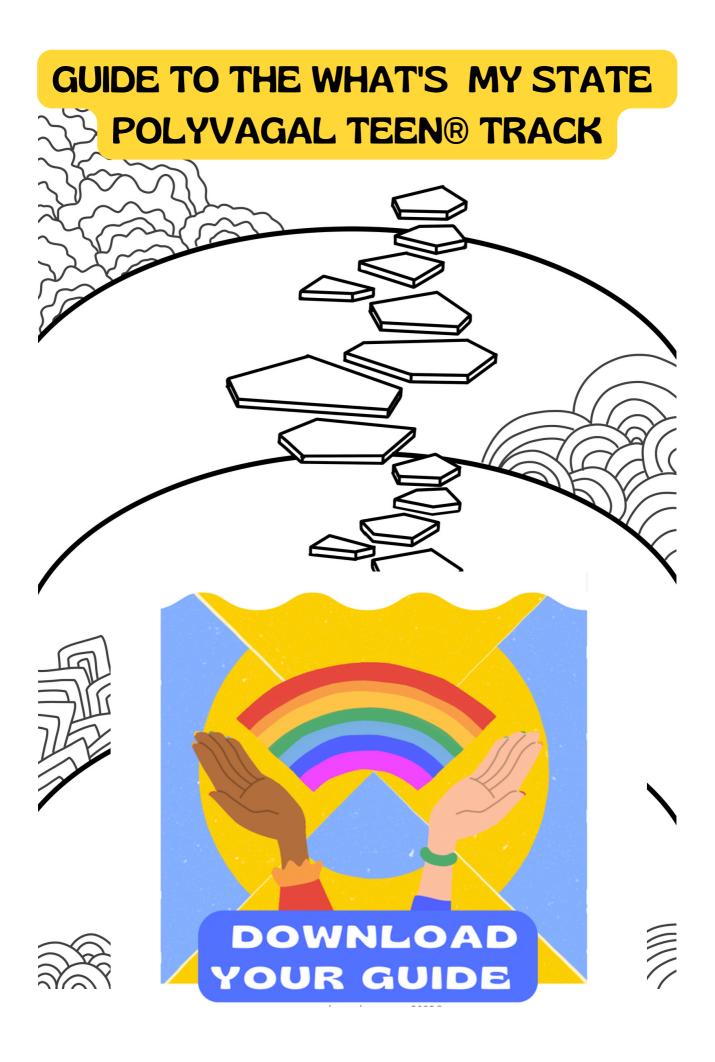
POLYVAGAL TEEN®



Making The Polyvagal Framework Accessible to Young PeoPle, families, educators, theraPists, social workers & the neurodivergent individual



3 SIMPLE STEPS TO MAKING CHANGE THE R.U.D® PROCESS

BY YASMIN SHAHEEN-ZAFFAR WWW.POLYVAGALTEEN.COM

RECOGNISE

Step 1

Step 2

Begin to get to know your nervous system by recognising your

- states
- stories
- sensations linked to your behaviours.

Use the States Trackers, the story board & the my sensations worksheets to help track & start to explore & identify repeating patterns or behaviours.

UNDERSTAND

Understand & unravel how our behaviours & patterns impact us by using curiosity to explore 3 key question:

- What gets me here?
- What keeps me here?
- What takes me out of here?

You can use the worksheets, the Polyvagal Teen® Track and cards to help you do this. Be curious - are there any other questions you need to explore?

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DIFFUSE

Step 3

Once you have brought into your awareness how your nervous system reacts to stimuli/ encounters/ stresses/ activators you can begin to work on developing strategies for diffusing those uncomfortable feelings. Whilst also develop strategies for prevention & grounding.

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WHY TRACK OUR STATES?

HELPS UNDERSTAND BIOLOGY

INCREASED AWARENESS

REFRAMING

CHANGE IN EXPECTATIONS

BETTER COMMUNICATION

IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS



What's My State

What brings me here? What keePs me here? What gets me out of here?

Safe & Social

Mobilised (high energy)

Immobilised (low energy)

The Polyvagal Teen® Track

The Polyvagal teen track is a metaphor used to help identify the different states from a polyvagal informed perspective. It is an alternative metaphor to The Hierarchy Ladder as created by Deb Dana. Its aim is to normalise that throughout the day we move through the different states not just through to a completely different state but also through different depths of the states. A constant flow.

We humans are constantly stimulated by internal and external factors that as we respond to them cause us to dip in and out of the different states along the Polyvagal Teen® track (other words which can be used for stimuli are activated, triggered, stressed) Sometimes we can jog comfortably weaving in and out of the different states. Sometimes we might crawl or walk through one state to another.

There's times the brakes are off and we can sprint through different states as quick as a flash or other times we can get stuck in one state and stay there longer than is needed or helpful. These different states impact our thoughts emotions and behaviours in different ways - to understand yourself better and to help build stronger relationships it is helpful to explore how your state can impact your different experiences and behaviours.

An example I often use to help explain is the "frenemy" - Friendships can easily turn into frenemies, leaving you shifting between different states of connection. In a safe and social state, you may feel comfortable trusting the person and feel relaxed around them. This may show in your behaviour, your thoughts or be as subtle as showing in your tone of voice or body language.

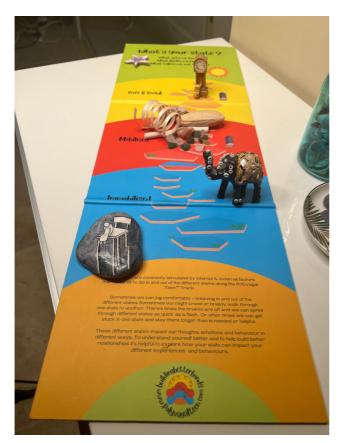
However, this can quickly shift when something subtle changes in their behavior or tone. This can activate an immediate feeling of threat that can lead to a mobilisation state where your emotions become more intense and your behavior shifts in response. You may snap at the person or become frustrated, or you may have critical thoughts emerging and and pull back as it doesn't feel "safe". I call this the "back and forth dance of safety and rejection"

It doesn't mean that the relationship is over as it can quickly shift back into a safe and social space with the next positive encounter.

"moving through the different states"

Ways Of Working With The Polyvagal Teen Track®.

- Use the black and white sheets and Identify and colour in the different states along the Polyvagal Teen® track. Adding doodles or words that come up for you.
- Create a collage using the worksheet & any arts and crafts materials you have cut out magazines for different textures to illustrate your experience of sensations.
- You could also highlight how quickly or slowly you may move between different connection states throughout your hour, day or week.
- The track can be used to place figures, buttons, stones or anything to represent a challenge, a situation, a relationship, a person or place. the position on the track can be explored further. Group or family dynamics can be explored this way. placing different figures to represent friendships. relationships with people, places or "things".
- Traveling along the track by physically moving the pieces provides a sense of autonomy and helps one to experience that "energy can be shifted" and "states can be changed" and "I can shift the state myself just as I am moving these pieces around the track" The process of having a physical representation of moving through their states can be profoundly impactful. Visualizing their somatic experience.
- By placing figures on the track, one can explore any obstacles and challenges they encounter that may impact their state or prevent them from moving forward. Through exploring these obstacles, how to remove these obstacles, physically moving the figures off the track may empower individuals.



An example of The Polyvagal Teen® Track used with figures to represent my journey of states during a challenging situation

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At the top of the track feeling safe to connect, productive, healthy boundaries and regulated.

what's My State Polyvagal Teen® Track

safe and social

At the middle of the track feeling anxious and mobilised due to detection of threat. Fight or Flight

mobilised

The ledge, doorway tunnel, somewhere to take a breather, we may need to stay in that state for a while. But we may also get stuck there in that defensive state = trauma.



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At the bottom of the track feeling disconnected, shutdown, freeze, faint, isolated, powerless

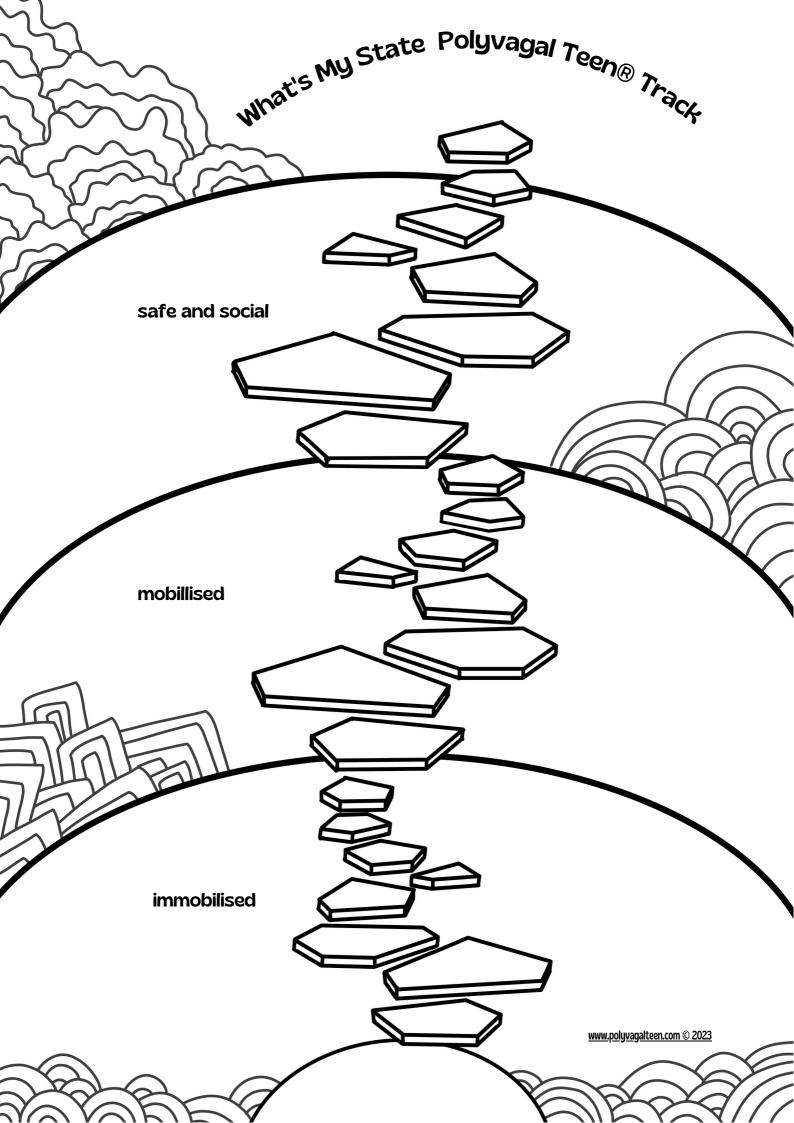
immobilised

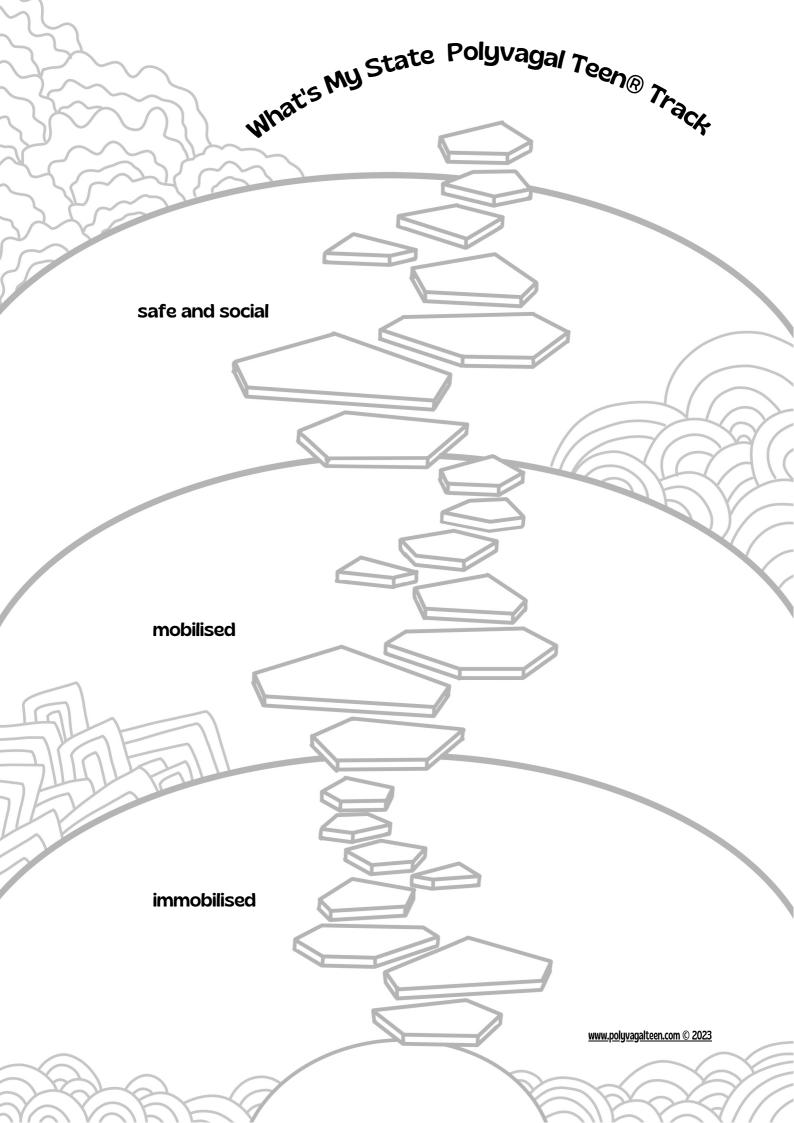
the are constantly stimulated by internal & external factors to dip in and out of the different states along the Polyaga tern™ Track.

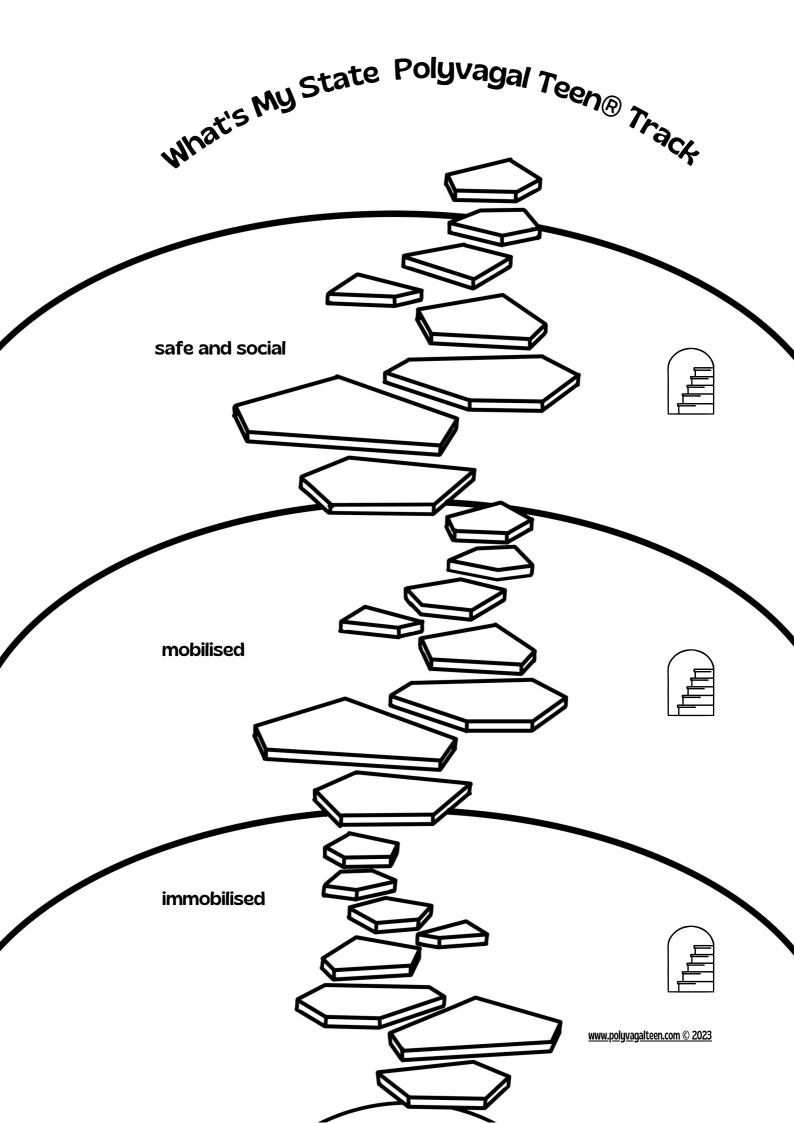
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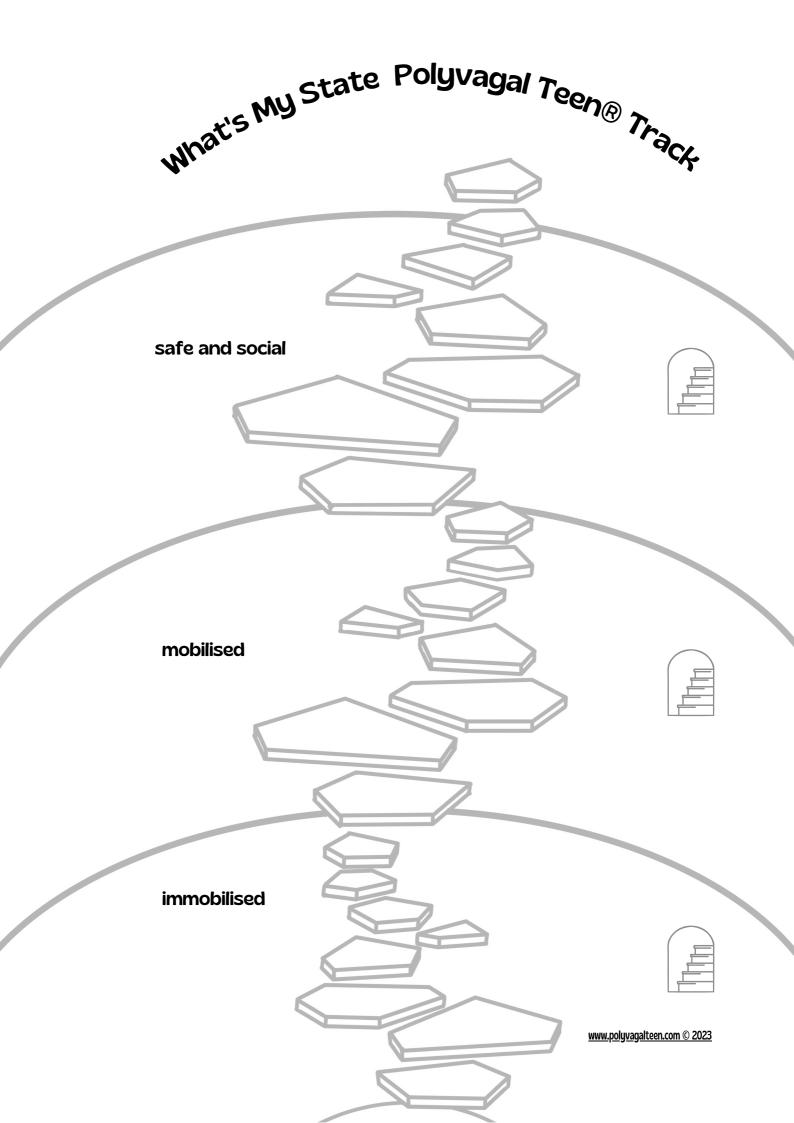
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Some Questions to help explore this metaphor further could include:

- What gets me here?
- What keeps me here?
- What takes me out of here?
- How do I know when I am ready to move out of this state?
- How long do I stay here?
- What does my body tell me when I am here?
- Have I been stuck here?
- Do I know when it's helpful for me to stay here?
- How is it unhelpful for me to keep stuck in this state?
- Even if I need to stay in this state is my behaviour helpful?
- Could I find a more helpful behaviour & still stay in this state?
- Am I aware of the signs before I reach this state?
 - could i increase awareness around this?
 - would it be helpful if? how?
- Am I aware of the signs before I leave this state?
- What stories do I tell myself when in this state?
- Can I list the sensations in my body when I am in this state?
- How can I shift state?
- Does my story and sensations change when I change state?

This worksheet is designed to help you better understand the differences between safe & social, mobilise and immobilise states. Each section provides questions and reflections to guide your understanding.

Safe & Social State Questions:

- What does feeling safe feel like for me?
- How do I recognize when I am in a state of safety?
- What behaviors do I exhibit when feeling safe?

Reflections:

- When feeling safe, I can...
- In this state, my emotions are...
- When feeling secure, my behavior changes because...

Mobilise State Questions:

- What does mobilise look like for me?
- How can I tell if I'm entering a mobilised state?
- How does this state differ from others?

Reflections:

- When mobilized, my body usually feels like
- My emotions become more intense and amplified in this state
- My behavior naturally leans towards

Immobilise State Questions:

- What does social immobilize look like for me?
- How can I tell if I'm in this state?
- What behaviors do I exhibit when social immobilized?

Reflections:

- When socially immobilised, I may notice myself ...
- In this state, my emotions often feel like...
- When socially immobile, my behavior changes because of...

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Some ideas for reflection

- Reflect on how your state can impact your thoughts, emotions and behaviours.
- What state do you need to be in right now? What state do you want to be in right now? Do they match? If they don't how is it for you to have this mismatch?
- Are there any state you have been unable to move out of? Been stuck there longer than is helpful? Is this ok for you or do you want something to change?
- Consider ways to respond when you feel like you are being pulled between different states e.g. when shifting from a safe to mobilisation state or vice versa.
- Explore real relationships by thinking about friends who may be "frenemies" and how this relationship can lead to shifts in your states - consider what are the circumstances and the subtle signs that lead to this shift . Take time to reflect on it so that you can better engage with these people.
- Explore any other challenges in the same way that may come up for you.

Using The Polyvagal Teen Track® to Develop Your Somatic Experience

A person's "somatic experience" Is the state or quality of being aware of one's body, its sensations and environment through the five senses. It generally refers to a person's conscious awareness and experience of their physical body, including posture, movement and internal physical processes such as digestion and respiration.

A person with internal somatic experience is often referred to as an "interoceptive" or a "body-aware" individual. An interoceptive uses their body's sensations and signals to better understand their emotions, reactions and behaviour. They have a heightened awareness of their physical environment and the effect it has on them, enabling them to interact more effectively with the external world.

Peter Levine developed Somatic Experiencing® a body-centered approach to treating PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) that, rather than focusing only on thoughts or emotions associated with a traumatic event, expands to include the natural bodily (somatic) responses.

The Polyvagal Teen Track[®] can support you to explore your somatic experience, helping you to be more mindful of your body, become aware of emotions and physical sensations, develop emotional intelligence and ultimately build better relationships with yourself, others, and the environment.

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Using The Polyvagal Teen Track® to Develop Your Somatic Experience

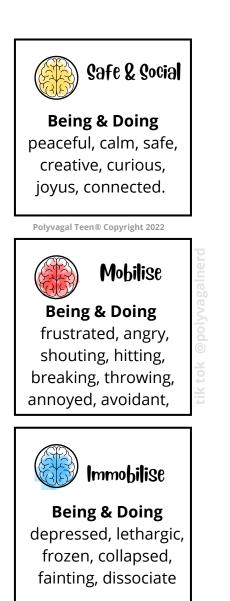
Somatic Experience Worksheet

- What is somatic experience? Somatic experience is the state or quality of being aware of one's body, its sensations and environment through the eight senses. It refers to a person's conscious and unconscious awareness and experience of their physical body, including posture, movement and internal physical processes such as digestion and respiration.
- Who is an interoceptive or body-aware individual? An interoceptive is a person with internal somatic experience; they use their body's sensations and signals to better understand their emotions, reactions and behaviour. They have a heightened awareness of their physical environment and the effect it has on them, enabling them to interact more effectively with the external world.
- What is Somatic Experiencing®? Somatic Experiencing® was developed by Peter Levine, it is a body-centered approach to treating PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder) that rather than focusing only on thoughts or emotions associated with a traumatic event, expands to include the natural bodily (somatic) responses.
- What can The Polyvagal Teen Track® do for you? The Polyvagal Teen Track® helps you explore your somatic experience so that you can become mindful of your body, become aware of emotions and physical sensations, develop emotional intelligence and ultimately build better relationships with yourself, others, and the environment.

the metaphor of the "track" to describe the hierarchy of states in Polyvagal theory was created by Yasmin Shaheen-Zaffar creator of Polyvagal Teen® BACP Registered counsellor in the U.K

it would be amazing & polite if you are able to credit her in any resources or training you provide when using this metaphor.

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Polyvagal Teen® Tracker Worksheets.



Track states by beginning with gentle curiosity exploring these 3 key questions. This can help you to get to know your nervous system

- What gets me there ?
- What keeps me there?
- What takes me out of there?

Bringing into awareness helpful and unhelpful behaviours and what impact it is having on the nervous system can support in learning to link behaviours to emotions, growing regulation skills and create healthier connections.

www.polyvagalteen.com - building better bonds with your teen

STATE TRACKER TRACKER

state	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
9.00																																
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NOTES: _____

MONTH:

This download contains the following Polyvagal Teen® Tracker Worksheets:

WEEKLY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER SET TIMES LABELLED.

WEEKLY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER LABEL YOUR OWN TIMES.

DAILY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER 24 HOUR CLOCK.

DAILY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER 12 HOUR CLOCK.

DRILL DOWN POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES ISSUE/ EVENTS HOUR TRACKER - 15 MINUTE INTERVALS.

DRILL DOWN POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES ISSUE/ EVENTS HOUR TRACKER - CUSTOMISE INTERVALS.

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Being & Doing peaceful, calm, safe, creative, curious, joyus, connected.

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Being & Doing frustrated, angry, shouting, hitting, breaking, throwing, annoyed, avoidant, @polyvagalner

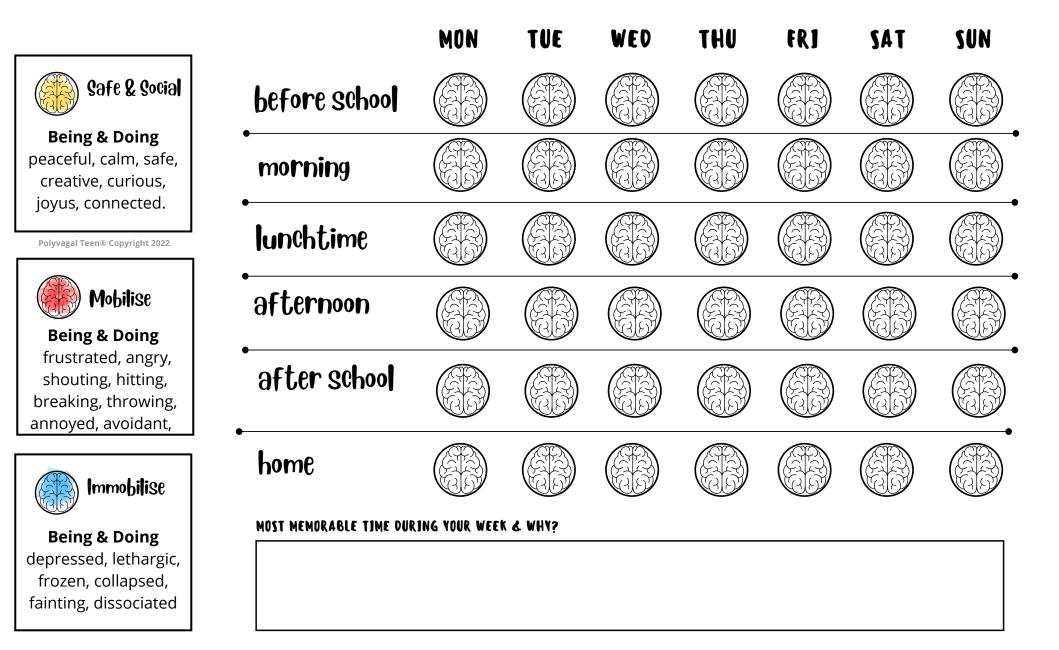
tik tok



Being & Doing depressed, lethargic, frozen, collapsed, fainting, dissociated

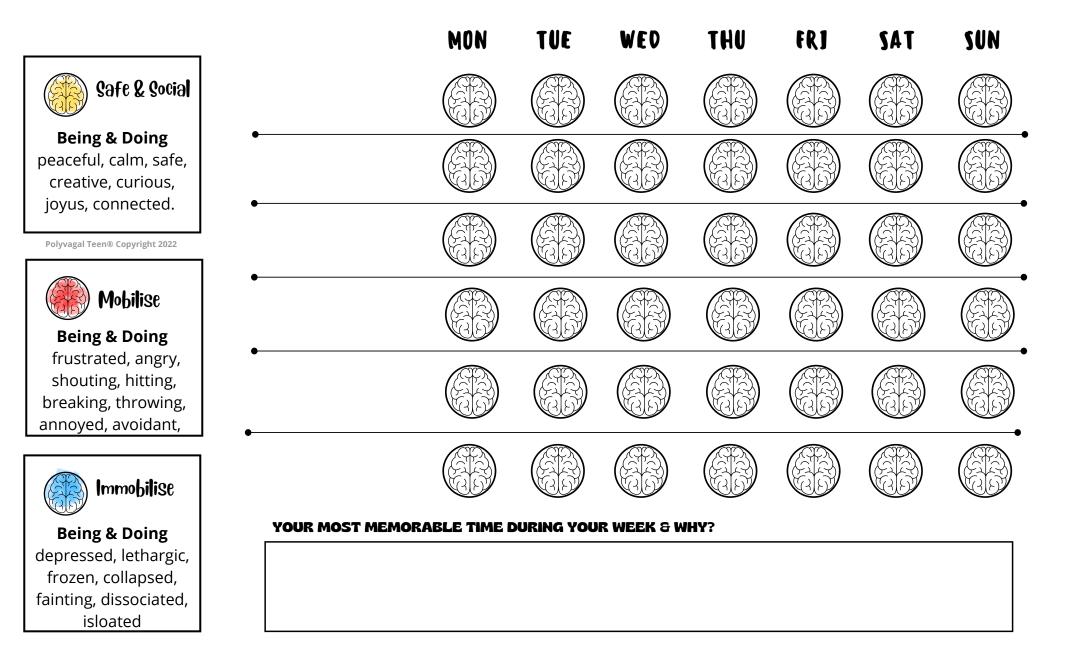
WEEKLY - MY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER

mark, write or colour which state you were/ are in, this can be done at the end of each day. If you prefer you can screenshot this and Polyvagal Teen® Copyright 2022 use it on your phone to track your state.



WEEKLY - MY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER

mark, write or colour which state you were/ are in, this can be done at the end of each day. If you prefer you can screenshot this Polyvagal Teen® Copyright 2022 and use it on your phone to track your state.

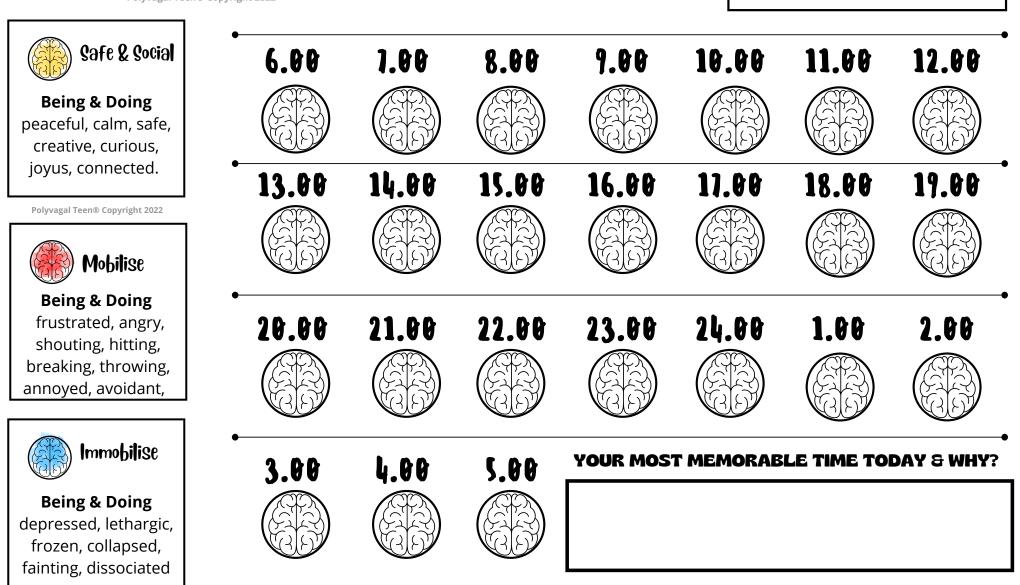


DAILY - MY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER

NAME & DATE

mark, write or colour which state you were/ are in, this can be done at the end of the day. If you prefer you can screenshot this worksheet and use it on your phone to track your state.

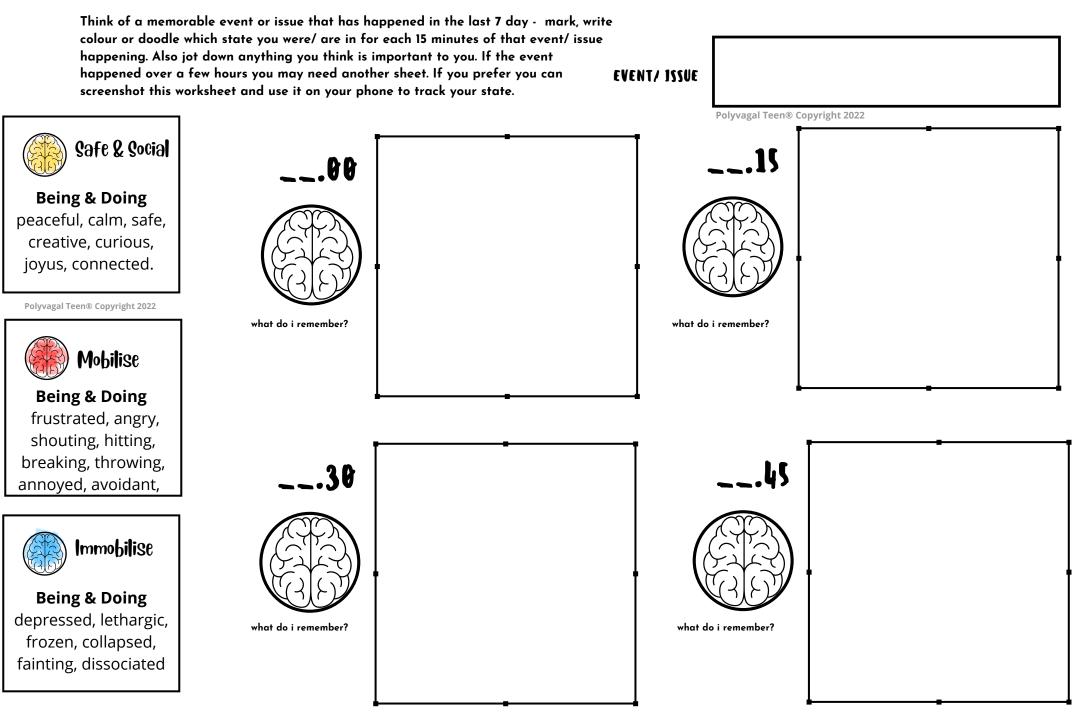
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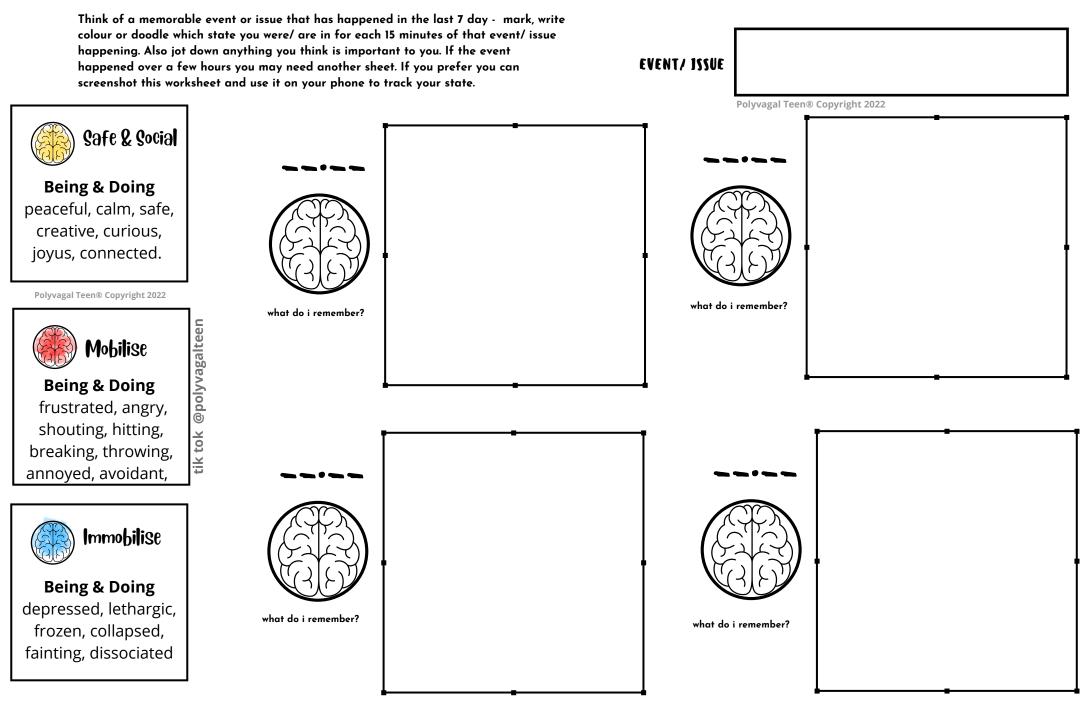
DAILY - MY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER

mark, write or colour which state you were/ are in, this can be done at the end of the day. Add the time if it helps you. If you prefer you can screenshot this worksheet and use it on your phone to track NAME & DATE your state. Polyvagal Teen® Copyright 2022 Safe & Social **Being & Doing** peaceful, calm, safe, creative, curious, joyus, connected. Polyvagal Teen® Copyright 2022 Mobilise **Being & Doing** frustrated, angry, shouting, hitting, breaking, throwing, annoyed, avoidant, Immobilise **YOUR MOST MEMORABLE TIME & WHY? Being & Doing** depressed, lethargic, frozen, collapsed, fainting, dissociated

DRILL DOWN - MY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER



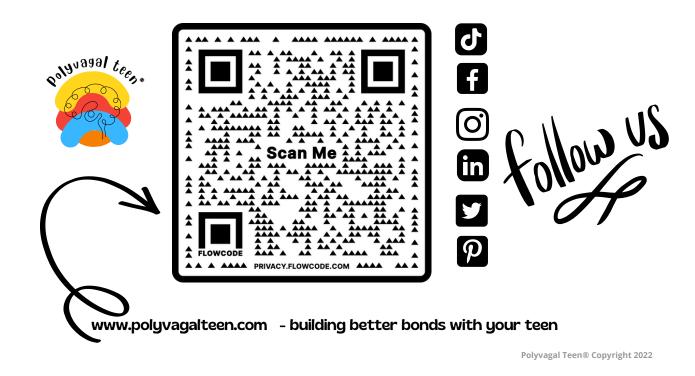
DRILL DOWN - MY POLYVAGAL TEEN® STATES TRACKER

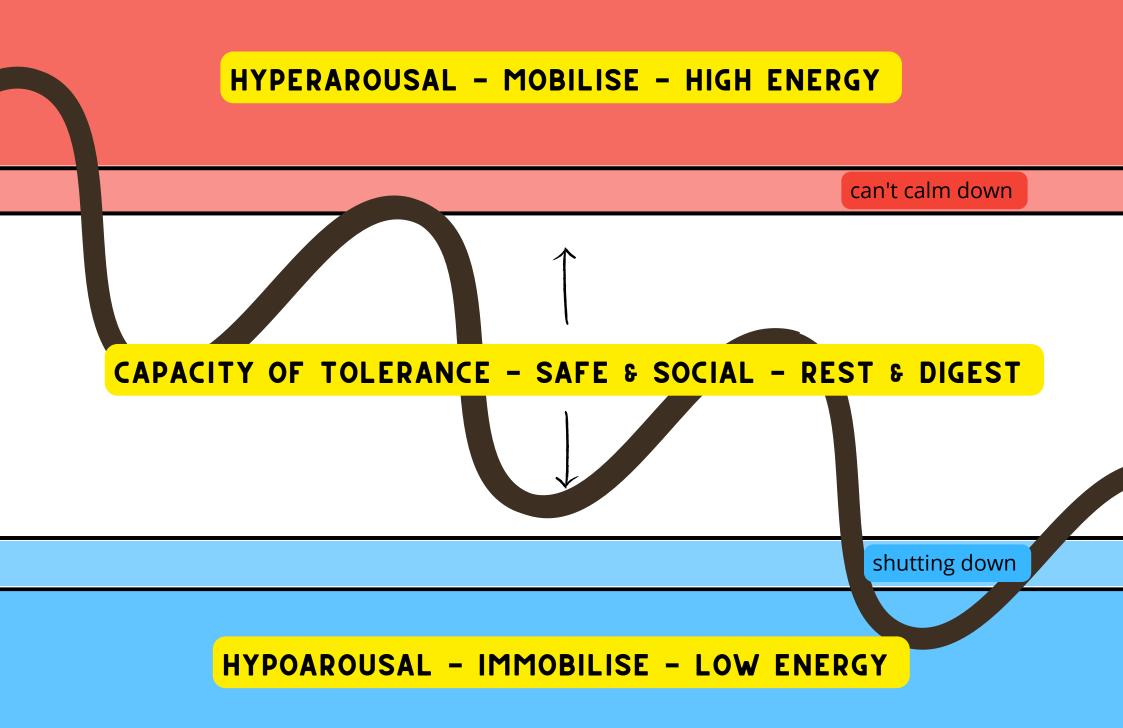


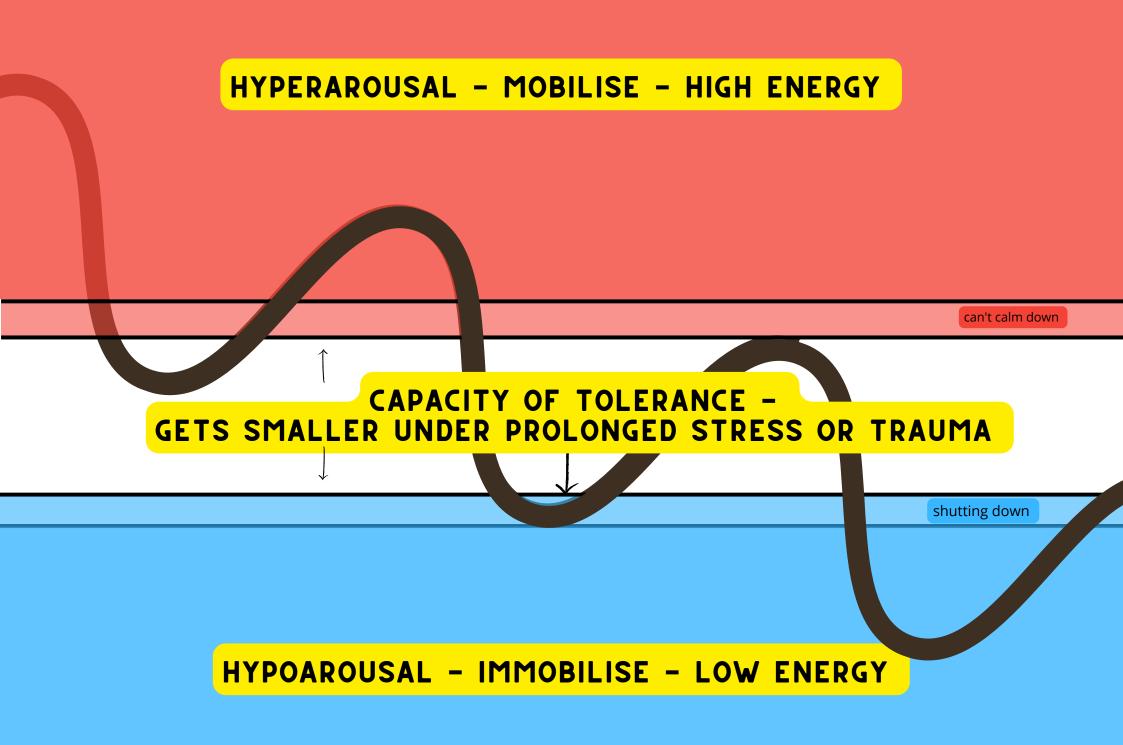


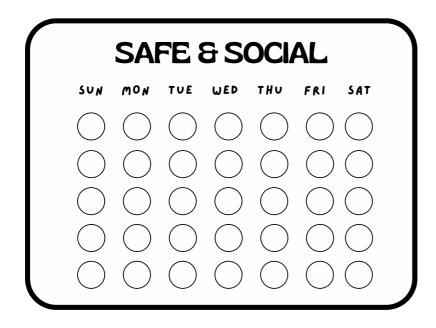
Polyvagal Teen® Tracker Worksheets.

We have a number of resources & tools to support regulation. Take a look at our website for training, online programs, therapy cards, board game, states tracker journal, posters and merch.











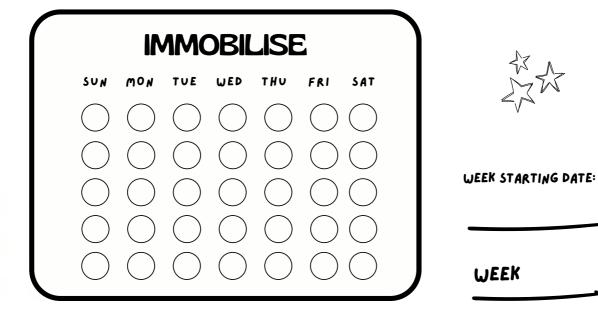
MY STATES TRACKER

Mark any memorable states that you were in for each day. you can use a different or symbol for the different states. It's ok if you Take some time to think about them. we aren't always aware. use the Polyvagal Teen® card deck to help you explore.

MOBILISE

SUN
MON
TUE
WED
THU
FRI
SAT

Image: I



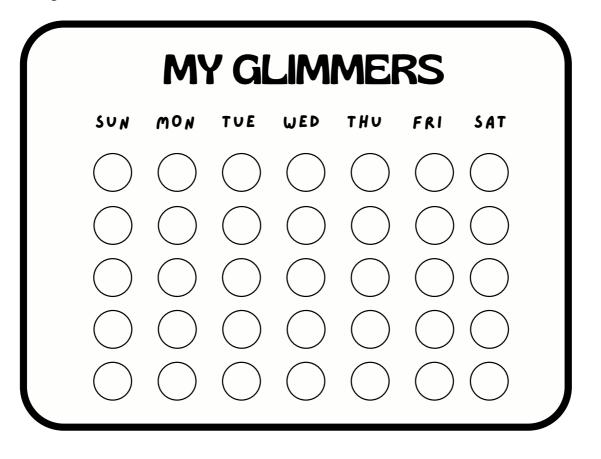


CATCHING GLIMMERS TRACKER

DATE

Practicing catching glimmers can help you become more resilient. so you can bounce back easier when things aren't so great. if you forget you could set an alarm on your phone as a reminder. sometimes we really don't want to catch glimmers - but it can really help your emotional wellbeing. The more you practice the easier it gets! You could also try doing it as a family.

The more glimmers you catch can help you to regulate & improve your mood. there is no right or wrong amount to catch glimmers - whatever is comfortable for you. just mark down whenever you catch a glimmer.

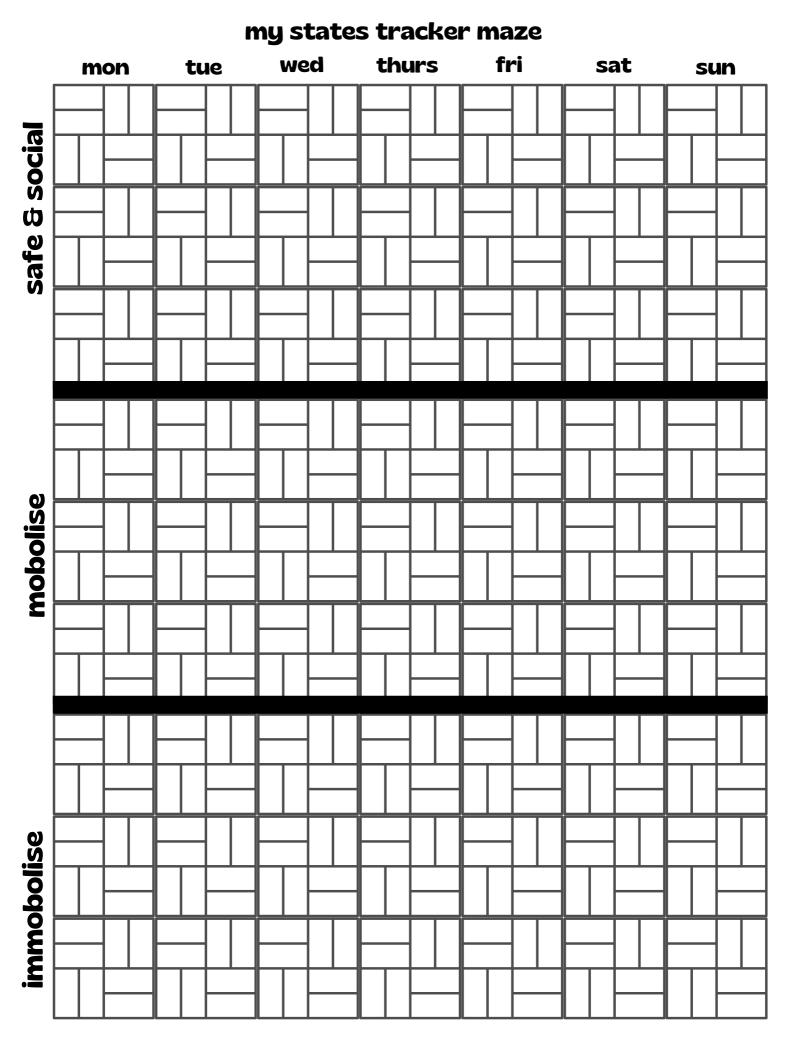


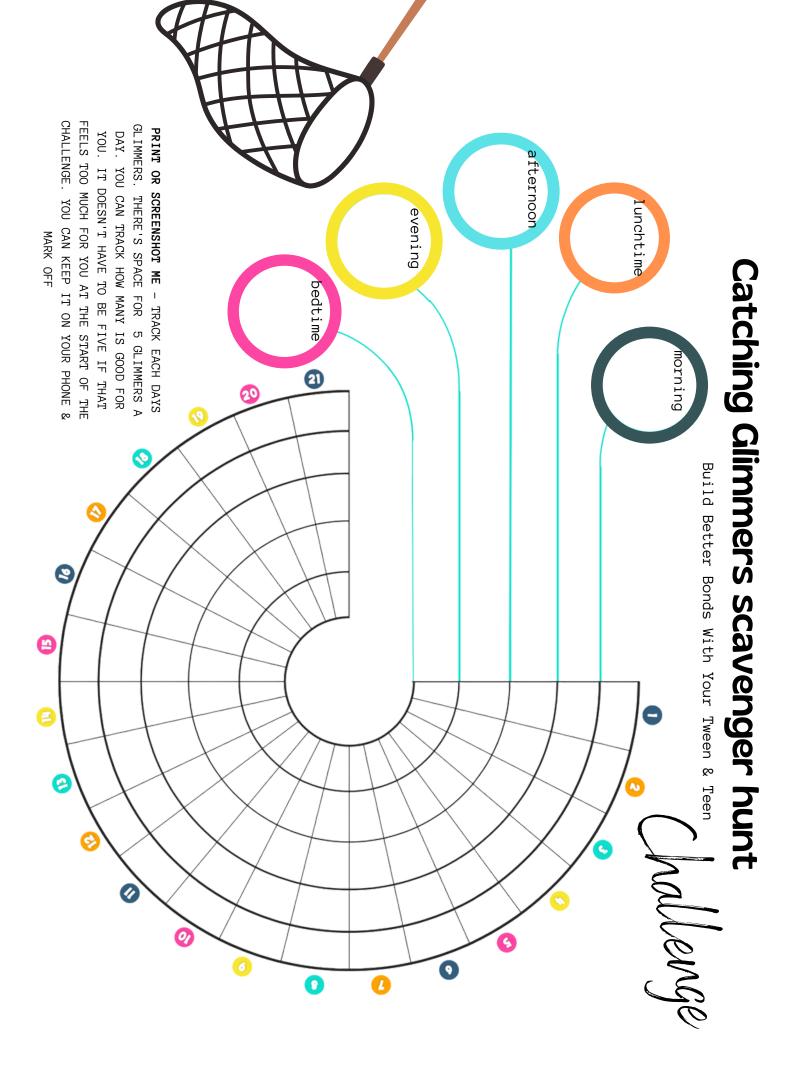
MY BEST GLIMMER OF THE WEEK WAS:

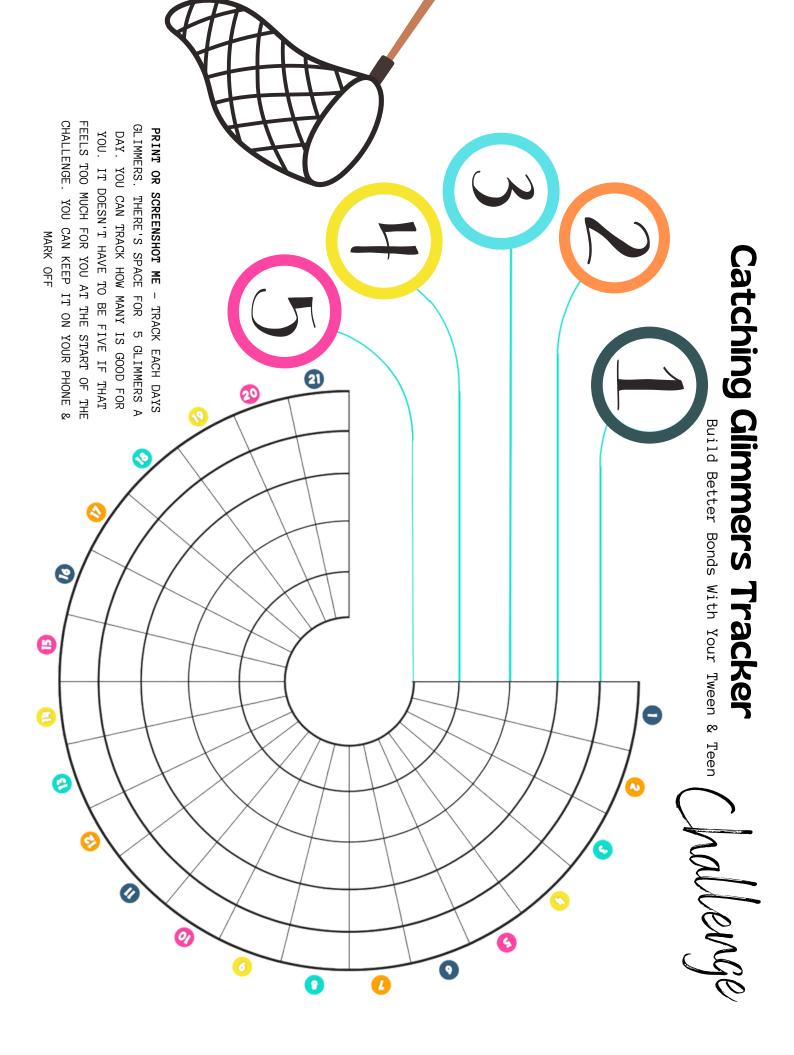


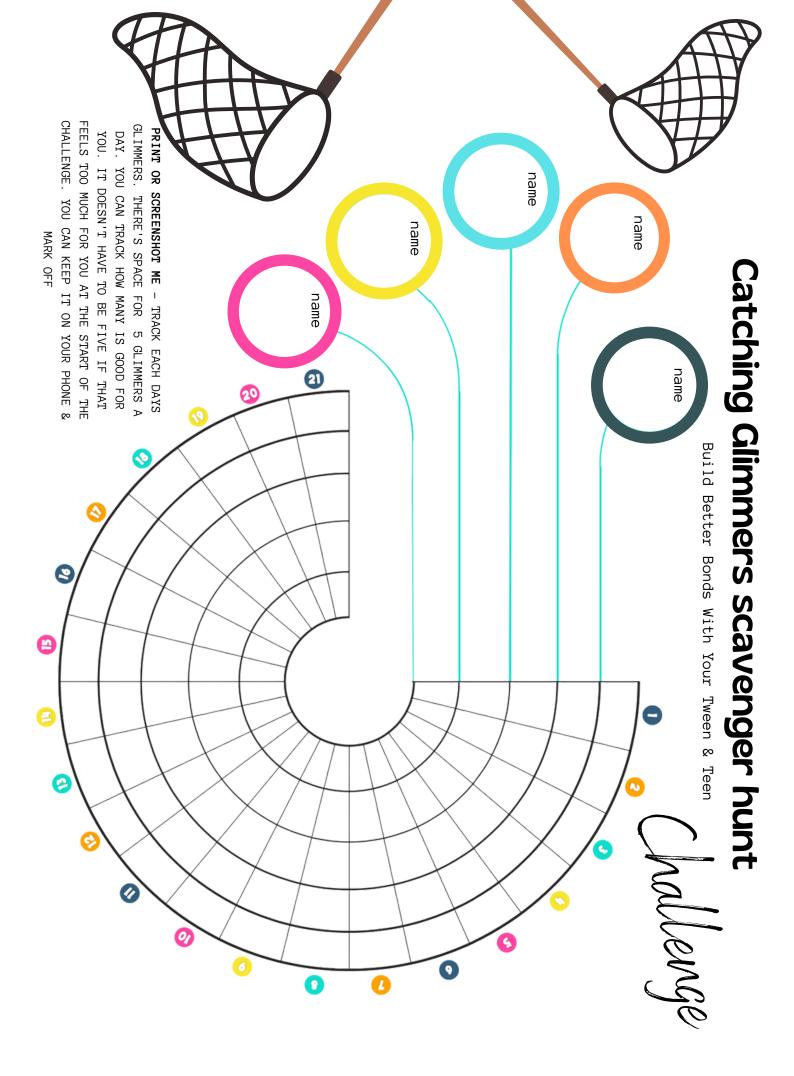
safe & social mobolise immobolise

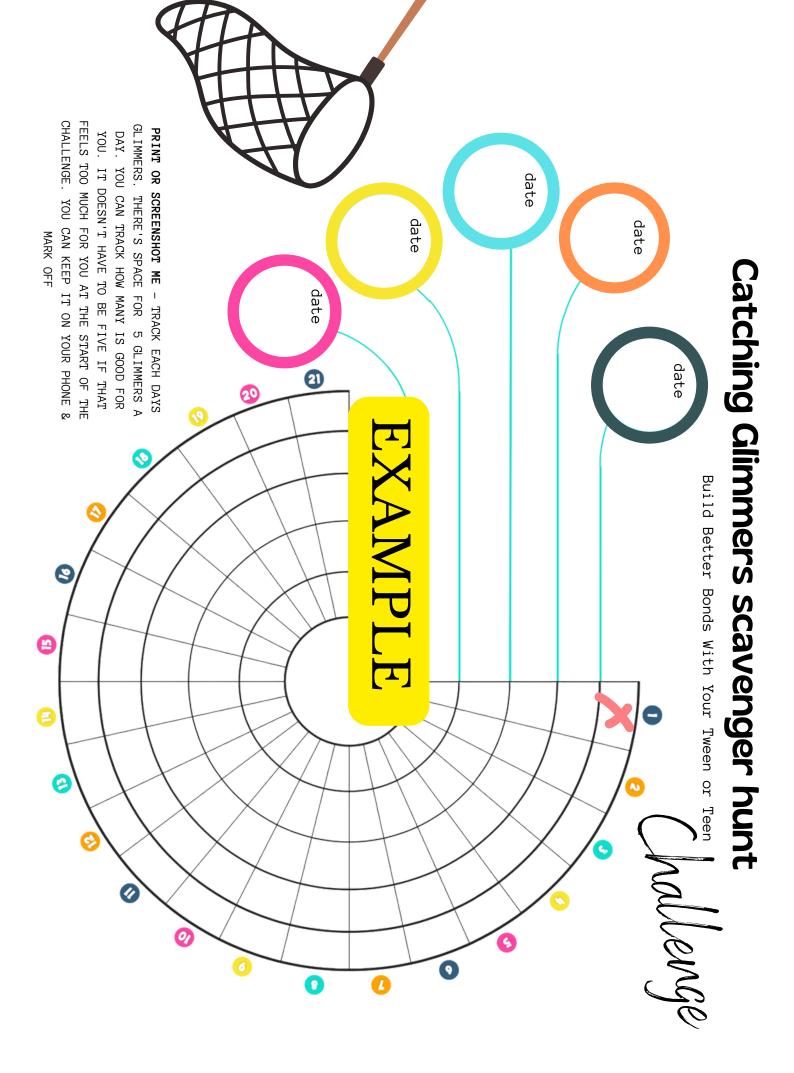
my states tracker maze

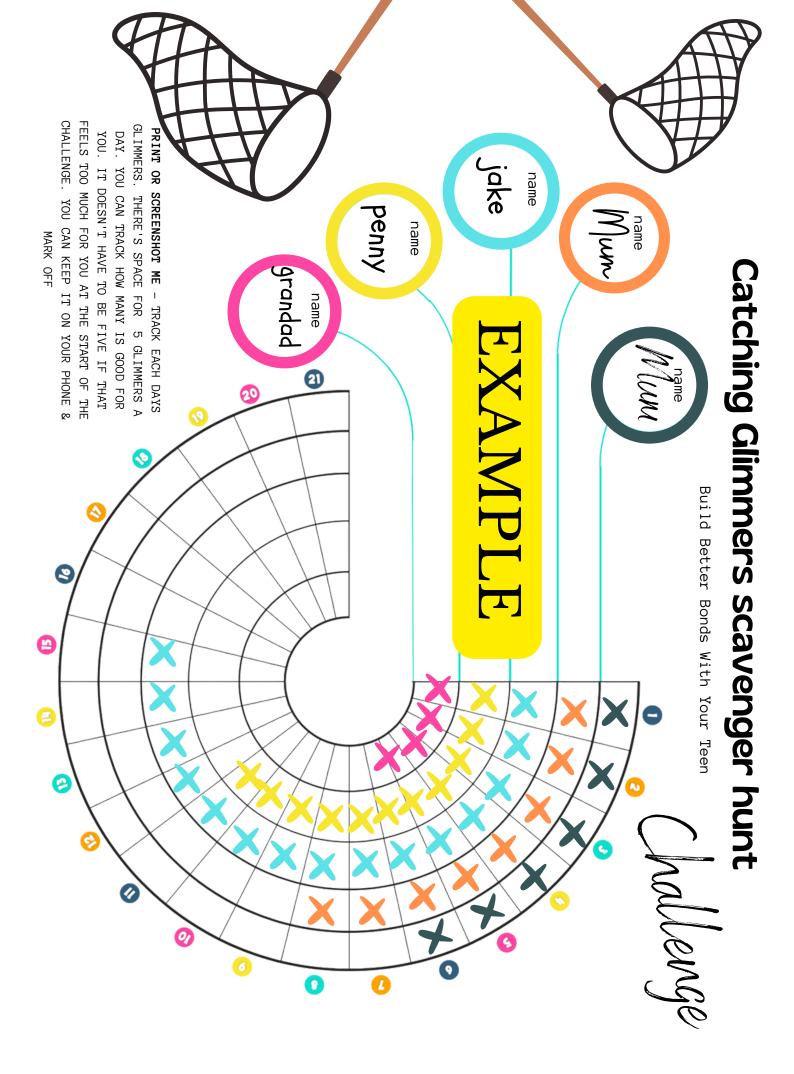












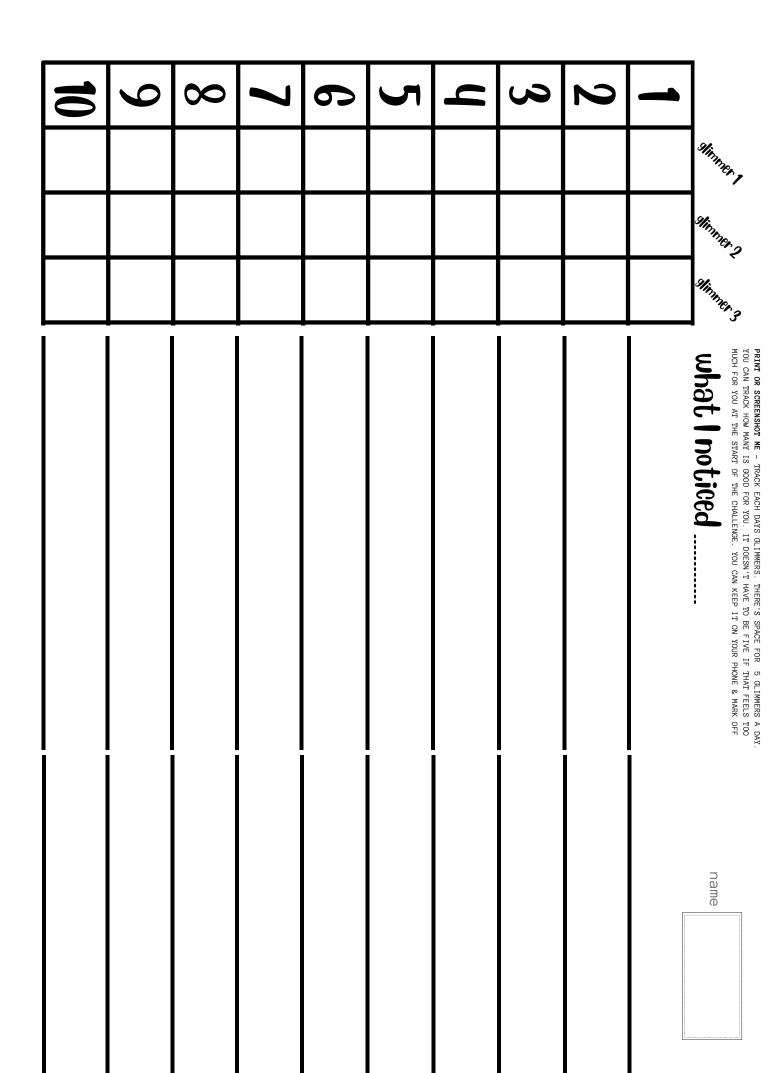
21 DAY CLIMMERS TRACKER

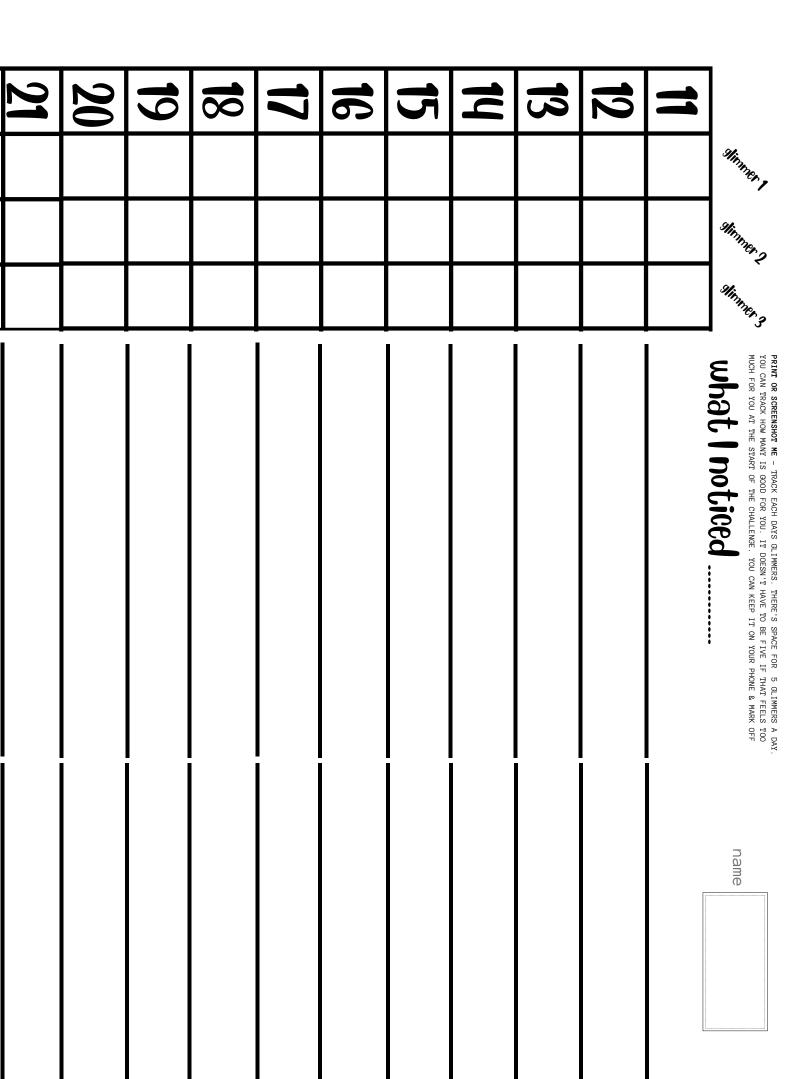
name

	1	2	3	Ч	56	6	7	8	9	10
glimmer 1										
glimmer 2										
glimmer 3										
glimmer Y										

	11	11 12 13	13	15	16	17	8	19	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	21
glimmer 1										
glimmer 2										
glimmer 3										
glimmer 4										

PRINT OR SCREENSHOT ME - TRACK EACH DAYS GLIMMERS. THERE'S SPACE FOR 5 GLIMMERS A DAY. YOU CAN TRACK HOW MANY IS GOOD FOR YOU. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FIVE IF THAT FEELS TOO MUCH FOR YOU AT THE START OF THE CHALLENGE. YOU CAN KEEP IT ON YOUR PHONE & MARK OFF

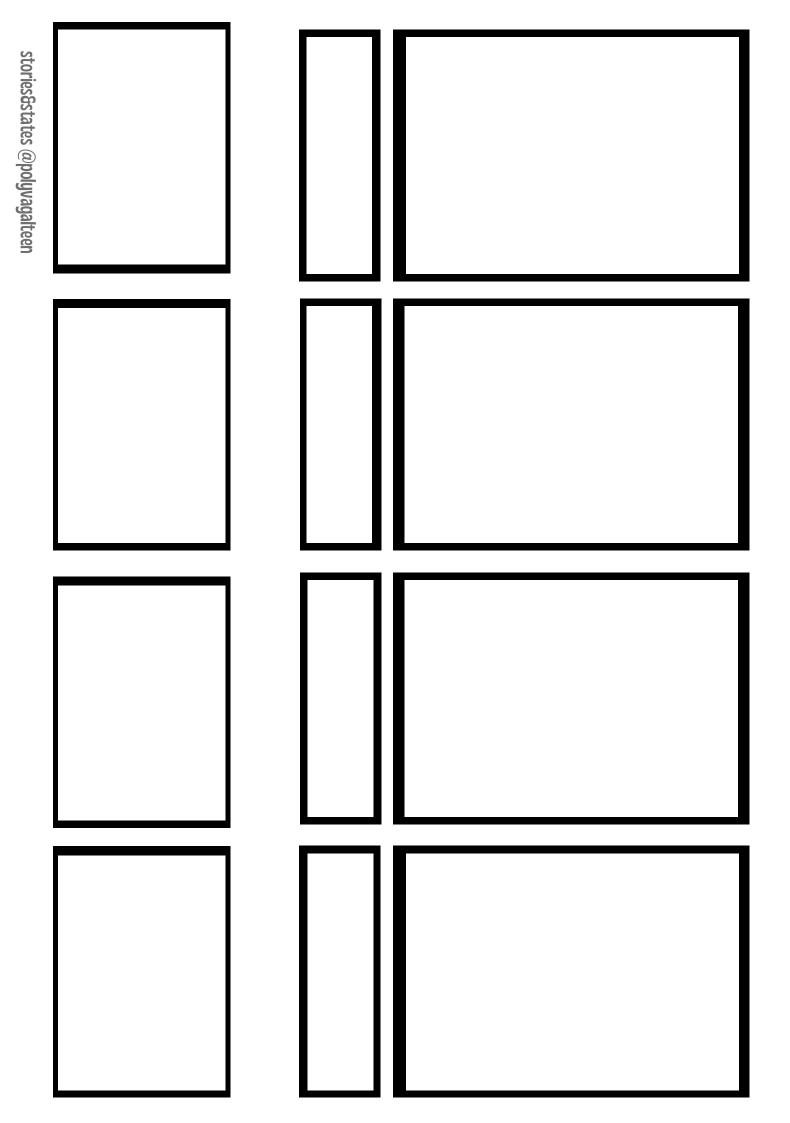


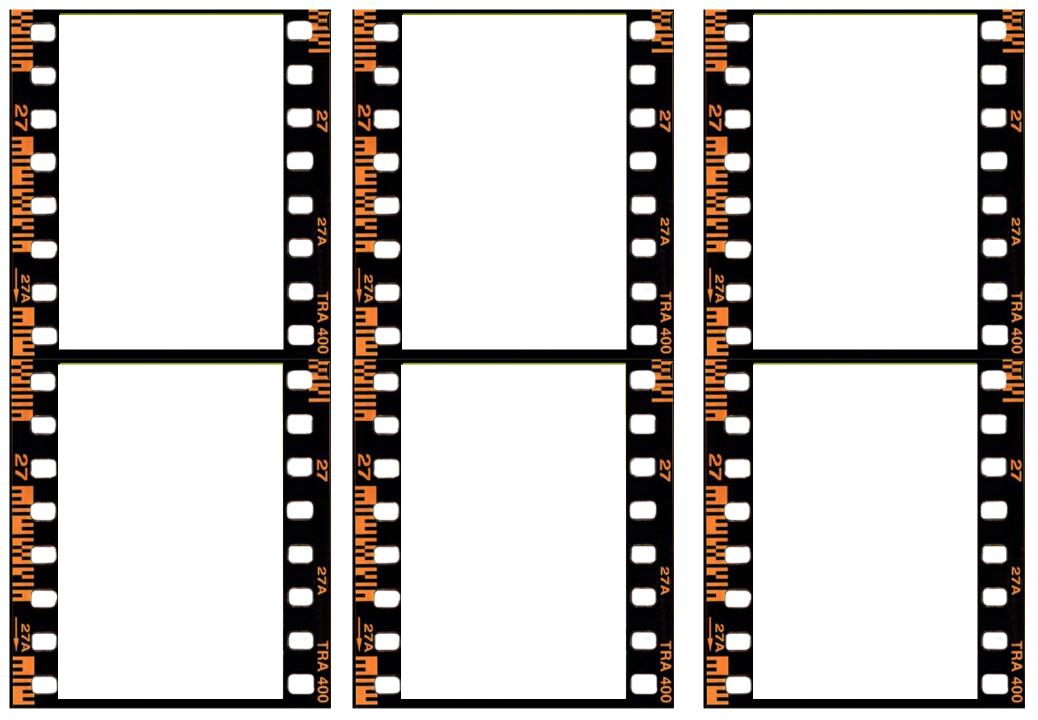


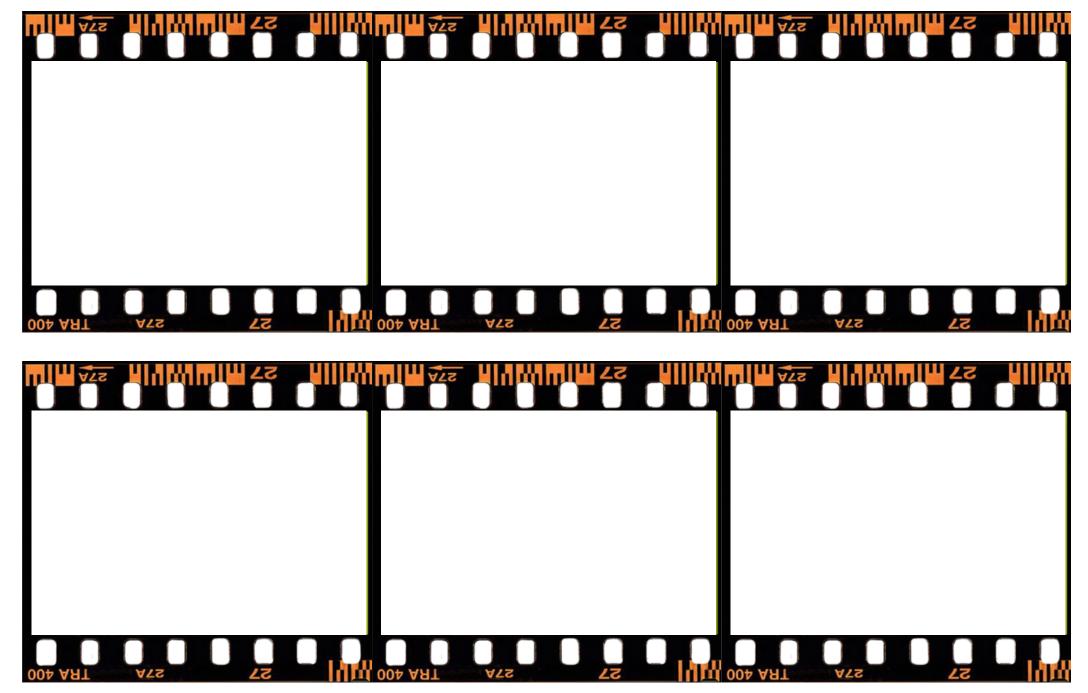
Dr Stephen Porges Polyvagal Theory Tells Us - "State Creates Story"

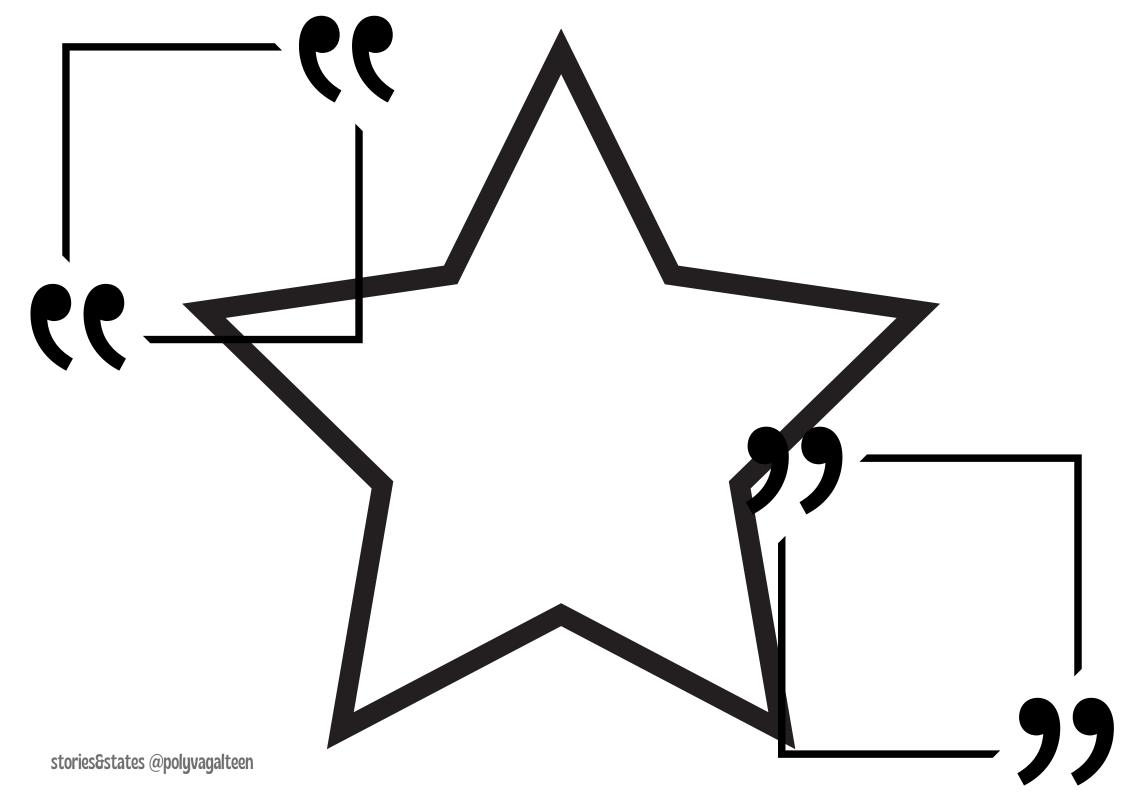
these different worksheets can be used alongside the Polyvagal Teen® track & cards to map out the stories we create.

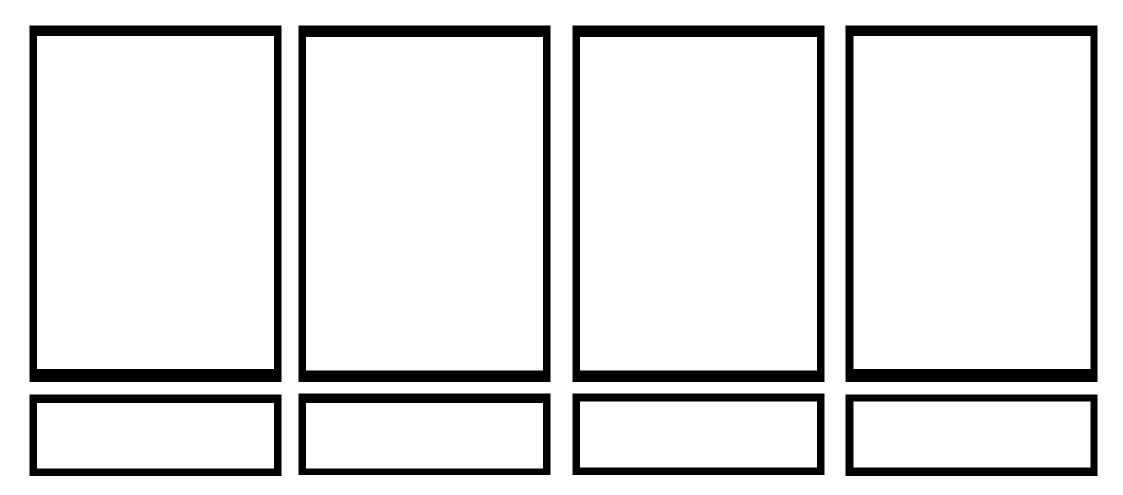
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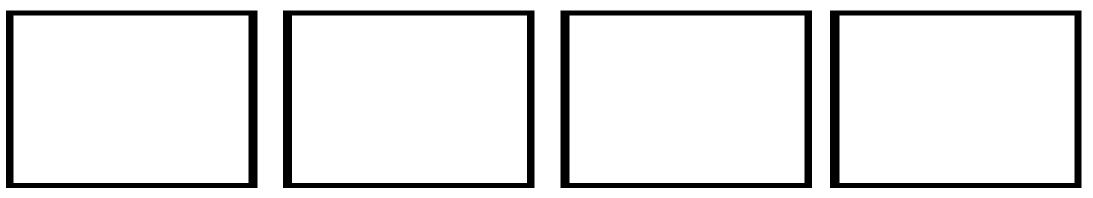


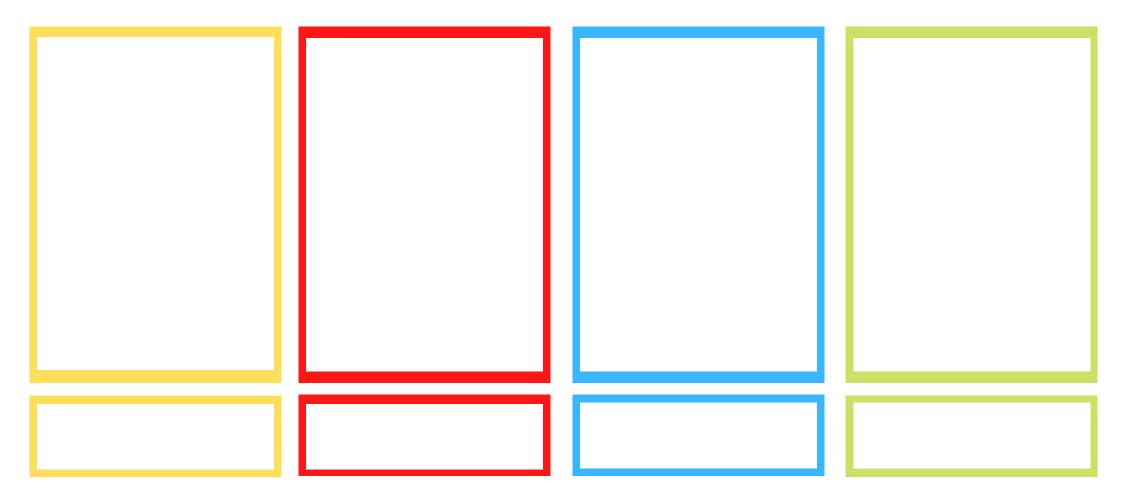


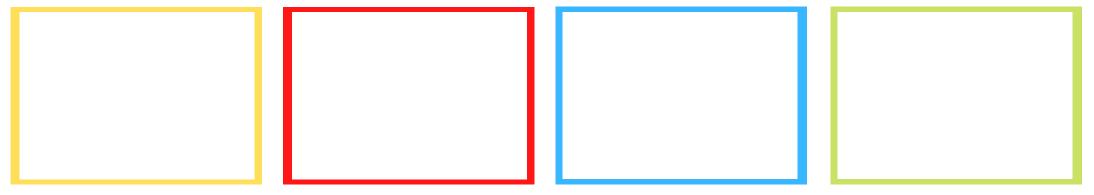




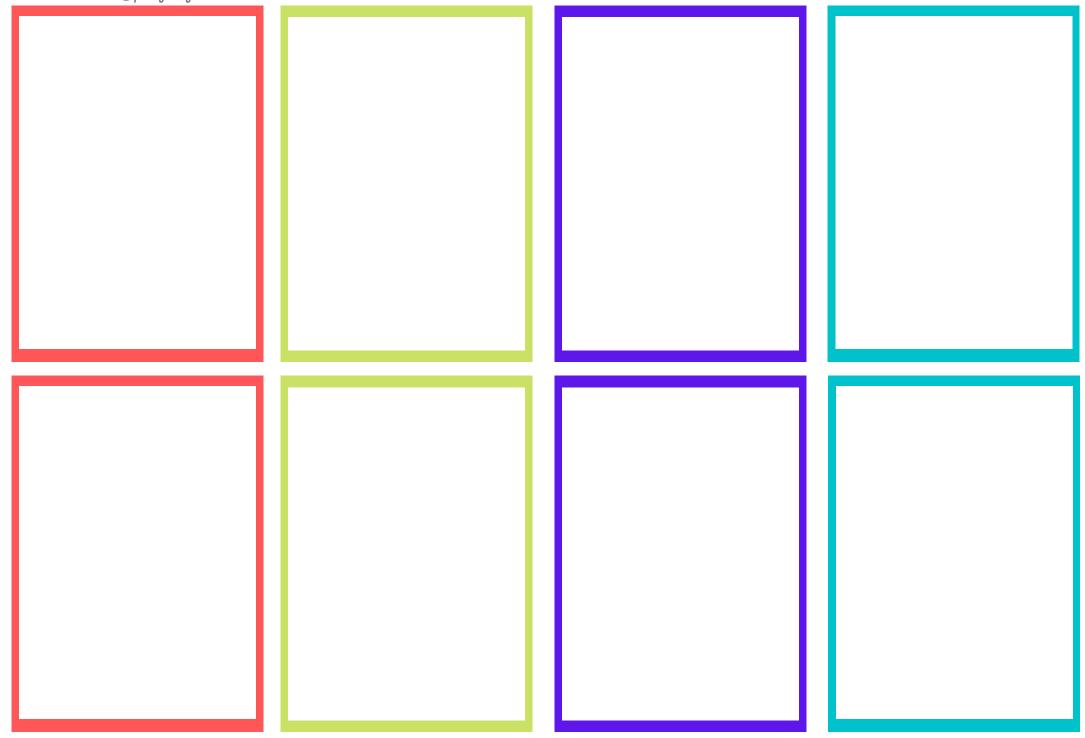


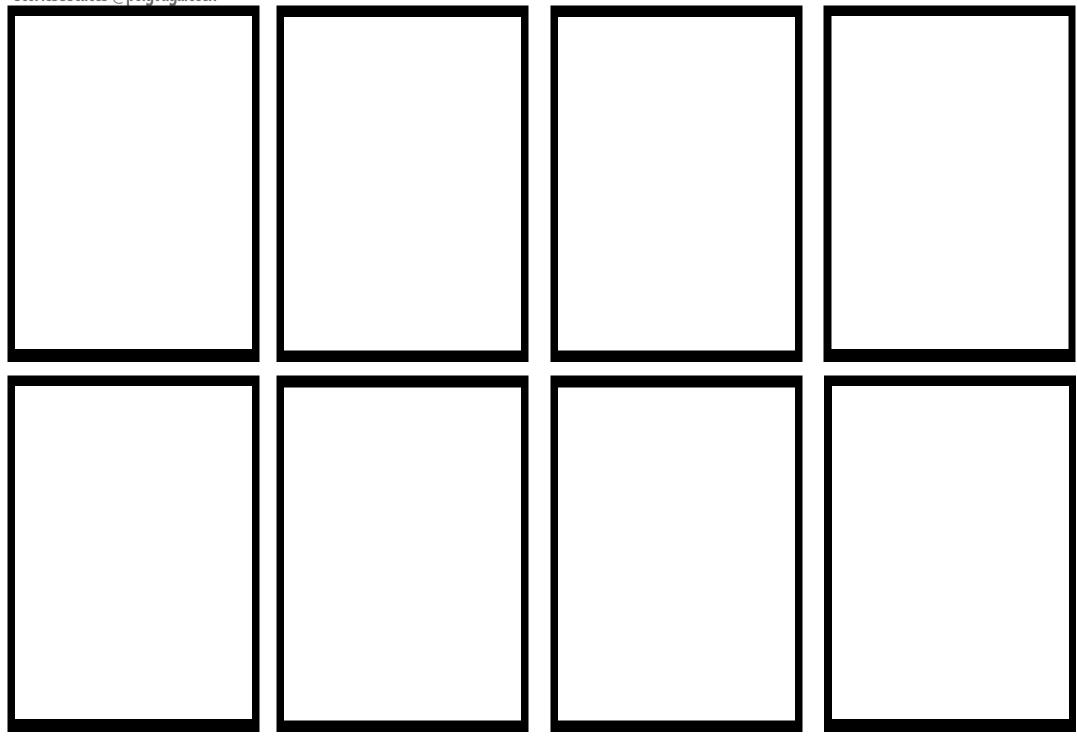


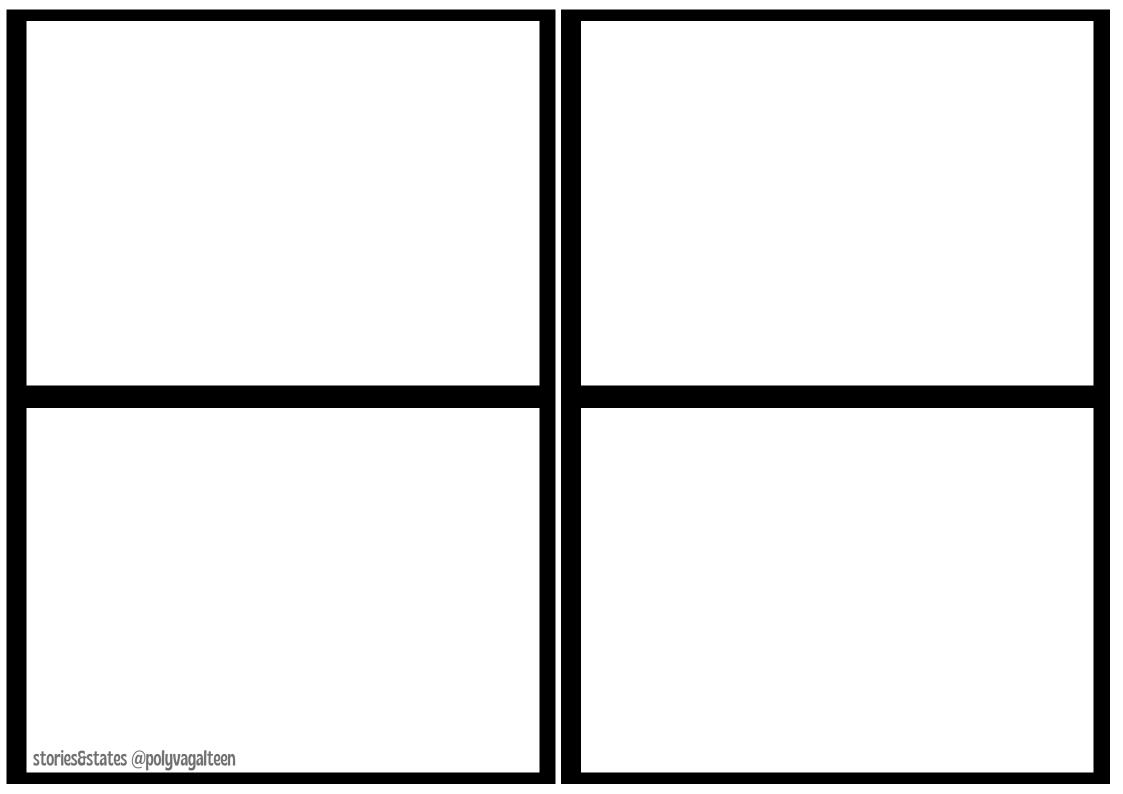


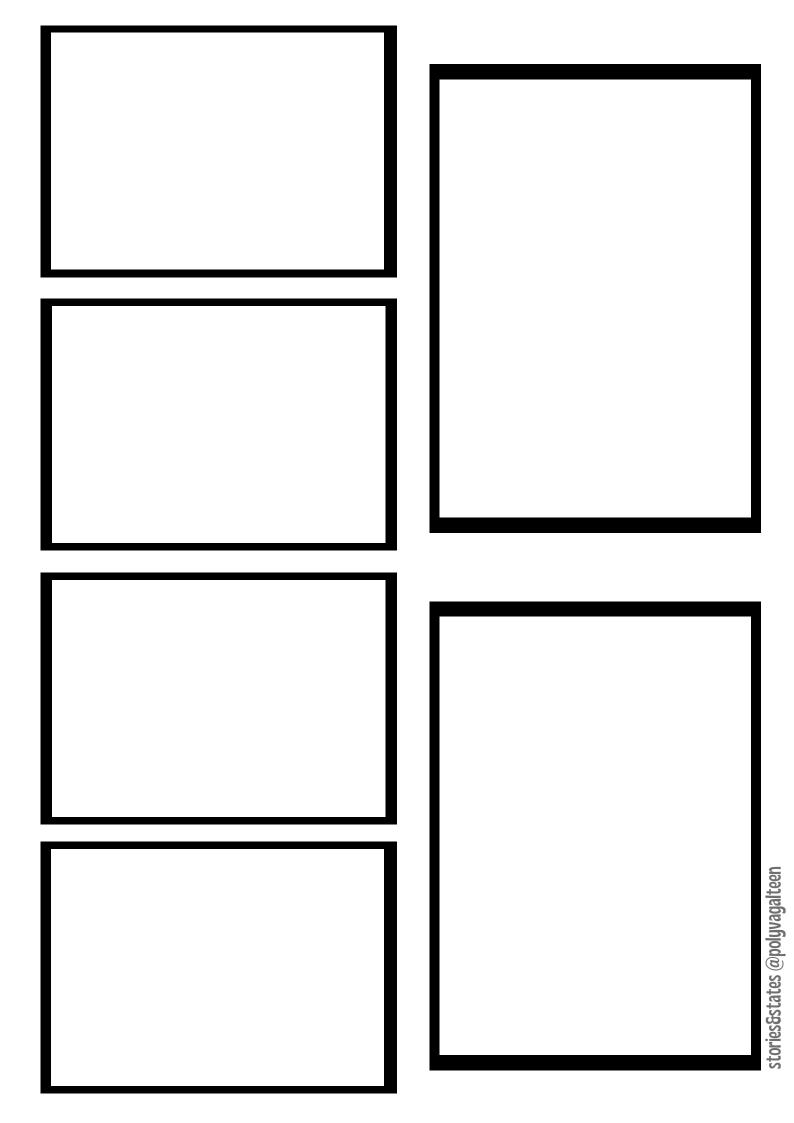


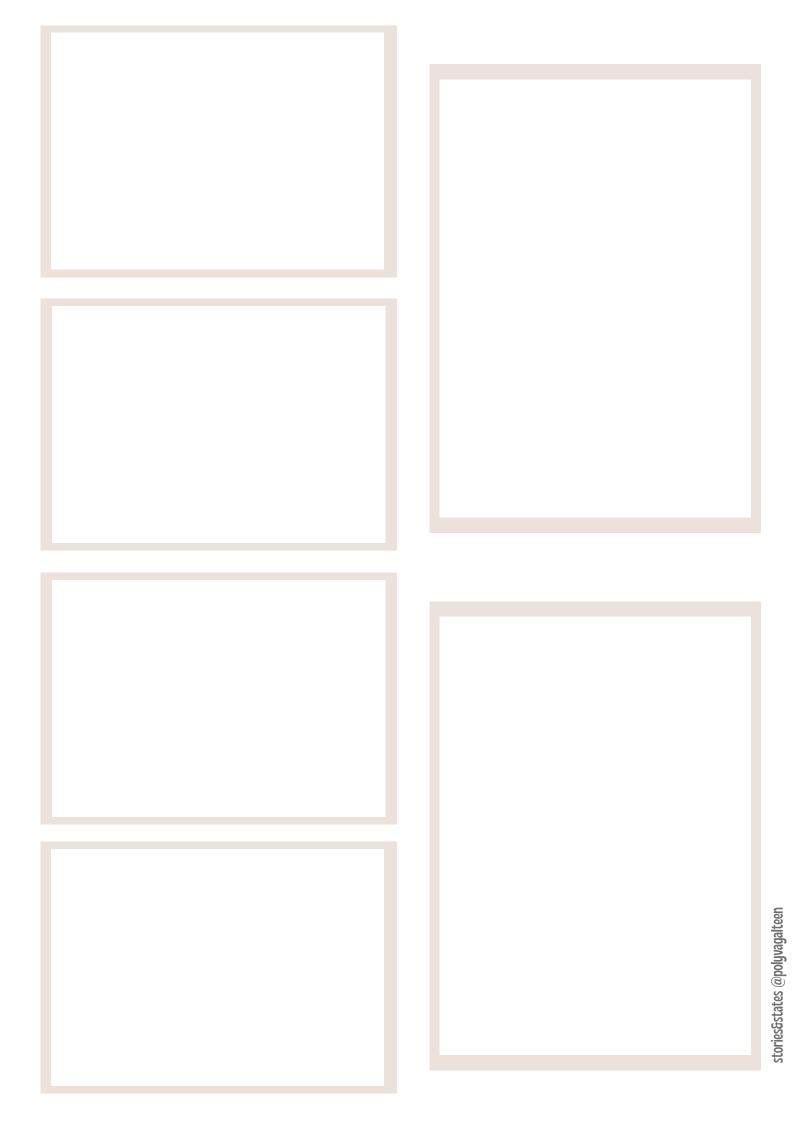
stories&states @polyvagalteen

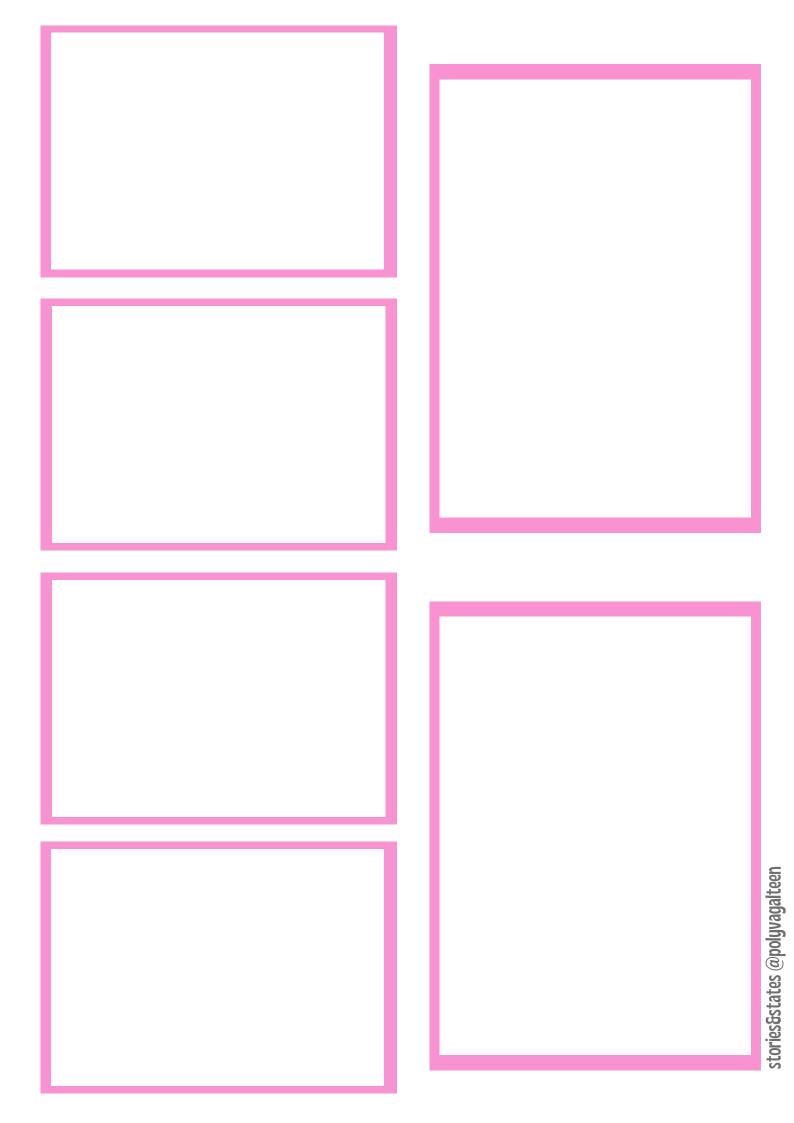


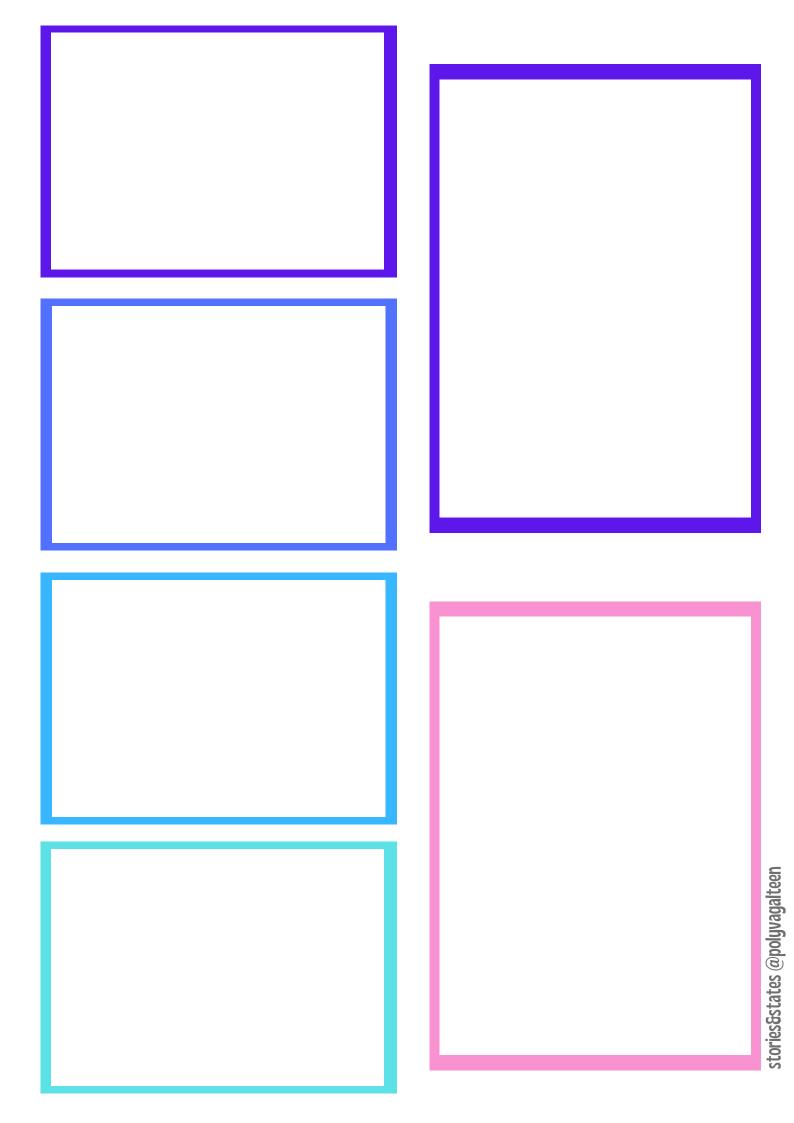


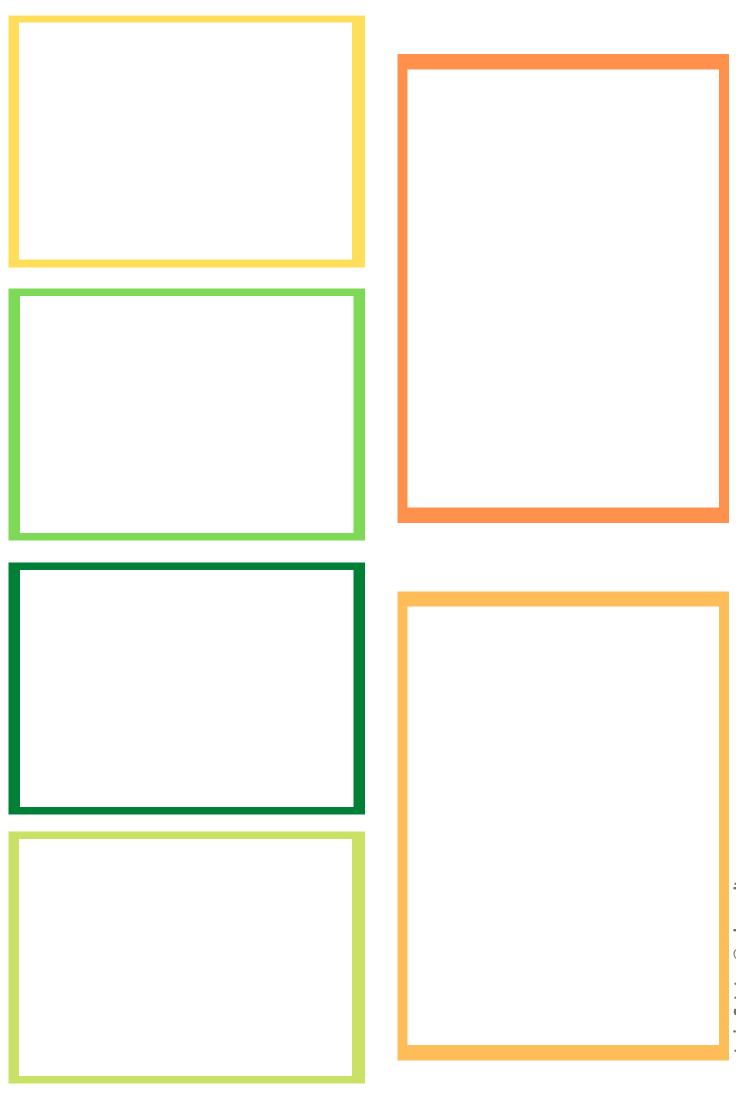


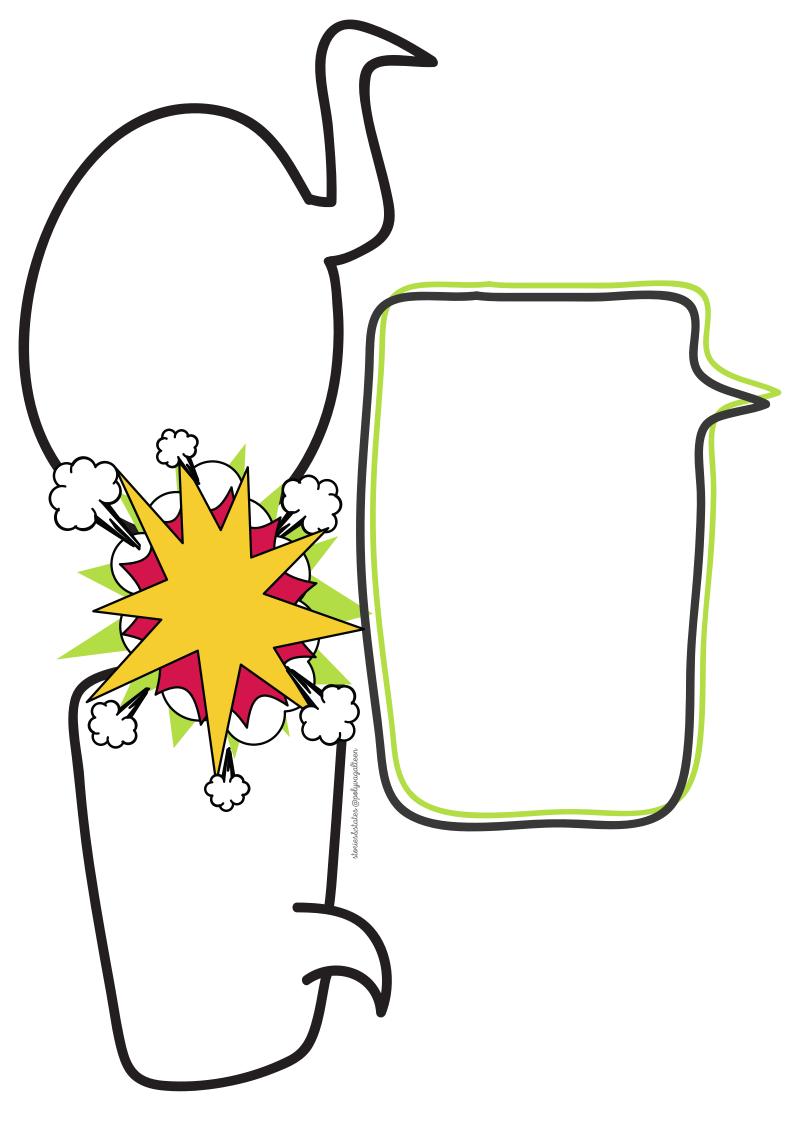


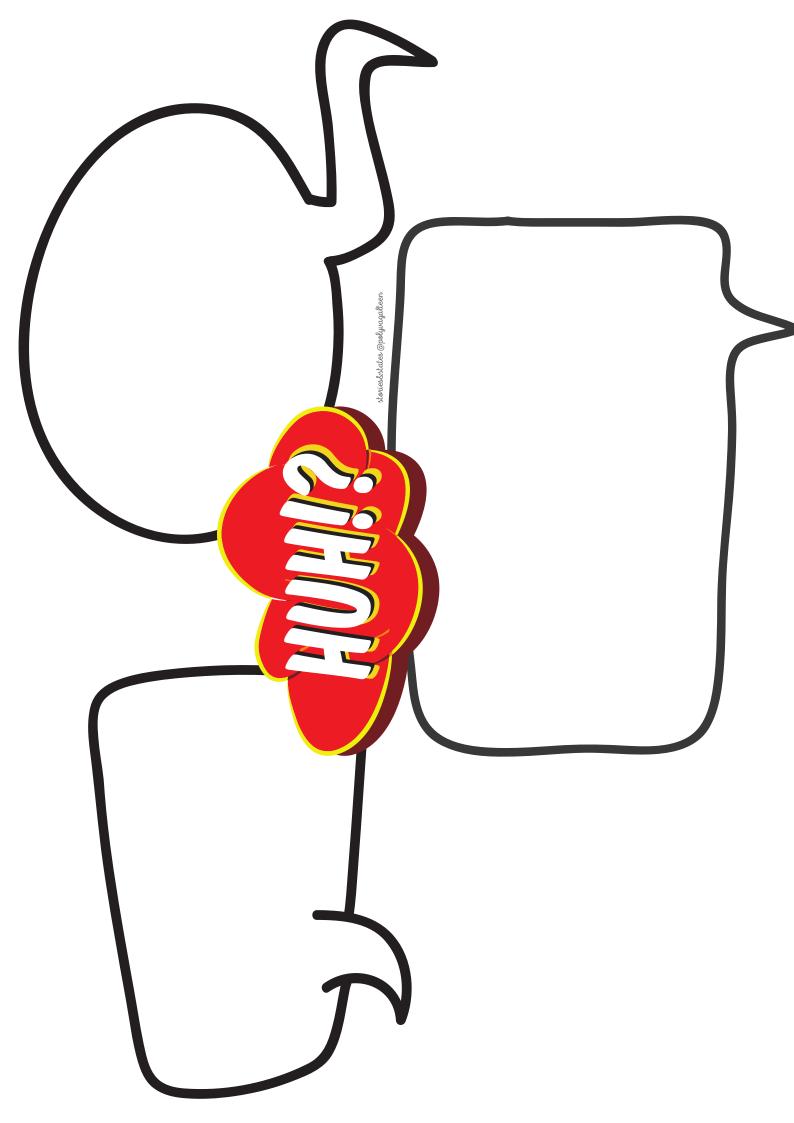


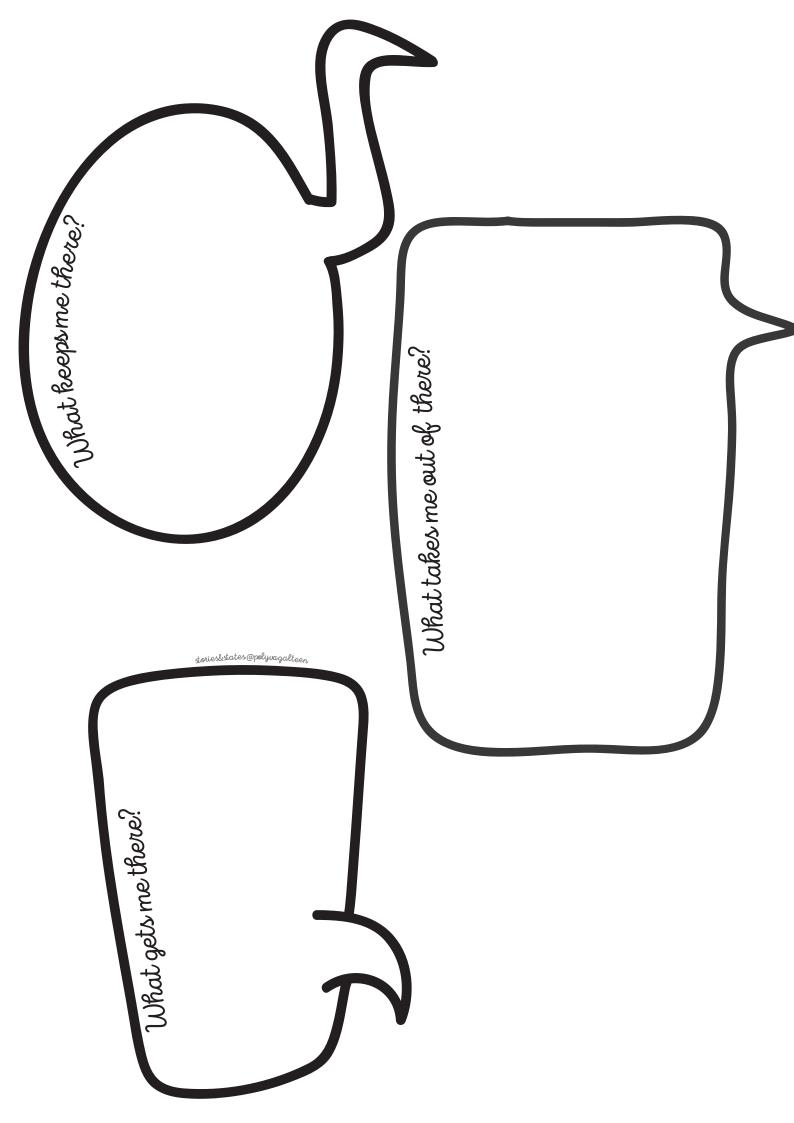


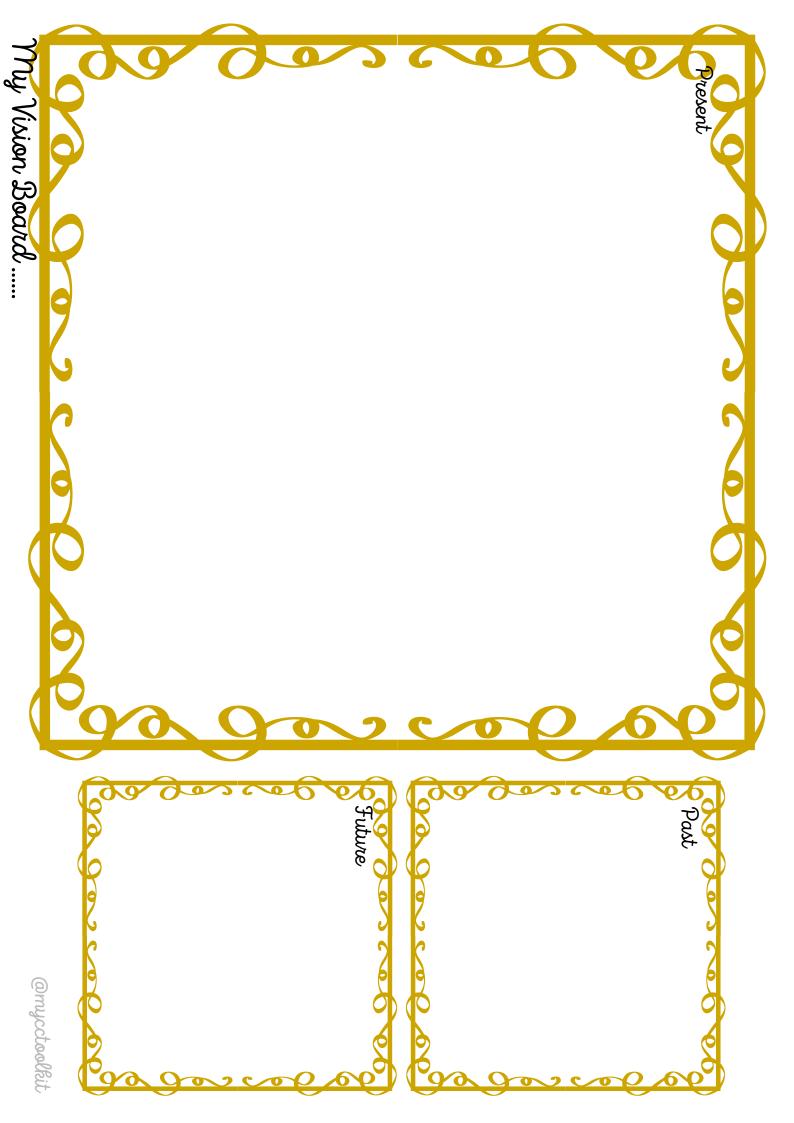






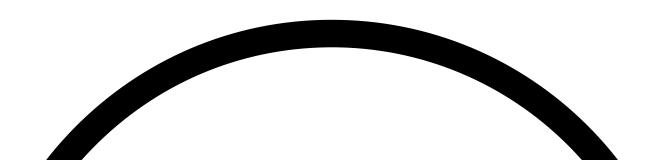


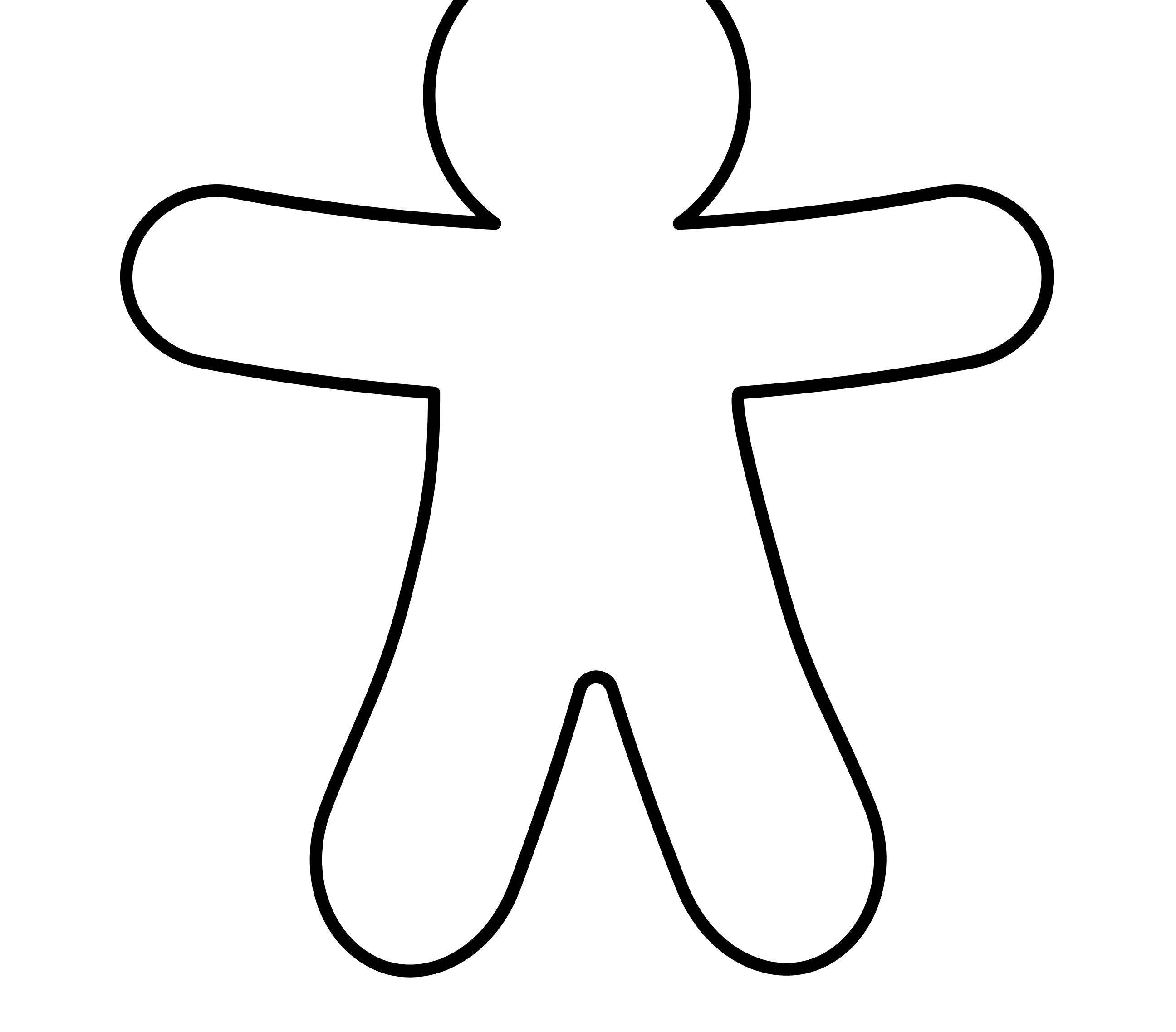




J Vision Board			
@mycctoolkit	भूम 	Ţ	Past
	Future	Present	ast

SENSATIONS & MY BODY





COLOUR/ DOODLE/ SCRIBBLE TO SHOW DIFFERENT SENSATIONS INSIDE & OUTSIDE - FEEL FREE TO USE DIFFERENT COLOURS & TEXTURE

SENSATIONS IN MY BODY?

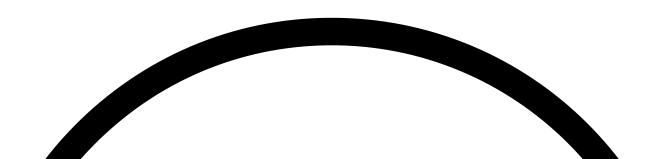
ELECTRICFLEXIBLEINTENSESLUSHYCOSYICYPUFFYFOGGY

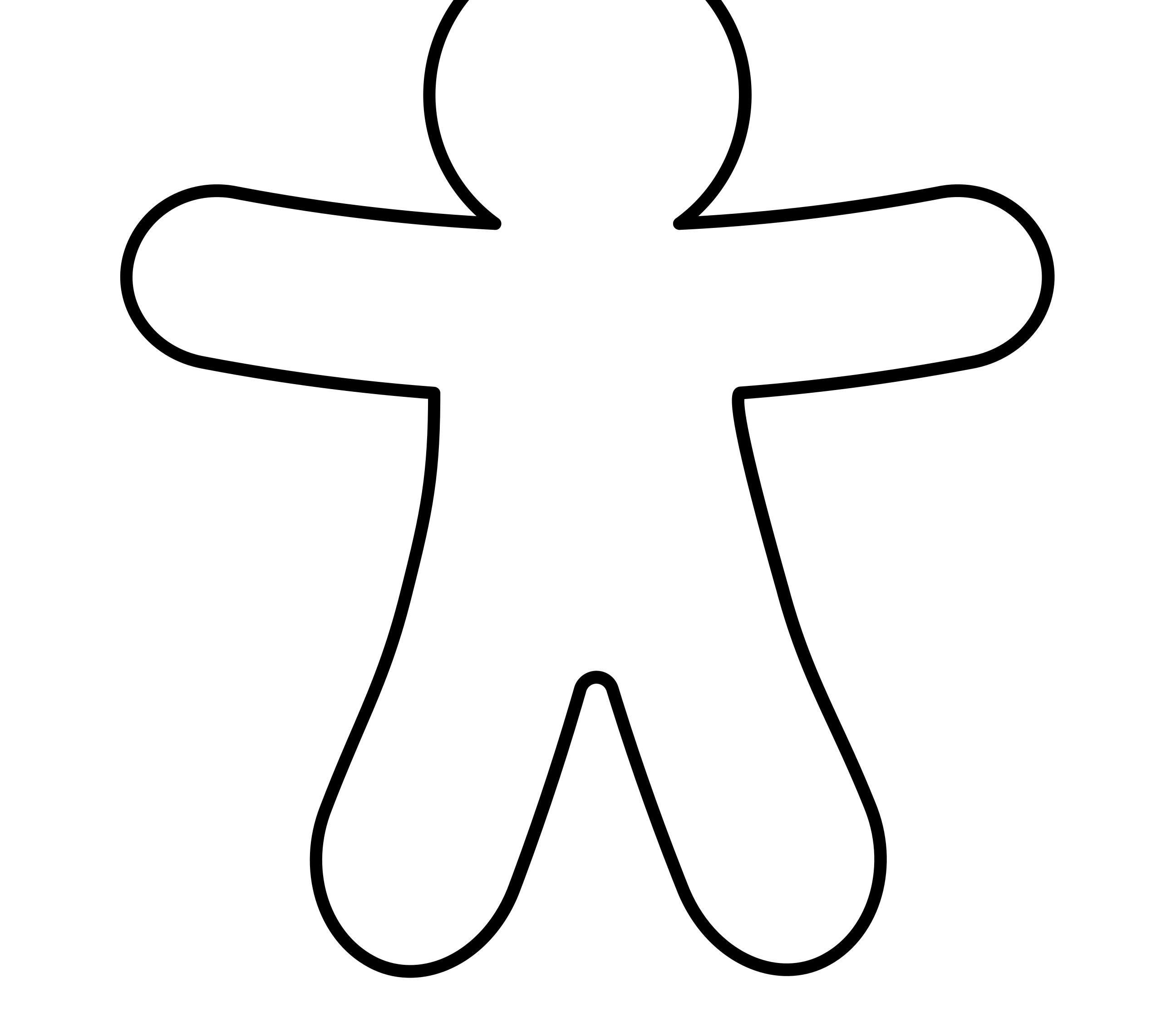
FLUFFY FLOATY ELASTIC POINTY BOUNCY PRICKLY CREAKY SQUIDGY SQISHY TOXIC BURNING TICKLY RAW JUMBLY STRETCHY FIREY KNOTTED TWITCH THROBBING KICK FUZZY ITCHY SHIMMERY FLUTTERY FLOWING STICKY BUZZY STILL BUBBLY SPONGY FEATHERY BUZZY

FLIMSY MELTING STEELY PINCHING

IF I FEEL UNSAFE ... MY BODY LETS ME KNOW

FEELINGS & MY BODY





COLOUR/ DOODLE/ SCRIBBLE TO SHOW DIFFERENT FEELINGS INSIDE & OUTSIDE - FEEL FREE TO USE DIFFERENT COLOURS & TEXTURE IF YOU WANT TO

WHAT DO I FEEL IN MY BODY?

TENSE SHOULDERS DIZZINESS SHAKING HEADACHE

STOMACH ACHE BACK PAIN FEEL NUMB TINGLING KICKING LEG RED FACE BURNING MEMORY BLANK

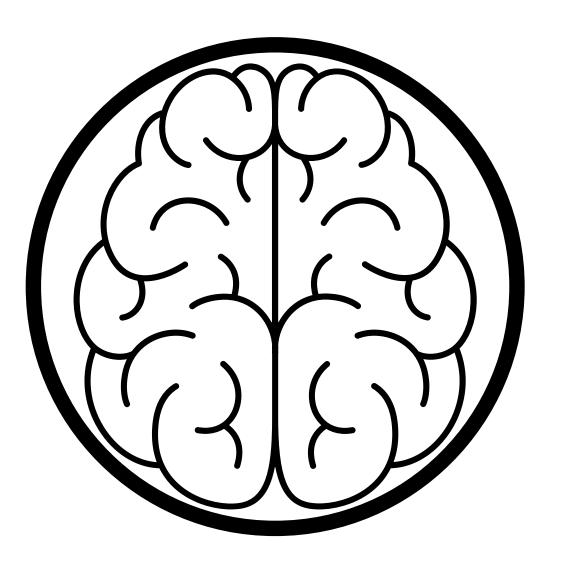
MIGRAINE STUTTERING STAMMERING SWEATY PALMS FEEL SICK TIGHT CHEST WOBBLY & DIZZY BLURRY VISION

BREATHING HARDER & FASTER NEED THE LOO

IF I FEEL UNSAFE ... MY BODY LETS ME KNOW

WHAT HAPPENED/ ISSUE / CONCERN

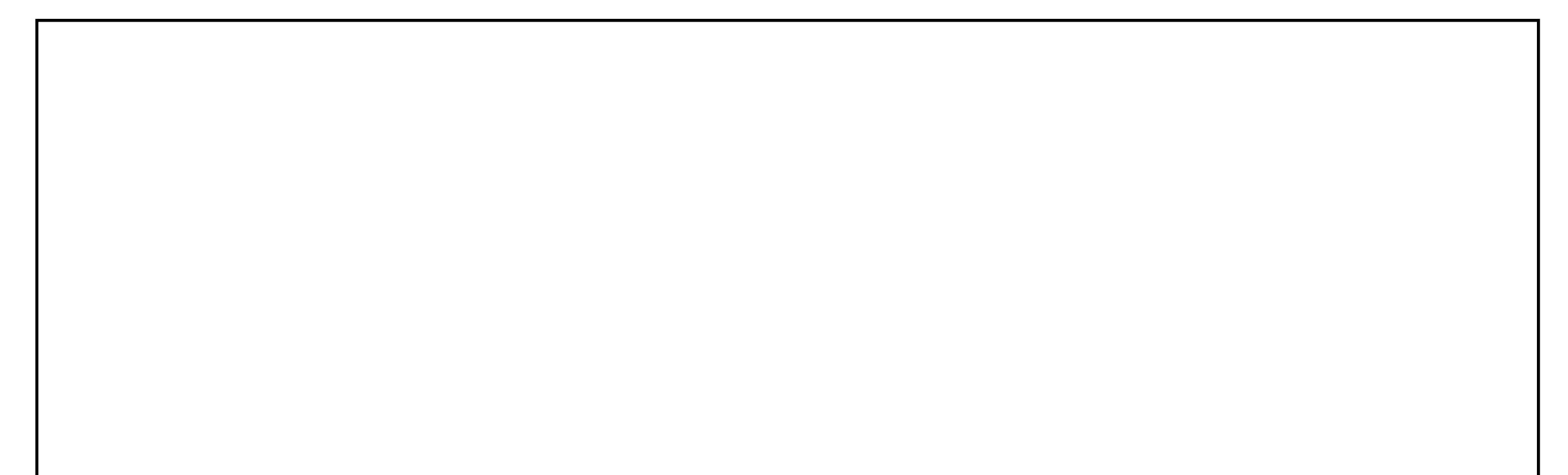
STATE



WHAT GETS ME HERE?

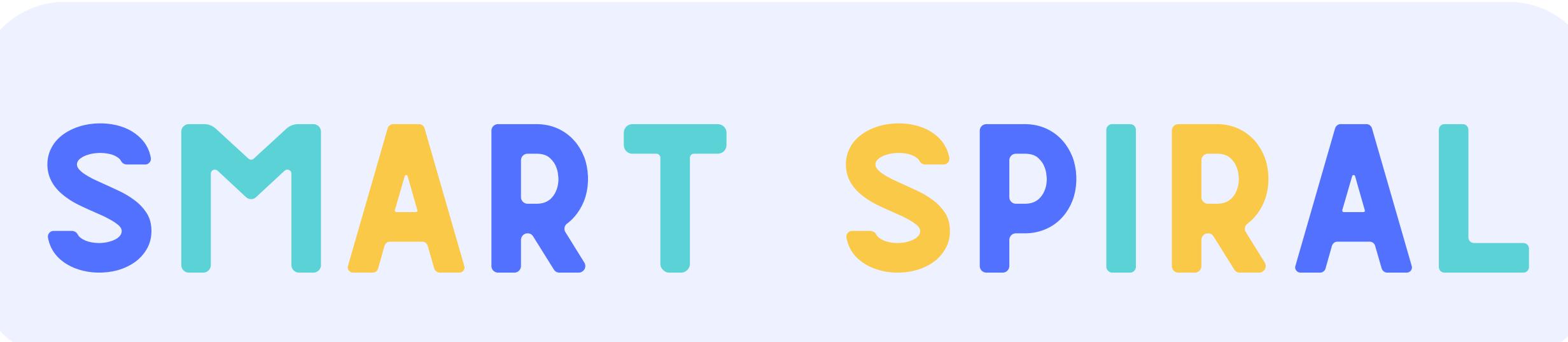


WHAT KEEPS ME HERE?

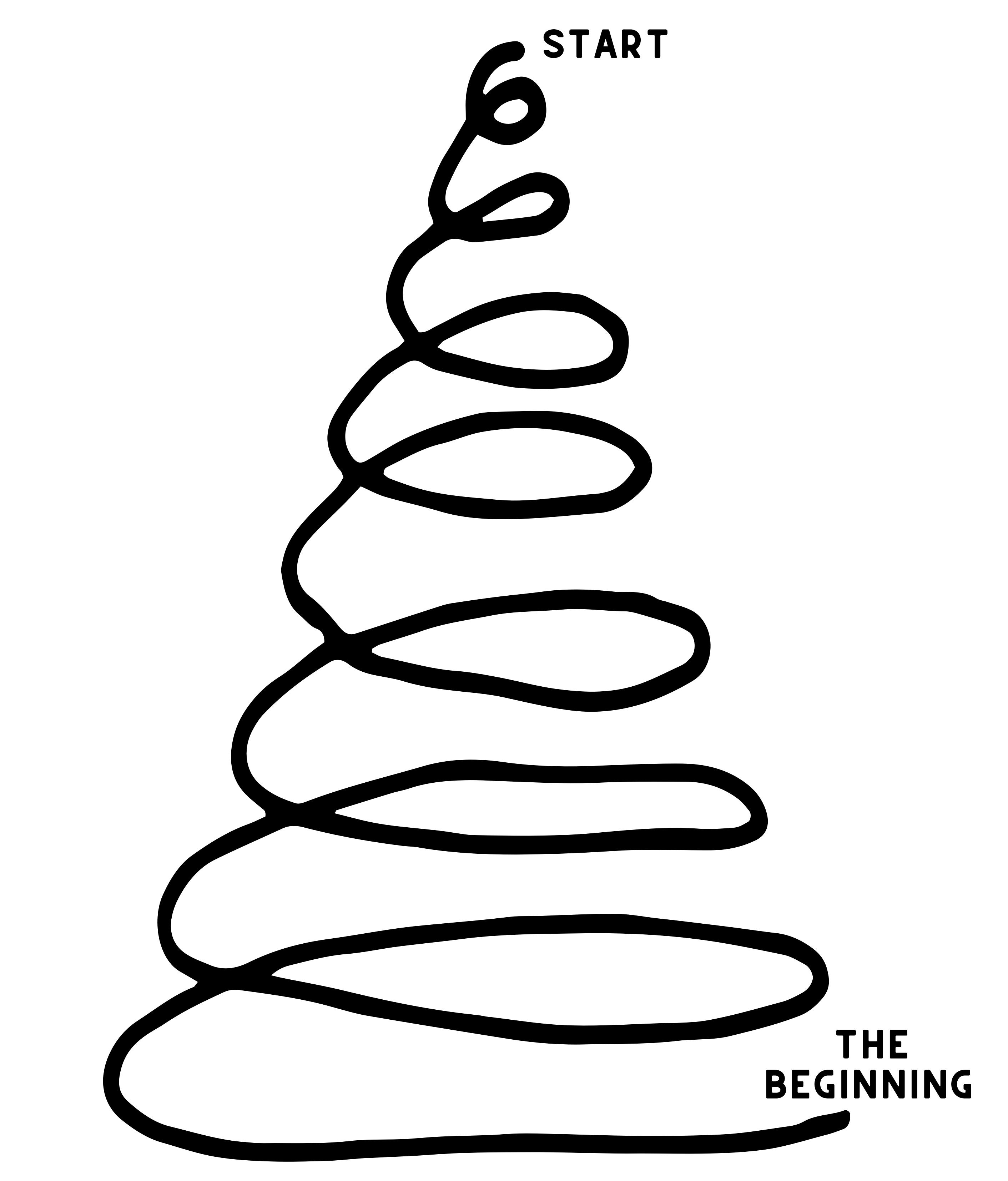


WHAT TAKES ME OUT OF HERE?





THE CAPACITY SPIRAL



WIDENING OF THE CAPACITY OF TOLERANCE

Adapted From The SMART SPIRAL Copyright Polyvagal Teen® 2022 www.polyvagalteen.com

ATTACHMENT THEORIES INFANTS

The lasting psychological connectedness between human beings. In infants, this is between a child and primary caregiver.



SECURE

Child becomes distressed when parent leaves, but is easily comforted when the parent returns.



AVOIDANT

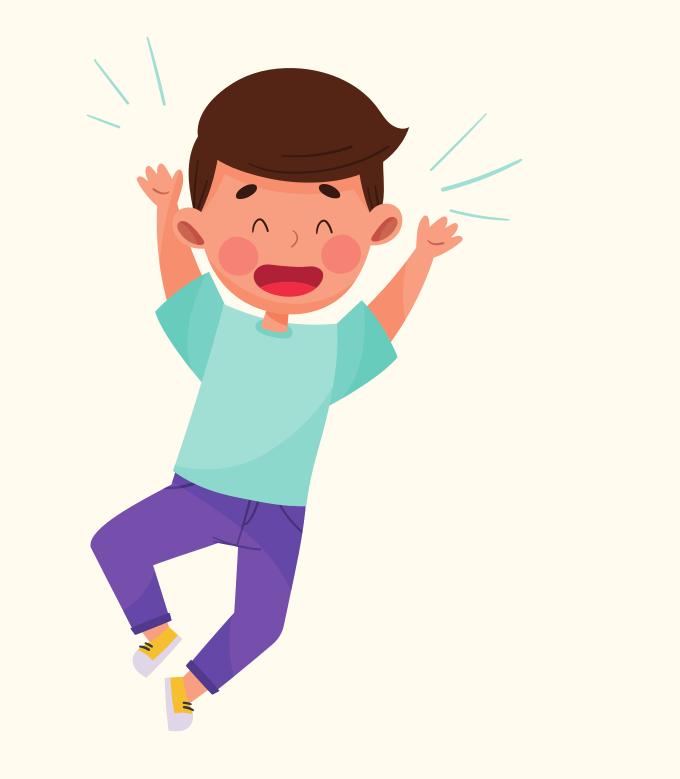
Child is not distressed when parent leaves and ignores or avoids the parent when they return. This is

the child's covert way of managing their anxiety.



ANXIOUS-RESISTANT

Child is distressed when parent leaves, and seeks to punish the parent for leaving when the parent returns by displaying overt feelings such as anger.





DISORGANISED

Child does not have a predictable pattern of attachment. Includes child who displays signs of depression and disturbing behaviour.

Attachment styles lay the foundations for future relationships as adults.

John Bowlby (1969). Attachment and loss, Vol. 1: Attachment