

Year 11/12 VAP

“Cultural Shadows”

Name:

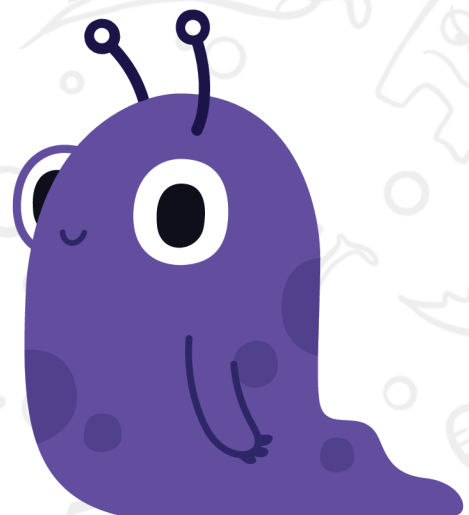


Cultural Shadows Syllabus

In this unit, you will explore important issues and concerns that happen locally, nationally, or around the world. You will investigate how artists and makers (artisans) have responded to these issues in their own artworks.

As artists yourselves, you will explore issues that matter to you, your community, or society more broadly. You'll think about how these issues affect people and how you can give your own commentary on the world through art.

You will work individually to experiment with emotive and persuasive visual language (images, symbols, and design choices) as well as media and technology to communicate ideas. You will plan an artwork that responds to an issue and show creative thinking as you complete it.



Cultural Shadows Syllabus

Your artwork could be displayed in different contexts such as:

- School-based: posters, digital displays, exhibitions, or events.
- Community-based: murals, collaborative artworks in public spaces, or performances.
- Online: social media posts, websites, or blogs.

The purpose of your artwork might be to:

- Share issues that affect students, communities, or humanity (e.g., climate change, inequality, mental health).
- Explore or challenge different world views.
- Create a response in your audience – for example, to make them reflect, feel, or take action.

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- Use media, technologies, and skills to make artworks.
- Plan artworks that represent local, national, or global issues.
- Communicate ideas about issues in social spaces.
- Evaluate artworks (your own and others') that deal with important issues.

Cultural Shadows Syllabus

Let's Consolidate what you are being asked to do this Unit:

Right There (answers directly in the text):

1. What types of issues will students explore in this unit (three levels)?

2. Name three contexts where artworks could be displayed.

3. What are the four objectives of this unit?

Think and Search (answers come from across the text):

4. How can artists use visual language to make their artworks emotive or persuasive?

5. What are some purposes for making artworks about social issues?

6. What steps should students take when planning their artworks on issues?

Cultural Shadows Syllabus

Let's Consolidate what you are being asked to do this Unit:

Author and You (students connect text + own thinking):

7. Why might an artist choose to display their work in a community space rather than online?

8. How could researching other artists' responses to social issues help you improve your own artwork?

On My Own (answers rely on personal ideas, not in the text):

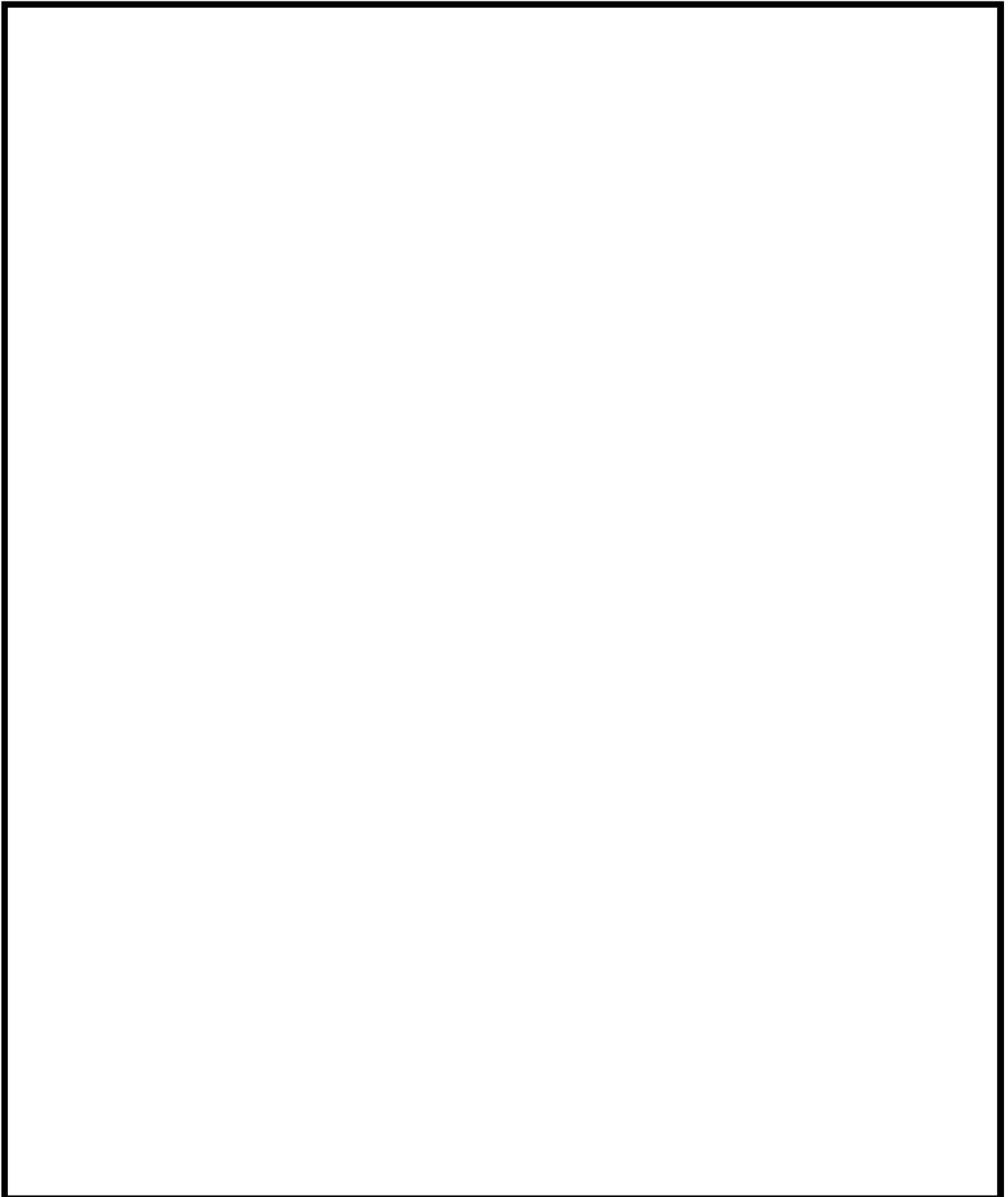
9. What local, national, or global issue would you choose to respond to in your artwork, and why?

10. Which context (school, community, online) would be the most powerful place to display your artwork? Explain your choice.



Drawing from Imagination

Warm-up Task: Turn an object into a monster



Cultural Context


This context looks at how different cultures, societies, and social groups shape artistic practices and perspectives.

The cultural context informs the analysis and interpretation of the social influences and representations of time, place, politics, purpose, ethnicity, gender and spiritual and secular beliefs on artwork, and how these contribute to engagement, communication and meaning.

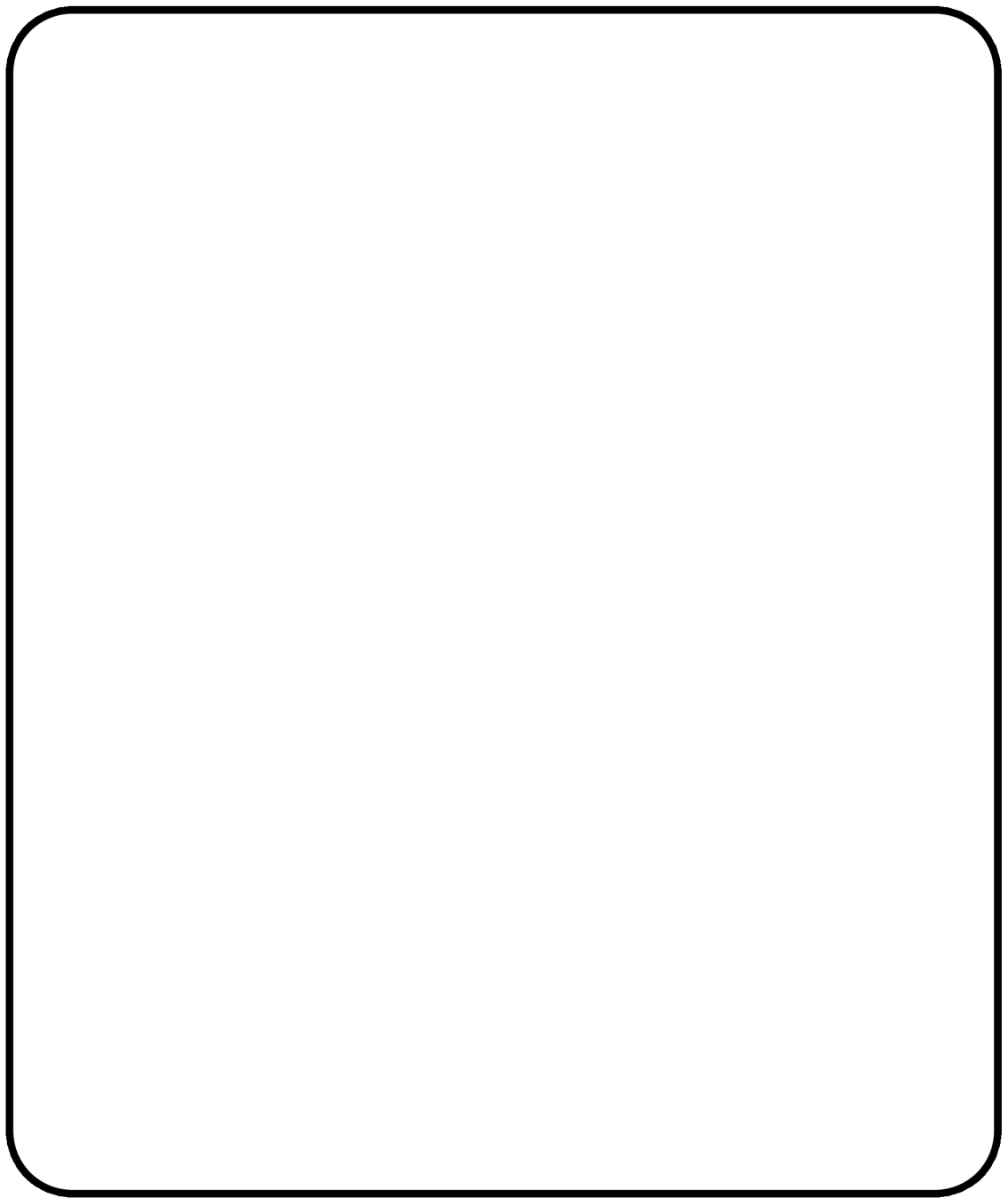
1. According to the text, what key factors within a cultural context can influence an artwork's meaning?

2. How might an artist's cultural background and the time or place they live in work together to shape the way they communicate ideas in their artwork?

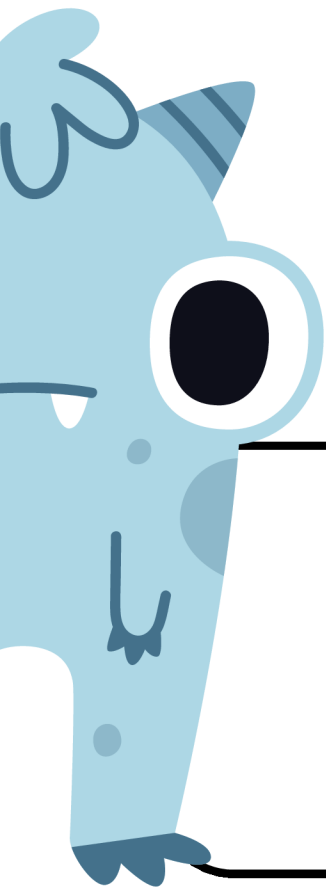
3. How could understanding an artist's cultural context help you interpret their artwork more accurately or respectfully?



What is a Social Issue?



My Social Issue is:



What I already know:

What I need to know:

How to draw a Monster

Level 1: Copy and Colour In



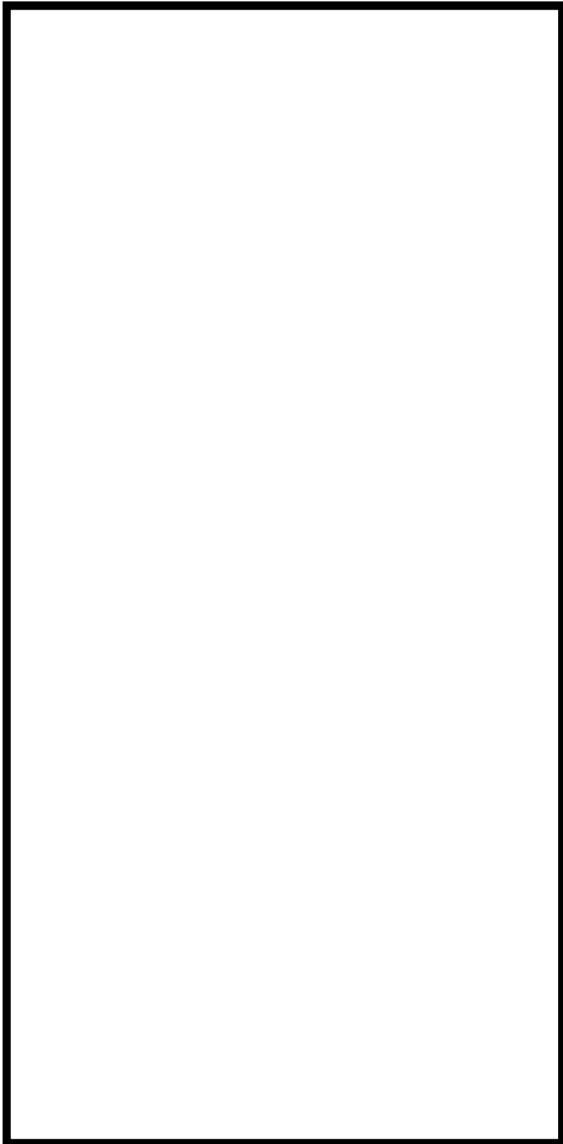
How to draw a Monster

Level 2: Copy and Colour In



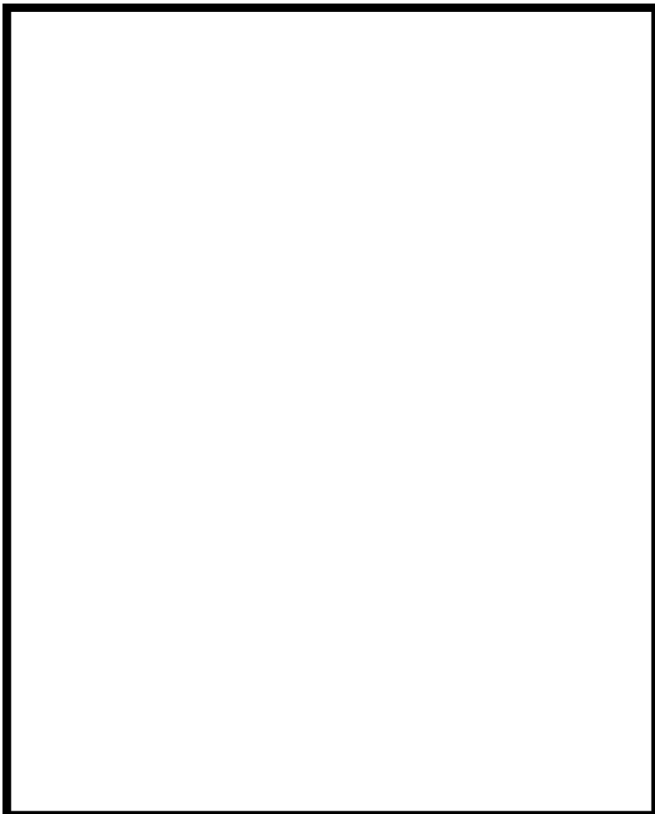
How to draw a Monster

Level 3: Copy and Tone



How to draw a Monster

Extension: Copy and Tone



GODZILLA



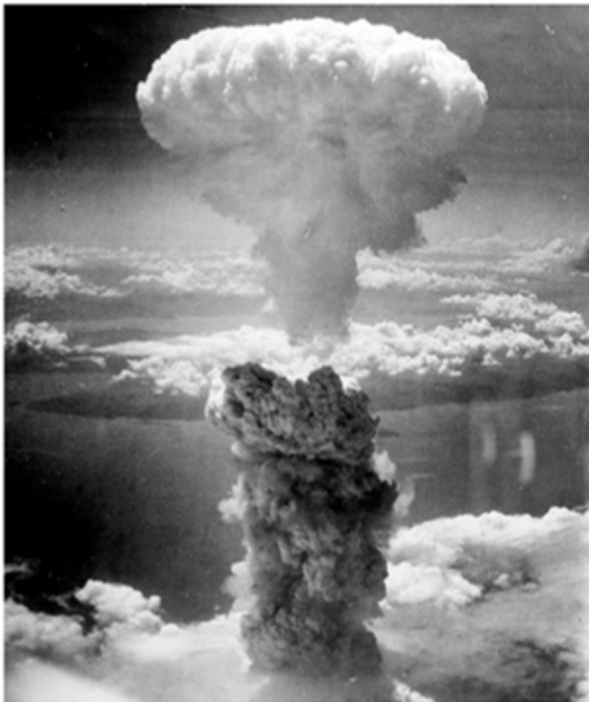
A gigantic dinosaur-like monster landed on the soil of Tokyo with roaring footsteps. The monster moved step by step toward the center of Tokyo, destroying numerous buildings and people's lives along the way. Godzilla launched an incandescent laser at the city center, which caused an excessive blast, then a massive mushroom cloud, and then radioactive black rain began to fall.



Godzilla, or Gojira, is a giant lizard with inflamed skin and incandescent radioactive laser power, both gained through nuclear exposure. Armed with such dreadful powers, Godzilla emerges from the ocean, threatening Japanese citizens and destroying civilization.

GODZILLA

The fictional creature, a giant dinosaur once undisturbed in the ocean, was depicted in the original film as having been aggravated by a hydrogen bomb. Its heavily furrowed skin or scales were imagined to resemble the keloid scars of survivors of the two atomic bombs that the U.S. dropped on Japan nine years earlier to end World War II.



Hiroshima and Nagasaki WW2 bombings sparked fear in the Japanese people, and only a few years later, this fear of the effects of nuclear radiation was turned into something more physical, a monster.





QAR Questions – Godzilla

Answer the following questions in full sentences. The questions are divided into four QAR categories: Right There, Think and Search, Author and You, and On My Own.

Right There (answers are directly in the text):

1. What city did the monster land in?

2. What kind of power does Godzilla use against the city?

3. What event caused Godzilla to be aggravated in the original film?

4. What did Godzilla's skin resemble, according to the description in the text?

Think and Search (answers found in more than one part of the text):

5. How did Godzilla's attack affect the people and buildings in Tokyo?

6. What connection is made between Godzilla's skin and the survivors of World War II?

7. How do the details about black rain and radioactive blasts link to fears of nuclear weapons?

Author and You (requires using both the text and prior knowledge):

8. Why might Japanese filmmakers in the 1950s have chosen to create Godzilla as a symbol of nuclear fear?

9. How does Godzilla represent more than just a monster story?

10. In what ways could Godzilla be seen as both entertainment and a warning?

On My Own (students use their own ideas, not just the text):

11. If a monster like Godzilla appeared in your city, how do you think people would react today?

12. Do you think films or stories about disasters help people deal with fear, or do they make fear worse? Explain.



Artist Case Study:

Safdar Ahmed

Safdar Ahmed is an artist, writer, musician, and community worker from Hornsby, Sydney. He has won many awards and works in a variety of creative areas, including making art, writing, music, cartooning, graphic novels, and zines. His work often focuses on themes of identity, belonging, and storytelling, drawing from his own experiences and Muslim traditions.

In 2022, Safdar contributed to a major international art event called *fifteen* in Germany. In 2021, he released his graphic novel *Still Alive*, which won several awards and was published by Twelve Panels Press.

Safdar is one of the founders of the Refugee Art Project, which runs art workshops for refugees and asylum seekers. These workshops, held in Ashfield, were started to help people in Villawood Detention Centre share their stories through art and zines. The project also aims to help the public understand the challenges faced by asylum seekers in Australia.

He is also a member of *eleven*, a group of Muslim Australian artists, curators, and writers. The group works to create a platform for Muslim artists to share their stories, challenge stereotypes, and engage in important conversations about culture and identity. Safdar has a PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Sydney. He also studied Fine Arts and Arts Administration. In addition to his creative work, he plays guitar and sings in the heavy metal band Hazeen with his friend Can Yalcinkaya.

QAR Questions

What is the name of Safdar Ahmed's award-winning graphic novel? _____

Where does Safdar Ahmed conduct art workshops for refugees? _____

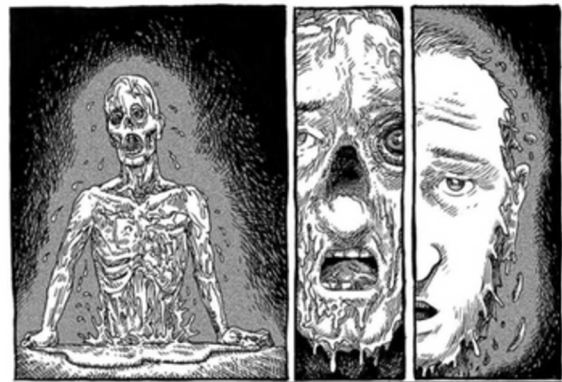
What is the goal of the Refugee Art Project? _____

How does Safdar Ahmed combine his personal experiences and cultural background in his work? _____

Why do you think Safdar Ahmed's work is important for raising awareness about social issues? _____



Artwork: Safdar Ahmed, (2024). 'Untitled'. Pen and ink on paper. Image retrieved from the artist's social media.



Artwork: Safdar Ahmed (2021). *Untitled panels from 'Still Alive'*. Black pen and ink on paper. Artwork courtesy of the artist.

Brainstorm



1. What Monster characters do you know from cultural legends, narratives or popular culture?

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a black border, intended for writing answers to the first question.

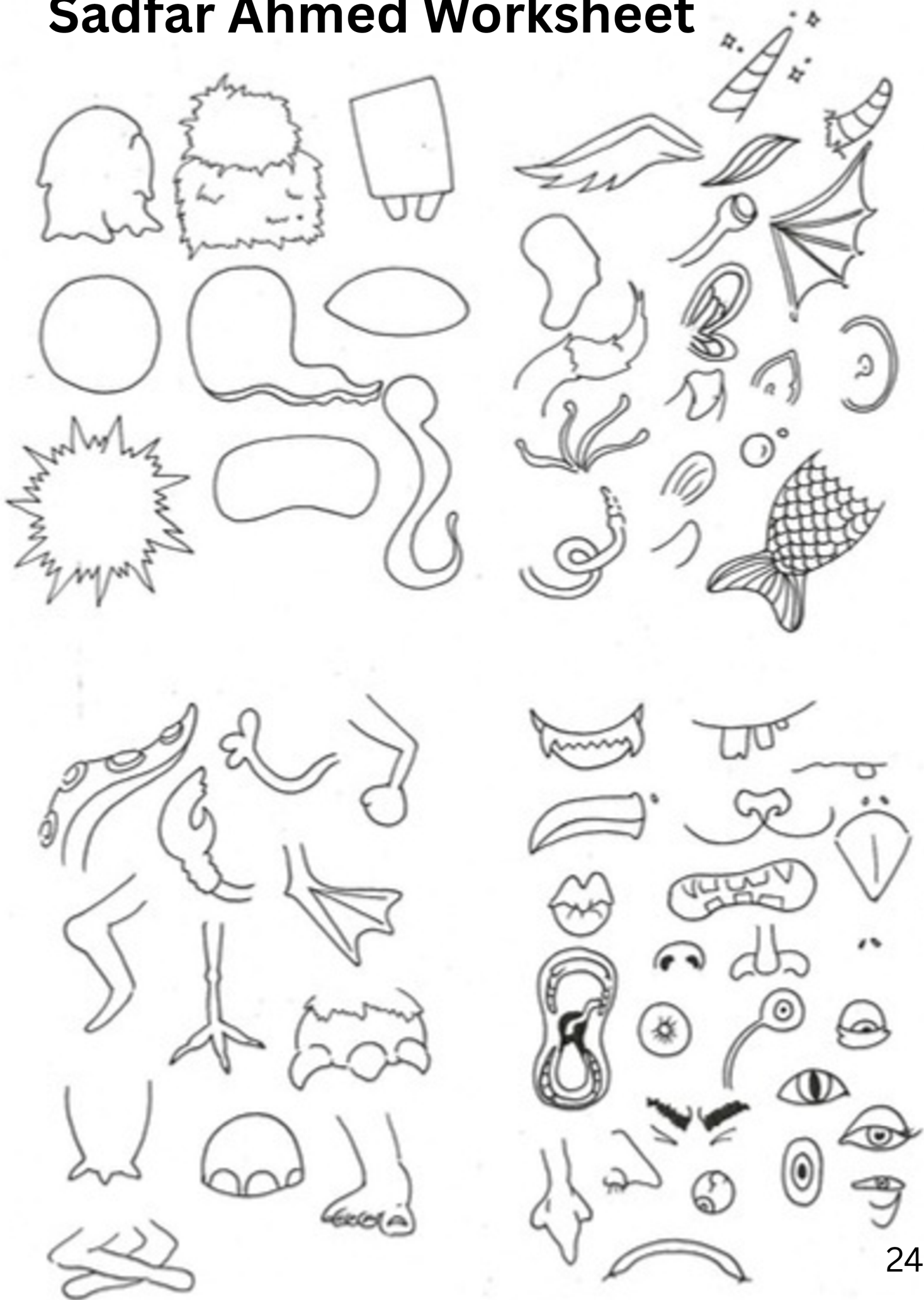
2. What characteristics do monsters have? (abilities, habits, habitats, environment etc.)

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a black border, intended for writing answers to the second question.

Monsters by Sadfar Ahmed

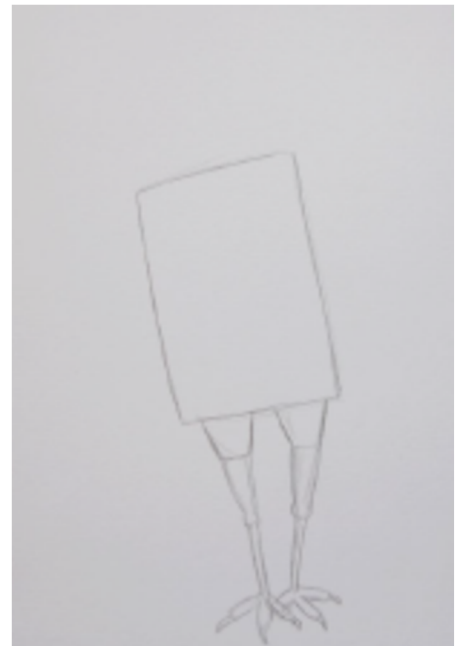


Sadfar Ahmed Worksheet

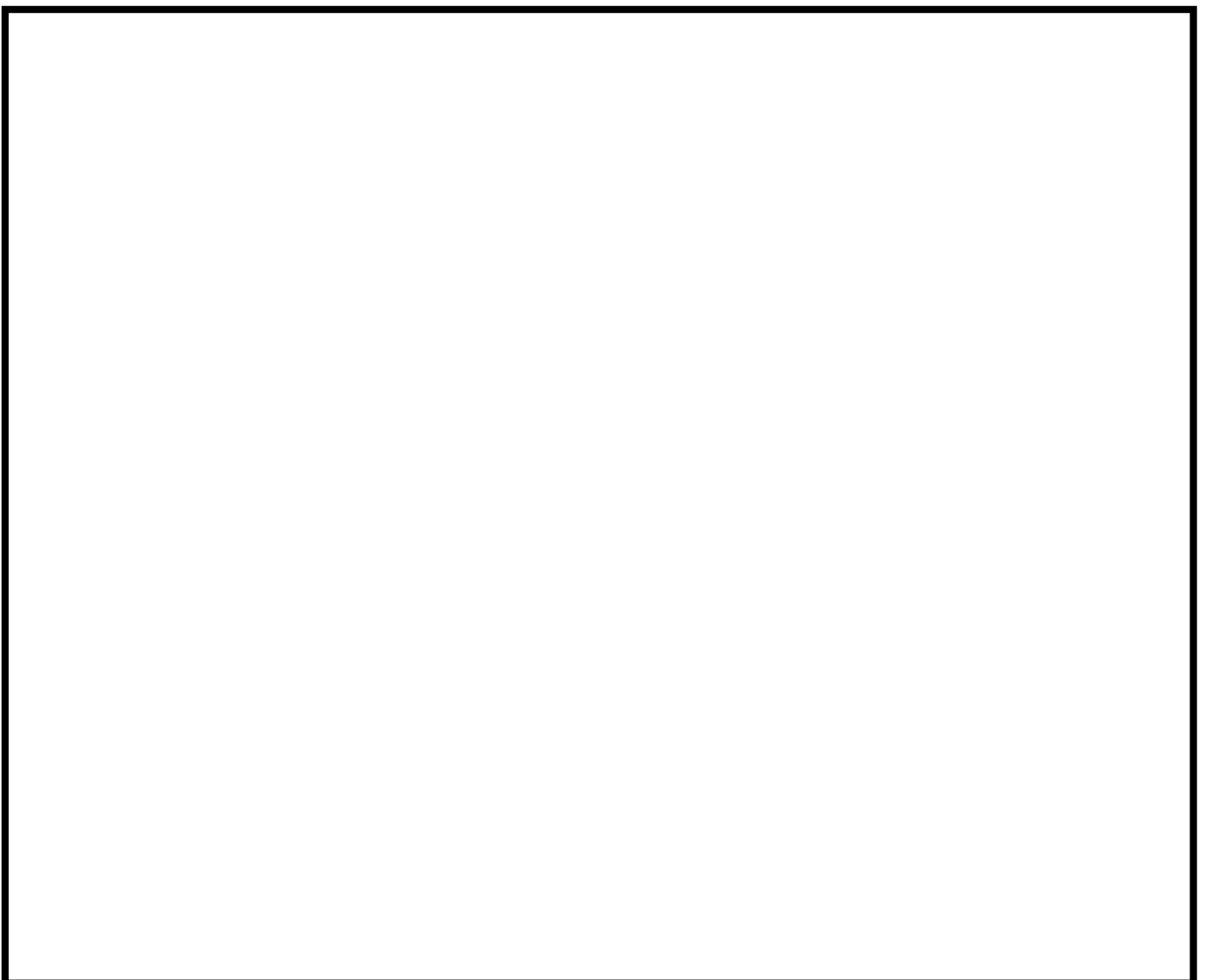


Step 1: Using the reference sheet on page 18, draw your monster body **IN THE CENTRE** of the box.

Add Legs



Example



Step 2: Add remaining features, consider your monster's personality and how you can show this in their gestures or appearance.



Example

Step 3: Add details such as texture (fur, scales etc.)

Show your monster's personality through a clothing item, or it holding something.

Outline with fine liner.



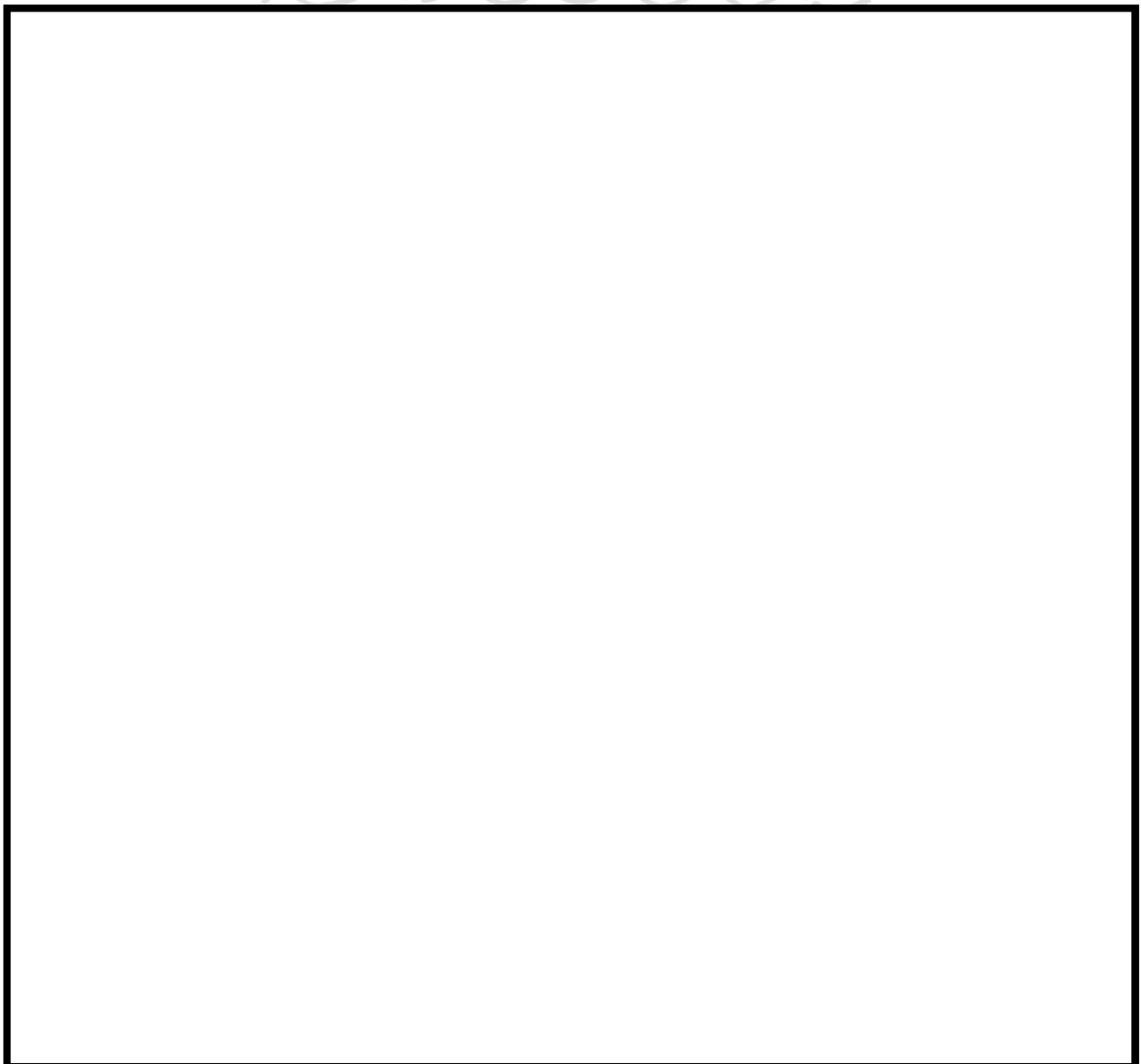
Example

DRAWING SPACE

DRAWING SPACE

TURNING YOUR SOCIAL ISSUE INTO A MONSTER

**Draw, Write, Glue images here to create
ideas.**



EXAMPLE OF USING AI TO HELP YOU:

Social Issue: Online Bullying

Write a detailed prompt of what you imagine it looking like:

*“create an **image** of a **monster** that represents the **social issue** of **online bullying**. The monster is in the **shape of a phone**, instead of a screen is **sharp teeth** and a **long tongue**, coming out of the top of the monster are **notification icons**”*



Chatgpt created this image

Canva created this image



You CANNOT use the exact image Ai created, but use it as a guide to then draw your own idea.

CONCEPT DRAWING



IDENTIFY THE SOCIAL ISSUE BASED ON THE MONSTERS



Blank box for identifying the social issue related to the first monster.

Blank box for identifying the social issue related to the second monster.



Blank box for identifying the social issue related to the third monster.

BANKSY

Banksy (born around 1974, probably in Bristol, England) is a British graffiti artist who is famous for his secretive identity and art that challenges authority. He started as a graffiti artist in 1993, using stencils to speed up his work. His art often shows policemen and rats, and it usually appears in public spaces without warning. Banksy's work quickly gets media attention, and he usually confirms it's his on social media afterward.

In 2003, Banksy held an exhibition called "Turf War" where he painted on live pigs. In 2005, he opened "Crude Oils" in London, featuring modified paintings by famous artists like Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh. For a surprise, he released 200 live rats in the gallery. That same year, he secretly hung his own artwork in major museums like the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and Tate Britain in London.

Even though he became well-known, Banksy stayed anonymous. He only gave interviews through email or voice-altered recordings. Banksy said that if graffiti were legal everywhere, it would feel like "a party where everyone was invited." Although his art became popular, he didn't use copyright laws to protect it because revealing his identity would be necessary. So, in 2014, he began registering his art as trademarks and even set up a temporary shop called Gross Domestic Product, selling products based on his art. Between 2020 and 2021, the European Union rejected some of his trademark applications, saying they were made in bad faith.



QAR Questions

1. **Right There:** What is Banksy known for drawing in his graffiti art? _____
2. **Right There:** When did Banksy begin using stencils in his artwork? _____
3. **Right There:** In which two cities did Banksy secretly install his work in major museums?

4. **Think and Search:** Why did Banksy use stencils in his artwork?

5. **Think and Search:** How did Banksy confirm his artwork was his?

6. **Right There:** What did Banksy paint on during his "Turf War" exhibition?

7. **Author and Me:** Why do you think Banksy chose to remain anonymous?

8. **On My Own:** Do you think Banksy's art would have the same impact if his identity was known? Why or why not?



9. **Think and Search:** What was unusual about Banksy's "Crude Oils" exhibition?

10. **Right There:** What did Banksy open in 2014 to sell items inspired by his art?

11. **Author and Me:** Why might Banksy have chosen not to use copyright laws to protect his art?

12. **Right There:** What was the European Union's decision regarding some of Banksy's trademark applications?

13. **On My Own:** How do you think Banksy's art affects people's views on authority?

14. **Right There:** What did Banksy say a city with legal graffiti would feel like?

15. **Think and Search:** Why did Banksy's art become so popular?



CHOOSE A BANKSY ARTWORK TO ANALYSE FOR YOUR ESSAY



Game Changer
2020



Balloon Girl
2002



Love is in the Air (Flower
Thrower)
2007



Son of a Migrant of
Syria
2015

Scaffold

Introduction:

- Introduce the artist.
- Short biography of artist.
- How does their artwork address local, national and global social issues?
- What is the intention of this analysis?

Body Paragraph

- Artwork Analysis.
 - What is the artwork name/date/medium?
 - Where was the artwork installed?
 - What is the social issue it is addressing?
 - How well has the artist addressed the social issue?
 - What elements and principles of design are present in the artwork?

Element of Design (line, shape/form, tone, colour, texture)	Where is it in the Artwork?	What effect does it have on the artwork?

Principle of Design (balance, space, unity, emphasis, harmony, movement, pattern)	Where is it in the Artwork?	What effect does it have on the artwork?

Artwork Strengths	
Artwork Limitations	
How does this artwork link to your own work?	

Conclusion

- What was the aim of this analysis?
- Who was the artist and why is it important that we study contemporary artists who make art about social issues?

Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023

QAR Worksheet

The Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023 asked 19,501 young people aged 15 to 19 across Australia about their concerns, experiences and hopes for the future. The survey found that the most important issues facing young Australians were the environment (44%), equity and discrimination (31%), the economy and financial matters (31%) and mental health (30%). Concerns about housing, homelessness, and crime also increased compared to previous years.

On a personal level, almost half of respondents (49%) reported school-related challenges such as heavy workloads and academic pressure. Around one quarter (24%) said their biggest challenges were related to mental health, including stress, anxiety and depression. Another 21% identified relationship challenges with family or friends. Young people said they relied on friends, family and recreational activities for support, but also highlighted the need for better access to mental health services and greater understanding from teachers and parents.

Wellbeing results showed that 38% rated their mental health as fair or poor, with one in four experiencing high psychological distress and one in five feeling lonely most or all of the time. Despite these challenges, the survey also showed resilience: many young people were studying or working, engaged in community activities, and making future plans such as university, travel, or employment. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth expressed particular concerns about discrimination but also reported strong aspirations for their future. Overall, the Youth Survey paints a picture of young Australians as aware, thoughtful, and capable of identifying solutions to the issues they face.

Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023

QAR Worksheet

Right There (answers are directly in the text):

1. How many young people took part in the 2023 Youth Survey?

2. What were the top four issues facing young Australians according to the survey?

3. What percentage of young people said school-related challenges were their biggest issue?

4. Name three examples of mental health challenges mentioned by respondents.

5. What proportion of young people reported relationship challenges?



Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023

QAR Worksheet

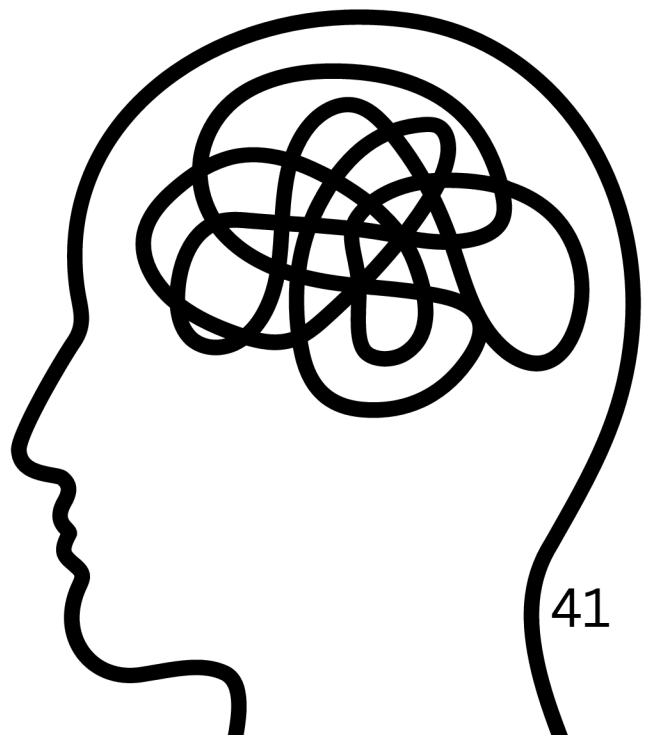
Think and Search (answers found in more than one part of the text):

What are some similarities between school challenges and mental health challenges faced by young people?

8. How do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth experiences compare to their non-Indigenous peers?

9. What role do friends and family play in supporting young people with challenges?

10. How do the survey results show both challenges and resilience in young Australians?



Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023

QAR Worksheet

Author and You (requires using both the text and prior knowledge):

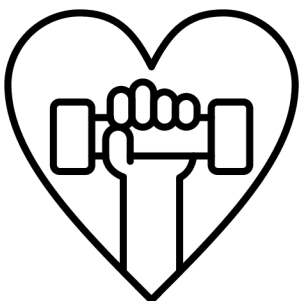
11. Why do you think the environment continues to be one of the top concerns for young Australians?

12. How might cost-of-living pressures contribute to young people's stress and mental health issues?

13. Why do you think mental health is often reported as both a personal and national issue?

14. How could schools better support students dealing with academic pressure and stress?

15. Why might loneliness be a serious concern for young people today?



Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023

QAR Worksheet

On My Own (students use their own ideas, not just the text):

16. If you were part of the Youth Survey, which issues would you list as your top three and why

17. Do you think adults (parents, teachers, leaders) listen enough to the concerns of young people? Explain.

18. What changes would you suggest to make mental health services more accessible for young Australians?

19. How might community involvement (clubs, groups, volunteering) help young people feel more positive about the future?

20. What do you think Australia will look like in 20 years if young people's concerns are not addressed?

B2 TASK

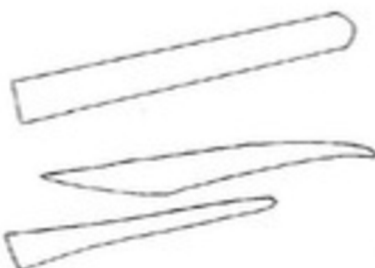
You will turn your A3 Monster Artwork from last term, into a 3D sculpture using clay techniques taught in class.



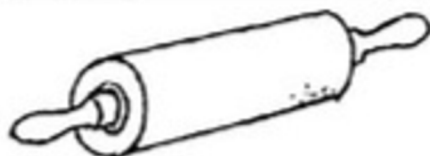
Clay Tools and Techniques





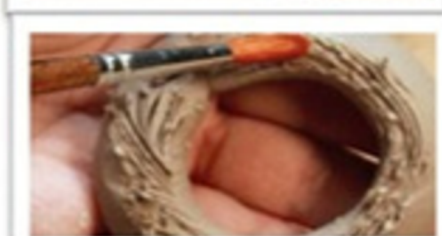
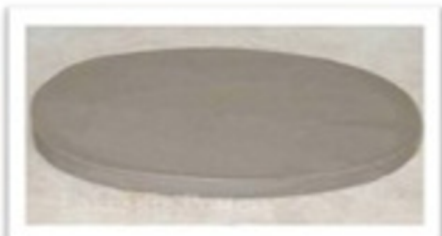


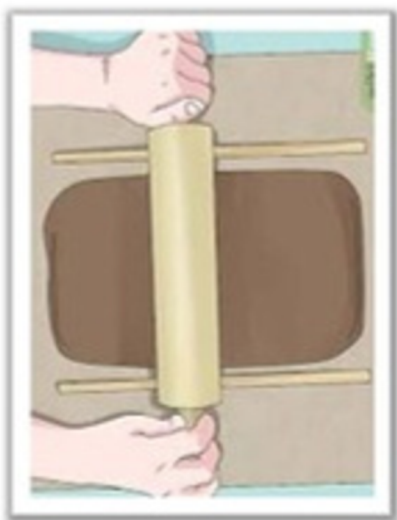






Clay Making Processes









Technique # 1

Pinch Pot Monster



LARGE pinch pot for
the body
SMALL pinch pot for
the head

Technique #2

Monster Bust

Pinch Pot for the Head



Slab for the Shoulders



Coils for the neck

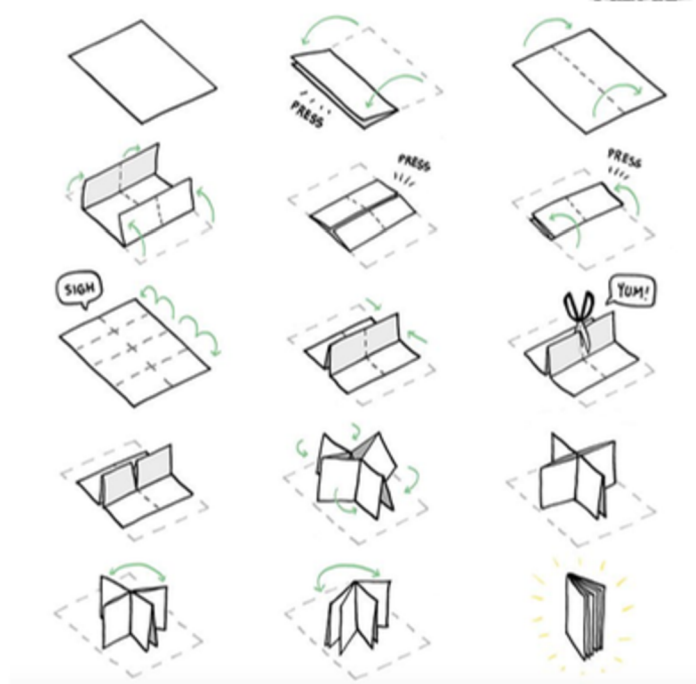


Past student example



zineS

Let's make a simple Zine



Choose a topic

- Advice for dealing with a problem.
- A poem about your favourite fast food.
- A zine about your favourite things.
- Images that match your favourite song lyrics.
- A fan zine about someone you admire.
- Video games that you should play.
- All the best menu items you can get from KFC

Zine about Social Issues

Create a Zine based on your
Social Issue.

It can include your Monster if
you like



This is Miss
McVittie's Zine
"Who Killed
Jill?" which is
about ocean
pollution.

