

Comics & Culture Overview & Student Projects F2018

Nick Sousanis

San Francisco State University

sousanis@sfsu.edu

<http://spinweaveandcut.com/education-home/>

Comics Studies @SFSU

<https://humanitiesliberalstudies.sfsu.edu/minor-comics-studies>

Part 2: Sketchnotes of readings, authors, Joe Field

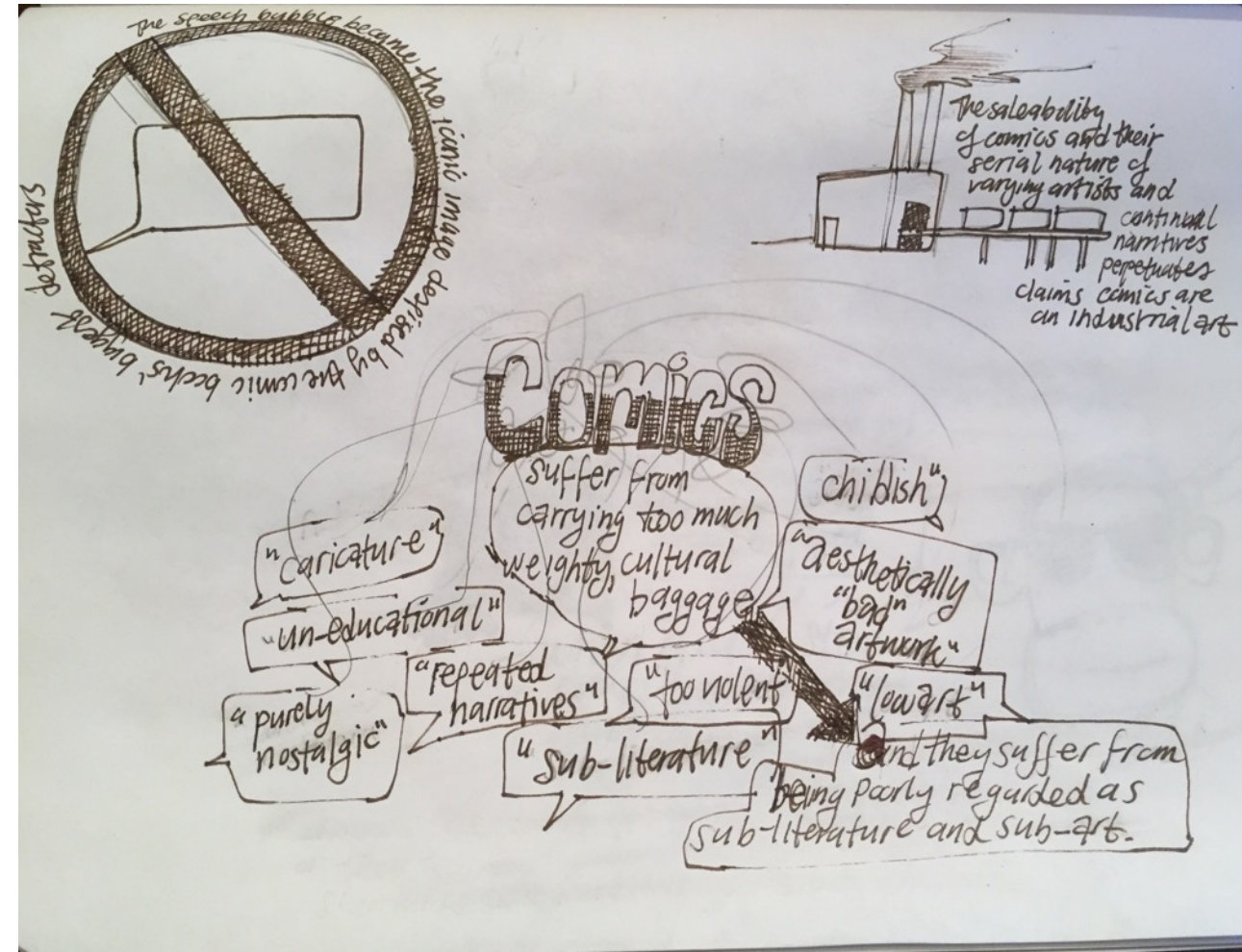
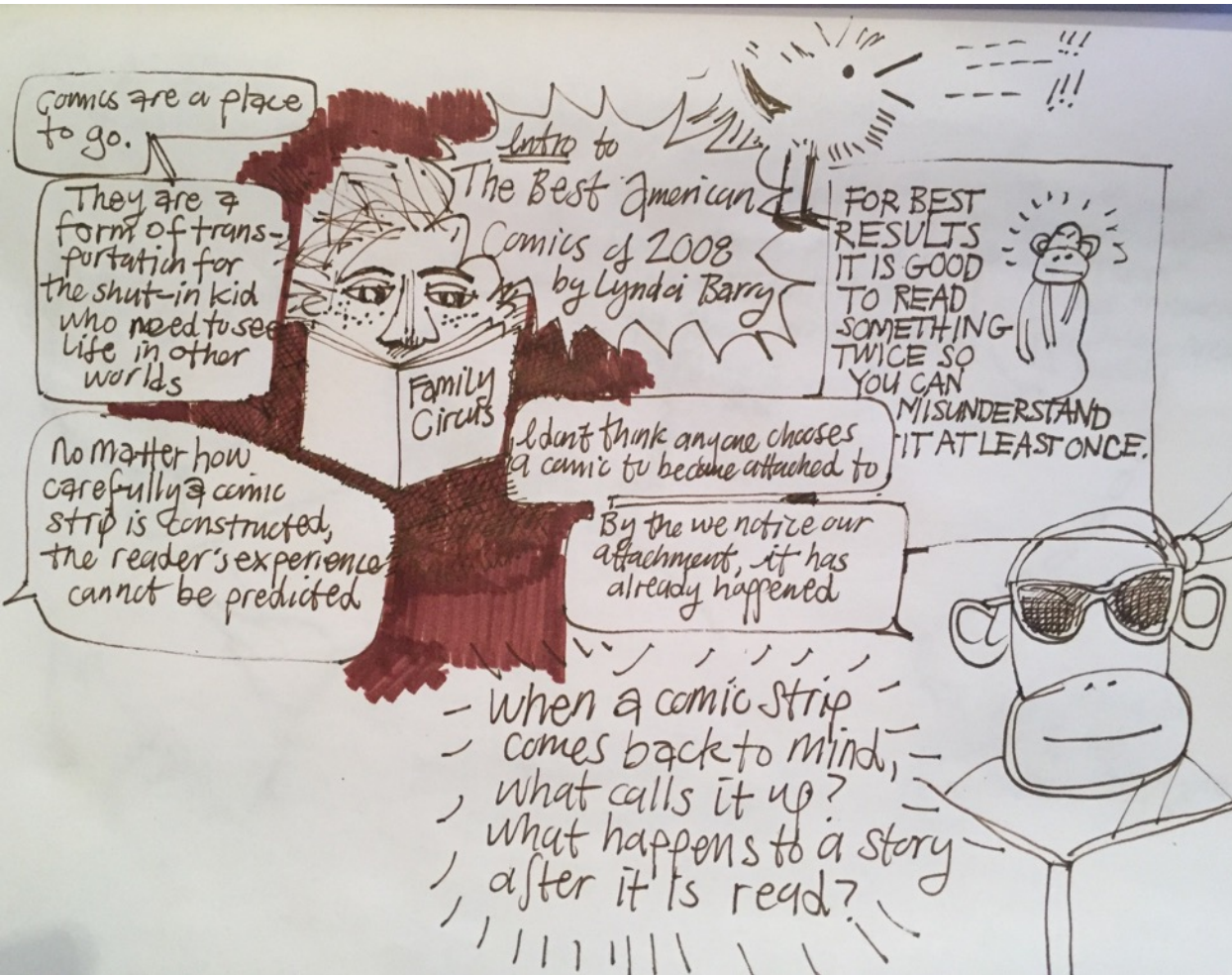
Sketchnotes! Visual notetaking in class and to readings

Sketchnote response to readings: Read Groensteen's essay & Lynda Barry's short comic and then make a sketchnote of your response to it - by first reading/watching the quick sketchnote resources I have provided.

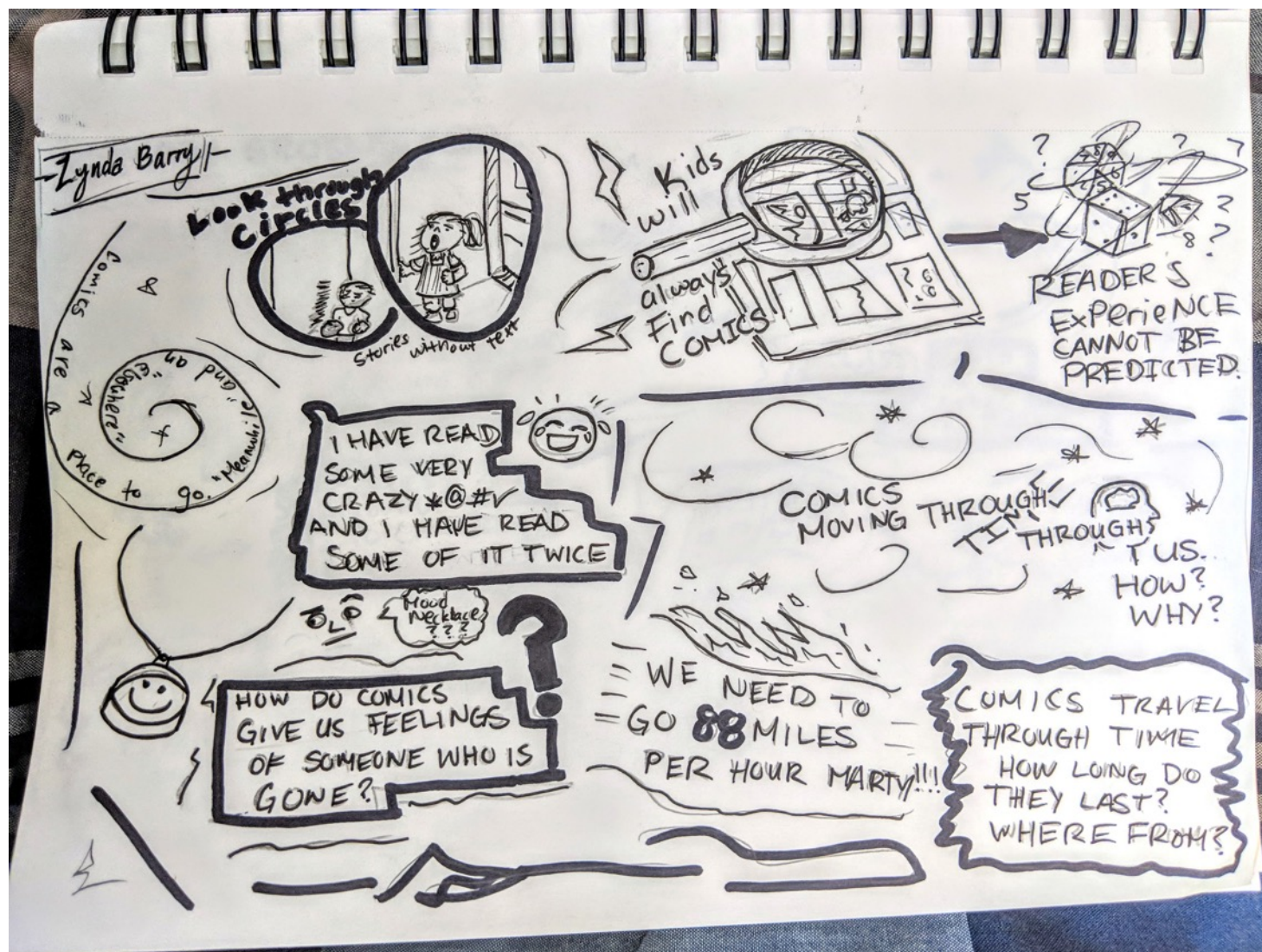
Read interview w/Mike Rohde on Sketchnoting: <https://creativemarket.com/blog/how-to-sketchnote-an-interview-with-mike-rohde>

Watch this short interview w/Giulia Forsythe on Sketchnotes: <http://gforsythe.ca/visual-notes/>

Look at this short drawn essay by Scott Torrance <https://medium.com/visual-thinking-in-business/the-shift-from-text-to-visuals-e260ef138fae>



Joseph

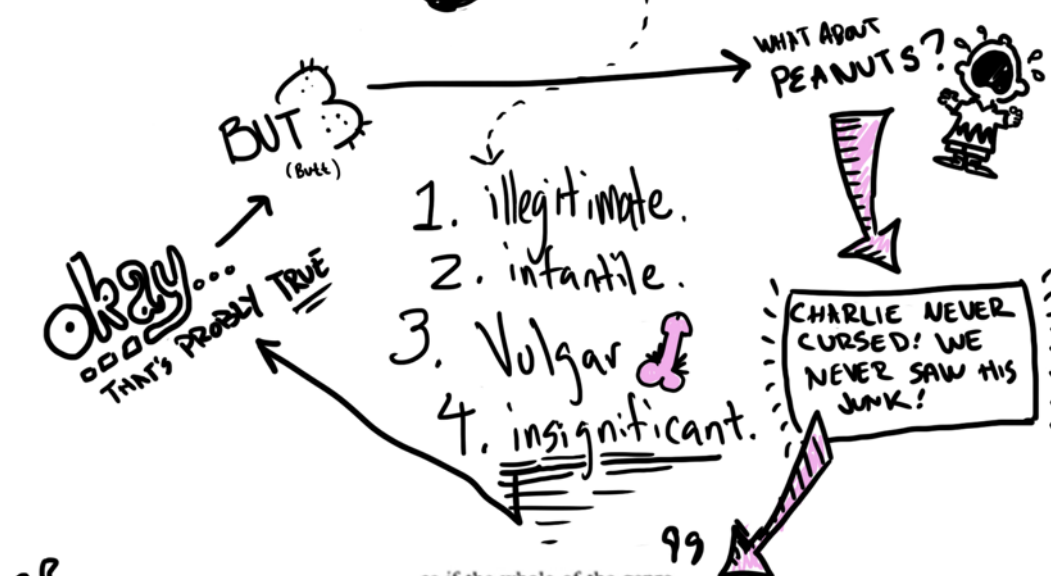


Chad



Erika

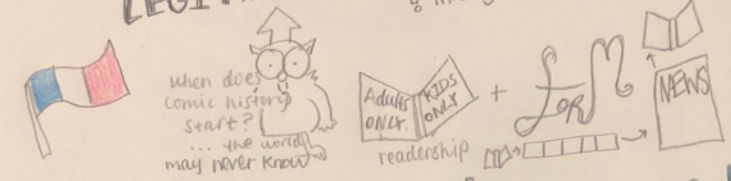
WHAT'S **Wrong** WITH COMIX?



as if the whole of the genre were to be lowered to the level of its most mediocre products – and its most remarkable incarnations ignored.

why can't comix reap the benefits of its
**MOST ACCOMPLISHED
ACCOMPLISHMENTS?**

WHY are Comics still in search of cultural LEGITimization? Thierry Groensteen



9th art
We need new criteria
"Comic art is an autonomous
and original medium"

Violence
Irrerality: stupid dangerous
POWER of the image

Bad for Kids

- Protect children
NO CHILDRENS RIGHTS
- No such thing as Teenage Culture
- Kids are stupid, their imagination is greater than **REASON**

We hate word balloons!
FREE THE SIMPLE
DIALOGUES & SAVE
Literature!!

diametrically opposed
words VS image
reason VS emotional expression

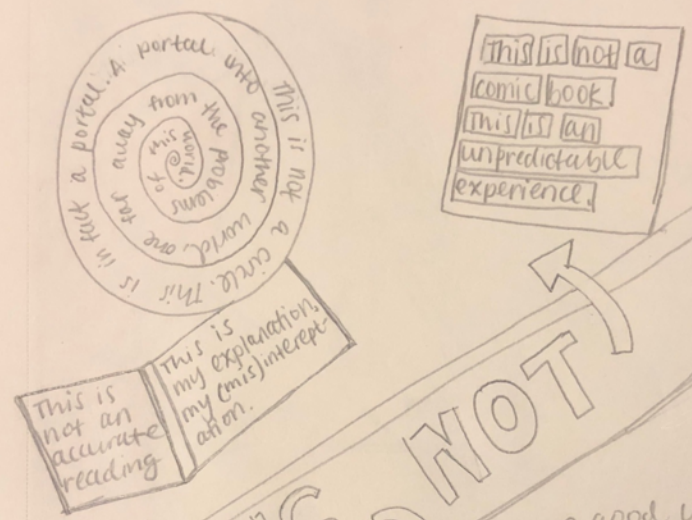
West is Logocentric
East blends the two
NOT PURE

- ↑ vs. ↓ are **The Sins**
- Hybrid - text + image
[we only like it in cars!]
 - sub-literature stories
para-literature
 - similar to caricature
[which we all hate...]
 - stuck in childhood
[grow up!] nostalgia

Humor isn't funny. ~~Beauty merit utility~~

Daylan Buchanan

Intro into the Best American Comics 2008 Lynda Berry



THIS IS NOT

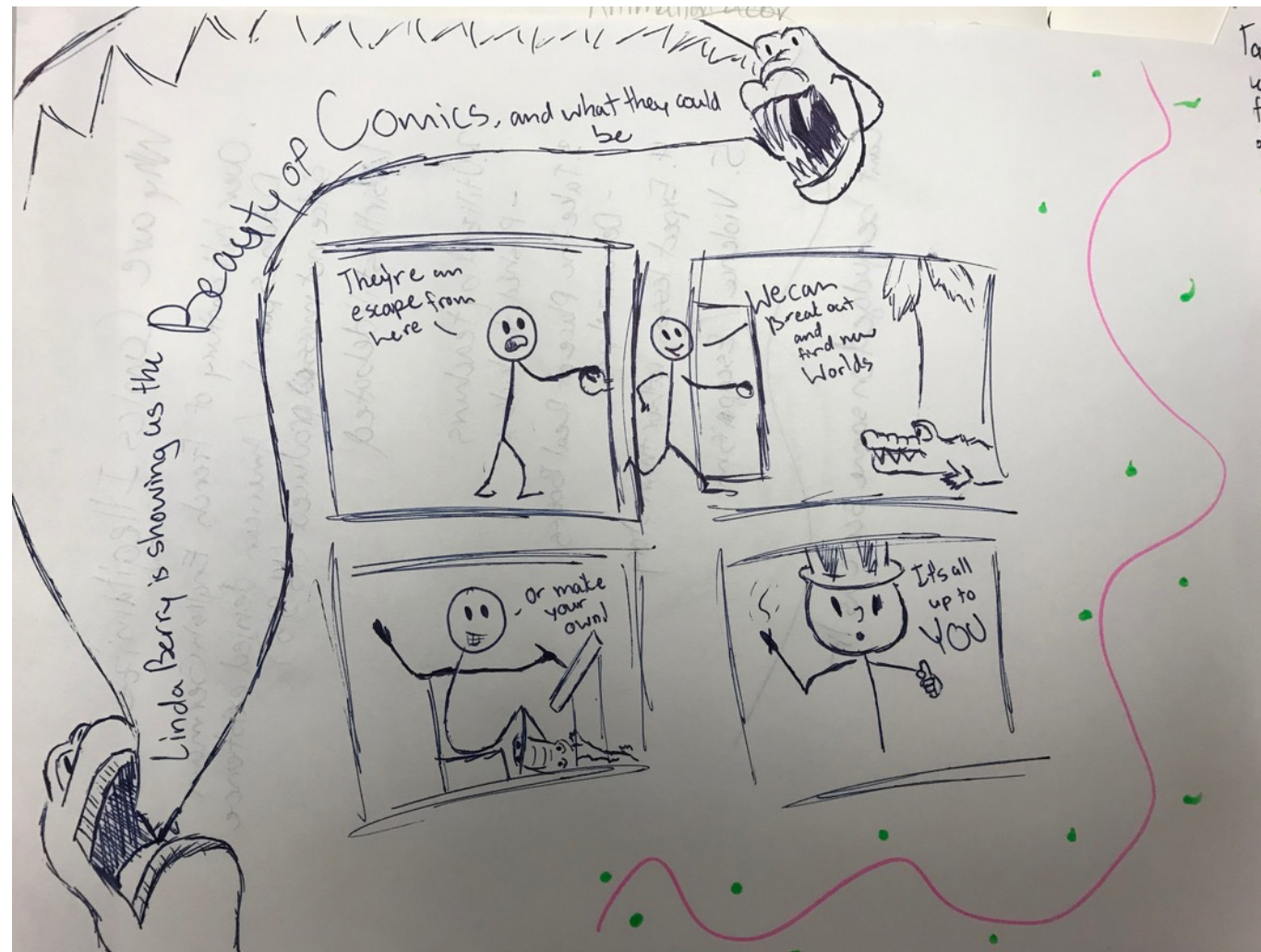
a good way
to understand
yourself

Dealing with
complex human
emotions and
experiences

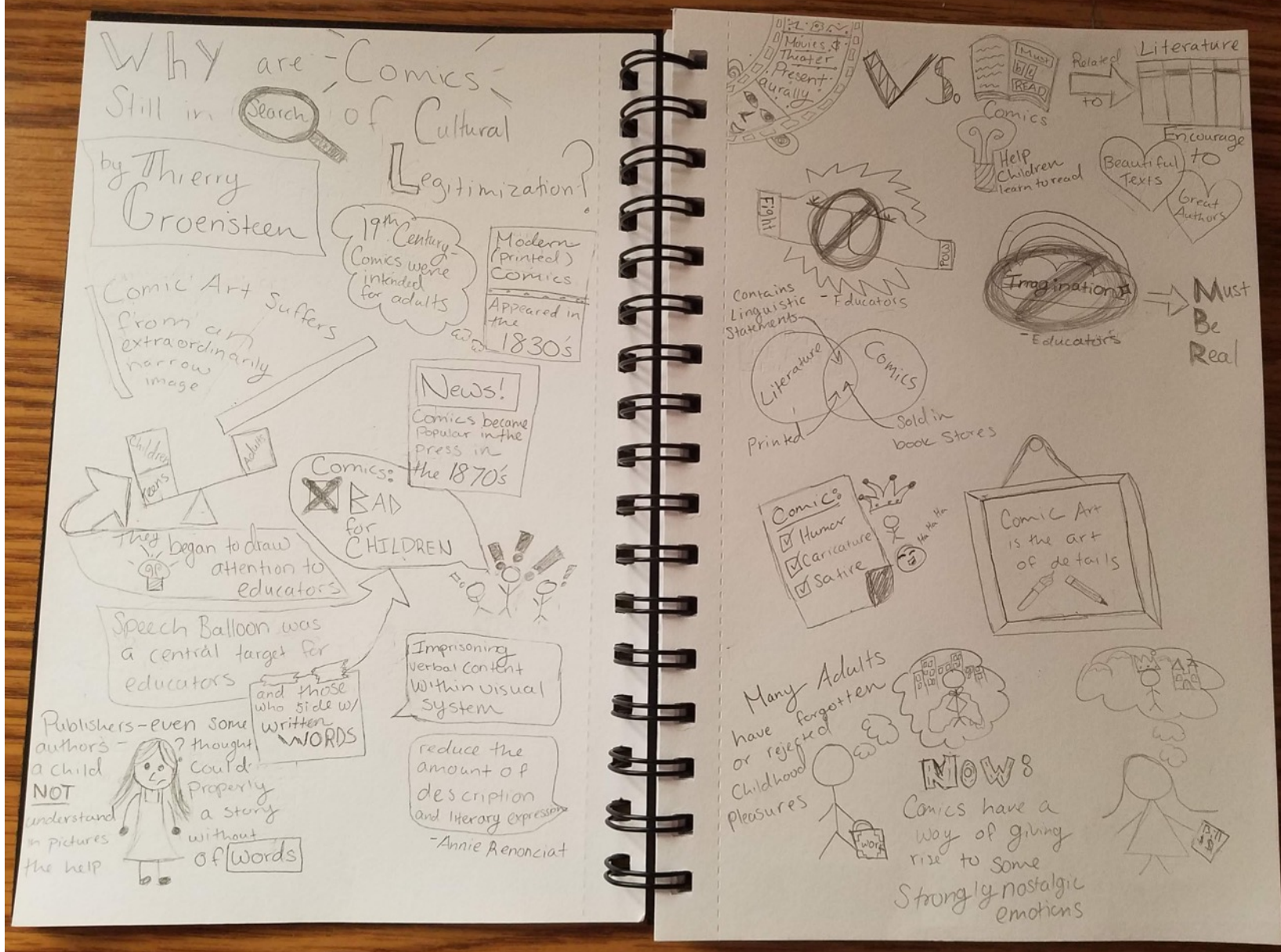
to meet new
people
Hi Hi

GOOD CONTENT

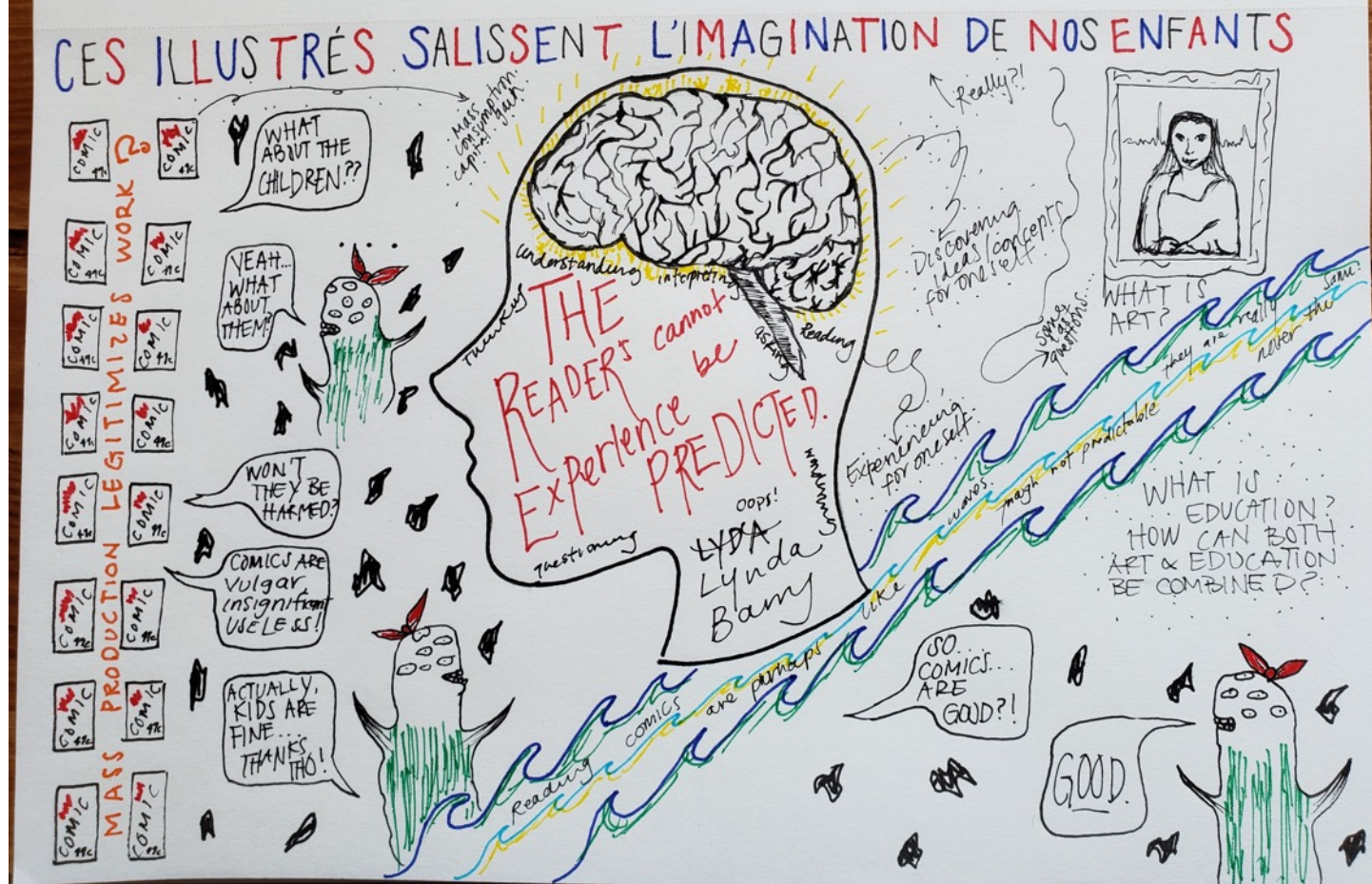
Daylan Buchanan



Ellis

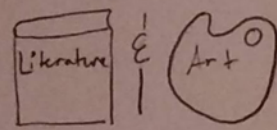


Samantha

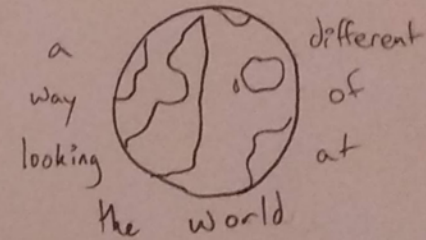
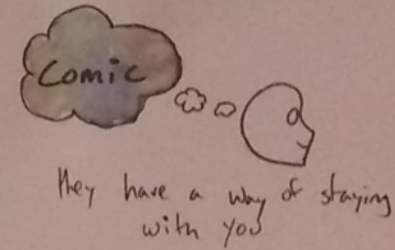
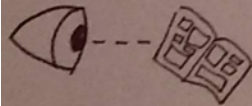


Gina

a look at COMICS and their perceived unimportance

both

it is considered
NEITHER

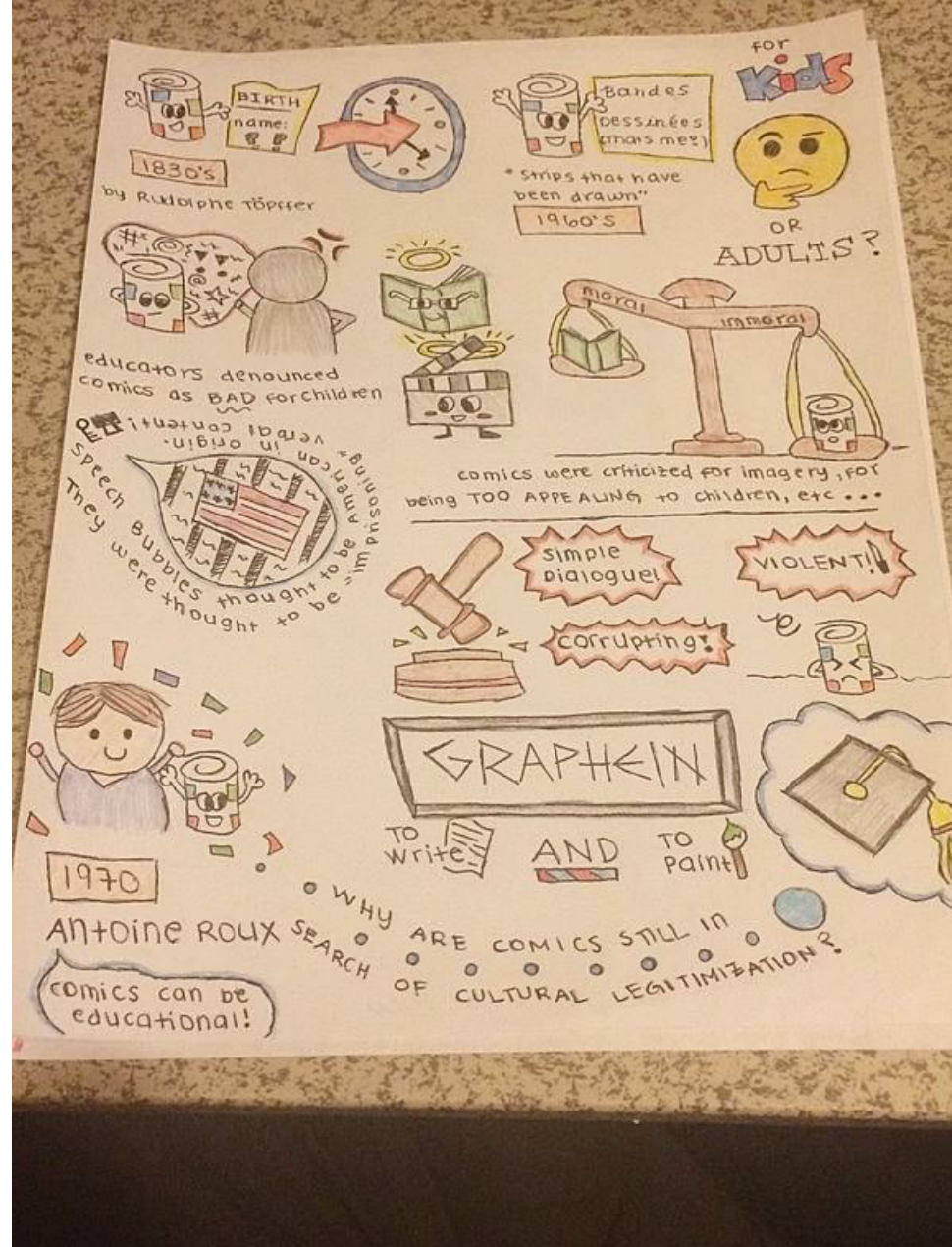
not originally meant
for kids but still
caught their
attention



there's **NOTHING**
else like them



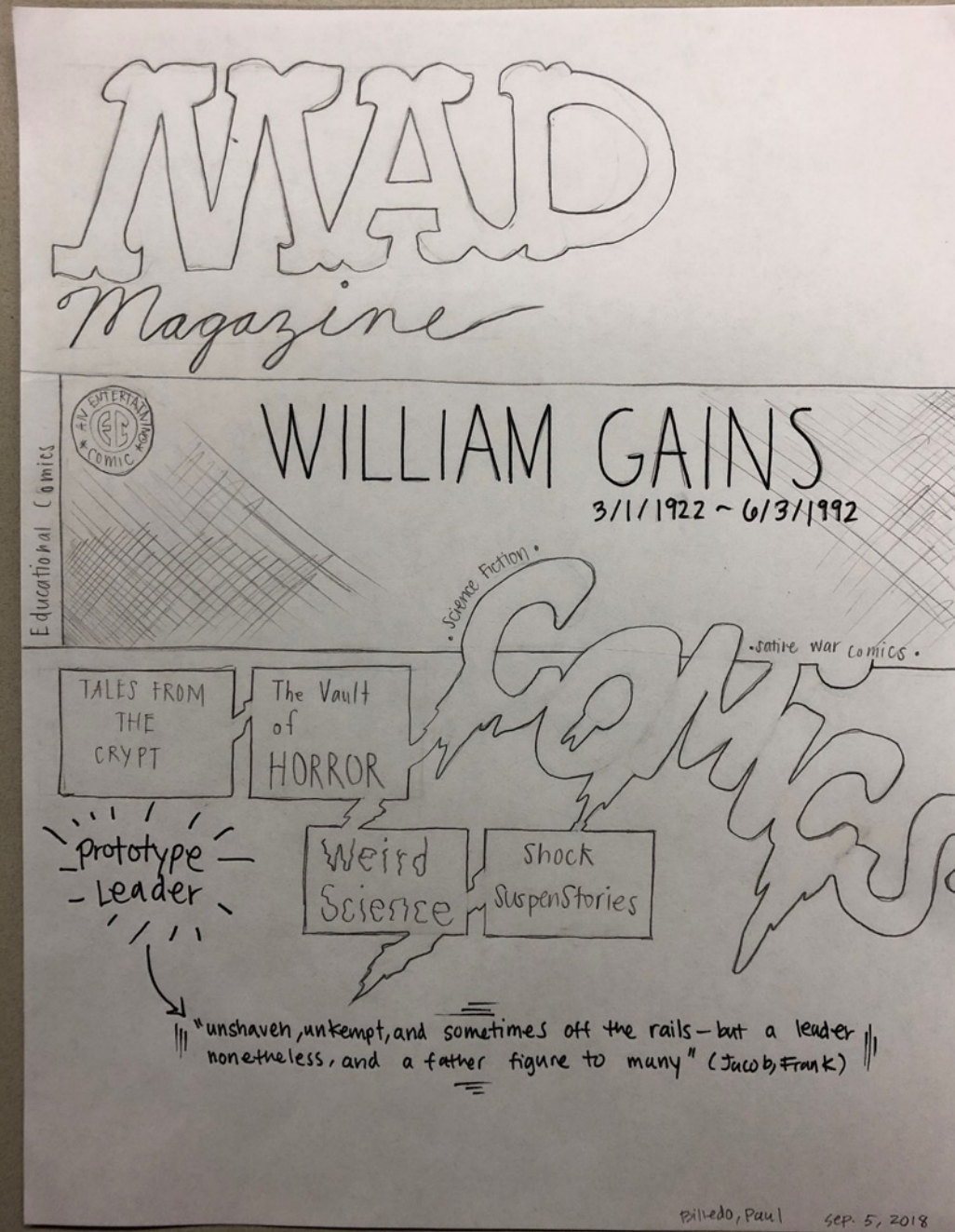
a way to go back and be a kid again

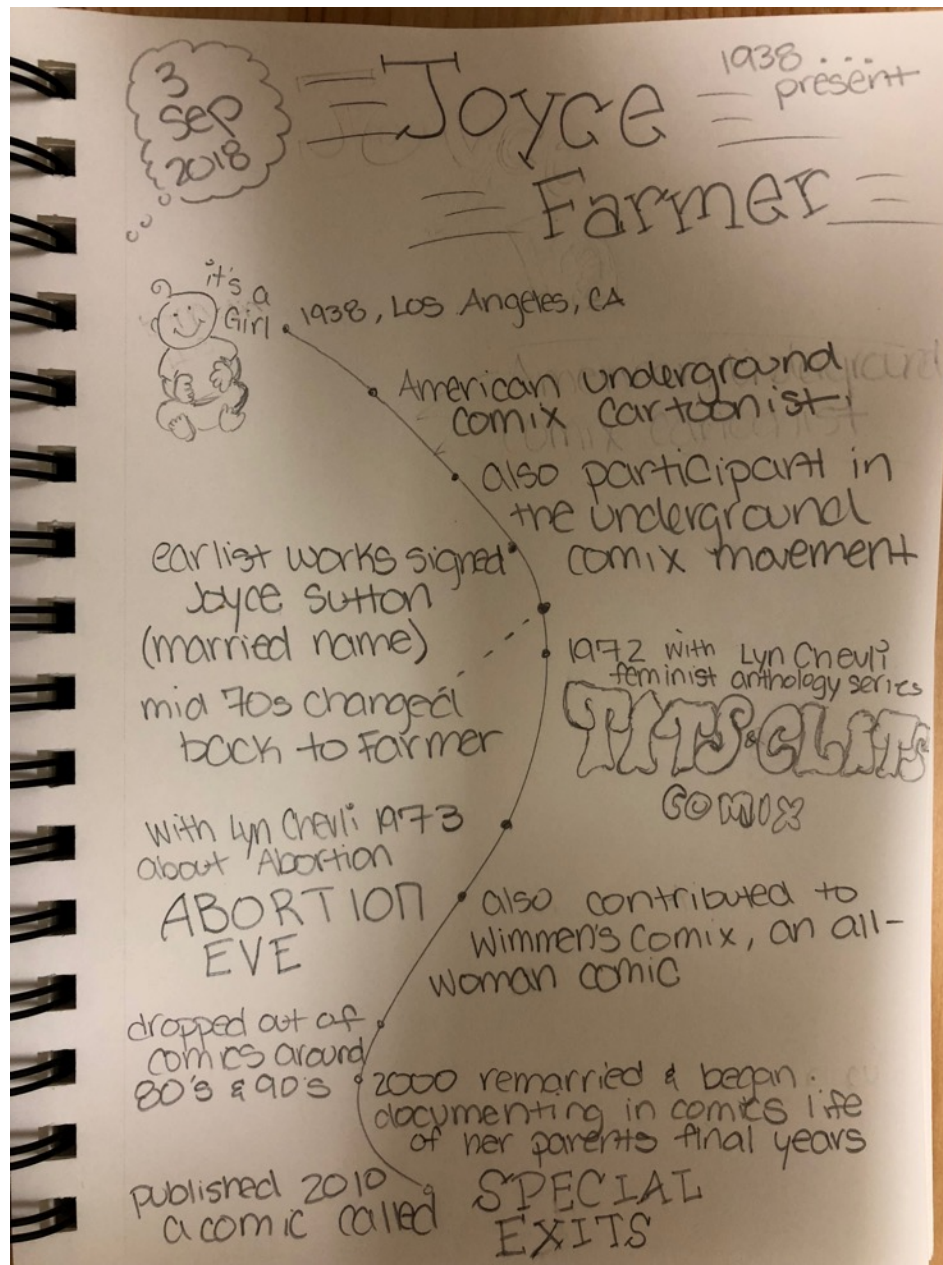


Sketchnote of a Comics Creator

You are to do a small amount of research about a comics creator selected in class. Wikipedia is fine - but back it up with some other site where you see a sample or two of their work. **MAKE** a quick sketchnote about your author - what is significant about them in the history of comics - and post that along with an image or two of their work here (this could also be something you redraw or paste within your sketchnote). It's not a huge assignment - I just want you to spend a little bit of time learning about someone you are interested in or perhaps never heard of. I included these in the class slides.

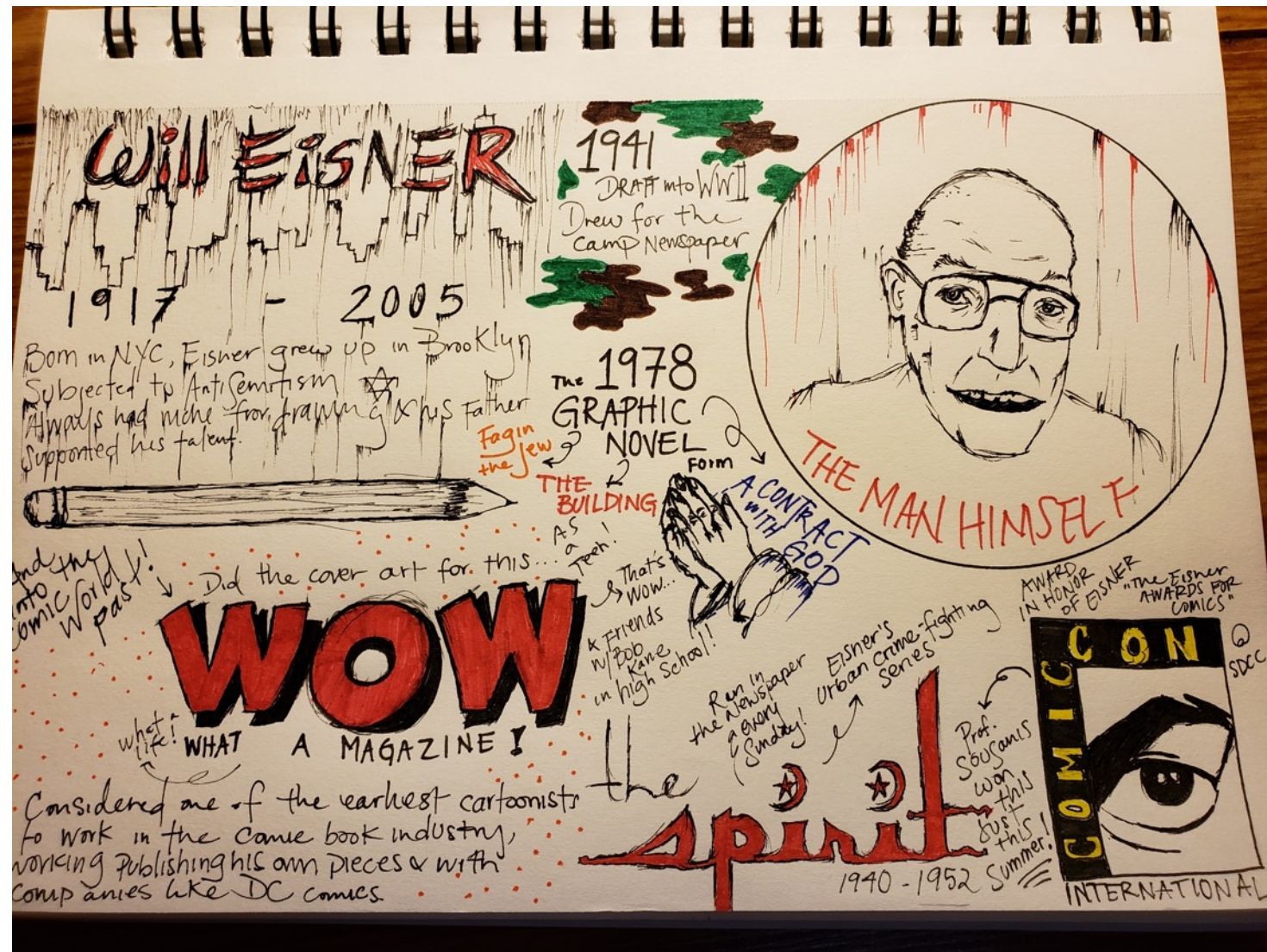
William Gaines by Paul





Joyce Farmery by Eden





By Gina

SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2018
E's SKETCHNOTES!

Harvey Pekar

1939-2010

WHAT I KNOW...

- Kind of curmudgeonly with a big heart
- Comics writer
- read a few of his comics (bits + pieces)
- R. Crumb drew some of his comics/friend
- loves record
- Cleveland born and bred!
- Saw the American Splendor film and loved it!
- Saw him on Anthony Bourdain's No Reservations Cleveland episode - it was a bit awkward, but awesome!
- A purist in every sense... a true eccentric!
- Record collector
- File clerk

AMERICAN SPLENDOR

YOUNG PEKAR:

- felt different from his family
- 1st language - Yiddish
- Got beat up a lot
- "profound sense of inferiority"
- became "respected street scrapper"
- dropped out of college, joined Navy, became file clerk
- remained a file clerk even after Comics success!

ALL THIS MAKES FOR GREAT COMICS!

Becomes friends with R. Crumb who draws many of the American Splendor series.

other artists:

- Robert Armstrong
- Greg Budgett
- Willy Murphy
- Spain Rodriguez
- Josh Neufeld

"Comics could do anything that film could do."

"I theorized for maybe ten years about doing Comics."

DARK HUMOR
SOCIAL ISSUES
DIVULGENT
POIGNANT
RELATABLE

"YOU CAN DO ANYTHING WITH WORDS AND PICTURES"

"Chronicles Cleveland's Commonplace lives"

2012: Statue of Harvey Pekar erected in Cleveland Library

testament to importance of Comics + creators

WHO IS A COMICS ARTIST?

Comics Connect us to our humanity

Followed his own path... also uncomfortable with his recognition - doesn't quite accept fit in with the world

ORDINARY LIFE IS PRETTY COMPLEX STUFF.

THE POET LAUREATE OF CLEVELAND

=an enigma=

=UNDERGROUND COMICS=

PROCESS

Think a lot, then get it down.

Shares his experiences

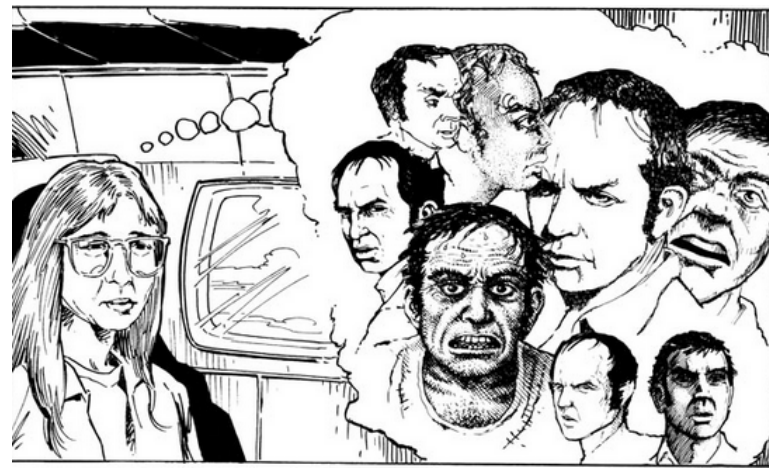
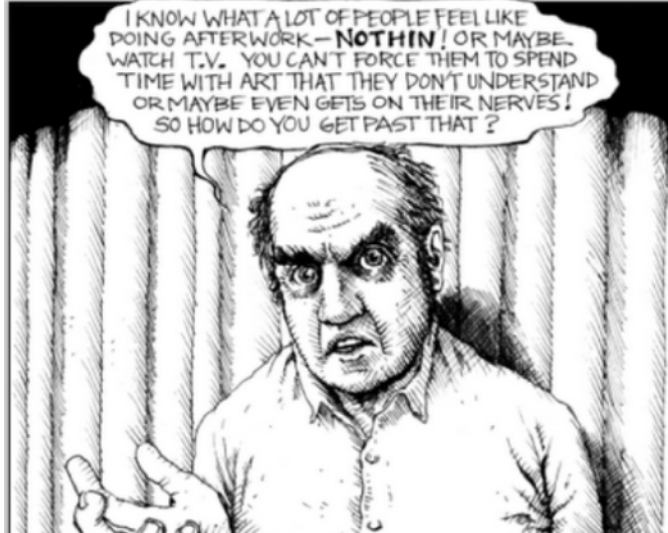
His comics start with stick figures and chicken scratch

look like this

then an artist draws his stories

COMES OUT OF THE PEN I'M ON STREET

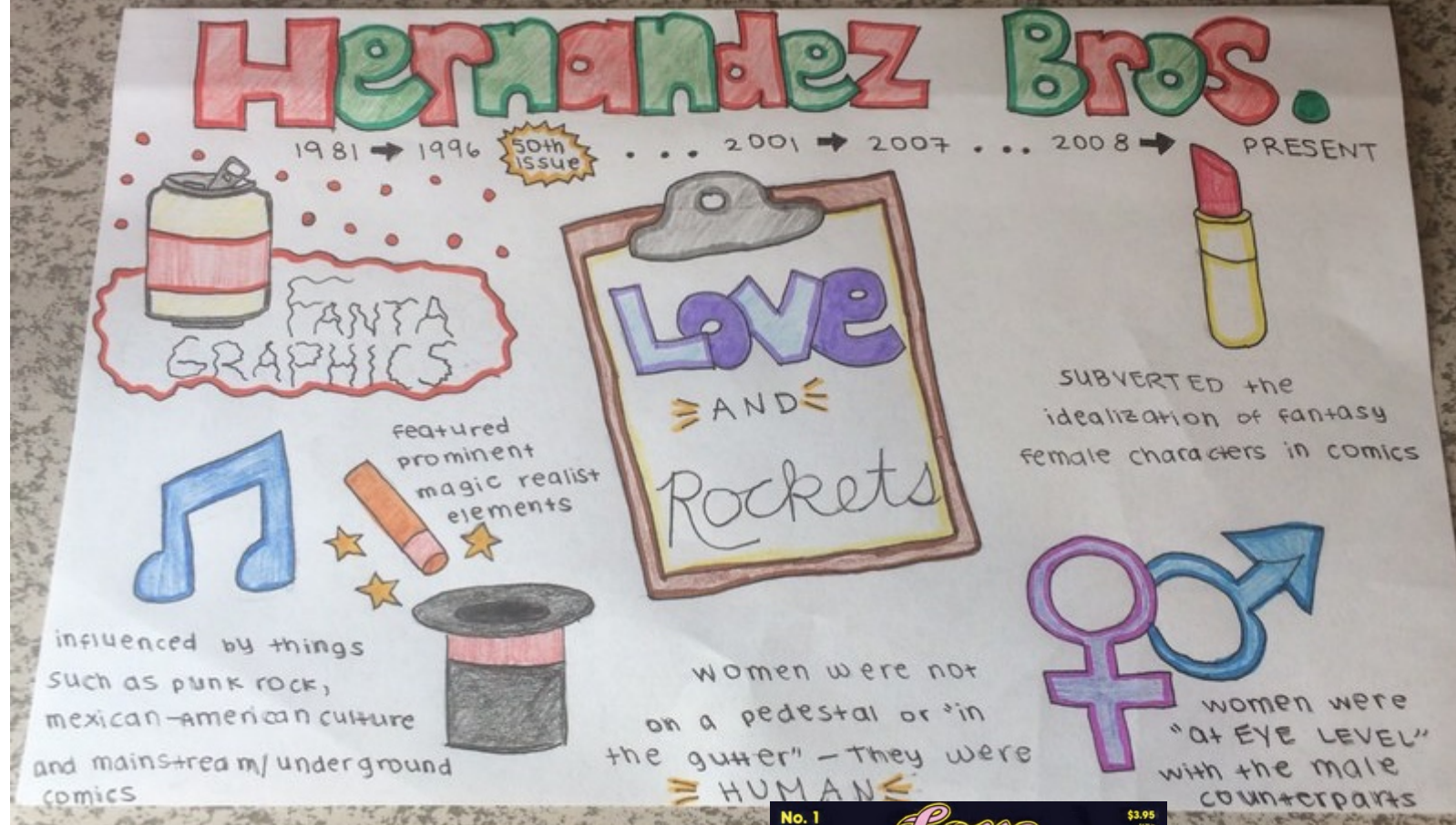
Cleveland Rocks!



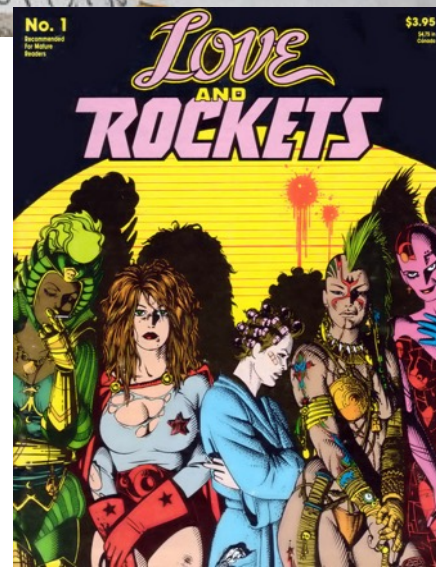
Erika



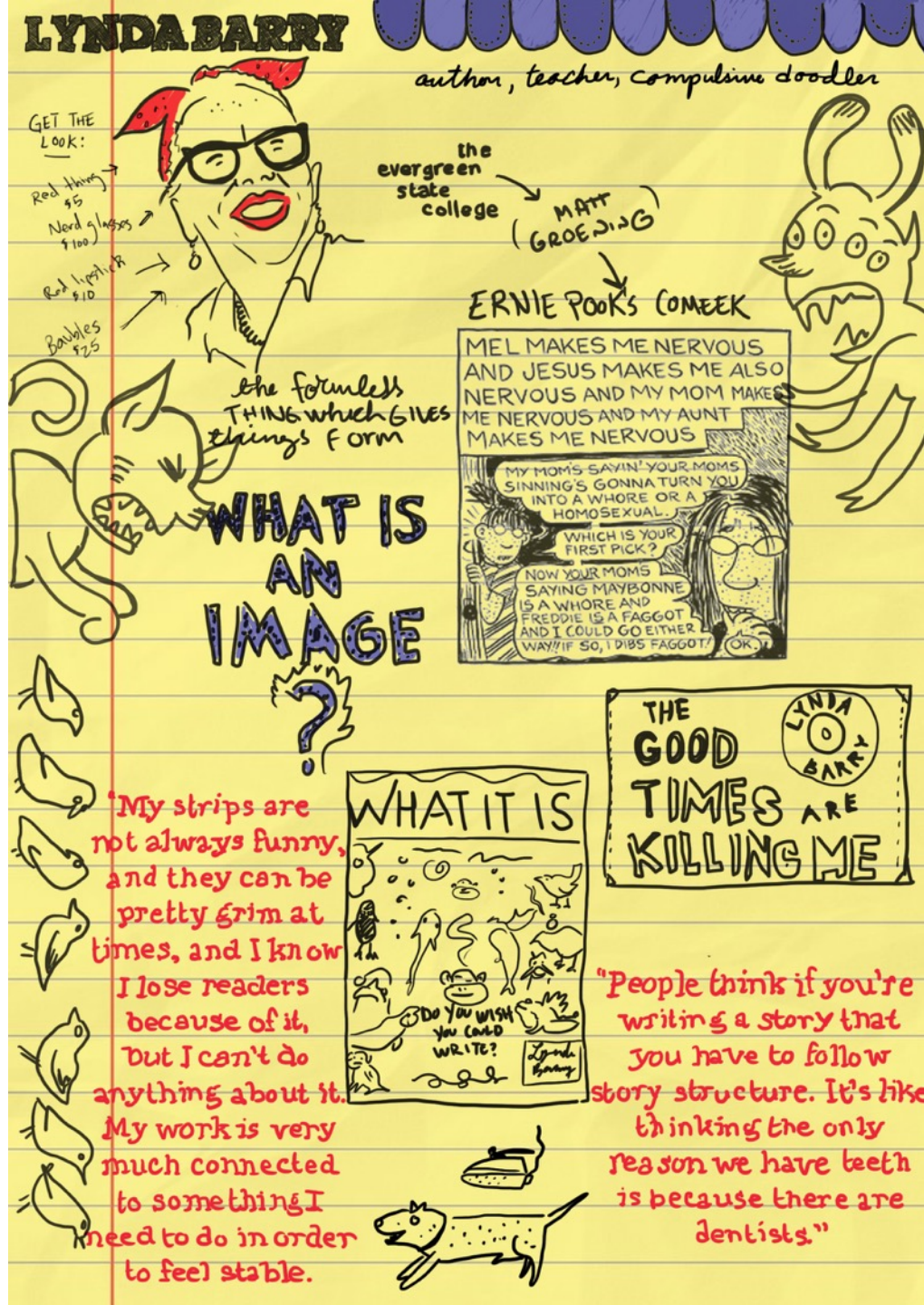
Chad on Alan Moore



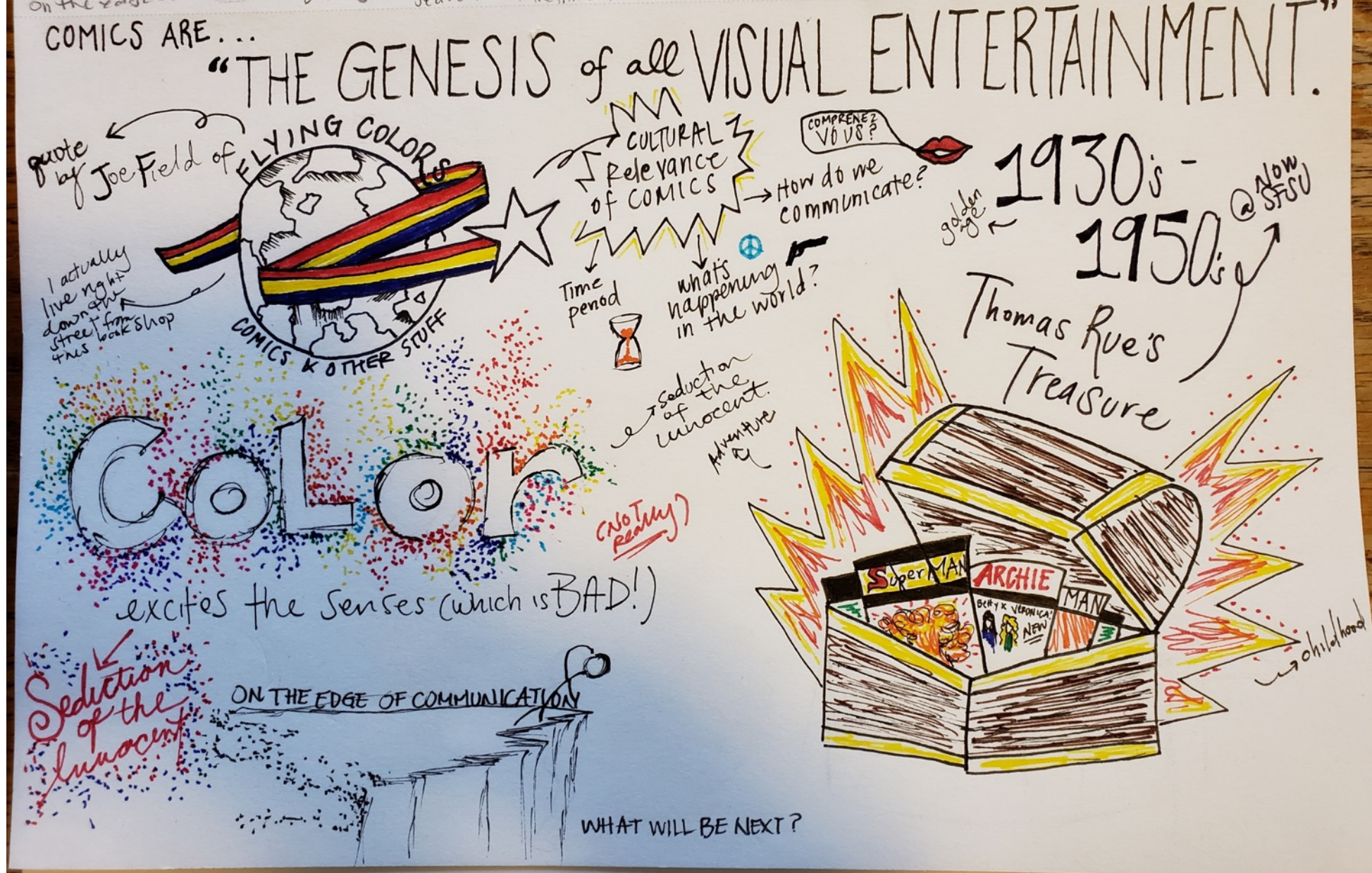
Hernandez Brothers by Ramasha



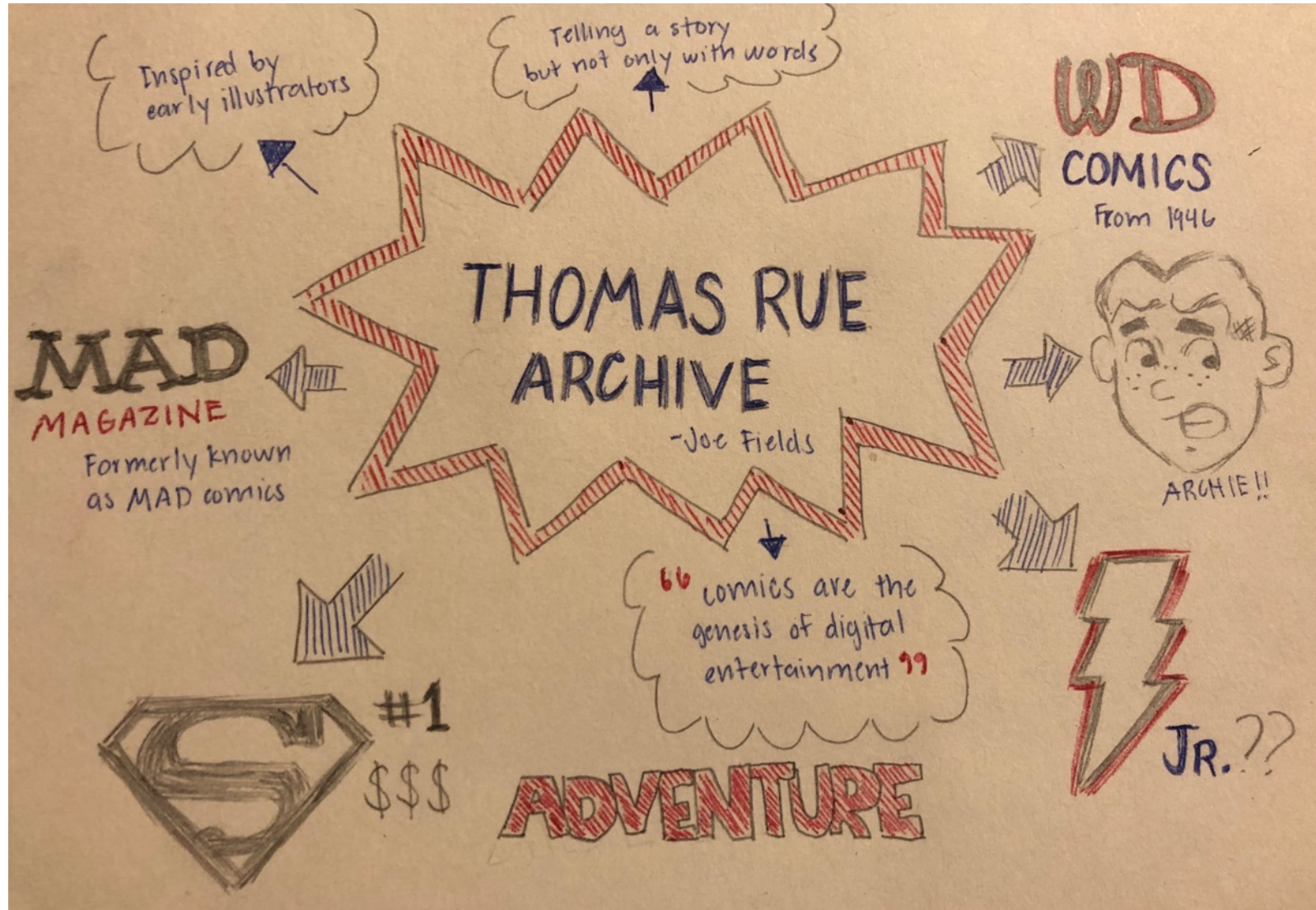
Lynda Barry
by Chance



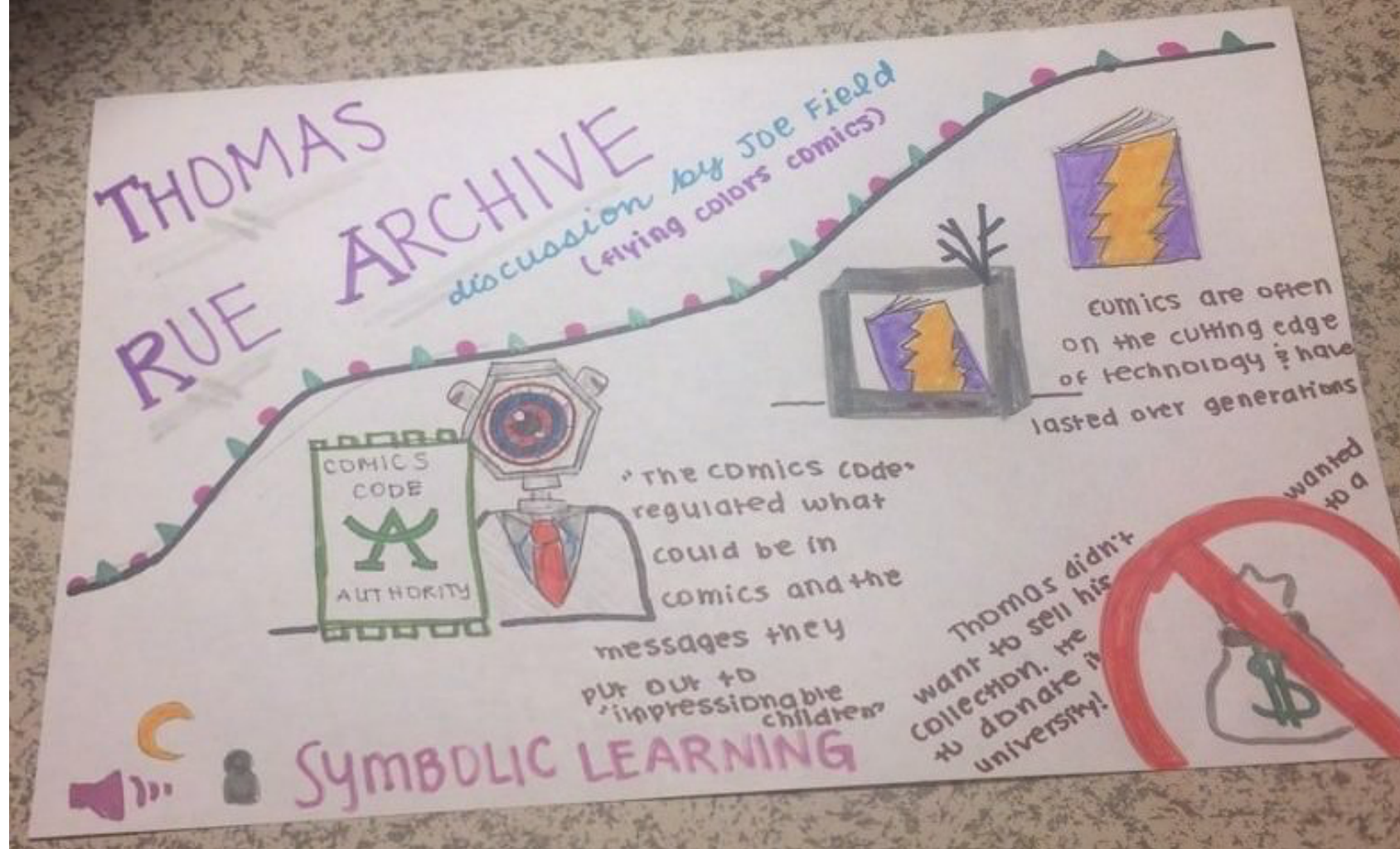
Sketchnotes to Joe Field's talk at the
comics archive in the library



Gina: I greatly enjoyed the discussion on the history of comics by Joe Field and a peek into Thomas Rue's amazing collection; we are so lucky to have his treasure at SFSU! I wanted to highlight the quote by Mr. Field "Comics are the genesis of all visual entertainment" which was fascinating and made me think about comic cultural significance today.



Justin: I think it was exciting to know that they are adding this collection to the archive. I know that specific comics are pretty hard to come by and having this collection gives us access to some rare comics.



Ramasha