

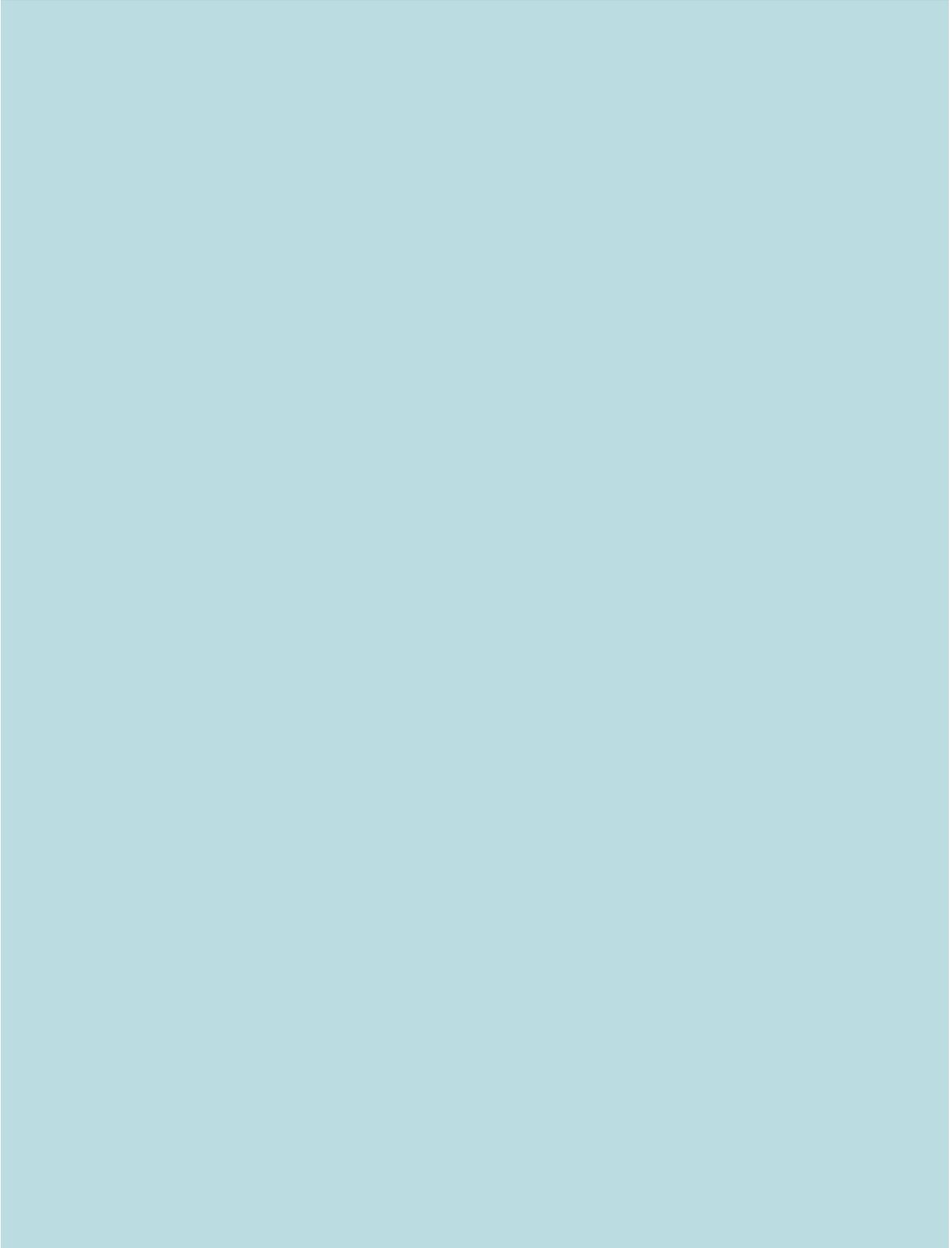


GRANT SNIDER

CREATOR OF INCIDENTAL COMICS AND THE SHAPE OF IDEAS







I WILL
JUDGE YOU
BY YOUR
BOOKSHELF

GRANT SNIDER

Abrams ComicArts, New York

Editor: Charles Kochman
Editorial Assistant: Jessica Gotz
Art Director: Pamela Notarantonio
Design assistance: Theresa Venezia
Managing Editor: Annalea Manalili
Production Manager: Kathleen Gaffney

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Many of the comics in this collection have appeared previously online at incidentalcomics.com.
Portions of this book were first published in the following publications and websites:

Promotional poster for *Finish: Give Yourself the Gift of Done* by Jon Acuff
(Portfolio/Penguin, 2017): "Perfect."

El Espectador: "A Reader's Manifesto."

Evernote: "What to Put in Your Notebook."

The Kansas City Star: "I Have a Problem" (originally titled "Confessions of a Book Fiend" on my blog), "Stray Books," "Literary Devices," "Ban This Book," "Required Summer Reading," "Advocacy for Animals Ignored by Children's Books," "This Is a Work of Historical Fiction," "Story Structures," "Summer Night," "Pig Latin," "Pig Latin Redux," and "We Are the Introverts."

The New York Times Sunday Review: "How to Make Write."

The New York Times Book Review: "Perfect Reading Spots," "Reading Is Dangerous," "The Story Coaster," "Behind Every Great Novelist Is . . .," "Reading Goals," "Choose Your Own Memoir," "The Writer's Block," "Please Do Not Leave Children Unattended in the Library," "My Holiday Wish List," "The Very Bad Picture Book," "Haruki Murakami Bingo," "The Three Rays," "Dances with Books," "The Book of the Future," "The Many Faces of the Novel," "Reader's Block," "The Book Fair," "Poetic Justice," "Literary Consolation Prizes," "Types of Readers," "A Writer's Routine," "The Writers' Retreat," "A Writer's Hierarchy of Needs," "The Nine R's," "How to Become a Literary Recluse," and "The End."

The New Yorker: "Punctuation."

newyorker.com: "Other People's Bookshelves" and "Ode to an Unfinished Book."

The Southampton Review: "Story Lines," "Books Are . . .," "The Cannon of Literature," "The Troubled Typeface," "Adventures of the Ampersand," "The Ingredients of Shakespeare," "Character Development," "Strunk and White's Writers' Style Guide," "Types of Narrators," "Pen Names," "Writing Exercises," "Great Aspirations," and "Ode to Lost Pens."

A Velocity of Being: Letters to a Young Reader, edited by Maria Popova and Claudia Bedrick
(Enchanted Lion Books, 2018): "The Library."

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For more about *I Will Judge You by Your Bookshelf*, *The Shape of Ideas*, and Grant Snider, visit incidentalcomics.com.

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To my parents, for always letting me steal
from their bookshelf.



Thanks to my first reader, Kayla, for everything. Without you I would waste all my time eating bowls of Lucky Charms while obsessing over color variations in Photoshop. Thanks to my second reader and second brain, Gavin. Thanks to Charlie Kochman and Judy Hansen for making this book a reality. Thanks to Pam Notarantonio and Theresa Venezia for their design expertise and putting up with my unconventional formatting. Thanks to Pamela Paul, Nicholas Blechman, Matt Dorfman, Lauren Christensen, Parul Sehgal, Gal Beckerman, and everyone else at the *New York Times Book Review*—the back page has been a wonderful canvas for my ideas. Thanks to Lou Ann Walker and the rest of the *Southampton Review* for publishing my comics in the same pages as Billy Collins. Thanks to everyone at the *Kansas City Star* for taking an early chance on my comics and letting me misspell onomatopoeia in every possible way. Thanks to all my cartooning heroes—if you look closely, you can see their influence in every line. And thanks to all the librarians at the Wichita Public Library and Derby Public Library who continue to let me check out ridiculous amounts of books with very little hassle.



I confess:

I'm in love with books.

I read in social situations.

I will use *anything* as a bookmark.

I confuse fiction with reality.

I am wanted for unpaid library fines.

I steal books from my children.

I like my realism with a little bit of magic.

I like to sniff old books.

I am searching for a miracle cure for writer's block.

I care about punctuation—a lot.

I will read the classics (someday).

I am writing *The Great American Novel*.

I carry a notebook with me at all times.

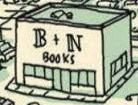
I write because I must.

I hope you don't mind me asking...

can I borrow a few books?

I'm in love
with books.

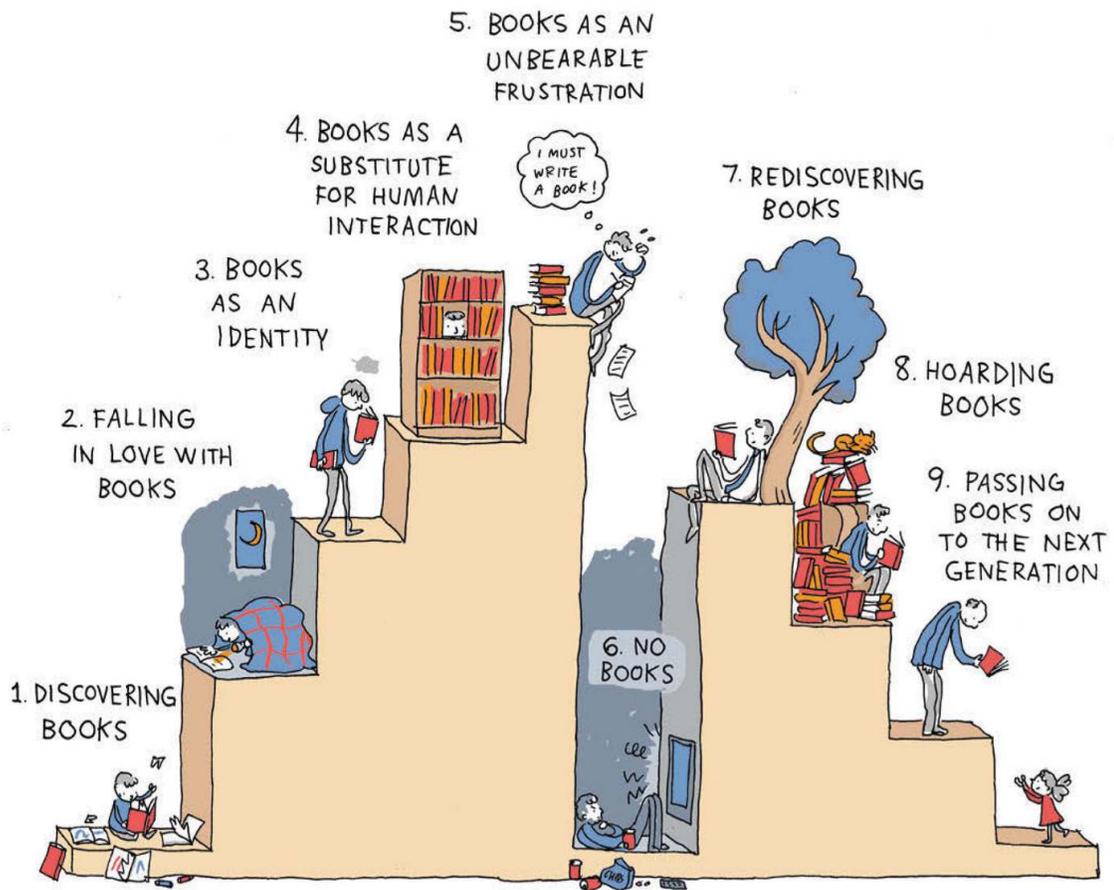
I HAVE A PROBLEM.

<p>A DANGEROUS, UNSAVORY ADDICTION HAS CONSUMED MY LIFE. CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT IS?</p>	<p>NOPE.</p> 	<p>TRY AGAIN.</p> 	<p>YOU GOT IT.</p> 	
<p>THAT'S RIGHT: BOOKS. UNFORTUNATELY, TEMPTATION HAS SET UP SHOP ON EVERY CORNER.</p>	<p>PUBLIC LIBRARY</p> 	<p>BIG-BOX STORE</p> 	<p>YARD SALE</p> 	
<p>INDIE BOOKSHOP</p> 	<p>USED-BOOK HUT</p> 	<p>COMIC SHACK</p> 	<p>DUMPSTER</p> 	<p>ANARCHIST READING ROOM</p> 
<p>WHEN I PASS ONE OF THESE PLACES, A DESPERATE VOICE GOES OFF INSIDE MY HEAD:</p>	<p>YOU. NEED.</p> 	<p>MORE.</p> 	<p>BOOKS!</p> 	
<p>OF COURSE, WHO HAS TIME TO READ NOWADAYS? I'LL NEVER EVEN OPEN MOST OF THE BOOKS I GET - UNLESS I END UP AS ONE OF THESE PEOPLE:</p>	<p>HOBO</p> 	<p>BORED HEIRESS</p> 	<p>GOLF-HATING RETIREE</p> 	
<p>CHILD GENIUS</p> 	<p>INMATE</p> 	<p>MONK</p> 	<p>LITERATURE CRITIC</p> 	<p>NOVELIST</p> 
<p>I NEED TO SEEK HELP SOON. OTHERWISE, MY ADDICTION MAY PROVE TO BE FATAL...</p>	<p>RESHELVING ACCIDENT</p> 	<p>PLOT TWIST OVERLOAD</p> 	<p>MOTH ATTACK</p> 	
<p>POP-UP BOOK EXPLOSION</p> 	<p>RIVAL BOOK FIEND</p> 	<p>LONG-SUFFERING WIFE</p> 	<p>LIBRARY FINE MAFIA</p> 	<p>THE END.</p>

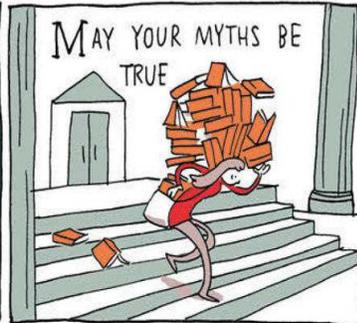
MY BOOKSHELF



STAGES OF THE READER



A READER'S BLESSING



COMMITMENT PHOBIA



OTHER PEOPLE'S BOOKSHELVES

I WOULD NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER.



THE SPINES, HOWEVER, ARE A DIFFERENT STORY.



SO IF YOU INVITE ME OVER - BEWARE.



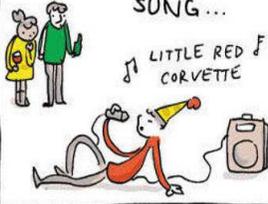
ONCE REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED...



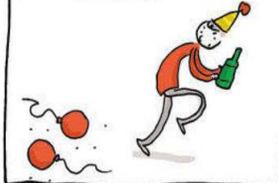
GAMES ARE PLAYED...



AND SONGS ARE SUNG...



I WILL SLIP AWAY.



AND THERE, IN A QUIET ROOM...

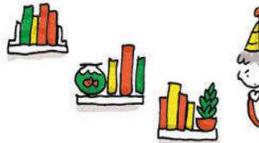


I WILL JUDGE YOU BY YOUR BOOKSHELF.



WHAT DOES YOUR BOOKSHELF SAY ABOUT YOU?

STYLISH BUT SHALLOW



STUCK IN HIGH SCHOOL

LORD OF THE FLIES?

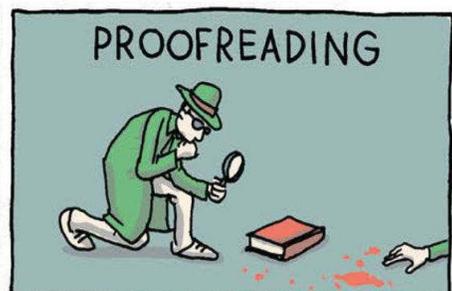
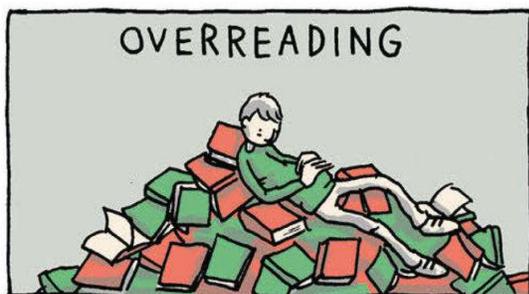




I read
in social
situations.

Perfect Reading Spots

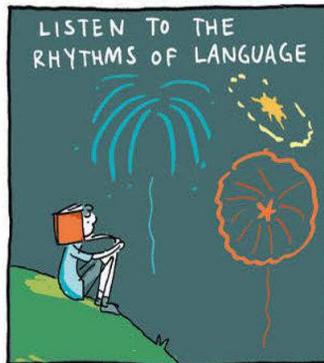
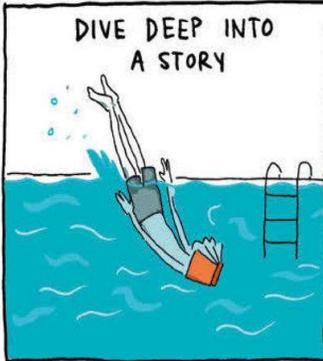
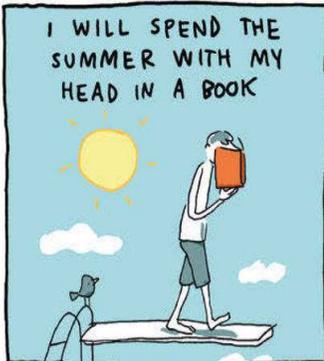




STRAY BOOKS



STUCK IN A BOOK

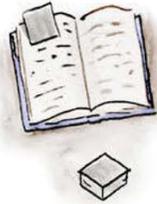


A READER'S MANIFESTO

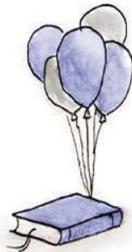


I will use
anything as
a bookmark.

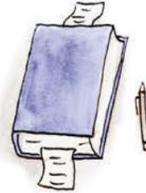
SOME POTENTIAL BOOKMARKS



Post-it notes



balloons



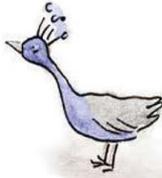
grocery list



bonsai tree



feather



"El Gato"



sheer memorization



another book



yourself

MY POEM



UNDERSTANDING POETRY

(AFTER MARK STRAND)



ODE TO AN UNFINISHED BOOK

I ADMIT, I PICKED YOU UP WITH UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS...



THE WAY I'D LOOK READING YOU THROUGH A COFFEE SHOP WINDOW.



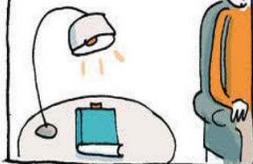
THE HOURS I'D SPEND POOLSIDE, LOST IN YOUR WORLD.



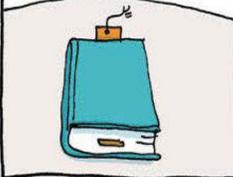
HOW SMART I'D SOUND DISCUSSING YOU AT PARTIES.



BUT NOW HERE WE SIT.



YOU ON THE END TABLE.



ME IN MY CHAIR.

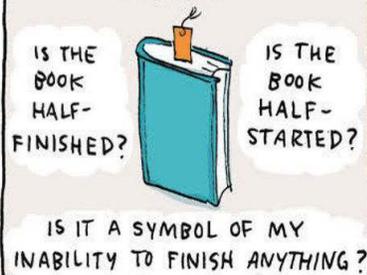


STUCK.

I TRY TO REASON THROUGH MY DILEMMA.

TO FINISH	NOT TO FINISH
- see how it ends	- more free time
- NO READER'S GUILT	- can start a new book!
- build "GRIT"	- it's not for a grade
- won't be haunted by it FOREVER	- who am I trying to impress?

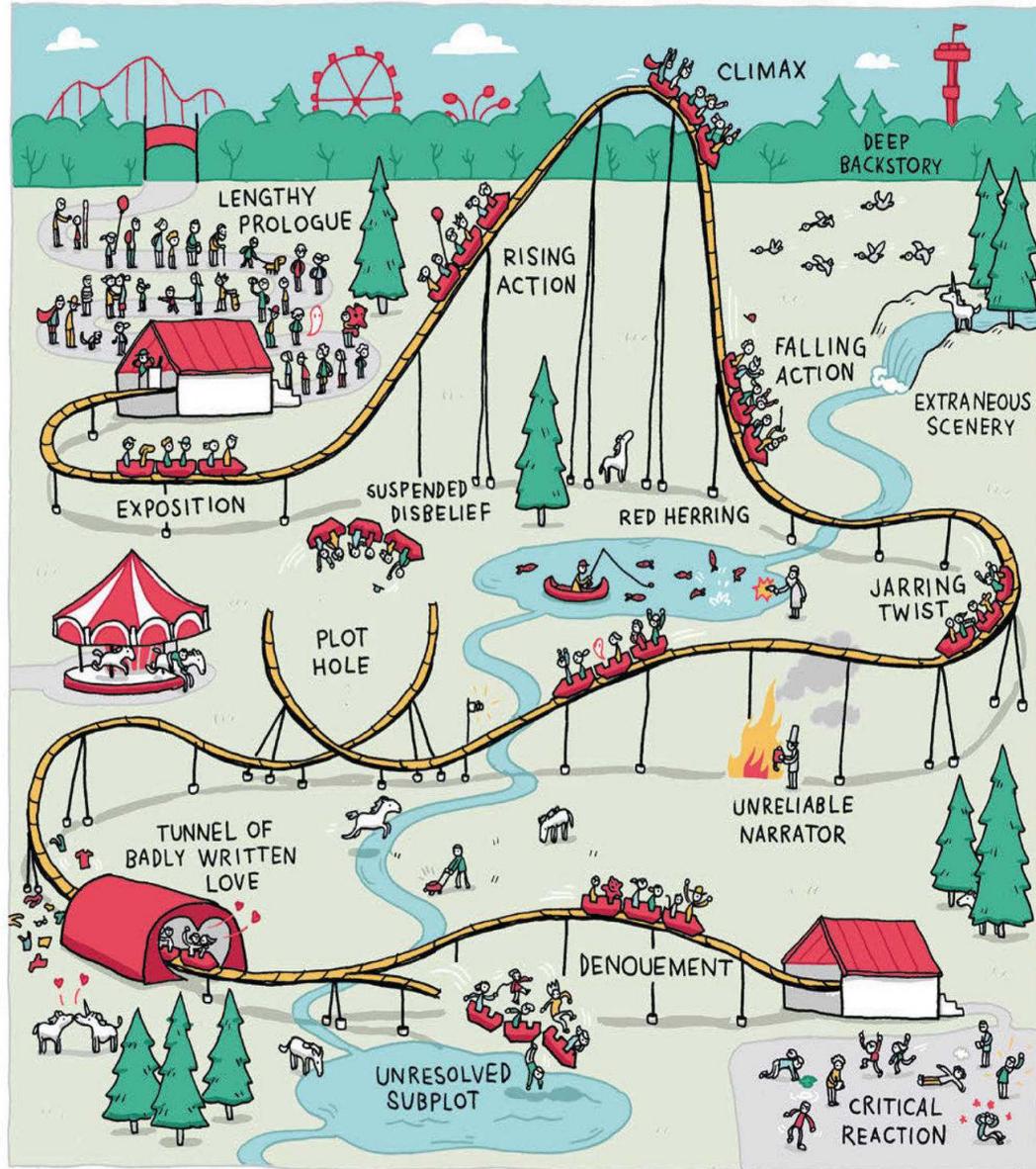
IT DEVOLVES INTO A POINTLESS PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATE.





I confuse
fiction
with reality.

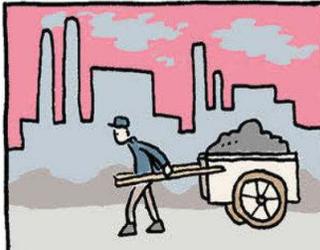
THE STORY COASTER



BEHIND EVERY GREAT NOVELIST IS...



CHILDHOOD
TRAUMA



MISERABLE
JOB



MOMENT OF
SELF-DISCOVERY



EPISODE OF
DEBAUCHERY



PATHOLOGICAL
AMBITION



LOYAL
PET



NEGLECTED
SPOUSE



PERSONAL
DEMONS



YEARS OF
BORING HARD
WORK

READING GOALS

THIS YEAR I WILL READ



MORE THAN ONE BOOK AT A TIME.



I WILL FINALLY READ THE CLASSICS



EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.



I WILL MEMORIZE POETRY



AND PROCLAIM IT TO THE WORLD.



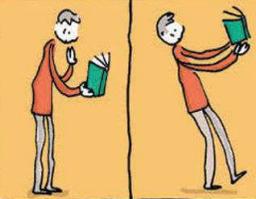
I WILL RECOGNIZE UNRELIABLE NARRATORS



AND FALL FOR THEM, FOOLISHLY.



I WILL FIND JOY



IN THE MEMOIRS OF OTHERS.



I WILL REDISCOVER CHILDREN'S BOOKS



AND MAYBE EVEN SHARE THEM WITH MY CHILDREN.



I WILL READ DIVERSELY



AND UNIVERSALLY.



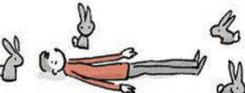
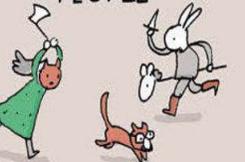
I WILL JOURNEY FAR OUTSIDE MYSELF



WITHOUT LEAVING MY CHAIR.

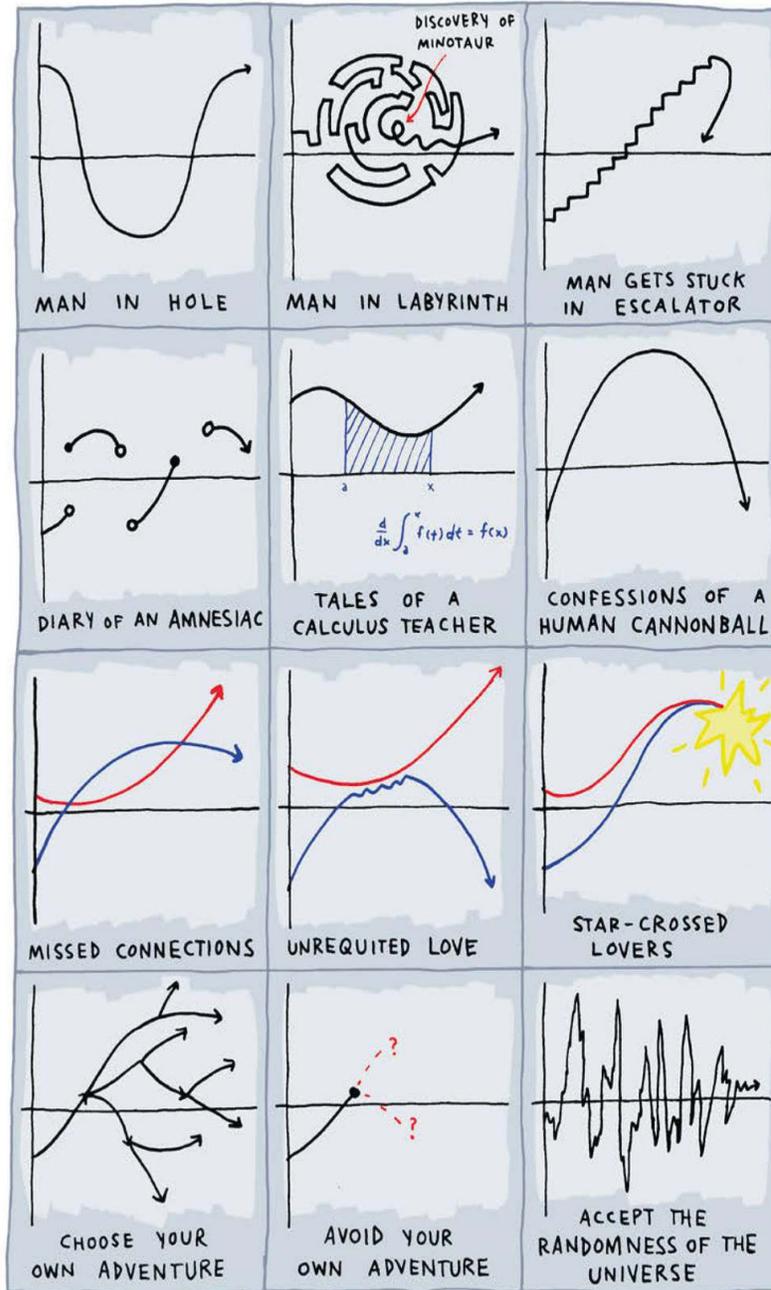


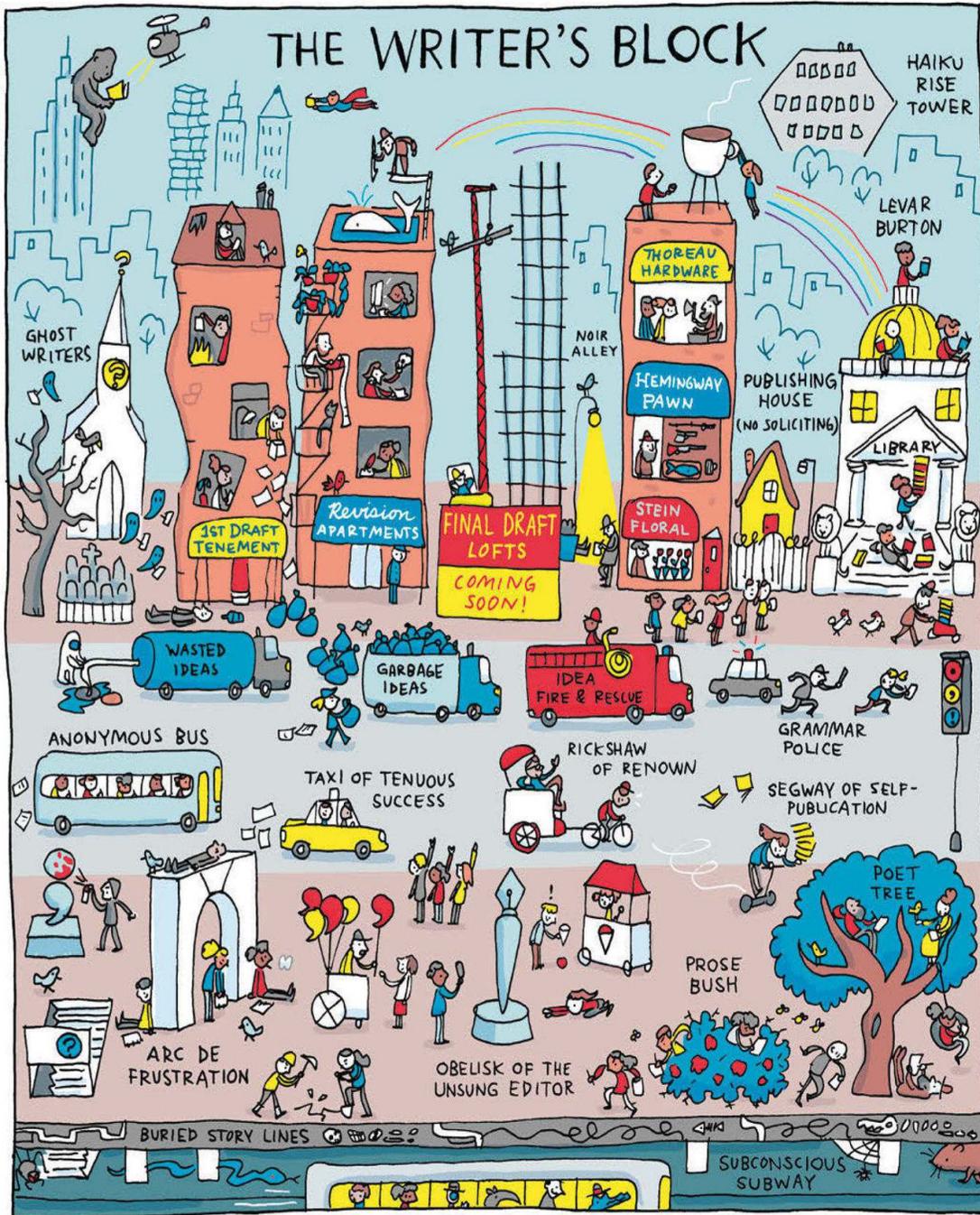
CHOOSE YOUR OWN MEMOIR

<p>I WAS BORN INTO A FAMILY WITH:</p>	<p>OLD MONEY</p> 	<p>NEW MONEY</p> 	<p>NO MONEY</p> 
<p>THEN CAME:</p>	<p>THE INVASION</p> 	<p>FAMILY DEMONS</p> 	<p>ENGLISH BOARDING SCHOOL</p> 
<p>I ESCAPED INTO:</p>	<p>HARD DRUGS</p> 	<p>THE CIRCUS</p> 	<p>HARD LITERATURE</p> 
<p>NOW I'M WRITING THIS MEMOIR:</p>	<p>TO SETTLE THE SCORE</p> 	<p>TO EXORCISE DEMONS</p> 	<p>BECAUSE I CAN THINK ABOUT NOTHING ELSE</p> 
<p>I'VE CHANGED A FEW FACTS:</p>	<p>TO ALTER THE NATURE OF TIME</p> 	<p>TO PROTECT CERTAIN PEOPLE</p> 	<p>TO REVEAL A GREATER TRUTH</p> 

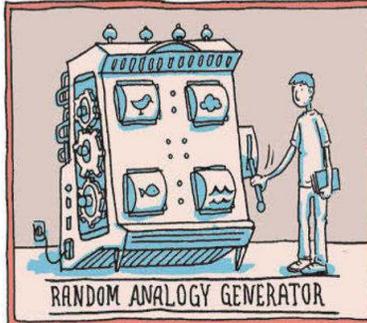
STORY LINES

(AFTER KURT VONNEGUT)

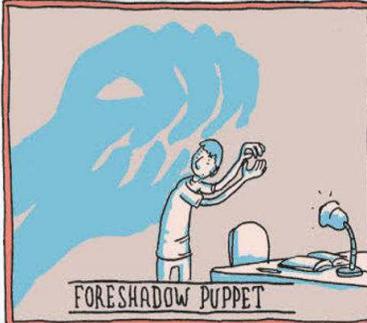




LITERARY DEVICES



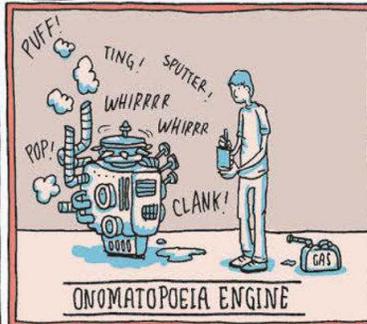
RANDOM ANALOGY GENERATOR



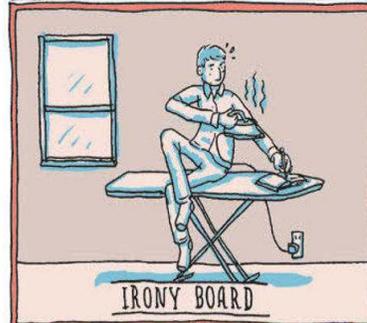
FORESHADOW PUPPET



THE GREAT GOLDEN
HAMMER OF HYPERBOLE



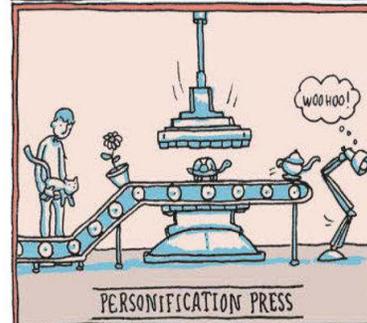
ONOMATOPOEIA ENGINE



IRONY BOARD



METAPHOR MIXER &
SIMILE STRETCHER



PERSONIFICATION PRESS



ADVANCE-ALERT
ALLITERATION ALARM

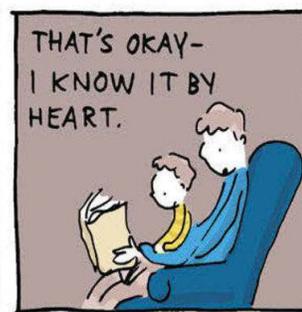
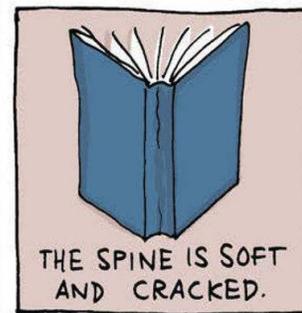
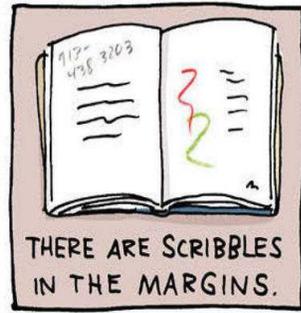
I am
wanted for
unpaid library
fines.



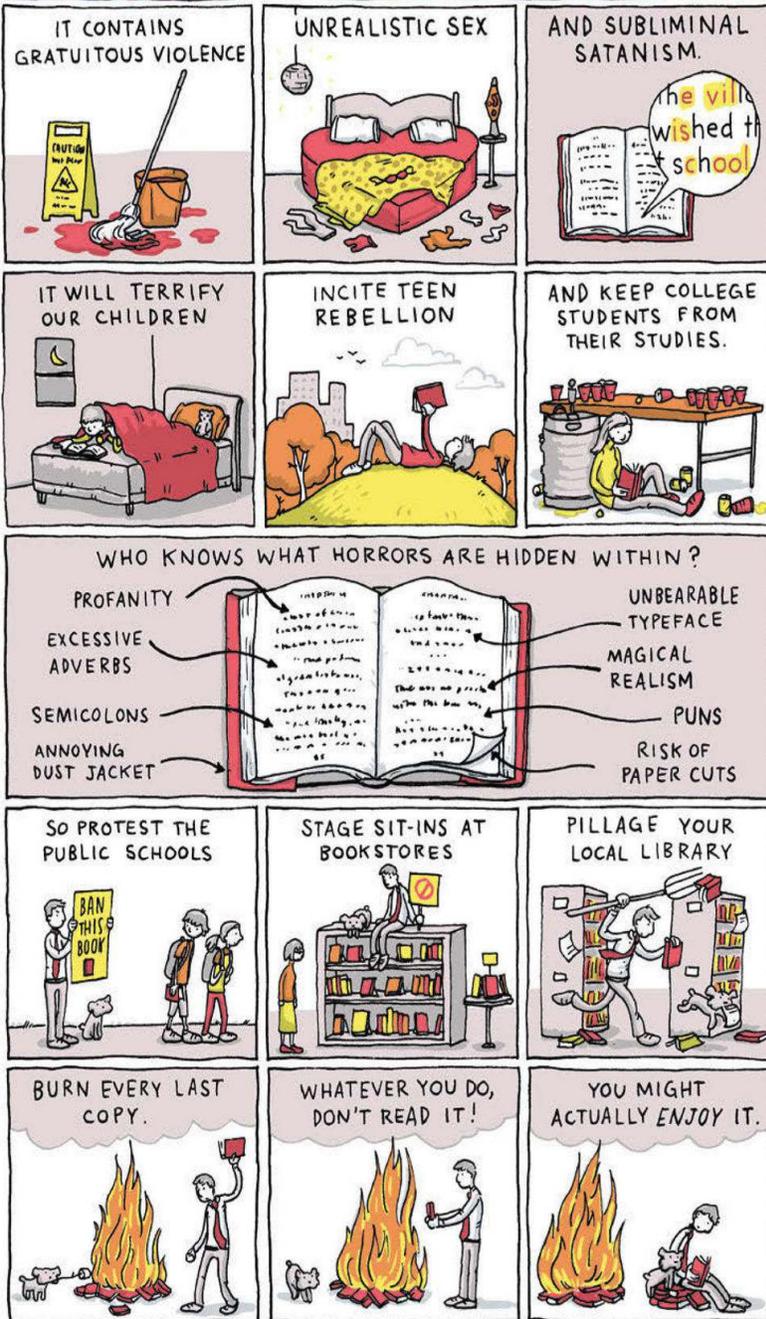
MY HOLIDAY WISH LIST

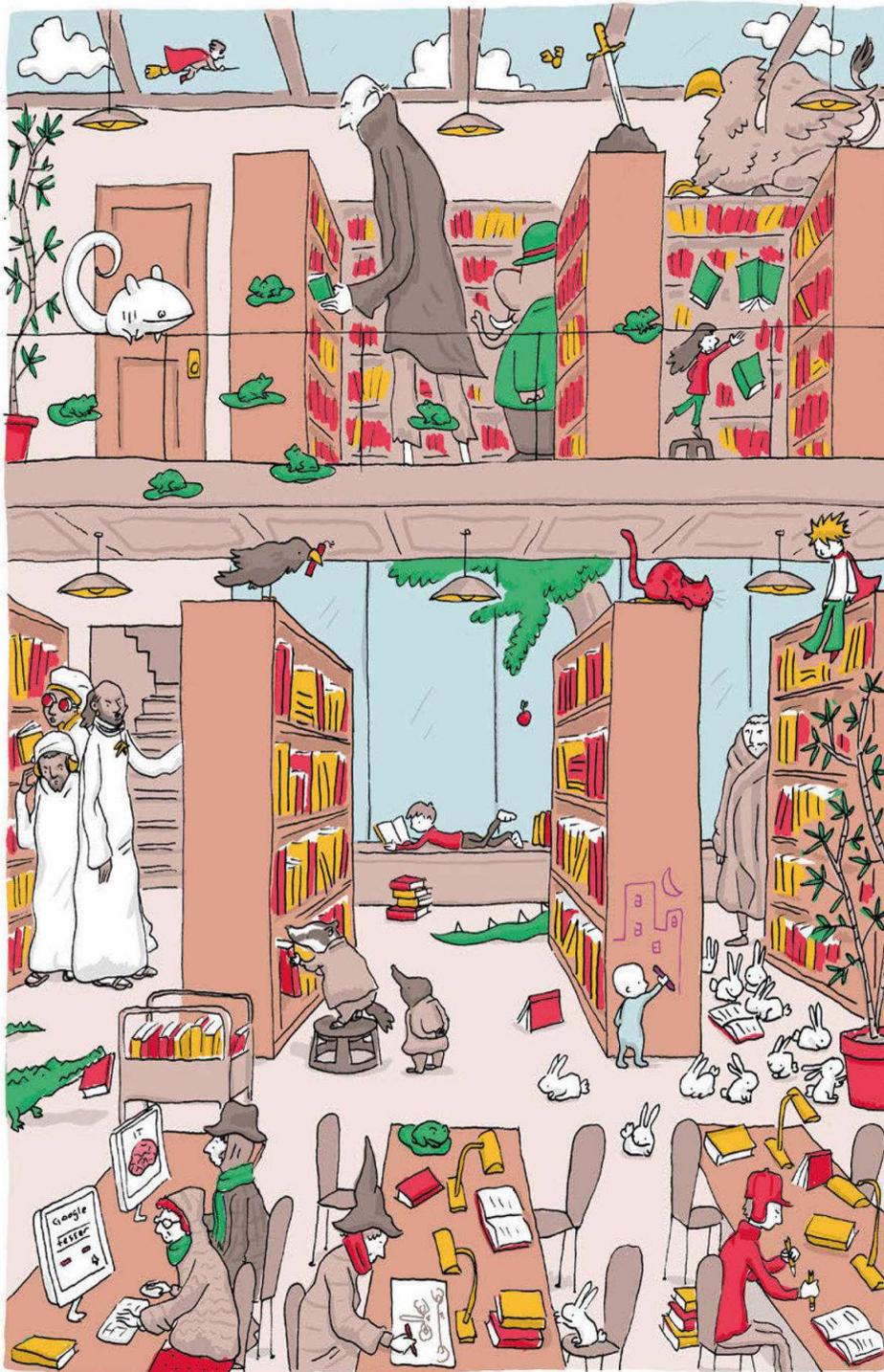


the beloved book



BAN THIS BOOK.





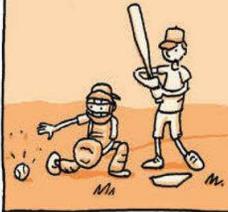
I steal books
from my
children.

The Very Bad Picture Book



REQUIRED SUMMER READING

THE CATCHER
IN THE RYE



LORD OF
THE FLIES



CAT'S
CRADLE



THE SOUND
AND THE FURY



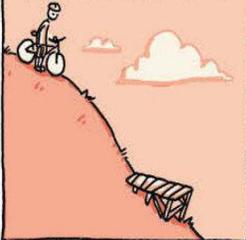
ON THE
ROAD



FAHRENHEIT
451



GREAT
EXPECTATIONS



THINGS
FALL
APART



THE
SUN
ALSO
RISES



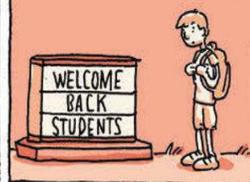
THE OLD MAN
AND THE SEA



CRIME AND
PUNISHMENT

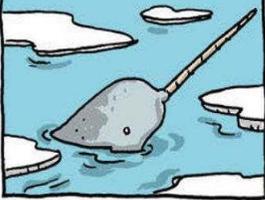


A WRINKLE
IN TIME

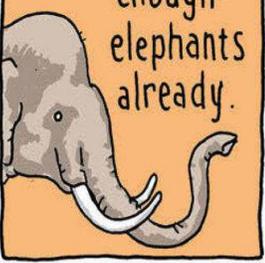


ADVOCACY for ANIMALS
IGNORED by CHILDREN'S BOOKS

WE NEED MORE
NARWHALS!



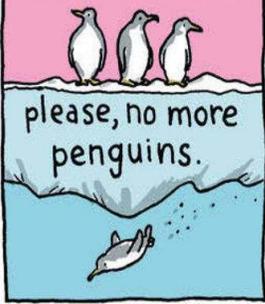
enough
elephants
already.



CAN WE
GET A
COUPLE
CASSOWARIES?



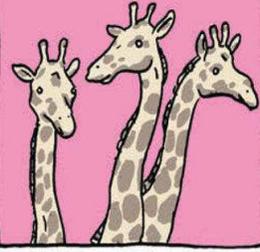
please, no more
penguins.



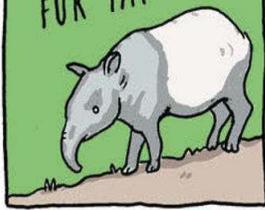
POWER TO THE
PANGOLIN!



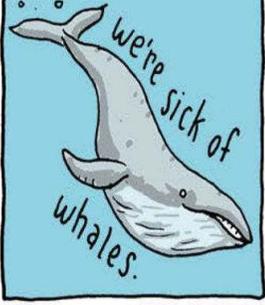
go away, giraffes.



THREE CHEERS
FOR TAPIRS!



We're sick of
whales.



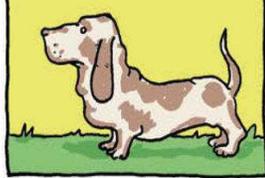
LET'S HEAR IT
FOR THE LORIS!



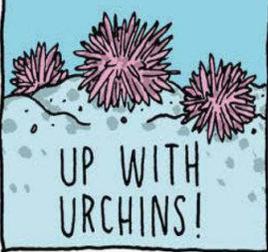
SHOW US SOME
SALAMANDERS!



down with
dogs.



UP WITH
URCHINS!



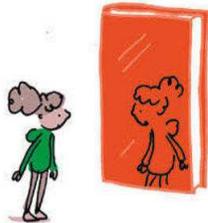
Portrait of a Parent Reading

(AFTER GLUYAS WILLIAMS)

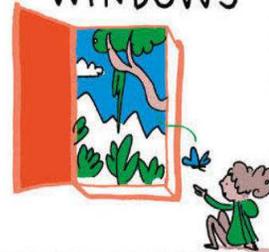


BOOKS ARE...

MIRRORS



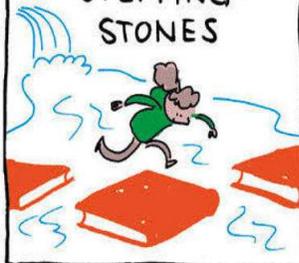
WINDOWS



SLIDING GLASS DOORS



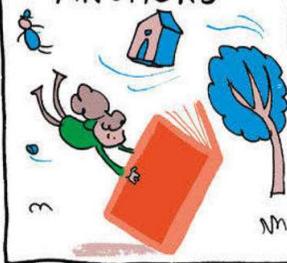
STEPPING-STONES



OVERCOATS



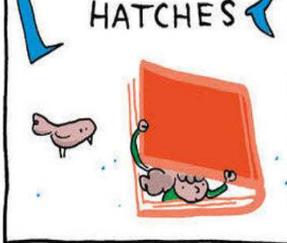
ANCHORS



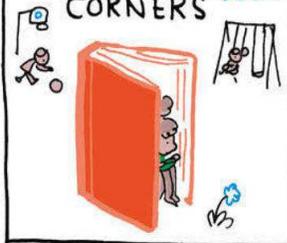
SPRINGBOARDS



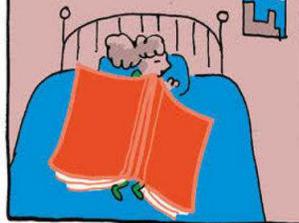
ESCAPE HATCHES



QUIET CORNERS



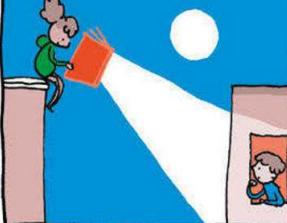
WARM BLANKETS



FLYING CARPETS

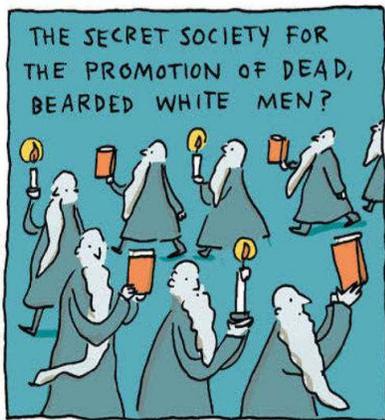
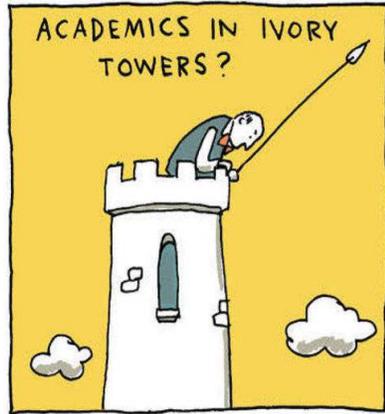


BEACONS TO NEW READERS



(AFTER RUDINE SIMS BISHOP)

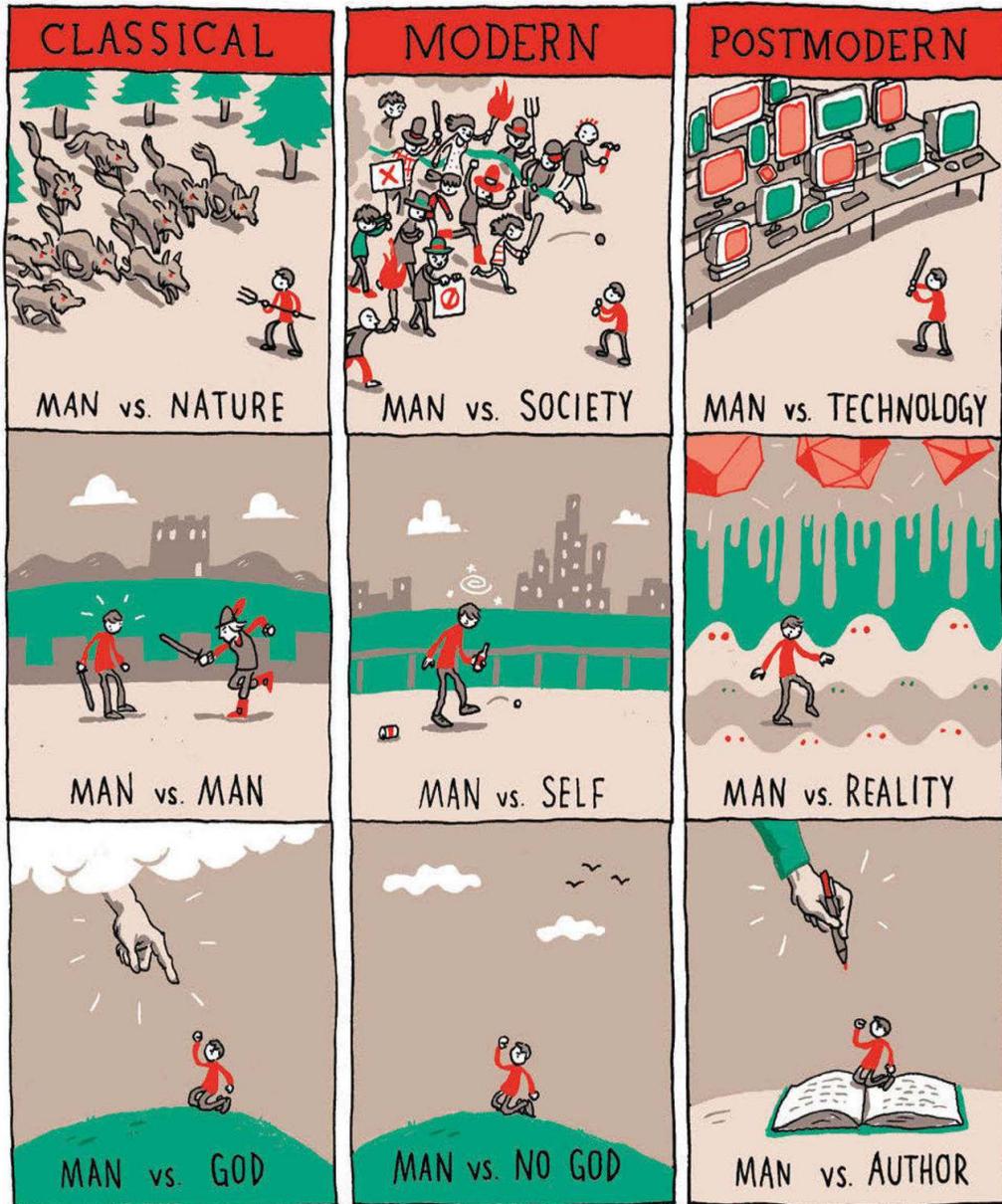
THE CANNON OF LITERATURE





I like my
realism with
a little bit of
magic.

CONFLICT IN LITERATURE



HARUKI MURAKAMI

B I N G O



THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS



THE THREE RAYS



FAHRENHEIT 351

One night they came for our books.



They tried to destroy them.

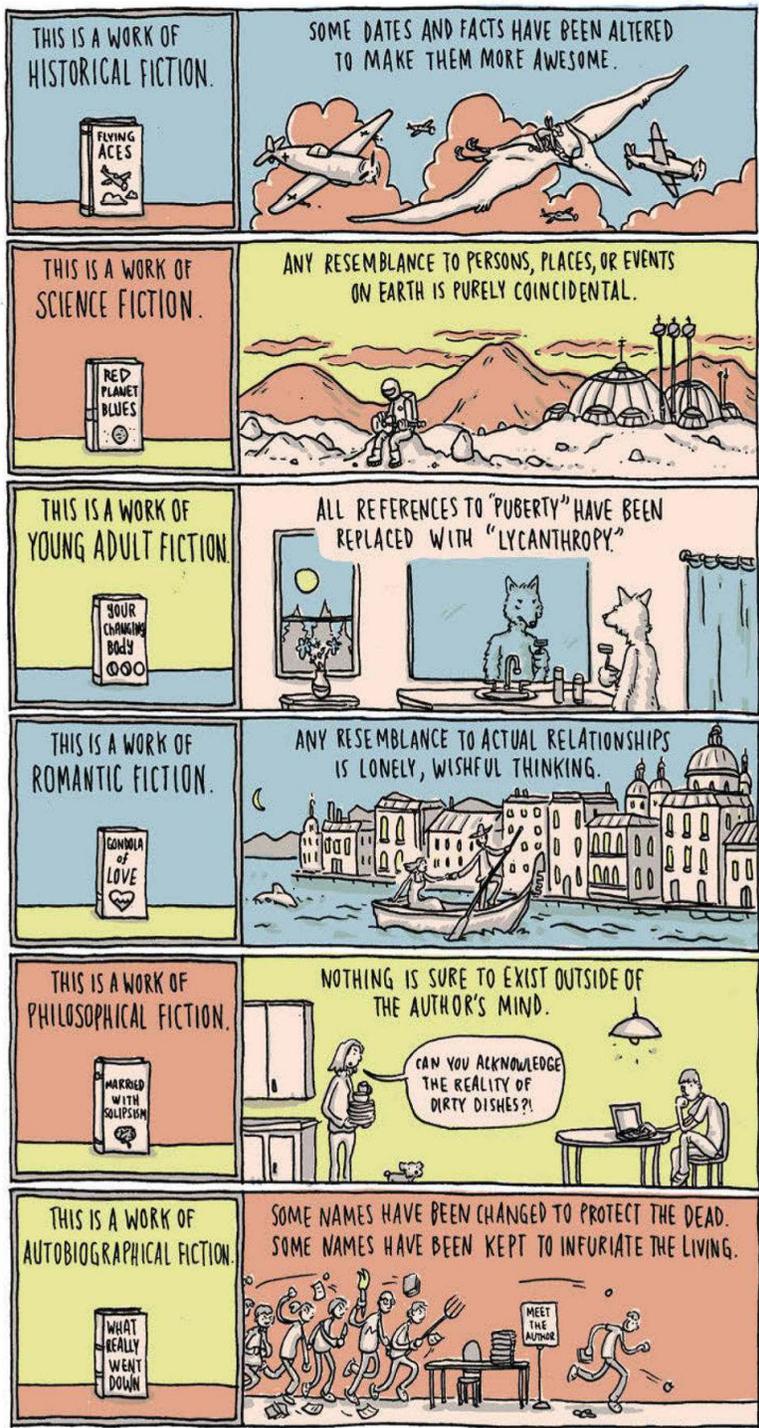


We feared all was lost.



But our books were even better warm.



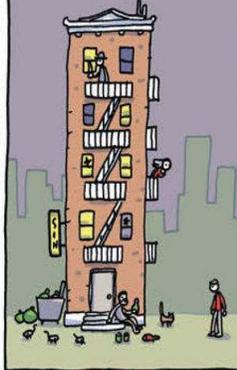


STORY STRUCTURES

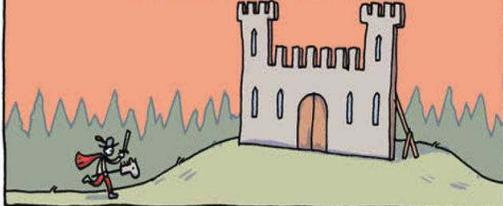
MURDER MYSTERY MANSION



CAUTIONARY
TALE
TENEMENT



FORTRESS OF FARCE



STAR-CROSSED LOVERS
OBSERVATORY



COMING-OF-AGE
CANTILEVER



CHOOSE YOUR
OWN ADVENTURE
TREE HOUSE



AQUEDUCT OF INDECIPHERABLE
ALLEGORY



TRAGICOMEDY TENT



I like to sniff
old books.

when you are gone

I will miss your gentle noises



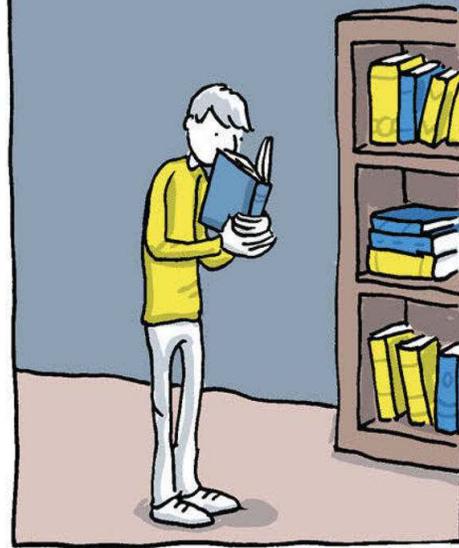
your reassuring presence

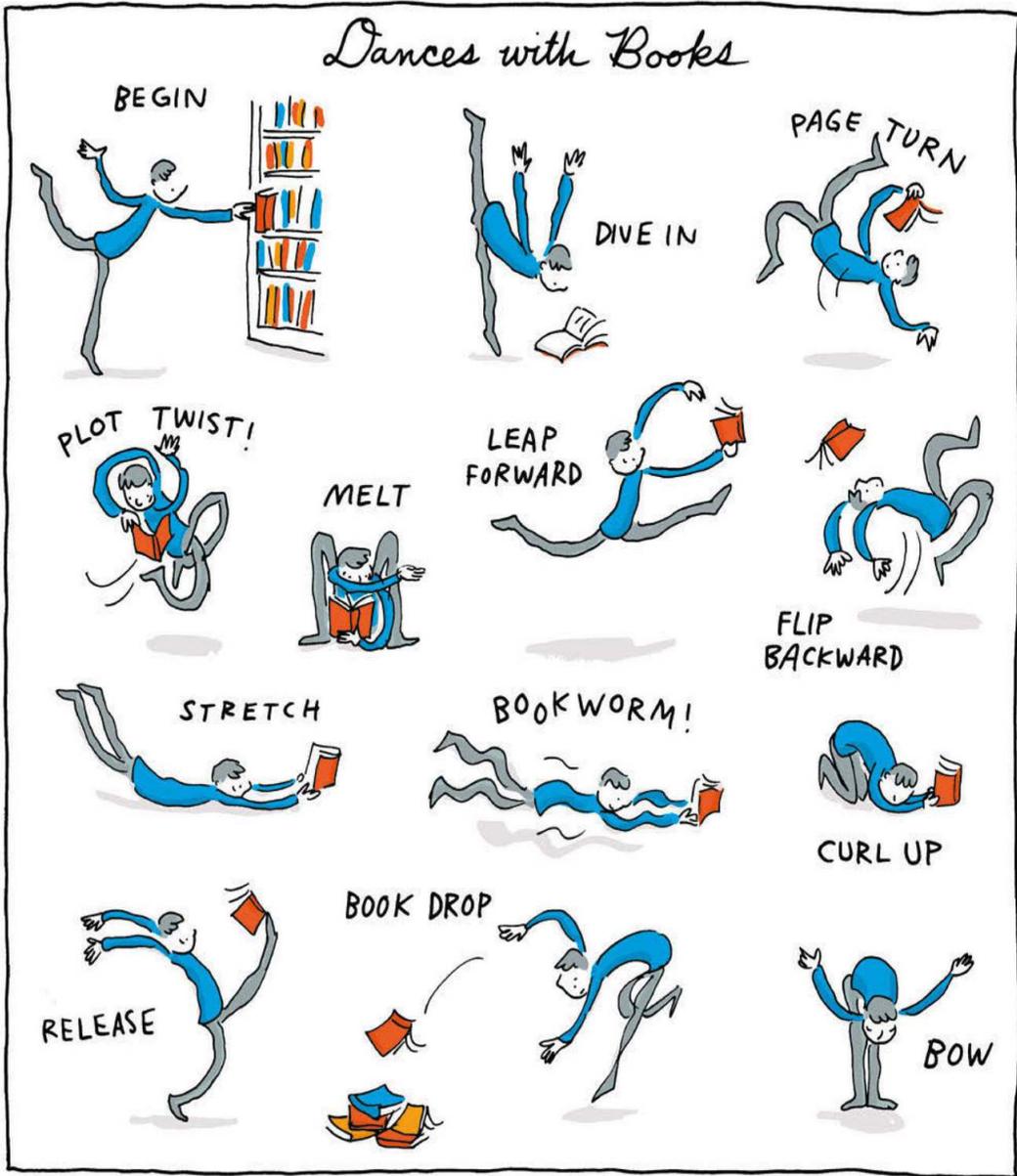


sharing you with others



your smell

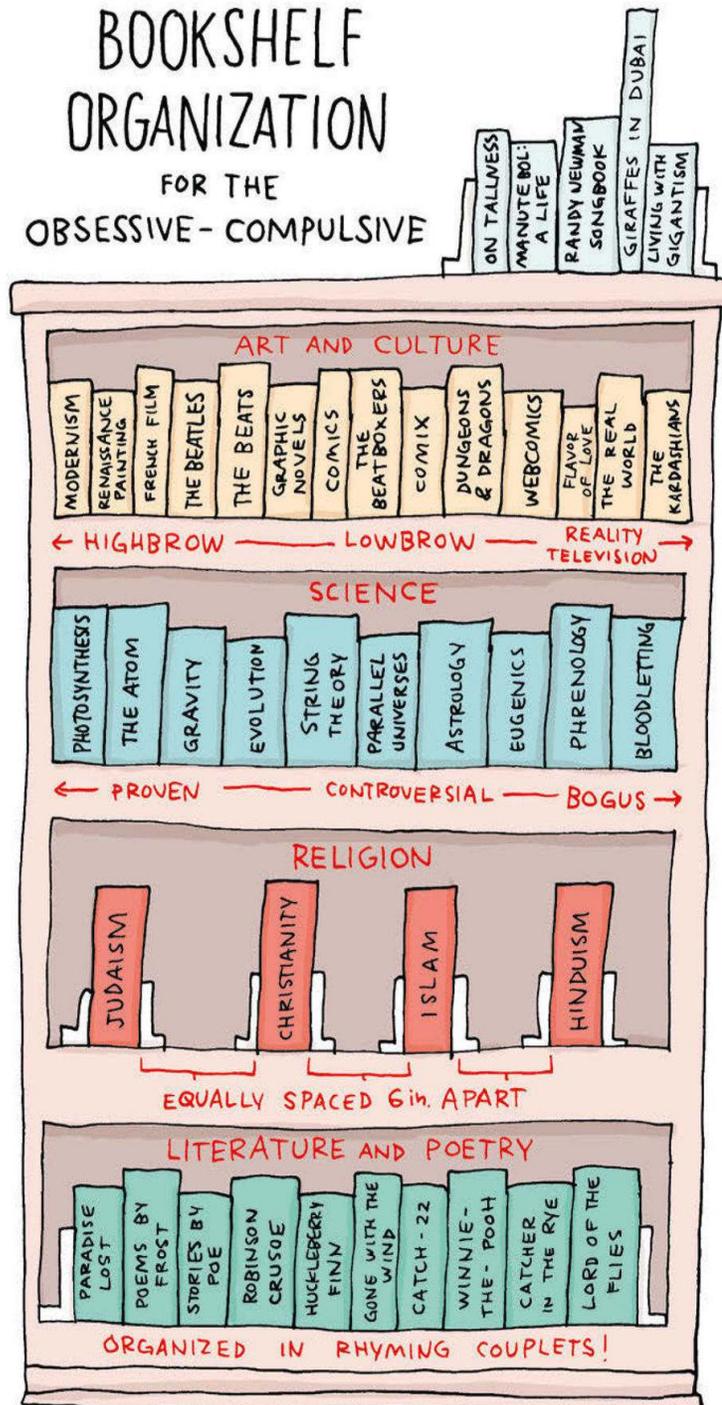




(AFTER REMY CHARLIP)

BOOKSHELF ORGANIZATION

FOR THE
OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE

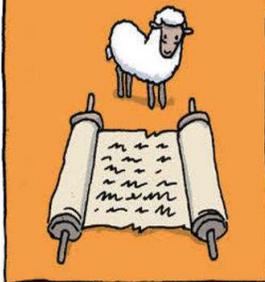


THE BOOK OF THE FUTURE



THE MANY FACES OF THE NOVEL

PROTO-NOVEL



ALLEGORICAL NOVEL



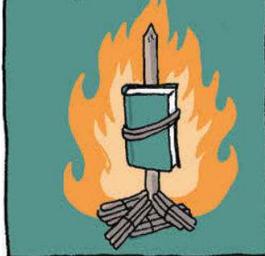
GOthic NOVEL



SATIRICAL NOVEL



HERETICAL NOVEL



GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL



EXPERIMENTAL NOVEL



GREAT RUSSIAN NOVEL



TABOO NOVEL



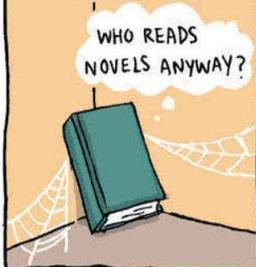
HOAX NOVEL



GENRE NOVEL



FORGOTTEN NOVEL







I am
searching for
a miracle cure
for writer's
block.

advice to writers

PUT PAPER (BLANK)
TO PENCIL (SHARP).



TRY TO MAKE SPARKS.



IF SOMETHING IGNITES,
STAY UP WRITING



BY THE FIRE YOUR
WORDS ARE LIGHTING.



IF BY MORNING,
YOU END UP CHARRED -



DON'T GIVE UP.
WRITING'S HARD.







Mindfulness



THE SPECTER OF FAILURE



Literary Consolation Prizes

THICK BOOK AWARD



MEDAL OF GRAMMAR



FIRST NOVEL ENCOURAGEMENT STICKERS



UNPUBLISHED AUTHOR PIZZA PARTY



FORMERLY PRECOCIOUS WRITER ISSUE



UNNECESSARY PUNCTUATION RIBBON



SELF-PROCLAIMED GENIUS GRANT



LOVECRAFT PRIZE FOR ZOMBIE FICTION



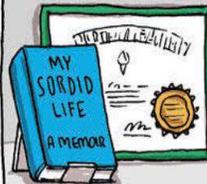
EPIC TRILOGY COMPLETION TALISMAN



OVERINFLATED AMBITION BALLOON



CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY



PARTICIPATION TROPHY



I care about
punctuation—
a lot.

Proofreader's Marks



Delete



Add mustache



Set in italics



Add a Stetson hat



Set in Italy



Curl mustache



Preferably in Rome



Flying mustache!



Insert ellipsis



More drama



Insert cyclopsis



More hypnosis



Wrong font



Insert space



Horribly wrong font



Write faster

... Ant problem



Got bored, played
tic-tac-toe

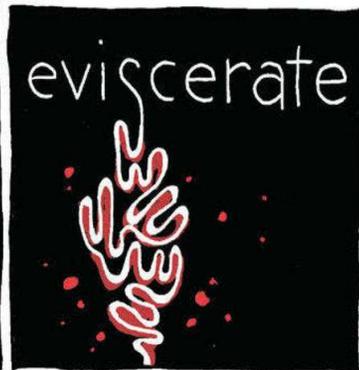
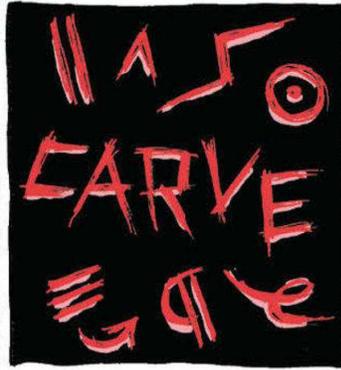
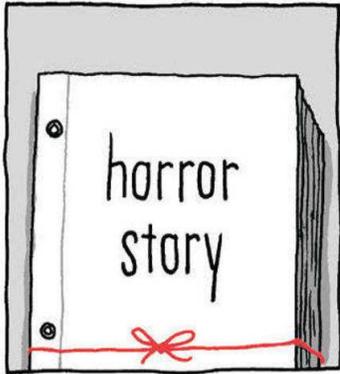


Insert colon

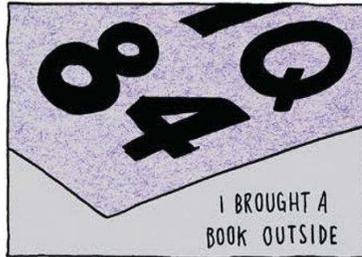


"Good grief!"

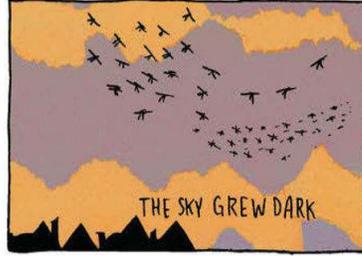
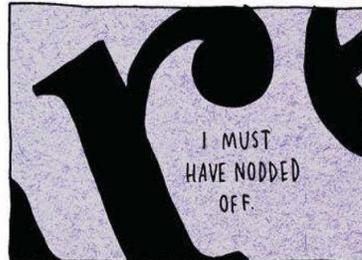
Word  tornado

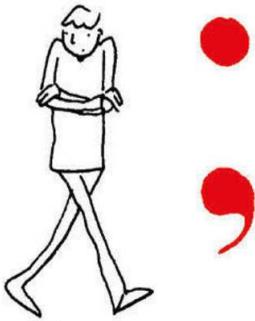
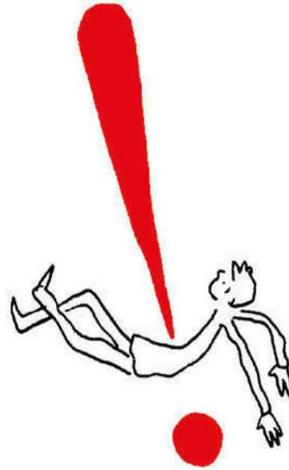
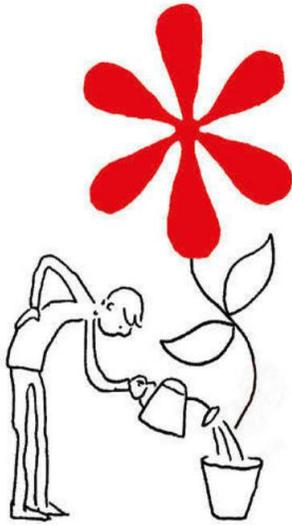


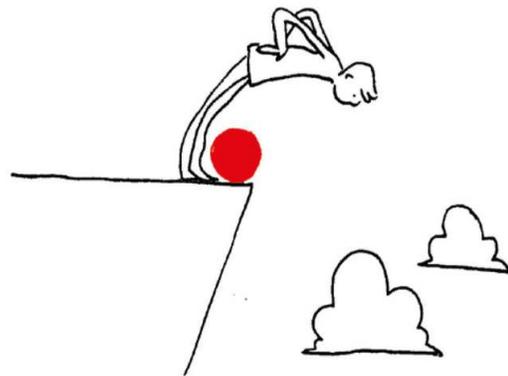
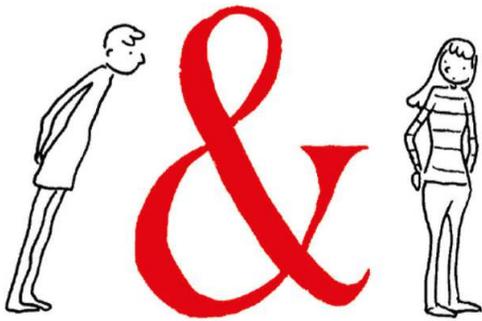
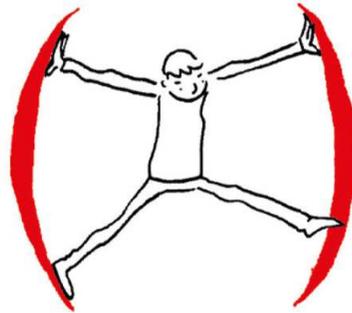
SUMMER NIGHT



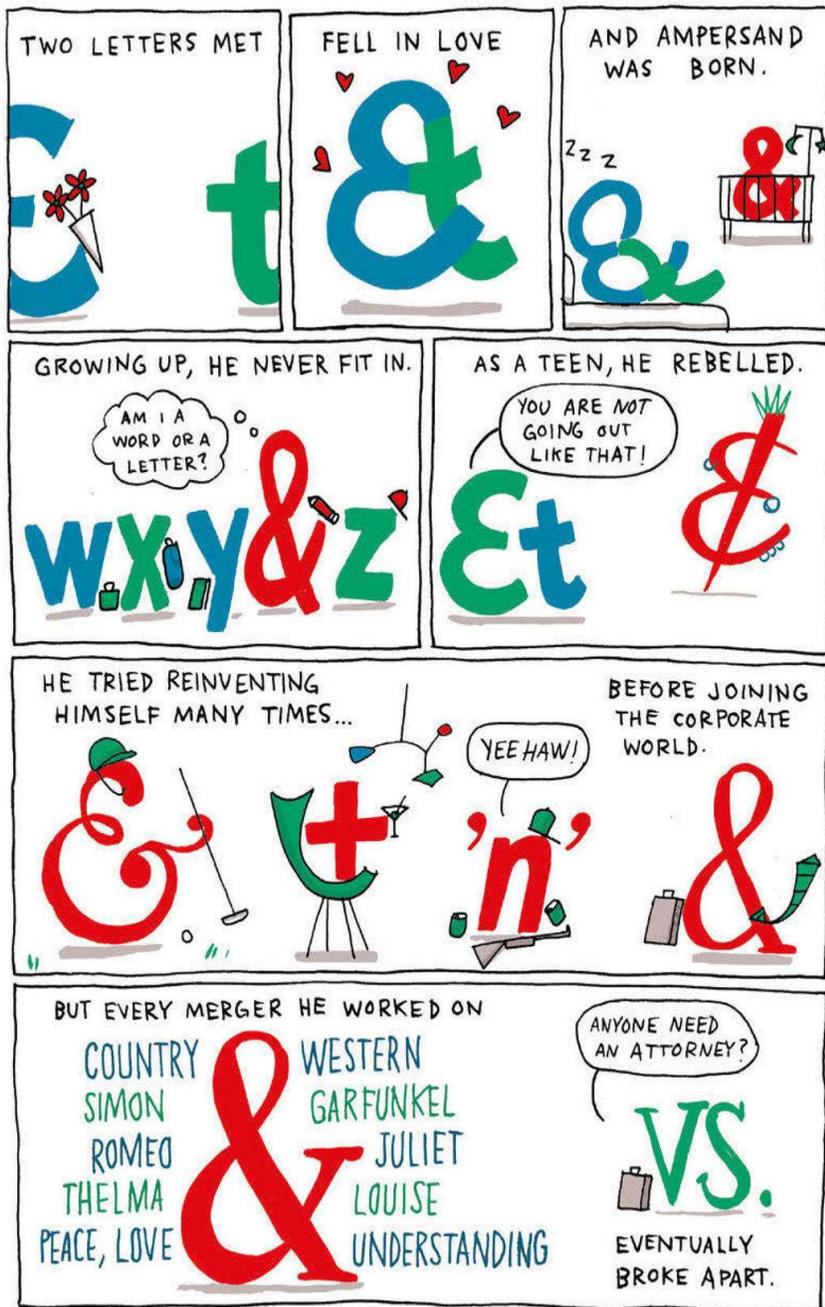
"It is going to rain
now," the man
said in a voice with
a hint of
warning.
AND STARTED
READING.

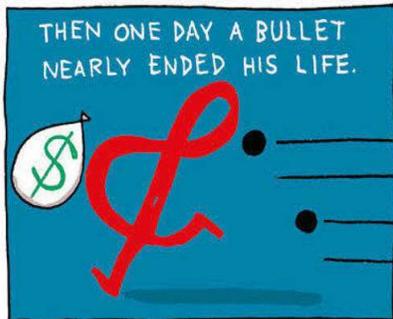
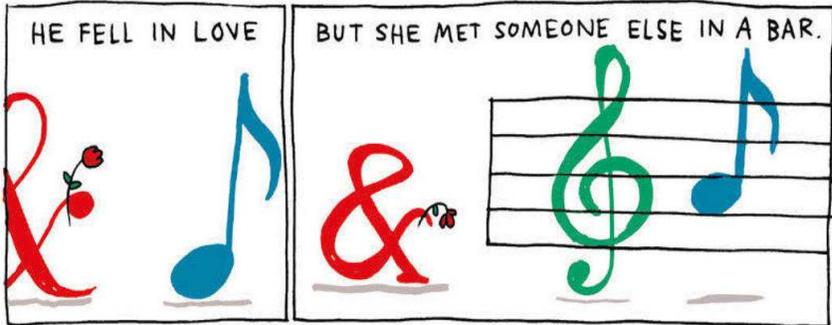






adventures of the ampersand





I will read
the classics
(someday).

THE INGREDIENTS OF SHAKESPEARE



PIG LATIN



PIG LATIN REDUX



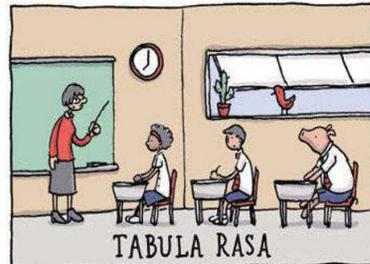
EX NIHILO



TERRA FIRMA



TERRA INCOGNITA



AD NAUSEAM

CURRICULUM VITAE

ET TU, BRUTE?

ACTOR

CANTOR

ORATOR

LECTOR

VICTOR

MAGNUM OPUS!

PICTOR

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

a book of poems



UNEXPECTED RAIN SONG

(after Langston Hughes)

Let the rain surprise you.



Let the rain wash away your distractions.



Let the rain fall on your heels like quicksilver.



Let the rain challenge your sense of fashion.



The rain demands expressive dance.



The rain plays rhythmic trance music.



The rain brings poets and earthworms.



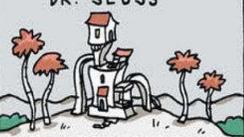
The rain paints in drunken watercolors.



I love the rain.



WE ARE THE INTROVERTS.

<p>YOU CAN OFTEN FIND US IN OUR NATURAL HABITATS.</p>	<p>PLACES OF ART</p> 	<p>PLACES OF BOOKS</p> 	<p>OUTSIDE IN NATURE</p> 	<p>INSIDE OUR OWN BRAINS</p> 
<p>PERHAPS YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THESE FAMOUS INTROVERTS:</p>	<p>J. D. SALINGER</p> 	<p>EMILY DICKINSON</p> 		
<p>MICHAEL JACKSON</p> 	<p>ABRAHAM LINCOLN</p> 	<p>DR. SEUSS</p> 		
<p>WHAT ANIMAL BEST DESCRIBES US?</p>	<p>THE LONE WOLF?</p> 	<p>THE HERMIT CRAB?</p> 	<p>THE BROWN RECLUSE?</p> 	
<p>NO! IT IS THE MONK SEAL.</p>	<p>AWKWARD AROUND OTHERS...</p> 	<p>BUT GRACEFUL IN ITS ELEMENT.</p> 		
<p>SO FORGET WHAT YOU'VE HEARD. INTROVERTS KNOW HOW TO PARTY.</p>	<p>GAME NIGHT</p> 	<p>DANCE-OFF</p> 	<p>THE AFTER-PARTY</p> 	

TYPES OF READERS

PICKY



VORACIOUS



DRAMATIC

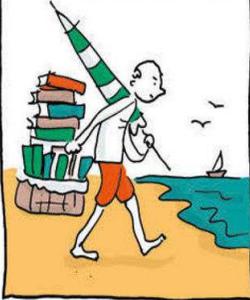
TO READ, OR NOT
TO READ?



INDECISIVE



OVERPREPARED



UNDERPREPARED



GUILTY



NOCTURNAL



PHONY



CONTORTIONIST



NEGLECTFUL



RECLUSIVE

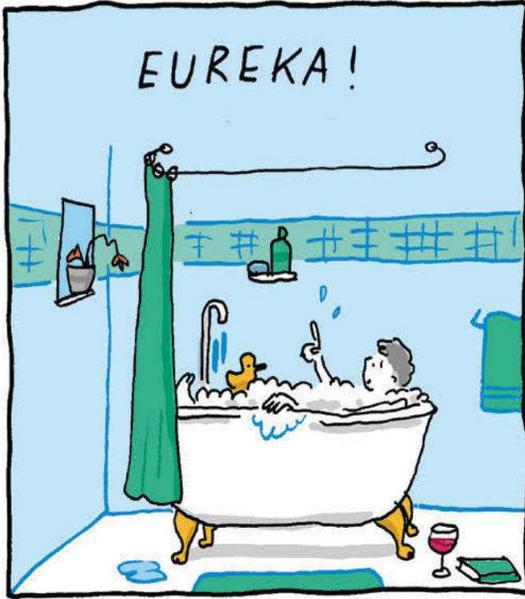


DAY JOBS OF THE POETS

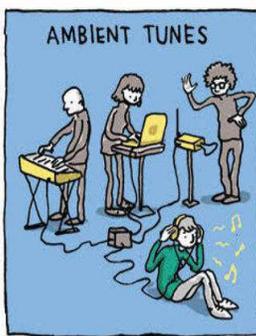
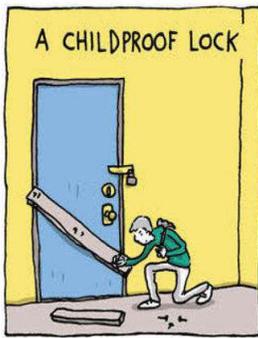
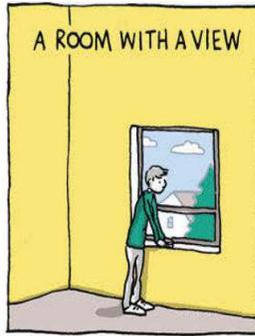




I am writing
The Great
American
Novel.



ALL I NEED TO WRITE



PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS for WRITERS

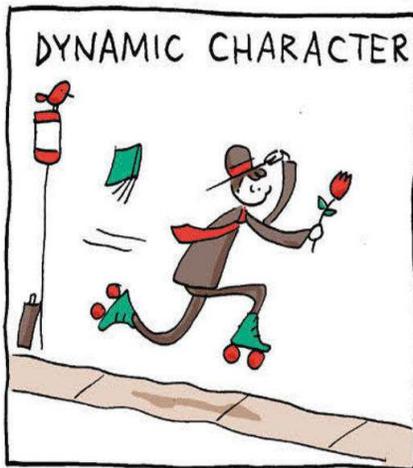
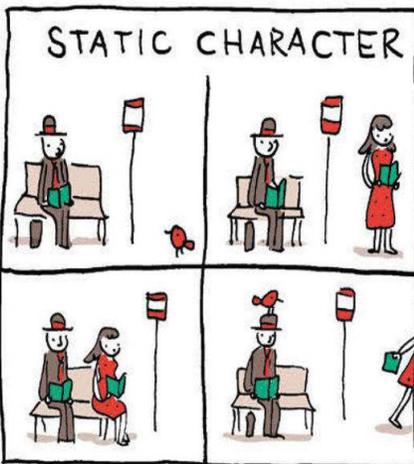
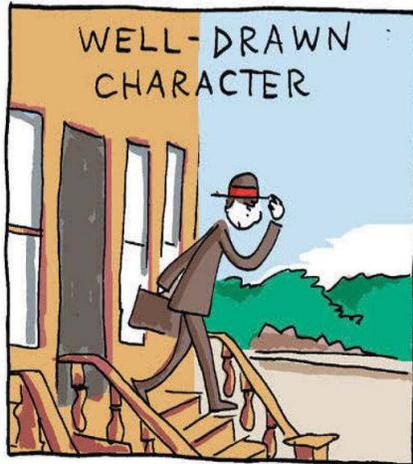


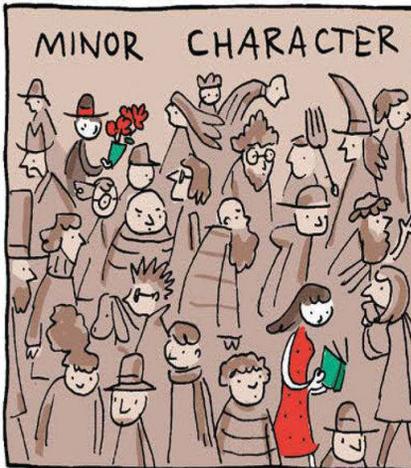
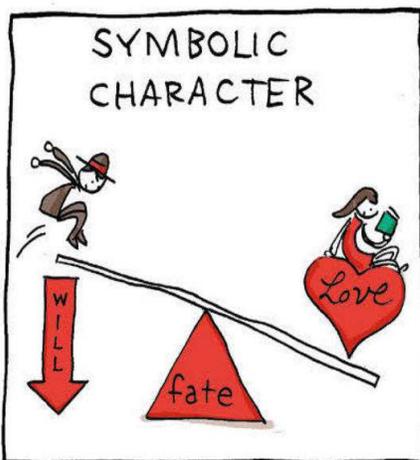
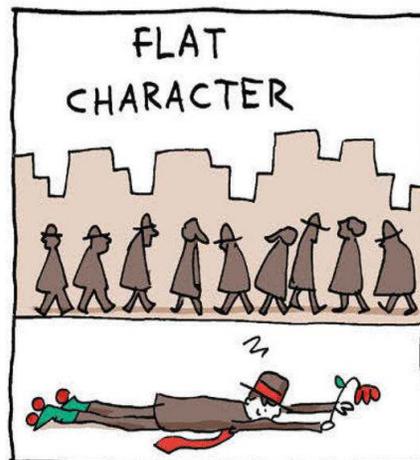
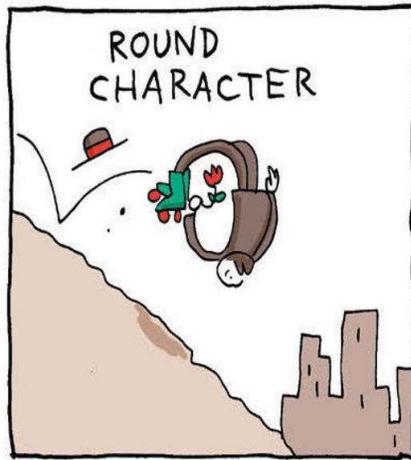
STYLES OF WRITING





CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

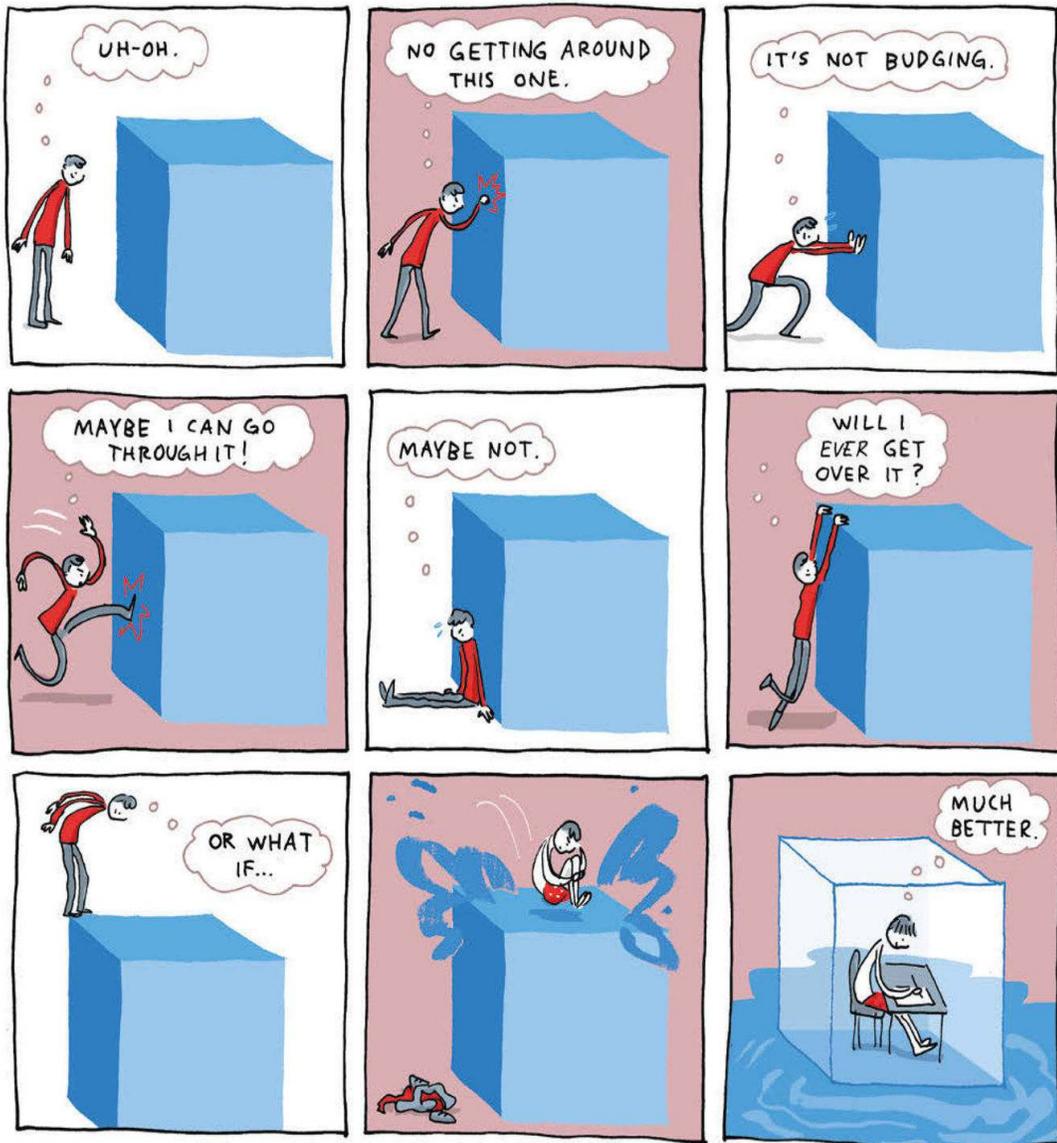




HOW TO MAKE WRITE



BLOCKED



STRUNK AND
WHITE'S

WRITERS' STYLE GUIDE

OMIT THE NEEDLESS.



PREFER THE ACTIVE
TO THE PASSIVE.



AVOID STYLES THAT ARE
LOOSE, INDEFINITE, OR COLLOQUIAL.



USE FIGURES OF SPEECH SPARINGLY.



DON'T BE TOO FANCY. BUT TAKE NO SHORTCUTS.



AVOID AWKWARD CONSTRUCTIONS.



EDIT, EDIT, EDIT!



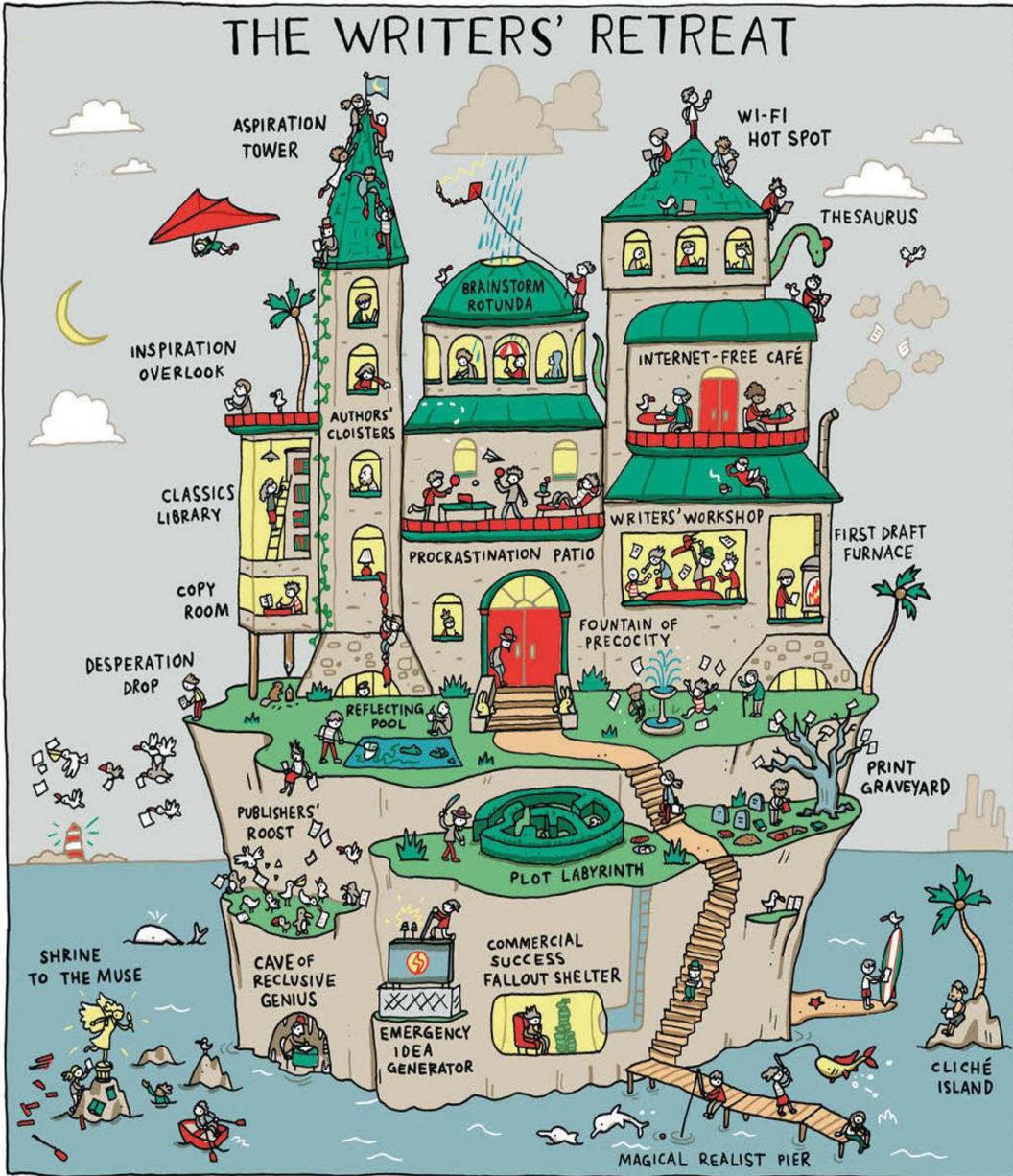
STRIP DOWN TO ESSENTIALS.



ONE MUST MASTER THE RULES OF STYLE IN ORDER TO TRANSCEND THEM.



I carry
a notebook
with me at
all times.



TYPES OF NARRATORS

FIRST PERSON

I AM WRITING
A NOVEL.



UNRELIABLE

IT IS GOING
EXTREMELY WELL.



SECOND PERSON

YOU MUST KEEP
WRITING!



LIMITED

I DON'T THINK
I CAN DO THIS...



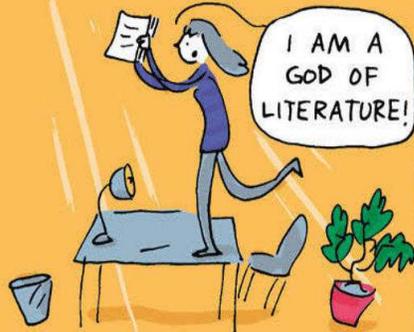
THIRD PERSON

SUDDENLY, SHE WAS
STRUCK BY INSPIRATION!



OMNISCIENT

I AM A
GOD OF
LITERATURE!



Pen Names

TRUTH
TELLER



BIRD-
WATCHER



LANGUAGE
CONNOISSEUR



MEMORY
KEEPER



IMAGINARY-
FRIEND MAKER



SCREAMER
INTO THE VOID



CONVERSATION
THIEF



PROFESSIONAL
PROCRASTINATOR



CREATOR AND
DESTROYER OF
WORLDS



ONE PAGE AT A TIME



Writing a poem is like riding a bicycle.



Impressive at a young age

but considered eccentric among adults.



A simple, solitary pursuit

in which time slows to reveal small moments.



Full of exhilarating sounds and images.

With attempts at simile that often fall flat.



Writing a poem is not like riding a bicycle.

Writing a poem is like riding a bicycle while writing a poem.



Each time it must be learned anew.

ENOUGH

IF YOU ARE
WRITING FOR THE
APPROVAL OF
OTHERS...



GOOD LUCK.



ALL THE
ACCOLADES IN
THE WORLD...



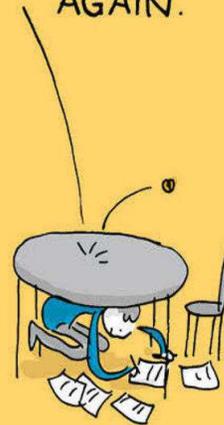
WILL NEVER
BE ENOUGH.



SO STOP
CHASING
RECOGNITION.



AND START
WRITING FOR
YOURSELF
AGAIN.



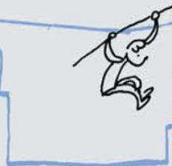
NEW LINES



I walk a tightrope of language.

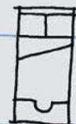


I stumble into meaning.



I'm fully in command until

my subject turns on me.



I strive for beauty



but rarely succeed.

I skip from thought



to thought



and drift

into a raging sea.



Still I keep going

without knowing where the next line leads.



WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR NOTEBOOK



PERFECT

THIS IS THE PERFECT
BOOK YOU WILL
NEVER WRITE.



THIS IS THE
PERFECT RACE
YOU WILL NEVER
RUN.



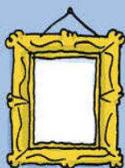
THIS IS THE PERFECT
IDEA THAT WILL
NEVER STRIKE.



THIS IS THE PERFECT
PERSON YOU WILL
NEVER BECOME.



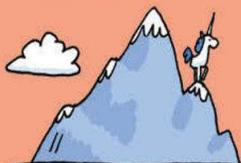
THIS IS THE
PERFECT PAINTING
YOU WILL NEVER MAKE.



THIS IS THE
PERFECT SONG YOU
WILL NEVER HUM.



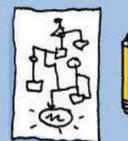
THIS IS THE
PERFECT MOUNTAIN
YOU WILL NEVER
CLIMB.



THIS IS THE
PERFECT CAKE YOU
WILL NEVER BAKE.



THIS IS THE
PERFECT SOLUTION
YOU WILL NEVER
FIND.



THIS IS PERFECTION:



IT DOESN'T EXIST.

TIME TO DESTROY
PERFECT...

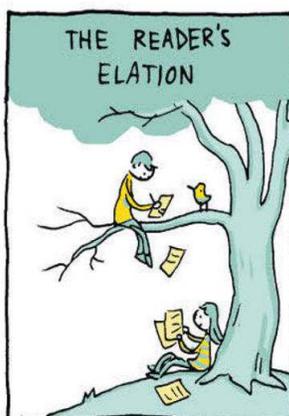
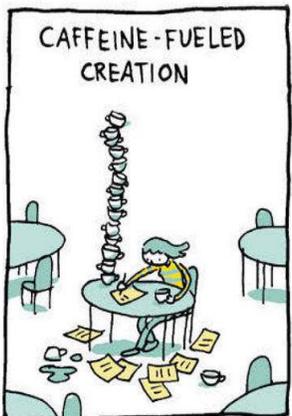
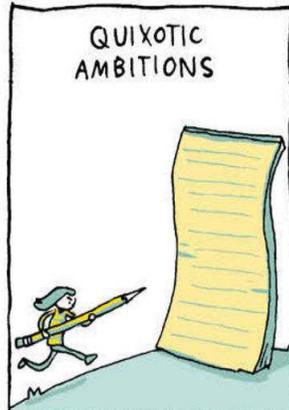


AND GET
SOMETHING DONE.



I write
because I
must.

WHY WE WRITE





CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



WRITING EXERCISES

CLEAR A SPACE.



SIT IN SOLITUDE.



IMITATE YOUR PREDECESSORS.



STRETCH BEYOND THEM.

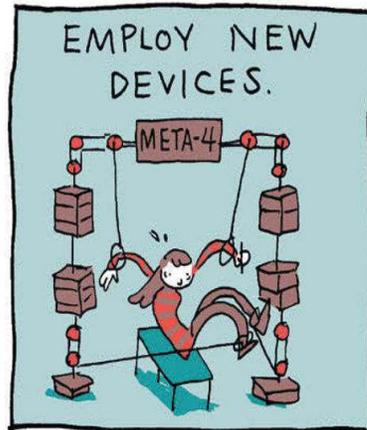


STRENGTHEN YOUR VOICE.

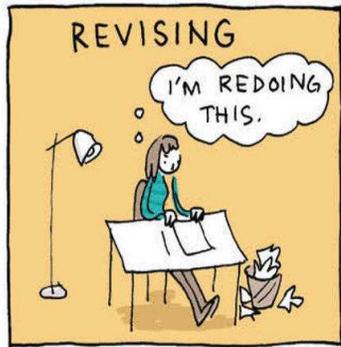


CUT WEIGHT.





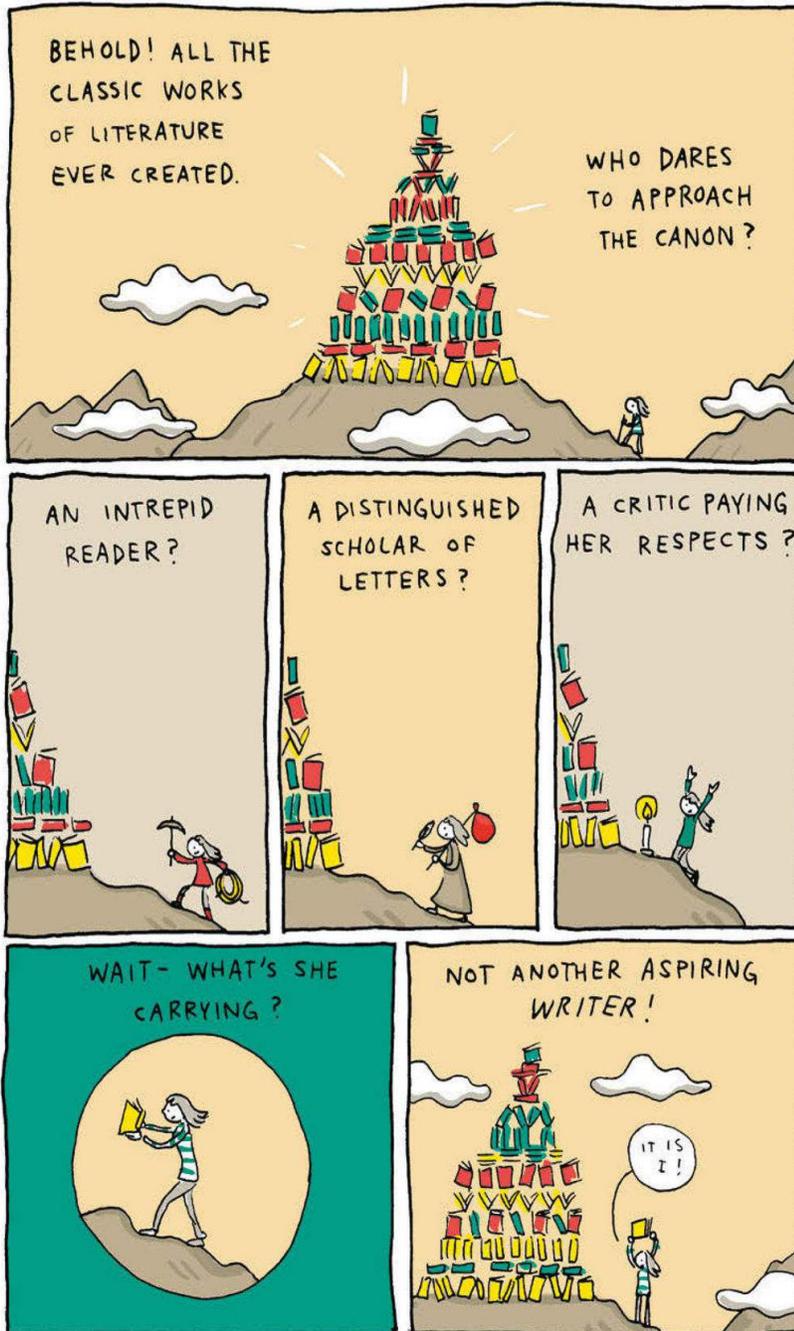
THE NINE R'S

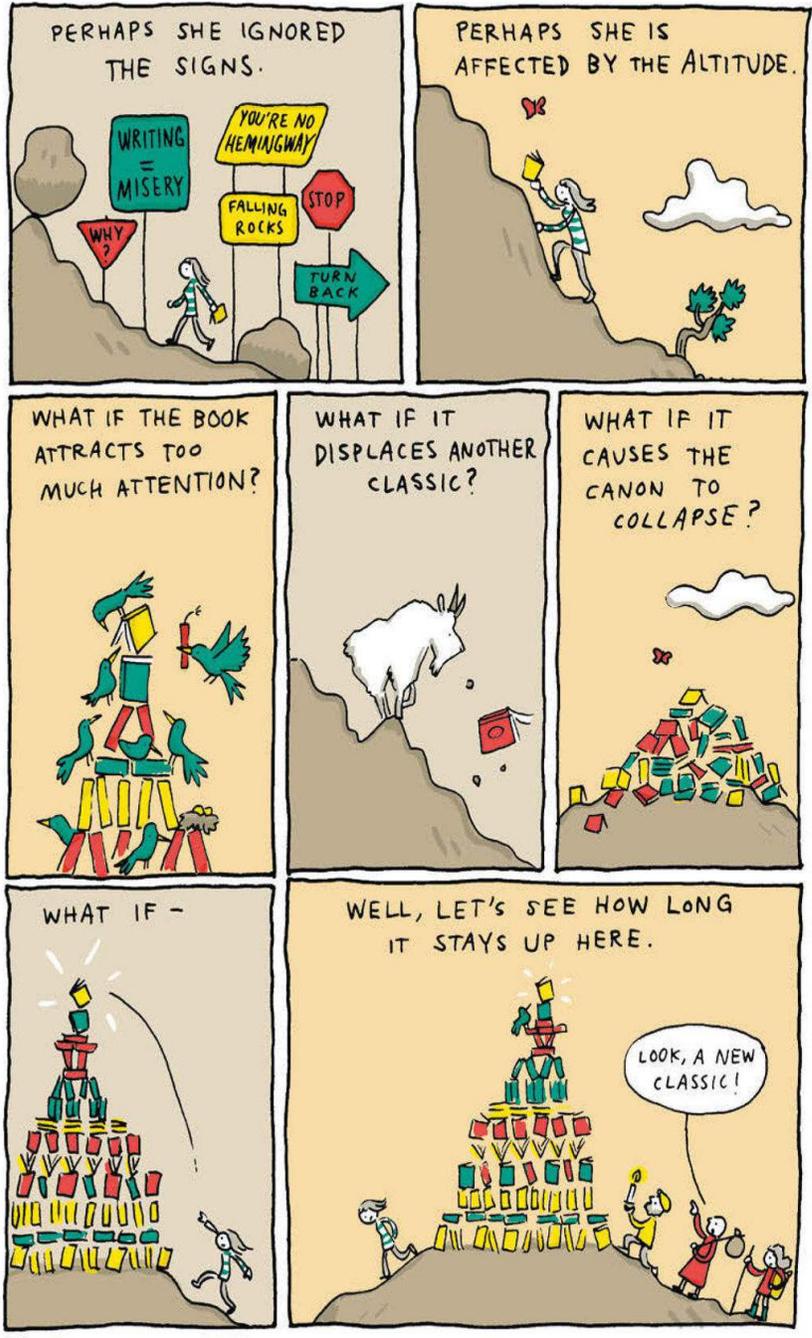


HOW TO BECOME A LITERARY RECLUSE



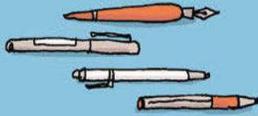
GREAT ASPIRATIONS





ODE TO LOST PENS

TO ALL THE
FELT-TIPS, GELS,
FOUNTAINS, AND
BALLPOINTS



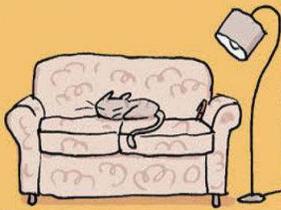
DROPPED FROM
MY POCKETS



DROWNED AT
LAUNDROMATS



WEDGED BETWEEN
COUCH CUSHIONS



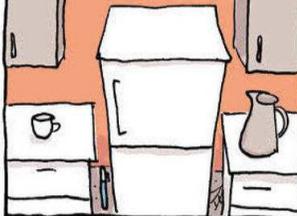
STRANDED ON
STREETS



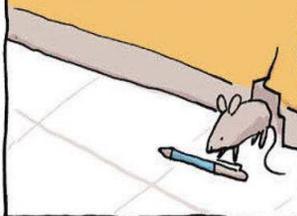
MISTAKEN FOR
TWIGS



FALLEN INTO THE
ABYSS



STOLEN BY
CLEVER MICE



NEVER TO TOUCH
A PAGE



MAY YOU RETURN
TO ME



ON SOME
UNFAMILIAR
SIDEWALK



AT THE MOMENT
I NEED YOU MOST.



COGITO ERGO SUM



**THE
END.**

THE END OF A SENTENCE
IS A PAUSE.
e said!

THE END OF A PAGE IS
A GUTTER.

THE END OF A CHAPTER
IS A CLIFF-HANGER.

THE END OF A CHARACTER
IS... MURDER?

THE END OF A SERIES
IS SADNESS.
FAREWELL, FRIENDS.

THE END OF A BAD
BOOK IS SLUMBER.
zzzz

THE END OF A POEM
IS SILENCE.

THE END OF A GREAT
BOOK IS WONDER.

THE END OF ONE STORY...

... IS THE START OF ANOTHER.

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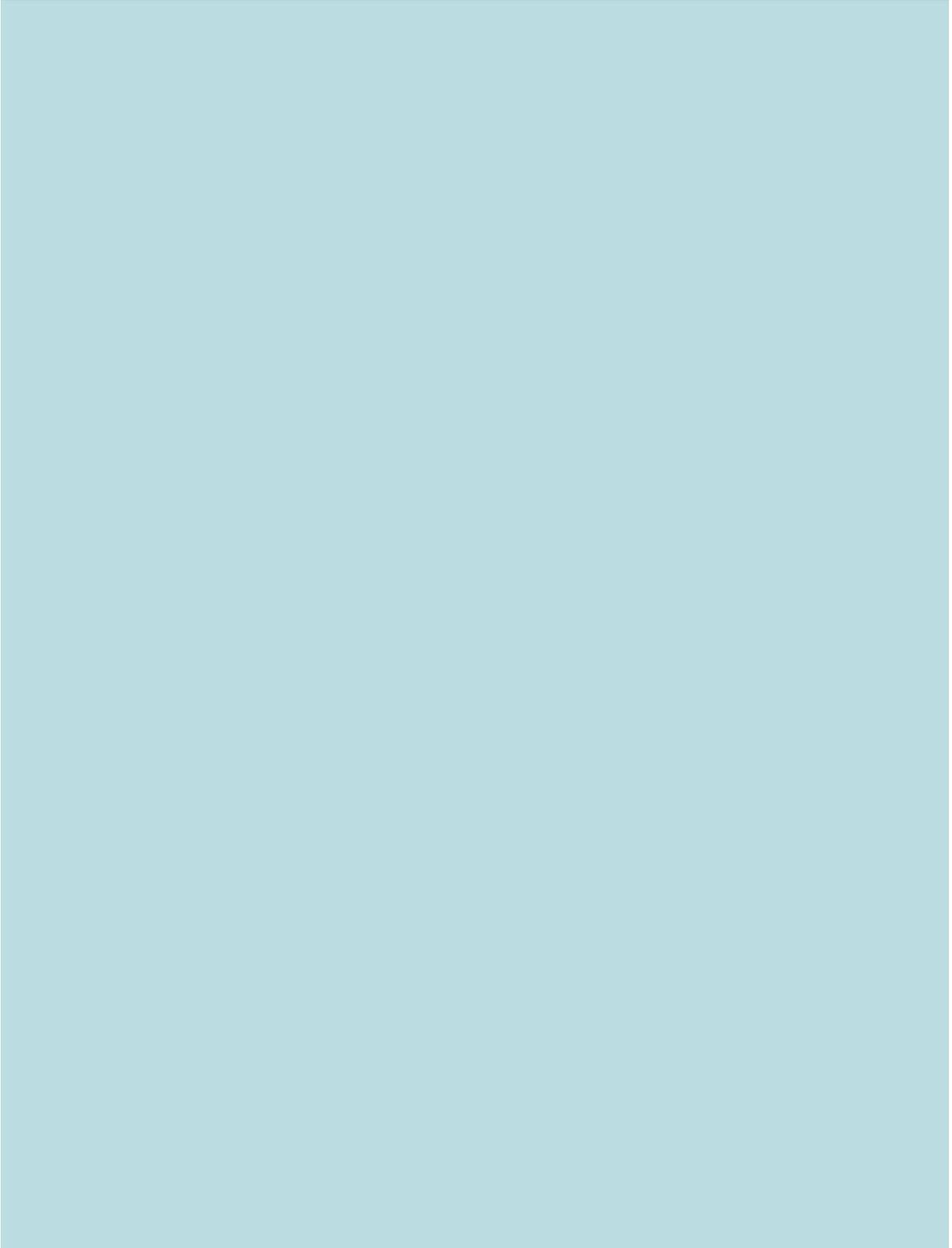
I write because I must.

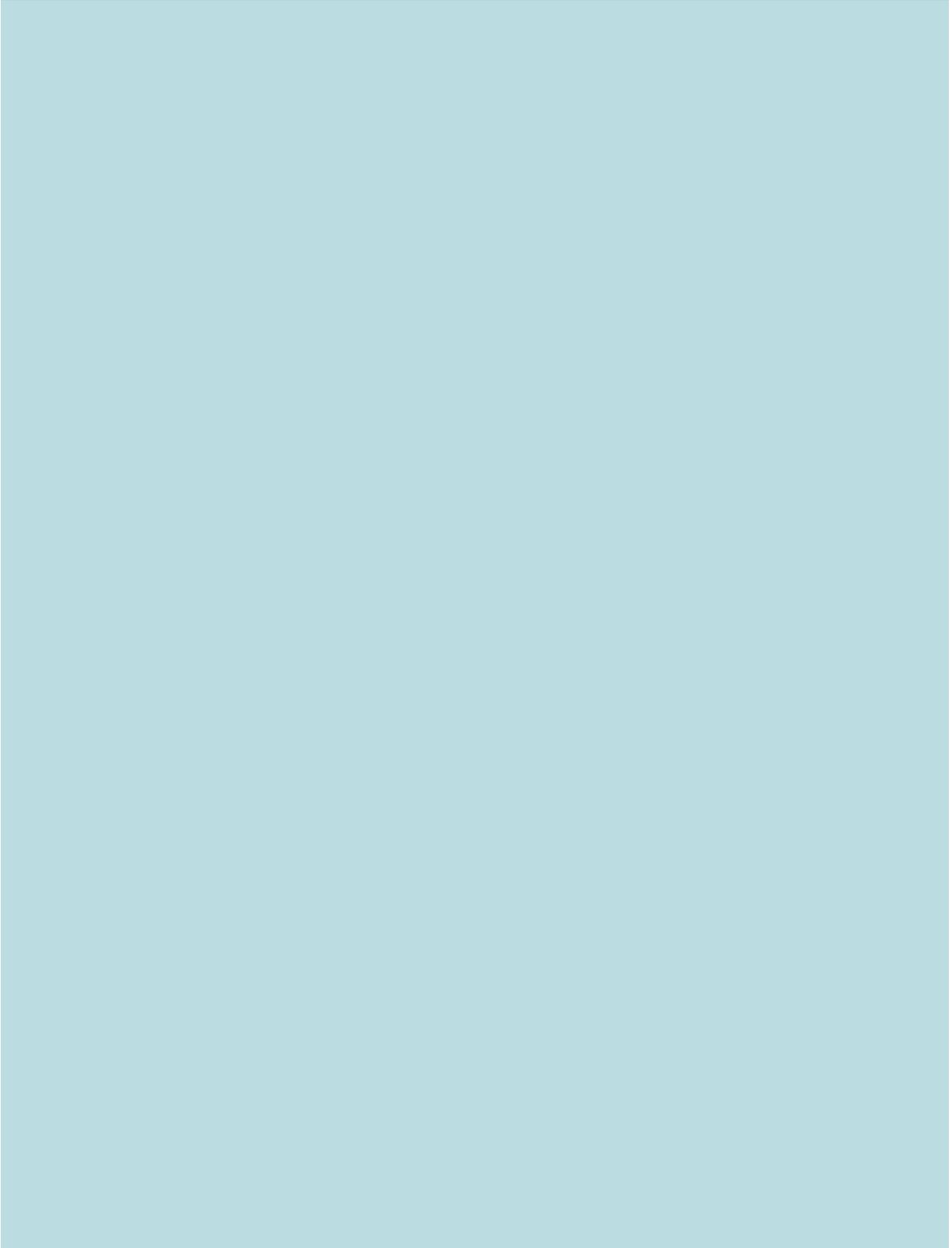
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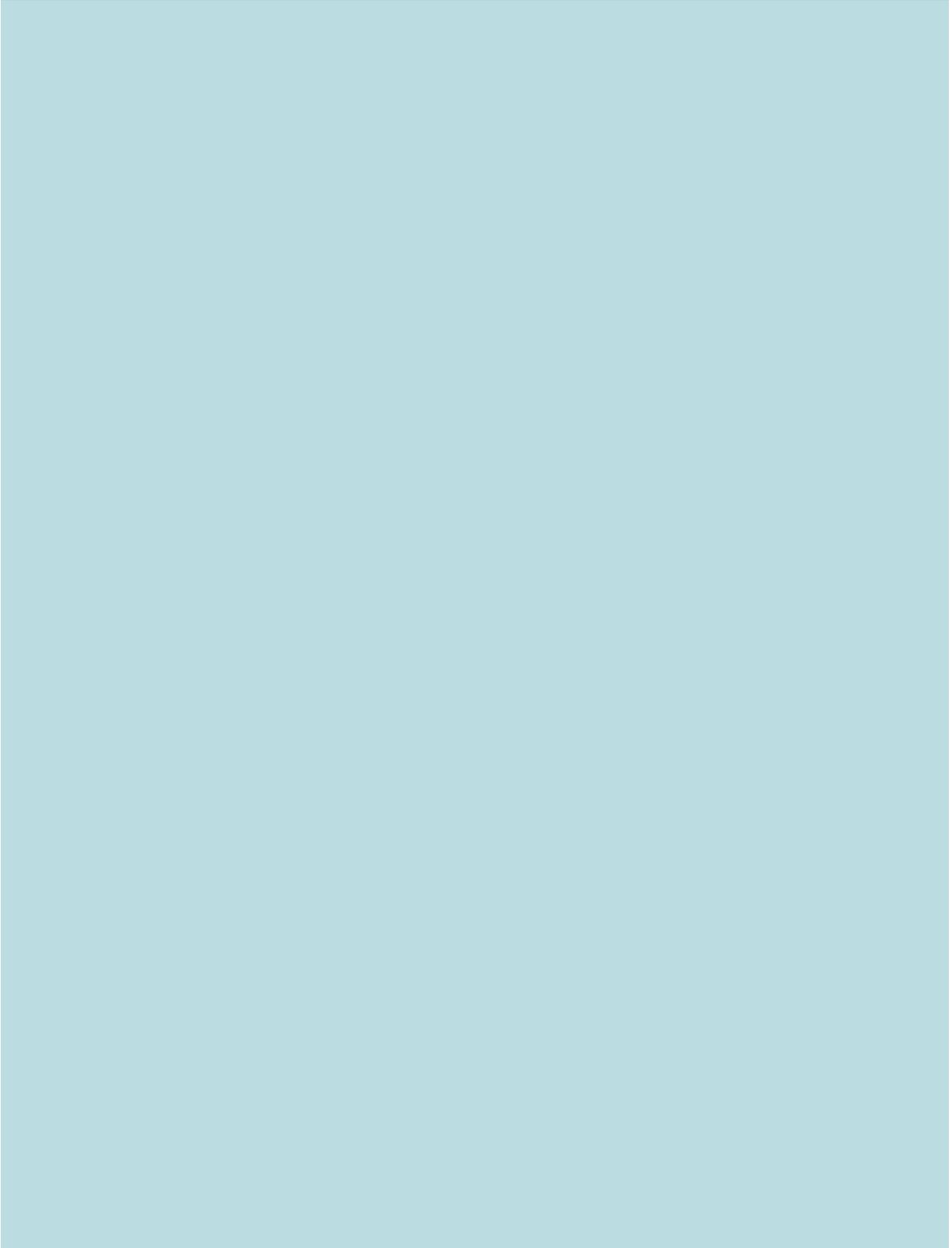


I hope you
don't mind me
asking...

can I borrow a
few books?







Praise for *The Shape of Ideas*

“What do ideas look like? Where do they come from? . . . Surprisingly, Snider’s beautifully composed cartoons have cogent answers to those questions—or if they don’t, he’s at least an urgent asker. He’s created something unique: a synthesis of comics, philosophy, and poetry: a thoughtful new way of packaging eternal ideas in cartoon boxes.” —*Los Angeles Review of Books*



“The tongue-in-cheek wit and self-deprecating style make this a pleasant introduction to the joy and frustration of making any kind of art, and the beautifully designed presentation—with a charming die-cut cover—is a fine proof of concept.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Grant Snider’s *The Shape of Ideas* is a creative kaleidoscope of humor, insight, and truth. An inventive window into the creative experience filled with hope and encouragement for daydreamers and doodlers, sketchers and scribbles, inventors, explorers, and spinners of yarns.” —**Clare Vanderpool**, Newbery Medal winner for *Moon Over Manifest* and the Printz Honor for *Navigating Early*

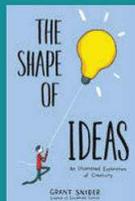
It’s no secret, but we are judged by our bookshelves. We learn to read at an early age, and as we grow older we shed our beloved books for new ones. But some of us surround ourselves with books. We collect them, decorate with them, are inspired by them, and treat our books as sacred objects. In *I Will Judge You by Your Bookshelf*, a lighthearted collection of one- and two-page comics, writer/artist Grant Snider explores bookishness in all its forms—the perfect gift for bookworms of all ages.

Grant Snider is an orthodontist by day and an artist by night. His comics have been featured in the *Kansas City Star*, the *New York Times*, and the *New Yorker*, as well as the anthology *The Best American Comics*. He is the creator of Incidental Comics and the author/illustrator of *The Shape of Ideas*, *The Shape of Ideas Sketchbook*, and the picture book *What Color Is Night?* Snider lives in Wichita, Kansas, with his wife and their four children. Follow him online at incidentalcomics.com and [@grantdraws](https://twitter.com/grantdraws).



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