LEARN COMICS WITH THE CREATOR OF

THE SOLVERS
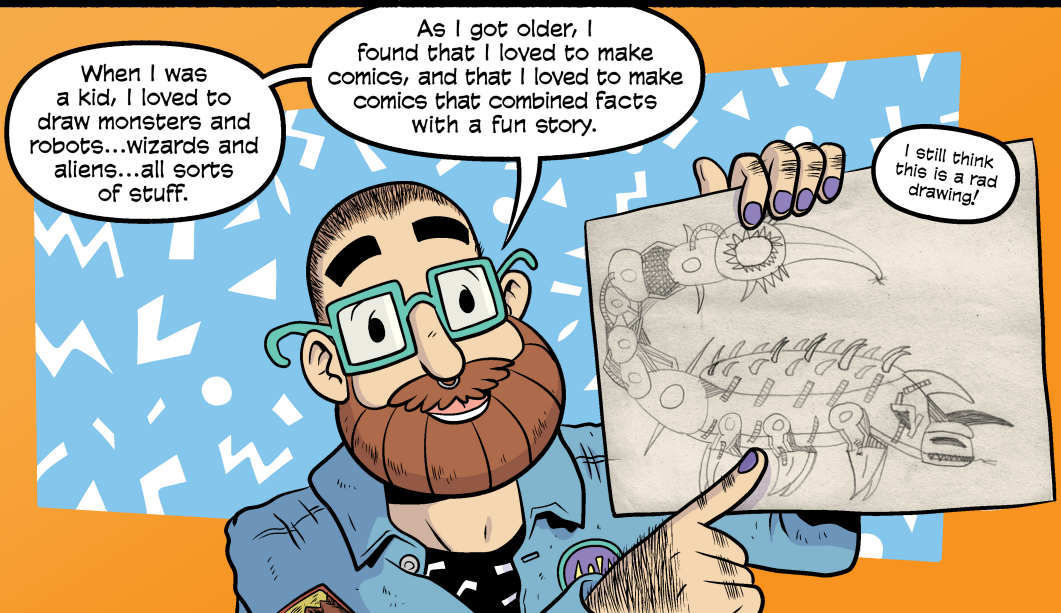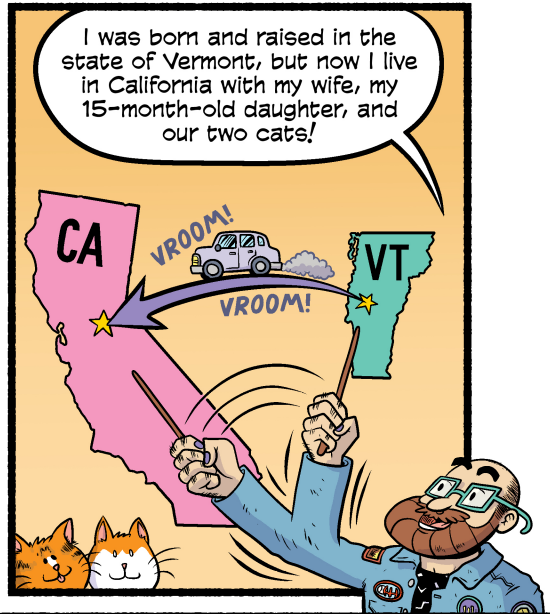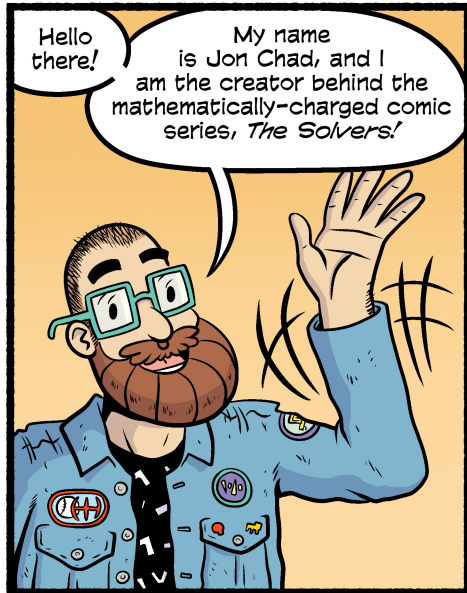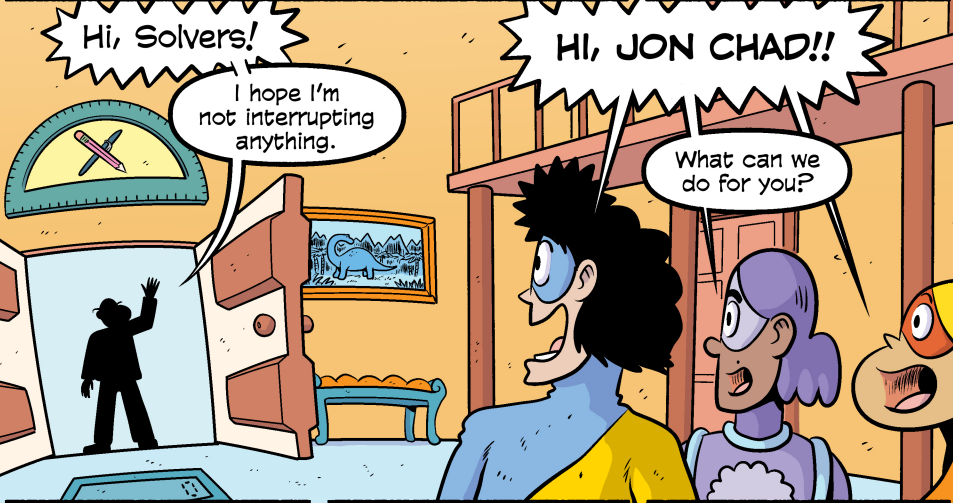
DESIGNING CHARACTERS

Hello there!

My name is Jon Chad, and I am the creator behind the mathematically-charged comic series, *The Solvers!*

I was born and raised in the state of Vermont, but now I live in California with my wife, my 15-month-old daughter, and our two cats!

CA

VROOM!

VROOM!

VT

When I was a kid, I loved to draw monsters and robots...wizards and aliens...all sorts of stuff.

As I got older, I found that I loved to make comics, and that I loved to make comics that combined facts with a fun story.

I still think this is a rad drawing!

I'm here today at the **Math Mansion**, the home of that ingenious superhero team, **The Solvers**—

—because I need their help to share some cool tips about designing characters with you all!

BEEP

BEEP

Hey Jon! Come on in! The Solvers will be pumped to see you!

Thanks, Rosy!

Hi, Solvers!

I hope I'm not interrupting anything.

HI, JON CHAD!!

What can we do for you?

I misplaced my cartooning handout about designing characters, and I was wondering if I could grab the copy I gave you real quick?

"Real quick!?!"

Leave it to me!

!!!

Here you go!!
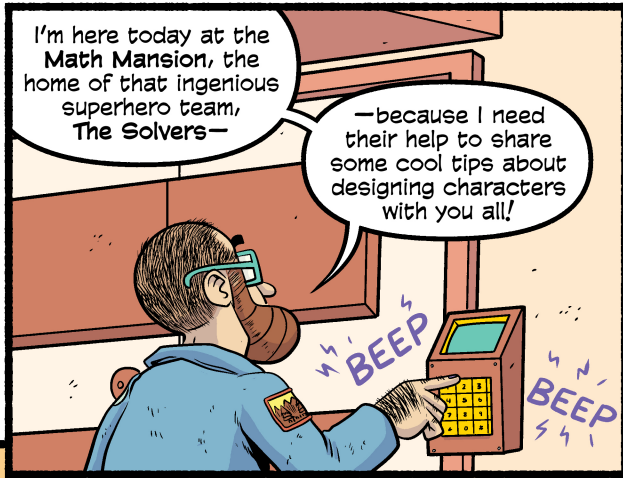
Thanks, Zipper! That was quick!

No problem, Jon!

DESIGNING CHARACTERS
with Jon Chad

One of the biggest pieces of advice I can give to people looking to design characters has to do with character shape and silhouette.

Characters that have different clothing, accessories, and facial features are great, but if they all have essentially the same silhouette, the characters will be harder to read. A great way to see this in action is to imagine coloring in the characters with a black marker:
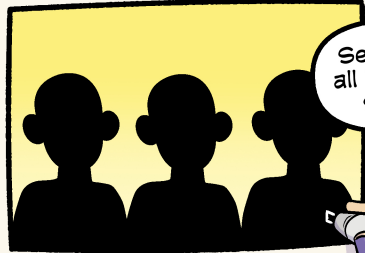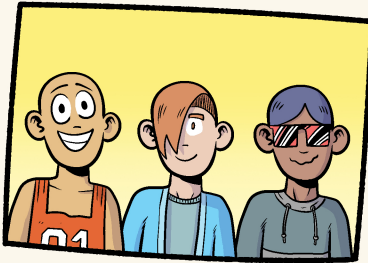
See! They all look the same!

MARKER

Challenge yourself to design characters that are different heights, different weights, with different shaped hair, etc!

One of the first things I did when I was working on *The Solvers* was to do a character lineup and marker in the silhouette to make sure they all were identifiable at a quick glance.
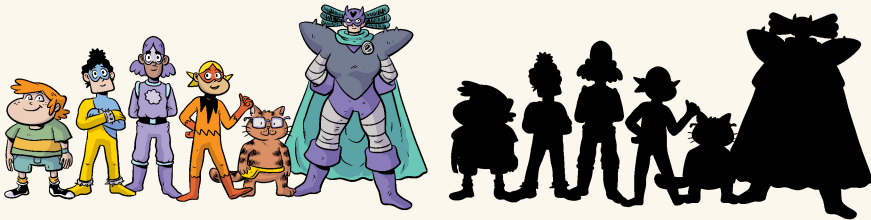
Something that has worked well for me is taking shapes that we don't usually think of when we think of characters (especially humans), and to try and design around that shape.

Using different shapes can give your characters a unique look that will help the reader tell them apart

Oh! That's how you designed me! My head is a bean!
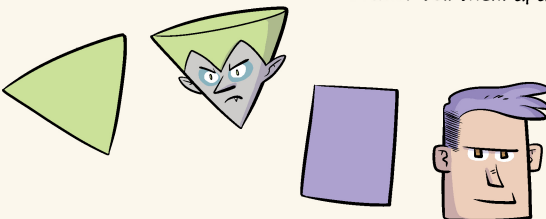
By pushing the differences in height, head shape, and hair style of the three characters from the previous page, they really stand out from one another.
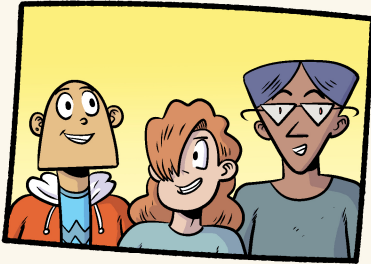
My next piece of advice for designing characters is about figuring out their personalities. Characters aren't as engaging if they all act and react the same way in every situation

We all agree that ice cream is okay!
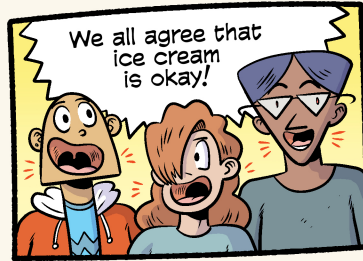
As you're designing the look of your characters, I would encourage you to get out a sheet of paper and write down some details about your character's personality.
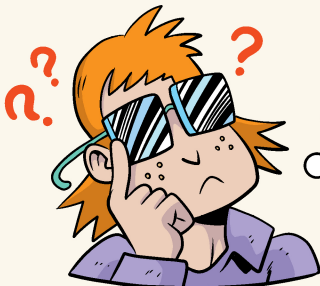
Try asking yourself questions about your character, like:

What makes my character laugh out loud?

What will they stand up for?

What is their dream? Their fears?

What is their most treasured possession?

Anything that will help you get in the head of your character.

Some of the questions you answer might never come up in your story, but knowing more about your character will lead to interesting moments of storytelling.

LET'S GET ICE CREAM!

I'm not sure...
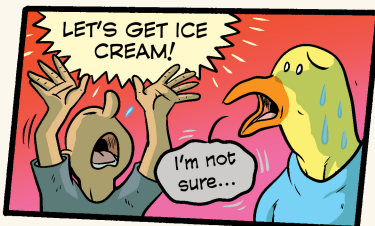
Designing characters that are distinct on the inside and out is really fun!

I hope these cartooning tips are helpful, and I hope you'll enjoy reading the adventures of *The Solvers!*