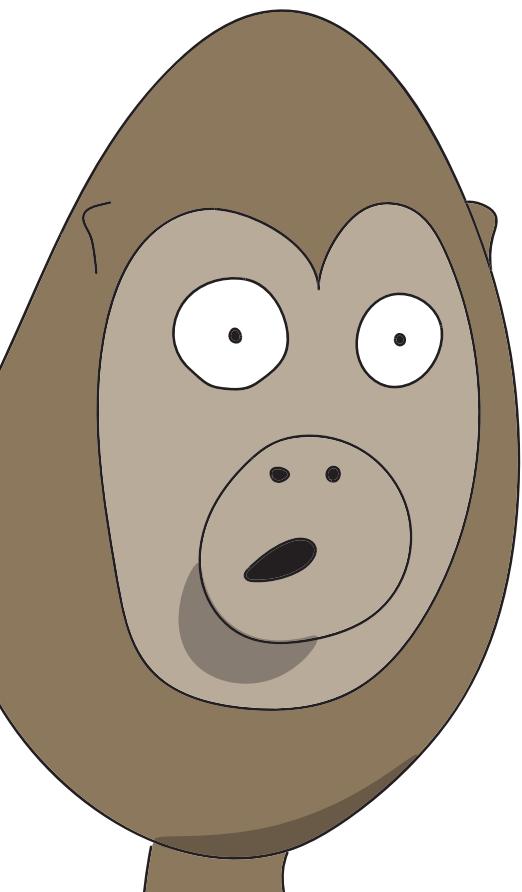


Marcus Gorileeus



Leigh Silverstein

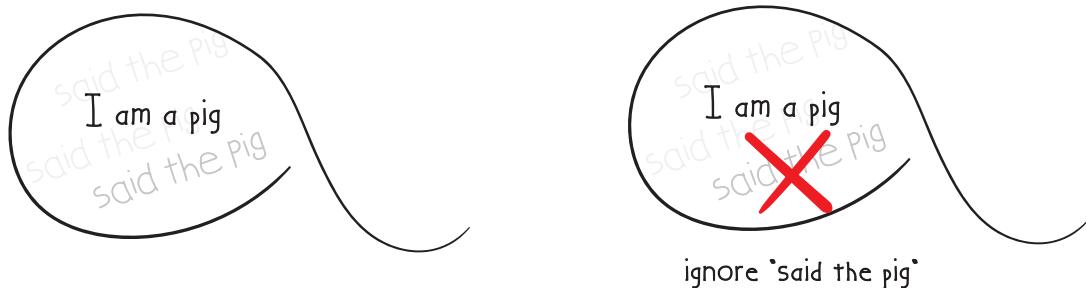


... not to be offended by idiots...

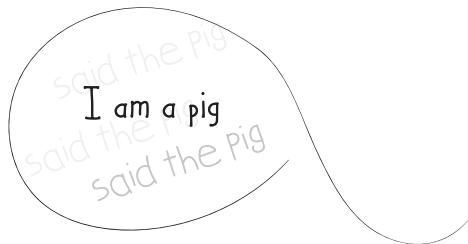
Marcus Aurelius (121-180 CE)
·Meditations·
Book 1
Section 6
(Translation by Meric Casaubon)

WARNING!

Do not read the slanted text in speech bubbles if reading **alone**.



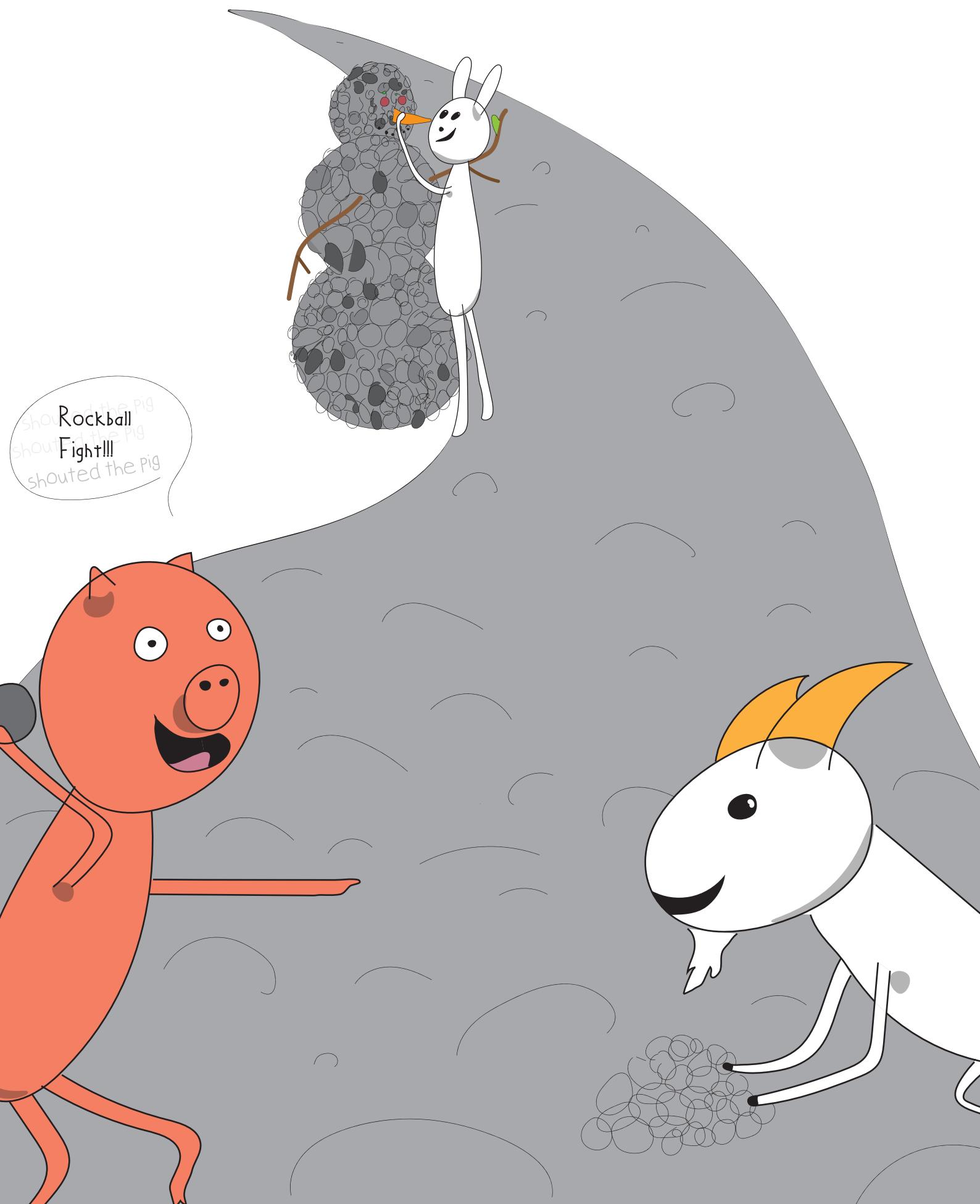
If you are reading **out loud to an audience**, you may read the slanted text in speech bubbles.



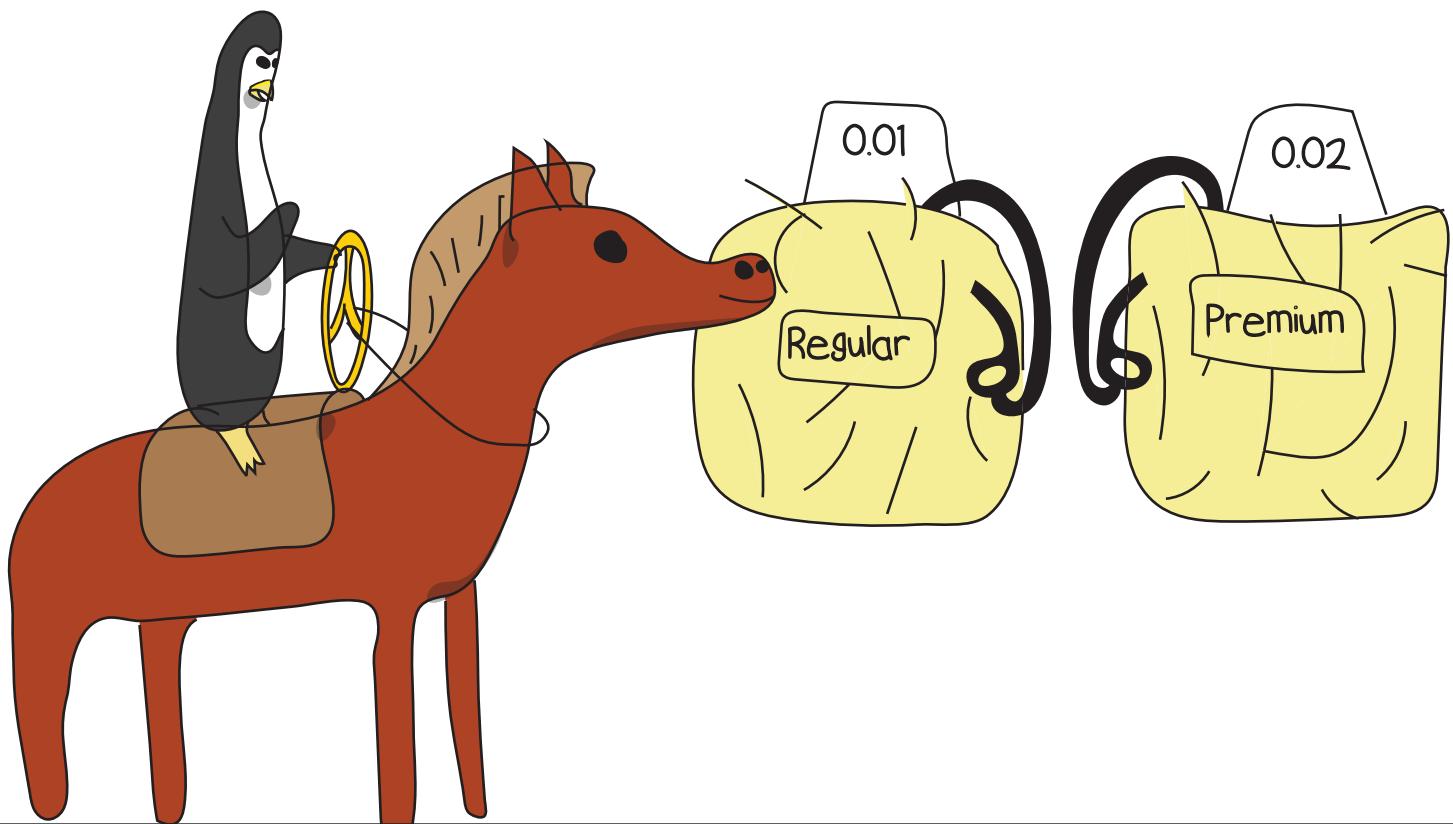
1. read "I am a pig"
2. read "said the pig"

Chapter 1 – Pandus

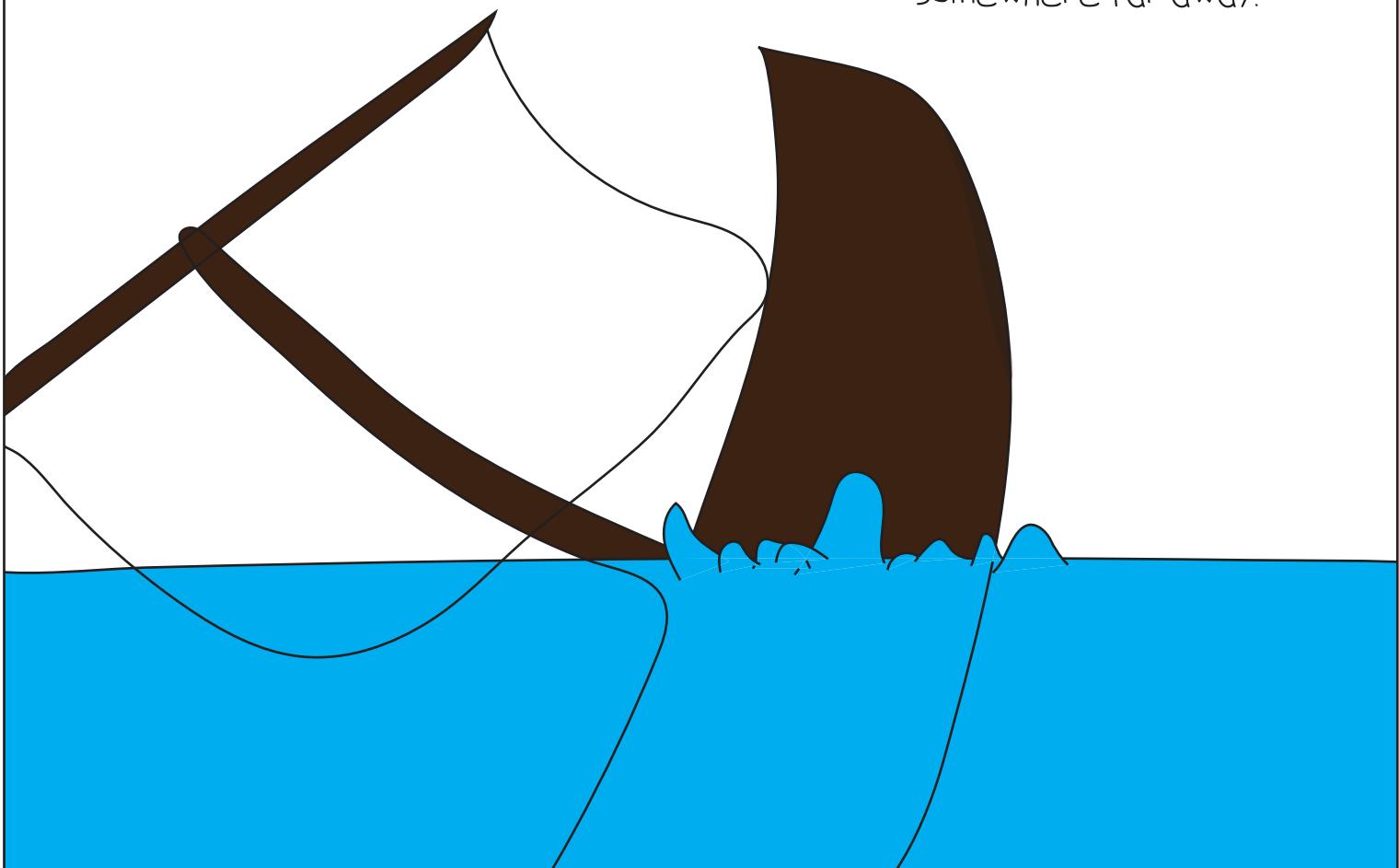
2000 years ago the world was very strange.



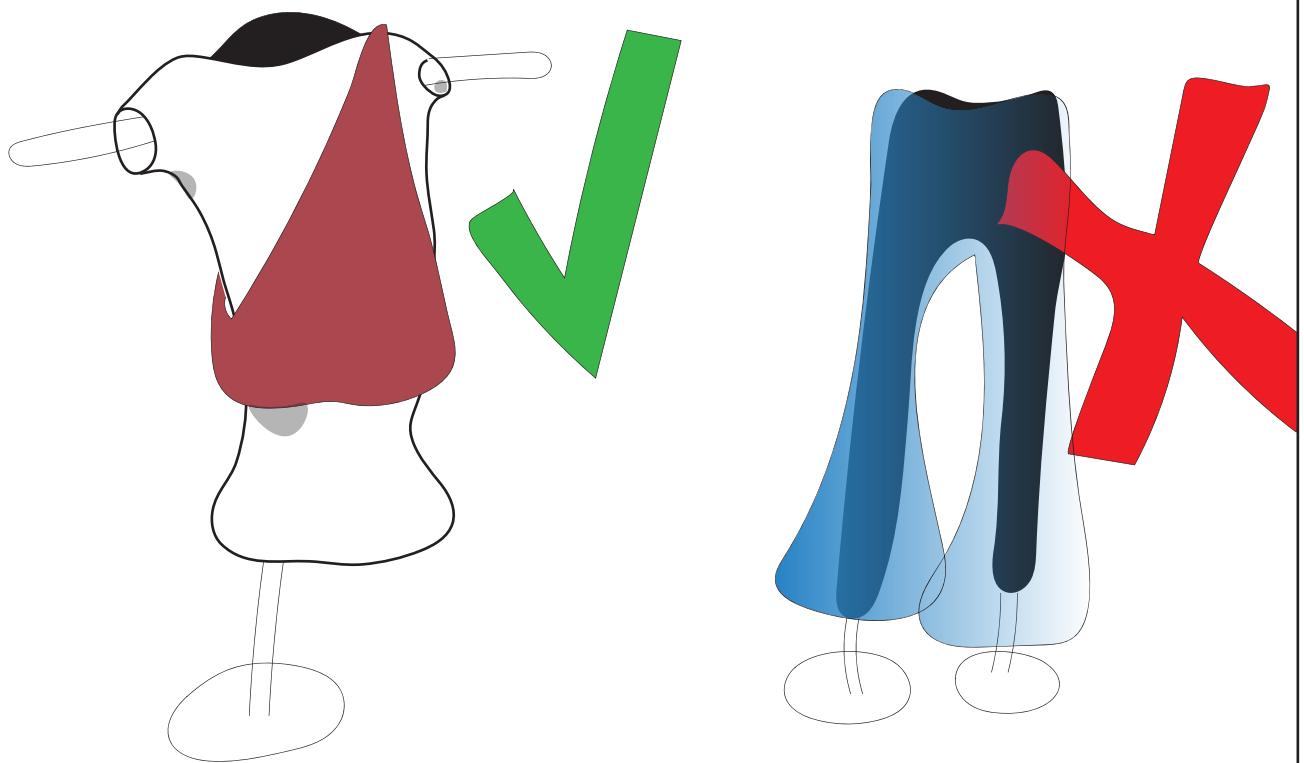
Everyone drove horses
instead of cars.



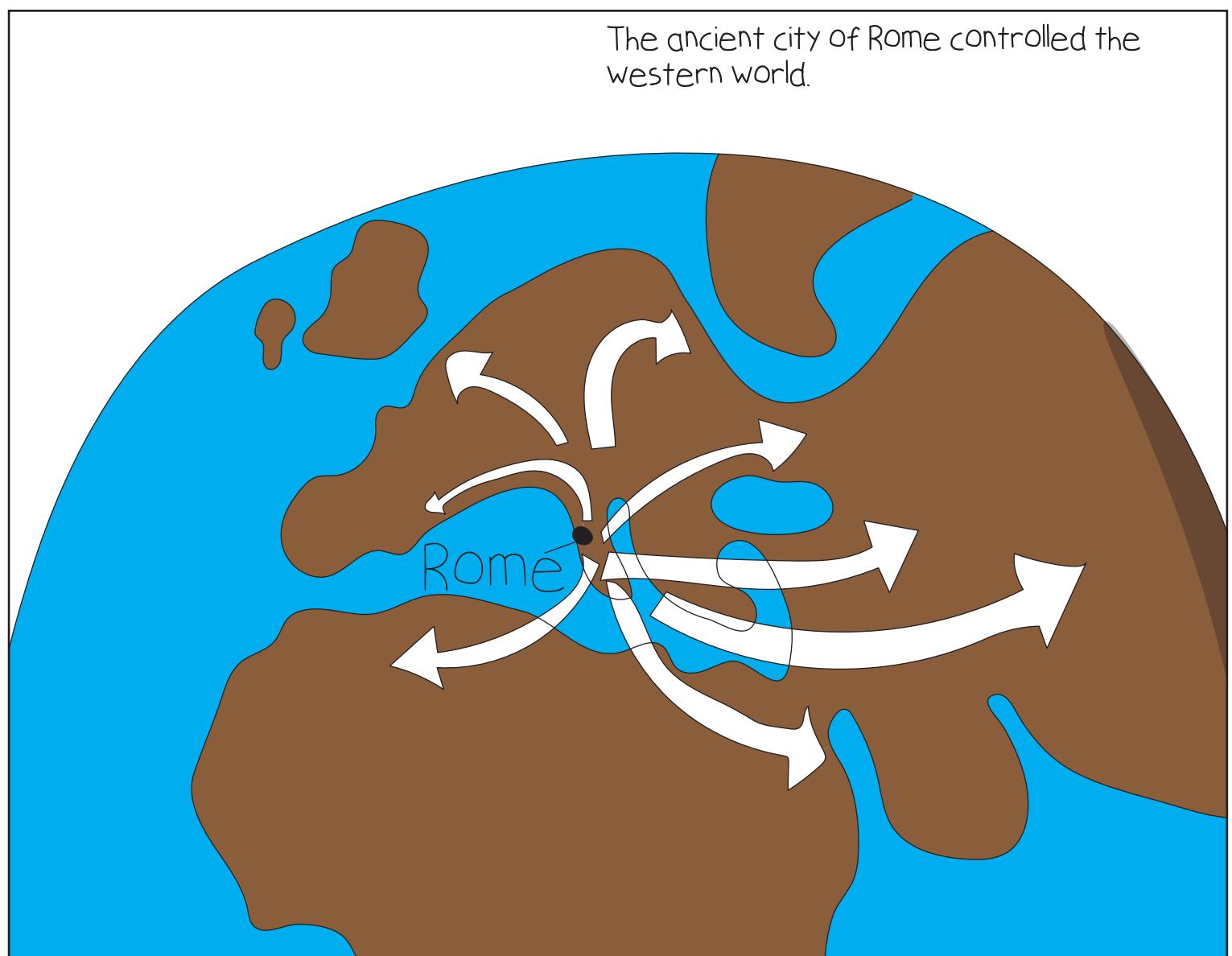
Wooden ships with sails were
the best way to get
somewhere far away.



Togas were in, pants were out.

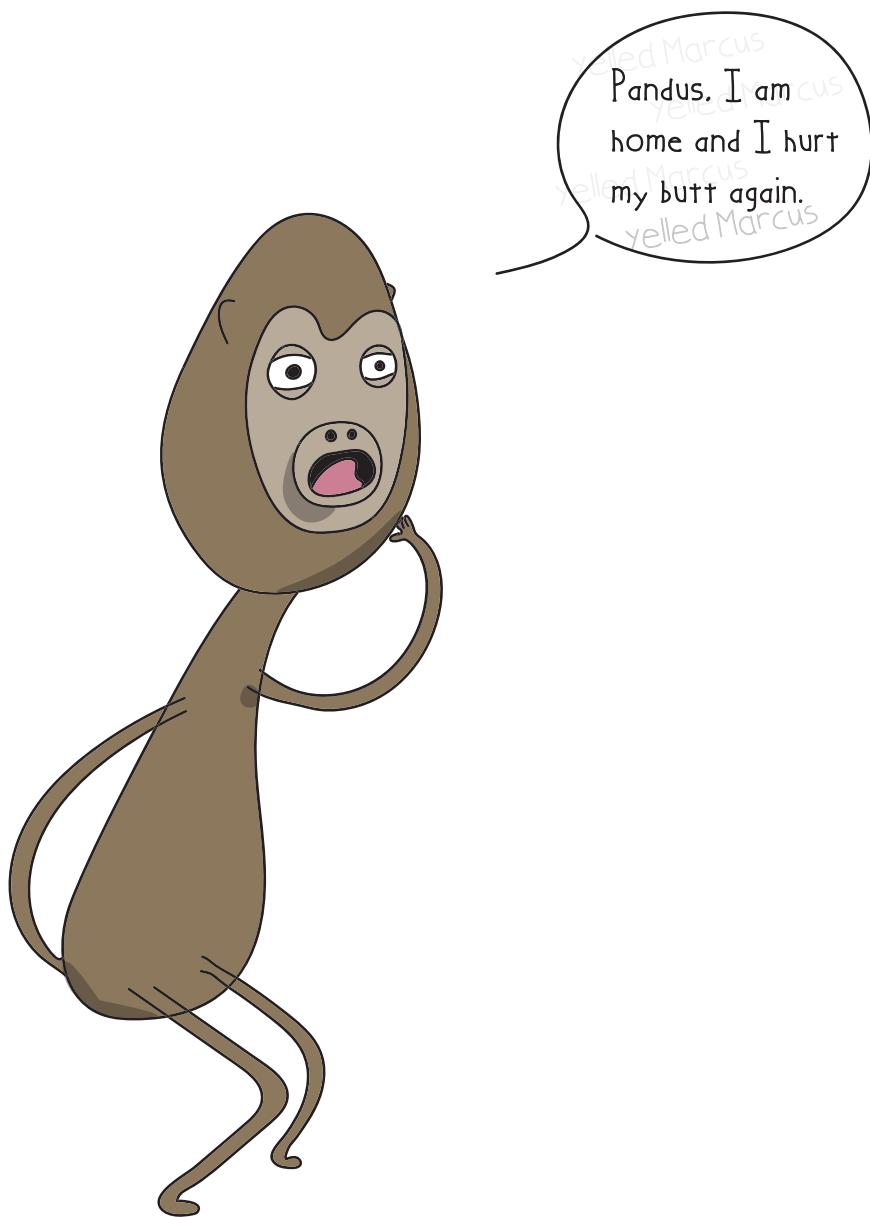


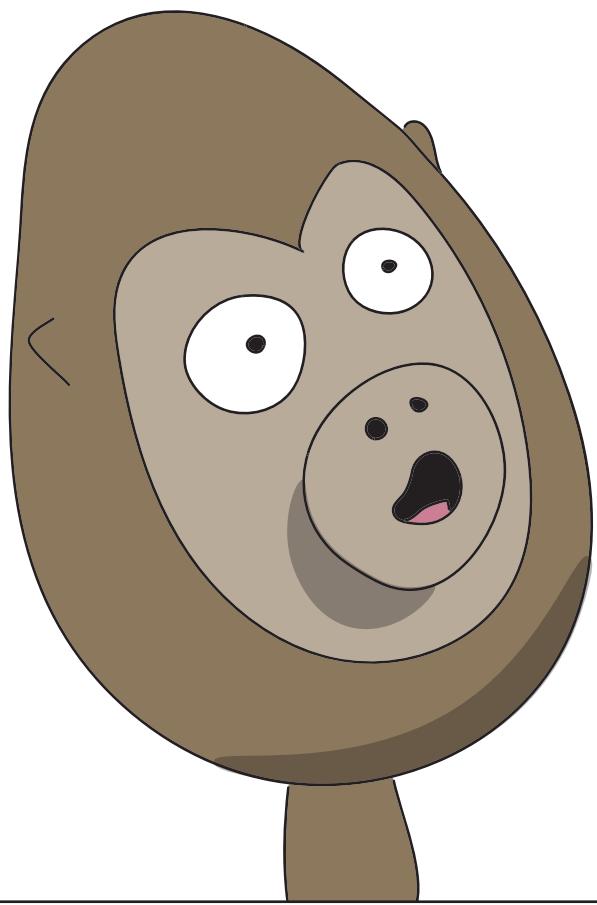
The ancient city of Rome controlled the western world.



And in that city lived a boy named
Marcus who would grow up to be a
father and a philosopher.

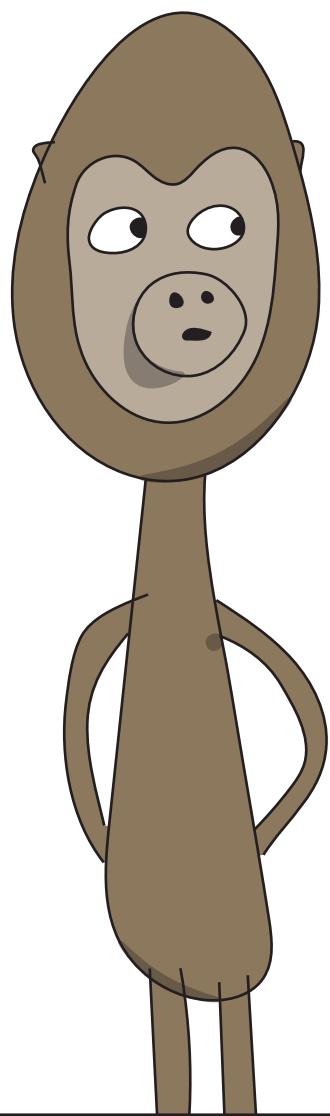
And an emperor.

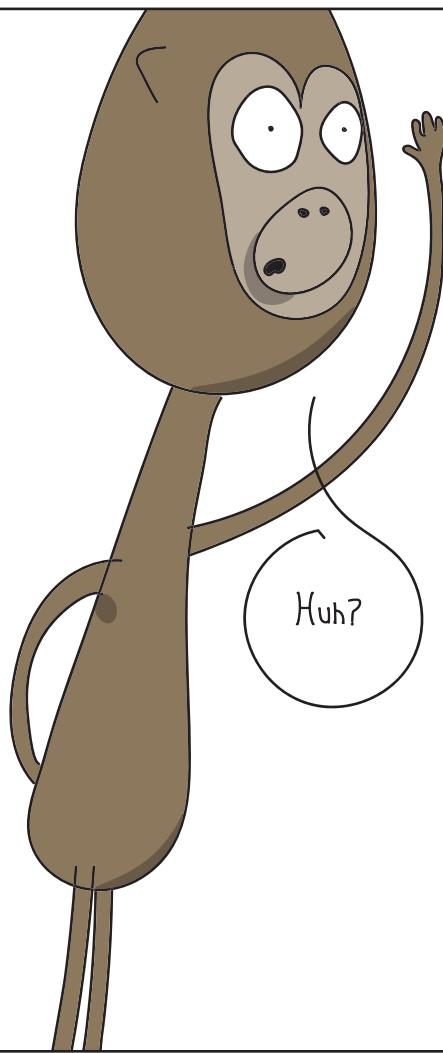
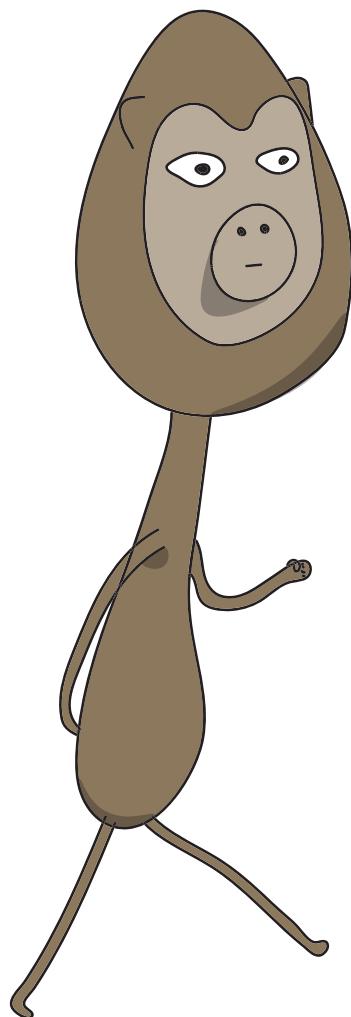


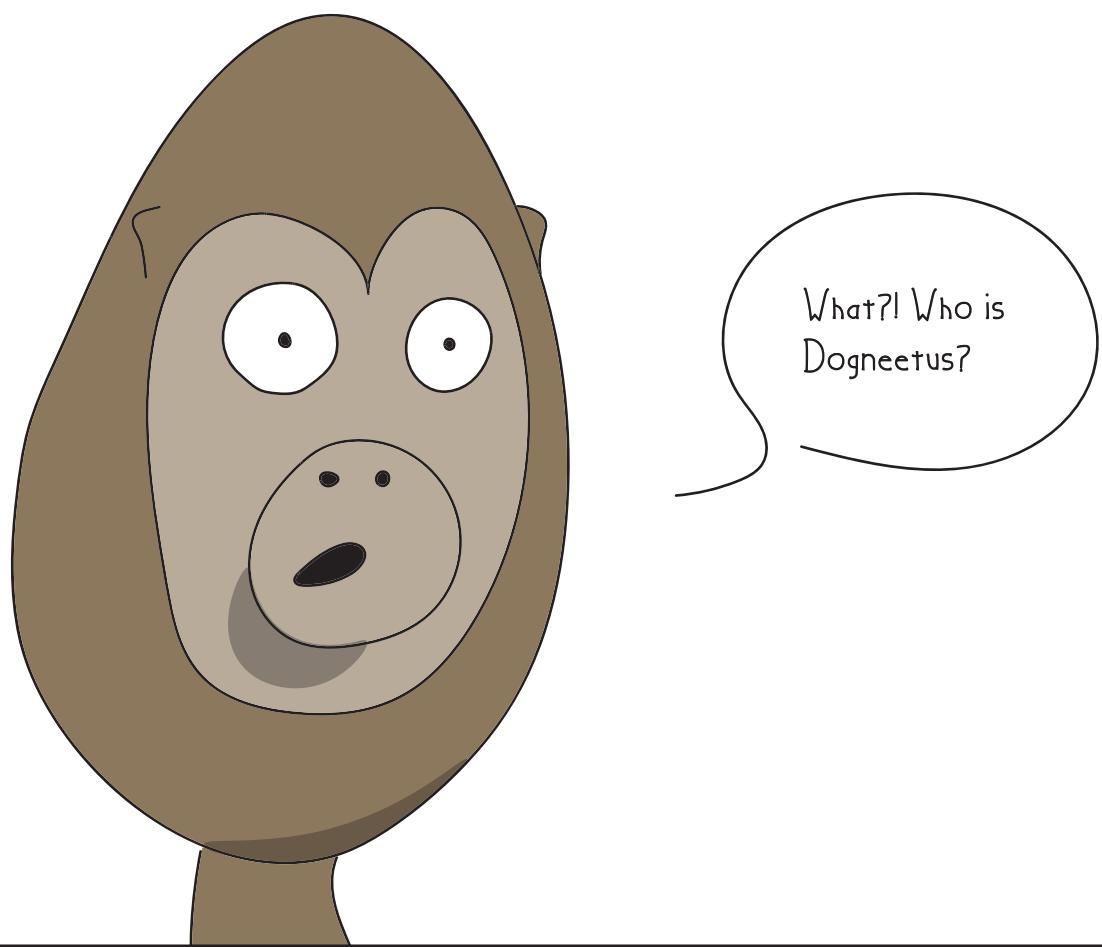
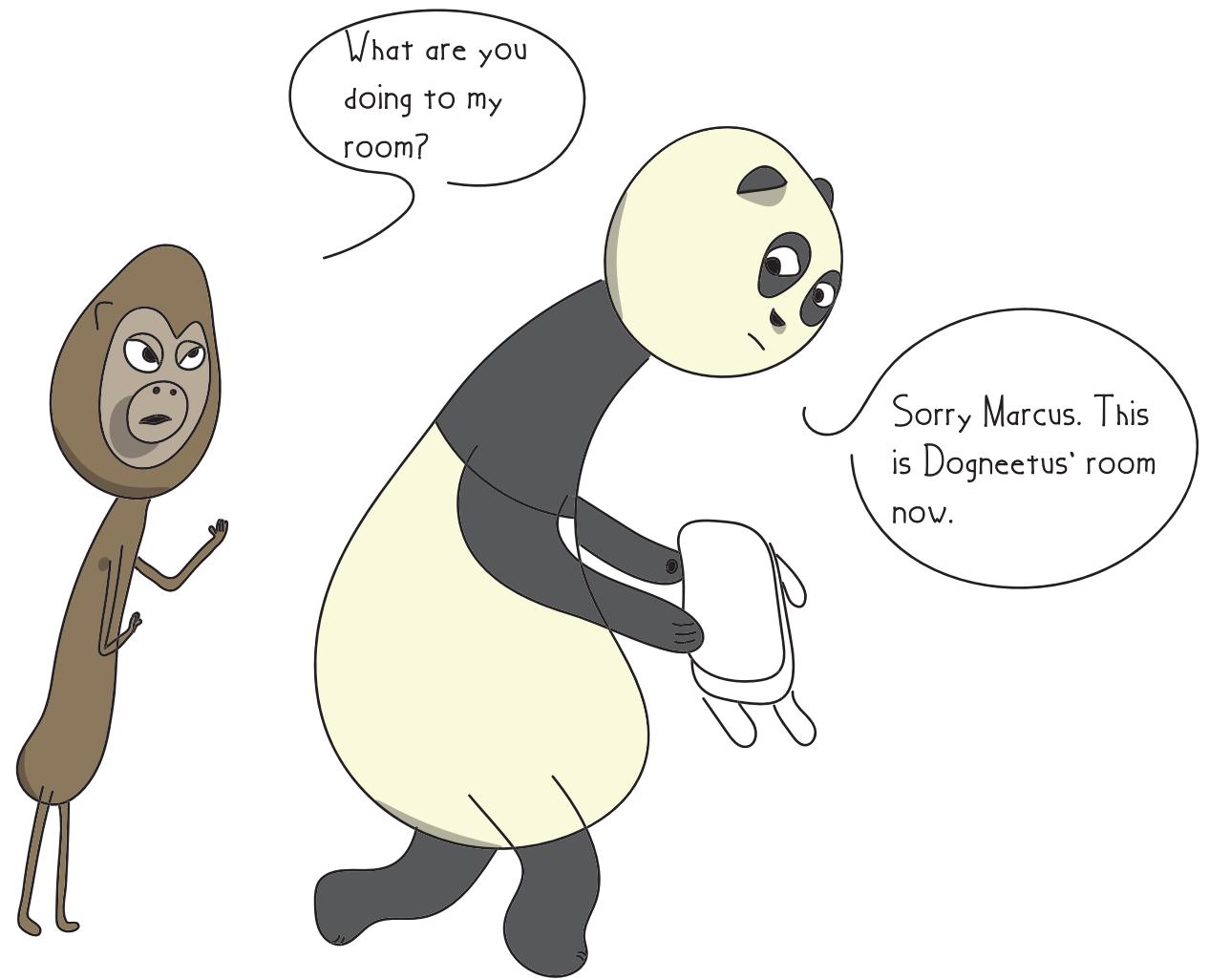


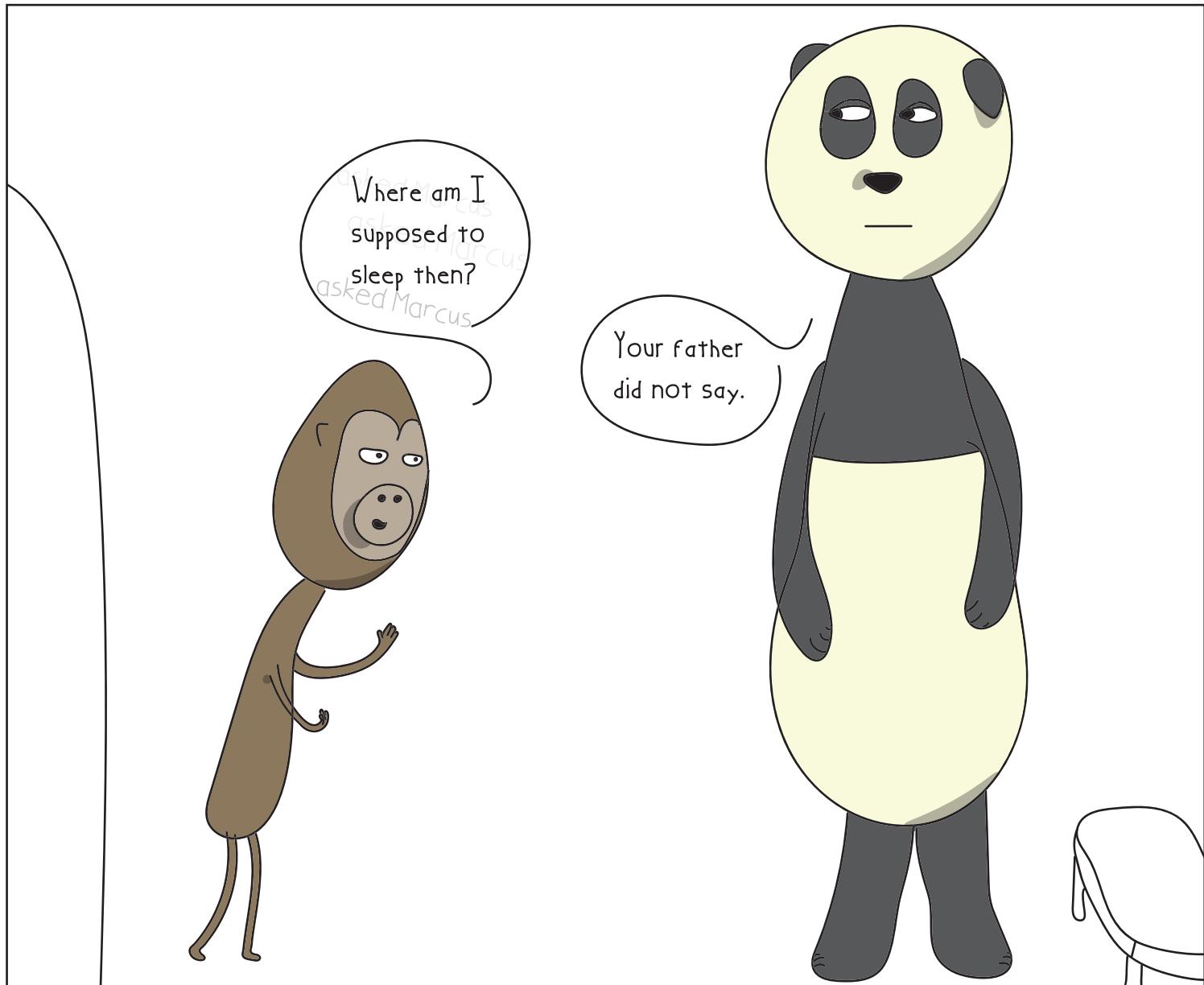
PANDUS?

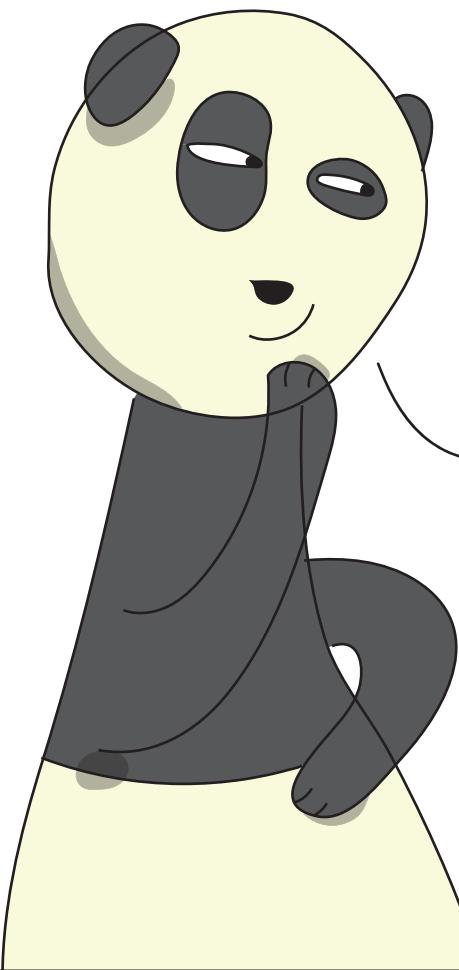
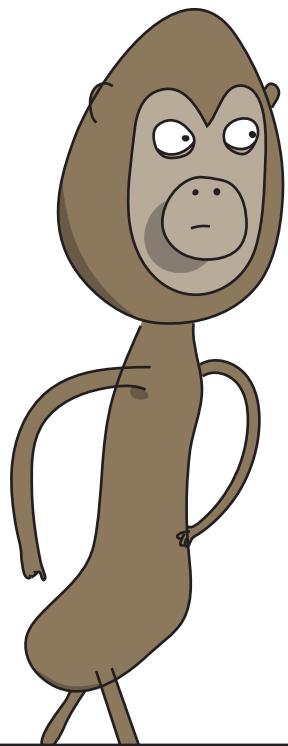
... she is probably in
the bathroom.

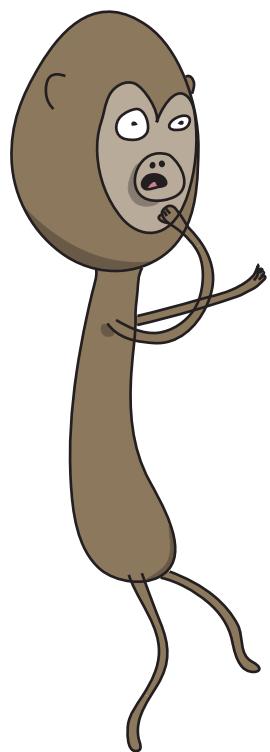




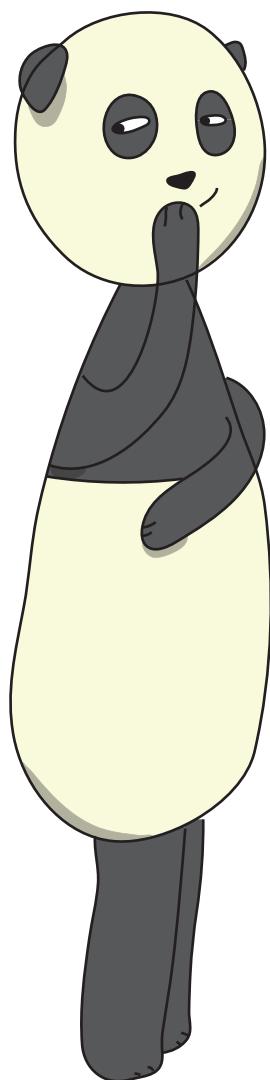




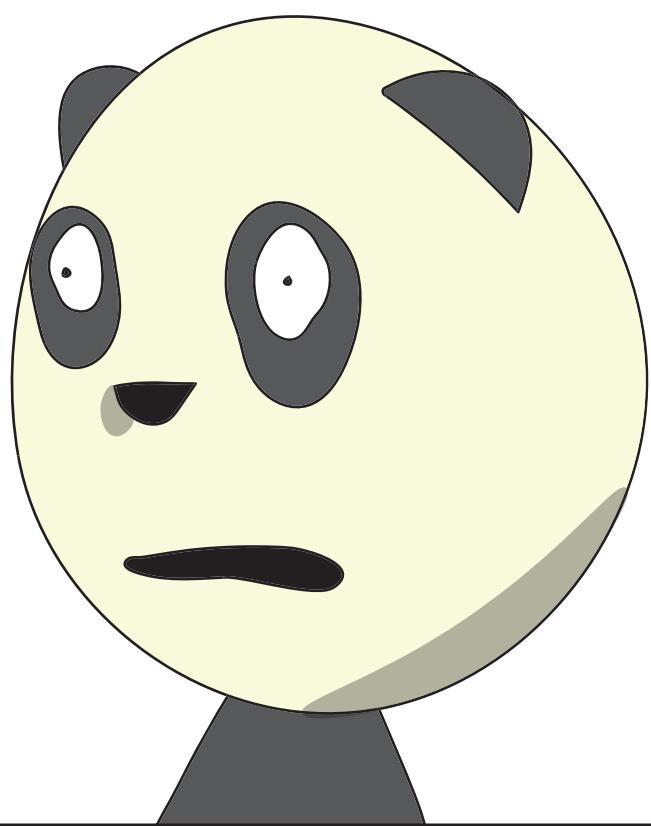


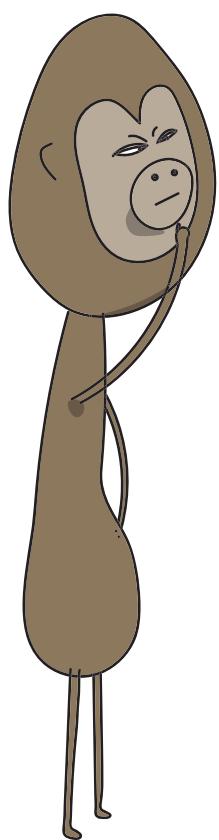


Oh no...



What? Are we
out of
LOTION?

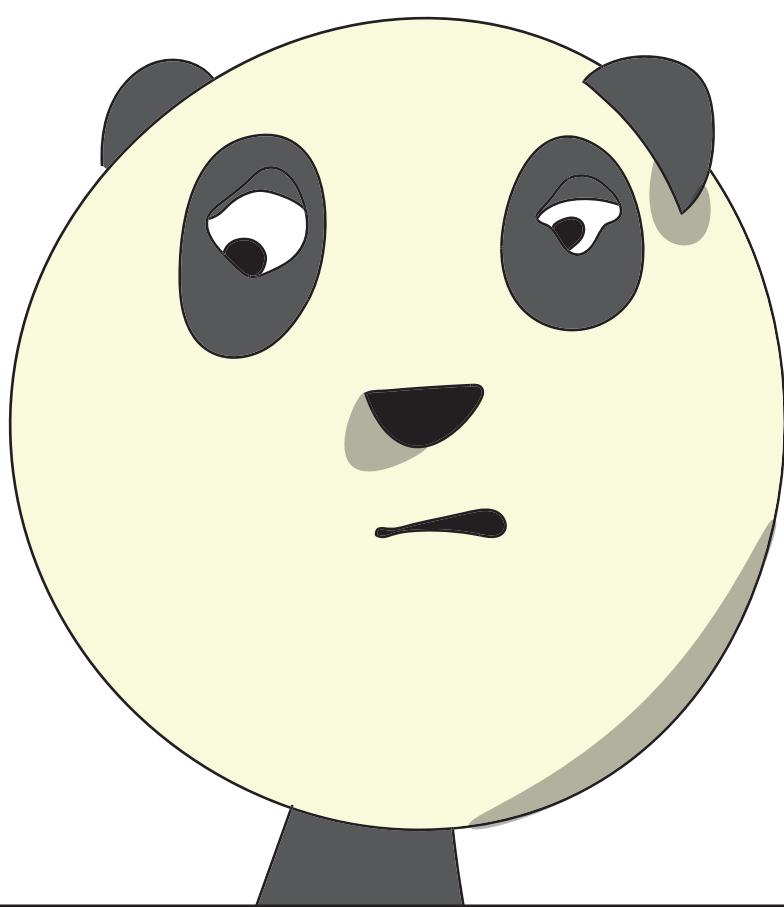


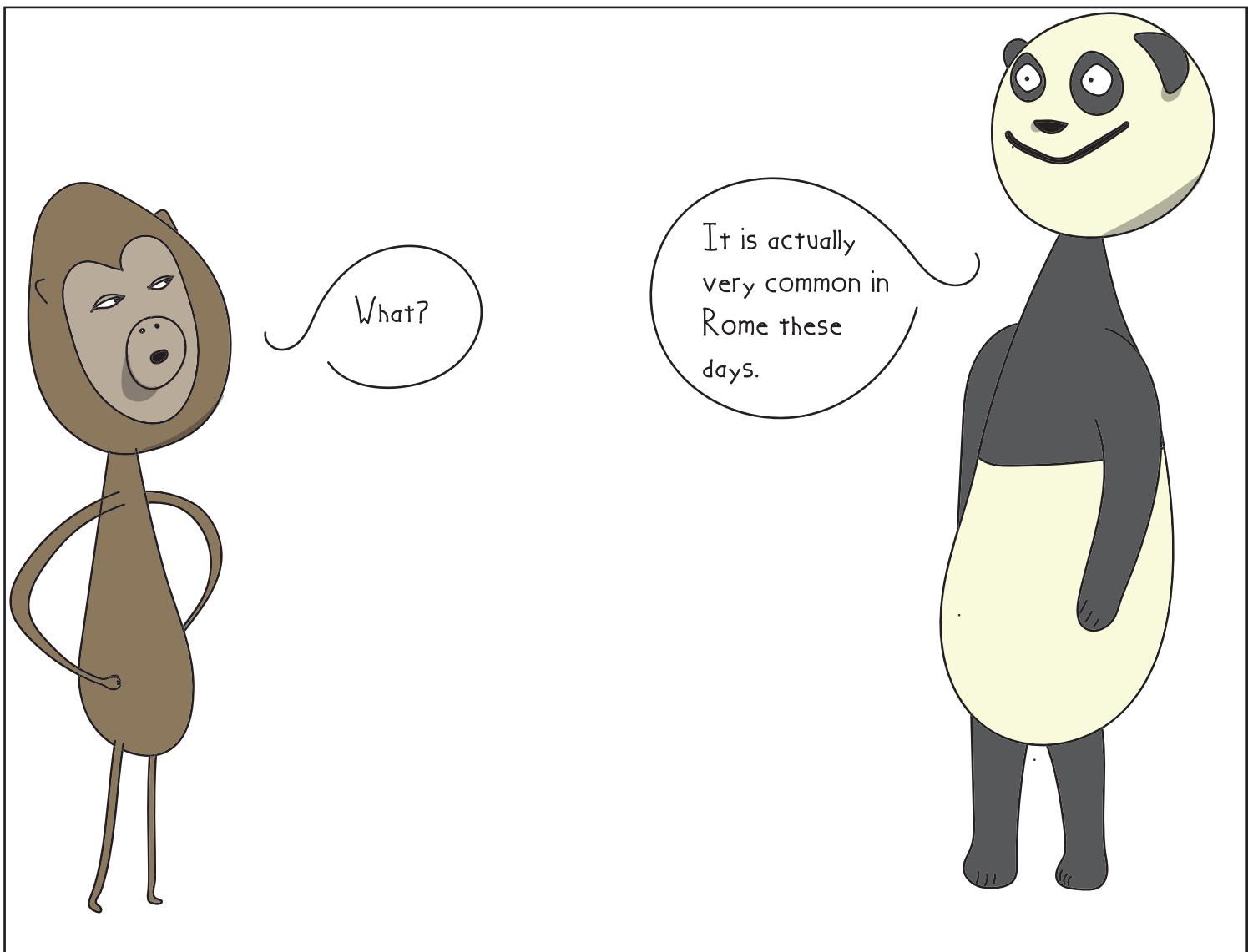


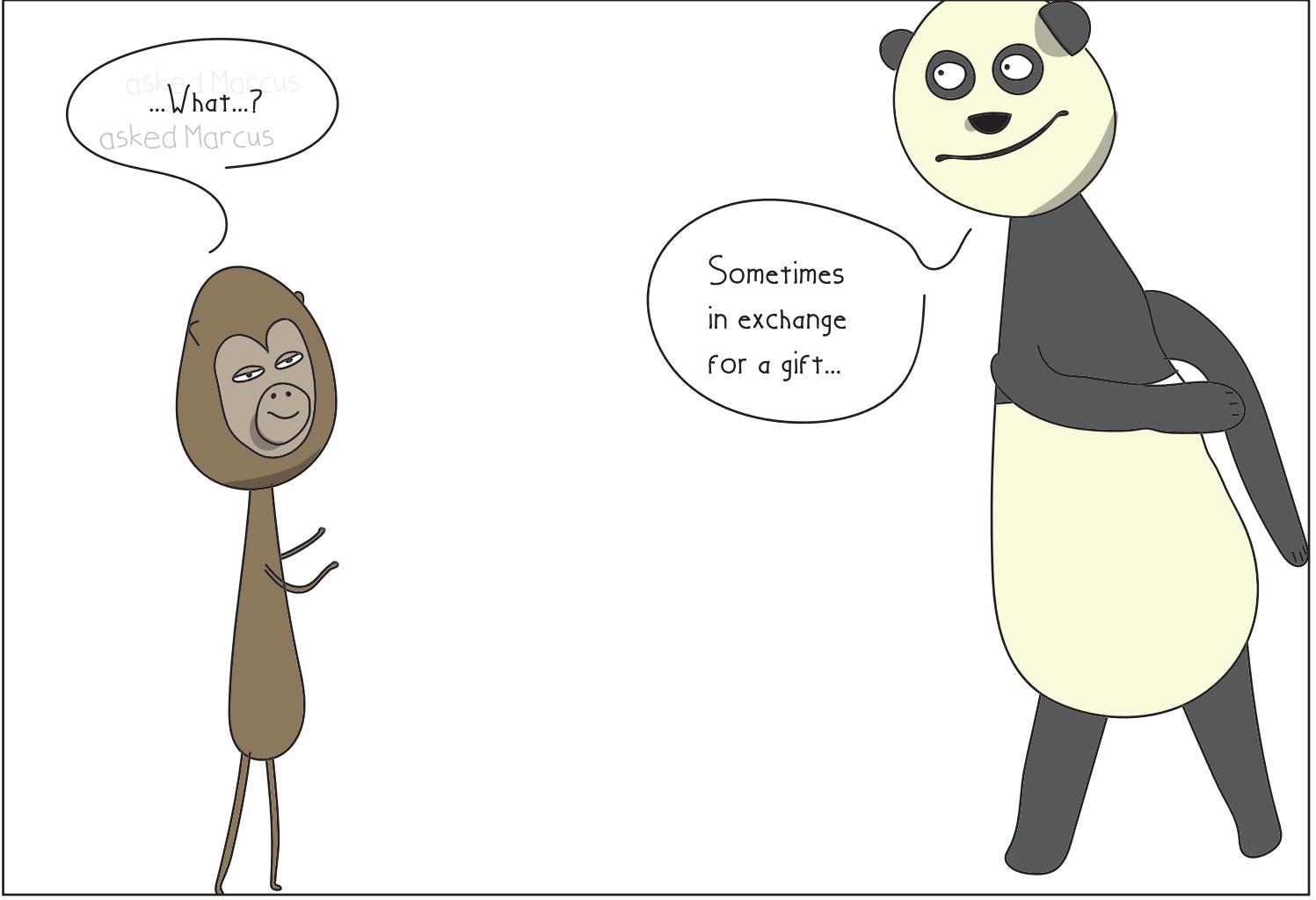
Why are you
looking at me
like that?



Said Pandus
My brother lost his
room when he was your
age. And then said Pandus
something else happened
to him. Said Pandus

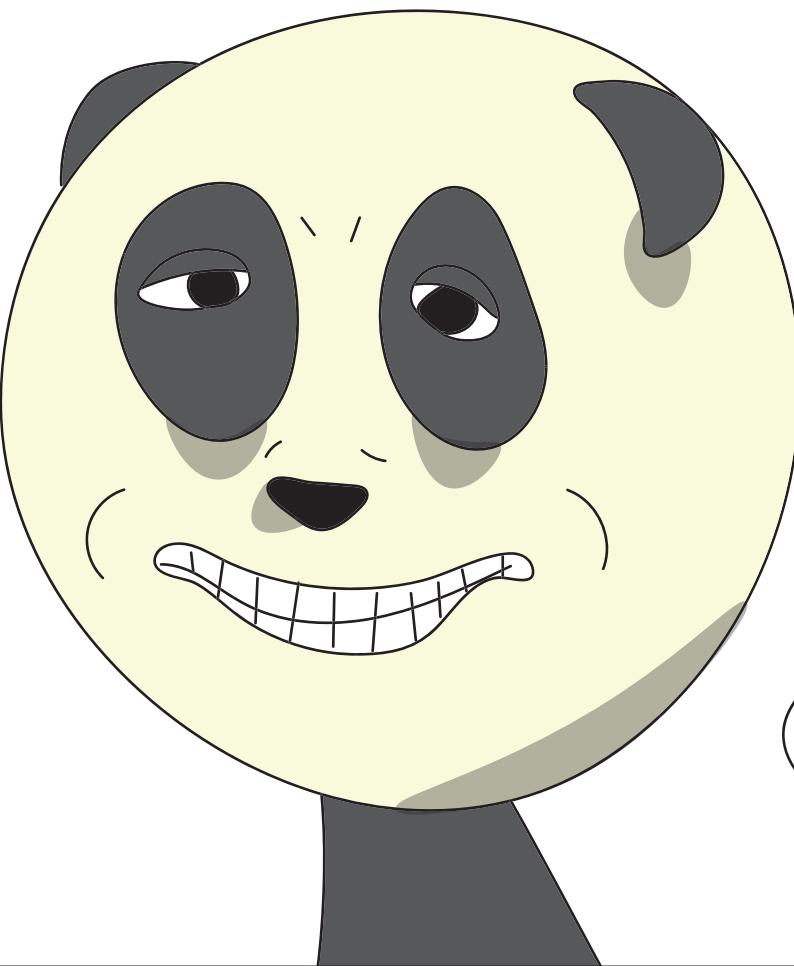




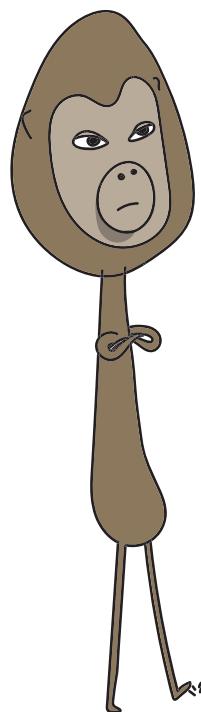


asked Marcus
...What...?
asked Marcus

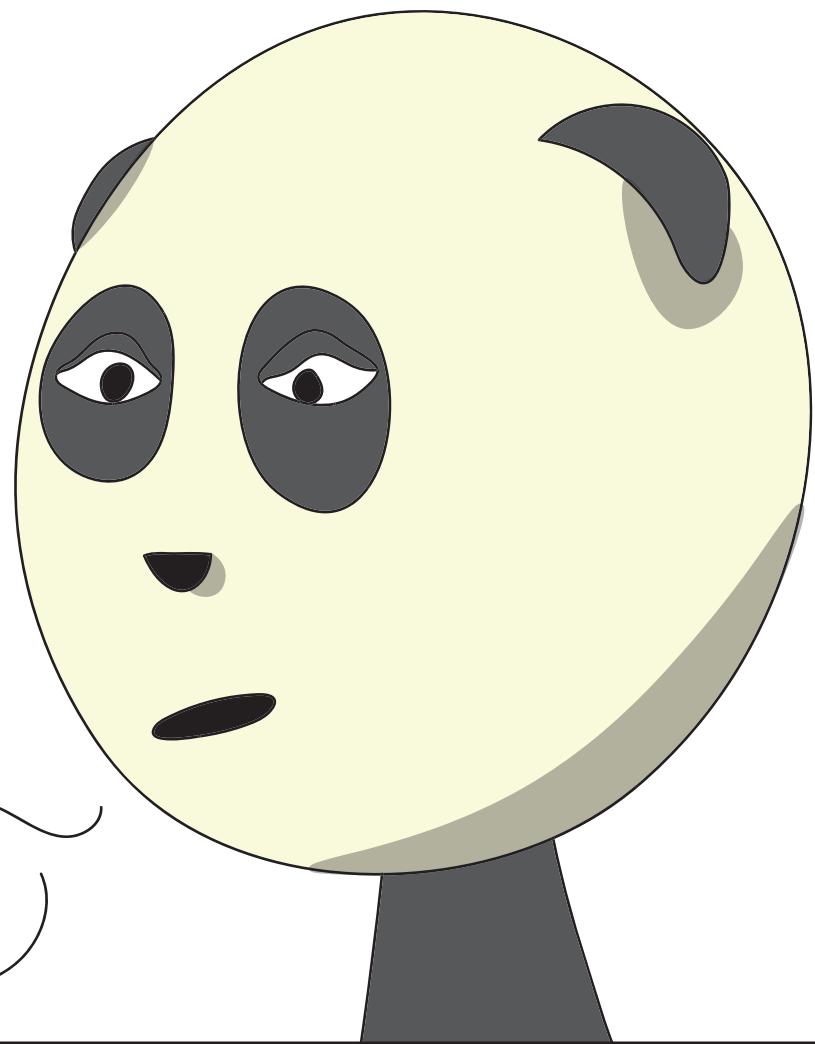
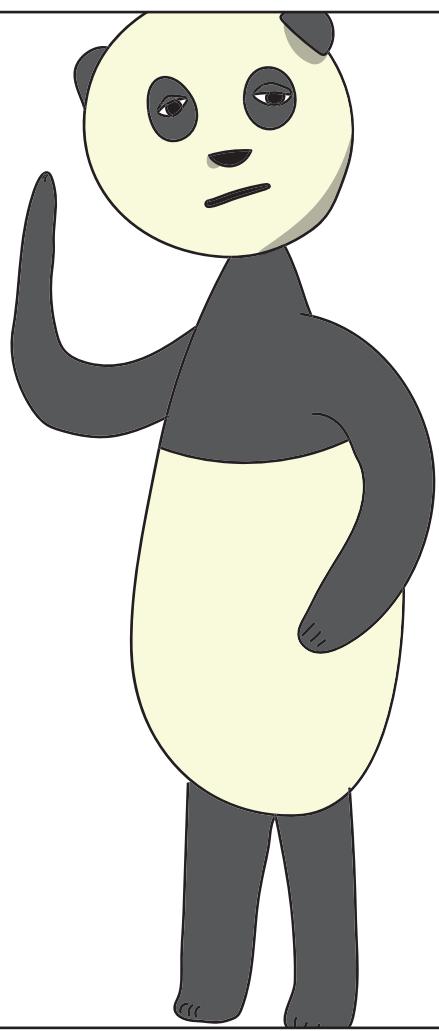
Sometimes
in exchange
for a gift...

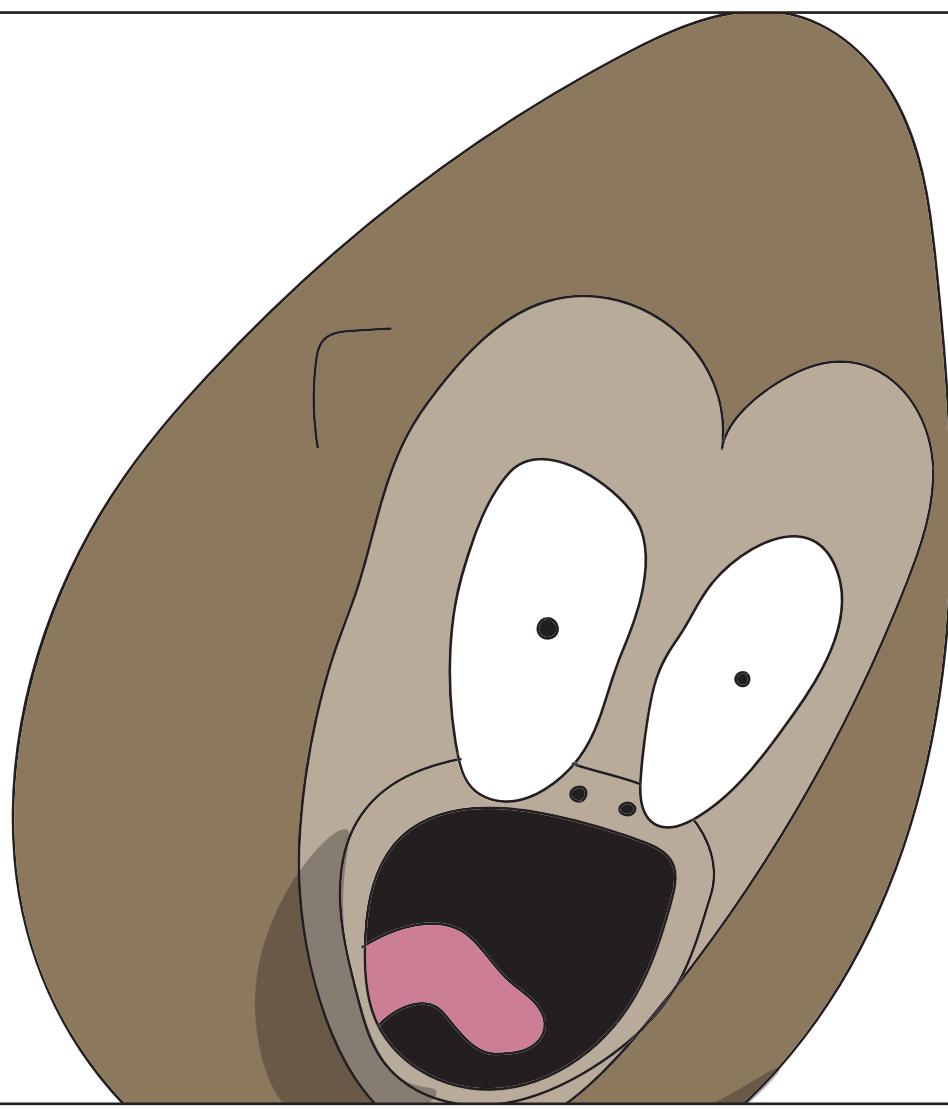
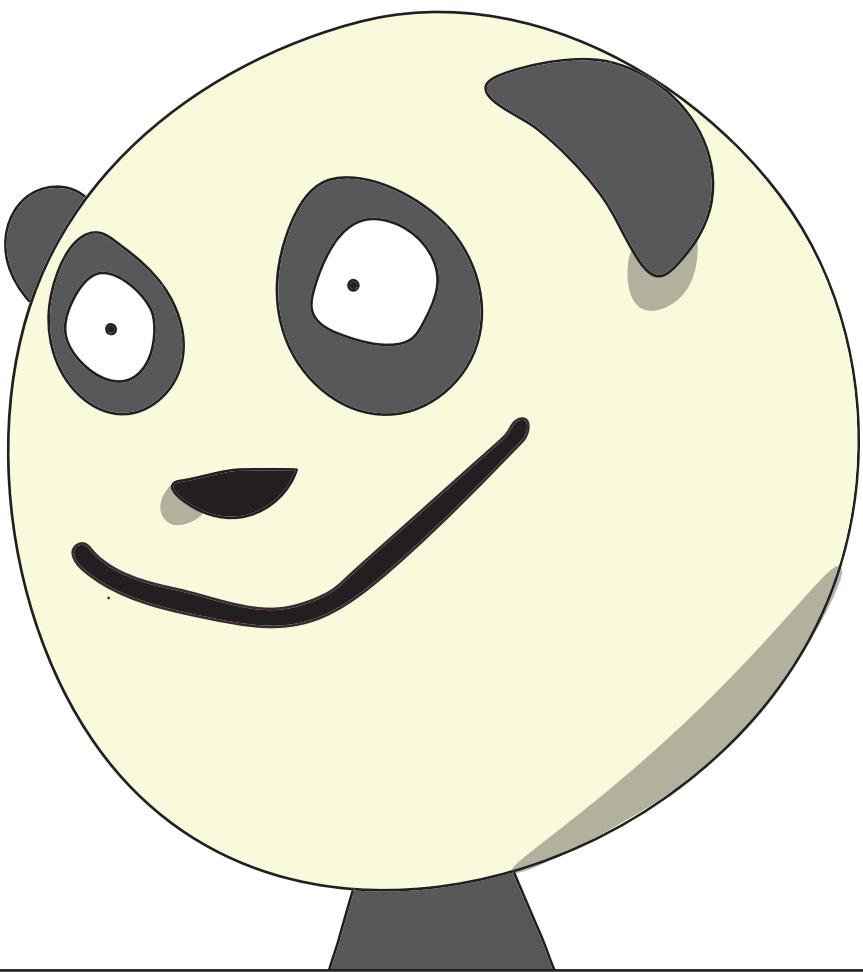


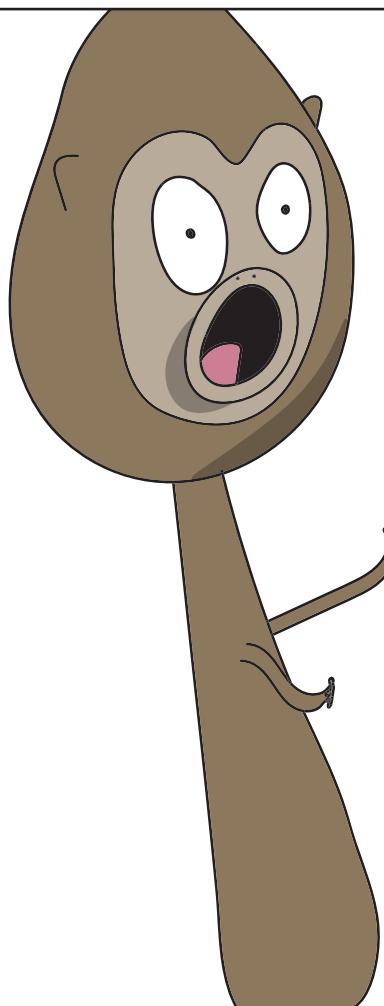
Parents send their
children away...



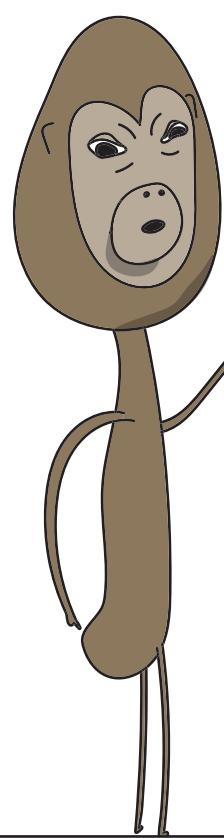
To live with
another
family...





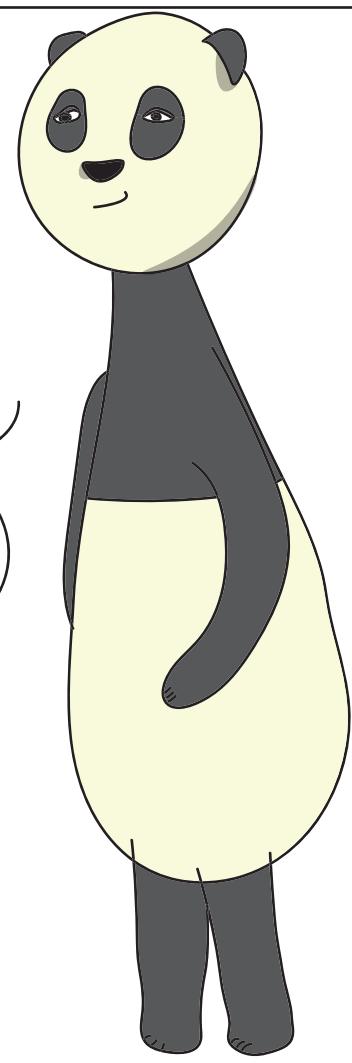


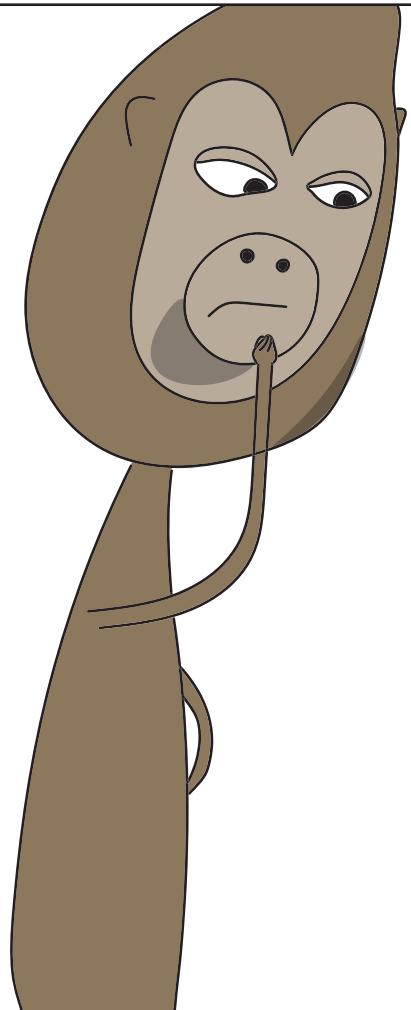
WHAT?!



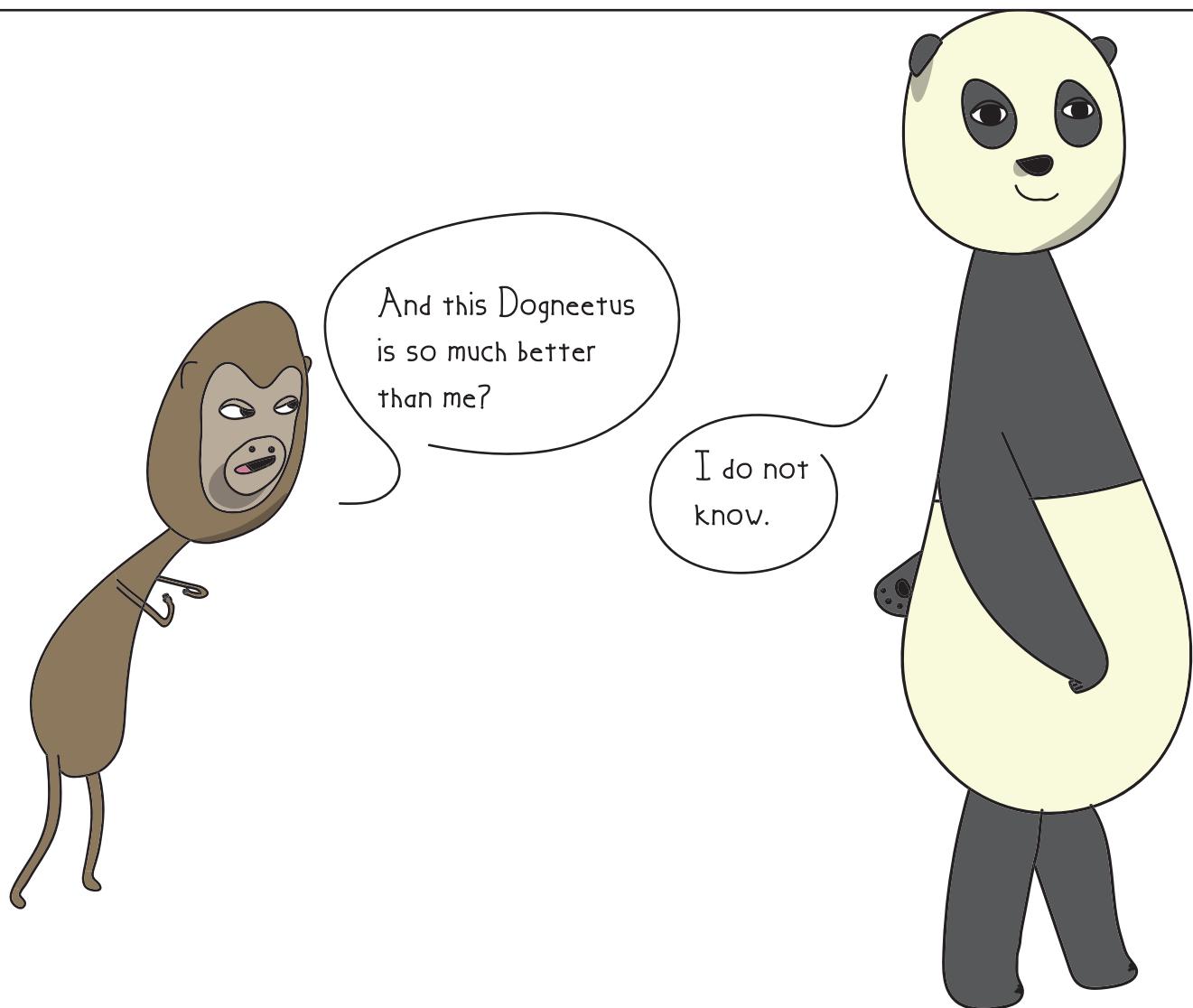
My parents are
kicking me out!
Why? Because I
am always
hurting myself?

I do not
know.

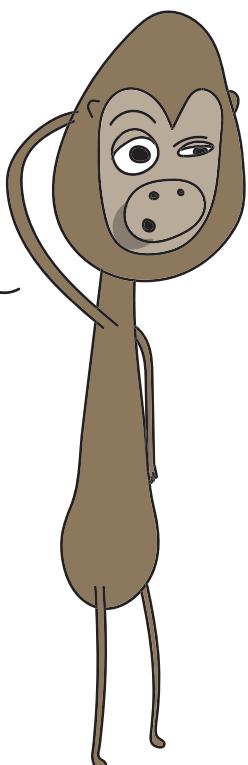




Said Marcus.
Oh my gods.
This is terrible.
said Marcus



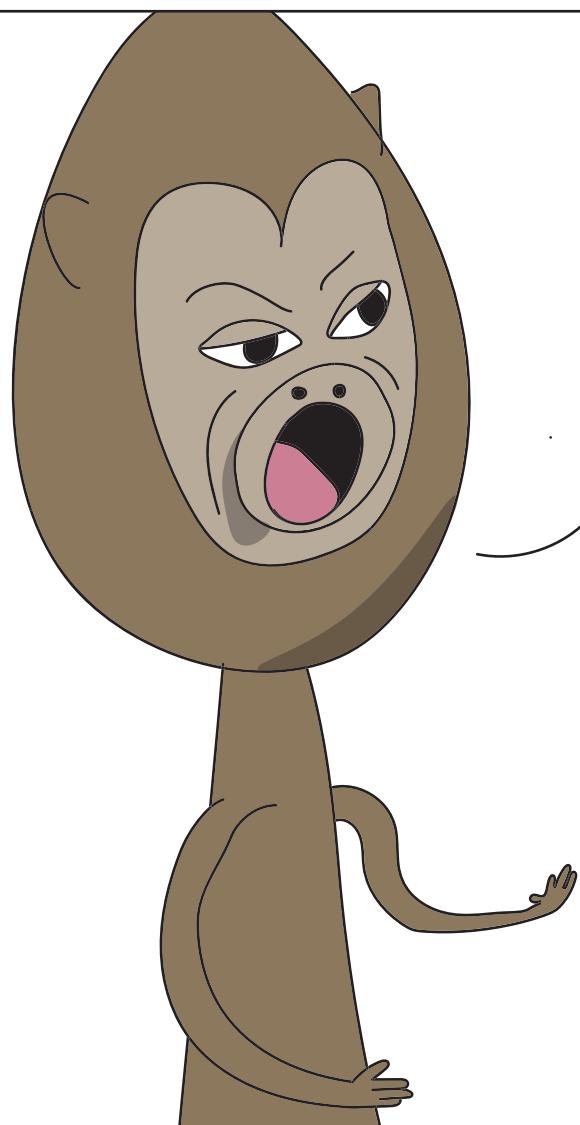
asked Marcus
Where are
you going? I
asked Marcus



I have to pick
Dogeneetus up from the
shipping yard now. She
sailed from Greece.



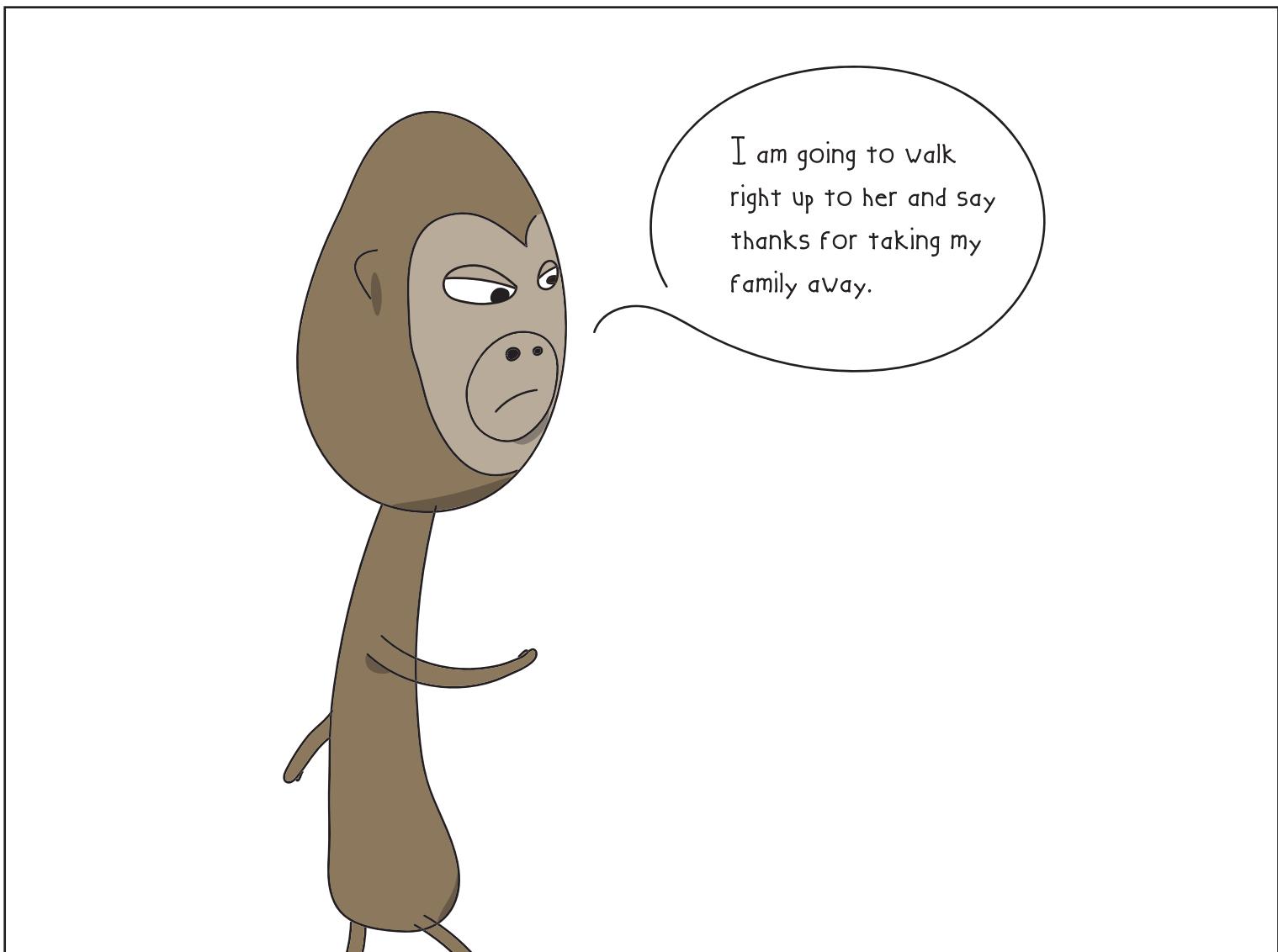
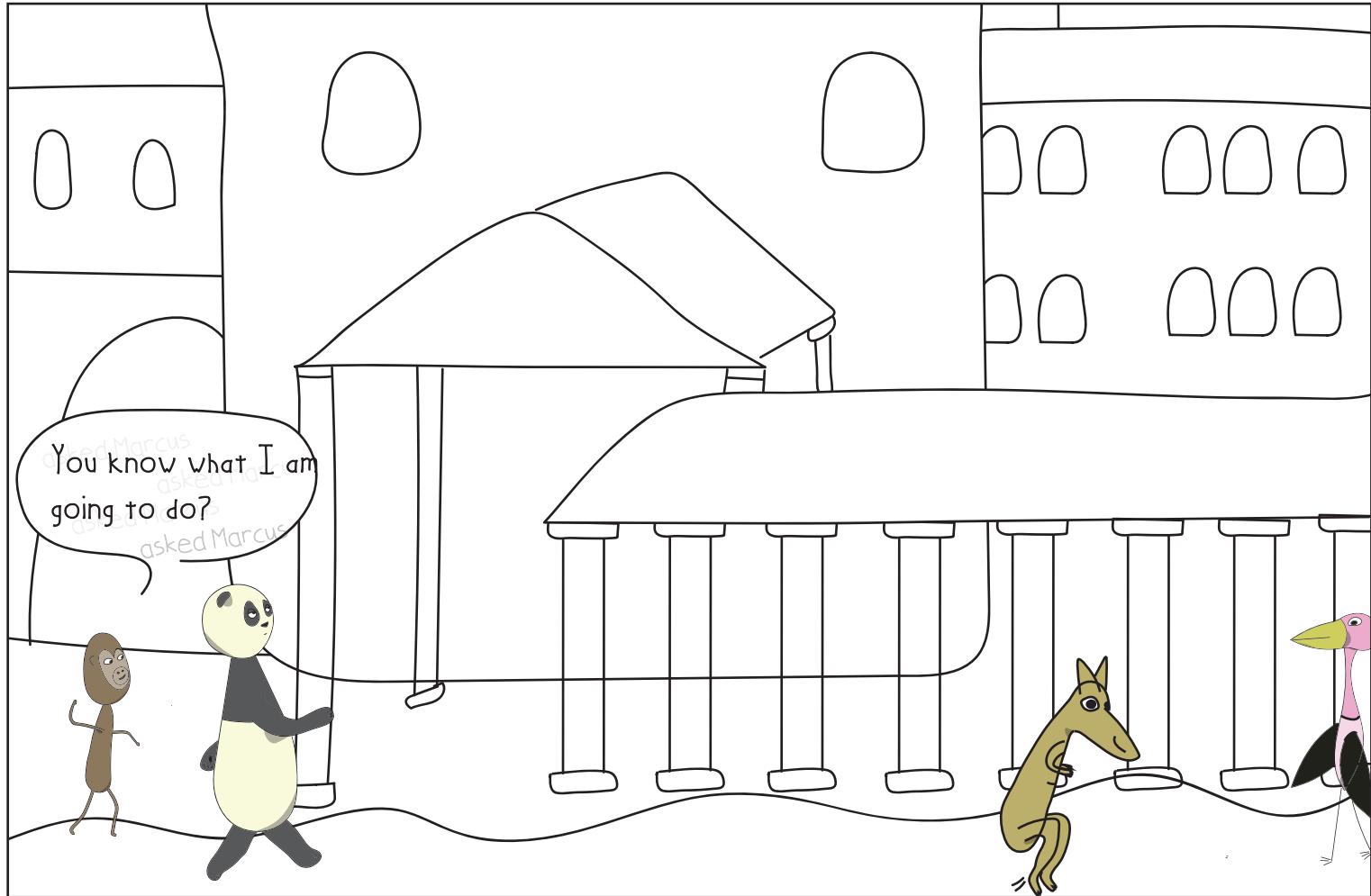
NOW?!

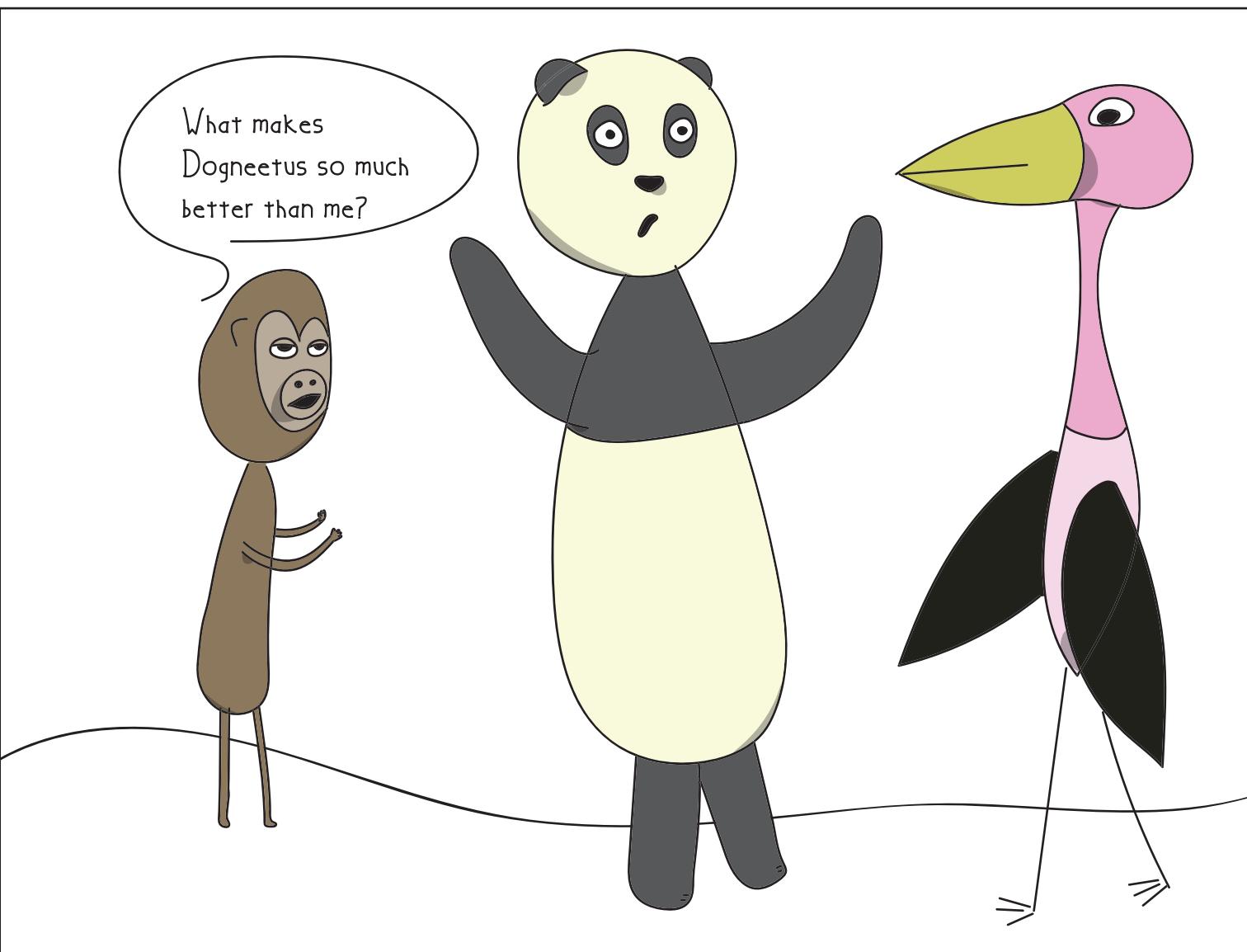
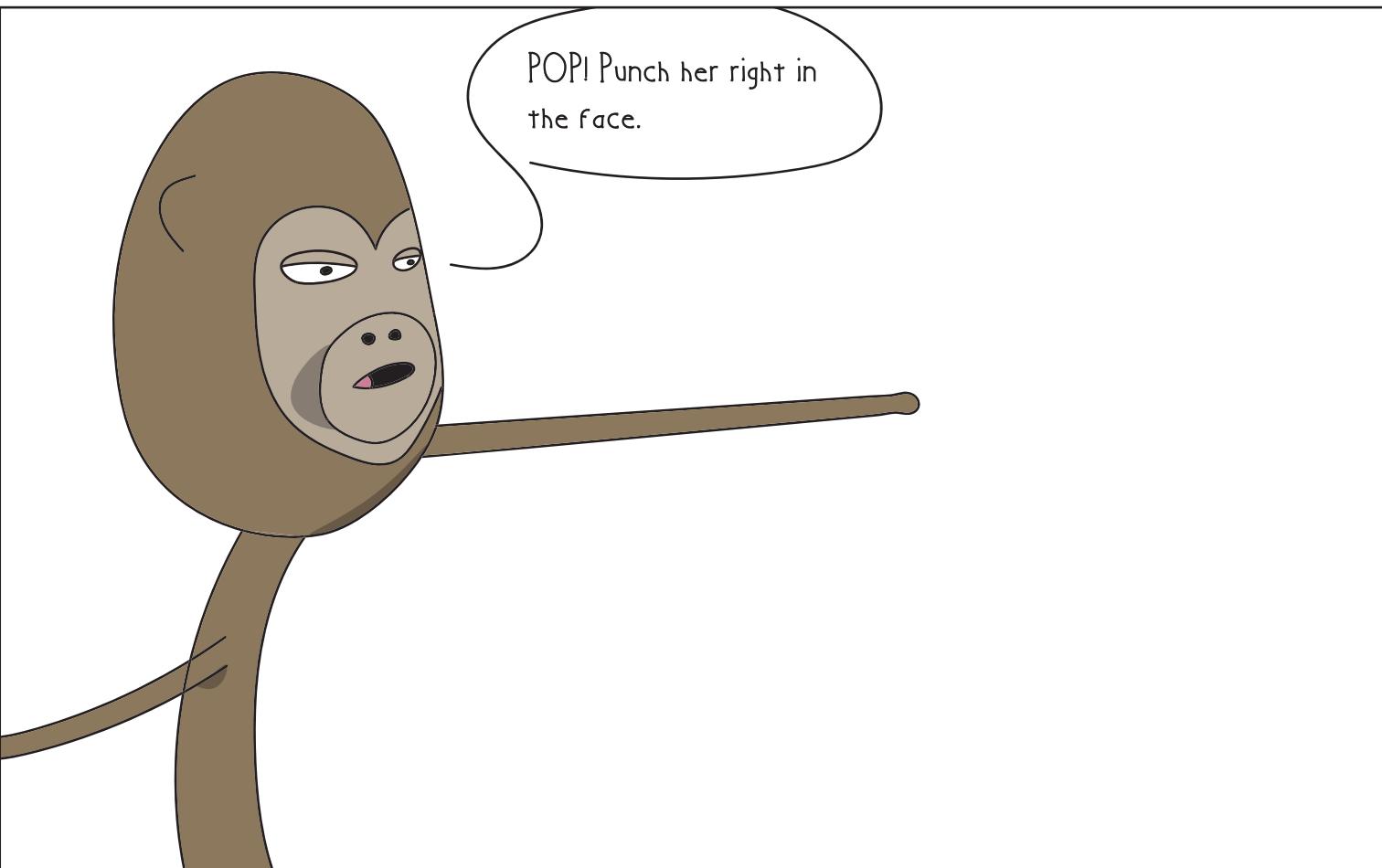


Can I come with
you? I want to
meet the person
stealing my life.

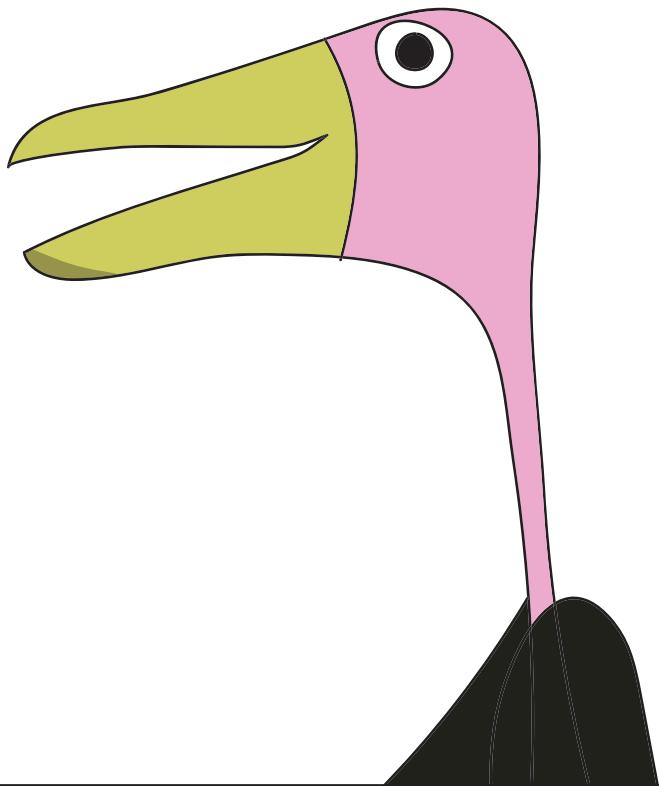
Fine.

Chapter 2 – Hurt



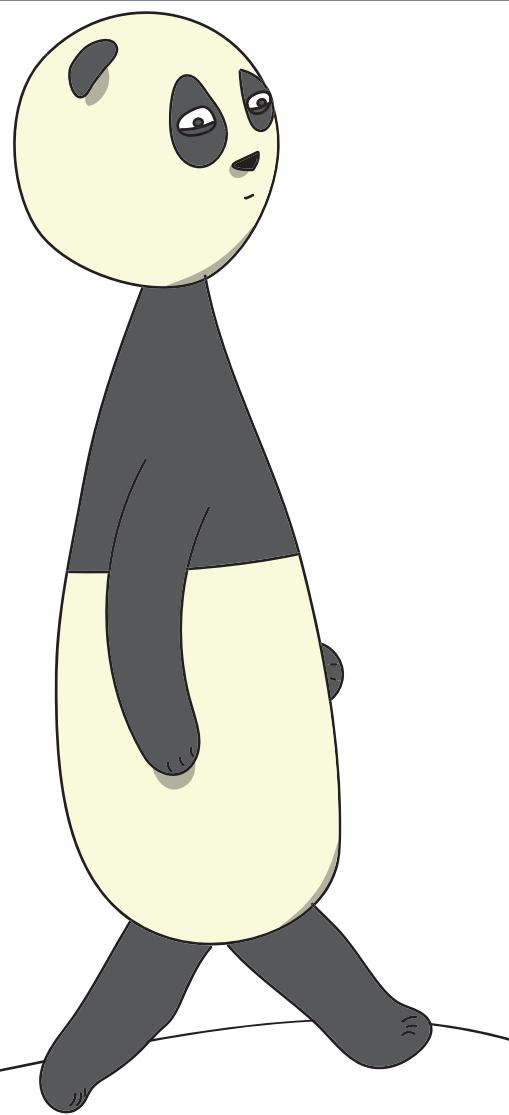
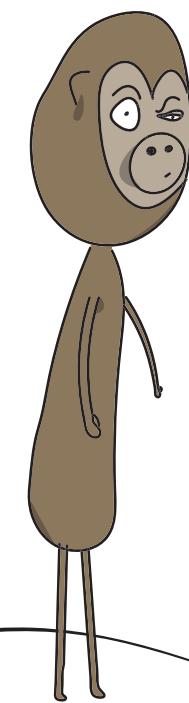


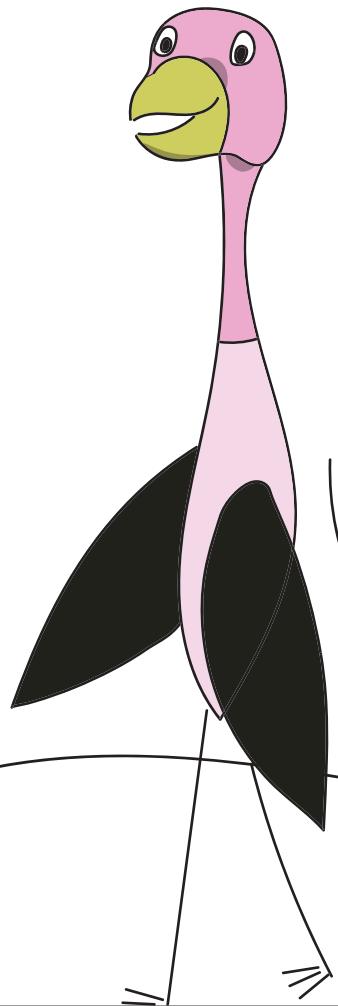
Did you say Dogneetus?
Dogneetus from Greece?
said Janus the Stork



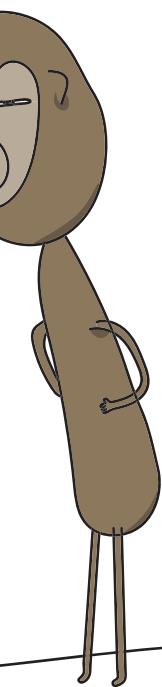
Yeah...

Oh, she is amazing.

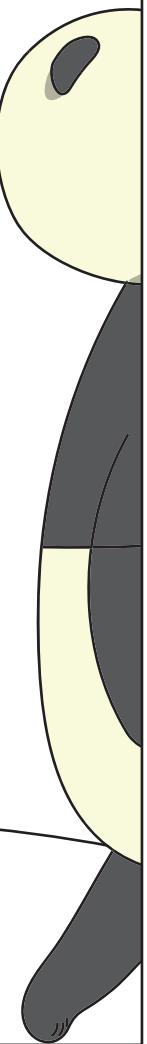




How do you know
her? asked Marcus

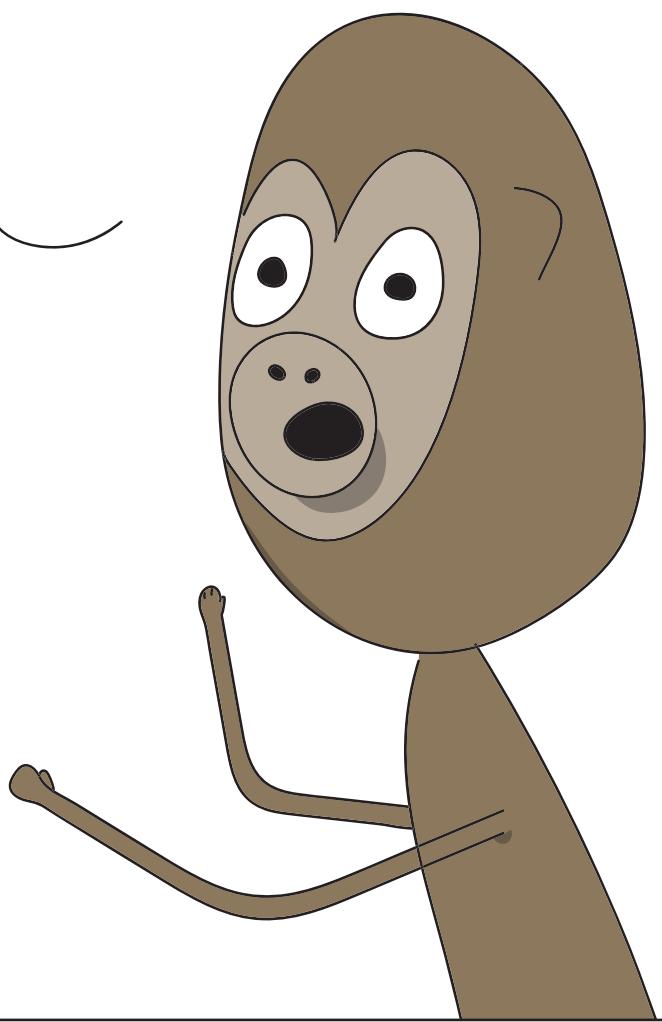


I have not met her,
but everyone knows
her. She is famous.

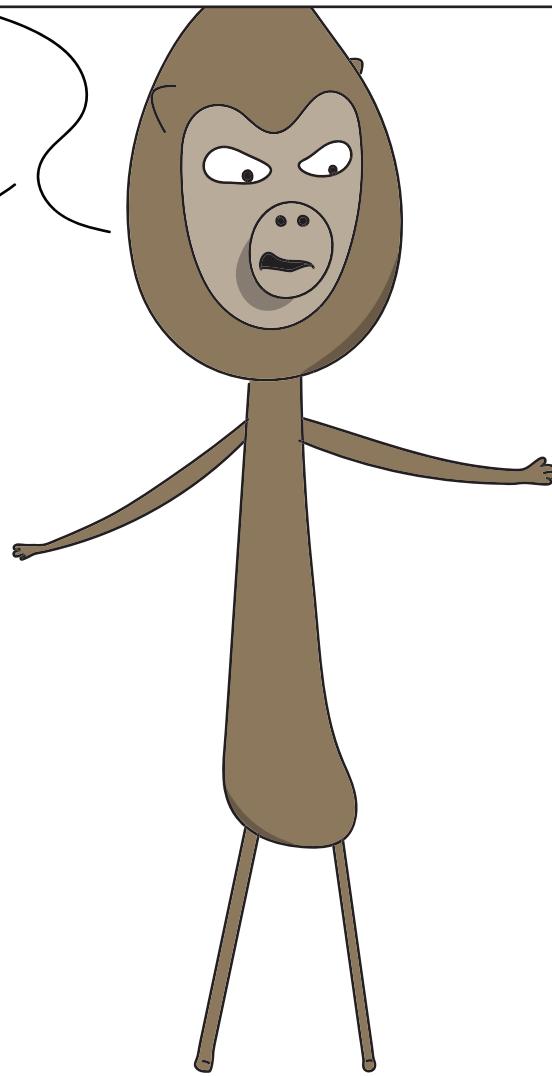


asked Marcus
asked Marcus
asked Marcus
asked Marcus
Famous for what?

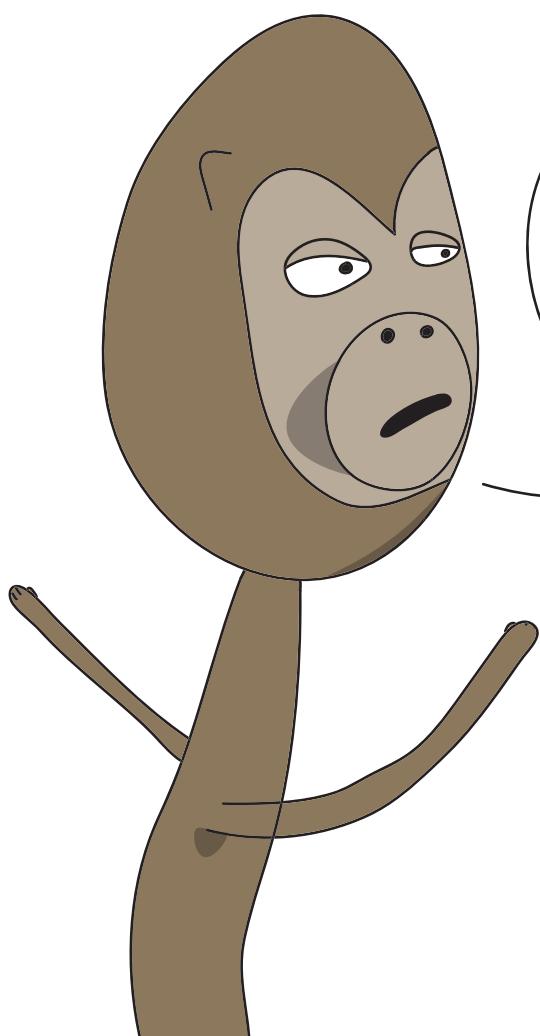
Frescoes. Beautiful
wall paintings...

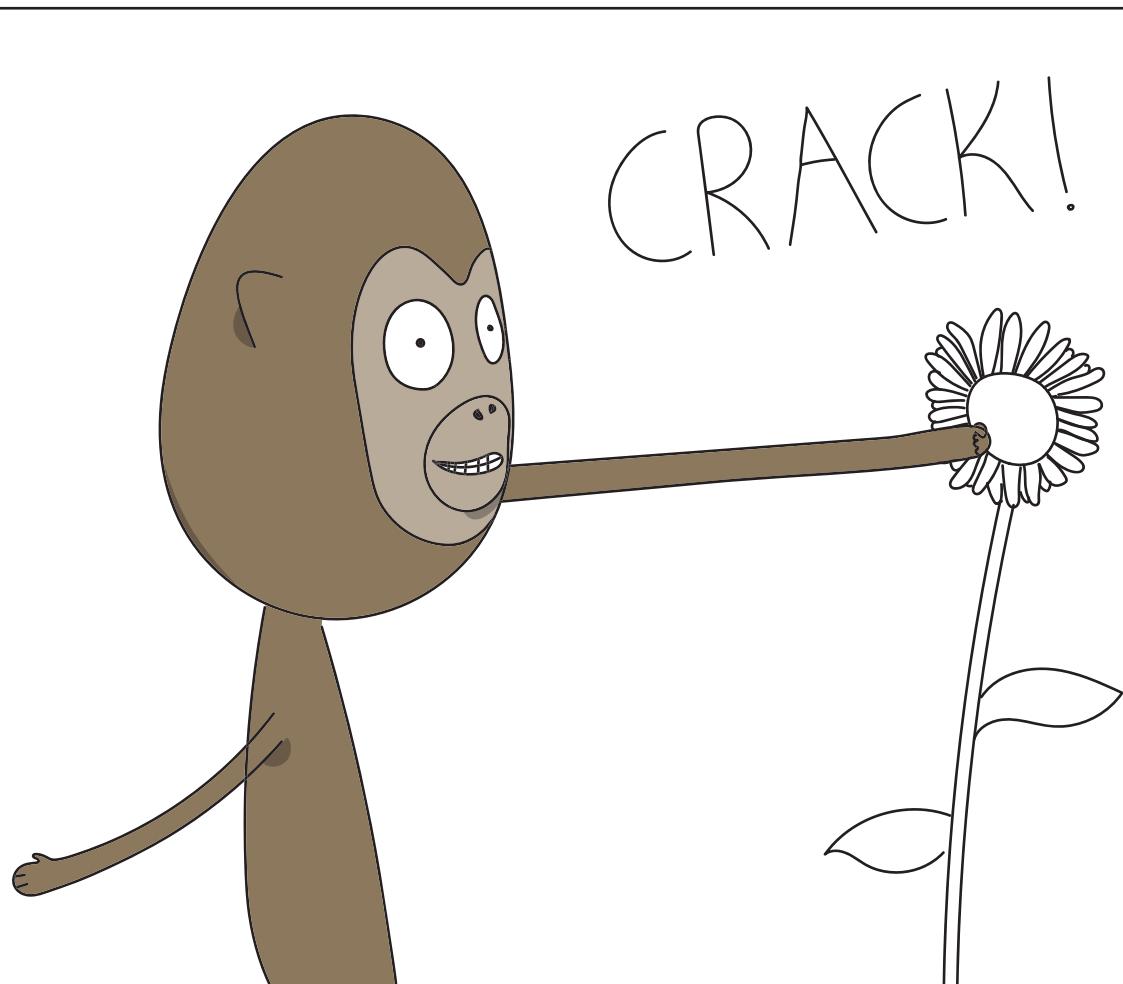
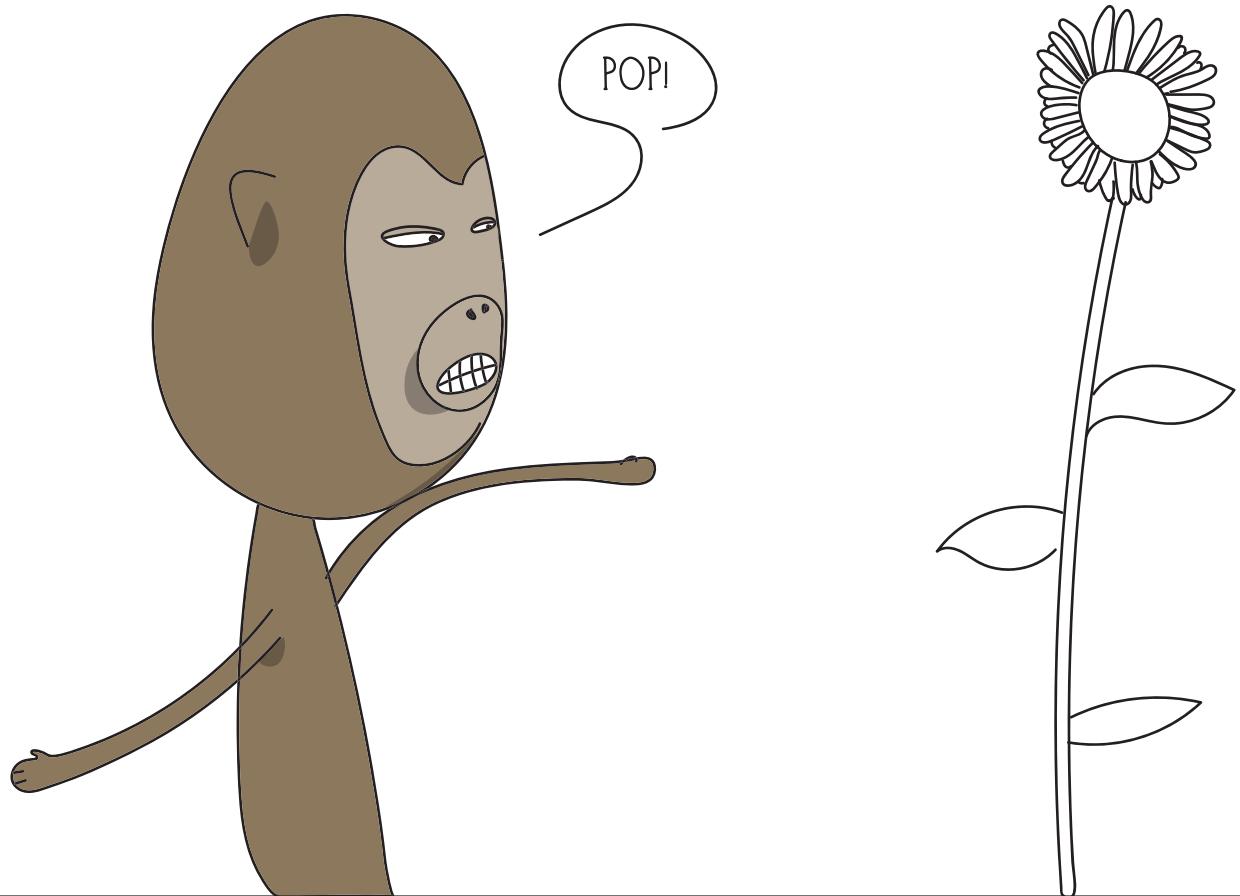


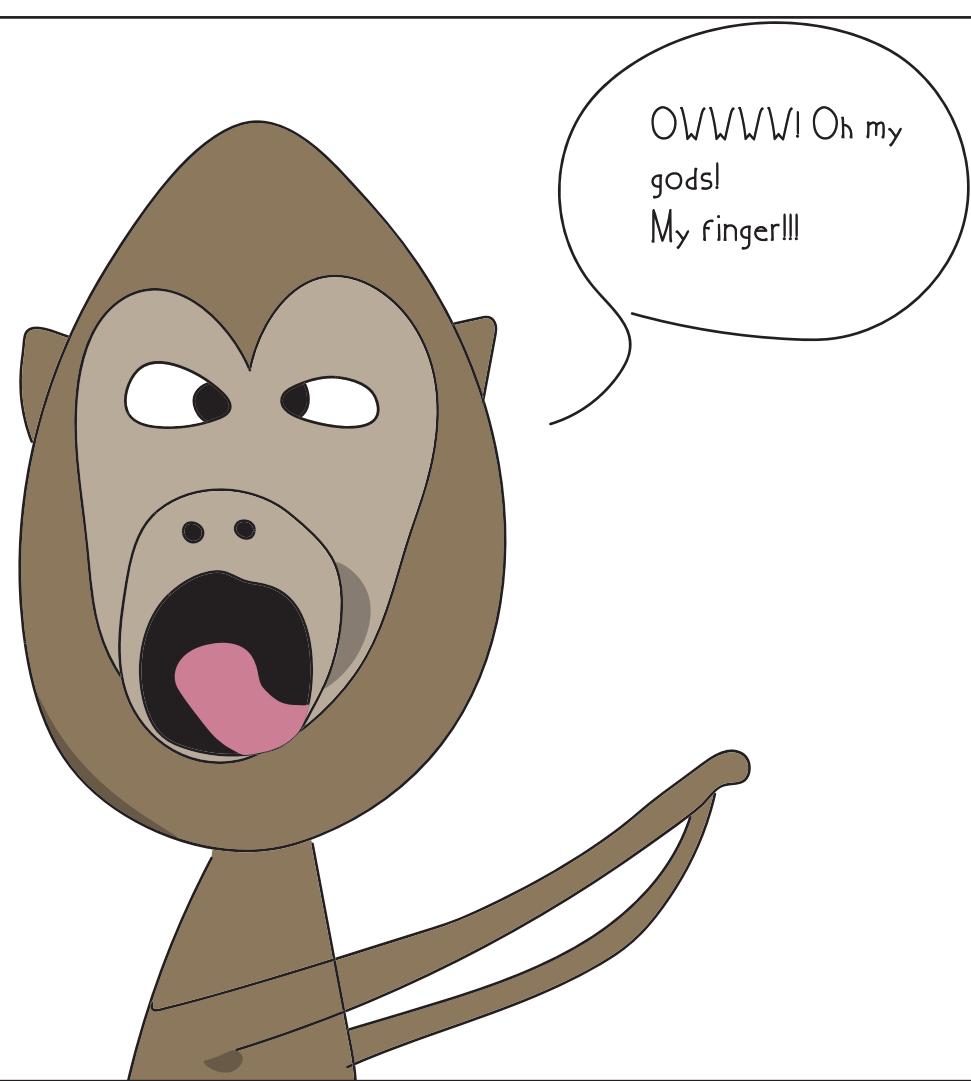
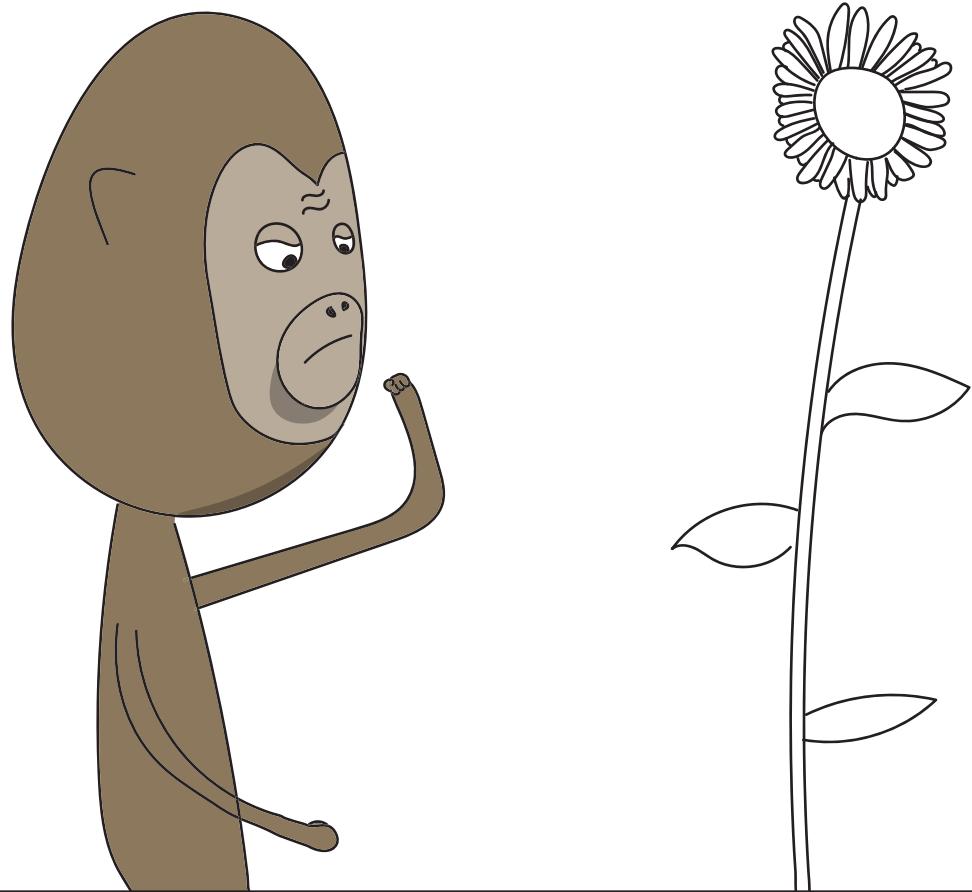
Great. She is famous.

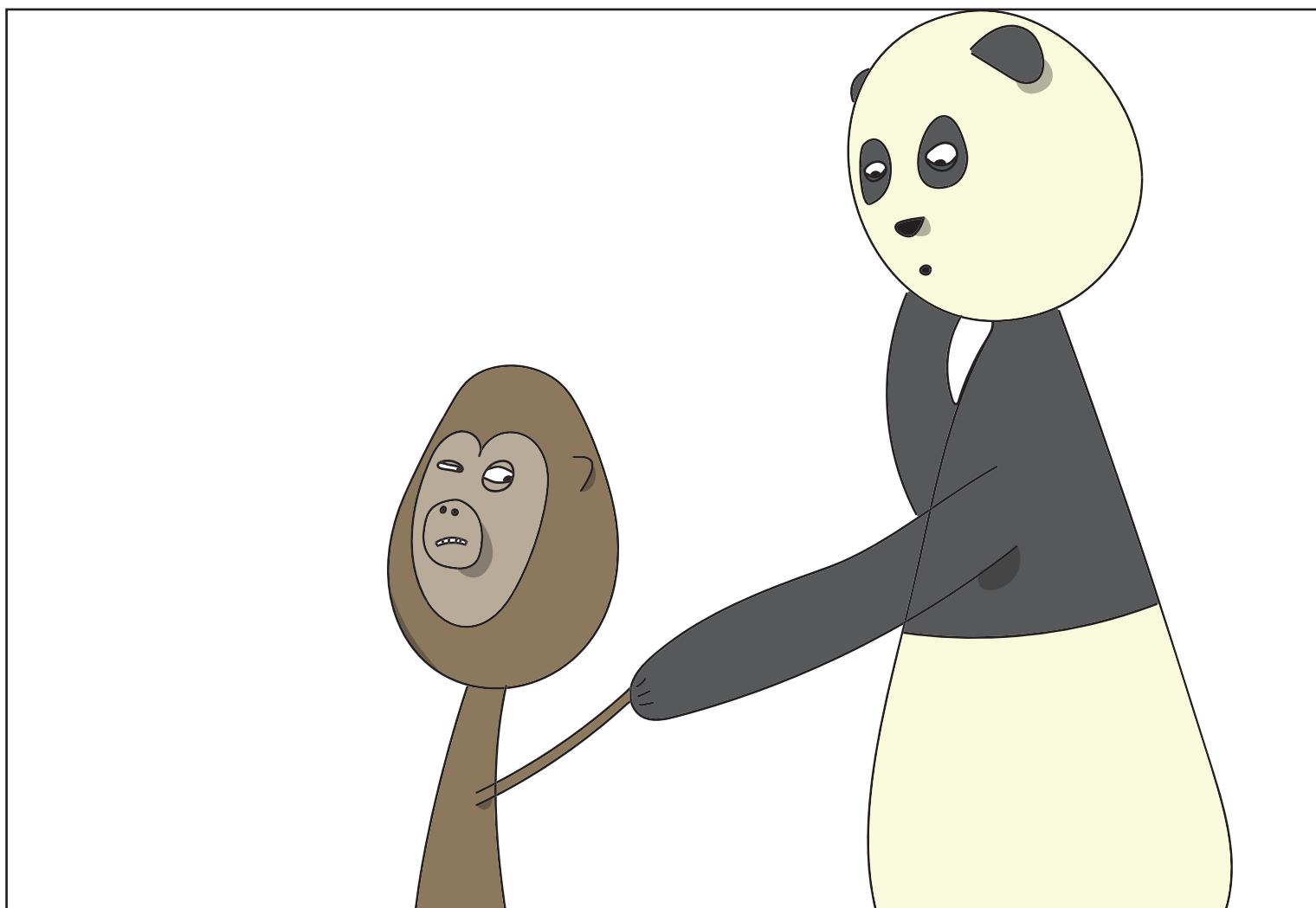
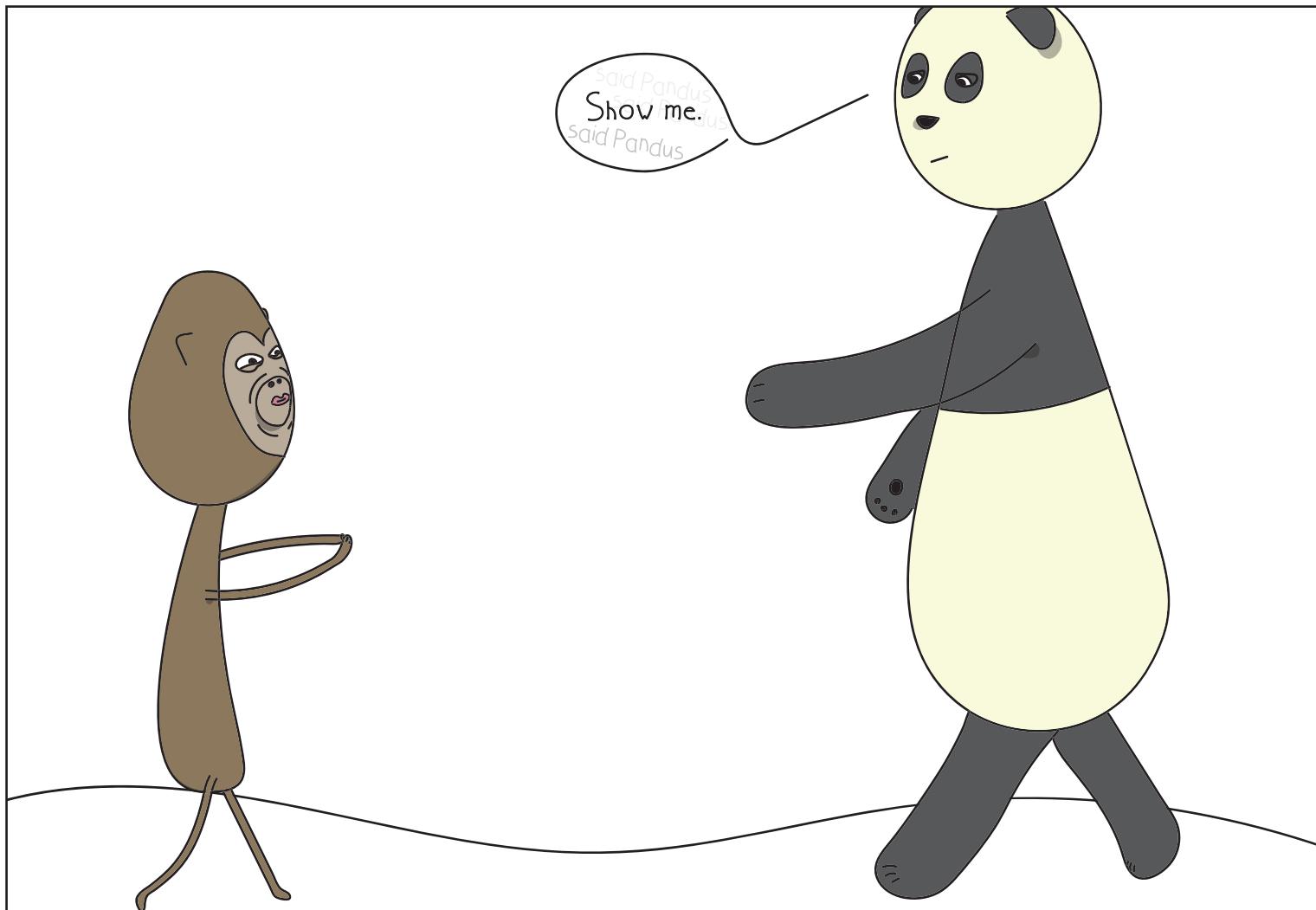


She will be more famous for getting punched in the face after she steals my family.



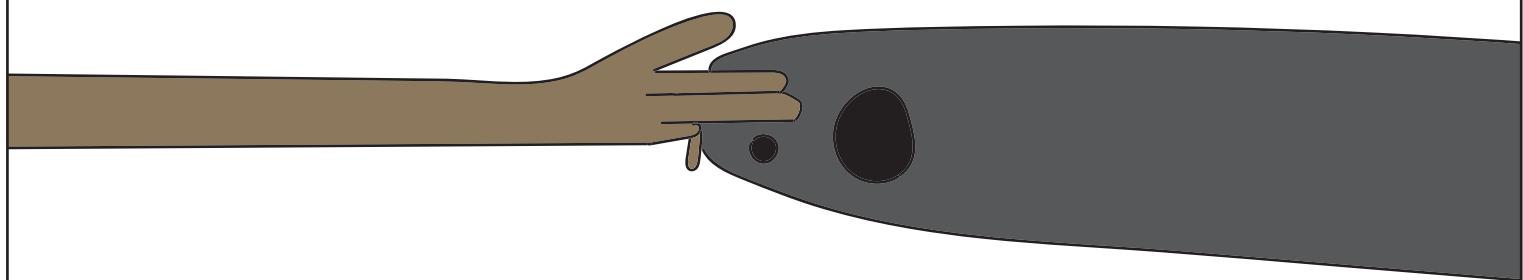






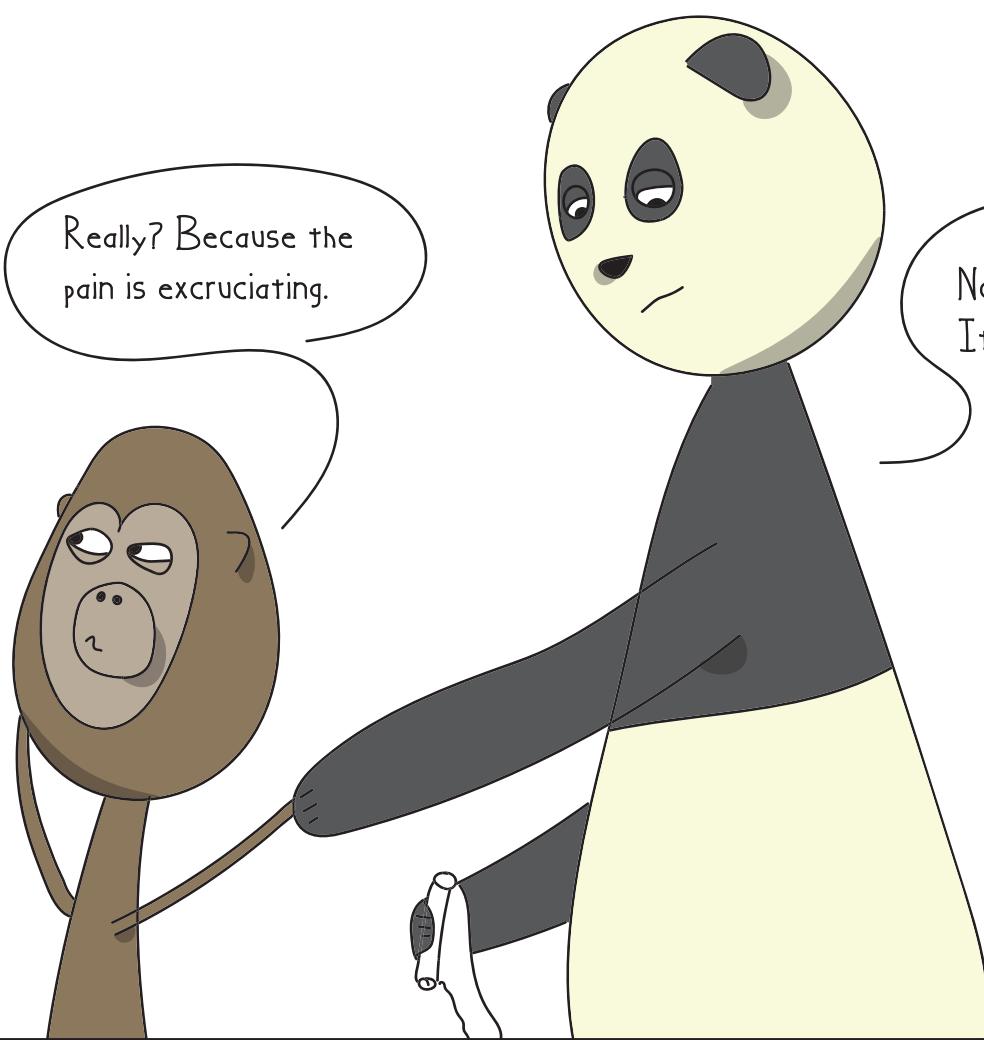
Is it bad?

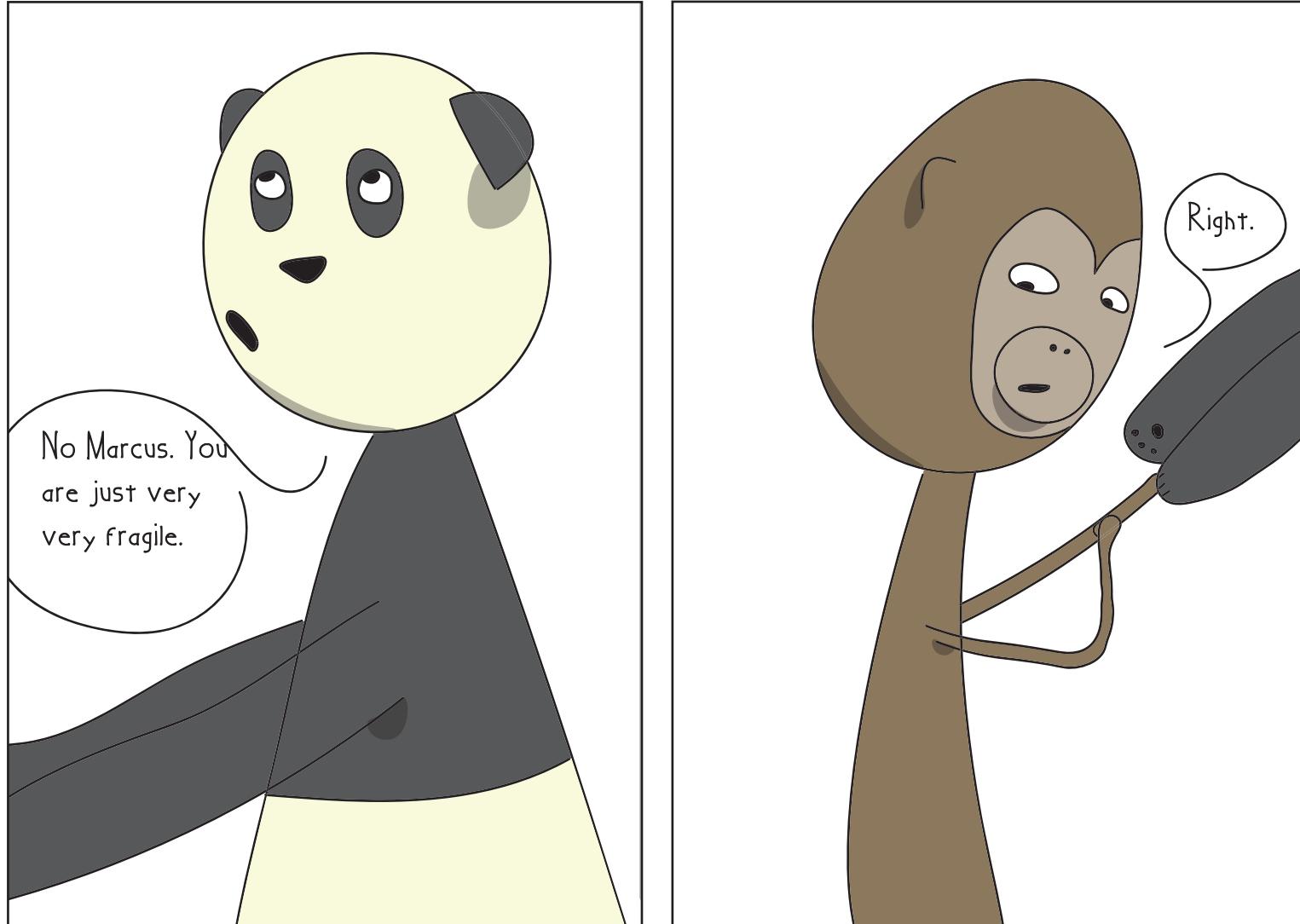
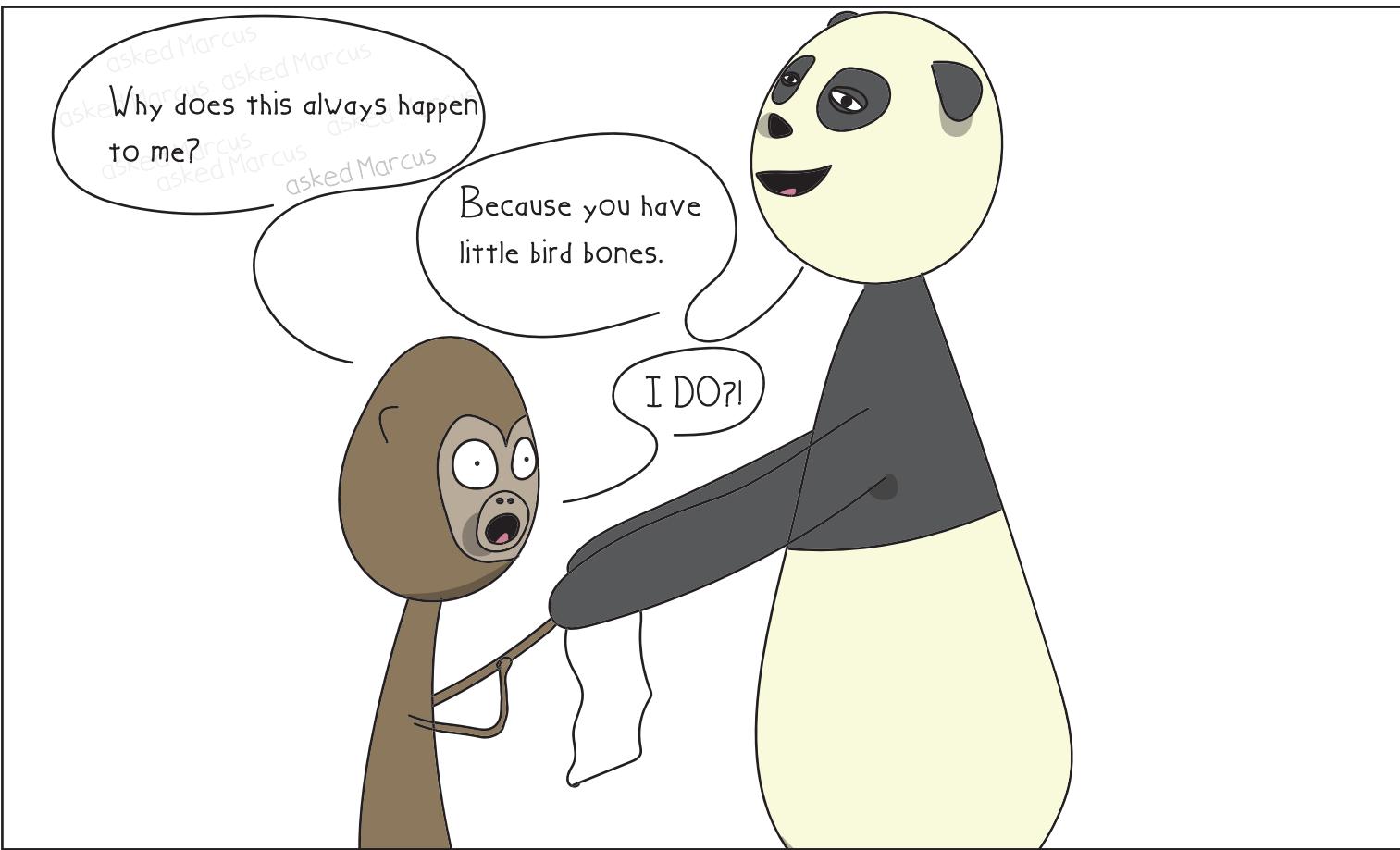
Said Pandus
Just a
scratch.
Said Pandus



Really? Because the
pain is excruciating.

No, not really.
It is bad.







How does that
feel?

I think I am starting to
understand my problem.

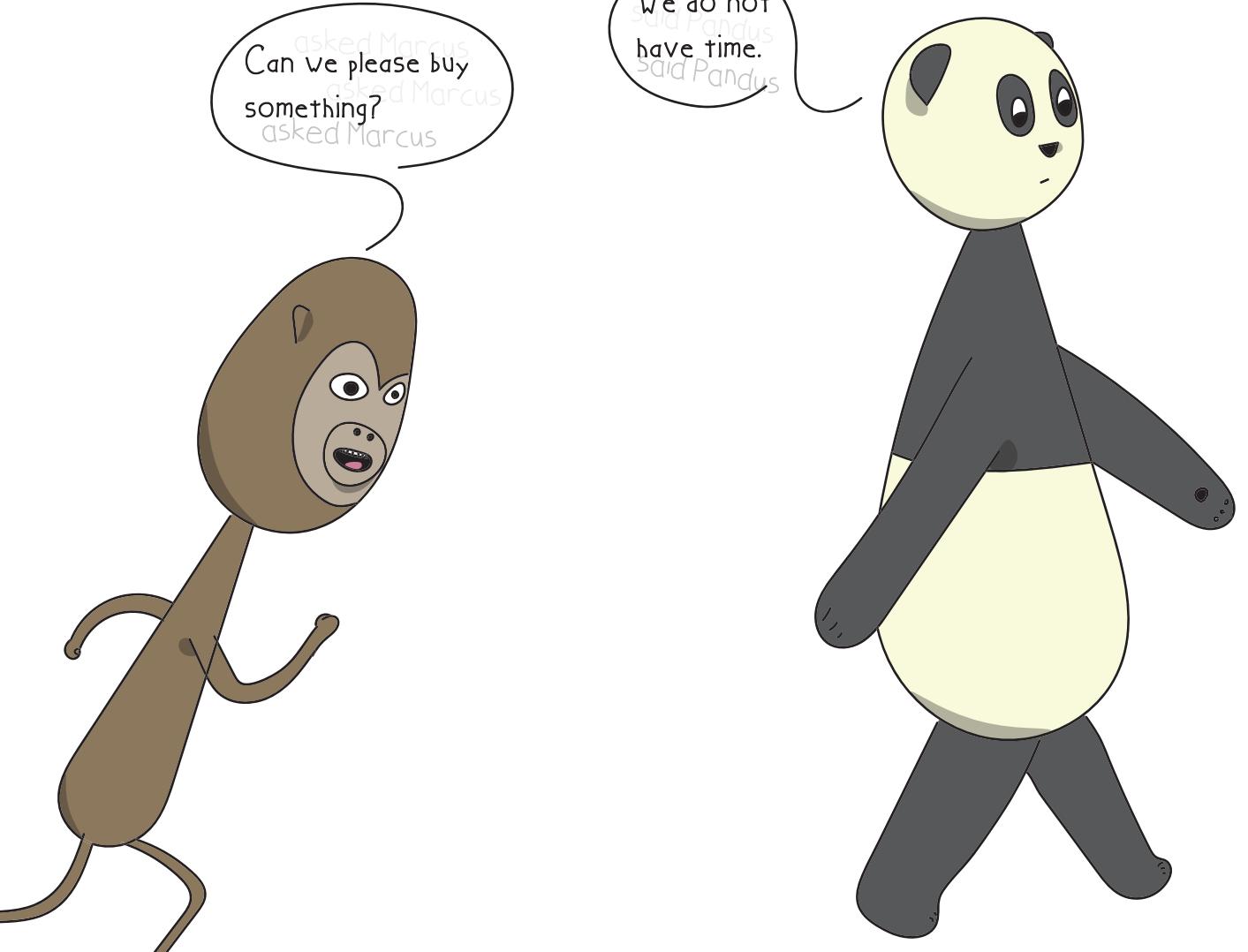
Chapter 3 – Terry

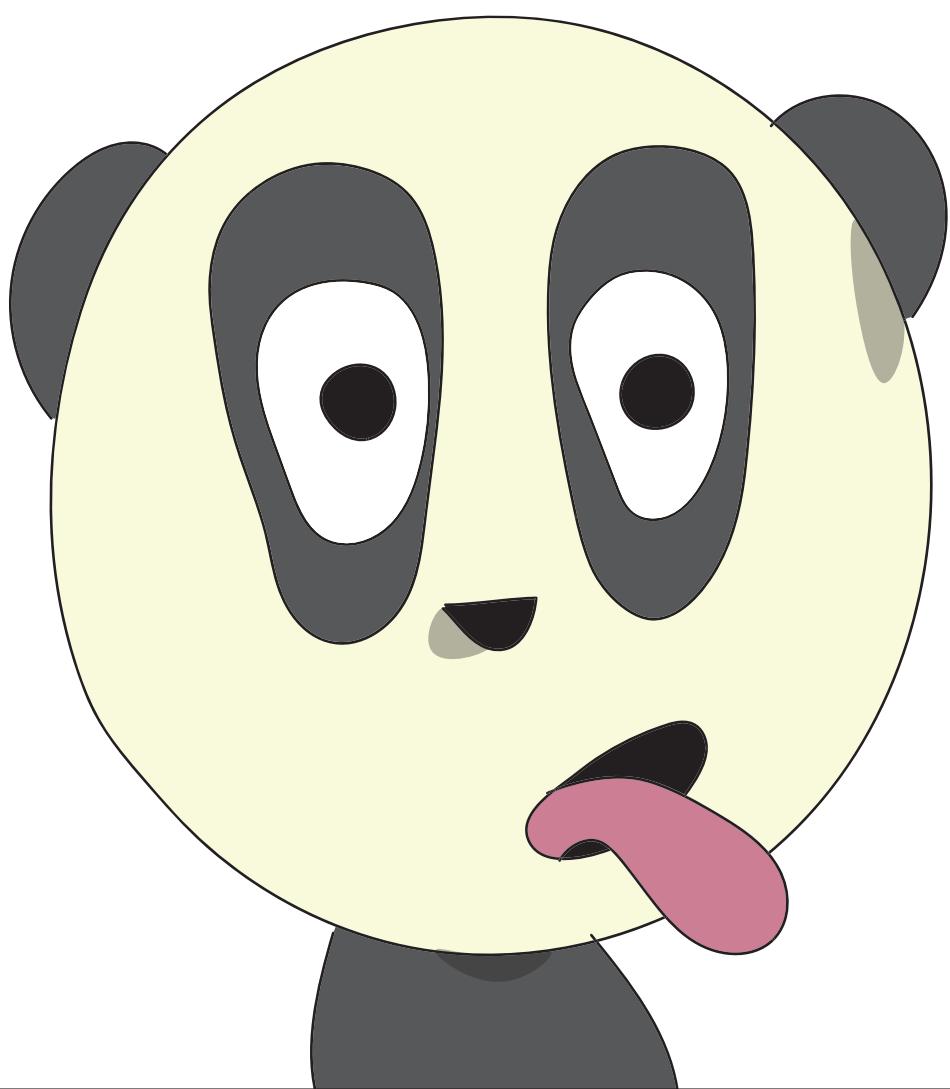
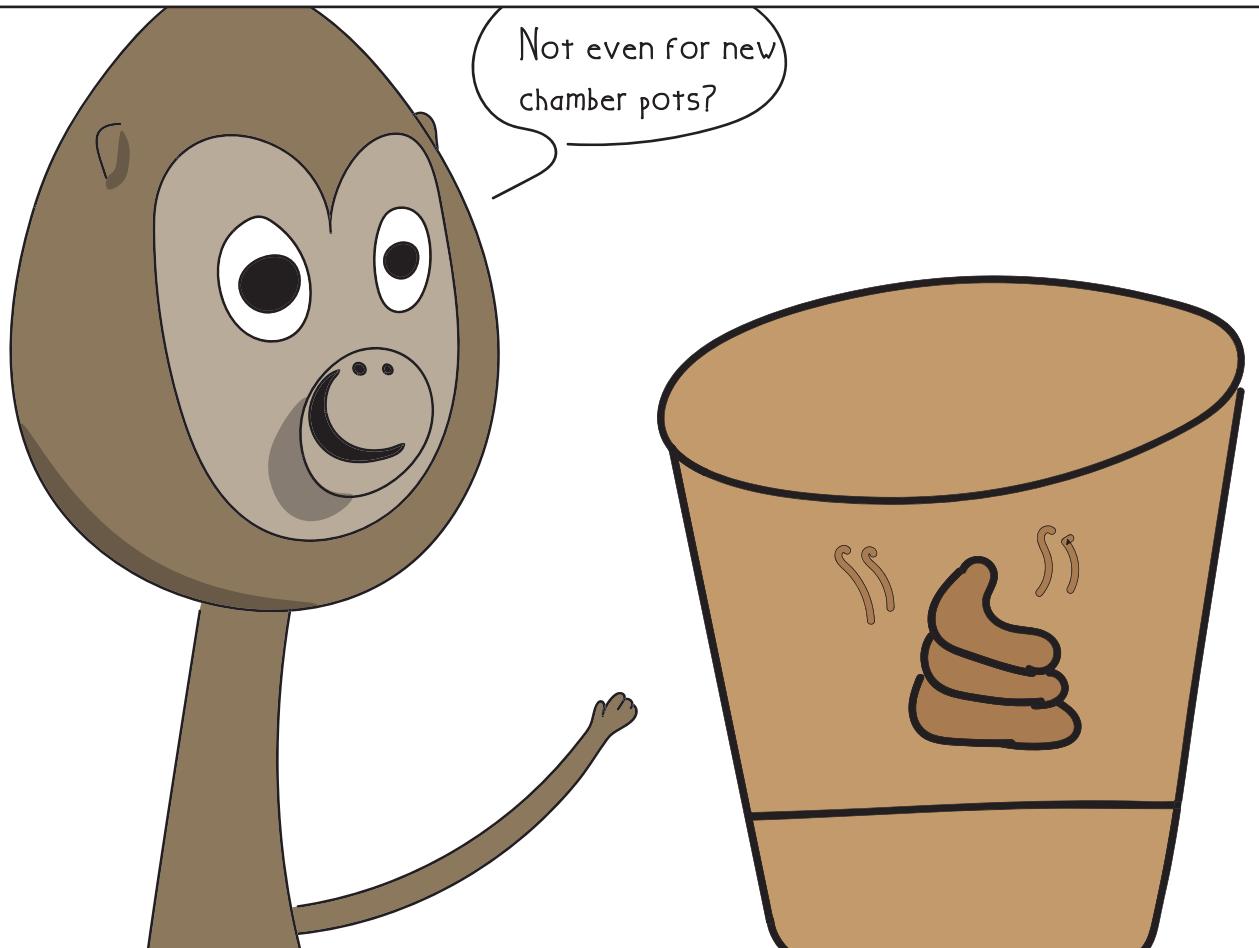
For sale today only! The extra
extra light stoic pillow!
Completely featherless! Terry
will help you sleep like a baby!

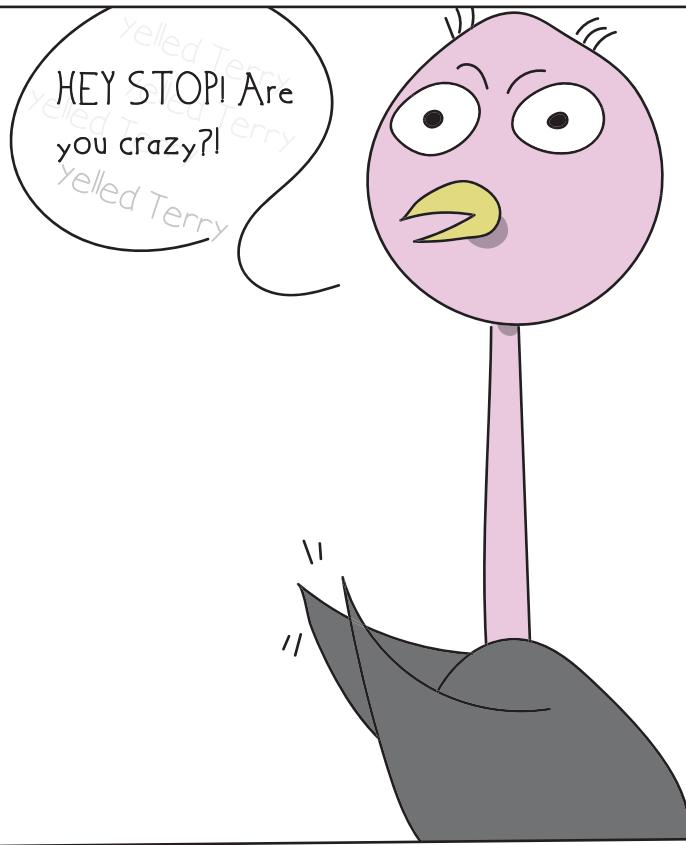


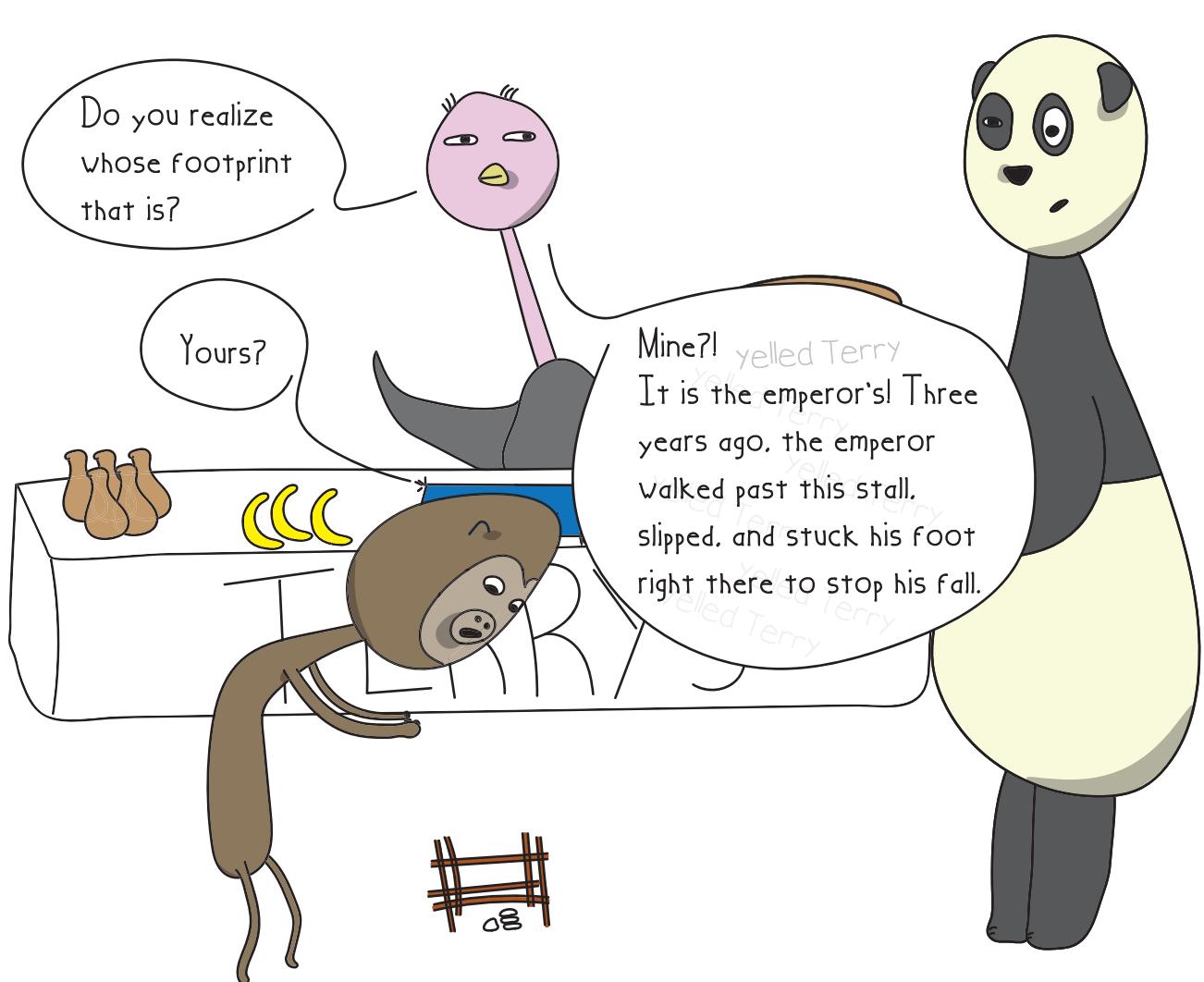
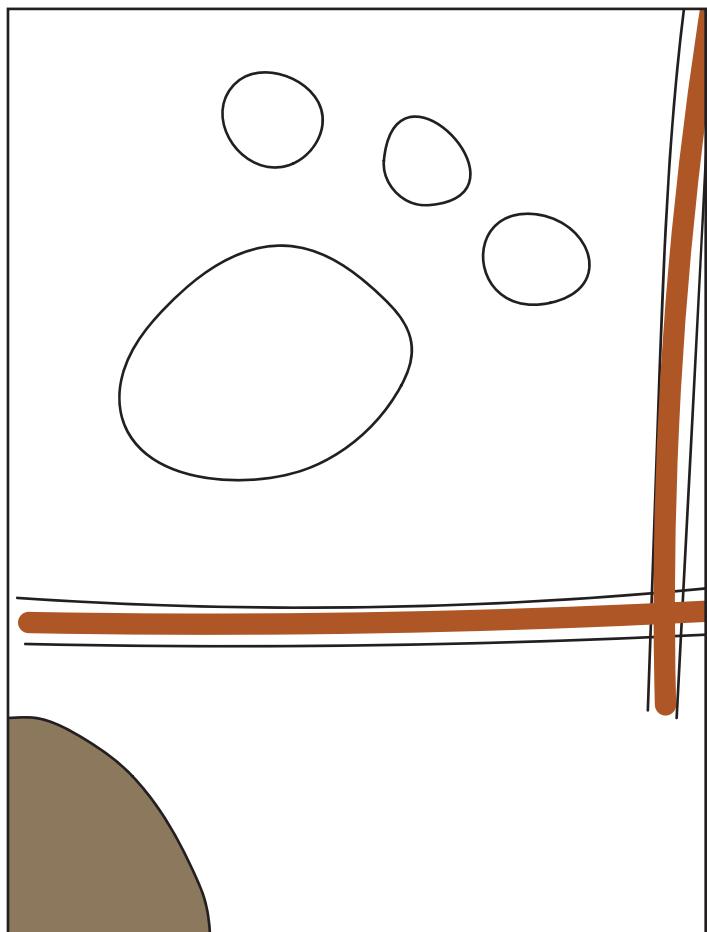
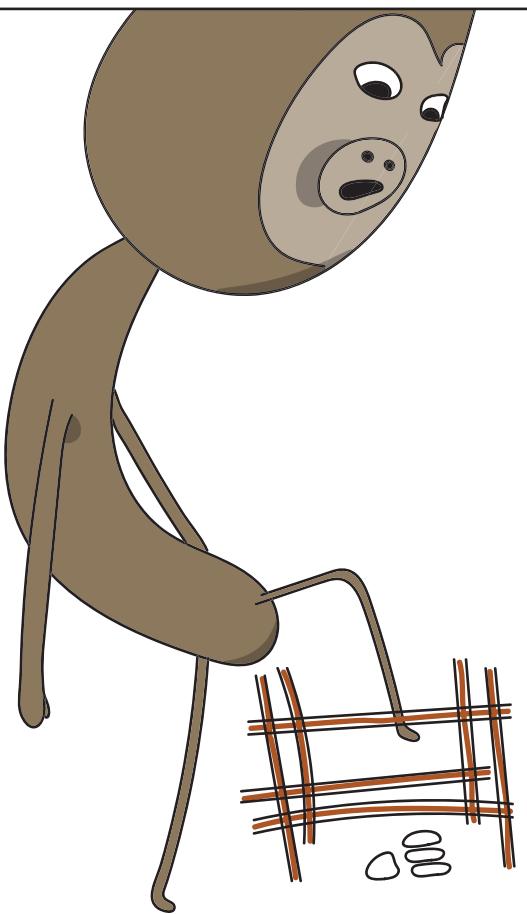
asked Marcus
Can we please buy
something?
asked Marcus

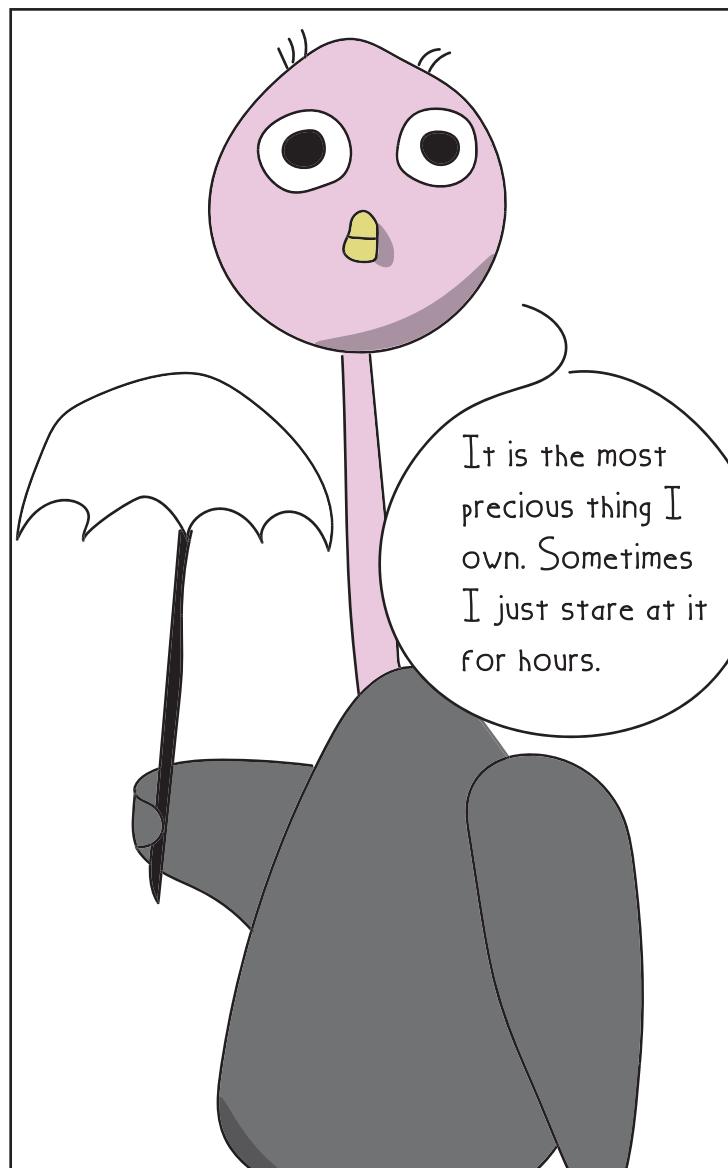
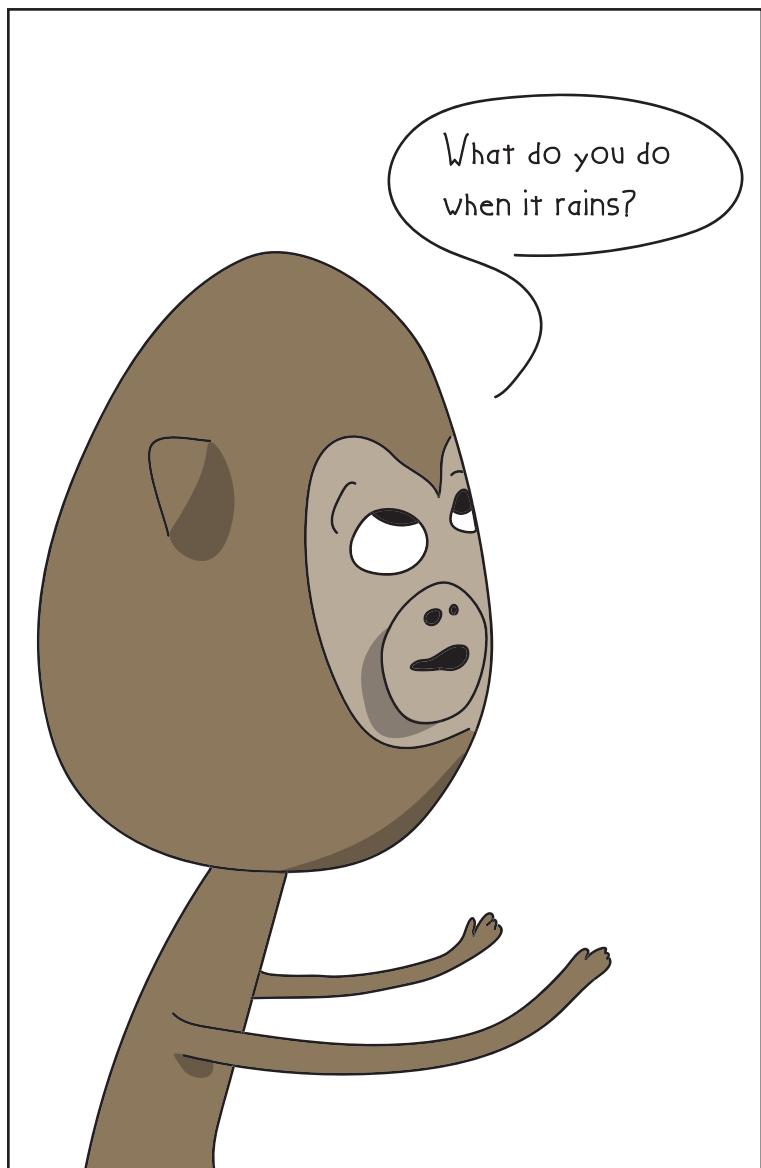
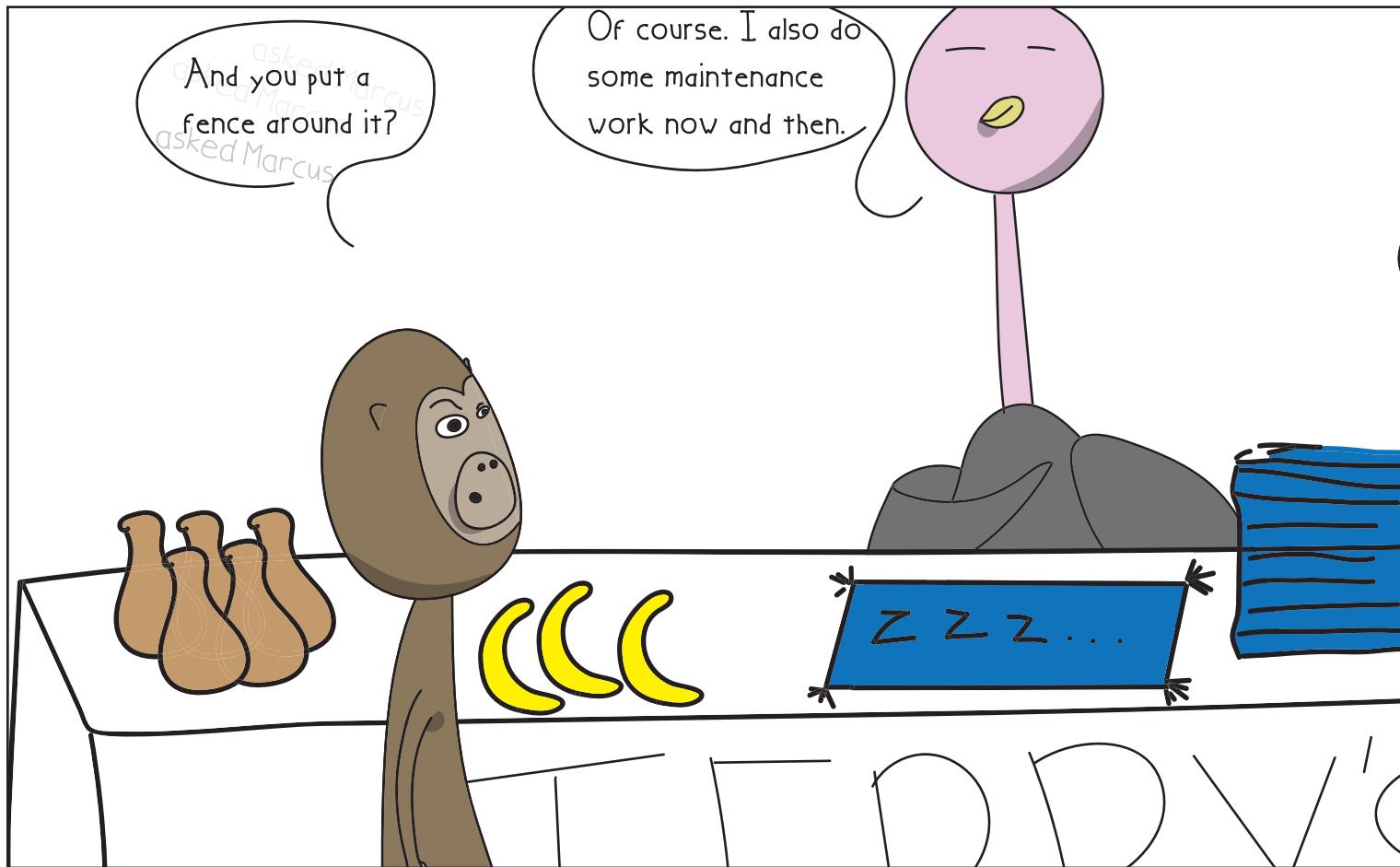
We do not
have time.
Said Pandus





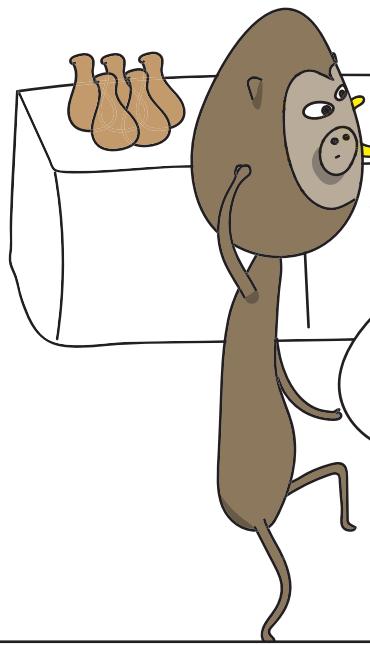




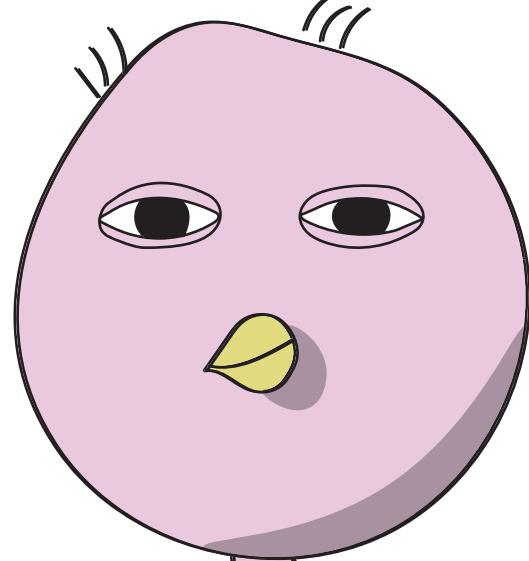
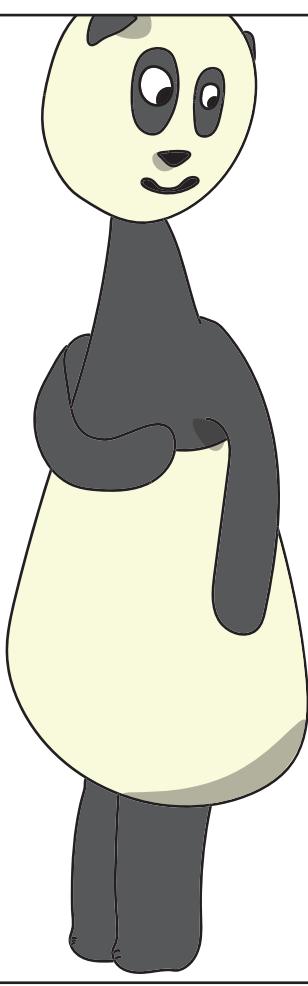


I am surprised no
one has accidentally
stepped on it.
Said Marcus

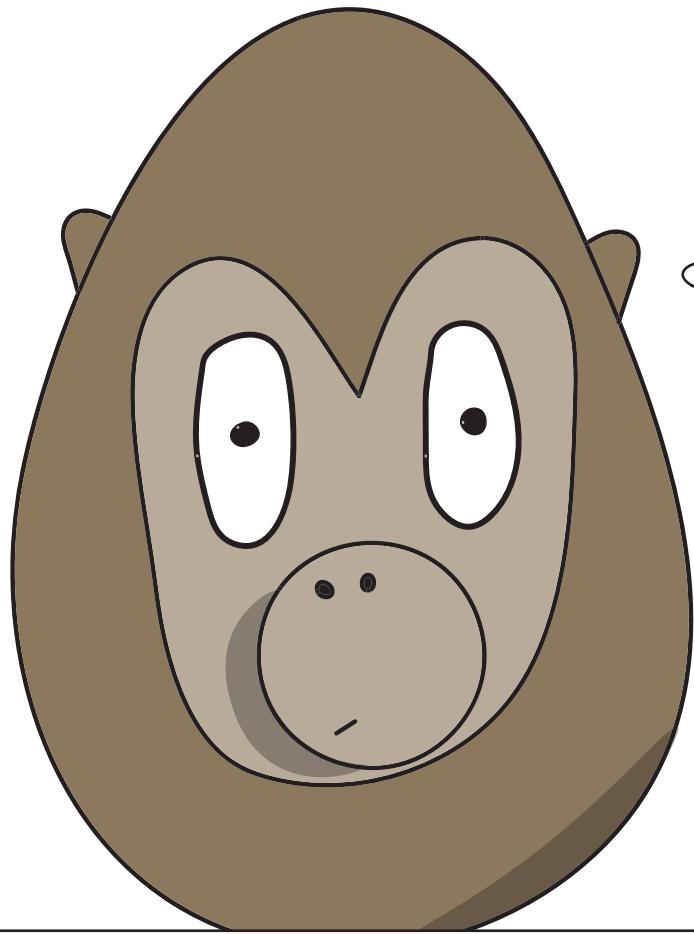
I never
leave.

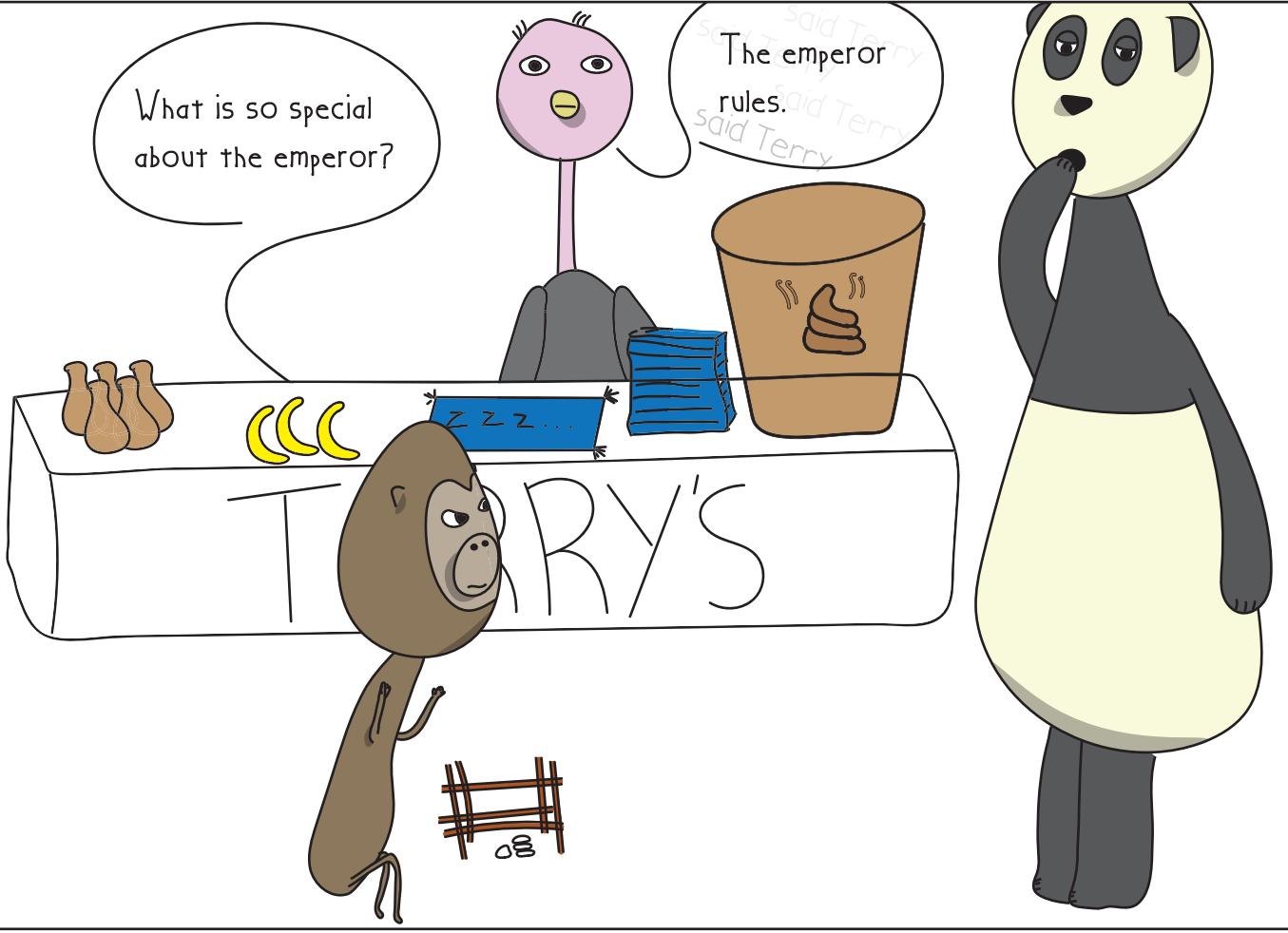


What happens when
you need to use the
bathroom?

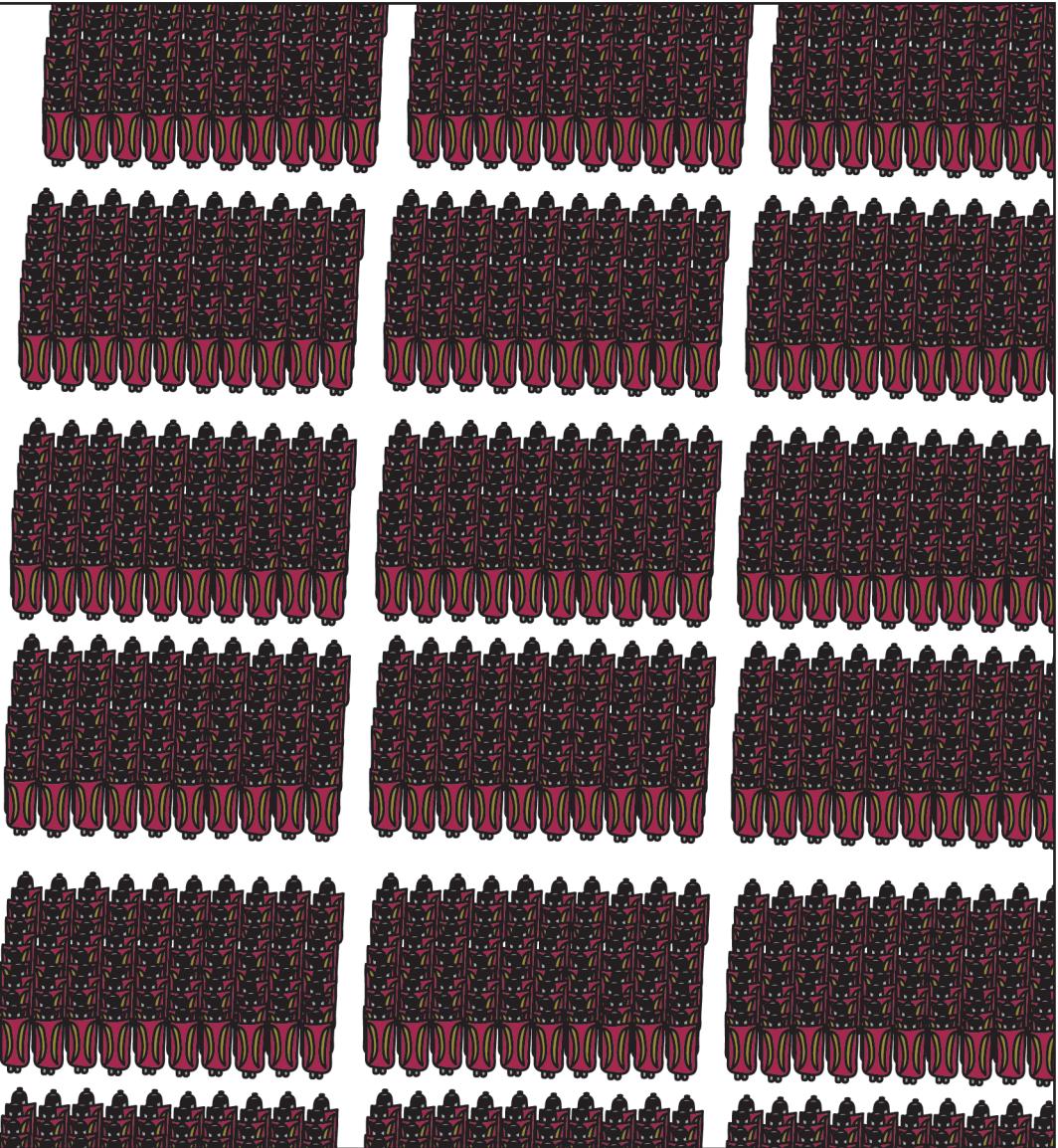


You think
this is a chair
I am sitting
on?

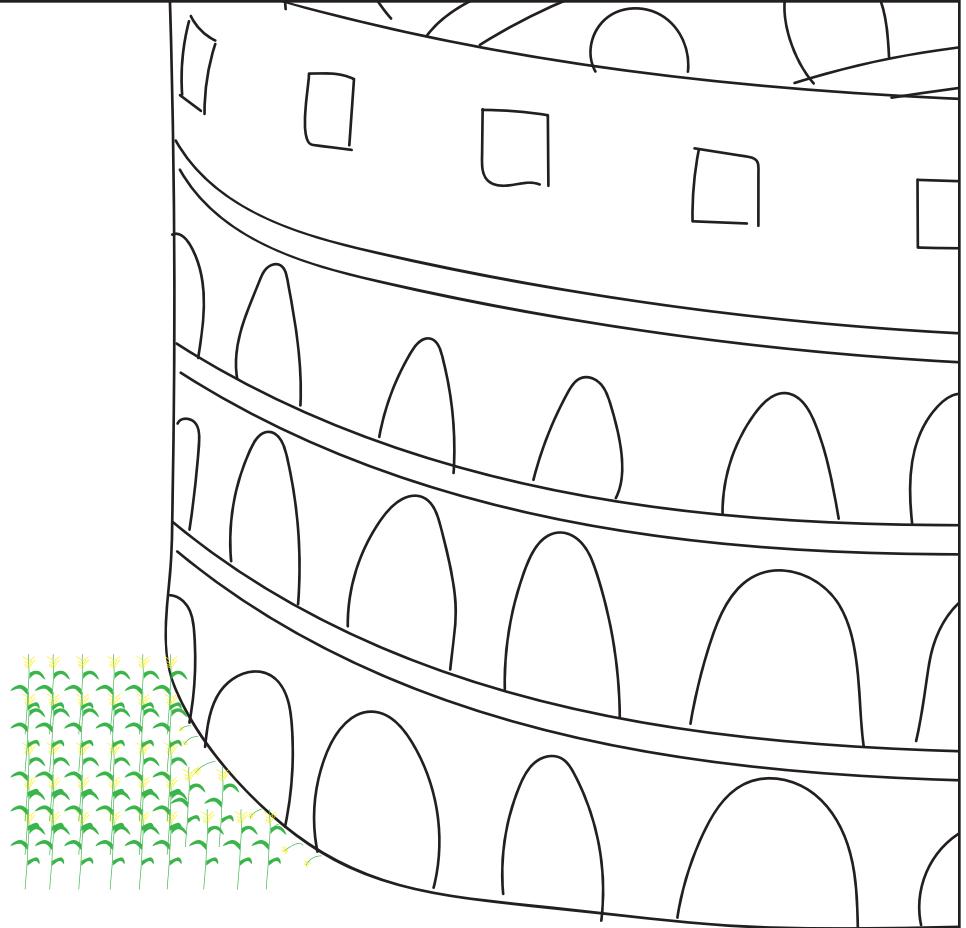
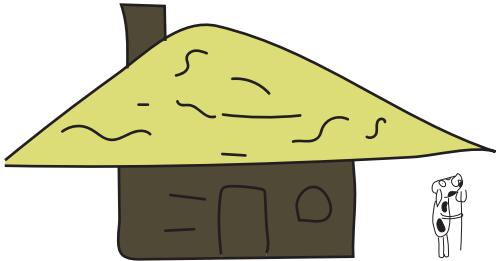




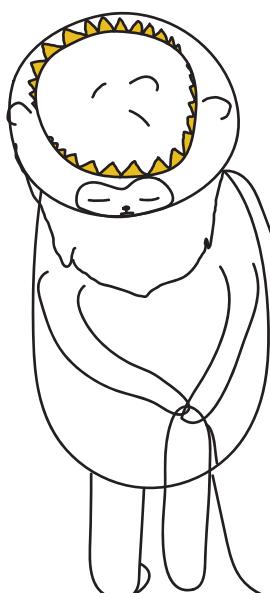
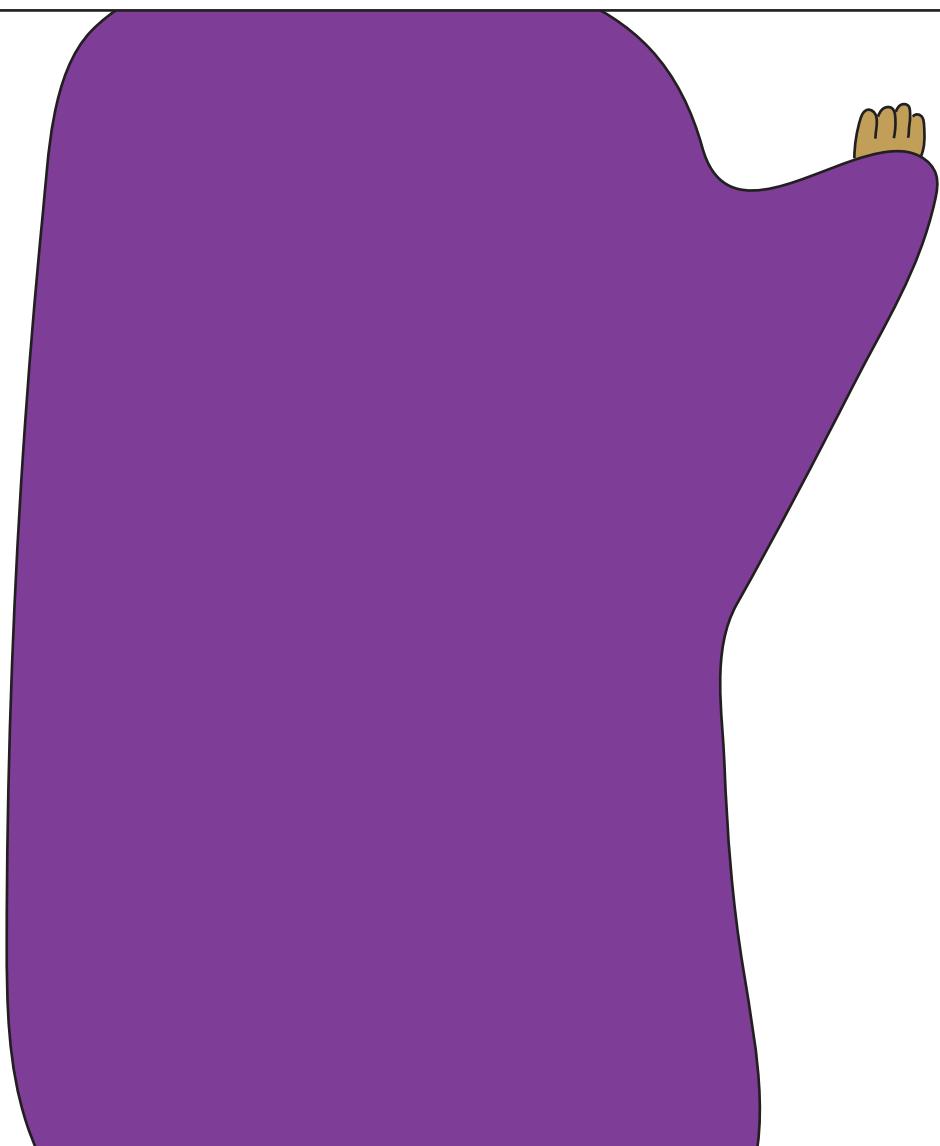
He controls the greatest
army in the world.



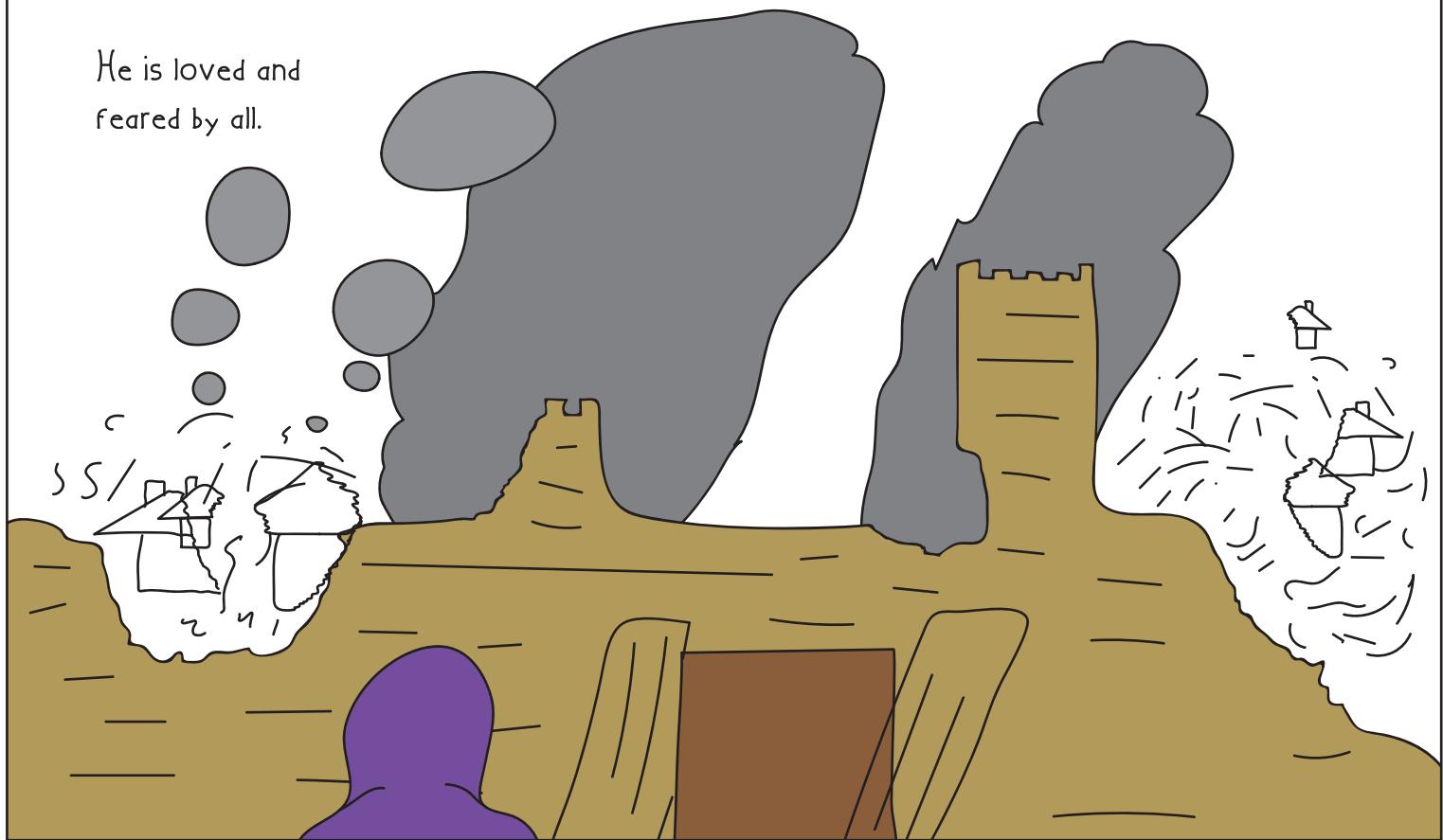
He builds whatever he
wants, wherever he
wants it.



Crowns kneel
for him.

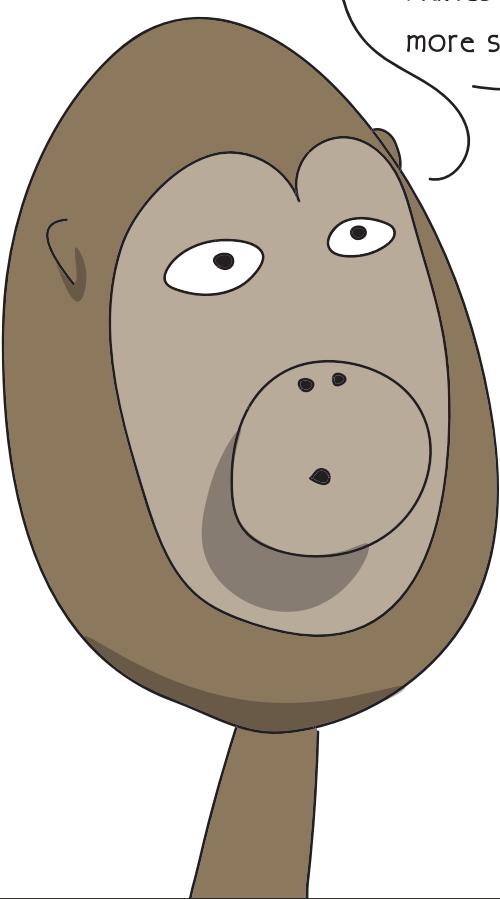


He is loved and
feared by all.

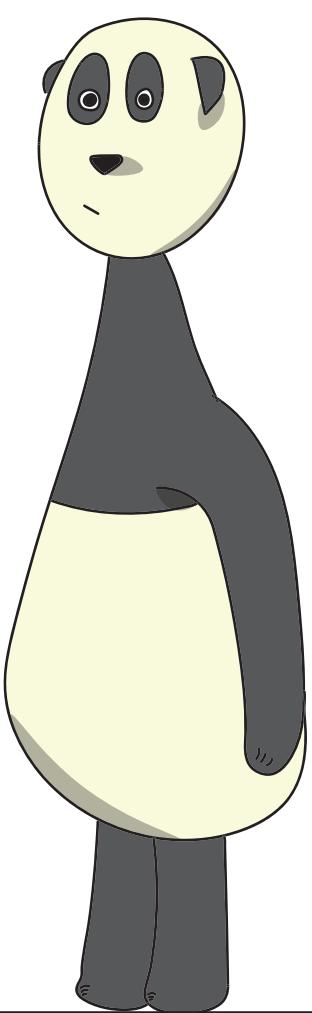
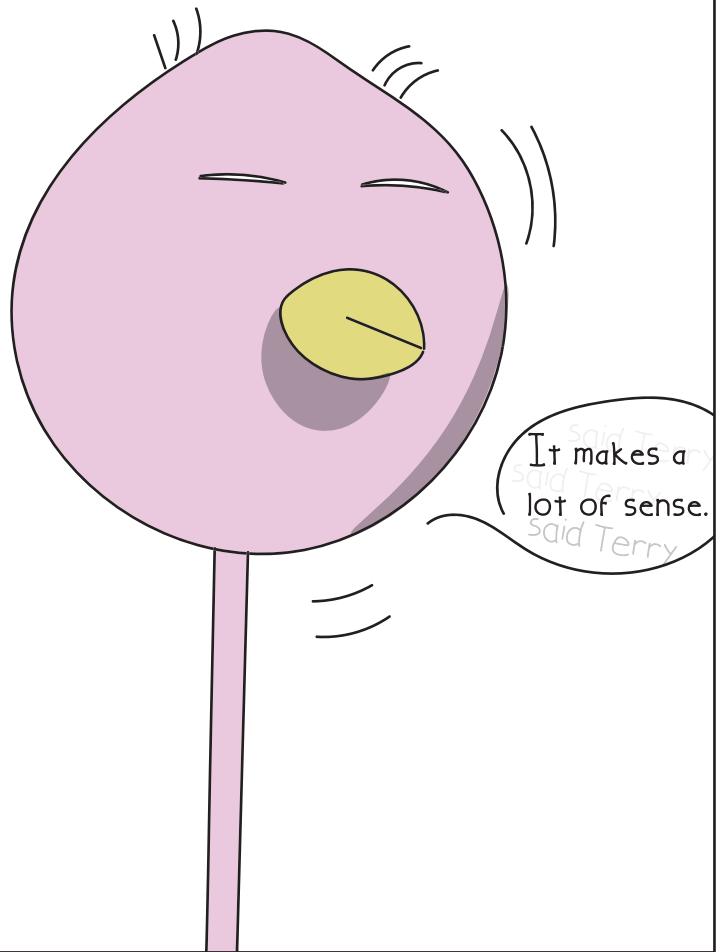


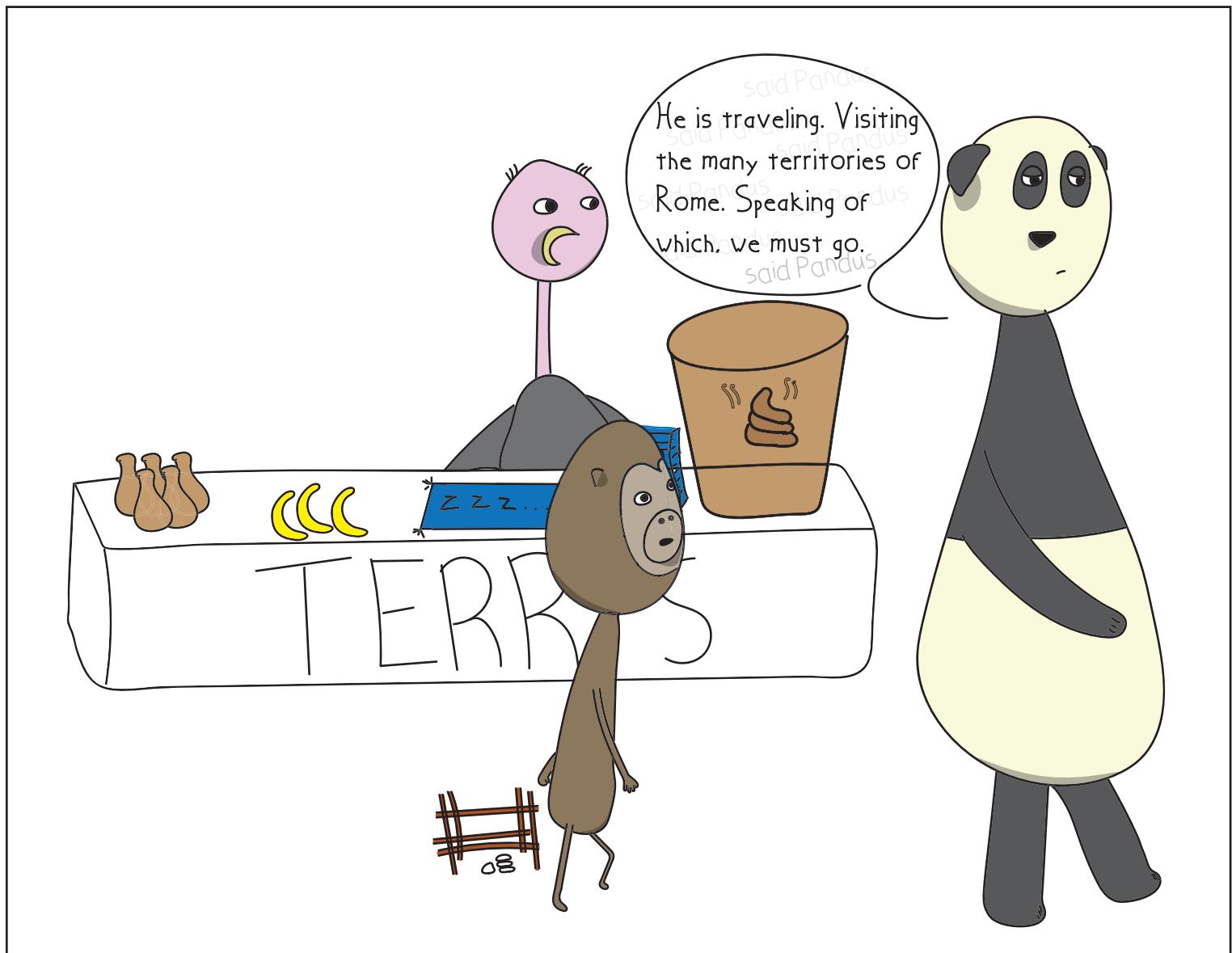
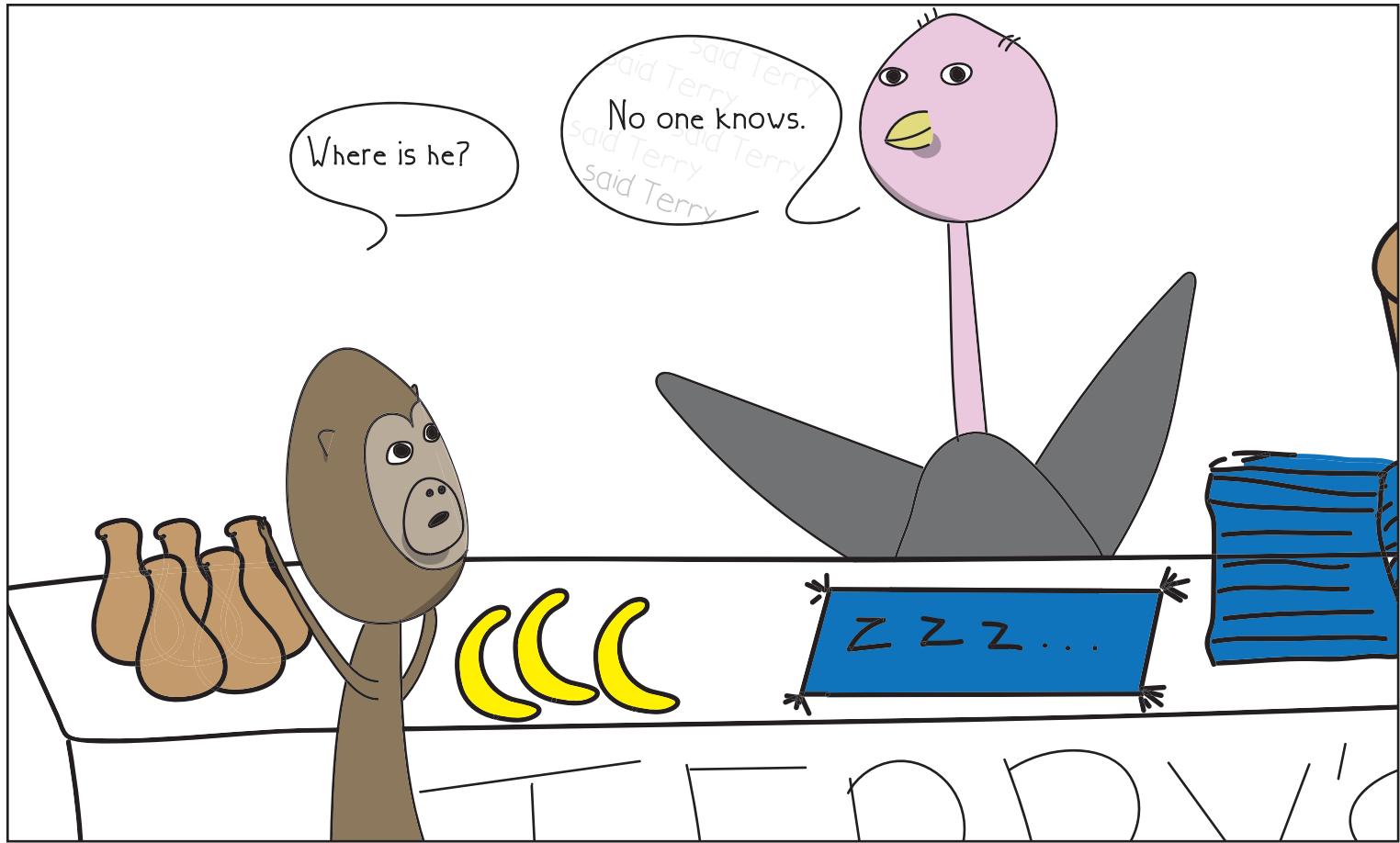
And he
stepped
there.

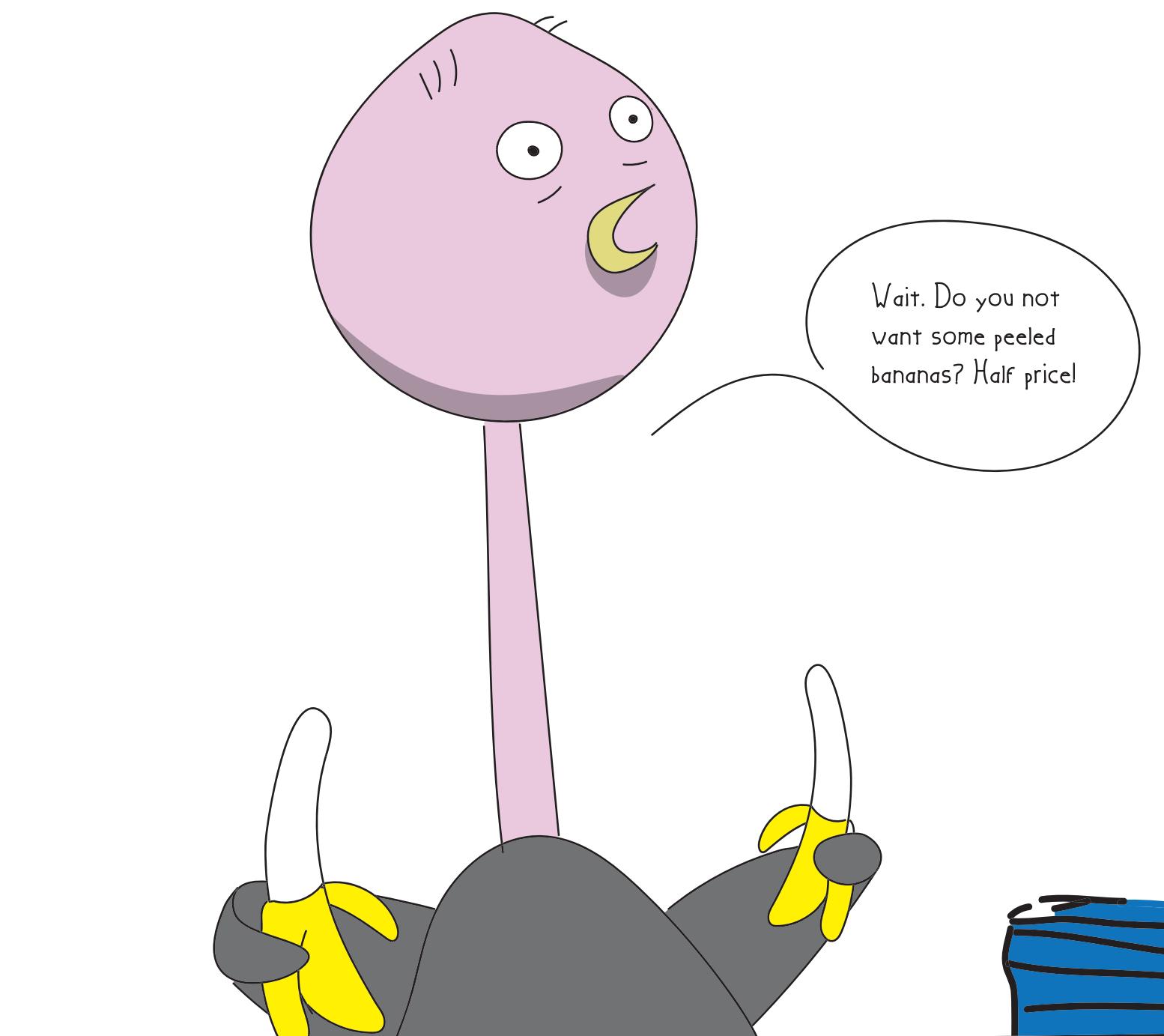




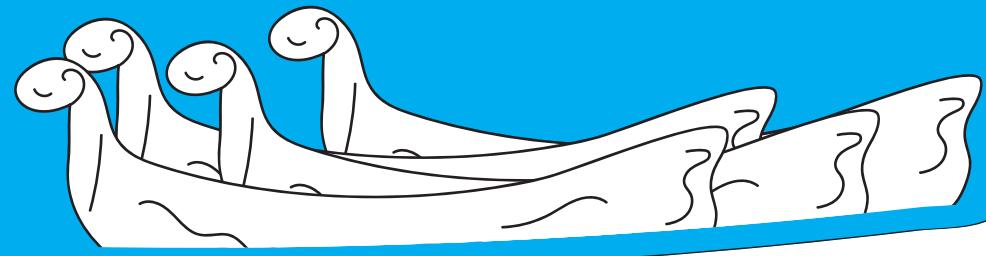
When you put it like that, it makes a lot more sense.



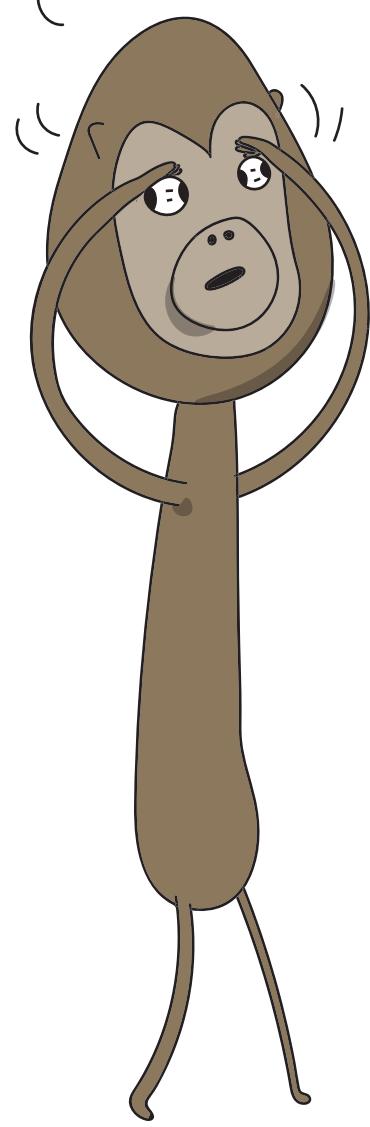


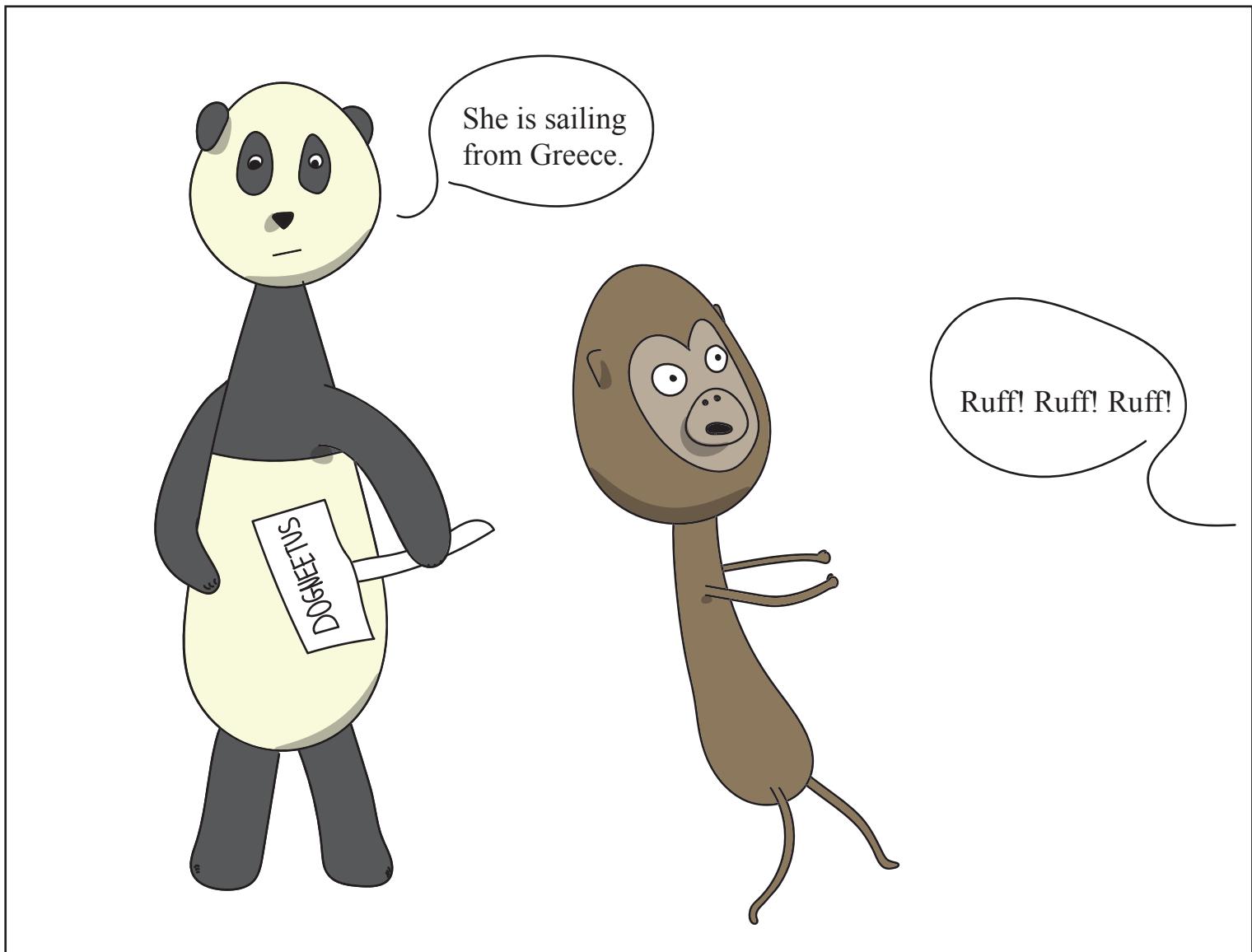
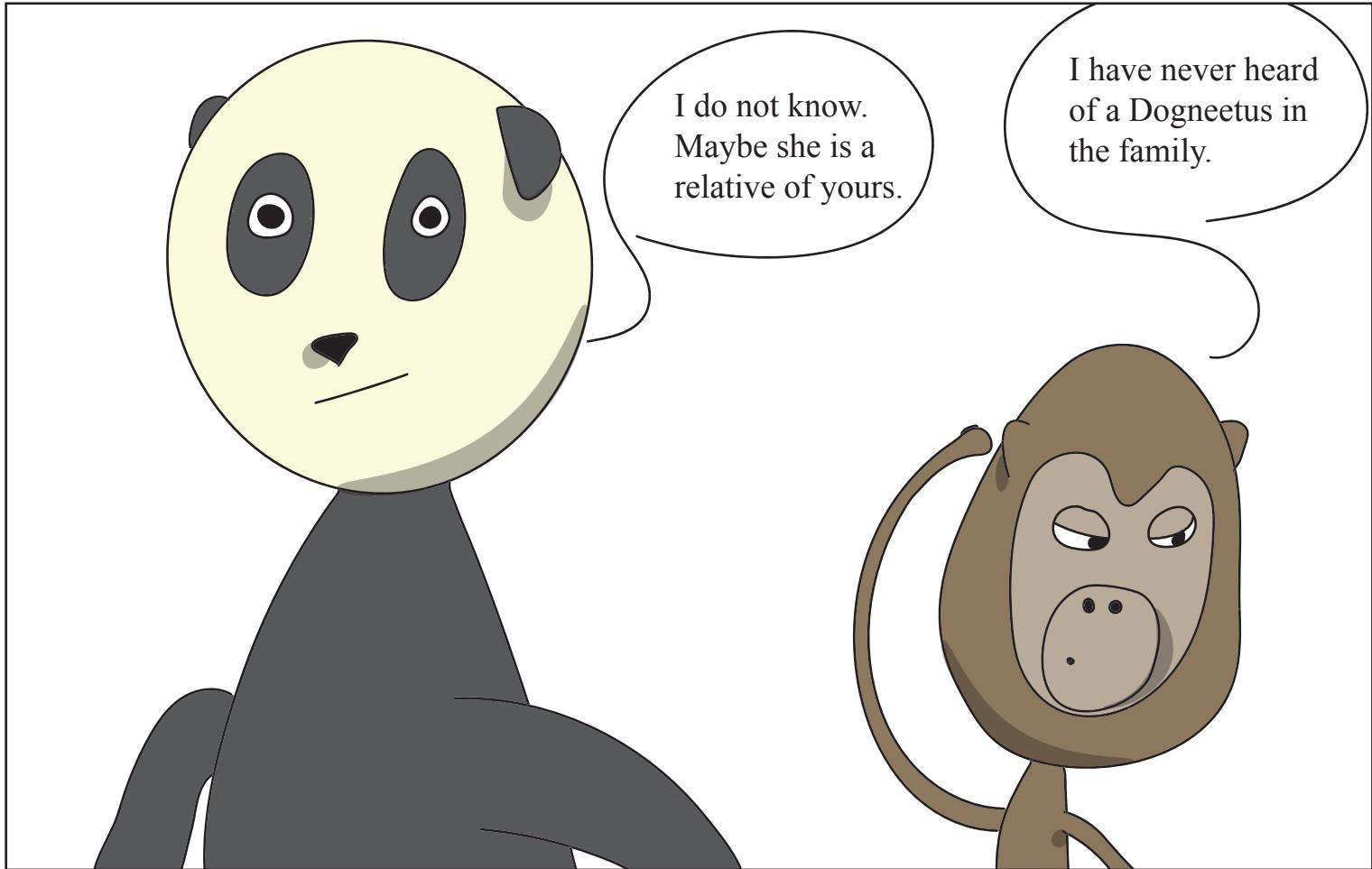


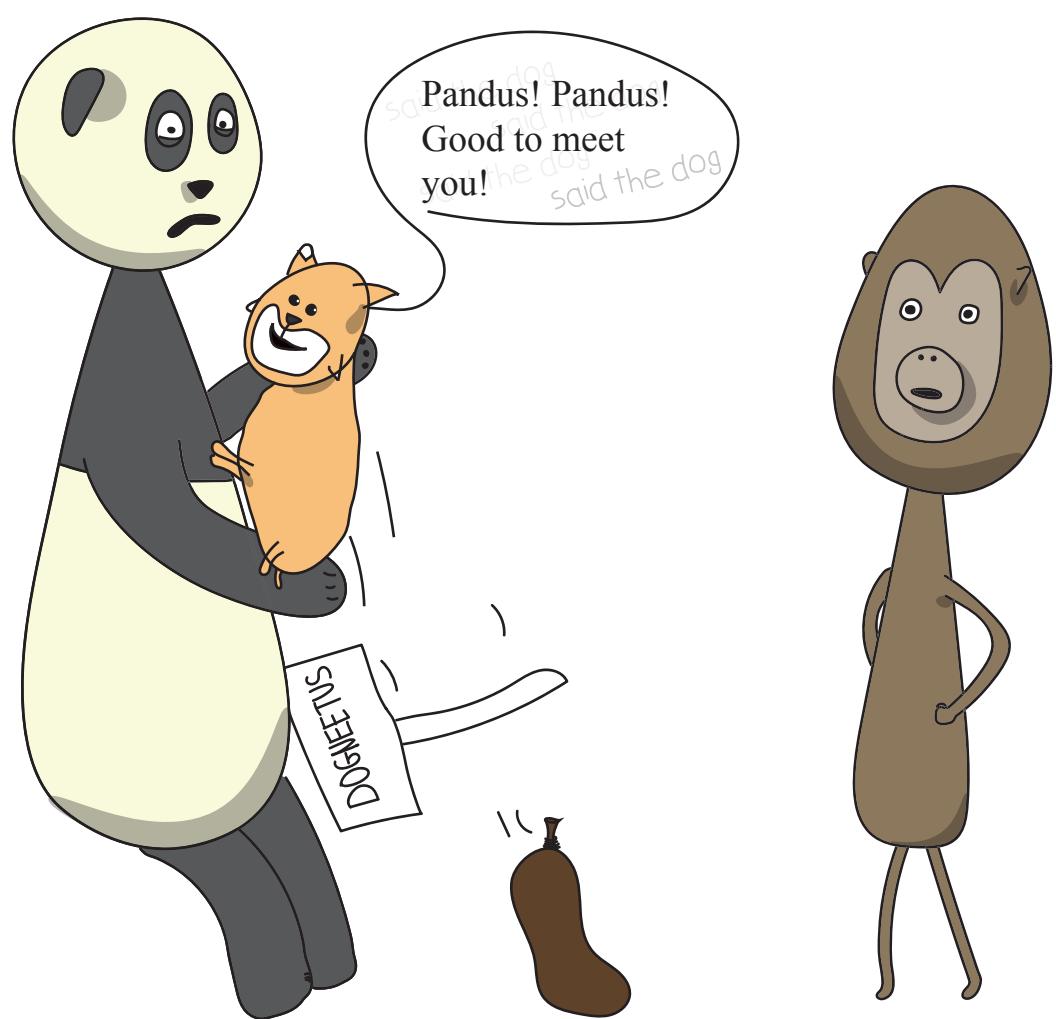
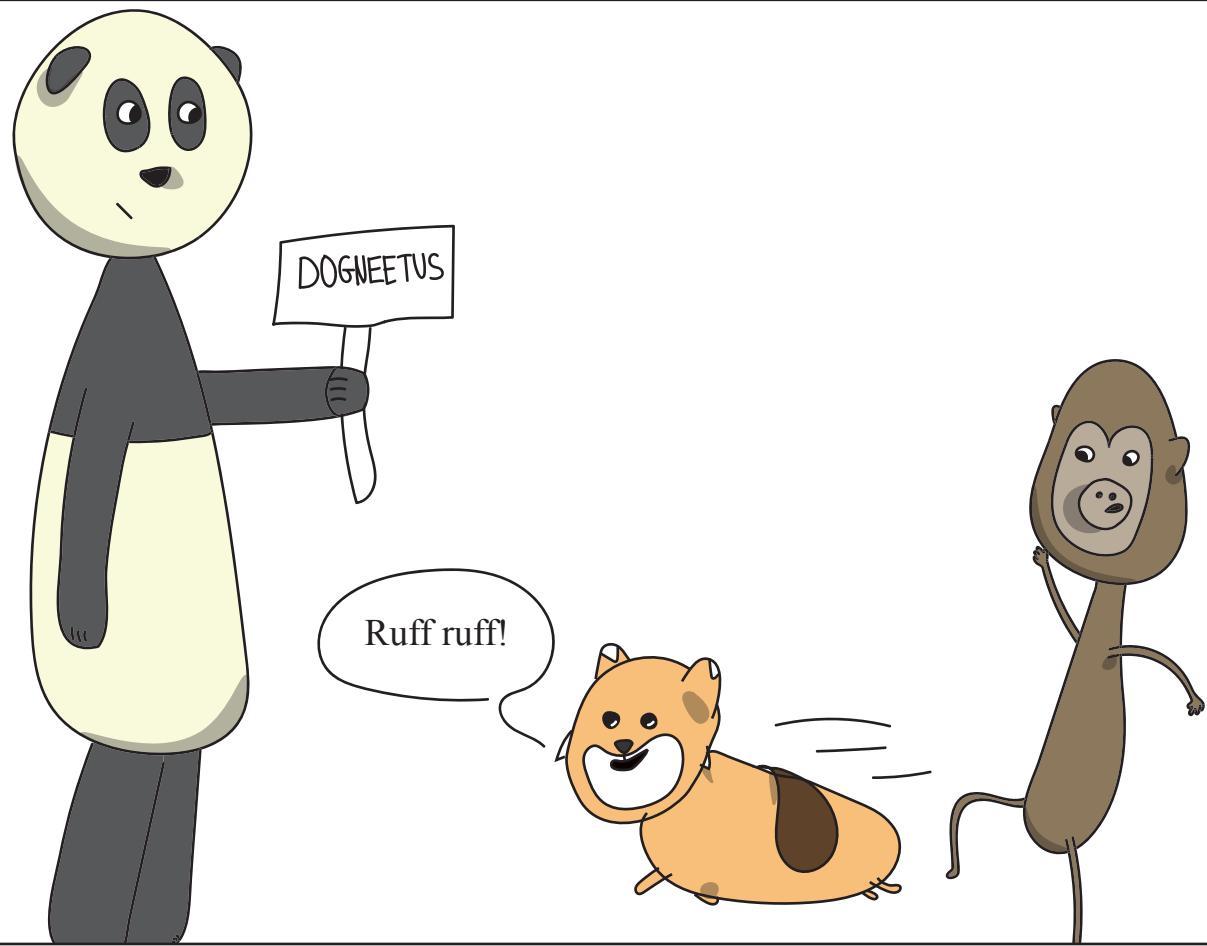
Chapter 4 - Dogneetus

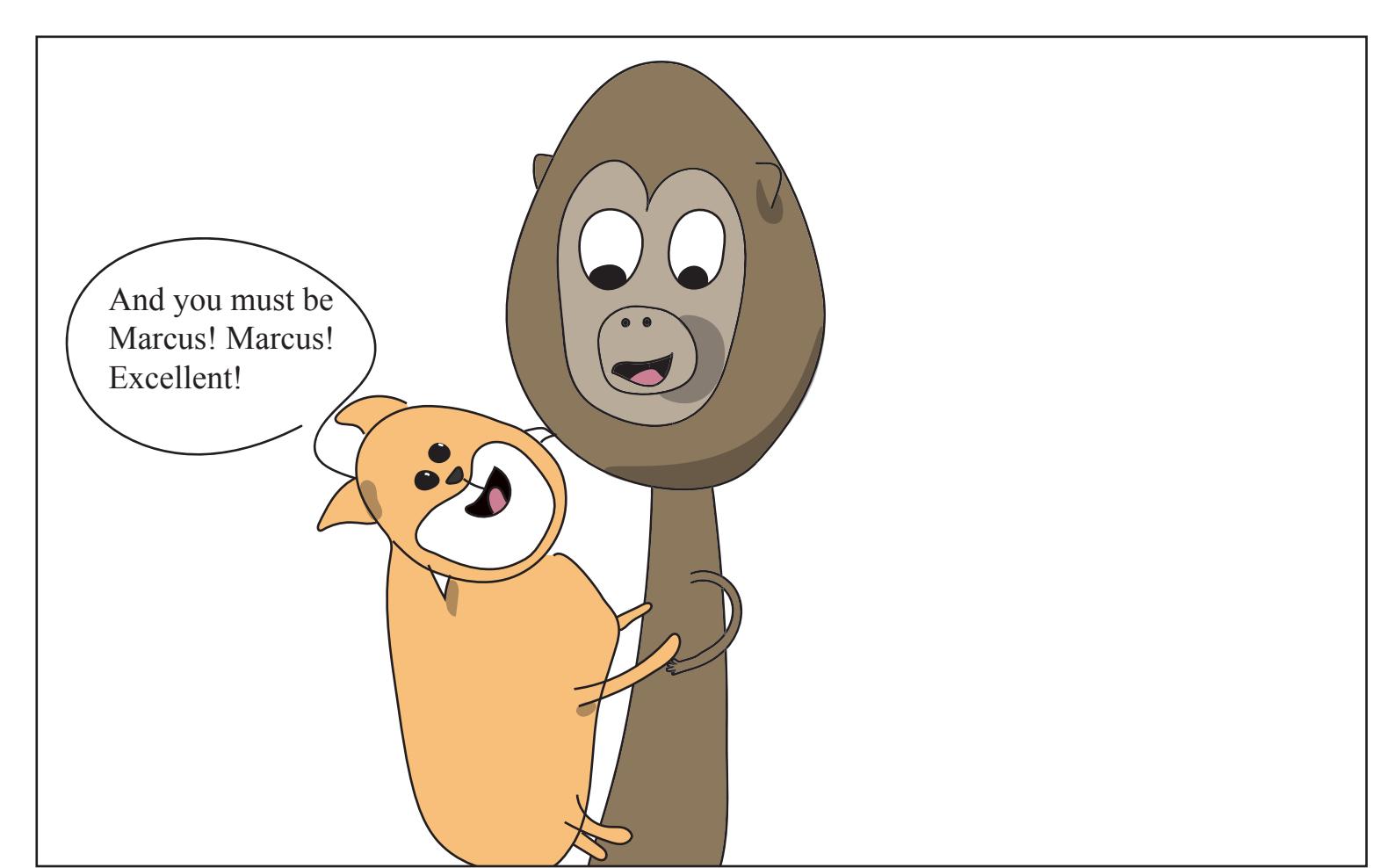


What does
asked Marcus
Dogneetus look
like? asked Marcus

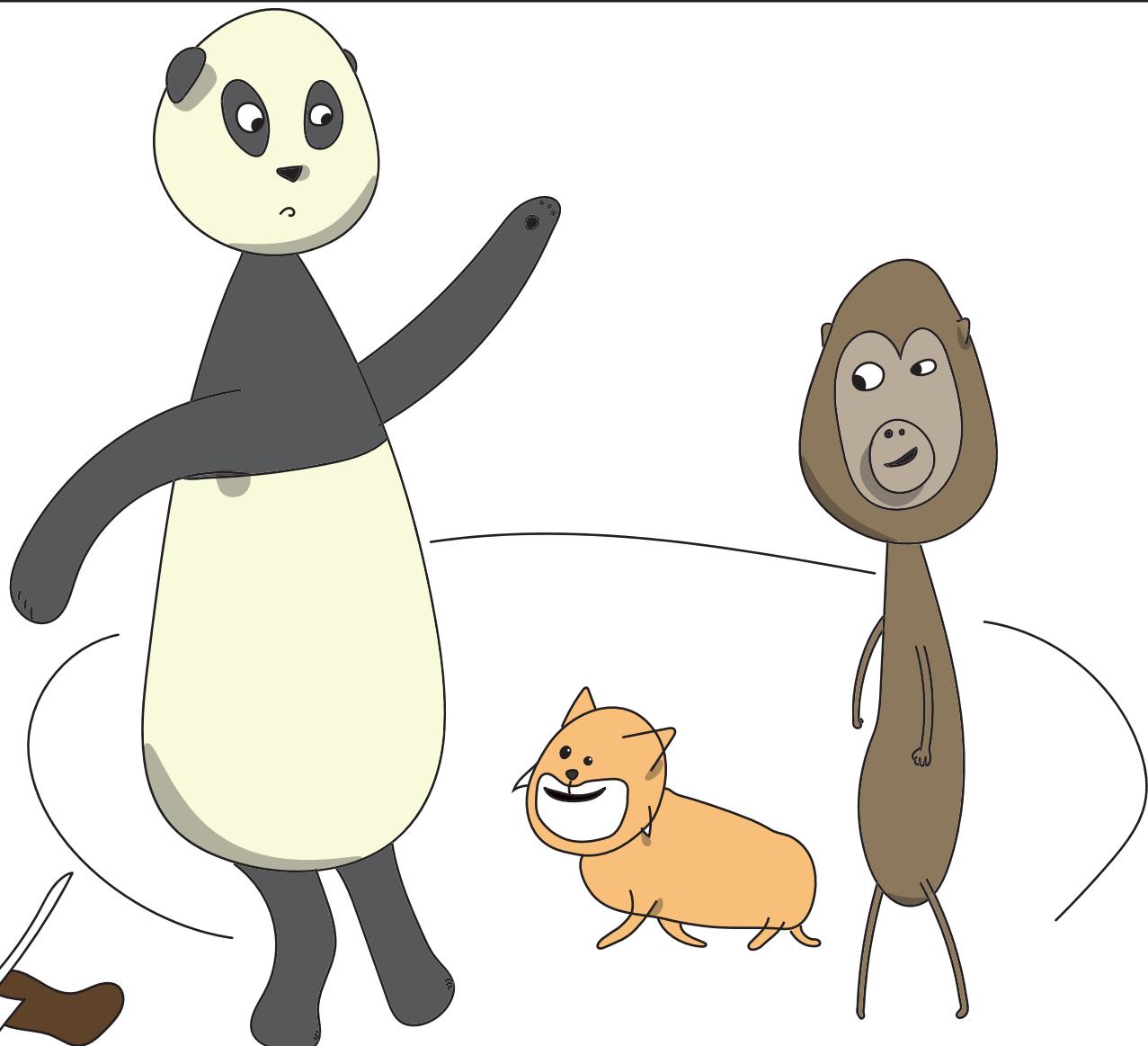


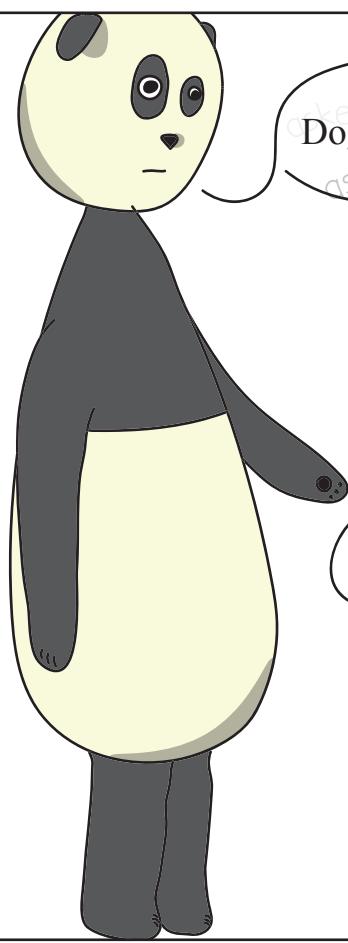




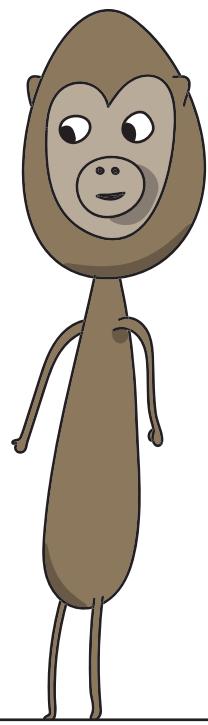
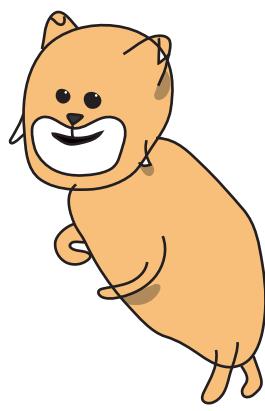


And you must be
Marcus! Marcus!
Excellent!

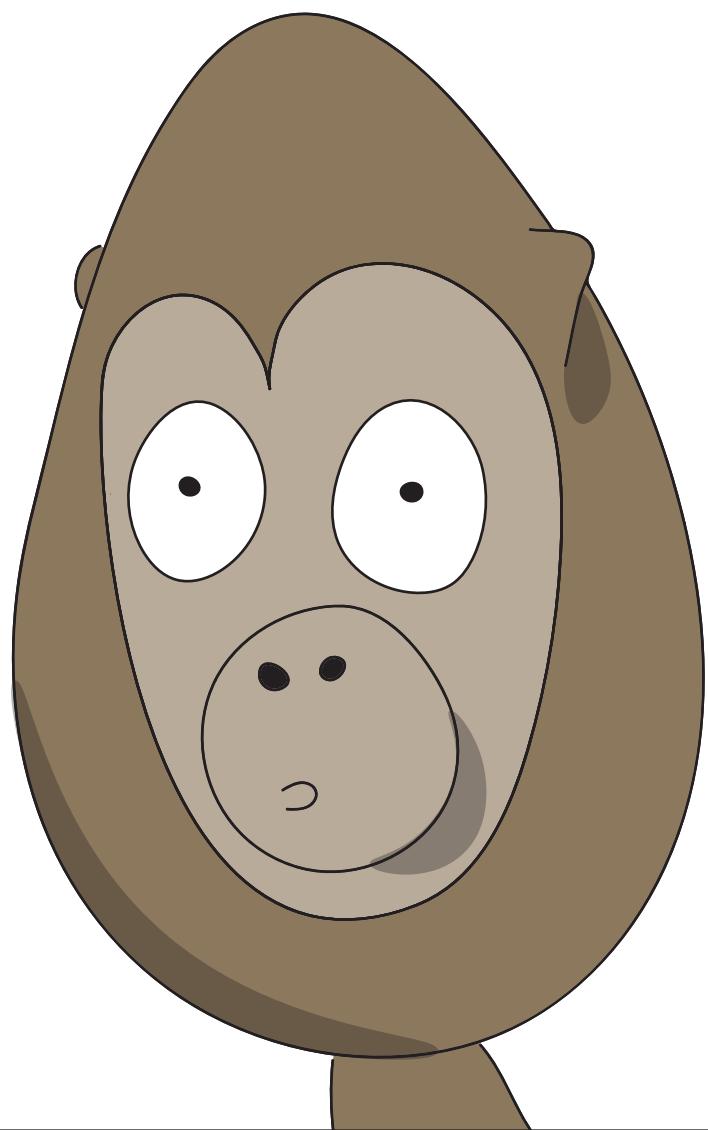


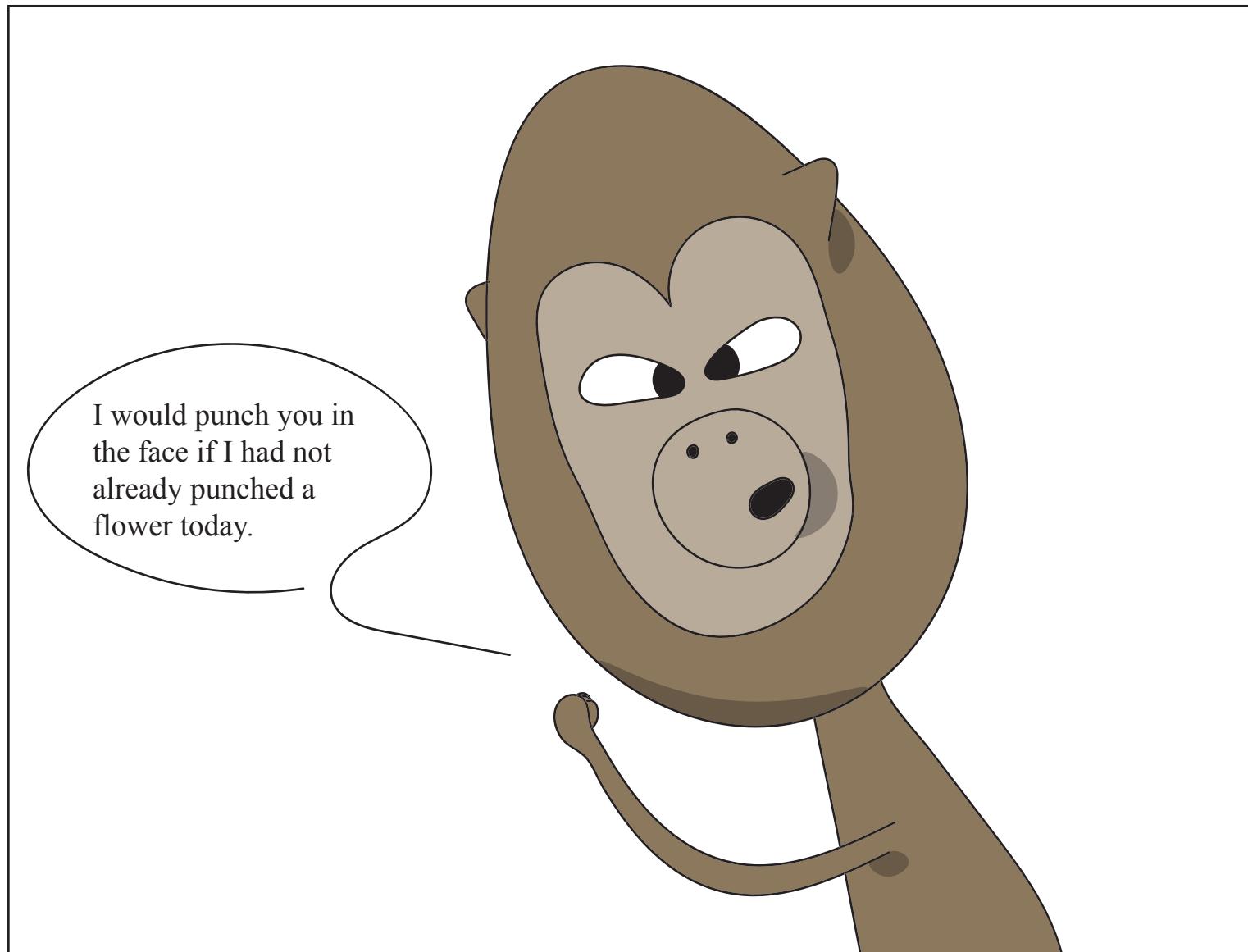
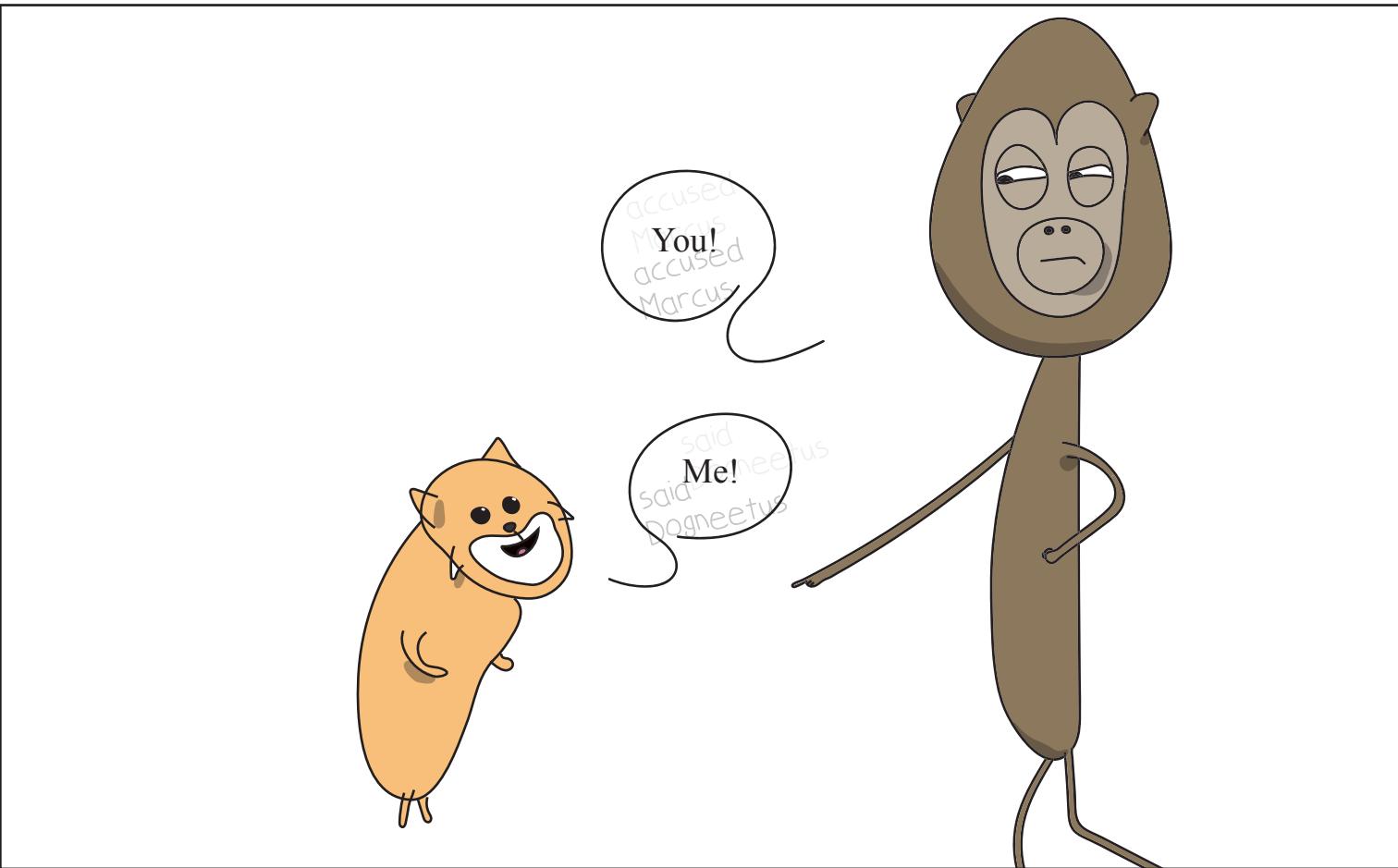


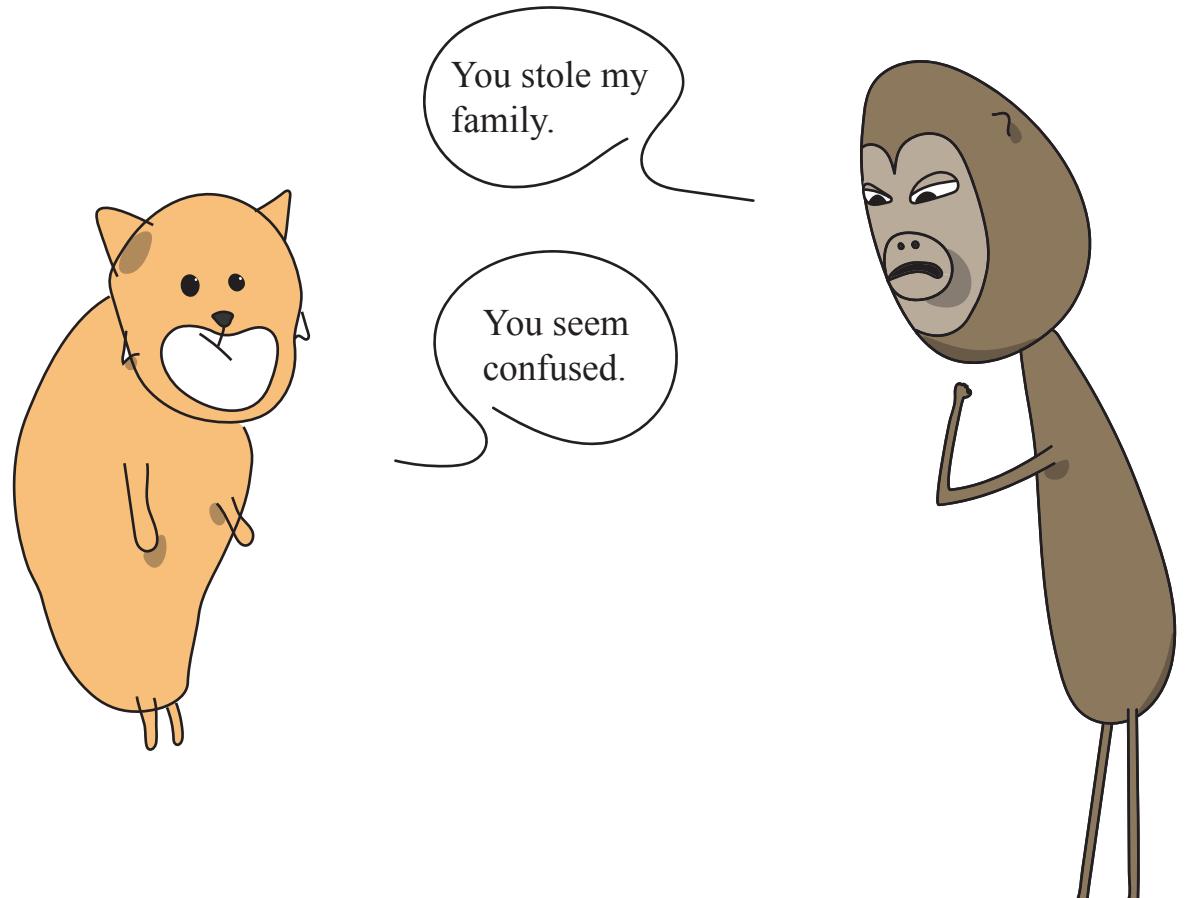
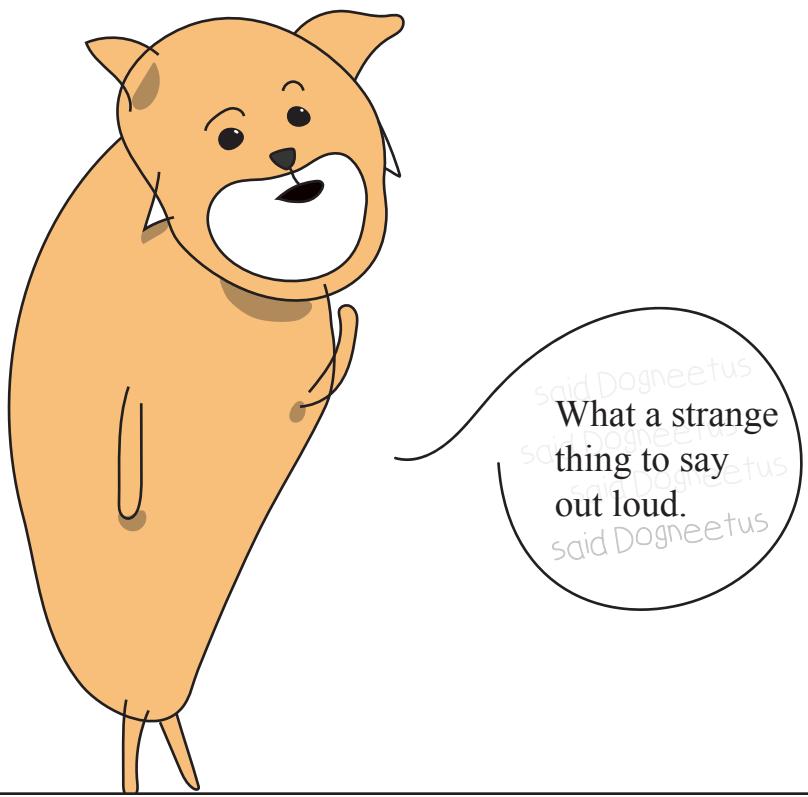
Dogneetus?
asked Pandus

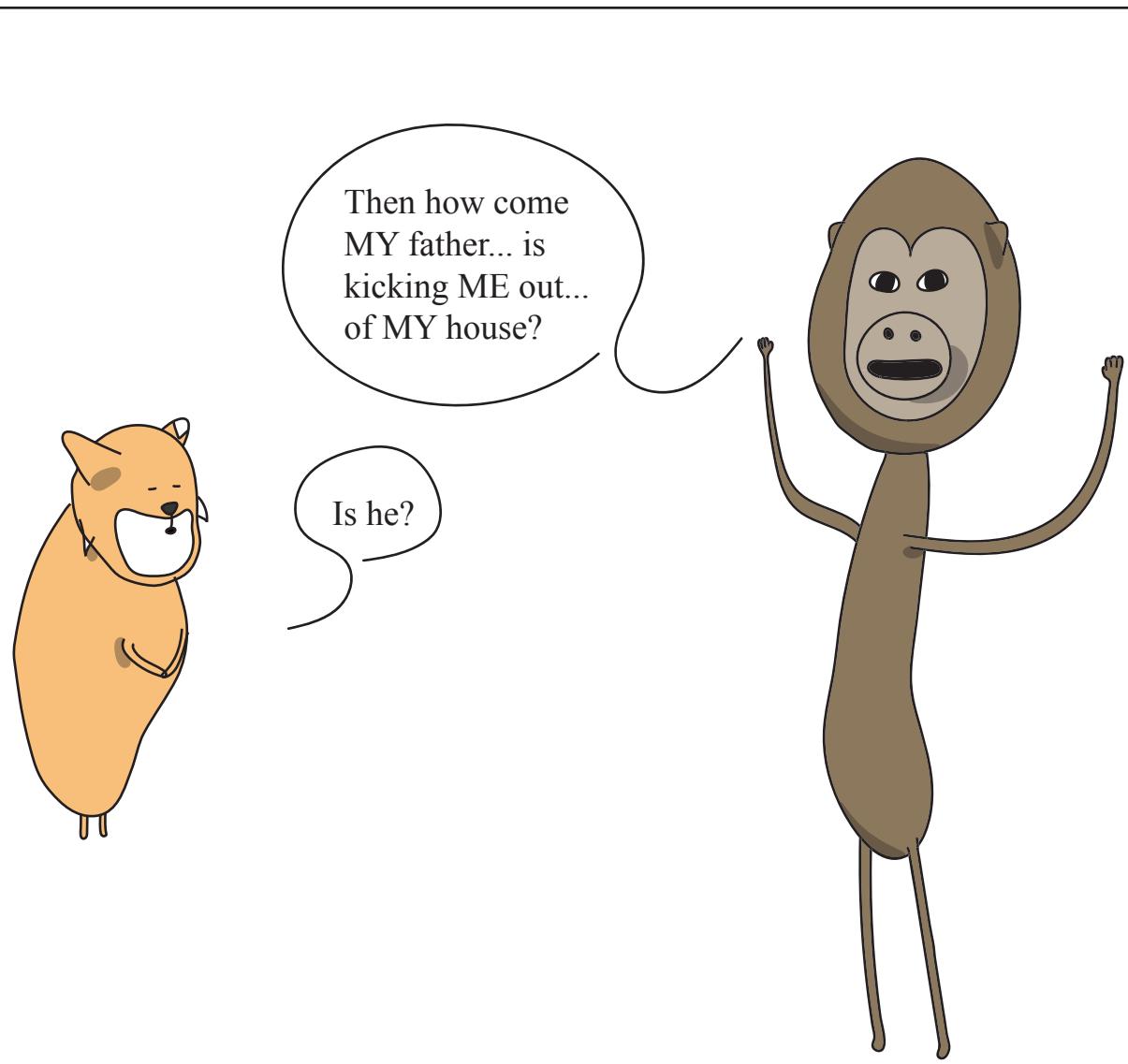
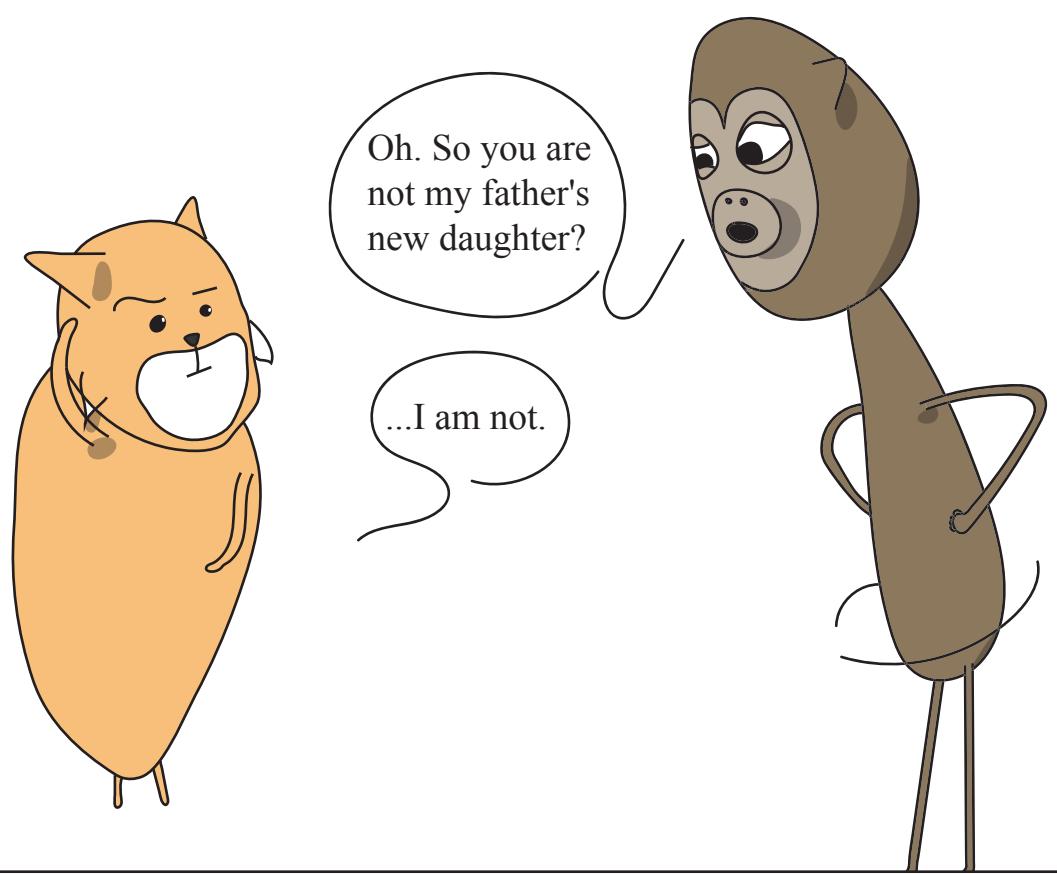


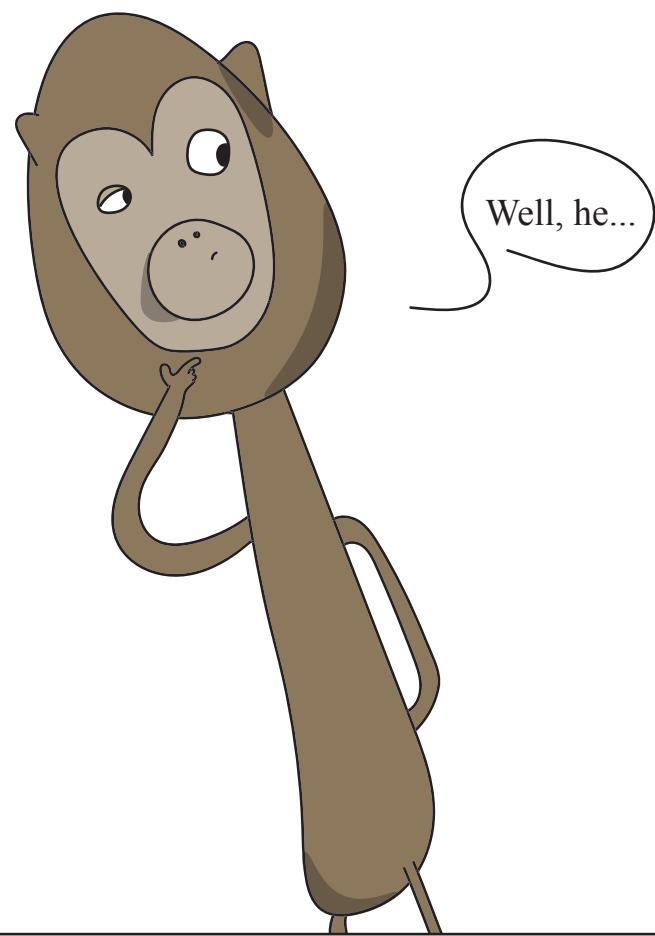
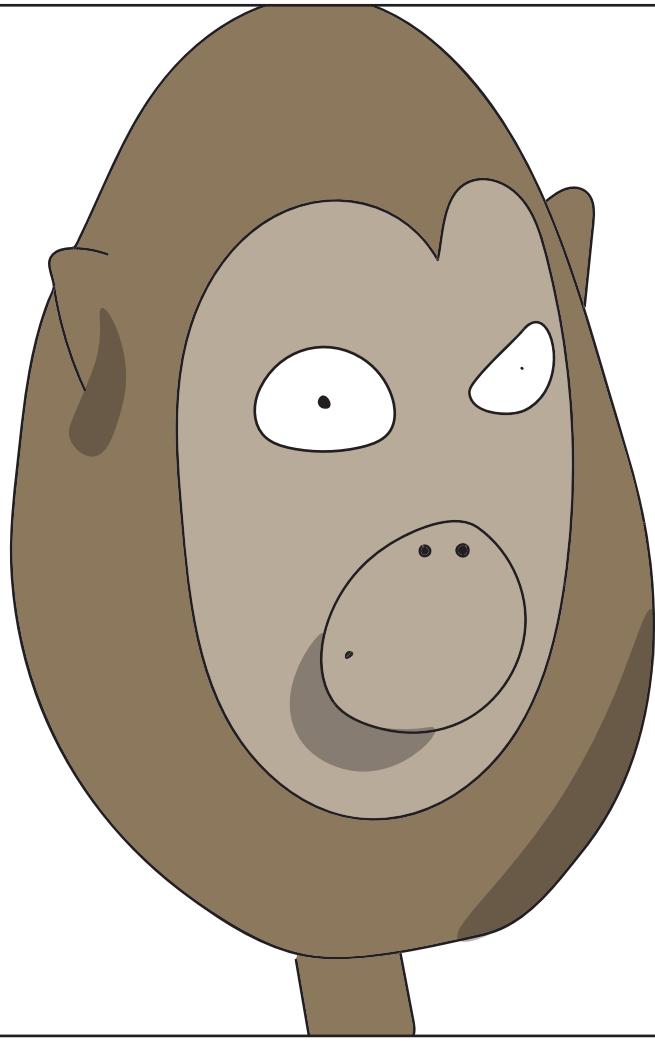
That I am.

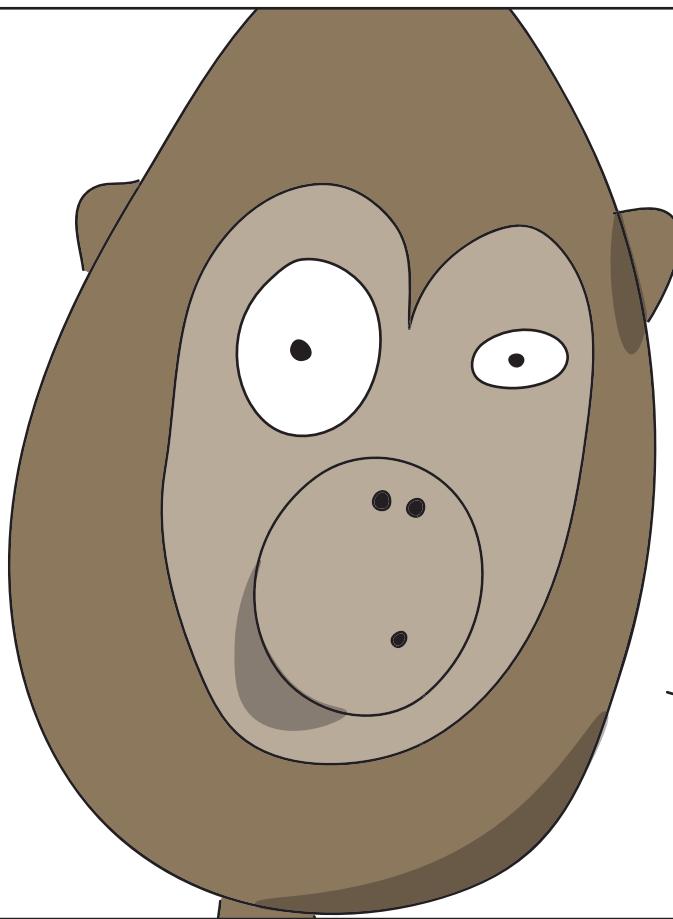




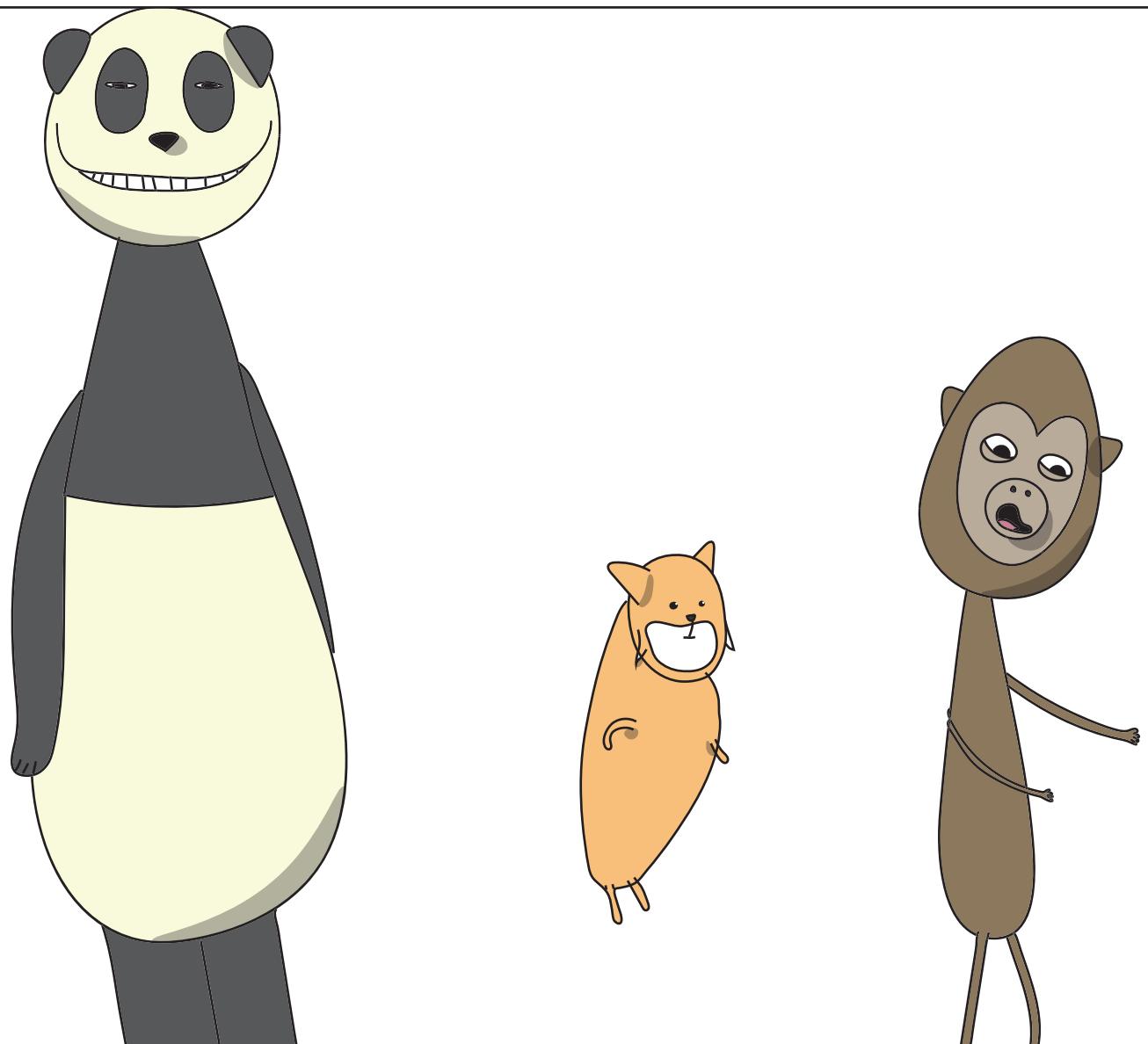


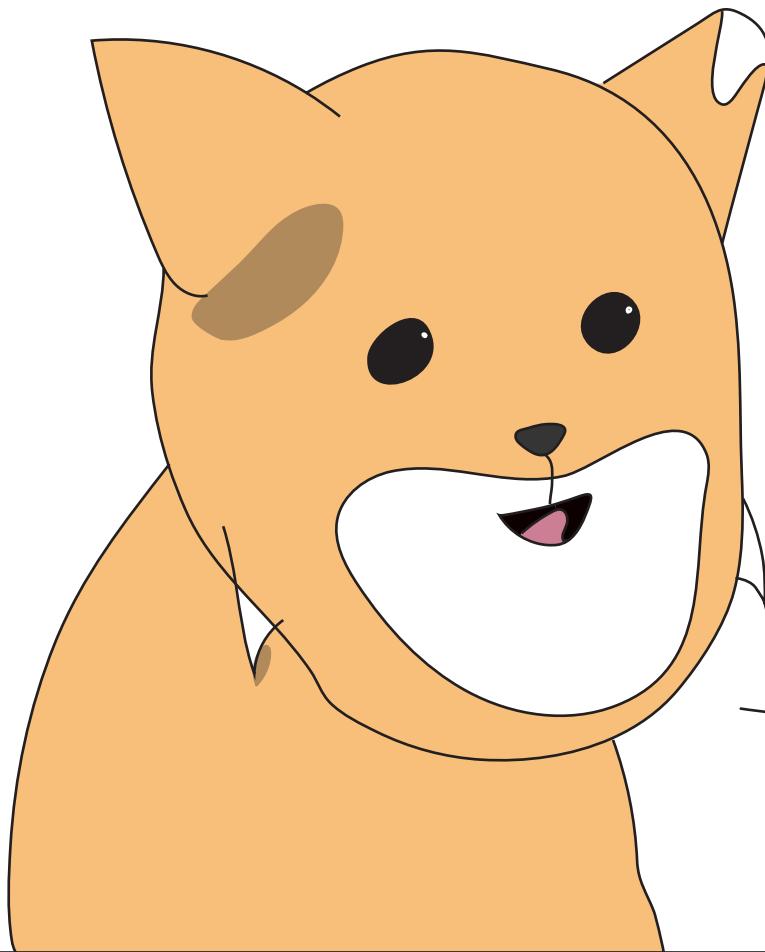






...But I...

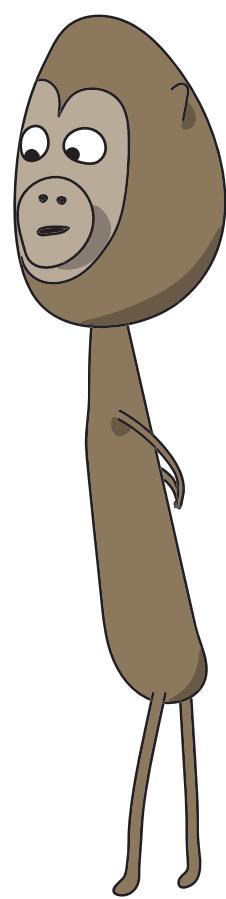
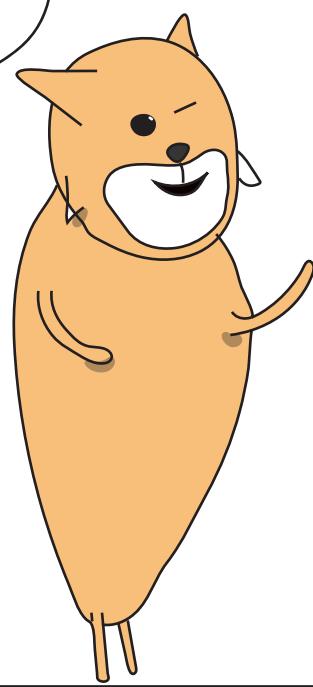


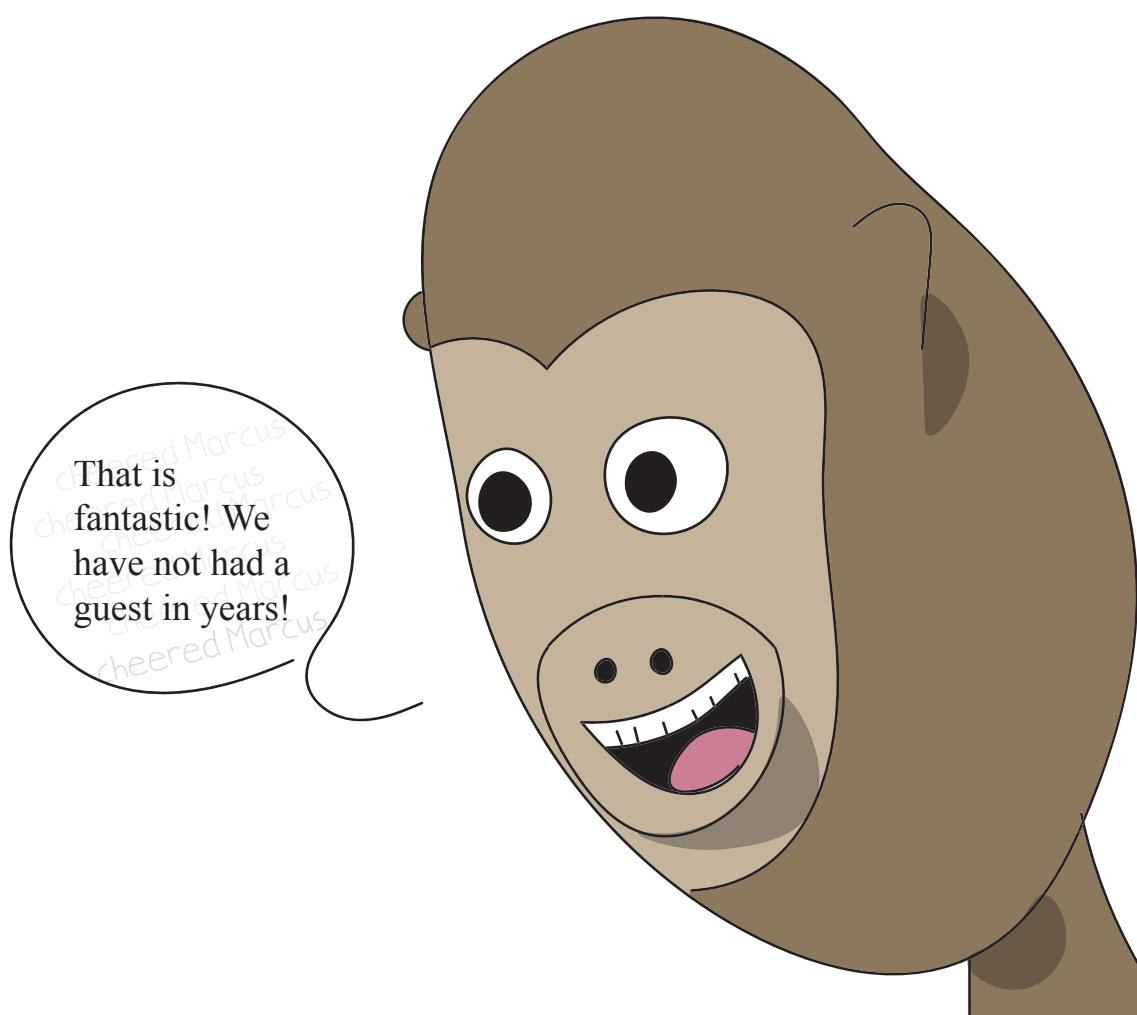
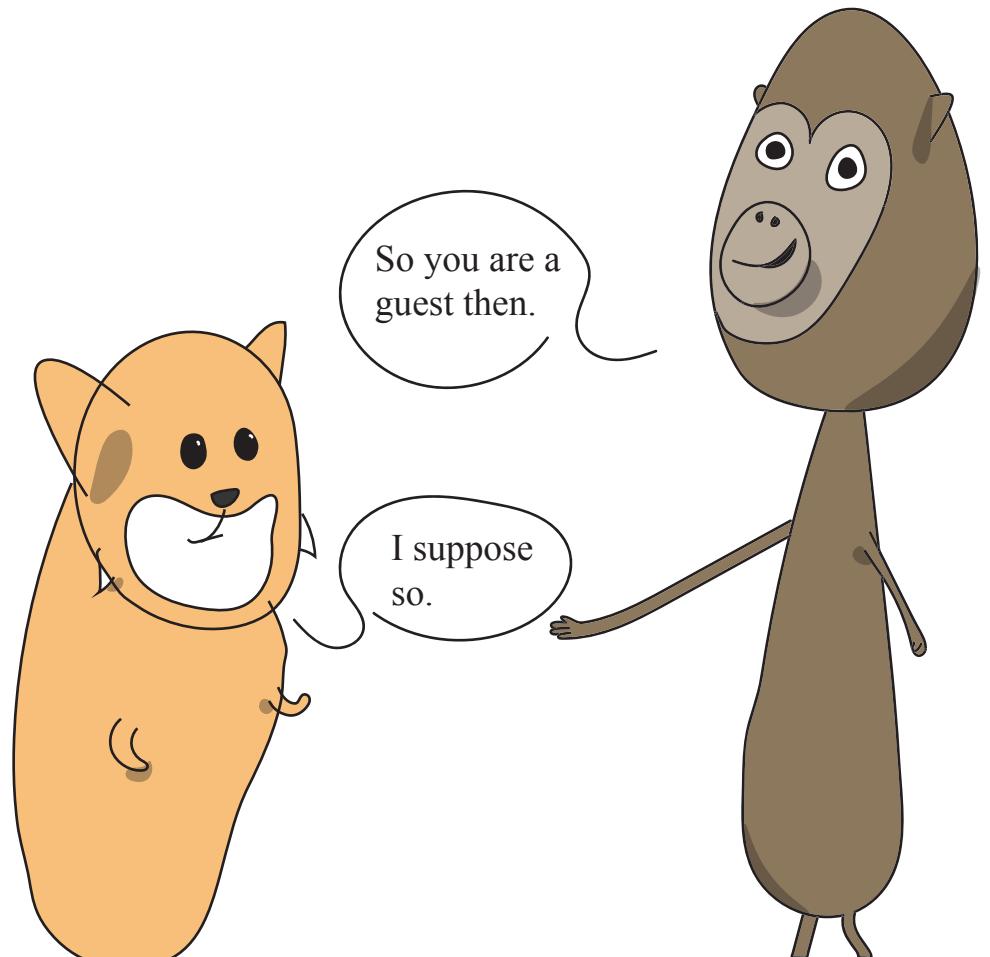


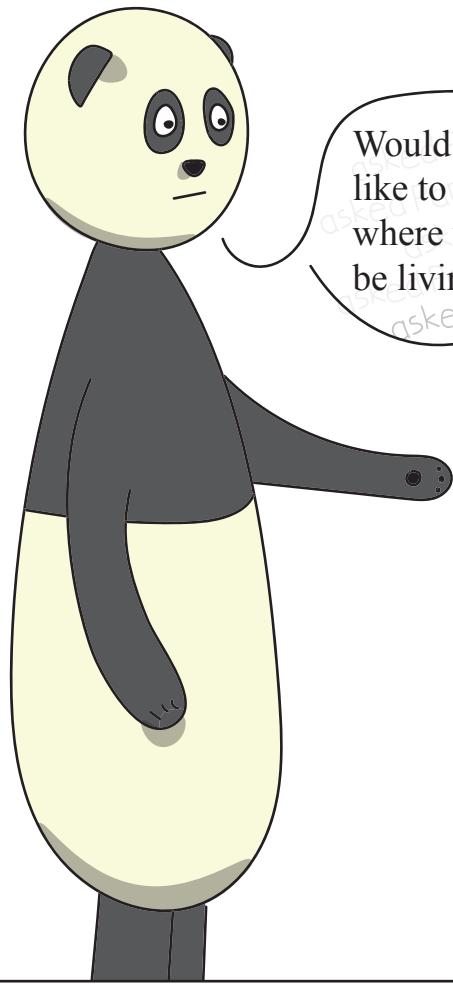
Actually I am
nearly certain
you are not going
anywhere...

said Dogneetus
said Dogneetus
said Dogneetus
said Dogneetus

Since your father
brought me here
from Greece to be
your new painting
master.

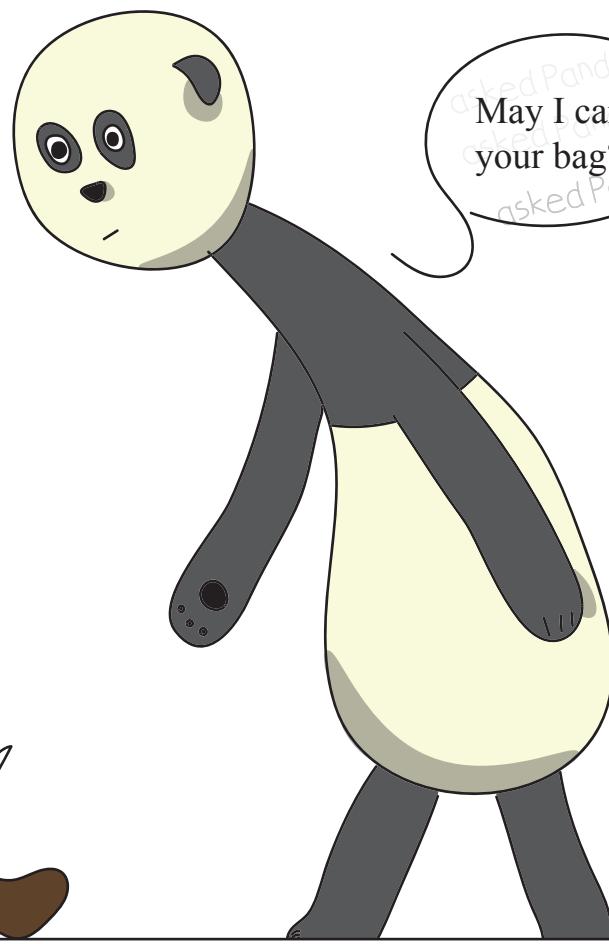
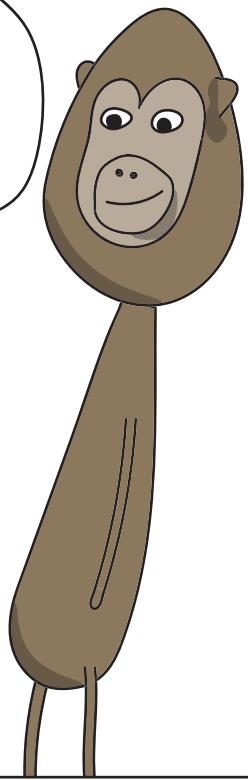
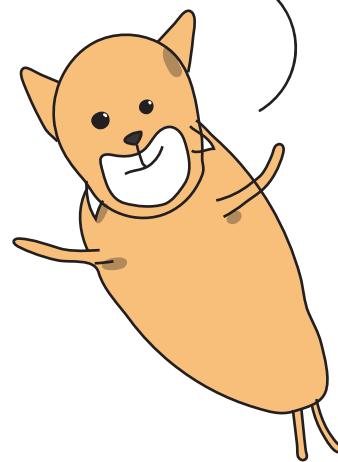






Would you
like to see
where you will
be living?

I would like to
explore Rome, but it
can wait. I imagine I
will be staying with
you for quite a while.

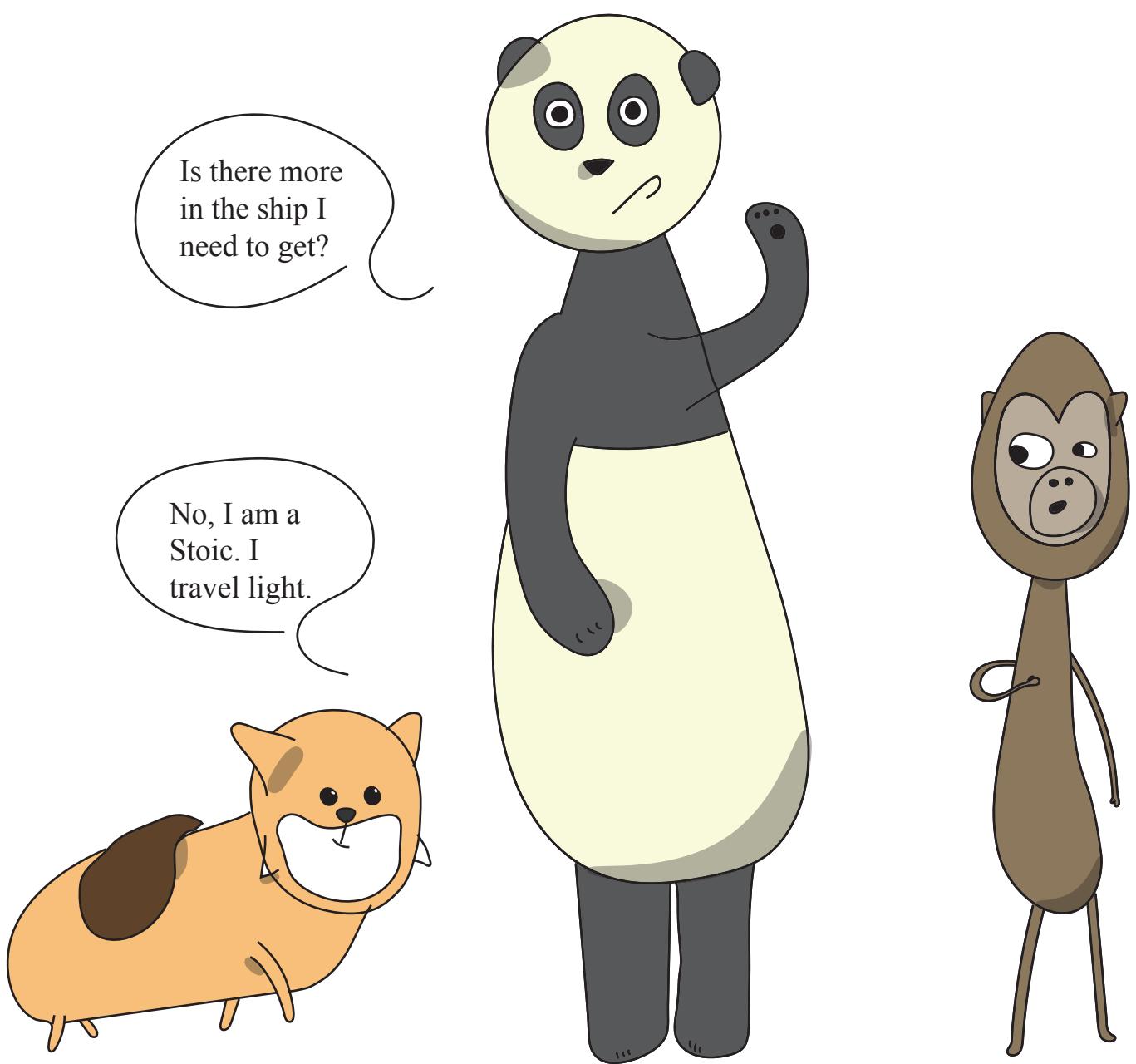


May I carry
your bag?

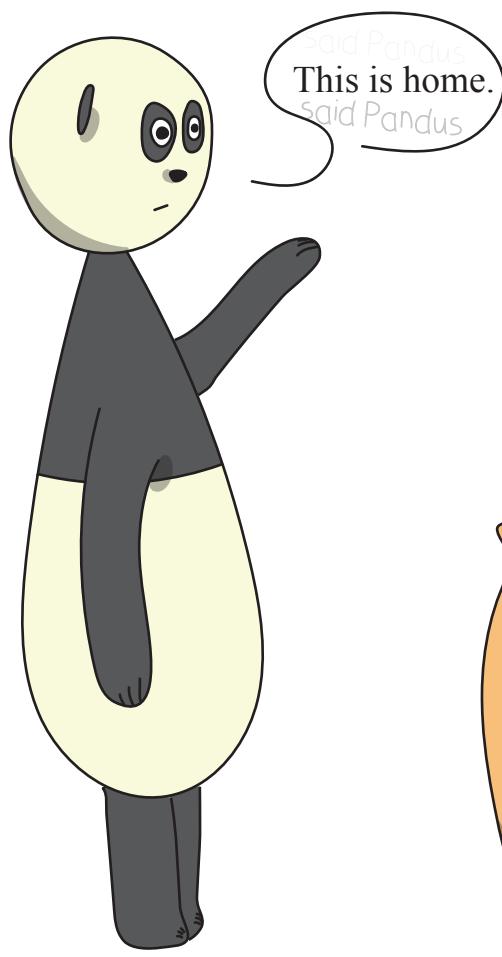
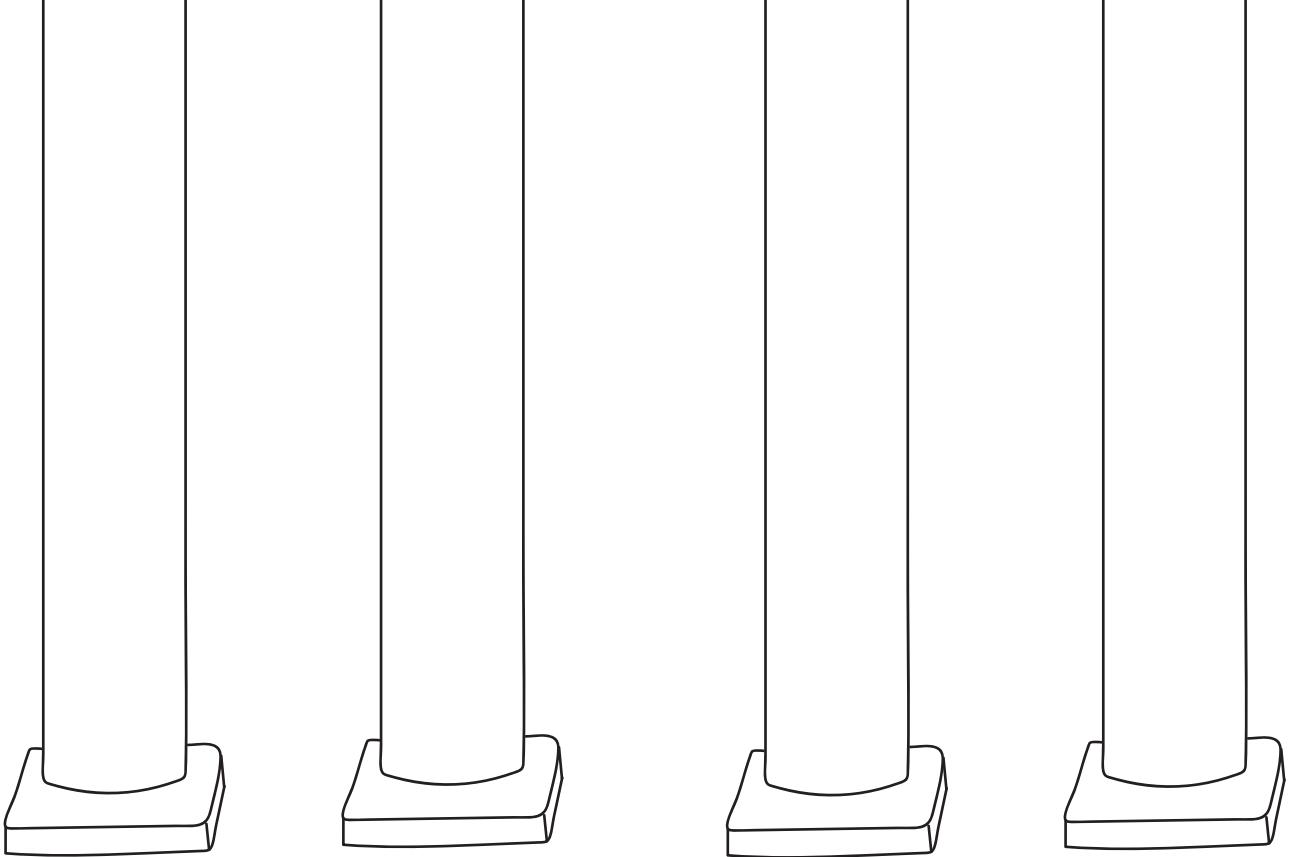


I am fine.

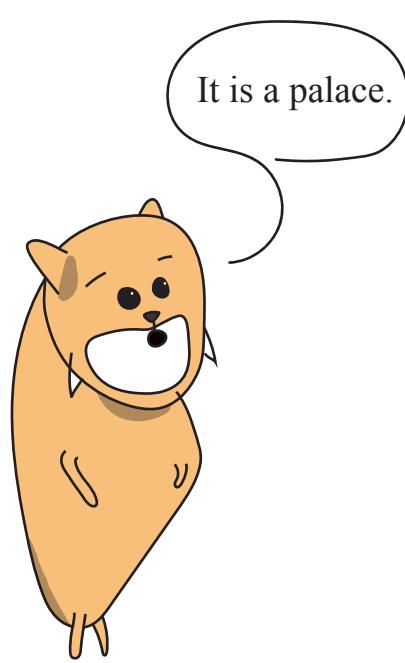




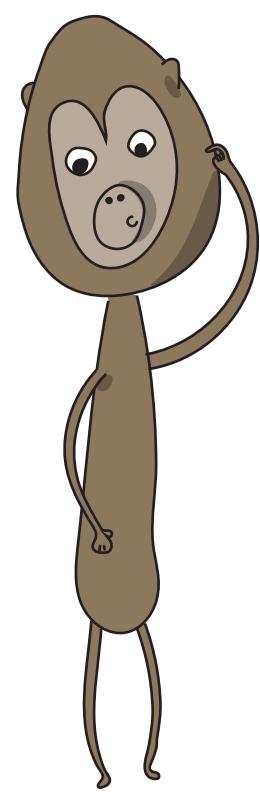
Chapter 5 - Home

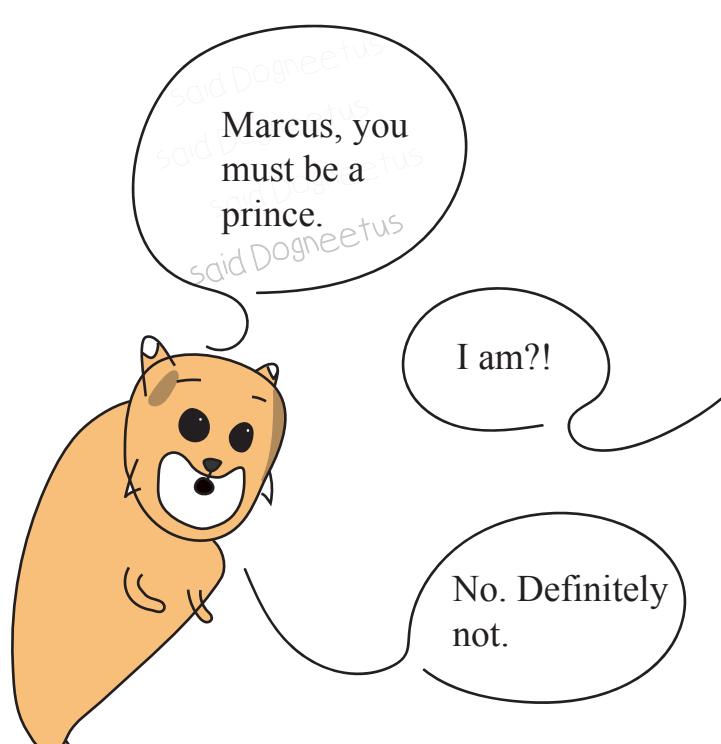
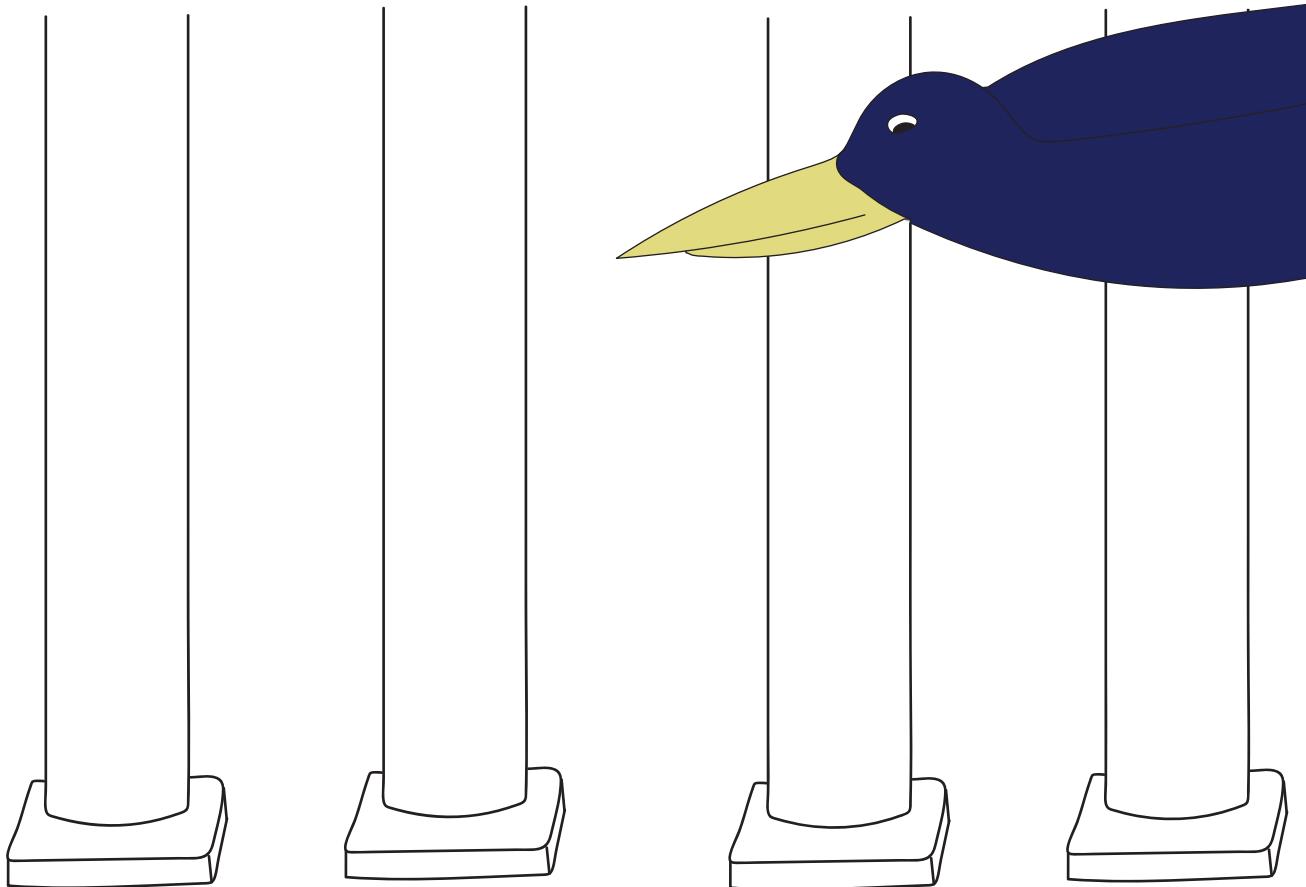


Said Pandus.
This is home.
Said Pandus.



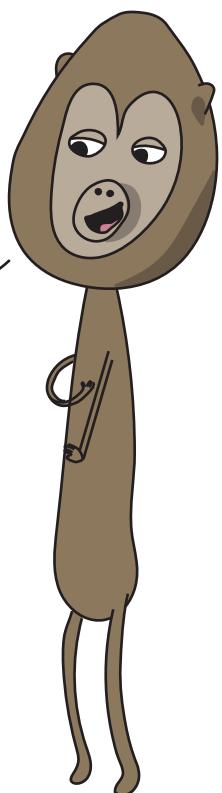
It is a palace.

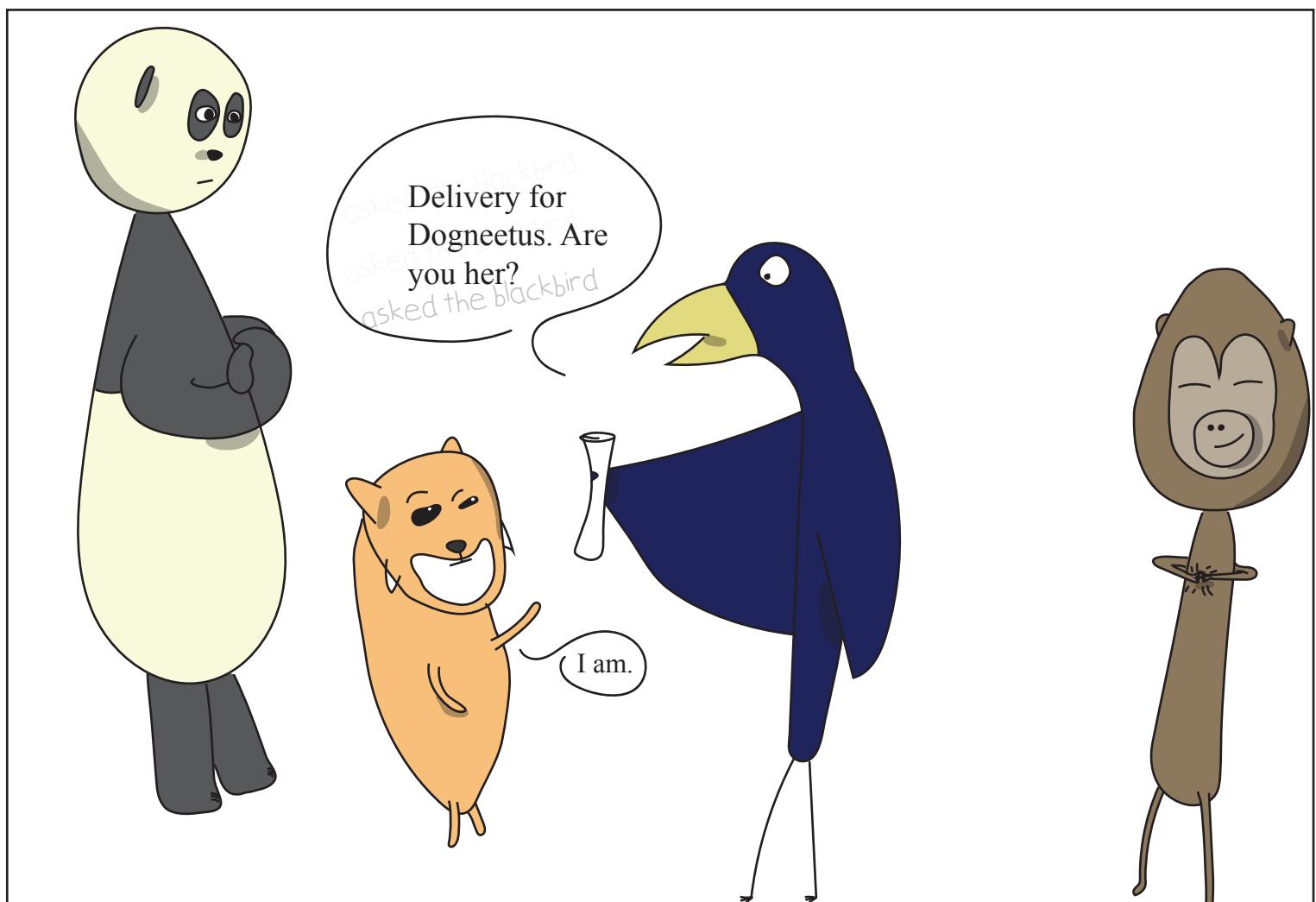


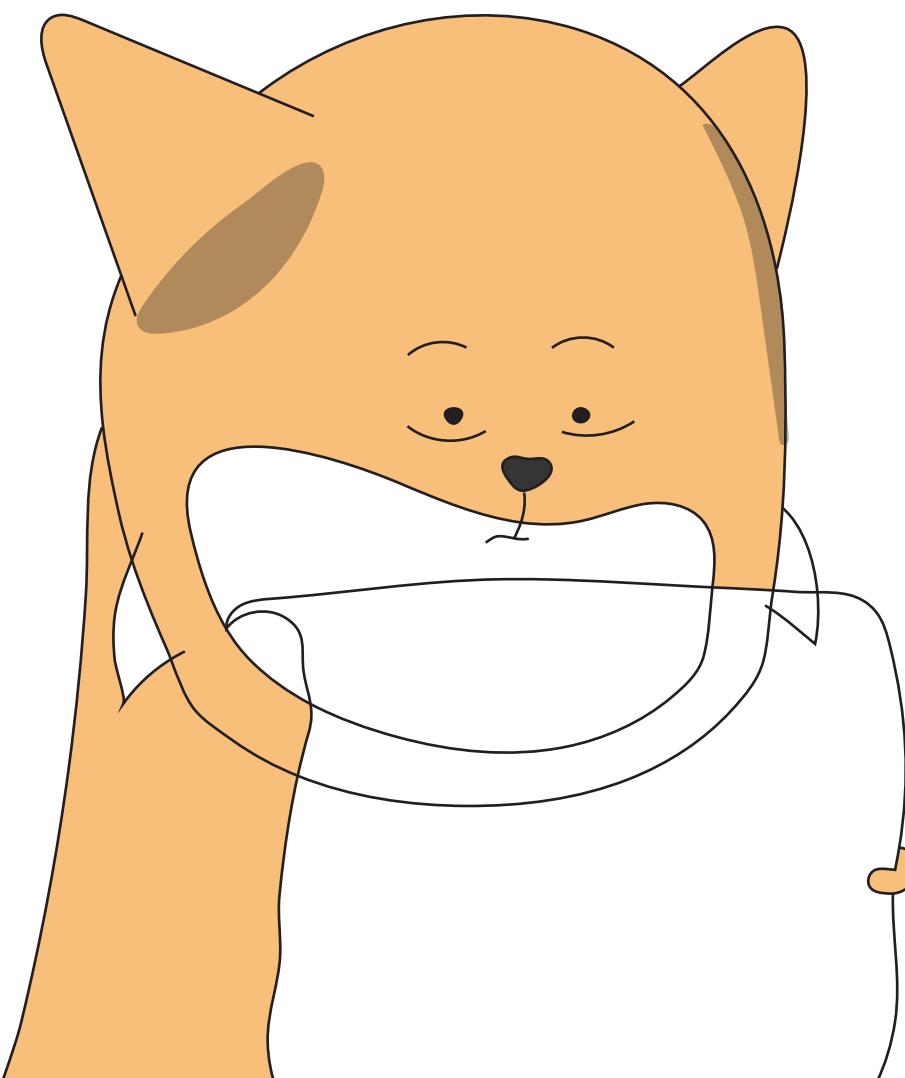
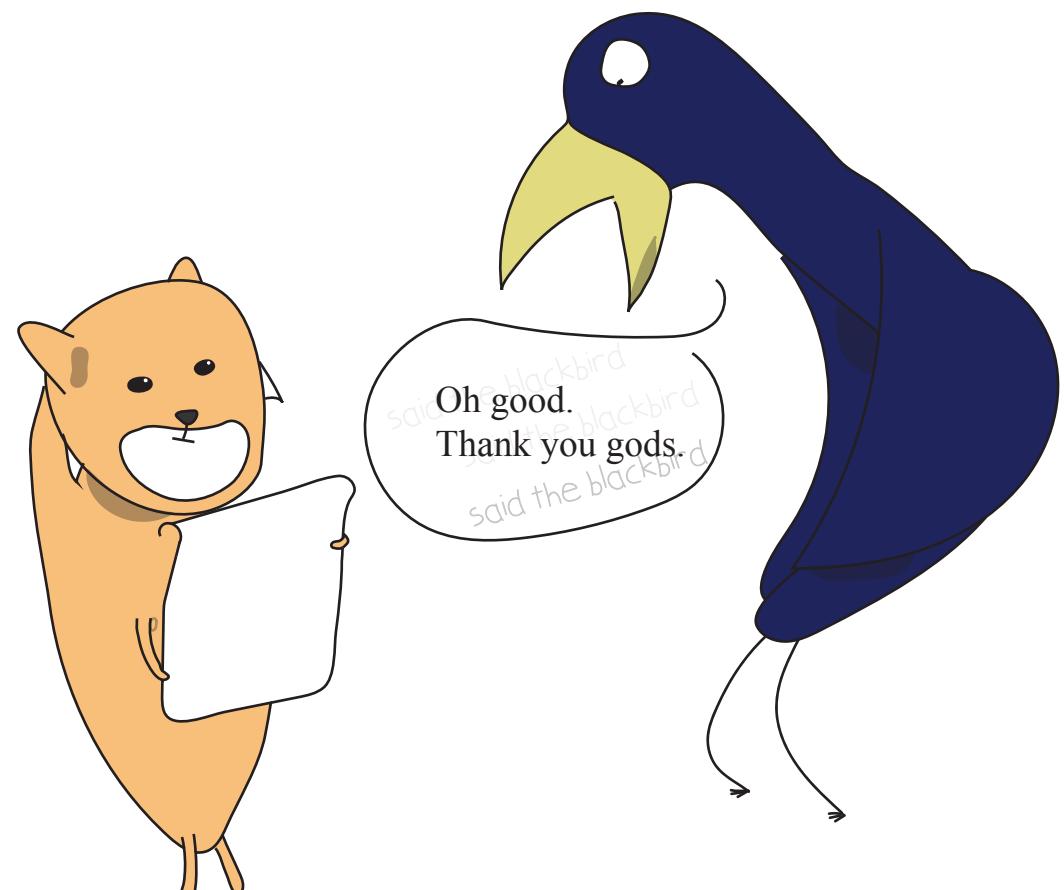


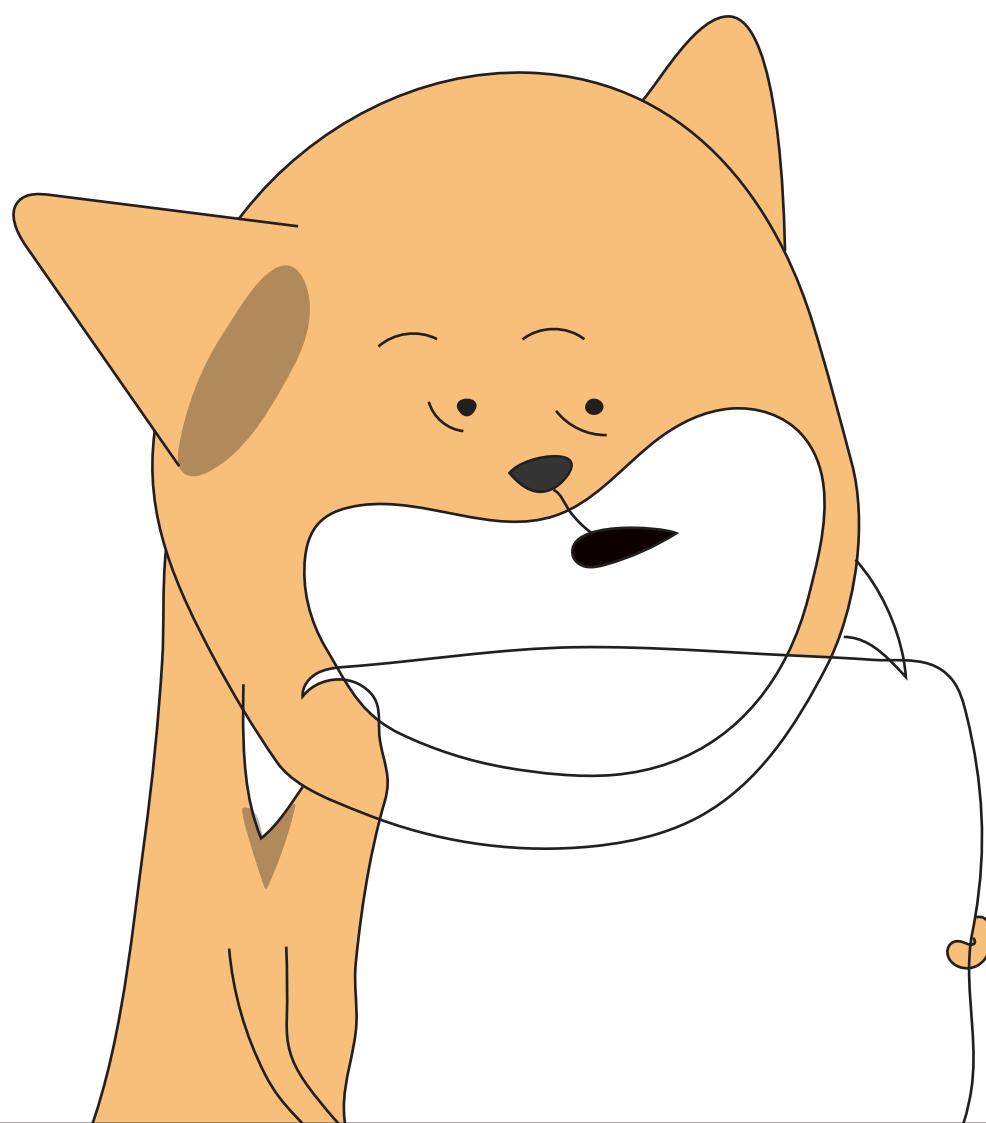
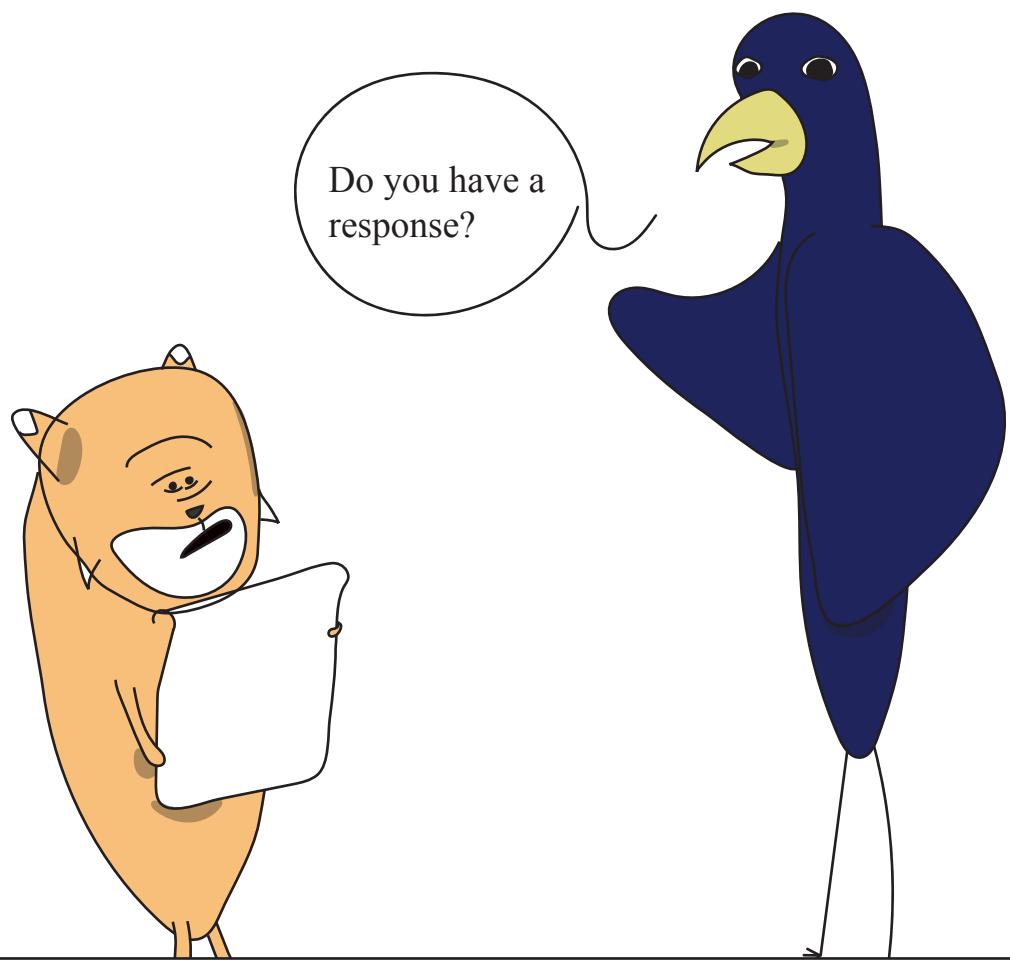
I am?!

No. Definitely
not.







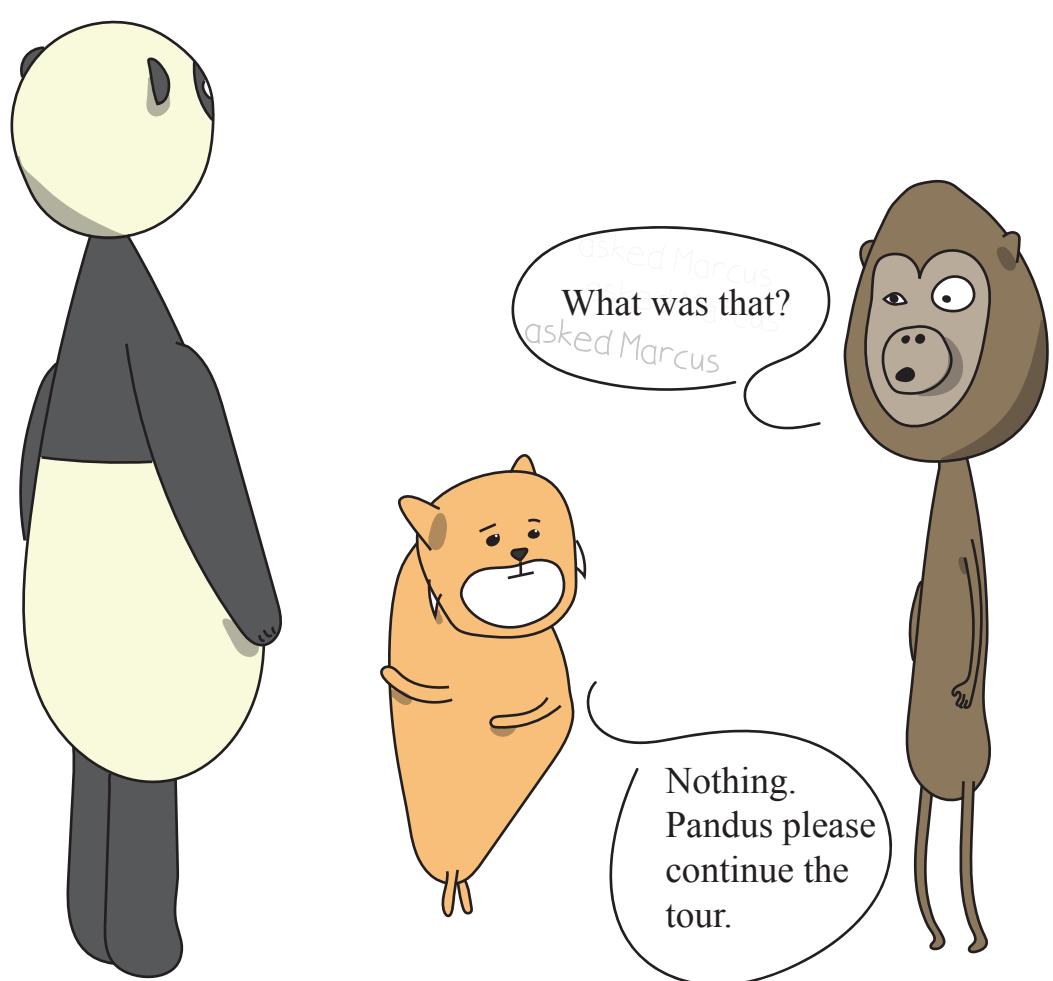
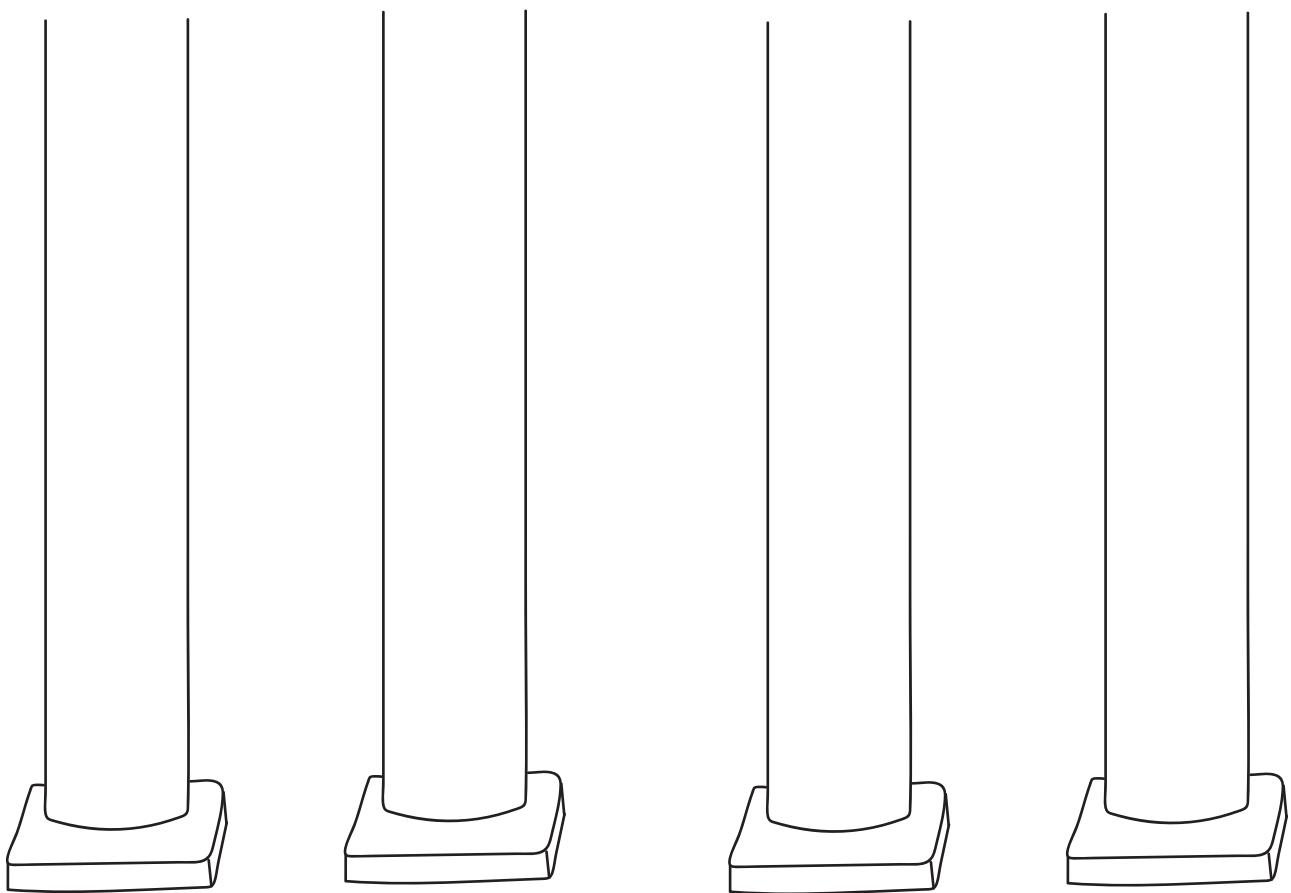


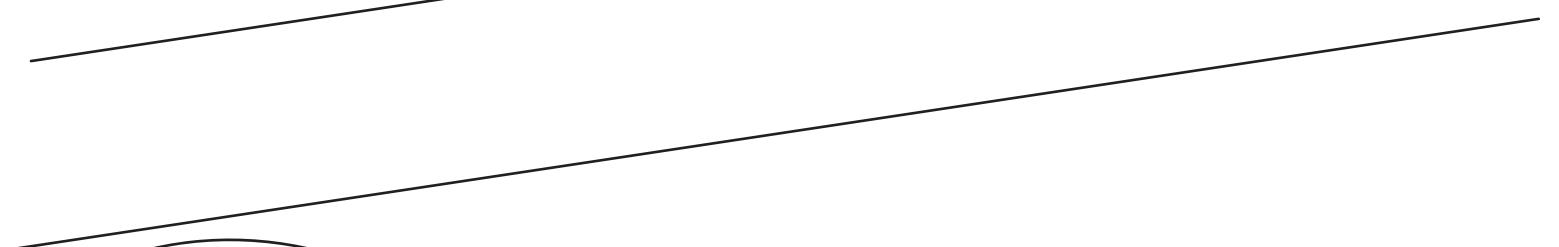
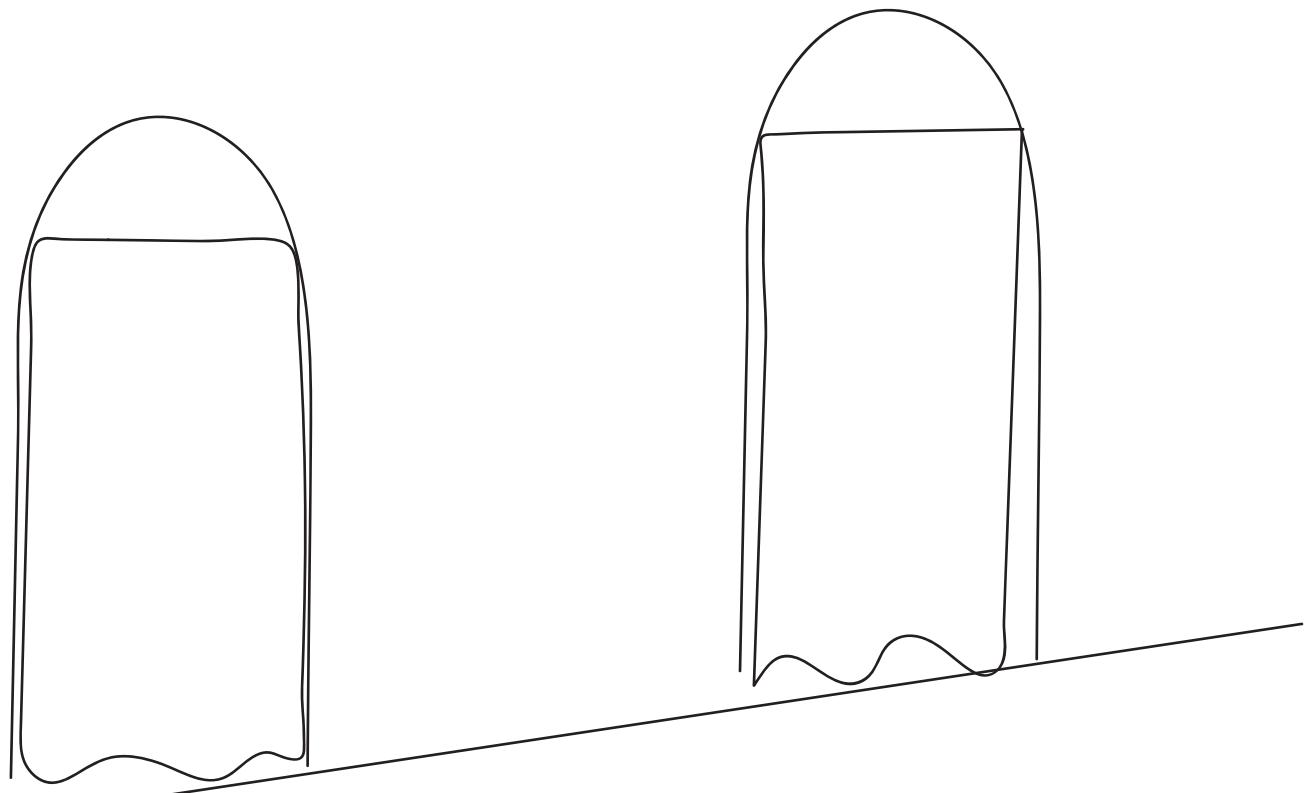
demanded
demanded
the blackbird
demanded
the blackbird

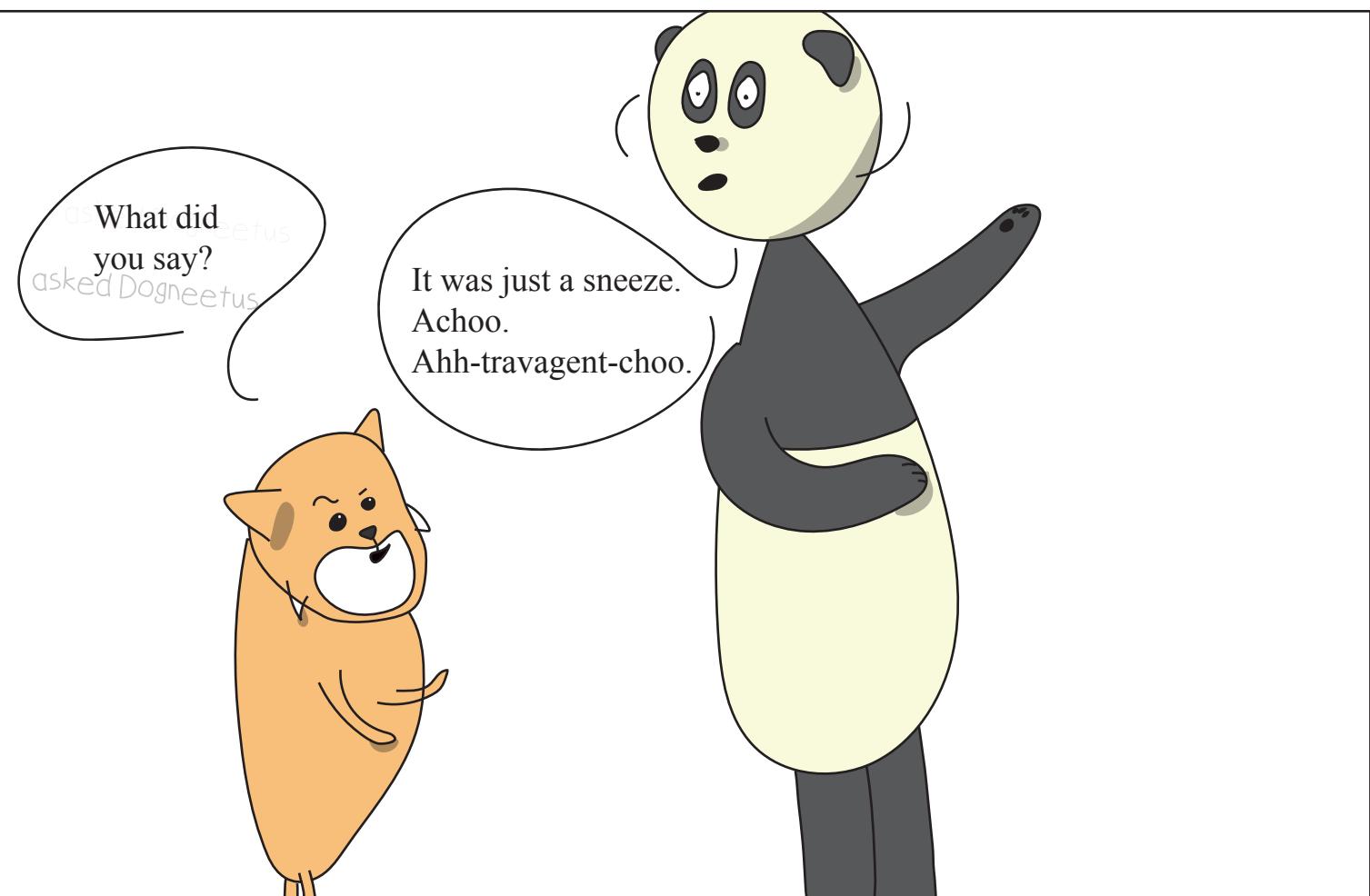
Madam, do you have a response?

I respectfully decline. No thank you.

said Dogneetus
said Dogneetus
Not in a million years.
said Dogneetus

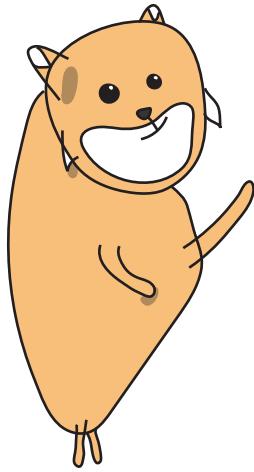




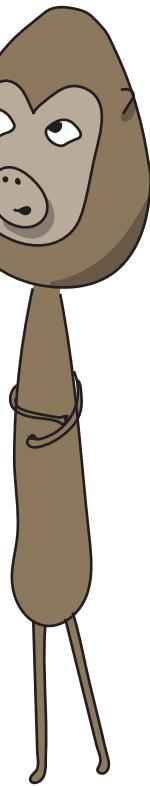




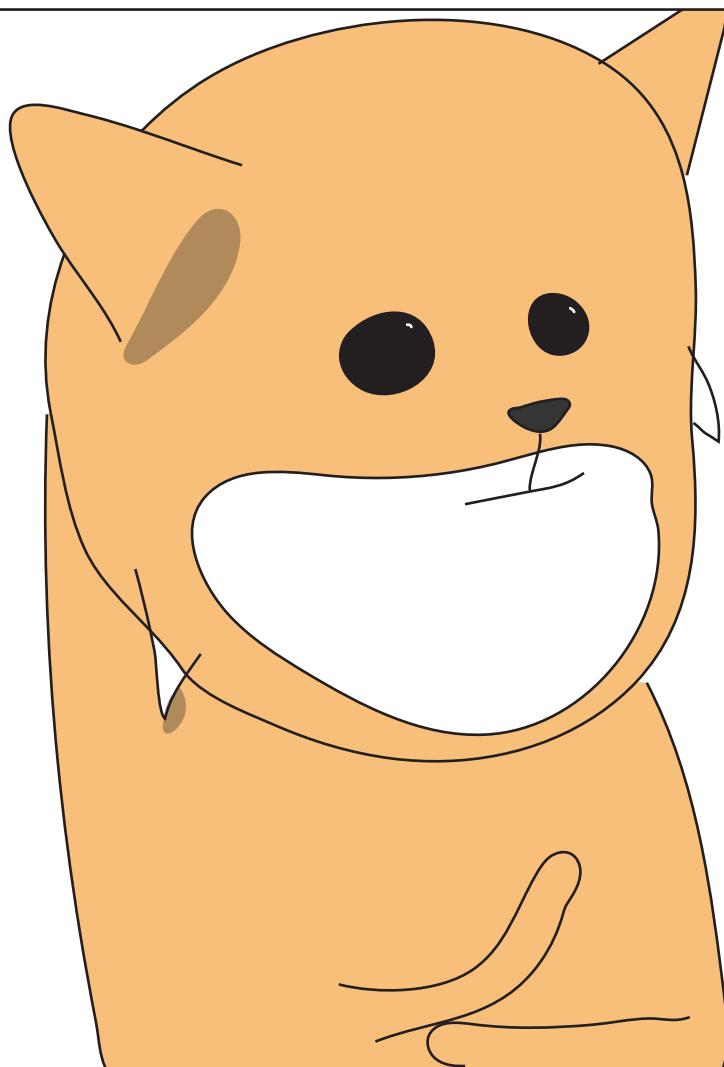
Oh... I just
repeated the
word you said.



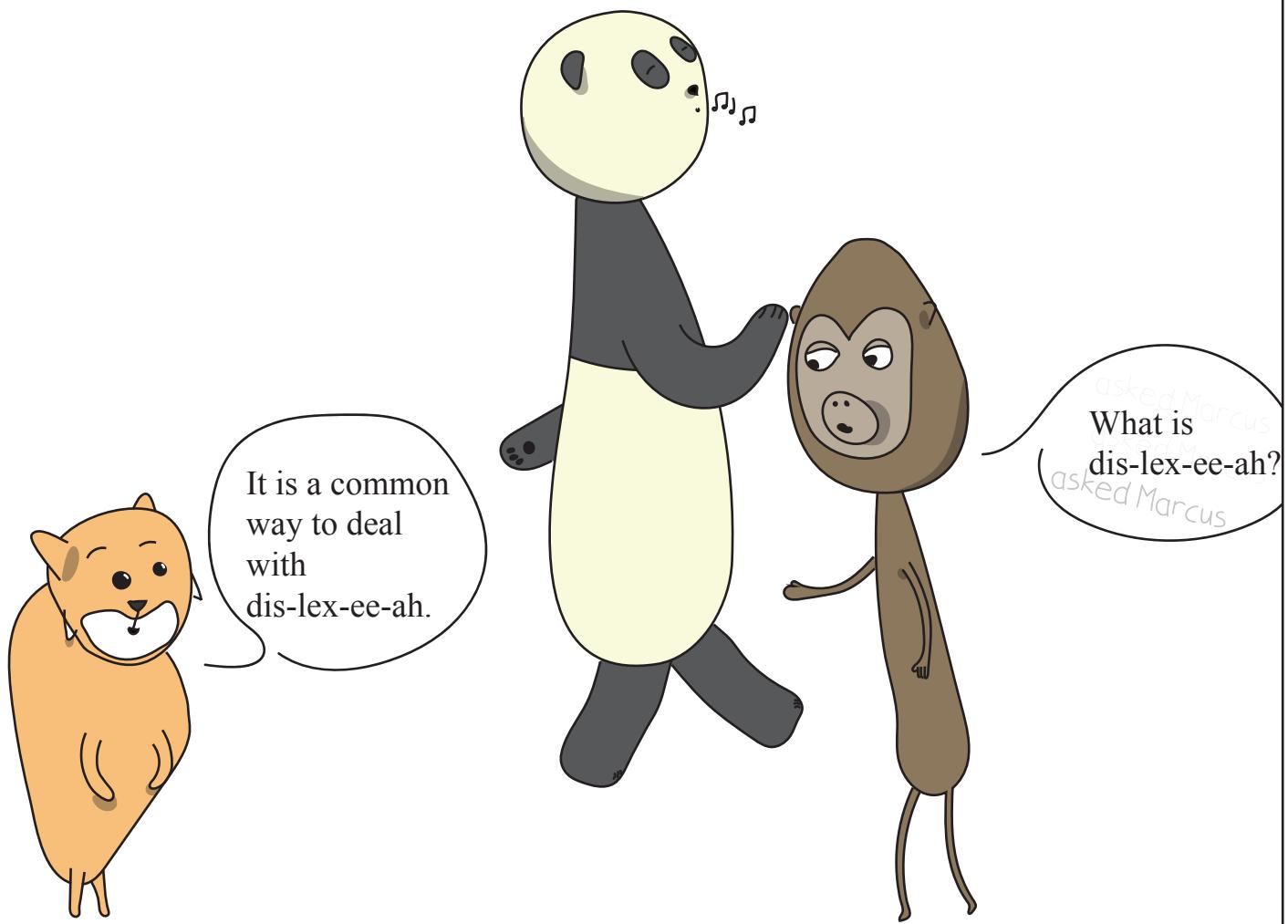
You repeated it in a
very specific way.
Like you were
sounding out the
letters.

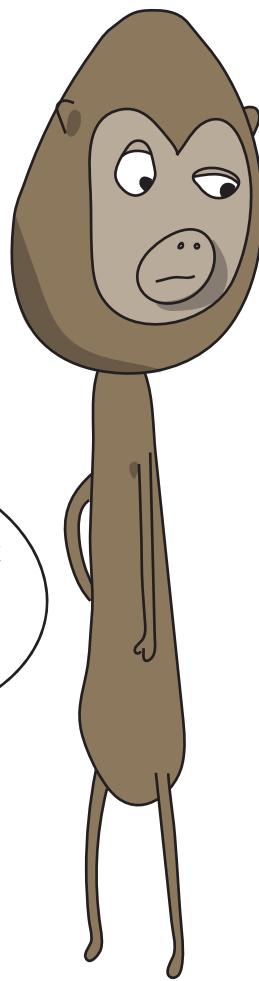
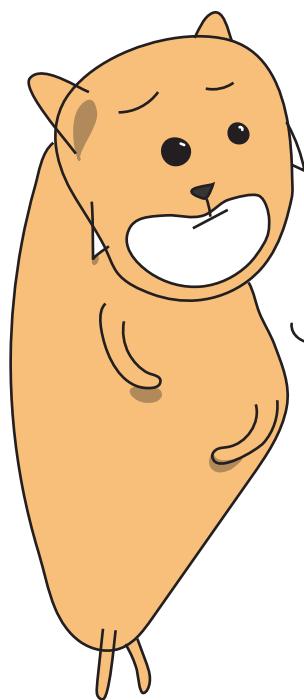


She does that
sometimes.
said Marcus

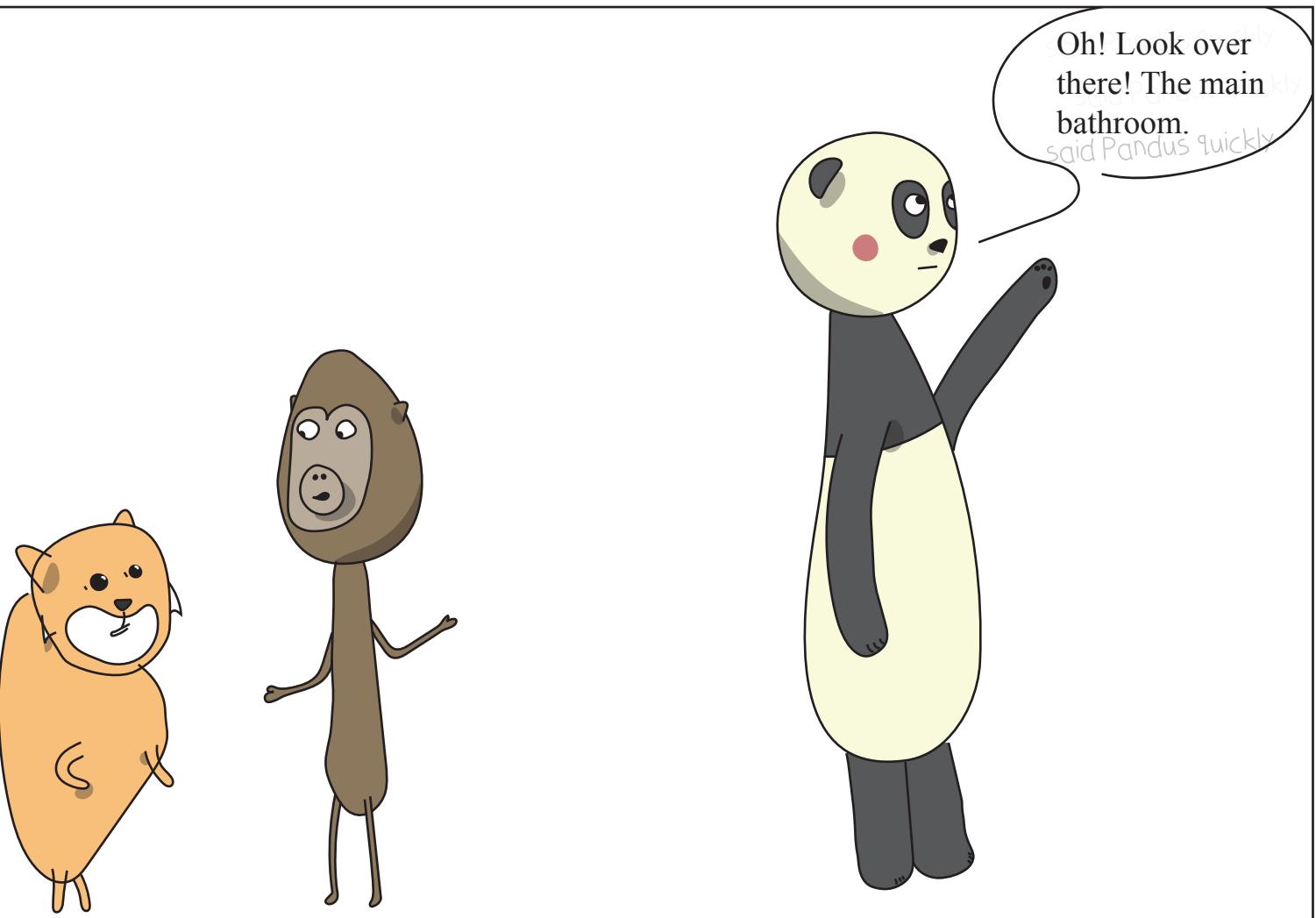


I know one other person who does something very similar when she comes across new words.



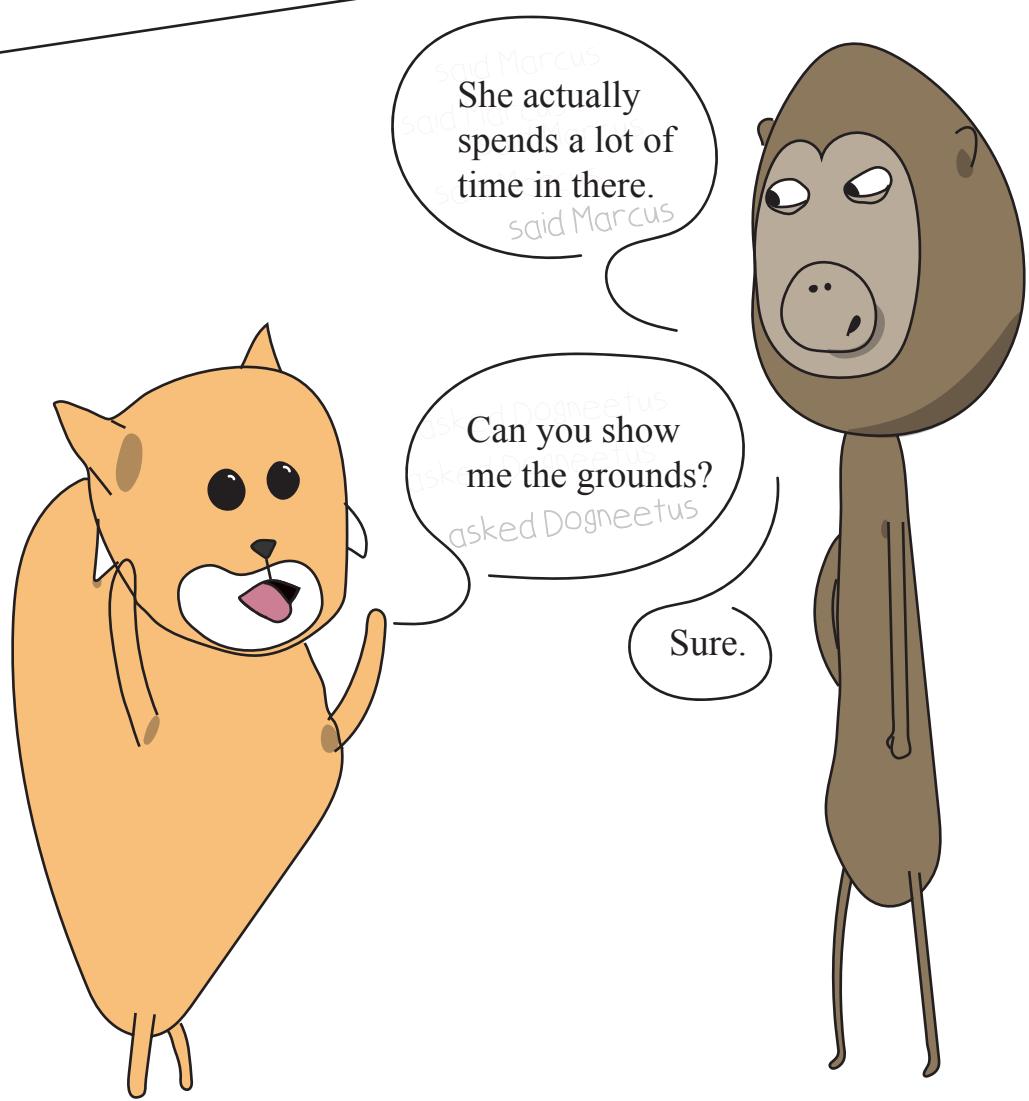
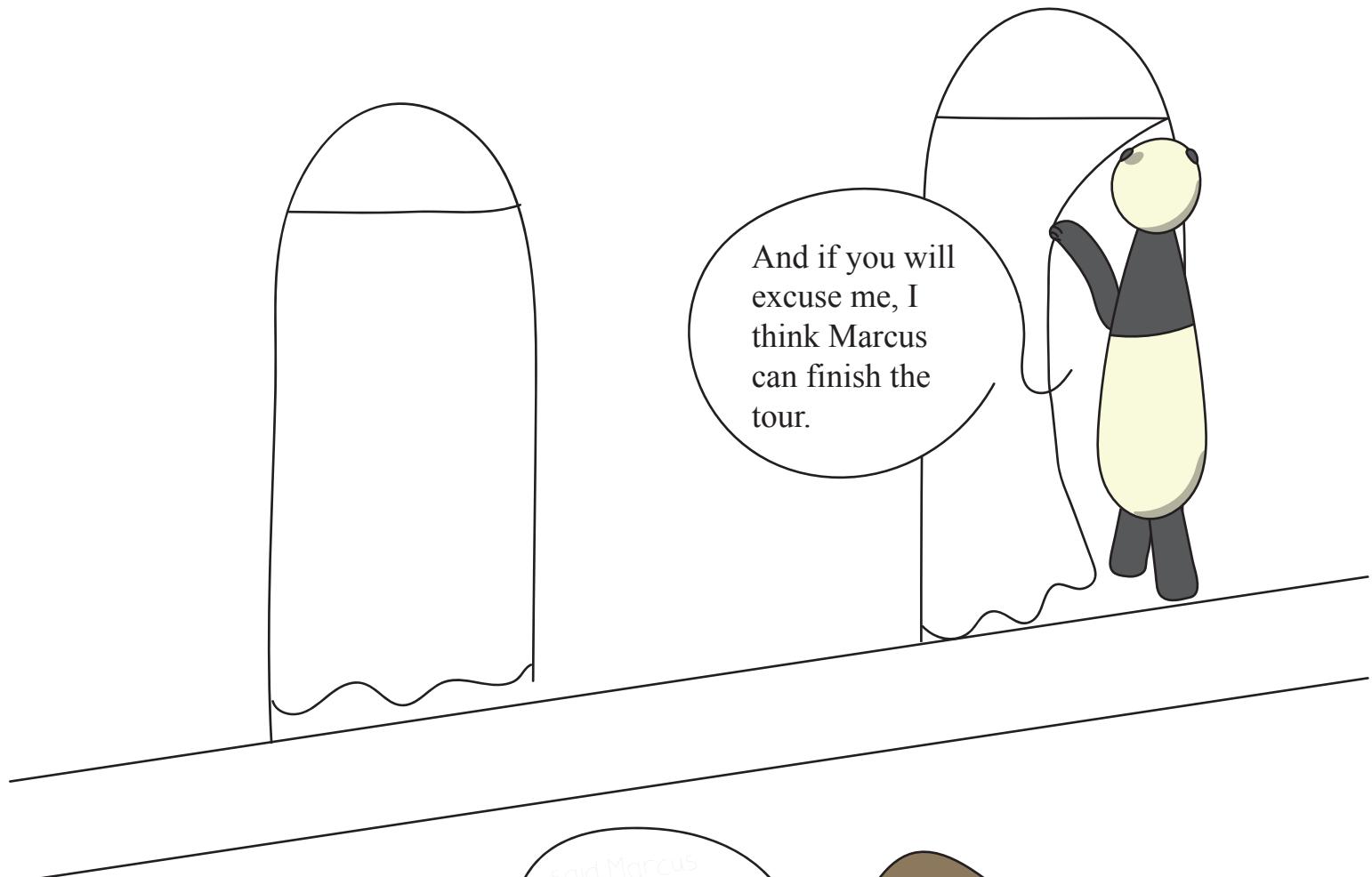


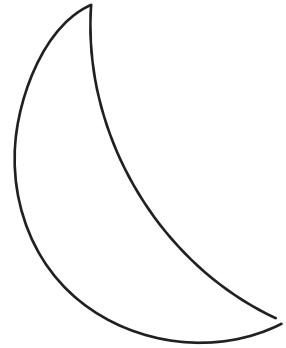
Dyslexia makes it difficult for someone to read.





And that is the
servant's
bathroom.

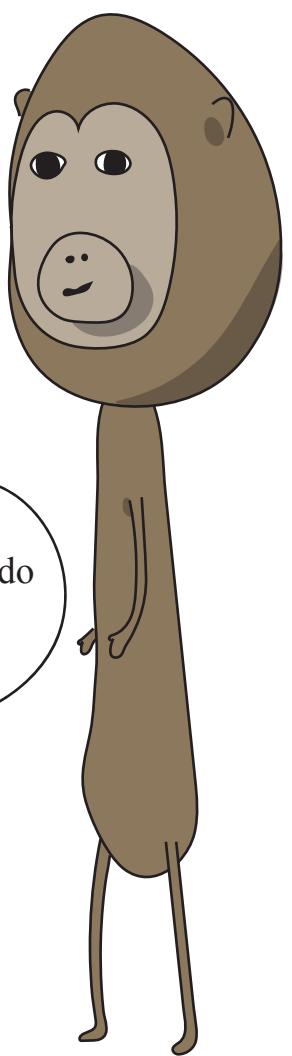
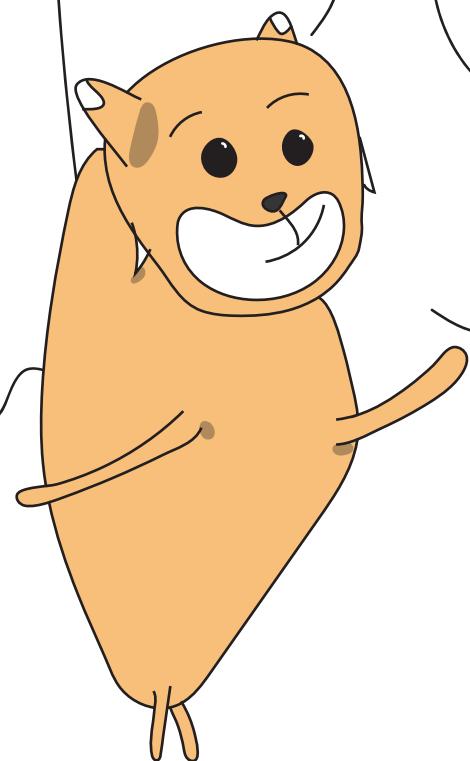


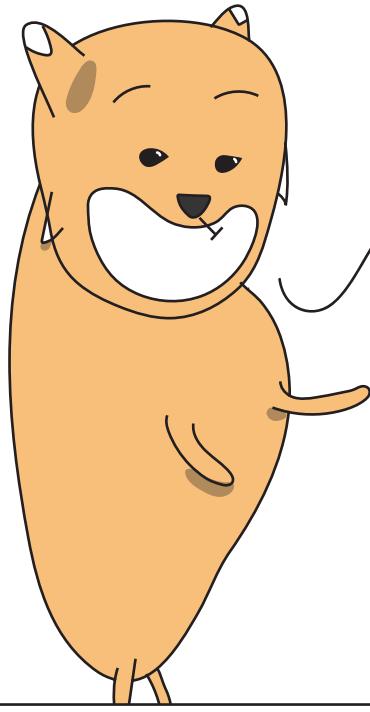


It is beautiful
out here.
admired Dogneetus

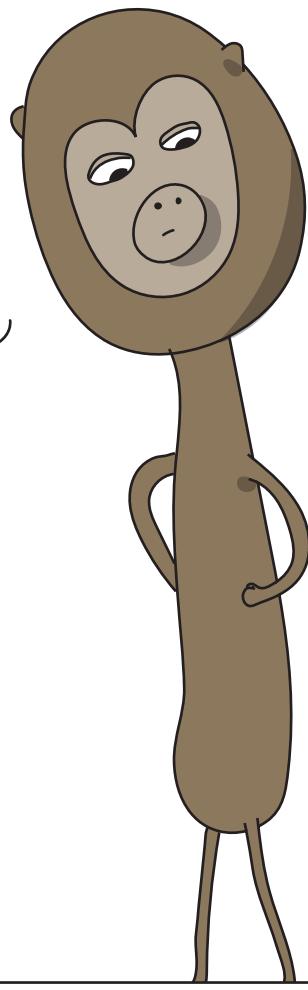
Volus is our
Gardener.
You can
meet him
tomorrow.

Thank you, I do
like meeting
people. Ruff!

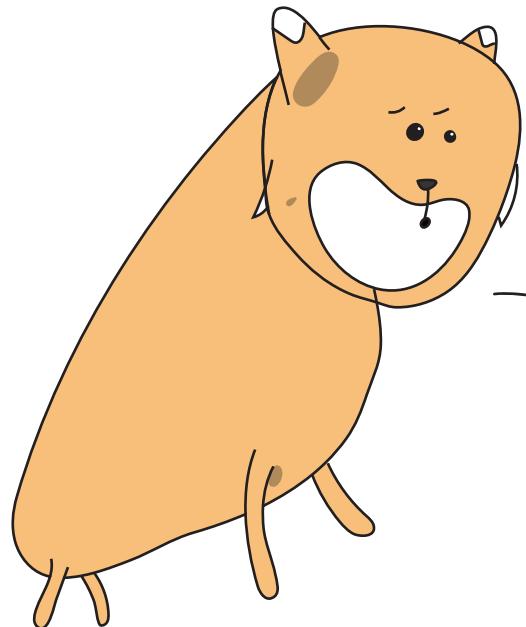




Should I show
you your room?
My room. My
old room.



Actually, I
will sleep
here.

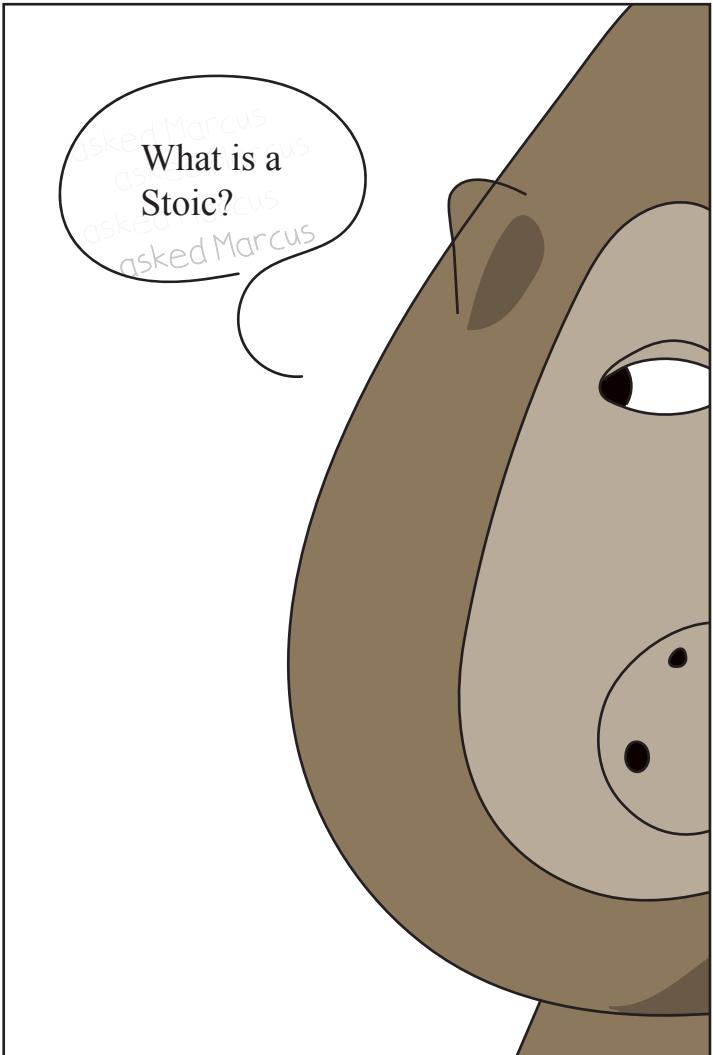
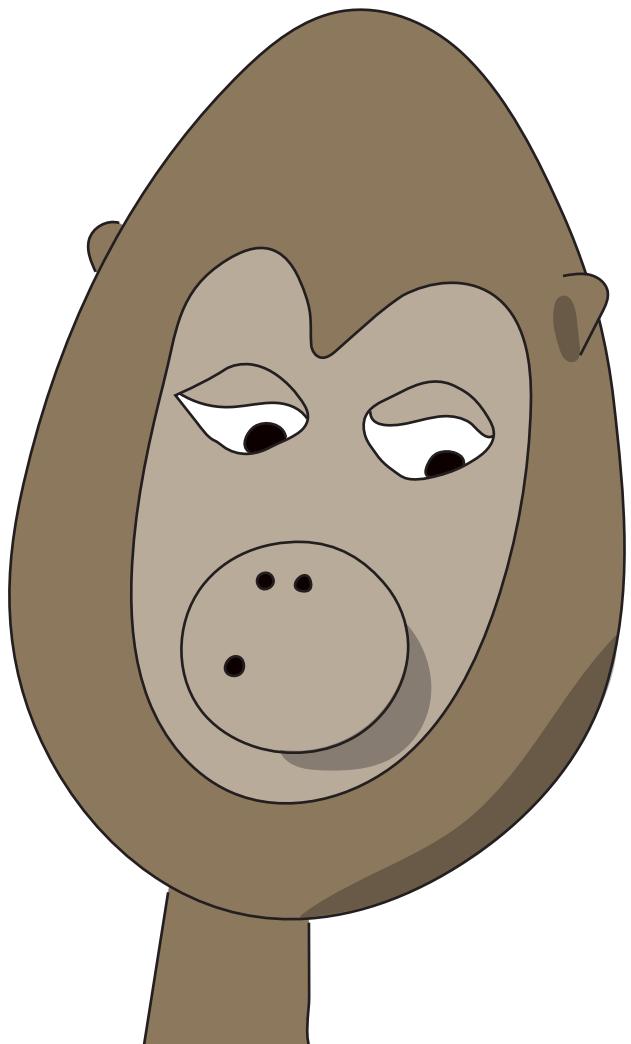


What? That is
amazing! Why?



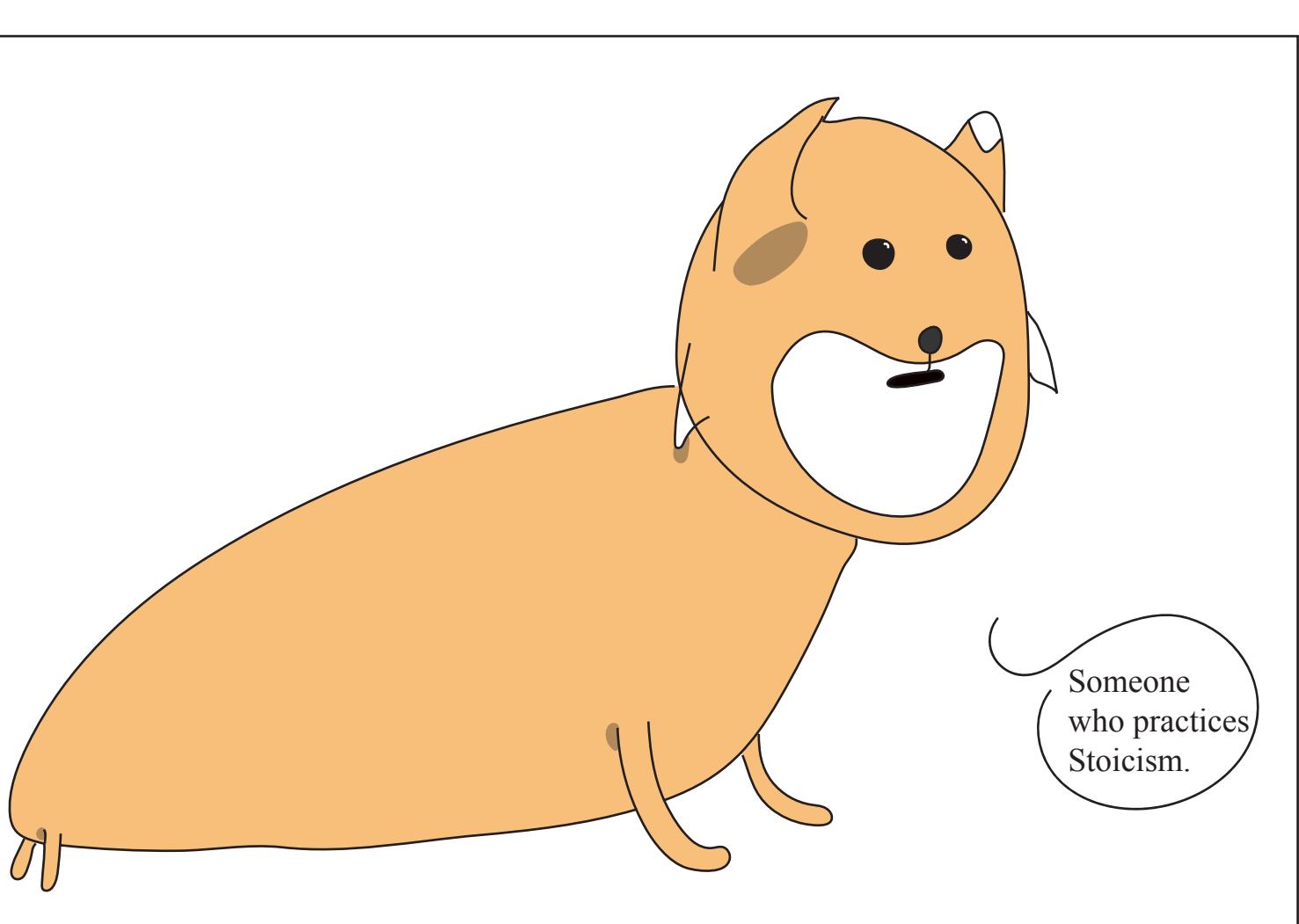
I am a Stoic. I
sleep on the
ground.

Right.

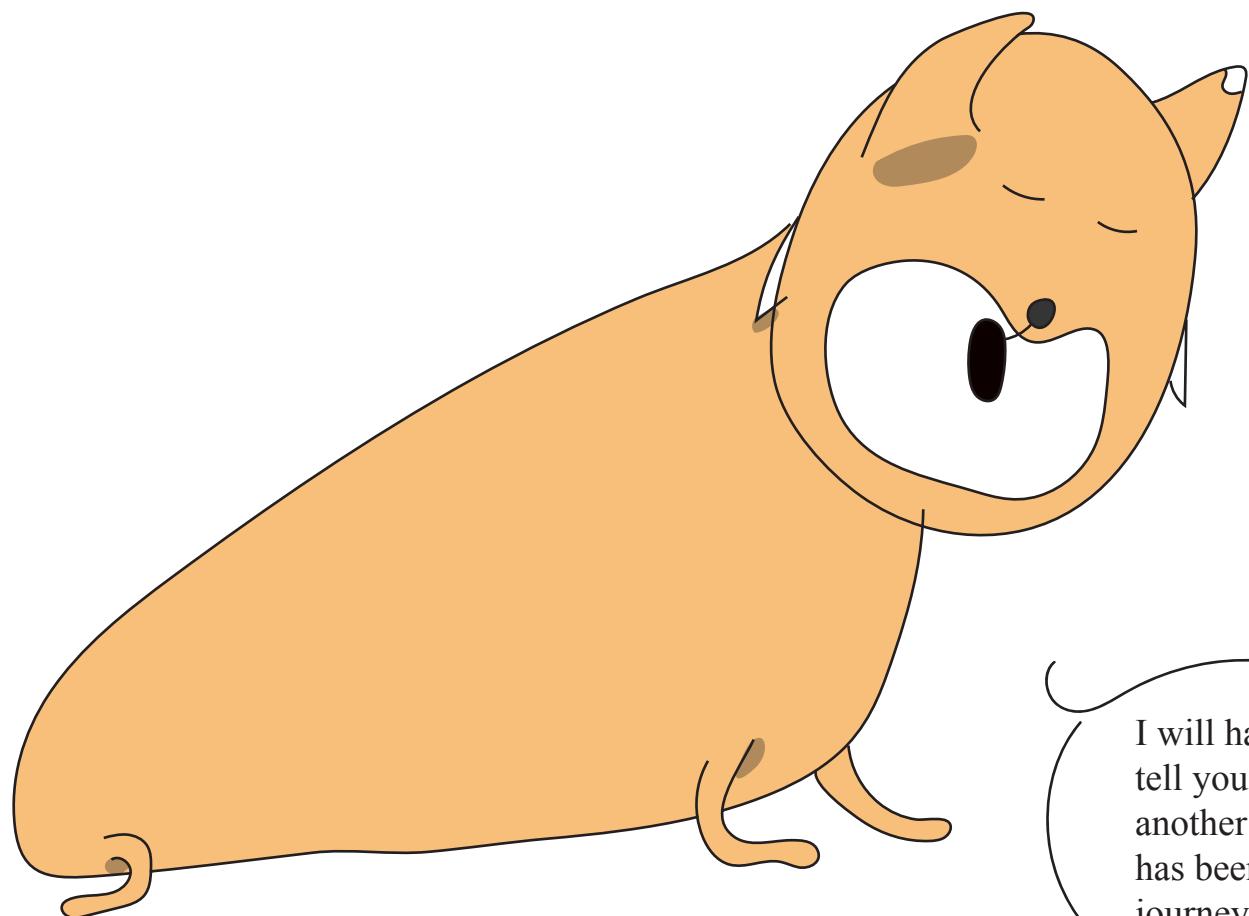
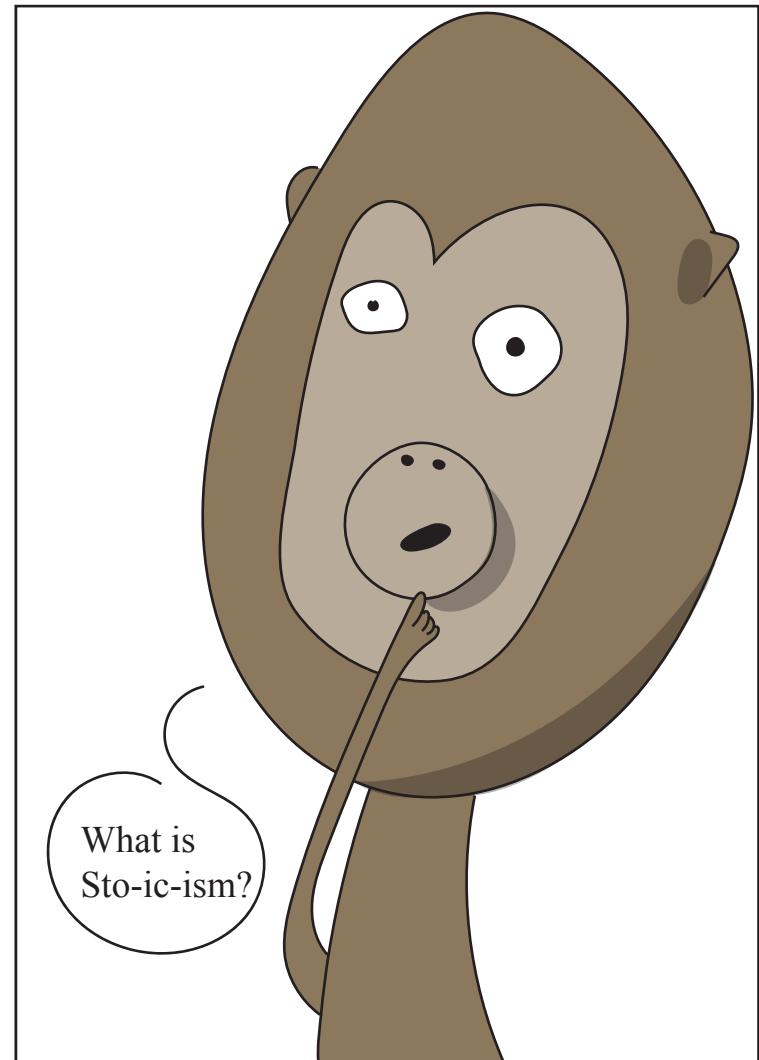
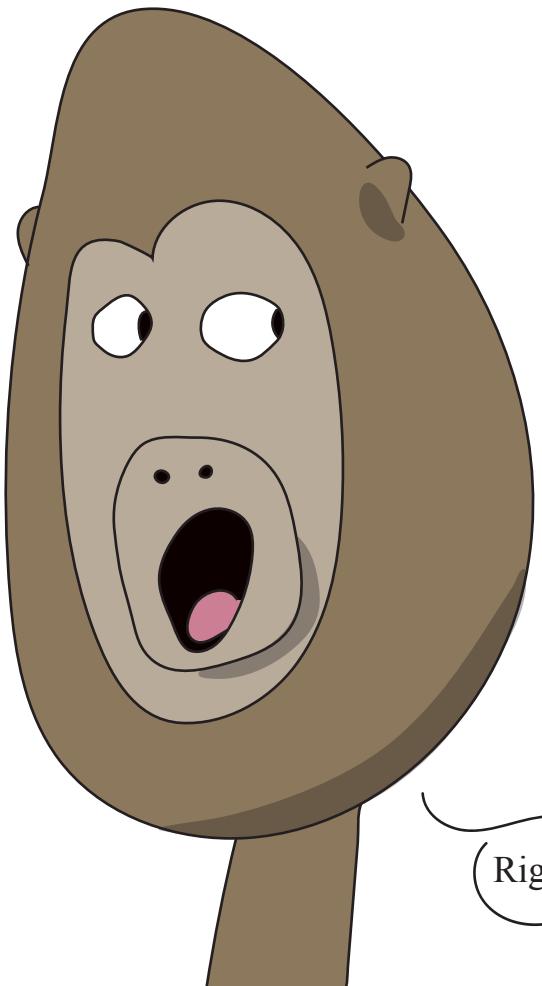


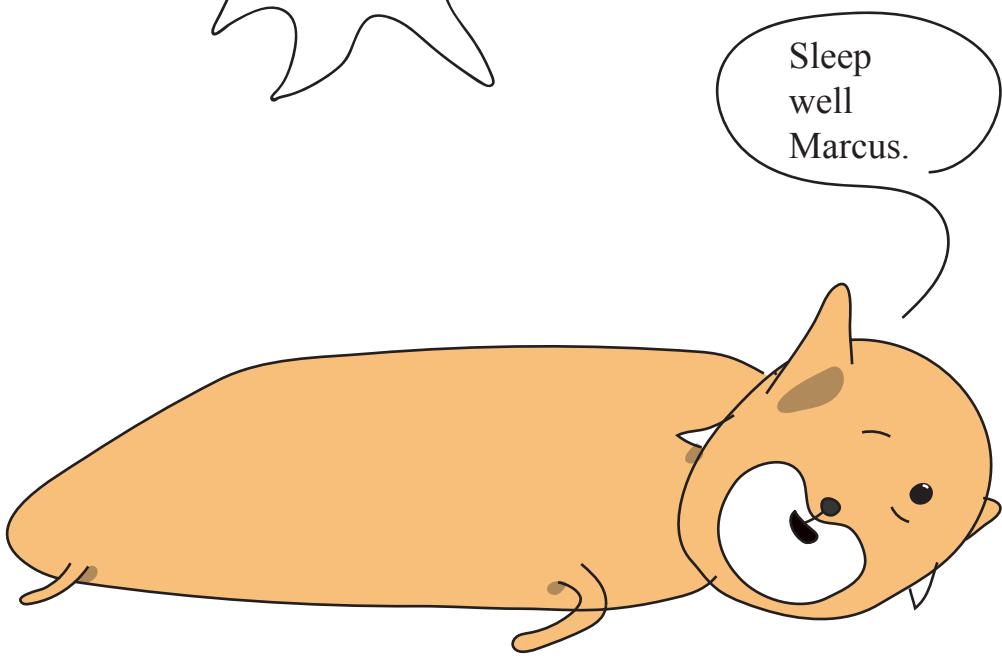
What is a
Stoic?

asked Marcus

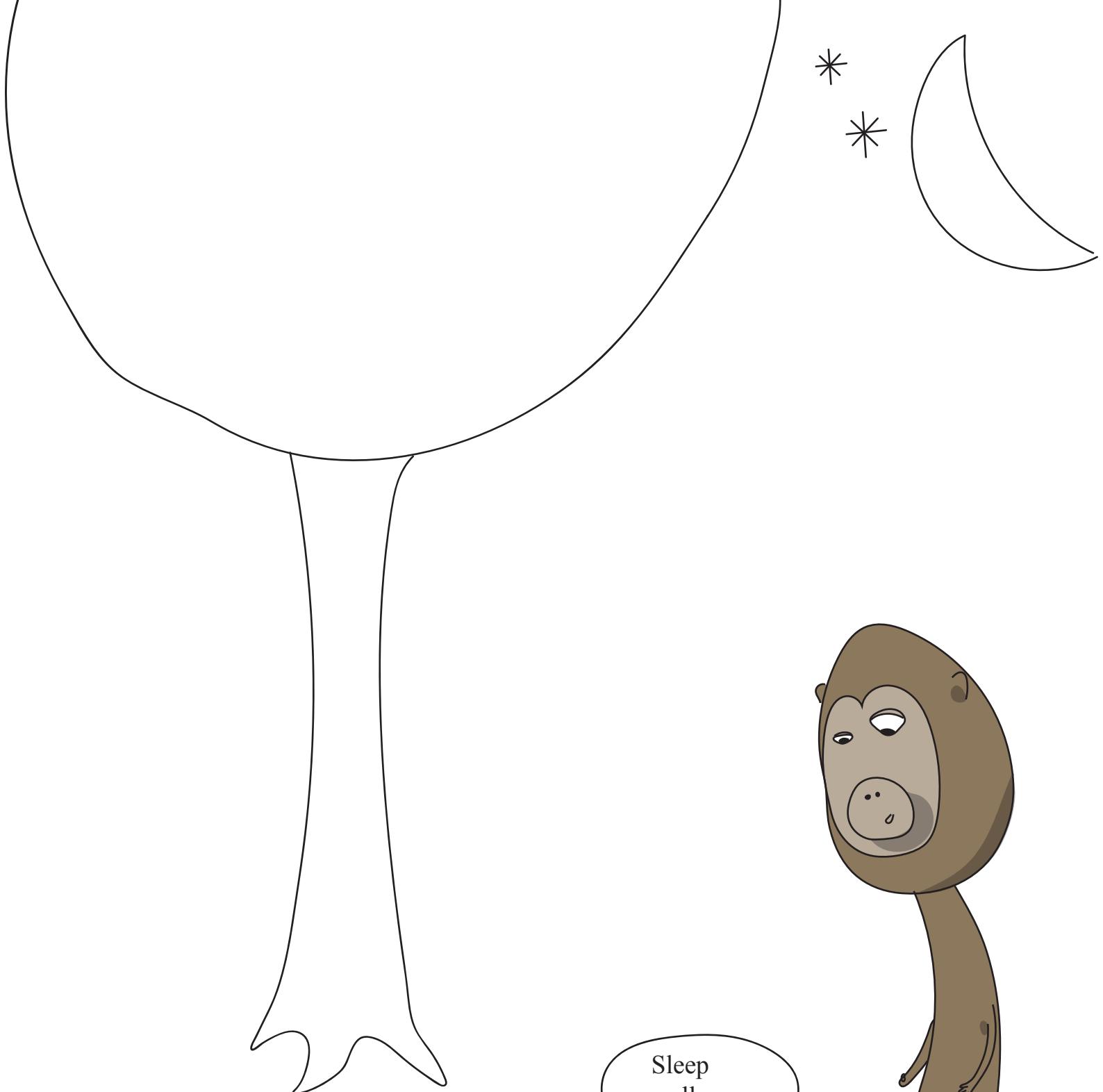
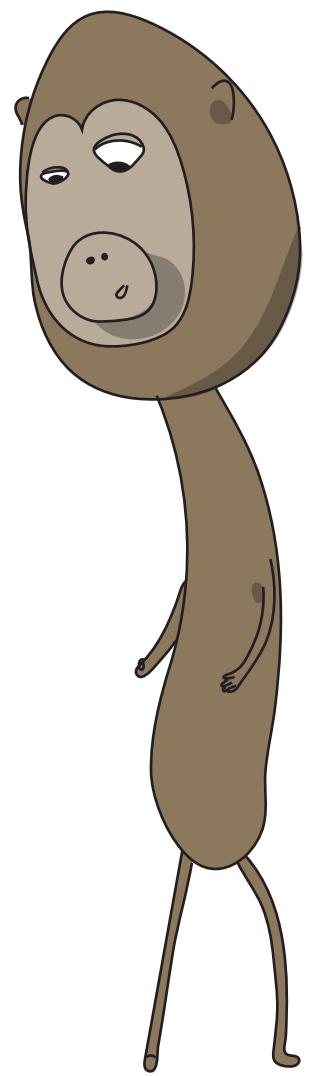


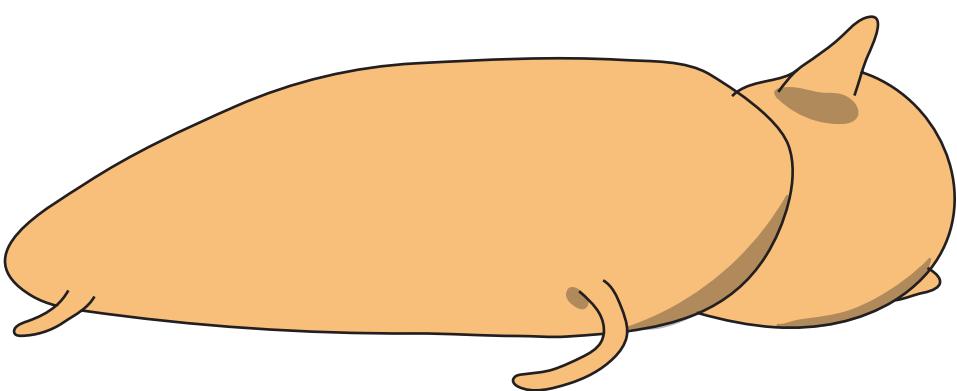
Someone
who practices
Stoicism.



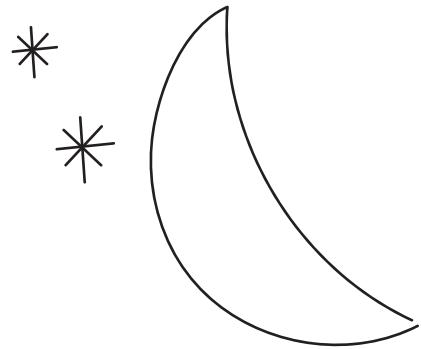
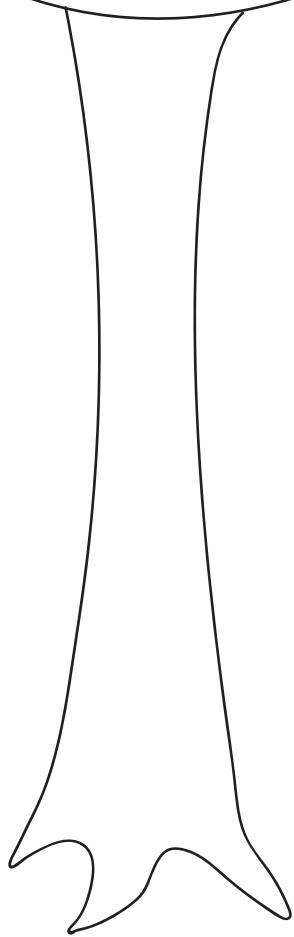


Sleep
well
Marcus.



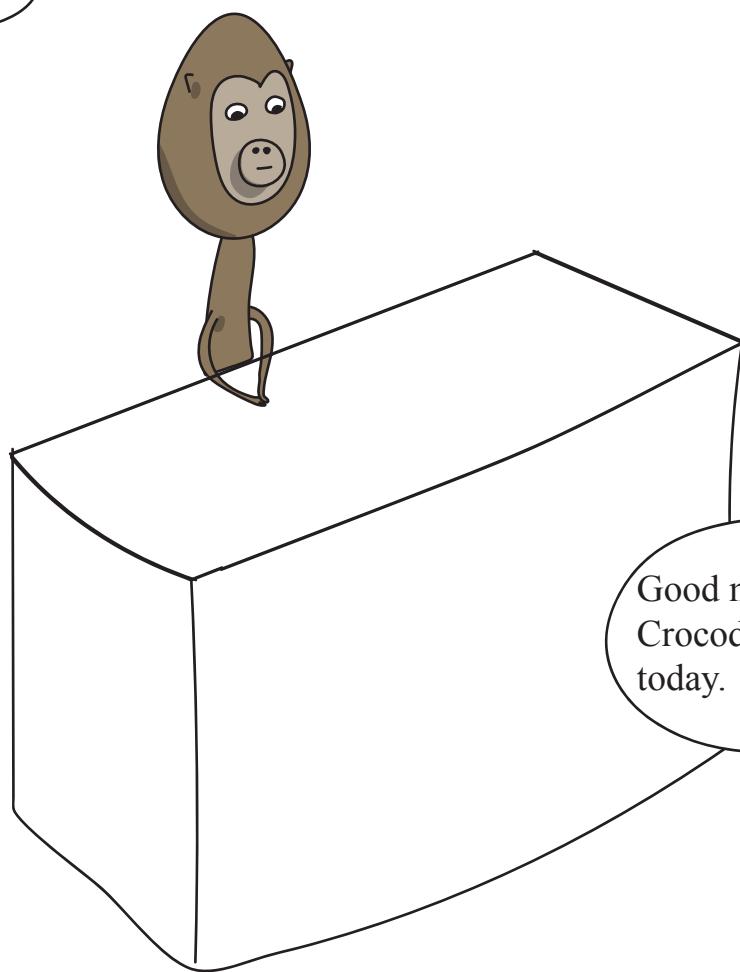


And another
journey begins.



Chapter 6 - Crocodus

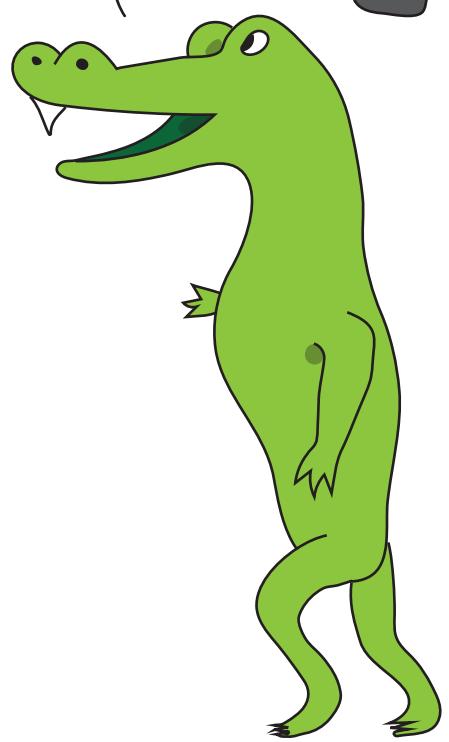
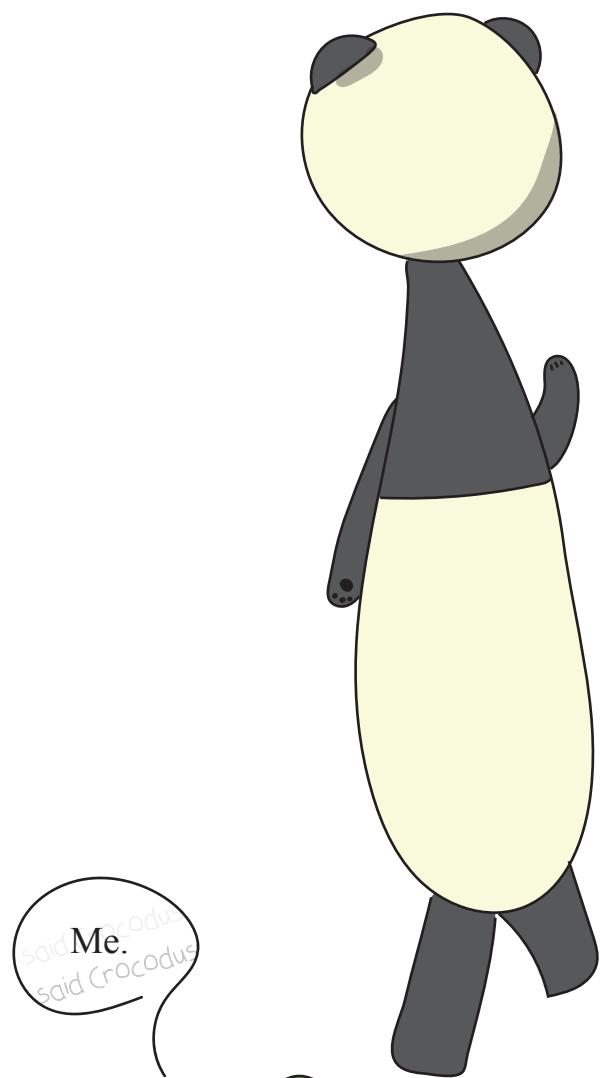
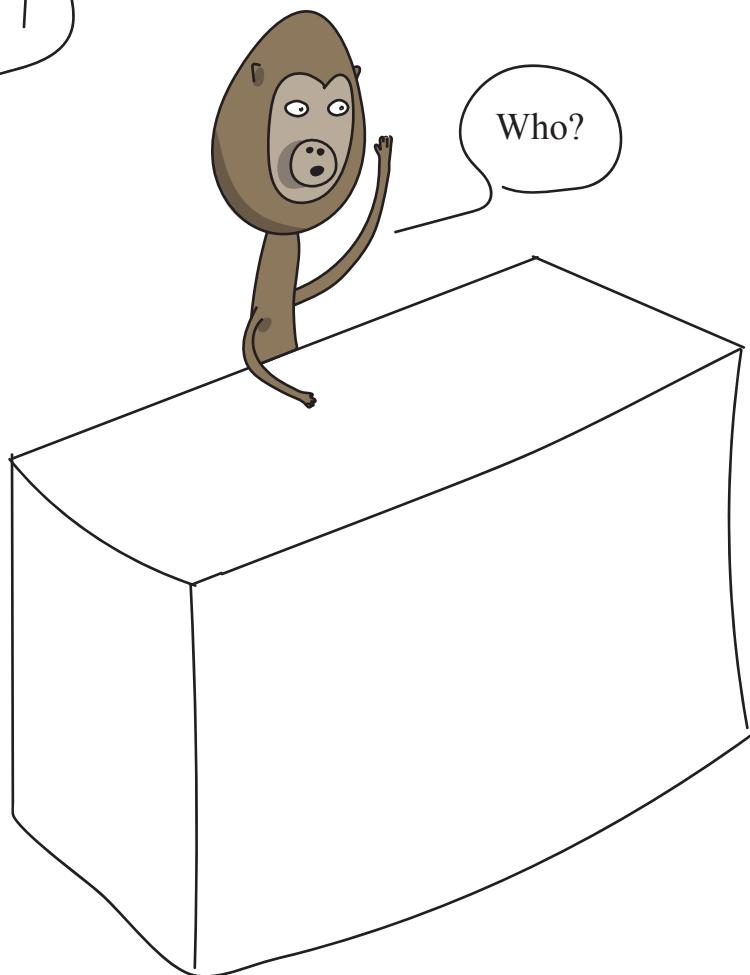
M
U
N
D
O
P

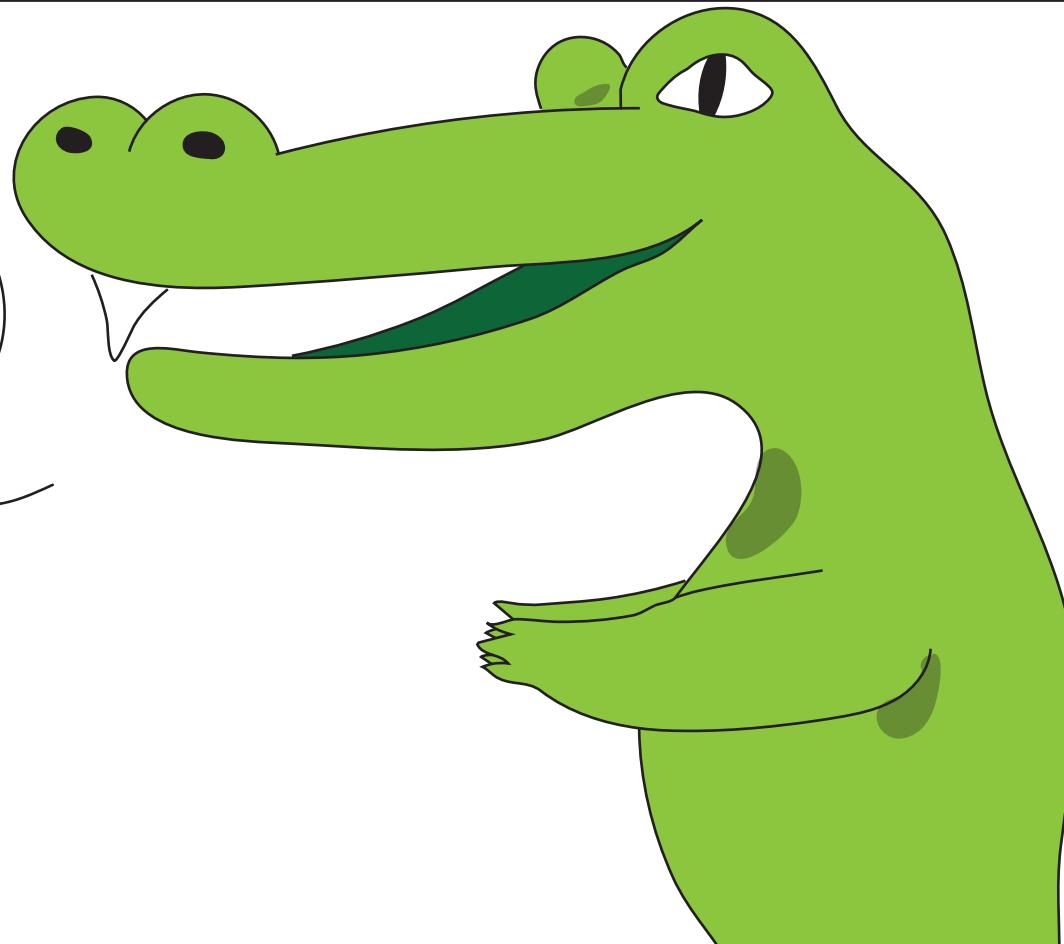


Good morning Marcus.
Crocodus is with us
today.

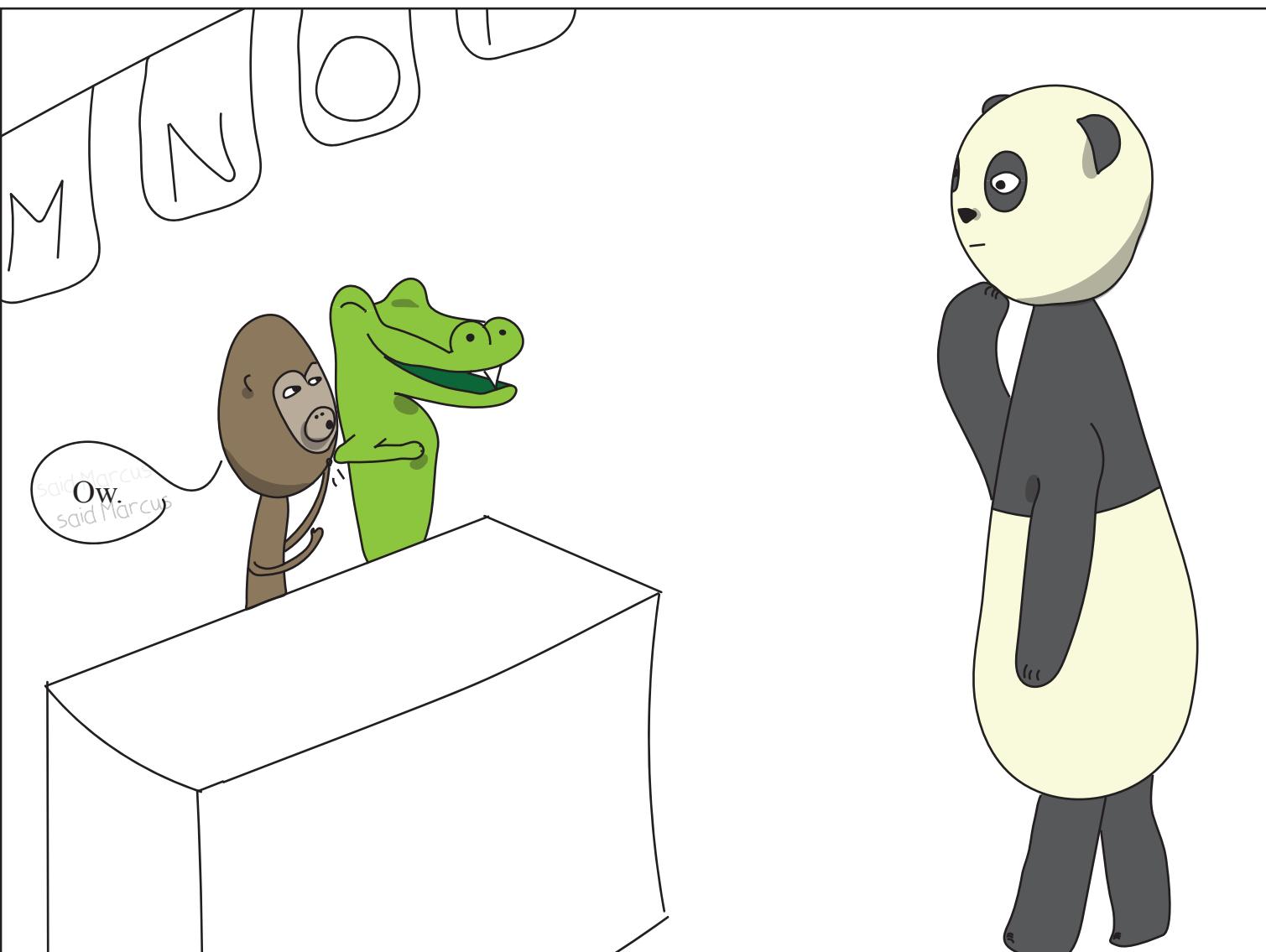


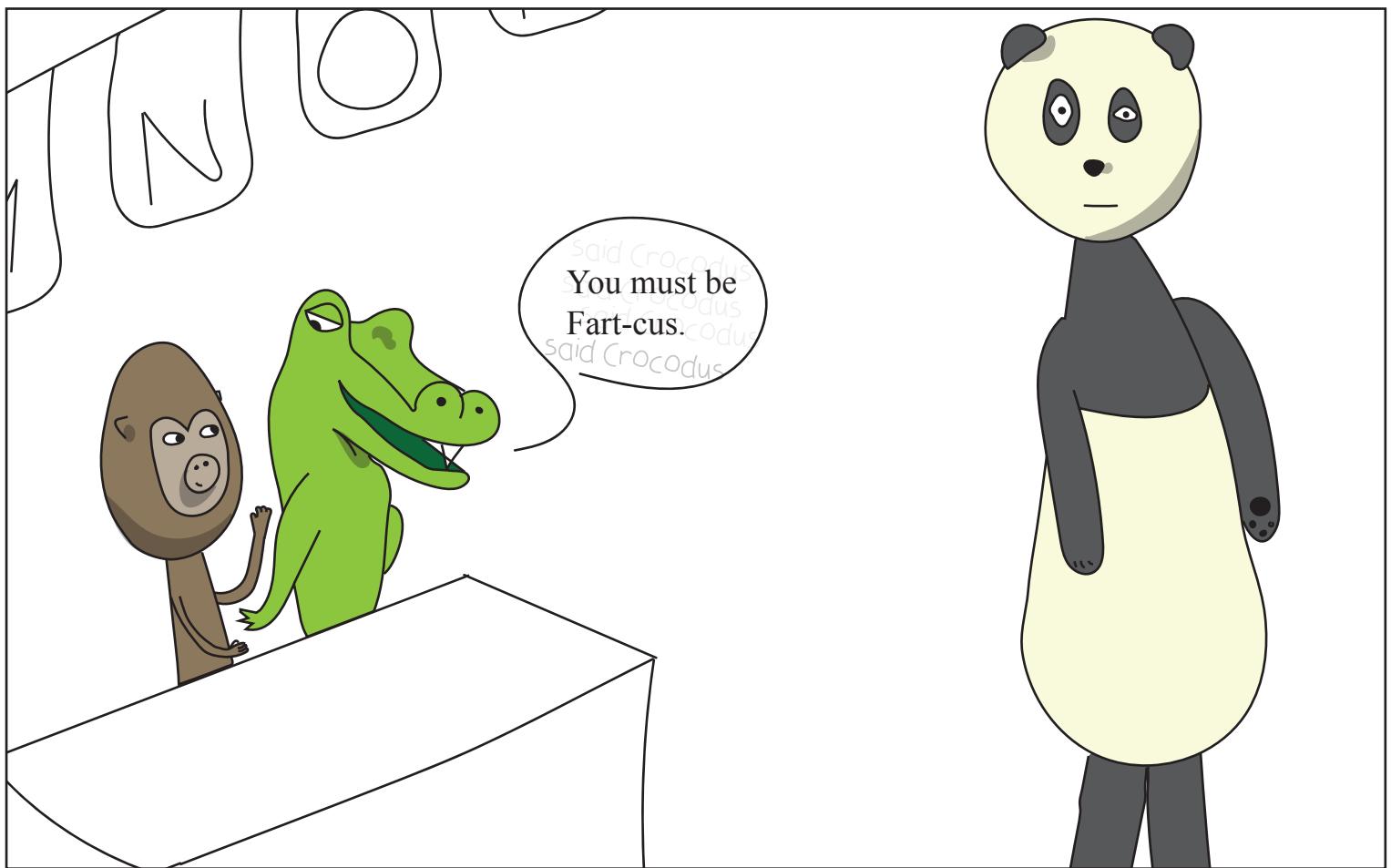
M
J
N
P

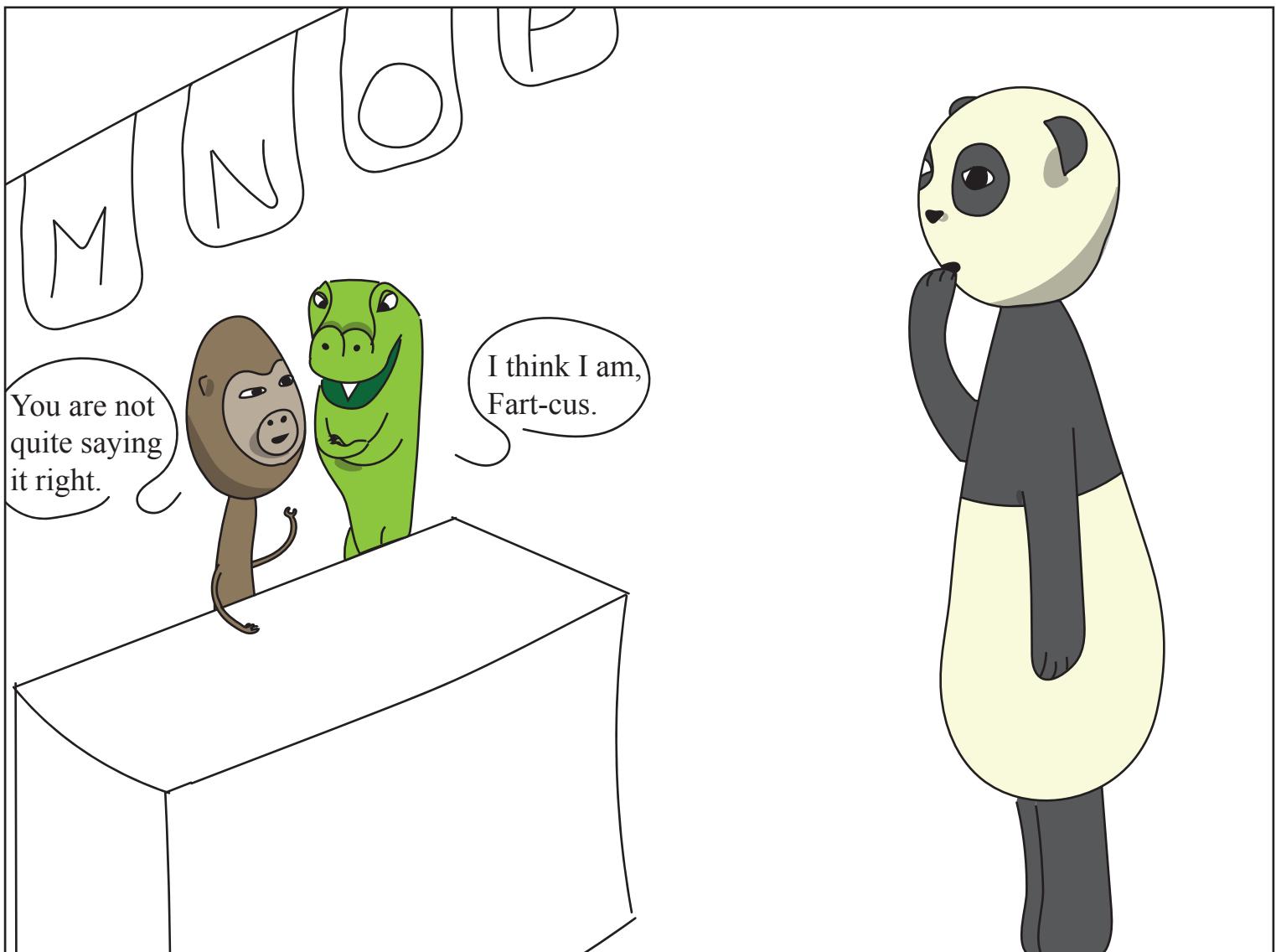
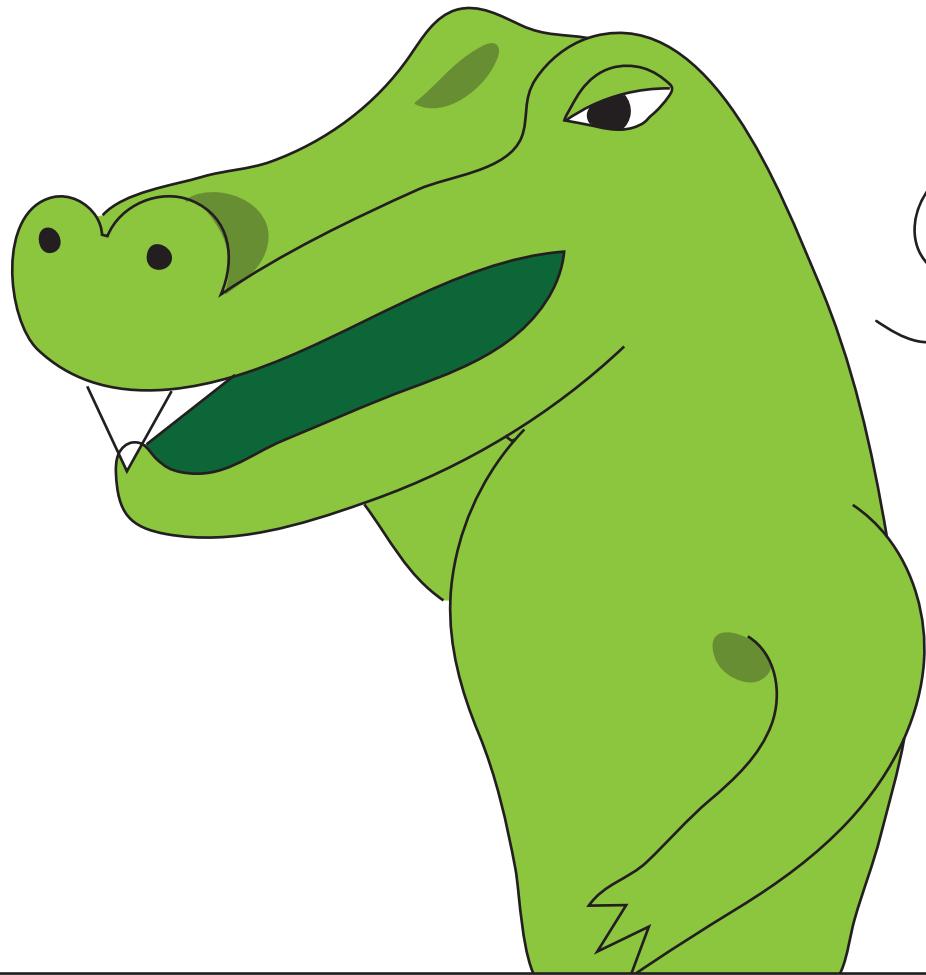


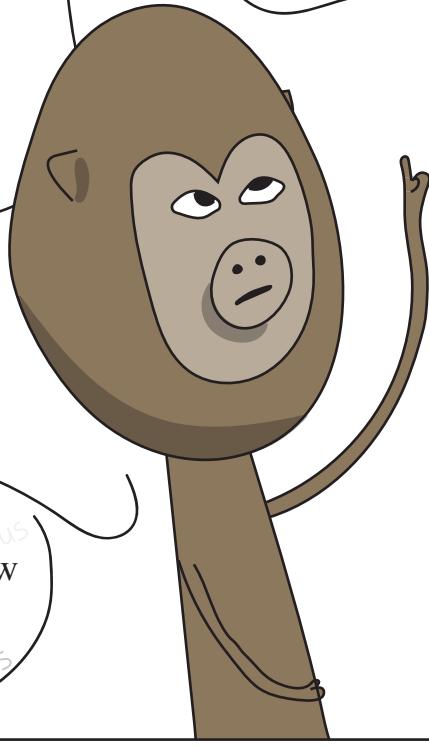


I am your new
classmate. My dad
made your dad
share his private
tutor.

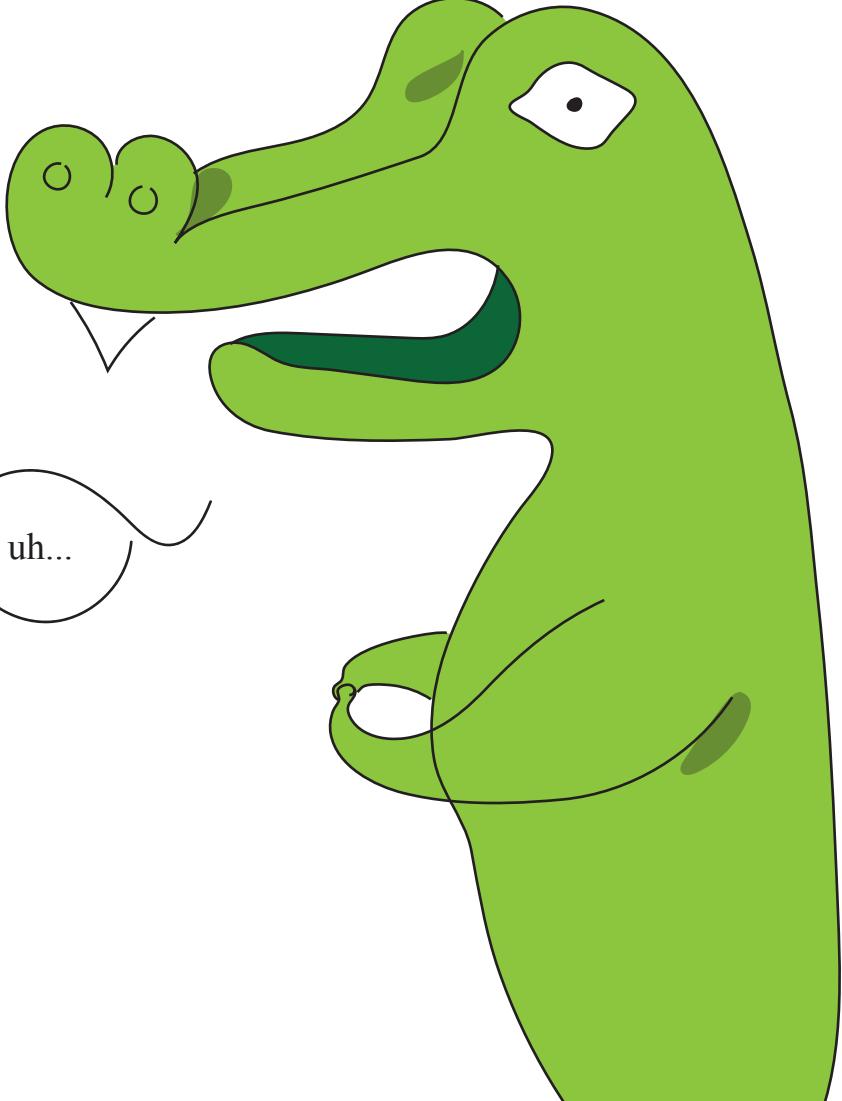




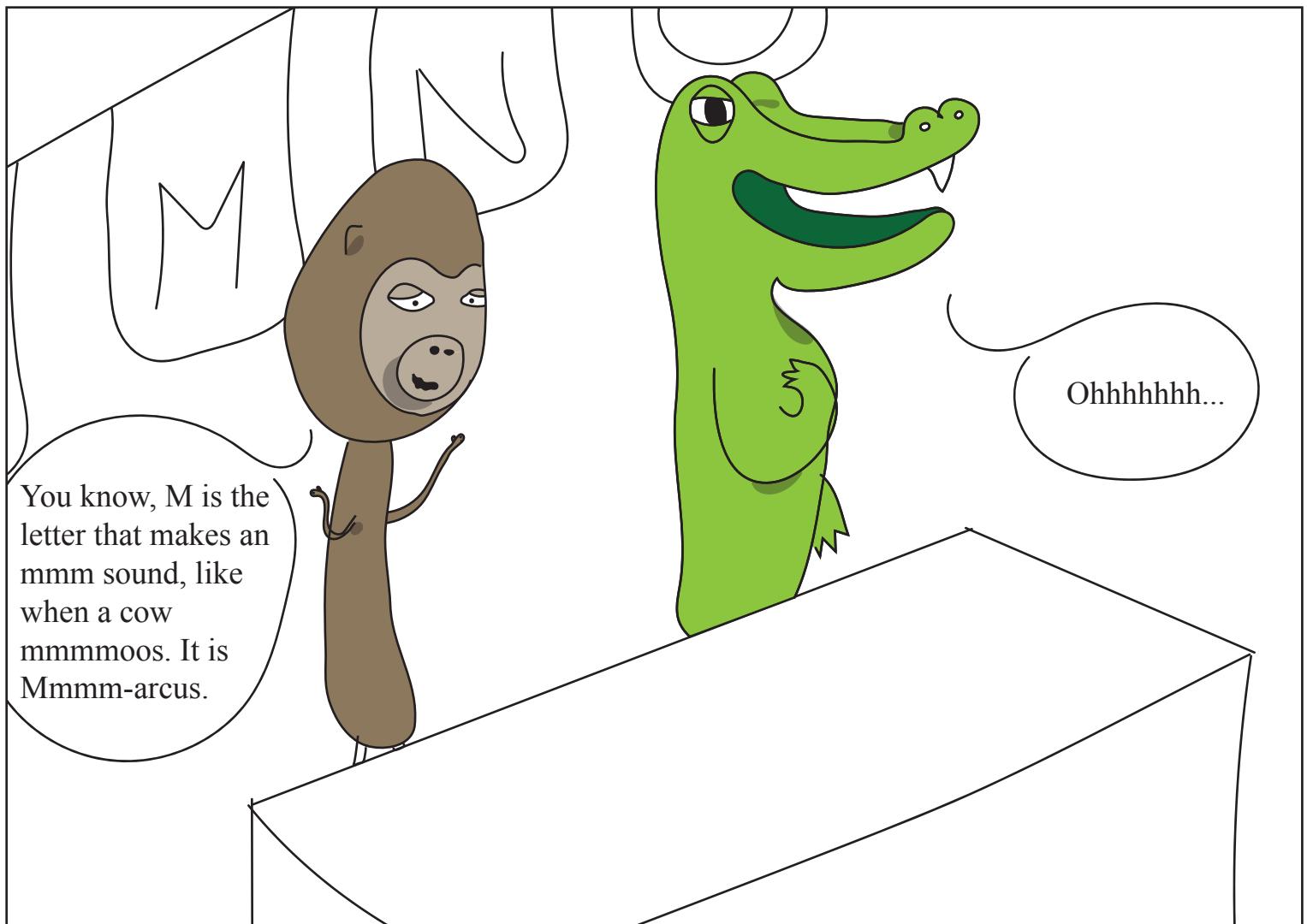
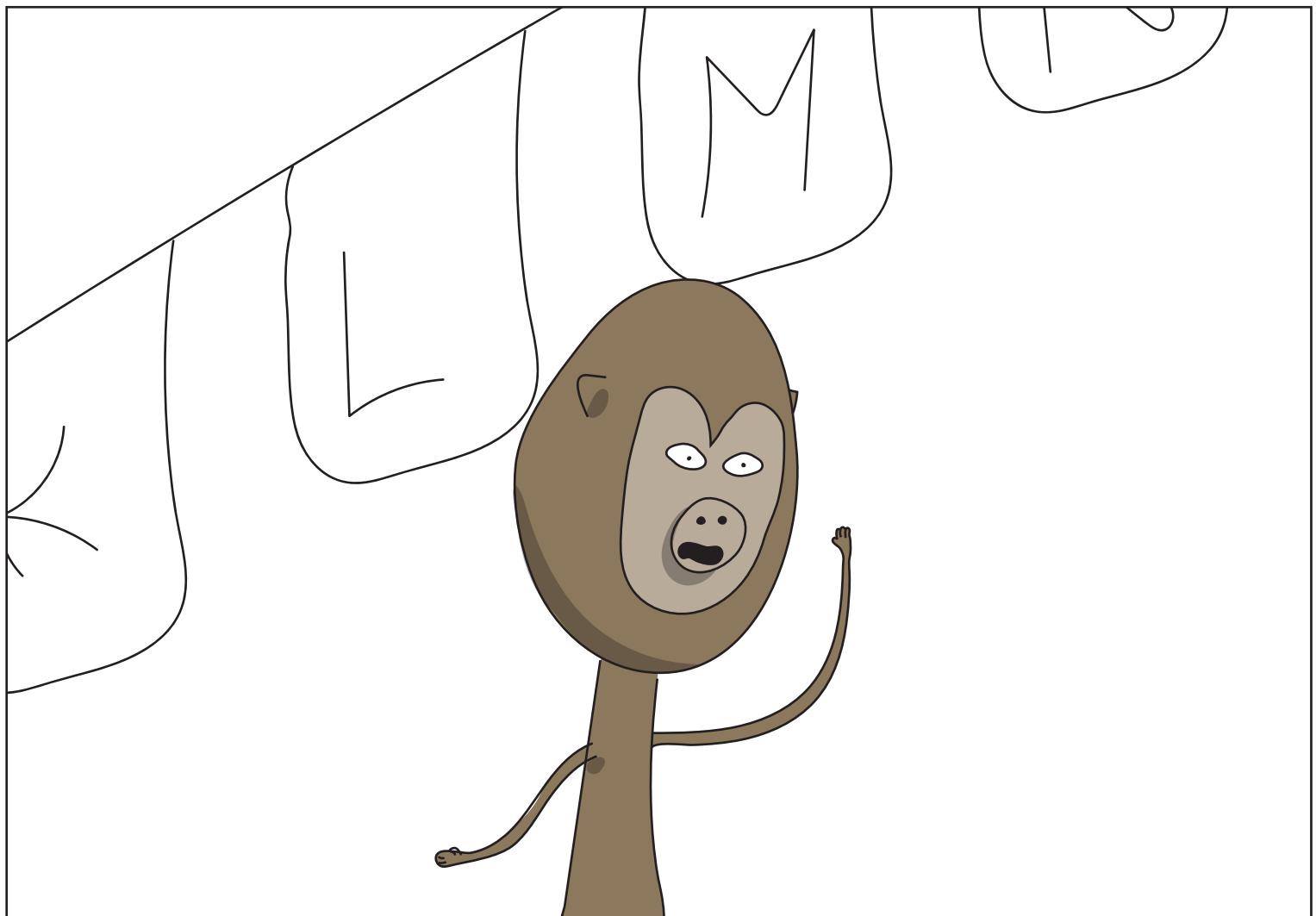




It starts with this letter. Do you know what sound this letter makes?

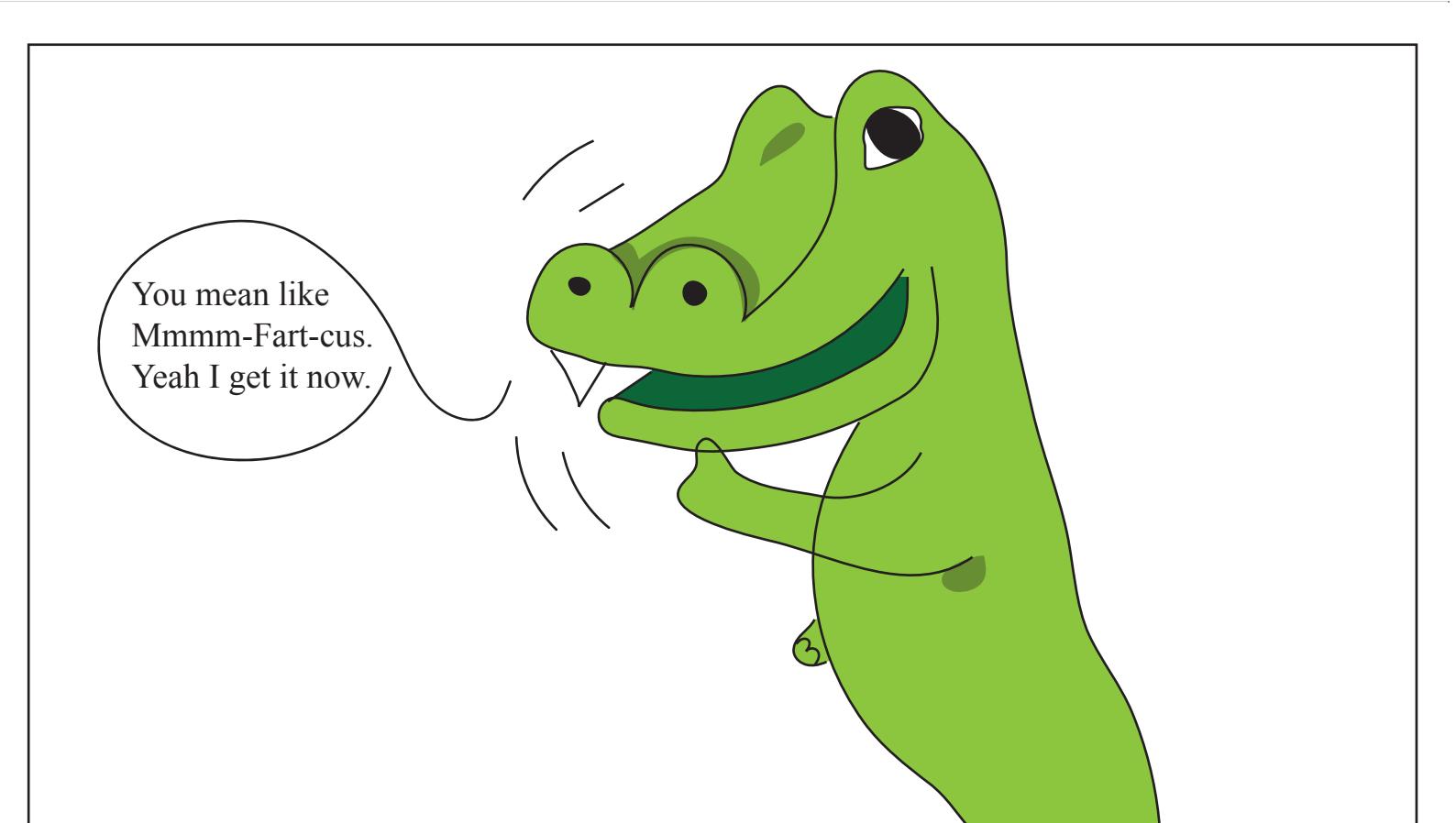


uh...

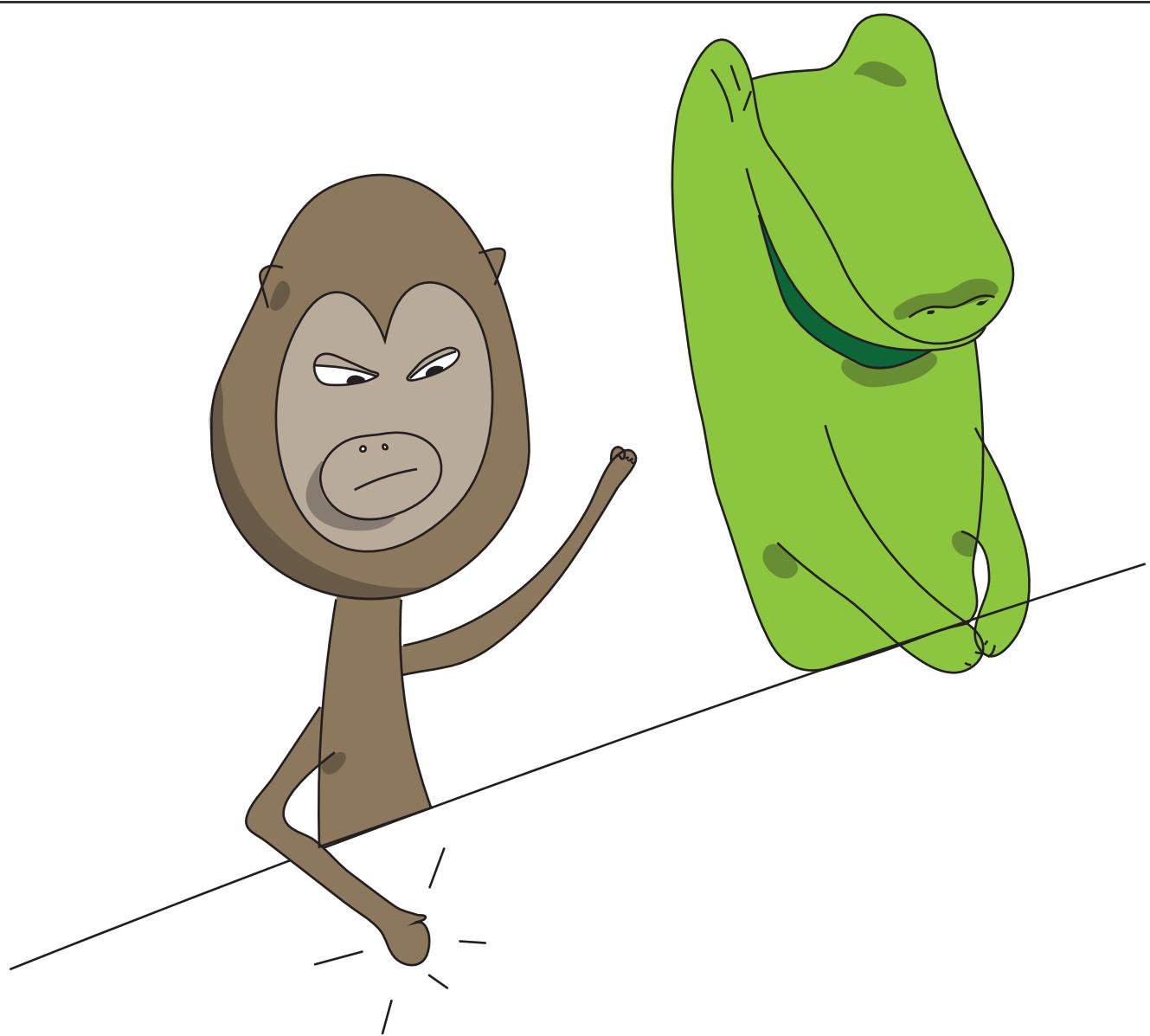


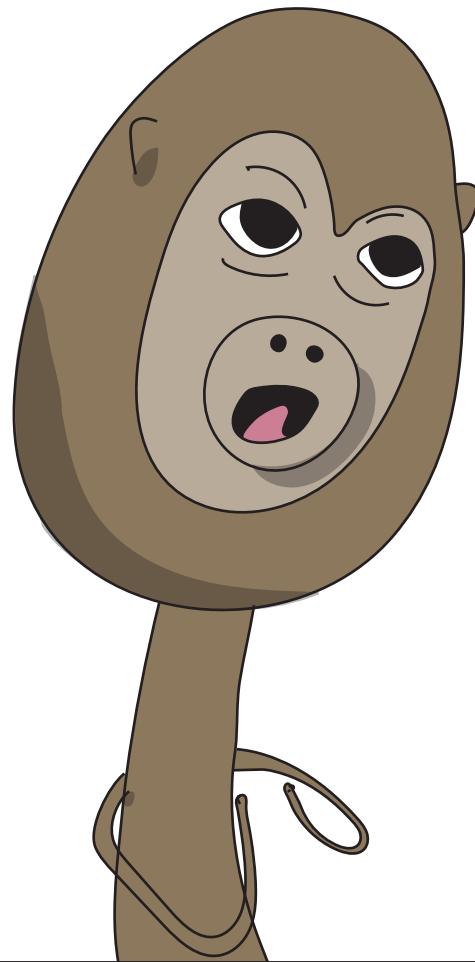
You know, M is the letter that makes an mmm sound, like when a cow mmmmoos. It is Mmmm-arcus.

Ohhhhhh...



You mean like
Mmmm-Fart-cus.
Yeah I get it now.

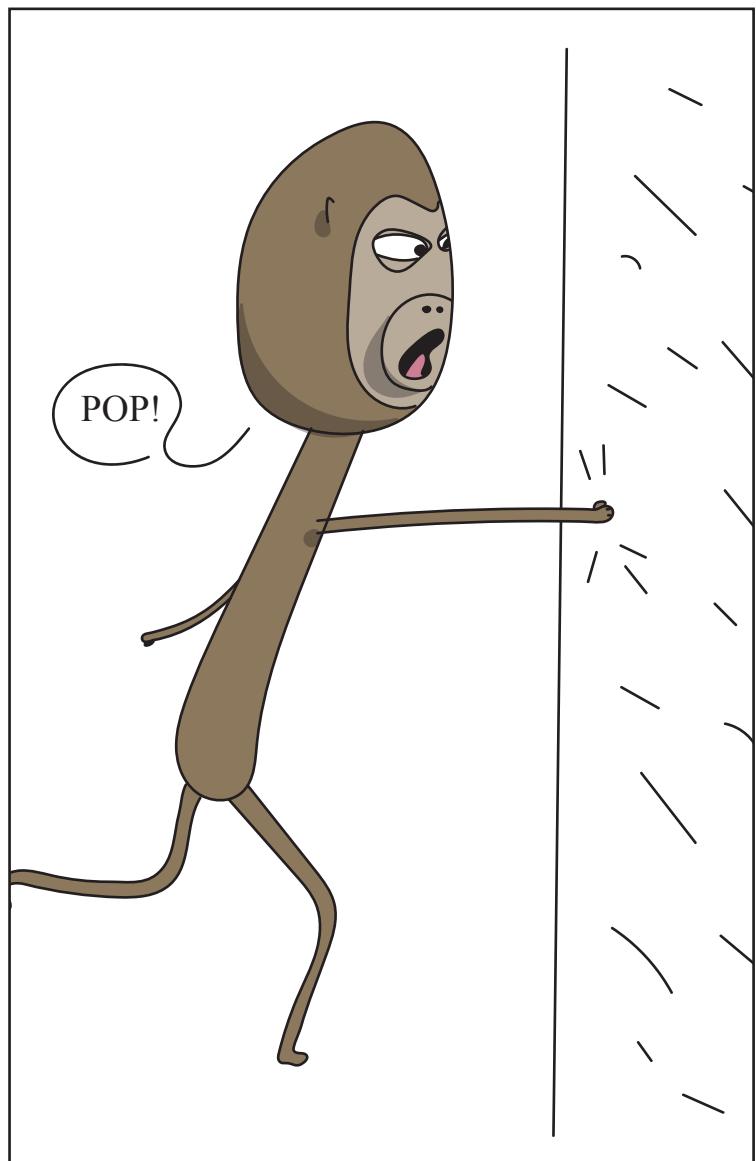
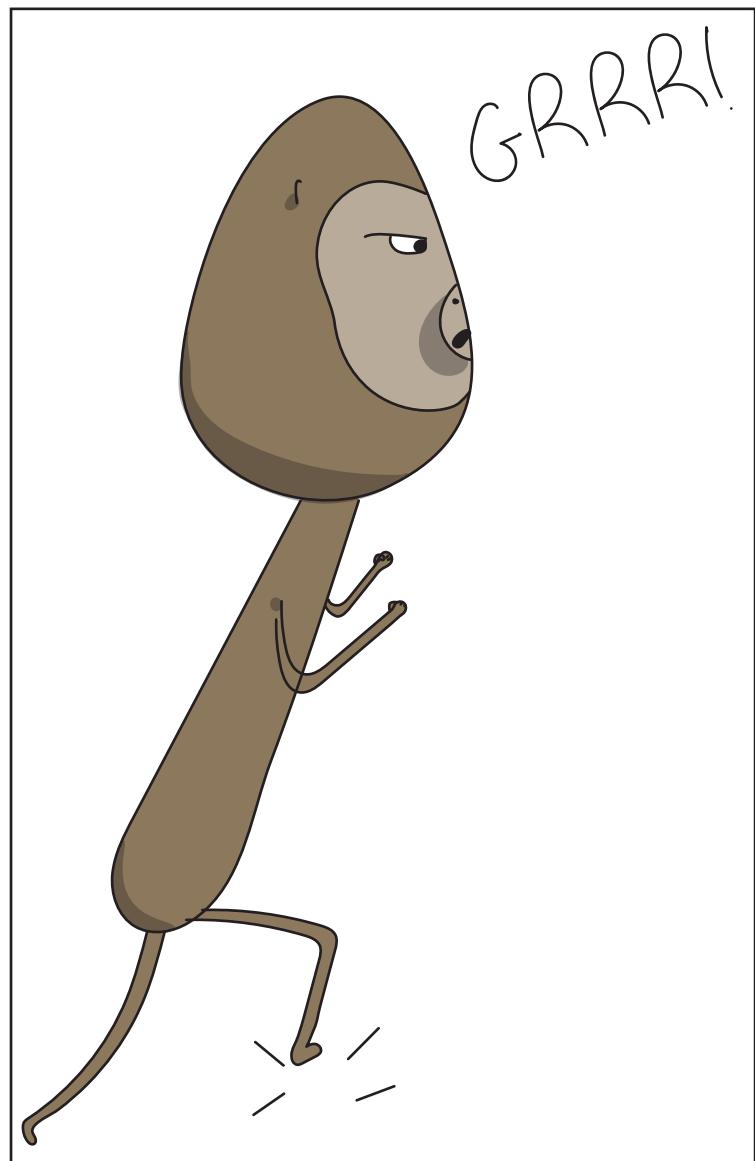
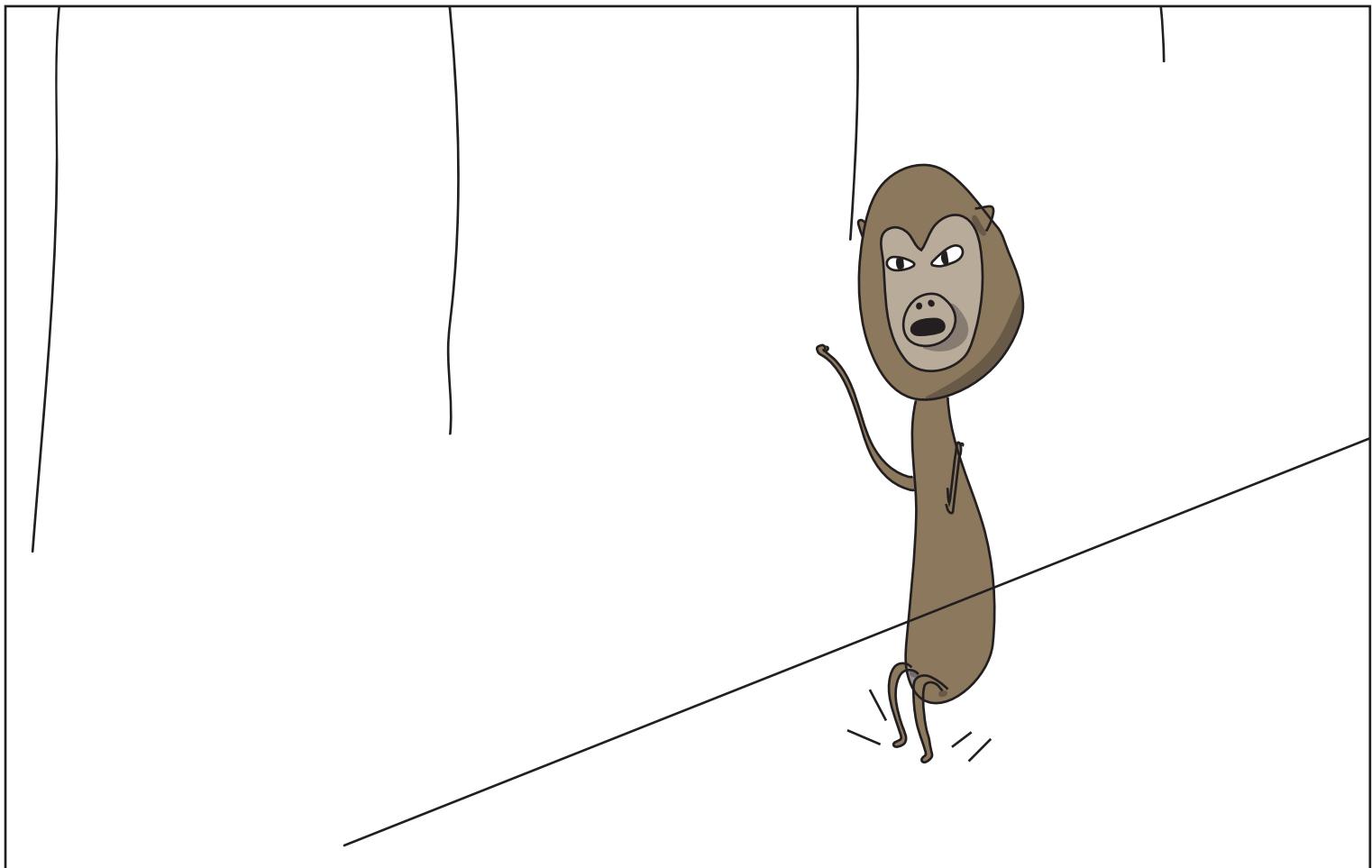




How can you mispronounce my name so badly? It has two syllables. Mar. Cus. Marcus.

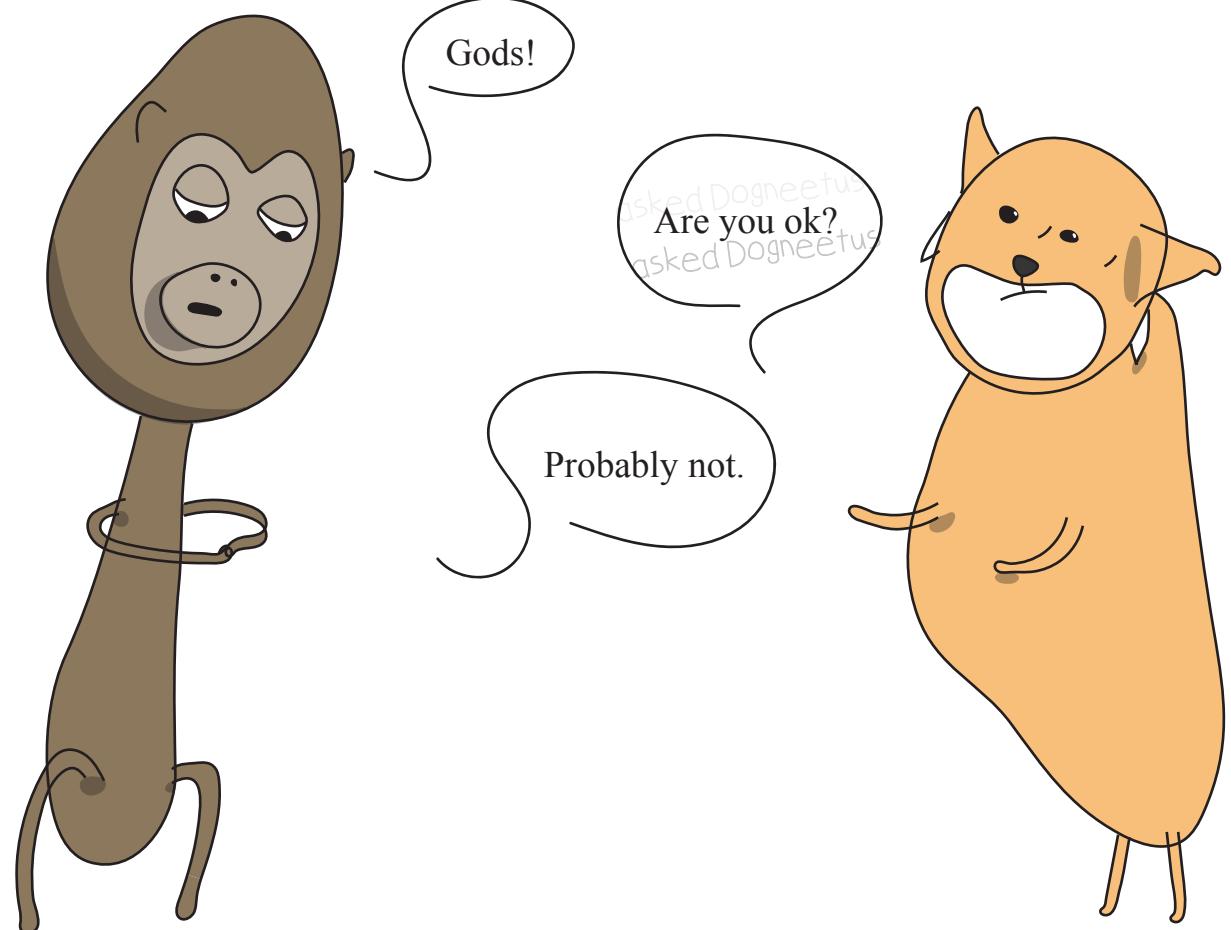


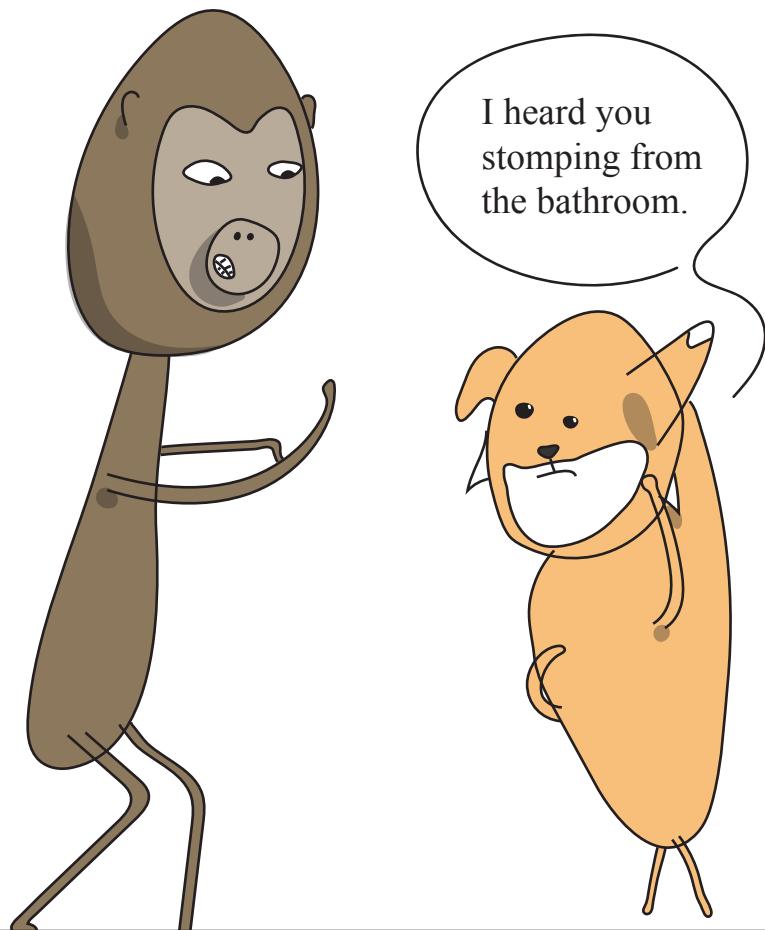
Chapter 7 - Stoicism



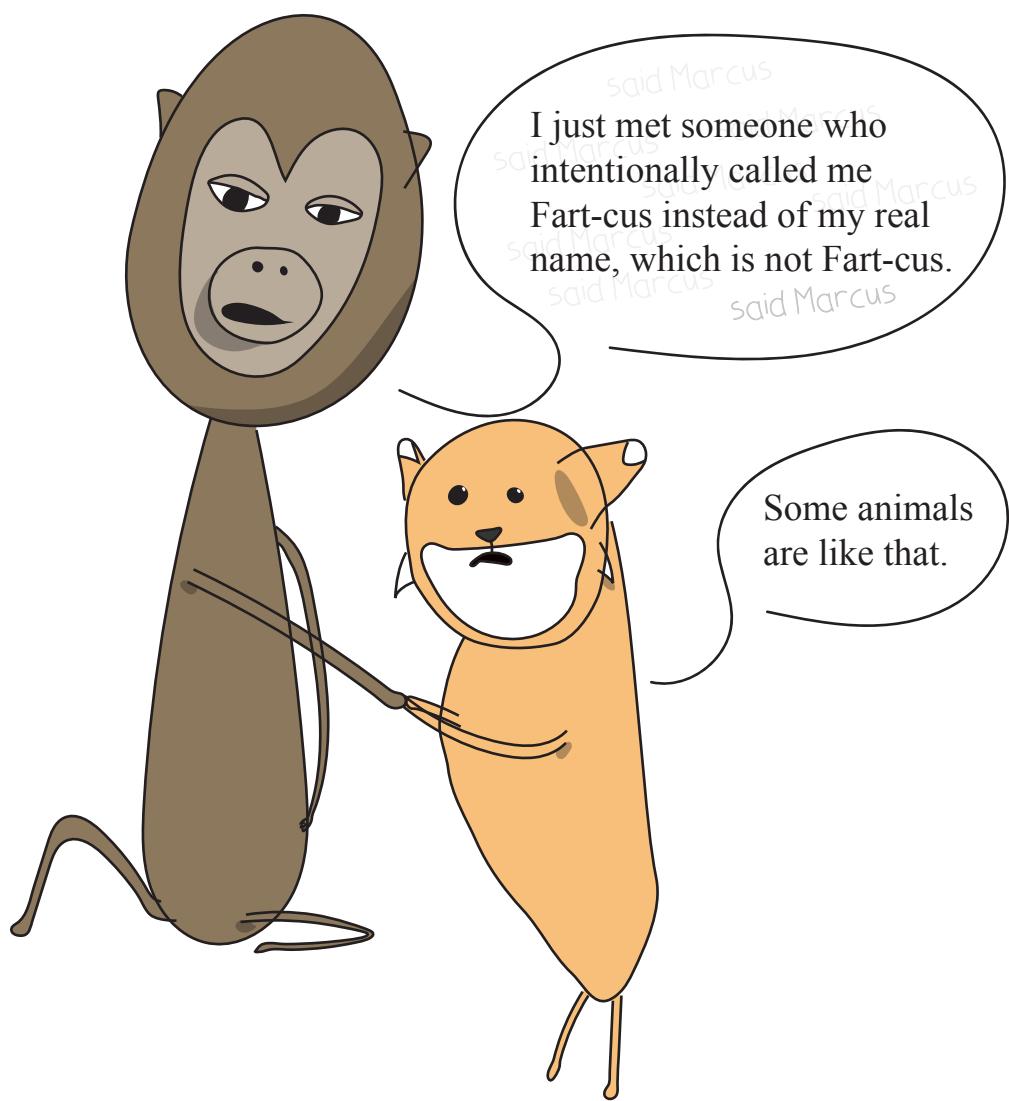


OWWWWWWWWW!



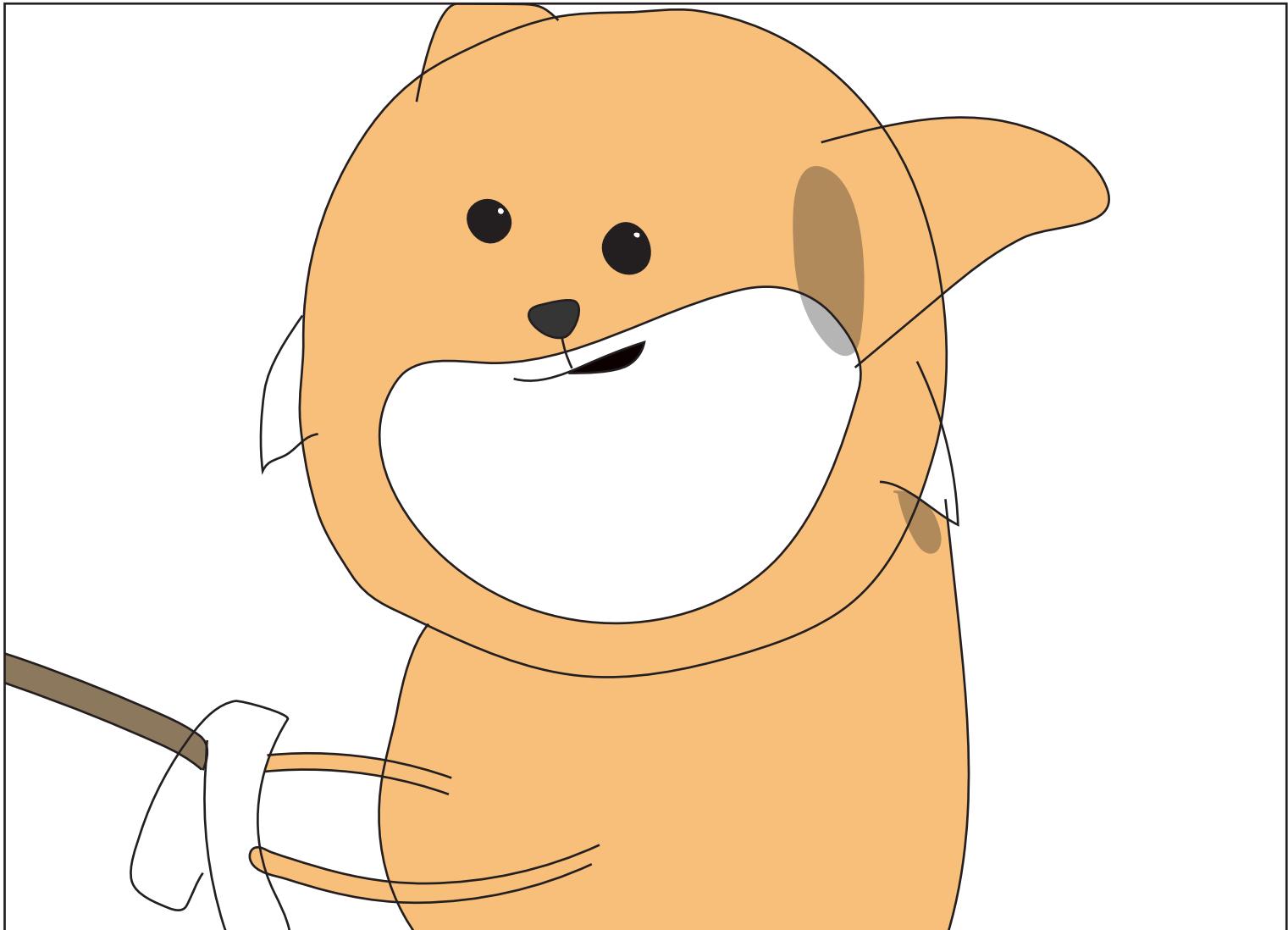
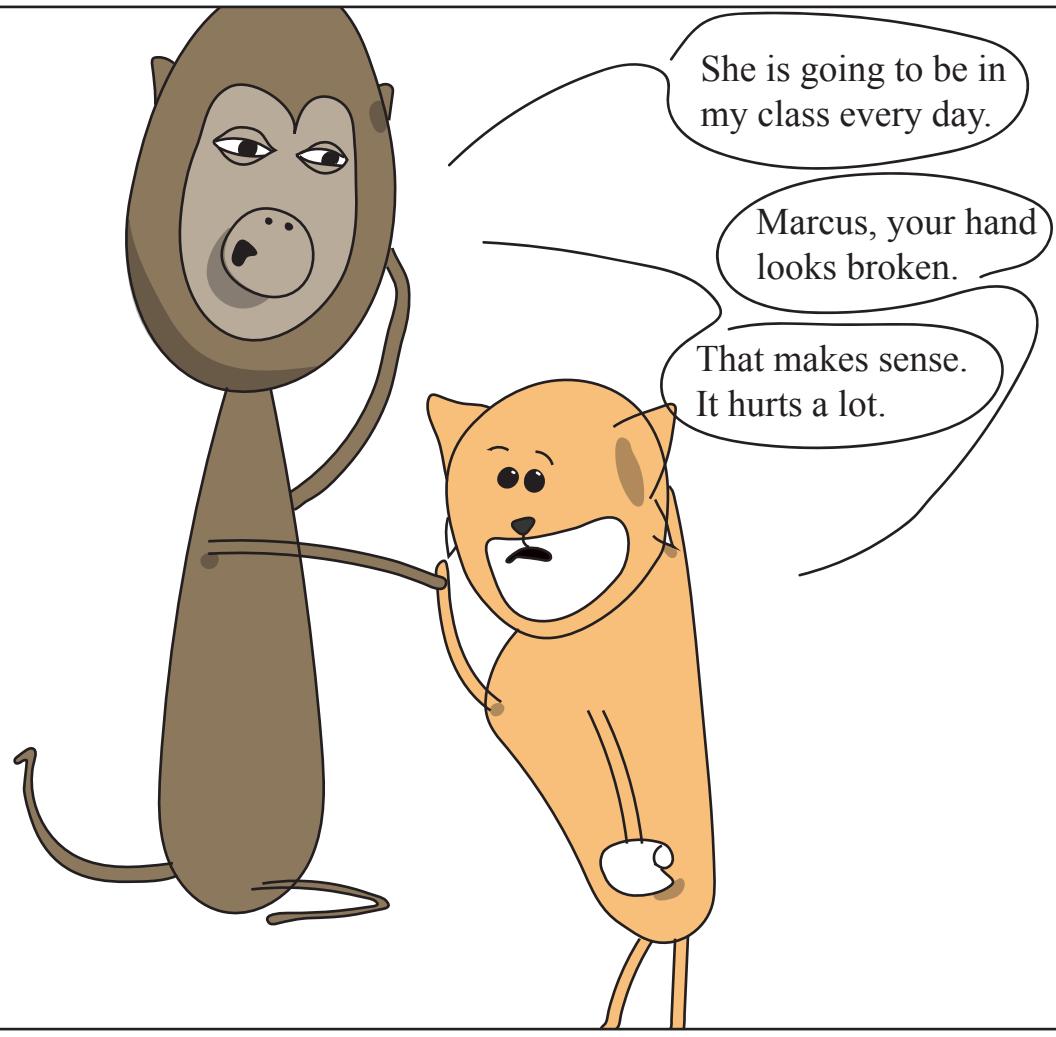


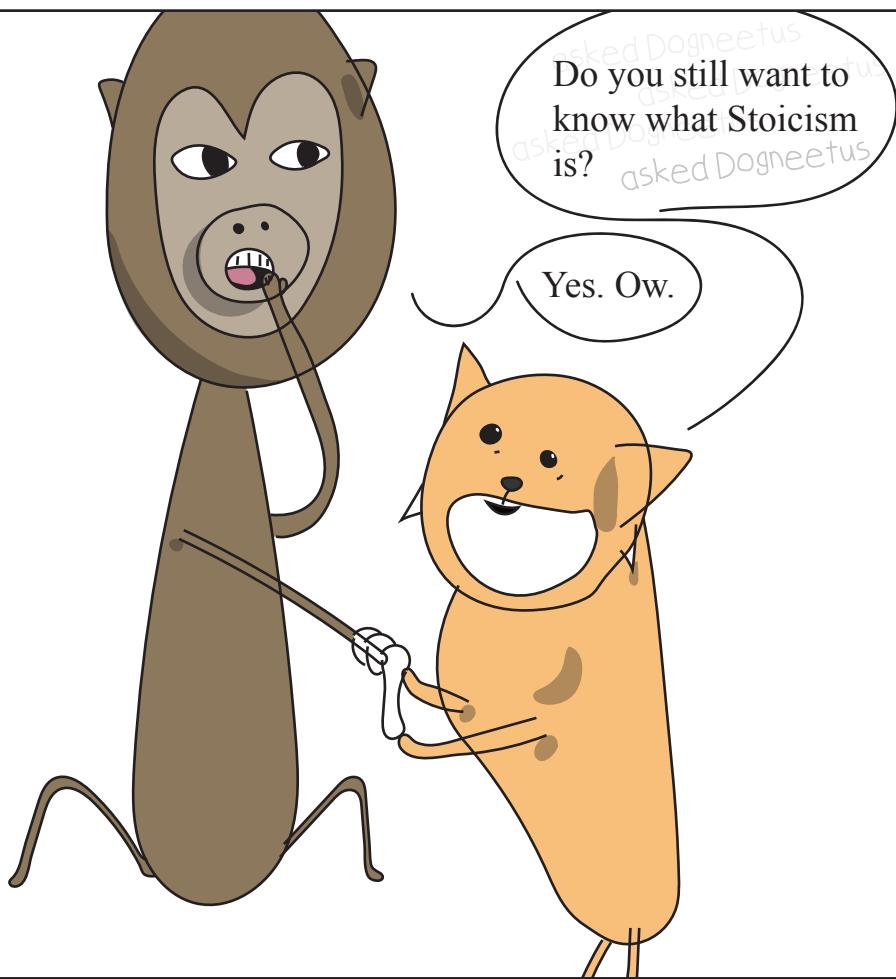
I heard you
stomping from
the bathroom.



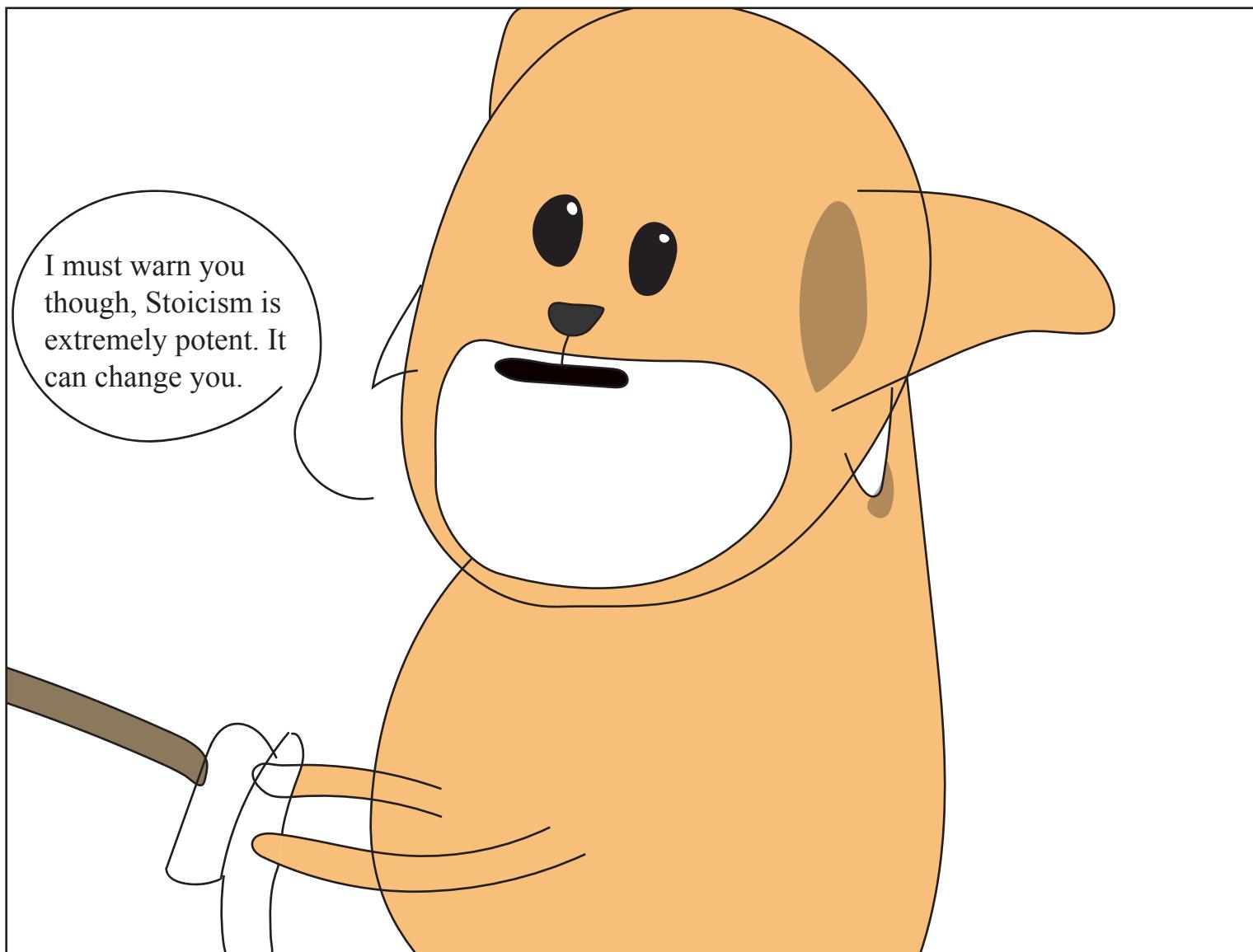
I just met someone who
intentionally called me
Fart-cus instead of my real
name, which is not Fart-cus.
said Marcus
said Marcus
said Marcus
said Marcus
said Marcus

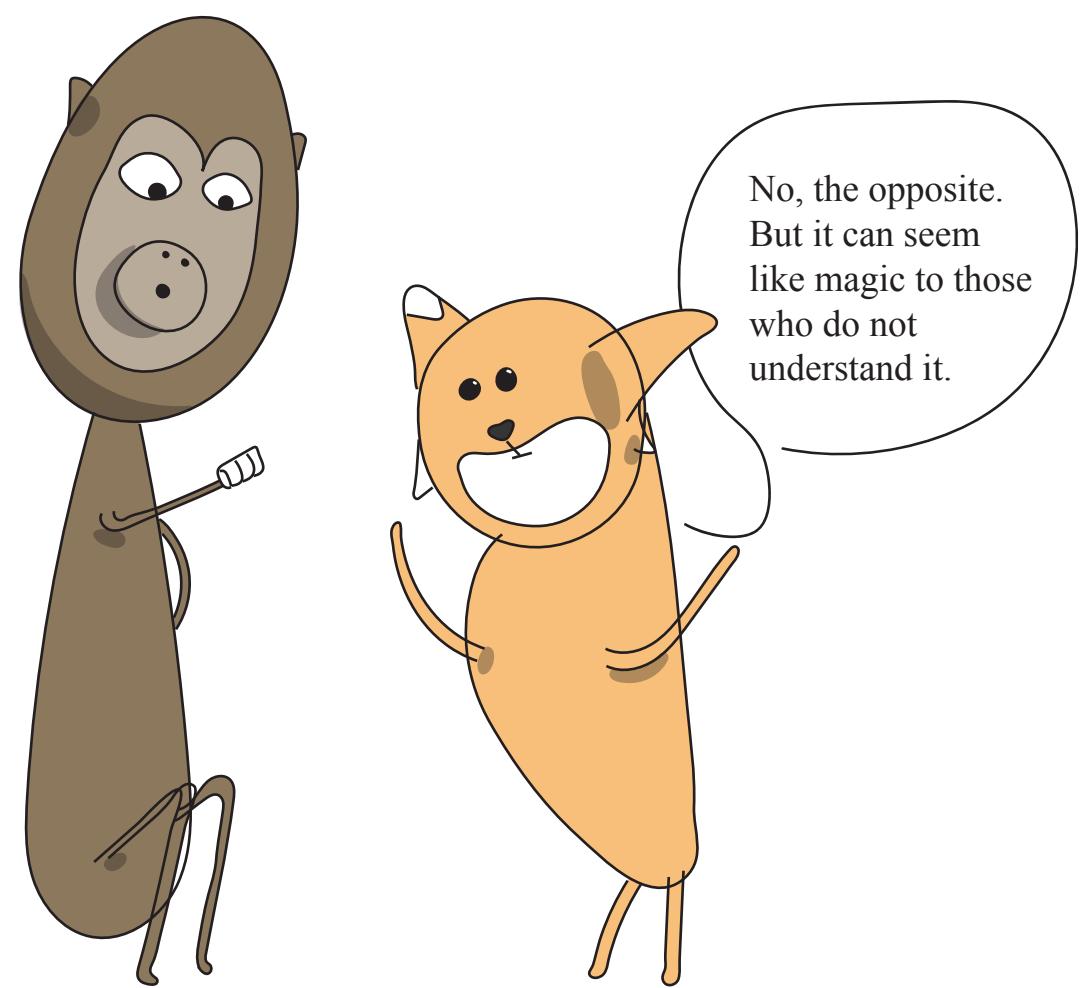
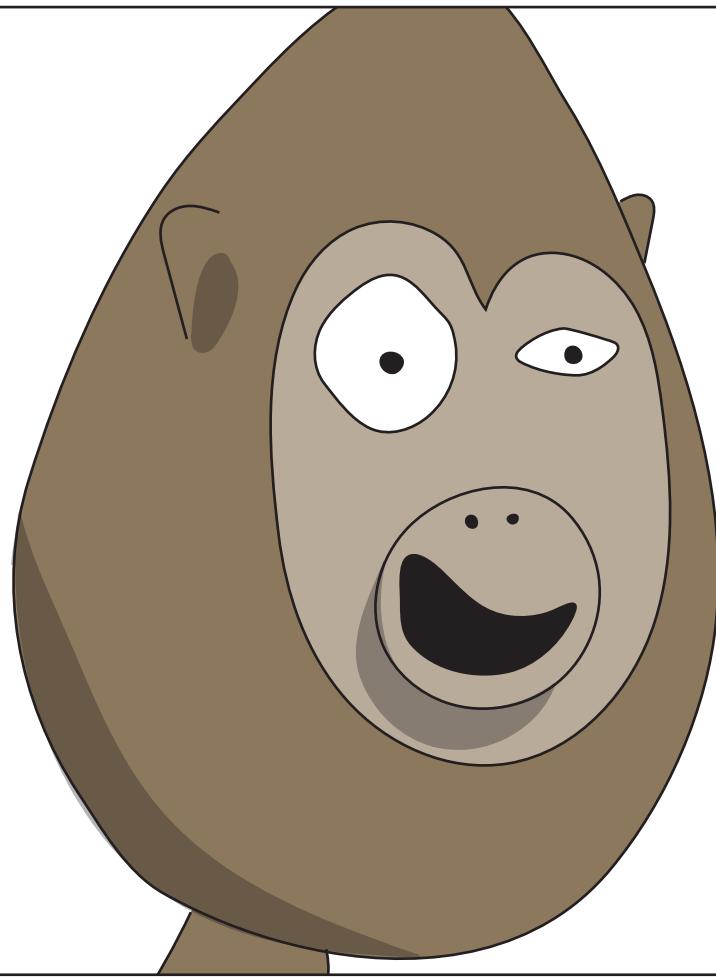
Some animals
are like that.

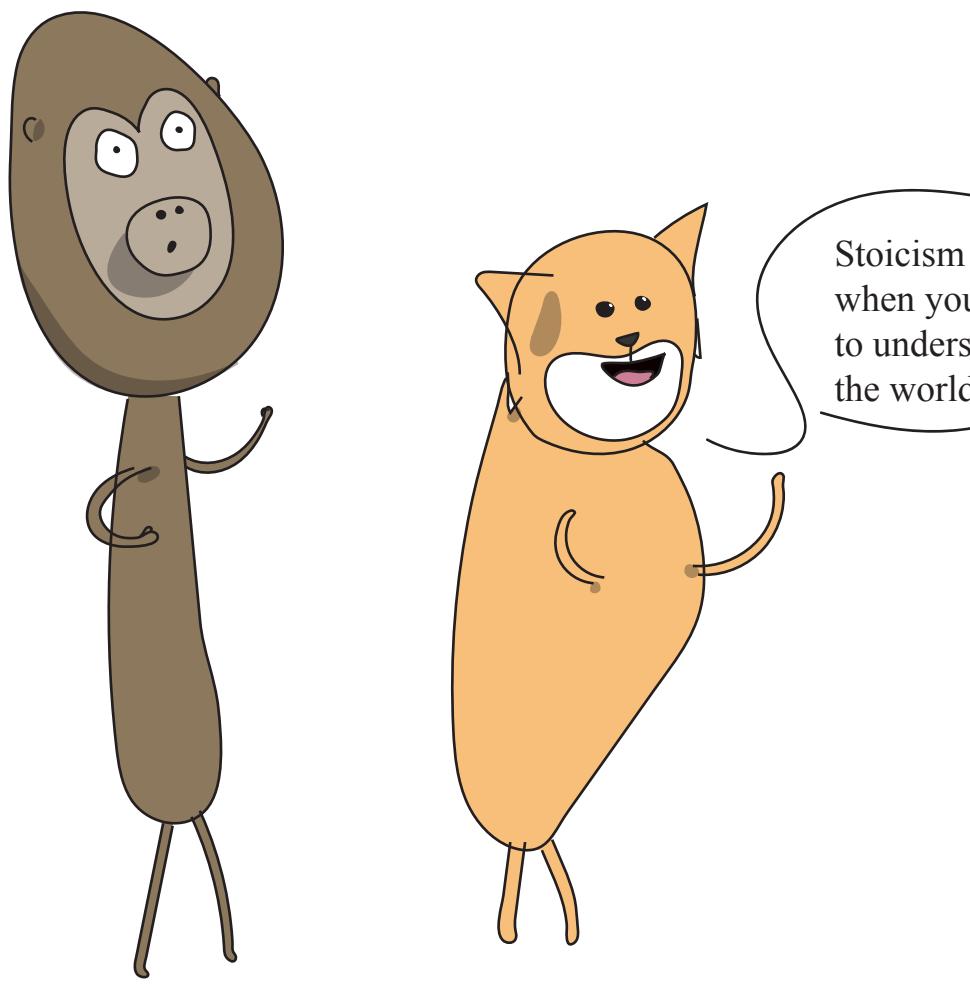
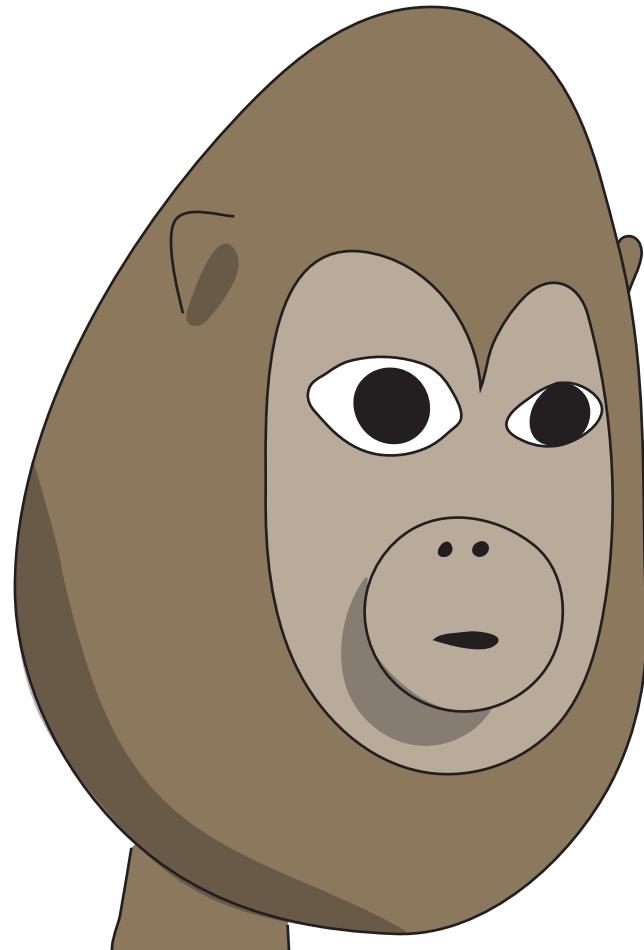


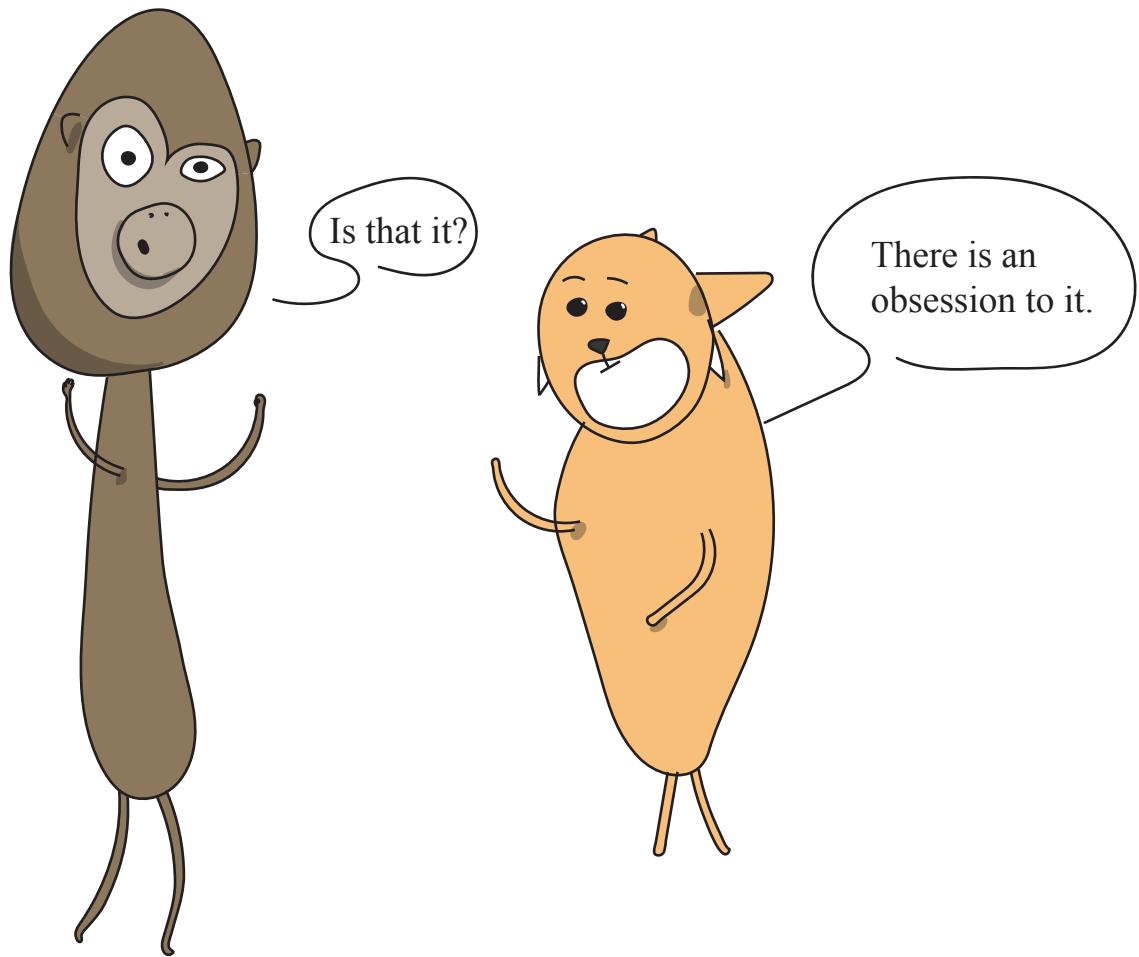
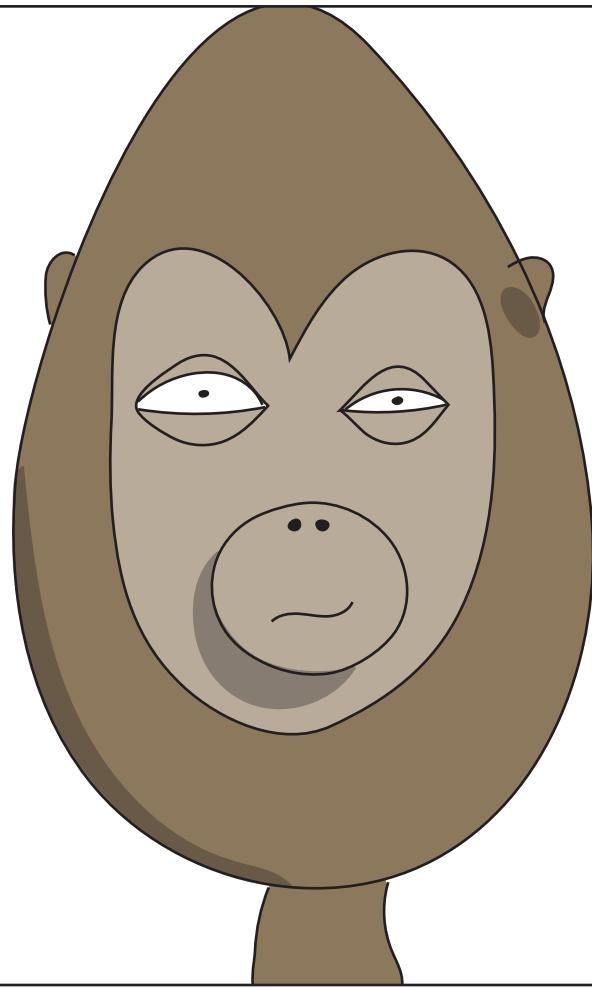


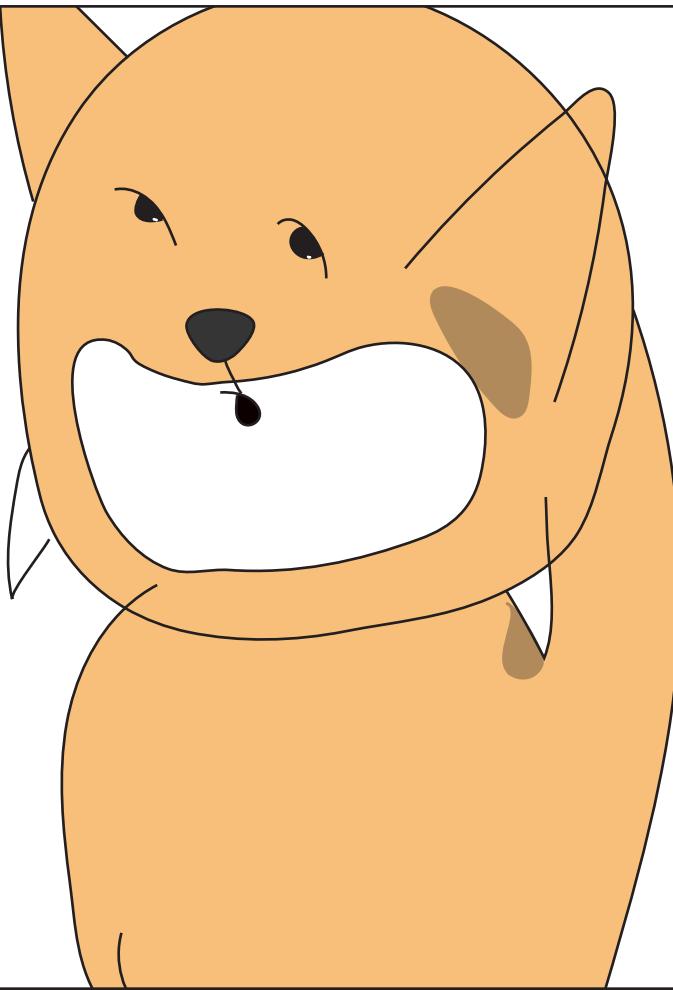
I must warn you though, Stoicism is extremely potent. It can change you.



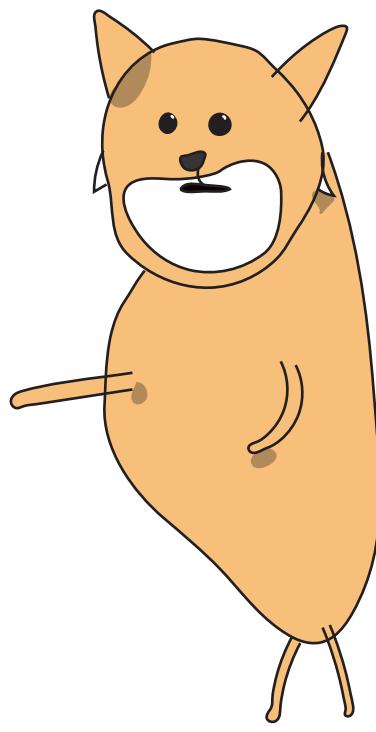
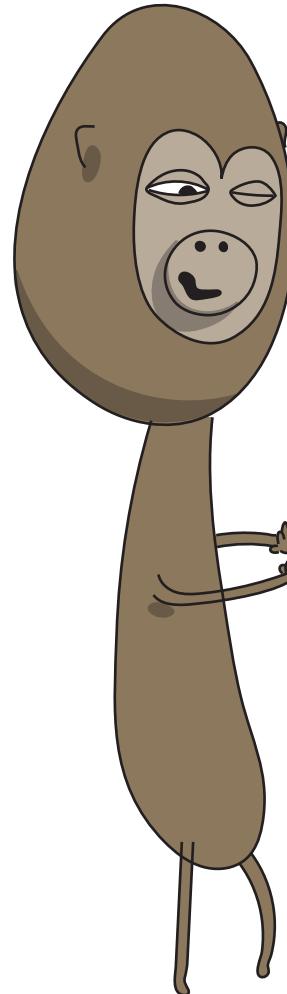




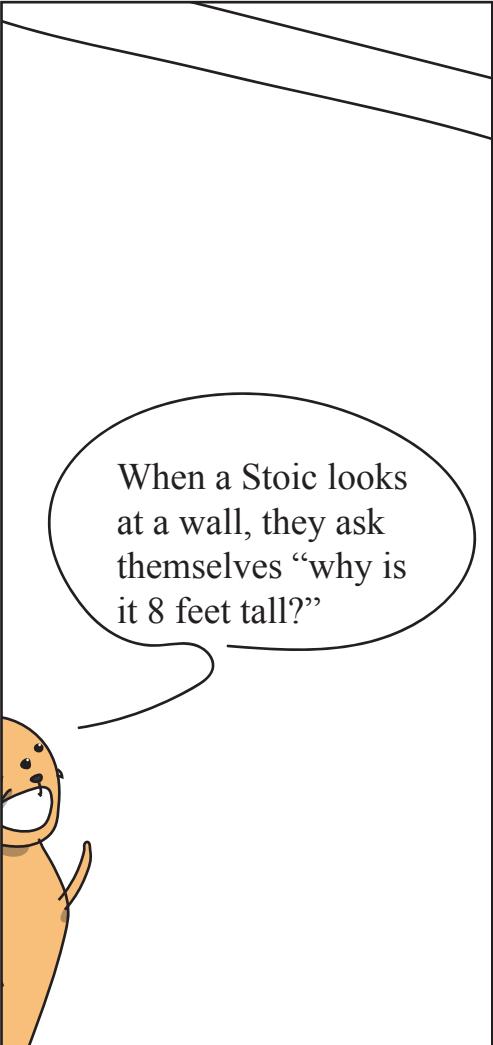




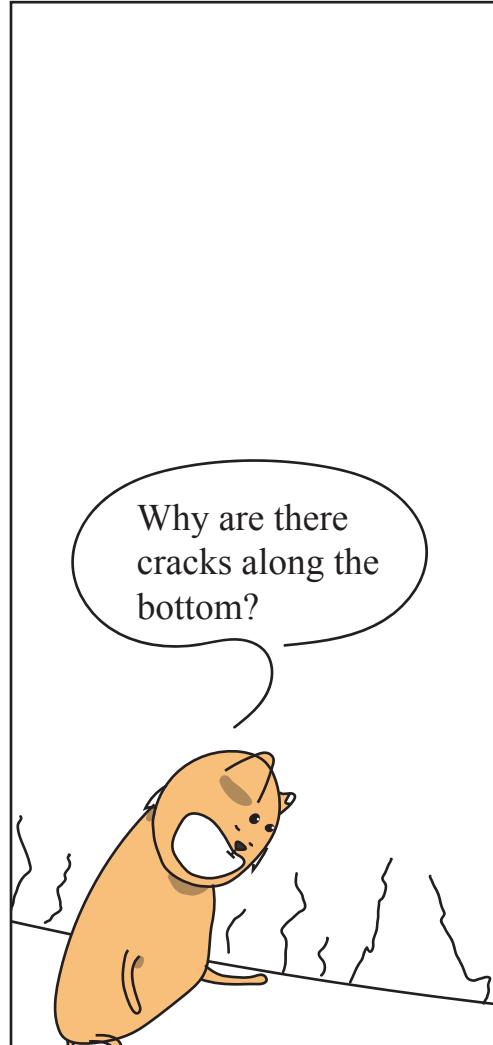
The most zealous Stoics think about the reasons for things with every thought.



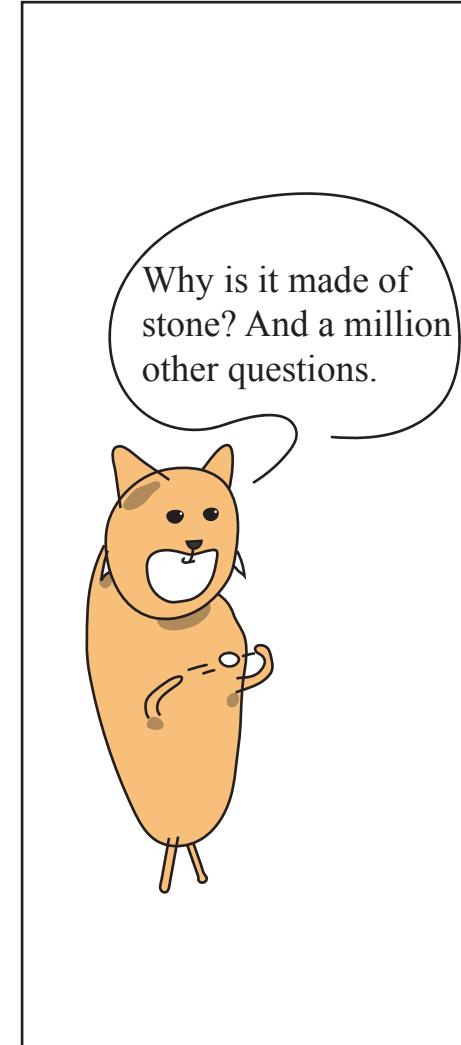
When you look at a wall, you see something you should punch.



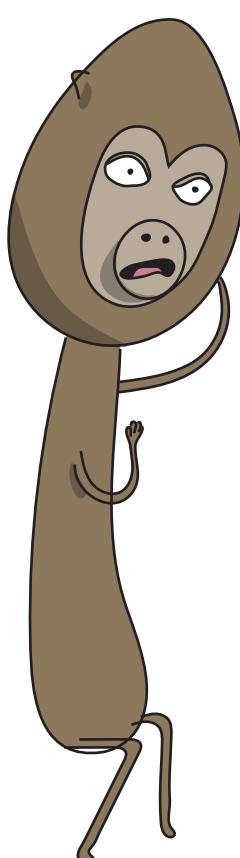
When a Stoic looks at a wall, they ask themselves “why is it 8 feet tall?”



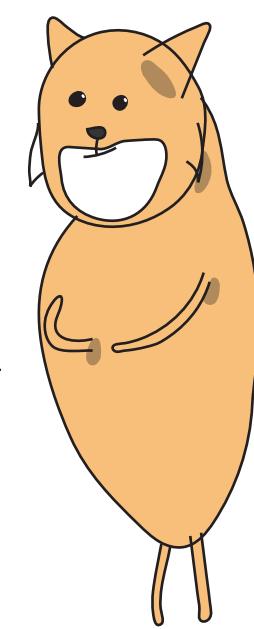
Why are there cracks along the bottom?



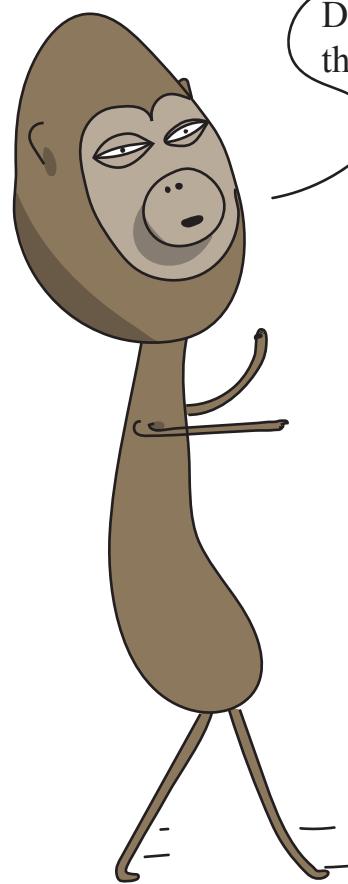
Why is it made of stone? And a million other questions.



That is ridiculous.
Why would
someone do that?
asked Marcus



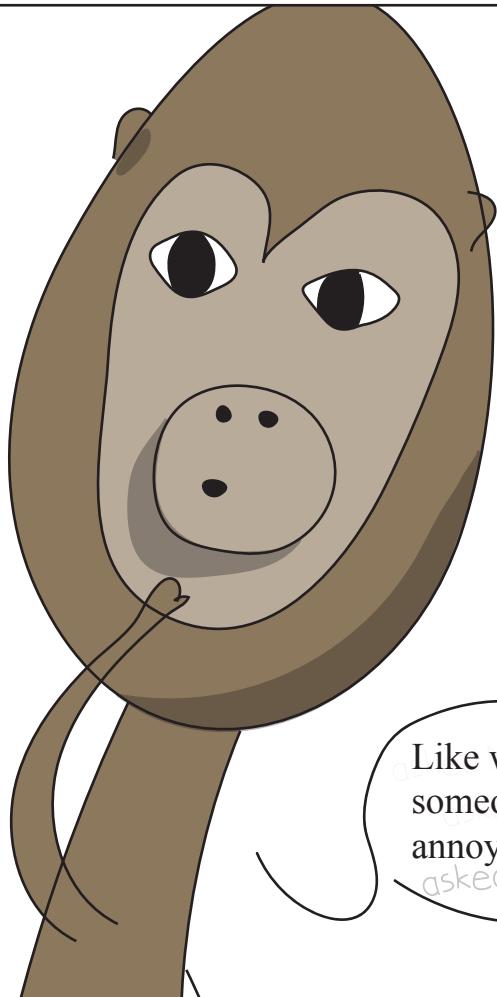
Reasons can
be very
comforting.



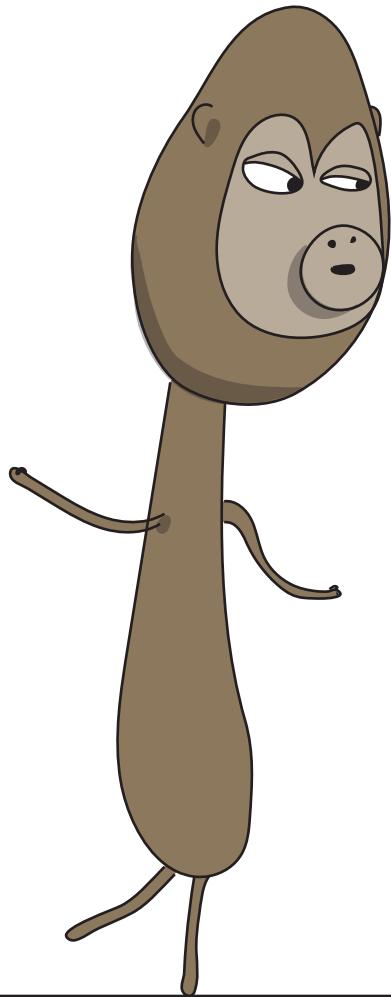
Do you do
that?

An orange dog with a white chest and paws is standing on its hind legs, facing left. It has a slightly smiling expression.

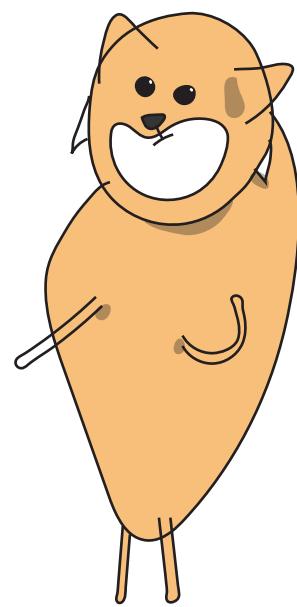
No, I am not that extreme.
But I practice using it,
especially when dealing
with difficult situations.

A close-up of the orange dog's face, showing its large eyes and white muzzle. It appears to be responding.

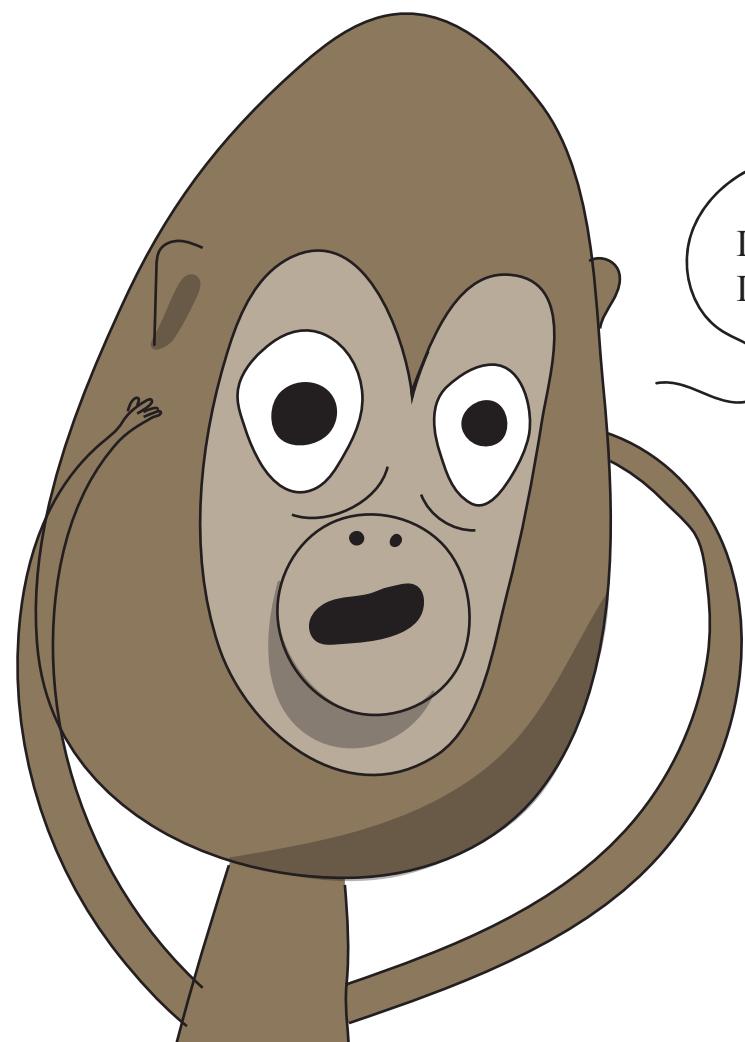
Precisely.



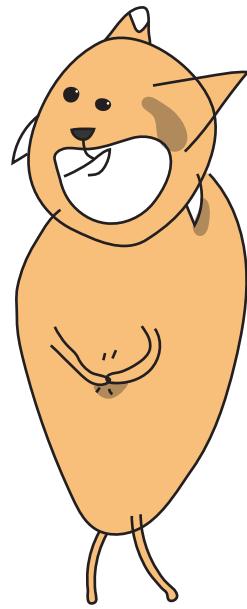
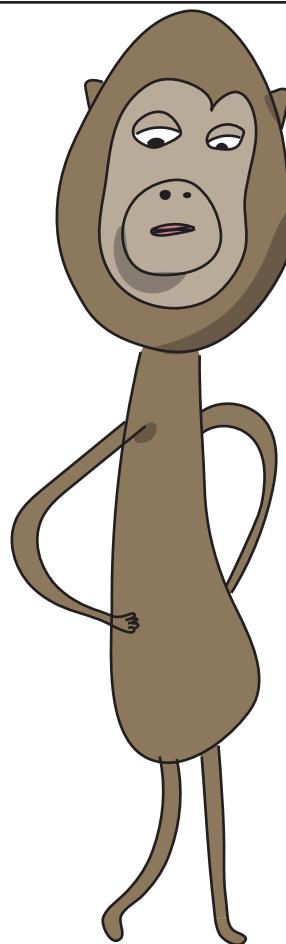
What does that
have to do with
sleeping outside?



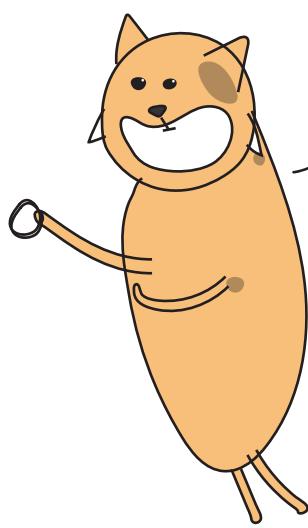
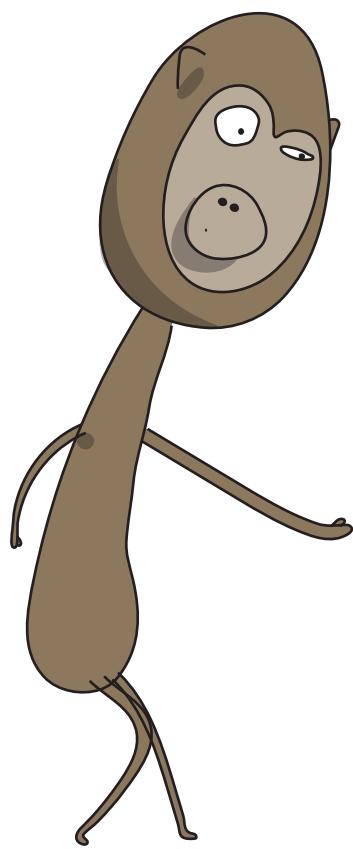
When you
become a Stoic,
you start to see
value in different
places.
said Dogneetus



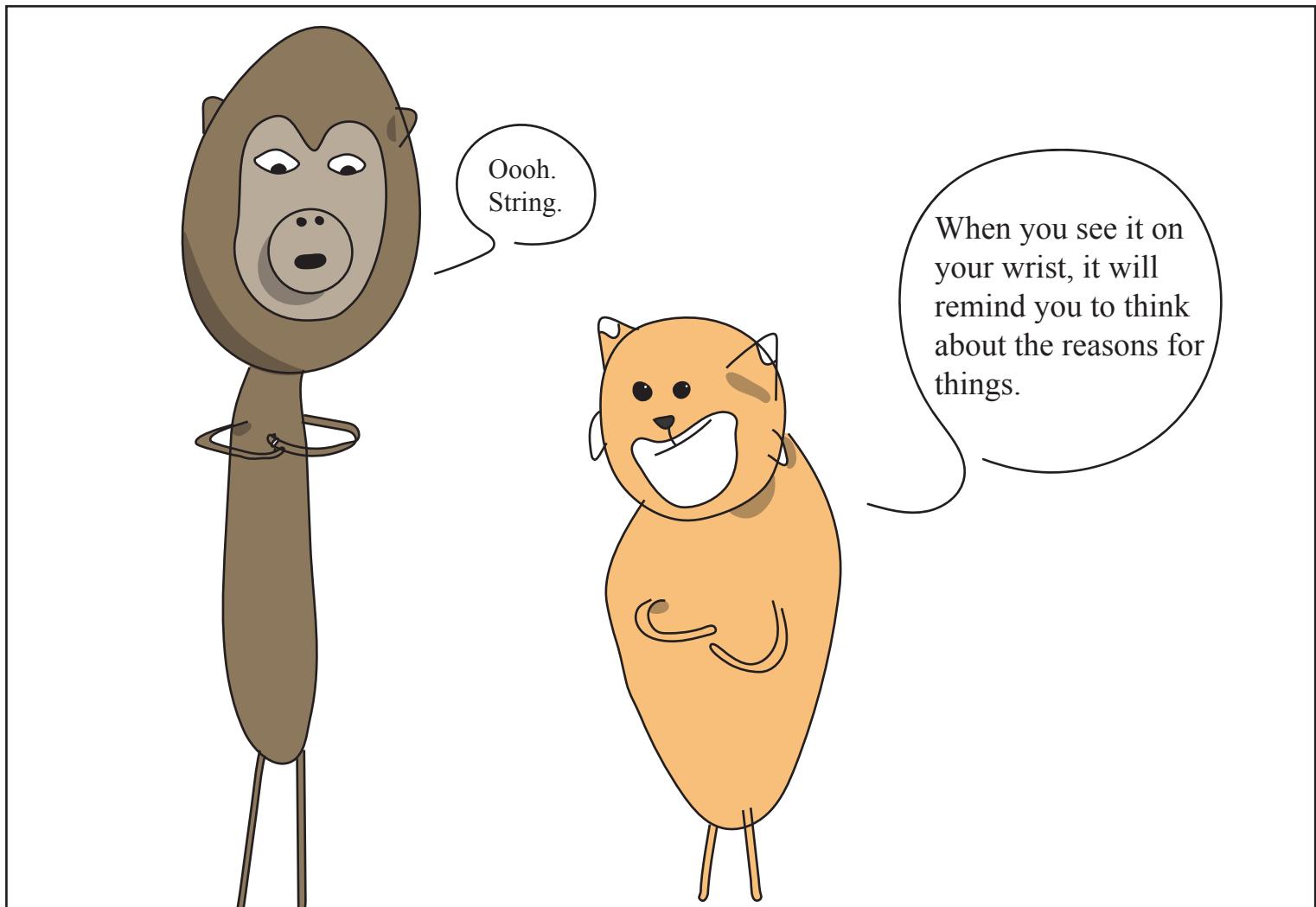
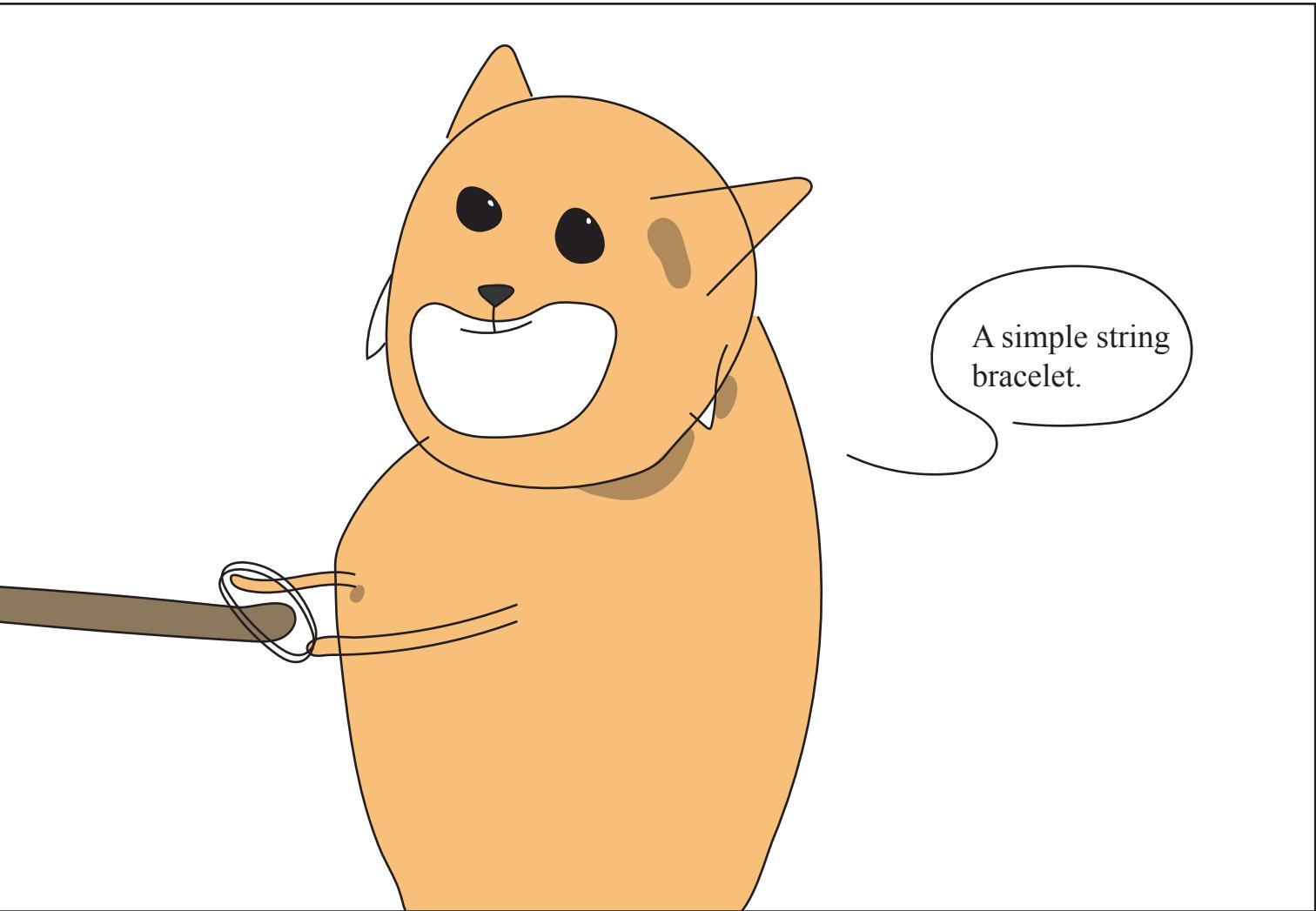
I do not think
I understand.



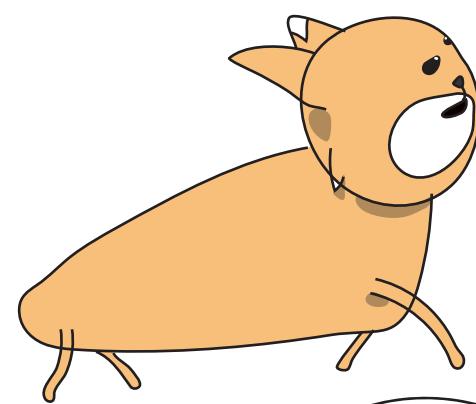
That is
expected. It
takes time and
practice.



Take this.
said Dogneetus



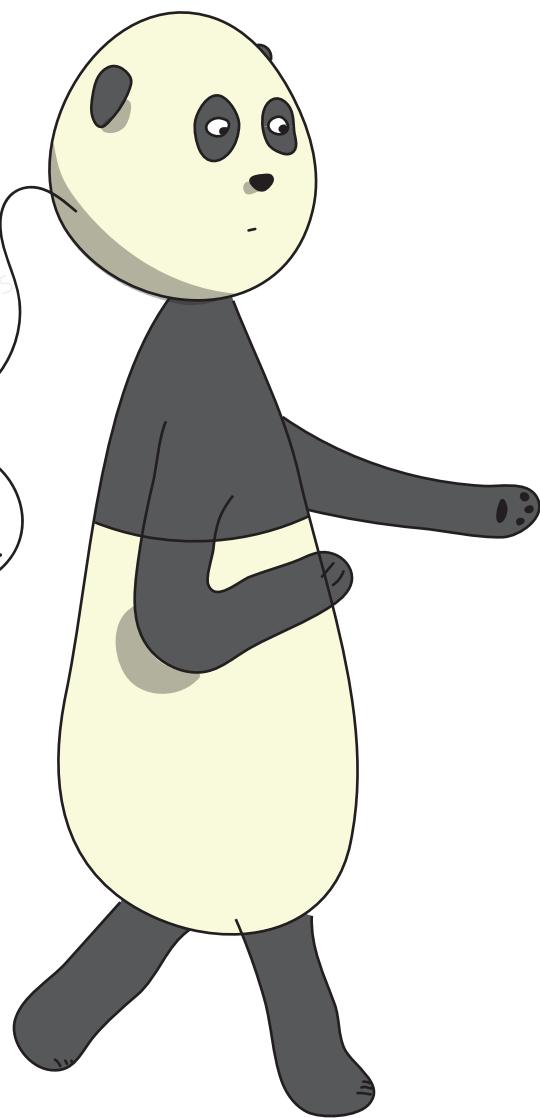
Chapter 8 – The Heir

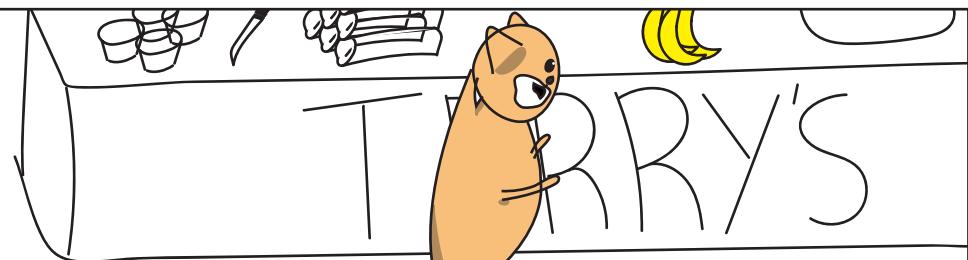


Why do you have
to teach me and
Crocodus at the
same time?

Your father
says so.
said Pandus

But I
hate it.

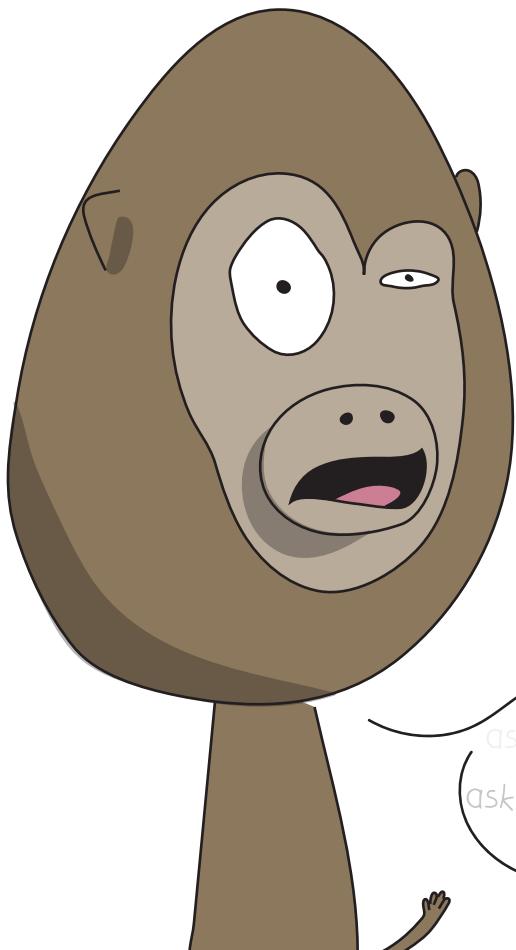




Who is
Crocodus'
father?



Some kind of
senator. I think you
are going to have to
learn to live with
Crocodus.



How?
asked Marcus



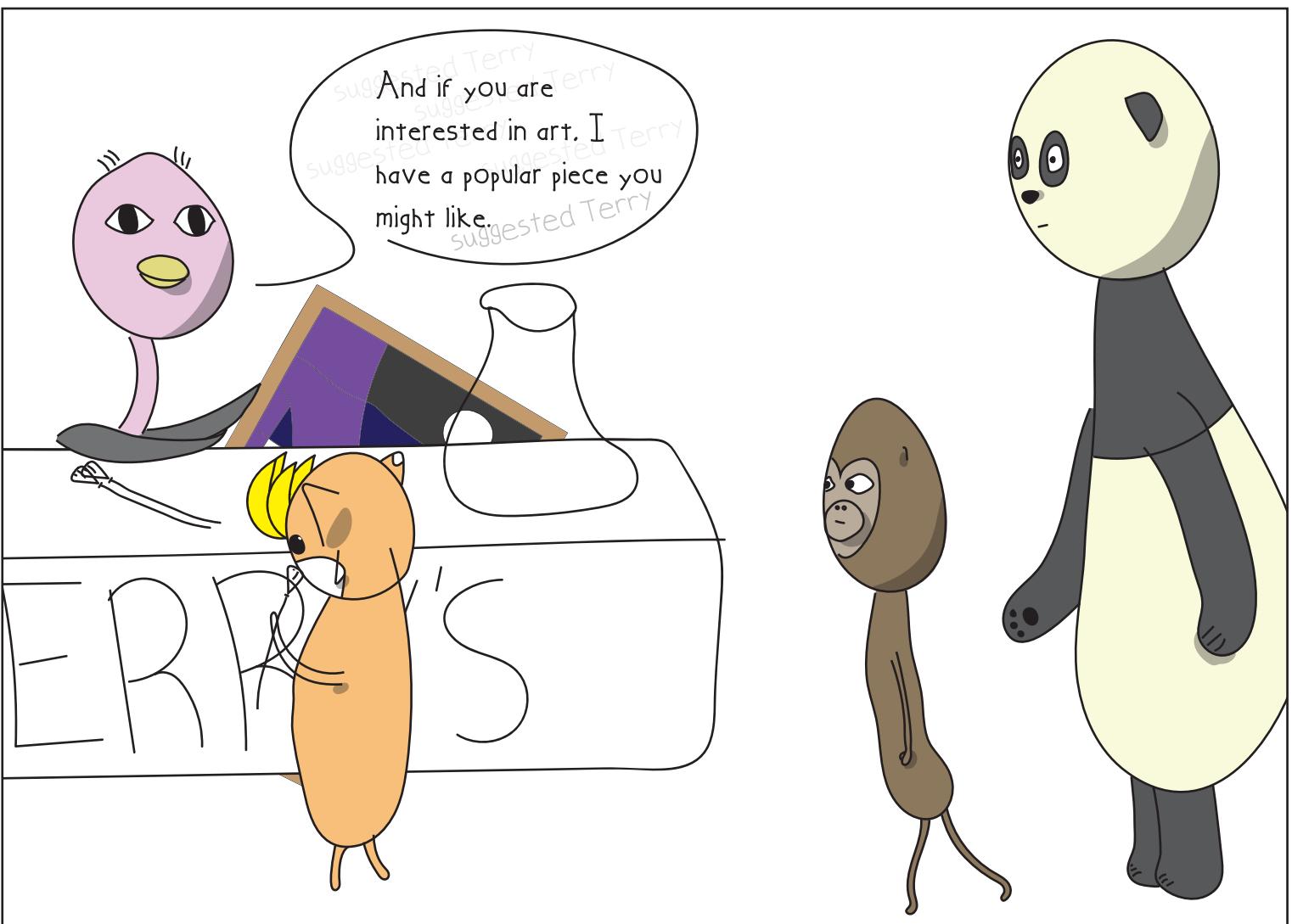
Try ignoring
her.

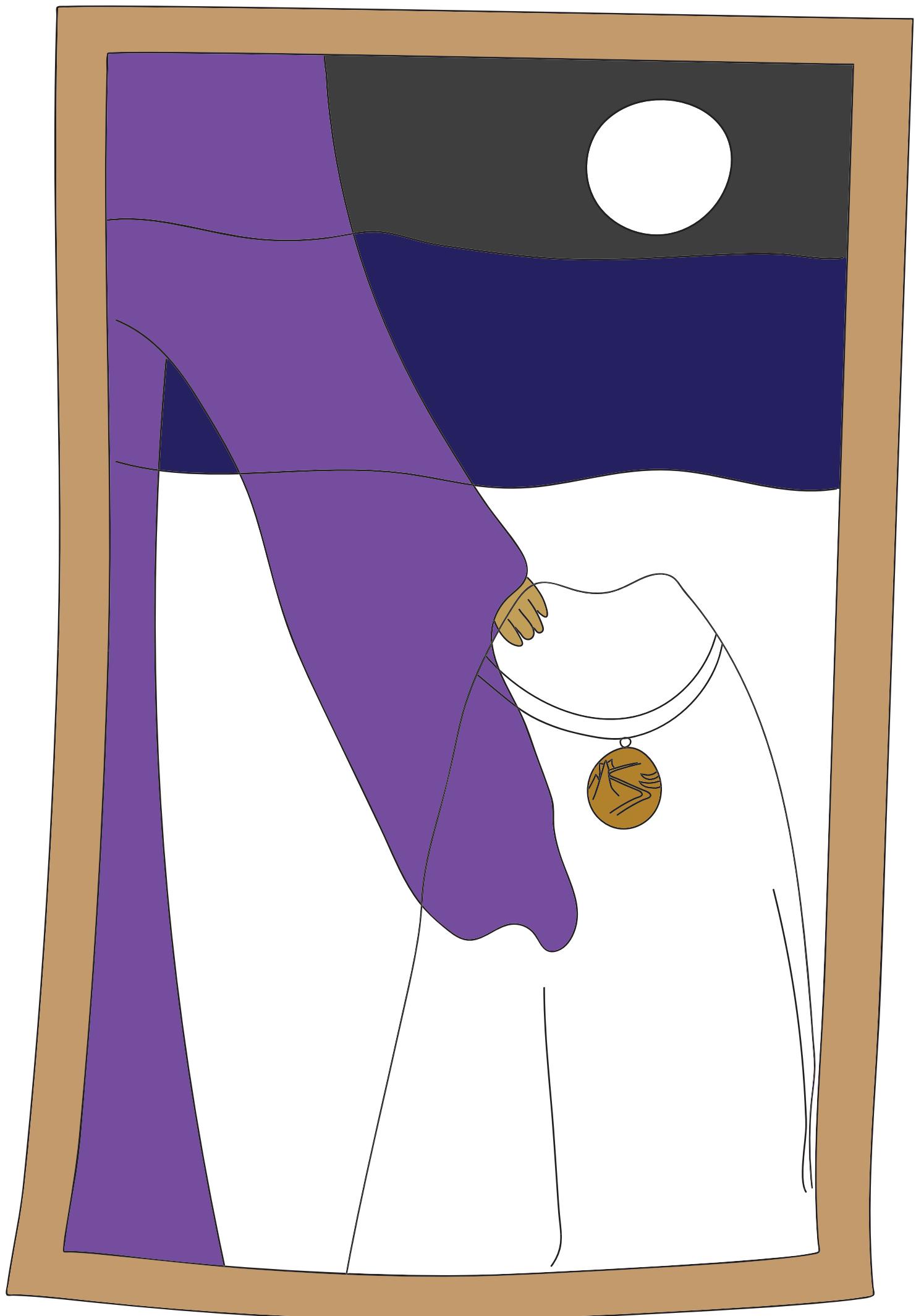


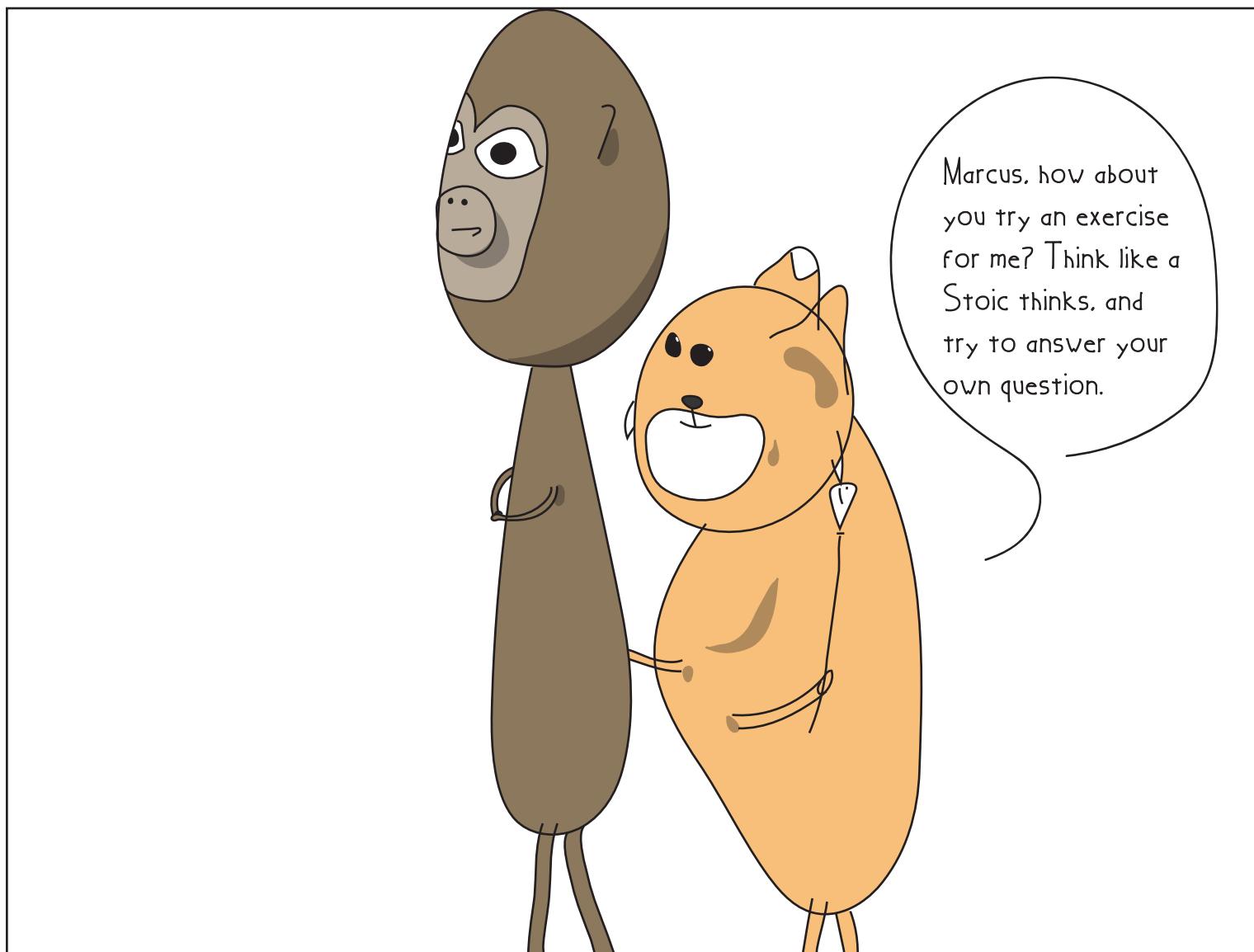
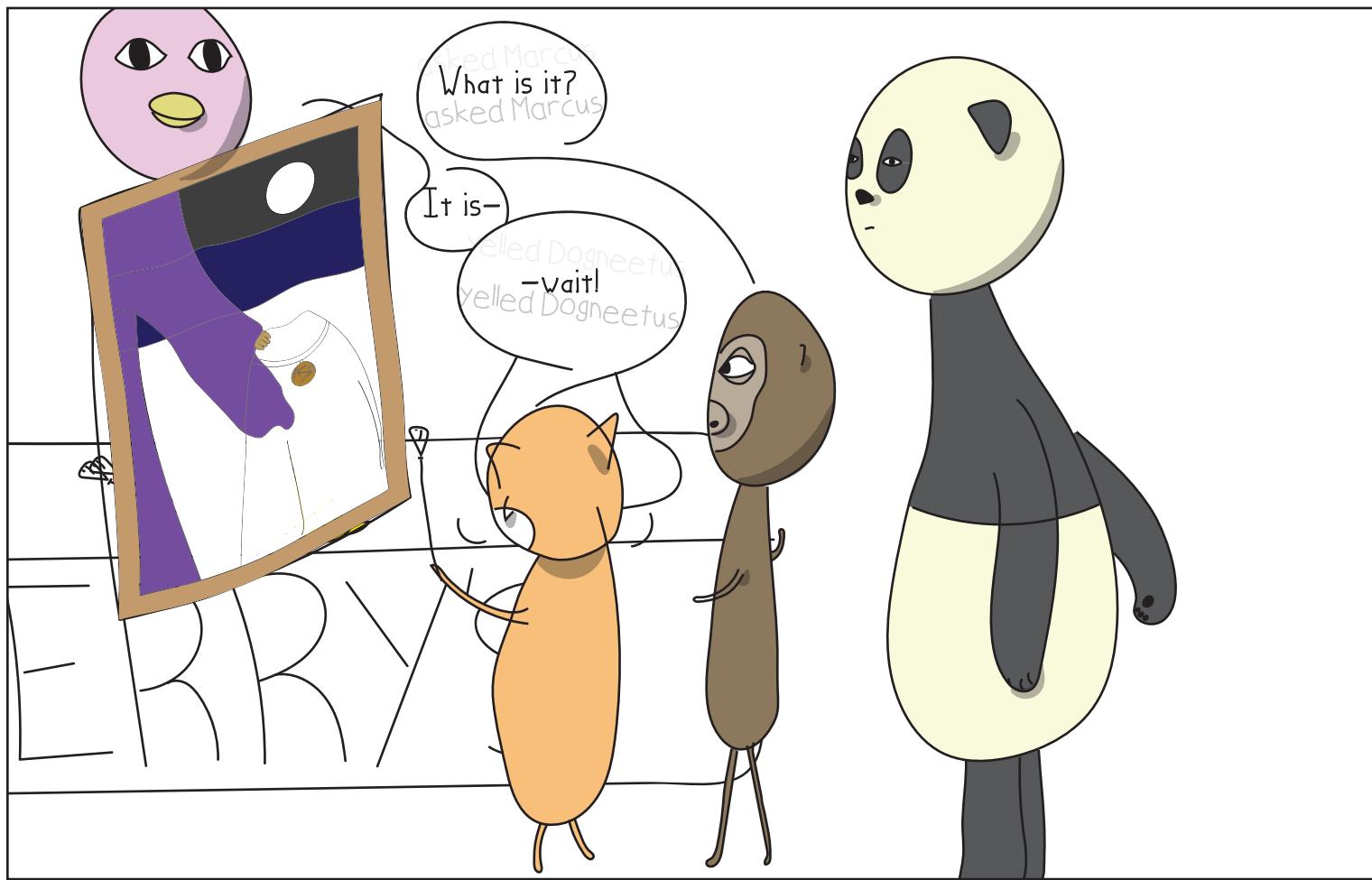
I doubt that
will work.

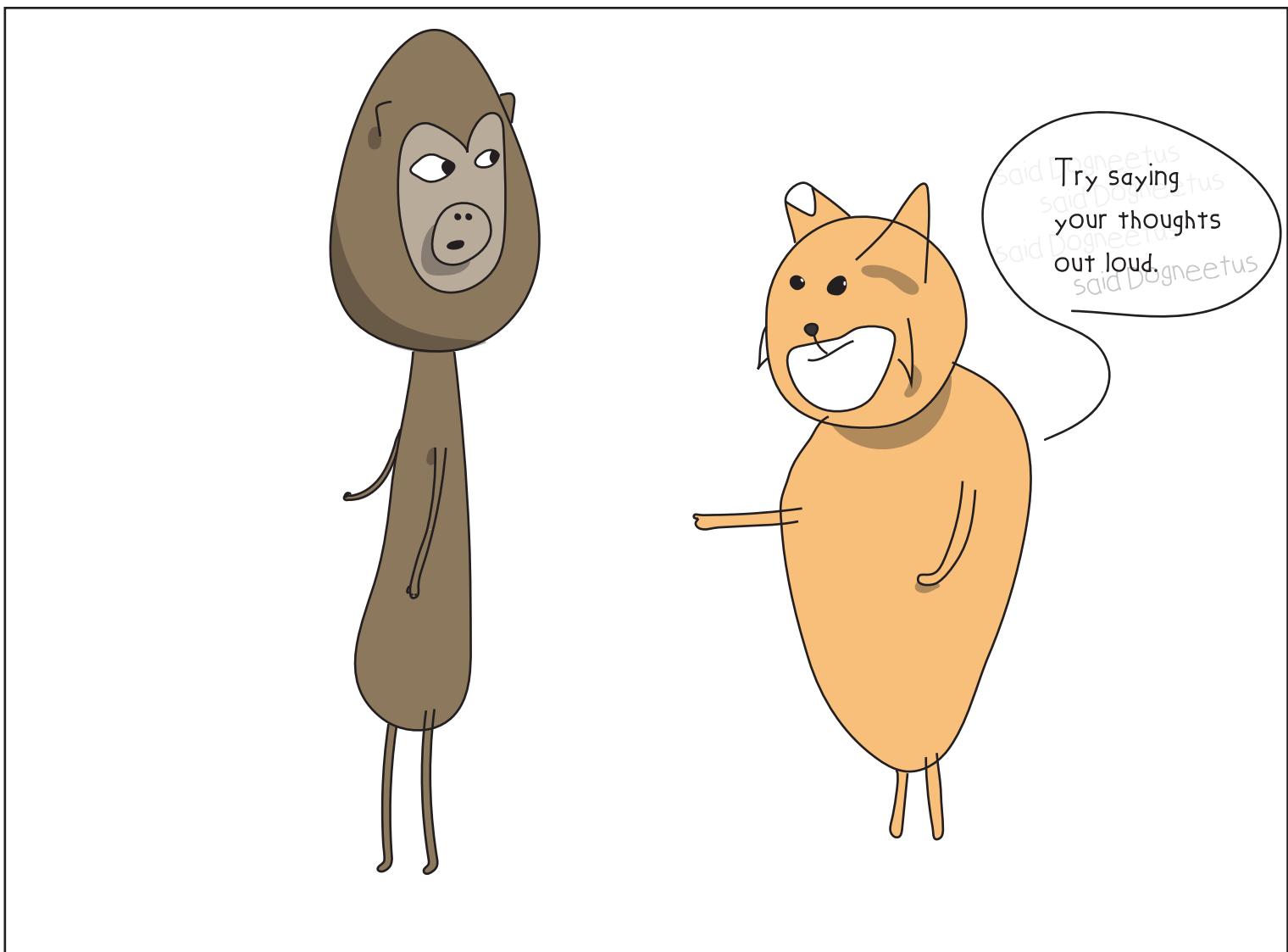
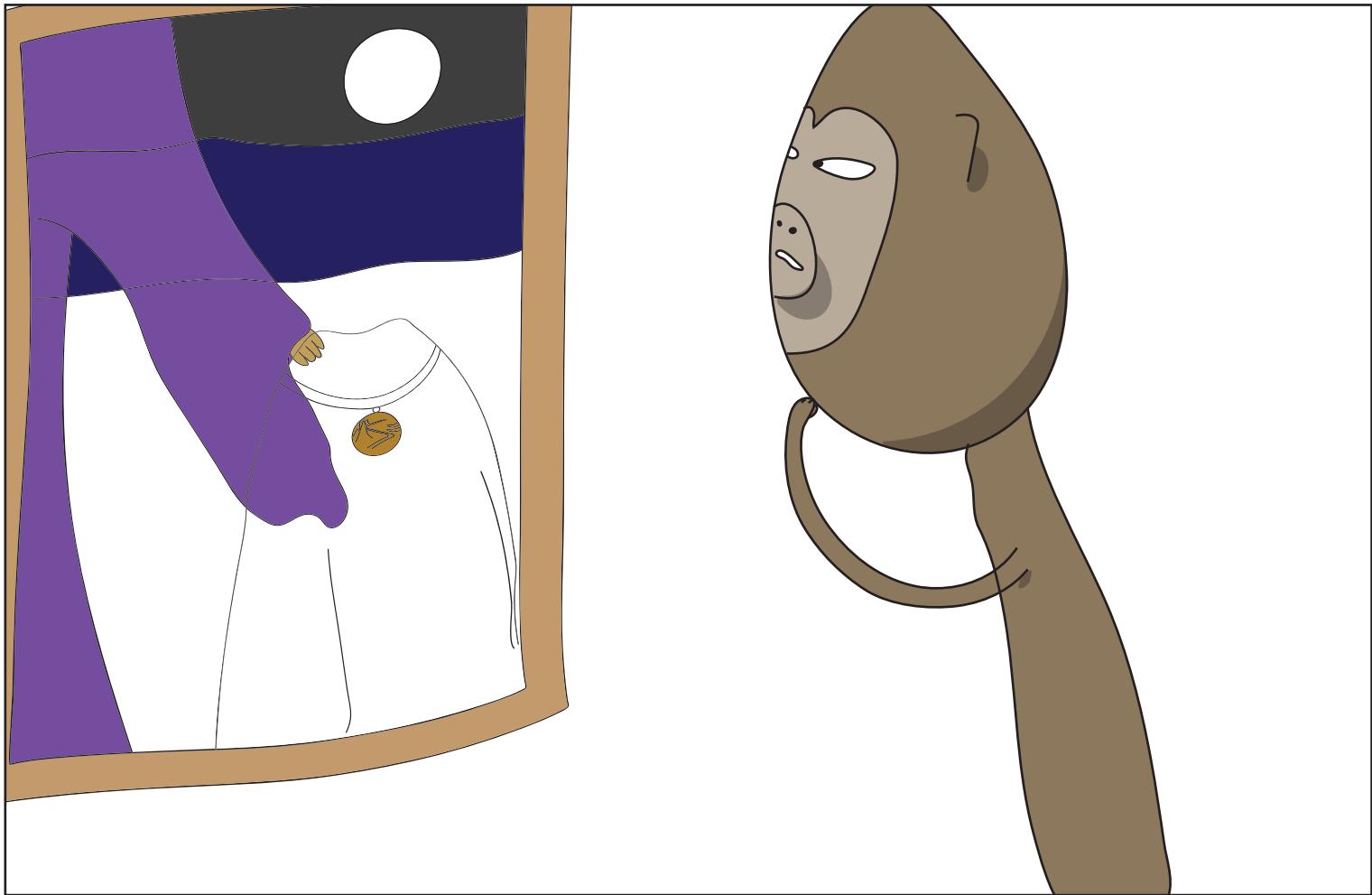


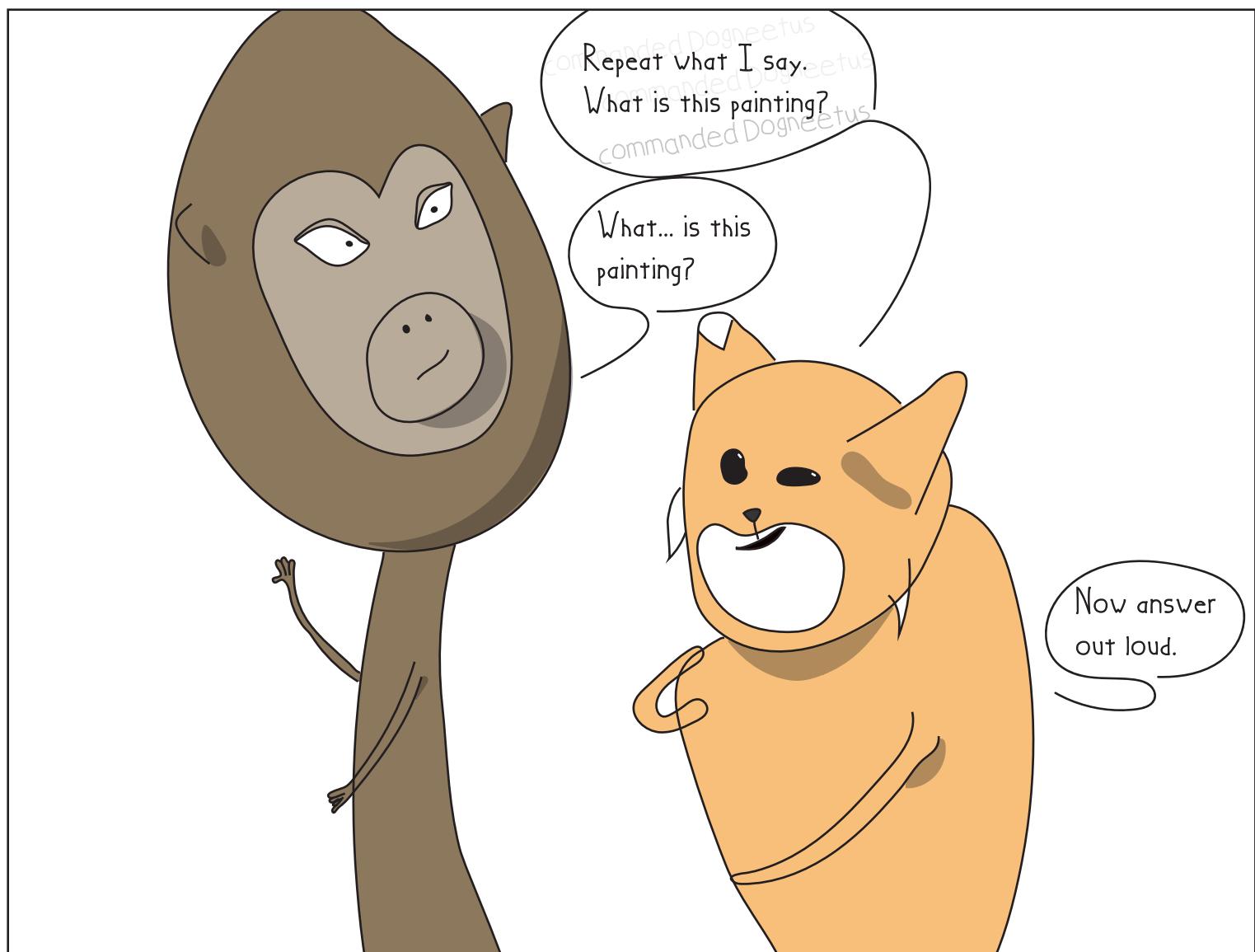
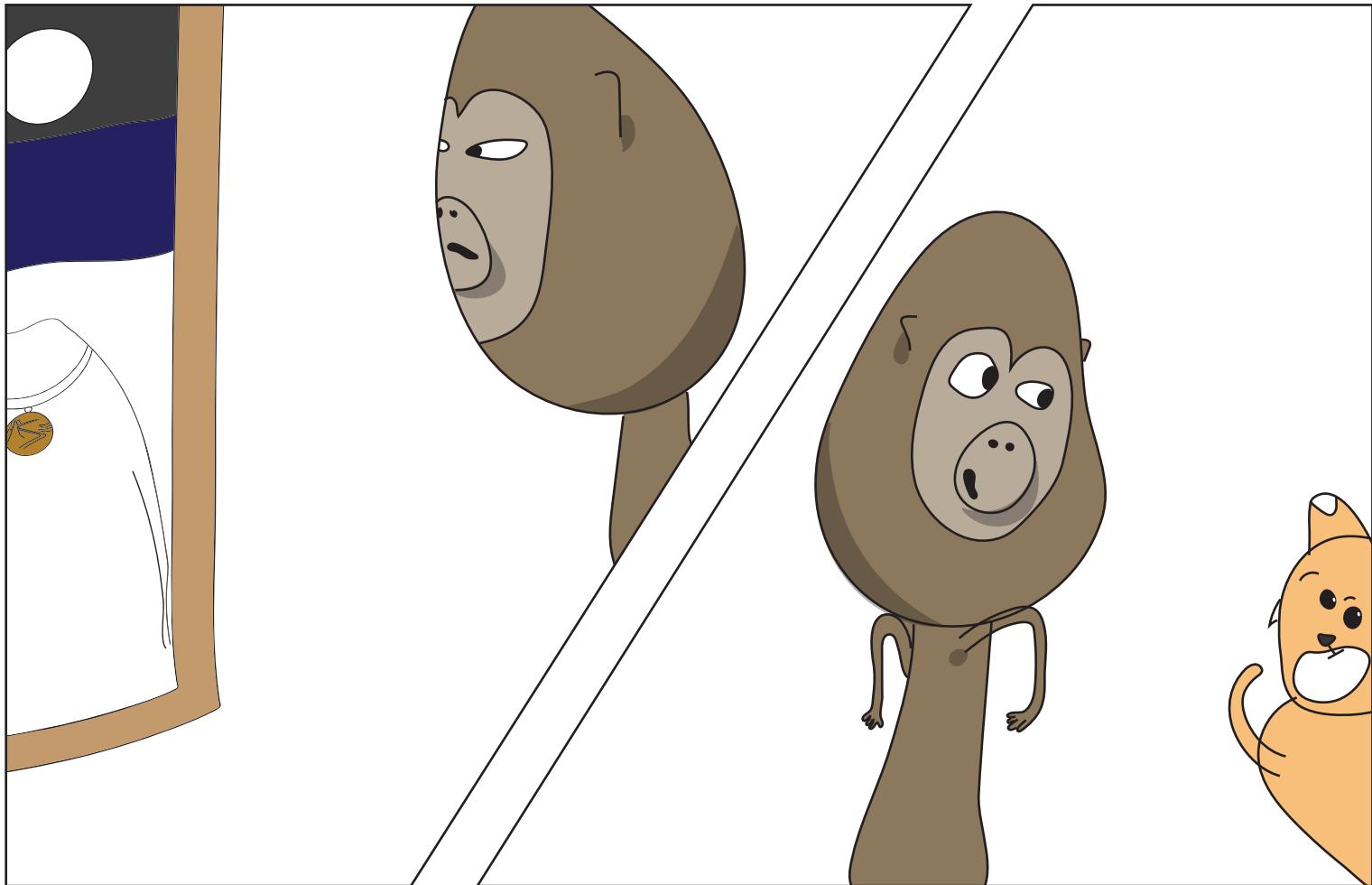
Then find a
way to fight
back.

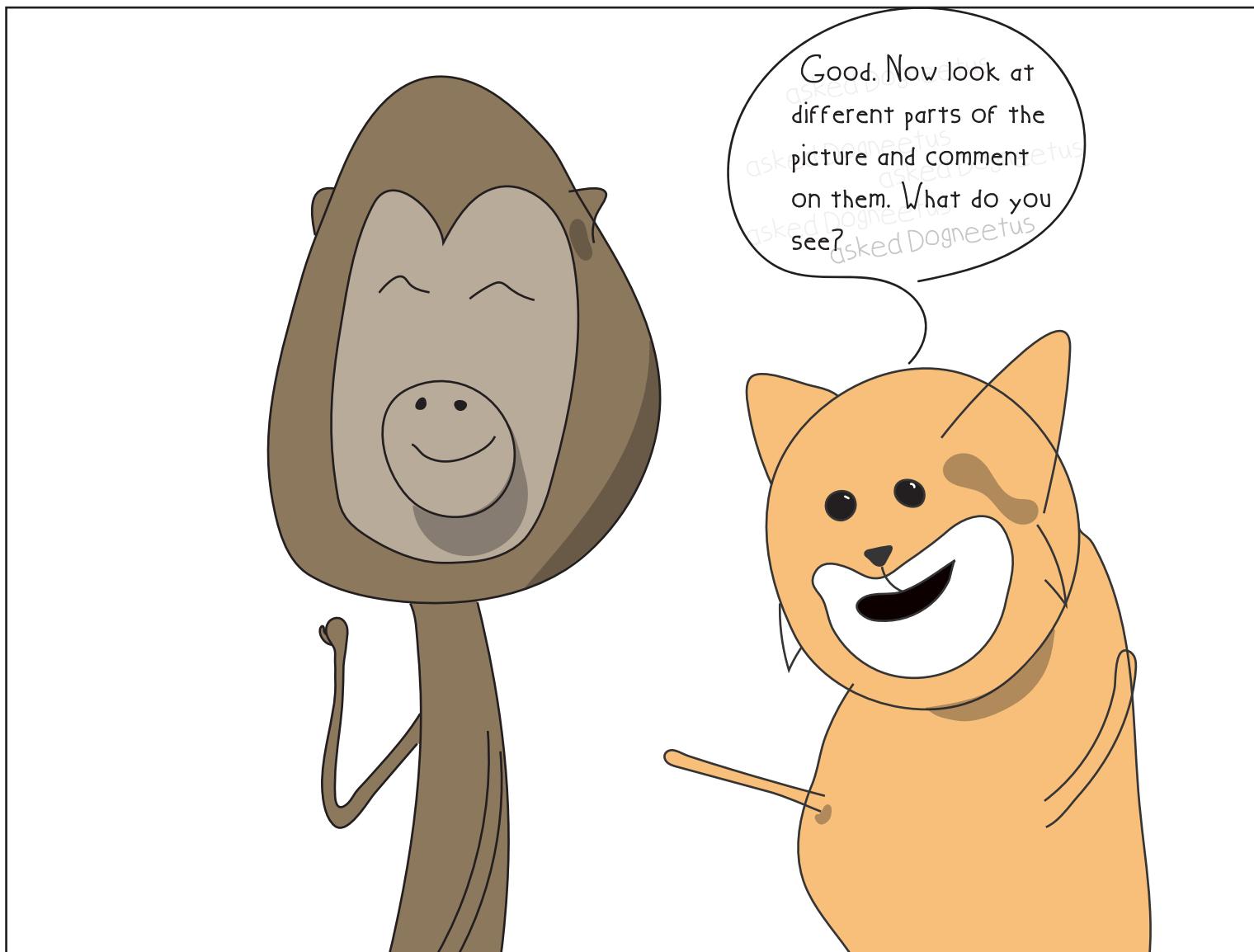
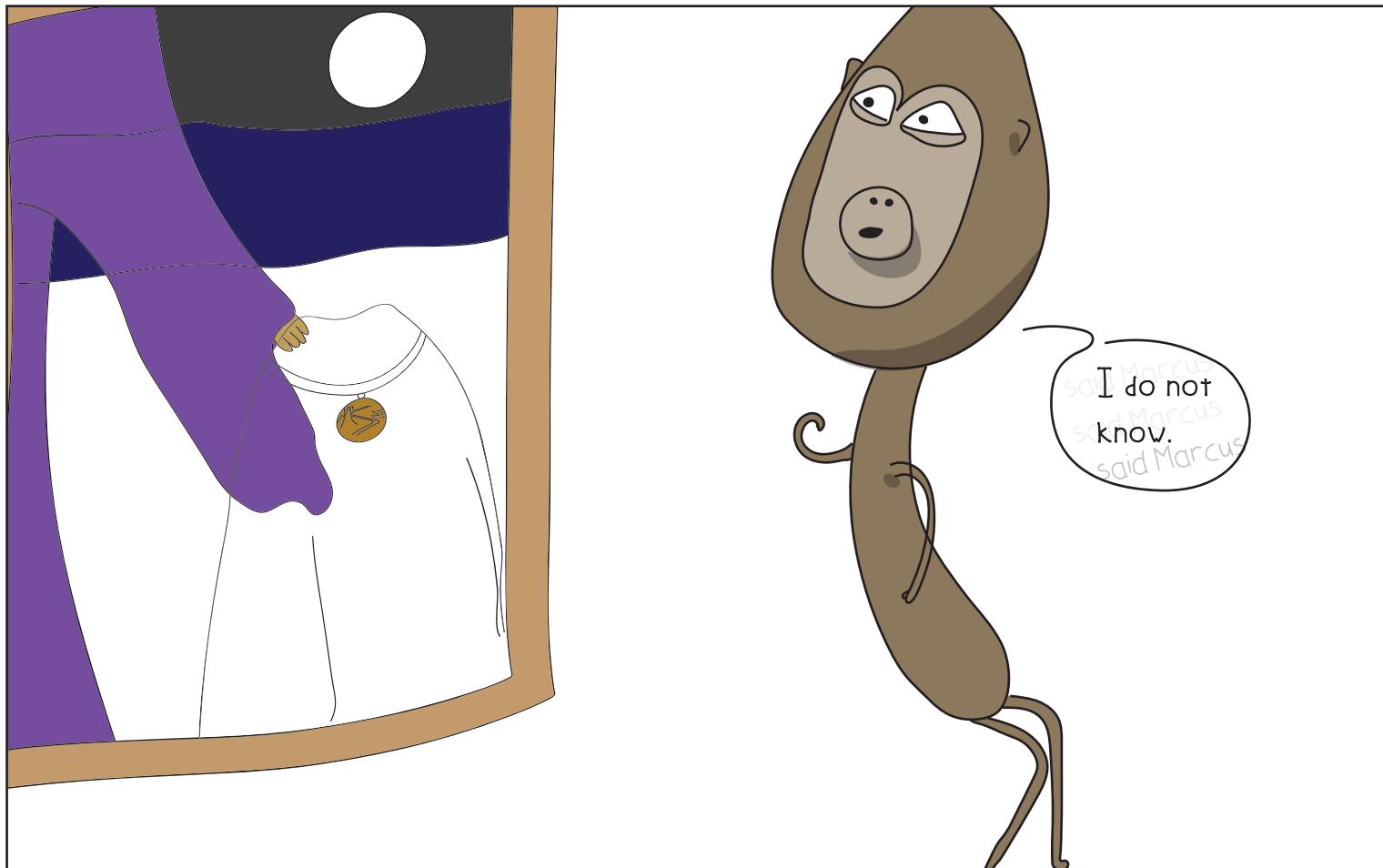


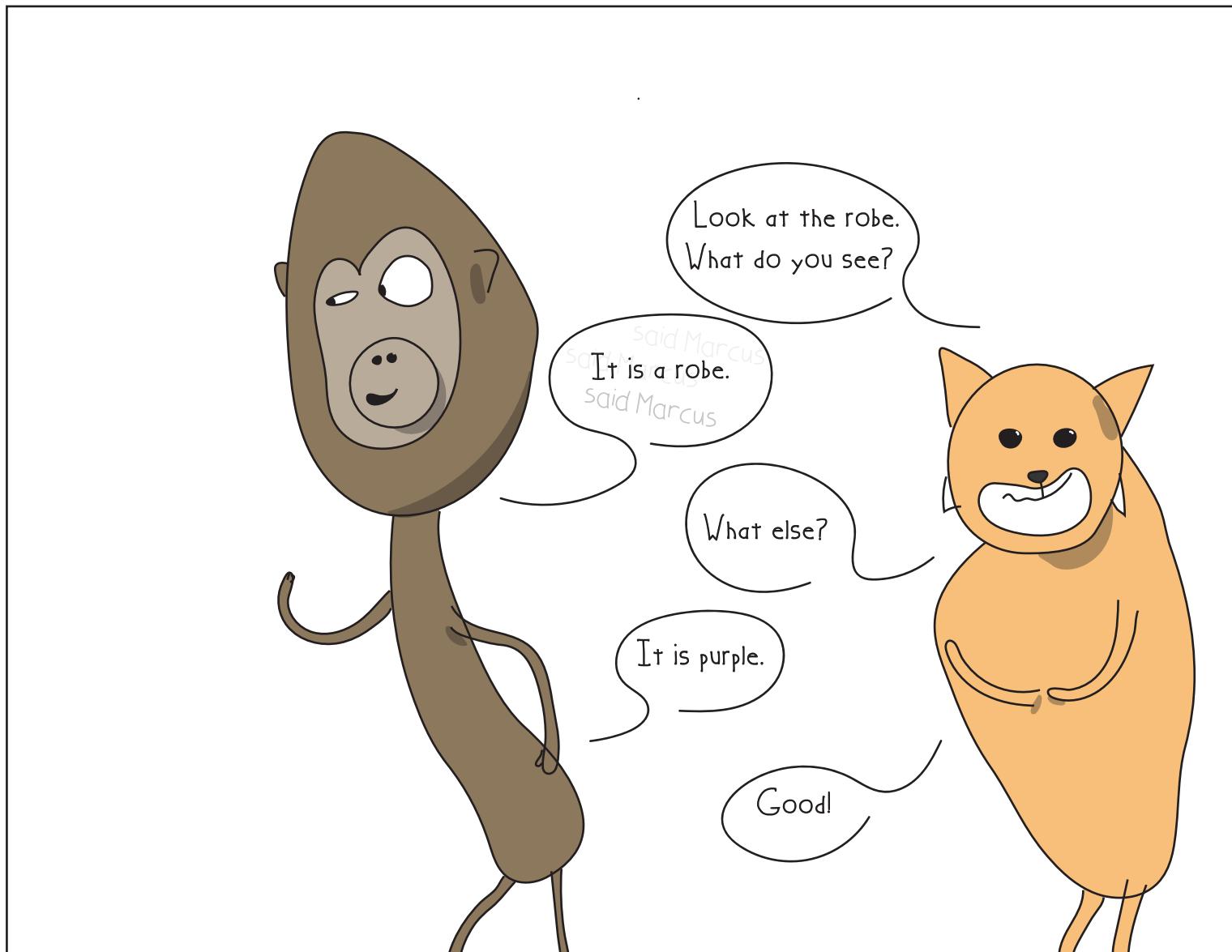
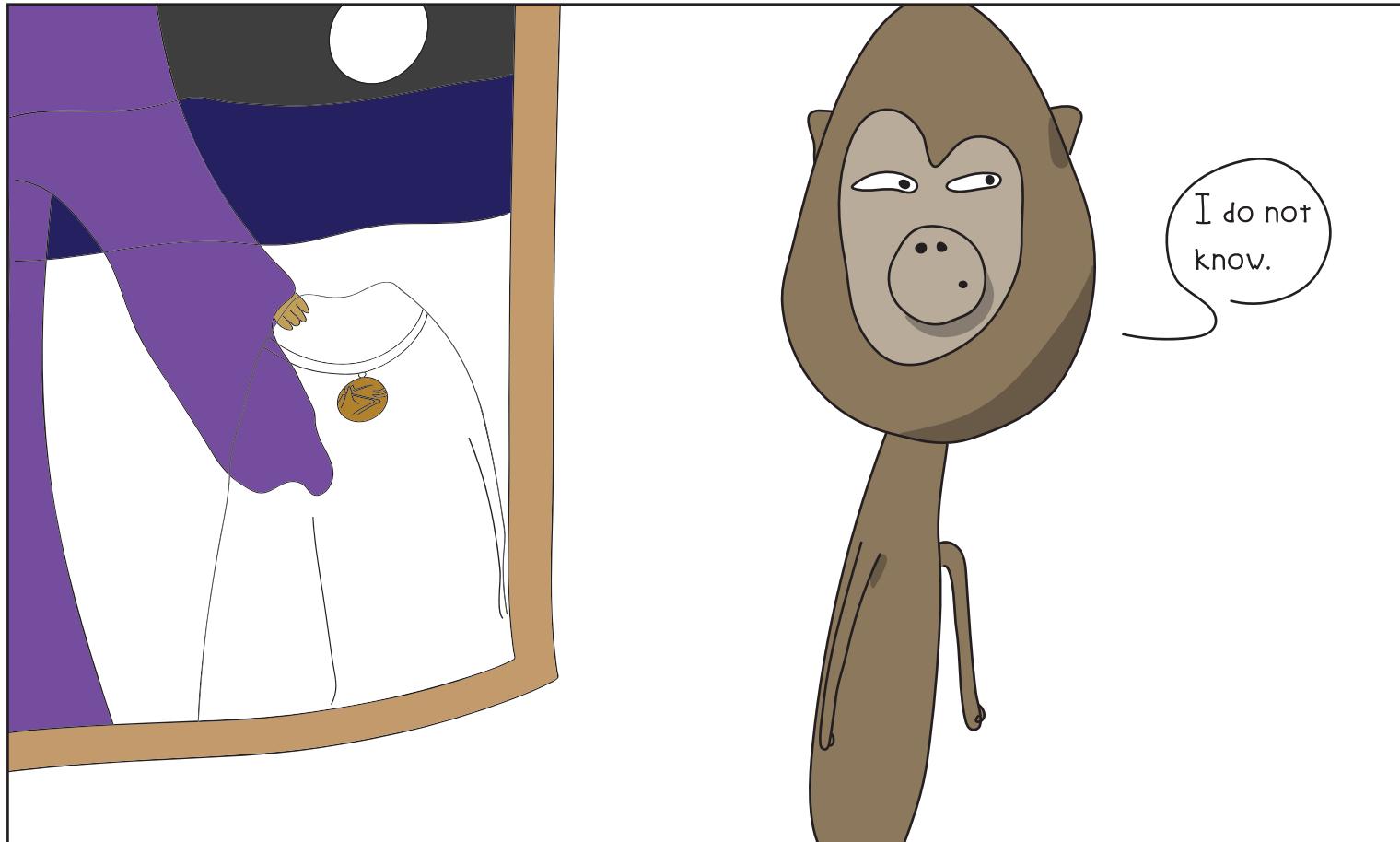


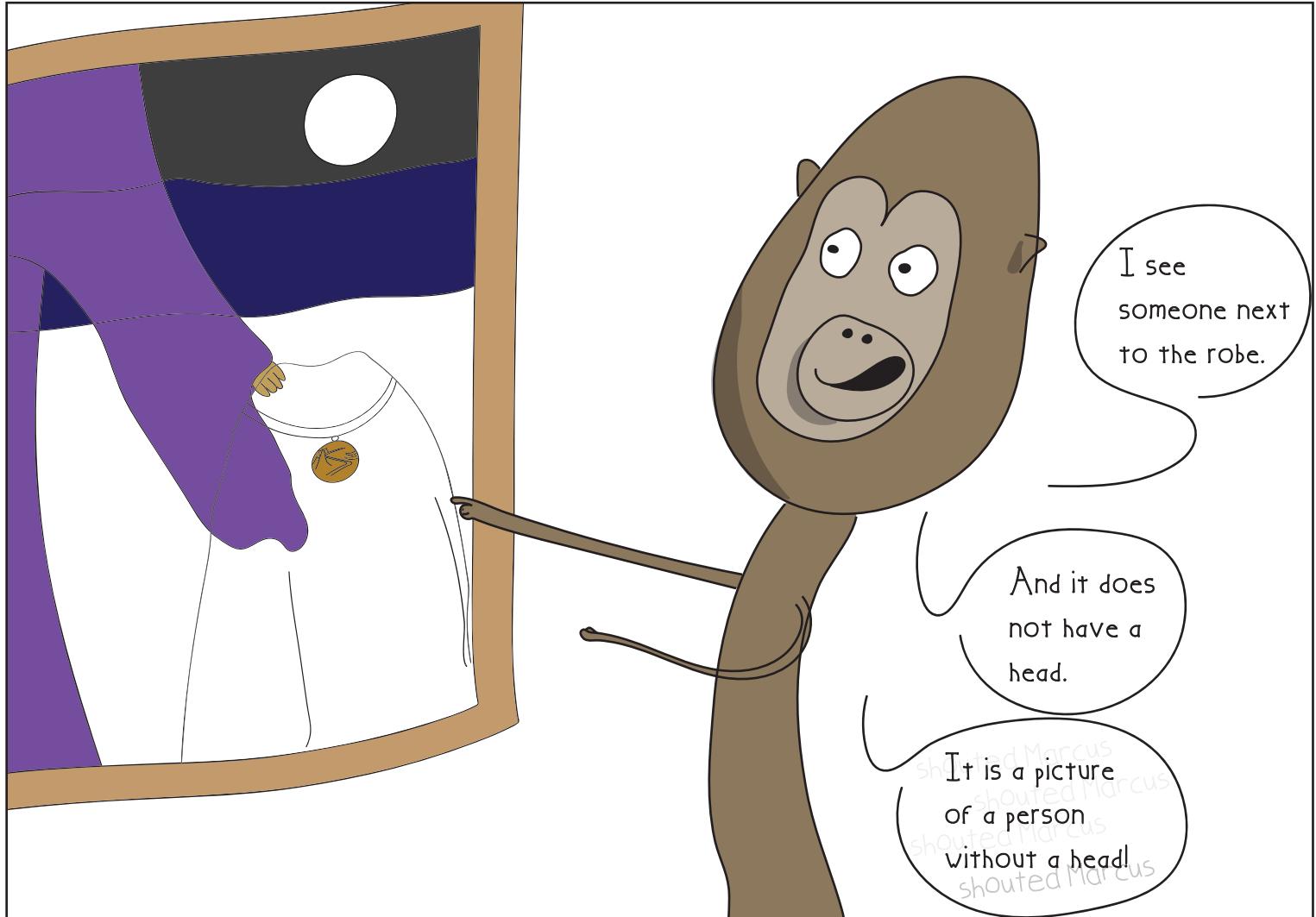
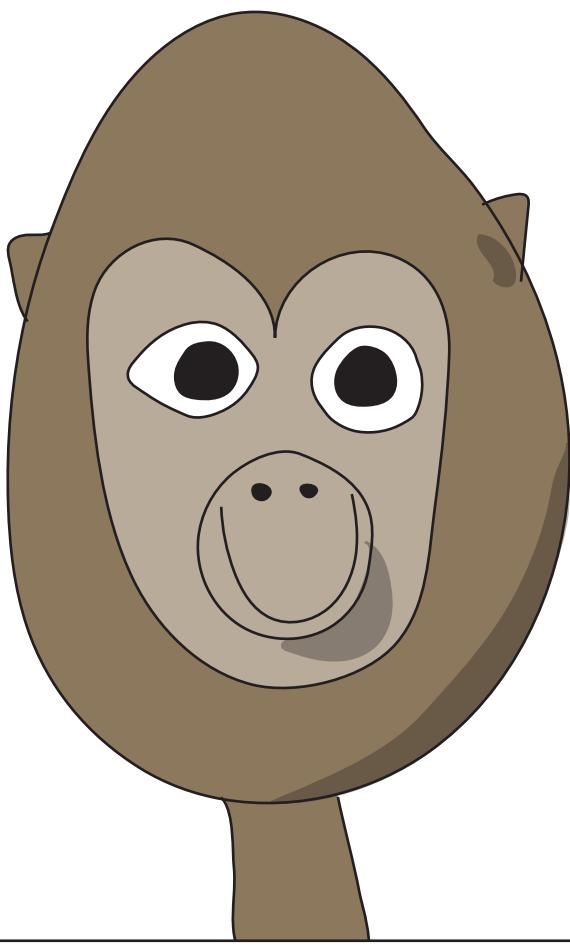


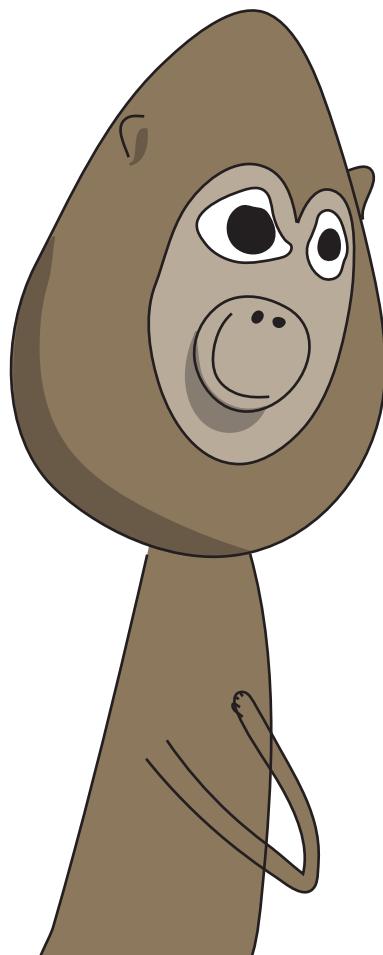




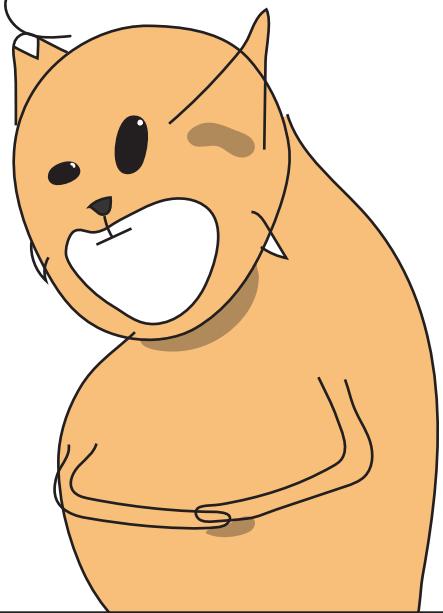




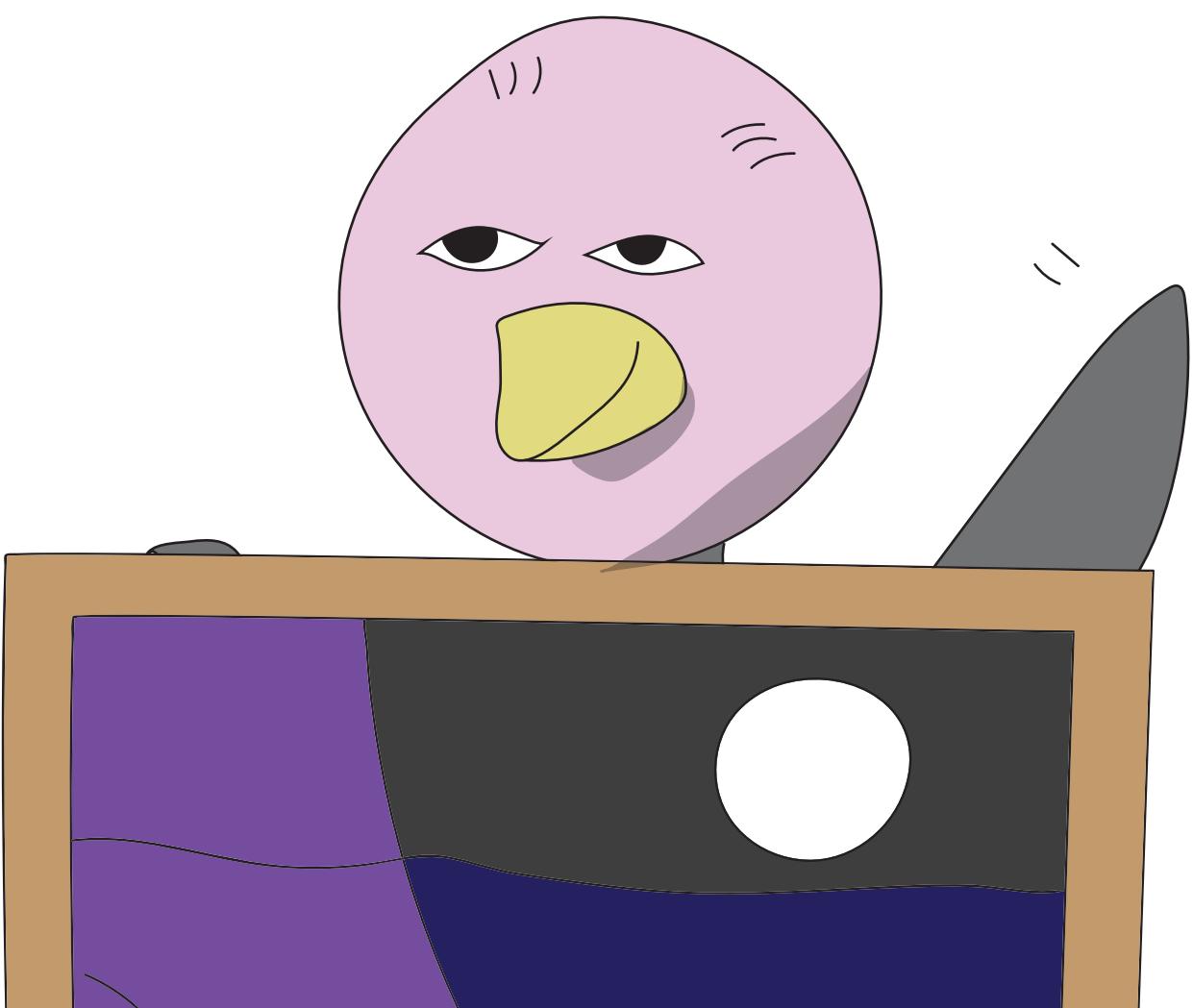


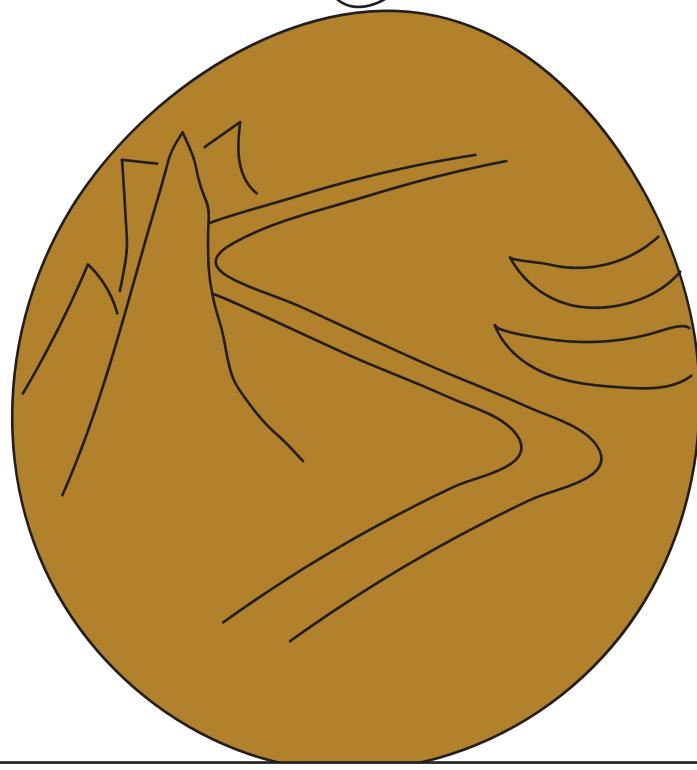
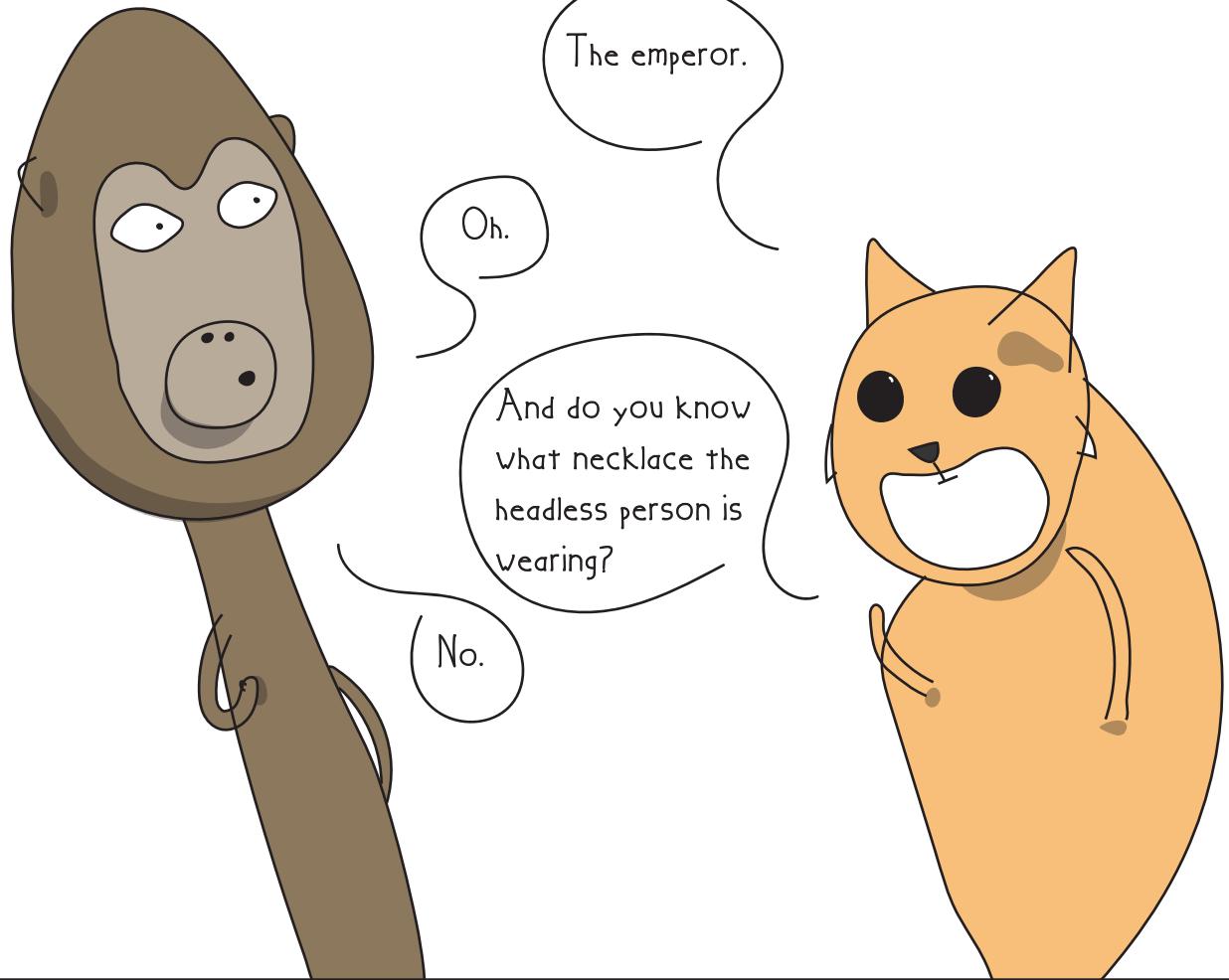


That is not bad for a first attempt, but you must try to uncover more when doing this exercise. You noted the purple robe. Do you know who wears a purple robe?

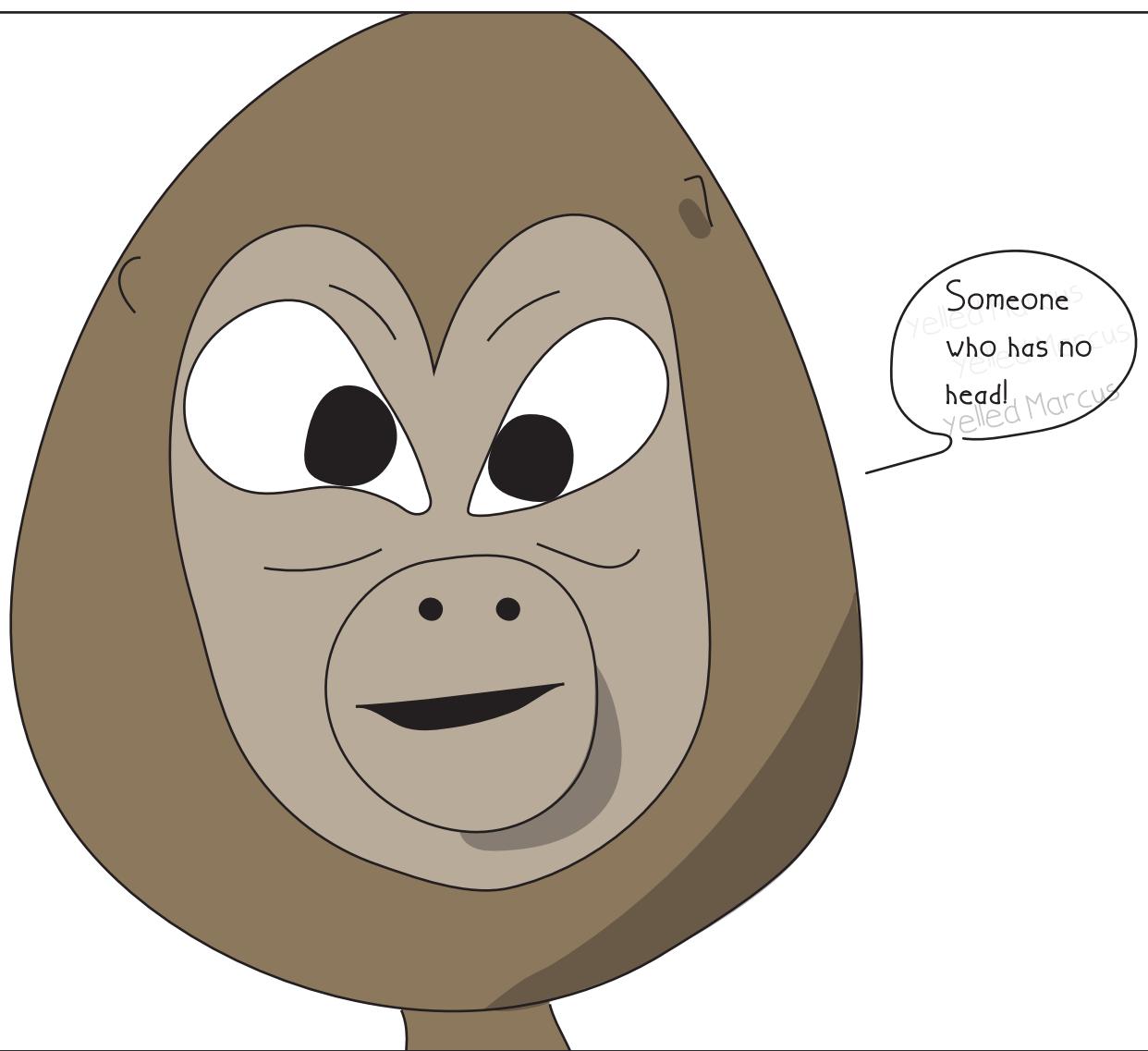
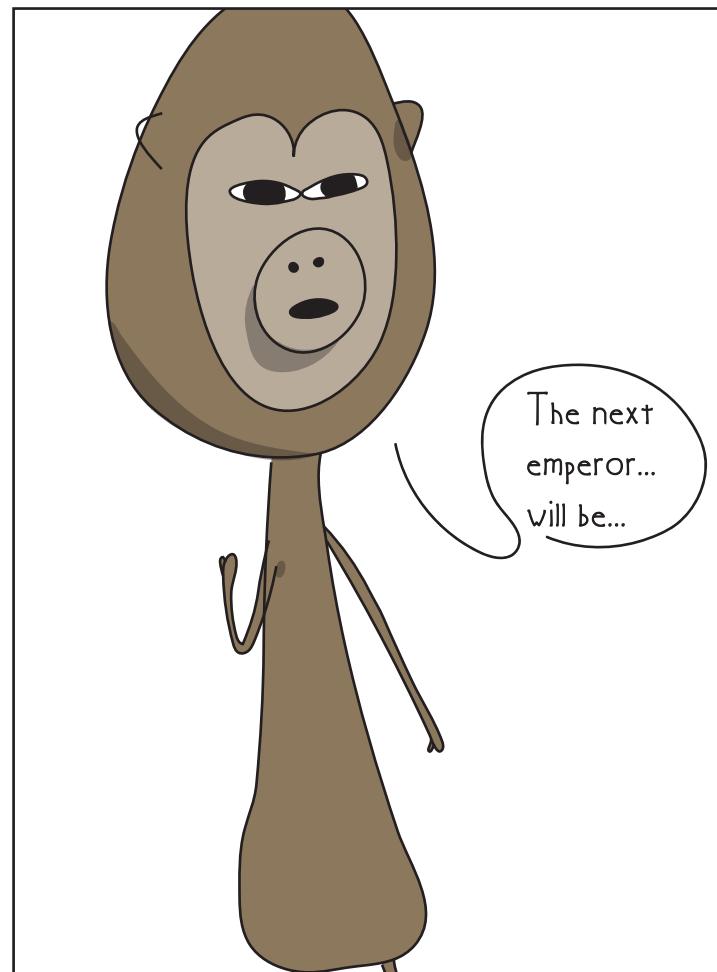
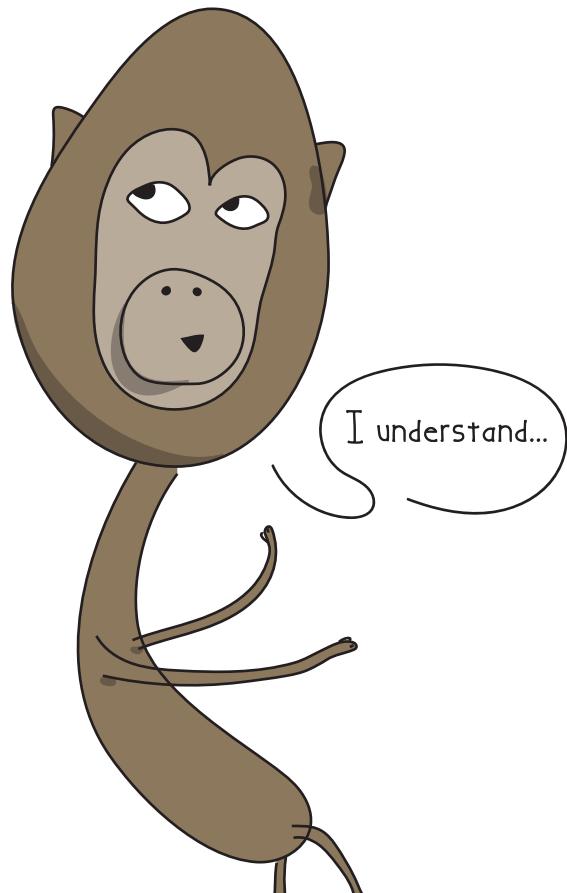


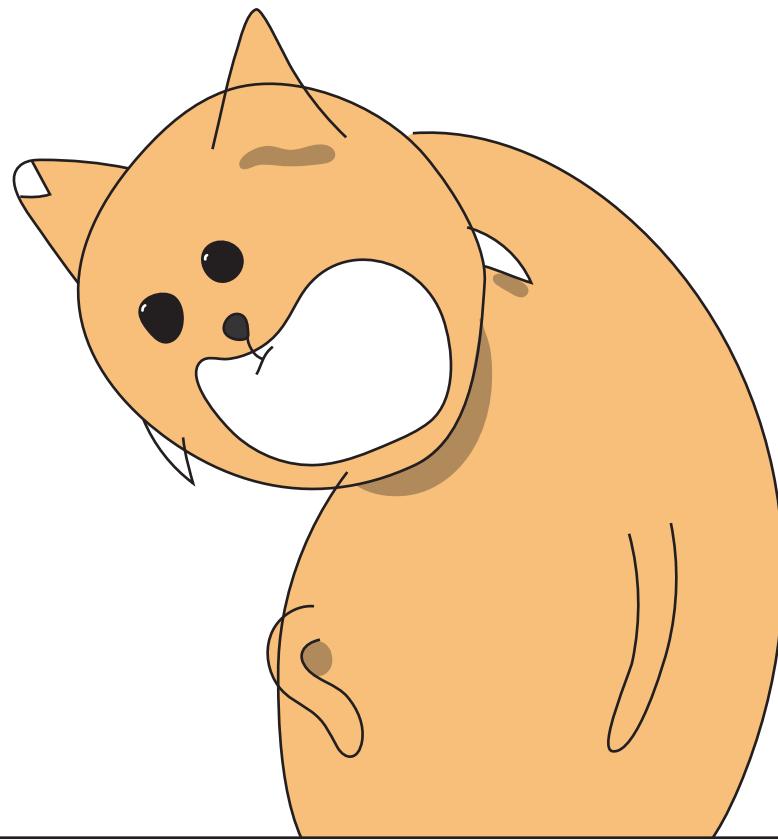
asked Marcus
Terry? asked Marcus



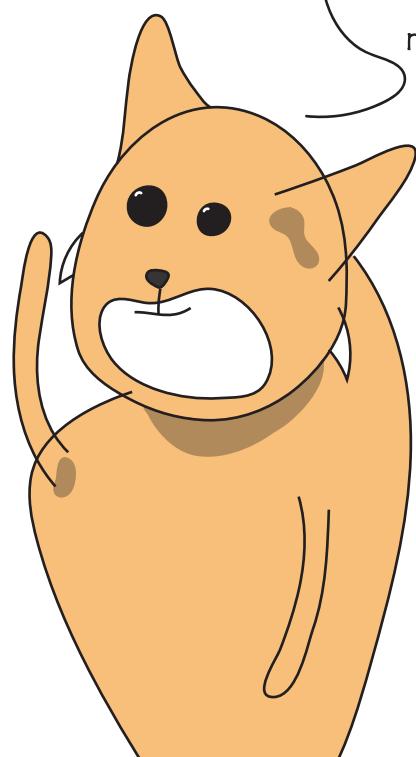
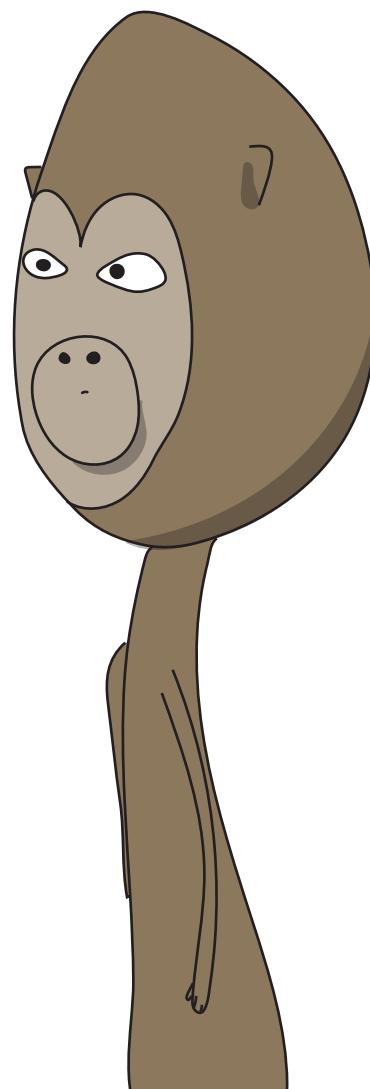


That is Skipee's necklace. It belongs to the heir of the emperor. The person who will become the next emperor and rule the empire.



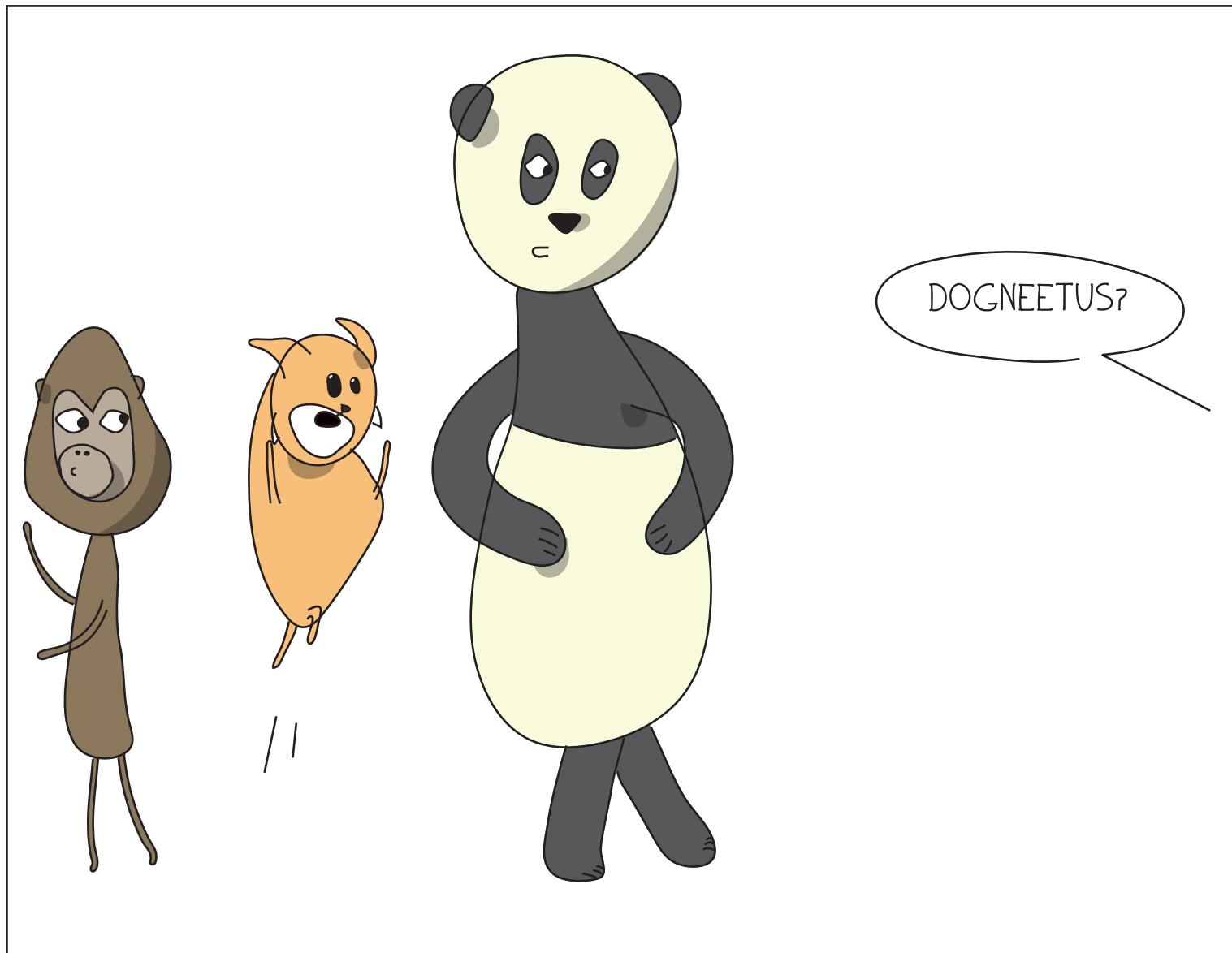
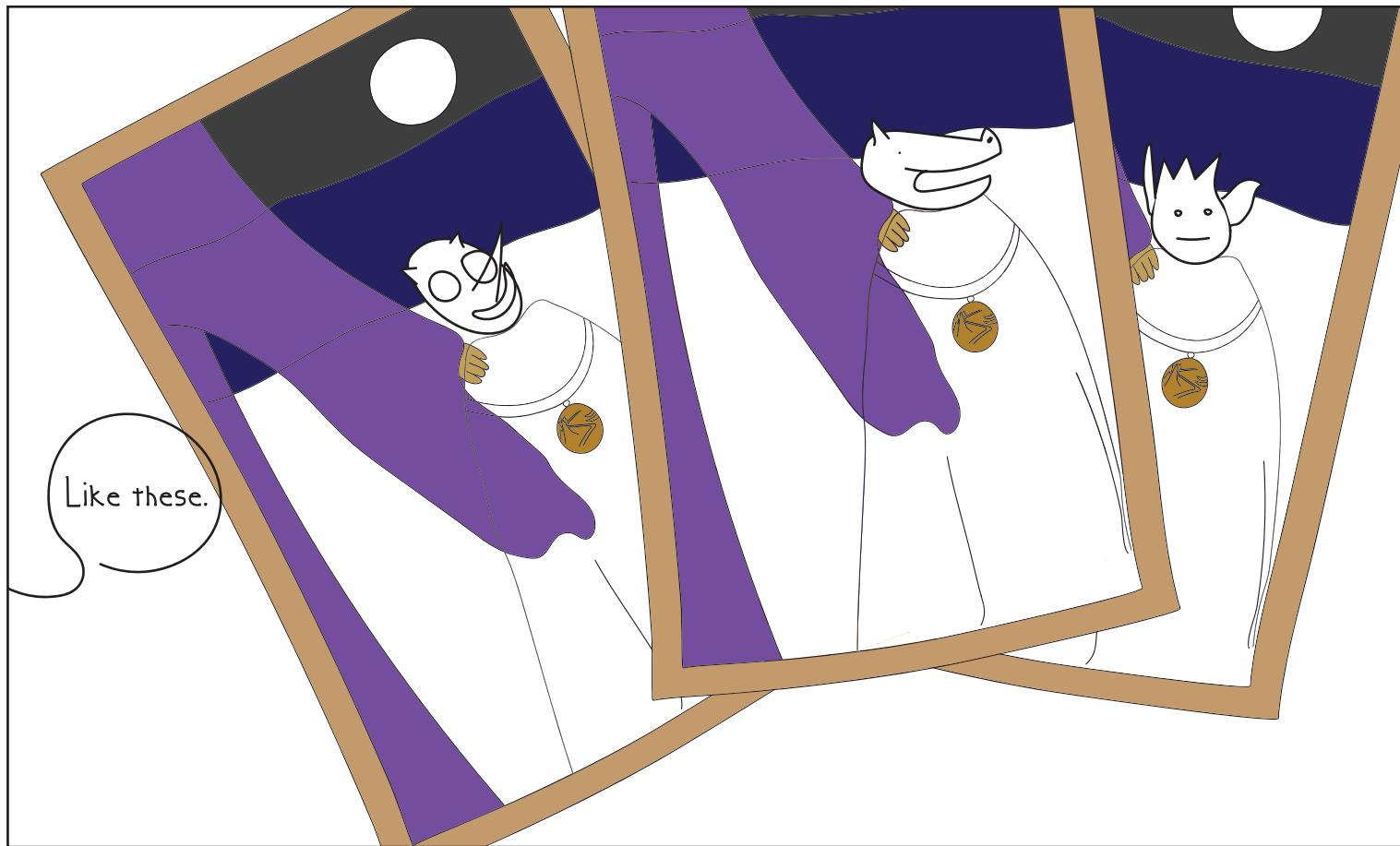


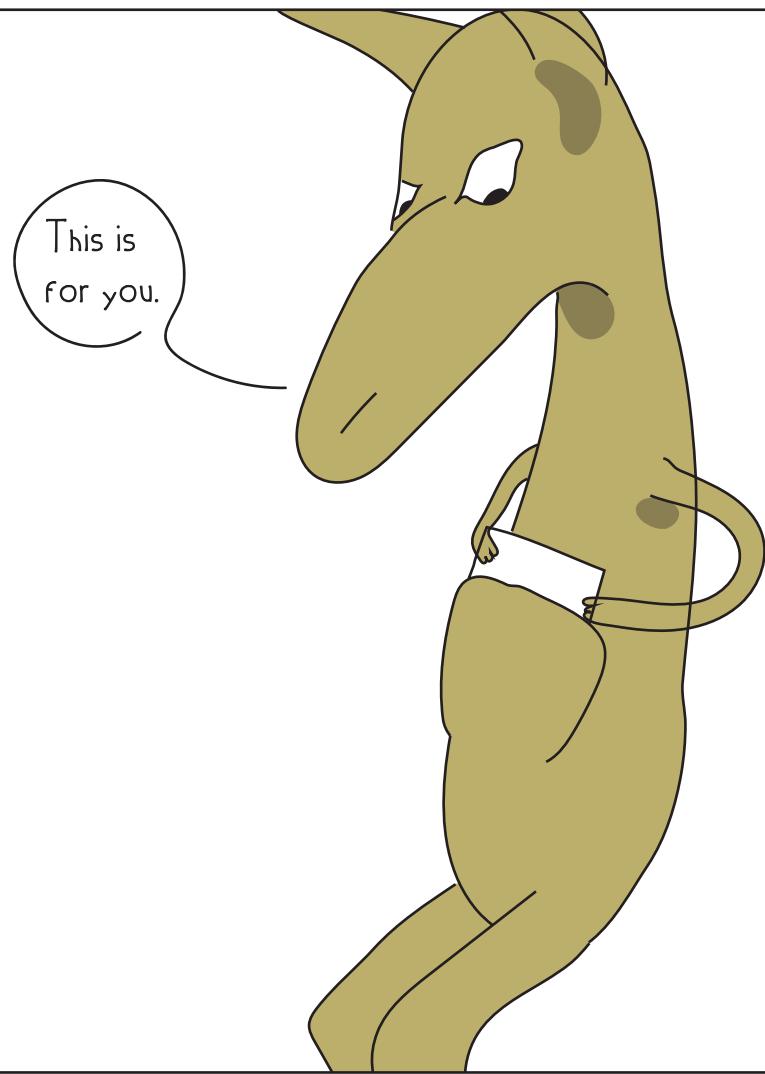
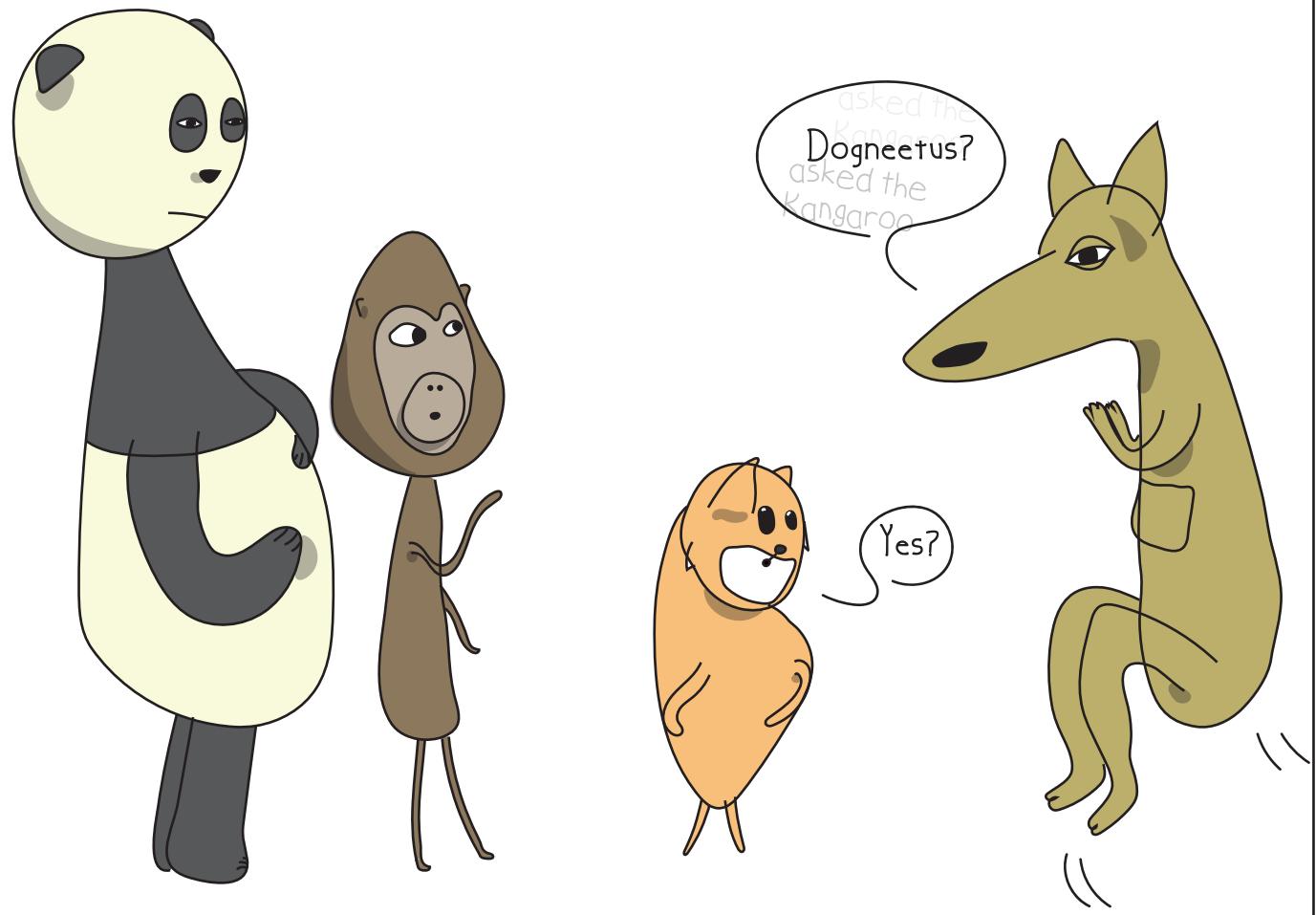
No Marcus. The heir is headless because the emperor has not chosen his heir yet.

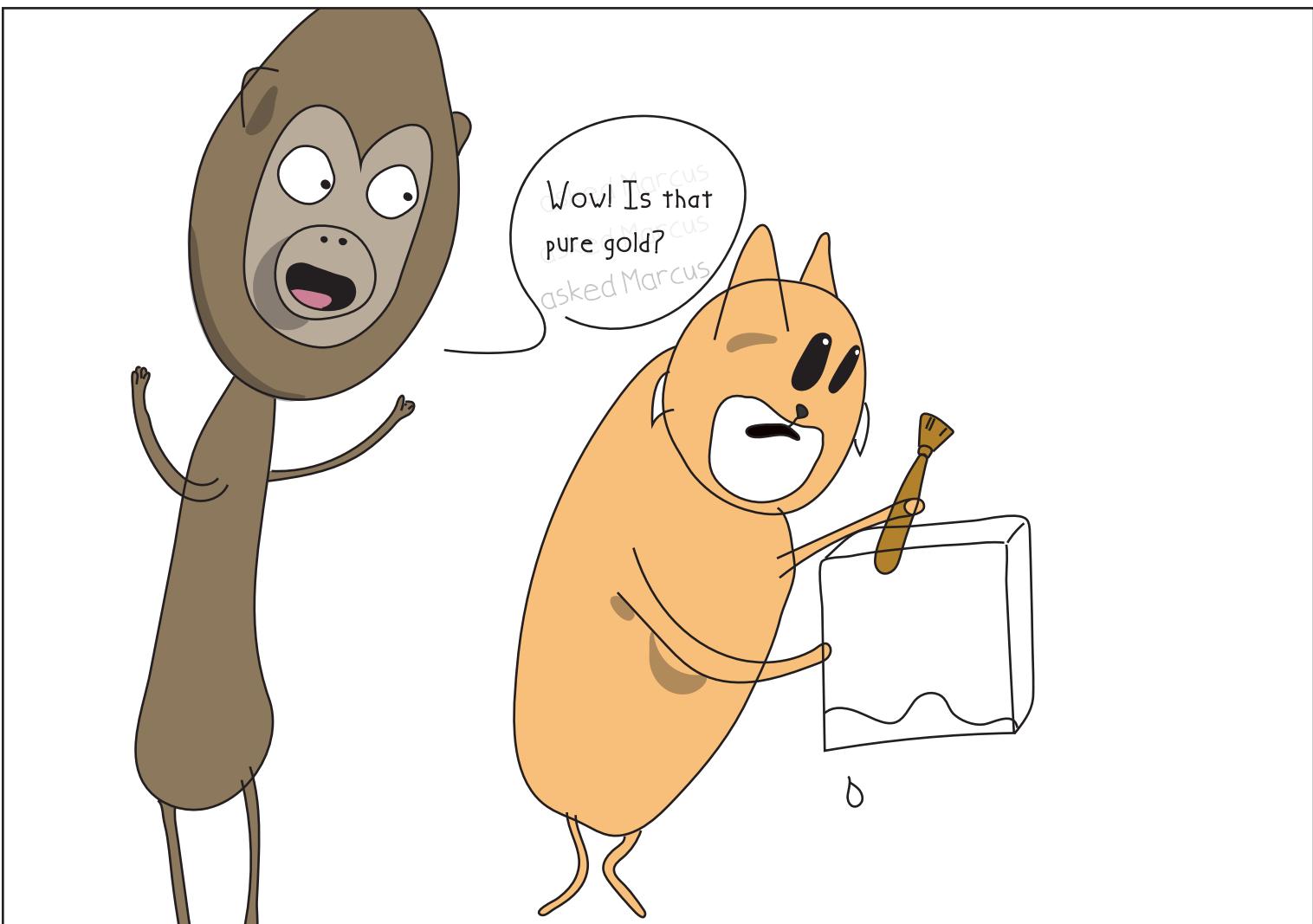
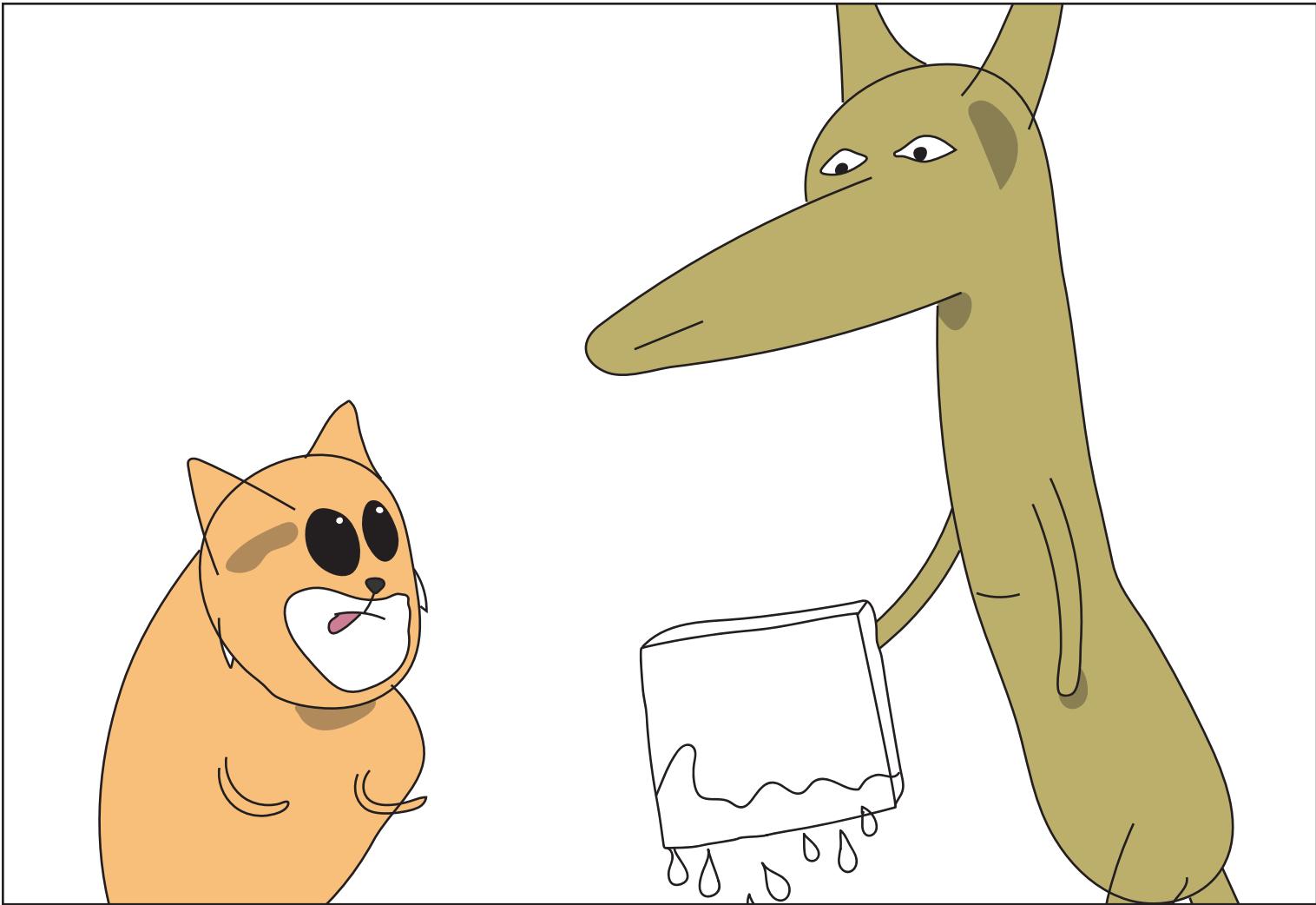


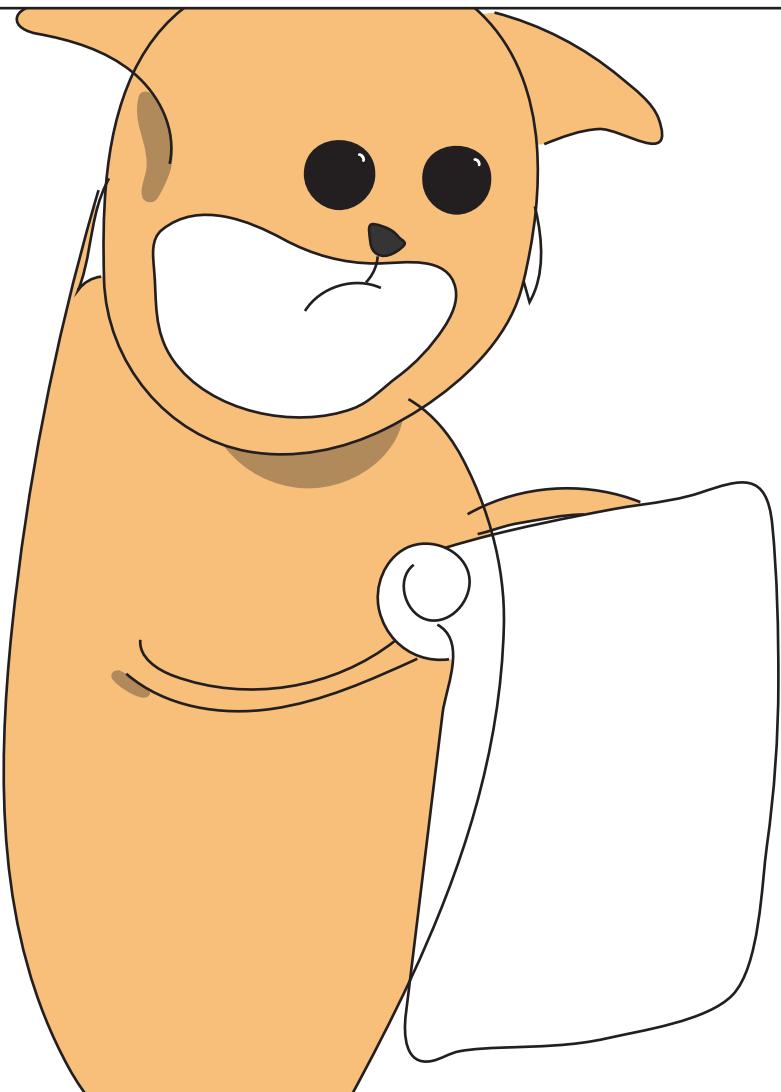
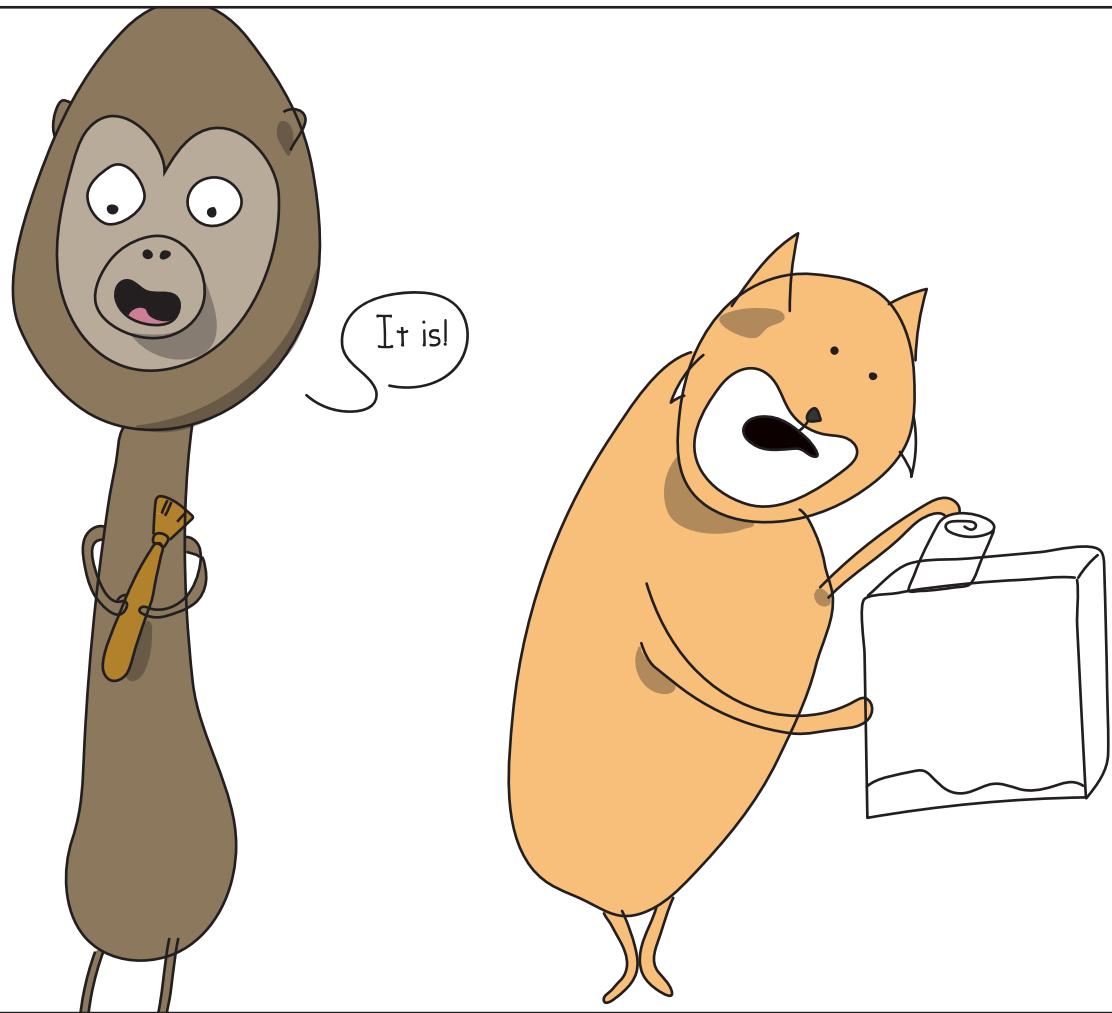
Normally, the heir would be the son or daughter of the emperor, but he has no children.

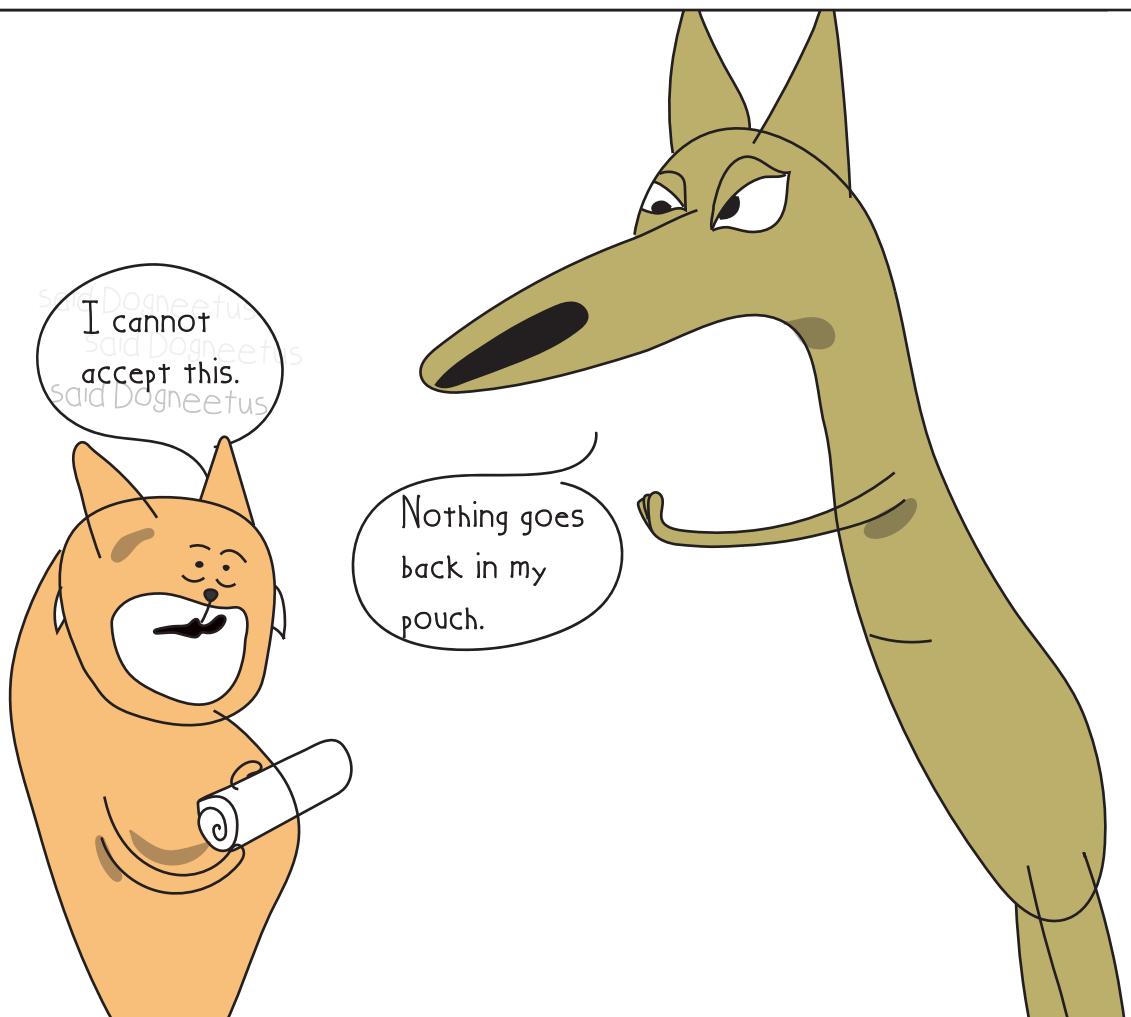
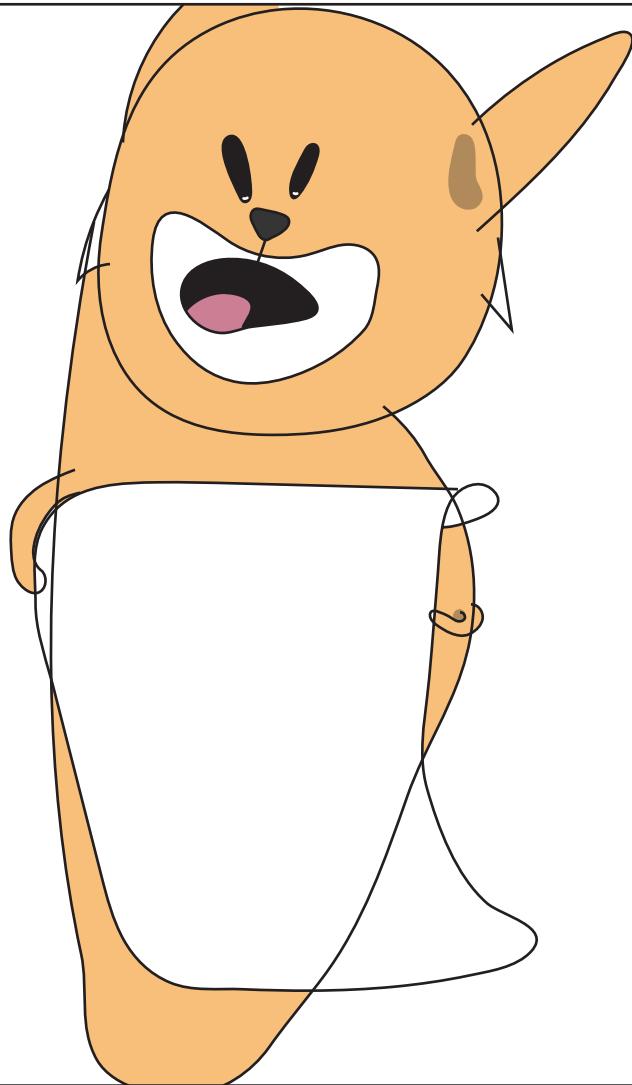


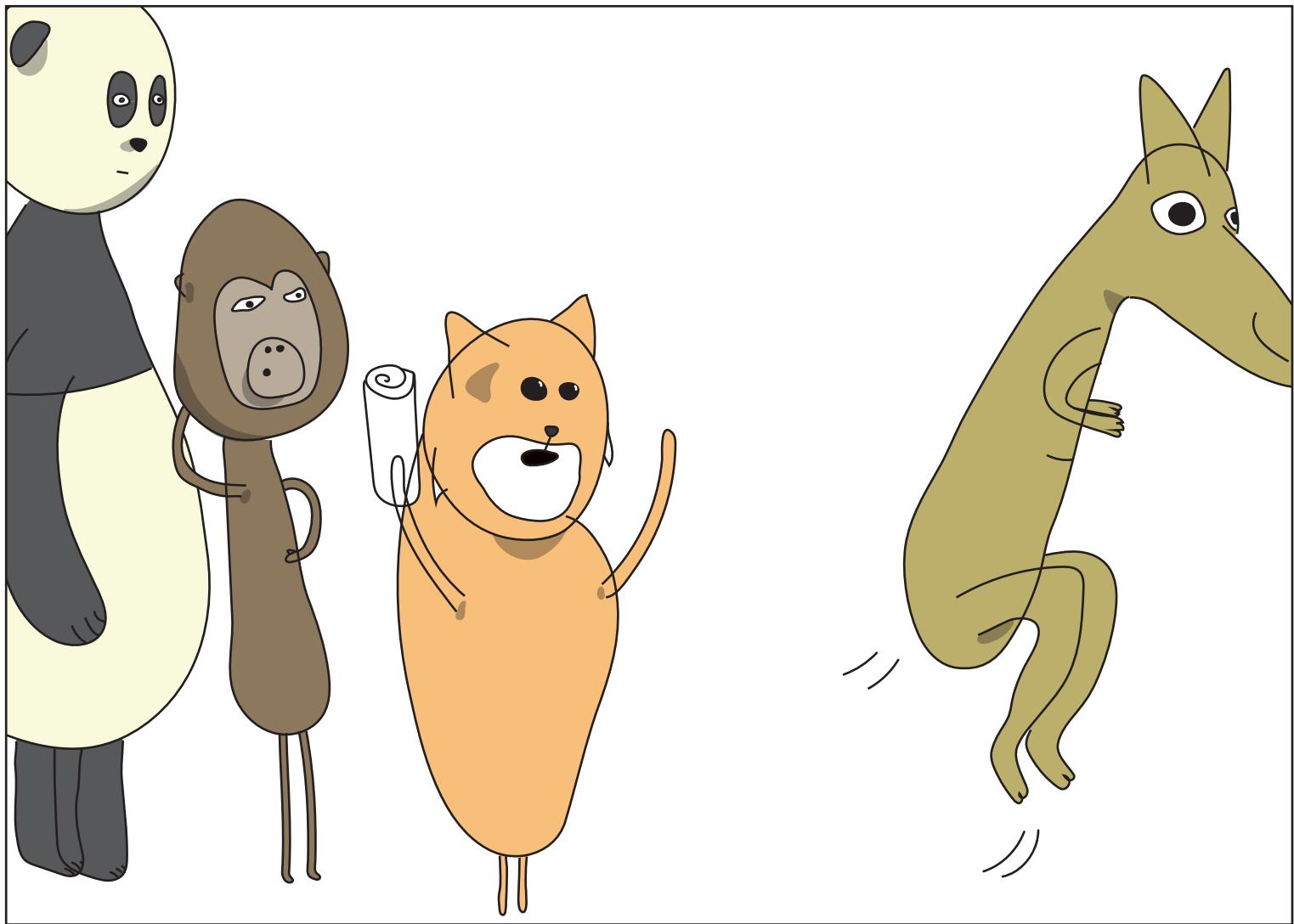


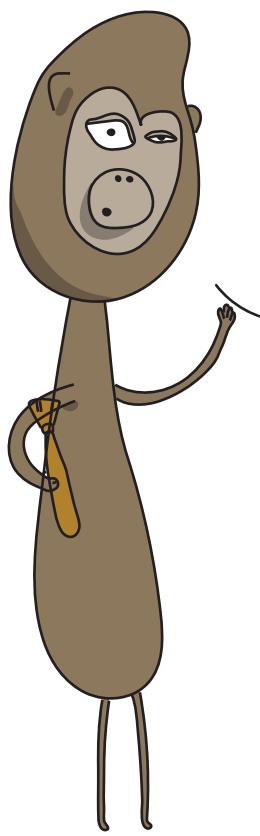
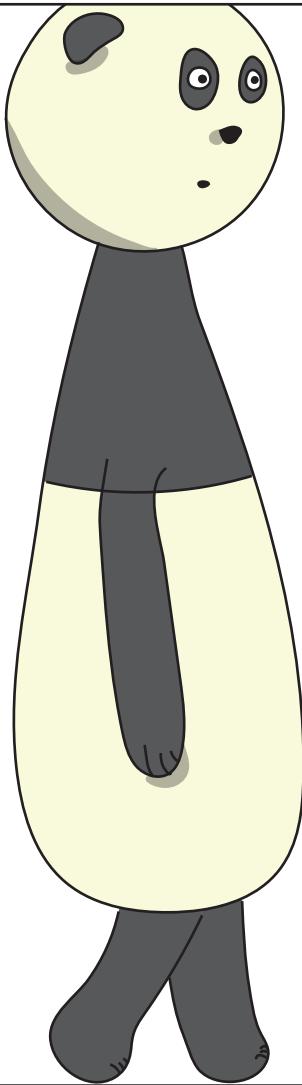








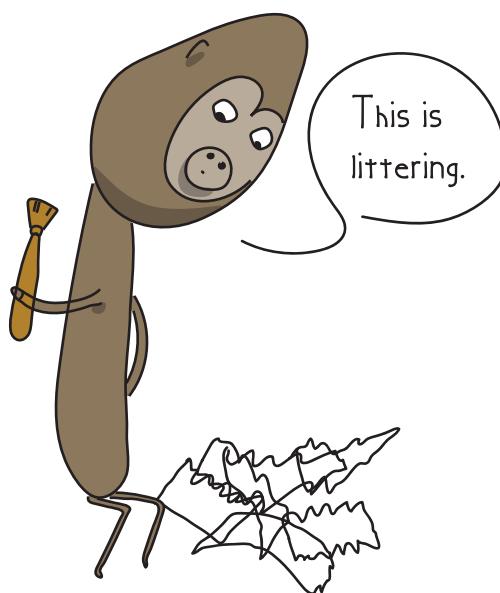
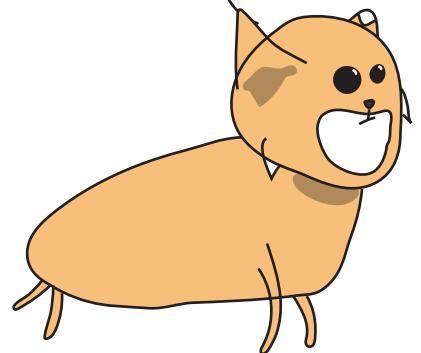




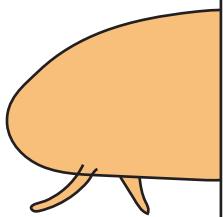
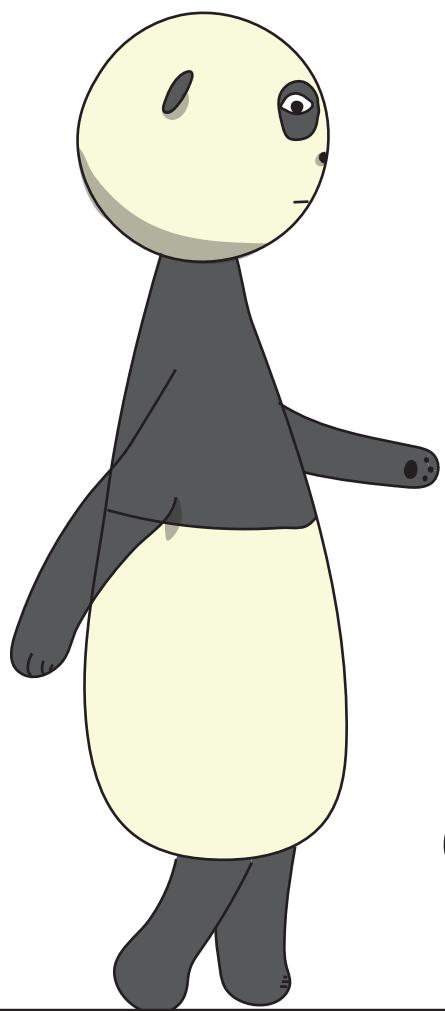
What was us
asked M
that about? us
asked Marcus

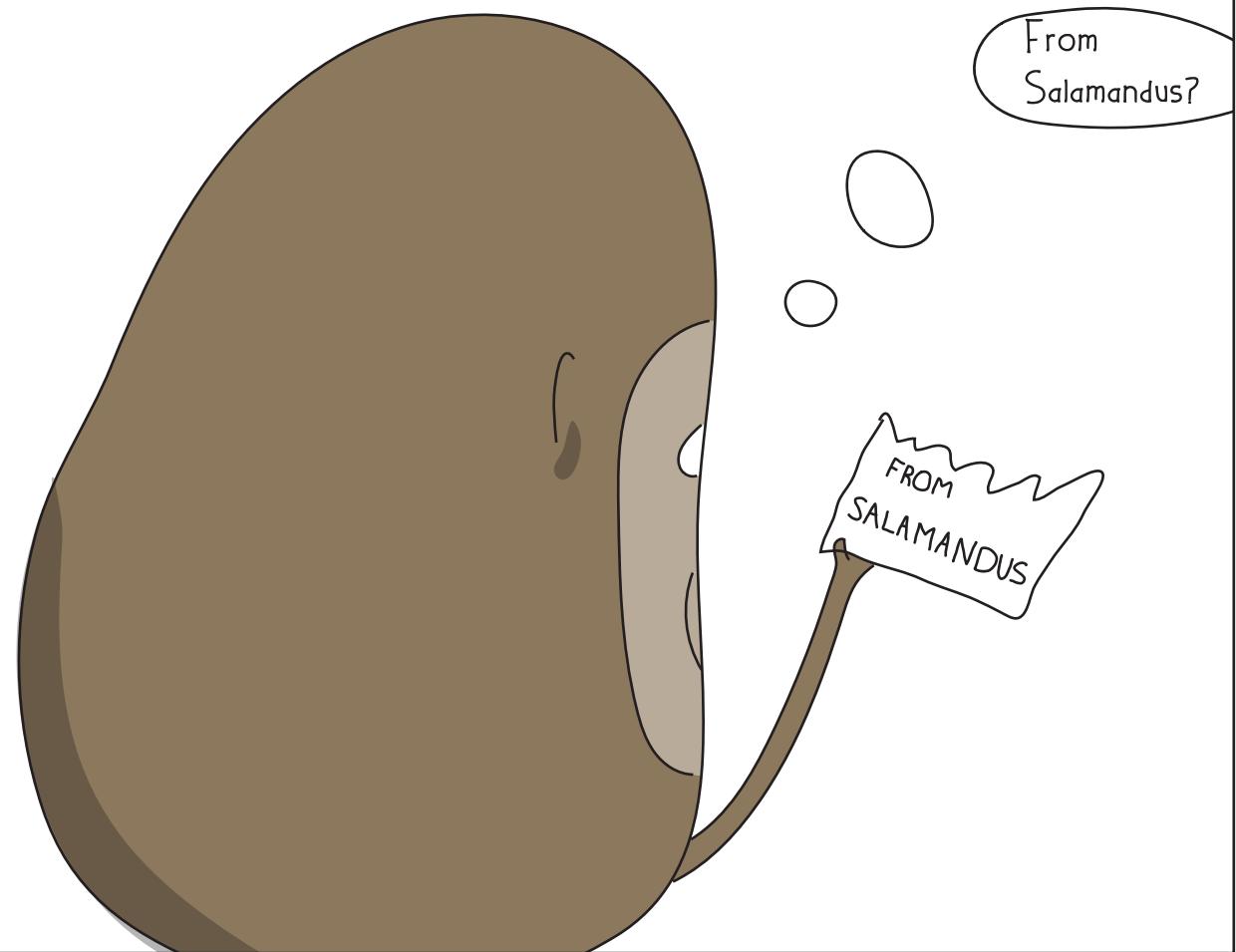
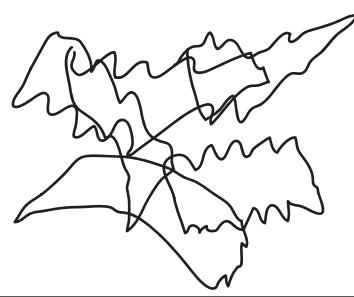
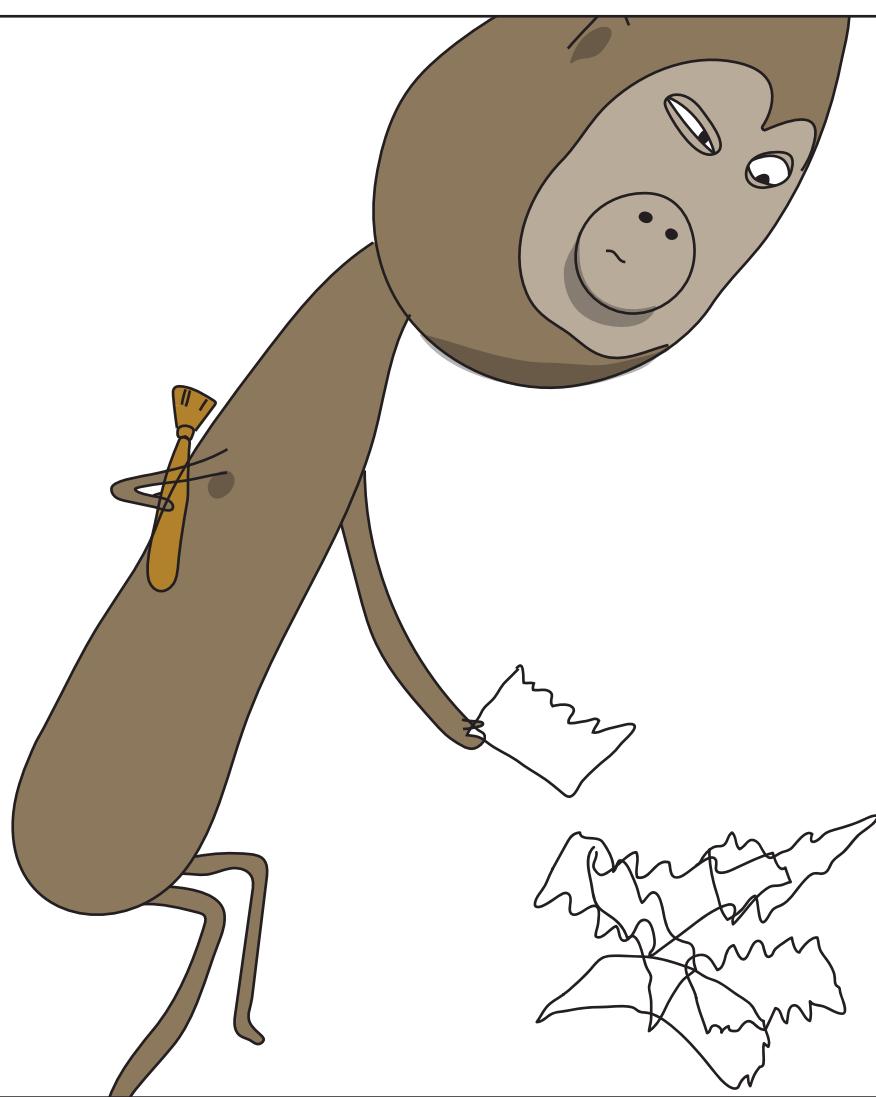


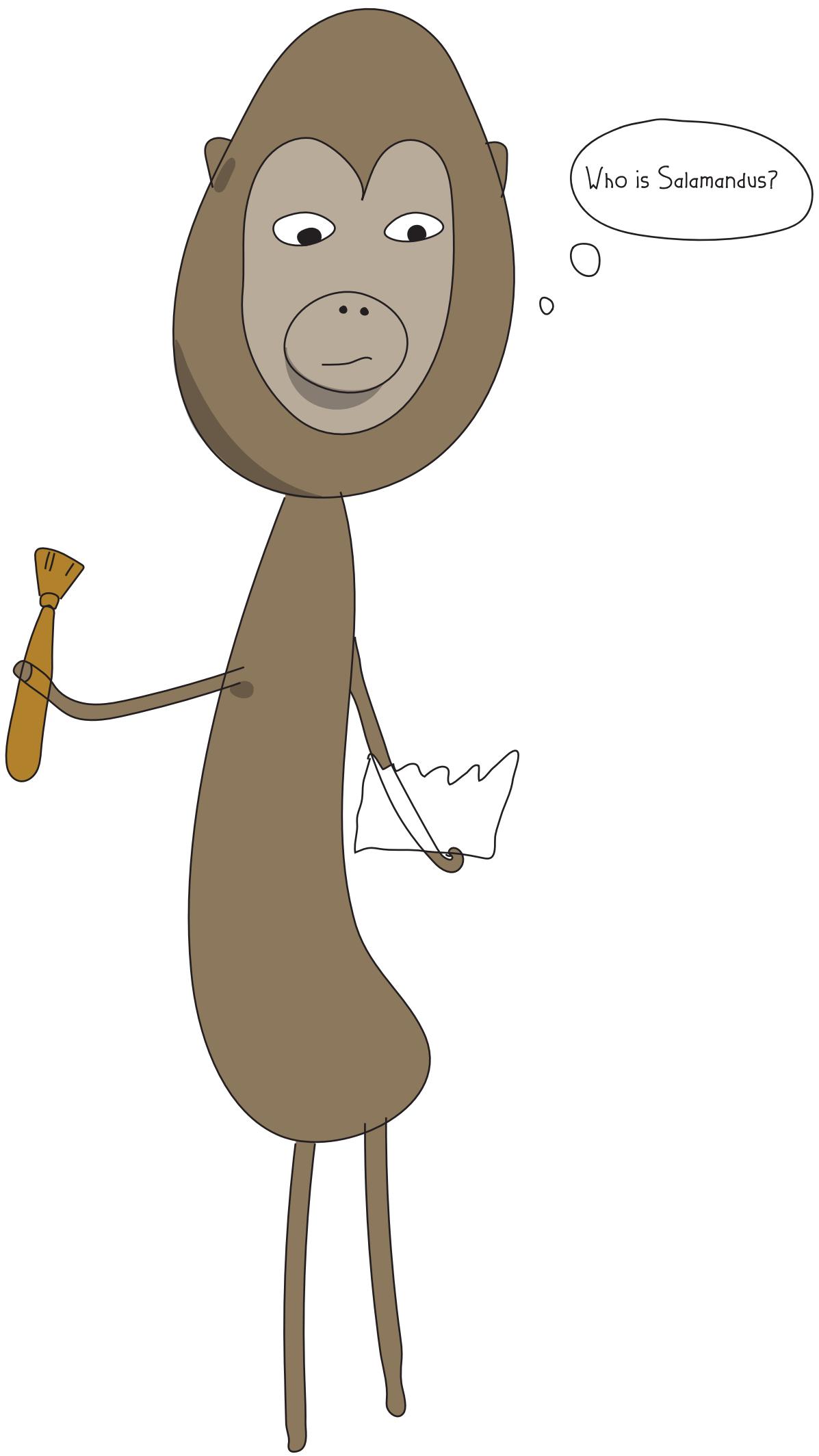
Forget it.



This is
littering.

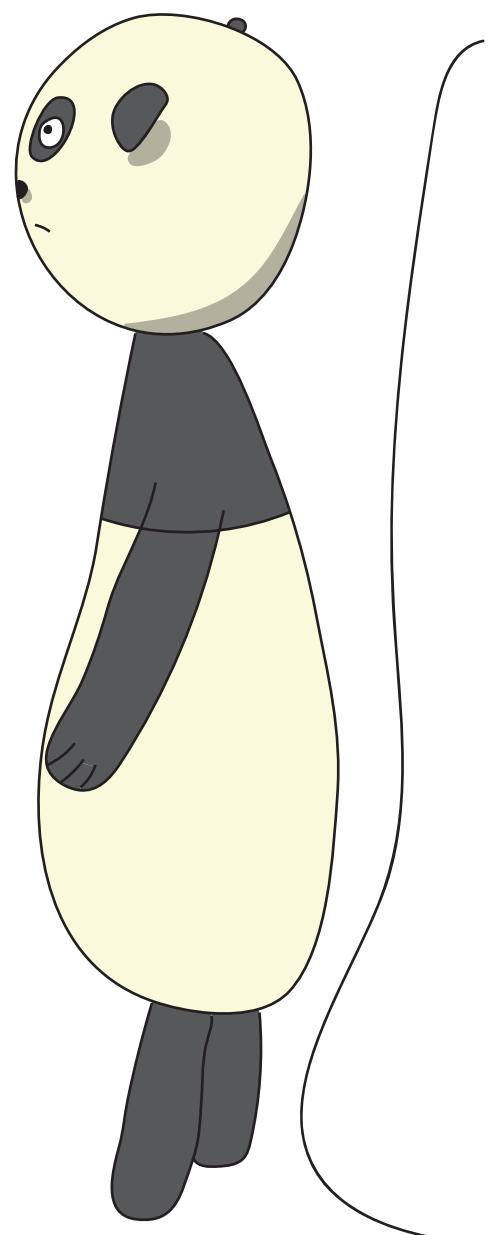
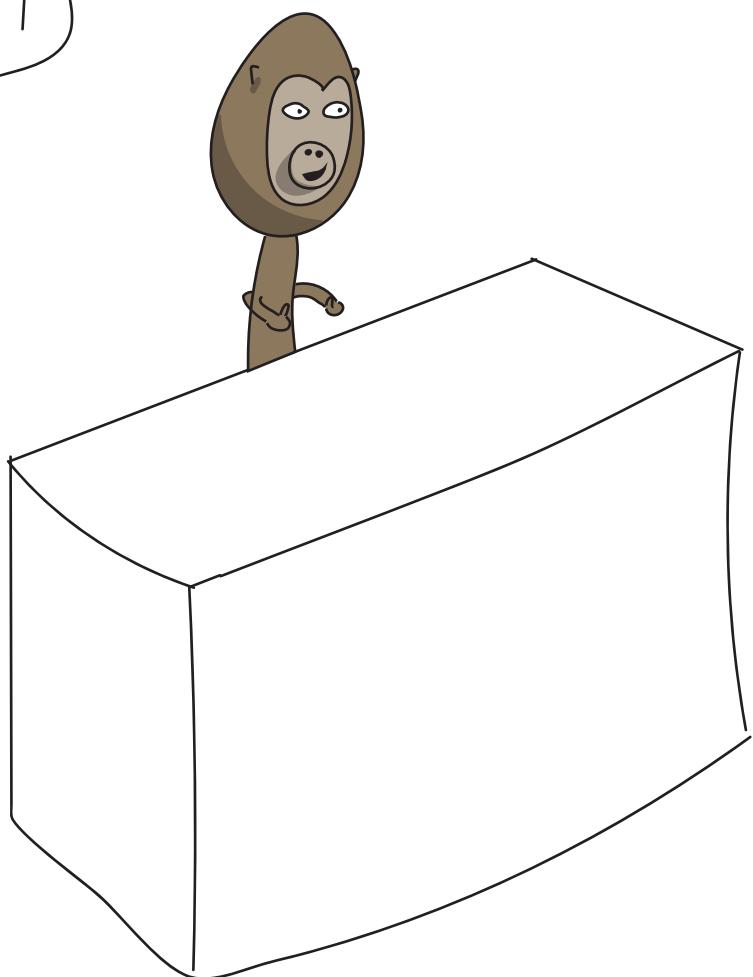




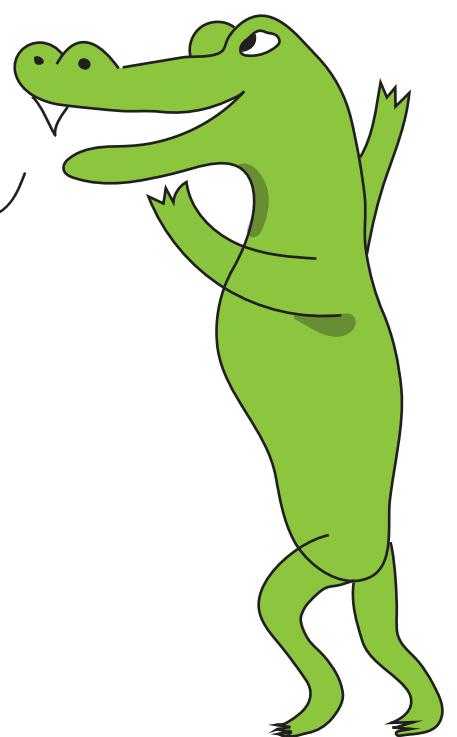
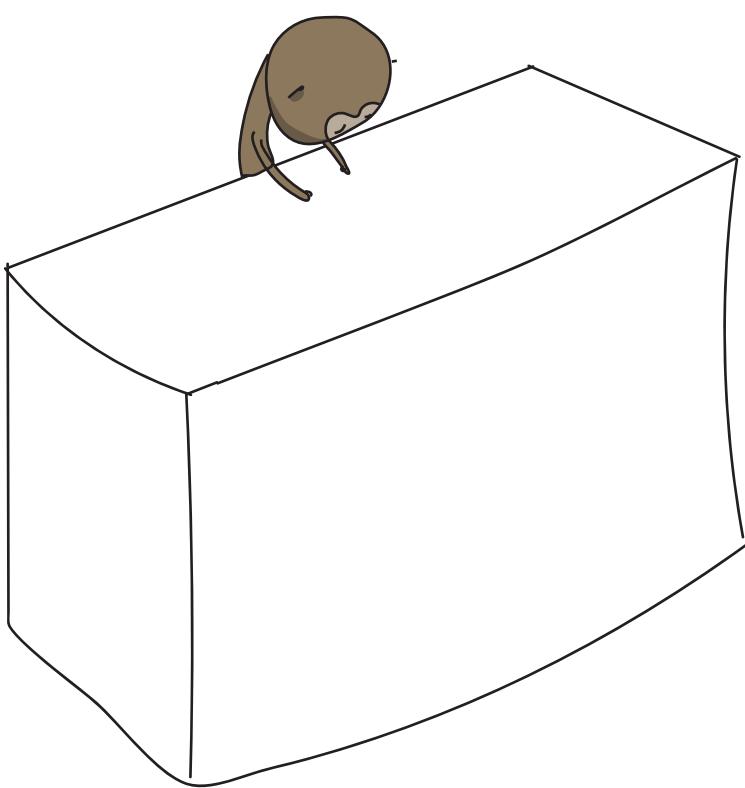


Chapter 9 - Croodus' father

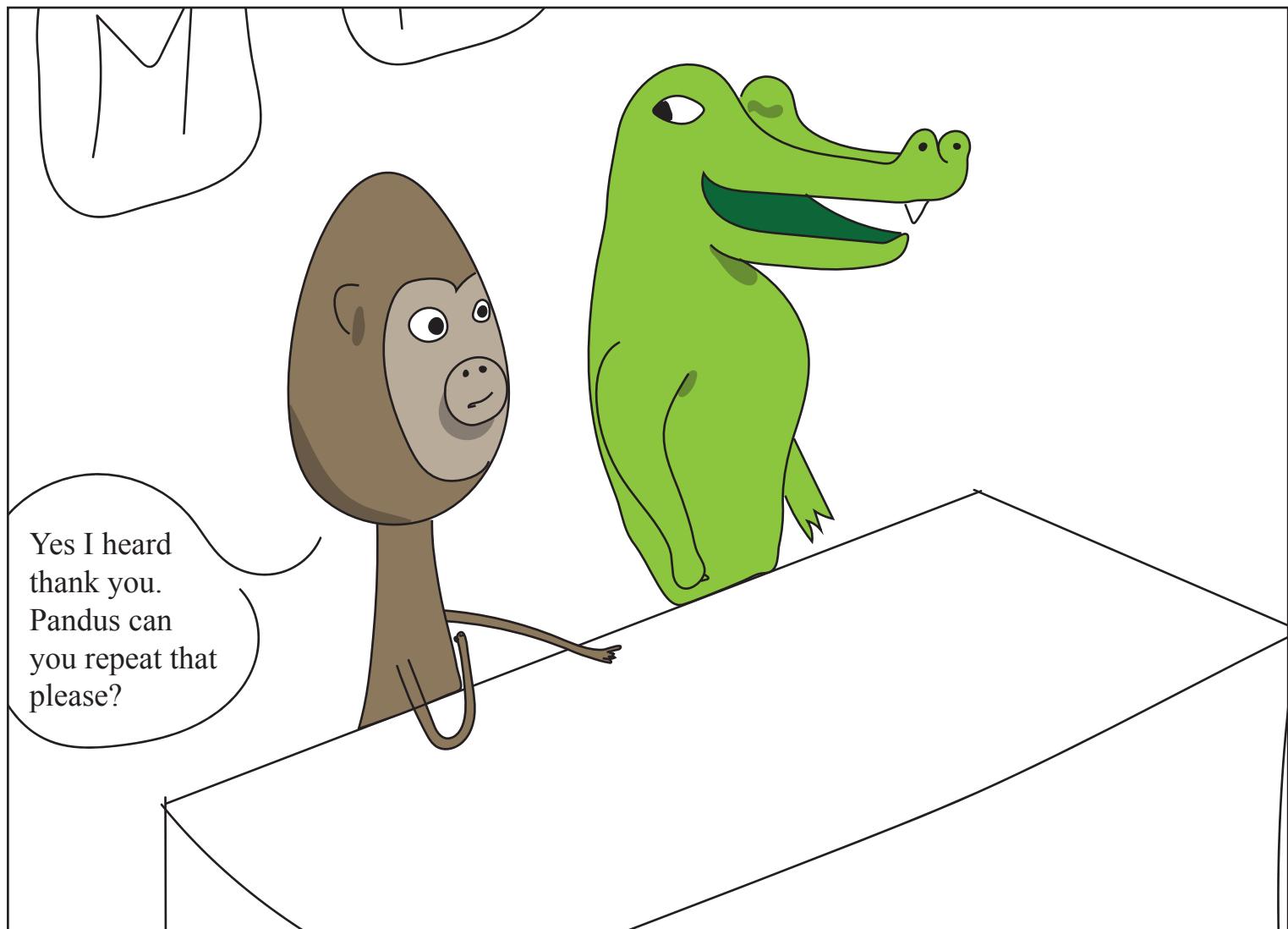
MUNDOPE

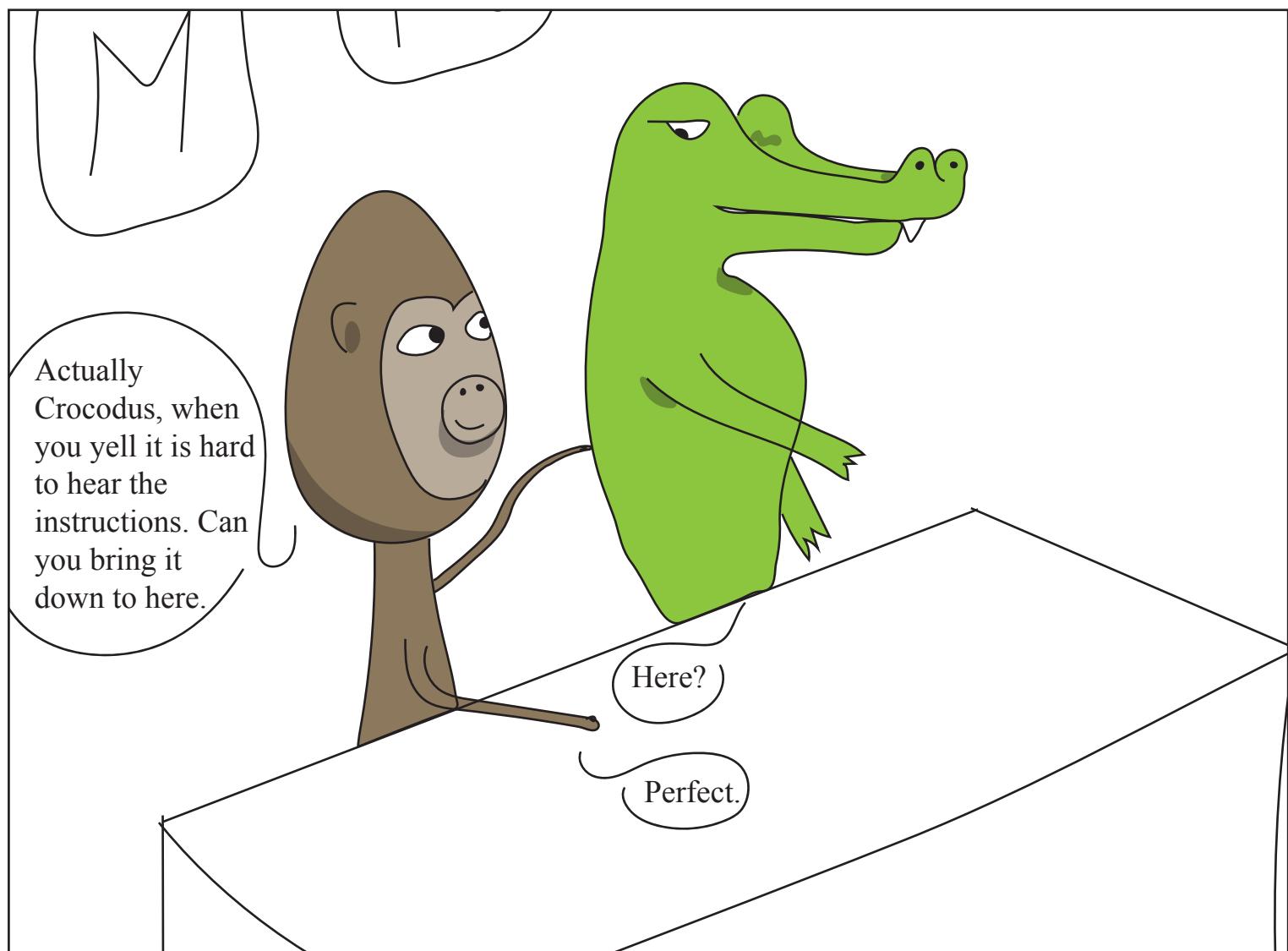


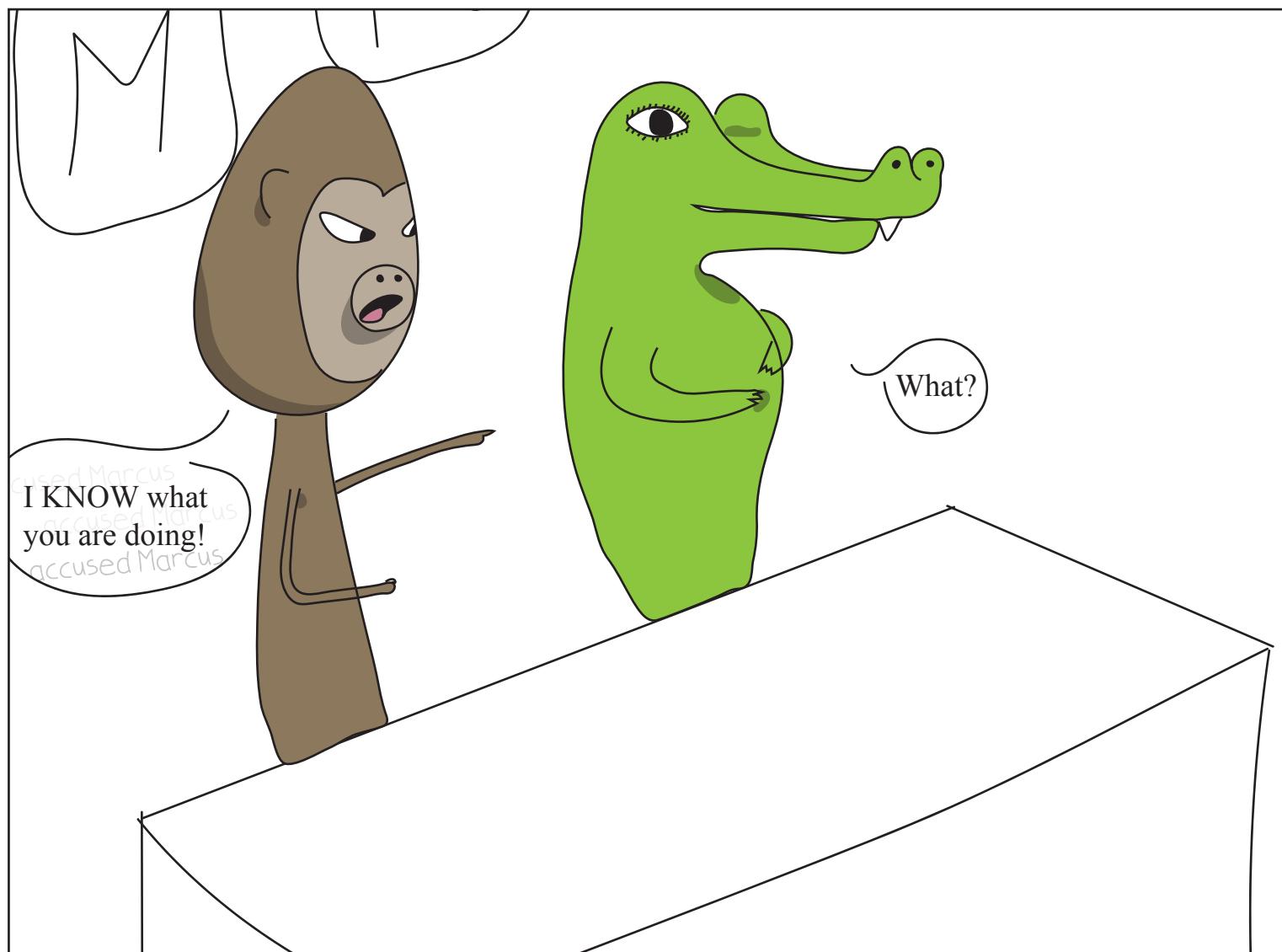
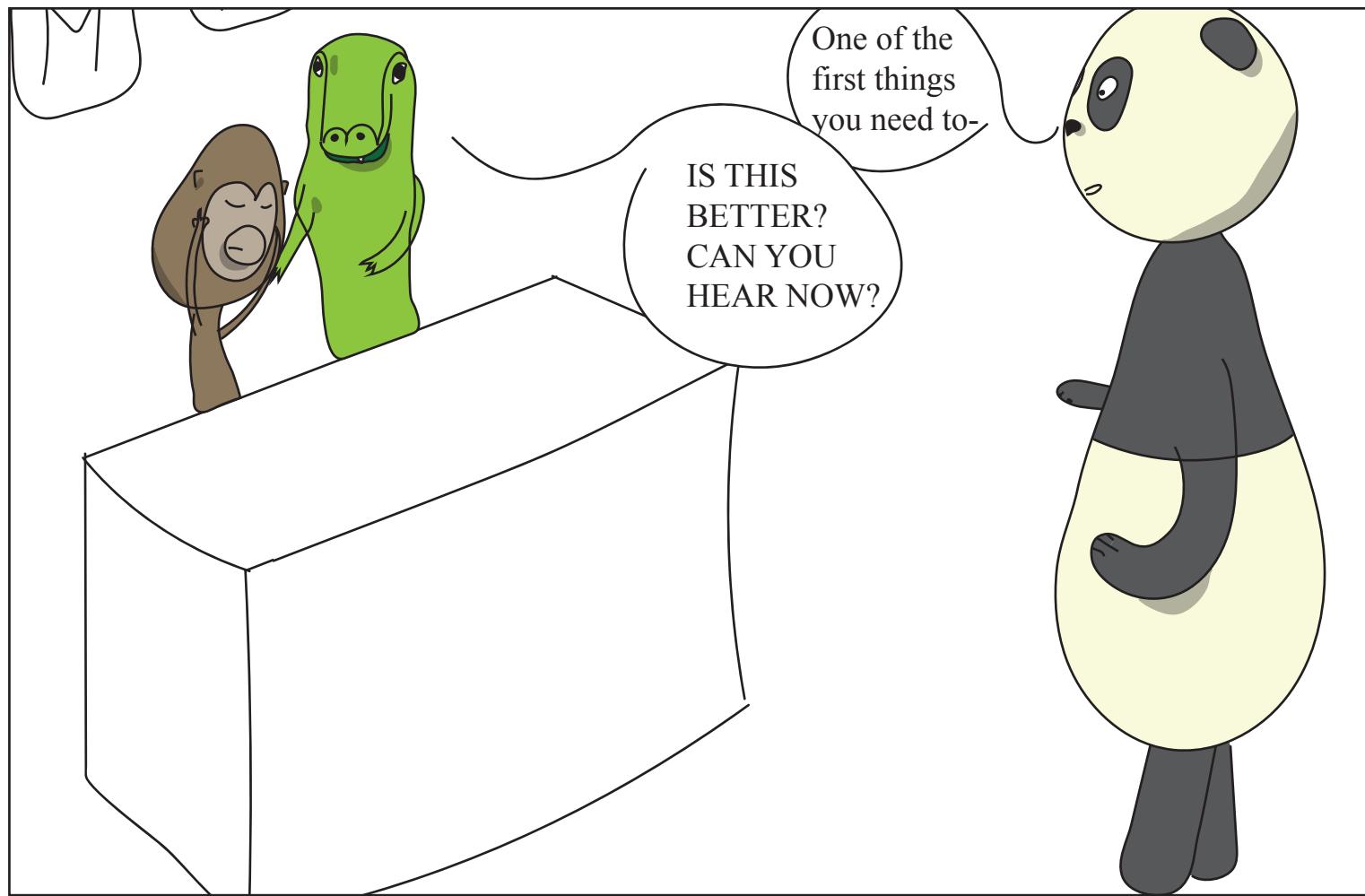
M N O P

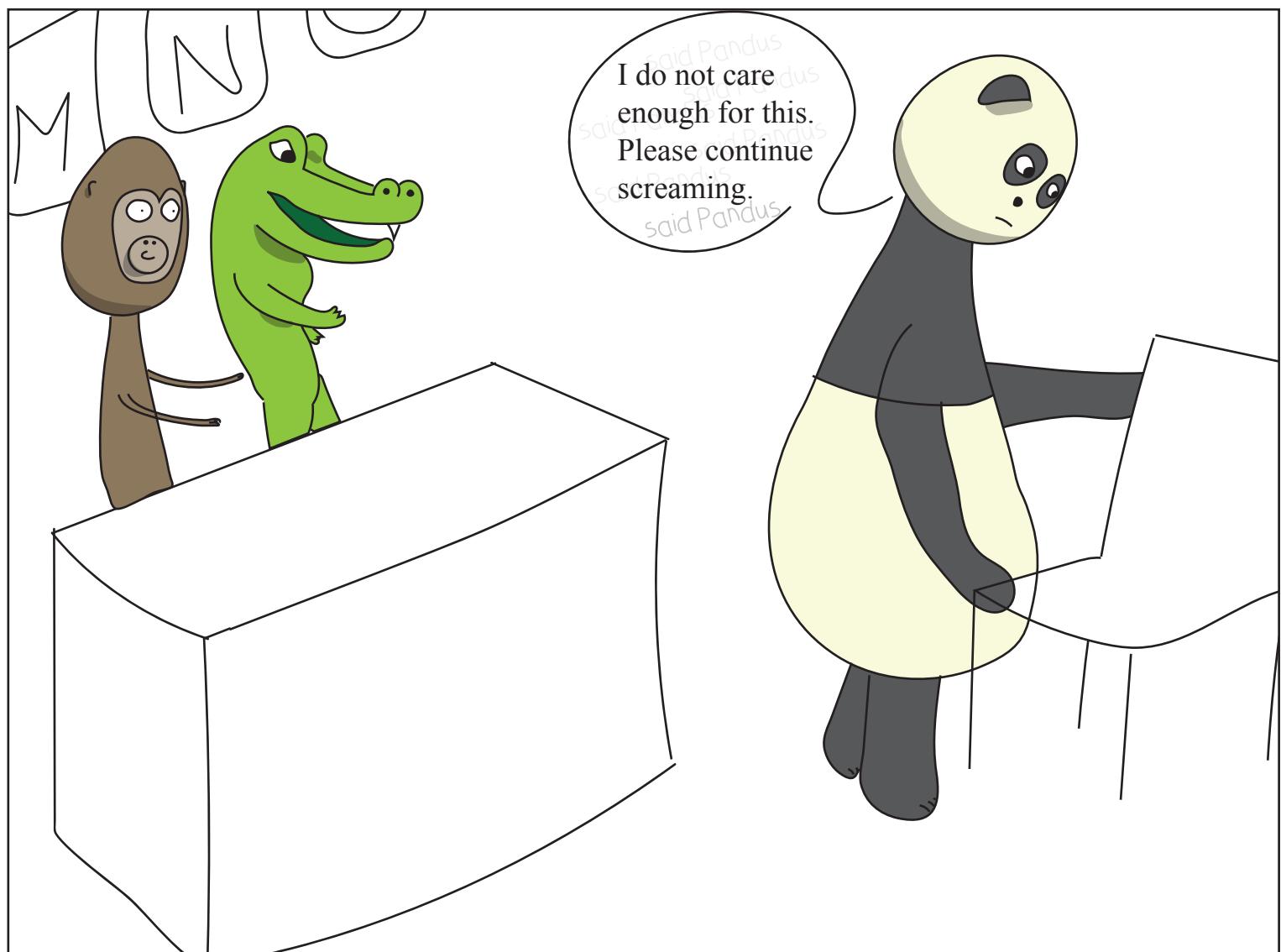
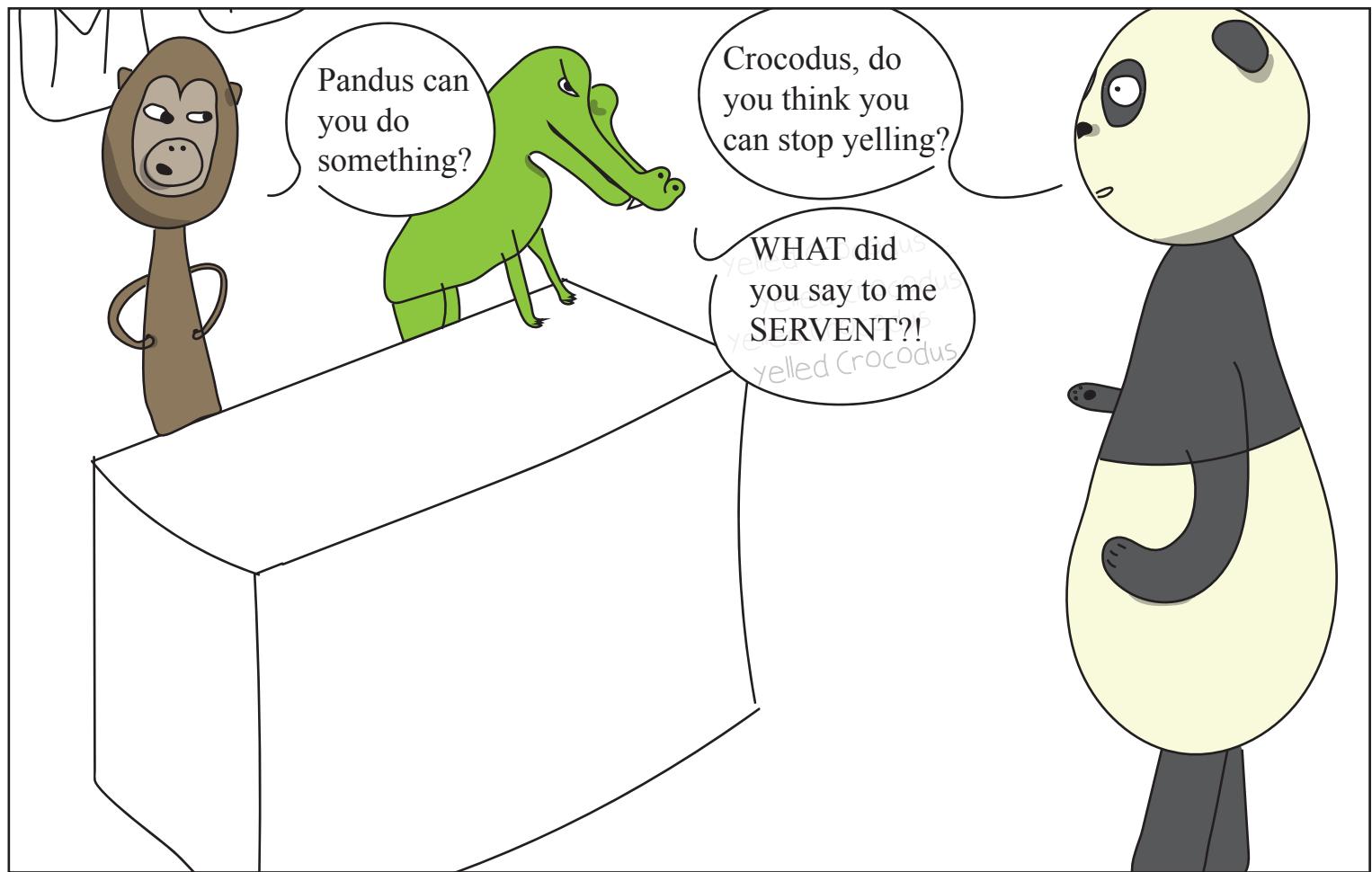


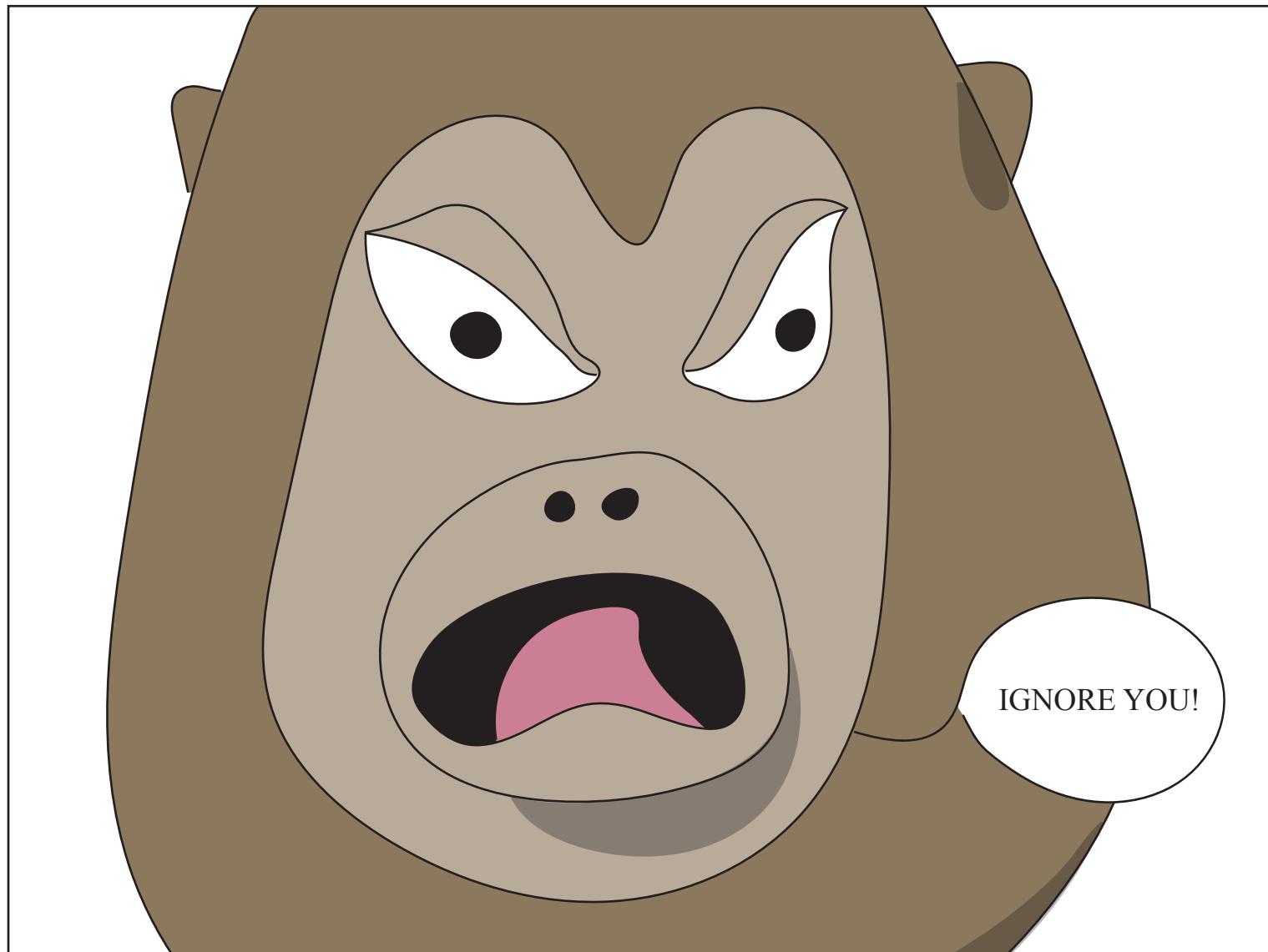
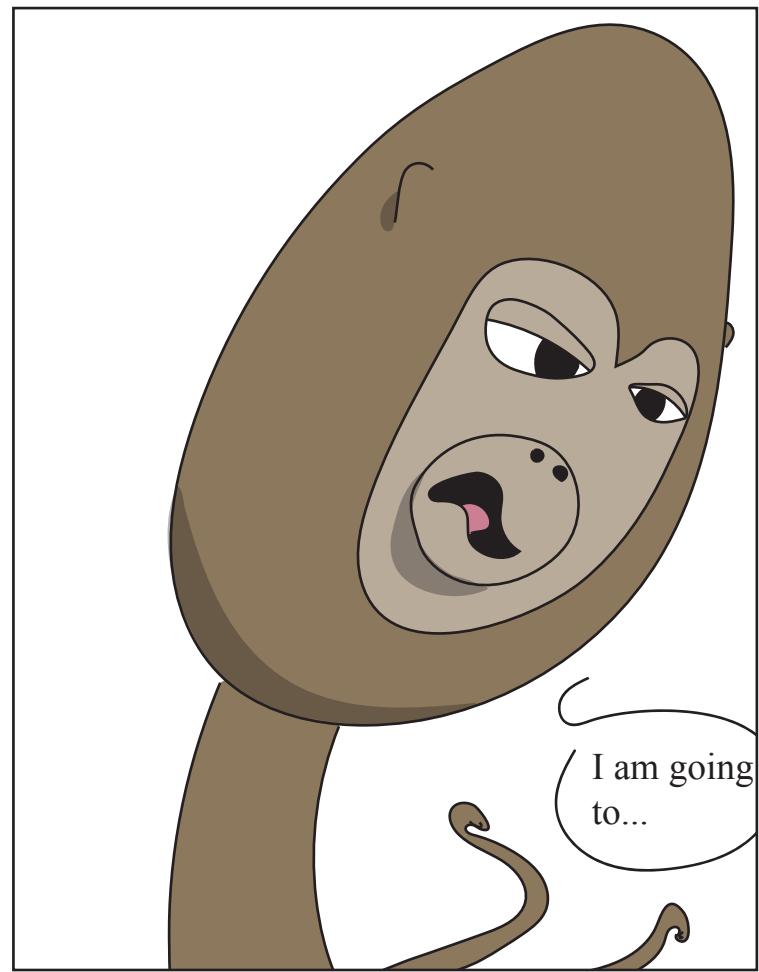
Are you ready to
learn Markey?!

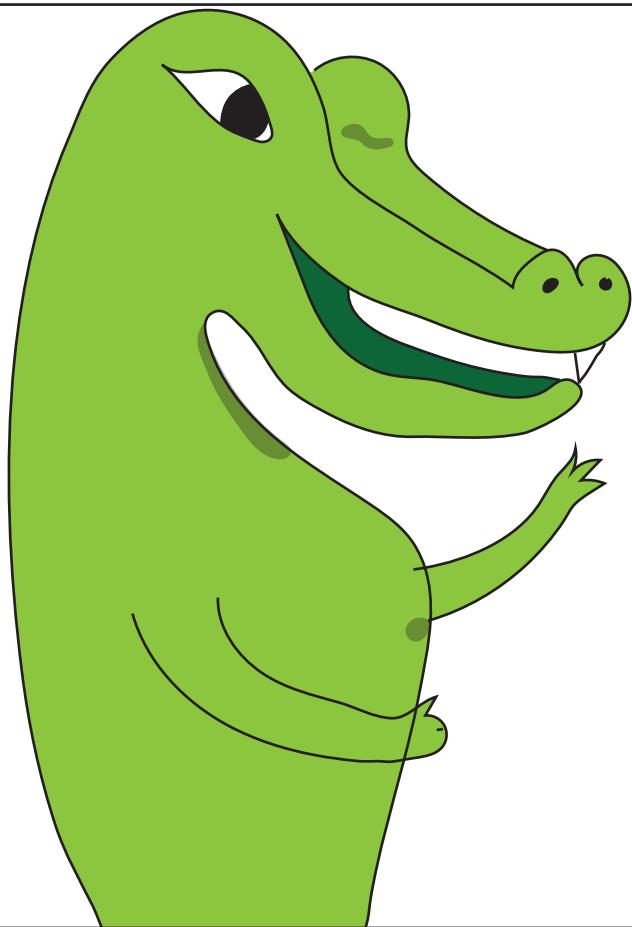












Pandus please
continue. I think we
both want to learn
something.

said Crocodus

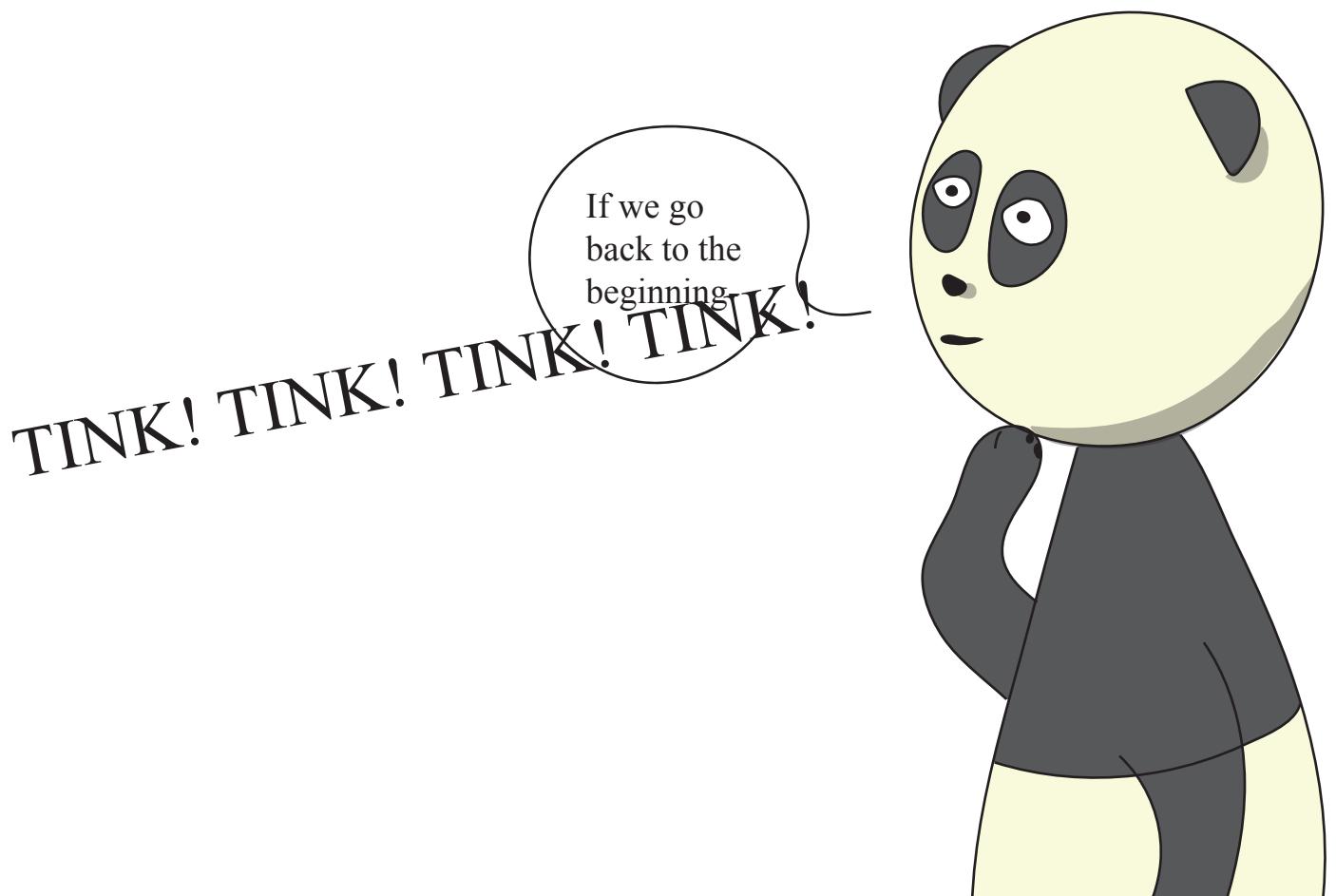


...To start with, we
will look at-

MARCUS ARE YOU
STILL LISTENING?
YOU MUST PAY
ATTENTION IF YOU
WANT TO GROW UP TO
BE A SENATOR.

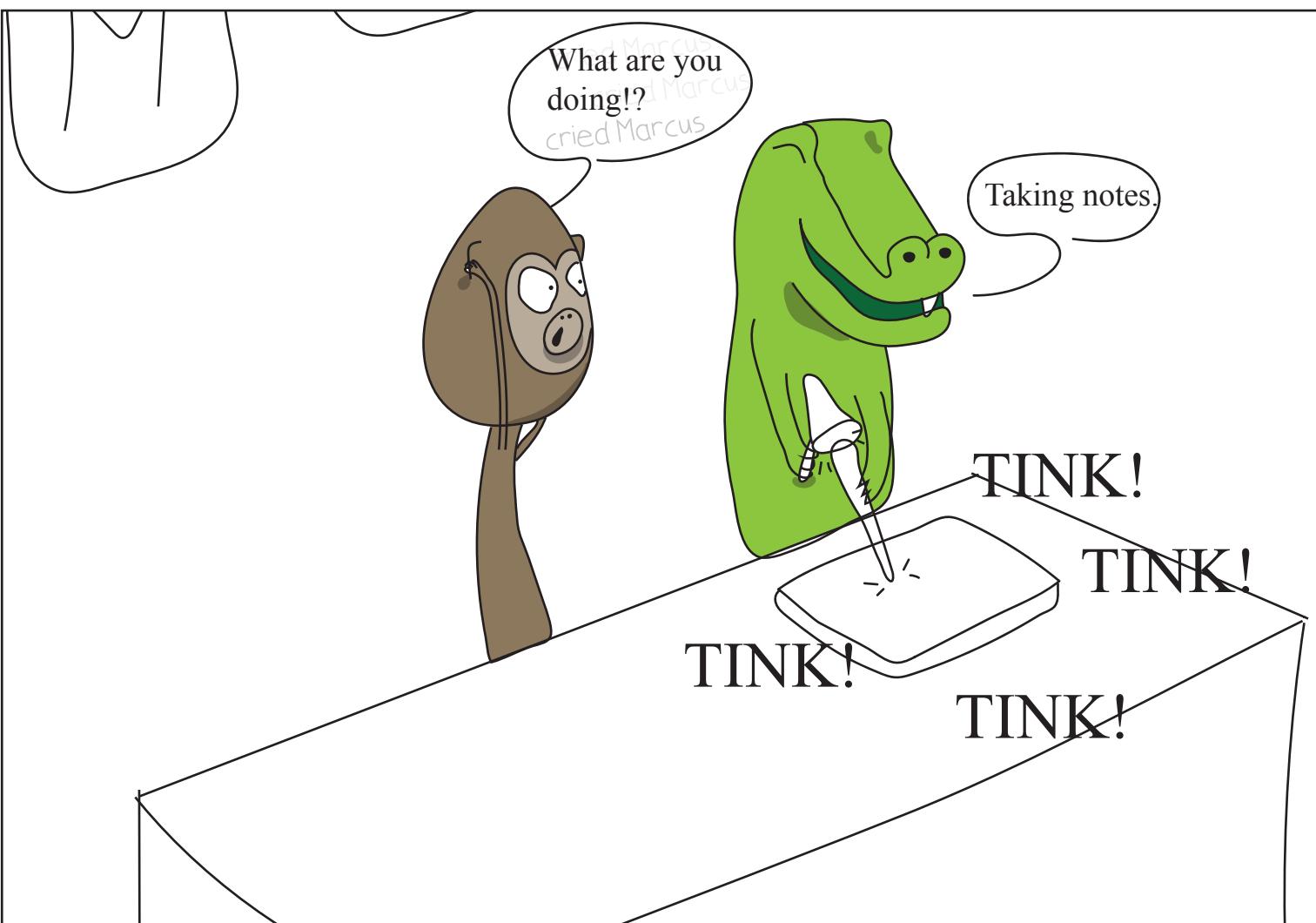
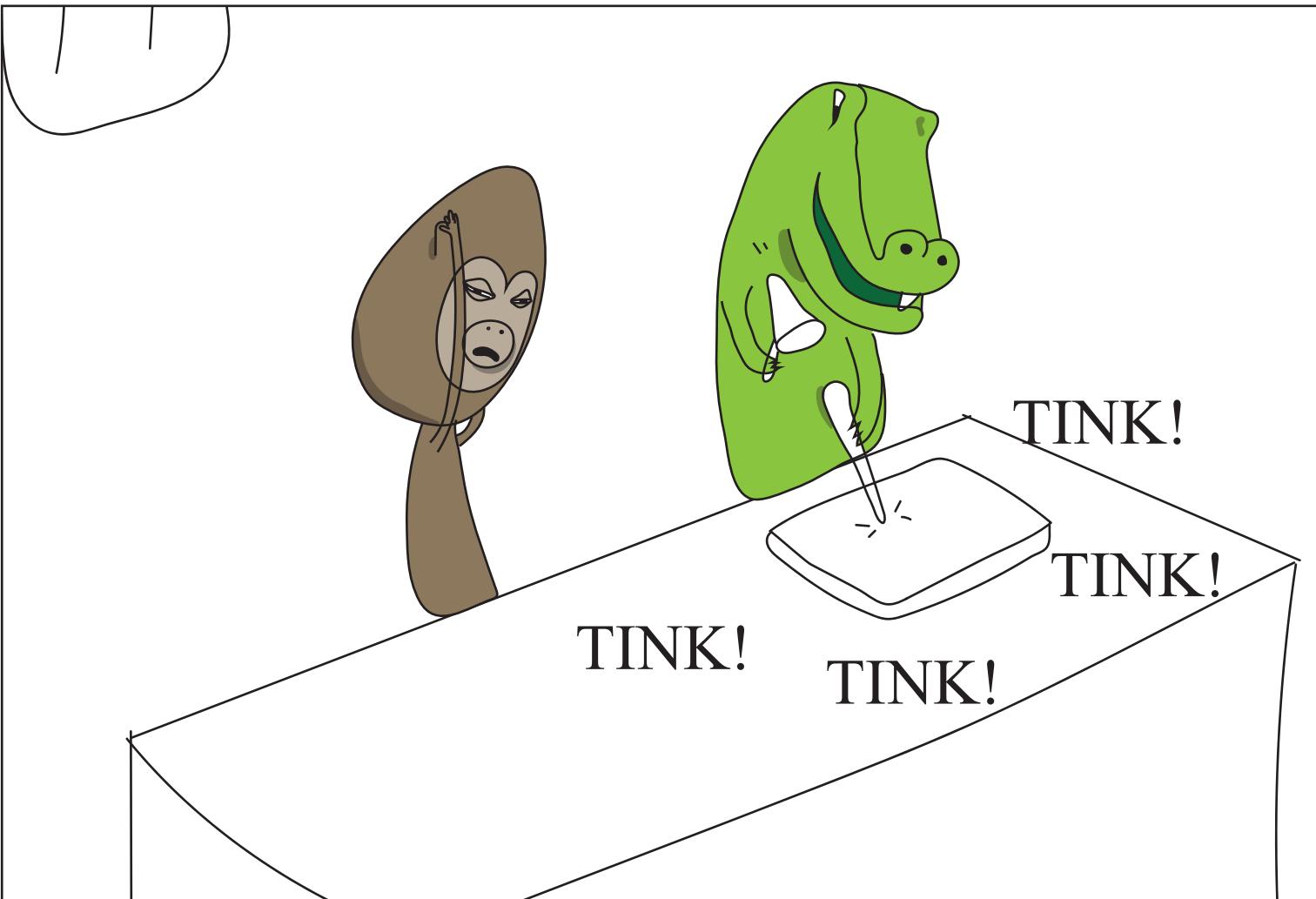


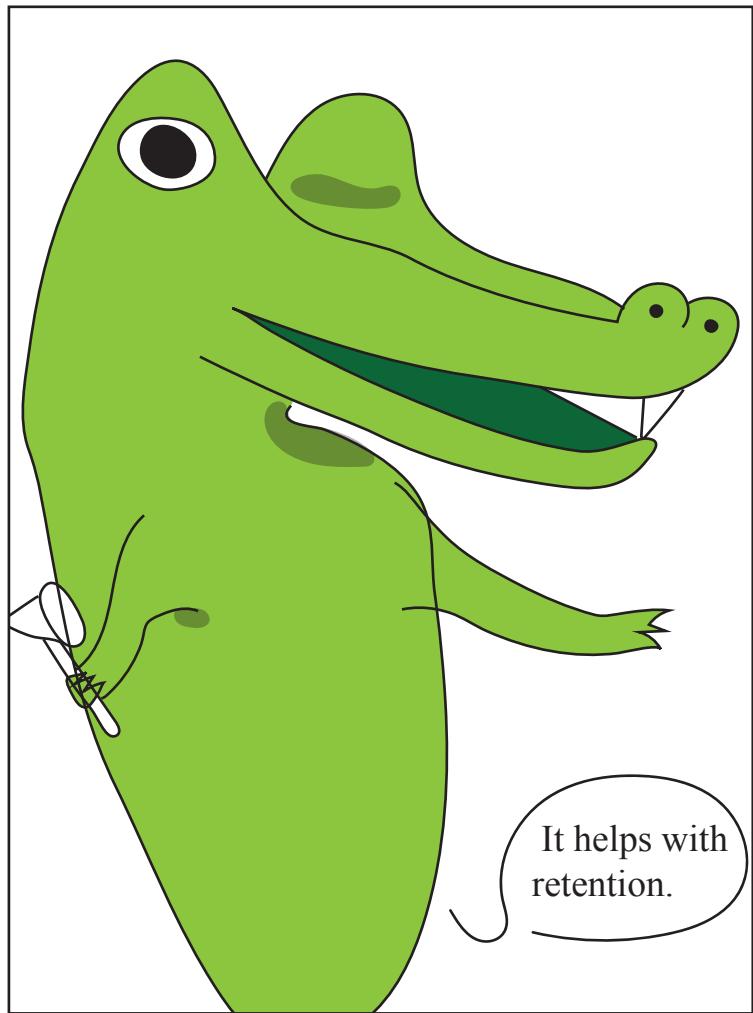
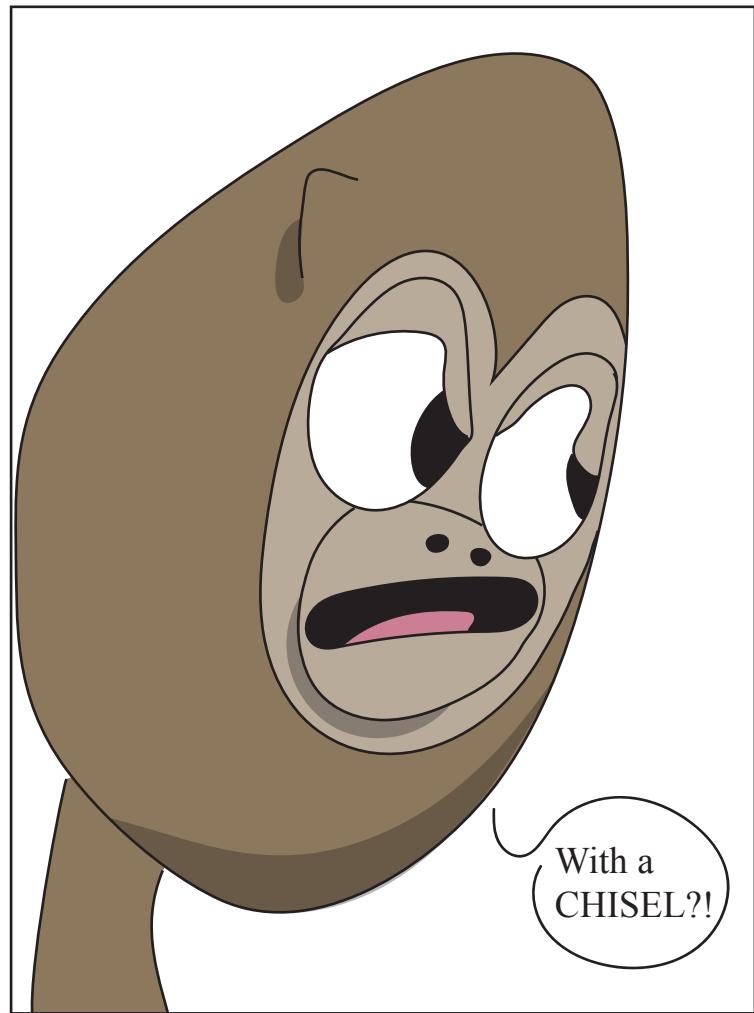
Well played, Markey.
You know my one
weakness. Ok
Pandus, now you can
really teach us.



TINK! TINK! TINK! TINK!

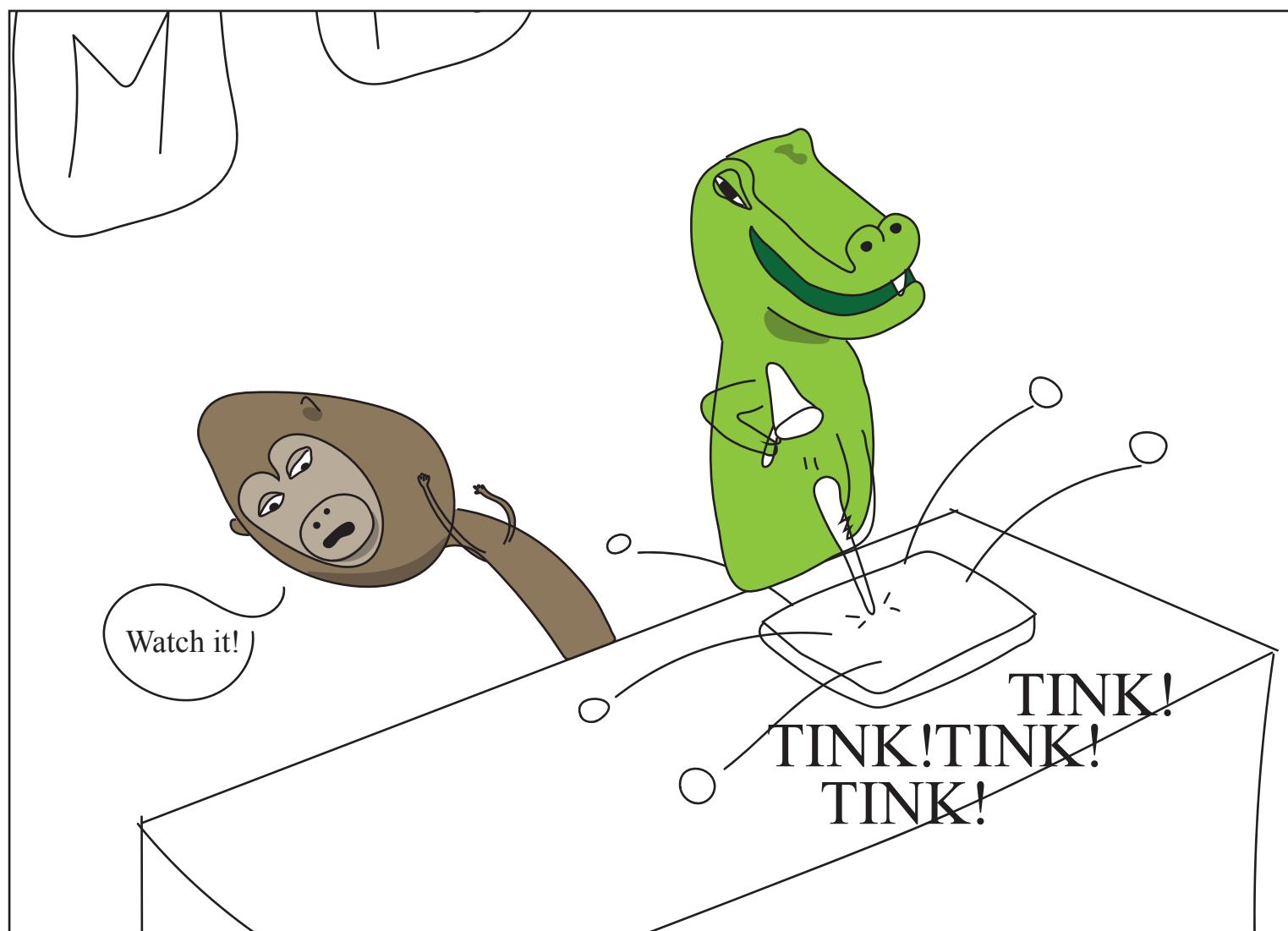
If we go
back to the
beginning





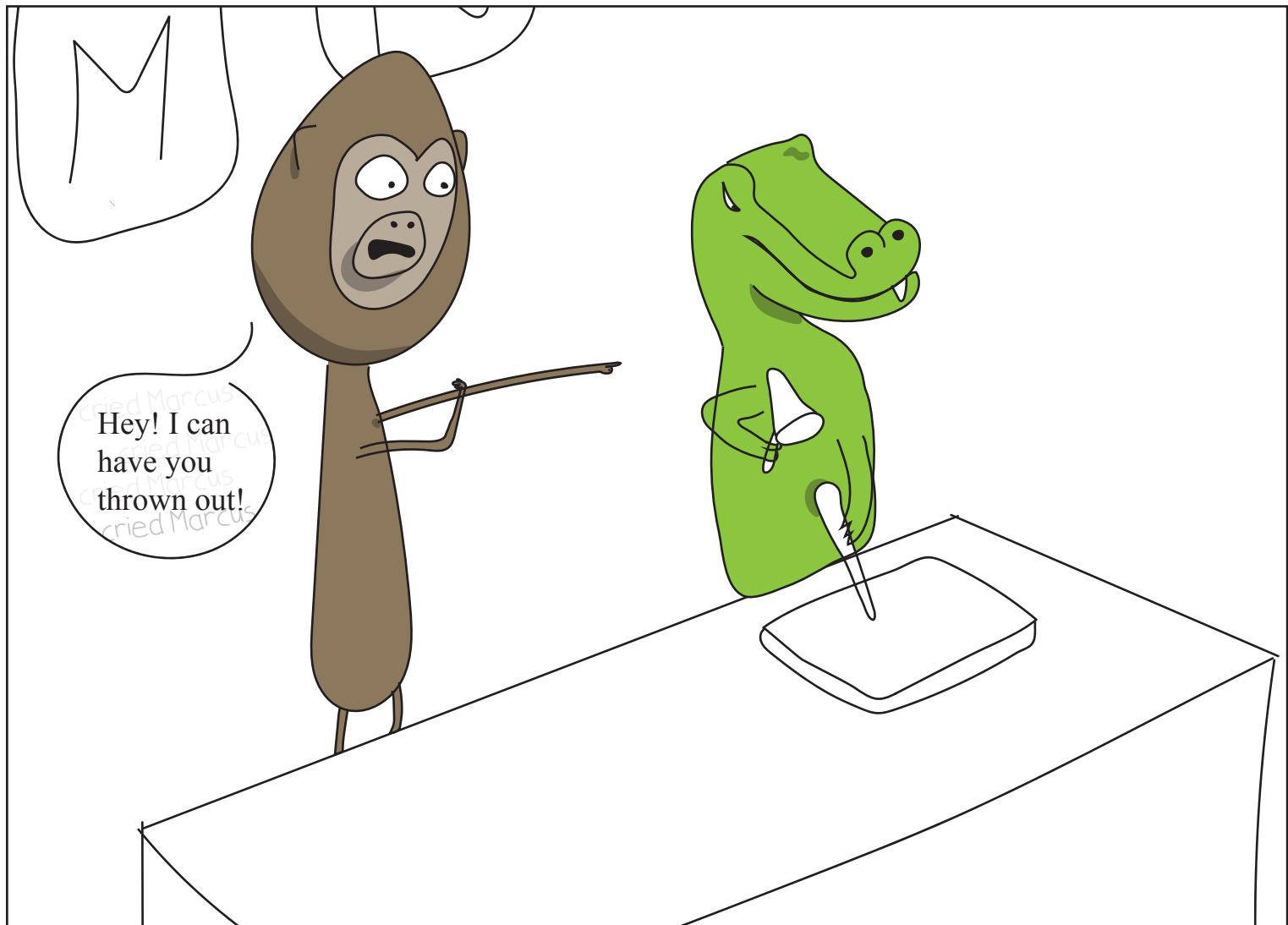
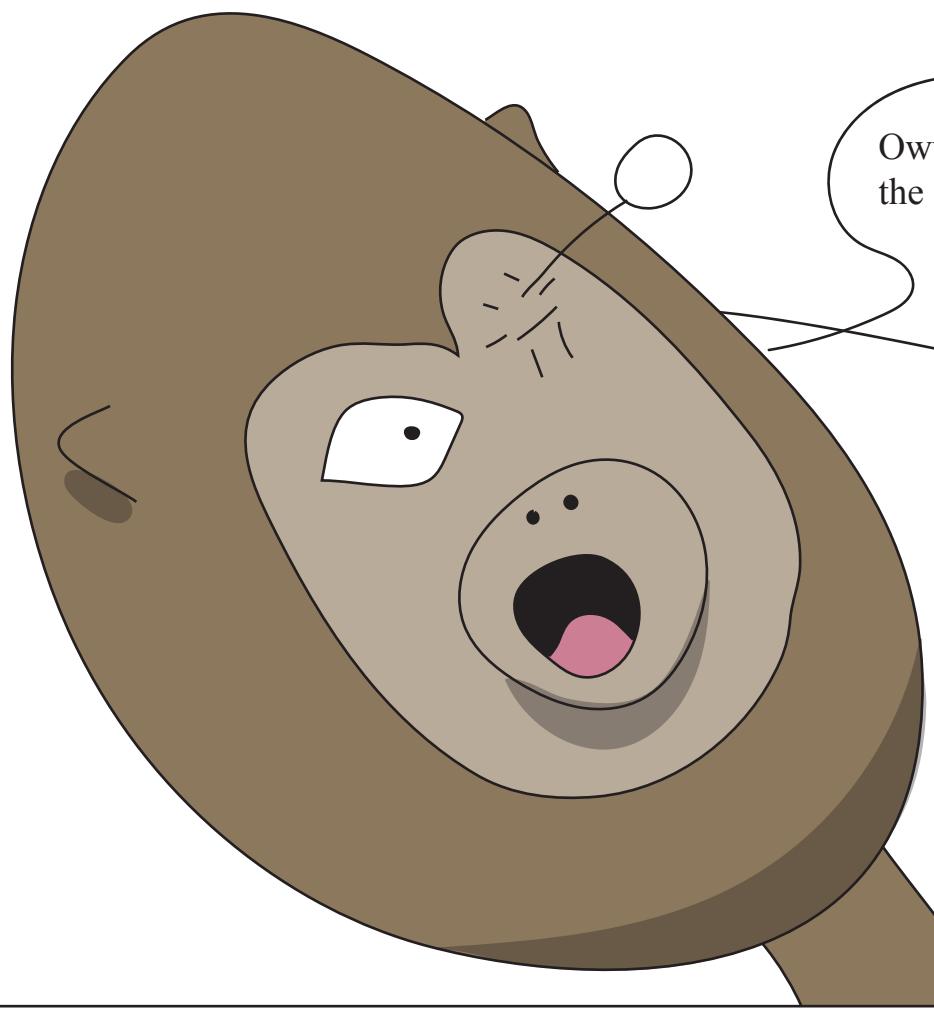
With a
CHISEL?!

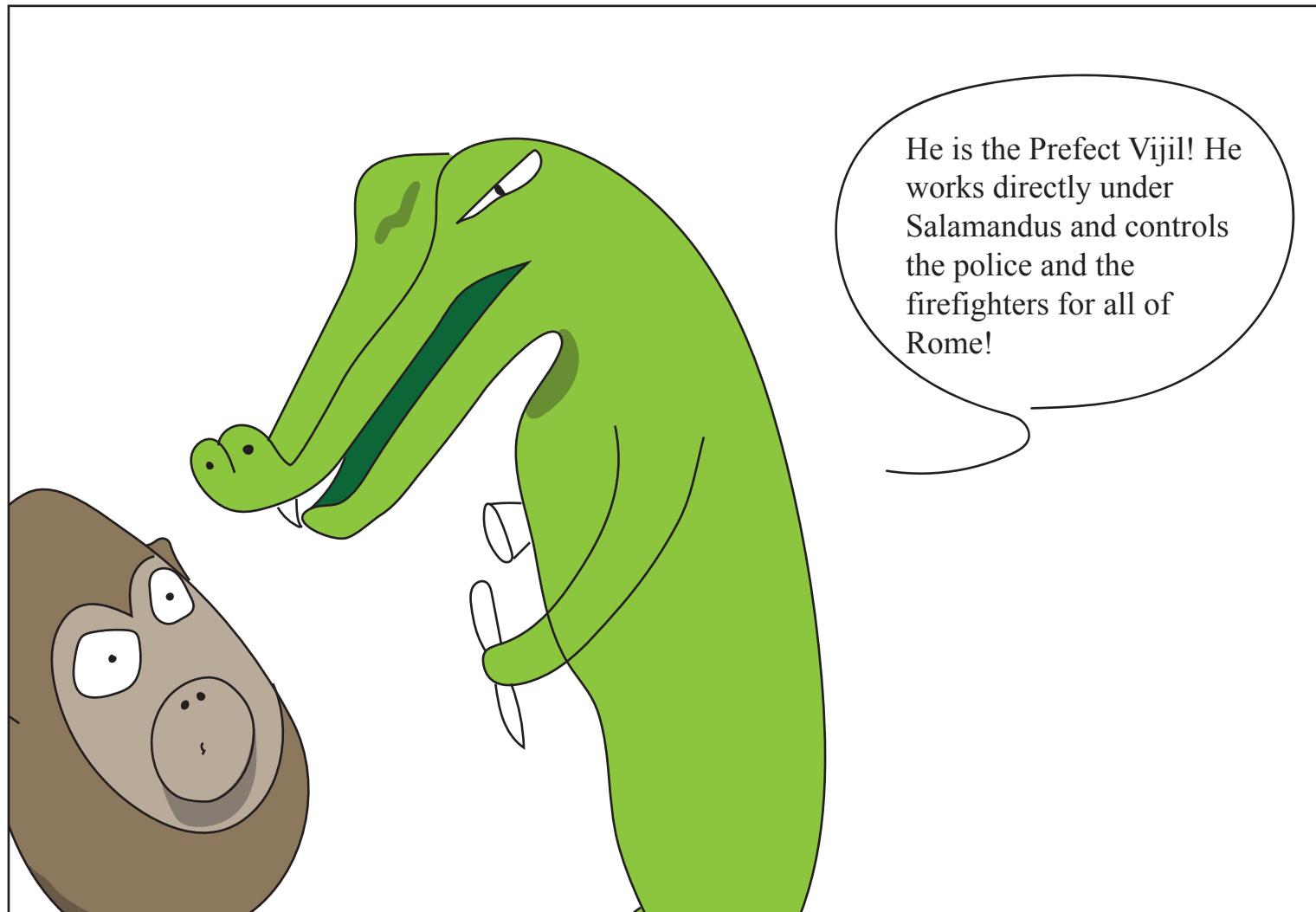
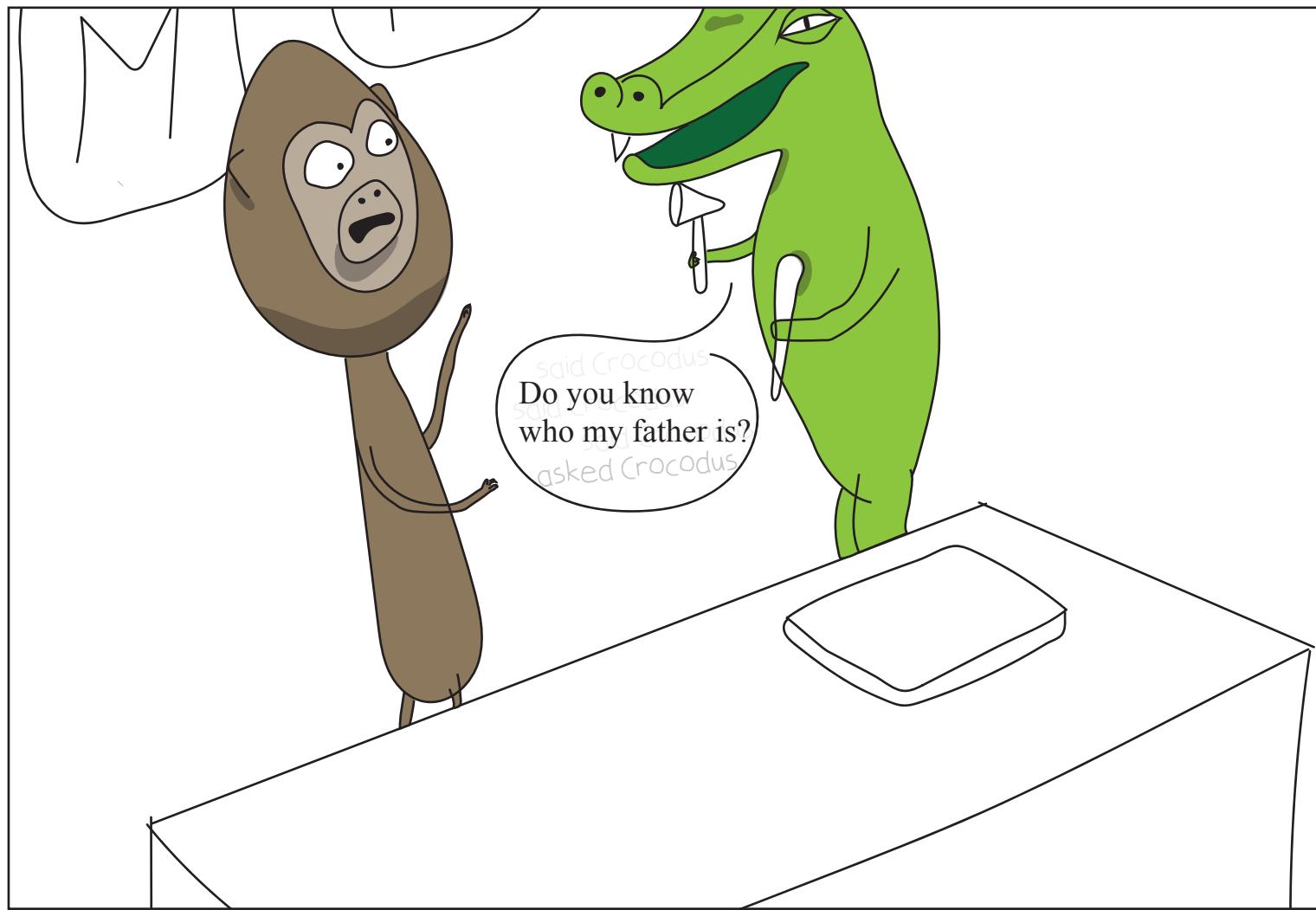
It helps with
retention.

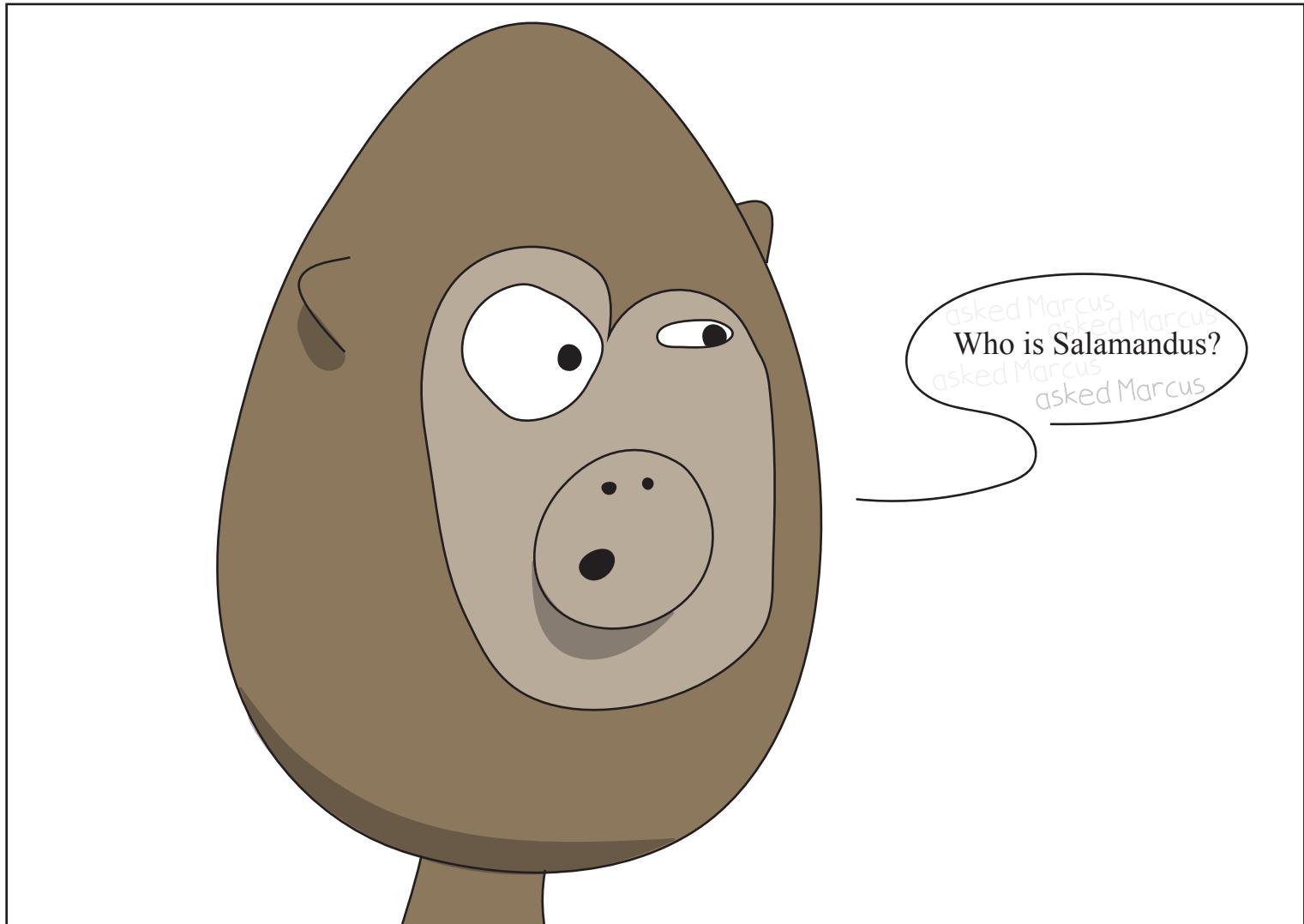
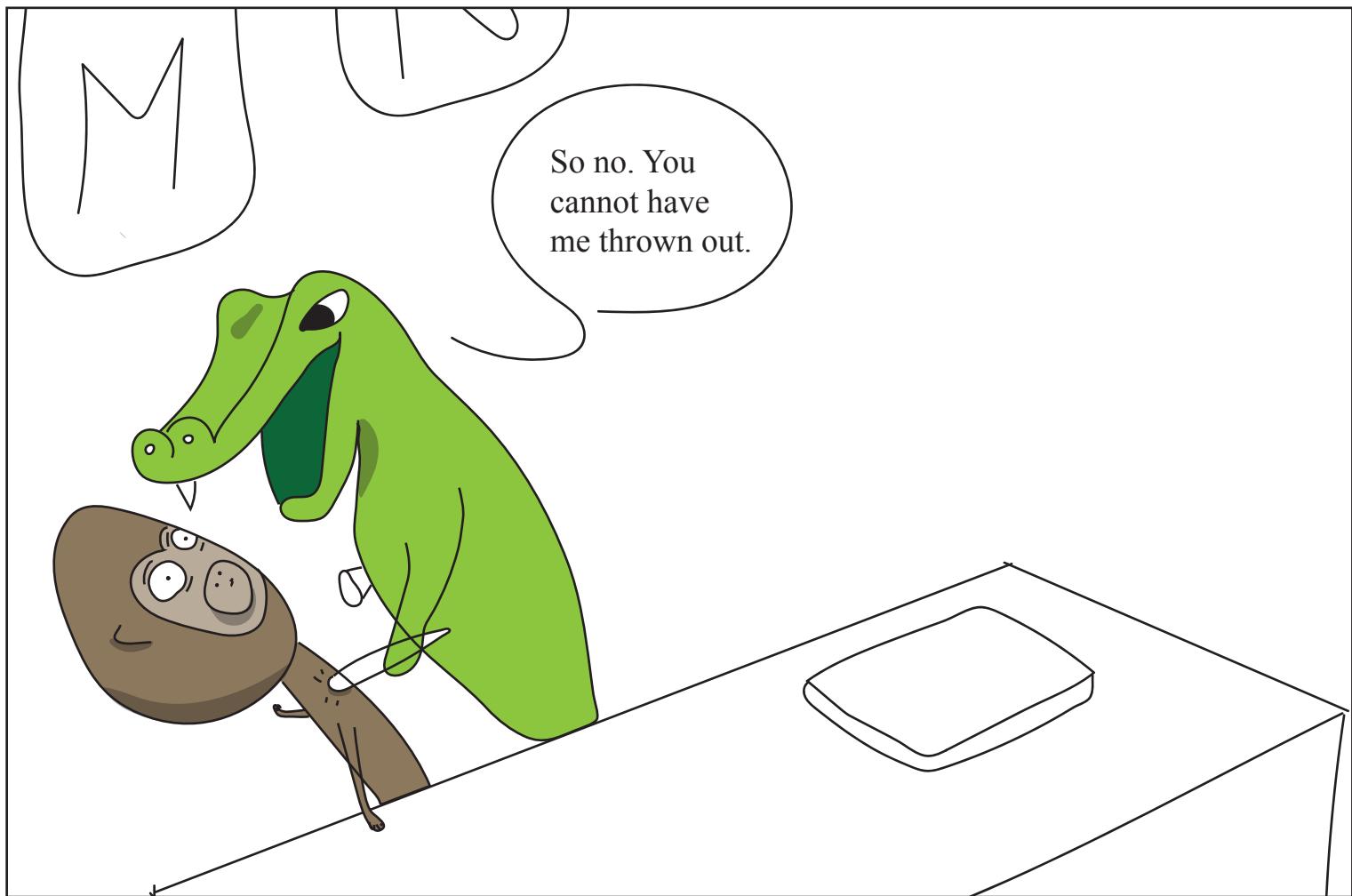


Watch it!

TINK!
TINK!
TINK!

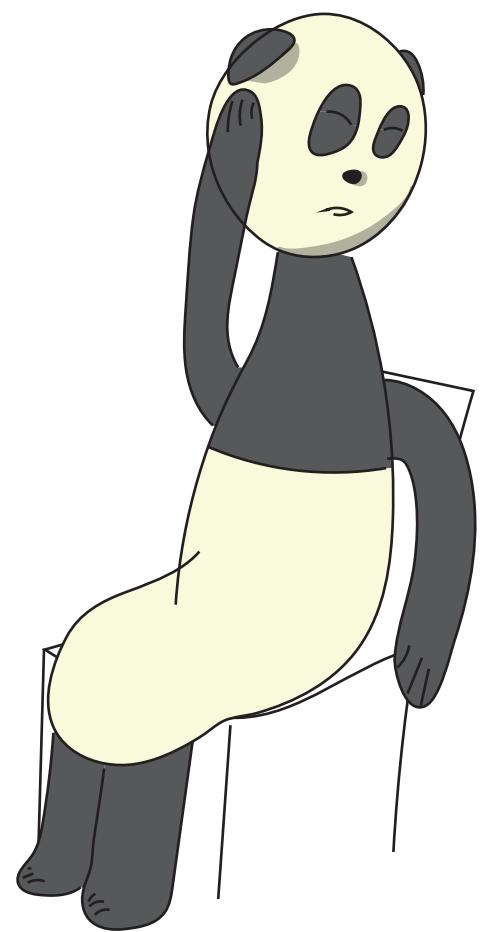




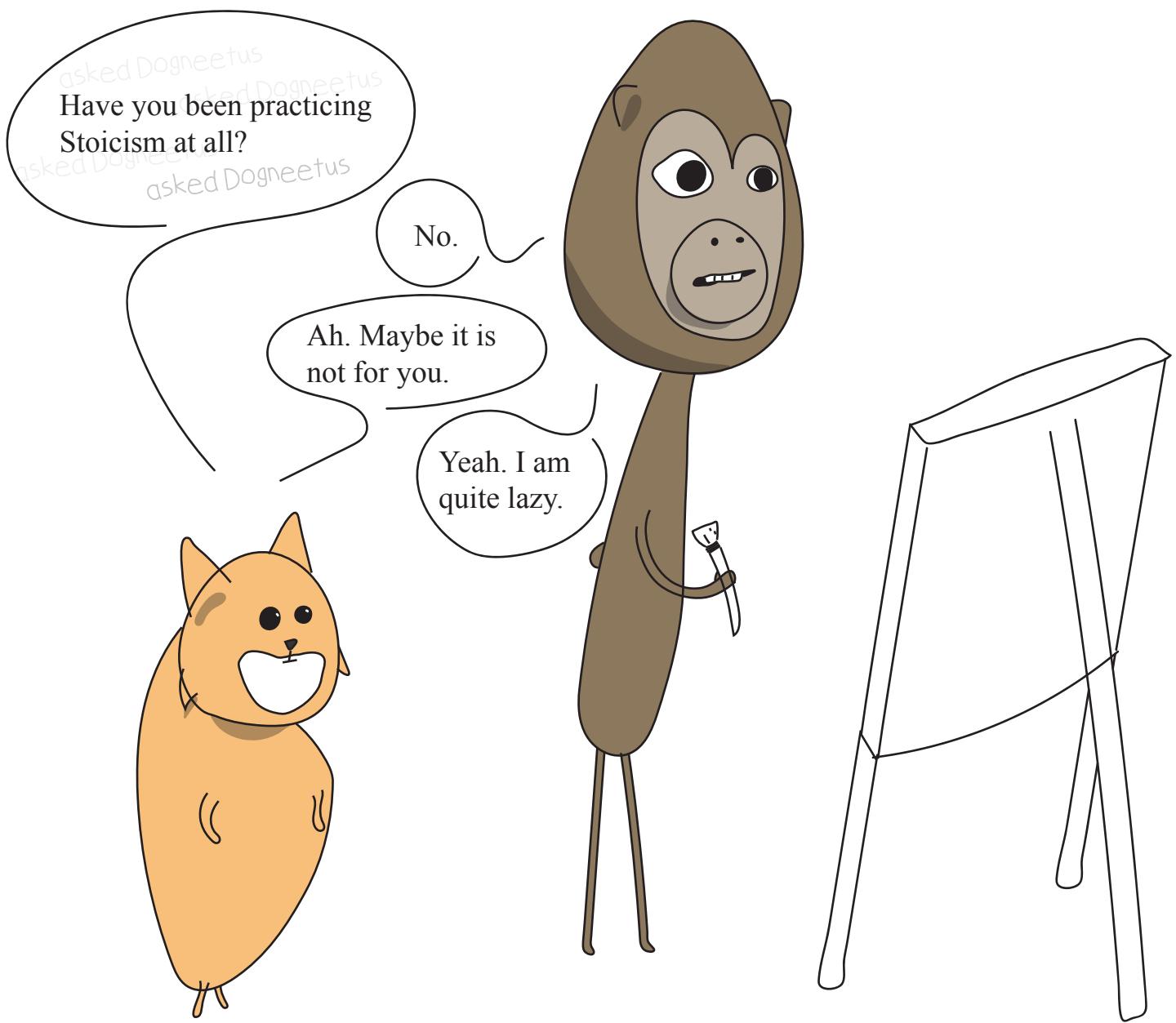


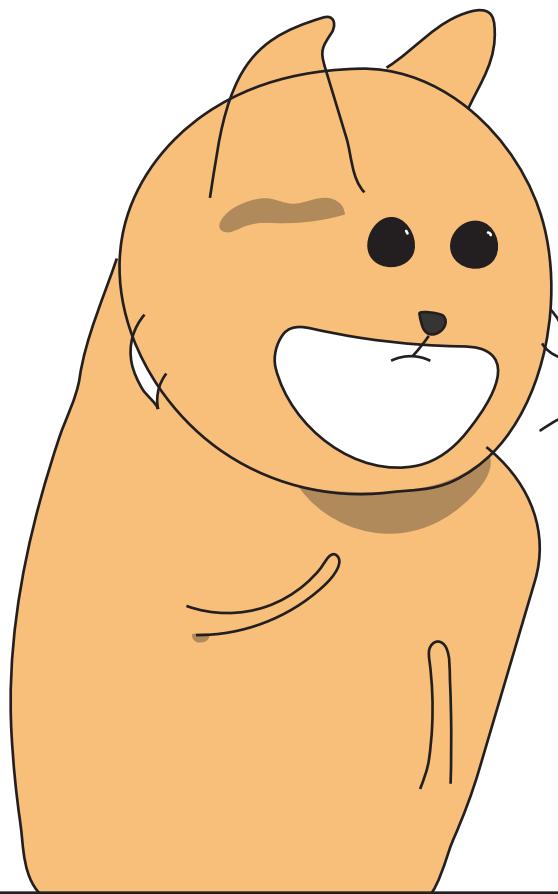
Do you mind
Markey. I am trying
to learn here.

TINK!
TINK!
TINK!

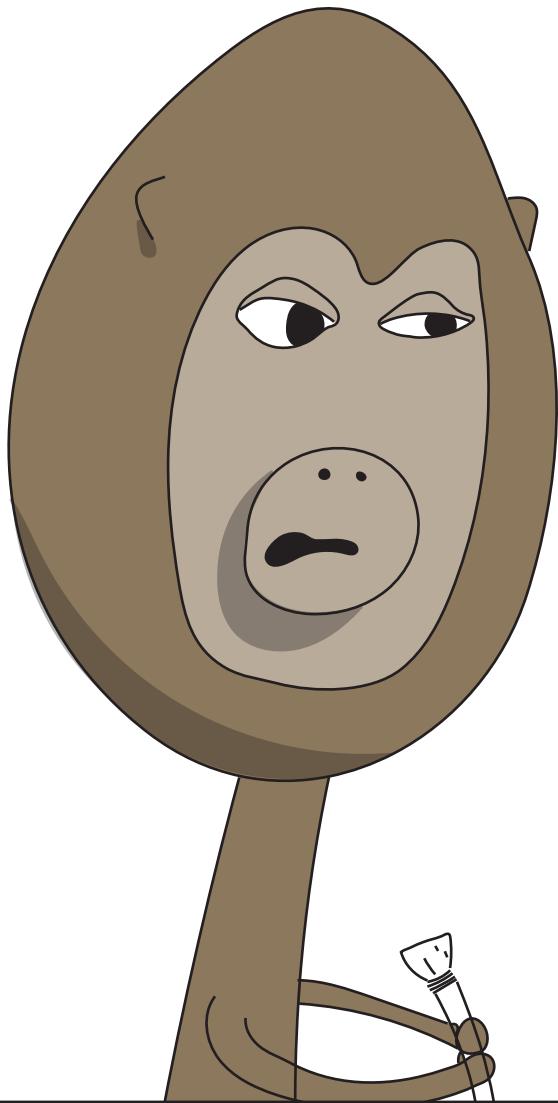


Chapter 10 - Crocodus revealed

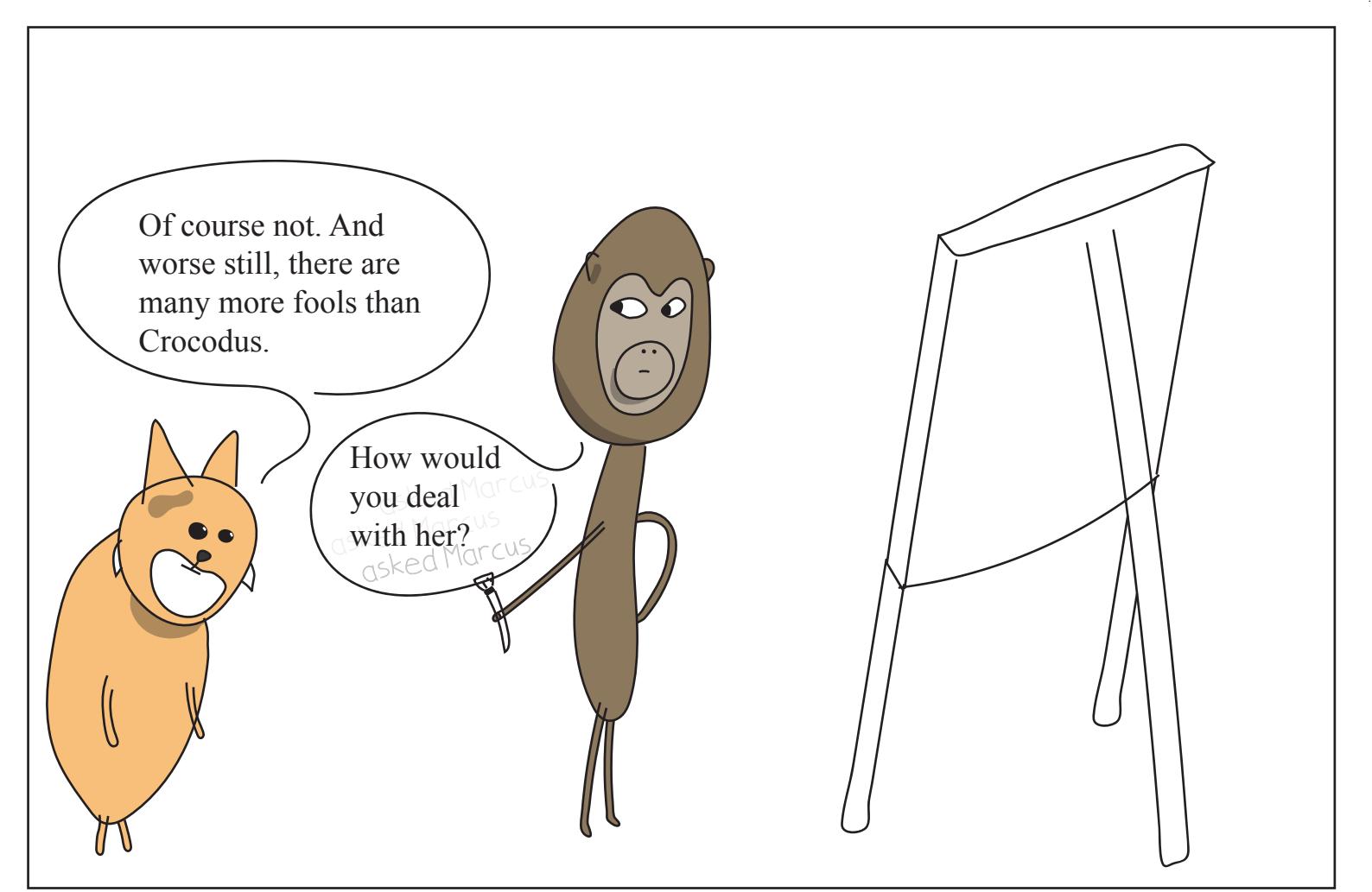




I assume Crocodus is still bothering you. Stoics have a saying for animals like her:
Do not be offended by an idiot.



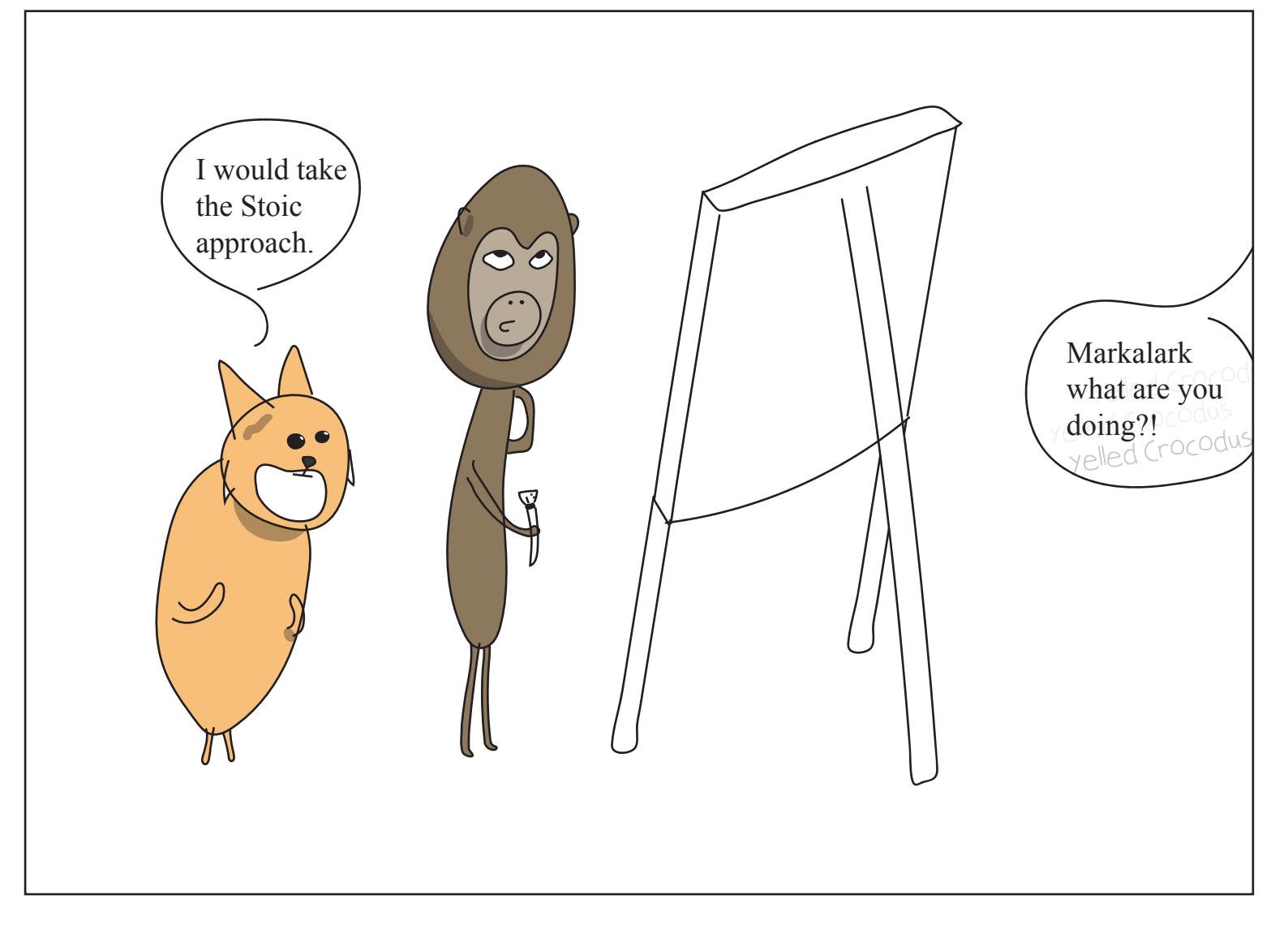
It is not easy to not be offended by someone so unpleasant.



Of course not. And worse still, there are many more fools than Crocodus.

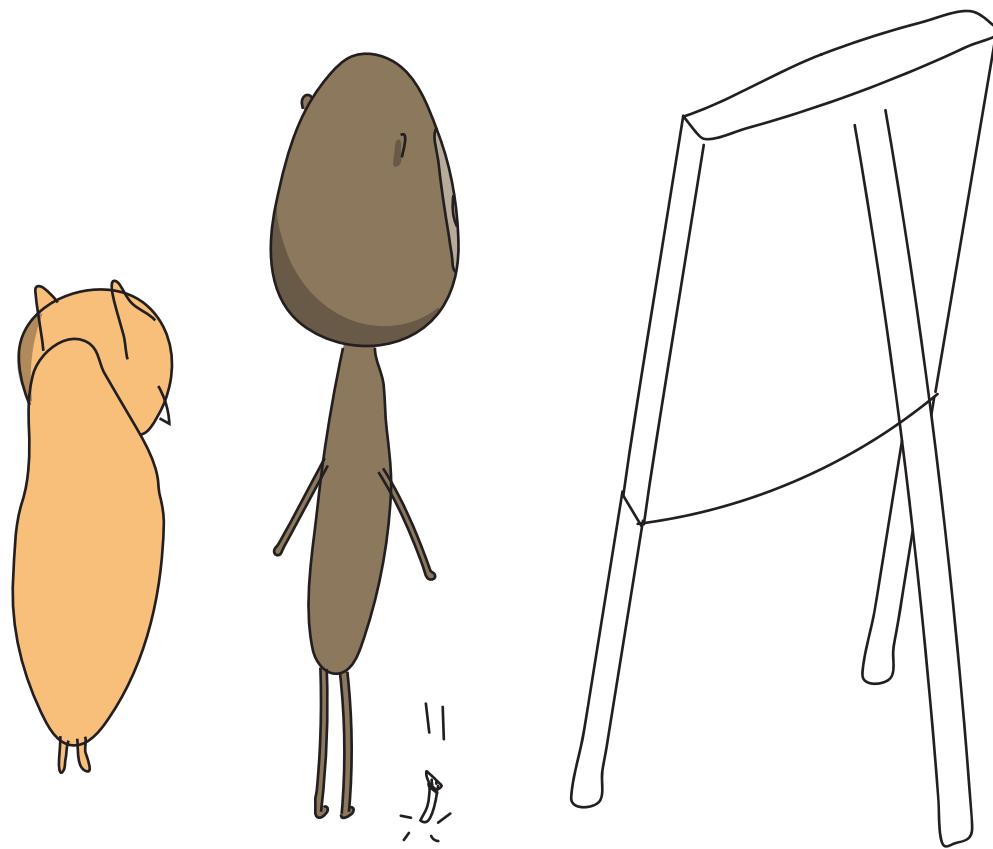
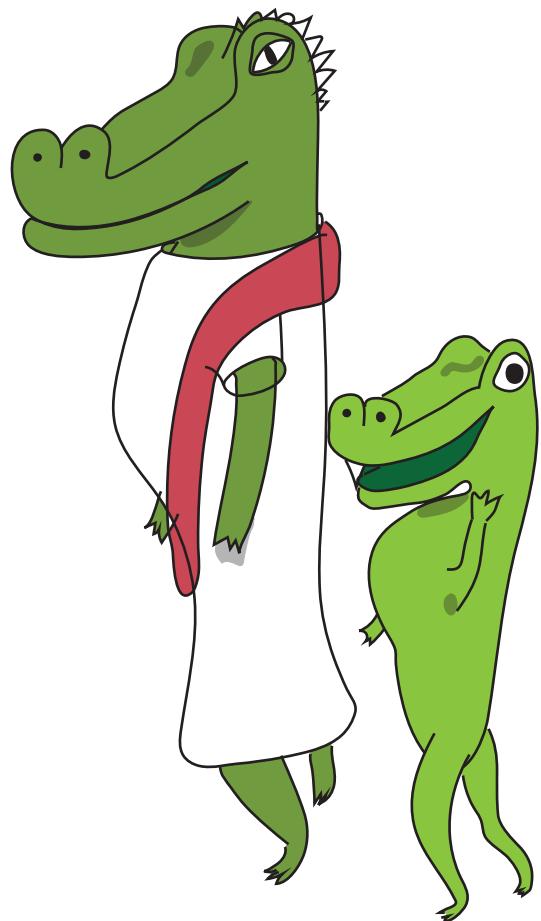
How would
you deal
with her?

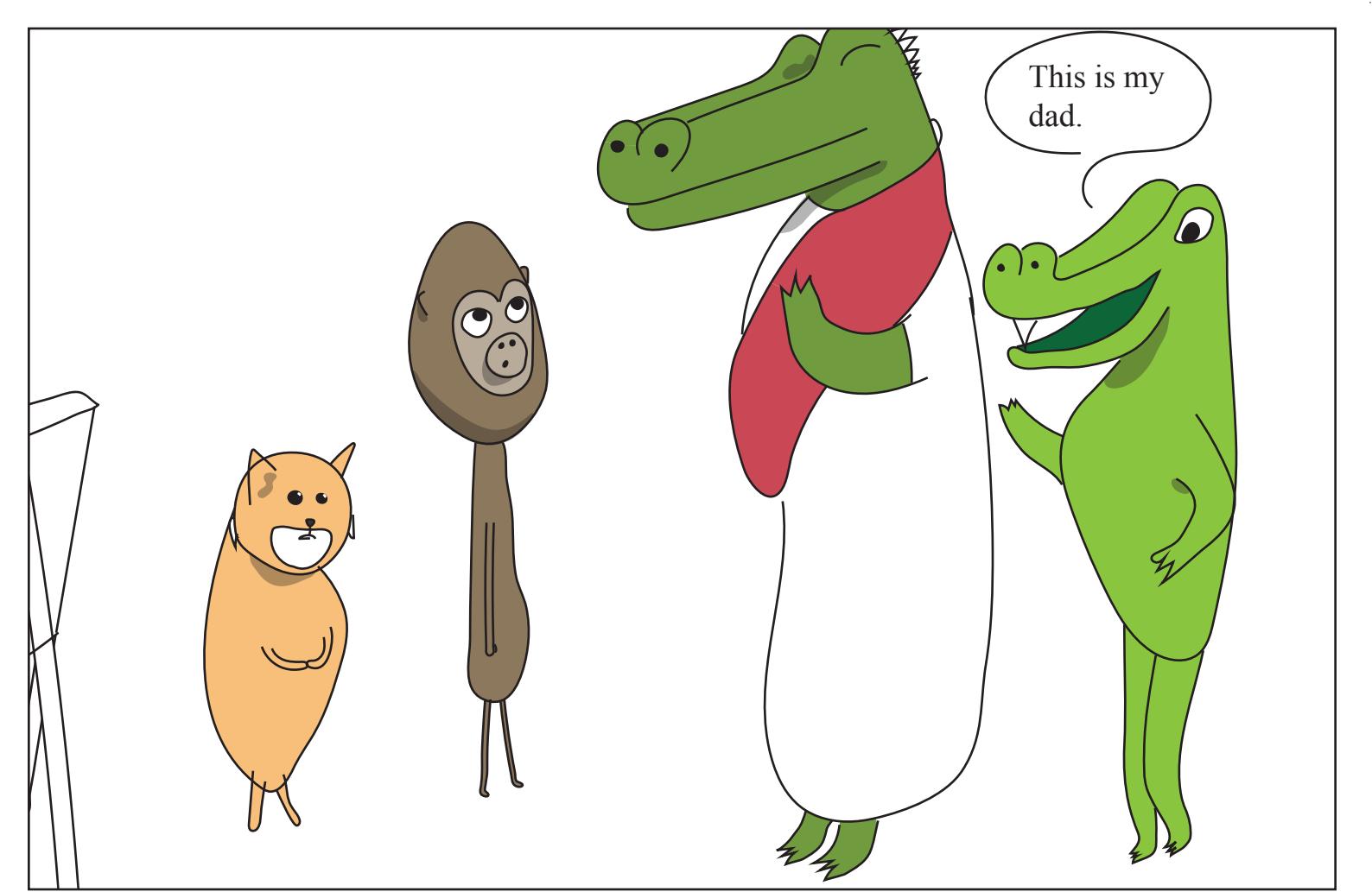
asked Marcus



I would take
the Stoic
approach.

Markalark
what are you
doing?!
yelled Crocodus

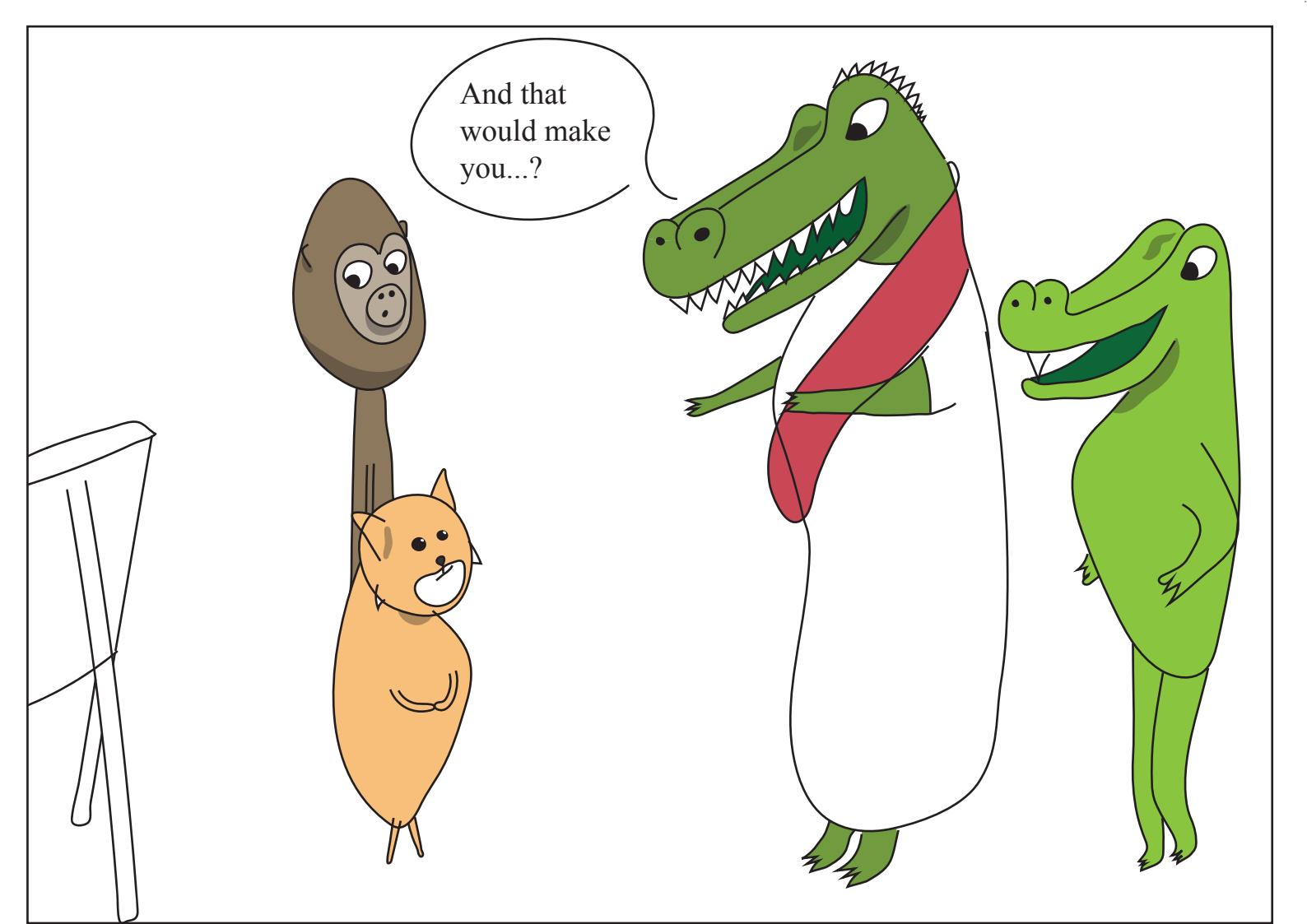




This is my dad.



Call me Saltus.
Your father has
told me all about
you Marcus.



And that
would make
you...?

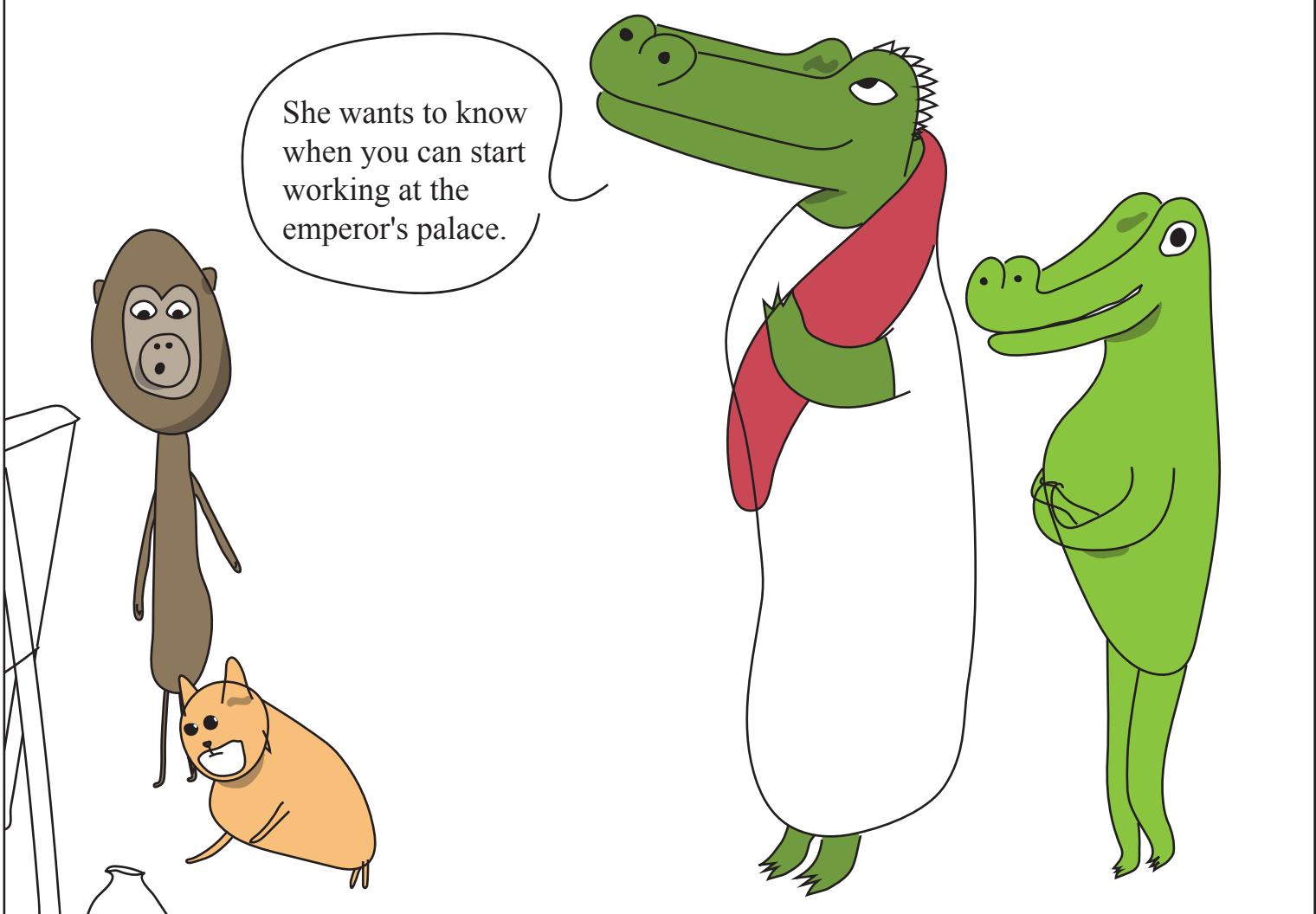
said Crocodus.
Poop face.
said Crocodus.

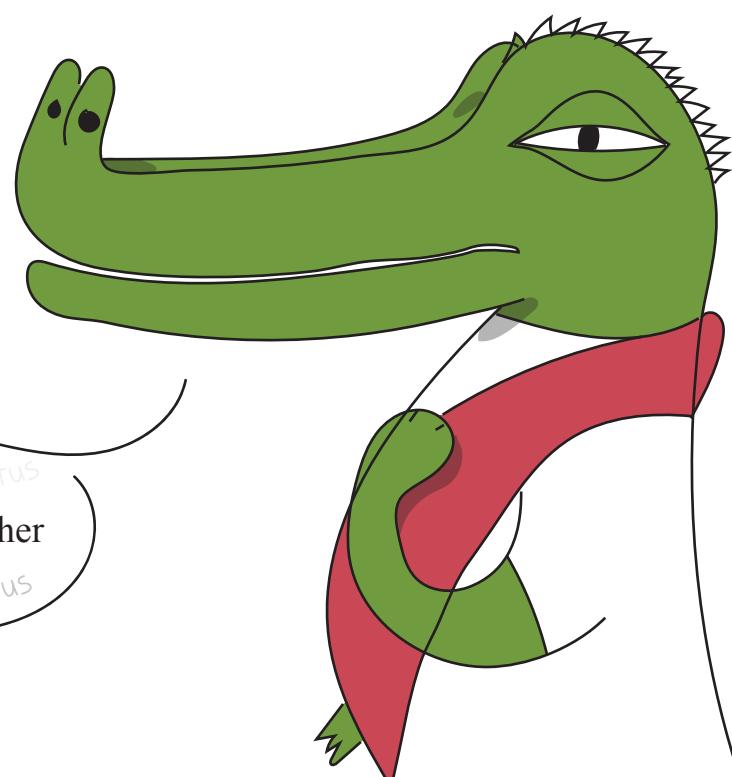
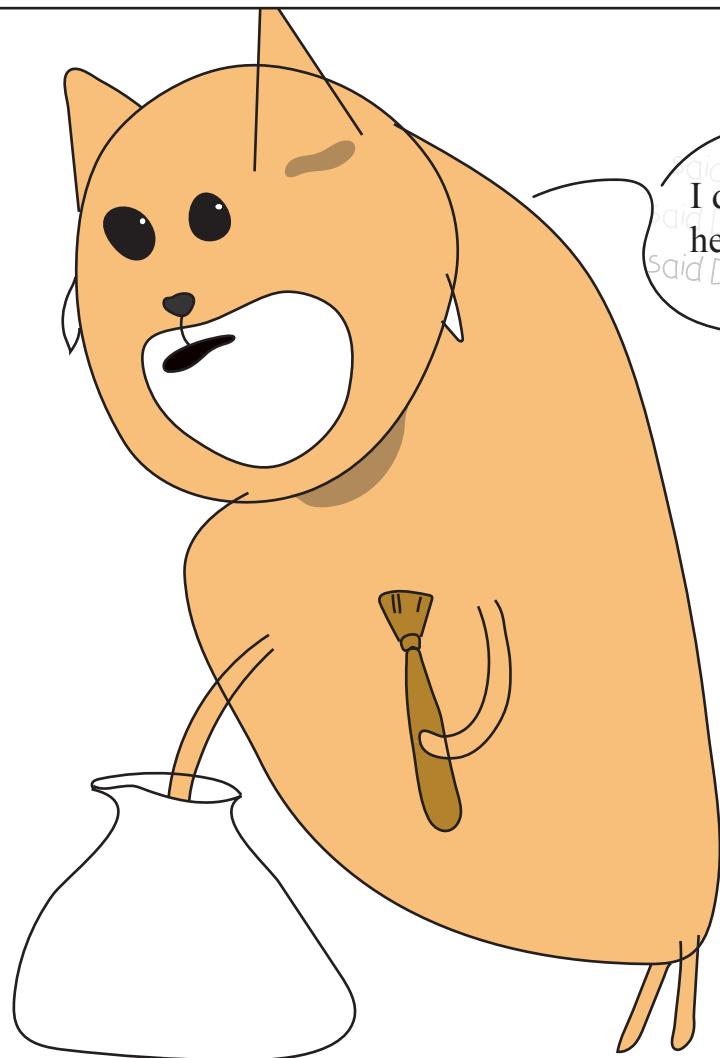
Close.
Dogneetus.

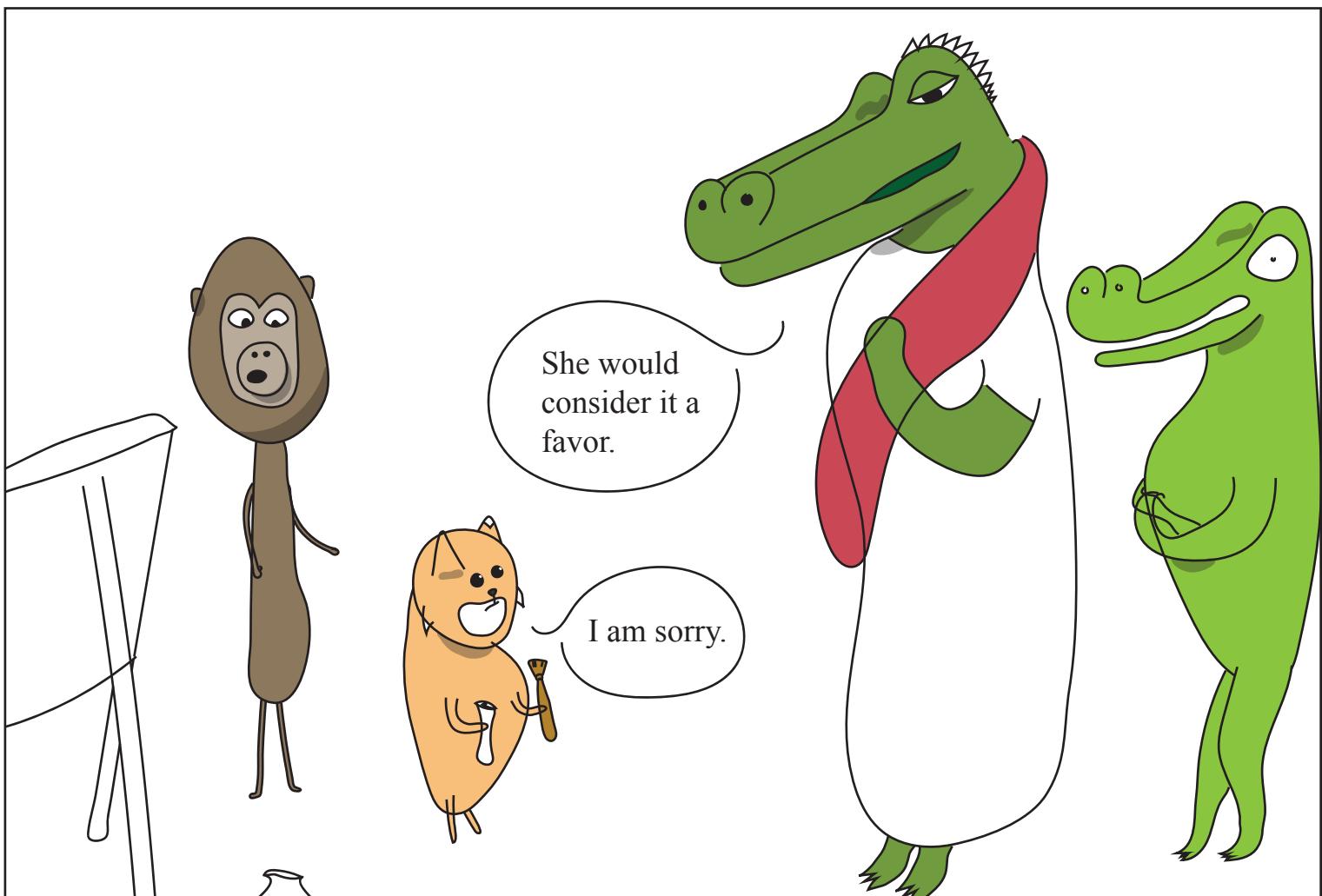
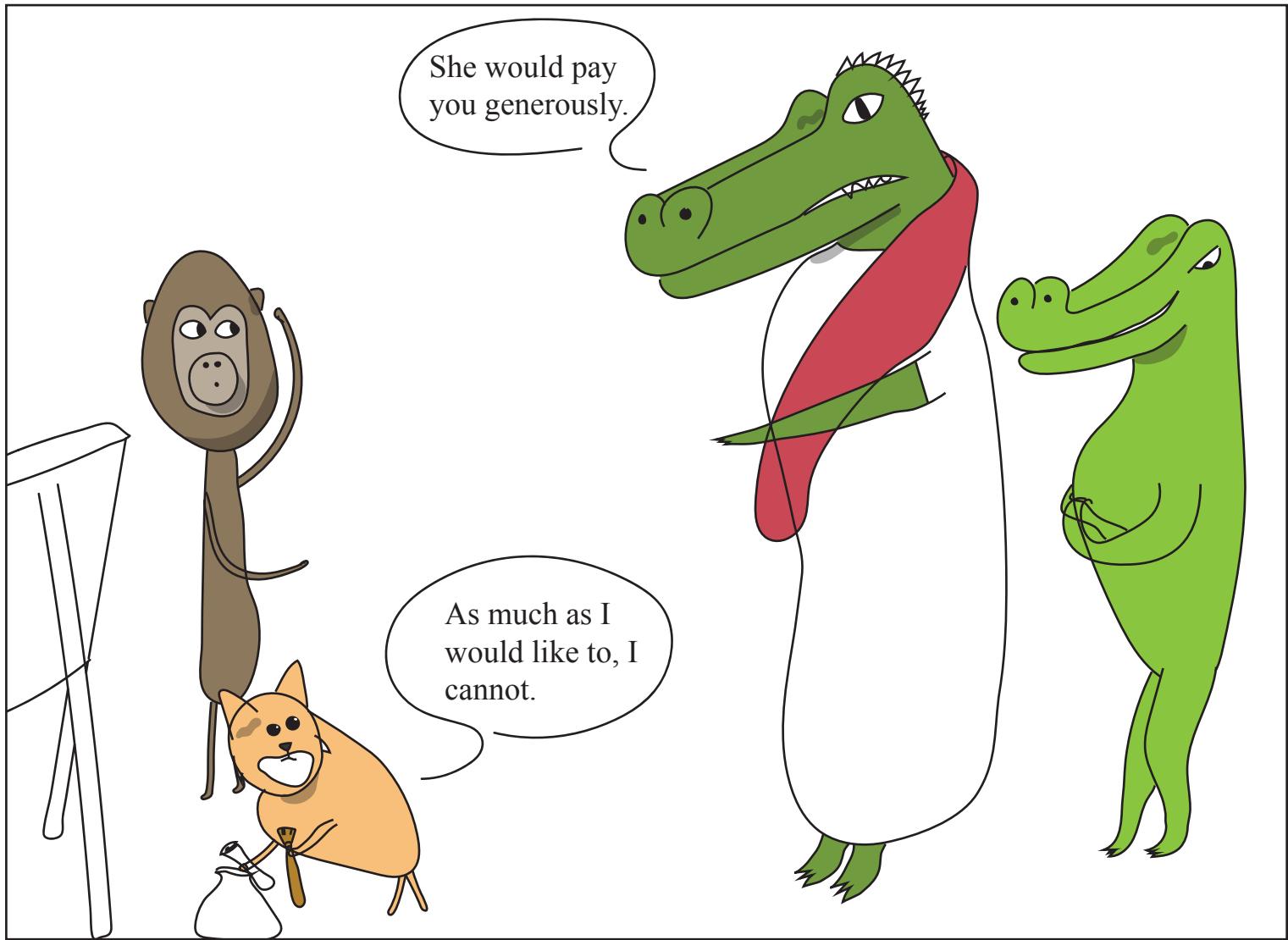
I thought so. Actually,
that is why
Salamandus sent me
today.

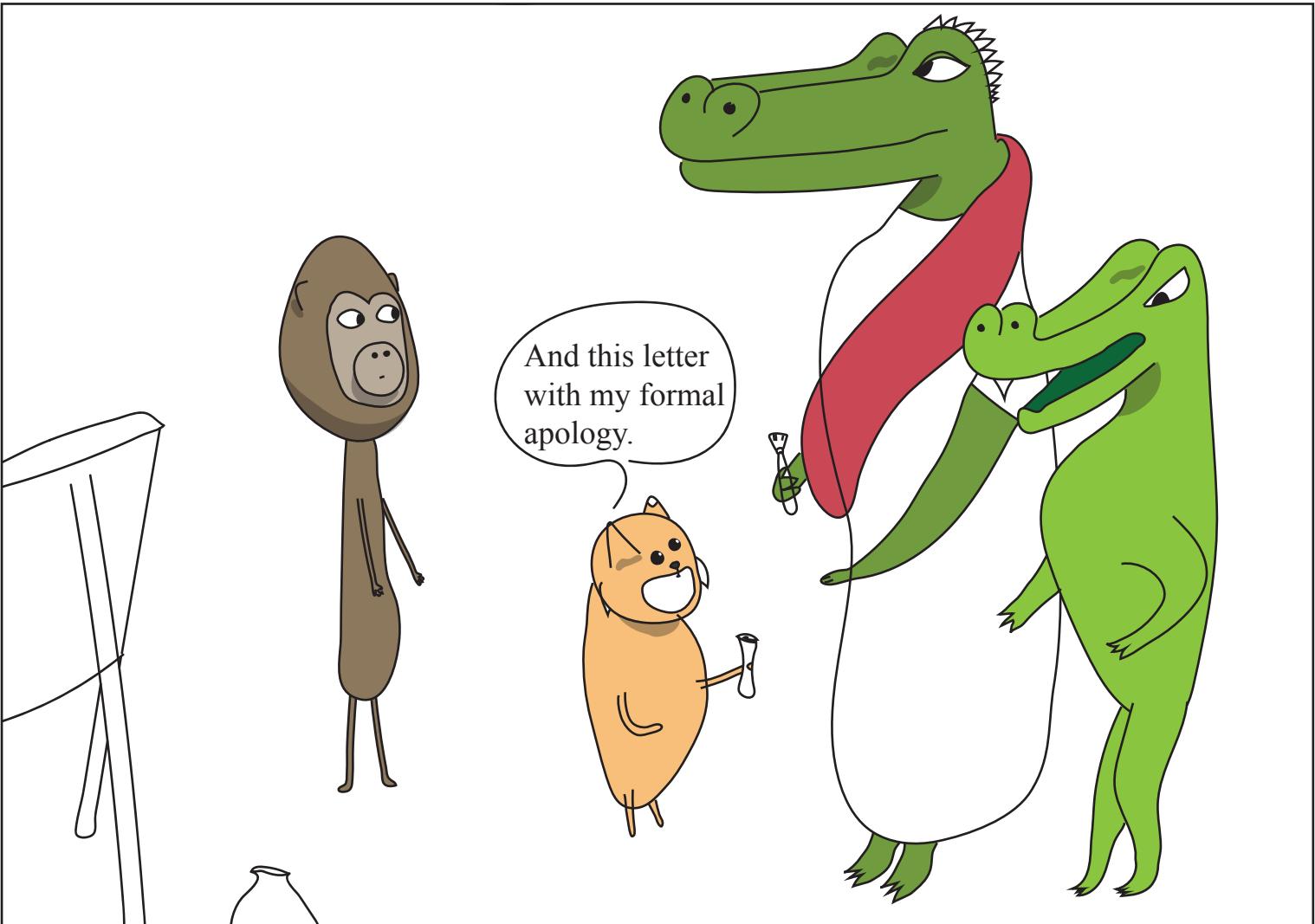


She wants to know
when you can start
working at the
emperor's palace.

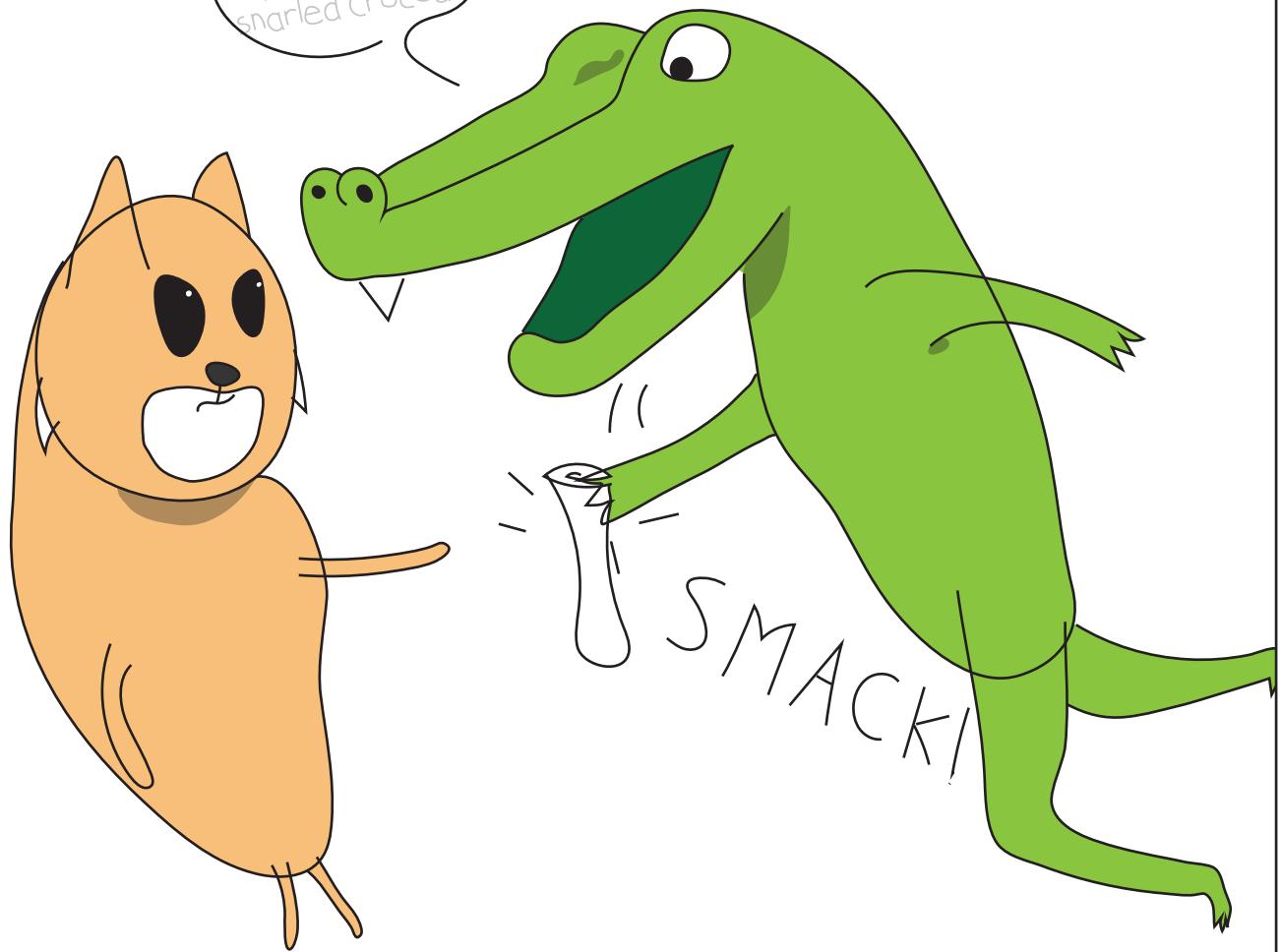




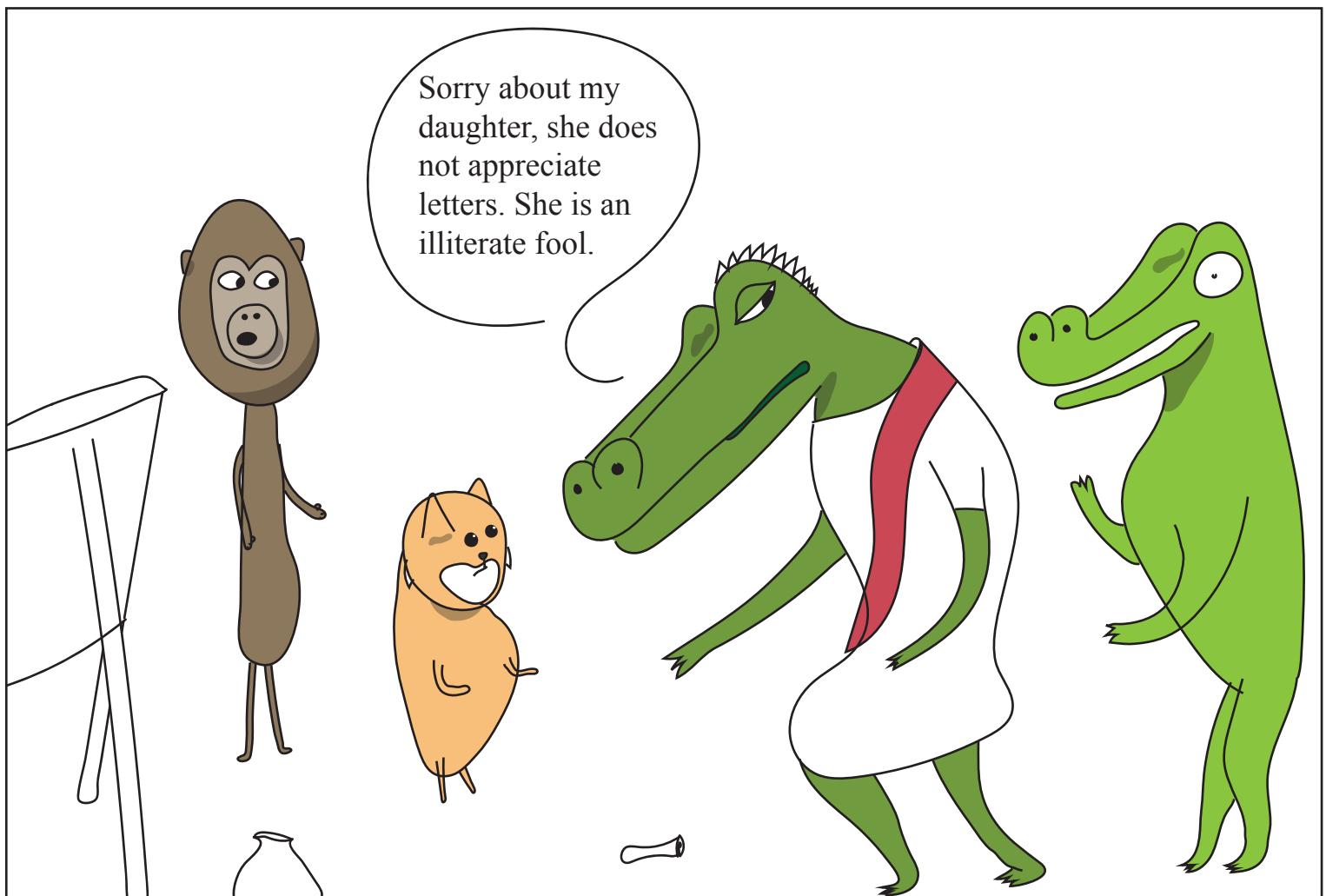


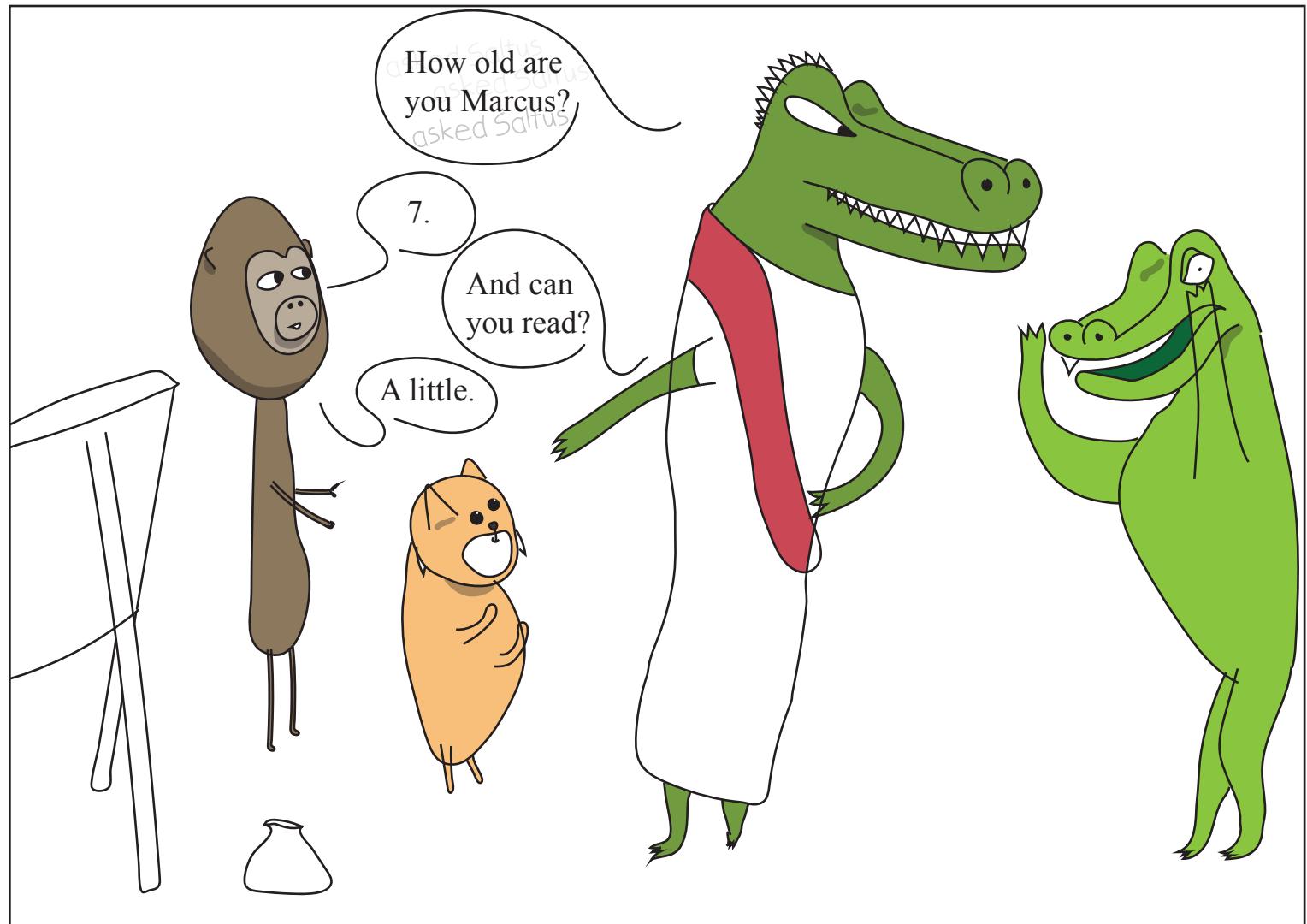
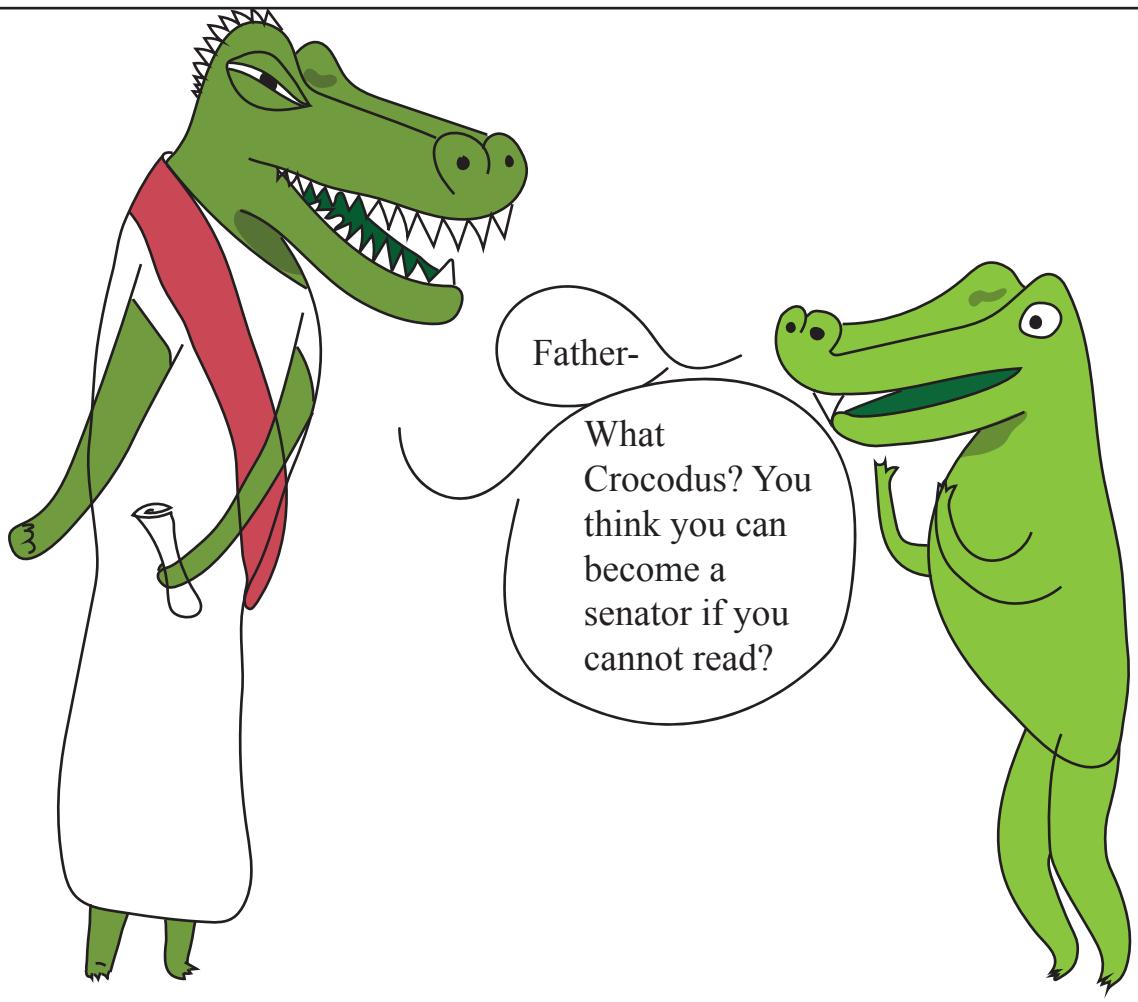


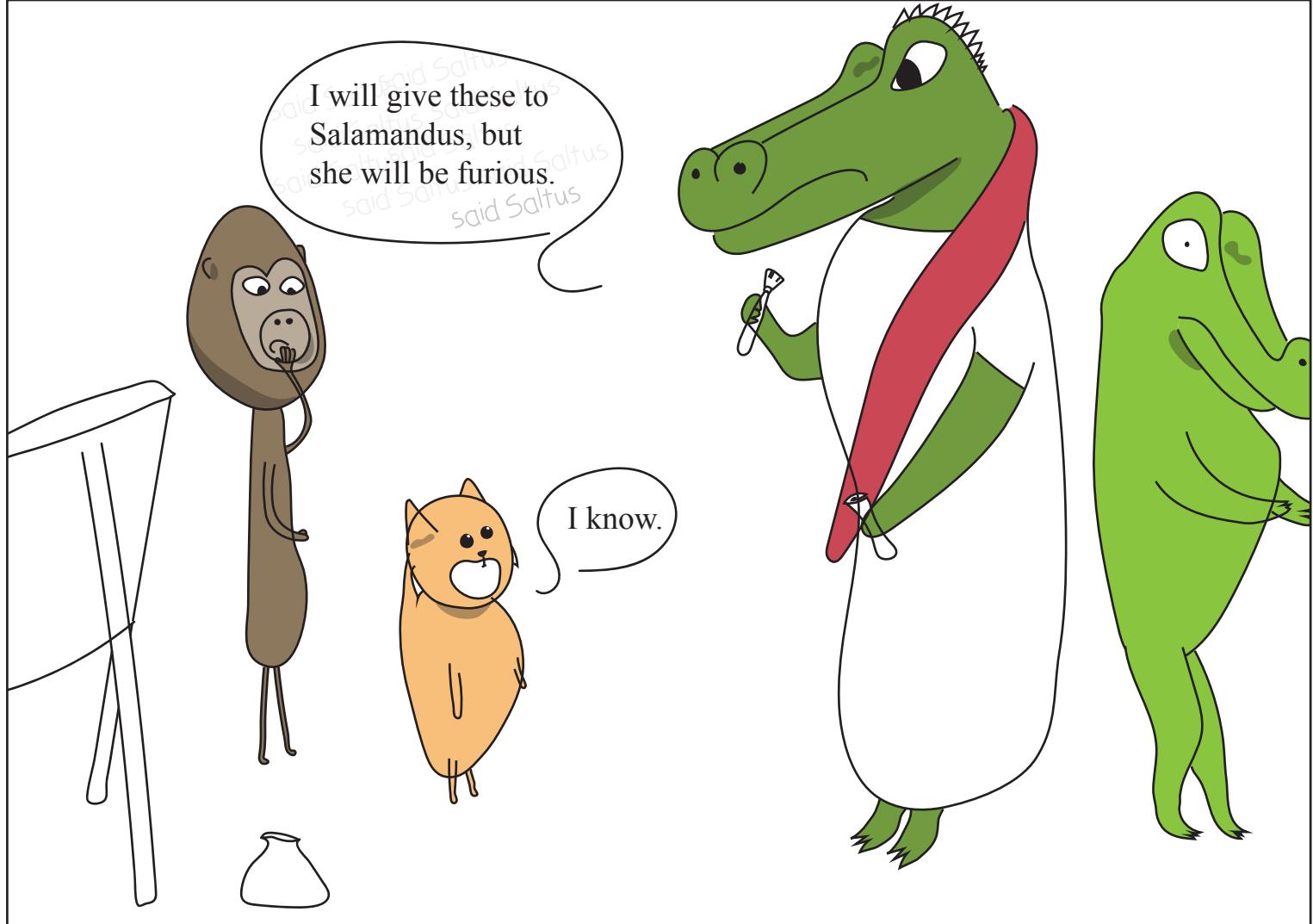
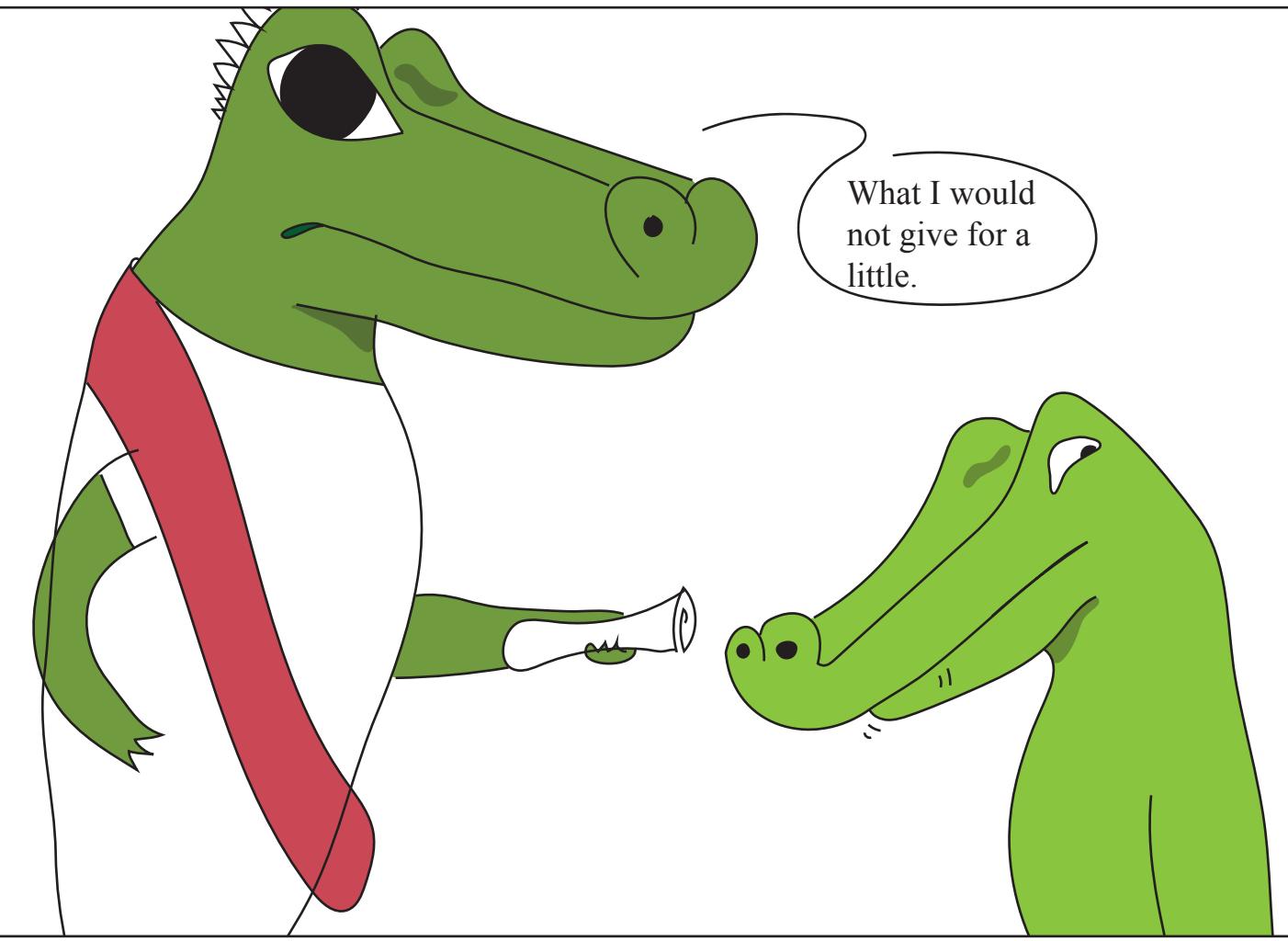
Give it back
yourself.
snarled croc

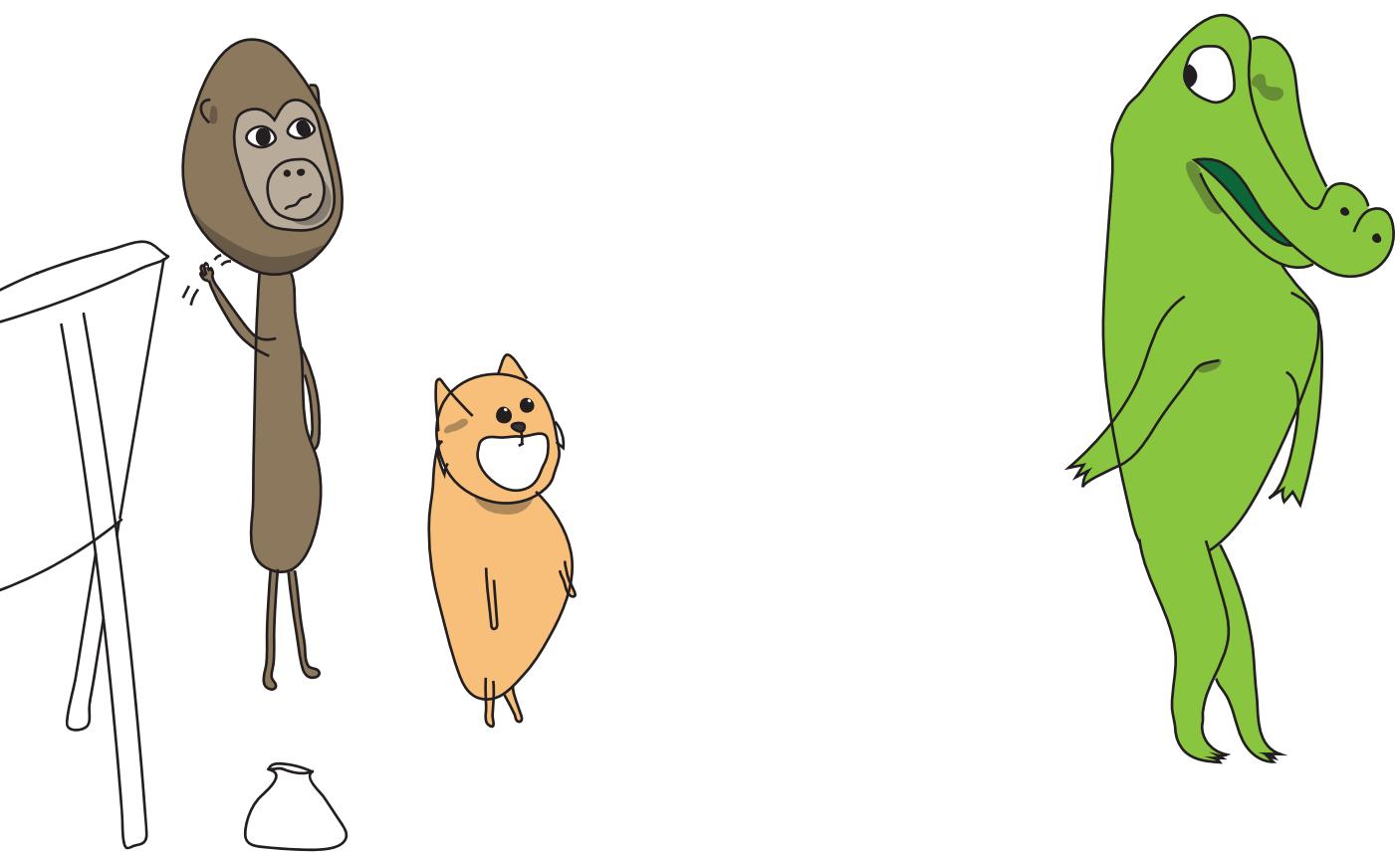


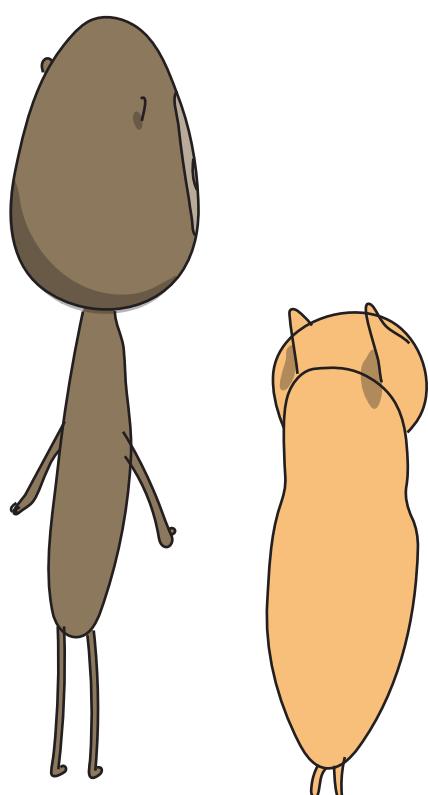
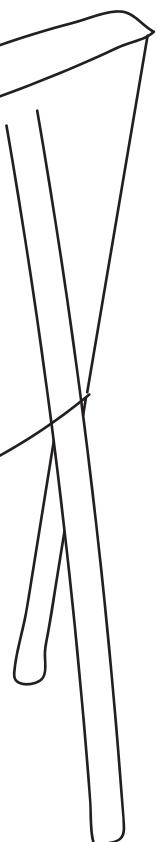
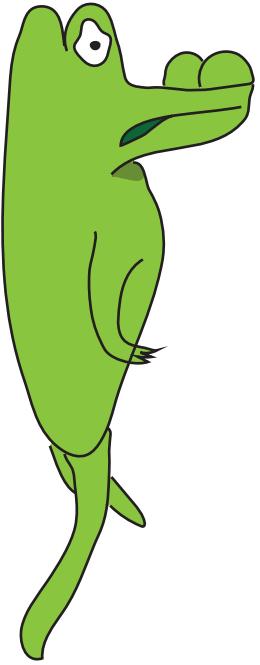
Sorry about my
daughter, she does
not appreciate
letters. She is an
illiterate fool.





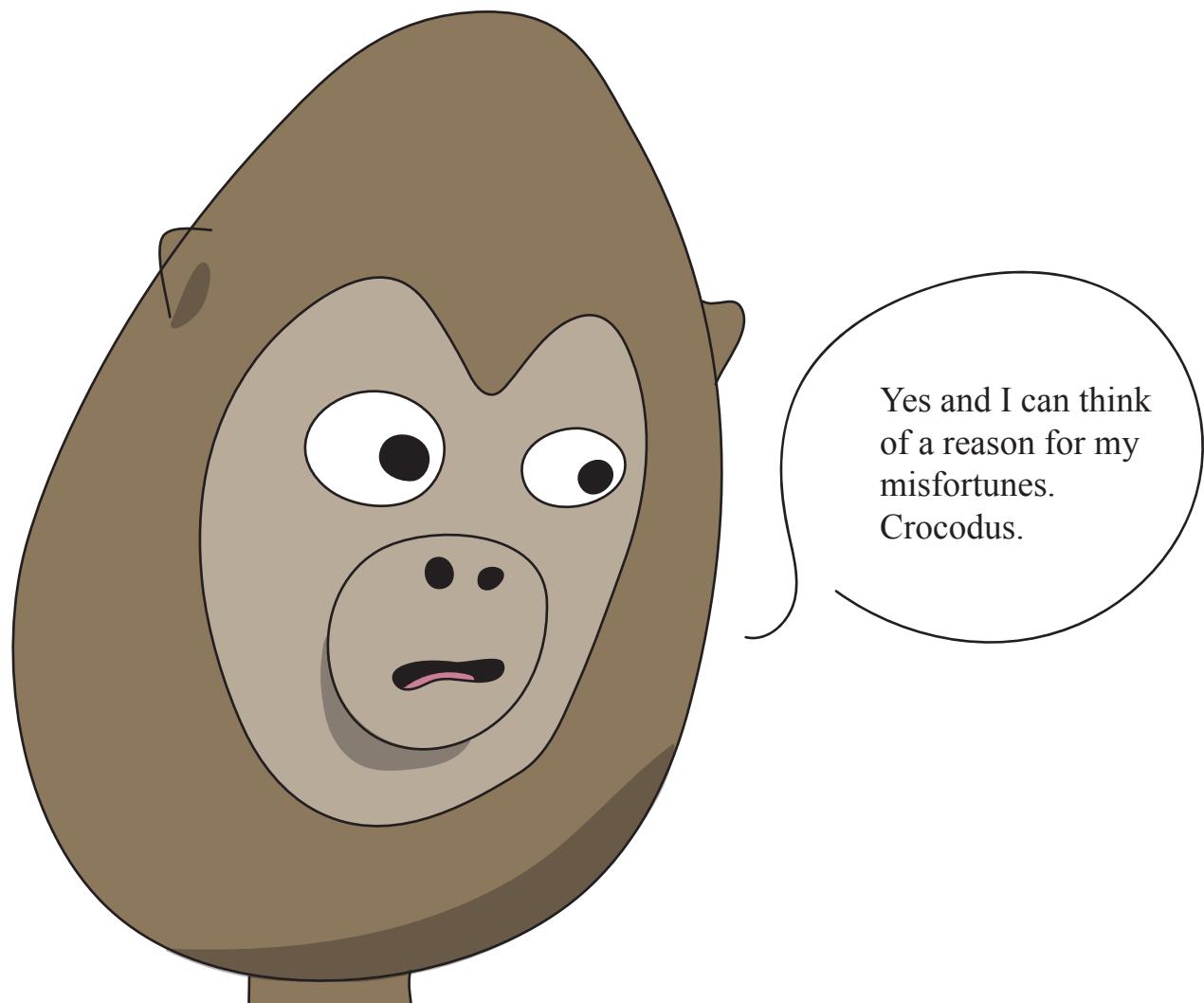
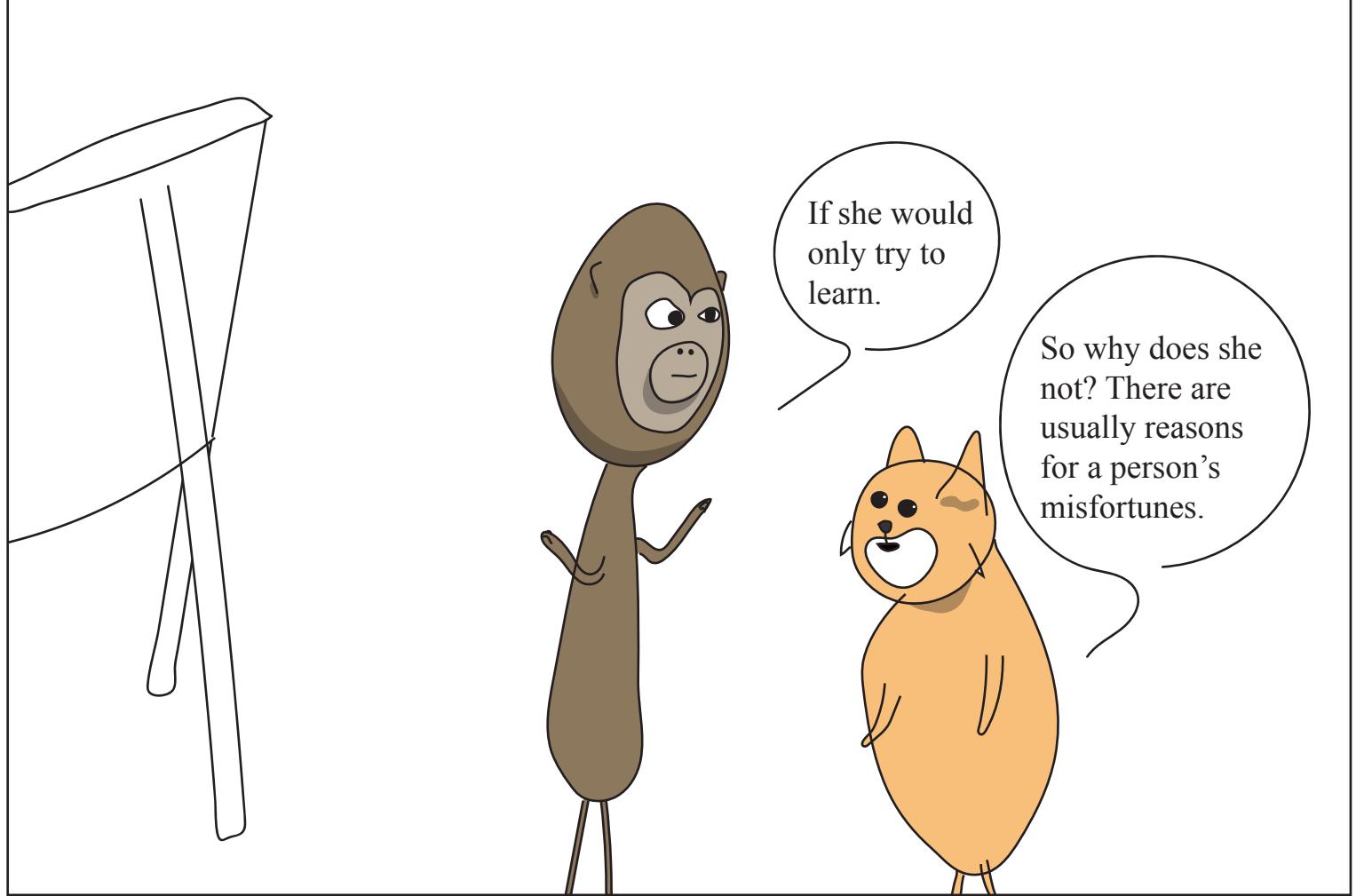


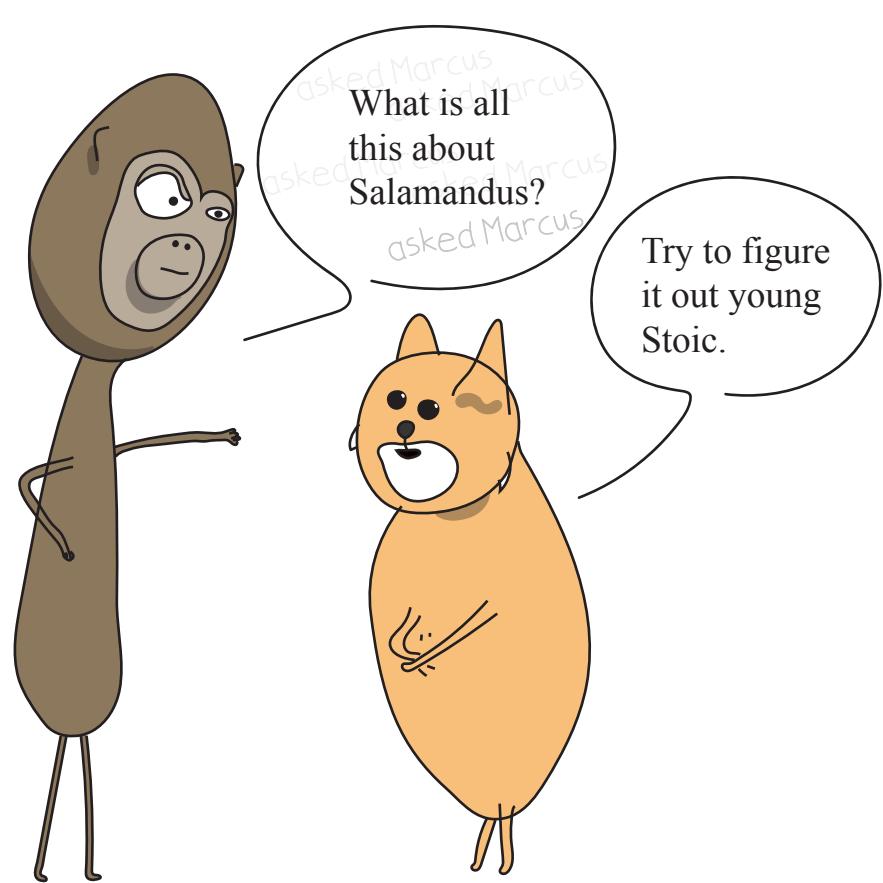
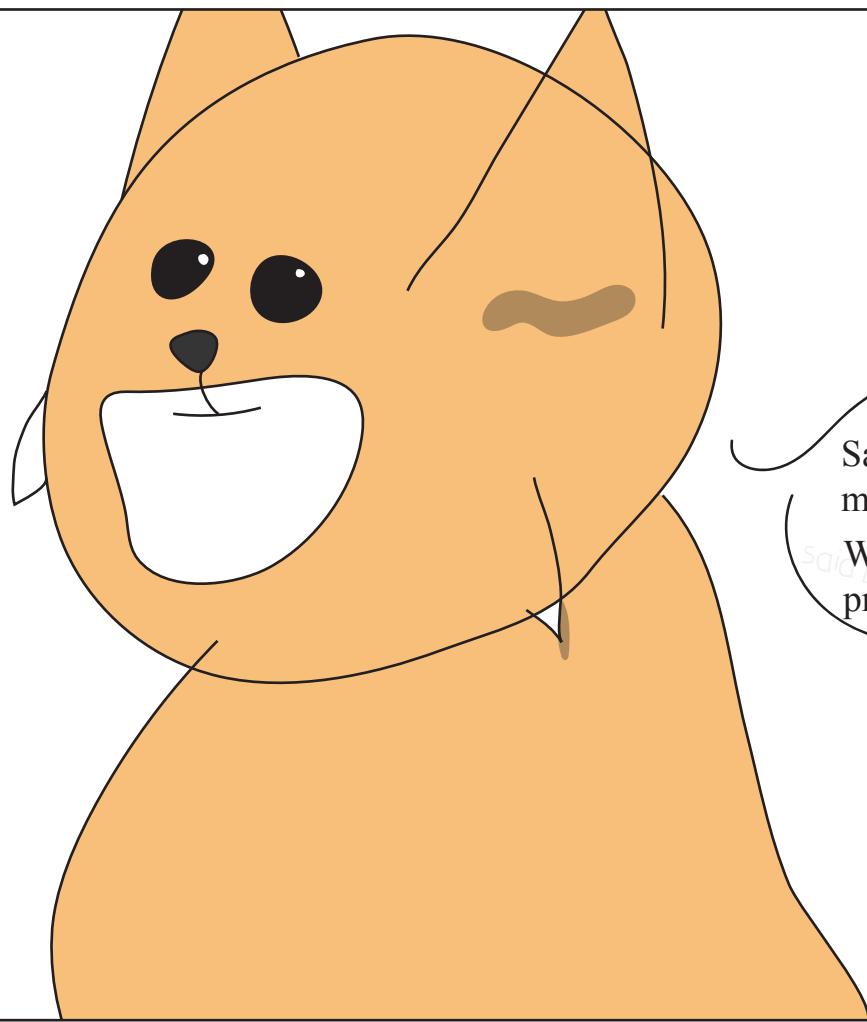


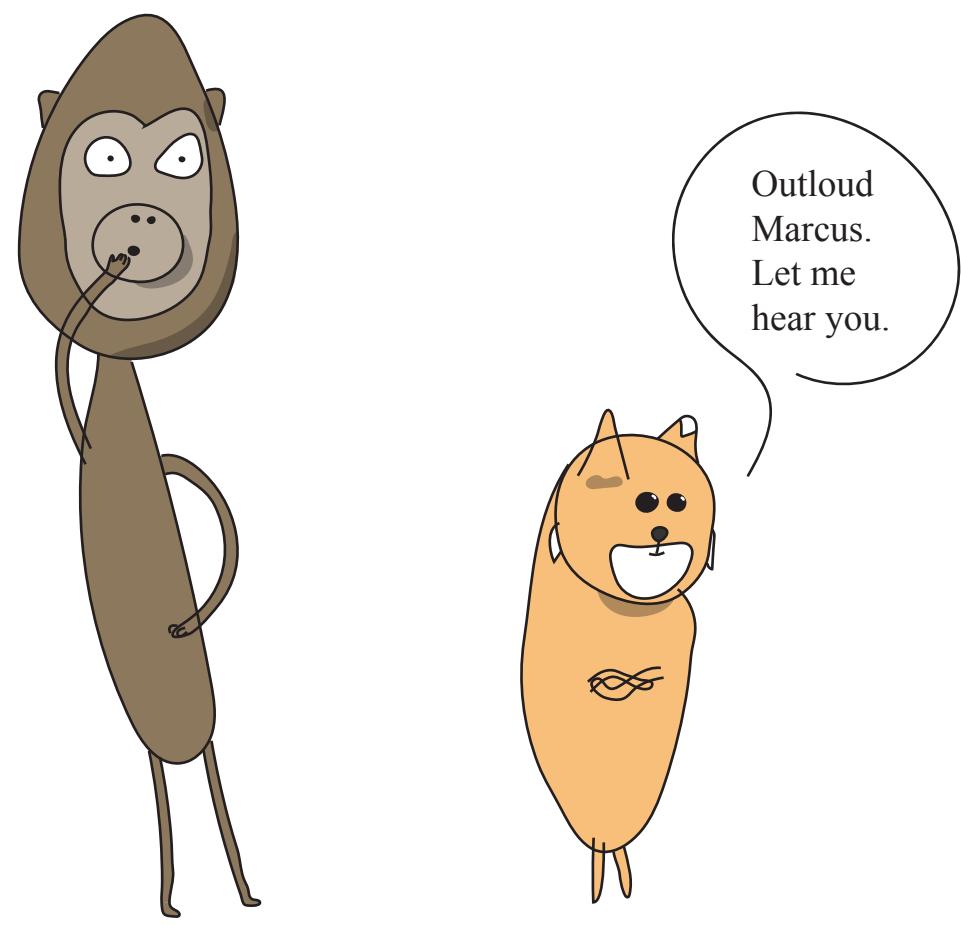
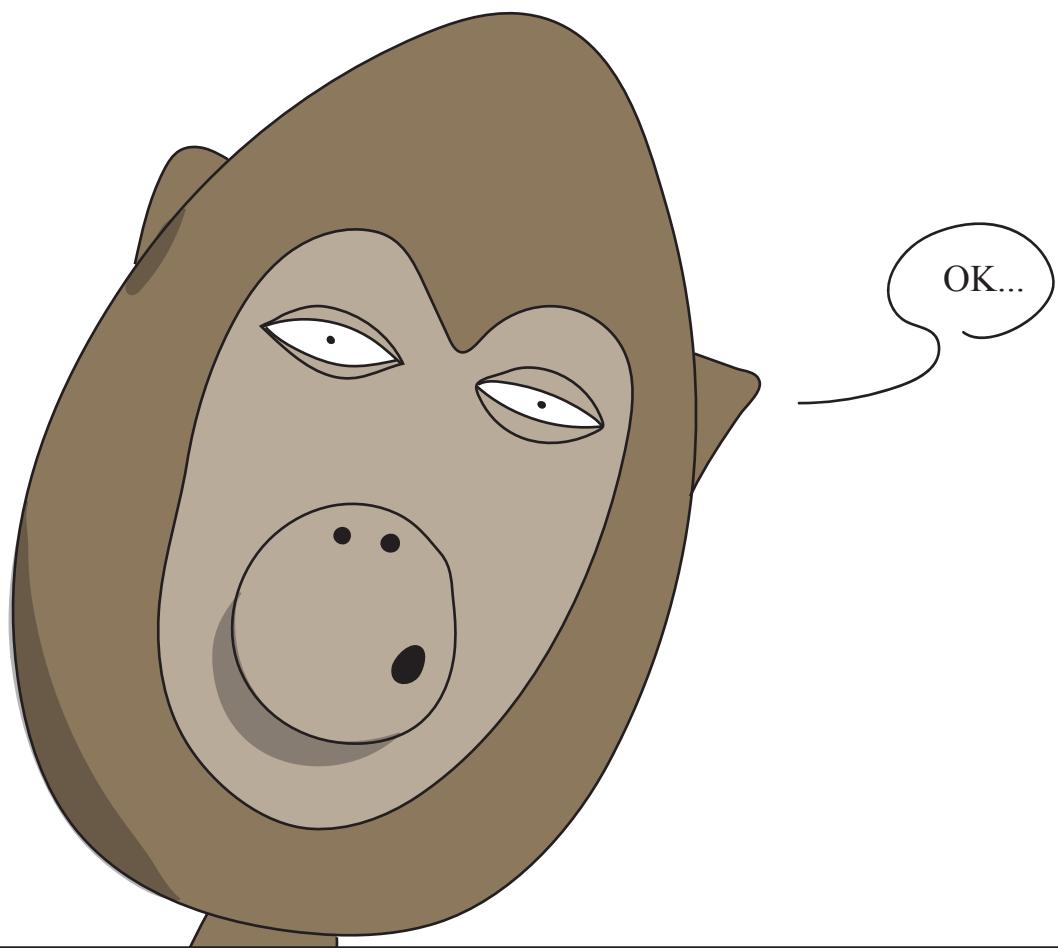


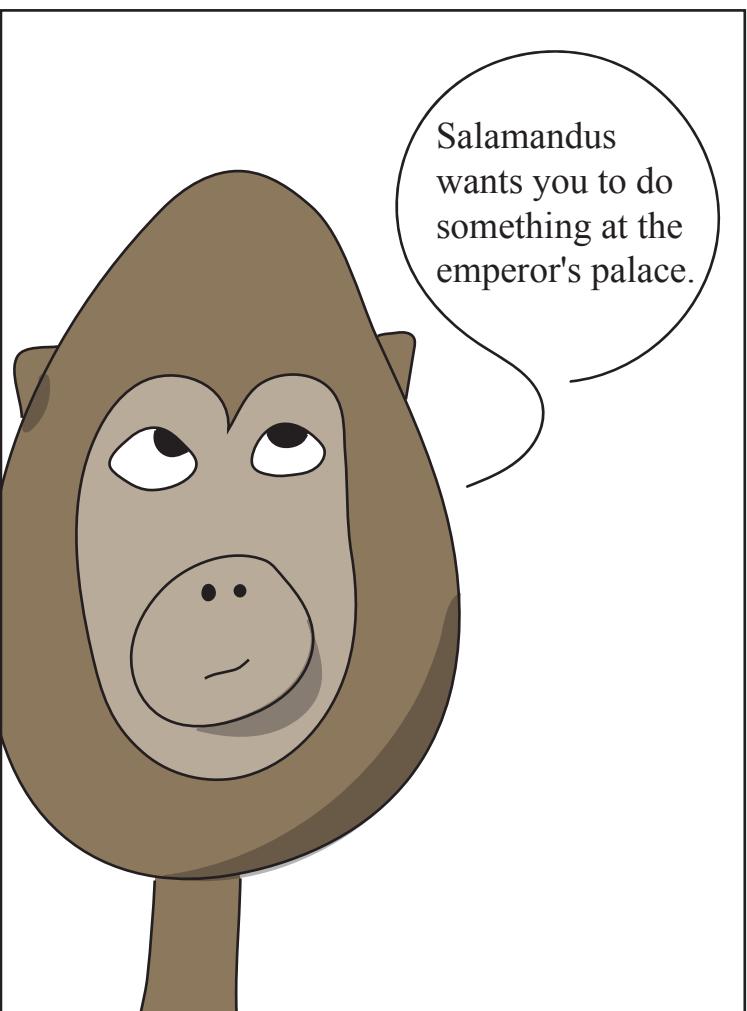
Life is hard for
animals like
Crocodus

said Dogheetus

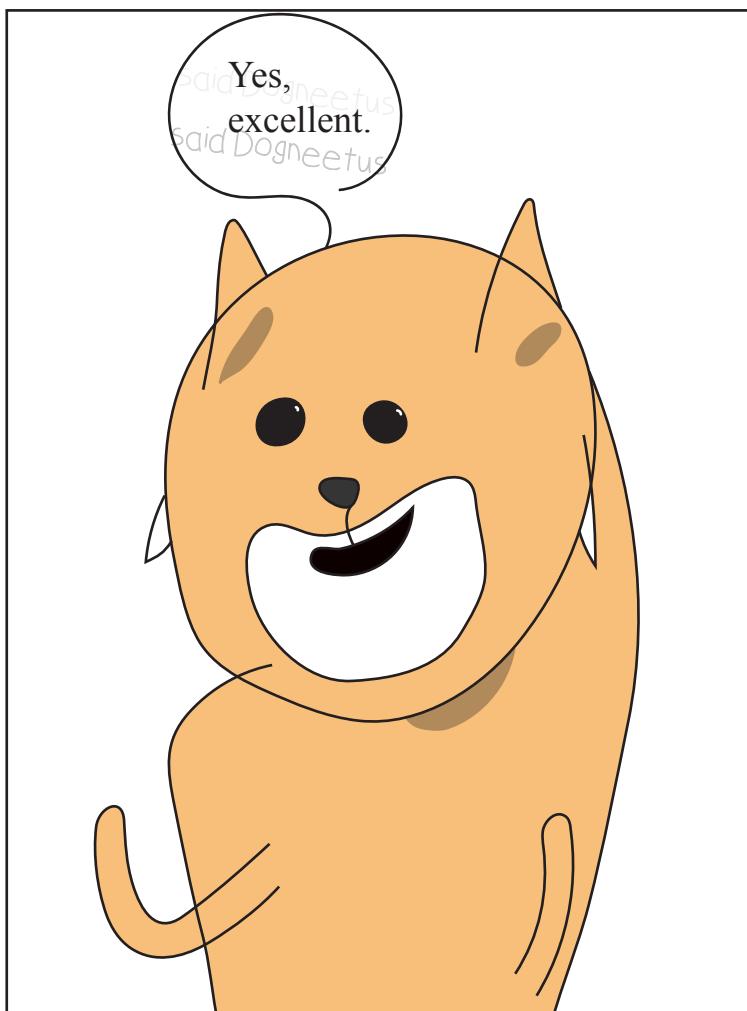




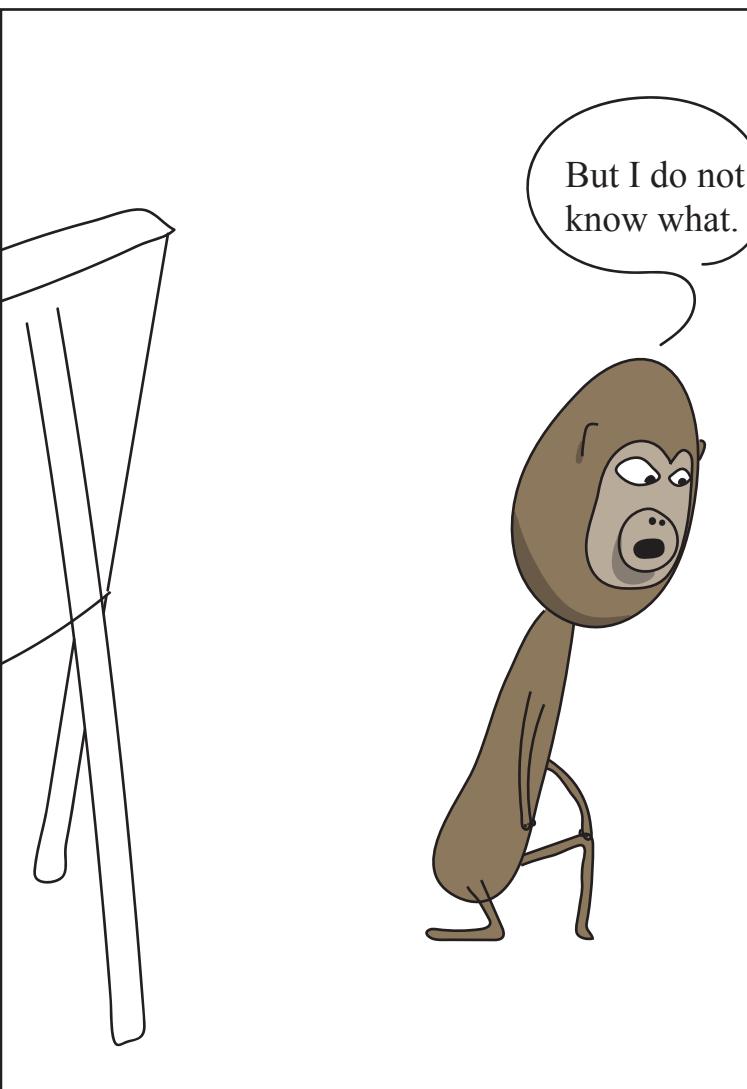




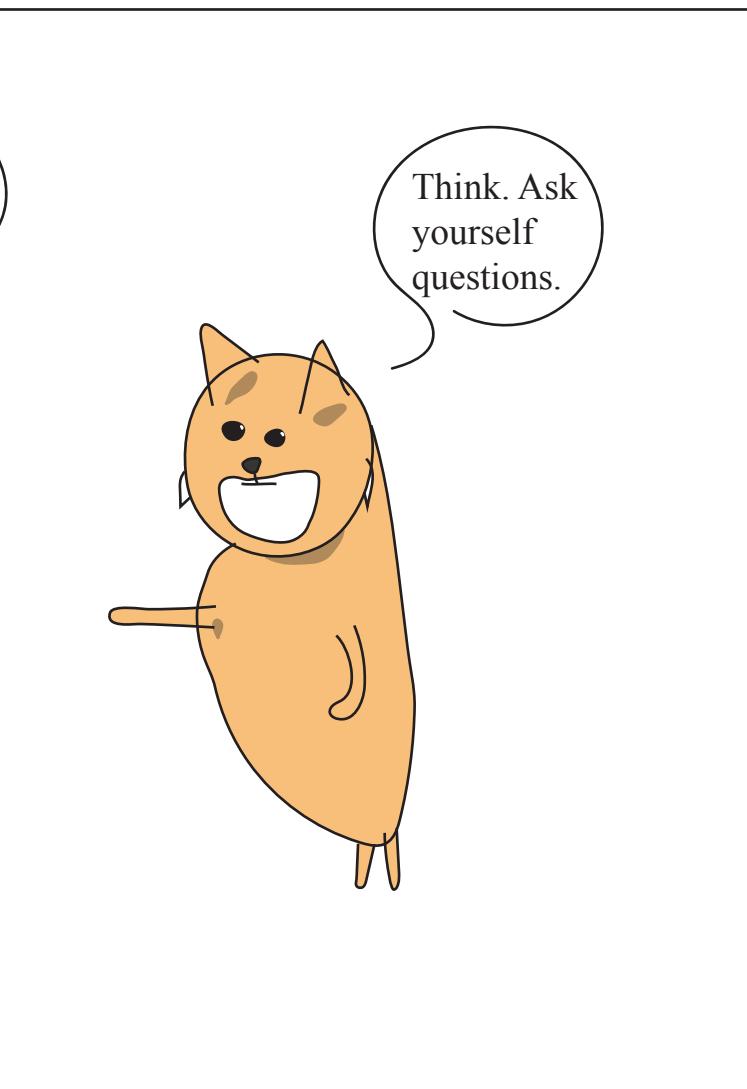
Salamandus
wants you to do
something at the
emperor's palace.



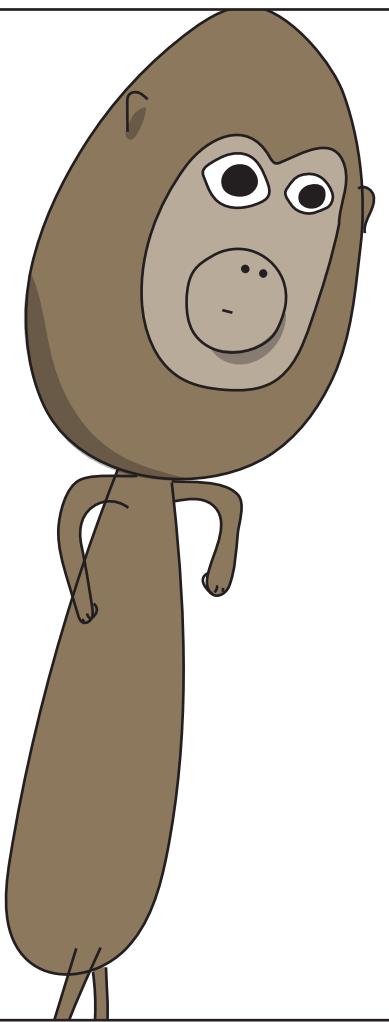
Yes,
excellent.
said Dogneetus



But I do not
know what.



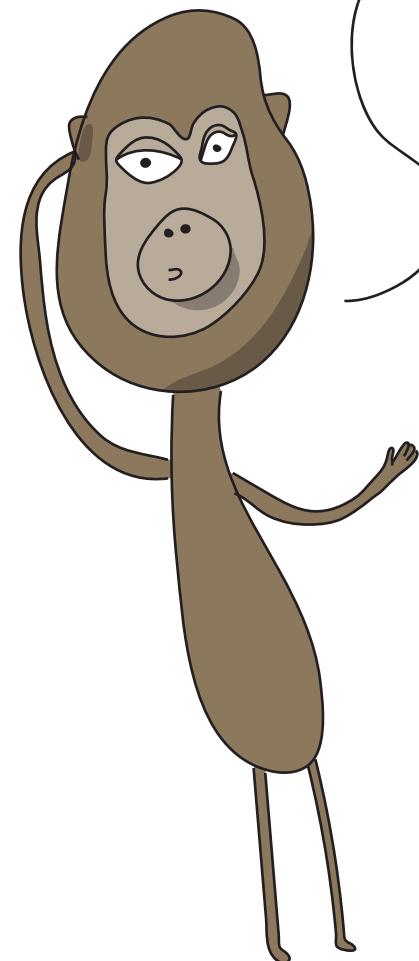
Think. Ask
yourself
questions.



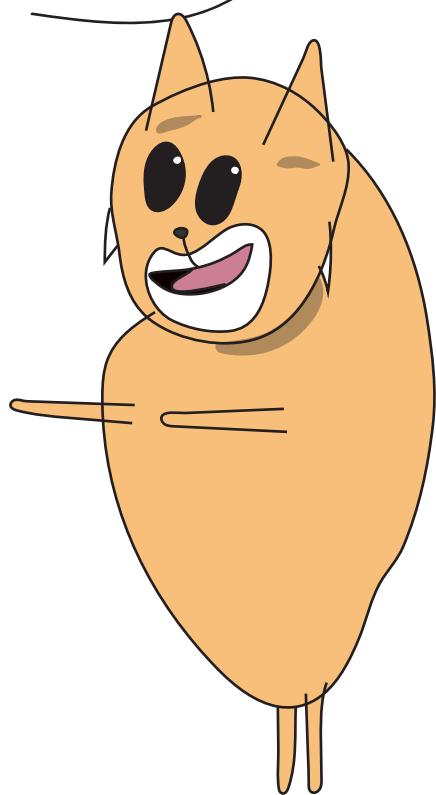
Maybe it has
something to do with
why you are famous?
said Marcus



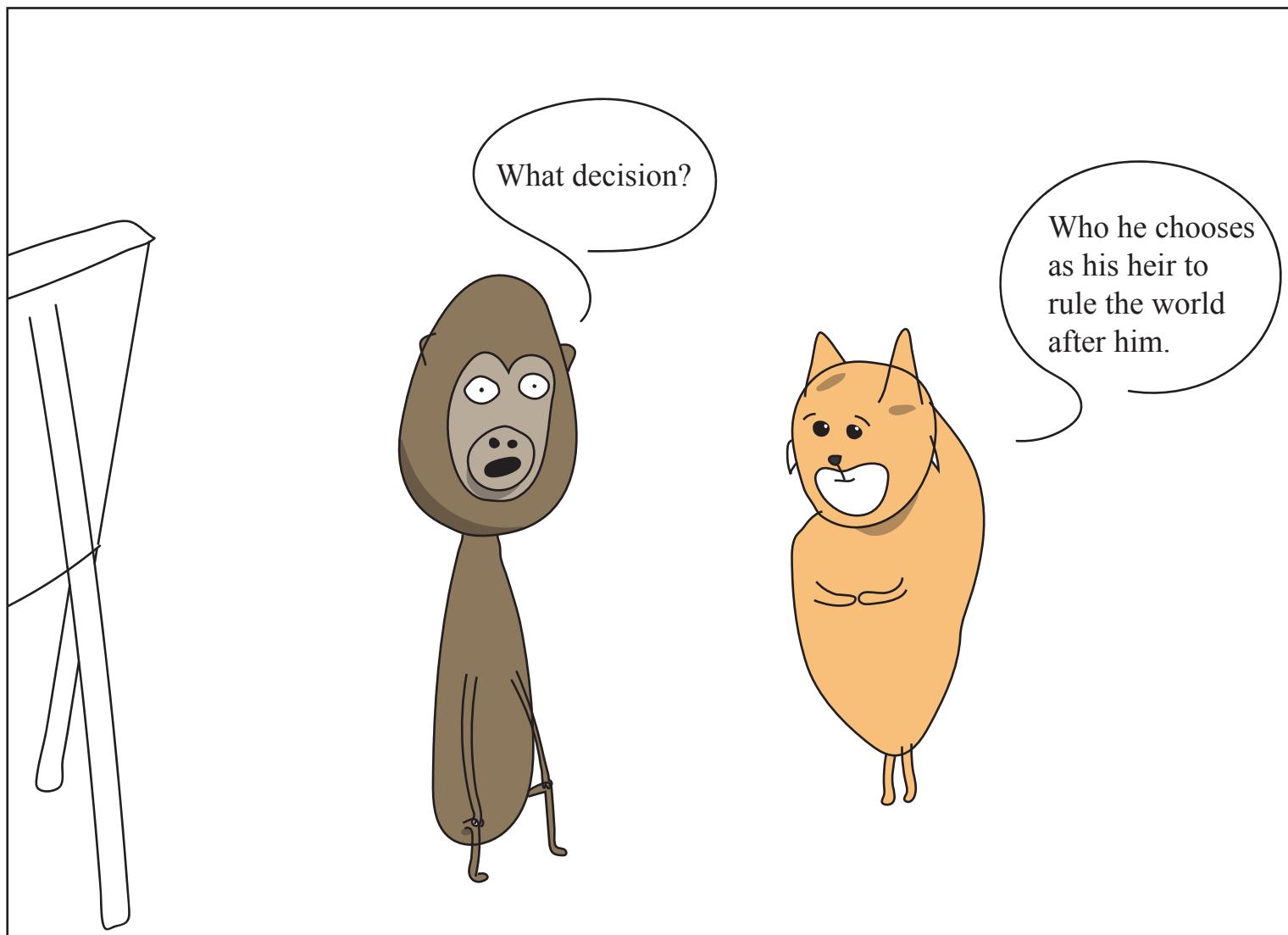
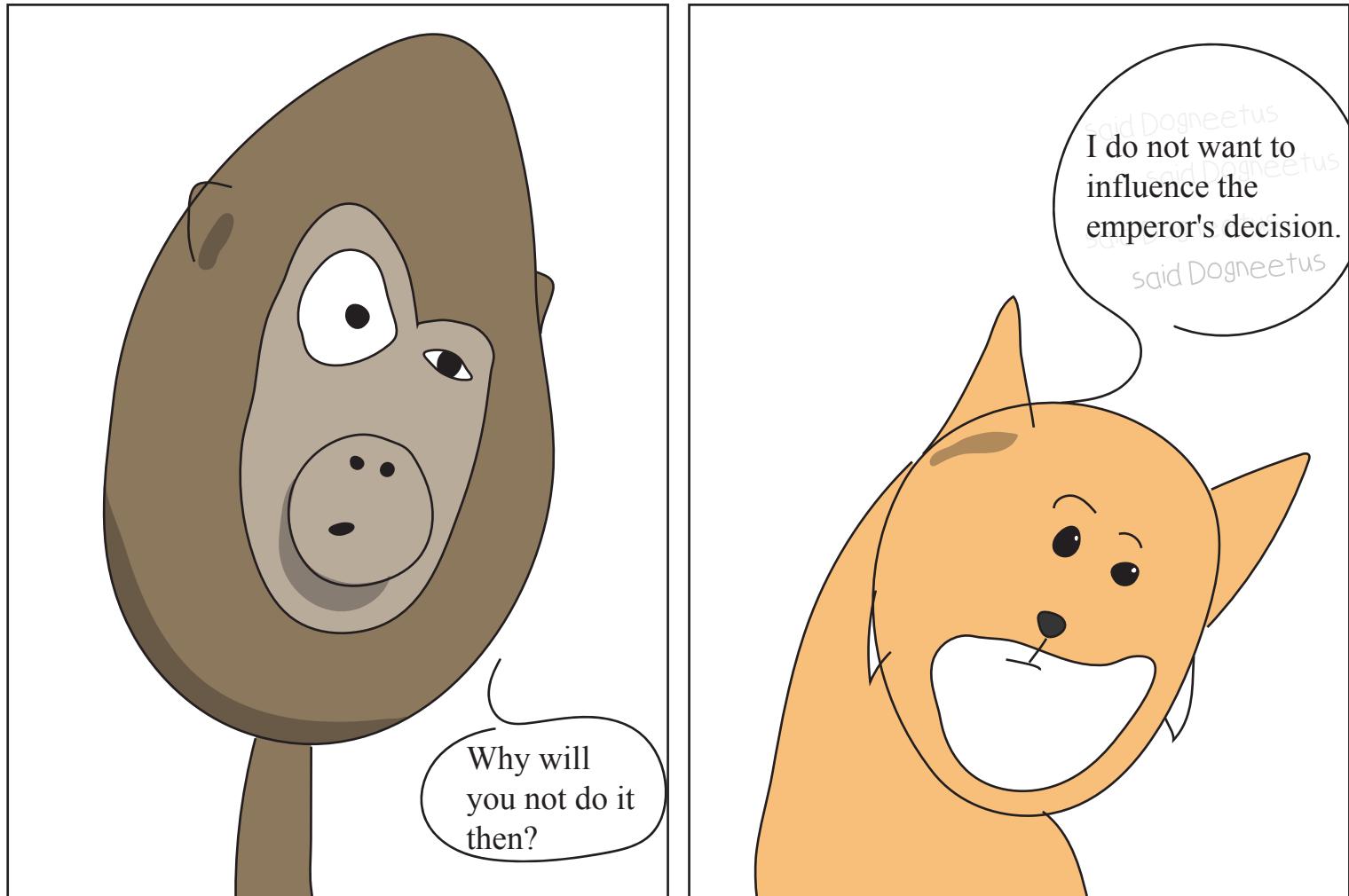
It does.

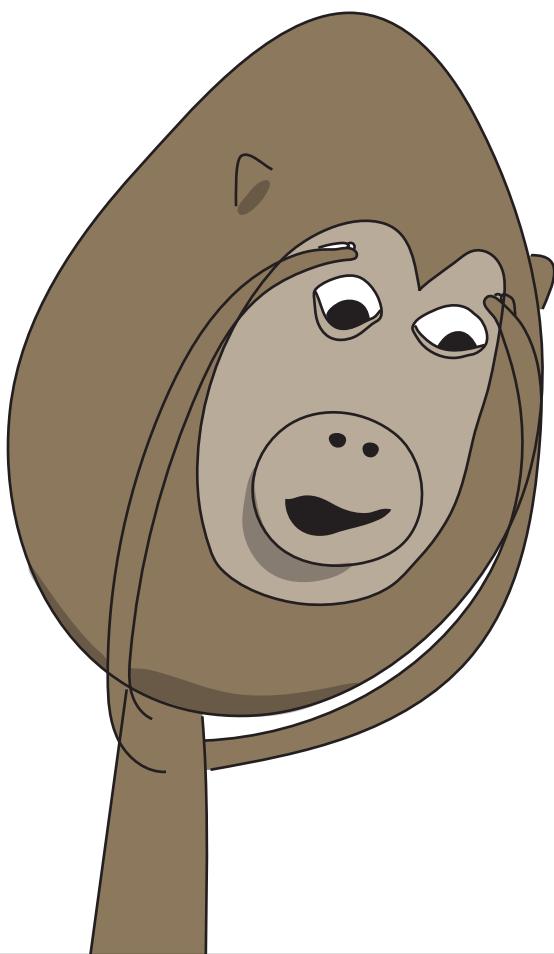


She wants you to
paint a fresco in
the emperor's
palace.

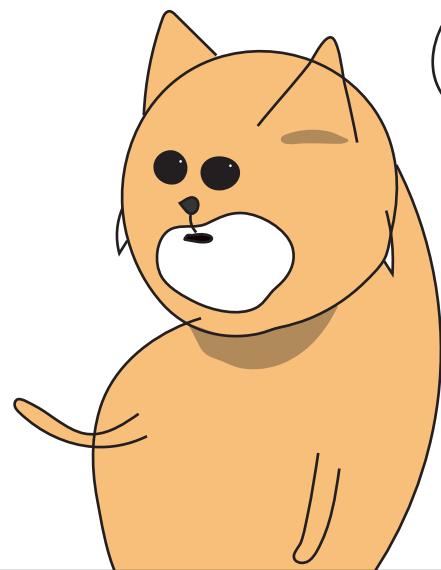


That is correct.
A giant fresco
in the main
hall.

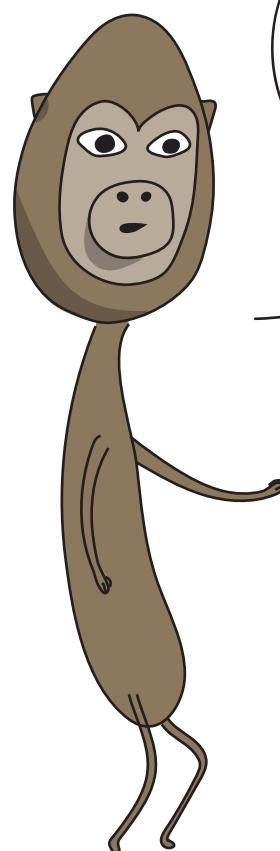




Salamandus wants
you to paint a fresco
so that the emperor
will choose her as the
heir.



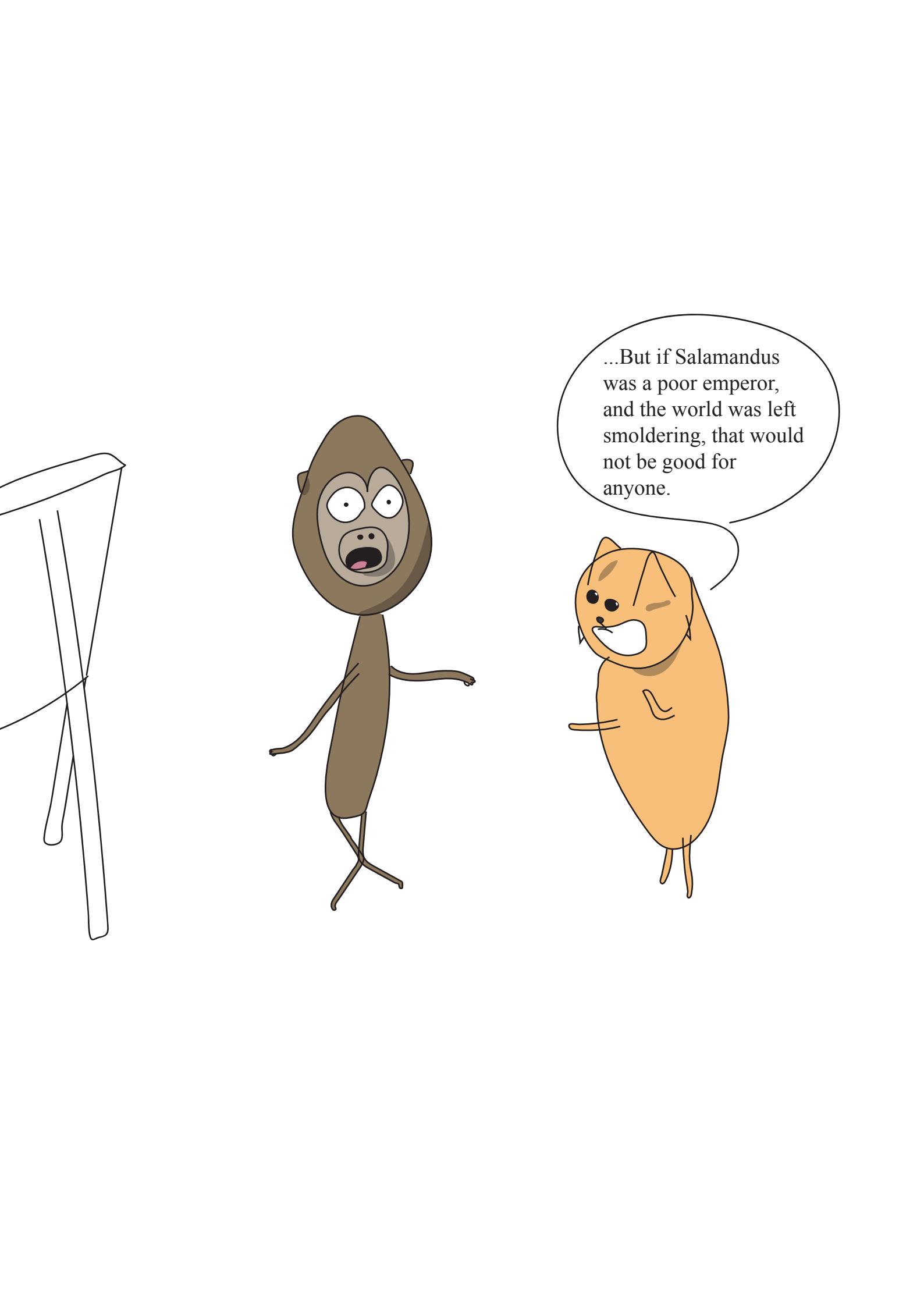
That is
essentially it.



If you helped
Salamandus become the
emperor, would that not
be good for you?

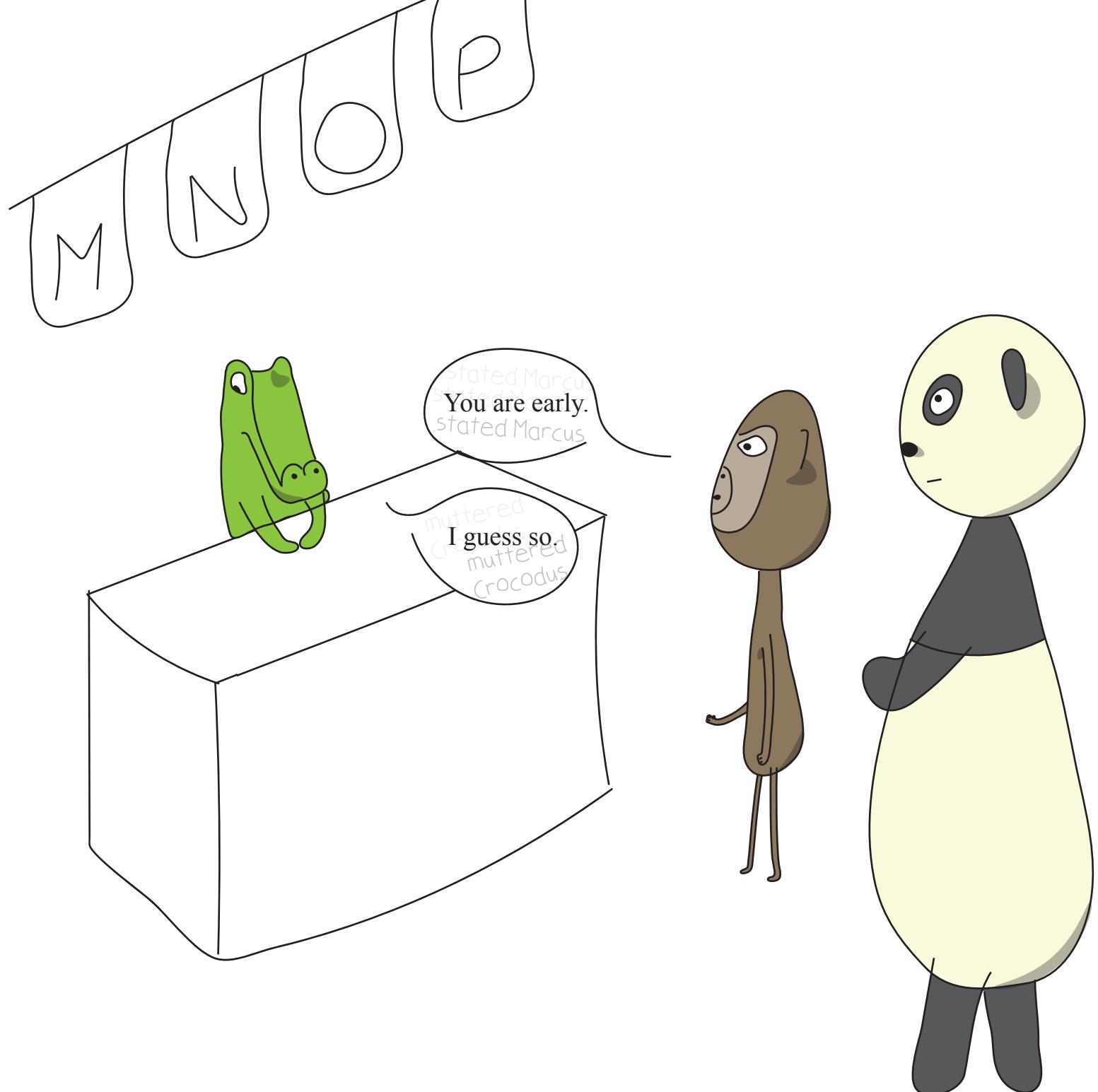
Maybe.

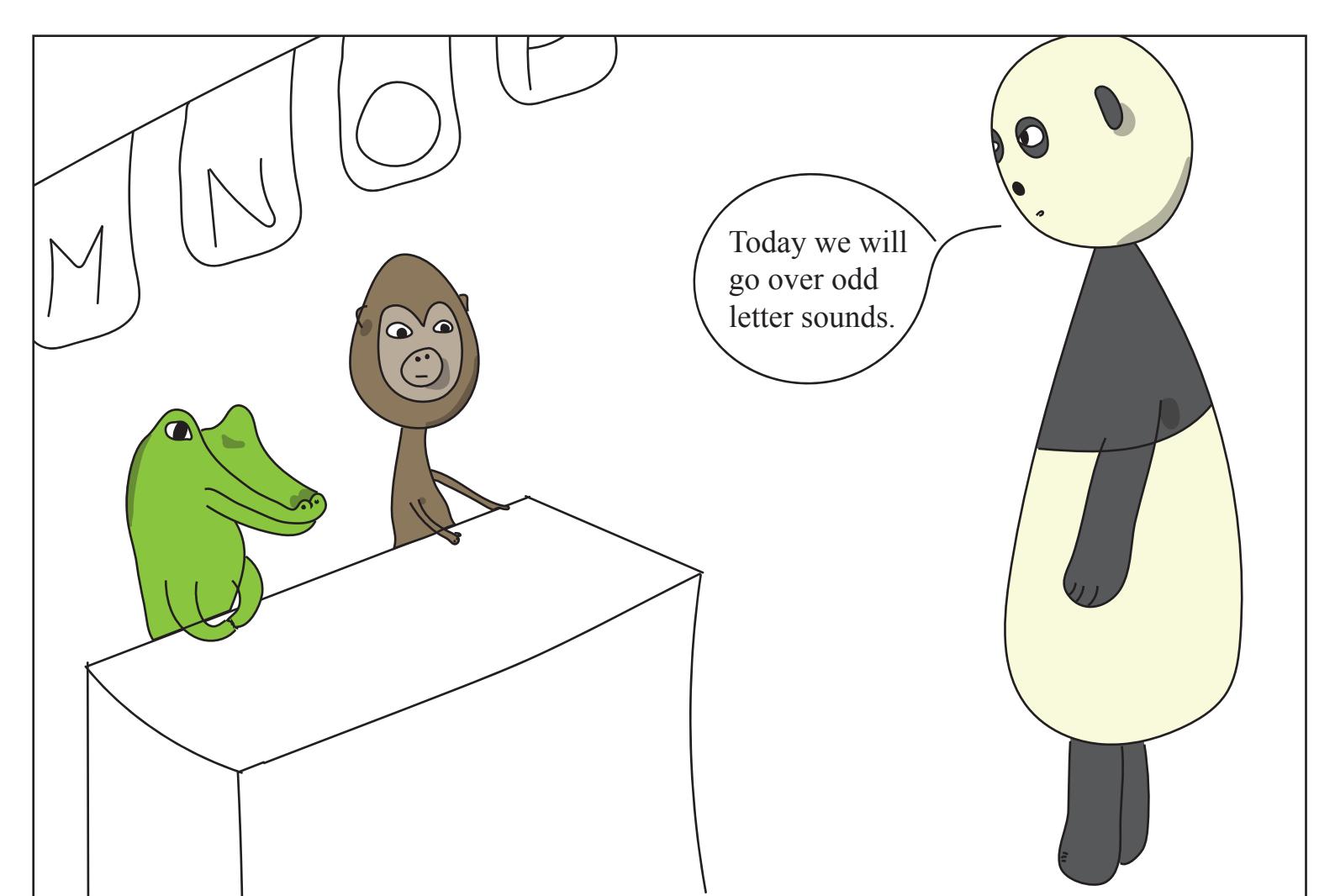




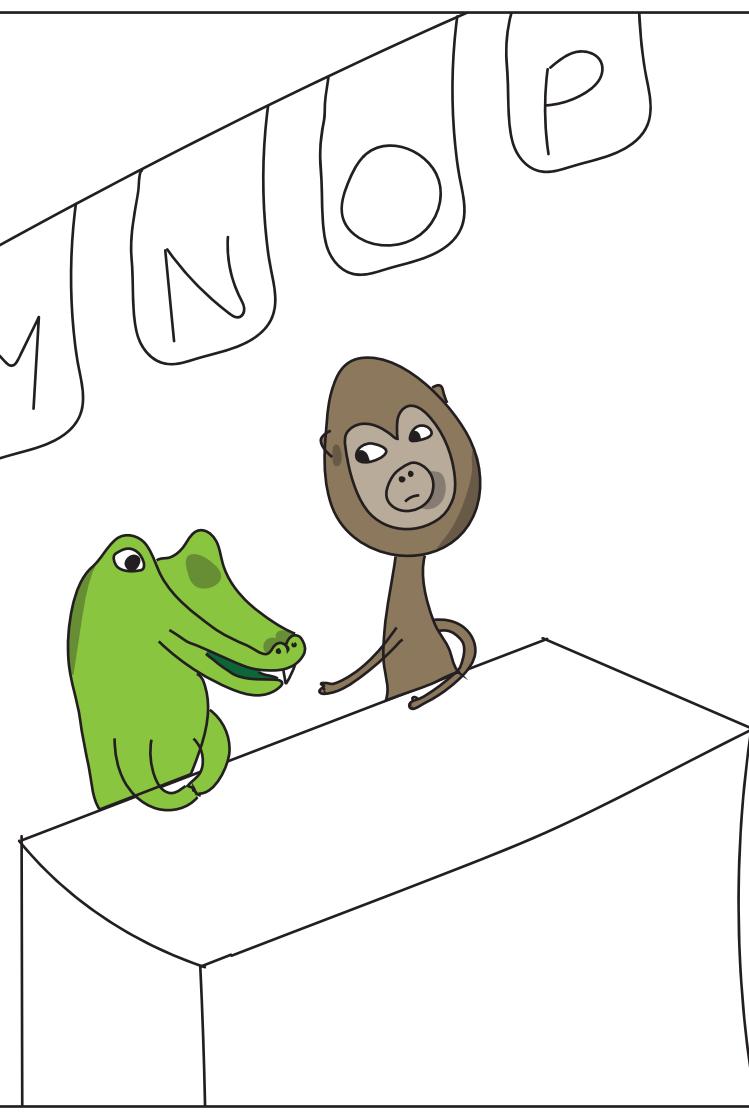
...But if Salamandus
was a poor emperor,
and the world was left
smoldering, that would
not be good for
anyone.

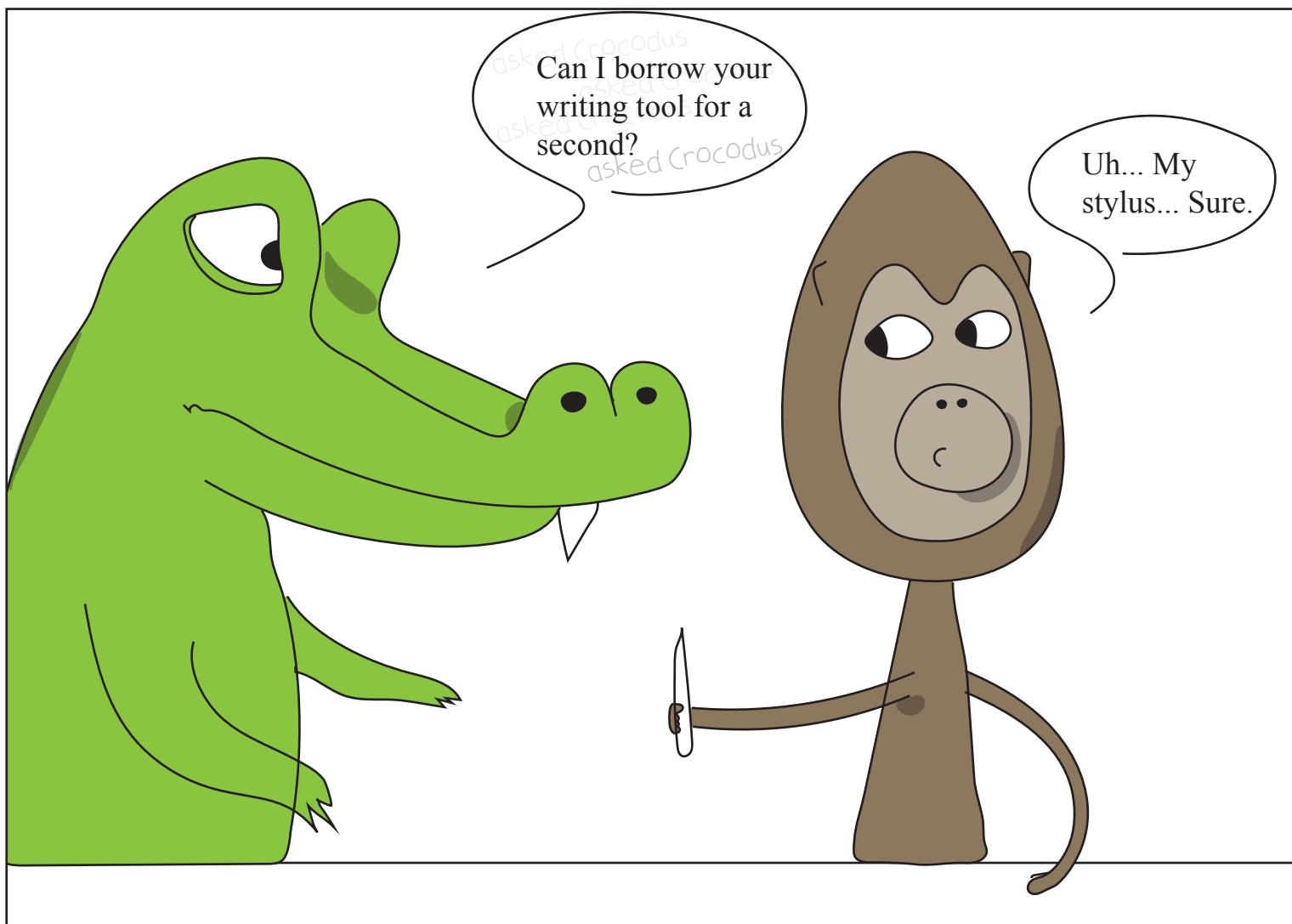
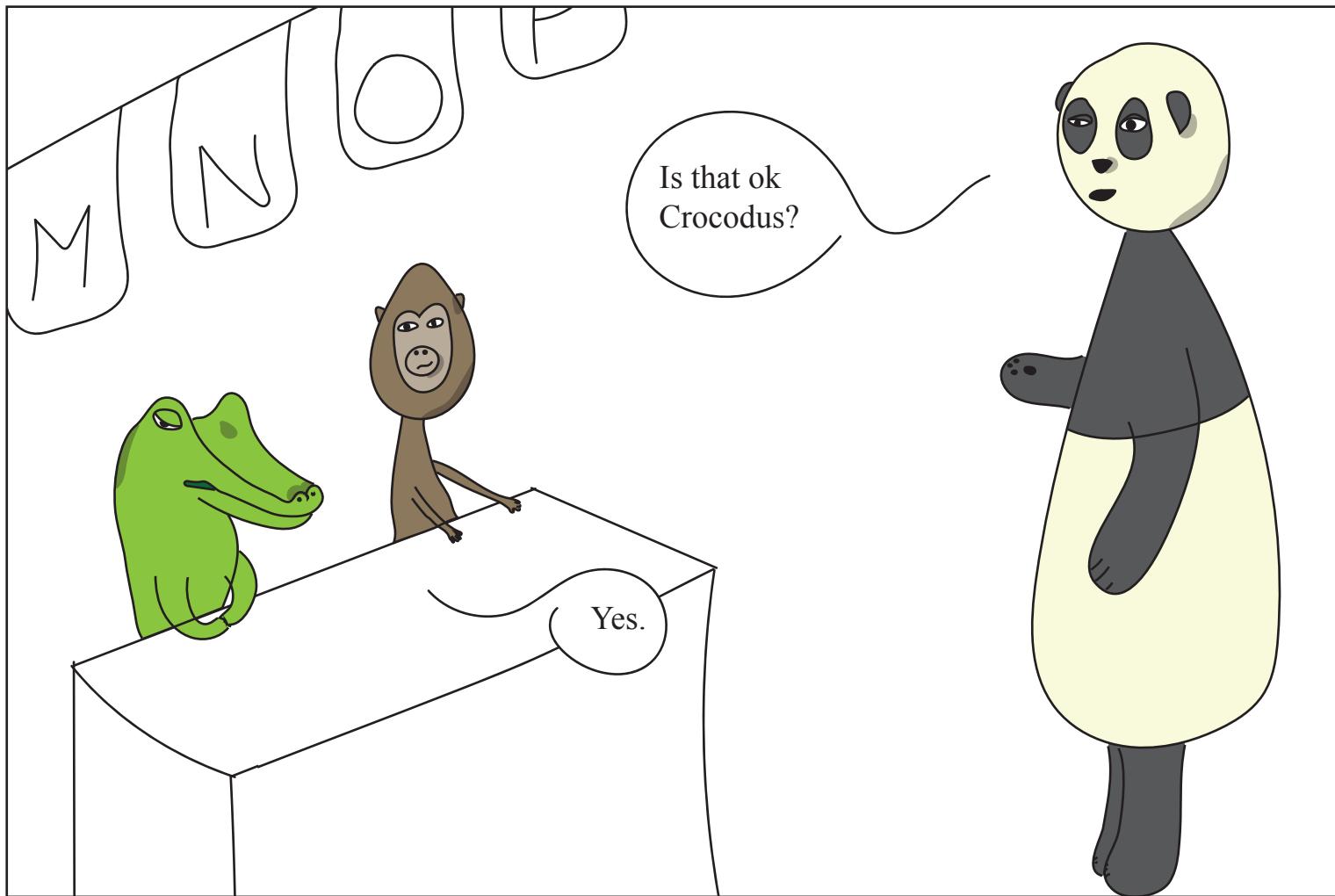
Chapter 11 - The Emperor

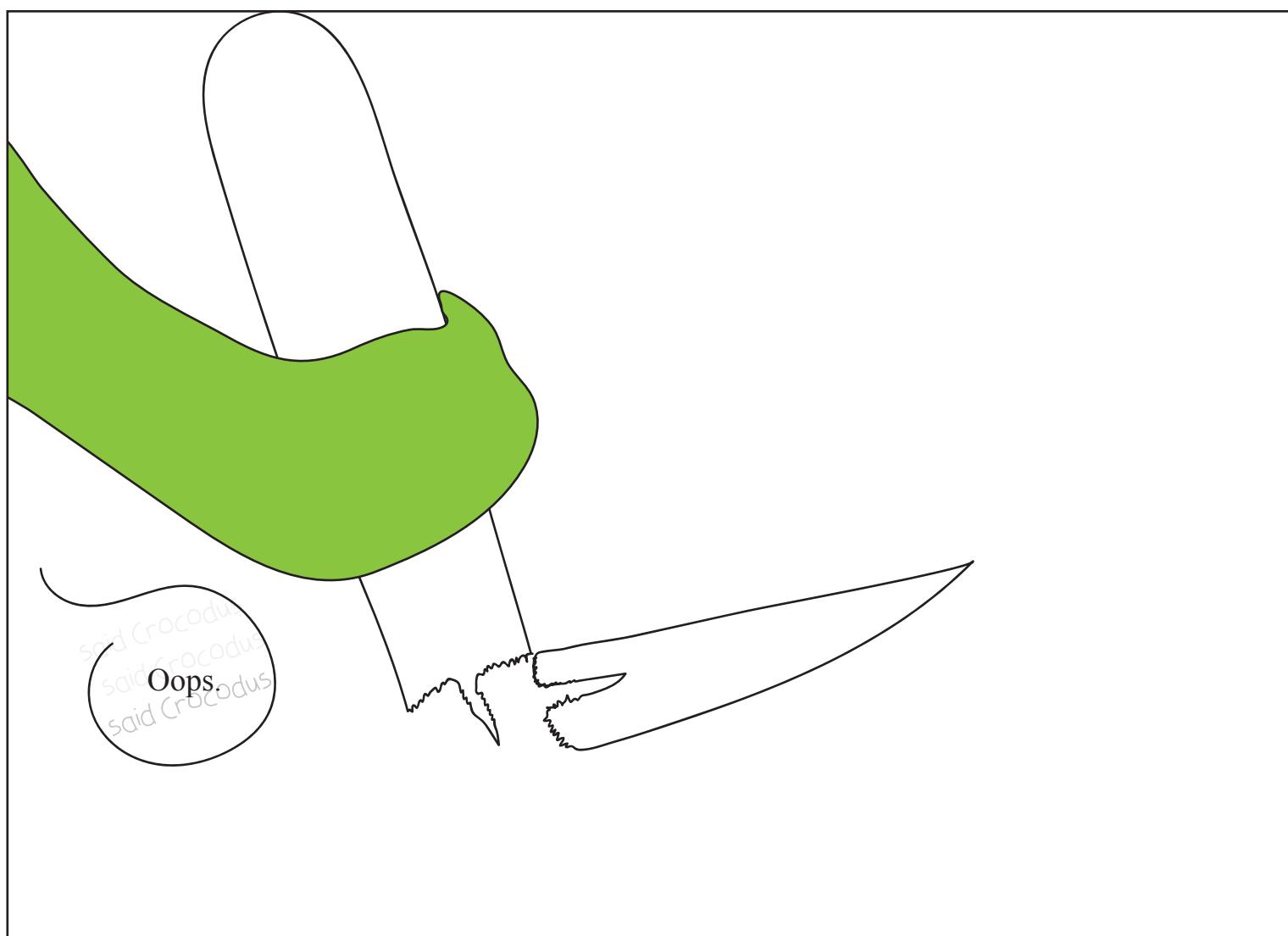


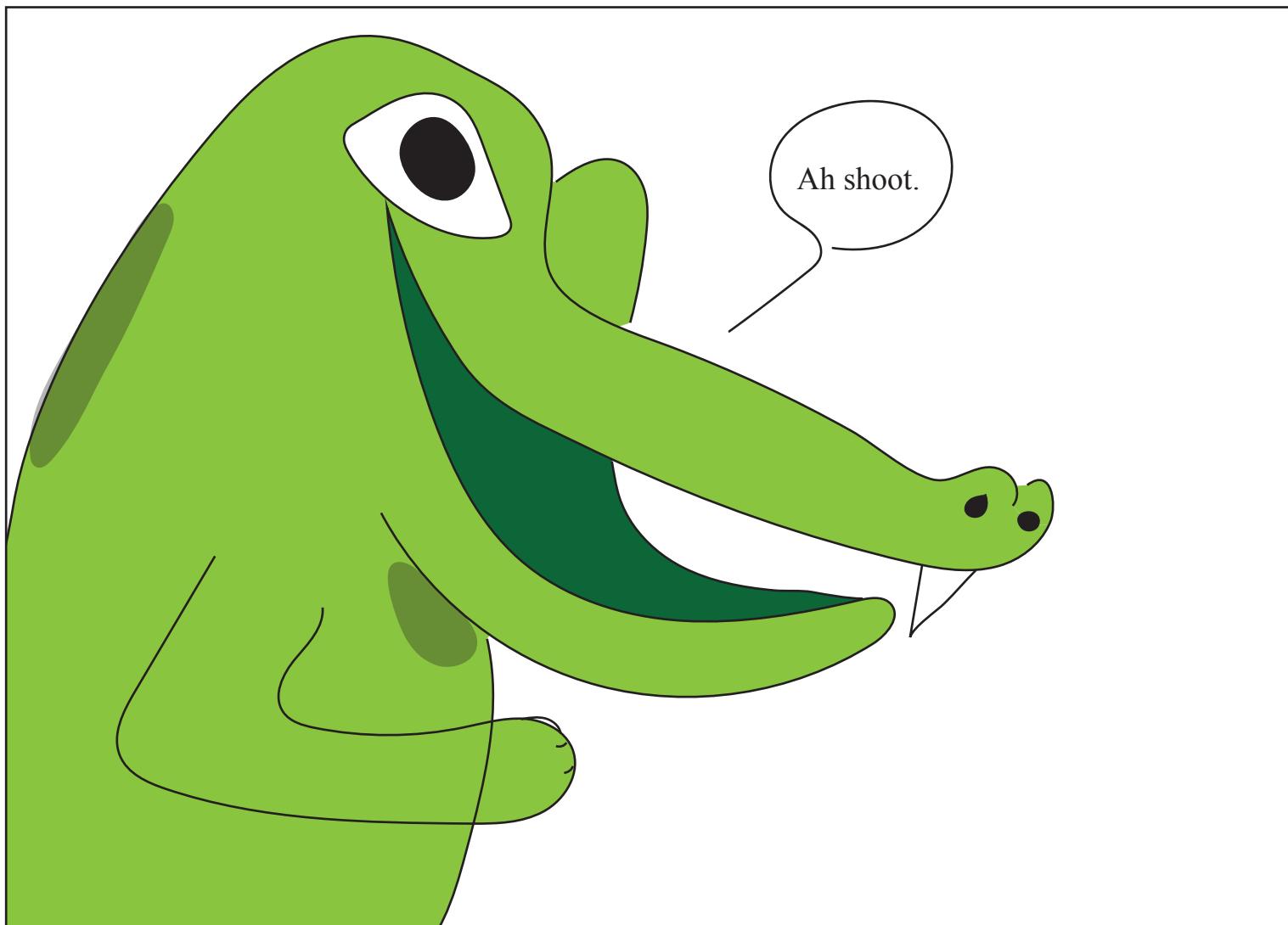


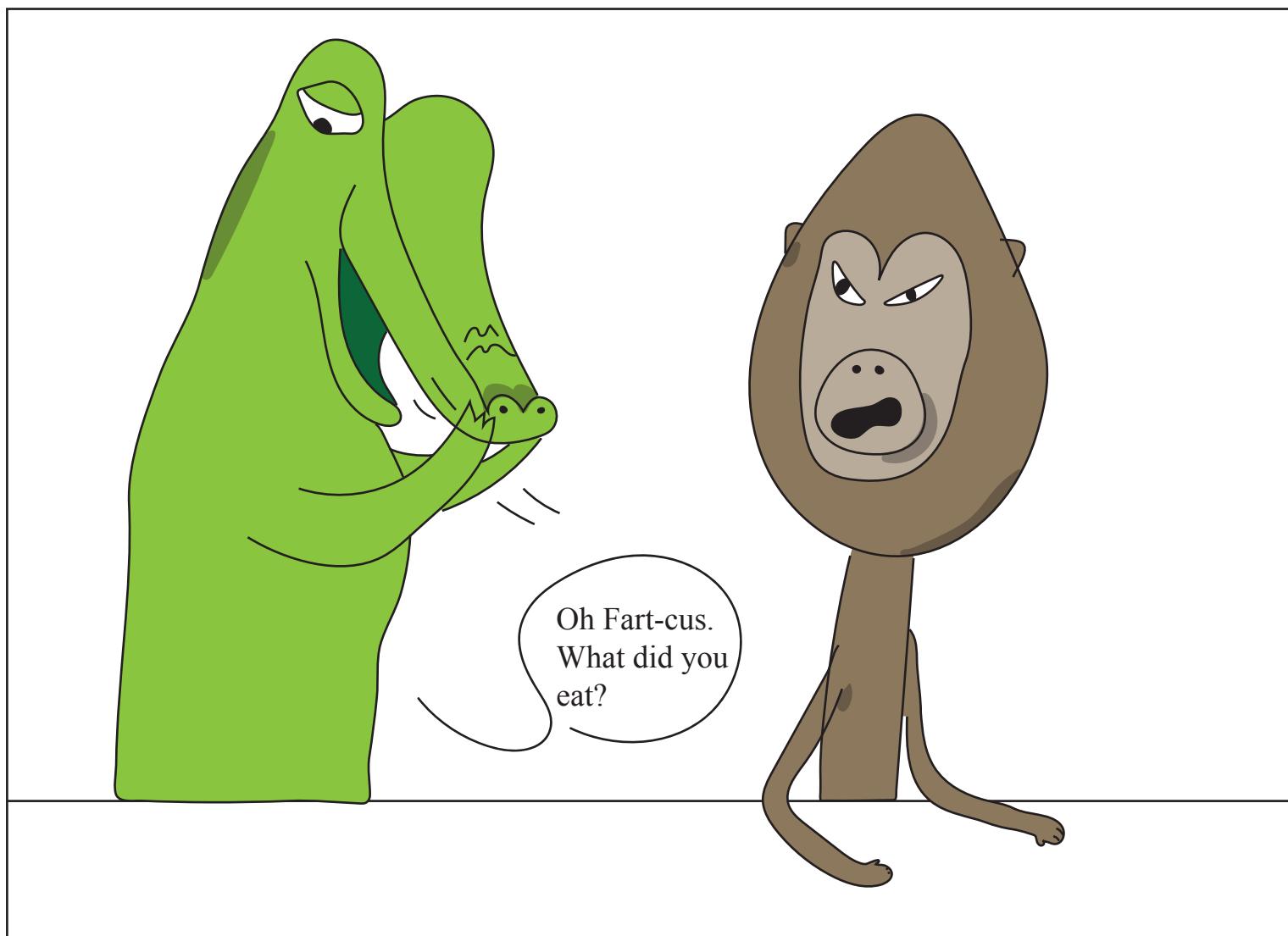
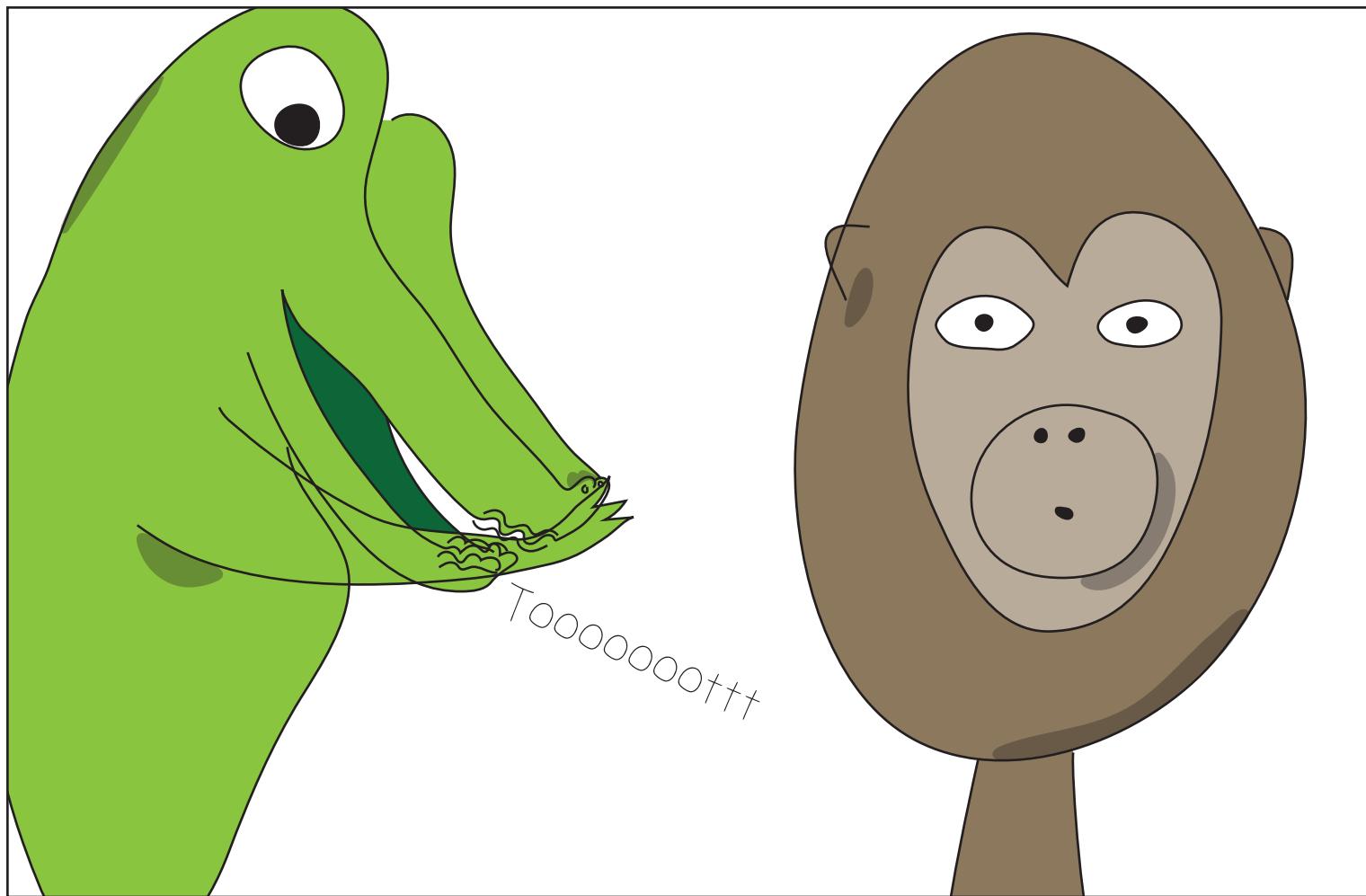
Today we will
go over odd
letter sounds.

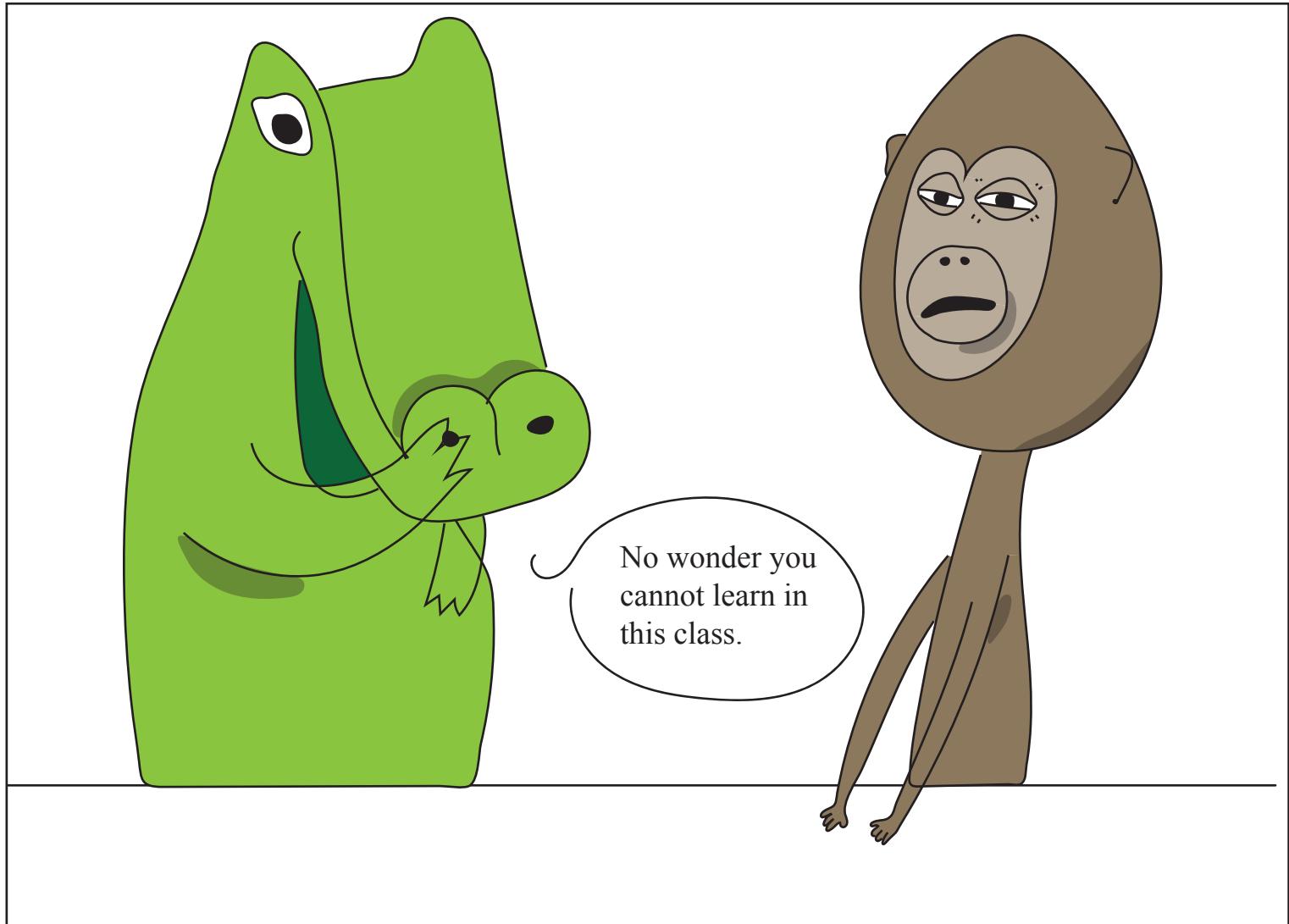
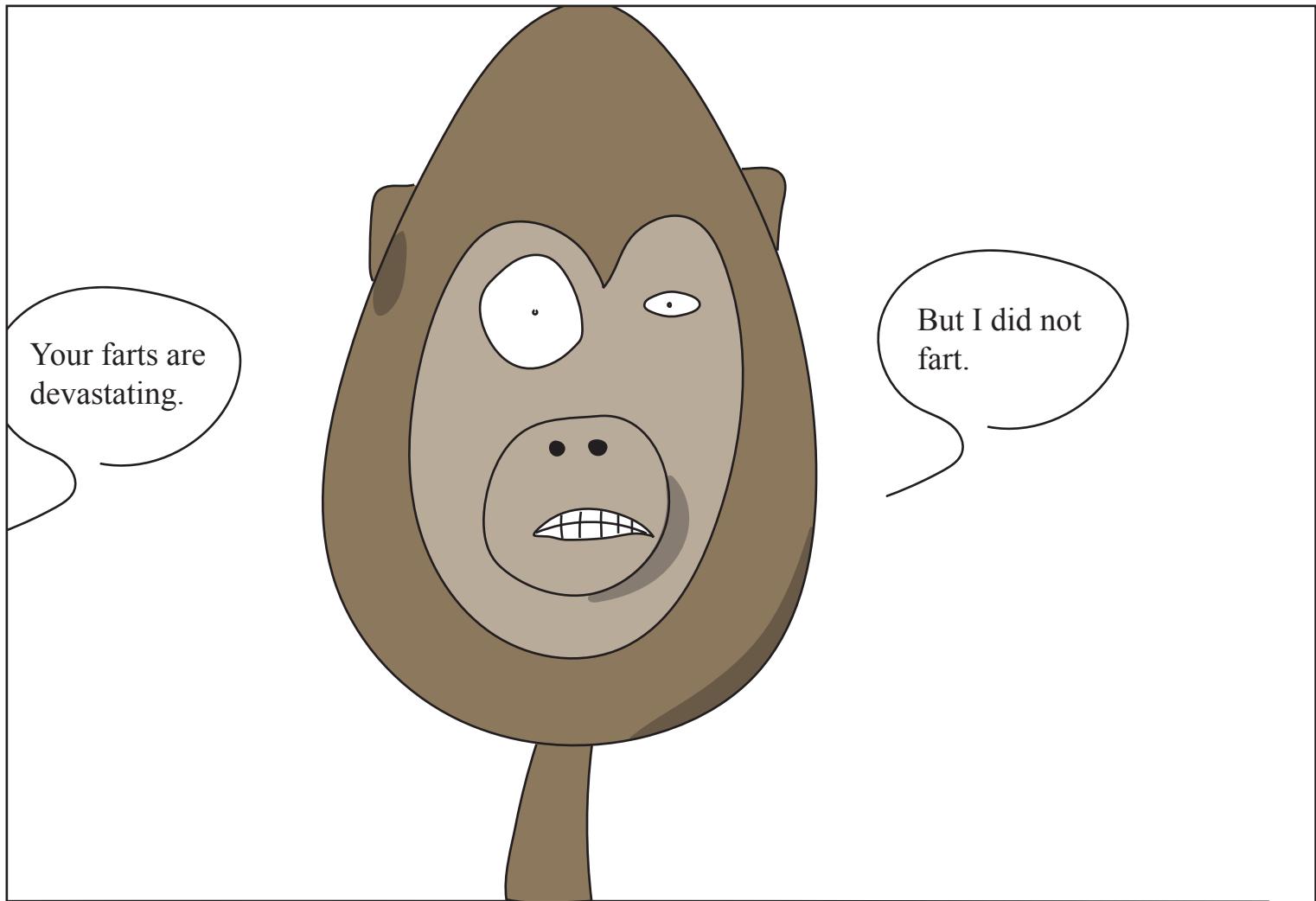


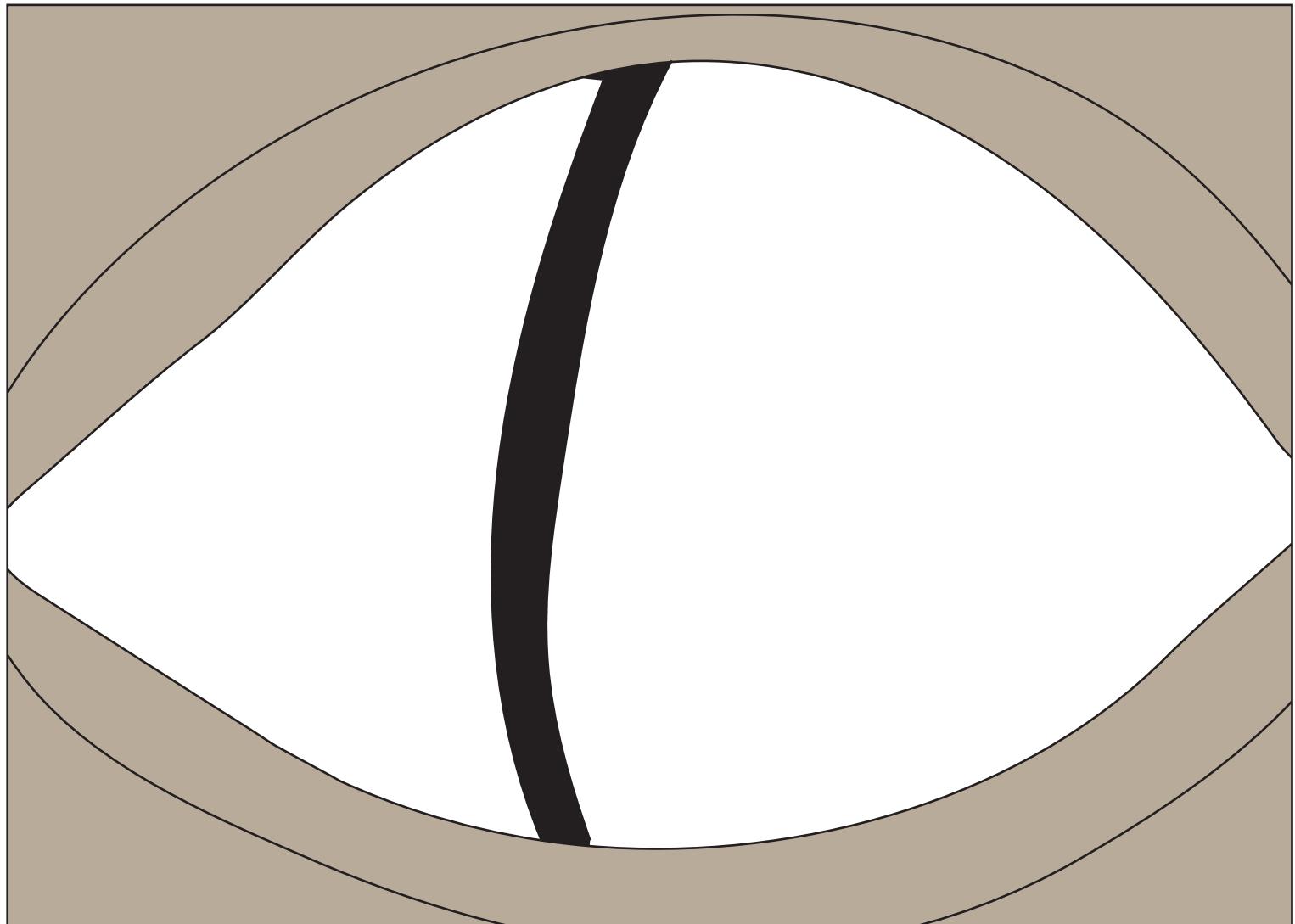
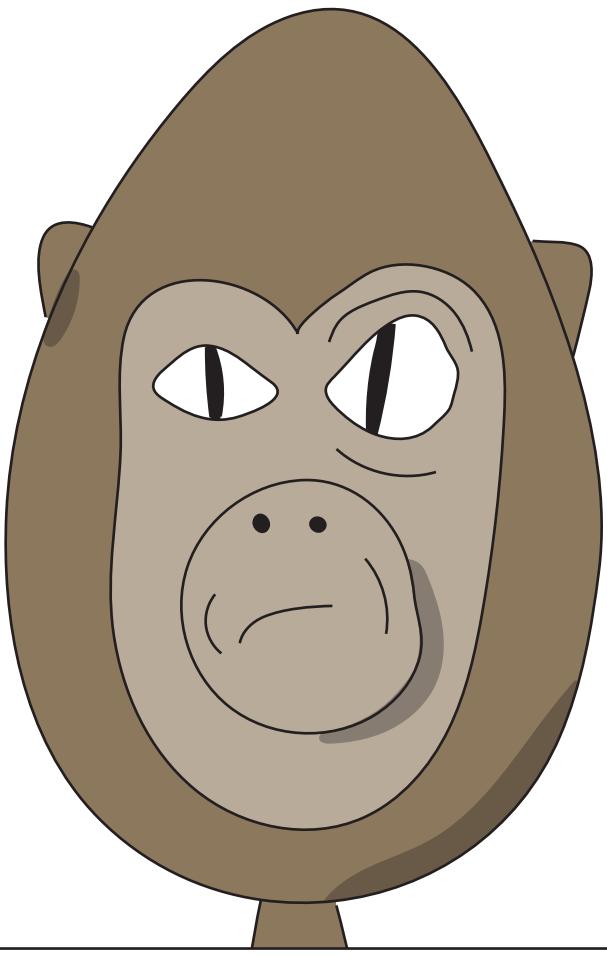


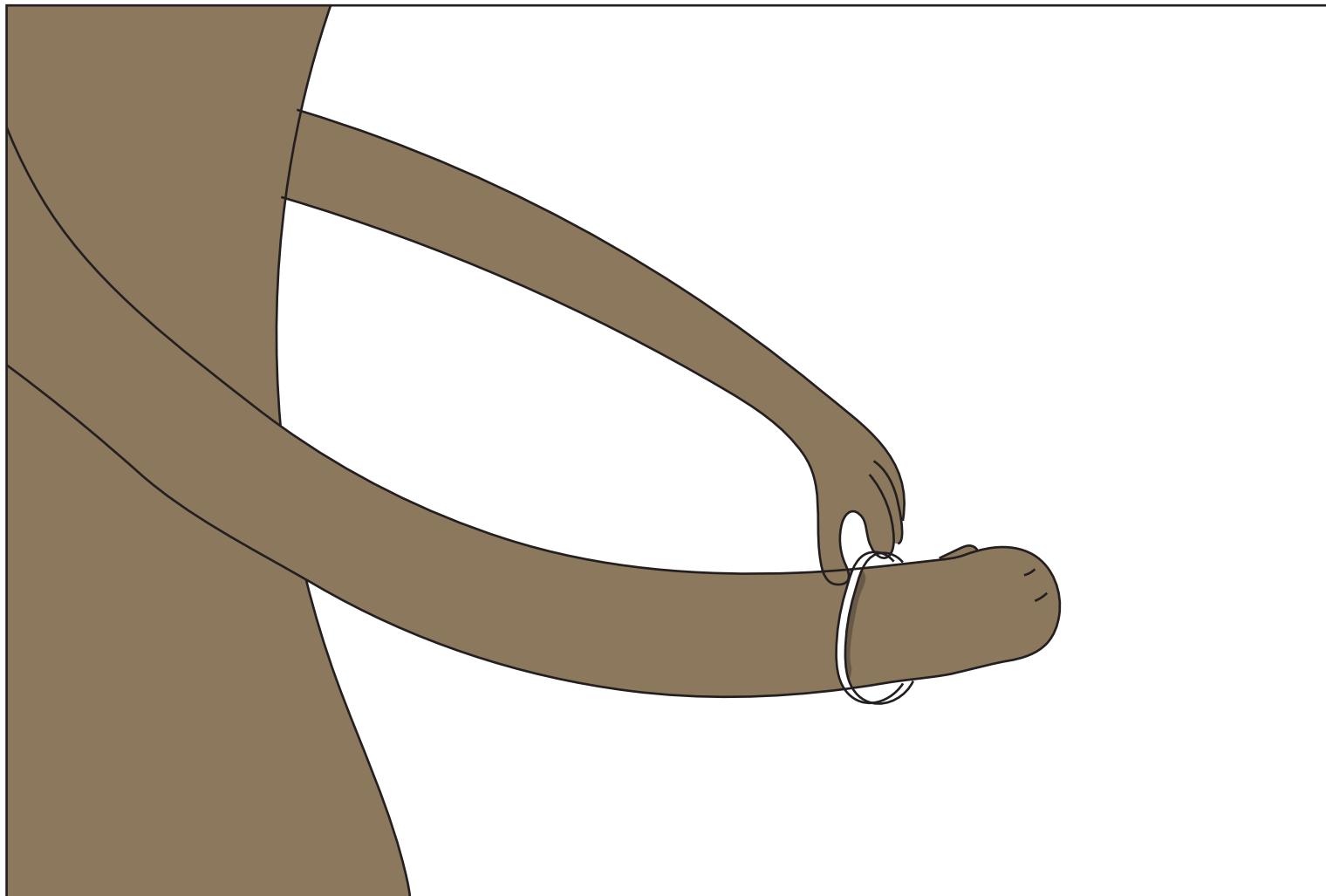
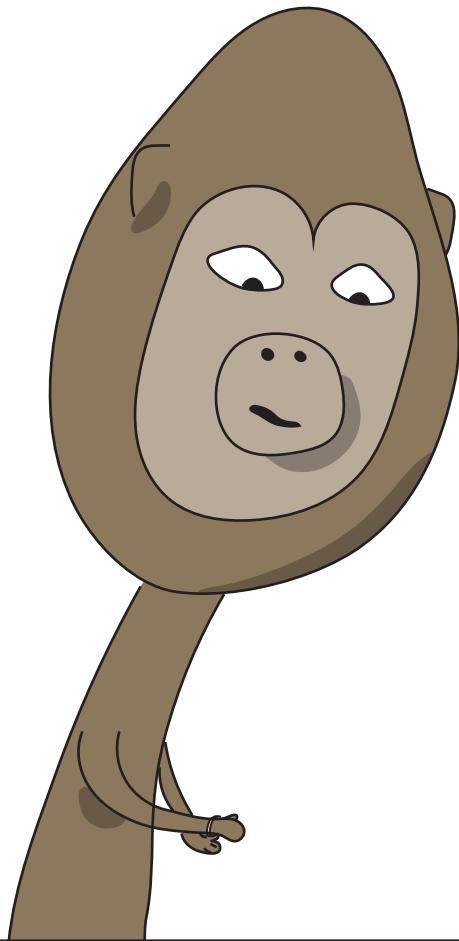


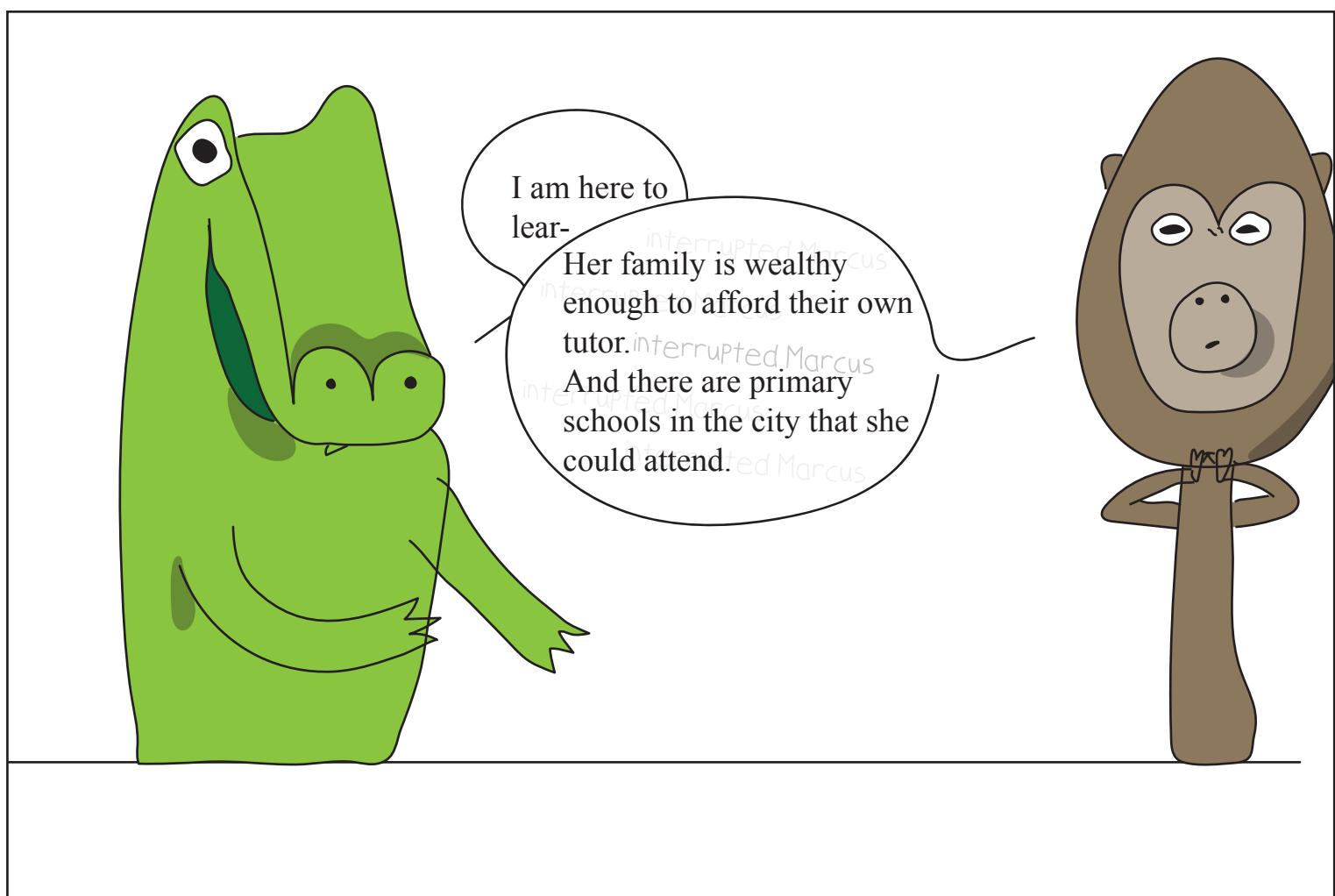
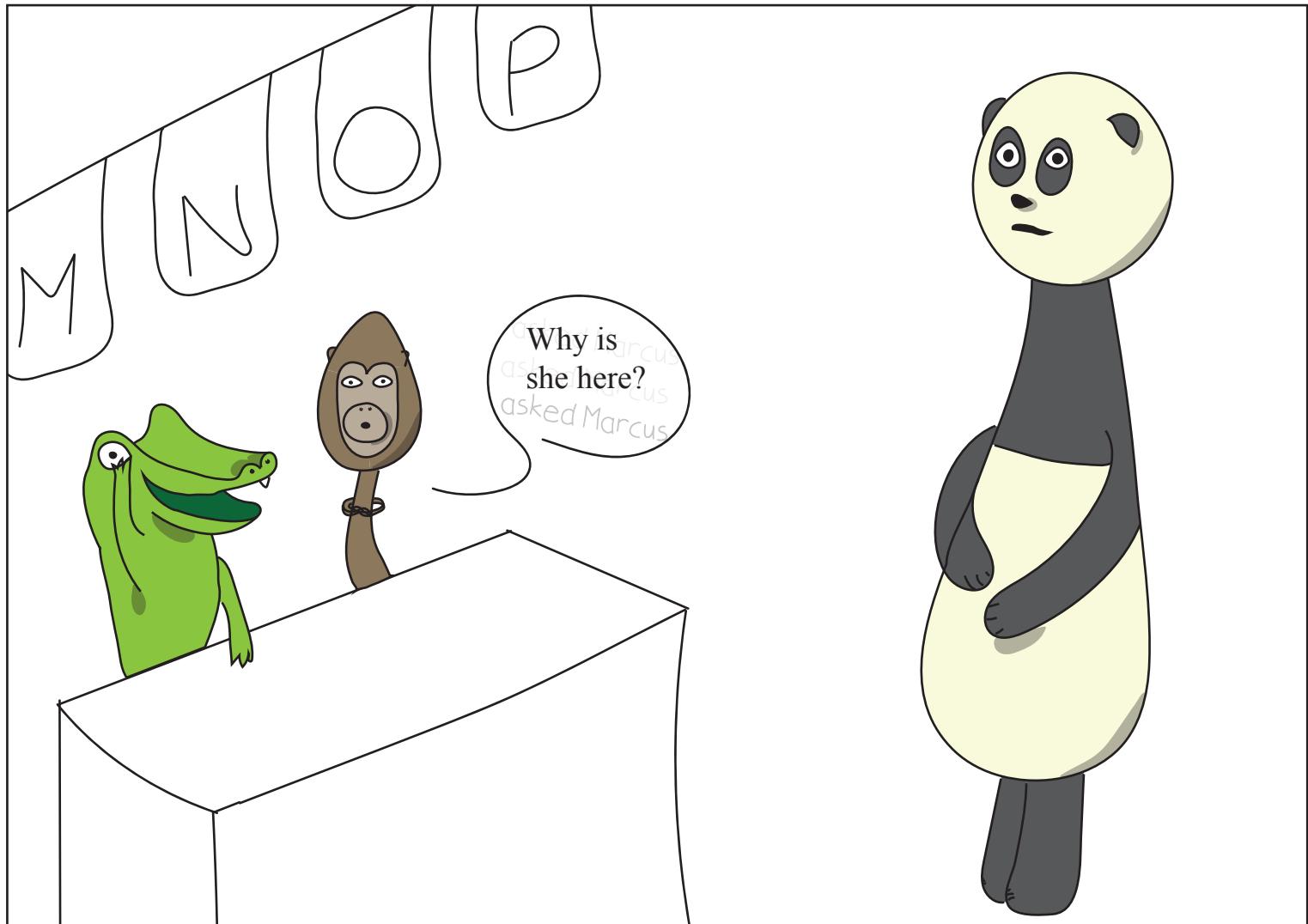


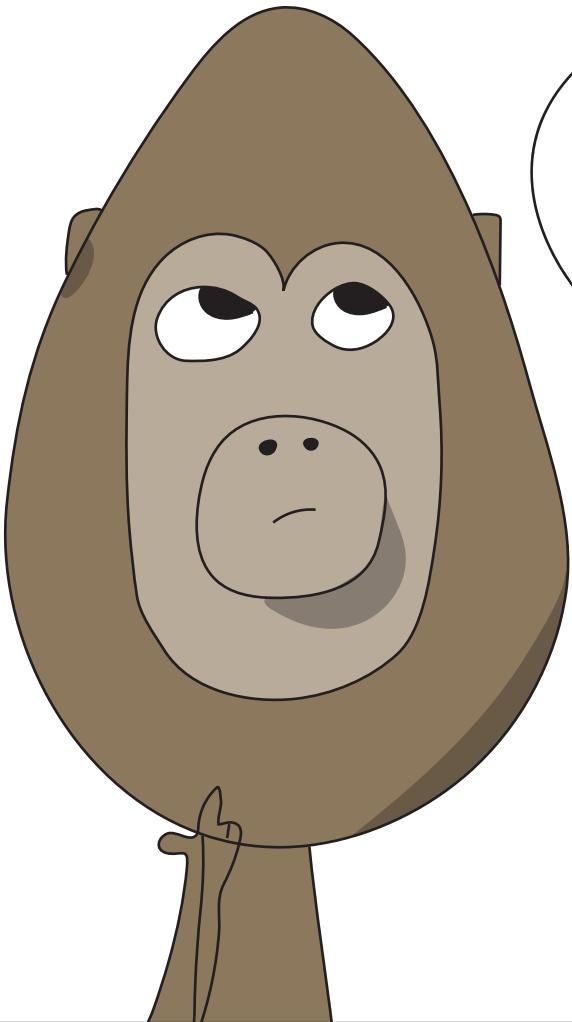




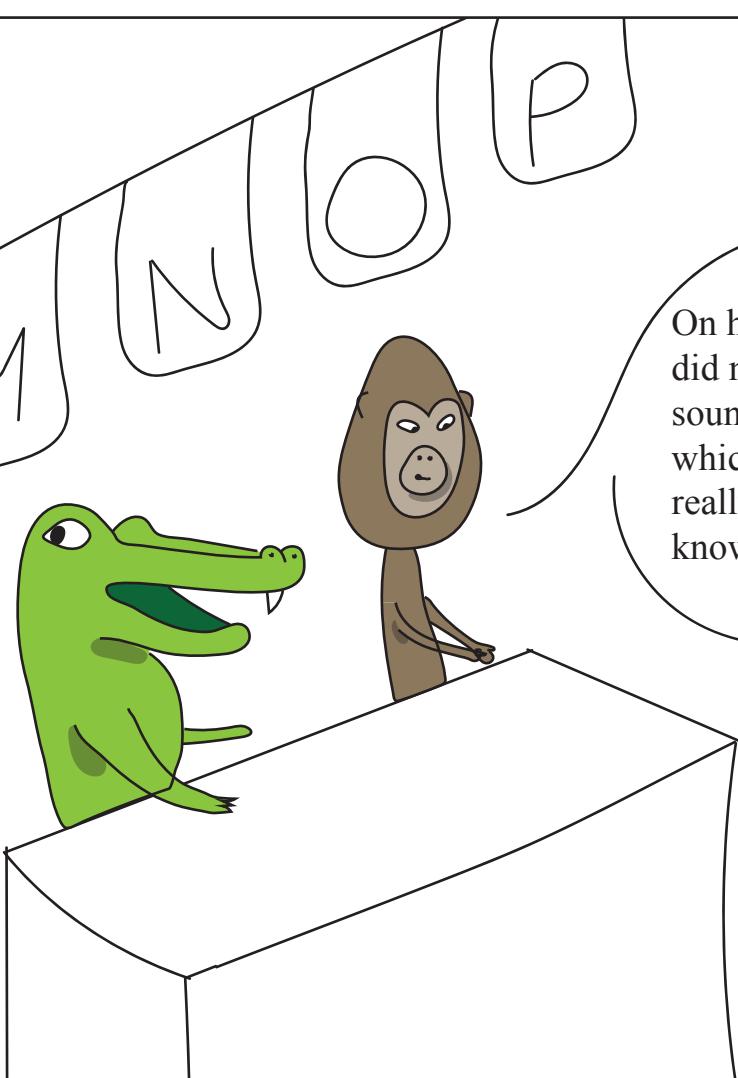






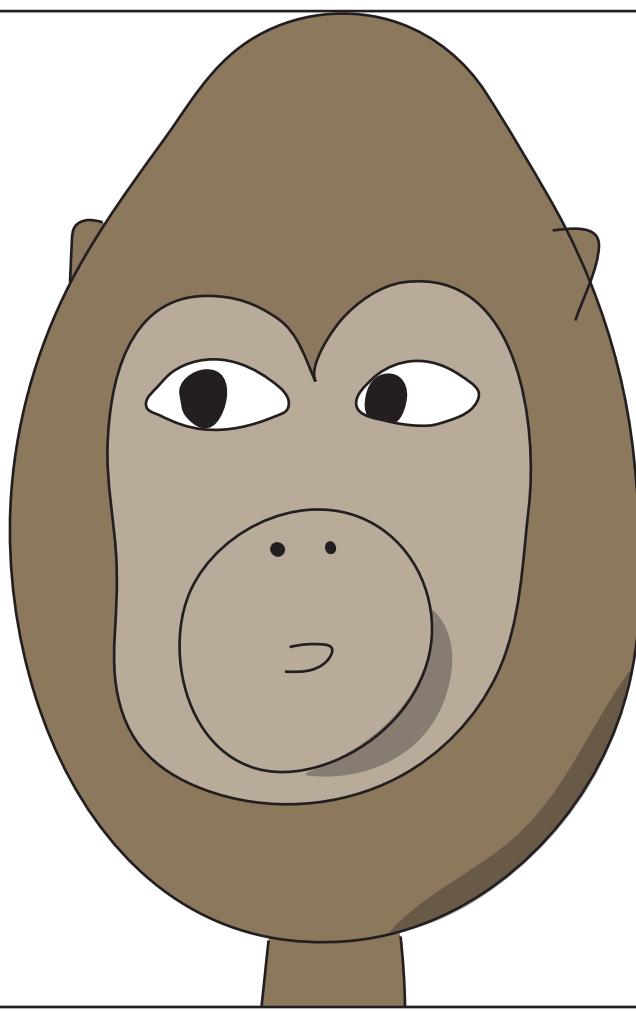


And judging by how her father talked to her, I would guess they have tried both of those things, and maybe more.



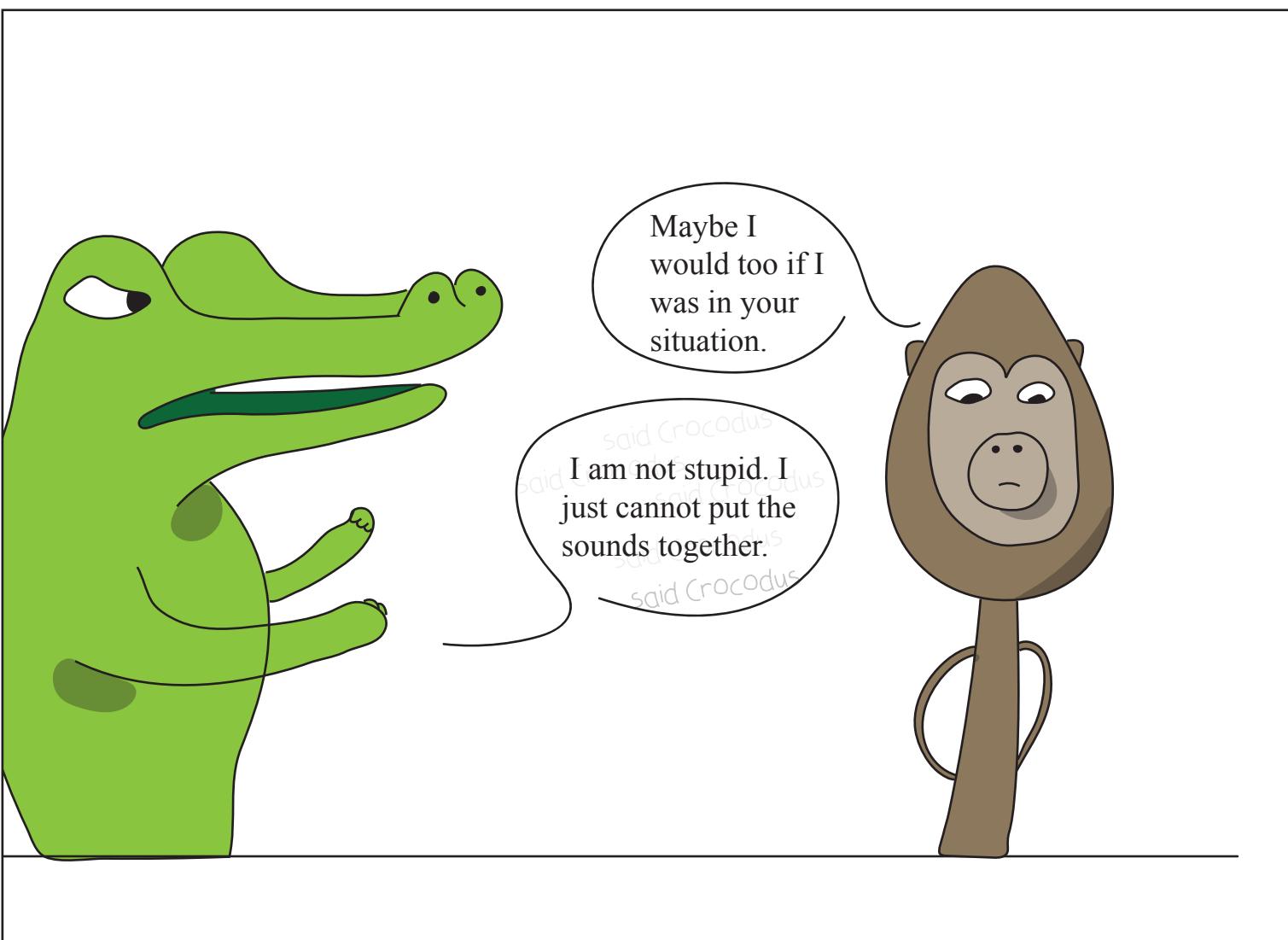
On her first day, she did not know what sound an M makes, which means she really does not know how to read.

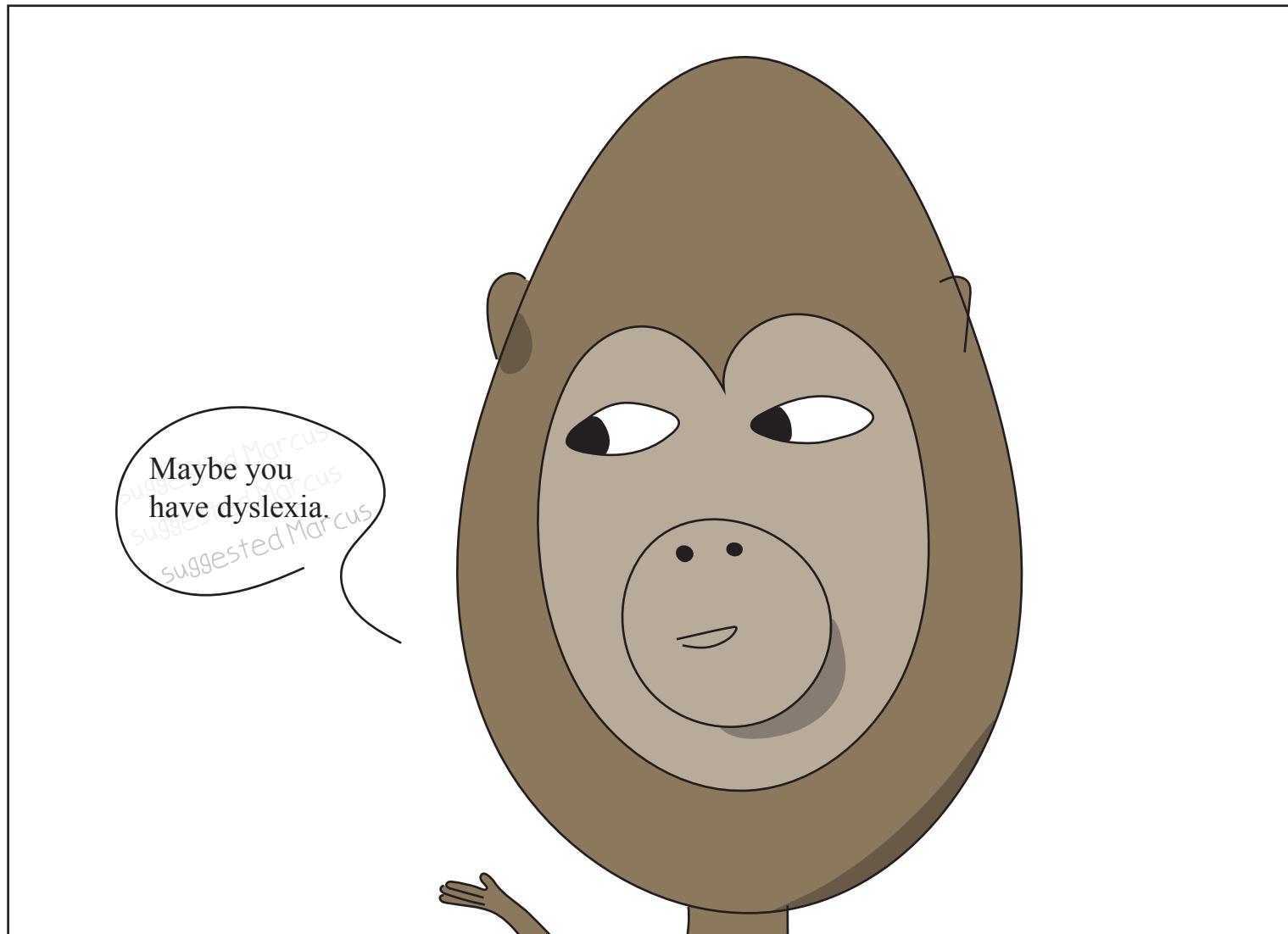
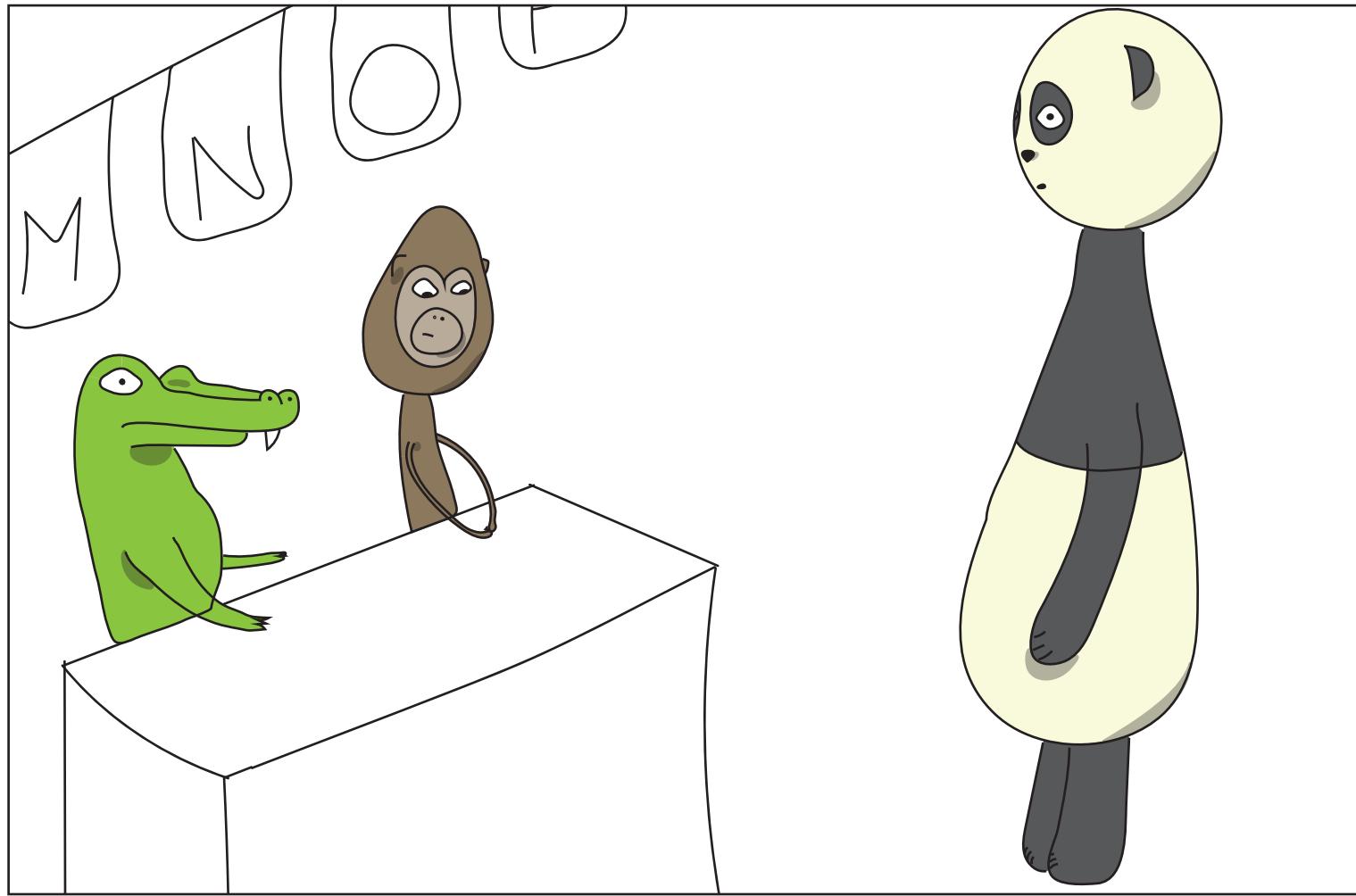


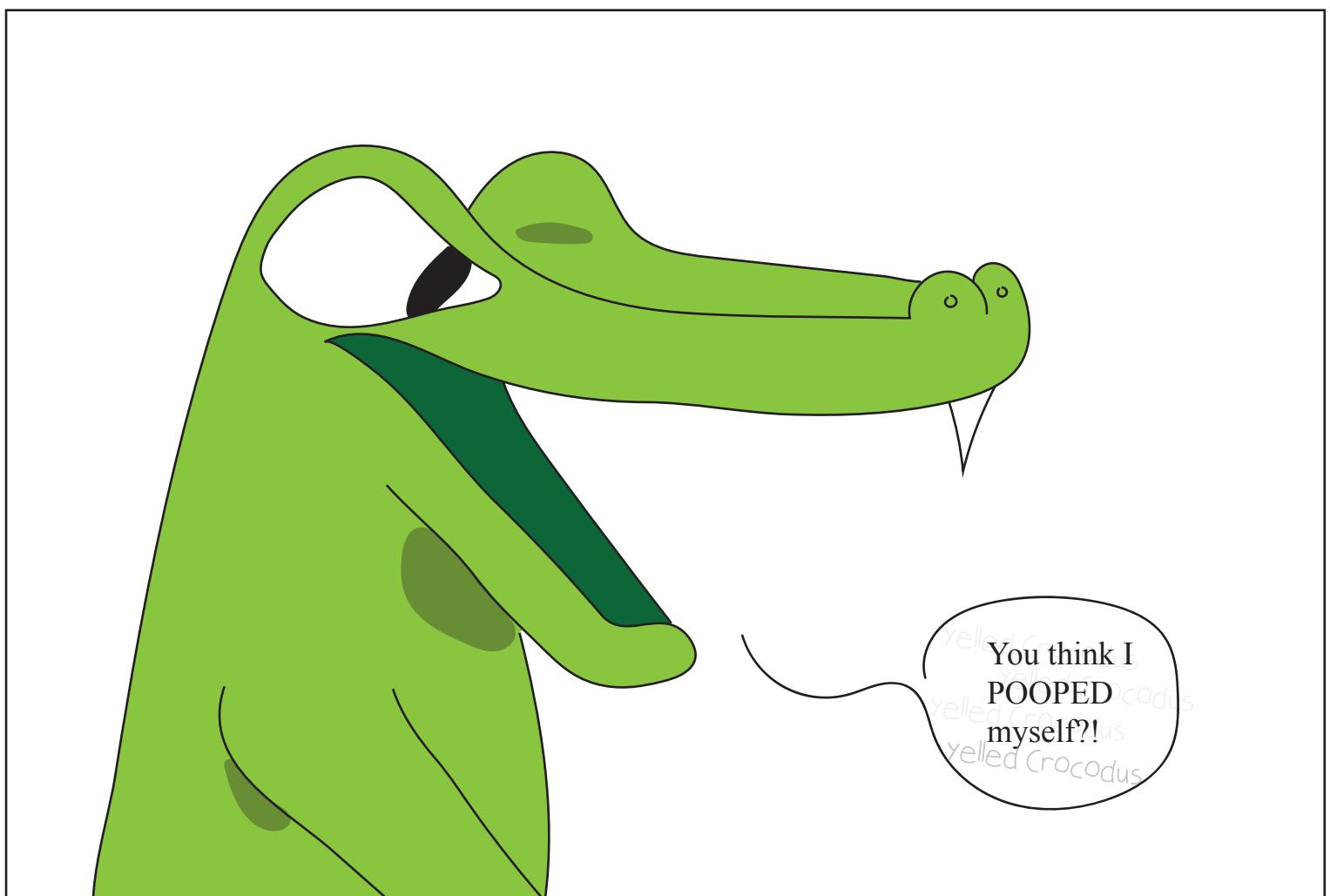
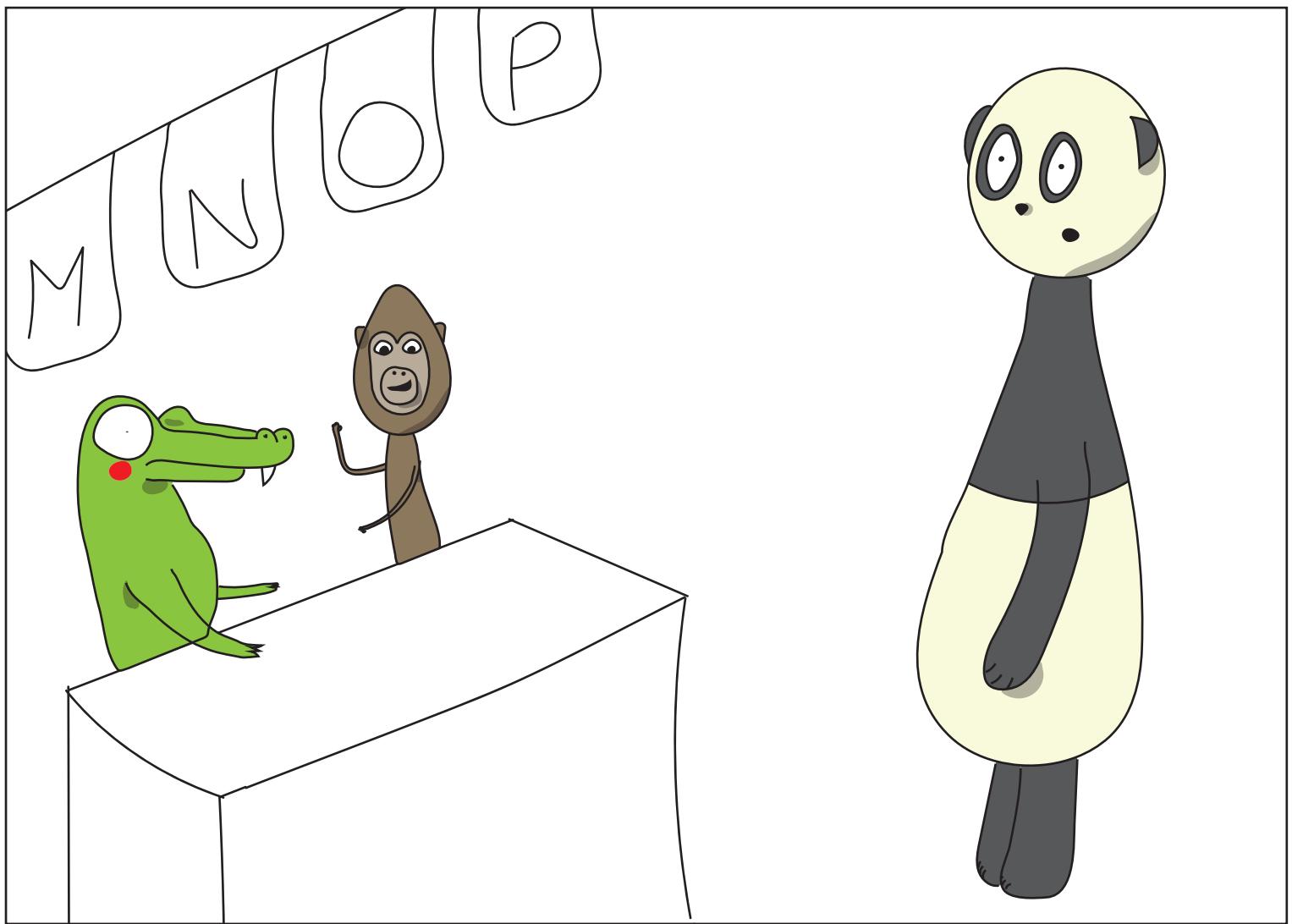


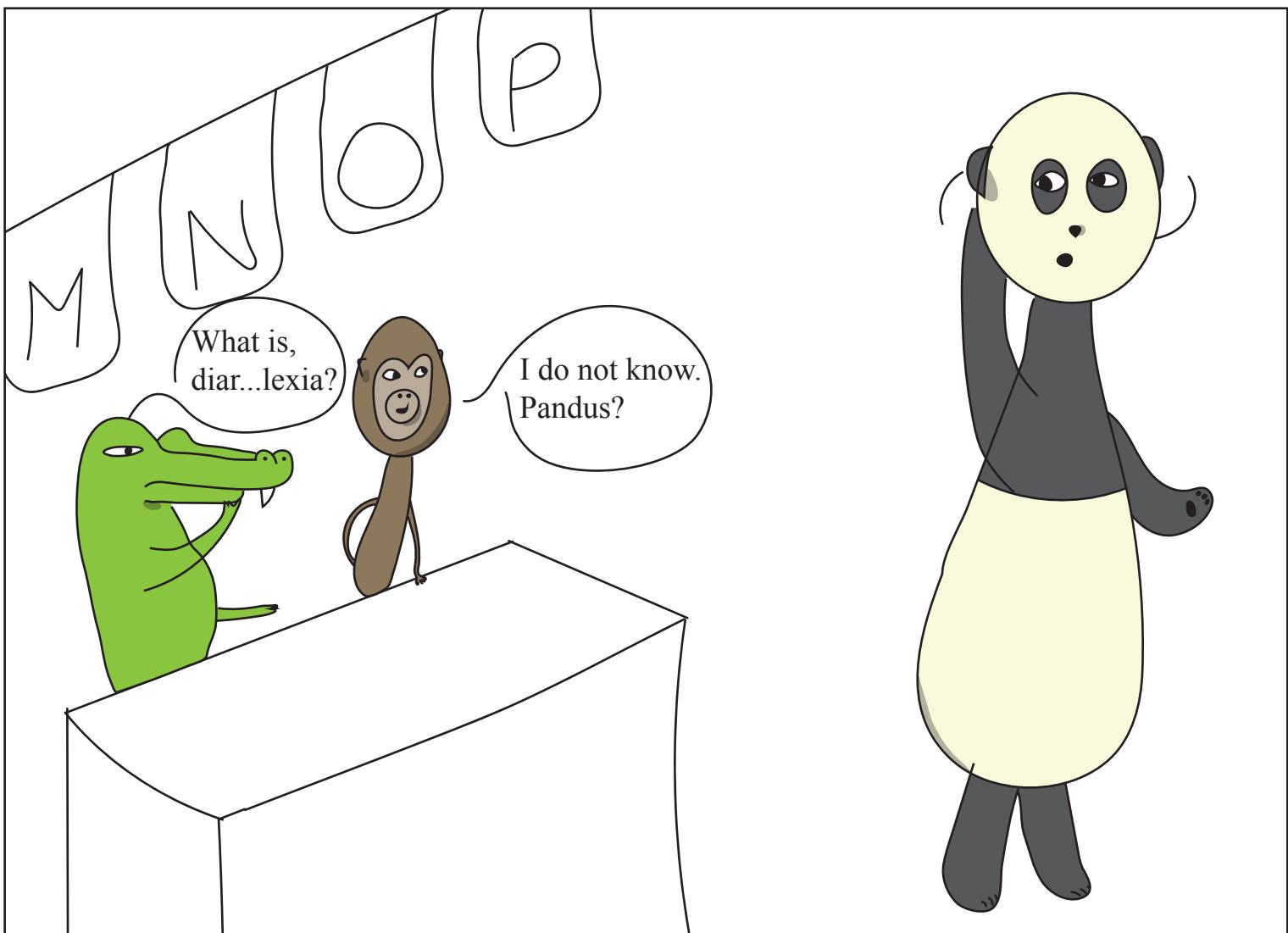
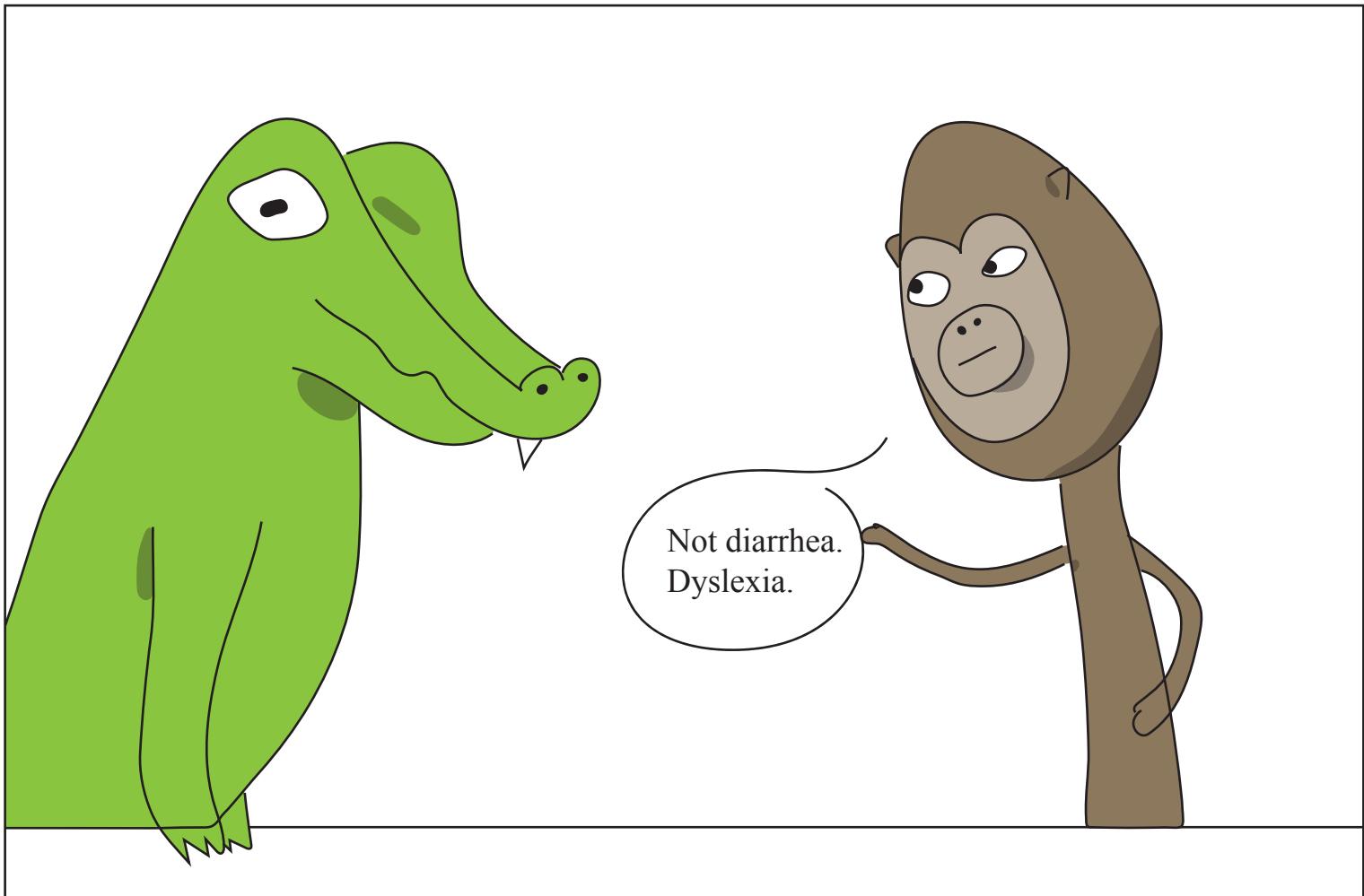
And instead of
trying to get
better, you just
annoy me.

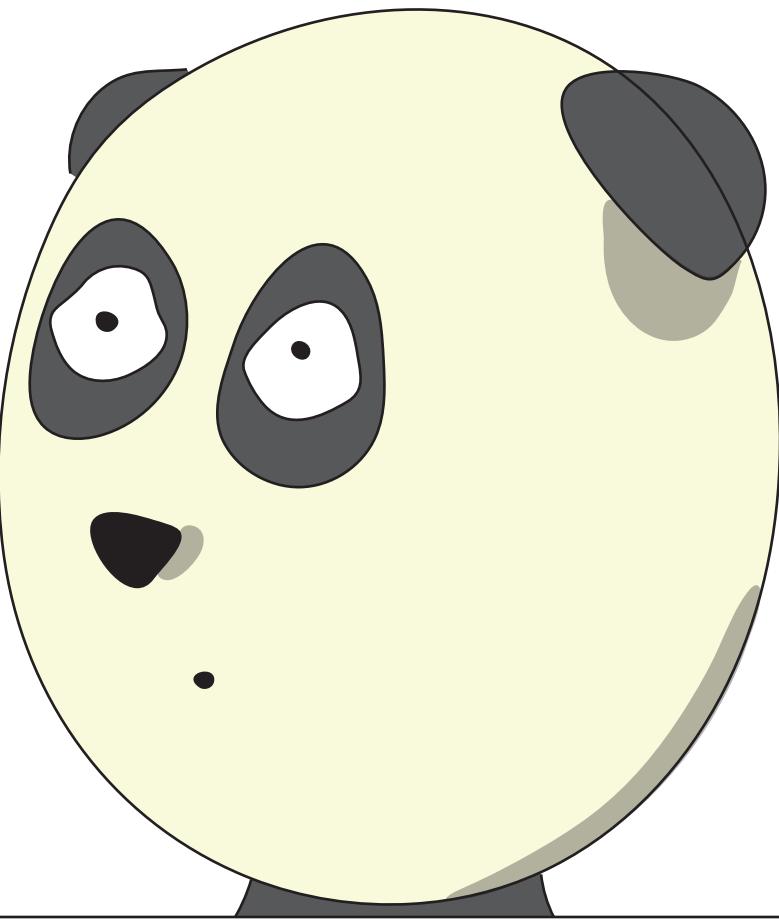
said Marcus



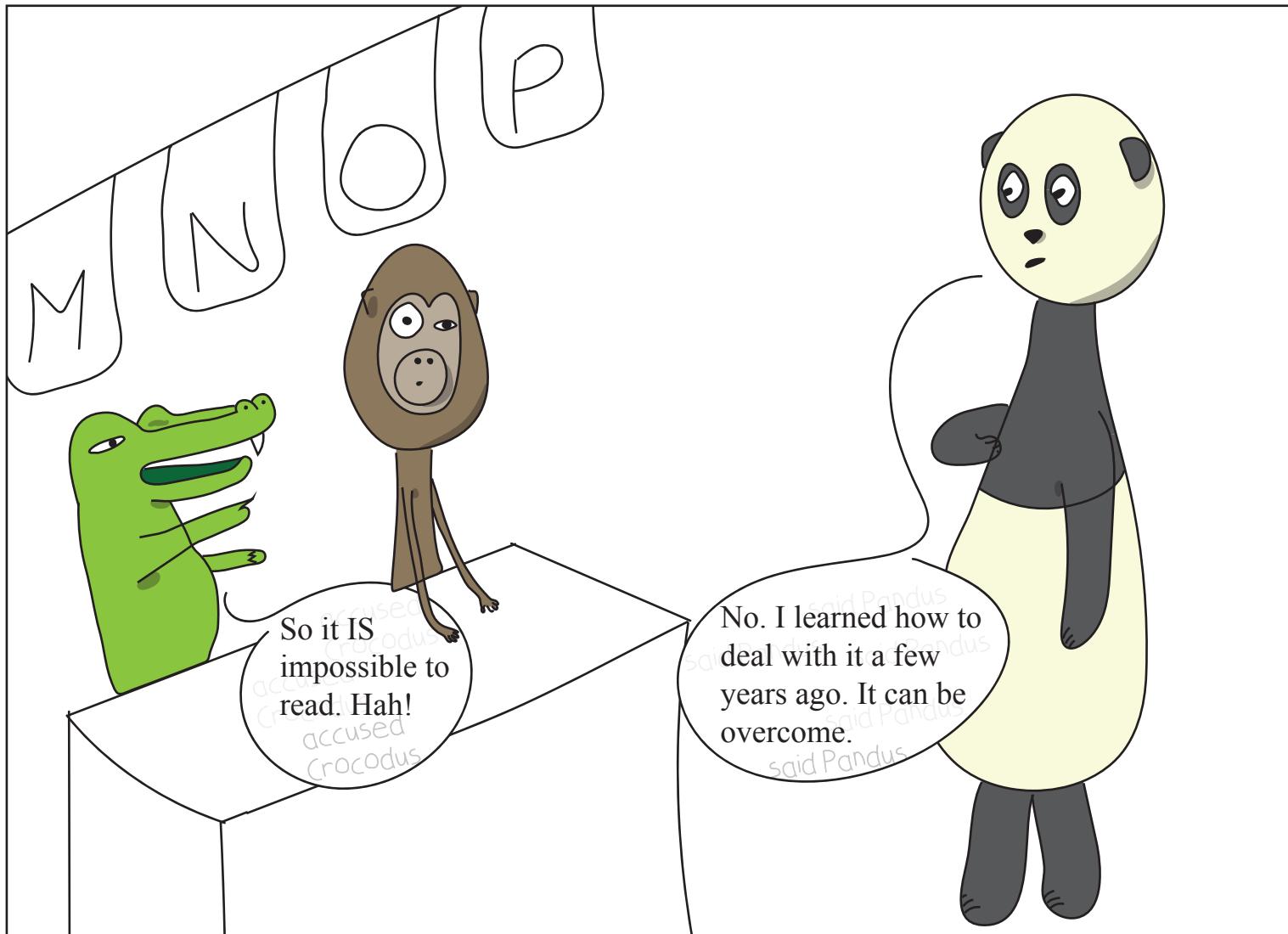


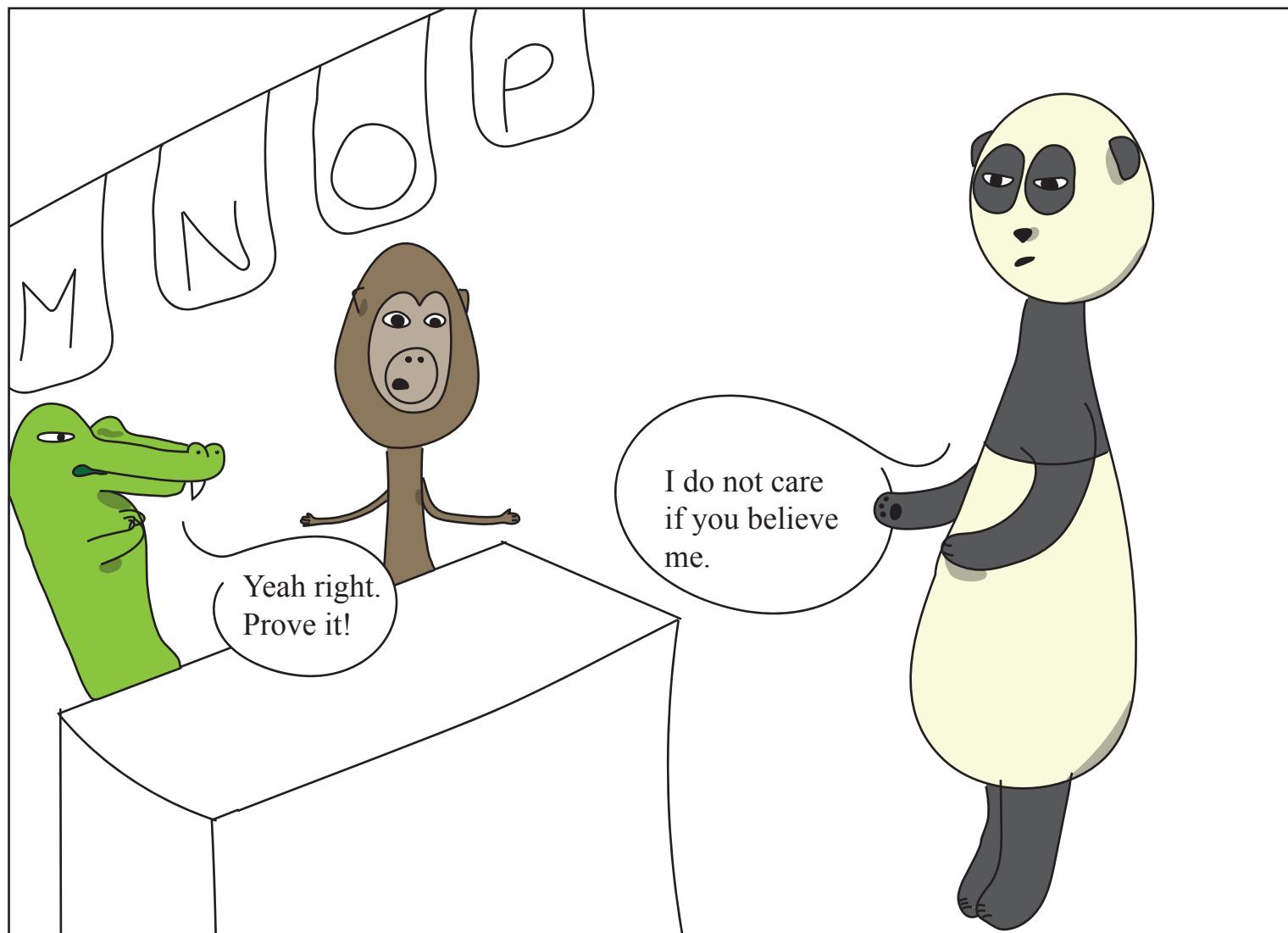
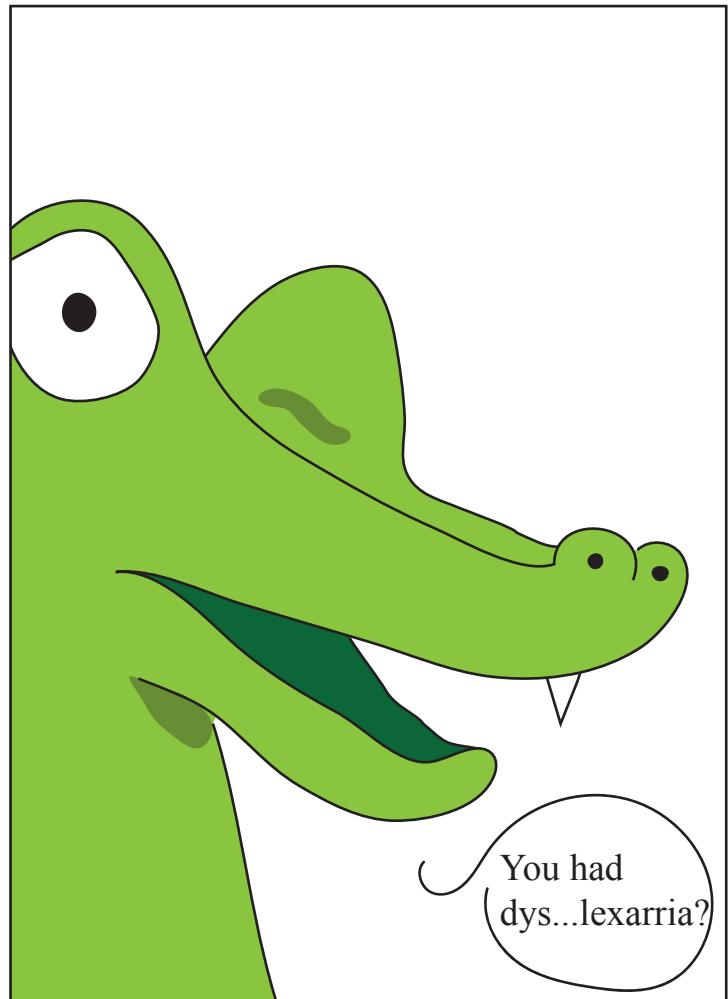


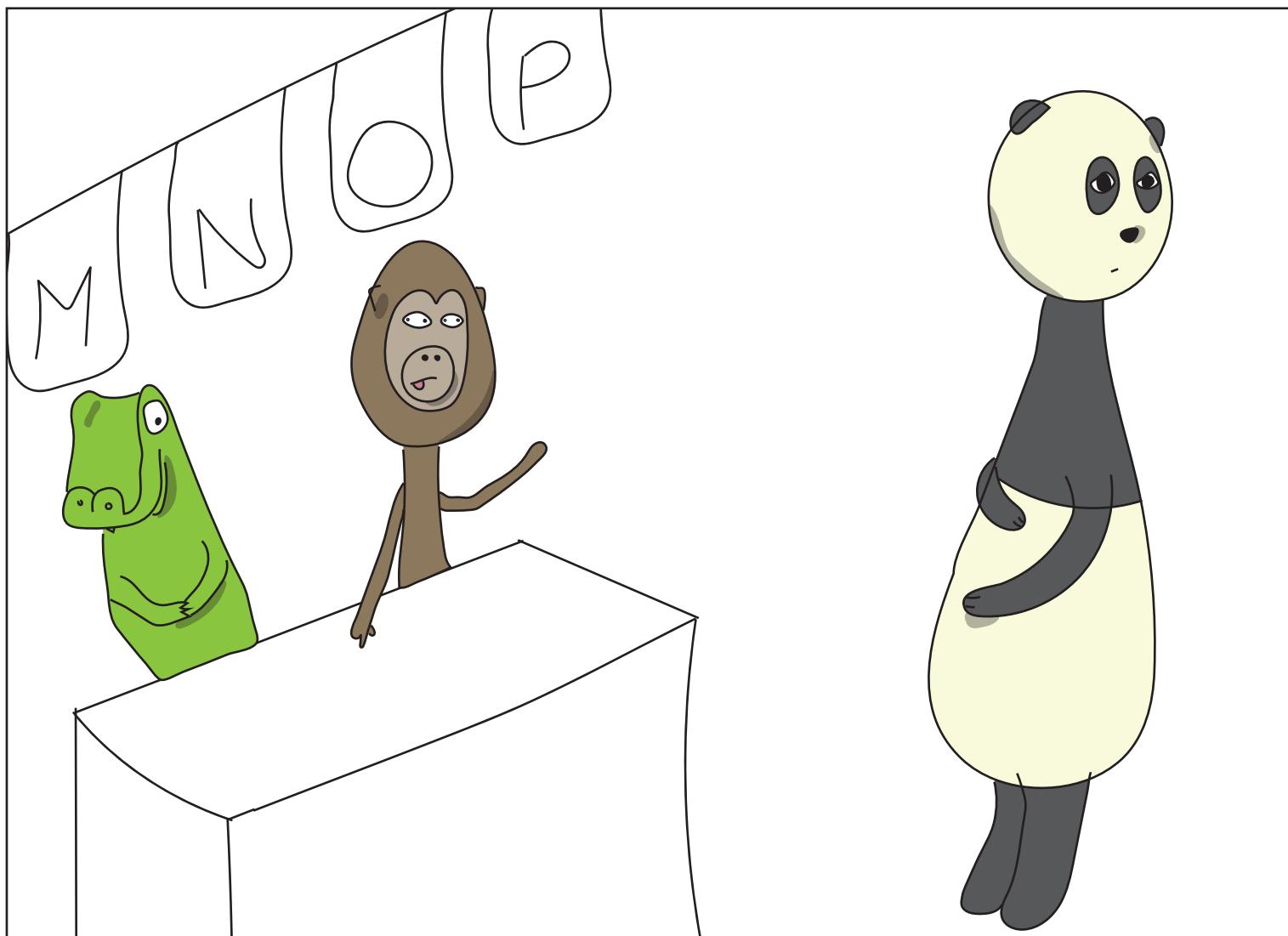
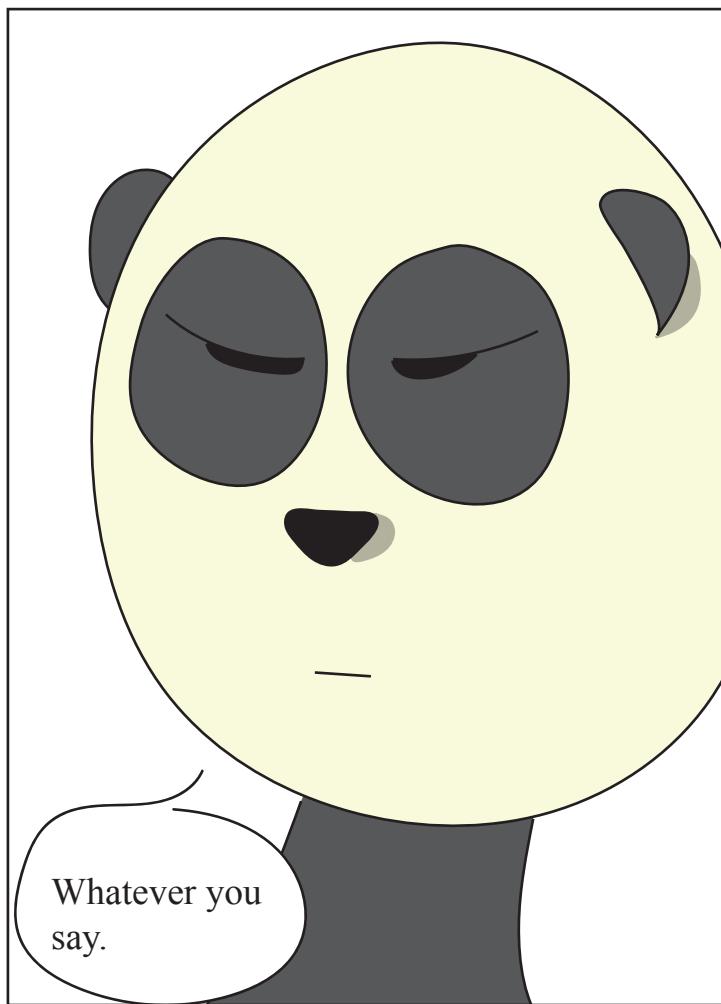
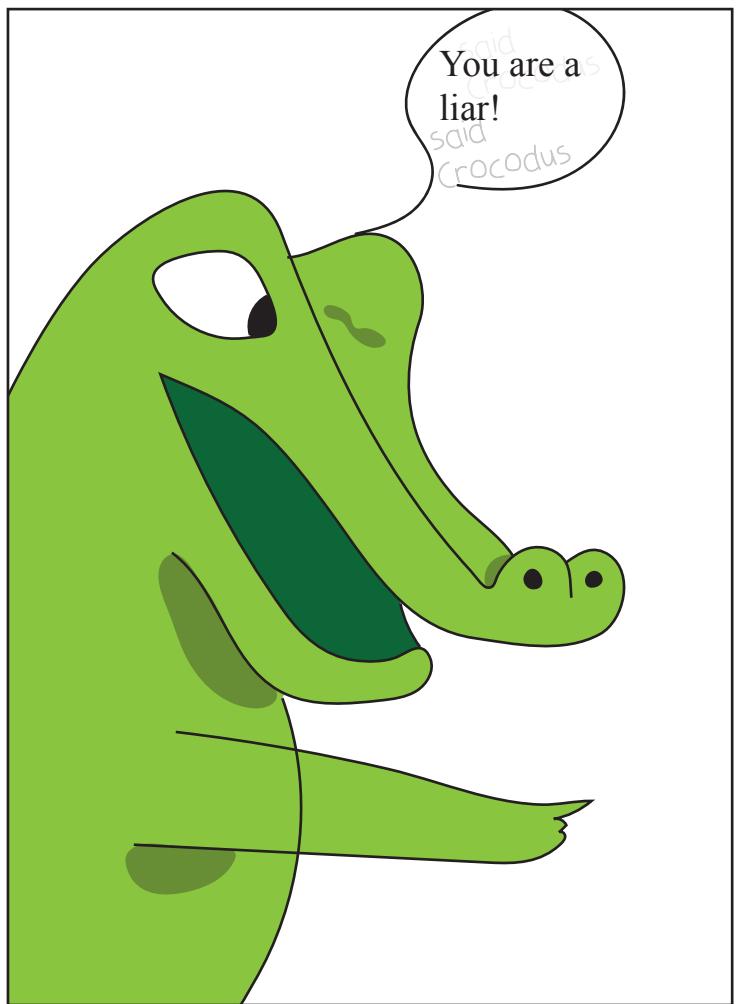


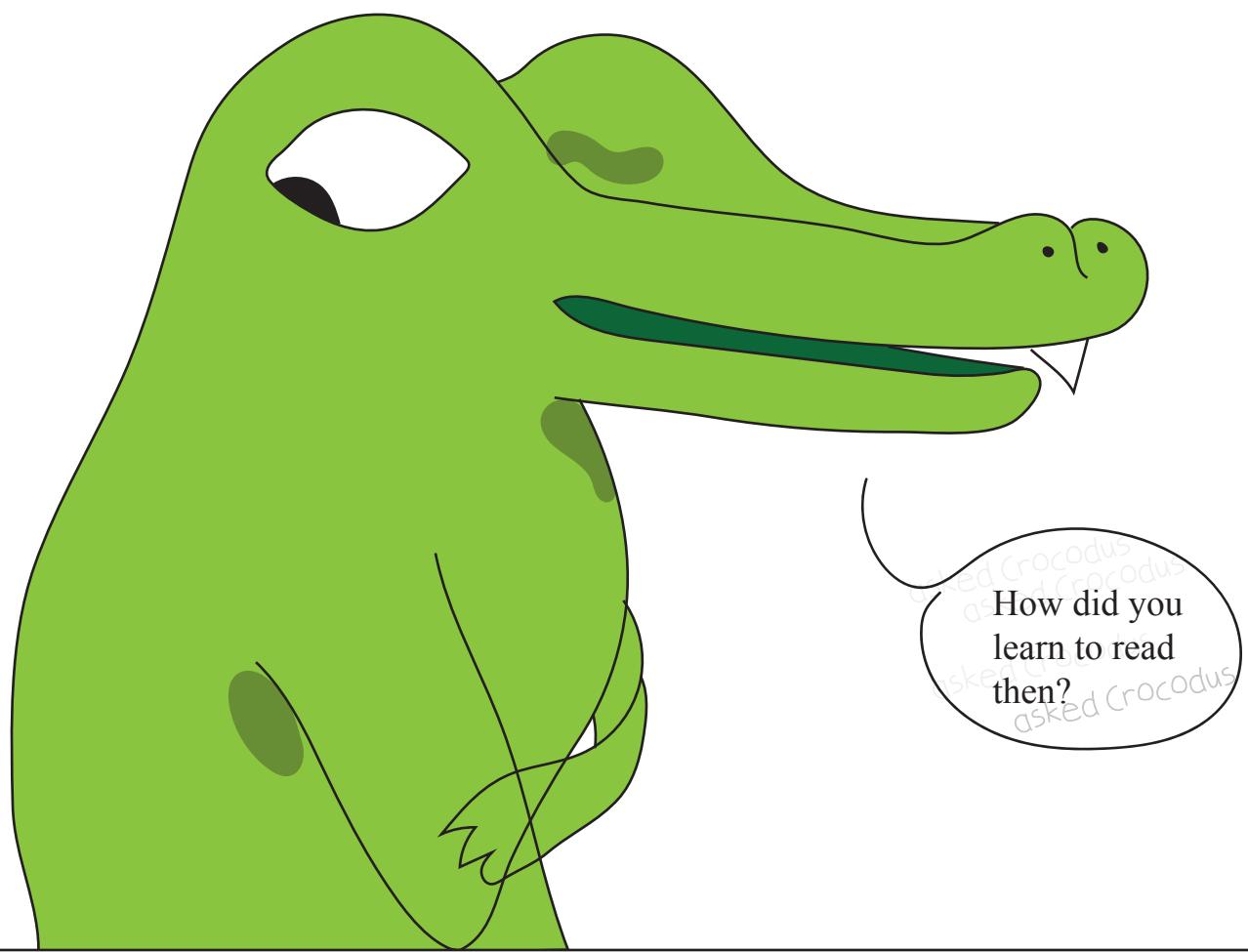


Dyslexia is when
you know all the
letters, but the
sounds just do
not come to you.
said Pandus

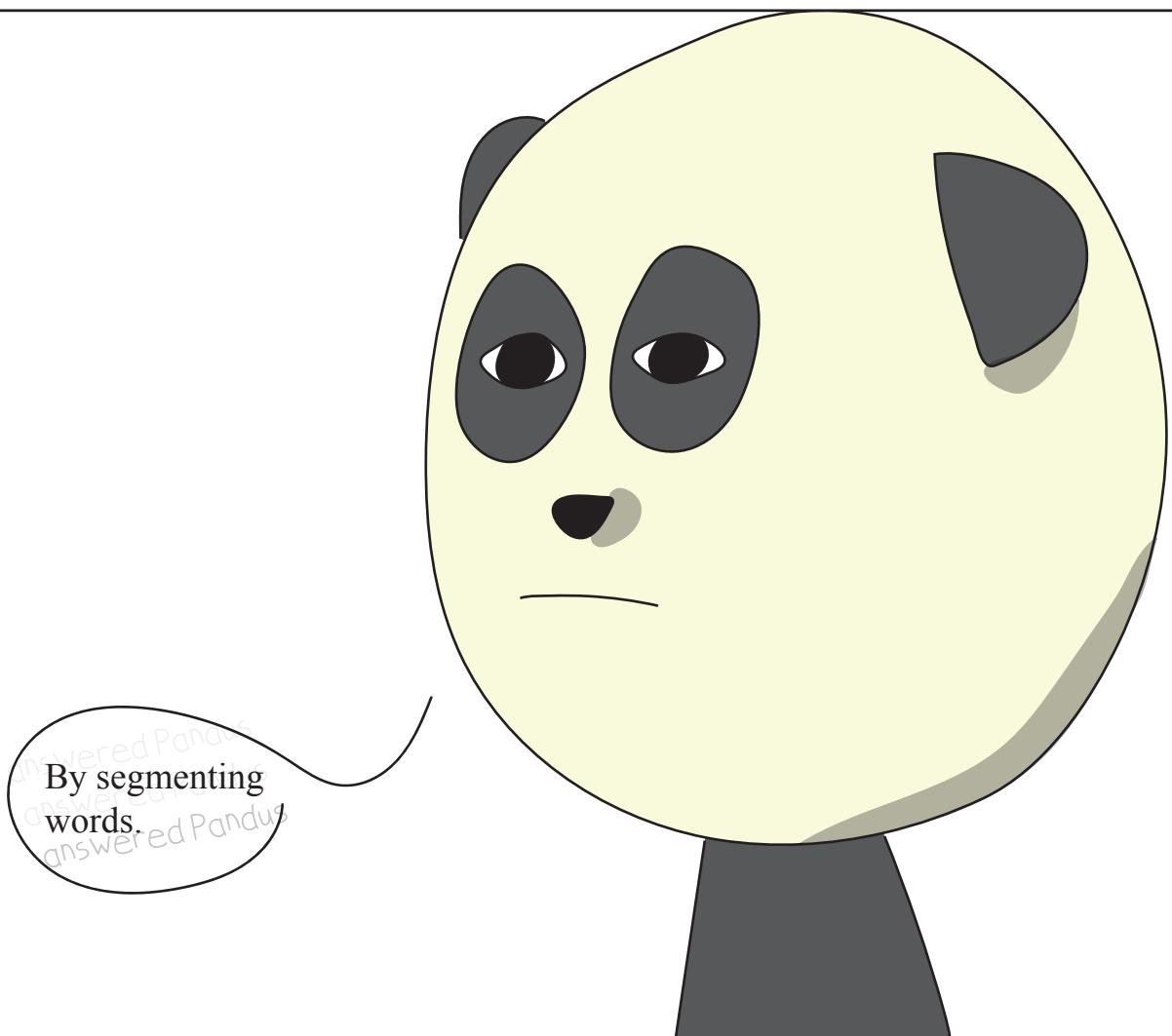




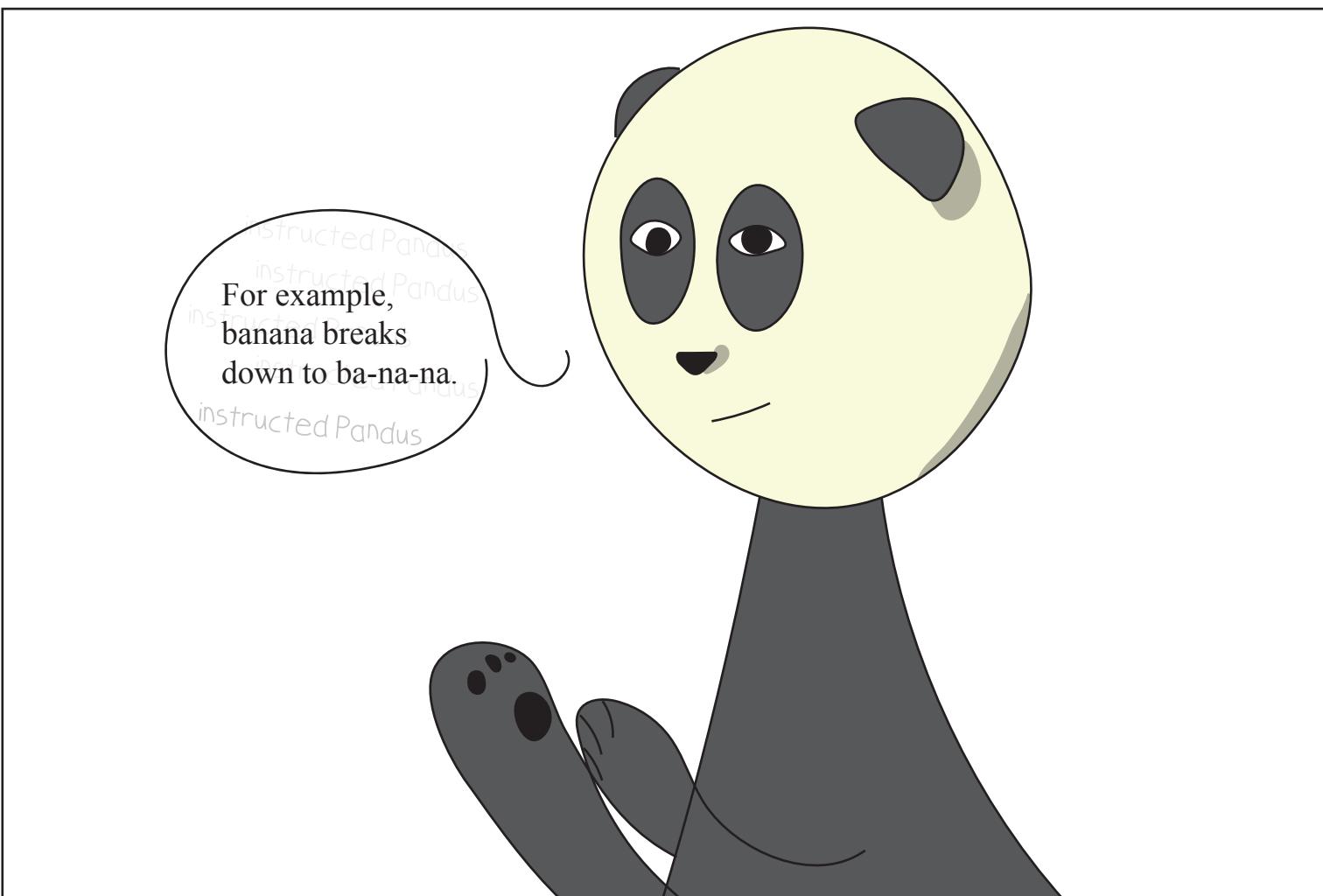
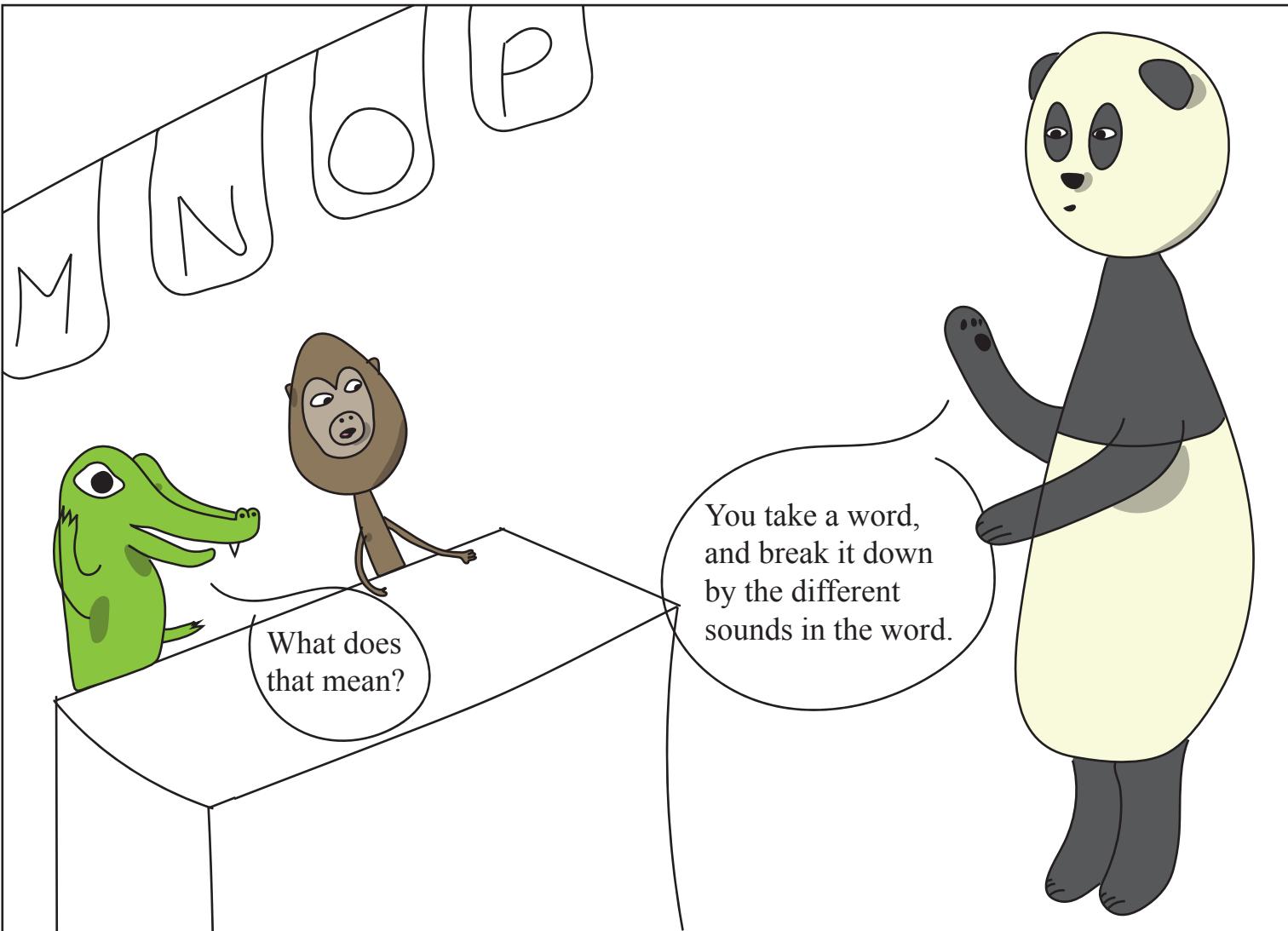


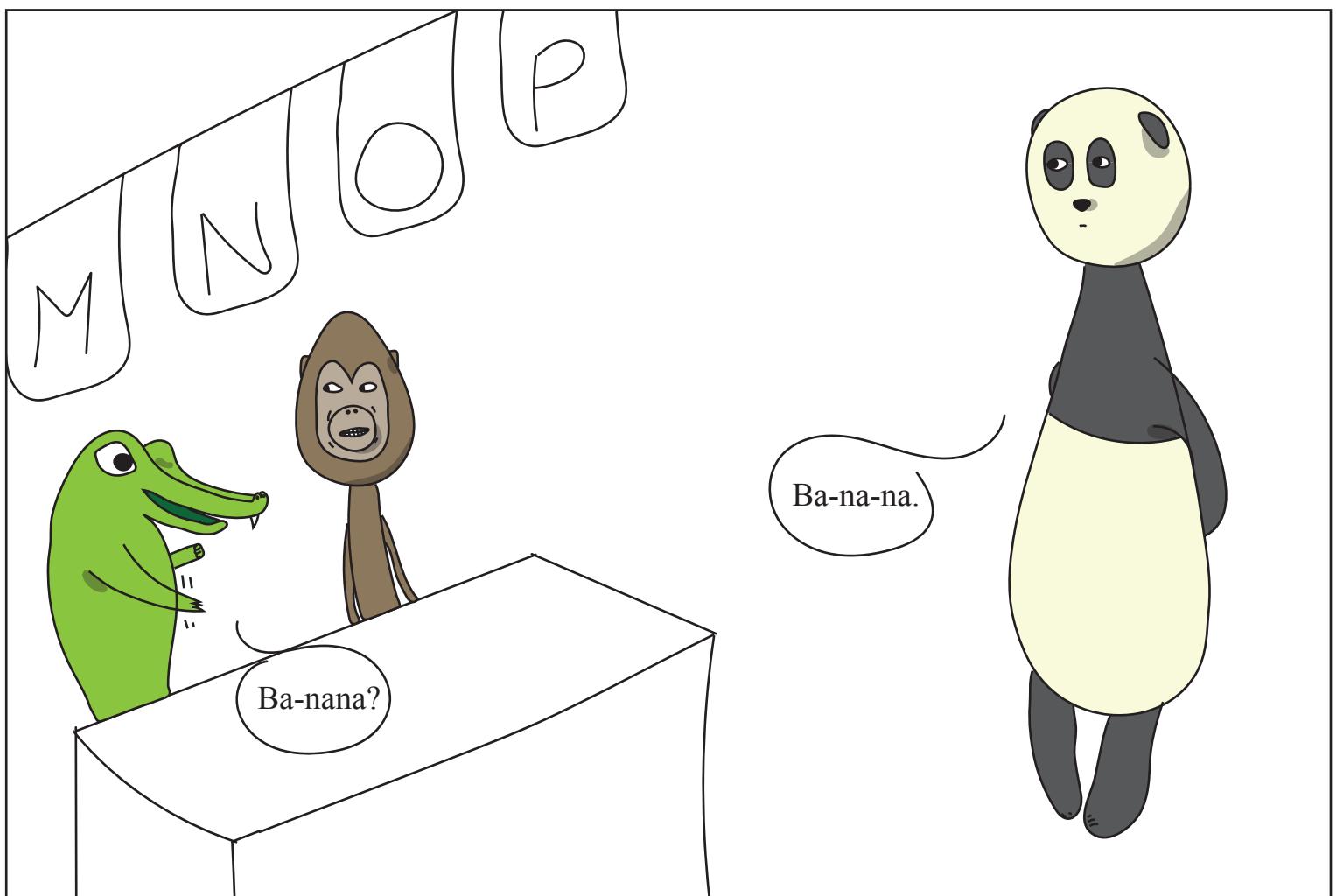
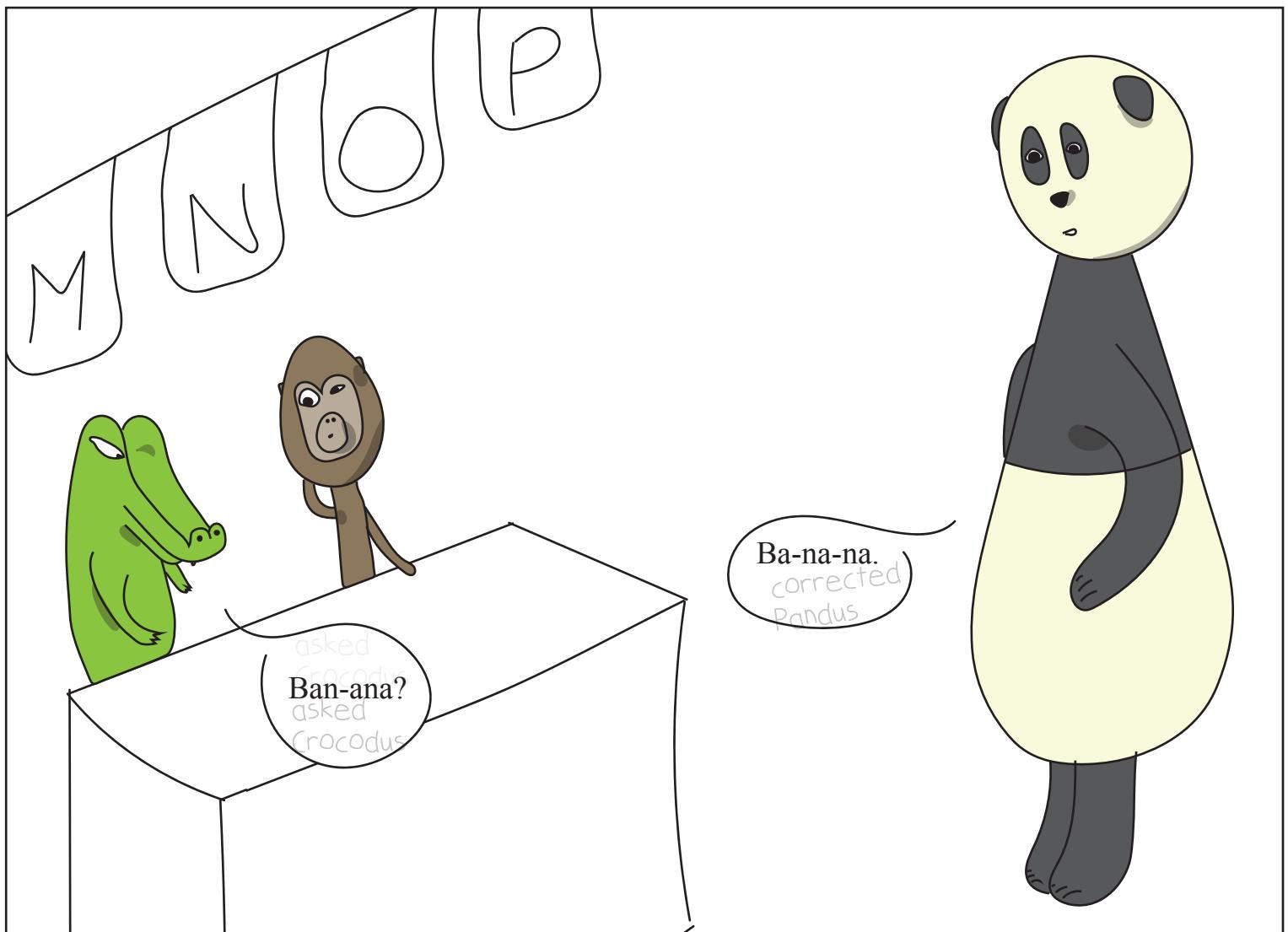


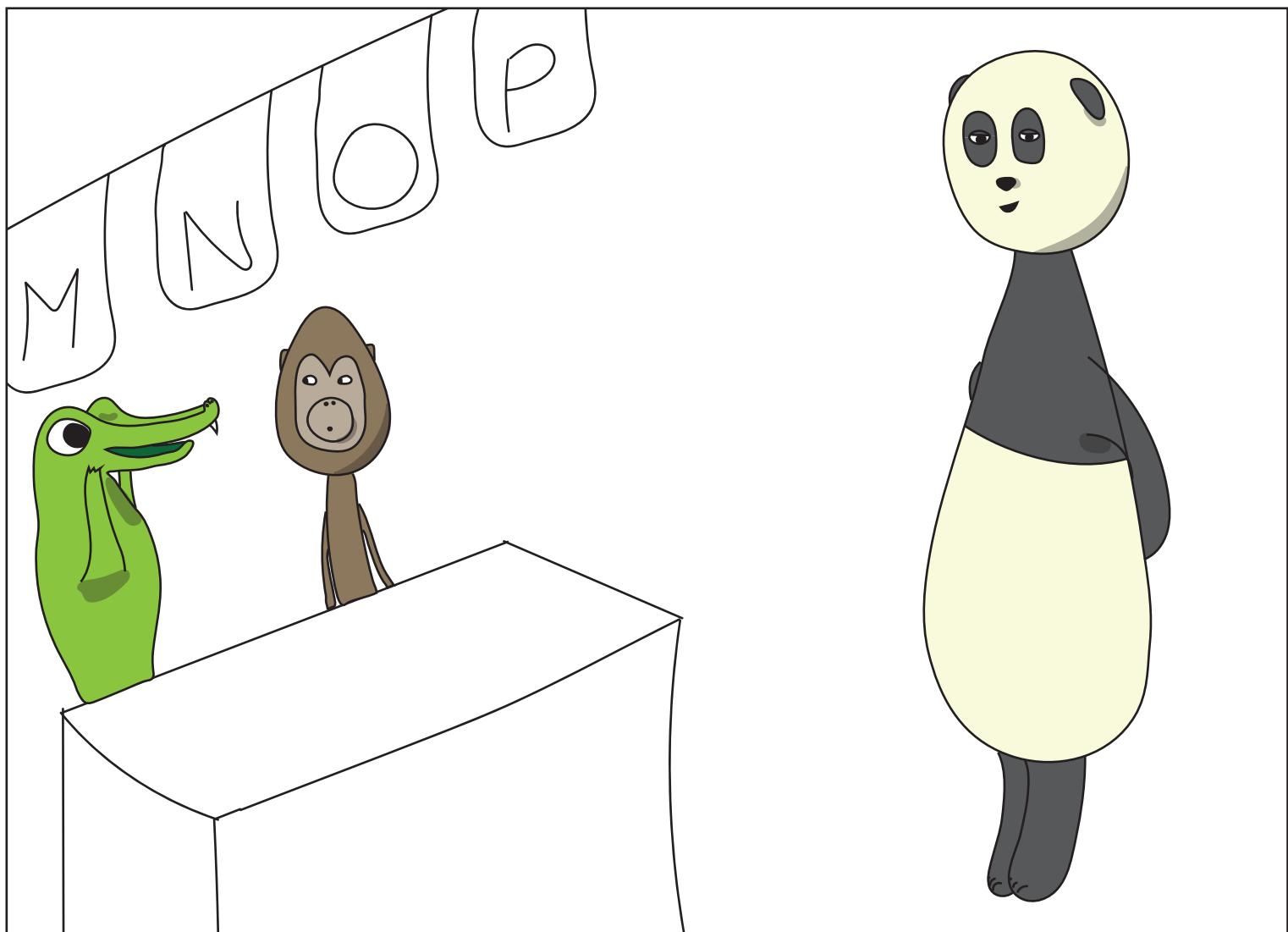
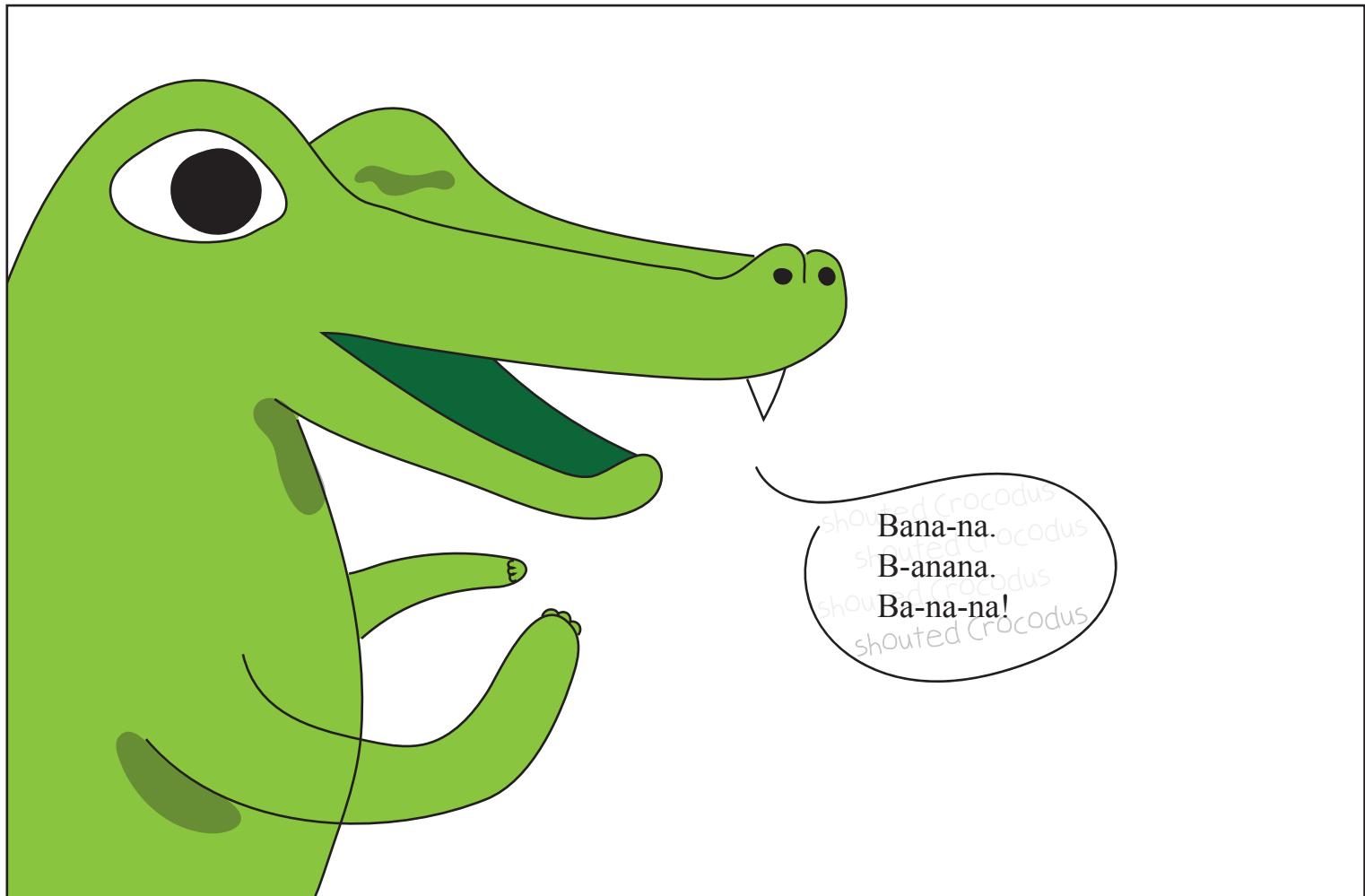
How did you
learn to read
then?

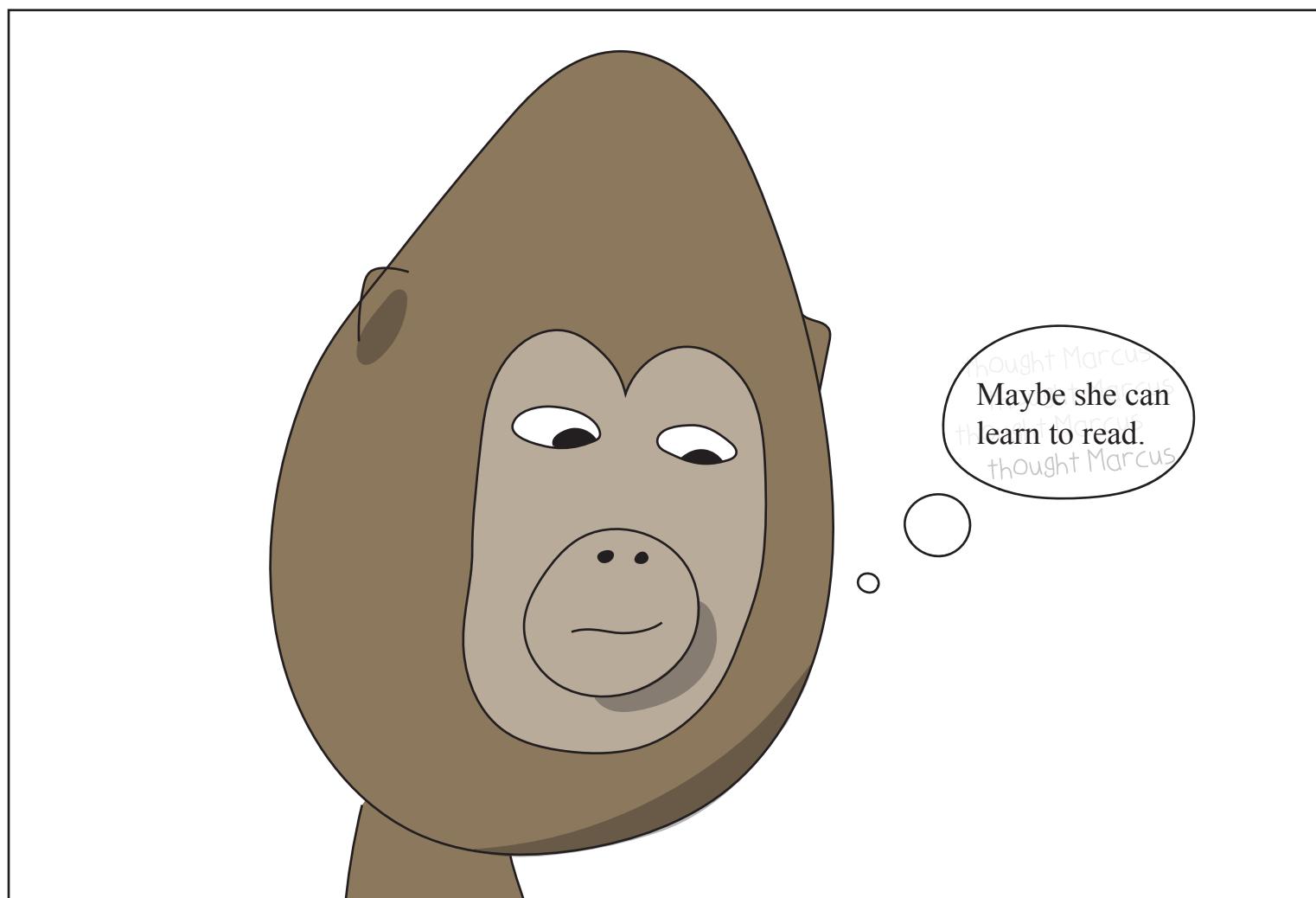
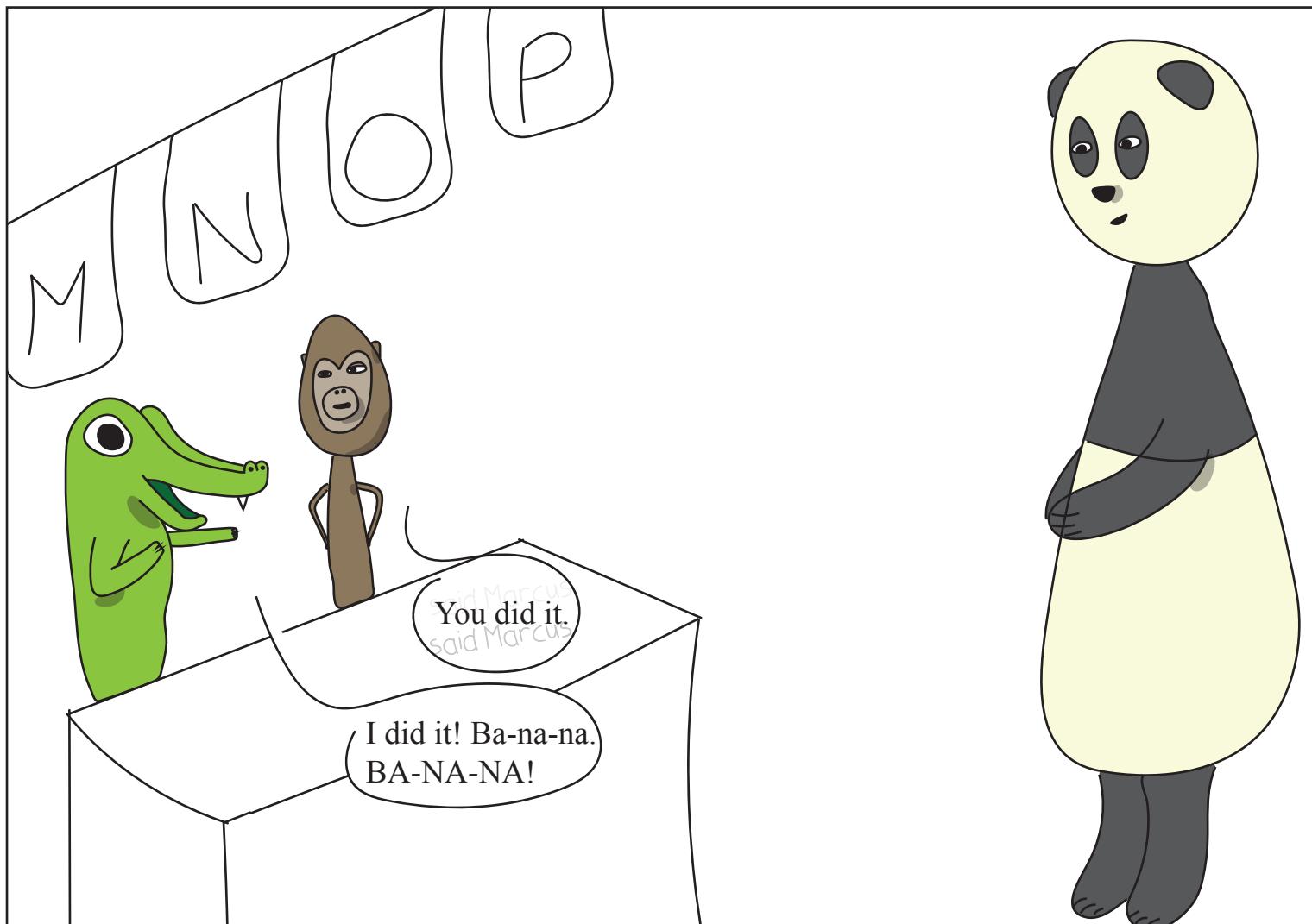


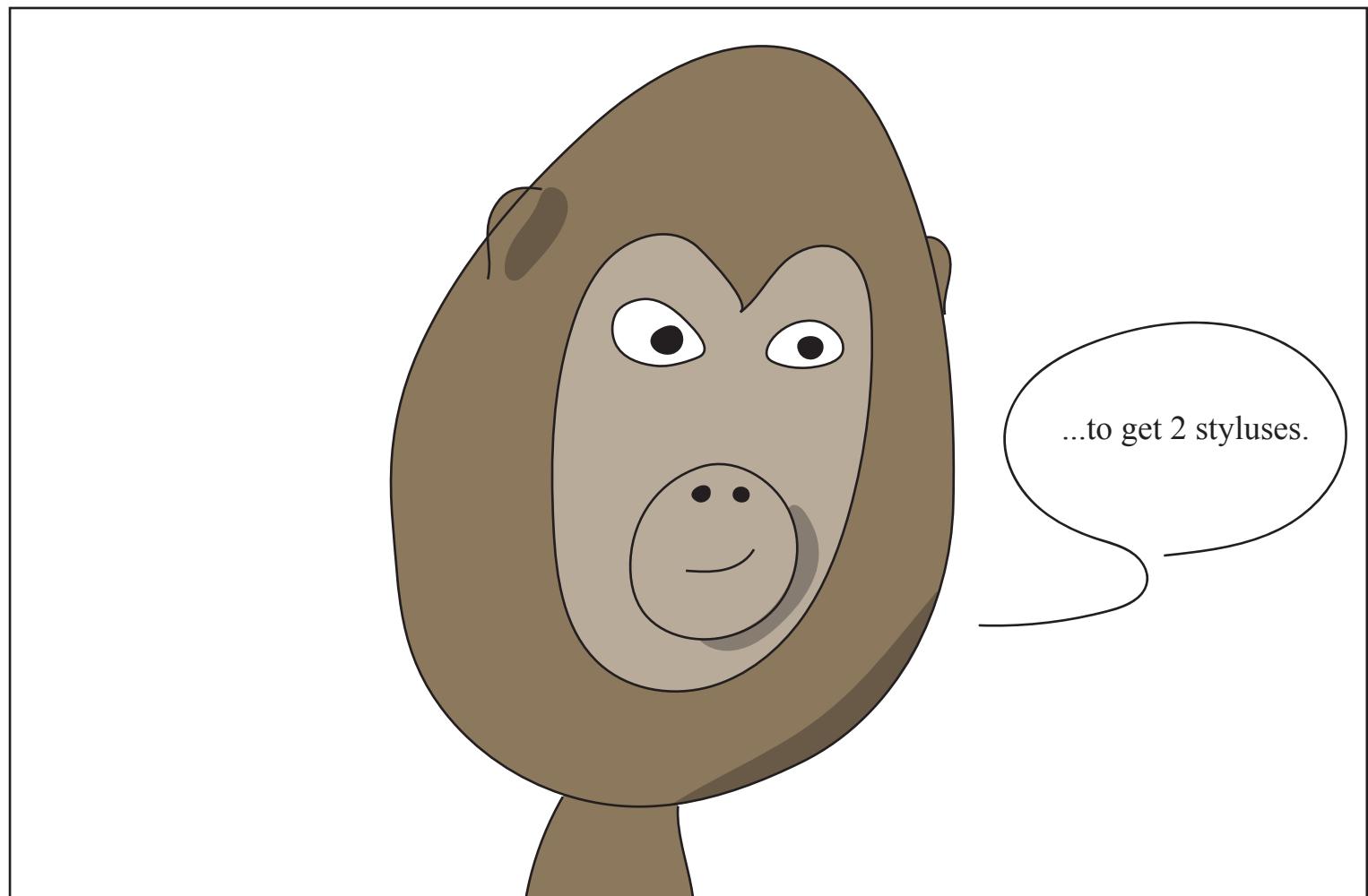
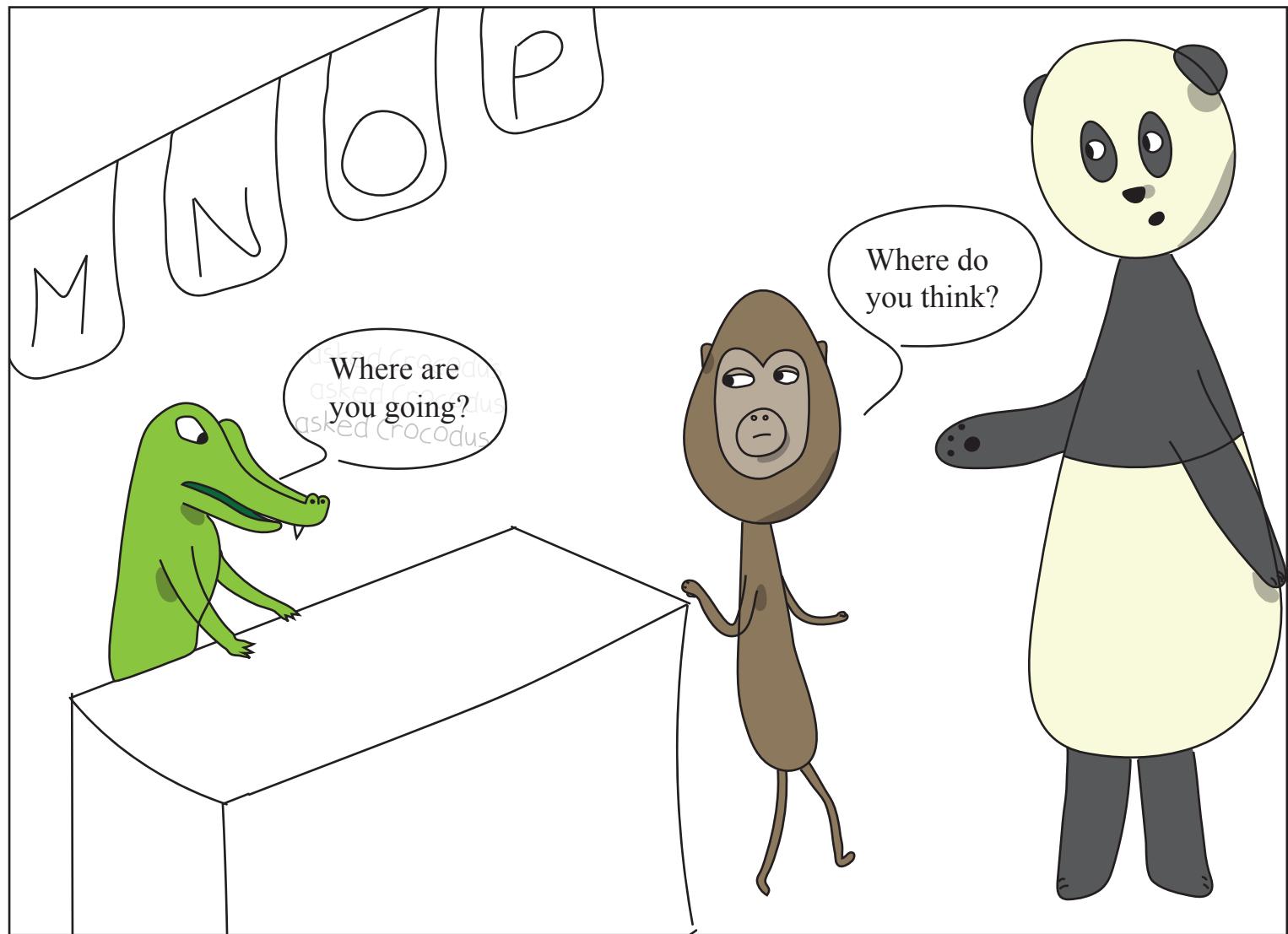
By segmenting
words.

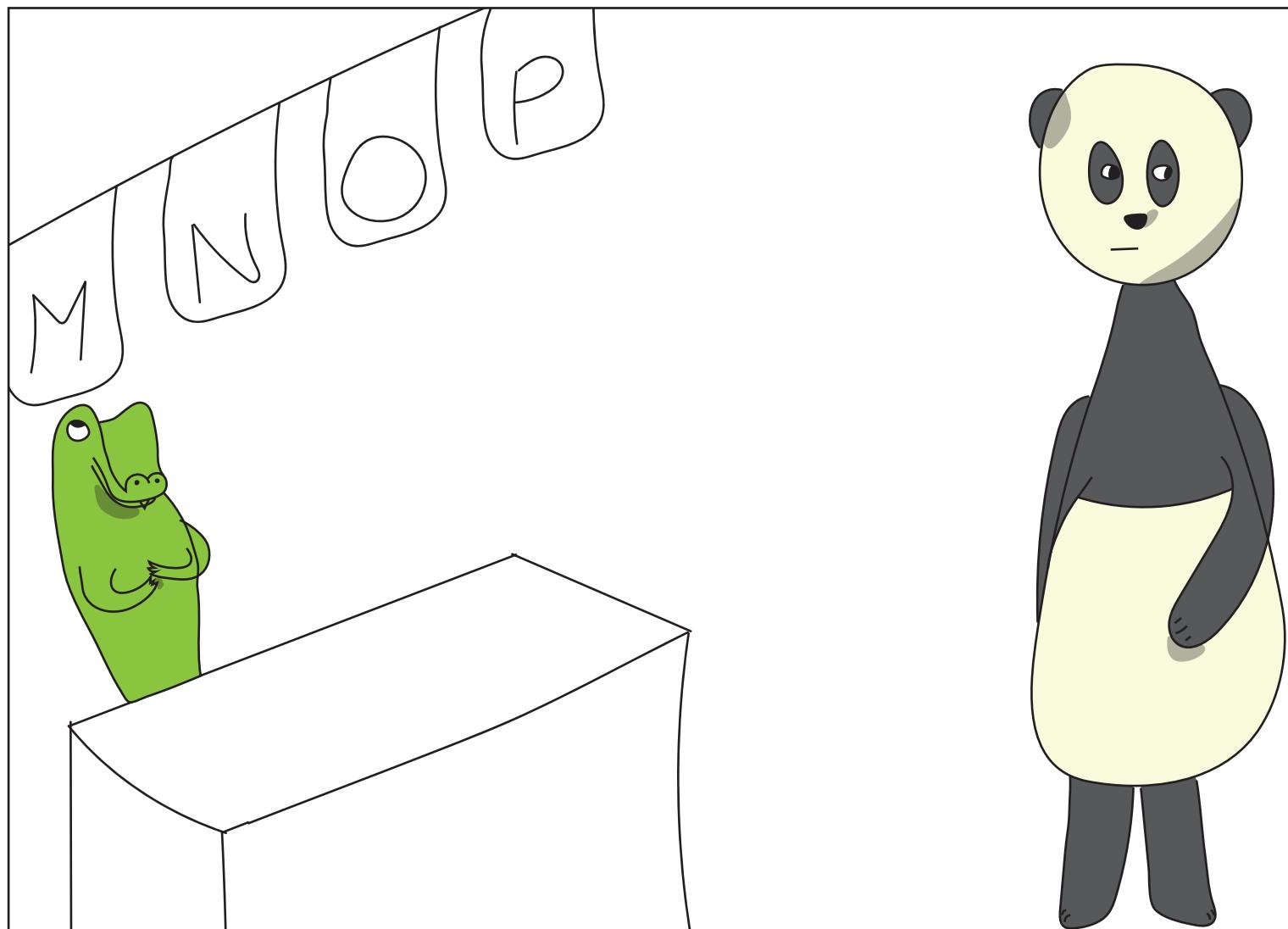
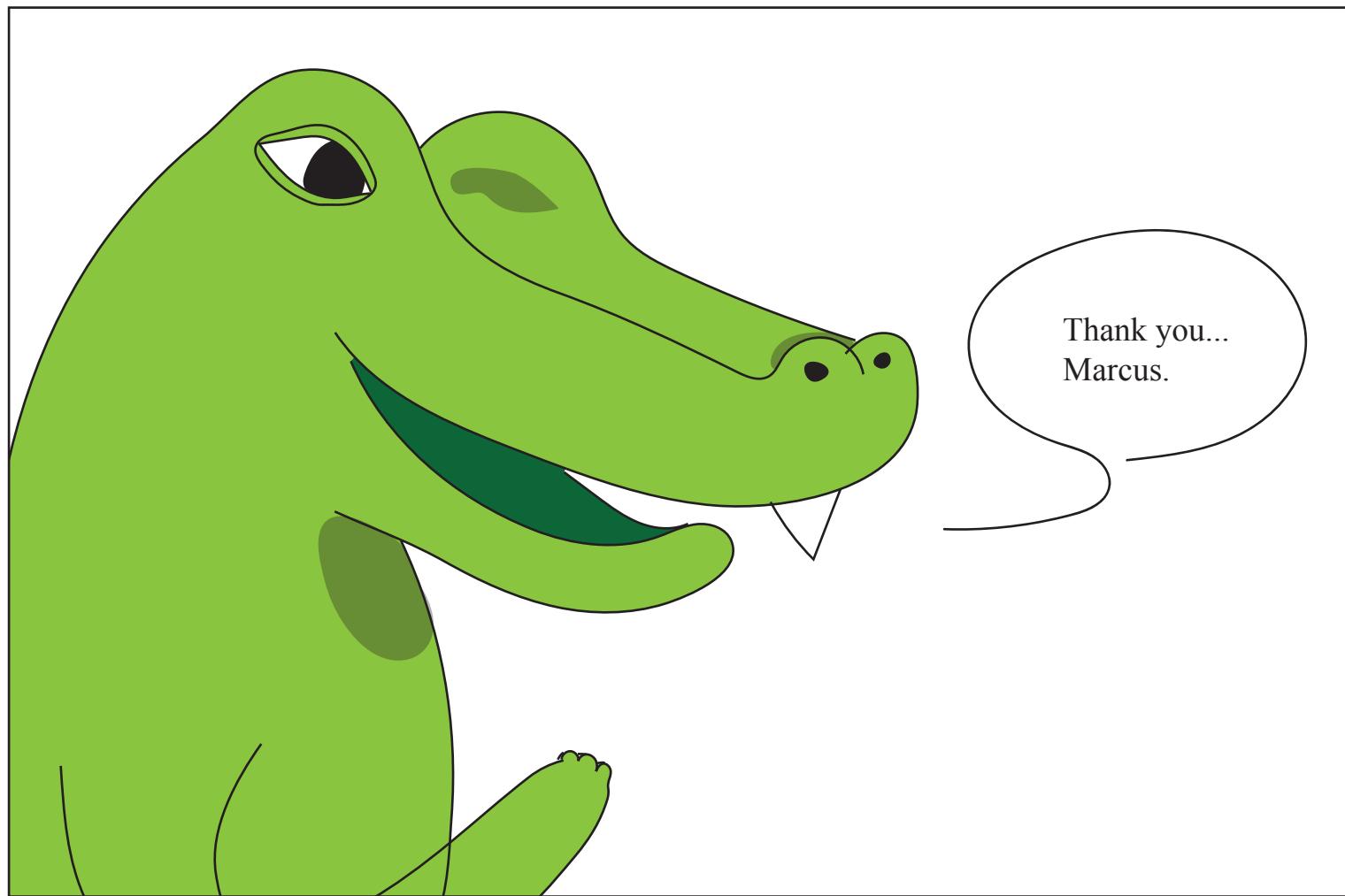




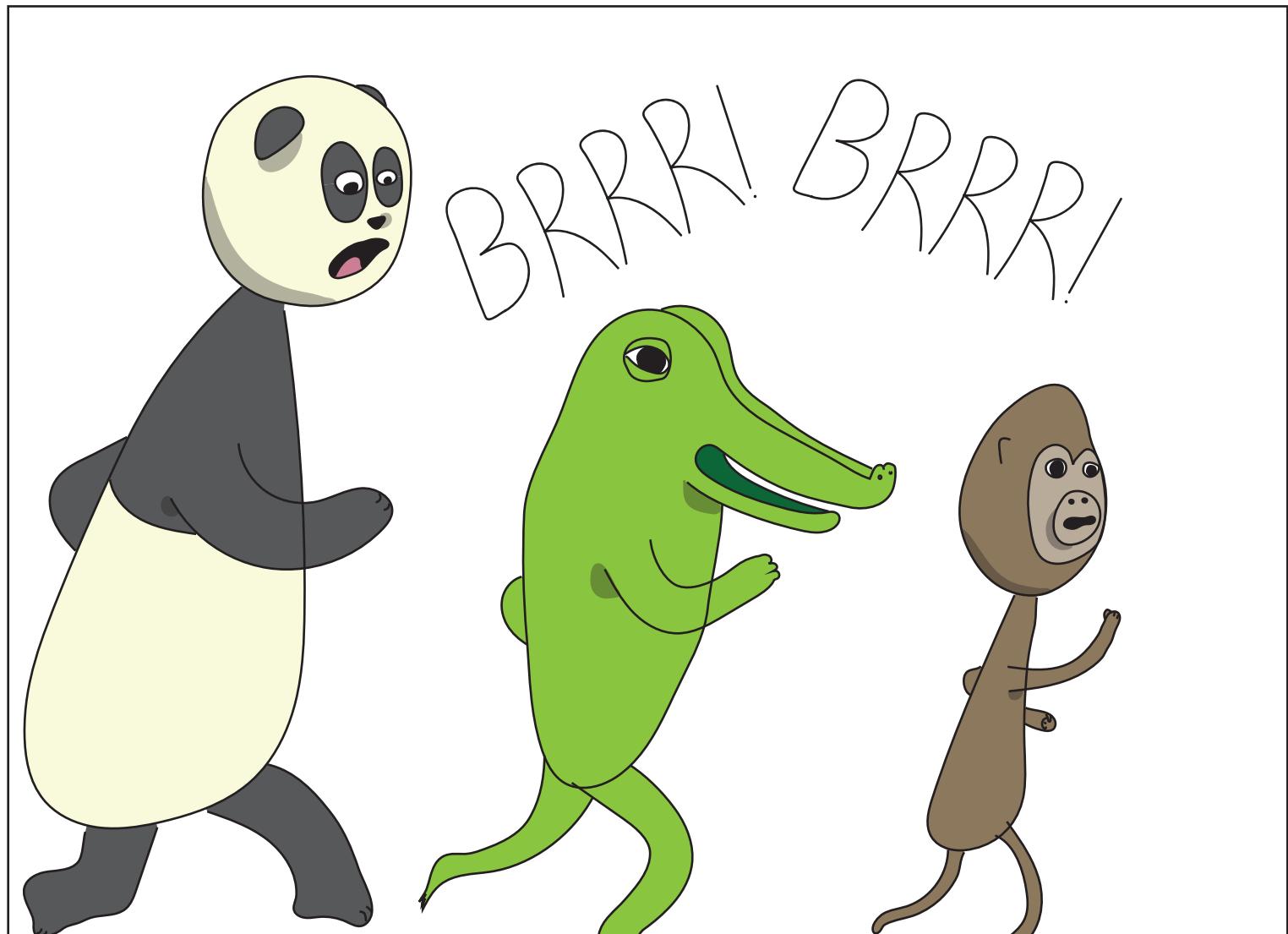
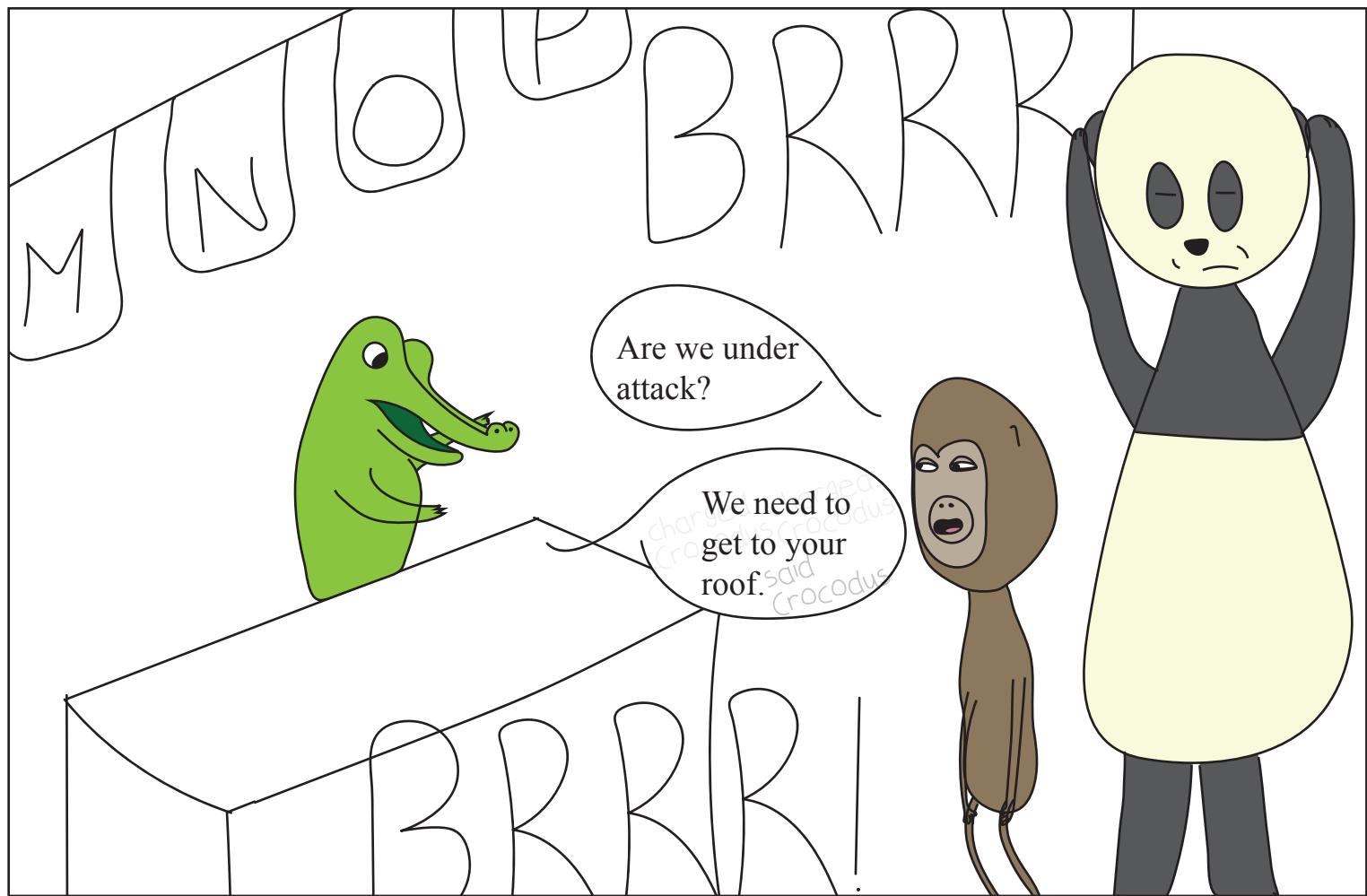




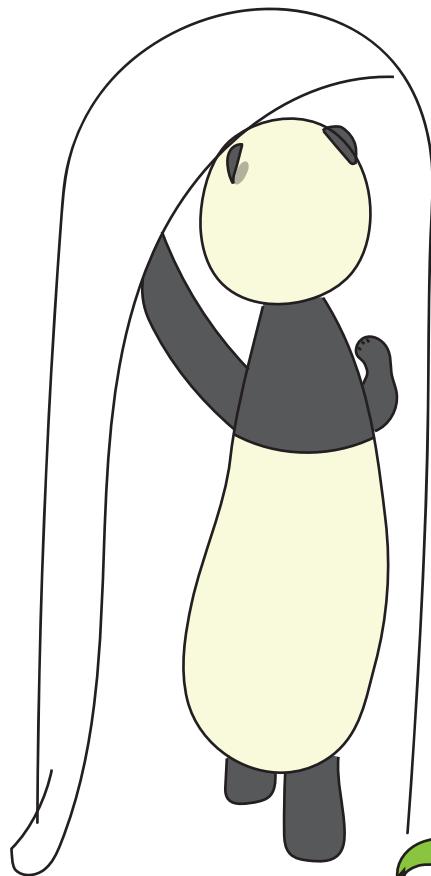




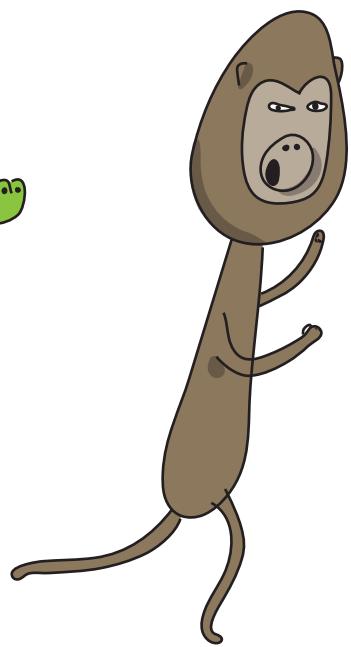
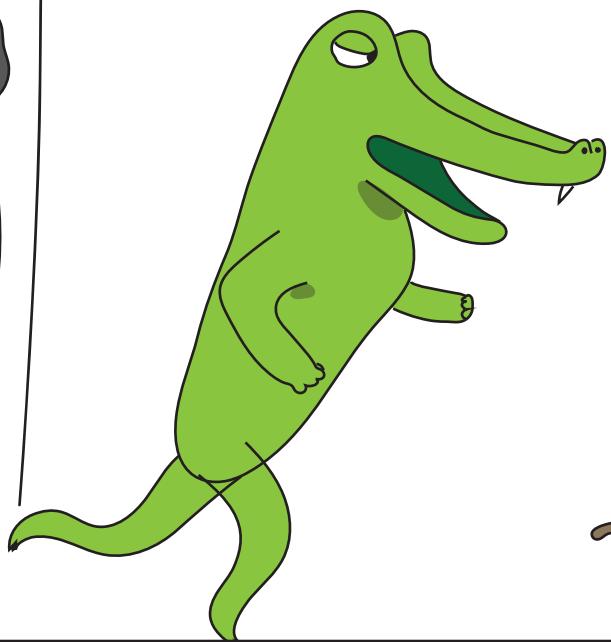




BATHROOM

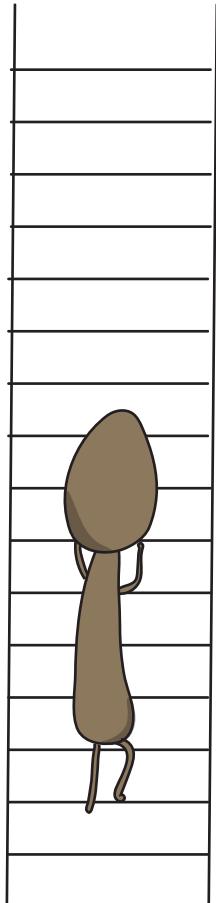
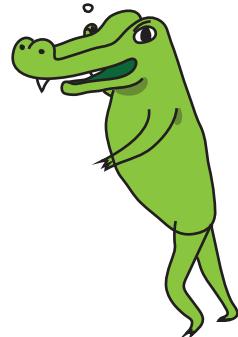


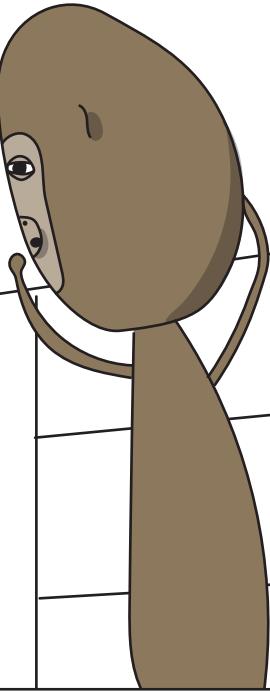
BRRR!



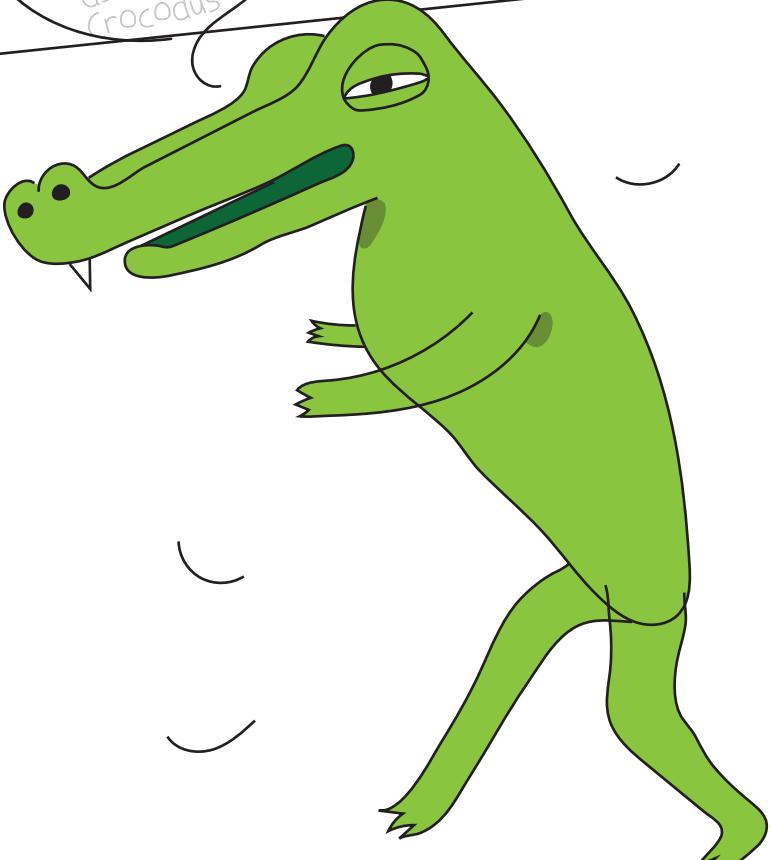
BRRR!

wondered
Crocus?
wondered
crocodus

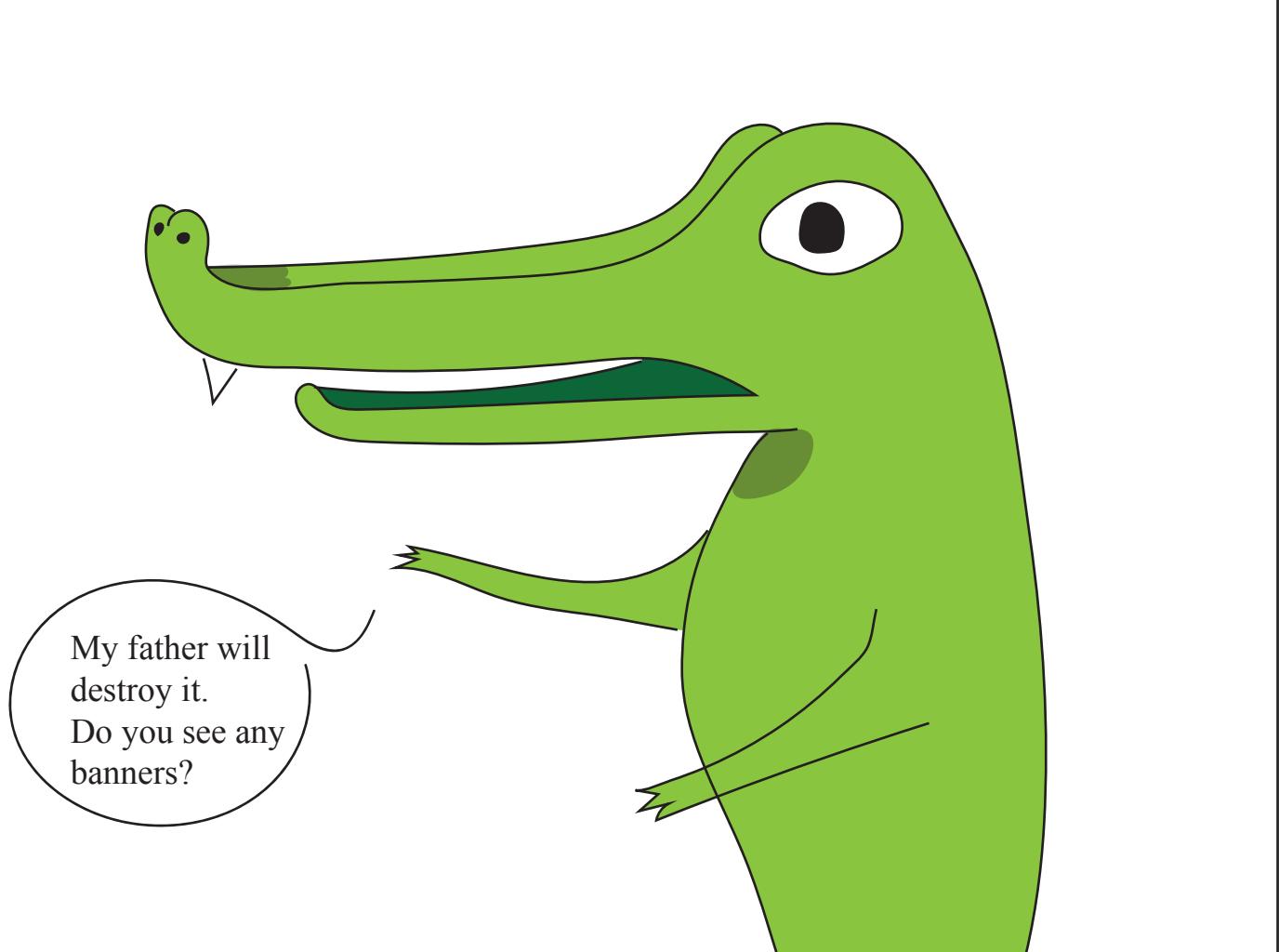
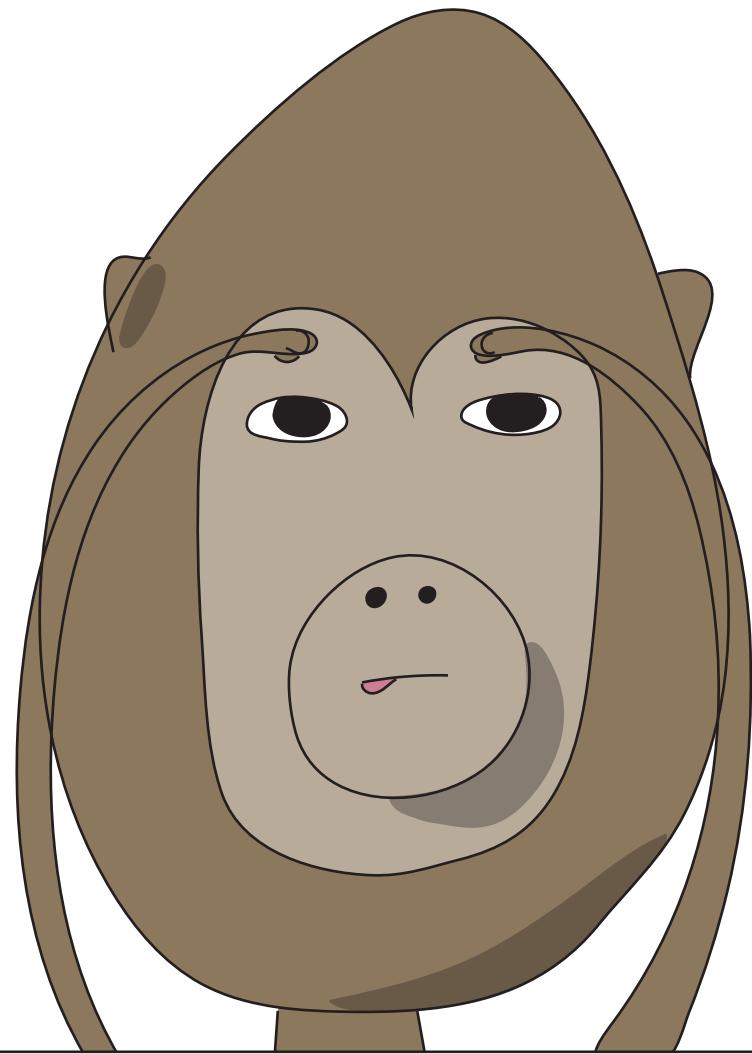


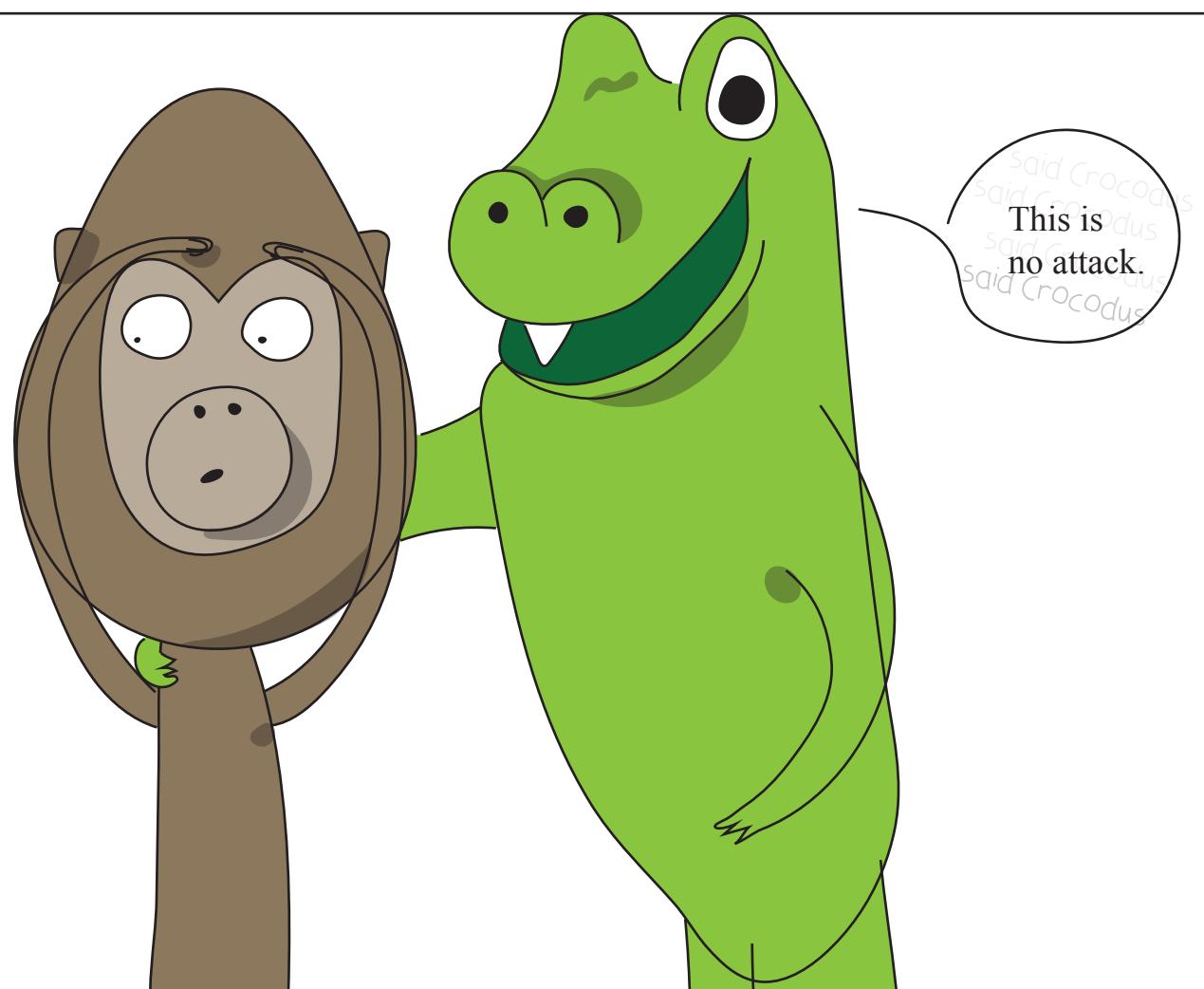
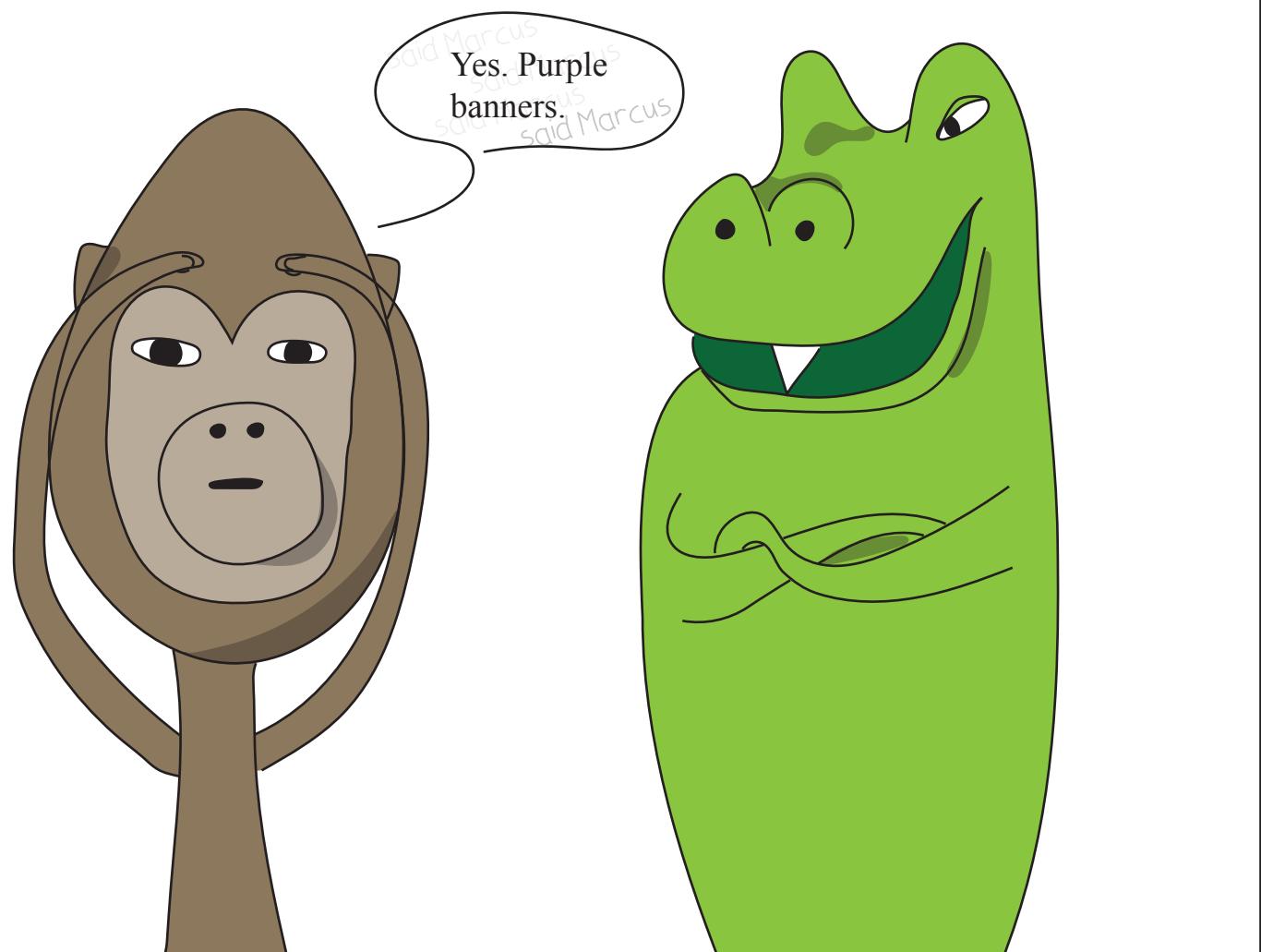


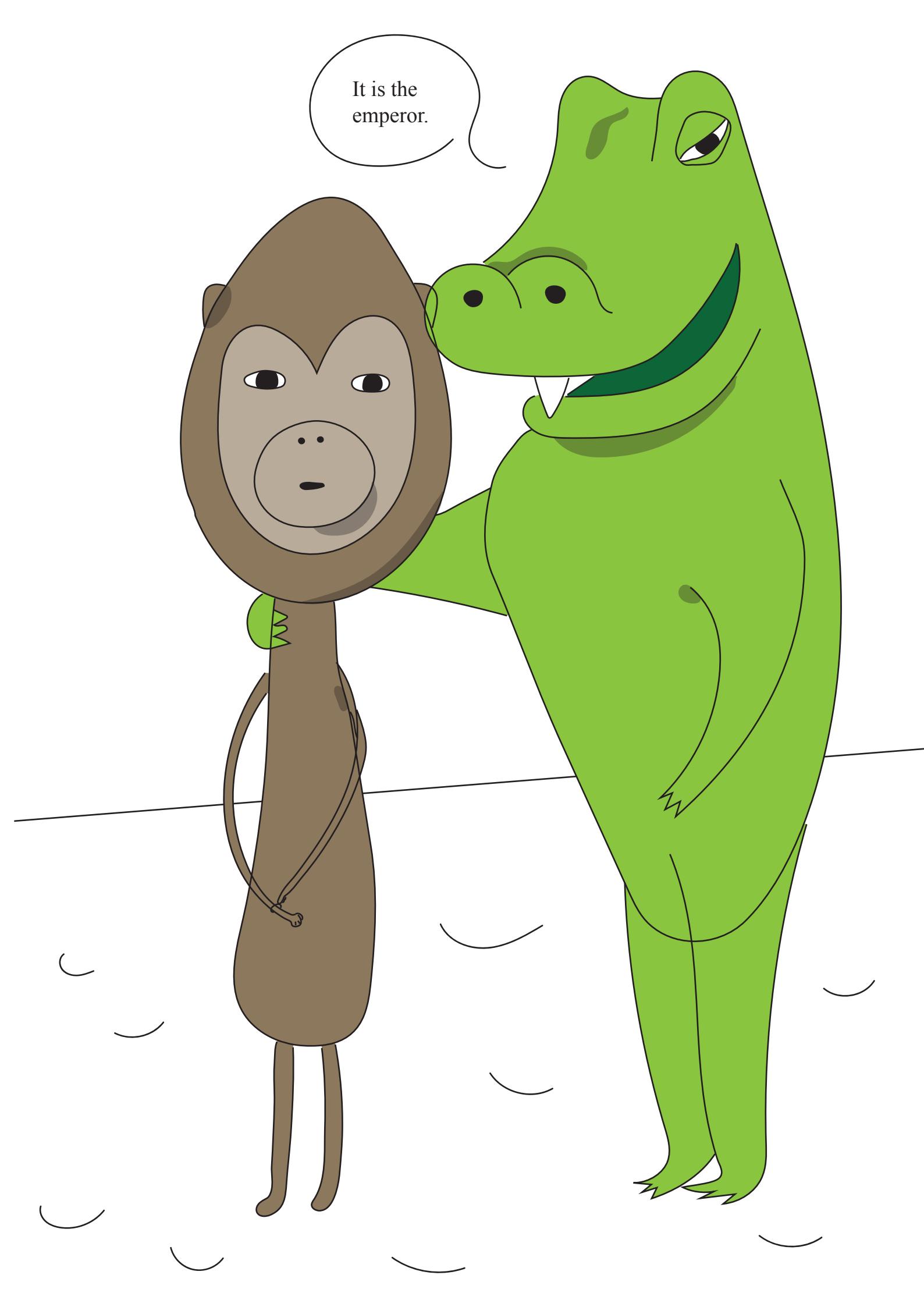
Everyone is running.



I cannot see past the city gates. Can you see anything?







It is the
emperor.

The End

Historical Discrepancies

Marcus Gorilleeus

Marcus Gorilleeus really did live 2000 years ago, although he was human, and his name was Marcus Aurelius. He would grow up to become the emperor of Rome. He lived in a palace in his youth as his family was very wealthy, and he was educated by private tutors. He is known as the philosopher emperor for his writings on Stoicism which were preserved and are now published in the book titled "Meditations".

Dogneetus

Dogneetus really was Marcus' painting master, although his name was Diogenes. He had strong Stoic beliefs. He may have influenced Marcus to sleep outside like a Stoic.

Pandus

Marcus probably had many servants, and it was not uncommon for servants to teach the basics of language. Pandus is not based on any specific person in history.

The Emperor

Hadrian was the emperor during Marcus' youth. He had no children and was forced to choose an heir from the Roman elite class.

Stoicism

Stoicism is a philosophy that was popular in Ancient Greece and Rome until the rise of Christianity. There is a strong element of logic and understanding of the natural order of life in Stoicism.

Giving up Children

Romans did actually give their children to other families. It was one way to ensure that the wealth and power of a family was passed along to the correct person. For example, when the emperor did not have an heir, he would formally adopt one.