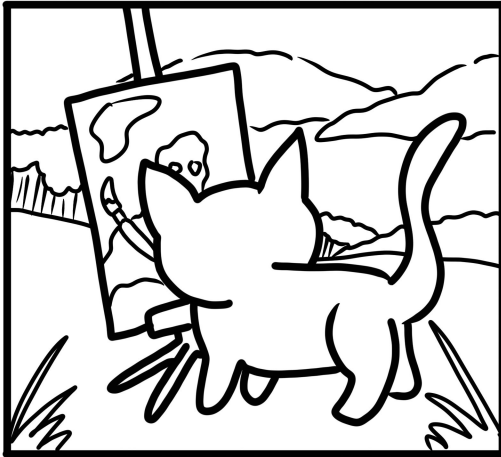


Benjamin Hansom,

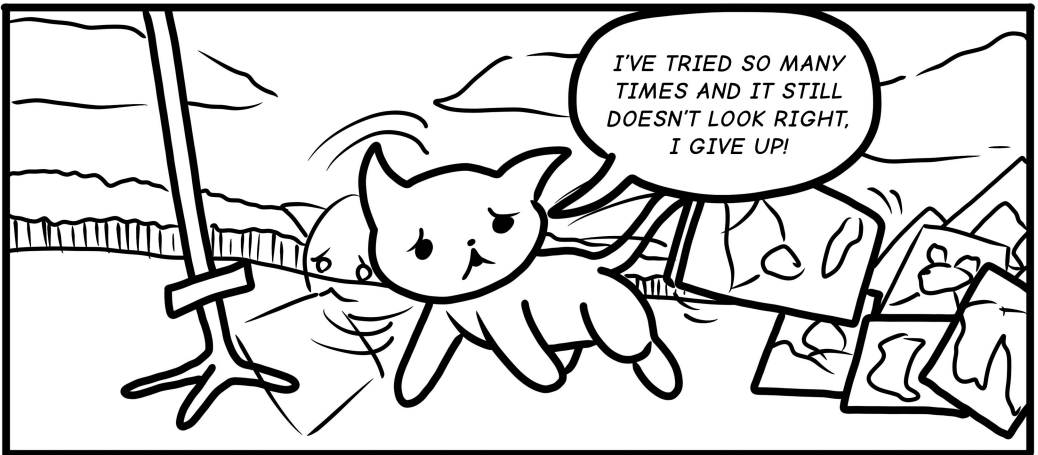
# UNDERDOGG<sup>®</sup>

and the  
Gritty Cat

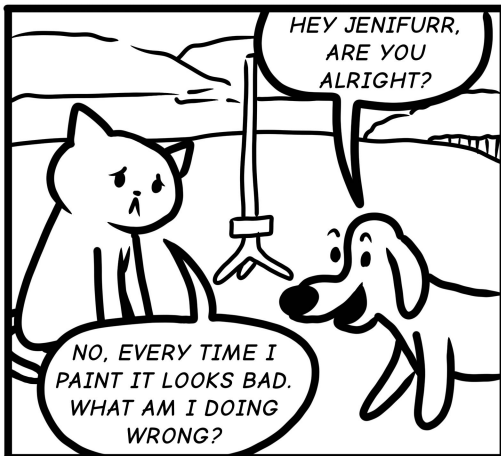




AWW NO, IT JUST DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT.

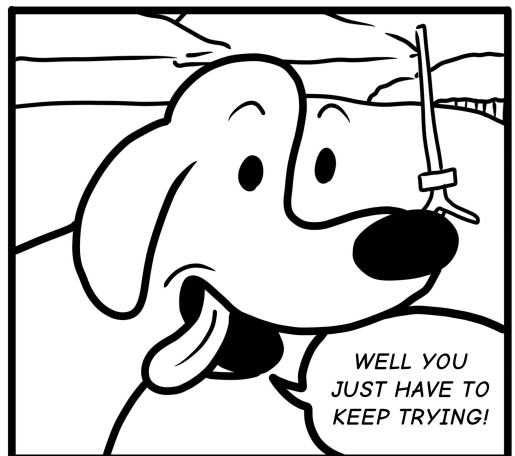


I'VE TRIED SO MANY TIMES AND IT STILL DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT, I GIVE UP!

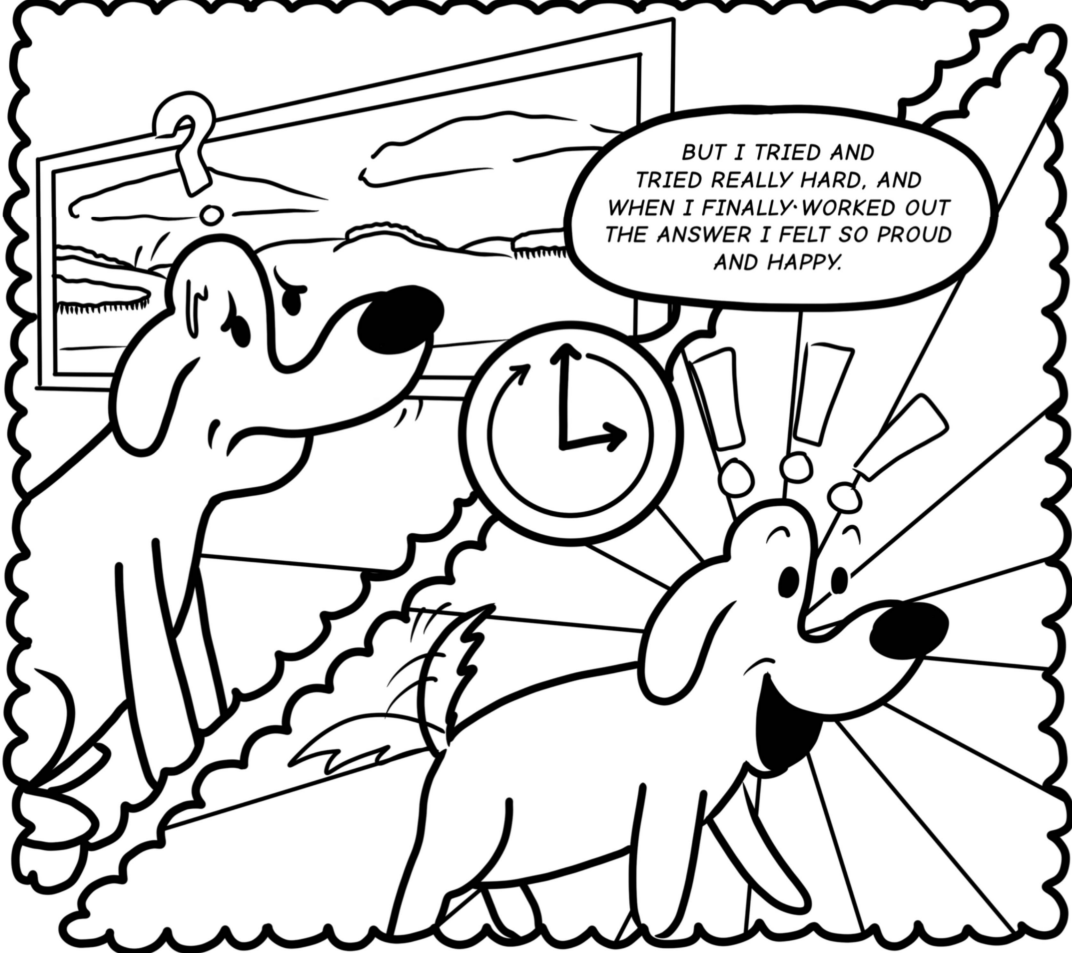
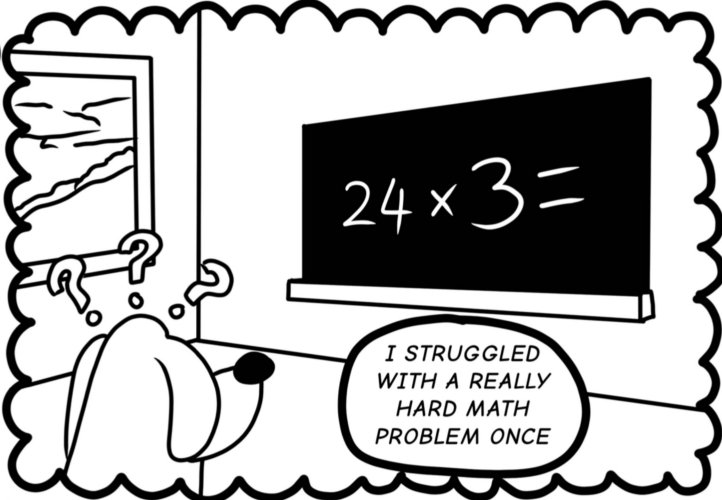


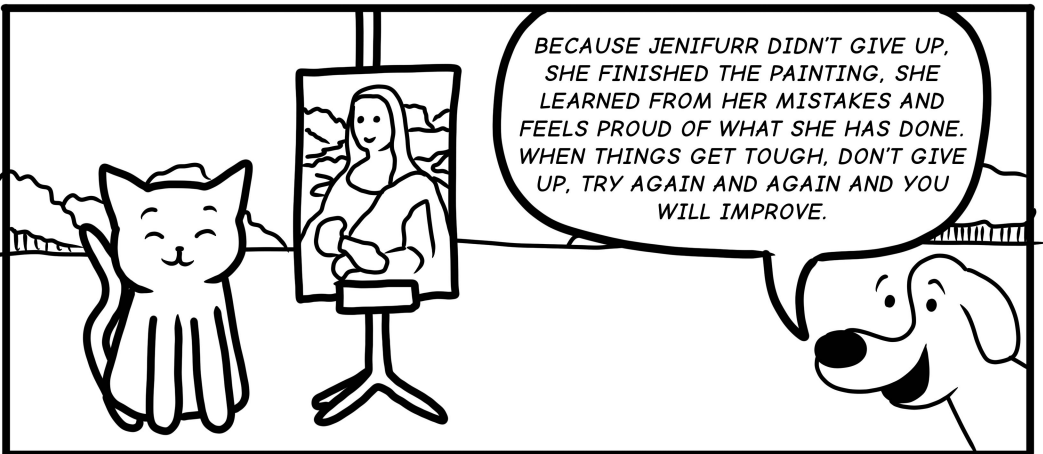
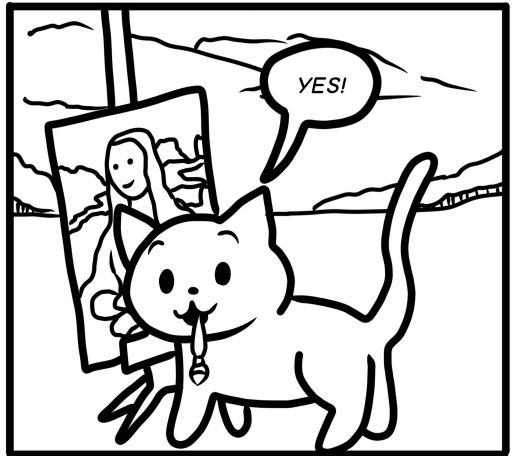
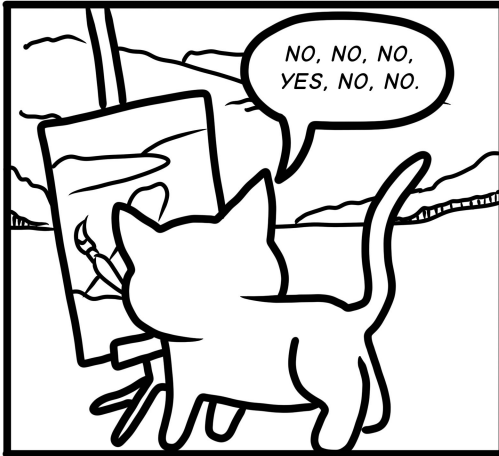
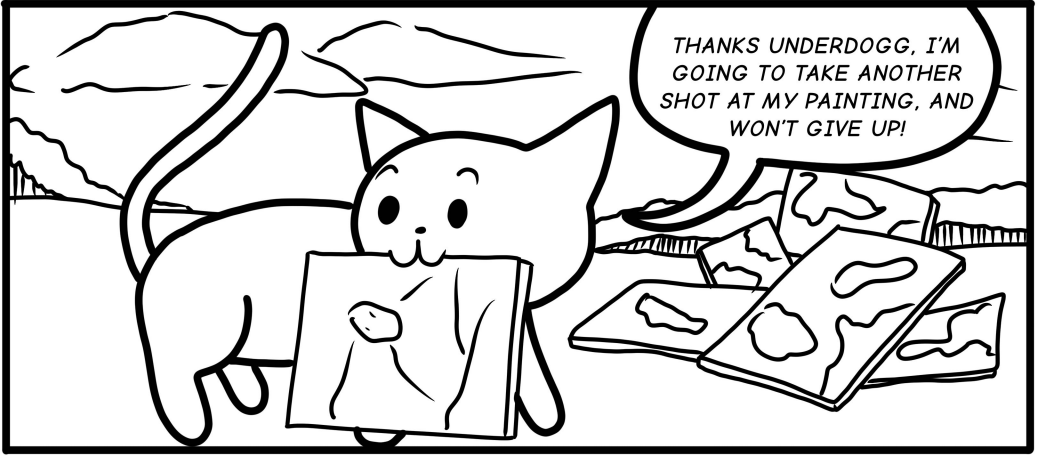
HEY JENIFURR, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

NO, EVERY TIME I PAINT IT LOOKS BAD. WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?



WELL YOU JUST HAVE TO KEEP TRYING!





## Summary

Jenifurr loved to paint but she just couldn't get it to look right and after trying lots of times she had decided to give up.

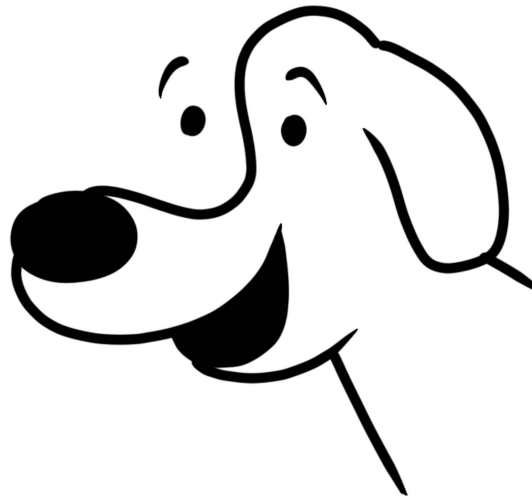
However when her friend Underdog came along he could see that Jenifurr didn't look happy and so he asked if she was alright?

Jenifurr was upset and explained that every time she tries to paint the picture it looks bad and she doesn't know what she is doing wrong. Underdog encourages her to try and learn the mistakes from each painting and then try again.

Underdog recalls a time when maths was a real struggle and through trying really hard, making mistakes and learning from them he was able to find the answer to the problem and he felt so proud and happy.

Jenifurr was encouraged by Underdog's story and encouragement, so she decided to give the painting another try. And although it wasn't easy and it took a lot of time and hard work she was able to create a really lovely painting that she was very proud about.

Underdog was really pleased for his friend as even though she had found painting the picture really tough, she had kept going, tried hard and in the end improved enough to produce a lovely painting.



### What is Grit?

Grit was an idea developed by psychologist Angela Duckworth. She tells us that Grit is about passion and perseverance.

What she means about passion is that people care about and are invested in what they are doing and when it comes to perseverance she says that gritty people keep going even in the face of difficulties, setbacks and failures.

Duckworth's Grit research suggests that to be successful you don't have to be the smartest kid in class. It means that if you show dedication (passion) and work hard to overcome difficulties (perseverance) then you can achieve your goals.

### Things for Teachers and Parents to think about

Talent is Deterministic - When we emphasise talent it suggests that some have it and others don't - in this scenario if you don't have it then what?

The danger of talking about talent is that it will leave some kids feeling good and others bad.

Grit (Passion and Perseverance) is Developmental - No matter what your starting point with Grit you can improve and achieve success

When we talk about Grit we are referring to a level playing field because everyone is capable of being gritty (showing passion and perseverance).

### How teachers and parents can help children to develop Grit

1. Reward and validate passion and perseverance rather than the outcome
2. Be aware of when children are going to give up and encourage perseverance
3. Use examples of how individuals have achieved success through passion and perseverance

Text

### Examples of Gritty People

JK Rowling - Battled through poverty and had her books turned down by twelve publishing houses before it was taken by Bloomsbury.

Walt Disney - Fired from his first job with the Kansas City Star because his cartoons weren't creative enough.

TALK ABOUT:

Underdogg told us a story about being 'Gritty' and keeping going when things are hard.

With others TALK-ABOUT what you learned from the story and what valuable lesson/s you think it taught you

HAVE A GO:

Think about something you have tried that you found really hard. It might be a painting like the Gritty Cat, a sports skill or a maths problem (or something else).

HAVE A GO by giving it another try and keep going until like the Gritty Cat you have managed to do it.

PUT INTO WORDS:

Complete the sentence:

When something is hard and I feel I can't do it I need to:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Note for Teachers/ parents: Encourage Grit/ perseverance whenever the opportunity arises

**DRAW A PICTURE:**

Draw a picture of yourself showing Grit.

How do you look, what are you thinking and how do you feel (e.g. happy with yourself for sticking with and overcoming a hard problem)