

Final Narrative Illustration



By Alex Grenader

Project Proposal

The objective of this project is to select one folktale or myth from ancient times to modern day and create a narrative illustration from it. We are allowed to make any changes we wish to make the story fit our depiction of the Folktale.

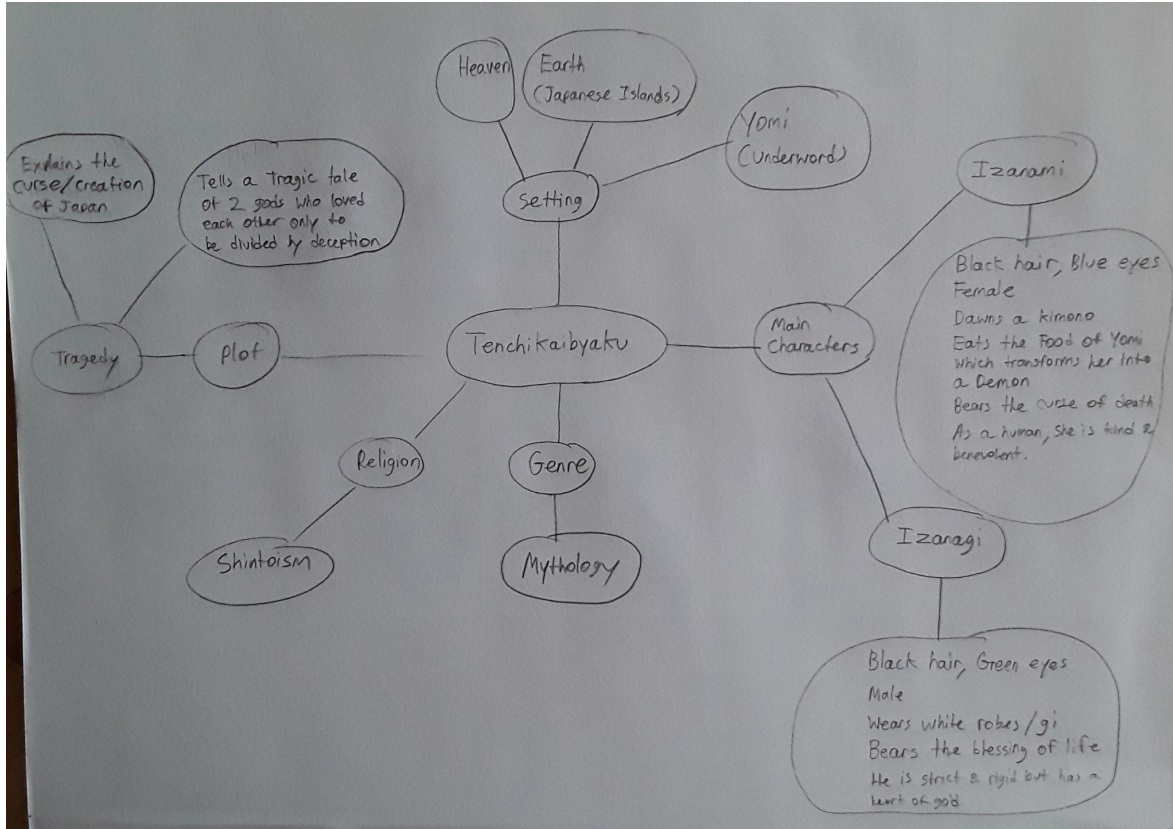
The myth that I am illustrating is the Tenchikaibyaku, The Curse and Creation of Japan. It is a tragic tale that highlights the concepts of love, life, deception, death and sorrow. I chose this particular myth not only due to the fact it is interesting, but also because it showcases the culture of Shintoists and their perspective of the world. I firmly believe that I can illustrate this legendary while remaining faithful to the original lore.

The changes I am making to this depiction are the appearance of Izanagi and Izanami and their personalities. The original paintings that depicted the two gods were emotionless and didn't seem human at all. Instead, I want to make them have human emotions and be somewhat appealing to look as opposed to their original depictions. The demographic is mostly catered towards young adults between the ages of 19-25, who are interested in Japanese mythology and appreciate a comic book art style.

Story

The **Tenchikaibyaku** is a Shinto Japanese legend that details the creation and curse of Japan which was told for generations since 700 AD. The story follows the 2 gods Izanagi and Izanami, who were responsible for the birth of Japan by taking the jeweled spear from heaven and dipping it into the ocean, resulting in the creation of the Japanese Islands. They pledged their loyalty and dedication to protect this newly born land and adventured to the surface world to explore their new creation. After several years of expeditions across the newly birthed islands, Izanami was expected to give birth to the fire god, Kagutsuchi. However, upon labor she was scorned by fire her son produced, leaving her tattered from the flames of his birth. With his heart filled with immense grief, Izanagi decides to travel to Yomi (The Underworld) to bring back his beloved wife and plead for her to return to the surface, Izanami, desperate and to go back her dear husband searched for any means to escape Yomi and was tantalized by the false promise of power and safety of her husband and son from the Food of Yomi., Izanami ate the Food of Yomi from the Furnace of Hell and was horrified by her appearance, now bound to being Yomi's ruler with no means of escape. She tried to plea to the god of the underworld to let her go but to no avail. Izanagi travels further into Yomi and finds Izanami who is afraid to look at him. Izanami asks Izanagi to promise not to look at her as she will attempt to cleanse herself and seek a way to escape from the curse. Wanting to see her again, he glanced at her real form upon striking his torch and found that she ate the Food of Yomi, becoming a demon with her flesh burned and full of maggots. The furious Izanami, unable to hold back her restrain from the curse, chases after Izanagi who barely manages to escape by evading the demons she sent after him. Izanagi escaped Yomi and blocked the way to the underworld with a boulder and his wife screamed "If that is how you are going to be, then I shall kill 1,000 people every day." Izanagi retorts claiming "Then, I shall give life to 1,500 people every day." Thus this is the eternal curse of Japan and its origin.

Word Web



References

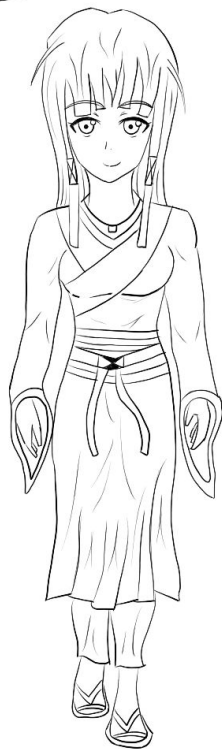


Character Designs

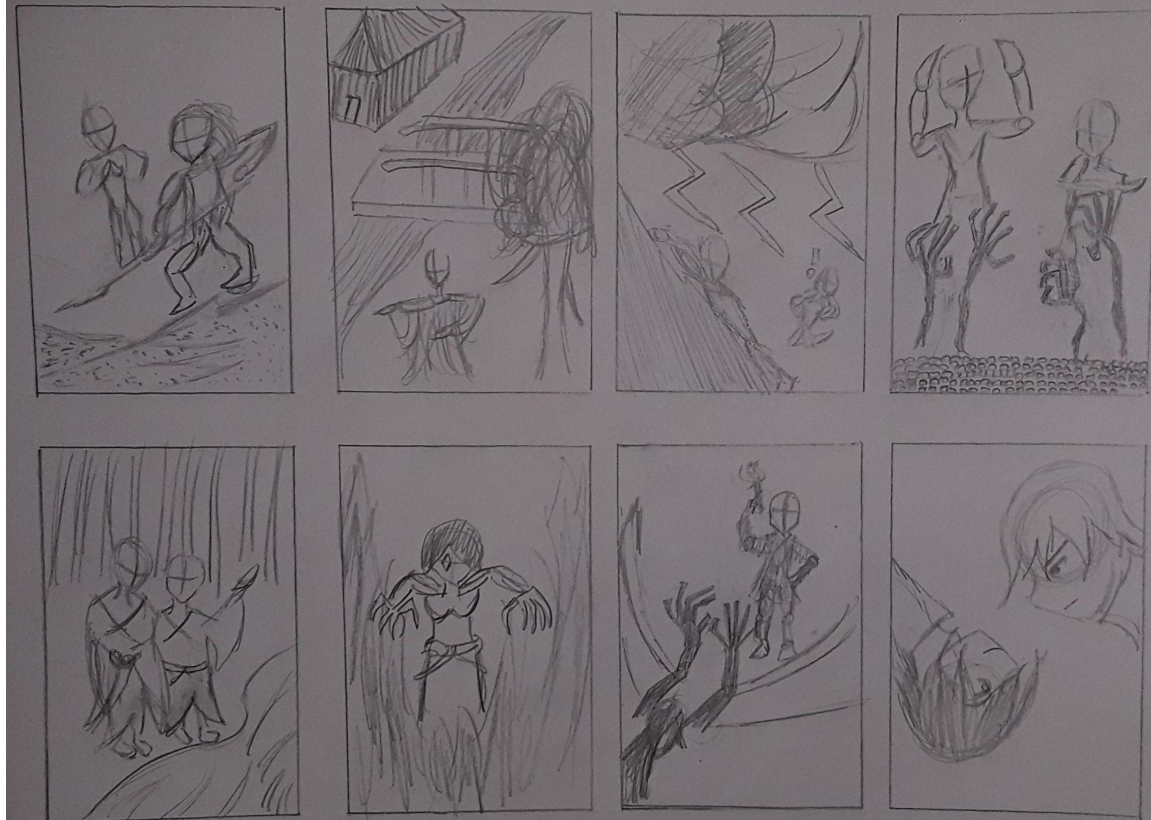
Izanagi



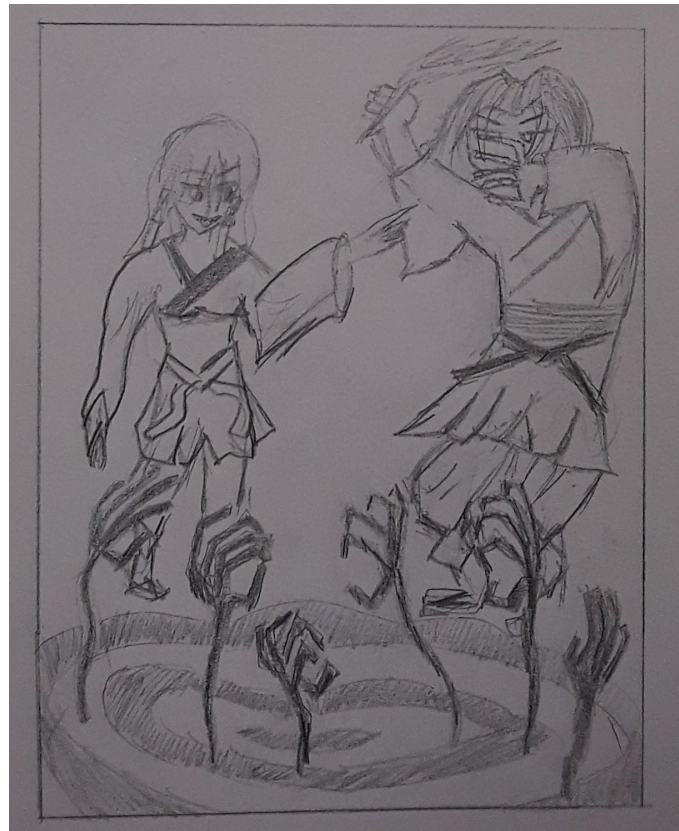
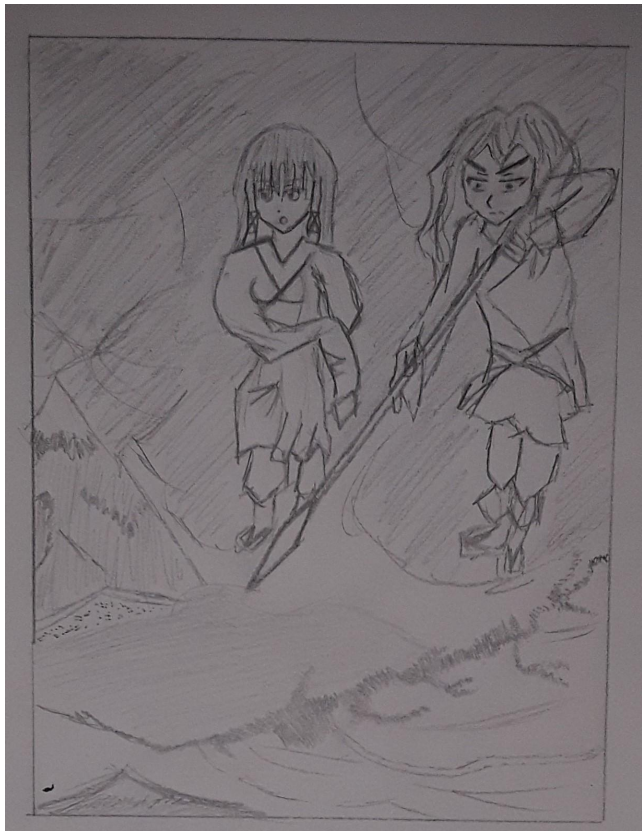
Izanami



Thumbnail Sketches



Concept Sketches



Final Art

