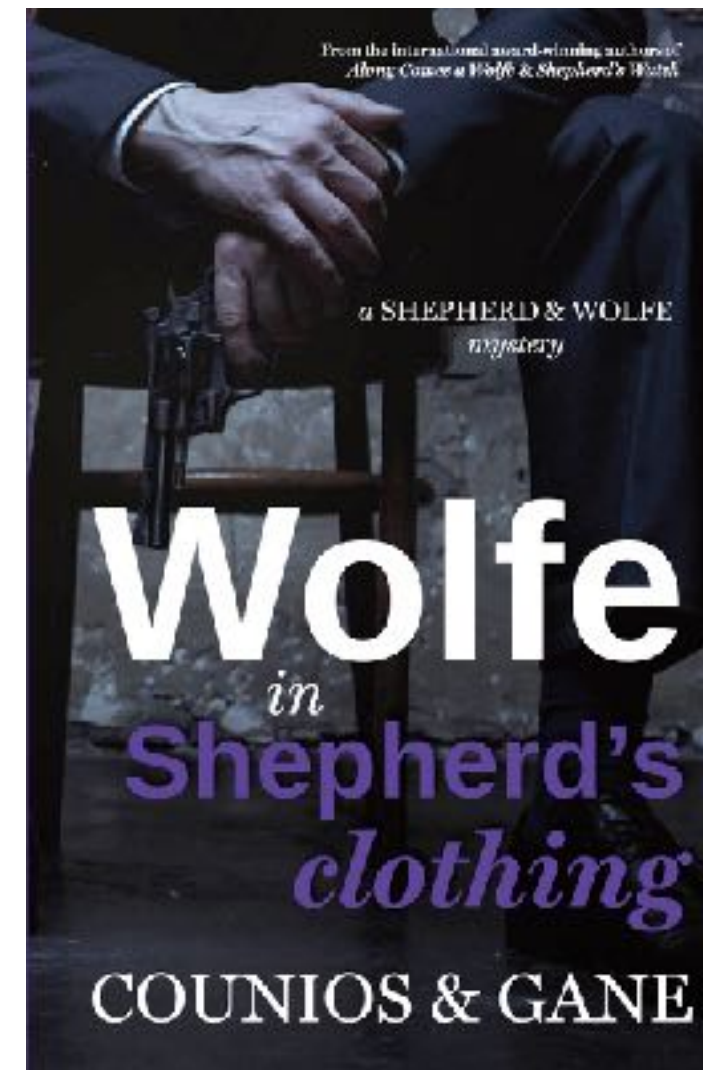
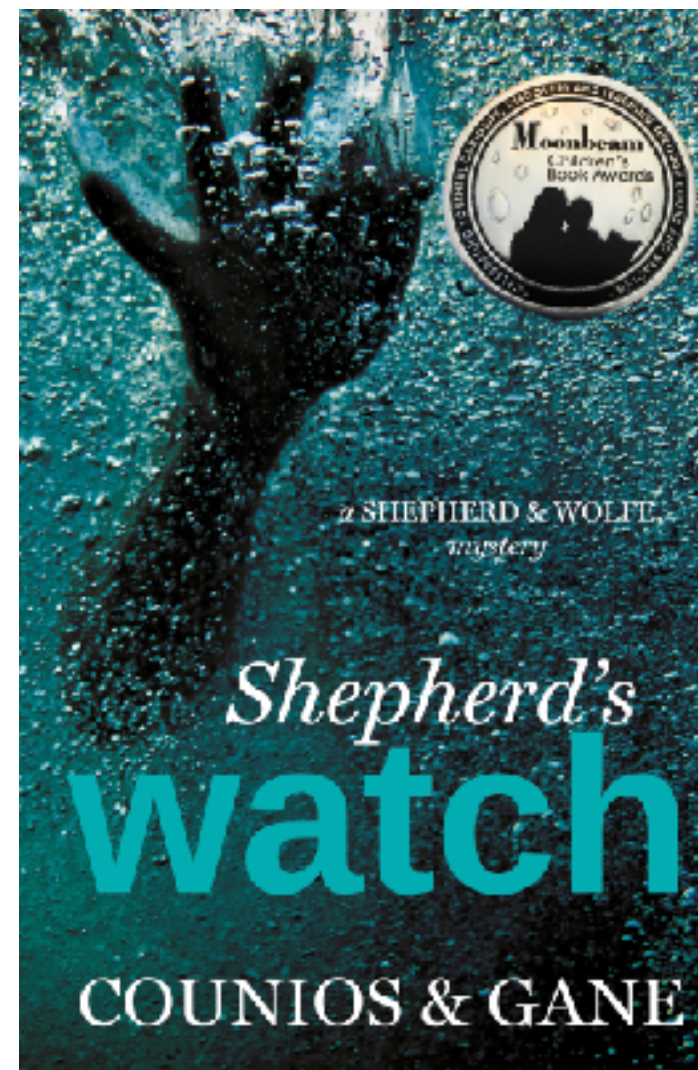
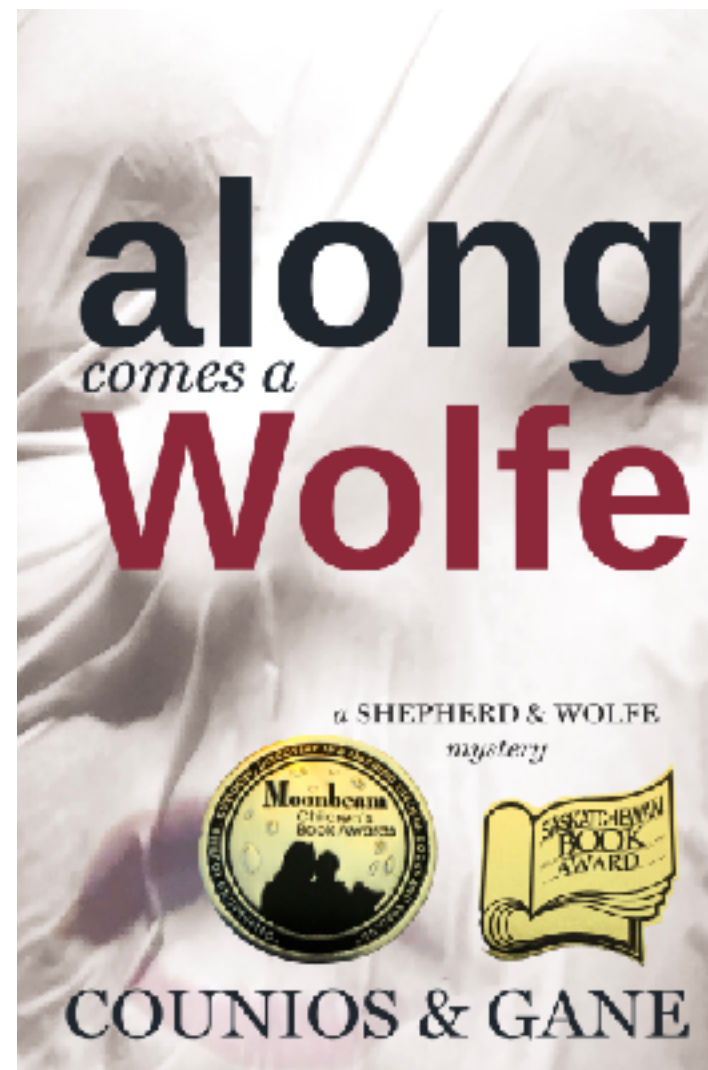


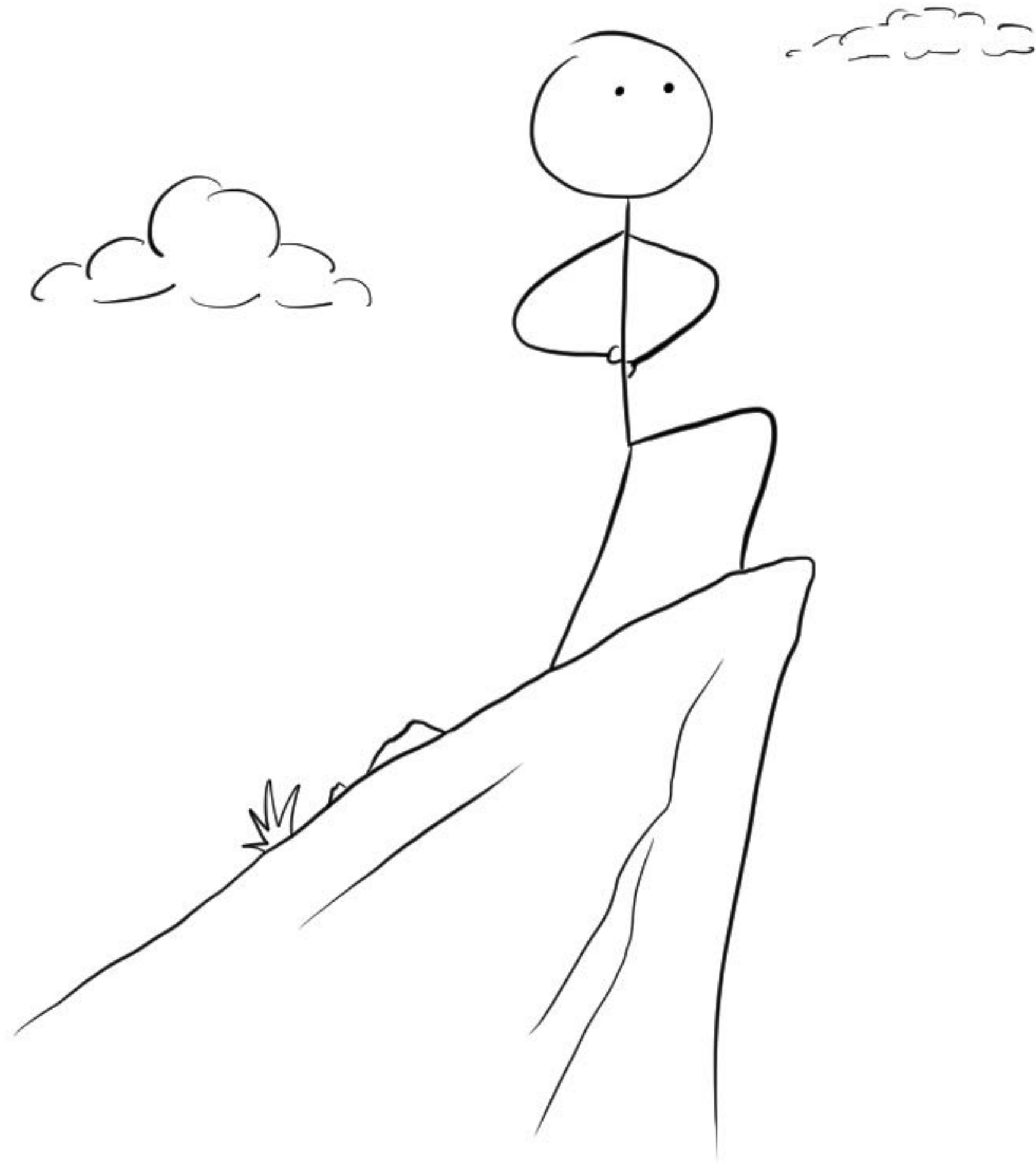
The Leap: A Story about Story For Teachers and Students



Presented by:
Angie Counios
and David Gane

www.couniosandgane.com

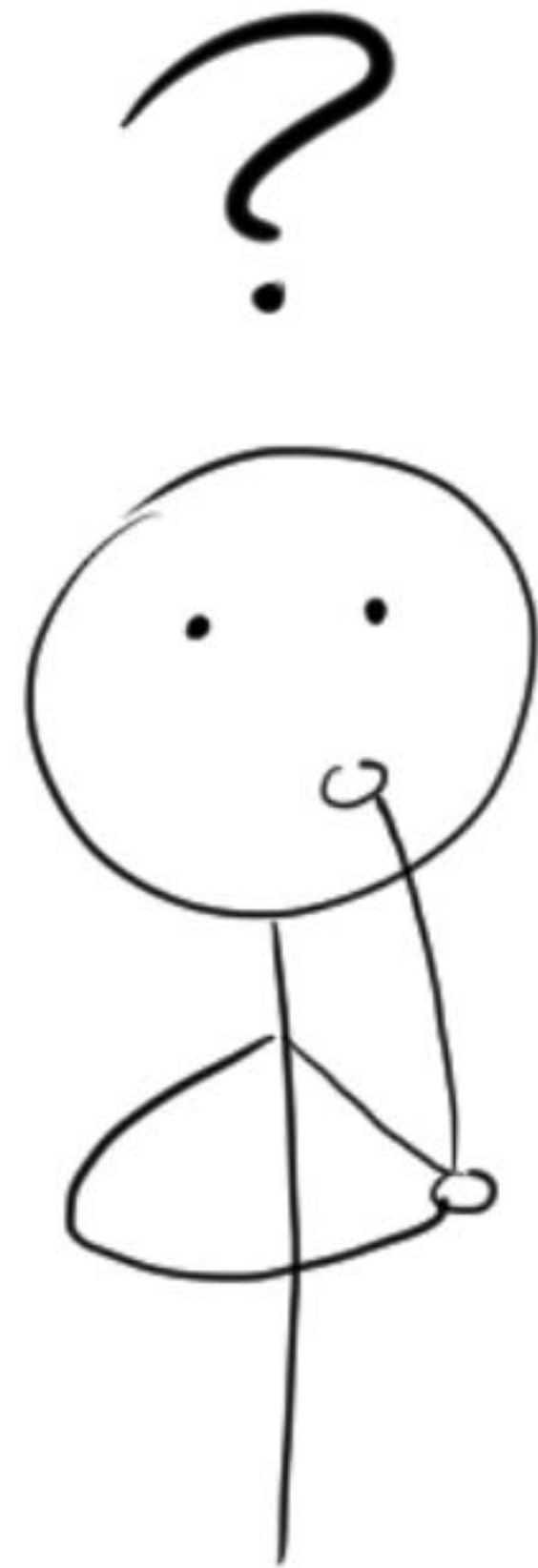
Part 1: The Story of the Leap



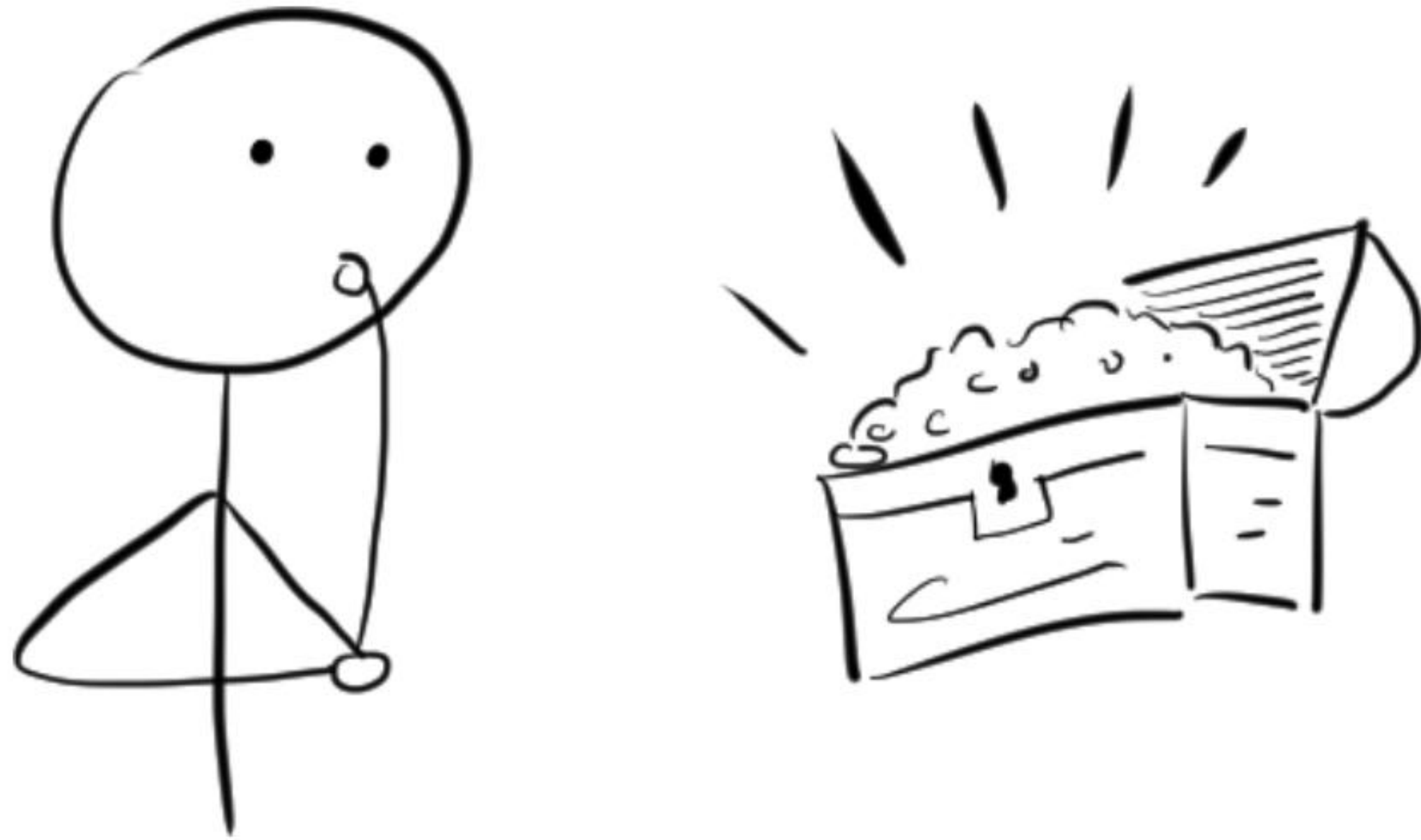
This is Tom.
Standing on the
edge of a very
high cliff.



Or maybe
this is Sally.



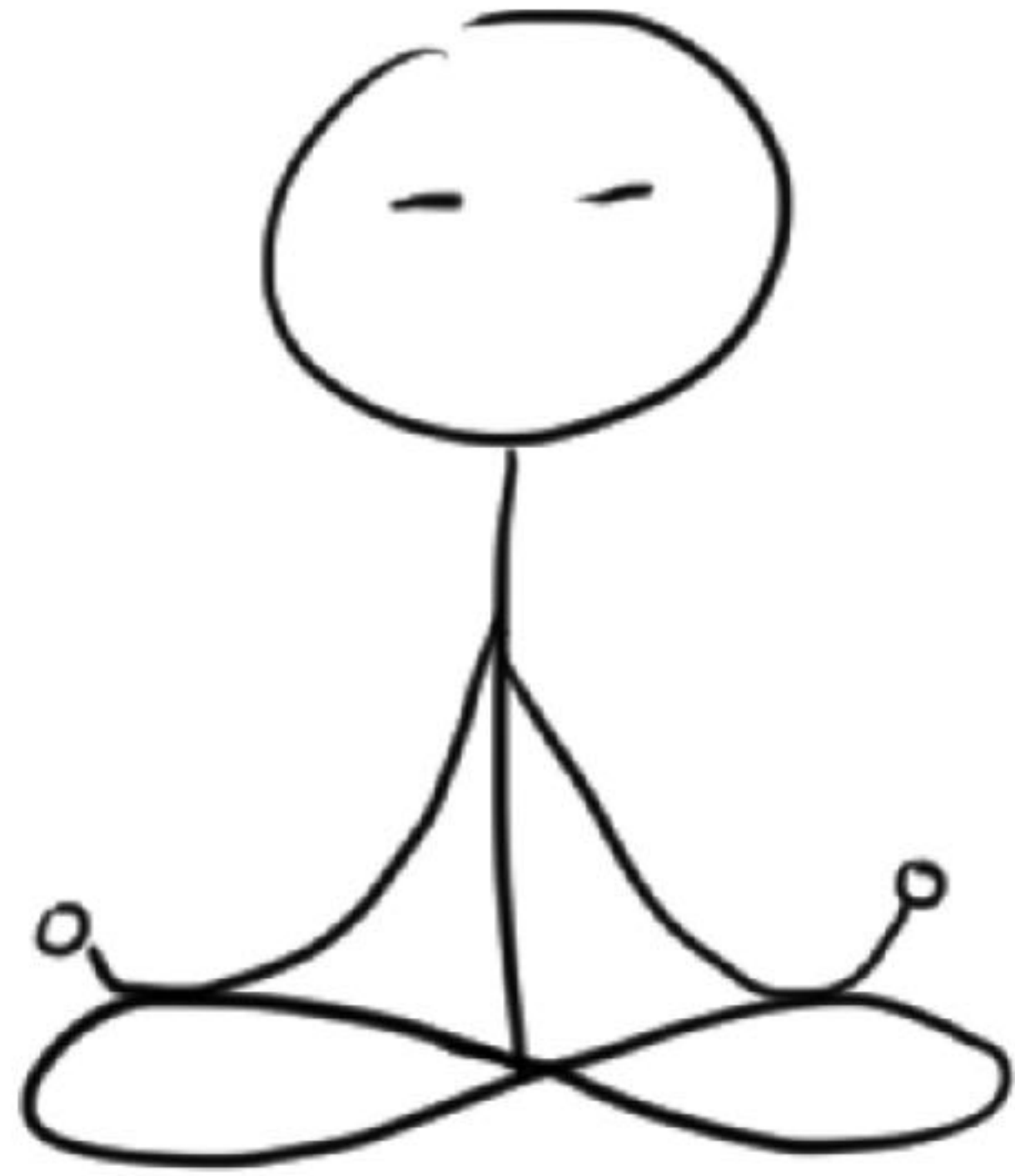
So what do
they **want**?



Is Tom
searching for
treasure?



Is Sally
needing to
escape?



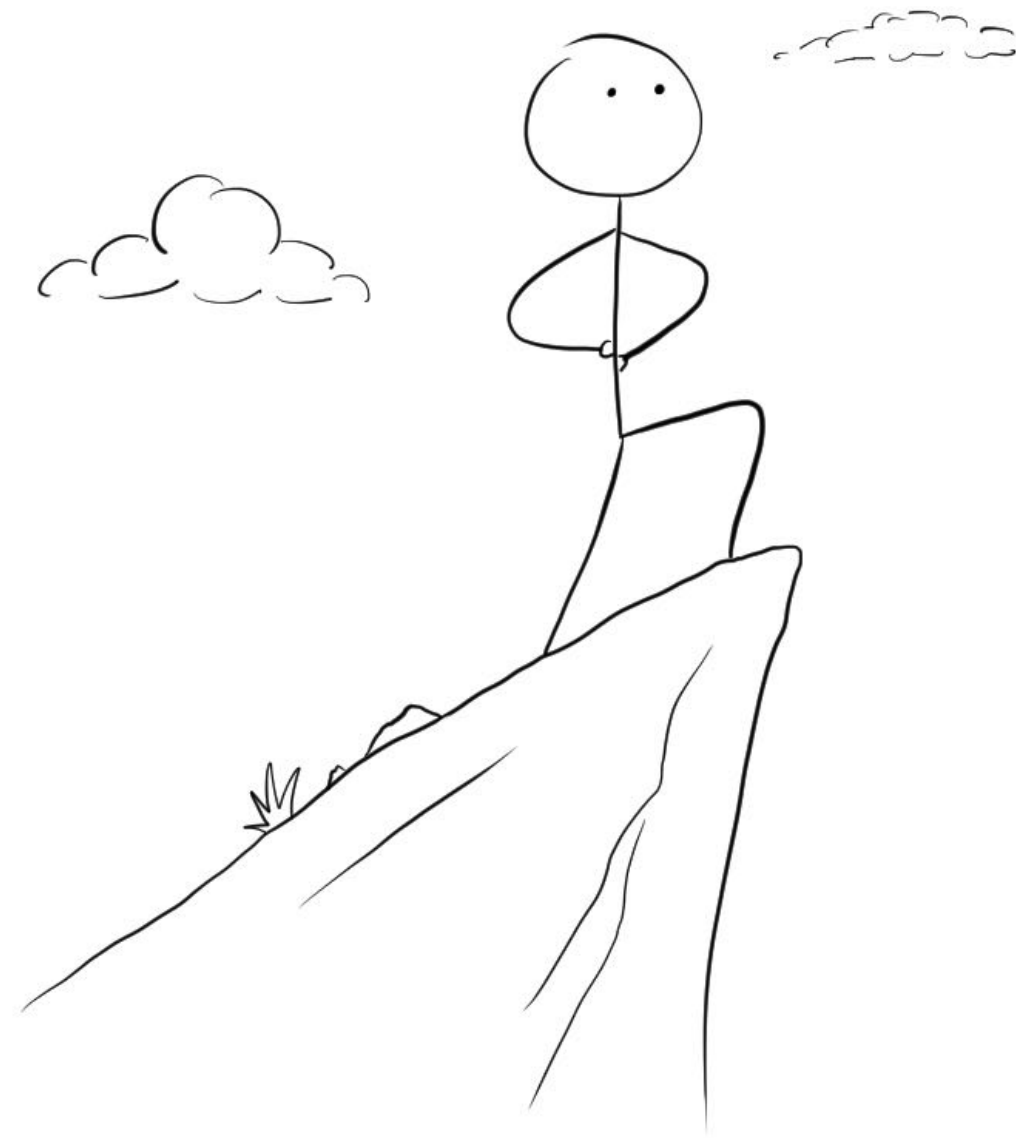
Is he seeking
peace?



Or is she there
just to enjoy
the view?



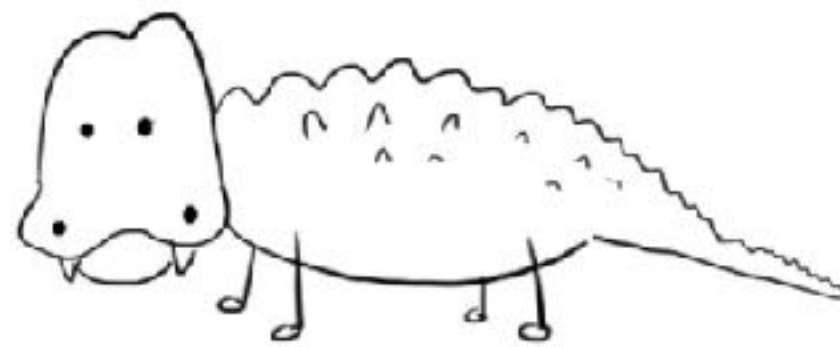
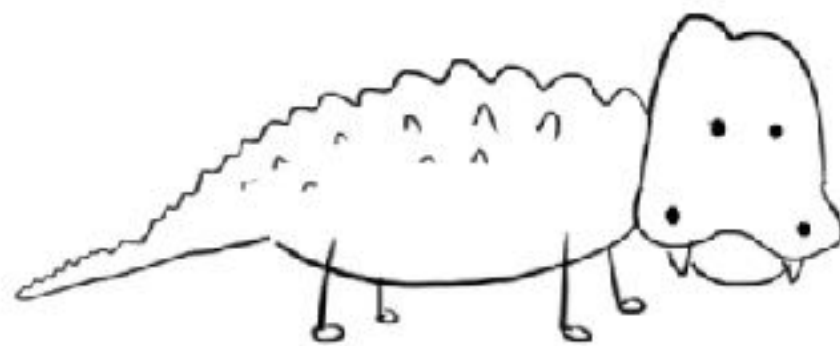
But what
stands in their
way? What is
the **obstacle**?

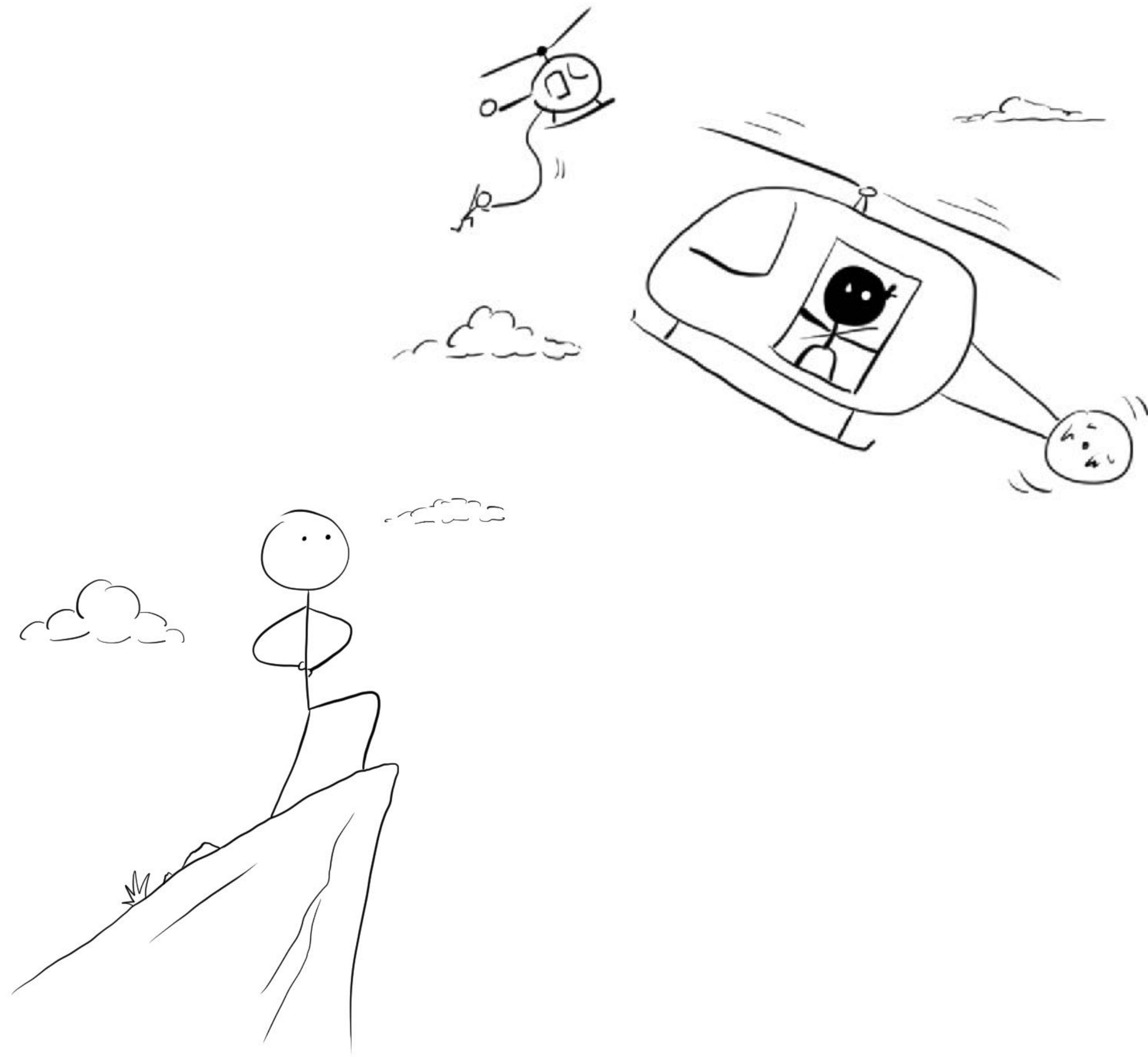


Maybe there are
alligators down
below?

Yo!

Whassup?





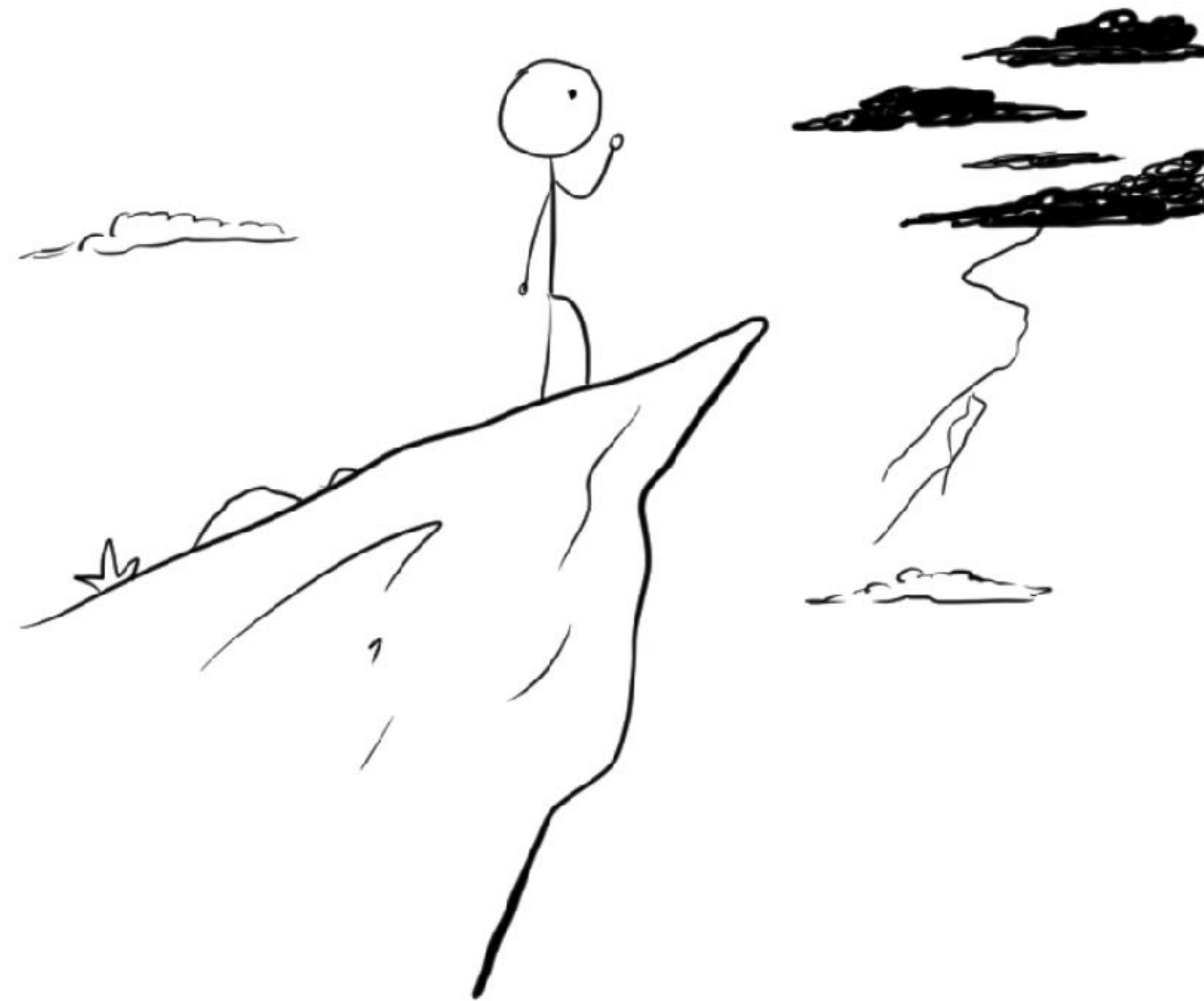
Or ninjas in
helicopters?



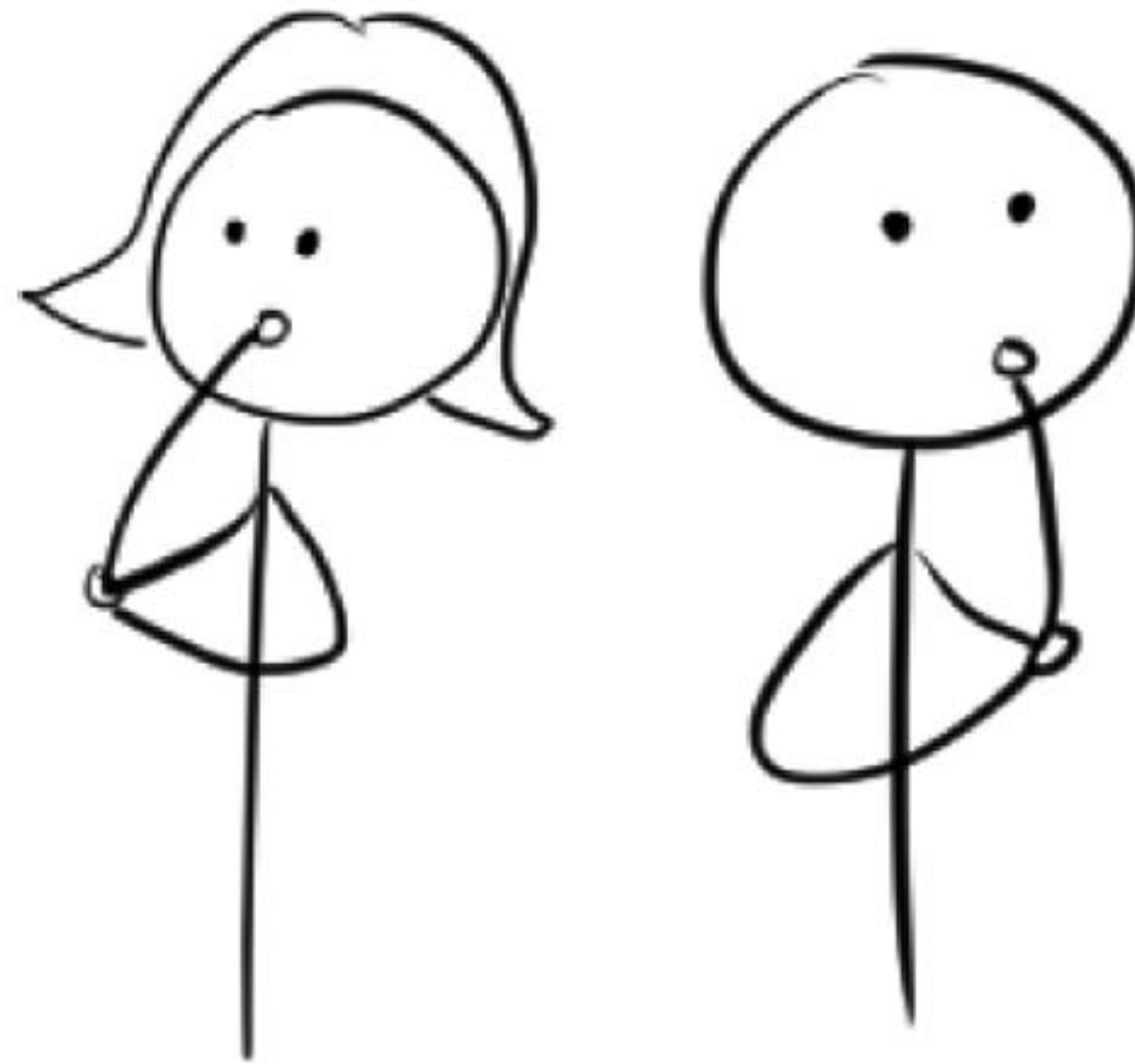
Maybe she
has a fear of
falling?



Or the memory of
a bad relationship?



Or there are storm clouds closing
in...?



So what do Tom and Sally do to get what they want and around this obstacle?
What **action** do they take?

Does she jump?





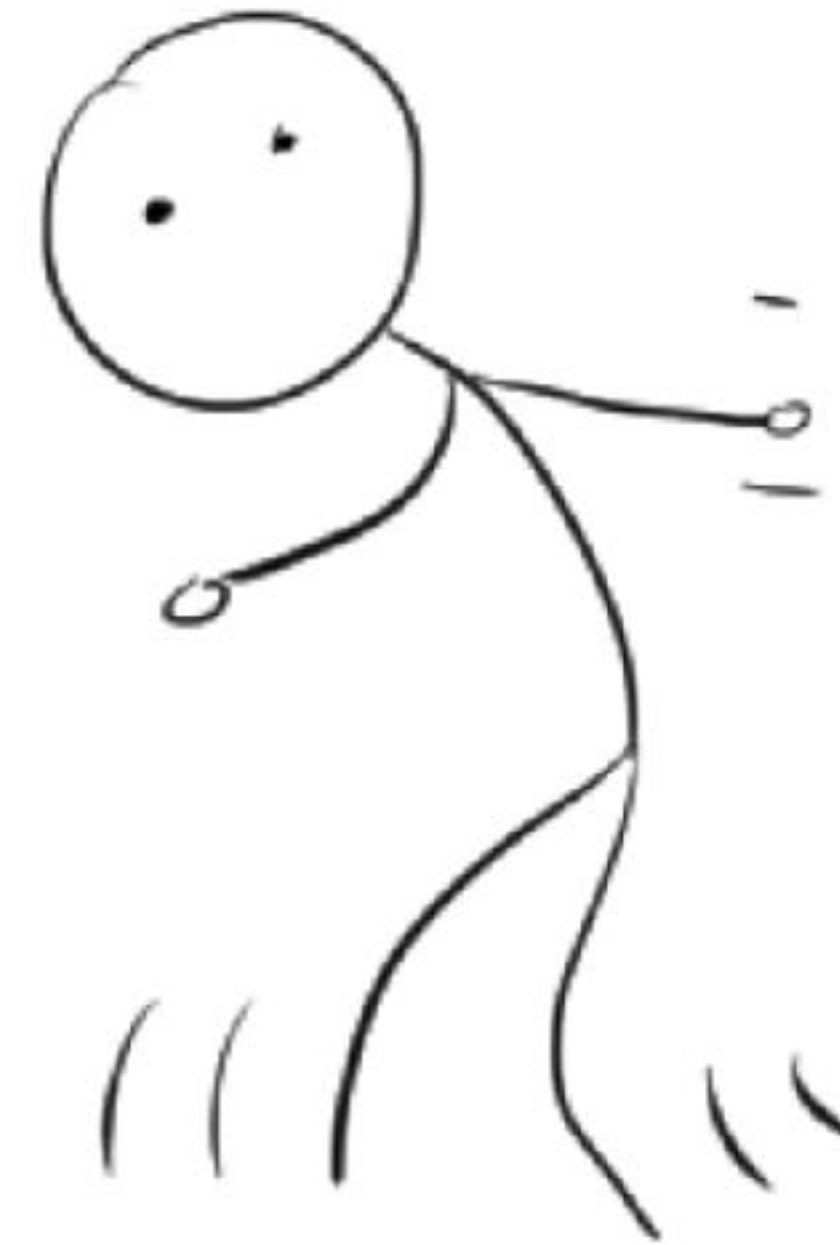
Or run?

Or fly?

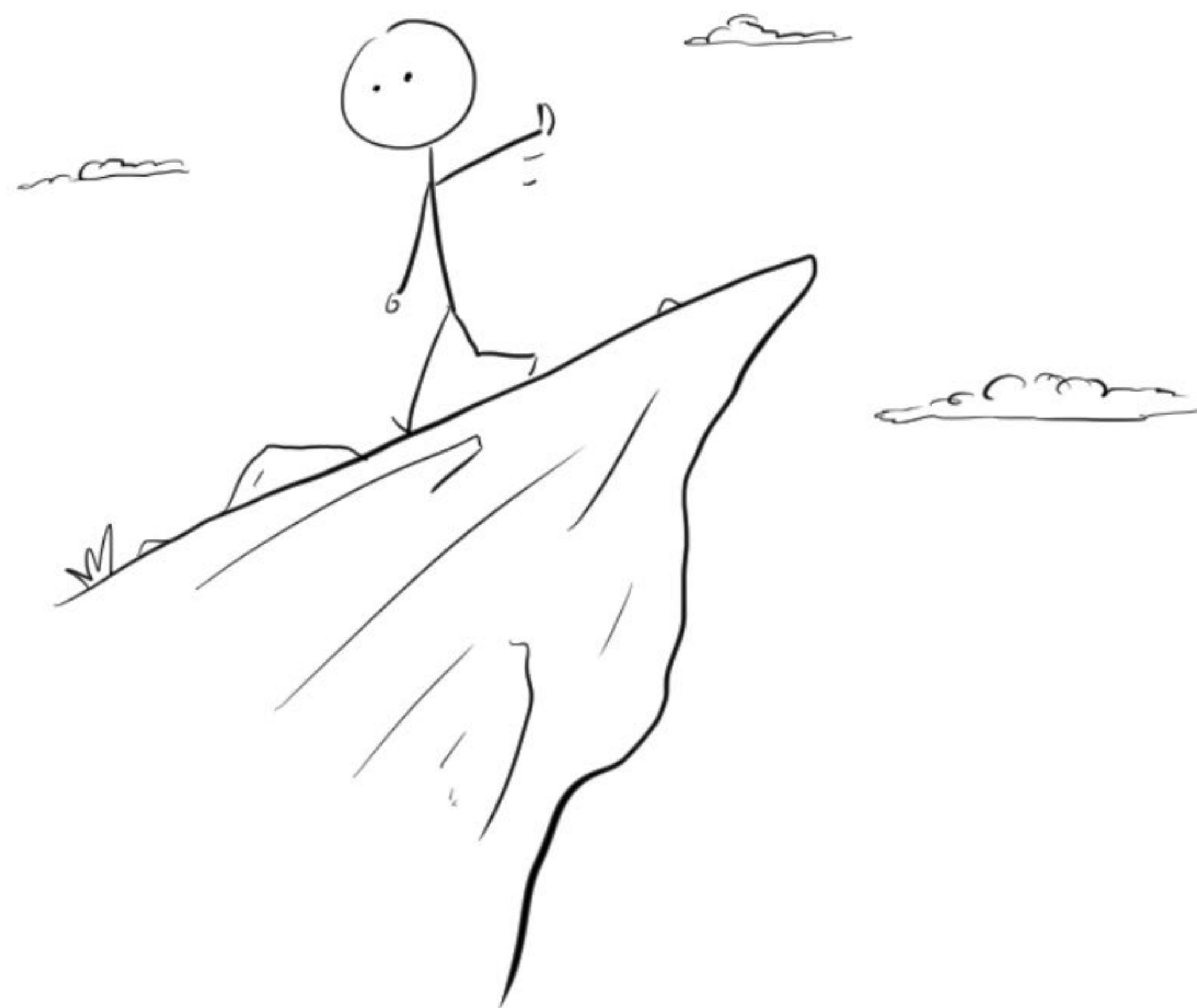




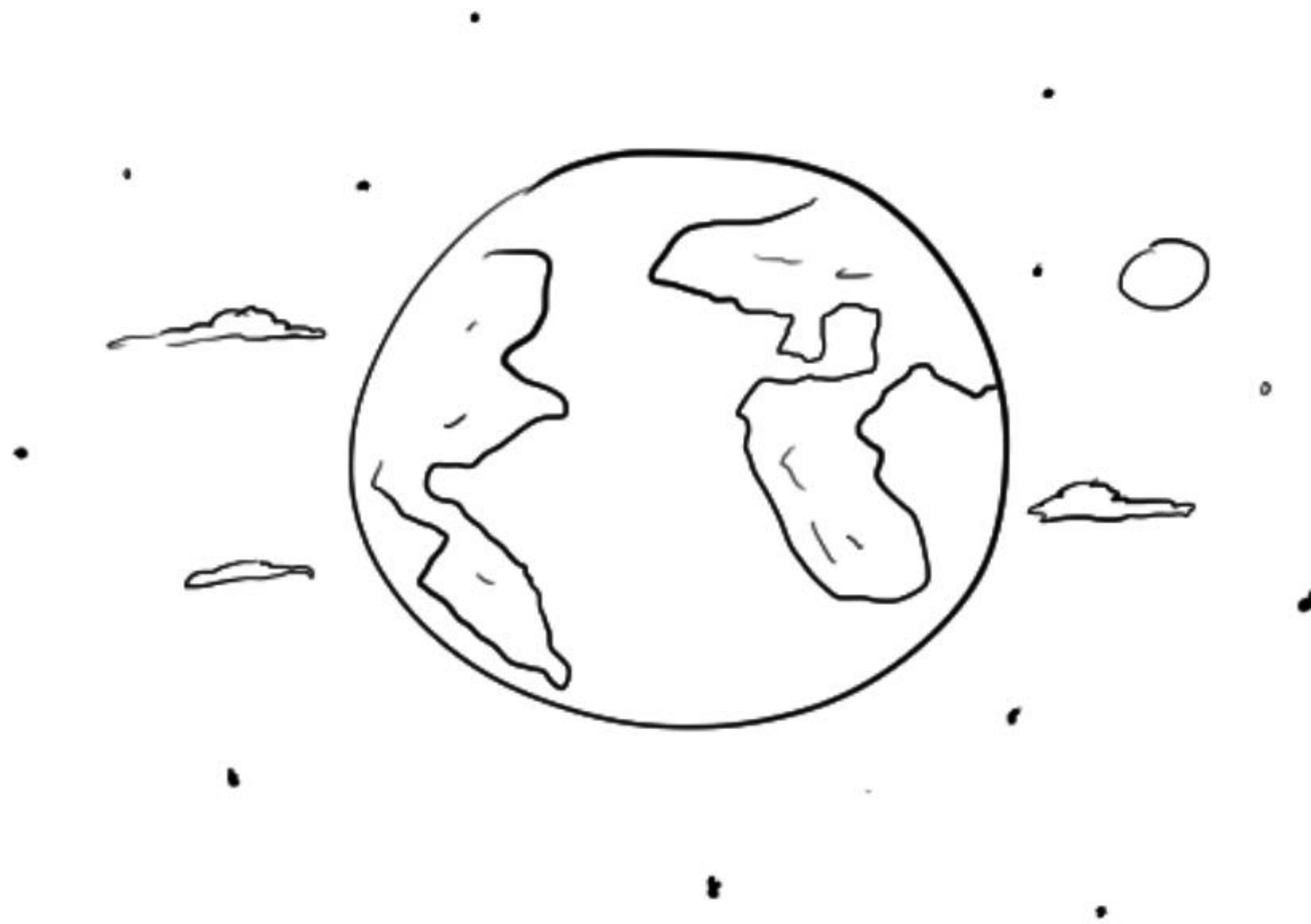
Or she uses
a parachute?



Maybe he just
shakes his booty?



Or he just does nothing?

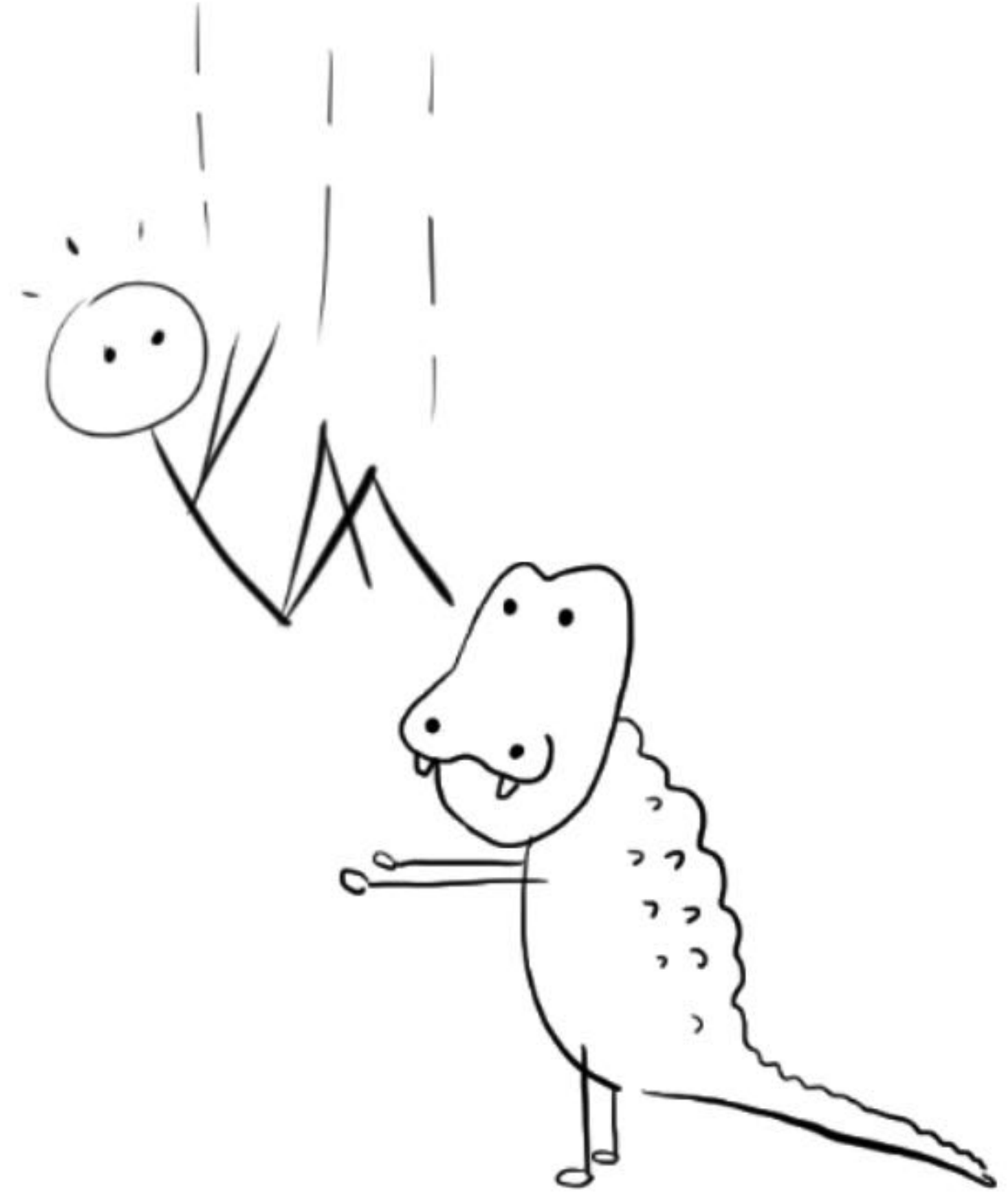


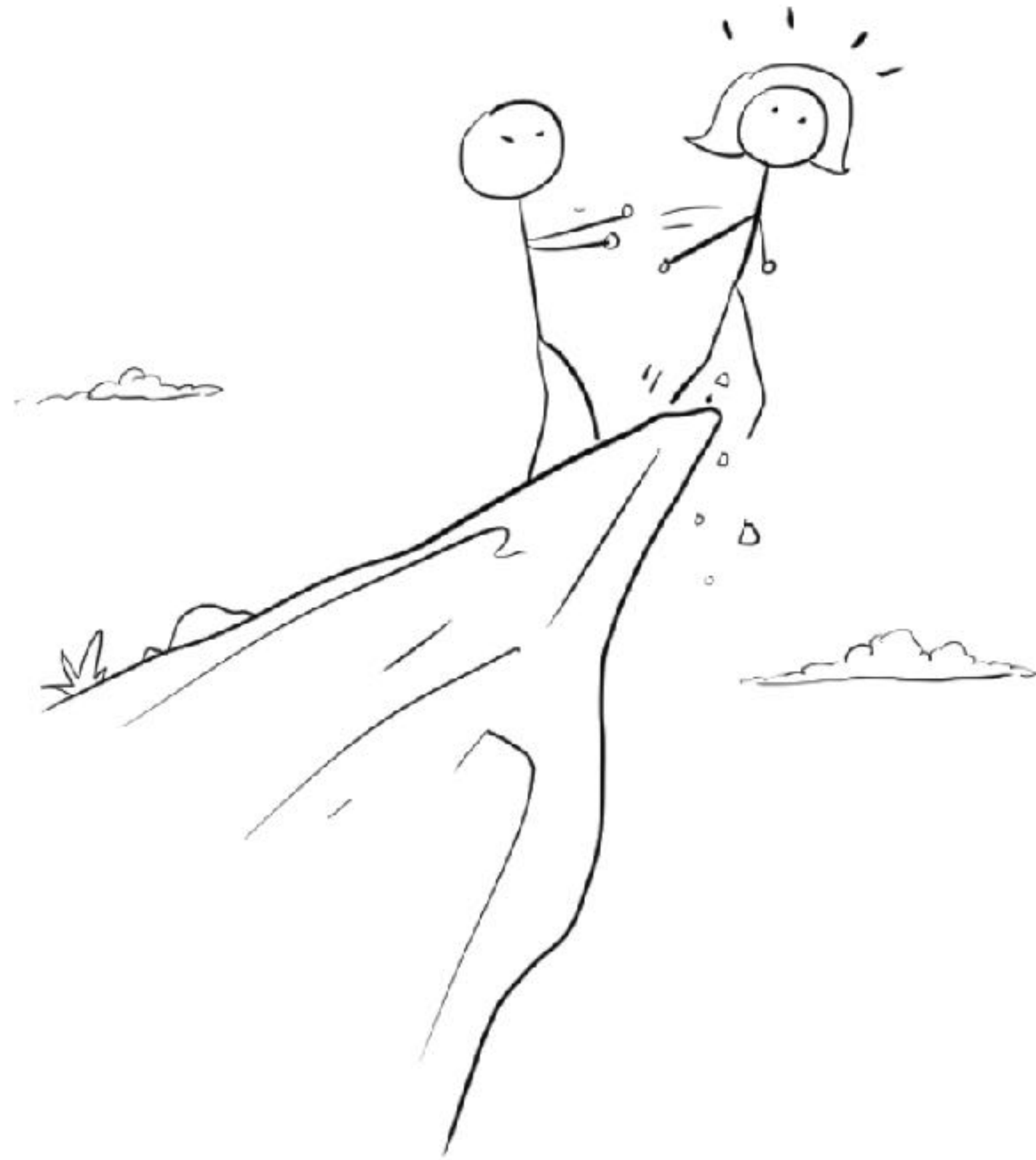
Now, how do the
obstacles
respond?
How does the
world respond?



Do the alligators
eat him?

Or catch him?





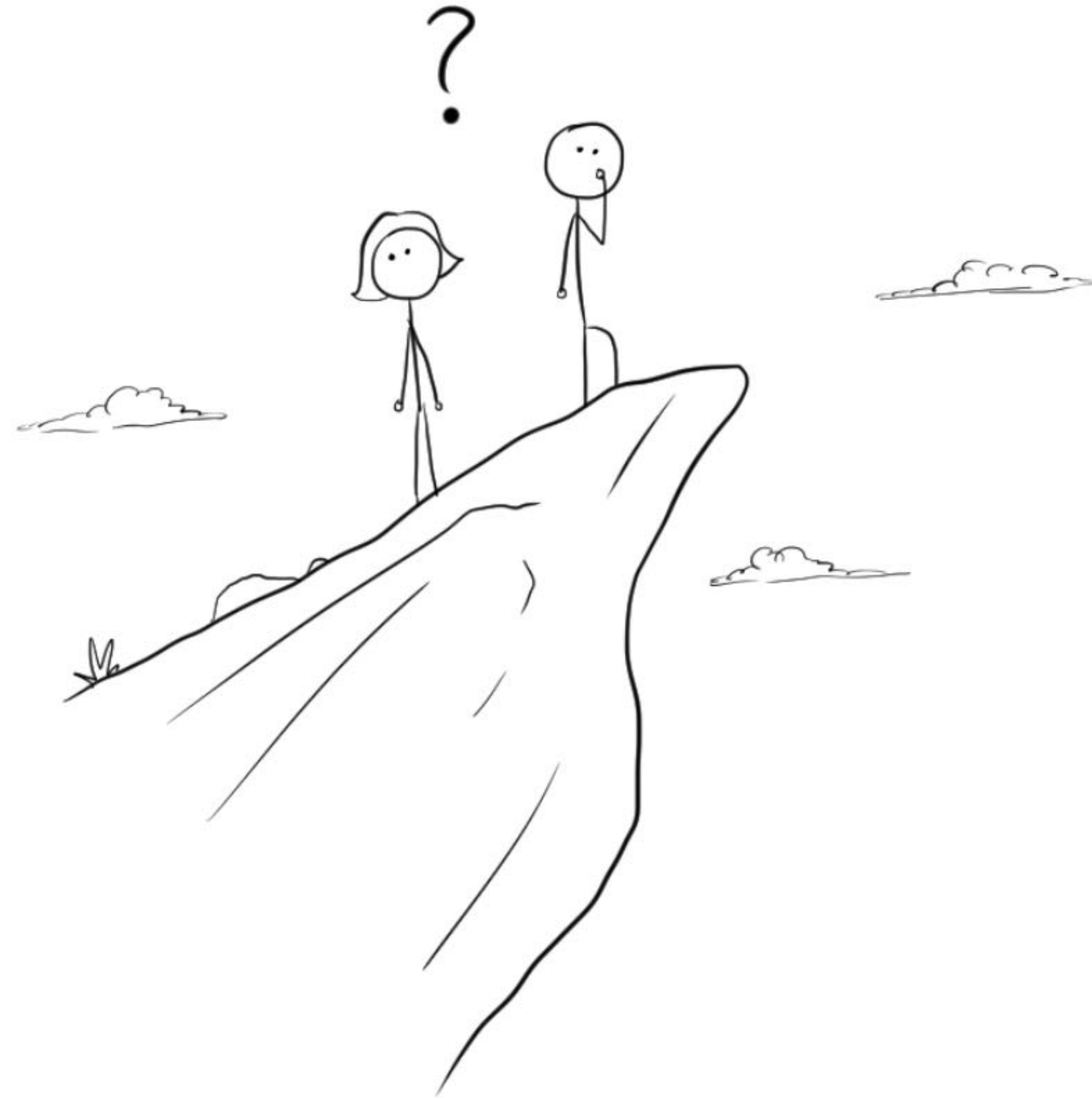
Does someone
push her?



Or grab her?

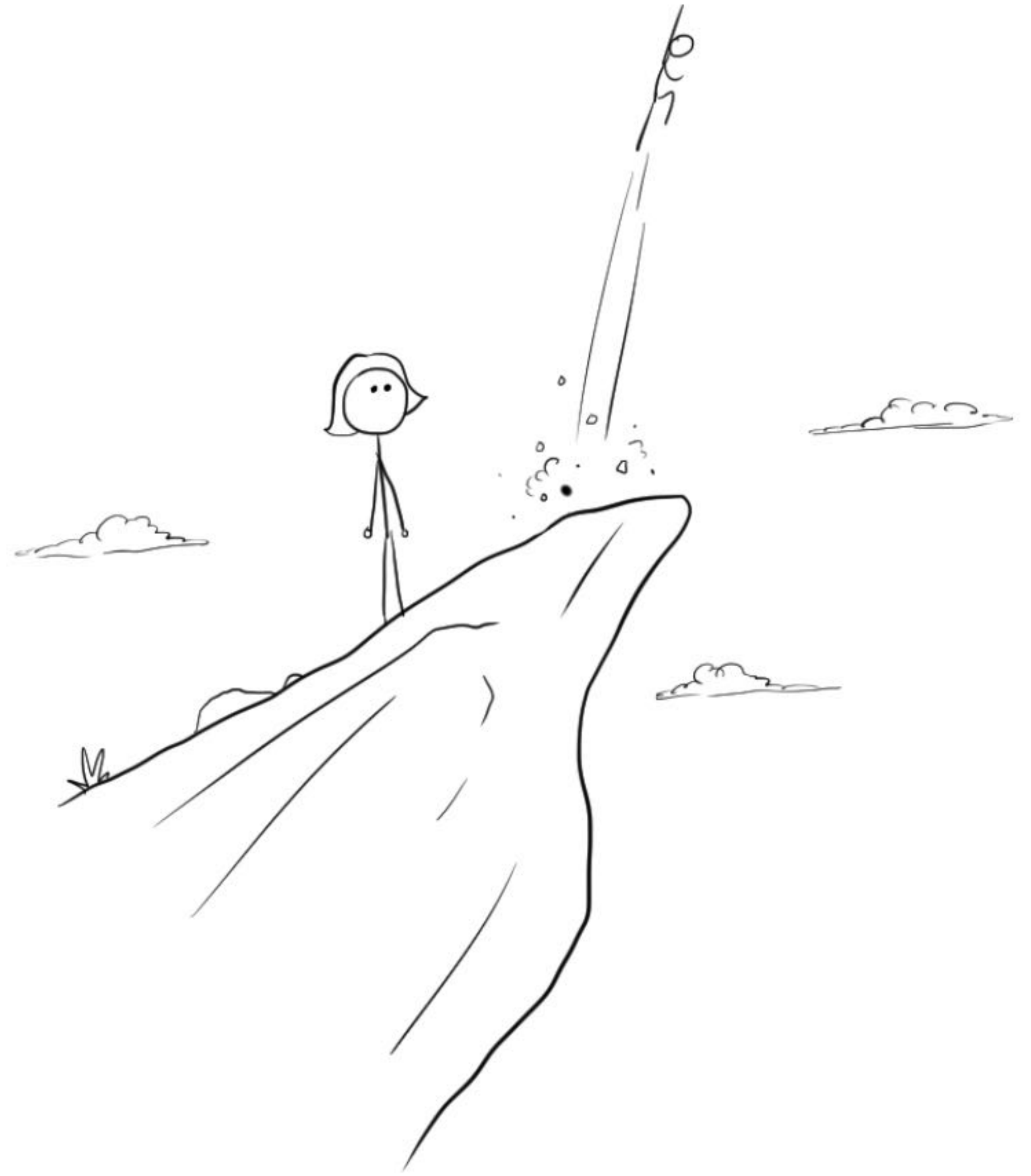


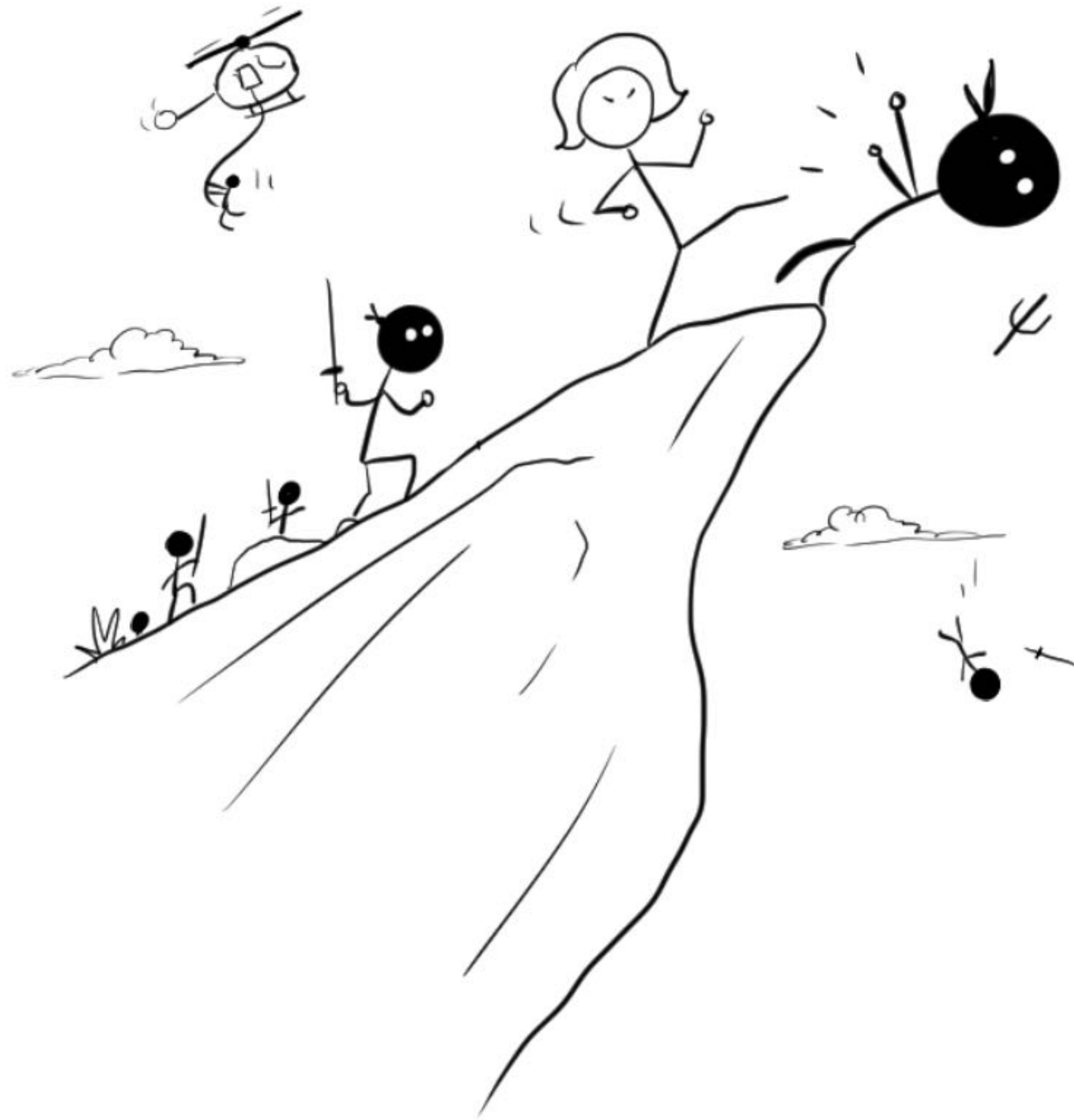
Or pull her back from the edge?



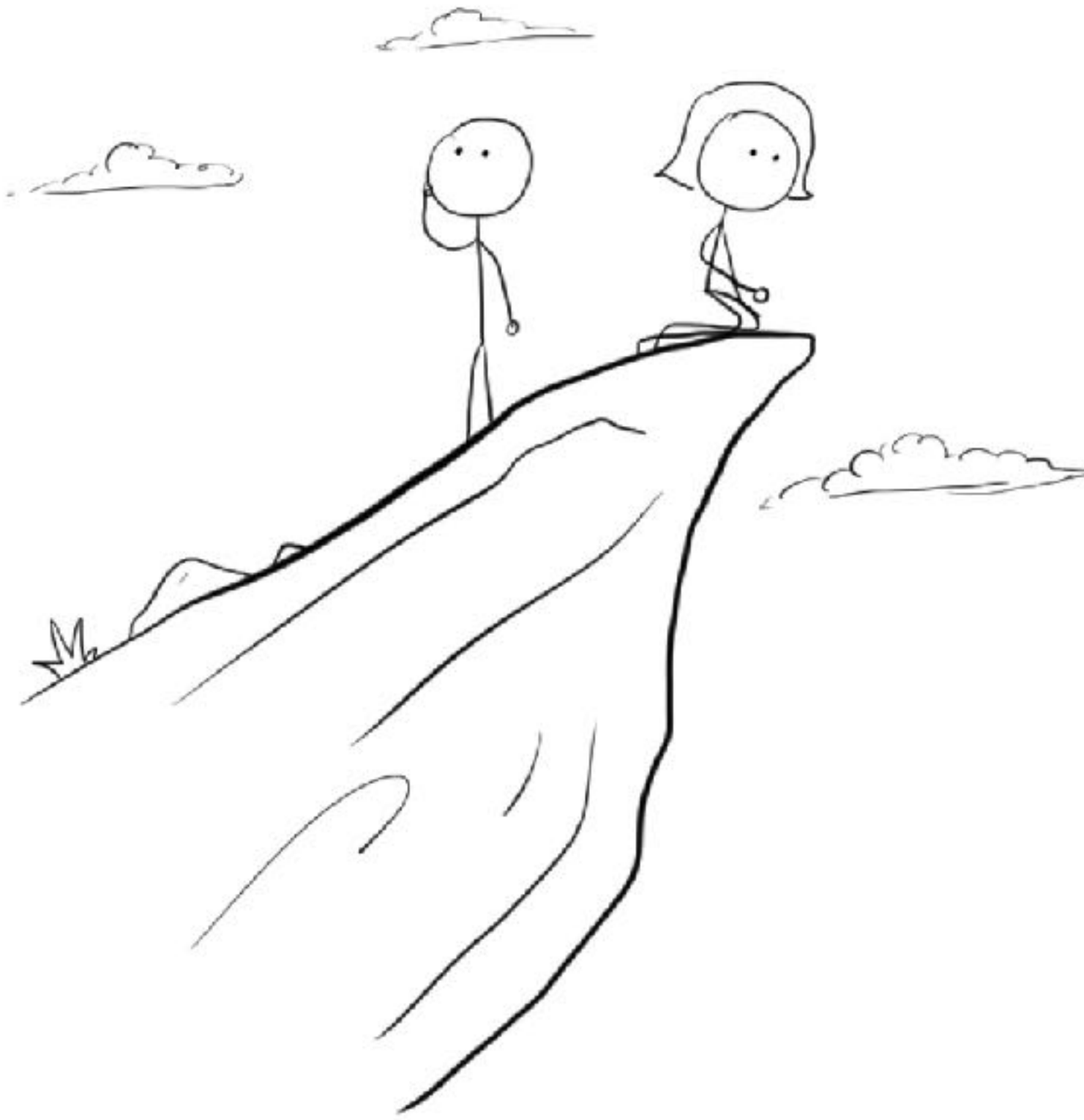
How does our
little story end?
What is the
outcome?

Does Tom fly
away?





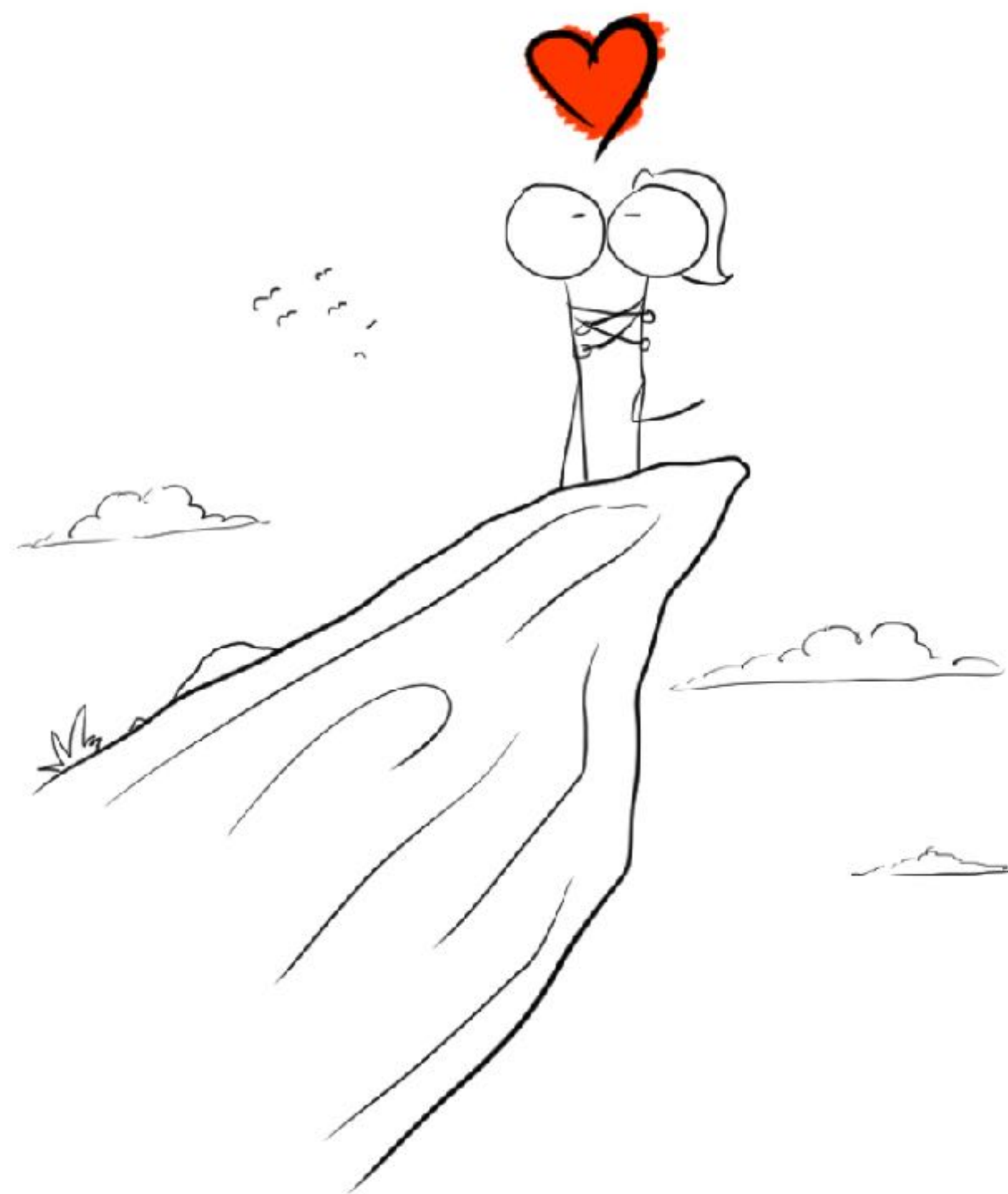
Does Sally fight
off the ninjas
and get the
treasure?



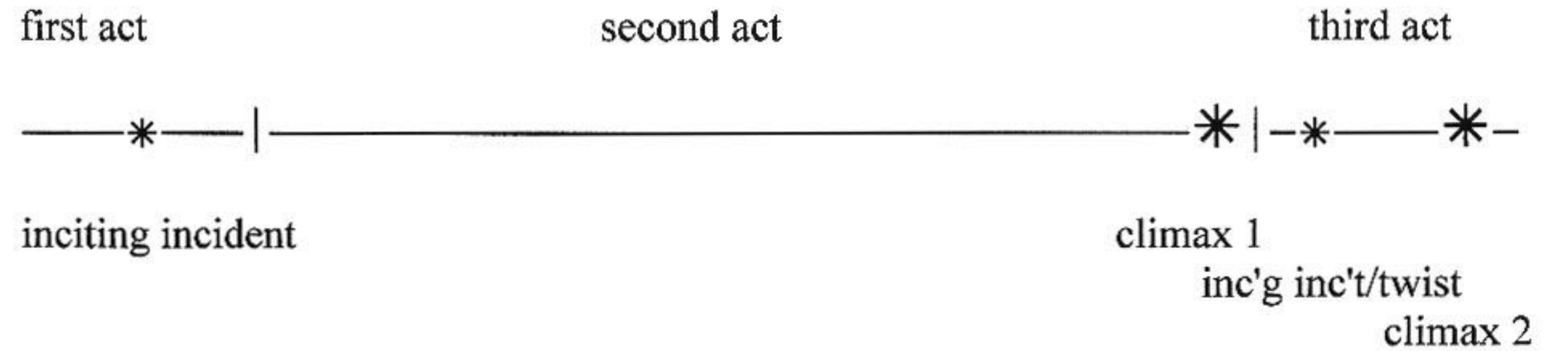
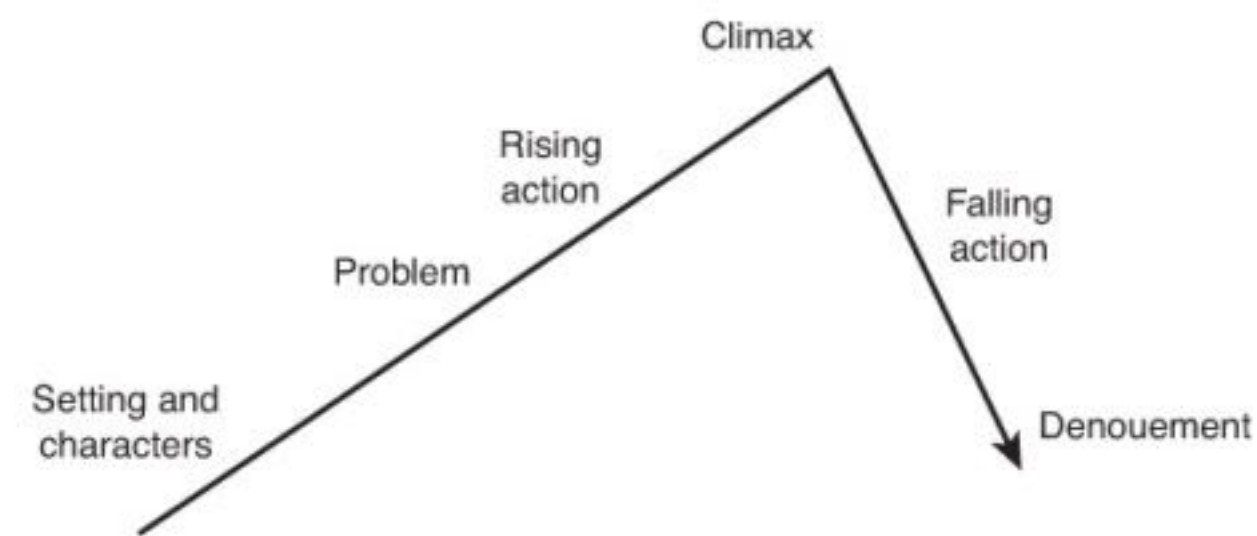
Perhaps they don't find what
they're looking for.



Or maybe they find something
completely different....

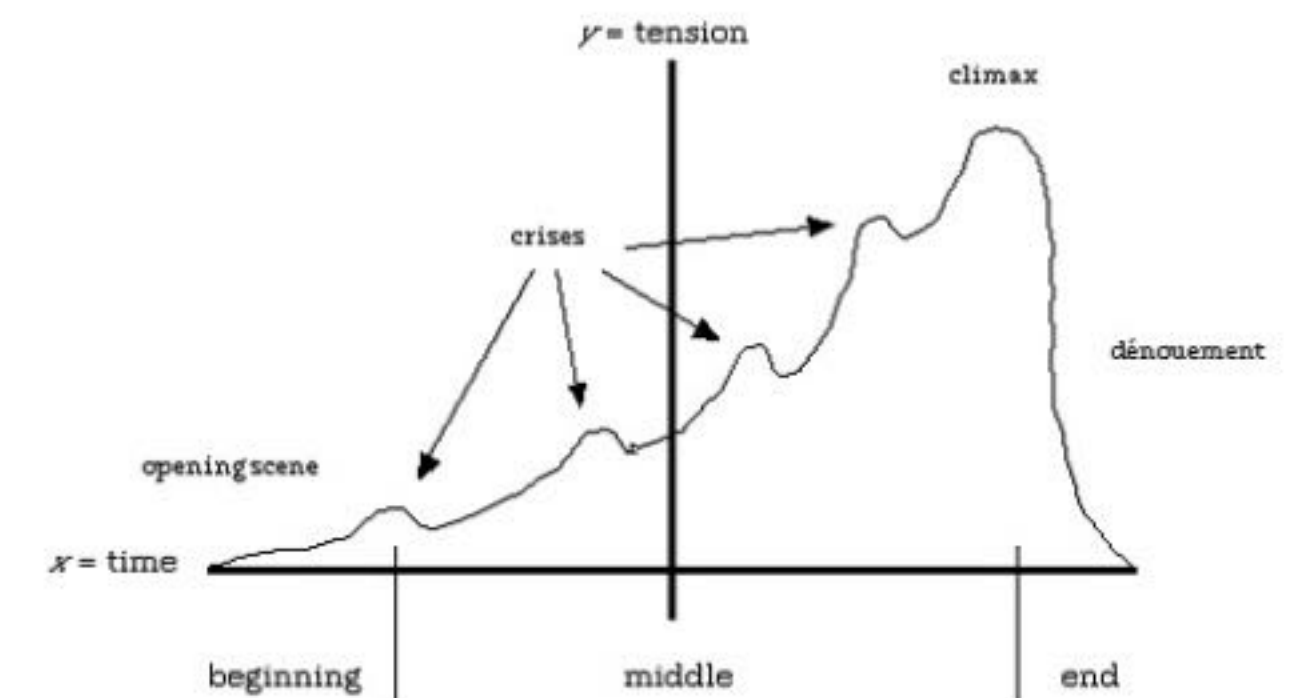
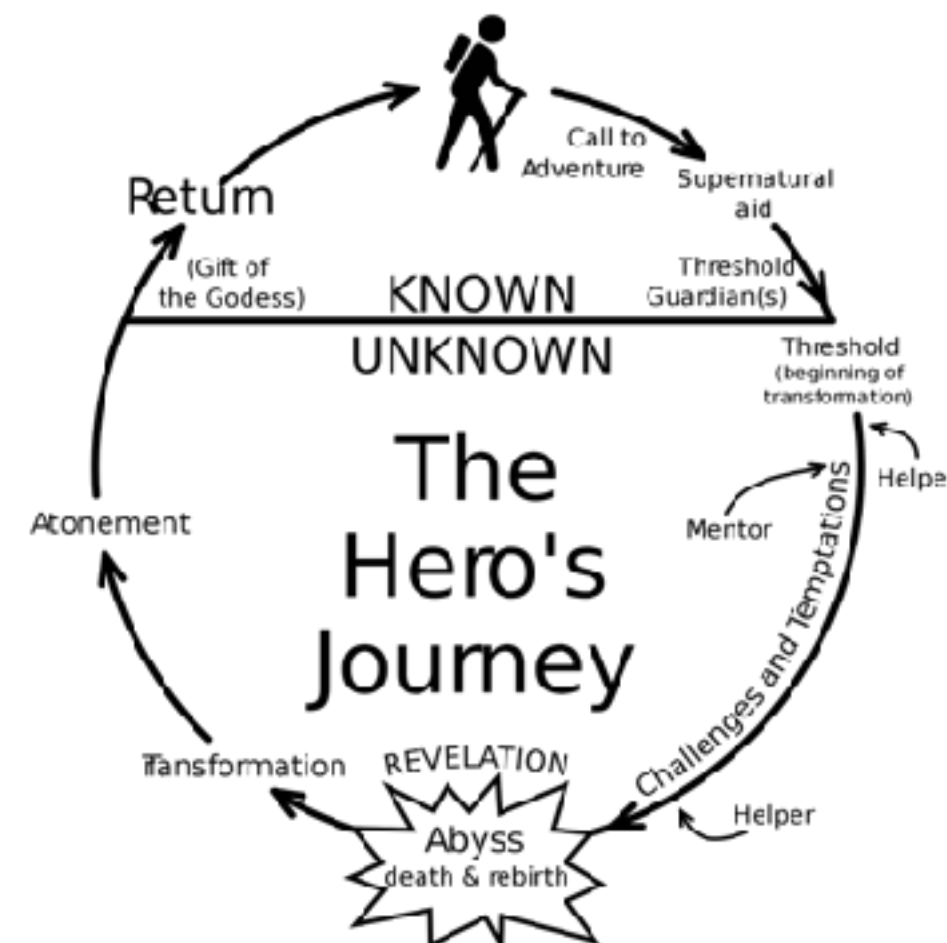
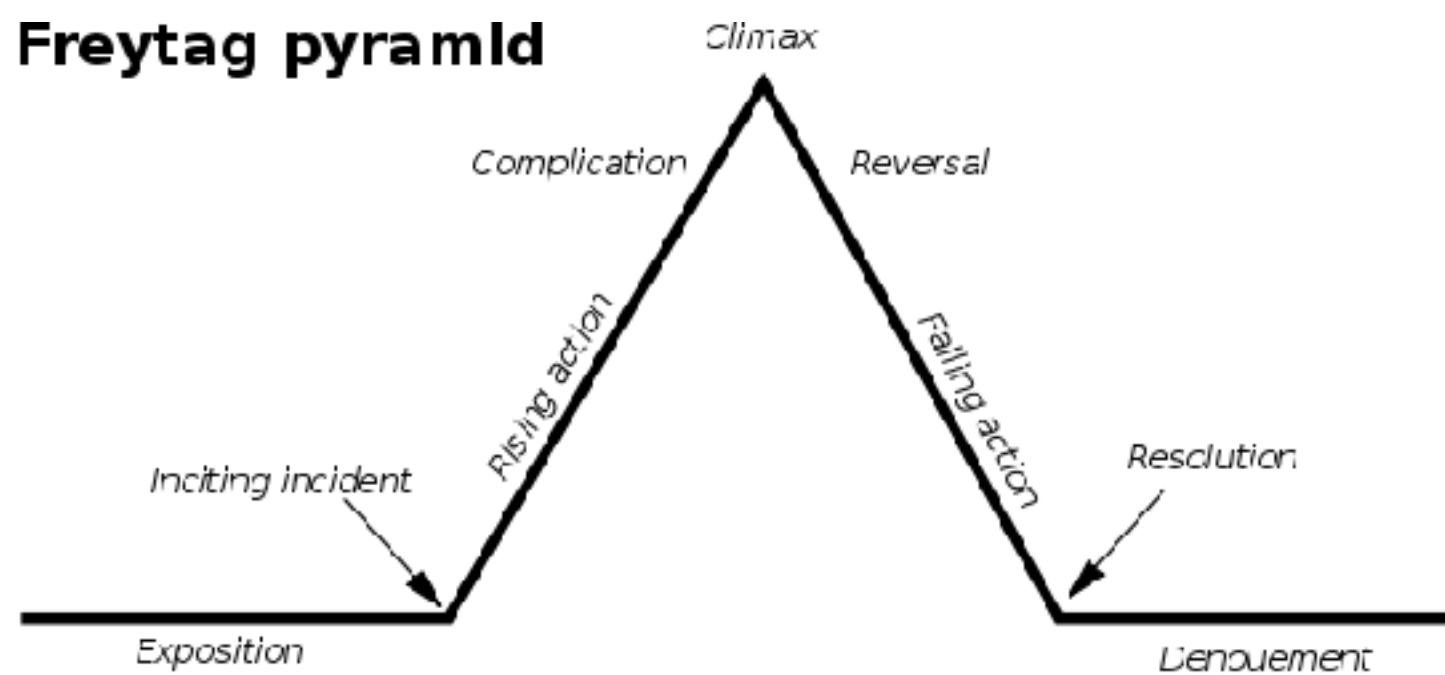


Part 2: The DNA of story.



We often talk about stories in many ways...

Freytag pyramid



Climax

First Act

Second Act

Third Act

Rising Action

Falling Action

Climax 1

Climax 2

Problem

Backstories

Setting and
Characters

with many

The Ordeal Catharsis
The Road Back

Ordinary World
Call to
Adventure

confusing and

Midpoint

conflicting terms

Confrontation

Character Arc

Complication Reversal

Tension

Crisis

Inciting Incident

Resolution

Opening Scene

Exposition

Denouement

Beginning

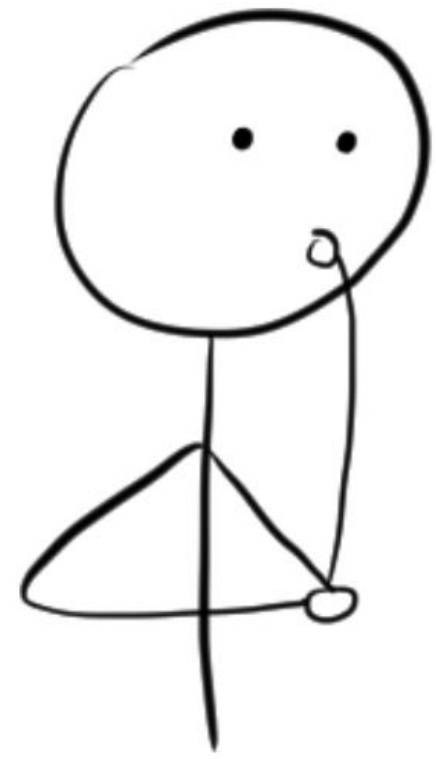
Middle

End

But sometimes it confuses us to
what story is really about and
doesn't help us understand
how to it write.

So, let's simplify things...
This is the DNA of story...

A character **wants** something but
an **obstacle** stands in her way.
Therefore, she takes an **action**,
which gets a **response**, and she
will continue taking actions until she
gets to an **outcome**, whether it's
good or bad.



A character has a **want**.

It can be physical or emotional.

External or internal.

This is the engine that pushes story forward.

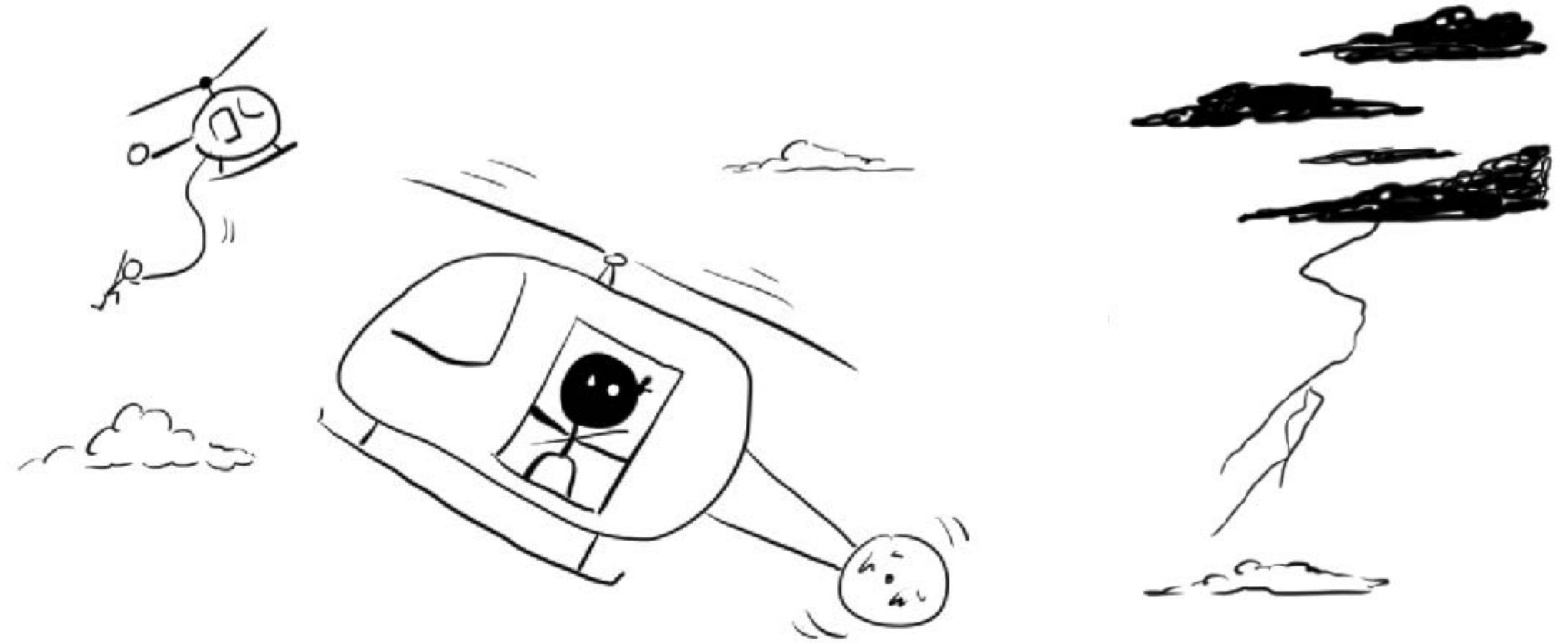
Tom wants the treasure.

Sally wants to escape. Both desire it with all their being.

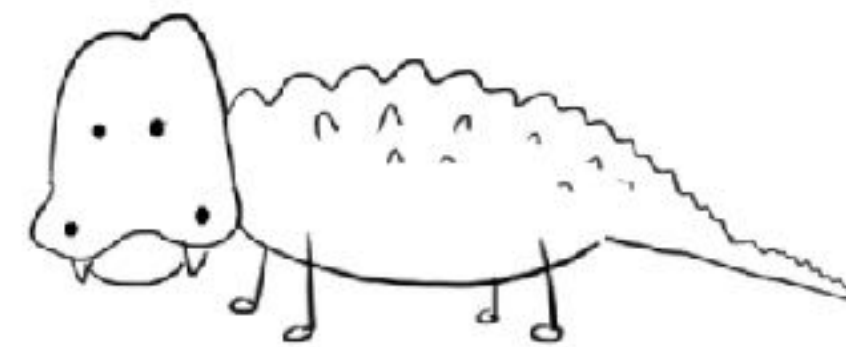
But there are **obstacles**
blocking their path.
They too can be physical or
emotional.
External or internal.

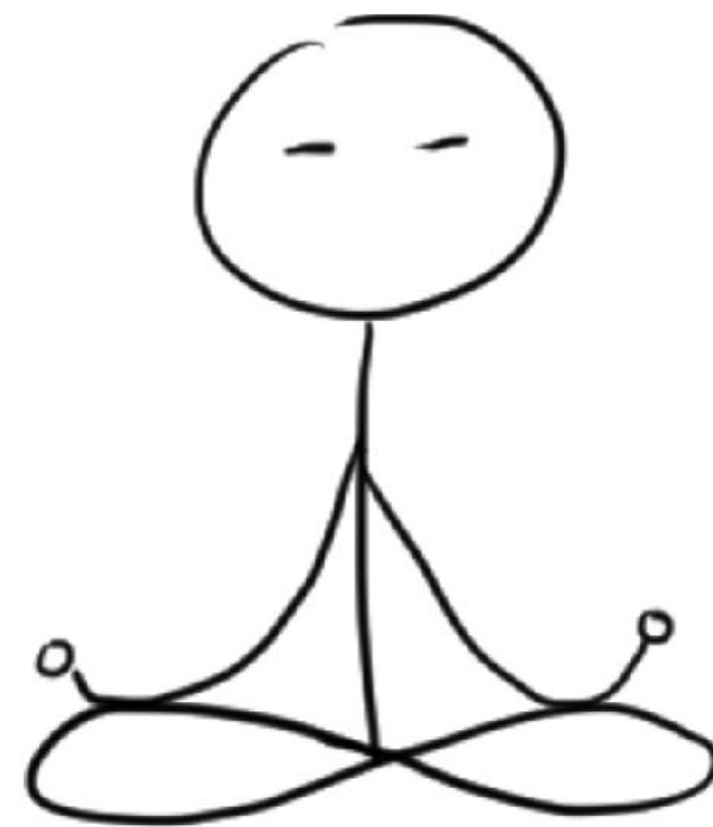
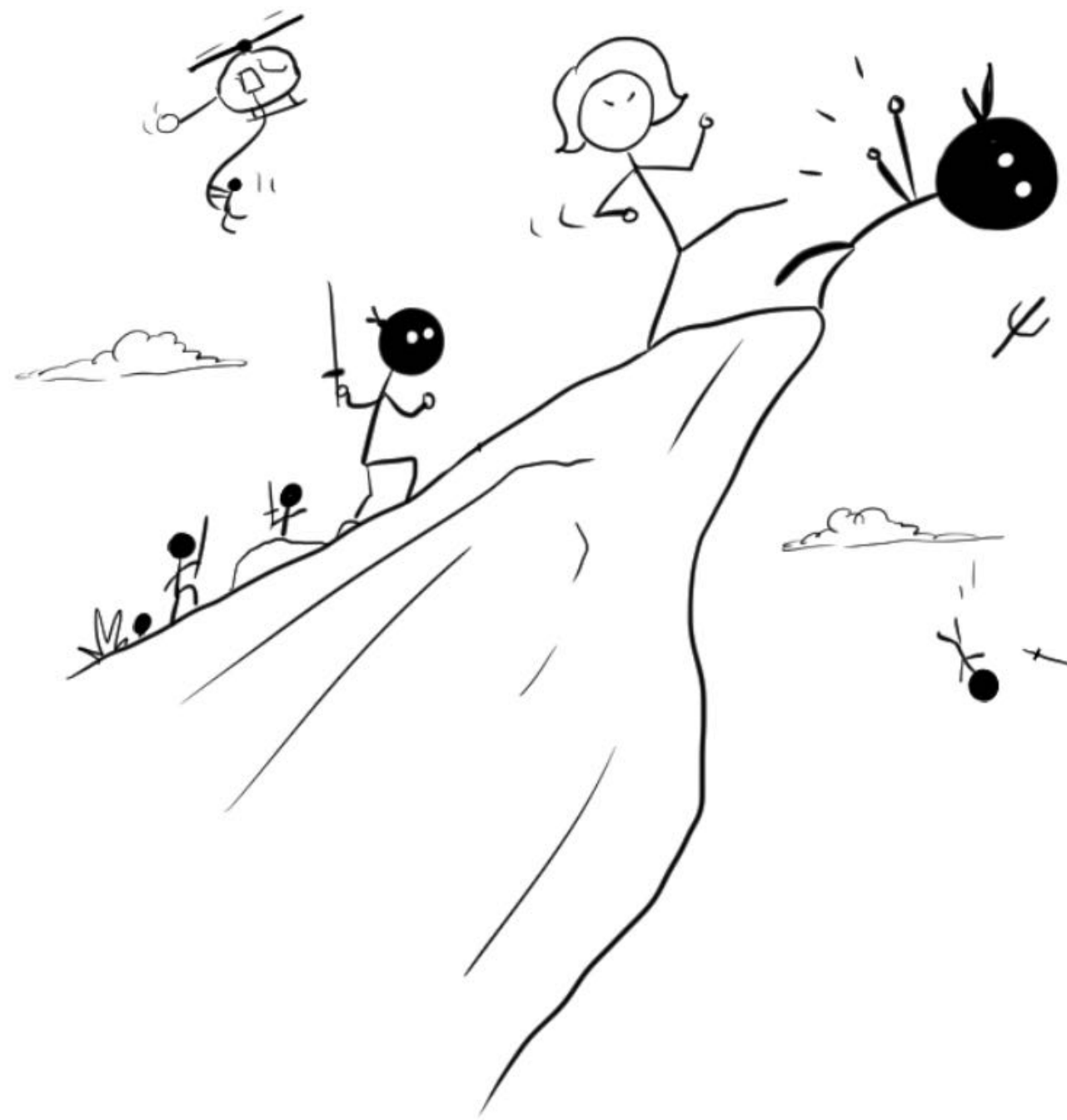
Tom's alligators and Sally's
ninjas. Tom's storm clouds and
Sally's fear of falling (in love).

And these wants and obstacles
work together to create the
conflict that drives story.



Grrrowl!





But to get what they want and around/over/through their obstacle, characters must take **action**.

Does Tom wrestle his alligator? Does Sally go toe-to-toe with her ninjas?

Or do they sit still and wait for the storm clouds to pass.

Action is about choice that defines your character. It is a moment of decision to do something...anything.

Even choose not to act.

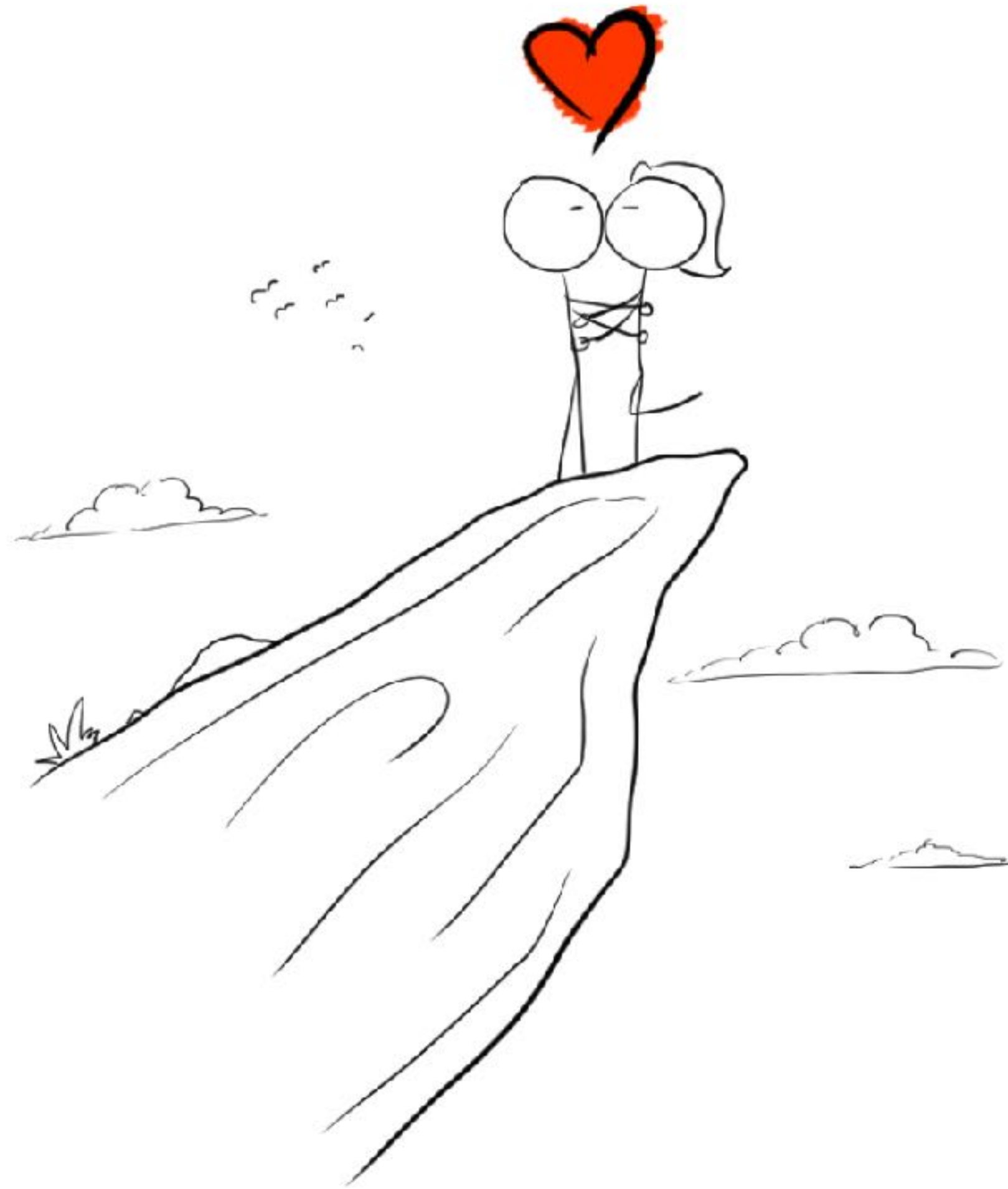
But with all action, there must always be a **response**.

It can be the response from outer obstacles. Or it may be the fears and worries, the troubling thoughts that rise up from deep within.

Either the world responds to our characters or our characters respond to the world. Again it is about choice.

Do the alligators help Tom or hurt him? Does someone push Sally or grab her from the edge? Or do they worry, fear, or hope for something?





And this will lead to new actions and new responses and these will continue happening until we get to a final **outcome**.

This is when Tom gets the treasure or Sally escapes the ninjas.

Or they fail to achieve what they want. The storm clouds close in and the bad memories overwhelm them.

But endings only come when there are no further actions, no further responses able to be taken, and our characters and obstacles reach the limits of their resources and abilities.

And then we reach the end.

This is the DNA of story:

want

obstacle

action

response

outcome.

or **WOARO**

WOARO is about character and the fulfillment of an action—the doing of something for a result—to obtain, to resist, to make a change, to prevent change...anything.

It can stand on its
own to tell a story:

WOARO

Or it can be a series of
actions (acts or parts)
building a bigger story:

W O A R O



WOARO+WOARO+WOARO

Or it can be different
characters playing off
each other:

Tom's **WOARO**

Sally's **WOARO**

Alligator's **WOARO**

They come in different sizes—
appearing in acts, sequences,
scenes, and even the quietest
moments of a story.

WOARO WOARO WOARO WOARO

And they can be found anywhere
—in novels, short stories, songs,
films, television, plays, poetry, or
art ...the possibilities are endless.

WOARO WOARO
WOARO *WOARO*

This is the power of WOARO.

It is the DNA of story.

The representation of an action.

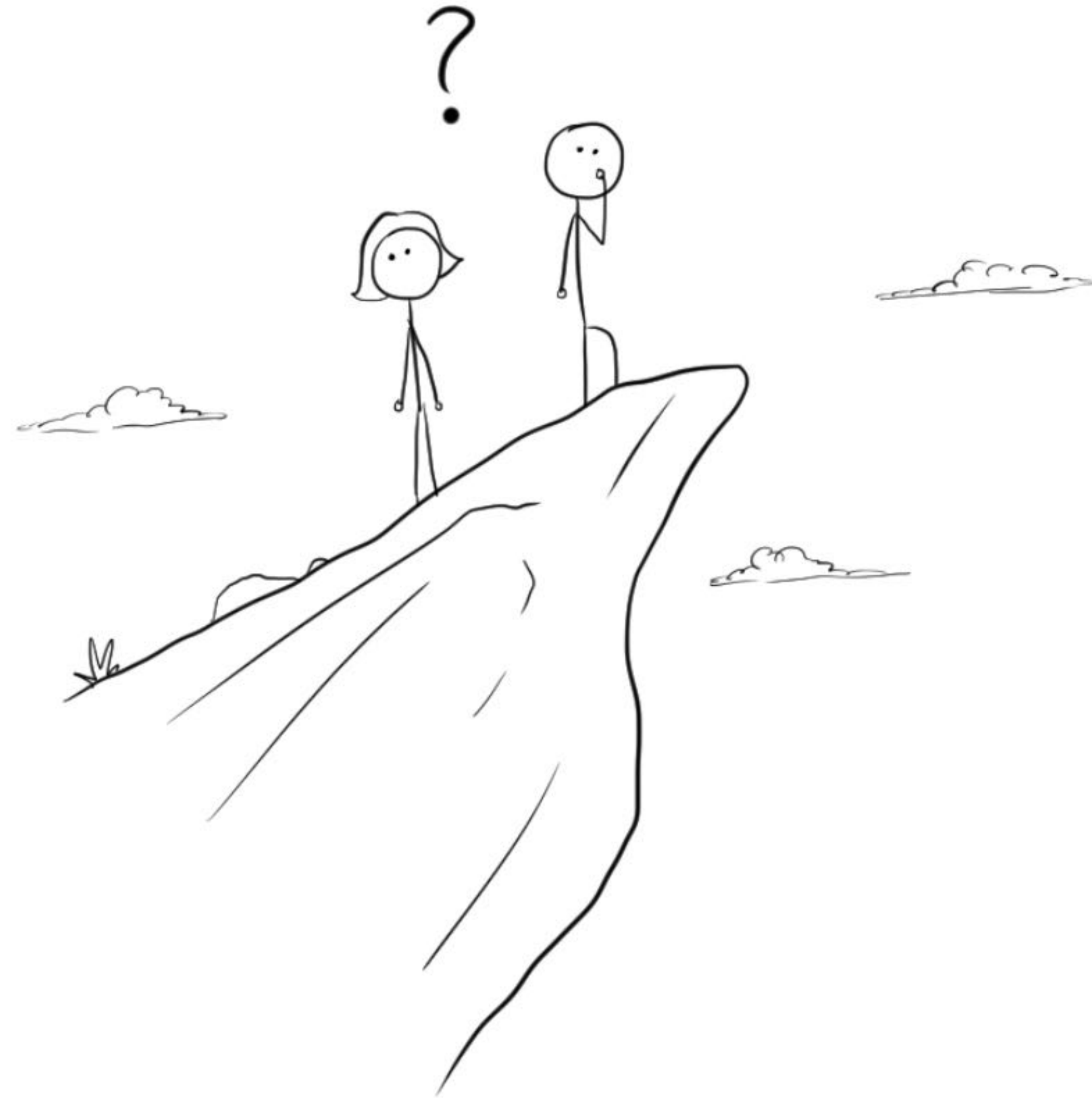
A reflection of how we as
humans live.

Part 3: Connecting Story to your world

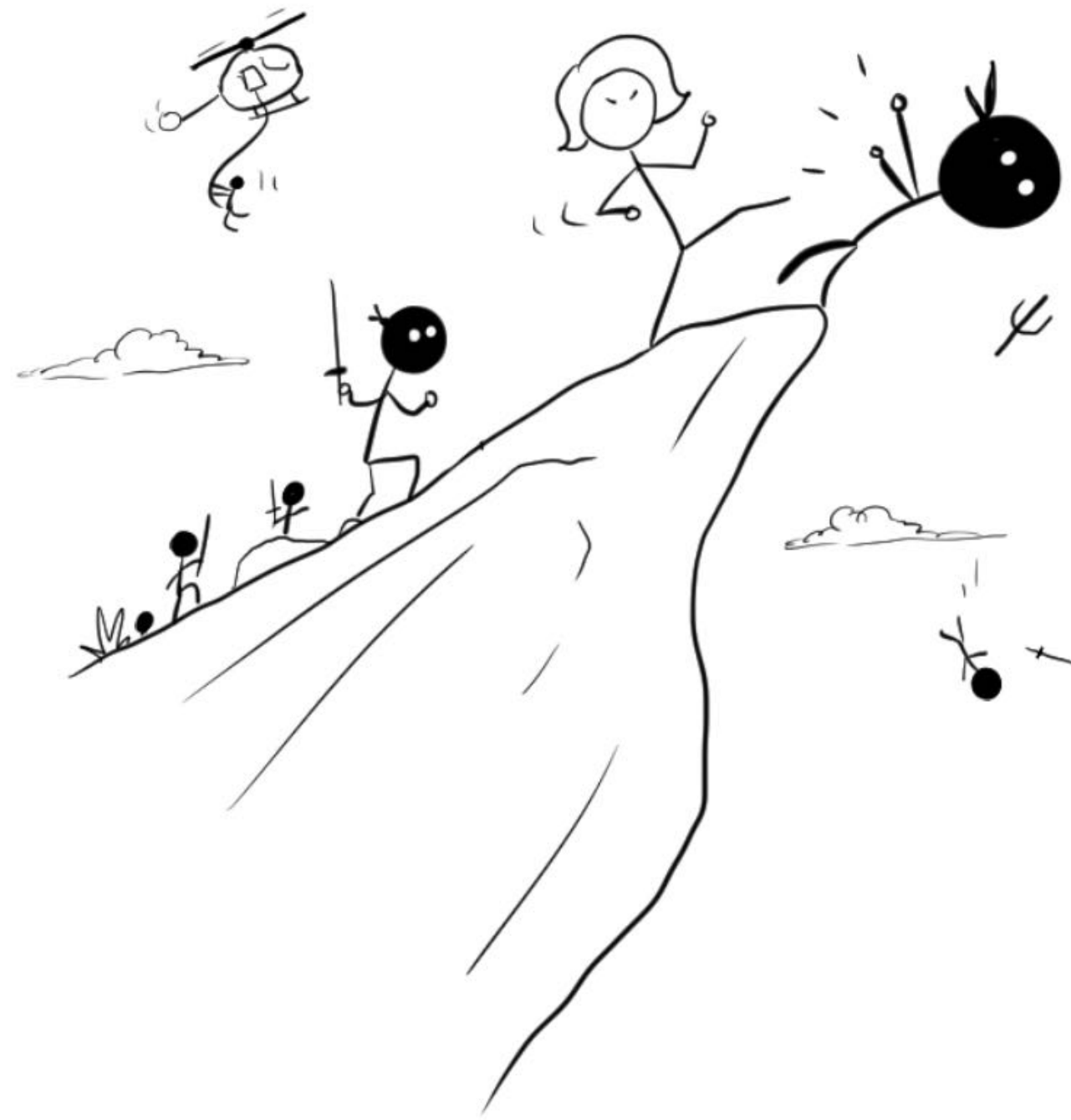


Your stories can be about monsters, space,
or superheroes....

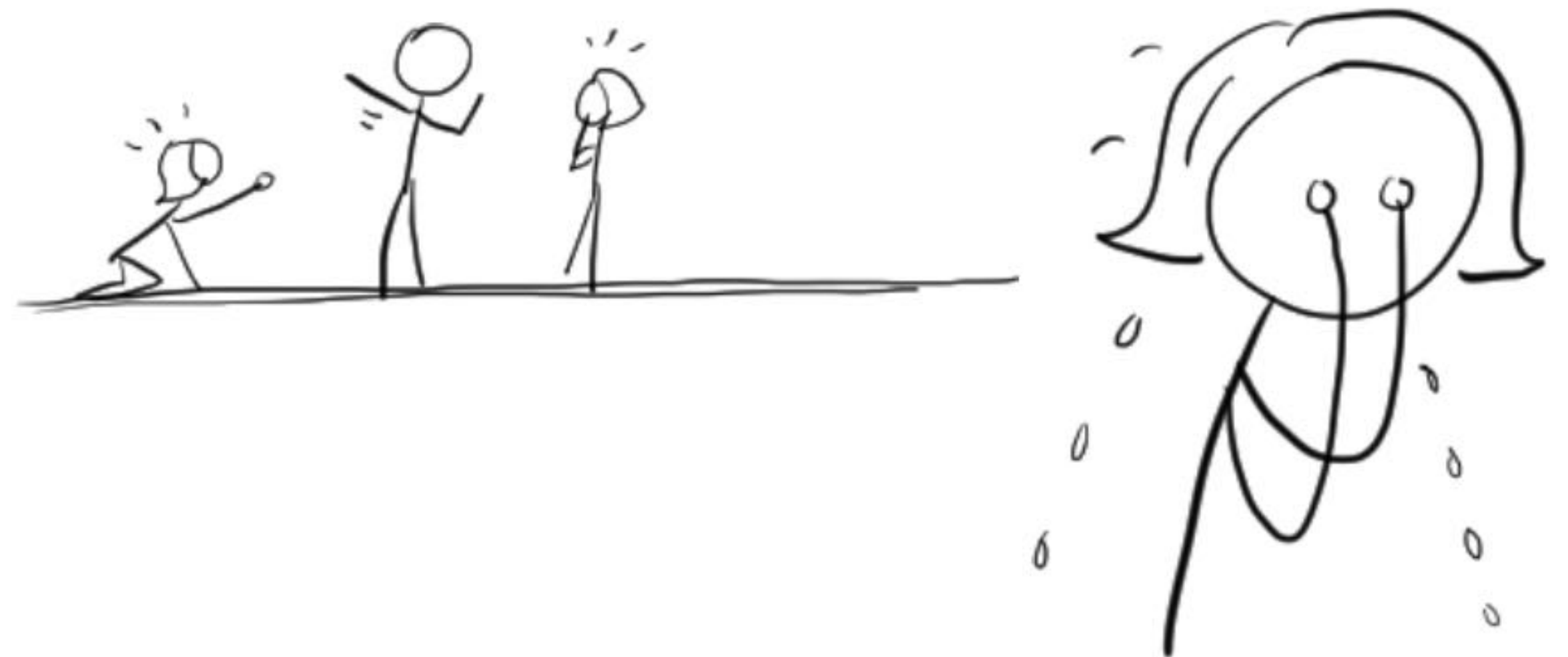
But it always comes back to characters like
Tom or Sally or you.

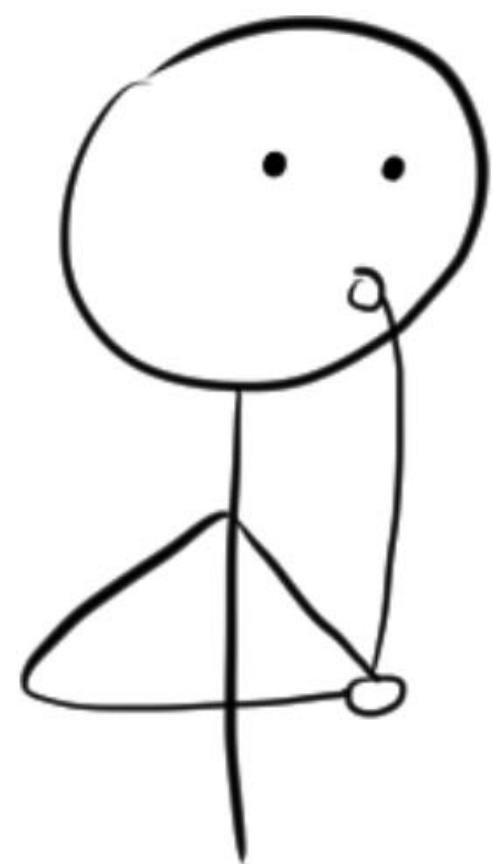


What do you want?
What obstacles
are in your way?



For some of you, a hero's
fight against ninjas may
be someone else's
struggle with a broken
heart.

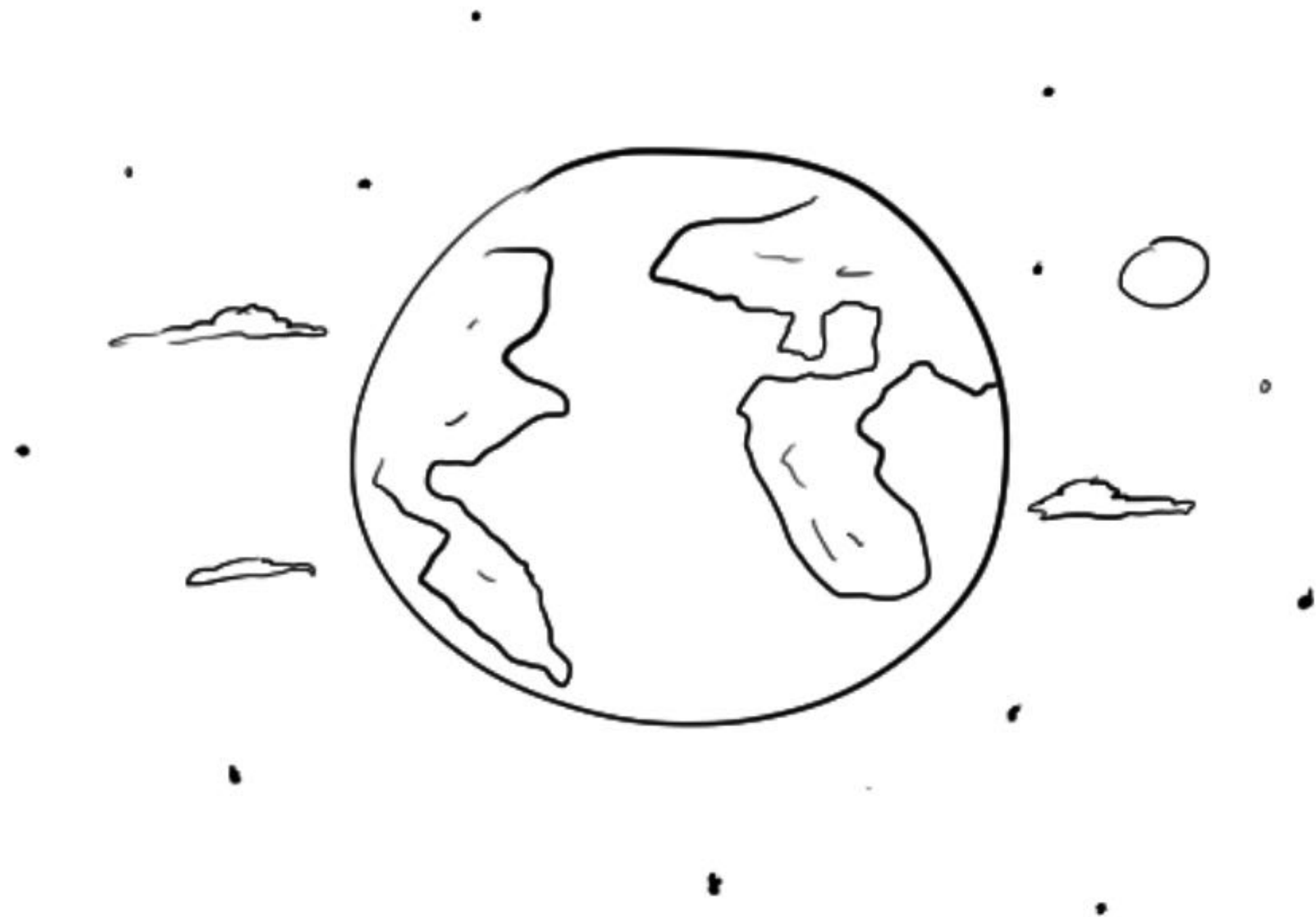




A treasure in one
story may really be a
search for someone
else's peace.

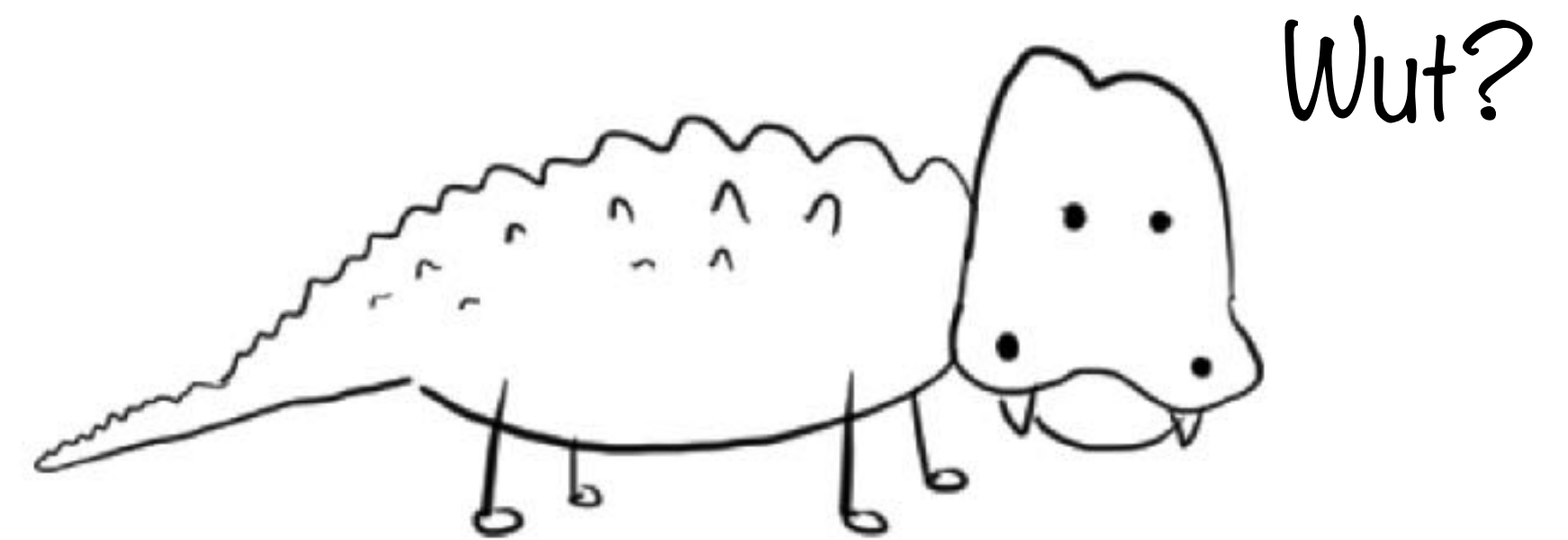


How about the world? How does it
struggle? What do people want?
What obstacles stand in their way?

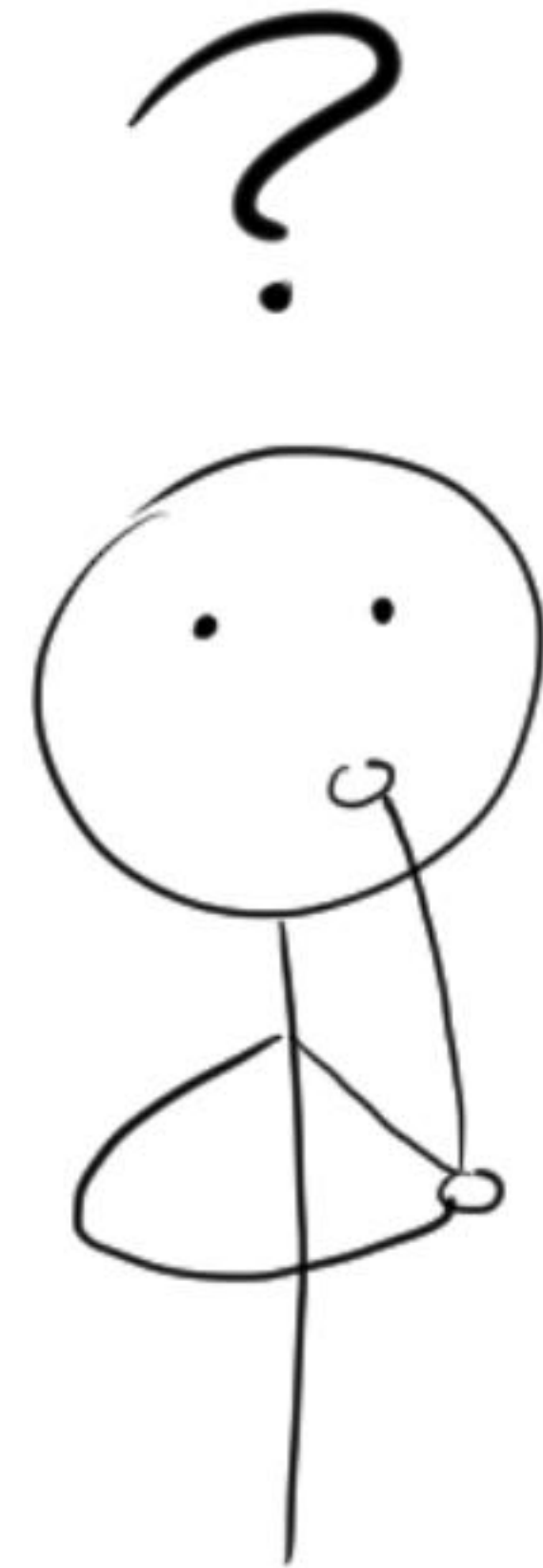


Life can be usually pretty tough.

We may want to avoid obstacles, but often the path to what we want leads us to directly in conflict with the problem.



More importantly...
What action do we take?
How do we make change?
How do we respond when
we face obstacles?
What do we choose?



Do we stand strong or do we run away?

Do we yell or do we listen?

Do we fight or do we seek peace?



This is the power and beauty of WOARO. It isn't just plot or theme or character.

It is about sharing complexity and experience of life.

We can look at what our characters want and the obstacles that stand in their way, and the actions they take.

And when we share these experiences, whether in books, movies, songs, or stories, others can connect to these experiences and sometimes find meaning.



Thank you.

Find more at:

www.couniosandgane.com

Special thanks to
Jimmy Kounios
for the images



Wut?

