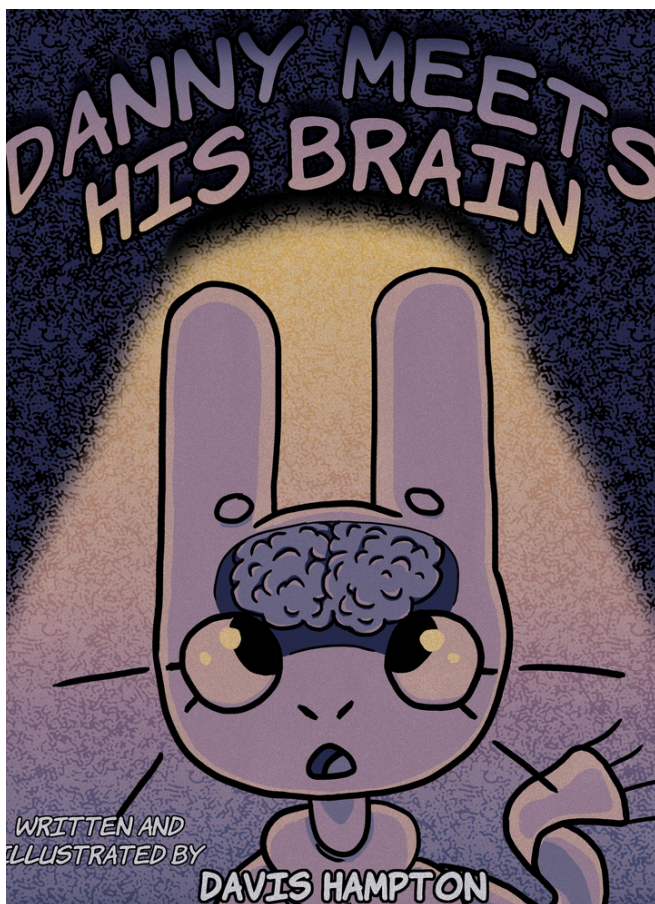




# ***SPACE FOR EVERYONE***

Written & Illustrated  
by Sarah Hynfield

[Click to Begin Reading](#)



# ***DANNY MEETS HIS BRAIN***

Written & Illustrated  
by Davis Hampton

[Click to Begin Reading](#)





SPACE

FOR

EVERYONE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

SARAH HYNFIELD



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TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION,  
**I'M FINE!** I FLAP MY  
HANDS BECAUSE I'M  
**AUTISTIC.**

YOU KNOW, YOU CAN JUST  
**ASK** ME WHAT I'M DOING  
INSTEAD OF MURMURING  
ABOUT ME LIKE I'M NOT  
HERE.



OH... **I'M  
SORRY.** I  
DIDN'T MEAN  
TO BE RUDE.

**THAT'S  
ALRIGHT!**  
MAYBE WE CAN  
START OVER!  
I'M **JOY.**  
WHAT'S YOUR  
NAME?









WHAT I WAS DOING IS CALLED "**STIMMING**" OR "**SELF-STIMULATORY BEHAVIOR**" IT'S JUST BIG WORDS FOR MOVEMENTS THAT HELP ME FEEL COMFORTABLE.



IS THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE... YOU SAID A WORD EARLIER...



**AUTISTIC!**

# AUTISM



THERE ARE THINGS ABOUT BEING AUTISTIC THAT I **LOVE...** AND THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE A LOT HARDER FOR ME.

**AUTISM** IS A REALLY INTERESTING CONDITION THAT MAKES LIFE A LITTLE DIFFERENT FOR ME.

REALLY?  
LIKE WHAT?





THE BIGGEST ONE  
FOR ME IS **SENSORY  
OVERLOAD**:

I FIND **BRIGHT  
LIGHTS** AND **LOUD  
SOUNDS** SUPER  
PAINFUL, AND I'M  
**MUCH** MORE  
SENSITIVE TO THEM  
THAN MY FRIENDS.



Potato  
Salad



ALSO, **MUSHY TEXTURES** MAKE  
ME FEEL **REALLY** SICK, AND I HAVE A  
**LOT** OF TROUBLE FINDING CLOTHES  
THAT FEEL COMFORTABLE TO WEAR.



\*too  
tight

\*yucky  
seams



sunglasses

Noise  
cancelling  
headphones

loose  
fitting  
clothes

No  
socks



EVENTUALLY I FOUND WAYS TO MAKE  
THINGS EASIER. I CARRY **NOISE-  
CANCELLING HEADPHONES** AND  
**SUNGLASSES** WITH ME EVERYWHERE I GO!



THAT SOUNDS  
**AWFUL!!**

IT CERTAINLY  
CAN BE!

BEING AUTISTIC ALSO MEANS THAT  
I **COMMUNICATE** DIFFERENTLY  
FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

I HAVE TROUBLE FIGURING OUT WHAT  
PEOPLE ARE REALLY TRYING TO SAY:

OH MAN,  
IT'S  
GETTING  
**LATE!**

I HAVE TO GO, BUT I  
DON'T WANT TO SEEM  
BLUNT BY JUST  
**SAYING** THAT.

what a great  
conversation!

looking  
away

\*fidgety

wants  
to leave

\*bored  
& tired

WHAT THEIR **BODY  
LANGUAGE** MEANS...

oh, and then  
m m m m

I LOVED  
when I

but the other  
thing is m m

my favorite  
was m m m m

and it's cool  
because m m

and afterwards  
m m m m m

AND SOMETIMES **INTERRUPT**  
OR TALK FOR A LONG TIME  
WHEN I'M **SUPER EXCITED.**

BECAUSE  
OF THAT, A LOT  
OF PEOPLE THINK  
I'M BEING  
**RUDE** OR A  
**BAD FRIEND**  
WHEN I'M  
REALLY TRYING  
MY **HARDEST!**





I WOULD **HATE** LOSING FRIENDS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING I CAN'T CONTROL...

YEAH, HONESTLY IT CAN BE REALLY HARD.



STILL THOUGH. BEING AUTISTIC IS SOMETHING I WOULDN'T TRADE FOR THE **WORLD!**

REALLY, WHY?

THERE'S **SO MUCH** THAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT!



**STIMMING** MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY:

**BIG, REPETITIVE MOTIONS** LIKE ROCKING BACK AND FORTH, FLAPPING MY HANDS,

EVEN THINGS LIKE LISTENING TO THE SAME SONG OVER AND OVER MAKE ME FEEL SO **GIDDY** THAT I **LITERALLY** CAN'T KEEP STILL!





I'VE BEEN LEARNING EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT OUTER SPACE SINCE I WAS **5 YEARS OLD!**

ALSO, I LATCH ONTO THINGS THAT MAKE ME REALLY HAPPY AND DEVOTE MY **WHOLE HEART** TO THEM.

AUTISM ITSELF HAS BECOME ANOTHER ONE OF MY **SPECIAL INTERESTS**: WHICH IS WHY I'M SO QUICK TO RAMBLE ON AND ON ABOUT IT, HAHA.

WAIT... WHAT DOES **NEURO-DIVERGENT** MEAN?

BUT ONCE I DID, IT OPENED UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR ME. I GOT TO MAKE A BUNCH OF **NEURODIVERGENT** FRIENDS!

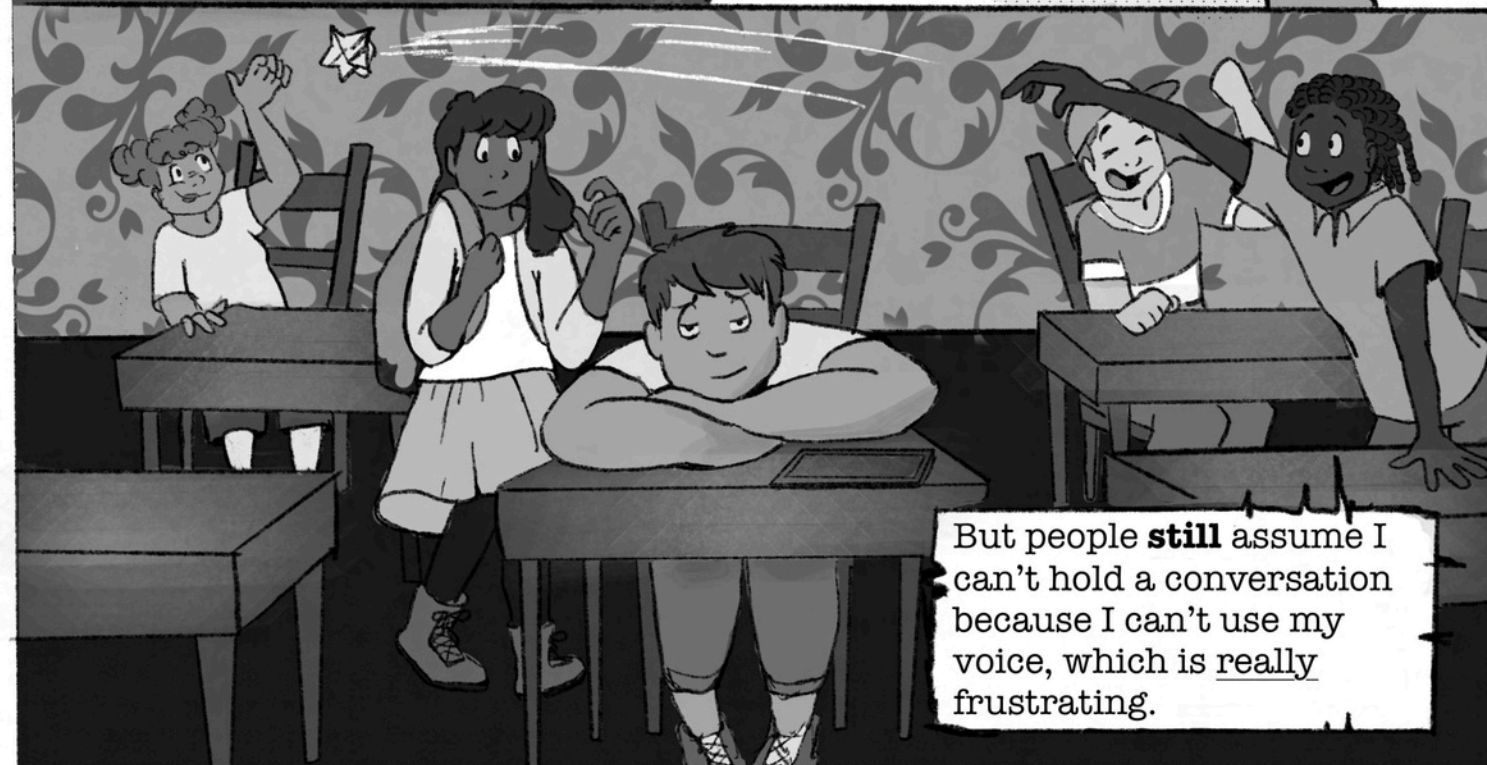
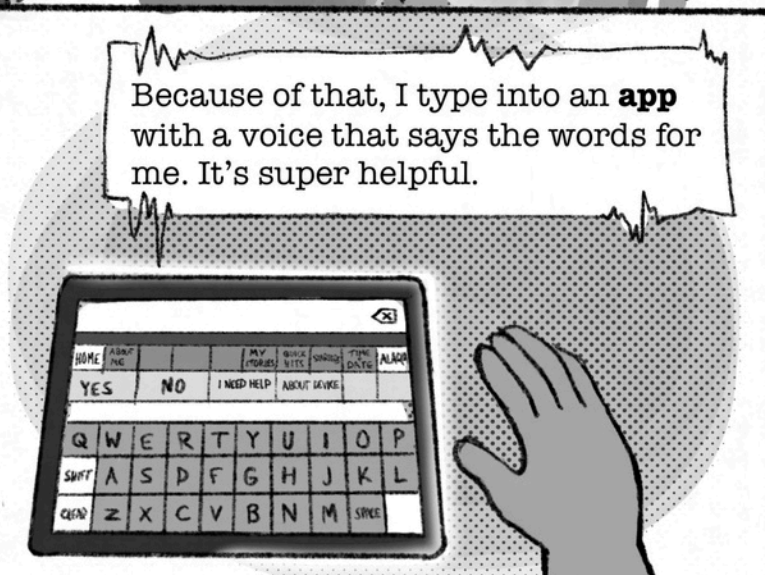
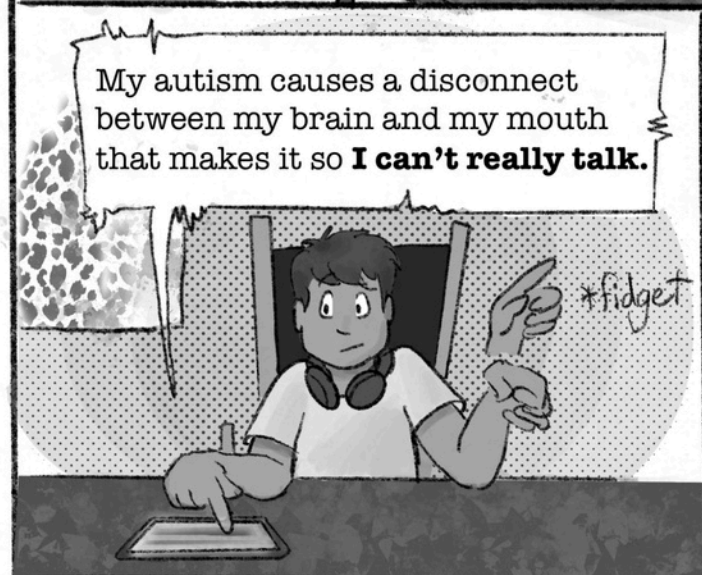
OH, THAT'S OKAY! DID YOU ALWAYS KNOW YOU WERE AUTISTIC?

OH, IT'S JUST A GENERAL TERM FOR A BUNCH OF **BRAIN DIFFERENCES** THAT PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH.

IT TOOK A WHILE FOR MY PARENTS AND I TO REALIZE,









CONNOR IS A REALLY GREAT FRIEND, AND UNDERSTANDS HOW TO REACT SOCIALLY BETTER THAN I DO,

BUT PEOPLE IGNORE HIM JUST BECAUSE HE CAN'T TALK OUT LOUD!

Whereas Joy can never seem to **STOP** talking.

WAS THAT A JOKE?

...yes.

...CAN I NUDGE YOU FOR BEING A SNARKY JERK?

...yes.



THERE'S ALSO A LOT MORE TO NEURODIVERSITY THAN JUST AUTISM! IT COVERS A LOT OF CONDITIONS, A FEW OF WHICH MY FRIENDS HAVE:

MY NAME IS **BLAISE**, AND I HAVE **ADHD**. IT'S A DISABILITY WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO REMEMBER THINGS AND PAY ATTENTION FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

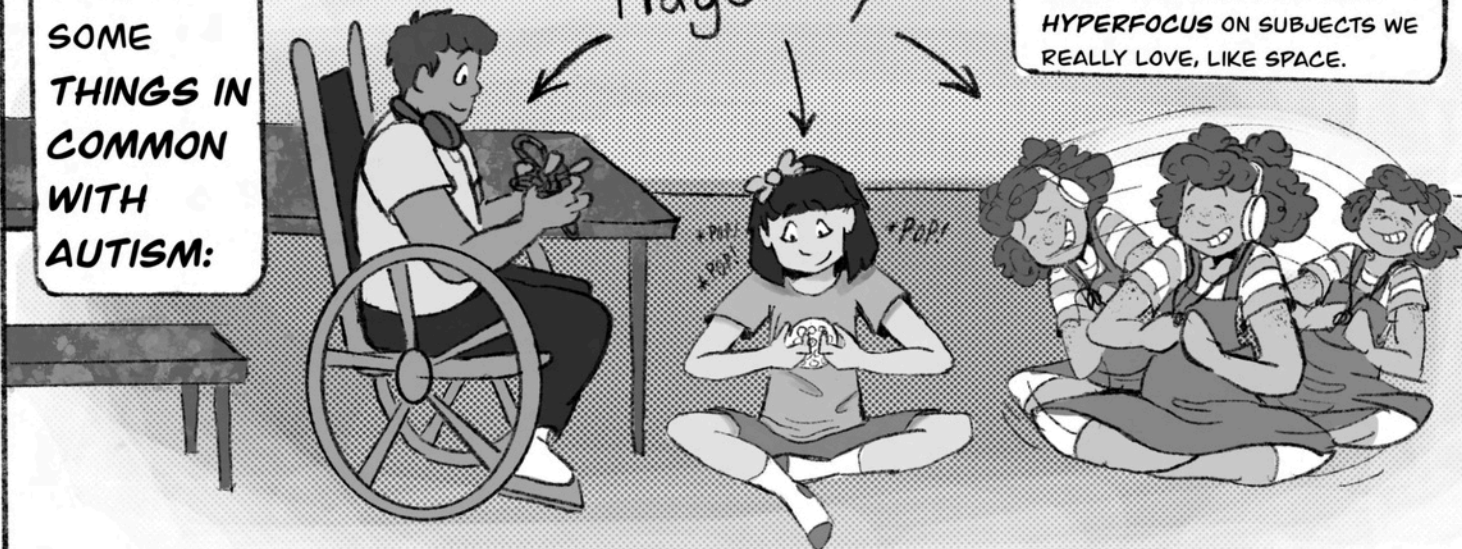




IT HAS  
SOME  
THINGS IN  
COMMON  
WITH  
AUTISM:

fidget toys

ME AND JOY BOTH STIM AND  
FIDGET A LOT. WE BOTH ALSO  
**HYPERFOCUS** ON SUBJECTS WE  
REALLY LOVE, LIKE SPACE.



I DON'T HAVE THE SAME SOCIAL  
TROUBLES THAT JOY DOES



MATH TEST (D+)

BUT I HAVE MORE **PROBLEMS IN  
SCHOOL** BECAUSE IT'S SO HARD TO  
SIT STILL AND FOCUS IN CLASS.

Dyslexia

I ALSO HAVE TROUBLE IN SCHOOL!  
MY NAME IS **KHADIJA**, AND I  
HAVE **DYSLEXIA**.





DYSLEXIA MAKES **READING** A LOT MORE DIFFICULT: I HAVE TROUBLE RELATING **SPOKEN SOUNDS TO WORDS** ON A PAGE.



Erica dashed **ont**i her room and slammed the **rood** behind her, **acing** the doorknob with a chair underneath the handle.

That was cl...ht, wiwincing as Donnie. That way...ought wincing as Donnie banged o...n the other side.

"LET ME FUNNY!"



SOMETIMES THE LETTERS **RUN TOGETHER** ON THE PAGE, OR SWAP PLACES IN A WORD SO IT **DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.**

# TOURETTES



I'M NEXT! MY NAME IS **\*WHISTLE\*** **MARTIN,** AND I HAVE **TOURETTE'S SYNDROME.**

THIS CAUSES SOUNDS AND WORDS,

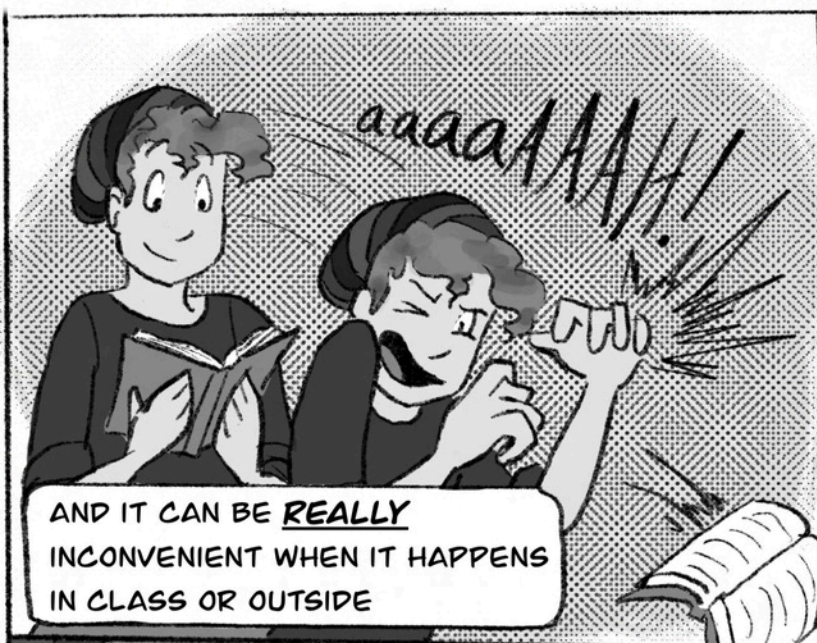


AS WELL AS **\*HI!** MOVEMENTS IN MY BODY CALLED **TICS** THAT ARE **UNCONTROLLABLE**



MOST OF THE TIME, IT'S JUST ANOTHER PART OF MY LIFE, BUT IT CAN BE IRRITATING WHEN I DON'T SEE IT COMING.

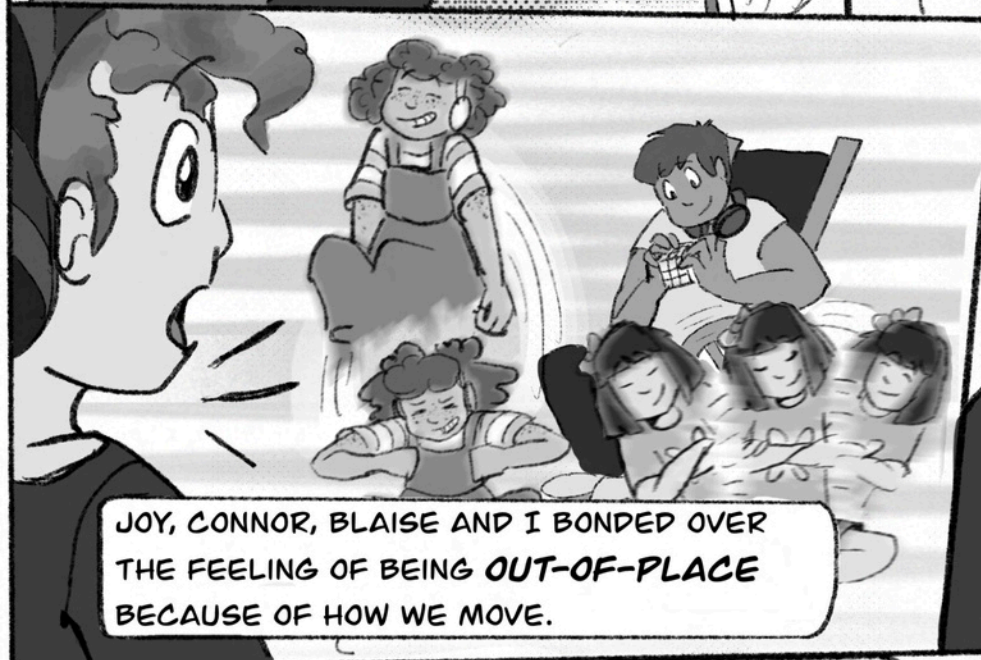




AND IT CAN BE REALLY INCONVENIENT WHEN IT HAPPENS IN CLASS OR OUTSIDE



BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THAT \*WHOOPS!\* I CAN'T CONTROL IT.



JOY, CONNOR, BLAISE AND I BONDED OVER THE FEELING OF BEING **OUT-OF-PLACE** BECAUSE OF HOW WE MOVE.



We try to raise awareness about this, because people can sometimes get in a **lot** of trouble for not sitting still.



CONNOR, JOY AND I CAN CONTROL OUR **STIMMING** SOMEWHAT, BUT MARTIN'S **TICS** ARE KIND OF LIKE SNEEZES



THEY JUST HAVE TO COME OUT!



YOU KNOW, IT'S REALLY INTERESTING THAT **NEURODIVERGENCE** IS A TERM FOR ALL OF THESE CONDITIONS, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE SO DIFFERENT.



**THAT'S TRUE!** WE'RE VERY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.



BUT ALL OF US WOULD BENEFIT FROM HAVING PEOPLE AROUND US WHO **UNDERSTAND** AND **ACCEPT** OUR BRAIN DIFFERENCES:



SO THAT BLAISE AND I CAN GET THE **SUPPORT** WE NEED WITH OUR **SCHOOLWORK!**



AND THAT **ALL OF US** COULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE **LOOKING** AND **ACTING** DIFFERENT IN PUBLIC



WHETHER IT'S **TICS...**



**OR STIMS!**







**OF COURSE!!** I'M SO GLAD WE GOT TO MEET YOU TODAY, **I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T KNOW THESE THINGS BEFORE!**



MAYBE WE COULD ASK OUR **TEACHER** IF YOU CAN TALK TO THE REST OF THE CLASS ABOUT THIS...



THAT WAY, WE COULD START TRYING TO MAKE OUR CLASSROOM A **BETTER PLACE** FOR ALL OF YOU!

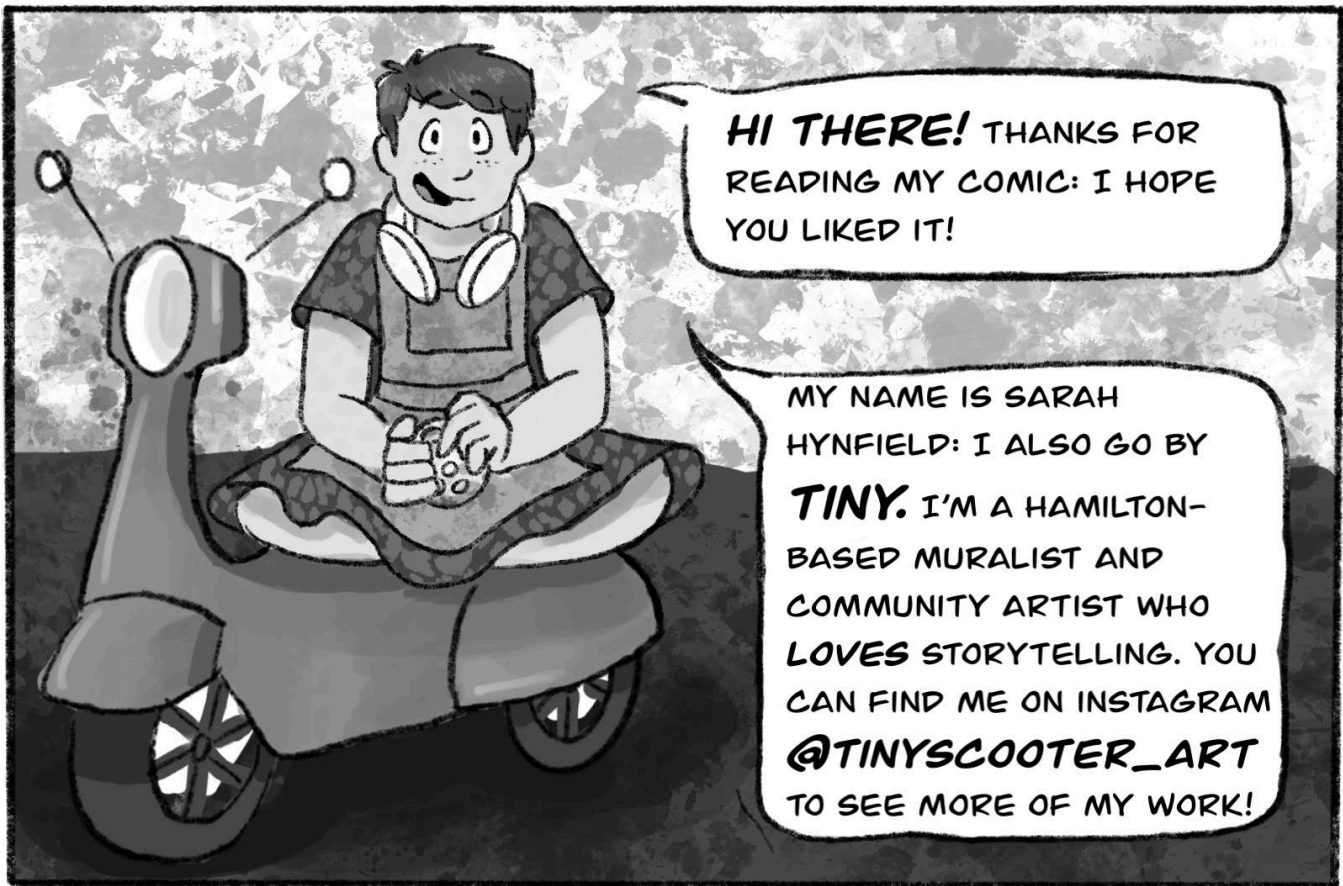




# The End







This story written and illustrated by Sarah Hynfield



This **Cartoon for Peace and Justice** book on the theme of **Neurodiversity** is part of a project of **SOS (Save Our Souls) ART.**

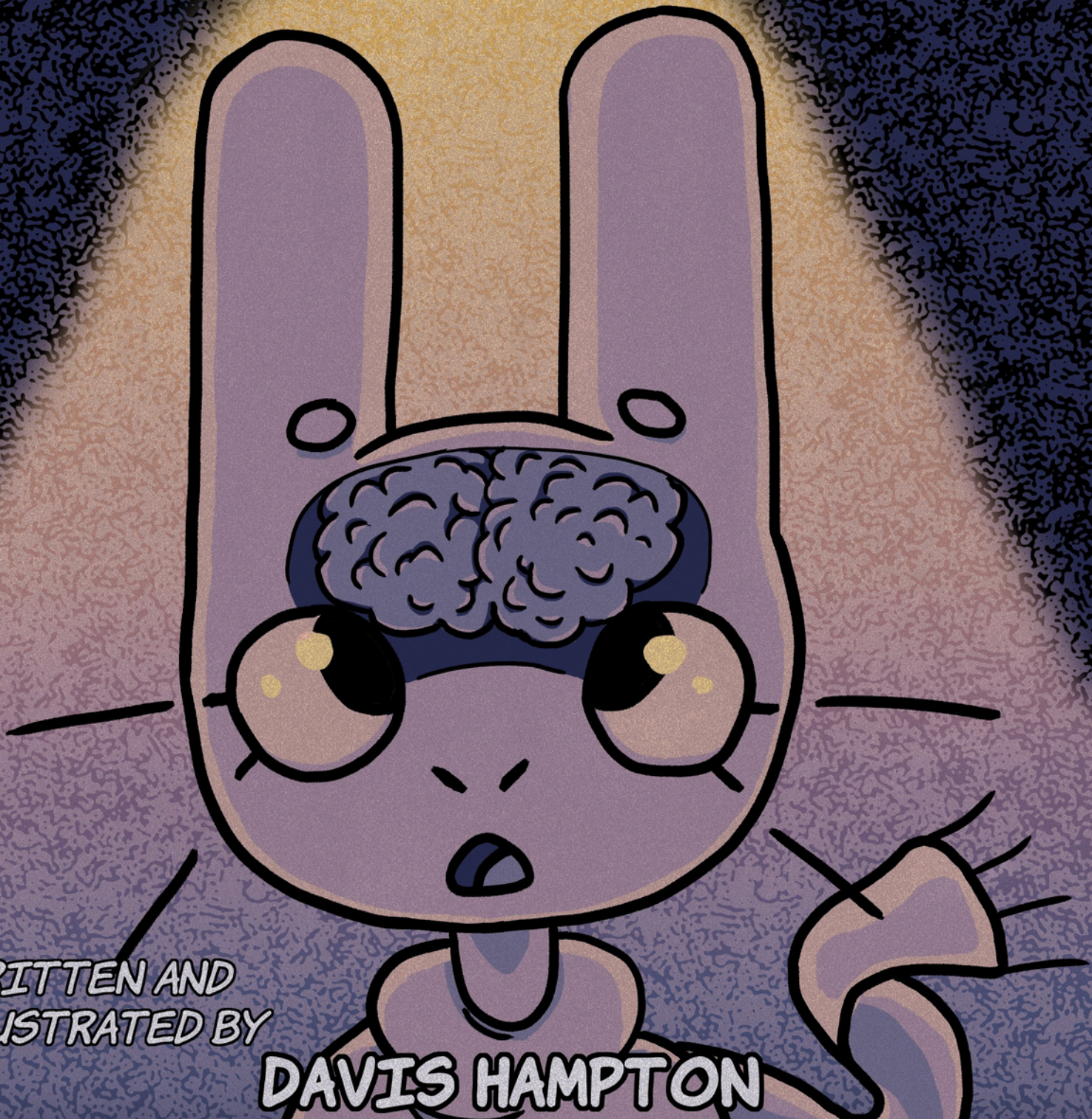
The intent of the project is to create and publish cartoon books on a given theme of peace and justice, written and illustrated by **Greater Cincinnati Artists.** The books, written for **Children and Adults of any age**, are given **free to schools** to be shared with their students and to prompt, in the classroom, a discussion and education on the addressed topic.

If you would like to take part in this project and/or support SOS ART please check [sosartcincinnati.com](http://sosartcincinnati.com) and contact [sosartcincinnati@gmail.com](mailto:sosartcincinnati@gmail.com)

*SOS ART is a nonprofit 501c3 organization whose mission is to encourage, promote and provide opportunities and venues for the Arts as dynamic vehicles for Peace and Justice and for a Better World.*



# DANNY MEETS HIS BRAIN'S



WRITTEN AND  
ILLUSTRATED BY

DAVIS HAMPTON



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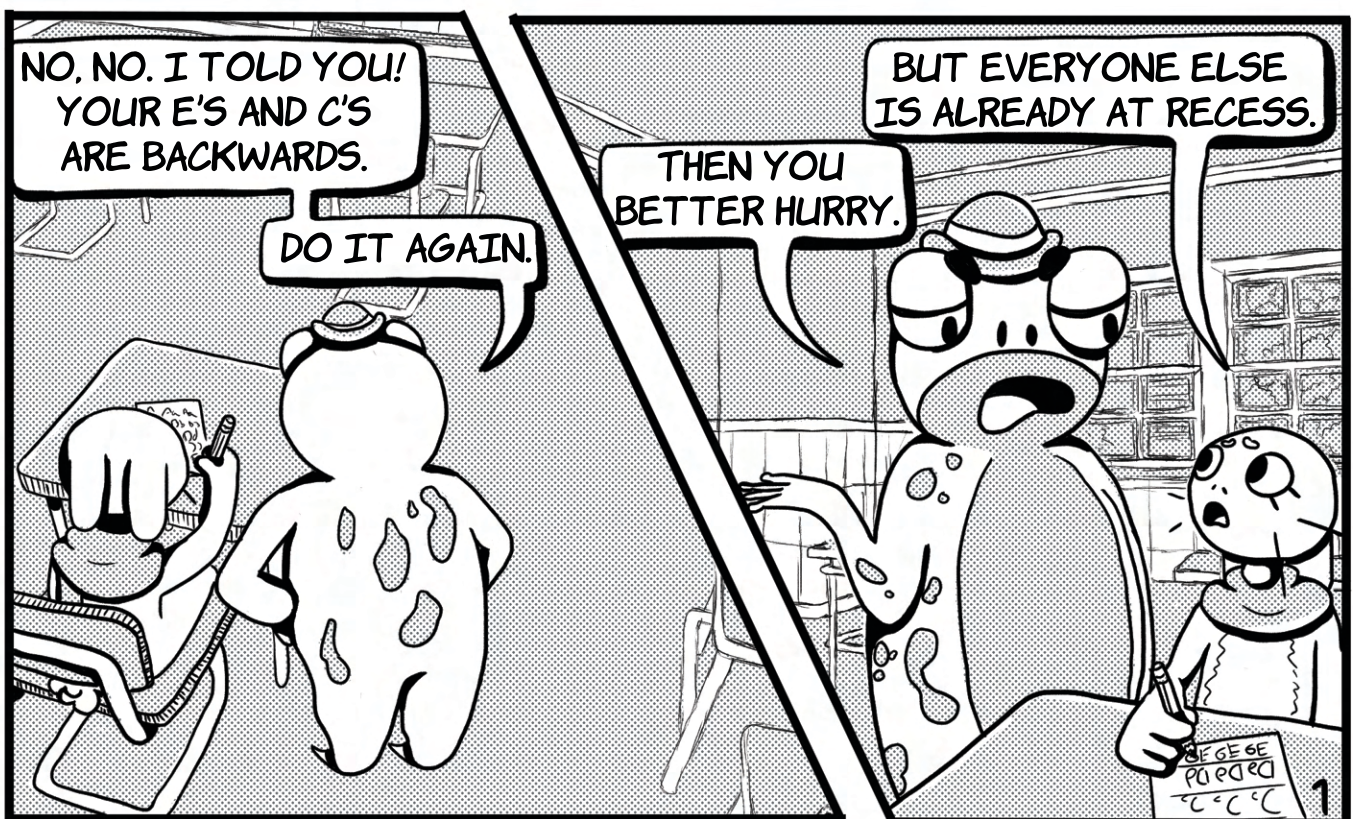
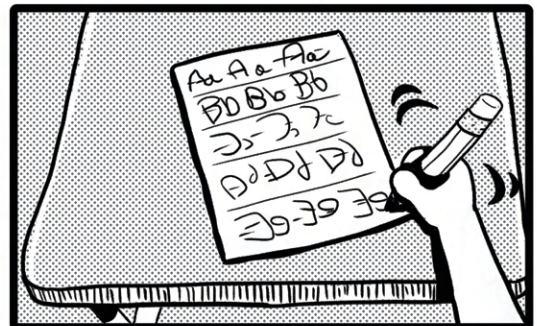
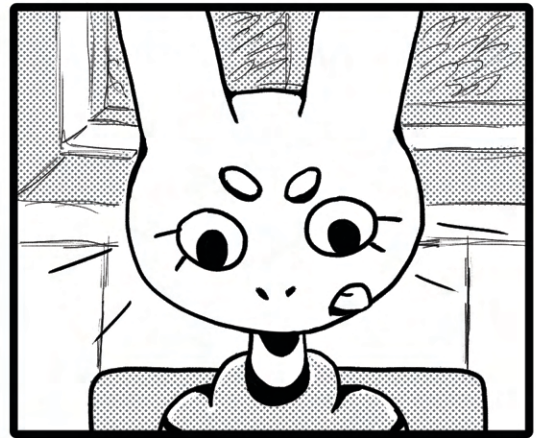
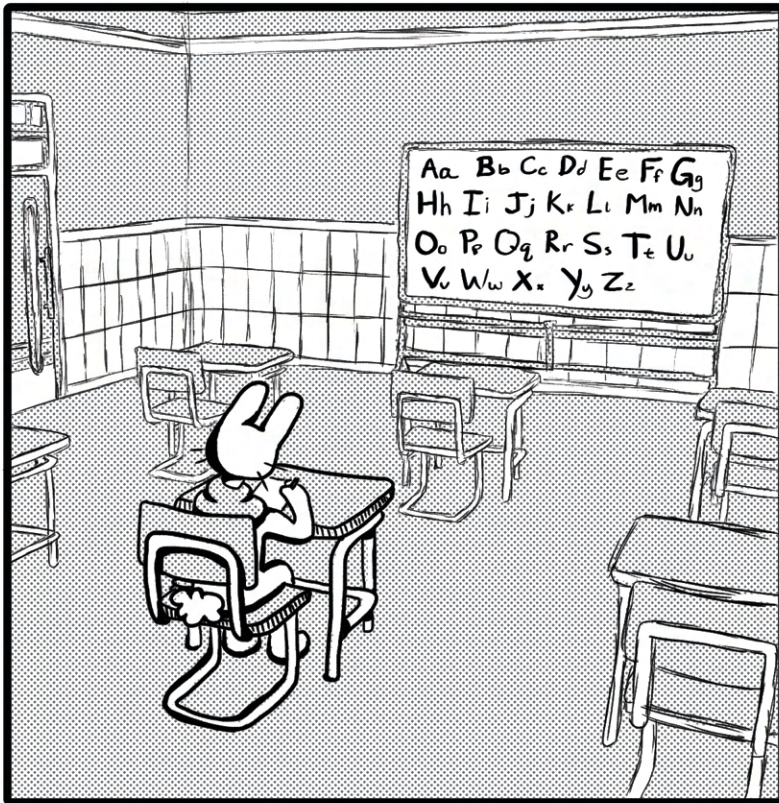


*Enriching the lives of children*

*With the generous support of the*  
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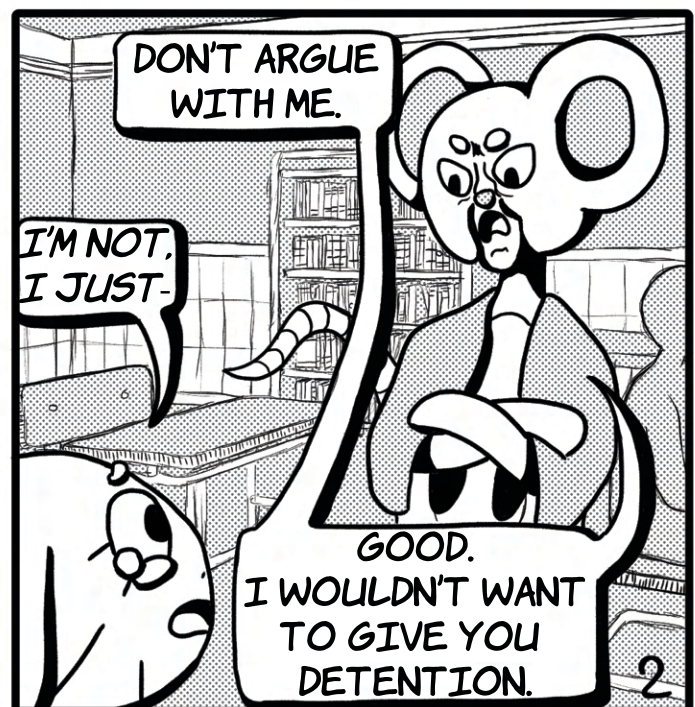
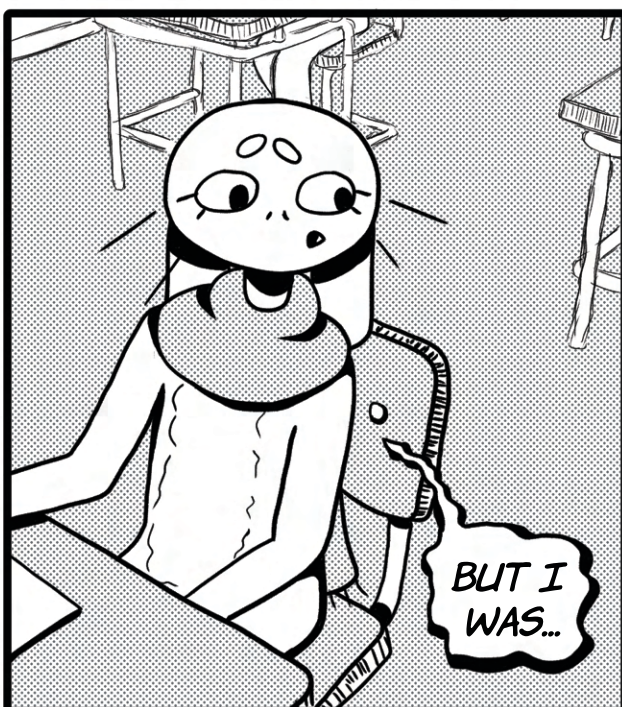
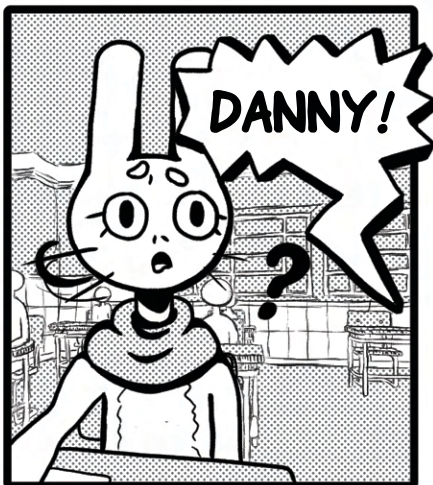
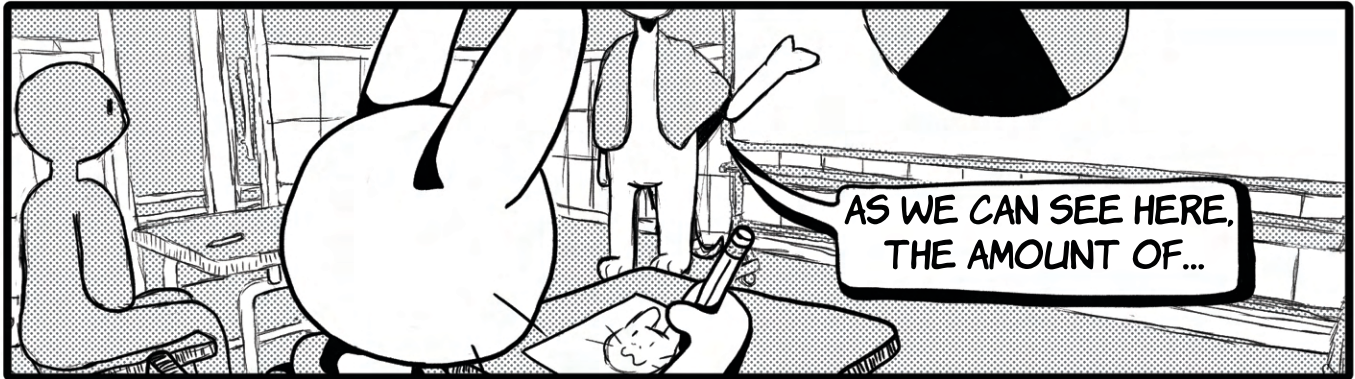


I USED TO THINK I WASN'T AS  
SMART AS THE OTHER KIDS.



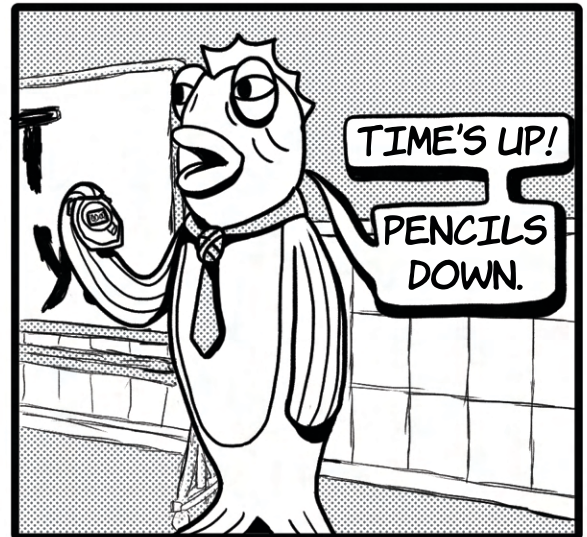
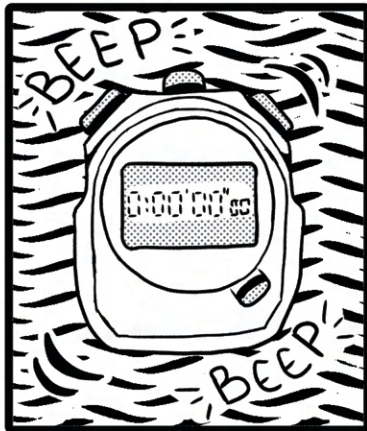
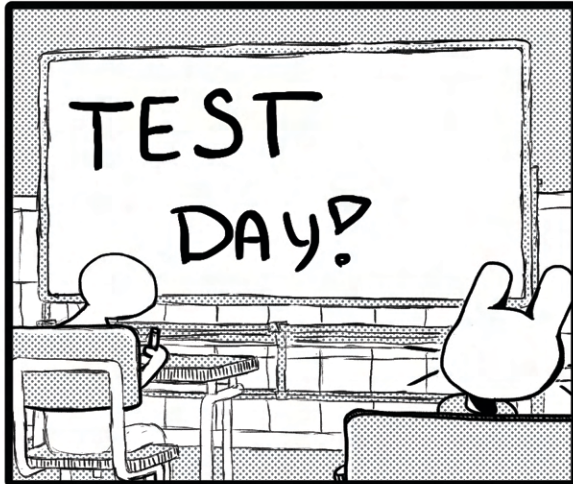


THAT I WAS A BAD STUDENT.



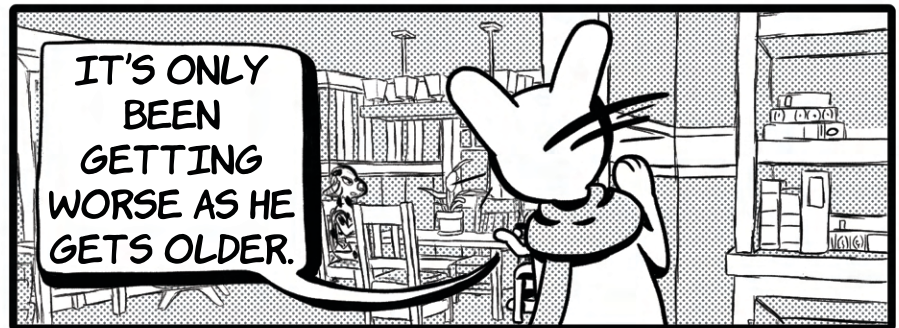
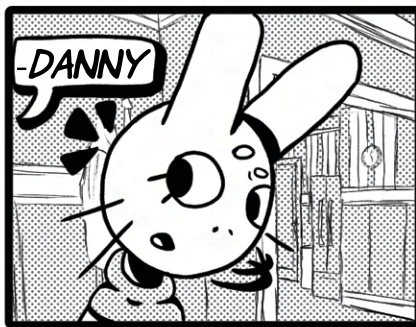


THAT I LACKED SOME VITAL  
SKILLS THAT EVERYONE ELSE HAD.





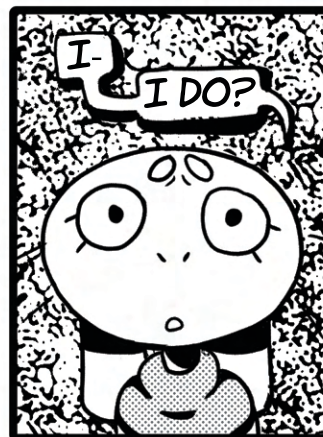
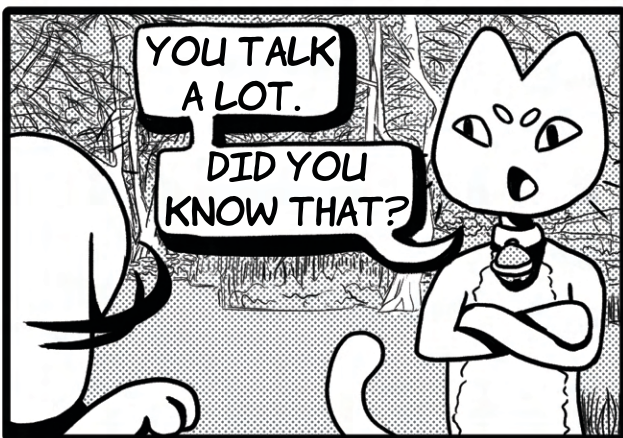
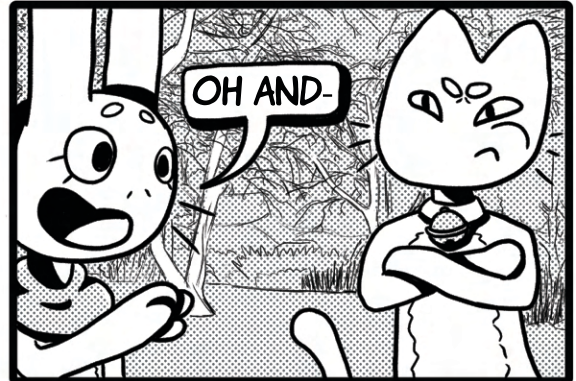
IT WASN'T JUST TEACHERS  
THAT NOTICED EITHER.



IT WAS LIKE EVERYONE NOTICED  
THAT I WAS DIFFERENT.



**MOST PEOPLE MADE ME  
FEEL LIKE DIFFERENT WAS BAD.**

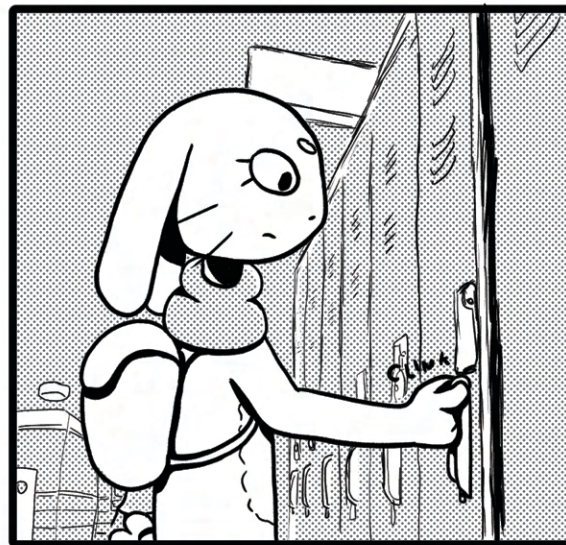
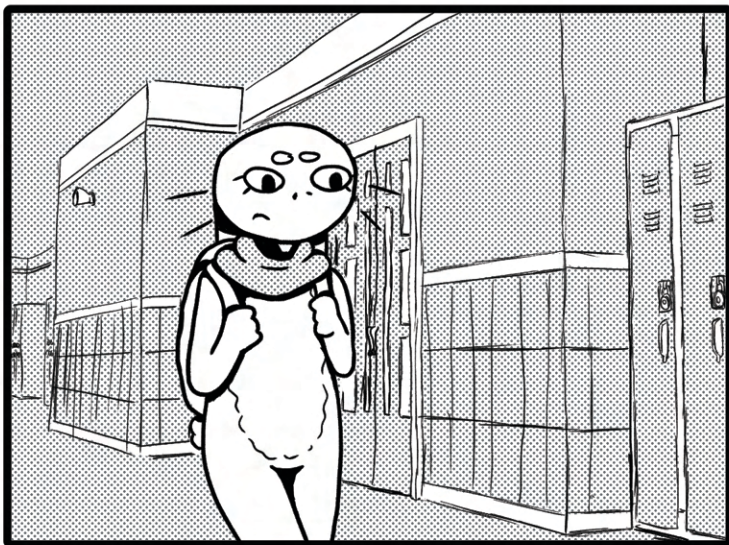


**BUT THERE WERE ALWAYS A FEW  
PEOPLE THAT MADE ME FEEL  
UNIQUE AND SPECIAL.**

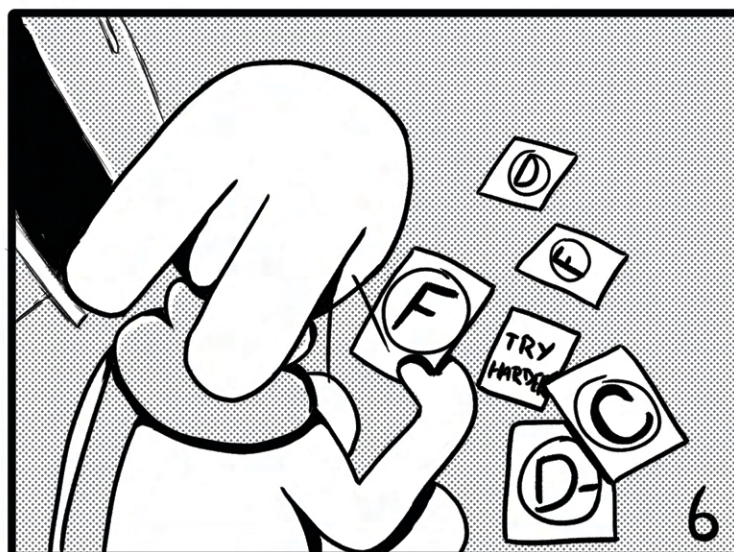
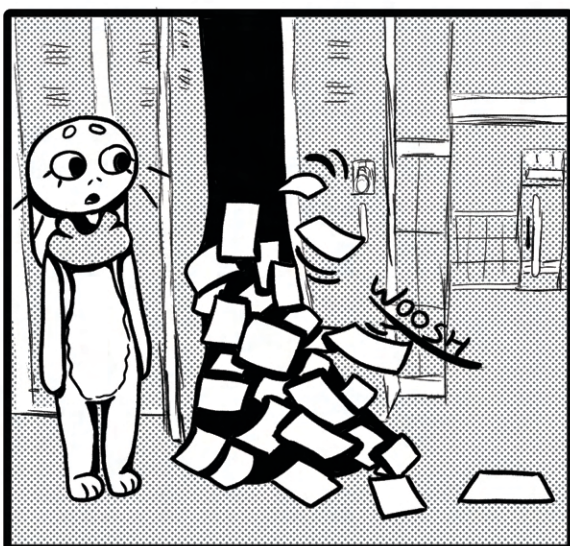




BUT AS SPECIAL AS I FELT,  
I STILL FELT STUPID.  
SO I STARTED TO GIVE UP.

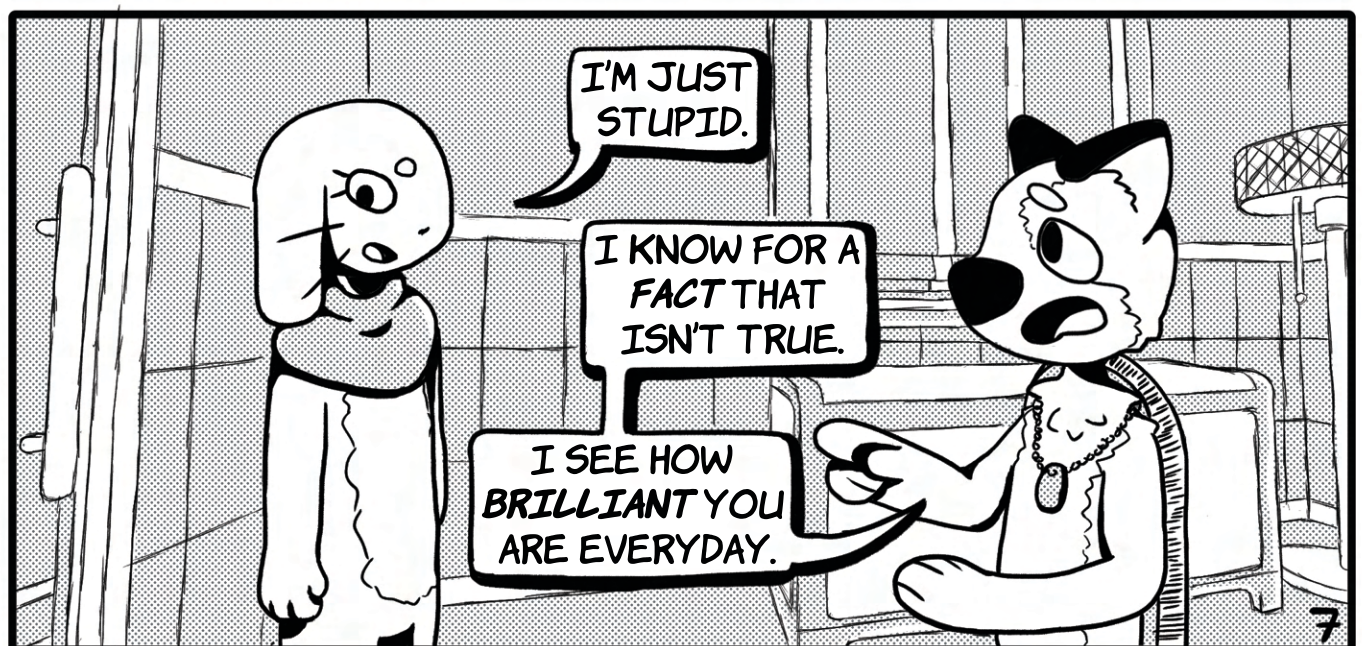
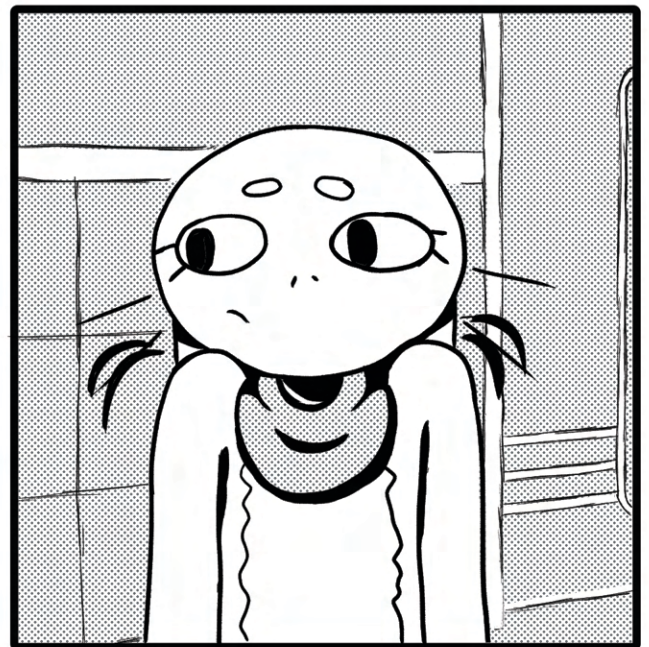
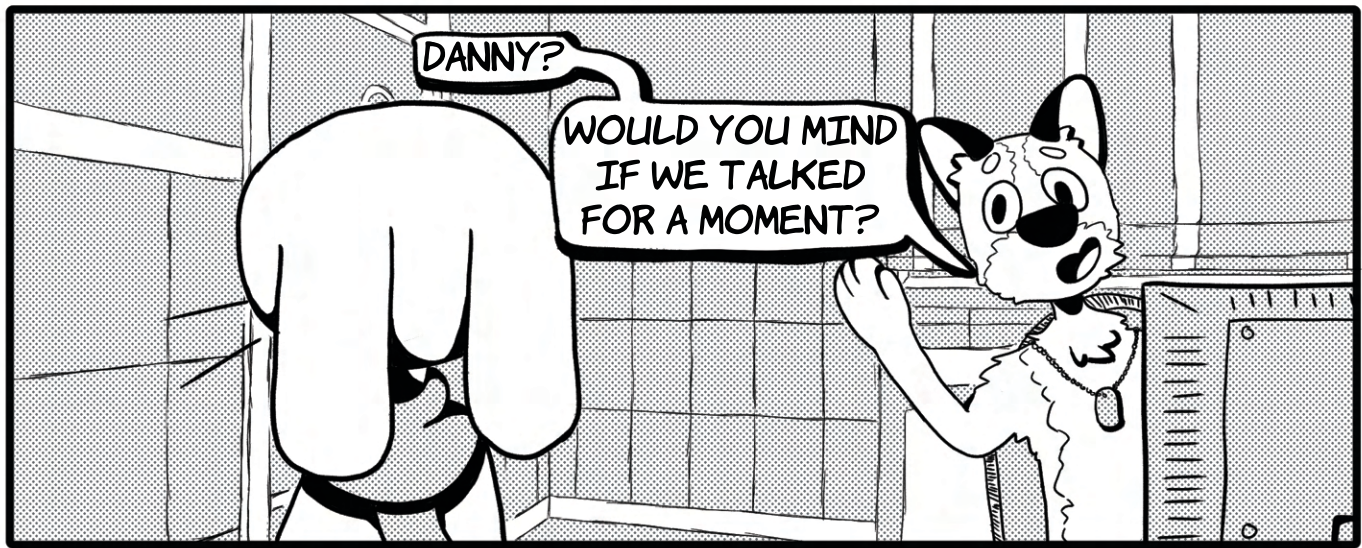


IF I WAS NEVER GOING TO SUCCEED,  
WHY SHOULD I WASTE MY TIME  
TRYING?

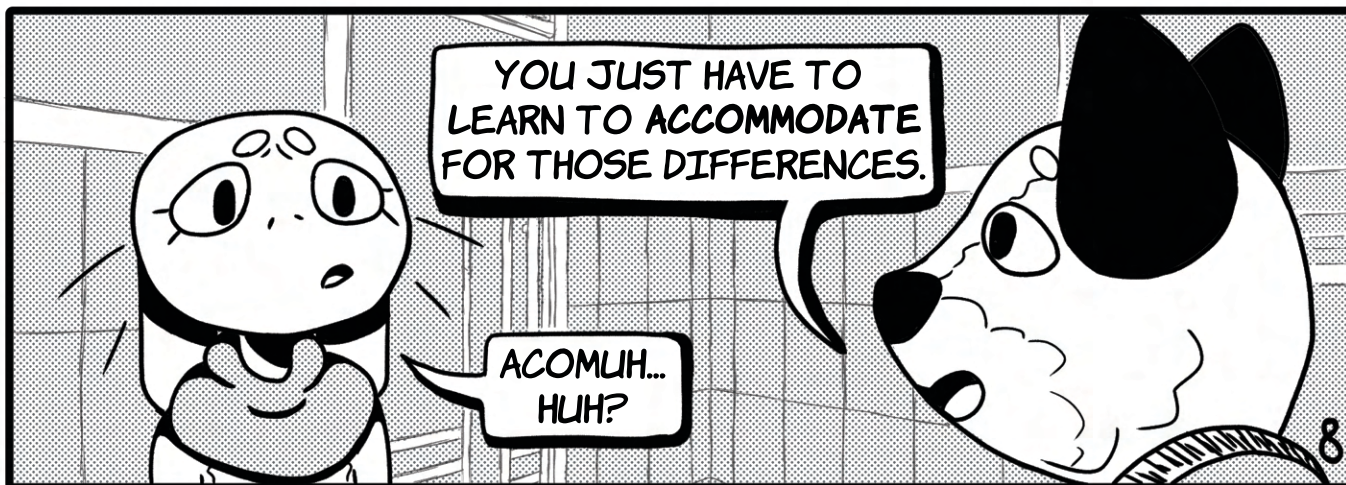
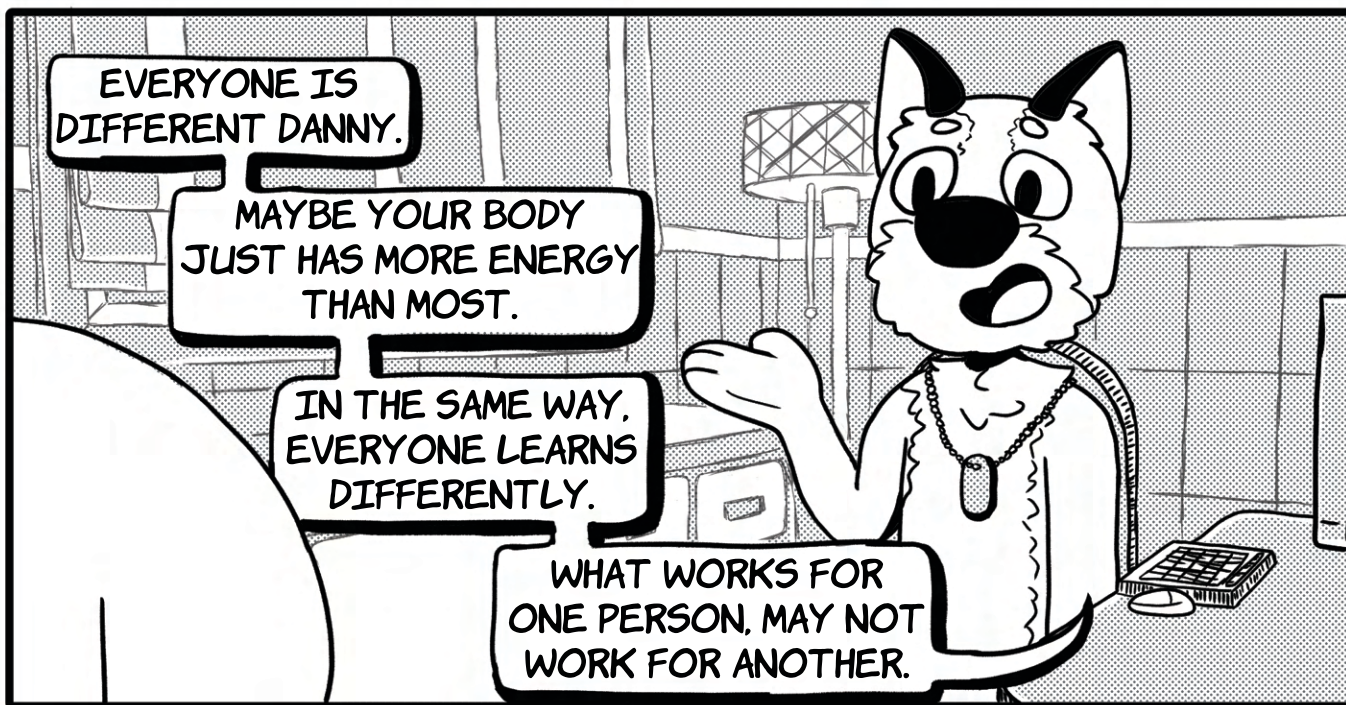
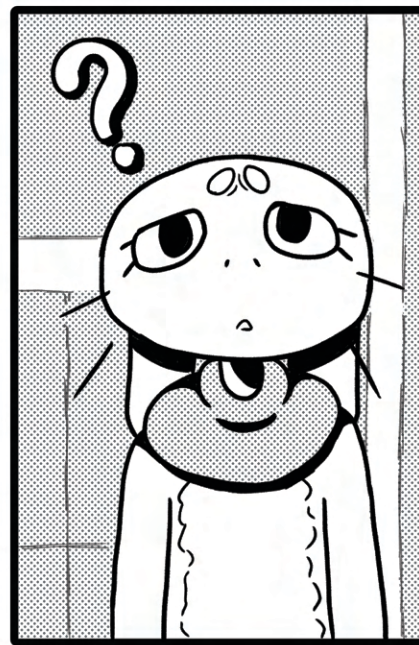


BUT THEN SOMEONE  
CHANGED MY MIND.









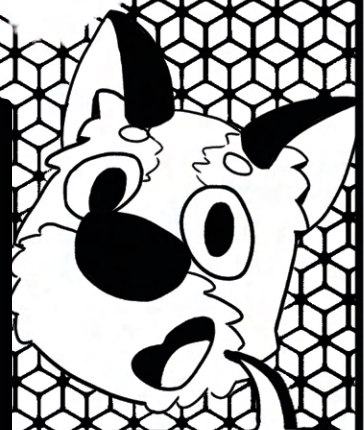


# TEACHER MODE ACTIVATE!

ACCOMMODATE

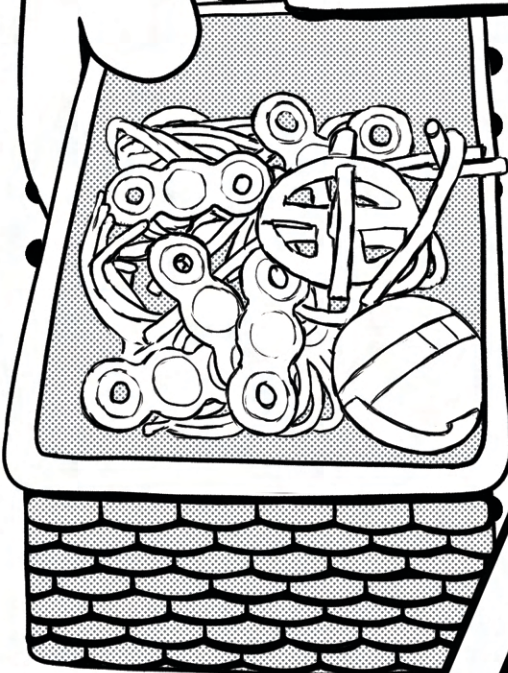


**ACCOMMODATIONS**  
ARE CHANGES THAT  
ARE MADE TO  
HELP SOMEONE  
WORK AND LEARN.

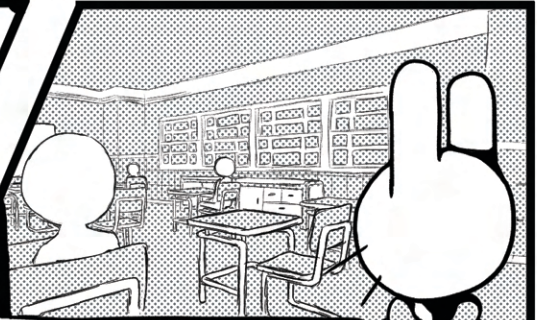


FOR EXAMPLE,  
WHenever YOU  
FEEL LIKE YOU  
NEED TO MOVE  
IN CLASS-

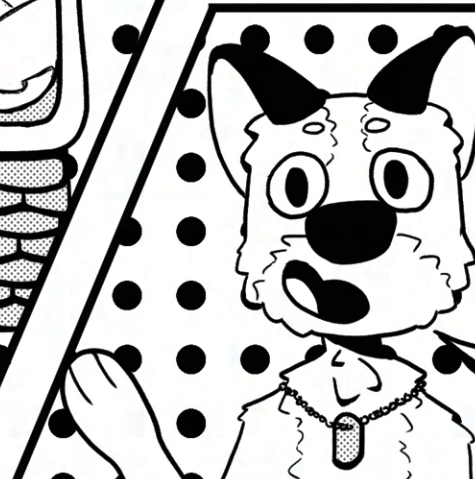
YOU CAN TRY  
A FIDGET TOY  
LIKE ONE OF THESE.



OR STAND OR PACE  
IN THE BACK OR SIDE  
OF THE CLASSROOM.



EVEN THINGS  
LIKE DOODLING  
WHILE  
LISTENING TO  
THE TEACHER CAN  
HELP STUDENTS  
FOCUS.







REALLY?  
I CAN DO THAT?



IF IT HELPS YOU  
LEARN, OF COURSE.

IT'S MY JOB AS A TEACHER  
TO HELP YOU LEARN AND  
SUCCEED.

THANKS MR. FETCH!

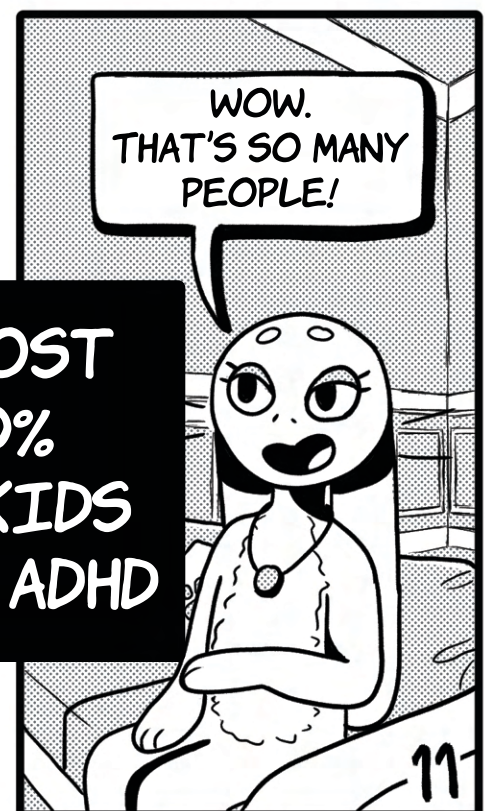
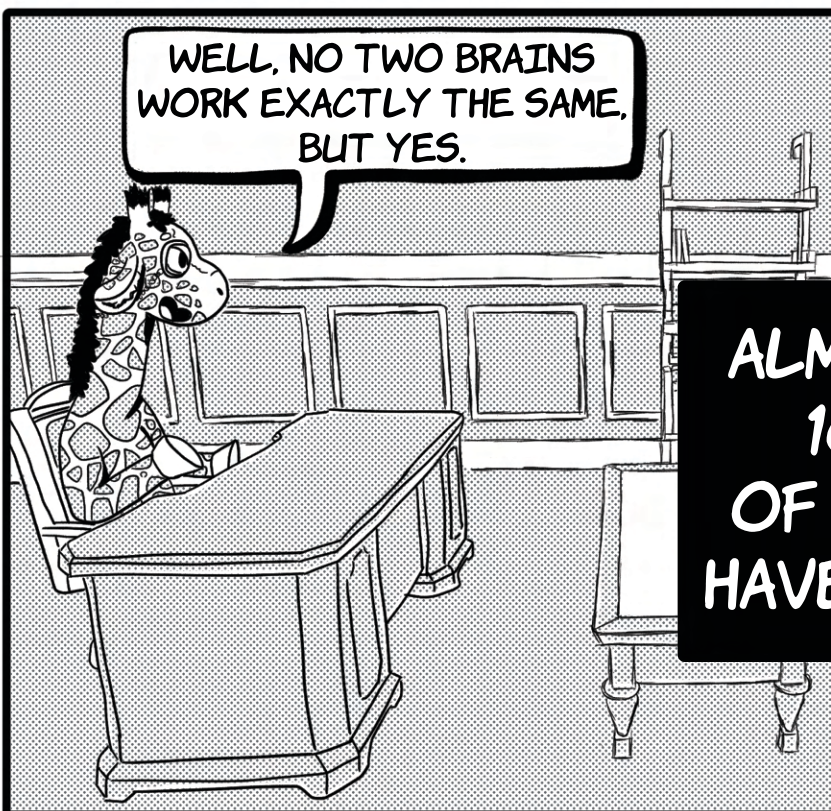
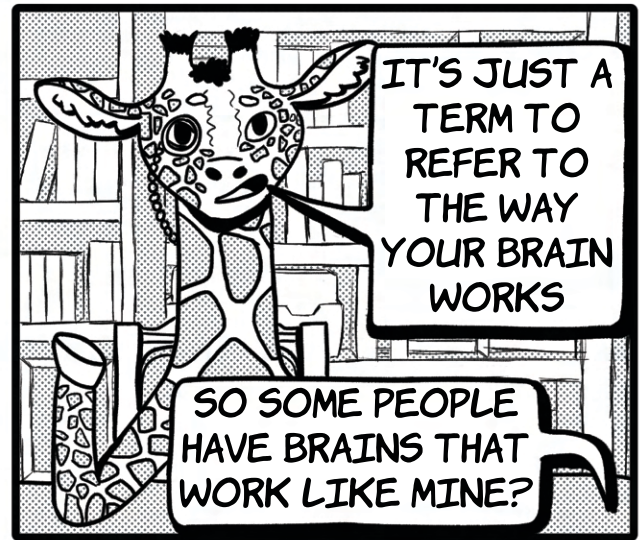
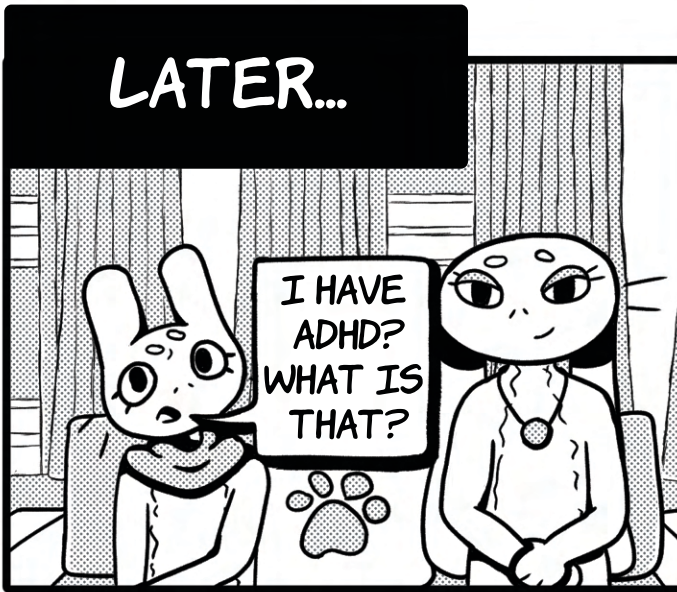
ALSO, SEEING A  
THERAPIST OR  
COUNSELOR CAN HELP  
YOU UNDERSTAND  
YOUR BRAIN BETTER,  
SO THAT YOU CAN  
FIND THE  
ACCOMMODATIONS  
THAT WORK BEST FOR  
YOU.



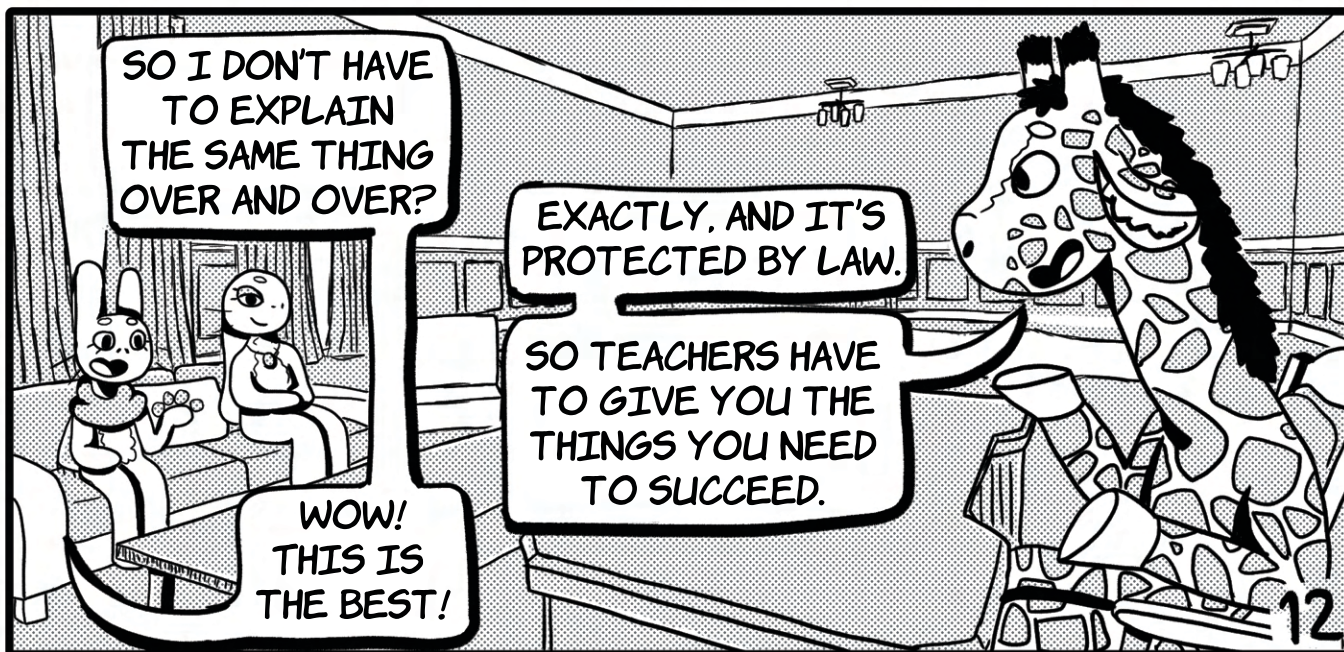
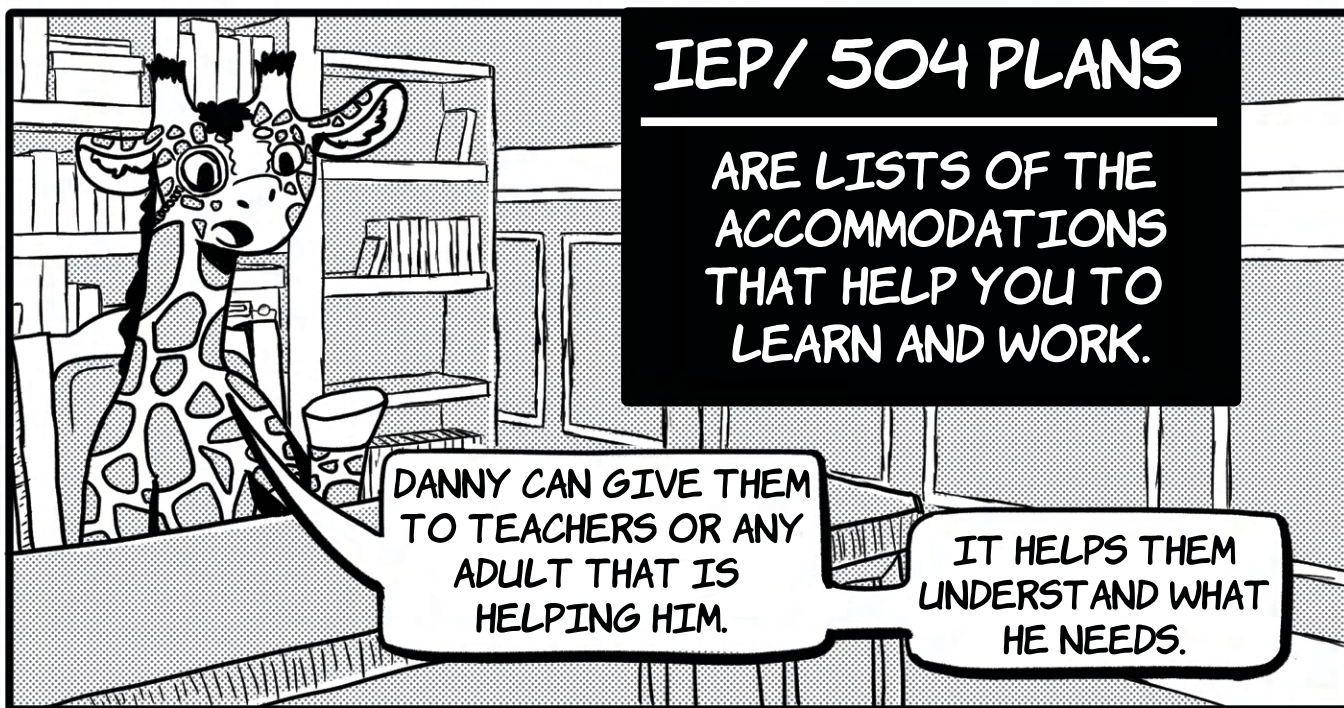
I CAN SEND SOME  
RESOURCES TO YOUR  
PARENTS IF THAT'S  
SOMETHING YOU'RE  
INTERESTED IN.

YEAH, OKAY!

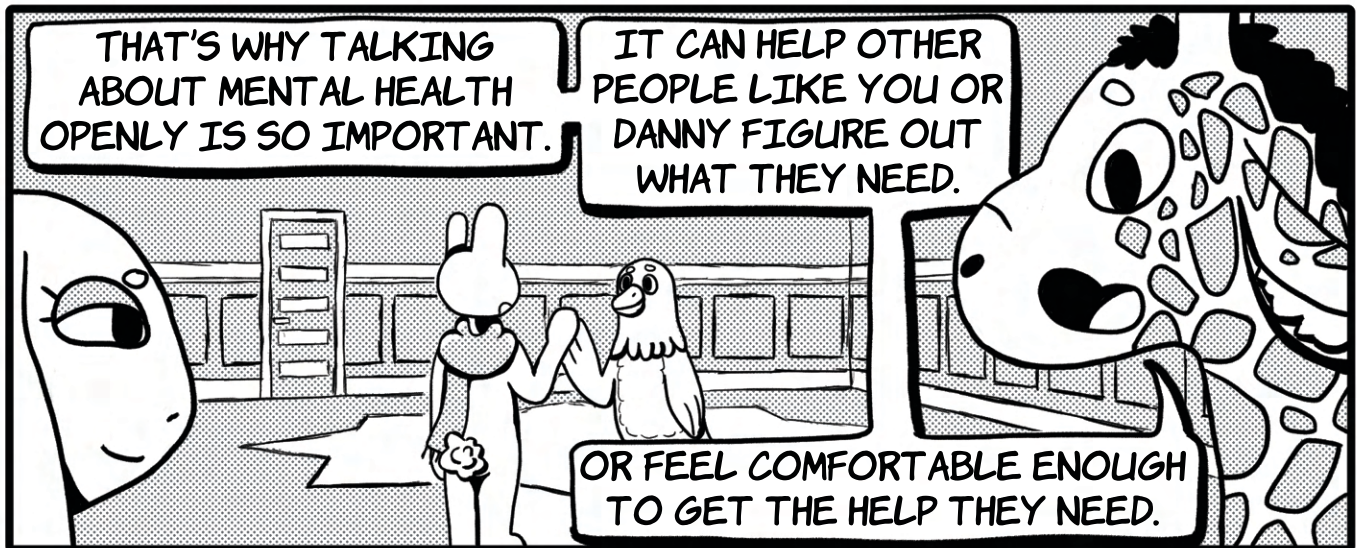






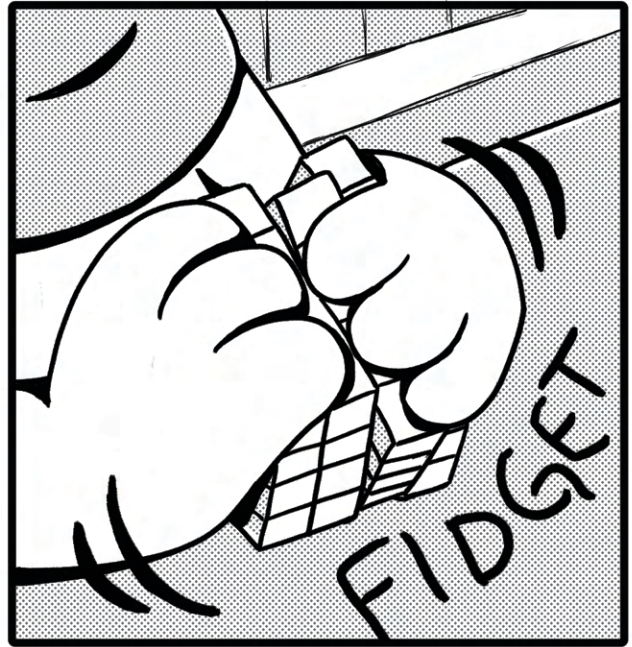
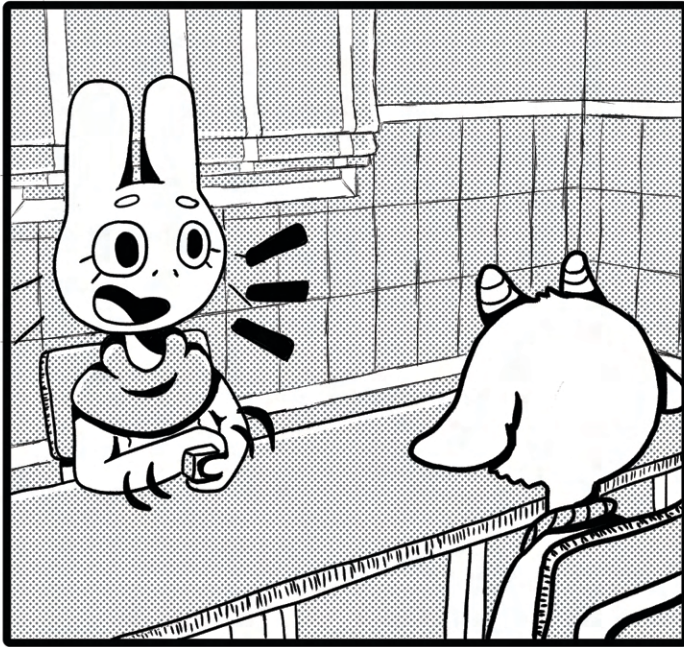




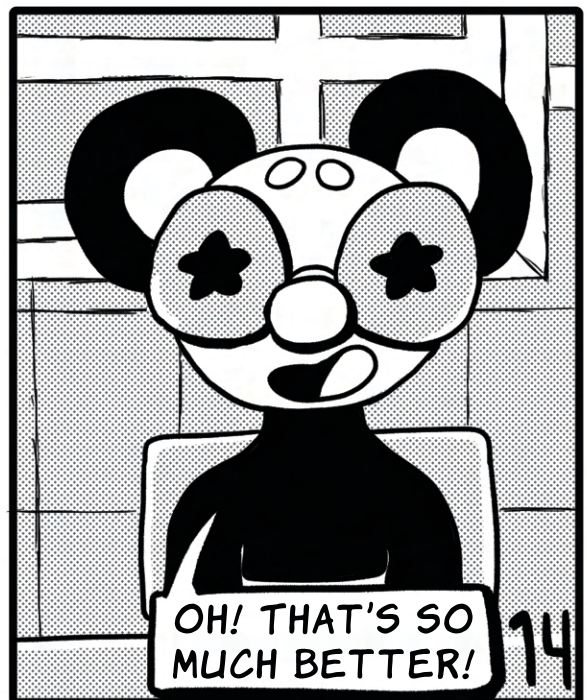
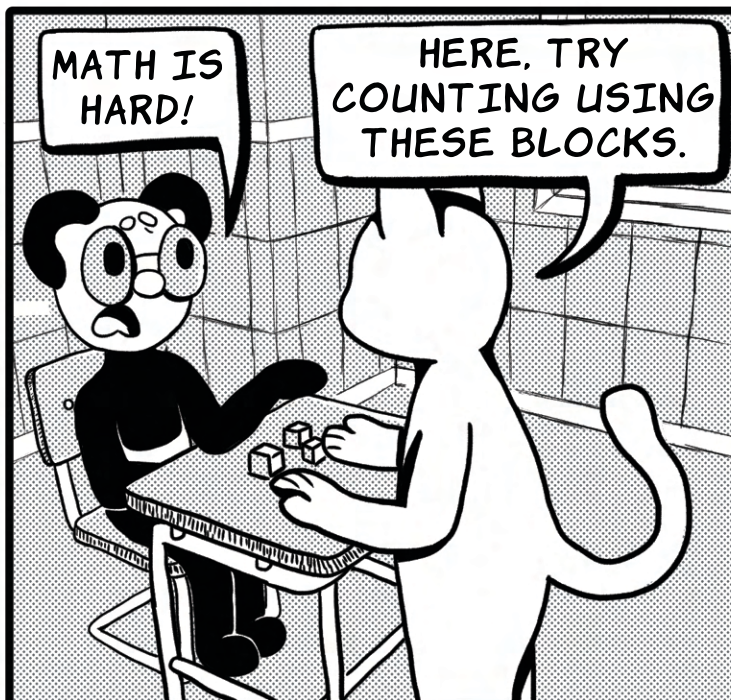




NOW THAT I UNDERSTAND HOW MY  
BRAIN WORKS A LITTLE BETTER, I  
DON'T FEEL SO LOST OR HELPLESS.



I REALIZE THAT EVERYONE  
LEARNS DIFFERENTLY

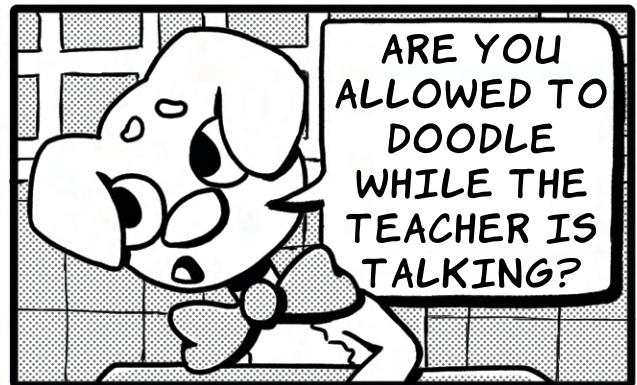




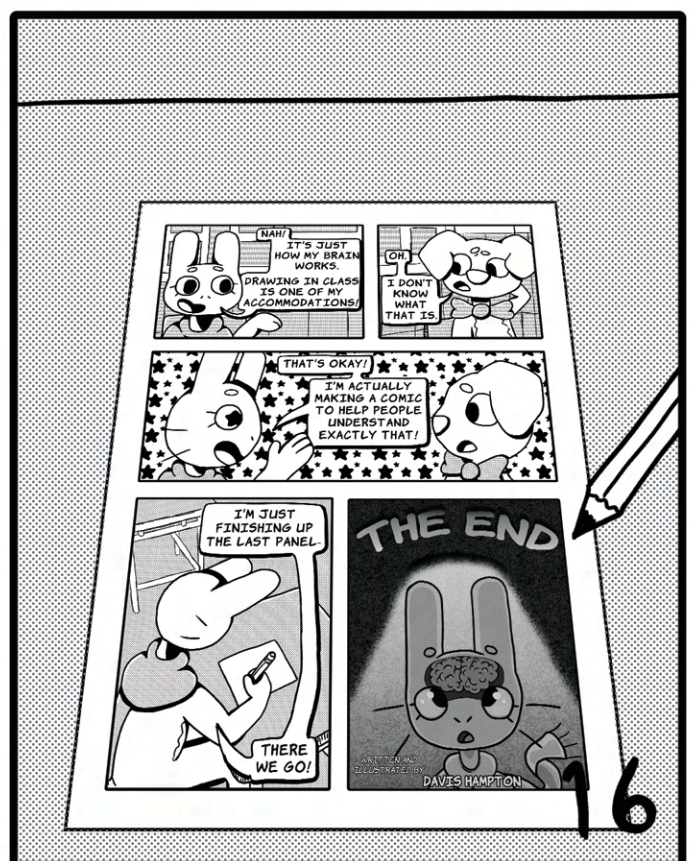
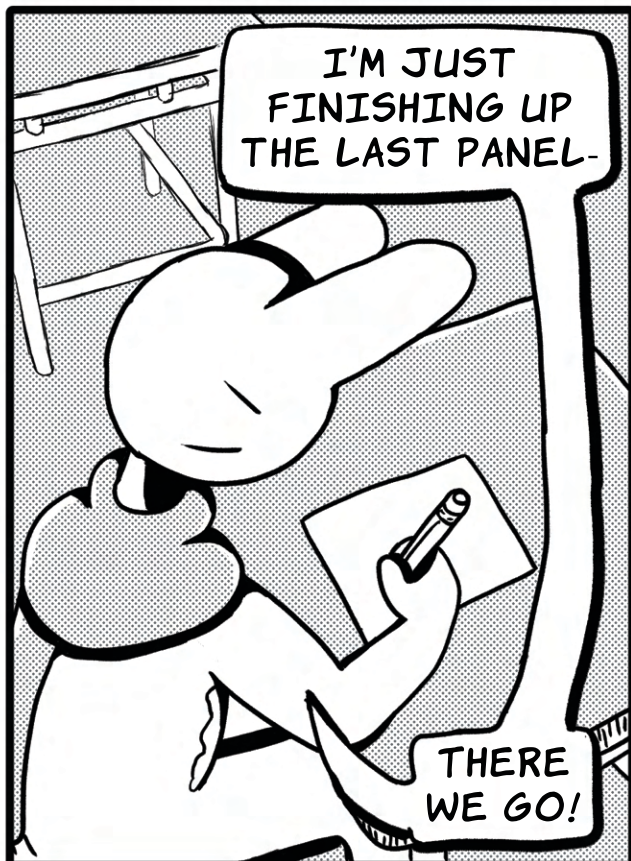
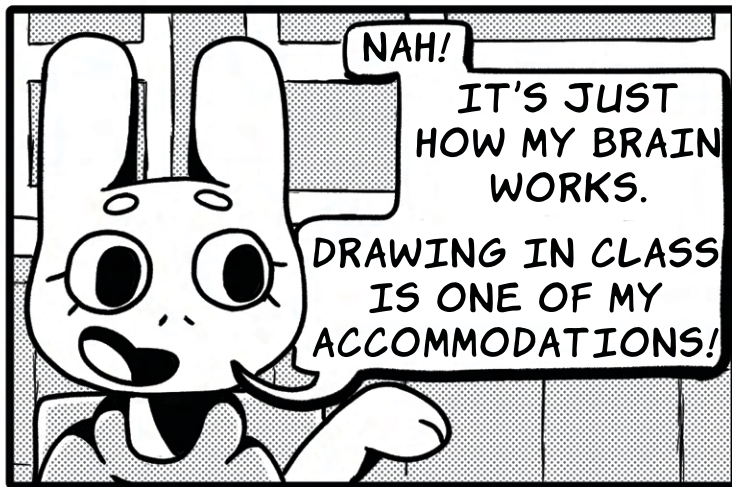
THAT WE ALL HAVE UNIQUE  
STRUGGLES AND ROADBLOCKS THAT  
WE HAVE TO NAVIGATE



AND THAT IT'S ALL ABOUT  
FINDING WHAT WORKS FOR YOU.

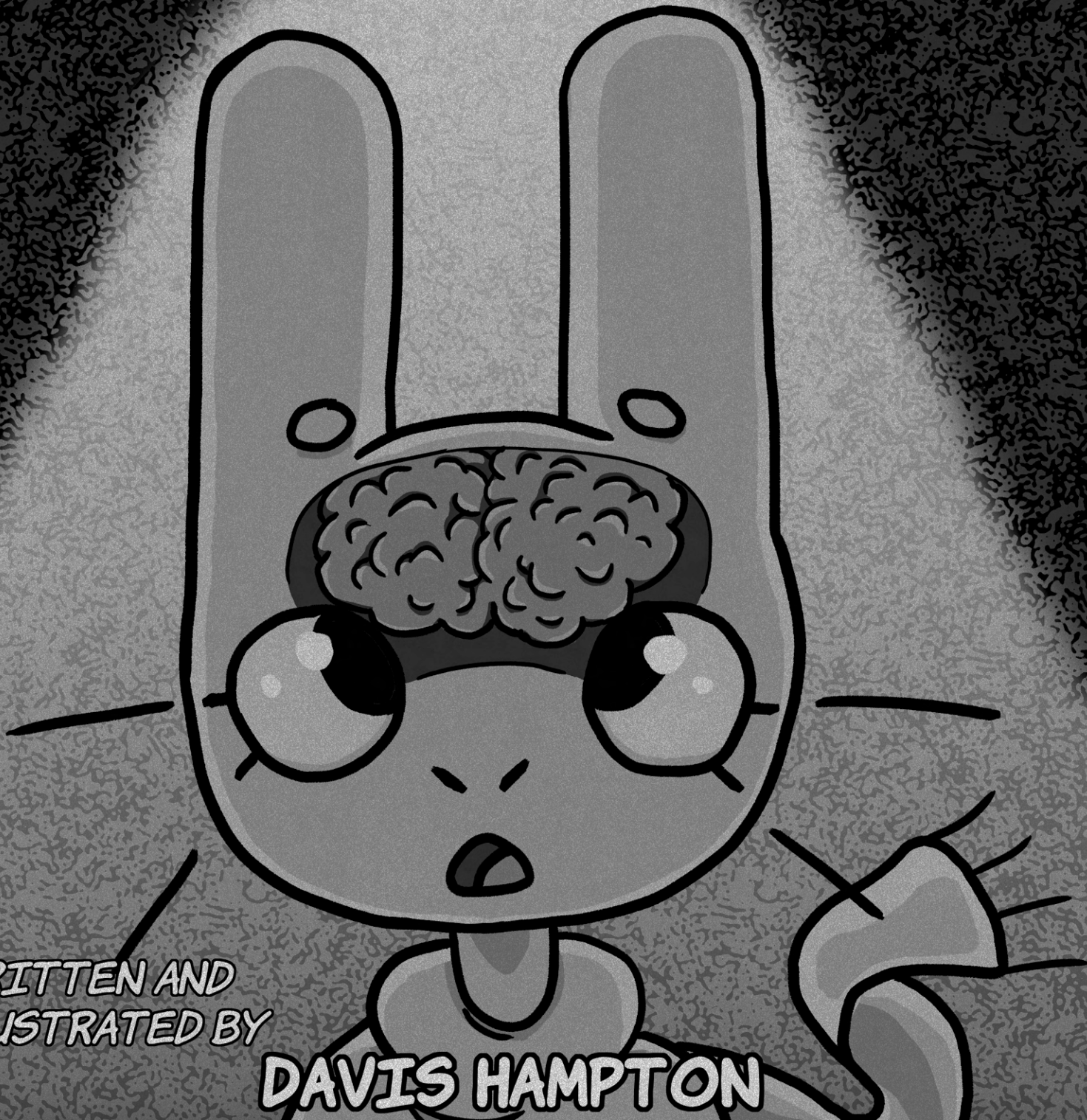








# THE END




WRITTEN AND  
ILLUSTRATED BY

DAVIS HAMPTON





This story written and illustrated by Davis Hampton



This **Cartoon for Peace and Justice** book on the theme of **Neurodiversity** is part of a project of **SOS (Save Our Souls) ART**.

The intent of the project is to create and publish cartoon books on a given theme of peace and justice, written and illustrated by **Greater Cincinnati Artists**. The books, written **for Children and Adults of any age**, are given **free to schools** to be shared with their students and to prompt, in the classroom, a discussion and education on the addressed topic.

If you would like to take part in this project and/or support SOS ART please check [\*\*sosartcincinnati.com\*\*](http://sosartcincinnati.com) and contact [\*\*sosartcincinnati@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:sosartcincinnati@gmail.com)

*SOS ART is a nonprofit 501c3 organization whose mission is to encourage, promote and provide opportunities and venues for the Arts as dynamic vehicles for Peace and Justice and for a Better World.*