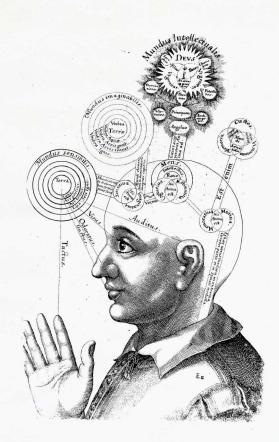


THE ILLUSTRATED



An interim research document Mark Mason July 26th 2021





How does dyspraxia affect the processing, organisation and dissemination of creative practice?

"Dyspraxia is real and affects everyday life. One of the most frustrating aspects is the gap between academic potential and performance. People may be academically able but unable to show it on paper."

Sally Payne, UK Dyspraxia Foundation

Imagine...

You are told to write your next conference paper in hieroglyphics. Every other contributor can submit in their own language.



Or, you're about to premiere your latest musical composition but are told that the solo performance will only happen if you don a pair of boxing gloves.

Would you think that the odds of success had been a little stacked against you, unable to fully demonstrate your creative skills or contribute to the discourse you are intellectually more than capable of engaging in?

Welcome to the island of Dyspraxia.

The design and layout of standard literary works in popular and especially academic publishing, including, surprisingly, some books on dyspraxia, allow little room for dyspraxics to process the information successfully or to express themselves naturally when creating material for publication in those accepted formats.

As a result, the views of those who are adept at communicating within these tightly prescribed literary formats are accorded greater validity. This same group have, over the years, become the gatekeepers of what is considered acceptable as a worthy piece of work – densely set black text on white paper and visuals restricted to charts and graphs, if any at all (who needs pictures – aren't they for children who can't read?).

Other more visual formats (in particular the cartoon or graphic novel, but also animated film) are relegated, derided, trivialised or dismissed as inferior, less intellectual, or serious, childish or low brow.

Those gatekeepers of this prescriptive graphic style in literary works have failed to realise that some people may need to do things differently to do them well.

Using drawing, sequential graphics, and methods adapted from my Animation practice: storyboards, thumbnails, and the direct, active writing style used in scriptwriting. All of the work created is, in essence, a first draft. These are pages drawn without pre-planning. They are rough, 'first pass', preparatory drawings, 'cartoons' in the original sense of the word.

This is a deliberate methodology. One of the most difficult symptoms of dyspraxia to experience and explain are difficulties around planning, processing and organising thought. The act of drawing, following the pencil with one part of my brain, appears to circumvent the problem to some degree, resulting in a mass of ideas that require significant editing. But at least the thoughts are out, on paper.

Some may consider the approach taken as somewhat flippant, irreverent, abrupt and blunt, but this is only with reference to my personal experience of the condition, and not of the condition itself. Self-deprecation has been a constant coping strategy around the difficulties I've encountered, even before my diagnosis at the age of 50. My personal experiences over the years will provide a loose narrative structure.

I have reflected on the creation of the work throughout, examining cognitive barriers encountered during the production process and to provoke a conversation about the drawn cartoon as a serious form of written academic discourse.

The emerging works have been collated into this interim visual workbook:

'Dyspraxicon 0.1'

It is hoped that this will provide a resource to encourage discourse and greater understanding and appreciation of the expression of the dyspraxic mind, and a starting point for generating discussion with other likeminded creative practitioners, establishing a community of practice for undertaking further research.

Finally,

Thanks to the Creative Practice Research Academy (CPRA) UCLan for their funding grant and in particular, Adam de Paor-Evans and Elaine Speight for their help and advice.

*Hieroglyphic translation: How would you feel about that?

Read the pictures...

Garth Sutcliffe, English Teacher, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, 1978

I have endeavoured, throughout this project, to adhere to the spirit of the comprehensive definition outlined below...

draw /drɔː/

verb

verb: draw; 3rd person present: draws; past tense: drew; gerund or present participle: drawing; past participle: drawn

produce by making lines and marks.

produce an image by making lines and marks on paper.

trace or produce a line or mark on a surface.

pull or drag to make it follow behind.

pull or move something in a specified direction.

gently pull or guide in a specified direction.

move somewhere in a slow steady way.

come to or arrive at a point in time or in a process.

pull shut or open.

make by pulling through successively smaller holes.

extract from a container or receptacle.

take or obtain from a container or receptacle.

obtain or withdraw from a source.

take in air (inhale).

run (a bath).

allow air to flow in and upwards freely, so that a fire can burn. search for game. be left standing so that flavour is extracted.

be the cause of a specified response. "he drew ridicule for his research project"

attract to come to a place or an event. "but he drew the crowds with his enormous pencil"

induce to reveal or do something. "the research group refused to be drawn, preferring instead to pretend it had never happened"

direct or attract attention to something. "the project was an outrage and we had to draw the institution's attention to it"

reach a conclusion by deduction or inference. "the conclusion to be drawn is that giving research grants to Animators is a ridiculous idea"

formulate or perceive a comparison or distinction.

select randomly to decide winners or opponents.

finish with an even score.

disembowel.

hit so as to deviate slightly.

cause to travel in a curve determined by bias to the desired point.

require a specified depth of water to float in.

be filled with wind.

noun

noun: draw; plural noun: draws

an act of selection to randomly decide.

to end with an even score.

left incomplete for lack of time.

a person or thing that is very attractive or interesting.

causing to deviate slightly.

John Berger was able to put into words, far better than I ever could, exactly how I feel about drawing and its value as a mode of communication...

John Berger: Thoughts on Drawing

For the artist drawing is discovery. And that is not just a slick phrase, it is quite literally true.

It is the actual act of drawing that forces the artist, if he is drawing from memory, to dredge his own mind, to discover the content of his own store of past observations.

A drawing is an autobiographical record of one's discovery of an event - either seen, remembered or imagined.

(I should perhaps point out here that I am talking about working drawings - I do not mean linear designs, illustrations, caricatures, certain or graphic works which may be "finished" productions in their own right.)

But nevertheless the fundamental distinction is in the working of the artist's mind. A drawing is essentially a private work, related only to the artist's own needs.

It follows from this that there is an equal distinction from the point of view of the spectator... in front of a drawing he identifies himself with the artist, using the images to gain the conscious experience of seeing as though through the artist's own eyes.

www.newstatesman.com/culture/art-and-design/2013/05/john-berger-drawing-discovery, accessed July 14, 2021.

Drawing is a way of coming upon the connection between things, just like metaphor in poetry reconnects what has become separated.

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/john_berger_593947, accessed July 14, 2021.

Due to the similarity of the words, Dyspraxia is sometimes confused with Dyslexia. They are, however, distinctly different conditions.

Dyspraxia is less well known in the public mind.

Dyspraxia used to be called:

'Clumsy Child Syndrome' due to obvious gross motor co-ordination skills difficulties displayed in early childhood.

Dyspraxia is now known to be a life-long condition, and to also affect planning, organisation, memory, thought and processing.

Dyspraxia has no impact on intelligence or intellectual ability.

I was diagnosed with Dyspraxia when I was 50. I had unknowingly lived with the impacts of the condition since childhood, adapting many aspects of my life around quietly coping, avoiding and masking problems, only becoming aware that my experiences had a name two years before diagnosis.

Some of what is contained in Dyspraxicon 0.1 is exploration, discovery, realisation and acceptance that I always was, and always will be happily Dyspraxic.

Dyspraxia in Adults

Symptoms

People who have dyspraxia often find the routine tasks of daily life difficult. They can also find coping at work is hard. People with dyspraxia usually have a combination of problems, including:

Gross motor co-ordination skills (large movements)

- Poor balance. Difficulty in riding a bicycle, going up and down hills
- Poor posture and fatigue. Difficulty in standing for a long time as a result of weak muscle tone. Floppy, unstable round the joints. Some people with dyspraxia may have flat feet
- Poor integration of the two sides of the body. Difficulty with some sports involving jumping and cycling
- Poor hand-eye co-ordination. Difficulty with team sports especially those which involve catching a ball and batting. Difficulties with driving a car
- Lack of rhythm when dancing, doing aerobics
- Clumsy gait and movement. Difficulty changing direction, stopping and starting actions
- Exaggerated 'accessory movements' such as flapping arms when running
- Tendency to fall, trip, bump into things and people

Fine motor co-ordination skills (small movements)

• Lack of manual dexterity. Poor at two-handed tasks, causing problems with using cutlery, cleaning, cooking, ironing, craft work, playing musical instruments

- Poor manipulative skills. Difficulty with typing, handwriting and drawing. May have a poor pen grip, press too hard when writing and have difficulty when writing along a line
- Inadequate grasp. Difficulty using tools and domestic implements, locks and keys
- Difficulty with dressing and grooming activities, such as putting on makeup, shaving, doing hair, fastening clothes and tying shoelaces
- Poorly established hand dominance. May use either hand for different tasks at different times

Speech and language

- May talk continuously and repeat themselves. Some people with dyspraxia have difficulty with organising the content and sequence of their language
- May have unclear speech and be unable to pronounce some words
- Speech may have uncontrolled pitch, volume and rate

Eye movements

- Tracking. Difficulty in following a moving object smoothly with eyes without moving head excessively. Tendency to lose the place while reading
- Poor relocating. Cannot look quickly and effectively from one object to another (for example, looking from a TV to a magazine)

Perception (interpretation of the different senses)

- Poor visual perception
- Over-sensitive to light
- Difficulty in distinguishing sounds from background noise. Tendency to be over-sensitive to noise
- Over or under-sensitive to touch. Can result in dislike of being touched and/or aversion to over-loose or tight clothing tactile defensiveness

- Over or under-sensitive to smell and taste, temperature and pain
- Lack of awareness of body position in space and spatial relationships. Can result in bumping into and tripping over things and people, dropping and spilling things
- Little sense of time, speed, distance or weight. Leading to difficulties driving, cooking
- Inadequate sense of direction. Difficulty distinguishing right from left means map reading skills are poor

Learning, thought and memory

- Difficulty in planning and organising thought
- Poor memory, especially short-term memory. May forget and lose things
- Unfocused and erratic. Can be messy and cluttered
- Poor sequencing causes problems with maths, reading and spelling and writing reports at work
- Accuracy problems. Difficulty with copying sounds, writing, movements, proofreading
- Difficulty in following instructions, especially more than one at a time
- Difficulty with concentration. May be easily distracted
- May do only one thing at a time properly, though may try to do many things at once
- Slow to finish a task. May daydream and wander about aimlessly

Emotion and behaviour

- Difficulty in listening to people, especially in large groups. Can be tactless, interrupt frequently. Problems with team work
- Difficulty in picking up non-verbal signals or in judging tone or pitch of voice in themselves and or others. Tendency to take things literally. May listen but not understand

- Slow to adapt to new or unpredictable situations. Sometimes avoids them altogether
- Impulsive. Tendency to be easily frustrated, wanting immediate gratification
- Tendency to be erratic and have 'good and bad days'
- Tendency to opt out of things that are too difficult

Emotions as a result of difficulties experienced

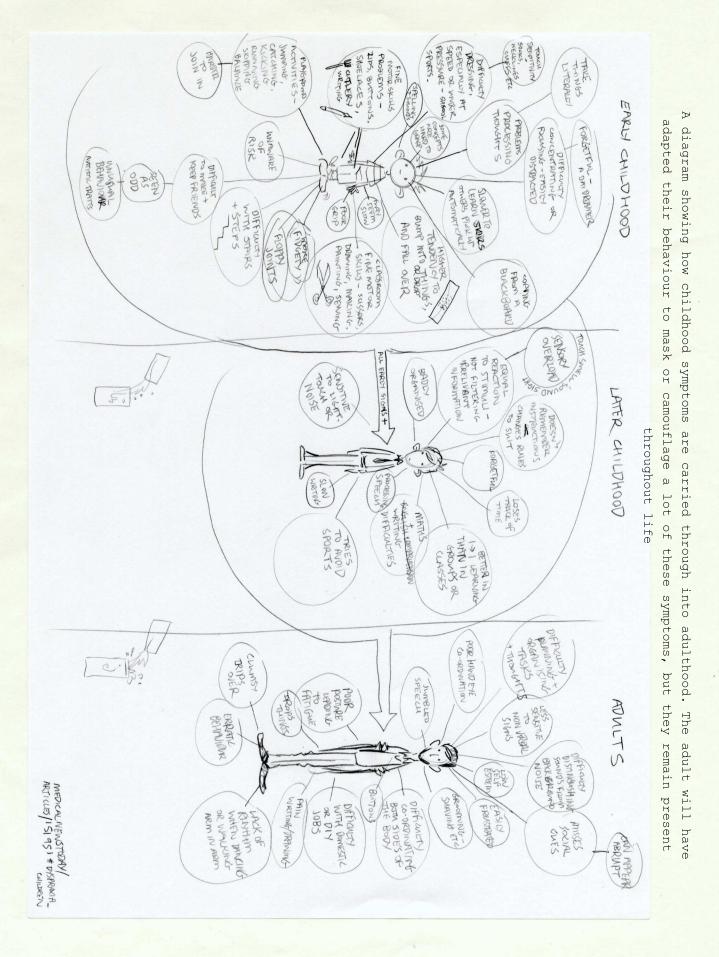
- Tend to get stressed, depressed and anxious easily
- May have difficulty sleeping
- Prone to low self-esteem, emotional outbursts, phobias, fears, obsessions, compulsions and addictive behaviour (Autistic traits)
- Emotional highs and lows

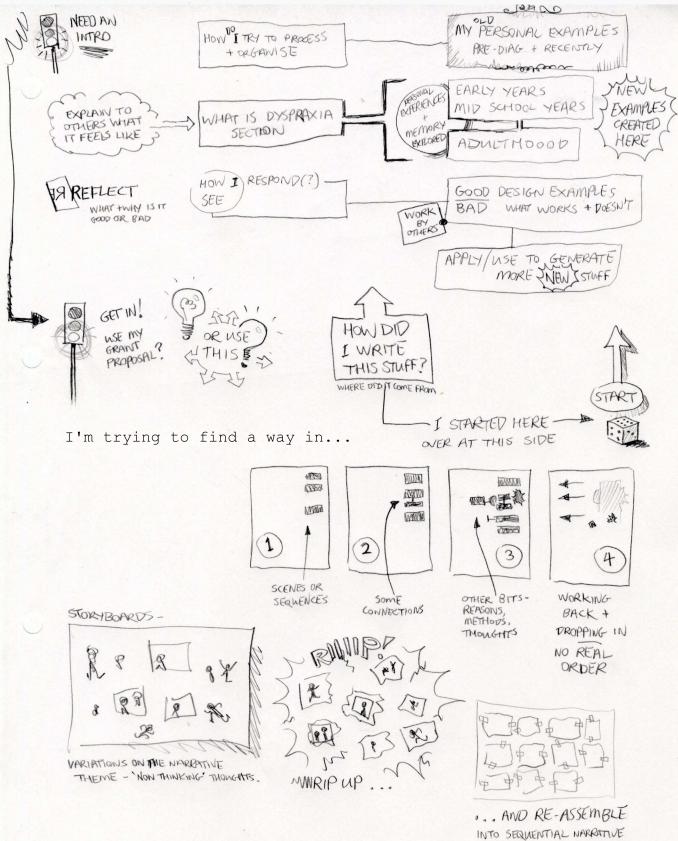
Many of these characteristics are not unique to people with dyspraxia and not even the most severe case will have all the above characteristics. But adults with dyspraxia will tend to have more than their fair share of co-ordination and perceptual difficulties.

https://dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/dyspraxia-adults/

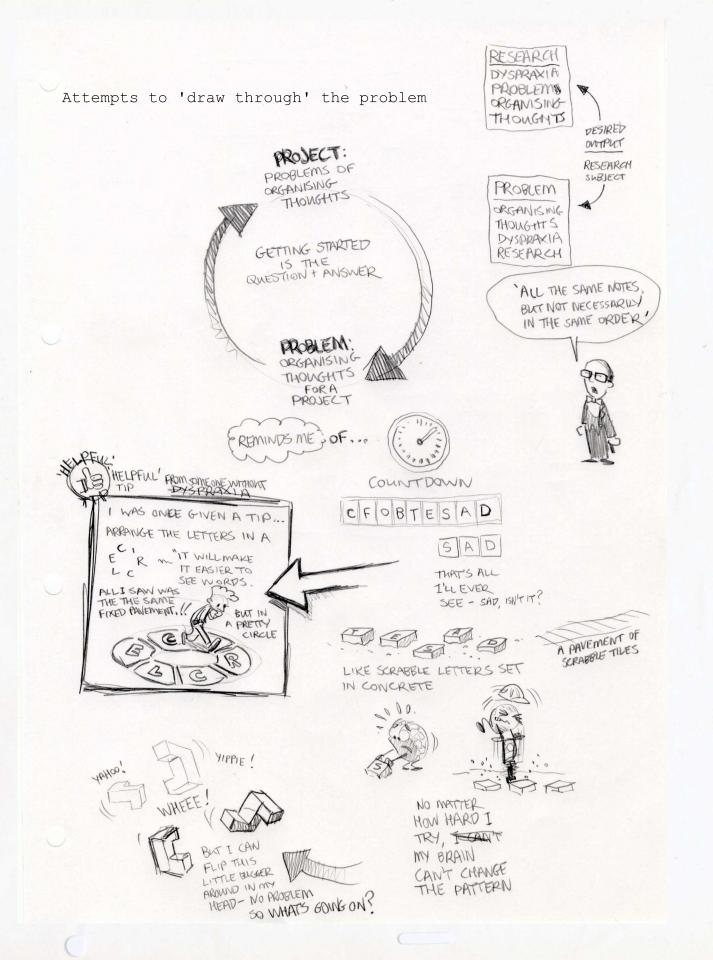
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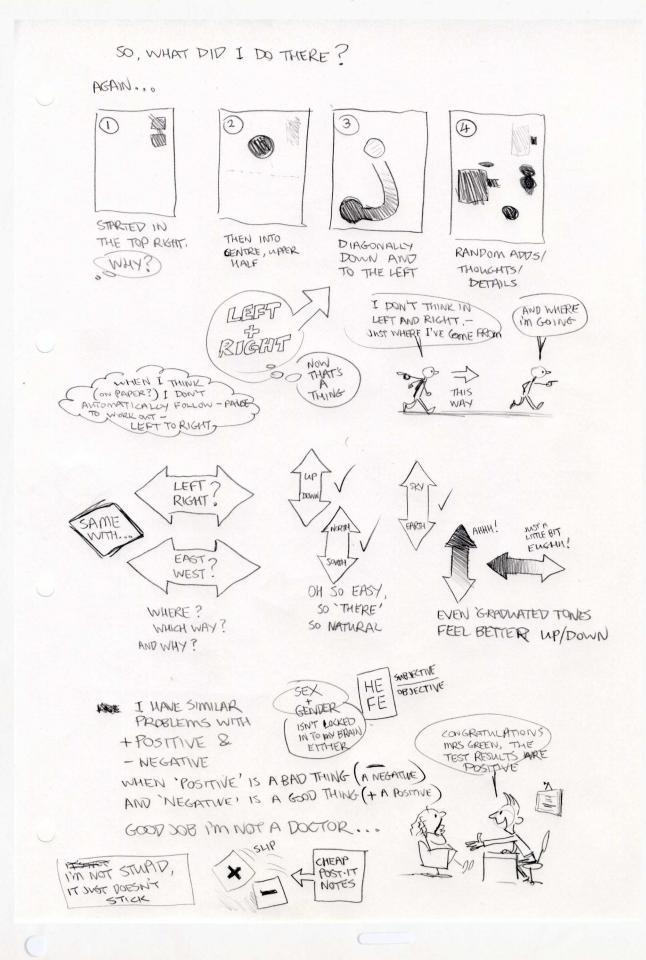






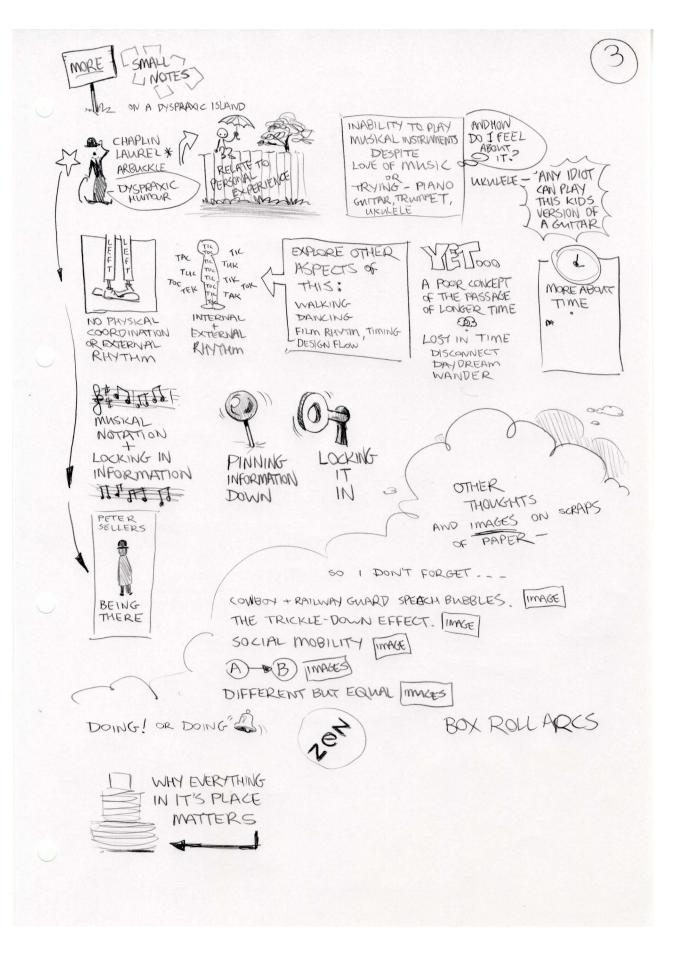
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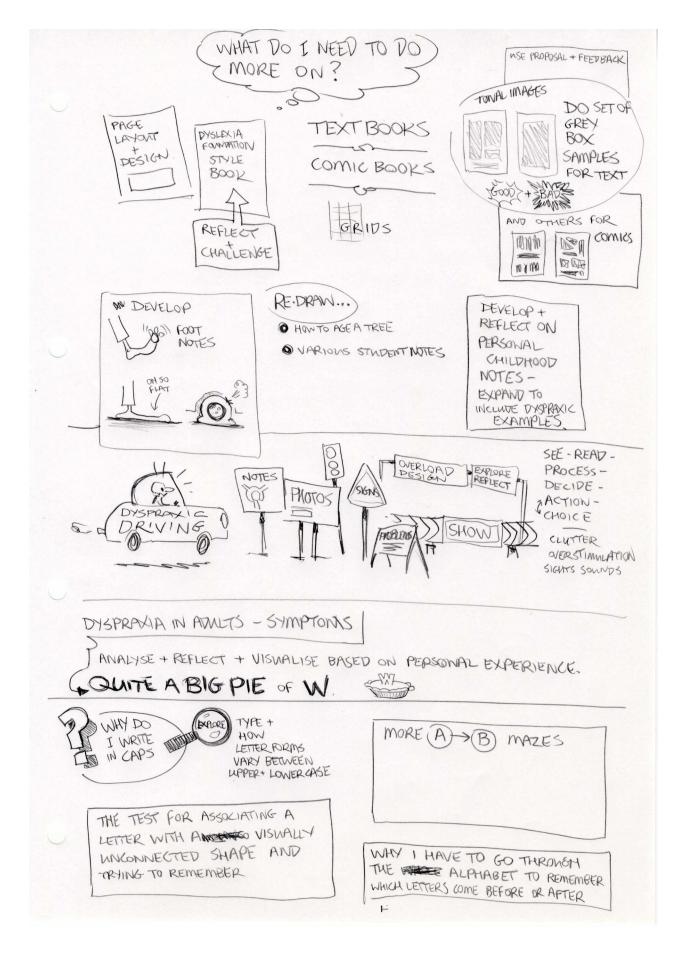


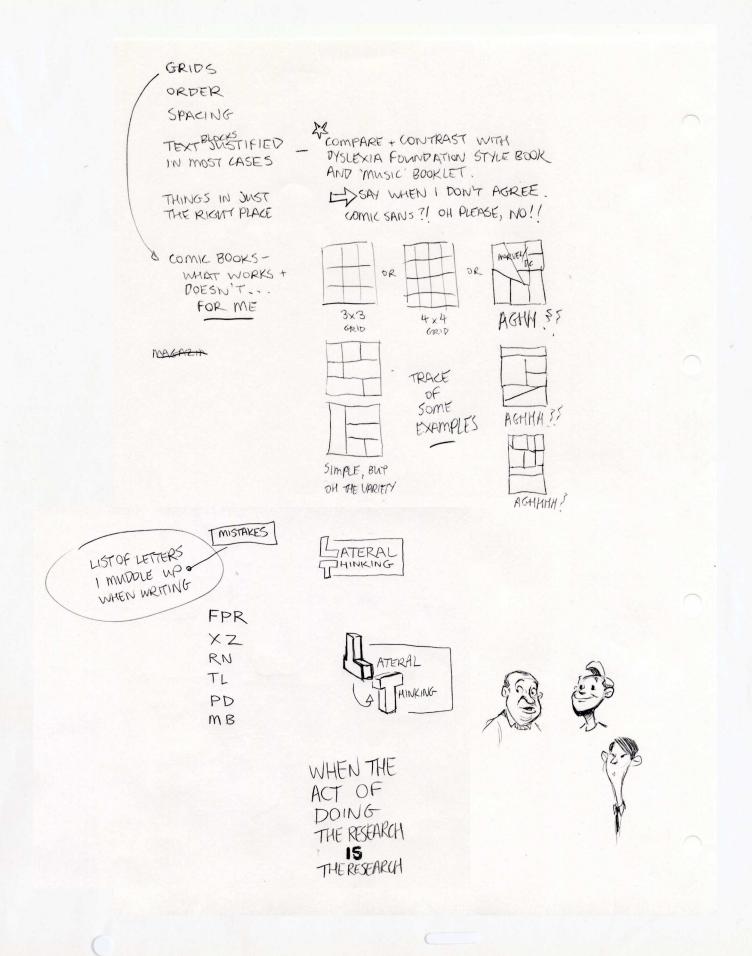


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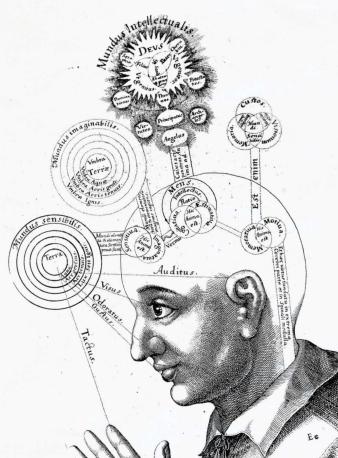
I decided to look back at notes I'd made for various reasons during my time in teaching...

These include notes for lectures, student feedback, meeting notes and university systems guides.

There is a current trend to describe notes made by drawing as 'sketchnotes' by those who want to separate written notes from drawn notes.

I don't use the word.

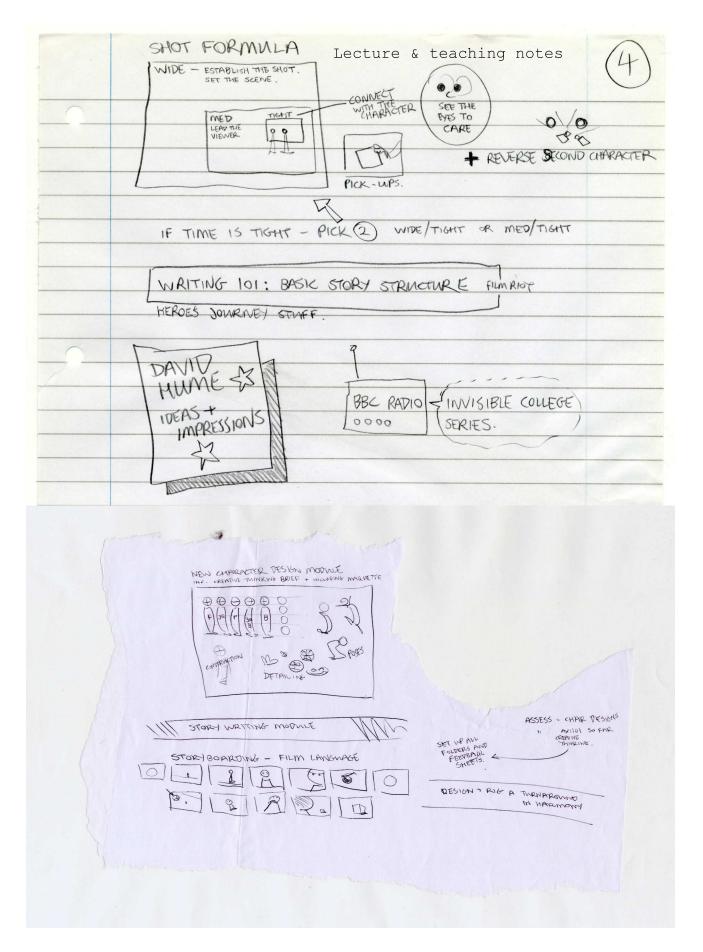
Notes made with drawings are just notes. They are how I make notes.



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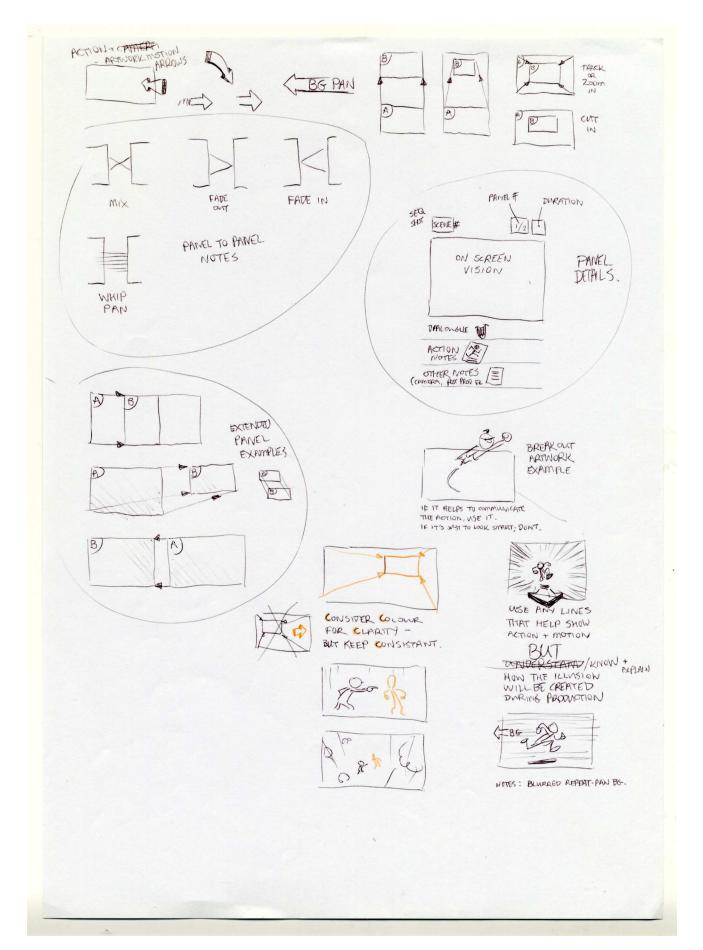
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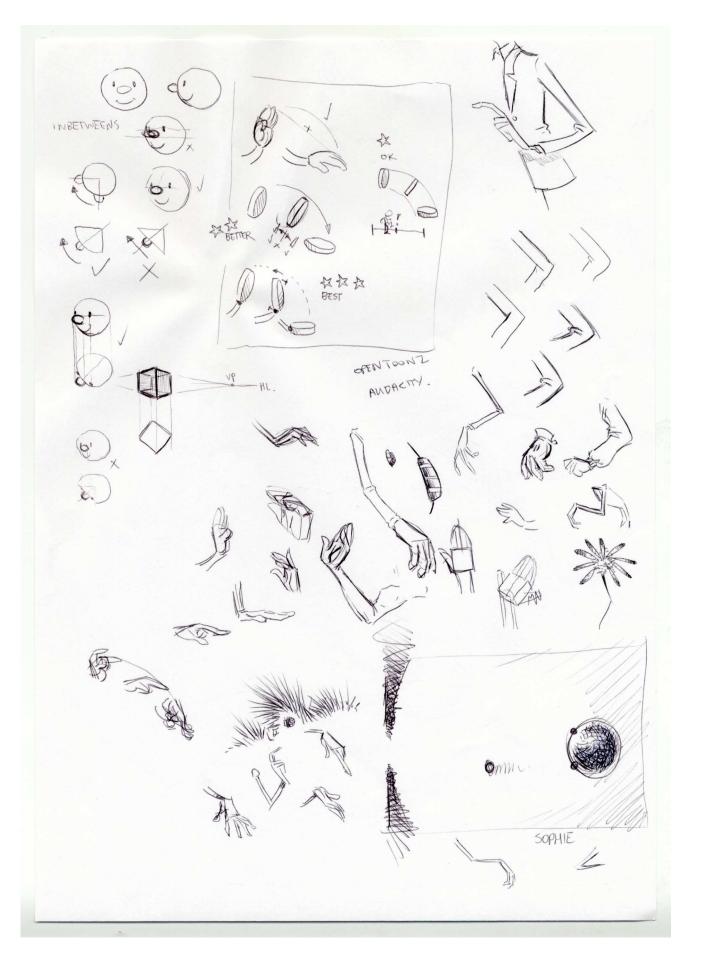


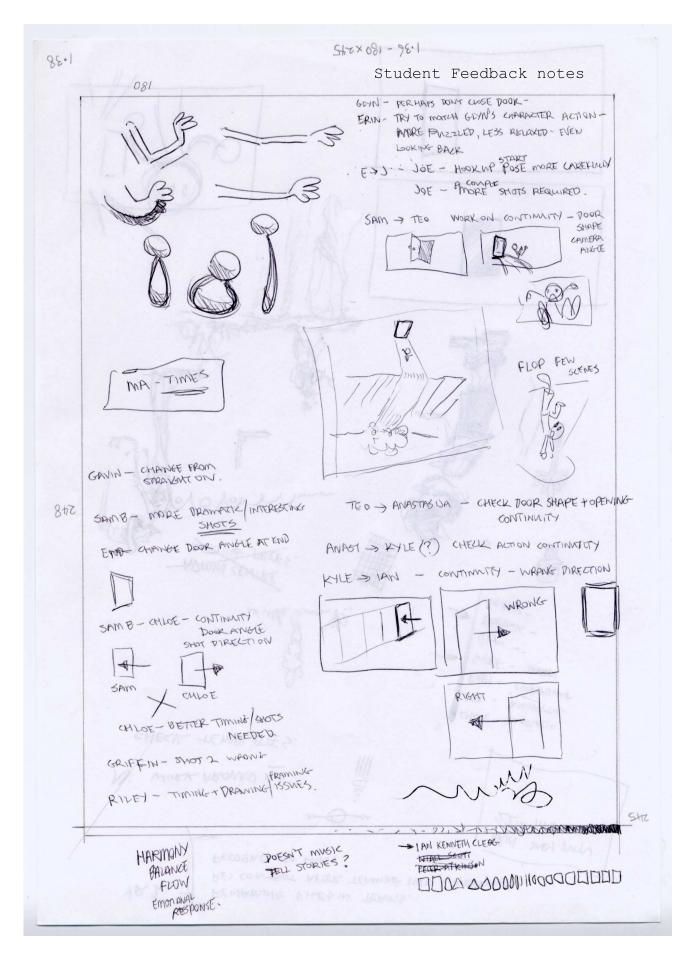
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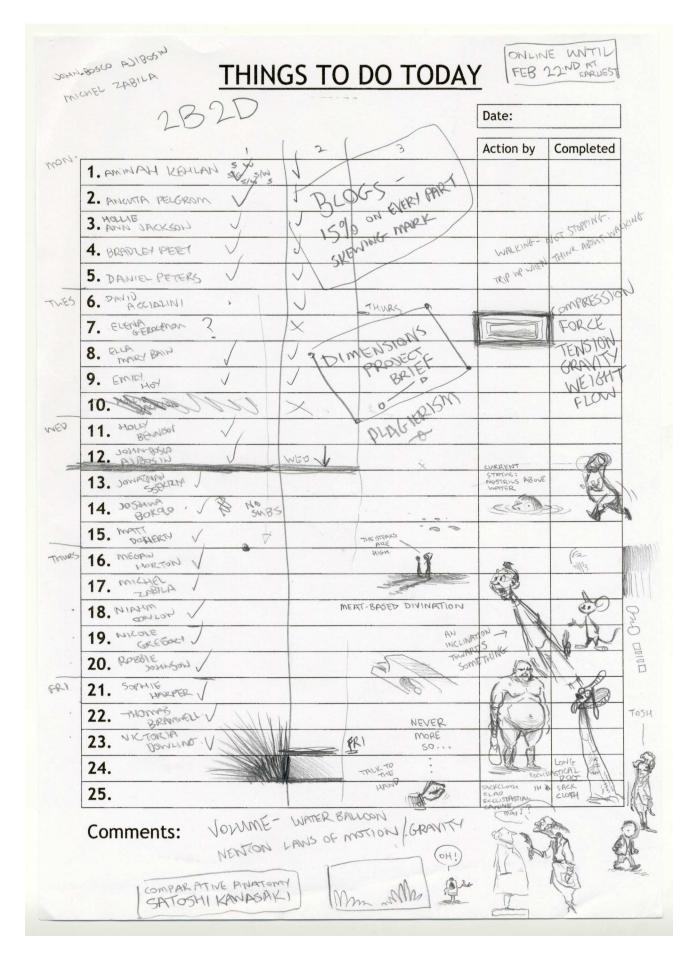
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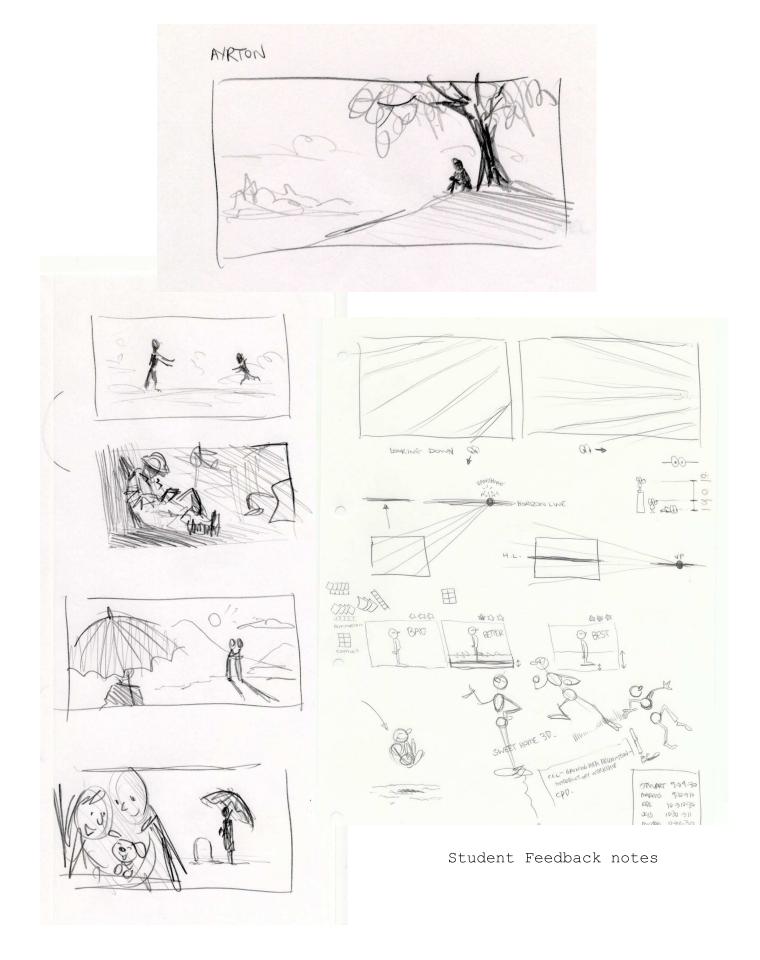
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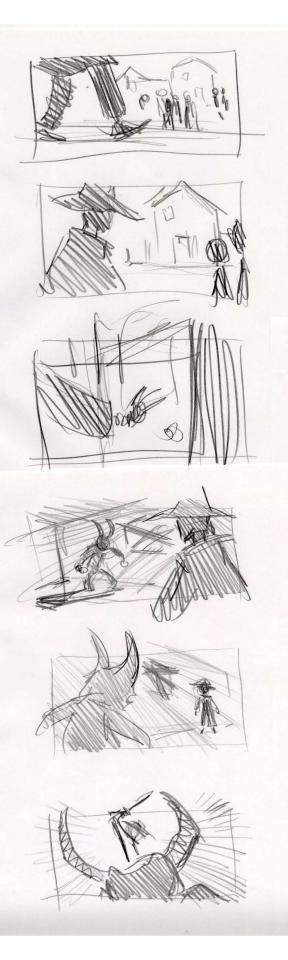


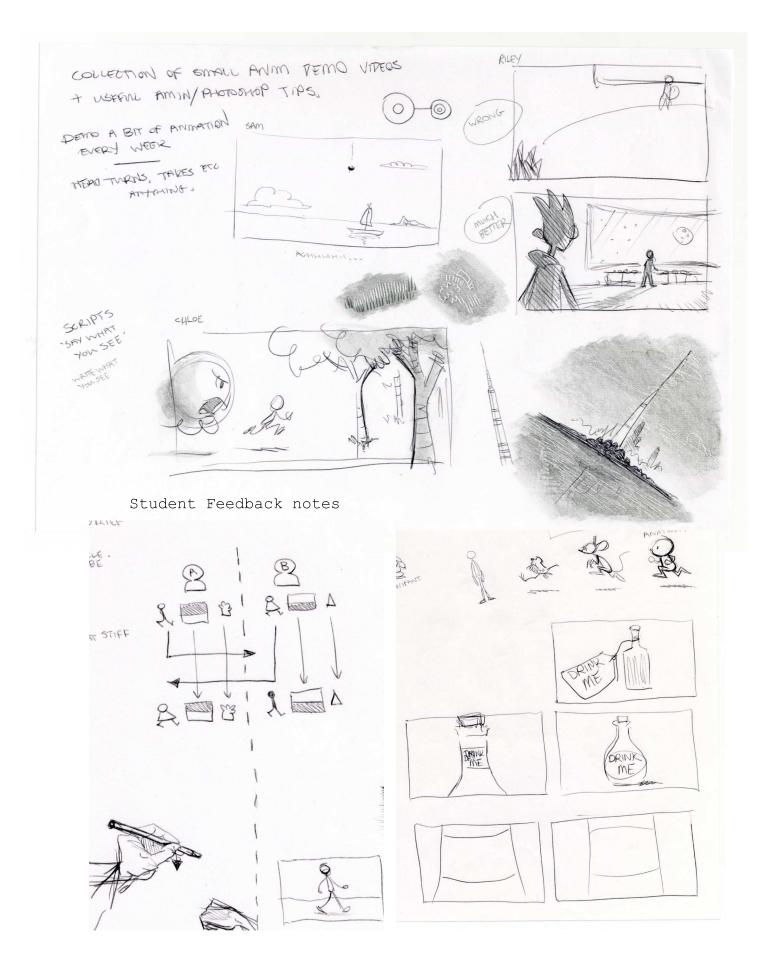




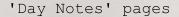
Student Feedback notes

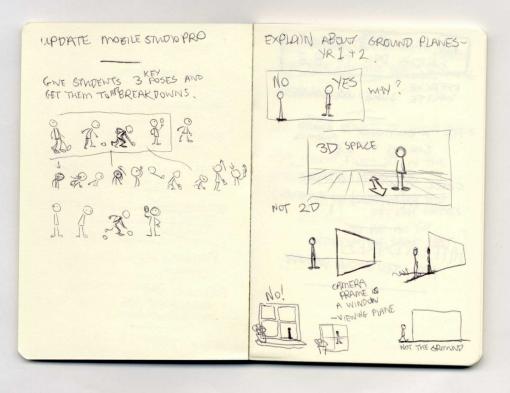


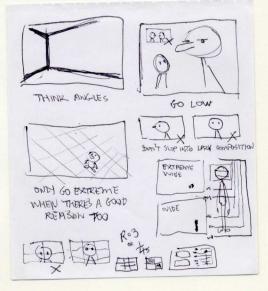


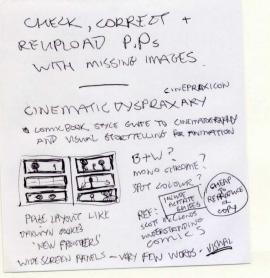


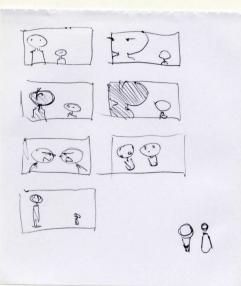
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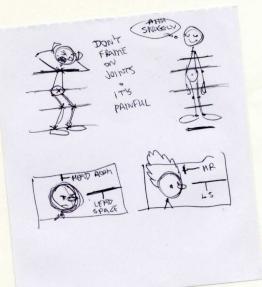


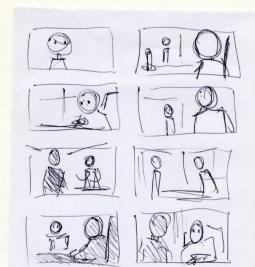


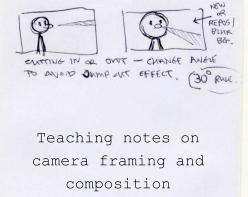


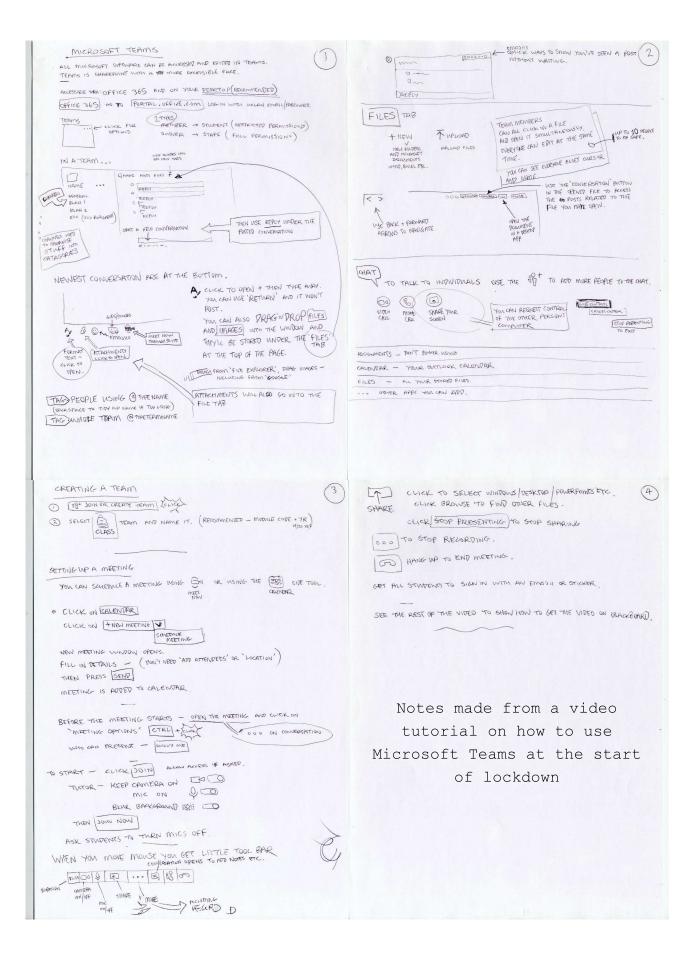




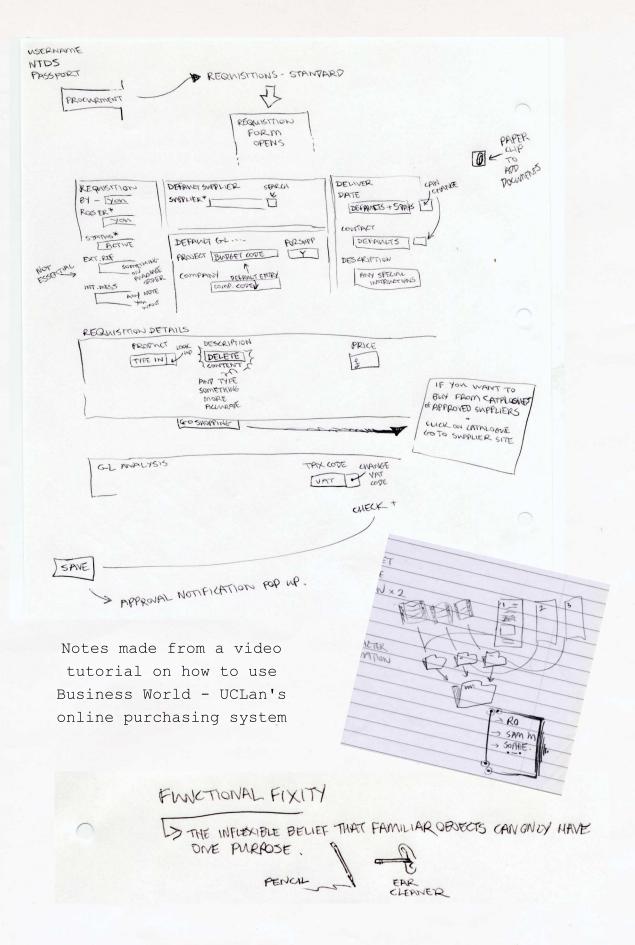












This all gave me some insight into how I process information, and attempt to turn it into something tangible in order to either understand better or communicate information to others...

I turned next to books...

In the following 4 pages I've attempted to simulate some of the issues I have with print, as laid out in standard, traditionally formatted fiction, non-fiction and academic books... Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consecteture adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, leits. Curabitur fictum gravida namirs. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consecteture id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula angue en reque. Pel-elatesque habitant mobi iristingue secutes et en desuada fames as turpis egestas. Mauris ul loc. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla el lectus vestibulum uras fringila ultrices. Phasellus en tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer supis, placerat, en placinar sem. Nulla el lectus vestibulum uras fringila ultrices. Phasellus en tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer supis, placerat, en placinar st, molia ez, nulla, Curabitur anctor semper nulla. Donec varies orci eget risso. Duis nibh mi, conque eu, accumsan tellend, saguita st, molia ez, nulla, Curabitur anctor semper nulla. Donec varies orci eget risso. Duis nibh mi, conque eu, accumsan theloratis rices, tricket et eliteration destades soliticationi vel, visi, Merida actor horem non justo. Nam tens libero, placeratis en lobortis rices, et et eliteration destades soliticationi vel, visi, Merida actor horem non justo. Nam tens libero, partimus ani. Mobrit virae, utricis et, tellus. Donec aliquet, tortor sed accumsan hiberadum, erat lignta aliquet magna, vitae orane colin curate a mi. Motiv rices, utricis et, tellus. Donec aliquet, tortor sed accumsan hiberadum terna malla. Cura socia natoque penalibus et unagnis fio parturirat montes, ascetur ridiculus mus. Aliquan tincidant uran. Nulla ullamoorper vestibulum turpis. Pellentesque cursus luctus nutris.

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Dense blocks of text with little room for the words to breath

How the text feels when I look at it

This is a little better, there are fewer words on each page, and the text is divided clearly

but I still see dense blocks of type, with a small break in the middle which does give me an anchor point for my floating eyes

The Sustainable Society

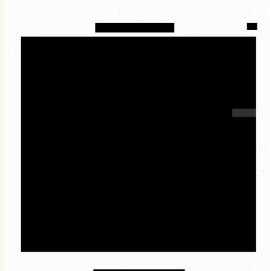
which is the green argument in its favour. However, environmental defences of nuclear power rest on the assumption that highly dangerous substances can be stored safely and kept secure. Furthermore there is medical and scientific evidence on untypical incidences of health problems among workers in the nuclear power industry and communities close by. Renewable resource technologies and recycling, meanwhile, are still parts of industrial production processes. The machinery which can harness renewable resources and recycle is developed industrially, and recycling itself is an industrial process.

This chapter and the last have discussed environmental problems under industrialism and changed patterns of economic, social and political life which could be compatible with sustainability. A more complex version of the low-consumption prescription of greens – one which discriminates between environmentally damaging and harmless forms of growth and consumption – is environmentally powerful, although I have expressed doubts about some of the social benefits claimed for it. Green strategies for decentralization and economic liberal hopes for capitalist solutions are problematic. My discussions have suggested the need for global and interventionist approaches. Technological change is important but not without reductions in acquisitive values and levels of consumption in the developed world.

In the next two chapters I want to look at environmentalism as a set of ideas and a social movement. What are its main philosophical bases and what has contributed to its greater popularity in recent years?

Guide to further reading

Andew Dobson (1991) collects radical green views on sustainability in the sections on 'The Green Society' and 'Green Economics' in The Green Reader. His discussion in chapter 3 of Green Political Thought (1990) is similarly an accessible outline of the radical green view. Pirages's The Sustainable Society (1977) is a useful collection as is Daly's Towards a Steady-State Economy (1973). Goldsmith et al.'s 'A Blueprint for Survival' (1972) in the journal The Ecologist is an influential and classic manifesto, especially for the decentralist case. Schumacher puts the 'appropriate scale' argument for decentralist case for it in books like Dwellers in the Land (1985) and Human Scale (1980). Irvine and Ponton provide a short, fierce and unapologetic version of the radical green vision in A Green Manifesto (1988). Irvine has also written a useful critical discussion of green consumerism in his 1989 Friends of the Earth pamphlet Beyond Green





The Sustainable Society

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> and recycling itself is an industruand recycling itself is an industruand the last have discussed environm lism and changed patterns of economtich could be compatible with sustain of the low-consumption prescription between environmentally d

After no more than 10 minutes of reading text in this format, sometimes much less, the text begins to shift and it becomes difficult to maintain the position of one line following into the next.

These 2 examples are an attempt to simulate the effect.

Another issue is the harsh contrast between the black text and the white page.

This has been reduced somewhat in the image below by creating an off white page.

The Sustainable Society

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The Sustainable Society

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OpenDyslexic and Dyslexie are fonts designed to help Dyslexics, although their success has been questioned (Wery, Jessica J.; Diliberto, Jennifer A. (18 March 2016), "The effect of a specialized dyslexia font, OpenDyslexic, on reading rate and accuracy", Annals of Dyslexia, Springer US, 67 (2): 114-127)

I also have to question them on their visual appeal and design as fonts to be used in quality graphic design projects and publications. They are ugly, clunky fonts.

Left: OpenDyslexic Right: Dyslexie

ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789!?# Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qa Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz



Dyslexia Style Guide 2018: Creating Dyslexia Friendly Content

This Style Guide provides principles that can help ensure that written material considers the difficulties experienced by some dyslexic people and allows for the use of text to speech to facilitate ease of reading. Adopting best practice for dyslexic readers has the advantage of making all written communication easier on the eye for everyone.

When making changes consider all the ways that you use written communications, such as emails, presentations, web pages and printed materials. Consider these principles in combination with other accessibility guidance such as the Web Accessibility Content Guidelines (WCAG).

Readable Fonts

- Use sans serif fonts, such as Arial and Comic Sans, as letters can appear less crowded. Alternatives include Verdana, Tahoma, Century Gothic, Trebuchet, Calibri, Open Sans.
- Font size should be 12-14 point or equivalent (e.g. 1-1.2em / 16-19 px). Some dyslexic readers may request a larger font.
- Larger inter-letter / character spacing (sometimes called tracking) improves readability, ideally around 35% of the average letter width. If letter spacing is excessive it can reduce readability.
- Inter-word spacing should be at least 3.5 times the inter-letter spacing.

- Larger line spacing improves readability and should be proportional to inter-word spacing; 1.5 / 150% is preferable.
- Avoid Underlining and italics as this can make the text appear to run together and cause crowding. Use bold for emphasis.
- Avoid text in uppercase / capital letters and small caps, which can be less familiar to the reader and harder to read.

Headings and Structure

• Use headings and styles to create consistent structure to help people navigate through your content.

In Word, you'll find these tools in the 'Home' tab:



- For headings, use a font size that is at least 20% larger than the normal text. If further emphasis is required, then use bold.
- Use formatting tools for text alignment, justification, indents, lists, line and paragraph spacing to support assistive technology users.
 In Word, you'll find these tools in the 'Layout' tab:



- Add extra space around headings and between paragraphs.
- Ensure hyperlinks look different from headings and normal text.

Colour

- Use single colour backgrounds. Avoid background patterns or pictures and distracting surrounds.
- Use sufficient contrast levels between background and text.

- Use dark coloured text on a light (not white) background.
- Avoid green and red/pink, as these colours are difficult for those who have colour vision deficiencies (colour blindness).
- Consider alternatives to white backgrounds for paper, computer and visual aids such as whiteboards. White can appear too dazzling. Use cream or a soft pastel colour. Some dyslexic people will have their own colour preference.
- When printing, use matt paper rather than gloss. Paper should be thick enough to prevent the other side showing through.

Layout

- Left align text, without justification.
- Avoid multiple columns (as used in newspapers).
- Lines should not be too long: 60 to 70 characters.
- Use white space to remove clutter near text and group related content.
- Break up the text with regular section headings in long documents and include a table of contents.

Writing Style

- Use active rather than passive voice.
- Be concise; avoid using long, dense paragraphs.
- Use short, simple sentences in a direct style.
- Use images to support text. Flow charts are ideal for explaining procedures. Pictograms and graphics can help to locate and support information in the text.
- Consider using bullet points and numbering rather than continuous prose.
- Give instructions clearly.
- Avoid double negatives.
- Avoid abbreviations where possible; always provide the expanded form when first used.
- Provide a glossary of abbreviations and jargon.



Experiment:

Would it be possible to re-typeset an existing short story (without changing a word of the original text) in a format that would not only be more easily readable by someone with Dyspraxia, but also look visually attractive, in terms of design, layout and font choice?

My first step was to re-visit examples of film scripts available online.

The screenplay for a film is written in a set format and has non of the issues of dense text blocks. The layout is deliberately open to allow it to be quickly and easily read and the writing style is straightforward and direct. The font echoes traditional typewriter fonts (like this one -Courier New) and the layout is designed to easily distinguish between action, character and dialogue.

The main difference between a screenplay and a novel or short story is that a screenplay is not telling a story, it is describing what will be seen and heard on screen.

The following 3 pages of 'FARGO' by the Cohen Brothers is a good example of a clearly written and correctly formatted screenplay.

FARGO a screenplay by Ethan Coen and Joel Coen

The following text fades in over black:

This is a true story. The events depicted in this film took place in Minnesota in 1987. At the request of the survivors, the names have been changed. Out of respect for the dead, the rest has been told exactly as it occured.

FLARE TO WHITE

FADE IN FROM WHITE

Slowly the white becomes a barely perceptible image: white particles wave over a white background. A snowfall.

A car bursts through the curtain of snow.

The car is equipped with a hitch and is towing another car, a brand-new light brown Cutlass Ciera with the pink sales sticker showing in its rear window.

As the car roars past, leaving snow swirling in their dirft, the title of the film fades in.

FARGO

Green highway signs point the way to MOOREHEAD, MINNESOTA/FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA. The roads for the two cities diverge. A sign says WELCOME TO NORTH DAKOTA and another just after says NOW ENTERING FARGO, ND, POP. 44,412.

The car pulls into a Rodeway Inn.

HOTEL LOBBY

A man in his early forties, balding and starting to paunch, goes to the reception desk. The clerk is an older woman.

CLERK

And how are you today, sir?

MAN

Real good now. I'm checking in - Mr. Anderson.

The man prints "Jerry Lundega" onto a registration card, then hastily crosses out the last name and starts to print "Anderson." As she types into a computer:

CLERK

Okay, Mr. Anderson, and you're still planning on staying with us just the night, then?

ANDERSON

You bet.

HOTEL ROOM

The man turns on the TV, which shows the local evening news.

NEWS ANCHOR

- whether they will go to summer camp at all. Katie Jensen has more.

KATIE

It was supposed to be a project funded by the city council; it was supposed to benefit those Fargo-Moorehead children who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend a lakeshore summer camp. But nobody consulted city controller Stu Jacobson...

CHAIN RESTAURANT

Anderson sits alone at a table finishing dinner. Muzak plays. A middle-aged waitress approaches holding a pot of regular coffee in one hand and decaf in the other.

WAITRESS

Can I warm that up for ya there?

ANDERSON

You bet.

The man looks at his watch.

THROUGH A WINDSHIELD

We are pulling into the snowswept parking lot of a one-story brick building. Broken neon at the top of the building identifies it as the Jolly Troll Tavern. A troll, also in neon, holds a champagne glass aloft.

INSIDE

The bar is downscale even for this town. Country music plays on the jukebox.

Two men are seated in a booth at the back. One is short, slight, youngish. The other man is somewhat older, and dour. The table in front of them is littered with empty long-neck beer bottles. The ashtray is full.

Anderson approaches.

ANDERSON

I'm, uh, Jerry Lundegaard -

YOUNGER MAN

You're Jerry Lundegaard?

JERRY

Yah, Shep Proudfoot said -

YOUNGER MAN

Shep said you'd be here at 7:30. What gives, man?

JERRY

Shep said 8:30.

YOUNGER MAN

We been sitting here an hour. I've peed three times already.

JERRY

I'm sure sorry. I - Shep told me 8:30. It was a mix-up, I guess.

YOUNGER MAN

Ya got the car?

JERRY

Yah, you bet. It's in the lot there. Brand-new burnt umber Ciera.

YOUNGER MAN

Yeah, okay. Well, siddown then. I'm Carl Showalter and this is my associate Gaear Grimsrud.

JERRY

Yah, how ya doin'. So, uh, we all set on this thing, then?

YOUNGER MAN

Sure, Jerry, we're all set. Why wouldn't we be?

There have been attempts to write novels as screenplays, and they are never very successful. Readers who are not used to the writing style of the screenplay find that they are less absorbed in the story - because a screenplay describes the story, rather than telling a story.

I decided to create a hybrid layout which referenced the clarity of the screenplay but retained the text and structure of the original short story.

The following are 2 short stories by Ernest Hemingway, 'Cat in the Rain' and 'A Very Short Story'. The original text version, as published is first, followed by my re-set version.

Cat in the Rain

THERE WERE ONLY TWO AMERICANS

stopping at the hotel. They did not know any of the people they passed on the stairs on their way to and from their room. Their room was on the second floor facing the sea. It also faced the public garden and the war monument. There were big palms and green benches in the public garden. In the good weather there was always an artist with his easel. Artists liked the way the palms grew and the bright colors of the hotels facing the gardens and the sea. Italians came from a long way off to look up at the war monument. It was made of bronze and glistened in the rain. It was raining. The rain dripped from the palm trees. Water stood in pools on the gravel paths. The sea broke in a long line in the rain and slipped back down the beach to come up and break again in a long line in the rain. The motor cars were gone from the square by the war monument. Across the square in the doorway of the café a waiter stood looking out at the empty square.

The American wife stood at the window looking out. Outside right under their window a cat was crouched under one of the dripping green tables. The cat was trying to make herself so compact that she would not be dripped on.

'I'm going down and get that kitty,' the American wife said.

'I'll do it,' her husband offered from the bed.

'No, I'll get it. The poor kitty out trying to keep dry under a table.'

The husband went on reading, lying propped up with the two pillows at the foot of the bed.

'Don't get wet,' he said.

The wife went downstairs and the hotel owner stood up and bowed to her as she passed the office. His desk was at the far end of the office. He was an old man and very tall.

'Il piove,1'the wife said. She liked the hotel-keeper.

'Si, Si, Signora, brutto tempo2. It is very bad weather.'

He stood behind his desk in the far end of the dim room. The wife liked him. She liked the deadly serious way he received any complaints. She liked his dignity. She liked the way he wanted to serve her. She liked the way he felt about being a hotel-keeper. She liked his old, heavy face and big hands.

Liking him she opened the door and looked out. It was raining harder. A man in a rubber cape was crossing the empty square to the café. The cat would be around to the right. Perhaps she could go along under the eaves. As she stood in the doorway an umbrella opened behind her. It was the maid who looked after their room.

'You must not get wet,' she smiled, speaking Italian. Of course, the hotel-keeper had sent her.

With the maid holding the umbrella over her, she walked along the gravel path until she was under their window. The table was there, washed bright green in the rain, but the cat was gone. She was suddenly disappointed. The maid looked up at her.

'Ha perduto qualque cosa, Signora?'3

'There was a cat,' said the American girl.

'A cat?'

'Si, il gatto.'

'A cat?' the maid laughed. 'A cat in the rain?'

'Yes, -' she said, 'under the table.' Then, 'Oh, I wanted it so much. I wanted a kitty.'

When she talked English the maid's face tightened.

'Come, Signora,' she said. 'We must get back inside. You will be wet.' 'I suppose so,' said the American girl.

They went back along the gravel path and passed in the door. The maid stayed outside to close the umbrella. As the American girl passed the office, the padrone bowed from his desk. Something felt very small and tight inside the girl. The padrone made her feel very small and at the same time really important. She had a momentary feeling of being of supreme importance. She went on up the stairs. She opened the door of the room. George was on the bed, reading.

'Did you get the cat?' he asked, putting the book down.

'It was gone.'

'Wonder where it went to,' he said, resting his eyes from reading. She sat down on the bed.

'I wanted it so much,' she said. 'I don't know why I wanted it so much. I wanted that poor kitty. It isn't any fun to be a poor kitty out in the rain.'

George was reading again.

She went over and sat in front of the mirror of the dressing table looking at herself with the hand glass. She studied her profile, first one side and then the other. Then she studied the back of her head and her neck.

'Don't you think it would be a good idea if I let my hair grow out?' she asked, looking at her profile again.

George looked up and saw the back of her neck, clipped close like a boy's.

'I like it the way it is.'

'I get so tired of it,' she said. 'I get so tired of looking like a boy.'

George shifted his position in the bed. He hadn't looked away from her since she started to speak.

'You look pretty darn nice,' he said.

She laid the mirror down on the dresser and went over to the window and looked out. It was getting dark.

'I want to pull my hair back tight and smooth and make a big knot at the back that I can feel,' she said. 'I want to have a kitty to sit on my lap and purr when I stroke her.'

'Yeah?' George said from the bed.

'And I want to eat at a table with my own silver and I want candles. And I want it to be spring and I want to brush my hair out in front of a mirror and I want a kitty and I want some new clothes.' 'Oh, shut up and get something to read,' George said. He was reading again.

His wife was looking out of the window. It was quite dark now and still raining in the palm trees.

'Anyway, I want a cat,' she said, 'I want a cat. I want a cat now. If I can't have long hair or any fun, I can have a cat.'

George was not listening. He was reading his book. His wife looked out of the window where the light had come on in the square.

Someone knocked at the door.

'Avanti,' George said. He looked up from his book.

In the doorway stood the maid. She held a big tortoiseshell cat pressed tight against her and swung down against her body.

'Excuse me,' she said, 'the padrone asked me to bring this for the Signora.'

1

3

'It's raining.' 2

'Yes, yes Madam. Awful weather.'

'Have you lost something, Madam?'

Cat in the Rain

There were only two Americans stopping at the hotel.

They did not know any of the people they passed on the stairs on their way to and from their room.

Their room was on the second floor facing the sea. It also faced the public garden and the war monument.

There were big palms and green benches in the public garden. In the good weather there was always an artist with his easel. Artists liked the way the palms grew and the bright colours of the hotels facing the gardens and the sea.

Italians came from a long way off to look up at the war monument. It was made of bronze and glistened in the rain.

It was raining.

The rain dripped from the palm trees. Water stood in pools on the gravel paths.

The sea broke in a long line in the rain and slipped back down the beach to come up and break again in a long line in the rain.

The motor cars were gone from the square by the war monument.

Across the square in the doorway of the café a waiter stood looking out at the empty square.

The American wife stood at the window looking out.

Outside right under their window a cat was crouched under one of the dripping green tables. The cat was trying to make herself so compact that she would not be dripped on.

'I'm going down and get that kitty,' the American wife said.

'I'll do it,' her husband offered from the bed.

'No, I'll get it. The poor kitty out trying to keep dry under a table.'

The husband went on reading, lying propped up with the two pillows at the foot of the bed.

'Don't get wet,' he said.

The wife went downstairs and the hotel owner stood up and bowed to her as she passed the office.

His desk was at the far end of the office. He was an old man and very tall.

'll piove,1 'the wife said. She liked the hotel-keeper.

'Si, Si, Signora, brutto tempo₂. It is very bad weather.'

He stood behind his desk in the far end of the dim room.

The wife liked him.

She liked the deadly serious way he received any complaints. She liked his dignity. She liked the way he wanted to serve her. She liked the way he felt about being a hotel-keeper. She liked his old, heavy face and big hands.

Liking him she opened the door and looked out.

It was raining harder.

A man in a rubber cape was crossing the empty square to the café.

The cat would be around to the right. Perhaps she could go along under the eaves.

As she stood in the doorway an umbrella opened behind her. It was the maid who looked after their room.

'You must not get wet,' she smiled, speaking Italian.

Of course, the hotel-keeper had sent her.

With the maid holding the umbrella over her, she walked along the gravel path until she was under their window. The table was there, washed bright green in the rain, but the cat was gone. She was suddenly disappointed. The maid looked up at her.

'Ha perduto qualque cosa, Signora?'₃

'There was a cat,' said the American girl.

'A cat?'

'Si, il gatto.'4

'A cat?' the maid laughed. 'A cat in the rain?'

'Yes, -' she said, 'under the table.' Then, 'Oh, I wanted it so much. I wanted a kitty.'

When she talked English the maid's face tightened.

'Come, Signora,' she said. 'We must get back inside. You will be wet.'

'I suppose so,' said the American girl.

They went back along the gravel path and passed in the door.

The maid stayed outside to close the umbrella.

As the American girl passed the office, the padrone bowed from his desk.

Something felt very small and tight inside the girl.

The padrone made her feel very small and at the same time really important.

She had a momentary feeling of being of supreme importance.

She went on up the stairs. She opened the door of the room.

George was on the bed, reading.

'Did you get the cat?' he asked, putting the book down.

'lt was gone.'

'Wonder where it went to,' he said, resting his eyes from reading.

She sat down on the bed.

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1 'It's raining.' 2 'Yes, yes Madam. Awful weather.' 3 'Have you lost something, Madam?' 4 'Yes, a cat.'

A Very Short Story

ONE HOT EVENING IN PADUA THEY CAR-

ried him up onto the roof and he could look out over the top of the town. There were chimney swifts in the sky. After a while it got dark and the searchlights came out. The others went down and took the bottles with them. He and Luz could hear them below on the balcony. Luz sat on the bed. She was cool and fresh in the hot night.

Luz stayed on night duty for three months. They were glad to let her. When they operated on him she prepared him for the operating table; and they had a joke about friend or enema. He went under the anæsthetic holding tight on to himself so he would not blab about anything during the silly, talkytime. After he got on crutches he used to take the temperatures so Luz would not have to get up from the bed. There were only a few patients, and they all knew about it. They all liked Luz. As he walked back along the halls he thought of Luz in his bed.

Before he went back to the front they went into the Duomo and prayed. It was dim and quiet, and there were other people praying. They wanted to get married, but there was not enough time for the banns, and neither of them had birth certificates. They felt as though they were married, but they wanted everyone to know about it, and to make it so they could not lose it.

Luz wrote him many letters that he never got until after the armistice. Fifteen came in a bunch to the front and he sorted them by the dates and read them all straight through. They were all about the hospital, and how much she loved him and how it was impossible to get along without him and how terrible it was missing him at night.

After the armistice they agreed he should go home to get a job so they might be married. Luz would not come home until he had a good job and could come to New York to meet her. It was understood he would not drink, and he did not want to see his friends or anyone in the States. Only to get a job and be married. On the train from Padua to Milan they quarrelled about her not being willing to come home at once. When they had to say goodbye, in the station at Milan, they kissed good-bye, but were not finished with the quarrel. He felt sick about saying good-bye like that.

He went to America on a boat from Genoa. Luz went back to Pordenone to open a hospital. It was lonely and rainy there, and there was a battalion of *arditi* quartered in the town. Living in the muddy, rainy town in the winter, the major of the battalion made love to Luz, and she had never known Italians before, and finally wrote to the States that theirs had been only a boy and girl affair. She was sorry, and she knew he would probably not be able to understand, but might someday forgive her, and be grateful to her, and she expected, absolutely unexpectedly, to be married in the spring. She loved him as always, but she realized now it was only a boy and girl love. She hoped he would have a great career, and believed in him absolutely. She knew it was for the best.

The major did not marry her in the spring, or any other time. Luz never got an answer to the letter to Chicago about it. A short time after he contracted gonorrhea from a sales girl in a loop department store while riding in a taxicab through Lincoln Park.

A Very Short Story

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Reflection:

I would like to gather feedback on this small experiment, but for me, personally, I'm very satisfied with the result. Both stories have been given a clarity and sense of timing that I couldn't fully appreciate in the original versions. Breaking the sentences apart into their own paragraph, in some cases, allows the reader to take in each sentence, a breath at a time. Each line is given more weight as it is given more space. Sentences in bold become more significant as either scene changes or emotional pivot points.

The dialogue is carefully laid out, with breaks to add emphasis.

I think the issues which would cause the most difficulty with publishing houses would be the economics of printing dyspraxic friendly books. The paper colour would have to be carefully sourced, a coloured ink would have to be used, and the page count would be increased due to the more open design of the page layouts. For digital or online printing, these issues would be reduced.

This hasn't been a simple cut, copy and paste exercise. Each line has been considered in isolation, as part of a larger paragraph and within the story as a whole.

If more books were formatted this way I would certainly be able to read them, and remember them much more easily.

I rarely finish a fiction book and concentrate on short stories compilations for that reason.

I genuinely feel that there is more development and research to be done around this subject, possibly in collaboration with a graphic designer and publishing expert. Interestingly, during my career in animation production the fonts I've used most are Anevir, Gill Sans, Futura, Georgia, Garamond Pro and Calibri.

The Ernest Hemmingway short story layout experiments were created using Anevir before finding this research which goes some way towards validating my choices.

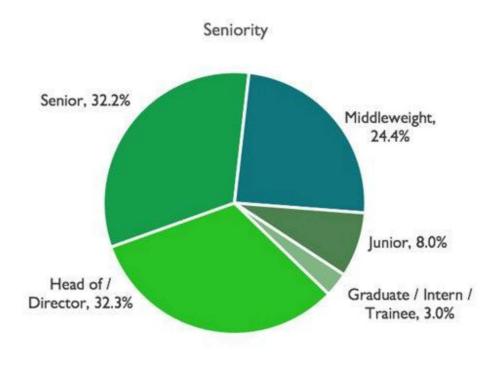
https://www.creativereview.co.uk/survey-reveals-designers-favourite-typefaces/

Last viewed 18/06/2021

Survey reveals designers' favourite typefaces

In a piece of research conducted in 2018 jointly by MOO and design industry journal, Creative Review, UK based designers ranked their favourite fonts, revealing their 'go-to' typefaces and the more contemporary fonts they most like to use.

MOO received responses 1,161 through Creative Review. The respondents, all UKbased, came from a range of company types and seniority levels.

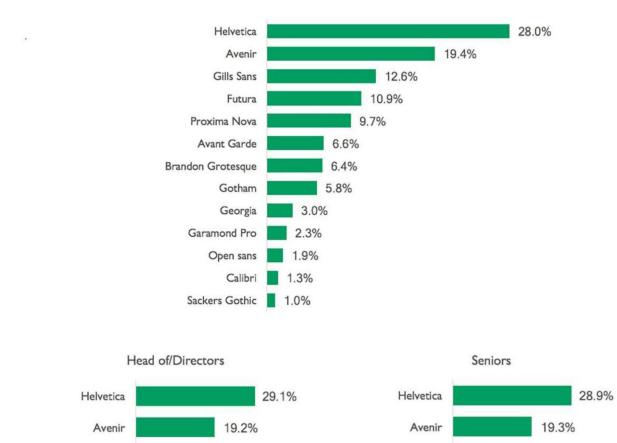


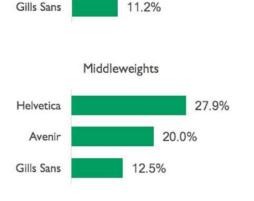
A breakdown of the respondents, based on experience level and company type

'GO-TO' TYPEFACES

Unsurprisingly, Helvetica came top, closely followed by Avenir, Gill Sans and Futura.

Helvetica held equal appeal with both junior and senior designers making it their top choice. Avenir, designed by Adrian Frutiger in 1988, was consistently picked as second favourite.



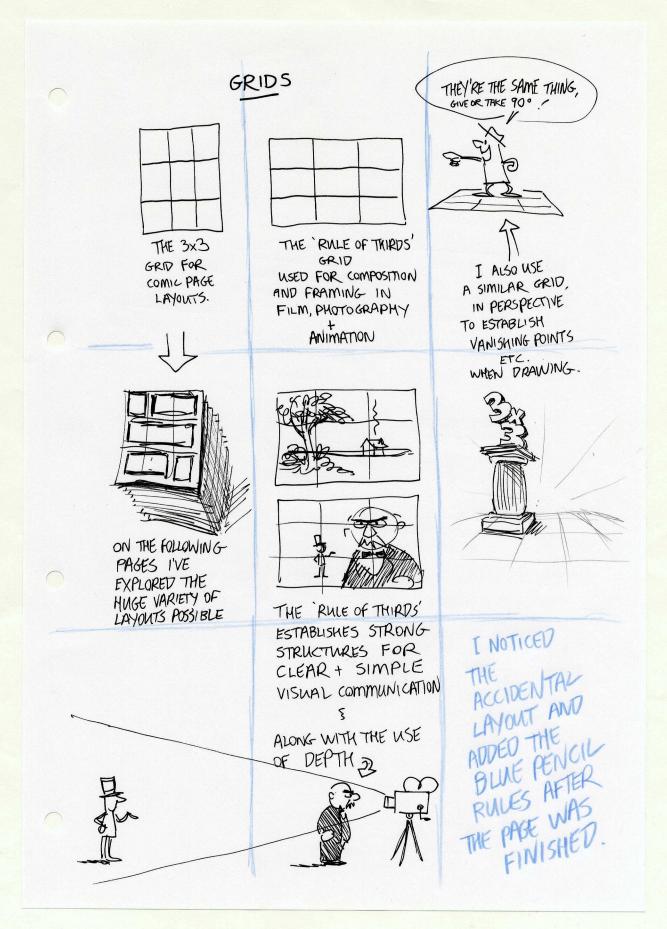




uppercase

'UP-AND-COMING' FONTS

The survey also asked designers for their thoughts on more recently developed typefaces. Nexa was a distinct favourite with over a fifth of the respondents choosing it as their preferred 'up-and-coming' font. Nexa is a free typeface developed by Fontfabric type foundry and much like Helvetica is a simple, sans serif typeface.



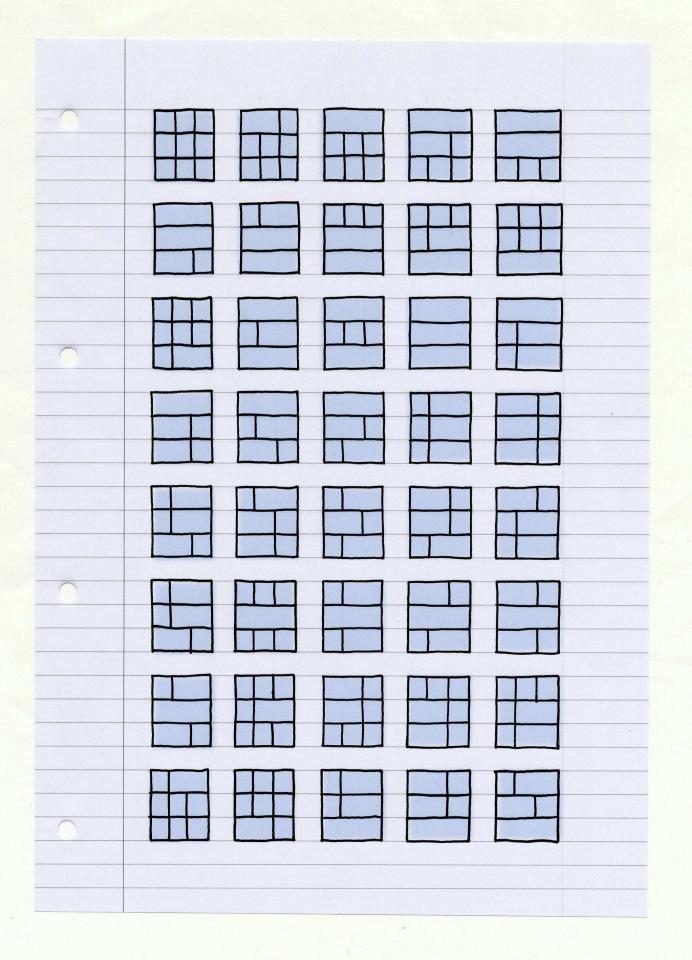
Page Layout: Grids

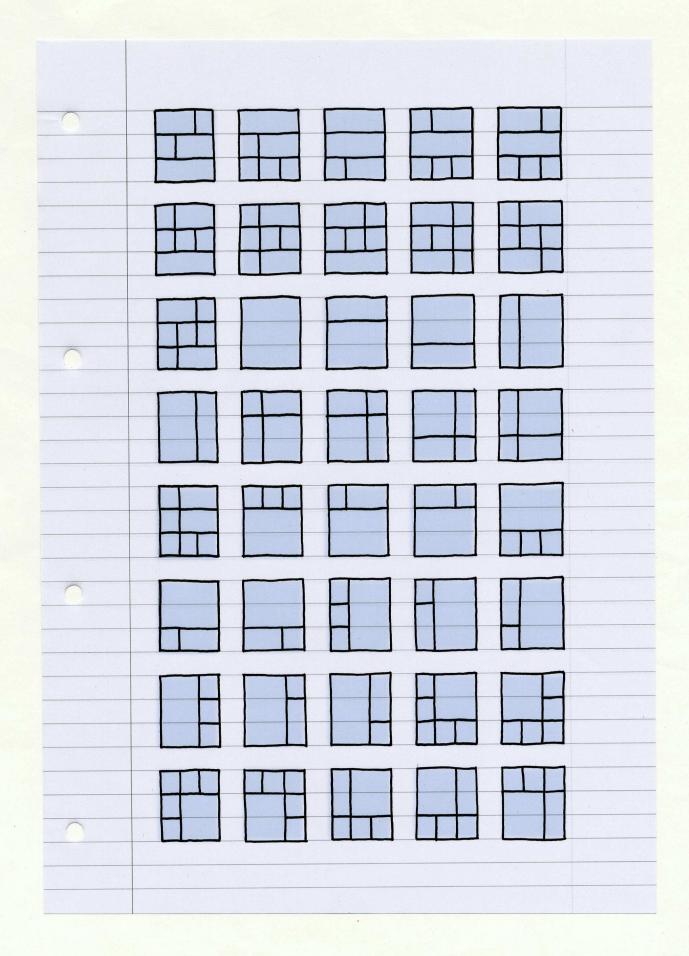
Grids are the scaffolding or substructure of good design and composition.

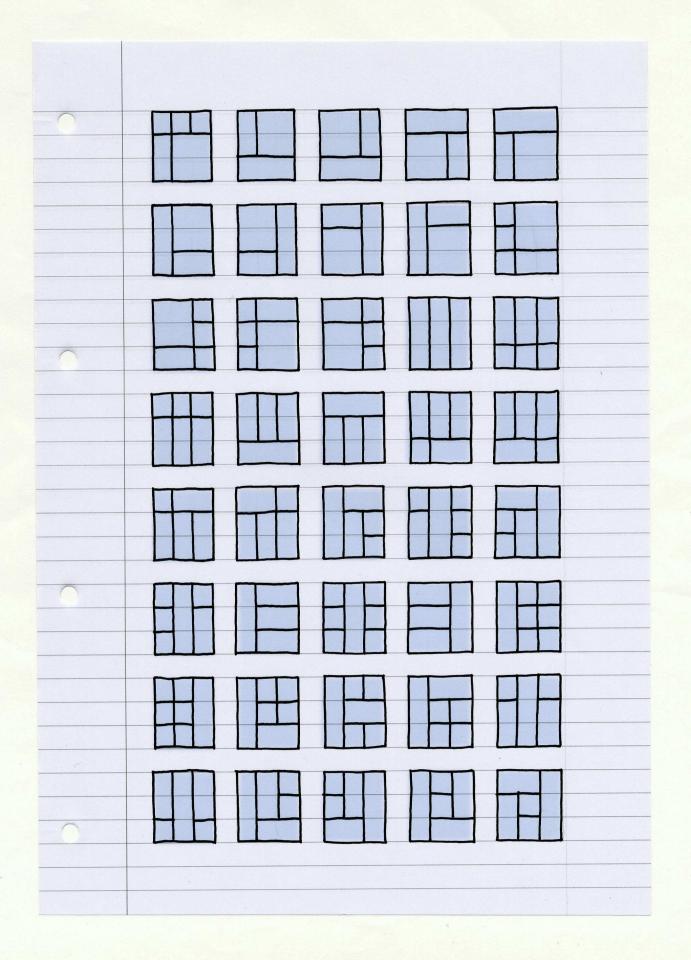
In the next few pages I reflect on their usefulness in this project to create balance, harmony and order in otherwise chaotic pages.

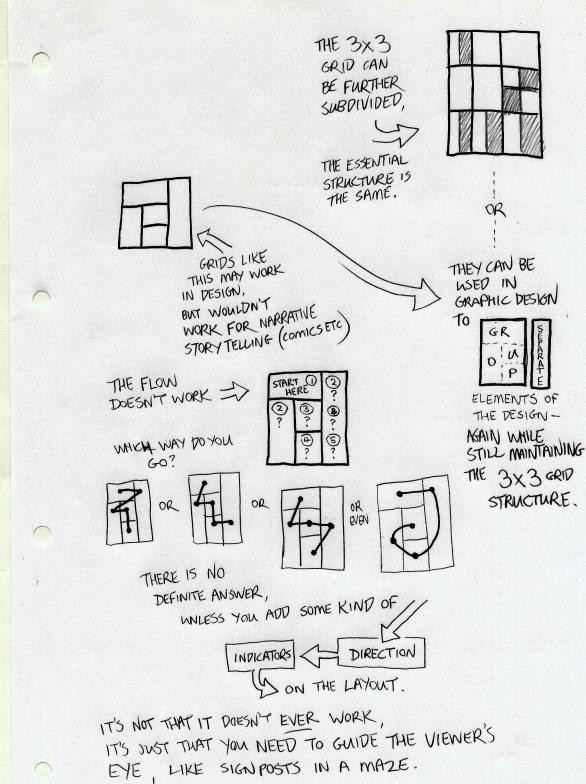
The 3 'blue box' pages demonstrate not only EVERY possible combination of panel layouts that can be created from a 3x3 grid, but also a slightly obsessive tendency I have for completeness.

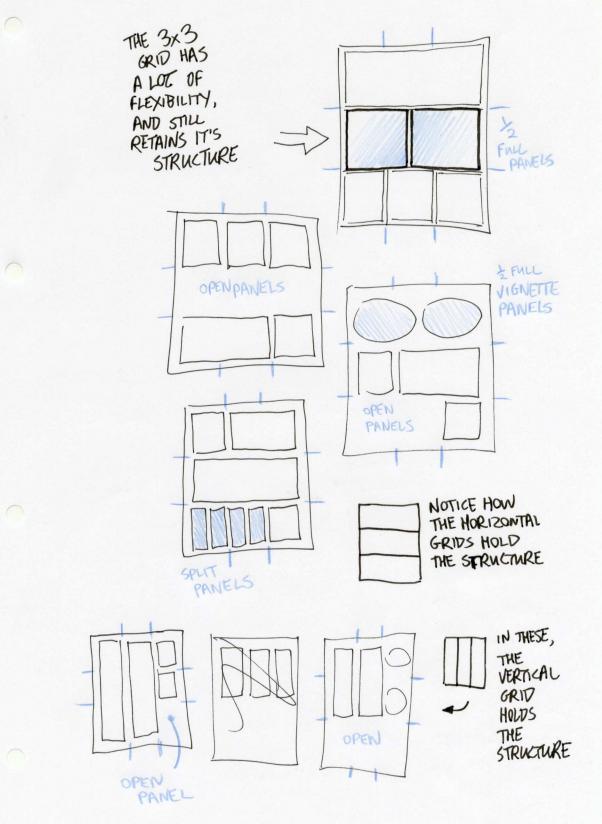
See also: Childhood Drawings & Autistic Traits.



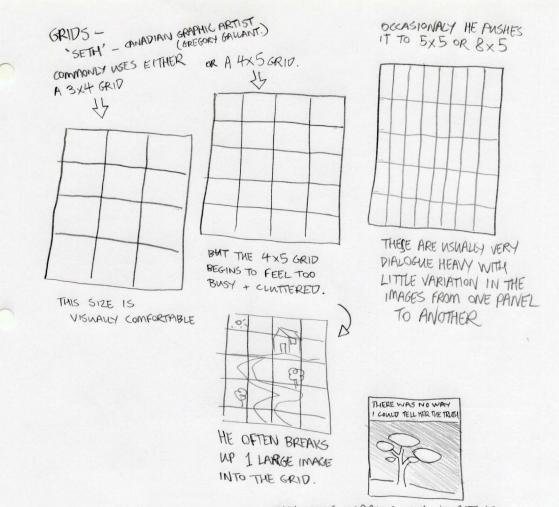








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THE TEXT CARRIES THE NARRATIVE, THE IMAGE ADDS MOOD.

THE IMAGES SUPPORT THE WORDS IN MUCH OF SETH'S WORK. THE STORY WOULDN'T WORK WITH ONLY IMAGES.

SO WHY IS STRUCTURE, OR SOMETHING LIKE A GRID, IMPORTANT FOR SOMEONE WITH DYSPRAXIA, LIKE ME? 3 REMEMBER THIS IS MY THINKING, MY THOUGHTS AS THEY COME OUT 83 THIS ISN'T WRITING UP MY PRE-CONSIDERED DELIBER WHEN I WORKED AS 11.6.21. AN ANIMATOR, DRAWING HA BEFORE I CONTINUE ... AFTER 3 DAYS OF SKETCHING + NOTE TAKING I WOULD BE IN SO A THE MUSCLES IN MY HAND + WRIST ARE MUCH PAIN - BUT I STARTING TO CAUSE ME DISCOMFORT/MILD HAD TO KEEP WORKING. PAIN. I ALWAYS SUFFERED FROM THIS, BUT DISLOVERED THAT'S IT'S ANOTHER SYMPTOM I'D COAT MY OF DYSPRAKIA - GRIPPING TOO TIGHTLY. 3 WRIST + JOINTS AS A RESULT, I'M HAVING WITH TO SWITCH TO USING A BLACK PEN, FREEZE. RATHER THAN A PENCIL 3 * (6) AND EVEN, AFTER TALKING WITH A PHYSIOTHERAPIST, COLD SPRA DESIGNED MYSELF IT A PENCIL GRIP CLIPPED Fast acting pain TIGHTLY ONTO WITH THERMAL relief for strains, MY PENCIL , sprains, muscles PLASTIC AND THEN and joints HOOKED OVER MY INDEX + MIDDLE FREEZES PAIN INSTANTLY FINGERS THE THERMAL PLASTIC HAS CRUMBLED AWAY HARVLY TO NOTHING - I'D HAVE TO ANY PRESSURE START FROM SCRATCH TO WAS NEEDED MAKE A NEW ONE . WITH THE THUMB

Cartoon

Originally defined as a preparatory or working drawing for an artist.

All of the works generated for this project can be described as cartoons, in both the original and current definition of the word.



IT TOOR THE EXAMPTING THE OF CARTOONS FOR FRESCOB IN THE NEW PALACE OF WESTMINISTER AND DECLARED IT AS AN INDALGENT WASTE OF MONEY WHEN PEOPLE WERE STARVING TO DEATH. (THE HUNGER' 40'S)

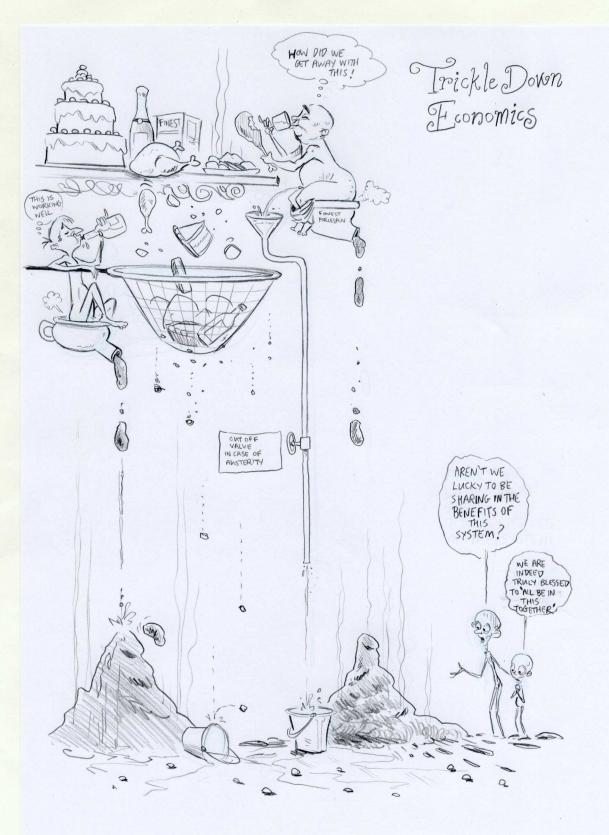
THE IMPACT OF THE MESSAGE IN THE IMAGE CHANGED THE MEANING OF THE WORD CARTOON I POSTED AN IMAGE SIMILAR TO THIS ON SOCIAL MEDIA A WHILE AGO -

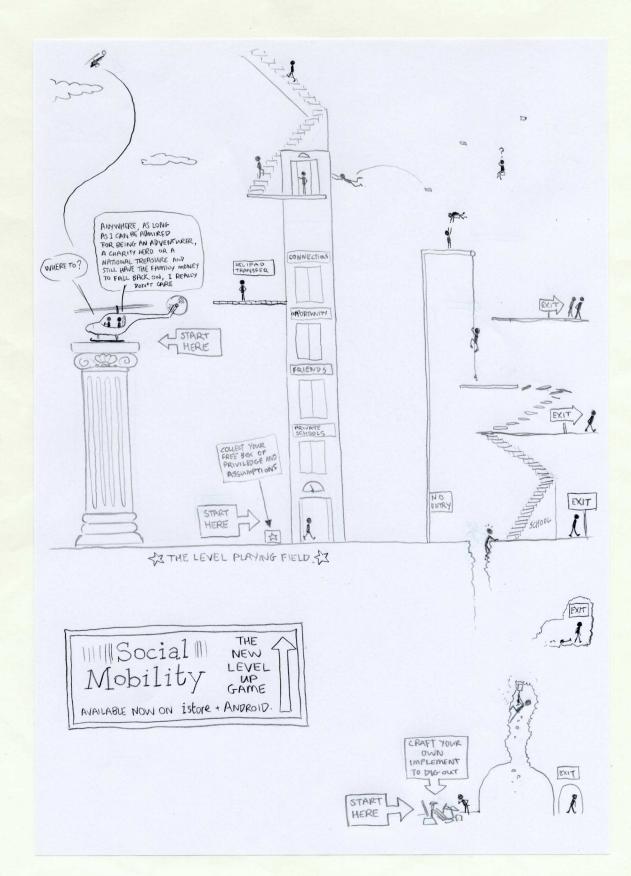
WHEN I'VE SHOWN IT TO NON-DYSPRAXICS AND NON-DYSLEXICS THEY CORRECT THE TEXT ON THE SIGN WITHOUT REALISING THEY HAVE DONE IT.

ON AVERAGE, THEY DON'T SEE THE JOKE IN THE DELIBERATE ERROR

SO WHO HAS THE PROBLEM?



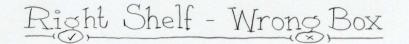






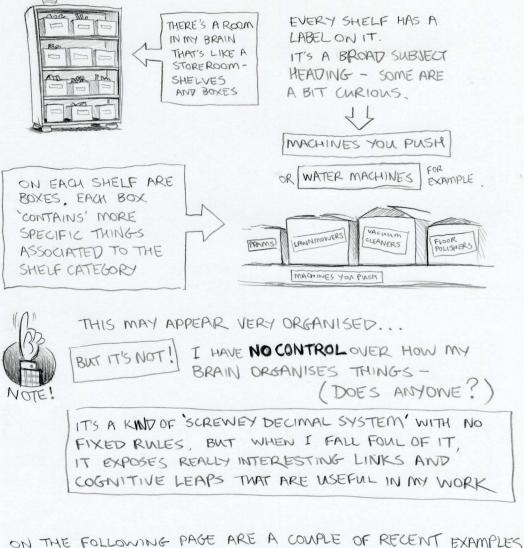
Right Shelf, Wrong Box

Organisation, words & memory



A PHRASE TO EXCUSE USING THE WRONG WORD IN CONVERSATION. I'M NOT SURE IF THIS IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO DYSPRAXIA, OR JUST ANOTHER CO-MORBID ADD-ON. IT FEELS CONNECTED TO SHORT. TERM MEMORY AND PROCESSING AND ORGANISATION and a

RS (T)



. 0

LOOK LIKE

1

STREET

LIFANING

VEHICLES LOOK LIKE WOODLIKE.

MODERN COACHES

CATERPILLARS

20

CHINOOK

LOOK HKE

HELICOPTERS

GIANT

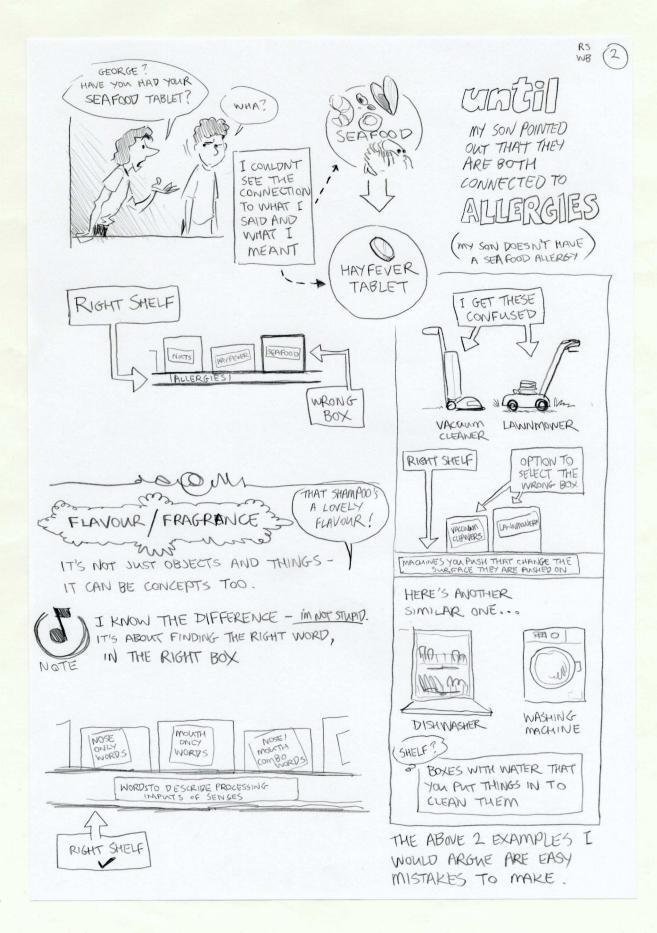
PERHAPS IT HAS SOMETHING

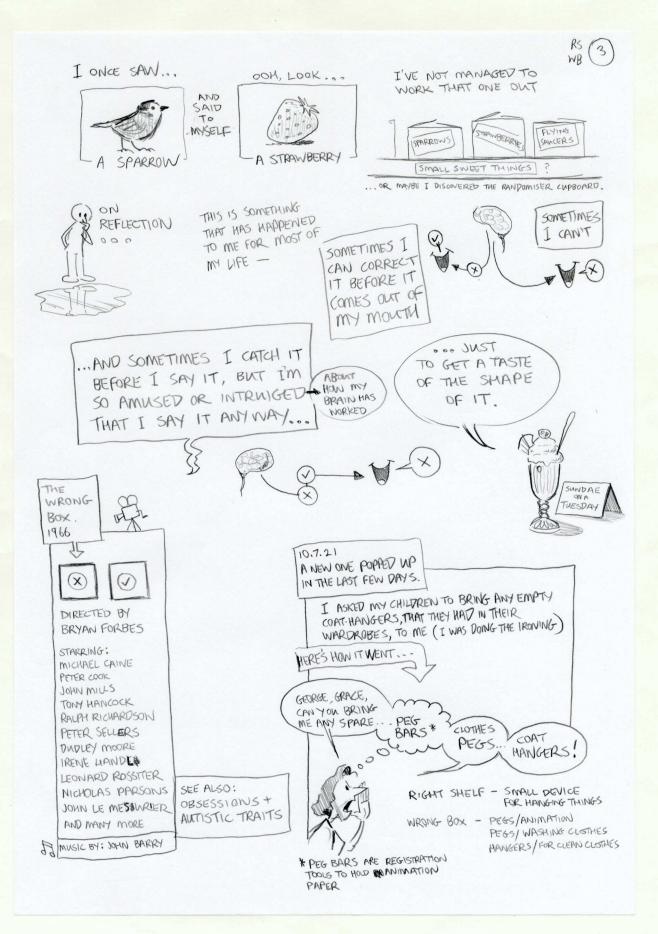
EAST/WEST THING -

TO DO WITH THE LEFT/RIGHT

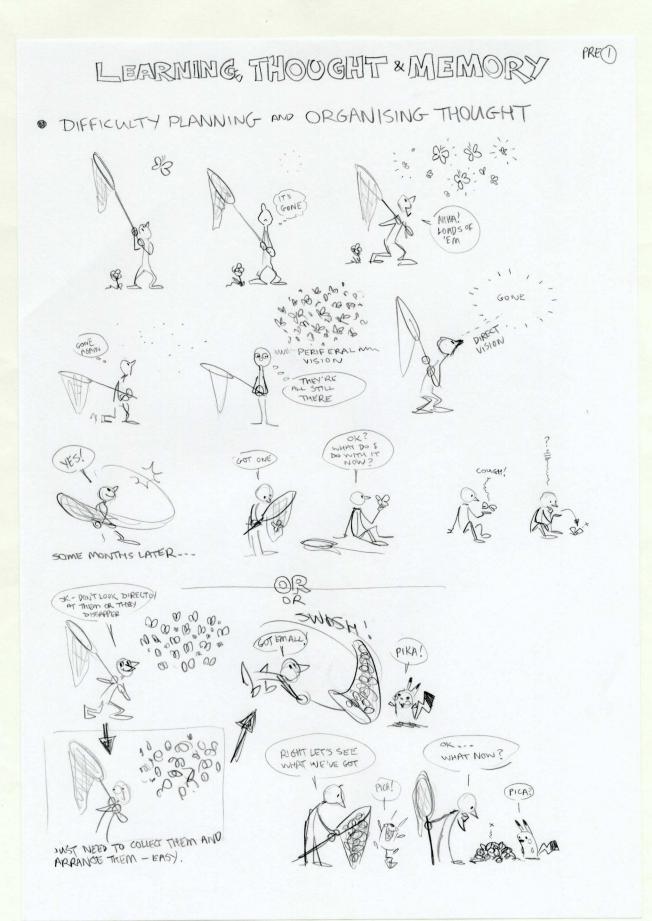
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WORD

FOR THAT

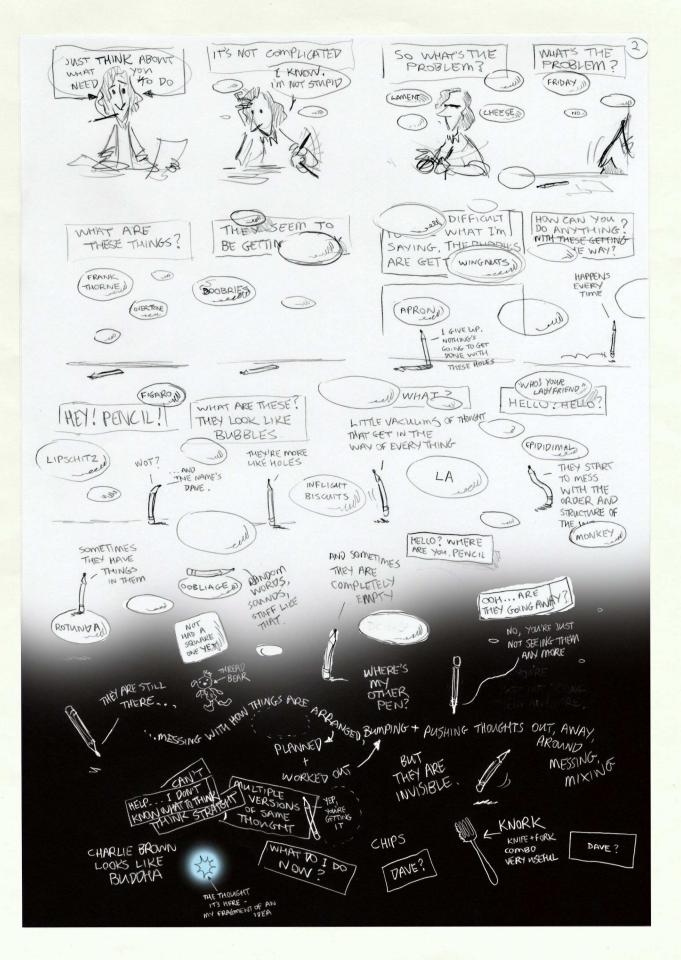


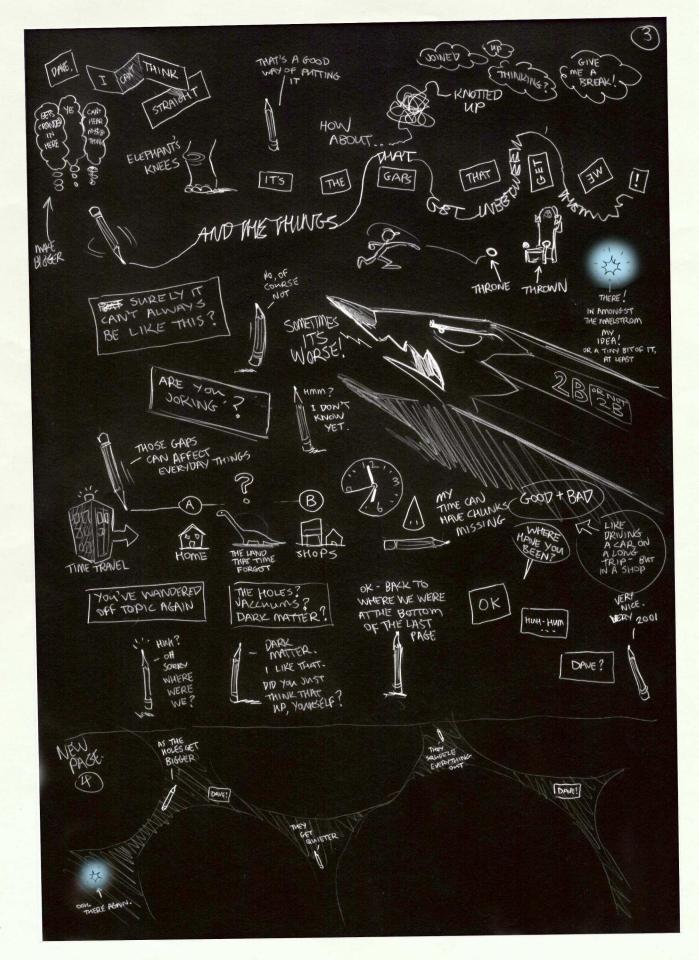


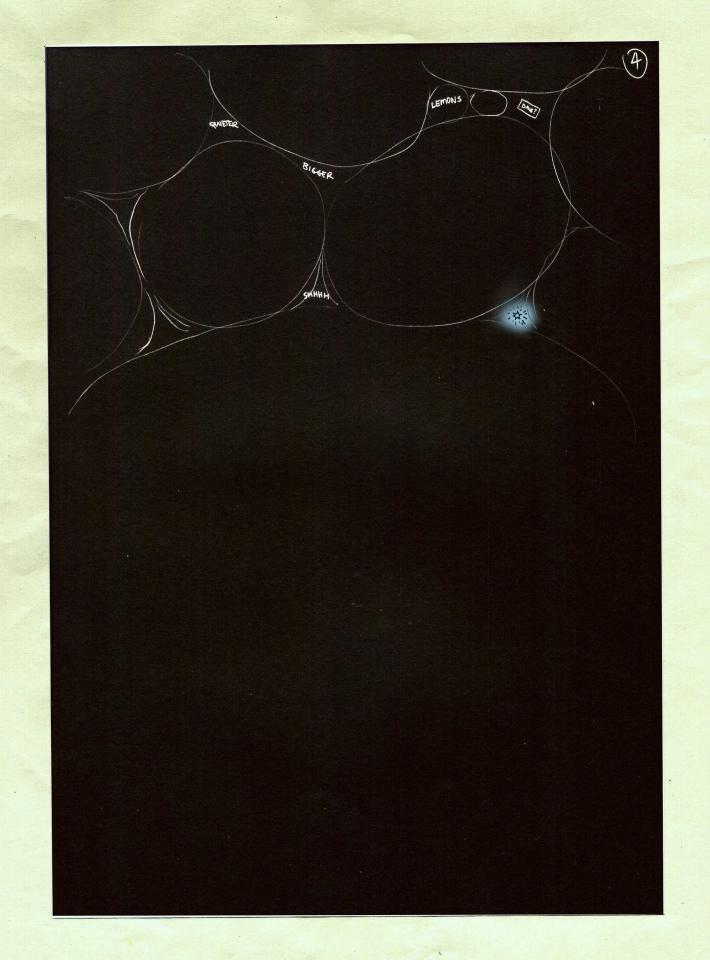
Learning, Thought & Memory









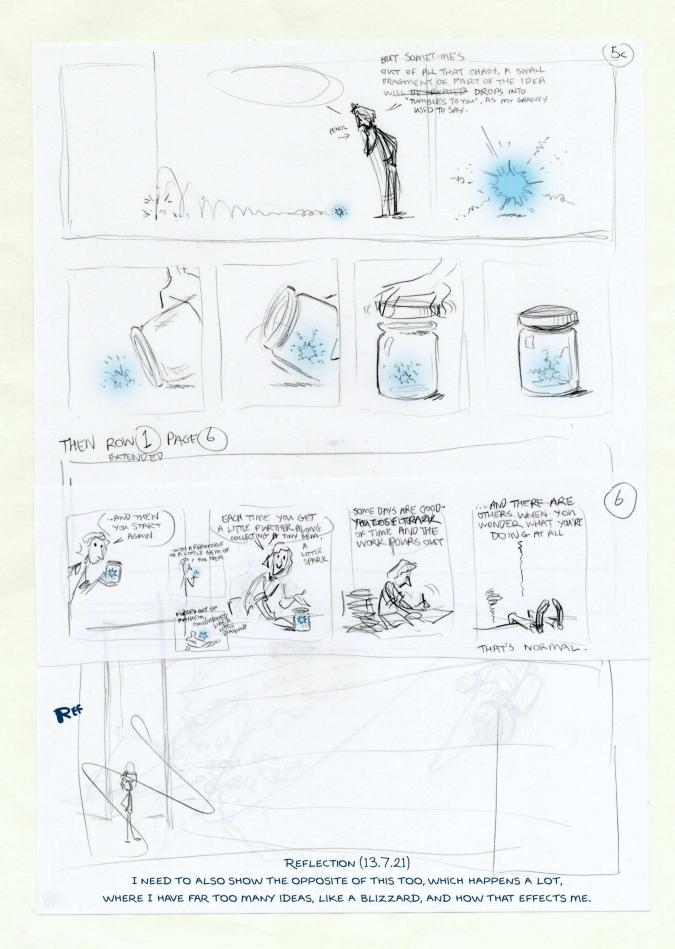


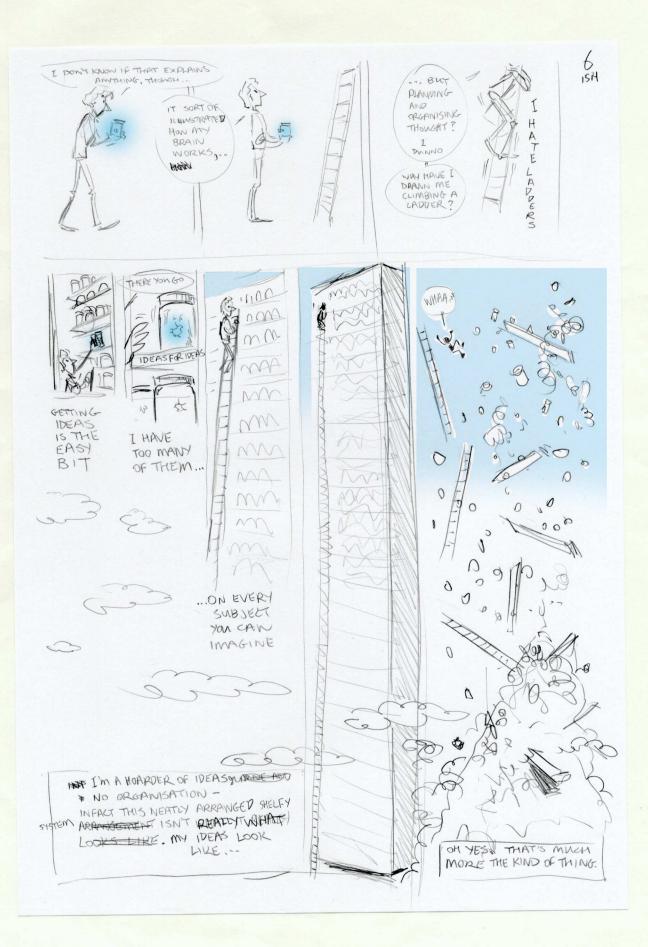
AS THEY GET BIGGER, THEY GET QUIETER BLAKK (4A) 1 WITH WHITE. 3 9 4E 9 THEY DON'T NEED TO SHONT WHEN THEY VE DROWNED ONT AU THE THOMOMYTS NO THE BLEGER THEY GRT, THE MORE THEY'RE NOT THERE AND NEITHER IS ANYTHING ELSE THE LESS YOU SEE THEN. THE LESS YOU SEE ANTIHING HATIL AU YON'DE LEFT WITH SILENCE.... PTO



NOT EVEN NO THING **?**

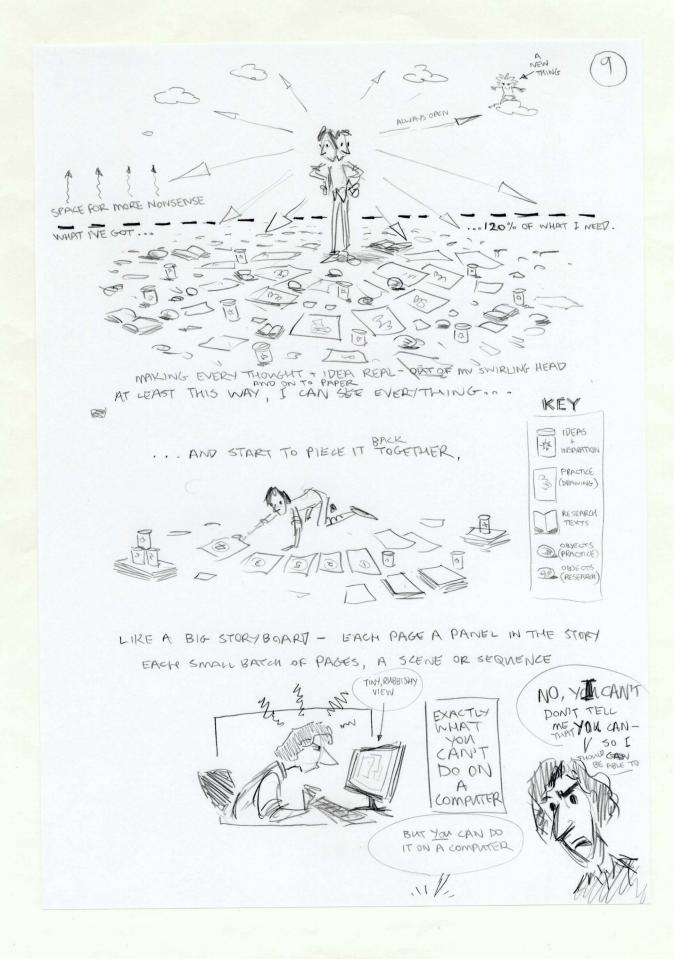


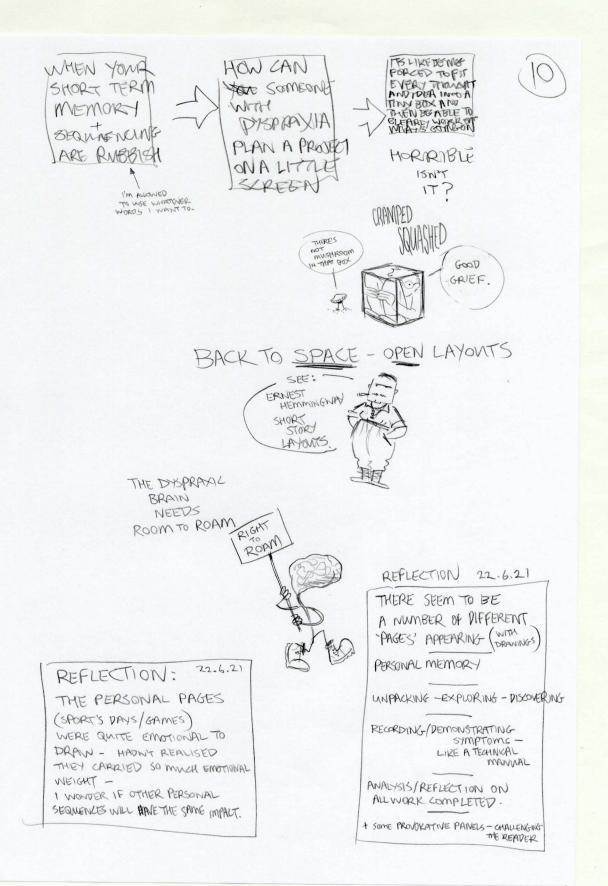


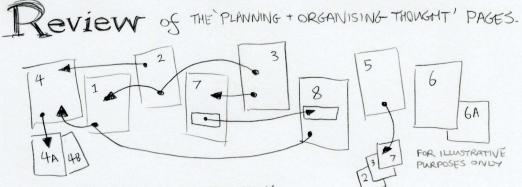












AT ANY ONE TIME, I WAS BOWNCING-BETWEEN MULTIPLE PAGES.

I WASN'T AWARE OF WHERE I WAS ULTIMATELY GOING. ONE NEW IDEA LEAD TO ANOTHER - FOLLOWING THE PENCIL THE SEQUENCE OF PAGES CHANGED.

AS A NEW IDEA ARRIVED, IT WAS REVERSED INTO PREVIOUS PAGES

THE TALKING PENCIL + CAPTION APPEARED AS I DREW, WITHOUT PLANIVING, AS DID THE LIGHT IN THE JAR, MITHE FALLING TO SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE

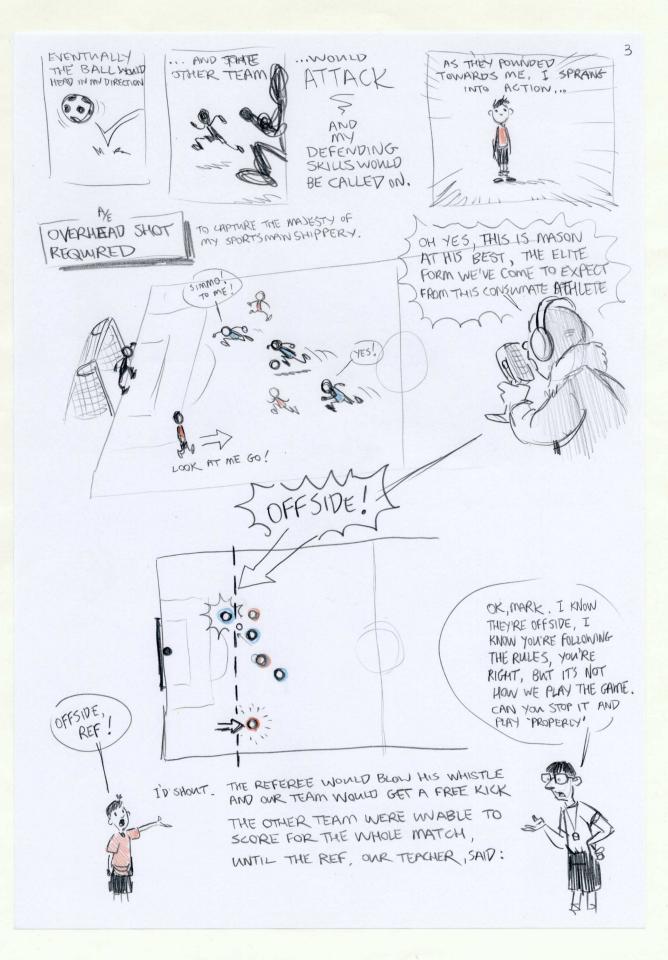
PAGE (9) WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PAGES I DREW - IT WAS ADDED TO THRONGHOWT THE PROCESS, EVEN WHILST WRITING THIS

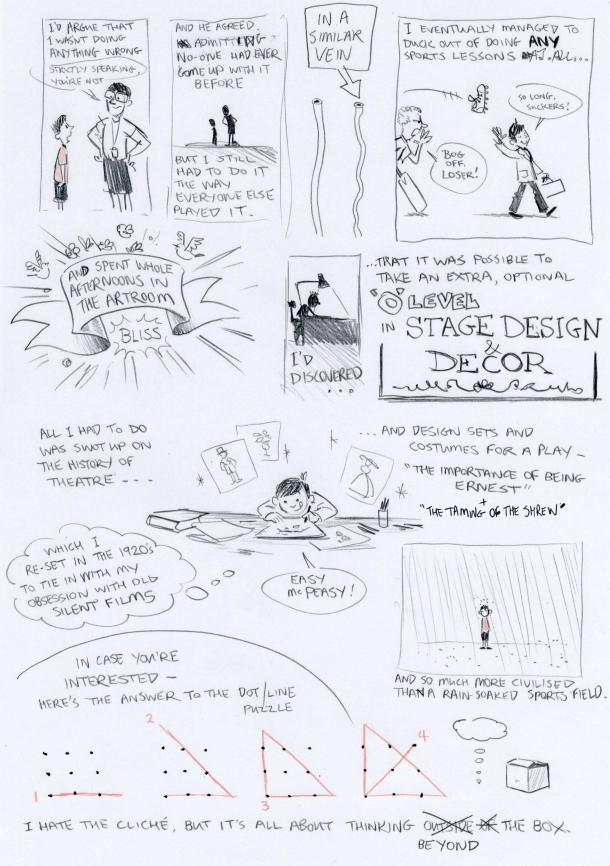
THINK THERE'S SOMETMING ABOUT

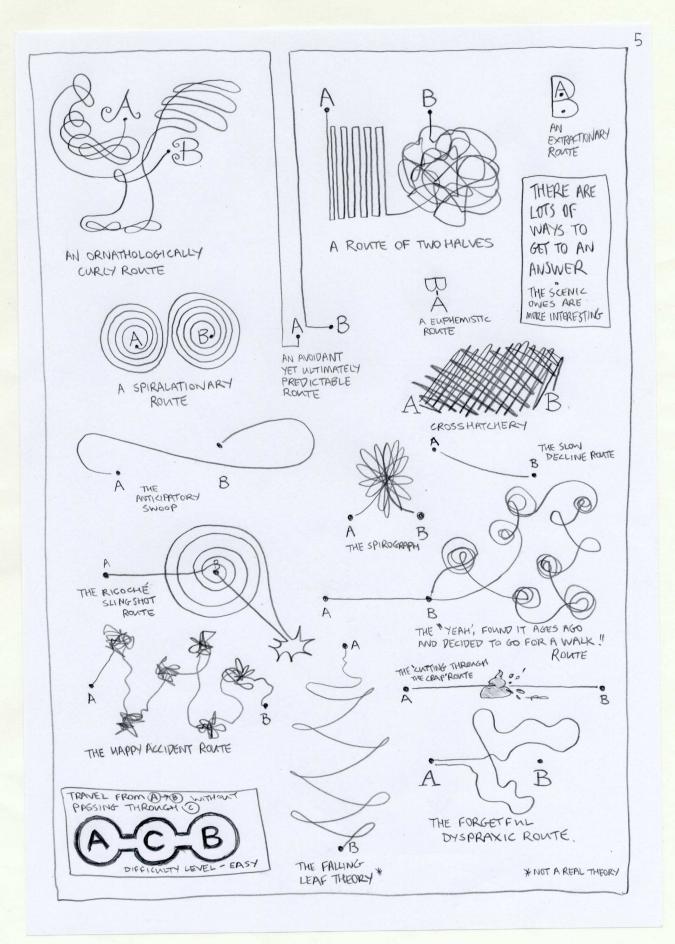
UNST FOLLOWING THE PENCIL, WITHOUT CONCLONS BY THINKING, GOING WITH THE PLOW. IMMEDIATE DRAWING FEELS LIKE IT BY PASSES AREAS OF THE BRAIN THAT TRIP UP AREAS OF THE BRAIN THAT TRIP UP AND STUMBLE WHEN TRYING TO THINK,



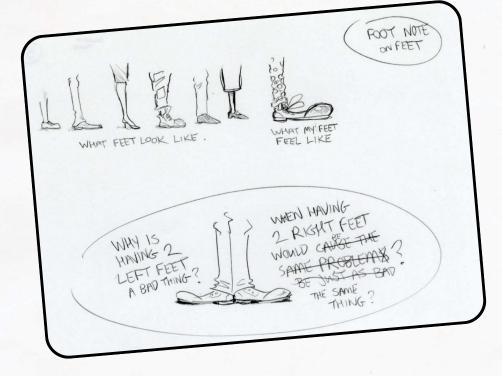




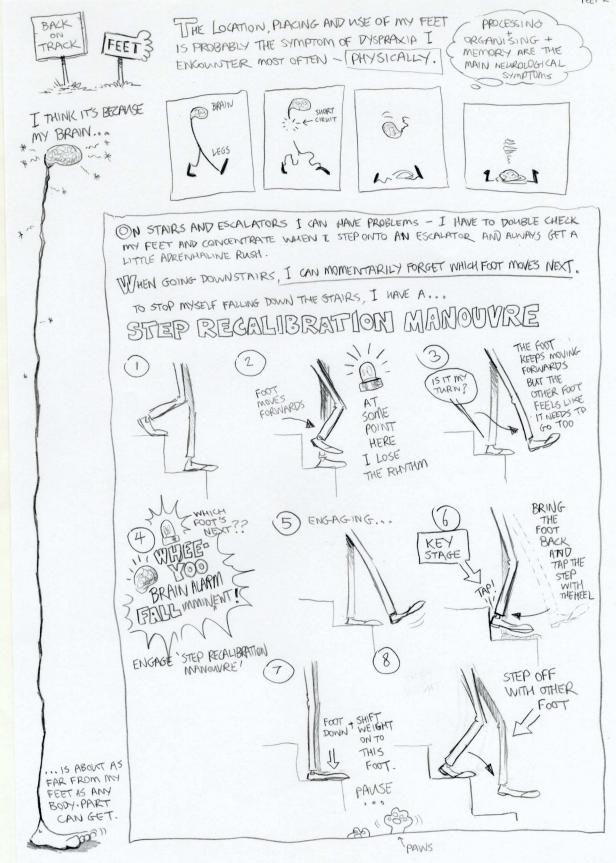


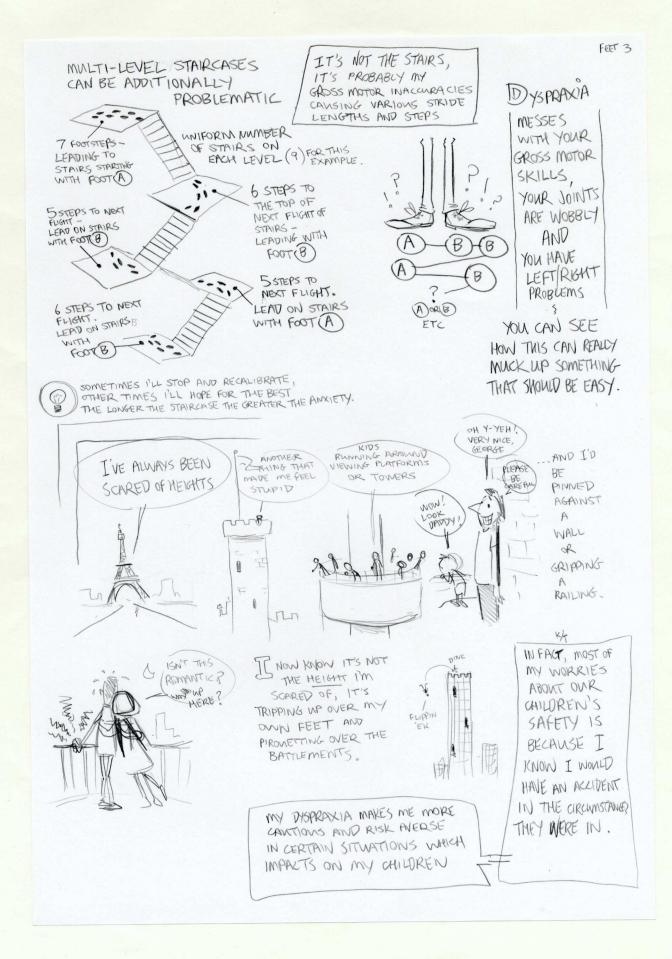


Feets of Dexterity



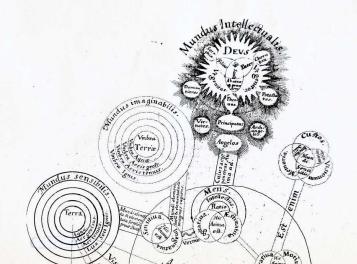


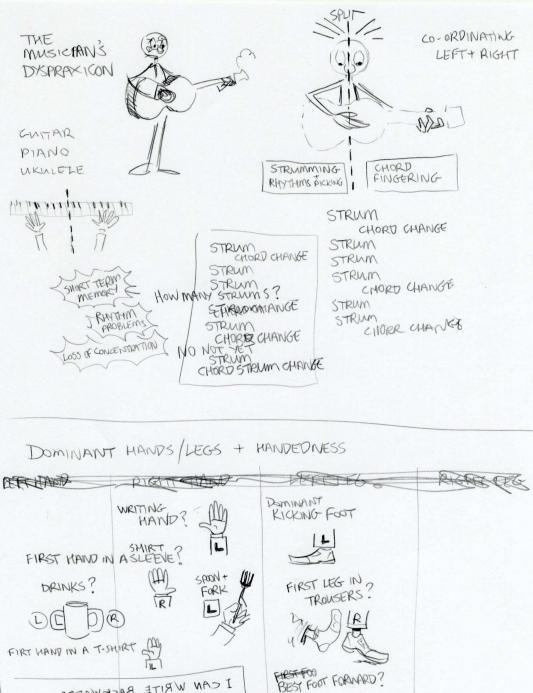




Co-ordination & Rhythm

The following pages contain work in development drawings only



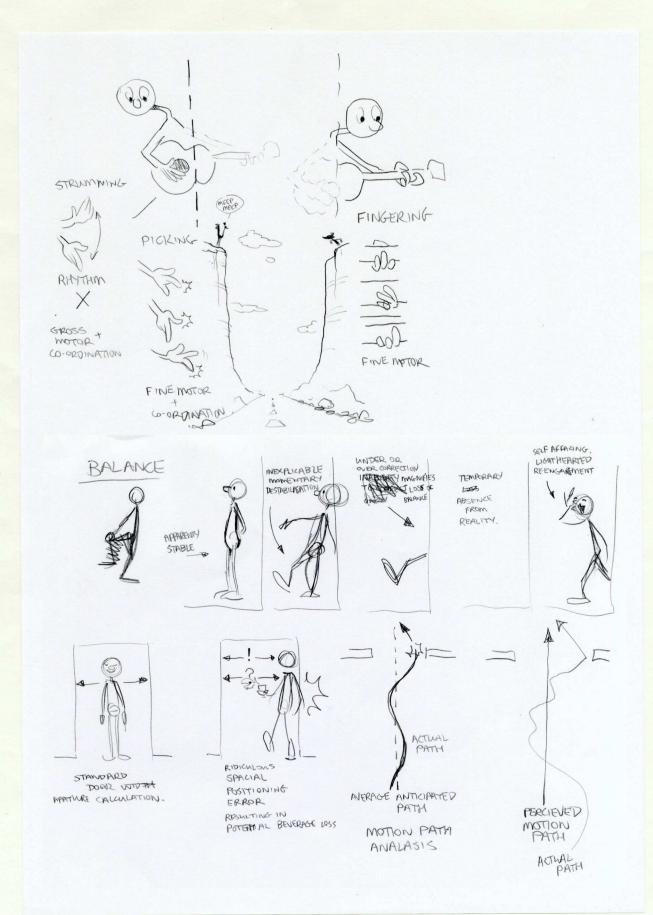


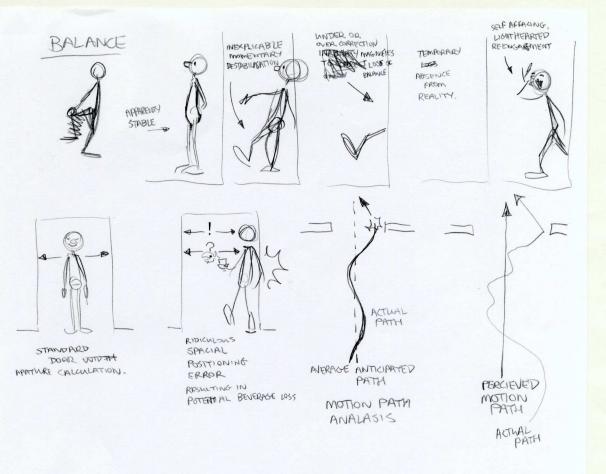
I CAN WRITE BACKWARDS VERY EASILY AND COULD WRITE AS FAST BACKWARDS AS I COULD FORWARDS NUMODEDISED KNOBY MOH AND

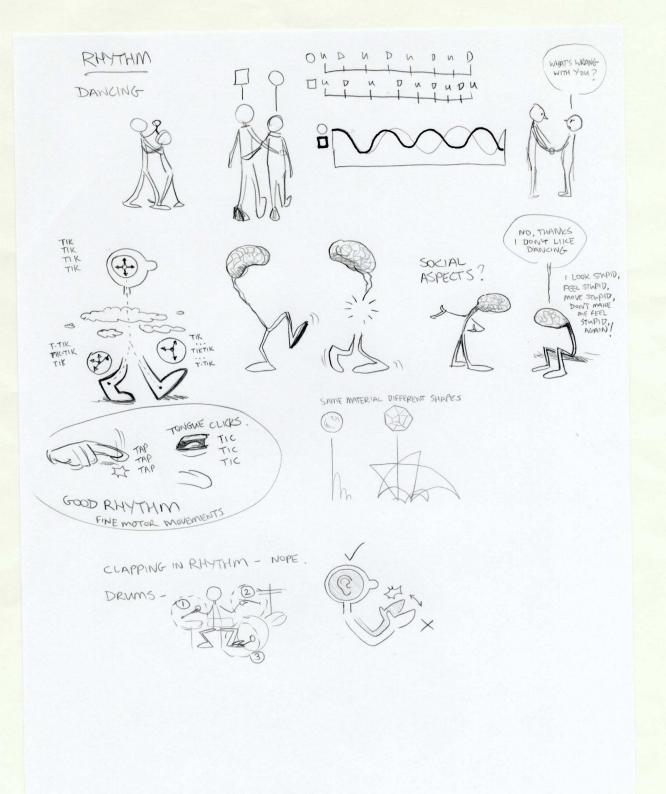
MOND JUISON JUISINE DOWN

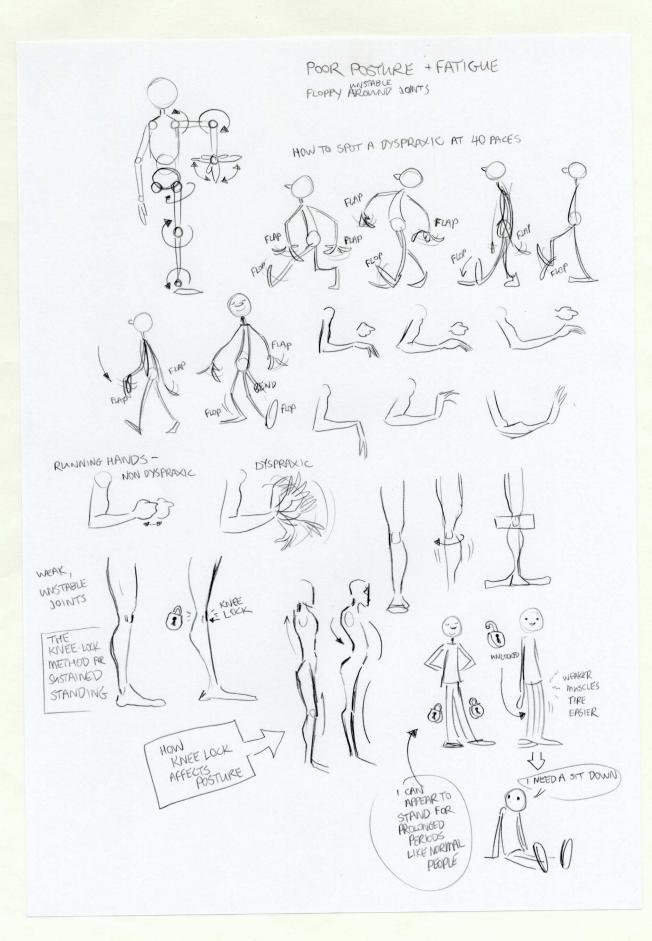
FIRST FOOT IN A SOCK -R

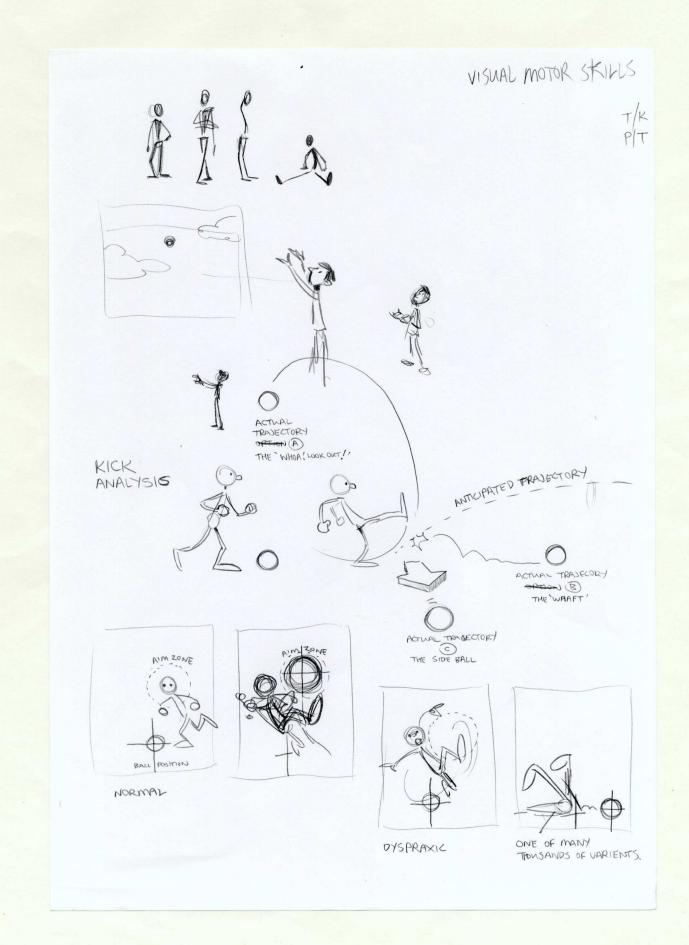
VMD

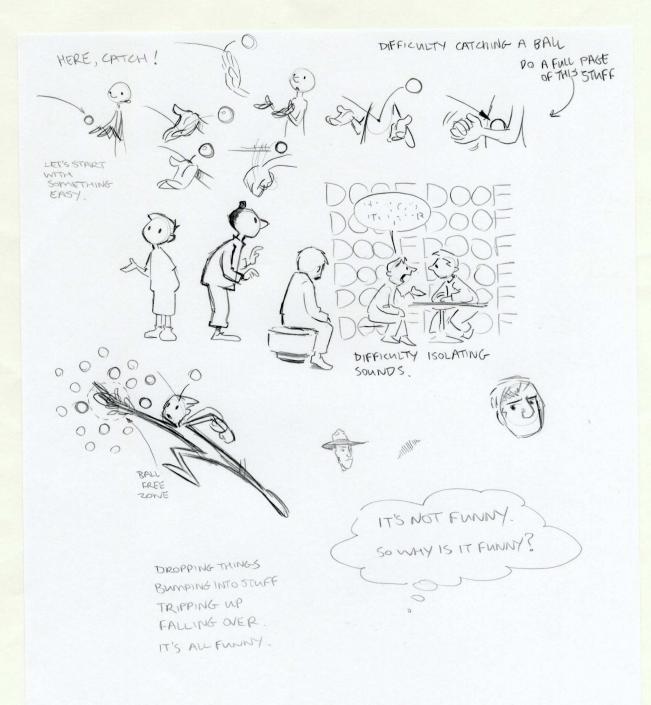




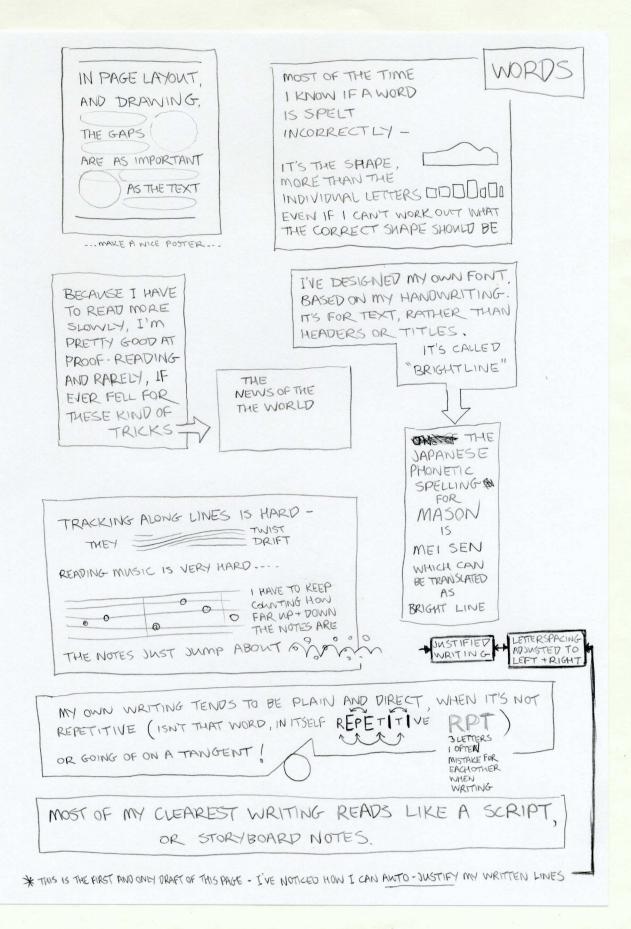




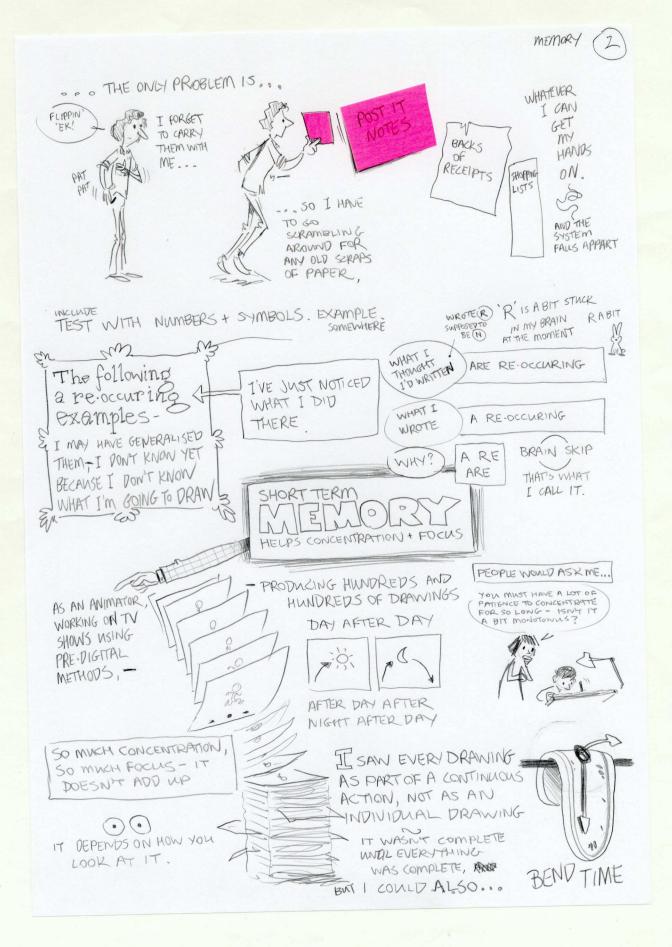




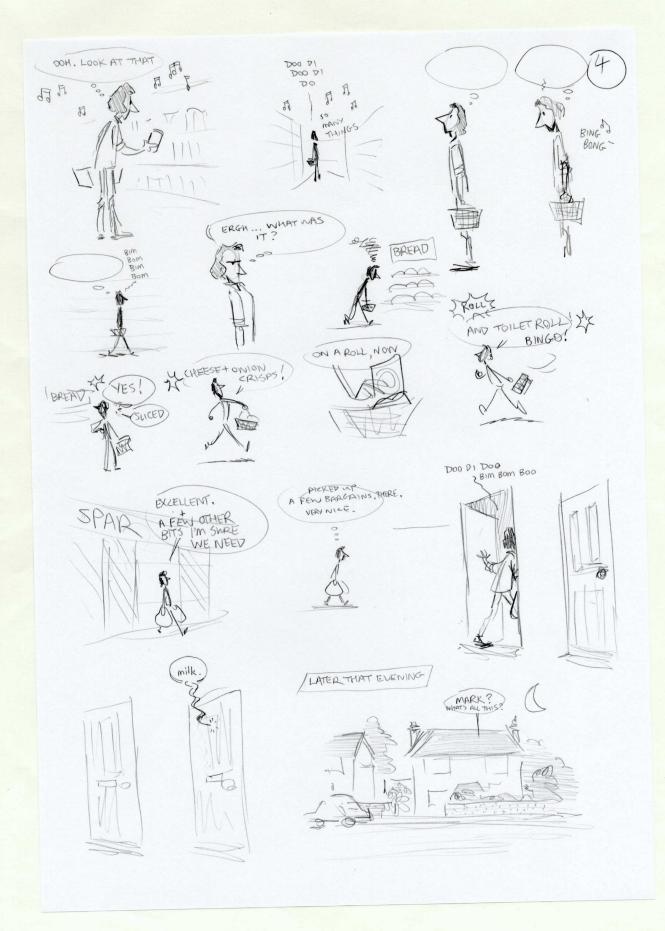
Words, Letters, Repetition & Short Term Memory



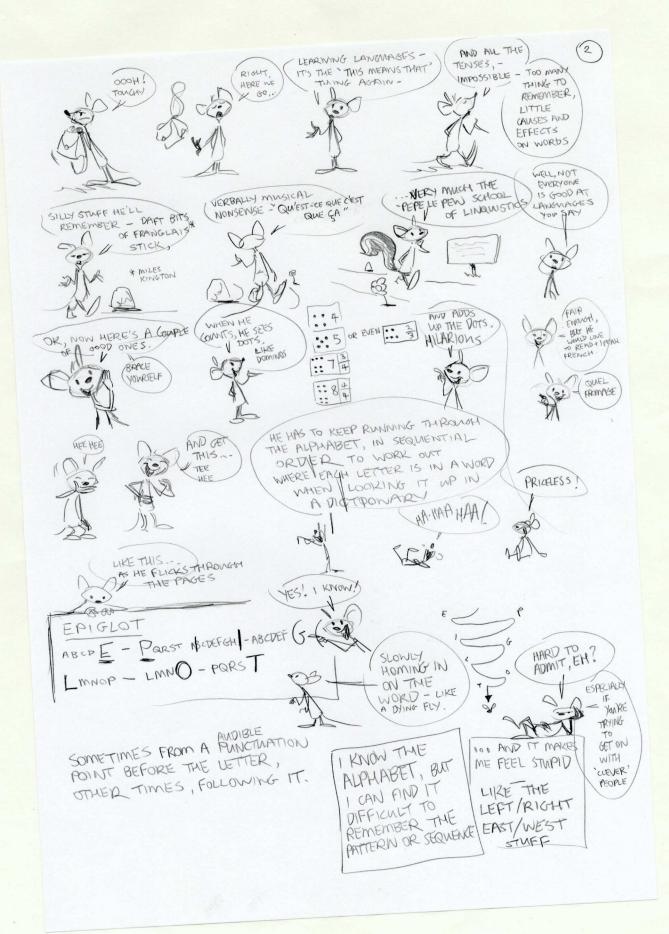








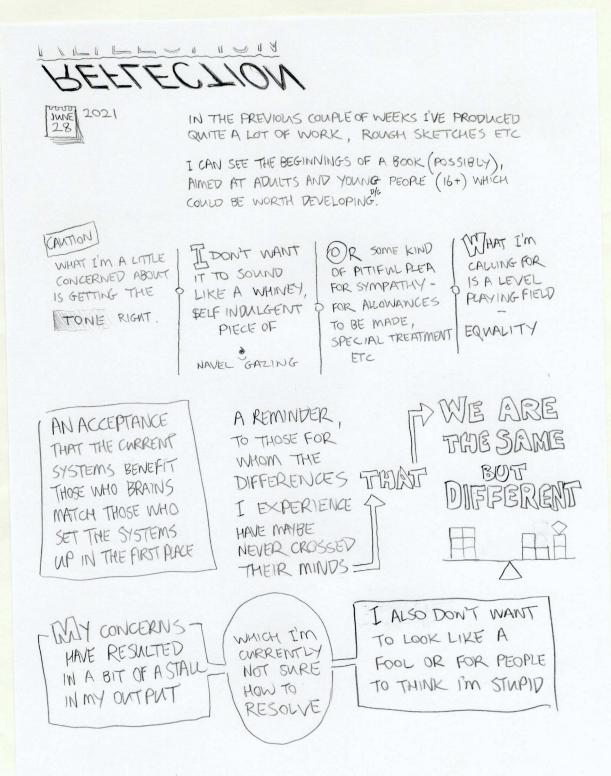




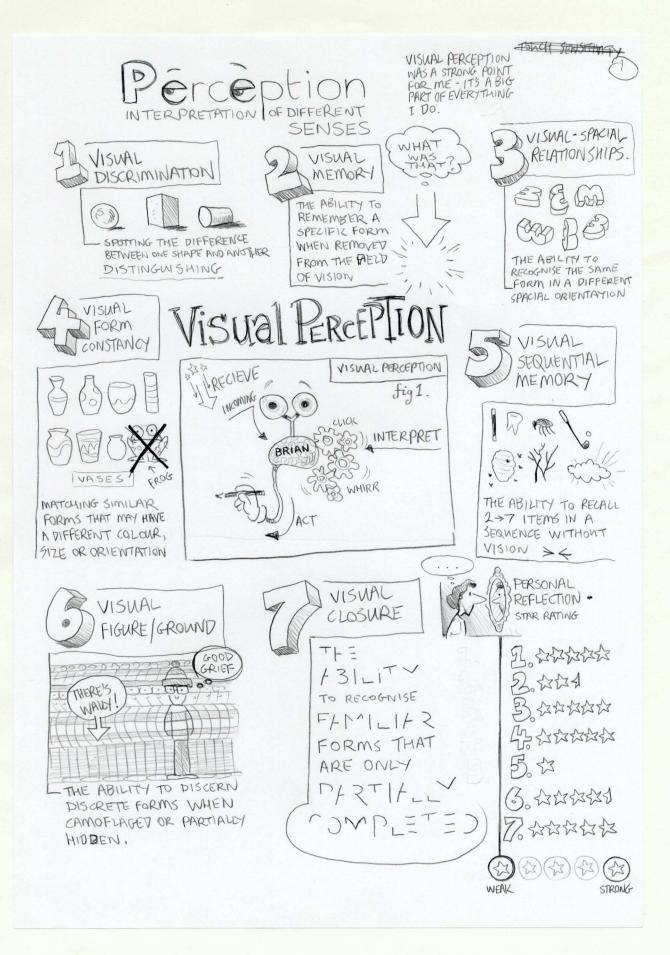
(TEAH, YEAH, WE KNON YOU CAN WRITE BACKWARDS SMARTE ALEC AND DON'T BPCK P EVEN ASK HIM V 2 TQ 0 RECITE 6 THE ALPHABET P BACKWARDS

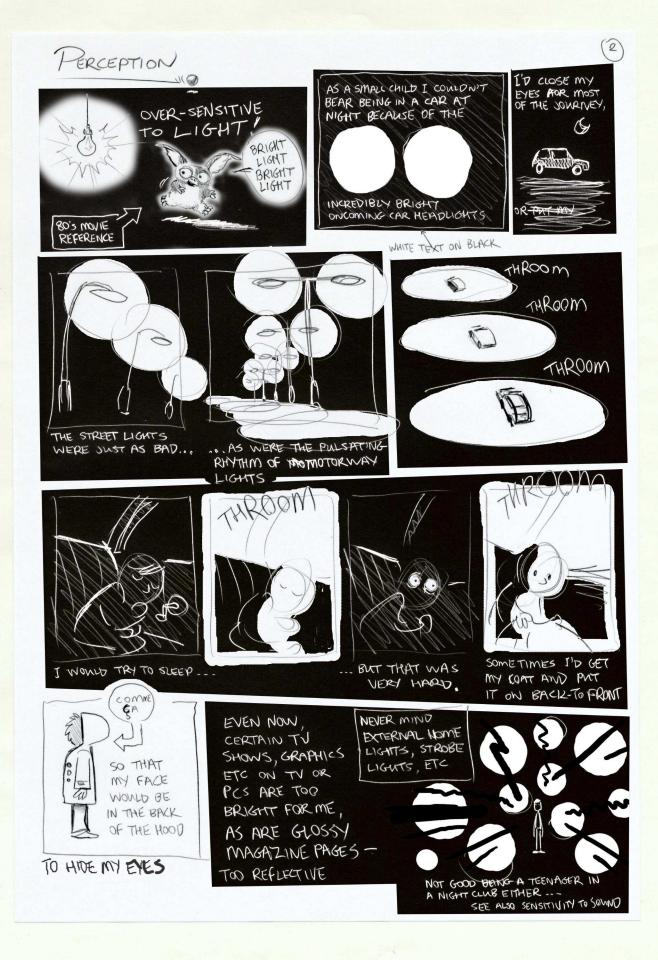
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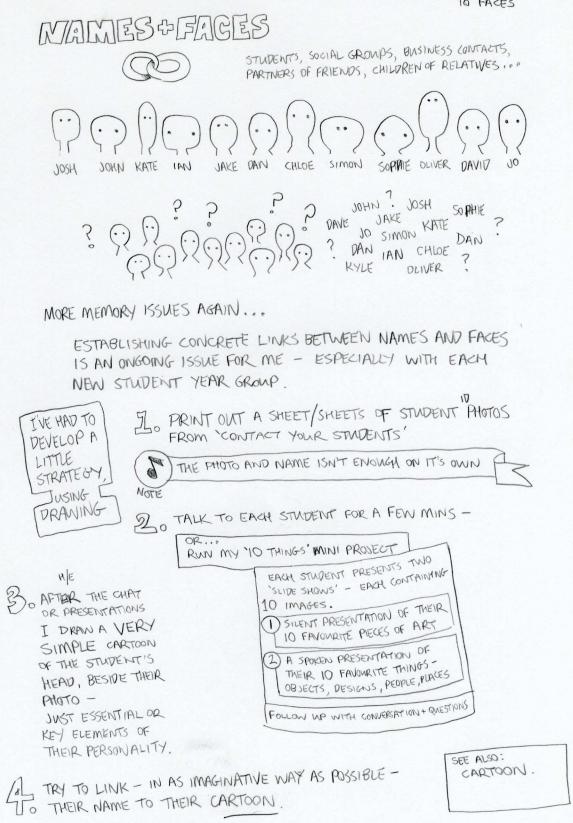


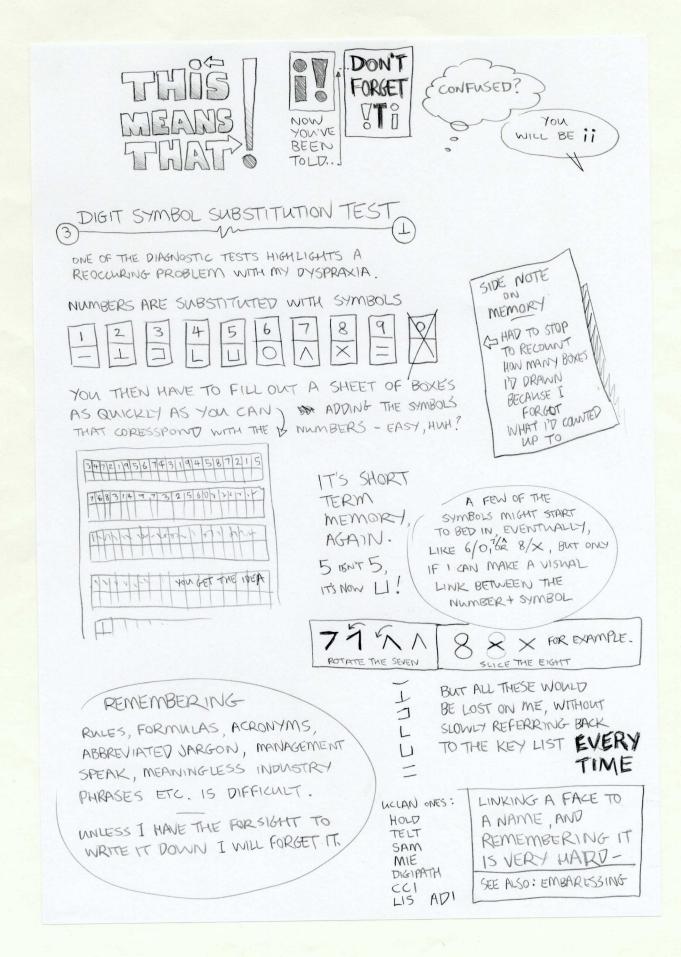
Perception Light Sensitivity Names and Faces This Means That Excuses & The Same, But Different



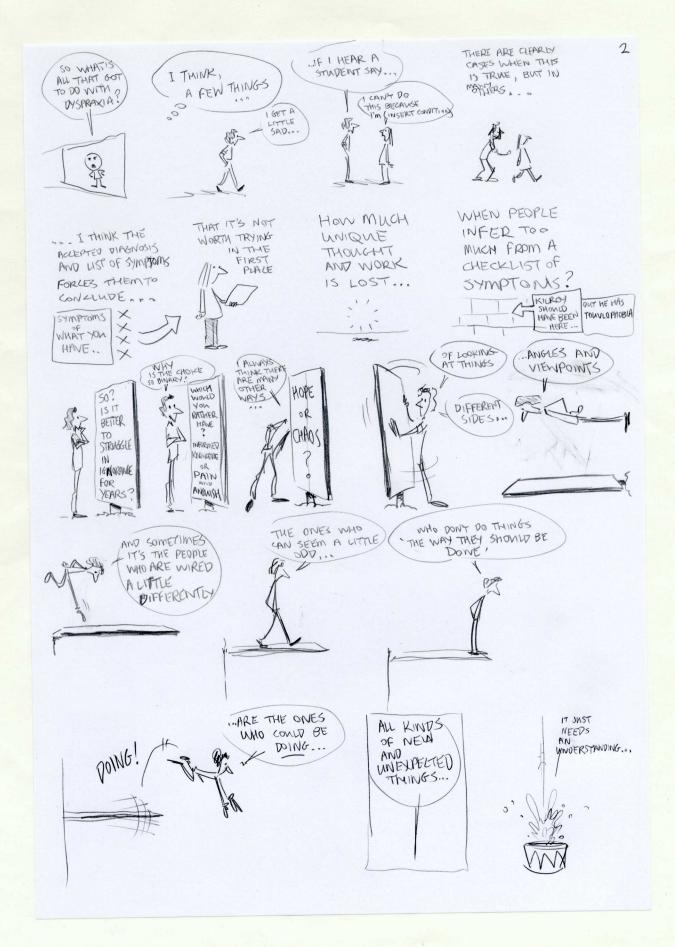


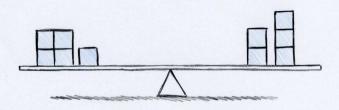
LINKING NAMES TO FACES



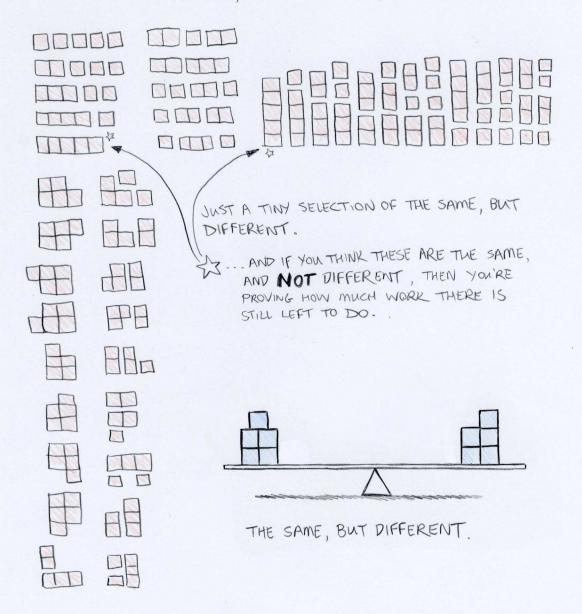








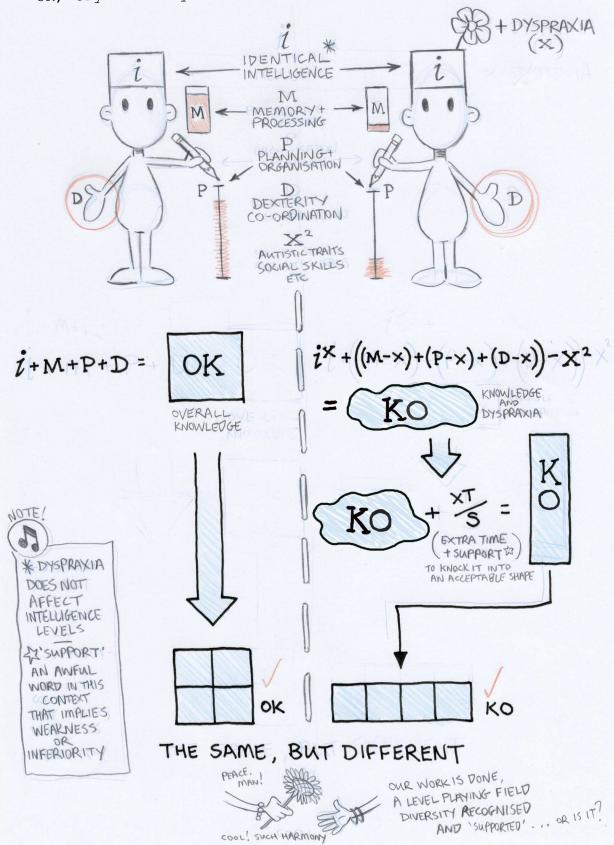
THE SAME, BUT DIFFERENT.

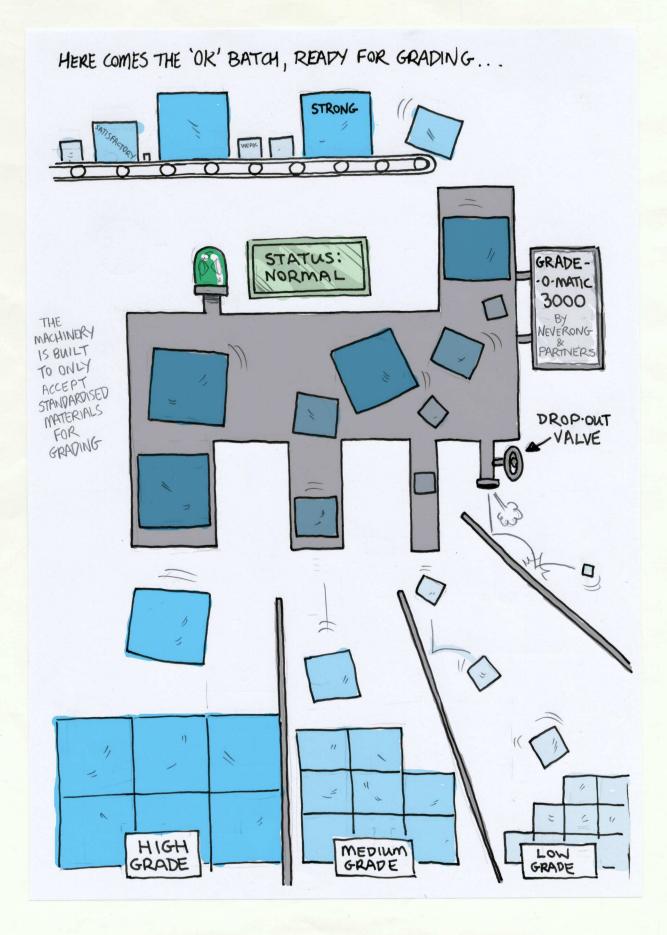


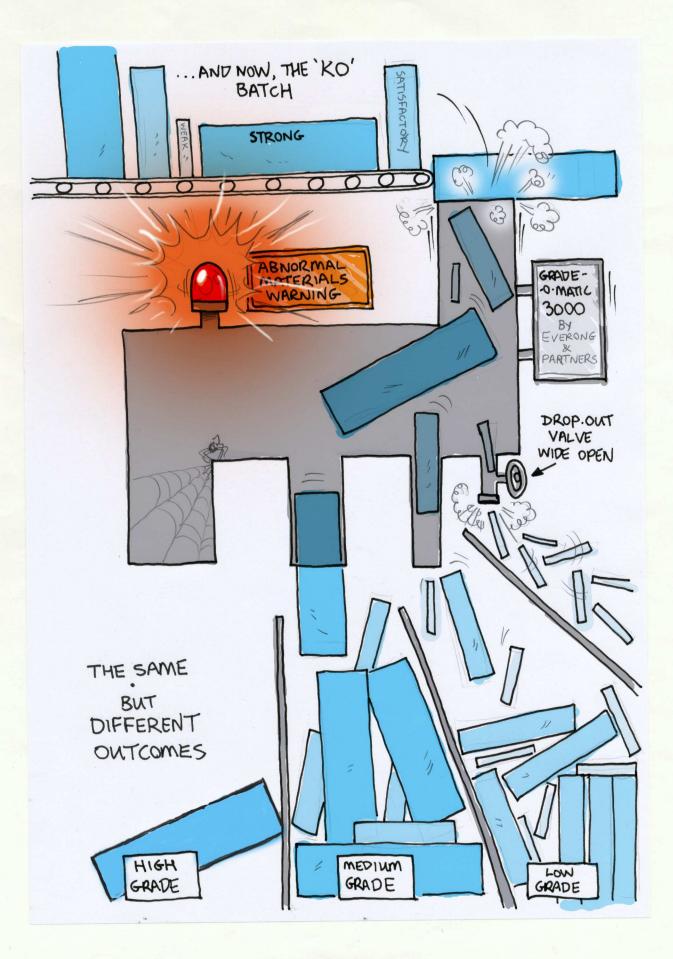
Measuring & Assessing Knowledge Based on The Same but Different

MEASURING ING & SERVICE
I REALLY DONN'T KNOW IF THE WAY MY BRAIN WORKS IS ALL POWN TO DYSPRAVIA, IS ALL POWN TO DYSPRAVIA, T DONET IT TOWN OF THE WAY BONNE T DONET IT THE WAY BONNE T DONET IT THE WAY BONNE T
NOTHING'SEVER NOTHING'SEVER THAT SIMPLE ASSESSING LEARING THERE IS A 'ONE SIZE FIT'S ALL' ASSESSING LEARING THERE IS A 'ONE SIZE FIT'S ALL' ASSESSING LEARING THERE IS A 'ONE SIZE FIT'S ALL' ASSESSING LEARING THERE IS A 'ONE SIZE FIT'S ALL'
AT A CLUCK







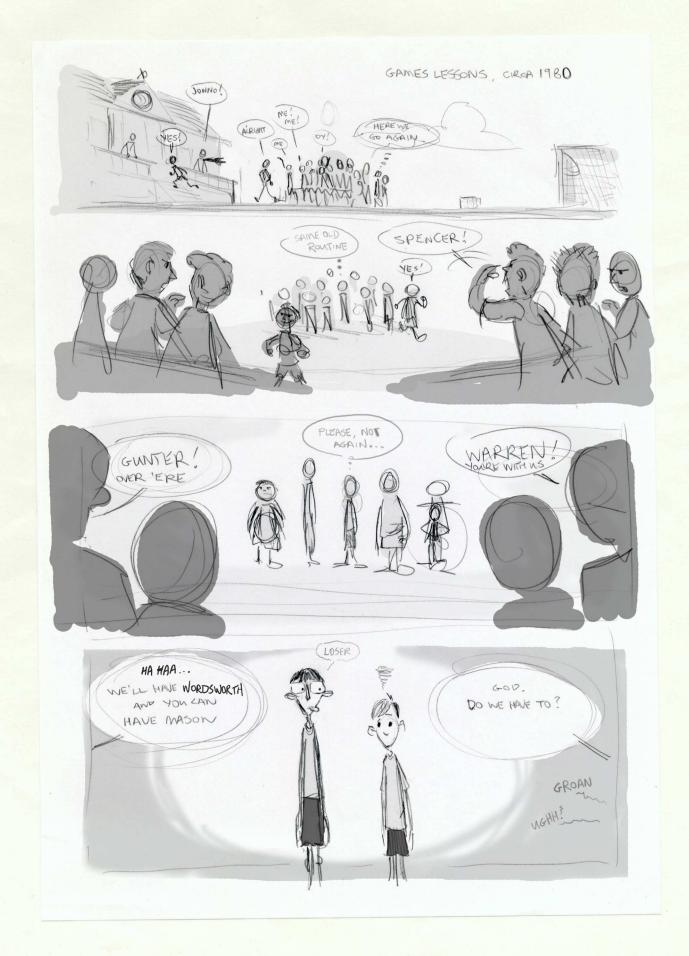


School Sports

Personal memories of sporting activities at junior and secondary schools

see also: co-ordination,
 kicking & catching

O MURINER ISHIA WASSING HIM? HOM HUH HUN 15 HEA BIT MENTAL? ALLE TON I THE, WITP, MIR, MAR & CE SACHE 利いうないかい £ D WEH WEH HEH 32 no A Tel , th EVERACONE ALSE HA WHY AM I SO SL MAKE IT STOP- im SCARED NAN WHA 20 X 3000 \$ 9. P ?? 5 Declarso . QF. 210 WHY ARE THEN DOING THIS TO ME ALL THESE BIG MAKEIT WHY CAN'T E RUN ROY MY LEGS END. ARE 9 MOVING MAKEIT -2 LOOKING AT ALL GO MYARMS ME AWAY. ARE PLEASE ! \$ MOVING EVENTUALLY IT DID END GAST I DON'T FINISH LINE. 21.4 FEET HAVE NO WORDS INSIDE, I FELT SS Haw LIKE THIS TO R





Notice the repeating of my name, capitals then upper & lower case, and especially the small details of the missed k, added as a dropdown and the mirroring of the a and r letterforms.



"Ho Wizard, Why have you changed me?"

As a child I often worried that I was different, that I didn't belong or fit in, that I didn't like a lot of the things my fellow classmates liked. I was surprised to find this drawing. I would have been about 6 yrs old. Maybe we're all like that at that age?

This is a list of the illustrations that follow:

2 small landscape drawings (age 6)

Small details are more important than the 'big picture'. Lots of ideas, lots of types of things, lots of motion and humour.

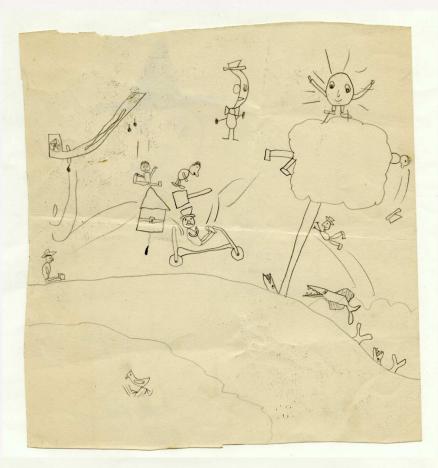
School of Fish (c.age 7) and Kangaroos (age 6)
I knew whales weren't fish but I drew it anyway.
I see myself in both pupil whales, I liked
'Hisory' (note the mis-spelling) but found my
 mind would wander, I daydreamed a lot.
Note the small numbers to the sides of the
 kangaroos. This isn't a drawing of multiple
 animals, but analysing the motion of a single
 kangaroo.

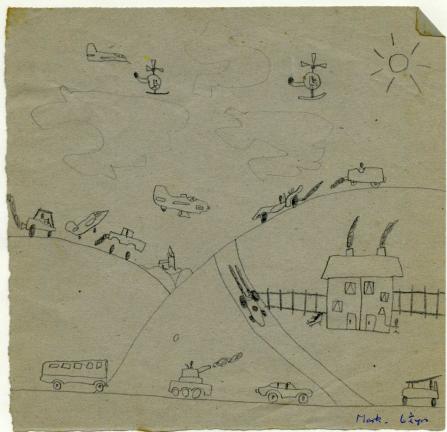
INN (age 6)

This painting caused an argument with my teacher. See the page for more details.

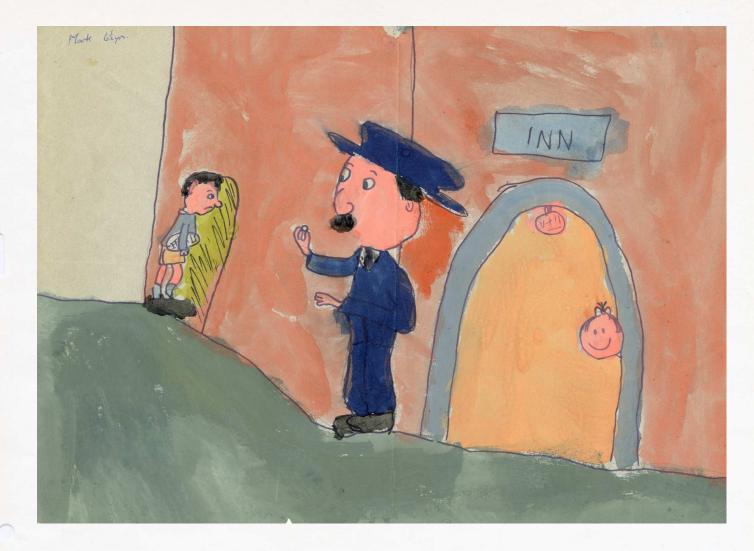
4 Comics (age 7?)

4 standalone stories, written and drawn 'straight-ahead', without any pre-planning. Spontaneous and immediate drawing and thinking.







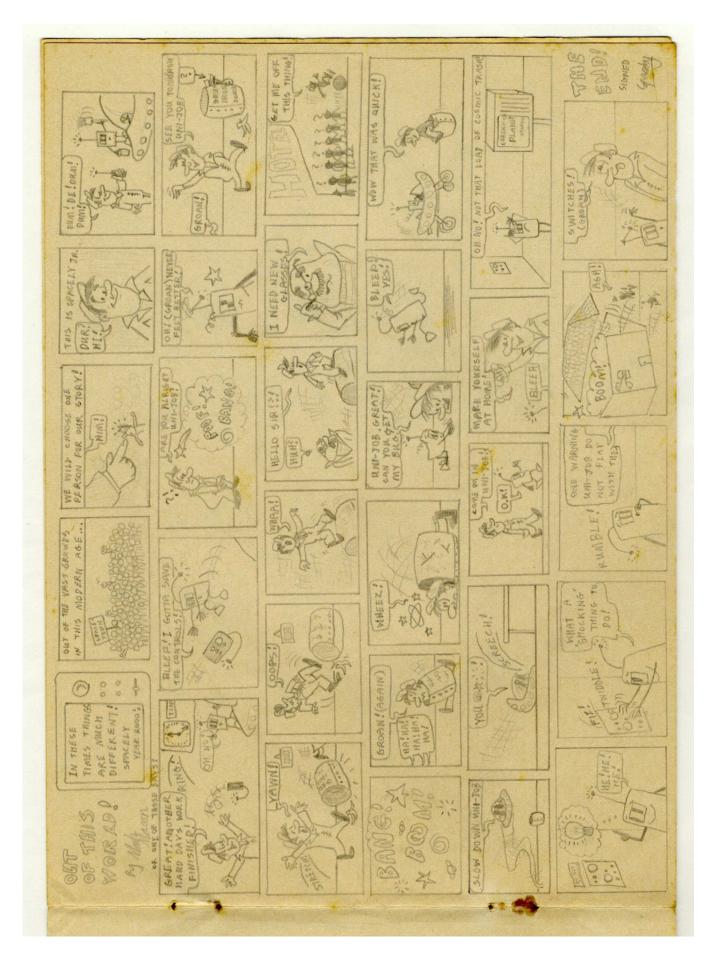


At the time, I had discovered the curve of the nostrils where the nose joins the face and incorporated it in this painting. Mrs. Lewis (yes, I remember) refused to hang the picture on the wall because "noses don't look like that".

I knew I was right.

Note the word INN. I liked words with multiple meanings. Note the head looking 'out' of the 'in' and the footballer, ignoring the doorman and going 'in' what I vaguely recall was the exit, but I couldn't spell it at the time.









Secondary Education Drawings NB: all produced before the invention of the internet

12 pages of a sketchbook (early 1980s)

'Impossible Misconceptions'

Evidence of taking things literally, literally; and some hints at obsessive behaviours.

History of Comics (mid 1980s)

2 pages of a 4 page illustrated history of comic strips I researched and created.

Dynamite Gags (mid 1980s)

5 x A3 pages of gags (most of which aren't that funny) using only a character and a stick of dynamite. More hints at a desire for exhaustive completeness and obsessive tendencies.

Typewriter Portrait (mid 1980s)

Another slightly obsessive picture, created on a typewriter, drawing with letters.

Quavers (mid 1980s)

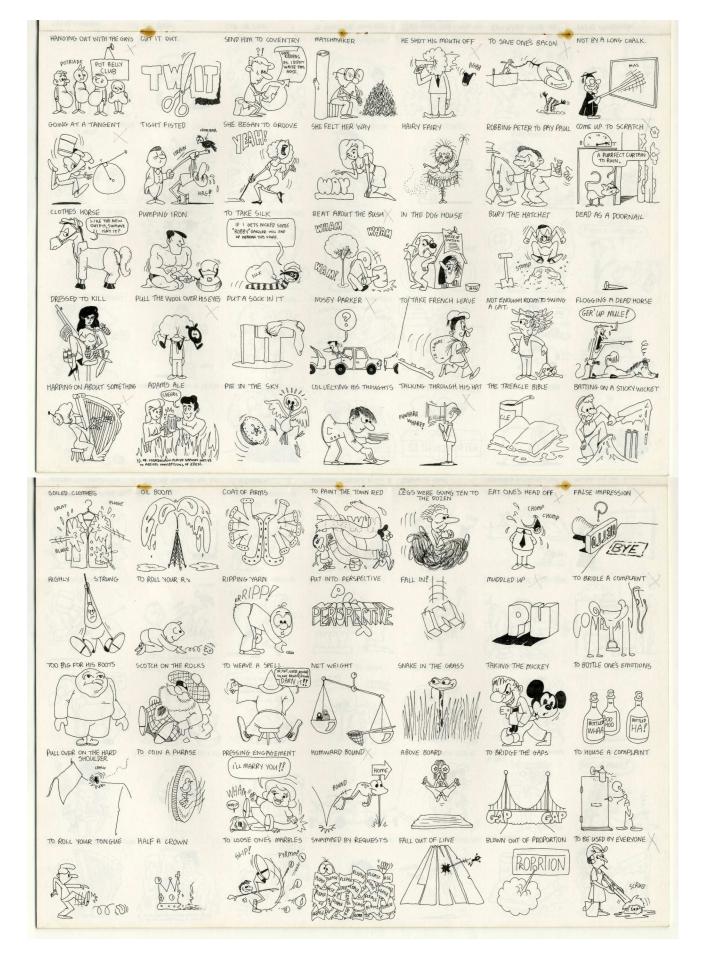
I loved playing with the sounds of words (I still do). Here's another example.

MacBad (mid 1980s)

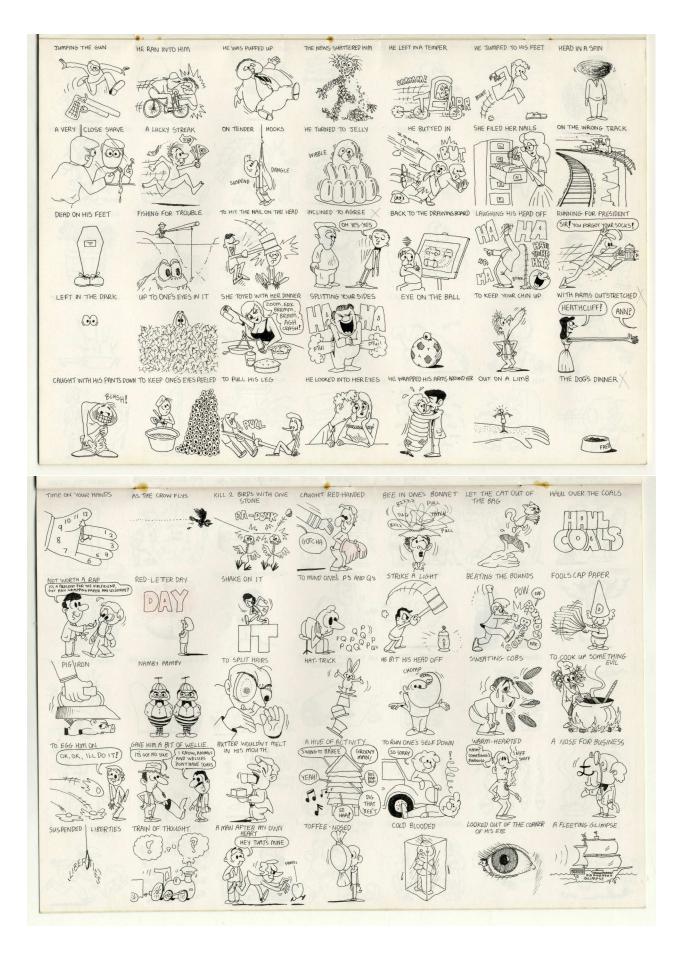
I decided to adapt Macbeth as a 24 page comic book. Who did I think I was! It's pretty awful to reread, but here's the front cover.







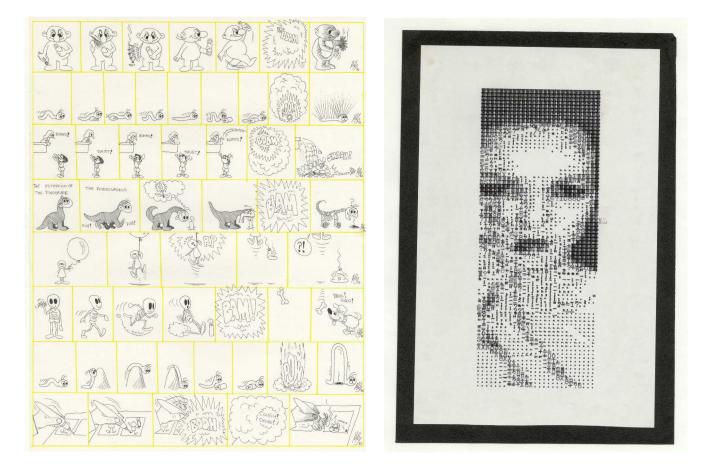




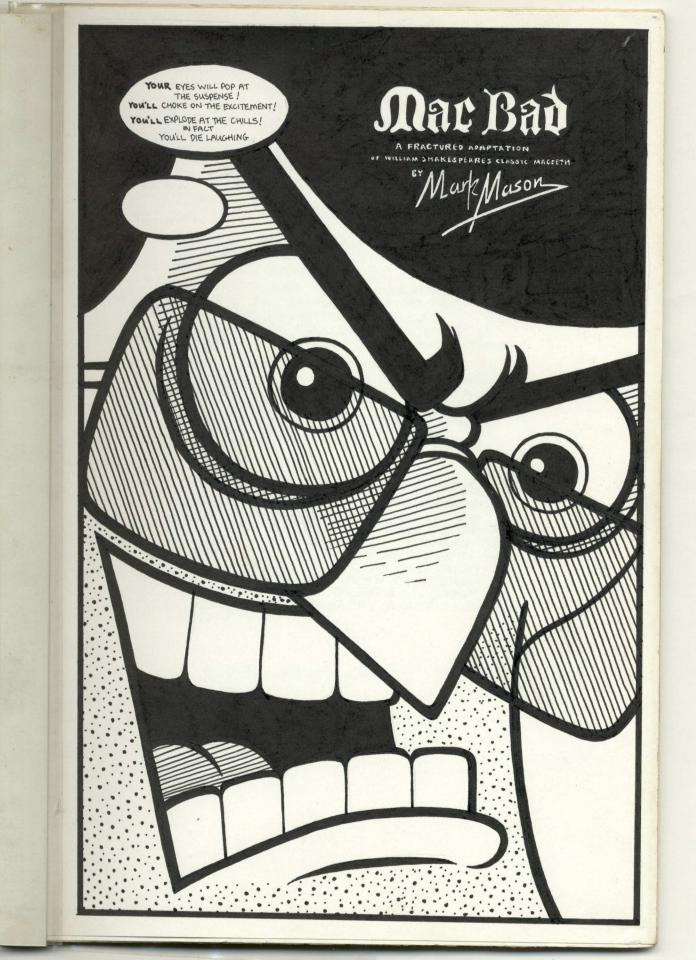


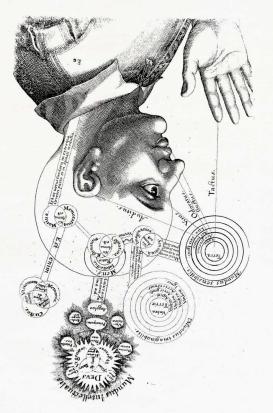






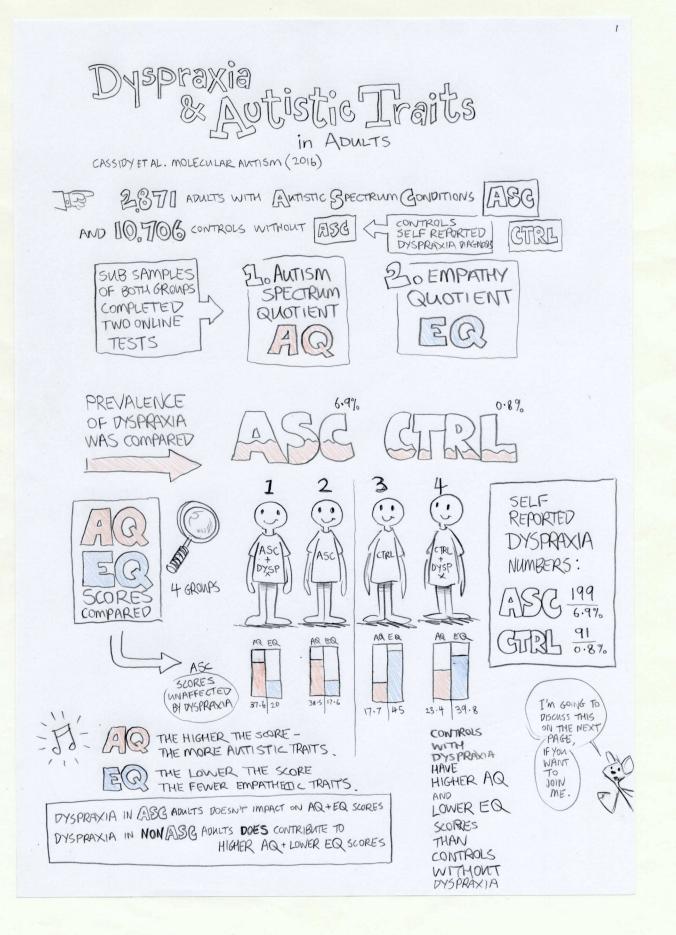


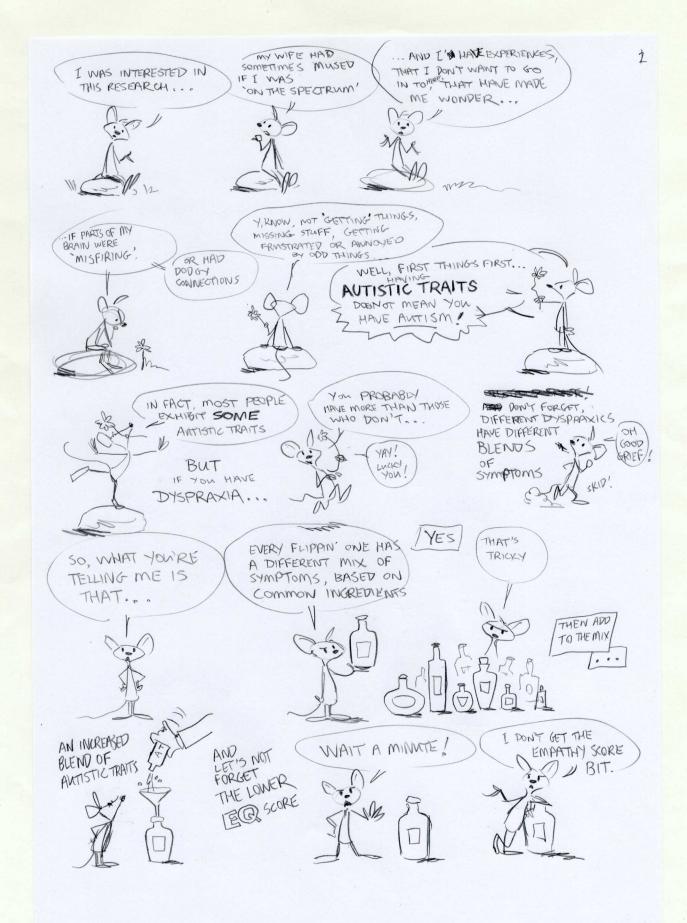


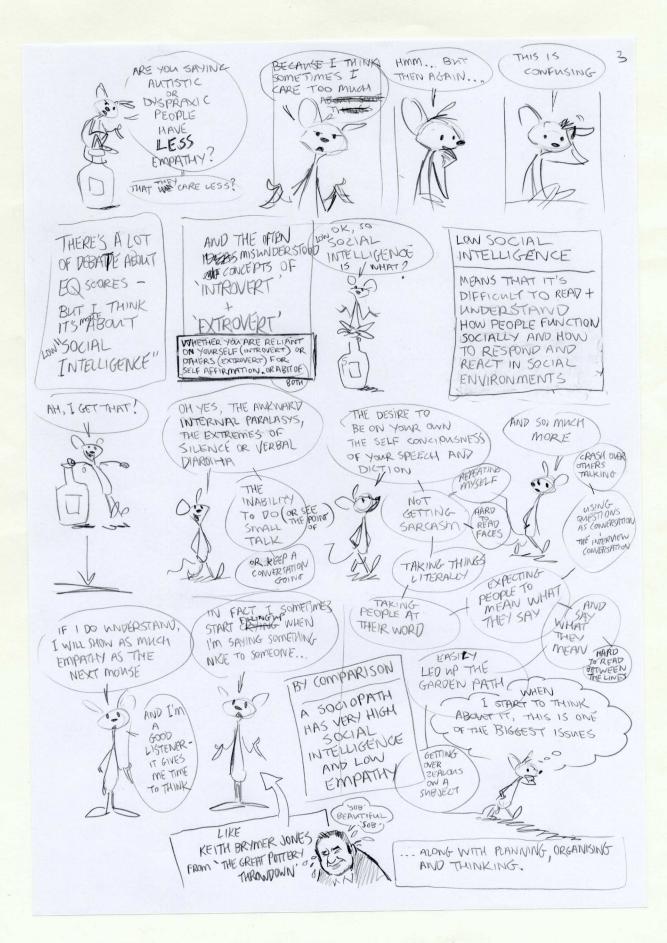


Autistic Traits in Dyspraxia

Based on research conducted, I decided to explore the prevalence of Autistic traits in Dyspraxia. This is something I'd never considered before starting this project...









B

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SO, FROM THE ONTSIDE, IT CAN BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SPOT AN ADULT DYSPRAXIC



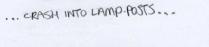
NOT ALL OF THEM ARE GOING TO FALLOVER ...

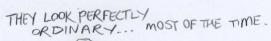


MORES THE PITY, BECAUSE IT'S VERY FUMMY !!

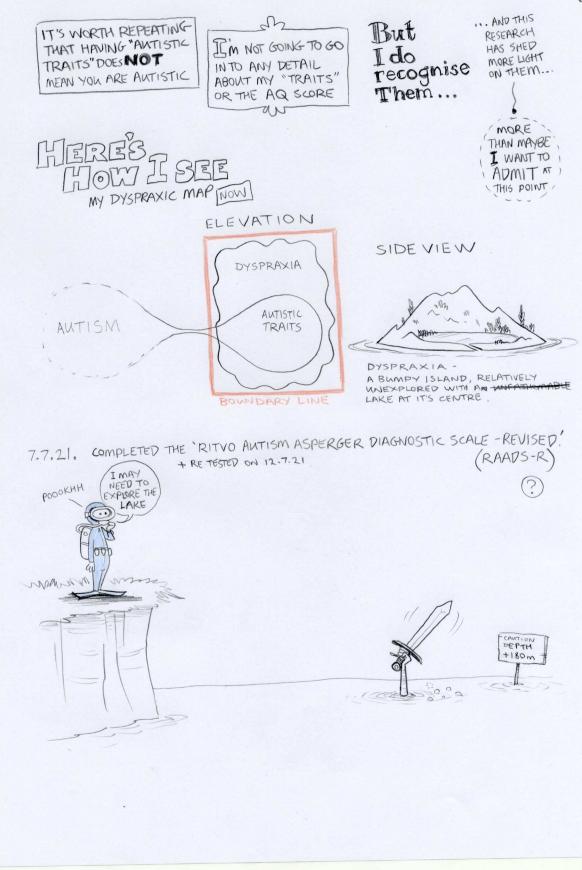


THERE ARE FAR MORE MIS-FIRES, SLIPS AND TRIPS, TIME QUARES, CRASH ZONES, BLACK HOLES, IMPLOSIONS, EXPLOSIONS, POTHOLES, FRACTURES, FREEZE UPS AND BRAIN STALLS GOING ON INSIDE THAT NEVER REALLY SHOW









MY CURRENT RESEARCH HAS LED TO A POINT WHERE I'M UNSURE WHAT IS IN FRANT OF ME. IT'S A SOLID WALL OF FOG.

er

I CAN'T INTERPRET HOW I'M CHERENTLY FEELING.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'VE MISLED MYSELF, OR DISCOVERED SOMETHING ABOVE MYSELF.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE THERE'S AWATHING WRONG WITH ME, BUT WHY AM I GETTING THE RESULTS I AM?

DO I OPEN THE BOX OR KEEP IT SHUT?



AND WHO DOES THE BOX BELONG TO? NOEL EDMONDS OR PANDORA?

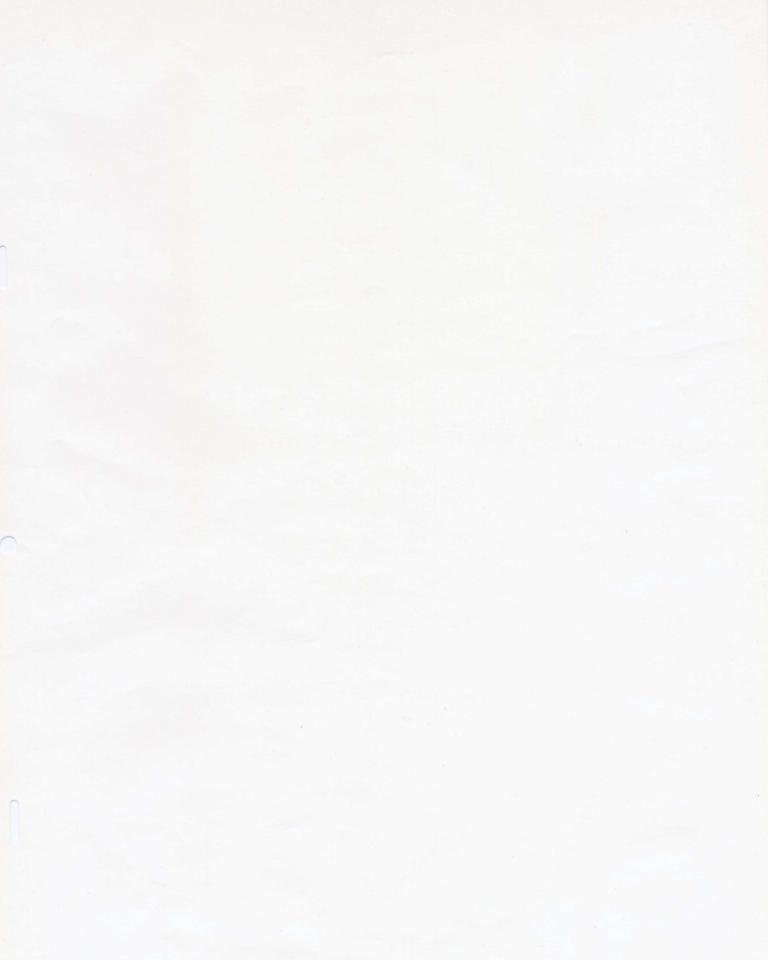
AM I OVERSHARING?

SO MANY QUESTIONS -- -

I've had some hesitations over whether to include some of the pieces of personal reflection, but on balance I decided that the difficult questions are as much part of the research process for me as the easier, more light-hearted work.

Saying too much, 'over sharing' is another one of the signs of the dyspraxic mind.

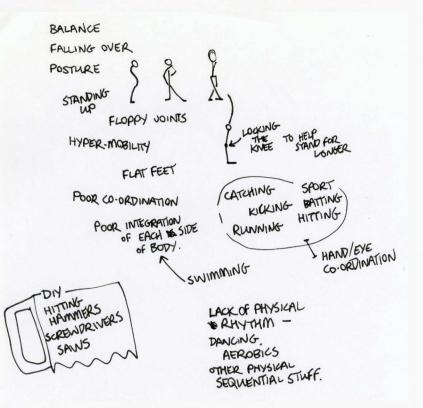
(1) ::: I THINK, THEREFORE CAUTIONS I AM DEEP THOUGTER Não THE PRINT DEADLINE FOR MY INITIAL BODY OF WORK HAS HAD TO BE BRONGHT FORWARDS TO JULY 16TH (IN 20 DAYS) - NOT IDEAL. I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I CAN ORGANISE FOR THEN. THE BOOK CAN ONLY BE AN INTERIM REVIEW OF THE PROJECT AT THIS POINT, WITH SOME CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER STEPS. AND ANOTHER PART OF ME ILM STILL STRUGGLING I'VE NEVER BEEN QUITE SO HONEST OR EXPOSING WITH THE PERSONAL CARES VERY DEEPLY WITH MY WORK -NATURE OF THIS WORK WHAT ARE YOU DOING AND HOW IT, AND I IN SOME WAYS, WILL BE RECIEVED AS I REALLY DON'T CARE A RESULT. DONT MAYBE THE At times I've MESS AND THE Wondered what CONFUSION ... I'm doing this for PERHAPS and at I-AMAT ALL GETTING THE READER TO SPECE THESE ROUCH other times I've PAGES SHOW EMUNTANGLEN THE TWISTS, thought it's been TURWS AND LEAPS IS THE ONLY Important to help WAY TO SHOW WHAT LIVING WITH DEMONSTRATE me understand BETTER THAN A DYSPRAXIC BRAIN IS LIKE. how the condition ANATHING TRYING TO SORT IT ALL ELSE impacts on me, OUT, TO EXPLAIN IT IN and others... MESSY. AN ORGANISED WAY ISN'T BUT SOMETHING I CAN DO. REATIVE ACTIVITY IN AM I TOO CLOSE TO IT? www. MY BRAIN DO I NEED AN EDITOR?



Roughs and Designs

Rough notes for further development and character designs

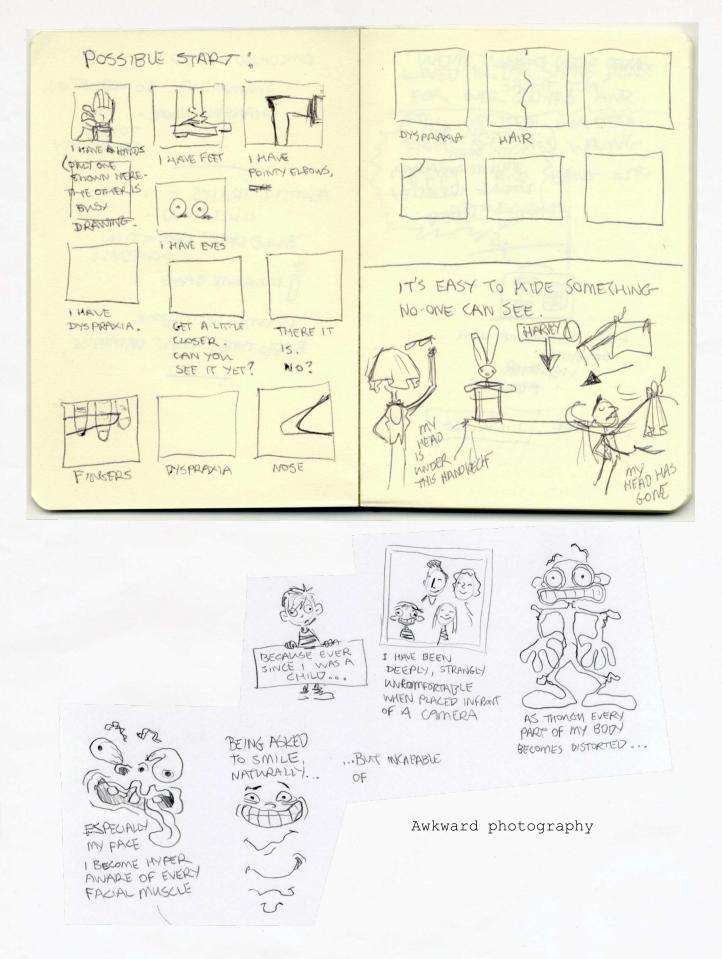


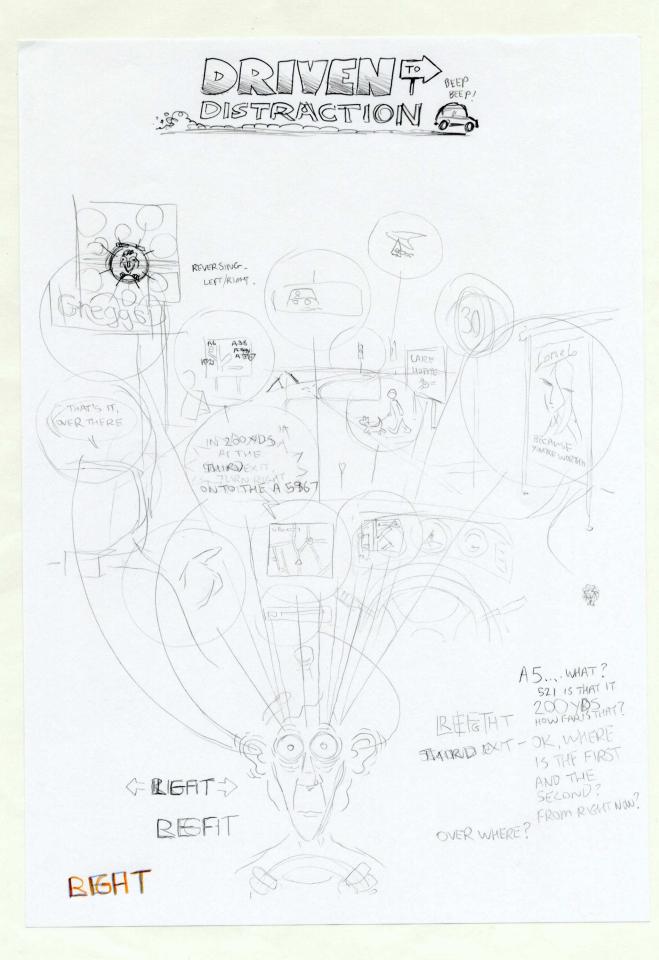


MMUT) LIGHT SNITHES. SNAPS SHOTS OF MY CHILDLOOD THAT PERHAPS SHOW EARLY INDICATORS OF JUDE 000 00 SOMETHINK GOING ON. Smar SOFTWARE WODATES IT WAS THE 1970'S - A DIFFERENT WORLD WARE LATE Smanine maize IN LANCACHIRE FROM TODAY. BY OTHERS BADAS MYSELF W RWRAL I WONDER WHAT NOWD WAPPEN TO THIS KID LADWADS Do! 3.985 3 g. NOWT OBSESSED B+W FIMY RADIO TIMES WATER CENTRES LINDA FILM POSH NEED TO KNOW USTINGS THE PLAN OF A SOCIAL DAY £ G BYM IN LOLOWA WATCHING FALEMASILS DGITA BALOONS BENG WATCHE BLOWN NP NOSES PO A PACE (IN PHOTOSHOP) LEFT TO MY (THA LEFT JUINIAL OWN DEVICES DE WANT ONES THAT STILL APPLY. m 0 SCHOOL MUSED BRIEFLY MELER MET AGAIN NOT SEEN DOBSN'T MEAN LIVED IN THE SAME HOUSE NOT THERE " FOR WER 20YRS AND STILL GET THE MULTIPLE ... OVERIALL DULL, LIGHT OWITZHES WRONG WITH SOME AND BANG INTO BRIGHT MOMENTS, 000 LOSIALE IDENTITY DOOR FRAMES. no LATER S E 00 111 LIFE, SWMMED WP IN A GENNINE WEATAVER FORZABS SEE . LINKING

CRIE DIAS DINAMTE STREE SINEMP NIGHT BELANSE FELT LIKE ODD GAGS 1000 0 (D)oms ONE ONT Book COLLEGE KNOWN SECONDARY PORRIDUE BLIND DATE BRAINIAC' AS 於 BEST PLAY Scribol T NEJER MET ADAIN STLER PEOPLE THINK IN THEIR HEADS BUT LOTS LEAVE IT COLLANS CULARS LOLLEGE OF SOUTAL HEN THERE . TTT I SAND + WATER DIFFILMENES SOIL PWORMS AT MY FIRST 708 - I DIDN'T CET PEOPLE 3 NEVER MET ALAIN COLLEGE -WORE SCHOOL MAL ଏଉ BAD 2 DELIBURATLY NSTED SOLKS CHOSE CAREER BEFORE RELATIONSHIPS ADAPTED MACBE SHAVE COLLEGE AS GRAPHIC NOVEL

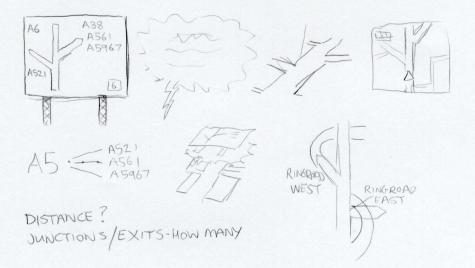
PEALEPUL I HAVE MULTIPLES ORDER of the same cloghes AND BUY EXACT REPLAZEMENTS WHEN HOW DO WE THINK AND SPEAK & AT THE THEY WEAR ONT. STAME ? TALKING IN REPANSE TO STIMULUS -EXPRESSING THONGHTS WITHON'T FORMULATION HOW OVER STIMULATION too MINCH - SHOPS, CITIES, BUBS, IMPINT SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES : PARTIES, SA DRWING. Autistic traits MAKE A NOTE OF ALL WRITING PEG BARS - CLOTHES PEGS -ERPORS T/P RIGHT MADE BOX COAT MANGERS







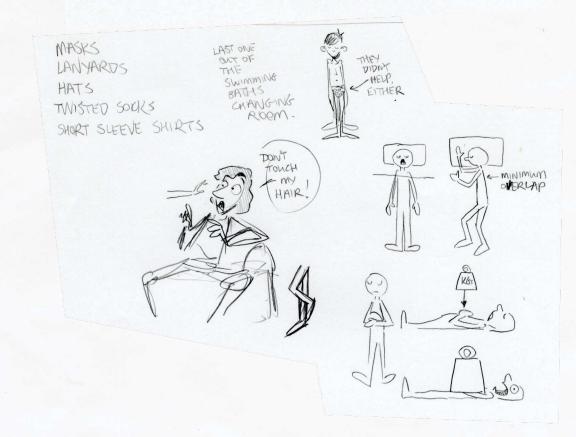
Number SEQUNENCES LEFT RIGHT / DAST WEST FLOORS MULTIPLE SOURCES OF INFO TO PROLESS ALL AT SPEEVO.



There is a lot to be said about how the brain works when it comes to driving, processing multiple sources of information and making quick decisions.

Over the years I, and my wife, Sally, have experienced many occasions when my dyspraxic brain shorts out.

Driving is an important subject to cover because it brings so many difficulties together in one activity. Unfortunately, this will have to wait until Dyspraxicon 0.2



ALSO WHY I DA LOVED (AND STILL LOVE) SILENT MOVIE COMEDY.

- MAYBE WHY I WANTED TO BE A STUNTMAN (WHO DIDN'T DO HIGH UP STUFF)

THINGS J DID AS A CHILD BECAUSE I WAS GOOD AT FUNNY FALLING OVER







OTHER EMOTION AND BEHAVIOUR SYMPTOMS

· RONTINES - EVERYTHING ORDERED AND IN A PLACE.

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- D AWKWARD AT SOCIAL EVENTS DIFFICULTY ENGAGING IN SMALTALK/CONVERSATION - BODY CONCIONS
- · LANGHS AT INAPPROPRIATE TIMES

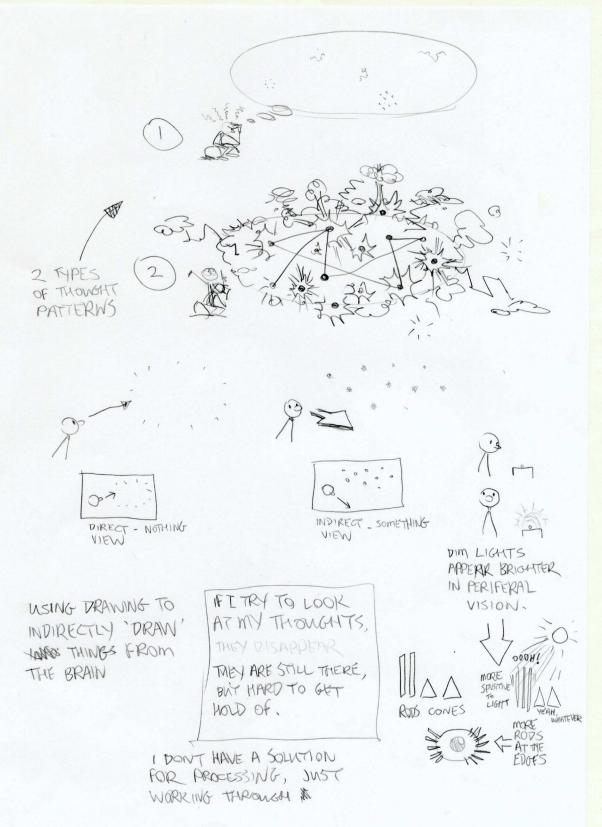
 \odot

- · DOESN'T LANGH AT MOST COMEDY OFTEN CAN SEE THE JOKE COMING.
- · OFTEN PREDICTS THE OUTCOME OF A DRAMA CAN SEE THE STRUCTURE.

I've been told many times to just watch a film or TV show 'like a normal person'

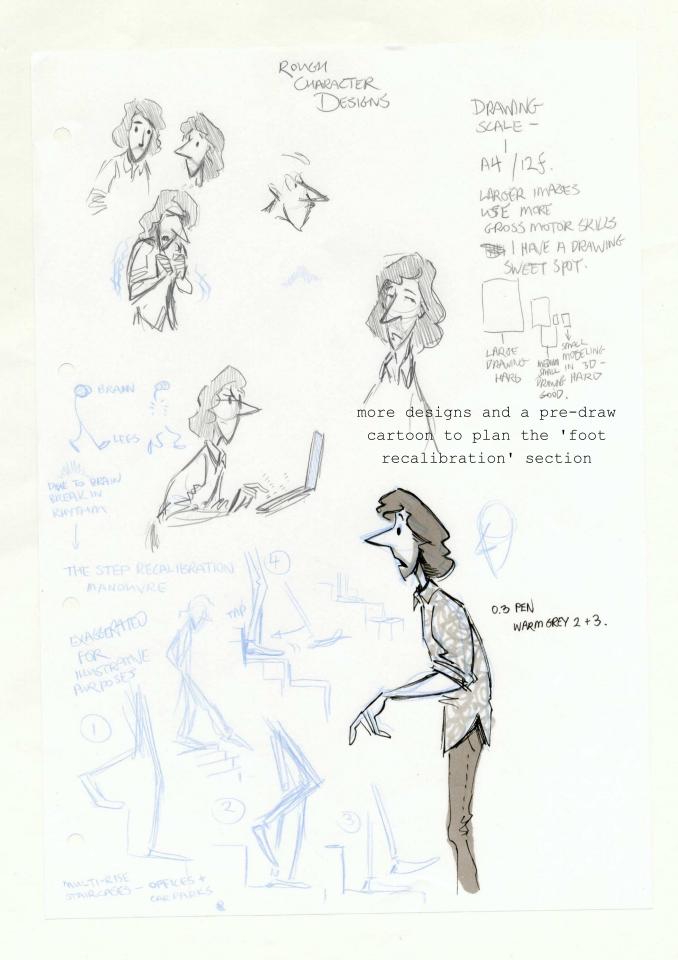
I've ruined a few final episodes of murder dramas and get very knotted up if a writer doesn't follow the storyline's internal logic

(.



Thoughts on visualising though processes





Interim Thoughts & Conclusions

Conclusions:

We should celebrate our cognitive and intellectual depth, breadth...

...and thickness.

What do I mean by that?

I've realised during this project that the physical and mental slips, trips and bumps of dyspraxia could be thought of as the 'happy accidents' that jolt us into new ideas and thoughts; forcing us to adjust our regularly metered steps with an extra half step or three. And just like when we slip, trip or bump and that little burst of adrenalin kicks in, the bumps in the brain work like tiny rocket thrusters to jet us into a new space, at a new angle to find a new link or connection.

So, for that reason, "I'm in." Happy to admit that I can be "a bit thick", that I once announced, in a Salford Working Men's Club, that the 'Les Hibbert Suite' was a rather pretentious French name for a function room; only to be told, in no uncertain terms, that it was named in memory of one of their late members, Les Hibbert.

Or that for years, I thought Ray Ban sunglasses were invented by an aviator called Raymond Banner, but his name was too long to fit on the frames.

I now know better, but the reality is slightly less entertaining.

The project has been, at times, personally, very challenging. Trying to explain by writing (including writing in pictures) how a condition effects your ability to express thoughts in words hasn't been easy.

I've got angry and frustrated with myself about my struggles to get my thoughts and feelings onto paper, then I got concerned that I'm revealing too much which might impact negatively on my teaching career. I'm not sure I've got the balance right, but that in itself is part of the problem I'm trying to explore.

In examining my personal experiences, I viewed other versions of myself as separate research subjects, distanced from myself as 'the researcher'. It enabled me to remove myself from the subject and be more objective and impartial.

Using proxy character voices like the pencil, the mouse, the caption box, and even the cartoon versions of myself at different ages, further allowed me to look at personal experiences of symptoms from a more dispassionate viewpoint.

There is a lot of material I haven't covered, some of which are in the notes at the end. This current Dyspraxicon has had to fit within the grant funding deadlines.

I'm unsure how (or if) I should develop the Dyspraxicon beyond this initial review. I feel I need to get some feedback before I continue. If there was interest in developing and expanding the material as finished artwork for publication, I would consider it. I think I would need an editor to help me get it into order.

I would be interested in working with a Graphic Designer and Publisher to look at developing the short story redesigns as a new book layout model.

Distinct categories of page have emerged through the drawing process: Exploration, Explanation, Experience, Example and Experimentation. Exploration is about what is going on in the moment of drawing, a conscious and continuous reviewing. Explanation - informing the reader on aspects of the condition. Experience - personal reflective pieces based on memory. Example - pieces with some narrative flow, a combination of exploration, explanation and experience. Experimentation pages are trying out concepts or ideas, such as the short story visual redesigns.

The strength of this research has been, for me, as much about the method and the process of creation that it has been about the actual content of the Dyspraxicon.

The way I have approached the creation of the drawings says perhaps more about what dyspraxia feels like than what I've tried to express in each page, as John Berger said of the viewer of an artist's drawings, "using the images to gain the conscious experience of seeing as though through the artist's own eyes".

The tangled, overlapping thought processes and the contrasting vacuum of thought, the unscripted, unplanned 'straight ahead' messy nature of the drawing – following the pencil, circumventing the thought process by misdirecting the attention of the brain to the act of drawing. I can analyse the technical aspects of the work and the design choices I instinctively made, but it's more difficult to explain why it looks the way it does.

In looking through my very early drawings, some of which I didn't realise I had, I became aware of the fearlessness of childhood drawing, again, pages of comics without any planning, spontaneous and immediate responses to the previous panel and to the pencil on the paper. Drawn thoughts without thinking.

My work for this research has gone some way to rediscovering the spontaneity and immediacy of drawn thoughts.

I was surprised to see the obsession in the childhood work, the endless iterations of a narrow concept or idea, and the use of drawing to seek to understand something - the numbered kangaroo image. It appears that animation production suited my brain from a very early age.

The initial stage of this research project has been a valuable experience for me, and I look forward to seeing which direction it takes me in next.

Notes

Draw your own conclusions...

