



# DANIEL MENDO

VISUAL DEVELOPMENT  
CHARACTER DESIGN

PORTFOLIO 2021

# MA-NO UMI

JAPAN.

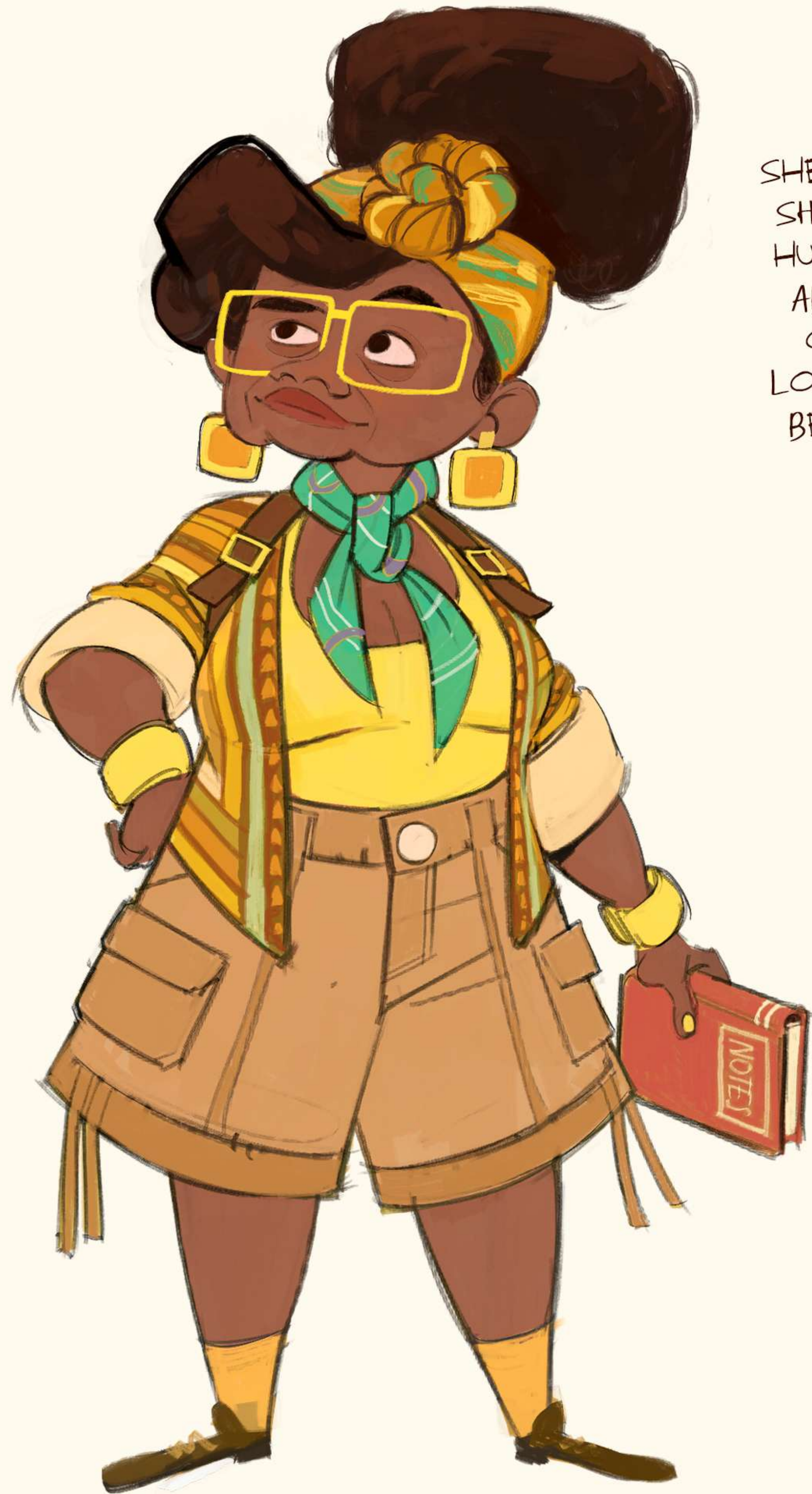
JOY, A FAMOUS ZOOLOGIST AND BIOLOGIST FROM NIGERIA, LEAVES FOR AN EXPEDITION INTO THE DEVIL'S SEA. SHE WANTS TO FIND AN ISLAND POPULATED BY UNKNOWN ANIMALS MENTIONED IN OLD CHINESE LEGENDS, AN ISLAND THAT SEEMS TO BE PROTECTED BY A DANGEROUS DRAGON. ACCOMPANIED BY A FUNNY CREW, A SHADY MAN THAT FOUNDED THE EXPEDITION AND HER LITTLE NEPHEW AITO, WHO HID INSIDE THE SHIP WITHOUT HER KNOWING, JOY WANTS TO FIND THE TRUTH.



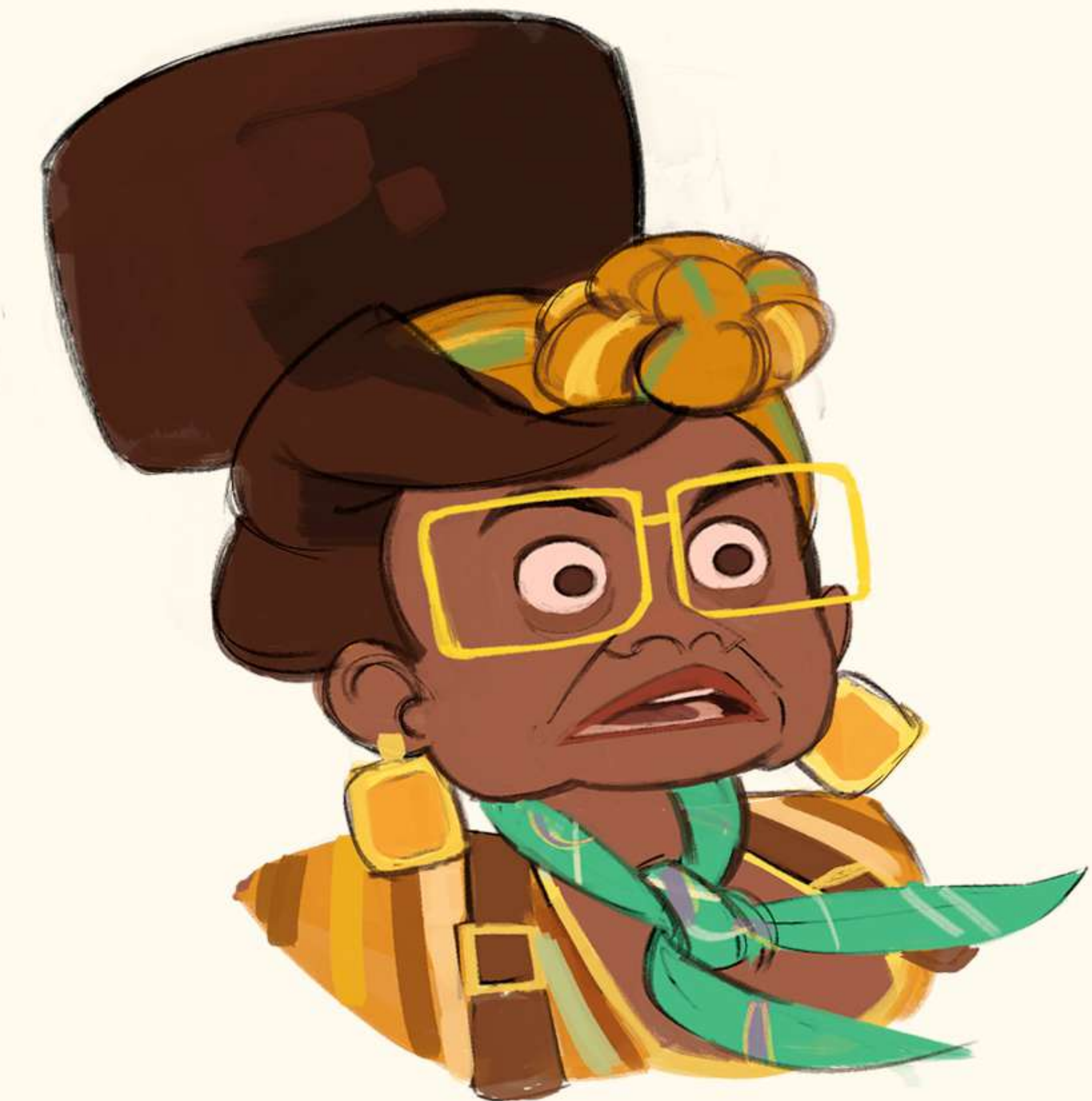
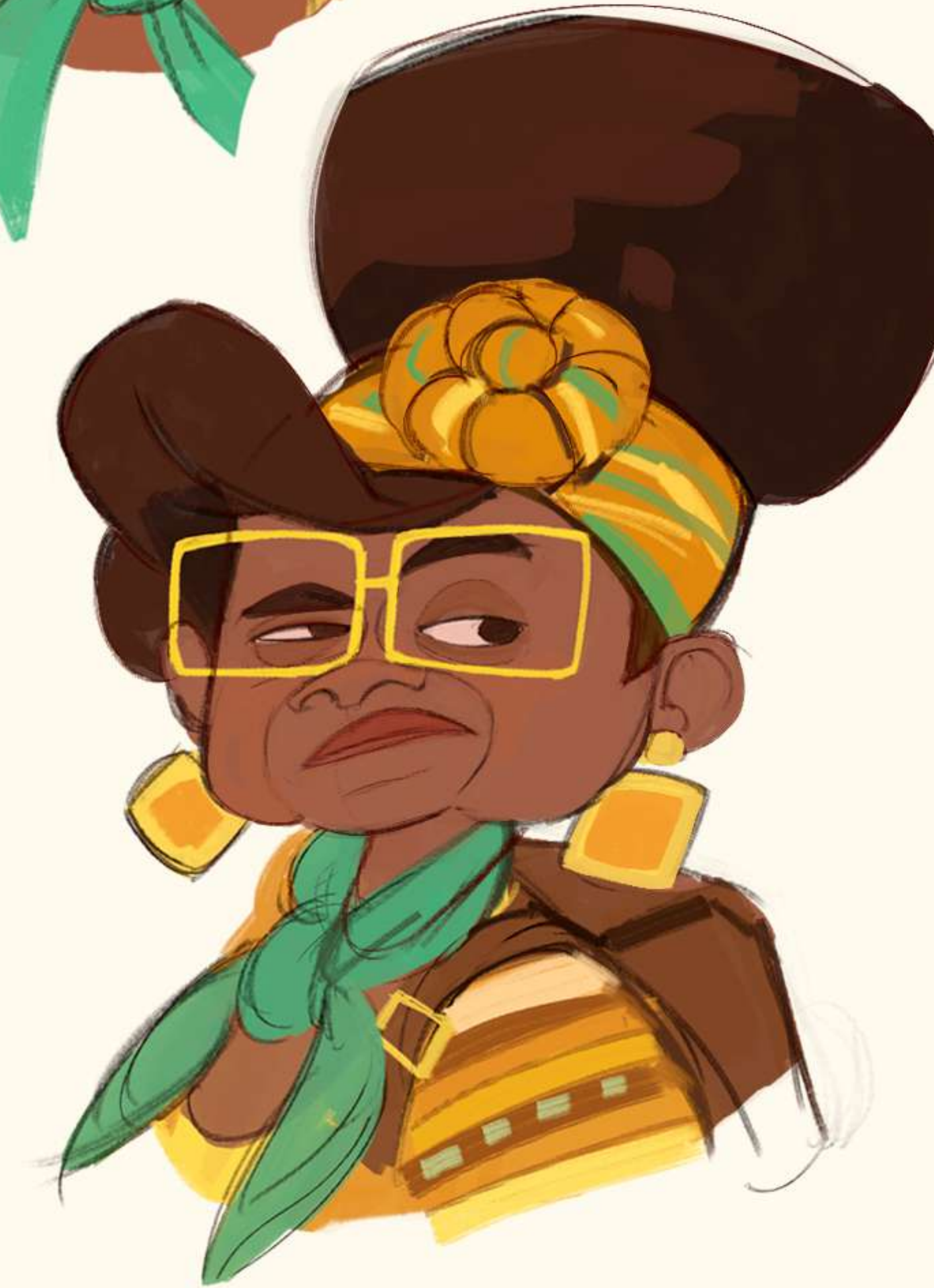
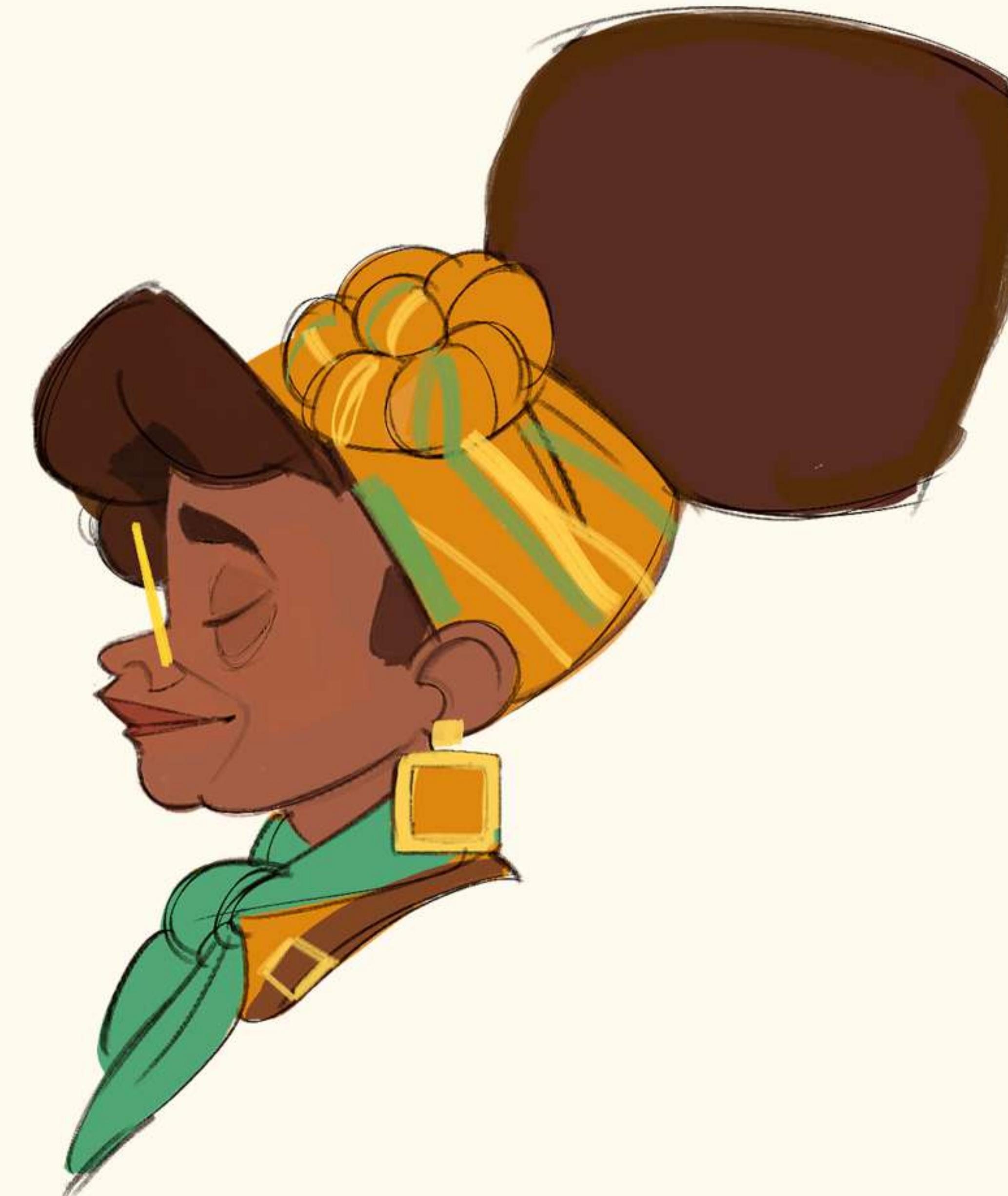
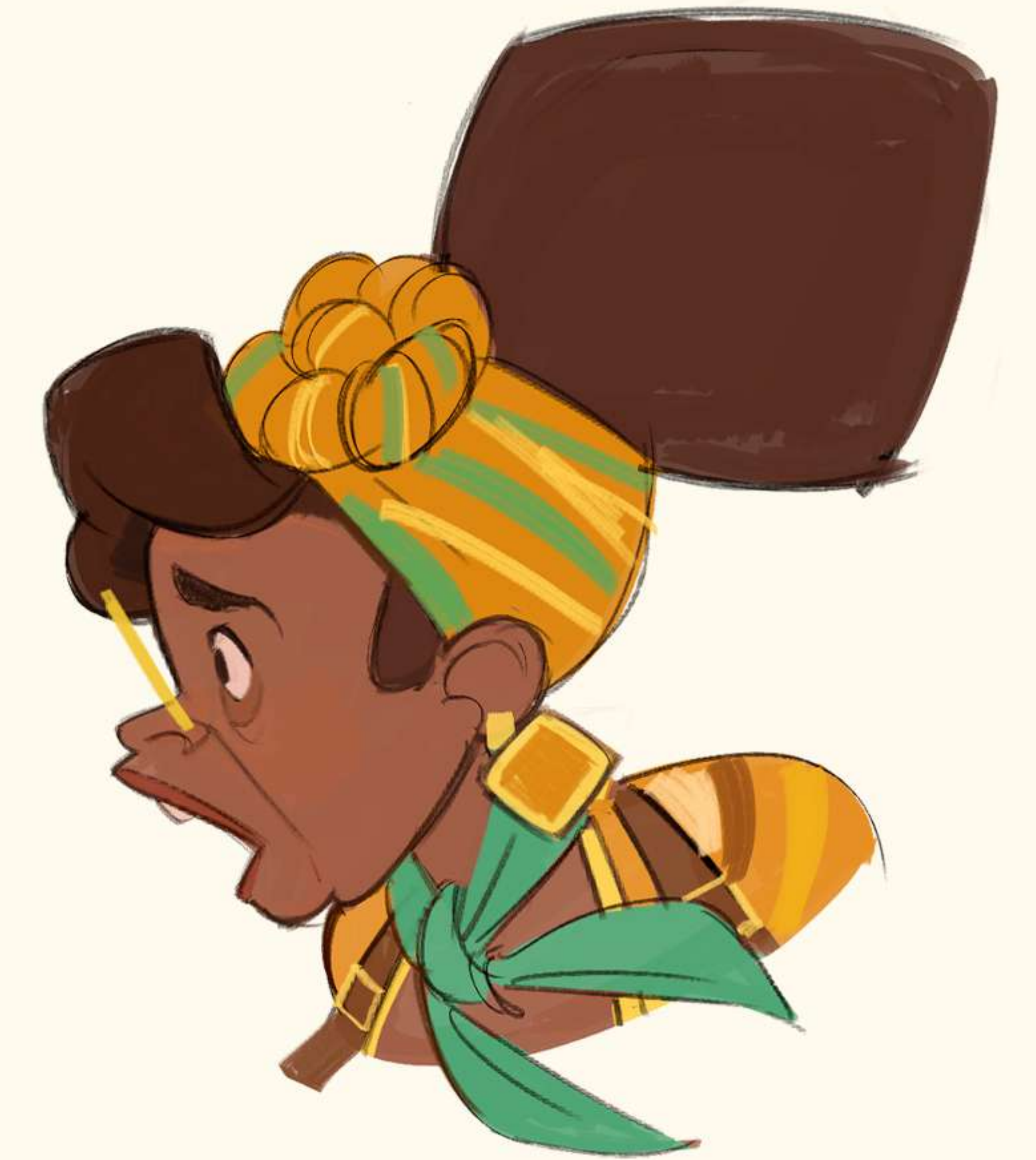
THE DEVIL'S SEA (MA-NO UMI IN JAPANESE) IS A DANGEROUS REGION OF THE PACIFIC NEAR JAPAN. SOME CONSIDER THIS AREA A PARANORMAL LOCATION SIMILAR TO THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE WHERE SHIPS, BOATS AND PLANES SEEMS TO DISAPPEAR.

# JOY & AITO

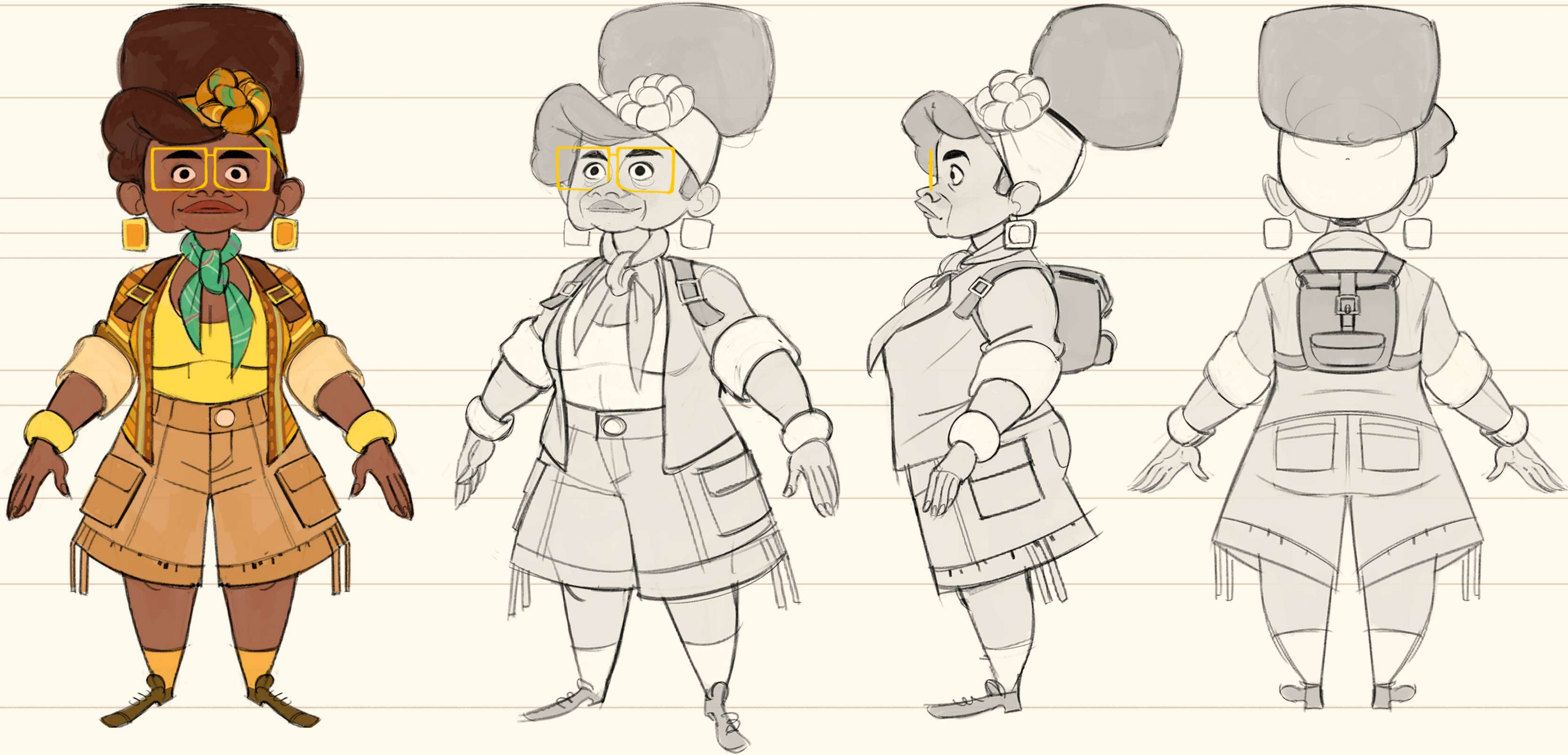
SHE'S A FAMOUS ZOOLOGIST AND BIOLOGIST FROM NIGERIA. SHE MOVED TO JAPAN WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER WITH HER HUSBAND. SHE'S EXTREMELY ENERGETIC AND PASSIONATE ABOUT HER JOB, SHE'S SMART AND WITTY. DESPITE HER OLD AGE, JOY IS STILL AGILE AND ADVENTUROUS. SHE LOVES HER NEPHEW AITO WITH ALL HER HEART AND SHE'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF HIM SINCE THE DEATH OF AITO'S PARENTS.



CURIOUS, VIBRANT AND CREATIVE, AITO IS A LITTLE BOY THAT IS AFRAID OF NOTHING AND KEEPS GETTING INTO TROUBLE BECAUSE OF HIS ADVENTURES. HE WANTS TO BE JUST LIKE HIS GRANDMA. HIS WHY PHASE



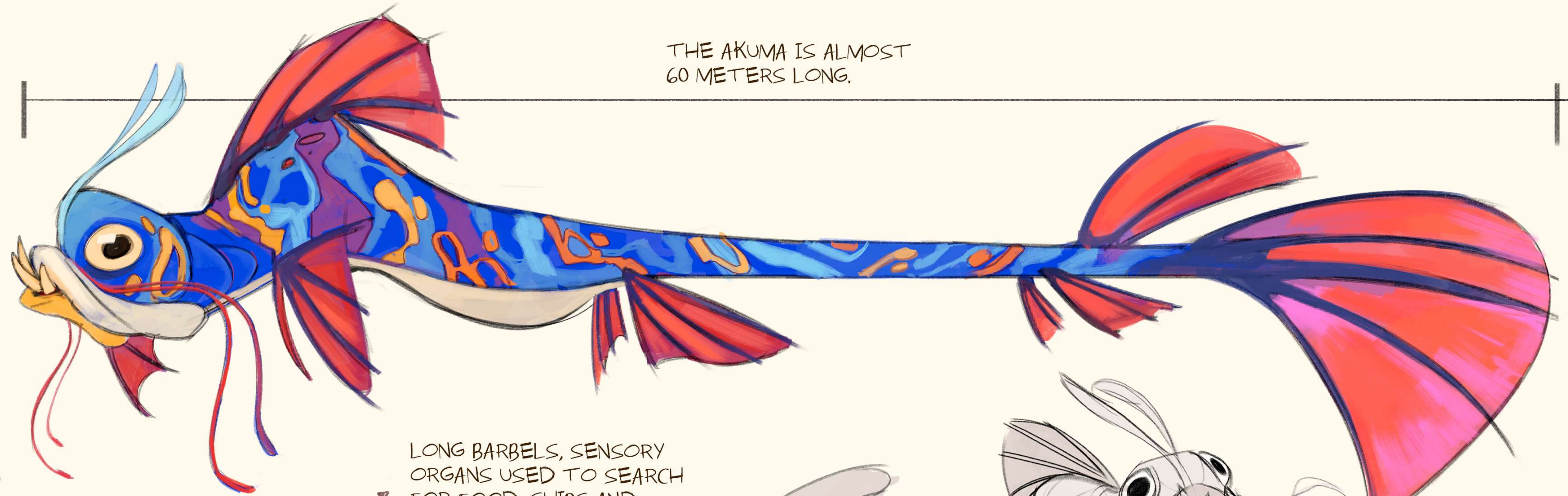
JOY



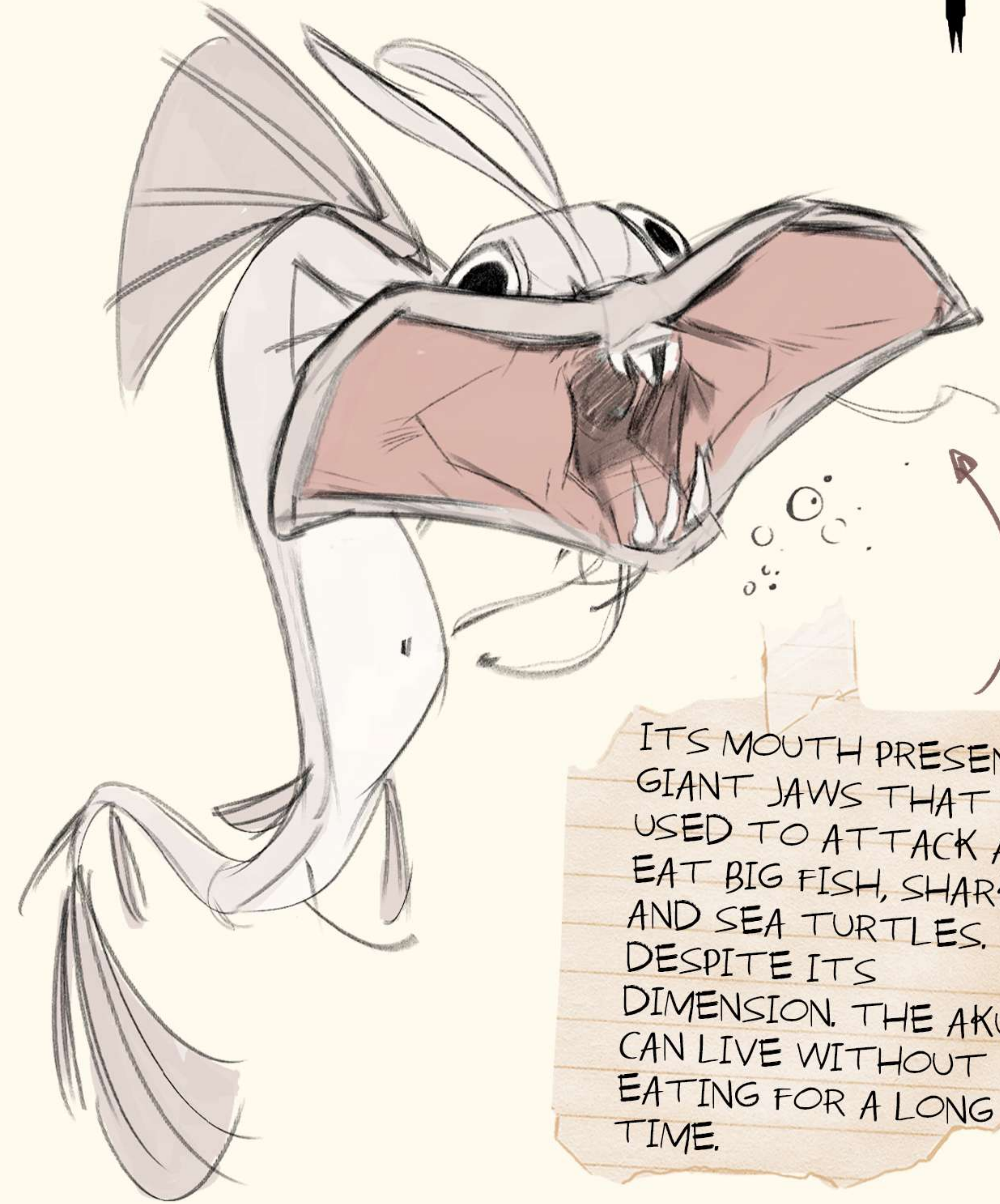
# AKUMA

THE AKUMA IS A HUGE PREDATOR THAT PATROLS THE WATERS OF THE DEVIL'S SEA. IT'S THE DRAGON OF THE LEGENDS ABOUT THE MA-NO UMI. EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE IT ATTACKS SHIPS AND BOATS THAT GET CLOSE TO ITS TERRITORY.

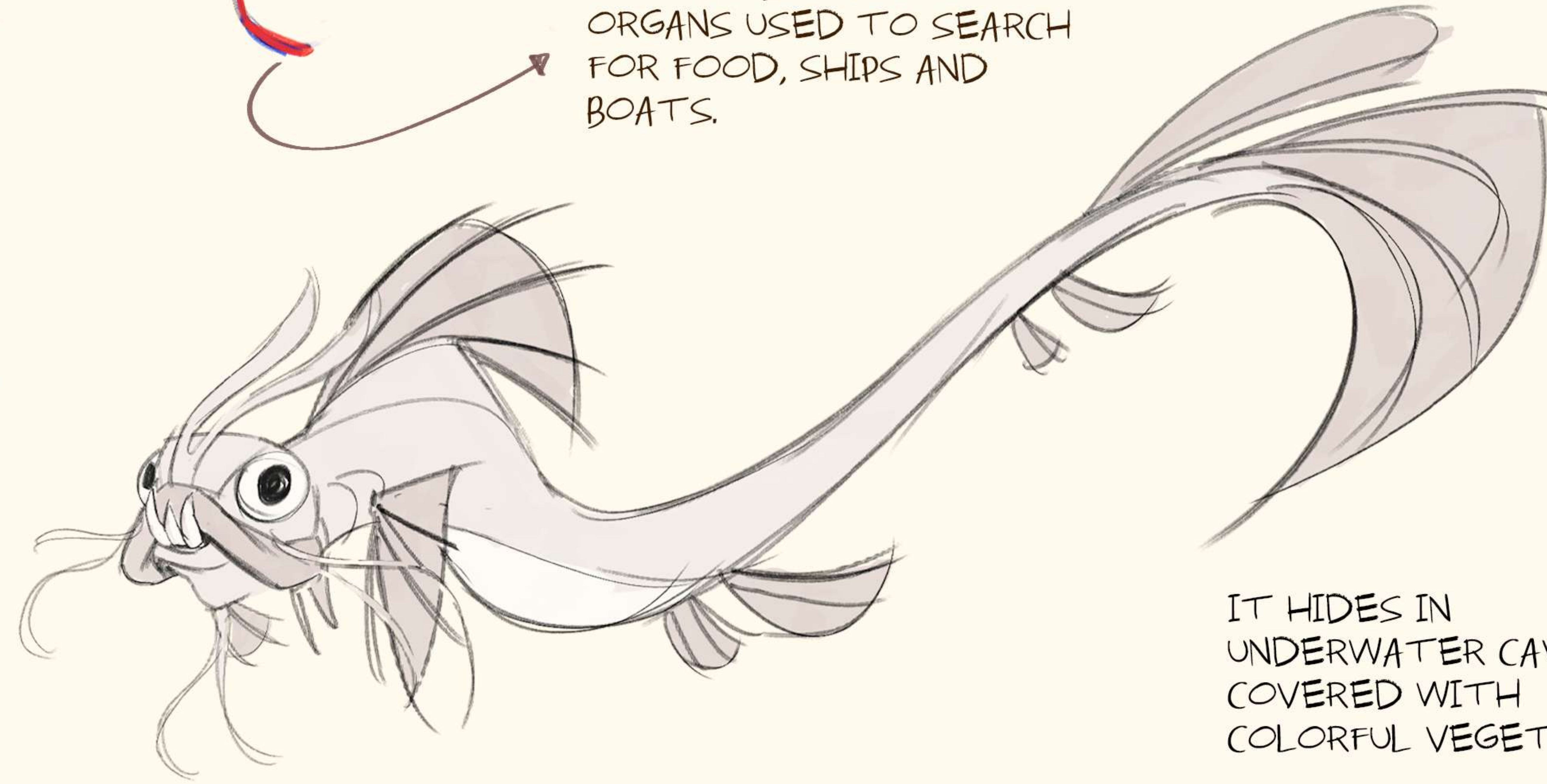
THE AKUMA IS ALMOST 60 METERS LONG.



LONG BARBELS, SENSORY ORGANS USED TO SEARCH FOR FOOD, SHIPS AND BOATS.



ITS MOUTH PRESENTS GIANT JAWS THAT ARE USED TO ATTACK AND EAT BIG FISH, SHARKS AND SEA TURTLES. DESPITE ITS DIMENSION, THE AKUMA CAN LIVE WITHOUT EATING FOR A LONG TIME.



IT HIDES IN UNDERWATER CAVES COVERED WITH COLORFUL VEGETATION.



# DAMUTAKE

## FAKE EYES

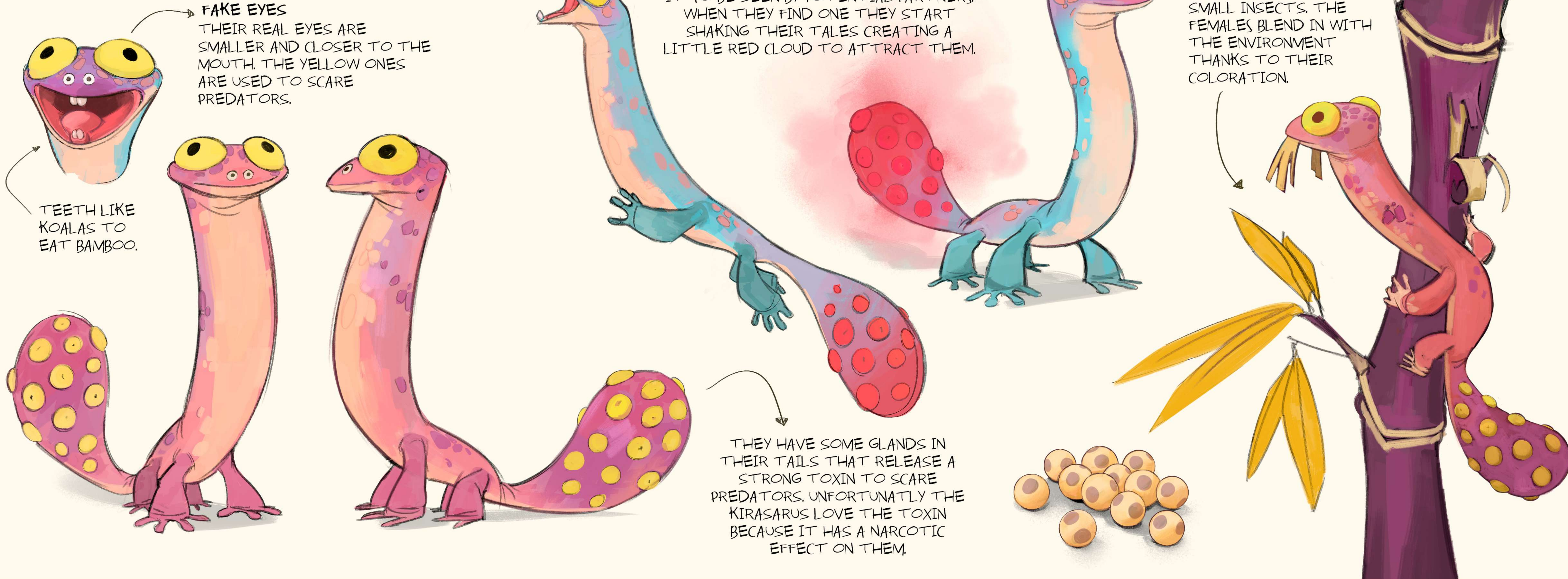
THEIR REAL EYES ARE SMALLER AND CLOSER TO THE MOUTH. THE YELLOW ONES ARE USED TO SCARE PREDATORS.

TEETH LIKE KOALAS TO EAT BAMBOO.

THE COLORATION OF THE MALES IS DIFFERENT FROM THE FEMALES. THEY USE IT TO BE SEEN BY POTENTIAL PARTNERS. WHEN THEY FIND ONE THEY START SHAKING THEIR TAILS CREATING A LITTLE RED CLOUD TO ATTRACT THEM.

THE DAMUTAKE LIVES INSIDE BAMBOO FORESTS EATING BAMBOO AND SMALL INSECTS. THE FEMALES BLEND IN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT THANKS TO THEIR COLORATION.

THEY HAVE SOME GLANDS IN THEIR TAILS THAT RELEASE A STRONG TOXIN TO SCARE PREDATORS. UNFORTUNATLY THE KIRASARUS LOVE THE TOXIN BECAUSE IT HAS A NARCOTIC EFFECT ON THEM.



# KIRASARU

THE KIRASARU IS A PREDATOR EVOLVED FROM THE JAPANESE SNOW MONKEY. IT CAN BE PARTICULARLY AGGRESSIVE IF APPROACHED.



THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES IS USUALLY SMALLER, WITH SMALLER SABER TEETH, A SMALLER HORN AND WITHOUT A MANE. FEMALES HAVE A CHARACTERISTIC SPOTTED PATTERN IN THEIR BACK..

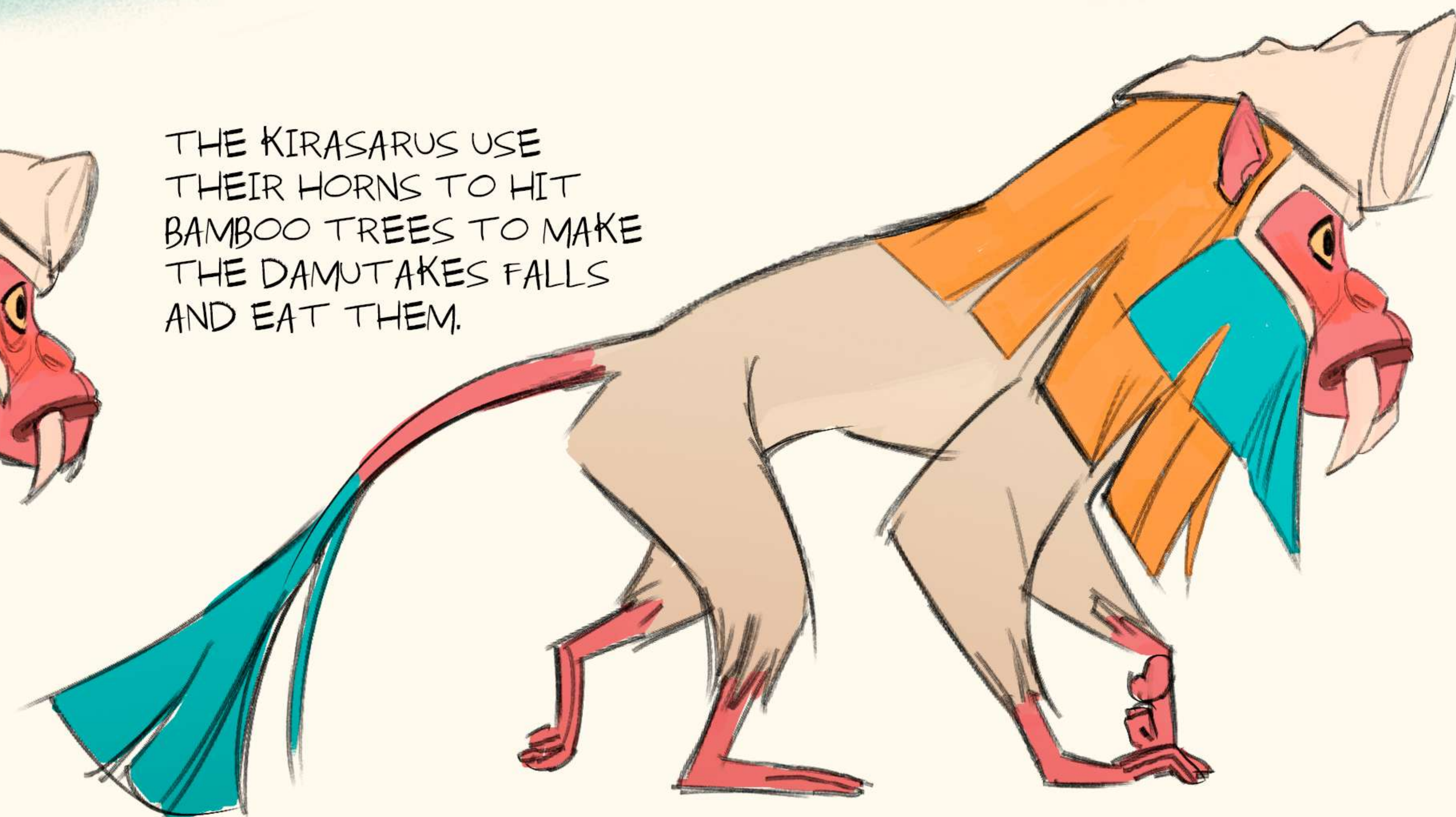


THE MALES ARE USALLY BIGGER WITH GIANT SABER TEETH, A BIGGER HORN AND A CHARACTERISTIC ORANGE MANE..



KIRASARUS LOVE TO BATHE IN EXTREMELY HOT THERMAL SPRINGS THAT ARE FOUND ALL AROUND THE ISLAND. THEY PREFER THE ONES NEAR THE BAMBOO FORESTS, HOME OF THEIR FAVORITE PREY: THE DAMUTAKE

THE KIRASARUS USE THEIR HORNS TO HIT BAMBOO TREES TO MAKE THE DAMUTAKES FALLS AND EAT THEM.





# BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL

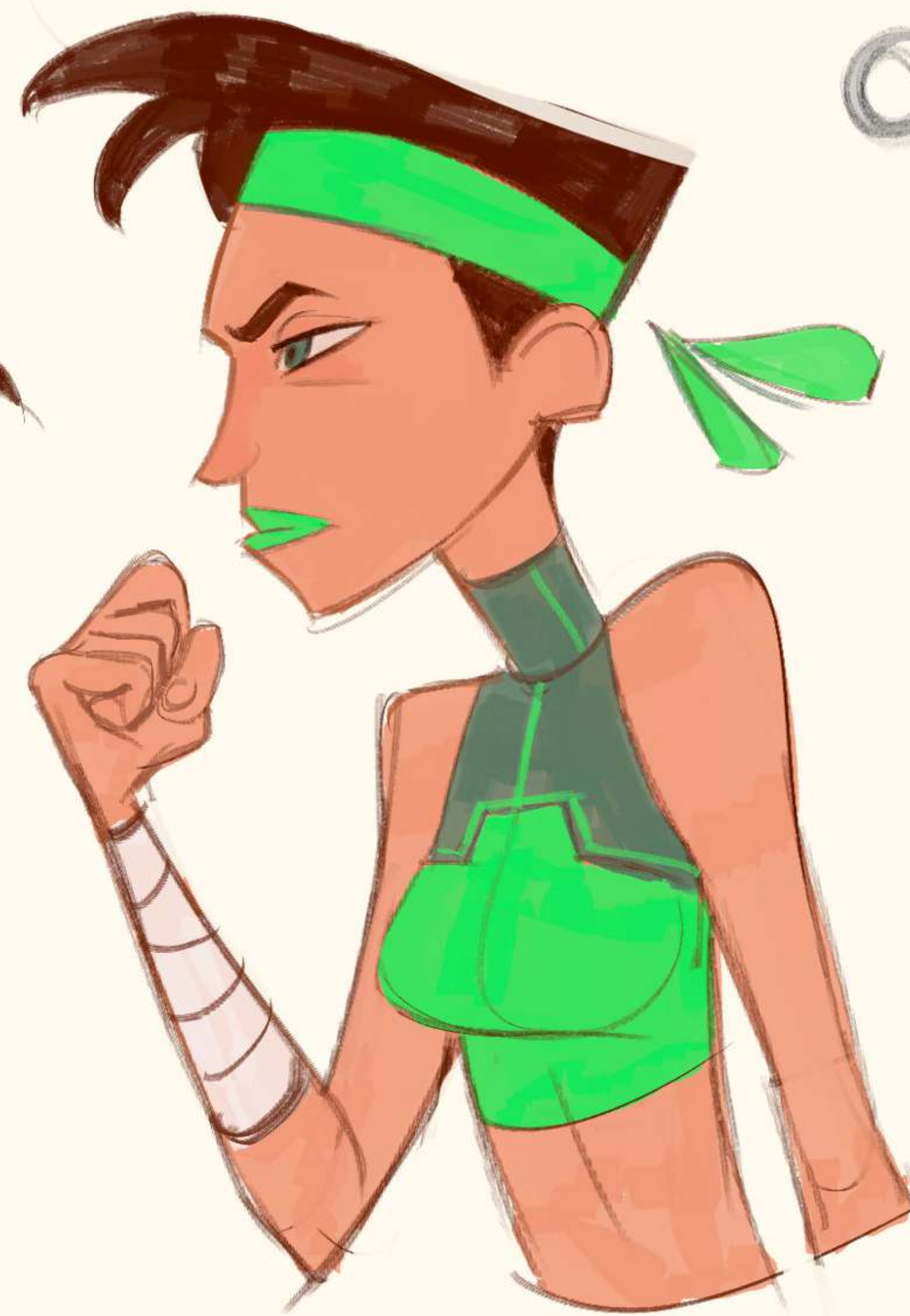
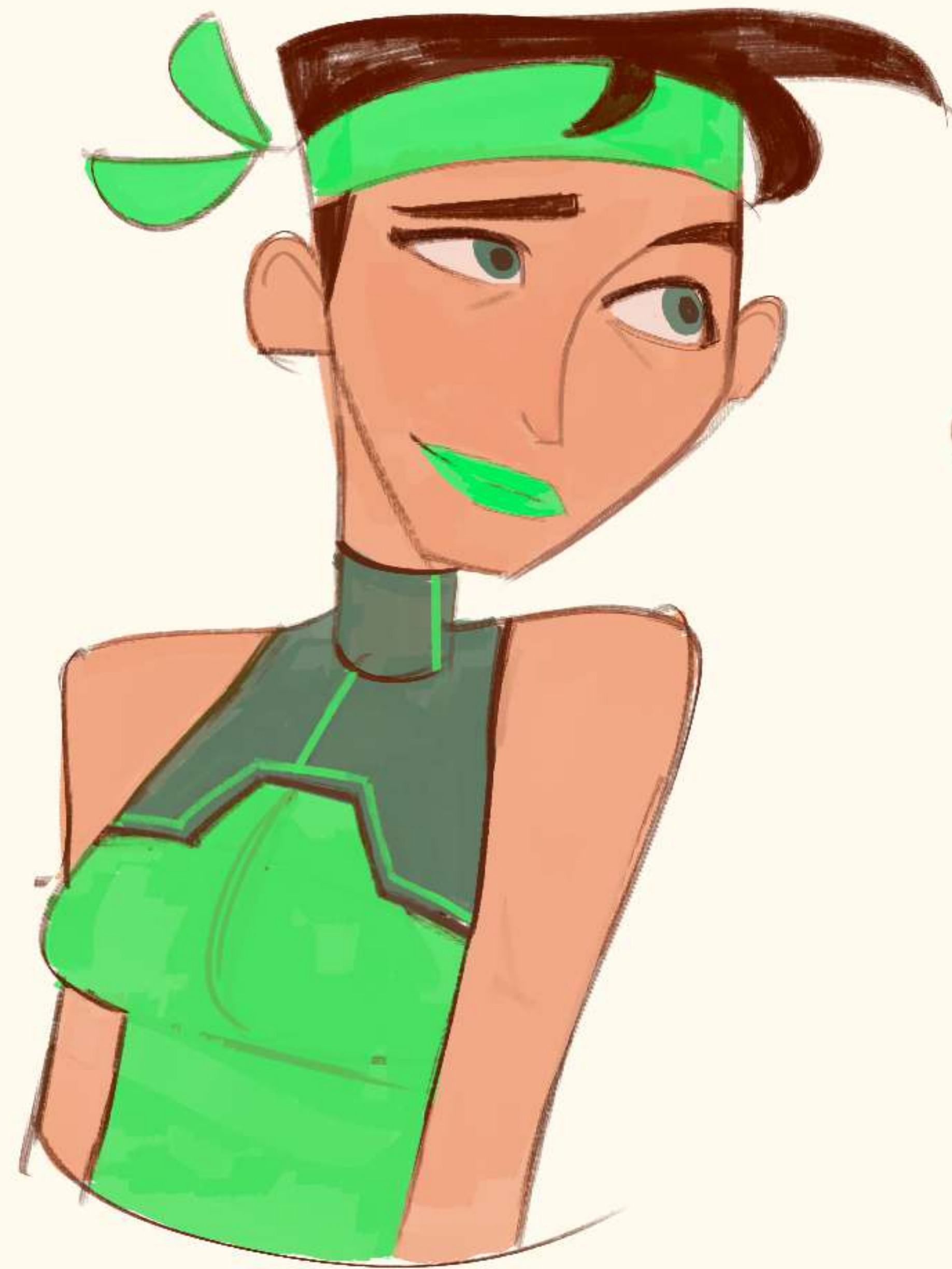
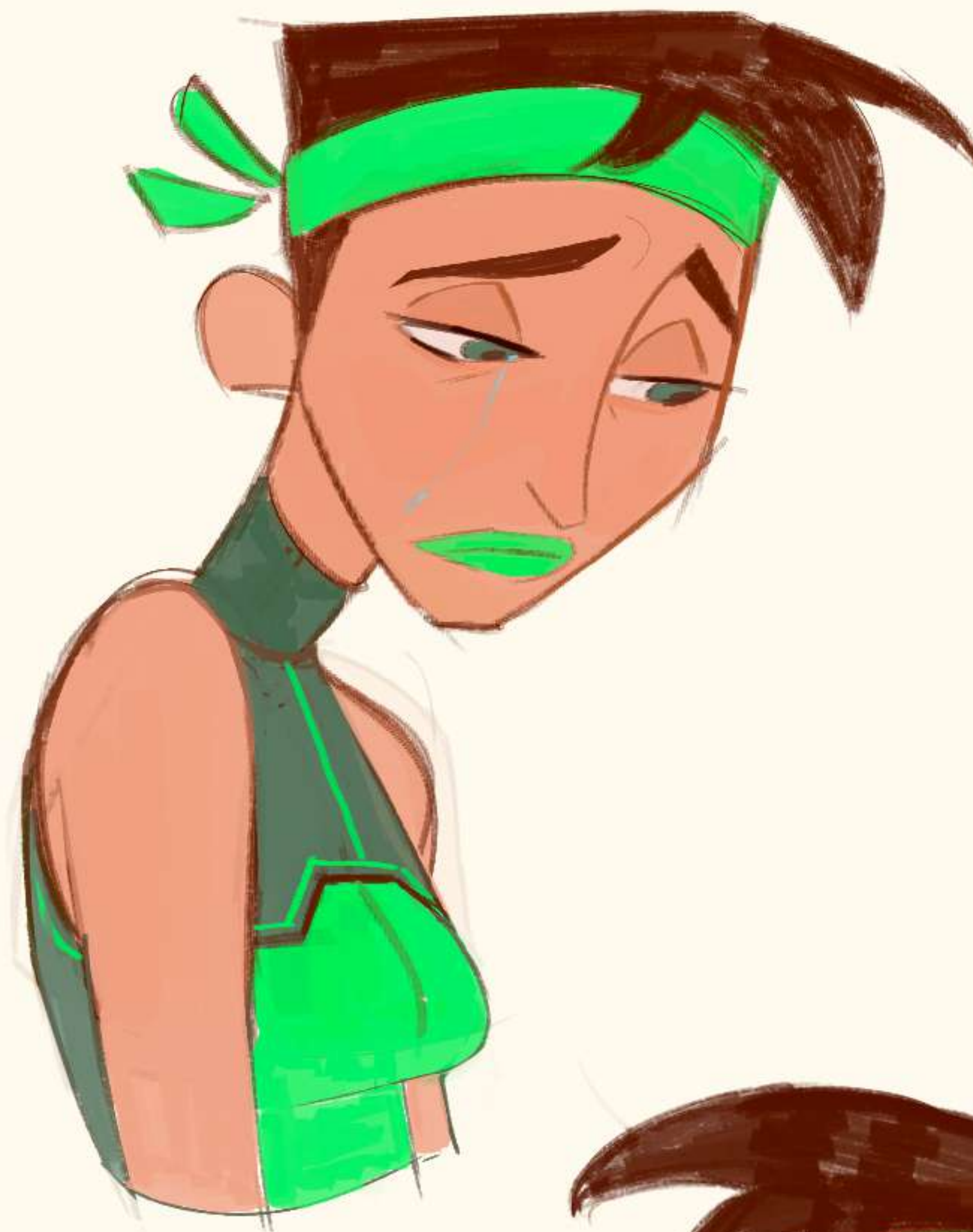
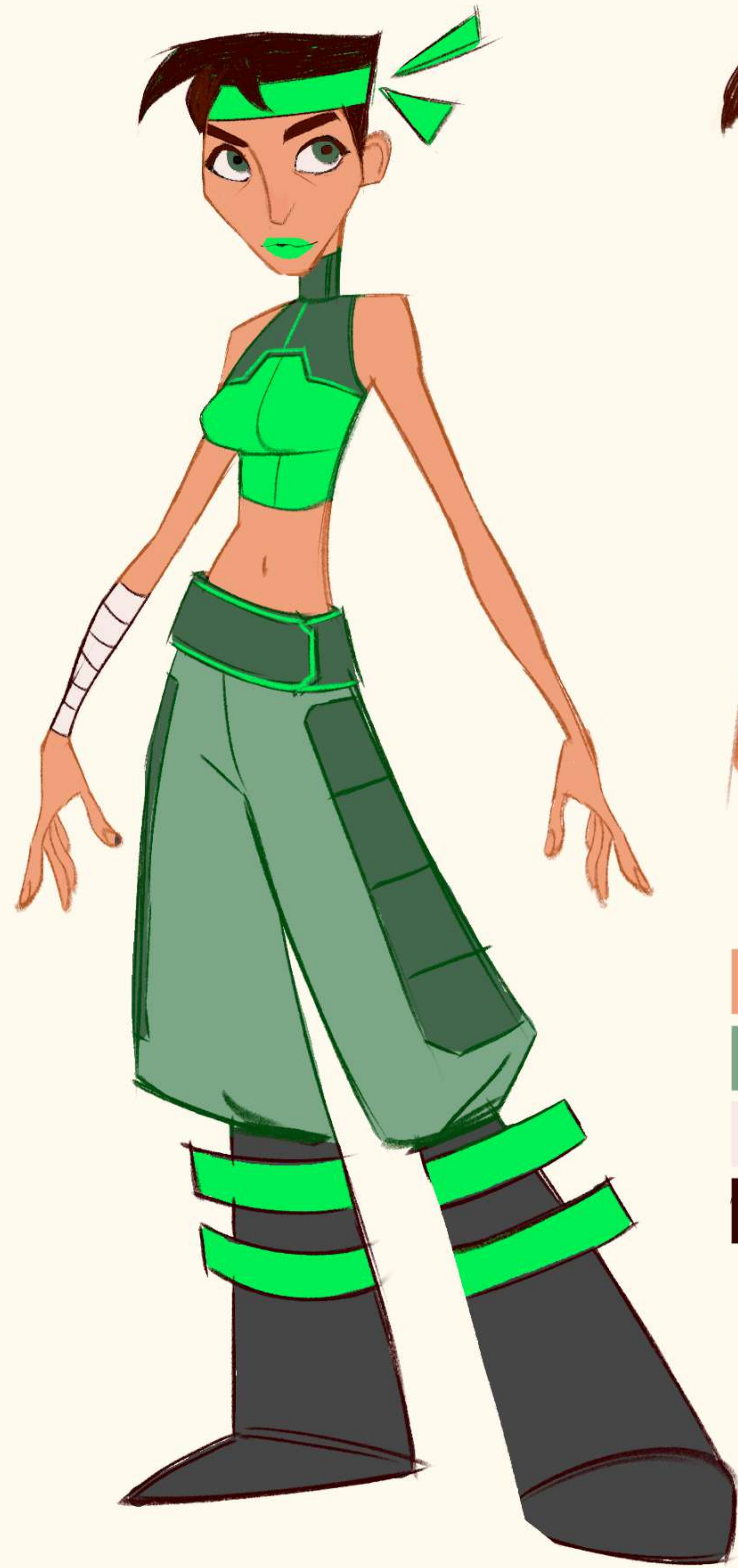
## REDESIGN PROJECT

Beyond Good and Evil is a 2003 video game developed by Ubisoft. The idea was to redesign the project for animation. The story takes place in 2435 on the planet Hilliys. The world is populated by humans and anthropomorphic animals and it combines futuristic elements with others more retro. The story focuses around Jade and her uncle Pey'j who are taking care of some children orphaned by the war with an alien species called the DomZ. Jade is recruited by a secret organization which suspects that the Alpha Sections, the protectors of the planet, are working with the DomZ helping them kidnapping the population. So Jade starts investigating to find out the truth.

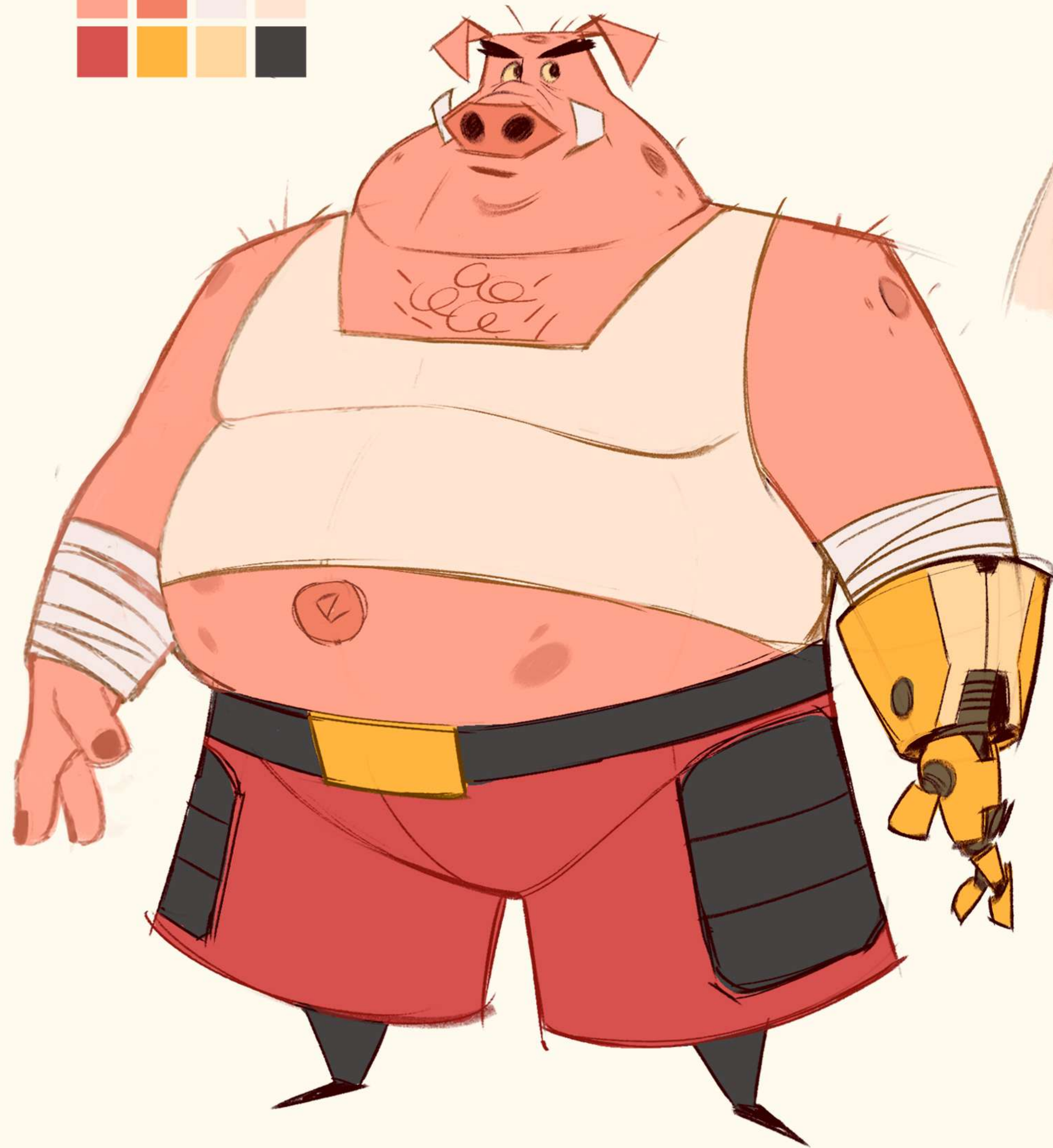
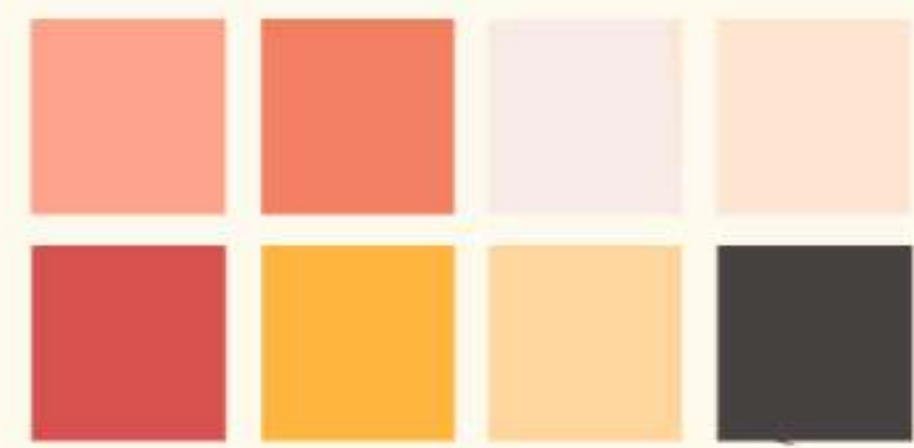


# JADE

Jade is a lively, courageous and strong woman who never gives up. She is driven through her adventure by her desire to uncover the truth and her great sense of justice. She has a caring and motherly side often seen when she's with the orphaned kids. She's an expert in some form of martial arts, she loves photography and Yoga.







**PEY'J**

Jade's adoptive uncle. He's an expert on mechanics and electronics. He can fix anything. Though Pey'j can sometimes appear grumpy, he's actually very endearing and attentive, especially to Jade. He is very fond of her and the orphaned kids and will do anything to keep them safe.

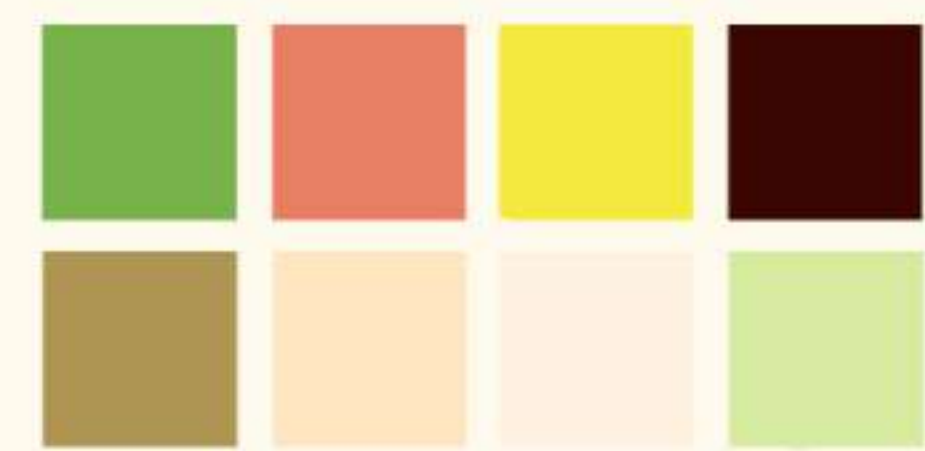
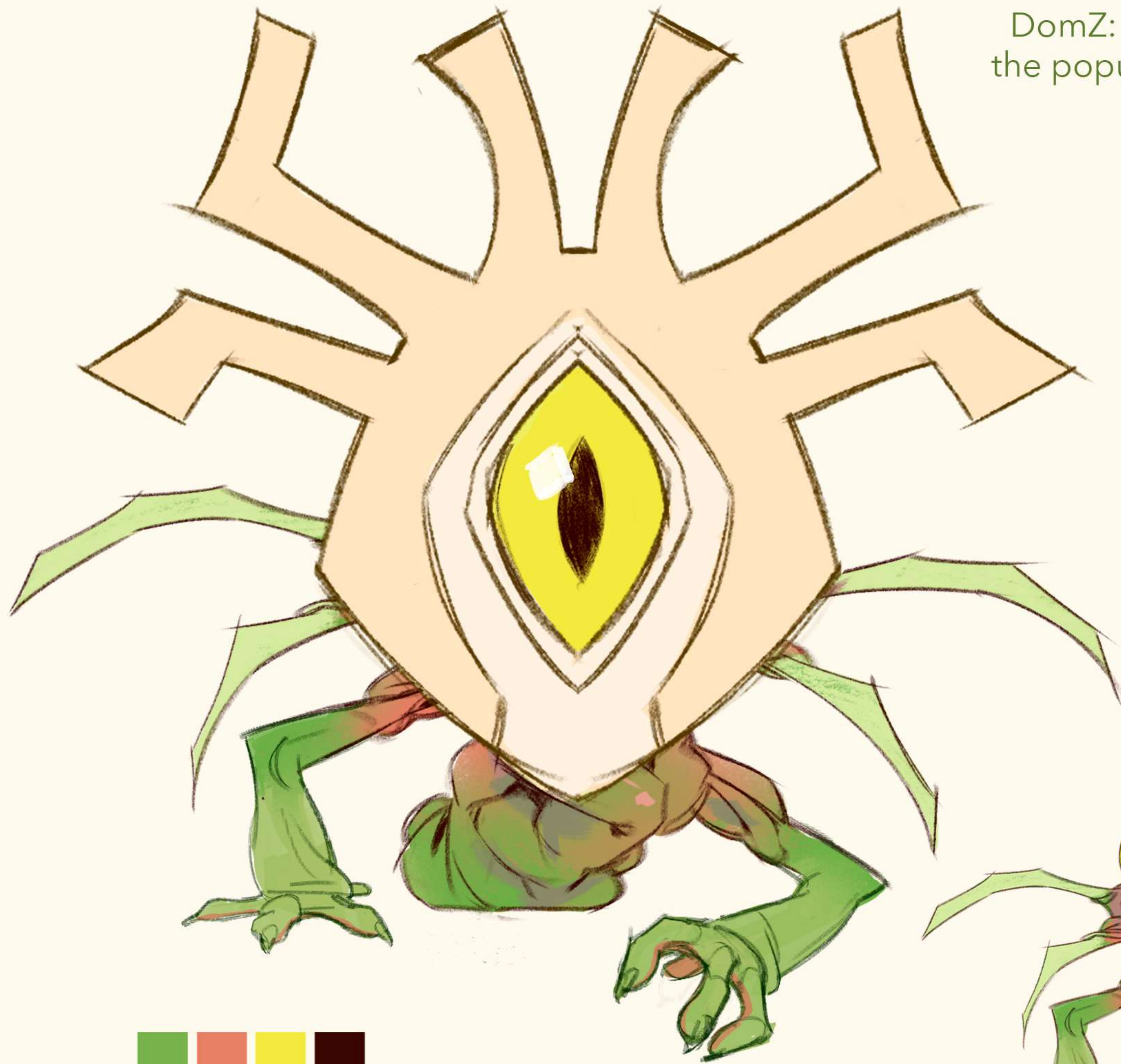




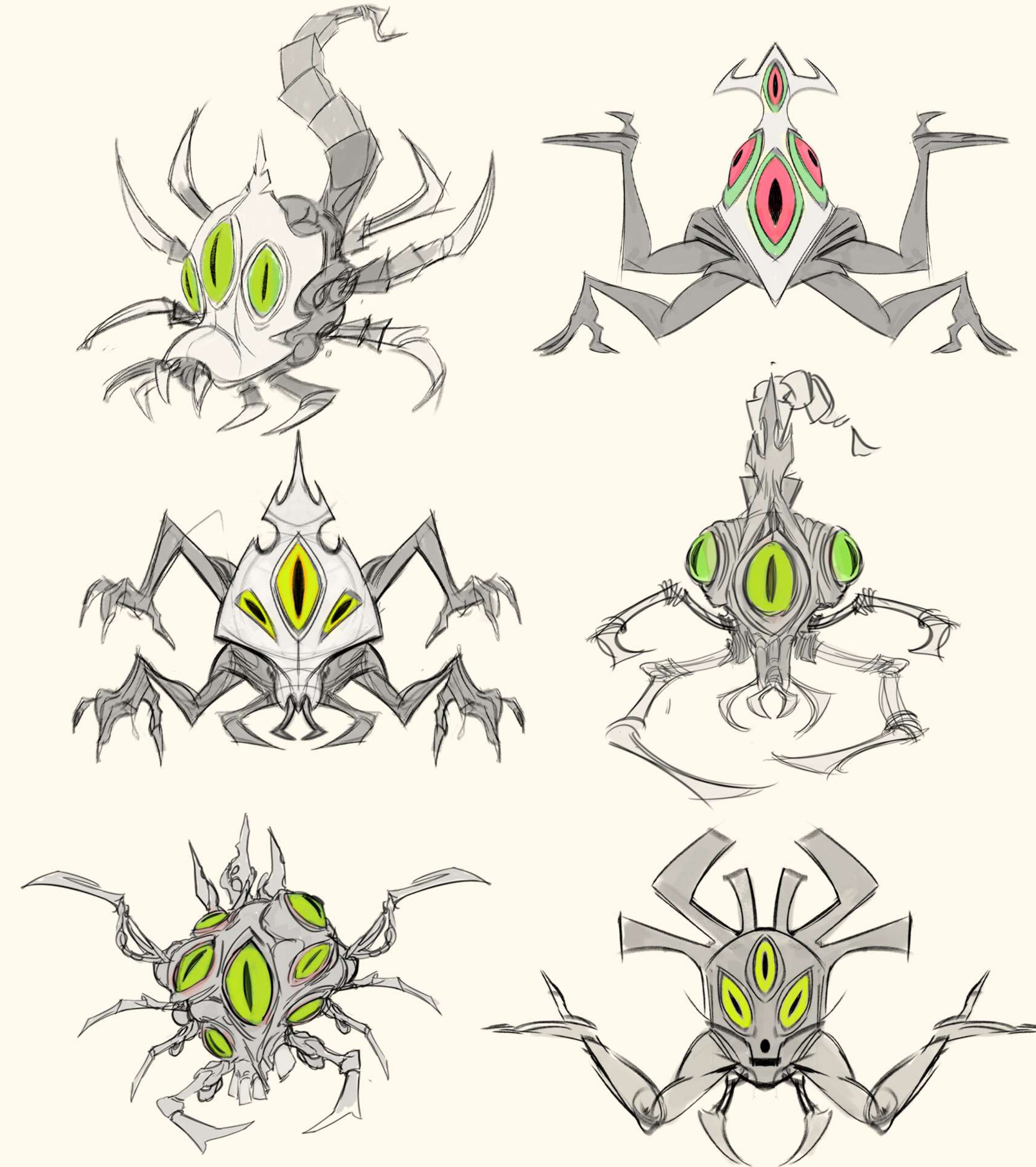
# DOMZ PRIEST

The high priest of the DomZ is an ancient entity, leader of the DomZ: an alien species that is attacking planet Hillys kidnapping the population. The High Priest absorbs the vital fluid of the victims to keep himself and the other aliens alive.

SOME SKETCHES



The High Priest wears a mask to cover its true form.



# JADE'S ROOM



Everything in the lighthouse is powered by the Diwalite, a rare green mineral that can be used as a source of concentrated energy.

Jade lives in a lighthouse together with her uncle Pey'j and some orphaned kids they rescued from the war with the DomZ. She shares her room with a little kid because all the other rooms are occupied by other children.



They are struggling financially so instead of buying new things they keep on fixing them as they can. It's Pey'j's speciality after all.



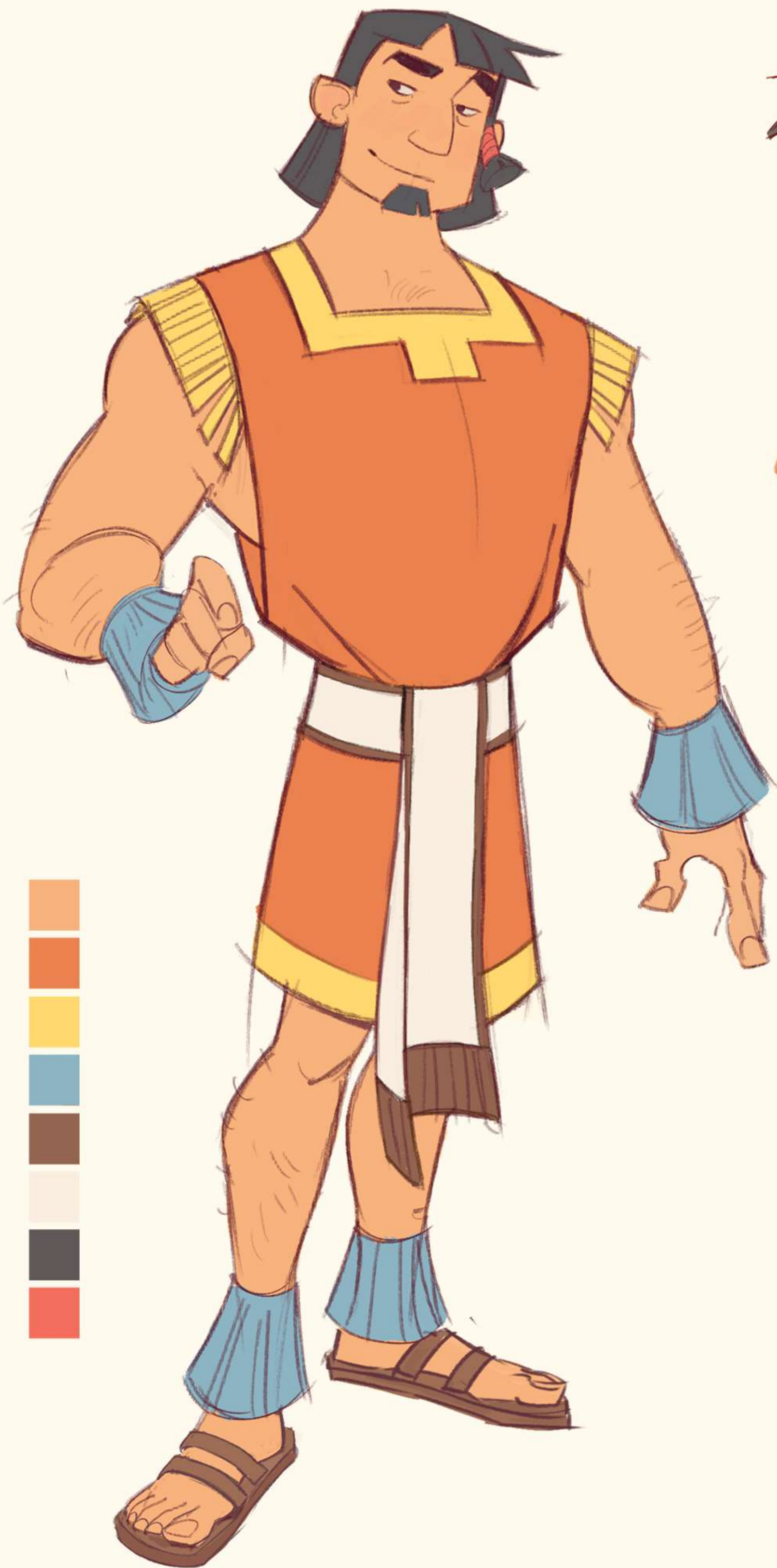


## THE PRINCESS AND THE PRINCE

Once upon a time in a faraway land two Kingdoms were fighting an endless war. Hatred had lasted for so long that no one remembered why the war had started but blood continued to be shed and many continued to die. One day a prince and a princess from the opposite kingdom met in the jungle on the barbed border and they fell in love. But their love was forbidden. Their love was too dangerous. Their love was the solution to stop the war. But an evil priest, advisor of the princess' father and servant of a blood-thirsty god had other plans.

# THE PRINCE

He's a cocky guy that loves the sound of his voice. Spoiled and a little too confident regarding his charm he likes to annoy the princess, eat physalis and lay down doing nothing. He doesn't admit it but he loves to cuddle.

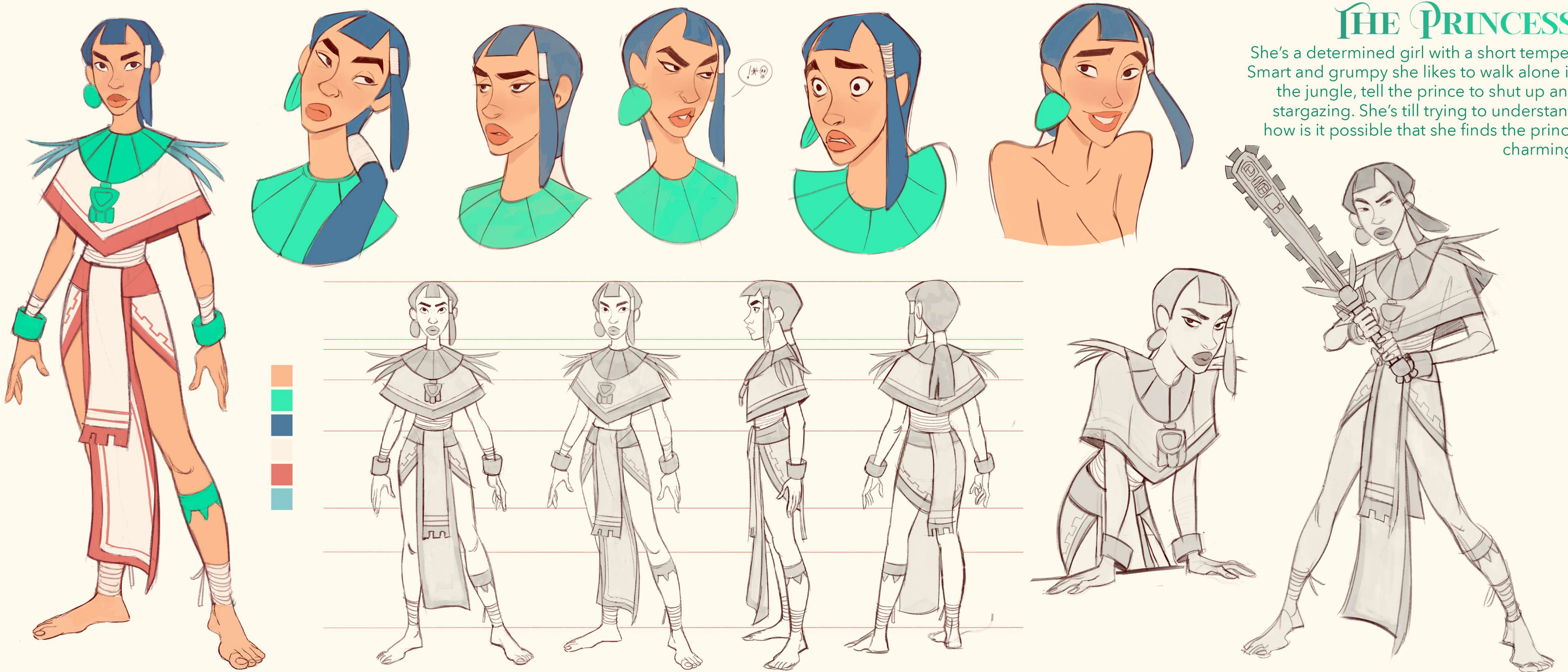


SOME SKETCHES  
FOR THE PRINCE



# THE PRINCESS

She's a determined girl with a short temper. Smart and grumpy she likes to walk alone in the jungle, tell the prince to shut up and stargazing. She's till trying to understand how is it possible that she finds the prince charming.

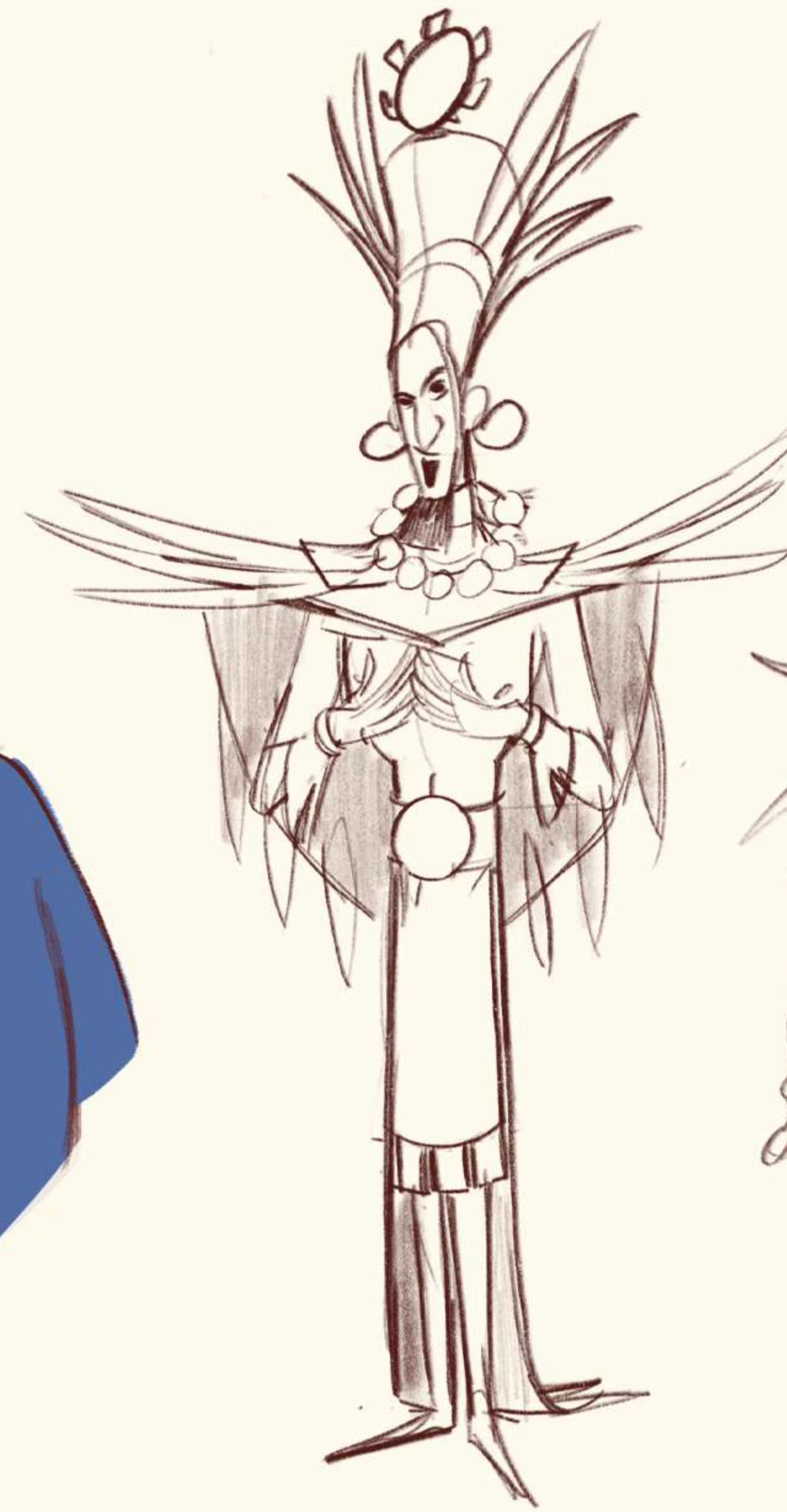
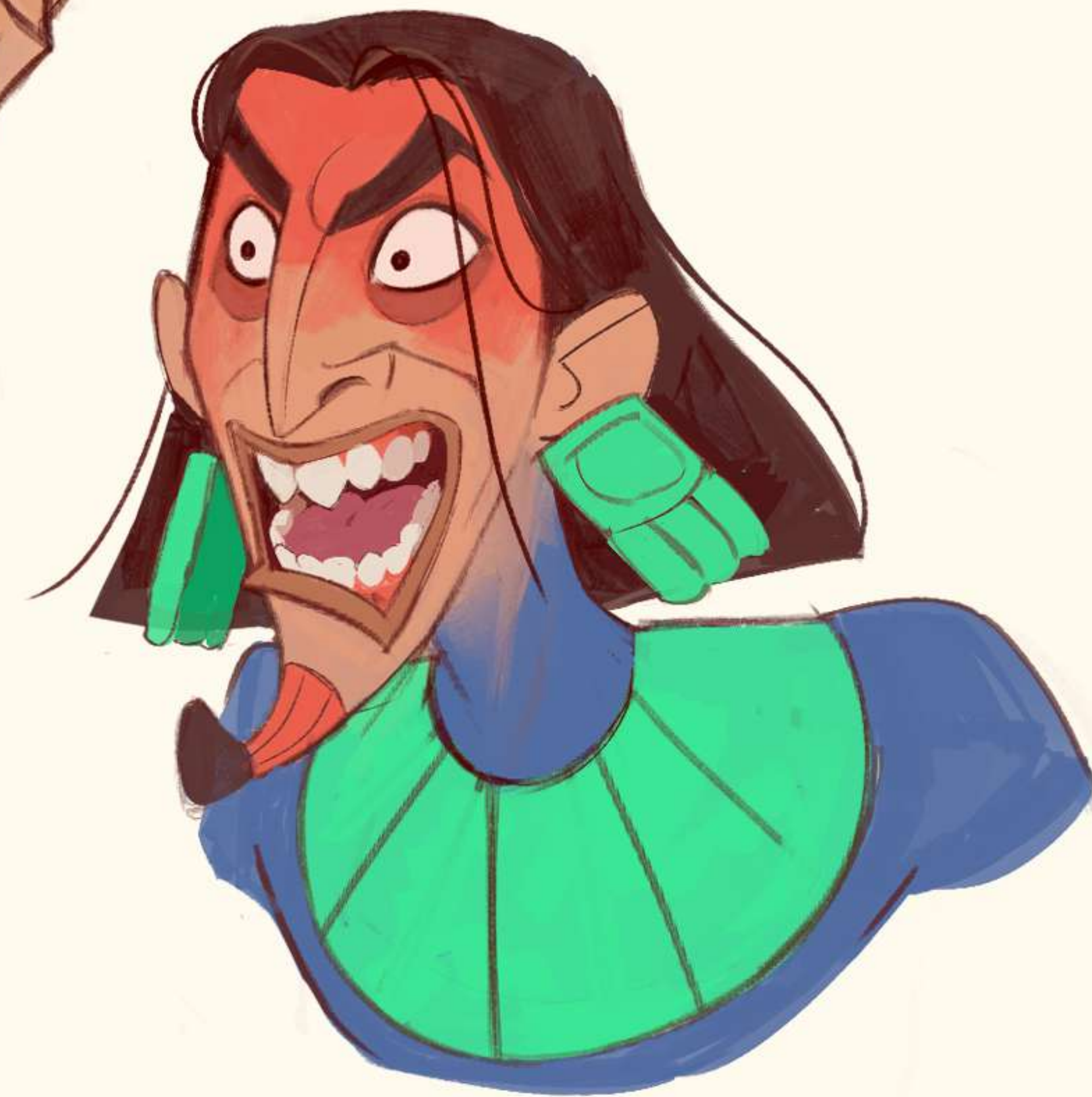


SOME SKETCHES  
FOR THE PRINCESS



# THE PRIEST

Obsessed with power, he's a wicked priest that made a deal with a dangerous god. Calculating and manipulative he's the advisor of the princess's father, plotting behind his back to keep the war going.



SOME SKETCHES  
AND SILHOUETTES



## YAN-THE EXPLORER

He's always grumpy, sloppy and pessimistic. He says he hates human contact but the truth is that he just needs a big hug.

After being blinded in his right eye as punishment for a small crime, he ran away from his extremely religious tribe. He loves a particular soup made with some rare mushrooms and an even rarer resin.



SOME SKETCHES FOR YAN



# PROPS DESIGN



As a weapon, grappling hook and ice axe Yan uses a kusarigama made with wood, bone, metal and tendon.

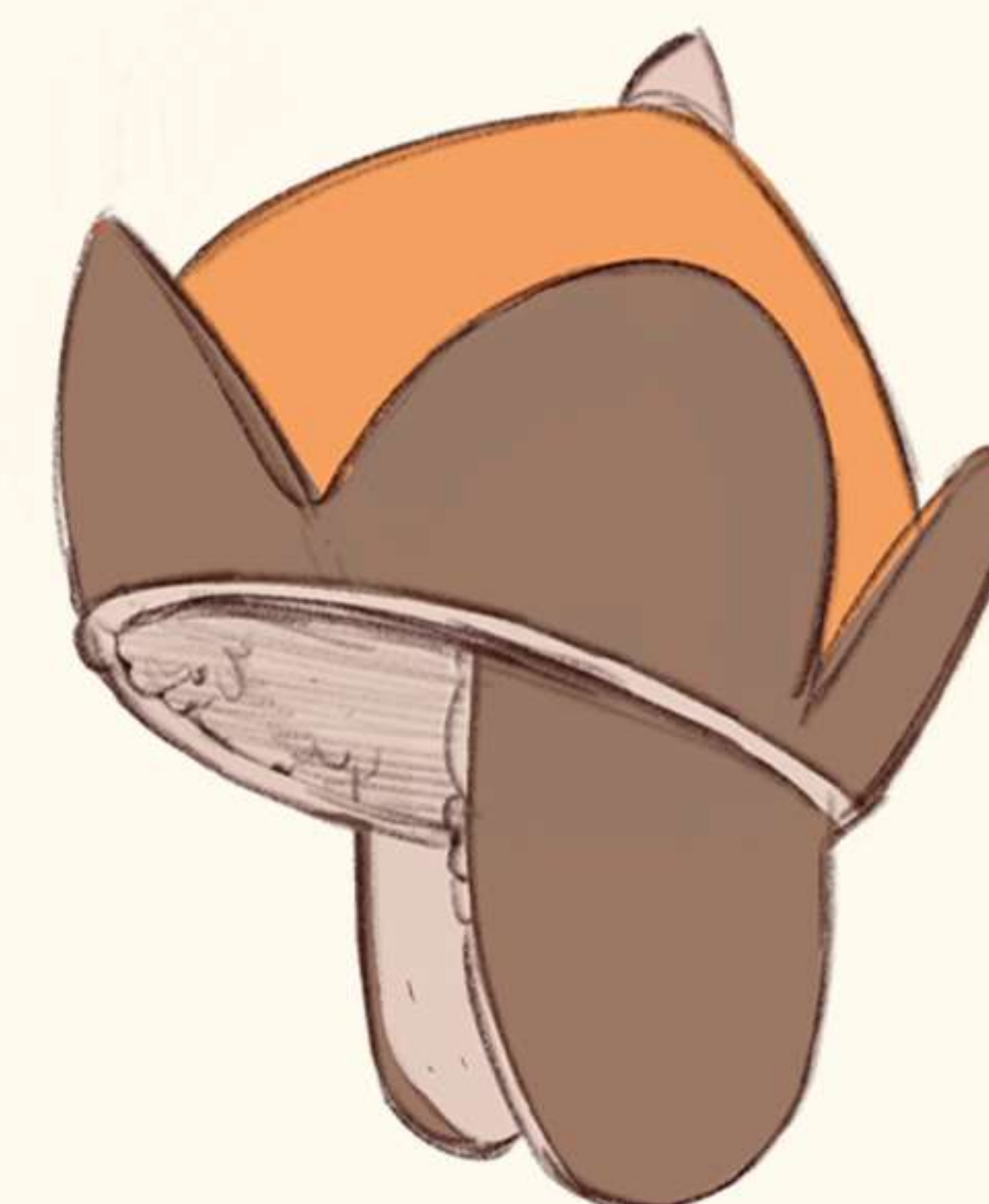


Yan loves a particular soup made with some rare mushrooms and an even rarer resin.

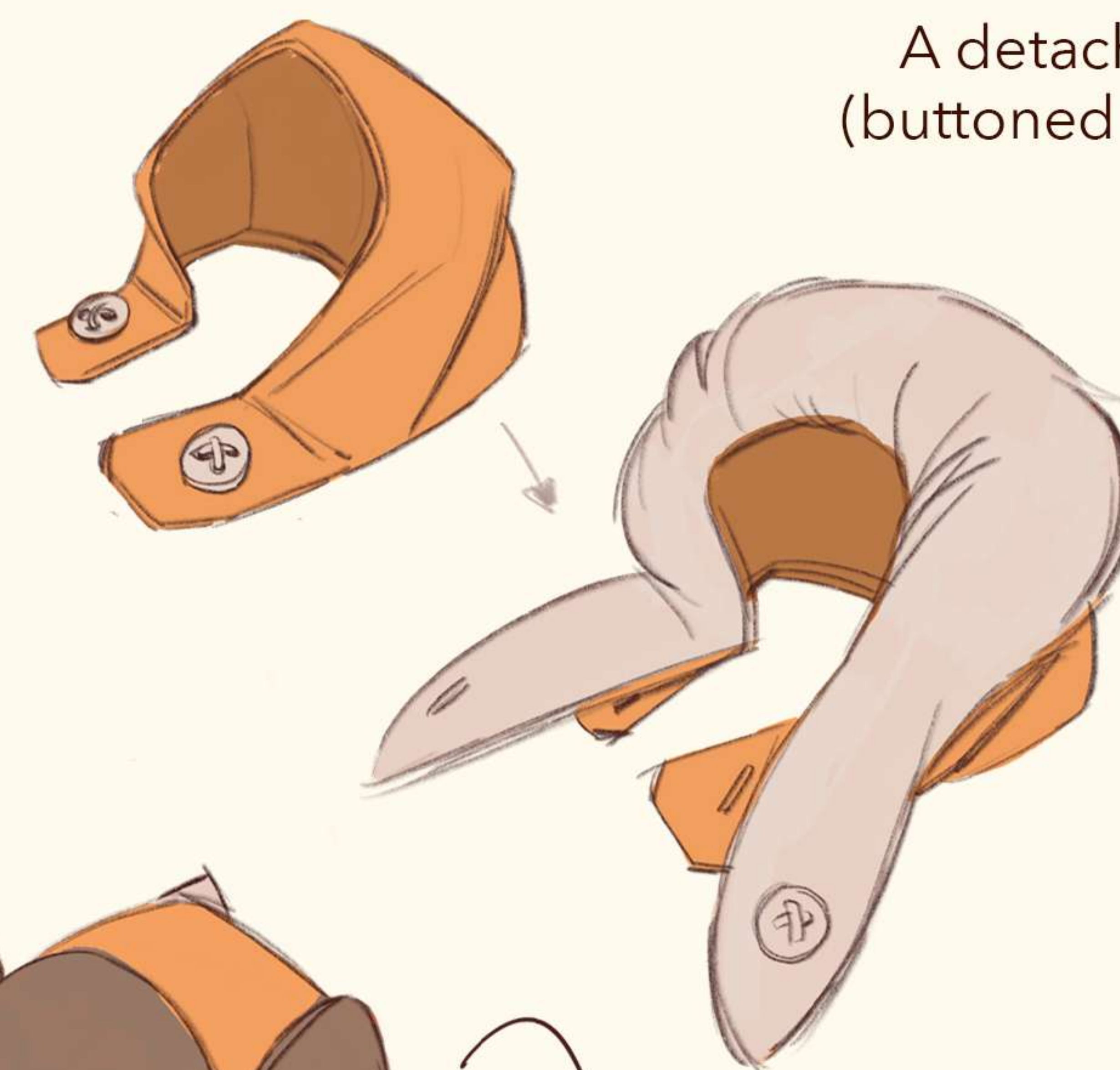
Belt with a holder for the kusarigama.



Yan hates wearing hats but when it's too cold outside he has no other choice.



A detachable hood (buttoned to the dress).

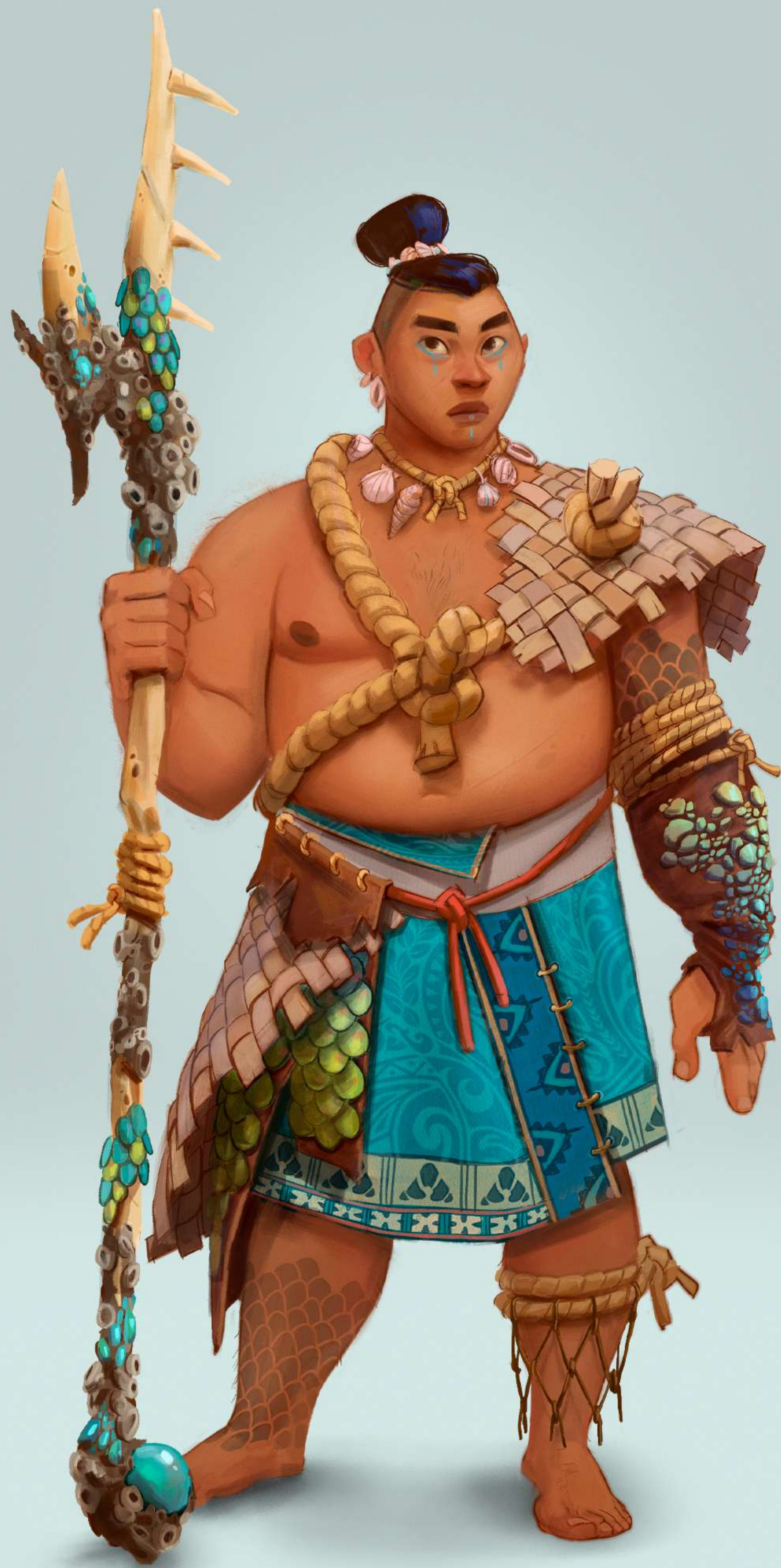


A backpack made with leather, bones and tendons that Yan uses when he explores uncharted lands.



## WARRIORS OF THE SEASIDE TRIBE

Some exploration and a rendered character for the warriors of a tribe that lives in the seaside of a fantasy island (part of a group project). In this Island almost all the creatures have particular scales that when worn give the wearer powers. The seaside tribe uses material such as tapa, ropes, nets, leather and woven pandanus for their clothes.



# Sketches & Studies

A naive and not so smart dog that failed the police academy five times before passing it by mistake. It's his first day as a policeman when a zombie apocalypse starts.

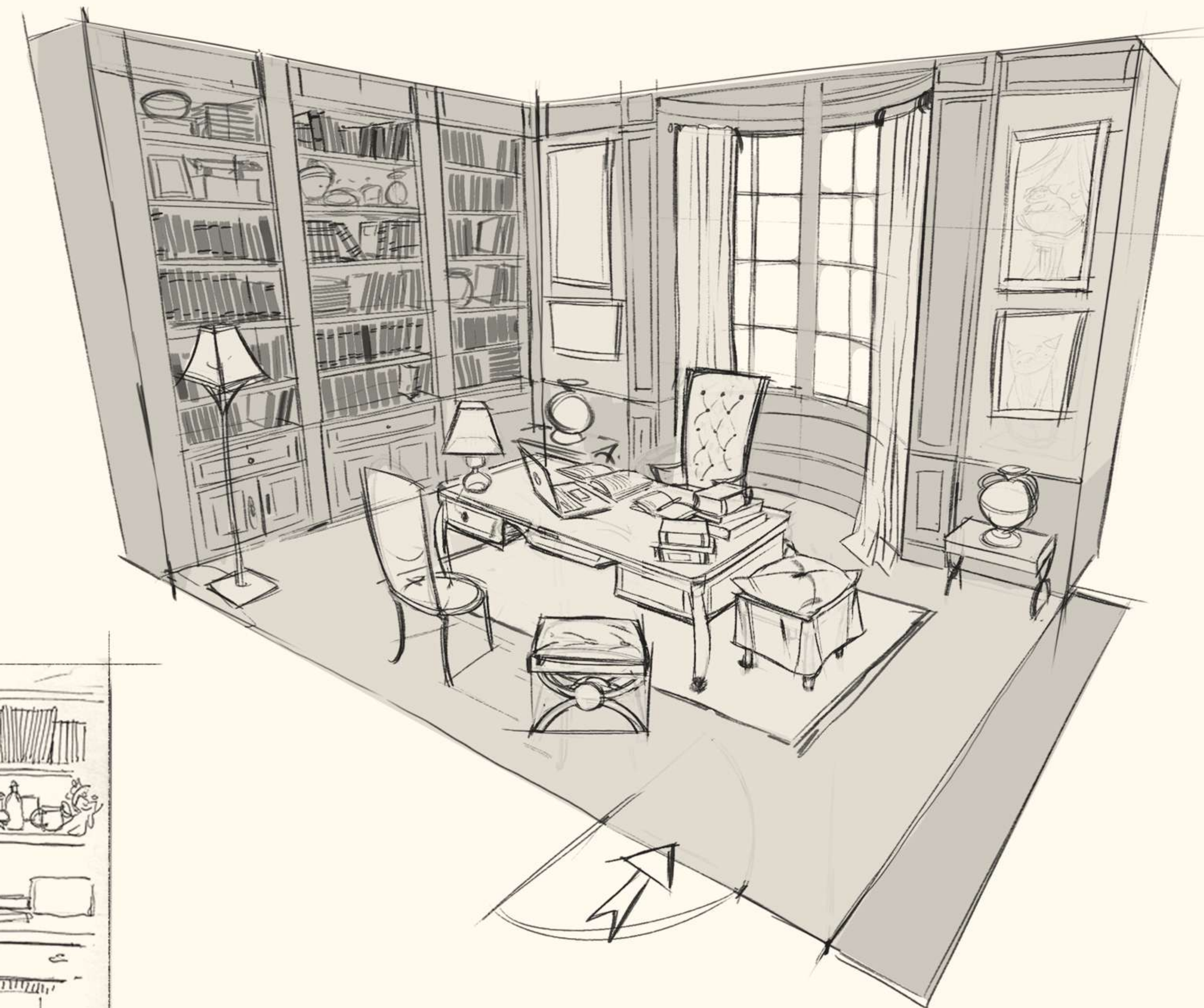


# Sketches & Studies

Doctor Cheesepuff, an eccentric scientist that  
wants to find a cure to a zombie apocalypse.  
He loves Cheese puffs.



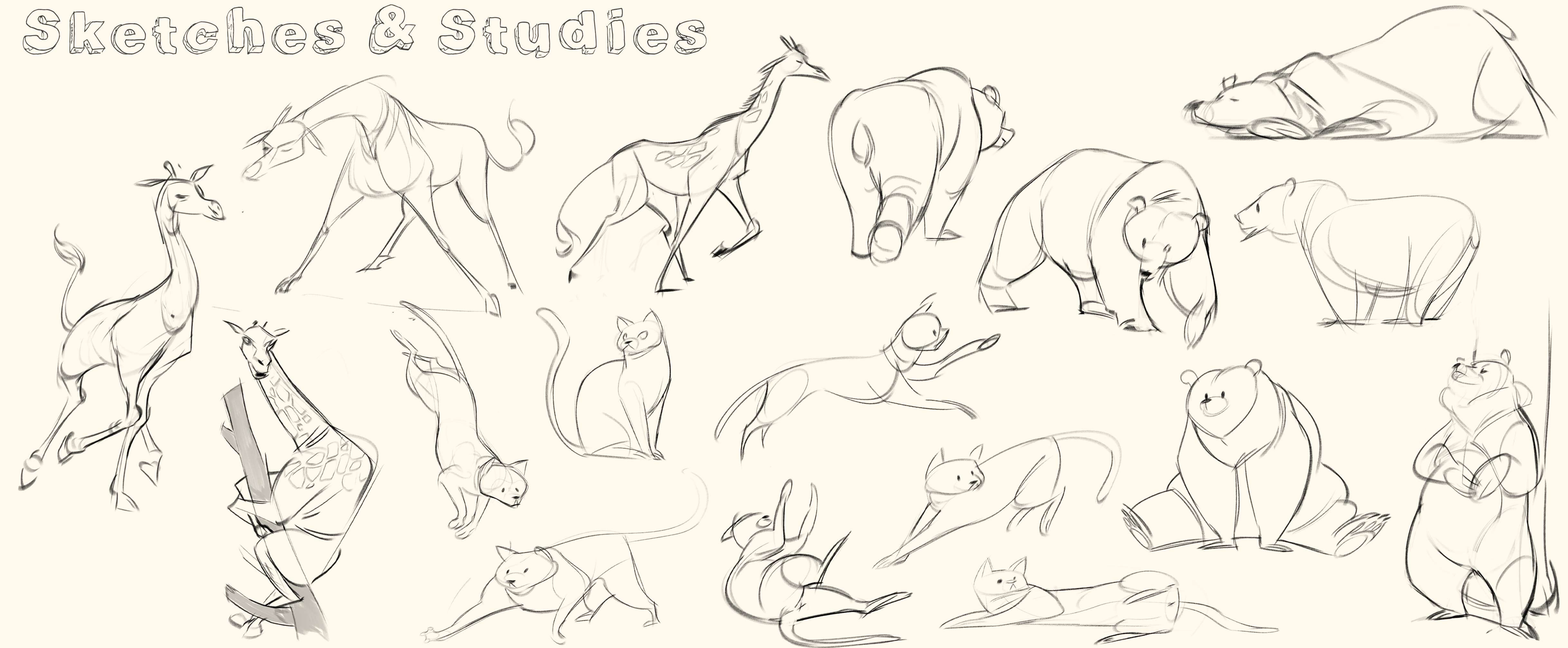
# Sketches & Studies



# Sketches & Studies



# Sketches & Studies



# DANIEL MENDO



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## EXPERIENCE

Freelance Illustrator, Rizzoli Education - August 2020 - January 2021

## EDUCATION

IDEA Academy Rome, Visual Development Master 1 - October 2020 - June 2021

Istituto Design Palladio, Illustration & Comics - October 2018 - July 2020

## SKILLS

**Digital Media:** Photoshop, Procreate, Clip Studio, basics of Blender and Zbrush.

**Traditional Media:** graphite, watercolor, gouache



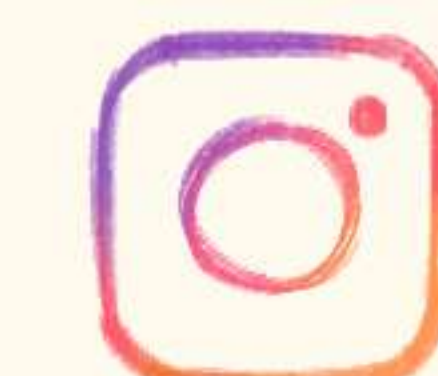
# THANK YOU!



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