

★•DIY COMICS

WITH ★

★BANJO★ROBINSON



Hello friend!

As you might already know, I'm Banjo Robinson - a magical, globetrotting cat. My favourite things include having adventures, making friends and...
STORIES!

I love stories: reading them, writing them, and finding new ways to tell them too. My favourite stories are the ones which include words AND pictures, and that's why I think comic books are AMAZING!

Did you know that comic books started way back in the 1800s? And they are still just as popular as ever!

To make your own comic, you just need paper, something to draw with and your big and beautiful imagination.

Want to have a go?

Read my hints and tips here and then get stuck in - I'm sure it'll be wonderful!

Happy creating!

BANJO ROBINSON



HINTS AND TIPS FOR MAKING A **COMIC**

CREATE YOUR CHARACTERS

You can think about these questions:

- * Are they human, animal or something else?
- * What age are they?
- * What sort of personality do they have?
- * Where do they live?
- * What do they look like?
- * Do they speak? What sort of words do they use?



Don't worry about making mistakes, just start doodling some sketches of your characters. It can be helpful if characters have different visual features so they can be easily told apart.

For example, why not give one character glasses and another one a hat?

Adding details like these helps you get to know your characters too!

REMEMBER: You can draw your character first and make notes about them second if you find that easier. Either way round is fine!

MAKE UP A STORY

Is it going to be funny? Silly? Sad? Exciting? All of those things mashed together? Think about these questions:

- Who or what is your story about?
- Where does it take place?
- What happens in the BEGINNING, MIDDLE and END.

~~~~~ A good tip is to load up the MIDDLE section with lots of action (such as surprises, challenges and excitement).

## PLAN YOUR COMIC



Make a numbered list of the panels you will be using. If you are going to have a ten-panel comic then write the numbers one to ten down the side of your page.

①

Next, plan what is happening in each one. It's a good idea to leave one panel at the start for a title - unless you're doing a whole book, in which case you can design a super cool cover page instead!

• 2.

# Comic writing tips...

You can use different types of writing formats to show different things for example:

A text box can be used to explain what's happening. Imagine it is the narrator!

e.g.

somewhere in the middle of the jungle...

Meanwhile...

Joe thought that the day was going to be very ordinary.

A thought bubble can be useful to show what a character is thinking without them having to say anything.

e.g.

What's that weird smell?!...

I really hope it doesn't rain on my birthday

A speech bubble is the best place to write things that your characters are saying. There are lots of different styles for speech bubbles, like these:

BANG!

OOF!

Sound effects can be very handy! Use words like CRASH! BANG! OOF! and SQUELCH! Make some up too!

# • HANDY DRAWING TIPS •

**Close-ups!** You know when you watch a cartoon or film and some scenes are CLOSE UP so particular things look really big? This can be very effective for comic strips too: why not fill a whole panel with one detail from your story?



## **Use the 3 steps!**

- Start with a pencil sketch and keep an eraser close by for corrections. Mistakes are totally normal and help you to learn!
- When you're happy with your drawings, go over them in a thin black pen and when the ink is dry, rub out your pencil lines.
- Now you can colour it in (or leave it black and white- up to you)!



# ... MY STORY ...

Here's the beginning of a story which I'm going to turn into a comic...

One sunny day, a pair of extremely cool cats called Banjo and Wonderpuss are walking down a street together having a chat.

They spot something on the floor and go to investigate... It's a beautiful hat!

Banjo tries to pick up the hat but can't do it.

Then Wonderpuss has a go - but for some reason, the hat will not budge!

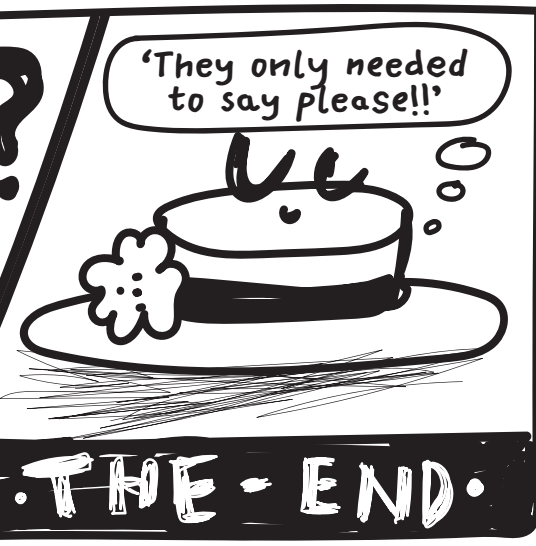
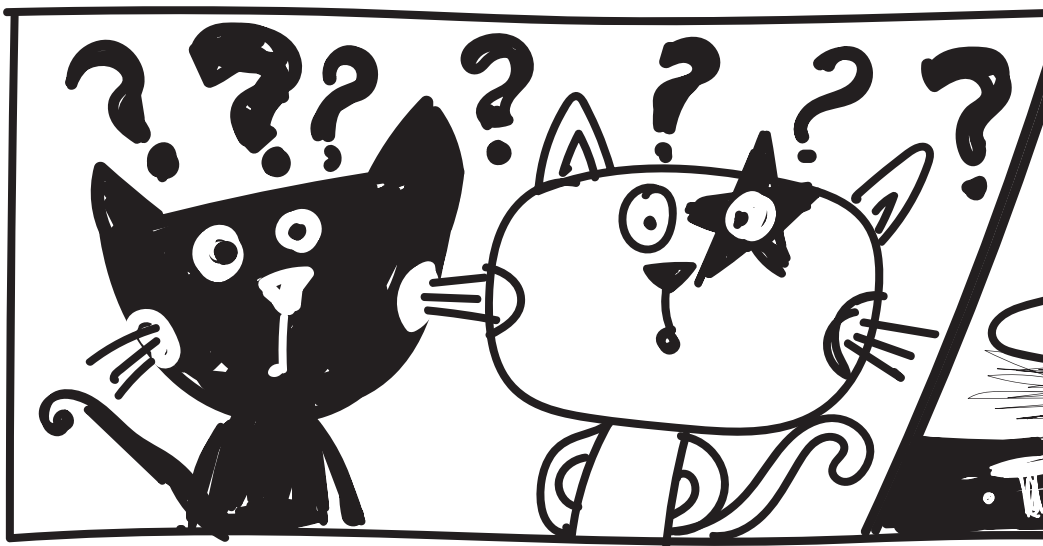
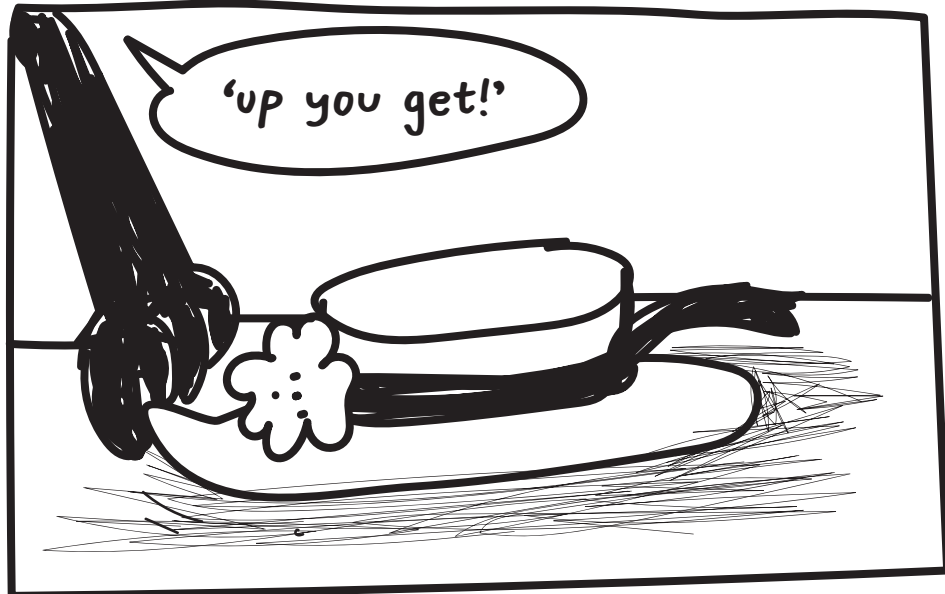
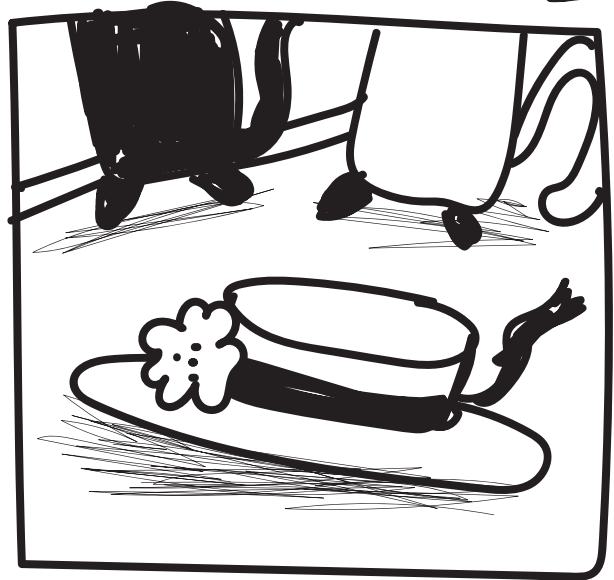
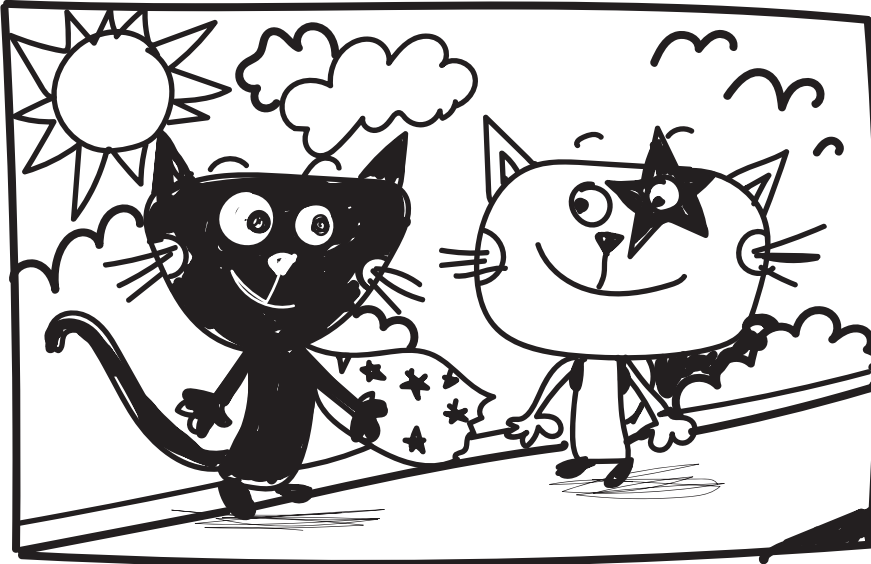
Banjo and Wonderpuss are very confused!!

(check out my comic on the next page and find out what happens next...!)



# TWO CATS AND A HAT

BY  
BANJO  
ROBINSON

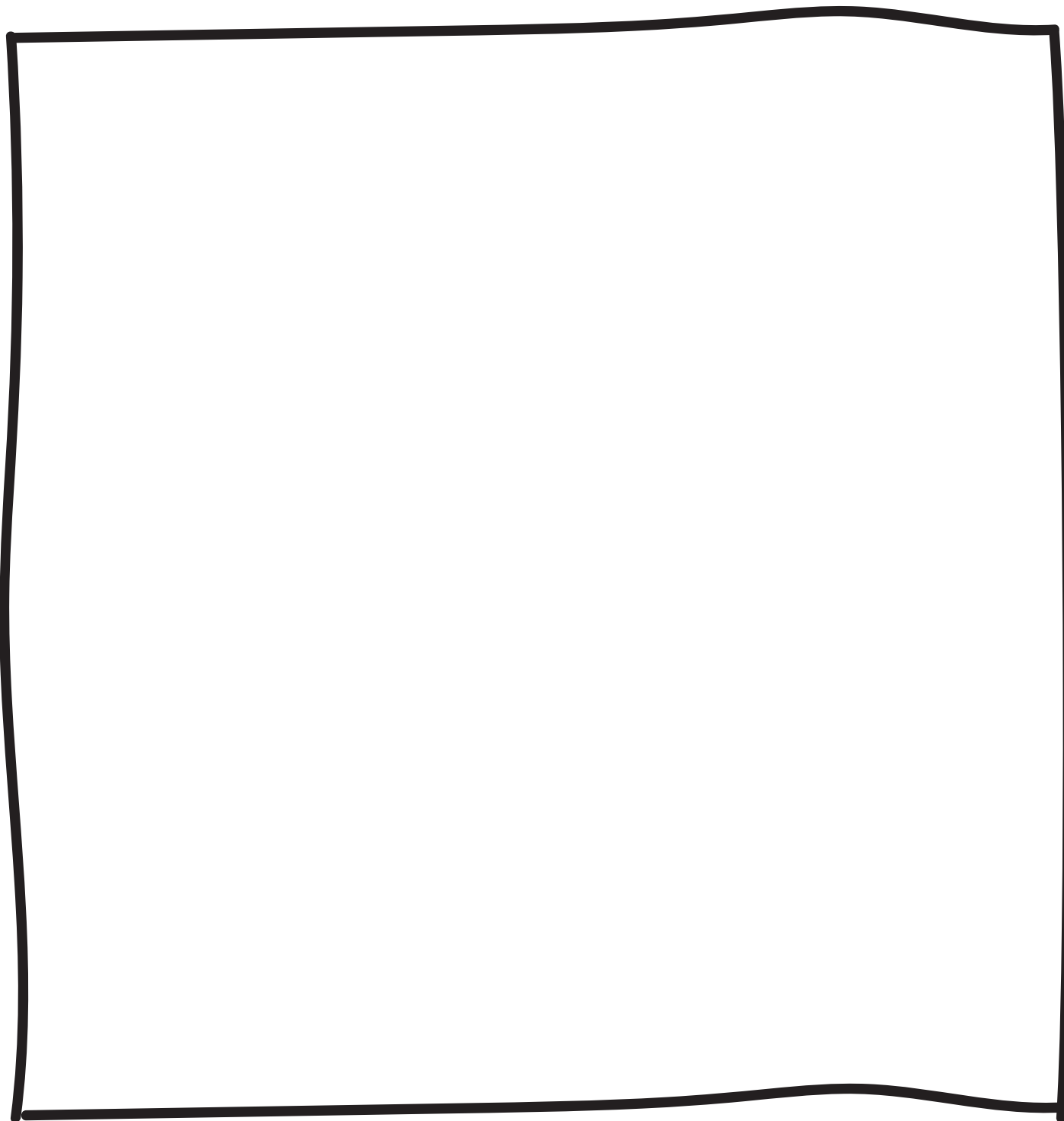


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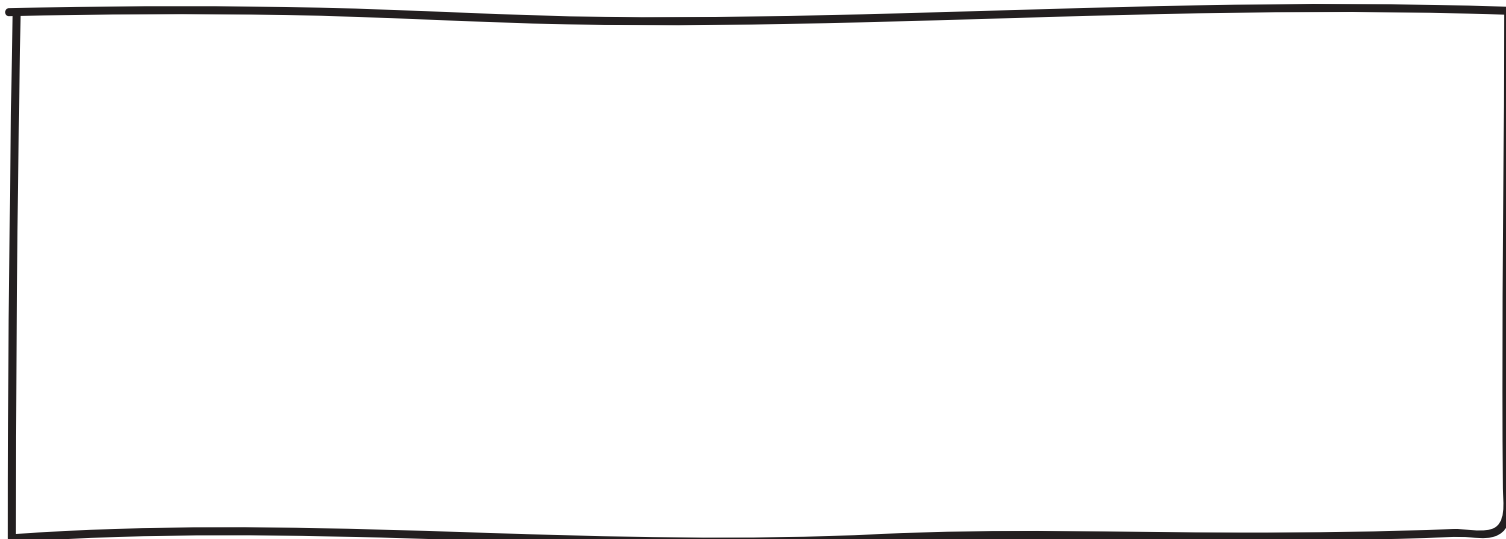
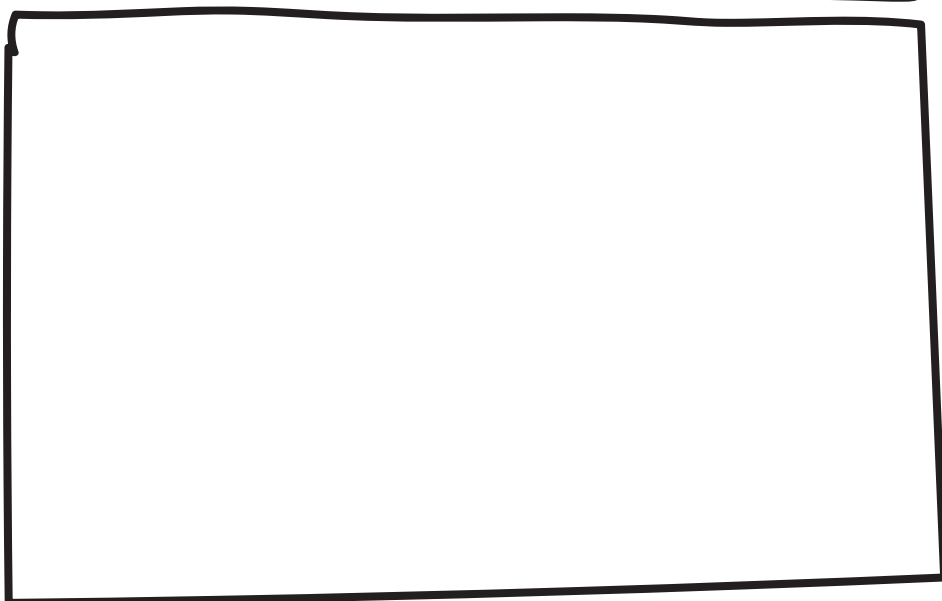
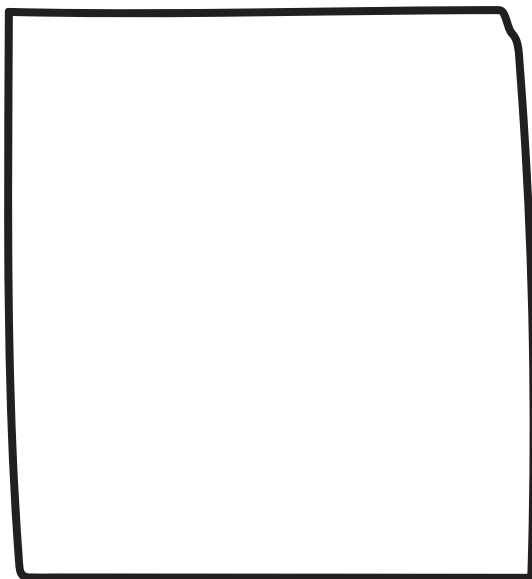
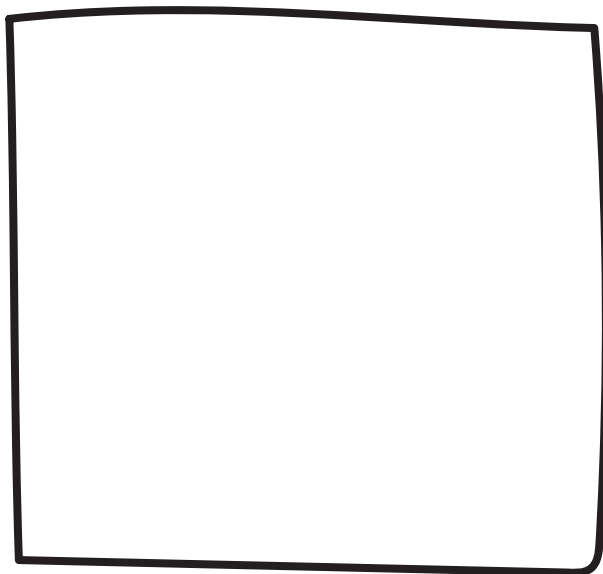
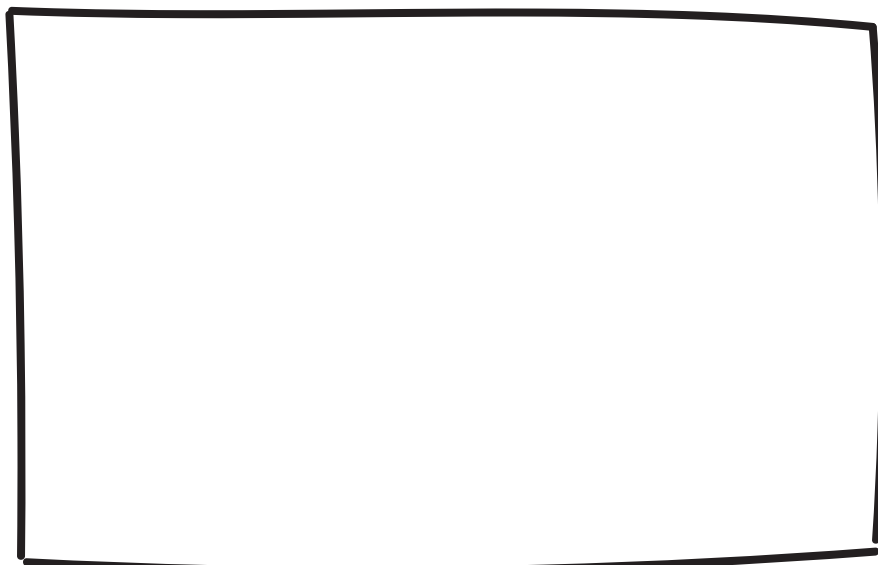
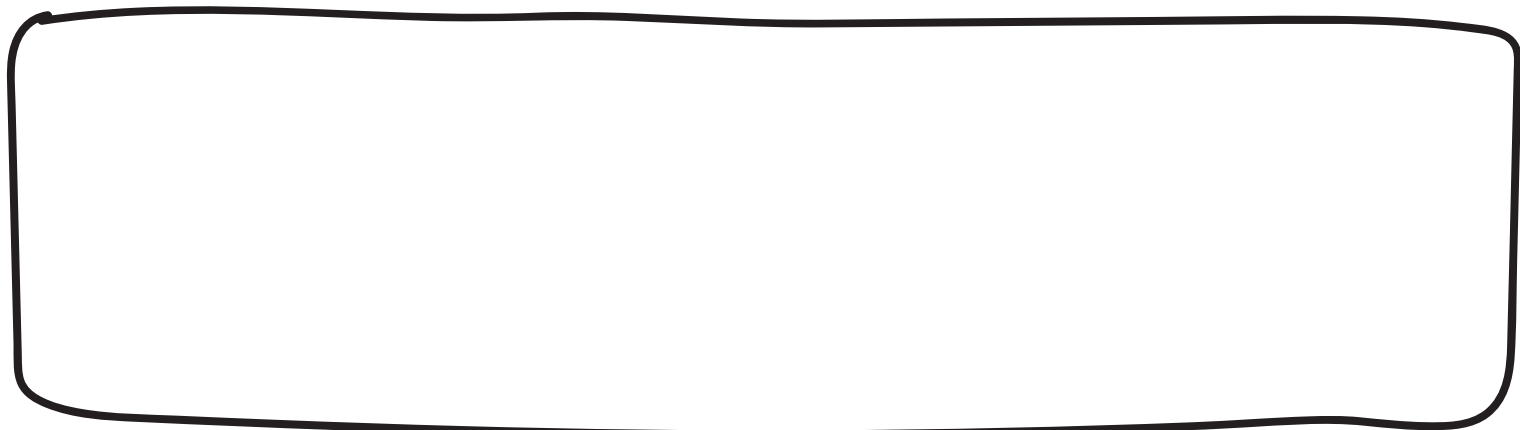
It's time to create your **VERY OWN COMIC.**

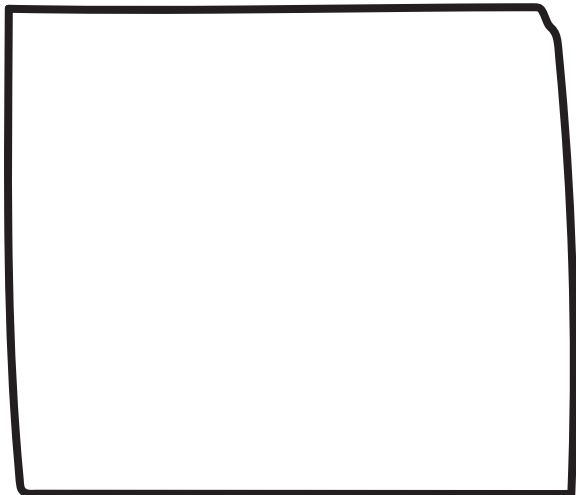
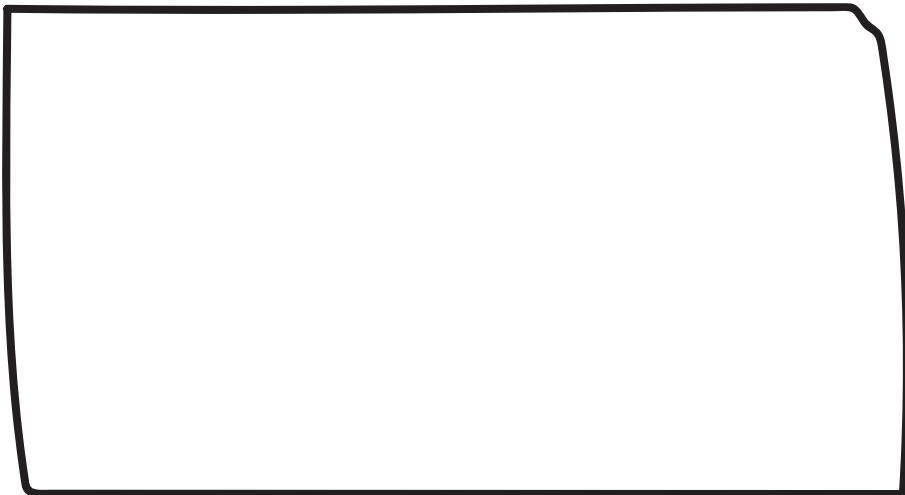
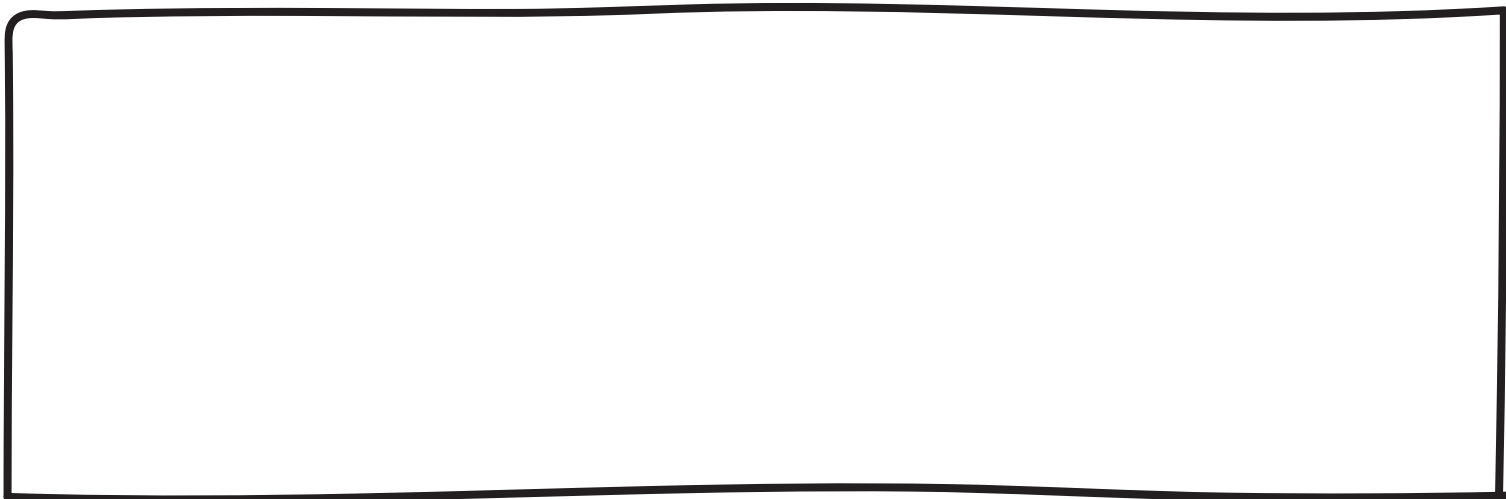
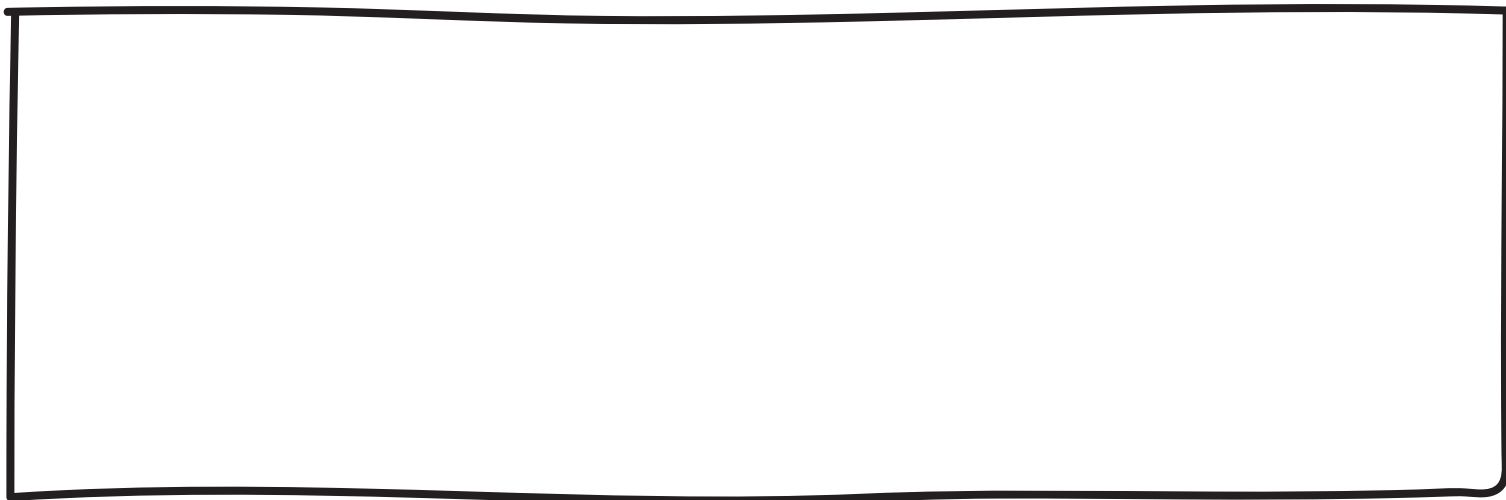
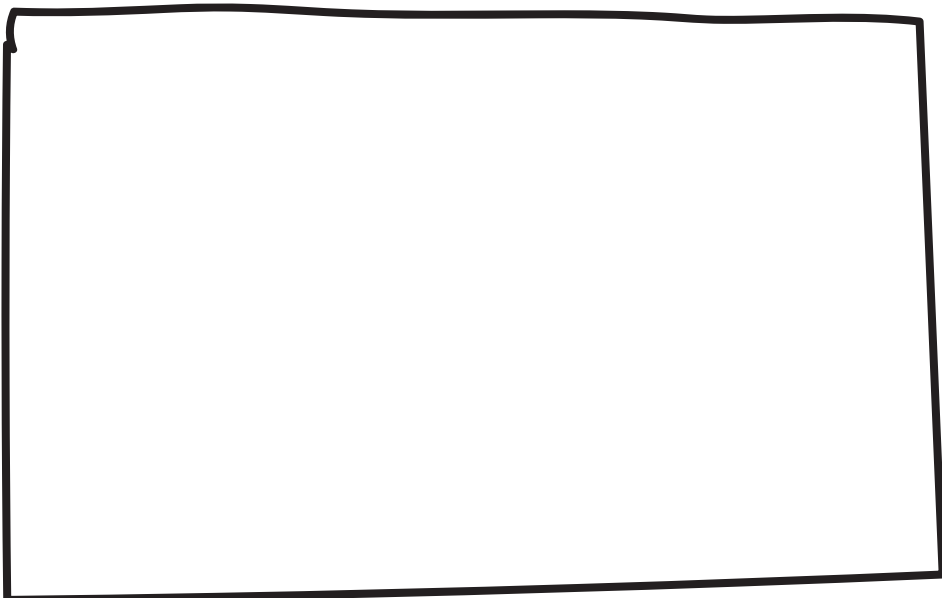
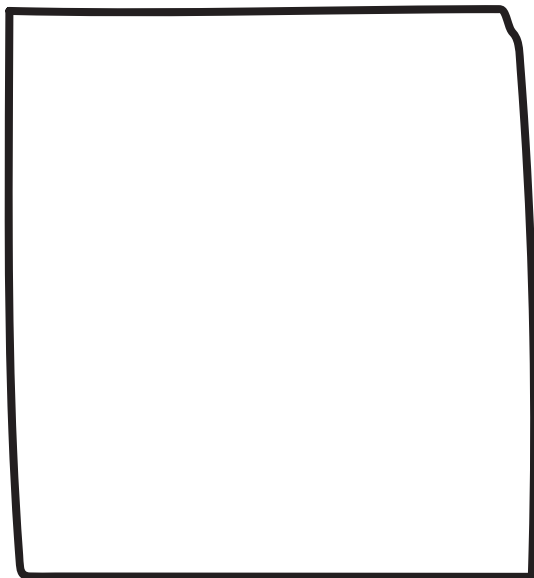
Remember, don't be afraid of trying things out or making mistakes. Just let the ideas flow and see what you come up with! Here's some extra space for sketches, notes and inspiration.

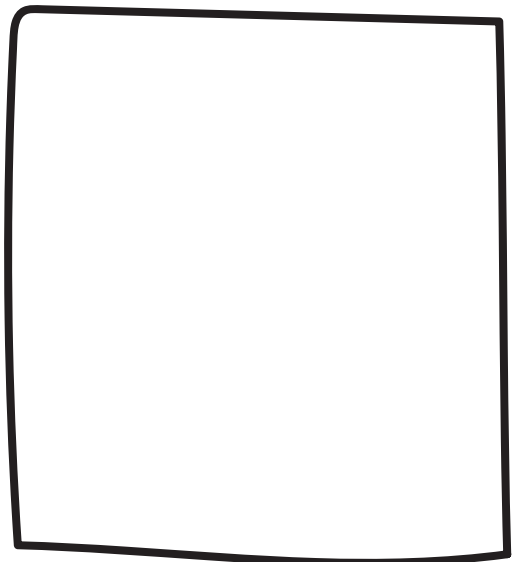
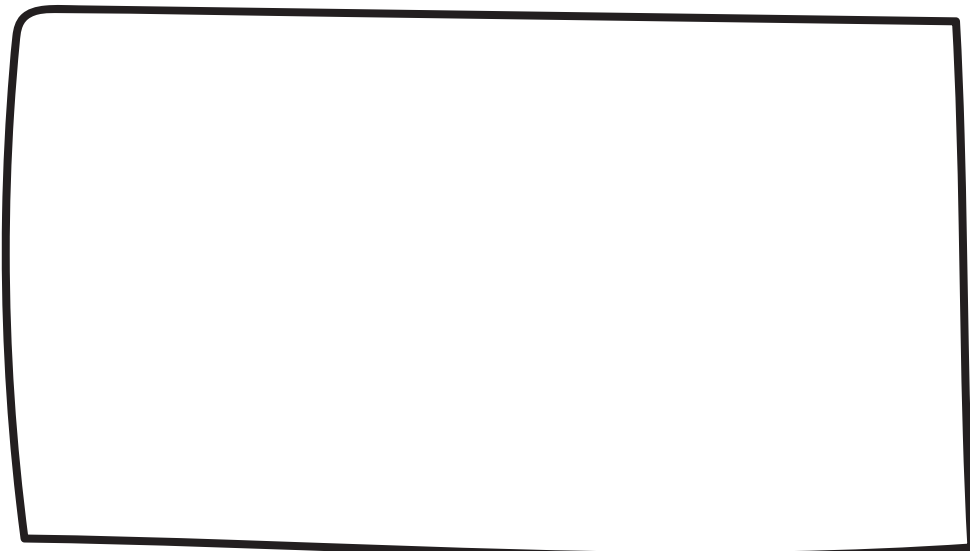
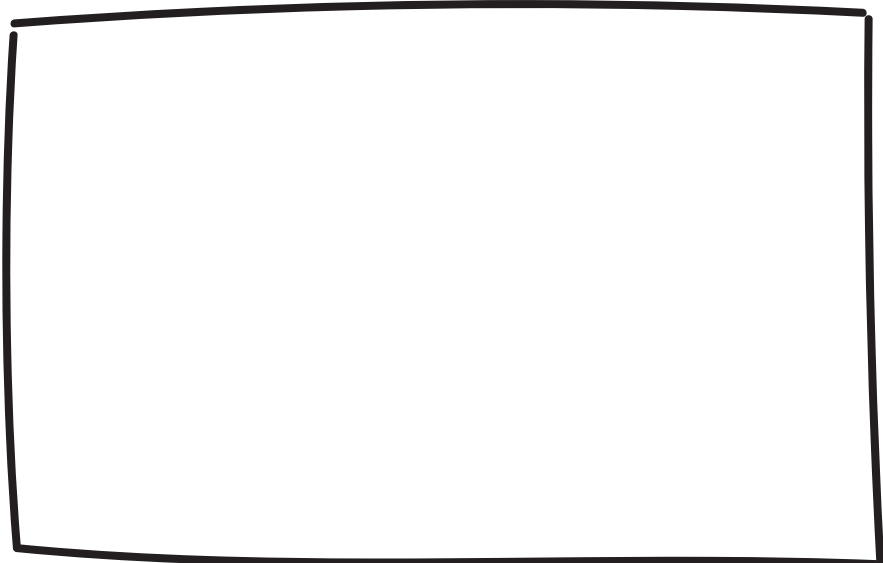
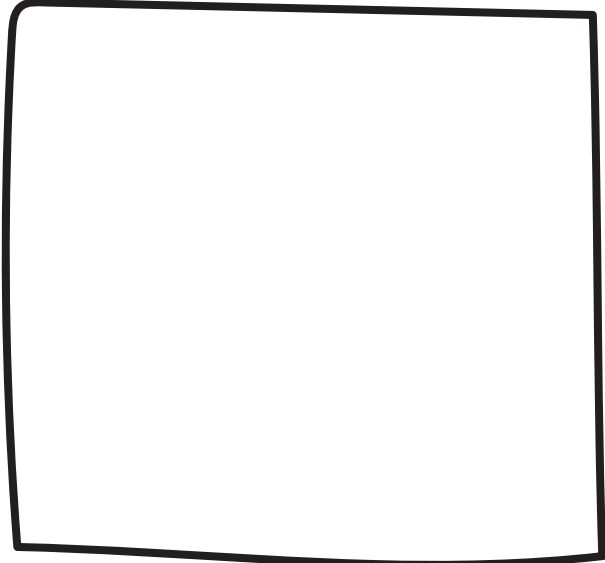
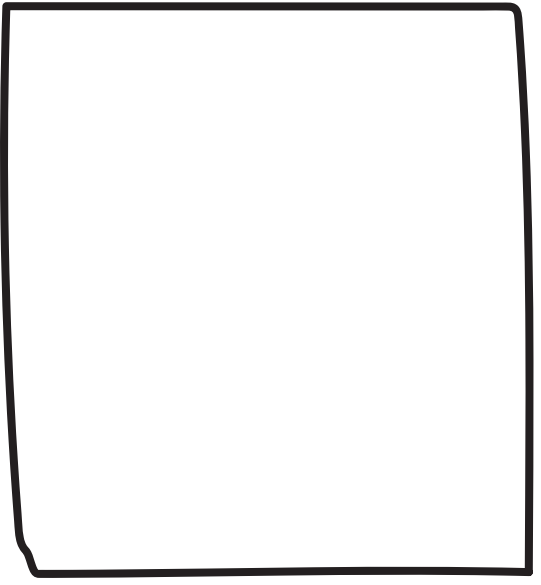
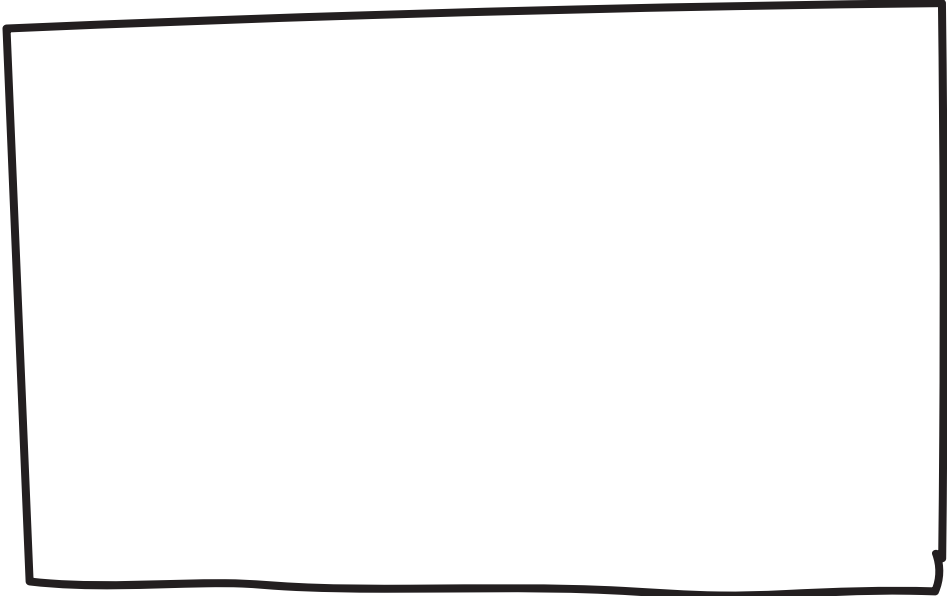
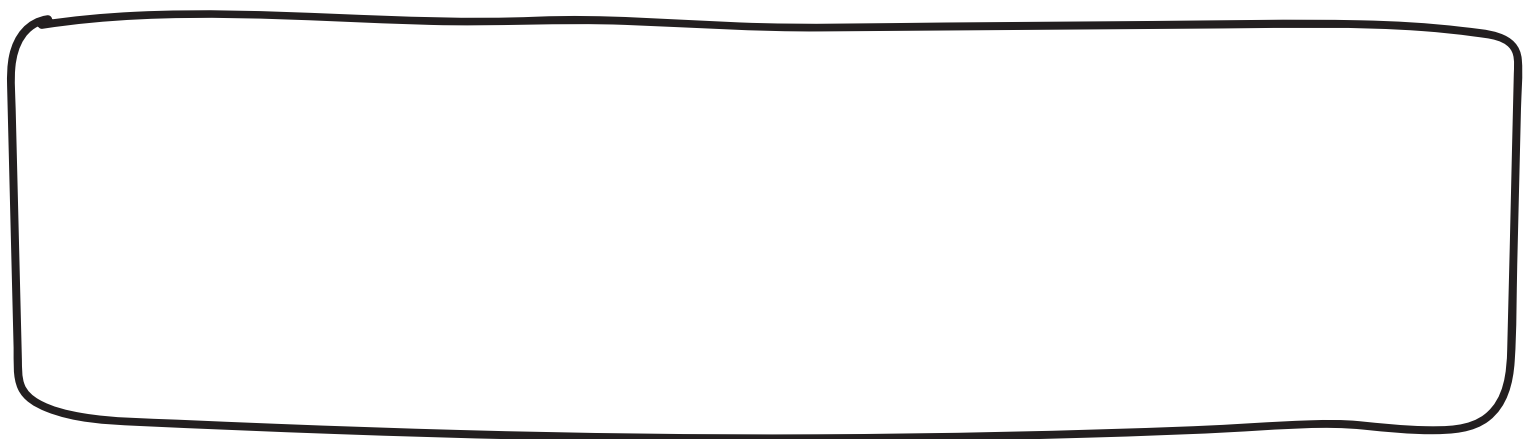
Over to you!











I hope you enjoyed making your own comic - be sure to keep it somewhere safe, it's precious!

Please will you write to me and tell me what you think about being a comic book creator?

If you leave your letter under the sofa, one of my animal friends will collect it and deliver it to me overnight by Cat Mail.

Ask your grown up to check out [banjomagic.com](http://banjomagic.com) to find out how this works. I can't wait to hear from you!

Banjo x

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

