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# HELLO, EVERYONE!

THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP THIS LITTLE BOOK.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT MAKES UP A COMIC?  
HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT!

IN THIS SHORT STORY, OUR MAIN CHARACTER ADA  
WILL GO ON AN ADVENTURE AND SHOW YOU HOW THE  
DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN A COMIC WORK TOGETHER TO  
TELL A STORY.

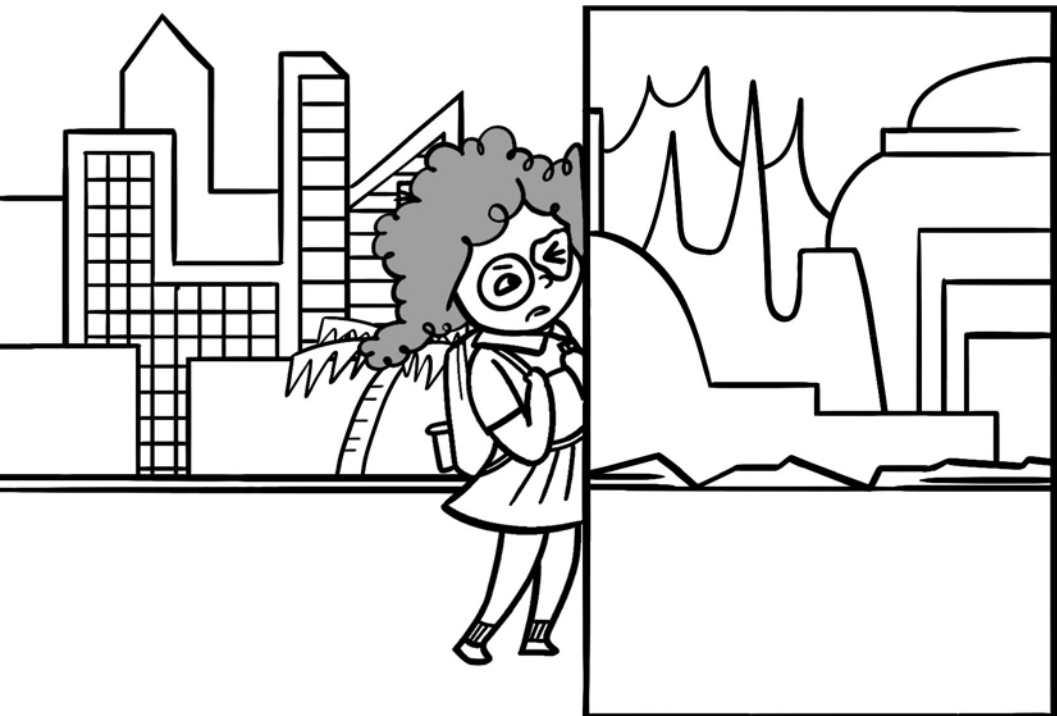
THESE DAYS, COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS ARE MORE  
THAN JUST SLAPSTICK COMEDY AND SUPERHEROES.  
THE CONTENT IN COMICS IS VARIED AND ENDLESS,  
FROM BIOGRAPHIES TO NON-FICTION NARRATIVES TO  
COMING-OF-AGE STORIES. THERE ARE EVEN COMICS  
THAT TEACH US ABOUT CODING, BAKING, AND HOW TO  
DEAL WITH GETTING BRACES FOR THE FIRST TIME.  
ROBOTS CAN EXIST SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH DRAGONS, TOO!

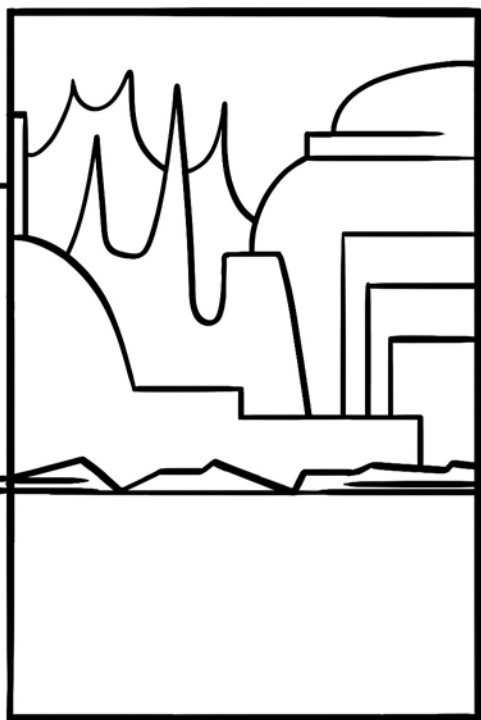
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE —  
COMICS ARE FOR EVERYONE! IF YOU CAN  
IMAGINE IT, CHANCES ARE, A COMIC  
ABOUT IT EXISTS.

IT'S AN EXCITING TIME TO BE  
A COMIC BOOK FAN!

















HOWEVER, IT IS NOT A DREAM. THE BRAVE HERO REALISES THAT SHE ONLY HAS HERSELF TO RELY ON, AND DECIDES TO SALLY FORTH.



**sally forth** *phrasal verb.*  
*[old fashioned or literary]*  
to set out to do something,  
especially something that is  
considered difficult or dangerous.

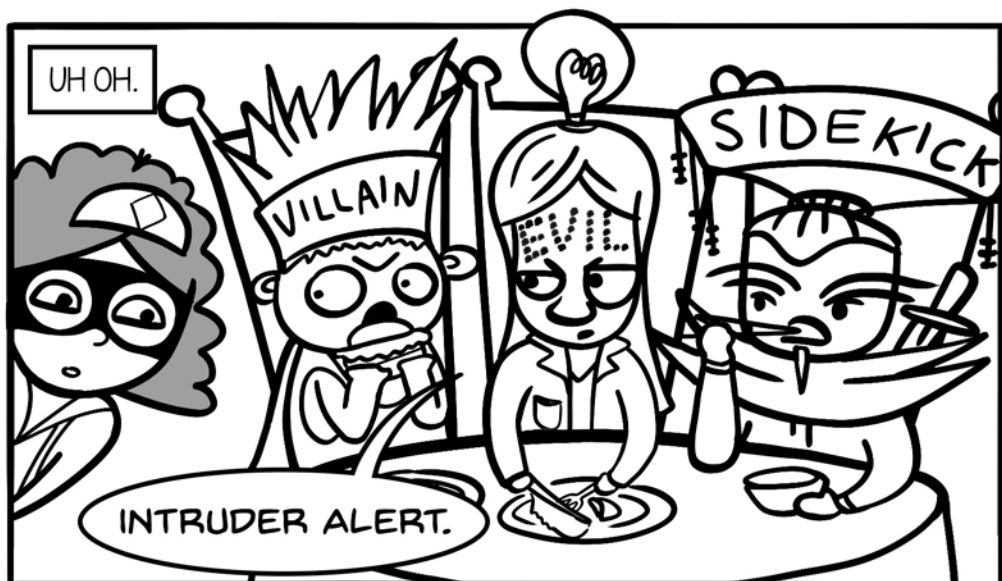
FINE.  
I'LL GO.  
BECAUSE I  
**AM BRAVE.**  
AND HUNGRY.  
AND I SMELL  
FOOD UP  
AHEAD.



AND SO HER  
~~HUNT FOR FOOD~~  
ADVENTURE BEGINS.



BUT LITTLE DOES  
OUR HERO KNOW  
WHAT AWAITS HER...



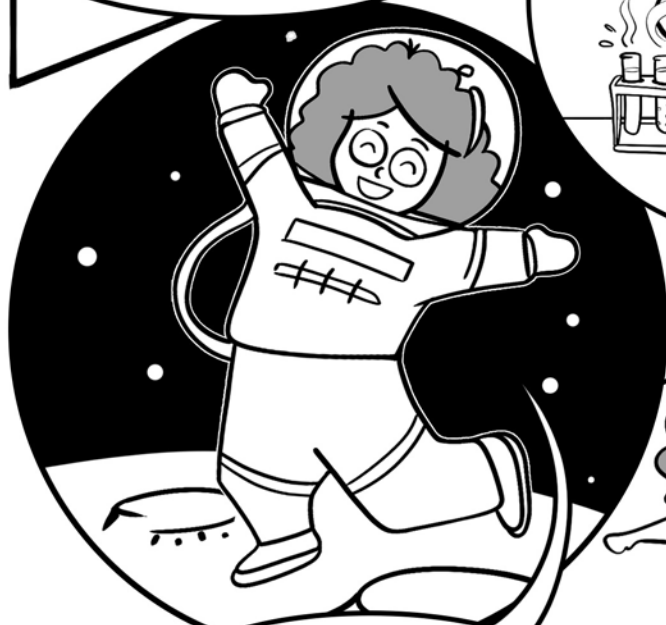
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU NEED  
TO SUSPEND YOUR DISBELIEF.



THIS IS ONE OF THEM.



SNACK TIME WITH NEW FRIENDS!

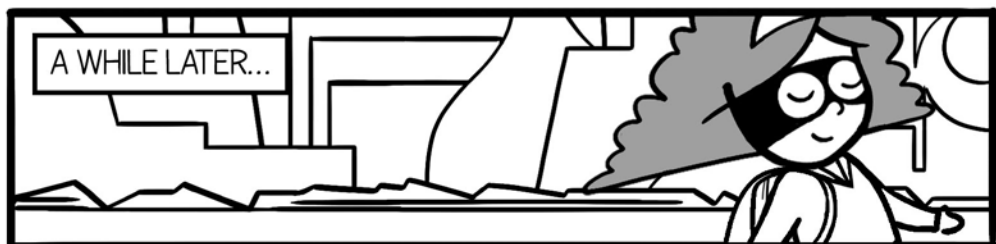


YOU MEAN,  
I CAN BE ANYBODY  
I WANT?









# GLOSSARY

## **PANELS**

THE SPACES THAT CONTAIN A SINGLE SCENE, USUALLY IN THE SHAPE OF A SQUARE OR RECTANGLE.

## **CAPTIONS**

THESE SET THE STAGE FOR READERS AND GIVES INFORMATION ABOUT CHARACTERS OR SCENES.

## **GUTTERS**

THE SPACES BETWEEN PANELS THAT CONTAIN LITTLE GAPS IN TIME. READERS CAN IMAGINE WHAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN THESE "PAUSES".

## **SPEECH BUBBLES**

THESE SHOW READERS WHAT THE CHARACTERS ARE SAYING ALOUD.

## **SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF**

THE MOMENT IN STORIES OR COMICS WHEN READERS TEMPORARILY BELIEVE THAT THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN HAPPEN. WE THINK IT'S WHAT MAKES STORIES MAGIC.

## **THOUGHT BUBBLES**

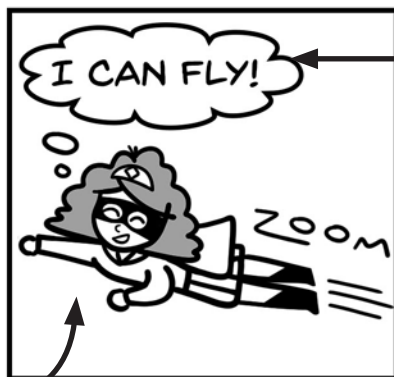
THESE SHOW READERS WHAT THE CHARACTERS ARE THINKING.

## **SOUND EFFECTS (SFX)**

THESE USE ONOMATOPOEIA — A WORD THAT PHONETICALLY IMITATES, RESEMBLES OR SUGGESTS THE SOUND THAT IT DESCRIBES. SFX ARE USUALLY DEPICTED WITH INTERESTING FONTS.

## **COMPOSITION**

HOW PEOPLE AND OBJECTS APPEAR IN A PANEL. IT MAY ALSO REFER TO HOW PANELS ARE ARRANGED ON A PAGE.





# HOW WE MAKE COMICS!



**STEP 1: CHARACTER**  
WE WENT THROUGH A FEW VERSIONS OF ADA BEFORE DECIDING ON THE ADA YOU SEE IN THE COMIC. THIS IS AN EARLY VERSION!

## STEP 2: SCRIPT

WE PLANNED THE STORYLINE AND WHAT WOULD GO ON EACH PAGE AND IN EACH PANEL.

Panel One (background is the lair but messier post-fight): She's sitting down having a snack with the three "reformed" villains. Her new friends are nodding vigorously.

Dialogue: So what you guys are saying is that anything is possible here? And I can leave any time I want, but I'll always be able to come back?

Panel Two: She's with the formally bad Scientist who's showing her the science lab with lots of beakers and experiments. The girl is now dressed like a scientist.

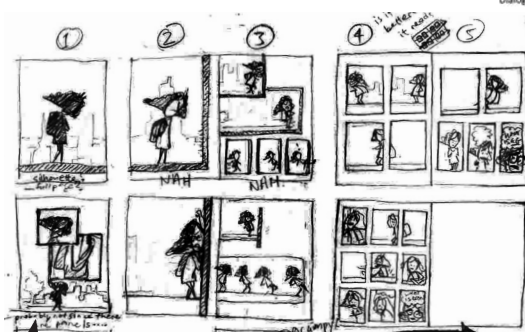
Dialogue: And I can be anything I want? Like an astronaut or a scientist? And I can find out more about it here?

Panel Three: She's with the sidekick from the fantasy world. They're standing and looking at a sleeping baby dragon. She's in old-fashioned fantasy clothes (must be Asian!).

Dialogue (whispering): Can we name her Potato?

Panel Four: She's with the superhero and they are getting ready to perform with a rock band called the SIDEKICKS. She's dressed like a rocker girl.

Dialogue: So your secret identity is a singer? But that's not very secret is it?

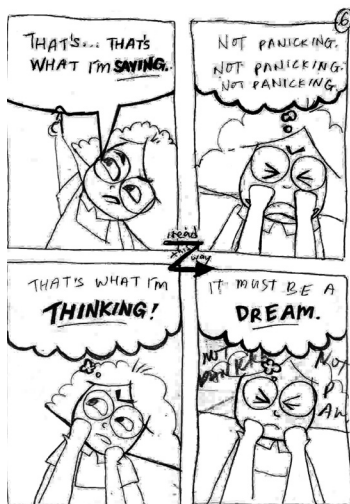


## STEP 3: STORYBOARD

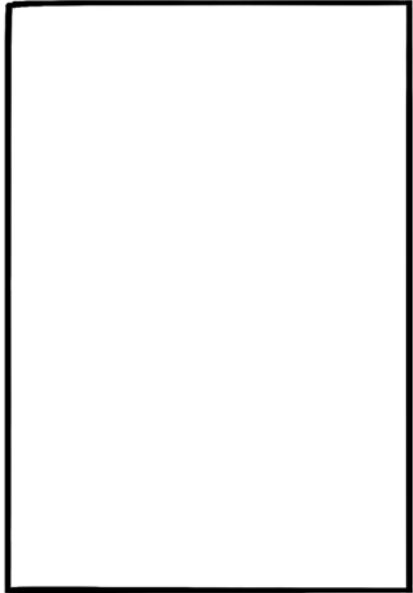
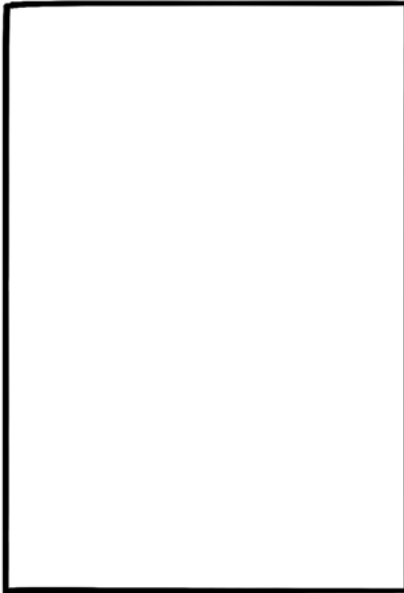
WE DID A STORYBOARD TO SHOW THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE PANELS. IT ALLOWED US TO VISUALISE THE OVERALL FLOW.

## STEP 4: DRAW!

WE SKETCHED OUT THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE COMICS IN PENCIL AND THEN DREW THE FINAL VERSION ON THE COMPUTER.



# CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC!



# CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC!

# CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC!

# AN AWESOME ADVENTURE AWAITS!

ADA IS WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL ONE DAY, WHEN "**POW!**", SHE IS STOPPED IN HER TRACKS, LITERALLY. WHAT IS GOING ON? WHY DOES THE WORLD BEYOND LOOK SO...DIFFERENT...AND YET SO INTRIGUING? JOIN ADA AS SHE FINDS OUT WHERE HER IMAGINATION CAN TAKE HER!

## ABOUT DIFFERENCE ENGINE

Difference Engine is a Singapore-based independent comics publishing house. We are inspired by the wealth of stories coming from Asia and are driven by the commitment to share those narratives with the world. We believe in sparking imagination through make-believe, in the ability of visual storytelling to shape ideas, and in a reality powered by comics.

## CONTACT US

If you are an educator, parent, or simply someone interested in comics, we would love to hear from you.

We conduct workshops and talks too! You can reach us at:

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