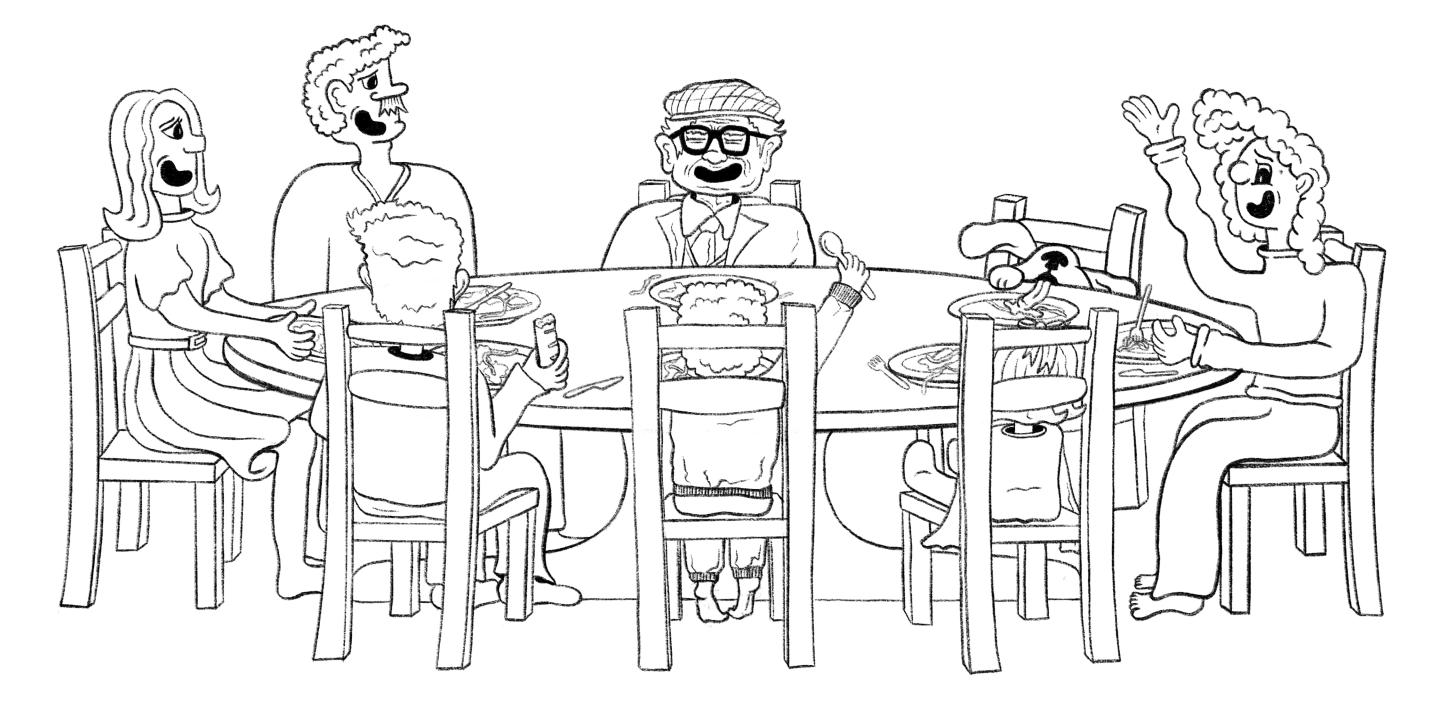




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STATERENT

My work is like a cinnamon roll – sweet, warm, and enticing to people of all ages. The spiral is a symbol of connection, which is the goal of my work: to bring children and adults together through illustrated stories and play.

Through storytelling, I aim to strengthen relationships between children and adults and remind adults how they can rediscover their sense of play and wonder.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

I have created a brand of activity books called <u>The Sunday Scarie Series</u> as well as the first book in the series called <u>The</u> <u>Potlucks.</u>

This series transforms mundane activities such as eating dinner, exercising, and cleaning, into creative interactions between adults and children. The stories emphasize the essential connection between play and learning. The books include an immersive story with unique activities. These activities purposefully "interrupt" the plot to generate conversation and interaction between the adult and child.

Children have a supported space to play and learn and the adults have an opportunity to "return to childhood." This series is **intended equally for adults and children**, with the ultimate goal that they will learn about methods of creativity from each other.

QUESTION DRIVING MY WORK:

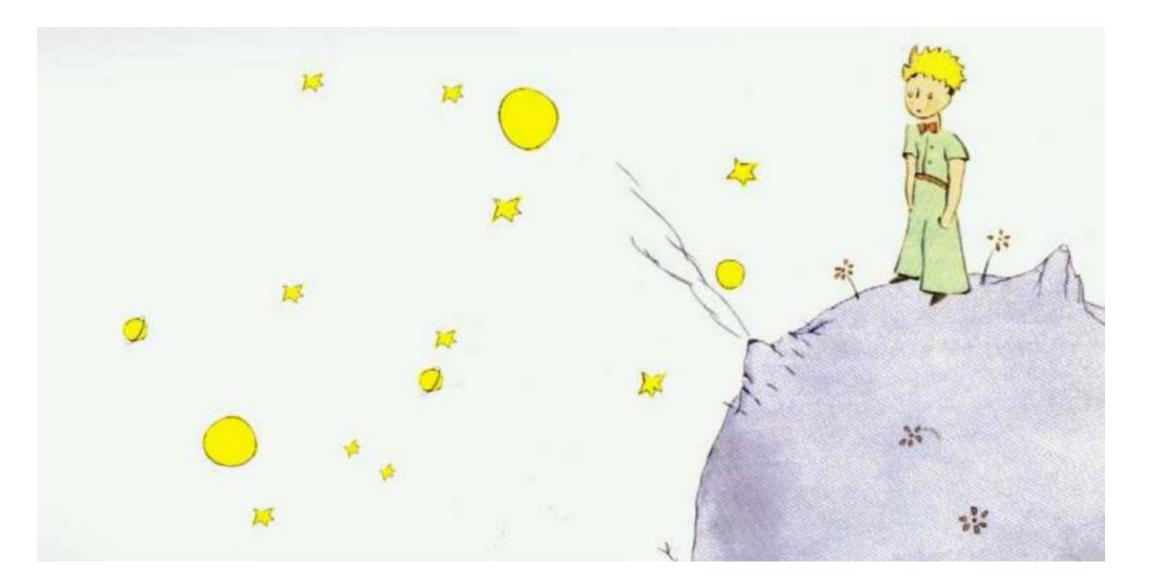
Through this work, how can I rekindle my own creativity as an adult utilizing the process of creating such as <u>The Sunday</u> <u>Scarie Series?</u>

RESEARCH

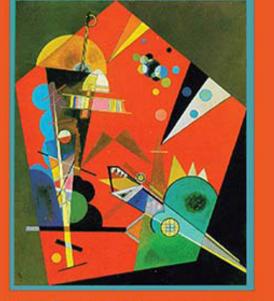
Winn, Marie. "The Loss of Childhood." The New York Times, 8 May 1983, https://www.nytimes.com/1983/05/08/magazine/theloss-of-childhood.html.

This article references the fact that something has changed within families, mothers, marriage, and the dynamic of a home. Children have moved out of a place of innocence. They are now being molded and turned into "little adults." This even falls onto society and its change in attitude towards children. America specifically has a problem in understanding that they need to prepare children for the world rather than protect them from the world. These children however are suffering and dealing with the damage of a lack of balance in this exposure to what they know about the world.

The article talks about how children are falling into a place of neglect. Today children aren't seen as a gift or special but rather an inconvenience and end of fun. Childhood has lost its beauty, awe, and wonder. There are certain things that are damaging to expose children too at such an early age such as sex or sexual content, violence, responsibilities that should be on the parent. Divorce rates and the destruction of a historical family is causing trauma to children's lives based on a lack of protection. It is essential the children are mentally and physically taken care of. Saint-Exupéry Antoine de, and Katherine Woods. The Little Prince. United States: Ancient Wisdon Publications, 2018.







Stephen Nachmanovitch

Nachmanovitch, Stephen. Free Play Improvisation in Life and Art. New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam, 2010.

Stephen Nachmanovitch's published this book in 2010 with the purpose of diving into the necessity of strengthening "play" and creative "power". He wrote this book as a musician himself and he has a lot to say and compare to childhood and fine arts in his experiences and stories. He explains this specifically around music and the arts and reflects on the fact that art comes

from play. Art comes from improvisation and is enriched by people's encouragement of exploration and play. The key part or chapter that is most relevant to my project is called "Childhood's End." Nachmanovitch talks about the natural creativity of a child and how it is affected into adulthood. He ends up suggesting the school systems turn children into conforming adults. Then these adults turn more children into the same system. As a result of this art has become skewed as the value of an artist's work comes from the pressure of the outcome rather than the process or even the enjoyment of making and creating and playing. Nachmanovitch ends the chapter with the statement that there is a moment every child experiences this loss of creative freedom and play due to society and the gravity of reality. The Little Prince is an illustrated story that seems to be more for adults than children based on the heavy topics and gravity of what is in the story. It is about the topics of "grown-ups" compared to the little prince a child. The narrator, who is the aircraft pilot, crashes his plane and meets the little prince. As the narrator works to fix his plane he talks with the little prince. He talks about deep topics and explains themes of love, jealousy, loss, friendship, and loneliness. The book goes on to talk about adults and how they get sucked into the world and drawn out of childhood. There are adults who get stuck as kings, geographers, businessmen, and who are all too conceited. The argument through this book is that adults should be aware of their inner child, which is often suppressed by adult life. It begs the reader to look deeper inside to find the truth about who a person is and where they came from and what is lost versus found as time goes on.

The idea of a journey is so attractive within the story of the little

prince.Especiallyforastorythatcomesacrossassomethingachild would read, however, the adult by the end of the book is emotional and full of reflection. The child had most of the information go over their head and it comes across as "a nice story." This book caused me to reflect on how I can create with the goal of reaching both the adult and the child. Maybe not to reach both groups but rather to bring them together in a way that they don't have to be separate. The little prince goes into different worlds or realms and is full of abstraction and interpretation. Altogether, the little prince forced me to understand my own loss. This is the loss of being a child, however, the little prince leaves you at the end of the story with a feeling that you still might have it within you as long as you are aware of it, as long as you seek the truth of who you are and don't lose who you were.

Martínez, Daniel. YouTube. (2017, January 8). CGI animated short film HD "alike " by Daniel Martínez Lara & Rafa Cano Méndez | CGMeetup. YouTube. Retrieved March 18, 2023.



Within America, and other first world countries, there are real issues within the working world. Many jobs and professional life put creativity on hold – specifically referring to making money and building themselves up to the top. Work isn't about learning new things, self-improvement, or even curiosity. For parents this draining lifestyle can change children's love for play. Parents' creativity actually supports a balanced family for the children, but more truly improves their own happiness and mental health. The film Alike by Daniel Martinez Lara and Rafa Cano Mendez do a fantastic job illustrating this. This is a story that shows a synergistic effect of children and adult's creativity. Children and adult's feed off of each other like a powerful force. In the film it shows how a father and son experience this phenomenon.



In this first image, the son is eager to go to school and breaks the rules by drawing on his papers rather than doing the work. His father is drained at his desk job and leaves grey and faded. When he sees that his child isn't doing his work "properly" he gets mad and encourages him to stop messing around. He basically tells him to be more like him – do your job and do not be playful.

The image above shows how the father needs his son to bring out play, creativity, and color into his life. When he is with his child he is brought back to his own joy and creativity. However, the most important part of the film is when the father stops supporting his child's creativity, and the child becomes grey as well. They are both left in a desk job, grey, colorless world. What healed this greyness is the most important part. The father returned to his own childhood and started to dance and play the violin in the middle of the city. The child began to laugh and became orange again. It is a moment of healing and play that brought them both back to color. Nmcteam.InterviewwithChrisVanAllsburg:Part1.Centerforthe Collaborative Classroom. Retrieved April 3, 2023, from https:// www.collaborativeclassroom.org/blog/interview-with-chrisvan-allsburg-part-1/

In an interview with the famous book illustrator and writer of Jumanji, Chris Van Allsburg explains so well how there is a problem arising in children in the more recent years.

He explains how for many years he has "received in the mail stories that kids have been motivated to write by viewing the pictures and captions that appear in The Mysteries of Harris Burdick. I noticed that when I got stories from younger kids-even though they sometimes struggled with language and their grammar wasn't particularly good-they seemed to be pretty imaginative."

He goes further to explain that when he received letters from the older kids of course, "their ability to communicate with language improved, but their imaginations seemed to diminish. My feeling is that what happens is this: overexposure to other media can contaminate their own imaginative process. By the time they get to be 13, 14, they have seen so many films, played so many videogames, watched so much television, that initially when they're called upon to express their own ideas, they just download things that have already been uploaded through their eyeballs."

It is always up to the adults to return back to creativity, to support their own play, and to never let it be fully lost. This film shows that it takes a cautious awareness to keep adult creativity. Although children can bring adults back to a child-like play and creativity, adults cannot solely rely on children to bring them out of their "greyness." They cannot remain "grey" for too long without it being detrimental. Adults must find color in their own way. More than ever, older children are losing creativity and play. This transition into adulthood will result in even more of a struggle to maintain curious thinking and an open-minded child-like mind.

Worksheet # 5.8 "If you look at a thing 999 times, you are perfectly safe; if you look at it for the 1000th time, you are in danger of seeing it for the first time." - G. К. CHESTERTON

THE ART OF SILLINESS

An Online Workshop with Carla Sonheim • Session 5 • Wednesday, 2/15/12



"PUT YOUR PENCIL DOWN!"

Drawing Exercise #7

It's true! Your assignment today doesn't involve any drawing!

Today you are to spend your ten minutes LOOKING MORE INTENTLY at the things around you.

For example, rather than getting a mug of tea and drinking it as per usual, get your tea and spend a few moments REALLY LOOKING at the shape of your mug, the curve of its handle, the shape of the oval when you look down into your cup, etc.

Repeat as often as you think of it today. (Toilets! Water spigots! Chairs and couches! Food! Computers! Toothbrushes! Door handles! Shoes! Plants! Trees! etc!) Sonheim, Carla. "Art of Silliness Worksheets." Carla Sonheim Presents, February 2, 2020. https://www.carlasonheim.com/ art-of-silliness-4-worksheets/.

Another artist who uses childlike creativity is Carla Sonheim. She is an artist and an instructor from Seattle whose goal is to teach both children and adults how fun imagination art can be. After starting many art classes and writing a few books, she has discovered a lot about the connection between how children create and how adults need to create. Carla explains that after teaching children for many years she "began teaching" adults a few years later, I continued this approach as I found that many people felt nervous about drawing especially... it helped to keep it FUN!" As she learned to work more with adults she came up with different "techniques designed to help adult" students rediscover a more spontaneous, playful approach to creating." Overall, her goal is to make drawing fun, silly, and easily available to anyone who wants. This is how I found her website "The Art of Silliness" where she has printable "silliness" worksheets" (see fig. 1). These worksheets consist of activities that get the brain moving. All the lessons are spontaneous, adventurous, and playful. They are not intimidating because the tasks are so simple and achievable, which encourages easier ways of creating. Carla Sonheim's work stood out to me not just because of her child-like ways of thinking but also the freedom she has in teaching art. It isn't about the outcome or even really about the process. Her work aims to help artist learn what it feels like to create without the pressure of perfection, she just wants her students to have fun and find joy in what they are creating.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

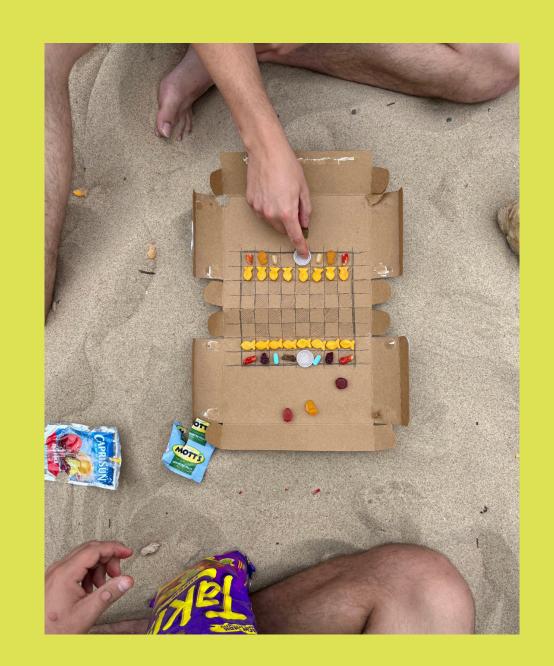
Another unique part of Carla Sonheim's work is through her blog where she lets guest artists give new art lessons. This is how I was introduced to Henrik Drescher, a Danish illustrator, who posted on her blog. His blog post is called the "Seeded Notebook", which came out May 26th, 2021. A seeded notebooks starts with a large, collaged piece of paper full of scraps, old drawings, photos, and scribbles (see fig. 2). Once the paper is dried and decorated, it can be taken and cut up into random smaller pieces of paper that can be put together into a notebook. Henrik Drescher's work is mainly collaged as all his inspiration come from his own seeded notebooks. He explains why this is important to him as "we are always fighting our own personal editor. We are always fighting to have spontaneity in our work but in so doing we end up editing ourselves and it can very easily become contrived and stiff. And that's what these books, these seeded notebooks attempt to move past... That everything you do, the more mature you get, the more you understand that you can do anything...It's like a little concentrated pill of creativity" From these effects of randomness, the paper can inspire creativity of unique imagery. This is such an important thing in adult creativity. This practice shows that adults still have creativity, but they must do something to reground and replant it. Henrik's seeded notebooks are just one example of how to rekindle childlike creativity.

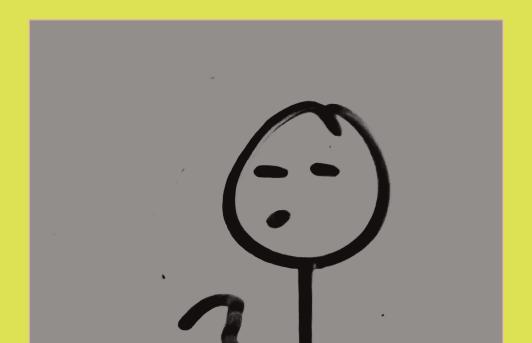
PRIMARY RESEARCH

"Creative living is any life that you live, where your decisions are based more strongly on your curiosity than your fear. And if you consistently, habitually, routinely, at every sort of intersection and decision in your life make decisions based on curiosity rather than fear, then you will be engaging with creativity. **Your life itself will become a work of art,** if you consistently live this way."

Elizabeth Gilbert





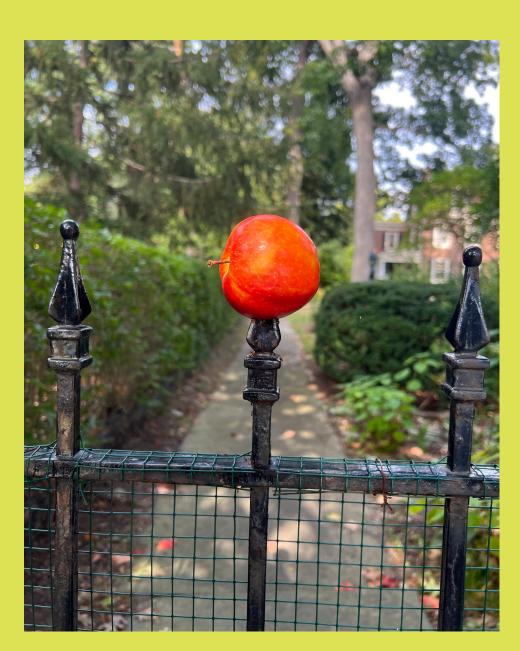


A phone charger stuck in the cement

Pizza box chess board at the beach



Drawing on the grocery list for "salt"







An apple on the fence

Lights out at the gas station

Carrots that look like legs.

This project has helped me to see my art and process of everyday life as more playful and child-like.

CREATIVE PROCESS



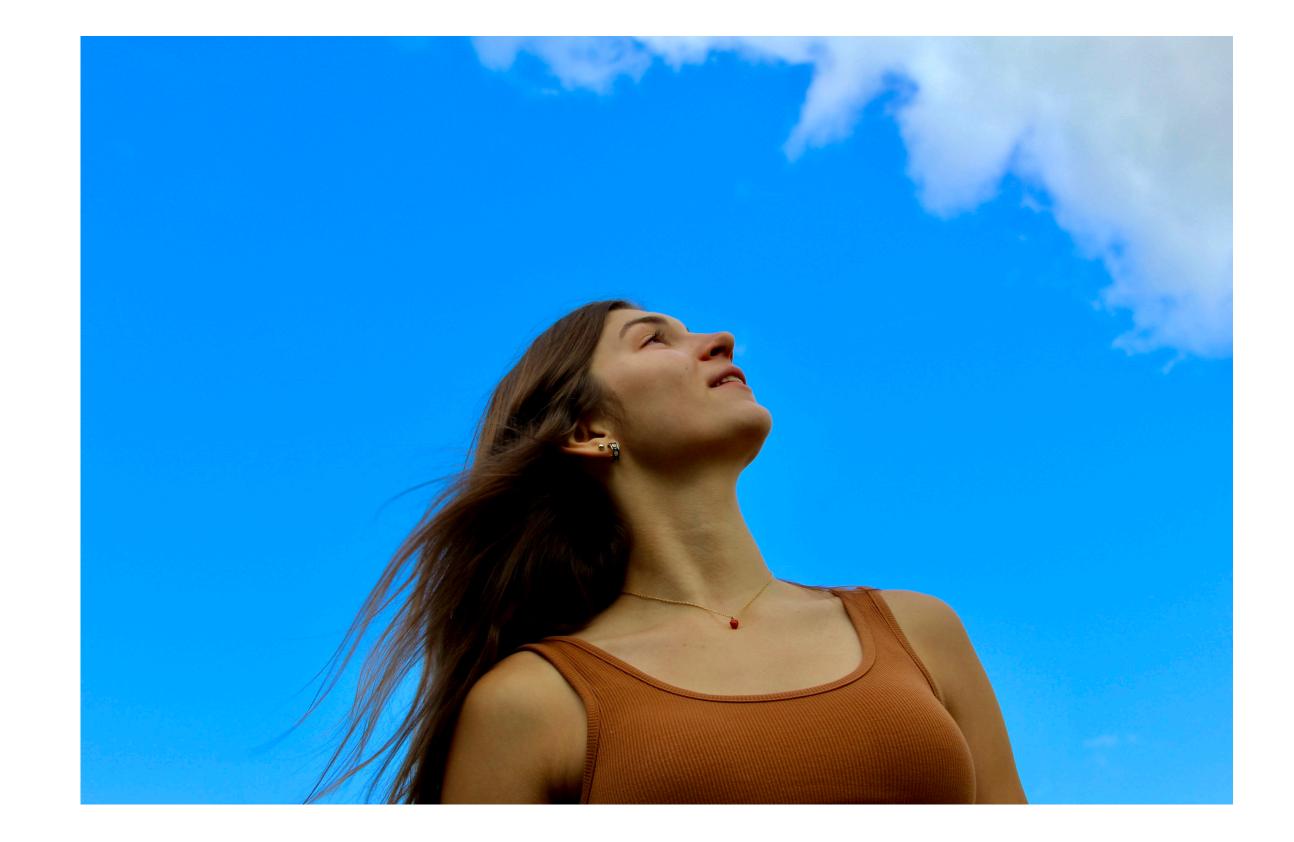
freedom, play, and creativity within my work.

As part of my process I photographed my little siblings with the goal of understanding child-like freedom and play.

Trisha, 11 years old Jonathan, 9 years old

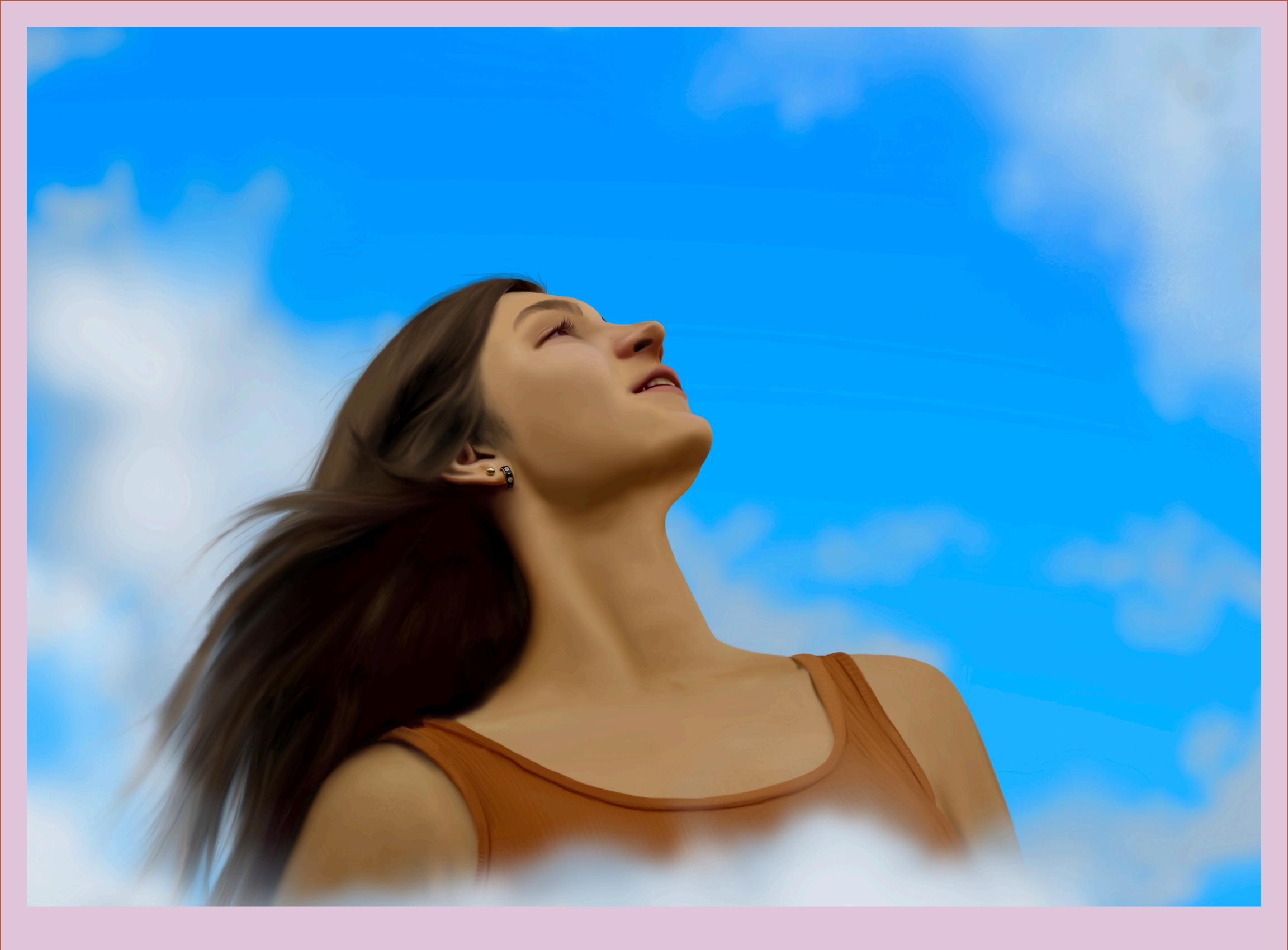


I was curious to understand a child's perspective and how my little brother viewed me as an adult





I handed him a camera and was so surprised by what he captured



My little brother, Jonathan, captured me from his point of view. Images of love, affection, laughter, and genuine smiles.

To Jonathan, I was someone to look up to with my face in the clouds. I understood that he saw the good in me and looked to me as an admirable figure.

I decided to study this photo by drawing myself. It took me 14 hours to draw and capture every detail.

The power of looking at myself the way a child sees me brought a lot of healing. I felt a heavy, yet honorable purpose in the role I play in a child's life as an adult.

I understood how to imagine and to step back into a more simple way of seeing the world: to just look up.

Sketching, Writing, and Iterating

Childhood memory prompted sketching:



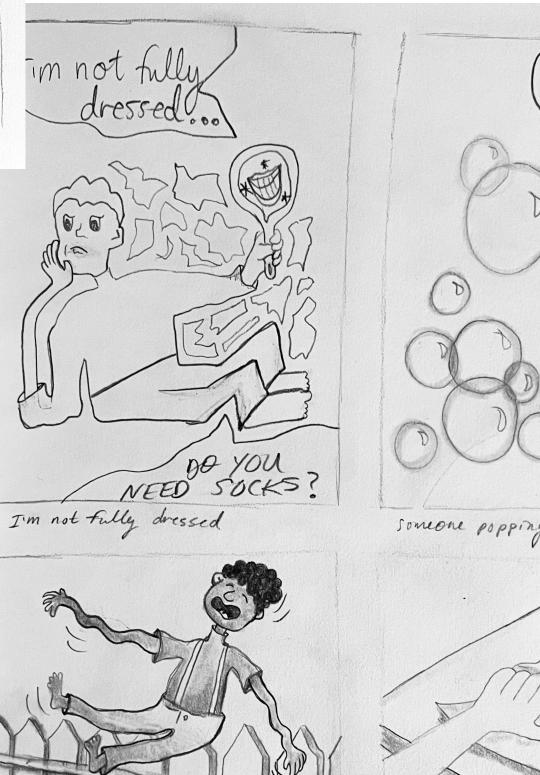
A person trying to hear

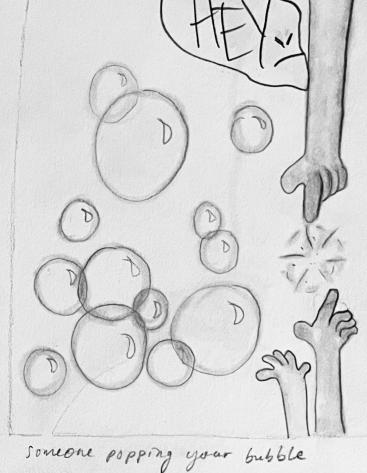


Losing a tooth

Getting stuck in shirt

"When you got stuck getting dressed"

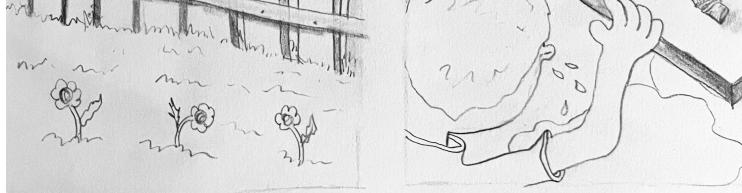


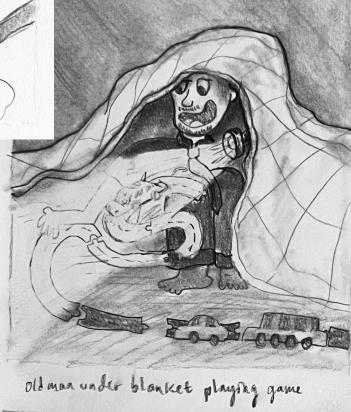


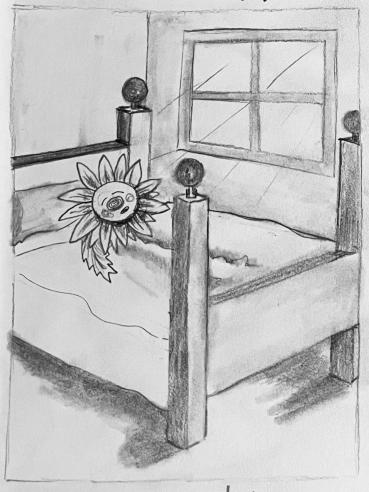
"Losing a balloon"



"Being on the fence hurts your butt"





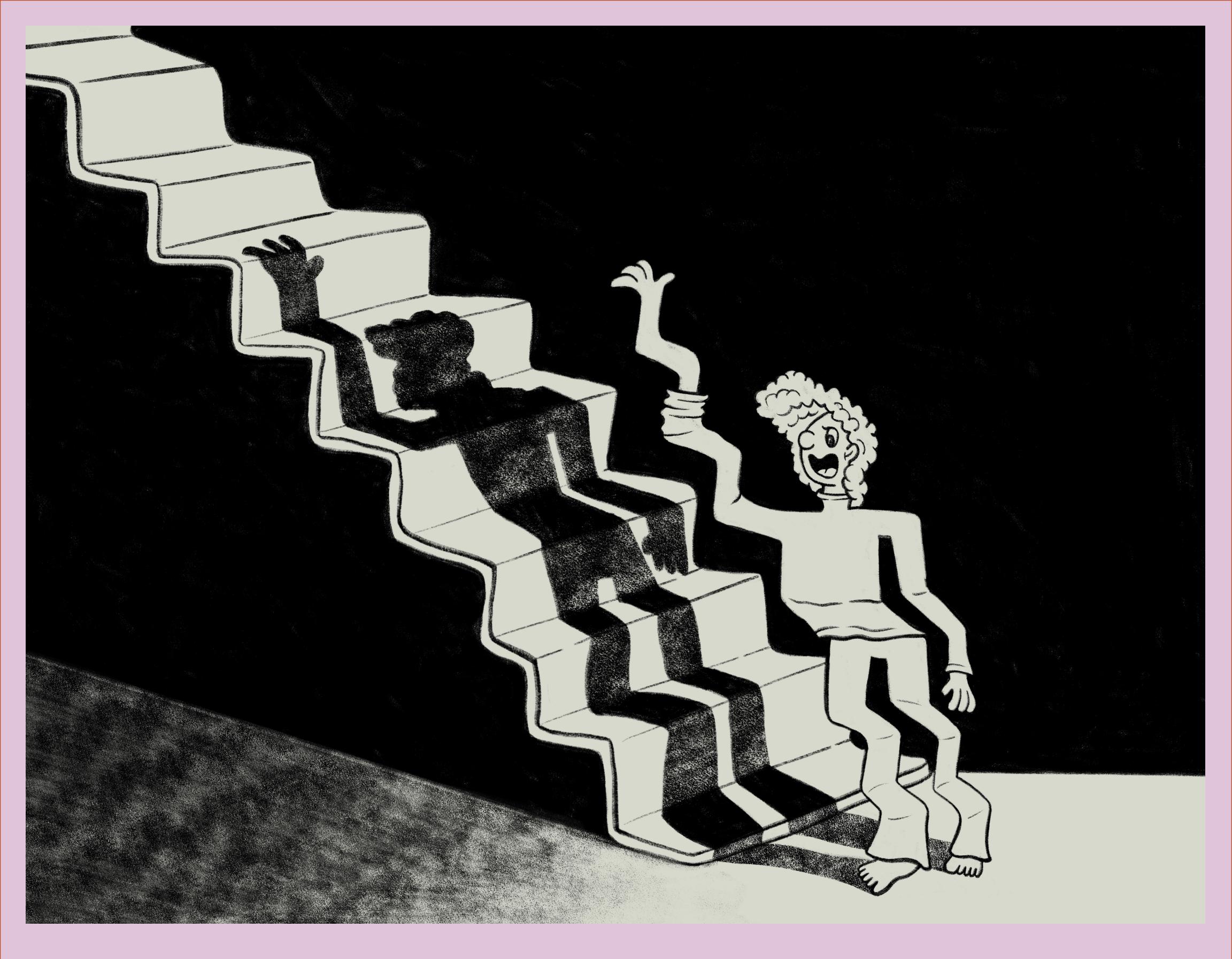


sunflower Sleeping towards tight





Kid reluctantly holding umbrella over huppy

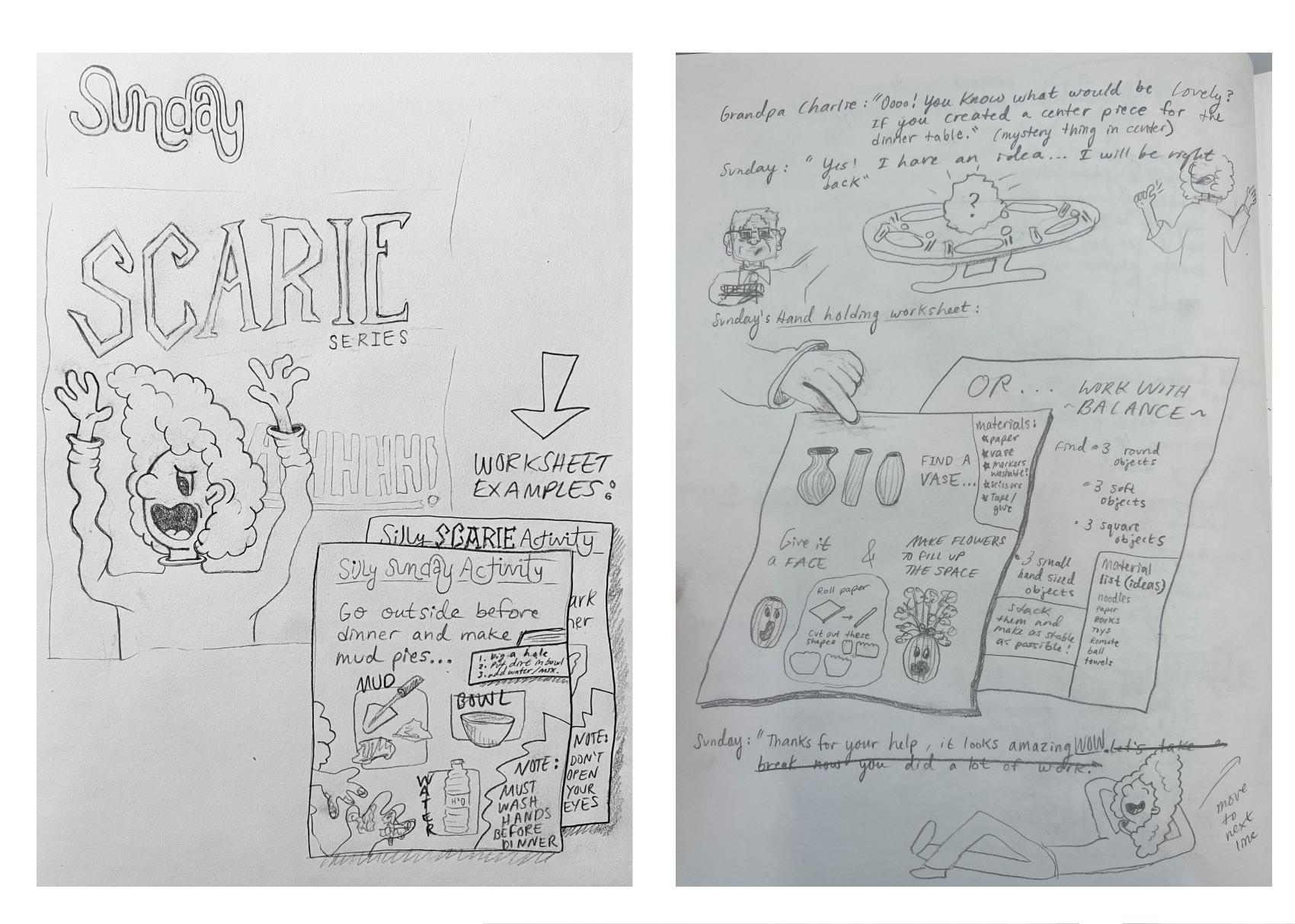


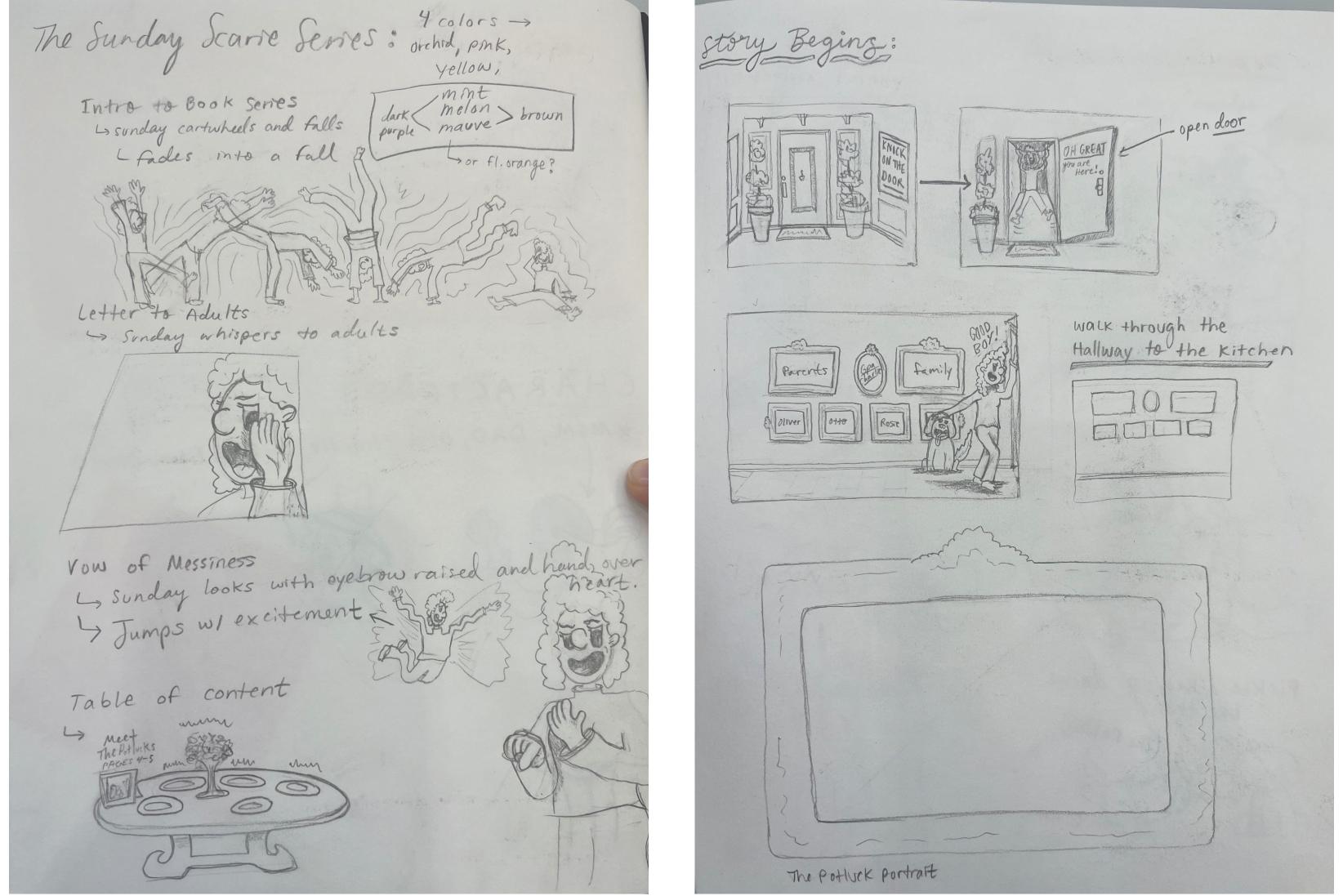
This is the drawing that started the Sunday Scarie Series. I created this character after waking up in the middle of the night and imagining her. I thought - she has to be the main character of a book: Thus, Sunday Scarie was born!



First Logo Iteration to the Final Logo Iteration (especially notice the color change and other altered elements!)

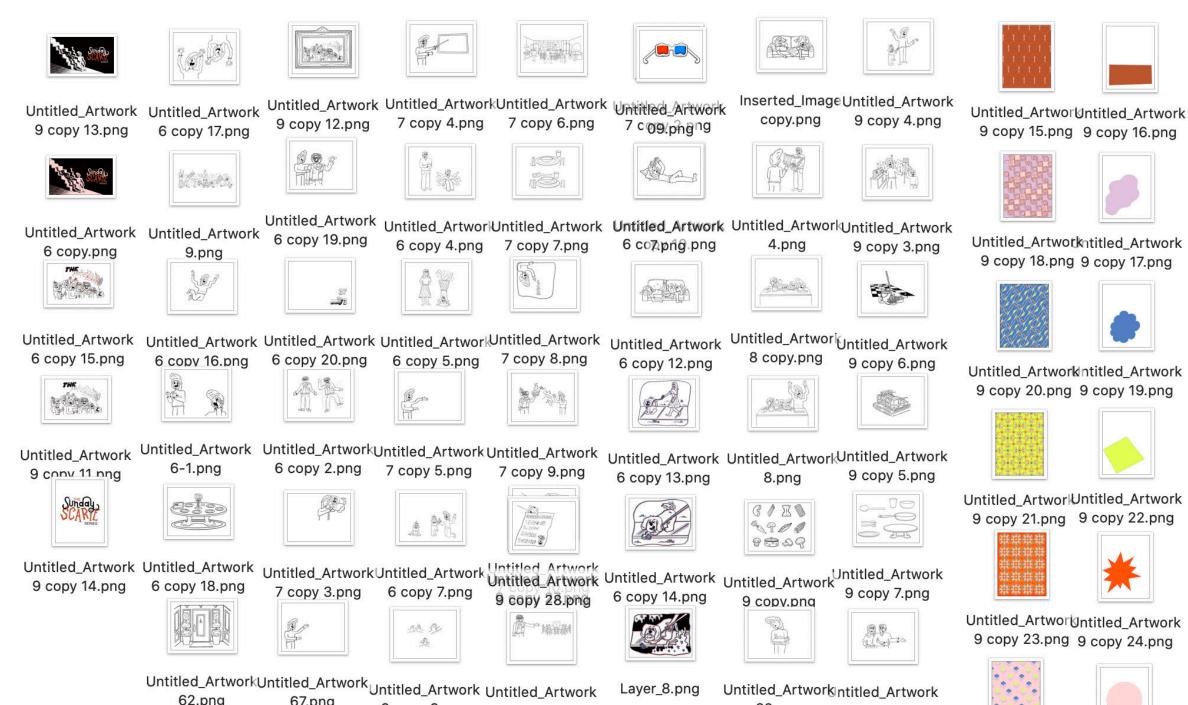
These are sketches from the beginning stages of storyboarding





I came up with the first story in the series: The Potlucks. I started writing and sketching.

CREATING THE BOOK!



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Step 1: I used my sketches to render my illustrations in the computer.

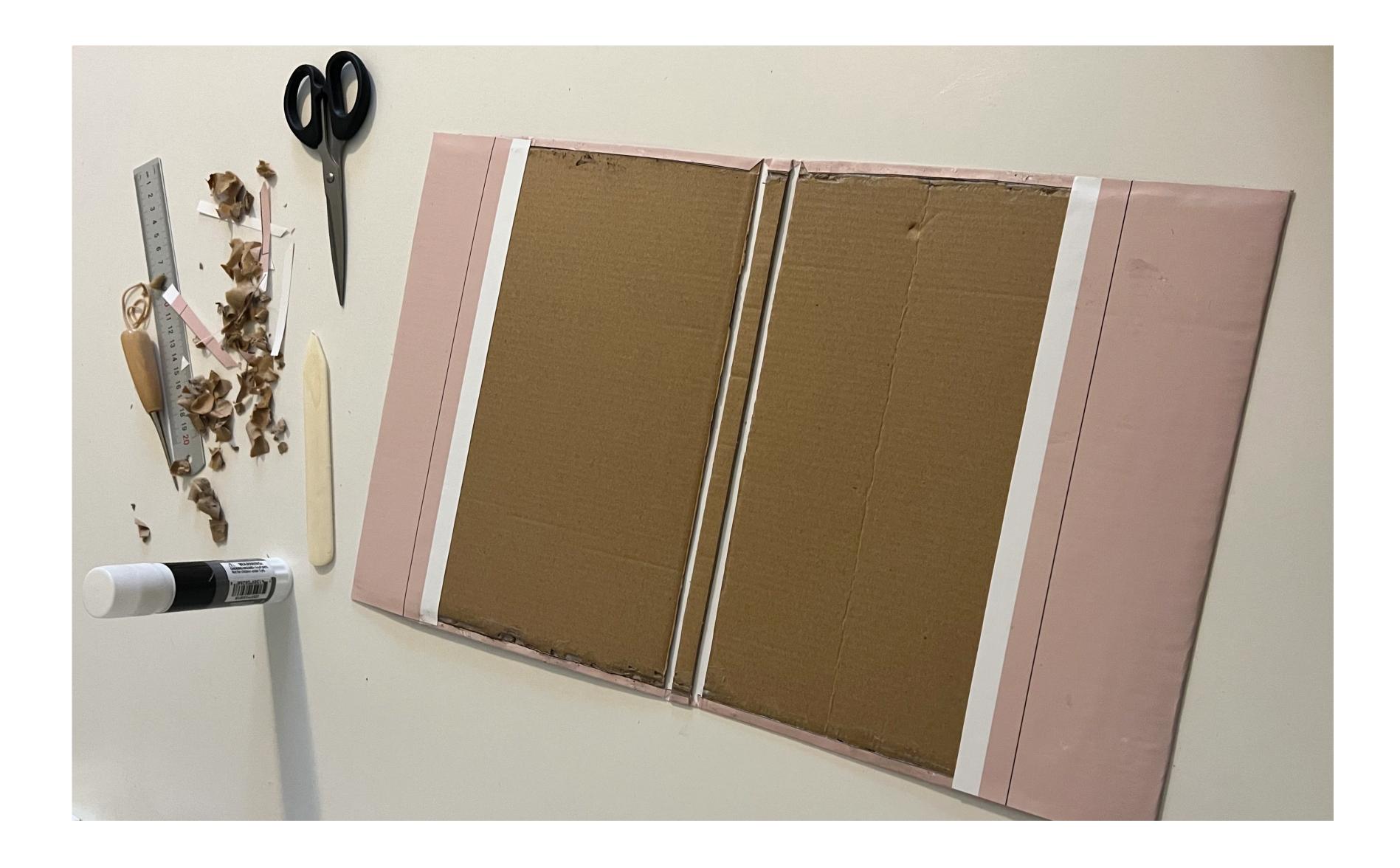


Step 2: I then printed and cut all of the papers and illustrations out

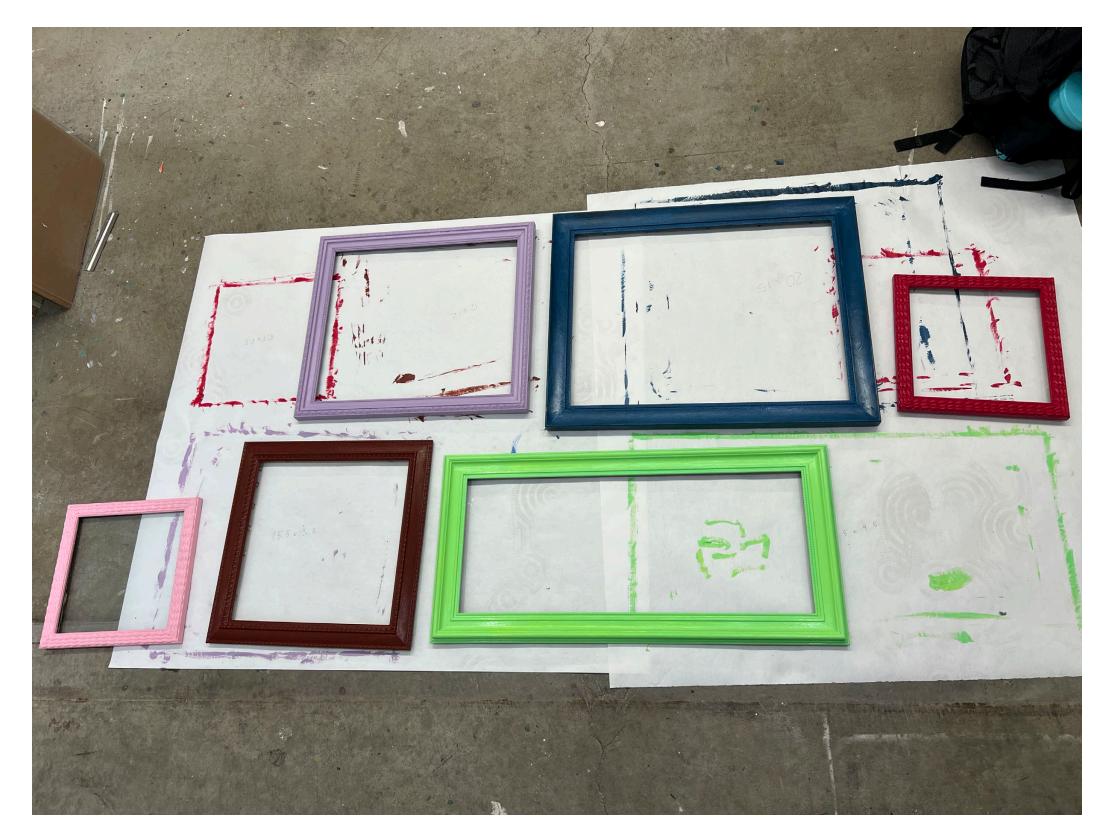


Step 3: Next, I organized each spread and glued all of the illustrations together.

I then scanned each spread and put it into InDesign to add the text!







In all of my process, the goal is to bring together creativity as an adult and creativity as a child.

I was able to jump between the digital world and hand making processes.

This allowed for me to get my hands dirty and to experience child-like creativity, while learning to enjoy my own process as an adult creator.



What is the Scaries?

of this Series? what's

The series emphasizes the essential connection between play and learning by transforming mundane activities such as eating dinner with the Potlucks into creative interactions between adults and children.

Children have a supported space to play and learn and adults have an opportunity to "return to childhood." This series is intended equally for adults and children, with the ultimate goal that they will learn about methods of creativity from each.



My name is Sunday, Sunday Scarie

> Don't worry though I am not scary at all. what I really am is SILLY

Here's the final spreads for the first book in the series The Potlucks!



I am going to use unnecessarily extravagant words, so the youngsters don't begin to examine what this text is all about. Now that the kids are uninterested.





Hold your hand over your heart & repeat after me:

I "STATE YOUR NAME" agree to be myself.

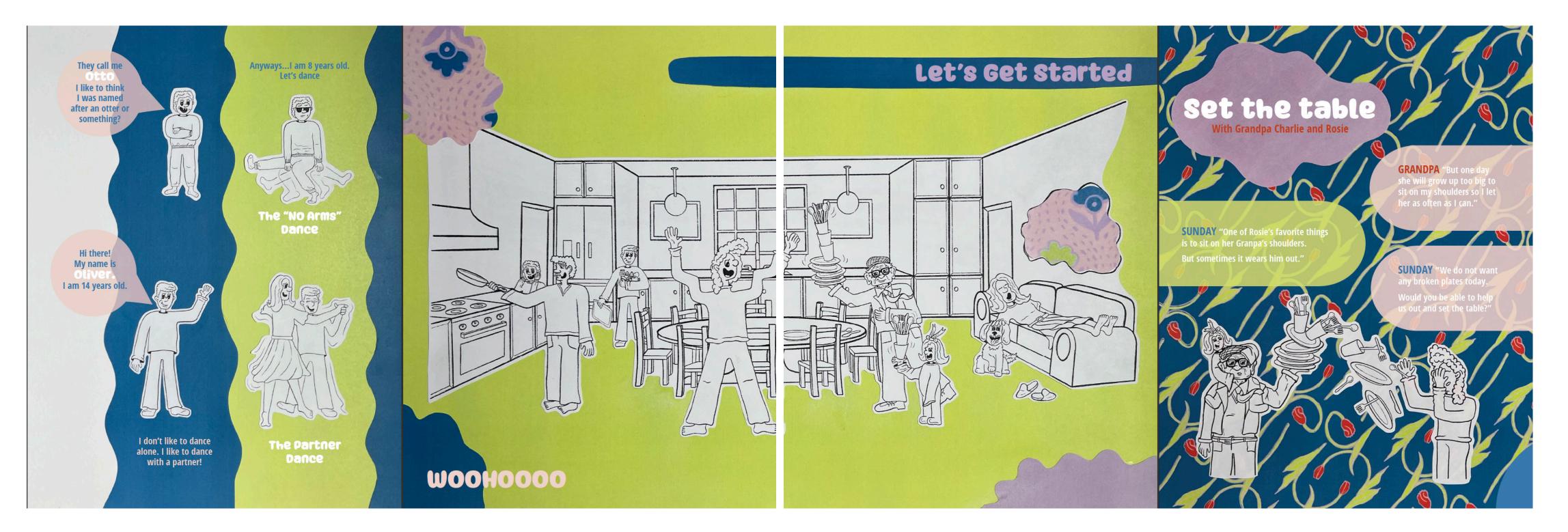
I will follow directions, be silly,



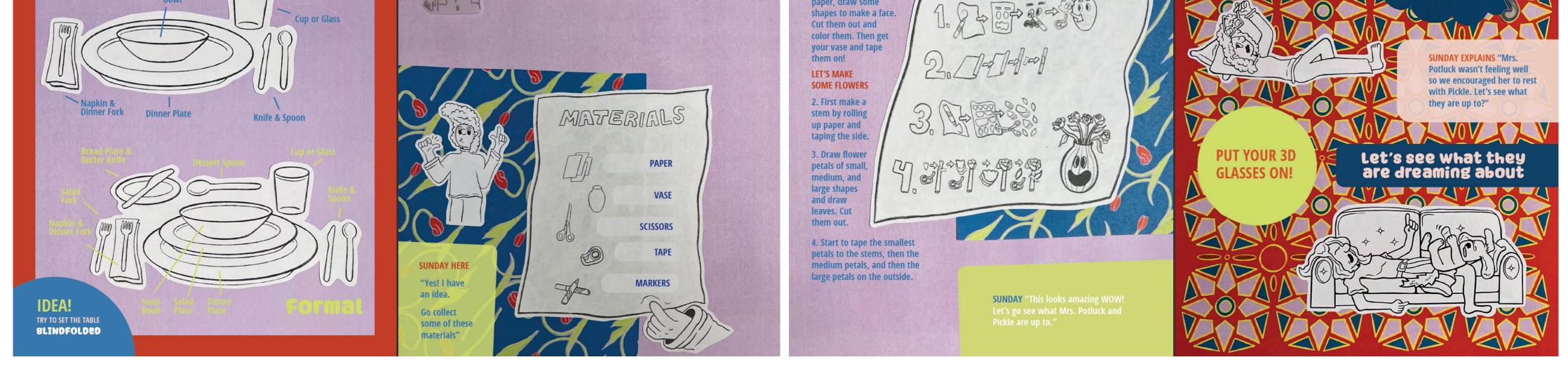


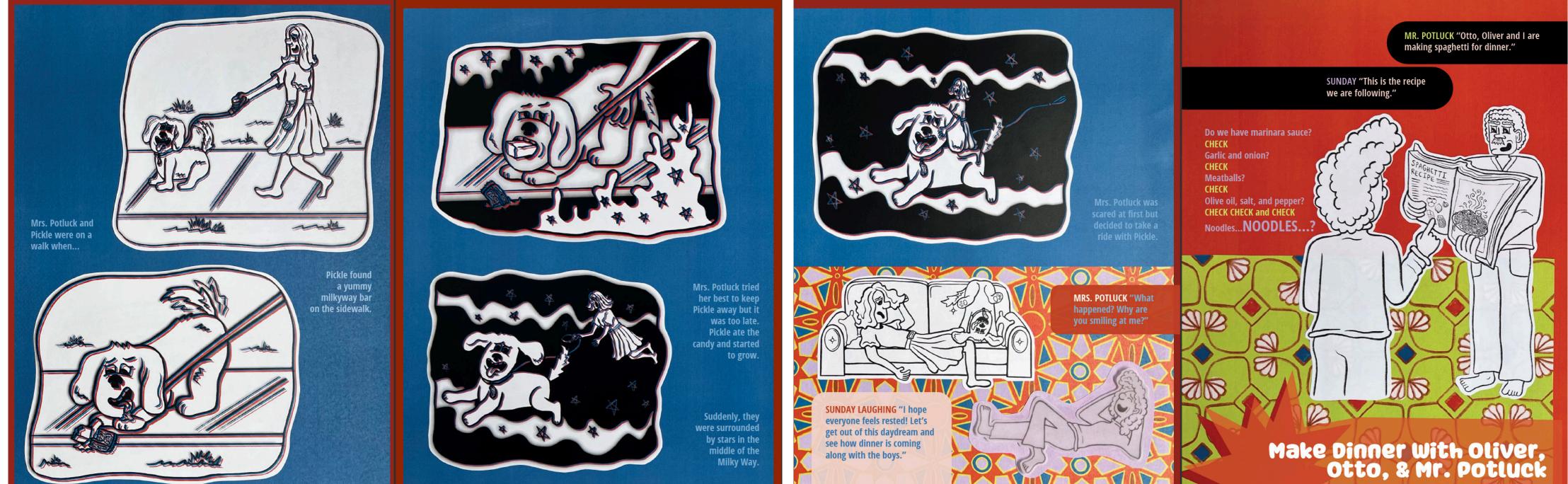
Oh good! I am so happy you are here!

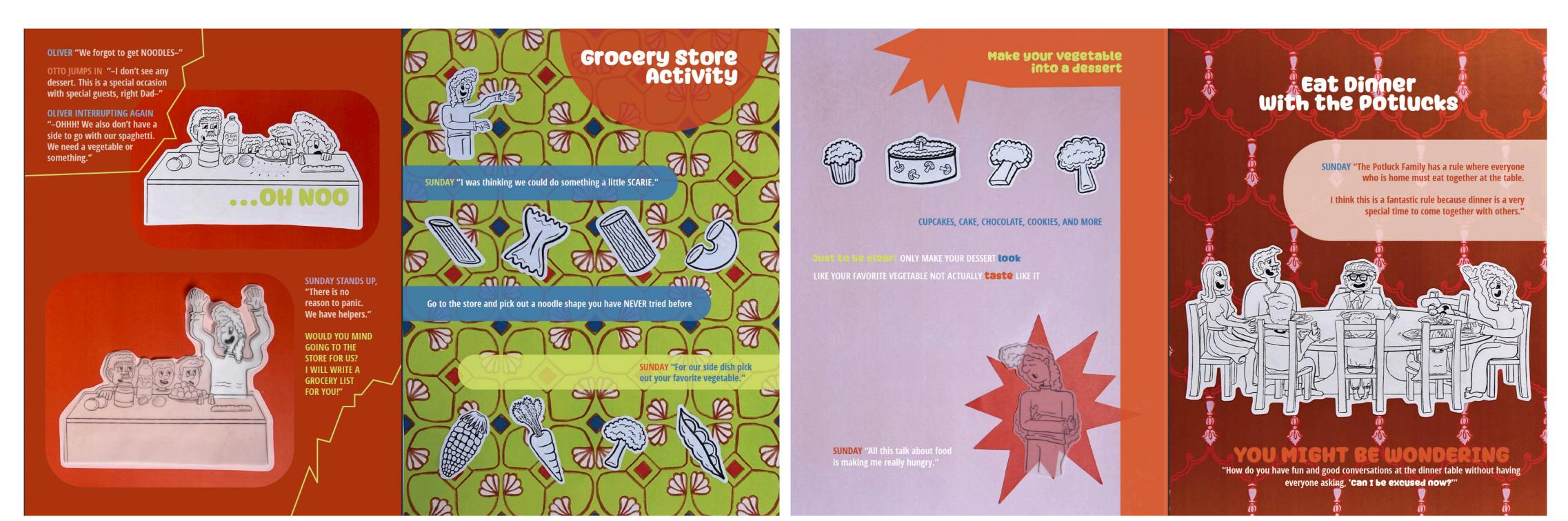














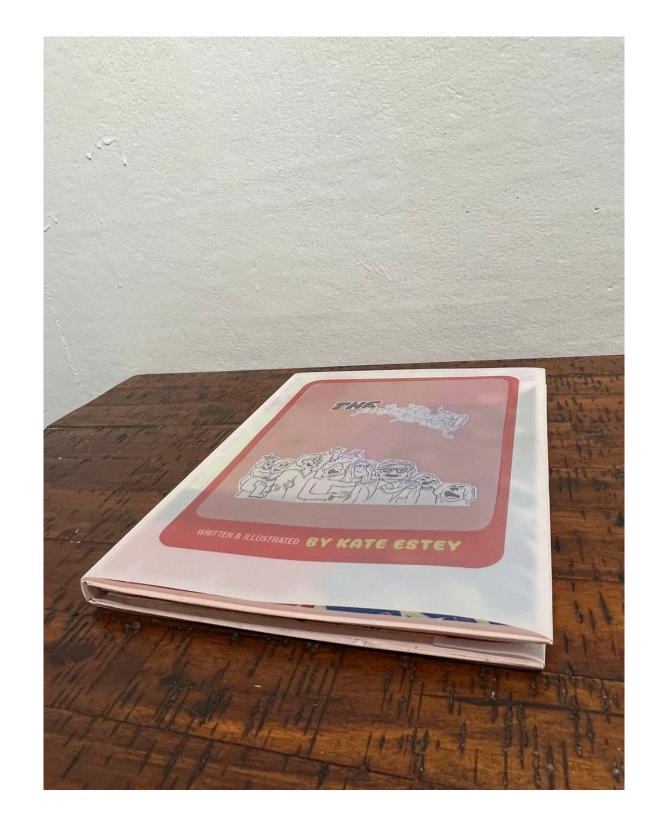


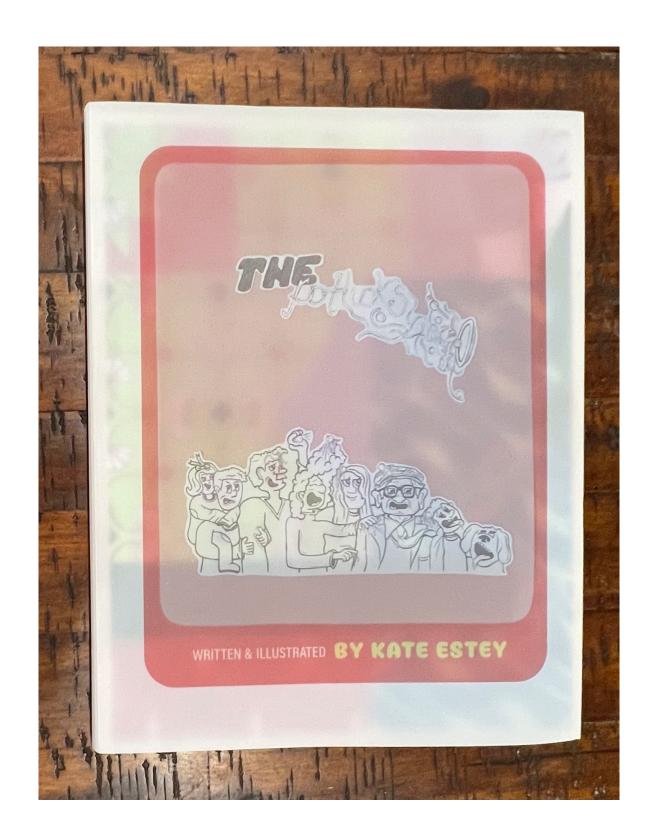


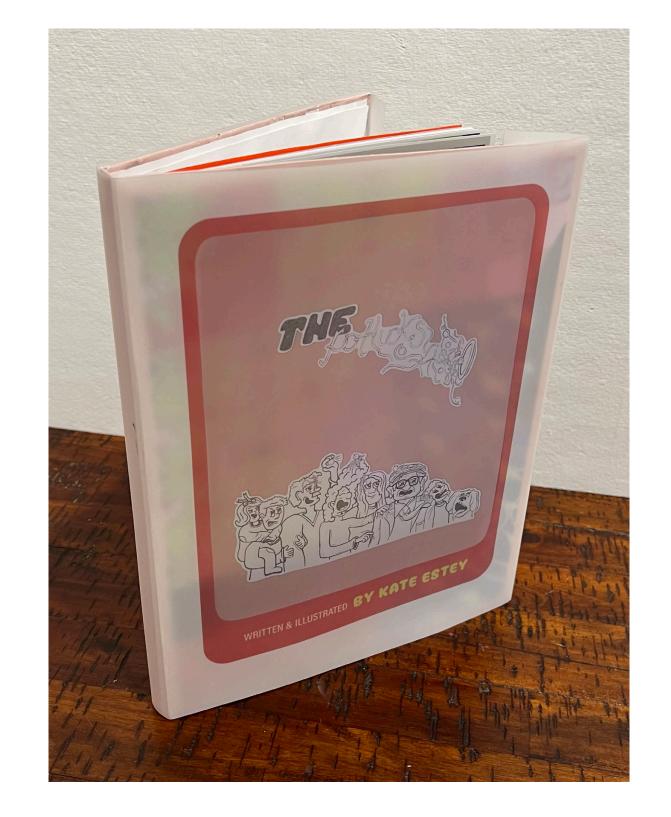


The book includes 6 activities throughout the story!

EXHIBITION MATERIAL DOCUMENTATION

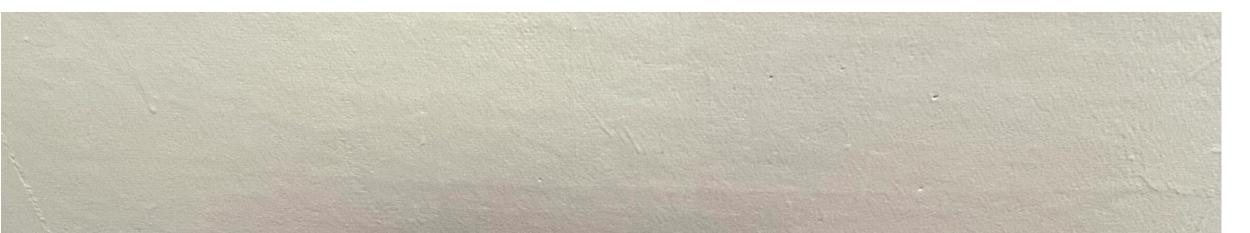






Images of hand bound and illustrated activity book





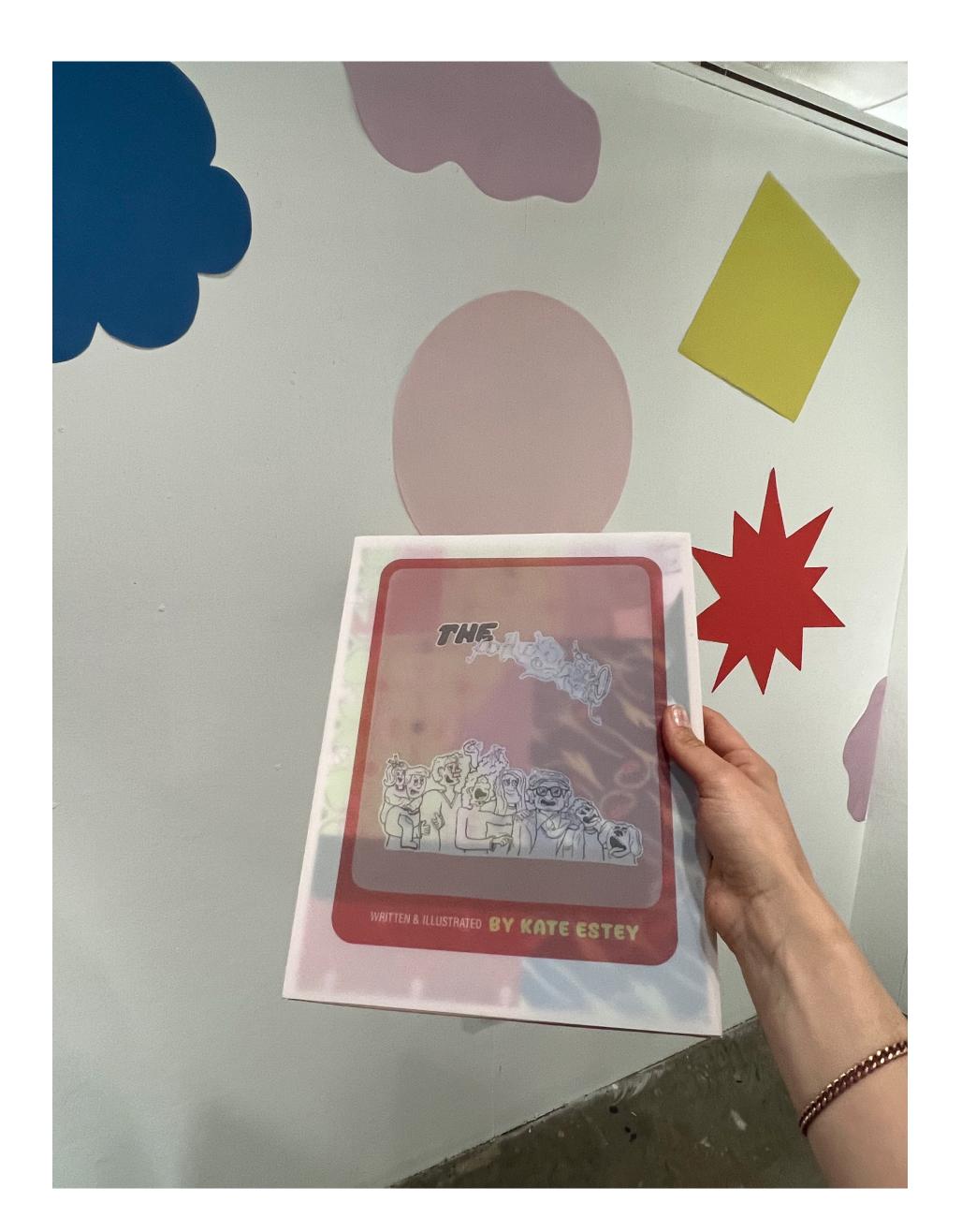
This book is made and bound with a chip board cover wrapped in a thick matt paper, mylar jacket, and glue.



Sneak peak inside the book



Amoungst all of the color the center focus of the exhibition is the book



Activity book on children's table



Activity book against patterned wall

These framed illustrations are from the book. Visitors were invited to come color the pages!







what is the sunday scarles?

Sunday

ZITING

This preserve to accommon including of strend up accounty and densed on it Salestay angle. Many of an expensioner that the to the anticipation that the restlicted is coming to an end and the school preserve mean is about to start. The Saleste

what's the Goal of this Series?

The series emphasizes the essential connection between play and learning by transforming mundane activities such as eating dinner with the Potlucks into creative interactions between adults and children.

Children have a supported space to play and learn and adults have an opportunity to "return to childhood." This series is intended equally for adults and children, with the ultimate goal that they will learn about methods of creativity from each.





On the left is a description for the show. The other two images are from the Sunday Scarie Event

After the exhibition had been open for a few days, I went to check on the coloring pages.

I want to point out the fact that I set out really thick chalk pastels. I made this choice to try and force the guests to color messy and to jump back into a childhood memory.















I was truly brought to tears when I saw what they did with the illustrations (happy tears of course). They drew unique skin colors, drew outside of the lines, and they even colored on the frames. As the audience is majority adults, I was so excited to see playful, bright scribbles as an amazing addition to my work!



EXPLORING CREATIVITY

LEARNING TOGETHER PLAYING TOGETHER CREATING TOGETHER



A Note from Kate Estey

Hello!

My name is Kate Estey. I am a senior at the University of Michigan studying Art and Design with a focus on children's literature and graphic design.

For the past two years I have been designing and writing my senior project called The Sunday Scarie Series. This is an activity book series for children and adults to do together. The overall goal is to bond children and parents through silliness and play. This after school event is inspired by this series. With a special activity and a yummy snack this will be a really fun time! This flyer was sent to the parents of a third grade classroom. We

I have an exhibition mid April and I hope to include some images of this event. If you or your child are not comfortable with pictures please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thanks so much, Kate Estey



had over 30 people attend the event!

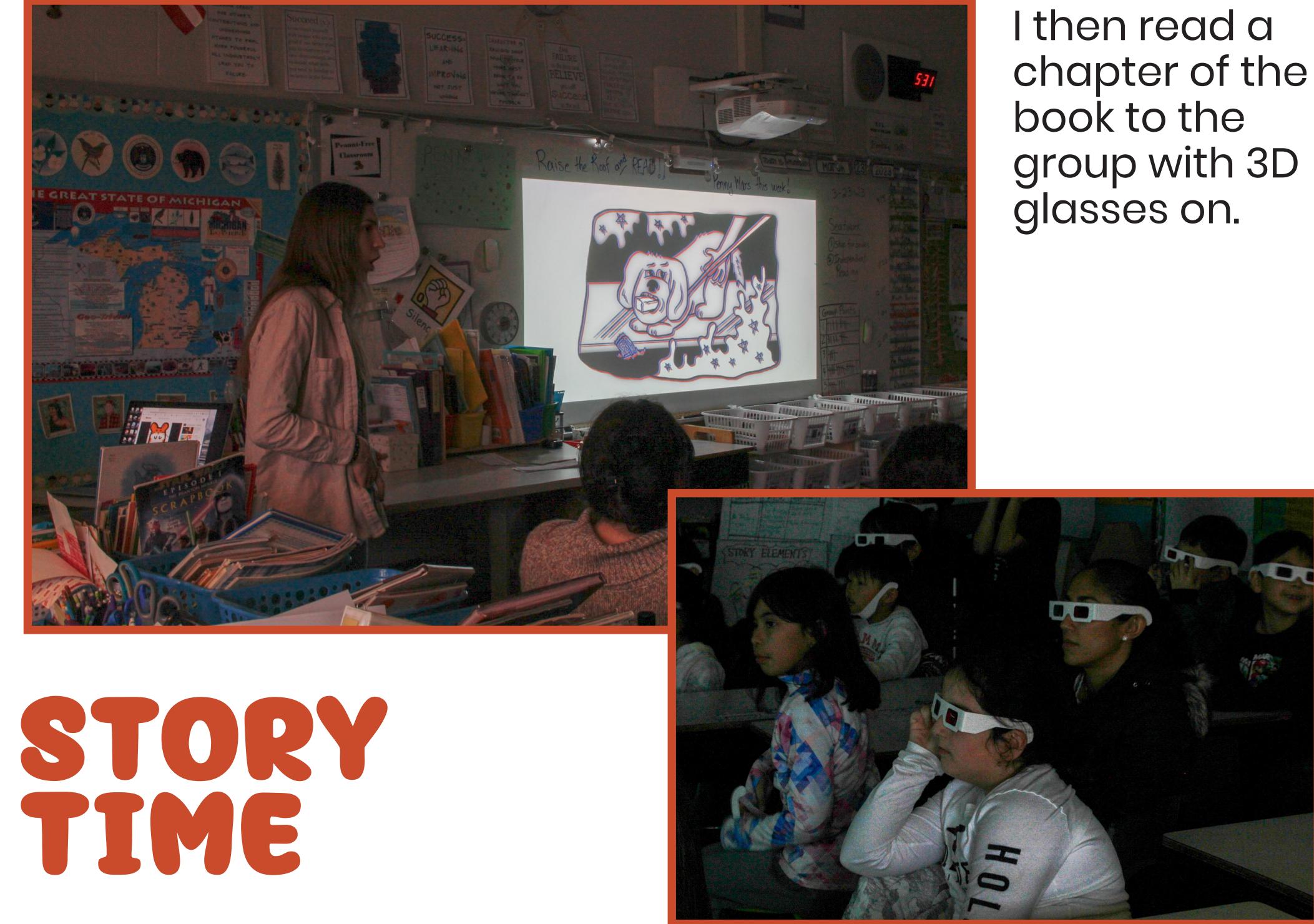




The event consisted of four activities all based on the book



Each family picked a character from the book and danced like them!



TIME



We learned about anaglyphs and how to make one with tracing paper and red and blue markers





UKAUING ANAGLYPHS





For the last activity of the event we made the dog character, Pickle Potluck, out of our snacks.



FINAL REFLECTION

The Sunday Scarie Series taught me how to be child-like again. It is so necessary for children and adults to work together creatively. It is inevitable that children and adults learn and respond from each other.

Within my own heart, this work has brought me back to a place of joy and excitement in creating what I thought was lost.

I am excited to see where this goes in the future with the main goal of getting this series published, creating new books and stories, and implementing The Sunday Scarie Events in local libraries and book stores.



And a few **THANK YOUs** to my little siblings, Jonathan and Trisha Estey, my dad, Stephen Estey, for never losing his child-like sense of play, and for my mom, Julie Estey, and her 3rd grade class!