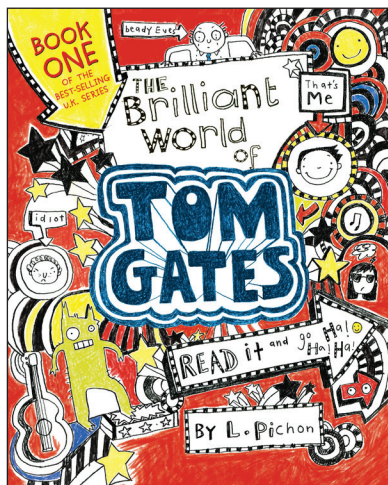


LESSON PLANS FOR THE

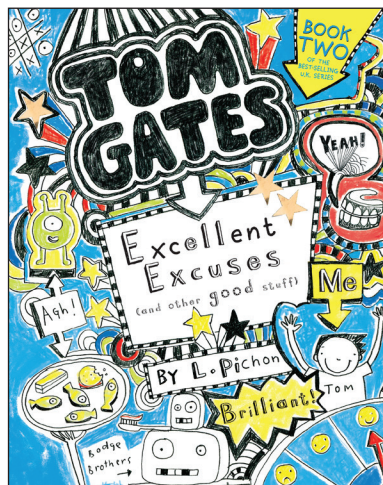
TOM GATES



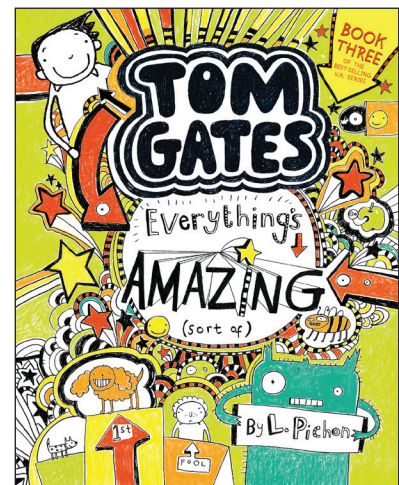
series by Liz Pichon



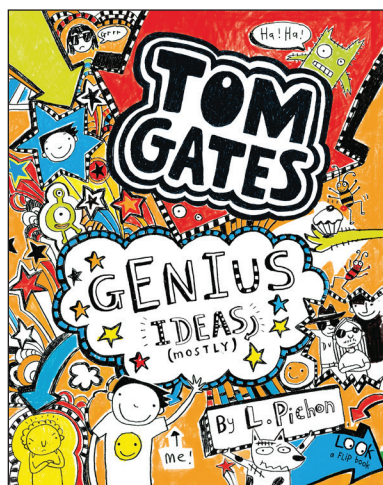
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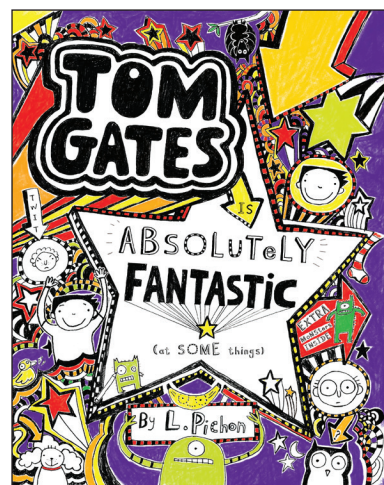
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LESSON 1

A Tiny Bit Fruity



Objectives

- To explore and experiment with a variety of artistic techniques and materials.
- To learn an artist's technique and apply it to their own work.

Activities

- Create string prints and cut-paper collages linked to the work of Matisse.

Resources

- Activity Sheet 1: The Crazy Fruit Bunch
- Activity Sheet 2: Drawing with Scissors
- Extract 1: from *Tom Gates: A Tiny Bit Lucky*
- Extract 2: from *Tom Gates Is Absolutely Fantastic (at Some Things)*
- Video: Liz Pichon demonstrates how to doodle a character from the Crazy Fruit Bunch on the Videos of Liz Pichon playlist at www.youtube.co.uk/scholasticfilmsuk.

Read Extract 1 from *Tom Gates: A Tiny Bit Lucky*,* where Tom's favorite TV show, *The Crazy Fruit Bunch*, is mentioned. Invite children to use the fruit outlines on Activity Sheet 1 to create their own Crazy Fruit Bunch. They can add funny faces, draw arms and legs, and invent names for the different characters. Share different examples with the class.

*This book is not yet available in the U.S., but you can complete the activity using the extract!

Task 1

Tom uses a length of string to create doodles of a snail and a monster. Provide each child with a piece of string and give them time to explore using it to produce different shapes. Explain that they are now going to create a permanent string doodle by gluing the string to a piece of card stock. Encourage them to draw the outline in pencil first and then use a brush to apply glue over the outline, sticking the string down as they go. Let dry completely.

Task 2

Once the string doodles are dry, they can be used to print repeating patterns. Apply paint to the doodles using a brush or sponge roller. Experiment with printing using different colored paints and backgrounds.

Task 3

Use Activity Sheet 2 to introduce children to Matisse's cutouts, especially *The Snail*. Provide strips of colored paper and scissors, then ask the children to create cutout collages in the style of Matisse. You can have them use the fruit shapes on Activity Sheet 1 for inspiration, re-creating shapes they can see in the fruit. Explain that their collages can be any color—Matisse's snail is multicolored.

Extension

In *Tom Gates Is Absolutely Fantastic (at Some Things)*, Tom starts a craze for banana doodles. Have the children read Extract 2, which shows them how to create banana doodles. Encourage them to re-create their Crazy Fruit Bunch characters on a banana.

LESSON 2

Monsters and Aliens



Objectives

- Choose appropriate presentational features for a calligram and be able to explain why these effects have been chosen.
- Choose words carefully for effective description.
- Explore how everyday objects can create chemical changes.

Activities

- Create monster calligrams and descriptions.
- Write messages in invisible ink.

Resources

- Activity Sheet 3: Monstrous Calligrams
- Activity Sheet 4: Monstrous Mash-Up
- Activity Sheet 5: Invisible Ink
- Activity Sheet 6: Comic Strip Template
- Extract 3: from *Tom Gates: Genius Ideas (Mostly)*
- Video: Liz Pichon demonstrates how to doodle calligrams on the Videos of Liz Pichon playlist at www.youtube.co.uk/scholasticfilmsuk.

A calligram is a word in which the design of the letters creates an image that relates to or illustrates the meaning of that word. Write the word *calligram* on the board and ask children if it reminds them of any other words. Explain that calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing, and a calligram shows the meaning of a word in the way it is written. The Tom Gates books are full of calligrams. Children can look through copies of the books to find examples, or can look at those provided on Activity Sheet 3.

Task 1

Invite children to create their own monstrous calligrams using the adjectives on Activity Sheet 3. Or, brainstorm your own words to use.

Task 2

Tom likes to draw monsters, often inspired by his irritating classmate Marcus Meldrew. Have children try this monstrous mash-up:

- Sort the children into groups of three and give each group a piece of paper.
- Without showing their work to the others, have one child draw the monster's head (or heads!) at the top of the page and then fold over the paper so that just the neck is showing.
- The next child draws the arms and body, then folds the paper over as before. The final member of the group draws the legs and feet.
- The paper can then be unfolded to reveal the monster. Have the group come up with a name for their monster.
- The group can then go back and write a monstrous description for each part of the monster's body.

Task 3

Cut out the description cards on Activity Sheet 4. Use these to inspire children to create their own monster pictures or models to match.

Task 4

Read Extract 3 from *Tom Gates: Genius Ideas (Mostly)*, where Tom creates his own monster alien code. Invite children to use Tom's code to write a secret message for a partner to decipher, or to inspire their own codes.

Task 5

Tom gets annoyed when Marcus looks at what he is writing or drawing. Follow the instructions on Activity Sheet 5 and use invisible ink for writing messages (or secret doodles!). Explain that the invisible ink works because the lemon juice is acidic. When it is painted on the paper, it weakens the paper, causing this part of the paper to turn brown more quickly when exposed to heat.

Extension

Use the comic strip template on Activity Sheet 6 to illustrate adventures for the monsters created in Tasks 2 and 3.

LESSON 3

Dude3



Objectives

- Work effectively in a group to design and make musical instruments.
- Compose and perform a piece of music to evoke particular responses.

Activities

- Build musical instruments that can be used in performances.
- Compose a musical score.
- Design T-shirts for children's own bands.

Resources

- Activity Sheet 7: Band T-Shirt
- Extract 4: from *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*
- Video: Liz Pichon demonstrates how to doodle the DogZombies band logo on the Videos of Liz Pichon playlist at www.youtube.co.uk/scholasticfilmsuk.

Tom's favorite musical group is Dude3. And he and his best friends are in a band called DogZombies. Look at Extract 4 from *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*, where Tom is brainstorming names for his band. Ask children to discuss with a partner what they would call their band if they had one.

Task 1

Ask children to work in groups to look at a range of musical instruments and then design and make their own from everyday objects. For example:

- Use a pin to make a small hole at the top and bottom of an egg and carefully blow out the contents into a bowl so that you are left with just the shell. Carefully enlarge one of the holes and insert some sunflower seeds or lentils. Insert a straw into the hole and tape it in place to make a handle. Cover your mini maraca in papier mâché, paint it, and shake it!
- Fill bottles with different amounts of liquid, then blow over the tops.
- Castanets can be made with bottle caps glued onto cardboard that is folded in half.
- A guitar can be made with elastic bands strung over a box.

Task 2

In *Tom Gates: Excellent Excuses (and Other Good Stuff)*, Tom watches some scary films with his cousins: *Vampire Swamp Monsters from Hell* and *Bloodsucker Beetles vs. Giant Aliens*. Ask children to imagine what kinds of sounds these creatures might make. Explore the different sound effects they can create using their voices, bodies, existing instruments, or the instruments they made in Task 1. Ask children to compose the score for one of these films. They should think about how they could record their score on paper using different symbols: for example, monster footprints to represent the different sounds.

Task 3

In *Tom Gates Is Absolutely Fantastic (at Some Things)*, Tom wins a competition in *Rock Weekly* to design a T-shirt for Dude3. Give children copies of Activity Sheet 7 and ask them to design a T-shirt for the band they named at the start.

LESSON 4

Snack Time



Objectives

- Use imperative verbs to write an instructional text.
- Estimate and calculate lengths using standard and non-standard units of measure.
- Identify fractions of quantities.

Activities

- Create revolting recipes.
- Estimate different lengths using cookies.
- Create a math activity board game.

Resources

- Activity Sheet 8 – Revolting Recipes
- Liz Pichon demonstrates how to doodle different cooking verbs on the Videos of Liz Pichon playlist at www.youtube.co.uk/scholasticfilmsuk.

Tom has a sweet tooth and always seems to be hungry. Invite children to brainstorm as many imperative cooking verbs as they can: for example, *simmer*, *season*, *stir*, *boil*, and so on.

Task 1

In *Tom Gates: A Tiny Bit Lucky*, Tom's class makes pizzas as part of enrichment week. But during the planning stage they come up with some very strange toppings, such as raspberry jam and chips. Granny Mavis is also known for her rather unappetizing recipes, such as Chicken and Cornflake Surprise. In this activity, children will create their own recipes for Granny Mavis.

Have the children pair up and give each team a copy of Activity Sheet 8. Ask them to cut out the food cards, shuffle them, and place them facedown on a table. Have them take turns flipping over the cards in order to come up with combinations, then write out a recipe using the imperative verbs from the lesson starter.

Task 2

Tom's favorite food is caramel wafers, which are a type of cookie. So use cookies as the basis for some tasty math. Develop children's estimation skills by asking them to predict different lengths using cookies as a unit of measure. For example, how many cookies long is the table? How many cookies would you need to put end to end to cross the classroom? Then measure the length of a cookie in centimeters and calculate the exact distances using multiplication.

Give groups of children a selection of different cookies and a large piece of paper. Ask them to use the cookies to create an image—for example, a face, a train, or a guitar. Then ask them to record what fraction of the whole image has been made with each type of cookie. Can these fractions be expressed in a simpler form? Arrange the fractions in order from least to greatest. You can have students create word problems based on the fractions or express the fractions as decimals. Whether or not you eat the cookies afterward is up to you!

Task 3

The inside covers of *Tom Gates: Extra Special Treats (Not)* feature Snakes and Ladders board games based on events in the book. Set groups of children the challenge of designing and making a Tom Gates Snakes and Wafers board game (substituting wafers for the usual ladders). Explain that when you go down a snake you have to answer a math challenge card, and when you go up a wafer you can turn over a doodle challenge card. The children should devise their own questions for the challenge cards, drawing on what they have been learning in math.

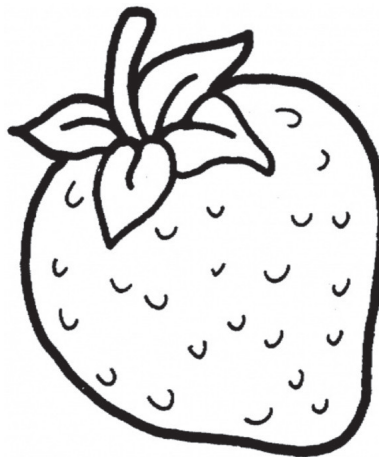
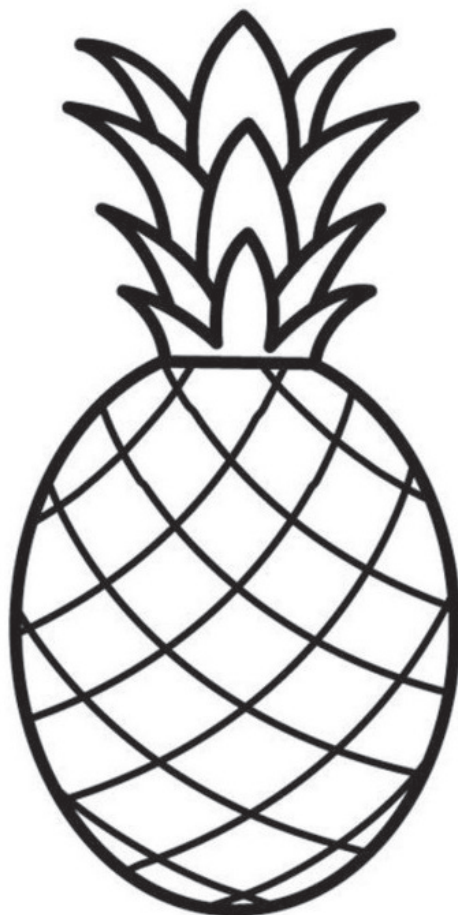
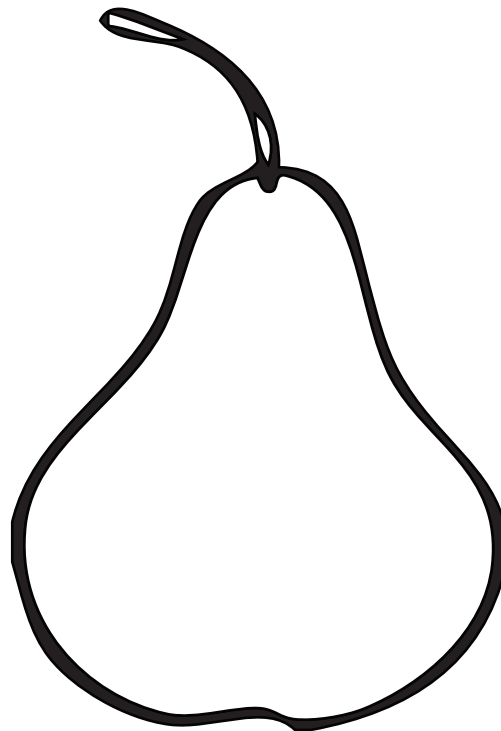
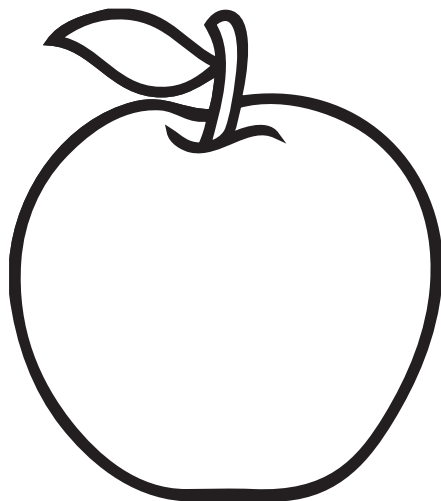
Extension

Give children the opportunity to play one another's games and evaluate one another's challenge cards.

ACTIVITY SHEET 1

The Crazy Fruit Bunch

Add features to these fruits to create your own characters. Then use the shapes you see in these fruits to create your own cutout collages.



ACTIVITY SHEET 2

Drawing with Scissors

Henri Matisse (1869–1954) was a French artist. He was a great painter, but toward the end of his life he had to spend a lot of time in bed. For this reason, he started to create artwork using scissors and brightly colored paper. Most of his cutouts are free-form shapes, which means that they are irregular rather than geometric. Matisse spent a lot of time exploring the arrangement of different shapes and colors on the paper, layering them before he glued them down to create his finished pieces.

The colored shapes in Matisse's collage *The Snail* make a spiral, just like the shape of a snail's shell.



ACTIVITY SHEET 3

Monstrous Calligrams

The Tom Gates books are full of calligrams. Here are some examples:

TWYGS?

RELAXING

GIANT

rumbling

Now choose one of the words below and try to create your own monstrous calligram.

monstrous

terrifying

slimy

alien

hairy

devilish

toothy

scaly

ACTIVITY SHEET 4

Monstrous Mash-Up

Cut out the description cards below and use these to inspire children to create their own monster pictures or models to match.



THE GREEN SLIME MONSTER drops revolting, shiny glop everywhere he goes. He has four fearful heads, each one with a single bulging eye.

THE LONG-NECKED ZEBROID is stripy and has a very long neck that can be tied in knots. She has three legs with hooves.

THE SPRINGY ZOOM MONSTER has two springs instead of legs. He bounces everywhere he goes. He also has three purple fangs.

THE FIZZY-FUZZER is covered with pink and purple fluff. When he opens his small mouth, bright green bubbles come out.

THE SCALY SLOOP MONSTER has two heads, each with three long antennae. His skin is scaly and rainbow colored. He likes eating bananas.

THE DODECA-SUCKER is a fearful monster with twelve tentacles. Each one has a powerful sucker on the end, allowing the monster to climb any surface.

THE GIANT SQUIDGE is an enormous blob that changes shape to fit in any space. He has three triangular eyes and long eyelashes.

THE THREE-TALONED DEMON has three feet at the end of each leg, each with three long talons. He also has a spiky tail.

THE SHARKY STINGER has a large dorsal fin like a shark and lots of spiky teeth. She runs very fast and shoots poisonous darts from her tail.

THE SMELLY SOCK MONSTER can be sniffed out long before she is seen. She has five feet, each covered in a brightly colored, extremely stinky sock.

ACTIVITY SHEET 5

Invisible Ink

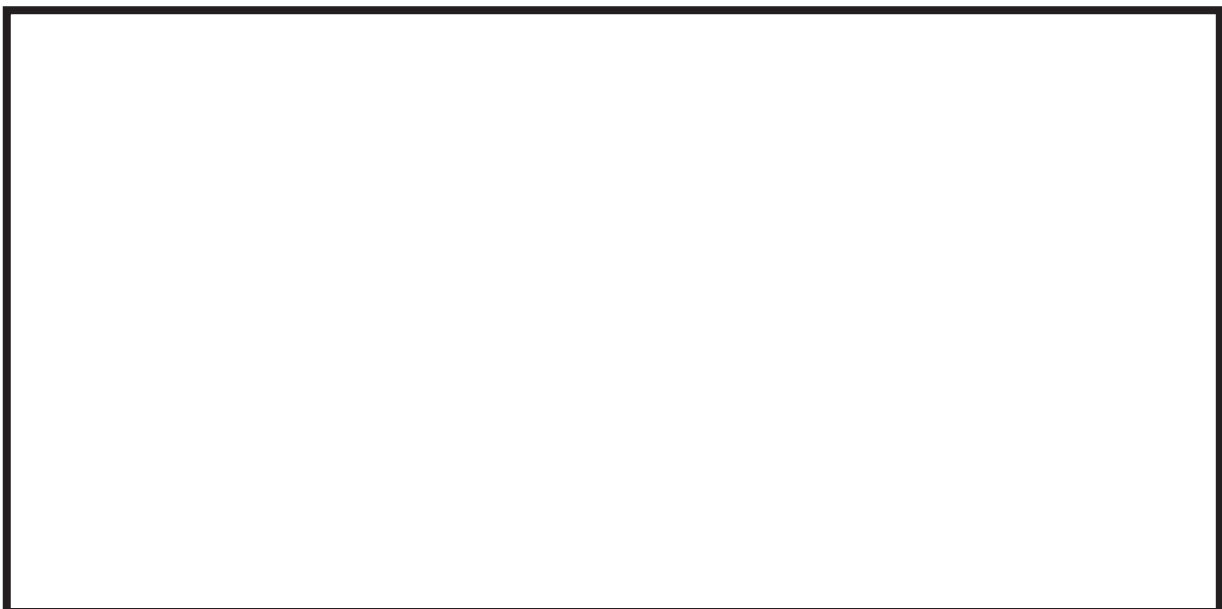
Create your own letters using invisible ink.

You will need:

- lemon juice
- cotton swabs
- hair dryer

What to do:

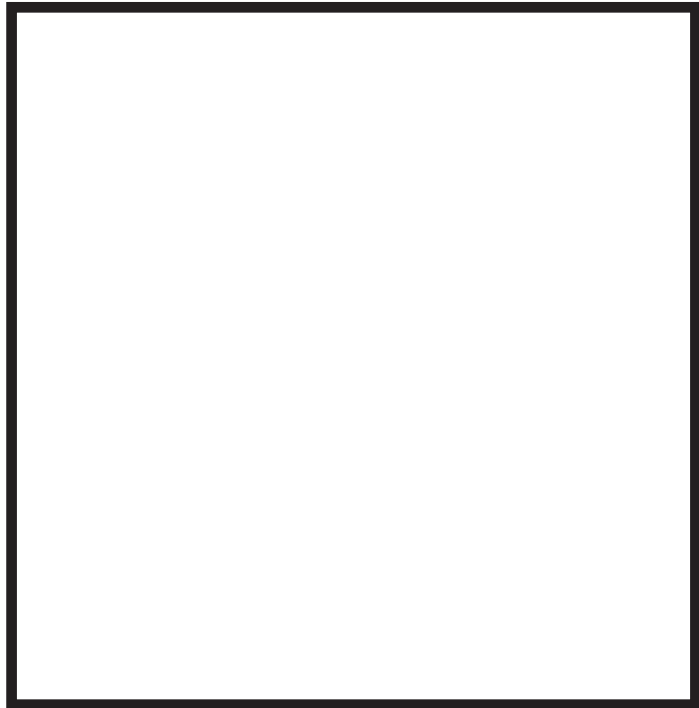
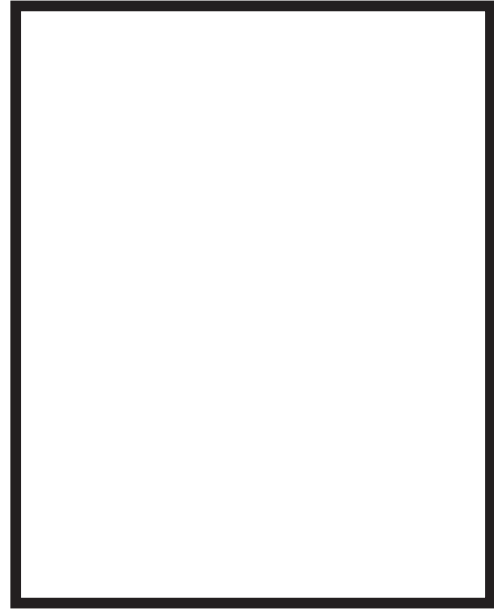
- Dip a cotton swab in the lemon juice and use it to write an invisible message in the box below.
- Wait for the lemon juice to dry completely, then swap your sheet with a classmate.
- Using a hair dryer on a hot setting, heat the paper and wait for the messages to be revealed.
- What does your friend's message say?



ACTIVITY SHEET 6

Comic Strip Template

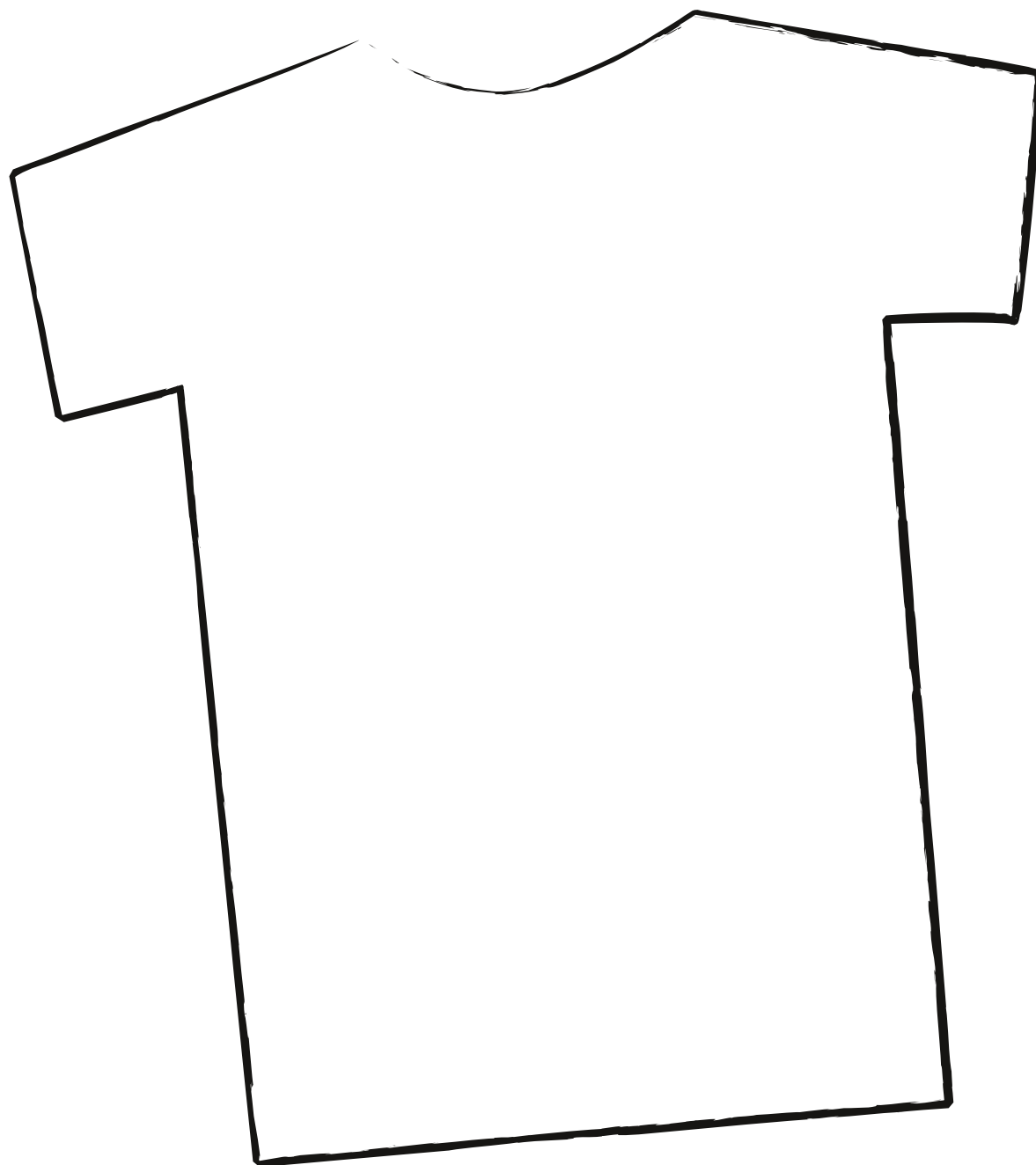
Create your very own comic strip starring your monsters!



ACTIVITY SHEET 7

Band T-Shirt

Design a T-shirt for your band!



ACTIVITY SHEET 8

Revolting Recipes

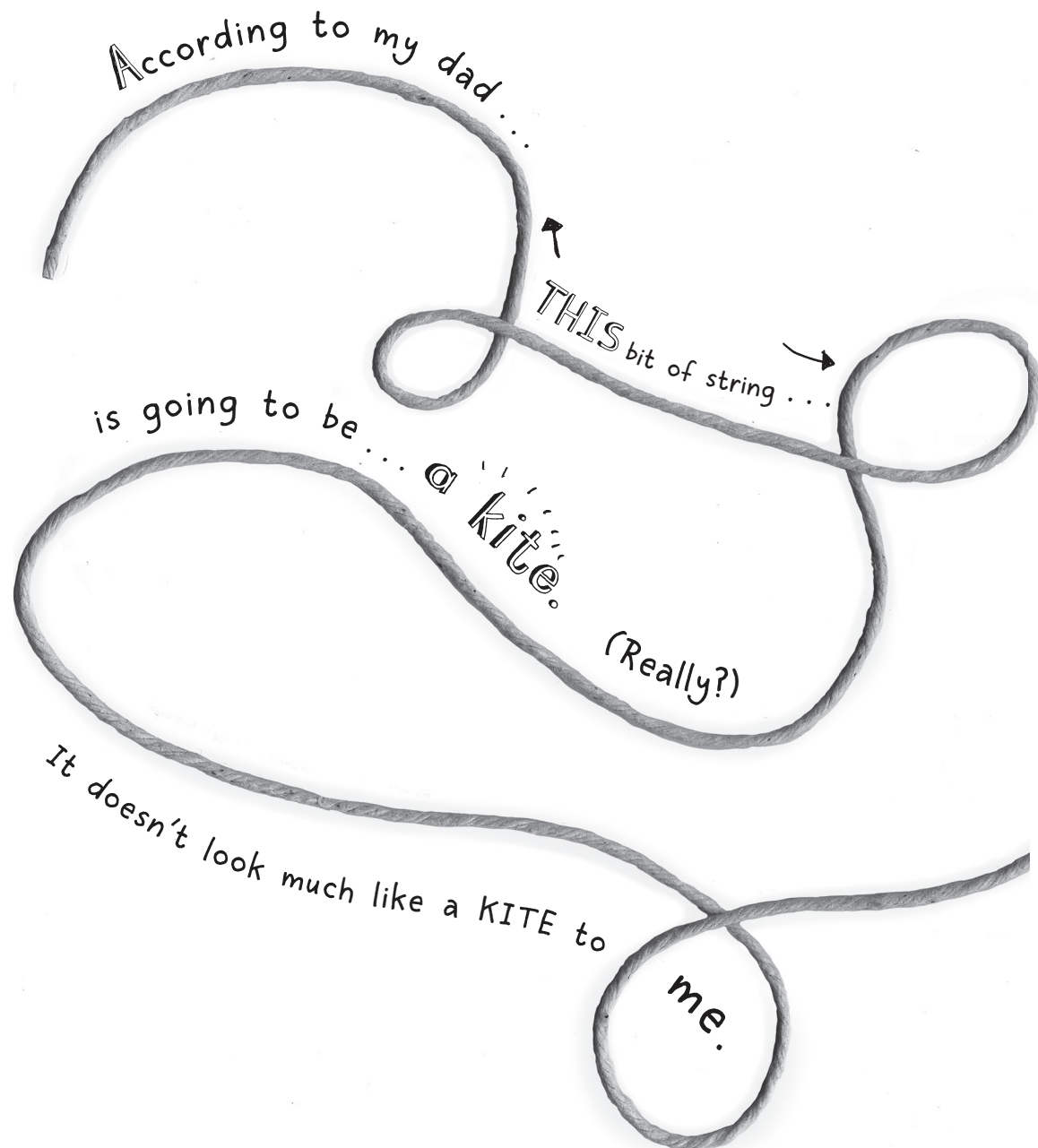
Design some unusual food combinations for Granny Mavis using the food cards below.

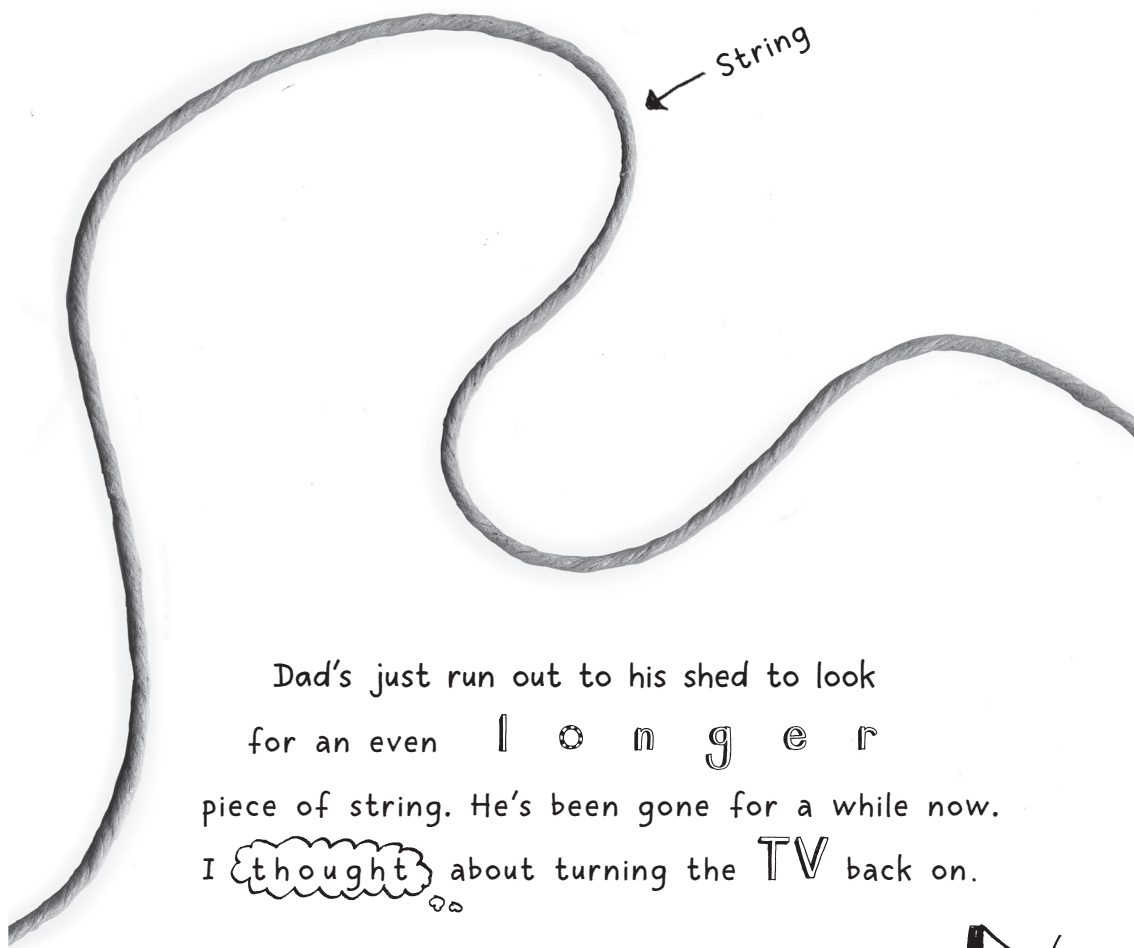


| | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------|
| cabbage | lasagna | rolls |
| banana | biscuits | chips |
| soup | stew | spaghetti |
| cornflakes | meringues | pie |
| kebabs | chocolate | in white wine |
| sandwiches | meatballs | eggplant |
| yogurt | casserole | cakes |
| quiche | peanut | carrot |
| lettuce | porridge | vol-au-vents |
| sausages | lentils | pasta |
| omelette | fritters | custard |

EXTRACT 1

from *Tom Gates: A Tiny Bit Lucky*

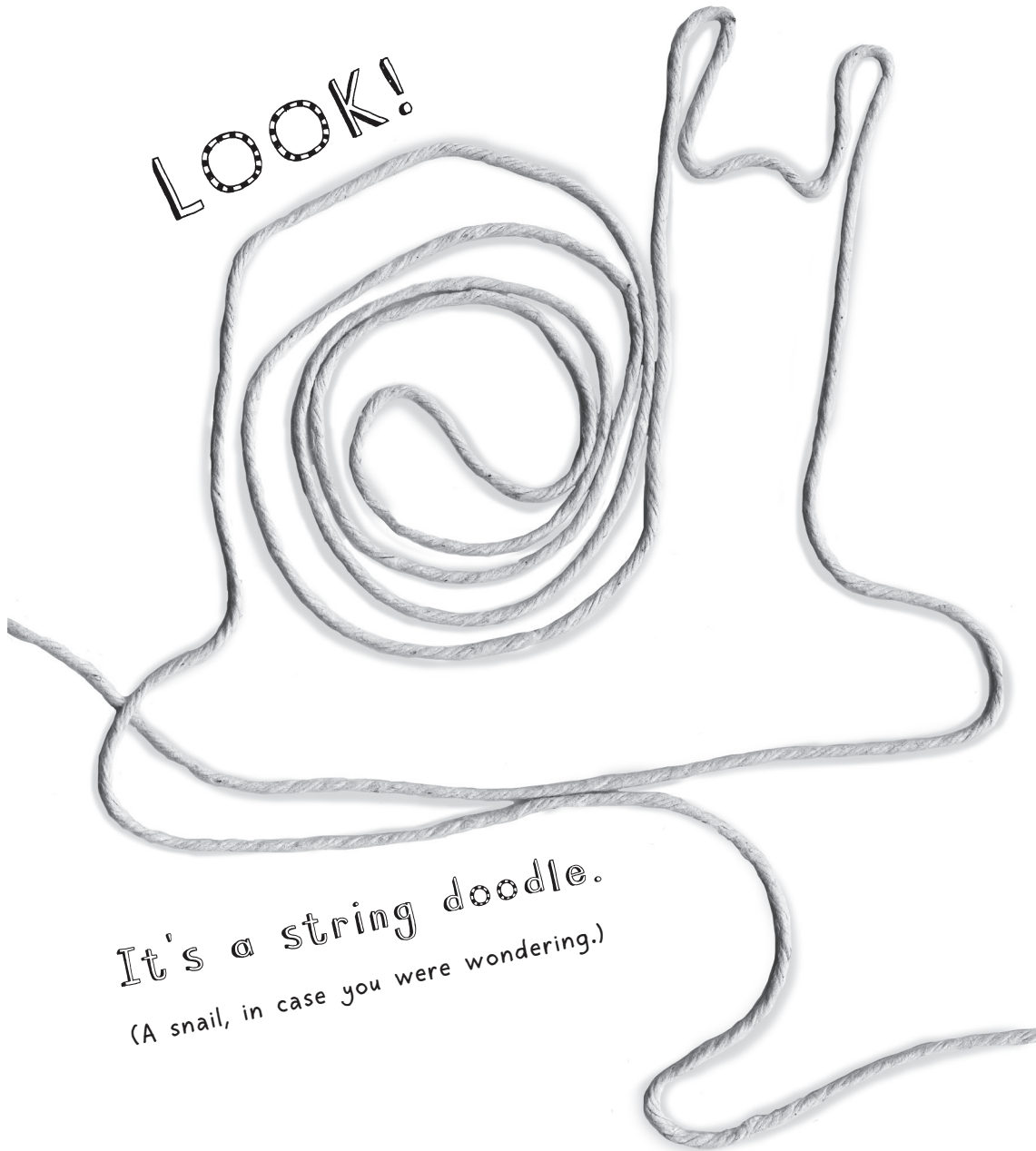




Dad's just run out to his shed to look
for an even l o n g e r
piece of string. He's been gone for a while now.
I *thought* about turning the TV back on.

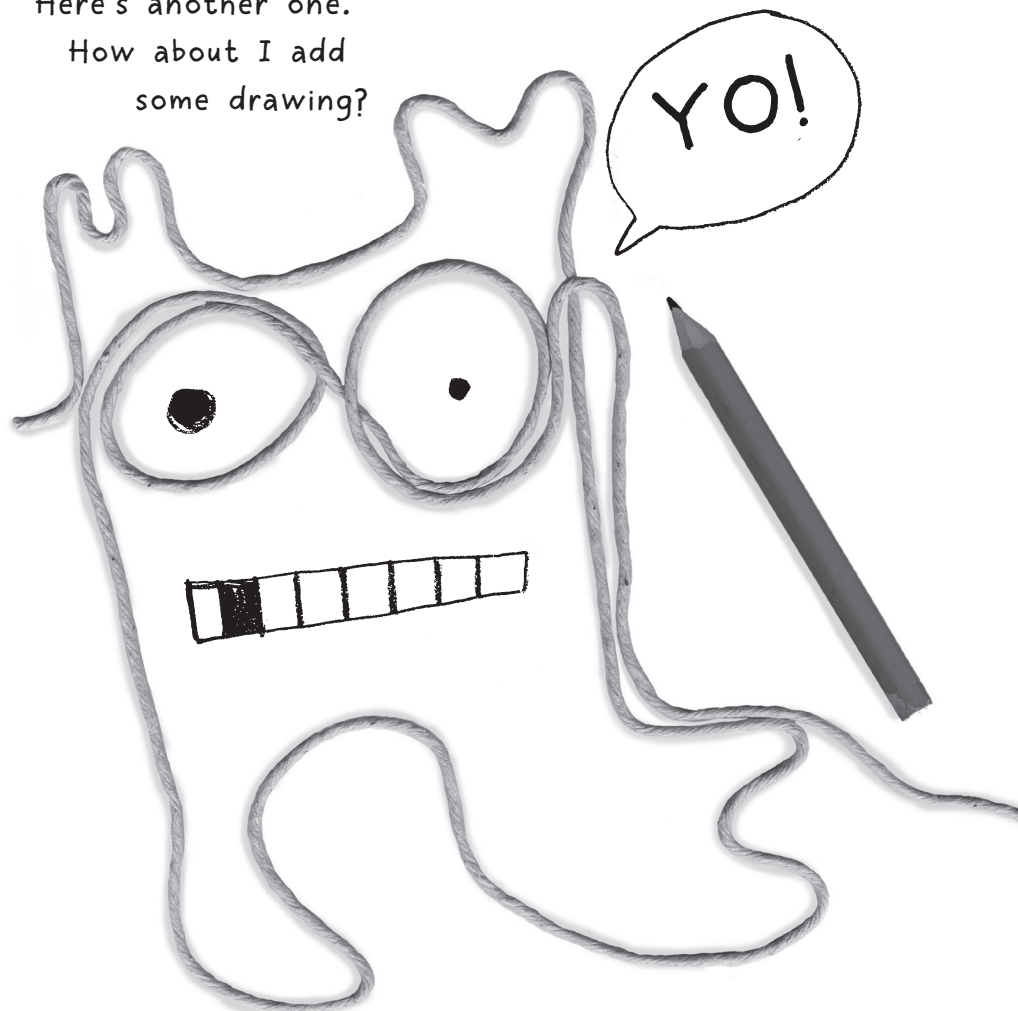
But instead, I did **THIS...**

LOOK!



It's a string doodle.
(A snail, in case you were wondering.)

Here's another one.
How about I add
some drawing?



Brilliant! (If I do say so myself.)

Who knew string could be so useful?

(Apart from my Granny Mavis, of course.)

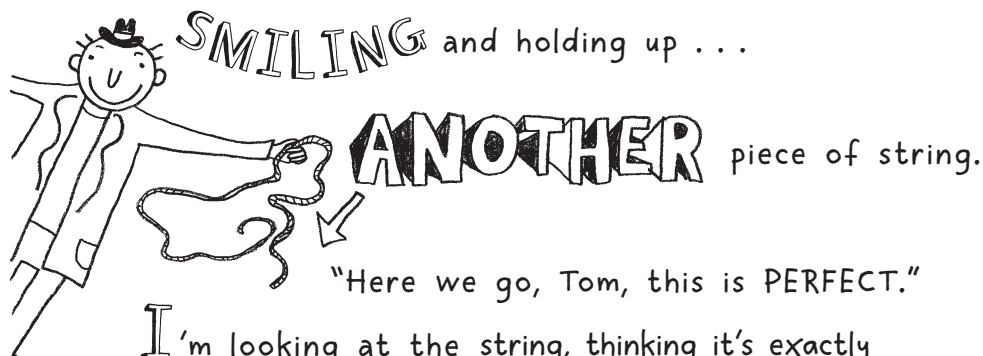


The **NEXT** time I'm in a lesson that gets a bit ^{cloud}dull ☹️☹️ (which happens), I'm going to bring out my **EMERGENCY** piece of

 **STRING** and make a few doodles. That way it'll look like I'm REALLY busy.



When Dad comes back from the shed he's 😊 **SMILING** and holding up . . .



I'm looking at the string, thinking it's exactly the same as the **OTHER** piece.

"That's great, Dad," I say, trying to sound enthusiastic (and failing).



NORMALLY I LOVE making things (like my string doodles). But Dad came and interrupted me when I was RIGHT in the middle of watching



the **BEST** cartoon show **EVER**.

He stood in front of the **TV** and started shaking his head in a disapproving kind of way.



"**TOM**, why are you stuck inside watching **TV** when it's **SUCH** a lovely day?" he wanted to know.





Firstly = it was NOT a lovely day. It was damp and cold.






Secondly = I was watching **TV** because





was on and it's

HILARIOUS!

But I didn't say that. I just kept my  EYES
fixed on the  screen and shrugged.

There are  many things you could be doing
instead of  at a  screen.
Come on, , turn off the .



 "Aww, Dad! That's not  FAIR. Can't I just
finish watching my cartoon?" I asked him.

"Honestly, Tom, when I was your age, I was ALWAYS
outside running around in the fresh air. I hardly
 EVER watched ,



he told me proudly.

"That's because  hadn't been invented when
you were my age, Dad."



(He is quite old, after all.)

EXTRACT 2

from *Tom Gates Is Absolutely Fantastic (at Some Things)*

How to do

a **BANANA** doodle



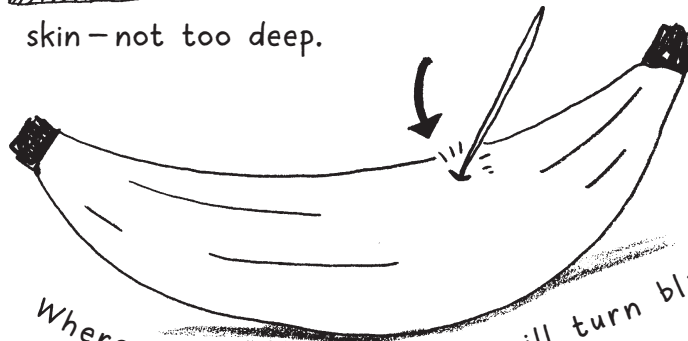
Take a banana and a toothpick

(mind the sharp ends).

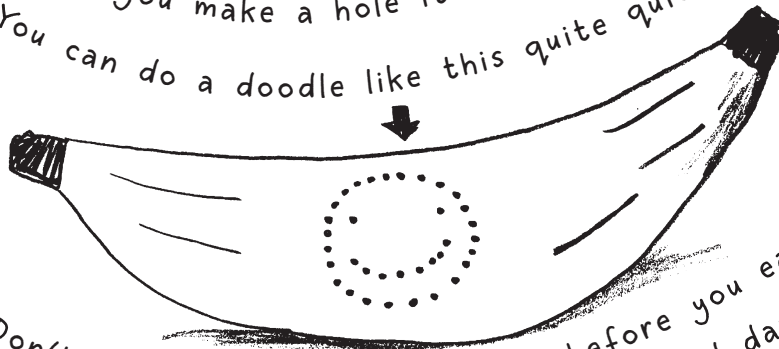
Carefully

push the stick into the banana

skin – not too deep.



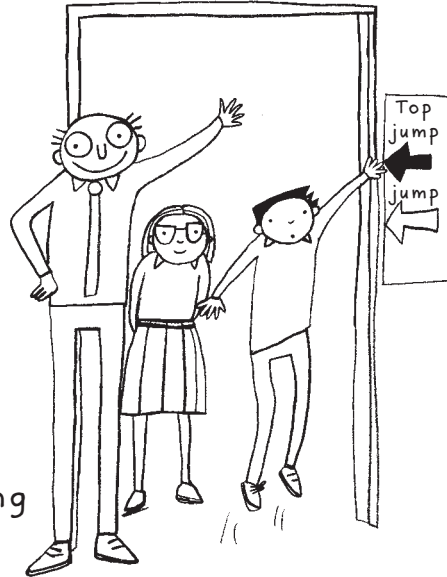
Where you make a hole it will turn black.
You can do a doodle like this quite quickly.




Don't leave the banana too long before you eat it,
as the doodle will go darker and darker
(then go moldy –
yuck).

EXTRACT 3

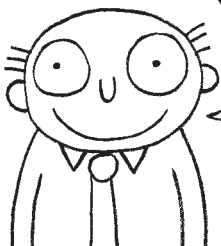
from *Tom Gates: Genius Ideas (Mostly)*



Back in class,
Mr. Fullerman has found
yet another way of making
us do EXTRA practice for
SPORTS DAY. We all have to jump up
and touch the arrow before he lets us come
into class. 

Then he explains to the class what
we'll be doing today.

**First of all, you need to write the WHOLE
alphabet out, and underneath each letter,
make up your own symbols. Remember
when we looked at the Egyptian
hieroglyphics?**





That's what I want you all to do.

I

thought it sounded a bit dull.



Zzzzzzzz yawn yawn . . . I was getting

ready to start a new doodle . . .

when **Mr. F**ullerman gave us some examples
of a SECRET MESSAGE written in code.

We had to work out what the message
said. It was **BRILLIANT!**

Crack the secret code below, then make up your
OWN CODE for the alphabet.



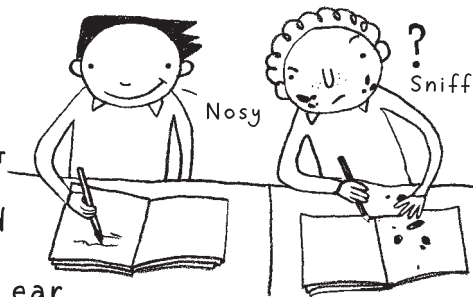
Answer: HARD WORK



Next, we have to invent our OWN CODE.

Which could be VERY useful, especially if I don't want certain people to know what I'm writing about. . . .

Marcus is LOOKING at what I'm doing and SNIFFING right by my ear.



I tell him to stop doing both and he says, "I'm busy concentrating on my own code" (he's not).

His pen has started to leak and it's



leaving ink on his hands, which

he keeps putting on his face.

I try and tell him what he's doing.

But he ignores me and says

Whatever.

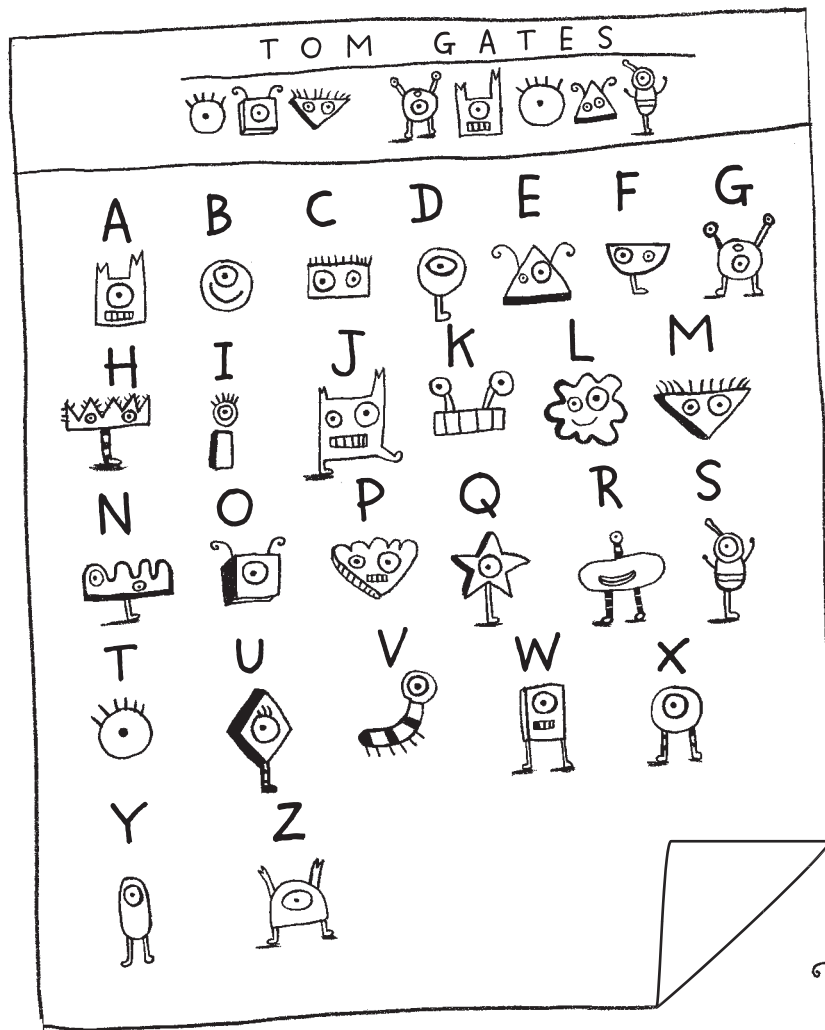
(I did try.)



I spend the rest of the lesson making up my own

MONSTER ALIEN

code. Which I am VERY pleased with!



EXTRACT 4

from *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*

How about ALIEN TWINS? FOOT FIGHTERS?
I know . . . DOGZOMBIES.



About the Author-Illustrator L. PICHON



L. Pichon says that when she was little, she loved to draw and, according to her mom, was very good at making messes. She adds that both of these things are still true today. She studied graphic design at Middlesex Polytechnic and the Camberwell College of

Arts, in London, and has worked in the music industry as a designer and art director. Her work as a freelance illustrator has appeared on a variety of products, from beach towels to fabric, calendars, mugs, games, and greeting cards.

She is the author-illustrator of several picture books, including *My Big Brother, Boris*, which won a Smarties Book Prize Silver Award. *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*, her debut book for middle readers, has been a bestseller in the U.K. and received several prestigious awards there, including a Roald Dahl Funny Prize, a Waterstones Children's Book Prize, and a Red House Children's Book Award.

L. Pichon lives in Brighton, England, with her husband and three children.

A Conversation with L. PICHON



How did the idea for Tom Gates come about?

It started off as a picture-book idea, based on a scrapbook that had lots of drawings and bits and pieces stuck in it. That's where Tom's voice first appeared (and Mrs. Worthington too, with her slightly hairy top lip). But the publishers wanted more of a story. So I wrote one about Tom Gates and put it in a journal with some doodles on the cover. Publishers liked the format and quite liked the story but they didn't think the two went together. So finally I bought three school exercise books and imagined that Tom was writing and drawing in them himself, with Mr. Fullerman looming over his shoulder and Marcus Meldrew being annoying. Luckily the publishers really liked this idea, so I got to write a whole story with all the drawings and doodles.

Tom is quite a smart aleck, but also very sharp in his observations. Is he based on anyone you know?

Slightly on me as a child, but also my son. I can remember what some of the boys were like in both my old schools, too. Tom is a combination of lots of different characters, really.

How do you go about creating the Tom Gates books, and what tools do you use?

First I get all the ideas I have collected in various notebooks and on sticky notes and begin doing random drawings to see if they spark any storylines. If they do, I use really thin paper, called layout paper, to do the drawings on, and ordinary paper with a soft pencil and eraser to do the writing. I write as if I'm writing in an exercise book. Every page is handwritten with the rough story and drawings. It takes a while, but time flies when it's going well. For the final artwork, I scan each page into the computer and sometimes boost up the black-and-white lines to make them stronger. I might add more typefaces to make a point in the book, too. Both of the main fonts in the book are made from my own handwriting.

When *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* won the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, it was described as "brilliantly laugh-out-loud funny" by Francesca Simon, author of the Horrid Henry books. Who were your favorite authors when you were growing up, and which funny books would you recommend?

I was pleased to bits with all the nice comments about my book! When I was younger, I loved Spike Milligan's *Silly Verse for Kids* and all of Roald Dahl's books. My favorite of his was probably *The Twits*. But I was also a massive fan of Richard Scarry's drawings and stories. I found all the creatures and the details he added to be fascinating and funny.

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