

SUMMER 2009



RAWR

Bingee

DEBUT ISSUE!!

# Instructions from this issue's amazing cover artist Eric Ruschman on how to decorate your own Minilla or Baby Godzilla!

## Blingee Baby Godzilla:

1. Download and save the template image (MinillaTemplate.jpg) provided in the same Sparklezilla blog post as this issue.
2. Head over to Blingee.com and "Make a Blingee now!"
3. Upload the saved MinillaTemplate.jpg file to the website.
4. Proceed adding bling to the happy creature in the image.
5. Save your Blingee when you feel you have reached your desired quota of visual stimuli.
6. Please! E-mail your newly formed creation back to Sparklezilla at [sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com](mailto:sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com)
7. Feel accomplished.



being by myself feels less pleasant.



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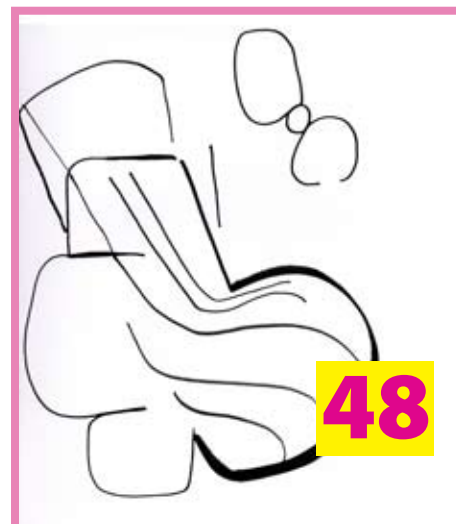
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# Tops



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## QUESTION 1

What message would you put in a fortune cookie?

## QUESTION 2

If your life was a movie, what would your soundtrack be?

## QUESTION 3

If you were on death row, what would your last meal be?

## QUESTION 4

What was your favorite childhood toy?

## QUESTION 5

What is your favorite item of clothing?

## QUESTION 6

If you found out you were dying what would you do?

## QUESTION 7

What is that one thing that you really should throw away, but probably never will?

## QUESTION 8

If you were a superhero, what would be your name, costume and powers?

## QUESTION 9

Can you define yourself using three words?

## QUESTION 10

How do you know when you are in love?

Have  
some answers  
to these questions?  
Or have a top 10 of your  
own? Share them in the fall  
issue of Sparklezilla!!



**Mandy Wilson shares her top 10 favorite pranks**

## PRANK 1

Freeze your girlfriends bra. So classic.

## PRANK 2

Put dish soap in your neighbors wiper fluid.

## PRANK 3

Fall asleep with your best friend, and replace yourself with a midget by morning.

## PRANK 4

Put peanut-butter under your friend's car-door handle.

## **PRANK 5**

Set your best guy friend up on a blind date with your other best guy friend in drag. You didn't know. Honest!

## **PRANK 6**

Take a picture of someone picking her nose in her sleep. Mwahaha.

## **PRANK 7**

Bob for apples. Blindfolded. Use onions instead.

## **PRANK 8**

Line the toilet with saran wrap so that your guest thinks they clogged it...mwahahah

## **PRANK 9**

Freeze a fake fly in an icecube. Then put it in someone's drink!

## **PRANK 10**

Put hole-puncher clippings in the vents of the car, and make sure the air is on high before you leave!



generally gray malaise.



**A fan illustration of the charcter "Huntress " by Dustin Schleibaum**

# CAT EYES WORLD

## An Annotation on the cats in Frank O'Hara's "A Step Away From Them"

By Nick Hill

In "A Step Away From Them," Frank O'Hara celebrates New York City and its minutia. Published in 1964 as part of his *Lunch Poems*, the poem is composed of seemingly random sights and moments that the author encountered on a walk through midtown New York City. The speaker relishes what most would call the mundane – those apparently insignificant pieces of the day that most pay little attention to, if any at all. In "A Step Away From Them," these pieces are precisely what makes life in the city seem so full. To the speaker, these moments and experiences are anything but insignificant – they are the essential stuff of an urban existence.

The first stanza of the poem ends with the image of several cats playing in sawdust, shortly after he passes laborers in yellow helmets (construction workers) and just before he turns onto Times Square. New York City is filled with stray cats and its sawdust is a byproduct found at virtually any construction site. While such an encounter is typical, it is noteworthy by the mere fact of its inclusion in the poem.

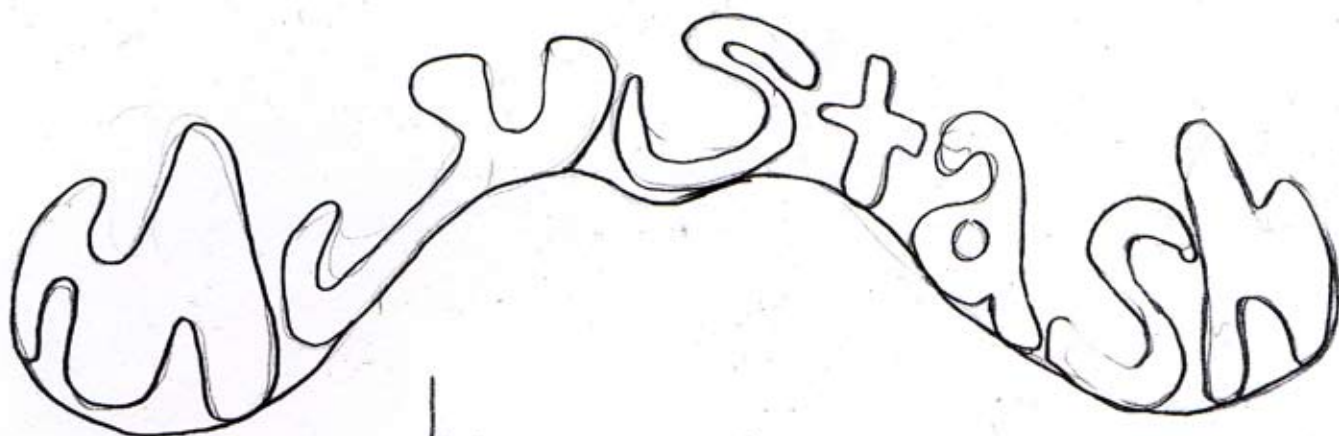
Leonardo da Vinci once said, "The smallest feline is a masterpiece."<sup>1</sup> In "A Step Away From Them," the speaker shares such sentiment. In the poem, the speaker recognizes what most would find unimportant and elevates it by one crucial line in the mere 49 of the poem. This reveals both the speaker's intense sensitivity to his surroundings and the ambiguous significance of the cats.

The cats in "A Step Away From Them" are playing in sawdust. Sawdust is merely a human byproduct – it has no inherent value. In essence it's no different than common trash. Nevertheless, these cats find value in it through their innocent act of play. The speaker simultaneously recognizes a unique intelligence of nature. The cats then operate as a microcosm of the speaker – both essentially find splendor in implausible sources. The cats see sawdust as fun and beautiful, and in turn the speaker finds value in these same items through playful language.

O'Hara wrote *Lunch Poems* while on walks during his work breaks. The poems consisted of things he saw, heard or otherwise experienced on these walks. While most would find such details unimportant and insignificant, for O'Hara they were vital. In another poem, "Meditations," he exclaimed, "I can't even enjoy a blade of grass unless I know there's a subway handy." O'Hara's inclusion of the minute detail of the cats is surely because he identified with the creatures. O'Hara likely saw himself in those cats, who too found beauty and fun in the least likely of places.

1: Planet Cat by Sandra Choron, Harry Choron and Arden Moore. Published by Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

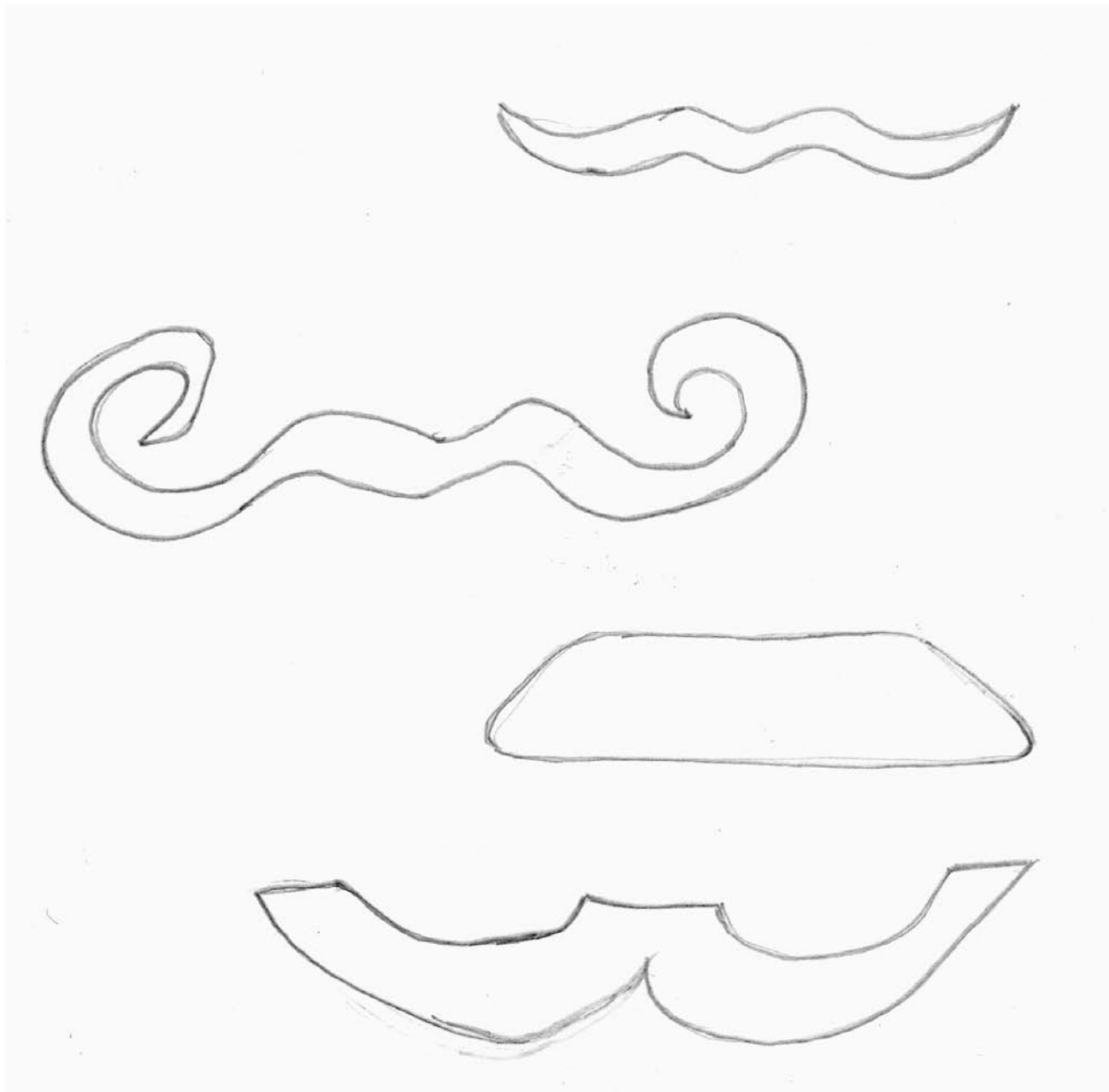




by  
Lindsey  
M  
Whittle







# Want to make your own wild mustache? Here's how!!

You can print these provided mustaches as a guide, or draw your own. First find some card or foam board. Then trace or draw your mustache onto the board. Next with a scissors or blade (be careful!) cut out your mustache. Then the fun part: DECORATE!! I primed my mustaches with gesso, and finished them with a glossy water based finish. But you should do what is right for your mustache(s). When you are finished decorating, glue a piece of string or in my case a piece of elastic chord on the back of your mustache, so you can keep it on your face! I glued a piece of felt on top of where I had glued the elastic so the glue wouldn't scratch my lip.

If you have any questions on how to make a mustache, or you want to submit pictures of your own mustaches or other fun designs, you can send an email to [Sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com](mailto:Sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com)!



a silver ribbon has been caught in weeds  
between the cobblestones for so long.





Untitled by Iris Spoor, acrylic on canvas



Untitled by Iris Spoor, pencil and charcoal on paper



# SCIENCE FICTION OR REAL LIFE SPACE SHIP:

An interview with native Kentuckian, Mike Schmitz  
by Lindsey M Whittle.

I recently caught up with my friend, teacher and maker extraordinaire Mike Schmitz, through email, to ask him about one of his current projects.

**LW** I hear that you are building a life size Millennium Falcon cabin, is this true?

**MS** The cabin I am building resembles the Millennium Falcon. It is about half to two thirds scale of what the Millennium Falcon was supposed to be. It is an example of Octagon style architecture, which is an actual architectural style that was popular in the early 1900's. The cabin is on my farm in Kentucky and will serve as a place to stay when I am there. I took a class in college called "History of American Architecture" I really liked the Octagon Style, but there are relatively few examples. I am really not a fan of "Post Modern" architecture, which is buildings that look like a robot, but rather more traditional style buildings. One might ask then why a building resembling a spaceship? Well I think what I want to accomplish is a finished product that is an octagon style building, that someone who has never seen "Star Wars" would recognize as just an Octagon style building, but one with just enough creativity that a 'Star Wars' fan would immediately recognize as the Millennium Falcon.



**LW** What made you decide to start this project?

**MS** I was planning on building a cabin of some sort and I was contemplating one that was up off the ground on stilts to keep out bugs. At the time I was sketching designs it was the middle of winter and I and my three roommates were snowed in during Christmas break. We played a lot of Euchre and watched 'Star Wars' over and over so my sketch of an Octagon building up on stilt became the Millennium Falcon.

**LW** How long have you been working on it?

**MS** A little over six years. I thought it would be done in two. Everyone else told me it would take seven, I guess they were right.



**LW** When do you see yourself finishing the cabin and what is your vision of what it will be like when it is finished?

**MS** It will be inhabitable by this fall. The Cockpit area and the front triangular shaped part will still need to be added on later. It will probably be complete in about two more years. You enter the building via a stairway from underneath, positioned where the ramp is on the falcon, I had hoped to make it a retractable stairway but this proved to be too difficult. The back has windows that correspond to the engines on the back of the falcon so when you flip the lights on it looks like the glow from the engines.

**LW** Where do you get all of your materials?

**MS** I have bought some but much of it was scrap, or things that people were getting rid of or throwing out. I usually accept most anything and try to incorporate it into the building somehow, sort of build around it.

**LW** Do you have any other projects you may want to work on in the future?

**MS** Yes, too many, at the top of the list is a small chapel to be made out of stone similar to one at Thomas More college in Crestview Hills. Of course one must always start one or two other project before they finish the current one, or even the one before that one; actually, I'm not sure if any of my projects have ever gotten 100 percent finished. Someday I would like to build Bag End or maybe something like Rivendale from "The Lord of the Rings," I already have plans drawn.

**LW** What advice would you give to someone who has an idea but doesn't know where to start?

**MS** Ask questions, run ideas past other people but don't be discouraged if they laugh at you. Patience! Take the next step and then the next and so on. Don't feel overwhelmed by your work just accomplish the task at hand the best you can and take satisfaction from that. Keep this up and one day it will be finished! Put safety first. Be prudent.

**LW** Lastly what are some things/people etc that motivate or inspire you?

**MS** Truth, goodness and beauty expressed, for example, in a Gothic Cathedral, Scenery, Music, Sacred art, people who live virtuous lives, especially the saints.



Have questions for Mike? [Sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com](mailto:Sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com)



Mami's drawing #1 "My father" Mami drew this picture when she was 4 or 5 years old. I like this color combination. (picture on the left below)

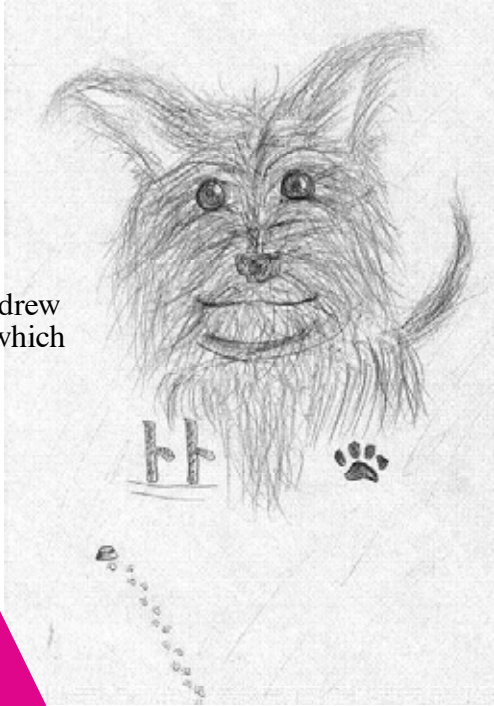


Mami's drawing #2 I don't understand what she drew in the middle though I like the color and a bird which has topknot. It looks like Samurai!

# Kazue's Photo Dairy!

*Kazue Ohara is native to Sunomata town in Gifu, Japan. Kazue has many talents, but I will highlight only a few. Kazue is an amazing wife, mother of Sae and Mami, and friend. She is also a calligraphy artist and teacher. She loves animals, teddy bears, sweets, musicals, Harry Potter, and art etc. Kazue also works and volunteers, while generally admiring the world around her with a smile. In this summer issue of Sparklezilla Kazue offers us a look into her world!*

Sae's drawing. She sketched Toto our dog.



Mami's drawing #3  
"Hands" I think this idea is interesting.

I painted on these pebbles with my children. Now I can see some fish, owls, horses, dog, baby, crown and rice ball!!



I visited the "Teddy bear Museum" in Takayama and I found some amazing bears.



These bears look like pastel crayons.



I like the view of this paddy.



This is a scene from the Sunomata fall festival. I think it is kind of a Japanese Thanksgiving day. We wear matching clothes when we parade with a portable shrine from the town temple (above).



Another paddy. I like the green in this picture.



These jacket called "Happi" and it is interesting because the pronunciation is very similar to "Happy". (to the left)

Rice paddy. I like this color. (to the right)



This picture is a view from the bridge by the One -night castle.





Ichiya or “One-Night” castle in Sunomata.



A Spring flower in Japan called “Sanshuyu.”



Our dog Toto jumping!

Plum blossoms!!







A multi-faced monster.” I like his costume.



A poster from the movie K-20, ” The multi-faced monster.” I watched this movie at the end of last year, and thought it was so interesting!



“Shichigo-san #1”

**Have questions for Kazue? Or want to share your own photo diary in the next issue of Sparklezilla? Sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com**



“Shichigo-san #2”

Mami was 5 years olds in these pictures. We have a special day for celebrating 7, 5 and 3 year old children in November. That’s when we took this picture.

# My Favorite Films from the 1980s

by Rob Langenderfer

The 1980s were a very special time for me. It was very early in that decade that I saw my first movie in a theater, and some of my favorite movies date from those years. I am not going to attempt to rate these films, but all of them stand as some of my all-time favorites, either for their initial impact, cumulative impact over the years or their impact on me today.

I can't neglect *Superman II*, which was the first movie I ever saw in a theater and is probably still my favorite superhero movie of all-time. I was so entranced by the film that afterwards my aunt took my brother and myself out to a store and I got some item of Superman clothing. Far better than any Superman film that followed it and slightly better than the original *Superman* (itself an excellent film that is almost a classic in status in my mind), it featured Christopher Reeve at his best and Margot Kidder as Lois Lane as well as Terence Stamp as General Zod and Gene Hackman as Lex Luthor as Superman sets out to stop three villains from Krypton from the first film (who are reintroduced in a brilliant montage of scenes and music from the first film at the beginning of this one) from conquering Earth. Superman deals with his love for Lois Lane and its consequences as he chooses to give up his powers. The music is very well-done in this movie although the soundtrack from the first film is also a truly classic work. The Richard Donner cut of this film available on DVD is definitely worth seeing as it puts Marlon Brando (Jor-El) in this movie in place of Susannah York (Lara), and it serves to give the film a greater emotional punch, especially when viewed alongside the first film. (Some Internet reviewers gave the DVD mixed reviews, but those points were made, and when I saw it, I was genuinely amazed how well the first film works together with the Richard Donner cut.) Richard Donner directed the first film and also directed this one until he was fired by the producers. Richard Lester came in and recut material and added new footage. Both versions of the film are worth seeing.

*The Empire Strikes Back* is my favorite of all of the *Star Wars* films. I remember when I saw it originally in the theater how shocked I was when Luke was attacked by the Wampa Ice Beast when he was on the taun-taun. The majesty of the imperial ships and the beauty of Cloud City and the utter suspense of Luke's lightsaber duel with Vader with the amazing effects shot that showcases the distance that Luke has to go if he falls along with the wonderfully dramatic music during that scene and the quiet haunting music at the moment when Luke sees the future with Yoda are elements of this film that have stayed locked in my memory. Han and Leia's love theme is excellent as is the Imperial March. To get this film's full impact, you must see it with *Star Wars* and *Return of the Jedi*. In terms of its plot, it (along with the original *Star Wars*) is the most effective of all of the films.

*E.T. The Extra Terrestrial* was a film that I was truly enchanted by the first time I saw it. It was the first film that I saw in a theater twice. Its music (particularly when the bicycles flew) really had an impact. The ending, too, was extremely powerful, and even at seven I could see the parallels with the resurrection of Christ.

Return of the Jedi was a wonderful treat to see when it first came out in the theater (and it was the only one of the original trilogy that I was old enough to see at its original theatrical release - fortunately, the other two were re-released prior to Jedi so I was able to see all three of them for the first time in their original theatrical glory). I was excited (and scared) by Luke's fight with the Rancor and then by the battle on the sail barge. Luke's final confrontation with Vader and the Emperor was so dramatic that it overshadowed the rest of the film for me the first time (and all of the later times that I saw it as well). I appreciated Luke's talks with Yoda, Ben and Leia, and they all added an extra level of texture and suspense to the film. The music of the film was generally excellent, particularly in the scenes with Vader and the Emperor. The novel of the film (which was the first novel I read) showed me how much more depth a novel can go in terms of a story than what can be shown on screen.

The Karate Kid and its first sequel were both fine films that had captivating stories and good characters and music. Ralph Macchio and Pat Morita do wonderful jobs in their leading roles, and the supporting cast of each of the films are brilliant. They were films that you could enjoy watching again and again.

The Natural is a film that I can't leave off the list. While probably not quite up to the sheer enjoyability or initial impact of many of the other films listed here, it still packs a real sense of magic. It was the first baseball movie I ever saw, and it has a fine cast of players, including Robert Redford, Glenn Close, Robert Duvall, Kim Basinger, Wilford Brimley, Richard Farnsworth, and Robert Prosky. It has a wonderful soundtrack and its storyline encompasses many of the game's myths and has fictionalized suggestions of players and events that will give much pleasure to people who know baseball history.

Ferris Bueller's Day Off and The Breakfast Club are two films I have to include even though I only just saw The Breakfast Club for the first time a few short years ago. They capture an image of what it was like being a teen in the 1980s. At least it is the version that Hollywood and John Hughes, who directed and produced both films, wanted to portray, which was not the whole picture of being a teen in the 1980s, and I should know because I was one. Still, John Hughes is considered by Roger Ebert to be "the philosopher of adolescence", and the movies do show a certain level of wisdom along with plenty of fun. (The quote is from his review of Ferris Bueller's Day Off.) Ebert was able to see a level of meaning in that film that I honestly missed the first time I saw the film. I was able to get more out of it in later viewings because of reading the review. Ebert's review of The Breakfast Club is also thoughtfully considered and well-written although I would have figured The Breakfast Club to have been the deeper of the two pictures and Ebert seems to feel just the opposite. Anyway, I hope that my comments on all of these 15 films help whoever ends up reading them to see the films and to get more out of them if you are seeing them for a second or third time. These two films about teenagers show teachers and school administrators going through the motions of their jobs without much of a sense of caring for the students under their watch. The movies are entertaining and thoughtful and keep you laughing while also engaging your brain. Both films focus on teenagers in school - one who uses plenty of tricks to get out of school while the other focus on teens stuck in school for detention on a Saturday. It's likely that you will see some elements that you remember from your own life, and you too can wink at the camera while watching these films!

Back to the Future is another film that stands the test of time from the 1980s. It is far better than its sequels (so far in fact, that one would have almost wished that they had never been made, but the way this film ends is too good to alter, and



it calls out for a sequel). If only they had been done better! Anyway, Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, Crispin Glover and Thomas F. Wilson head the cast about a teenager who travels back in time to the 1950s and must work to get his parents together so he'll be born. This features some nice songs and a funny and interesting storyline.

My Stepmother is an Alien is a film that is largely ignored today, but was one that I enjoyed a great deal when I saw it with my aunt in the theater. Kim Basinger plays an alien who comes to earth as a human and many funny moments occur. There is no deep message here, but it is a fun film that will keep you laughing and engaged. Short Circuit is another movie along the same humorous lines with probably a little more heart and more drama that features a living robot that is accidentally created and the young lady Stephanie who works to protect it.

Field of Dreams is my favorite baseball film of all time. It is also a great movie to take someone to see who is not a baseball fan because it helps explain why baseball has captured the hearts of so many people. It features Kevin Costner and Amy Madigan and James Earl Jones and Burt Lancaster in excellent performances. It has a wonderful soundtrack. It has a wonderful mix of elements - time travel, baseball games, school board meetings, cornfields. The heart of the film (as I recall the Cincinnati Enquirer reviewer writing many years ago) is really the relationship between Costner's character and his father. My father and I went to see this film together, and we both loved it. Even the scene of Costner doing research at the library using microfilm would come to have resonance with me because years later, my father and I did that together to research baseball history for a project that we worked on together. Working as a librarian today, I take special pride in that scene. The novel on which the film is based, Shoeless Joe, is also excellent, but it has enough differences that it is well worth reading both before or after seeing the film. Perhaps the most iconic film on this list (with the possible exception of E.T. and Back to the Future) and deservedly so, this is not one that you would want to miss.

Star Trek III: The Search for Spock is my favorite Star Trek film, and I feel that in many respects it epitomizes all of the values that Star Trek stands for, but I am slightly hesitant about putting it on this list. I never saw it in a theater, and my memories are a little hazy about whether I even saw it in its entirety the very first time I saw it. The movie is so much tied to what went before it that it's hard for it to stand on its own. (For that matter, neither entirely can Empire Strikes Back, but Empire had a majesty and scope to it that this film just doesn't have.) As a number of people have realized (including myself), Star Trek III is a pretty simple story, and it does not have the evocative shots of stars and the huge ships that made the Star Wars films so memorable. However, the film does feature some wonderful comedic moments, a brilliant film score and all of the Star Trek crew (save Spock) at their very best. As a number of people have noted over the years and with which I concur wholeheartedly, the film also subtly but compellingly shows the values of caring for their fellow crewmen and humanity overall and the virtue of self-sacrifice, that powered Star Trek for more than 40 years (and, which, hopefully, we will continue to see in the new Star Trek film due out on May 8, 2009). It is a story about people and their struggles, and nowhere is that more effectively shown than in the last 10 minutes of the film. In those moments, the film does reach epic status. In the final analysis I can't leave the film off of this list, for by the end of the 1980s I was into Trekkdom fully, having seen nearly all (if not all) of the original series by that point, avidly watching ST:TNG and reading books analyzing the shows and the films. The Star Trek movies were definitely a part of that, and Star Trek III remains my choice of the one that best retains the spirit of the original series.

Dead Poet's Society is the last film on my list (which, interestingly enough, comprises 15 films). Having seen it when I was going to an all-boy private Catholic high school, it had a special resonance with me. My interest in English (and I would later obtain a B.A. in English as well as history and do some teaching of English myself) also helped the film to hit home. Its evocative cinematography of the soccer game made me connect the film with other happy memories I would later have, like seeing a late-night soccer game on a beautiful evening under the lights (even though there were no night soccer games in the film!). Robin Willimas gives a tremendously compelling performance as English teacher John Keating (who is an actual English teacher and, who, still teaches at the school). I would love to have been able to see the version of the film that aired on TV that had extra footage. I would also love to know more about the actual real-life figure of John Keating. Poetry was never my favorite part of English literature, but this film helped to give me a greater appreciation for it and to understand how people get so much out of it. For that I am grateful. Its compelling story should touch a chord with anyone who sees it.



"Gaia" by Rich Spoor acrylic on canvas

## **Yummy Yogurt Muffins!**

**From Rebel Roser**

### **Ingredients**

- \* 12 1/2 ounces cake flour**
- \* 1 teaspoon baking soda**
- \* 2 teaspoons baking powder**
- \* Heavy pinch salt**
- \* 1 cup sugar**
- \* 1/2 cup vegetable oil**
- \* 1 egg**
- \* 1 cup yogurt**
- \* 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries**
- \* Vegetable spray, for the muffin tins**

**Mix the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a bowl. In another bowl, mix sugar, vegetable oil, egg, yogurt, and blueberries in another. Combine the two mixtures, making sure not to over stir for extra fluffiness. Poor into a muffin pan and bake for 12 minutes at 400 degrees.**





# ***What Kind?***

***By Lindsey M Whittle***

I recently re-watched the movie Amelie (if you have never seen this movie, it is worth a rent) and did some thinking about some of the things I love about that movie. What always strikes me the most is the main character (Amelie) is not looking to be rewarded for her kindness. It seems that she just wants to do something nice. Throughout the movie she finds herself trying to do kind things for people, but hardly ever revealing that it was her behind the acts. I think we could all use a little bit more kindness in our lives. So I wanted to share some of my favorite ideas of kindness for people. If you have any great ideas on this topic, please feel free to share them at [Sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com](mailto:Sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com) , I would love to keep this train of thought going.



**T**ape some quarters to a pay phone or vending machines for someone having a rainy day!

**L**eave random positive notes for people everywhere!

**M**ake the 14th of every month a day to show people how much you love them, or maybe write your loved ones a love letter just because from time to time etc!

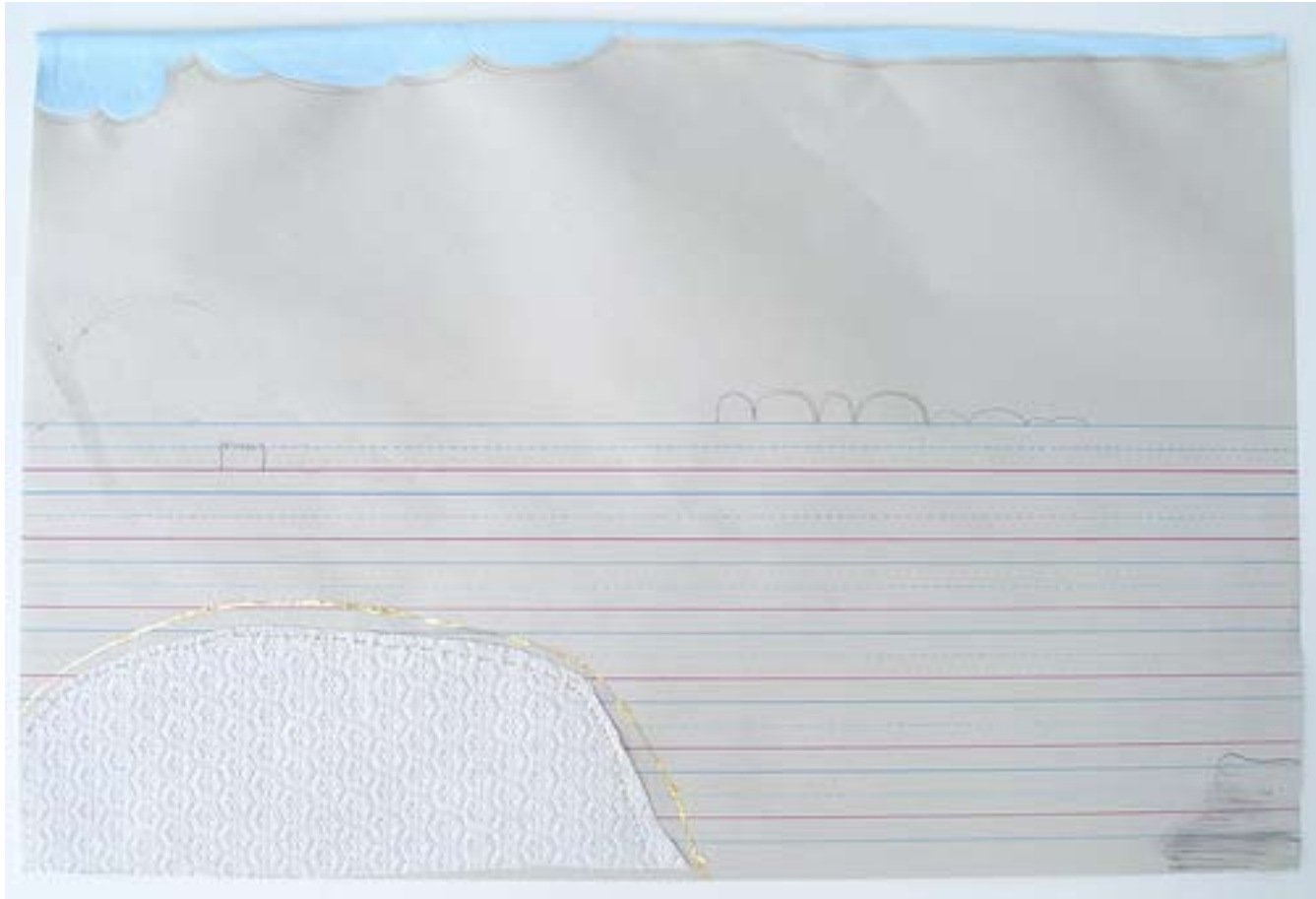
**B**uy a some gift certificates from local fast food chains in small amounts to give to homeless folks around town (this way they won't be tempted to spend the gift on something other than food).

**L**eave tiny gifts or cards at restaurants with your tips!

**//** Drop" a ten dollar bill at a friend's house that you know is strapped for cash.

**D**oes someone you know leave for work extra early in the winter? Get up early some mornings and heat their car for them, so it is nice and toasty when they get in! My friend's little brother used to do that for her, and it always made her day.

**M**ake cookies (or something else you can think of) for a local establishment, like maybe a local police office, etc. My neighbor always gets up early in the summer to give a bottled water to the hard working and tired garbage men who collect our trash, I think some sweets could make their day even better!



“Clubhouse=Home” by Molly Donnermeyer 2009  
Latex paint, gold leaf, graphite, paper towel, thread



“Half are in Heaven” by Molly Donnermeyer 2009  
Latex paint, gold leaf, graphite, velcro, hair



# If you want to throw an adult slumber party...

By Mandy Wilson

For starters, do a little research on food allergies and favorite movies. No one wants to be stuck watching Kate Winslet never let go all night. Or invite everyone to bring a movie!

Make a tent in the living room! Hooray!

Invite your guests to bring toiletries and sleeping bags. And their cutest pajamas for your 'cutest pajamas contest'. What's your prize? They get to sleep in your bed.

What else might your guests need? Swimsuits? ...rollerskates?....I mean... you never know...

Plan some awesome games. Kings Cup, Truth or Dare, Spin the Bottle (hey, make it something other than a kiss!)..., Charades, Karaoke, a treasure hunt...or try playing poker with candy instead of chips.

Take everyone's keys!

Glowsticks. Point made.

Order pizza. And mmm...on top of how to make delicious popcorn, set up a popcorn bar. You can try all different toppings like cinnamon, raisins, powdered cheese, caramel sauce, pizza seasoning, butter, salt, tomato powder, sugar, red pepper, parmesan, sweetened cocoa...the list goes on.

See "Top Ten Pranks" List

And for drinks, sodas! DIET sodas! I think older kids are worse than the younger about brushing their teeth. And of course, a burping contest must follow.

Other drink ideas include a mixture of frozen raspberries, 7-UP, and white grape/raspberry concentrate. Try freezing the berries in ice cubes. Delicious!

You can definitely get some stick-on or henna tattoos...

And making puffy-paint pillowcases or teddy bears would be a great memory!

Learn how to do magic together...

And what about making s'mores in the fireplace?

For the girls, do each other's nails, braid friendship bracelets, and each other's hair.

Make sure you have something for breakfast! Including lots of water...

Try omelets, donuts, muffins, fruit, cool whip, pancakes...juices... left-over popcorn?



# Teenage Mutant Ninja What?

by Lindsey M Whittle

**Cowabunga! Maybe you are, or aren't aware that 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. See more information here: <http://www.tmnt25.com> . I guess that means they aren't teenagers anymore!**

**Whether or not you are a Ninja Turtle fan, it does make you think what can make something so popular for so long? Honestly I am not surprised that the Ninja Turtles have survived the times moving through the 80's, 90's and the present, because the bottom line is turtles are pretty gosh darn cool animals. I often ask people what their favorite animal is (mine being squirrels) and you'd be surprised how often I hear turtle. It doesn't matter if you are young, old, male or female, turtles seem to reach people from all walks of life. So just to see if any other animals could have made the ninja cut I came up with my own ninja team!**



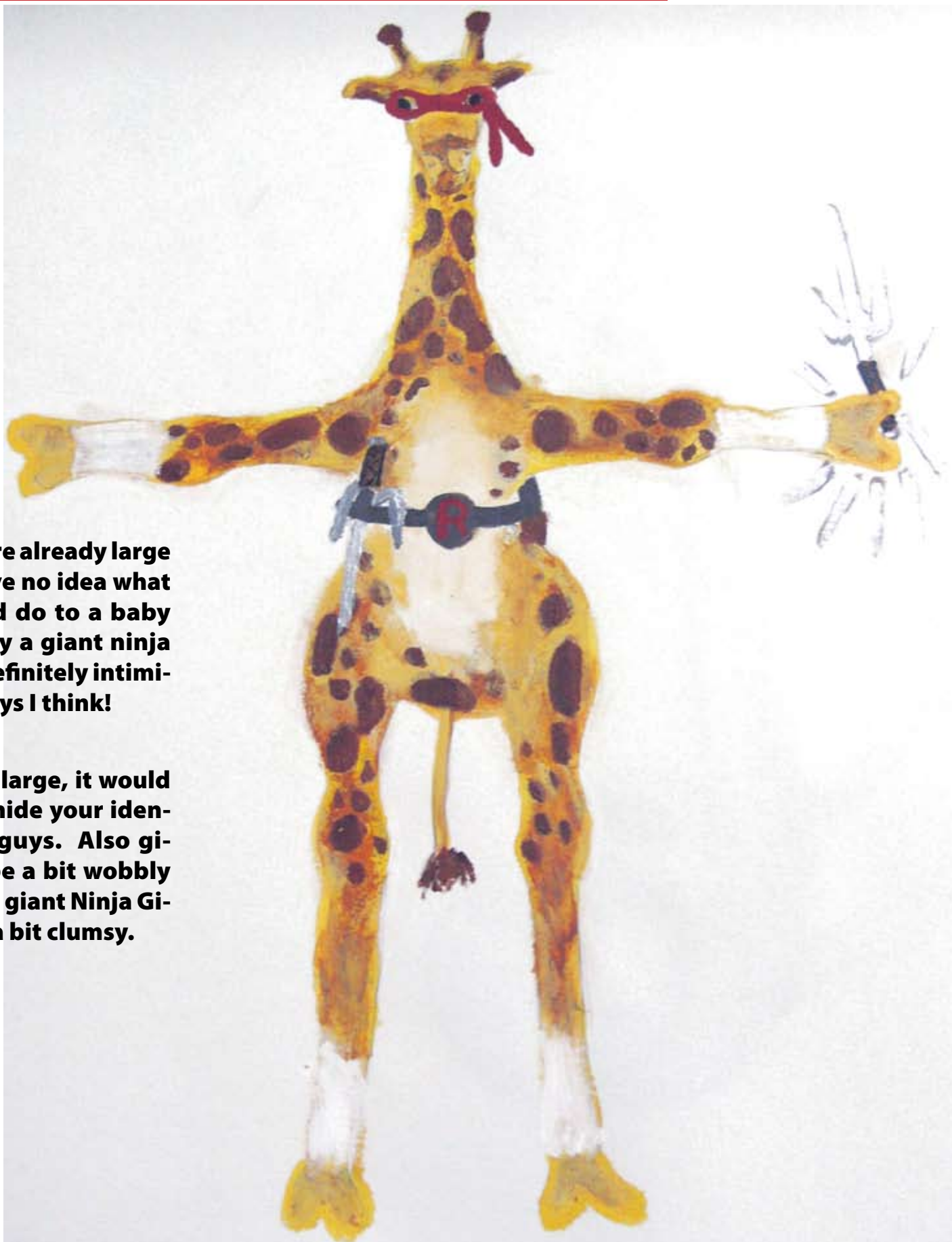
# ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Beaver: Leonardo***



**Pros:** When he mutated his teeth became stronger, so not only can he wield a sword, he also has razor sharp teeth that you wouldn't want to mess with. Don't forget to watch the tail! It provides quite a smack!

**Cons:** Beavers have small arms, and they have obsessions with building dams. So it is easy for our Ninja Beaver to get distracted when he sees a group of trees or logs.

# ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Giraffe: Raphael***



**Pros:** Giraffes are already large animals so I have no idea what the ooze would do to a baby Giraffe. But hey a giant ninja giraffe would definitely intimidate the bad guys I think!

**Cons:** Being so large, it would not be easy to hide your identity from bad guys. Also giraffes tend to be a bit wobbly so I imagine our giant Ninja Giraffe could get a bit clumsy.



# ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Snake: Donatello***



**Pros:** Depending on what snake finds himself in a puddle of ooze we could have a Ninja Snake with a secret weapon of deadly venom. Also don't let this anaconda wanna-be wrap himself around you if you are a bad guy. He may wield a bow, but he can also take your breath away!

**Cons:** Being in the reptile family like turtles this guy surely packs a punch! Or at least he would if he had some hands, or even arms. After a while without arms or legs it might be hard for this Ninja Snake to keep up with the rest of the team!



# ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Duck: Michelangelo***

**Pros:** Ducks have wings! That might be nice if you are stuck in an oozy situation!

**Cons:** It is not easy to wield nunchucks when you don't have fingers or thumbs. So you could say this Ninja Duck has butter fingers, but we should probably stick with butter feathers!!



**What is the verdict? Turtles are just darn cool! We have to give Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman credit, they chose the right animals when creating the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles! Way to create a cartoon that has brought joy to many over the last 25 years! Now about the Master Splinter, the giant rat . . . . .**



**Have a comment about this article? Or want to design your own ninja animal? Share them in the fall issue of Sparklezilla!!**



a sidewalk just before findlay street.

## Il était une fois Pluton était une vraie planète

L'étude des étoiles et des corps célestes touche souvent les parties romantiques et émotionnelles du cœur. L'espace interstellaire pique la curiosité de presque tout le monde. La controverse de la classification de Pluton après le millénaire est une preuve de l'intérêt intense concernant l'astronomie.

Pluton a été découvert en 1930 par un jeune américain, Clyde Tombaugh, dans un observatoire astronomique aux États-Unis, qui analysait des photographies des étoiles. Ce corps céleste a été nommé la neuvième planète du système solaire.

Une petite fille anglaise a suggéré le nom Pluton pour la planète, et les astronomes l'ont choisi. Comme l'endroit des enfers où le dieu romain Pluton régnait, la petite planète était sombre et froide. Elle est composée de glace de méthane, glace d'eau, et de roche. La planète est très petite. La lune est trois fois plus grande que Pluton. C'est presque comme l'astéroïde du Petit Prince!

Quand vous étiez un enfant à l'école, vous avez probablement appris que Pluton était la neuvième planète du système solaire. C'était vrai jusqu'à l'année 2006. Récemment, beaucoup d'objets similaires aux Pluton ont été découverts. Un objet qui s'appelle Éris s'est révélé être 27% plus massif que Pluton. À cause des découvertes, l'Union astronomique internationale (UAI), qui est une association aux astronomes autorisés, a décidé de redéfinir une définition pour le terme de planète. La définition d'UAI exclut Pluton de ce titre.

L'union a créé une nouvelle catégorie pour Pluton et d'autres petites objets: des planètes naines ou des plutoïdes. Pluton, comme sa petitesse, est maintenant une planète mineure. Elle a reçu une nouvelle classification et un nouveau nom un peu ennuyeux : 134340.

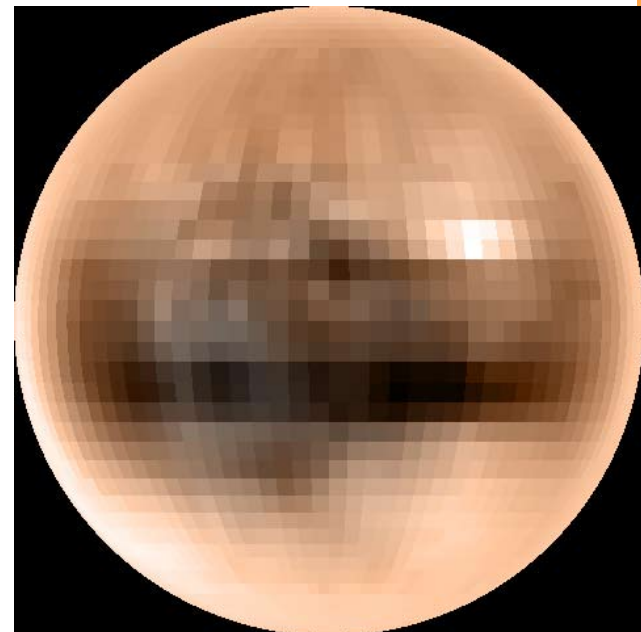
Quelques scientifiques et astronomes amateurs essayaient de contester cette nouvelle définition, mais l'UAI a le dernier mot. L'UAI est en charge de la dénomination des choses célestes.

Pluton n'est pas seule dans son deuil. L'ex-planète a un très grand satellite qui s'appelle Charon. Elle aussi a deux autres lunes qui sont petites. Elles s'appellent Nix et Hydra, et ces lunes sont mystérieuses comme leur planète.

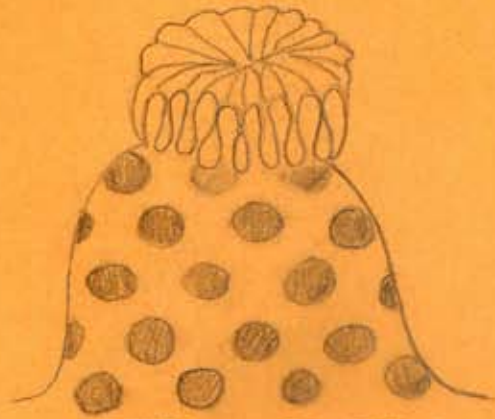
Mais, dans six ans, Pluton ne sera plus un mystère. La sonde américaine d'administration nationale de l'aéronautique et de l'espace (NASA) New Horizons passera Pluton pour survoler l'été 2015. Cette sonde sera la première à faire la connaissance de Pluton.

### Bibliographie

«Pluto.» Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 11 Apr 2009. 11 Apr 2009<<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pluto&oldid=283151169>>.







# POEMS

*By Matt Morris*

A sequel is a messy thing.

Thanks be.

We aren't all held publicly accountable;  
won't dissuade me from spitting into your eye.

You called for a rematched and invited me over,                      and when  
the clowns were sent in like we designed

they weren't frilly enough,                      lacked most of their jackets as if they'd been eaten into.

We somersaulted over the frontlines, cantilevered the avant garde  
with some old lady's dressing gown. A costume that contains all of  
our fights, make ups, make outs, drinks, and drifters.

love is a pastel thing with ears pinned back.  
after that, we'll called it settled.

My rouge may be black, but you've lost your shirt.

*A Former Line*

veil were rent,  
because saying I'm sorry couldn't factor in,  
and yet, aflame, we could not keep our hands off  
each other's thinly disguised advances.

Death had little premised the terms of our  
reconciliation like donning mourning attire,  
only to have it dropped to our ankles,  
hiked up above our hips, or peeled off  
and thrown casually over one shoulder.  
What these dressed layers bring us up to:  
mansions, mausoleums, maudlin lonelineses.

Affect wafts  
dense and foggily  
between our nods,  
clumsy reassurances,  
and saunter derives.  
For now, our bodies

are the denuded embraces of one another's regret.

there are a few more dance  
steps left to take, and  
apparently we deem  
to take them

together.



love (a) *rhombus*

felt  
someone up.  
proceed down-  
ward: cogent,  
no touch  
ing.

a mid-  
dle white.  
a nother  
want two  
desired life  
before tonight.

go sip  
falsified  
peppered:

glitter applies  
an environment  
onto an object's  
skin.

felt skin  
before tonight.

a possi-  
bility, every  
possibility.  
eye moon-  
light as a  
beggar.

port  
of entry dark  
tawny haired  
lovely enough

to lie about.

we lay about  
in beggars' skin  
in touching we  
lose  
an environment  
under an object's  
lies.

( m n )  
( n m )

a mist  
with touching  
lovely enough  
to beg for.

**glitter apples  
here.**

slip  
white porch  
where cogent  
felt  
tonight.

loved eyes  
in a beg-  
gar's face  
false i tried  
at night.

i pose  
a threat  
glittered and tawny  
  
wild horses could not—



# Pop-a-corn

*By Lindsey M Whittle*

**I am a terrible cook. I burn most anything I attempt to cook. But over the years, under the guidance of my grandfather, a great popcorn maker, I have tried to perfect how to make delicious popcorn. Now I am going to share my joy with you by revealing my secret recipe.**

**Materials: Pot, Vegetable oil, popcorn kernels, large paper bag, salt, pot holders**

## Chapter 1: The Pot

First the most important thing you need to make delicious popcorn is a good popcorn pot. It needs to be thick metal, deep and large, with a lid. But in my opinion, I think you should dedicate 1 pot to be your popcorn pot. A good popcorn pot has to be seasoned before it begins to make good popcorn. I started this theory after a new movie theater opened by my house. That particular theater chain had dependably good popcorn, my favorite movie theater popcorn actually. I had been to many different chain locations as that theater and all had delicious popcorn. But after the new theater opened I heard word from some friends that their popcorn was terrible. Terrible had never been a word I had used to describe that chain's popcorn. But when I visited home for Christmas, I got word that their popcorn was now delicious. I had a similar experience when I moved to Japan. I had been experimenting, and trying to improve my popcorn for many years prior to my move. I had it down to a science, and often produced dependably good popcorn. But when I moved here, my popcorn was sub par. I couldn't understand it, I knew exactly what I was doing. But over time I noticed my popcorn started to improve. That is when I realized from these two instances that a good popcorn pot needs to be seasoned first. So do not despair when your popcorn isn't perfectly delicious at first.

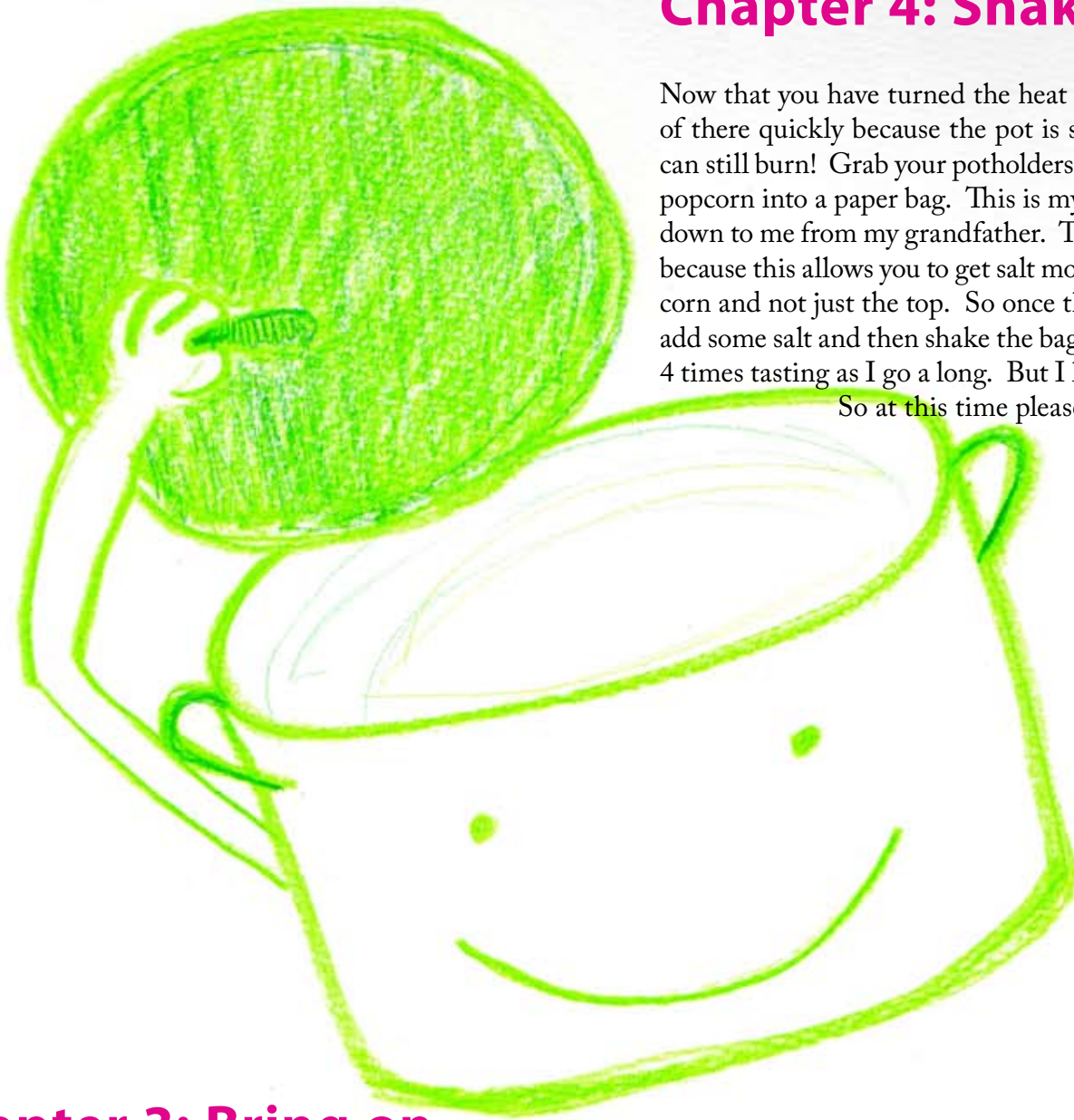
## Chapter 2: Those Kernels Have to Pop in Something!

Now that you have a good popcorn pot you are ready to start popping. Depending on how much popcorn you want to make will dictate how much oil to use. If I am making popcorn for a group of people then I usually cover the bottom of the pot with kernels (maybe about 1/4 inch). Then you put in enough oil to cover the top of the kernels. You don't want the kernels swimming in oil. But you need enough oil to let the kernels do their job. The oil also gives some flavor, and allows the salt to stick to the popped popcorn. After you put the oil in pick up the pot and shake it back and forth about 5 or 6 times.

## Chapter 4: Shake it!

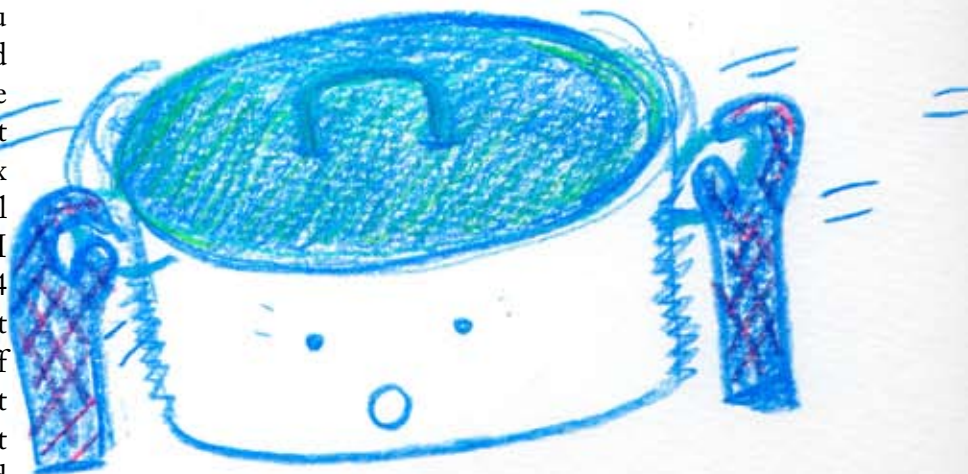
Now that you have turned the heat off, get the popcorn out of there quickly because the pot is still hot, so the popcorn can still burn! Grab your potholders and dump your batch of popcorn into a paper bag. This is my personal secret, passed down to me from my grandfather. The bag is very important because this allows you to get salt more evenly on all the popcorn and not just the top. So once the popcorn is in the bag add some salt and then shake the bag. I usually do this about 4 times tasting as I go a long. But I like fairly salty popcorn.

So at this time please use discretion.




## Chapter 3: Bring on the heat

Now you are ready to start the heat. Turn your burner on to a little past medium heat (but not too hot!! You don't want burnt popcorn). Don't forget to put the lid on or you will have a big mess. First you will hear the oil start to boil. Then you will hear the kernels get excited just before they pop. You can sit back and relax while the popcorn pops. But be careful, popcorn is all about timing. You must take it off before it burns. I judge this by listening. When I start to hear about 14 pops per second I turn the heat off. But if you don't want to be that specific you can just turn the heat off when you hear the popcorn slowing down. But trust me it is better to error on the side of turning the heat off too soon. Otherwise you end up with a really bad burnt popcorn smell, and unhappy guests!







My favorite food is Popcorn!

## Chapter 5: PRESENTation

Now I often (due to lack of time) just share my popcorn straight from the bag. But you can choose your own presentation. You can put popcorn into small individual bags for your guests, or a few big bowls. If the popcorn is for kids, you could have them decorate the paper bag before you put the popcorn in or you can print the next page in this magazine; cut and staple for instant popcorn bags! If you want to do something really crazy for decoration, you can put food coloring in the oil before the popcorn pops. Then you have bright colors and delicious popcorn. Are you tired of lemonade stands? Next time try a popcorn stand, I bet your customers will not be disappointed.





## Chapter 6: Eating

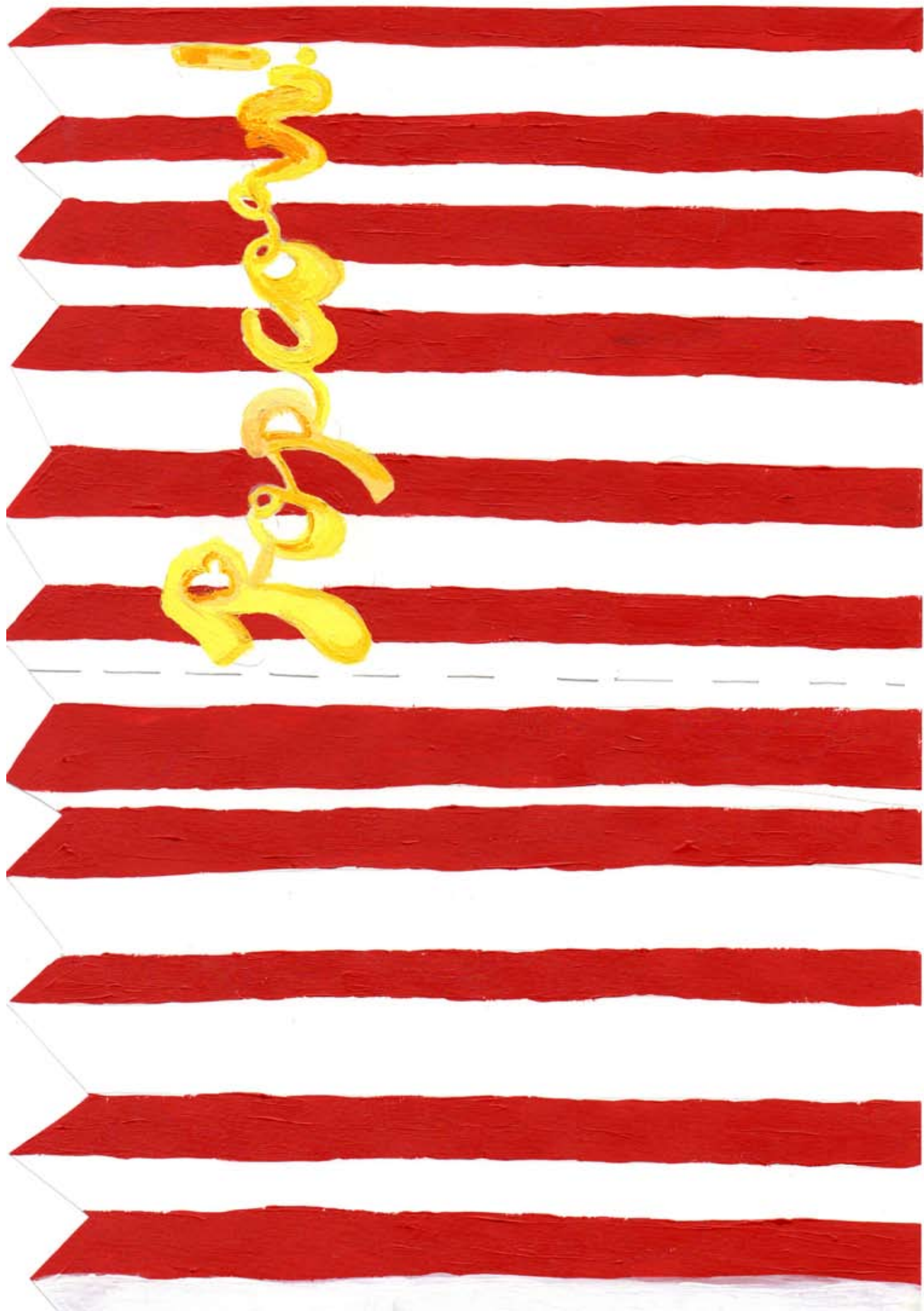
Ok the popcorn is done, GO EAT IT!!!



Got a recipe or know how to do something great? Share it in the fall issue of Sparklezilla!!







# FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN

By Kathryn L. Whittle 6/26/09

It has become apparent to me that the thing I have enjoyed most in my life thus far is being a mom. After raising one amazing daughter, and being on the verge of empty nesting. I was surprised at the ripe age of 49 with a new baby. Thank heavens I did not have to go through a pregnancy and delivery this time!

Never had I been “shut down” by another person like this. I had just 4 hours notice that I was bringing home this bundle of joy, my second cousin, Shaylah, from University Hospital. I had nothing in my house for a baby, not one thing. But as providence would have it, God provided in his own way via friends and neighbors, who quickly provided baby gear and clothing. Bringing home a preemie that also had other issues, made keeping my part-time job as an adjunct professor a challenge. Colic and getting up for an 8 o'clock class don't mix well. But somehow, I just did it. And I continue to do what ever is necessary, with a joyful heart. Because nothing feels more fulfilling and worthwhile than nurturing another.

My busyness was enough to cause me to be late on my house payment, miss appointments and avoid phone calls, something I NEVER would have allowed to happen prior to that time in my life. Which is why I was so taken aback that Shaylah was going to have a baby sister! A DOUBLE blessing, no doubt, but could I take this on at such a ripe young age?

Much prayer, talking to others and discussion with my husband ensued, only to be pretty much ordered by a judge in Lexington to raise these sisters together. So, it was done. And here we are, parents of two delightful and precocious darling girls, now almost three and 18 months. I cannot imagine (or remember) my life without them.

So.....my advice is to be open to God's plan for you, and always be prepared to change the course of your life on a dime. Perhaps the greatest rewards we will have in this life are the results of us relinquishing control and aborting already-made -plans, in order to snatch an opportunity unexpected and unplanned for, only to accomplish that which we set out to accomplish in the first place: a meaningful life.



what does this installation have to do with  
the underworld?

by Matt Morris

# THE COLORING BOOK

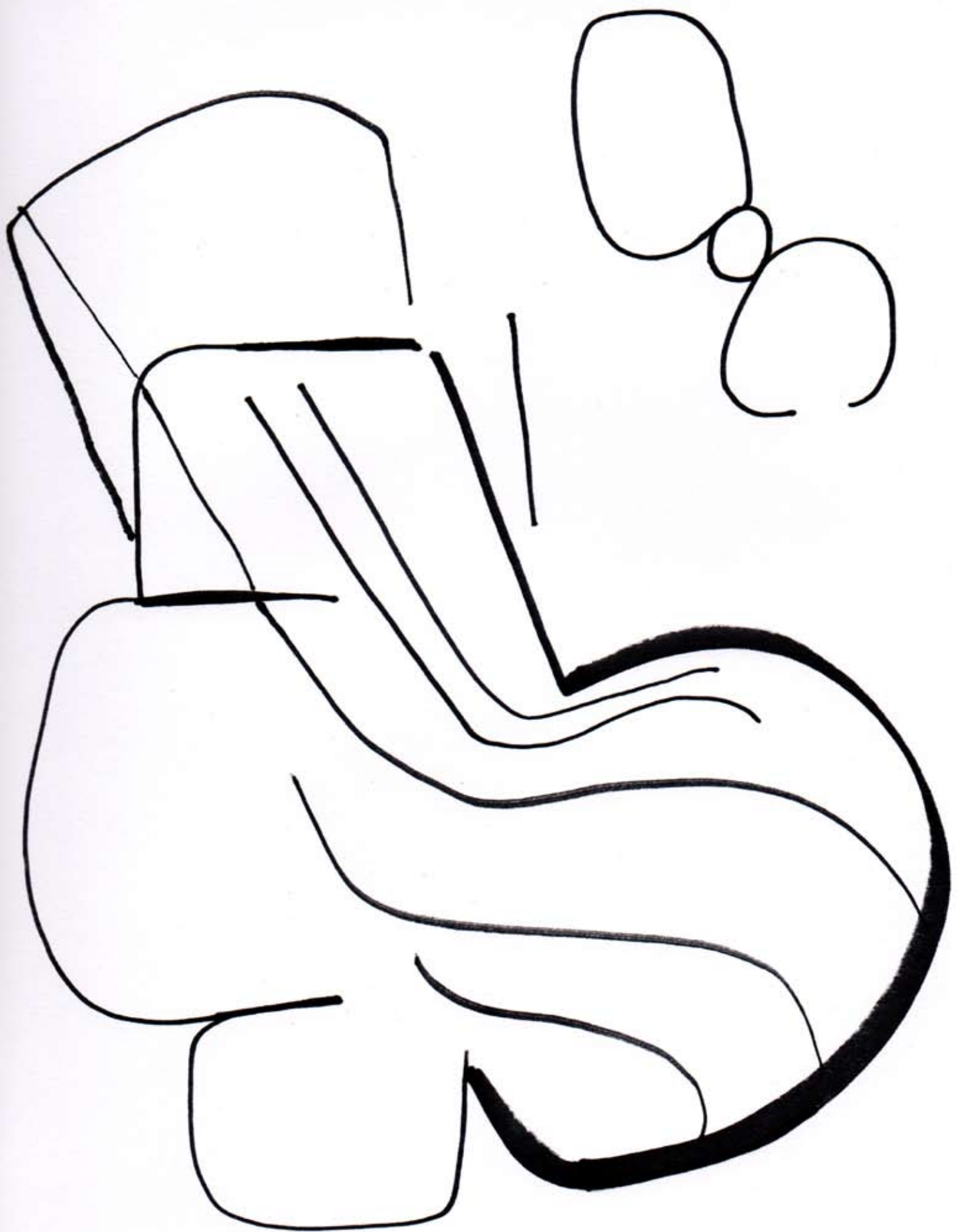
By Lindsey M Whittle

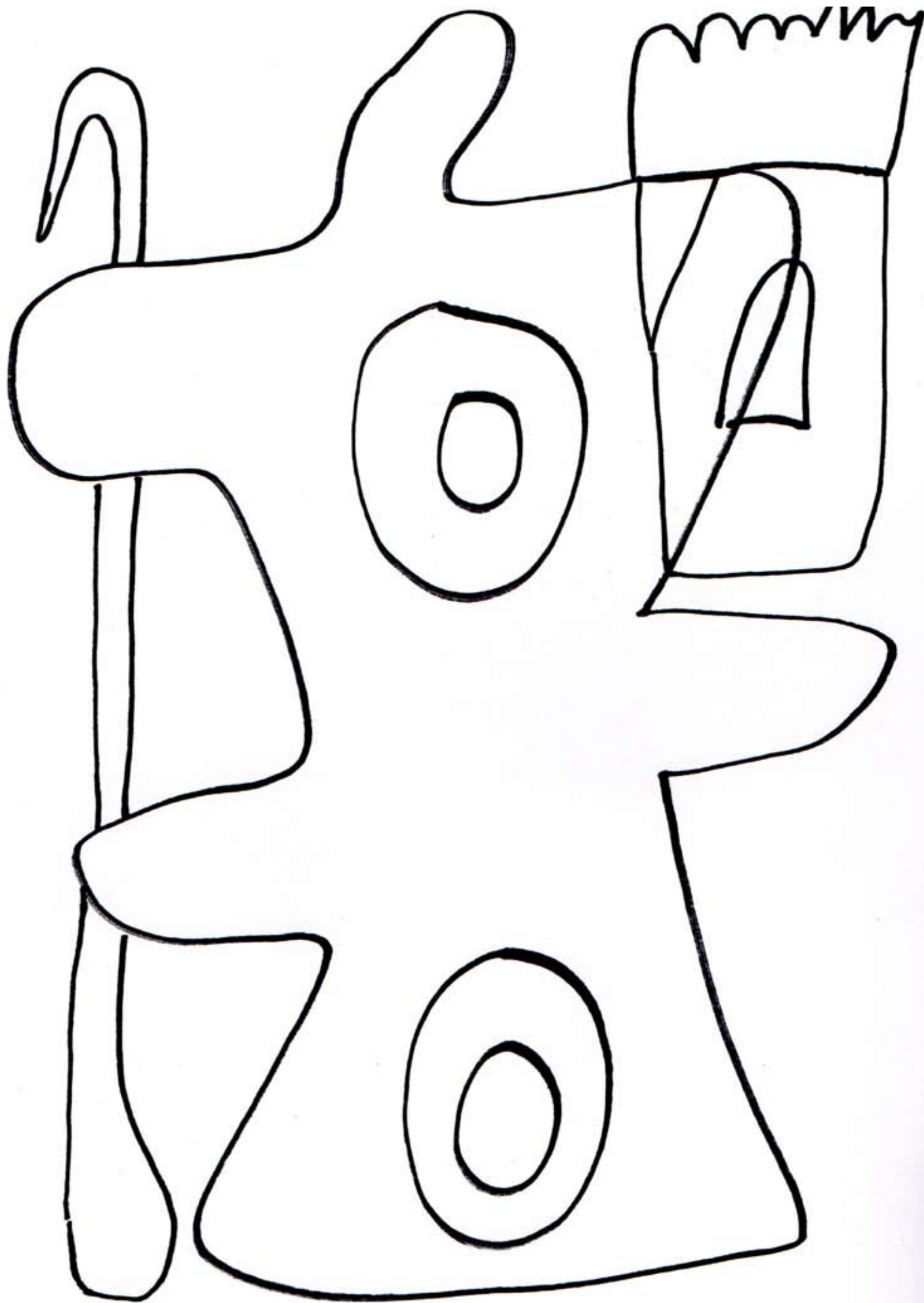
Shape coloring book pages!! Ever wanted to color something, but you didn't want to be restricted to obvious characters and objects in store bought coloring books? Well here is your chance. Print and Color these shape coloring pages anyway you like!! Have fun with it. Then feel free to take a picture and we will show your finished results in the fall issue of sparklezilla! Get coloring!

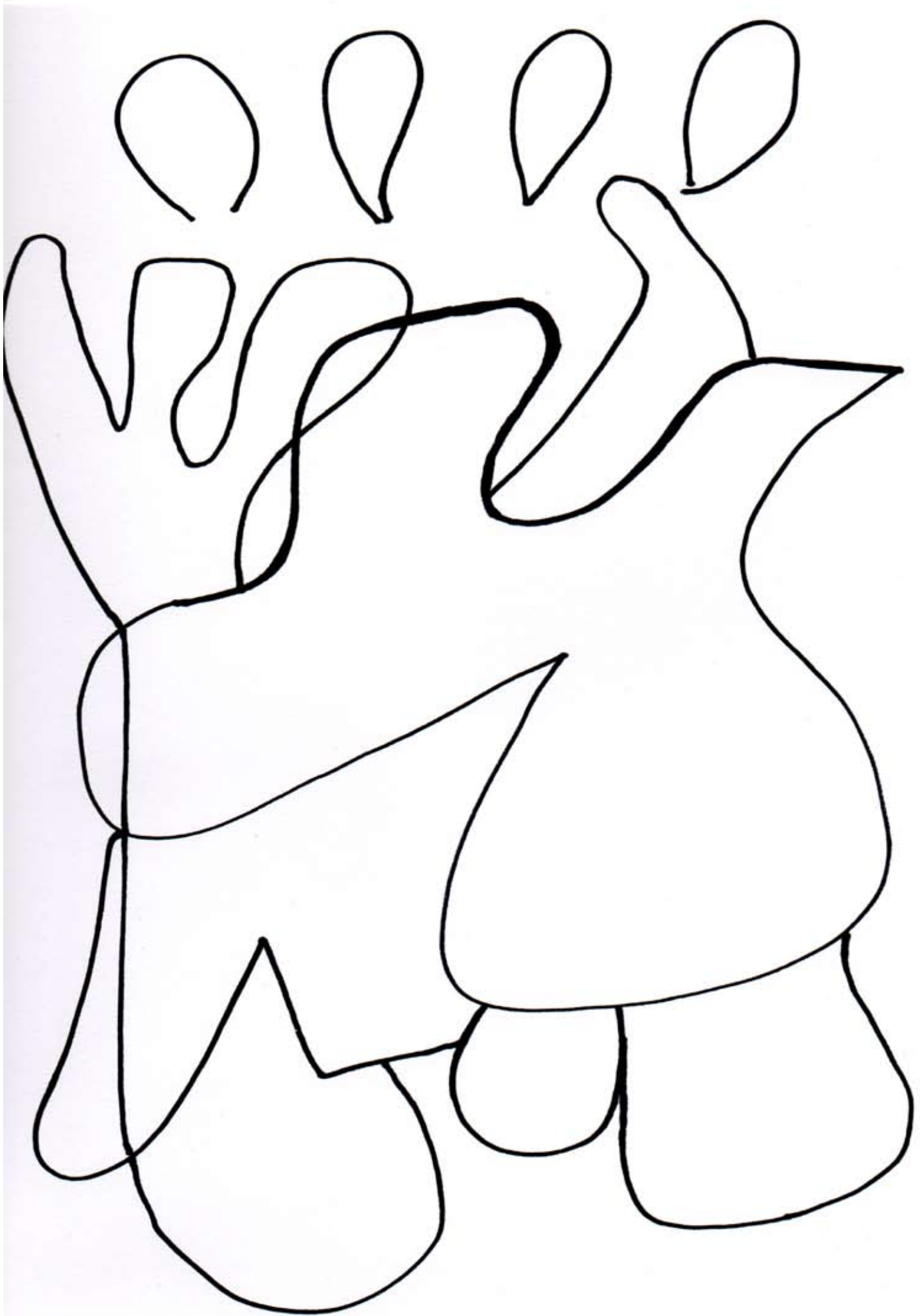


Have an idea for your own coloring book pages? Share them in the fall issue of Sparklezilla!!













### A little bit about the editor:

Lindsey M Whittle is a huge fan of Mother Teresa and the Power Rangers, a maker of things, and a lover of ridiculously bright color and sparkle. You may also call her Pineapple.

If you have any comments, advice, or questions for Lindsey, or if you would like to get in contact with any of the authors or artists etc please send an email to:  
[sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com](mailto:sparklezillamagazine@gmail.com)

*Now that you have read your first issue of Sparklezilla, spread the word!! Tell everyone you know about it! Give them one of these cards on the next page. Print a few copies and leave them in public places. But most importantly, GET TO WORK! The deadline for the fall issue will come before you know it!*



*Made with pride by a Queen*  
dealt a blow that summons angels' tears.

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Read something.

Say something

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