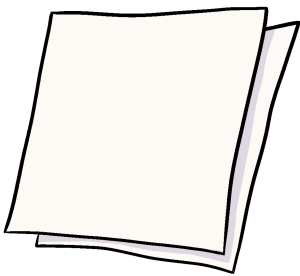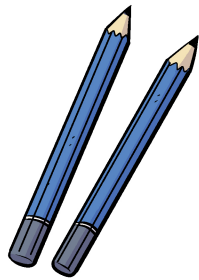# QUICK CARTOONING TIPS
WITH JON CHAD

MATERIALS THAT I USE:

One of the great things about comics is that you can use whatever you like to draw them! All you need is a mark-making tool, and a surface to draw on! Pencil, pen, or crayon on paper? GREAT! A stick covered in ketchup on the inside of a pizza box? Why not?! The tools I use are NOT THE ONLY TOOLS that you can use to make comics, but they are inexpensive options that can be found at almost any art supply store!
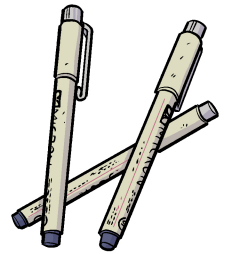
Paper:
Bristol Board, Strathmore Series 200 (good for markers) to 400 (high quality)
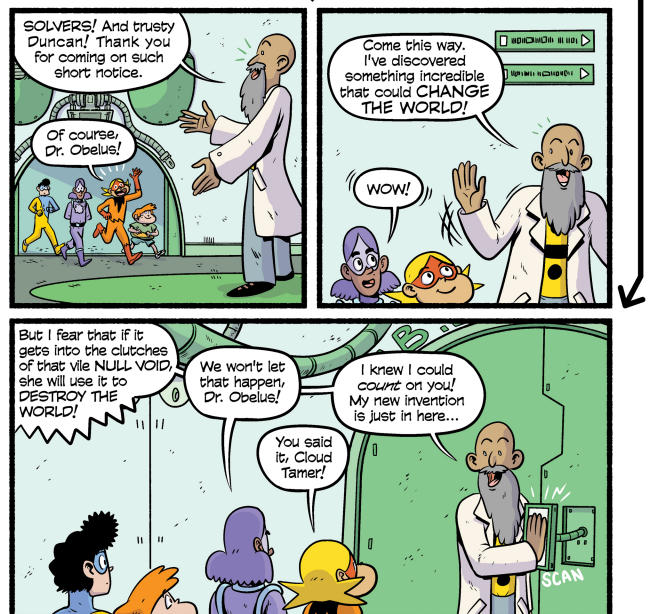
Pencils:
H, 2H, 3H, or 4H Staedtler Pencils

Drawing Nib:
Speedball Hunt 102 Crow Quill and Speedball Superblack Ink

Markers:
Sakura Microns 05 (thick line) to 005 (thinnest line)

TIP 1: DON'T FORGET THE GUTTERS

A lot of cartoonists will start out by taking a piece of paper and dividing it up like a tic-tac-toe board. While there's nothing wrong with that, it can sometimes lead to pages that are hard to read. Consider putting a space between your panels (called "gutters") Gutters allows the eye to rest and makes the reading experieince easier.
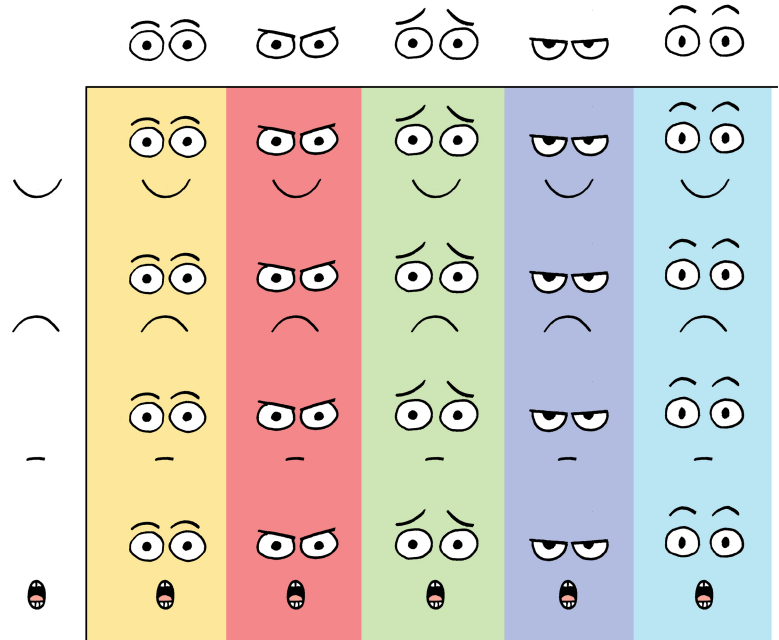
TIP 2: WRITE YOUR WORDS *BEFORE* DRAWING YOUR WORD BALLOONS

It's important for your reader to be able to easily read the words in your comic. Write the words and then draw the word balloons so that the panels don't get too cramped. If it's still too cramped, consider cutting some of your character's dialogue.

NO
ACK!! THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A WORD BALLOON THAT IS WAAAAAY TOO CRAMPED TO READ TOO MUCH TOO MUCH

NO
THIS MIGHT SEEM BETTER, BUT THE WORD BALLOON SHAPE IS TOO TIGHT AND DISTRACTING

YES!
THIS BALLOON IS A LOT EASIER TO READ!!

TIP 3: LET YOUR CHARACTERS ACT OUT HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Even with stick figures, it's easy to give your characters some quick emotions. When something sad happens to your character, we want to be about to know how that character feels. When they see something scary, their face should show it. By combining different simple eye and mouth shapes, you can show almost any emotion.

TIP 4: WORDS CAN ACT JUST LIKE CHARACTERS!

Depending on how you write/draw your dialogue or sound effects, a normal piece of text can come alive and have a lot of personality!

POP BOOM! HEY! I'M S-S-S-SCARED... ZAP! SPLAT I DRINK MUD!!