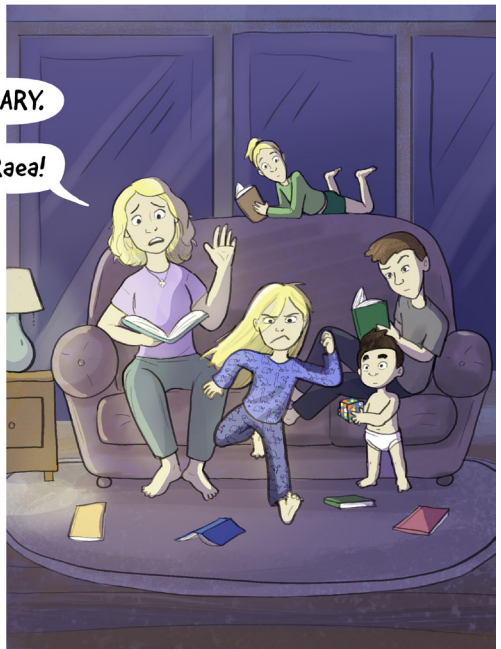


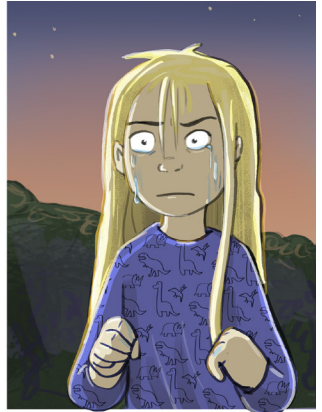
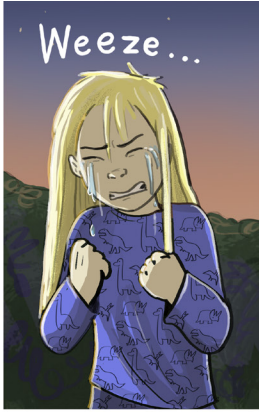
EX-TRA-ORD-IN-ARY.



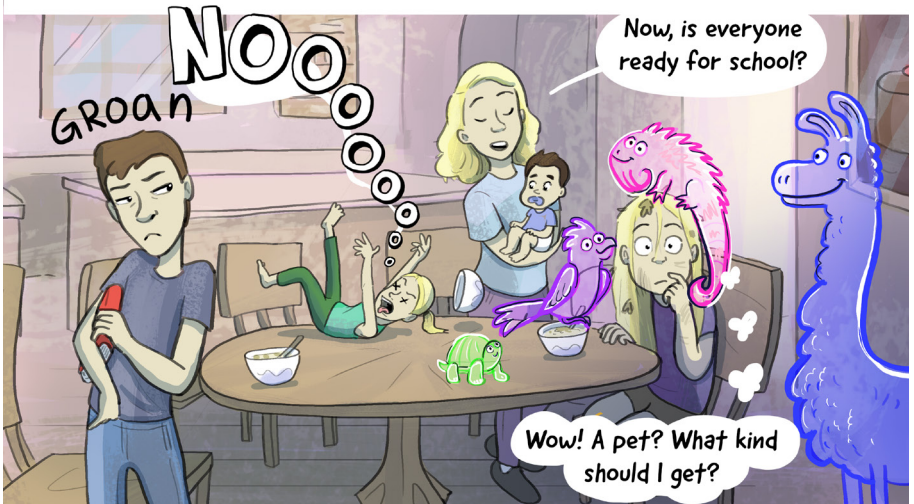
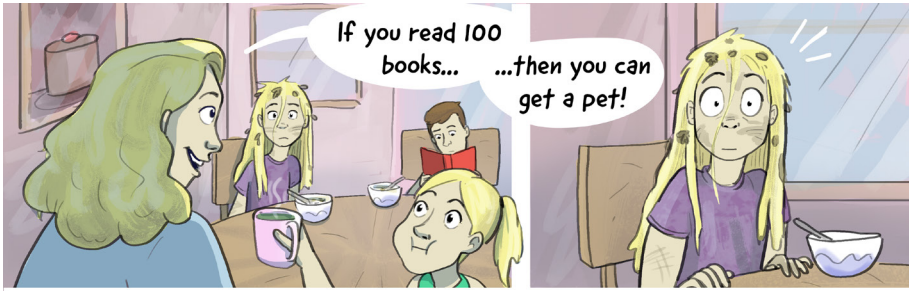


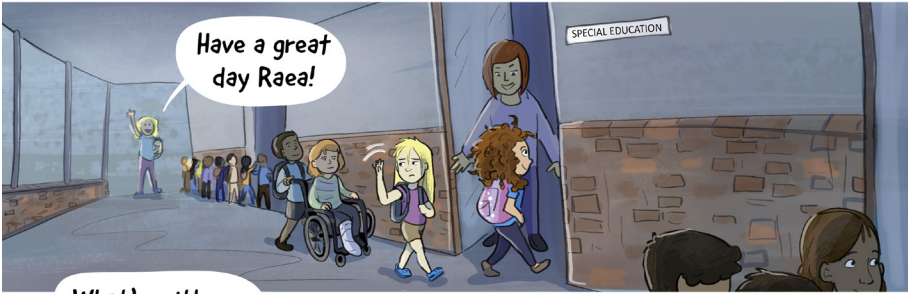
Mom, why can't Raea read?











I know... but <sup>HOW?</sup> It's:

# IMPOSSIBLE

I can't read.

At all.

...

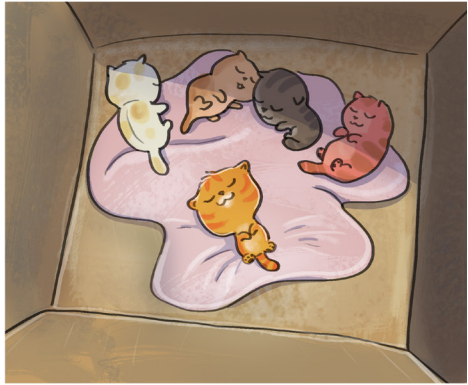
Well you're a great storyteller...

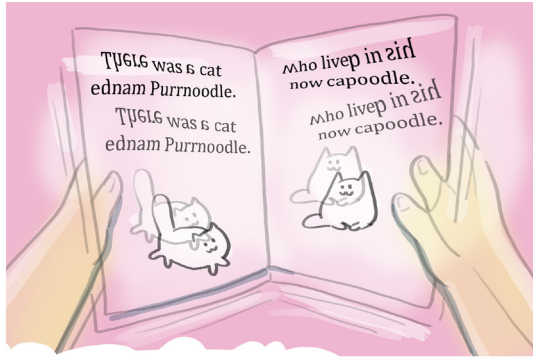
and books  
are just  
stories.

GIRLS!

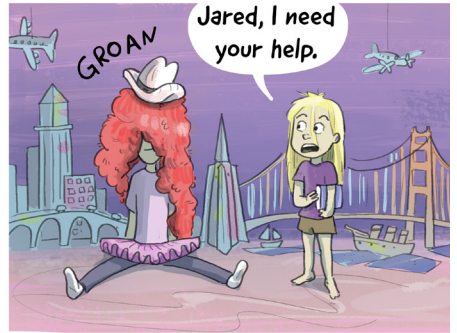
Eyes on the  
whiteboard please.

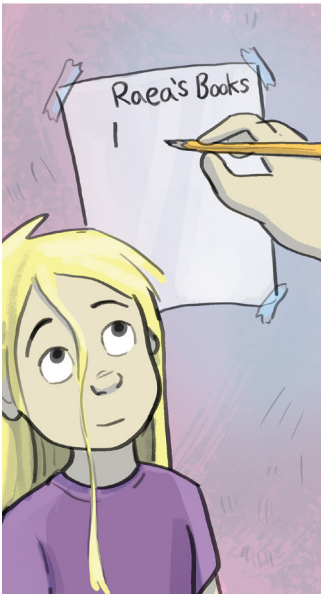
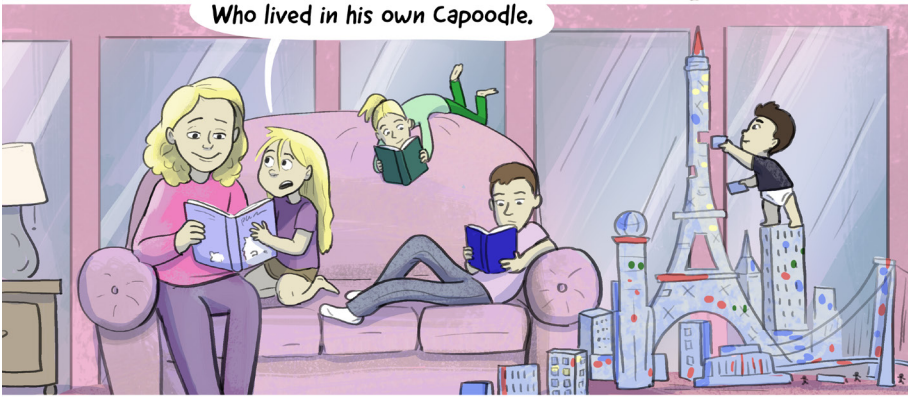
Hmm.





Hmm... books are just stories...







Why, you have a heart of gold, don't cha?



You have so much to look forward to, little fella.



You're going to grow up and someone is going to fall in love with you and take you home.

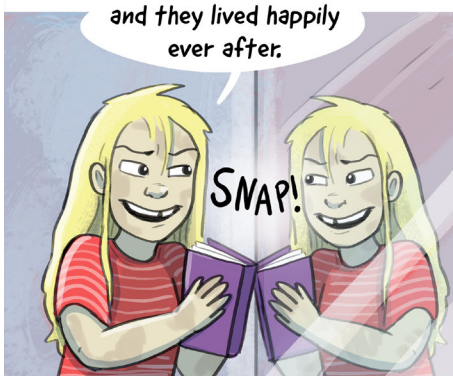


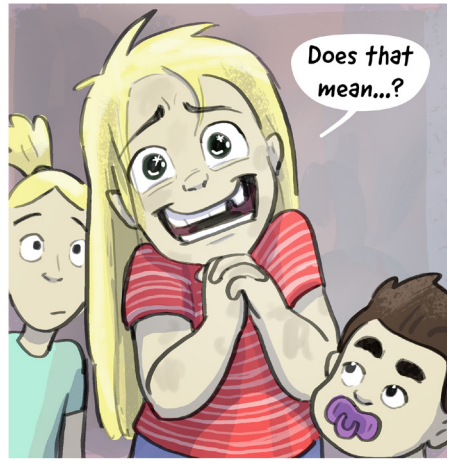
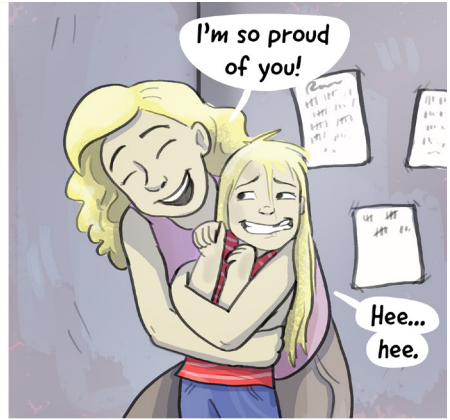
Now, sweetheart... you've got to promise me something.

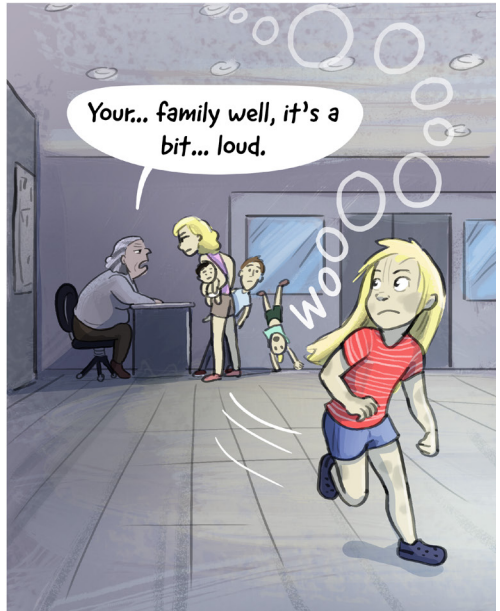
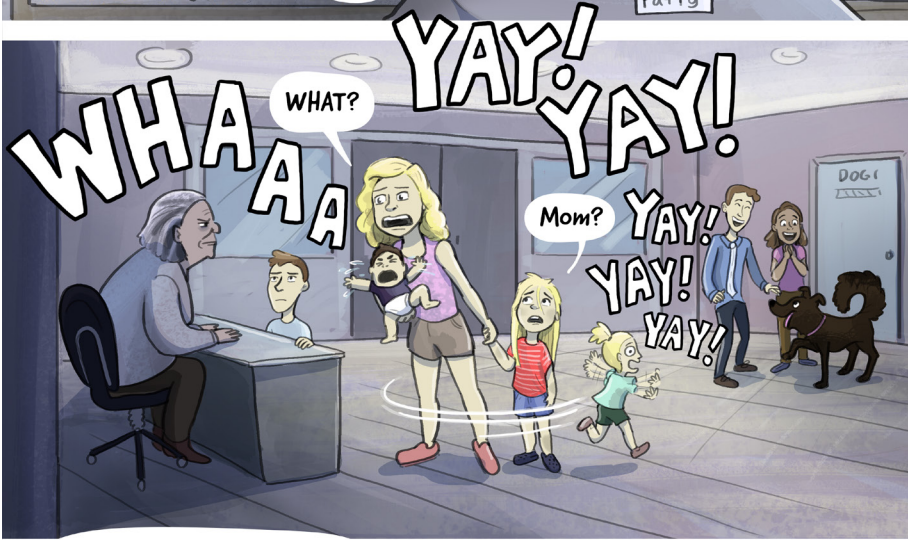
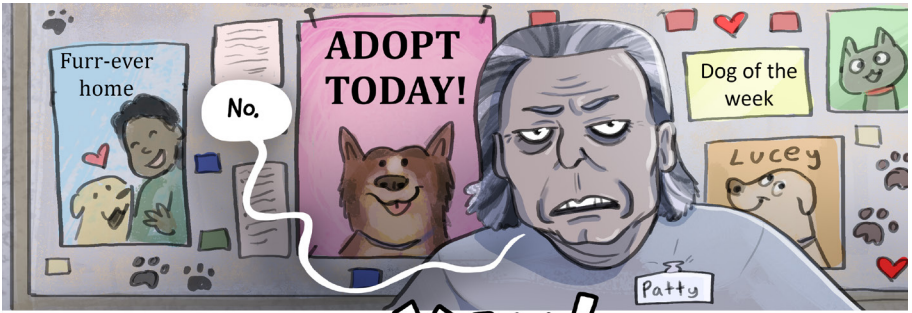


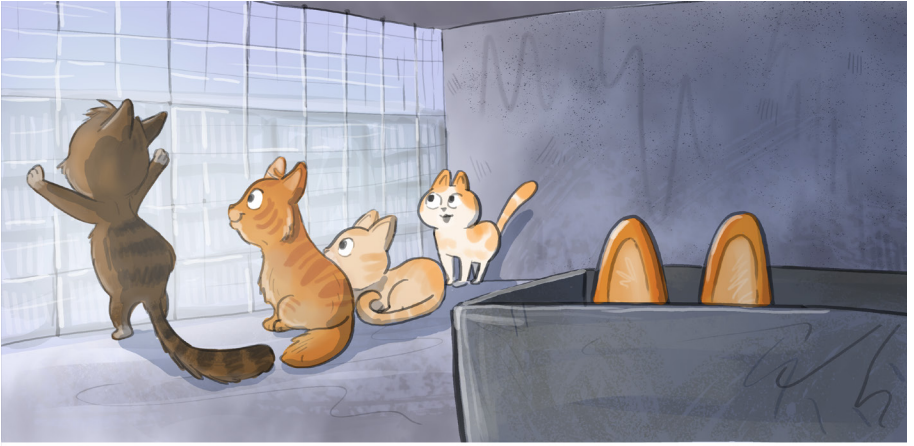
That person is going to be very special so make sure you love them with all your heart.

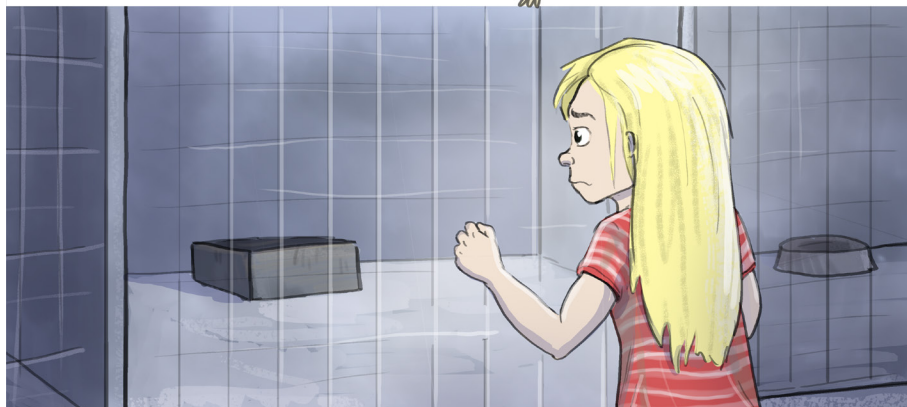
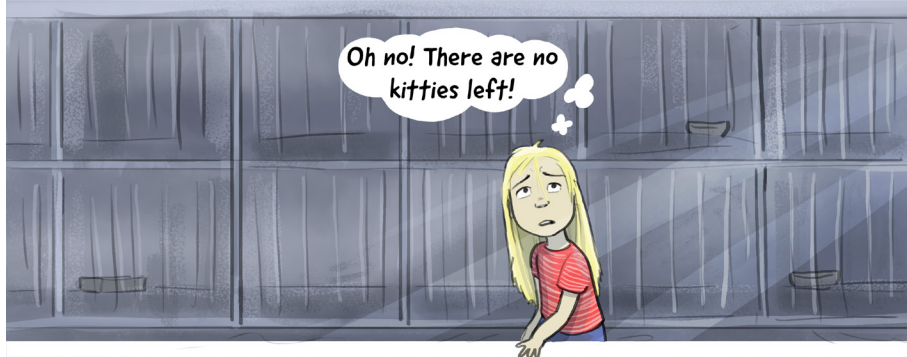
**MEW!**

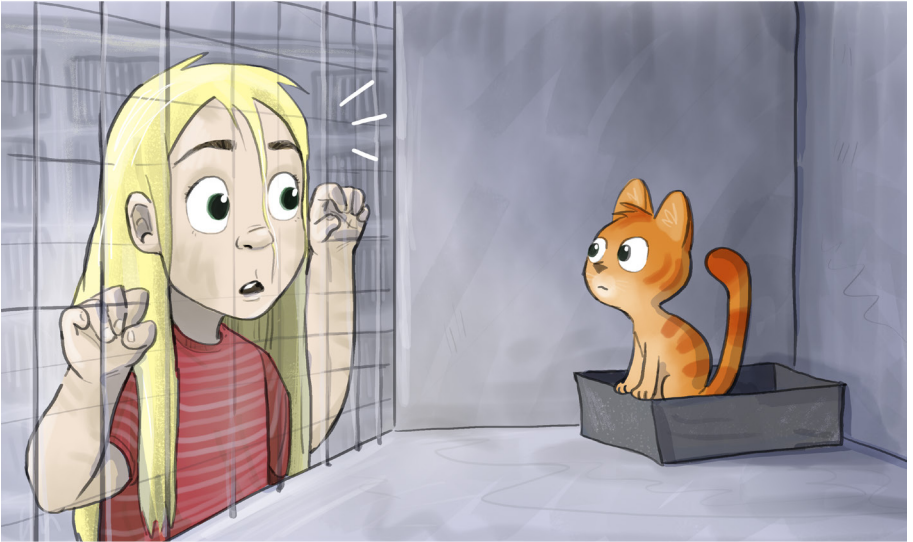
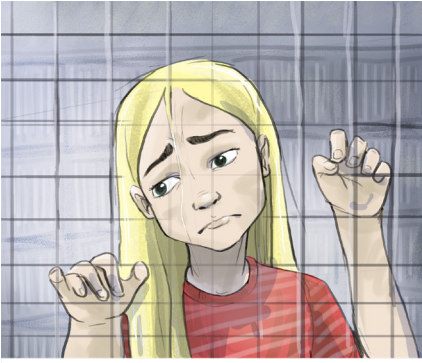


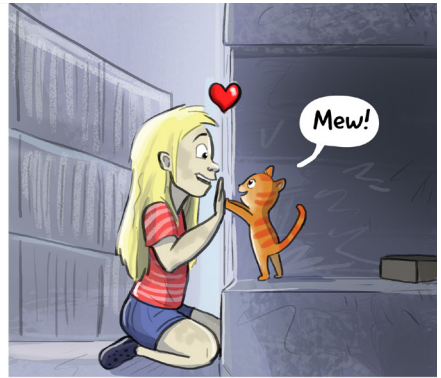










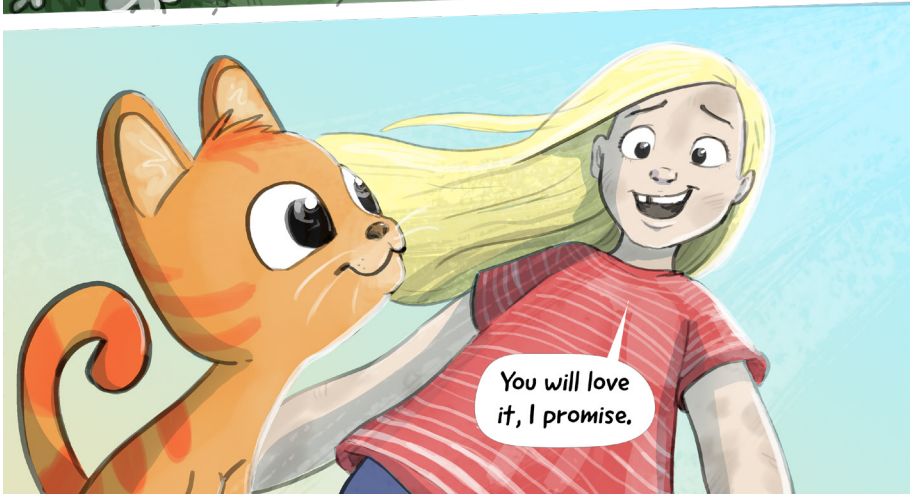


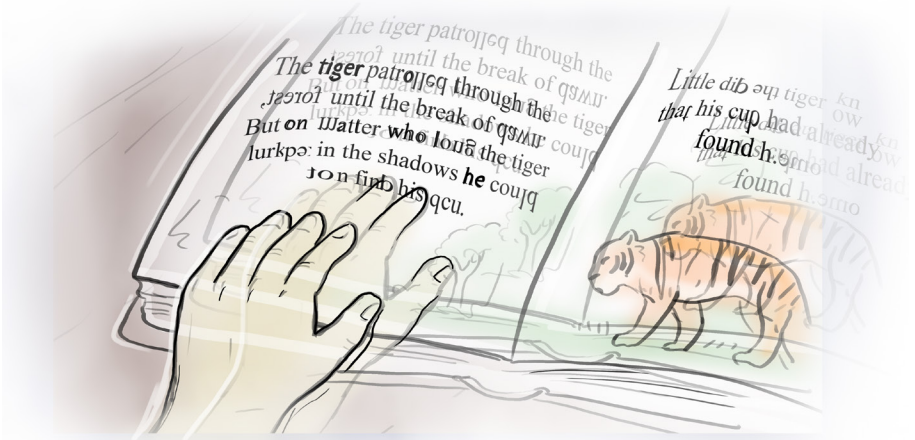
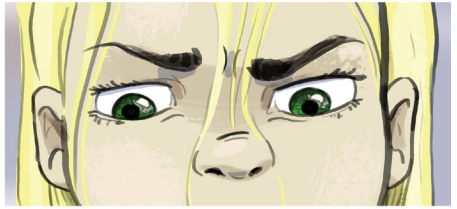
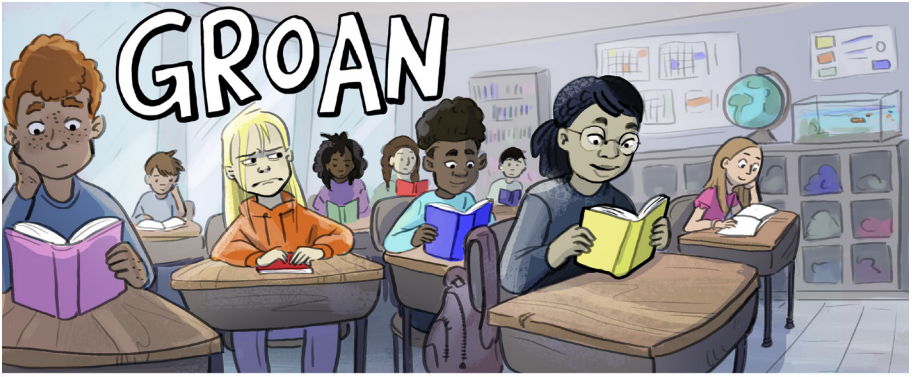


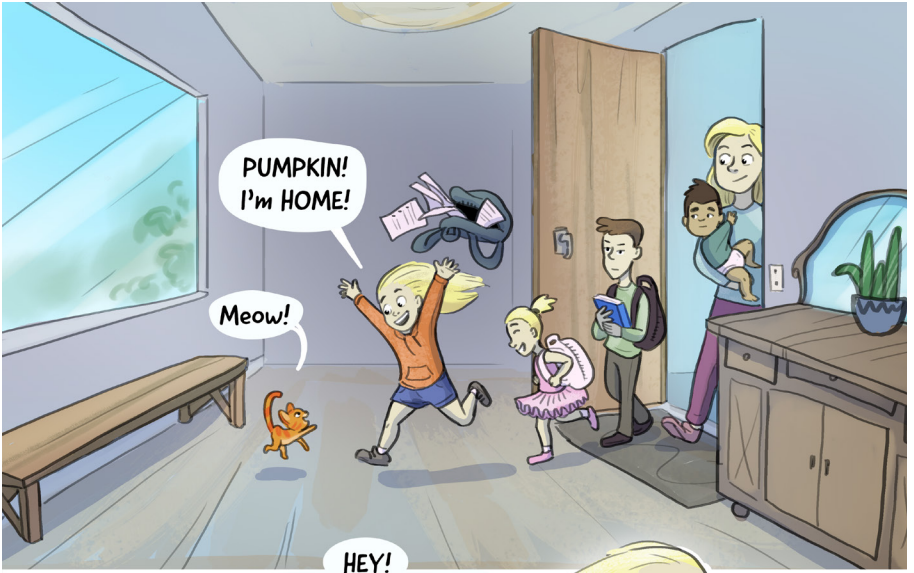




# CANYON









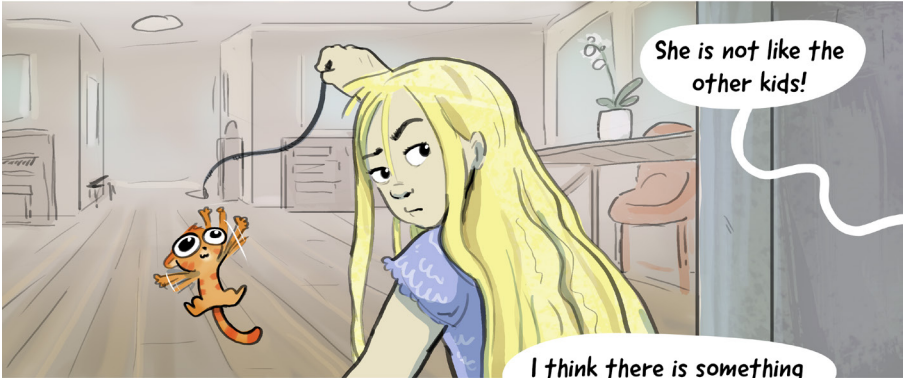
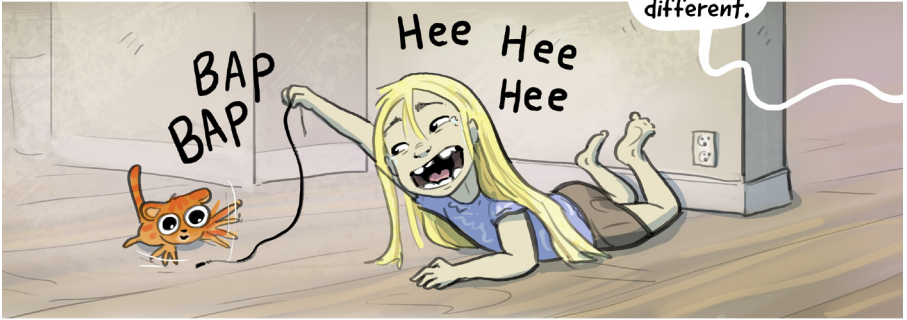






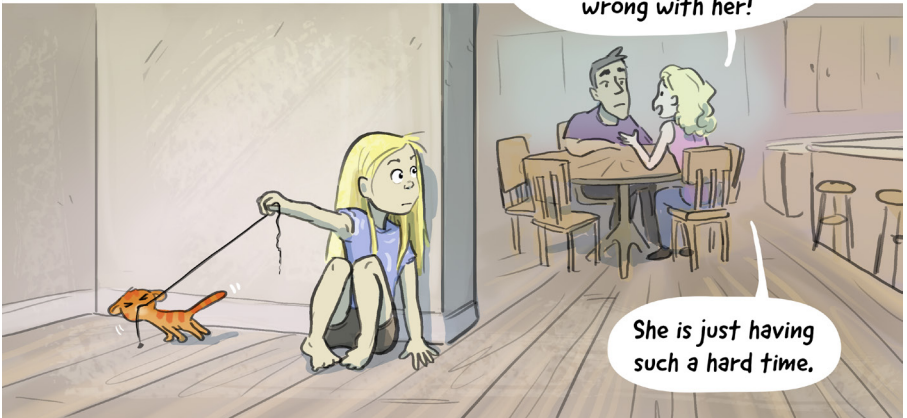


She's just different.

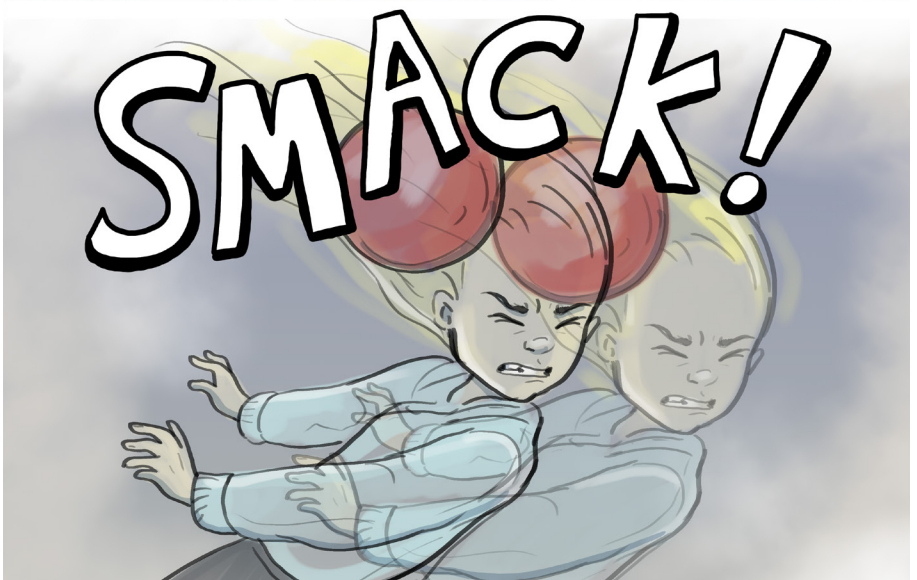


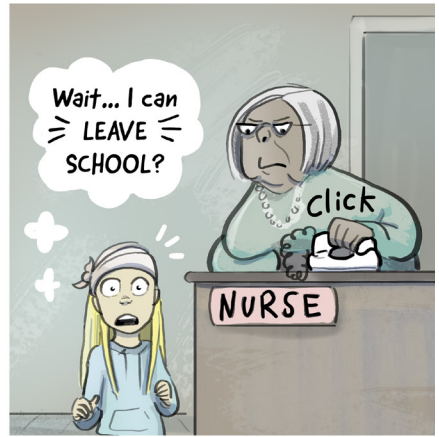
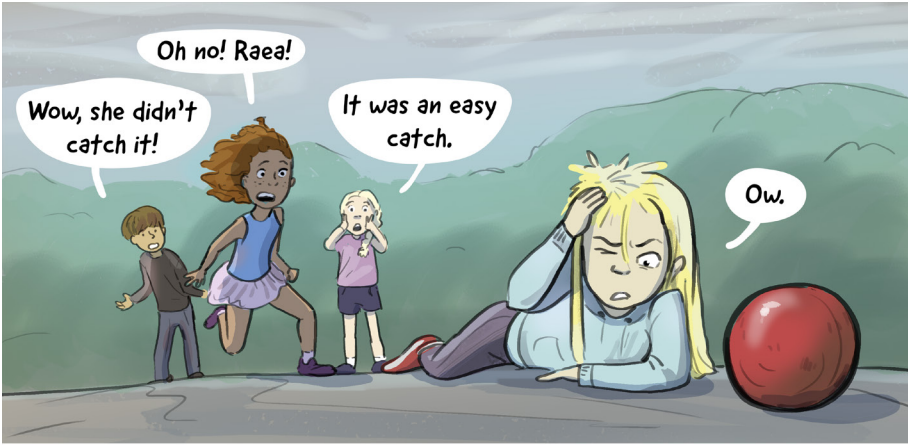
She is not like the other kids!

I think there is something wrong with her!

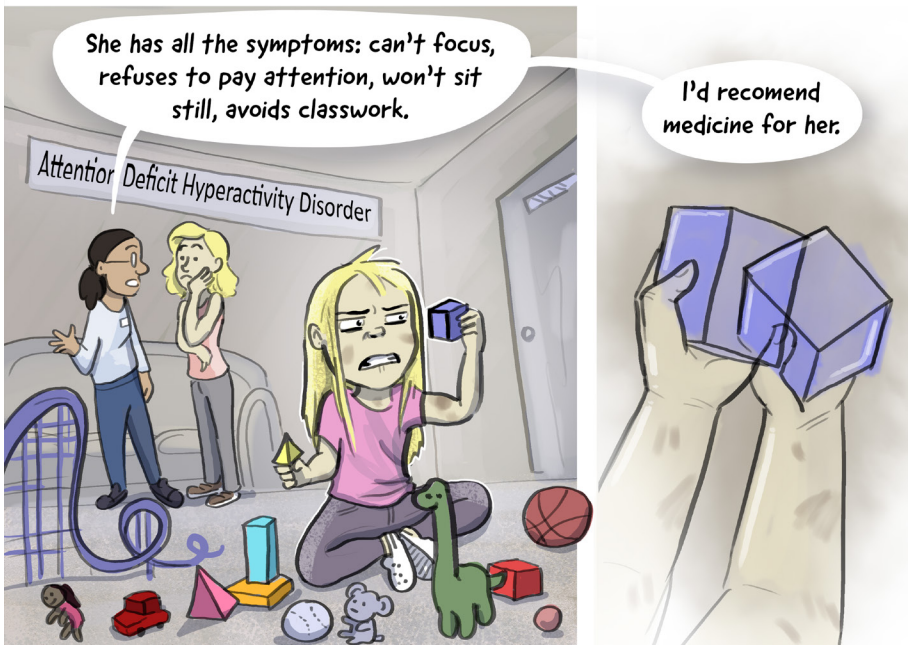


She is just having such a hard time.





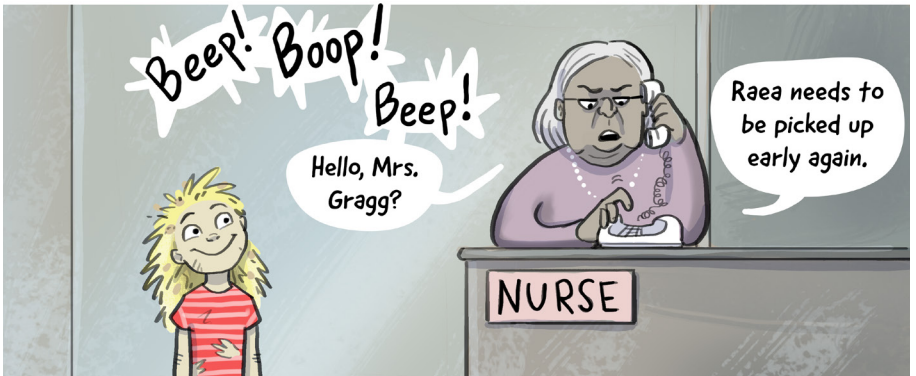
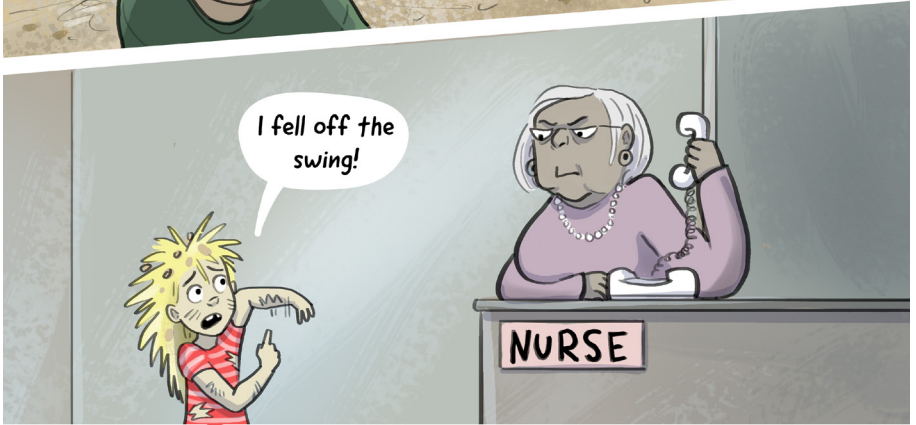
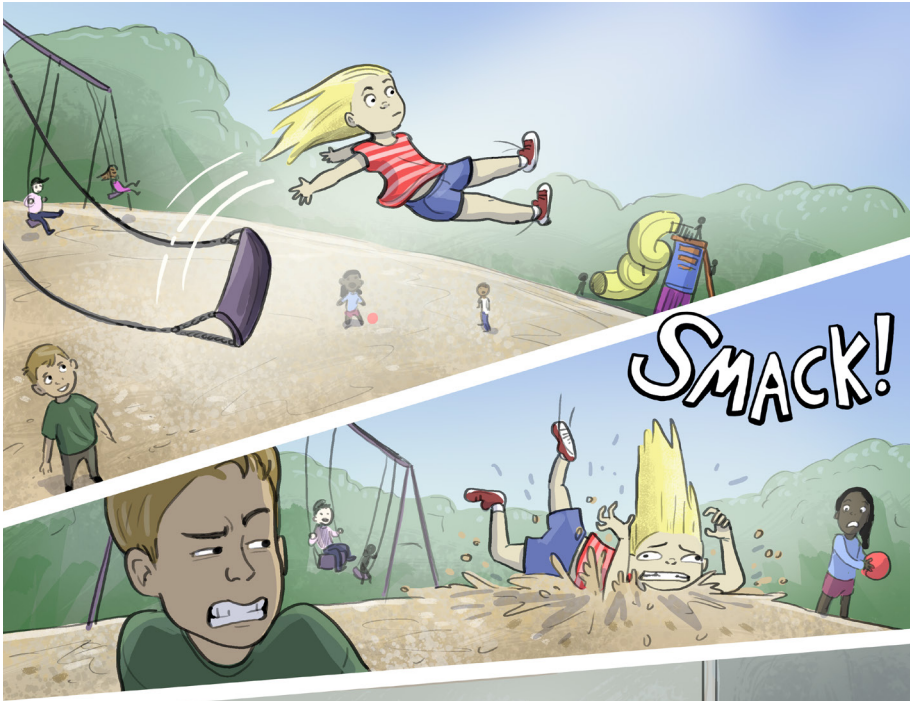


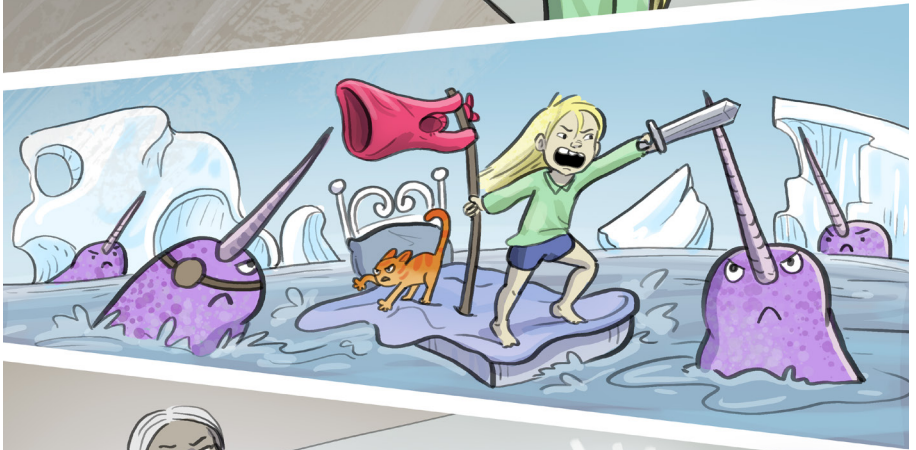
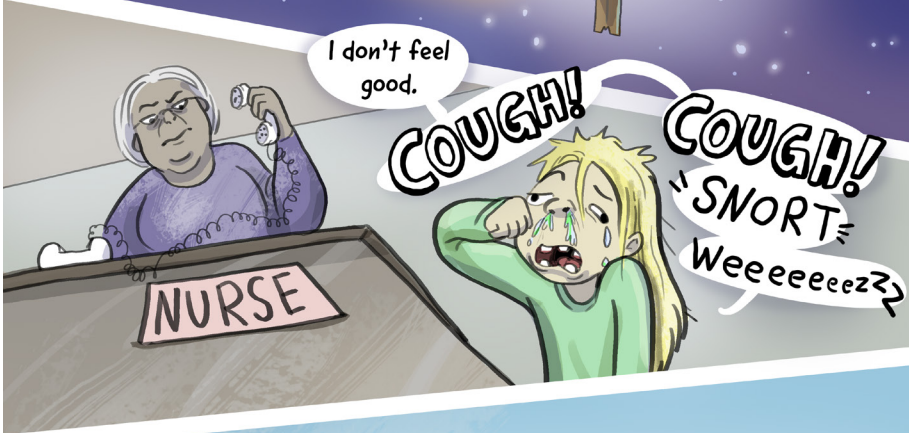


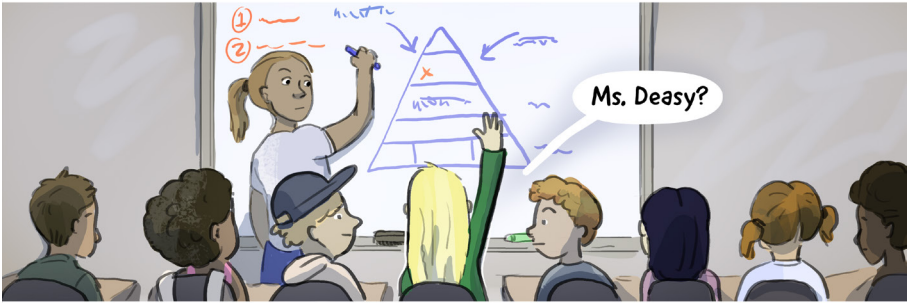
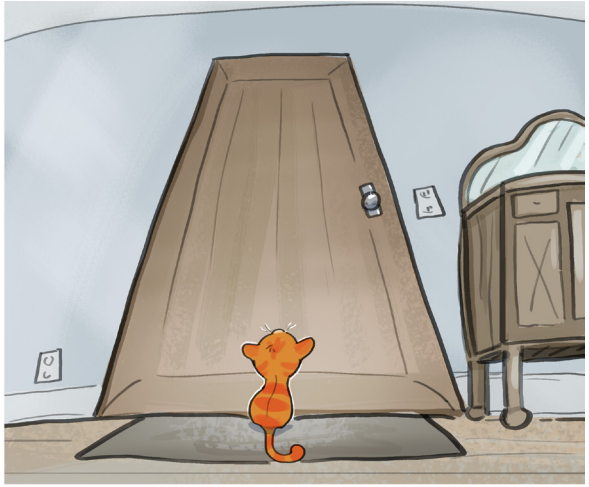


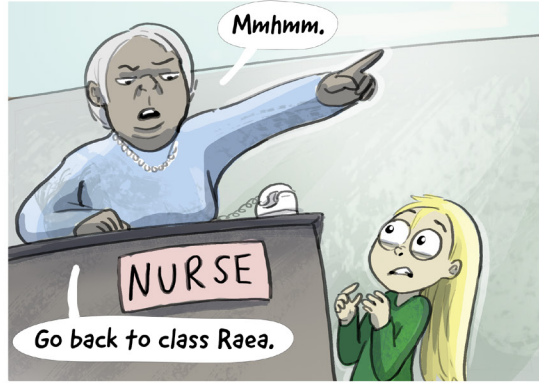
# GROAN

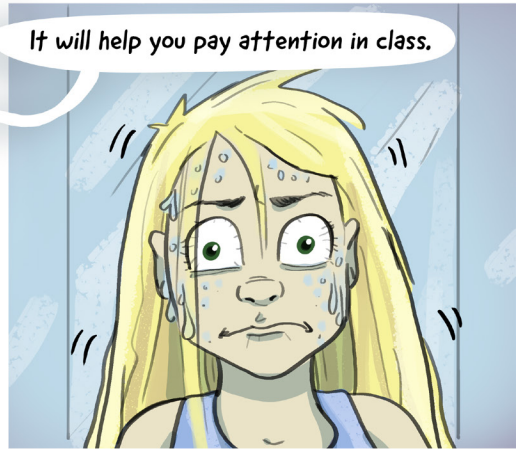
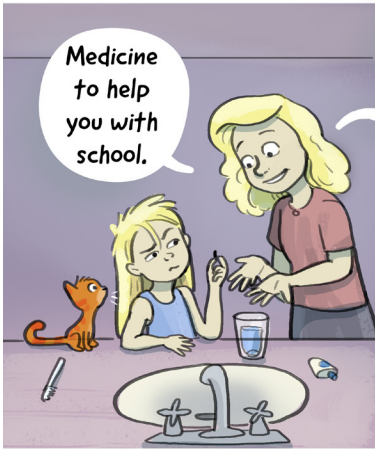


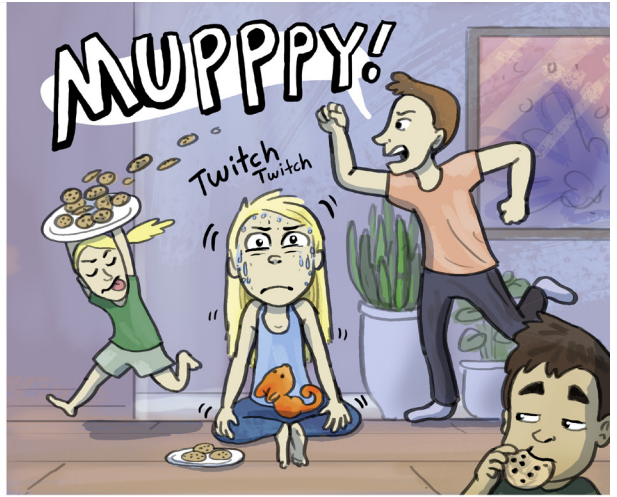


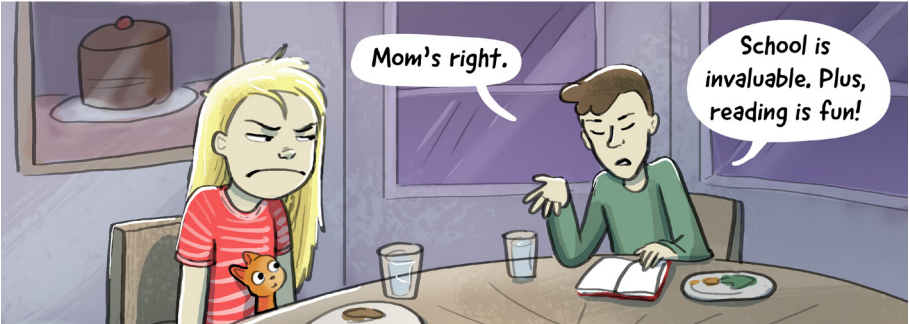
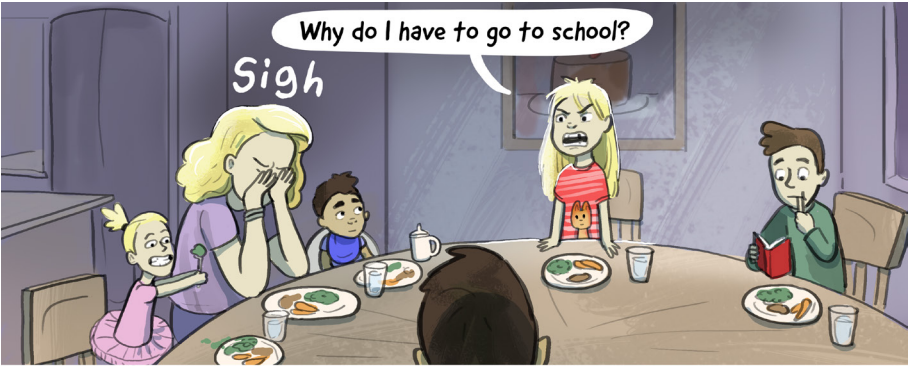
















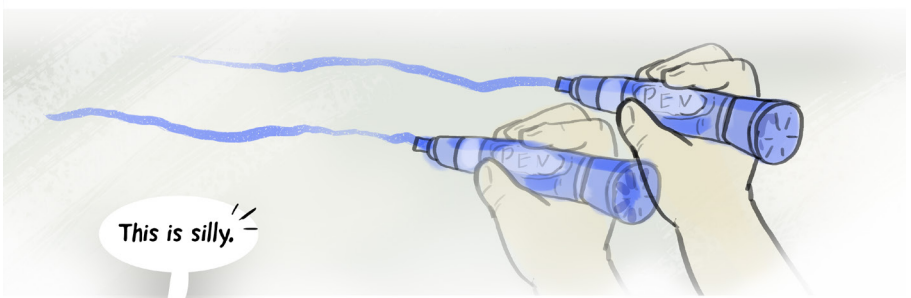




All right, Raea it's your turn.



Please write three sentences using their, they're and there.



This is silly.

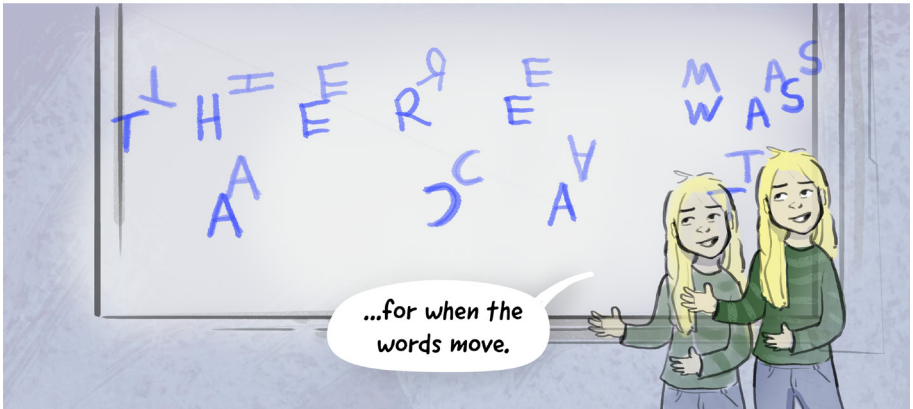
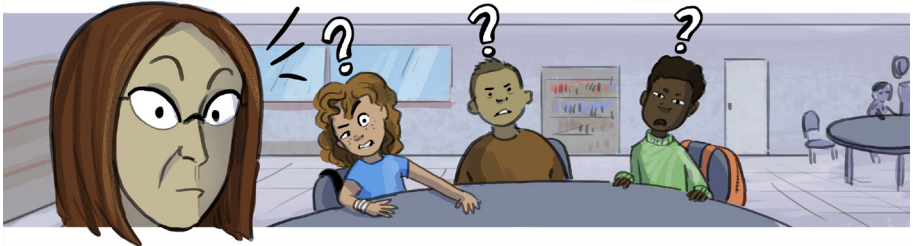


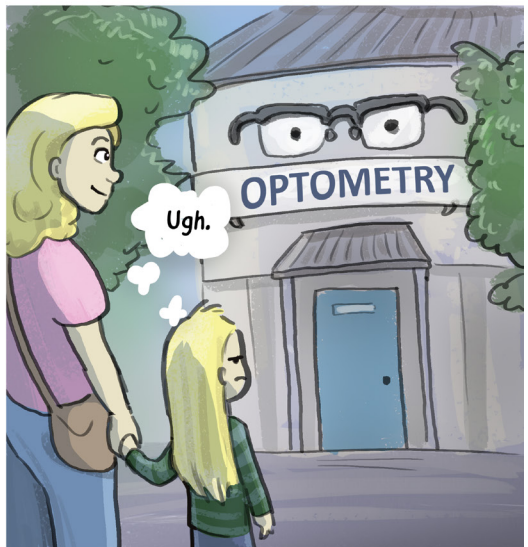
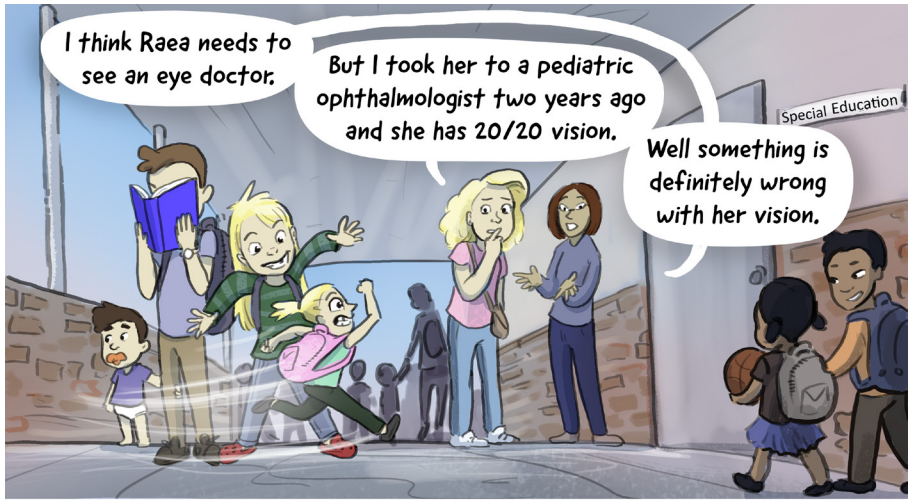
And useless.

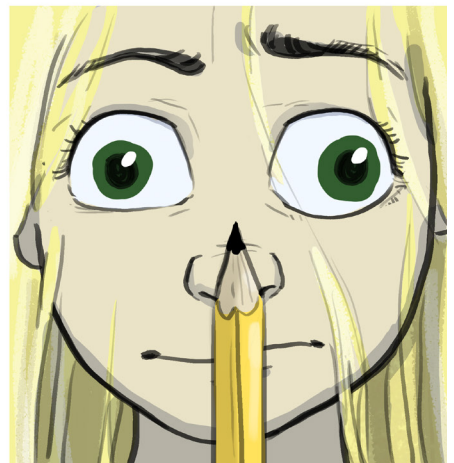
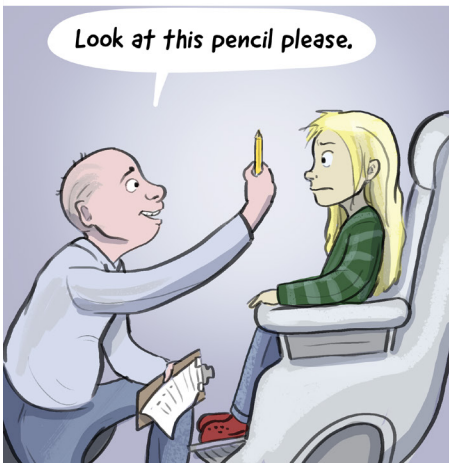
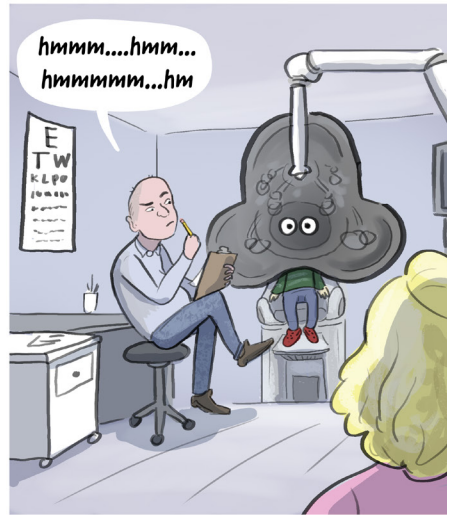
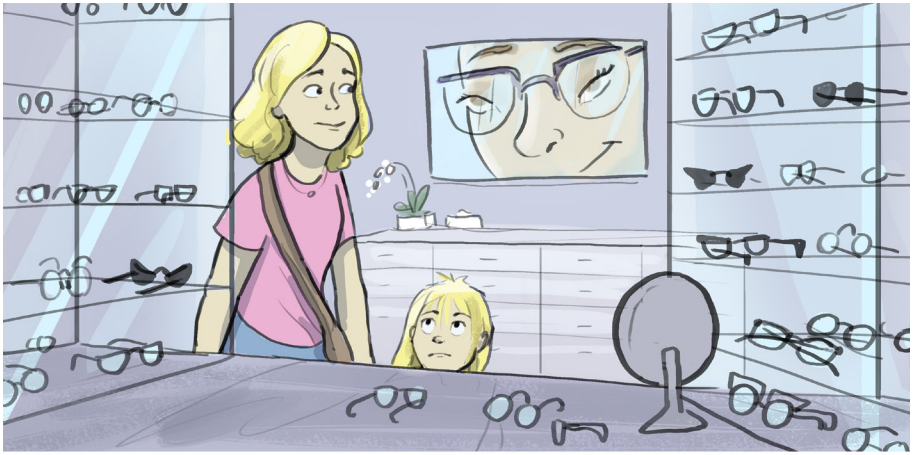


What do you mean?

It's impossible! I'm never going to learn how to read and write.







She has convergence insufficiency, or in more simple terms: double vision. One of the worst cases I've ever seen. I can't believe no one caught this.

Wait, what?

With a year of vision therapy.

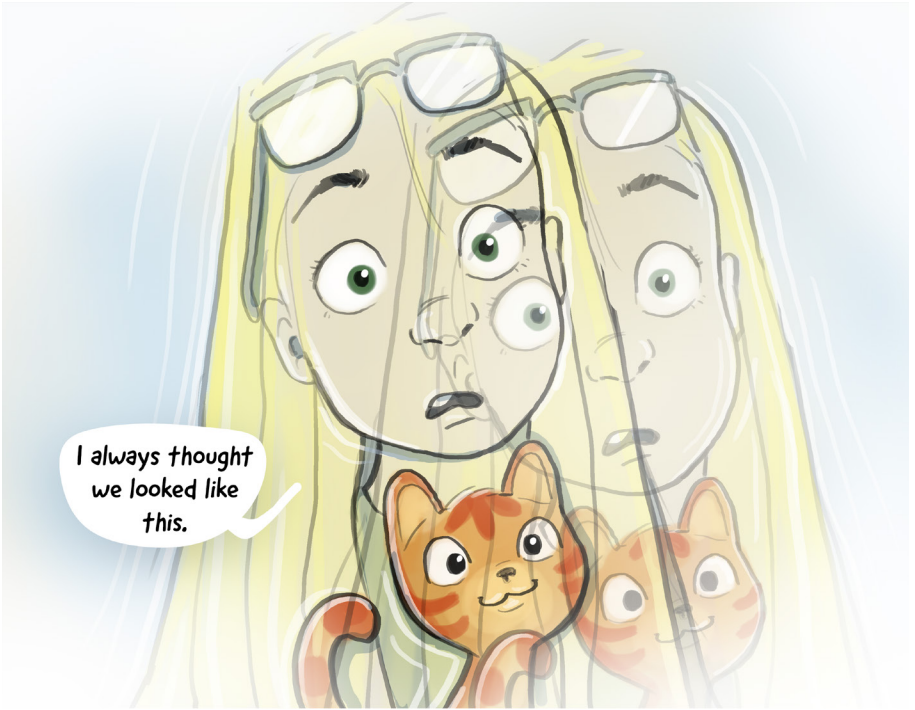
And prism glasses.

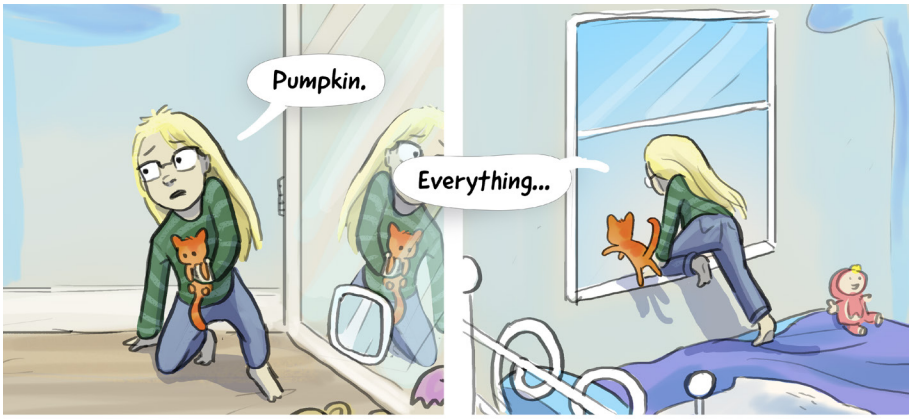
She should be able...

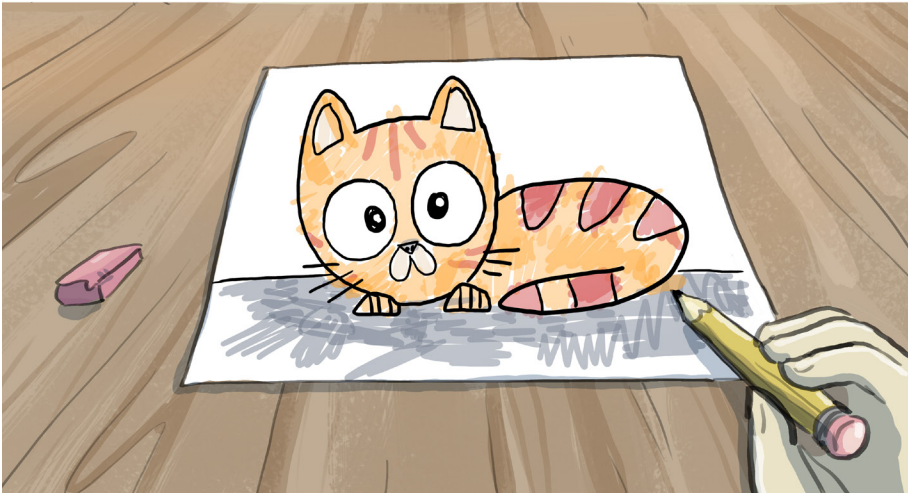
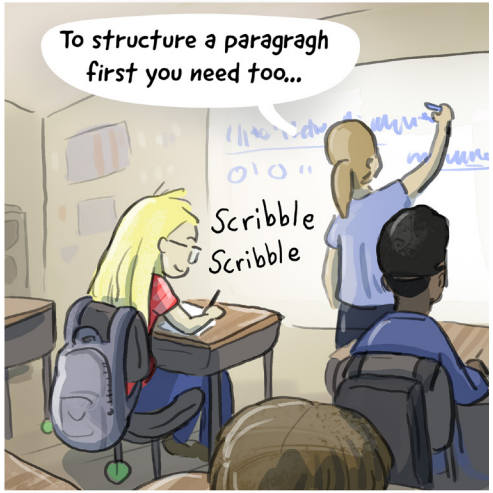
...to see normally.

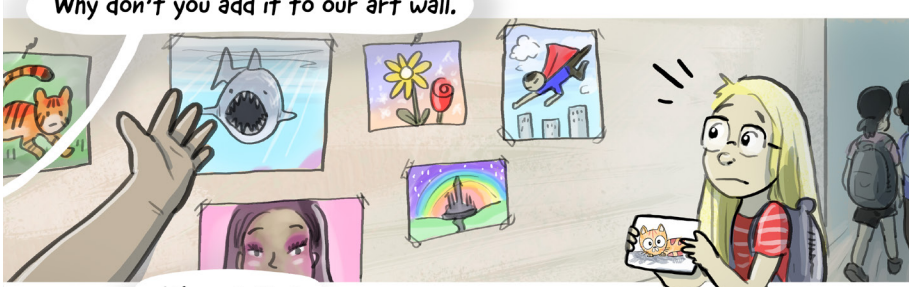
**GASP!**



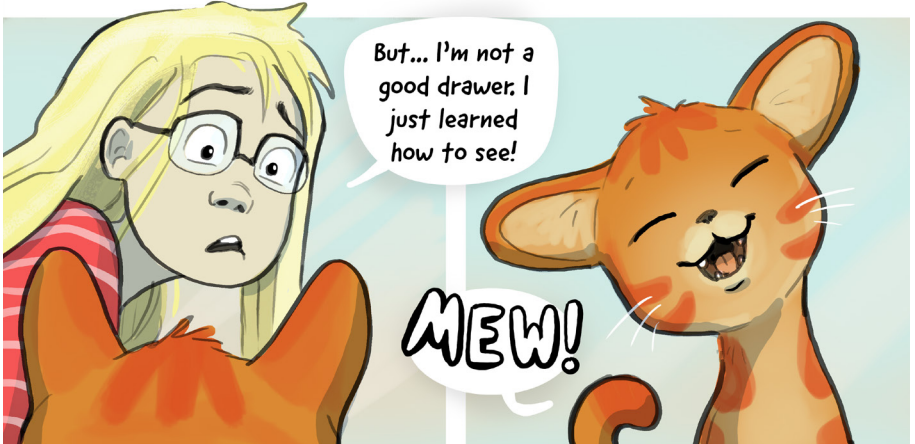


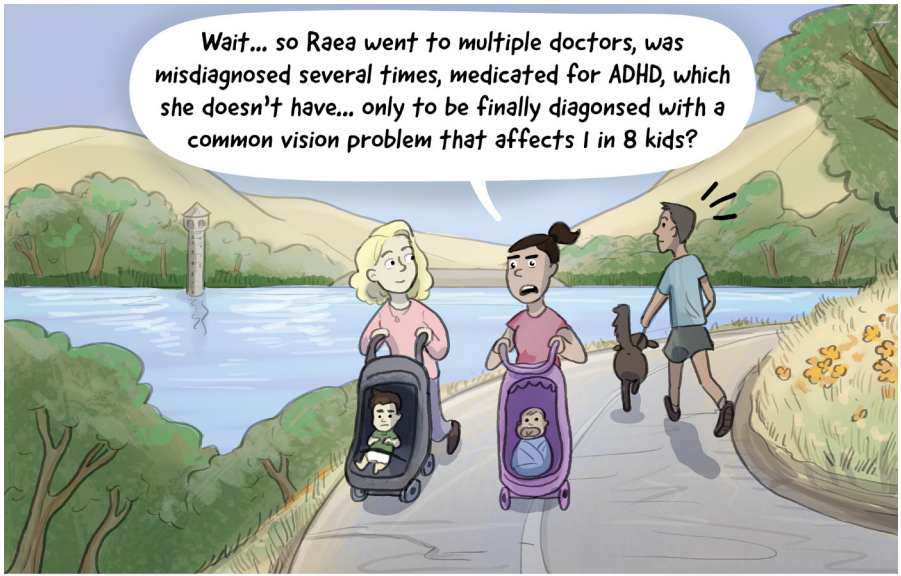














## The New York Times

### Not Autistic or Hyperactive. Just Seeing Double at Times

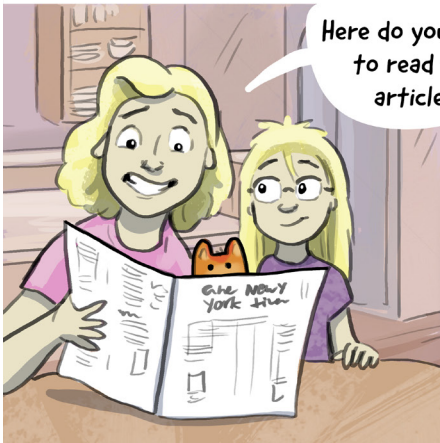
As an infant, Raea Gragg was withdrawn and could not make eye contact. By preschool she needed to smell and squeeze every object she saw.

"She touched faces and would bring everything to mouth," said her mother, Kara Gragg. "She would go up to people, sniff them and touch their cheeks."

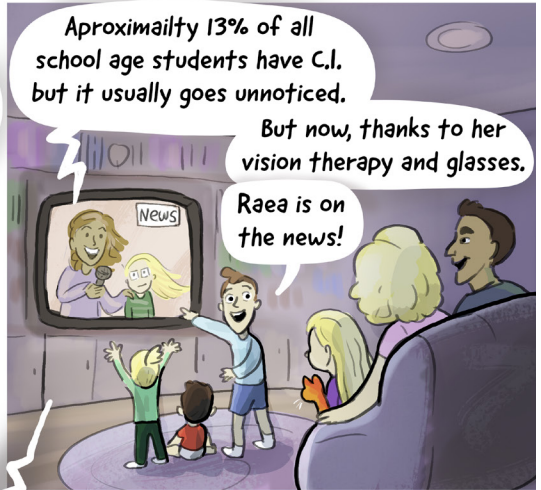
Specialists conducted a battery of tests. The possible diagnoses mounted: autism spectrum disorder, neurofibromatosis, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety disorder.

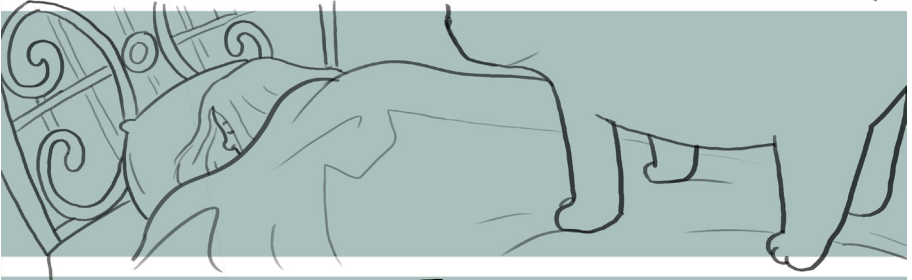
A behavioral pediatrician prescribed three drugs for attention deficit and depression. The only constant was that Raea, now 9, did anything she could to avoid reading and writing.

Doctors and teachers often attribute the behavior to autism spectrum disorders or seek other medical treatments.



“Raea didn’t know who to describe it because that’s the she’s ever known,” her mother said. “She felt like she had been telling us all along that couldn’t see, but nobody listened.”







Okay!



Here you go!

I love you bud, see you after school.



Raea, come on!

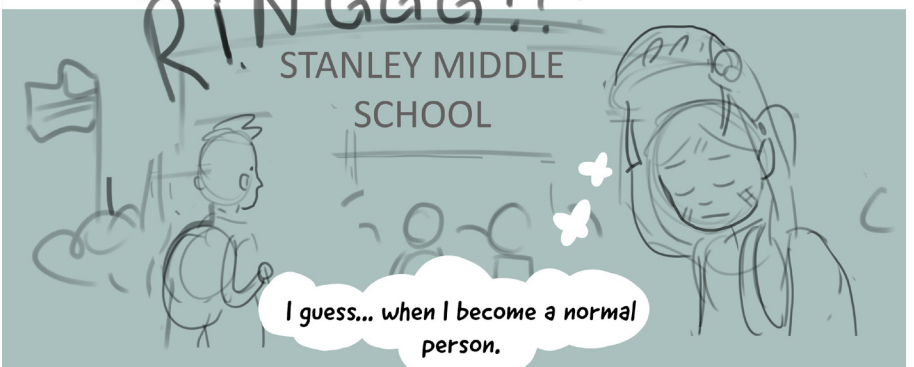


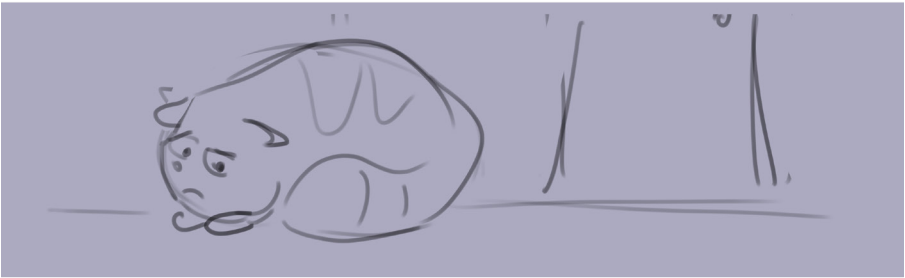
We don't want to be late...



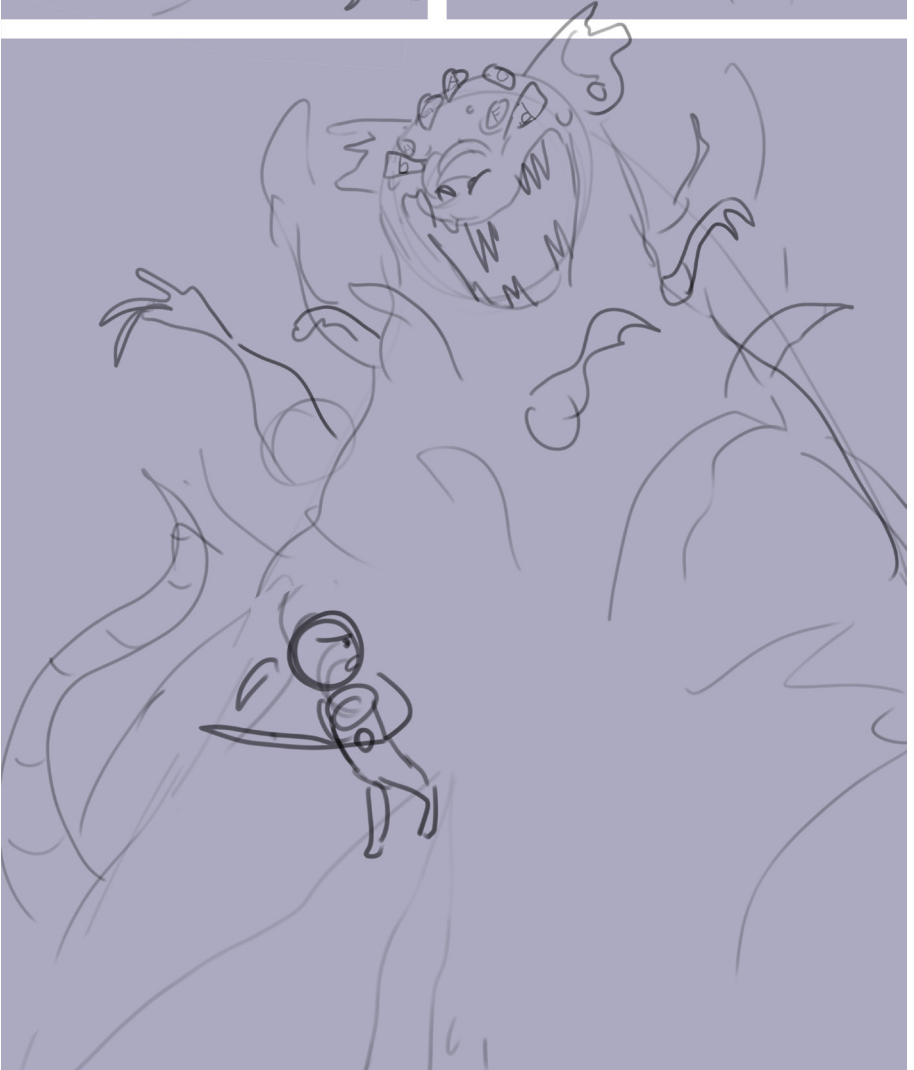
...for school.















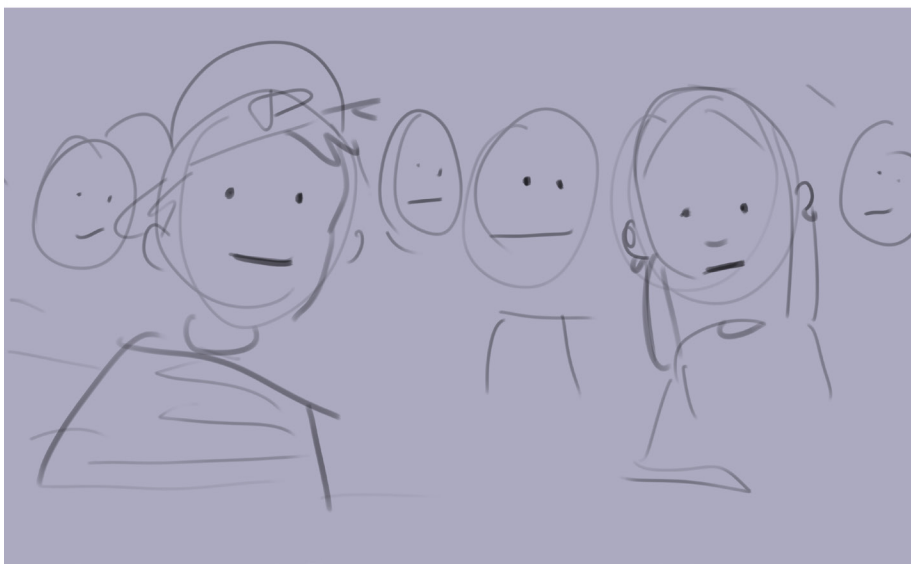
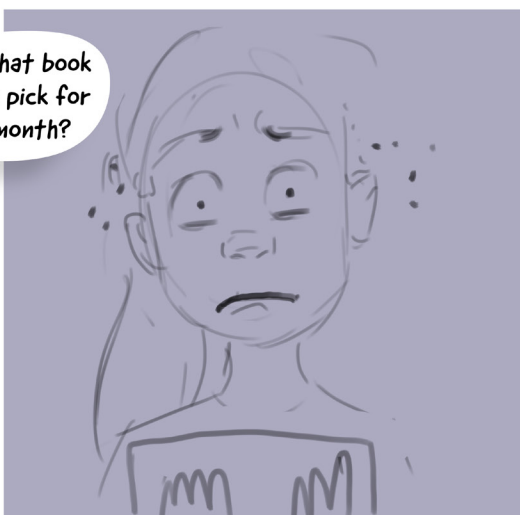


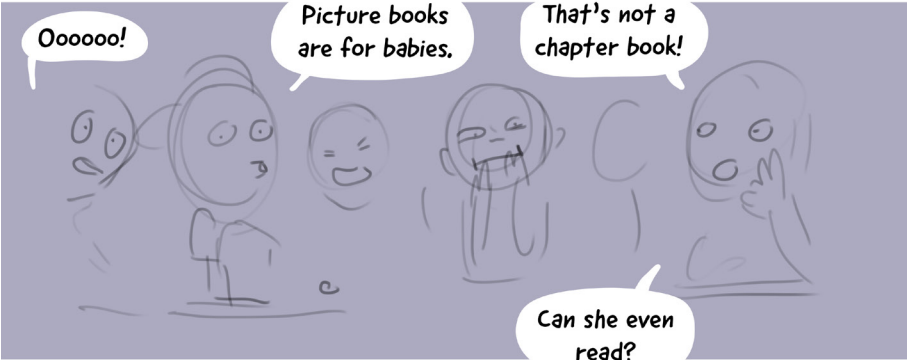
Thank you Johnny for telling the class about Victor Struse's, "The Living Legend of a Thousand Legions of Dragonsborne"



All right!

Raea what book did you pick for this month?





UGH! I can't wait to go home! School is the WORST!

It's not so bad. I love learning new things.



Well, that's because you're smart Jared!

Thanks!

You are too you know.

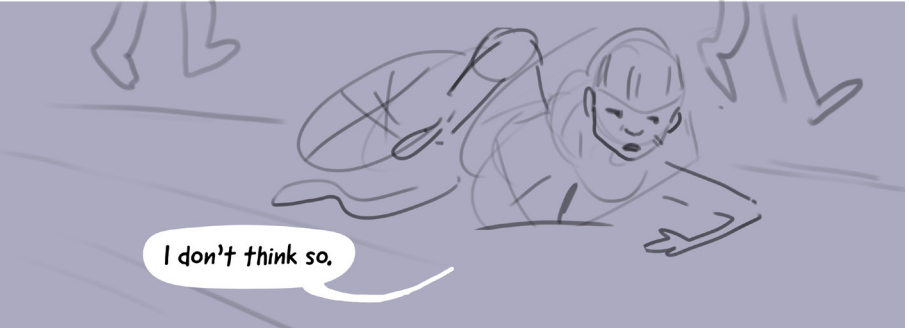


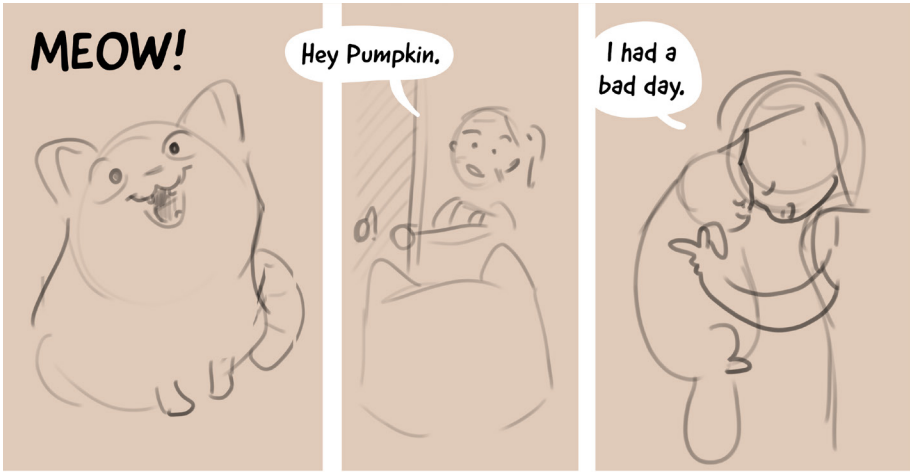
I'm... uhhh...

**AHHH!**

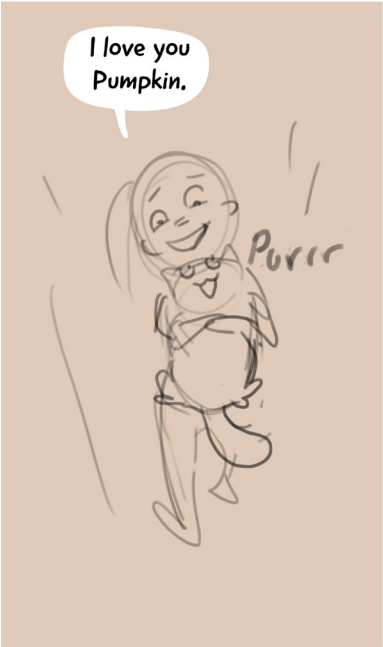


I don't think so.









# MEOW!



Well... would you rather walk?



mar-ow...

poke  
poko



Huh, I thought so.



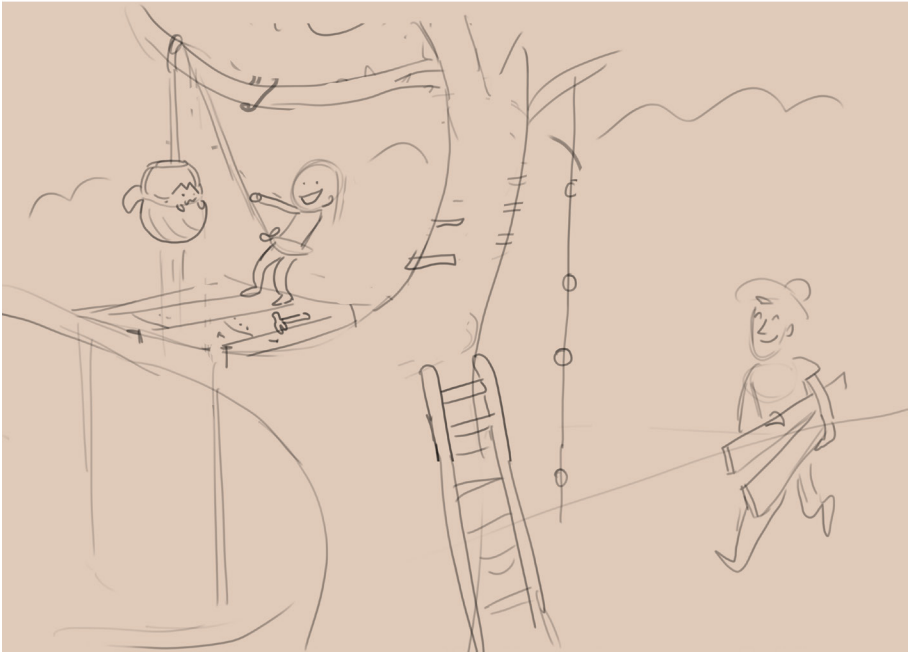
You know what would be cool?

If we had our own spot in the canyon.



A special spot for just you and me. A spot where I could tell stories and we can draw together and it will be just the two of us.



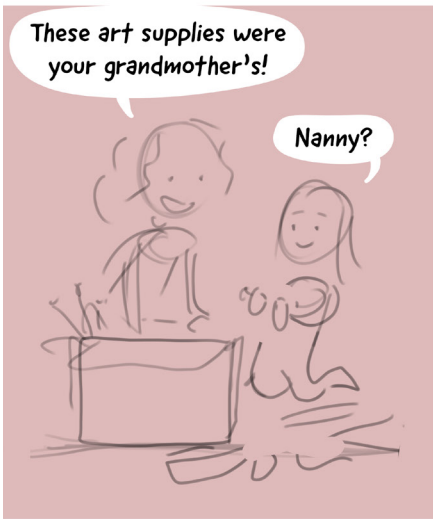
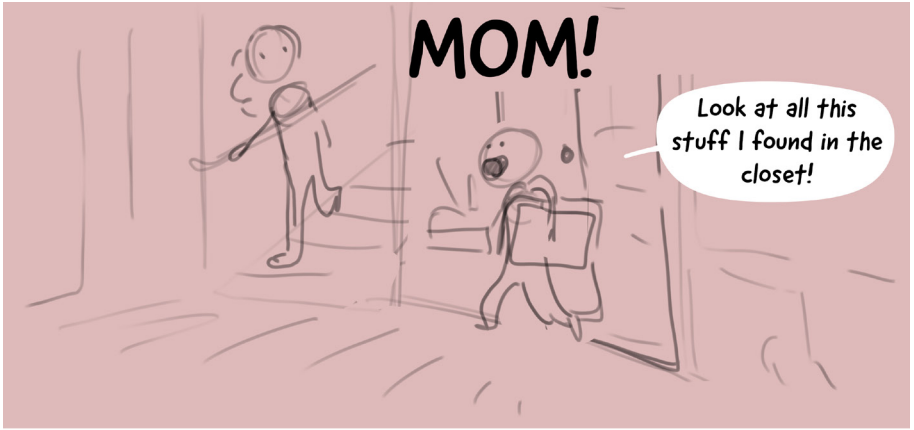


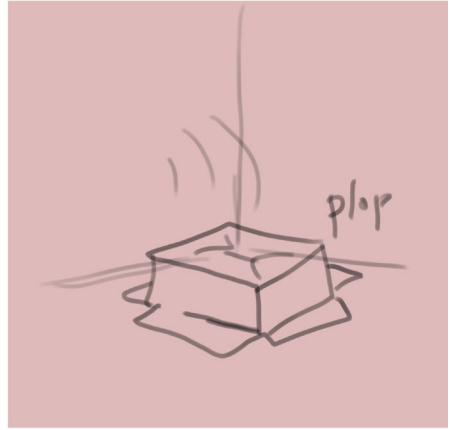
Wow! Look at all this cool stuff!



Who knew we had so many art supplies!

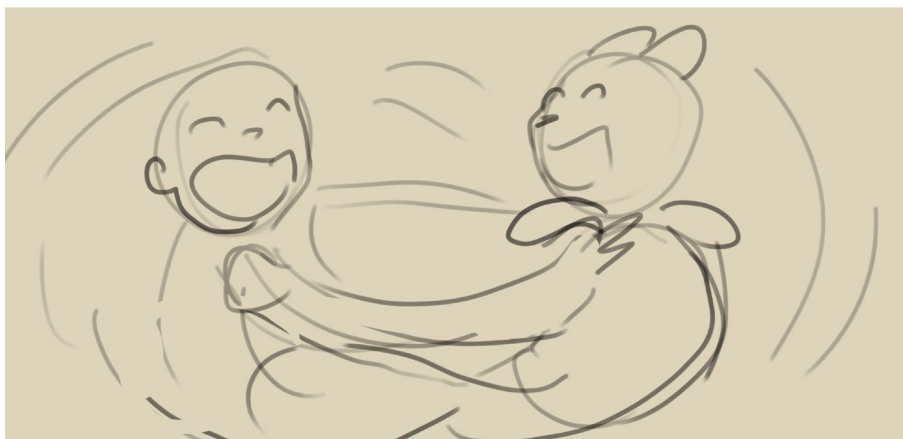














Okay everyone! Go pick your book for this month!

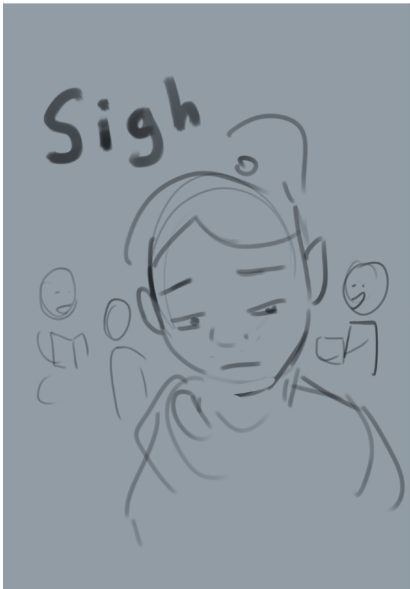
# SCHOOL LIBRARY



Yuck.



So many words...



We have a new section in the library!



Comics and graphic novels!



Daily  
of a  
hippy  
kid



Flip  
1/2





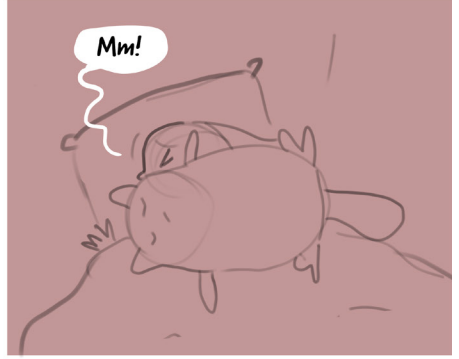
Pumpkin! Check this out!

It's a whole book but with drawings and words!



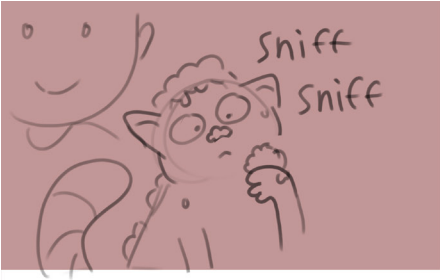
I might actually be able to read this.







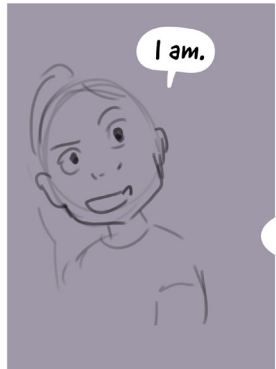
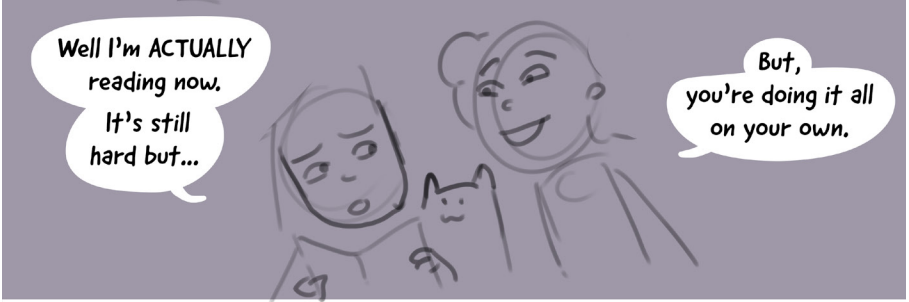


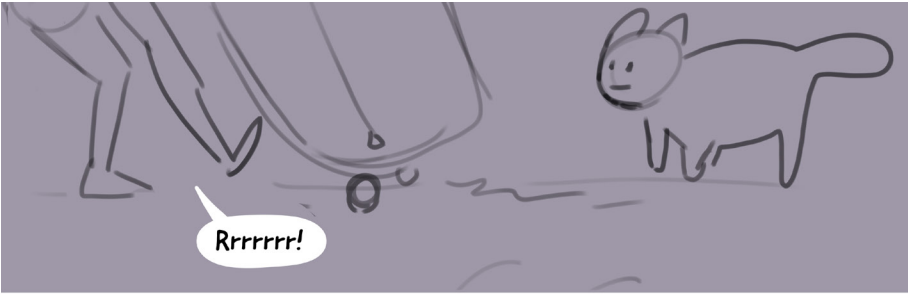


# PUMPKIN!

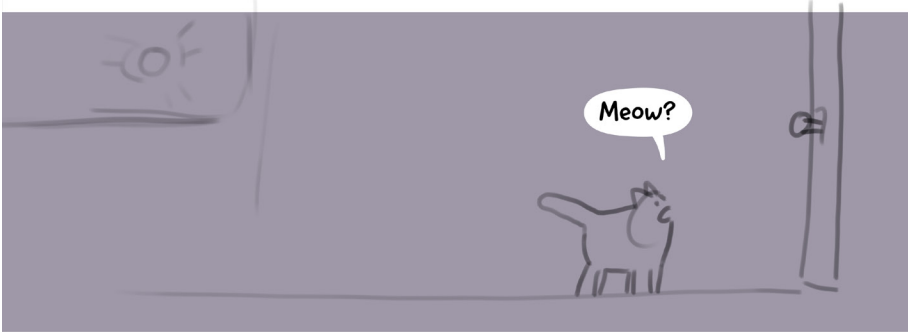


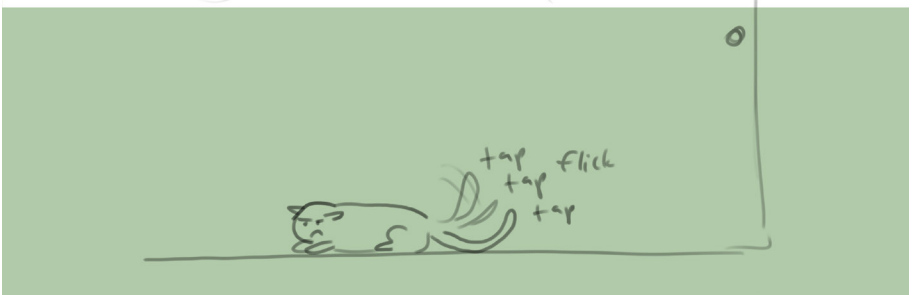
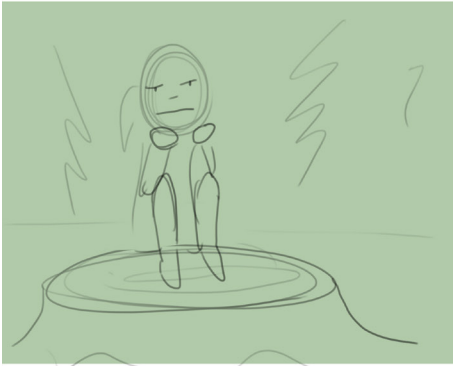


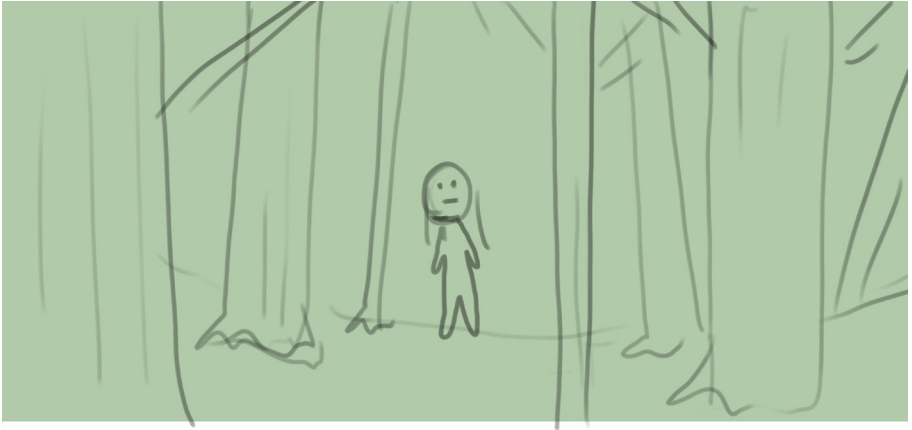


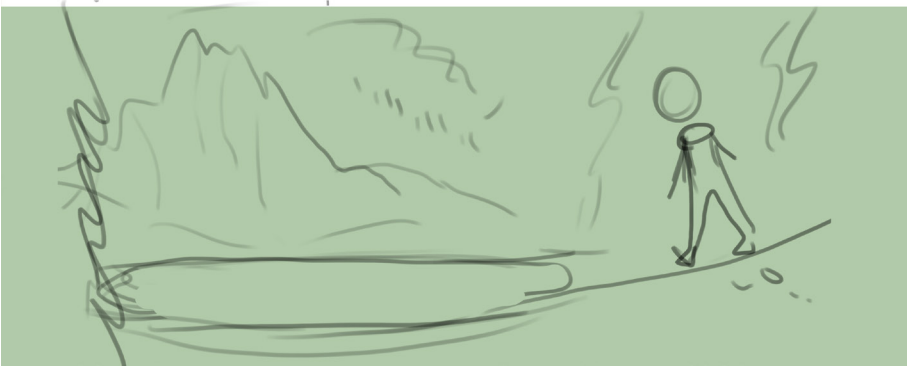


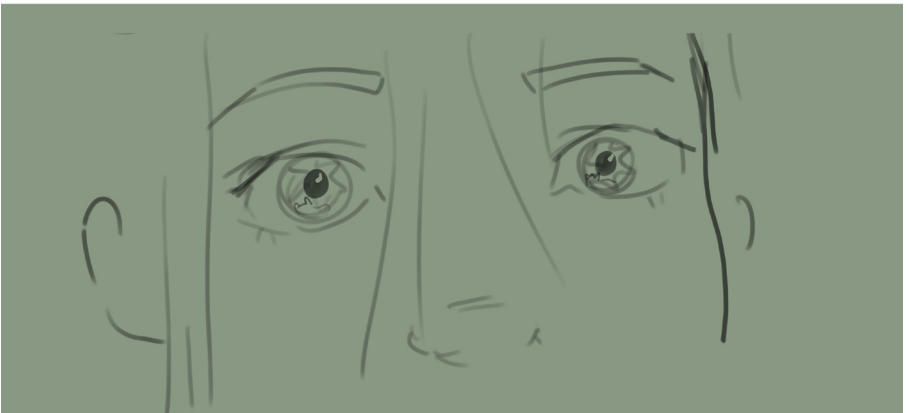
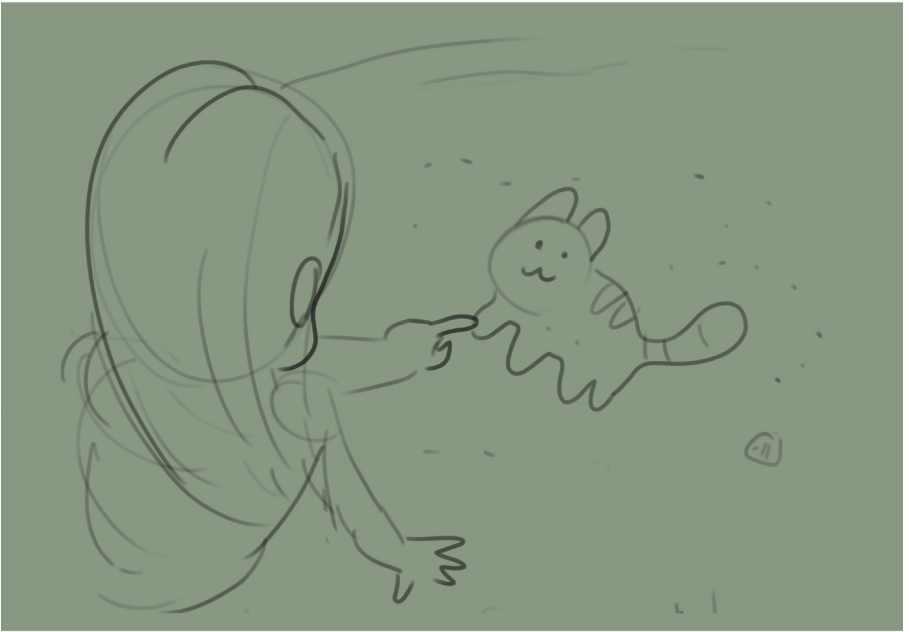




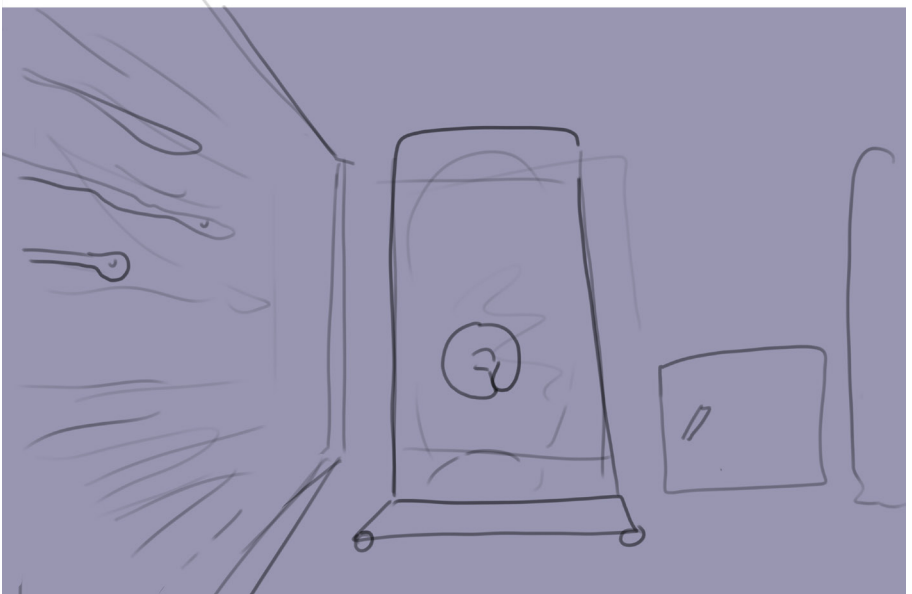
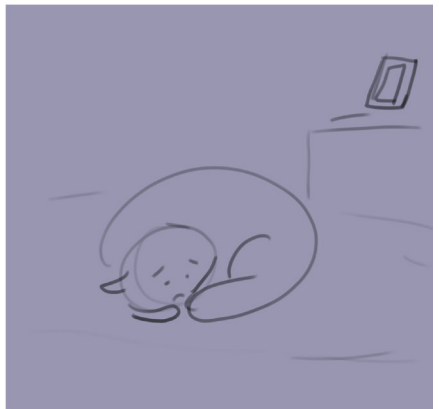
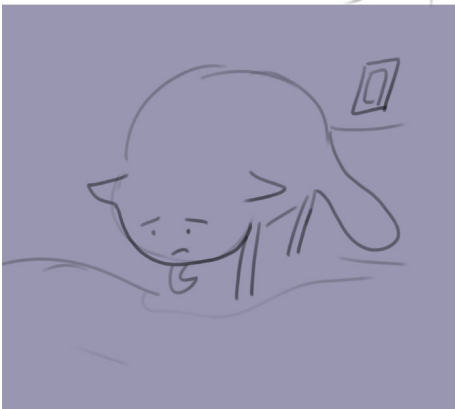
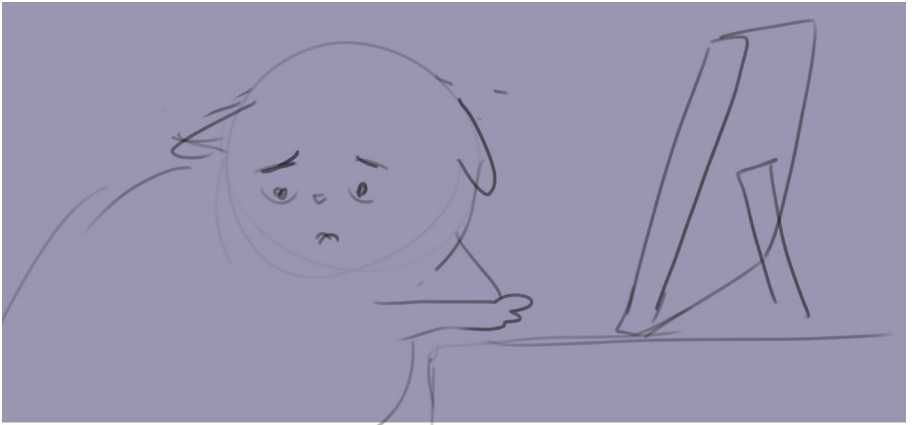




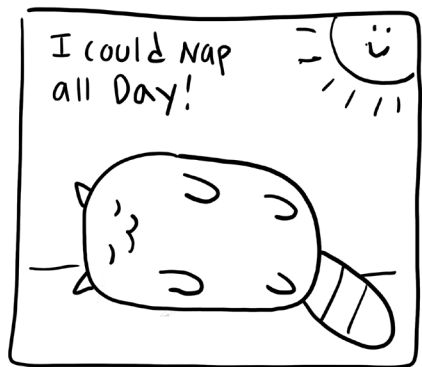


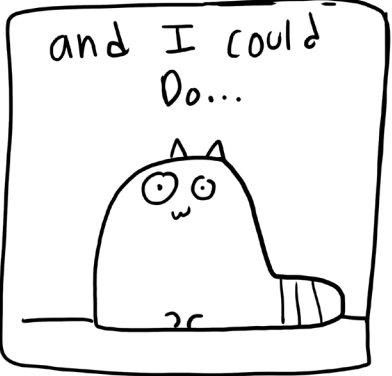


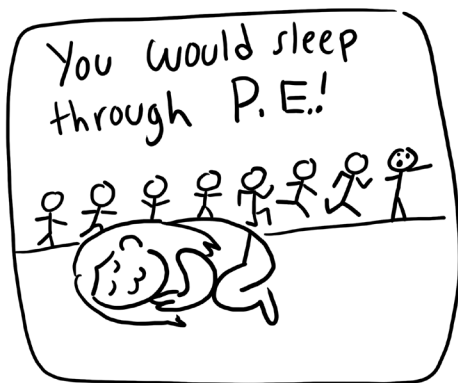


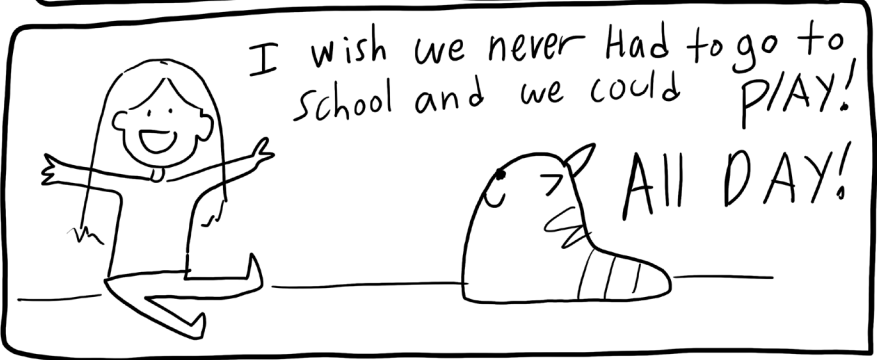
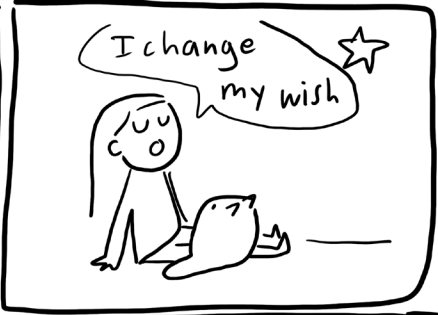
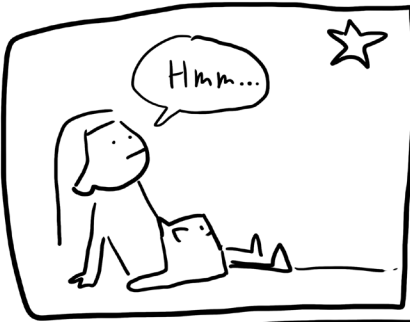


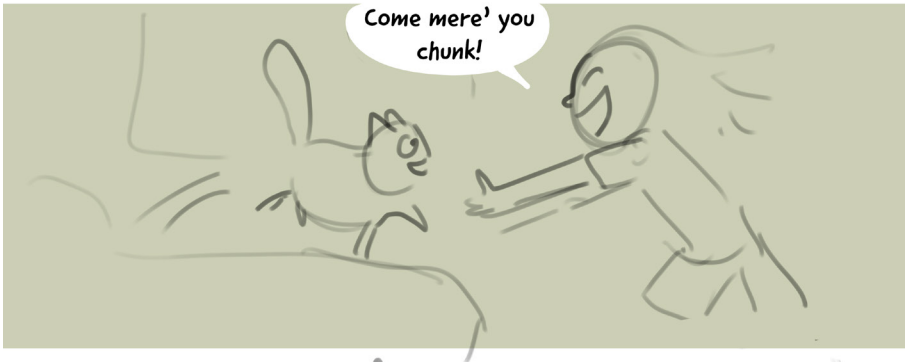
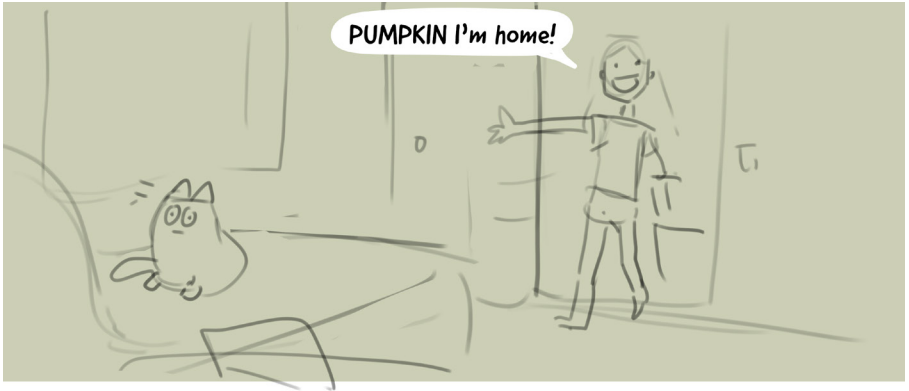
I can't believe  
ve its been raining  
for three days.

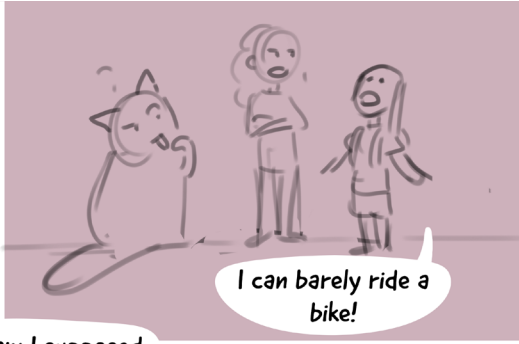
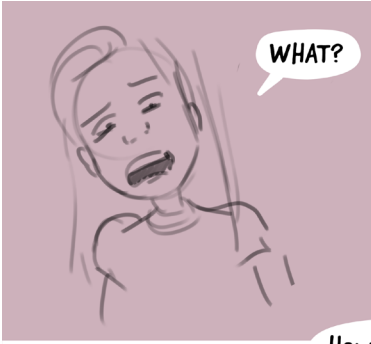


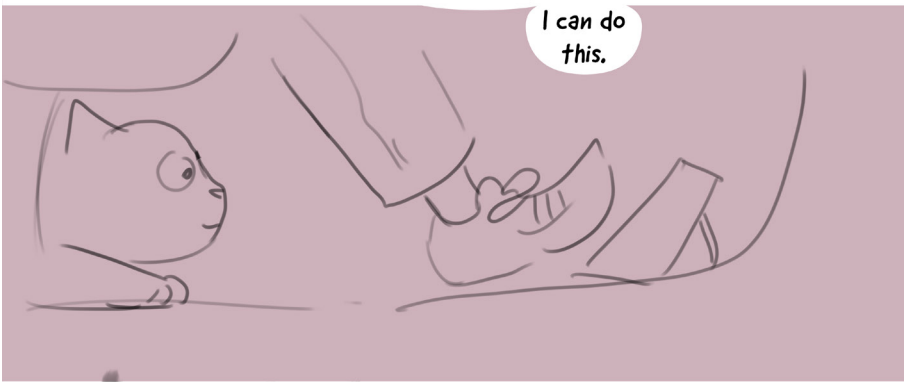


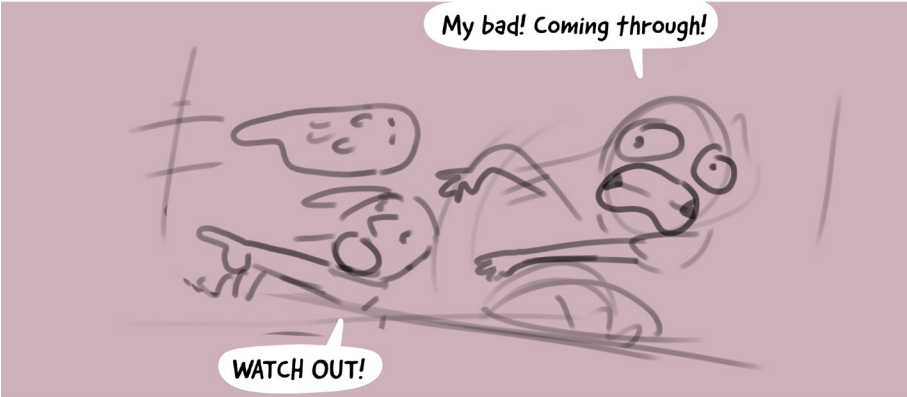


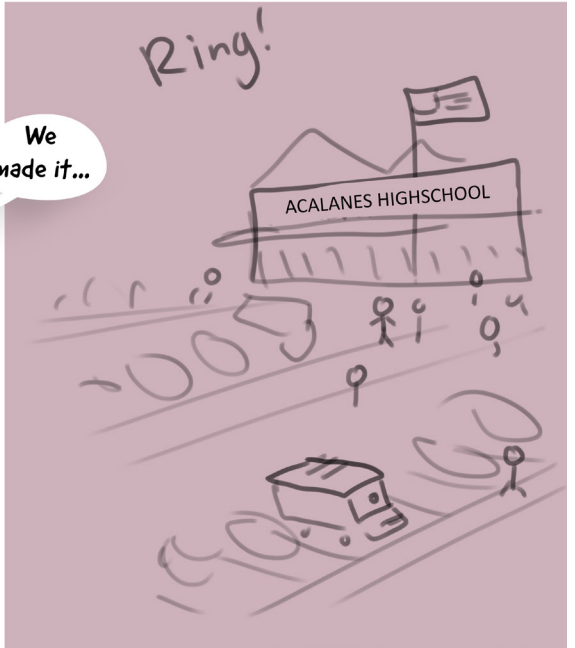
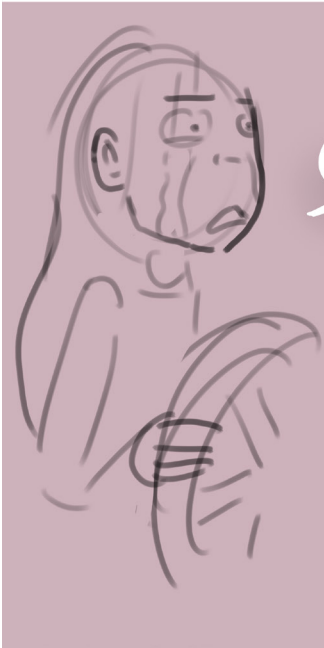
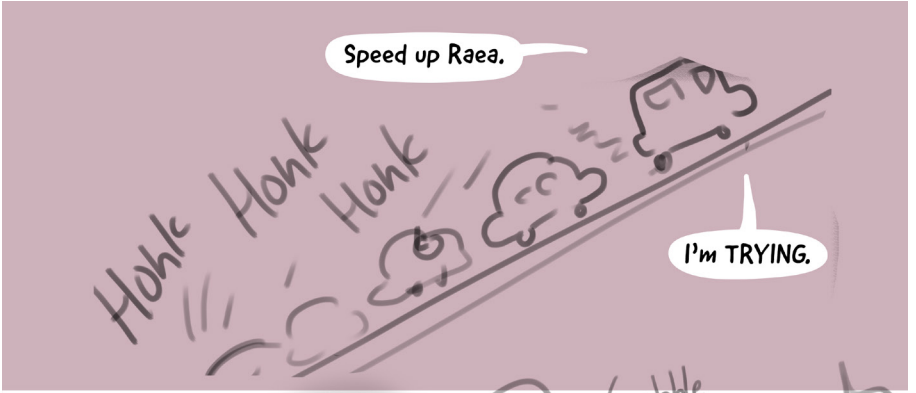












Me-me-owww!



Uhh...  
Raea

PUMPKIN?

Crazy cat.



How did you get in here?

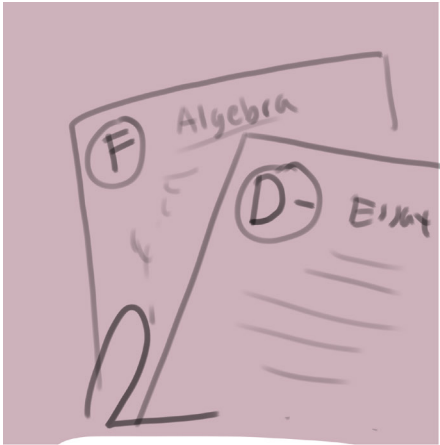


I wonder what  
Dad will think...

Mew.

SIGH





I feel like you need at least a 3.7 GPA to get into any of the state schools.



that seems pretty low to me.



You really need straight A's to get into college.



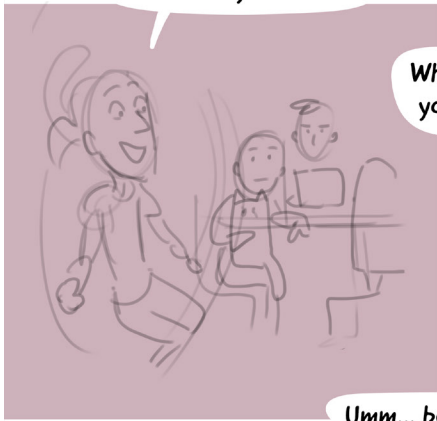


Jared, what's your GPA?

Well it would have been a 5.0 if it wasn't for the A- I got in A.P. biology Freshman year. So it's only a 4.8 right now.

DANG! I only have a 4.0

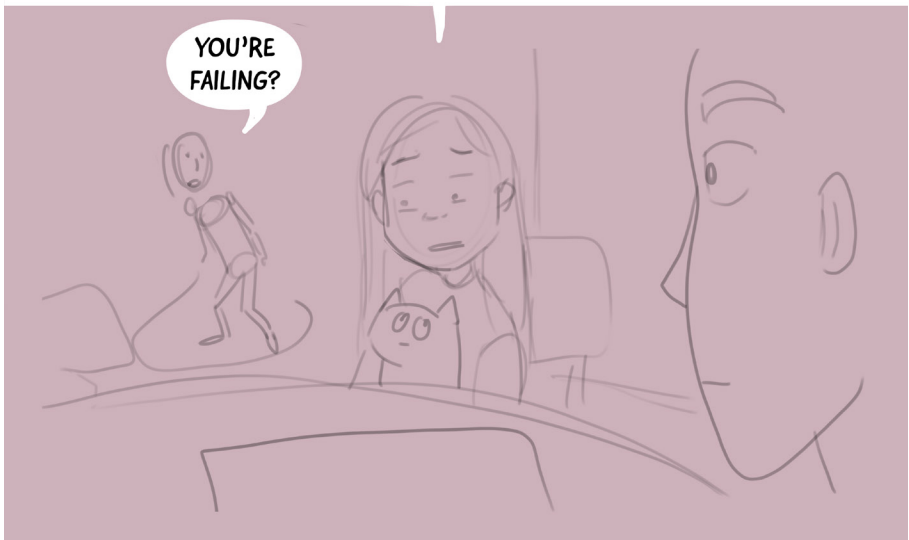
That's still straight A's.



What about you Raea?



Umm... below a 3.0



YOU'RE FAILING?

I'm not smart enough  
to get into college.



My grades aren't  
good enough.



I haven't even learned  
how to type on a  
computer yet.



Everyone knows  
algebra but I don't  
know my times  
tables.



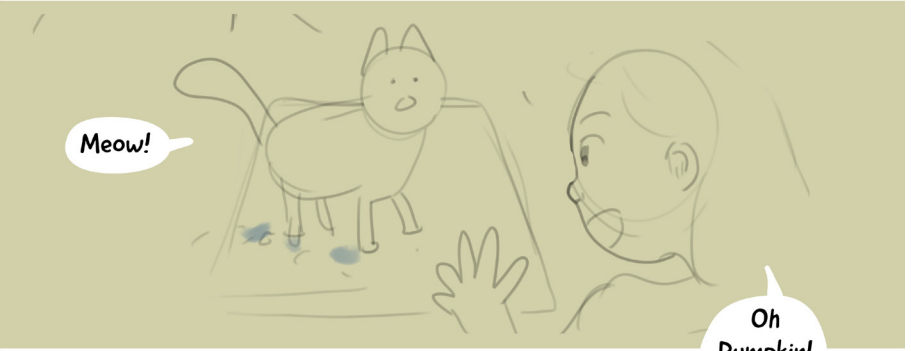
It's just so hard.



Trying to be like everyone else.

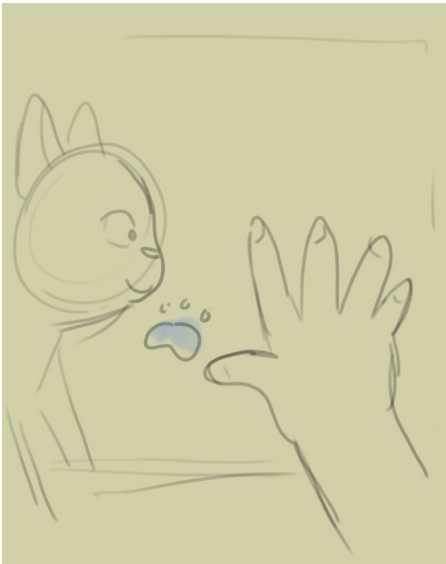


Meow!

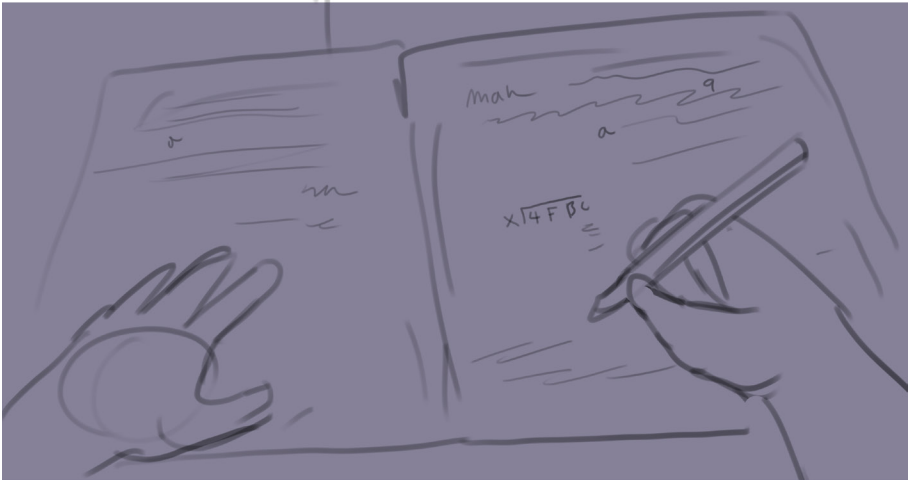


Oh  
Pumpkin!

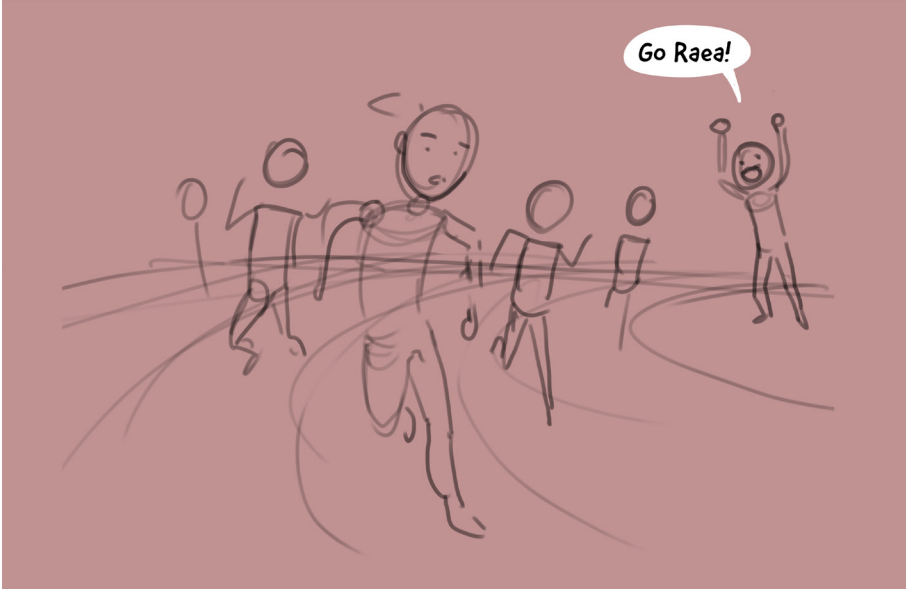
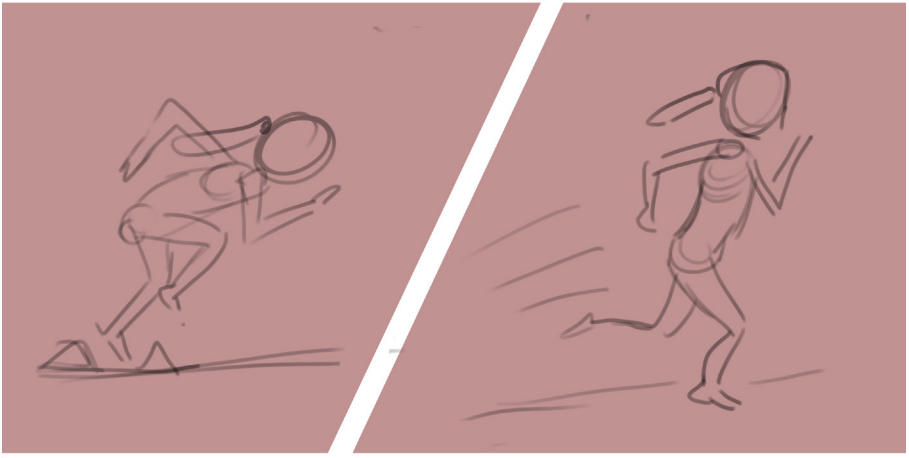


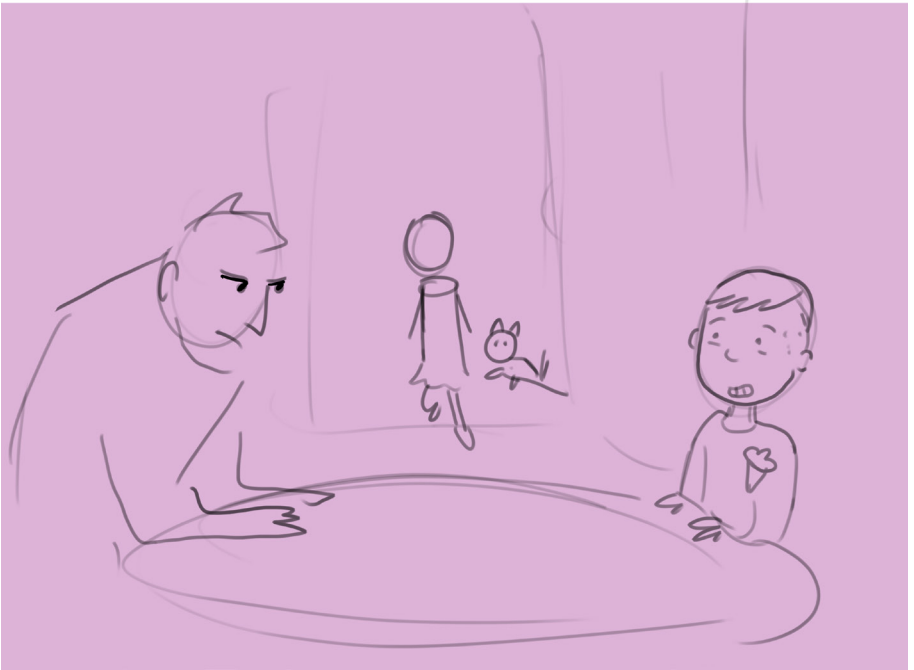
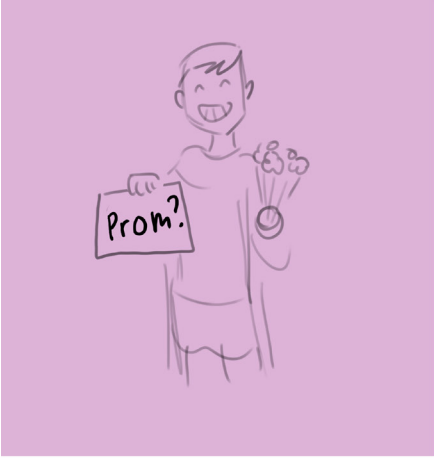








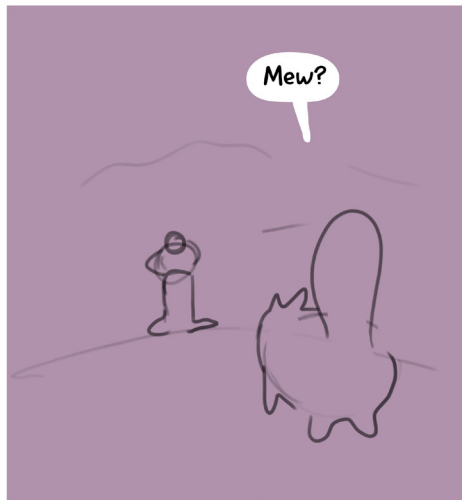






I'm so sorry, you should have told me you were allergic to cats!







Hey bud.



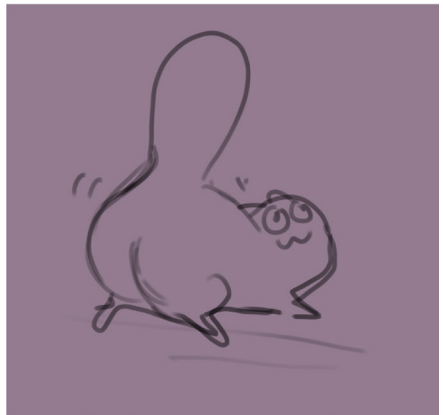
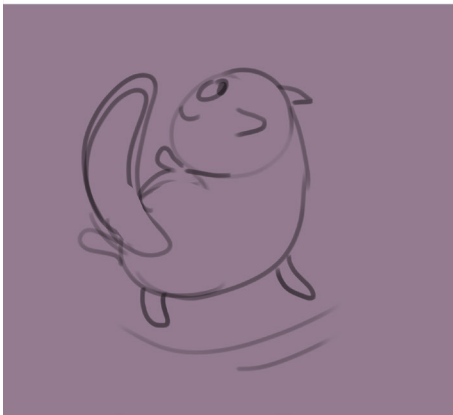
MARRR-OWW  
Meow.  
Mew  
MEOW! Meow.

Prom was all right if  
that's what you're  
asking.

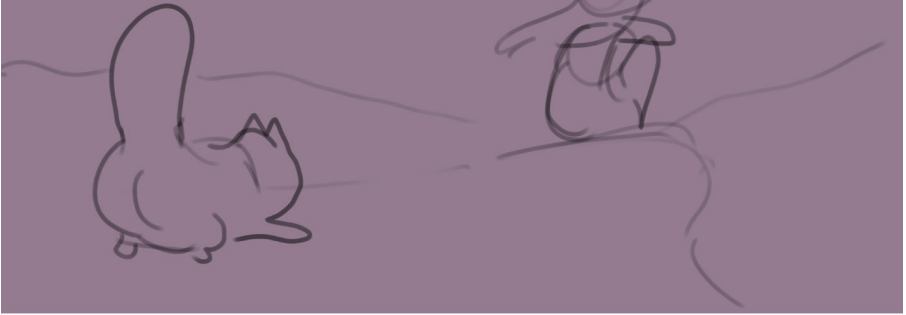
Except my vision problems are coming back...

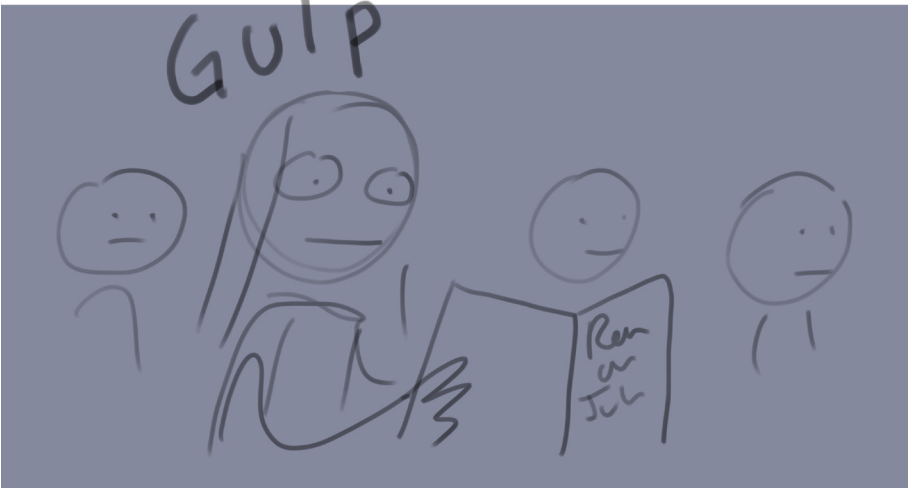


Wow! I can't wait for  
college!



Sorry bud, I just don't feel like dancing.





I know not... how to tell... um... thee who I am. Hateful to mee-self...  
and I written it. Um? I would tear a word.



Raea, that was  
incorrect.

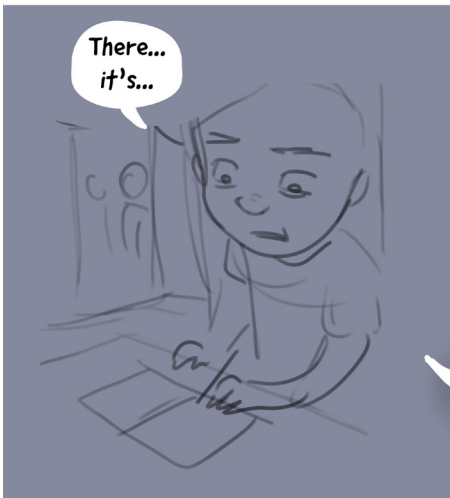


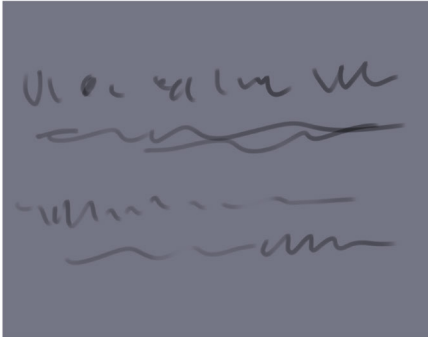
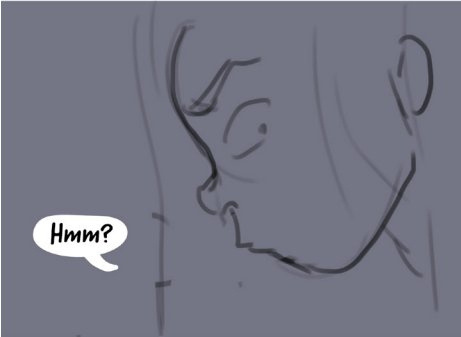
Try again.

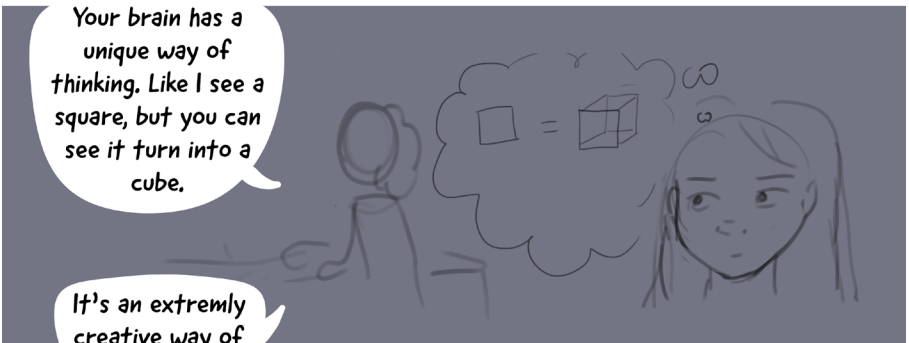
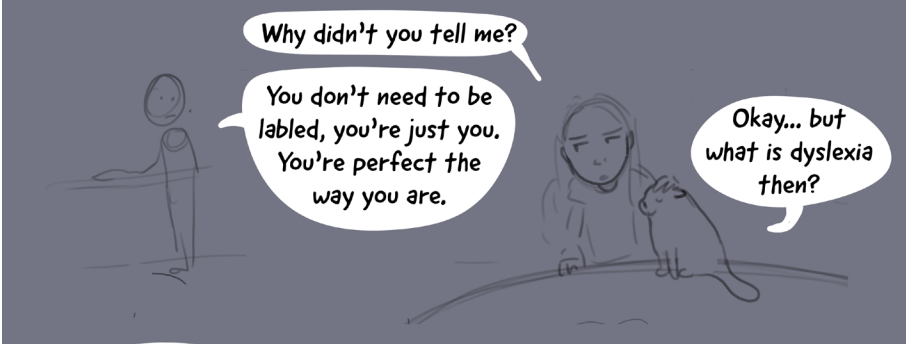


I know not how to tell you.  
Um... I know not how to tell  
you who I am.



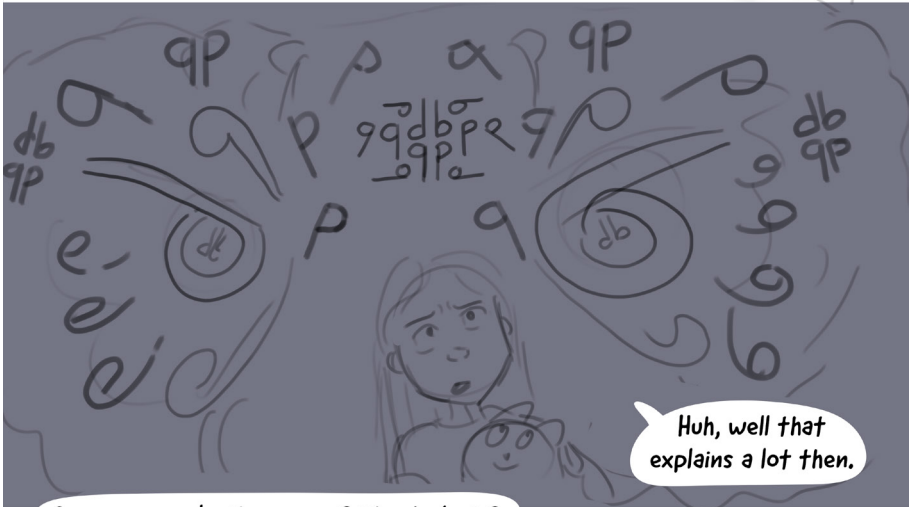






But since you see everything in every possible way it can be seen....

It makes seeing the difference between a lower case "b" and "d" very tricky.



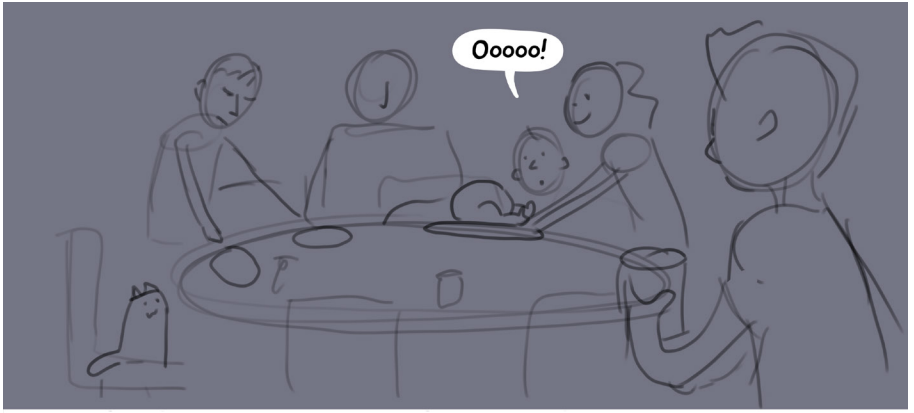
Huh, well that explains a lot then.

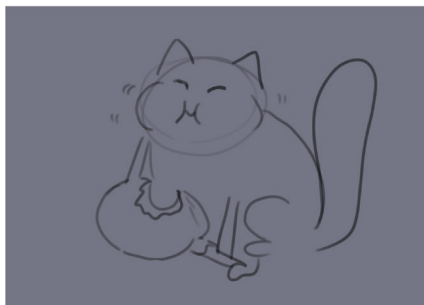
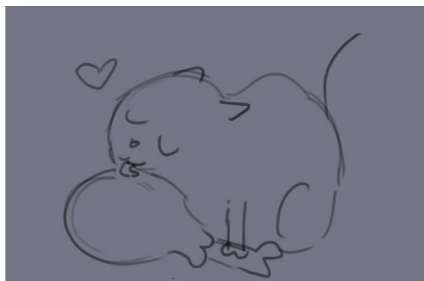
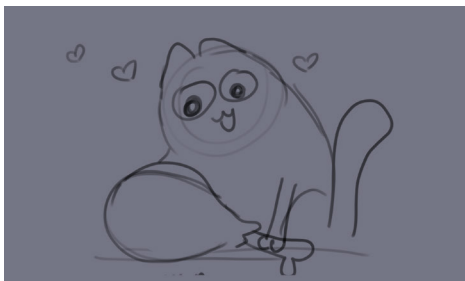
So can we make it go away? The dyslexia? Like my vision problems?

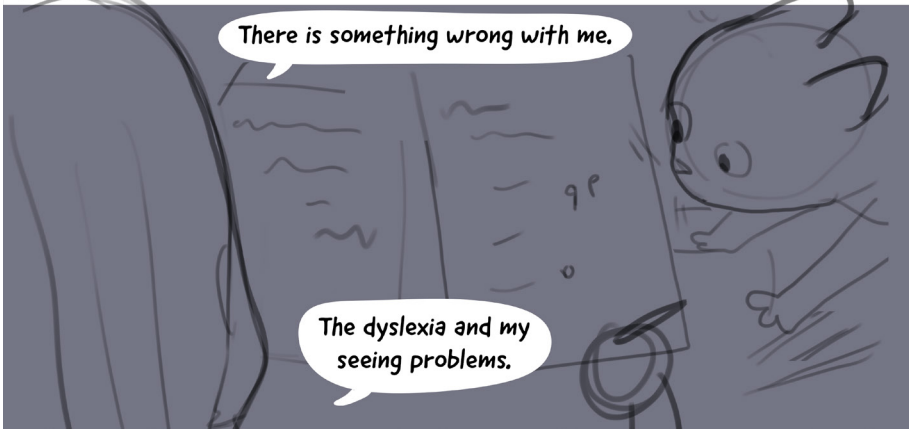
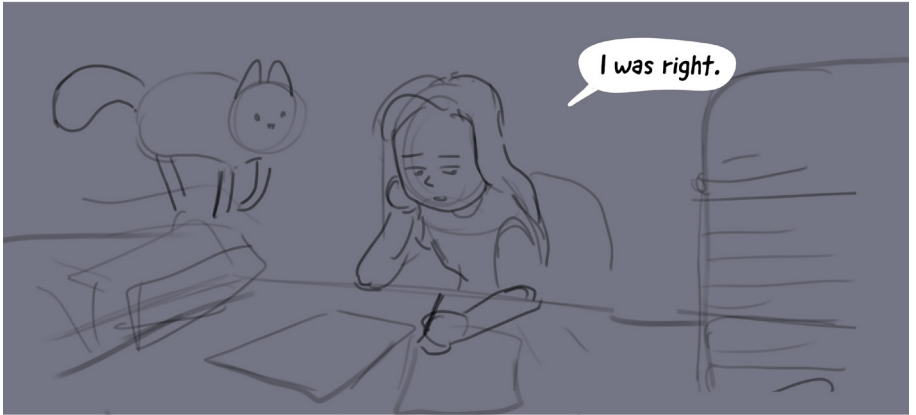
No.

It's how you think and there's nothing wrong with that Raea.

But it's not normal...





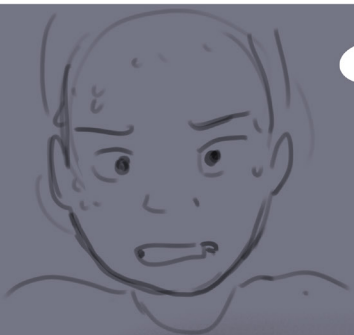


My whole life has been this race.

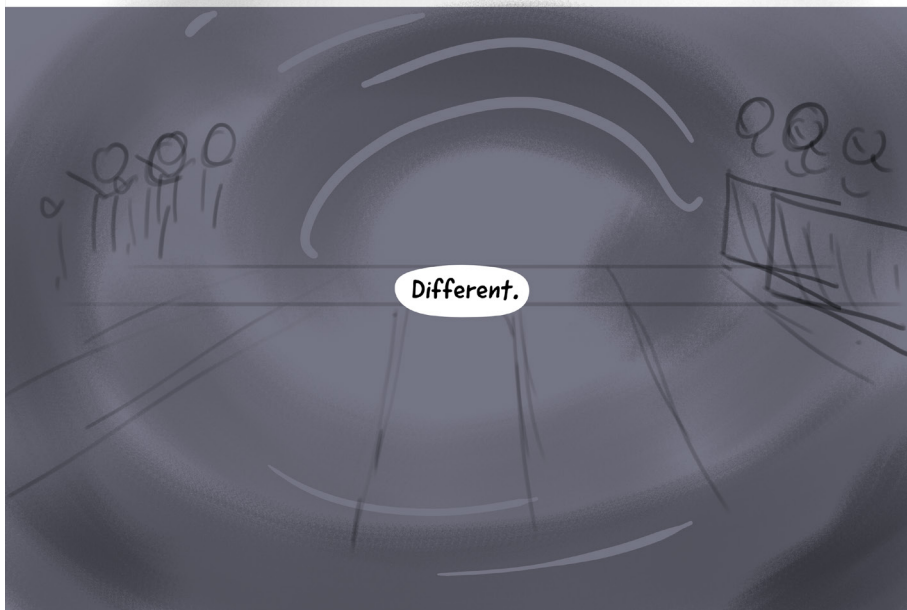


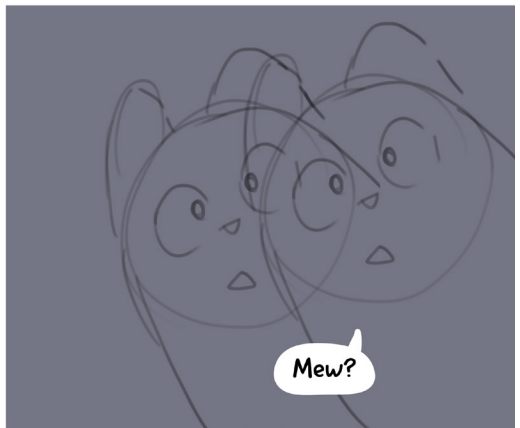
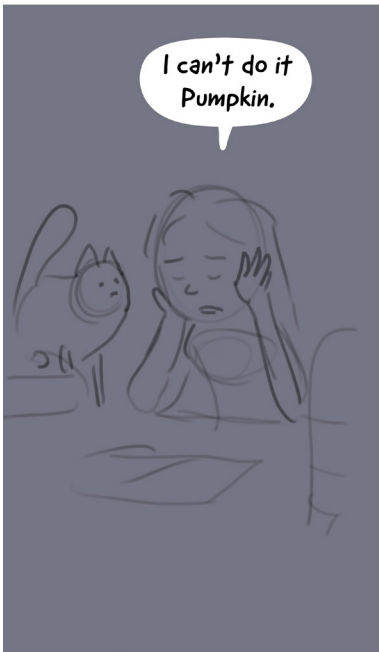
But...

I'm just...

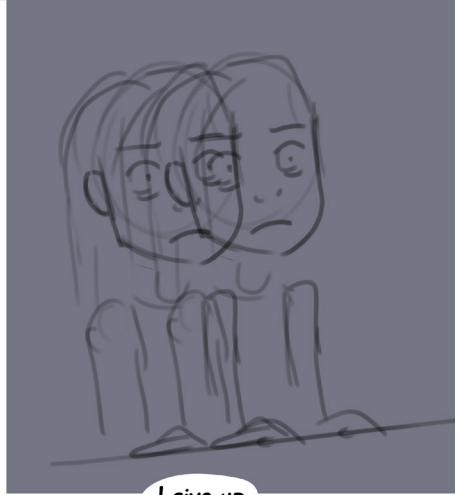
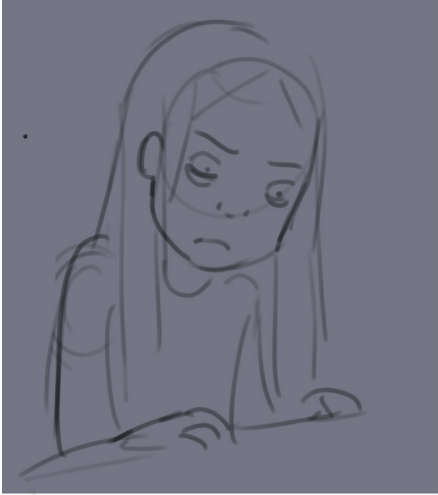


Different.



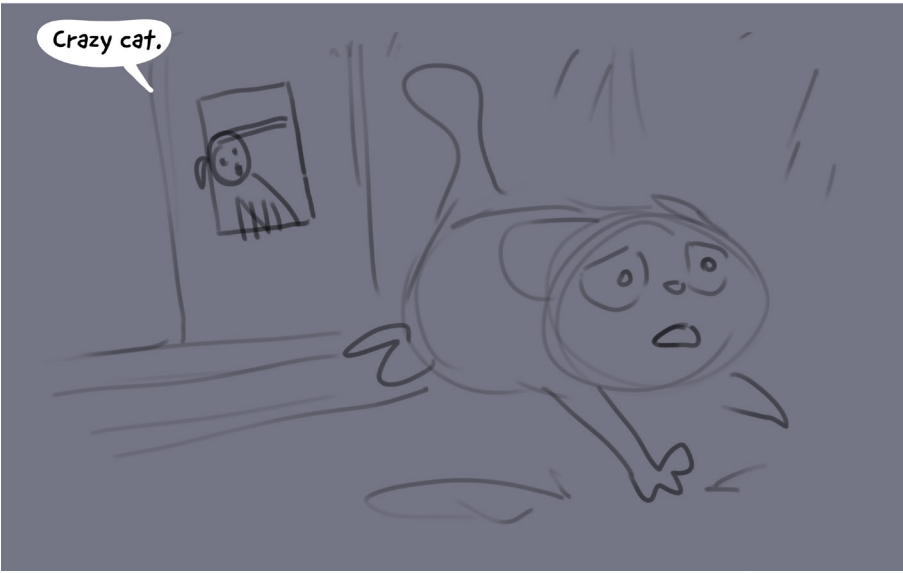




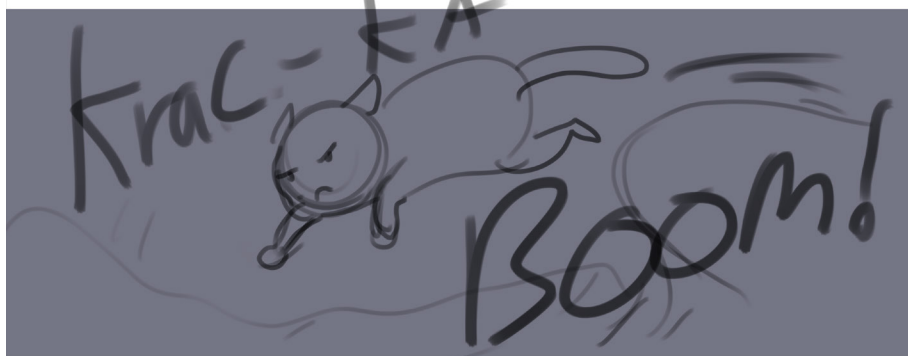


I give up.











You're not going to let me give up?



Are you?

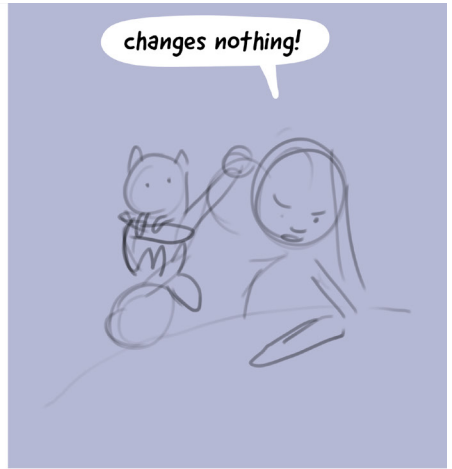


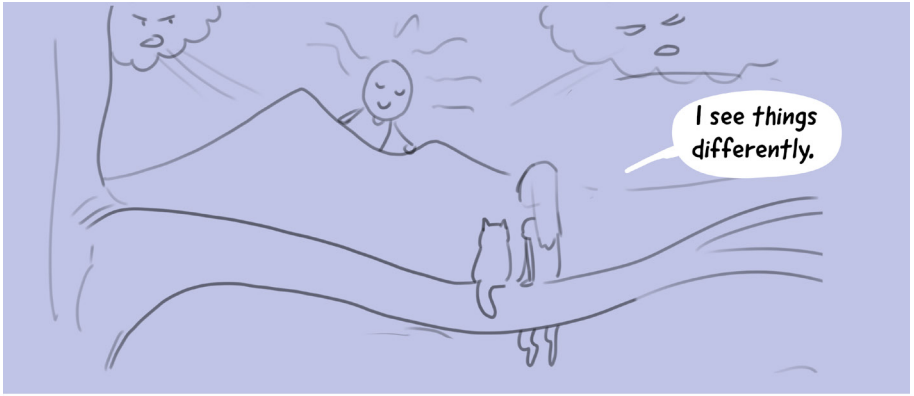
FINE.



I'm up.  
I'm up.









You know, Pumpkin... you're the only one who listens to me.



Listens to all my crazy stories.



It would be interesting to share some of those stories.



That would require me writing a book or something...



imagine that...  
**ME**  
of all people.

MAR-Oww!

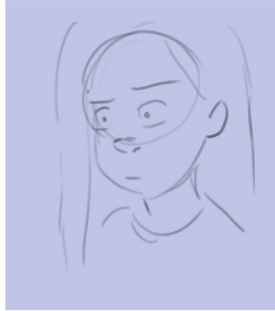
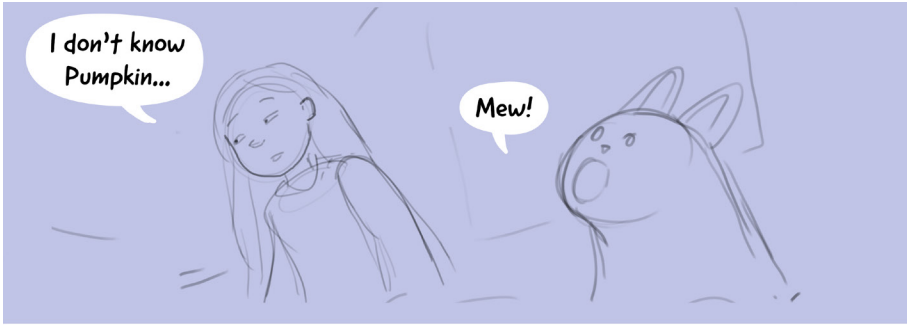
Um... Pumpkin, I learned to read five years ago and it's still a struggle! Plus, I can't type. And grammar, forget about it.

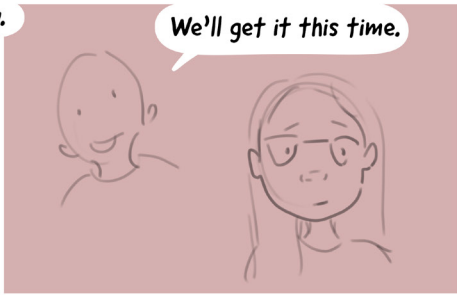
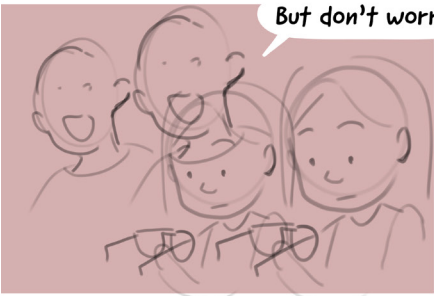
Plus I HATE BOOKS (except comics)

MARR-OWWW!

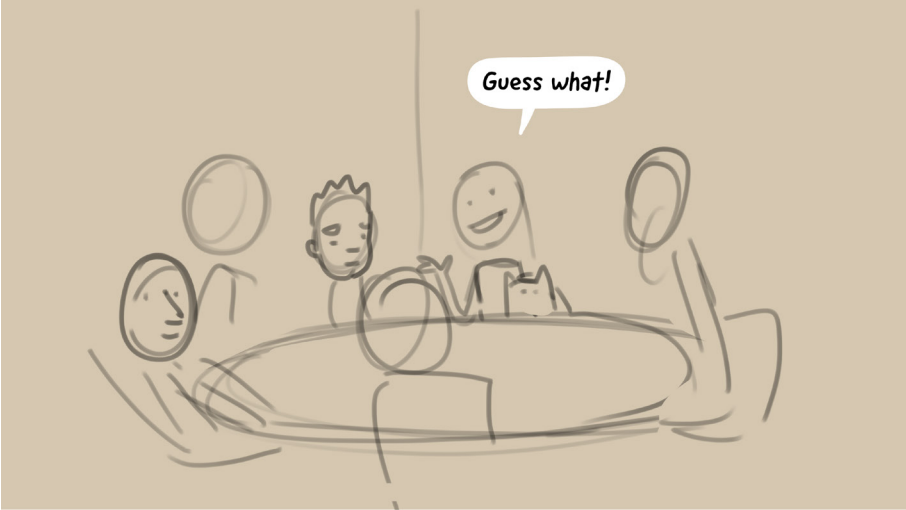
It's impossible.

Meow!!!









Guess what!



I'm passing all my classes and I got an art award!

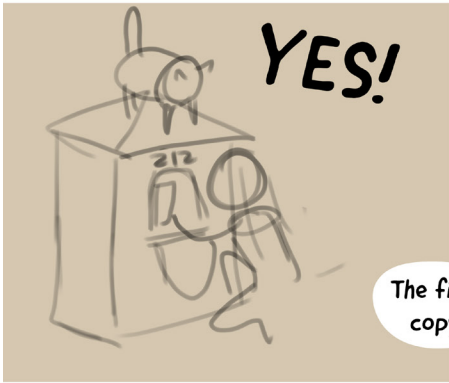


That's amazing Raea!



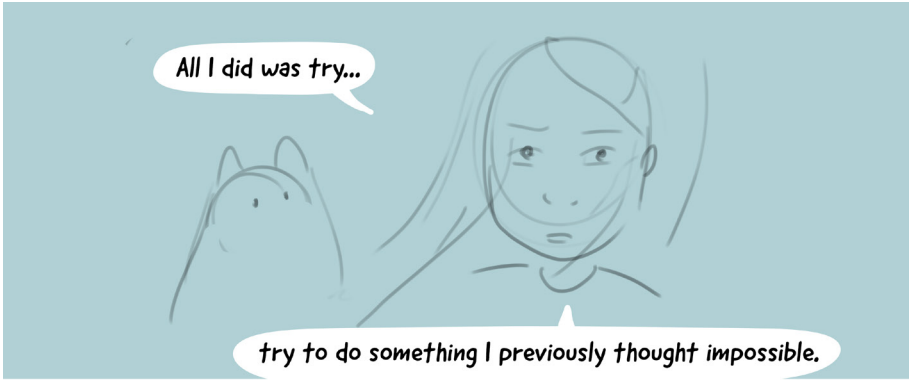
Oh! You know what? I haven't checked the mail yet.







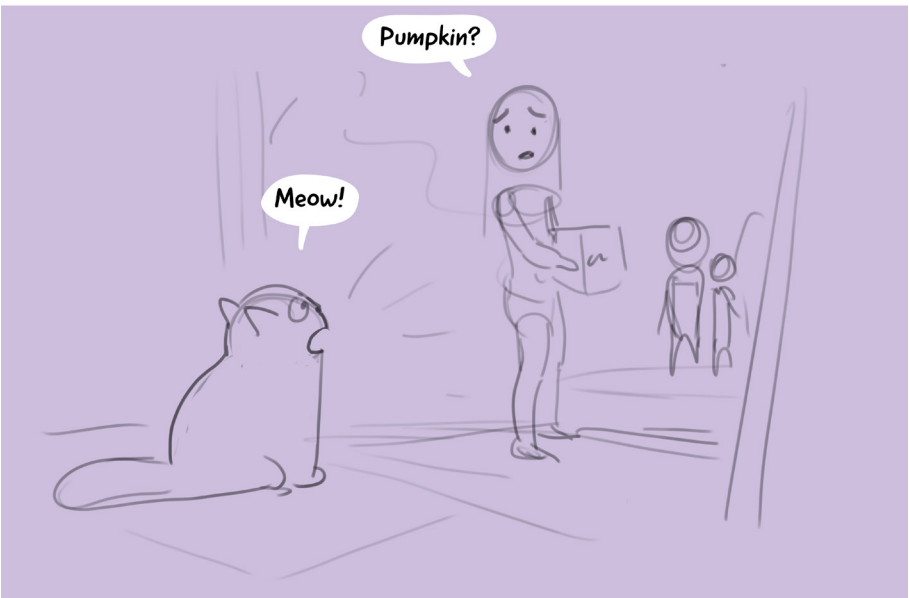


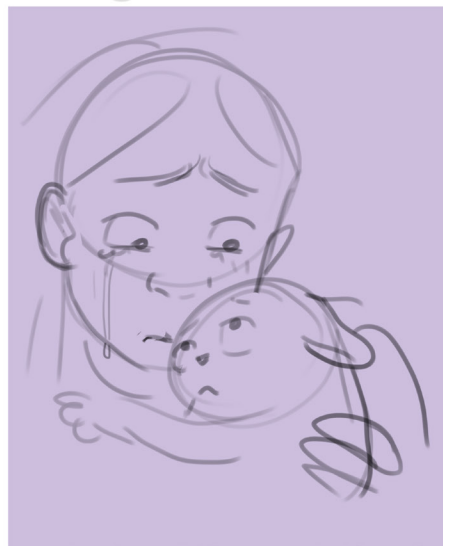
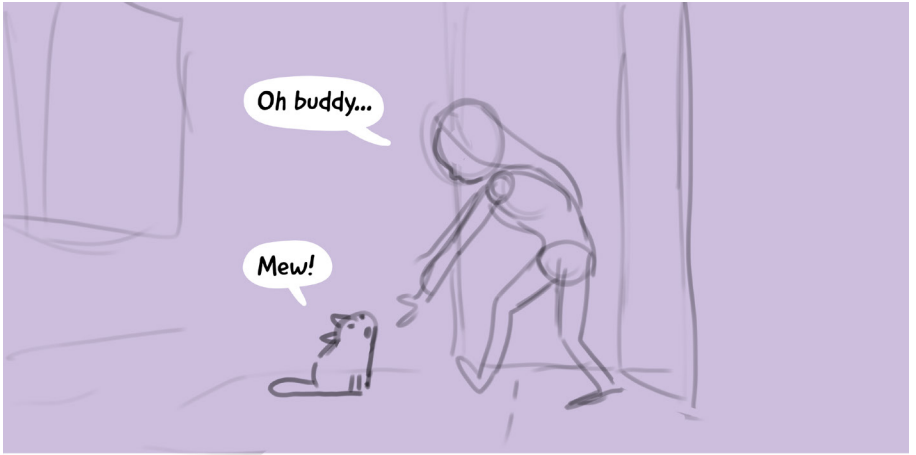


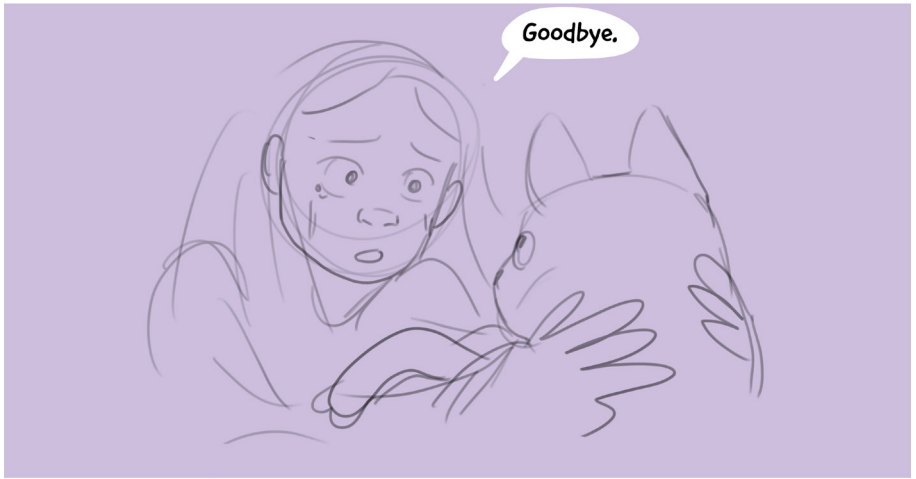
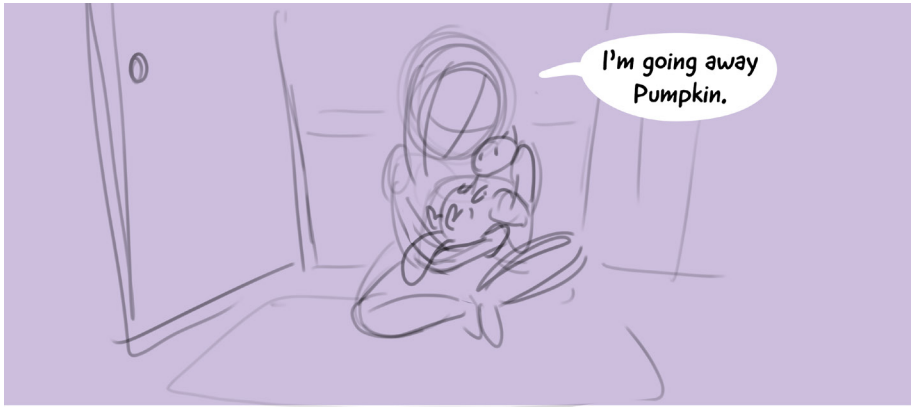
try to do something I previously thought impossible.

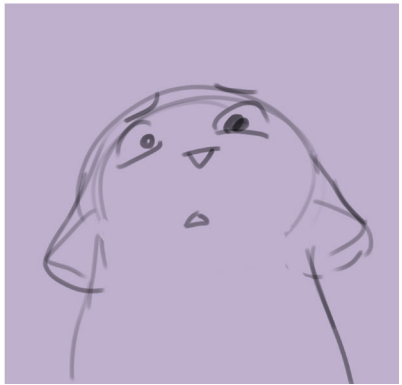
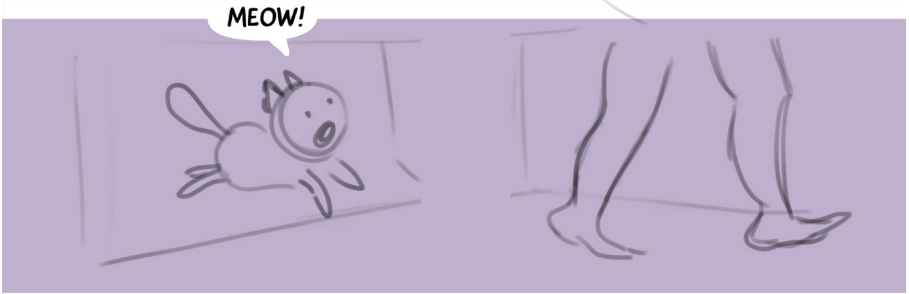


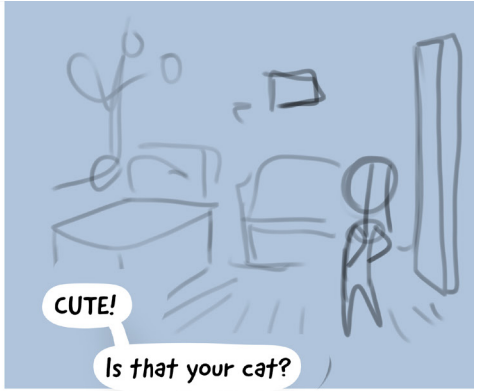


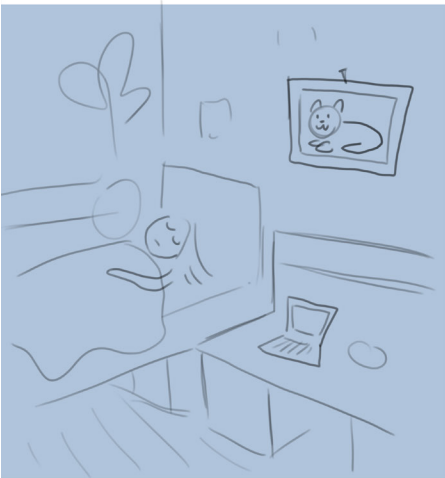
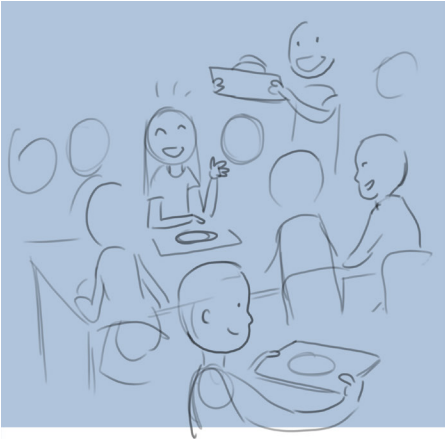












Hey! Raea CATCH!



What... oranges are your favorite, right?



I CAUGHT IT!



I've never caught something before!



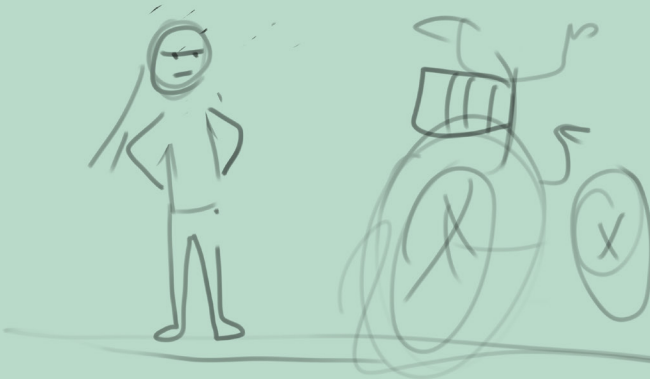
I'm surprised I caught this because my hand eye coordination is awful from growing up with vision problems!

Wait... you had vision problems?

I wonder what else I can do now.

Uhh... goodluck?

THANKS!





I can do impossible things.



**YES!** I did it!



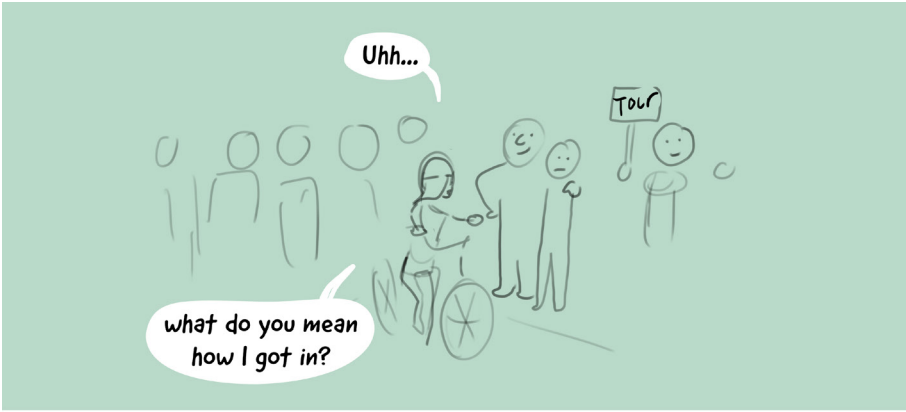
Excuse me! Are you a student here?



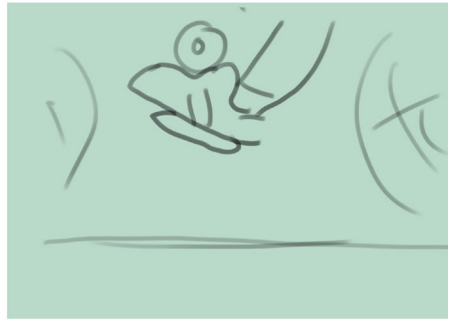
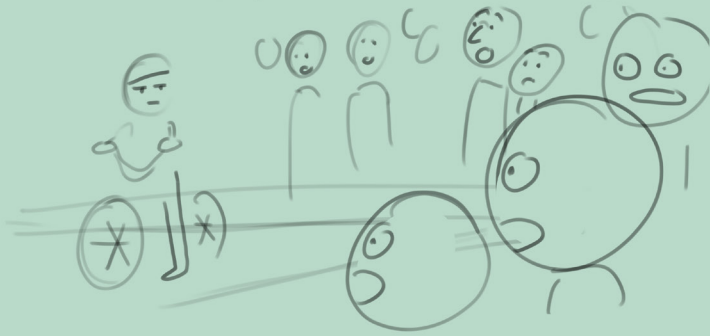
This is my son. We are touring your school today and wanted to ask...

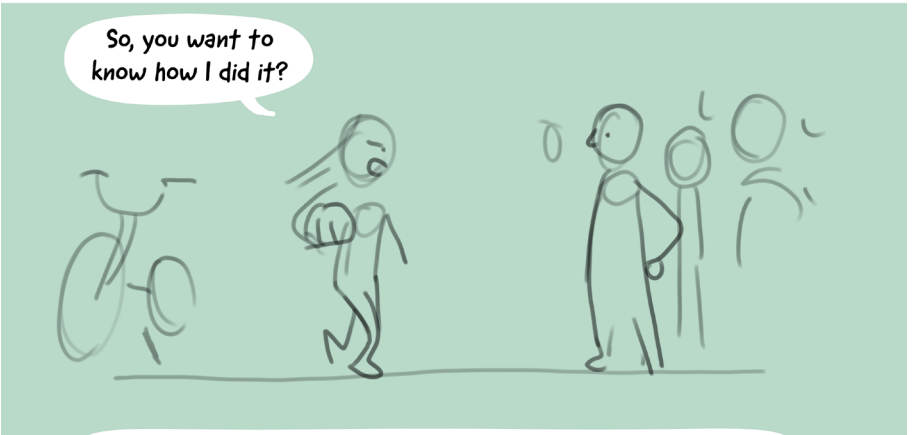
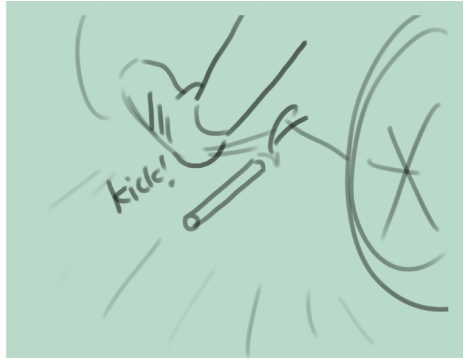
...how did you get in?





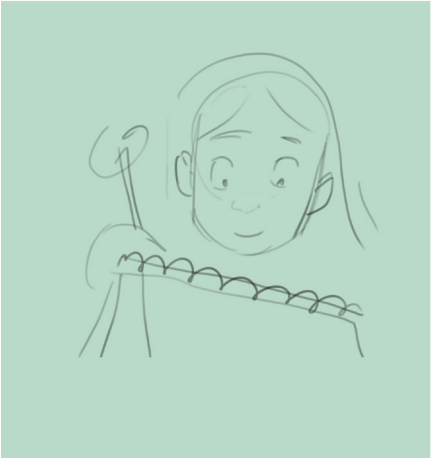
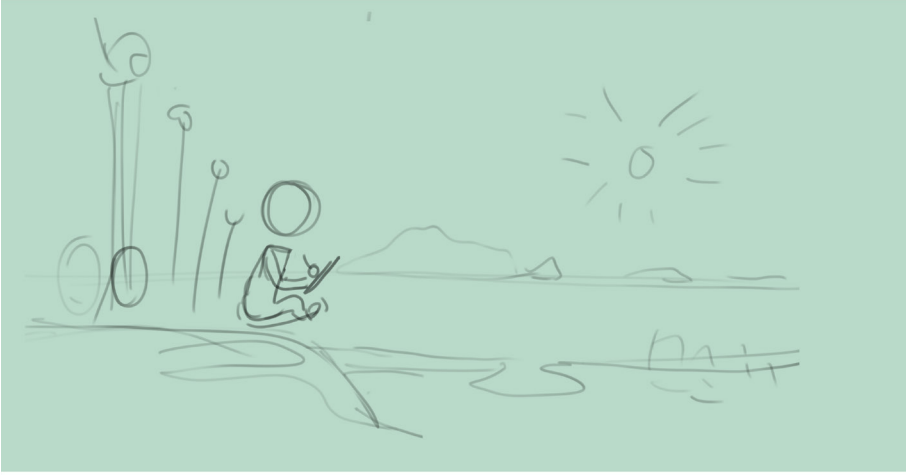
# GASP!

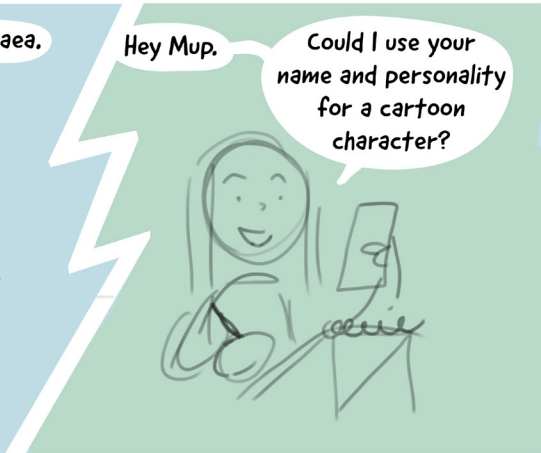
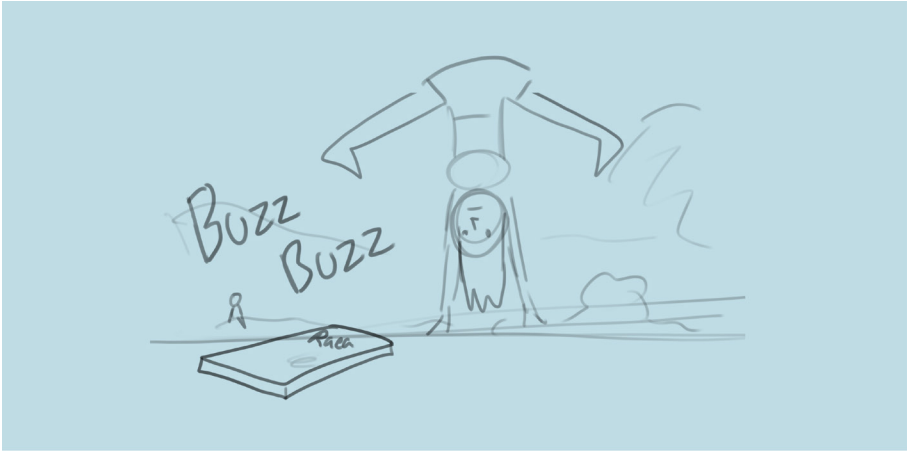


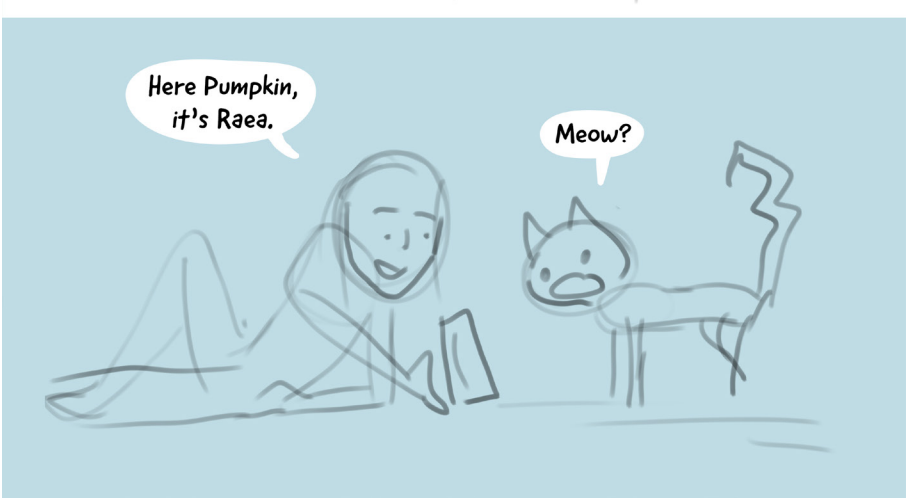


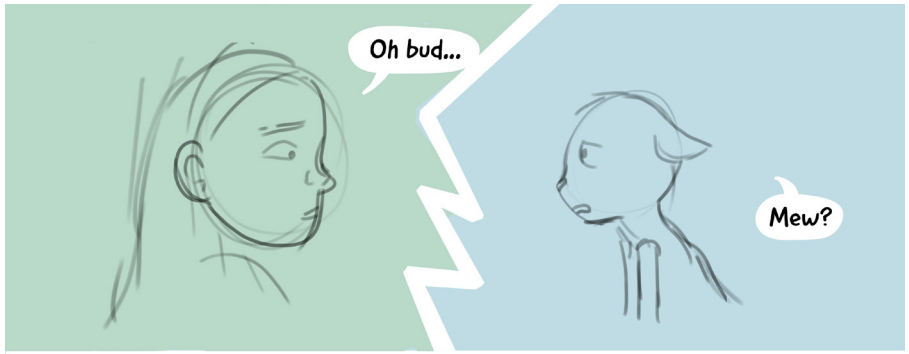
I told this school the story of how I never gave up on myself, even when I wanted to.









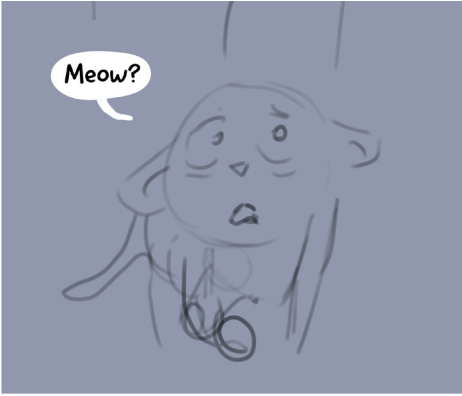


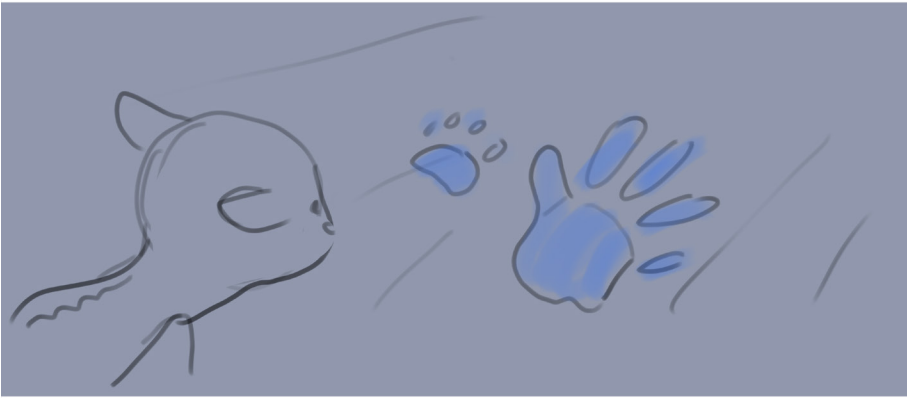
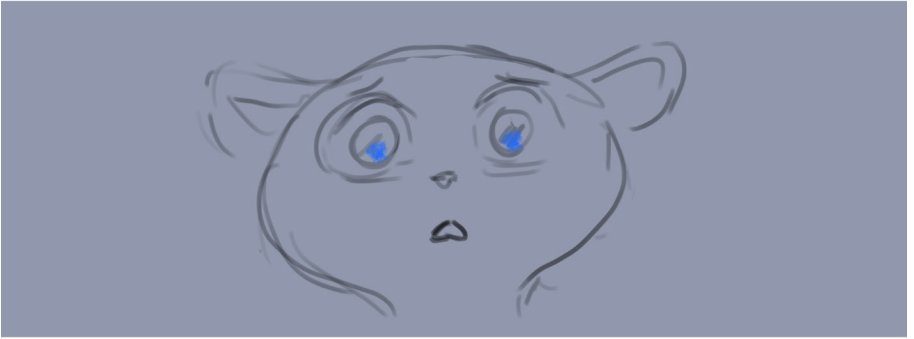
Please don't be sad.



Meow?





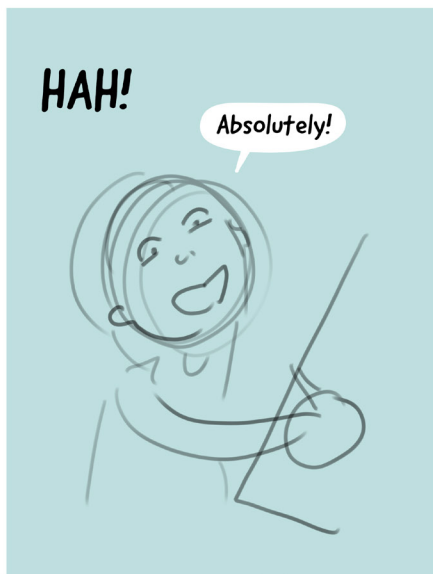
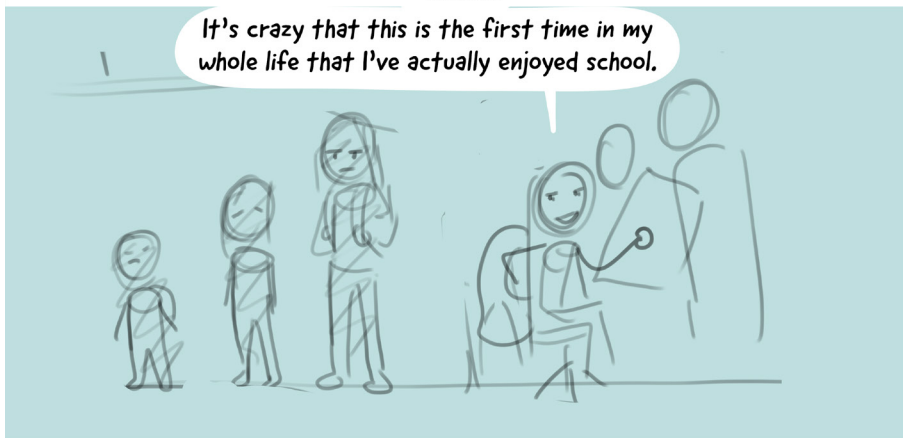








Thanks!



Hey um...

bad news.

They're cancelling school  
and everyone has to go  
home.

college



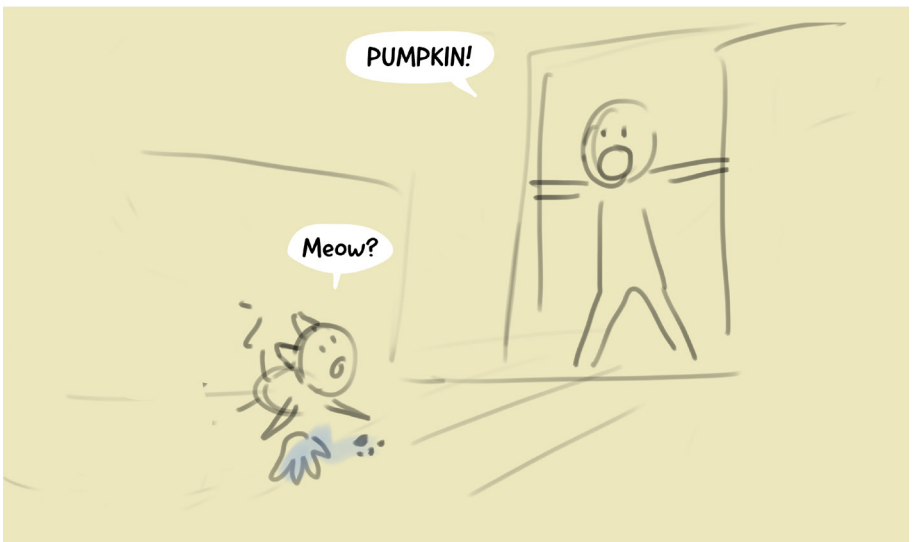
**Mom!**  
**Dad!**

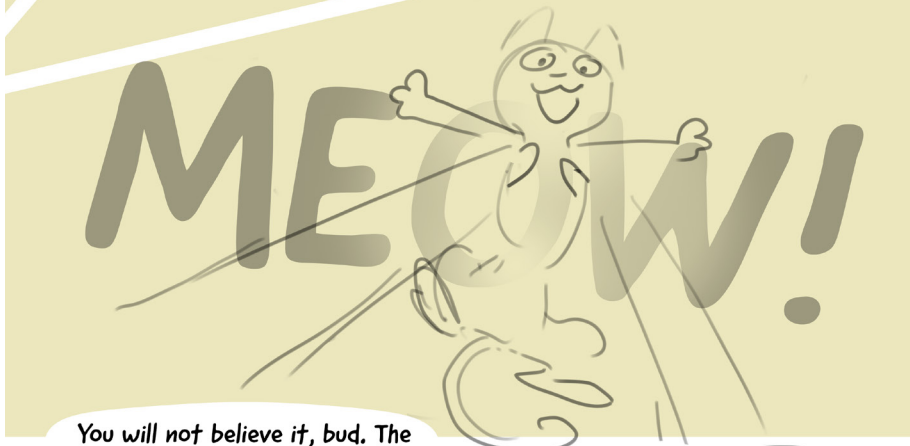
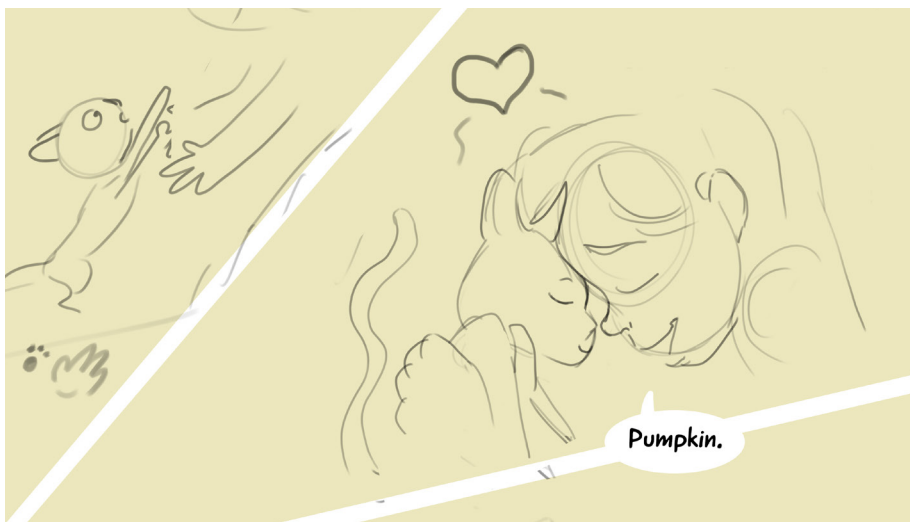
We're back!



**WAIT!**

Where is  
Pumpkin?





But... I don't want to give up on my school project.



It's a graphic novel.



So what do you say bud, do you want to help me finish it?

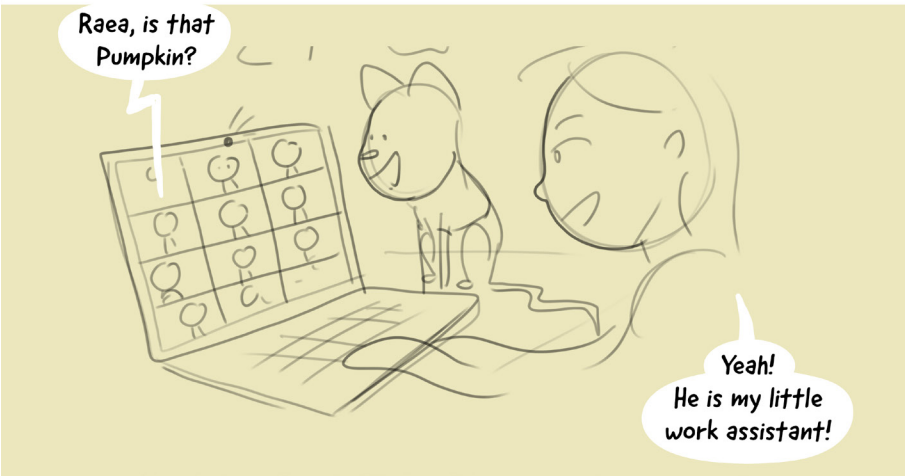


Whether or not school's been cancelled?



**MEOW!**





**LOOK!**

We did it!



Just you and  
me buddy.



Just like old  
times.



Today, we have something to celebrate! I'm here with author Raea Gragg.



This is the first time these students can gather together since the start of the pandemic.



Raea, what do you hope these kiddos learn from you?



What's your favorite thing to draw?

Hmm...



Pumpkin my cat. He has actually helped me create every story I've ever made.



Reading, writing and drawing are all powerful and each and every single one of you has a powerful story to tell.



Excuse me.





Is it true that you hated reading?



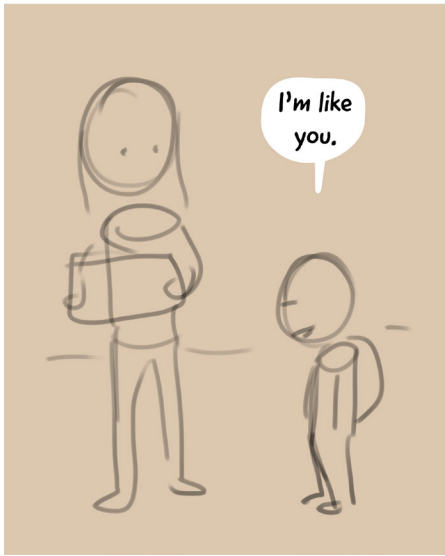
Yeah, it's true.



I don't like reading too.



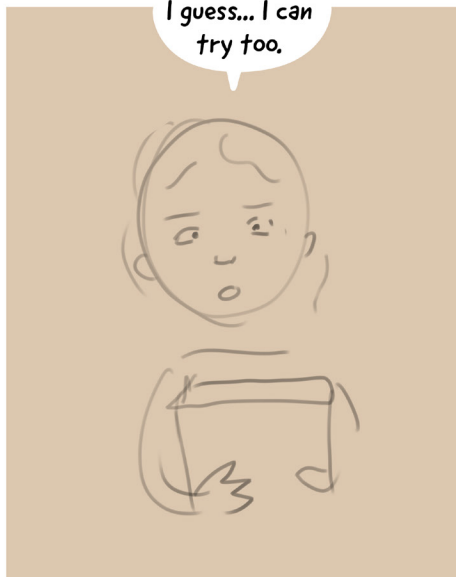
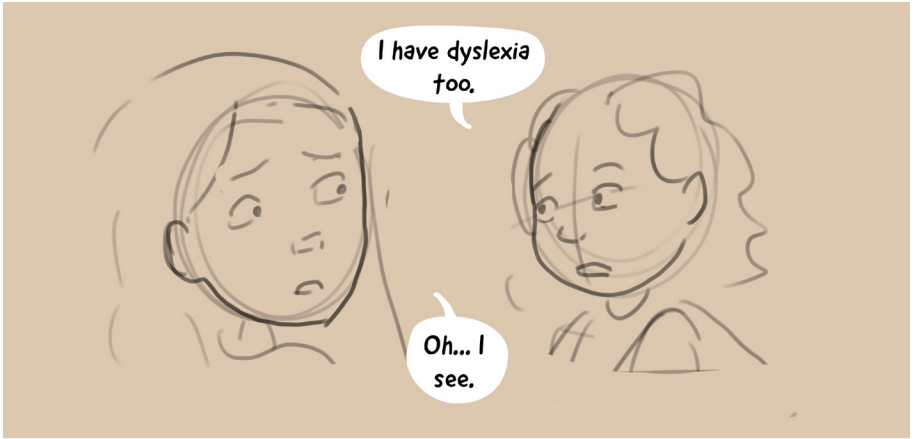
**I HATE IT.**

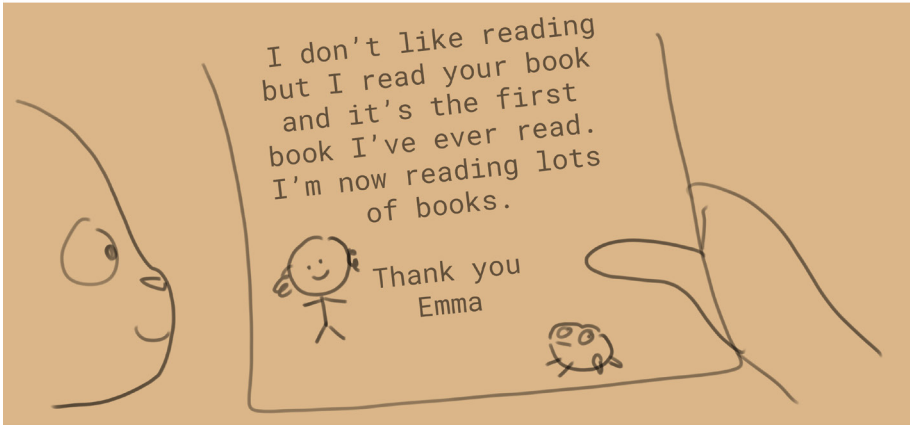


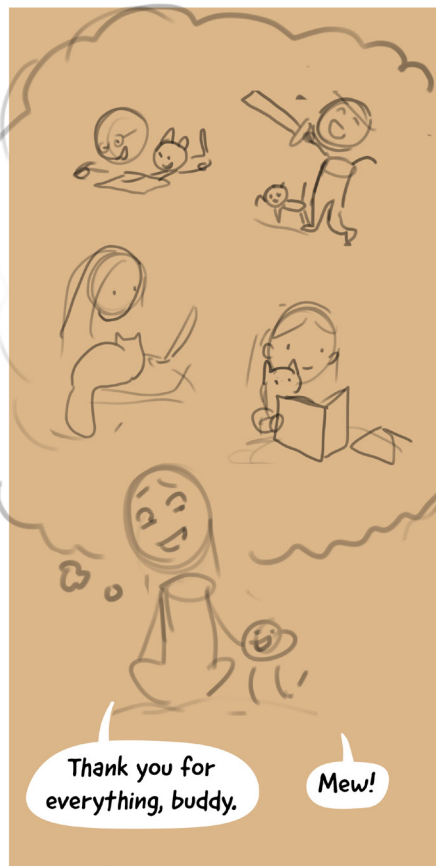
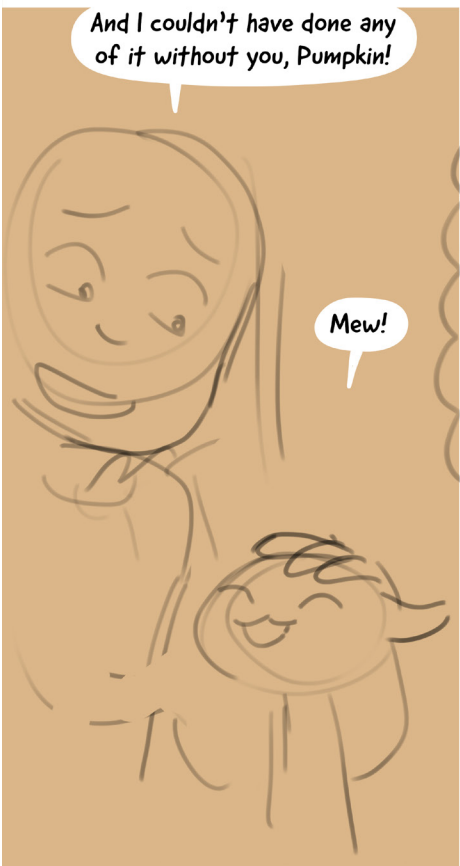
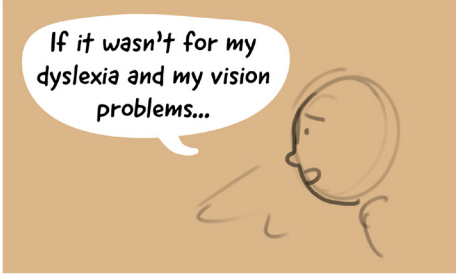
I'm like you.



How so?







Thank you for  
believing in me.



