

Figures from Chapter Twelve (Group Exercises for Narrative Sensemaking) of
Working with Stories in Your Community or Organization: Participatory Narrative Inquiry
(Third Edition)
by Cynthia F. Kurtz

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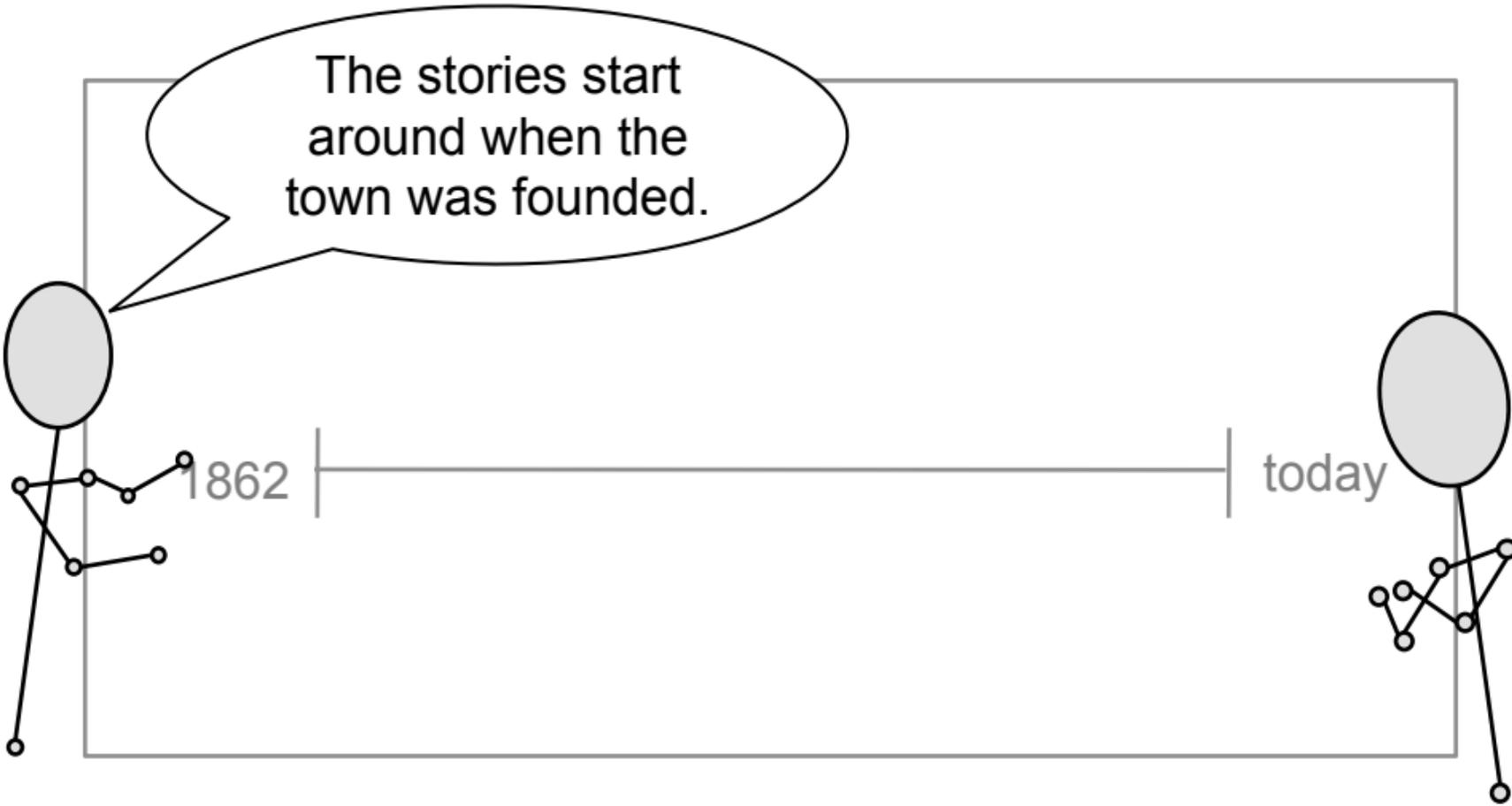
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The stories start
around when the
town was founded.

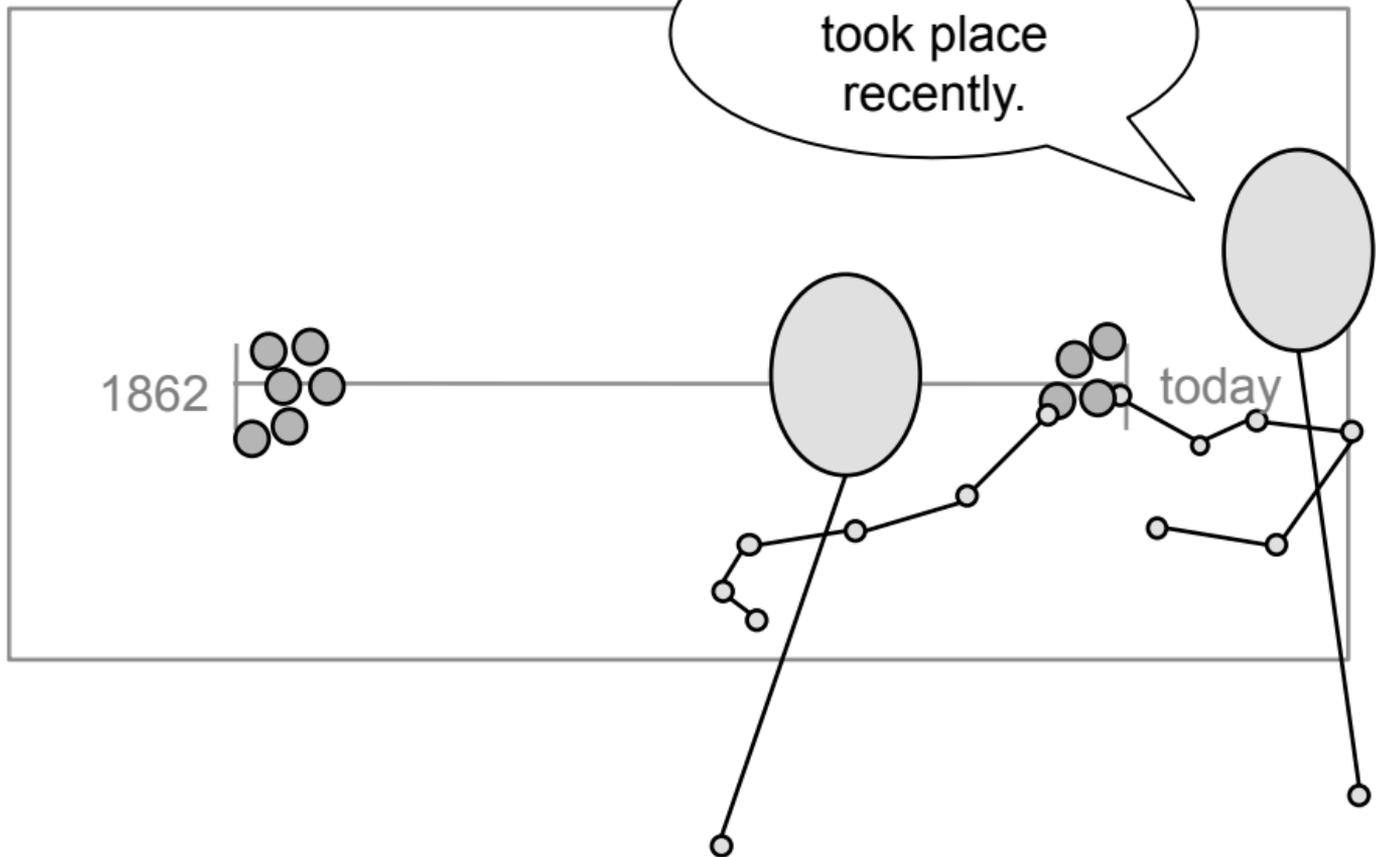
1862

today

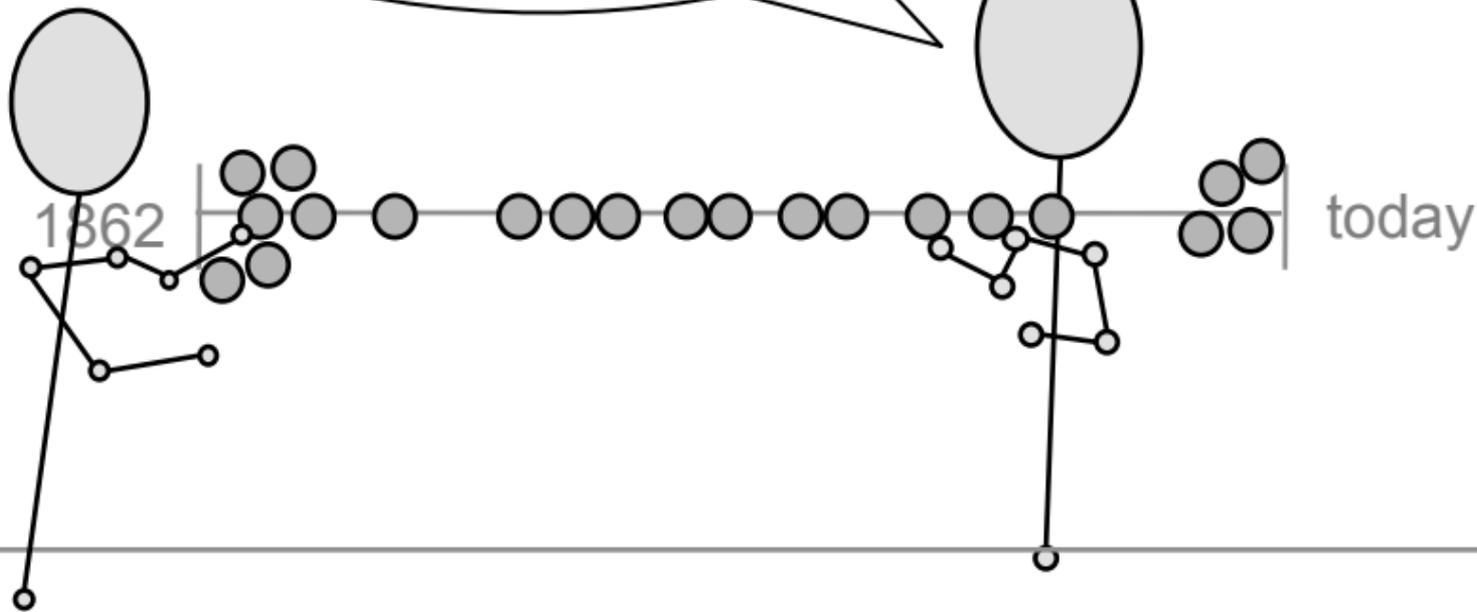
These stories
took place
recently.

1862

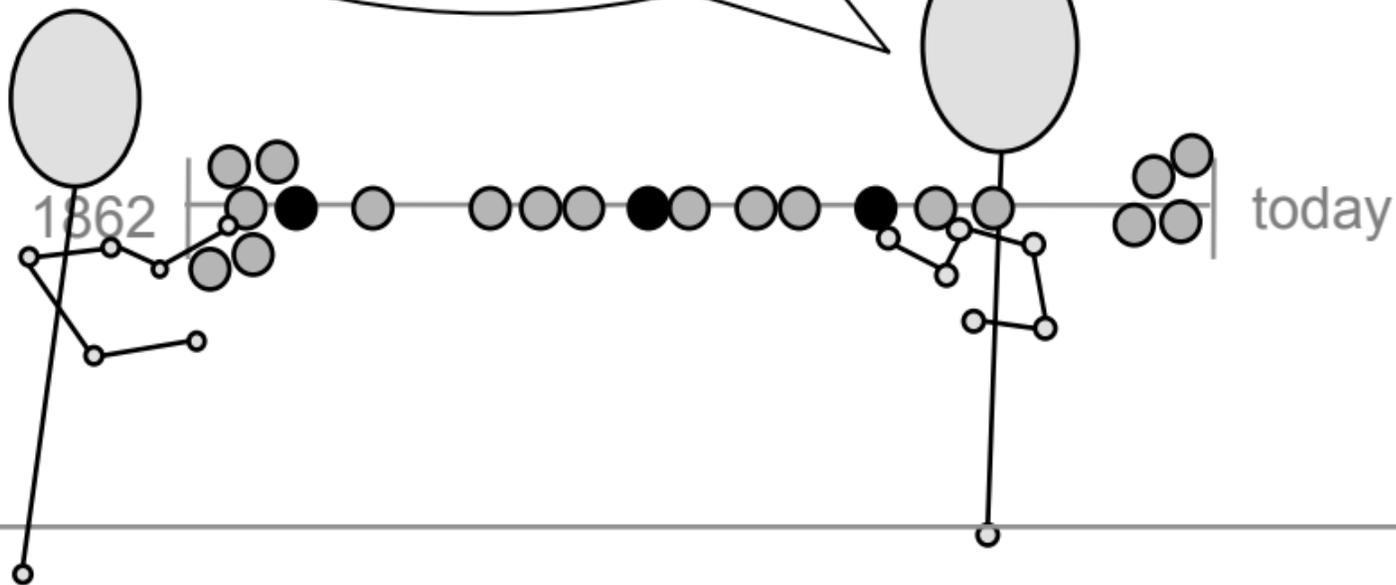
today

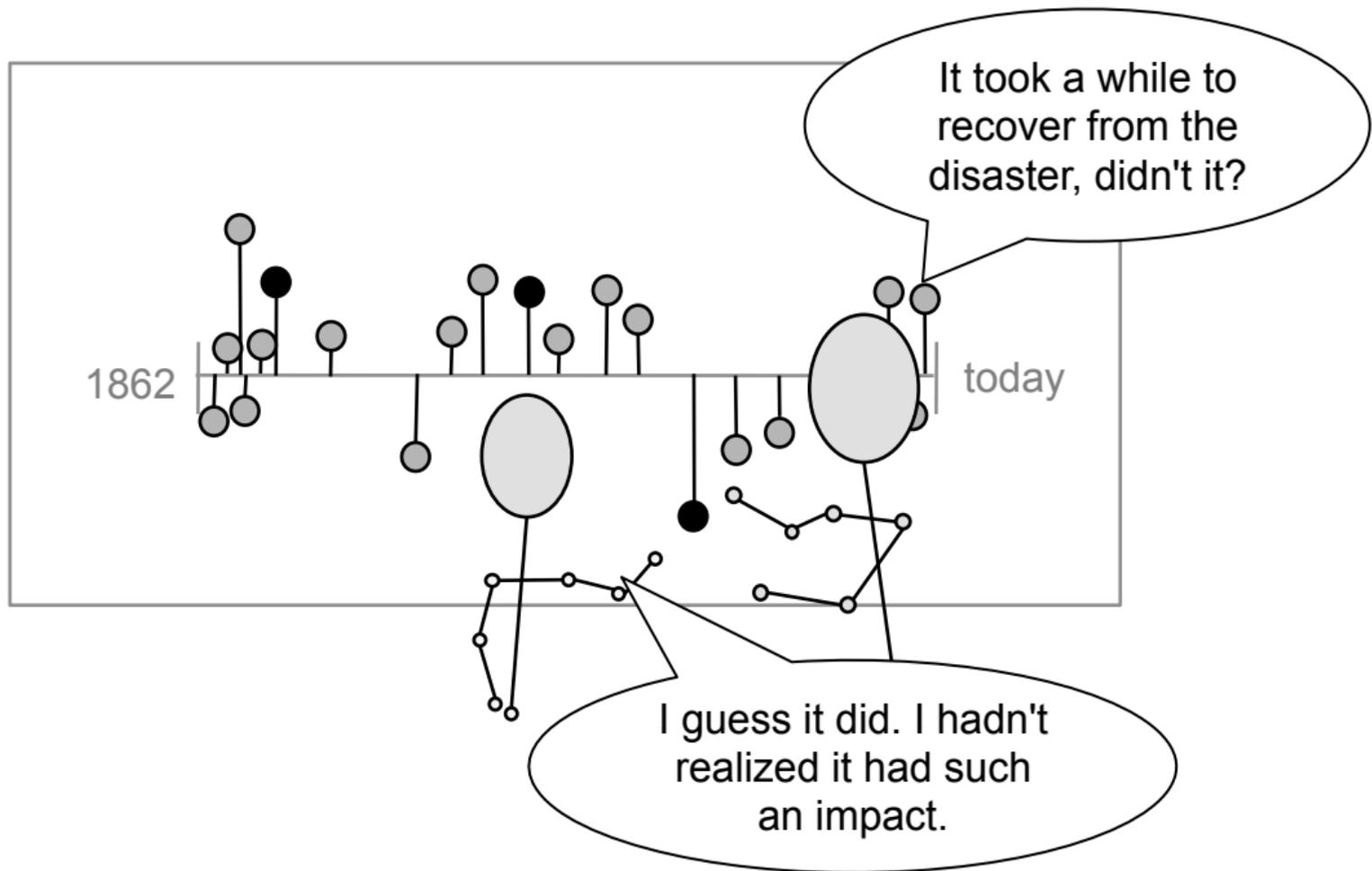


This story took
place around
1946.

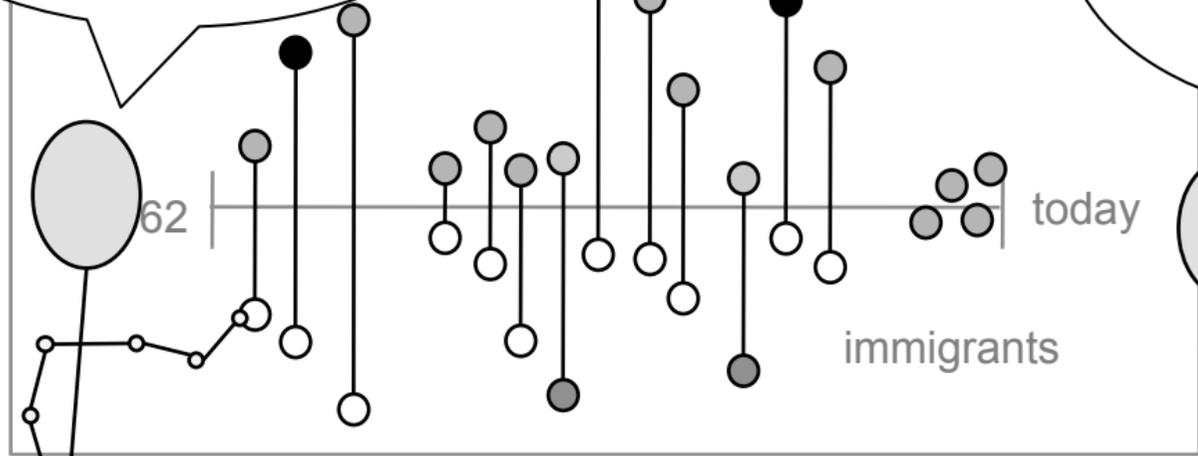


I'd say the Victory
parade was a
turning point,
wouldn't you?



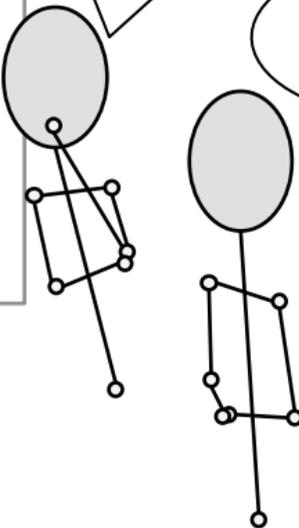


Do you see how these are related up until about 1900?

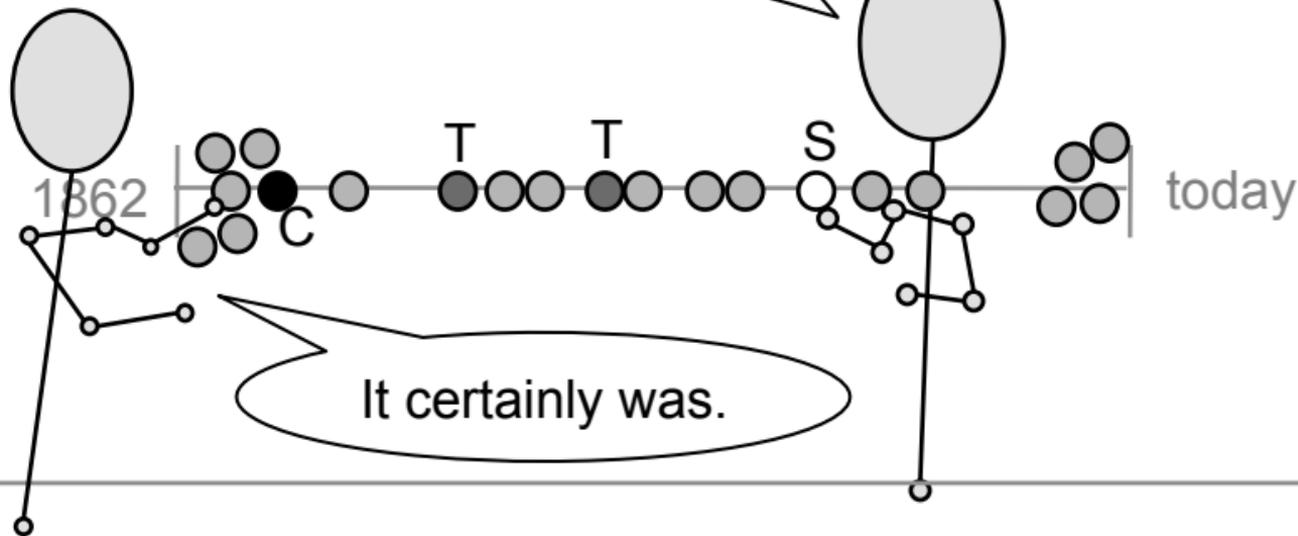


I wonder what made them break apart. Do we have any more stories from that time?

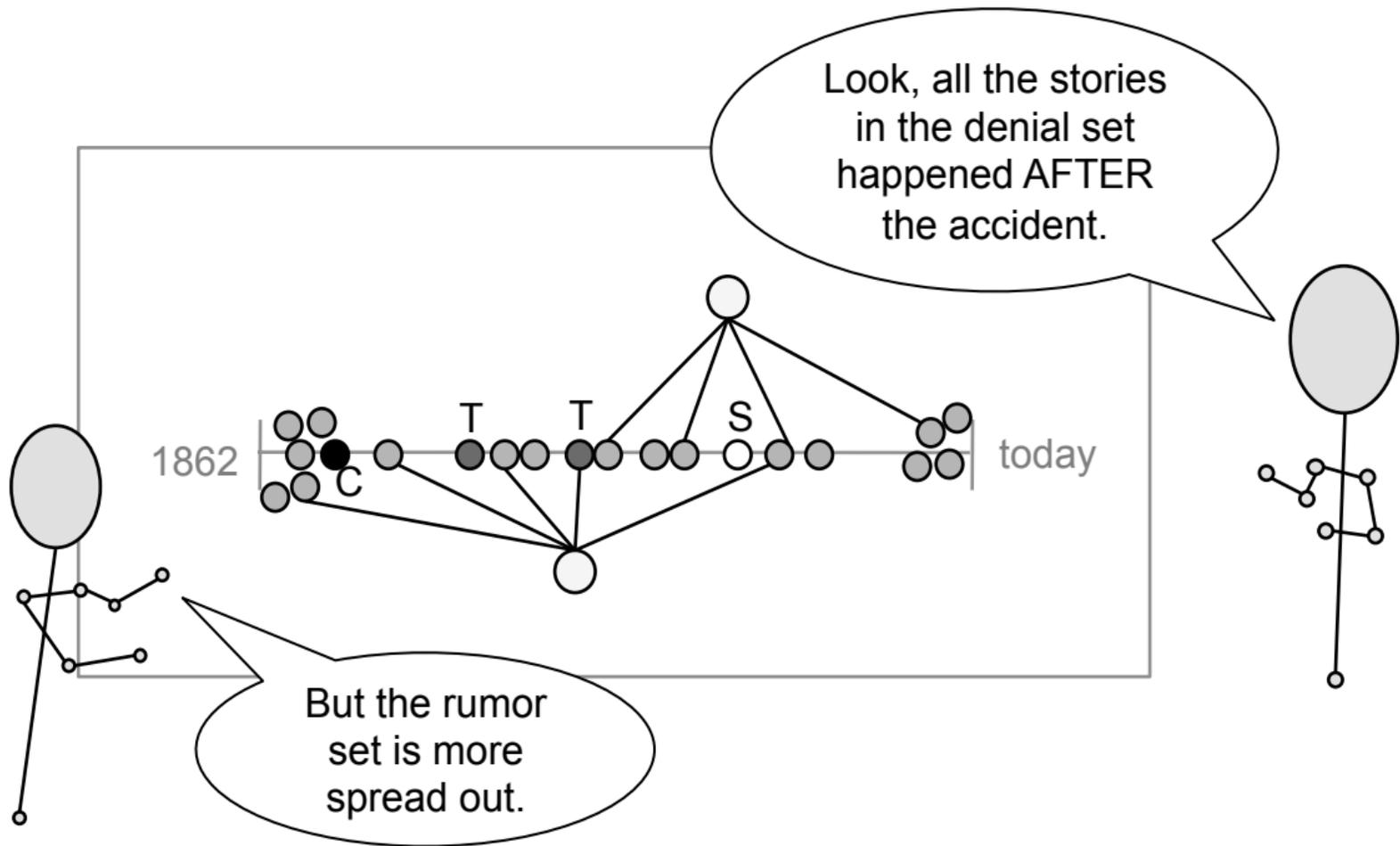
I think we do.

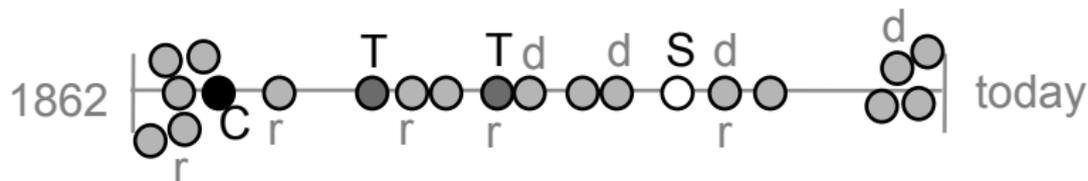


I'd say the disaster at
the Victory parade
was a surprise,
wouldn't you?



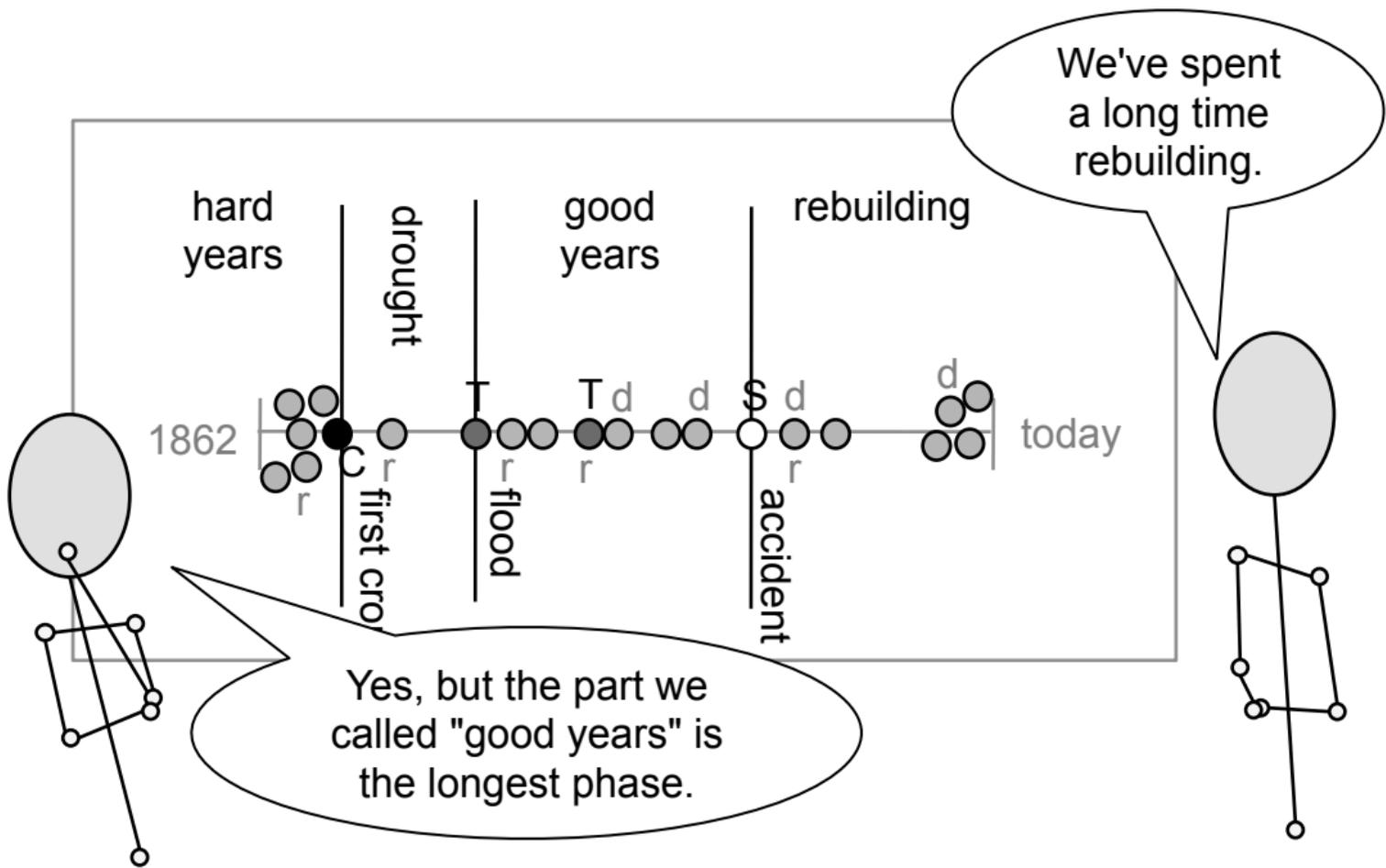
It certainly was.

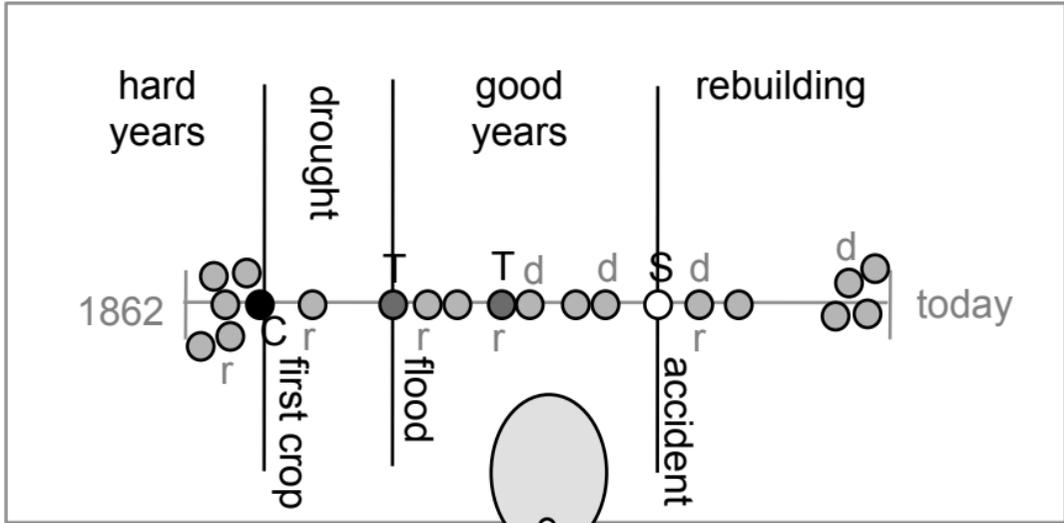




Look, all the stories
in the denial set
happened AFTER
the accident.

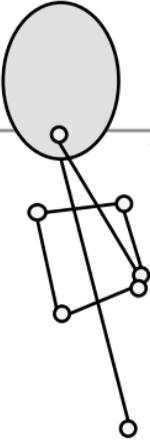
But the rumor
set is more
spread out.



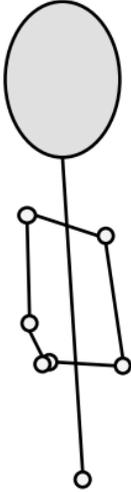


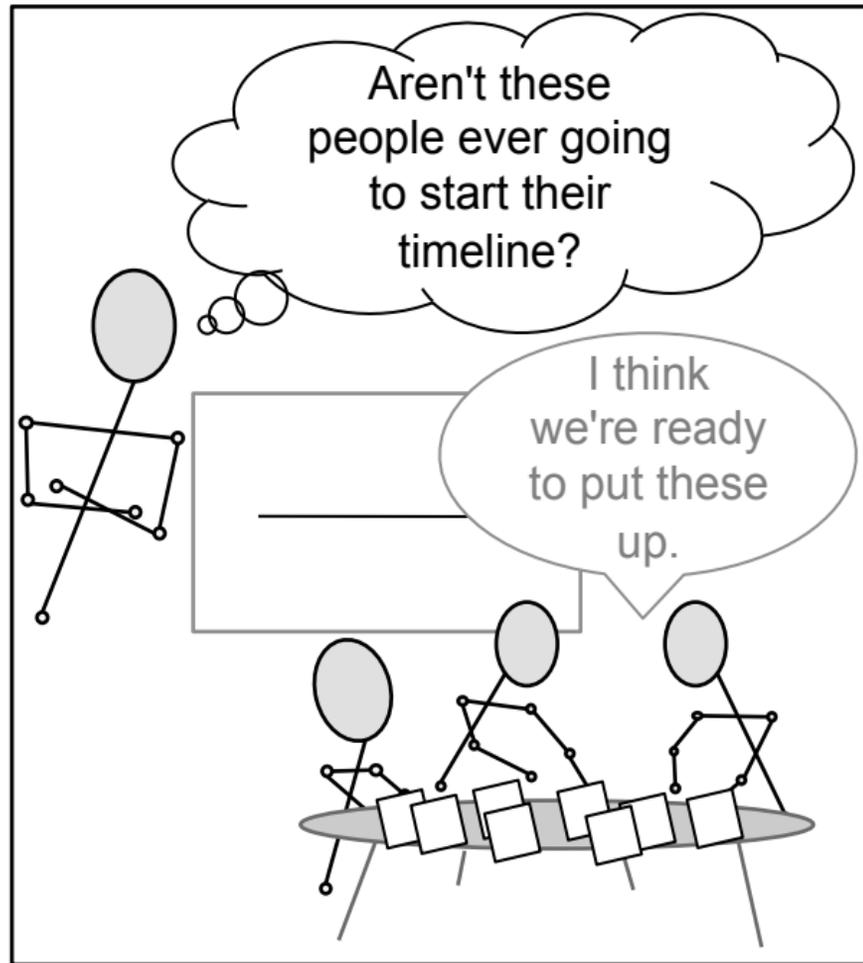
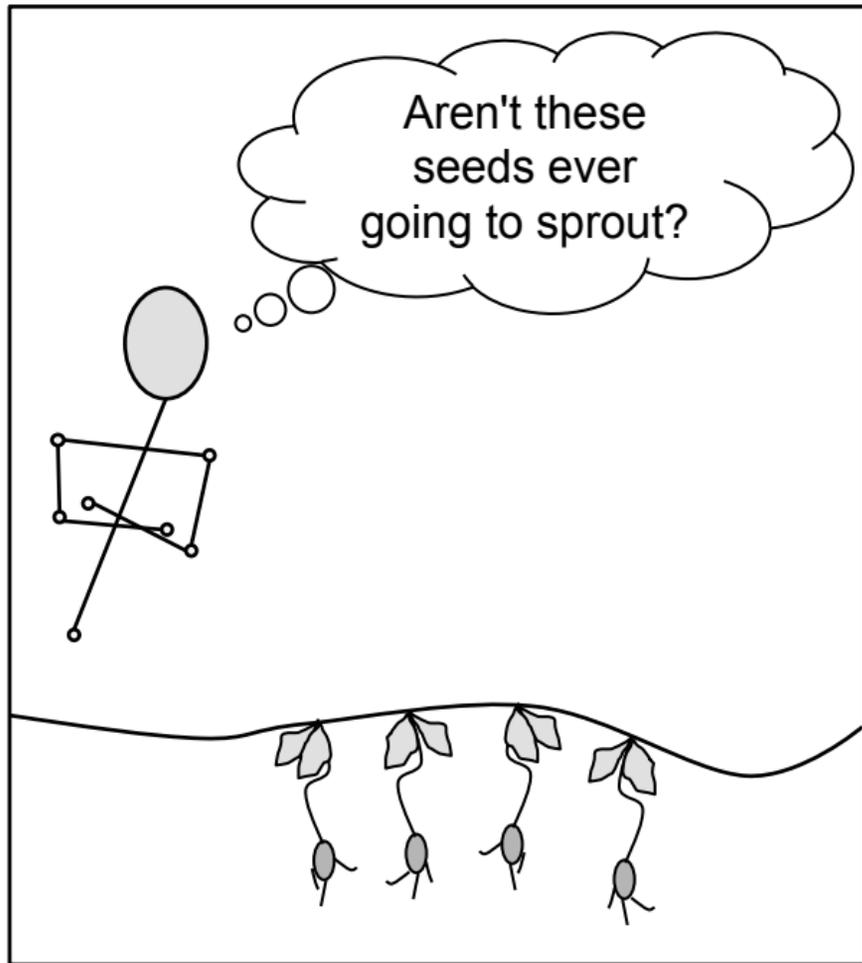
I guess our "good years" might be like the "action" phase.

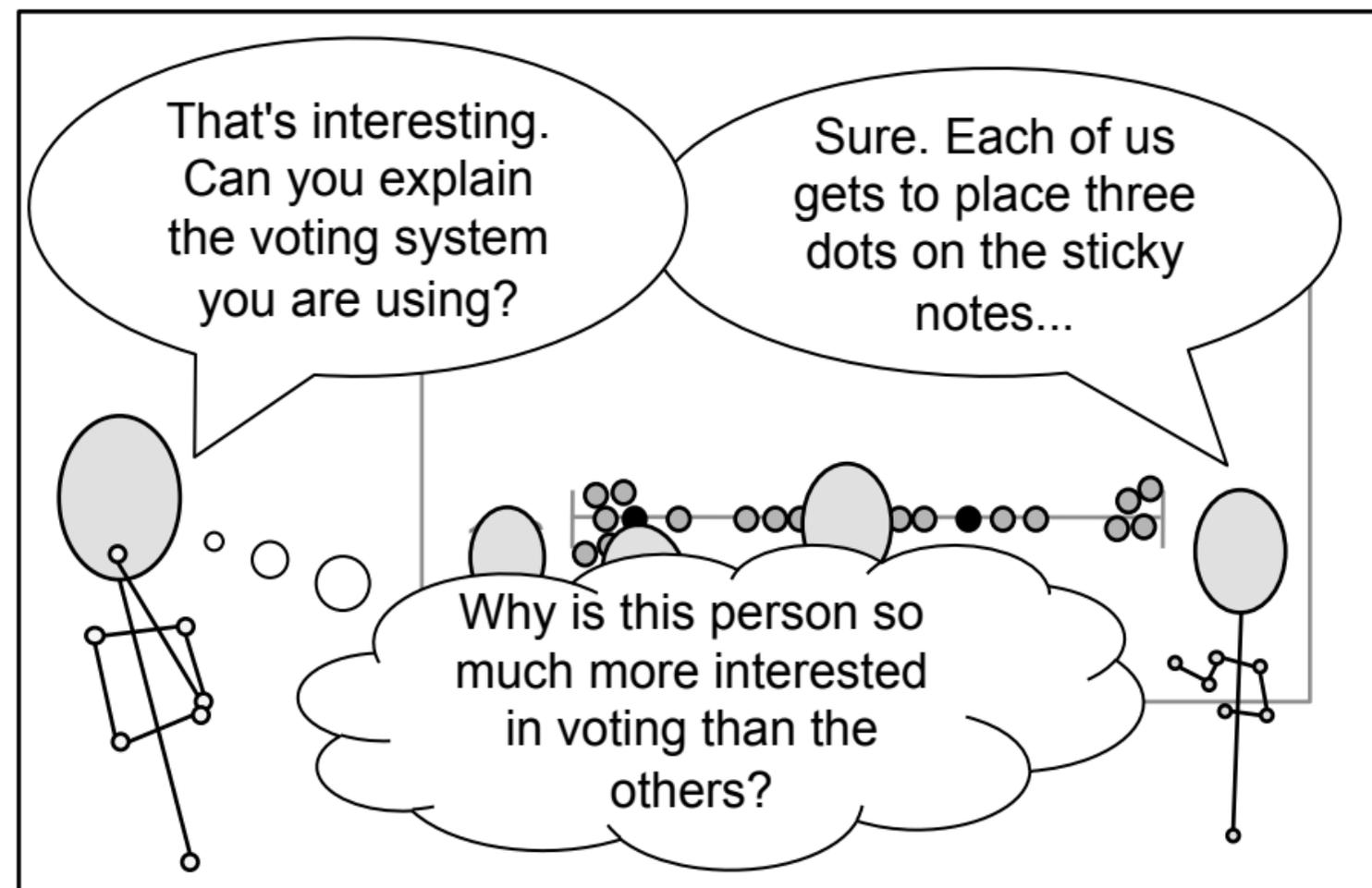
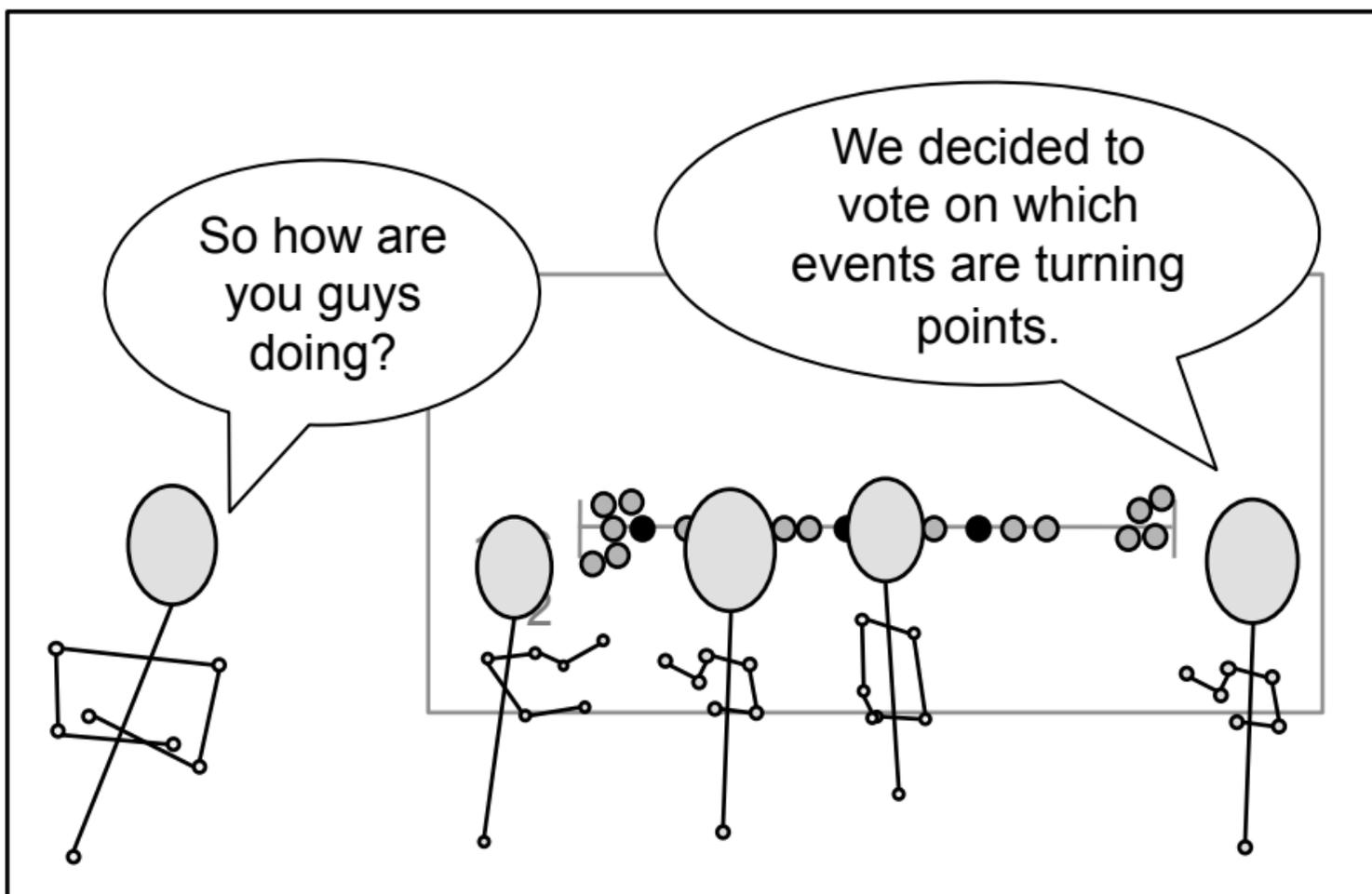
precontemplation	contemplation	preparation	action	maintenance	termination
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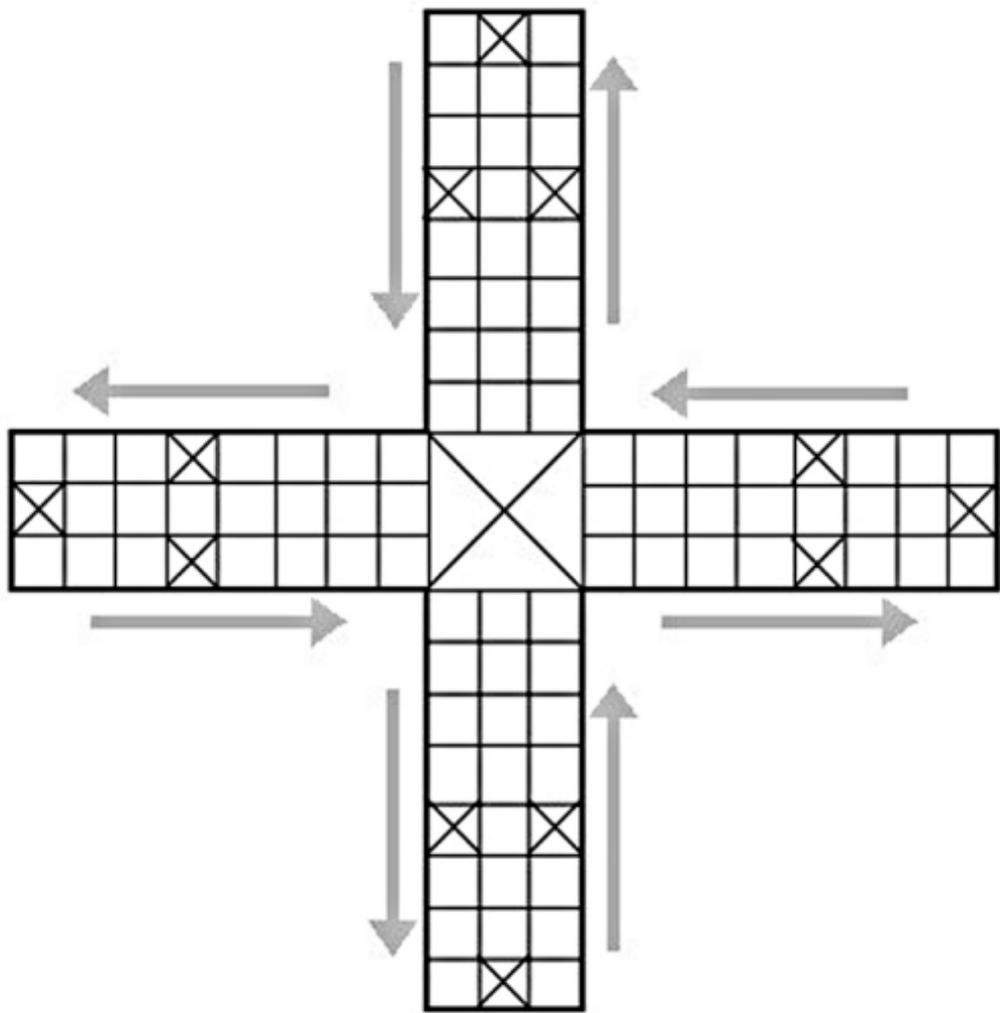


But this model doesn't take accidents into account. I hadn't realized how much our history has been determined by accidents.



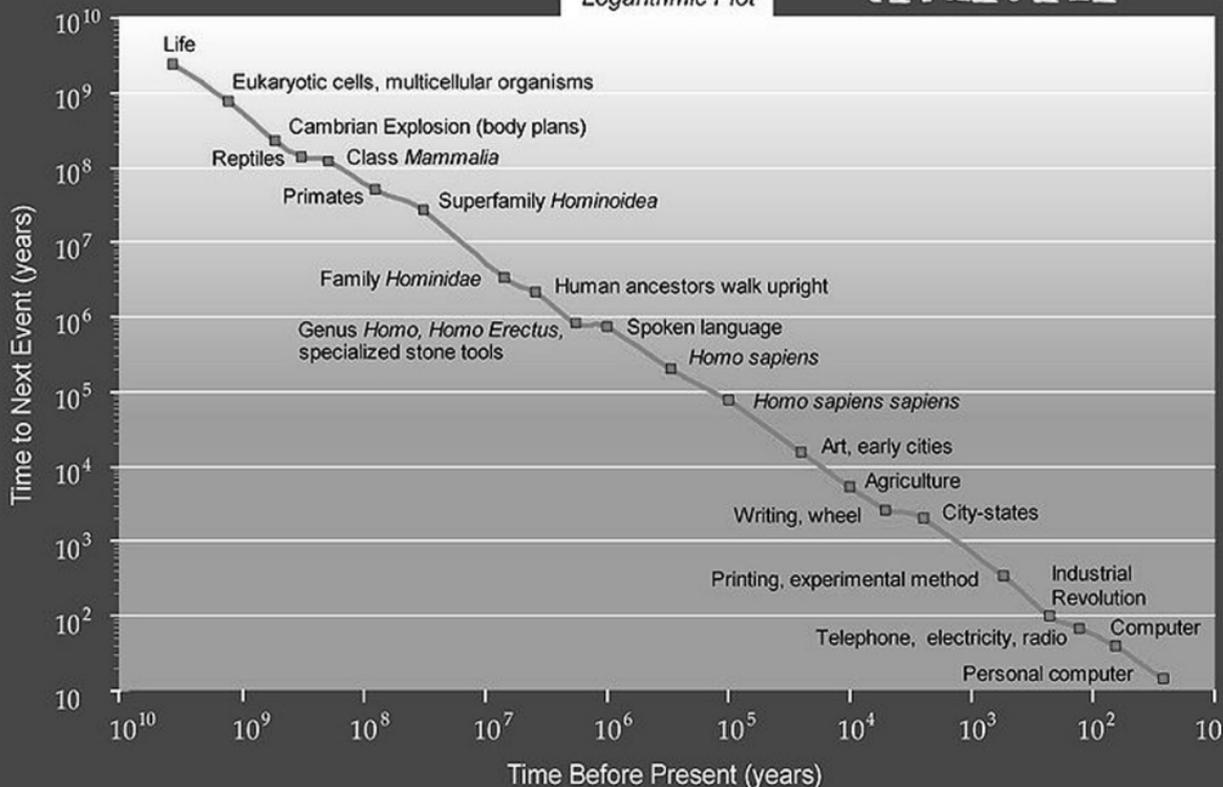






Countdown to Singularity

Logarithmic Plot



friendly,
strong

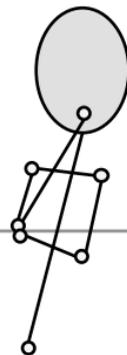
hostile,
strong

strength

friendly,
weak

intent

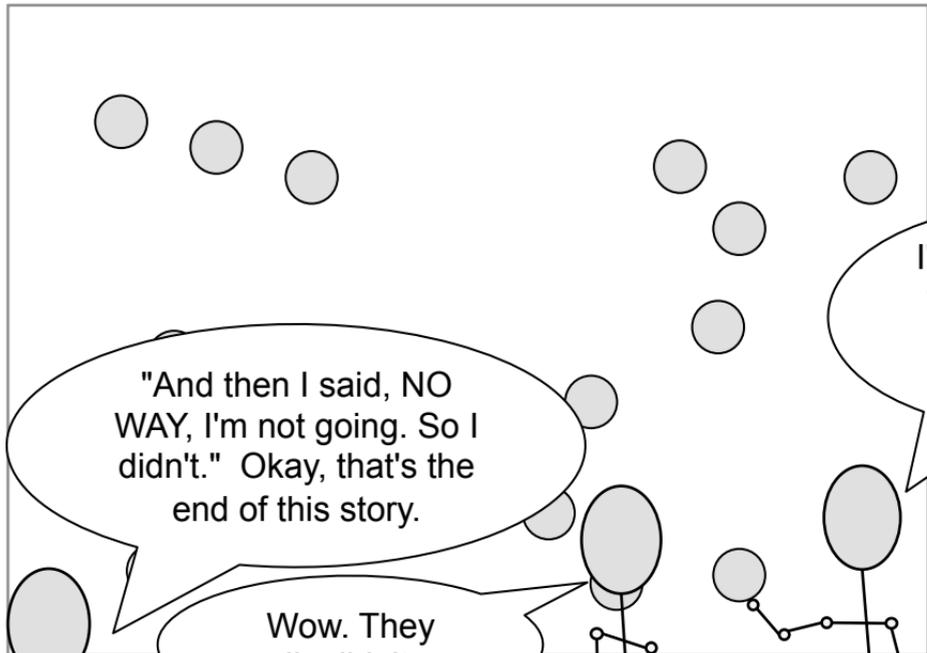
hostile,
weak



friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong

strength



"And then I said, NO WAY, I'm not going. So I didn't." Okay, that's the end of this story.

Wow. They really didn't go.

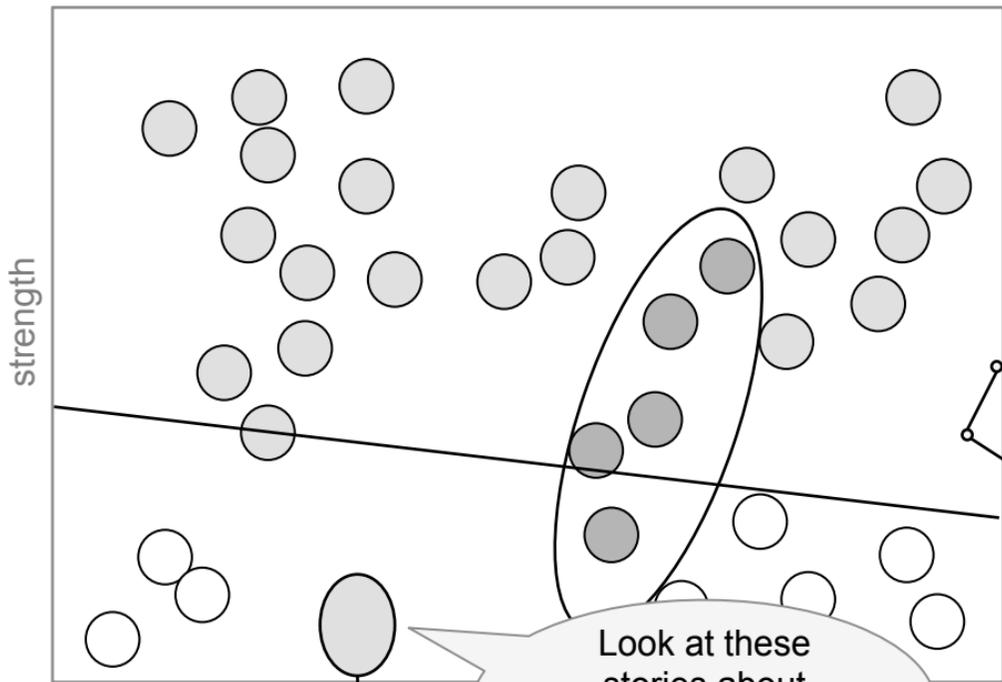
I'd say that story fits about here. What do you think?

friendly,
weak

hostile,
weak

friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong



friendly,
weak

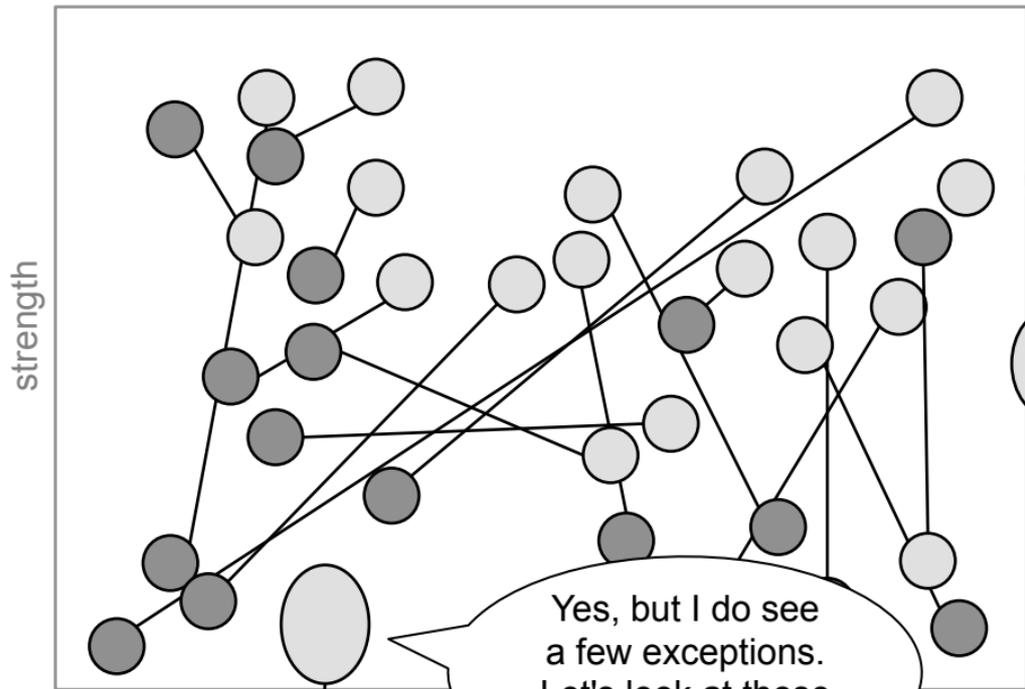
hostile,
weak

Look at these stories about cooperation all in a row.

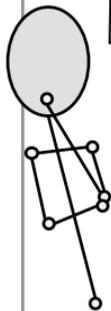
It's amazing that all the stories below this line were about avoidance.

friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong



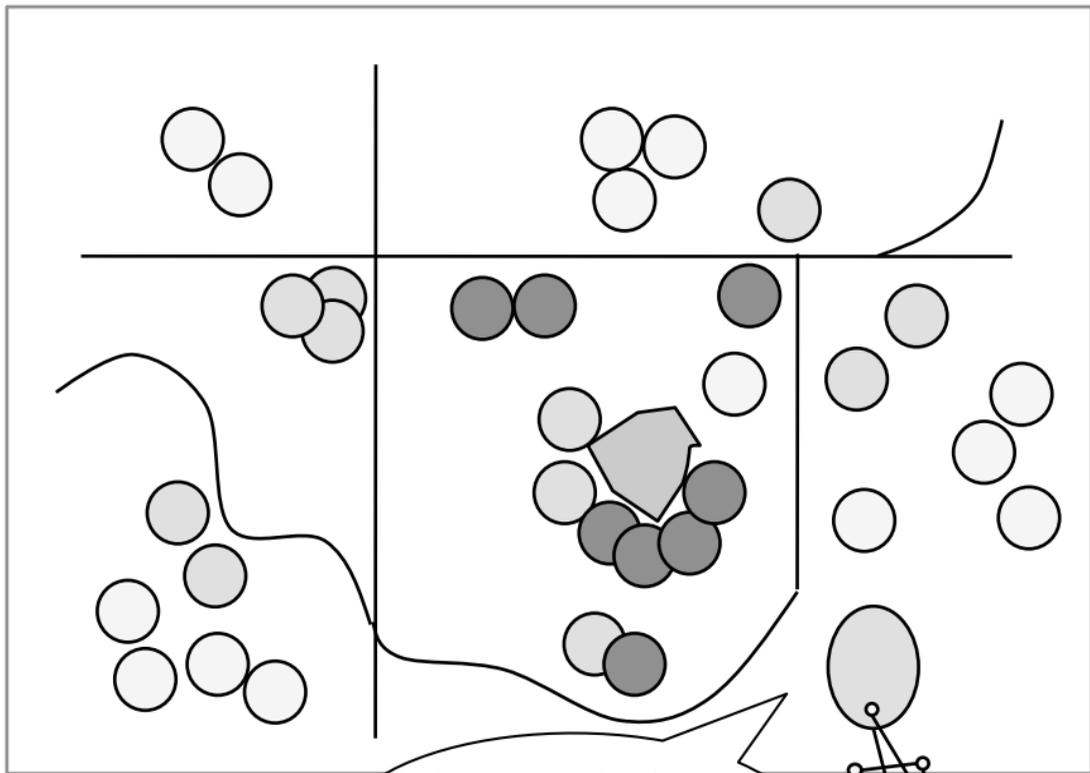
In almost every case, the banker's perspective on the story is lower and more to the left.



Yes, but I do see a few exceptions. Let's look at those stories again.

friendly,
weak

hostile,
weak

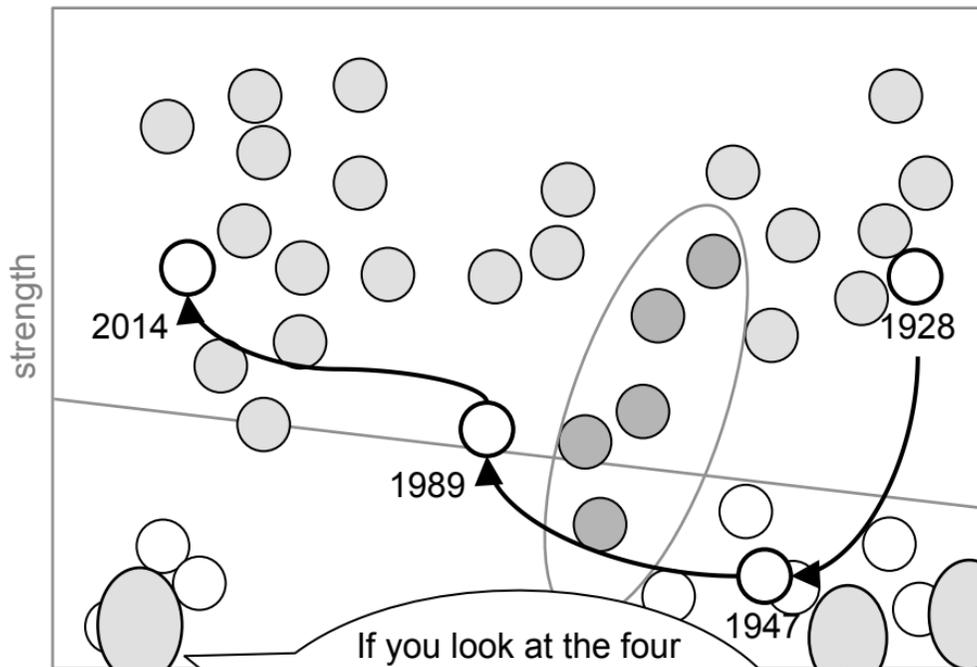


I want to look at those stories again.

That's strange. Most of the stories people said had high trust had their impacts at the outskirts of the town.

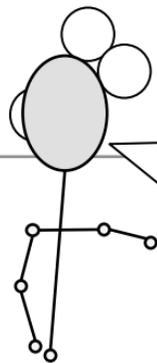
friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong

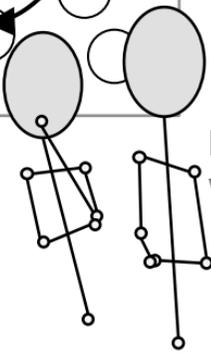


friendly,
weak

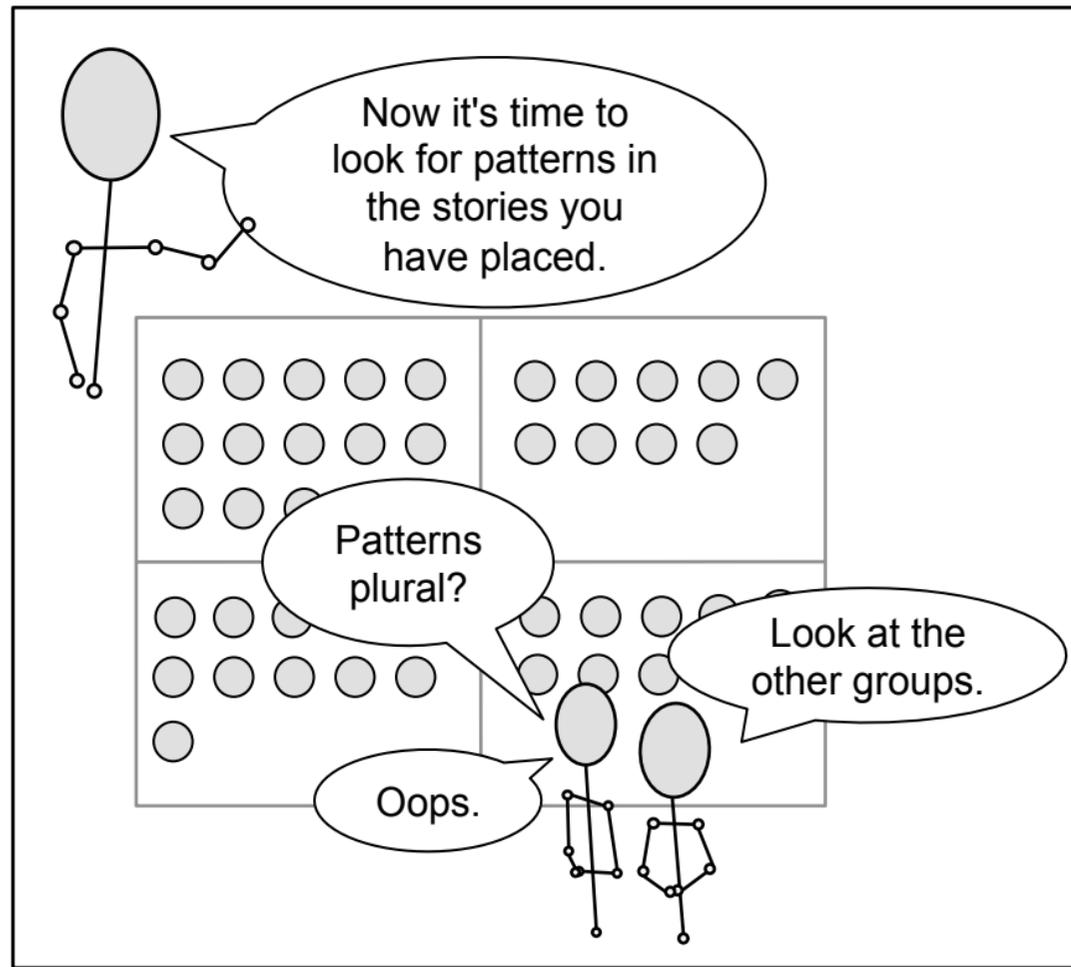
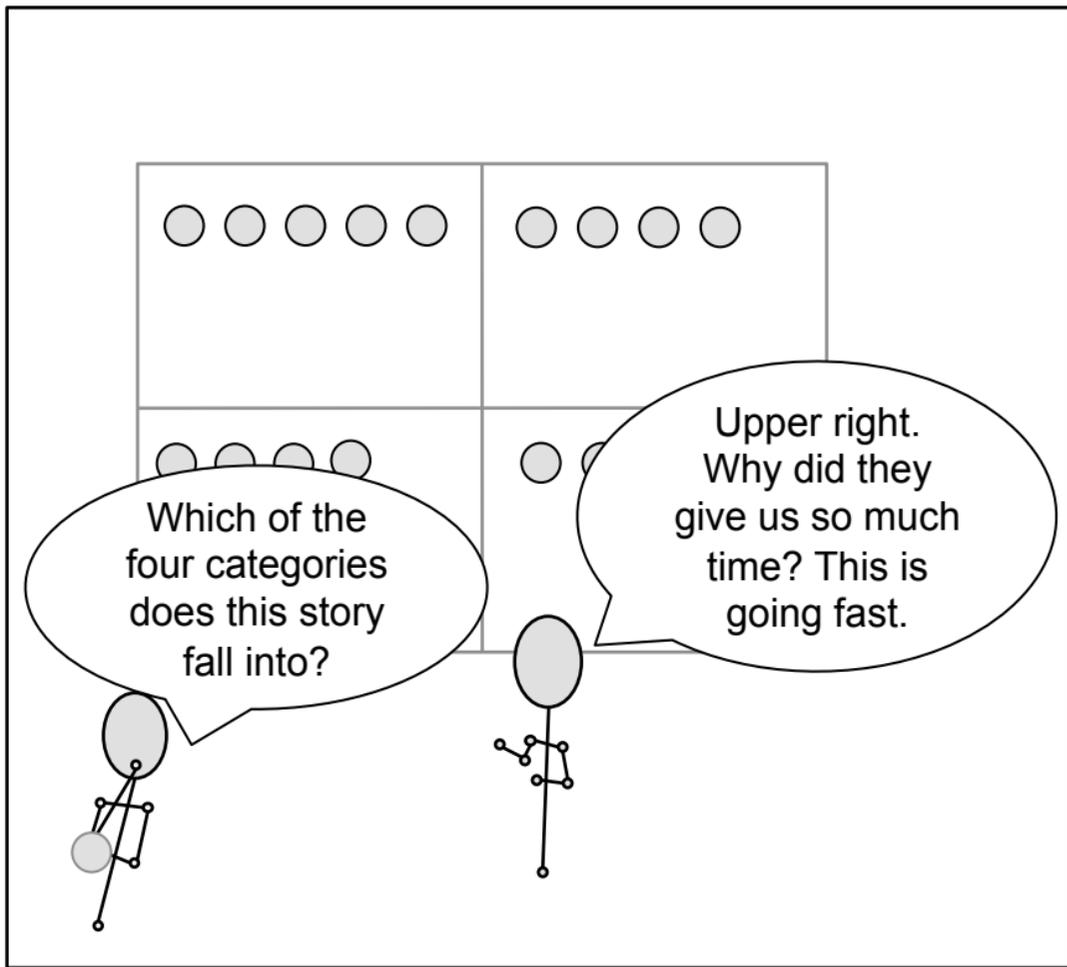
hostile,
weak

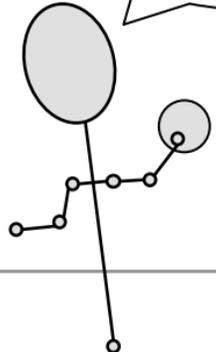
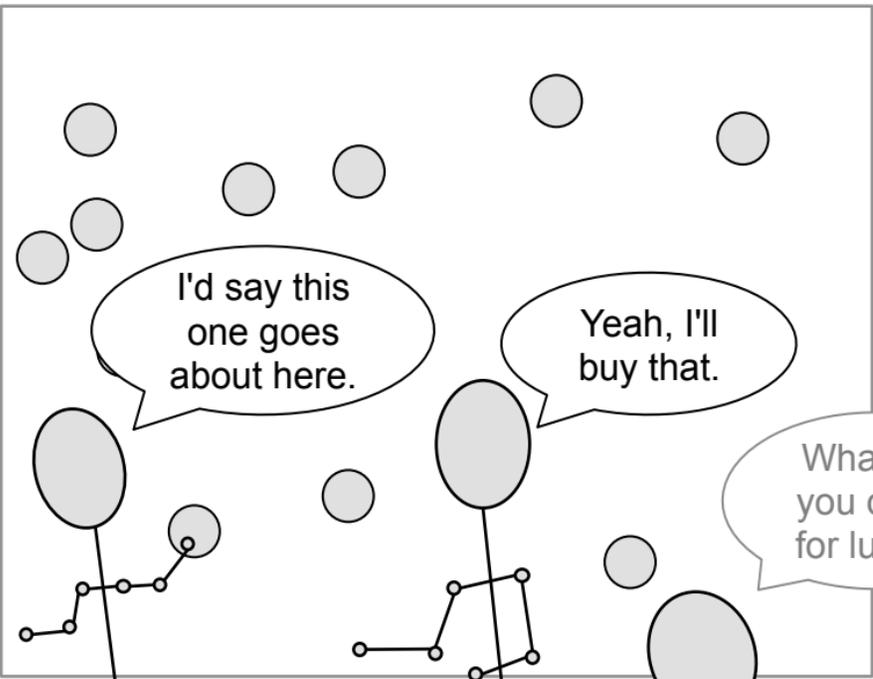


If you look at the four stories our group has highlighted, you can see the progression of our town policy on curbing pollution.

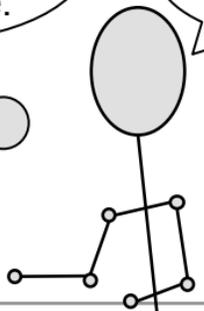


I guess we've changed a lot.

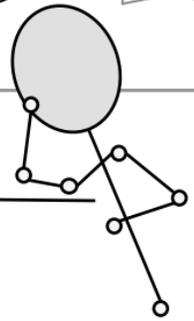




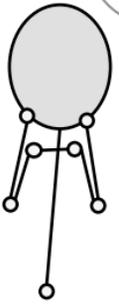
I'd say this one goes about here.



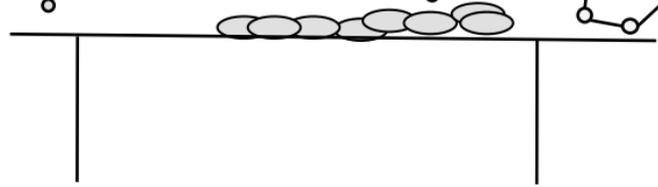
Yeah, I'll buy that.



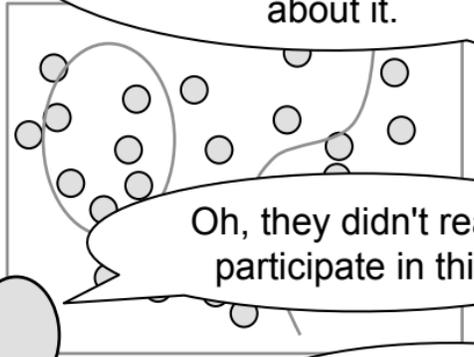
What are you doing for lunch?



Dunno.

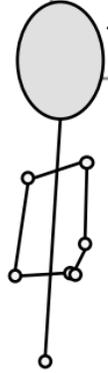


That's an amazing pattern. I'm curious how the younger people felt about it.

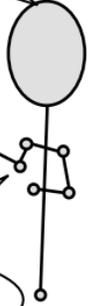


Oh, they didn't really participate in this.

So this is only your view?



Pretty much.



Why did we DO this project?

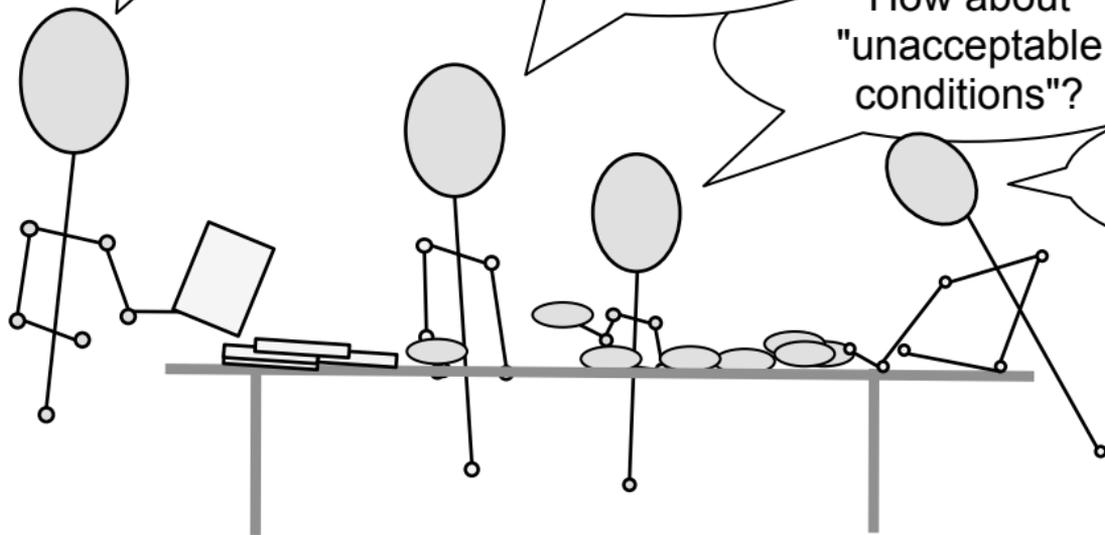
Ask yourself:
What is going on in this story?

"As if THEY care."
Okay, that's the end of this story. What is going on in it?

Double bind.
I'd call that a double bind.

How about
"unacceptable conditions"?

I like
"disrespect."



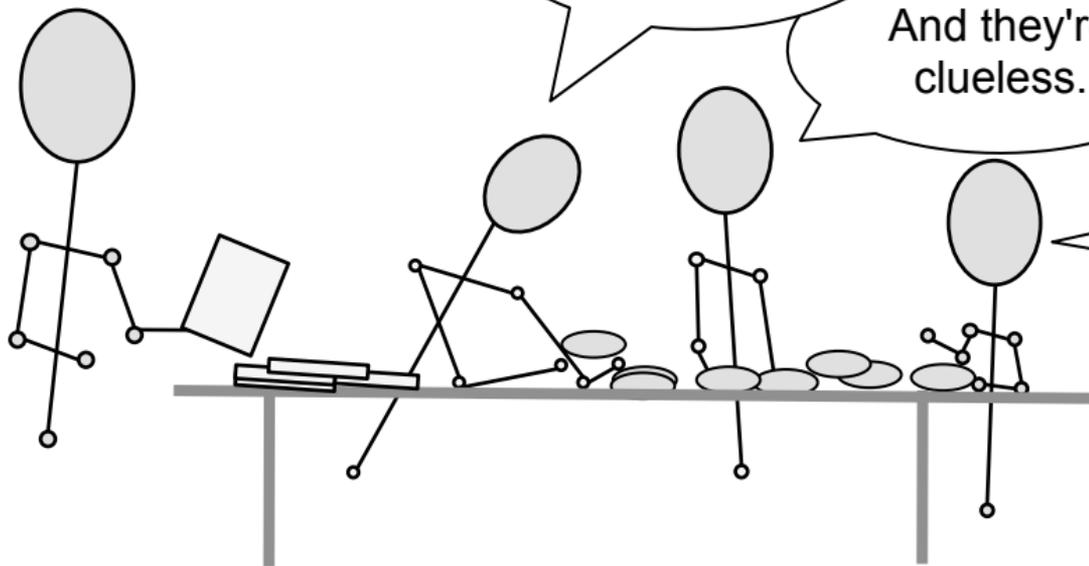
Ask yourself:
Who is doing things
in this story?

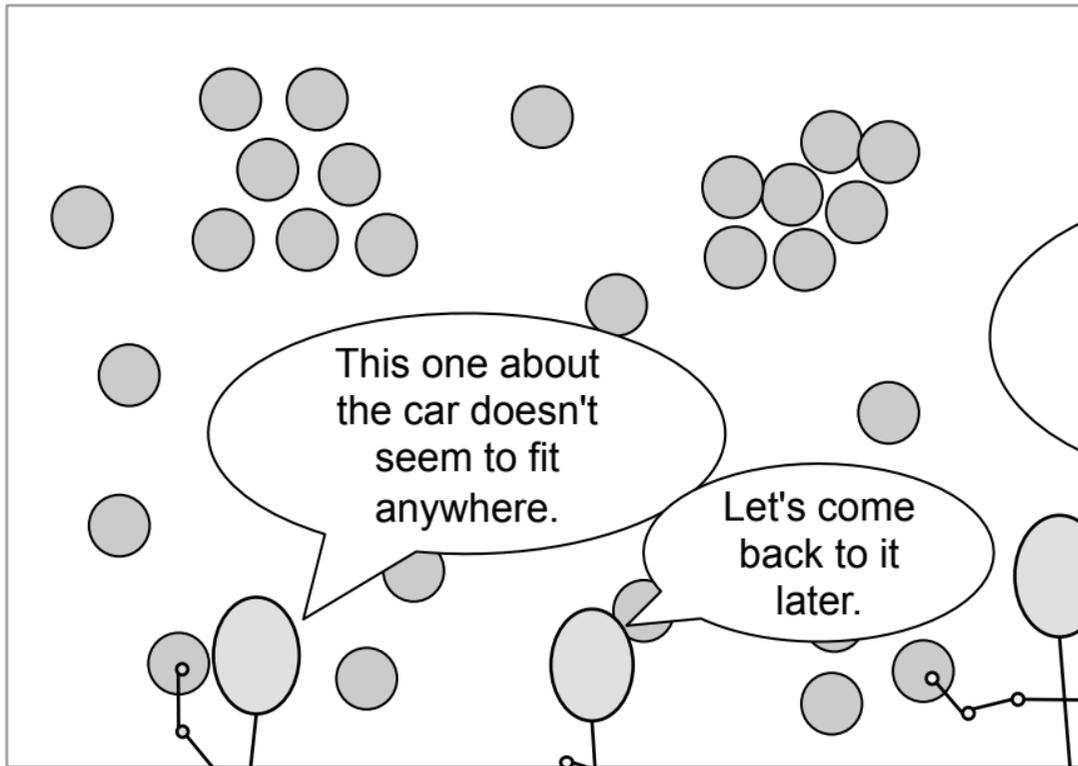
"As if THEY care."
Okay, that's the
end of this story.
Who is in it?

People who
put people in
double binds.

And they're
clueless.

Out of touch.

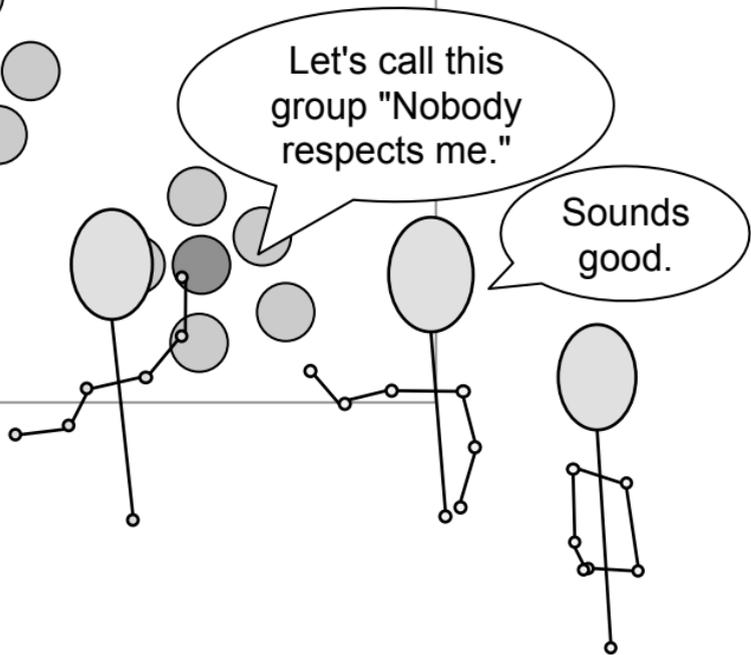
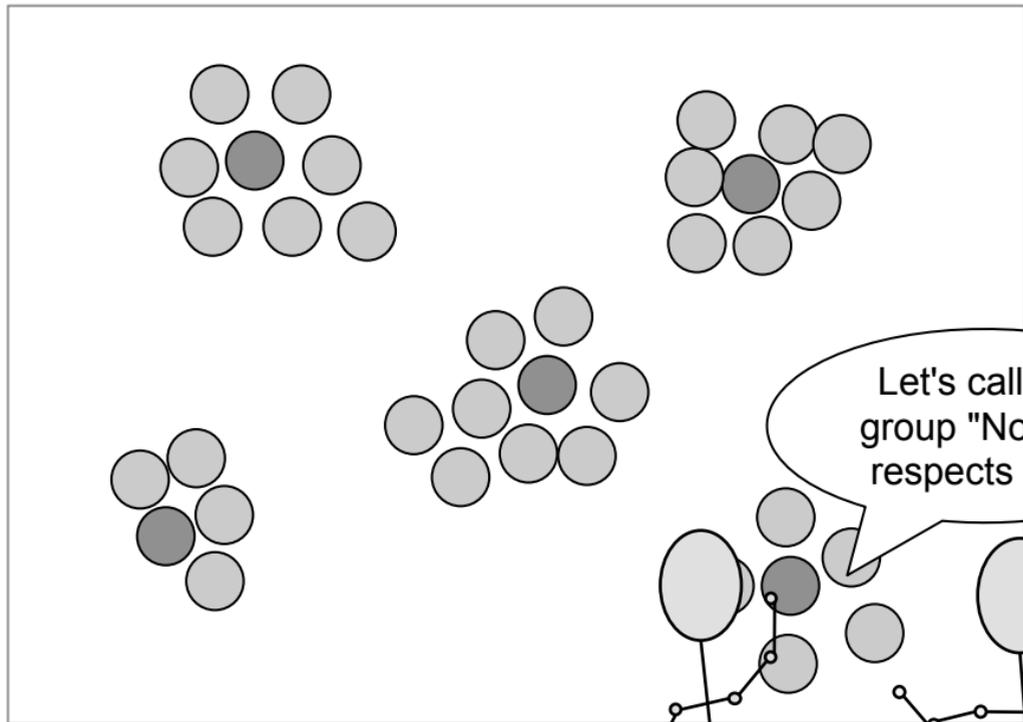


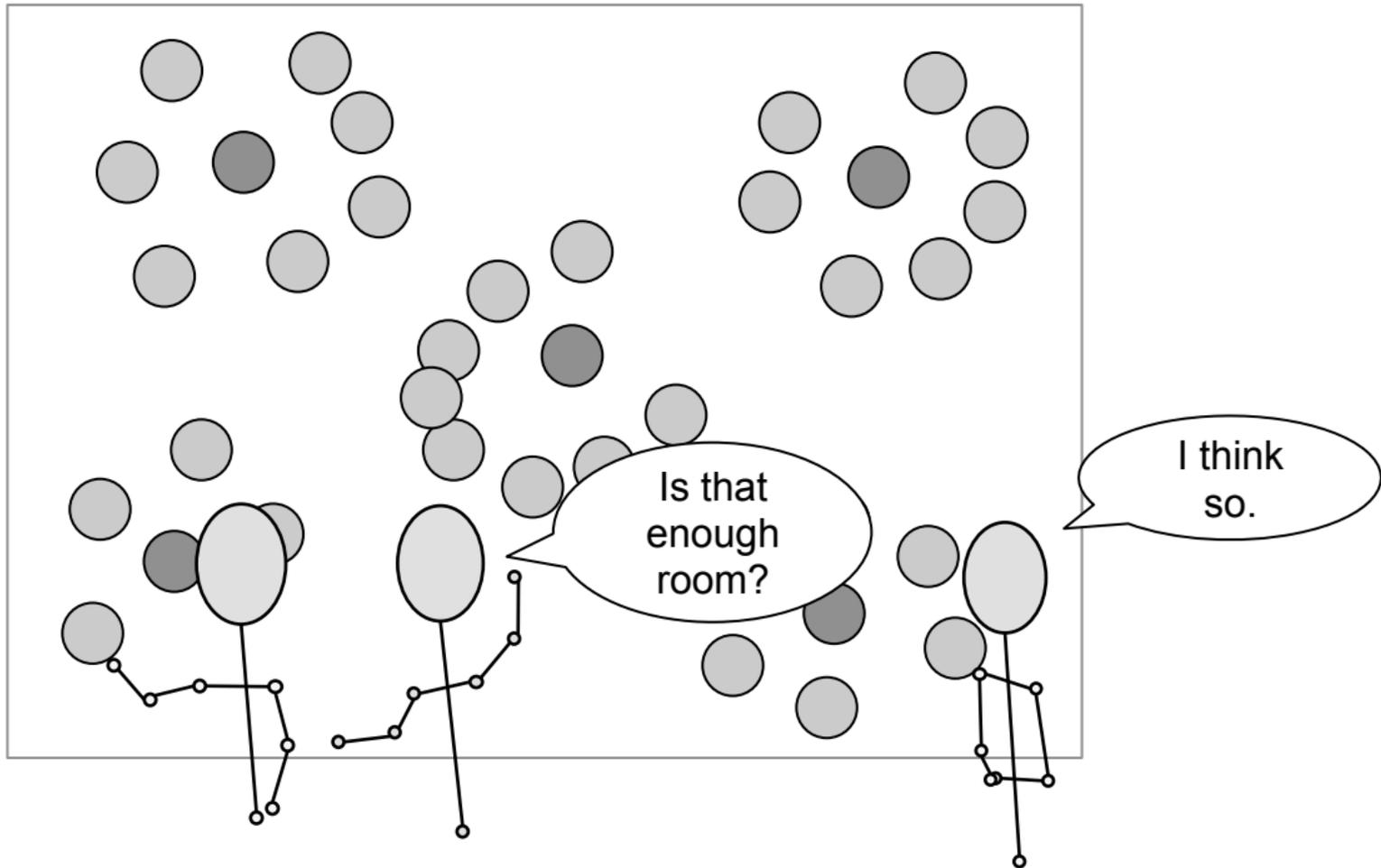


This one about the car doesn't seem to fit anywhere.

Let's come back to it later.

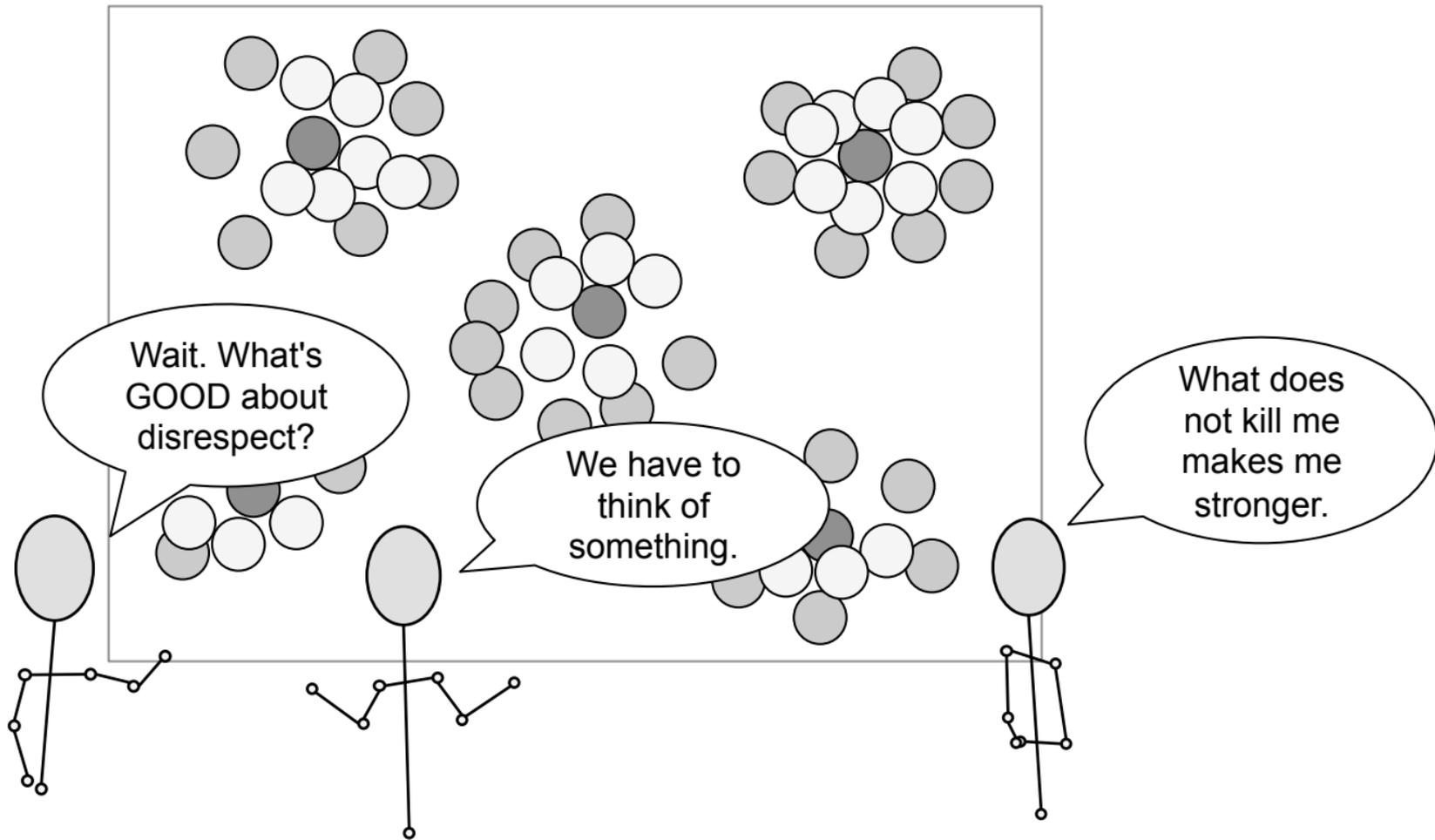
What about putting it with these? They all have to do with disrespect.

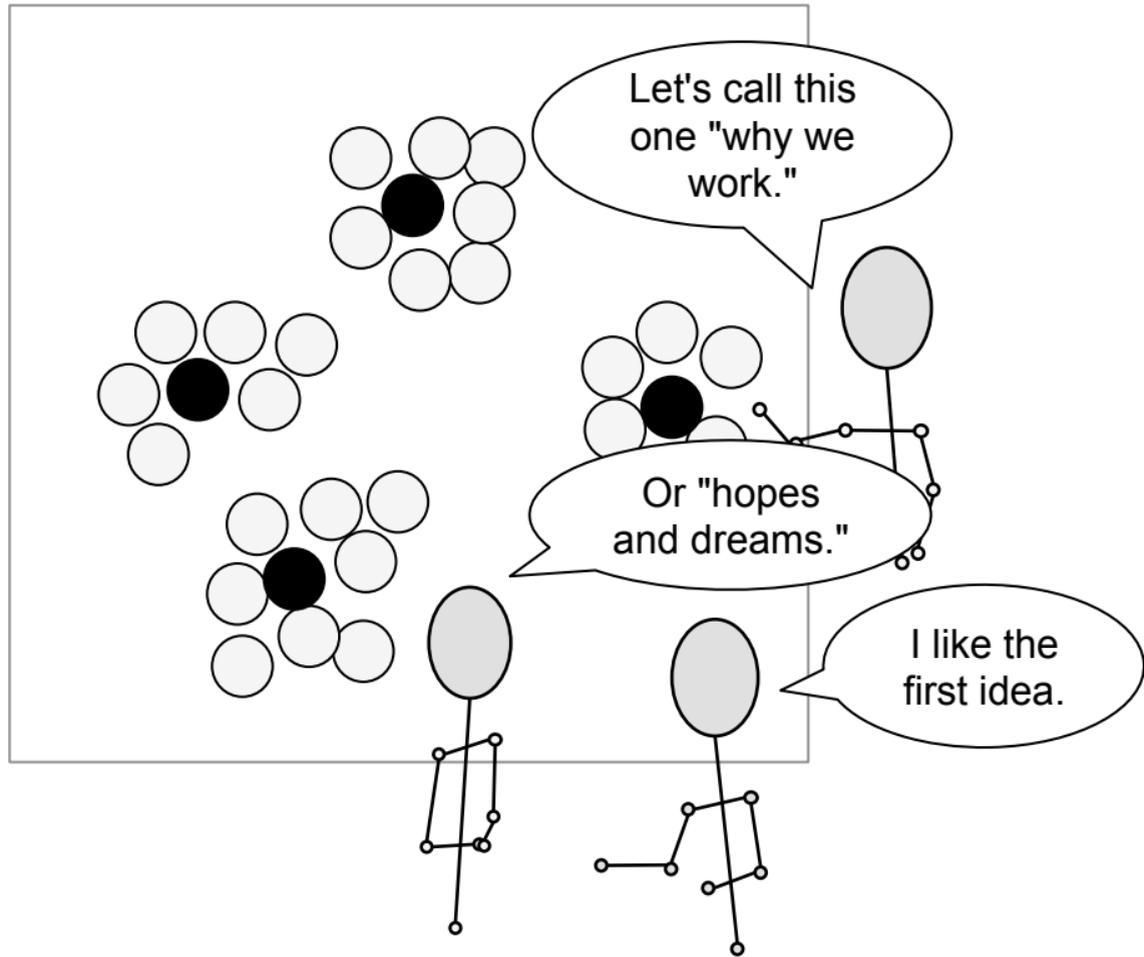
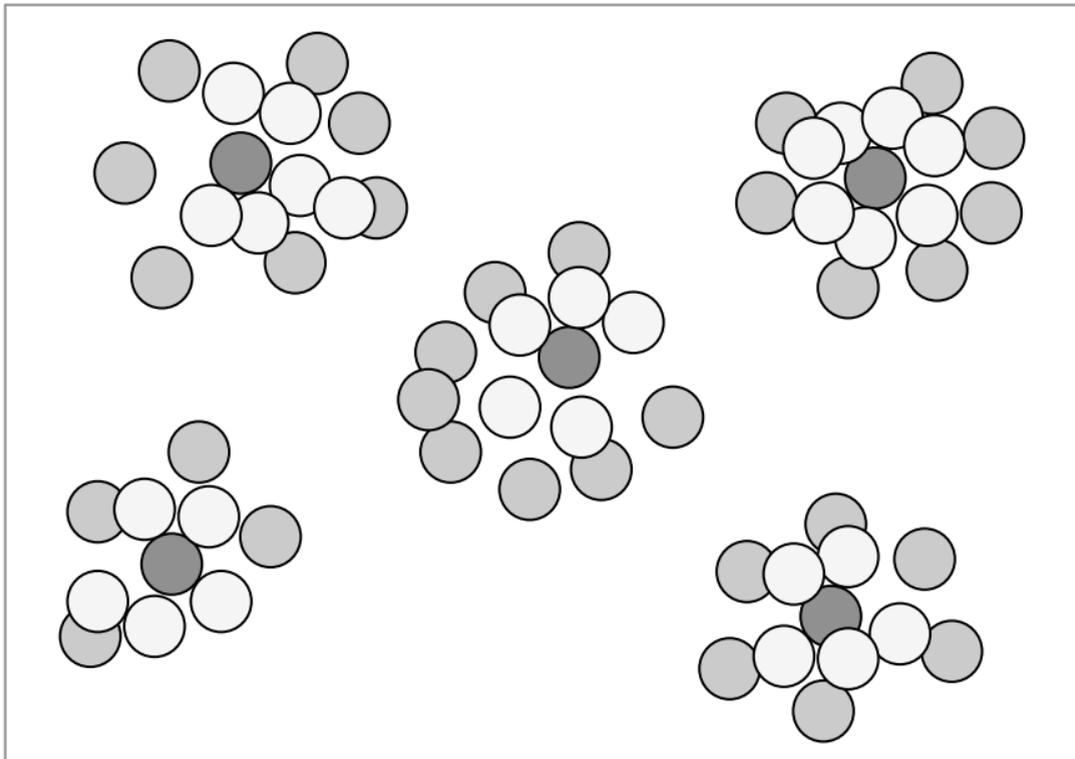


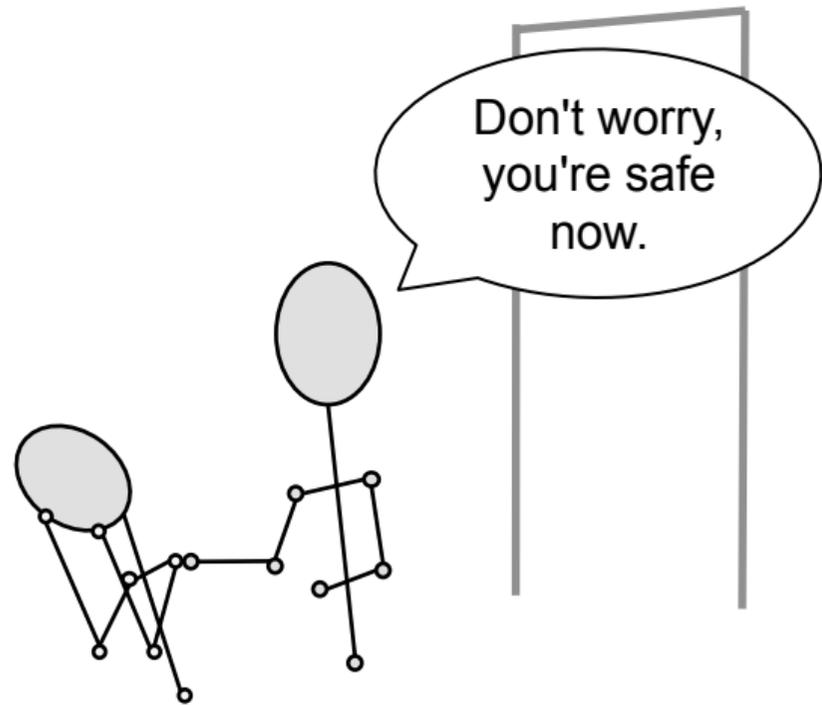


Is that
enough
room?

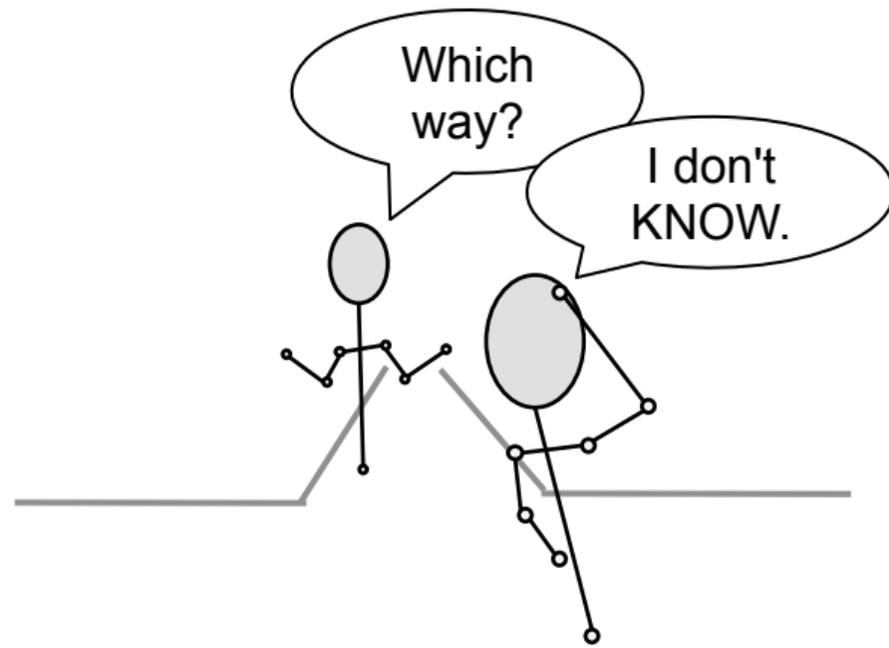
I think
so.







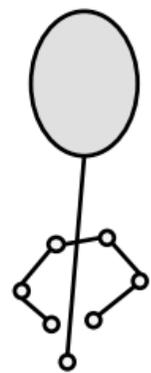
safe haven



where do we go from here

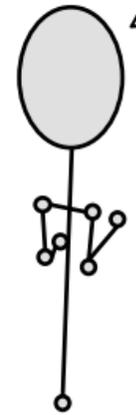


when it rains it pours



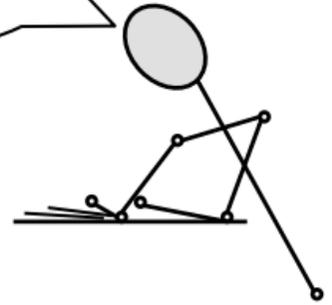
A Level
Only

bureaucratic barriers

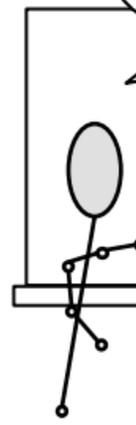


And then I the bungee
cord snapped and I fell
right onto my broken
leg, and...

All right, I'll do
all the work,
go home.

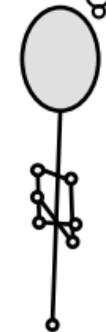
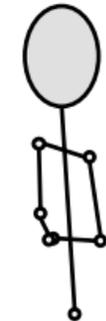
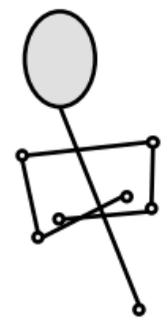


excuses

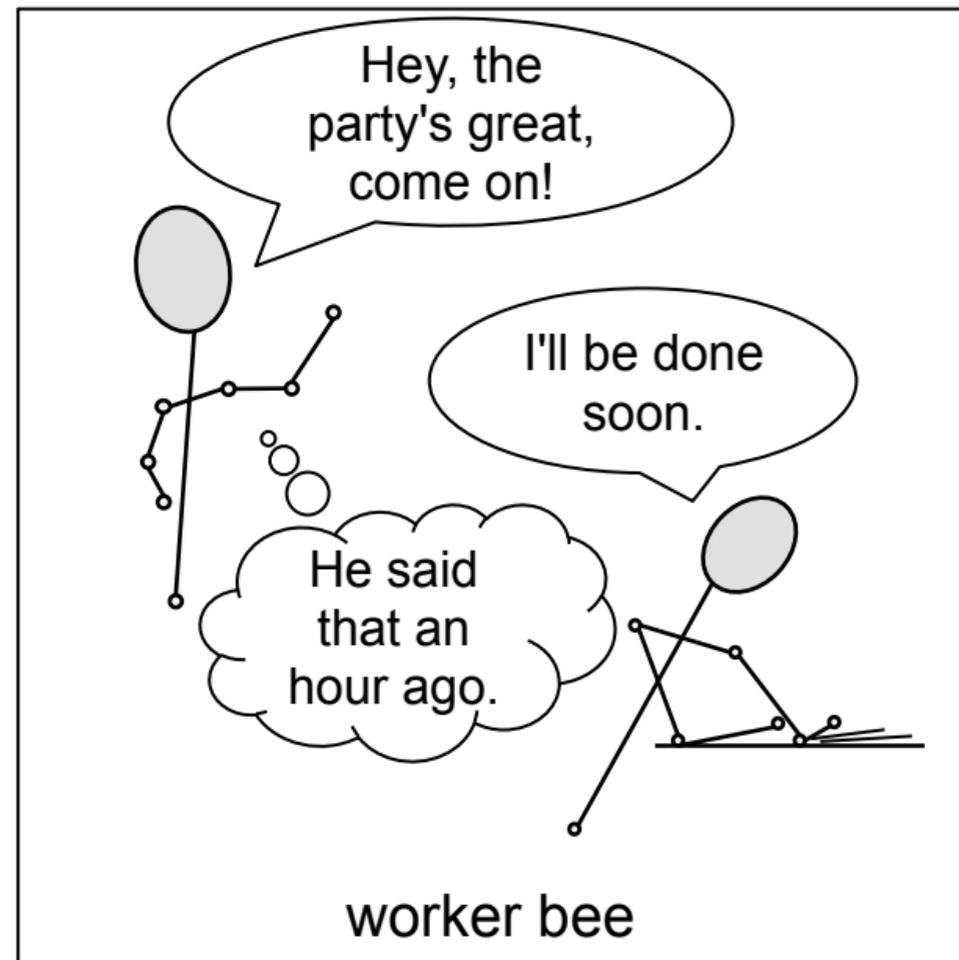
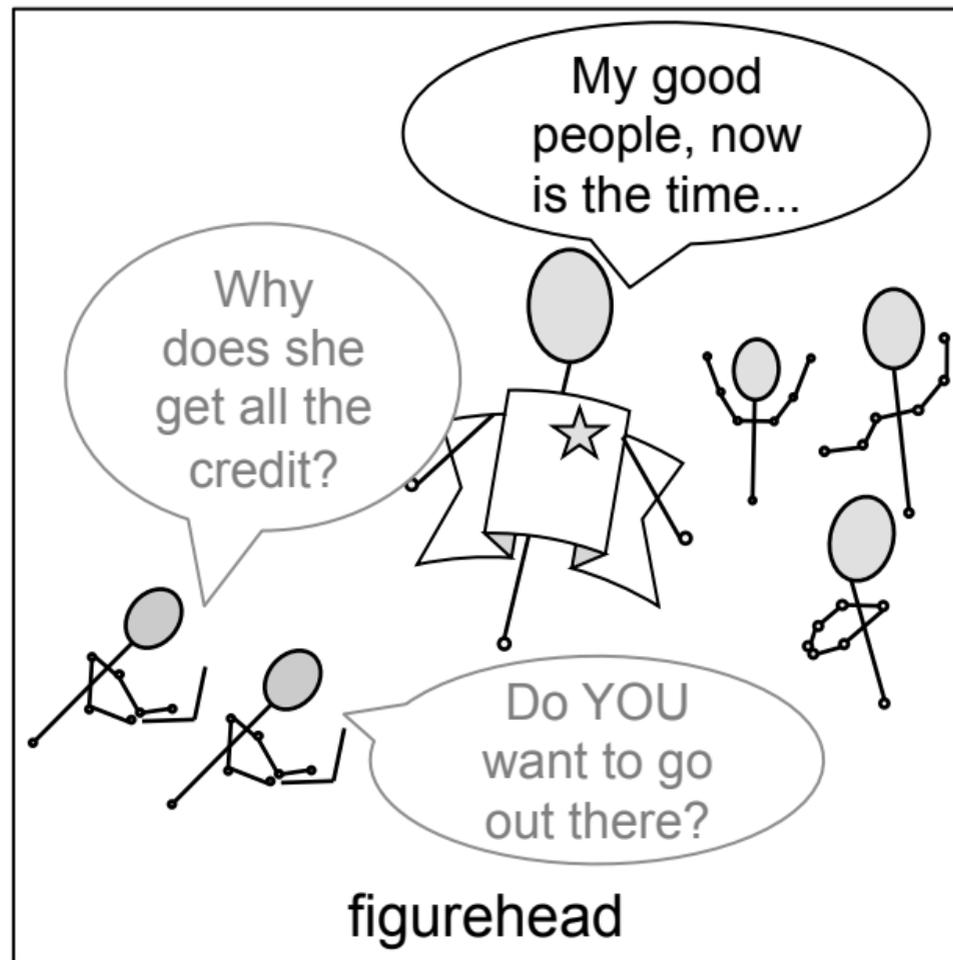
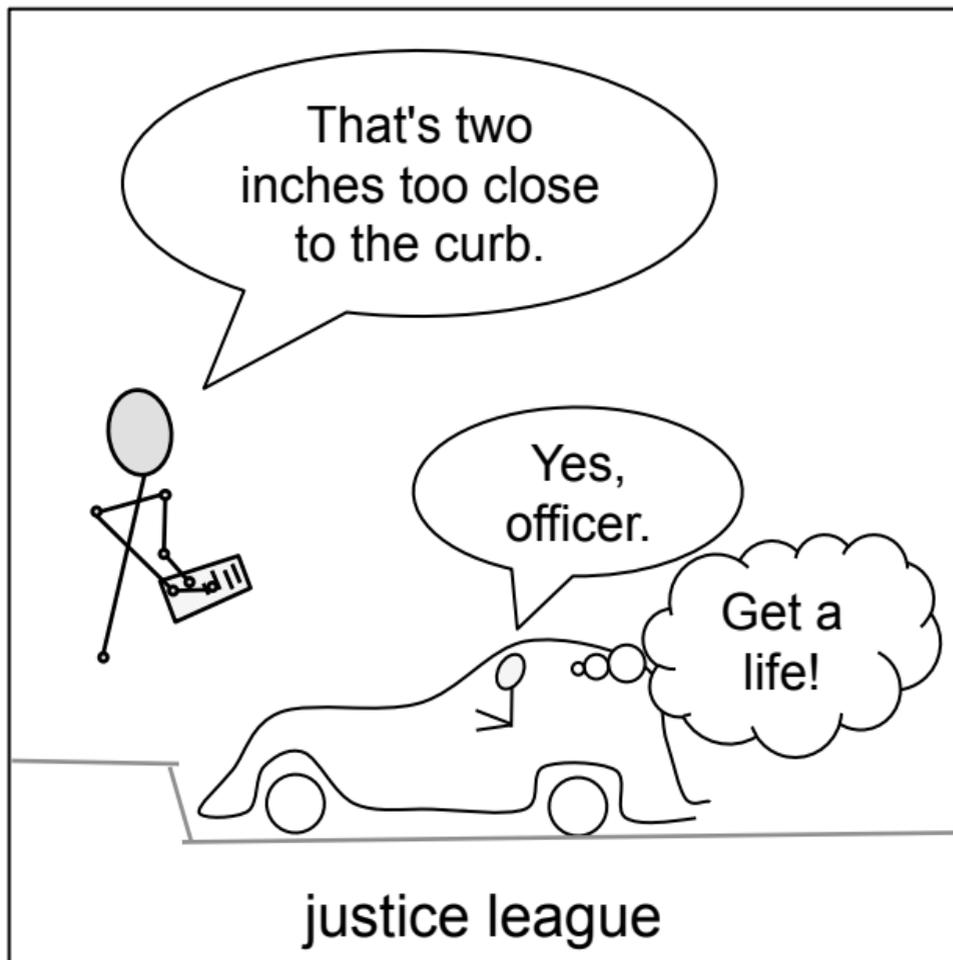


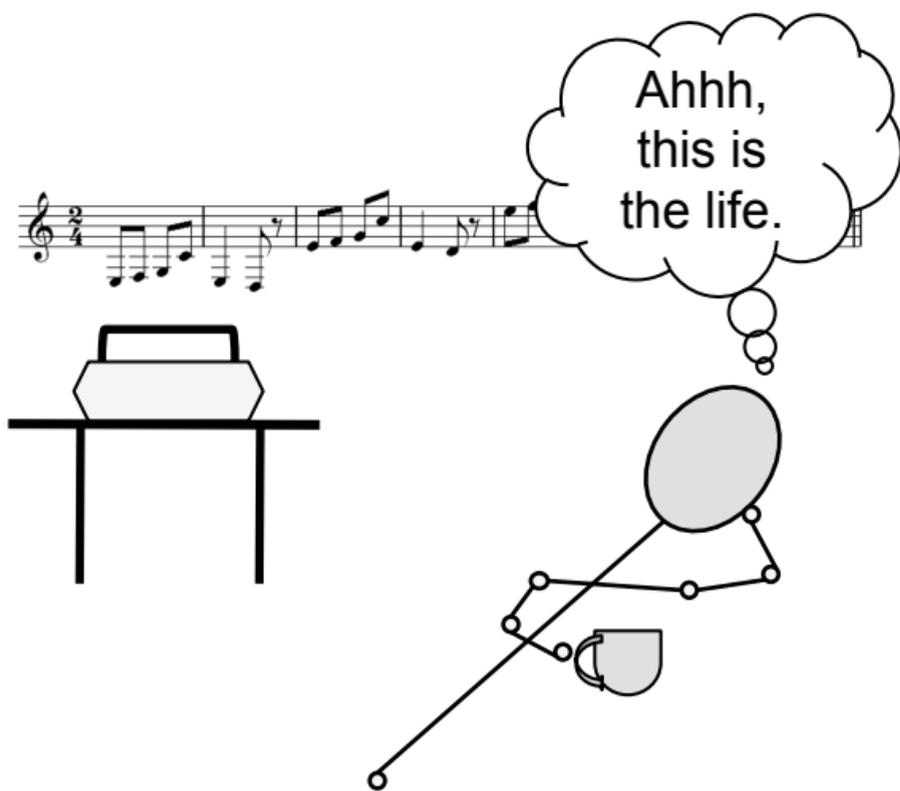
And then I had
this great idea...

But we did
that together.

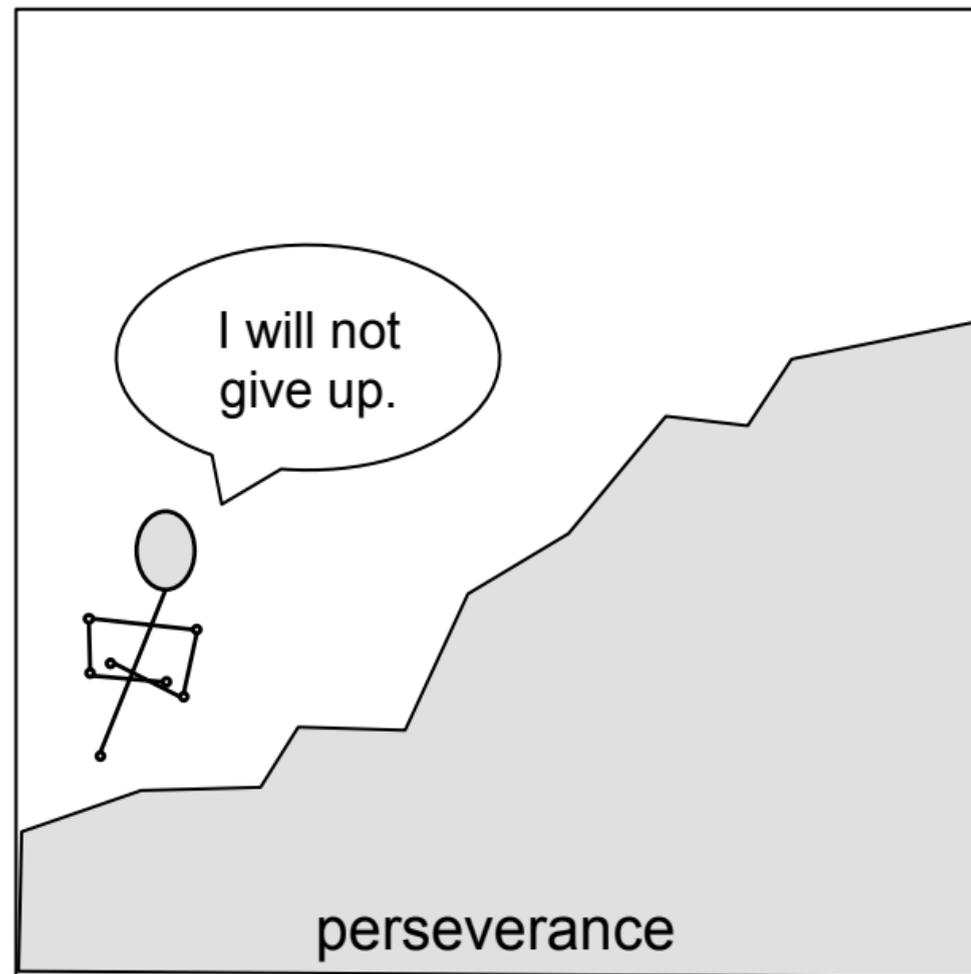


power grabs

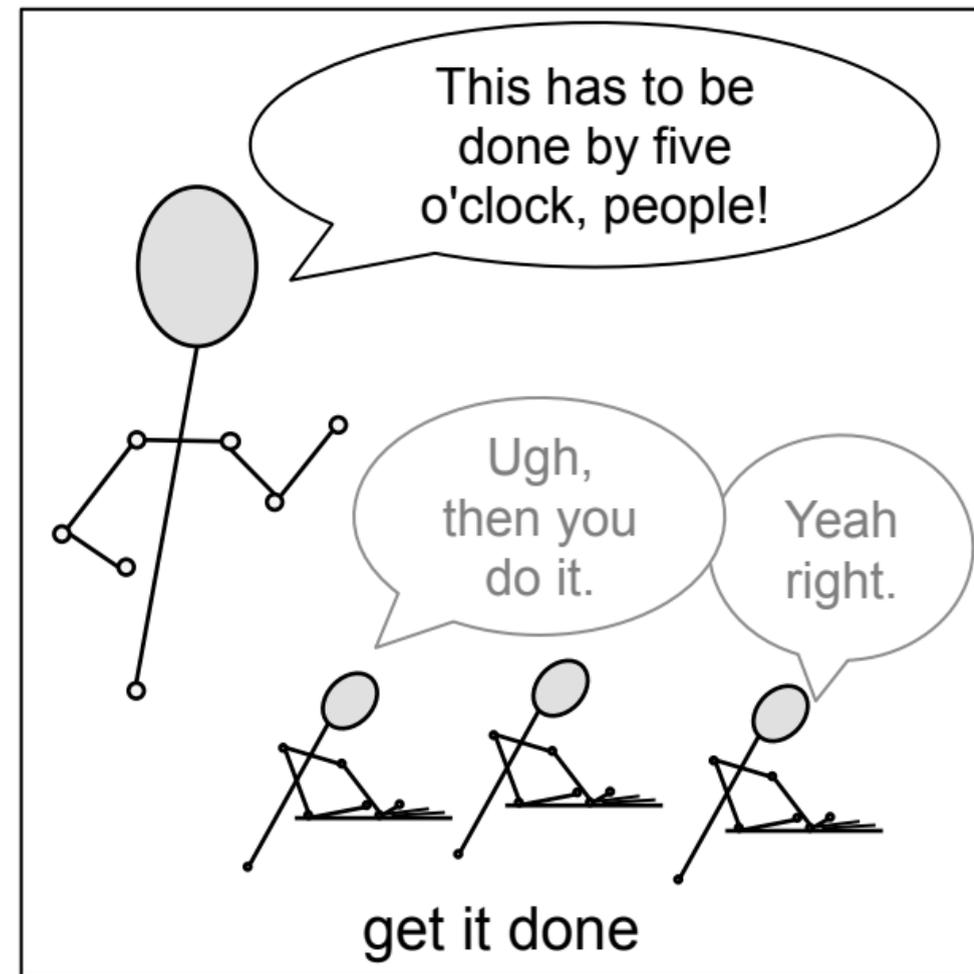




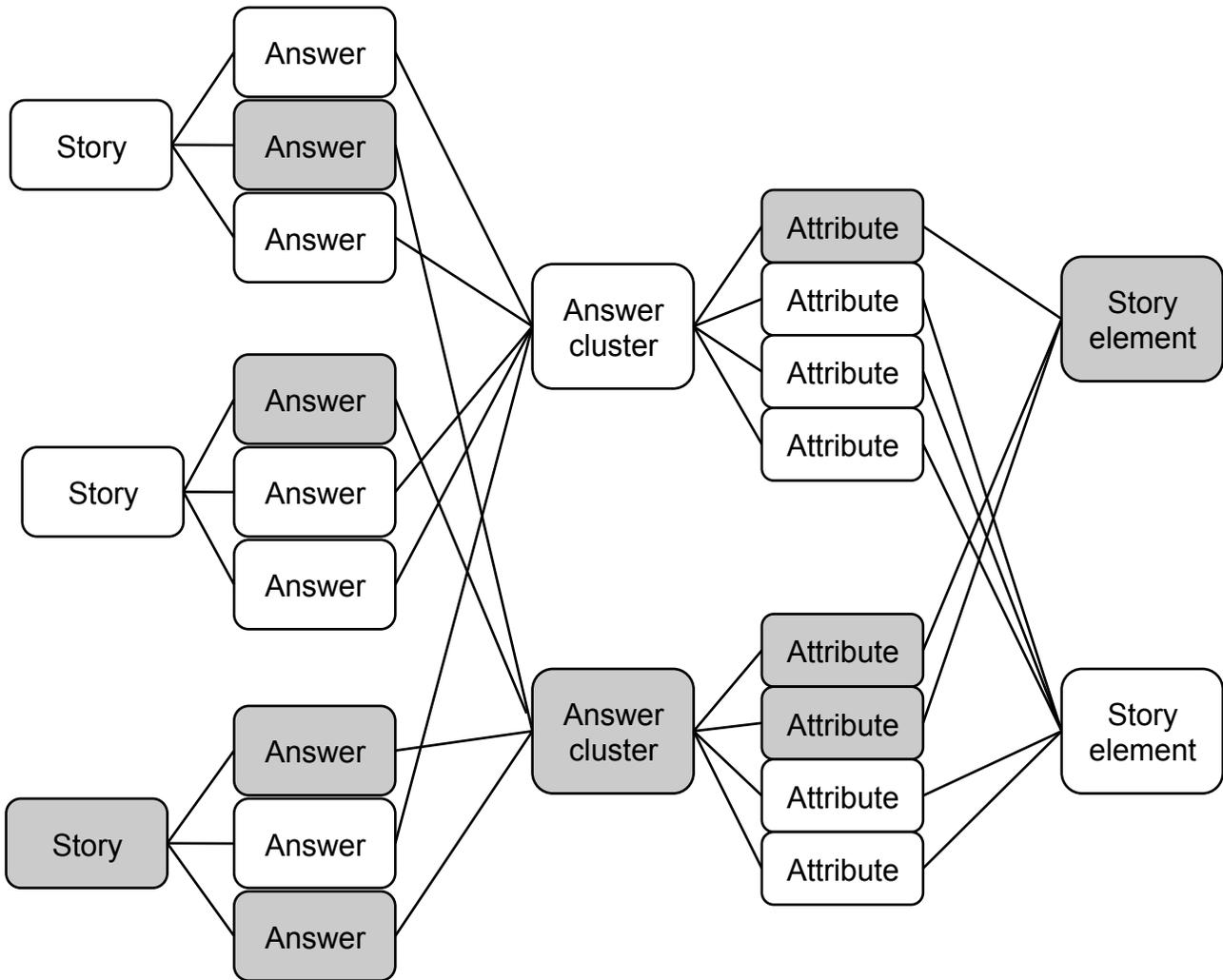
bluebird of happiness

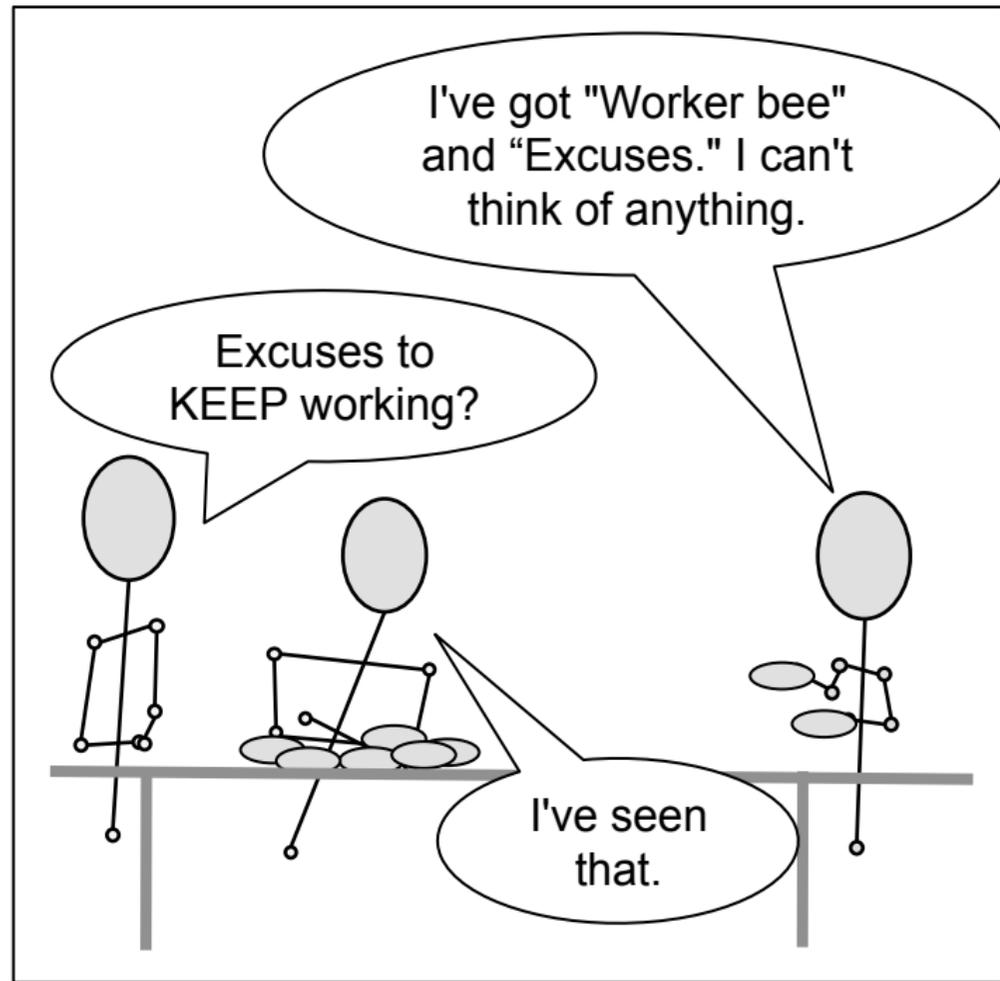
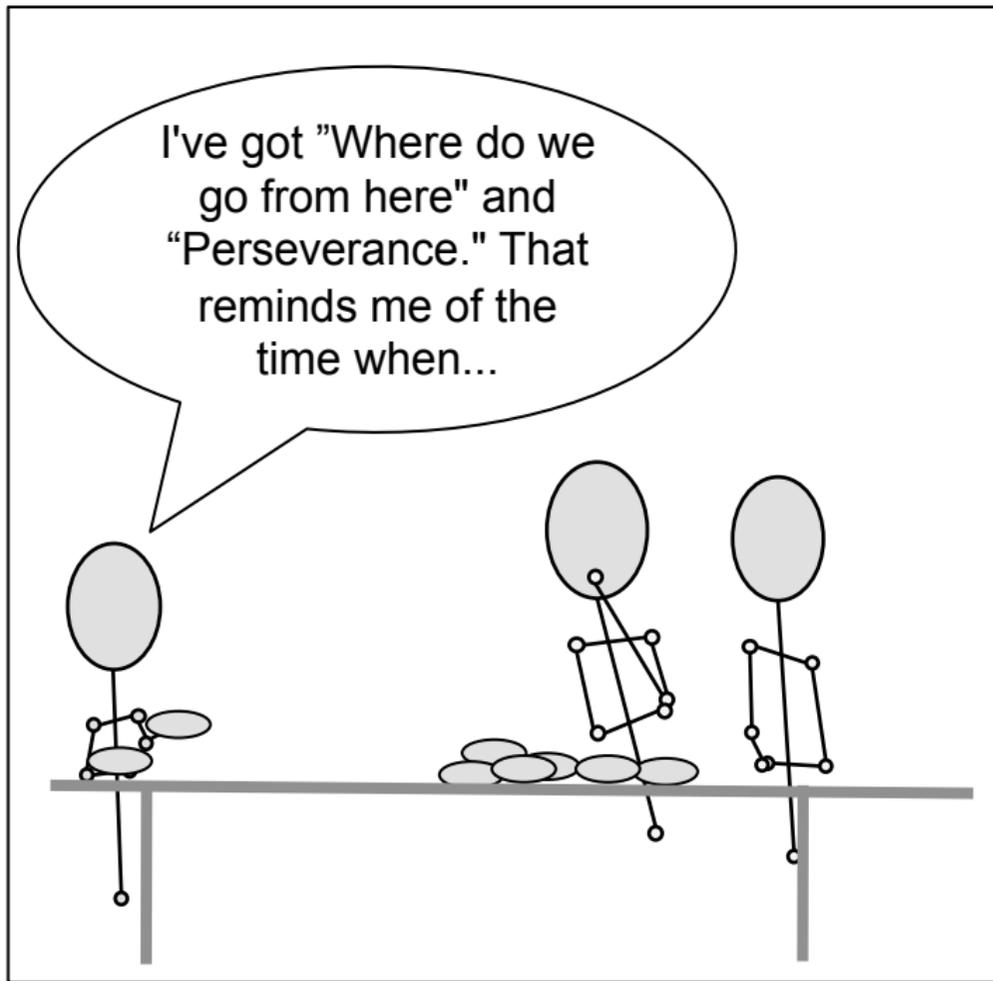


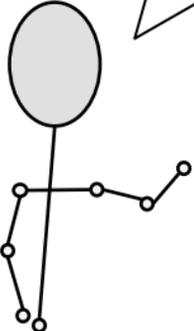
perseverance



get it done

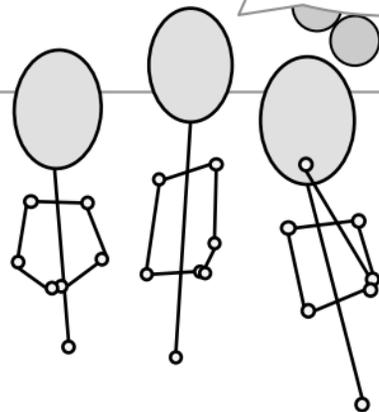
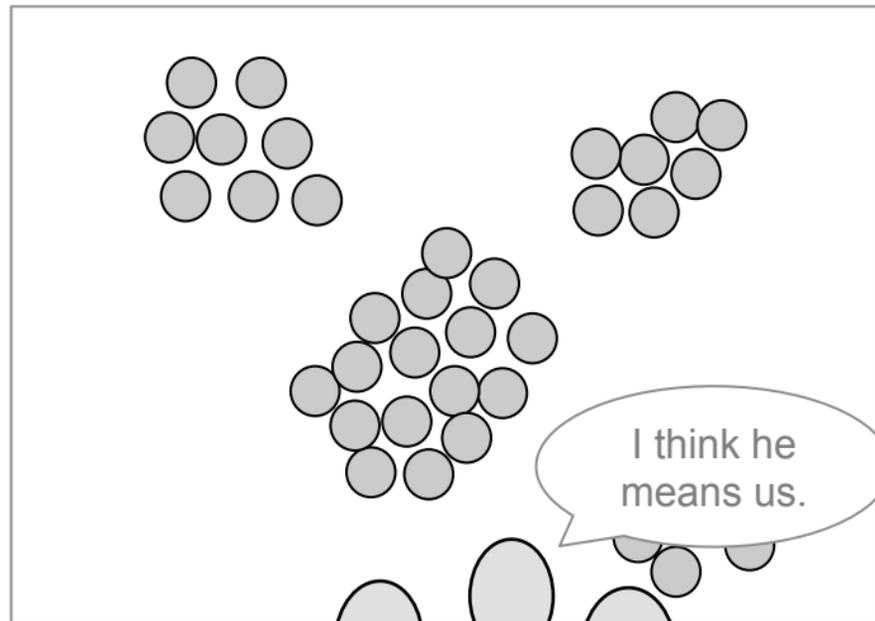






Everybody, please
make sure that none
of your clusters have
more than eight
things in them.

I hope they
get the
hint.



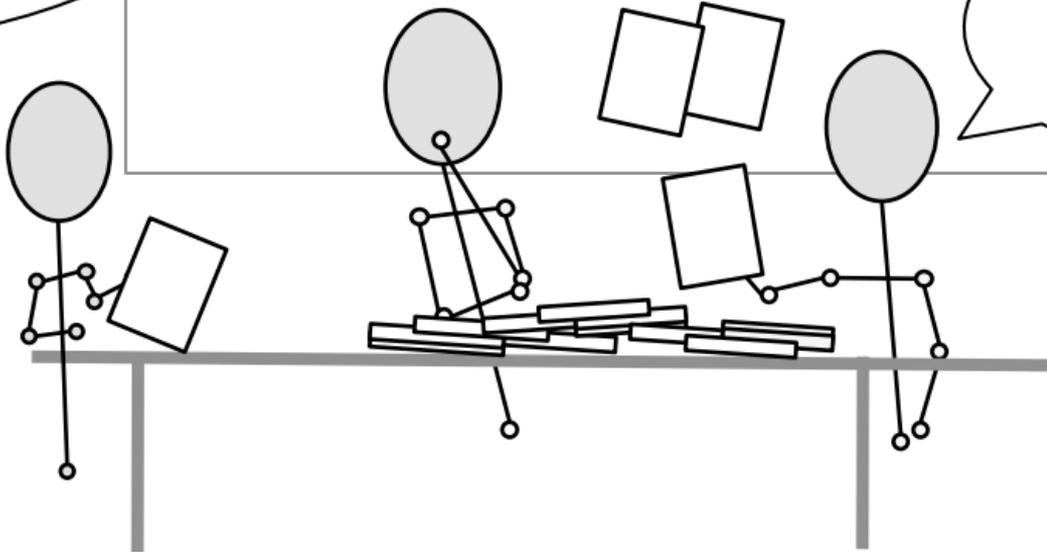
Okay, we've got two candidates for our tension story. Now we need a "what it's like" story.

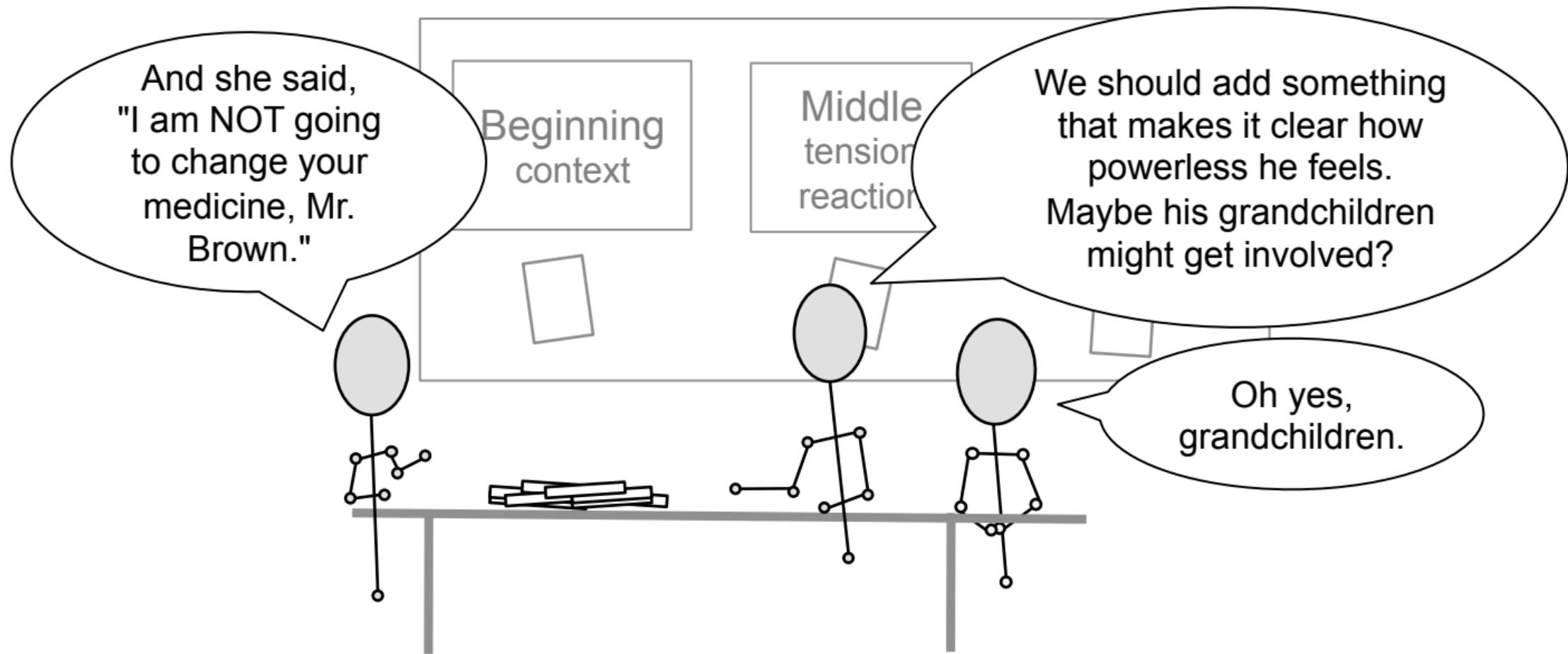
Beginning context

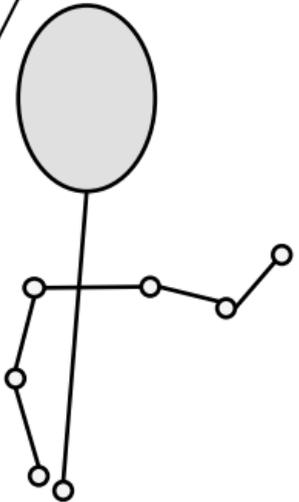
Middle tension reaction

End resolution

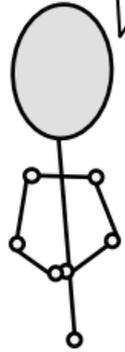
Let me read you this one.



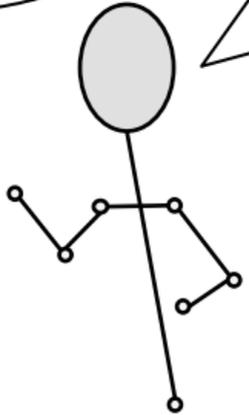




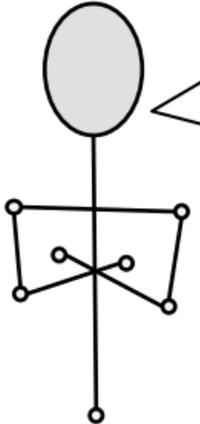
So what did you
take away from
the story I just
told?



That poor
guy sounds
powerless.

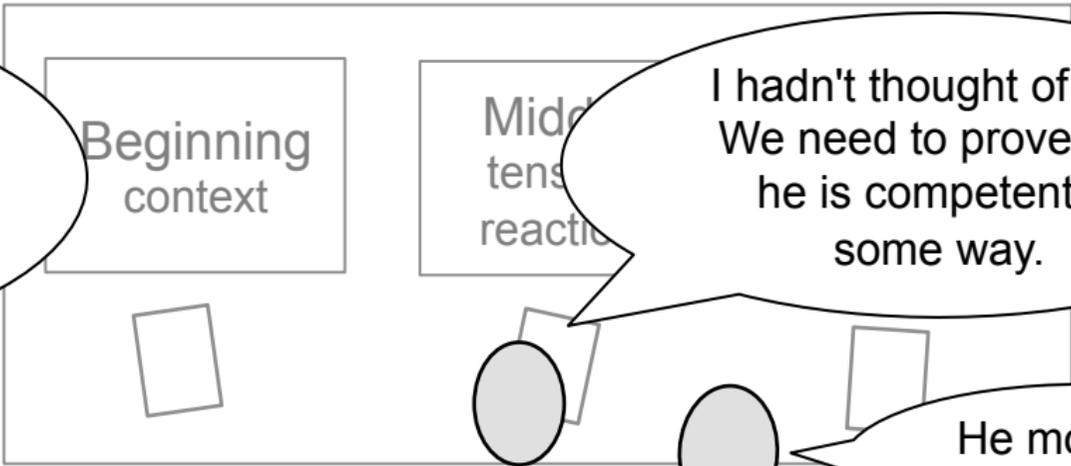


I don't know.
Was he competent to
make his own
decisions? I didn't
hear that.



I'm not sure he
was. I've been on
the other side of
that situation, and
sometimes...

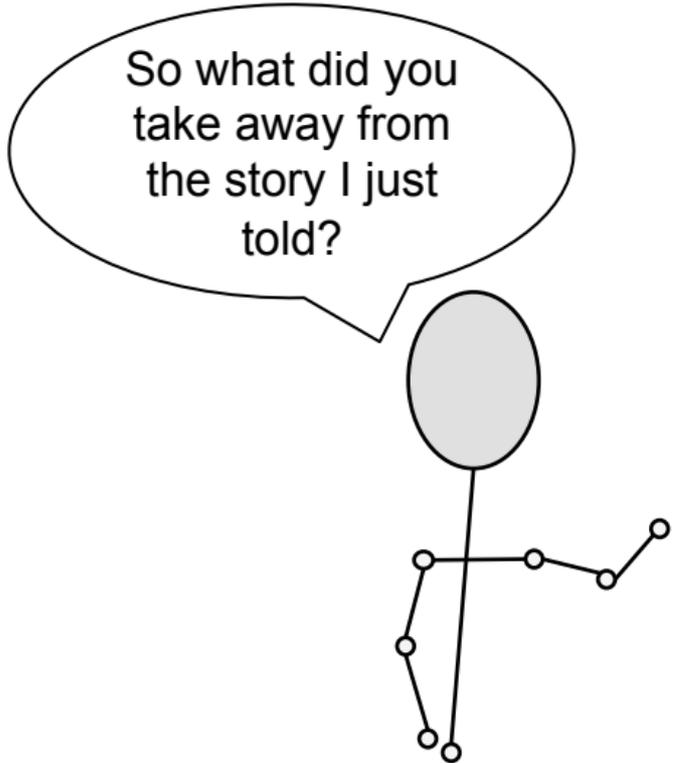
They said what if he wasn't competent to make decisions and they were helping him?



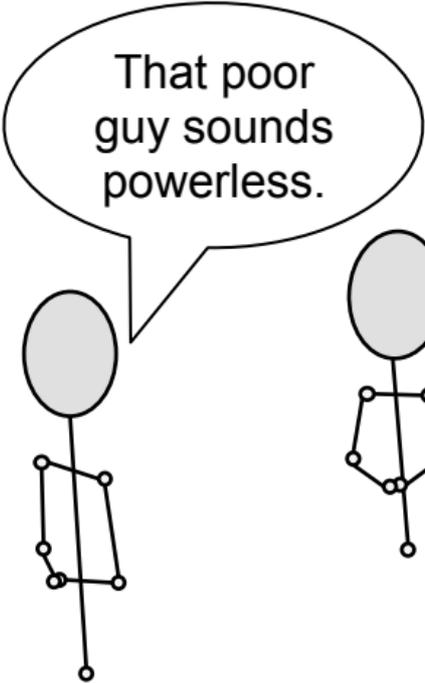
I hadn't thought of that. We need to prove that he is competent in some way.

He mows his own lawn?

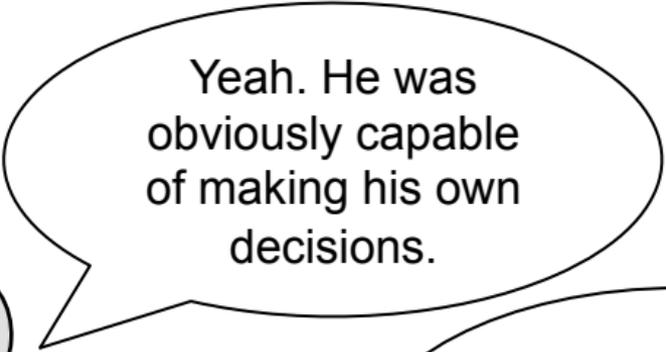
That doesn't prove it. Lots of people who shouldn't do things do them anyway.



So what did you take away from the story I just told?



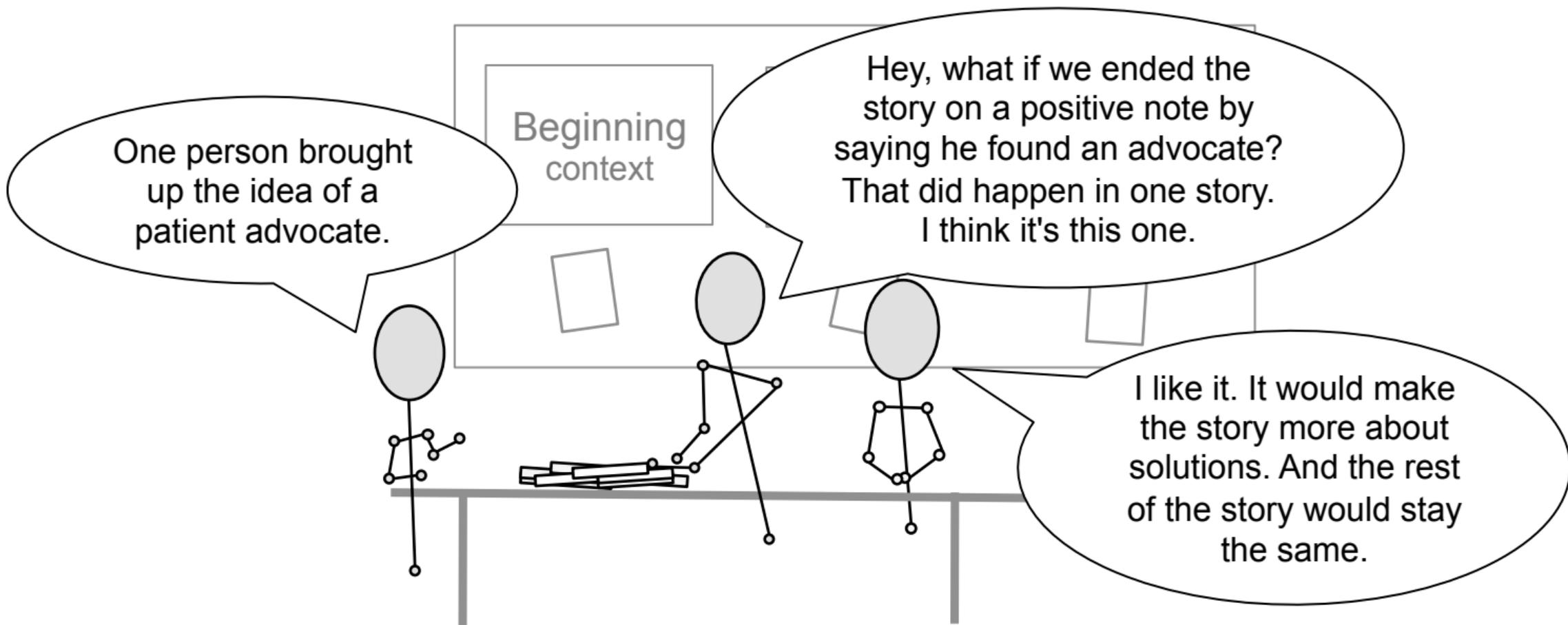
That poor guy sounds powerless.

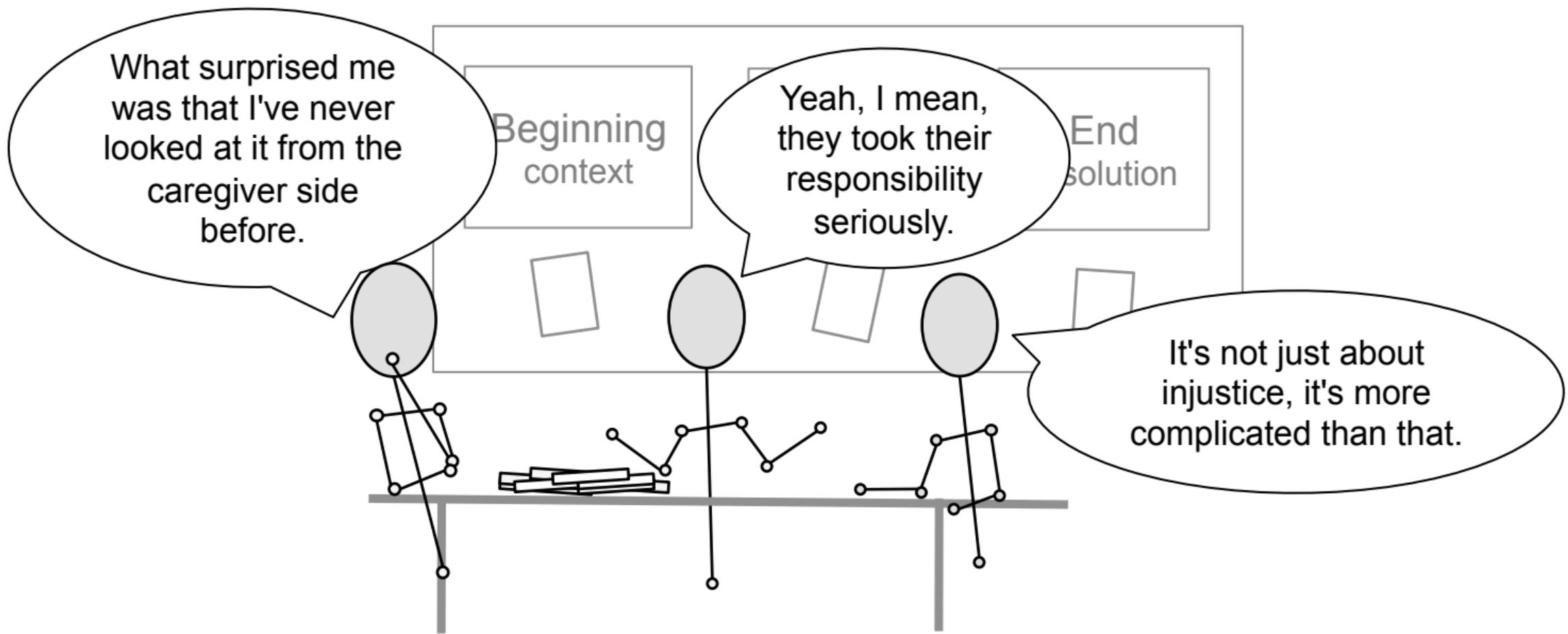


Yeah. He was obviously capable of making his own decisions.



If there had been a patient advocate he could have gone to...





What surprised me was that I've never looked at it from the caregiver side before.

Beginning context

Yeah, I mean, they took their responsibility seriously.

End solution

It's not just about injustice, it's more complicated than that.

What's even more intense than our second tension episode?

Beginning context

Middle: tension and reaction

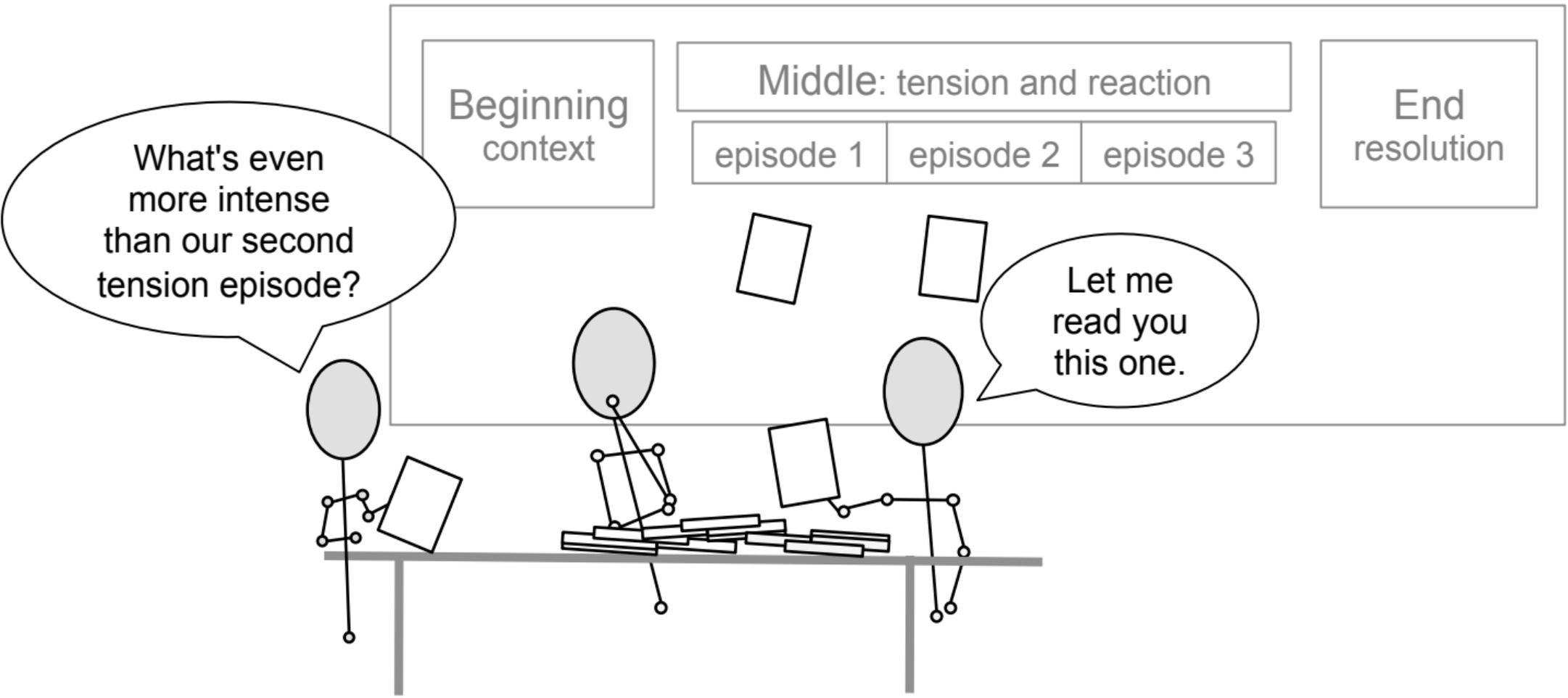
episode 1

episode 2

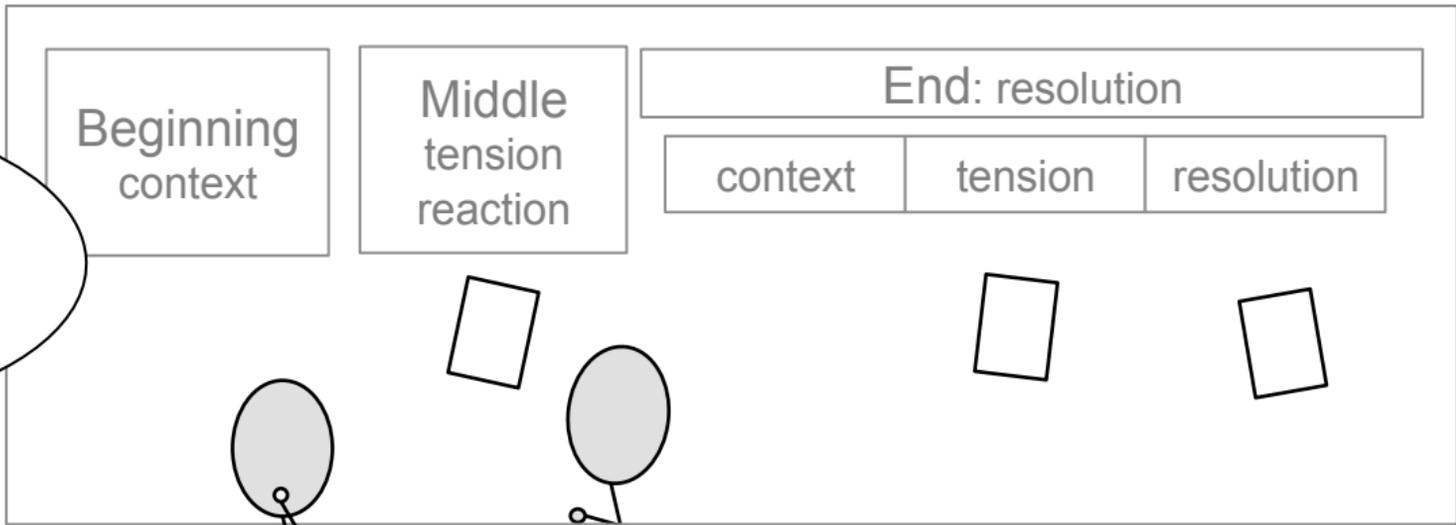
episode 3

End resolution

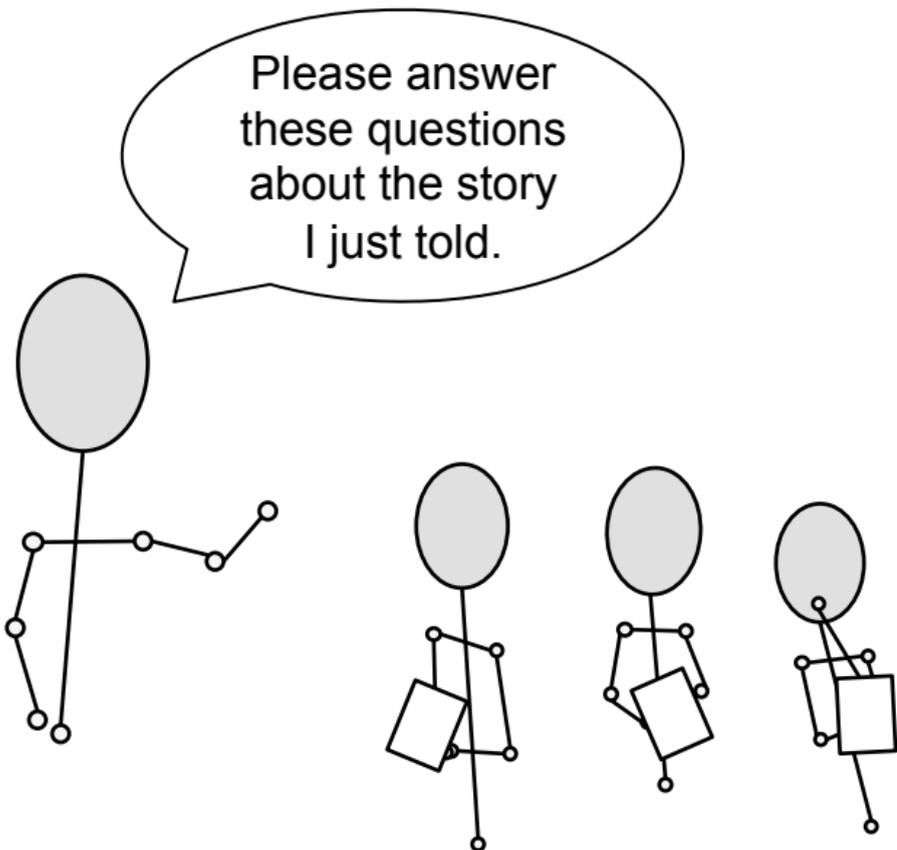
Let me read you this one.



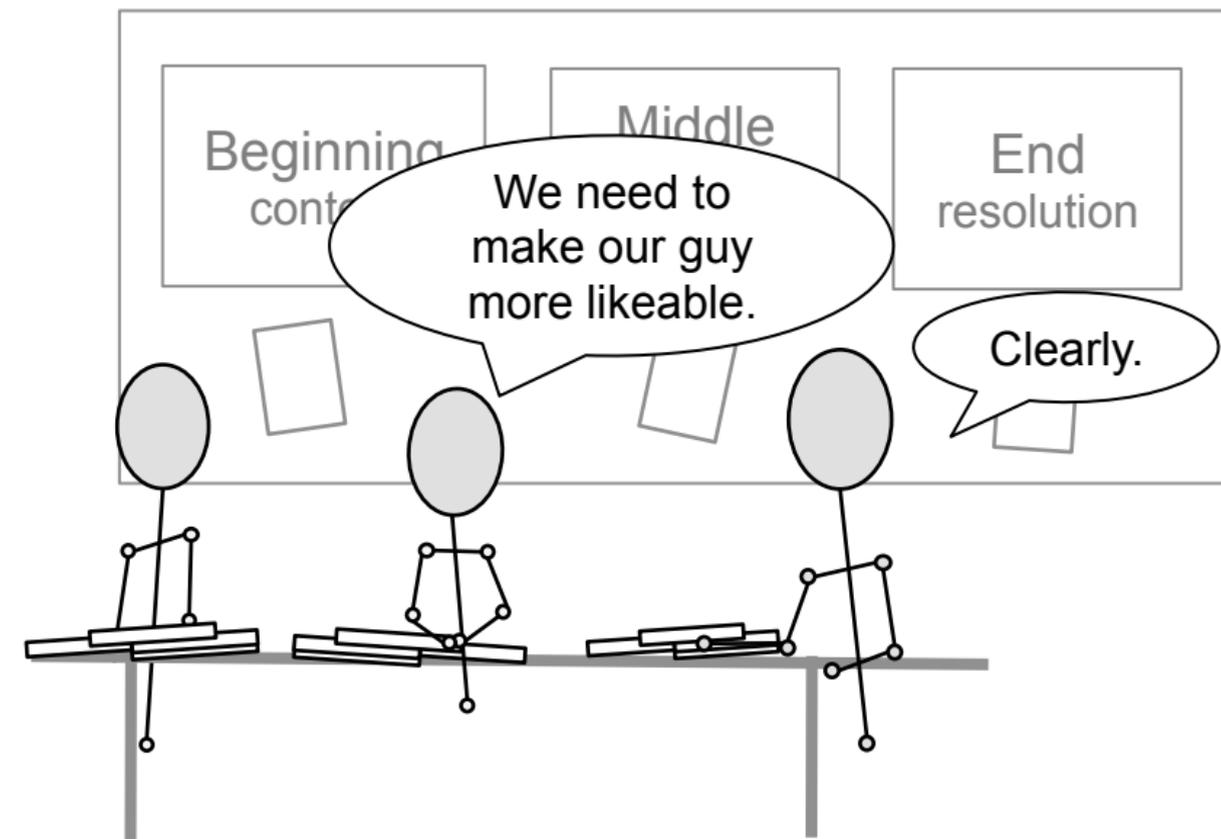
Okay, let's work on the context for our story inside the ending part.



We need a story where people have found a solution but haven't tried it yet.



Please answer
these questions
about the story
I just told.



Beginning
cont...

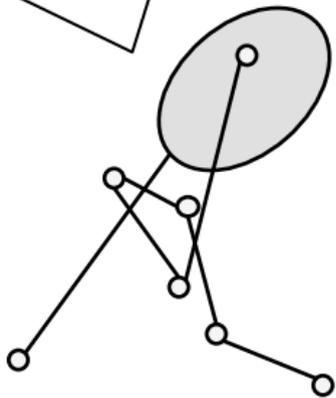
Middle

We need to
make our guy
more likeable.

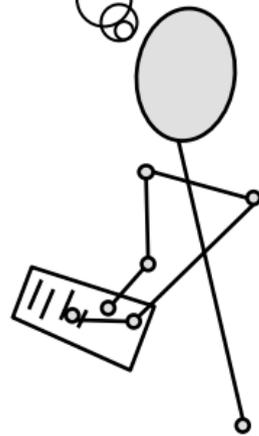
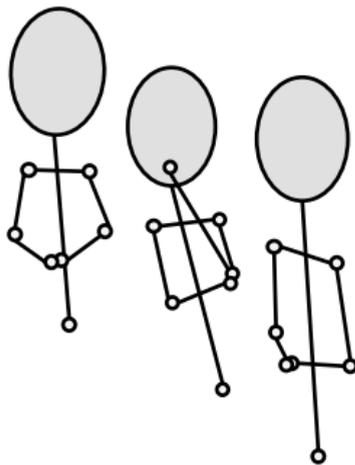
End
resolution

Clearly.

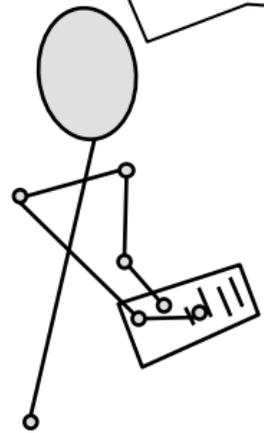
So, um, then we said, "We're all in this together." And we kept trying, I mean, we didn't give up, you know, "Never give up, never give in," at least, not then... but later...



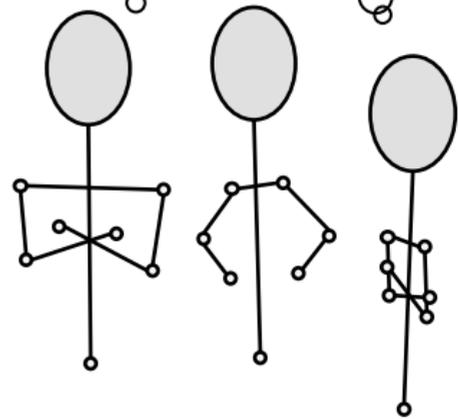
Hm, this guy is struggling. I'd better see if I can help his group.



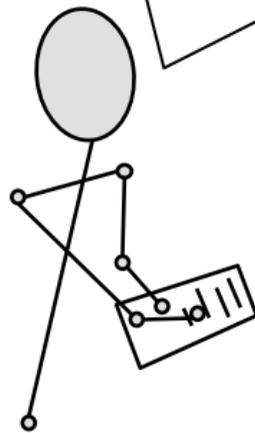
Next you should choose somebody from your group to tell your story to another group.



That person is NOT going to be me.



Next you should decide who among you is most suited to representing the group by telling its story and observing reactions to it.



I wonder if I could do that?

