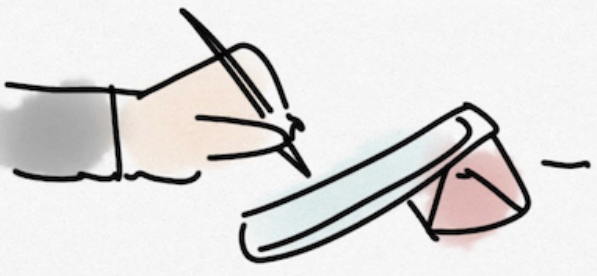


# YEAR in REVIEW @raymondsbrain

DAZE in a LIFE



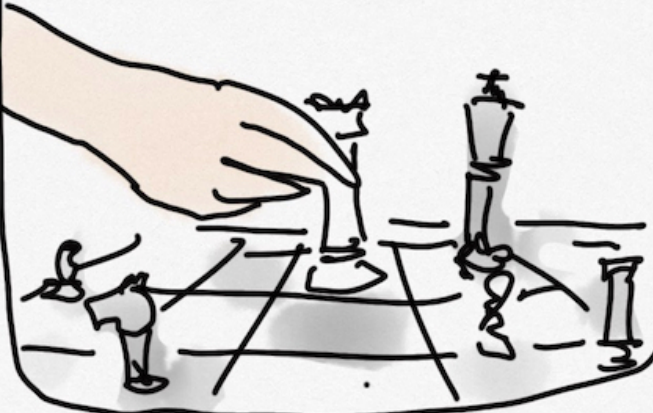
December 2020



Vol. 12



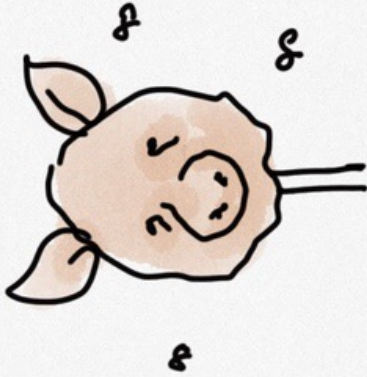
by  
Raymond K  
Nakamura



# LORD of the FLIES

@rahmondsbrain

Beautiful language



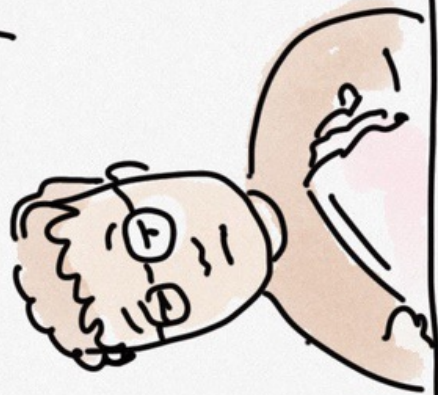
tells a horrific story

about English boys

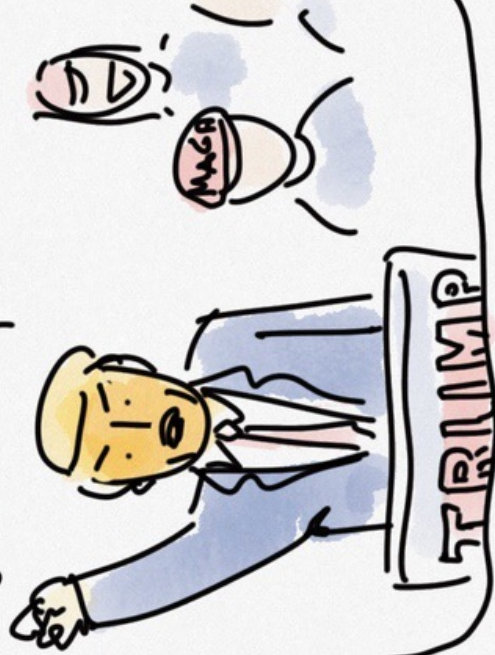


stranded on an island

The characters show limited diversity,



and maybe that was the problem.



COVID CAROL @raymondsbrain

On the first day  
of Christmas ↴



My true love gave  
to me



a VICUS



that is deadly.

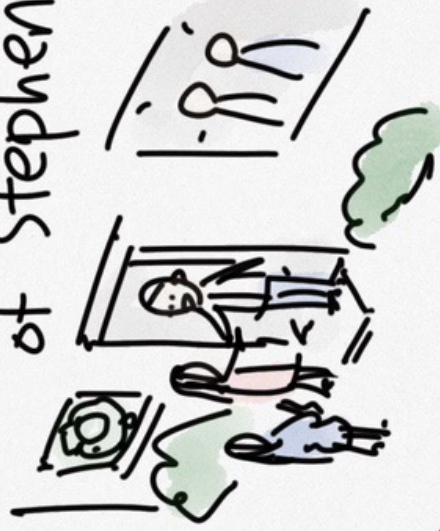


COVID-19 CAROL Z @raymondsbrain

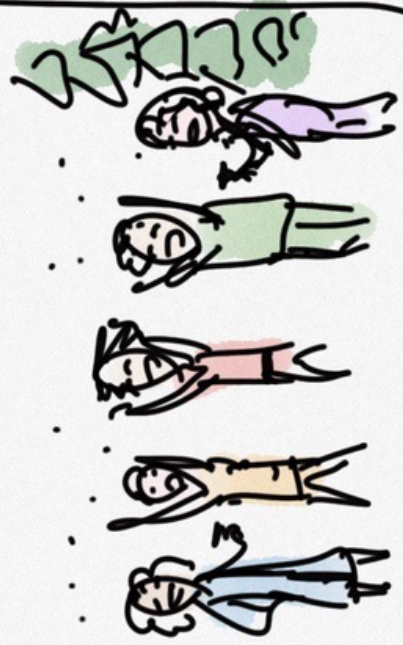
Good King Wenceslas  
looked out,



O'er the feast  
of Stephen.



At the spreaders  
he did shout,

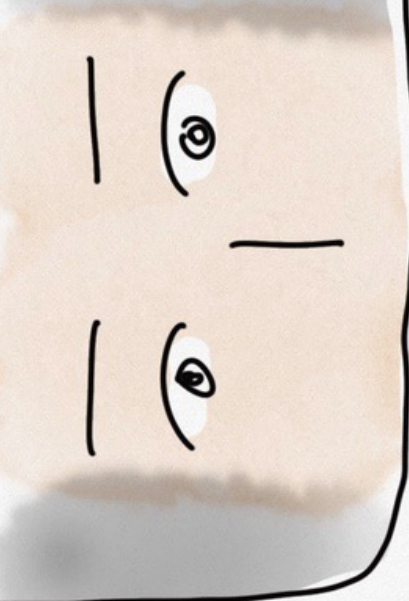


"No mask wearing  
even?!"



# Tears in the Rain @raymondsbrain

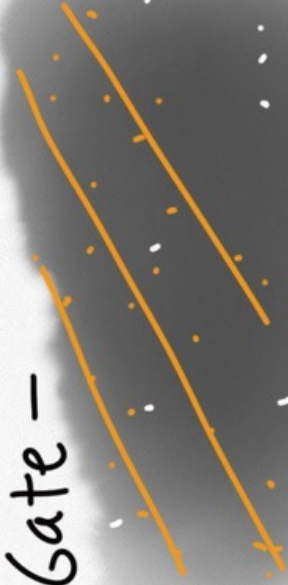
I've seen things you  
people wouldn't believe



Attack ships on fire  
off the shoulder of  
Orion...



I've watched C-beams  
glitter in the dark,  
near the Tannhäuser  
Gate -

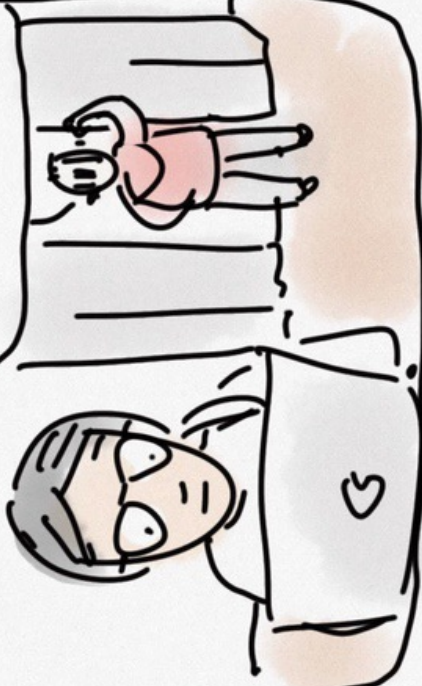


Thanks Mr. Batty,  
we'll let you know  
if we're interested

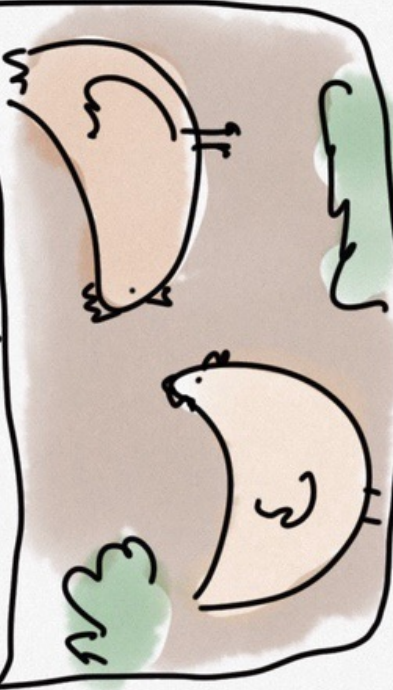


# FREE RANGE NEIGHBOURS @raymondsbrain

Allopatric speciation  
is where...



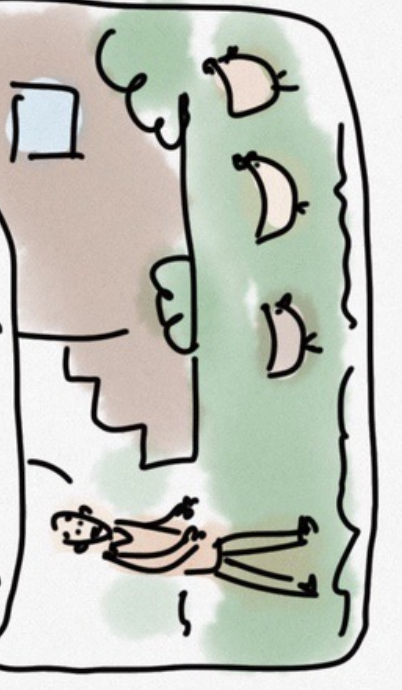
...there's chickens  
in our garden!



Did you know your  
chickens were loose?



I didn't think  
they'd wander  
so far!



LIGHT MOTIFS

@raymondsbrain

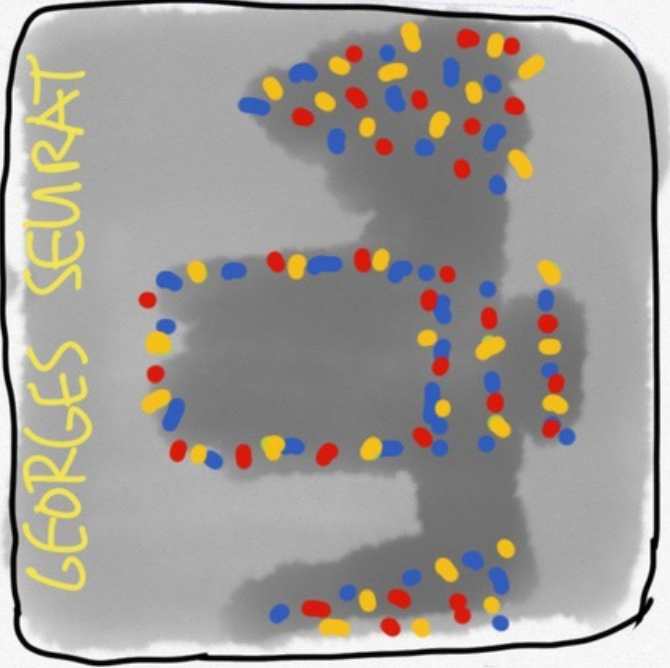
ELF



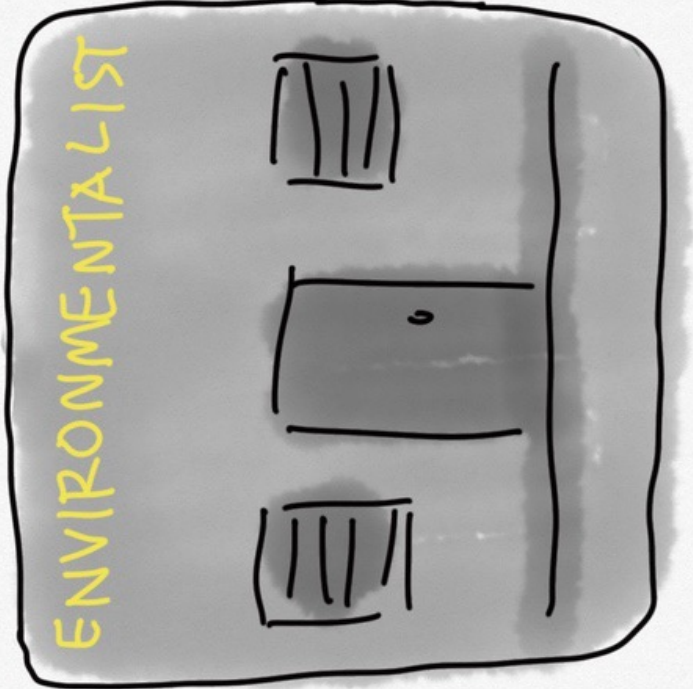
MARTHA STEWART



GEORGES SEURAT



ENVIRONMENTALIST



LIKE SON

@raymondsbrain

My Dad forgot to renew his car registration...

Why is my sticker a different colour?



He's in his nineties.

Guess I'm losing it...



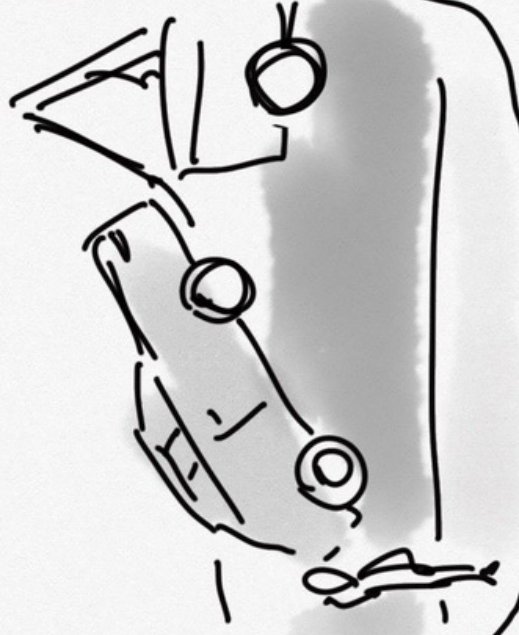
Happened to me too.

Your insurance is expired



D'oh!

I was in my thirties-





# HIS DARK MATERIALS @raymondsbrain

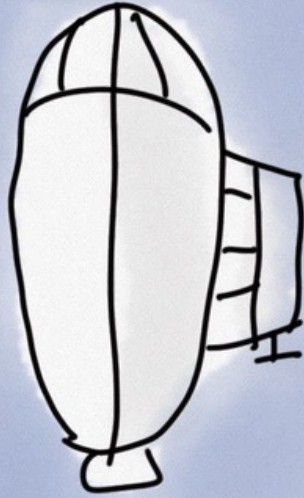
I am enjoying the show on HBO.



I read the books long enough ago



to recall the mood



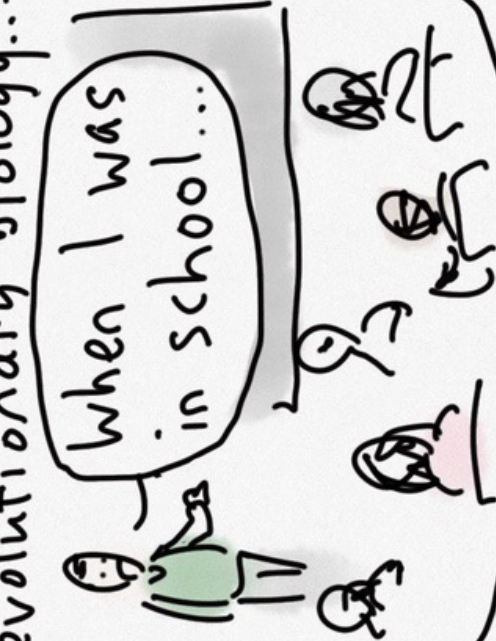
without spoiling all the details.



# March of Science @raymondsbrain

While I studied evolutionary biology...

When I was in school...



Humans had fewer chromosomes!



While I helped my teen study online biology.

When I was in school...



Life had fewer kingdoms!



EDJAMAKASHUN @raymondsbrain

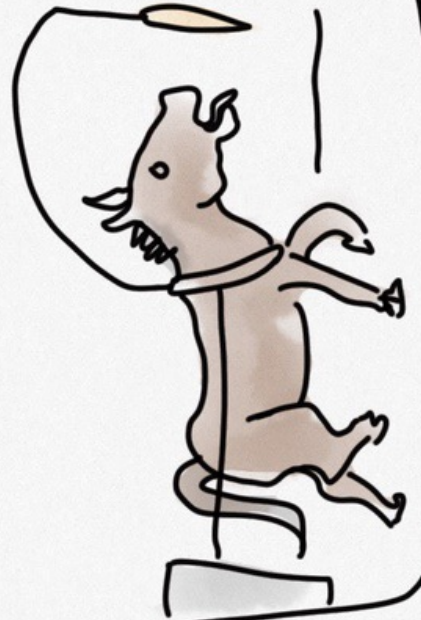
When students think marks are all that matter



The conscientious ones do all it takes to get high marks



and lose all intrinsic motivation



to learn anything of value.



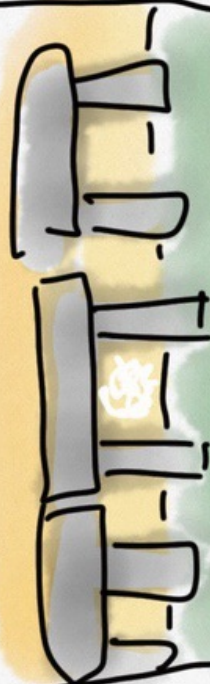
# SEASON'S SEMIOTICS @raymondsbrain

Our tree  
is hp.



(no thanks  
to me)

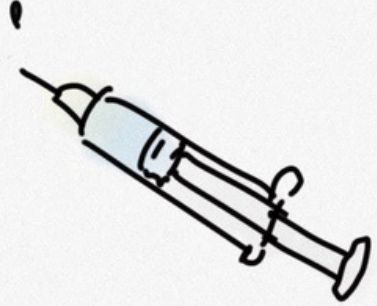
As with many rituals  
in northern cultures  
around winter solstice,



we hope it will  
ward off darkness



and herald a  
better new year.

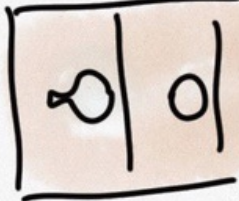


# The Thought that Counts @ Raymond's Brain

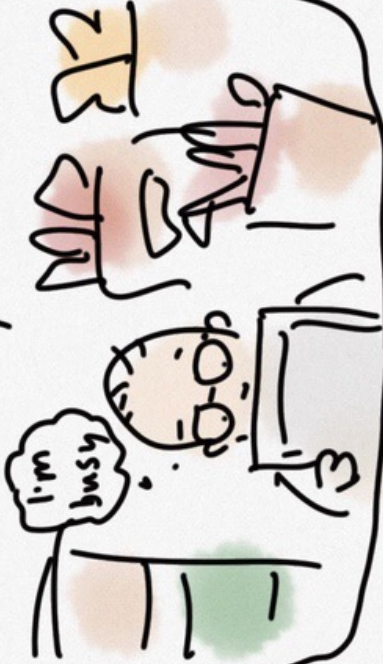
Only keep what sparks joy!



Marie Kondo



I'm too lazy to reduce my clutter,



But at least I don't add to others'

I bring you ONLY tidings of great joy.



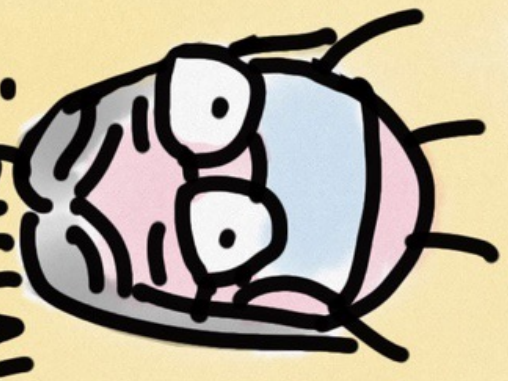
MARIE christmas



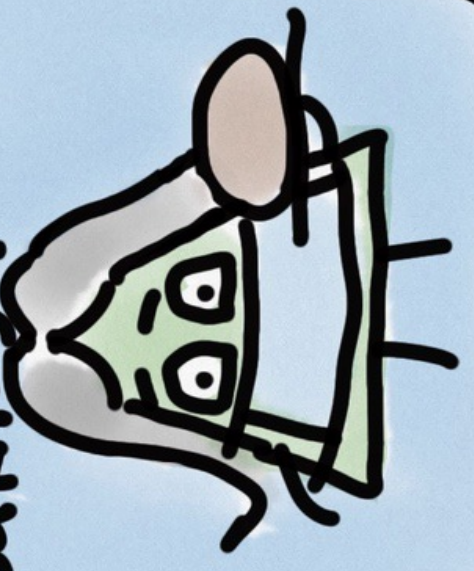
etc.

NAK/HO FAMILY 2020

Driving!



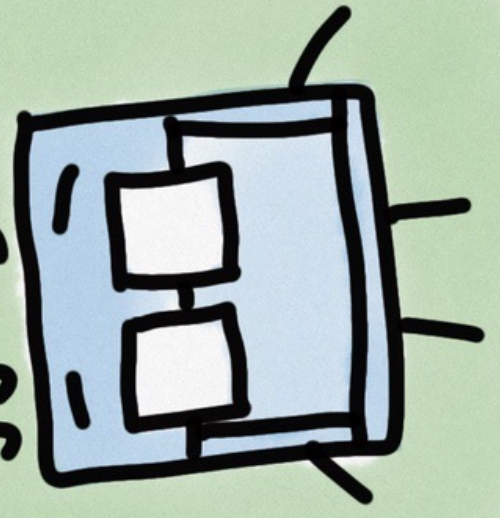
Baking!



Barking!



Fogging!



# AINU MOSIR @raymondsbrain

Fascinating film about an adolescent Ainu in northern Japan

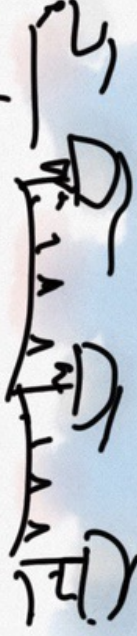


Coming to terms with his identity



after the loss of his father

It reminded me of a shark festival I saw in southern Japan



and a marine mammal conference where I heard a chief talk about plans



to renew traditional whale hunting.

# Endless forms Most Beautiful, full @raymondsbrain

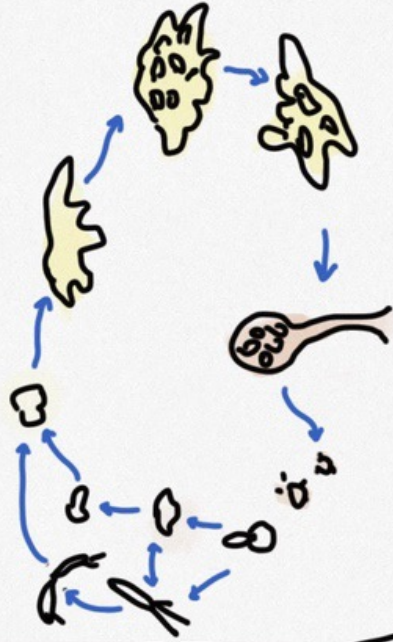
Slime moulds can solve mazes.



So could my daughter when she was little.



Slime moulds are hard to understand.



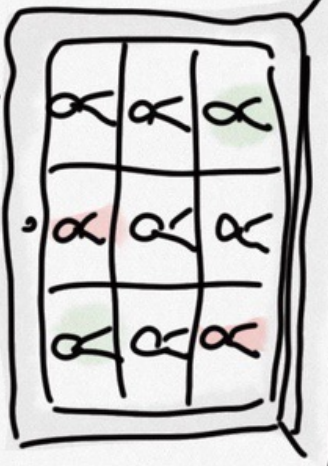
So are teenagers.





# VIRTUAL SPIRIT @raymondsbrain

Our writing group's year-end party was online this year.



We shared stories

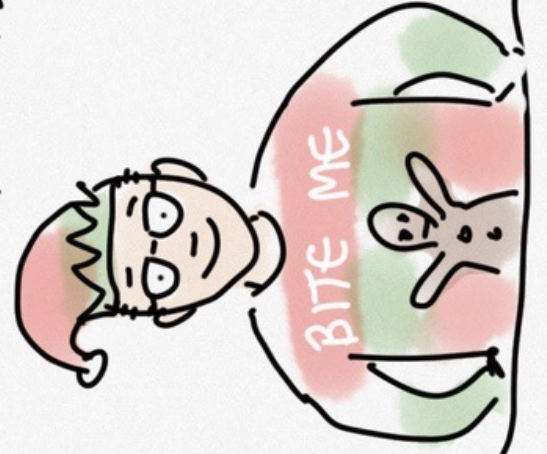


from various places.

We're allowed gatherings in New Zealand.



And it was an excuse to dress up.



# My Social Media @Raymondsbrain

Of my 259 'friends  
on Facebook,



I've met most IRL.  
About a dozen say hello.

Of my 696 'followers  
on Twitter,



most are probably bots.

Of my 147 'followers  
on Instagram,



a few strangers have  
said nice things.

Of my 405 'connections  
on LinkedIn,



most do nothing on it.

YEAR in REVIEW @raymondsbrain

Walked the dog.



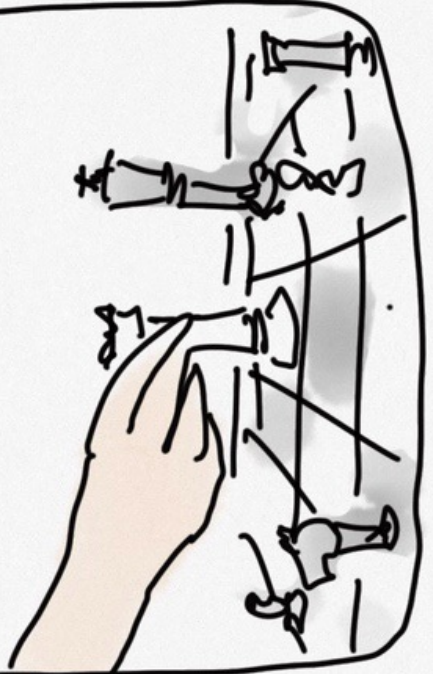
Drew comics



Talked to family  
online



Watched Queen's  
Gambit.



WORK IN PROGRESS @raymondsbrain

I am reading a book  
that analyzes Nancy  
comics



which I never liked,

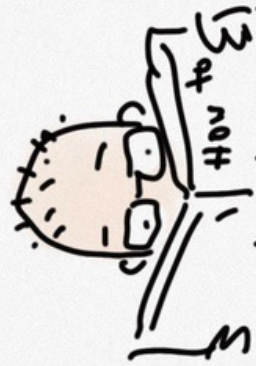


but are apparently  
genius.

One method is surprise.



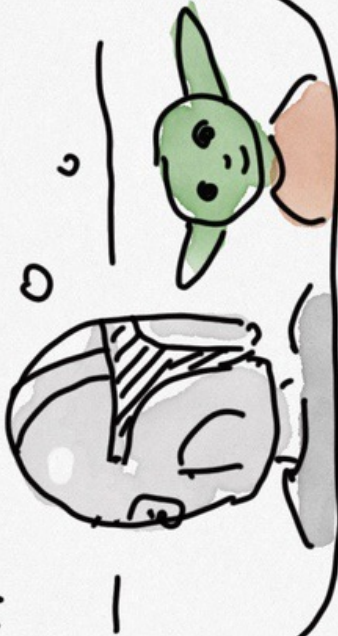
in the final panel  
(which is supposed  
to be drawn first)



I'm still learning.

Couch Potato Salad @raymondsbrain

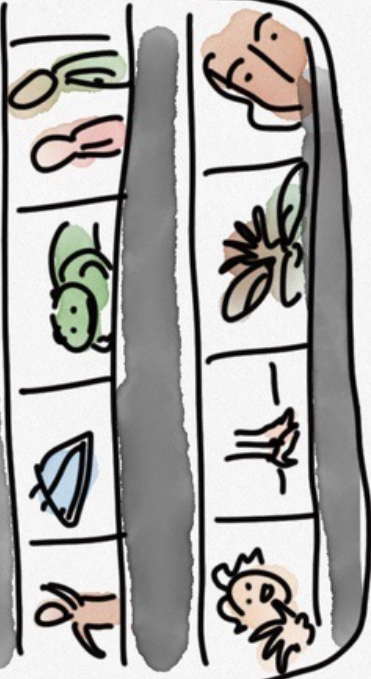
Got a month of Disney to binge The Mandalorian.



Get HBO for His Dark Materials



Scroll Netflix trailers for shows I might watch some day.



Stopped Amazon for vaguely socialist reasons...

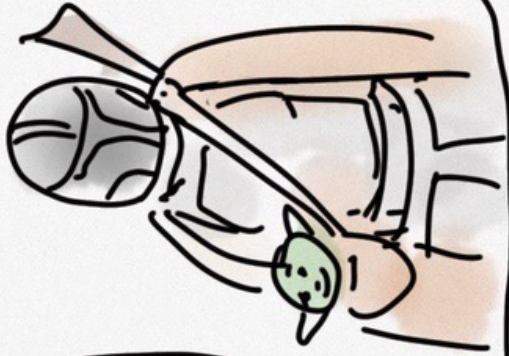


at least until the next season of Carnival Row.

The Manny

@rahmondsbrain

Giving  
mommy  
a break  
today?



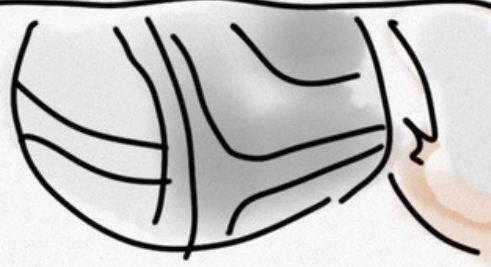
I only feed  
my kids  
local, organic  
food.



You shouldn't  
let your  
child do  
that.

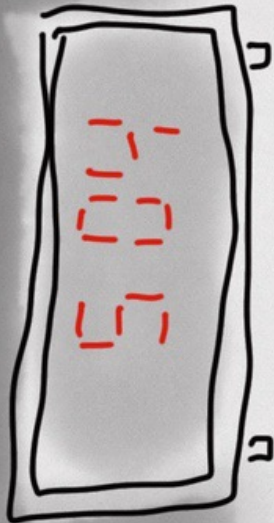


He looks  
just like  
you.



upon Awakening @raymondsbrain

Clock glowing



Rain falling



Dog snoring



Doom scrolling



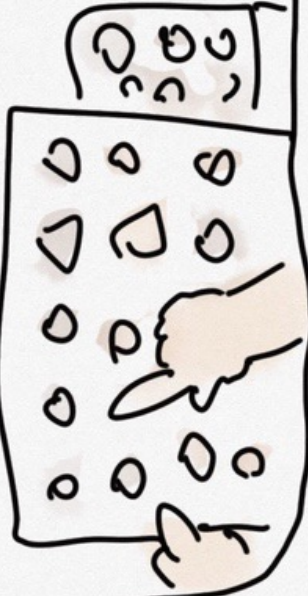
Is there an app for that? @raymondsbrain

Unlike Forrest Gump,

You never know what you're going to get...

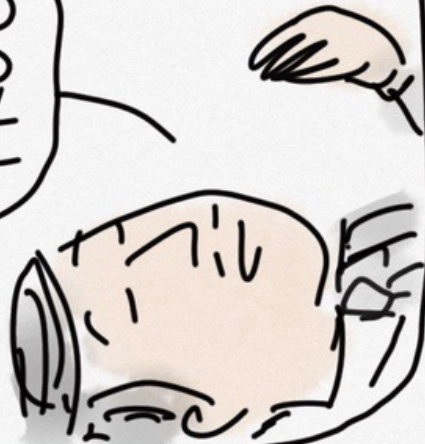


I prefer chocolates with a legend



So I don't end up with CRUNCHY

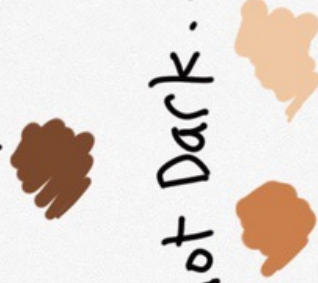
FROG...



I think they need a dichotomous key-

1. a. Dark... 2

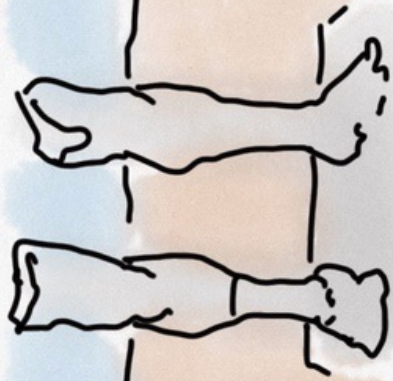
b. not Dark... 3





English Homework @raymondsbrain

King of Kings;



MY NAME IS  
OZYMANDIAS

Look upon my works,  
ye Mighty,

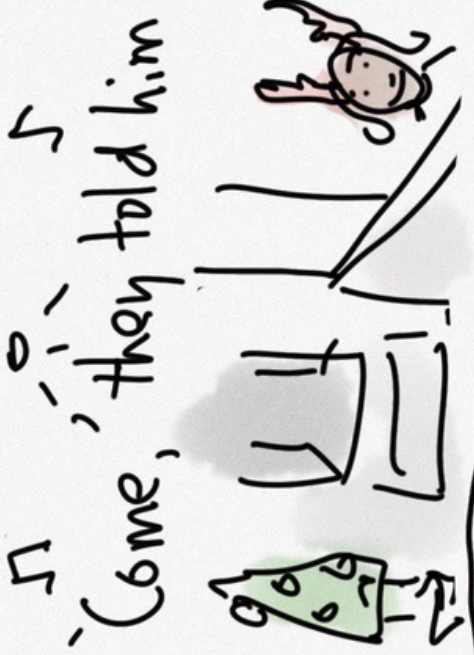


and despair.

I think it's about  
analyzing poetry.



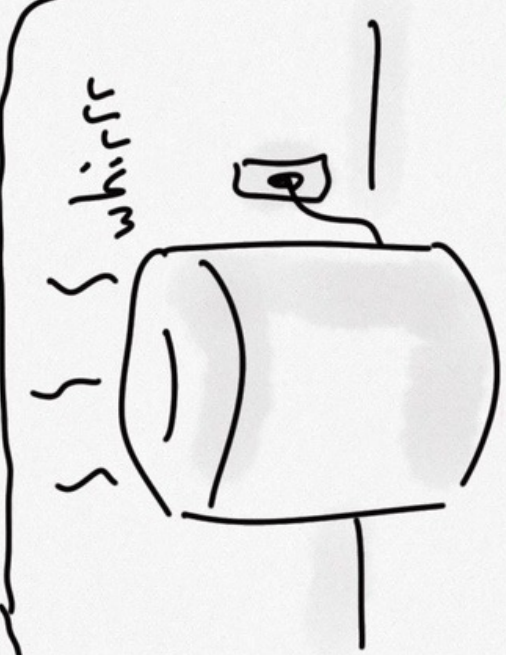
Seasonal Dentistry @raymondstrain



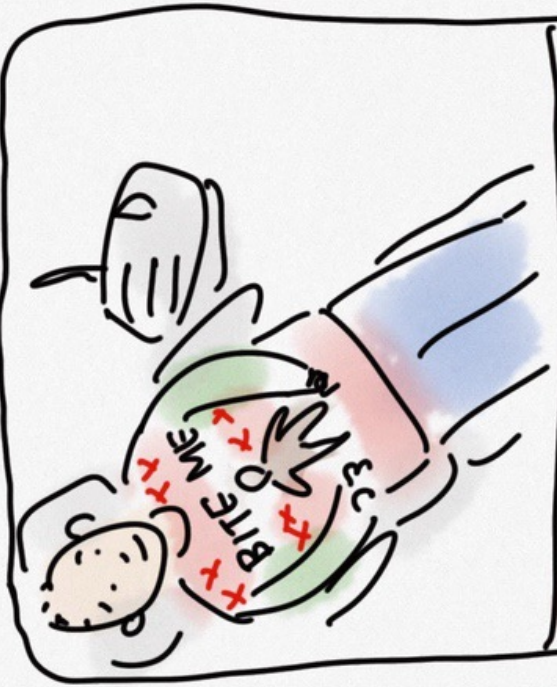
Christmas Muzak



Masked questions



Extra Air filters



Loud sweater

CHRIST MYSTERY

@raymondsbrain

Taking my dog out  
last night, I noticed  
an unmarked gift  
on our steps.



(not from our dog)

It was not a baby,  
a bomb, or poison.



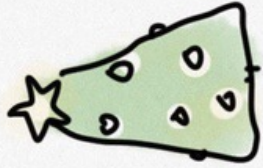
Did Santa take  
a shortcut?

It might have been  
a nightly noise-  
making neighbour.



(Thanks front line workers)

But it could have  
been ANYONE.  
So, just to be safe-



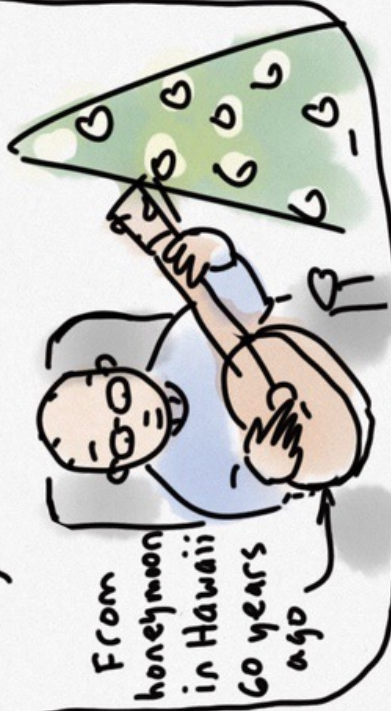
MERRY CHRISTMAS Everyone  
(on social media)

# Not the Jackson Five @ RaymondSkraïn

We attempted an online Sing-a-long.



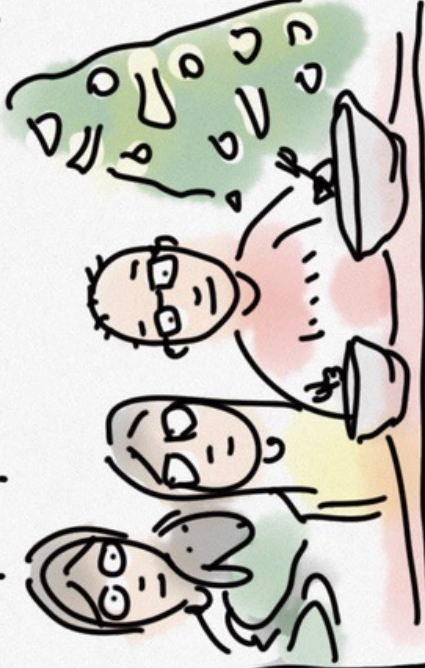
My Dad had practised 'Jingle Bells' on ukelele,



My musician brother had prerecorded a whole accompaniment.



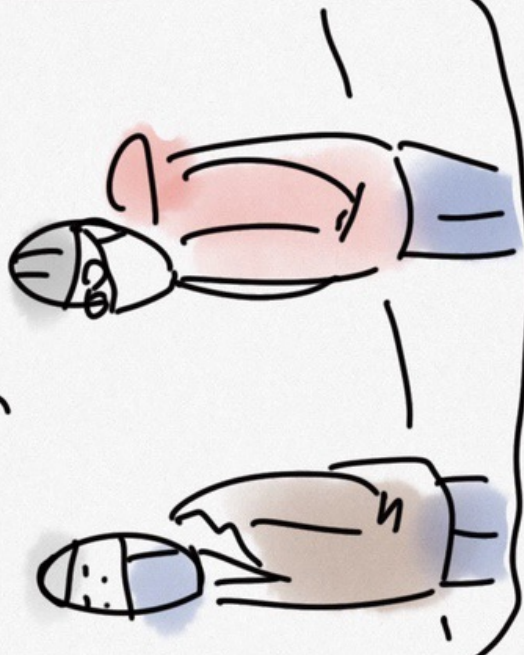
I played metal bowls.



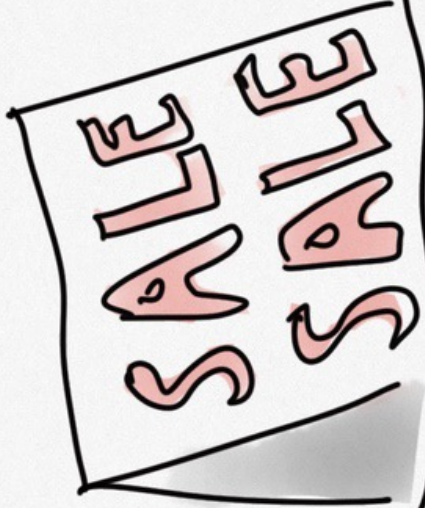
Process not product.

IS IT WORTH IT? @raymondsbrain

Standing in line



for Boxing Day/Week



To find great deals



on stuff you don't need



now seems dumber than ever

# CARTOONIST'S COMMENTARY @raymondsbrain

I draw these comics on an iPad with an Apple pencil in an



app called Sketches.

After chewing on ideas during breakfast



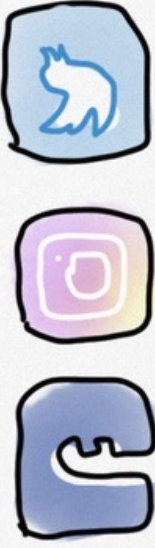
I do a rough in 'blue pencil'

which I 'ink' in 'black pen' on a separate layer



then hide the rough layer.

and colour with a 'brush' on a layer underneath.



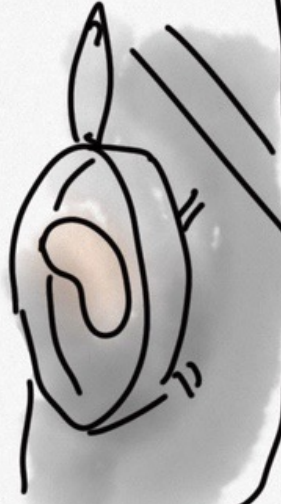
I post them various places. Then notice typos.

PRACTISING IGNORANCE @canmondsbrain

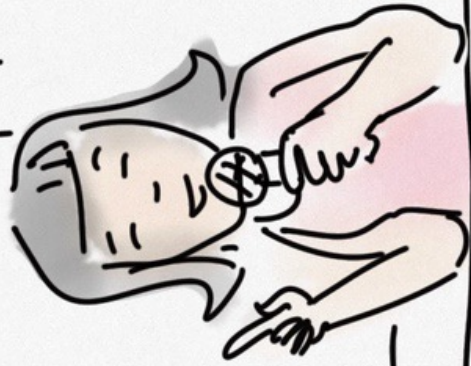
My eyes pass over the pages of Ulysses by James Joyce,



catching only glimpses of understanding,



like when I listened to Japanese pop songs.

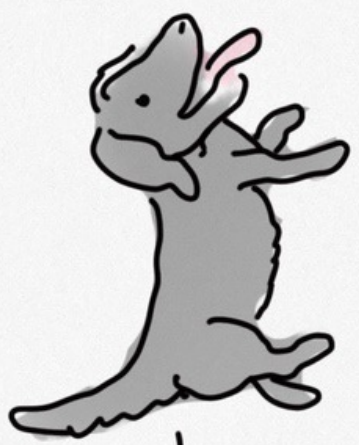


It's practise for coping with the news.

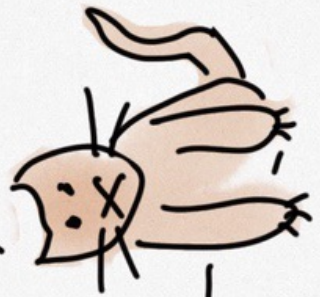


Visualizing World Peace @Raymondsbrain

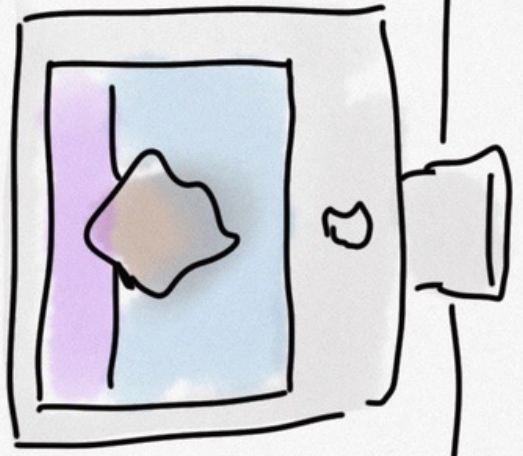
I have a dog.



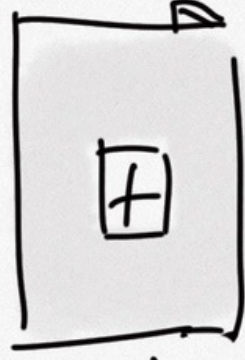
I know a few people who are nice, even though they prefer cats.



I use a Mac.



I married my spouse, even though she prefers Windows.





TSUNDOKU

@raymondsbrain

With the year ending,  
I decided to declutter  
my books.



I removed them all,



Only keeping what  
sparked joy.



I have a lot to  
look forward to  
in the New Year.

