

THE Pencil Pusher



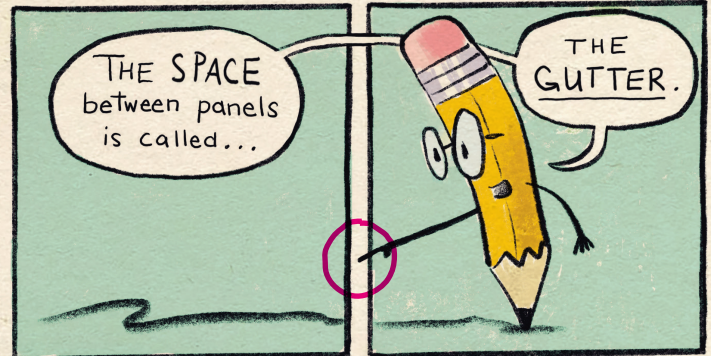
For Creative Kids!

Comics Are Clever!

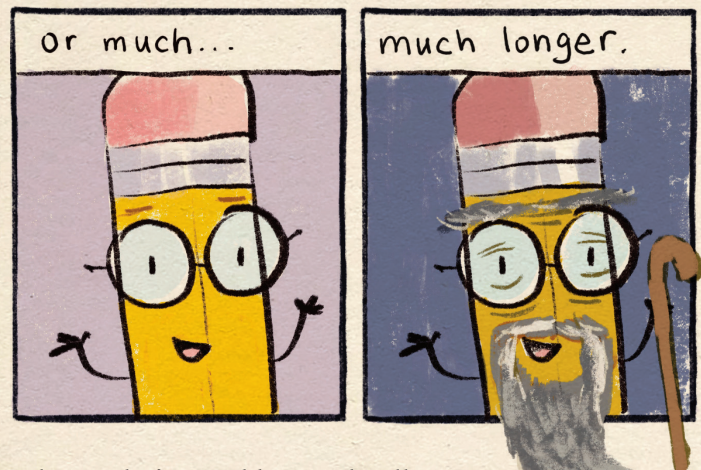
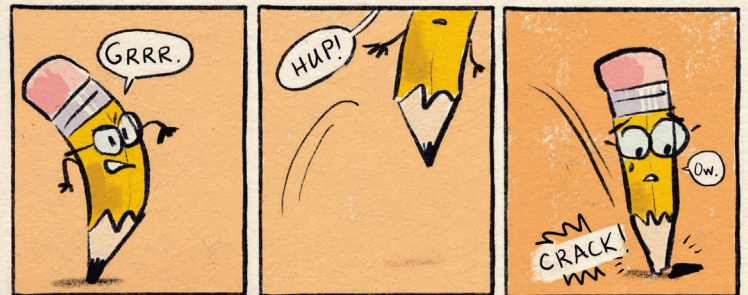
Shanda McCloskey, author-illustrator



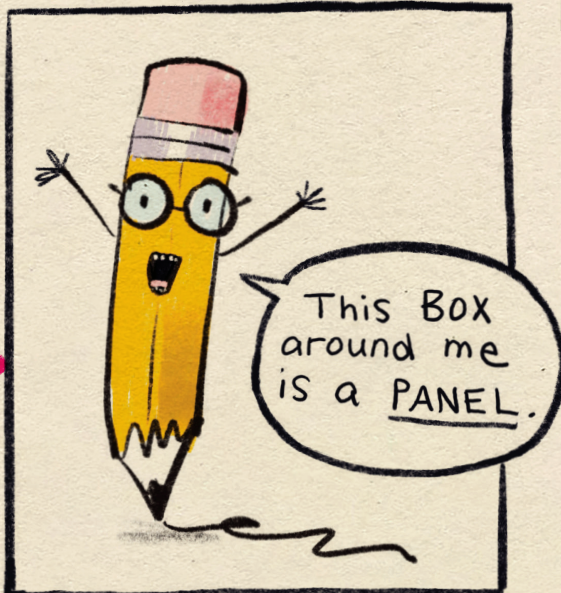
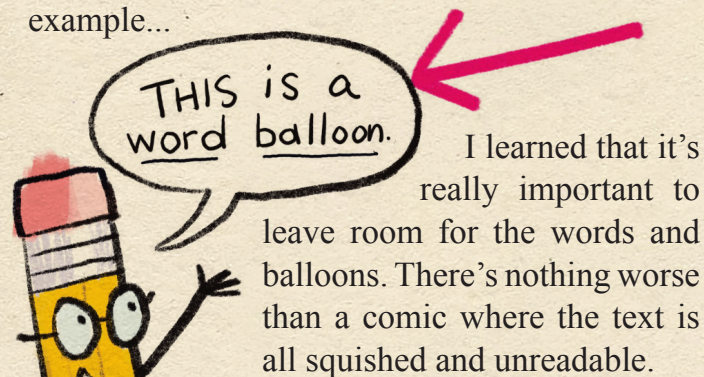
Hi! I'm Shanda McCloskey, and I write and draw pictures for children's books. Right now, I'm working on a graphic novel (a book-length story told in comics). I've never made a book like this before, so I'm learning A LOT. For example...



The gutter actually represents time passing between each panel. It might be just a short amount of time in between like this...



The reader's mind has to do all the work of filling in what happened in the gutter between the panels. That's one reason, your brain gets a fantastic workout when reading graphic novels and comics. Pretty cool, huh? ■



Sometimes, a character or word balloon can "break out" of a panel for a dramatic effect!

Make your own 4-panel comic about anything!

TITLE :

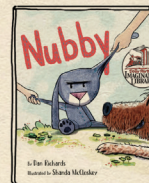
TIP: Draw your word balloons first, so you don't run out of room for them.



TITLE :	
1.	2.
3.	4.

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☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Coming April 7, 2026

Educators & Parents, visit ShandaMc.com/PencilPusher to sign your students up to receive this free newspaper!