People we Know 2

Full Name: Merlin Edward Roberts
Family: Mum, dad, sister, brother
Sex: Male
Pronouns: He/him
Orientation: Heterosexual
Occupation: Teacher
Country of origin: United Kingdom (Brighton)
Hobbies: Playing games (video games, board, roleplaying, card), film, music, playing guitar, comics/graphic novels, reading, politics.

Description of Merlin:
Merlin has been playing guitar since a young age and he was inspired by his father to start playing. Although he is very talented in guitar, he doesn't wish to pursue this creative outlet as a career. Merlin describes his skills in guitar as "consciously incompetent".

Merlin works for an online company that supplies English speaking teachers to overseas countries to teach English as a foreign language. He doesn't like this job because it doesn't pay very well and it's hard to maintain his pupil's attention through the online teaching format. He mainly teaches children aged from 9-16. Merlin dislikes his job but he's unwilling to make a conscious effort to change his circumstances. Merlin does not like change.

Merlin told me that he has organised his life around avoiding stress because he doesn't deal with it well:

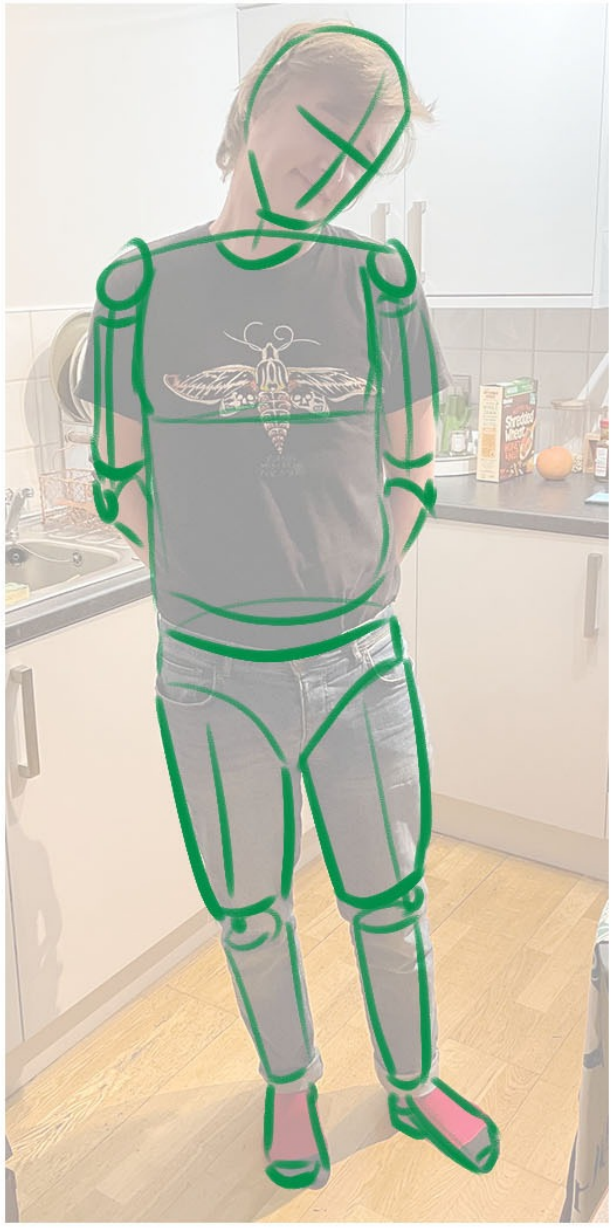
"I don't do it consciously, I don't think. I do need to get a new job. But when I sit down to find a new job, what I found were predominately teaching jobs. I only got a reply from a company recruiting on behalf of the company I already worked for. I found it really undermining."

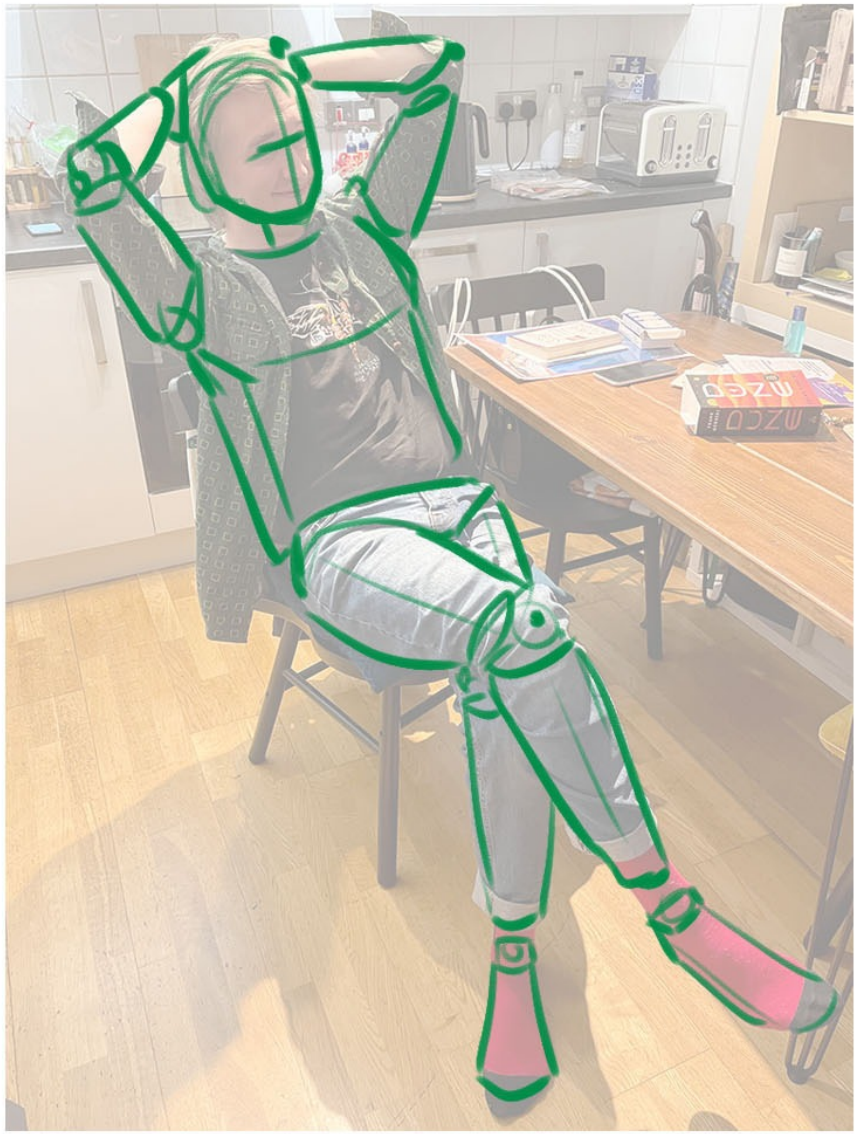
Merlin told me he has never worked in retail but did investigate applying to a book shop. He imagined this would be enjoyable compared to his current job but decided against applying because he didn't want to fill out the application form; he expected it to be as simple as emailing his CV.

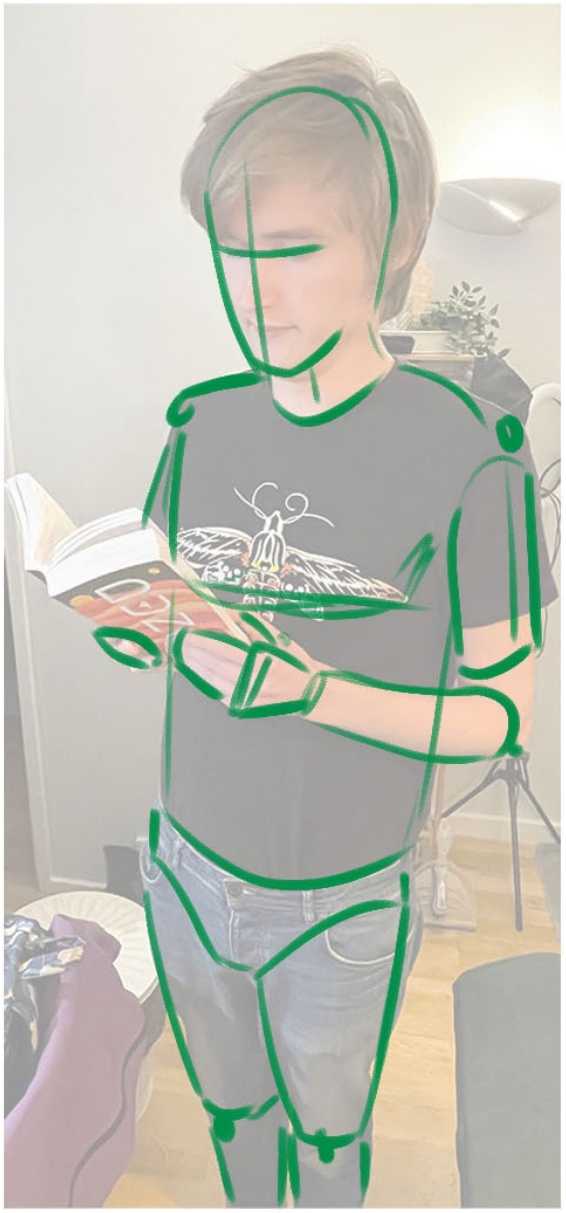
Merlin's passion for reading has helped him become intelligent and self-aware, but highly self-critical. Merlin describes himself as a "horrendous procrastinator":

"So, I had a bank account when I was in Spain, and I should've closed the account, but I just didn't get round to it. I was charged a fee for having an unused Spanish bank account which, was something like thirty euros and they sent a letter to the house. I didn't want to call the bank because I'd forgotten a lot of Catalonian. I was putting it off for ages, I think a week before the deadline. All I had to do in the end was upload a picture of my passport, but I put it off cos the idea of getting it wrong stressed me out."

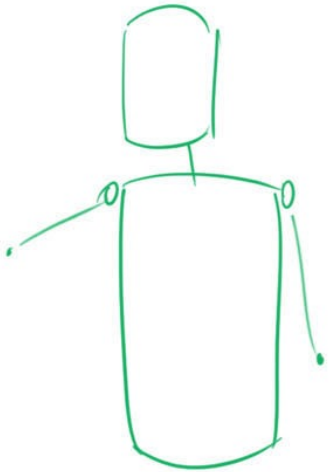
When faced with a challenge Merlin will avoid dealing with it if it is something he doesn't know how to immediately overcome. This has led him to become quite lazy and set in his ways. He prefers consistency and idea of change or challenge frightens him.



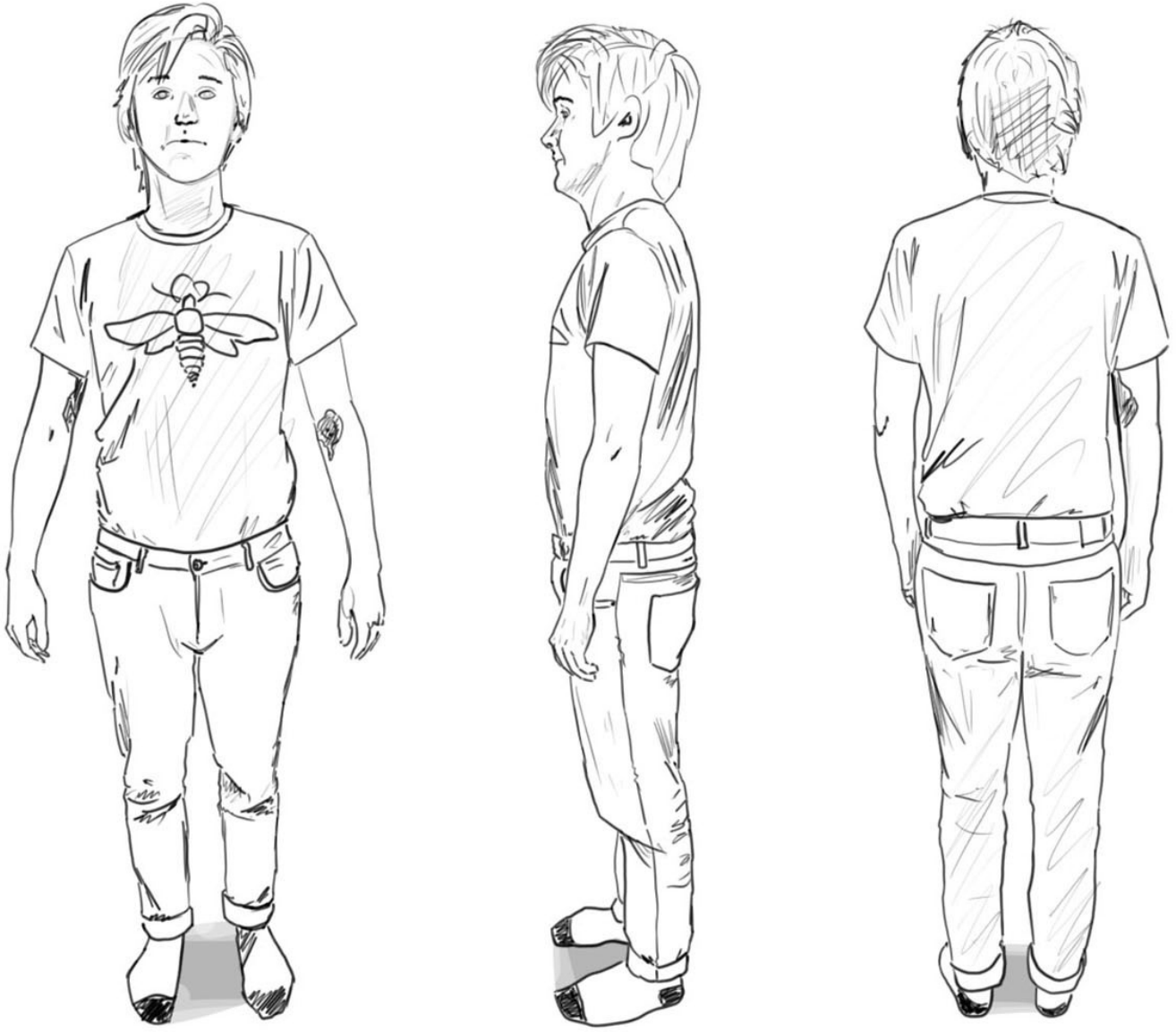




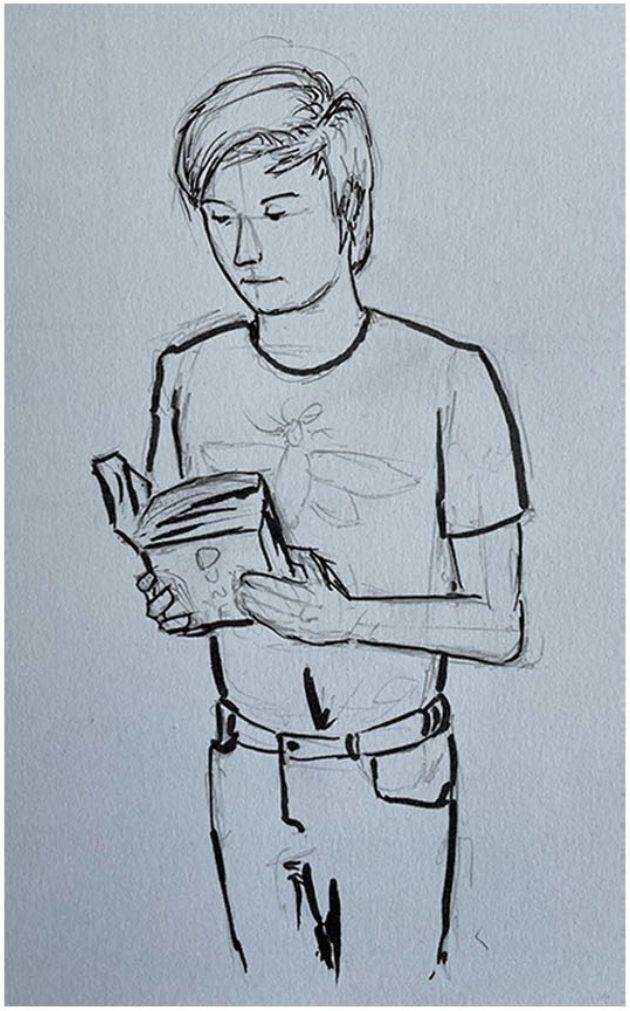
Observational drawings - digital

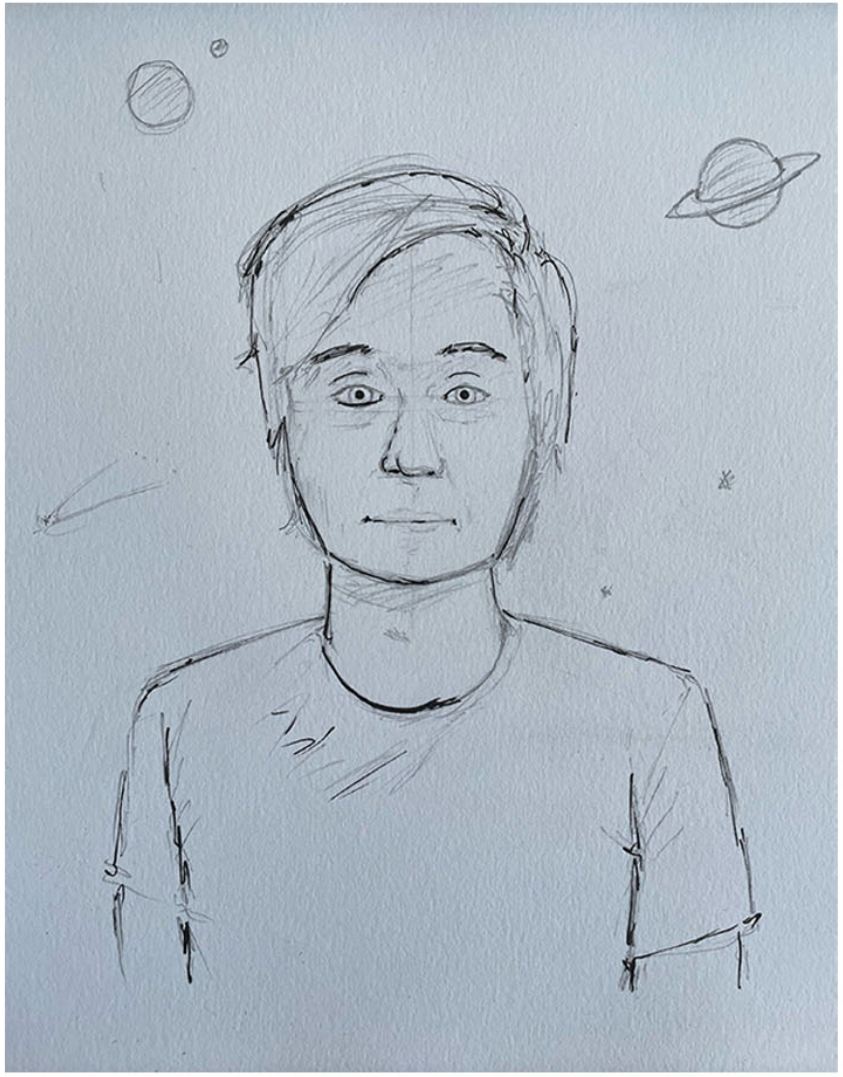


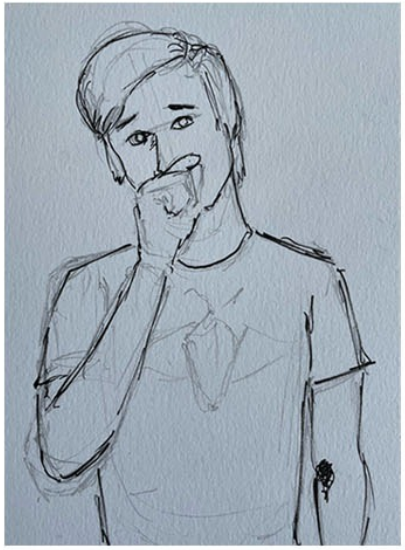
Model Sheet poses



Observational drawigns -
pencil, paper + pen







Observational Drawigns -
Facial Expressions

Character Concepts

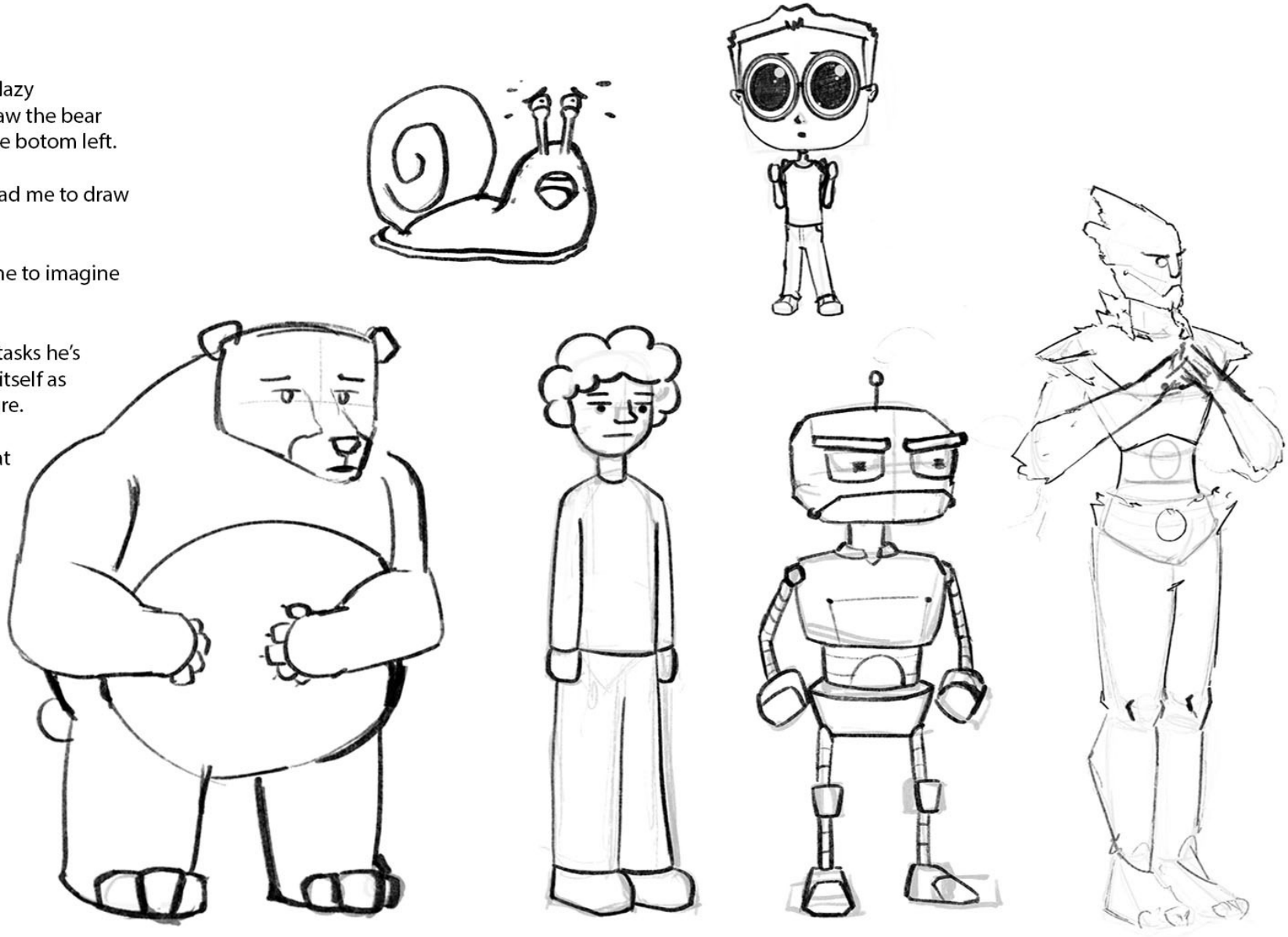
I focused my initial drawings with Merlin's lazy behaviours in mind and this lead me to draw the bear and the disinterested boy characters on the botom left.

Merlin is highly fond of reading and this lead me to draw the stoic fantasy character on the far right.

Merlin finding stress hard to manage led me to imagine the snail and boy with glasses characters.

Merlin copes with his anxiety by avoiding tasks he's unsure how to complete. This can present itself as lazyness but is more innocent and immature.

This led me to imagine a grumpy robot that that cannot complete simple tasks on the bottom right.

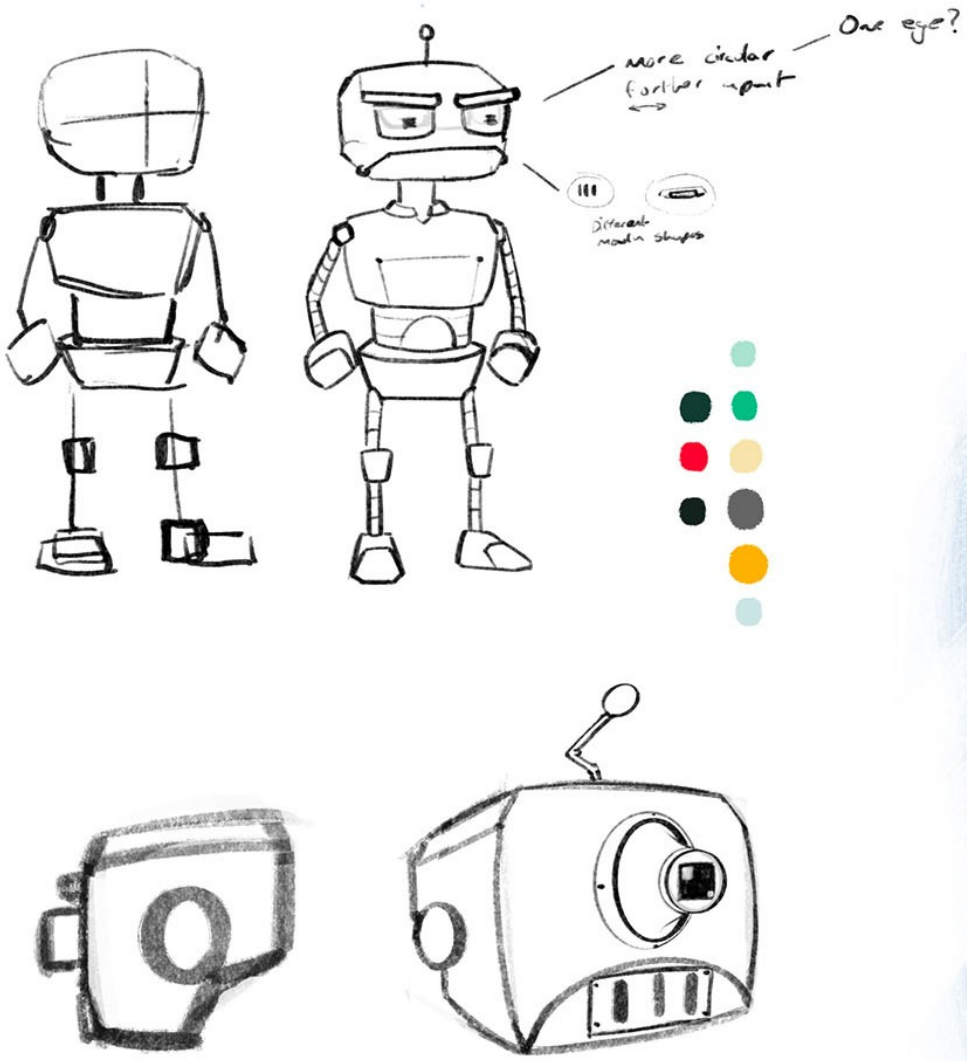


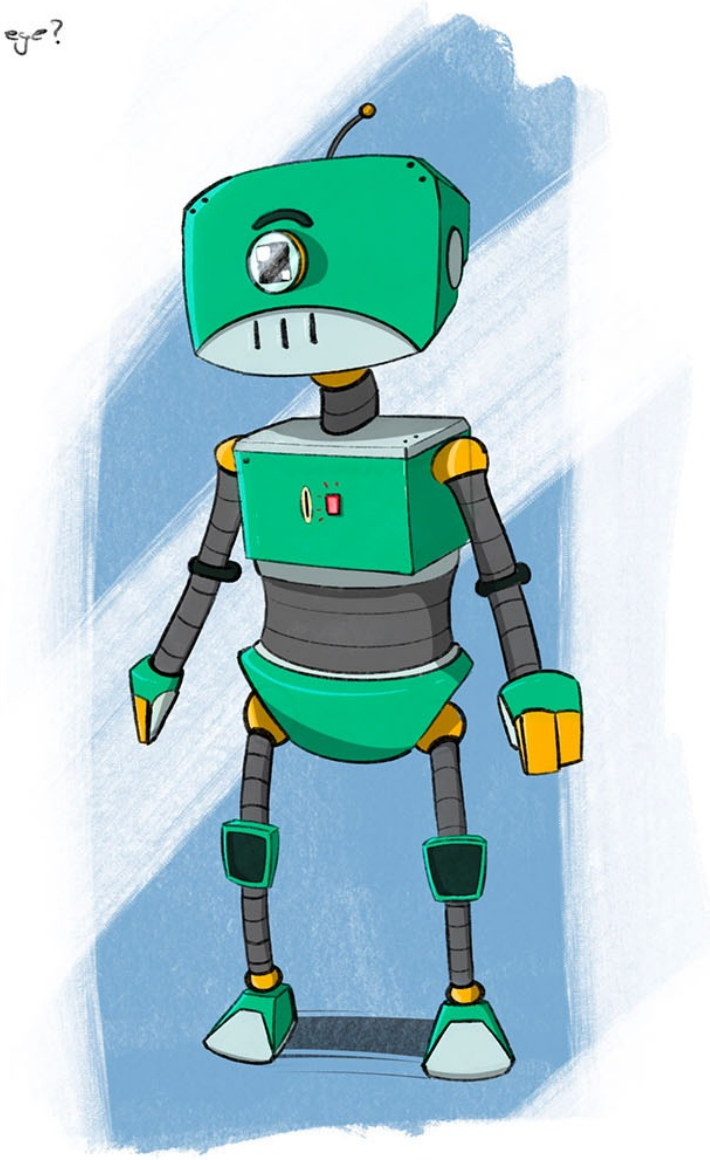
Robot Character Conceptt

I decided to stick with the robot character because I could imagine more storys with it.

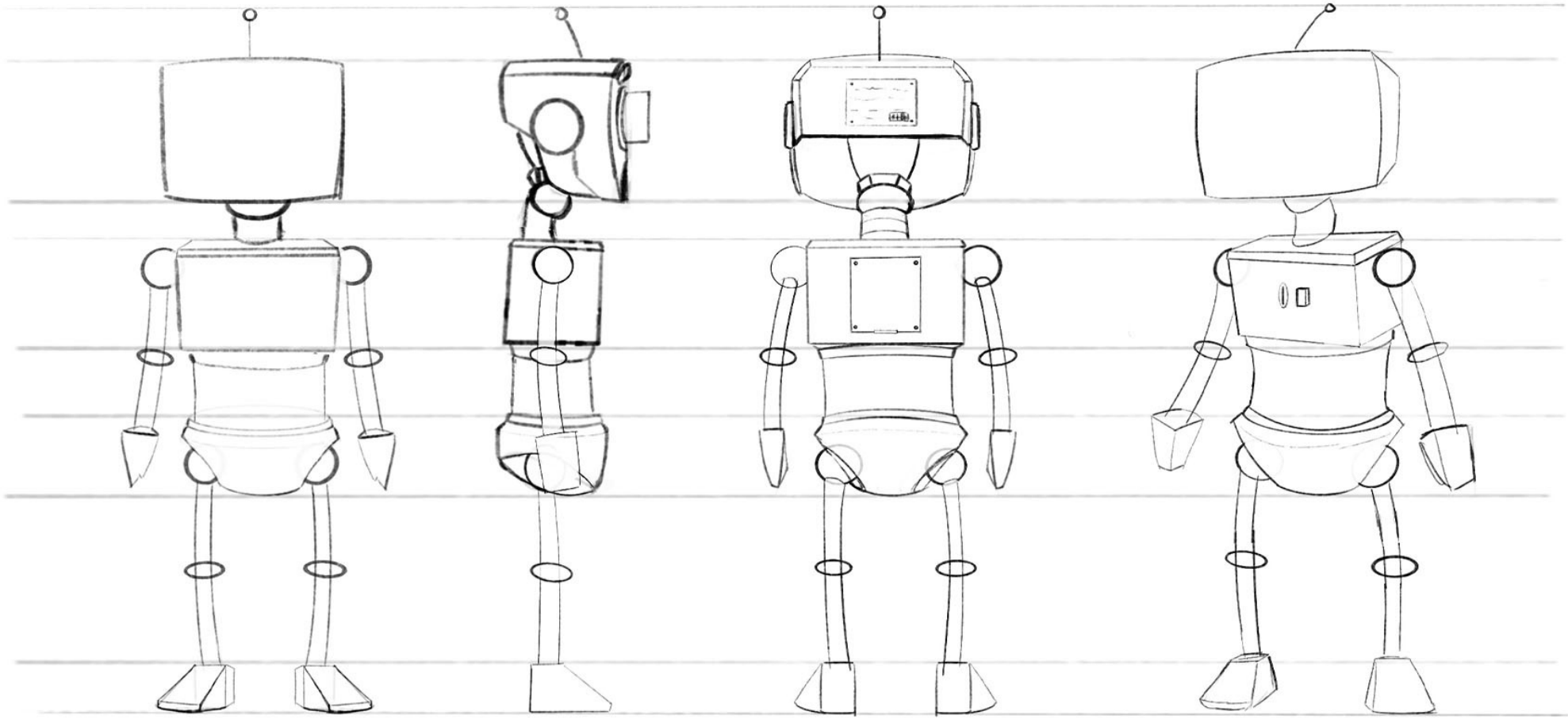
I took the base shapes and thought more on how the character could physical represent Merlin's avoidence when it came to tasks and challenges.

I gave the character a square head and one eye to limit its vision. With one eye the robot can only see what's in front of it and because of the shape of its head it has to turn its head alot in order to get a complete picture of its surroundings. From this I imagined the robot working in a busy environment like a shop or a restaurant; its vision would be a debilitating feature that accidentially caused small issues for the people around it.

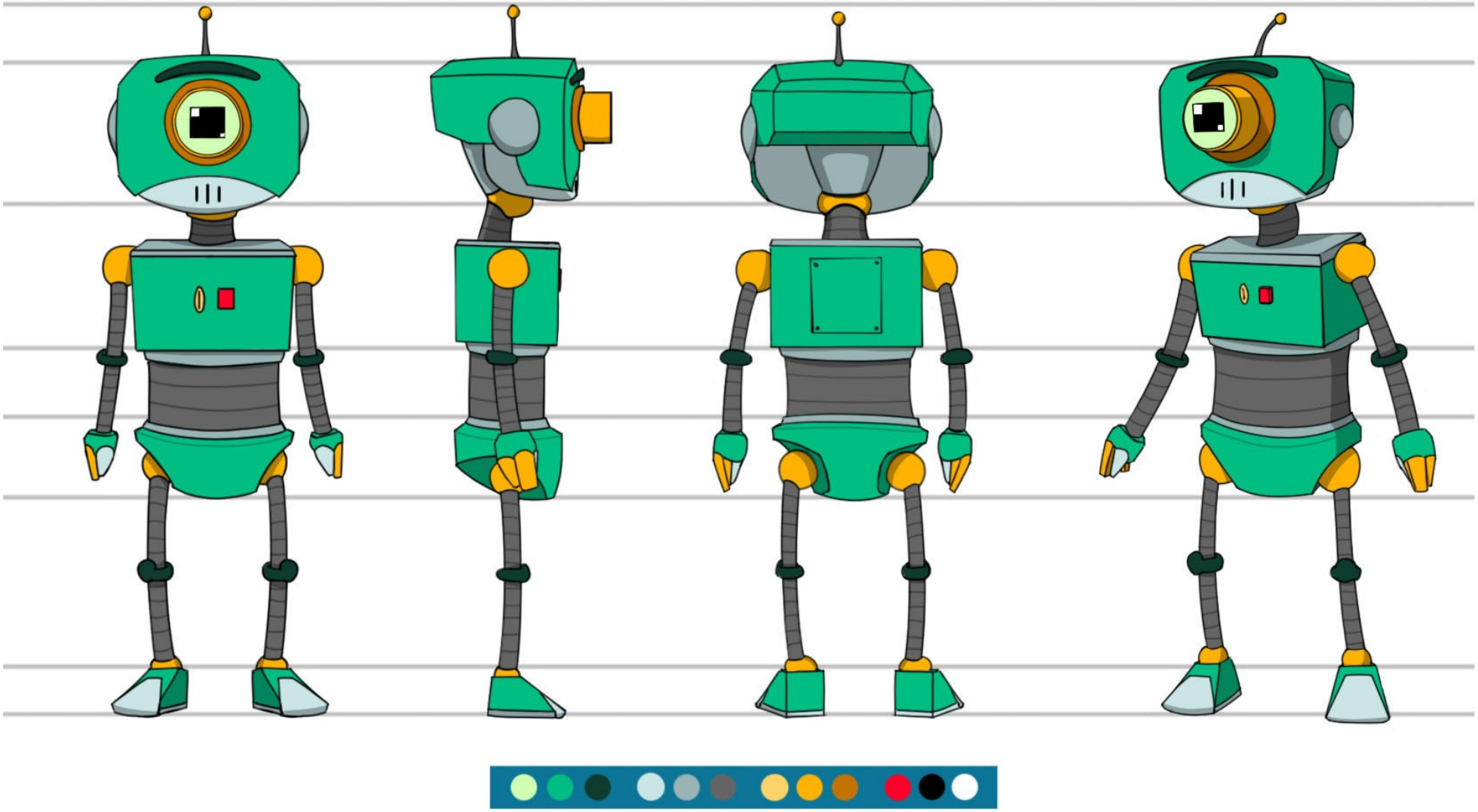




Model Sheet sketch



Character Model Sheet



Character Expression Sheet

I tried to keep the shapes of the head basic and the facial features simple so that the robot could still convey as much emotional expression as possible.

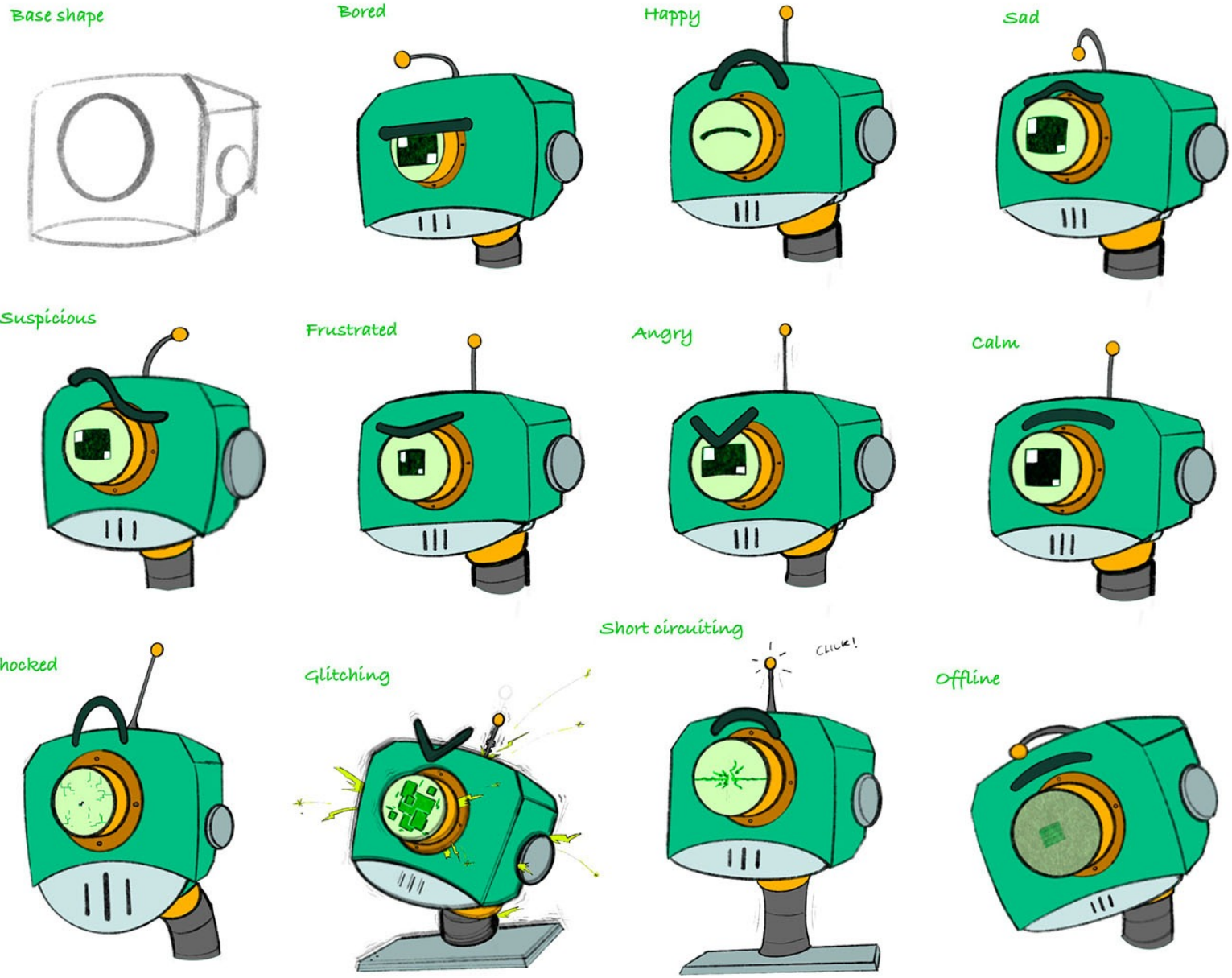
I gave it one eyebrow and an antenna and this made some interesting shapes for the difference emotions. I observed that the character started to become more cute and playful.

I drew the bottom line of expressions to depict the robot realising:
1- the mess it had accidentially caused,

2 - the robot glitching and its hard drive working in overdrive to calculate a solution,

3 - the robot short circuiting,

4 - the robot shuting down.

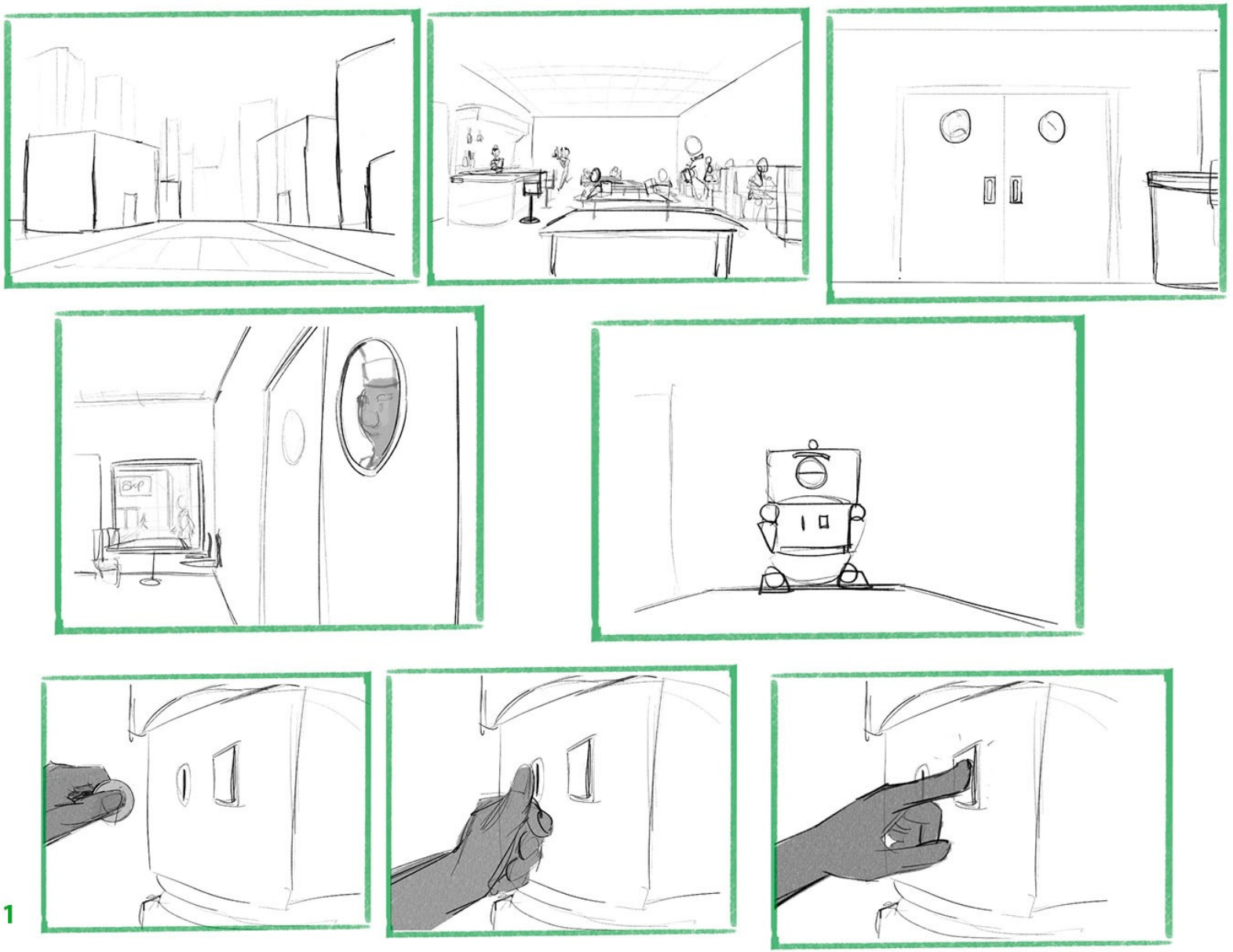


Storyboard concept 1

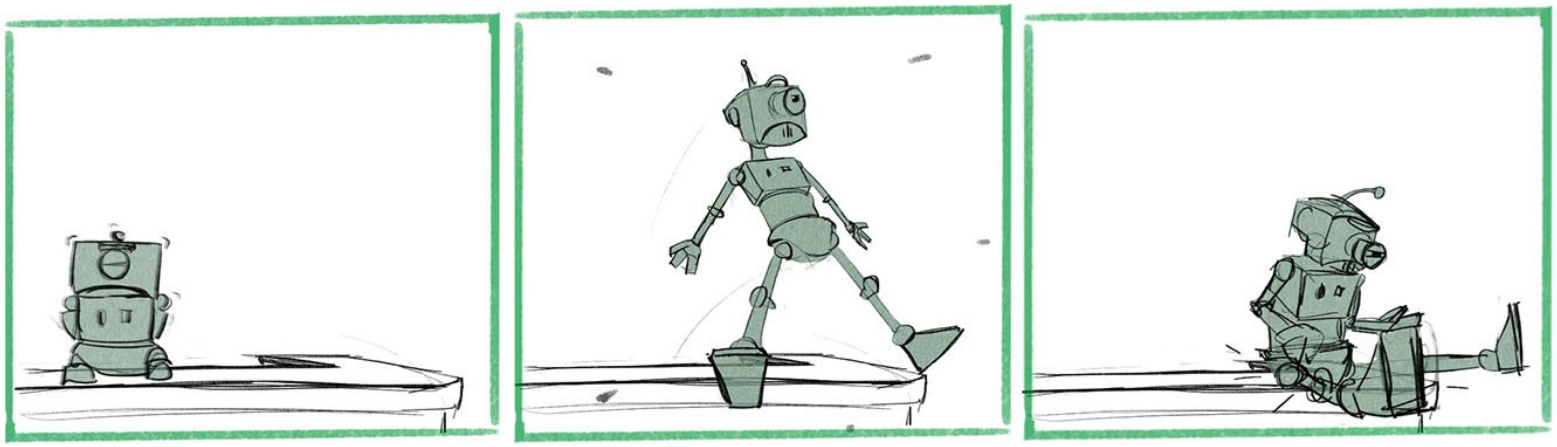
The first storyboard shows the robot working in a restaurant in a city. The chief comes in and inserts a coin into the robot. The robot activates and spings to life. The chief gives the robot a shopping list and a card to pay for the items on the list.

My initial idea was for the robot to arrive at the shop and the shop attendant would only accept cash; this would cause the robot to short circuit and the chief would have to come and retrieve the robot.

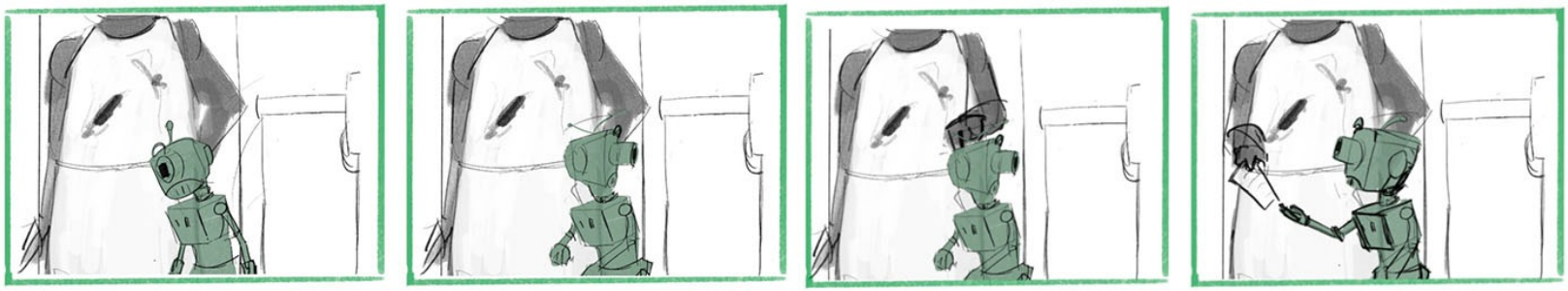
I didn't complete this storyboard. The feedback I was given was to focus less on the detail of the environment and to get the the point of the story quicker.



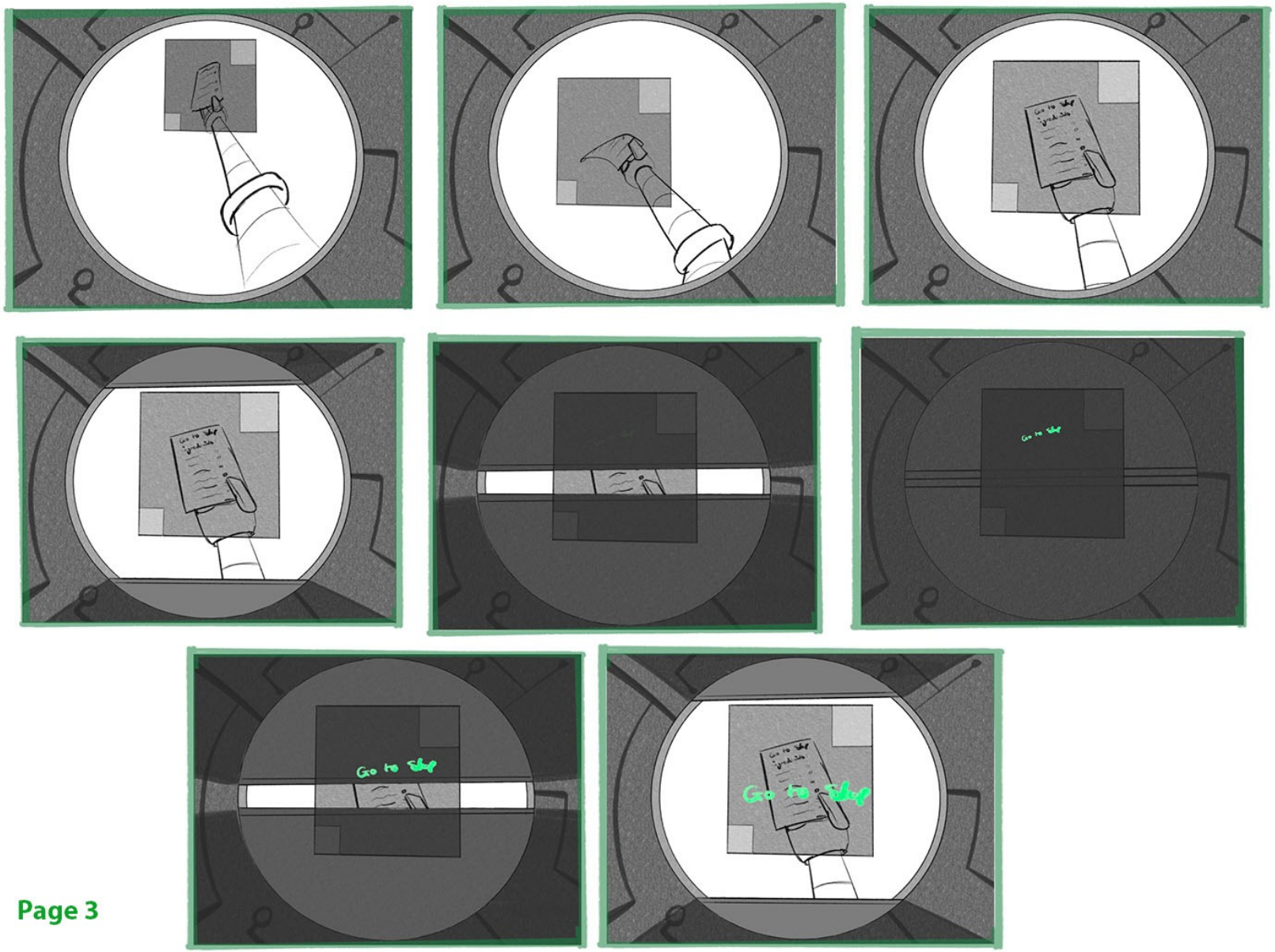
Storyboard concept 1



Page 2

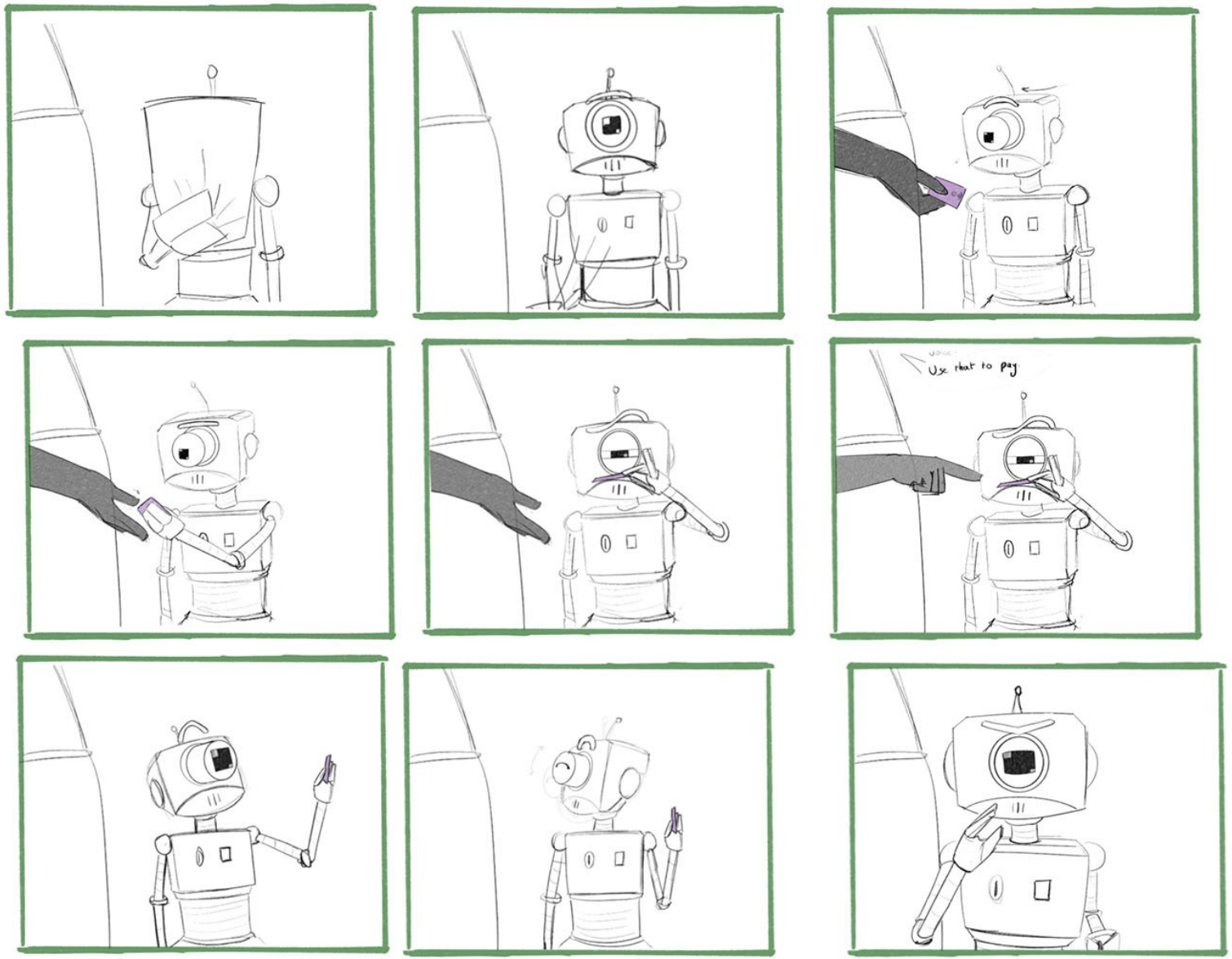


Storyboard concept 1



In these panels I wanted to show how the robot see's the world.

Storyboard concept 1

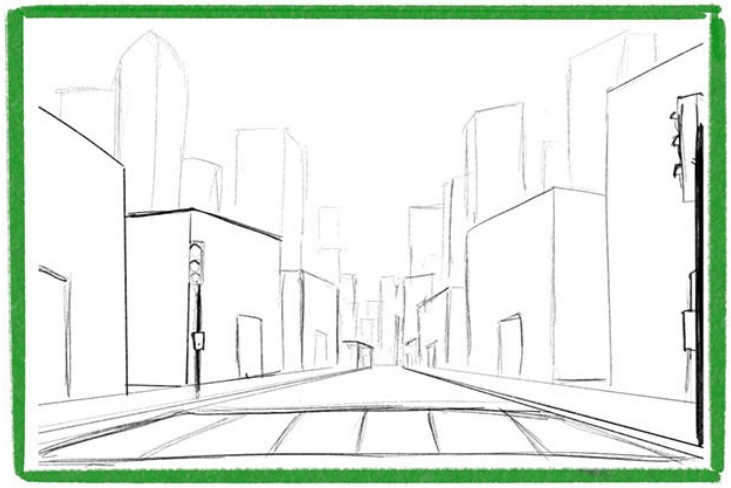


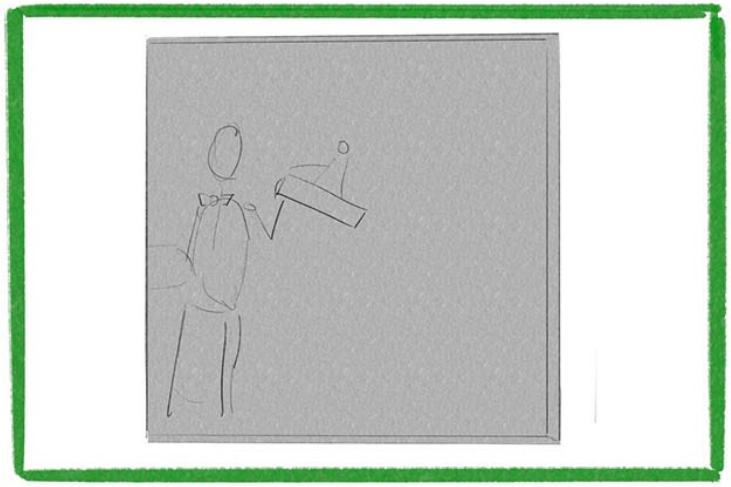
Storyboard 2 panels

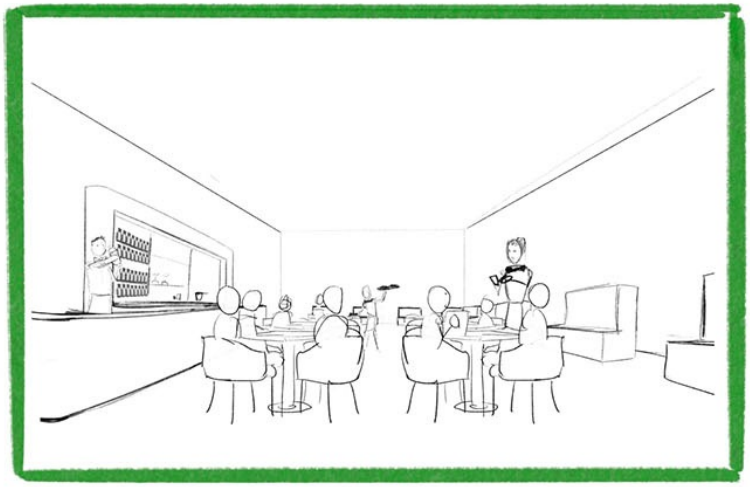
For the second storyboard I managed to fit all the panels on one page and this helped me see the full story. I've displayed them on seperate pages here so they are clearer to see. I used this storyboard for the animatic

The first four panels start with the city the robot lives in and then the restaurant the robot works at. From the other side of the restaurant window a waiter flips a sign that says "Table waiting time". In the animatic the signs willl change from 15 minutes waiting time to 20. I imagined this being because of a problem the robot could potentiall cause. The fourth panel is of the restaurant interior.

The robot enters from the kitchen and tries to help out in the restaurant dinning area. The robot repeatedly creates a mess for other waiters and eventually has to be shut off by the chief.

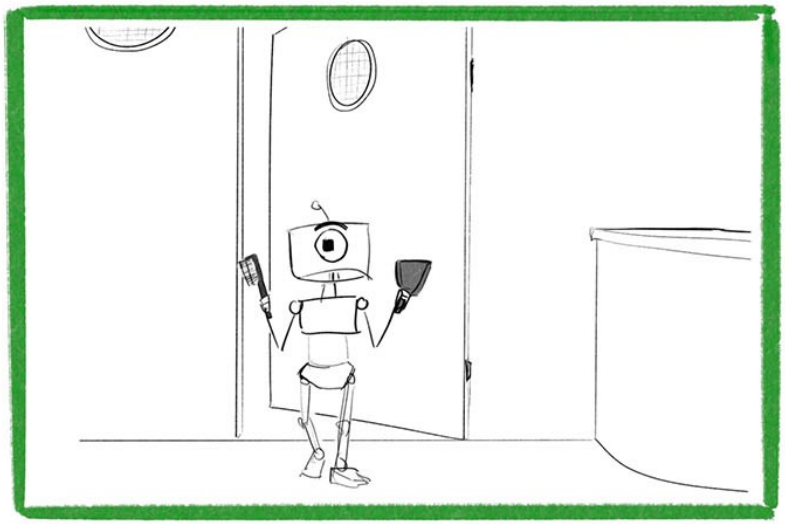


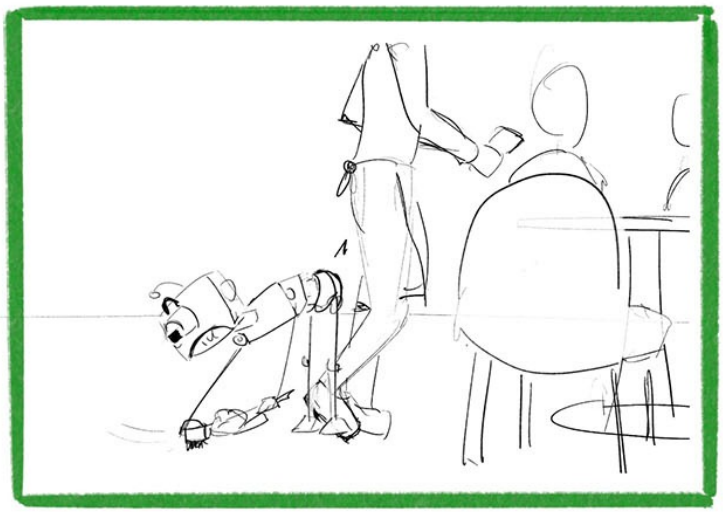


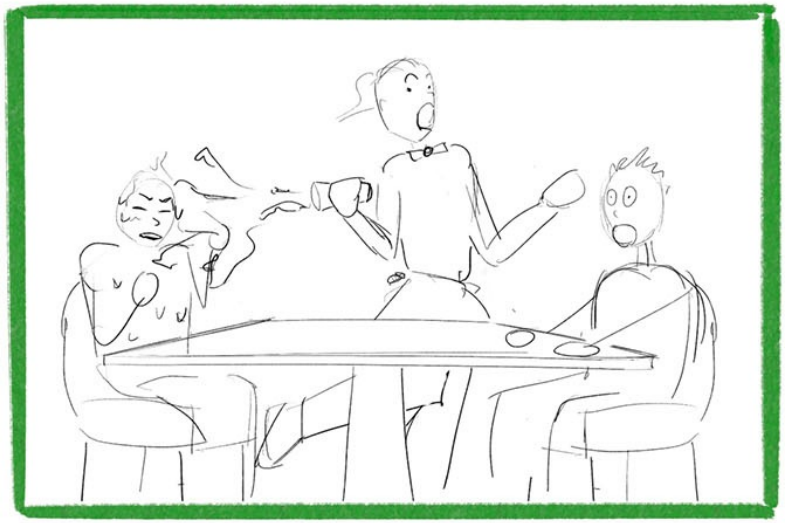


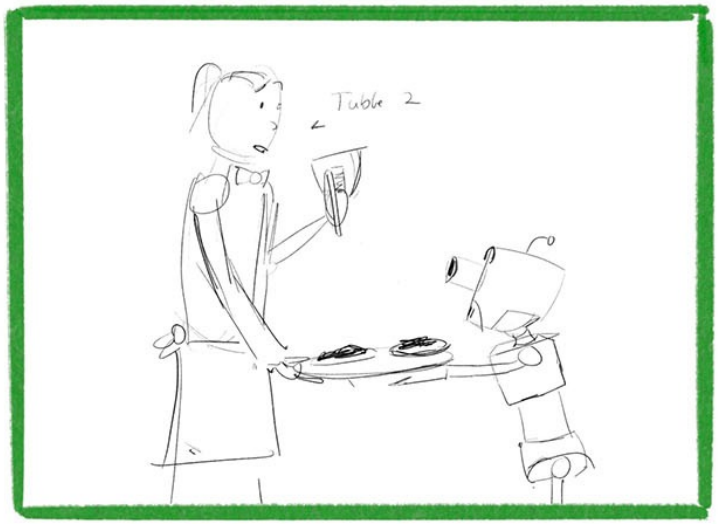
Page 1

Storyboard 2 panels

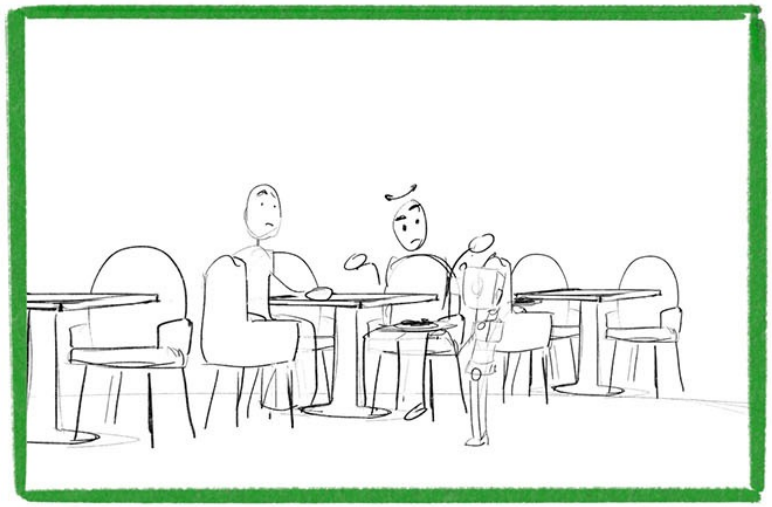


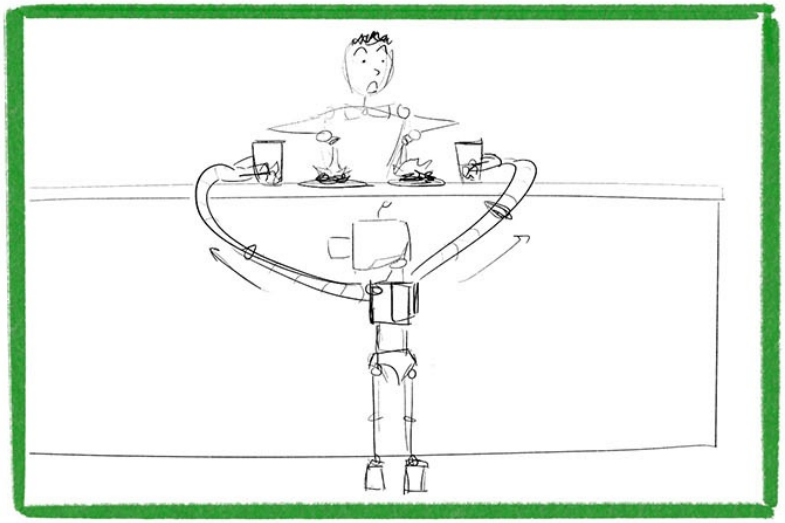


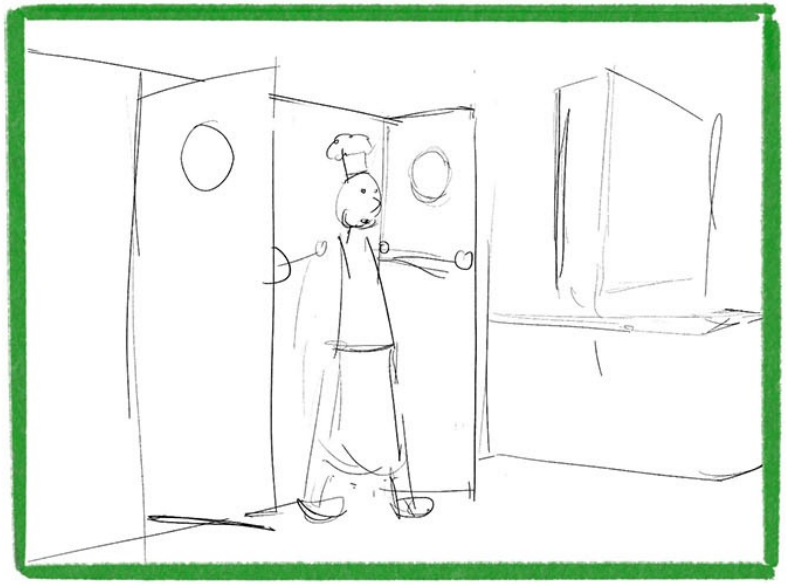


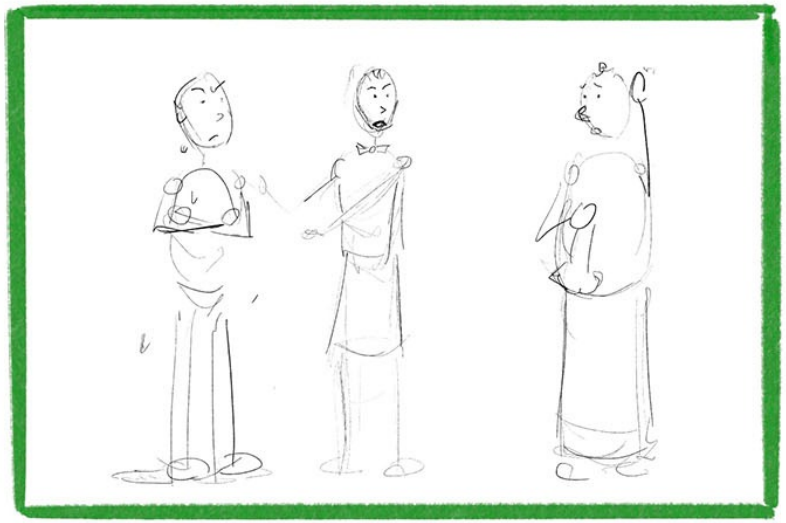
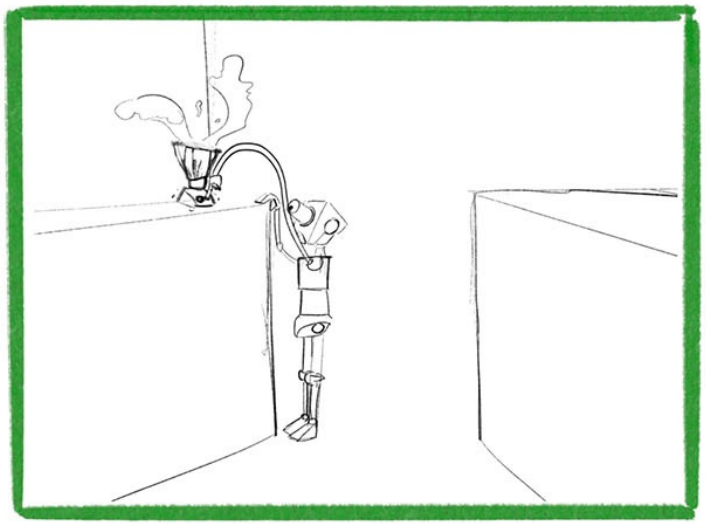
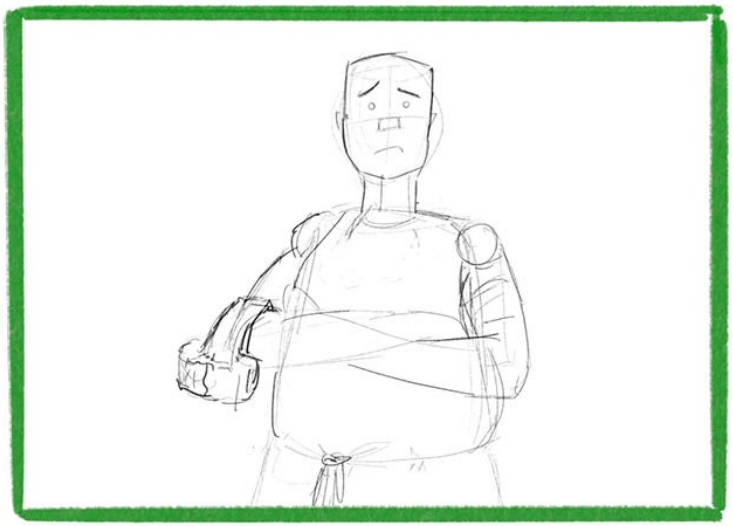
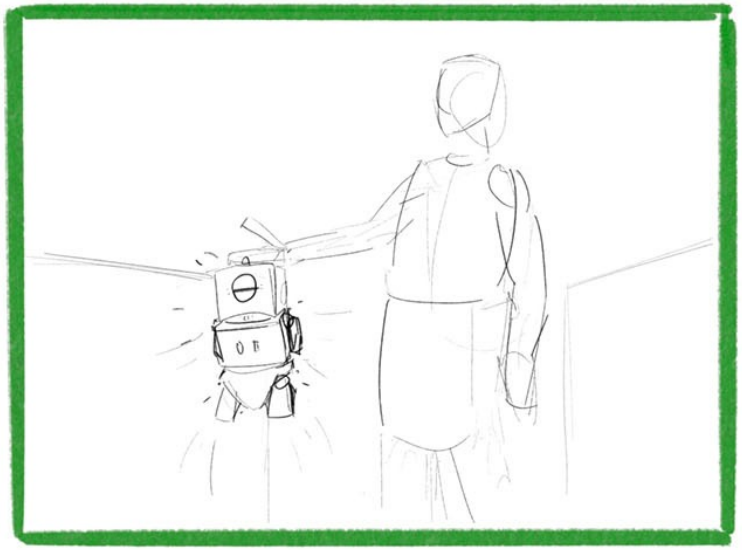
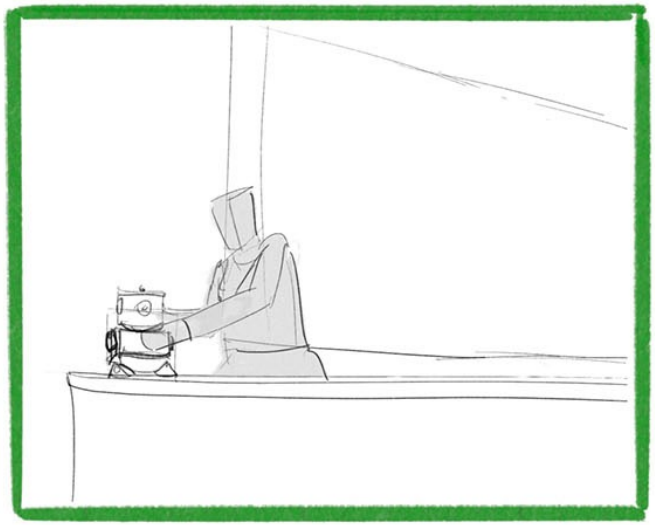


Storyboard 2 panels









Storyboard 2 panels