

GENDER WHEEL[®] LESSON PLAN

Indigo & Isabel Have Something to Say! Playing to Include



PURPOSE:

- Dismantle and preempt the “are you a boy or a girl?” question
- Model how to interact when you first meet someone
- Encourage empathy and connection between kids
- Create spaces free of gender assumptions and expectations



HOW TO HOLD:

This project is best done one-on-one (adult & child) or small groups with adult facilitator. The key is to focus on creativity and play. By using a playful context, we support kids to learn and change on their own terms, without blame and shame. This individualizes the learning and makes it more relevant. It also simplifies the emotional terrain and makes it easier for kids to connect with each other.

SPACES THAT HEAL:

Learning to be gender-inclusive begins with creating new ways to interact with each other that let people just be people. This establishes a base of respect and unity that can carry us forward with greater ease. The goal is to interrupt the artificial division of kids by gender, and bypass patriarchal power dynamics from developing between kids.

One way that kids often police gender is to ask, “are you a boy or a girl?” on the playground. This sets up a cascade of stereotypes, expectations, and assumptions and places the onus (or pressure) on the child being asked, to conform or not.

We want to provide a different model. One that shows how to include everybody, how to naturally be in your own power, and what it looks like to stop repeating gender expectations for people. By modeling how to interact with someone when first only knowing their name, we create a welcoming environment that celebrates fluidity and change and allows people to come forward and share about themselves on their own terms when they are ready.

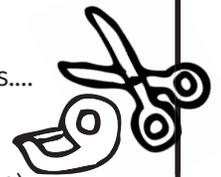
Refer to **CARD #4 - See the System** from the Adult Support section in *Playing with Pronouns Educational Cards*

ACTIVITY:

Make an interactive comic strip with character cut-outs to play and act out dialog; along with character coloring pages

WHAT YOU NEED:

- » Indigo & Isabel character cut-outs from the *Playing with Pronouns* Card Deck (see page 3)
- » Comic Strip Handouts printed on cardstock or similar heavy weight paper (see pages 4-6)
- » Art Materials! - Pencils, Markers, Crayons....
- » Scissors & Tape
- » Indigo & Isabel coloring pages (pages 7-8)
- » OPTIONAL: Demo video with Maya & Sky (www.genderwheel.com/i-demo)





WHERE TO EXPAND:

We help interrupt gender assumptions by using language that is inclusive and by valuing getting to know each other as people over dividing people by gender. Freeing gender from assumptions means focusing on individuality and supporting kids in expressing themselves freely. Through this project you get to know two kids as unique individuals and connect with them on a more personal level.

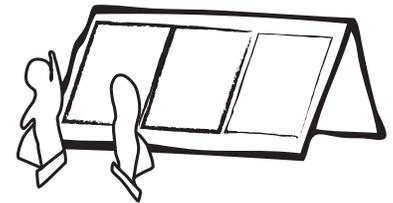


Refer to **CARD #8 - Assumptions** from the Adult Support section in *Playing with Pronouns Educational Cards*



PROCESS:

1. **Create your Indigo & Isabel Character Cut-Outs** using the instructions on the following page and/or the demo video. As you create the cut-outs you can also notice the connections between the two kids. Look for all the ways they are similar. For example, “*oh look both of these kids have stripes.*” This will most likely trigger the child you’re playing with to connect with them too. Let the process unfold naturally without forcing it.
2. **Print the Comic Strip pages on cardstock** or similar heavyweight paper. Set aside the blank ones at first. Fold in half so it stands up as shown to the right.
3. Once you have your comic strip and cut-outs complete, **act out the dialog together by moving Isabel and Indigo through the comic strip.** You will notice that there are markers on the strip to designate who is saying what.
4. When you get to “What Happens Next...” You’ll have two choices here:
 - A. If you and the kid(s) are *in the flow*: follow that inspiration and create more adventures for Isabel and Indigo. **Use the blank comic pages to create more story.**
 - B. If you sense a block or pause: **take a moment to read and color the Indigo and Isabel coloring pages.** This gives kids a chance to get to know a little bit more about Indigo and Isabel and may then inspire additional storylines using the blank comic strips.
5. Again, the key here is to let things unfold naturally in the direction of creativity, play, and connections. The nonverbal will speak the loudest.



TAKE IT FURTHER:

- » ***They She He Me: Free to Be!*** and ***They, She, He easy as ABC*** are great books to use alongside this project. *Specifically the section “Using Pronouns” in the back material (pg. 30) of *They She He Me*: www.genderwheel.com/pronoun-books
- » **Playing with Pronouns Educational & Game Cards**
 - play with even more characters from the deck and expand gender while learning and playing games: www.playingwithpronouns.com
- » **The Pronoun Protocol**
 - create a way of speaking that fundamentally includes everybody all the time and interrupts the cycle of gender stereotypes and assumptions: www.pronounprotocol.org



Character Cut-Out Directions for *Indigo & Isabel Have Something to Say!* Activity

HOW TO TURN A CARD INTO A CHARACTER CUT-OUT:

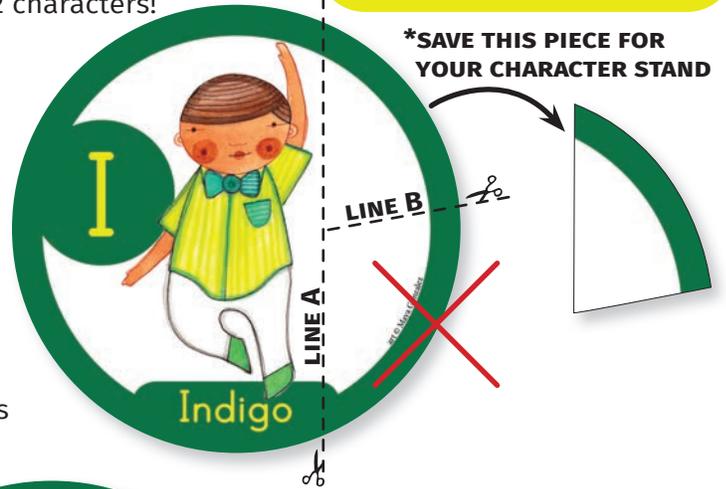


**NEED HELP?
WATCH THE DEMO VIDEO!**
www.genderwheel.com/i-demo

If you were lucky enough to get the rare misprints from 2020, you can use the misprinted I's to create your character cut-outs. Or maybe you got a set just for this specific purpose and plan to make all 52 characters!

Alternatively, you can use the pre-made cut-outs at the bottom of the page to create your characters. If using this option, make sure to print this page on cardstock or similar heavyweight paper.

1. Take your card and make a cut similar to **LINE A** in the example to the right. Then cut on a slight angle similar to **LINE B**. This will be your stand for your character. You may want to save the remaining portion in case you have any issues creating your stand in the following steps.



2. Next you'll want to trim off the bottom of the card to make a flat base for your character similar to **LINE C**.

3. Then cut an outline around your character. You can be as detailed or as loose here as you want, just be sure not to trim off too much of the green nameplate base as this helps with stability.



4. Final step is to flip over your character and line up the stand piece with the middle and bottom of the character as shown in the example to the right. Place a piece of tape on both sides to connect your stand.

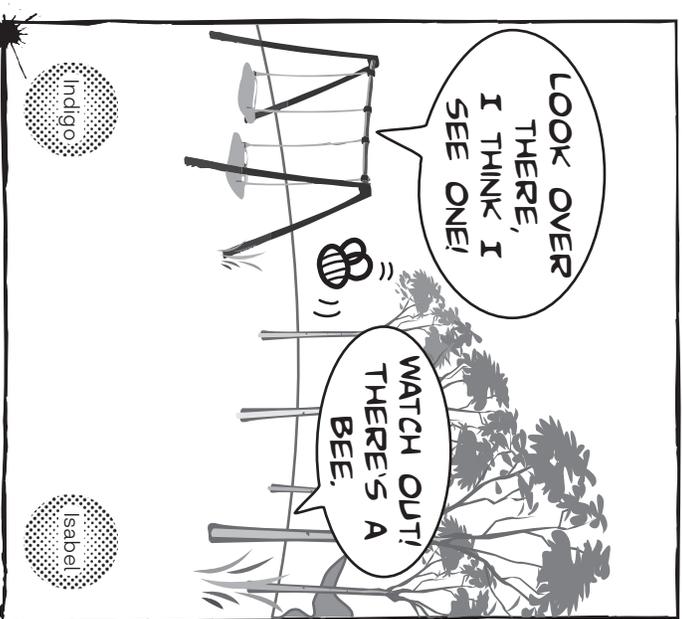
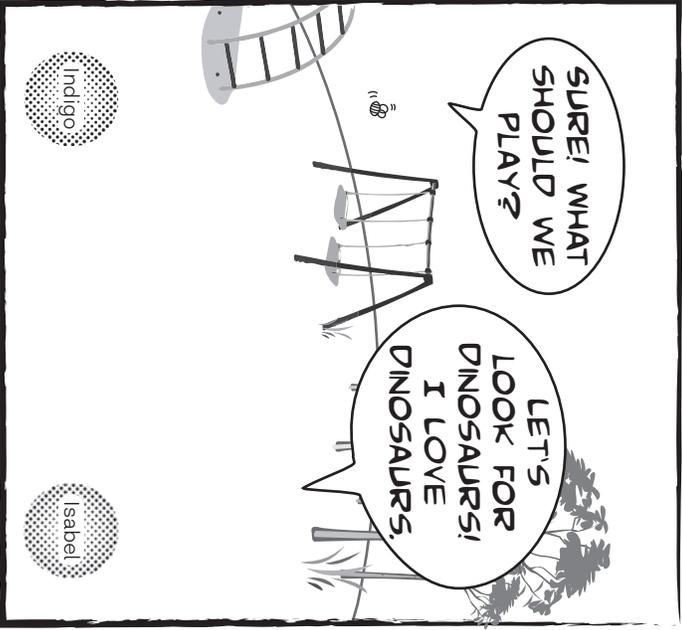
5. Now you're ready to play!
What do Indigo and Isabel have to say?

***LINE UP THE STAND PIECE IN THE BACK CENTER OF YOUR CHARACTER AND TAPE ON BOTH SIDES AS SHOWN**

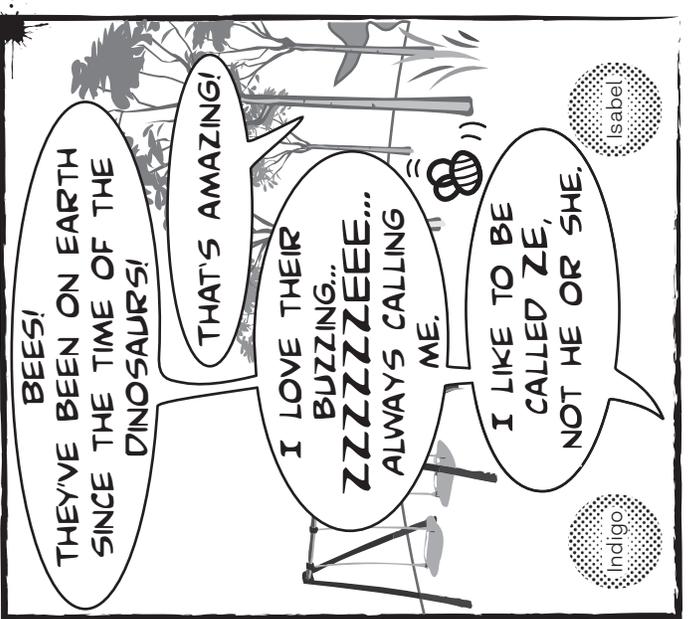
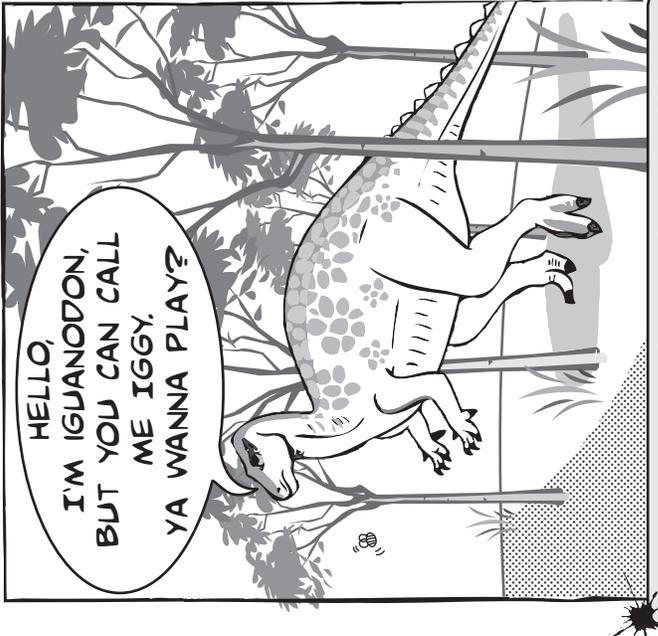


***DON'T HAVE MISPRINTS OR A SPARE CARD DECK?
USE THESE PRE-MADE ONES!**
**Make sure to print on cardstock!*

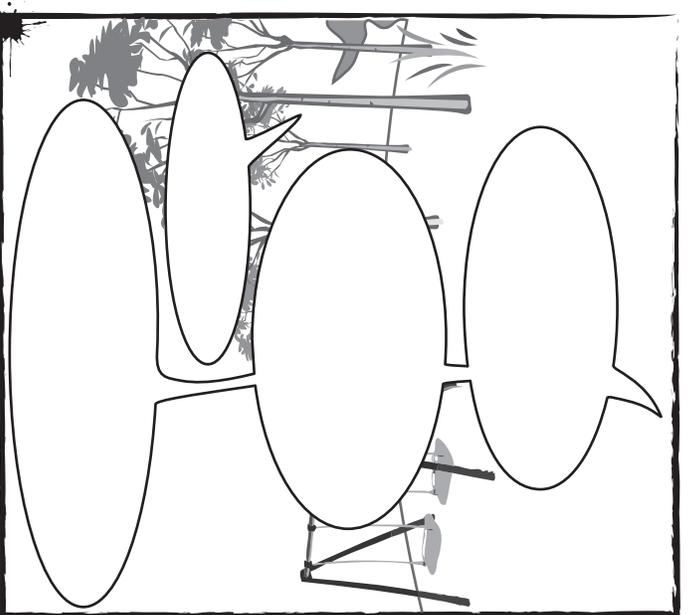
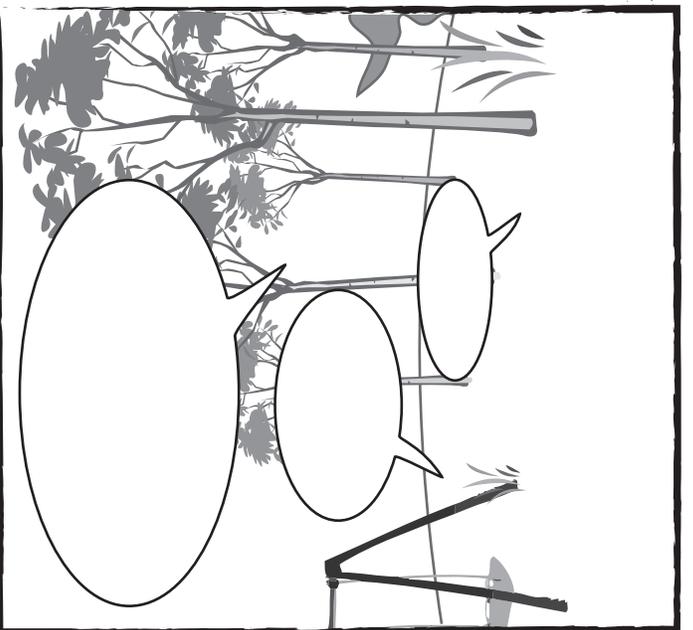
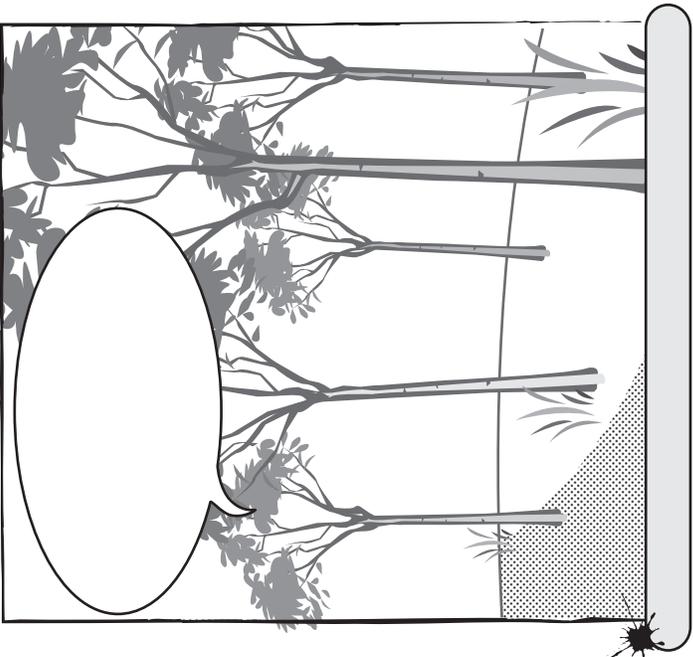
A SUNNY DAY AT THE PARK...



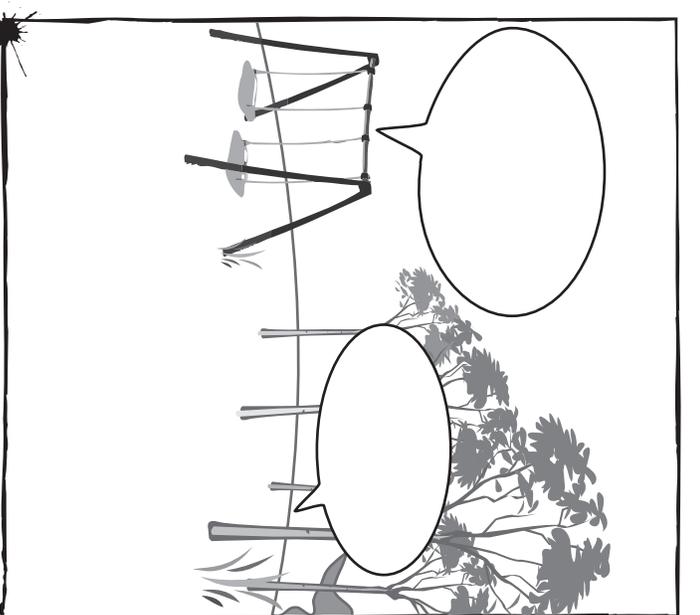
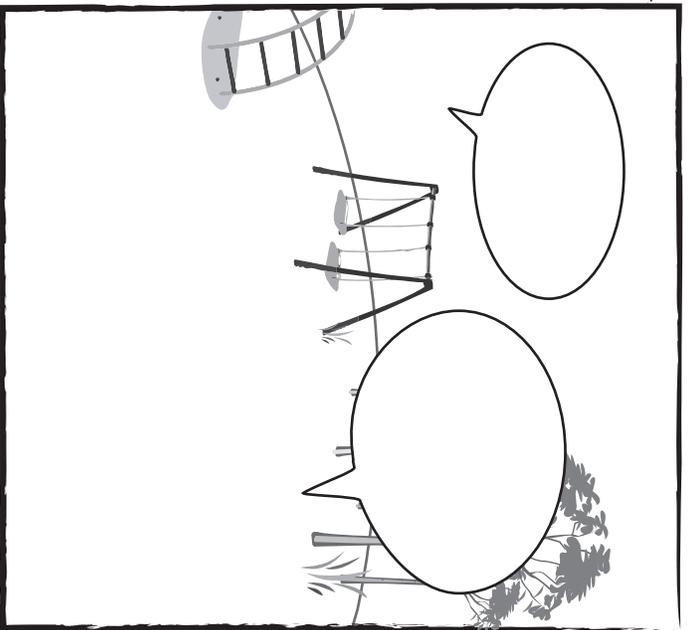
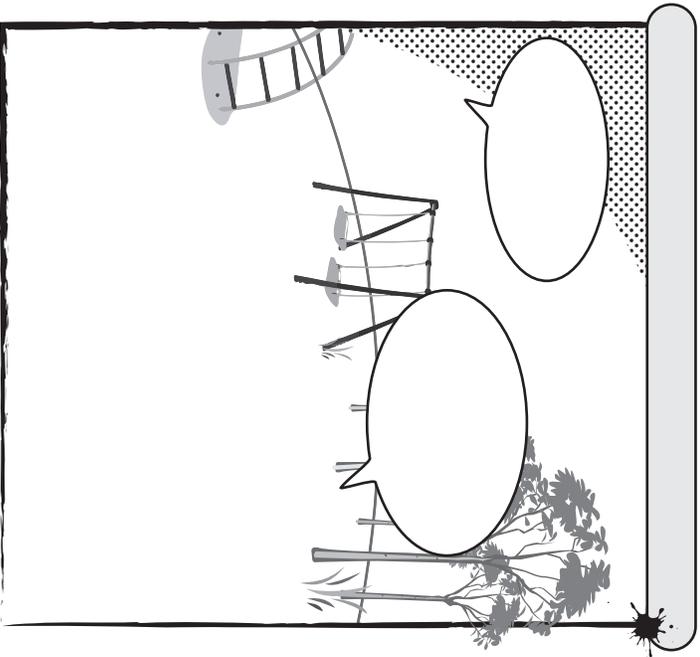
WHAT'S NEXT FOR INDIGO + ISABEL?

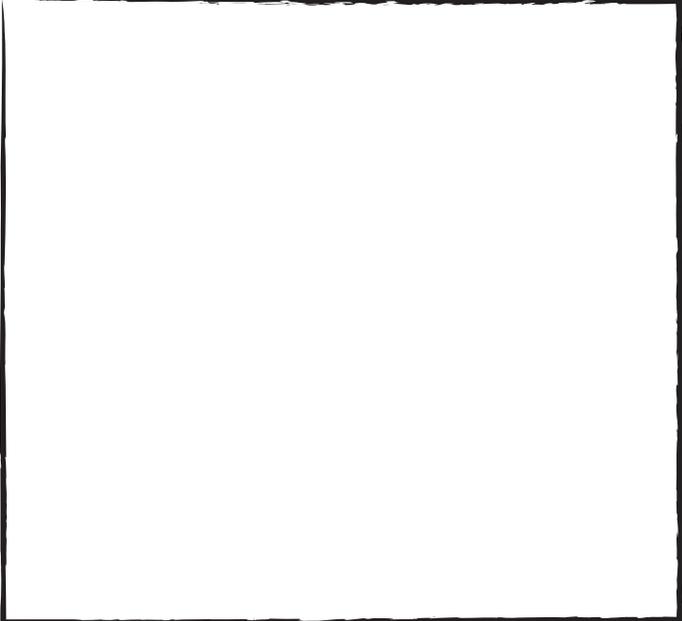
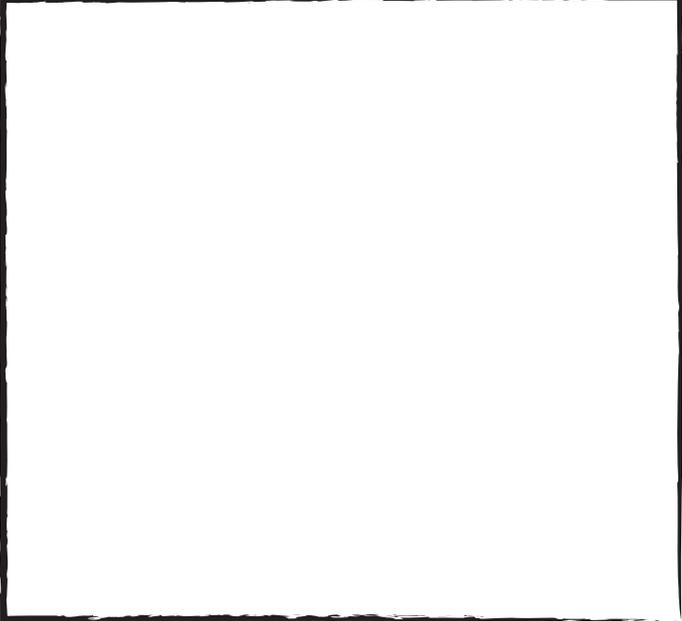
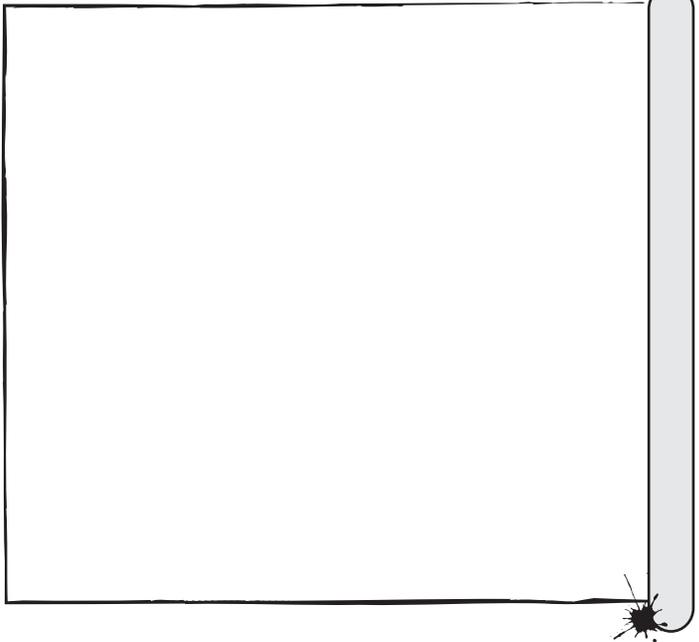
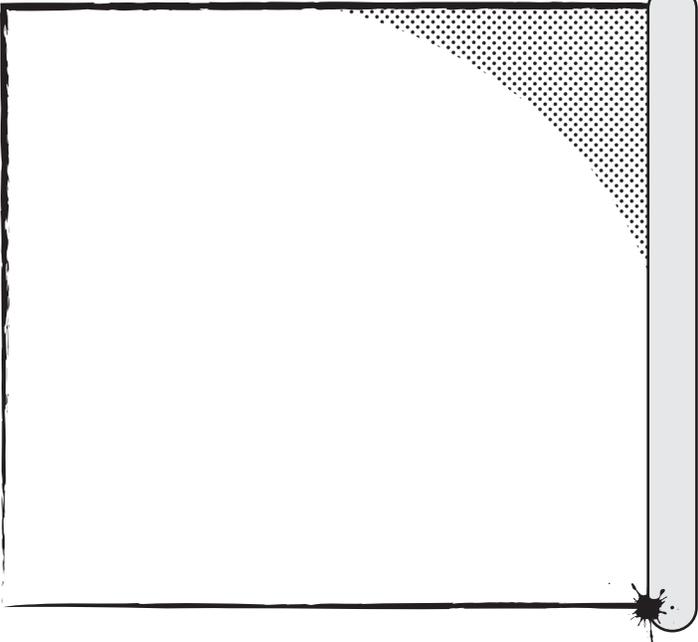


Fold Here

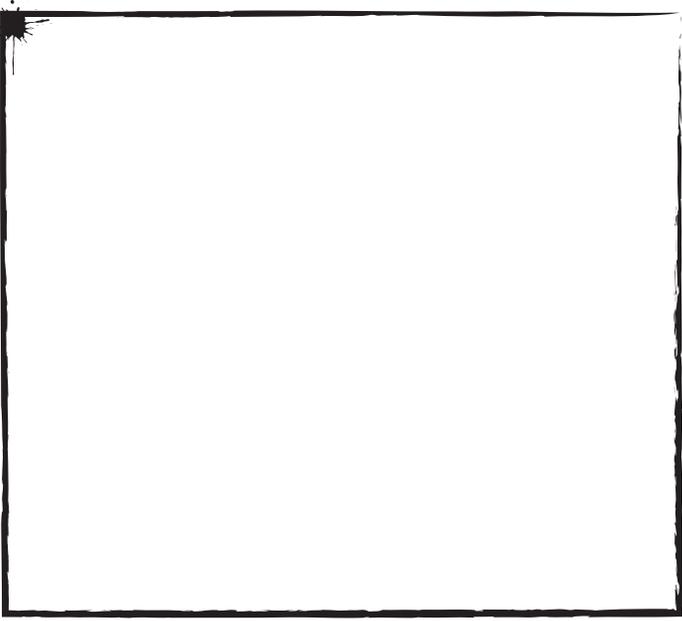
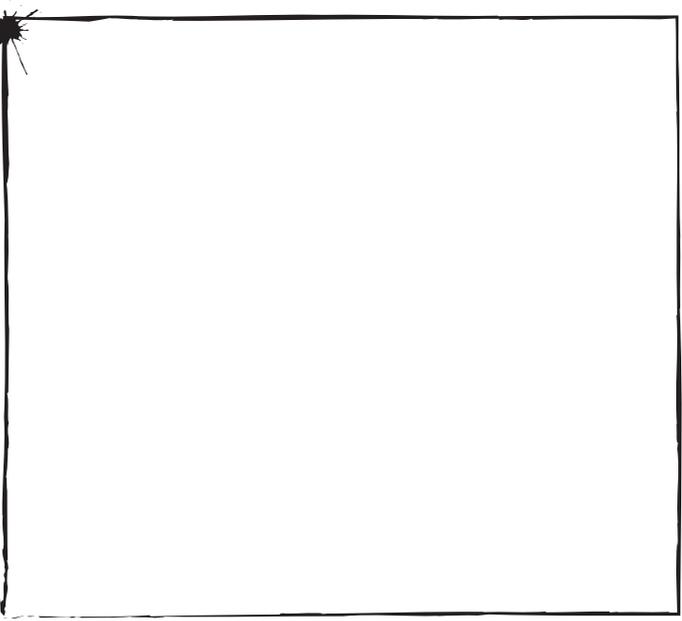


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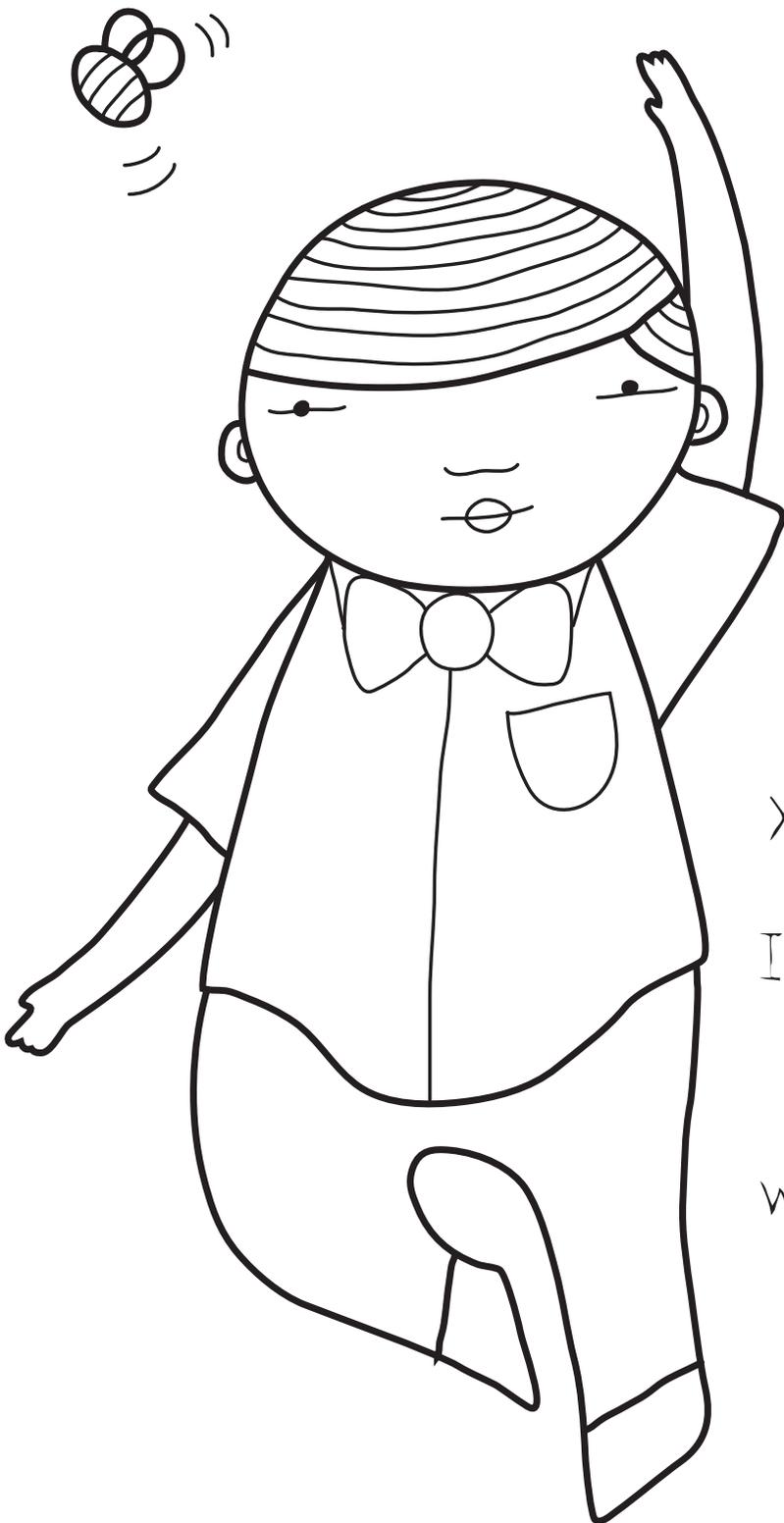
Hi, you can call me Indigo!

I love insects and bugs, but bees with their buzzing sound are my all time favorite. I like to take my time and buzz about too.

If we play together long enough, you might hear that besides Indigo, I like to be called **ze**.

Sometimes people call me she which does not buzz right with me.

I am **ZE**.
That's me.



INDIGO

Playing with
PRONOUNS

ZE
ZE/ZIR/ZIRS

Hi, you can call me Isabel!

Or you can call me **Isa**
or just **Bel**.

I love dinosaurs because there were so many different kinds! There were huge beyond huge ones, and even teeny tiny ones. There were flyers and swimmers, runners and stompers. Some had spikes or horns or big bony plates! I love all their differences.

For a long time I liked to be called **they**.

Right now I like to be called **she**.

I'm like a dinosaur,
I know there are many different ways to be.



ISABEL

Playing with
PRONOUNS

SHE
SHE/HER/HERS