

Figures from Chapter Twelve (Group Exercises for Narrative Sensemaking) of
Working with Stories in Your Community or Organization: Participatory Narrative Inquiry
(Third Edition)
by Cynthia F. Kurtz

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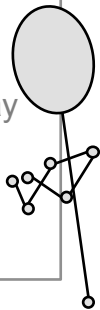
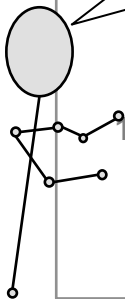
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Figure from *Working with Stories in Your Community or Organization: Participatory Narrative Inquiry* (Third Edition) by Cynthia F. Kurtz. Use granted under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.

The stories start
around when the
town was founded.


1862

today

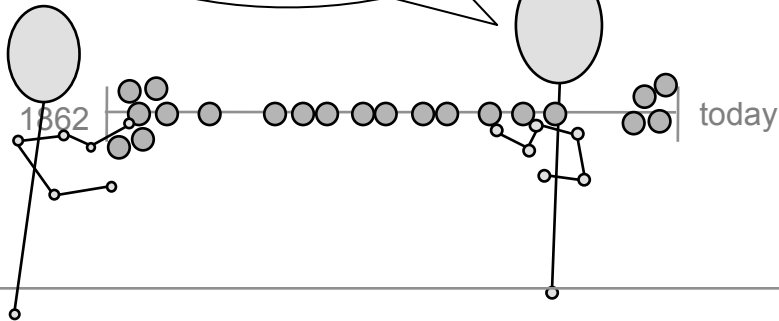




These stories took place recently.

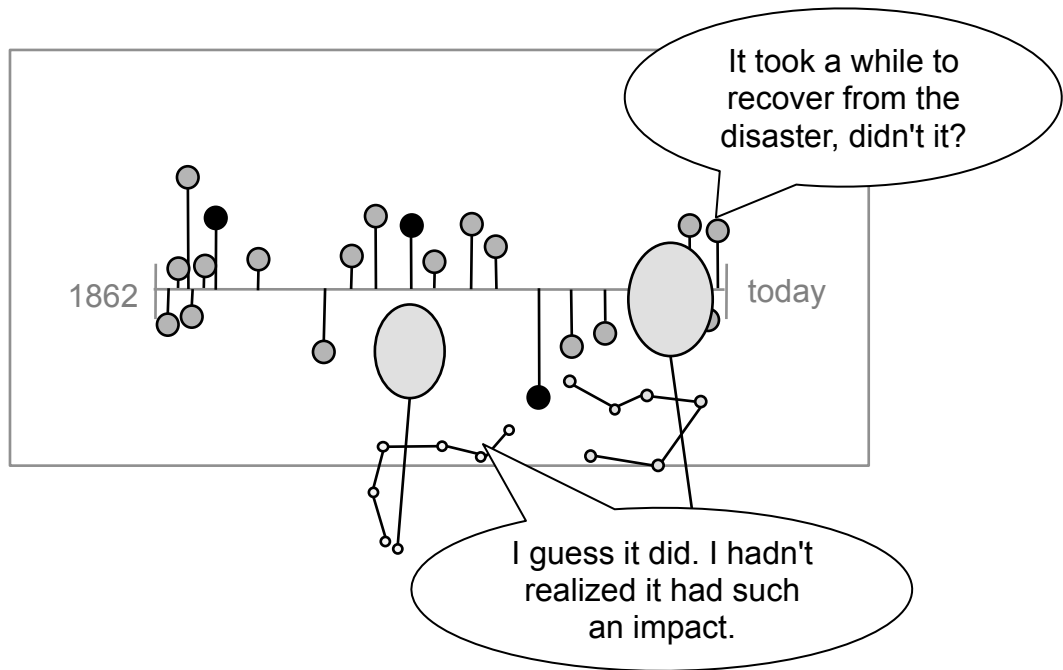
1862 

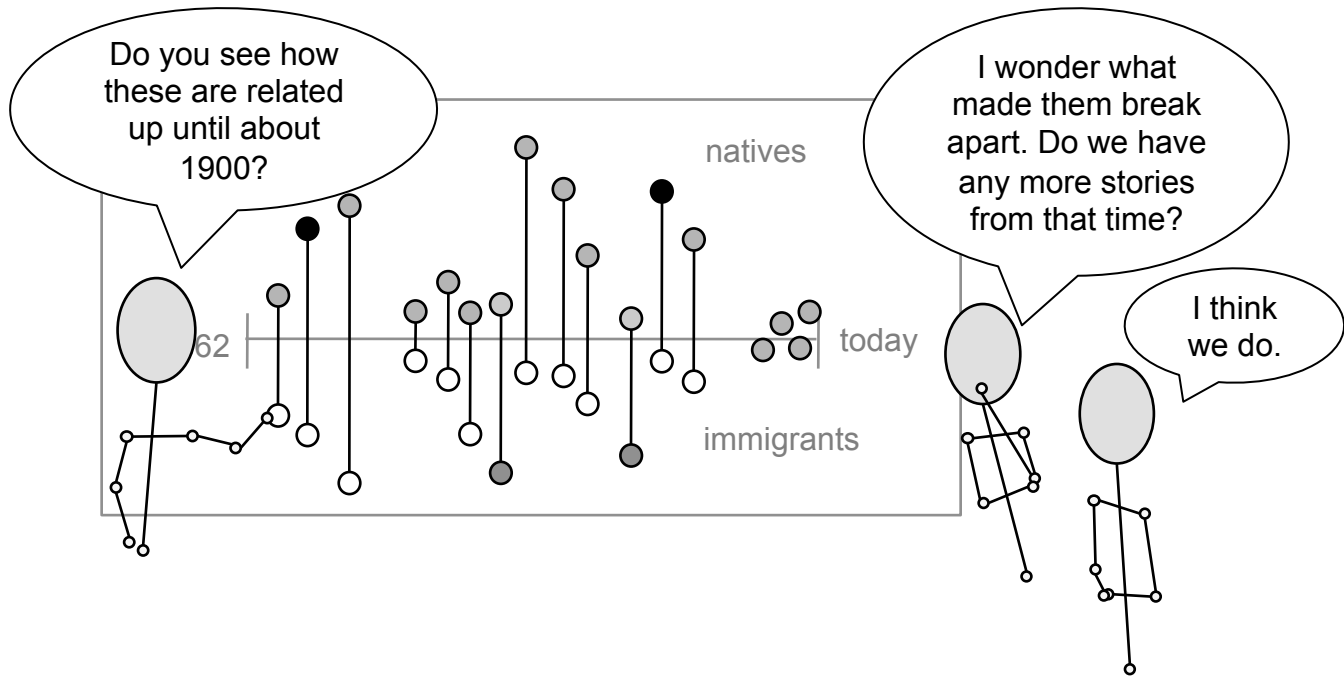
This story took
place around
1946.



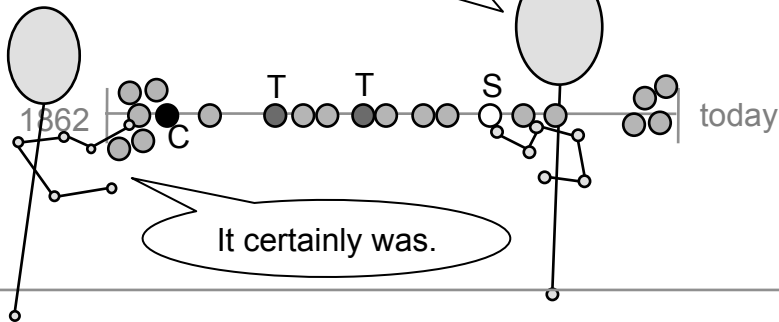
I'd say the Victory parade was a turning point, wouldn't you?

A stick figure is shown holding a large, light-gray oval in its right hand and a cluster of seven small circles in its left hand. The circles are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with one solid black circle at the bottom right and six light-gray circles surrounding it. The stick figure is composed of a vertical line for the body, a horizontal line for the head, and several lines for the arms and legs. The background is white with a faint grid pattern.

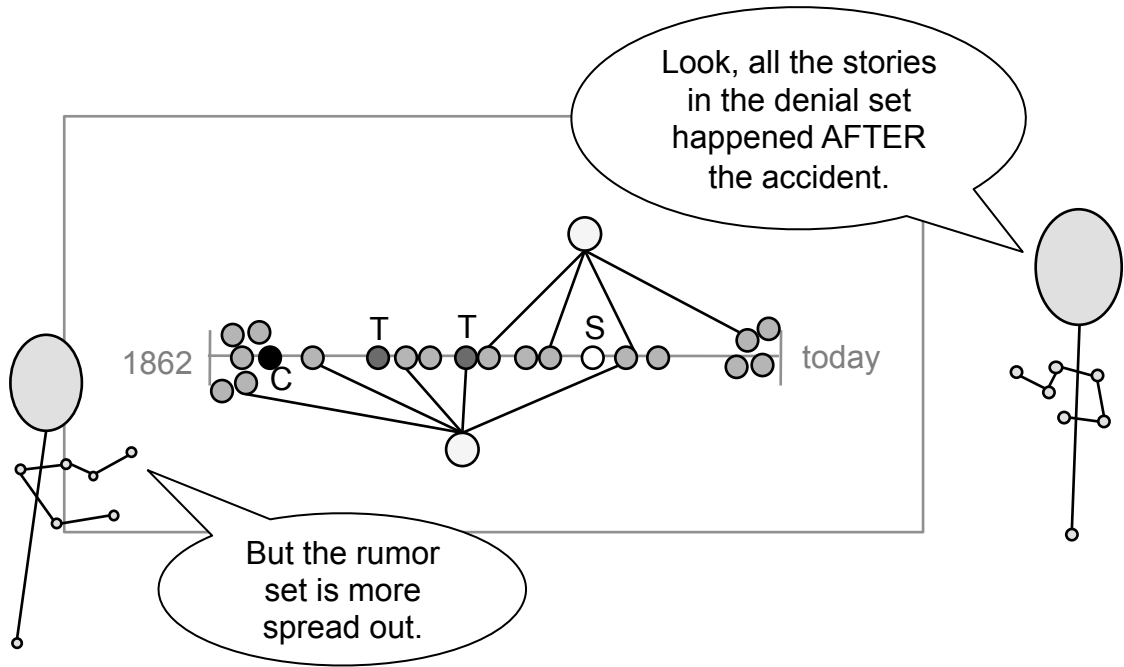


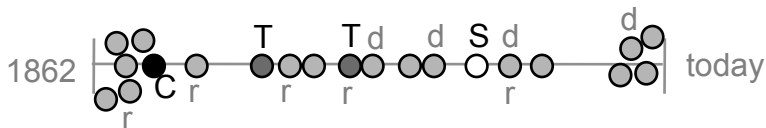


I'd say the disaster at
the Victory parade
was a surprise,
wouldn't you?



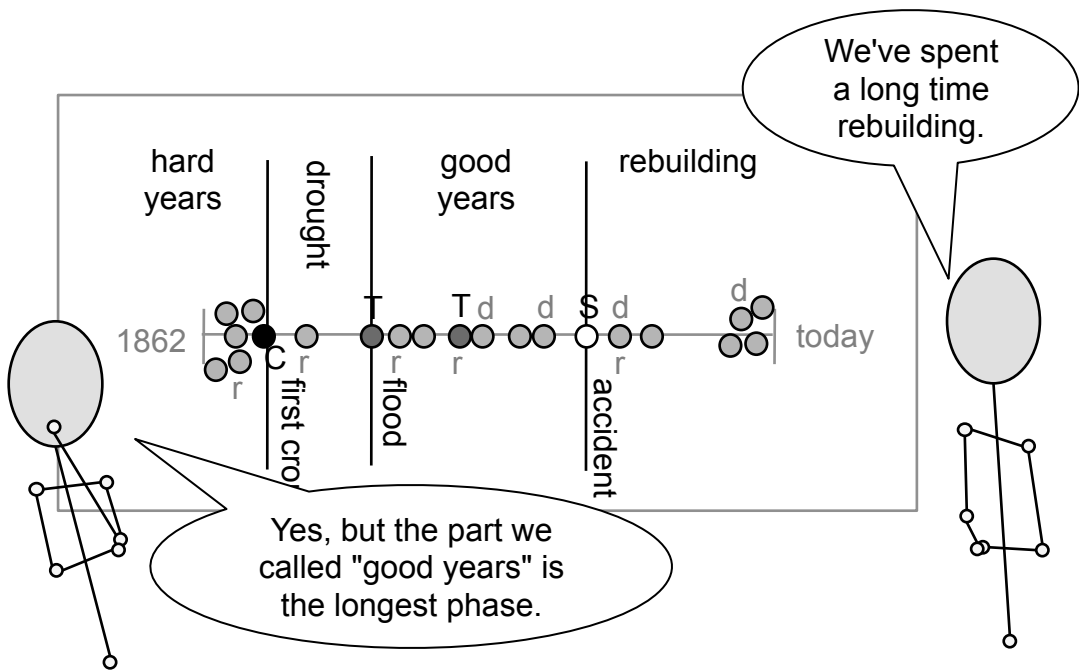
It certainly was.

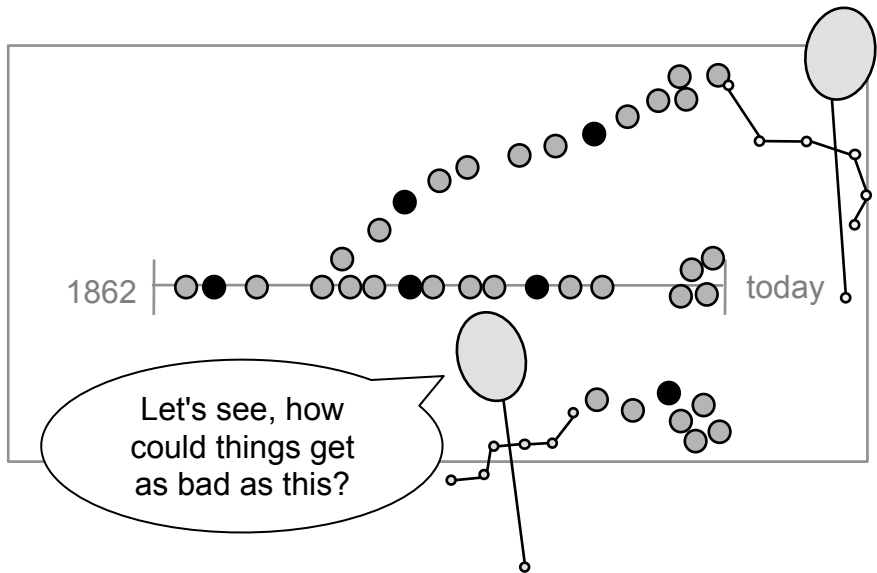


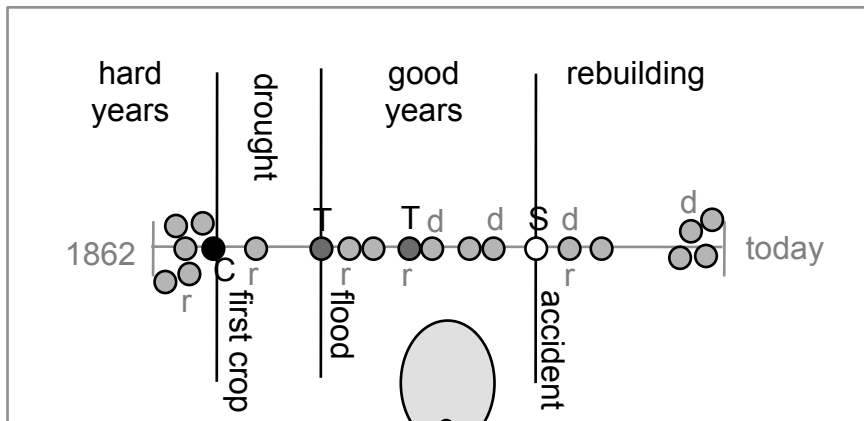


Look, all the stories
in the denial set
happened AFTER
the accident.

But the rumor
set is more
spread out.

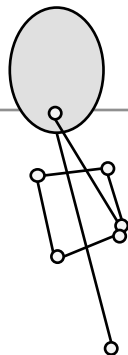




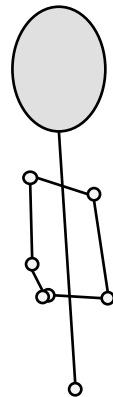


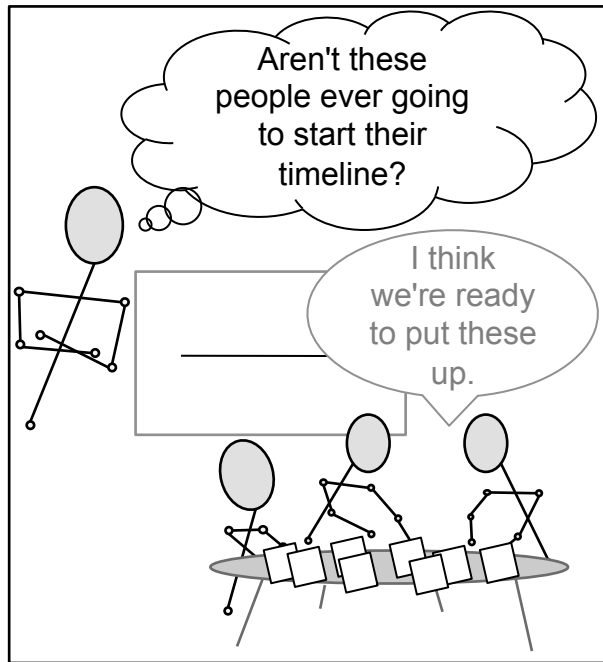
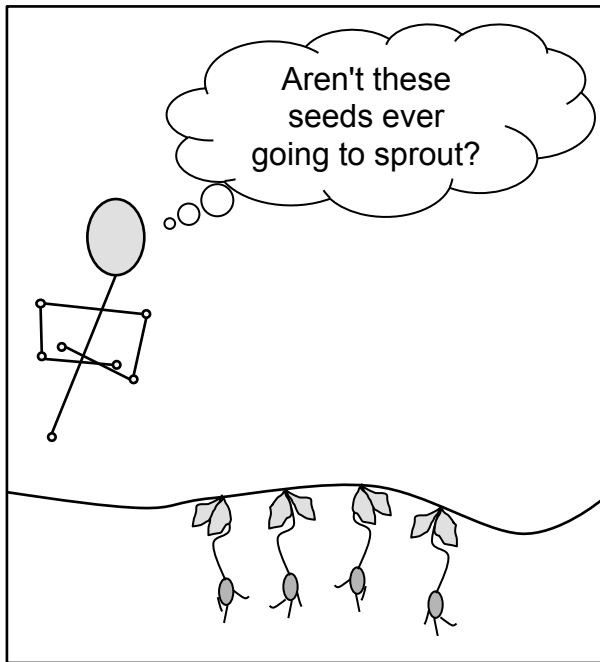
I guess our "good years" might be like the "action" phase.

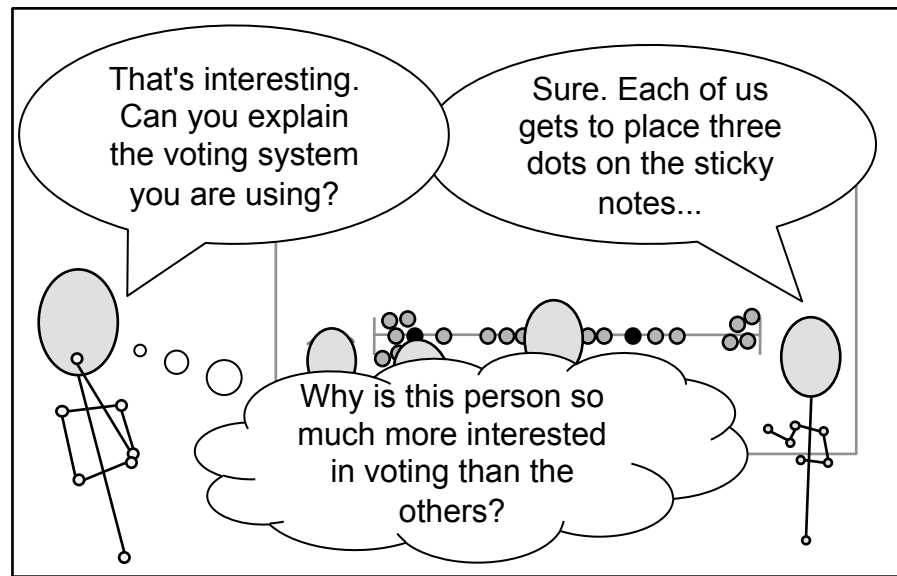
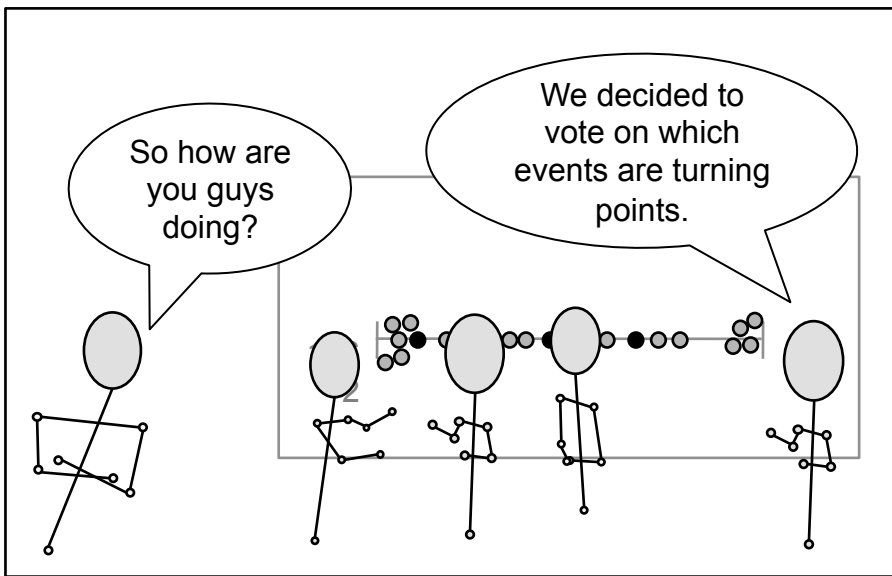
precontemplation	contemplation	preparation	action	maintenance	termination
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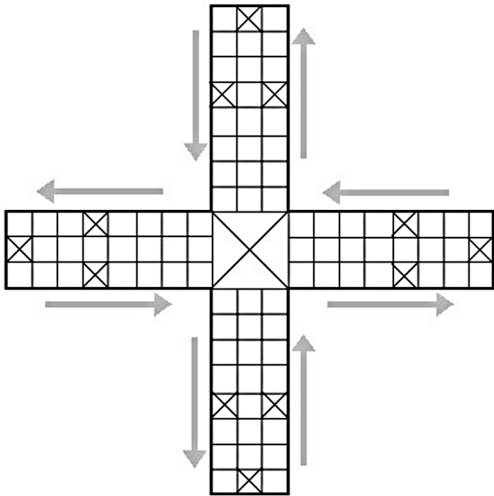


But this model doesn't take accidents into account. I hadn't realized how much our history has been determined by accidents.



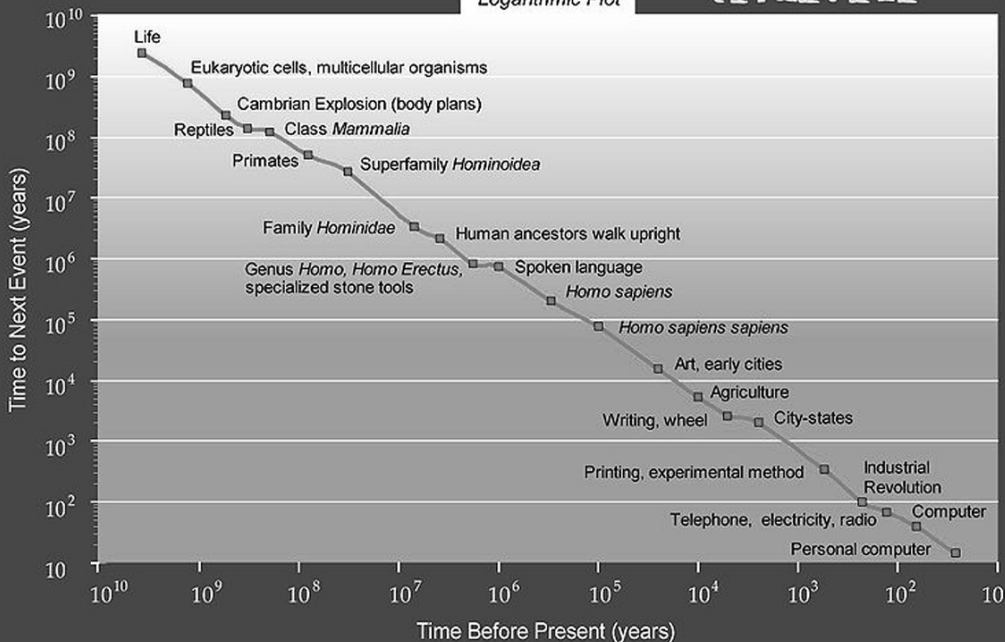






Countdown to Singularity

Logarithmic Plot



friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong

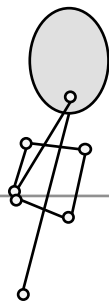
strength

friendly,
weak

intent

hostile,
weak

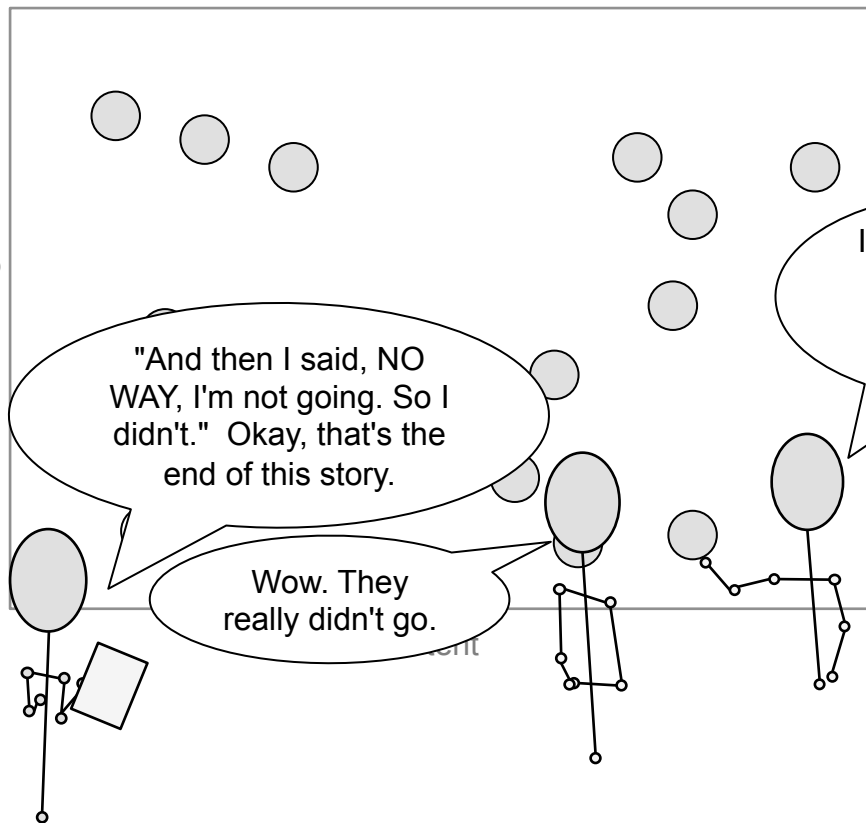
Some of the
stories I've read
so far will fit
over here.



friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong

strength



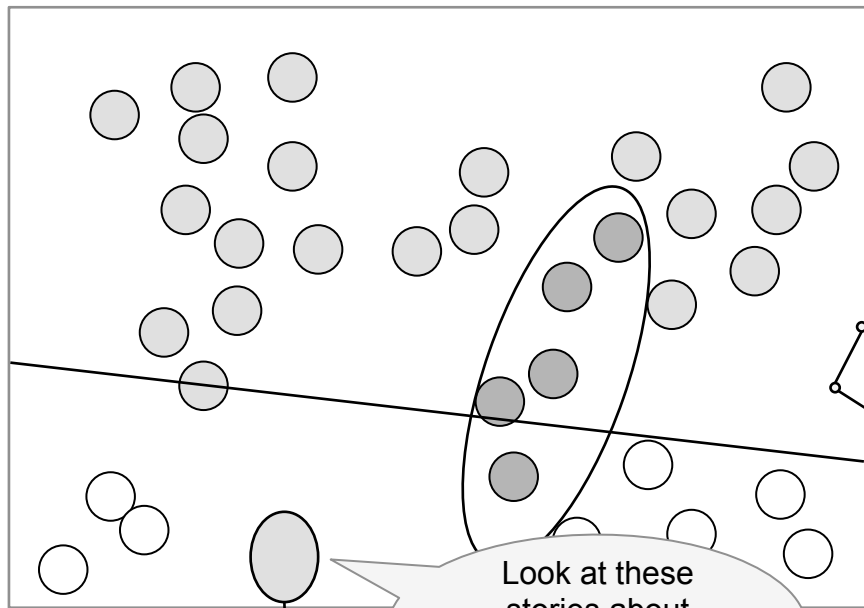
friendly,
weak

hostile,
weak

friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong

strength



It's amazing that
all the stories
below this line
were about
avoidance.

friendly,
weak

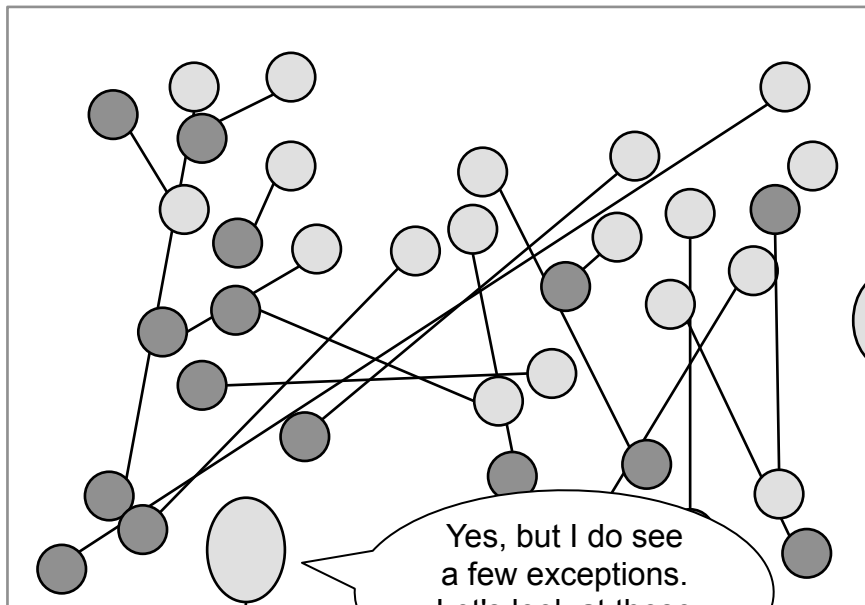
hostile,
weak

Look at these
stories about
cooperation all in
a row.

friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong

strength

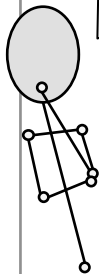


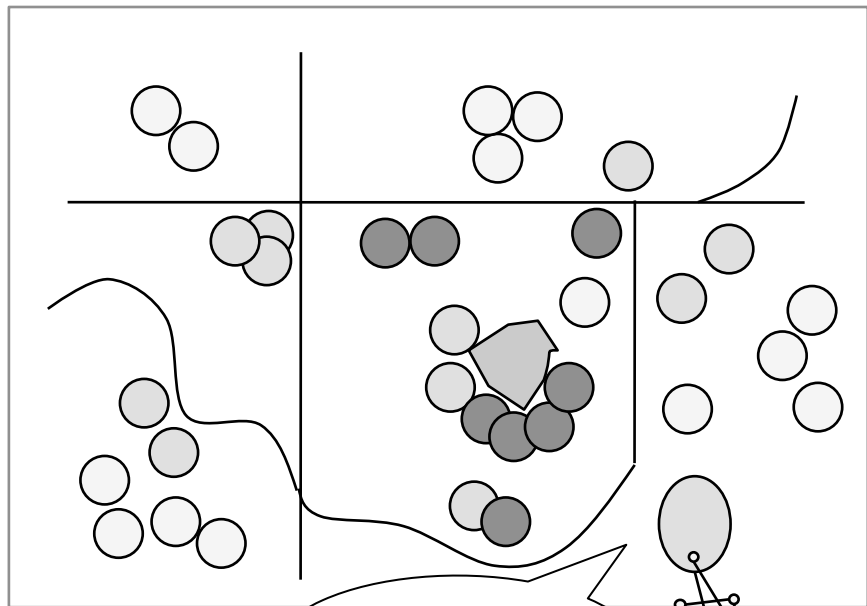
friendly,
weak

hostile,
weak

Yes, but I do see
a few exceptions.
Let's look at those
stories again.

In almost every
case, the banker's
perspective on the
story is lower and
more to the left.





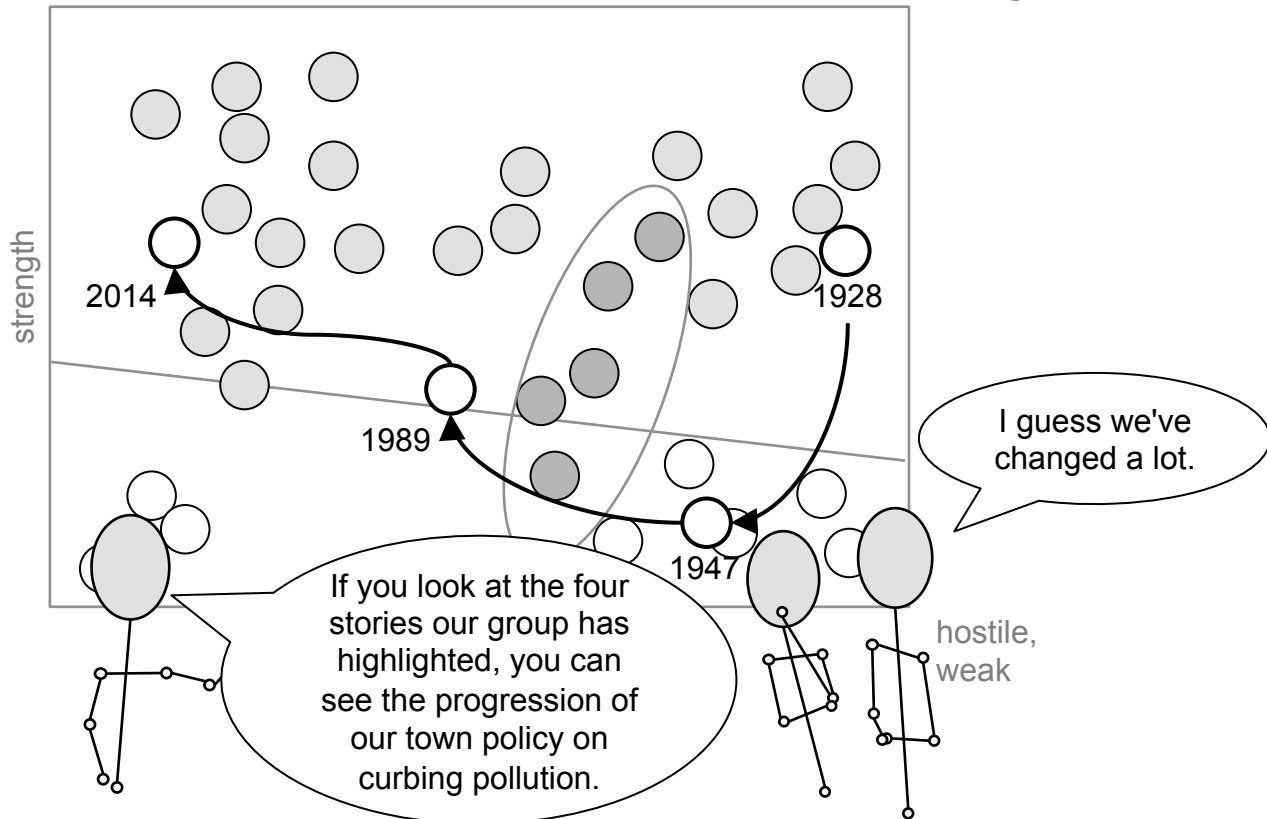
I want to look at
those stories
again.

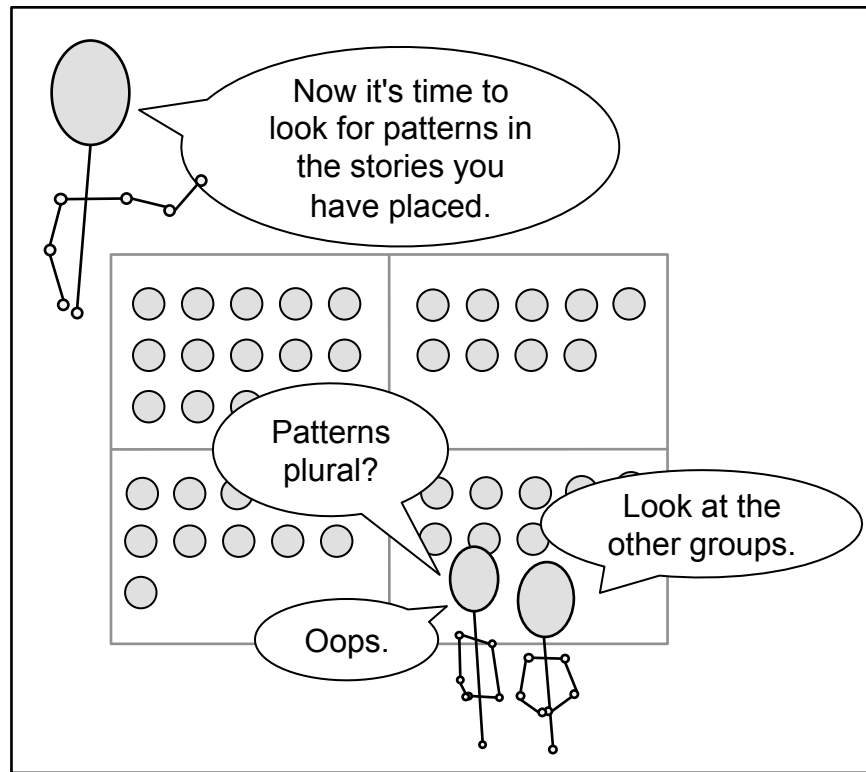
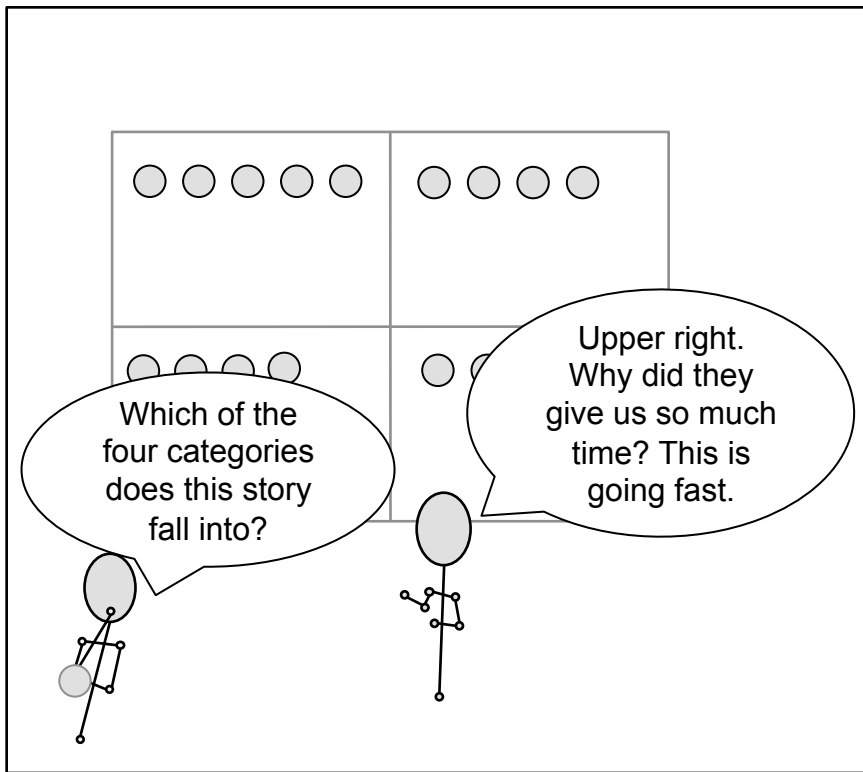
That's strange. Most
of the stories people
said had high trust had
their impacts at the
outskirts of the town.

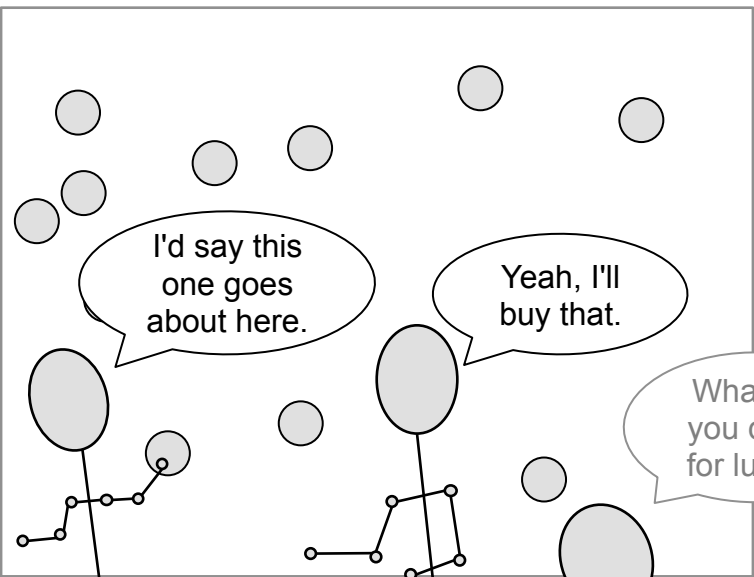


friendly,
strong

hostile,
strong







I'd say this
one goes
about here.

Yeah, I'll
buy that.

What are
you doing
for lunch?

Dunno.

That's an amazing
pattern. I'm curious how
the younger people felt
about it.

Oh, they didn't really
participate in this.

So this is only
your view?

Pretty much.

Why did we
DO this
project?

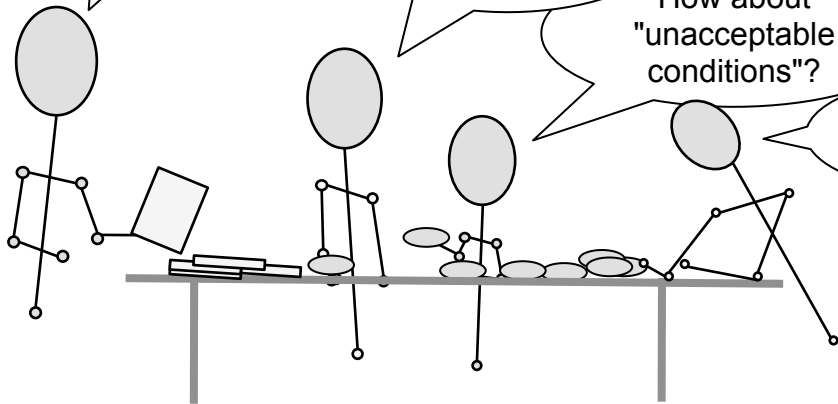
Ask
yourself:
What is
going on in
this story?

"As if THEY care."
Okay, that's the end
of this story. What is
going on in it?

Double bind.
I'd call that a
double bind.

How about
"unacceptable
conditions"?

I like
"disrespect."



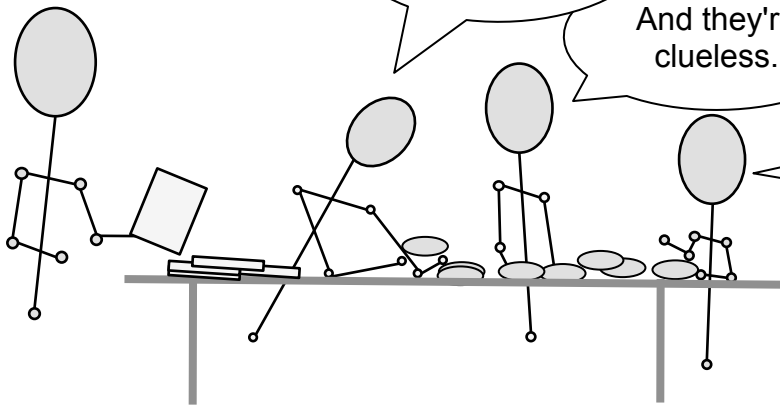
Ask
yourself:
Who is
doing things
in this story?

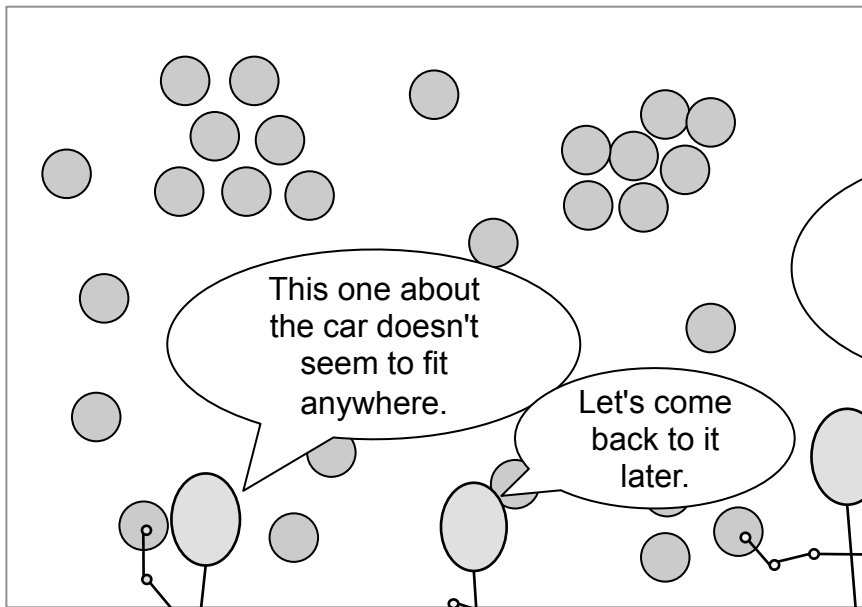
"As if THEY care."
Okay, that's the
end of this story.
Who is in it?

People who
put people in
double binds.

And they're
clueless.

Out of touch.

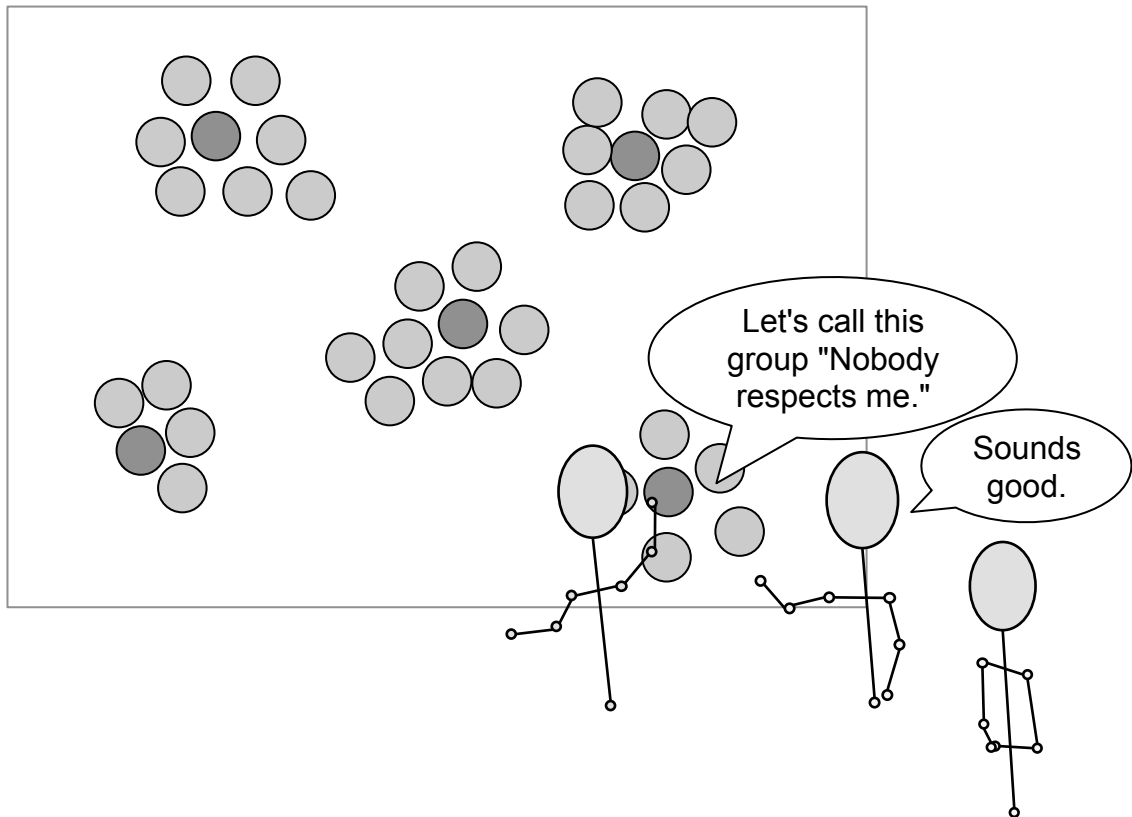


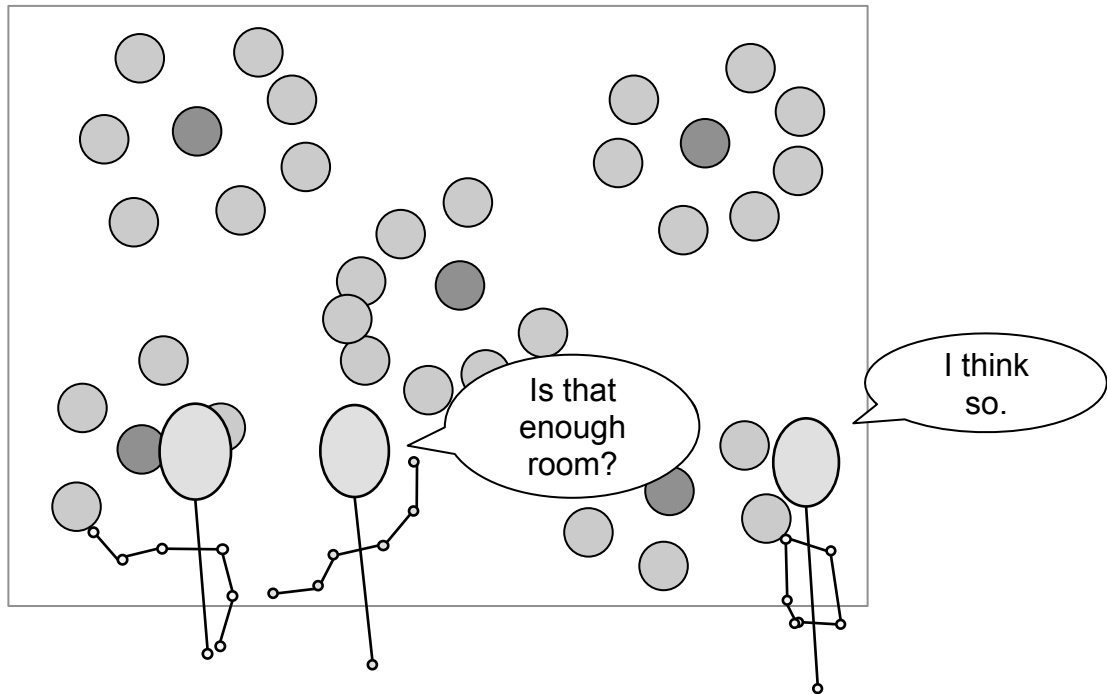


This one about
the car doesn't
seem to fit
anywhere.

Let's come
back to it
later.

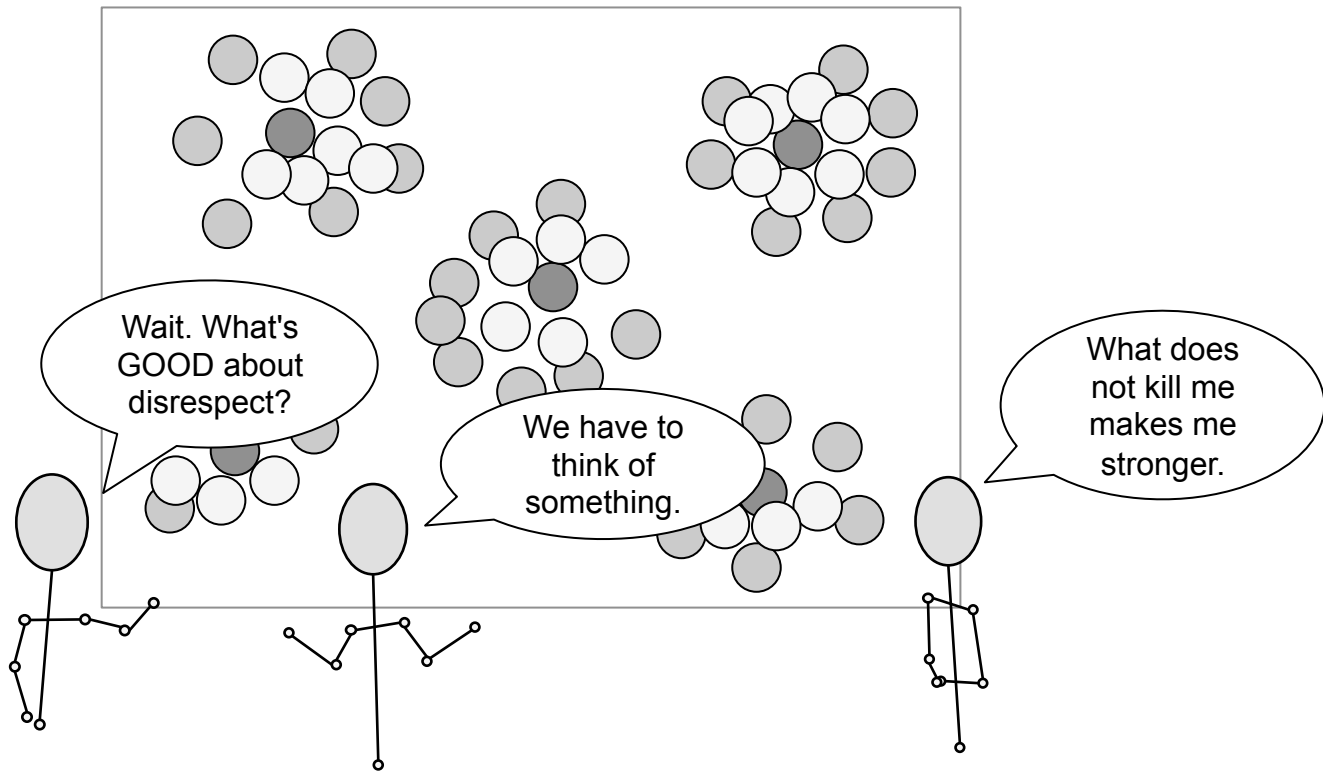
What about
putting it with
these? They all
have to do with
disrespect.

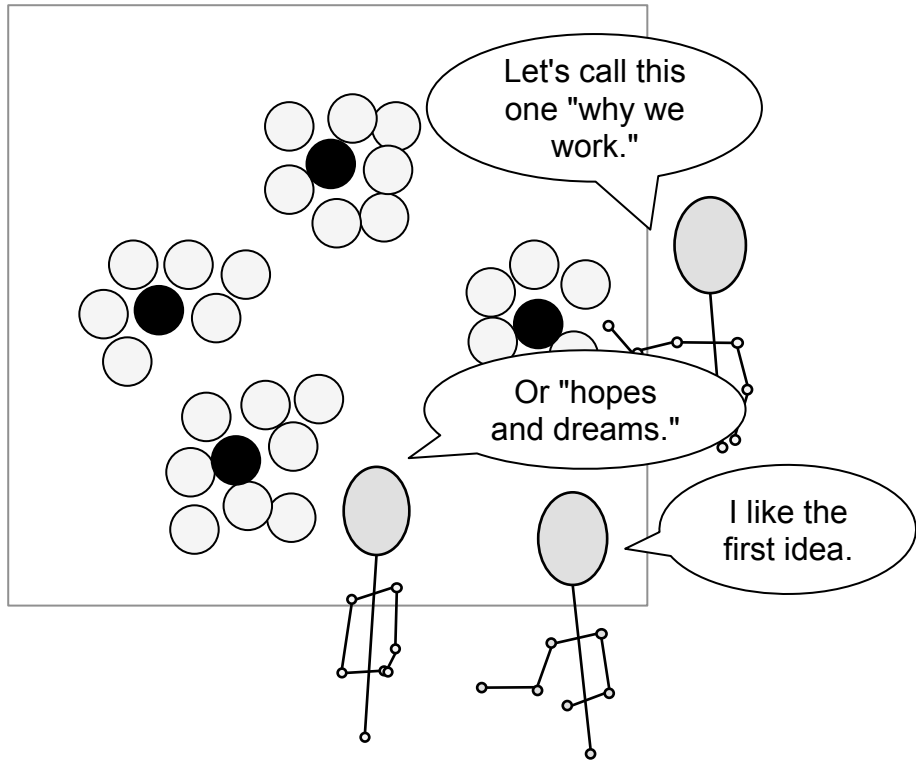
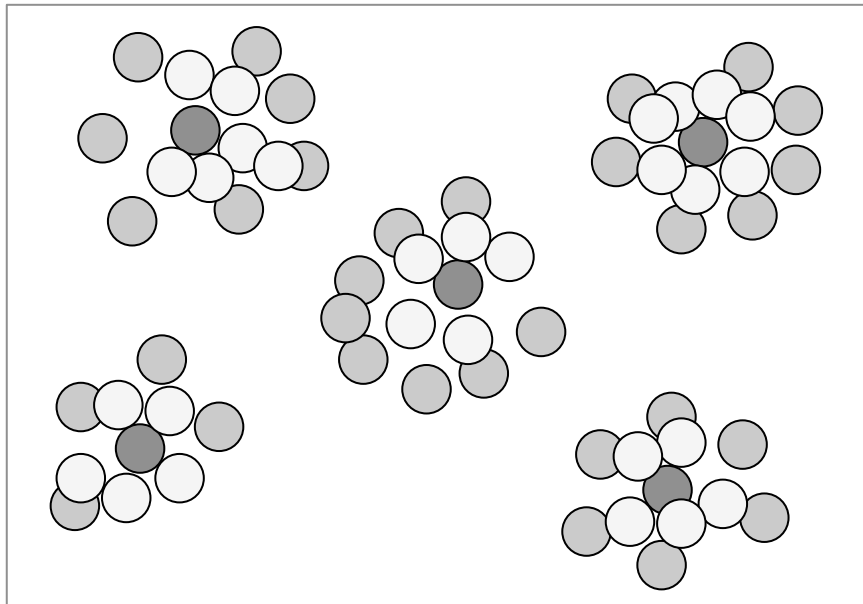


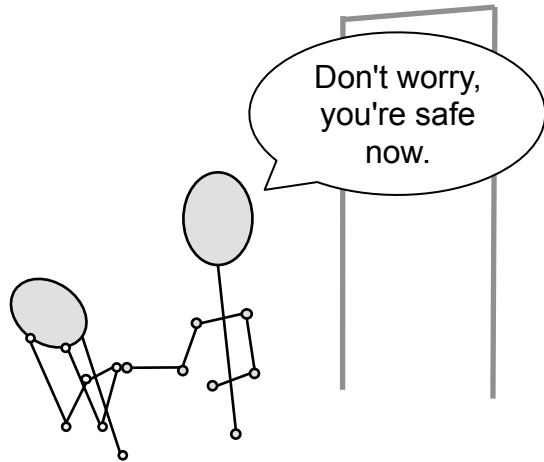


Is that
enough
room?

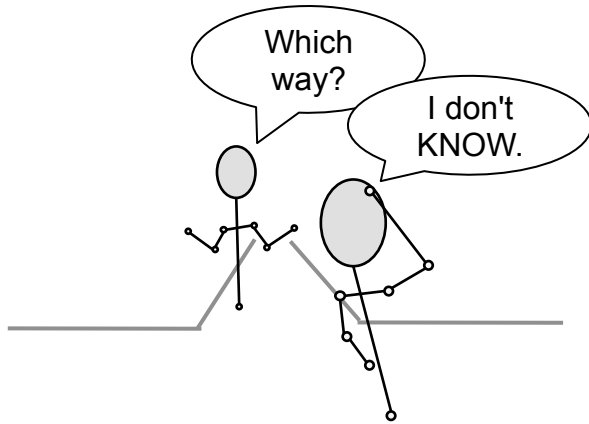
I think
so.







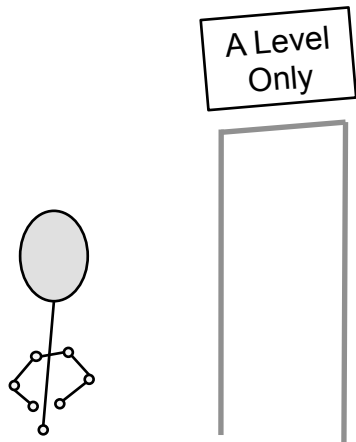
safe haven



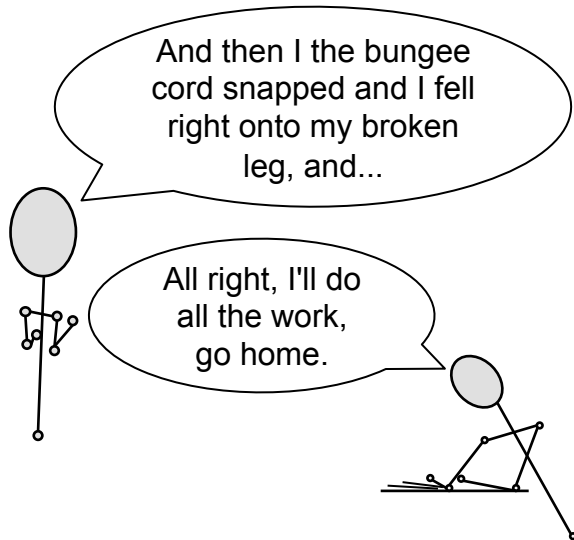
where do we go from here



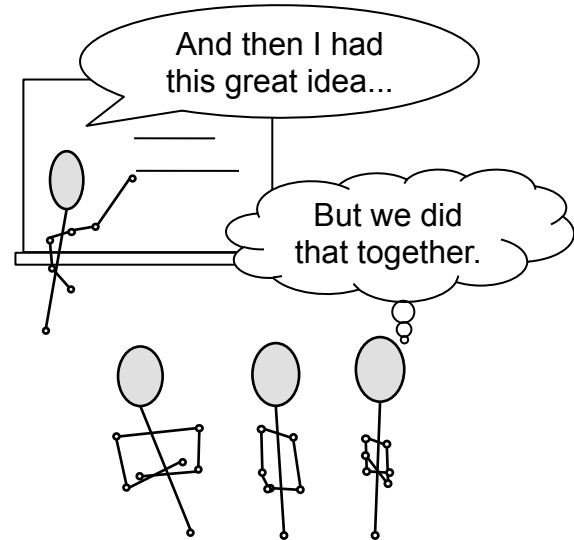
when it rains it pours



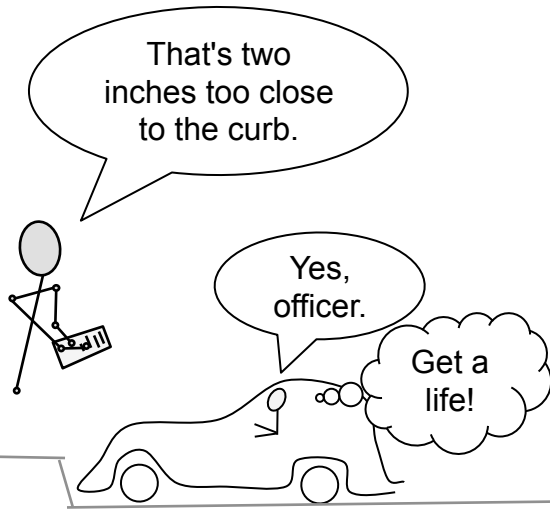
bureaucratic barriers



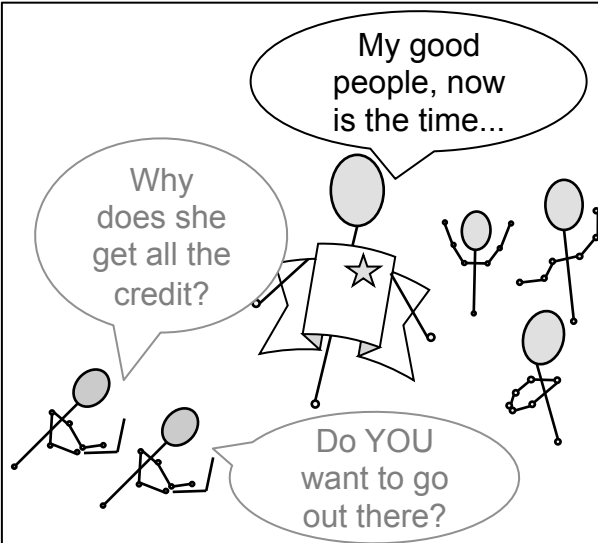
excuses



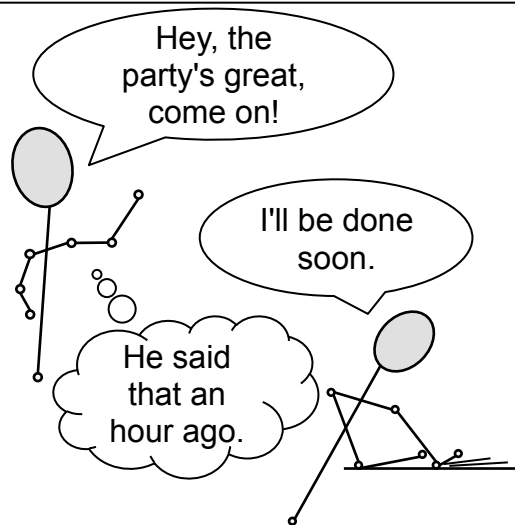
power grabs



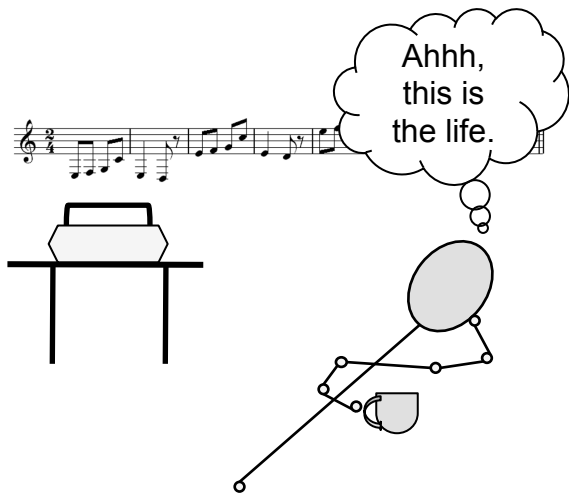
justice league



figurehead



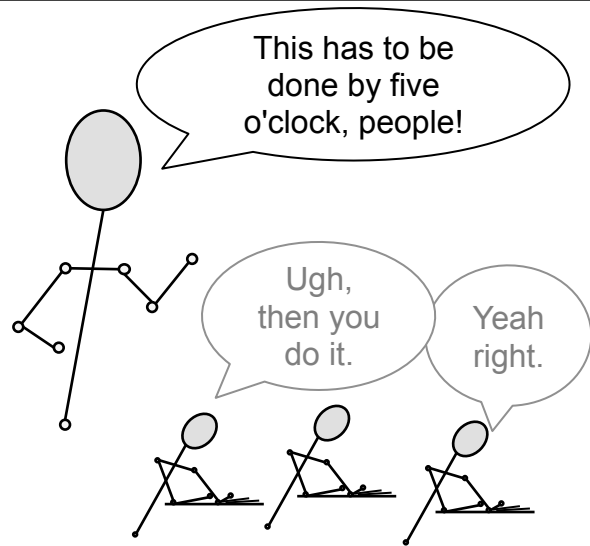
worker bee



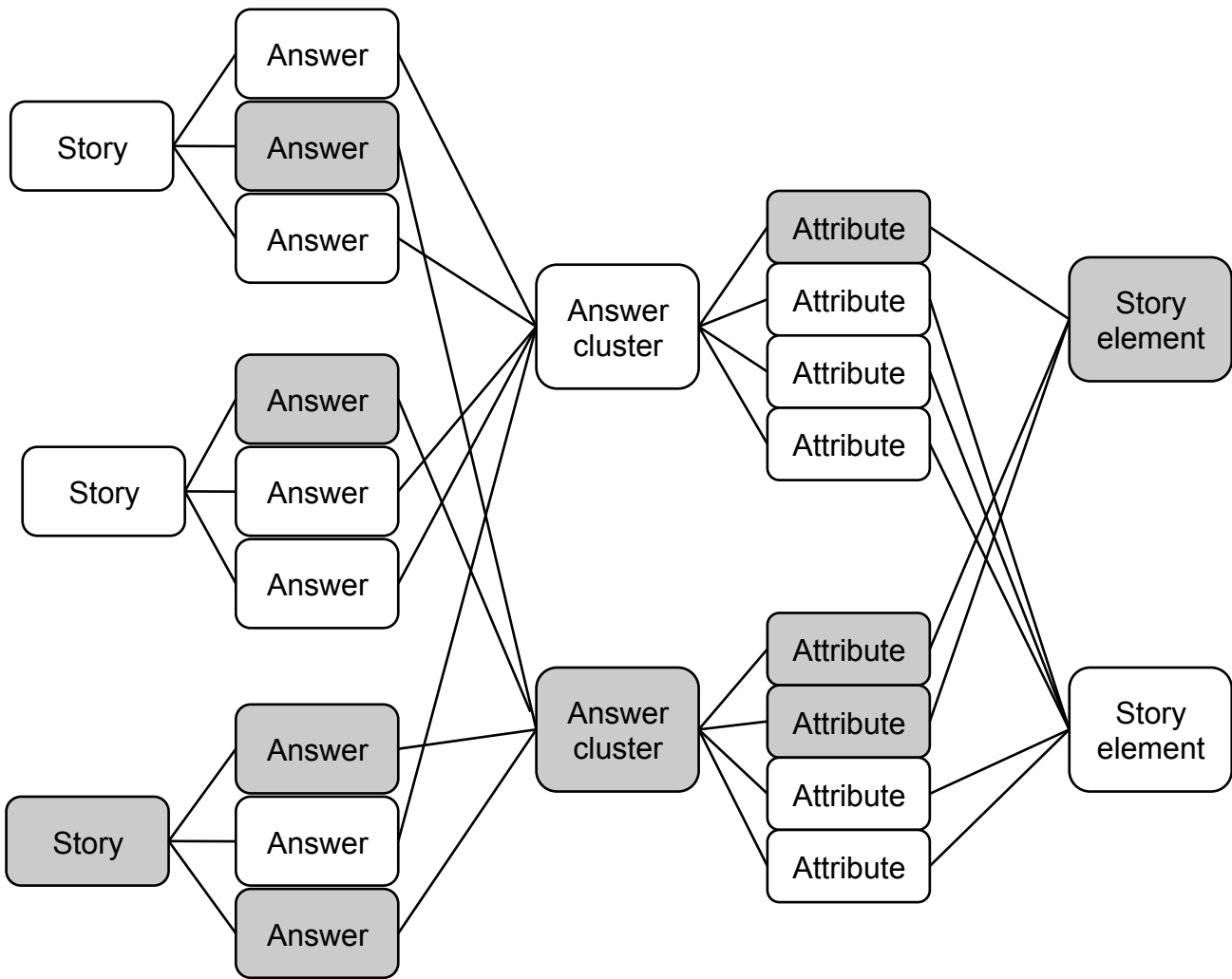
bluebird of happiness

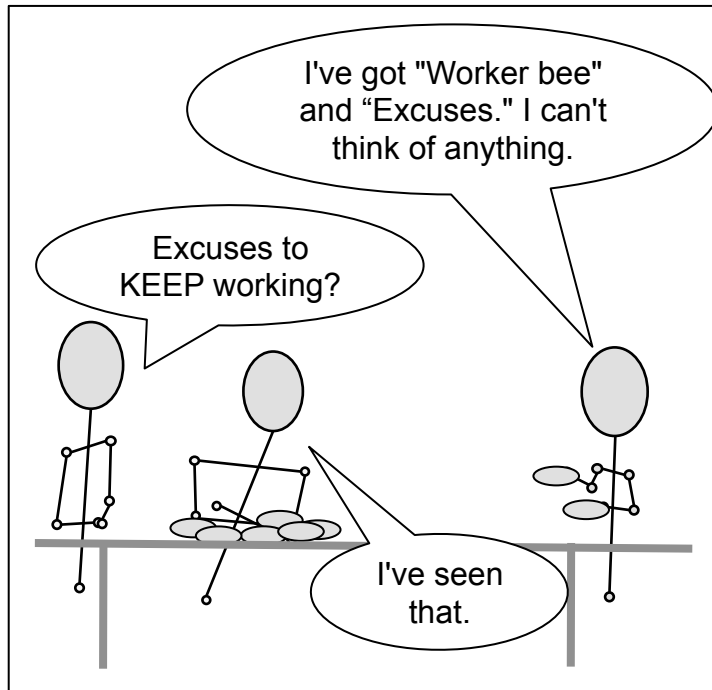
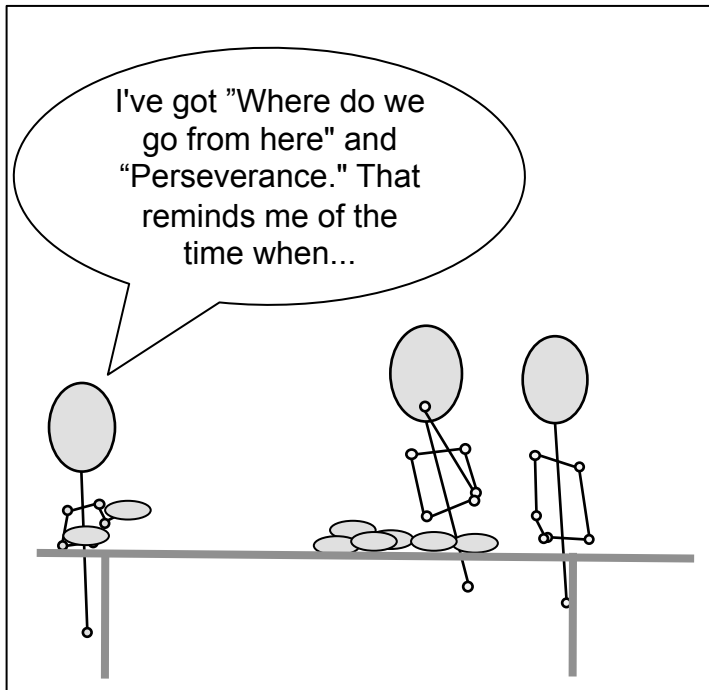


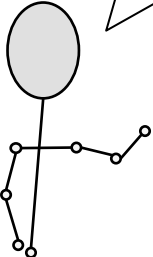
perseverance



get it done

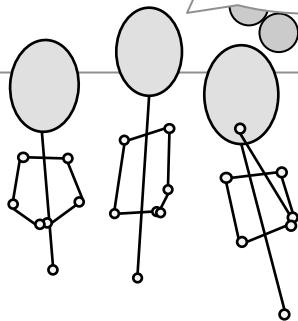
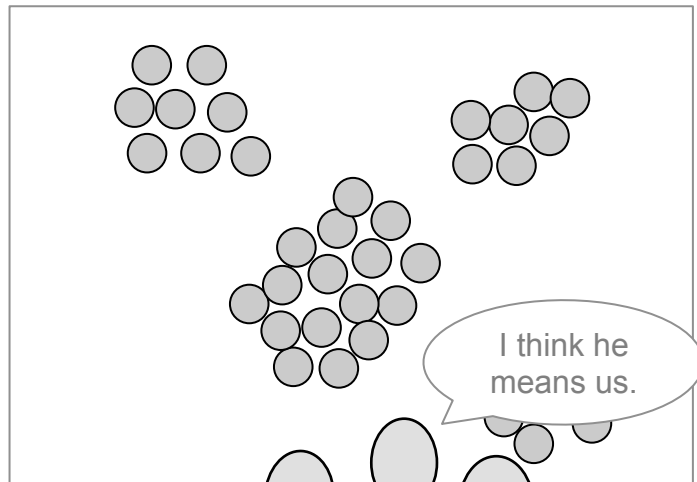






Everybody, please
make sure that none
of your clusters have
more than eight
things in them.

I hope they
get the
hint.



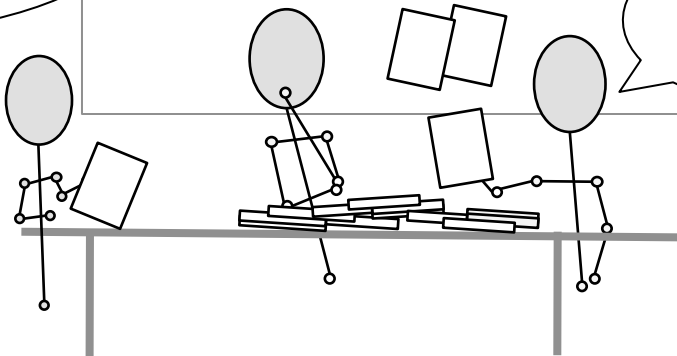
Okay, we've got two candidates for our tension story. Now we need a "what it's like" story.

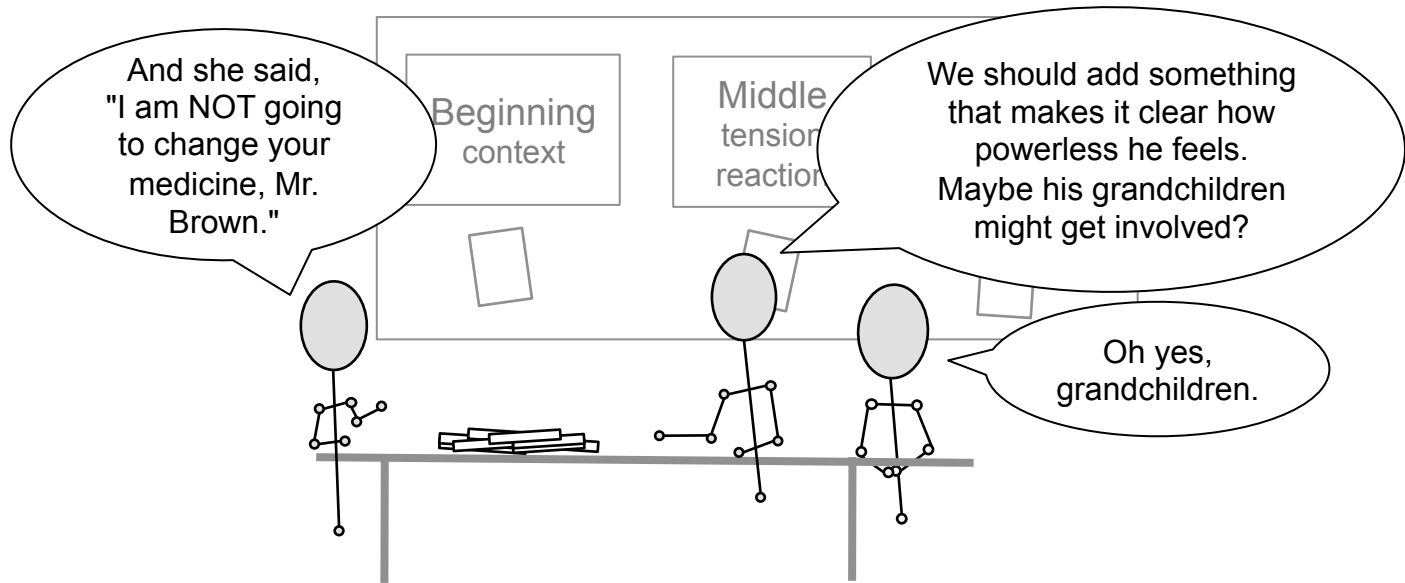
Beginning
context

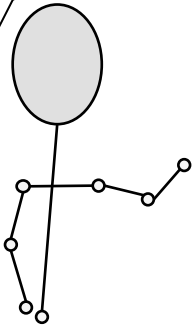
Middle
tension
reaction

End
resolution

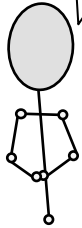
Let me
read you
this one.



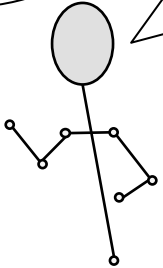




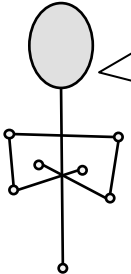
So what did you
take away from
the story I just
told?



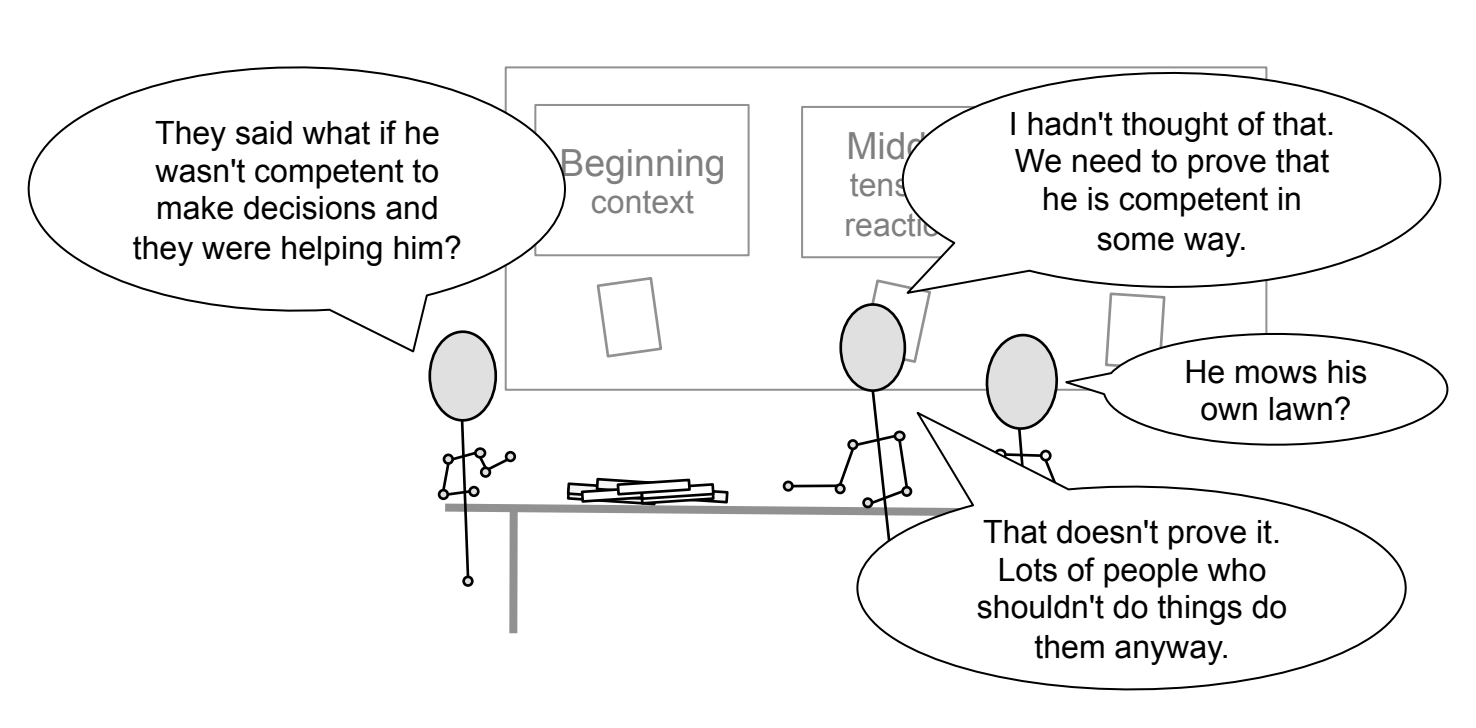
That poor
guy sounds
powerless.



I don't know.
Was he competent to
make his own
decisions? I didn't
hear that.



I'm not sure he
was. I've been on
the other side of
that situation, and
sometimes...



They said what if he
wasn't competent to
make decisions and
they were helping him?

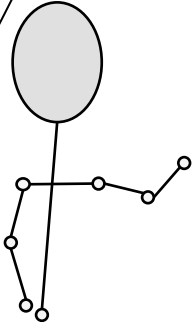
Beginning
context

Middle
tense
reaction


I hadn't thought of that.
We need to prove that
he is competent in
some way.

He mows his
own lawn?

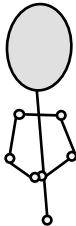
That doesn't prove it.
Lots of people who
shouldn't do things do
them anyway.



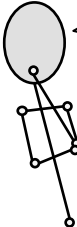
So what did you
take away from
the story I just
told?



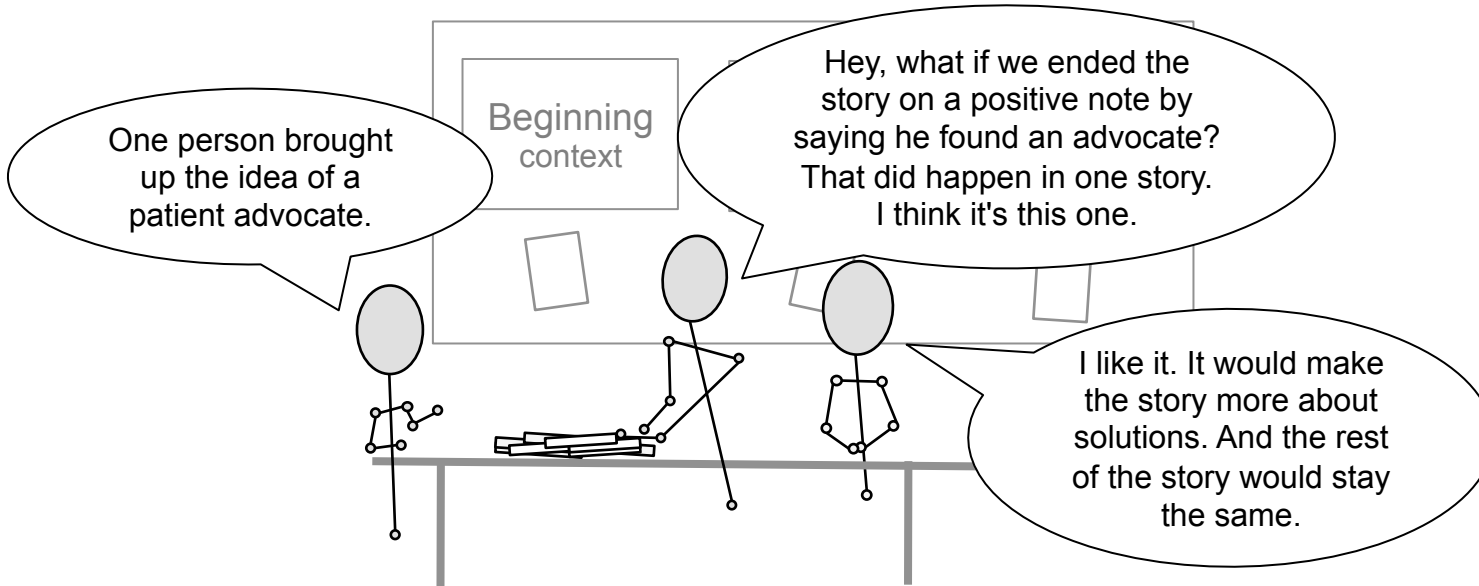
That poor
guy sounds
powerless.



Yeah. He was
obviously capable
of making his own
decisions.



If there had been a
patient advocate
he could have
gone to...



One person brought
up the idea of a
patient advocate.

Hey, what if we ended the
story on a positive note by
saying he found an advocate?
That did happen in one story.
I think it's this one.

I like it. It would make
the story more about
solutions. And the rest
of the story would stay
the same.

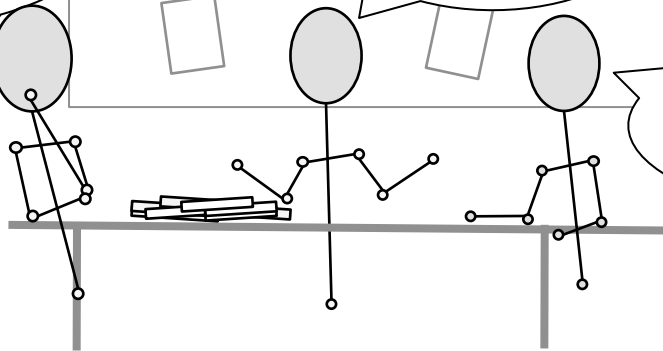
What surprised me
was that I've never
looked at it from the
caregiver side
before.

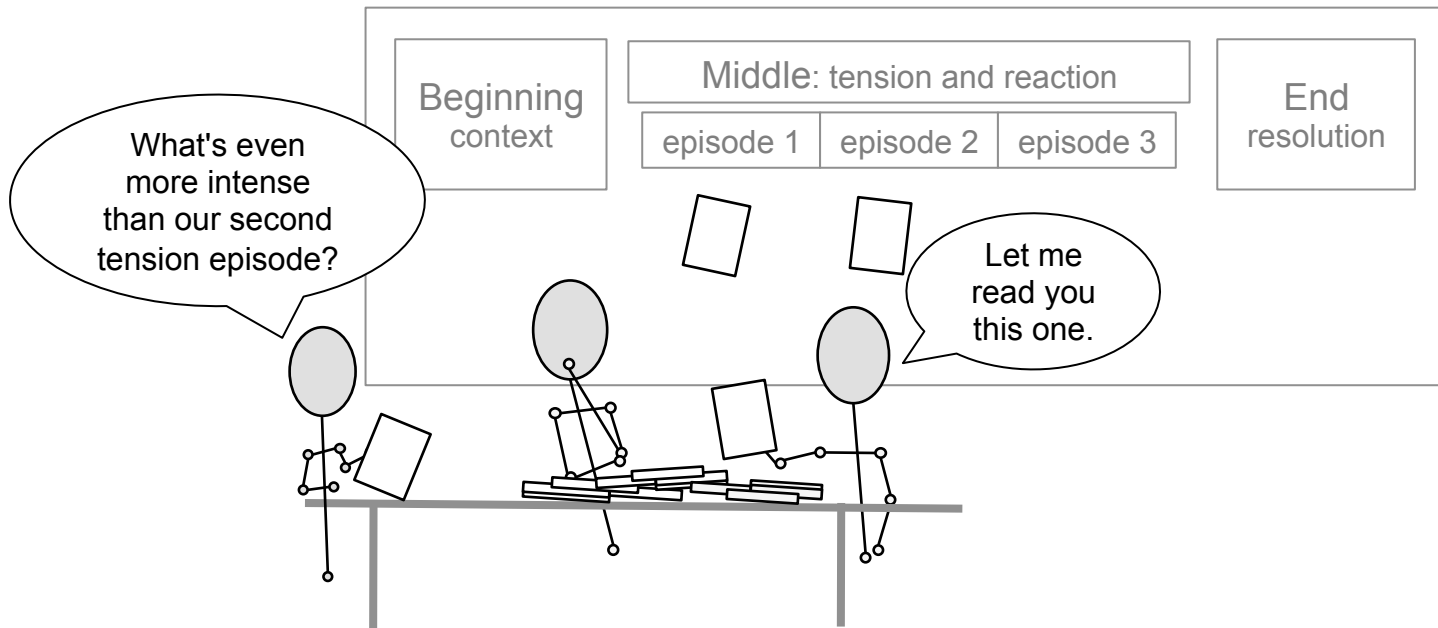
Beginning
context

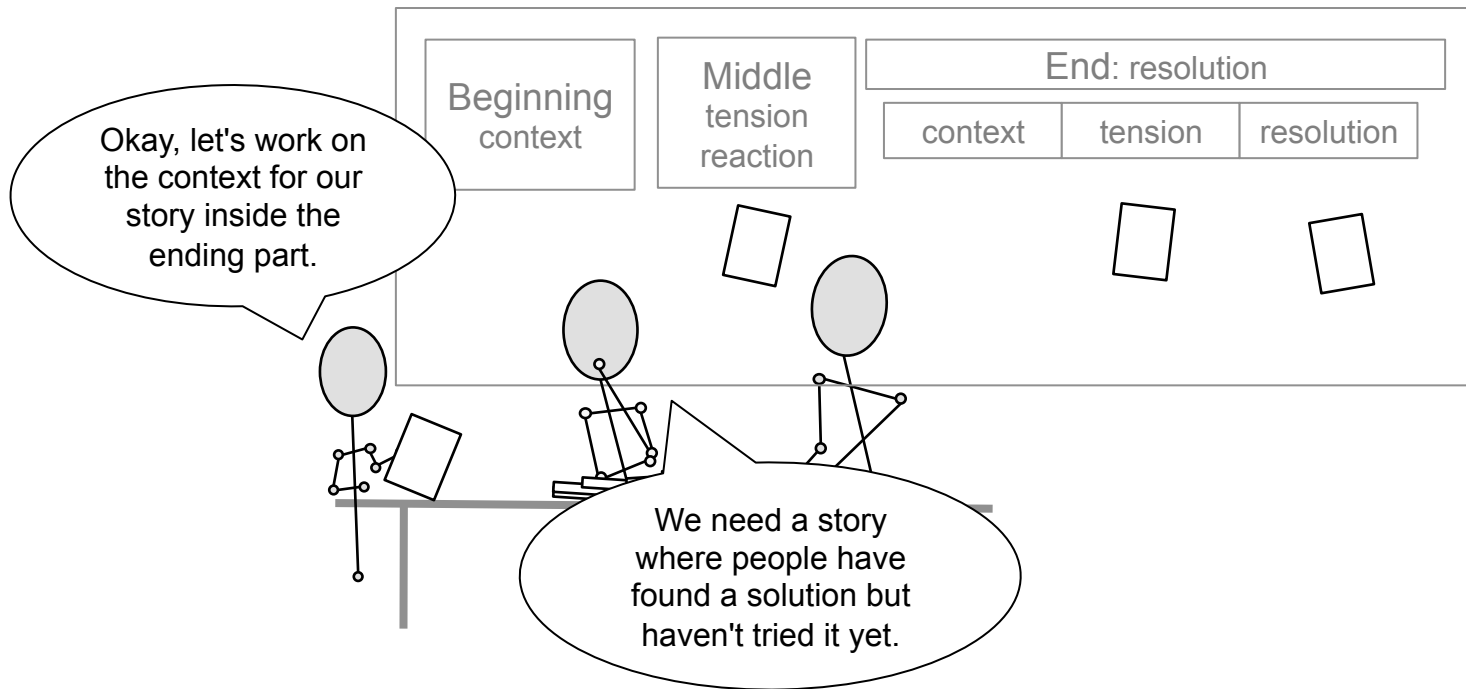
Yeah, I mean,
they took their
responsibility
seriously.

End
solution

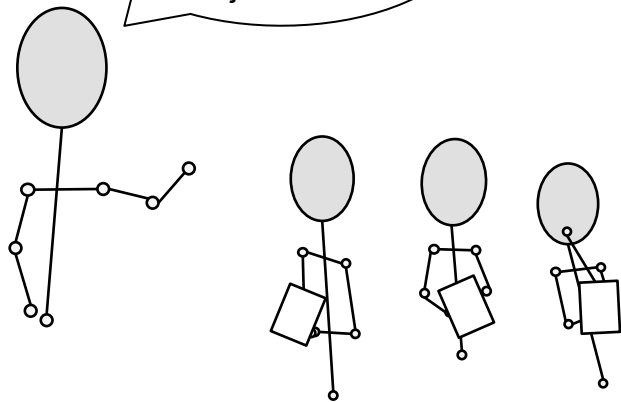
It's not just about
injustice, it's more
complicated than that.







Please answer
these questions
about the story
I just told.



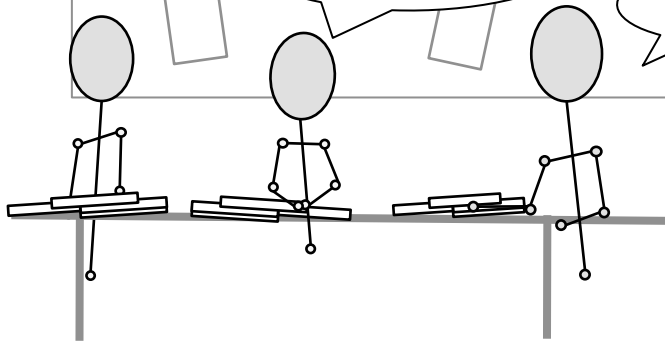
Beginning
cont

Middle

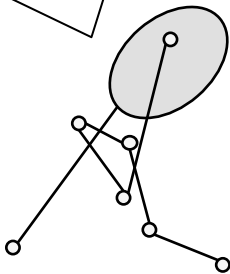
End
resolution

We need to
make our guy
more likeable.

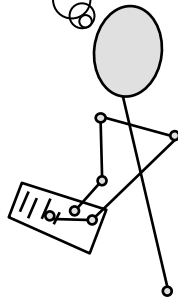
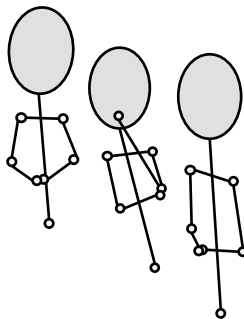
Clearly.



So, um, then we said, "We're all in this together." And we kept trying, I mean, we didn't give up, you know, "Never give up, never give in," at least, not then... but later...

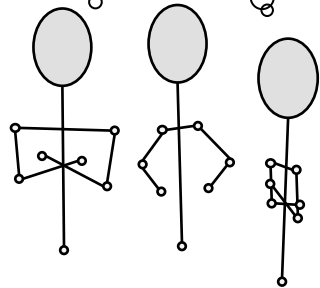
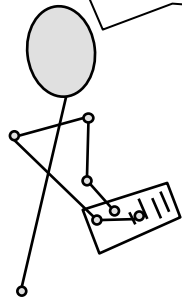


Hm, this guy is struggling. I'd better see if I can help his group.



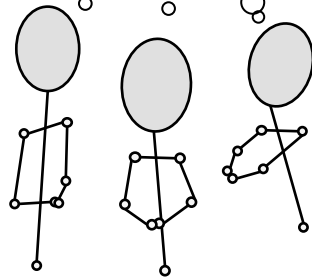
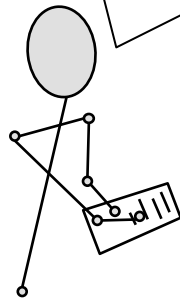
Next you should choose somebody from your group to tell your story to another group.

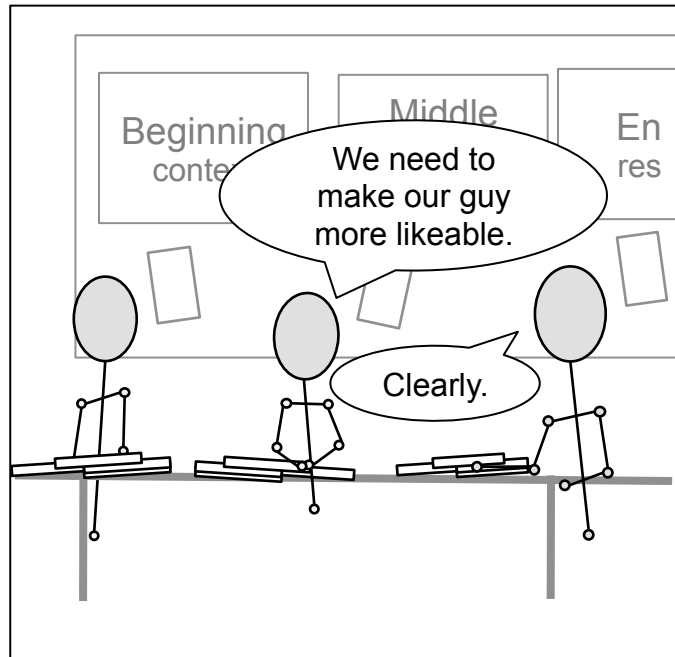
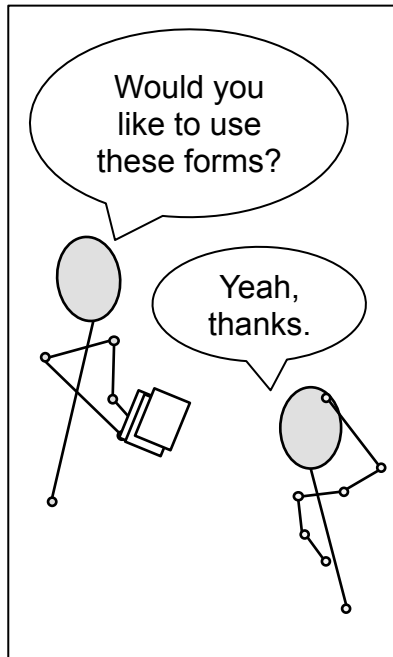
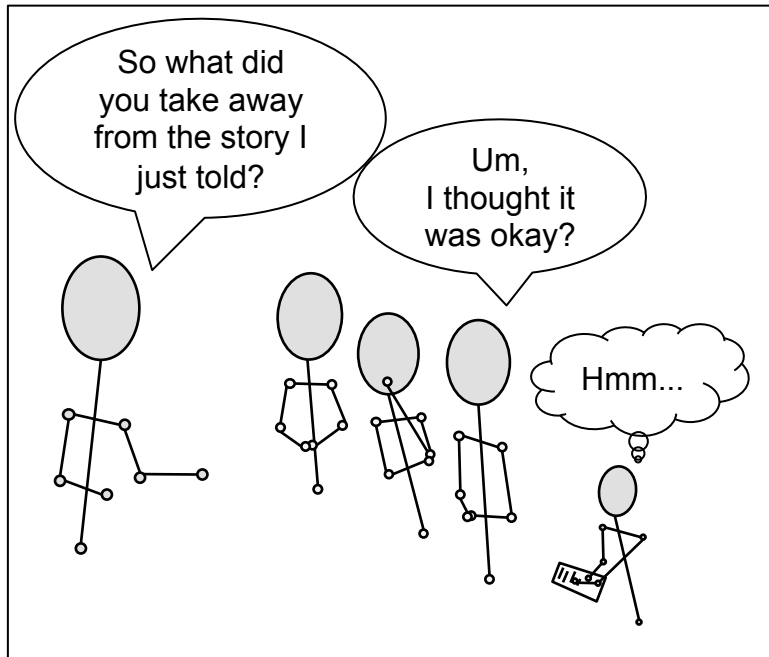
That person is
NOT
going to be me.

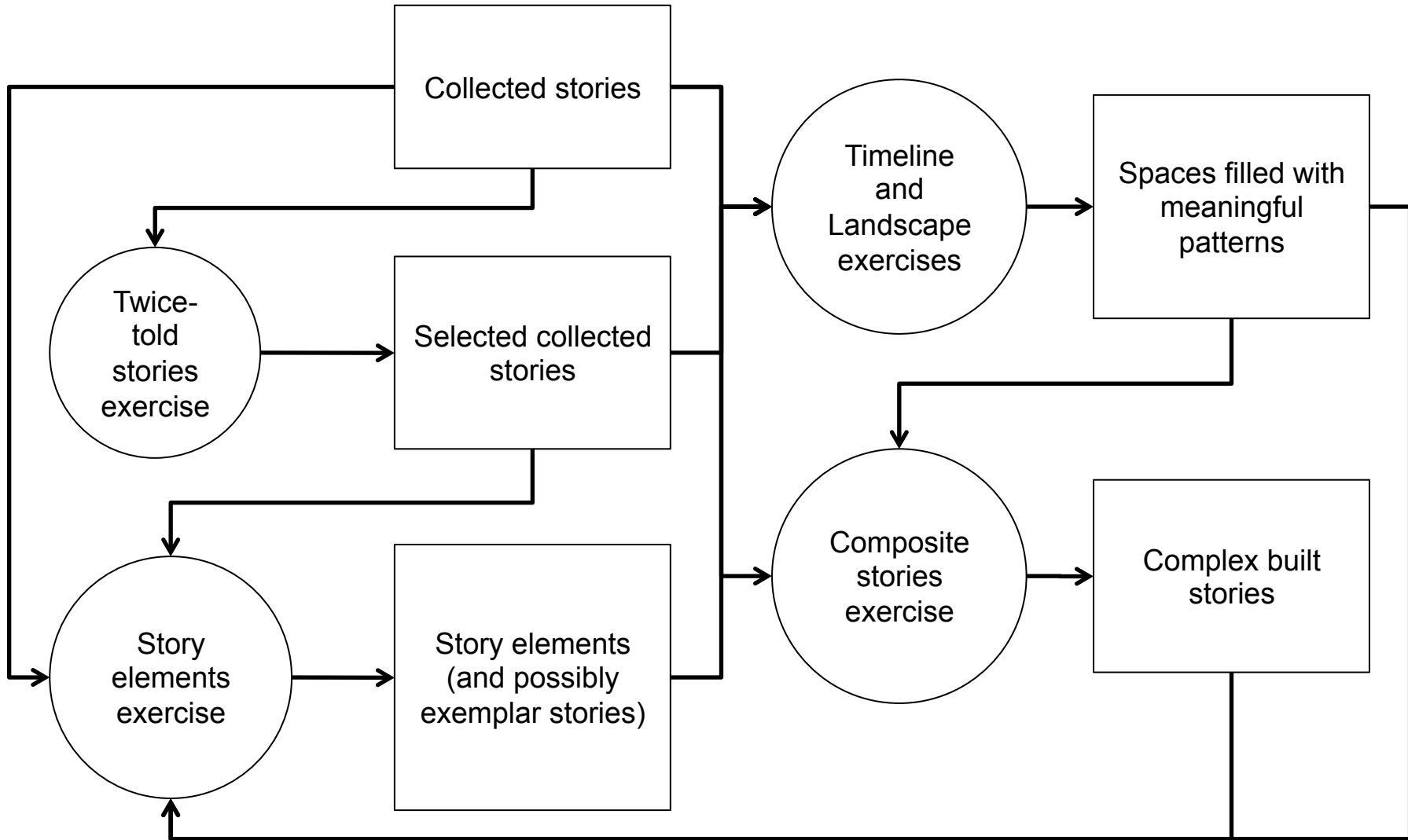


Next you should decide who among you is most suited to representing the group by telling its story and observing reactions to it.

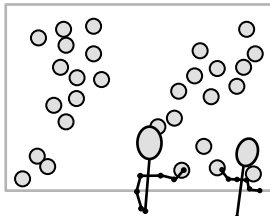
I wonder if
I could do
that?



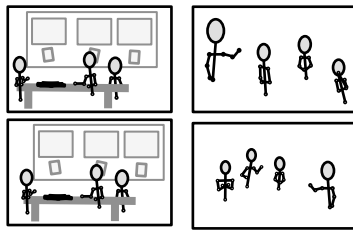




Negotiations



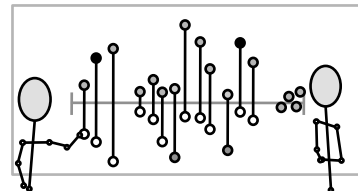
Cycles



Value-free structure



Options



Sensemaking
exercise