin Children's

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Q & A with Mark Bradley

Author & Illustrator of

Bumble & Snug



Rumaysa (aged 5) - How long did it take you to make the graphic novels?

Each Bumble & Snug book takes just over a year to make, from start to finish.

First I come up with a rough idea for the story and then write up a 4-5 page plot outline (which is a description of all the things I want to happen in it). As I'm doing this I think a lot about how I want the book to look, making sure there are always lots of interesting images and new places for the story to go. Once I've finished this plot outline I send it over to my publishers, and we make some tweaks to the story.

Next, I write and draw a rough version of the whole book, with all the text that will go in it. I send that back to my publishers who send me more notes - things like correcting my many, many spelling mistakes and suggesting better ways of wording things. After we've all agreed on that, I draw the finished artwork and then send it back.

Once I finish each book I have a very long sleep, and relax for a little while before I start working on the next one - making graphic novels is a big job!

Anayah (aged 7) - When did you start creating graphic novels? What special techniques did you use to draw your characters?

I had been making comics all my life, and for the last 20 years, I'd been making lots of different webcomics (comics that people make and put on the internet for other people to read). I started making graphic novels when my publishers approached me and asked me if I could make one out of some of the characters in one of my webcomics.

I draw all my books on a computer tablet, as it makes colouring in quicker, and also it means I can easily correct any mistakes I've made. I do all my writing and roughing in pencil and paper - I find it easier to think ideas through when I'm using them.

Yasin (aged 7) - How did you come up with these amazing characters?

About 20 years ago I was making a different comic and randomly drew Bumble in the margins. I loved drawing her so much that I kept on drawing her and soon decided that she needed a friend, which is when I designed Snug. It's a little hard to explain, but their personalities were there as soon as I drew them - it wasn't really a conscious choice. They sort of emerged fully formed.

Haya (aged 5) - Why did you choose blue for the girl and pink for the boy?

When I originally created Bumble & Snug I made them both boys, however when I started work on the graphic novels I realised that Bumble's character would be far better if she was a girl. So the colours were already there as they just fit the character designs and worked well together. I'm very glad I made that choice - I think it worked out well!

Moiz (aged 5) - How many novels have you created? Why did you start creating comics?

I have made 4 Bumble & Snug graphic novels so far, and have just started work on the fifth one.

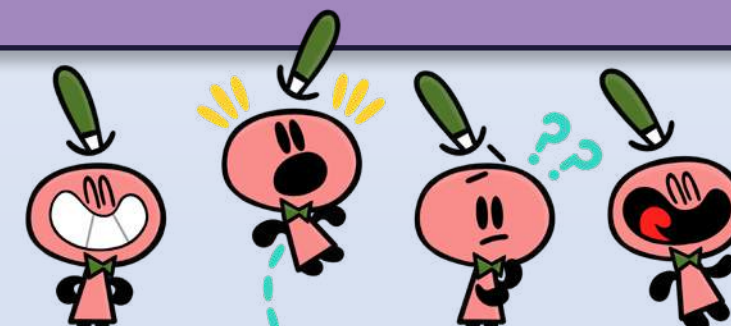
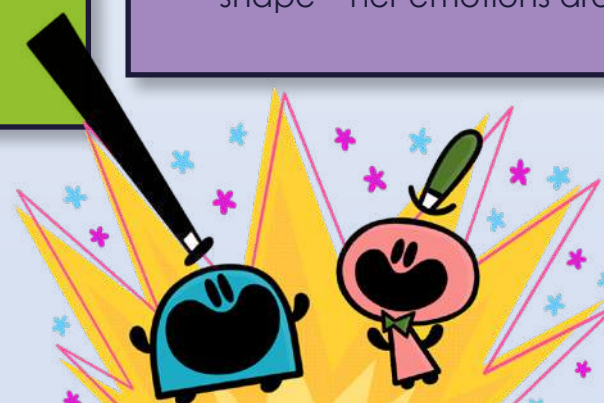
It may sound silly, but I can't answer why I started making comics - I've been drawing them since I first saw one, which was probably around your age! It just made sense to write stories as comics - I loved drawing and writing, so always wanted to combine the two. I've now been drawing comics for so long that I don't know what life looks like if you don't make comics!

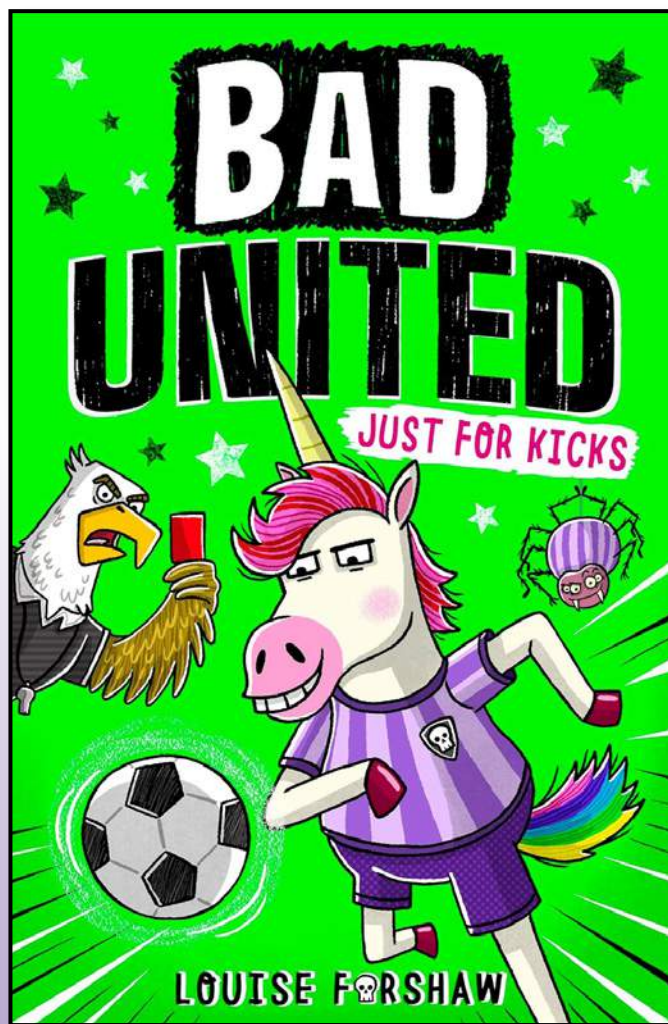
Jake (aged 7) - Where do you get your inspiration from for their stories?

Every story has to have a new type of fantasy character (unicorns, ghosts, giants, etc.) and a new emotion to examine so that always dictates a lot of the story. On top of that, I just love magic, fantasy, ghosts and monsters, so everything I make always involves those. I then think about what I want to draw - I knew for the Excited Unicorn I wanted a superhero story, and for the Shy Ghost I wanted a haunted house. I then throw all those different things into an imaginary blender, and what comes out dictates a lot of the story!

Georgia (aged 7) - How did Bumble get their superpower of being able to change shape and size?

Bumble has had that ability her entire life - a lot of bugbops can have powers: some fly, some glow, some change shape, etc. It just made sense that Bumble could change shape - her emotions are so big, it felt like she would physically change with them.





1

WANTED:

Creatures of any kind who like to kick around a round object.

If you can run/swim/jump/dig/wiggle as fast as lightning - we want YOU to join the MOST EXCITING TEAM YOU'VE EVER SEEN!!

Meet with manager Serena Winner TODAY if you have what it takes. BAD UNITED needs you!

WARNING:

Risk of being trampled, set on fire, drenched in water/slime/slobber, launched into space, magicked into something entirely different.

??\$ @!! @# @!?!



2 The MOST EXCITING TEAM YOU'VE EVER SEEN?

That's the one for me!

WANTED:
Creatures of any kind who like to kick around a round object.
If you can run/swim/jump/dig/wiggle as fast as lightning - we want YOU to join the MOST EXCITING TEAM YOU'VE EVER SEEN!!
Meet with manager Serena Winner TODAY if you have what it takes. BAD UNITED needs you!

I'd better get a move on!

3

Whoa!

I'd better get a move on!

4

That must be Bad United. I hope I'm not too late!

I'm bad to the bone.

5

I'm here...

To join...

SWAGGER

Ooops -

6

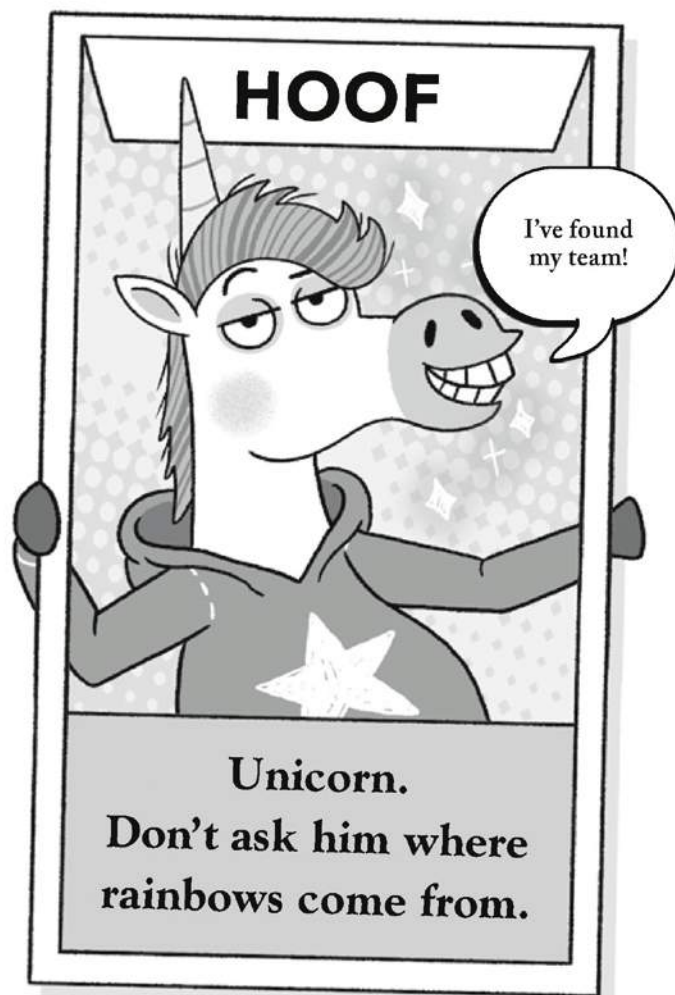
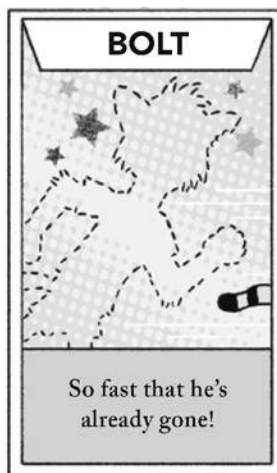
Your team!

LET'S MEET OUR PLAYERS:

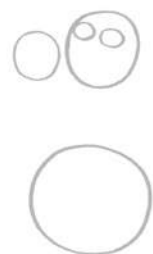
SERENA WINNER
Have fun out there!
Manager, mermaid. Wants you to do your best!

BONES
I'm bad to the bone.
Team captain, skeleton. Often loses her head.

ANNETTE
Catch you soon!
Goalkeeper. Bigger than your average spider.



An extract from **Bad United**, written and illustrated by Louise Forshaw, Little Tiger 2024



Step 1:
Draw some circles in light pencil.



Step 2:
Join up the circles, adding arms and legs.



Step 3:
Add in Hoof's fabulous mane, tail and horn.



Step 4:
Dress Hoof in his Bad United kit.



Step 5:
Draw over the lines and remember to add in Hoof's dazzling smile.



Step 6:
Add more details.



Step 7:
Use a rubber to rub out the pencil lines.

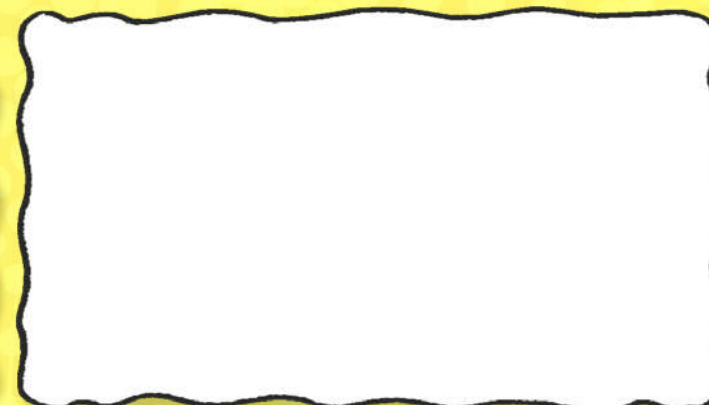
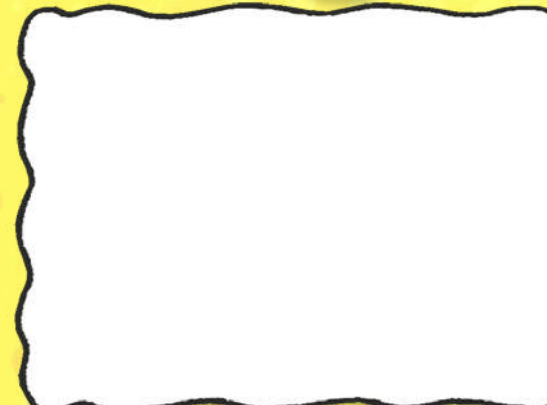
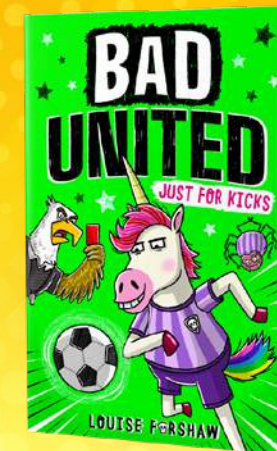


Step 8:
Add colour!

Finish the comic strip

Today is Match Day! Nothing is going to stop Hoof the Unicorn from playing his first match with BAD UNITED!

Now you know how to draw him, fill in the comic strip below to complete Hoof's dream.



Joke Corner

What is a squirrel's favourite treat?

A do-nut!

Why can't you give Elsa a balloon?

She'll let it go!

What is the difference between a unicorn and a carrot?

One is a funny beast and the other is a bunny feast!

Did anyone go to the donut party?

I heard it was jam packed!

Animal Top Trumps

from and inspired by *How Do Meerkats Order Pizza?* by Brooke Barker

Suggested play:

Share the cards between 2 players.

One player selects a category from one of their cards.

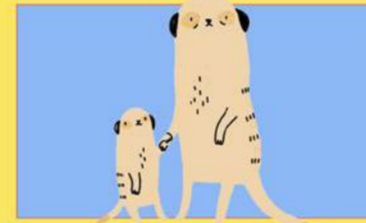
The other player reveals the same category points from their chosen card.

The player with the highest value wins a point!

Repeat by taking it in turns - a player wins when they reach 5 points.

You can also create your own top trump cards to add to the collection.

Meerkat



Did you know a meerkat's dark eye circles help them see when it's sunny?

Size 4

Wise 7

Cute 8

Brave 3

Snake



Did you know snakes don't have eyelids?

Size 3

Wise 7

Cute 6

Brave 4

Ostrich



Did you know ostriches are the fastest running birds in the world?

Size 8

Wise 3

Cute 3

Brave 4

Dog



Did you know humans and dogs have lived together for thousands of years?

Size 5

Wise 6

Cute 10

Brave 9

Human



Did you know human ears never stop growing?

Size 6

Wise 10

Cute 5

Brave 6

Giant River Otter



Did you know giant river otters can swim 100 metres in less than 30 seconds?

Size 5

Wise 9

Cute 7

Brave 10

Out now!



Faber 2024

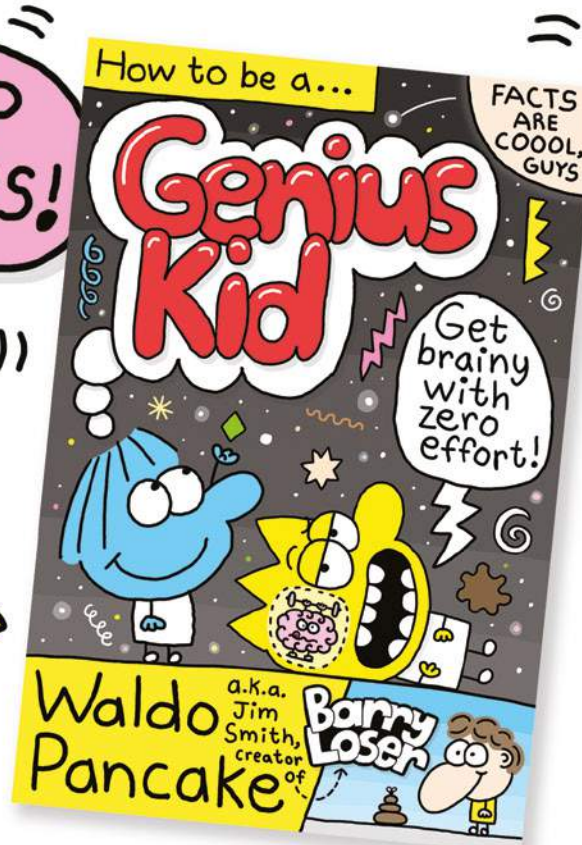
Balloon Story



How to write & draw a...

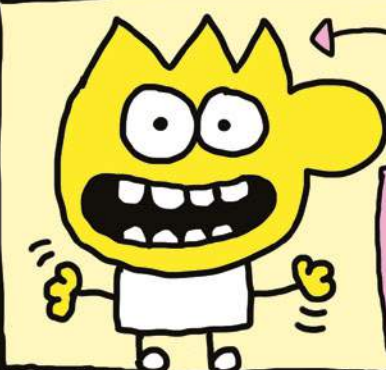
TOP TIPS!

Comic Book



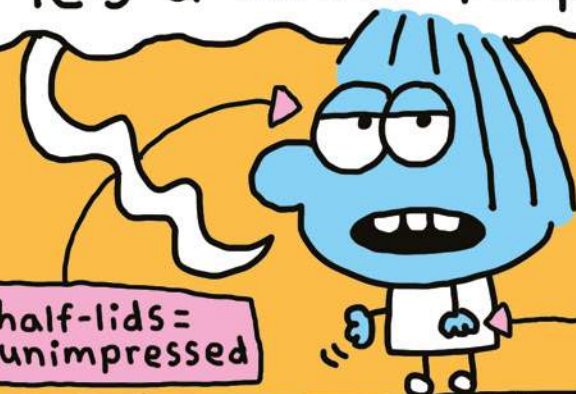
By the author of this one

Hello! I'm G.K. and I am a Genius Kid!



Simple, easy-to-recognise head shape

He's not a genius. He's a nincompoop.



half-lids = unimpressed

only need 3 fingers

I AM NOT AN INCOMPOOP!

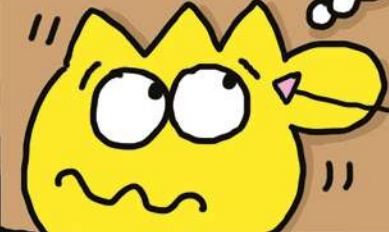


Don't have to show whole body

bold lettering & spiky speech bubble = angry

Anyway...

How do I get out of this blimmin' box?!



this helps change the scene

thought bubble!

worried eyebrows

Then... Hey - check it out!

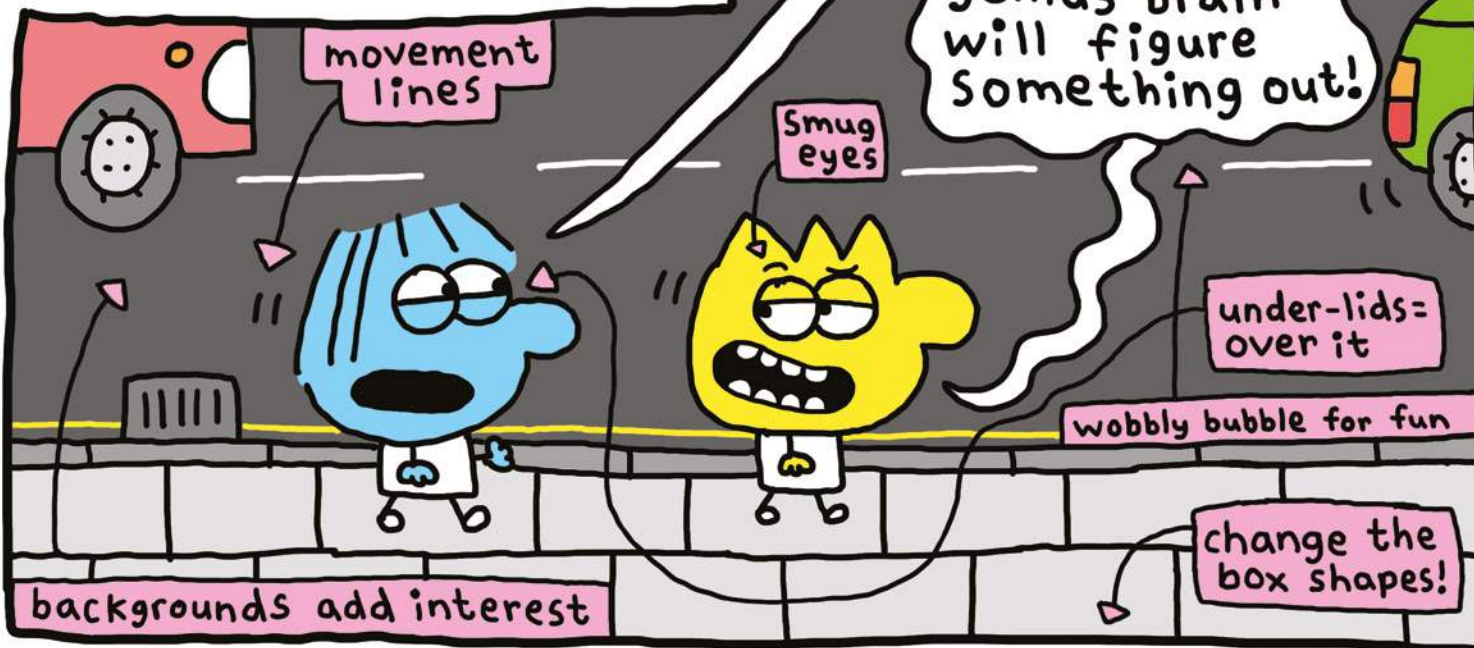


stretchy arms

break out of the box!

So now what?

Don't worry, I'm sure my genius brain will figure something out!



movement lines

Smug eyes

under-lids = over it

wobbly bubble for fun

change the box shapes!

Suddenly...

GAHHH-GIANT PENCIL!

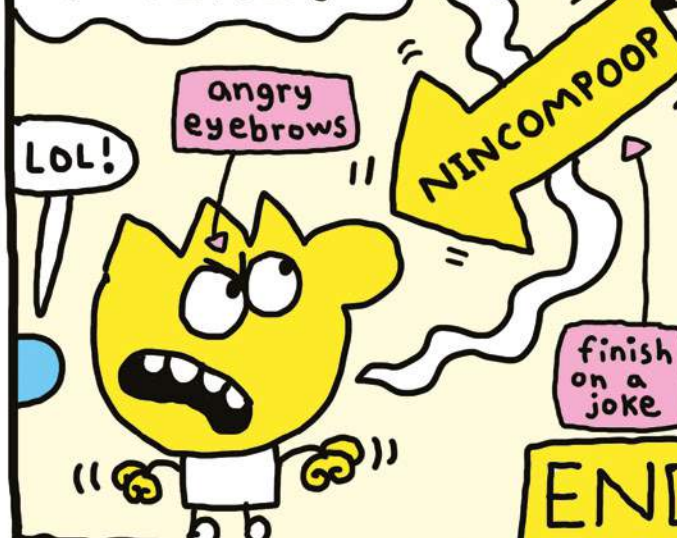


Play with size

build drama near the end

add detail = more realistic

And... WHO PUT THAT SIGN THERE?!



angry eyebrows

LOL!

NINCOMPOOP

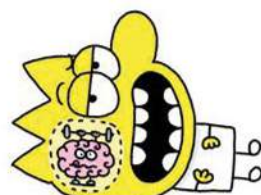
finish on a joke

END.

final tip: do whatever makes you happy!



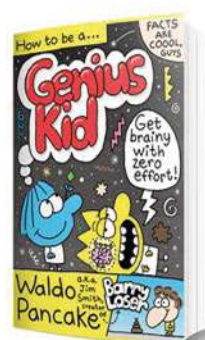
Genius Kid



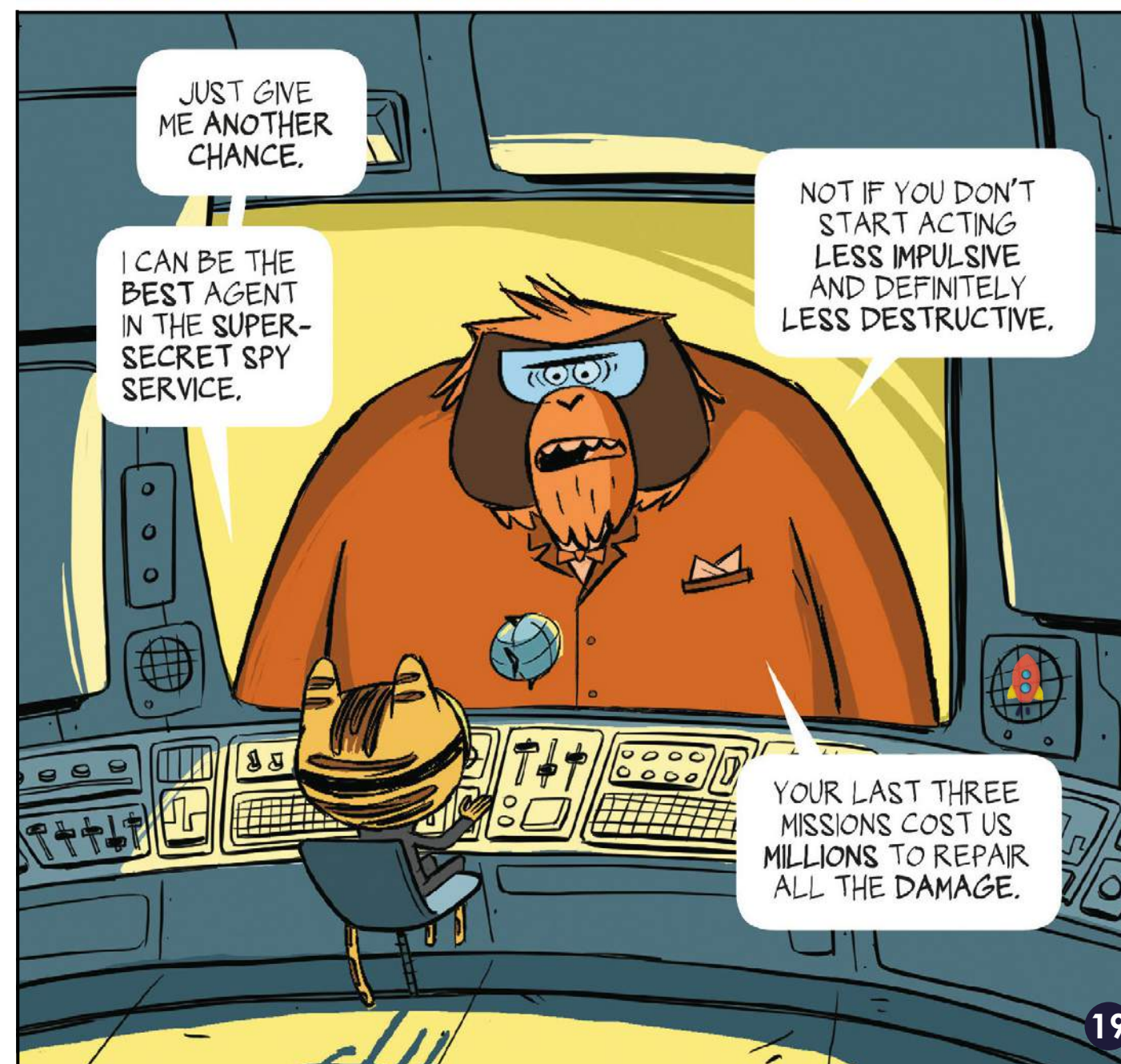
TOP 10 BONKERS FACTS

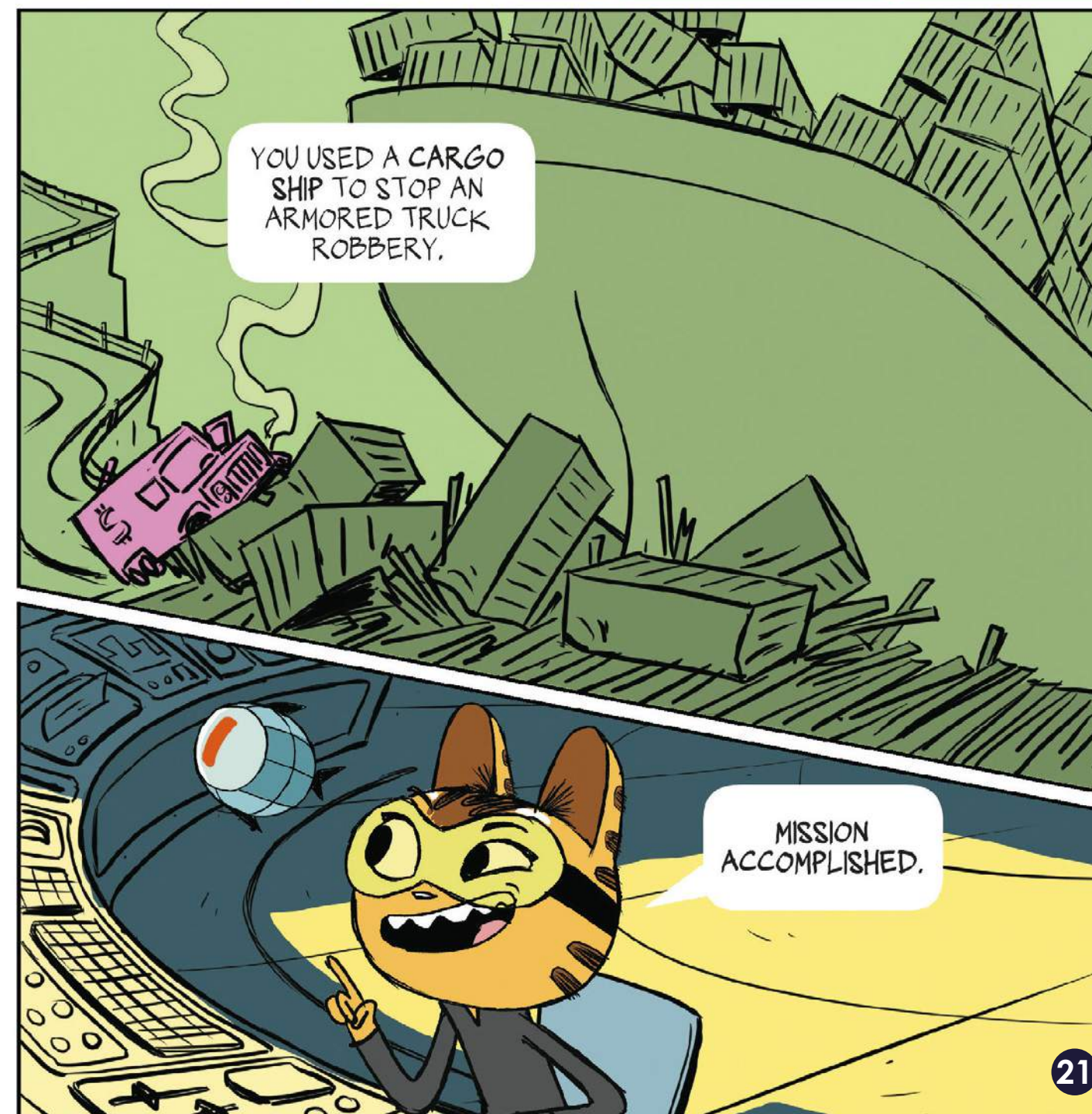
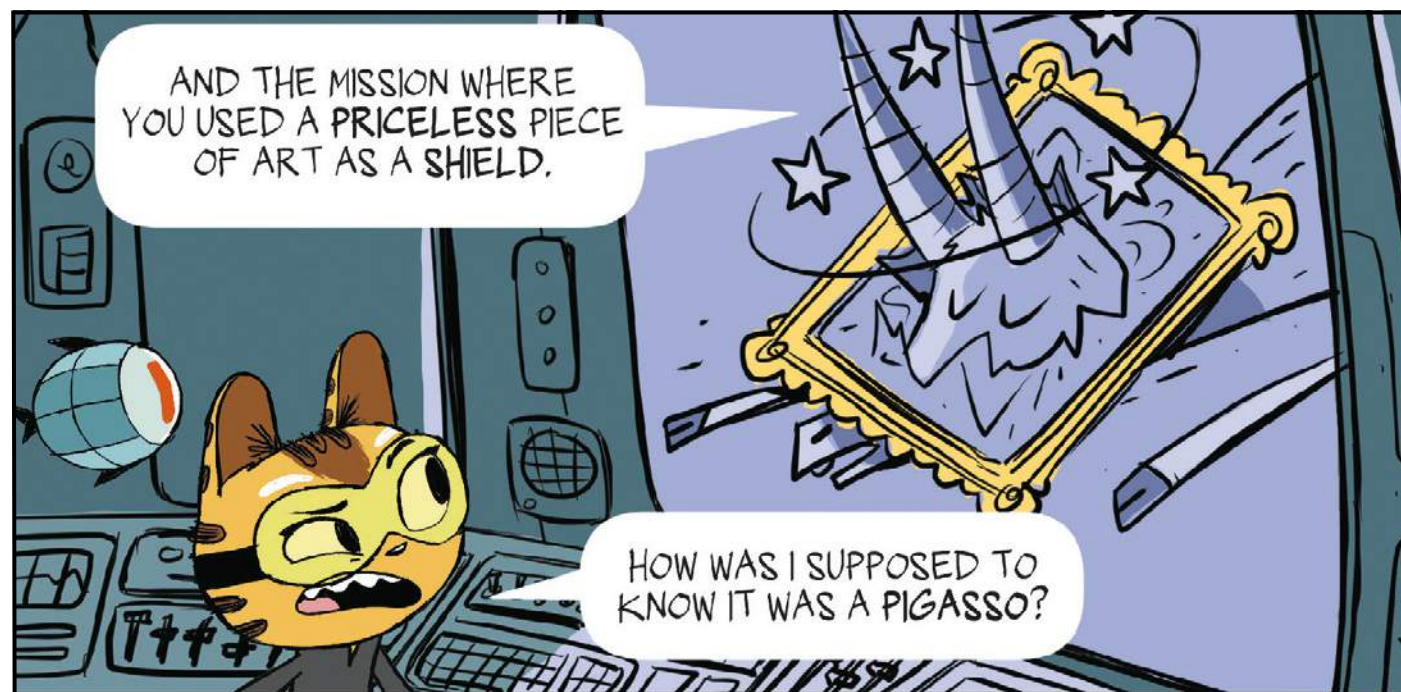


1. A CAT HAS 32 MUSCLES IN ITS EARS, IT'S HOW THEY CAN TWIZZLE THEM AROUND SO MUCH!
2. THE SLINKY WAS INVENTED BY MISTAKE, IT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO KEEP SENSITIVE SHIP EQUIPMENT STEADY AT SEA.
3. WE LOVE THE SMELL OF RAINDROPS ON THE HOT PAVEMENT AS WHEN WE WERE CAVEMEN THAT SMELL MEANT WATER FOR OUR CROPS.
4. SCIENTISTS THINK THAT GOLDFISH ACTUALLY CAN REMEMBER THINGS FOR UP TO 5 MONTHS.
5. THE MORE AN OBJECT'S MOLECULES MOVE AROUND THE MORE IT SMELLS. GLASS MOLECULES DON'T MOVE AROUND HENCE THERE IS NO SMELL BUT POO MOLECULES MOVE A LOT, HENCE THE STINK!
6. THE NEAREST STAR TO US IS 40 TRILLION KILOMETRES AWAY AND ITS LIGHT TAKES FOUR YEARS TO REACH US. THIS MEANS WE'RE SEEING HOW THE STAR LOOKED FOUR YEARS AGO.
7. NAILS AND HAIR ARE MADE OUT OF THE SAME THING!
8. EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE IS MADE OUT OF DUST FROM THE BIG BANG 13.8 BILLION YEARS AGO.
9. LIGHT TRAVELS AT 300,000 KILOMETRES PER SECOND.
10. THE SUN IS 400 TIMES BIGGER THAN THE MOON.



An extract from **Agent 9: Flood-a-geddon!** by James Burks







What is your character's name?

Are they good or bad?

Do they have powers?

Enter our competition!
Draw your own Graphic Novel character

Your Name

Age

HOW TO
ENTER

24

Once you have finished, ask a grown-up to take a picture of your character. Send it to:
thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org

GROWN-UPS
terms/conditions, including closing date, available on our website:
bookmarkreading.org/the-story-corner



The Story Corner (issue 9)
'Design an outfit that shows who you are'
drawing competition!

★ **WINNER!** ★

Name: **Naba**
Age: **5**



Bookmark



Which page is the present hidden on?



Which page is the smiley hidden on?



Which page is the rocket hidden on?



Find the hidden item in each magazine this school year. Mark the page number in the right circle. Cut out and keep this handy bookmark so you can use again. Send a picture of your completed bookmarks to thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org and keep an eye on our website!

The Story Corner Treasure Hunt Challenge!

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fundraising@bookmarkreading.org

TOP TIPS for grown-ups

by **Jon Biddle**
 Teacher & English Lead
 @jonnybid

TIP 1

Create your own comic strips

Creating graphic novels and comic strips is a great way for children to show their knowledge and creativity. They can use ideas from inside this magazine to help!

TIP 2

Find series of graphic novels

If your child enjoys the first book in a graphic novel series, the chances are they're going to read the rest of it! You can visit your local library to see if they have any series.

TIP 3

Read them yourself

Most children's graphic novels can be read in around an hour, so why not enjoy them yourself and talk to your child about what you're reading!

TIP 4

Let children be the experts

Children tend to know more about graphic novels than adults so let them be the experts! They could recommend ones they think you'll enjoy or create a graphic novel display at home.



Bookmark

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This magazine is designed to last. Please read me, share me, keep me.