

AWESOME

Alphabets

Draw your own *Slimy*
Electric
Tool
Furry
Pencil
Sports
Boney
Broken

Written and Illustrated
by
Mike Artell

Animal
Wooden **letters**



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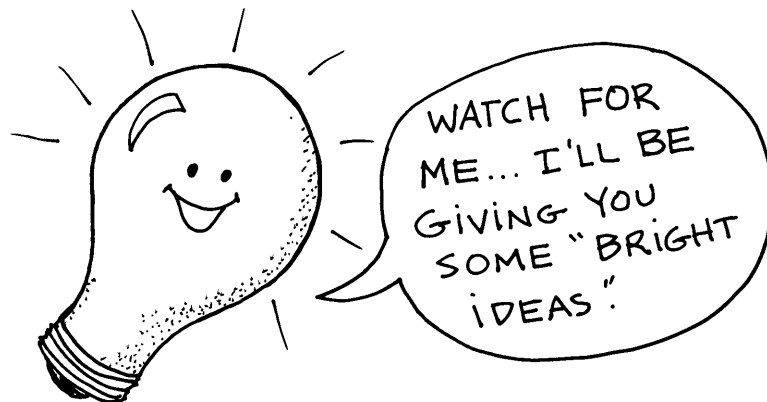
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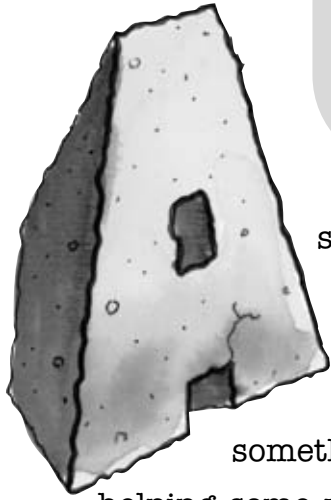
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Introduction

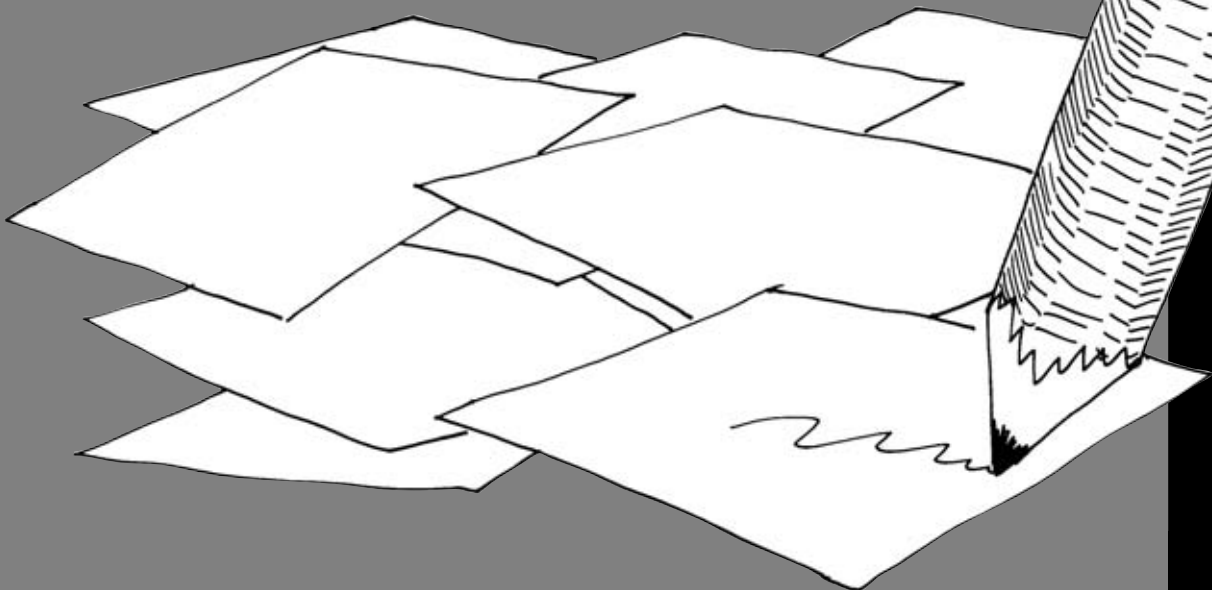


As a children's book author and illustrator, I am invited to visit dozens of schools each year. During my school visits, I share with the students my ideas for thinking, writing, and drawing more creatively. This book is the result of something that happened at one of those schools. I remember helping some young authors write and illustrate their own books, and I was showing them how to create unique lettering for the covers of their books.

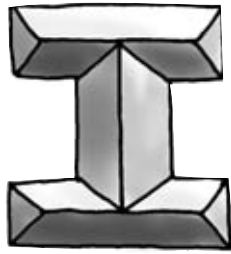
I didn't think the lettering I was doing was any big deal, but the reaction from the students was overwhelming. Many of them already knew how to draw "bubble" letters, but few had ever tried to create their own unique lettering. They "gobbled up" all the ideas I gave them and begged for more.

I was so delighted with the response of the students that I decided to create a book showing young people (and adults too!) how to draw their own awesome alphabets.

Now it's your turn. Get a pencil and some paper and stretch those creative muscles, because these alphabets are AWESOME!



How to Use This Book



wrote this book especially for young authors and illustrators who are creating their own books. When you create a book, it's important to spend some time and effort on the cover.

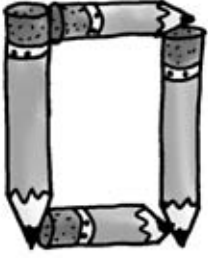
Why? Because if you're an unknown or unpublished author (as most kids are), the thing that will make a reader notice your book among all the other books on the shelf is the cover. You have to have a great title, a great cover illustration, and great lettering.

This book can also be a big help to students who want to create banners, posters, or signs for their school or bedrooms. Sure, there are a lot of computer programs that let you create signs and banners, and there are lots of terrific computer fonts,

but those fonts lack one thing . . . uniqueness. Regardless of what computer font you use, thousands and thousands of other people probably have the same font on their computers. Hand lettering gives you the freedom to create a font unique to your needs. Hey! There's room for both kinds of lettering. When you need computer fonts, use 'em. But when you need something special, create an awesome alphabet of your own.



Getting Started



One of the nice things about drawing these alphabets is that you don't need a bunch of fancy materials. All you need is a pencil, an eraser, and some paper. That's it!

You can practice these alphabets by looking at the ones I've drawn and then drawing the same ones on your paper. Once you feel comfortable with the alphabet, you might try experimenting a little. Try to think of other objects that look like letters of the alphabet. See if you can create your own unique alphabets.

You can also experiment with different-sized alphabets. Try creating HUGE letters. Draw one letter per page. Then arrange the letters on the floor to form words.

Sometimes, it's also fun to experiment with color. Try coloring your alphabets bright colors. Then see how the same alphabet looks colored with dark shades. In Section 3 of this book (Special Effects), I'll show you some other things you can do to add magic to your alphabets.

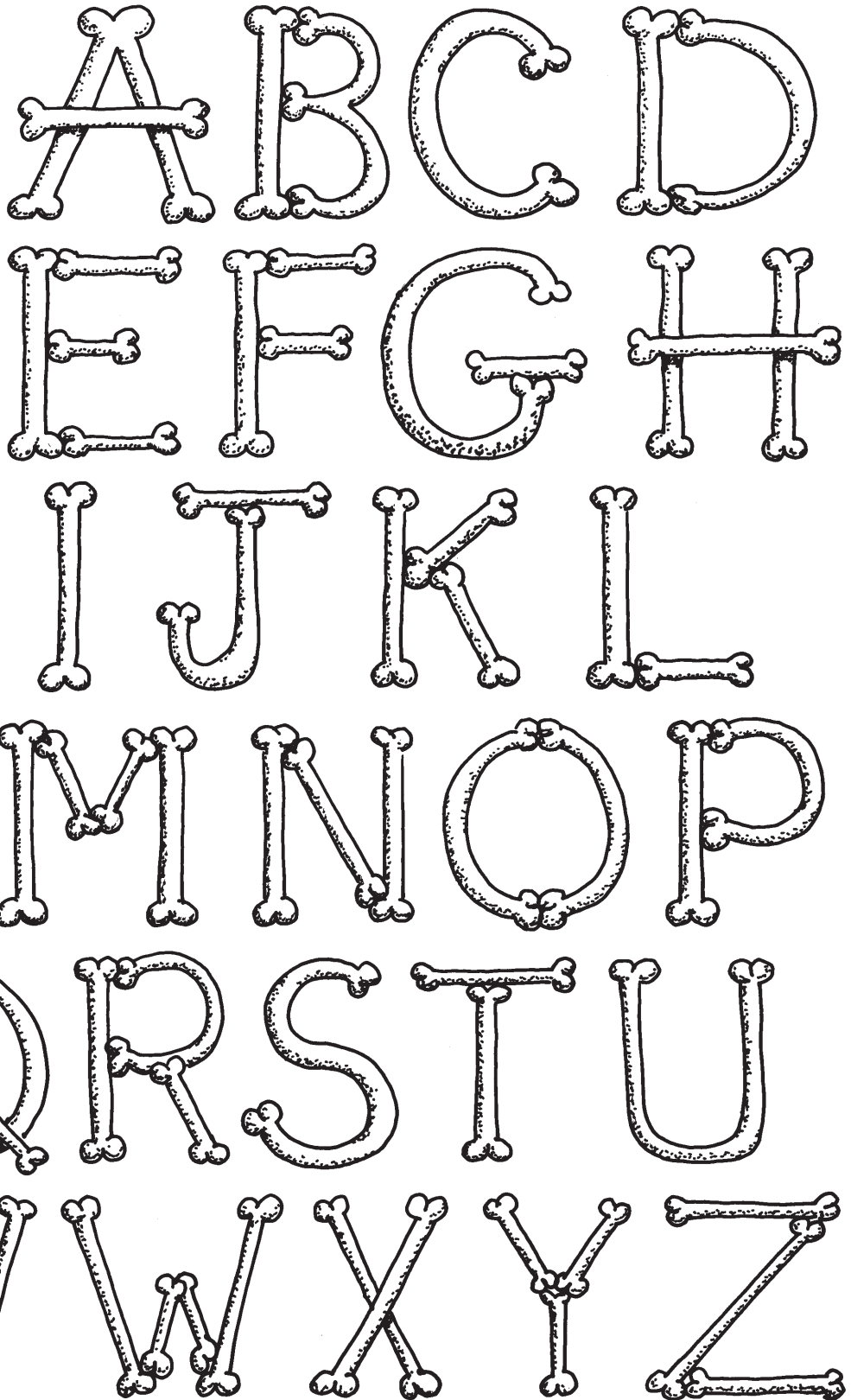
Now . . . let's draw!

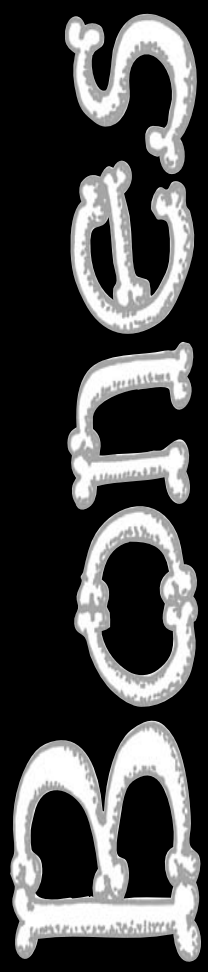


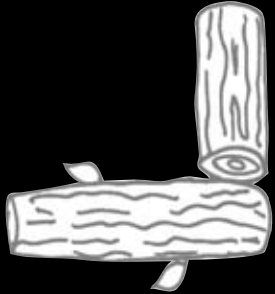
Section One

CARTOON
ALPHABETS

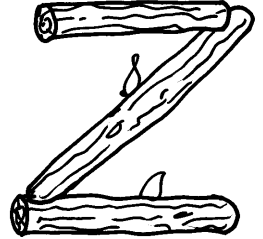
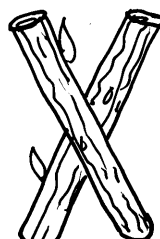
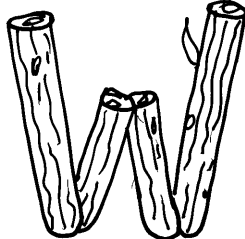
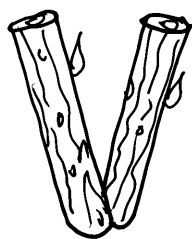
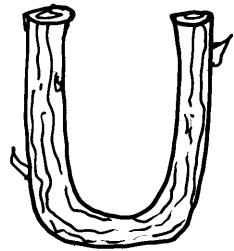
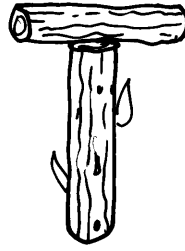
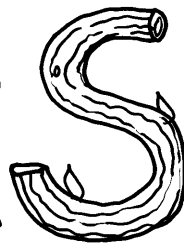
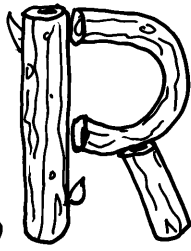
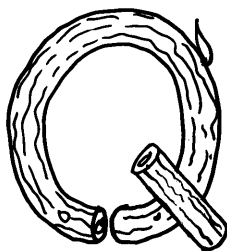
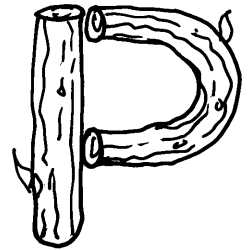
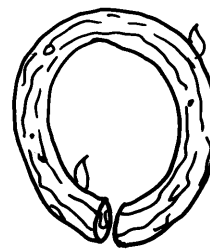
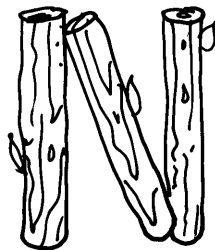
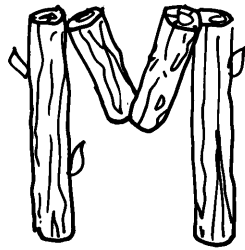
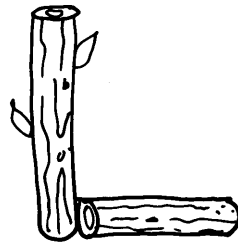
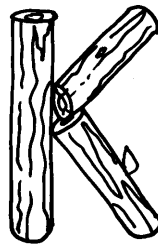
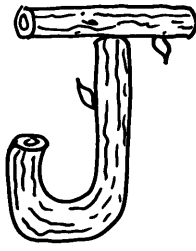
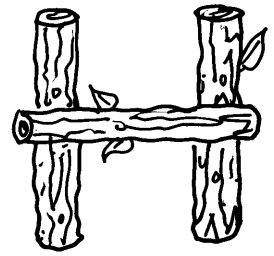
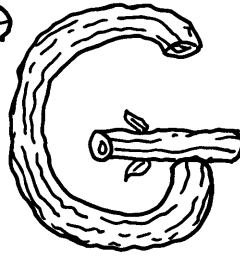
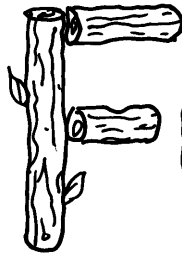
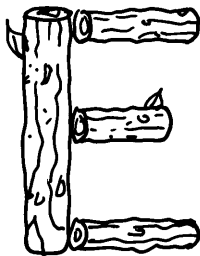
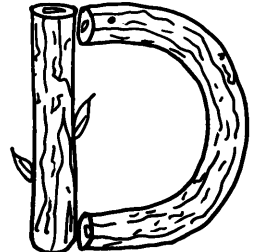
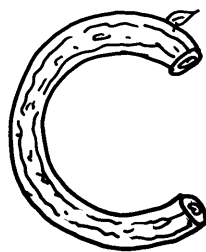
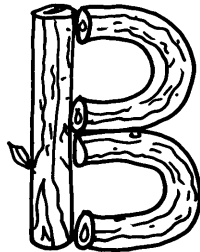
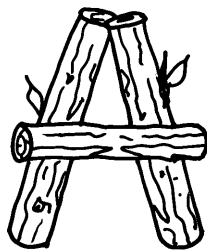
The bone alphabet comes in handy when you want to add eye-catching text to a story about skeletons or dinosaurs. Just draw bumps on the ends of two parallel lines, and you have a bone!







Logs look like tubes. Draw a tube and add some wood grain and you have a log. Adding leaves and little branches also helps give your letters a “wooden” effect.



LOOK!
IT'S
TERMITE
HEAVEN!

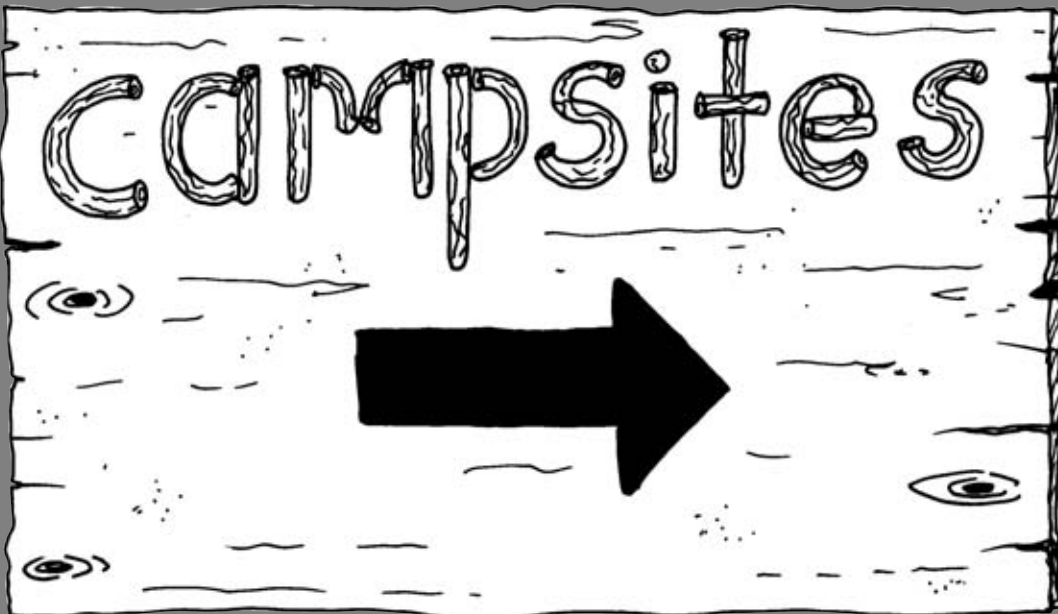


a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n

o p q r s t u

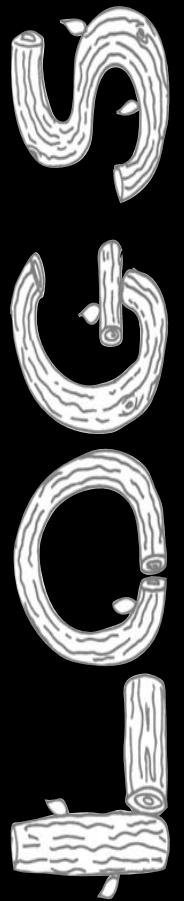
v w x y z



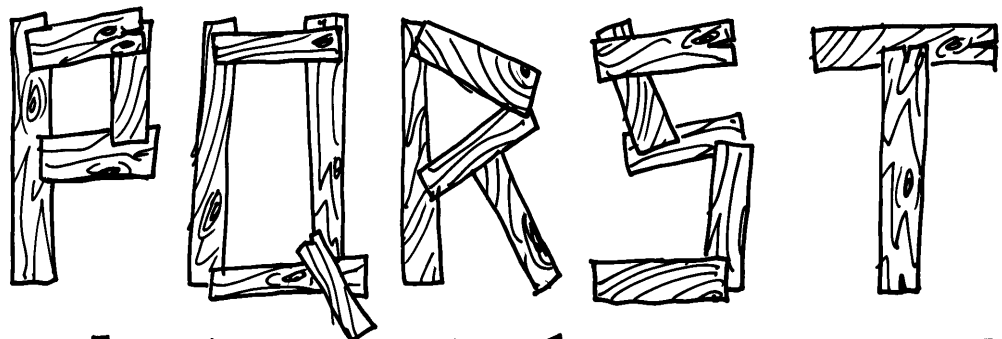
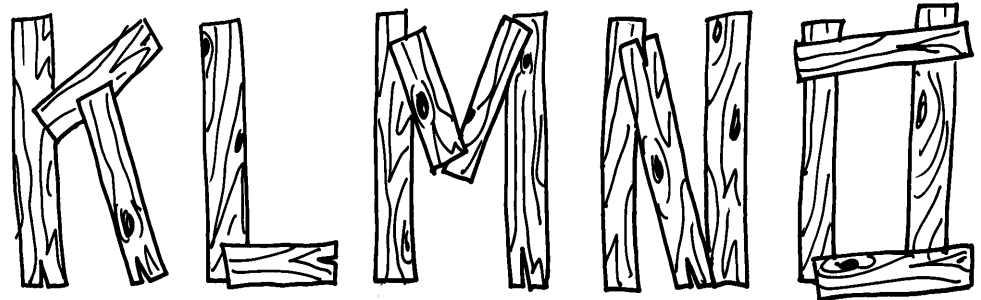
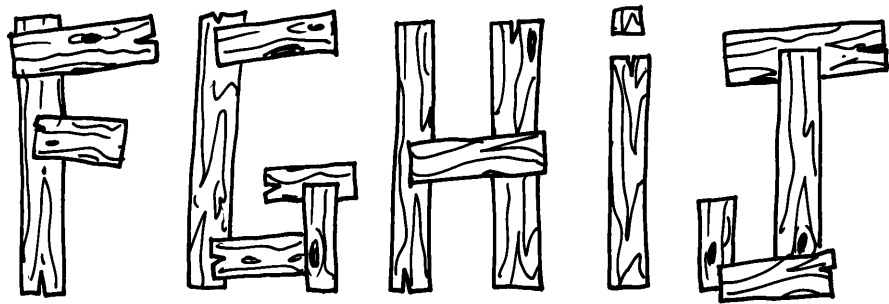
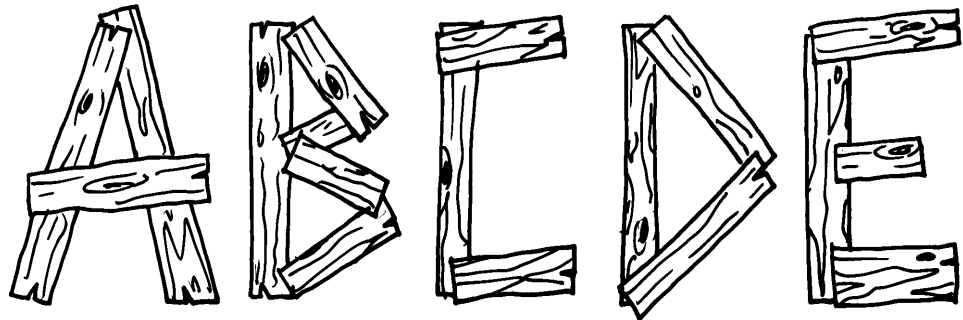
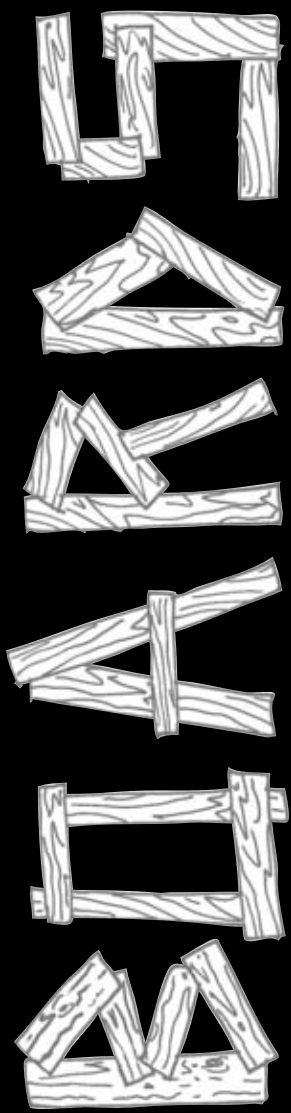
WRONG KIND
OF LOG,
CAPTAIN

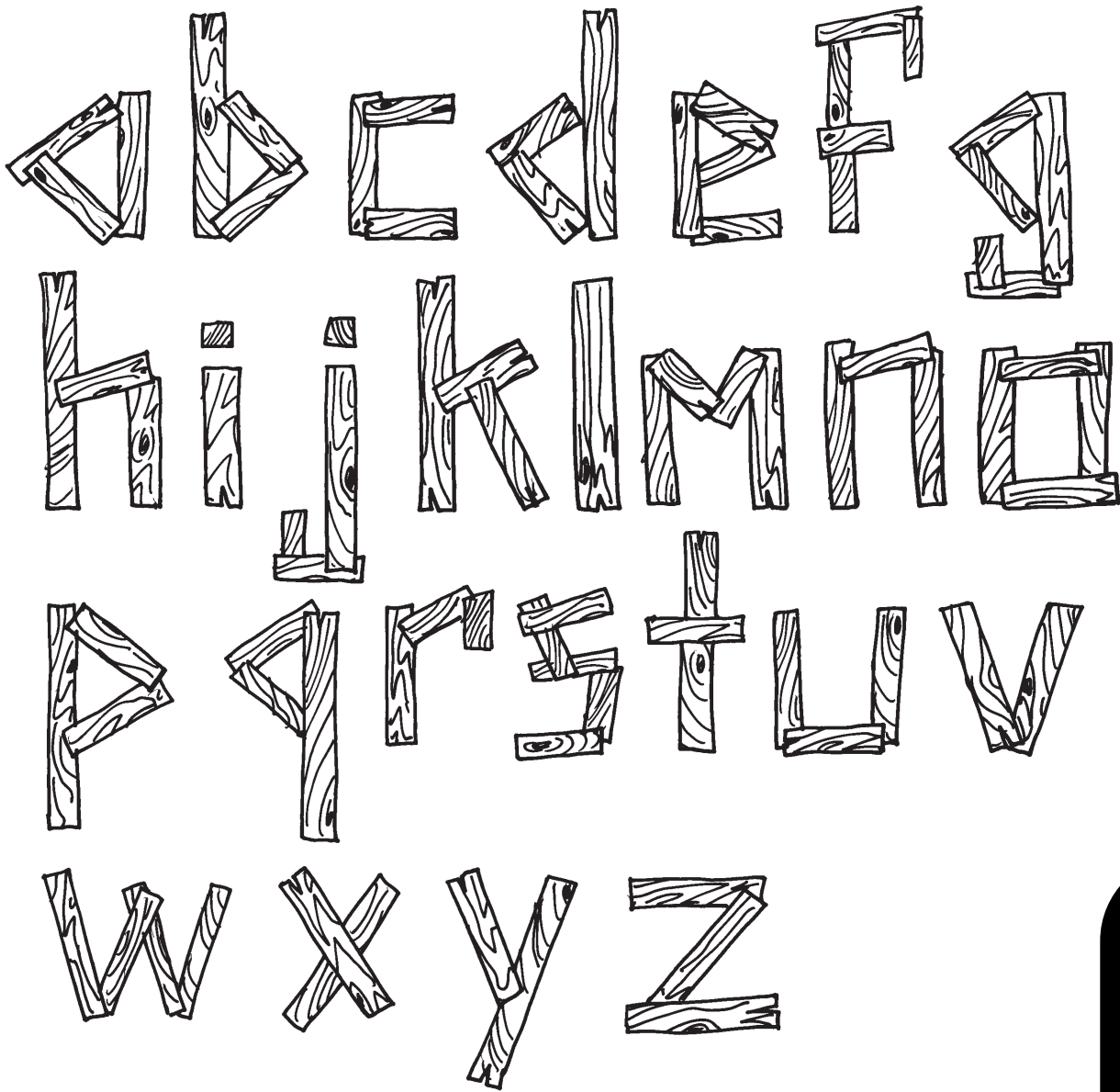


CAPTAIN'S LOG,
STARDATE 2492.



Like "Logs," this alphabet is made out of wood, but this wood is flat. Just draw some rectangles and add wood grain and a few knotholes, and you have wooden boards.





OH YES
THEY
ARE!

THOSE ARE
KNOT
MOLES.

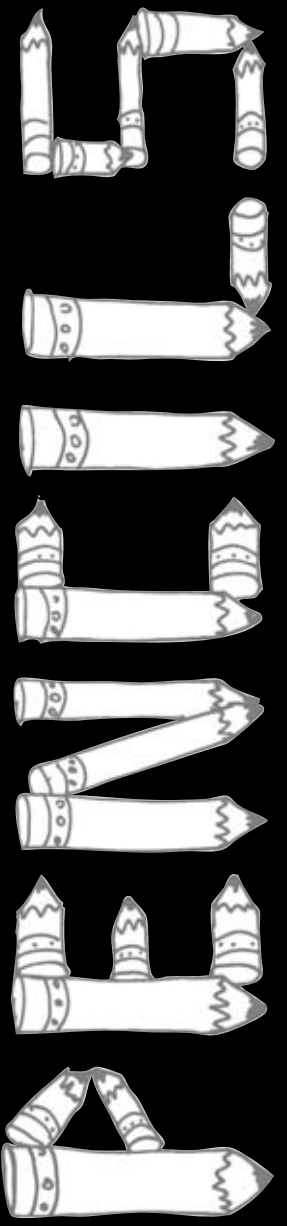
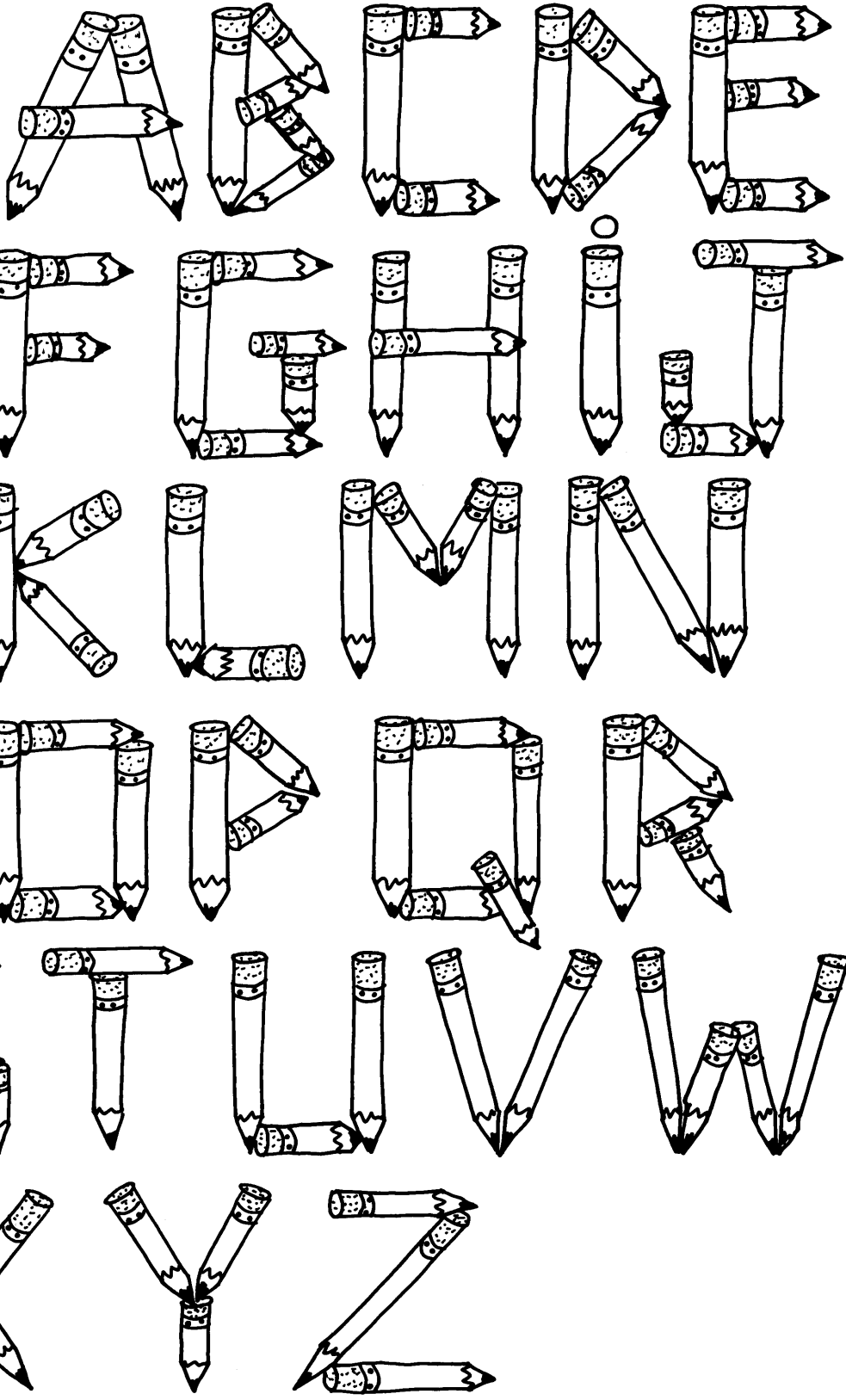
Wooden

BOAT
FESTIVAL



W
A
R
S
A
R
S
A
R
S

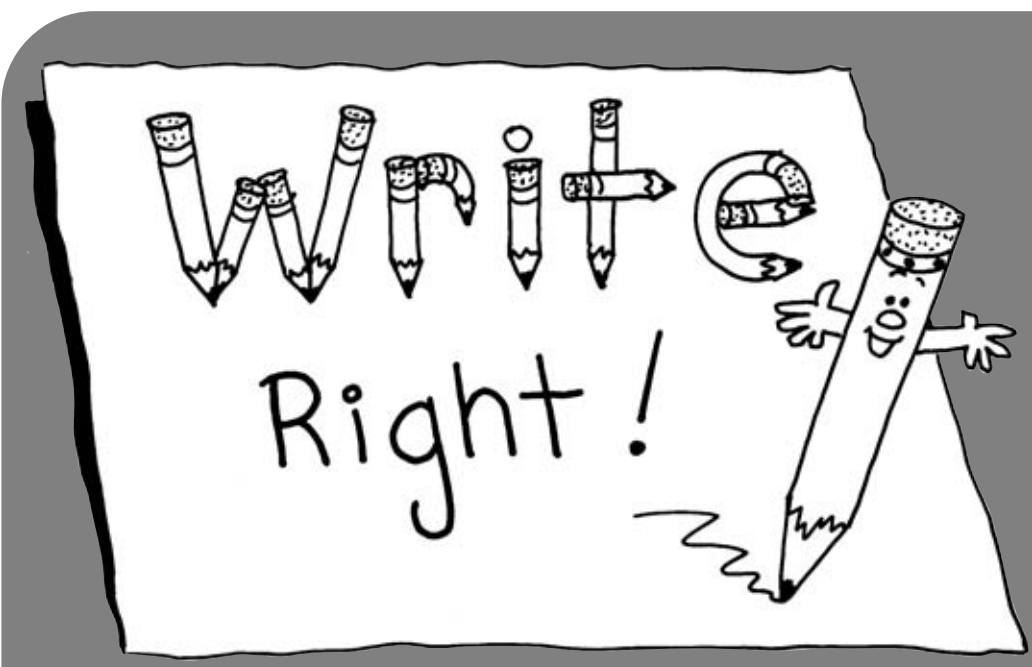
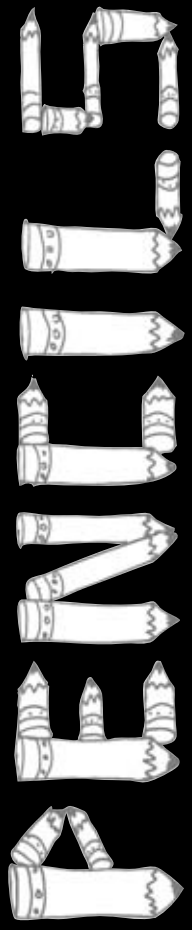
These little tubes have points on one end and erasers on the other. Bending them into curved shapes is funny too.



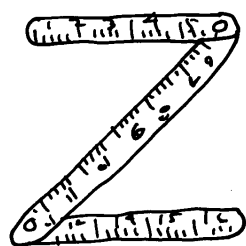
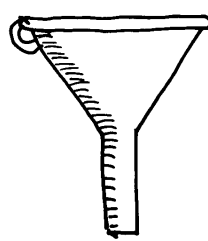
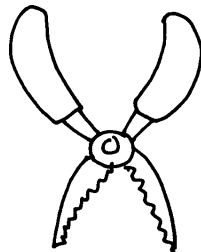
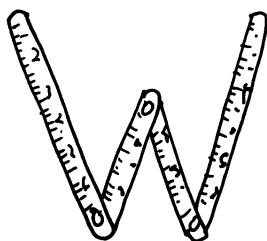
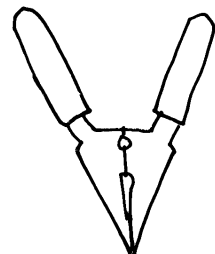
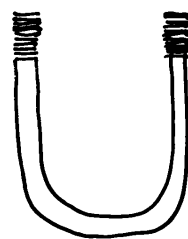
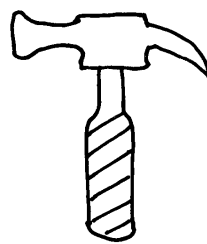
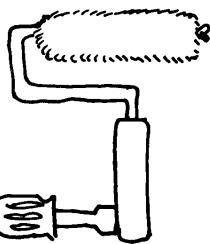
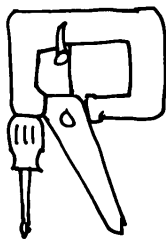
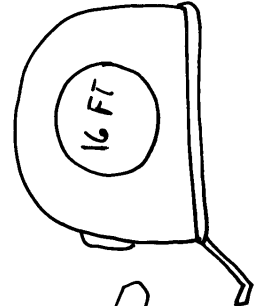
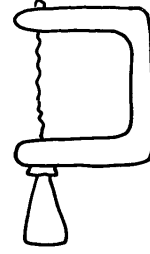
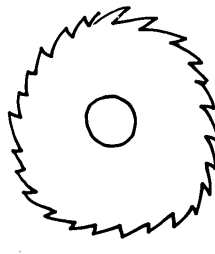
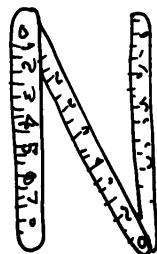
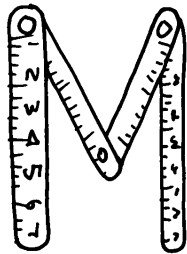
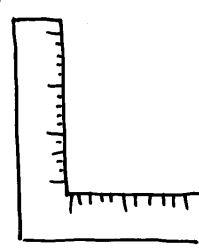
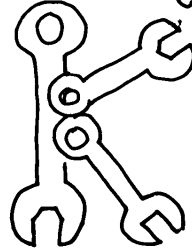
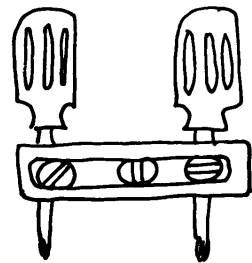
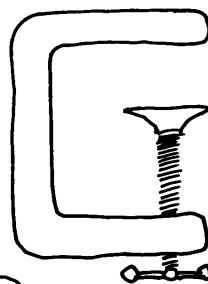
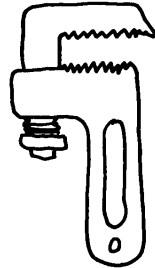
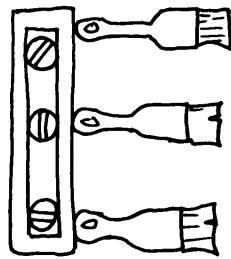
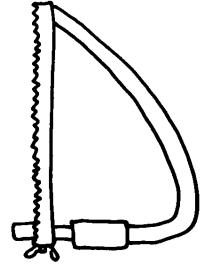
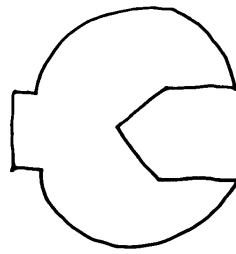
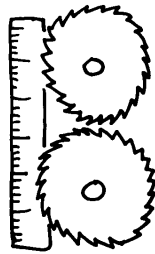
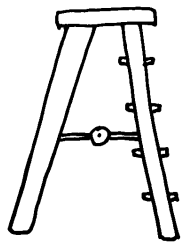
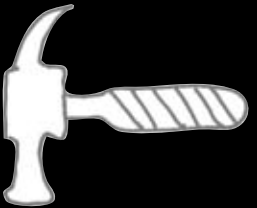
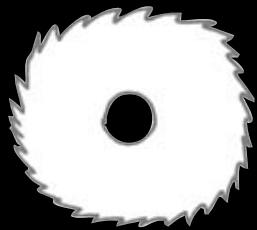
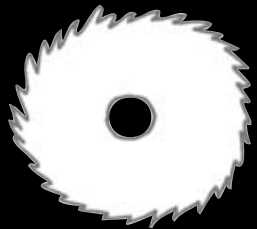
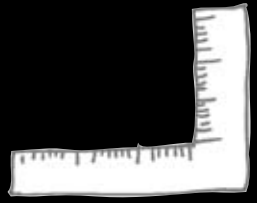
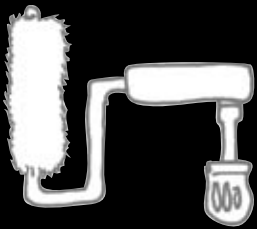
THIS IS THE WRITE PLACE!



WHAT IS YOUR POINT?

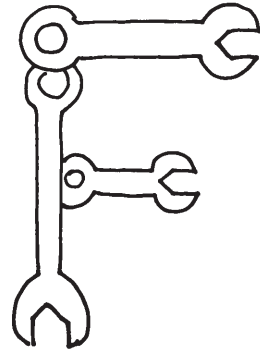


The letters of this alphabet look like the tools and materials you would find in a workshop. If you can think of other tools that look like letters of the alphabet, try adding them to this list.

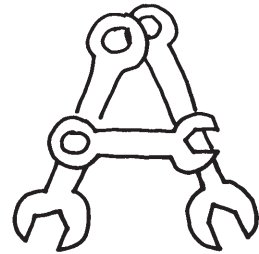




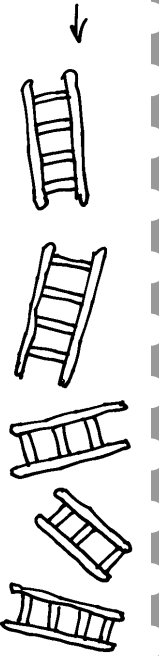
TOOLS THAT ARE BASICALLY "STRAIGHT" CAN BE COMBINED IN LOTS OF WAYS.



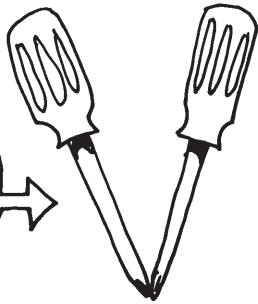
WRENCHES



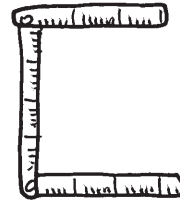
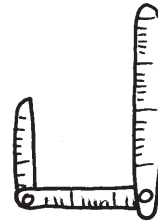
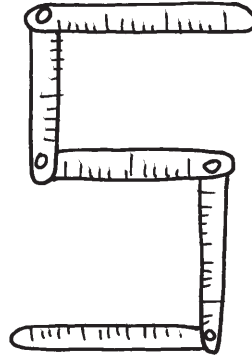
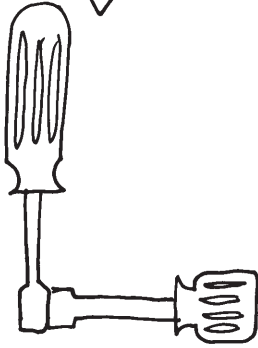
A LOT OF LITTLE LADDERS



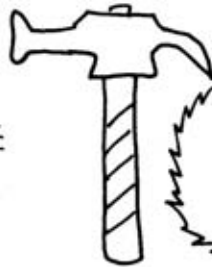
SCREW DRIVERS



THESE "JOINTED" RULERS REALLY COME IN HANDY!



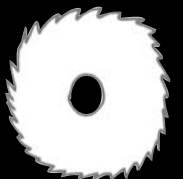
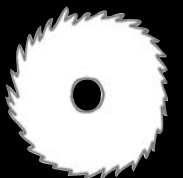
Don't be a



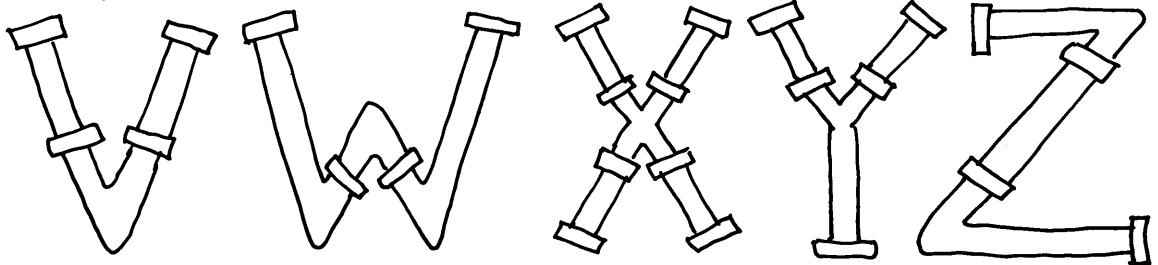
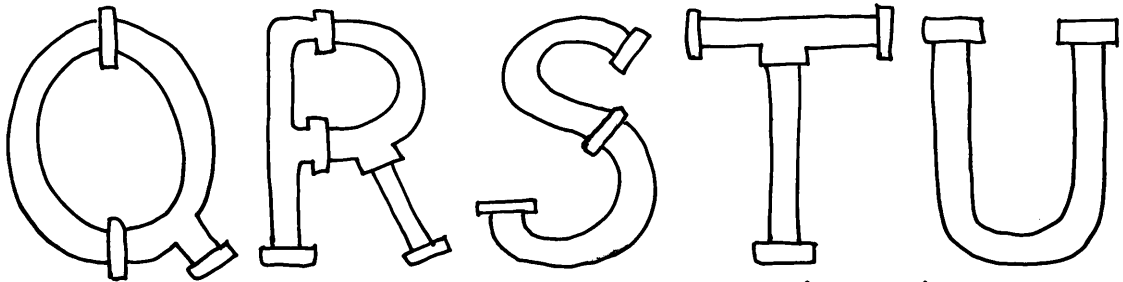
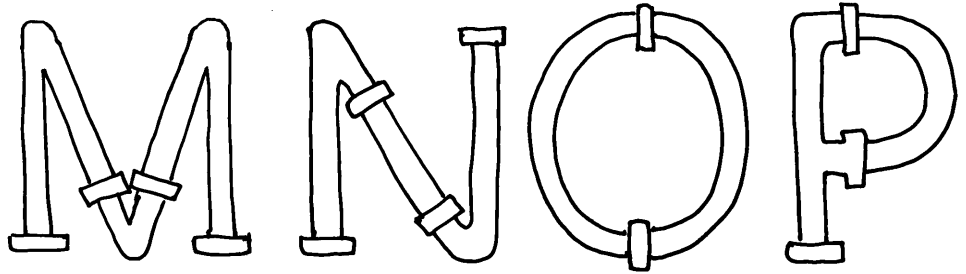
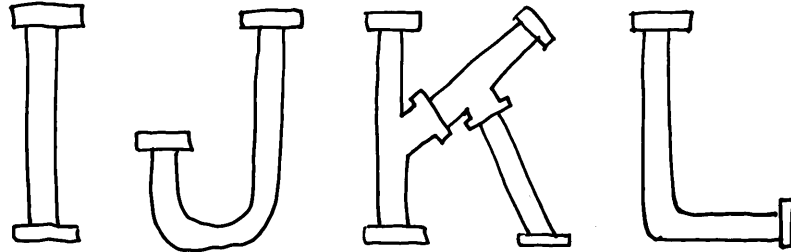
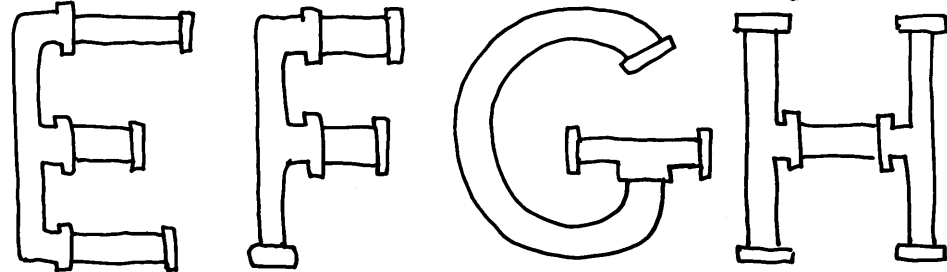
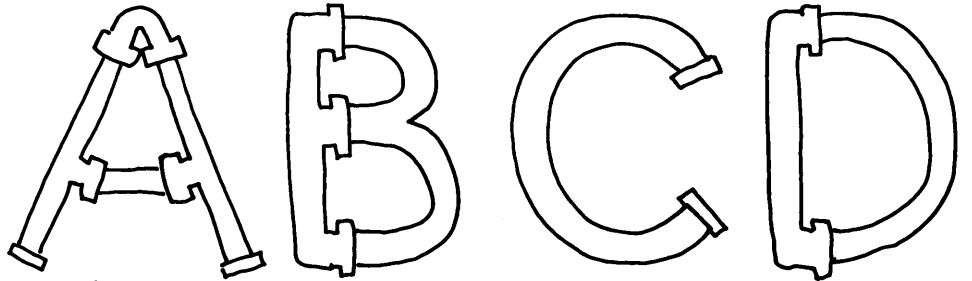
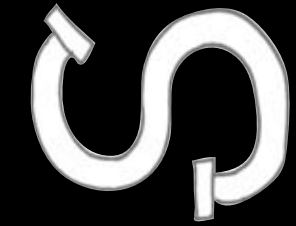
TOOL FOOL



BE CAREFUL WHEN USING ANY TOOL!

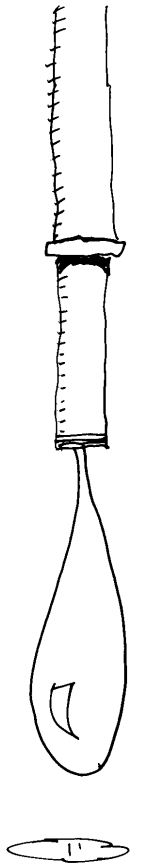
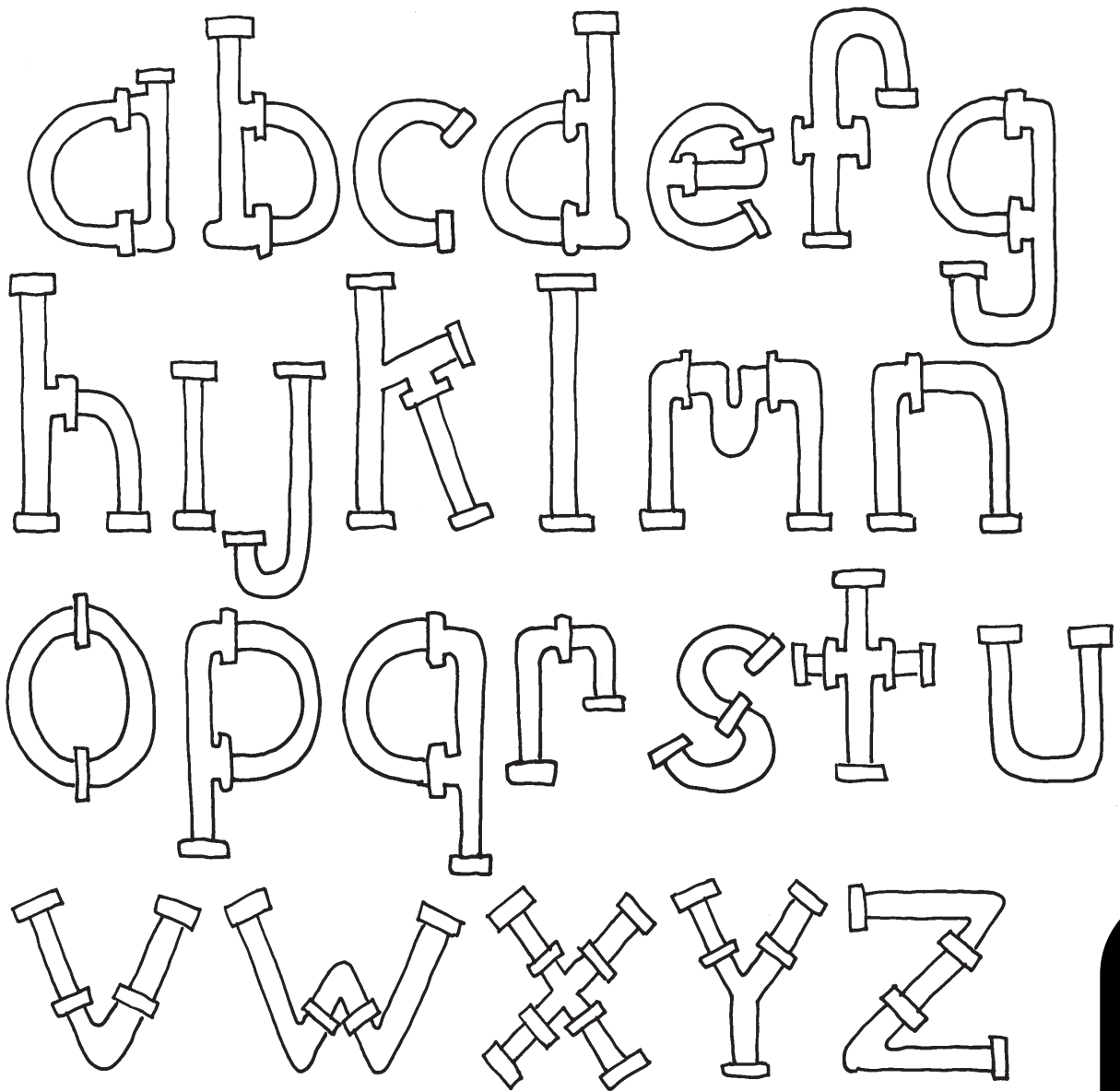


Just like real plastic pipe, this alphabet is mostly made up of straight lines with a few curves thrown in to make the connections easier. The sides of the pipe are always parallel and the ends are always squared off.



Peter Piper picked a peck of plastic pipe...



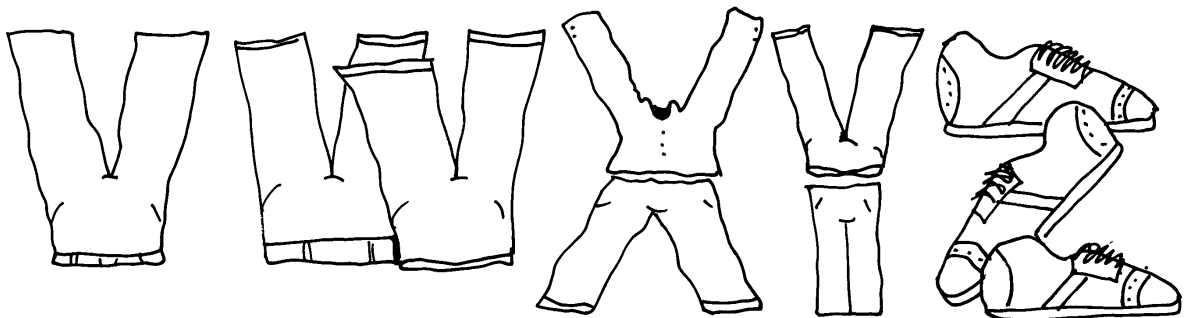
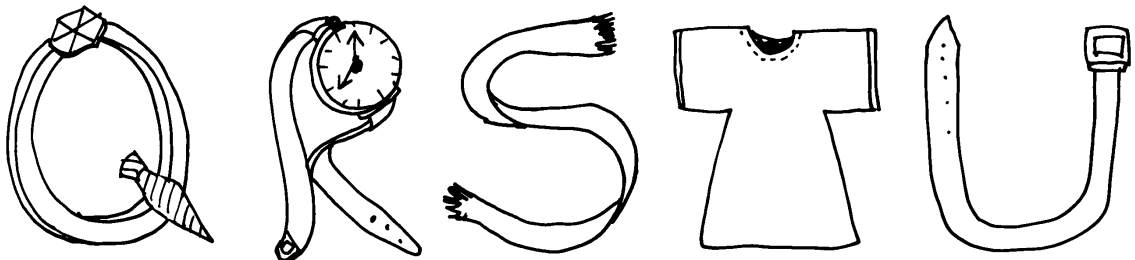


STITCHES

DOWN
THE
Tubes

CLOTHES

Because most clothes are made of cloth, they're easy to bend into shapes. Try experimenting with other clothing shapes to make letters of your own.



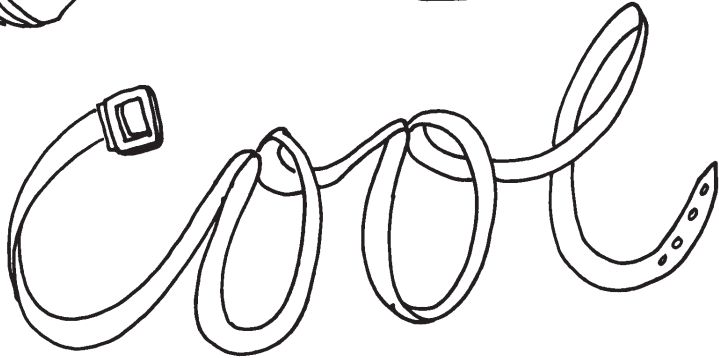
A DRESS



DRESSING



SCRIPT LETTERS
CAN BE MADE
FROM BELTS
AND SCARVES.



ON THE WORD
"CLOTHES," TWO
DIFFERENT KINDS
OF LETTERING HAVE
BEEN USED.

WINTER CLOTHES



IT SURE IS!
IT'S TOO CLOTHES
FOR COMFORT!

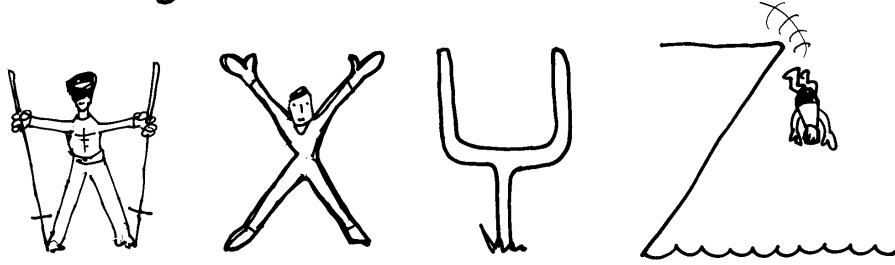
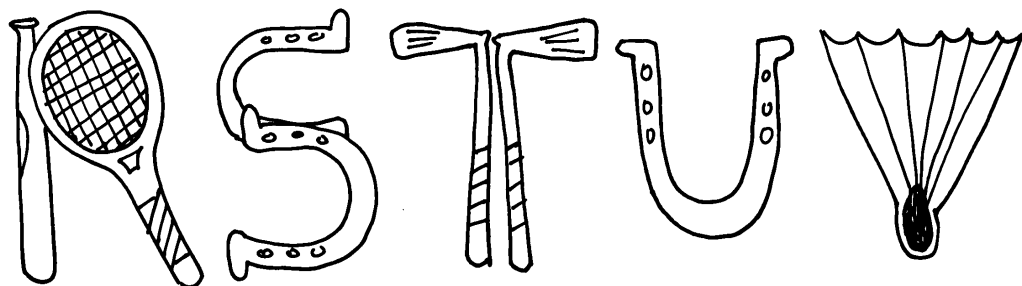
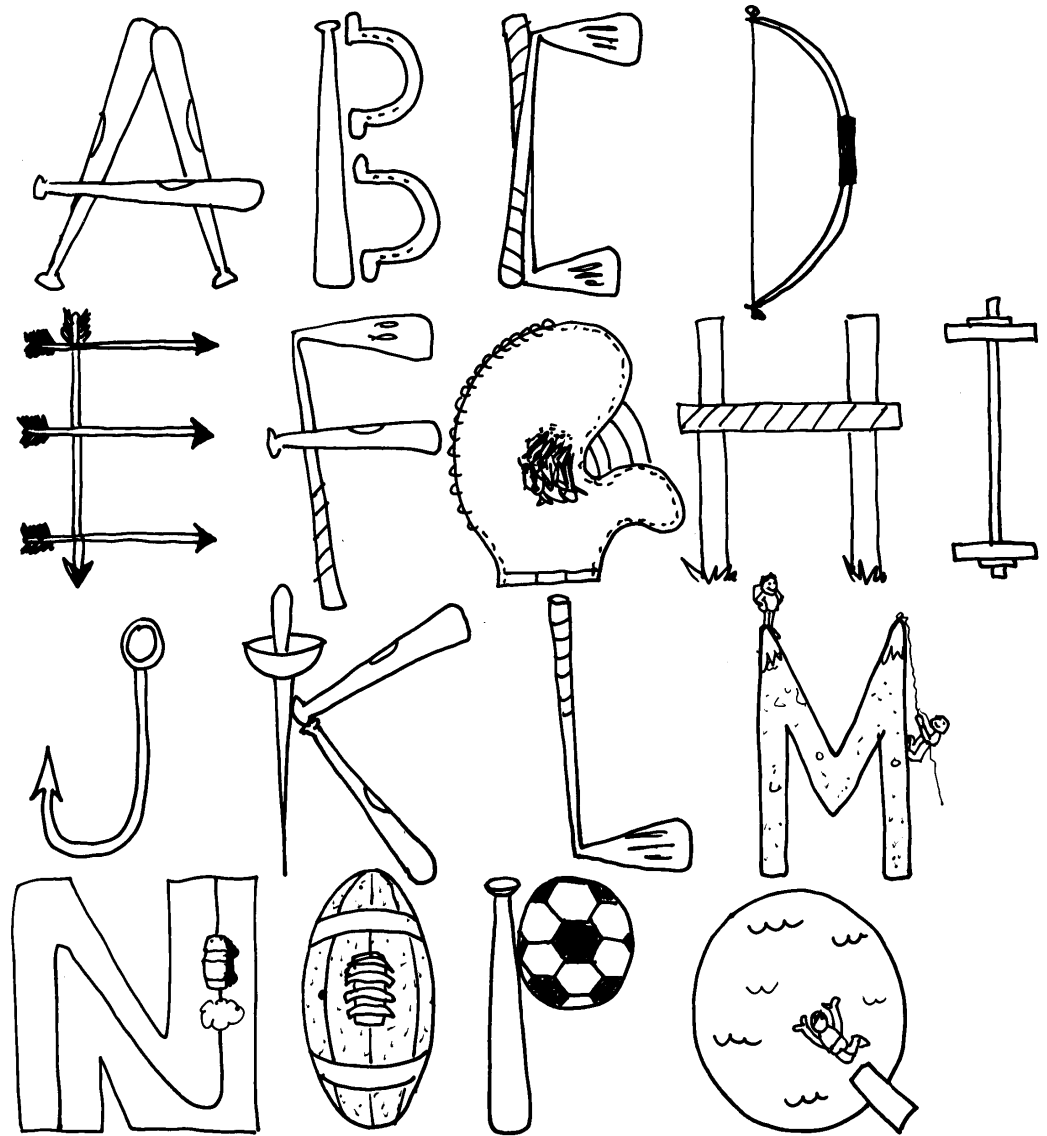
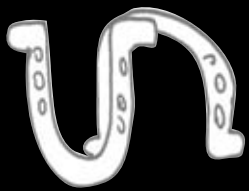
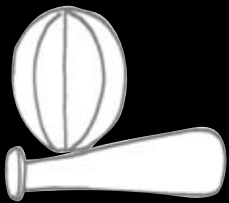
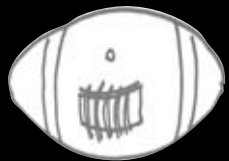
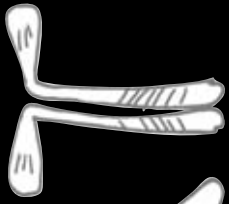
IS YOUR
CLOSET
CROWDED?



5K RUN
 SATURDAY 8AM.
 FREE
T-SHIRT
 TO EVERY RUNNER

CLOTHES

If you're writing a story or making a poster about sports, you might want to try some of these letters.



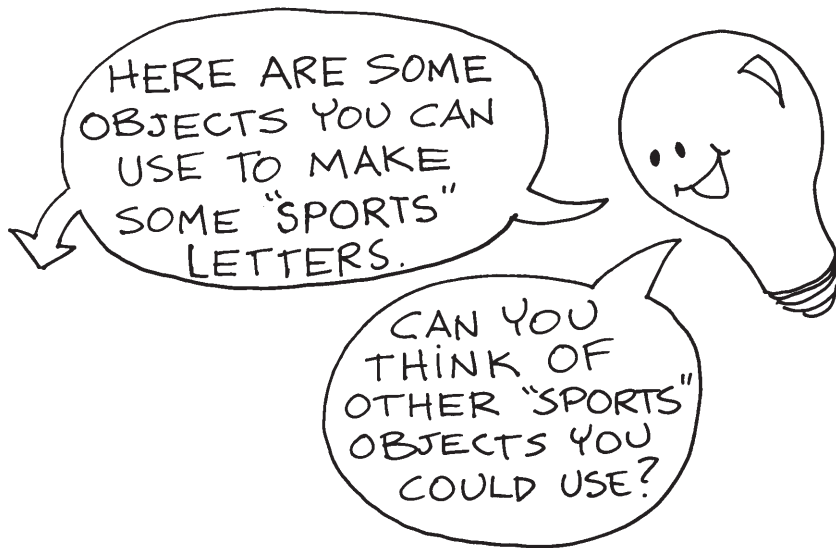
HERE ARE SOME SPORT SHORTS...



FOR SHORT SPORTS.

Baseball bat
Golf club
Football
Baseball
Baseball cap
Basketball
Soccer ball
Tennis ball
Tennis racquet
Racquetball racquet
Goalposts
Swim fins
Snorkel
Catcher's mask
Football helmet
Discus
Shot put
Javelin
Running shoes
Diving board
Swimming pool
Horseshoes
Hockey stick

Hockey puck
Hockey mask
Golf club
Archery bow
Archery arrows
Gymnastics equipment
Fencing sword
Weights
Skis
Fishhook
Bowling ball
Bowling pins
Auto racing items

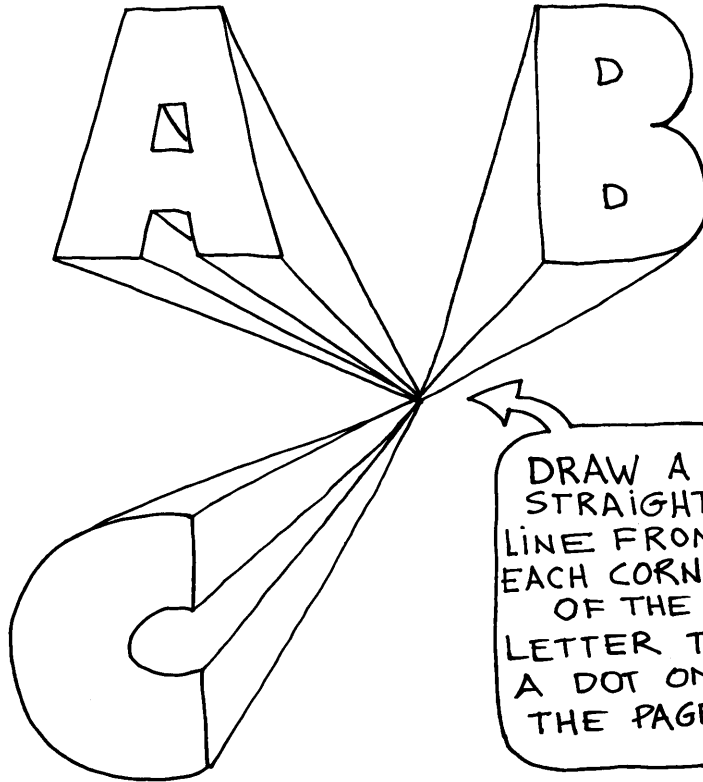
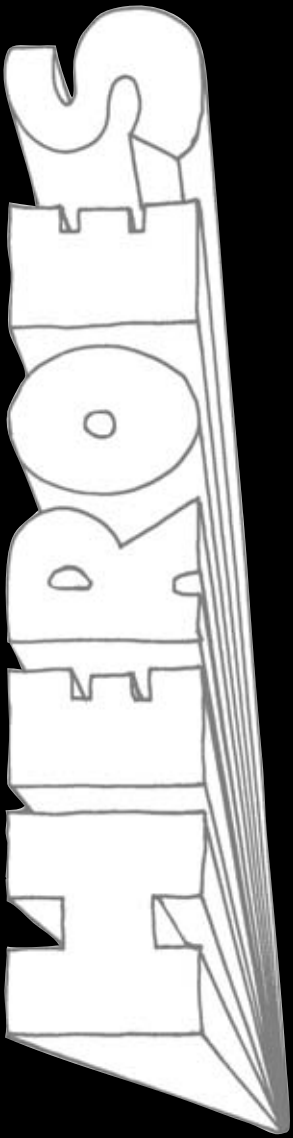


S
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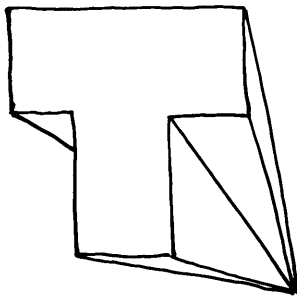
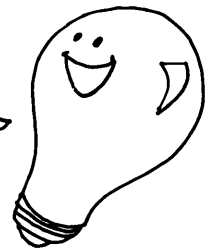
S
P
O
R
T
S
Legends

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED
 BY
 R. A. A. A. A.

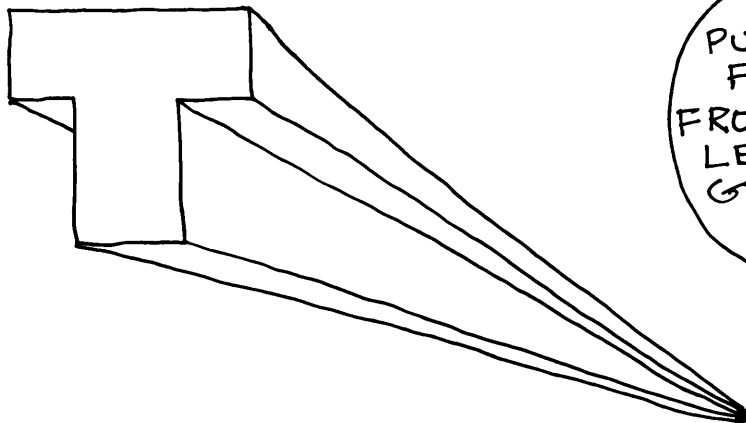
These letters are 3-D. When you need **BIG** lettering or lettering about **BIG** things, these superhero letters work great.



DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE FROM EACH CORNER OF THE LETTER TO A DOT ON THE PAGE.



IF YOU PUT THE DOT CLOSE TO THE LETTER, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS...

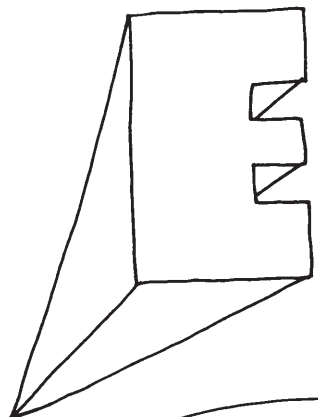


IF YOU PUT THE DOT FAR AWAY FROM THE LETTER, YOU GET THIS EFFECT...

Did someone say, "SUPER Hero"?

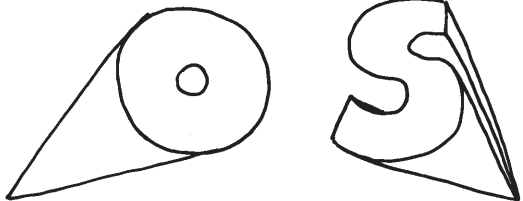


YOU CAN PUT THE DOT BELOW THE LETTER LIKE THIS...



OR ABOVE IT LIKE THIS...

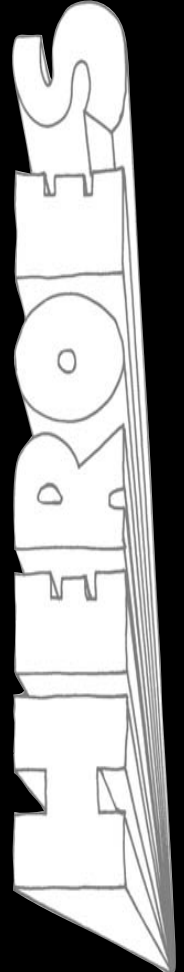
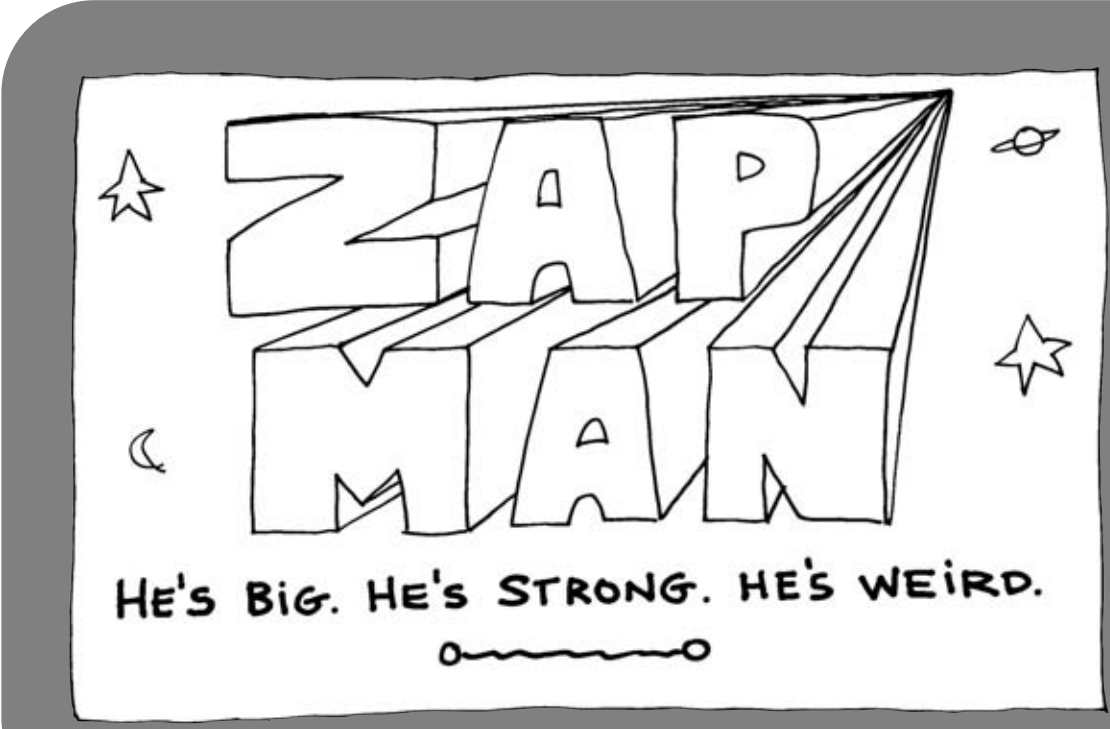
ON ROUND LETTERS, DRAW STRAIGHT LINES FROM THE VERY EDGE OF EACH CURVE TO THE DOT.



THIS TECHNIQUE WORKS BEST WITH "BLOCK" ALPHABETS LIKE THE WOODEN BOARD AND STONE ALPHABETS.

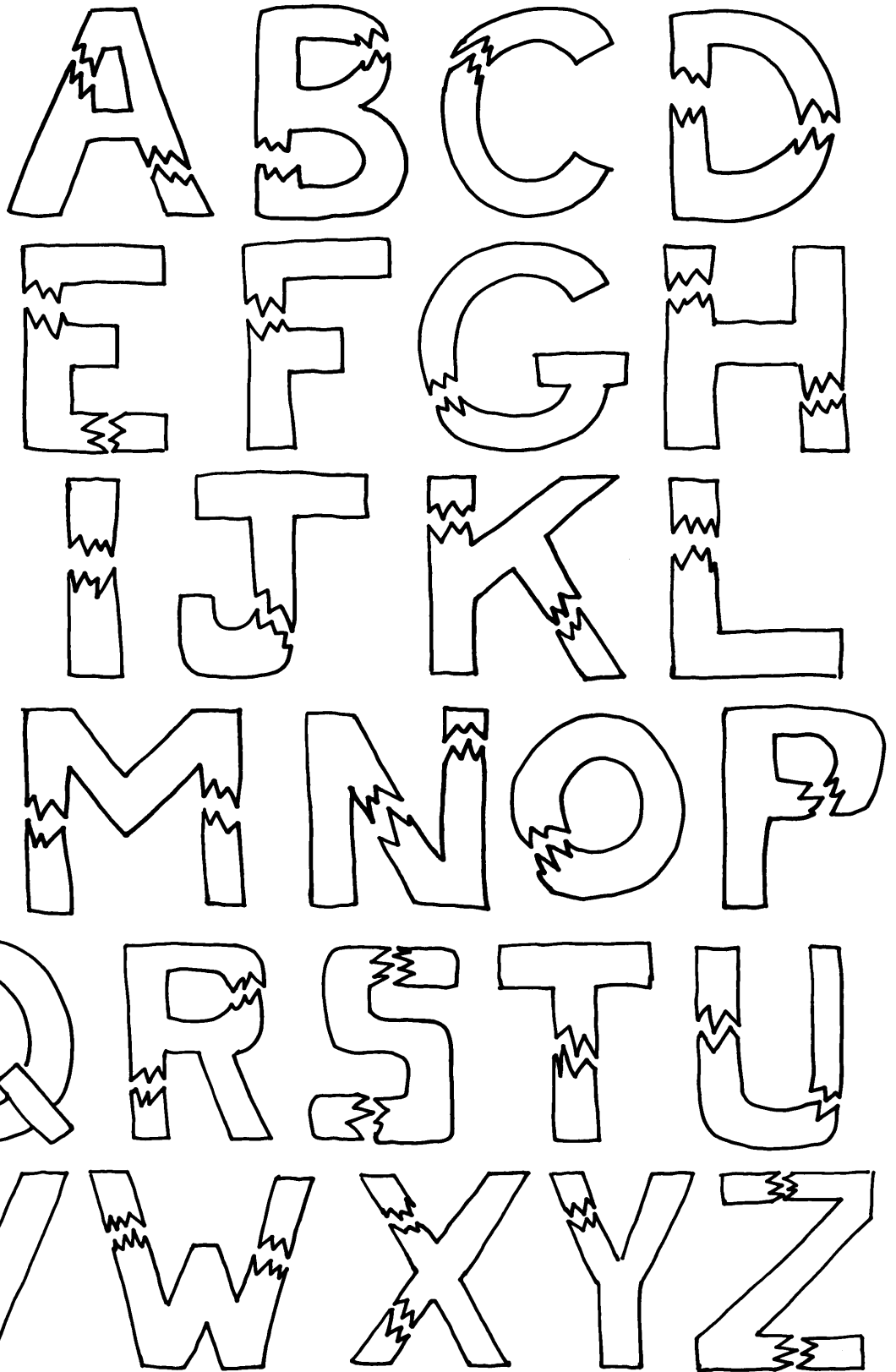
OOO... THAT MEANS YOU'RE A "SOUPER" HERO

I'M HERE TO PROTECT AMERICA'S SOUP!



BROKEN

Do you know anyone who has broken an arm or a leg? Have you ever dropped a dish or a glass and broken it? Have you ever crashed your bicycle? This alphabet is good for lettering “broken” things.



a b c d e f g
h i j k l m n
o p q r s t u
v w x y z

Please.
Gimme
a
break



Let's

Break

some records!



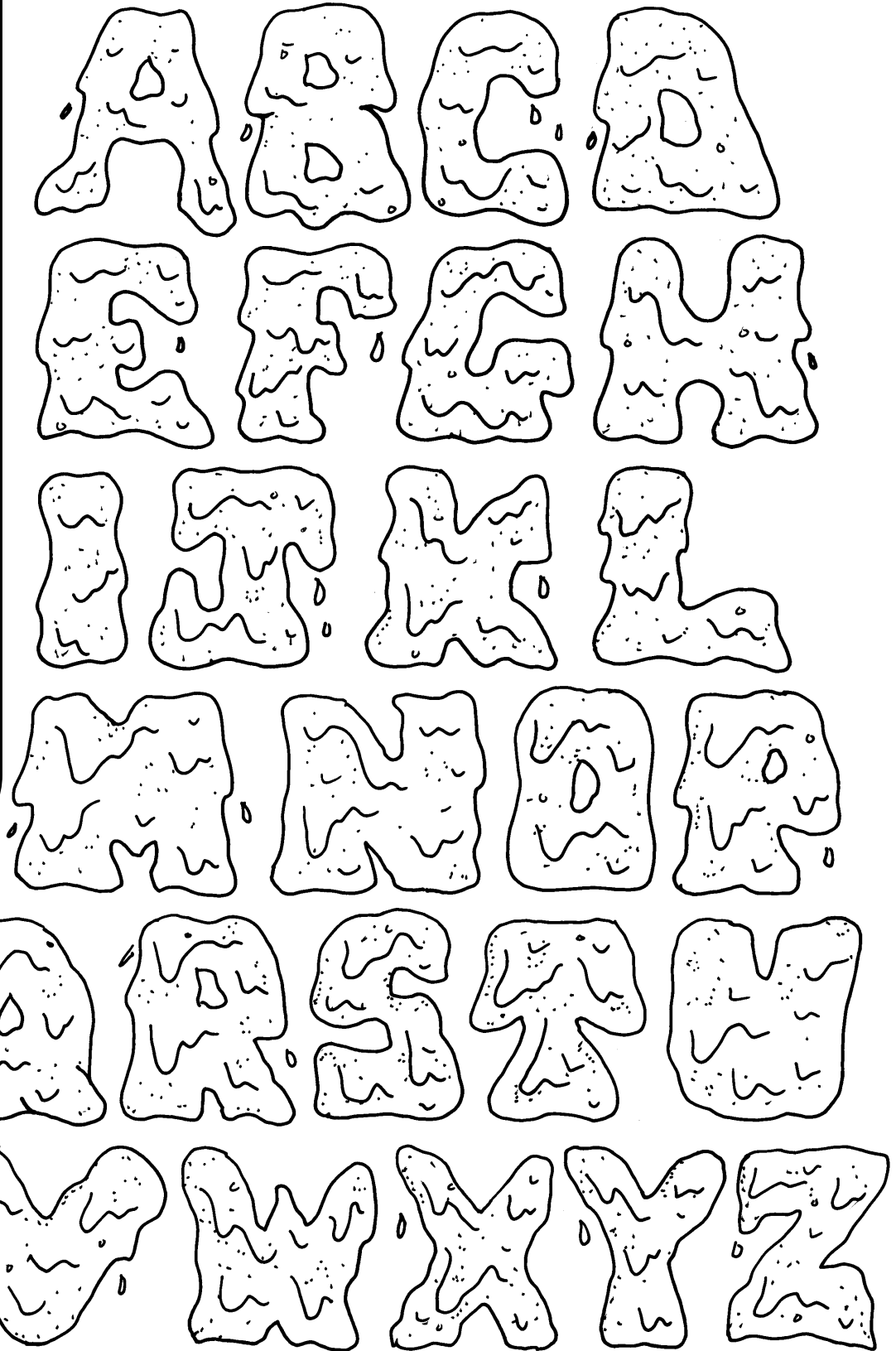
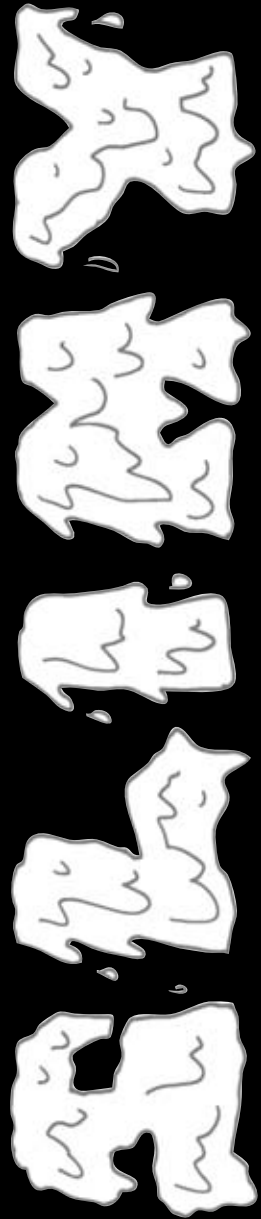
CITYWIDE

TRACK MEET

SATURDAY 11:00 A.M.

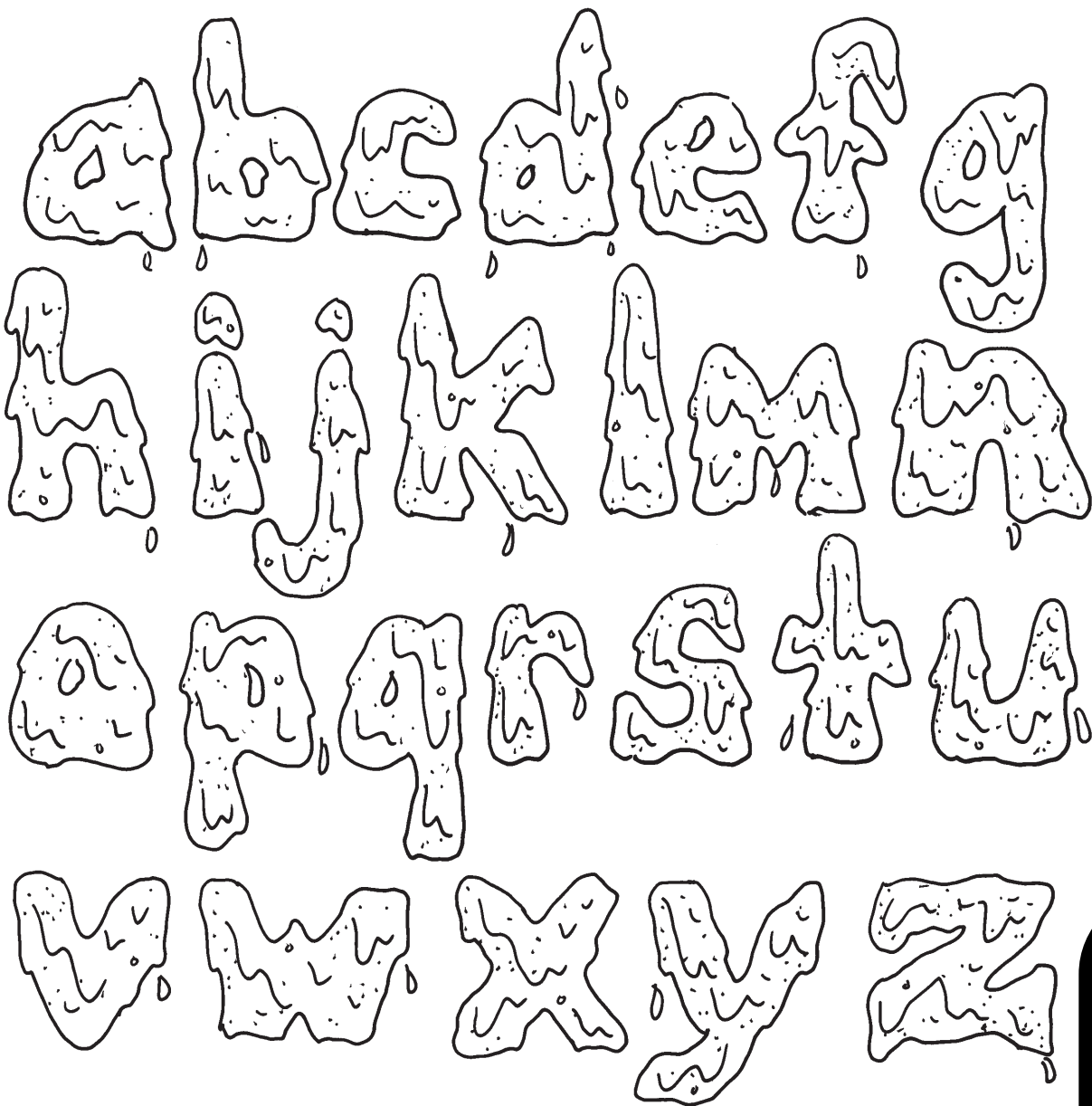
BROKEN

Creepy, crawly, yucky things can be lettered with this slimy alphabet. It works especially well for space creatures and monsters.

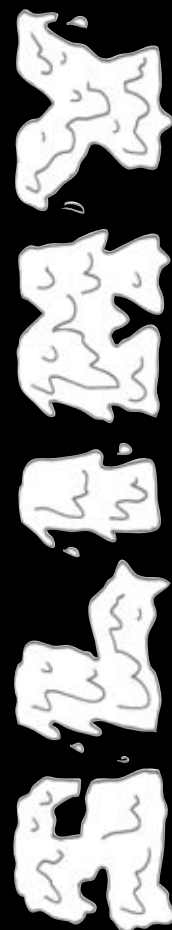


EEEEW!

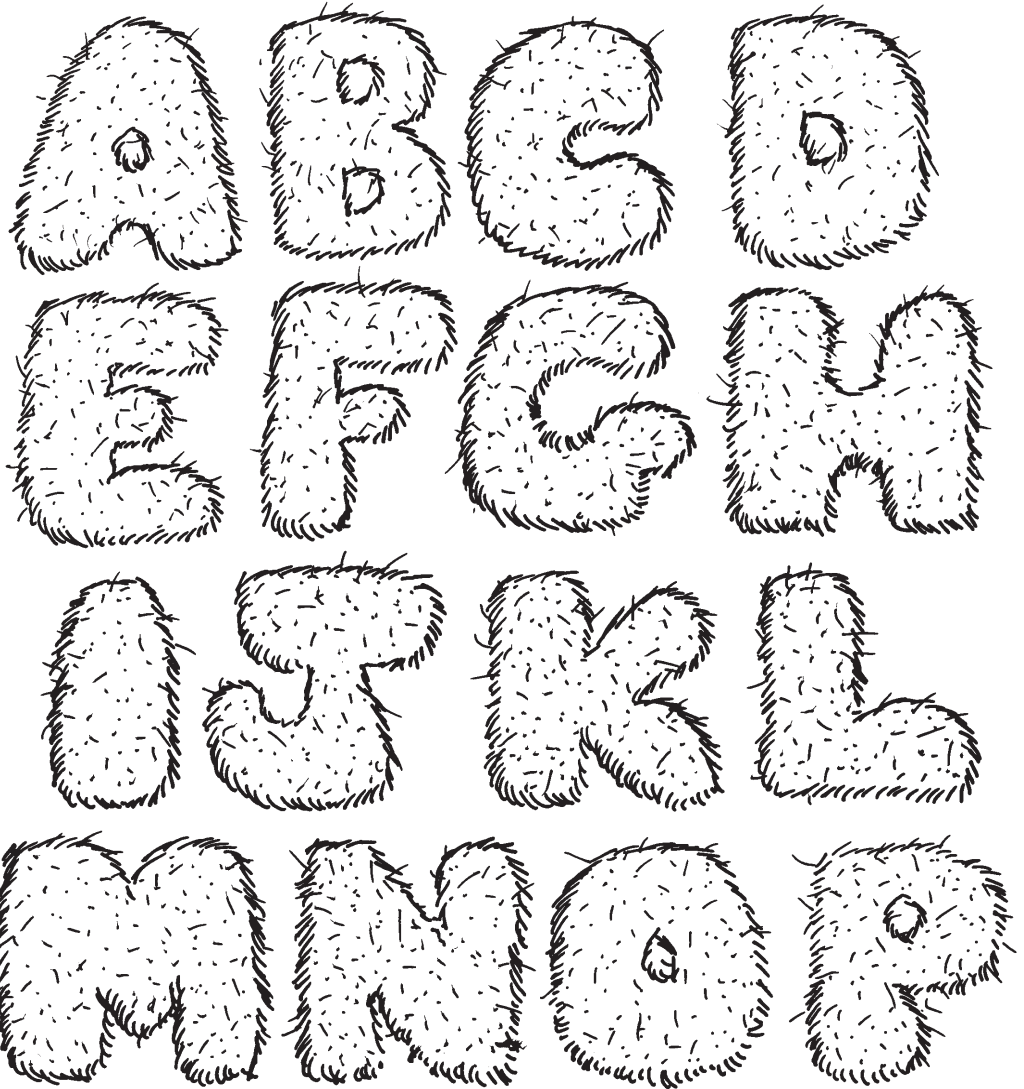
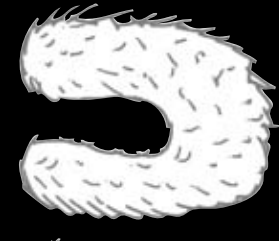
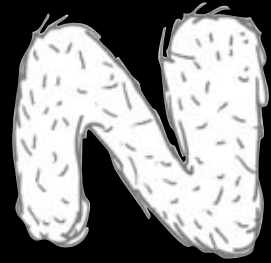
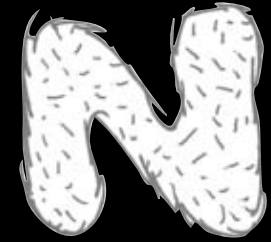
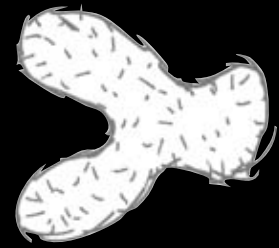




IT STINKS!
IT'S ROTTEN!
I LOVE IT!

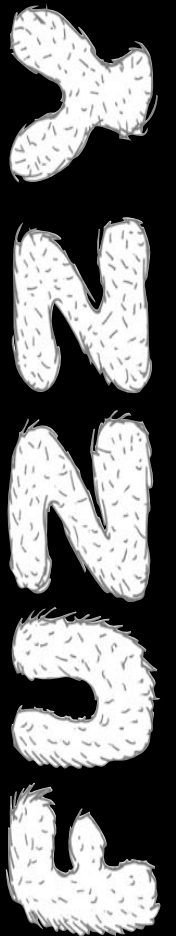


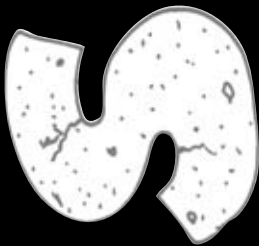
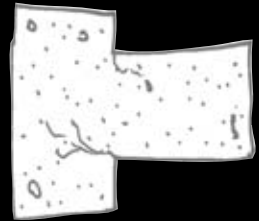
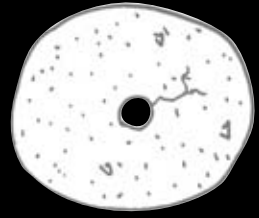
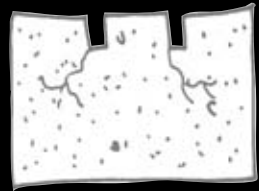
This alphabet comes in handy when you want to make your letters fuzzy like animal fur. Depending on which animal you're thinking about, you can make the fuzzy lines long or short.



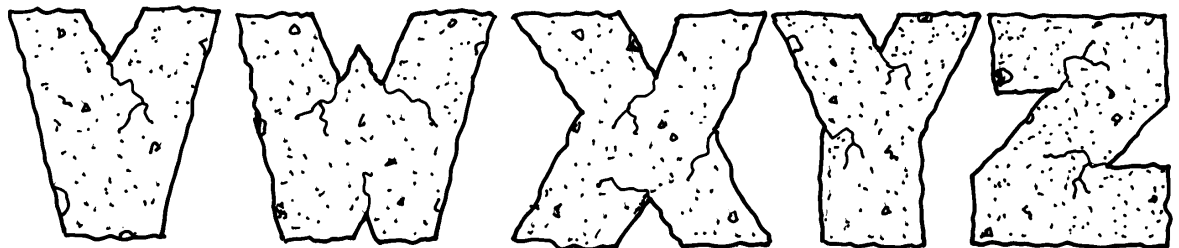
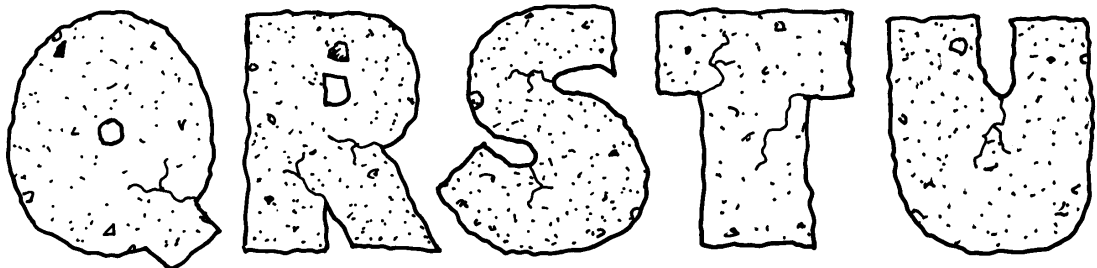
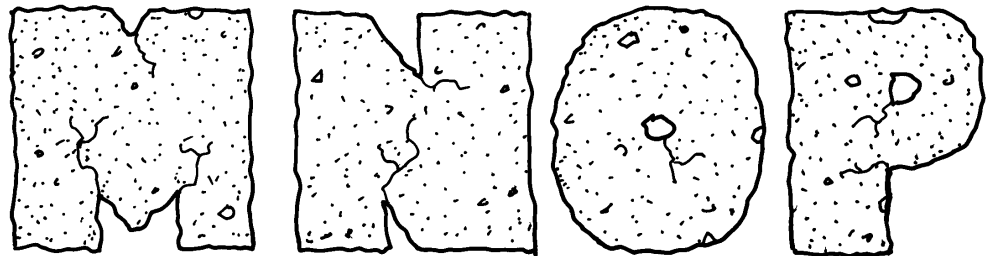
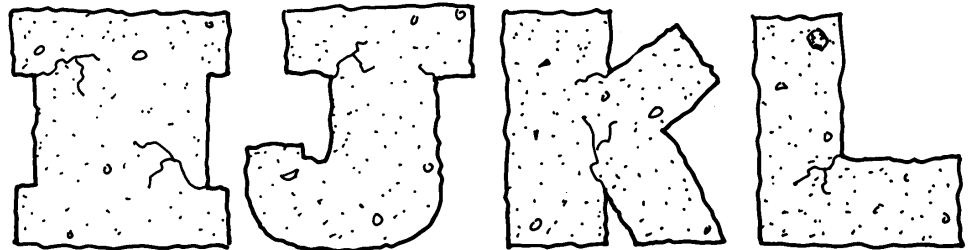
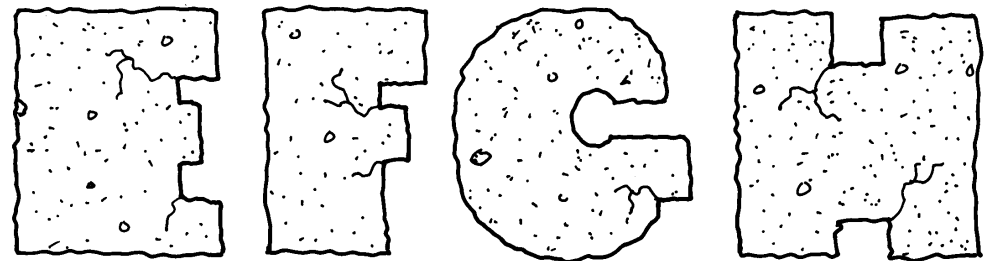
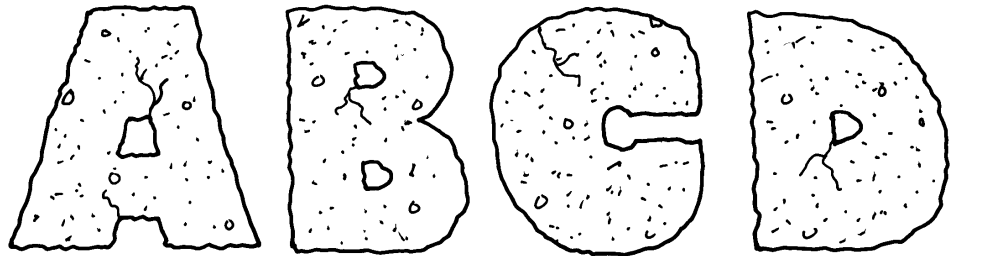
THESE LETTERS ARE SHEDDING ALL OVER THE CARPET!







These big block letters have small fractures in them just like real stone. These letters can also be drawn in 3-D like the Super Hero letters.



THESE
LETTERS
ROCK!



a b c d e f g



h i j k l m n



o p q r s t u

v w x y z

THE
M
O
T
S

The

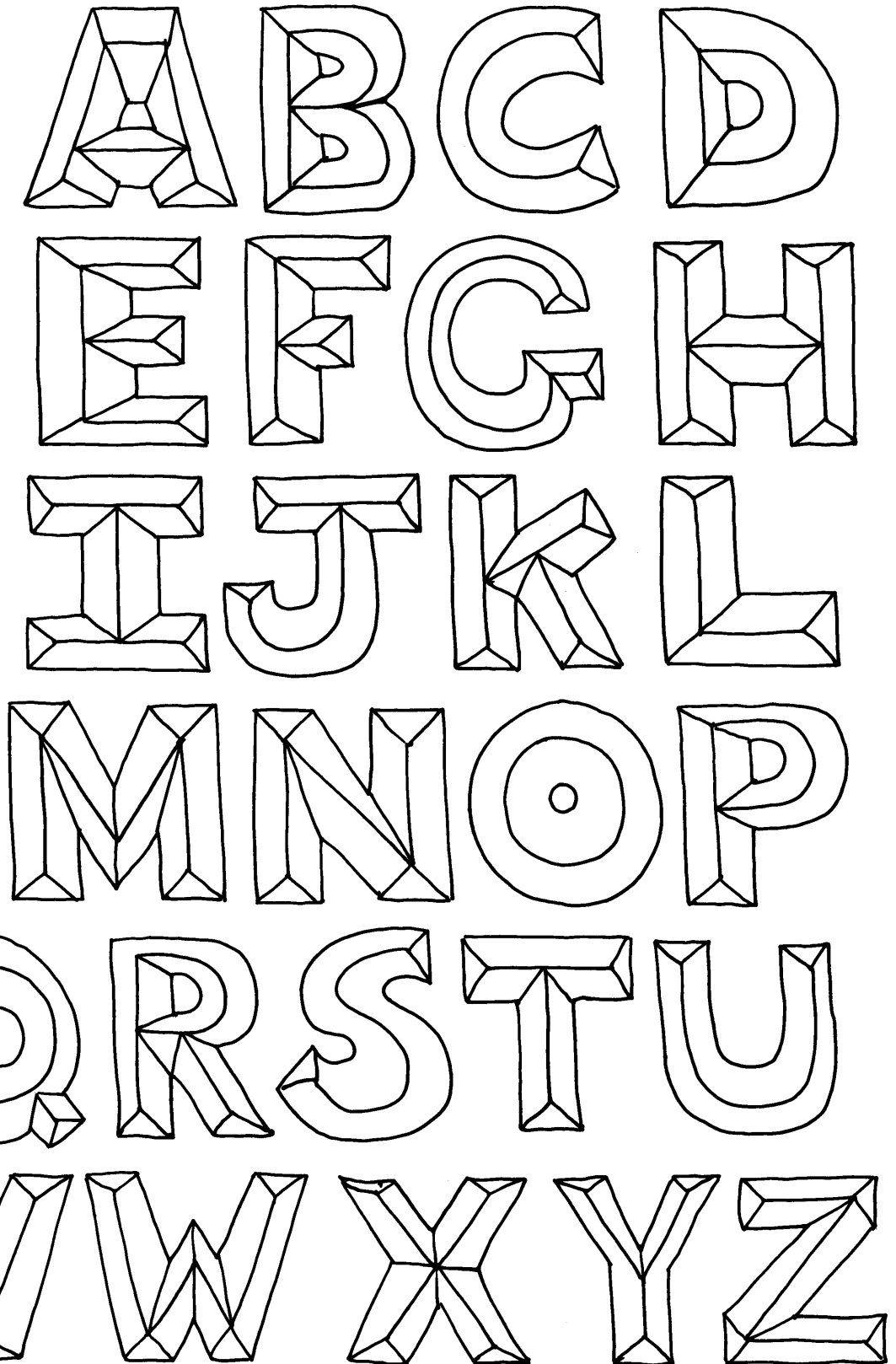
STONE

AGE



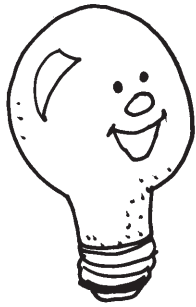
CARVED

This is a handy alphabet when you need letters that look like they've been carved out of stone or wood. They're great for wooden or stone signs and markers, or even the front of ancient buildings.



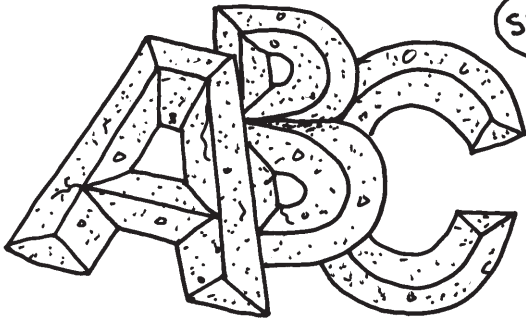
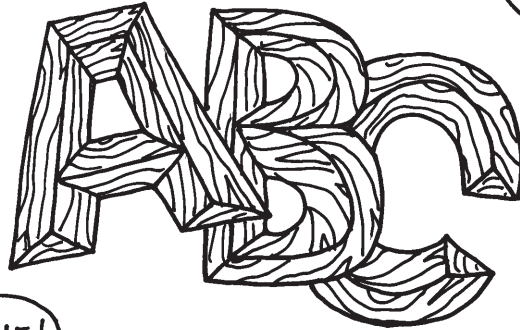
MY DAD
CARVES A
TURKEY
EVERY
THANKS-
GIVING.



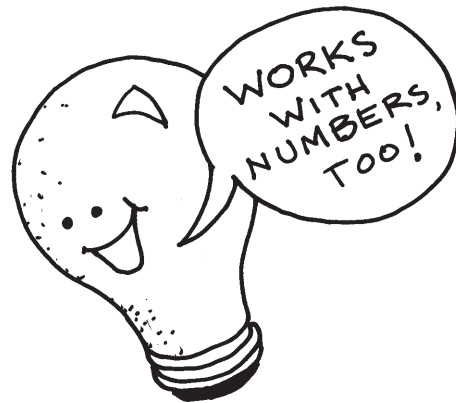


TRY
ADDING
TEXTURES
TO YOUR
CARVED
LETTERS!

WOOD!

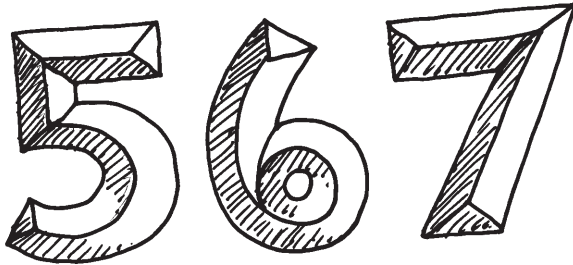


STONE!



WORKS
WITH
NUMBERS,
TOO!

LOOK EVERYBODY...
IT'S ROCKY!



CARVE

OUT

YOUR NEW CAREER

Visit our Guidance Center



CARVED

Lightning

Electrifying letters! These letters are especially effective when you color them yellow. Good for ray-gun zaps, too.



FIND THESE LETTERS RE-VOLTING!



a b c d e f g
h i j k l m n
o p q r s t u
v w x y z



THE
shocking
NEW ROCK GROUP



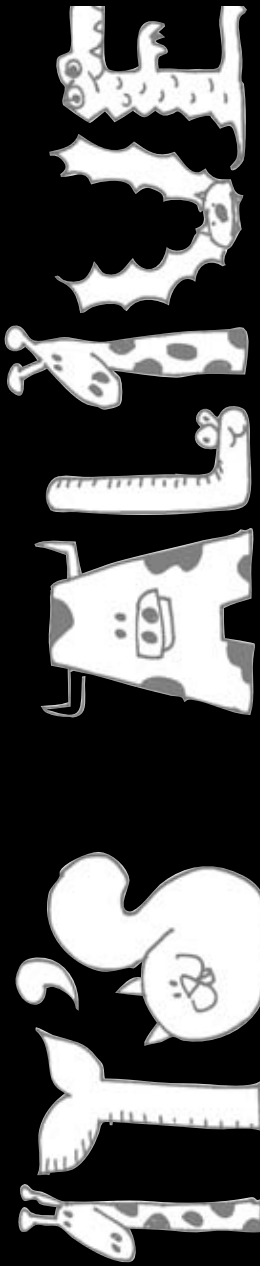
THEY'RE
INCREDIBLY
NORMAL!



NEW
CD!

Lightning

Is it an alphabet that's animals, or are they animals that are an alphabet? Either way, they're alive! Try creating some new ones of your own!



I SURE HOPE THEY DON'T BITE.



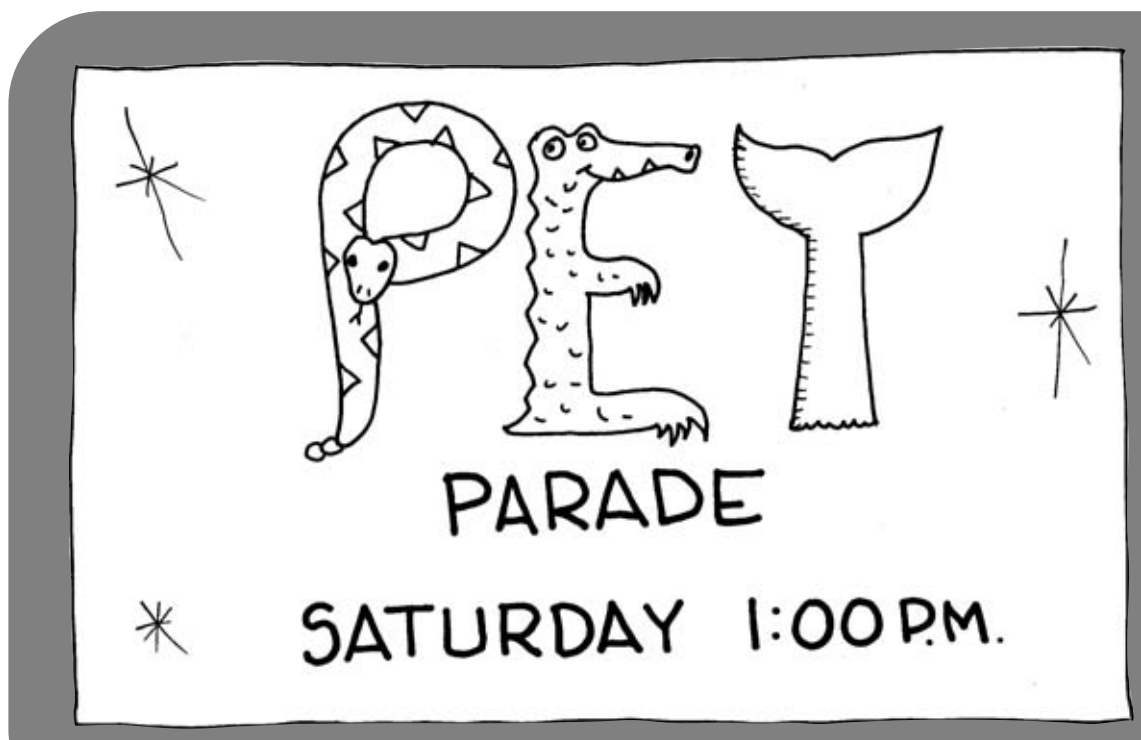
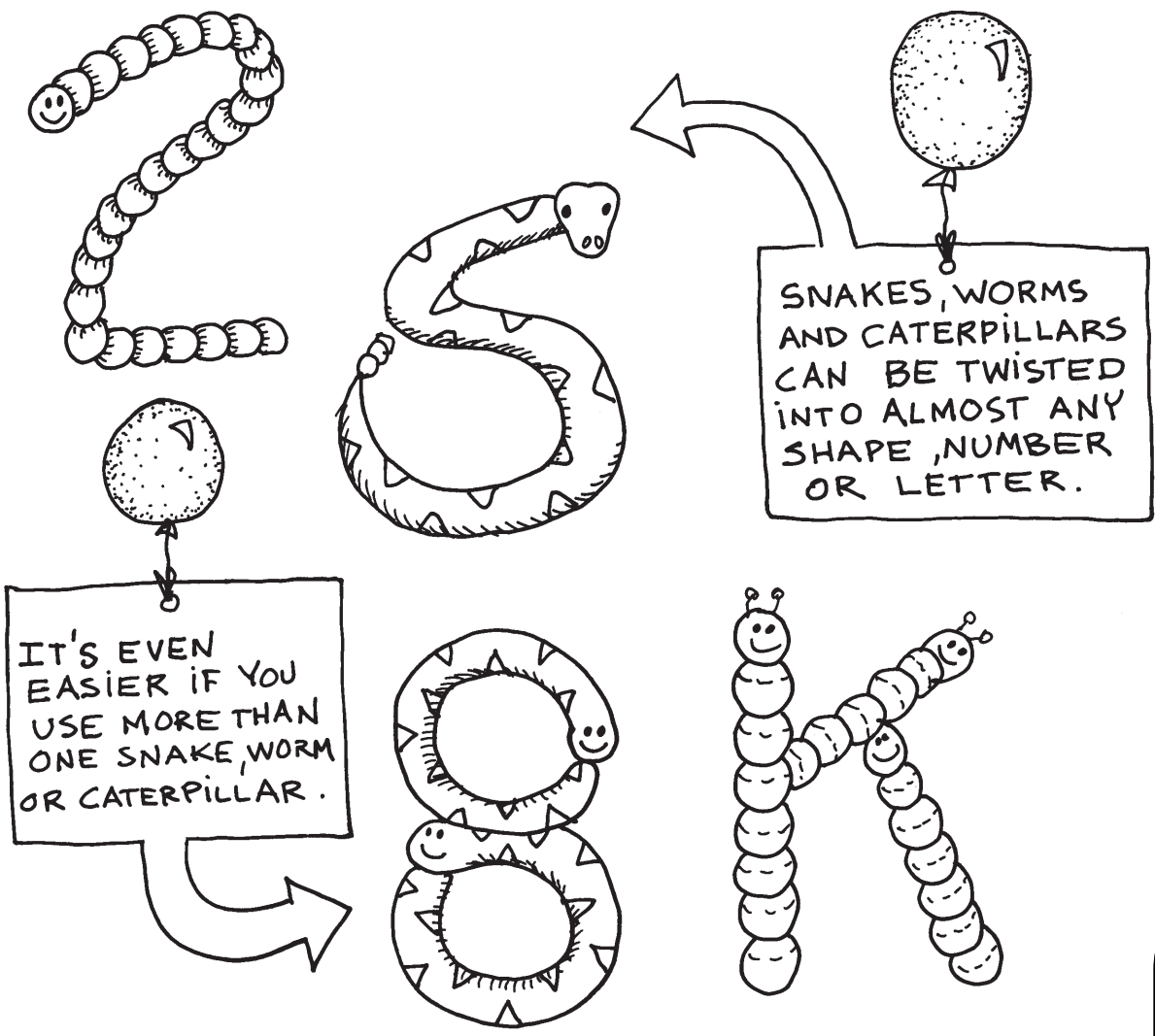
ANIMAL MAGNETISM

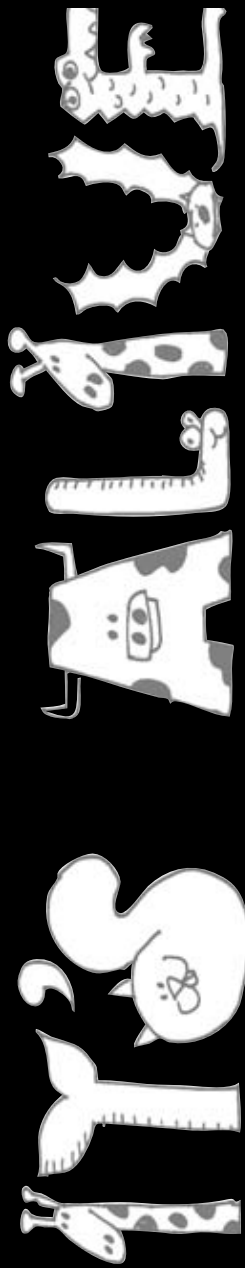


WHAT'S THAT?

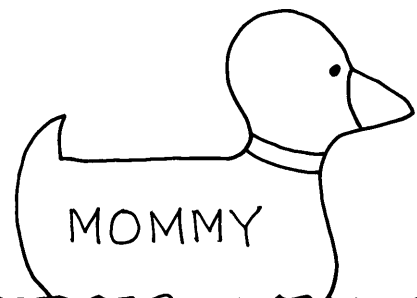
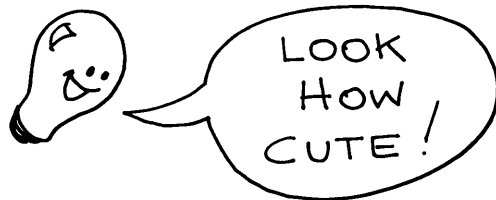
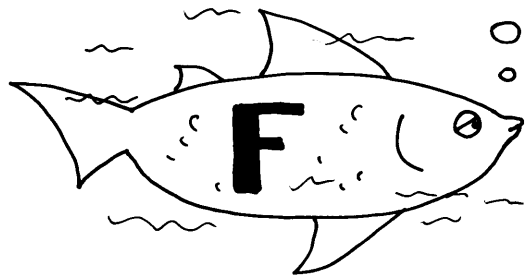
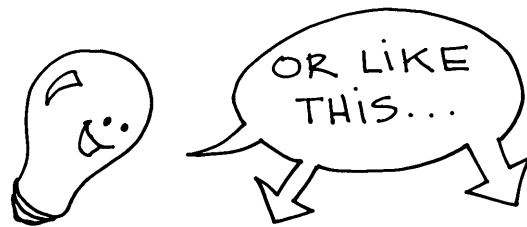
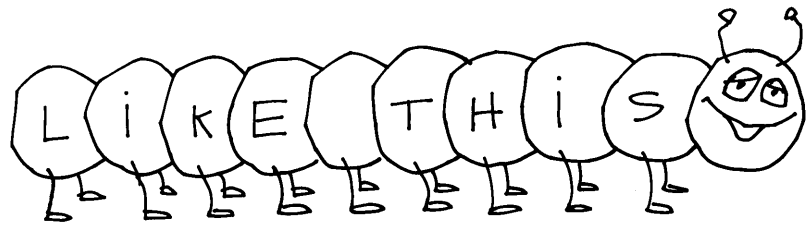
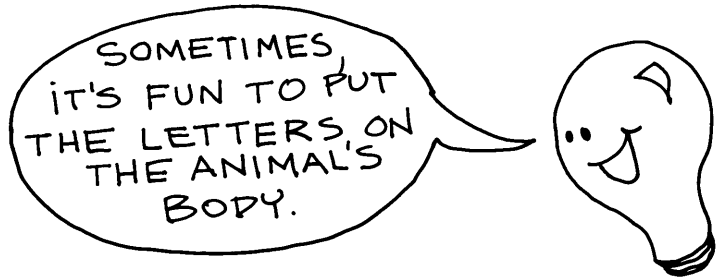


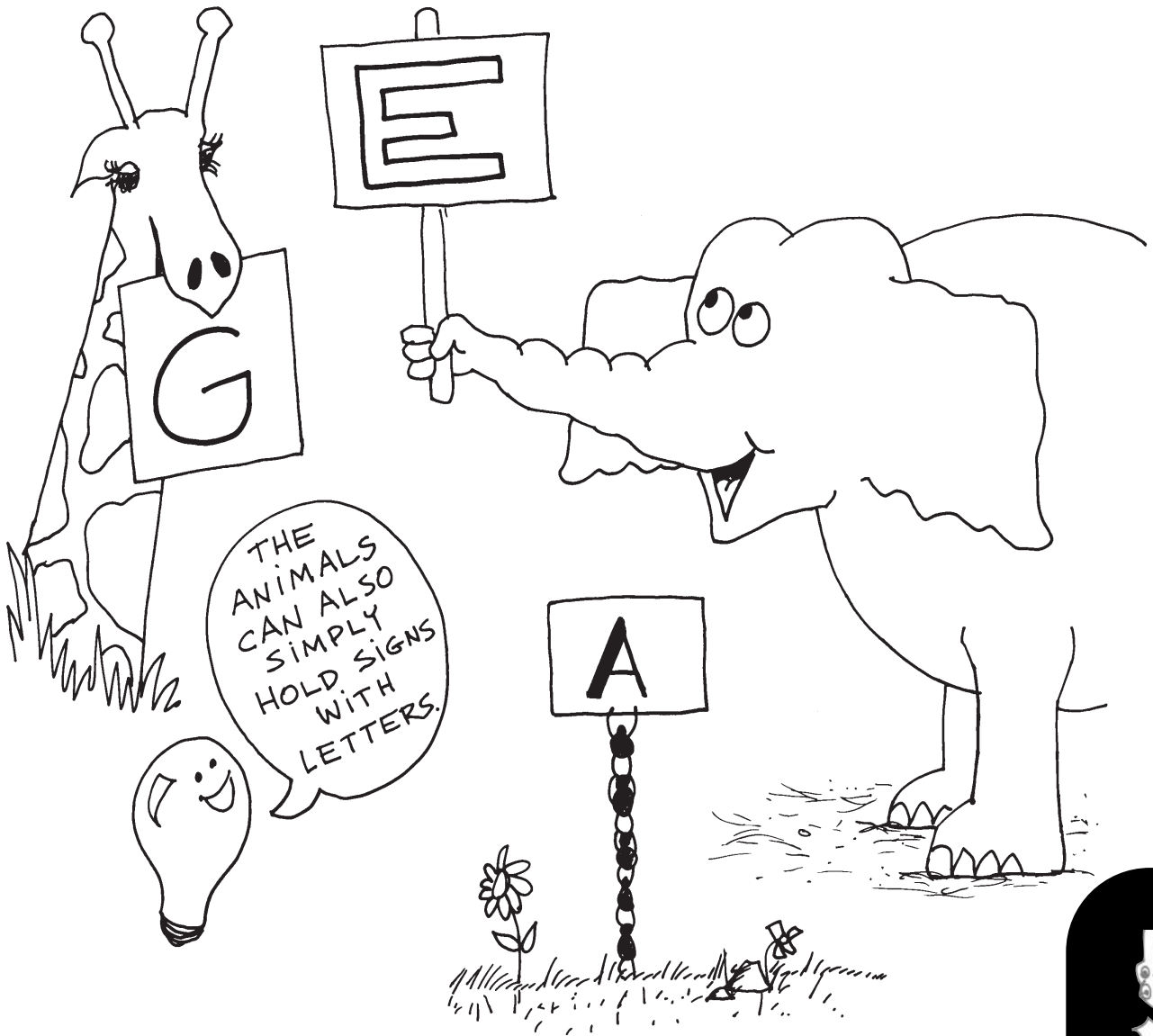
IT'S A LITTLE GIRL'S





The trick is to be creative. Take a look at these ideas and give them a try. Then try to come up with some new ideas of your own.



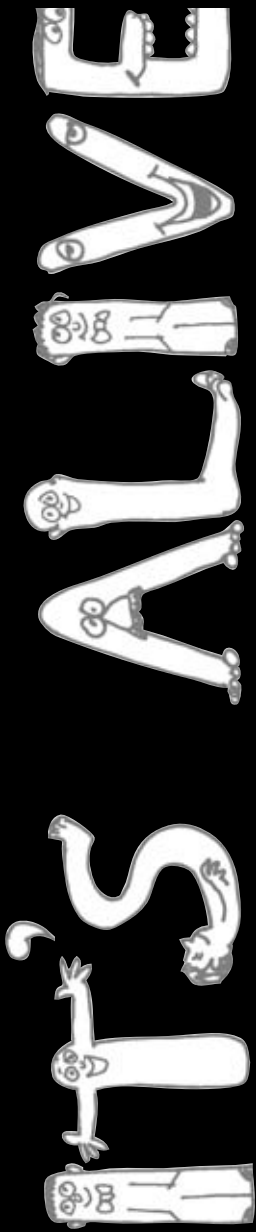


Snakes

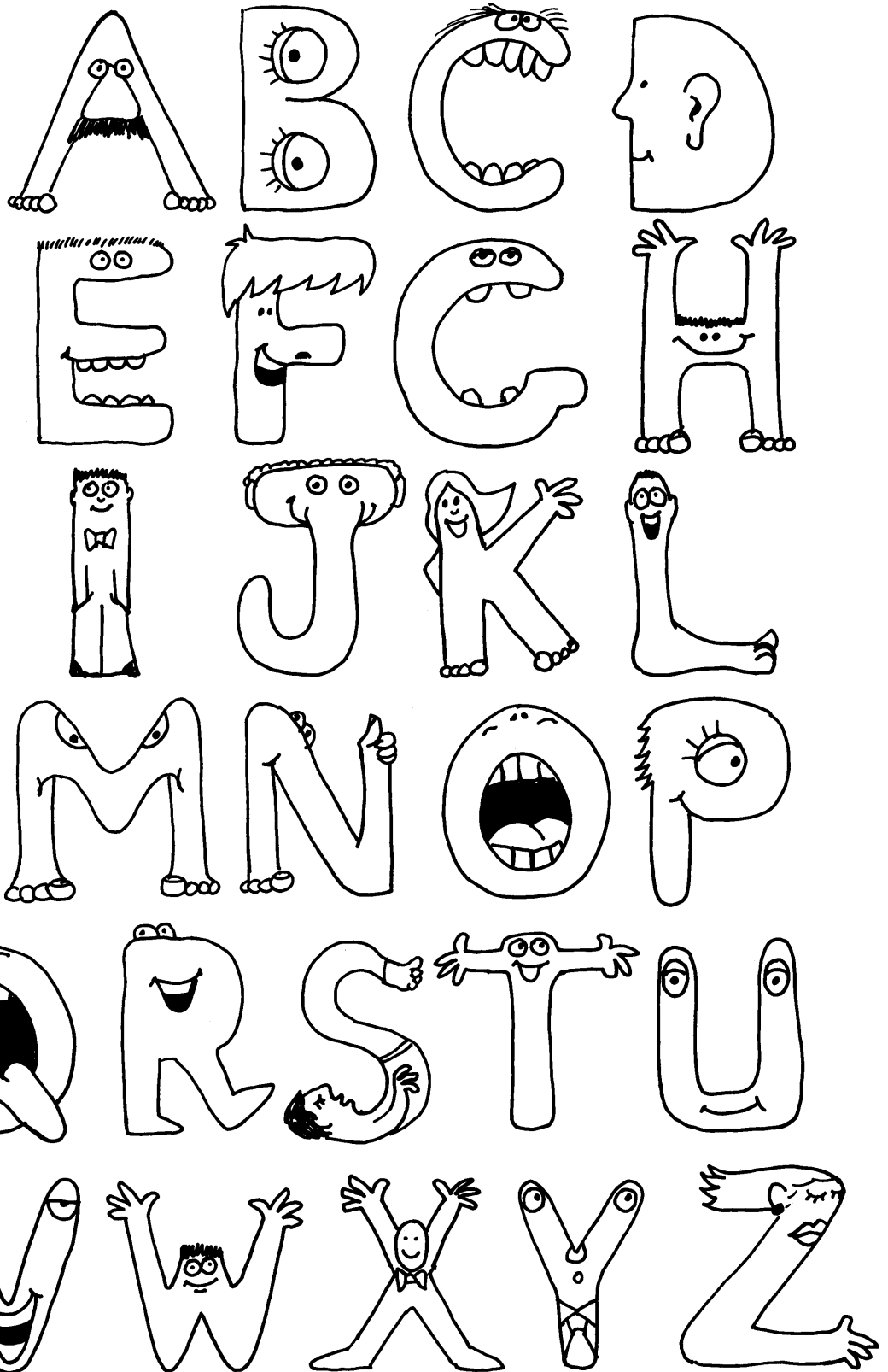
for sale

Call 555-1000

IT'S A LITTLE
SNAKE

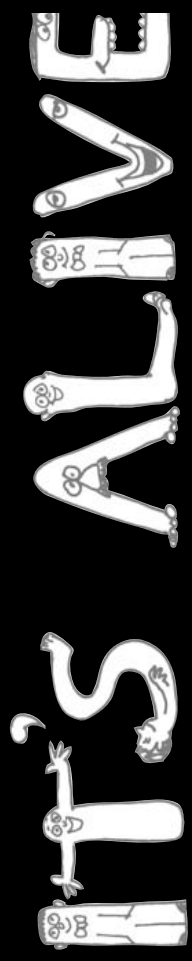
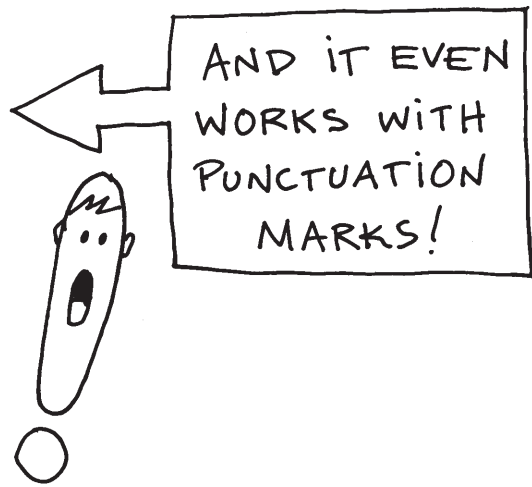
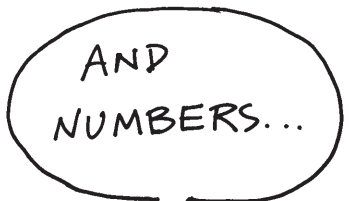
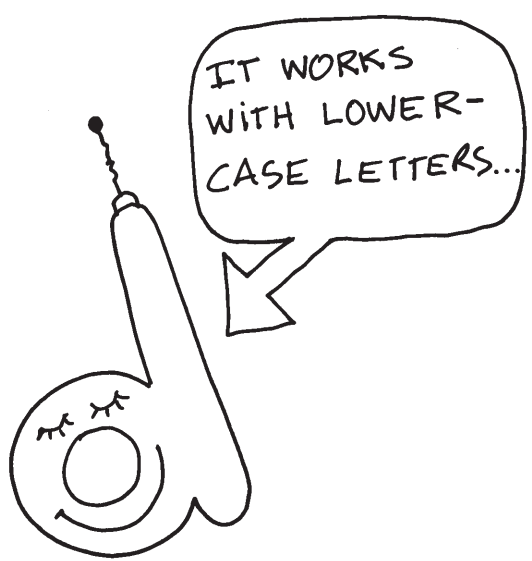


Look out! The humans have gotten into the act. Are they letters that are people, or people who are letters? Who knows? It's fun!

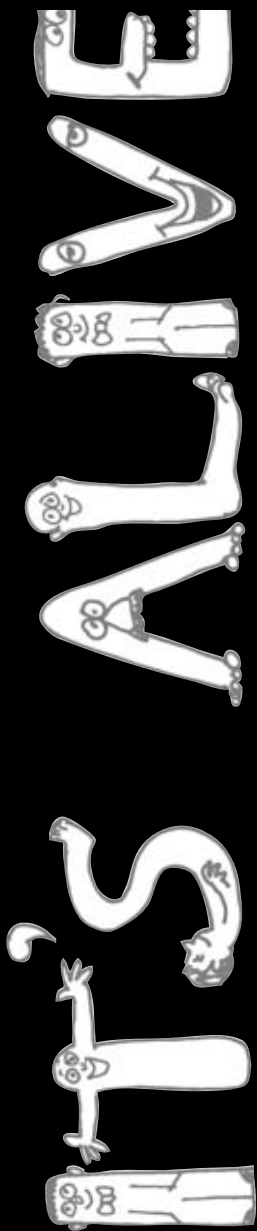


THESE LETTERS GET WEIRDER AND WEIRDER)

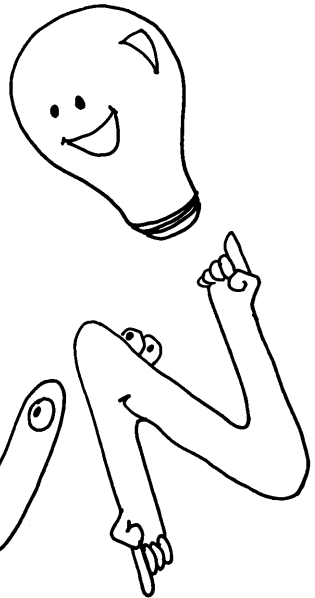




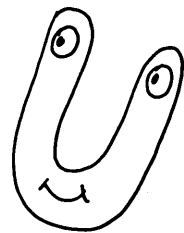
Sometimes small changes can make a big difference. After you've drawn some of these letters, try to change something about them.



TRY SOME OF THESE IDEAS!



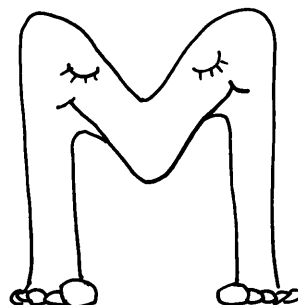
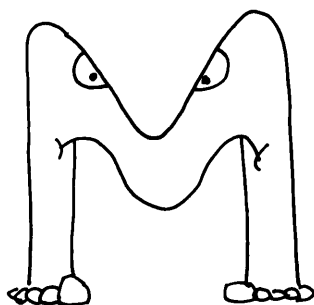
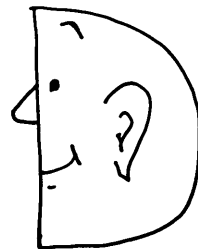
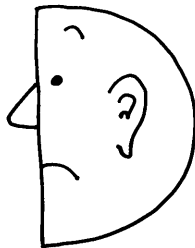
PUT THE LETTERS ON UNUSUAL ANGLES.



MAKE THE LETTERS MOVE.

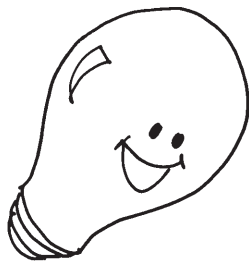


CHANGE THE EXPRESSION ON THE LETTER'S FACE.

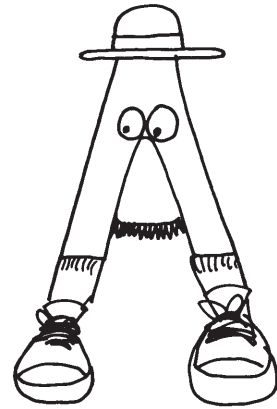


HA!
IT'S
ALIVE!
IT'S
ALIVE!



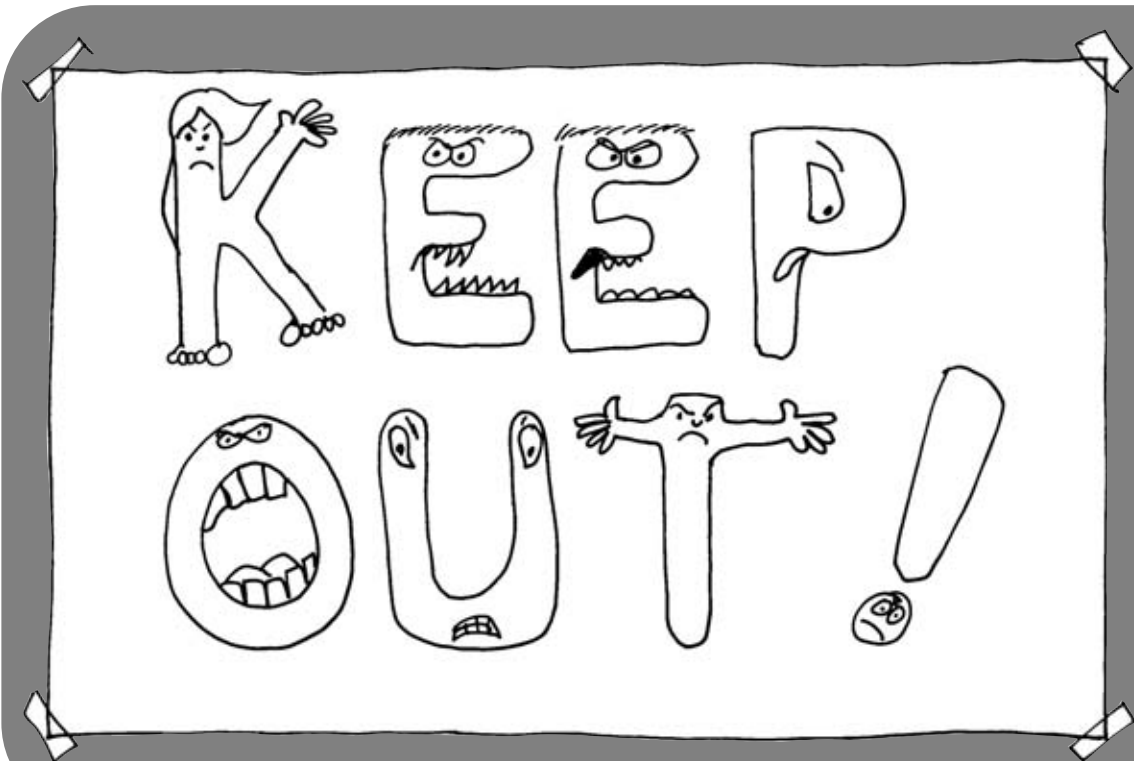
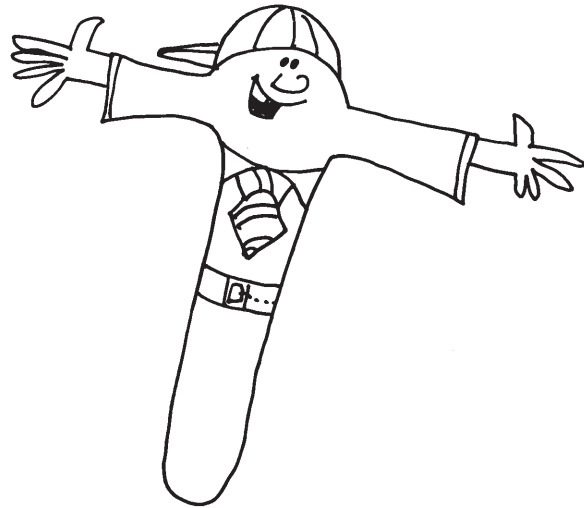


PUT FUNNY CLOTHES ON THE LETTERS!



STAYIN' ALIVE...
STAYIN' ALIVE...

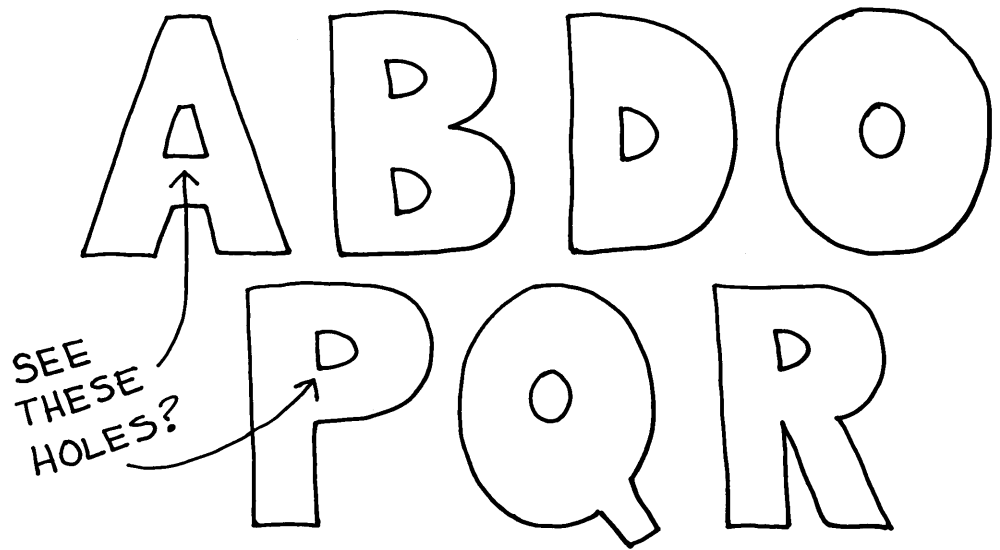
AH AH AH AH



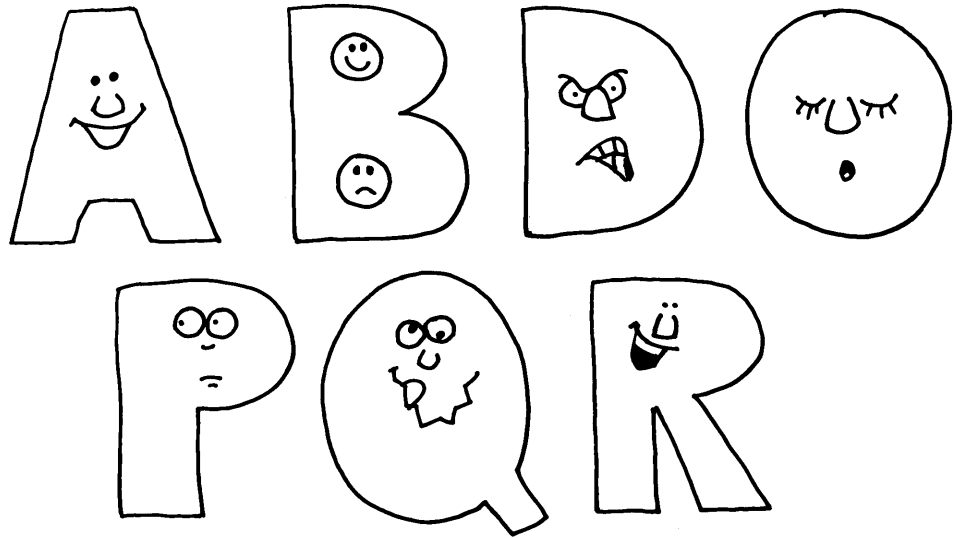
IT'S ALIVE

SPECIALS LETTERS

The letters ABDOPQR all have little holes in them. Put some faces in those open places. You can probably think of lots of good ideas.



TRY DRAWING FACES IN PLACE OF THE HOLES!



HERE ARE SOME MORE GREAT IDEAS!

I GET THE FEELING I'M BEING WATCHED.



CAT PIC

OWL

YOU CAN EVEN DRAW OBJECTS IN PLACE OF THE HOLES!

SPACE

OF COURSE YOU ARE - A

MOM... am I - special? D

SPECIALS LETTERS

WARNING!!

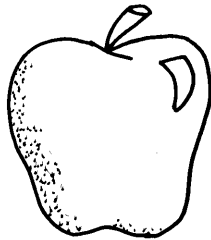
BAD

DOG!

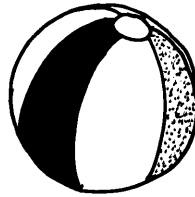
SPECIALS

Don't limit yourself when it comes to choosing objects to put inside of the "special" letters. You may have to draw small, but almost any face or object will work.

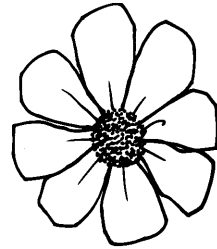
HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO PUT IN THE HOLES IN THE LETTERS.



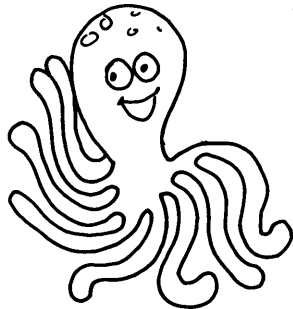
APPLE



BALL



DAISY



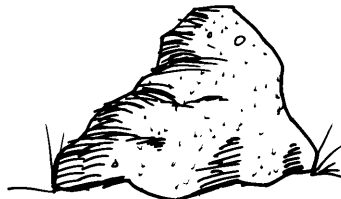
OCTOPUS



PENGUIN



QUEEN



ROCK

A B O
D P
Q R A
B O P
D R Q
R A B
D O P
A B R Q
O P D R

ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, DRAW THINGS TO FILL THE HOLES IN THESE WORDS:



CAR

QUACK

PARADE

BOAT

HORN

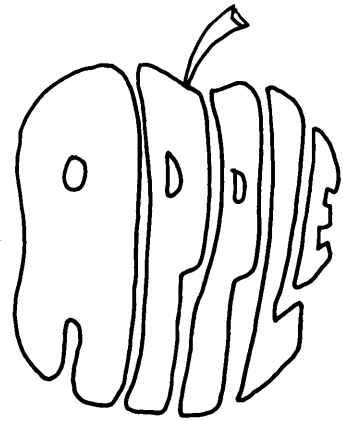
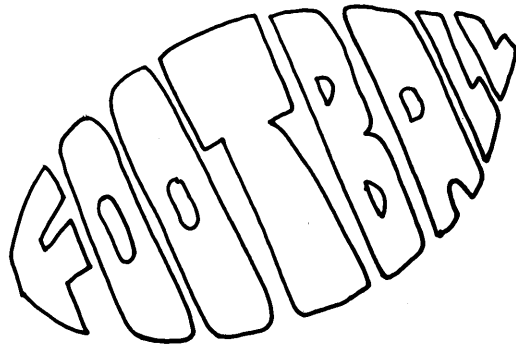


Section Two

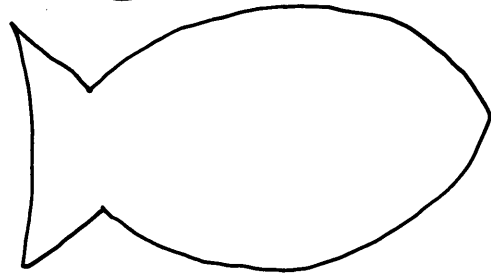
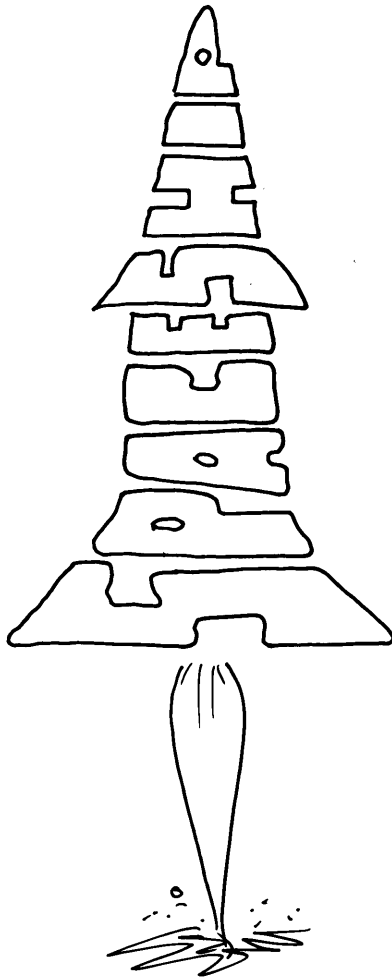
CARTOON
WORDS

Shape of Things

A noun is a person, place, or thing. Nouns can be drawn in the shape of the things they describe. Take a look at the examples shown here, then try to draw some other words into shapes.

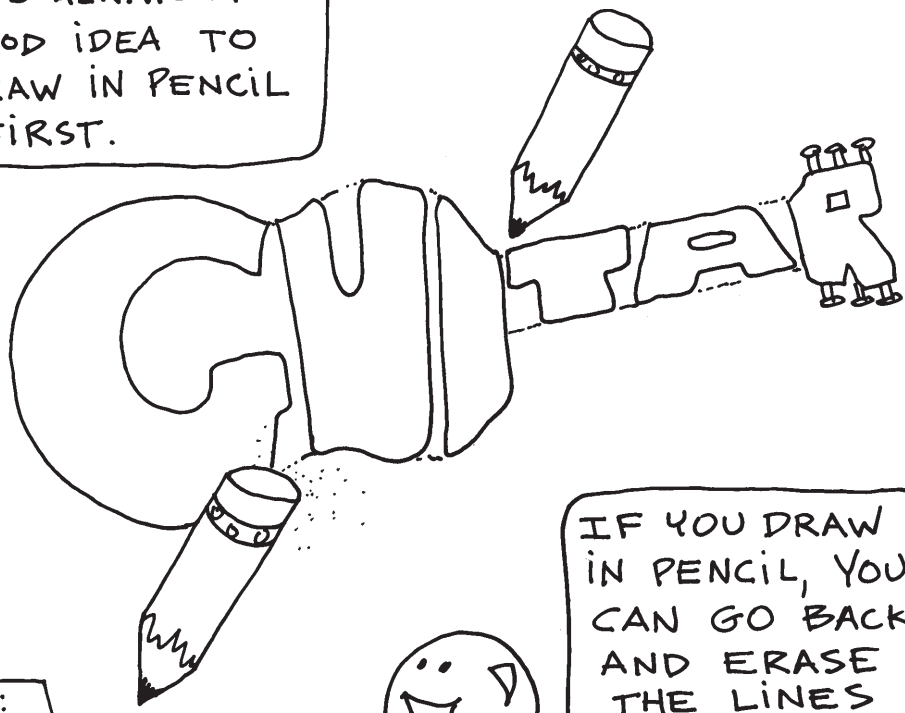
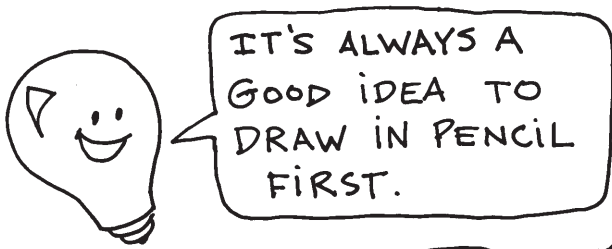


DRAW THE OUTLINE FIRST, THEN...

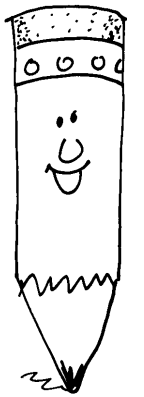


RE-SHAPE THE LETTERS TO FIT THE OUTLINE.

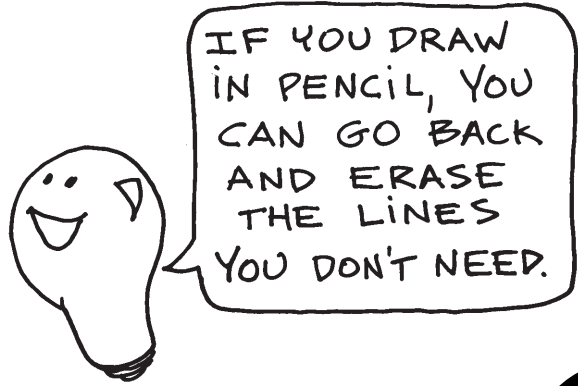




I ALWAYS DRAW IN PENCIL FIRST... MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A PENCIL!



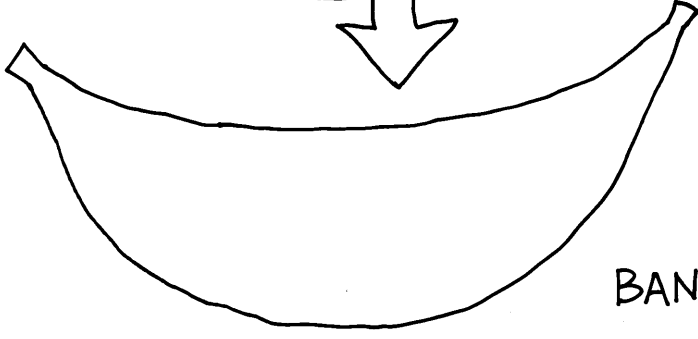
QUICK TIP:
LONG, THIN OBJECTS ARE THE EASIEST TO DRAW USING THIS TECHNIQUE.



Shape of Things

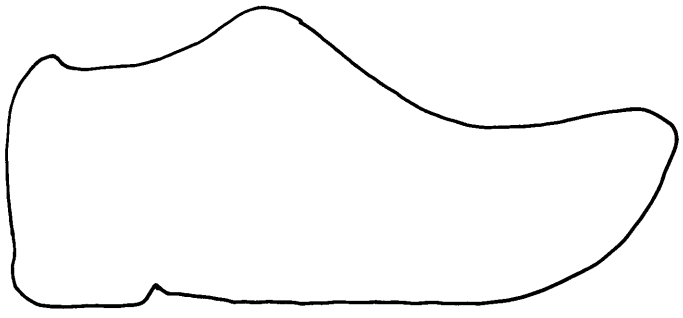
If you're having a little trouble choosing shapes for your lettering, take a look at this page. It may give you some ideas.

ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER, DRAW WORDS TO FIT THE SHAPE OF THESE OBJECTS...

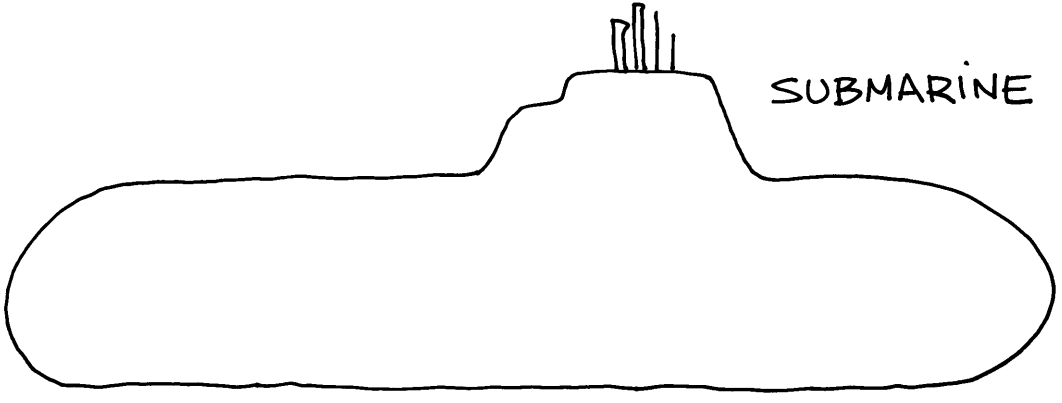


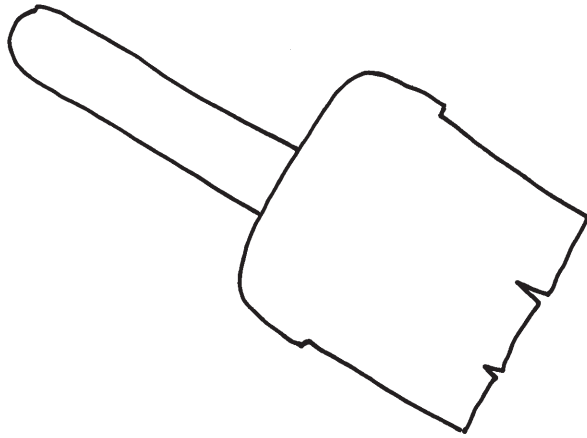
BANANA

SHOE

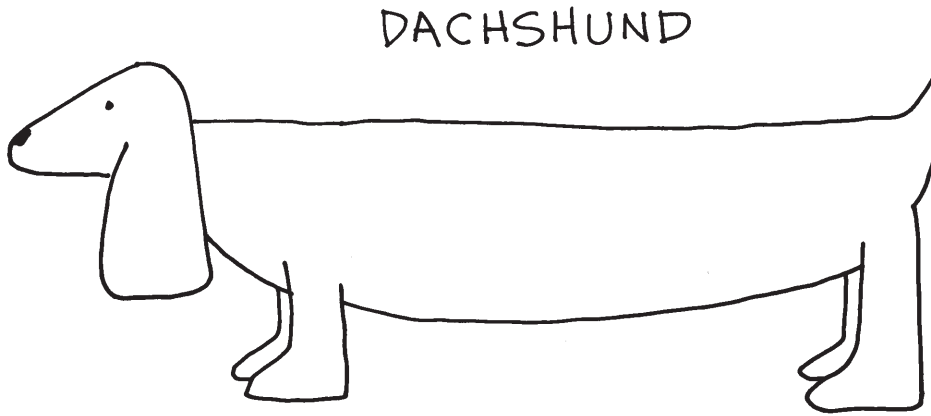


SUBMARINE

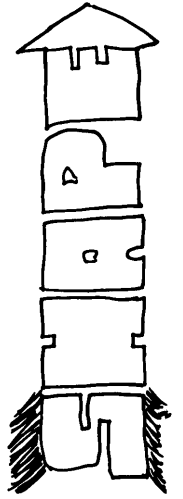




PAINTBRUSH



DACHSHUND

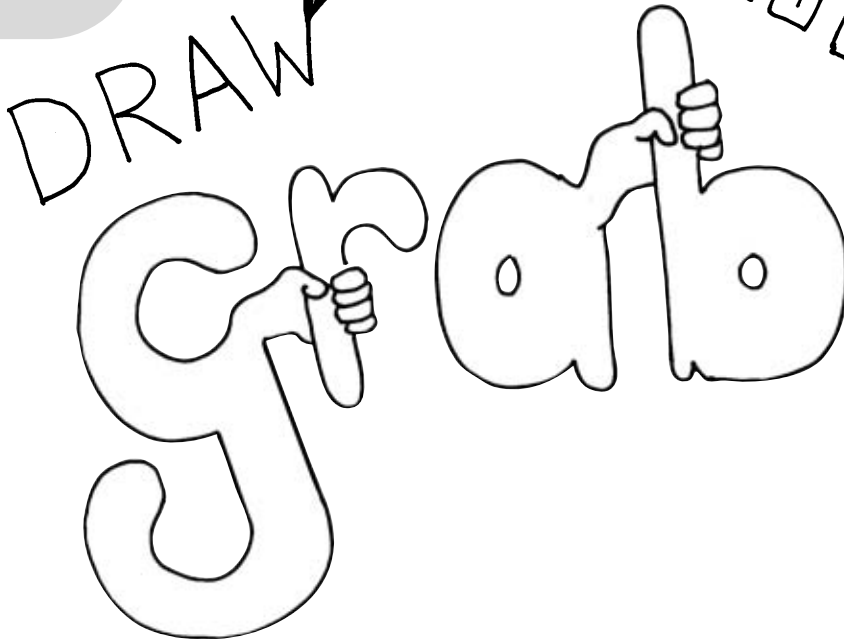
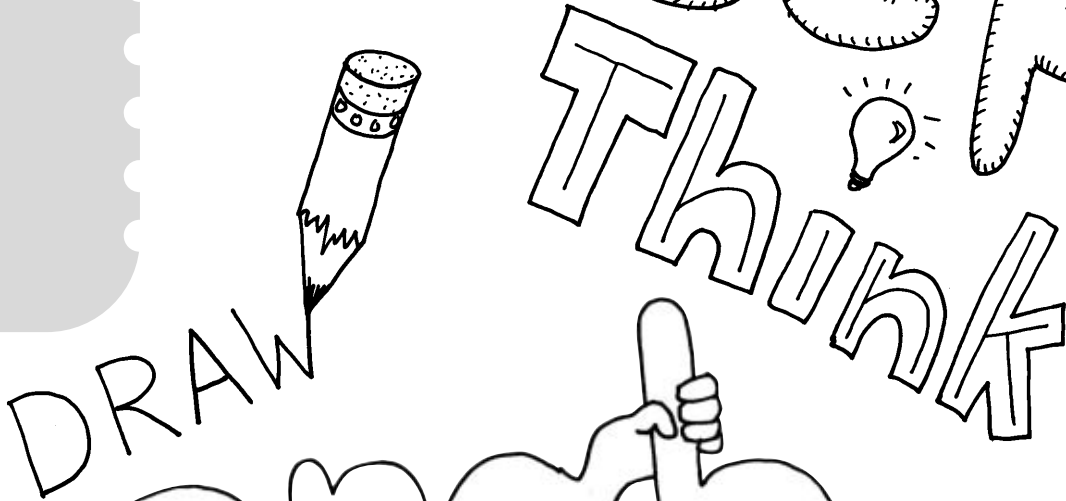
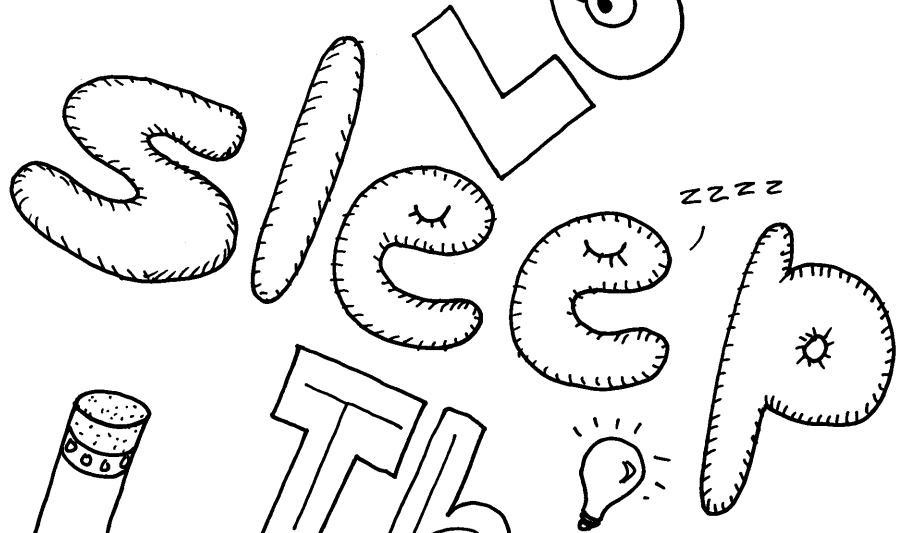
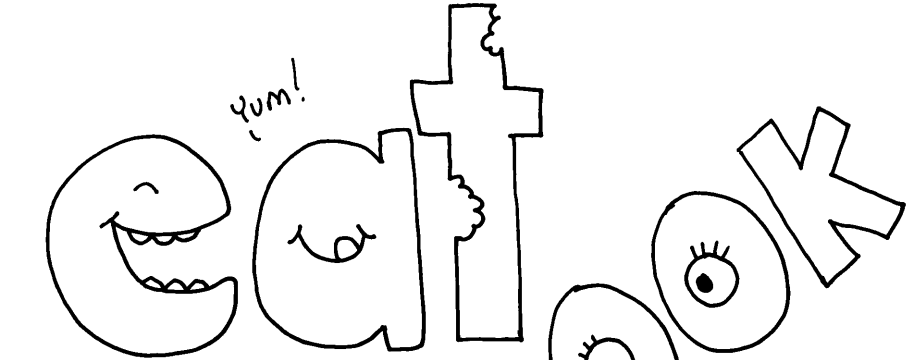


RADICAL
WITTLESNAKES

COME SEE THE NEW EXHIBIT
OF REPTILES AT THE
Nature Center

Shake, Rattle, & Roll.

Verbs are action words. The words shown here are “doing” something. Take a look at the words on the following pages. Then experiment with your own action lettering.



O.K.
YOU
LETTERS...
MOVE
IT!



DR O P



RED LIGHT!
EVERYBODY
STOP!
I H G F E D C B A

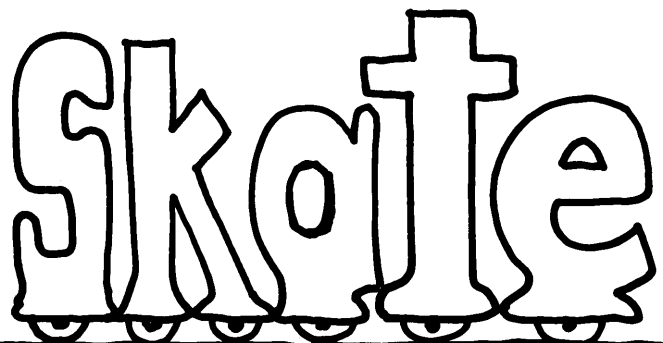
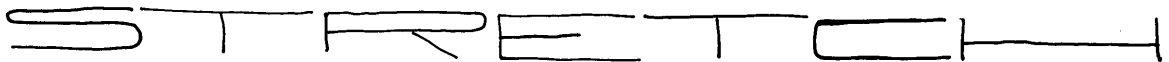
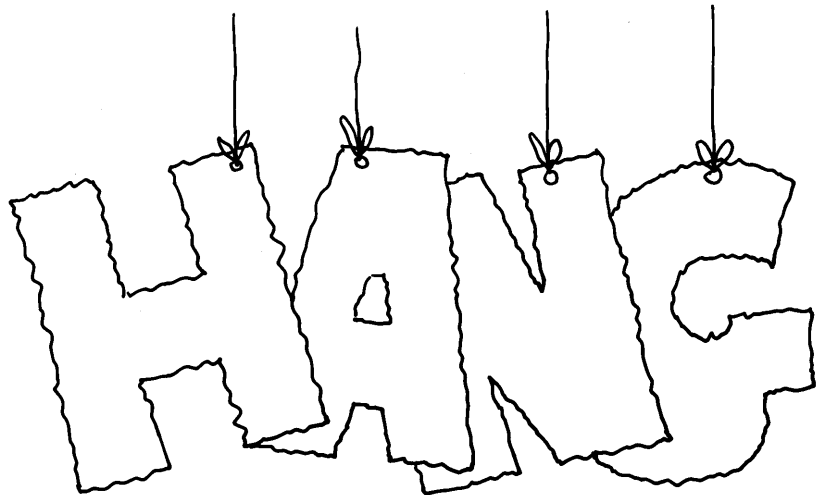
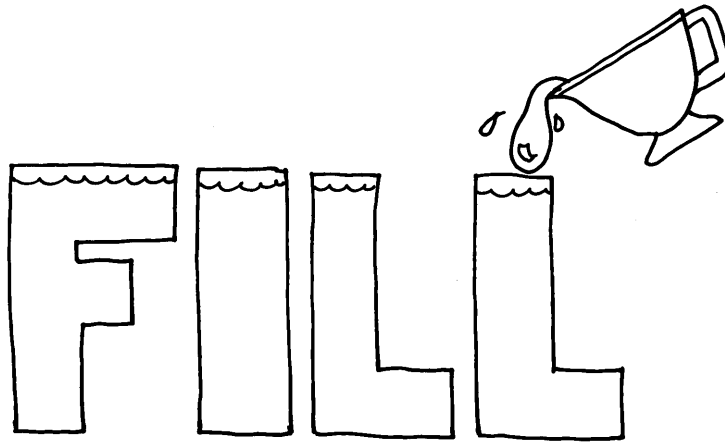


SLID e

J U M P
FOR JOY
JUMPROPE CLASS
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 7:00 P.M.

Rock, Roll, & Run

Other objects like cups of water and string can help you make your lettering even more fun. Check out the examples shown here.



EX-
PER-
i-
MENT!



WISH



RIP



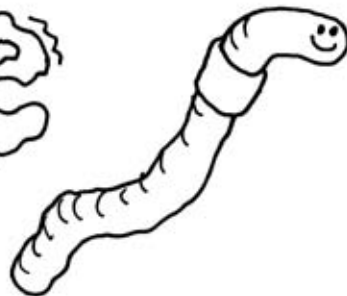
PULL



SMILE



wiggle

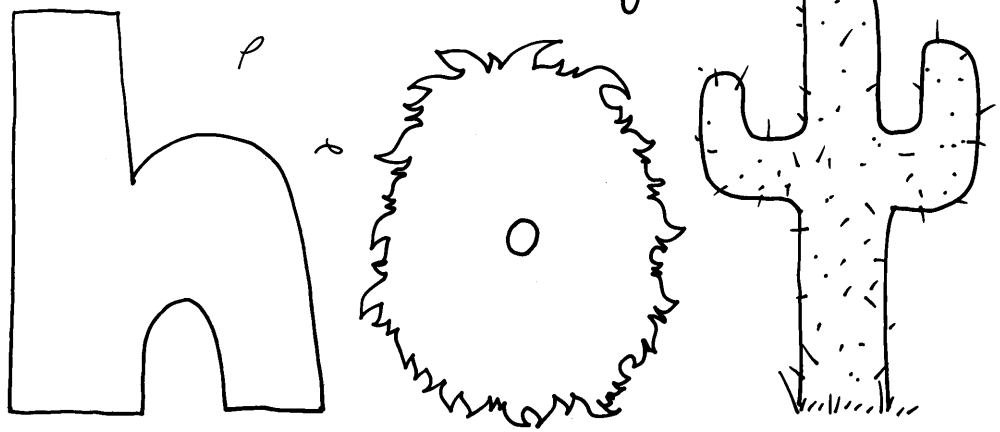
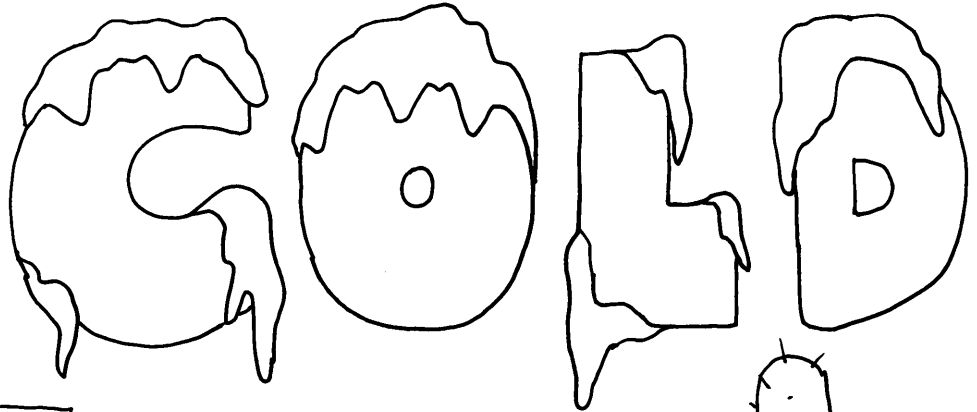


worms

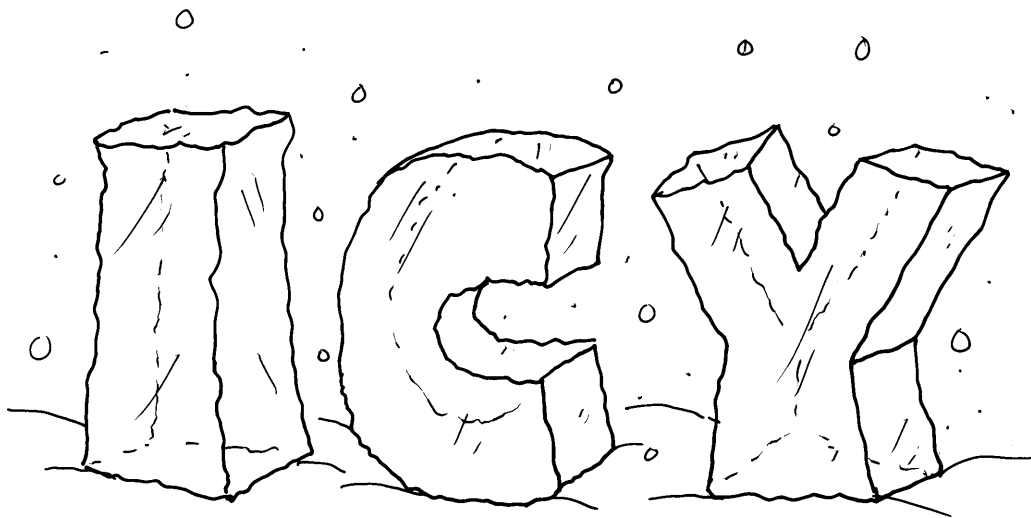
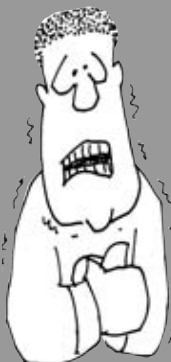
ACTIVITY
CENTER
AND
GAME ROOM

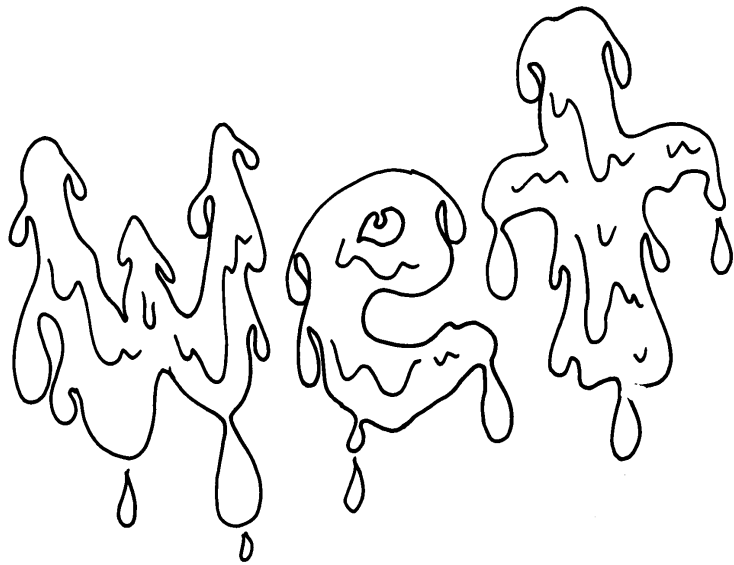
Hot, Cold, & Wet

Environment can have an effect on your lettering. Checkout what the temperature, humidity, and time of day have done to these words.



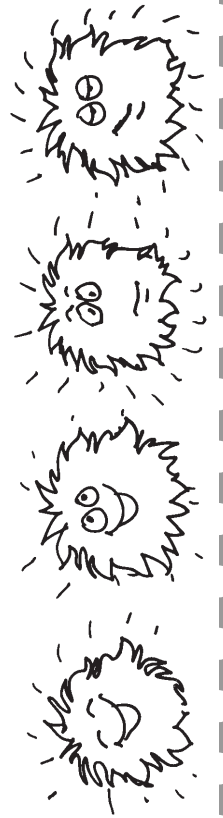
NOW
I'M
FREEZING!





Windy

Cloudy



IT'S

GOLD

OUTSIDE...

BUT OUR FOOTBALL TEAM IS

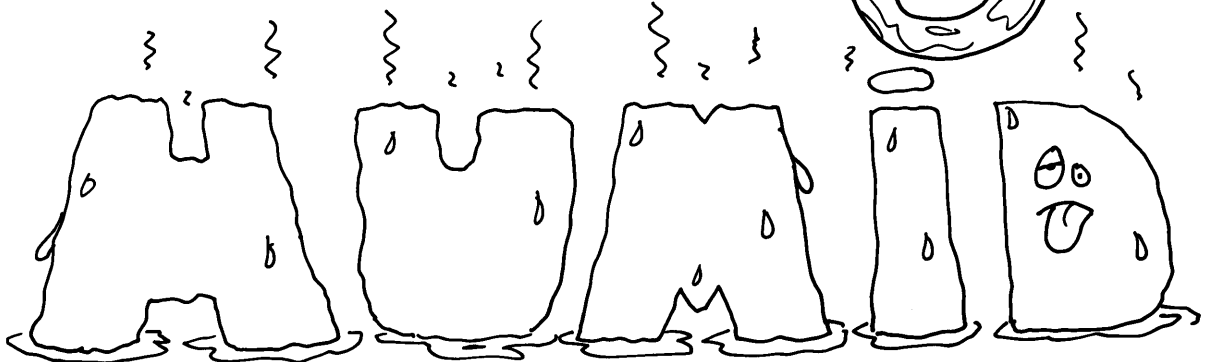
HOT

Hot, Cold, & Wet

Shading and “filled in” lettering can add a dramatic touch. Also, using different colors (green for trees and grass, black for night time) can be very effective.

Night

DAWN



I'M BURNING UP!





kites

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
NOW THROUGH JUNE 10
workshops, exhibits, lots of fun!

The poster features the word "kites" in a bubbly, cloud-like font. Below it, the text "FROM AROUND THE WORLD" is written in a simple, hand-drawn font. A box contains the text "AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM NOW THROUGH JUNE 10 workshops, exhibits, lots of fun!". To the right of the box is a drawing of a kite with a long, curly tail. There are also small bird silhouettes in the sky.

What They're Saying

These are mostly adjectives.

They are words that describe things. You'll catch on to this kind of lettering after a few examples. You can probably come up with a ton of different ideas. Try it!

LITTLE

BIG

FAST

YOU DON'T SAY...



DOWN
UPSIDE

Nervous

JINNY

POLKA DOT

Smelly Noisy

CRACKLED

STOP
Pollution

YOU'RE DOING GREAT!
ISN'T THIS BOOK
FUN?



Section Three



Arcs, Twists, Loops

AND OTHER WEIRDLY SHAPED WORDS

It's a little hard to describe these words. They're just too weird. The best idea is to study them and then try to draw some of your own.

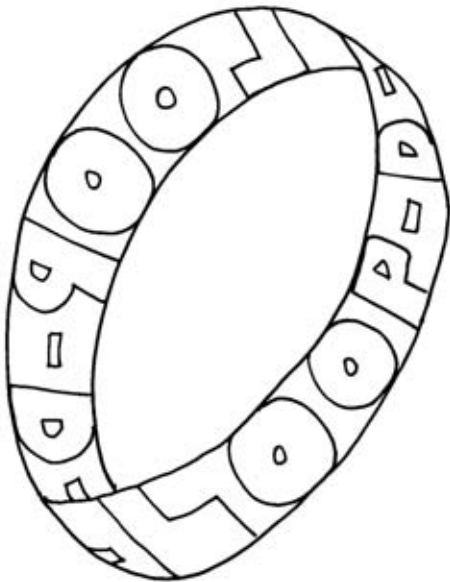
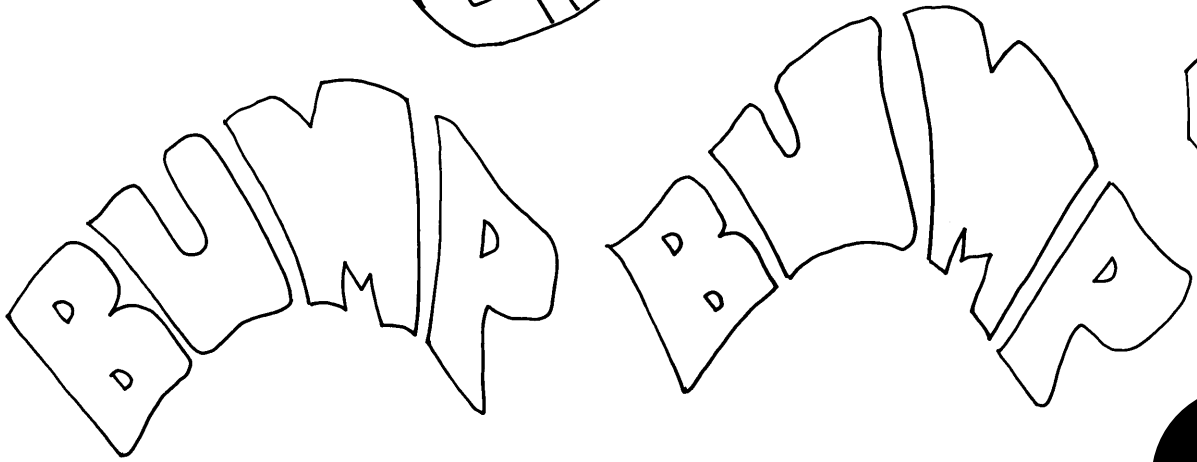
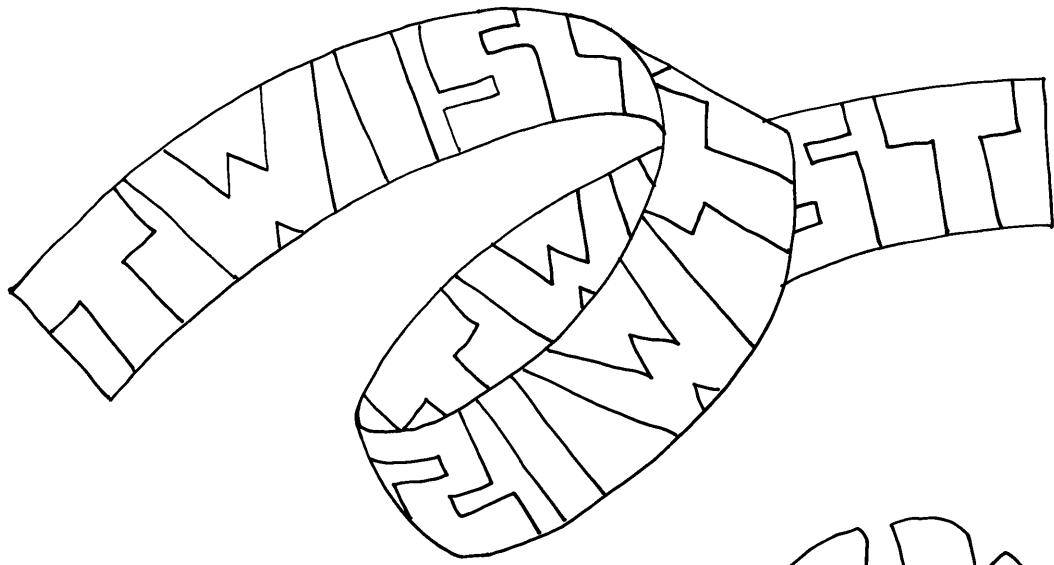
THESE ARE
GROWERS

ROLLER COASTER

70

Let's
twist
again...
Like
we did
before...





LOOP
D
LOOP

A GREAT NEW
BOARD GAME!

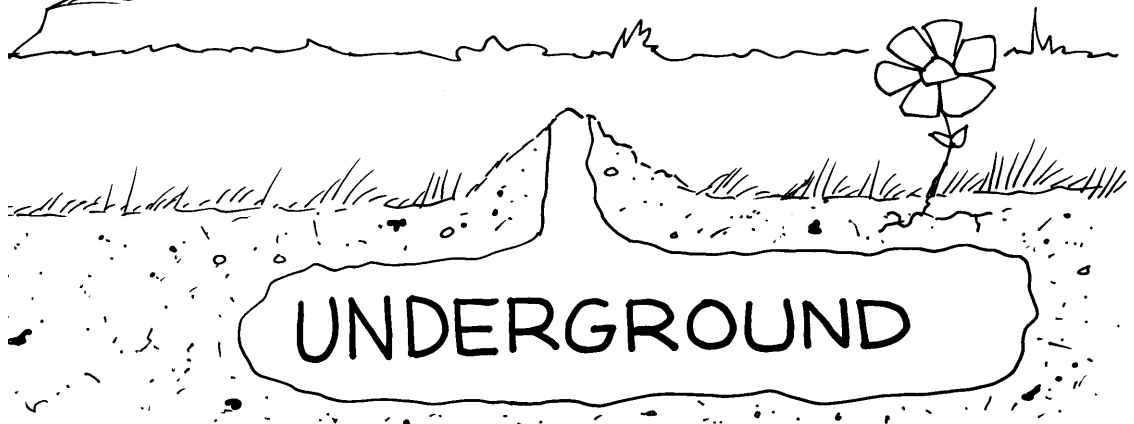
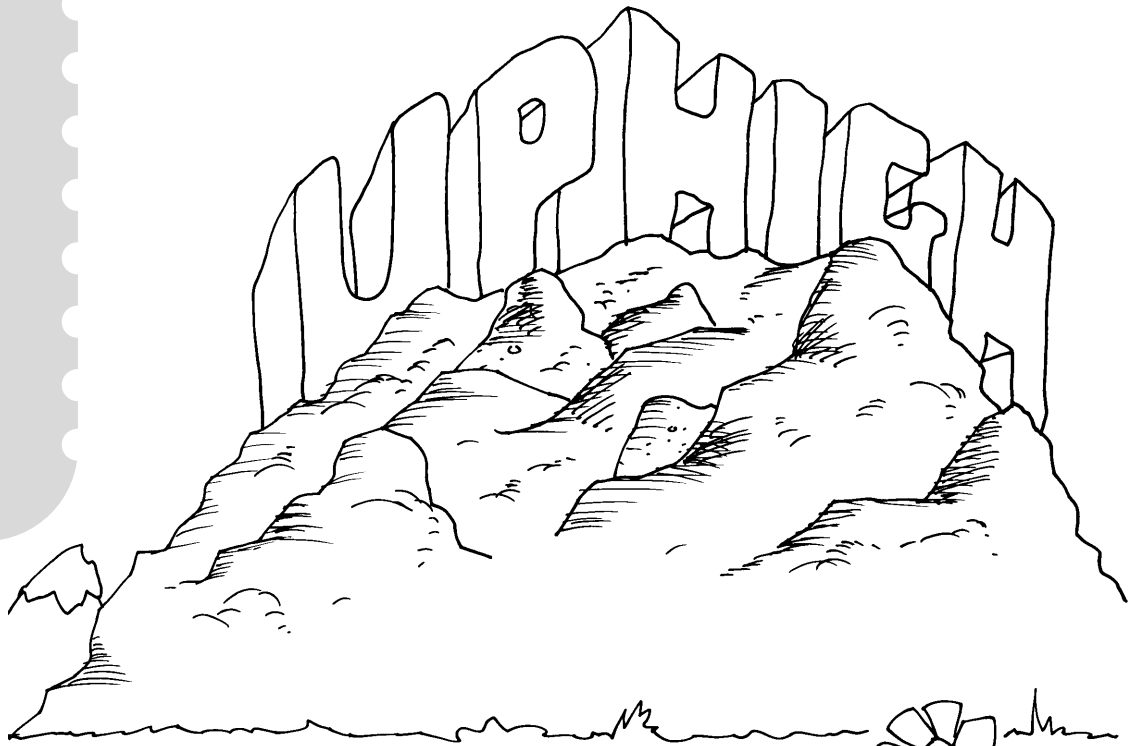
Arcs, Twists, Loops

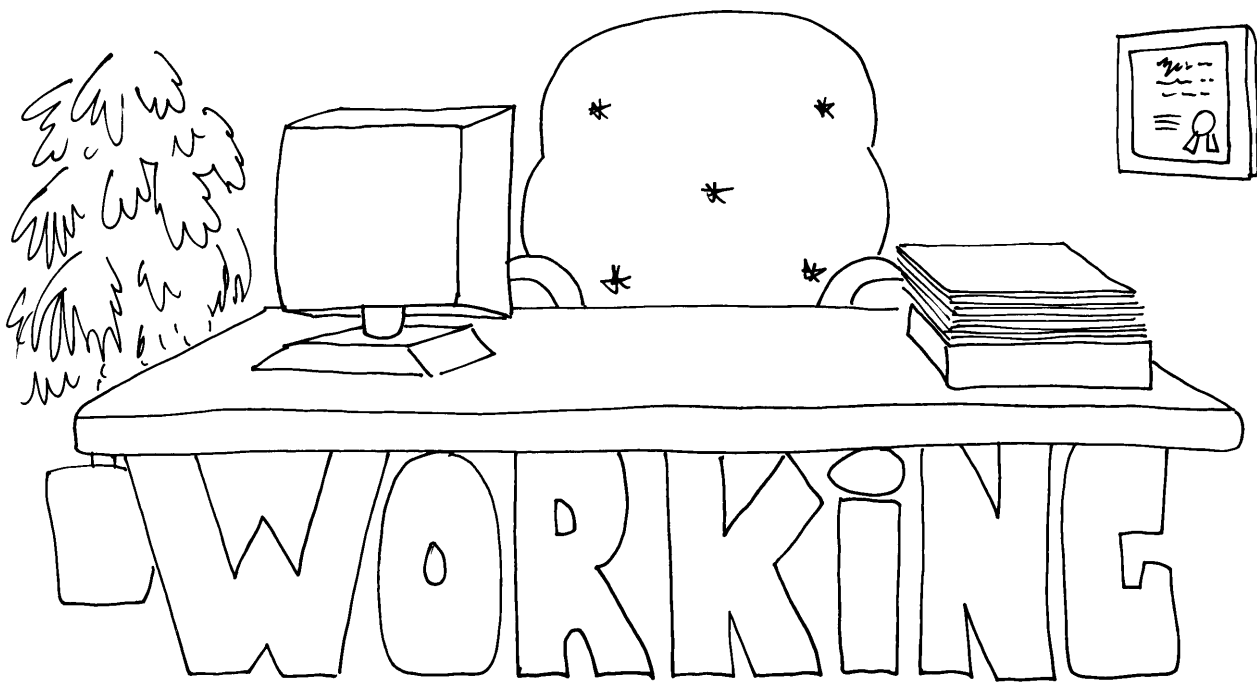
AND OTHER WEIRDLY SHAPED WORDS

Backgrounds

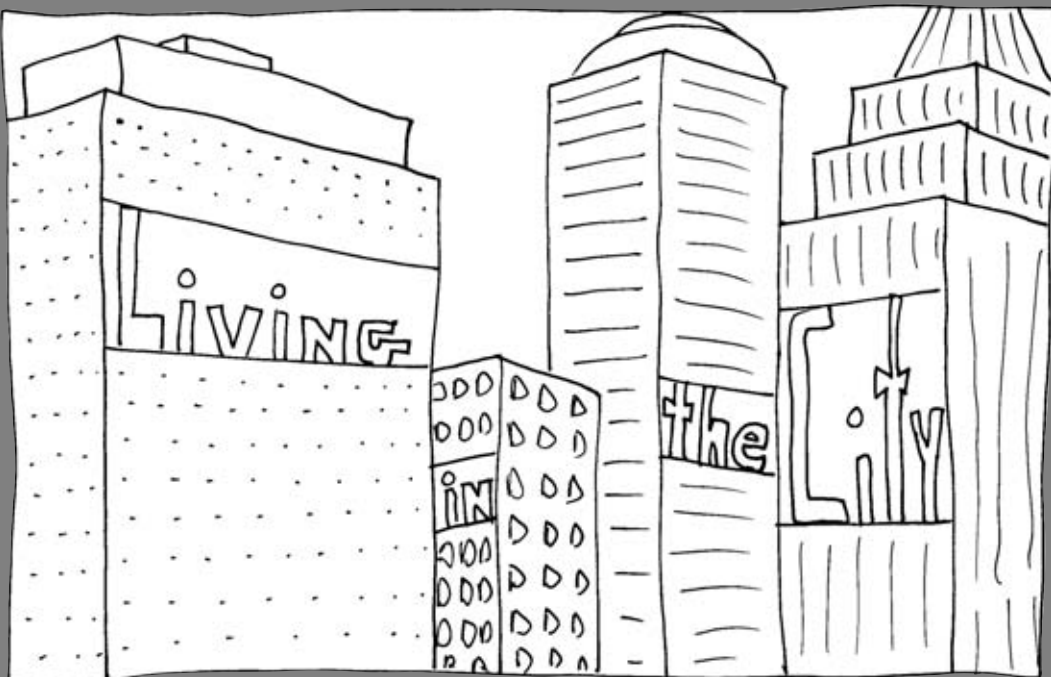
Put your letters somewhere.

Adding a little background can make your lettering pop off the page!





BACKGROUNDS ARE VERY IMPORTANT!



Break the Margins

When you were little, everyone told you to stay in the lines. Here's your chance to draw outside of the lines! Make your letters a little bit bigger than the border surrounding them.

Wow!

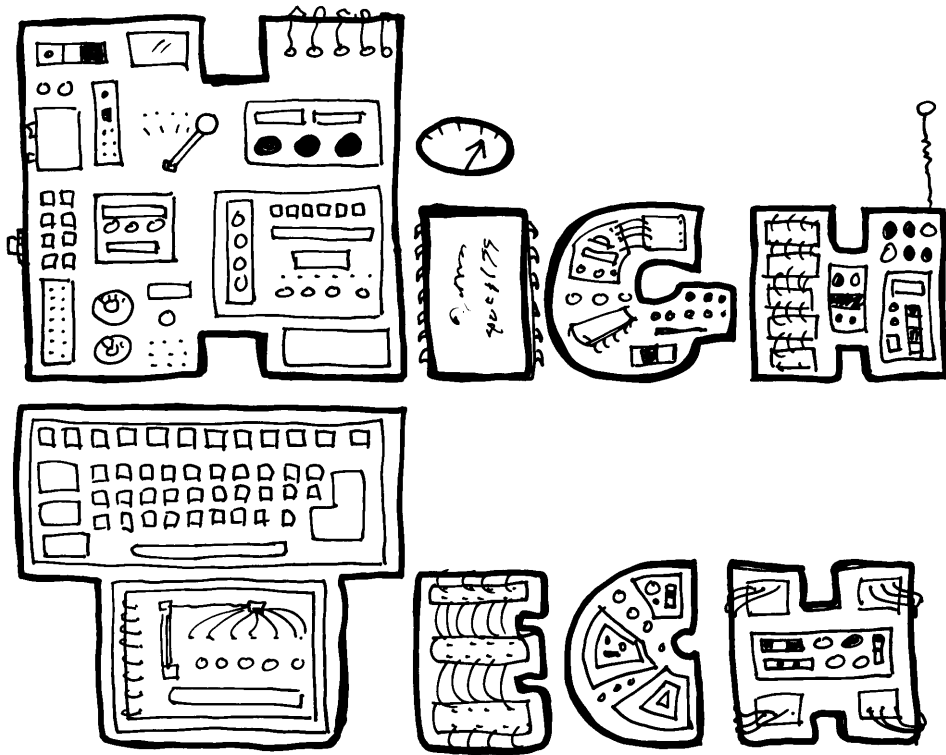
Yes

DON'T
FORGET

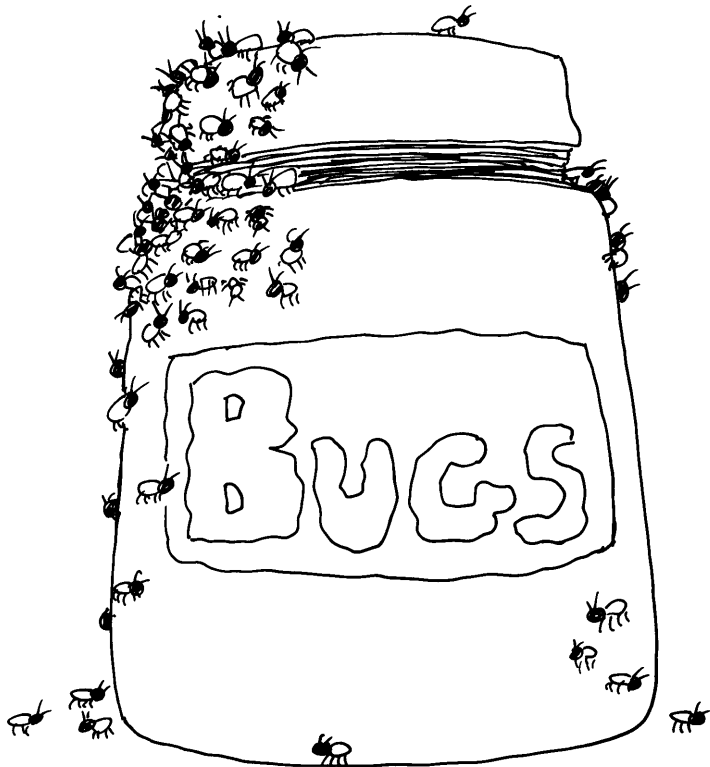
ALRIGHT...
WHO
BROKE THE
MARGIN?



Details, Details

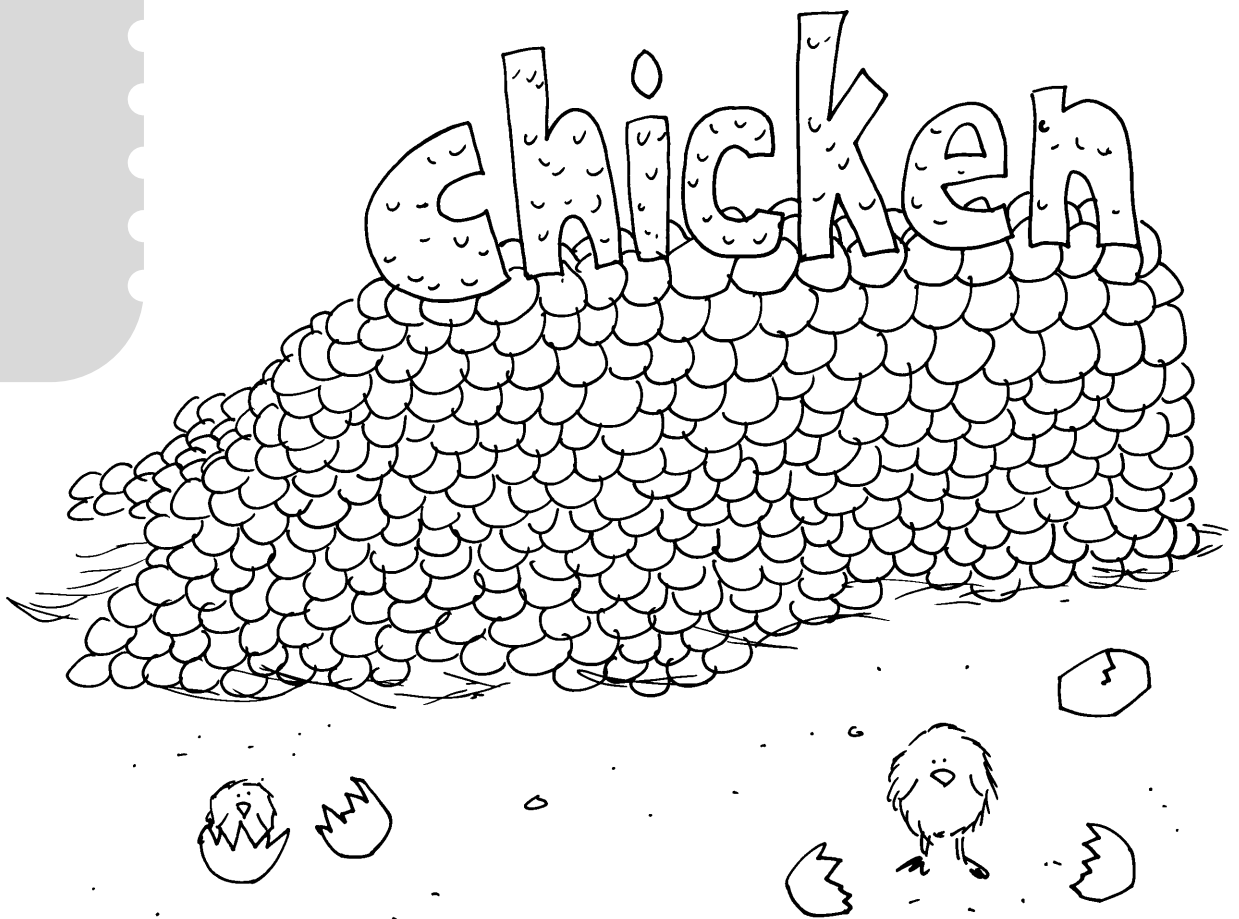


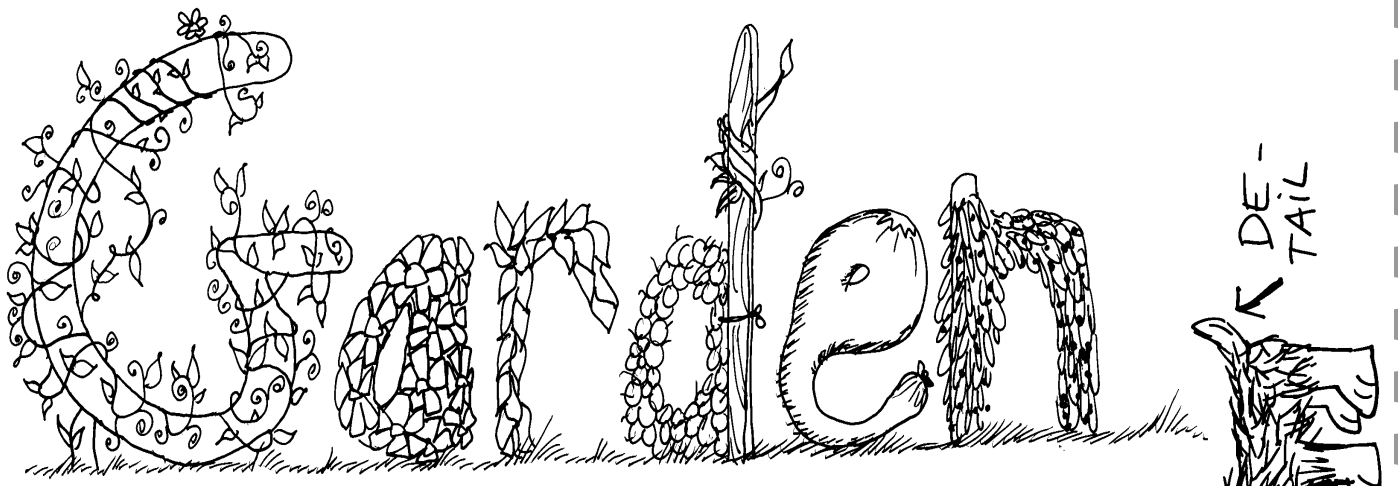
Little things can make all the difference. Even simple shapes, when repeated, can make your lettering look very complicated and very cool. Here are some examples:



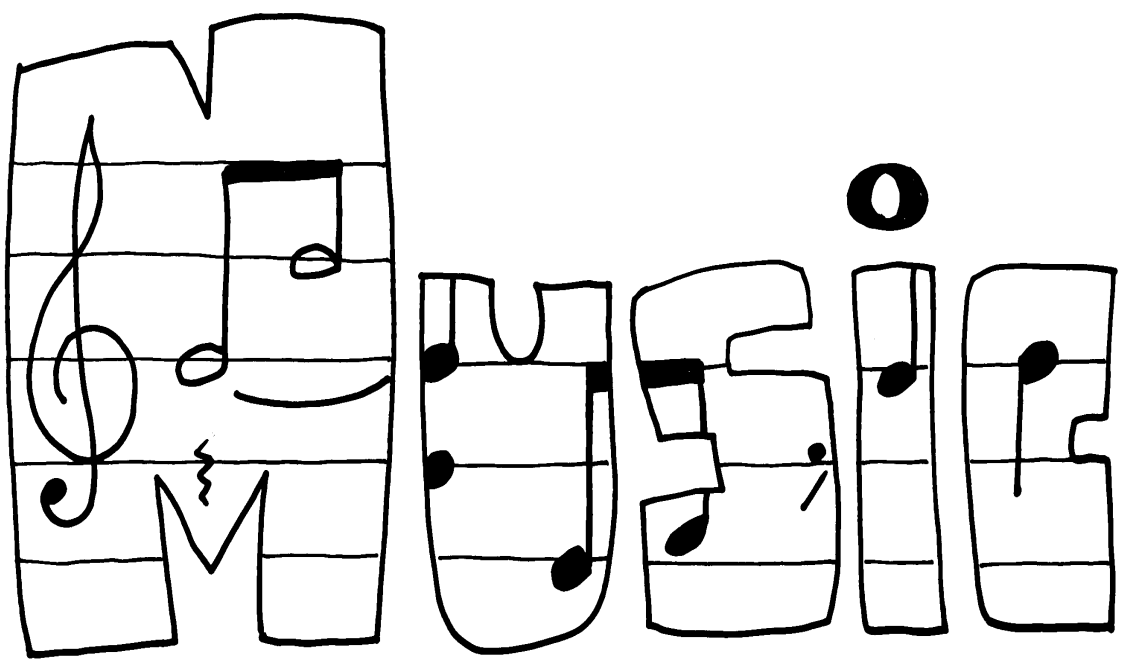
More Details

As you can see, the possibilities for adding details are almost limitless. Just remember to include lots and lots of shapes and to keep each of the shapes small.





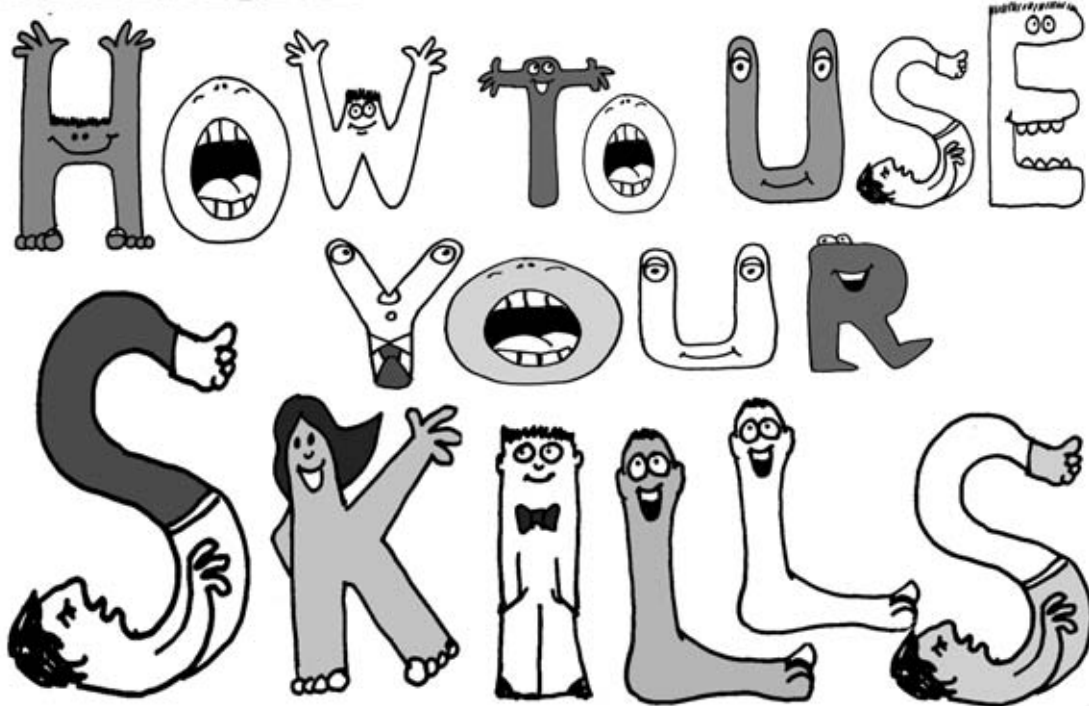
DE-DOG
DE-TAIL



ROBOT
EXHIBIT
SCIENCE LAB
2:00 THURSDAY
3:00 FRIDAY

Section Four

HOW TO USE
YOUR
SKILLS



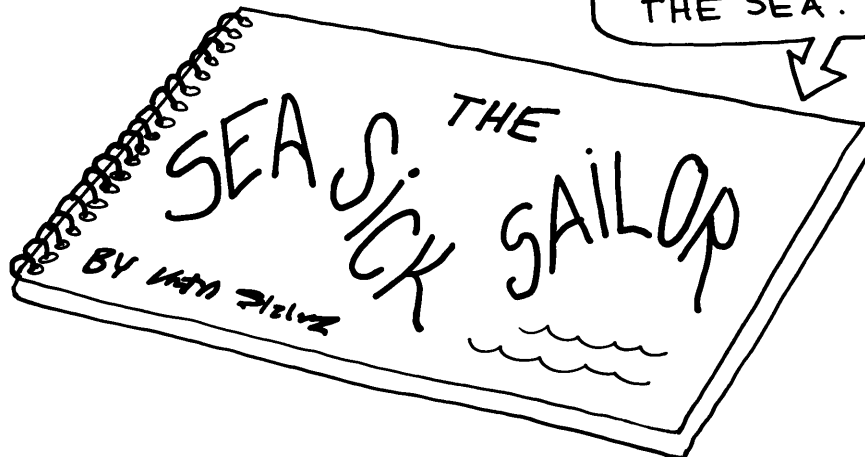
Book Illustrations

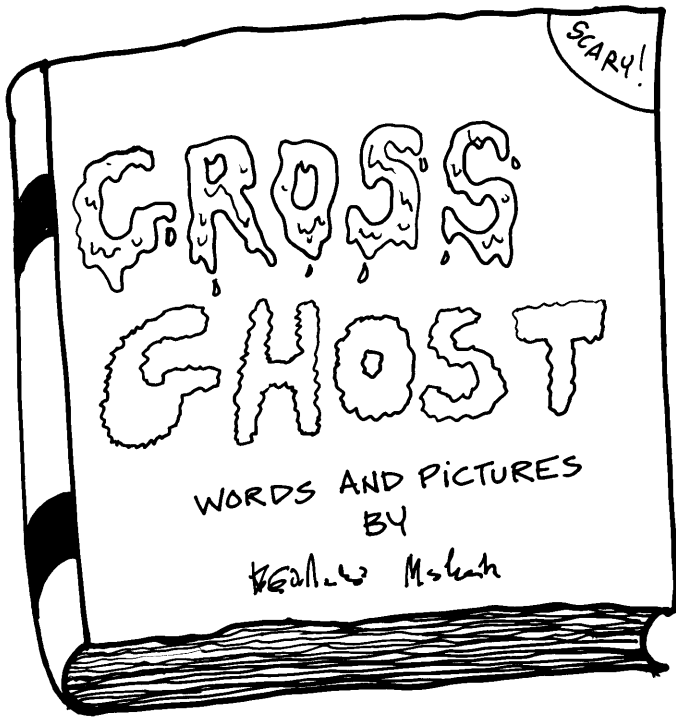
You may have a chance to write and illustrate your own book as part of your school's young authors/illustrators program. But even if you don't have a program like that at your school, you can still create your own books. And the first thing someone will see when they look at your book is the cover. A great cover illustration and interesting lettering can attract a reader that might otherwise pass up your book.



ON THIS BOOK COVER THE WORD "BIG" IS Big! ALSO, THE WORD "BIG" BREAKS THE BORDERS OF THE BOX.

HERE, THE WORDS "SEASICK SAILOR" ARE WAVY, LIKE WAVES ON THE SEA.

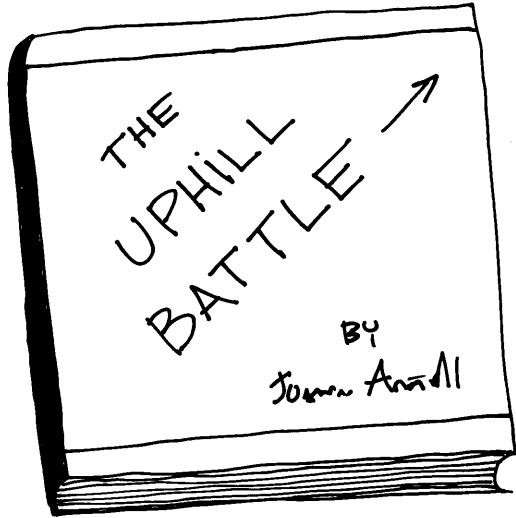




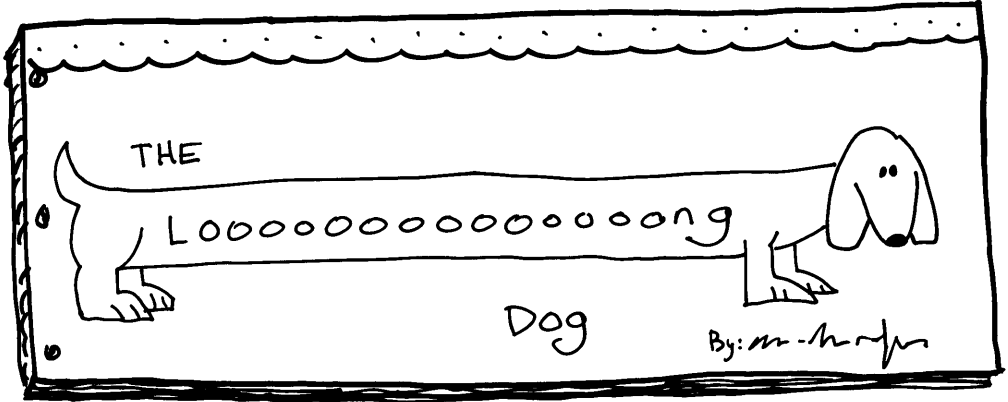
HERE'S SOME "COMBINATION" LETTERING. THE WORD "GROSS" IS DONE IN SLIMY LETTERING. THE WORD "GHOST" IS DONE IN NERVOUS LETTERING.



LOOK AT THE UNUSUAL ANGLE OF THESE LETTERS.



FUNNY!



Signs, Posters, Banners

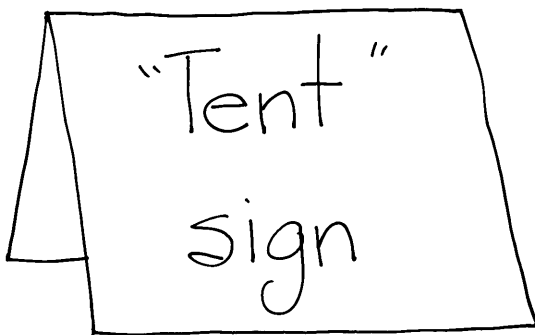
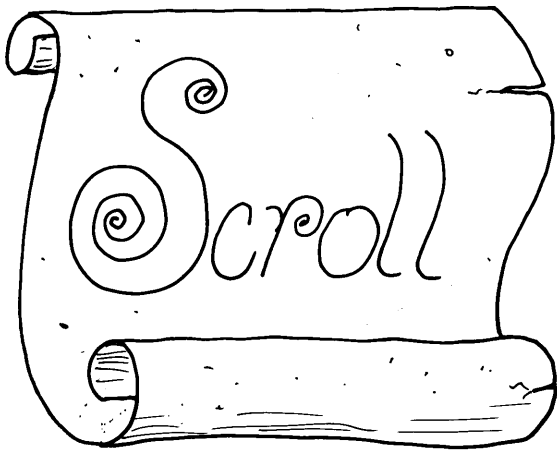
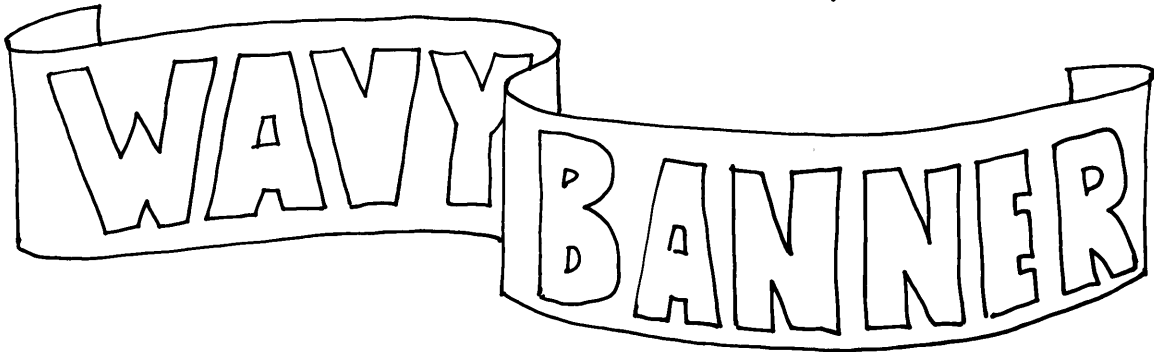
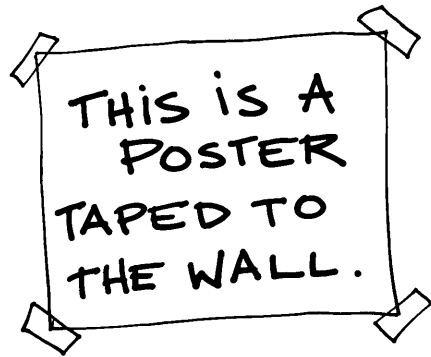
Computer lettering is fine for some signs and posters, but hand lettering gives you the opportunity to use your creativity in ways you just can't on a computer. Here are some ideas for school signs and banners you might try:



TRY DRAWING SOME SIMPLE CARTOONS TO GO ALONG WITH YOUR LETTERING.



HERE ARE
SOME SIGN,
POSTER, AND
BANNER SHAPES
YOU MIGHT
WANT TO USE.



Comic Books & Strips

Great lettering can be very important in a comic strip. Check out these examples of comic strips using some of the lettering in this book:

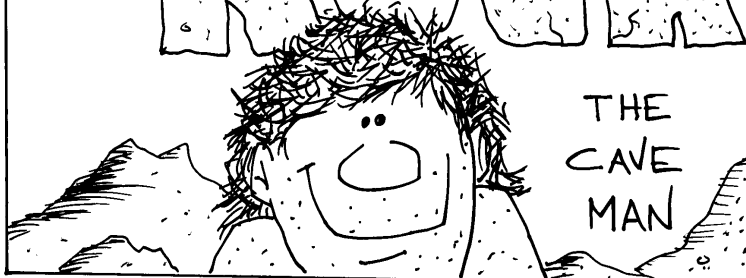


HE
OVER
LOOK
WAY.



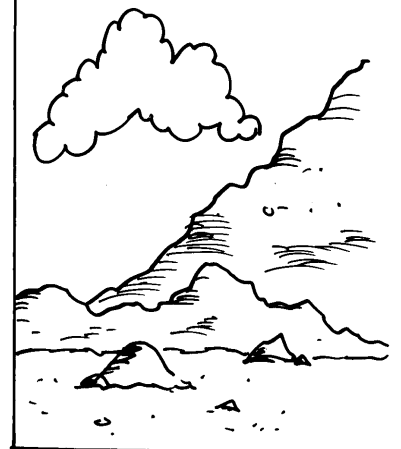
The Adventures of

ROCK



THE
CAVE
MAN

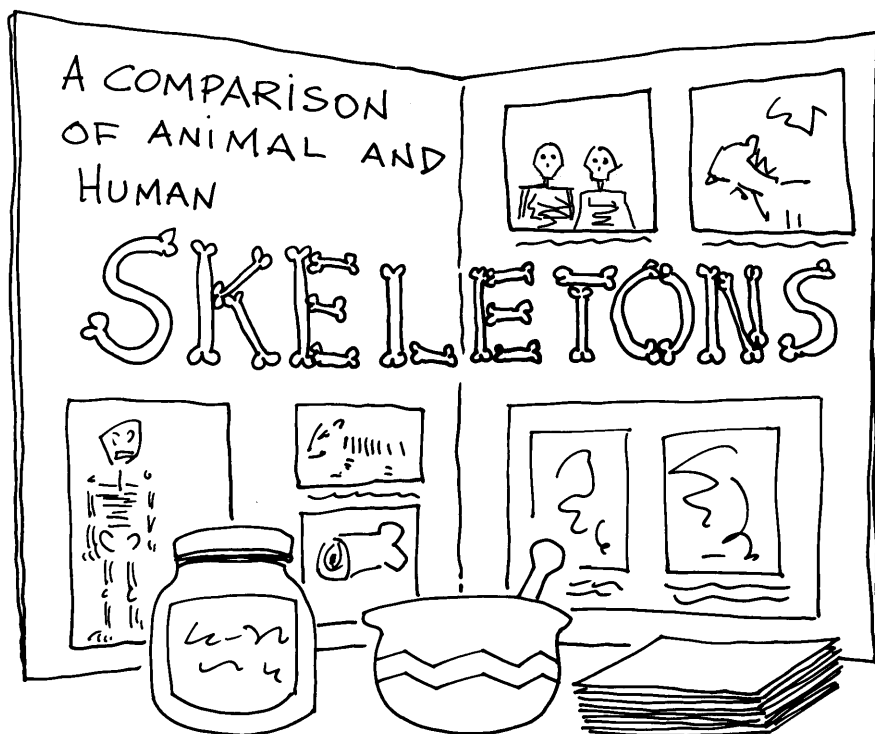
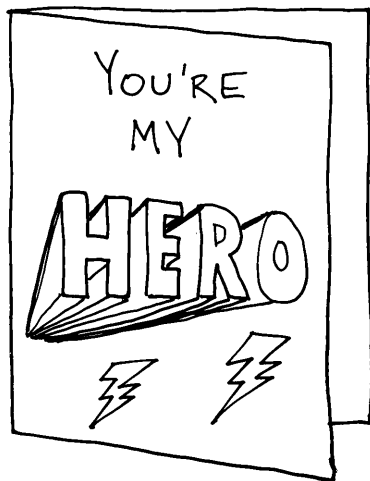
IT WAS A
LAVA FROM
QUIET VOLCA



Other Uses

As you continue to practice drawing these alphabets, you'll come up with lots of new ways to use them. Here are just a few ideas:

- Greeting cards
- Thank-you notes
- Wrapping paper
- School science projects
- Book covers
- T-shirts
- Sidewalk chalk drawings
- I'll bet you can come up with a lot more!



A Final Word

I've had a lot of fun sharing my drawing ideas with you. The most important thing to remember, however, is that YOU'VE got tons of great ideas too. As much fun as it is copying the alphabets in this book, it's even more fun to create your own alphabets. Give it a try. You're probably a lot more creative than you think.

If you come up with some good ideas, drop me a note. If you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your note, I'll write back to you. Here's how to contact me:



Hope to hear from you soon!

About the author

Mike Artell is the award-winning author and illustrator of dozens of books and tapes for children and teachers. Even though he has written and illustrated a number of picture books for children, Mike enjoys creating nonfiction and humor books best.

Every year, Mike visits schools and speaks to conferences all over the country. He shares his writing and drawing techniques and helps kids and adults learn how to think funnier.

Mike lives in Mandeville, Louisiana (near New Orleans), with his wife, Susan, a high school science teacher. Mike and Susan have two daughters, Stephanie and Joanna, and an almost completely worthless cat named Simba.

