ACTIVITY #1

Let’s look at some comics! Find some comics in old newspapers or magazines, or online. There are already two comics on this page! Once you find some comics, decide which ones you like and what parts of them you like (the style, the characters, the setting, etc.). Ask yourself the following:

- how do all the parts of the comic work together?
- how do comic artists show feelings and actions?
- how do comics tell jokes? What makes some comics funny?

ACTIVITY #2

Choose your story! In our next session, we will be making our own comics. But that means you have to choose what story to tell! Here are some tips:

- Think of a story from your life—funny, serious or somewhere in between.
- Keep your story short and simple!
- Make a list of characters, settings and objects you will need to draw.
ACTIVITY #3

Time to draw it out! This session is for you to practice, practice, practice.

Take the characters, settings and objects in your story and start some rough sketching. Stick figures are fine!

Practice different versions of characters or different facial expressions of the same characters. Experiment with different ways to draw your settings - it doesn’t have to be perfect!
It's time to put your characters into action- that means framing them in little boxes called panels.

Use a ruler to draw four panels (boxes) on a blank piece of paper. Then fill them in using the story you practiced last session. Remember to leave room for the words! Here are some tips:

- **Use facial expressions**: Some comics use only faces to illustrate their stories!
- **Use body posture**: For some comic artists it's more about action than emotion.
- **Use both!**: One panel might show a ball falling on a girl’s head, and the next panel might show a close-up of her face as she reacts.

Add some words to your comic! There are three main ways to do this:

- **Dialogue**: Use ovals connected to the character with a fine line, and make sure you make it so that the character on the left speaks first (so the comic reads from left to right)
- **Thought bubbles**: Show character’s thoughts by putting them in ovals connected to a character’s head with small bubble circles
- **Narrative below the panels**: Describe what is happening below each panel.

Once you are finished drawing out your comic, feel free to add color!