

Film Presentation

Topic: Human Bonding

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Masters in Design, Animation

By

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Animation and Film Design

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the project work done in relation to my Project II film and submitted as a written report to IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay is a record of the original work done by me under the guidance of Professor Phani Tetali. Unless otherwise stated, the contents of this report in the form of the text and images are entirely my own. The views expressed in the documentation as part of the written submission of the project are my own and do not necessarily represent the views of Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay.



Deepam Jain

2018

APPROVAL

The Report Committee for Animation Design, IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay certifies that this is the approved version of the following report on: Human Bonding by Deepam Jain, 176340008.

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Date:

Place:

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Special Thanks to Shivani Nayak, Meera Behera and Nandini Bhosale for lending me their voice for my characters. Also, I am grateful to all the people of opened up about their relationship with their siblings to me and helped me understand the bond better.

I would also like to thank all my friends who have helped in all stages of the film. It would have not been possible for me to make the film without their help.

Lastly, I am very grateful to my family members who have been extremely supportive and understanding throughout the journey.



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ABSTRACT

Human beings are one of the most social species in the world. We meet people, we involve ourselves with them and we bond with them. Some bonds we form from birth, like the bond with our parents. Some we develop over time.

I find beauty in the uniqueness of each bond. Parental bond for example is about love, care and support. Friendship is about fun and mutual understanding. But the most special bond that I find is that of siblings. The bond that siblings share is almost all encompassing. They are your best friends, worst enemies, guides, rivals, inspiration, aspiration, angels, demons and in some cases even subjects for experiments.

My project is about portraying this exceptional relationship in an entertaining and relatable fashion.

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INTRODUCTION

I was born and brought up in a nuclear family with my elder brother. So I have always had a sibling alongside me. He has been my best friend, the person I have shared most of my childhood experiences with. So definitely, he has played a pivotal role in how I grew up and the relationship holds a very special place in my heart.

When I look at children in our family or siblings in general, I always get reminded of my own childhood. Similar shenanigans that I used to do with and alongside my brother. Those fond memories just come flushing in front of my eyes and it is always a pleasure.

So when I was doing my internship, after coming from work I would often think of those memories and illustrate few of my fondest memories. I posted them online and surprisingly got some positive response.

But the beauty didn't just lie in the taste of minute success that I had. It was really in hearing how people related to my illustrations. Some of them even ended up telling their own stories and oh how fun it is to listen to heartfelt stories by people with a huge smile on their face.

As a filmmaker/ entertainer, this was a good enough response for me to decide to attempt an animated show on siblings. A show that portrays the beauty of the relationship while resurfacing some of the audience's favorite memories back.

RESEARCH

PRIMARY RESEARCH

My research has been mostly a lot of stories that I have heard from people which have helped me understand the unique bonds between siblings deeper than I knew from my own experience.

Conversations with people

(names have been changed for anonymity)

Anmol is a middle child in his family, he described how his behavior is different with his elder brother as compared to his younger one. He says,

“I am very comfortable with my elder brother, he knows all my secrets and has been a guide for me. For the younger one I play the same role. I don’t share everything with him, just the part which makes me look like someone he can look upto”

Laxman, youngest of 5 siblings says

“for my sisters, I am just like a toy, they do whatever they like with me, call me by names, kick me, play with me, but I love them.”

Abhinesh, youngest of three (2 elder sisters) says

“I was the subject of experiments for my sisters, I was like a toy to them. Once they even dressed me up in a wedding gown like they would do to their dolls”



Moomal, elder of the two sisters says,

“When I was small we used to fight a lot over everything. We were like enemies in the childhood, now the case is different, we have become friends.”

She also talked about the rivalry in parental love that they had. She says “we used to fight a lot over parental love, argue about whom parents love more. We even divided the time slots for parents, like from morning 6 to evening 6 the mom was mine, the rest of the time she was hers and dad was mine. Now it is clear that mom loves her more and dad love me more.”

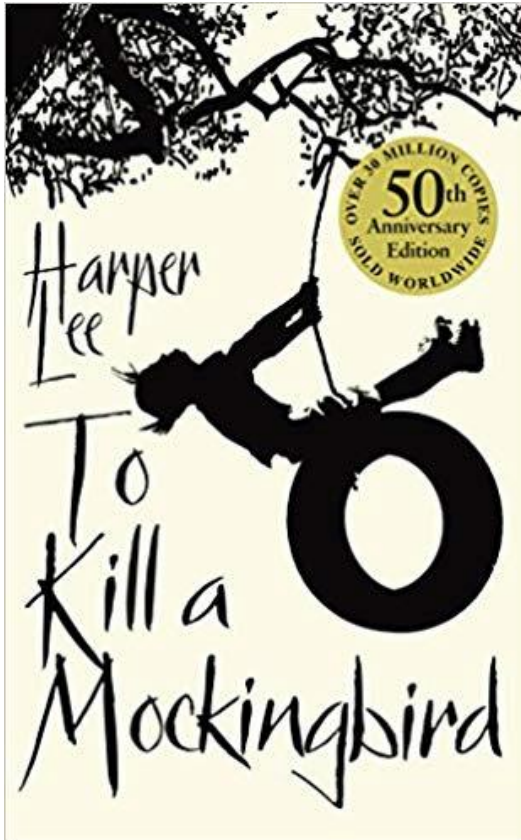
This is an interesting insight, as siblings often know whom the parents love more, which also affects their personalities.

Upon interaction with these and many other people I understood that every sibling relationship has similar aspects, but is unique in its own way. My own relationship is different from all these. But a pattern can certainly be noticed in how siblings behave.

Talking with people have not only given me a deeper insight into the relationship, but also few interesting ideas to showcase in my show.

SECONDARY RESEARCH

Book – To Kill a Mockingbird



An interesting story about the relationship of siblings, portraying the innocence of children and their viewpoint on our society. It was an interesting read that gave insights into the minds of children.

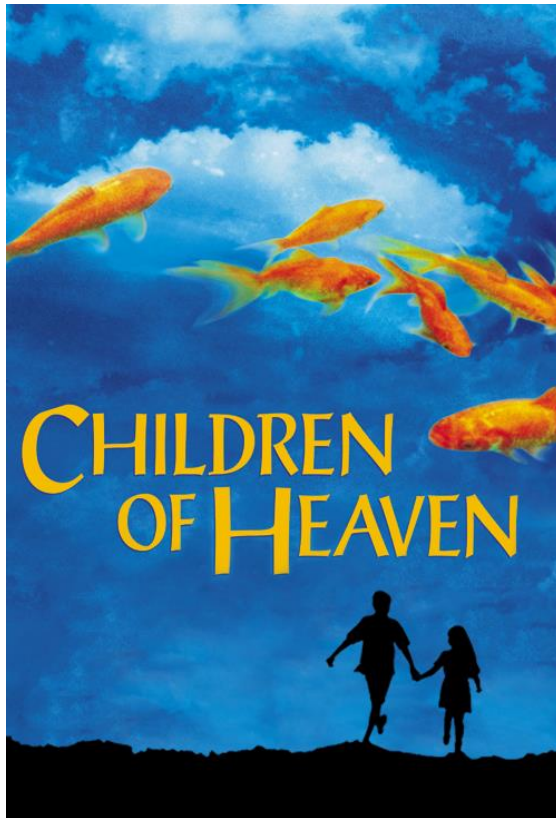
Movies –

Grave of Fireflies by Isao Takahata



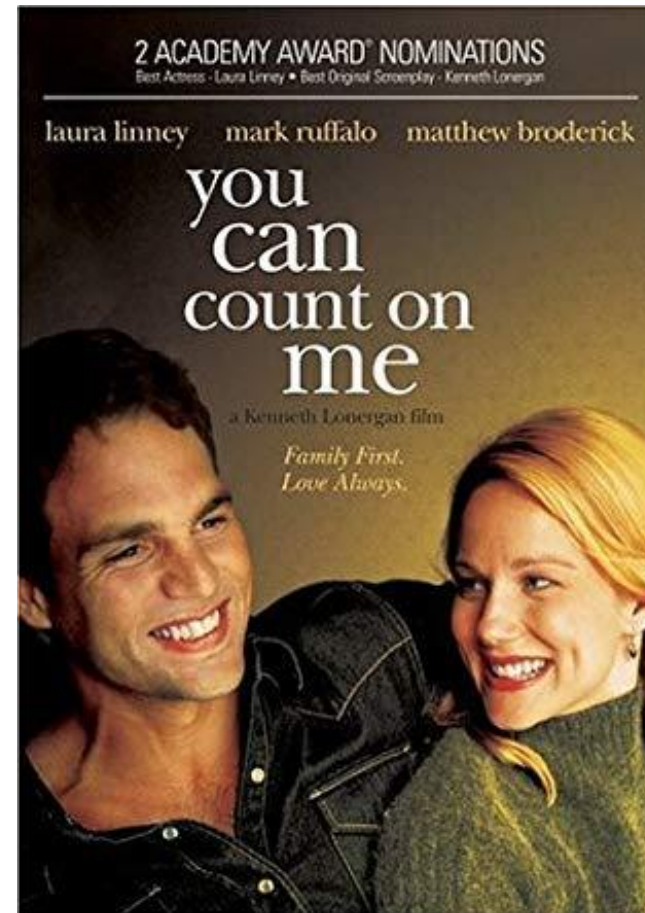
An amazing story depicting how siblings are the constant support of each other during the toughest times.

Children of heaven by Majid Majidi



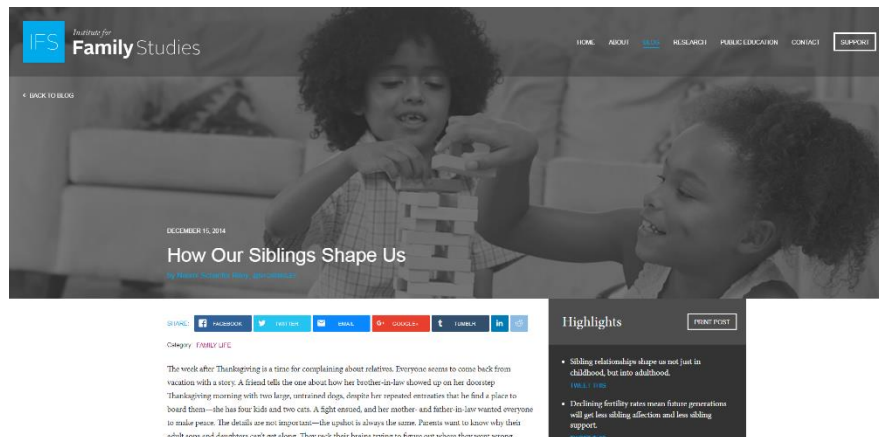
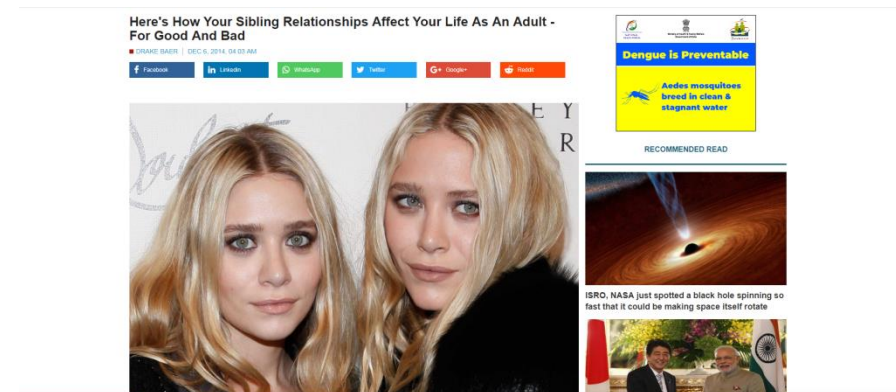
A beautiful film showing how the siblings live in limited resources, how the elder one compromises for the younger one. It is a heart touching portrayal of innocent love and affection of siblings.

You can count on me by Kenneth Lonergan



It was a nice reference for me to understand sibling relationships in adults. They can get very different in lifestyles, but that love, understanding, little fights and constant support still remain intact.

ARTICLES

How siblings shape usOlder siblings might be more influential to a child than parentsHere's How Your Sibling Relationships Affect Your Life As An Adult - For Good And Bad

These articles gave an insight into sibling psychology and how having siblings affect our personalities. Such kind of articles were important for character development.

Apart from these I read some real life sibling stories involving special cases, i.e. if one of the sibling is physically or mentally hampered then how would the relationship change from the website

STORY IDEAS

CONCEPT 1

Episodic gag based show about two brothers who solve crimes. In their rivalry to solve crimes, they end up making a mess out of situation, but then some clue comes out of mess and they work together to finally be able to solve the mystery.

Issues with this concept -

- 1.) The two people need not be siblings for this concept to work, it seems like a concept of two rivals.
- 2.) When tried to think of certain episodes, the concept seemed as if it would get boring after a few episodes.

But this was an interesting start to the project.

CONCEPT 2

This idea is not about gag based show, but a long running story told in 2 minute episodes

Note – all characters in the show are anthropomorphic, i.e. they are animals who behave like humans (e.g. Mickey mouse)

Premise –

The rats possess a scroll containing the secrets to unlocking powers that once made the rats the most powerful species of the world. Sadly, the powers couldn't be controlled and the secrets were banned from use. Since then, no one has ever used those powers and the stories have become a part of a mythology.

The rising Cat Empire, now wants similar prosperity and has thus attacked the rat empire for their secrets. The kidnapped rat king, on being threatened to kill the complete clan, reveals who possesses the scroll trusting the capabilities and smartness of that man. That man, Alok, has given the scroll with some instructions to his children and has sent them to a secret place via a secret pathway.

The cats raid Alok's house and on finding nothing in their house, the cats conclude that the scroll is with his children, Piku and Pihu. Cat people are now looking for the kids.

Now it is up to Piku and Pihu to safeguard the documents and to use the scroll and learn the forbidden arts.

How would Piku and Pihu go about mastering the secrets of the scroll that only one man has managed to accomplish in the entire history of

the world? Even with that can they fight against the ever growing and powerful cat empire?

I personally felt the concept was worth developing more on but on getting feedback I found some flaws in it.

- 1.) It seems too big a story with all wars etc going on to be executed in a 2 minute format
- 2.) It would be tough for me to manage so many characters and places in my first attempt at animation.

So I decided to keep it for some time later when I can work on it and simplify it further.

CONCEPT 3

Episodic series about the daily life adventures of Piku and Pihu.

Piku is a timid and nerdy 10 year old boy and Pihu is an outgoing and cheerful 10 year old girl.

Pihu's outgoing nature would often lead her to troublesome places which she would not worry about but for Piku they would mean grave danger. So worried Piku would muster his courage and reach out to protect his sister. Would he be able to? Even if he does, would Pihu acknowledge him?

I will be working on concept 3 as it has

1. Possibility of many episodes
2. Relatable stories
3. Manageable for the first attempt at storytelling

PILOT EPISODE

Piku and Pihu with Sarkata Bhoot

Piku and Pihu have come on a school trip near the Dow hills in West Bengal. Its night time and they have set up their camps near the forest. They all are sitting around the fire as Pihu is telling ghost stories of the jungles. How there is a headless ghost searches for young children to have their head for his own. This scares Piku and other classmates make fun of him. As Pihu is taking a stand for Piku a firefly comes and interrupts Pihu as she is speaking. She gets all excited and lights up her torch and asks is anyone wanted to join her to catch it. No one said yes. She went alone chasing it into the woods. Piku makes a failed attempt to stop her.

There is a clear light coming from the torch that Pihu has, but suddenly that light goes off. Piku gets nervous and takes a torch and runs towards his sister. He walks nervously into the forest, evading cats and other creepy creatures. Then he hears a sound from inside the jungle. He runs towards it without caring much about the scary jungle. He just wants to protect her. Running from his monsters he trips and falls on ground. Opening his eyes he finds a whole bunch of fireflies, some of which surrounding her sister. Seeing this Piku becomes really angry and

they both have an argument about how Pihu is careless about her safety. As they fight, Piku's torch falls on the ground and its light points straight to the headless ghost (or at least something looking like it)

SCRIPT

TITLE APPEARS ON THE CENTER OF THE SCREEN

FADE TO BLACK

A Campfire near the Dow Jungle in West Bengal

A group of 8 children of about 8 to 12 years of age are sitting around a campfire. Most of them look scared while some of them pretend to be brave as Pihu tells the tale of the ghost of the jungle

PIHU

... wo Sarkata bhut saalon se inhi jungalon me bhatak raha hai, kisi bachche ki talaash me, jiska sar wo apne upar laga sake

Children around gasp

PIHU

(screams in fear)

OMG!! Piku!!! Tere piche kya hai!!!

Piku screams and everyone starts laughing

RANDOM GIRL

Tries to scare Piku with an ant with the intention of mocking him
Oye Piku, dekh ek chinti, kah idar to nahi lag raha ?

PIHU

Arey o, tu kya dara rhi h mere bhai ko? Khud bhi bheegi billi ki tarah baithi thi. Aage kiya na ..

Spots a firefly

PIHU

Woaahhhh!! Who all would like to catch one??

On receiving no response from the audience, she rolls her eyes and looks at Piku and says

PIHU

Piku, lagta hai tu akela darpok nahi hai yaha. Anyway, me chali
Grabs the torch and walks fast towards the firefly

PIKU (scared for Pihu)

Pihu ruk, akele mat ja jungle me

He keeps staring into the jungle at the light of Pihu's flame and then to the girl

RANDOM GIRL

Abhi to pakka gayi teri behen
(does the gesture of neck splitting)

Piku's fear intensifies and just then the torch flame goes off. He gets even more anxious and takes a torch and runs towards the jungle. Slows down in anxiety as he reaches the start of the jungle. Moves a little forward and he encounters a cat

PIKU

Aah,

The cat scowls at him and walks its path

Pagal Pihu, akeli jaane kaha chali gayi

*Walks even more carefully now to the place where he last saw the flame,
until he hears a faint sound of Pihu. He realizes it is the ghost*

PIKU

Shit

*He moves faster when he thinks of it. In his path comes an owl with
glowing eyes glaring at him to which he pays attention but decides to
avoid. Next comes a spider web, in which he gets caught and as he tries to
remove it he trips over a small stone and falls on his face. On looking up
he finds a whole swarm of beautiful fireflies lowing in the night*

PIKU

(Lets out a gasp)

PIHU

Mast haina!

PIKU

Notices Pihu and gets angry

Nahi, nahi h mast, Tu pagal hai kya? Akeli aa gayi!

PIHU

Haa aa gayi. Tu mat bata mujhe ab kya karna hai

PIKU

Ek to me tujhe bachane aaya uparse tu mujhse aise baat kar rhi hai?

PIHU

Kisse bachane? Aur tu bachaega? Shakal dekhi hai?

PIKU

(Livid) takes her torch

Ab aa jana akeli.

PIHU

(ANGRY)

Piku torch de

Piku

Nahi dunga

Pihu

*Tries to take the torch and in their struggle it falls and points at a tree
looking like a headless ghost*

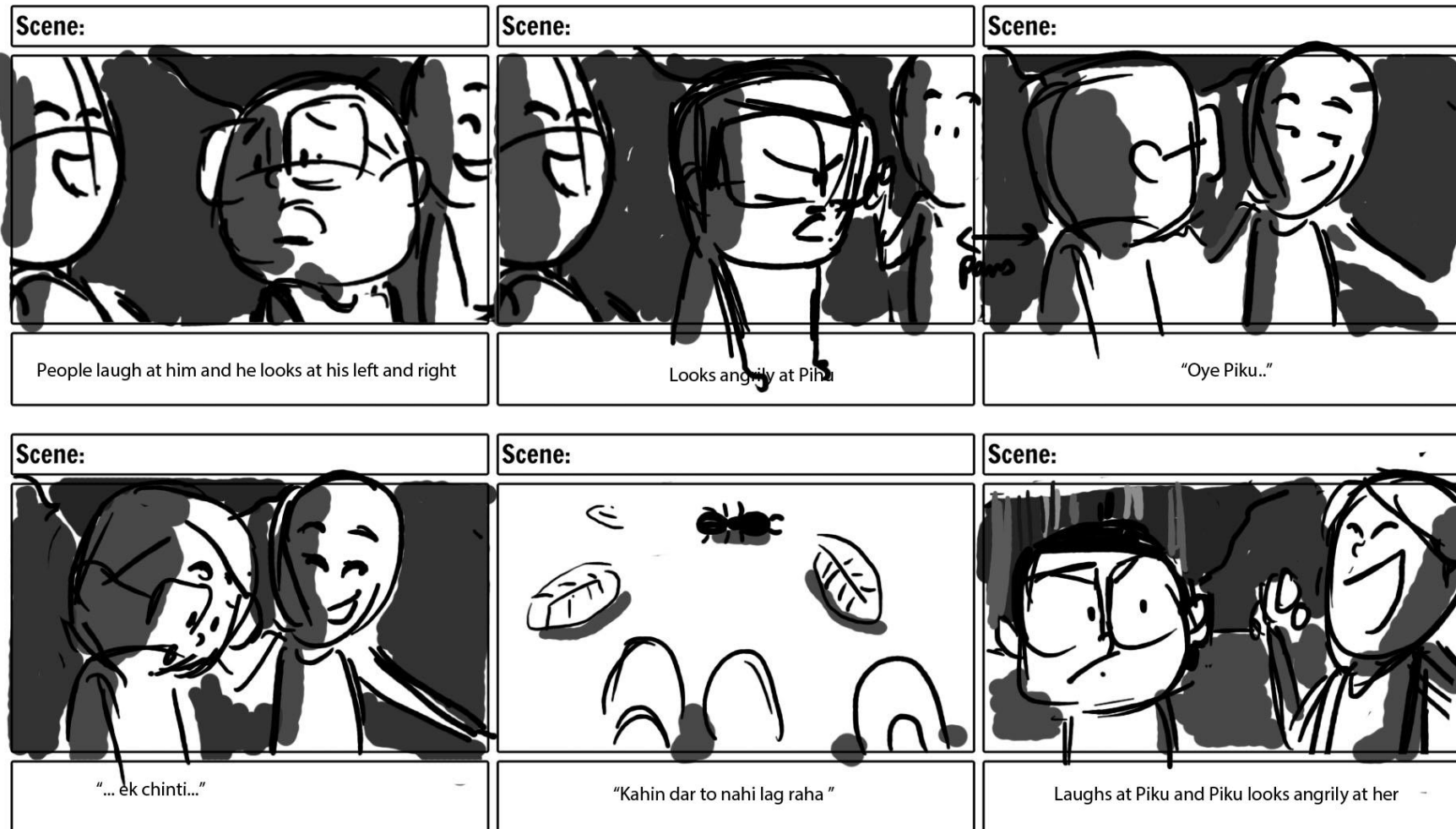
(Blackout)

Both scream in fear

STORYBOARDS

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
title appears against a dark night sky and fades as we pan down to the scene	Wo sarkata bhut saalon se inhi jungalon me bhatak raha hai...	...kisi bacche ki talash me ...
Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
jiska sir wo apne upar laga sake	looks at Piku with a scared look on her face and says, "Oh my god Piku, Tere Piche kya hai".	Piku Screams in fear

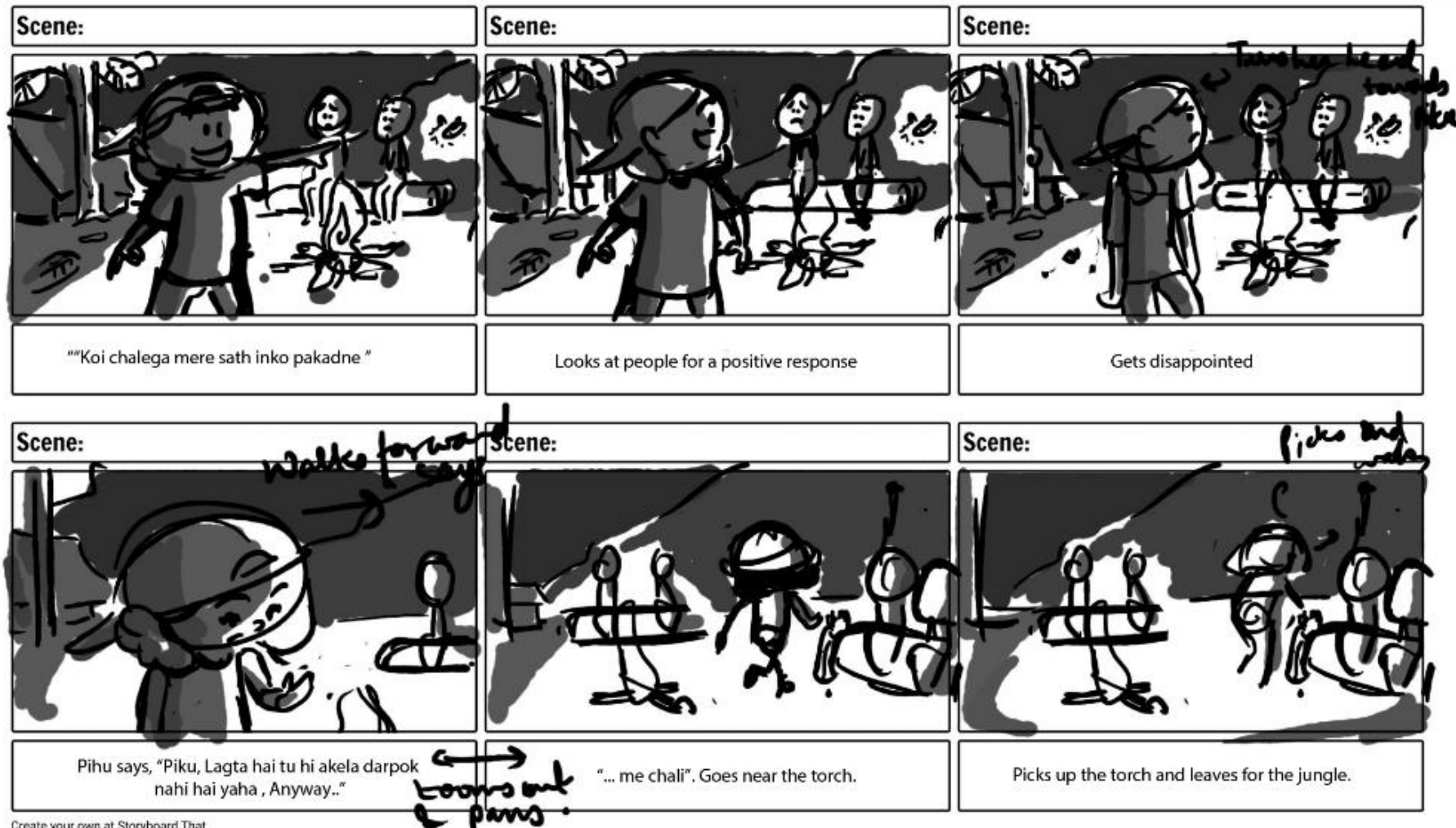
Create your own at Storyboard That



Create your own at Storyboard That



Create your own at Storyboard That



Create your own at Storyboard That



Create your own at Storyboard That

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
		
	Piku jumps of the log of wood to pick up the torch	Runs towards the jungle
Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
		
Panting heavily as he reaches the jungle	Looks at the big forest and gets overwhelmed	Gulps

Create your own at Storyboard That



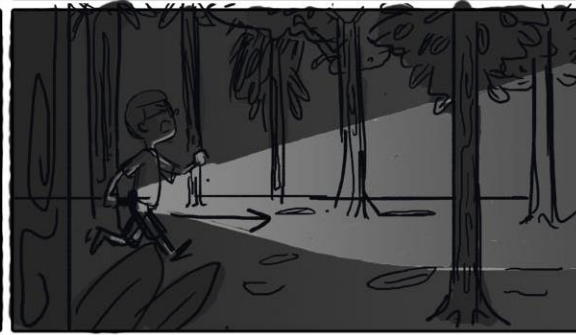
Create your own at Storyboard That

Scene:



crosses the owl

Scene:



runs away and hears a sound

Scene:



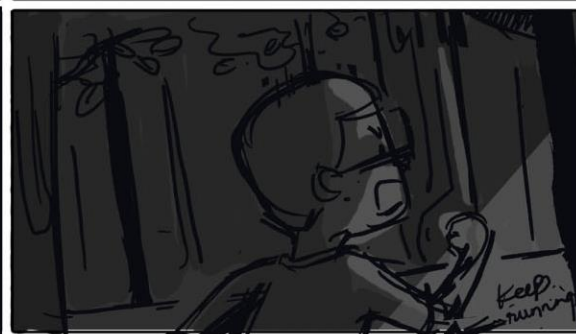
stops on hearing the sound

Scene:



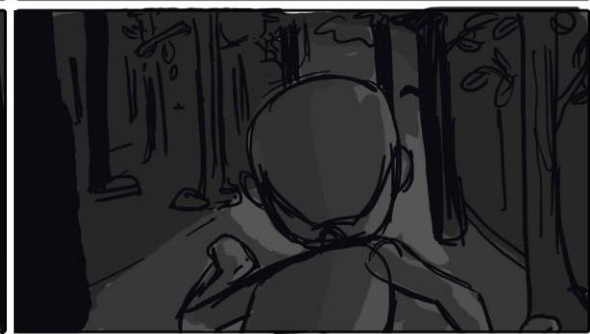
Realises that Pihu may have been caught by the headless ghost and panics

Scene:

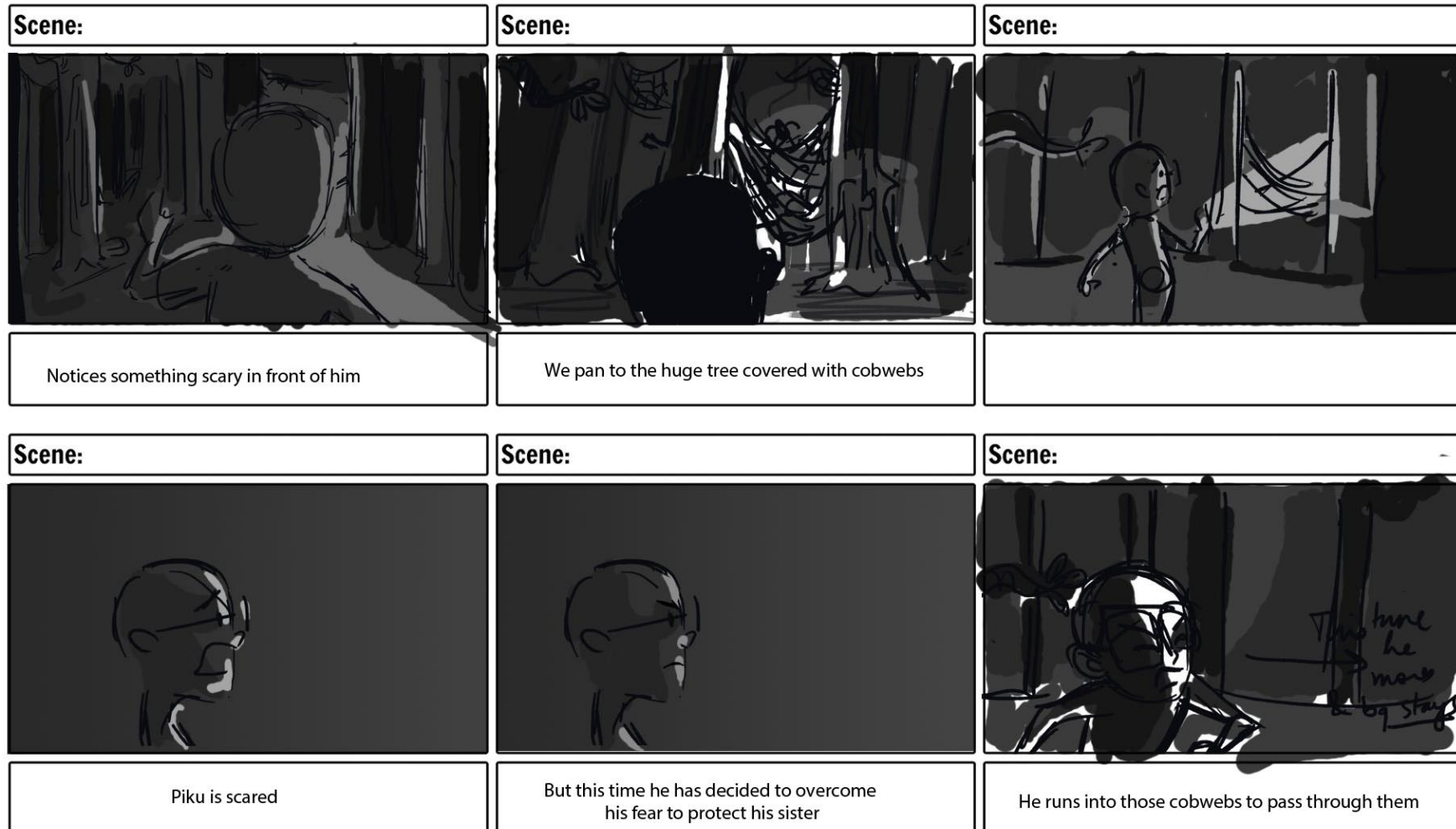


Runs towards the source of sound

Scene:



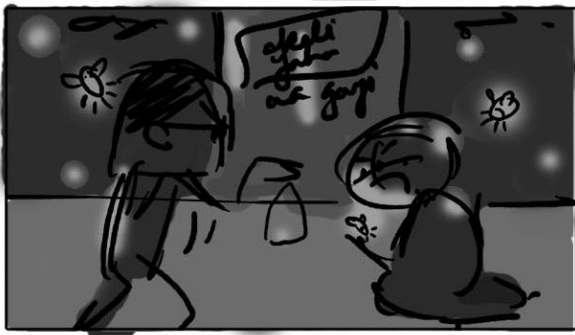
Create your own at Storyboard That



Create your own at Storyboard That

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
	He has crossed the tree, with the cobwebs sticking to his facet	In attempts to remove them he trips over a stone and falls
Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
	He opens his eyes...	.. to see a beautiful view of fireflies glowing above in the dark

Create your own at Storyboard That

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
		
looks at fireflies with wonder and turns	Piku - Woah Pihu(voice) - Mast hai na Sees his sister holding a firefly	
Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
		
Piku (angrily walking forward), "Nahi, Nahi hai mast..."	"...Tu pagal hai kya, akeli aa gayi"	Pihu," Haa aa gayi, Tu ..."

Create your own at Storyboard That



Create your own at Storyboard That

Scene:



Piku, "ab aa jana akeli"

Scene:



Pihu, "Piku torch de"

Scene:



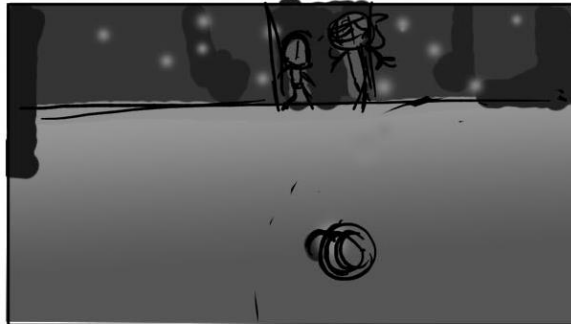
Pihu tries to snatch the torch out of Pihu's hand

Scene:



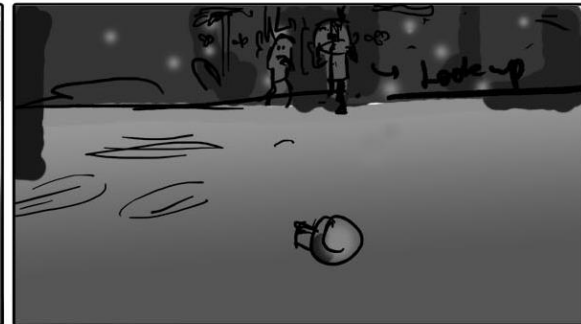
Piku, to avoid giving it to Pihu throws it away

Scene:



The torch falls on the ground

Scene:



They both look up where the torch points

Create your own at Storyboard That

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
		
An image looking like a headless ghost is visible	Both scream in fear	
Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
		

Create your own at Storyboard That

STYLE EXPLORATION

INFLUENCES

Here are some of the styles that I took inspiration from



CONCEPT ART

A Concept art I made illustrating the look and feel of the campsite.



CHARACTER EXPLORATIONS

PIKU – Piku is an 8 year old boy. He is a nerdy and timid boy. He is scared of all things that are unknown to him. So he keeps on reading to find information about things. That really doesn't help with the fear, but does give him to confidence in the ability to defend himself. He loves his sister Pihu but is irritated by her extremely outgoing and careless behavior because of which she keeps falling in trouble.

PIHU–Pihu is the elder sister of Piku. She is a 10 year old outgoing girl and unlike Piku she is very brave (which Piku, sees as careless). She loves hanging out with people and doing things that others would find scary. She thinks of Piku as too scared and often mockes and taunts him for it. She is also irritated by the efforts of Piku to “save” her as she doesn't believe that she is in trouble and even if she is, Piku cannot save her. But it doesn't mean she doesn't love him. Piku is very precious to Pihu. She wants him to become a stronger, more confident person and loves mocking him to see his cute response.

PIKU EXPLORATIONS

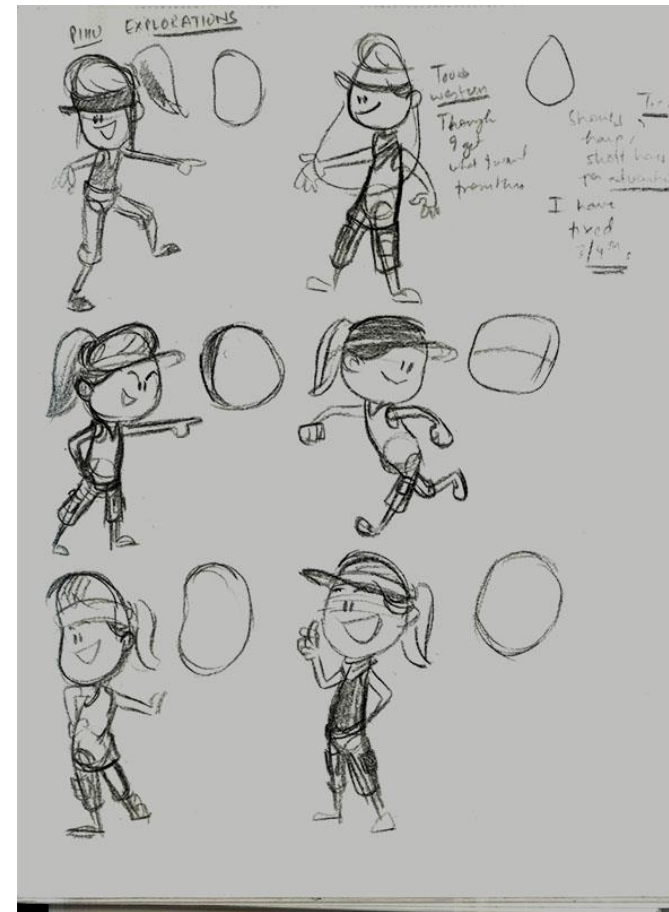
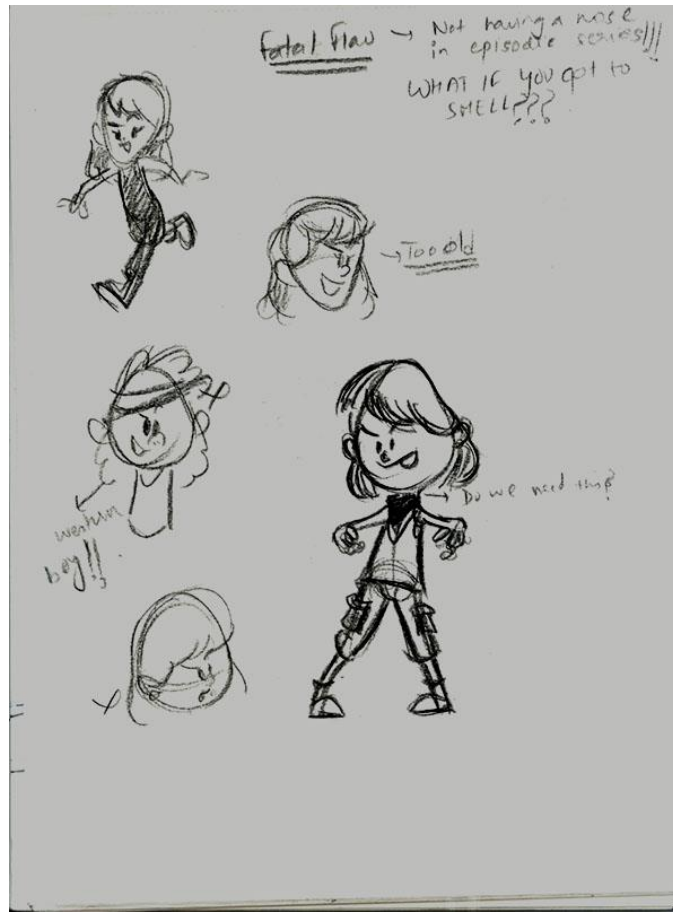


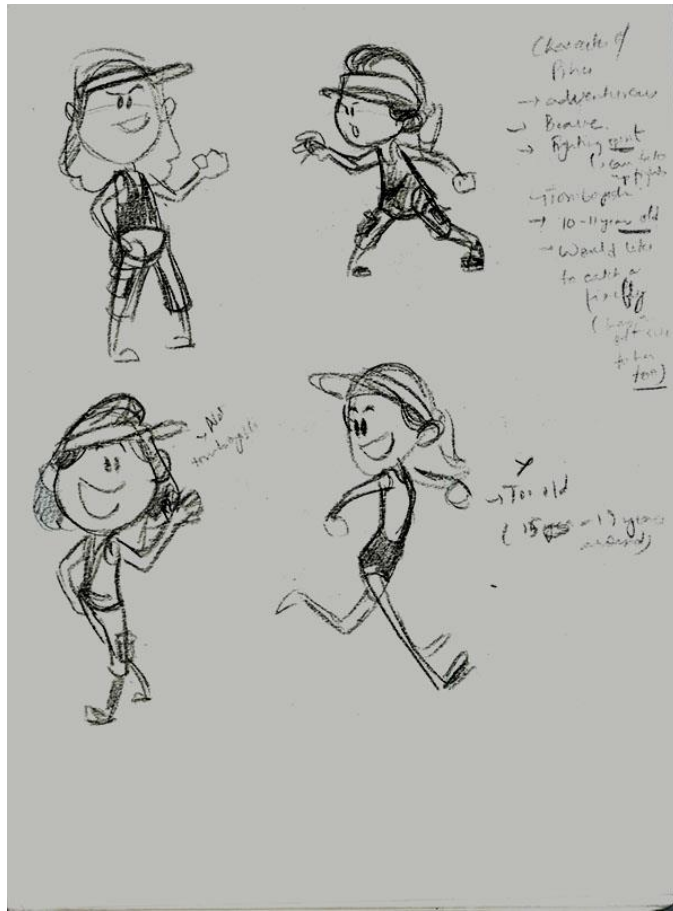


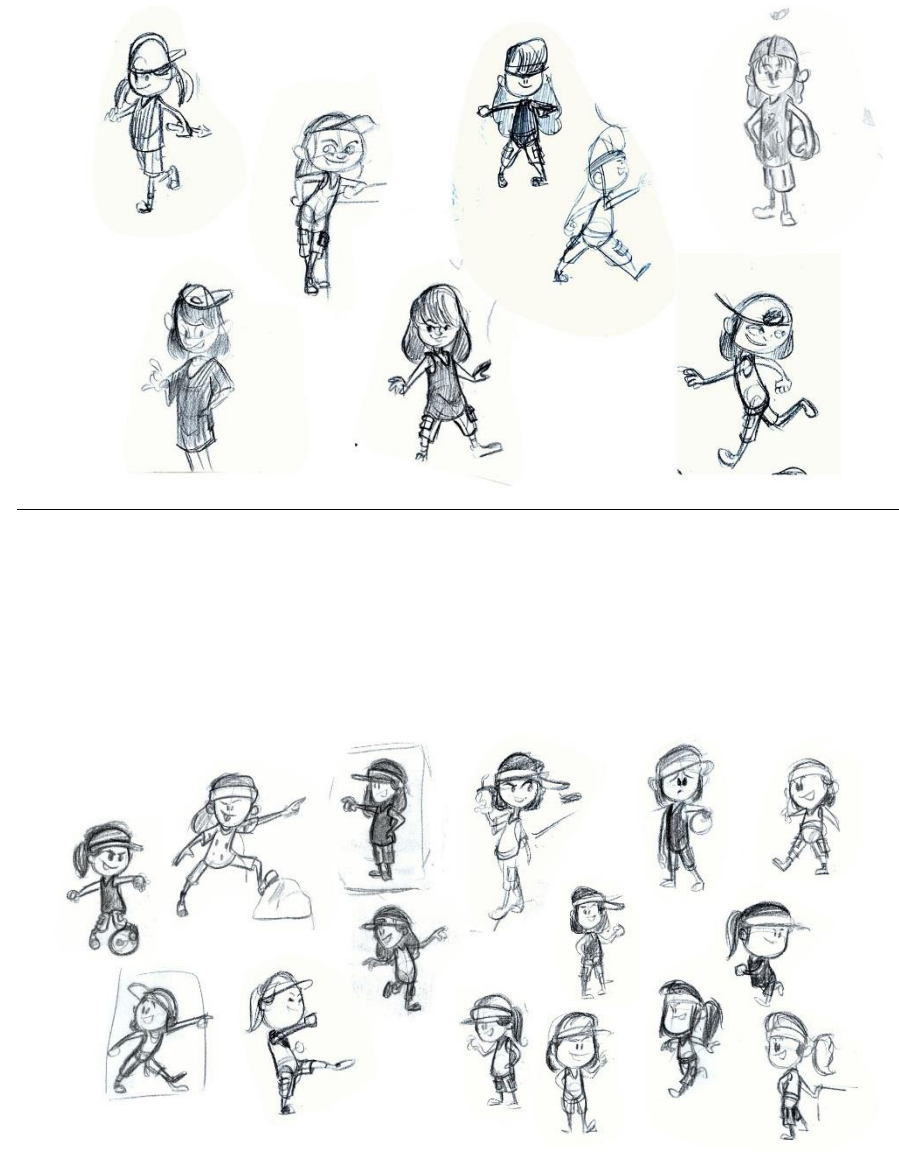
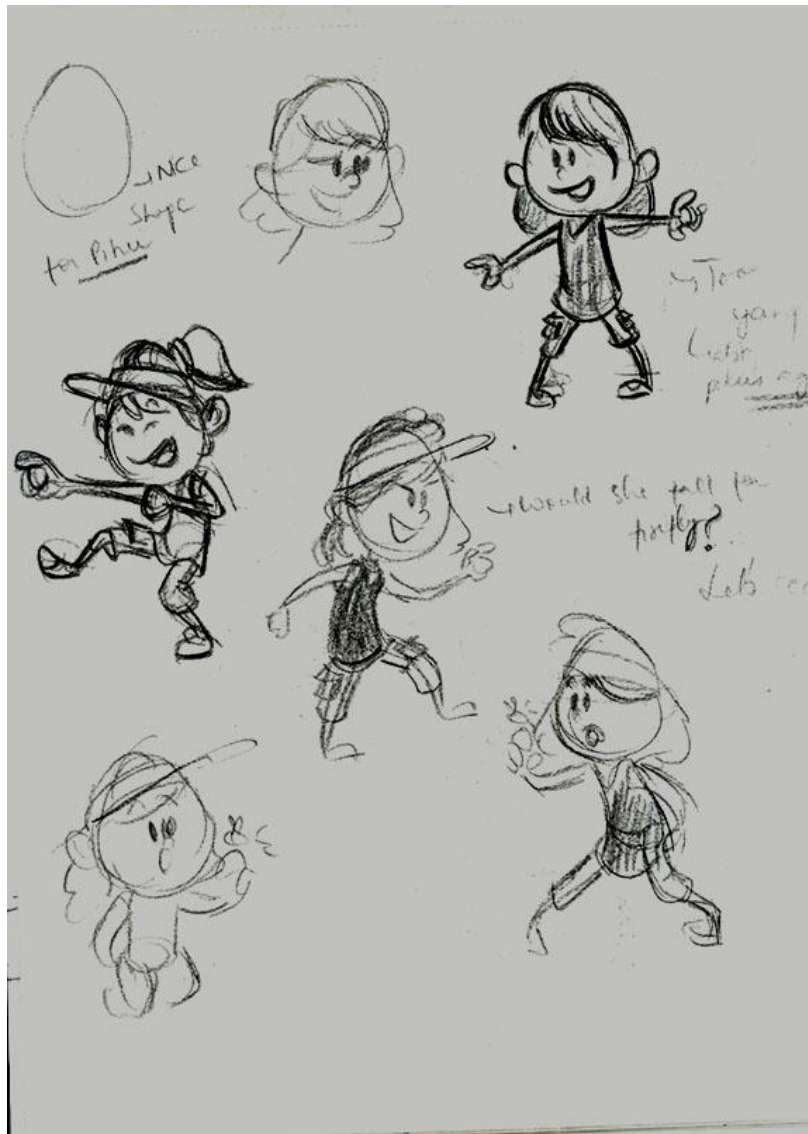
PIKU FINAL DESIGN



PIHU EXPLORATIONS



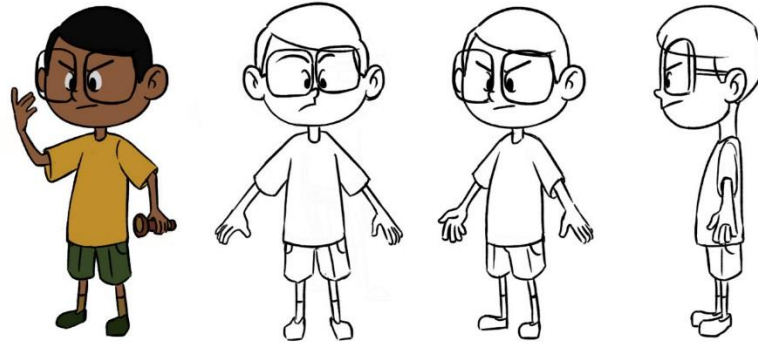




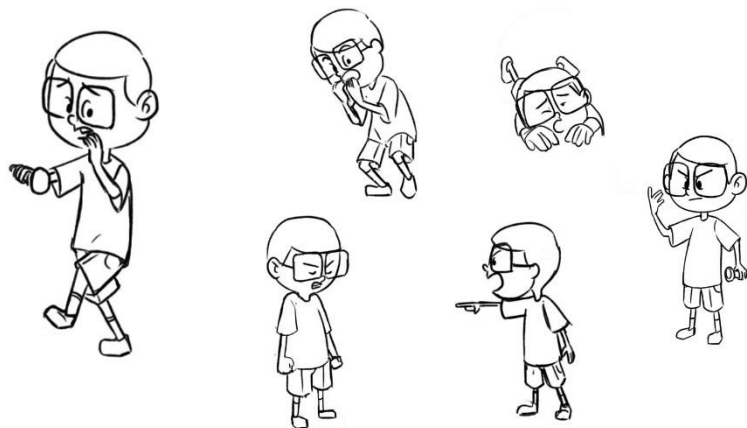
PIHU FINAL DESIGN



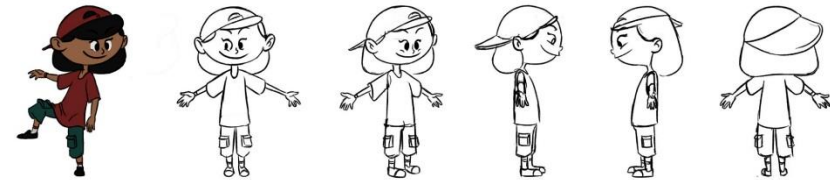
TURNAROUNDS AND MODEL SHEETS



Piku turnaround



Piku model sheet



Pihu turnarounds



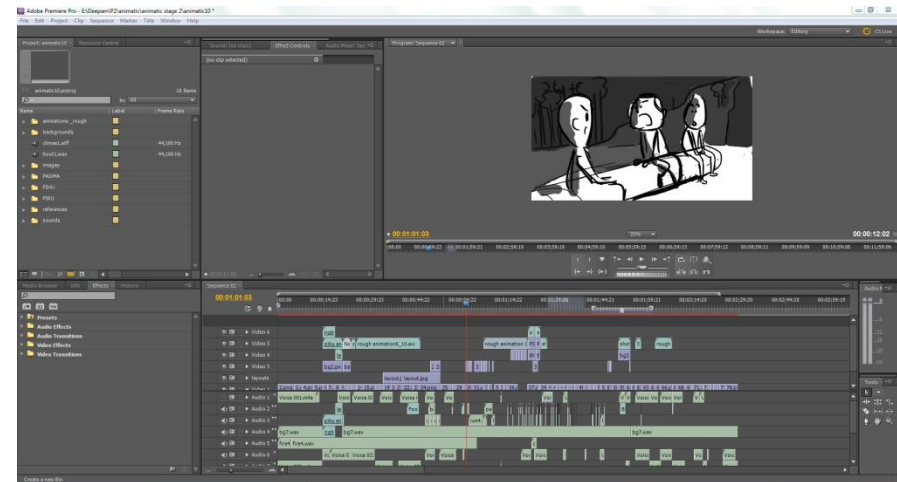
Pihu model sheet

ANIMATIC

To create the animatic, I arranged the storyboard panels on a timeline in Adobe Premiere Pro. Then I recorded dialogues and downloaded sound effects. According to the sounds and my intuition I estimated the time each shot would take to finish and gave that much time to it in the timeline.

Upon playing the animatic, few panels were scaled and panned to improve on the storytelling.

Now that I have timing for each shot along with its sounds, I can start animating.

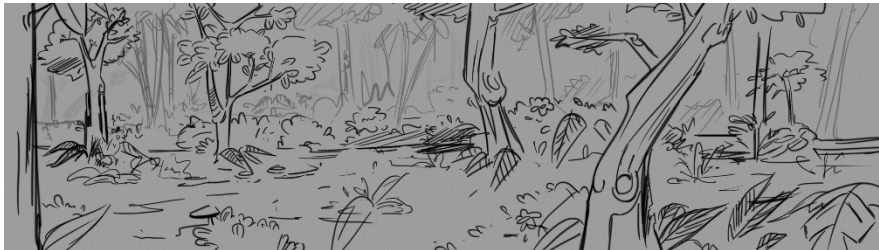


Animatic for my film. It can be noticed how many layers of sound effects (The green bars) have been applied simultaneously to create the desired sound.

ANIMATION PRODUCTION

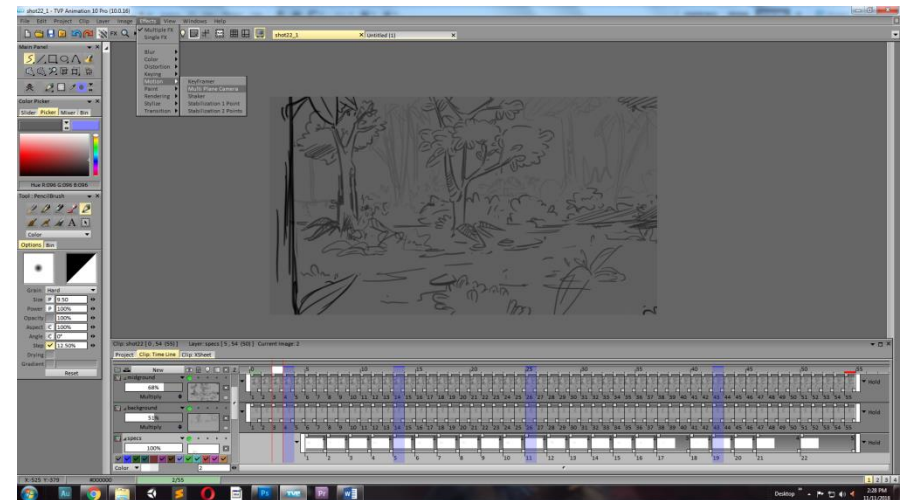
PROCESS

1. A rough layout is created in Adobe Photoshop in multiple layers for foreground, mid-ground and background. It is important to make the layout in multiple layers because
 - It gives us the freedom to place in character at any depth.
 - It also makes it easier to control depth by manipulating the opacity of the layer.
 - Also, it is essential to achieve parallax which is used highly in my film.



Big backgrounds like these were created (width and height in multiples of 1920 and 1080 pixels). Many changes and additions are still required at this stage but these are good enough to provide a layout for Character animation

2. These rough layouts were then exported (with layers) to TVpaint. Multi-plane camera was used for panning the background and parallax if needed.



It can be noticed that the layers are kept on multiply to be able to see the layer below (it won't change the colors because it would be colored in Photoshop with same layer properties). A greater sense of depth is achieved by manipulating opacity.

- 3.) I started rough animation now. I kept the head and body on different layers for my own convenience. I started with the keyframes, timed them and when I was happy with the action, I started creating the breakdowns and in betweens while constantly checking the motion



- 6.) Composited the shots in Adobe After Effects.
7.) All the fireflies were animated in After effects

- 4.) I colored each drawing with the fill tool in TVPaint. It allows to fill the insides of all the frames by filling only first frame. Then I filled the rest of the details in each individual frame.
5.) Then I created the final Backgrounds with colors in it. I chose not to keep any outlines for the backgrounds to save time.

SOUND DESIGN

DIALOGUES

It was an interesting challenge to get the dialogues acted out in a correct fashion. I had to know how exactly I want the dialogues, what emotion and mood is it that must be reflected in the acting. For this I first spoke all the dialogues myself and when I was content with the delivery I reached out to the voice actors Shivani Nayak (Pihu), Meera Behera (Piku) and Nandini Bhosale (the girl who mocks Piku).

I explained the story and the mood of each scene to them. I made them hear my delivery and asked them to better it and add their own interpretation to the scene. We took multiple takes of the same dialogue to see which one feels the best.

All the voice actors did a fantastic job in delivering the emotions I had in my mind through their voice and thus adding another layer of life in my characters

SOUND EFFECTS

The one week session with PM Satheesh sir was of great help in this part of the film. My process was to download all the sound effects that I need and then juxtapose them together in Adobe Premiere Pro to get the desired sound effect.

CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

This is the first finished film that I have attempted so naturally there were many challenges I faced.

First challenge was to come up with a good story. I had a fixed concept about the show in mind, but it was still difficult to decide on one story that would fit the pilot episode as it would be the most important episode and should represent each aspect of the show accurately.

But the biggest challenge was to finish it in the given time, since I have never done a film before, I couldn't estimate how much time it would take for me to execute each part. Hence it was difficult to stick to the plan I created.

Other than that it was really challenging to get my characters to act. I realized that animation is not about drawing or anatomy, it is just only and only about acting out personalities. You can have crazy looking drawings but you can still animate beautifully. This is one of the biggest learning I had in relation to animation.

One other thing that I realized was that decision making is the most time consuming part of any process. It was extremely difficult for me to decide on my storyboard and on the animation of some of my shots and

thus I naturally spent a lot of time on those. I realize that in such tight deadlines one should have the ability to make fast decisions and act.

Maintaining consistency throughout the film is another big challenge but I guess practice could resolve that.

Overall it was a lot of fun making this film. It was challenging, both mentally and physically but is equally rewarding in terms of learning, growth and of course the output.

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