

An abstract painting with a textured surface. The top half features warm, earthy tones of yellow, orange, and brown, while the bottom half transitions into cooler blues and purples. The brushstrokes are visible, creating a sense of depth and movement.

# Daniah Saifan

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Illustration 1  
Final Project

# Original Story

## The Astrologer

A man who lived a long time ago believed that he could read the future in the stars. He called himself an Astrologer, and spent his time at night gazing at the sky.

One evening he was walking along the open road outside the village. His eyes were fixed on the stars. He thought he saw there that the end of the world was at hand, when all at once, down he went into a hole full of mud and water.

There he stood up to his ears, in the muddy water, and madly clawing at the slippery sides of the hole in his effort to climb out.

His cries for help soon brought the villagers running. As they pulled him out of the mud, one of them said:

"You pretend to read the future in the stars, and yet you fail to see what is at your feet! This may teach you to pay more attention to what is right in front of you, and let the future take care of itself."

"What use is it," said another, "to read the stars, when you can't see what's right here on the earth?"

*Take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves.*



# Project proposal

I want to reinterpret Aesop's fable "The Astrologer" for my final project. It is a short tale about a man, the astronomer, who goes out every evening to observe the stars. He does so because he is trying to read the future in the stars. However, on one night of his usual walks, he is so distracted looking up at the sky as he walks that he fails to notice his surroundings and falls into a well full of mud and water. His screams when falling alerted the villagers – neighbors – and they came running to help. They helped pull him out of the well as one of them said: "You pretend to read the future in the stars, and yet you fail to see what is at your feet! This may teach you to pay more attention to what is right in front of you and let the future take care of itself." The moral of the story is to focus on the now rather than waste the moment thinking about the future. And in the literal sense, if you ignore your surroundings, accidents may occur. I chose this fable because I believe the message is valuable to everyone of all ages and in most situations. We live in a society that, at times, is too focused on the future; we miss living in the moment. For example, at a group hangout, one or more people can be too distracted and focused on photographing every minute of the day, from the food to activity, that they miss out on joining in the fun, etc.

For my version of this fable, I'm giving it a more realistic outlook. The changes I will be making are regarding the setting and activity. Instead of being located in the suburbs, it will be in the city. Instead of the man distracted by looking up at the stars that he falls into a well, the man is taking a photograph on his phone of the stars/skyline, he fails to notice the open cellar door as he walks down the sidewalk, and so he falls. The last change I'm making is for the villagers, especially the person who lectures the astronomer about paying attention. To make it fit the city vibe, I will add a character walking down the sidewalk as well, and this man shouts for the "astronomer" to be careful right as he's falling into the cellar.

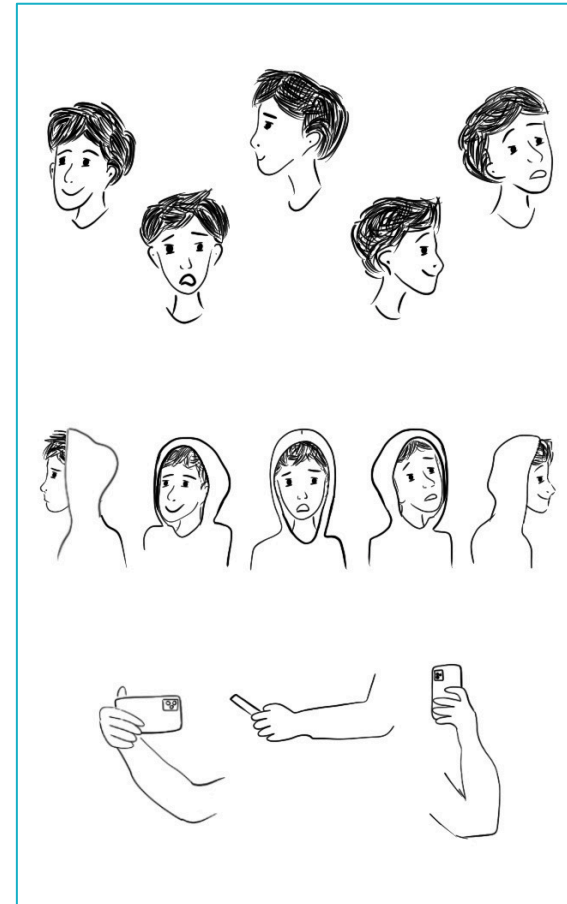
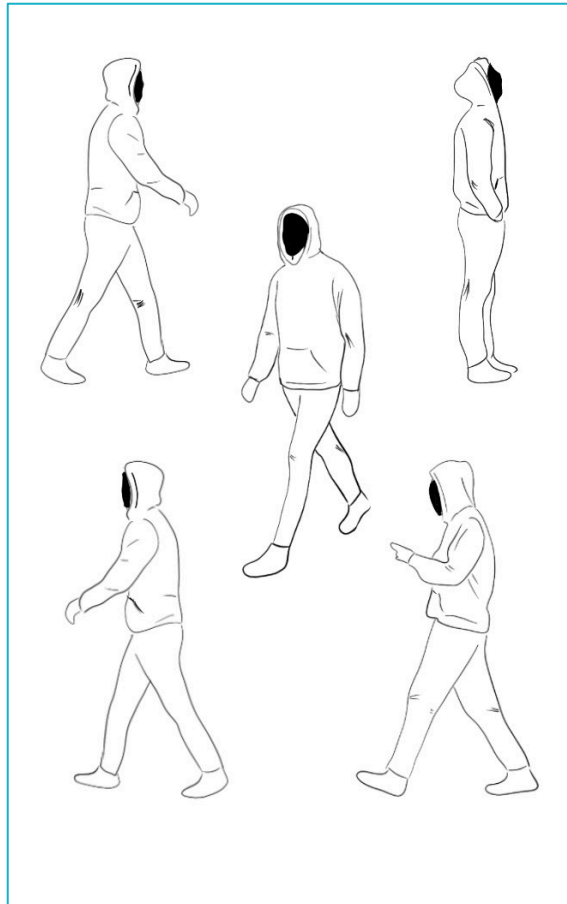
- Boy walking
- NY streets
- Cellar doors
- Falling down movement
- Hoodies/Jean
- Phone
- Facial expressions
- 360 perspectives
- color palette

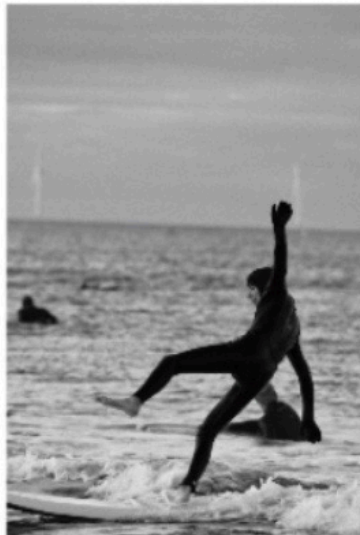
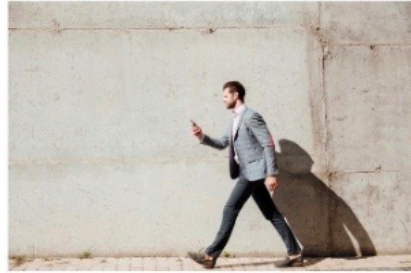


# Word Web

# Character Design

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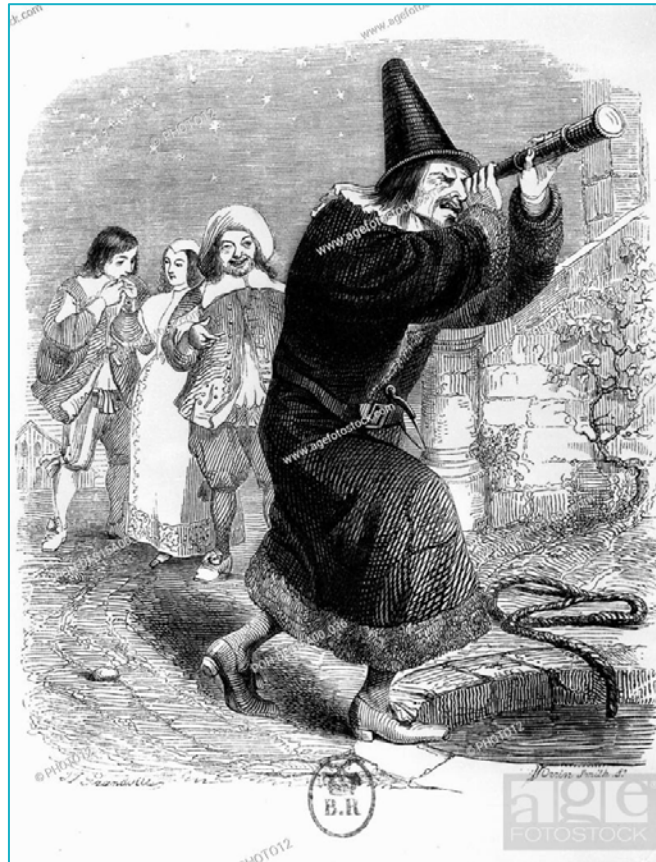


# Reference Images

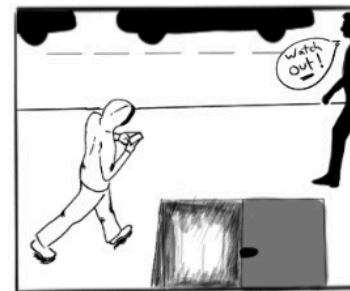
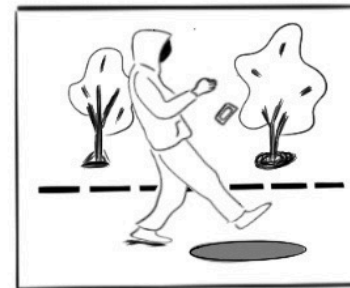
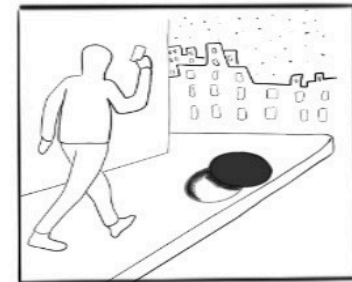
# Inspiration Images

## *Original Illustrations*

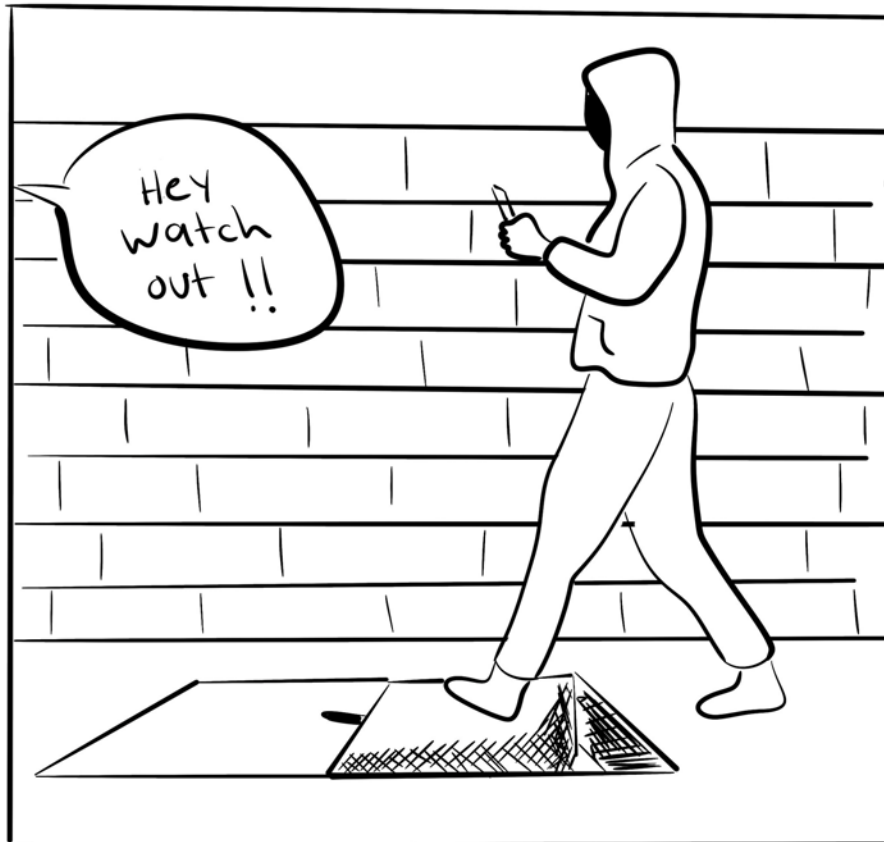
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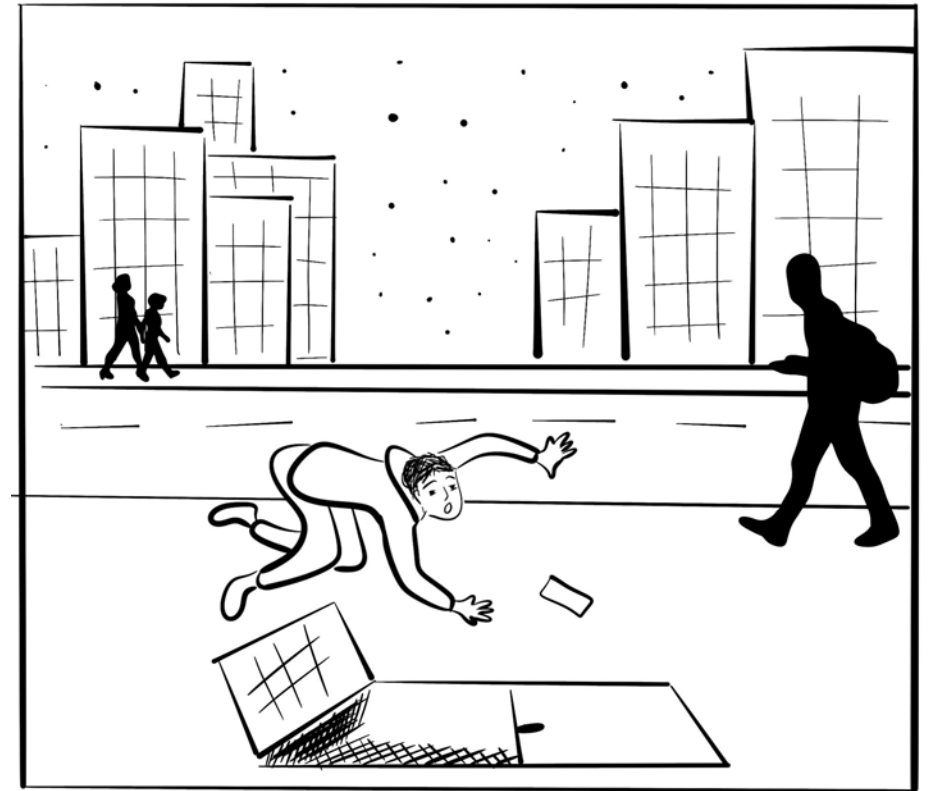
# Thumbnail Sketches



# Concept Sketches



Concept #1



Concept #2



# Color Studies

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Final Art

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An abstract painting with a textured surface. The top half is dominated by warm, golden-yellow and ochre tones, while the bottom half features vibrant blues, purples, and magentas. The brushstrokes are visible and expressive, creating a sense of depth and movement. A white, hand-drawn rounded rectangle frames the central text.

# The End

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Thank You!