



Deep & Simple in a Scary-Complex World: Why Mister Rogers is the Patron Saint of B2B Marketers



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We're lucky.











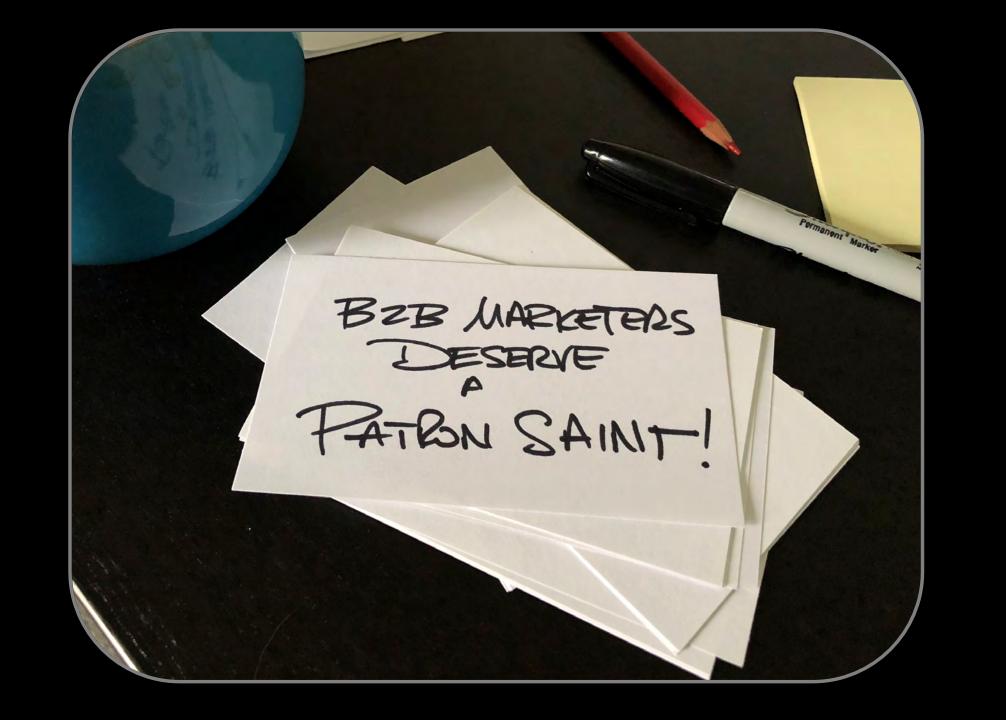






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There's a saint for everything.



Saint CHRISTOPHER

Saint FRANCIS





Saint JUDE

Saint MALO





Saint ROCH

Saint JOSEPH of Arimathea

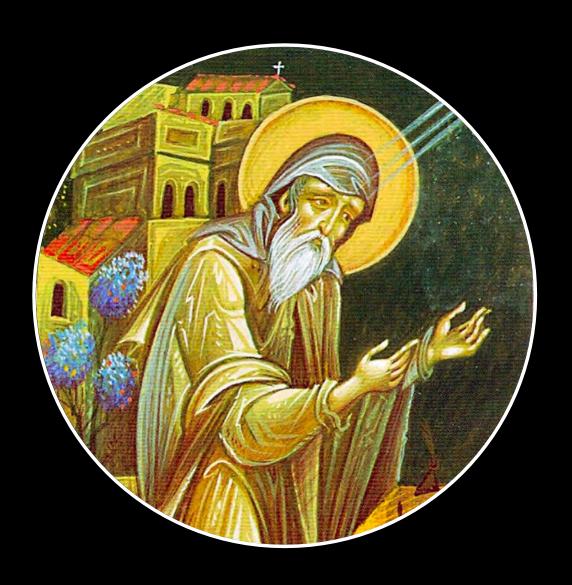




Saint LAWRENCE

Saint JOSEPH of Cupertino





Saint CASSIAN of Imola

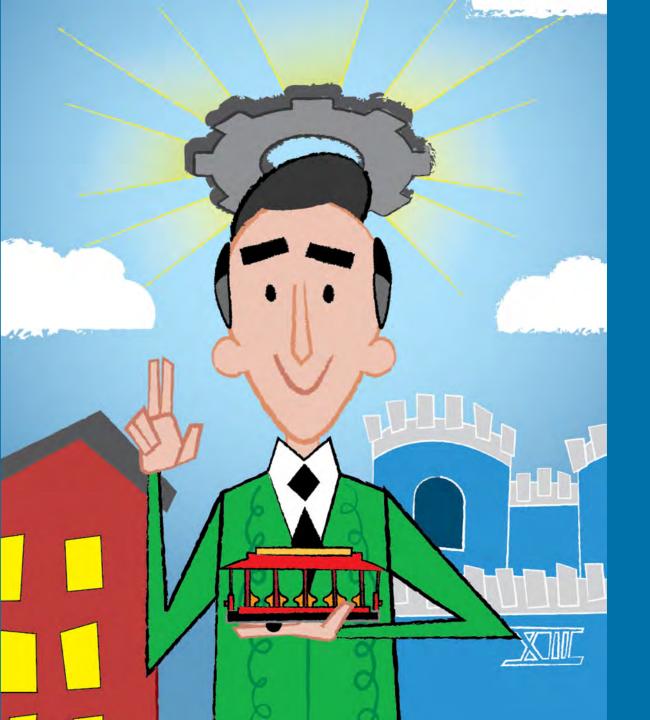
Saint PHILIP NERI



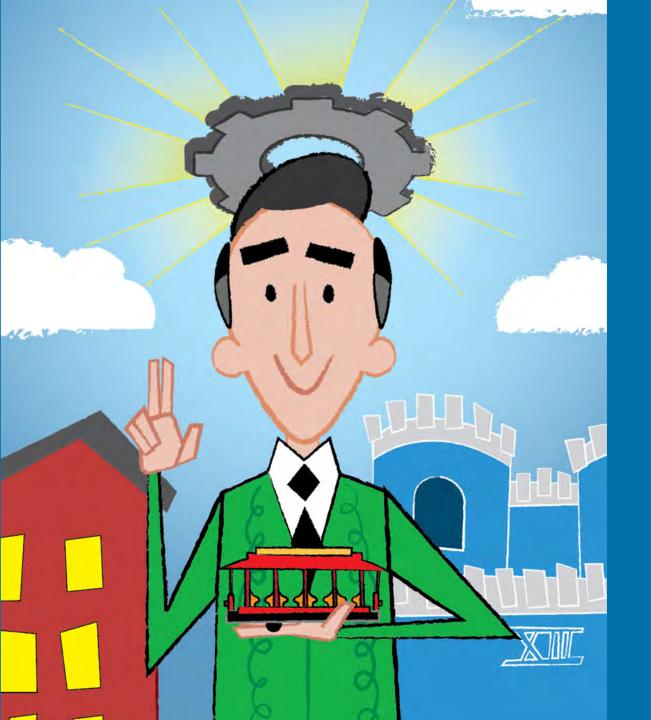
The patron saint of B2B marketers?



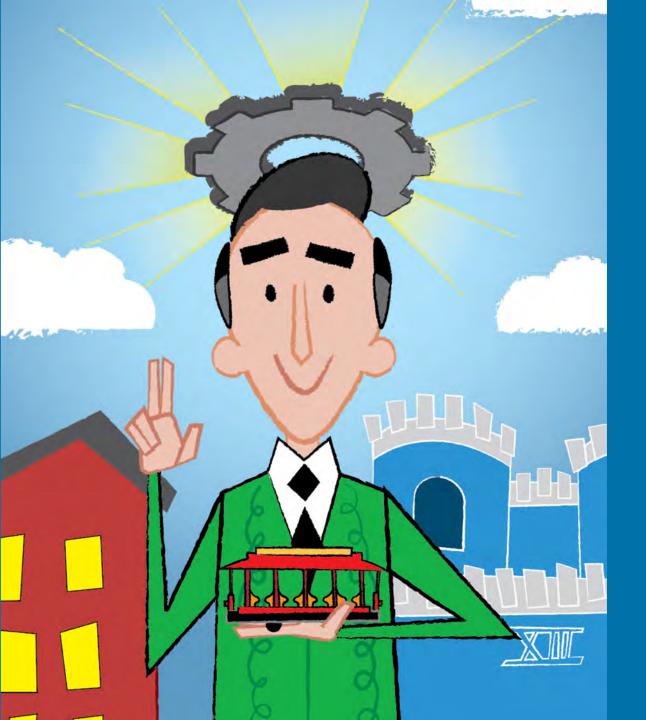
Saint FRED of Pittsburgh



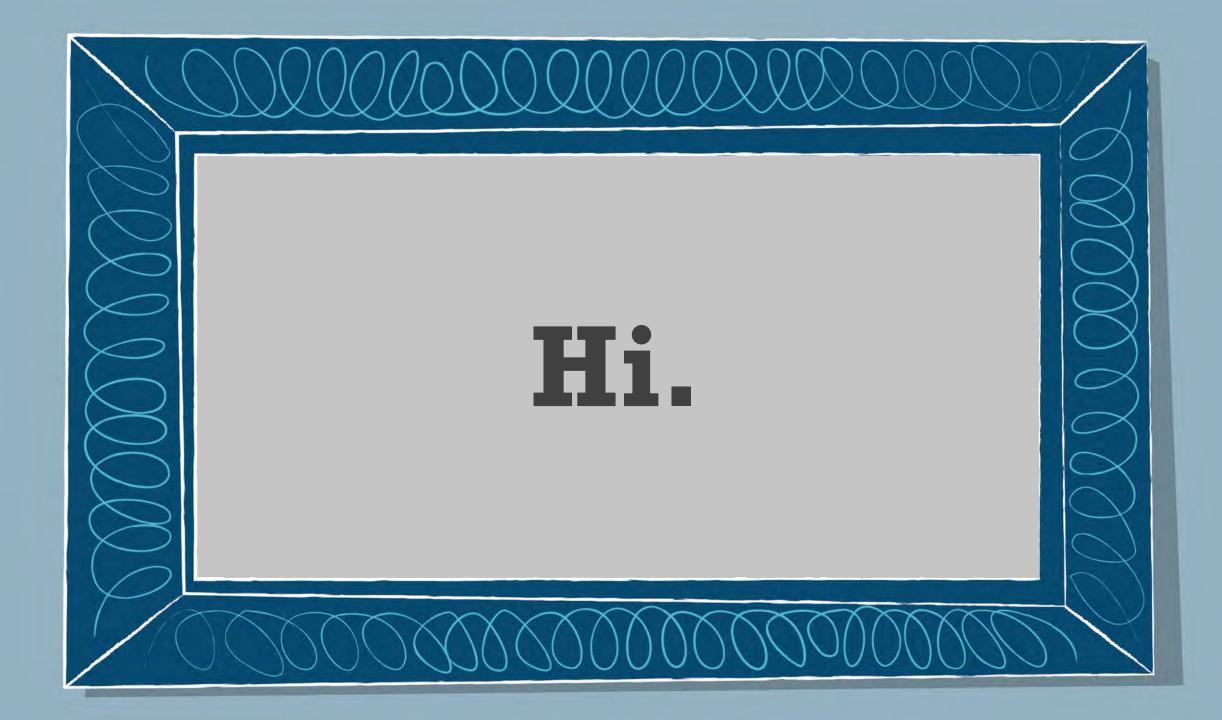
He simplified the complex.



He perfected the factory tour.



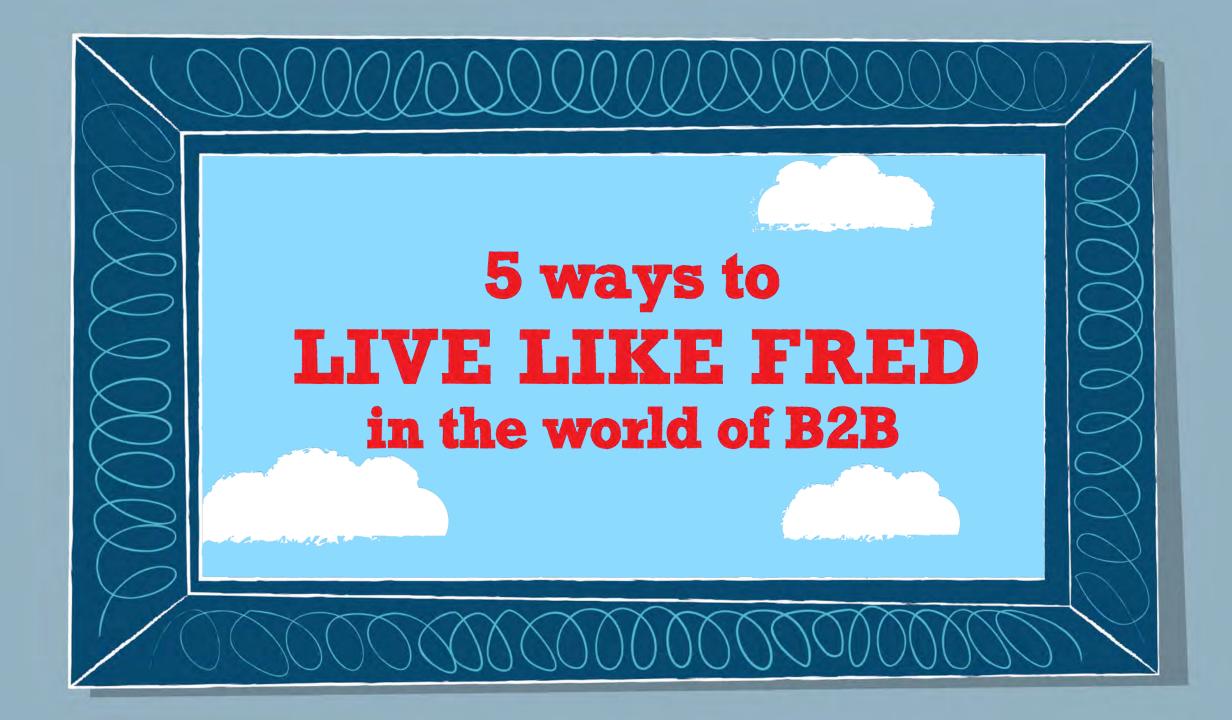
He was a master of persuasion.







Saint FRED of Pittsburgh





Keep your sense of wonder.



Family Communications, Inc. 4802 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (412) 687-2990 FAX (412) 687-1226

July, 1991

Dear

Your letter arrived during a very busy time here, and I'm sorry I wasn't able to answer sooner. It's an honor to be included in your book about what people read, and I hope you will receive this letter in time for your publication.

Here are the books that have influenced me the most:

- 1) Le Petit Prince by Antoine de St. Exupéry
- 2) Childhood and Society by Erik Erikson
- 3) The writings of Henri J.M. Nouwen
- 4) The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- 5) The Vegetarian Times Cookbook
- 6) The Angry Book by T.I. Rubin, M.D.
- 7) Collected Poems by Robert Frost
- 8) The Works of William Shakespeare
- 9) The Old Testament of the Bible
- 10) The New Testament of the Bible

If you want to know which one book I consider as the greatest, my answer would be The Bible.

Thanks again for thinking of us. And, thank you for your kind wishes. I hope you have a nice forever, too!

Sincerely,

Dear

Your letter arrived during a very busy time here, and I'm sorry I wasn't able to answer sooner. It's an honor to be included in your book about what people read, and I hope you will receive this letter in time for your publication.

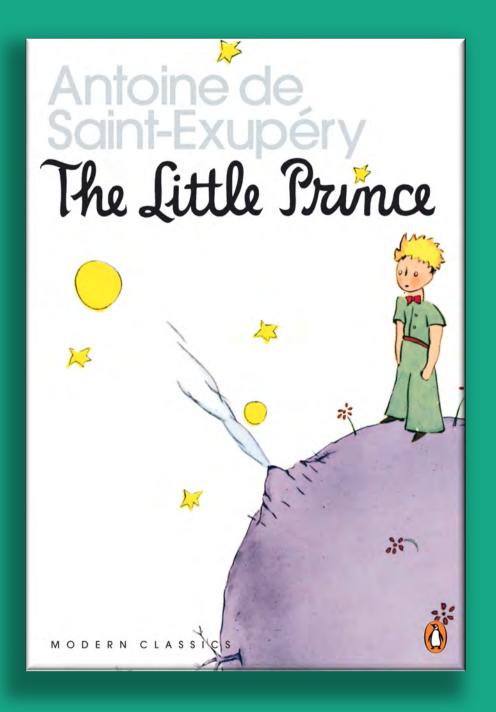
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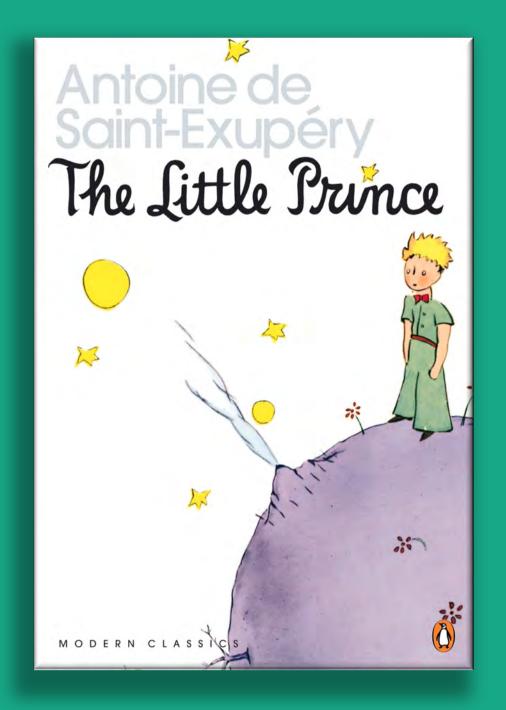
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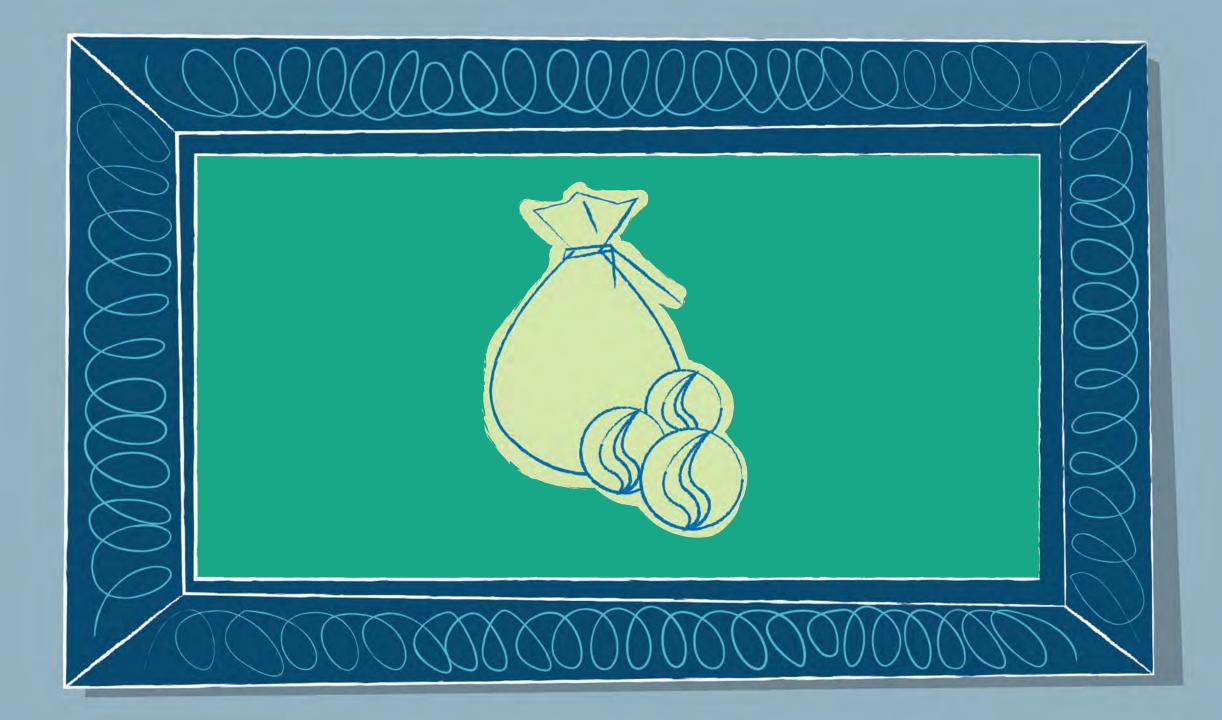
Thanks again for thinking of us. And, thank you for your

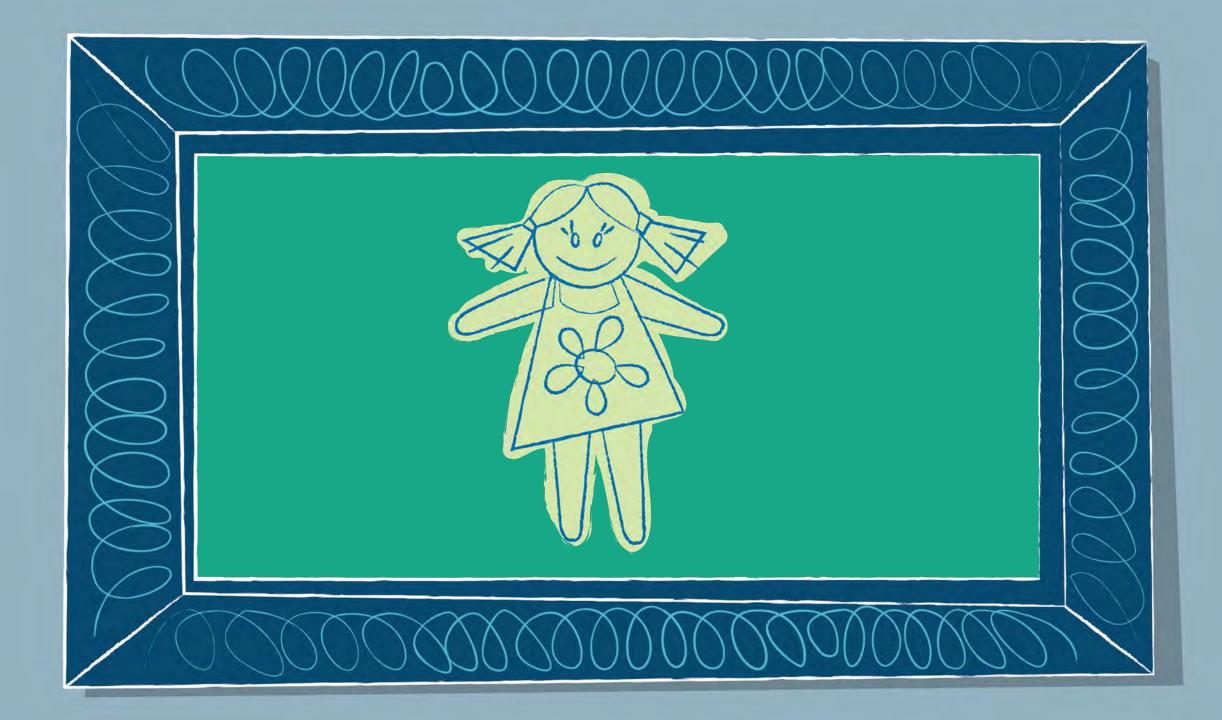


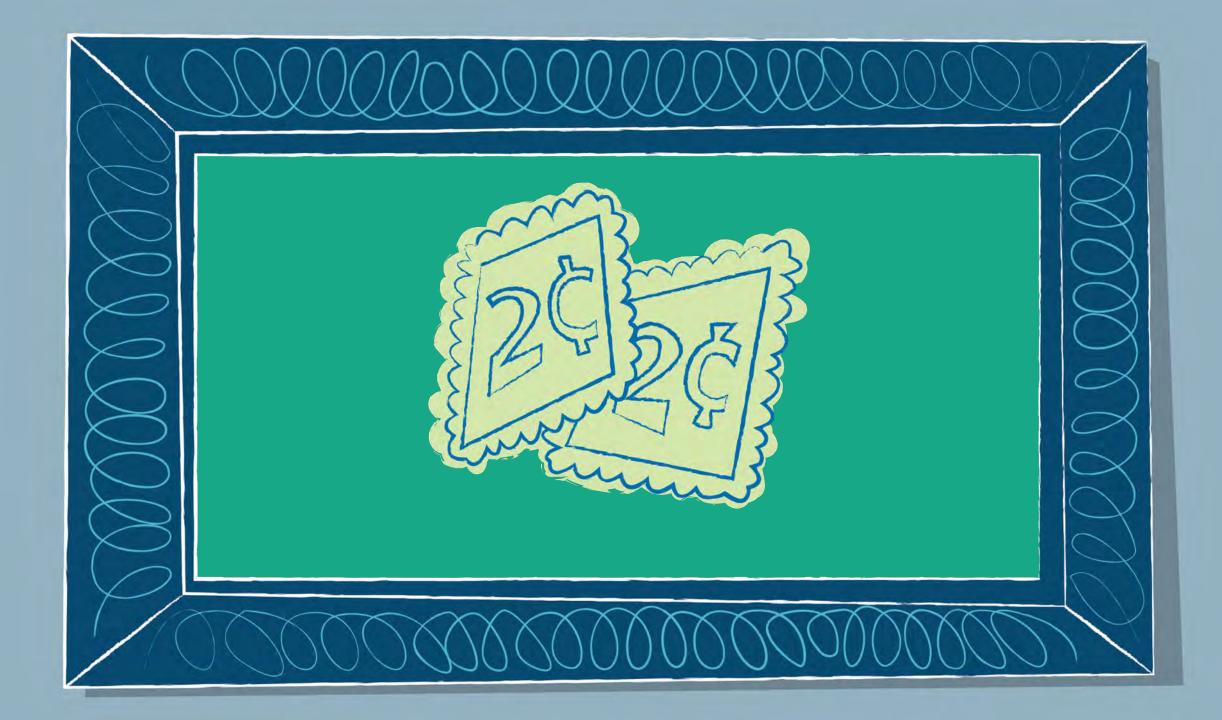
"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

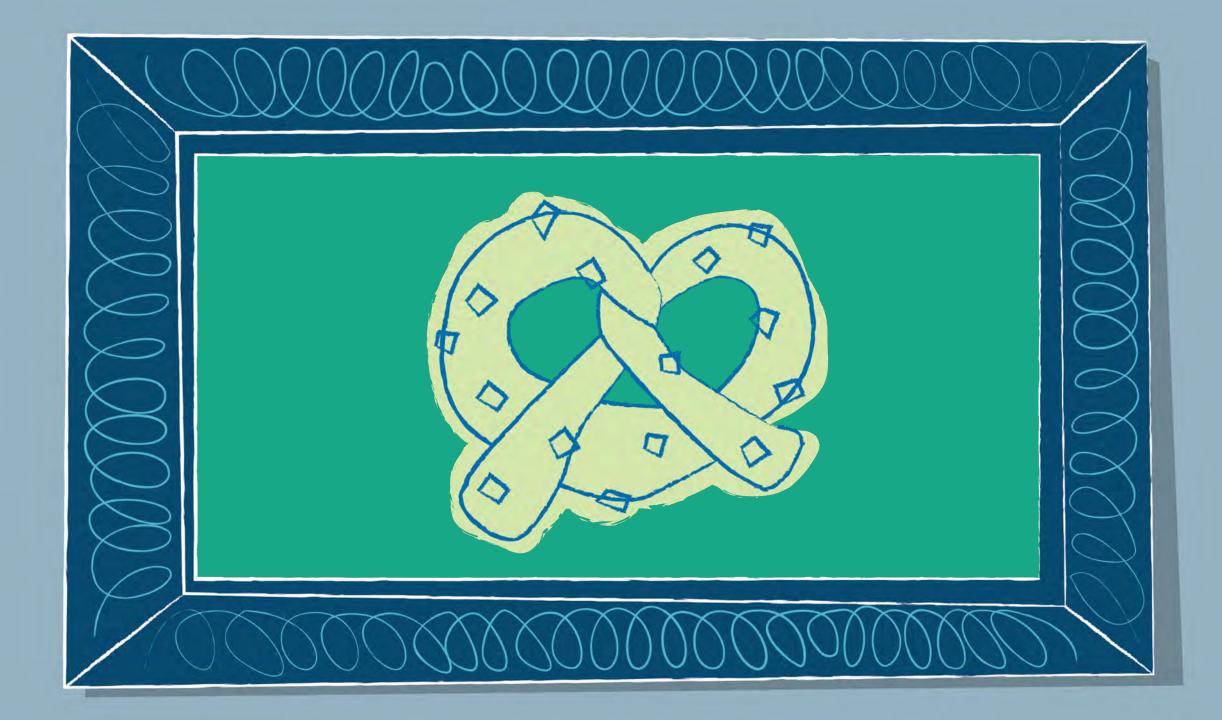


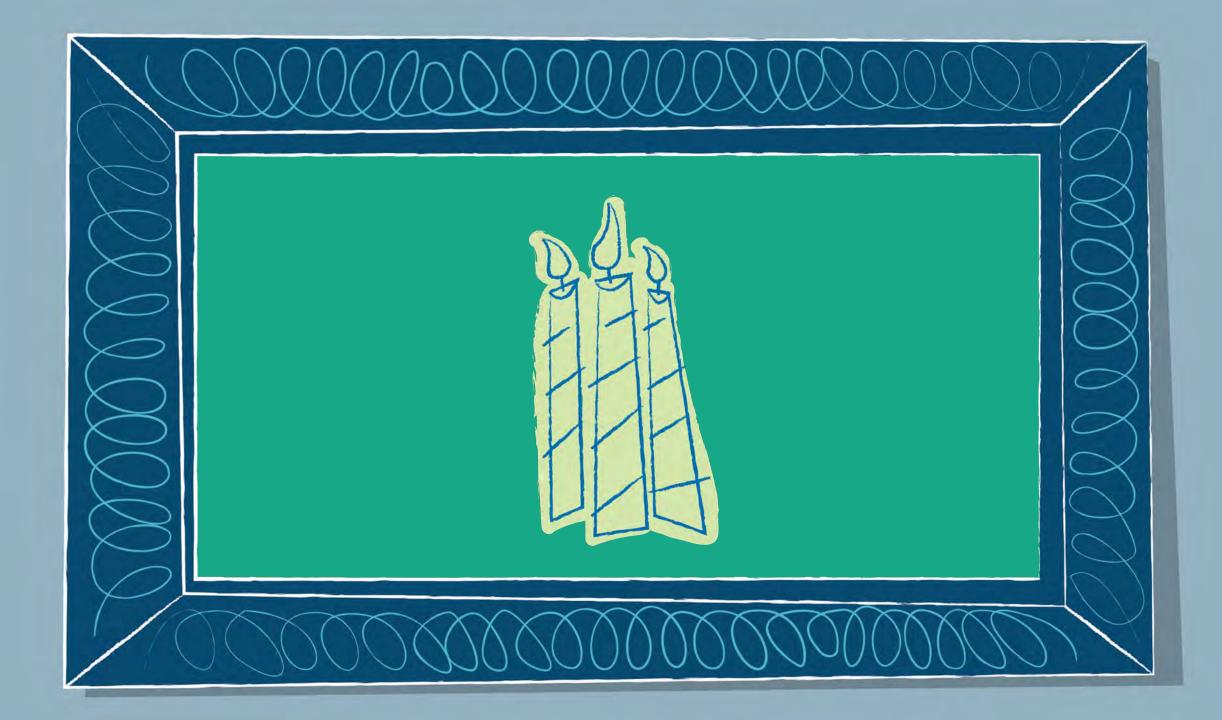


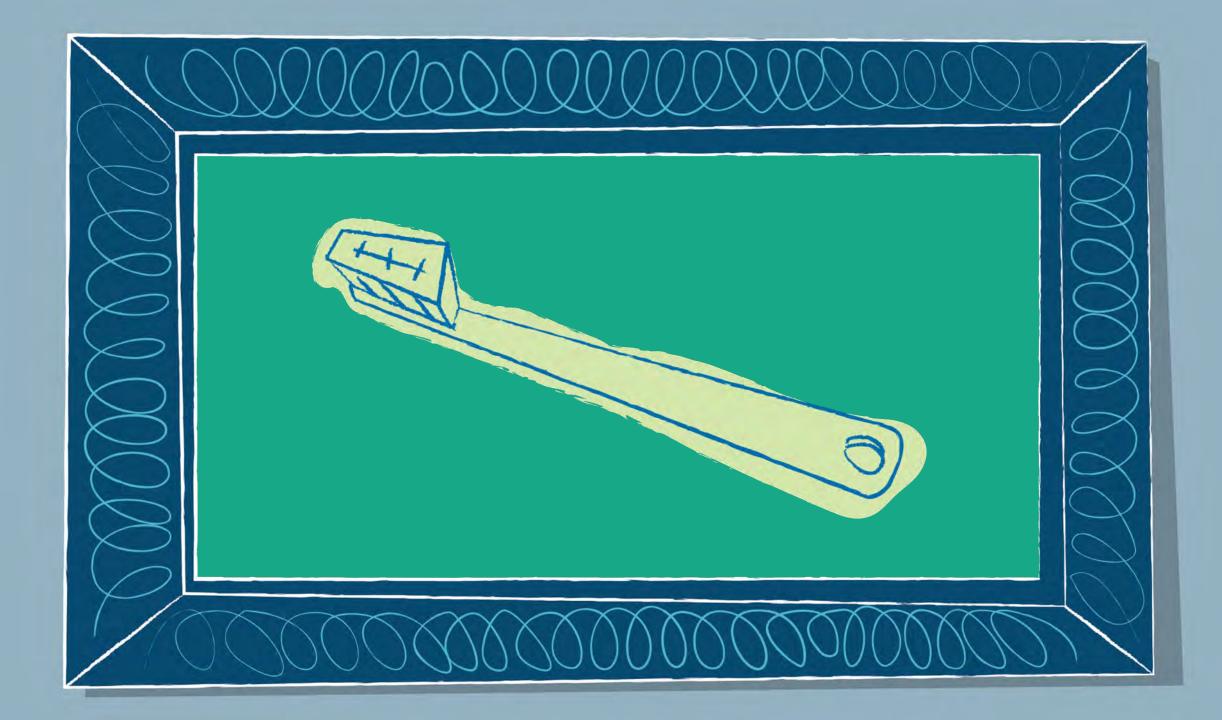


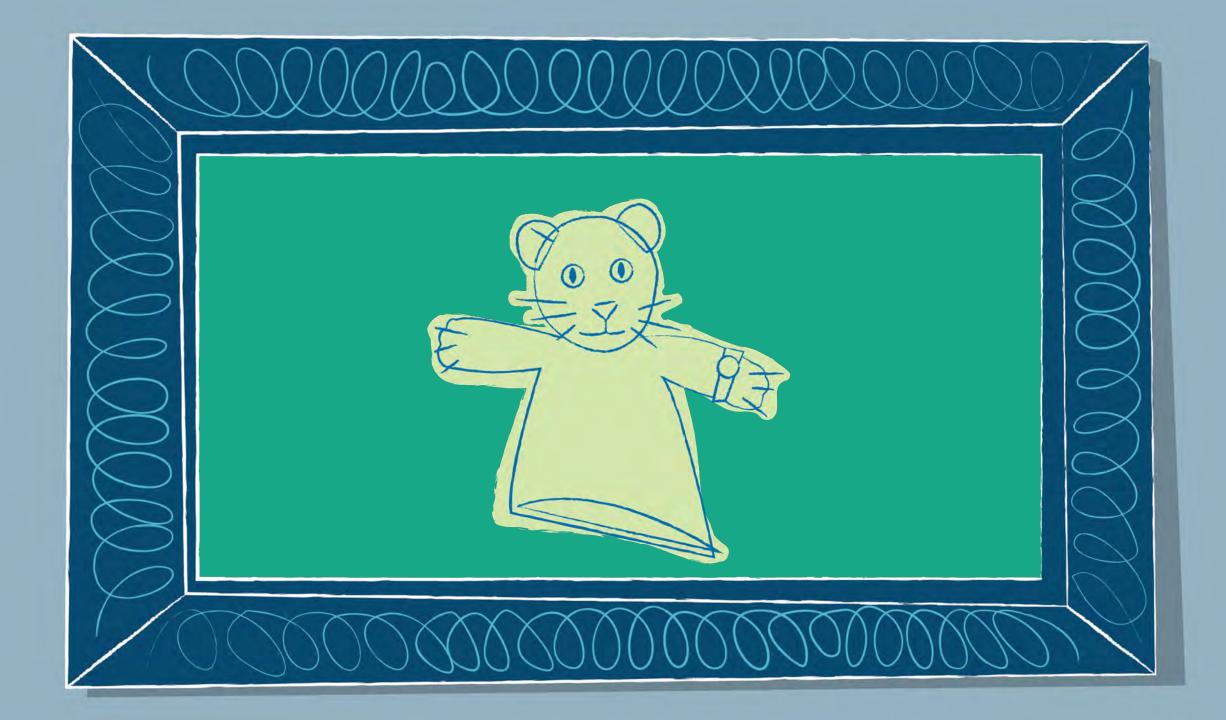


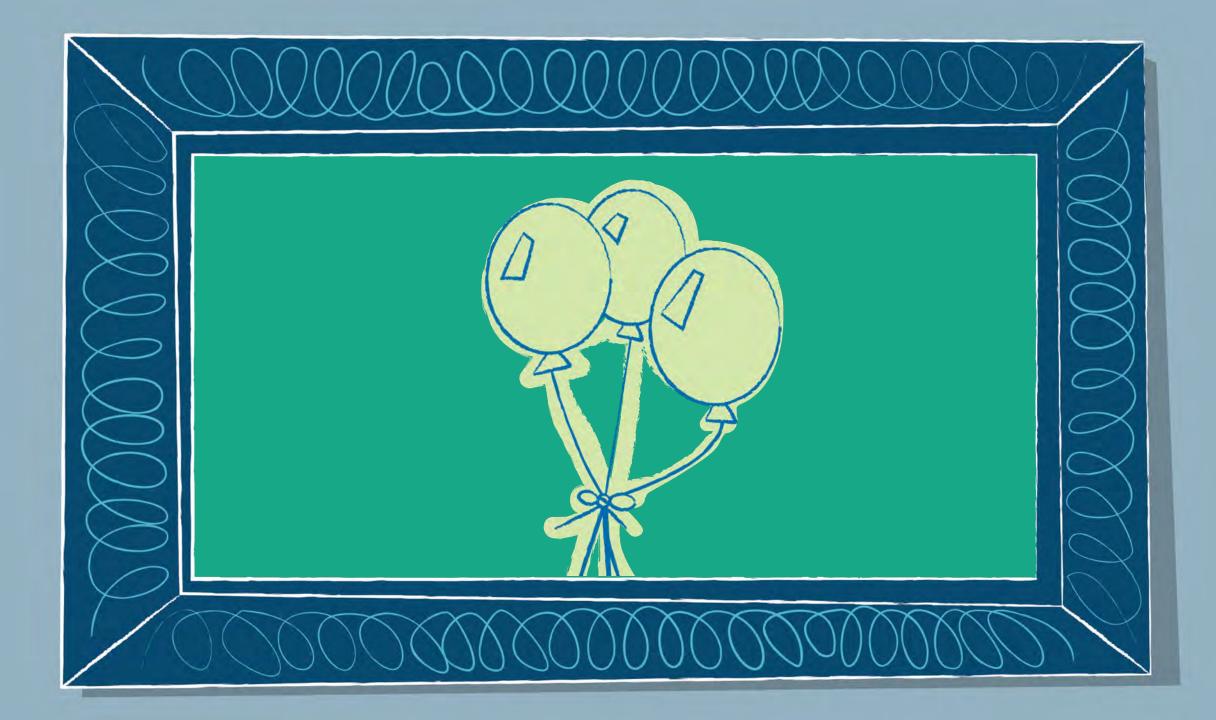


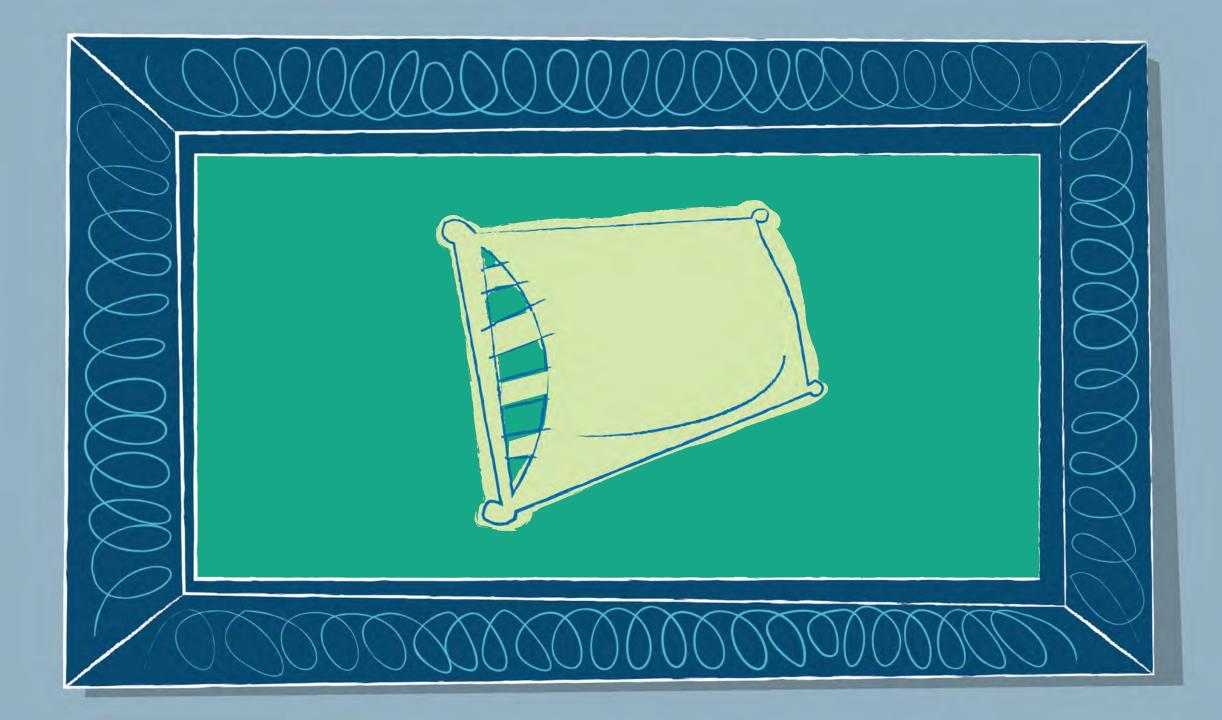


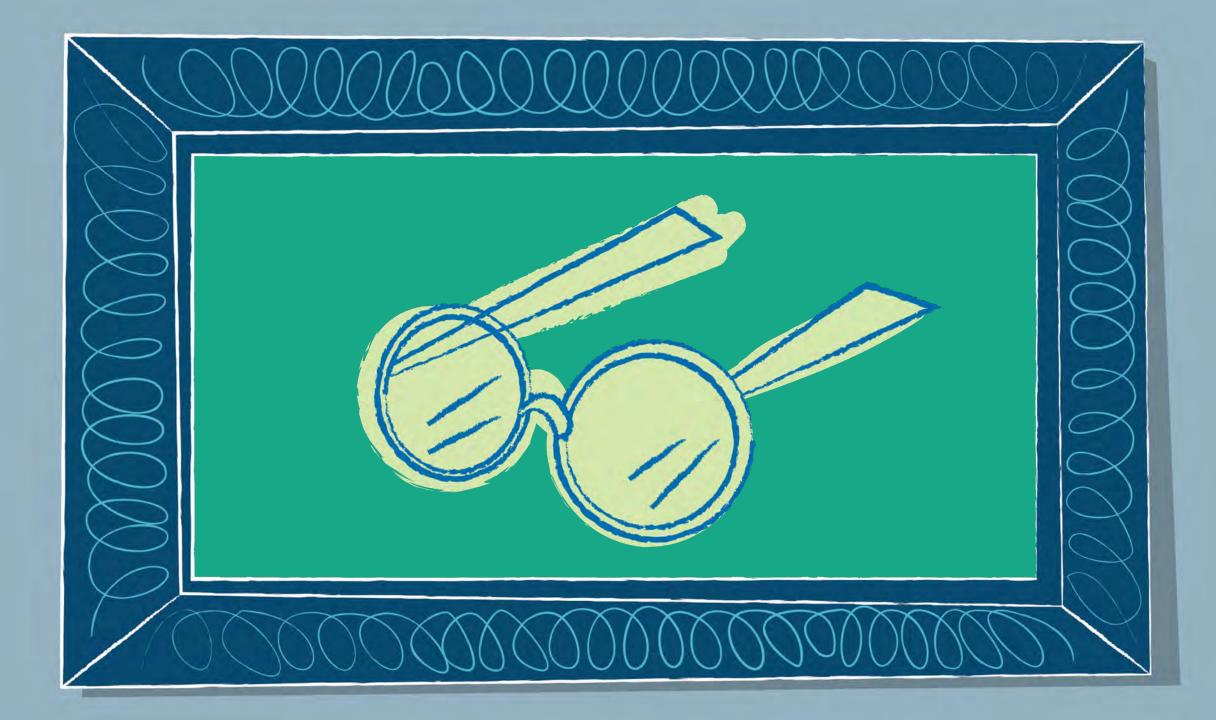


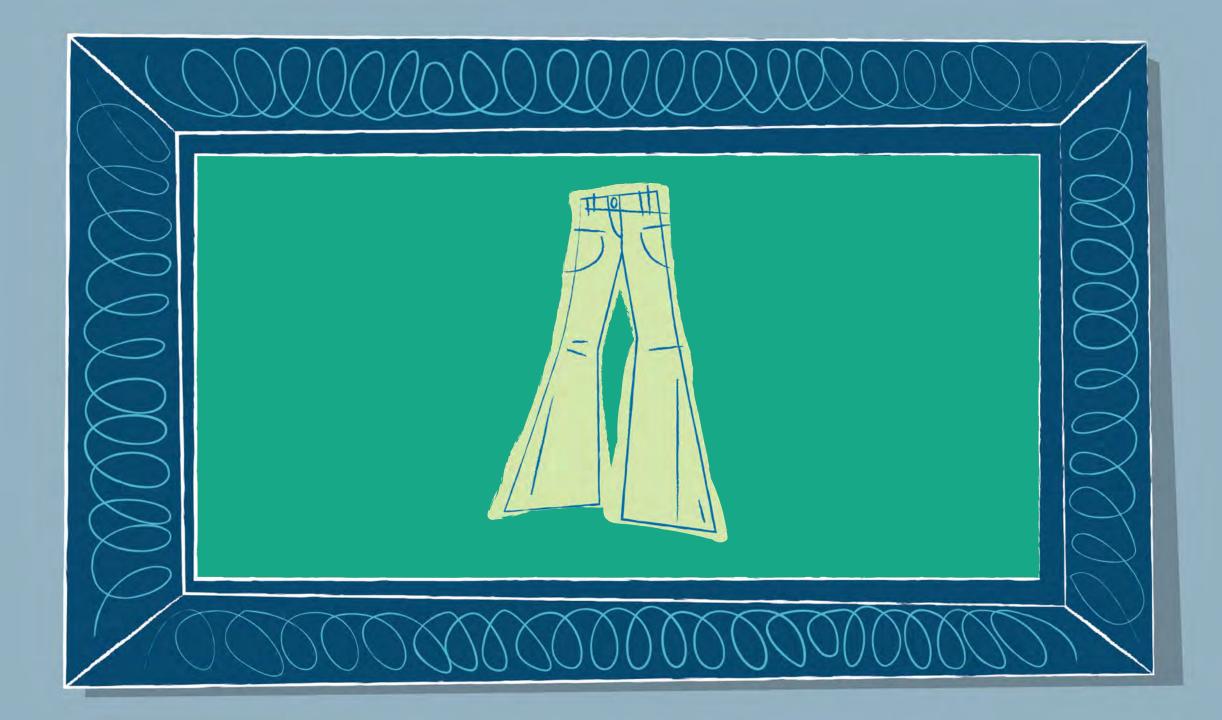


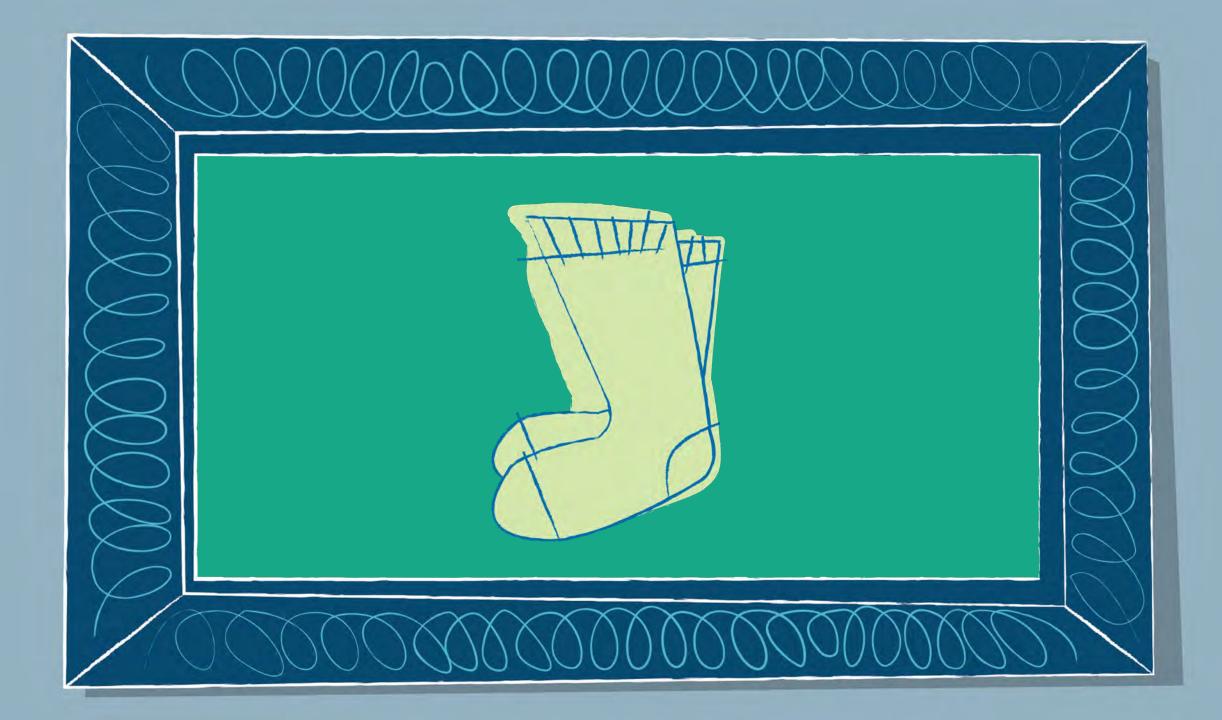


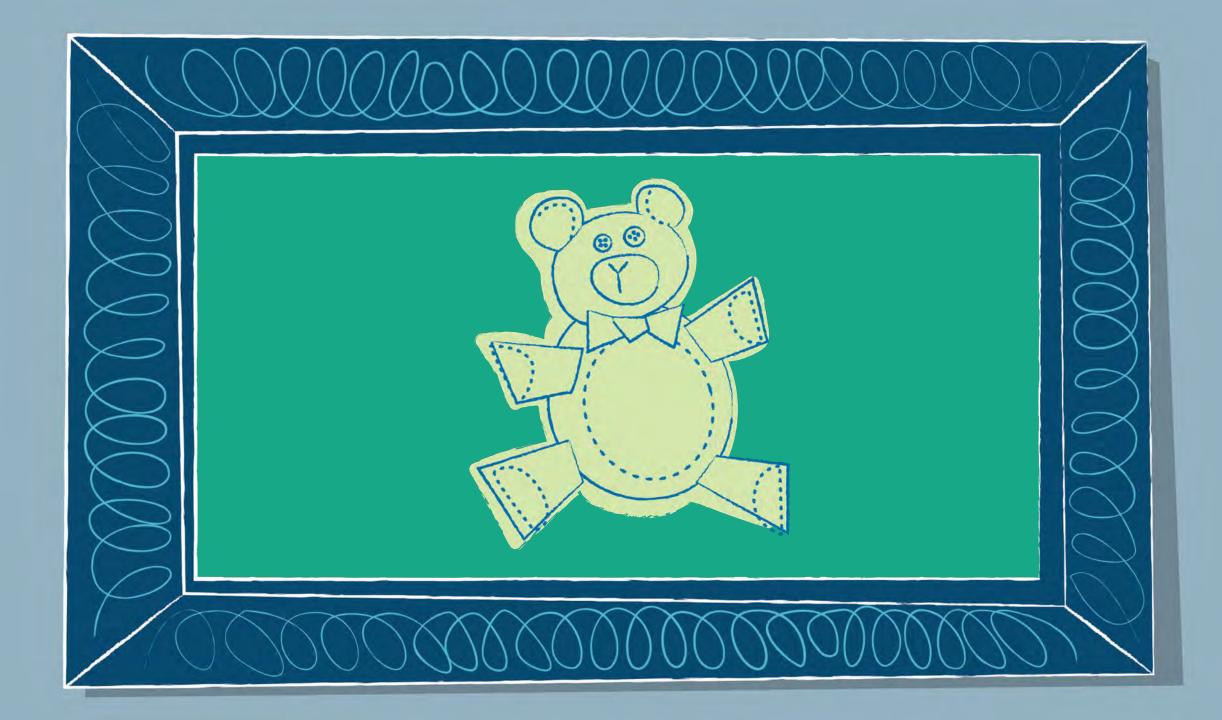


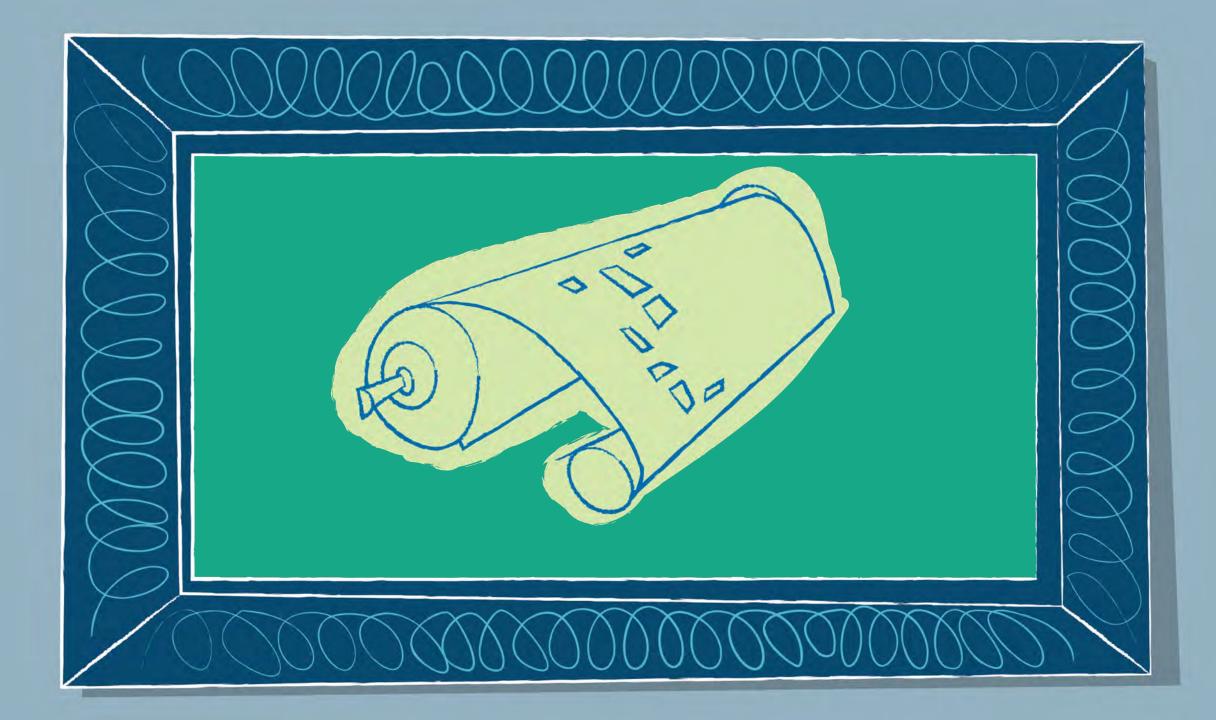


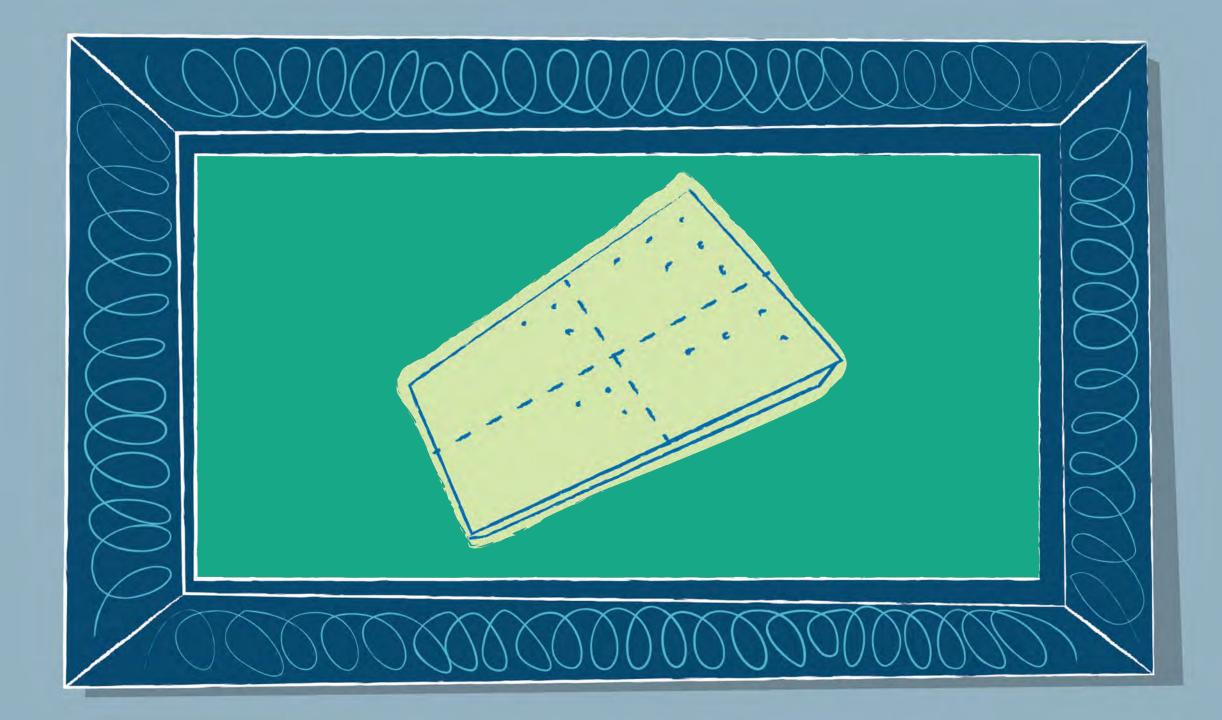


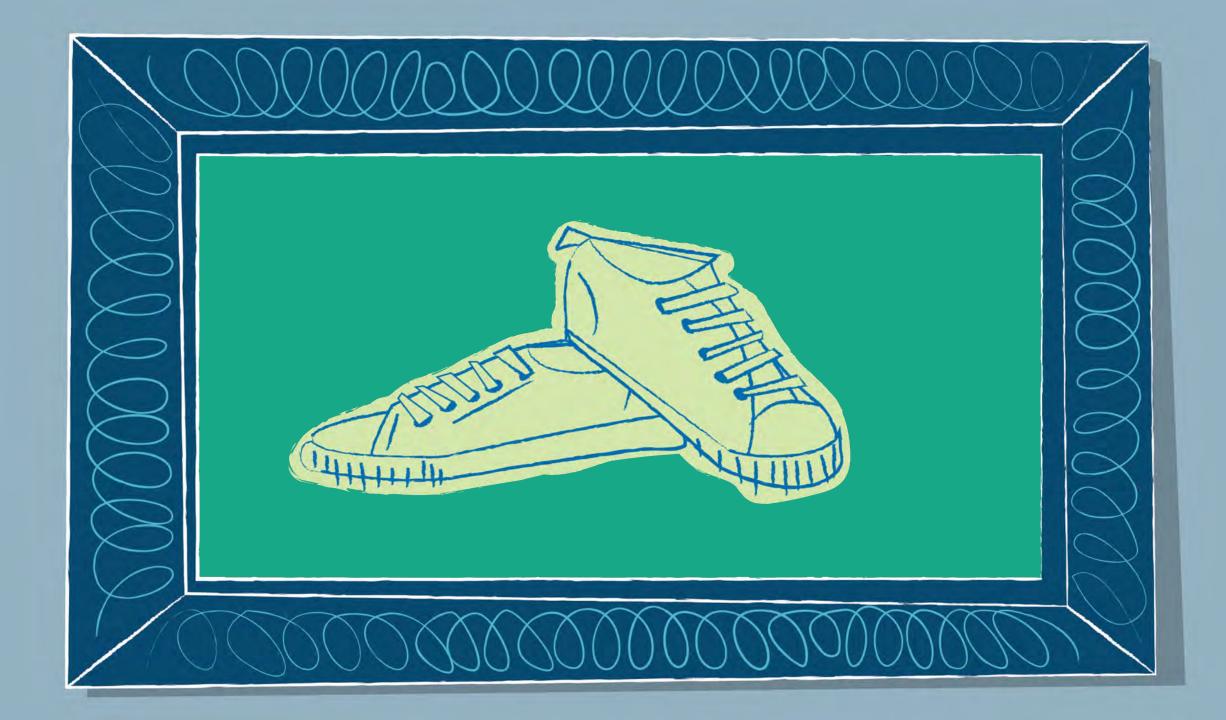


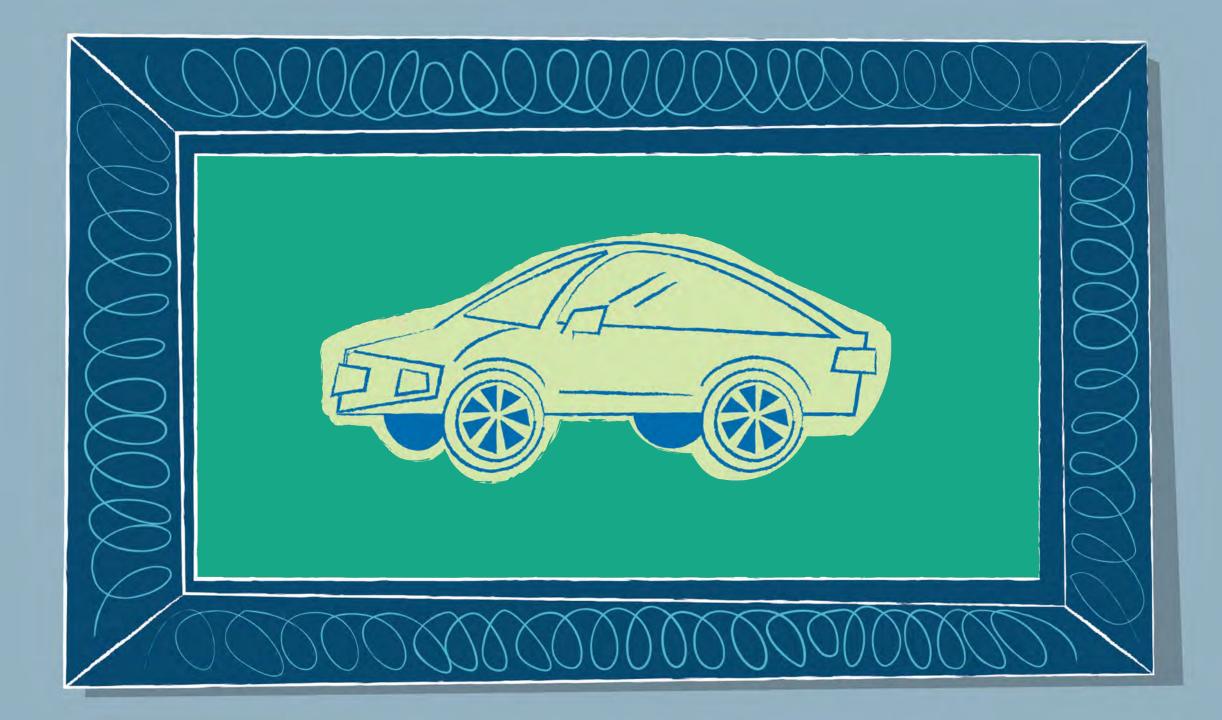




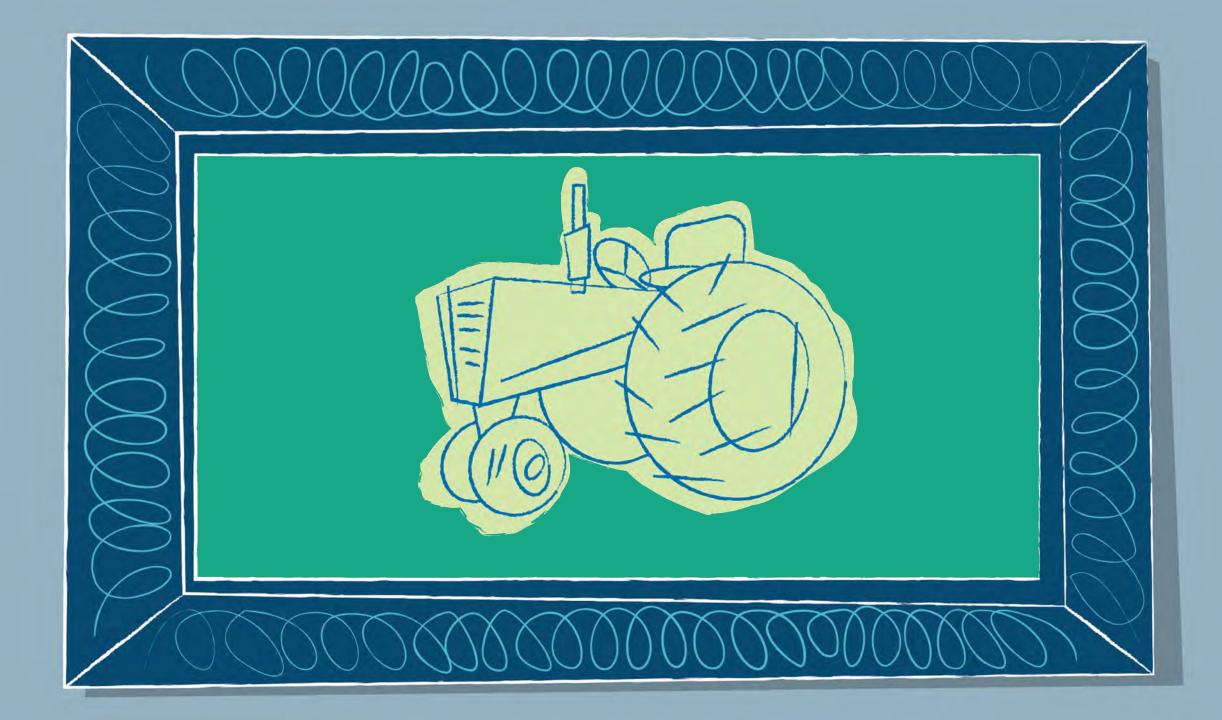


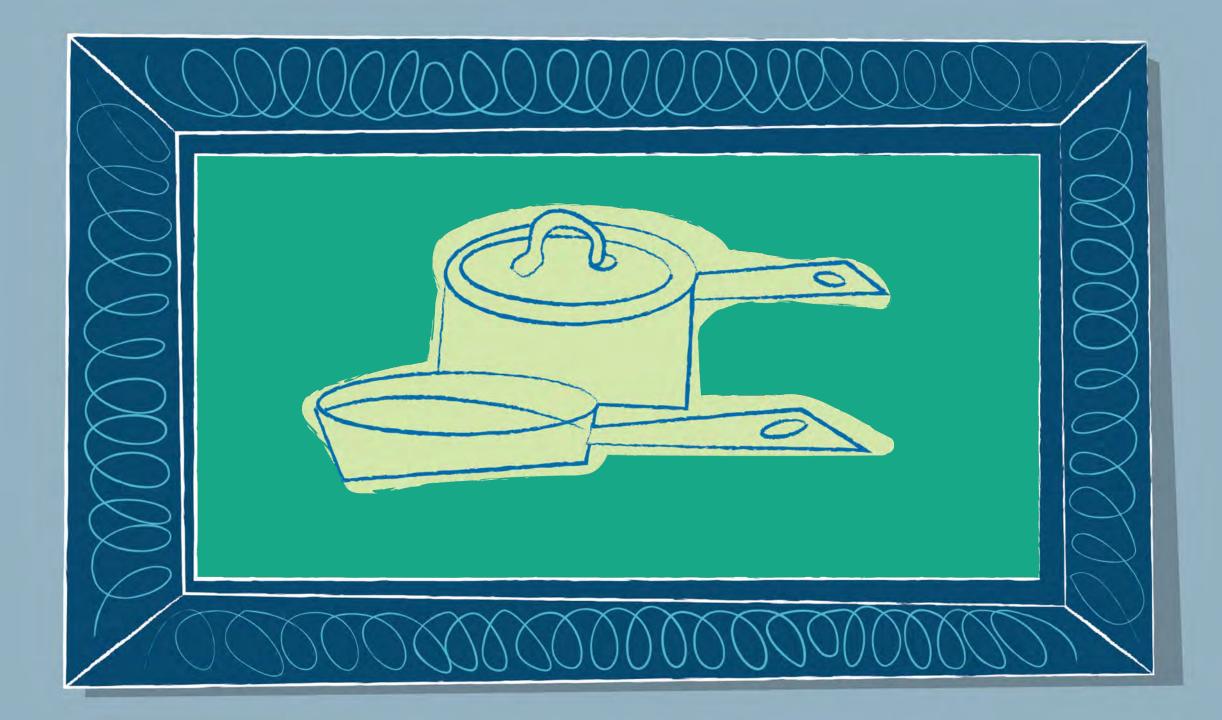


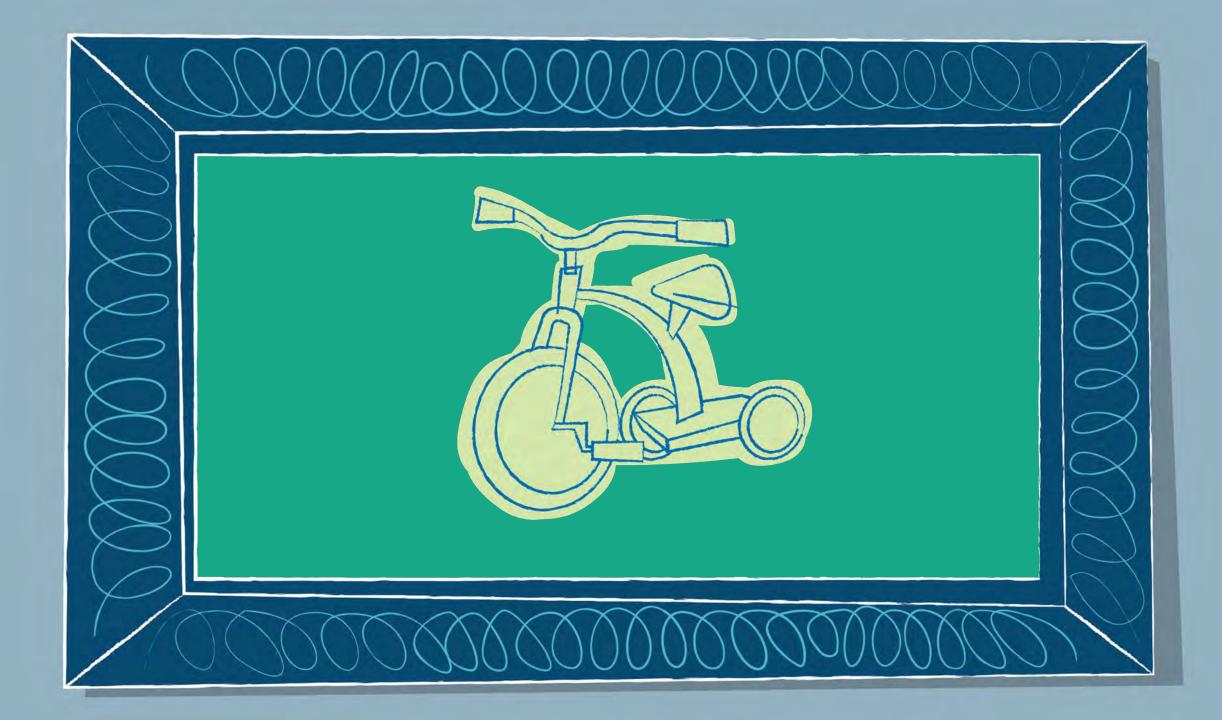


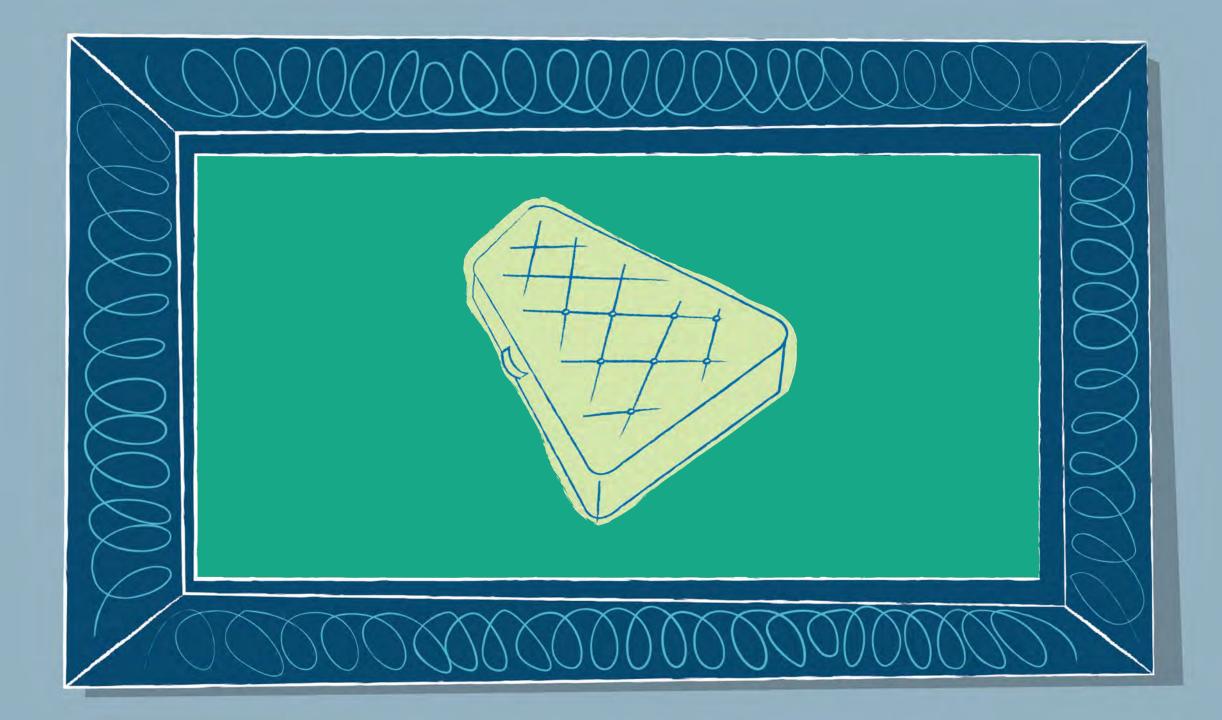


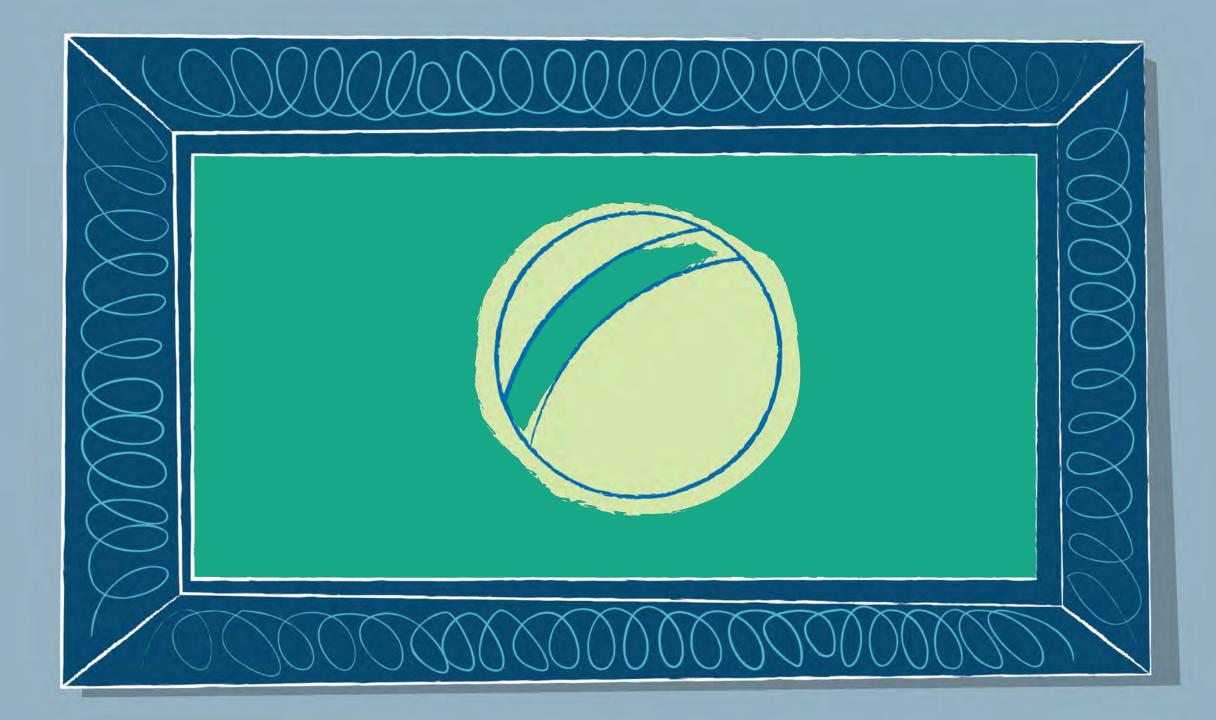


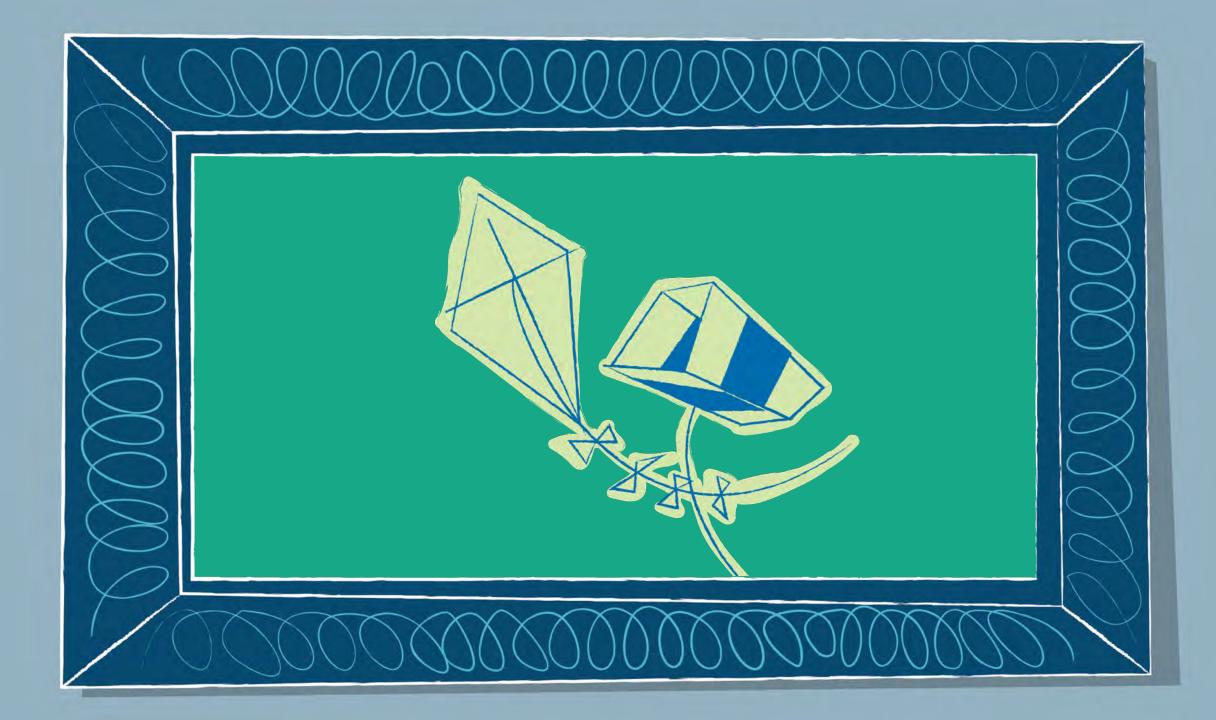


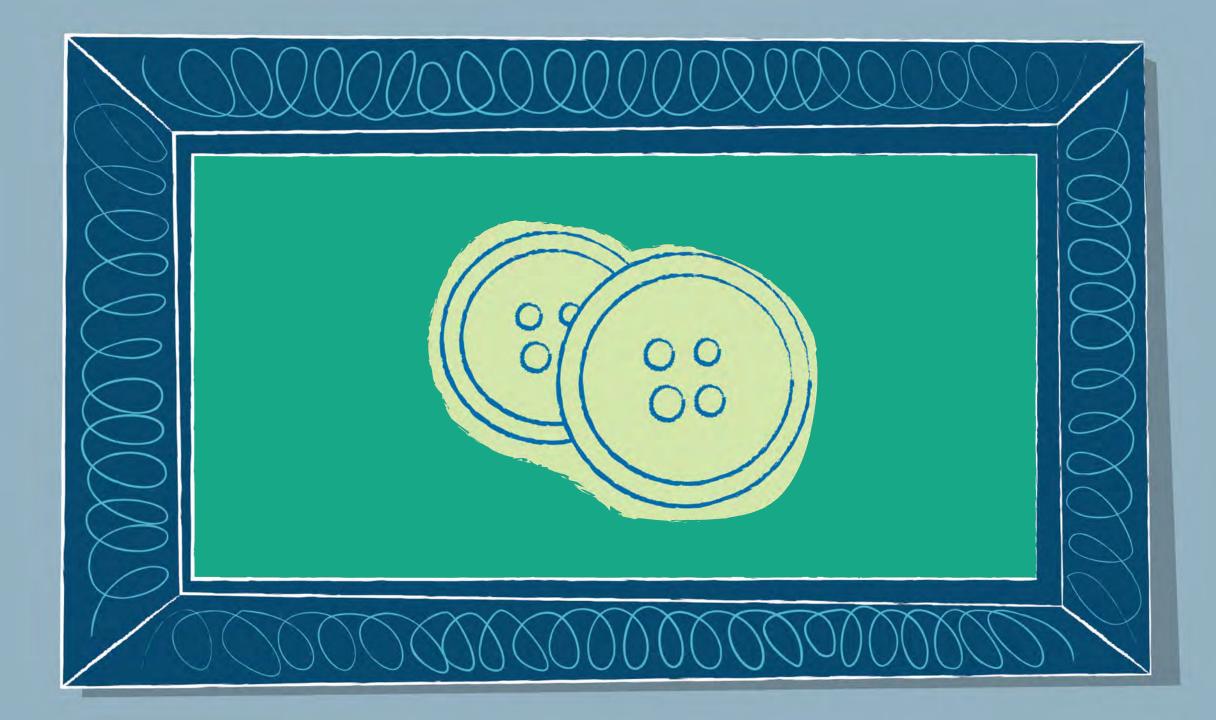




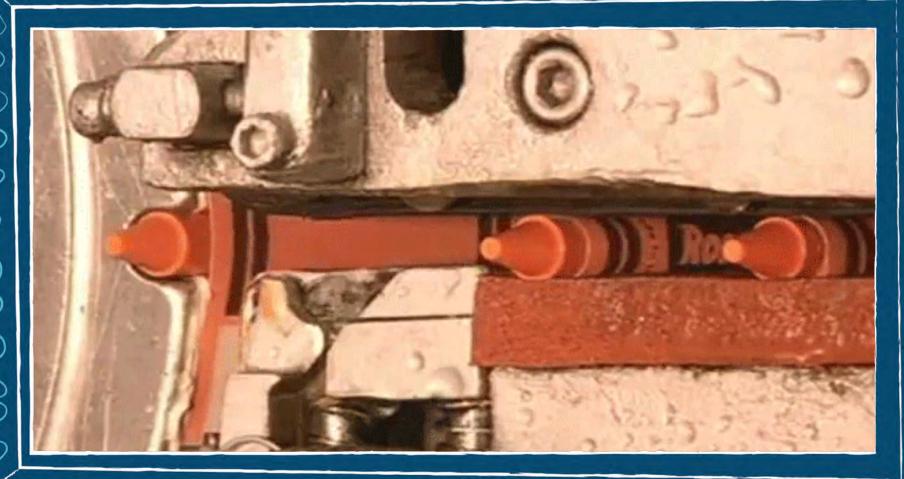


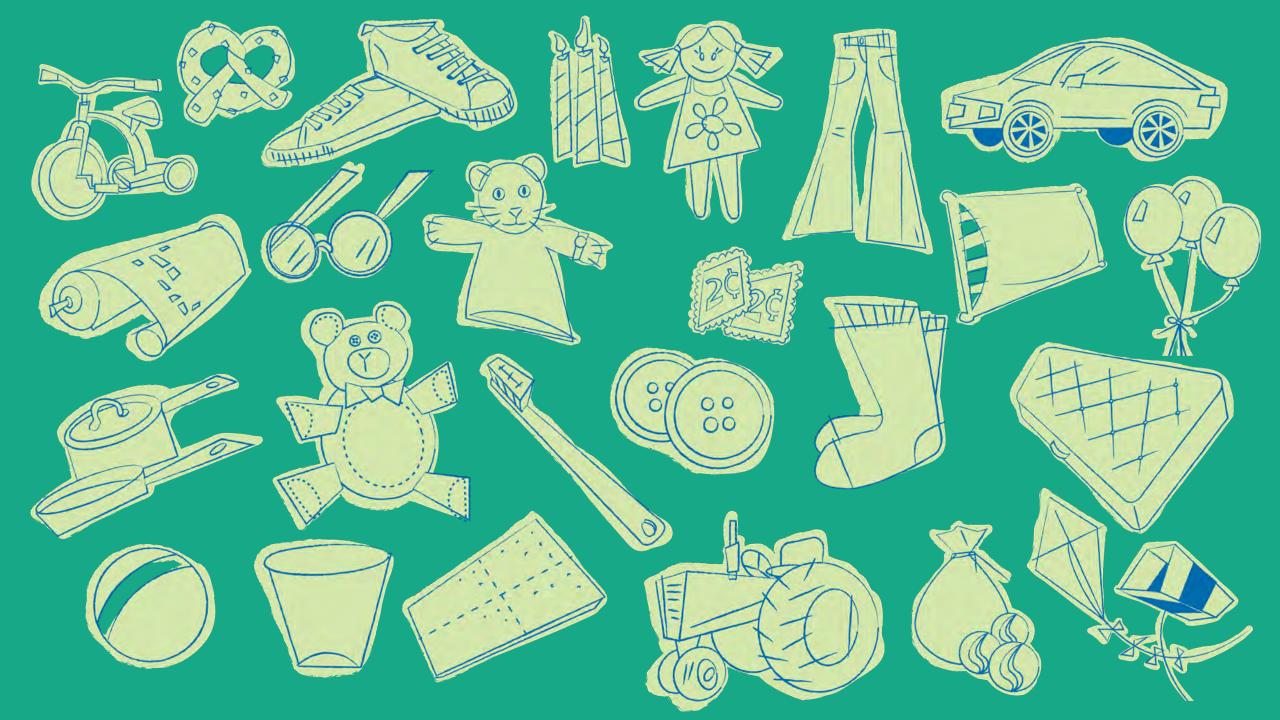
















Visit your production floor neighbors.

How does your B2B company make the world work better?

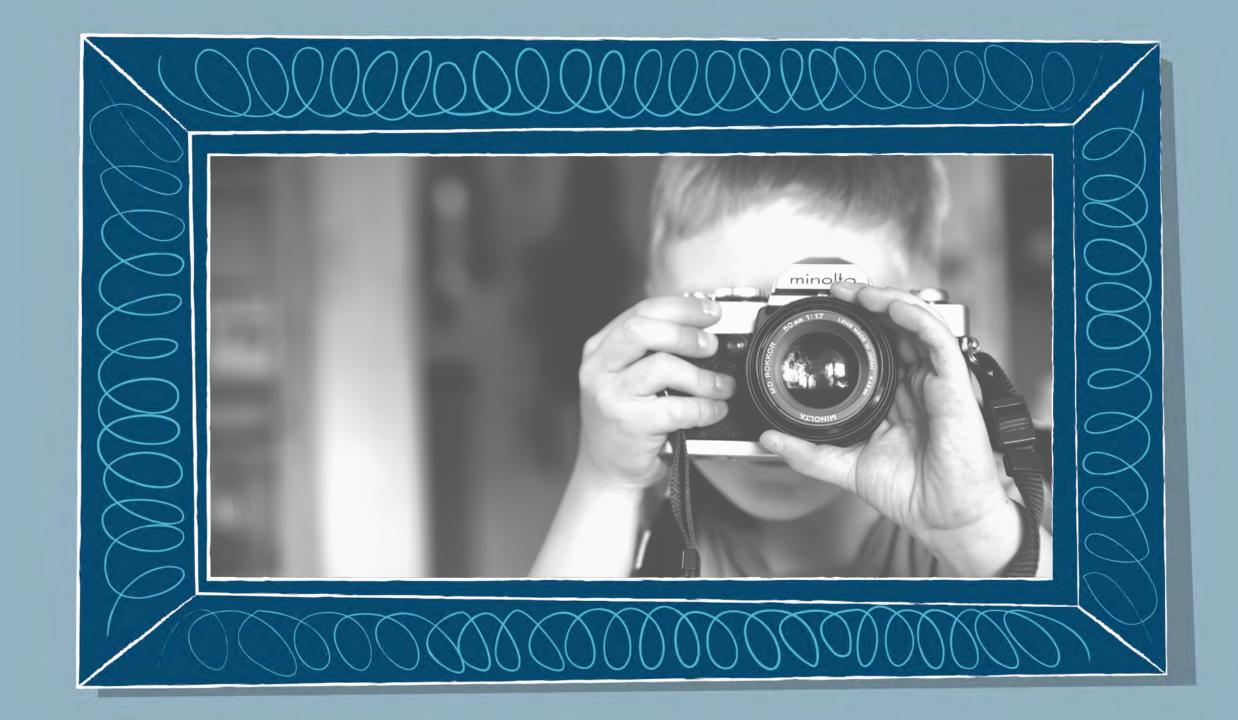


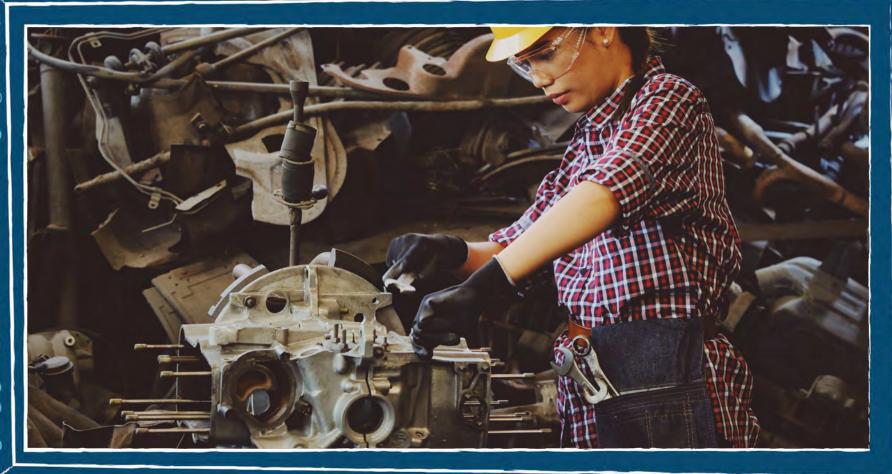
Keep your sense of wonder.



Find the people behind the machine.

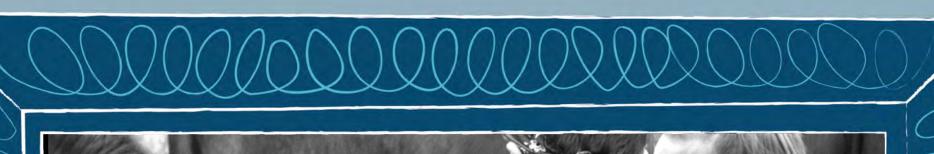






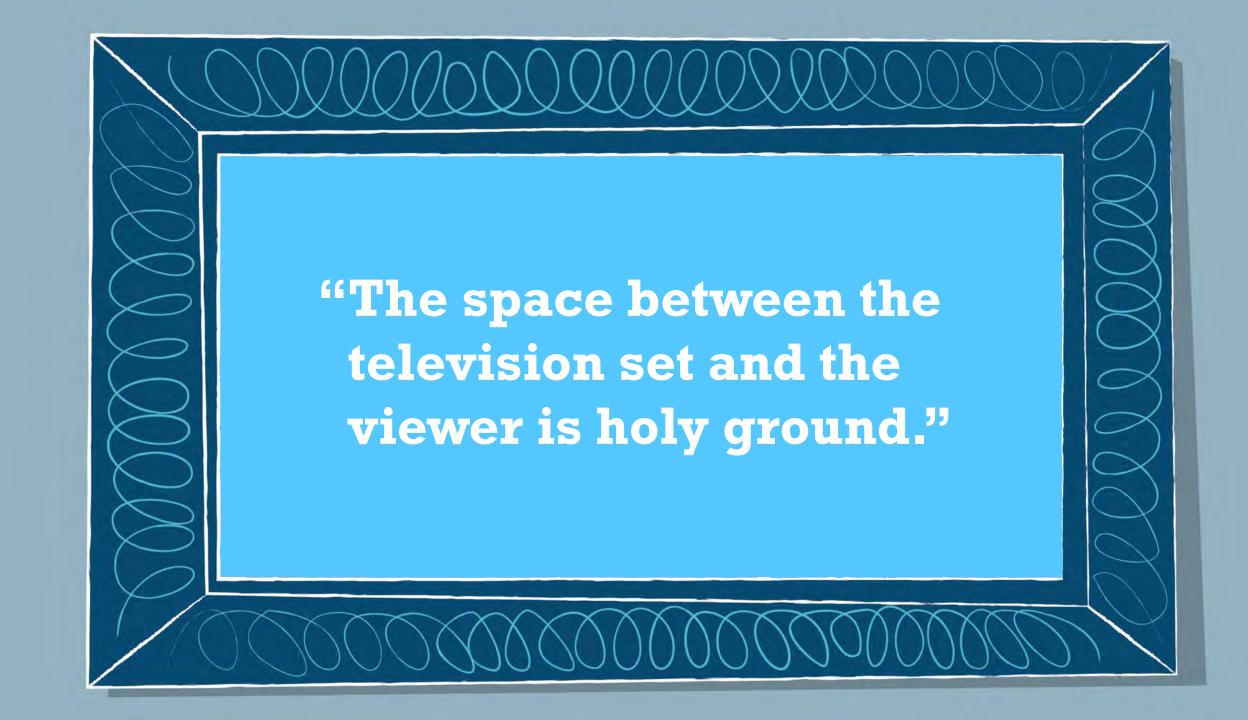
















Correct your Fridays



Find the people behind the machine.

3 Listen closely.





4,000 letters per year 15 letters per day



Dear Mister Rogers.

When I talk to you, you don't listen.

Also. I wanted to know. are you real in real life?

Colin. Age 4 1/2

Dear Mister Rogers.

I want to know how the world started. I think a star exploded and then it got all the pieces of the star and made the world. Sometimes I see a shape. like a circle around us. It makes me think that a star exploded because there looks like there's a circle around us and when you look at stars they look like circles, too.

Benjamin. Age 4

Dear Benjamin,

Many things in this world are hard to understand—even for scientists. Since no one was living on the earth when the world started, people have tried for a long time to imagine what that was like. They try to look and listen carefully to the earth for clues about how things began, but they also imagine.

Imagination isn't just something children need for pretending—it's part of the work of grown people like scientists, too. Different people have different ideas about how the world started. I'm glad to know yours. It's good that you are trying to figure it out for yourself.

That's a healthy way to keep growing all your life.

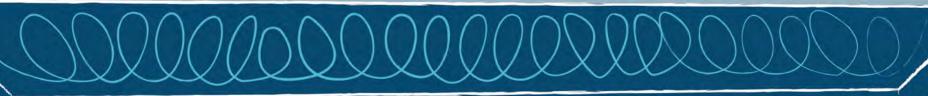
Qualitative research = Quality time

3 Listen closely.

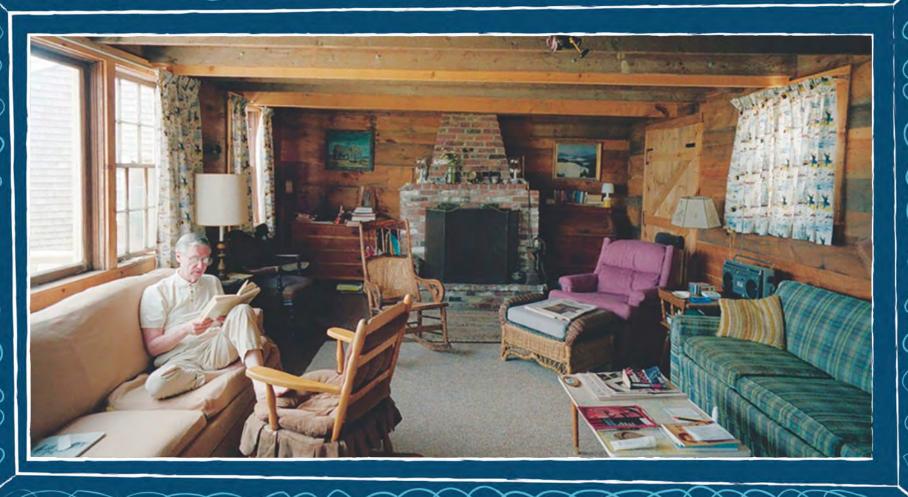


Exercise simplicity.

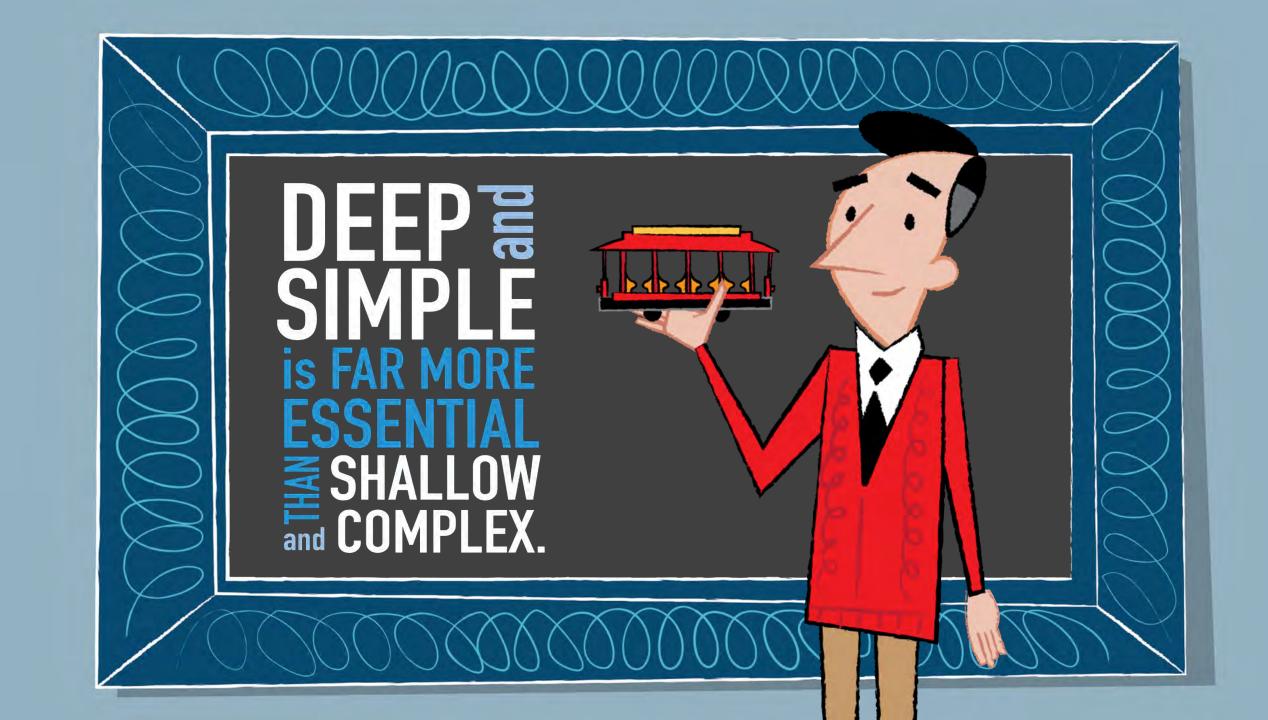














It's our job to ease peoples' minds, not burden them with more complexity.

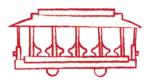
(not actual cover)



1.

State the idea
you wish to express as
clearly as possible, and in
terms preschoolers can
understand.

"It is dangerous to play in the street."

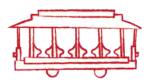


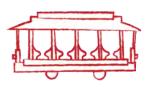


2.

Rephrase in a positive manner.

"It is good to play where it is safe."

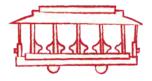


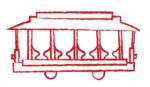


3.

Rephrase the idea,
bearing in mind that
preschoolers cannot yet
make subtle distinctions and
need to be redirected to
authorities they trust.

"Ask your parents where it is safe to play."

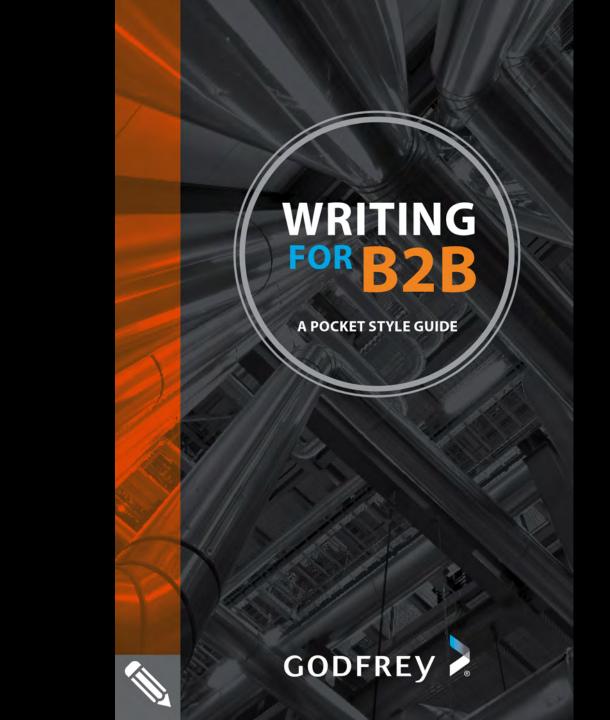






Let's talk about

Freddish



GUIDELINES:

- Sentences should rarely* exceed 25 words
- Your average sentence should not exceed 18 words (aim for 15)
- Paragraphs should rarely exceed
 100 words and 3-5 sentences

WARNING SIGN: Multiple-choice sentences

Each sentence should make a statement, not dozens of potential statement-combinations. If your sentence reads like a *Choose Your Own*

Adventure novel, you should either consolidate or divide. Which of these you do will depend on the context.

Multiple choice:

"Global market forces and conditions will often slow down and inhibit the efforts of your distributors, buyers or OEMs."

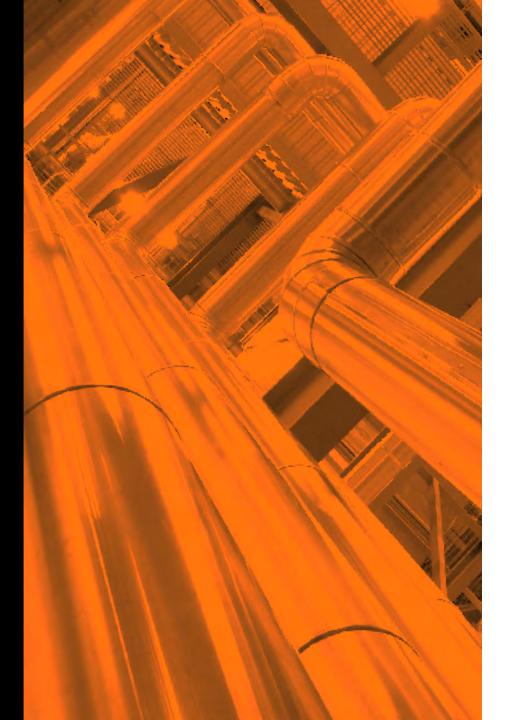
Consolidated:

"Global market forces will often complicate your customers' efforts."

Consolidated/Divided:

"Global market forces will often complicate your distributors' efforts. This is equally true for buyers and OEMs."

^{*} Word-counts can go higher when you're cataloging phrases or connecting independent clauses. But remember: A longer sentence calls for a stronger rhythm. (See rule #3.)



WARNING SIGN: Preposition farming

Overlong sentences are often strung together by an excess of prepositional phrases.

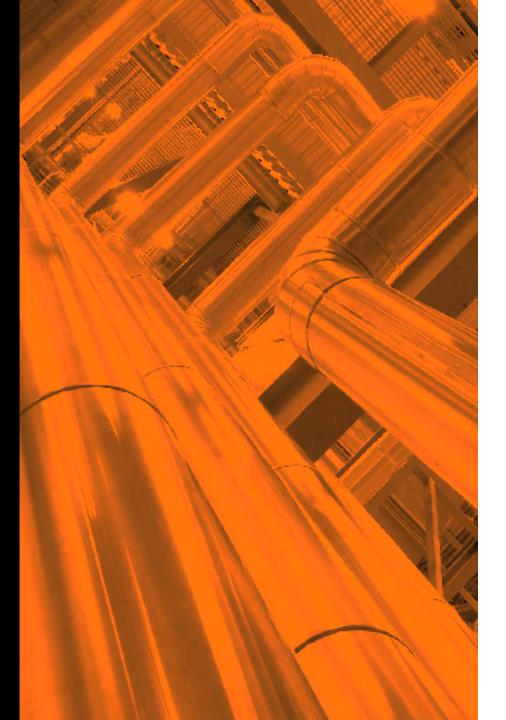
If you cut down on these, you may find opportunities to reduce your sentence length.

7 prepositional phrases; 28 words:

"Customers can reduce ownership costs by investing in a system with efficient features that ensure consistent output with lower levels of energy consumption over long periods of time."

3 prepositional phrases; 19 words:

"Customers can reduce ownership costs by purchasing an efficient system that ensures consistent output with lower long-term energy consumption."



WARNING SIGN:

Five-dollar words

Never use a five-dollar word when a fifty-cent word will do. Here are a few words that you should almost never utilize:

- Utilize ("use" is better)
- Optimal ("best" is better)
- Initiate ("start" is better)

Dear Ryan,

Your recommendation regarding announcing the product launch via midnight text message blast was discussed by our social media team. Concern was expressed by a number of individuals. An alternative proposition was suggested by Karen, and I am confident that you will find this recommendation to your liking.

We can discuss this in greater detail at the next meeting of our team.

Pam Beesly
Director of Marketing

The Michael Scott Paper Company | Phone: 717-393-

3831 | Fax: 717-393-1403

Facebook | LinkedIn | Twitter | E-newsletter

Dear Ryan,

Our social media team just discussed your midnight text idea. We had a few concerns. But Karen thought of an alternative that I think you're going to love.

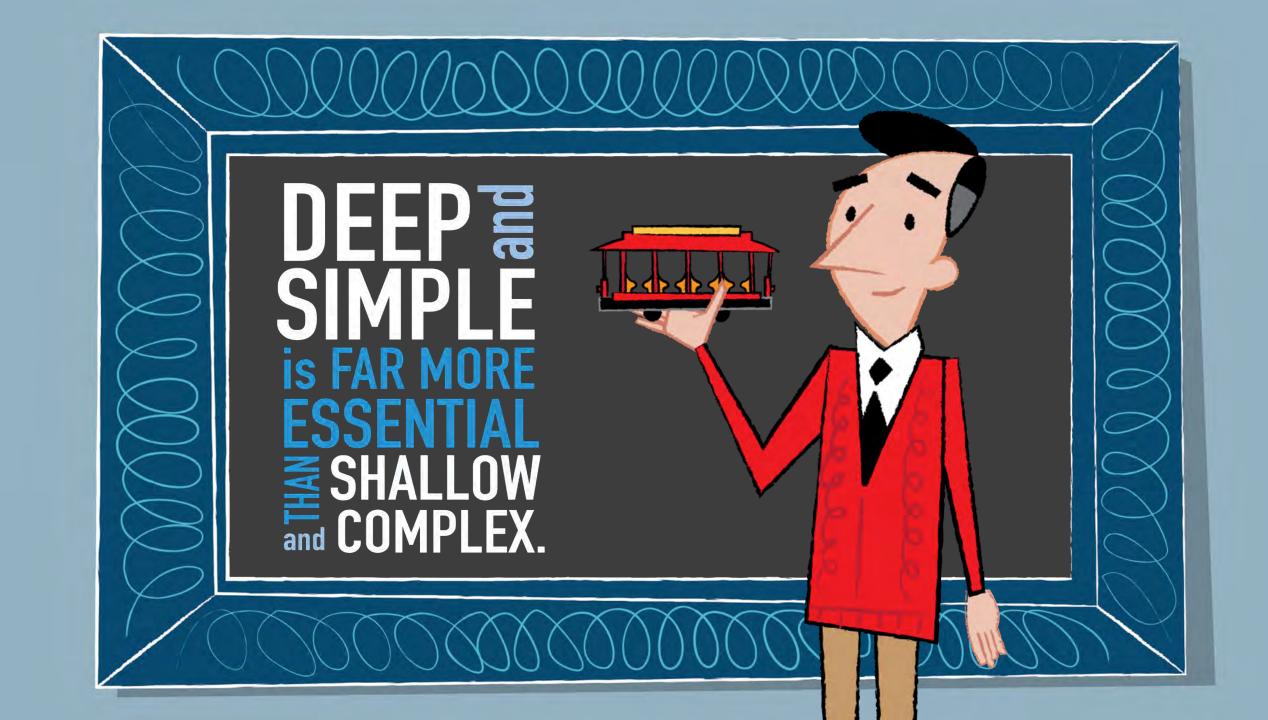
Let's discuss at tomorrow's huddle.

Pam Beesly
Director of Marketing

The Michael Scott Paper Company | Phone: 717-393-

3831 | Fax: 717-393-1403

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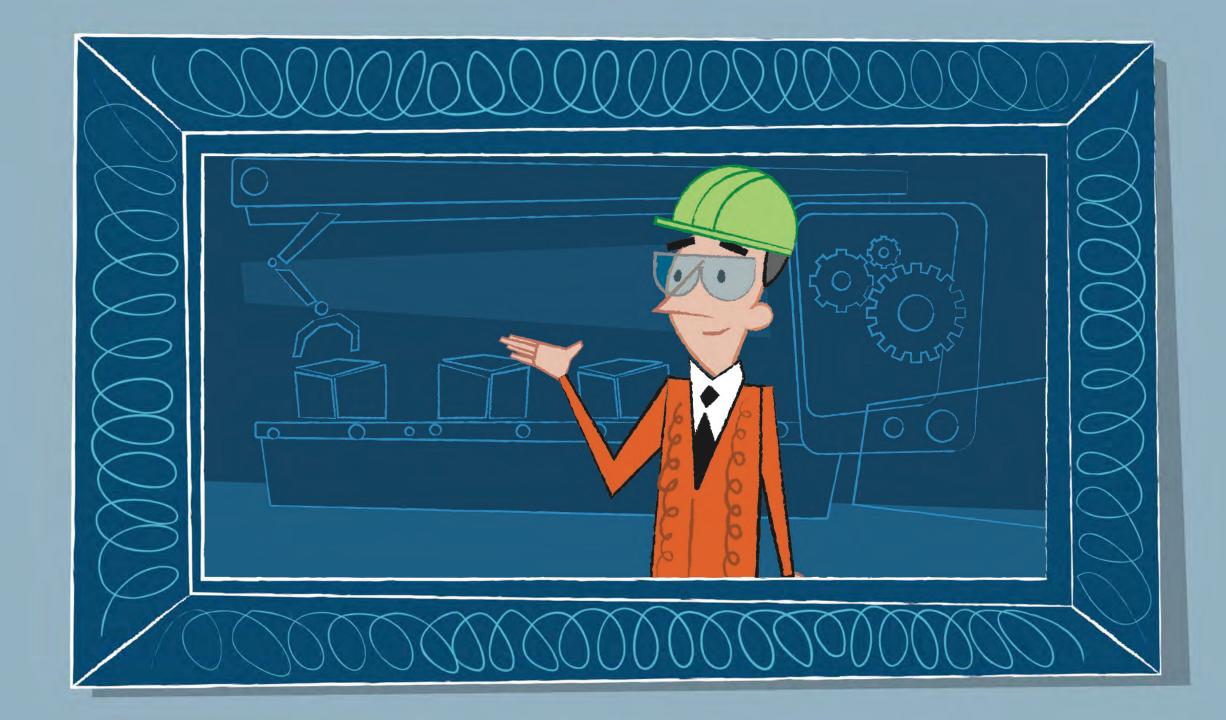


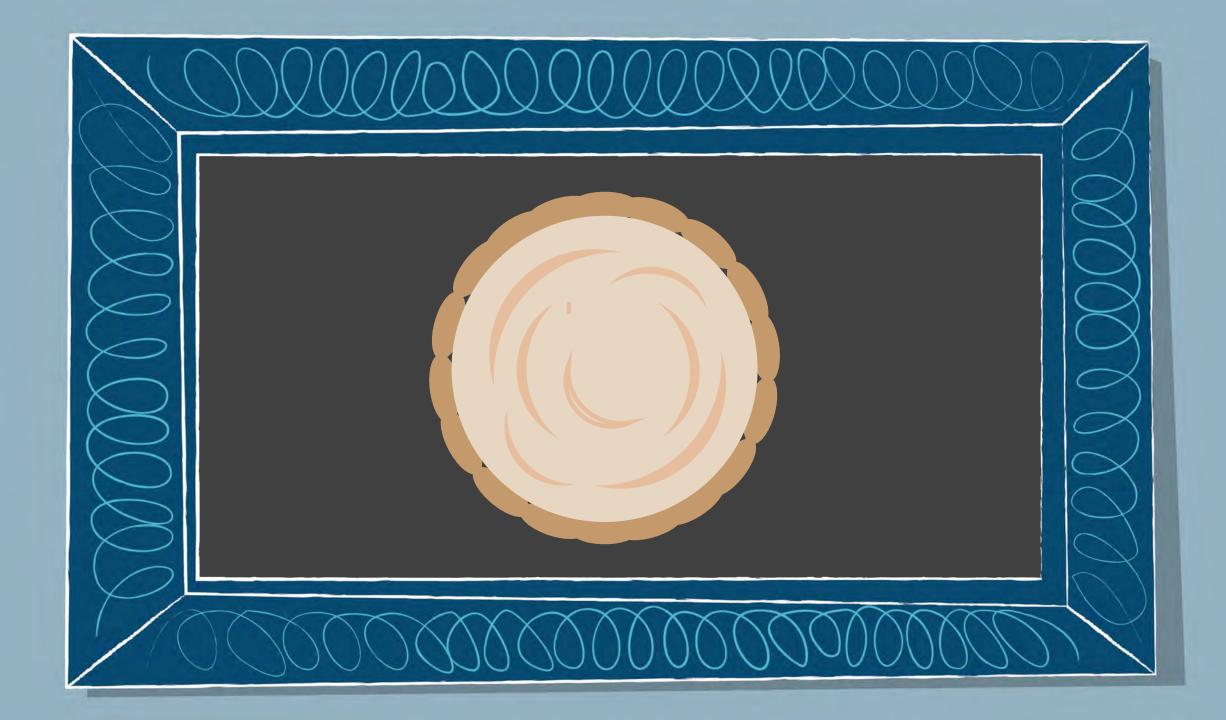
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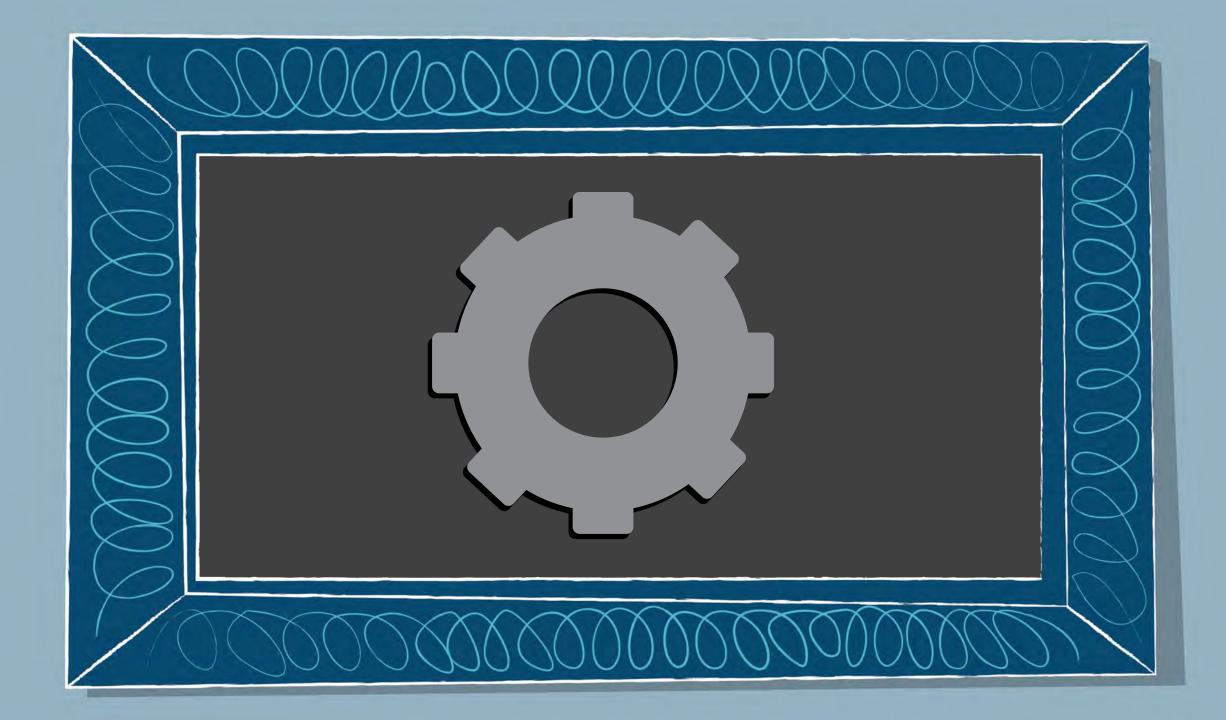
(5) Be your honest self.











B2B makes the world work better.

We're lucky.

"How can I make the most of my honesty?"

"How can I be more truthful with my customer?"

"How can I be more candid with my coworker?"

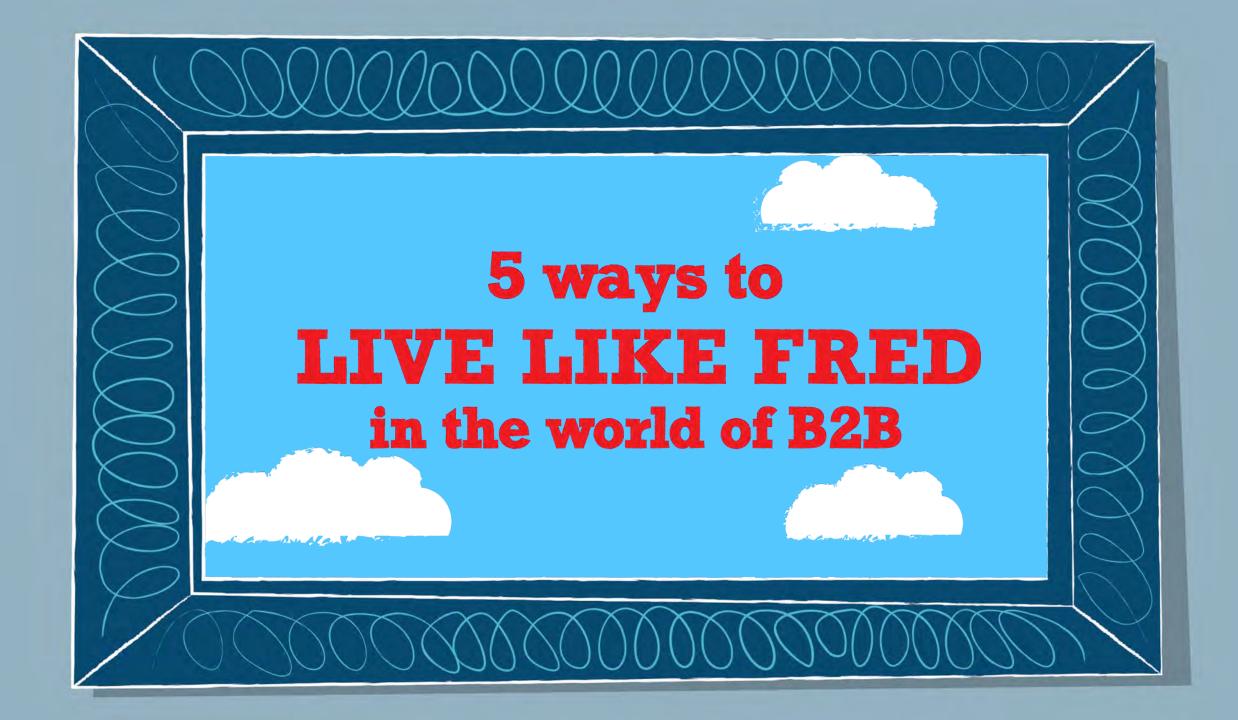
"How can I use transparency like a superpower?"

"The greatest gift you ever give is your honest self."

We are lucky to work in B2B.

B2B is lucky to have you.

(5) Be your honest self.



1 Keep your sense of wonder.

- (1) Keep your sense of wonder.
- 2 Find the people.

- (1) Keep your sense of wonder.
- 2 Find the people.
- 3 Listen closely.

- (1) Keep your sense of wonder.
- 2 Find the people.
- 3 Listen closely.
- 4 Exercise simplicity.

- (1) Keep your sense of wonder.
- 2 Find the people.
- 3 Listen closely.
- 4 Exercise simplicity.
- (5) Be your honest self.

It's such a good feeling / A very good feeling / The fo you know / Tha Vill be b When the day is n have more ideas for you'll have things y to talk about / I will







Deep & Simple in a Scary-Complex World: Why Mister Rogers is the Patron Saint of B2B Marketers



Cliff Lewis

Executive Creative
Director
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Scott Trobaugh

Vice President, Executive Creative Director Godfrey @GodfreyB2B