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The Know-How of Cartooning

A MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS
ON THE ART OF CARTOONING, INCLUDING ANIMATION.
FOR USE OF BEGINNERS AS WELL AS ADVANCED STUDENTS.

By
Ken Hultgren

RESEARCH PUBLISHING COMPANY
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THE AUTHOR

Ken Hultgren is the creator of several popular strips currently appearing in some of America's top comic magazines. His natural ability as a cartoonist was developed and perfected by years of technical training and by experience gained in Disney's and other Hollywood studios, where he held positions as animator, layout man, and story director.

Mr. Hultgren's war posters, prepared for the government, attracted wide attention and received high recognition in art circles, one of the posters having been granted an official government award.

Mr. Hultgren is co-author and illustrator of *Daddy* and the Gol-Lumph, an unusual, delightfully entertaining child's story book, based upon an imaginative animal world; to be published in June, 1946.

THE PUBLISHER.

PRACTICE EXERCISES

KEEP YOUR LINES CRISP AND CLEAN - TRY TO MAKE YOUR LINES UNIFORM. DON'T "FREEZE UP" WHEN INKING - RELAX.



EVERY CARTOONIST HAS HIS OWN PREFERENCE AS TO THE INSTRUMENT HE USES. I PERSONALLY LIKE A BRUSH NO.#2 OR NO.#3 FOR FLEXIBLE RESULTS.









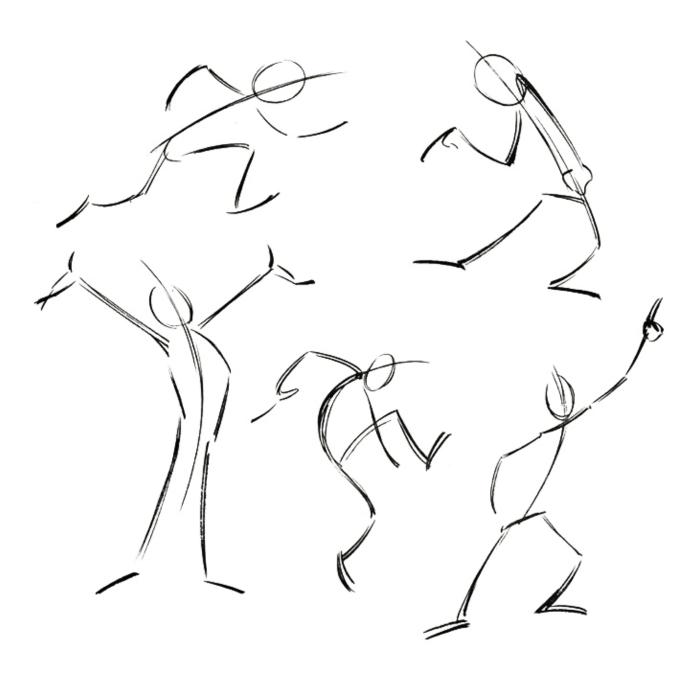






ACTION

REGARDLESS OF HOW WELL YOU MAY FINISH A DRAWING, IF YOUR POSE HASN'T "PUNCH" OR DOESN'T TELL THE STORY, IT'S NOT A COMPLETE SUCCESS. REWORK YOUR POSE! ESTABLISH A LINE OF ACTION IN YOUR DRAWINGS.



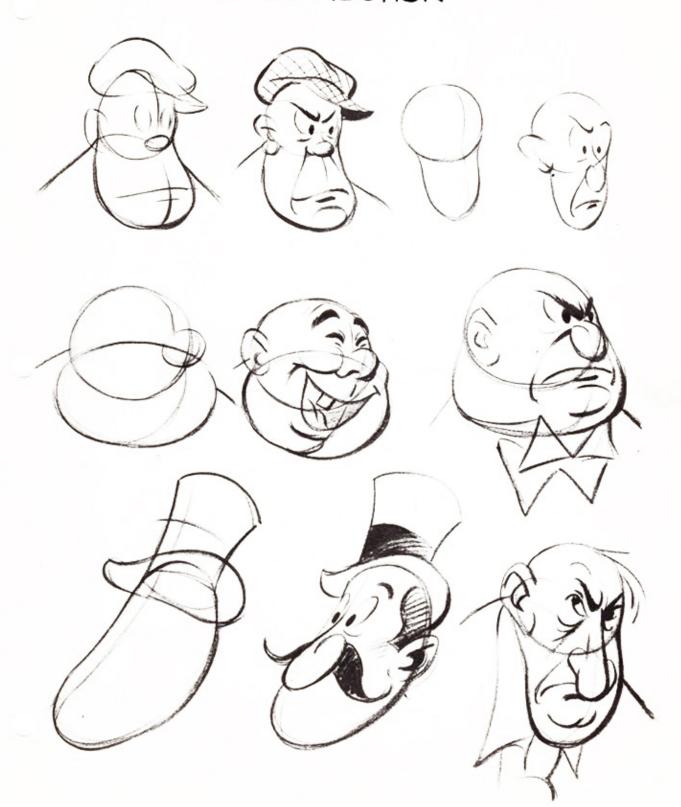
APPROACH

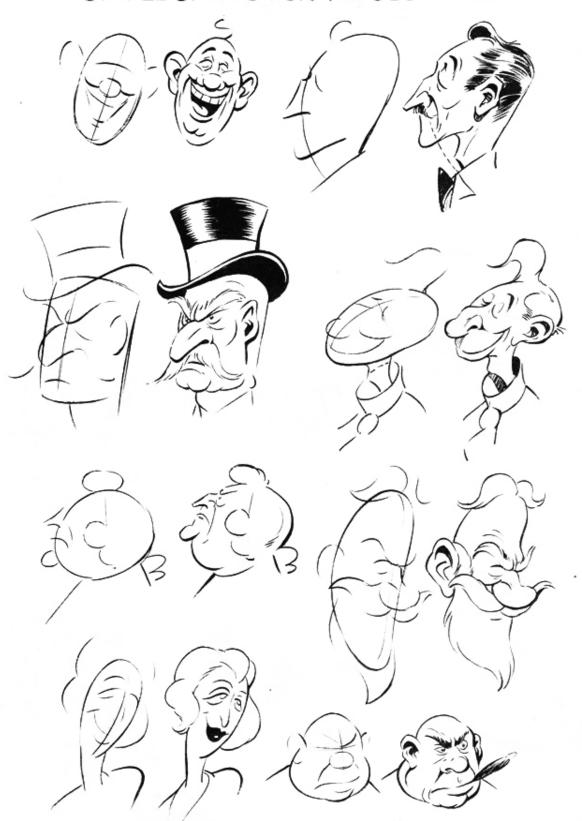
FIG. I SHOWING START-USING OVAL SHAPES FOR HEAD AND UPPER TORSO. FIG. II. I START BY DEVELOPING FEATURES, HAIR, ETC. FIG. III - IS THE POLISHING-OFF STAGE, ADDING DETAILS AS SHOWN.





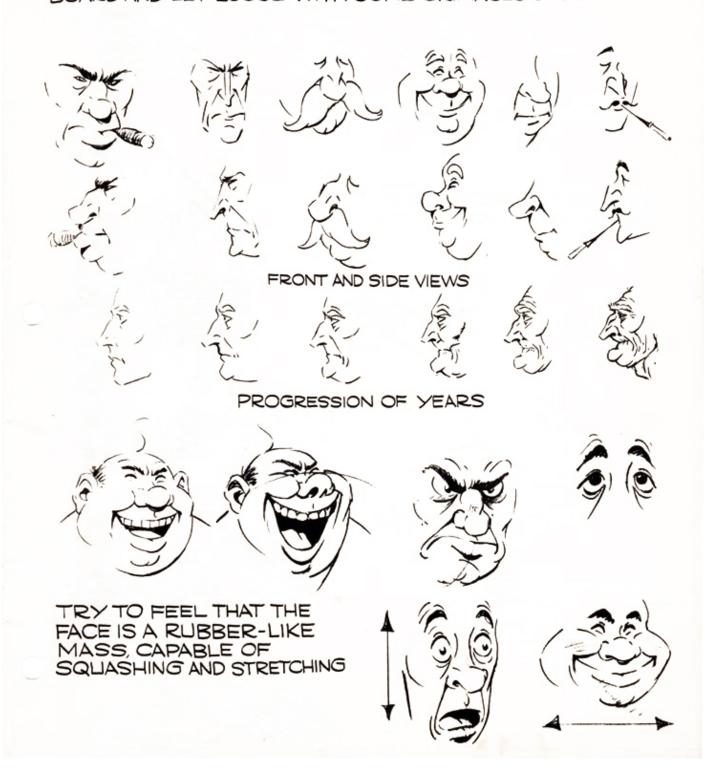
SIMPLE HEAD CONSTRUCTION



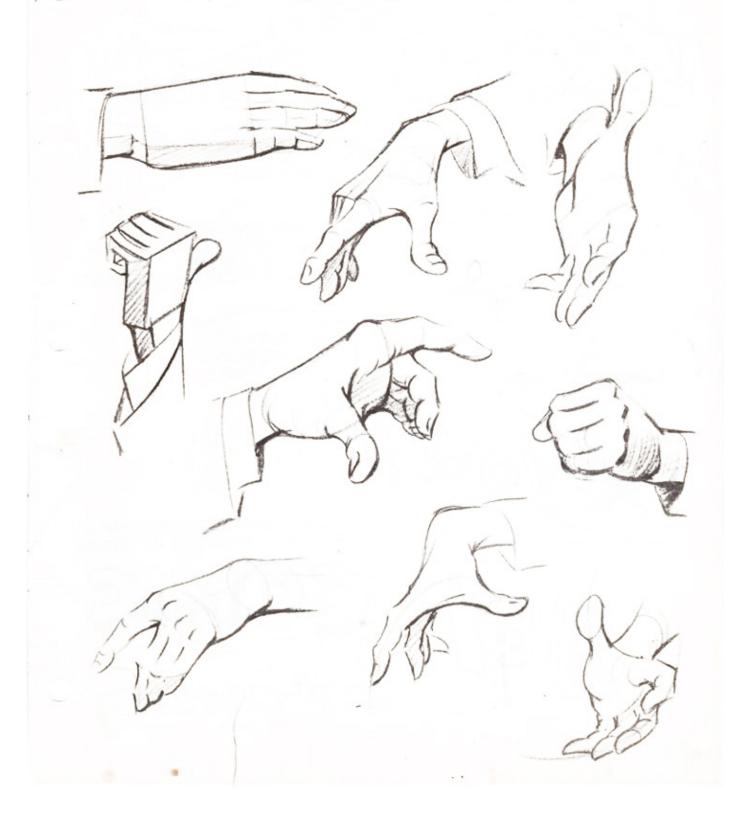


FEATURES and EXPRESSIONS

EXPRESSION IS FEELING, AND PERHAPS THE BEST WAY TO STUDY IT IS TO SET A MIRROR IN FRONT OF YOUR DRAWING BOARD AND LET LOOSE WITH SOME GRIMACES OF YOUR OWN.



HANDS (CONT.)



LETTERING

KEEP YOUR LETTERING IN YOUR BALLOONS WELL SPACED. TOO CROWDED

> DON'T MAKE THIS MISTAKE — PLAN YOUR BALLOON.

WATCH SPACING BETWEEN WORDS AS WELL AS BETWEEN LINES.

THIS IS A THOUGHT BALLOON.

ACCENTUATE WORDS
IN YOUR DIALOGUE ~
IT RELIEVES THE
MONOTONY OF SAMENESS

BROKEN BLOCK LETTERING FOR THAT ICY FEELING TRY THIS.



DROP SHADOWS ARE SIMPLE AND ARE EFFECTIVE IN TITLES



PRACTICE YOUR ALPHABET~ MAKE IT CLEAR AND LEGIBLE!

abcdefghijklmnopgrstuvwxyz



ANIMATION

IT WOULD BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO ILLUSTRATE ALL ABOUT ANIMATION FOR CARTOON PICTURES. IT TAKES YEARS OF STUDY OF ACTION, STAGING, TIMING, ETC... HOWEVER I WILL MENTION A FEW POINTS HERE THAT MAY HELP YOU IN DRAWING TO THINK IN TERMS OF ACTION,

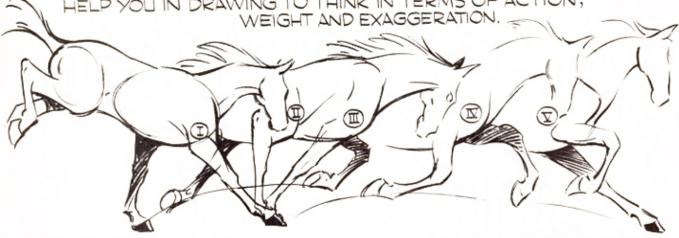


FIG. I-NOTE LEG STRETCH FOR LEG REACHING

FIG.II-NOTE LEG TAKING WEIGHT OF

FIG. III-NOTE LEG STRETCHING IN TAKE OFF

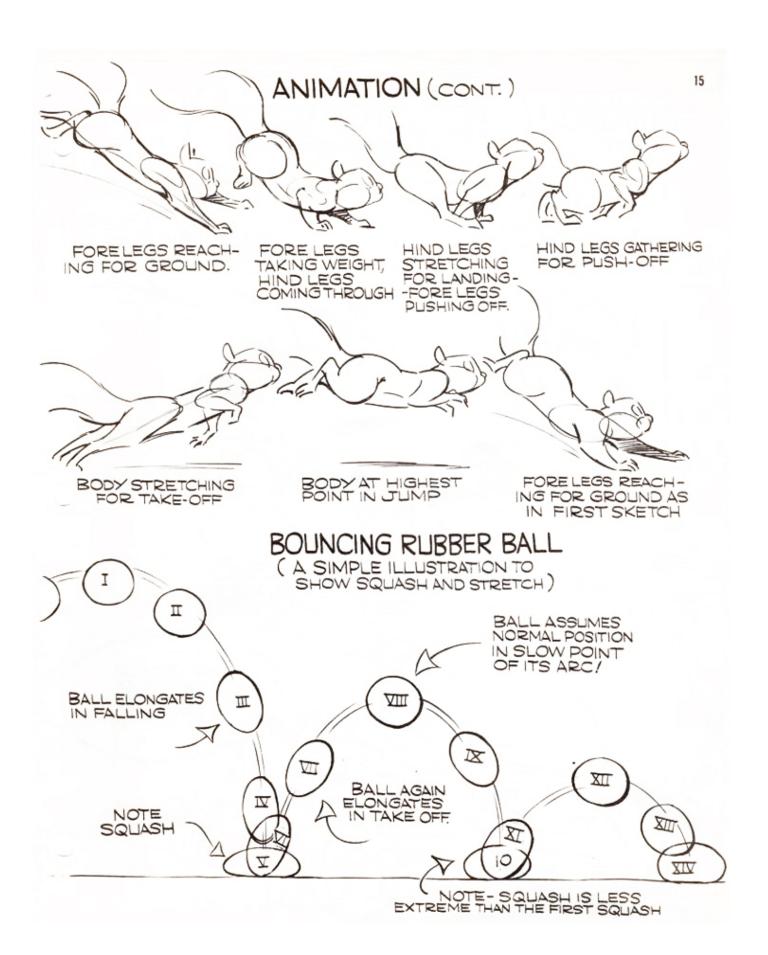
FIG. IV AND V NOTE OVERLAPPING ACTION OF LEGS

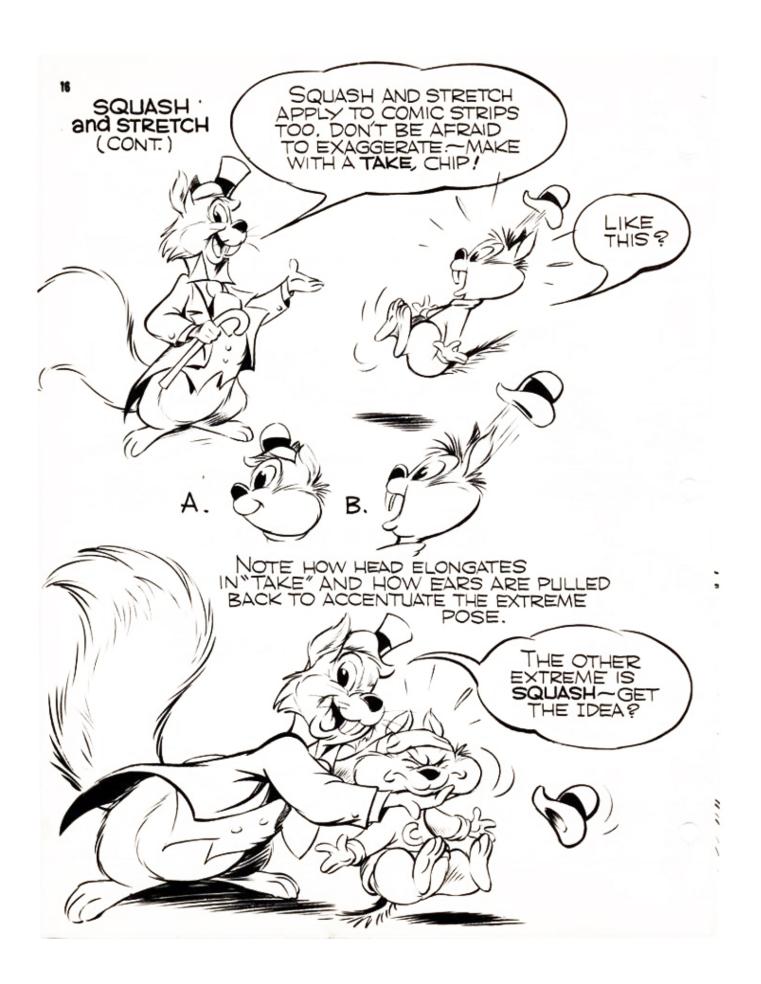


"TAKE"
FIG. I-ANTICIPATION FOR TAKE(NOTE SQUASHED, BUNCHED UP POSE
CONTRASTED BY ELONGATED POSE
OF FIG. II

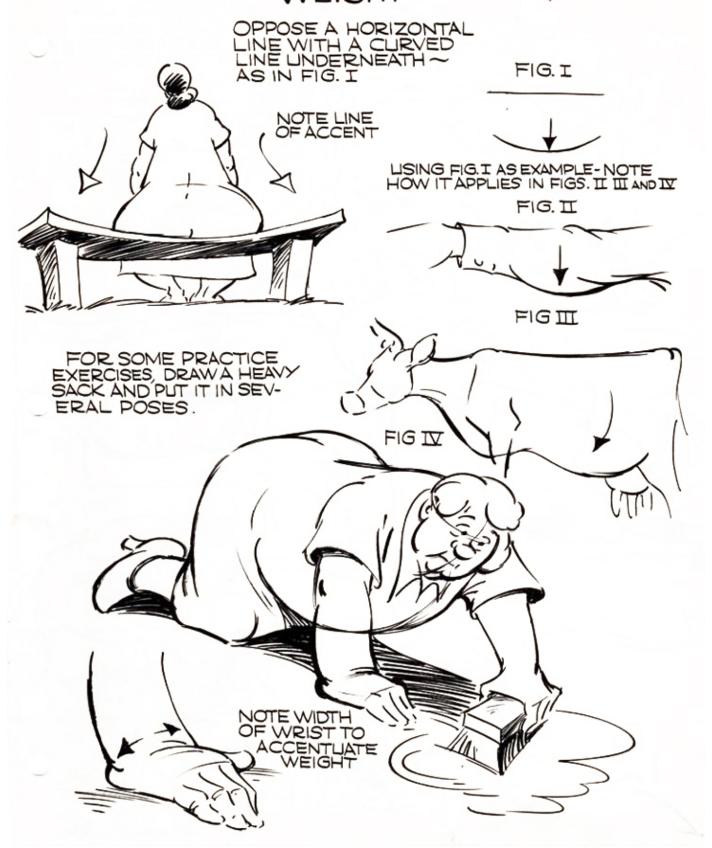
HEAD TURN

FIG. 1 HEAD NORMAL
FIG. 2 - NOTE DRAG OF JOWLS
FIG. 1 JOWLS SWING AROUND
AS HEAD SNAPS INTO POSITION
FIG. 2 - JOWLS NOW NORMAL
AS ACTION ENDS -



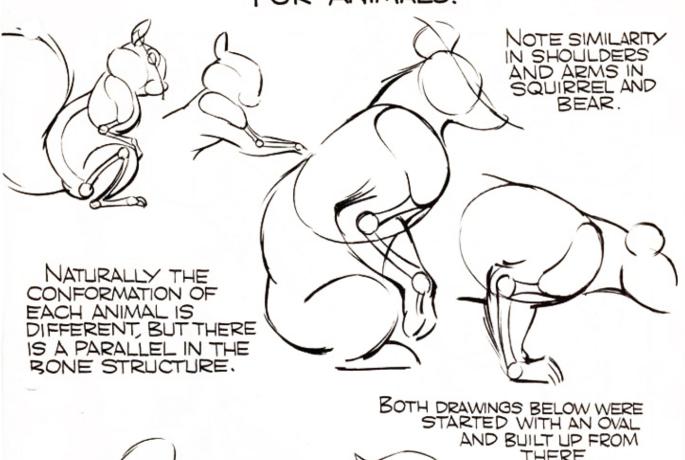


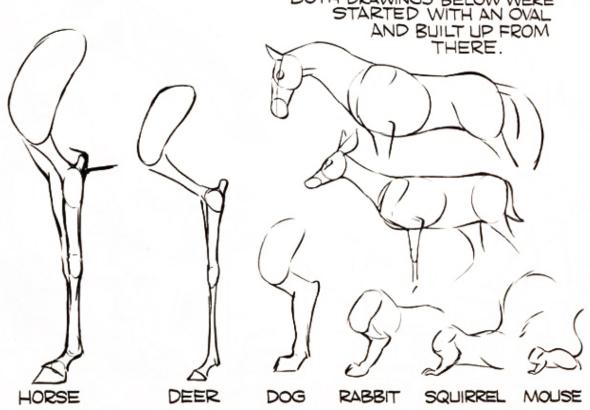
WEIGHT



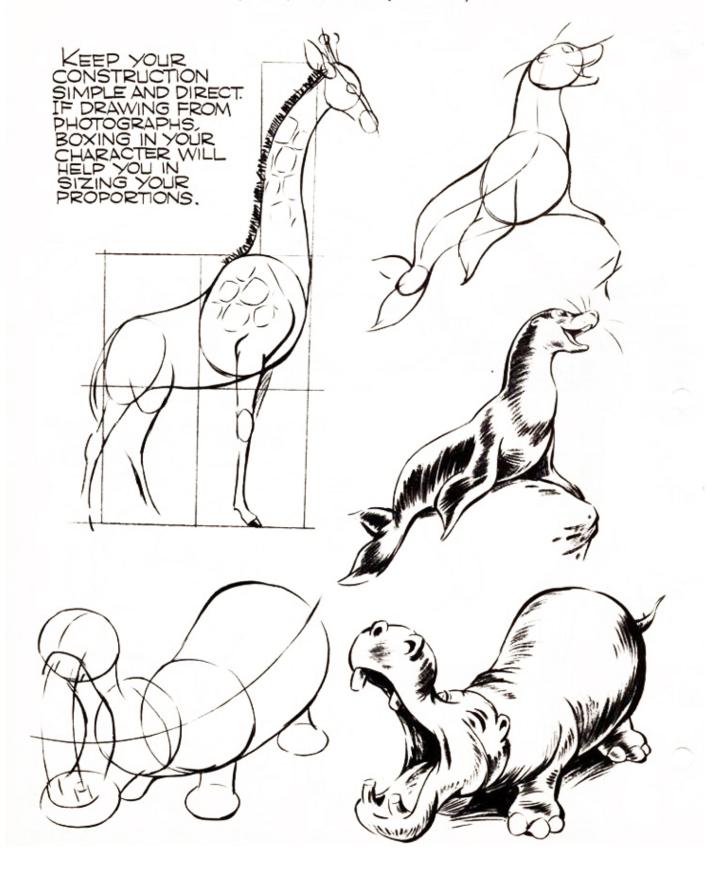


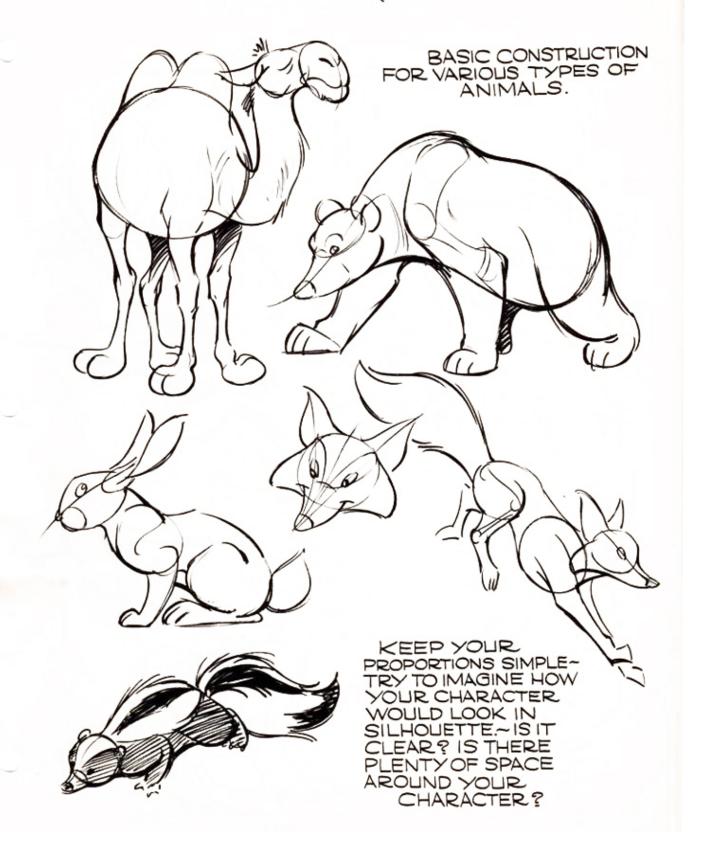
SIMPLIFIED APPROACH FOR ANIMALS.



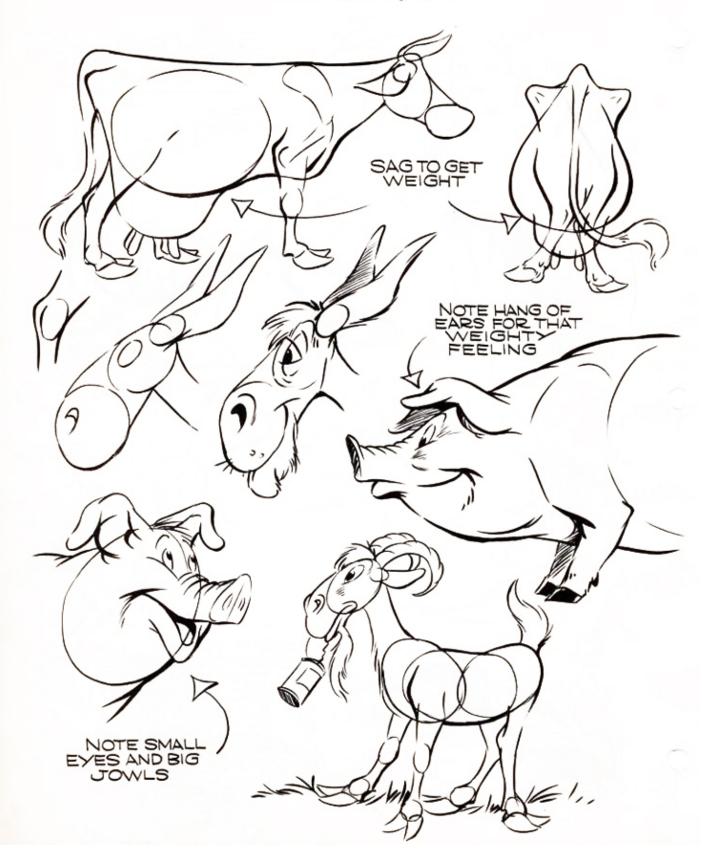


ANIMALS (CONT.)





ANIMALS (CONT.)



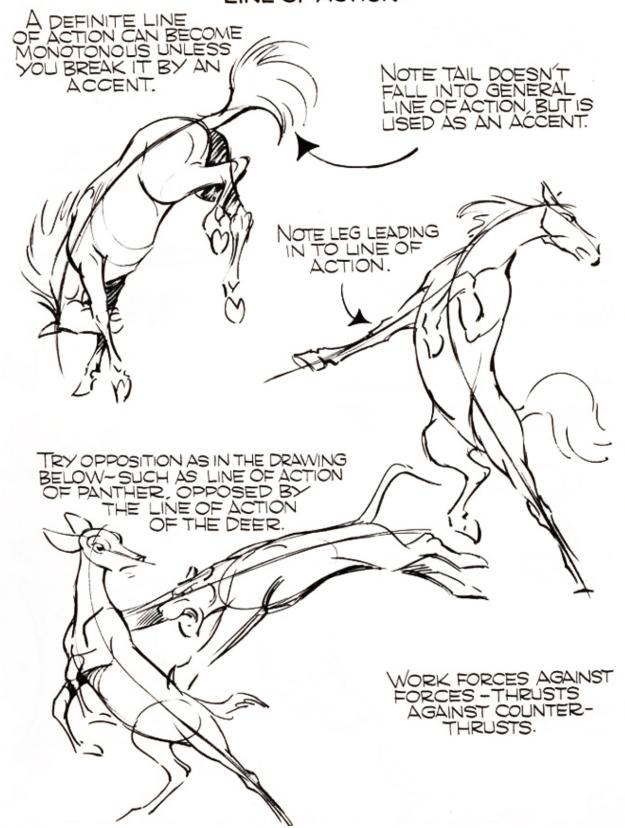
ANIMALS (CONT.)





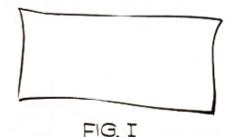
ANIMAL HEADS (A SIMPLIFIED CONSTRUCTION) 24

ANIMALS LINE OF ACTION -



PULL and TENSION

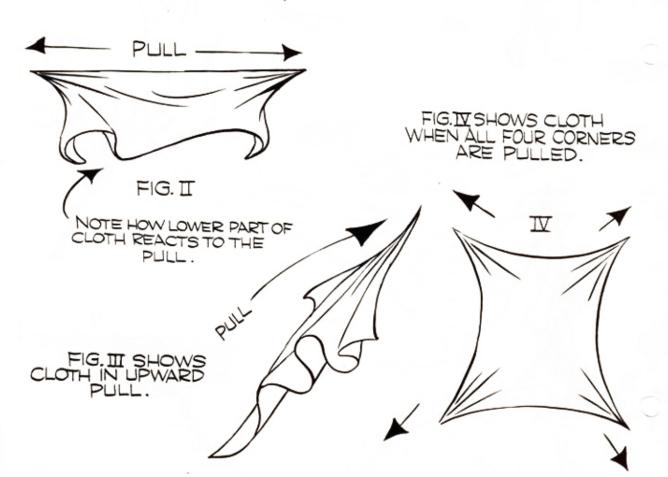
IN TAKING UP THIS SUBJECT, LET'S TAKE A PIECE OF CLOTH AS IN FIG. I AS AN EXAMPLE.



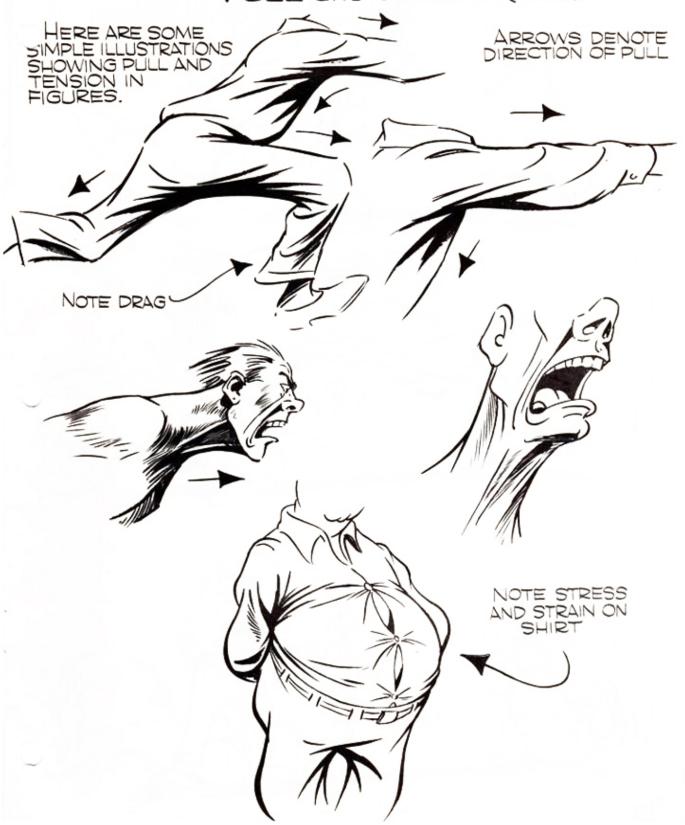
NOTE REACTION OF CLOTH WHEN TWO OF IT'S CORNERS ARE PULLED (AS IN FIG. II) ANOTHER SIMPLE EXAMPLE TO ILLUSTRATE PULL AND TENSION IN A MORE SOLID MATERIAL.

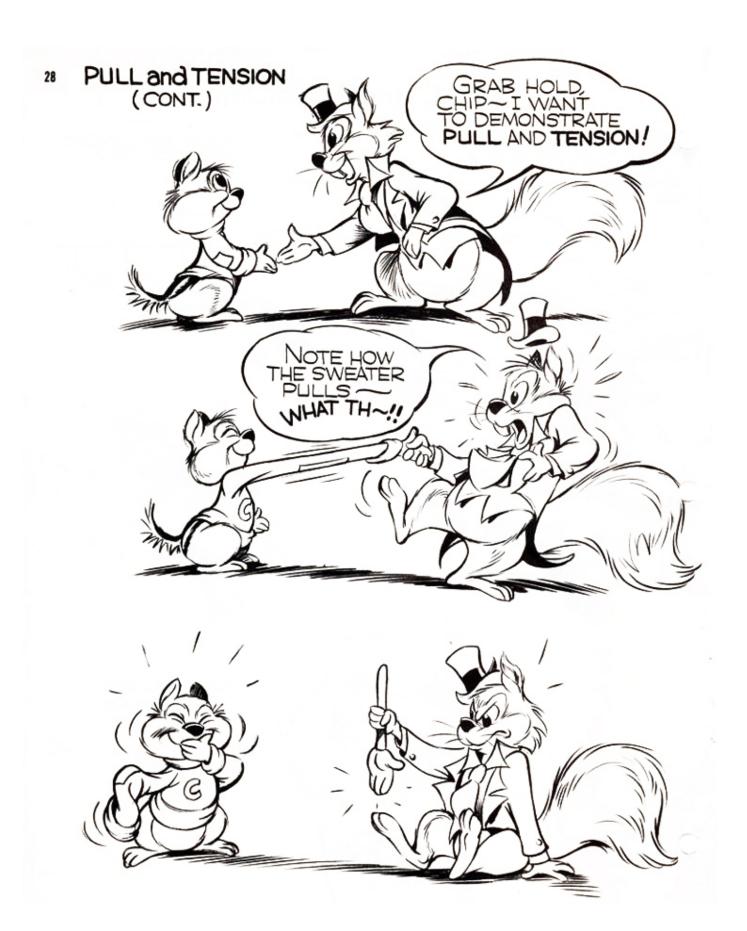
ROPE IN NORMAL POSITION

ROPE ELONGATES
IN PULL



PULL and TENSION (CONT.)





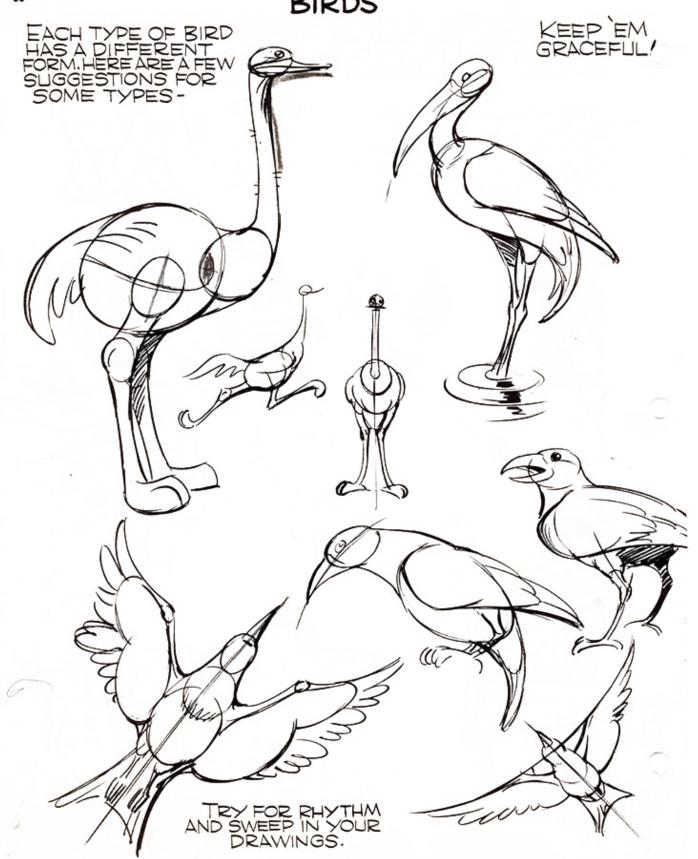
CARICATURE

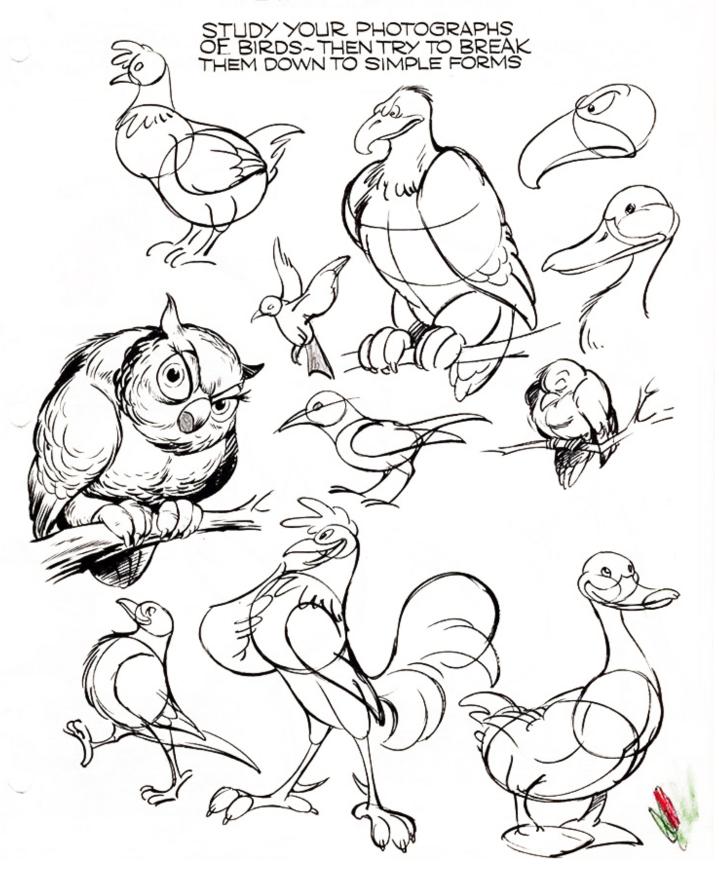
A CARICATURE IS AN EXAGGERATED DESIGN OF THE SUBJECT YOU ARE DRAWING - LOOK FOR OUTSTANDING FEATURES AND UTILIZE THEM IN YOUR DRAWING BY EMPHASIZING THEM.

THE FOLLOWING PAIRS SHOW HOW I WENT FURTHER TO EXAGGERATE ~ ANALYZE YOUR SUBJECT AND LET YOURSELF GO.



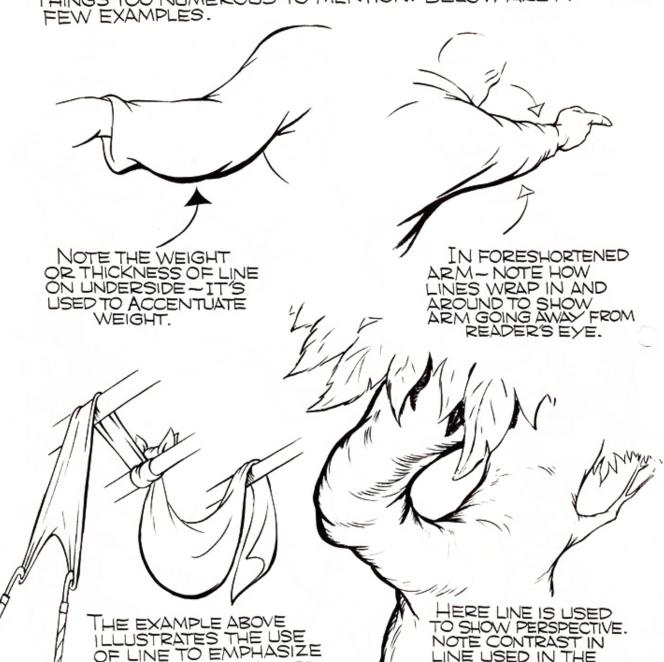






IMPORTANCE of LINE

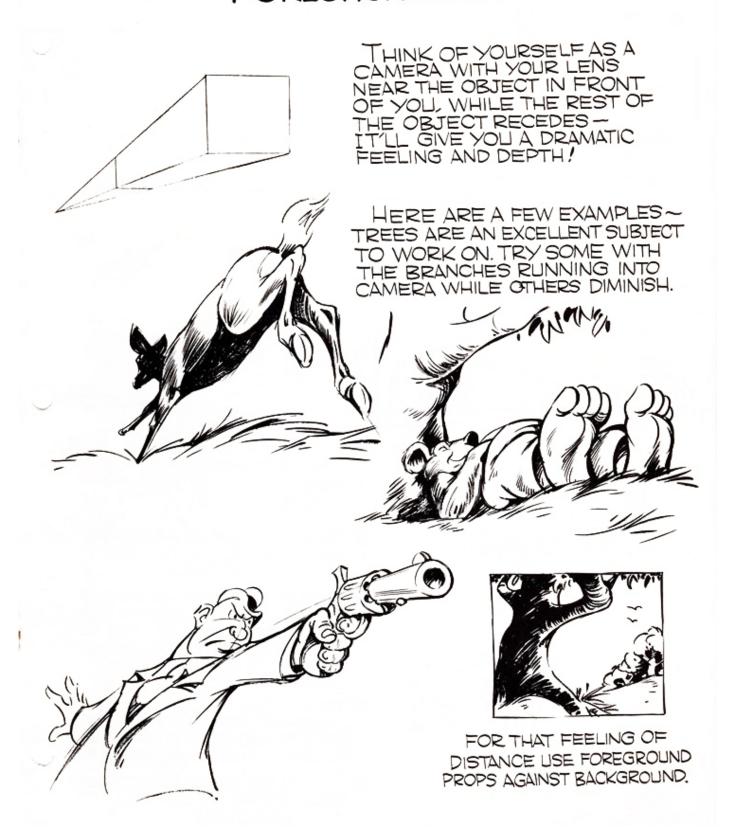
LINE CAN SUGGEST WEIGHT, FORM, MATERIAL AND OTHER THINGS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION. BELOW ARE A FEW EXAMPLES.

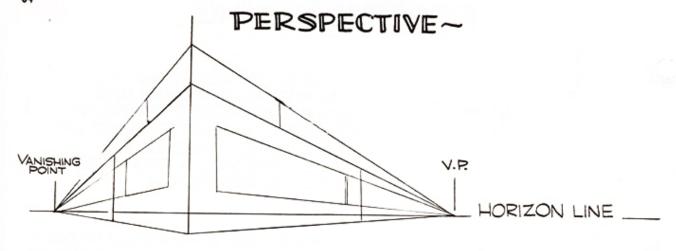


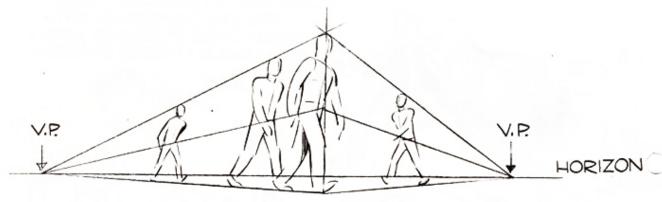
THE EXAMPLE ABOVE ILLUSTRATES THE USE OF LINE TO EMPHASIZE STRESS AND STRAIN OR RELAXATION OF MATERIAL

LINE USED IN THE BRANCH IN THE FORE-GROUND AND THE BRANCH IN THE BACKGROUND.

FORESHORTENING







TO KEEP YOUR
CHARACTERS ANCHORED
TO THE GROUND, DRAW
IN YOUR PERSPECTIVE
LINES.



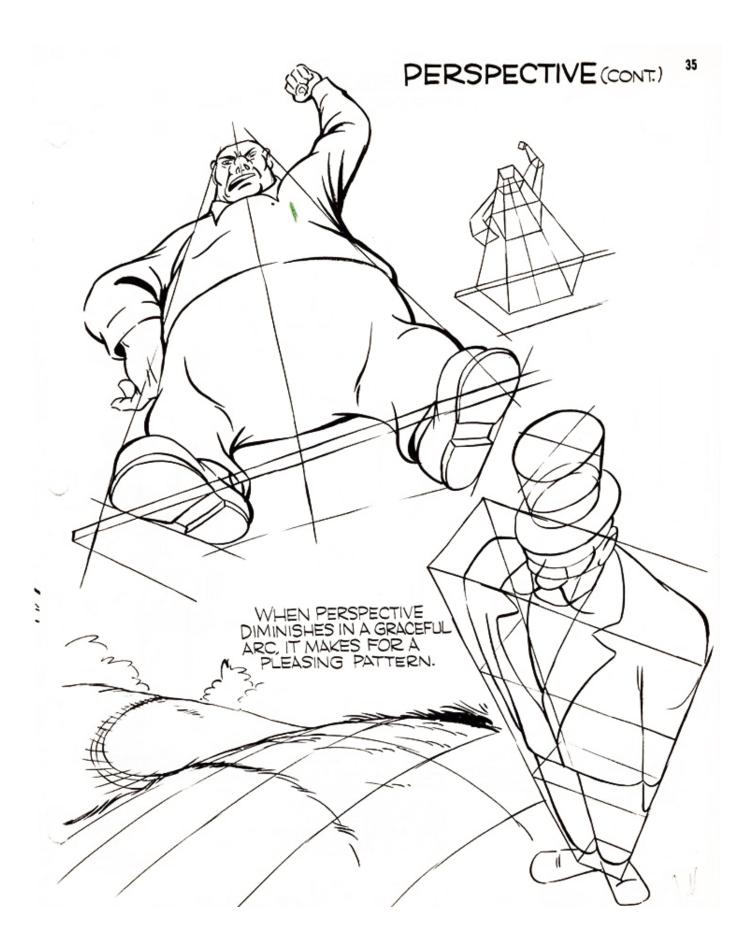
CHARACTERS'
IN PERSPECTIVE
I FIRST DRAW IN YOUR
HORIZON LINE.

II DRAW IN THE CHARACTER YOU WISH TO BE TALLEST IN YOUR PICTURE.

III ESTABLISH YOUR VANISHING POINTS ON THE HORIZON LINE. (THE PLACEMENT OF THE VANISHING POINTS DEPENDS ON THE PERSPECTIVE DESIRED.)

IV DRAW LINES FROM YOUR VANISHING POINTS TO THE TOP, BOTTOM AND MIDDLE OF YOUR TALLEST FIGURE (MIDDLE LINE)'S

Y PUT IN OTHER CHARACTERS YOU DESIRE AS SHOWN ABOVE.



FEMININE FIGURE (APPROACH)

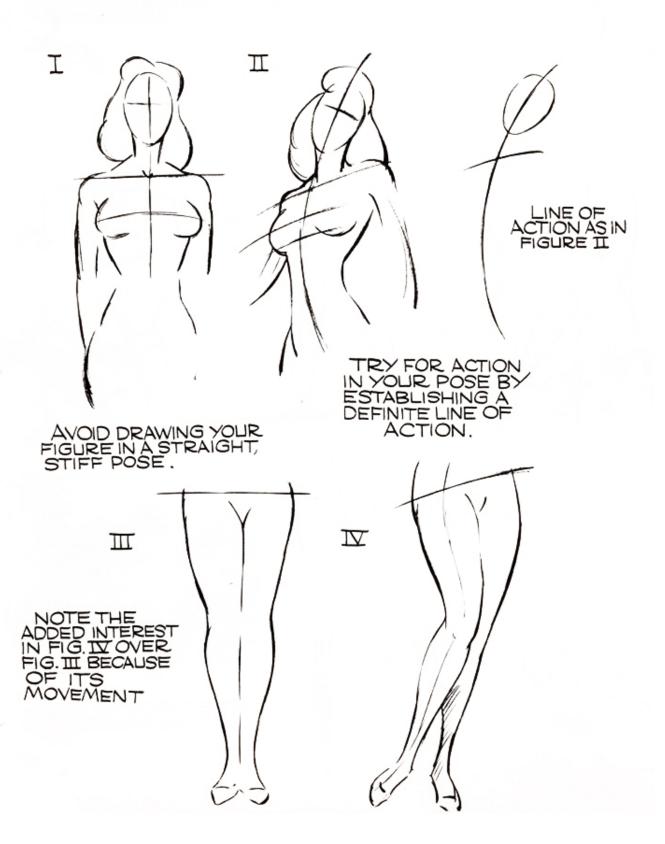


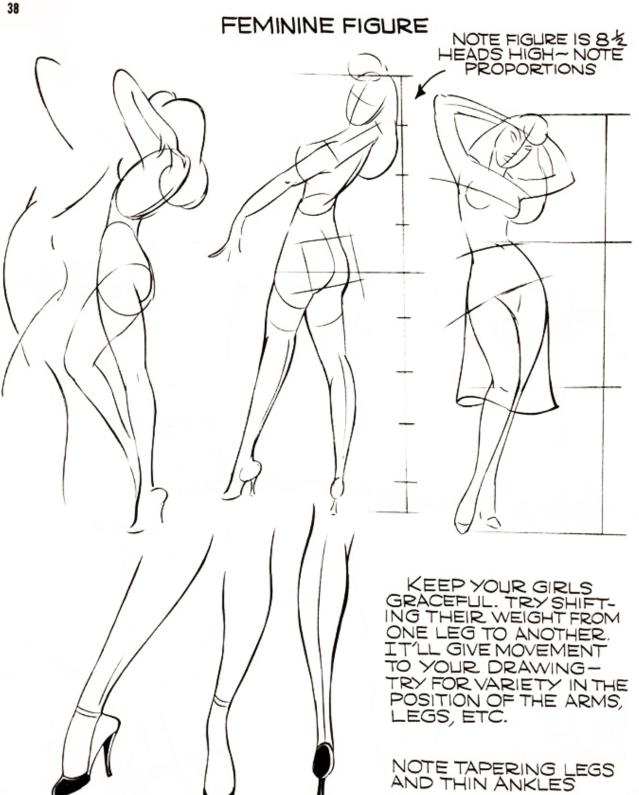
WHEN DRAWING THE FEMININE FIGURE, FIRST TRY FOR THE ACTION OF THE POSE

THE NEXT STEP~
PUT IN THE MAIN
ACTION LINES AS
IN NUMBERS I TO
IX. THEN PUT IN
THE MAIN ACCENTS
IN THE FIGURE.

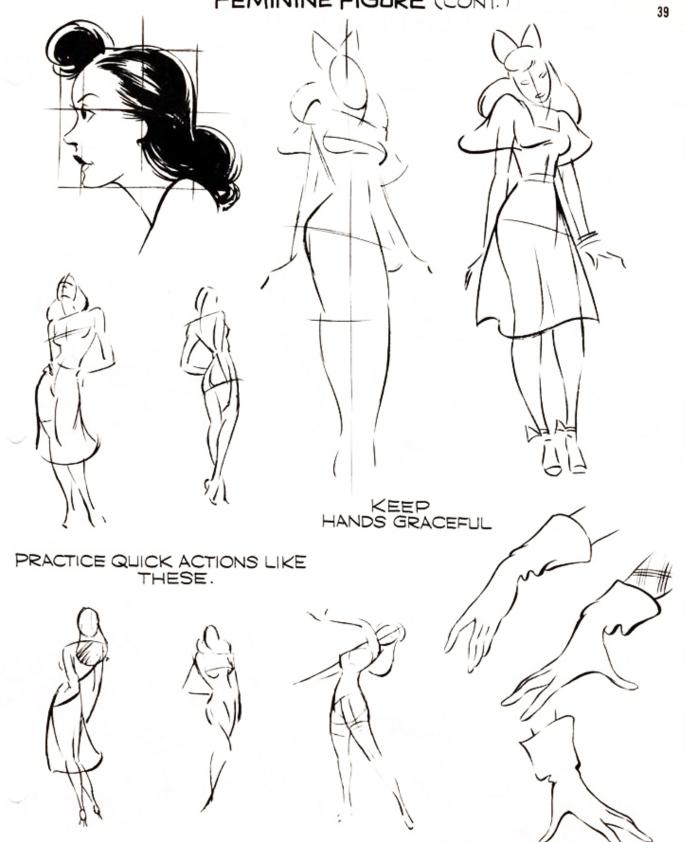
THE THIRD STAGE ~ PULL IT TOGETHER.

FEMININE FIGURE

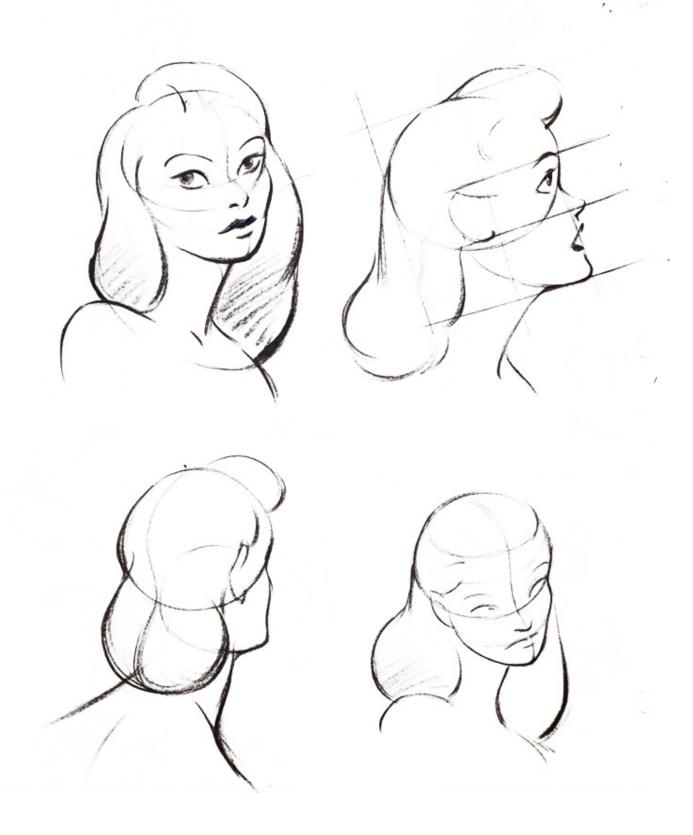




FEMININE FIGURE (CONT.)



FEMININE HEAD USING A CIRCLE FOR A START.



ANIMAL COMICS

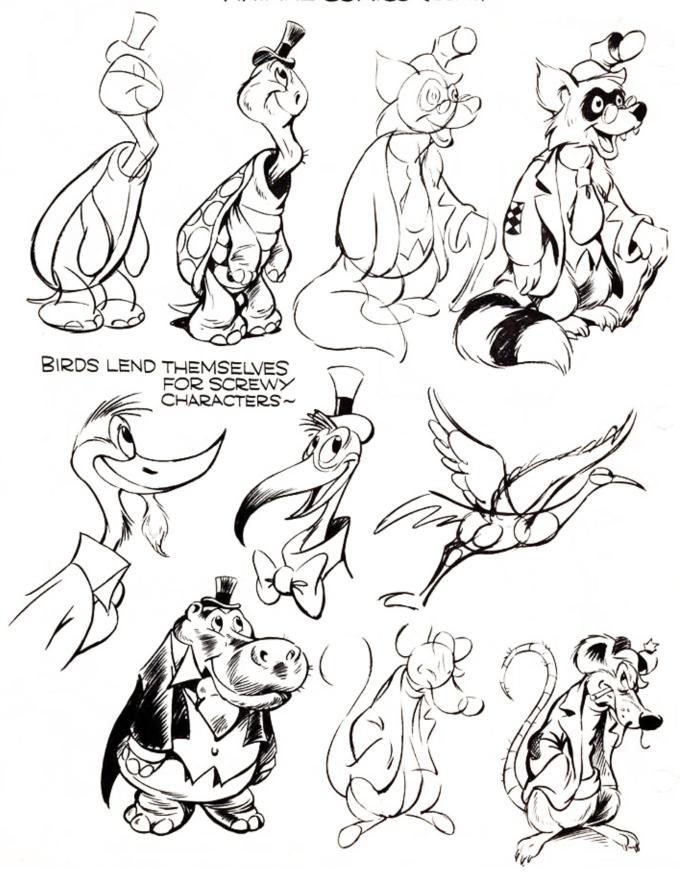


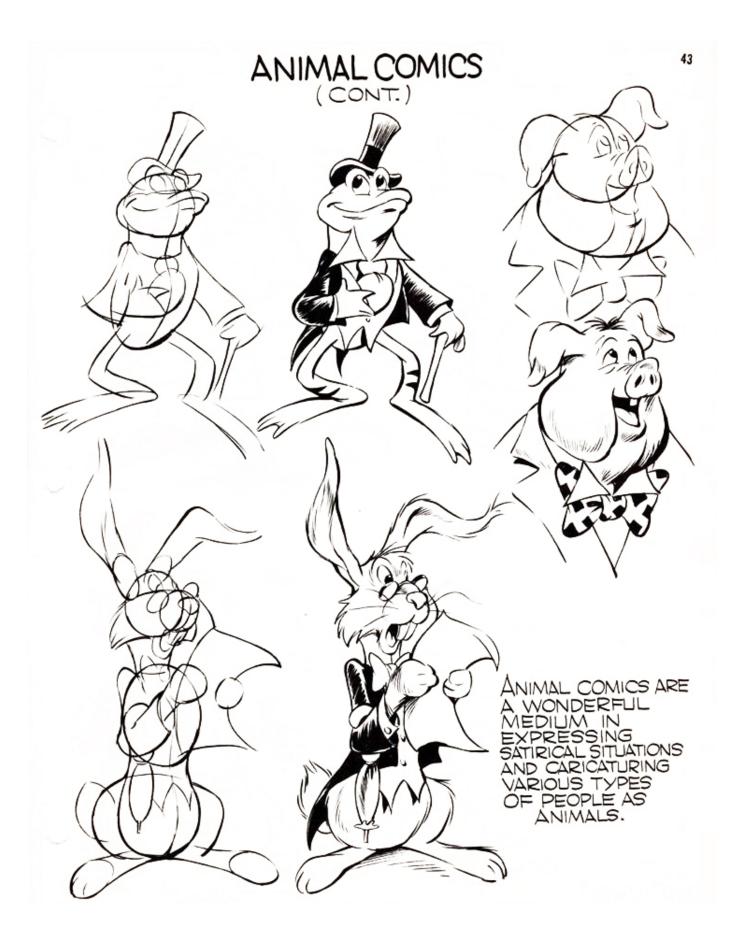


WATCH THE PULL AND TENSION ON DRAPERY~ IT GIVES WEIGHT TO MATERIAL

NOTE DRAG OF MATERIAL WHEN CHARACTER IS IN ACTION~

ANIMAL COMICS (CONT.)





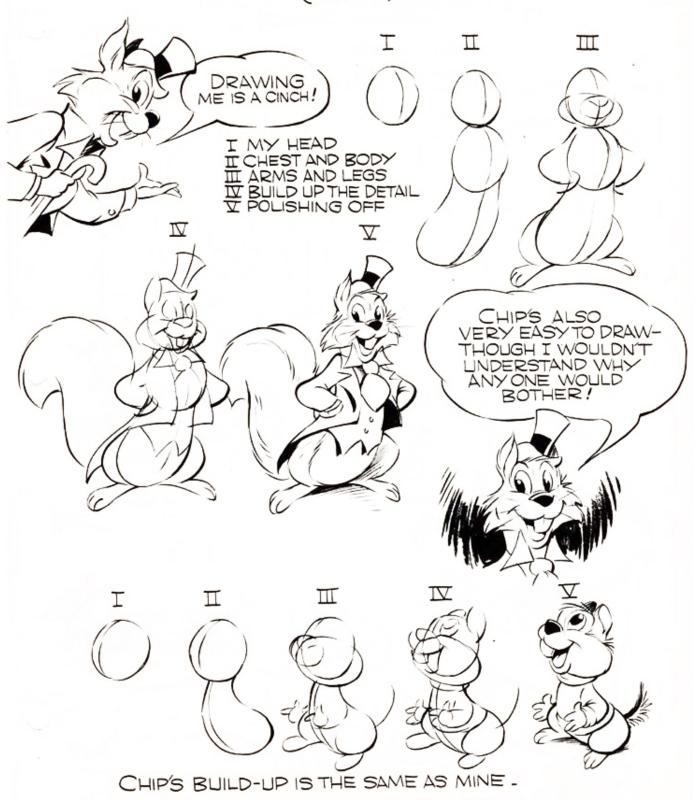
ANIMAL COMICS







ANIMAL COMICS



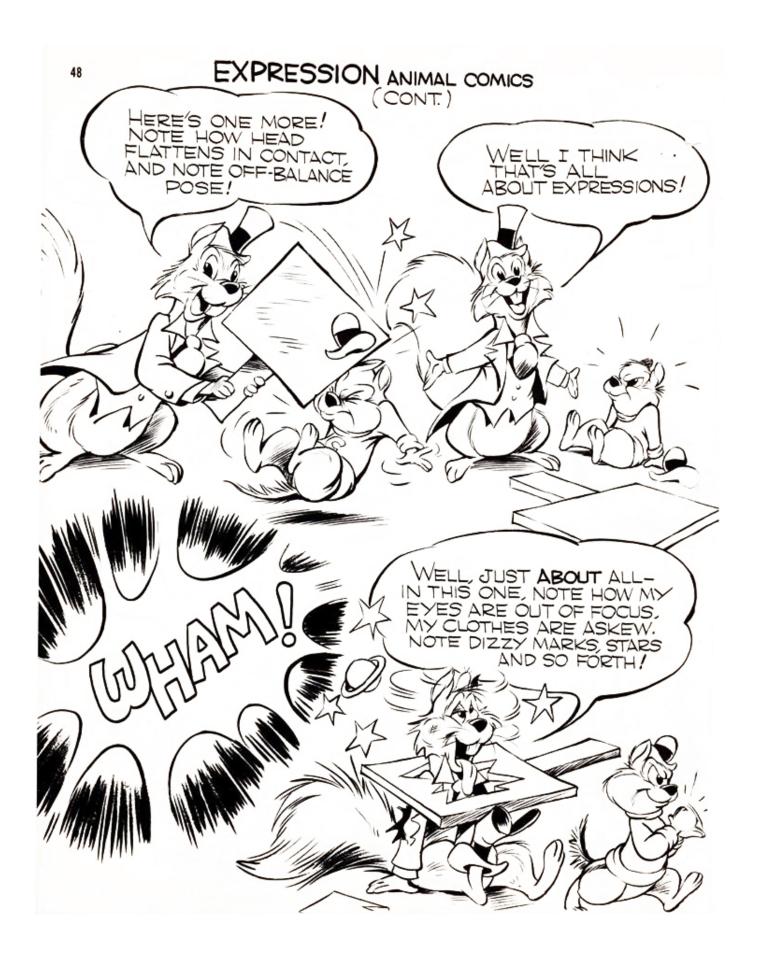
PUGNACIOUS TYPES ANIMAL COMICS

GORILLA TYPE



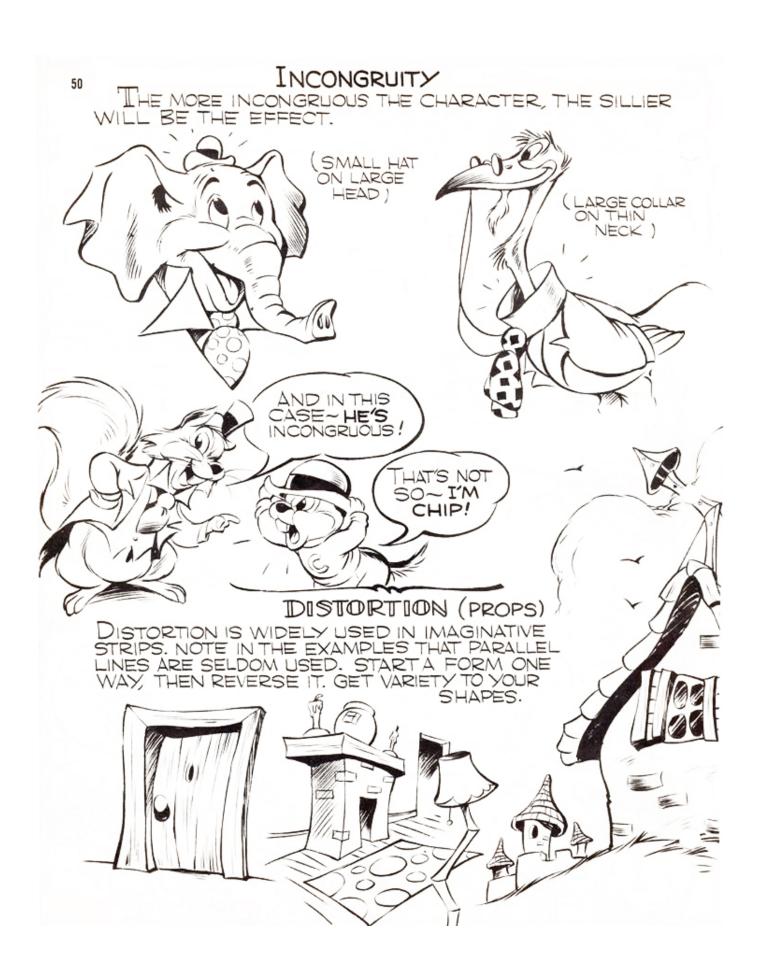






Contrast between characters can be shown by opposite proportions. This gives a reader a more definite picture of your character.





LAYOUT

MAKE YOUR SCENES INTERESTING — GET VARIETY



WRONG



RIGHT



MOVE AROUND IN YOUR PICTURES—ALL MEDIUM

SHOTS WOULD BE MONOTONOUS ~

LONG SHOT



MEDIUM LONG SHOT



MEDIUM SHOT



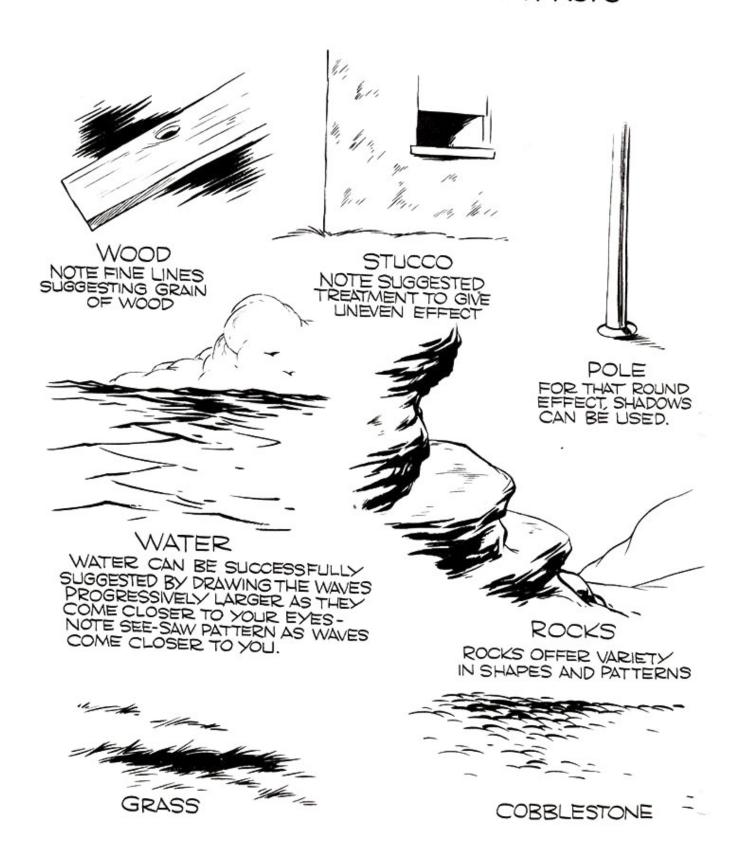
MEDIUM CLOSE -



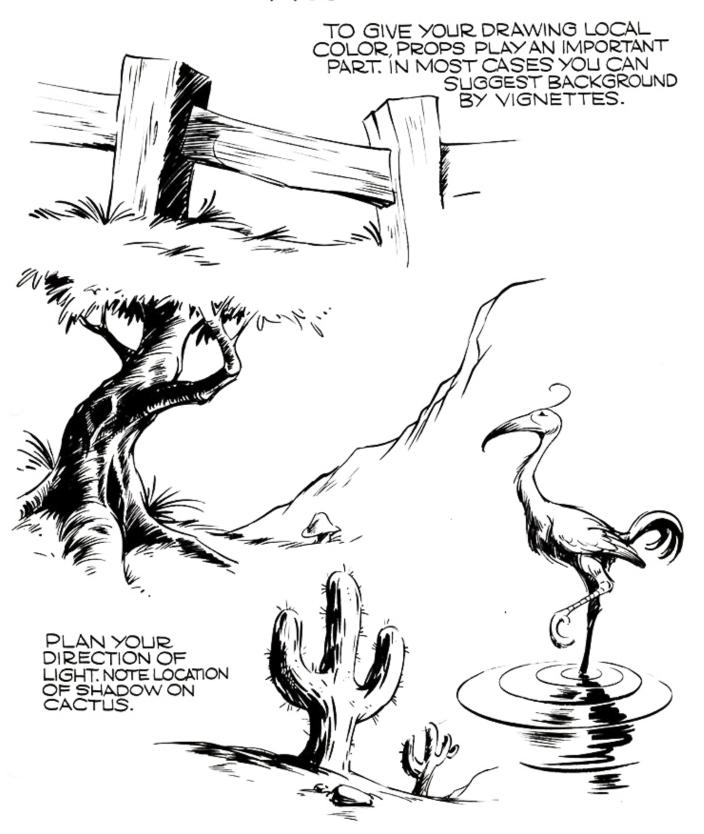
CLOSE-UP

THERE'S NO SET
RULE IN PLANNING
YOUR PANELS IN
COMIC STRIPS, BUT
YOUR READER LIKES
VARIETY. GIVE IT
TO HIM.

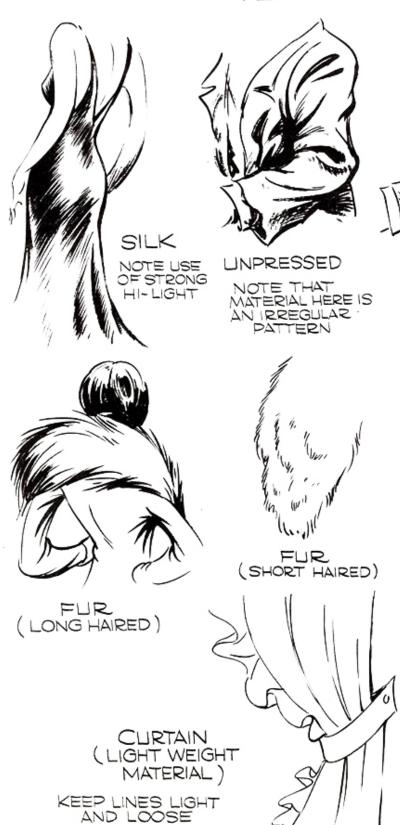
BRUSH TREATMENT FOR PROPS



PROPS



TEXTURE





PRESSED

KEEP MATERIAL

VERY REGULAR
LINES ARE CLEAN

CUT.

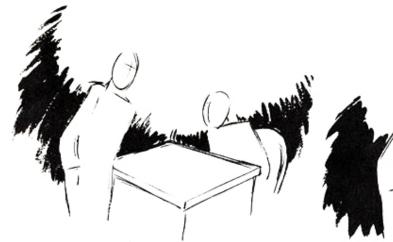


WOOL
(OR COARSE MATERIAL)

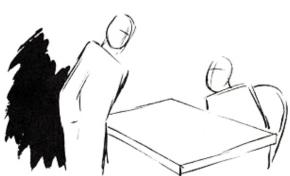
YOU CAN SUGGEST
THIS BY BREAKING
UP YOUR LINE.

USE OF BLACK

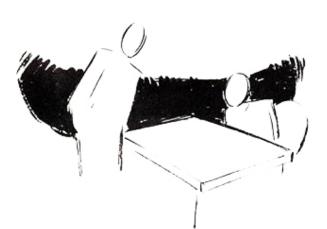
BLACK SHOULD ALWAYS BE USED IN CONTRAST TO WHITE. BELOW ARE EXAMPLES USING BLACK IN A PATTERN.



HERE'S A SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION SHOWING HOW BLACK IS USED TO HOLD FIGURES TOGETHER.



~ A GOOD EXAMPLE OF POOR SPOTTING OF BLACK.



HERE THE BLACK
PATTERN IS USED WITH
SAMENESS- IT BECOMES
MONOTONOUS.



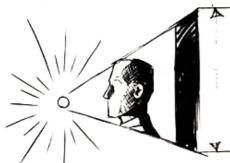
USE of BLACK



MY DRAWING AT LEFT IS USED HERE TO SHOW HOW BLACK IS USED IN CONTRAST TO WHITE.

DIRECTION of LIGHT

IN PLANNING A
PICTURE WHERE
STRONG SHADOWS
ARE REQUIRED ~
ESTABLISH YOUR
LIGHT POINT.



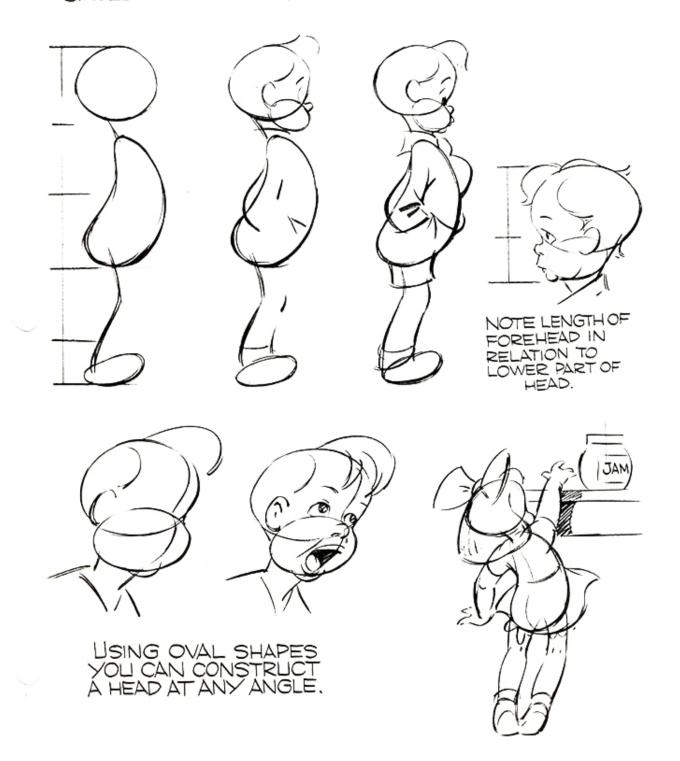
A SIMPLE EXAMPLE OF HOW IT CAN BE USED.



NOTE HOW SHADOWS VARY AS LIGHT POINT IS FARTHER AWAY FROM SUBJECT.

CHILDREN

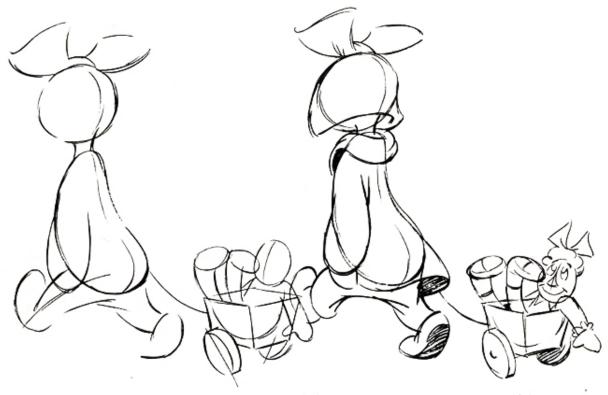
I DRAW MY KIDS FROM 3½ TO 5 HEADS IN HEIGHT. FOR A VERY SIMPLE CONSTRUCTION, I START WITH A CIRCLE FOR THE HEAD AND A PEAR SHAPE FOR THE BODY.

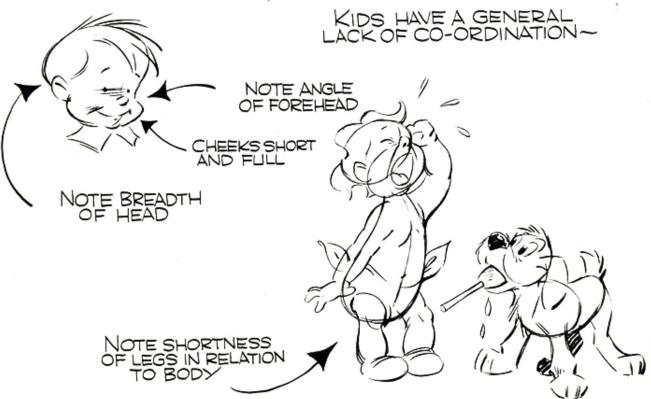


CHILDREN (CONT.)

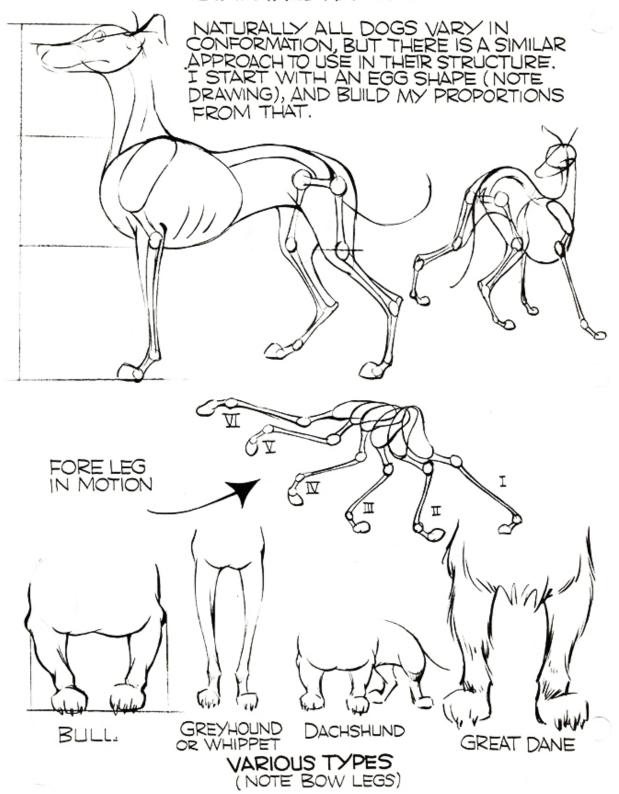


CHILDREN (CONT.)





DOGS SIMPLIFIED ANATOMY



DOGS (CONT.)



DOGS (CONT.)





