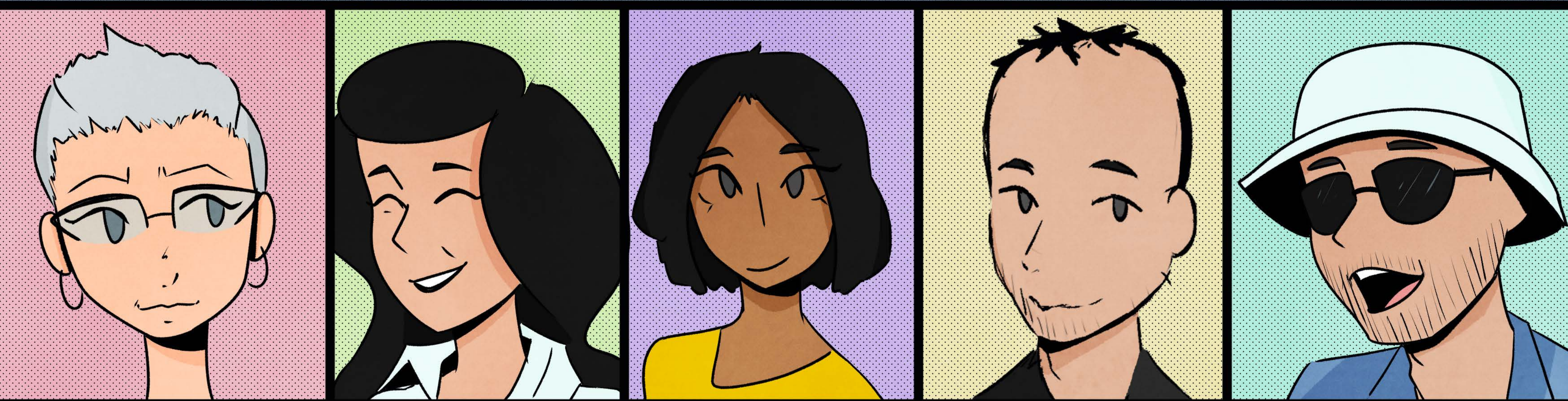


Get Talking
about
Community Research





**Get Talking
about
Community Research**

Somewhere in Stoke-On-Trent...

Oh no I'm late for my first Get Talking Event!!!

Apparently, Get Talking is a way of helping communities research things which matter to them. I'll be a community researcher.... I'm excited but a little bit nervous!

They said anybody can take part, even though I haven't really got any qualifications or training. Hopefully I'll be able to help make some positive changes in my community!

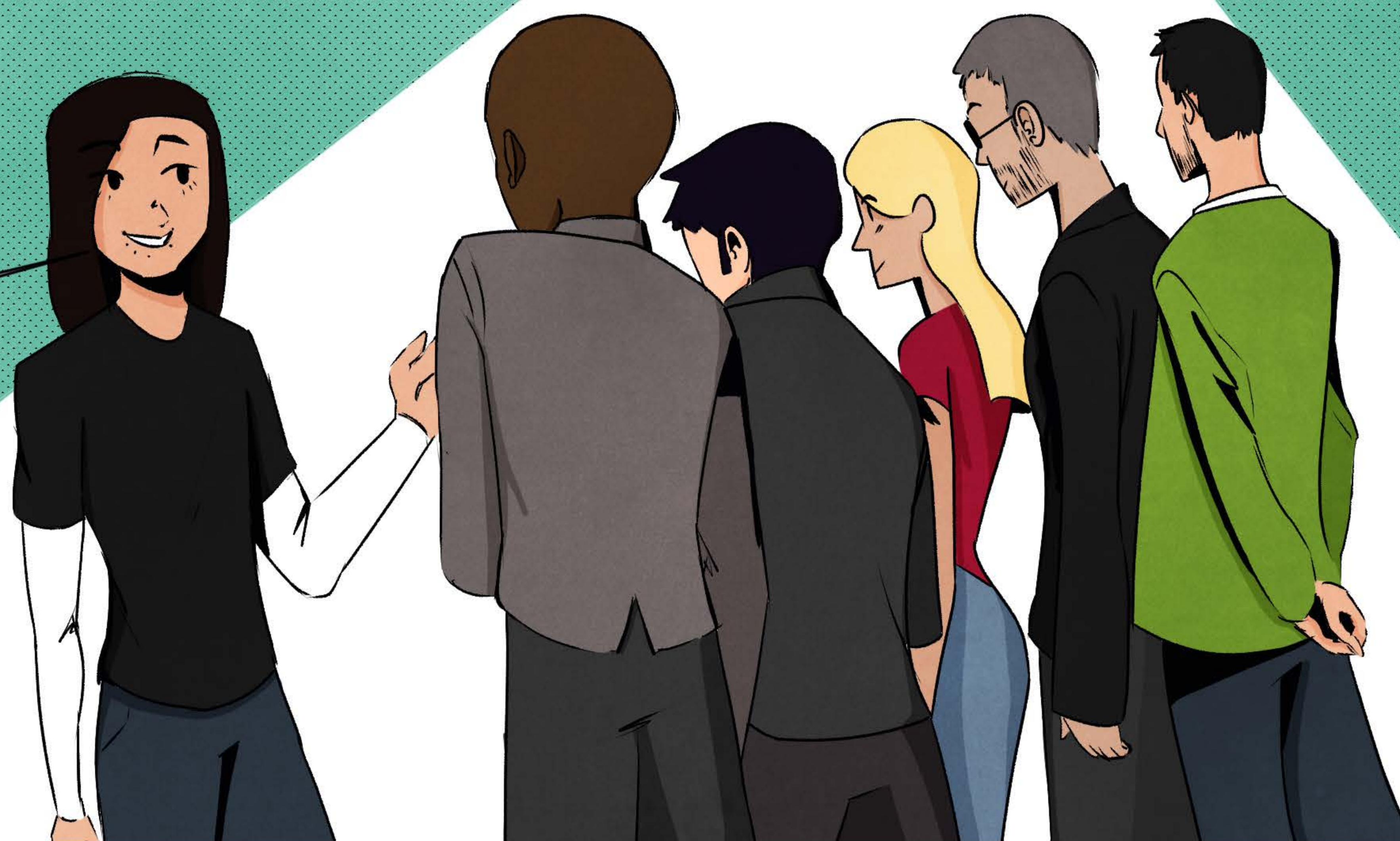
Community Researchers are usually members of the public or representatives from a specific community with a personal interest in the research subject area.

As coproducers and co-owners of the research they are equal partners in the project and are involved at all stages of the research process.

So, what's so different about this type of research?...

Participation

We help people to take part in research as community researchers. As community researchers we are equal partners in the research process.



Inclusion

We reach out to different networks to get as many people involved as possible. We try to get people involved, whatever their background.



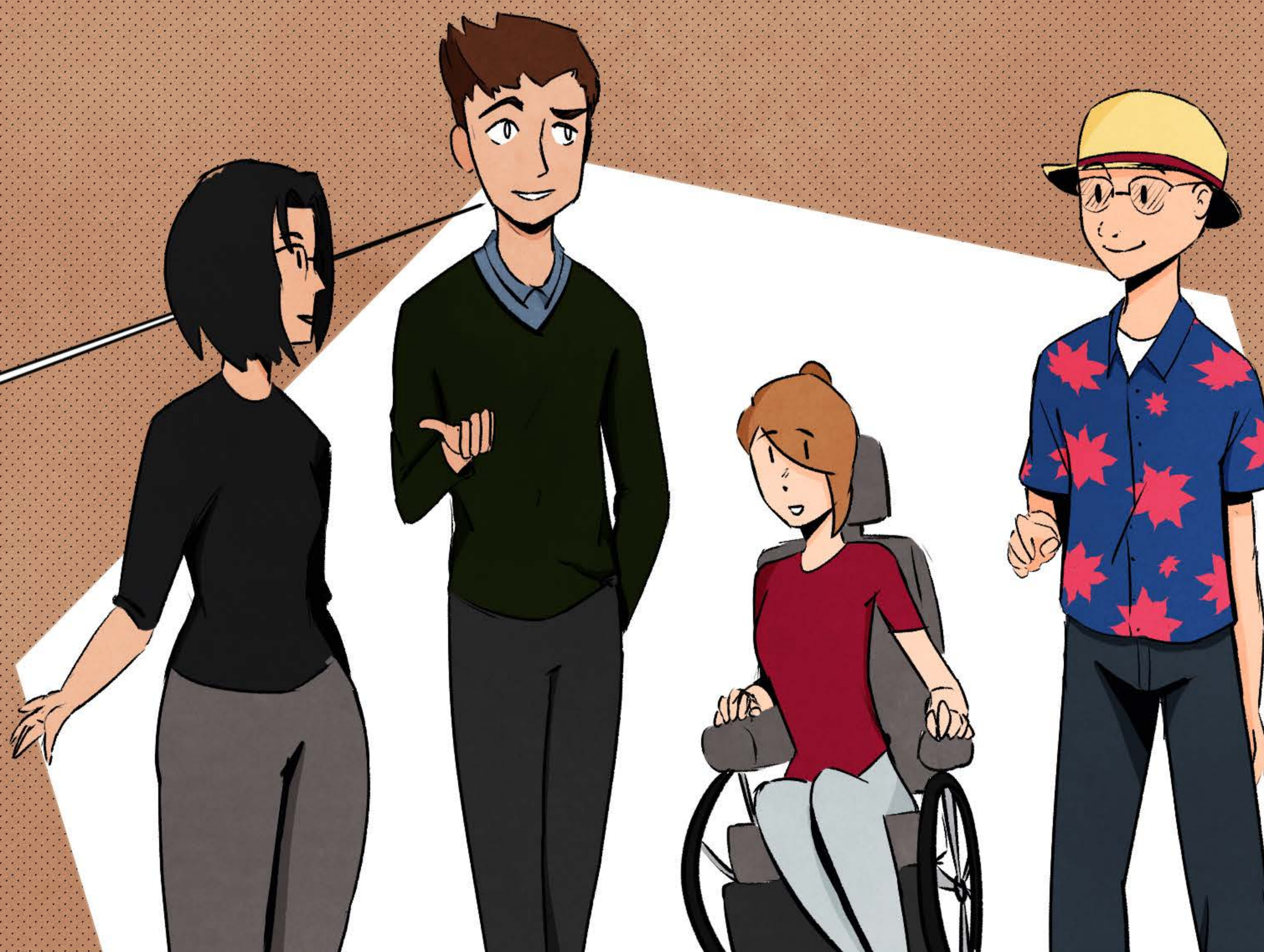
Flexibility

Our research is informal and flexible. It helps us to shine the light on things which have before remained hidden.



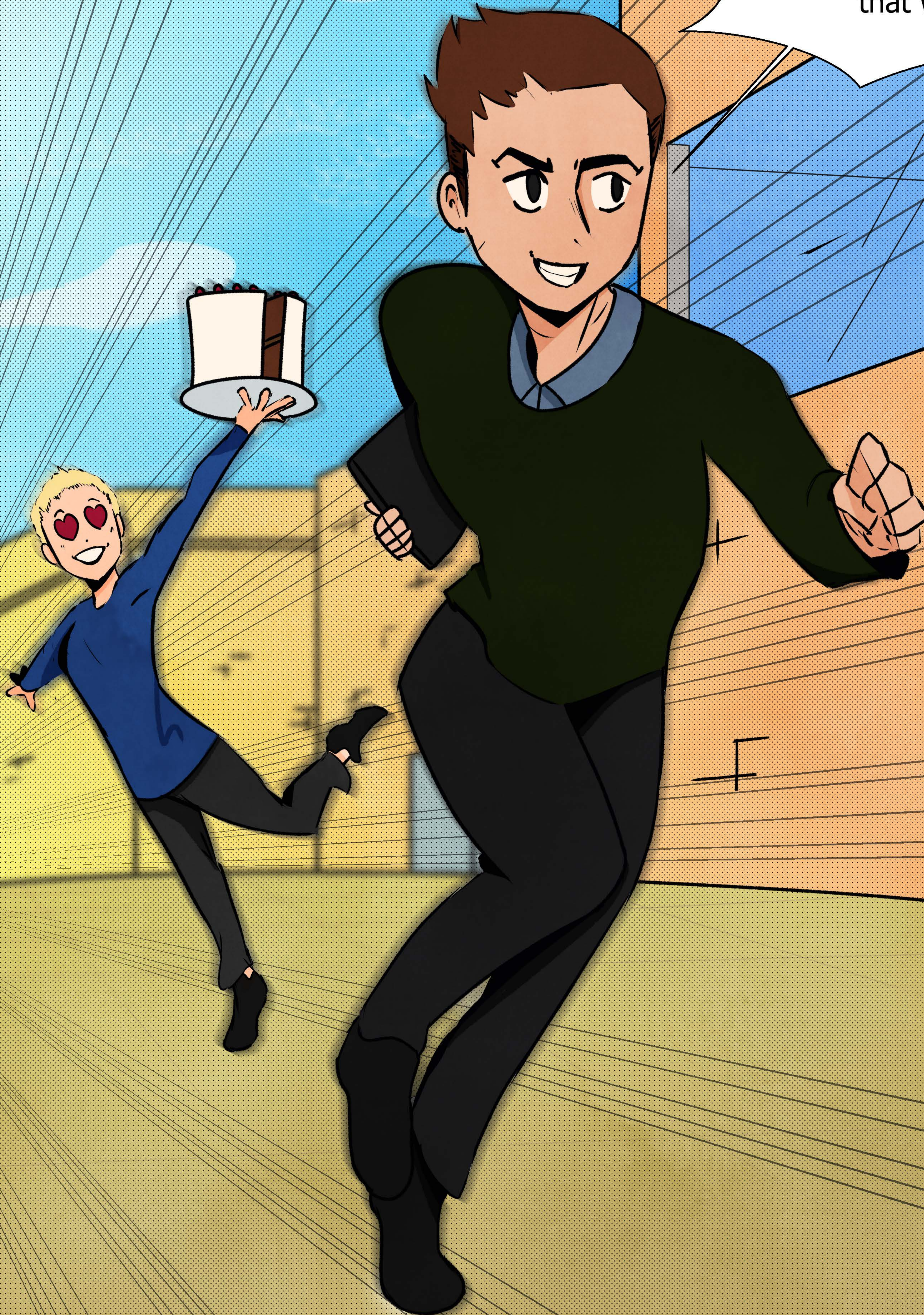
Honesty

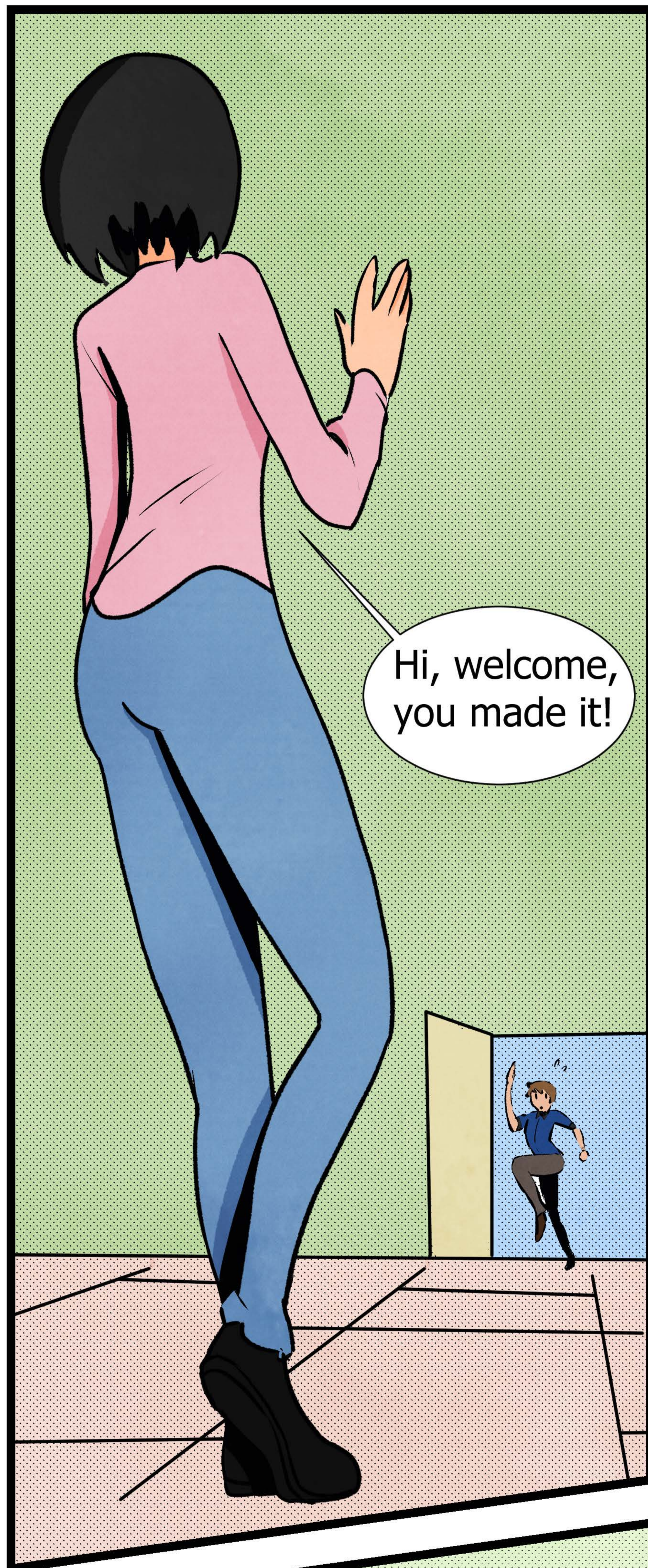
We take time to build relationships which allows us all to be honest with each other.



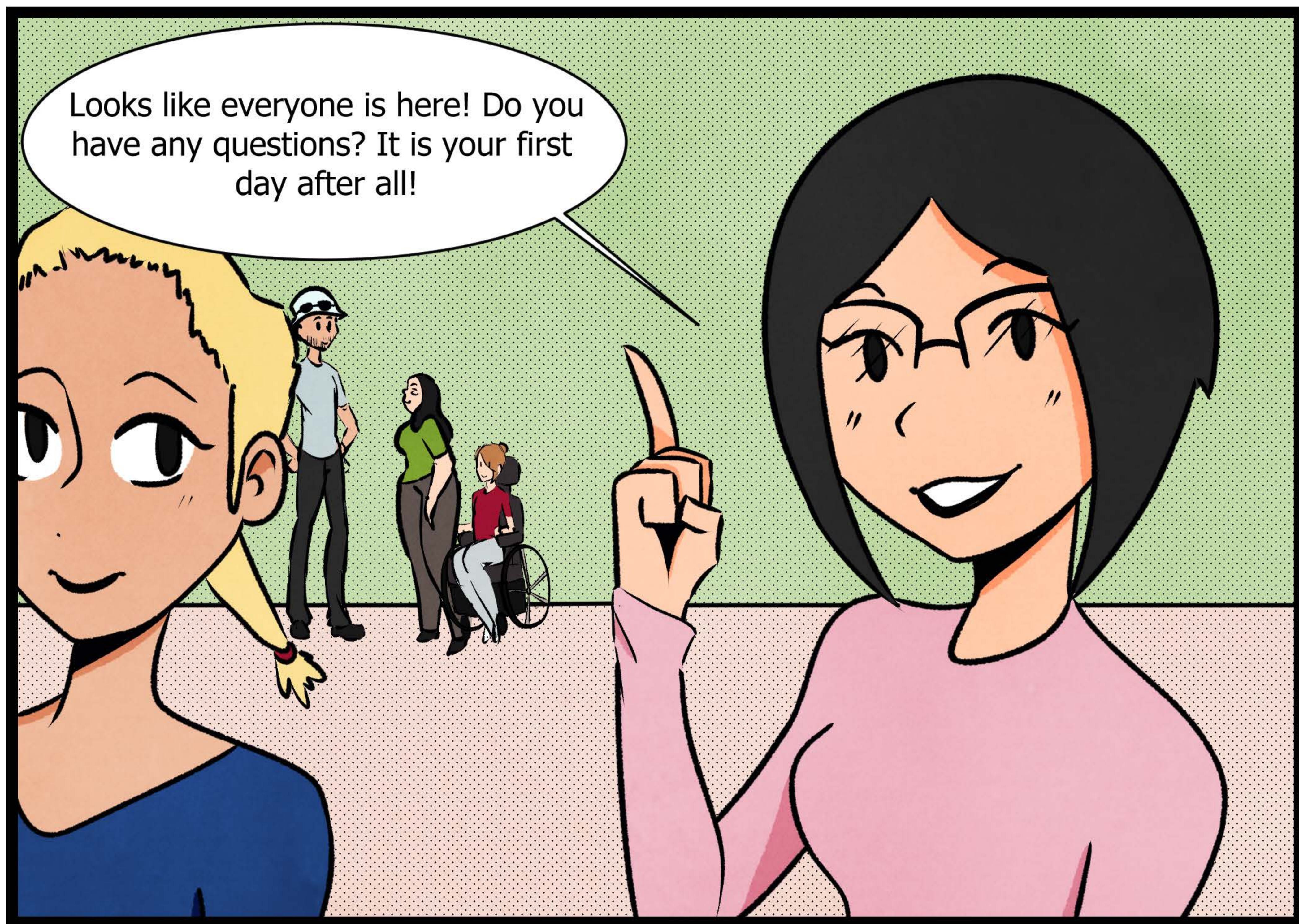
ACTION!

We always aim for positive change, from the research that we do!





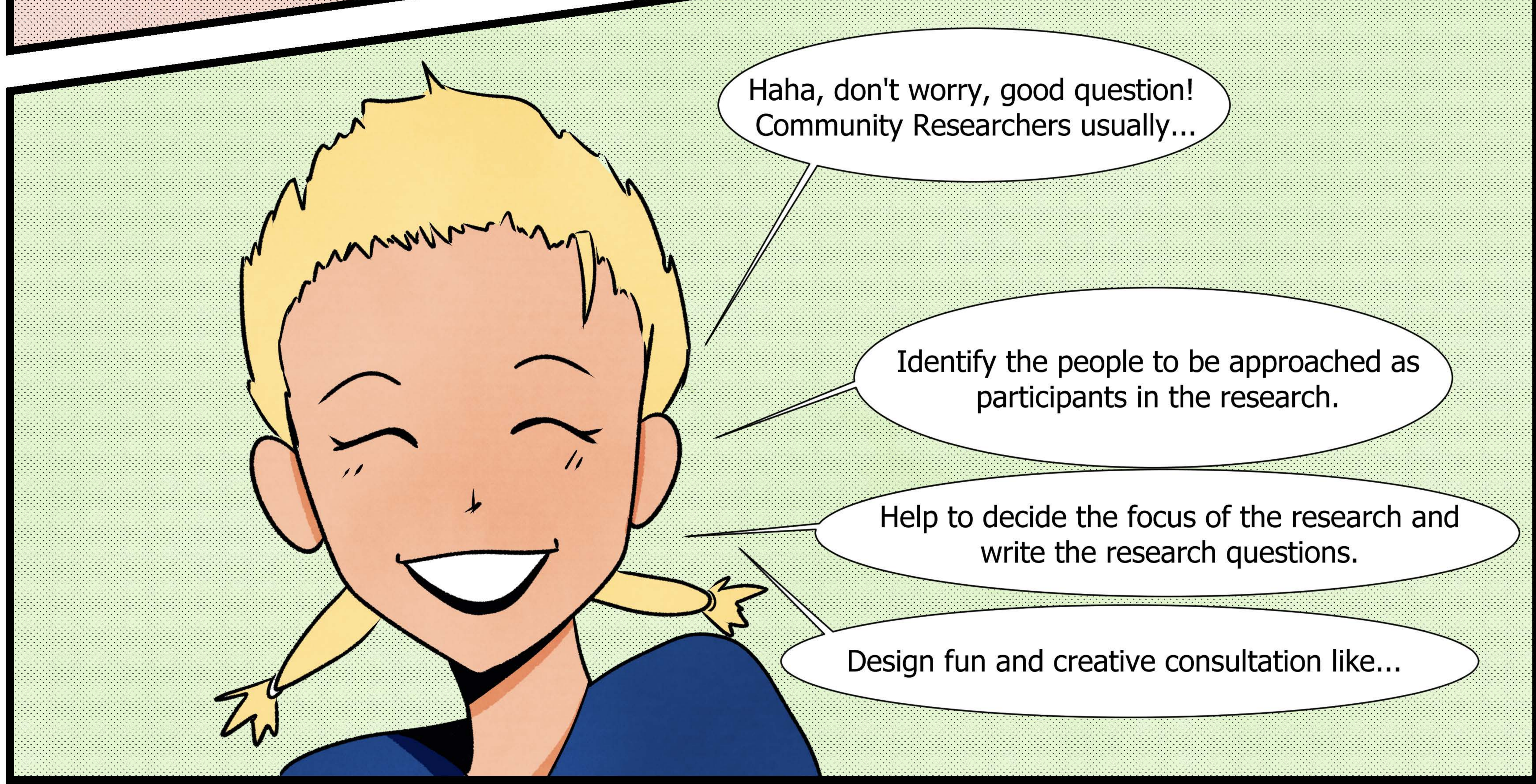
Hi, welcome, you made it!



Looks like everyone is here! Do you have any questions? It is your first day after all!



Hello! I'm not sure if its too late but what do Community Researchers do?



Haha, don't worry, good question! Community Researchers usually...

Identify the people to be approached as participants in the research.

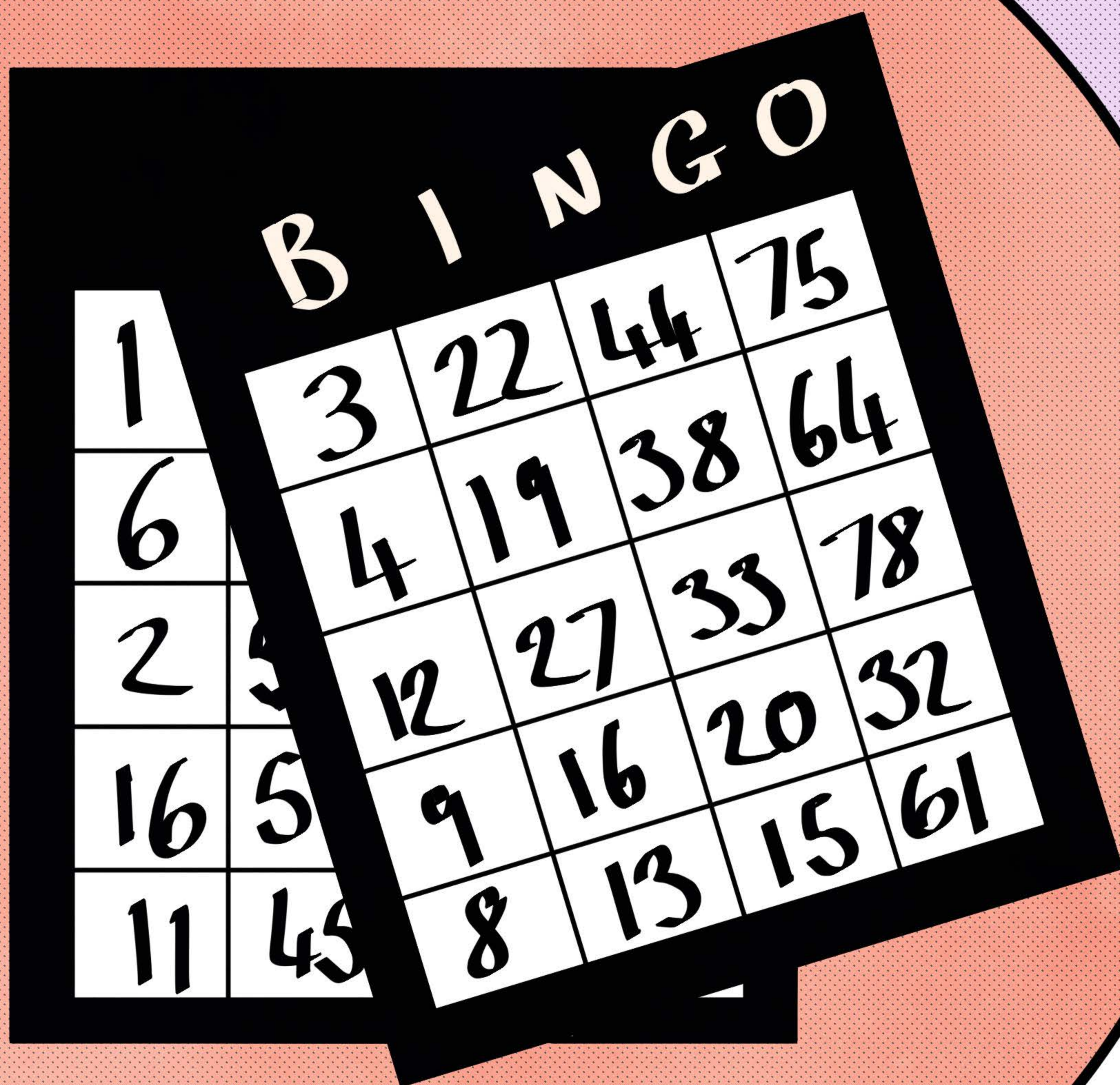
Help to decide the focus of the research and write the research questions.

Design fun and creative consultation like...

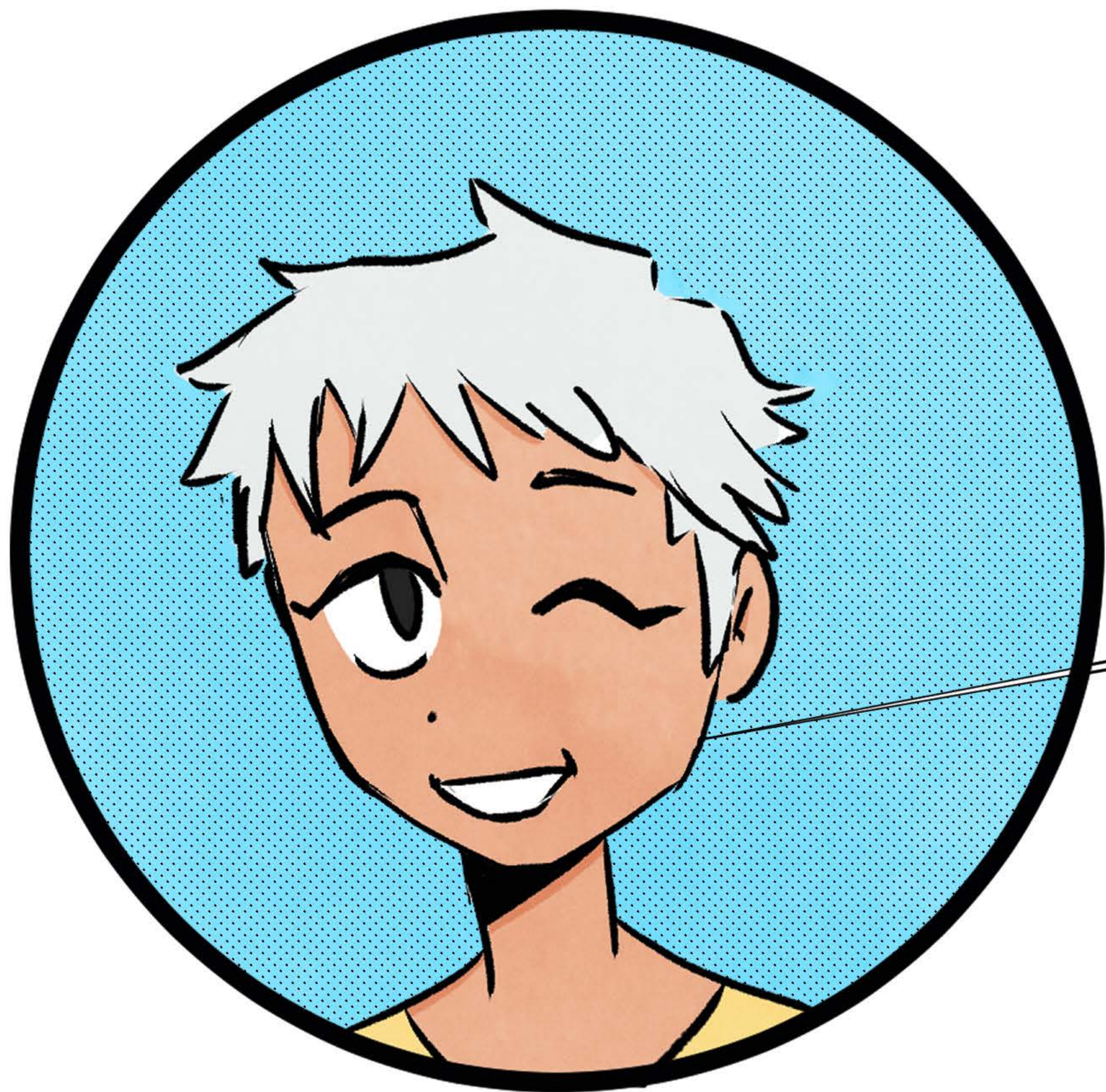
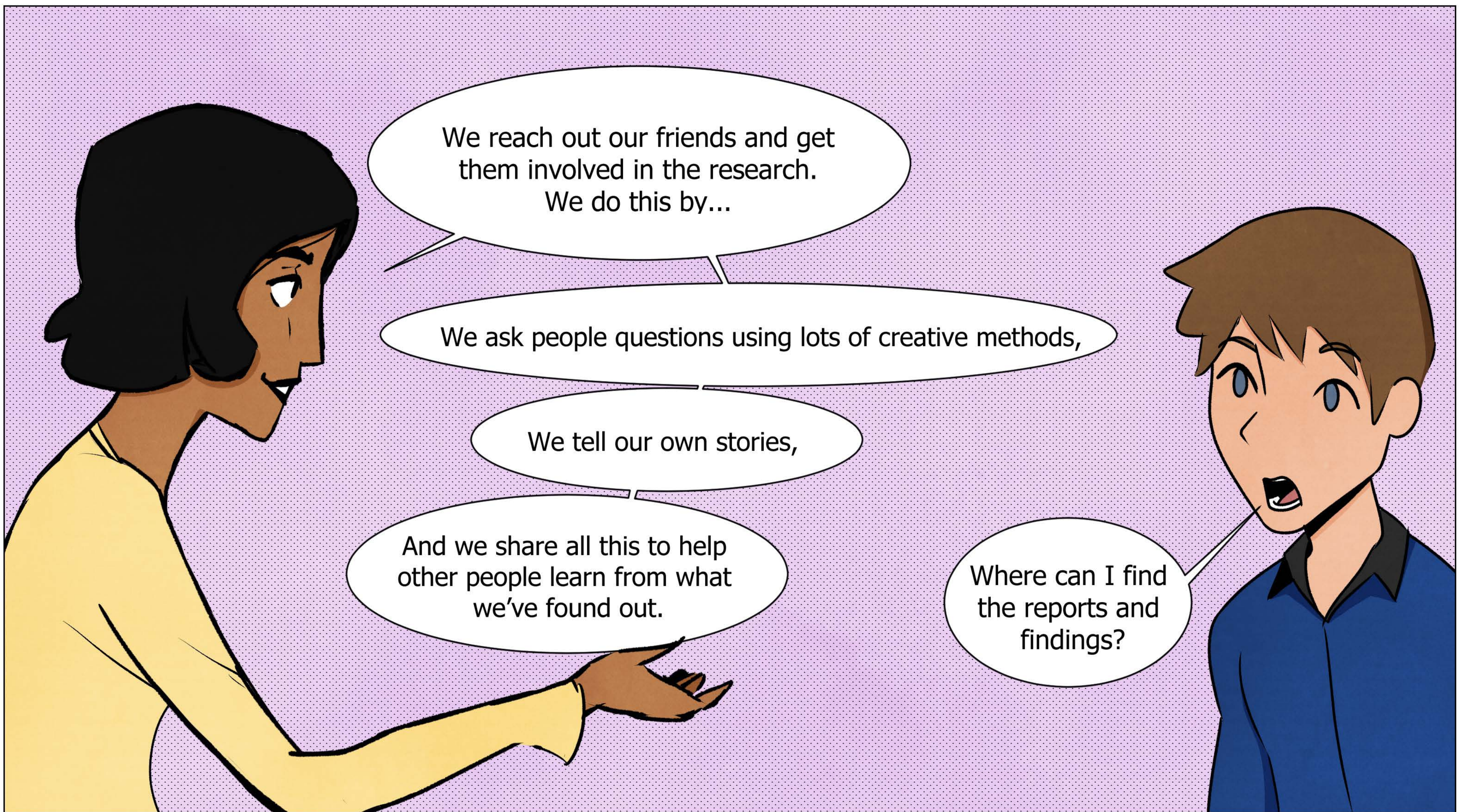
We've used Post-it-Notes as a creative exercise,



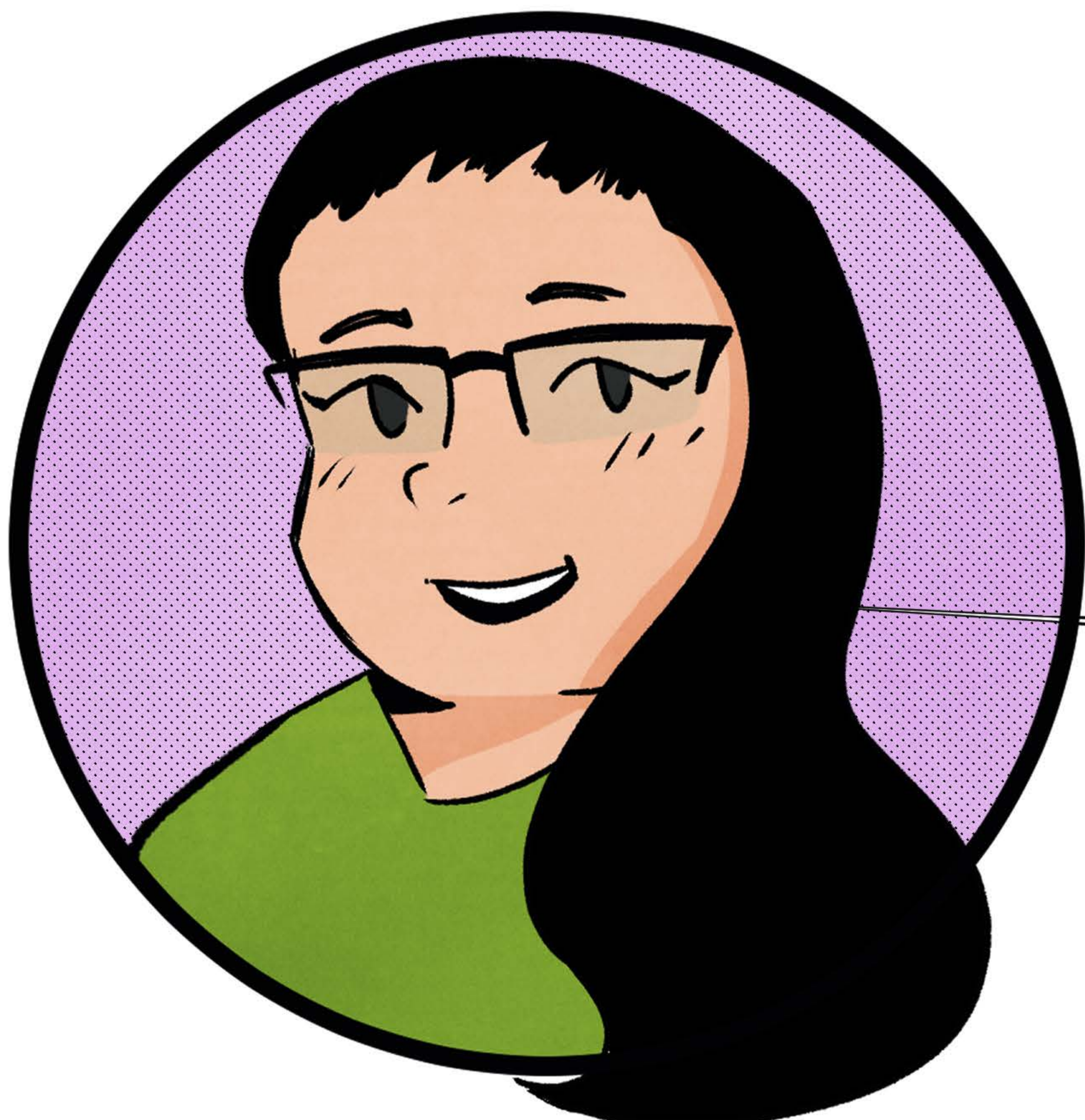
Tea and cake really helps relax the atmosphere and get people talking,



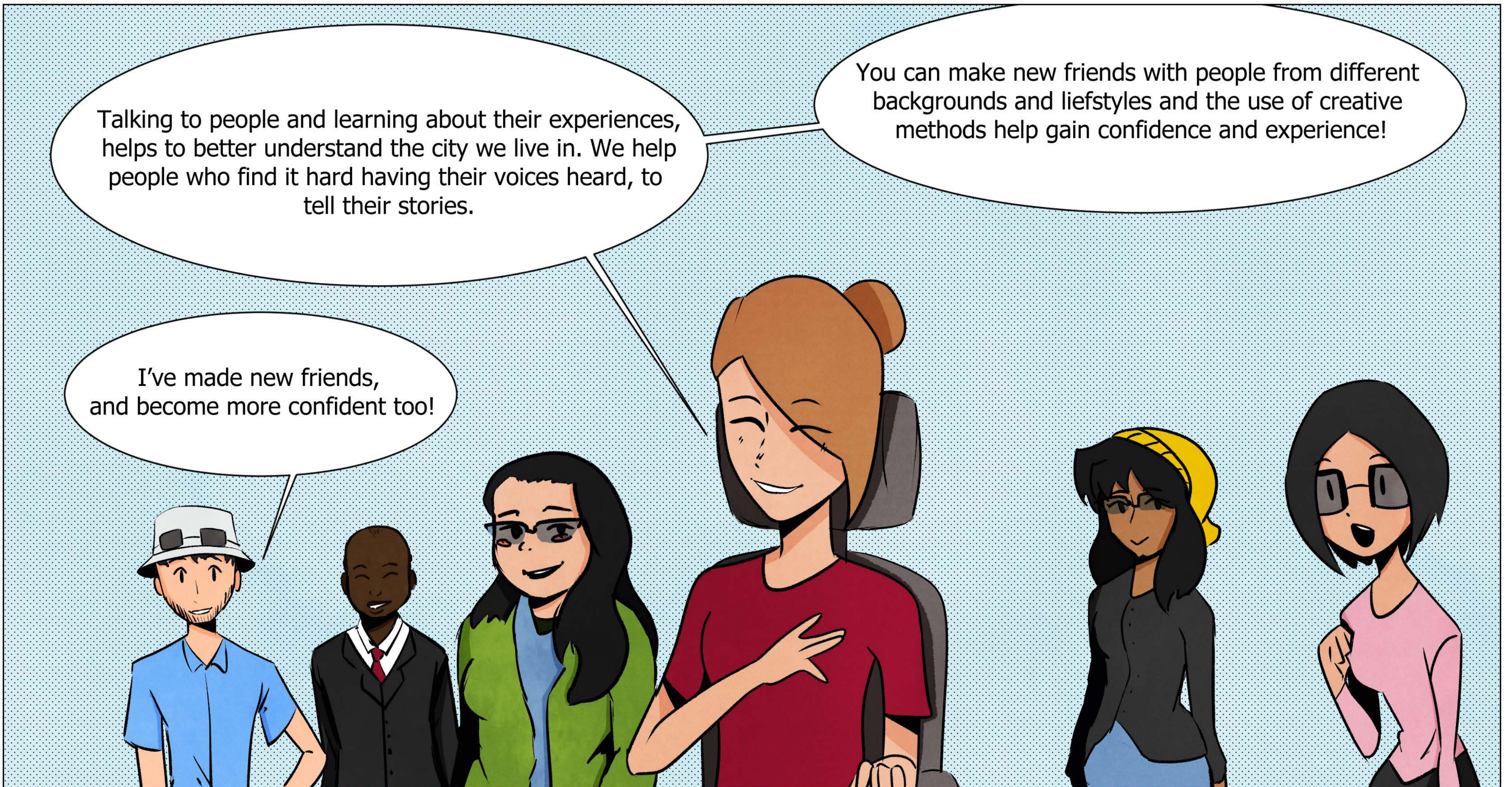
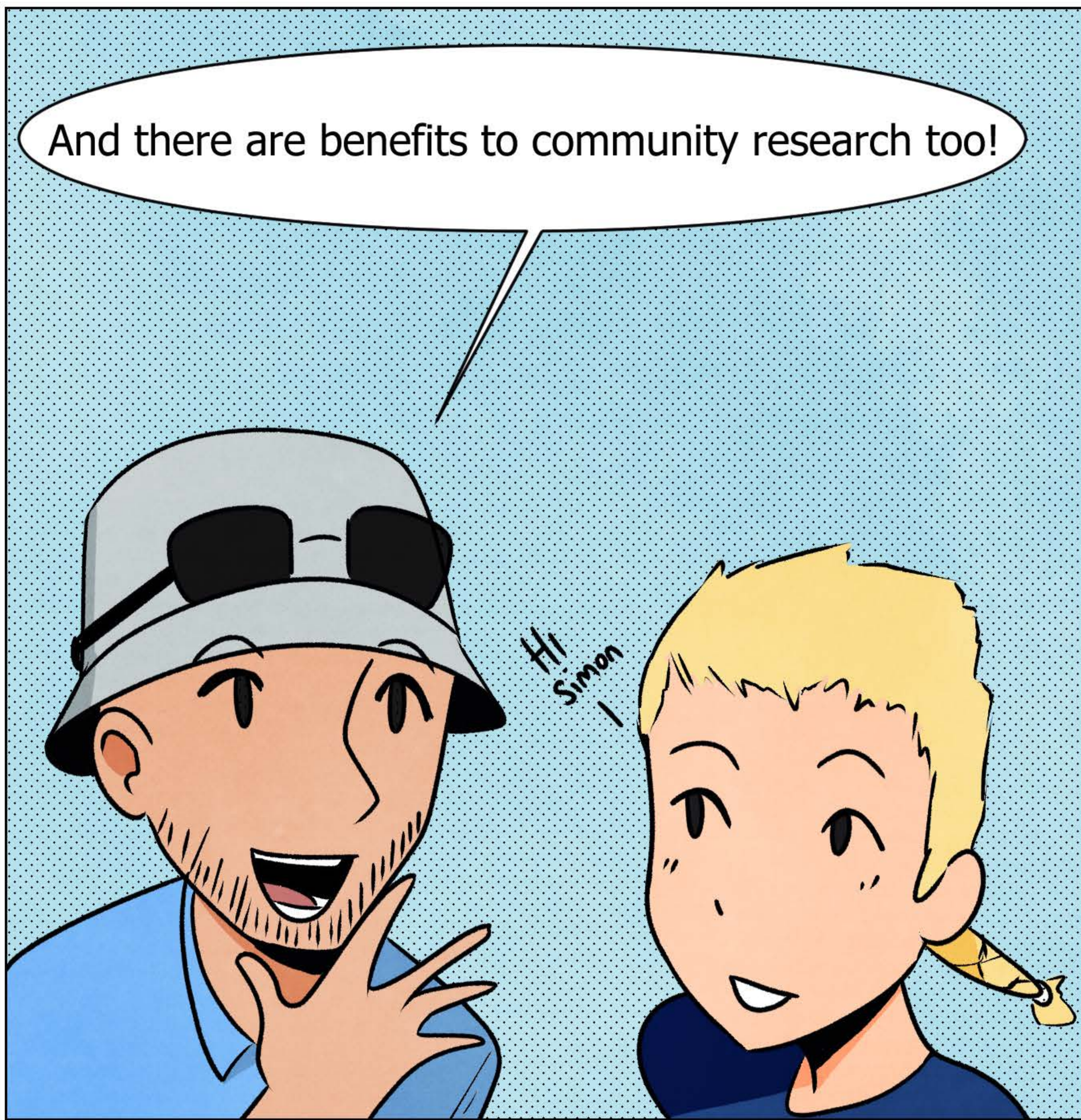
And we've even tried our version of Bingo!



You can view our work, reports and blogs over at:
<http://blogs.staffs.ac.uk/connections/>



And on,
<http://www.expertcitizens.org.uk/>





We are here to make a change
We are here to make a difference



At Staffordshire University we work alongside Community Researchers to understand the issues that affect them, their communities and the places they live. We call this approach Get Talking, although other people have different names for it, such as community research, peer research or community-based participatory action research.

We have worked with a team of Community Researchers to produce the ideas behind this comic. It is designed to help others understand the role of a Community Researcher. It shows how research that takes place within universities can involve people who may not have academic qualifications but use their own experience and knowledge of a place or an issue to help others develop a deep understanding of it. It also shows how research that involves universities and community partners working together can make a difference to the people and communities involved.

This comic was developed as part of Keep Talking, is a collaborative project between Expert Citizens CIC and Staffordshire University, both based in Stoke-on-Trent in the West Midlands, UK. The project is funded by UKRI Enhancing Partnerships for Placed Based Research fund. The aim of Keep Talking is to understand how universities and community organisations can work together to support sustainable community research. The project works with an existing team of community researchers and Expert Citizens with experience of delivering community-based research projects. The team bring their lived experience to support research participants to talk openly and offer a range of lenses through which we can understand the issues at the heart of the research.

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Artwork designed and produced by Joshua De'Mendonca.