
My Brother and I

A short Animation Film | Project II

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Guide
Prof. Sumanth Rao

Declaration by the student

I declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words and where others' ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources. I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any idea/ data/ fact/ source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be cause for disciplinary action by the Institute and can also evoke penal action from the sources which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been taken when needed.

Signature

Name of the Student

Roll Number

Date

Approval Sheet

The Animation Project 2 entitled "My Brother and I", by Ashwin Vasudevan (Roll number, 126340011) is approved, in partial fulfilment of requirements of the Masters of Design degree in Animation in Industrial Design Centre of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

.....Project Guide

.....External Examiner

.....Internal Examiner

.....Chair Person

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my guide Prof. Sumant Rao for his guidance and support throughout the project. I thank Prof. Nina Sabnani, Prof Phani Tetali and Prof C. P. Narayan for their support.

I thank my family and friends for their encouragement and support during the project.

My topic for this project is Bonds.

“My Brother and I” is a story of two brothers who never got along, but in the end become the best of friends.

The movie is made using Adobe Flash.
This project is undertaken by me to improve my skillset in animation and its related fields, i.e sketching, understanding colors, storyboarding, storytelling, animatic and compositing.

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My inspiration is derived from mostly all the anime that I have watched over the years. In most of them the issues that triggers an event or concludes the conflict is a bond.

Few of my favourite anime are :

Grave of fireflies:

The film is about a young boy who has to take care of his younger sister, during the world war II.

Fullmetal Alchemist Brotherhood:

A tale of two brothers who were a victim to human alchemy. And they are on a journey to restore each other.

Kathedra:

A traveler wandering into a monument and becoming a part of it.

Understanding of Bonds

"No man is an island"- John Donne

They are the connection between people, objects or places.

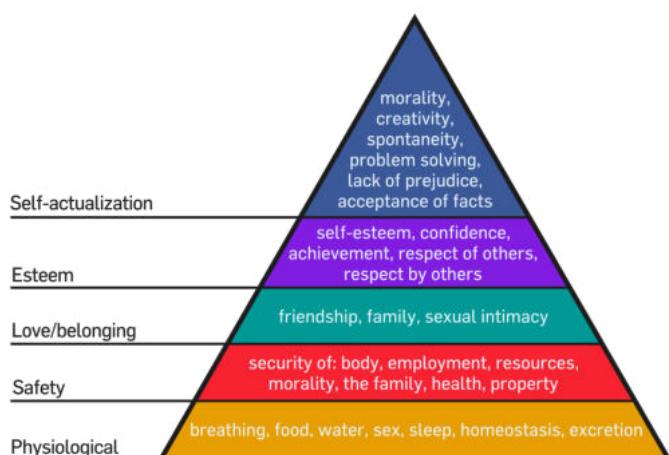
Bond refers to the ties between partners, close friends, or parents and children. This bond is a subset of emotions such as affection, trust, things that gives us the feeling of security.

Bonding is not only be limited to living things. There exists a whole range of bonding forces that exists between materials, atoms to planets. Everything in this universe is attracted to one another.

One of the first bond that we make as baby is with our mother, as she is the person who gives us food and a sense of security that ensures our survival in future. John Bowlby, a British development psychologist had proposed that babies have an instinctive need to create bonds, as it increases their chances of survival by receiving the care they need.^[2] And as we grow older we tend to form other bonds with people, places and objects. Even after we reach an age where we can ensure our

own survival, the need to bond still remains as we get a psychological satisfaction by having people who care for us around. Hence we tend to get along with people who readily accept who we are. The society in a way gives us a goal/purpose to work towards. We in our journey to fulfil this purpose we form a multitude of bonds that help or ensures our future in the way we want.

The results of the Harlow's Rhesus Monkey Experiment^[9], where in one of the experiment the baby monkey was fed using a metallic robot and soft doll was kept inside the cage. The soft doll did nothing. It was seen that when a sense of danger was introduced in the cage would cling soft doll which did nothing. But after the baby monkey reached the soft doll, it starts gaining confidence and starts threatening the danger in the cage. This point to the fact that we are always looking for a comfort zone even if it does not provide any gain to us.



From this point onwards I would like talk why I think the bond are important in the current times that we live as we race towards a higher purpose that we have for ourselves.

Abraham Maslow published a paper in 1943 called "The Theory of Human Motivation". In which he studied exemplary people such as Albert Einstein, Jane Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, Frederick Douglass and healthiest 1% of the college student population. The different levels are as follows:

Physiological:

The basic human physical needs if not met our body fails to function. Air, food, drink, shelter, warmth, sex and sleep keep our body in perfect condition.

Safety:

Protection from natural forces like heat, cold, rains, violence etc.

Safety and security need include Personal security, financial security, health and well-being.

Love and Belonging:

This level of human need is all about love and fulfilling relationships. Provides a feeling of belongingness. This is basically a comfort zone where you can be yourself without getting denied.

Esteem:

Then need to be accepted and valued. We often engage in a profession or a hobby to gain recognition, which provides a sense of contribution or value.

There are two levels of self-esteem:

- Lower level: The need of respect from others includes fame, status, prestige and recognition.
- Higher level: This is the self-respect we have for ourselves. This is portrayed by our need for strength, competence, mastery, self-confidence, independence and freedom.

Lack of these leads to inferiority complex, weakness and helplessness.

Self-Actualization:

"Humanistic psychology's ultimate goal of self-actualization focuses on creativity and acceptance of the world around us."

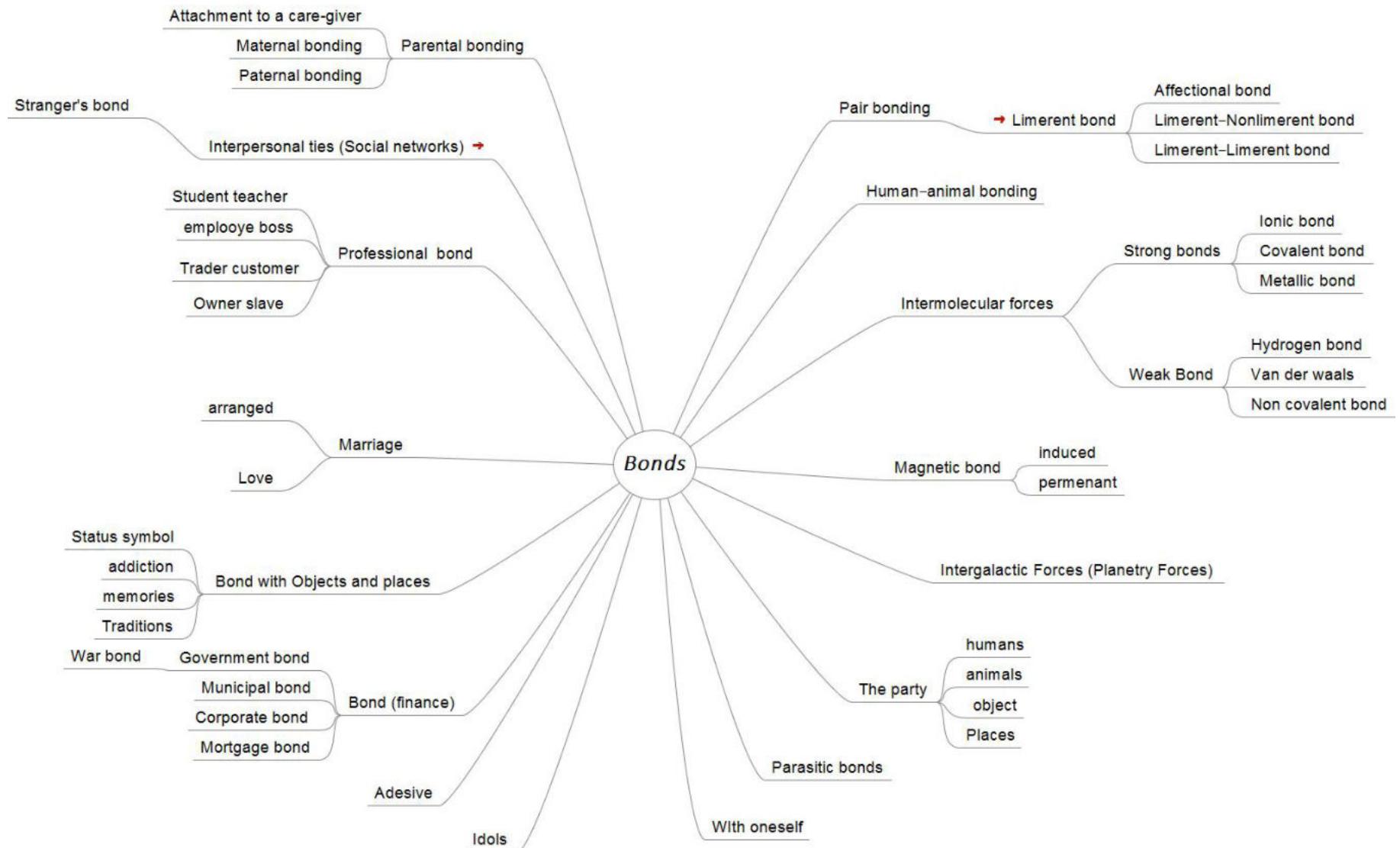
This level is where we can fully realize our potential, the desire to accomplish everything that we can. To reach this level one must gratify all the previous needs.

To able to unlock our true potential in whatever that we embark on is why we create the bonds that we have. This is my understanding and the need for bonds.

The different kinds of bonds that exists are classified as follows:

Types of Bonds

1.0	Pair bonding	7.1	induced
1.1	Limerent bond	7.2	permenant
1.1.1	Affectional bond: define relationships in which neither partner is limerent	8.0	Marriage
1.1.2	Limerent–Nonlimerent bond: define relationships in which one partner is limerent.	8.1	arranged
1.1.3	Limerent–Limerent bond: define relationships in which both partners are limerent.	8.2	Love
2.0	Parental bonding	9.0	Bond with Objects and places
2.1	Attachment to a care-giver	9.1	Status symbol
2.2	Maternal bonding	9.2	addiction
2.3	Paternal bonding	9.3	memories
3.0	Human–animal bonding	9.4	Traditions
4.0	Interpersonal ties (Social networks)	10.0	Intergalactic Forces (Planetary Forces)
4.1	Stranger's bond	11.0	Bond (finance)
5.0	Intermolecular forces	11.1	Government bond
5.1	Strong bonds	11.1.1	War bond
5.1.1	Ionic bond	11.2	Municipal bond
5.1.2	Covalent bond	11.3	Corporate bond
5.1.3	Metallic bond	11.4	Mortgage bond
5.2	Weak Bond	12.0	The party
5.2.1	Hydrogen bond	12.1	humans
5.2.2	Van der waals	12.2	animals
5.2.3	Non covalent bond	12.3	object
6.0	Professional bond	12.4	Places
6.1	Student teacher	13.0	Adhesive
6.2	employee boss	14.0	Parasitic bonds
6.3	Trader customer	15.0	Idols
6.4	Owner slave	16.0	WIth oneself
7.0	Magnetic bond		



Story 1: Co-Existence

Underlying concept

Bowlby proposed that babies have an inbuilt need from birth to make emotional attachments, i.e. bonds, because this increases the chances of survival by ensuring that they receive the care they need.^[3]

The enduring motivation is the desire to control a pleasantly surprising transformation that is the route of belief in effectiveness by humans. This motivation accounts for curiosity and intellectual growth of language, mathematics and logic, all of which have an emotional base of security - B.M. Ostfeld (1983).^[8]

World is a brilliant place, teeming with life and intelligence.

Humans have evolved from primal instincts. Yet we have not reached far, we keep falling back to the need to dominate things we like and fear alike.

But there is a balance, Hippocratic society if you viewed just by the values and needs.

Everything in this world cannot be black or white, grey are that dominate.

Every one finds their own way to live by, what you do boils down to what you believe.

Story:

It's a dark landscape yet beautiful in its night time glory, an endless land. There are pillars of light at the edges shooting up to the sky. There is a turbulent wind blowing strong across the land which carried grey feathers and thousands of them across the land.

There was a small glow of light in the deserted landscape and the source of light was the tiny human infants with translucent bodies. They had feathers on their backs- some big some small. The feathers that kept blowing sometimes get attached with these infants on their backs. As the time passes they grow up, some lose their feathers and some disappear leaving the feather to be blown away by the wind.

The babies stay happy, play with each other and do not take notice of the land as such.

As time passes, the feathers on their back, injects a coloured fluid in them. Slowly and as it spreads across the body, the glow starts to diminish and they become opaque. They begin to notice the bright pillars of light at a distance.

And they started moving towards the brightest one of them all. Some walking, some crawling and some did not even move. And those of them, who did not move, were nudged by the feather as if they were a conscious entity. During all this time they were accumulating and losing feathers, they had started growing their own feathers, white it was yet their own. When these white feathers separate from them it turns grey and goes with wind.

Story Exploration

Continued...

And they continued on forward as if in a trance, toward the same light. Some of them accumulated lot of feathers and they started to glide effortlessly and with turbulence. The feathers seem to lift them up to take away some of their burden. People who were gliding seemed to be gaining on their destination. All the while gaining feathers and losing some.

Behind them was there were people still running and amongst them there was one guy who was not allured by the light. Rather he was looking at the people were gliding with an amazed expression. to him the people gliding looked to having so much fun, and he wanted that experience. As for him the feathers were not enough to be able to glide, as they seem to be moving far away from his sight.

He hurriedly grabbed a feather coming his way and forcefully tried to attach it to himself. But it didn't, all he was left with was an open wound oozing with liquid. Determinedly, he kept going. Dashing into the feathers, hoping they would get attached. Some did but still not enough.

As he grew older one of his oldest and the biggest feather blew away. He stumbled, swayed and fell. He knew what had happened and he searched in vain. In agony he lied down, he wanted to follow them, be like them but seems have lost all energy to move. The turbulent wind bought a feather, that landed softly on him. It was not attaching itself nor could the wind blow it away.

But it was nudging him to get up and move. He held the feather, and looked at it for a while. As he had never thought about what it actually is,

but still he saw nothing special in it. It's something that enable people to glide for all he knew.

As he was still observing the feather, he felt warmth in that feather. Before he knew it, he had a tear in his eyes, and all of a sudden the feather started to have a familiar glow. As he looked up he saw all the feathers had a glow and it was beautiful. He gazed afar for a while. He took the nudging feather and kept it safely inside of him. As he did so there was a faint glow, for tiny second. He had a smile, and with a deep breath, he walked on.

Story 2: My Brother and I

Underlying concept

Family bonds are one of the strongest relations that we can make. As for siblings, they fight a lot and get on each others nerves a lot. But when an external threat comes into picture, they will do anything to help each other out.

Story:

For Raj, till his younger brother Ram came along life was fun. He used to receive lots of goodies and gifts from his parents. But when Ram had been born, it was like his parents had forgotten him. And all his goodies were going to ram and as if that's not enough Ram wanted whatever Raj had got too.

On one particular occasion, Raj was given a pretty lame doll - a teddy bear. As always Ram wanted to have it, raj got angry and threw that doll at ram really hard. This made ram cry, to Raj's surprise the cry of his brother made him really happy.

And as they grew up raj kept bullying Ram, whenever ram approaches Raj.

Raj was playing with his toy plane and Ram wanted to play with him with the teddy bear. Raj as always wanting to make him cry pinched him.

And still ram was very fond of his older brother Raj.

Yet another day, Raj was eating sugar from the kitchen and Ram also wanted to have it. Raj told

him to close his eyes and fed a spoonful of salt. This time he did not cry, as if to show Raj that he did not understand why he has to be bullied every time.

They were enrolled in the same school, and during the breaktime Ram would run to meet Raj with his teddy bear. Raj not very fond of Ram would try to run away or hide. And ram would go back disappointed.

One day in school, Ram was getting bullied by one of Raj's huge classmate Doni. Doni was the biggest and the strongest of the class. Doni had taken the teddy bear from ram was teasing him, and Ram was crying up a river. Raj seeing his that his brother was getting bullied by a stranger got really mad, and he did not understand why he was mad because seeing ram cry normally made him happy.

Without a second thought, he jumped right in and bit Doni in the arm and made him let go of the teddy. Raj grabbing the teddy tried to escape, but unfortunately he was beaten up badly. While he was beaten up he kept the teddy safe.

Doh got tired of beating him and left as he was not fighting back. Raj slowly got up and noticed his brother Ram standing next to him. Ram was stunned as Raj would normally bully him and will not help him. As Raj extended his arms to give Ram the teddy back, which he threw at Ram years ago as to hurt him. Now he was giving the same teddy with a big simle on his face.

Ram an Raj became the best of friends and lived happily ever after.

Story 1 is a large ambiguous concept difficult to do justice in a short format. And also with my limited skill set it would have been hard to finish the movie in given time.

Story 2: My Brother and I

This was selected for this project as it had a strong bond. And there is a lot of conflict in the relationship and yet the strength was coming through. And it is easier to explore and do justice as a short film.

But there was a glitch in the flow of the story, as in the last scene where Ram getting bullied, the sudden turn around of Raj's feeling was not justified. So there was a bit of iteration was required.

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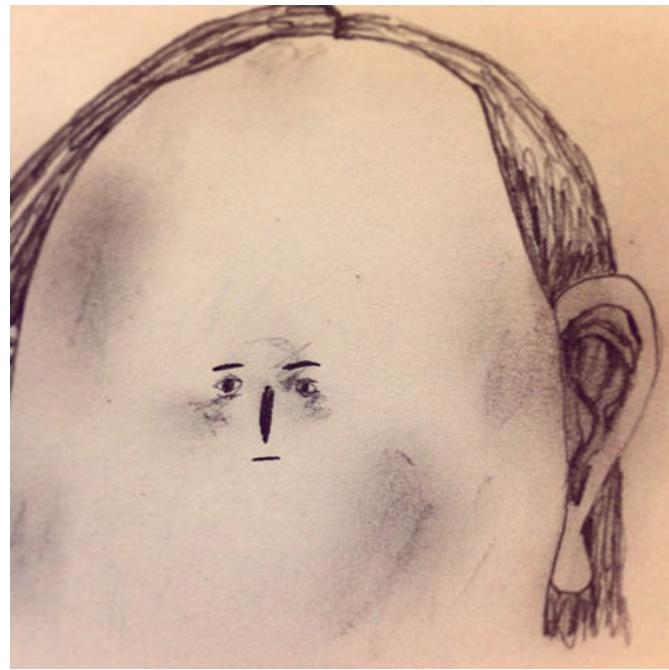
Ram as always was searching for Raj at school. He found Raj getting bullied by Doni. This had made Ram very angry. He ran and bit Doni in the arm. Doni gets angry and knocks Ram away. Seeing this Raj gets angry and punches Doni, with no avail. Raj quickly tries to protect Ram as Doni reels up for another attack. Doni keeps kicking them while they are on the ground.

Suddenly Doni realizes the growing crowd around him and leaves the scene. Both brothers gets up, but both them are extremely happy, Ram is happy as Raj has finally paid heed to him and was able to help him out. And Raj realizes how much Ram cares for even after bulling him so much.



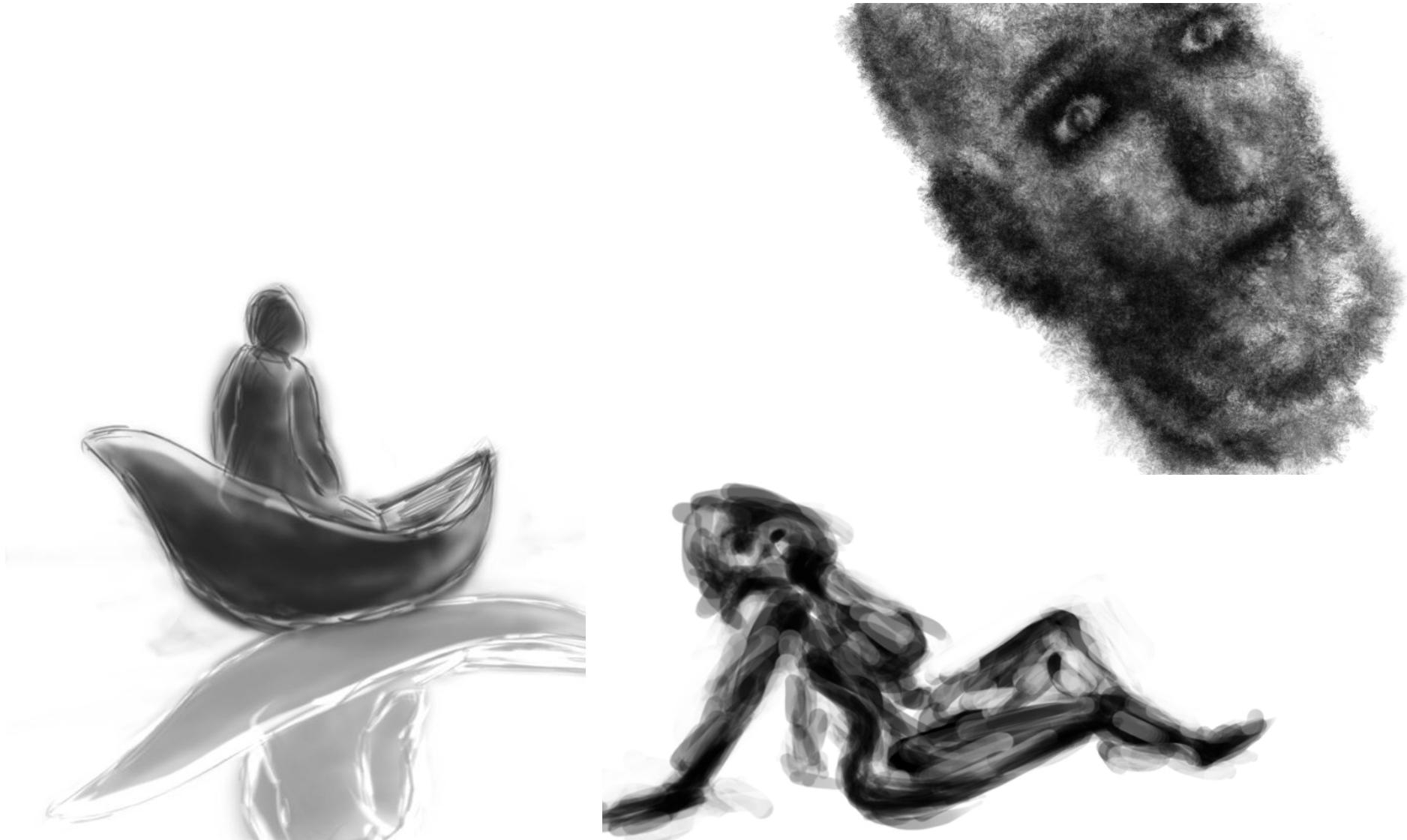
Pascal Campion

This is the style that I was initially going for, as it gives a sense of merry nostalgia. This is due to bright and the grainy texture.



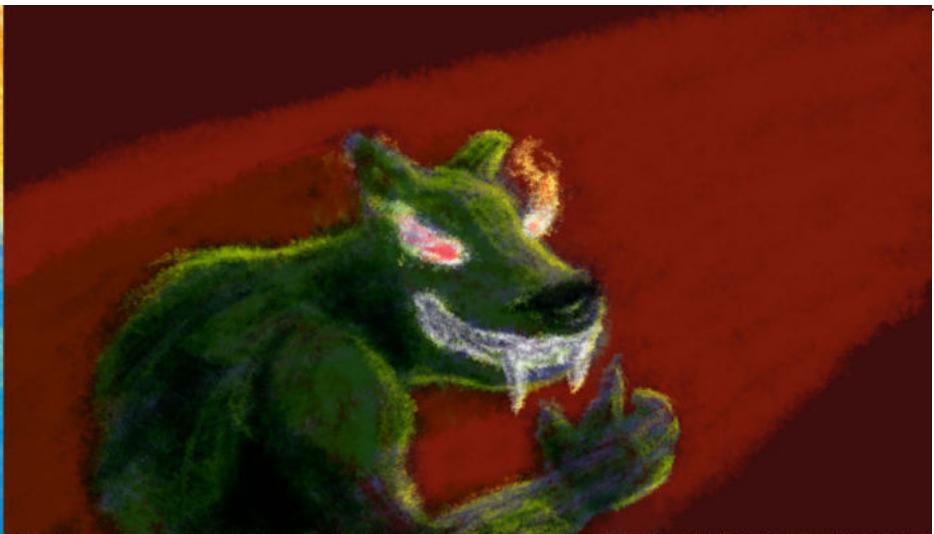
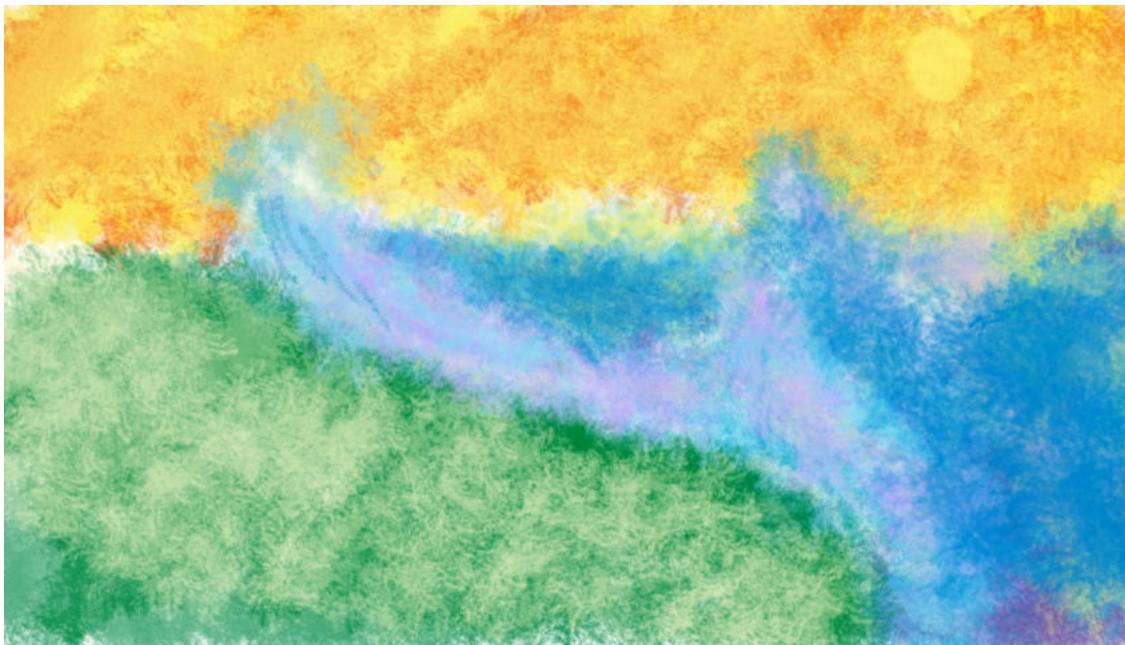
Masaki Okuda

Masaki mostly does a black and white animation. I really love clean and minimalist his drawing looks.



Visual Explorations

Continued...



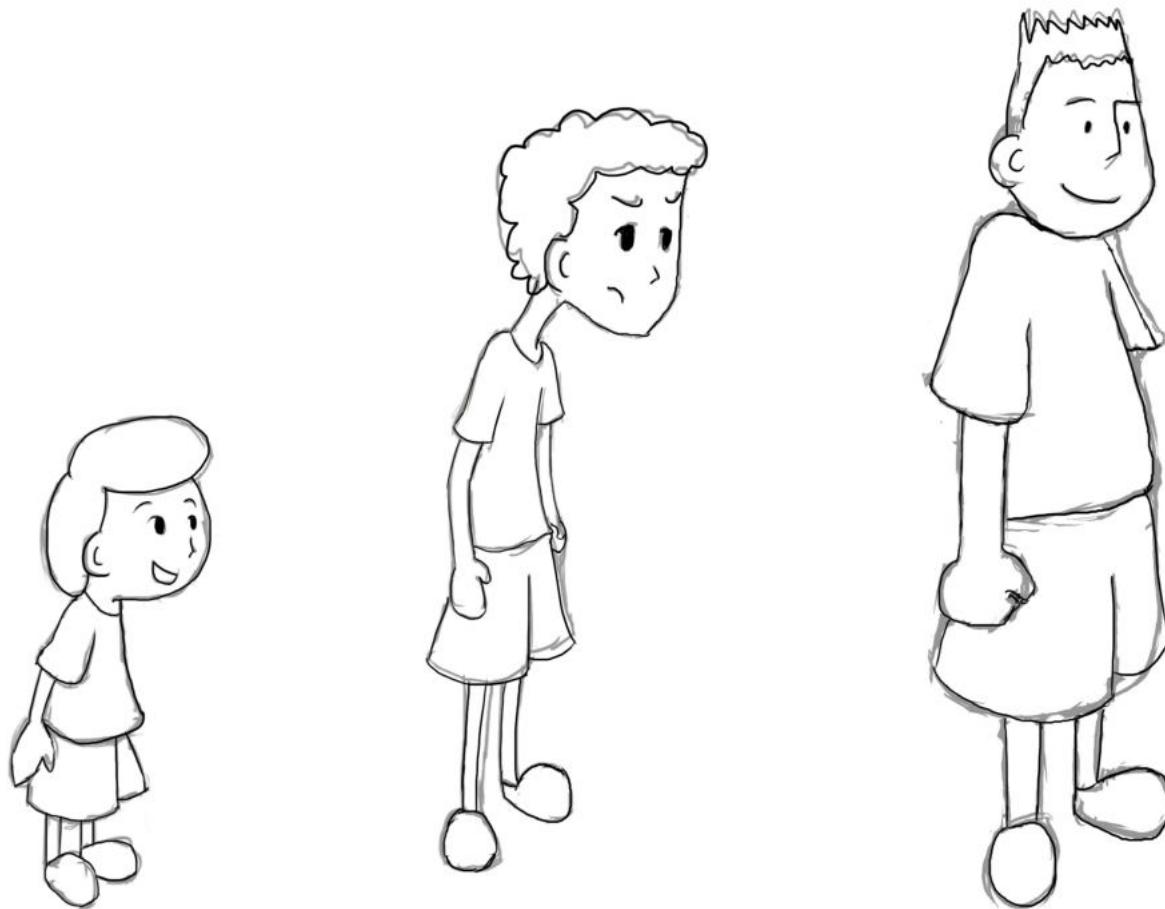
Character Exploration



Character Exploration

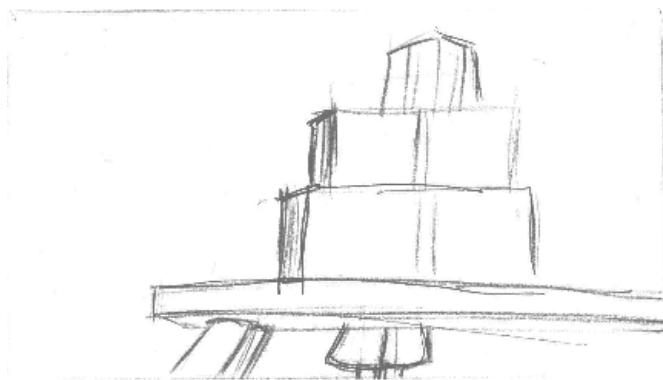


The complete movie will be kept in black and white, as a novice to colour and painting. the time taken to colour each frame was too much.



Storyboard

20



Camera zoom in

Shows Raj is estatic with joy.

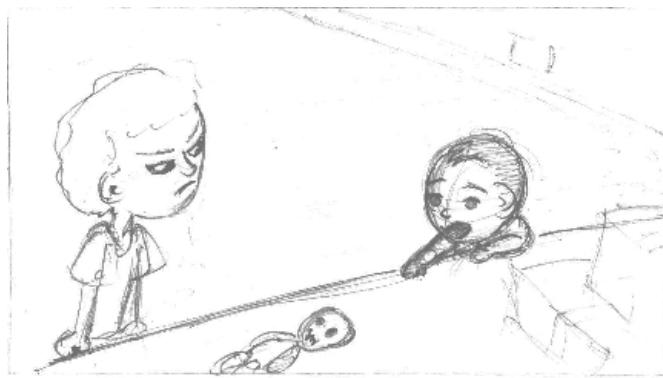


All of Raj's gift deappear.

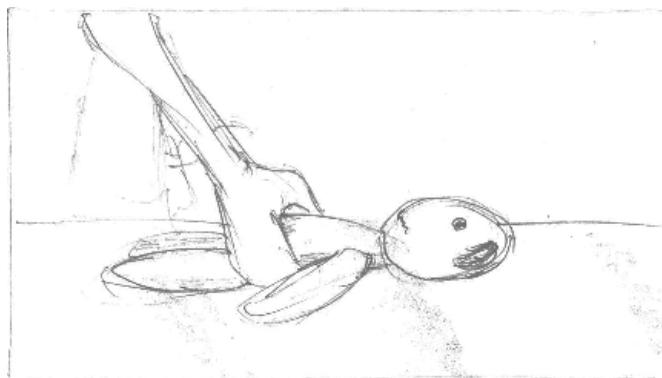


Camera zooms out

Shows Ram with all of Raj's Gift



Ram wants to haave the only toy Raj got



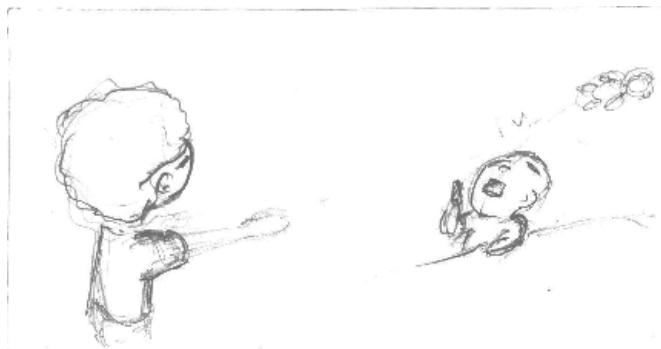
Angry raj takes up the toy



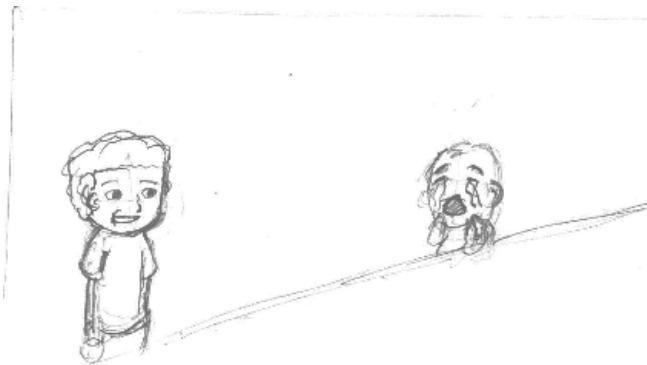
Looks at Ram in a menacing manner

Storyboard

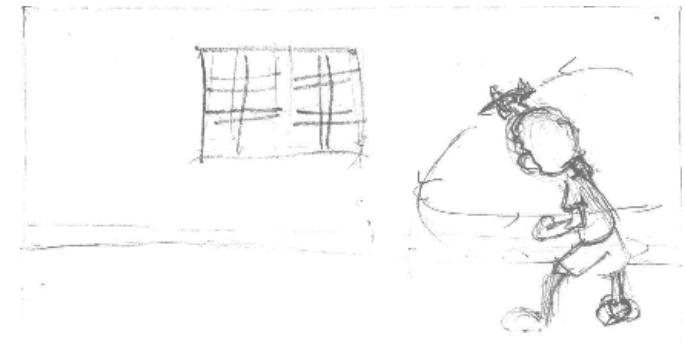
21



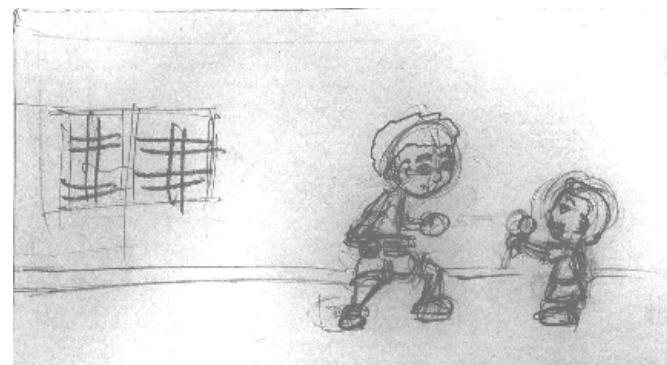
Raj throws the toy at Ram



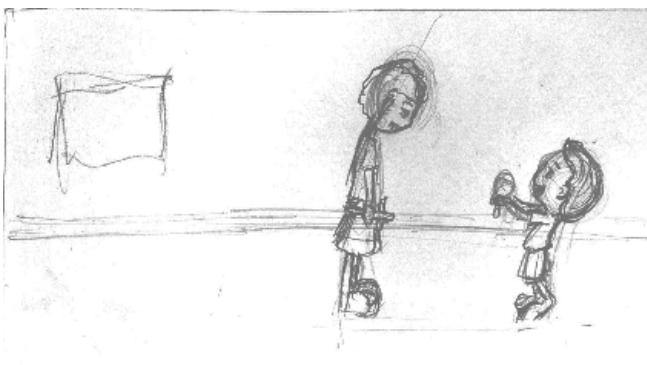
Ram's crying makes Raj really happy



camera dolly with Raj flying a toy plane



camera pans towards left revealing Ram is standing behind Raj



Ram tries to show his toy so as to play together with Raj



Raj extends his towards Ram and pinches him on the arms.

Storyboard



Seeing Ram cry again made Raj's day



Raj walks into the kitchen and takes up the sugar bottle



Ram is peek to what Raj is doing



Ram asks Raj to give him some sugar too



Ram stands with his mouth wide open



Raj switchs the sugar bottle with salt

Storyboard

23



Raj extends the spoonfull of salt towards Ram



Ram after eating salt cringes



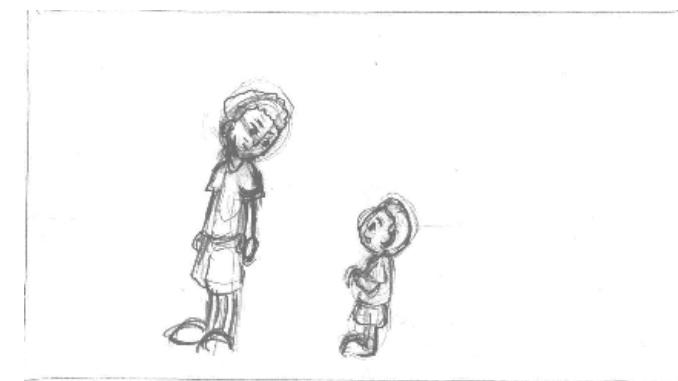
Ram walks away filled with sadness



Camera dolly with the Raj and Ram



Camera zoom out



Raj looks back at Ram

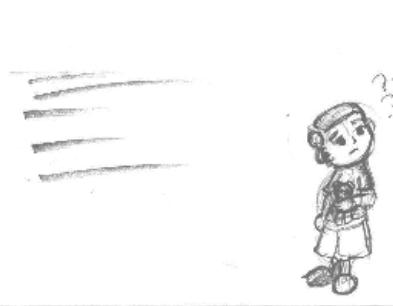
Ram and Raj are walking in the school corridor

Storyboard

24



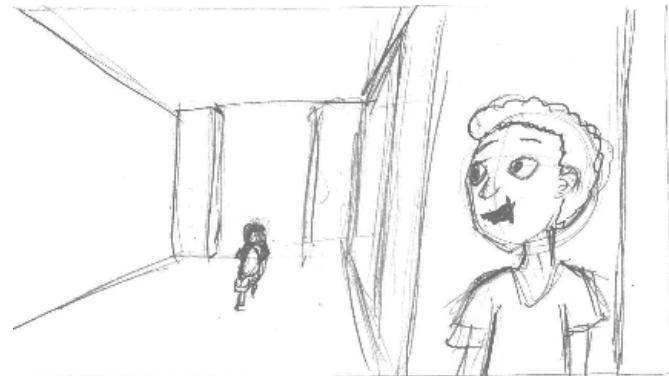
Raj points to something happening at a distance



While Ram is looking away, Raj flees



Ram looks back to see that Raj has disappeared



Camera zoom out



Camera pans side ways



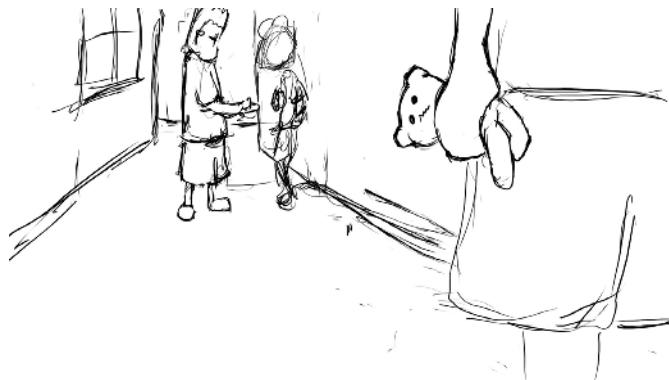
Camera slowly zoom in

Ram walks away in disappointment.

Ram is trying to find Raj

Storyboard

25



Ram finds Raj getting bullied by Doni



Ran gets angry



Ram goes and bites Doni



Doni punches Ram away



Raj is shocked



Raj punches Doni

Storyboard



Raj is beaten down



Raj protects Ram , while Doni kicks them



Doni looks around

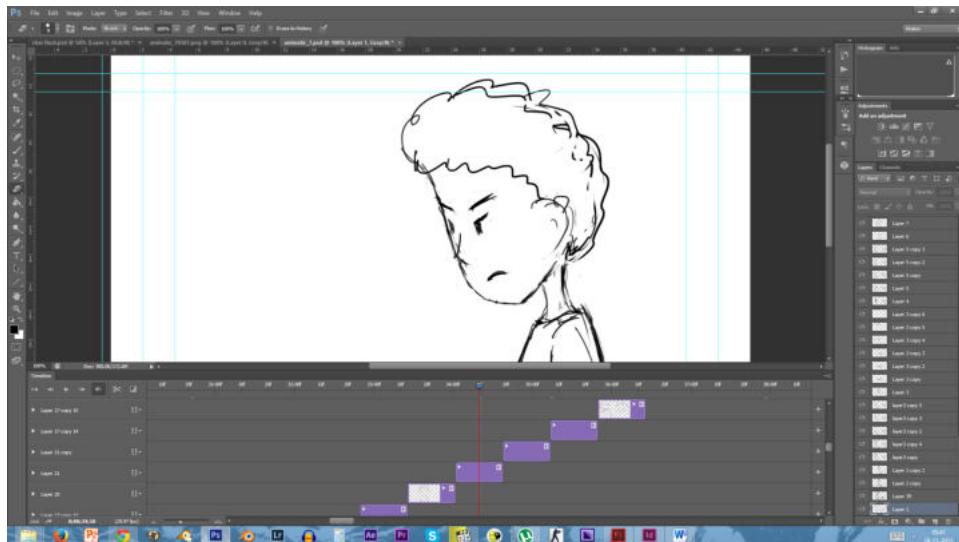


Lot of people are looking at him, Doni walks away.



Raj is happy that he helped his Ram. And Ram is happy that Raj came to his rescue.

The end



After making the story board I made frames for animatic in Adobe Photoshop. I imported these frames to Adobe Premiere Pro and timed it to scratch sound. The editing of sound was done in Adobe Premiere pro.

The sounds that are used in this movie are voice, foley sound with a background track.

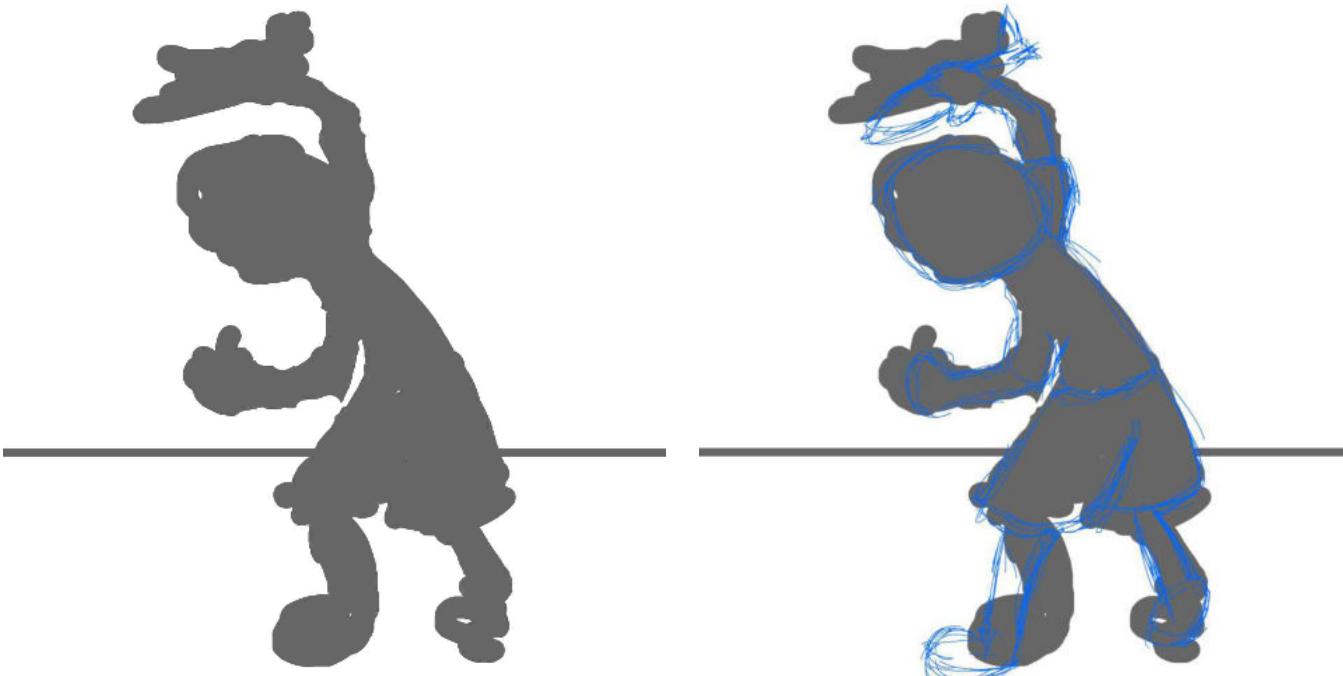
I have not kept a narration as any person who has sibling or a very close friend, would have gone through such petty and cute fights.

Hence, they will relate to it in a reminiscing manner.



Animatic and Sound





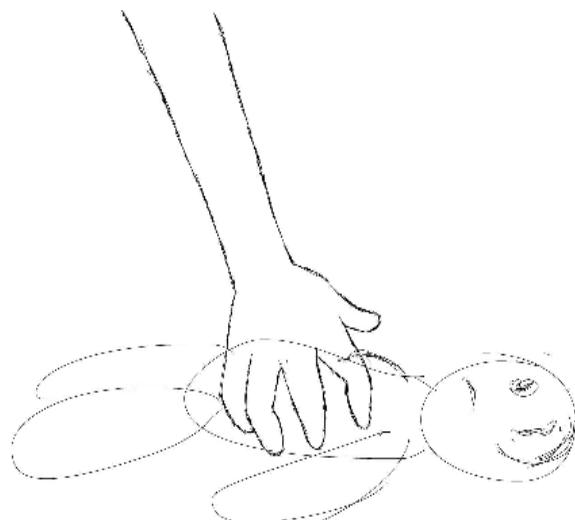
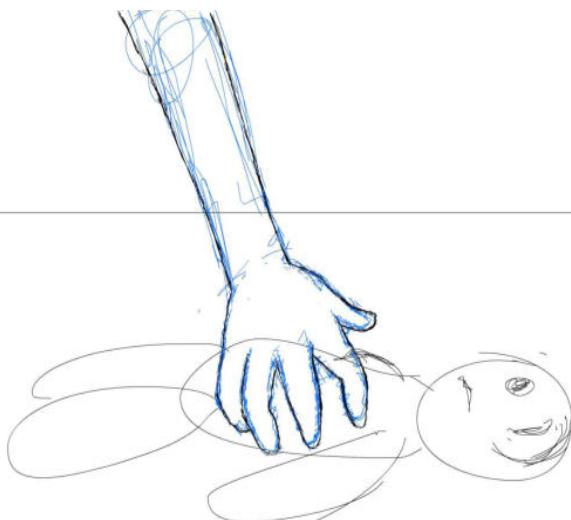
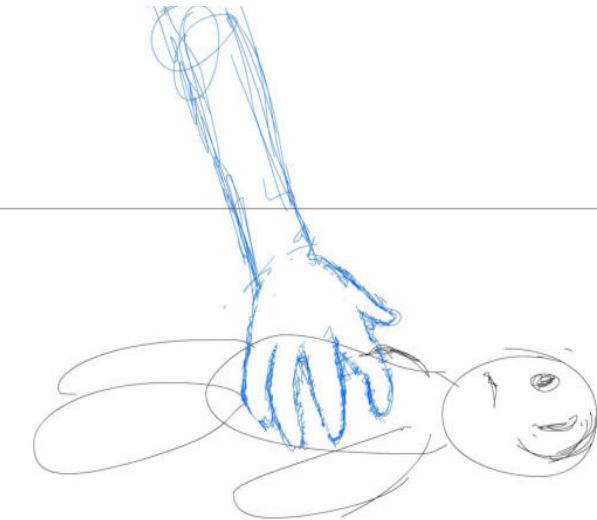
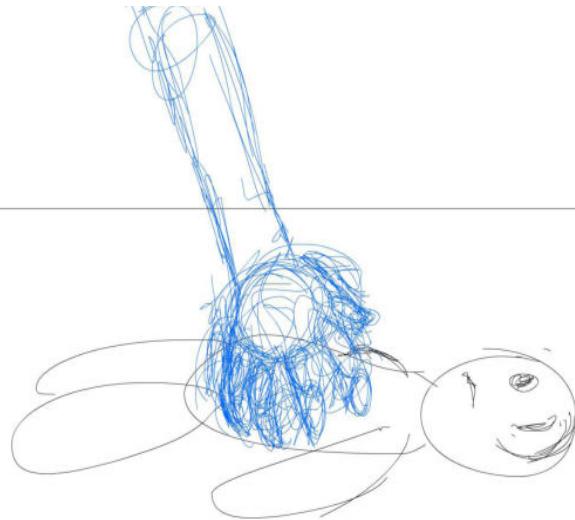
My entire movie is made digitally in Adobe flash using an intous tablet. This is my first time animating in flash, I chose to do this as I was trying out small animations and had gotten used to the smoothing and sensitivity of the tools and outlay of the software.

As movie is Black and White in nature. The rough animation, clean up and inking to fill up the white spaces is done in flash. And then scenes are composited using Adobe AfterEffects.

My skill in drawing is a little weak. So as get most out of it this is the process that I followed.

For the first half of my movie, I would make a silhouette of my character keyframe. After that I would take up a new layer and make a scribbly outline of the character, also improve the stature.

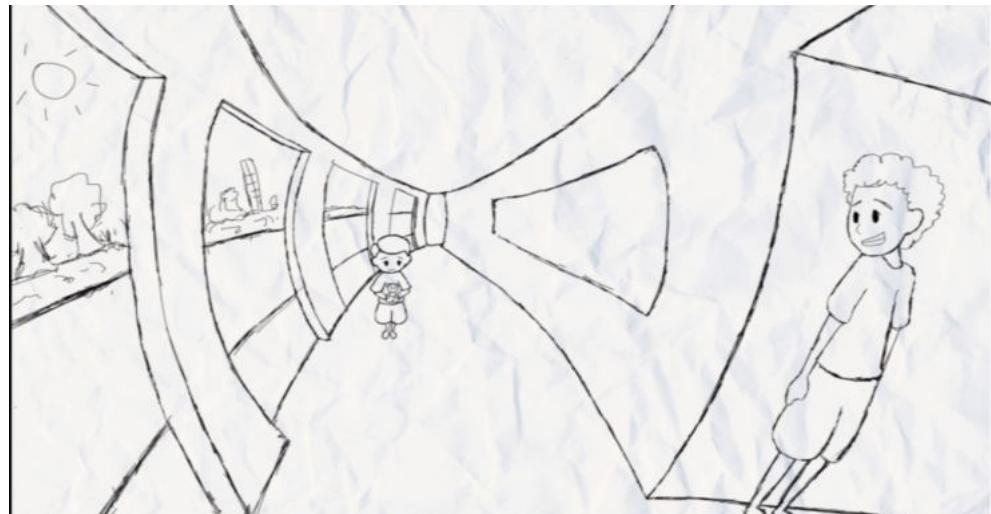
Since I was making the silhouette by erasing it out of a patch of colour, it was taking too much time.



For the later half of the movie, I started scribbling the shape out using circles. Then erasing the unwanted lines to get the keyframe. And clean that up in a new layer.

By the end of making movie, the amount of scribble line reduced a lot. And the process became a bit quicker.

Final Design



1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bond>
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_bonding
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maternal_bond
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paternal_bond
5. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Male_bonding
6. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bowlby
7. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affectional_bond
8. "Engageance, a practical elaboration of attachment in mothers of at-risk infants". International Journal of Family Psychiatry, R.H. Smith; B.M. Ostfeld (1983)
9. Harlow's Rhesus Monkey Experiments and the Attachment Theory - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02r3u59FRPU>
10. "No Man is an island" - <http://web.cs.dal.ca/~johnston/poetry/island.html>
11. Maslow's hierarchy of needs - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow's_hierarchy_of_needs
12. Grave of fireflies - http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-fje1SJhbpow/UKFBqNuANfI/AAAAAAAEEU/7bpgj--6I8s/s1600/fireflies_cover.jpg
13. Fullmetal alchemist Brotherhood - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fullmetal_Alchemist
14. Pascal Campion - <http://www.pascalcampion.com/>
15. Masaki Okuda - <http://masakiokuda.com/>