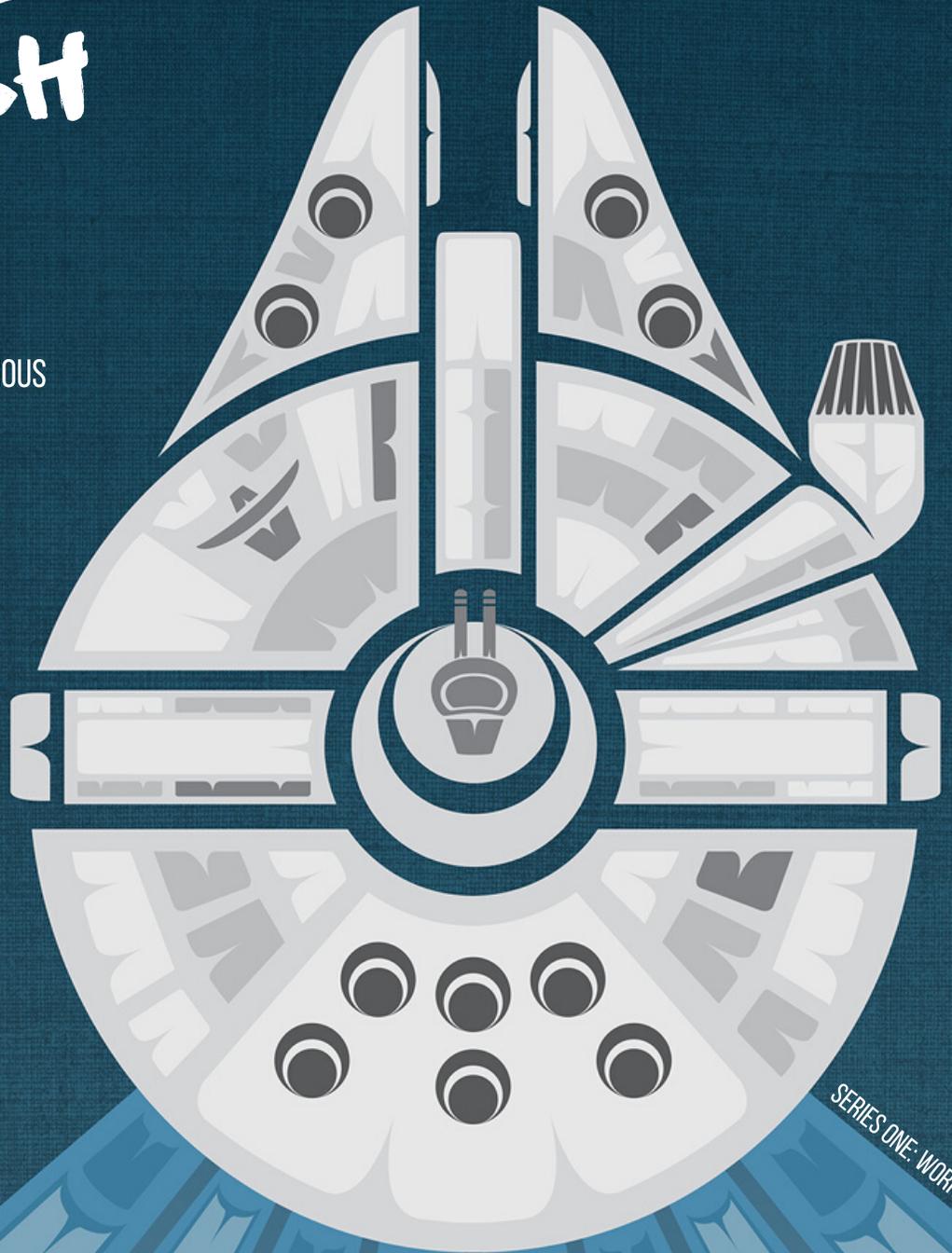


# STORYTELLING THROUGH COMICS

AN EDUCATION GUIDE FOR "INDIGENOUS  
FUTURISMS: TRANSCENDING  
PAST/PRESENT/FUTURE"

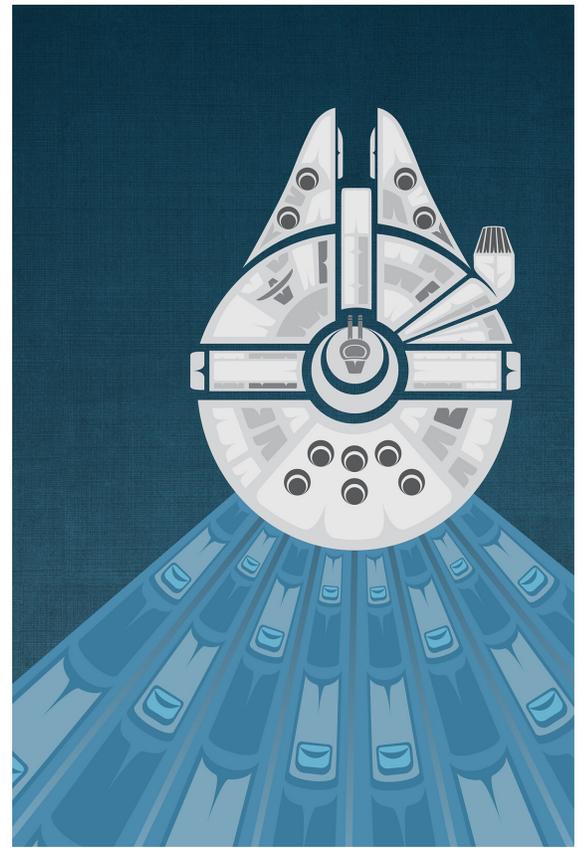


SERIES ONE: WORKBOOK ONE

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jeffrey Veregge is a Native American artist and writer from the Port Gamble Reservation in Washington. He is known for his ability to meld Coastal Salish form-line design with pop culture imagery, which his fans dub "Salish Geek." Jeffrey grew up with an extensive collection of comic books and toys from science fiction, he has created more than 100 comic book covers, working for Marvel, IDW, Valiant, Dynamite, Boom!, and Darkhorse Comics. He currently has a Marvel art exhibition at the Smithsonian in New York City titled *Of Gods & Heroes: The Art of Jeffrey Veregge*.

**"My works are a reflection of a lifetime love affair with comic books, toys, TV, and film. Taking my passions, I blend them with my Native perspective, artistic background, and the desire to simply be me. I'm doing the same thing that my ancestors did: I'm telling the stories that I care about, that I love, and that are relevant to me."**



## WHAT IS INDIGENOUS FUTURISM?

Indigenous Futurism is a phrase first explored by critic and writer Grace Dillon (Bay Mills/Garden River Ojibwe) in her 2003 book, *Walking the Clouds: An Anthology of Indigenous Science Fiction*. It describes the creation and visualization of possible futures for Indigenous people. As a movement, it spans Indigenous visual arts, film, and music. Dillon's theory of Indigenous Futurism is loosely inspired by Afrofuturism, which interweaves traditional knowledge and culture with futuristic ideas and setting.

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND COMIC BOOKS

For a very long time, Indigenous people have been represented in a false and imaginary way within popular culture. However, over the past decade, Indigenous artists have created their own comic books and graphic novels to change the perception of Indigenous peoples as "people of the past," or imaginary. Instead authors and artists have created a more authentic representation of Native people, their culture and history by utilizing comics "to tell stories, offer commentaries, and provide new visions of Indianness." (2) In a way, comic books became a powerful tool to recount the past, embrace the present, and imagine or invigorate the future.

# ACTIVITY: WRITE A STORY

**Tell Me About Yourself**



Write a story about yourself.

Think about a character that you would like to use to represent yourself and speak about your life story.

In this section, Introduce yourself, talk about who you are, what you're interested in, what you like or don't like, and other things you want people to know about you.

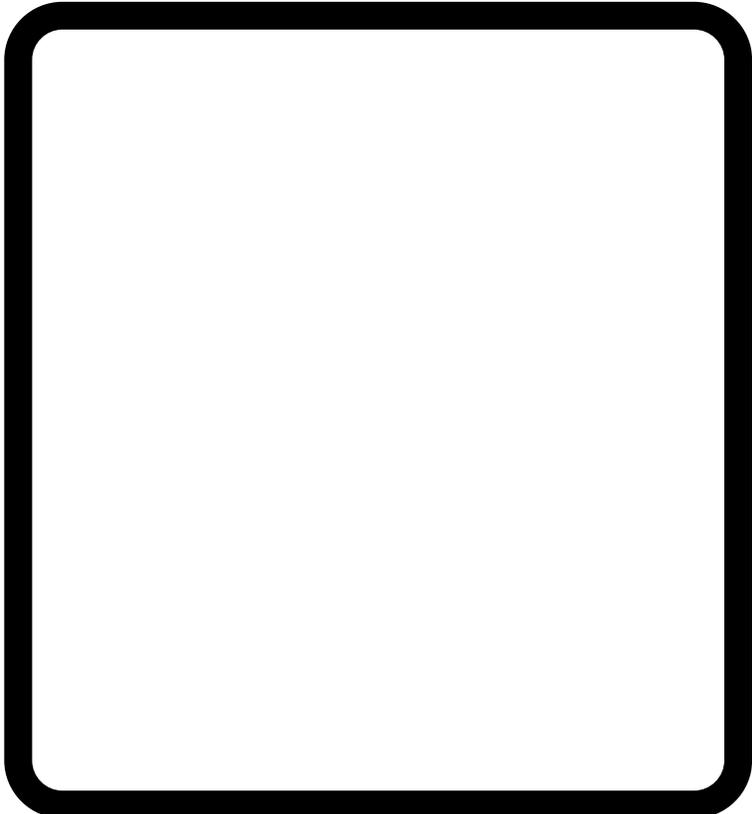
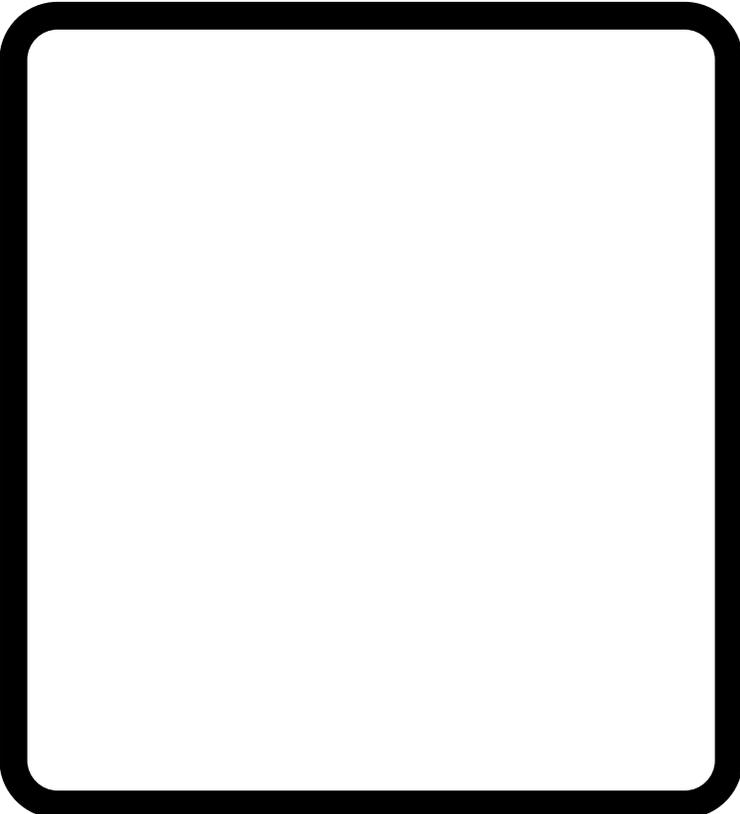
Perhaps you'll also want to use other characters in your comic strip to introduce family members or best friends.

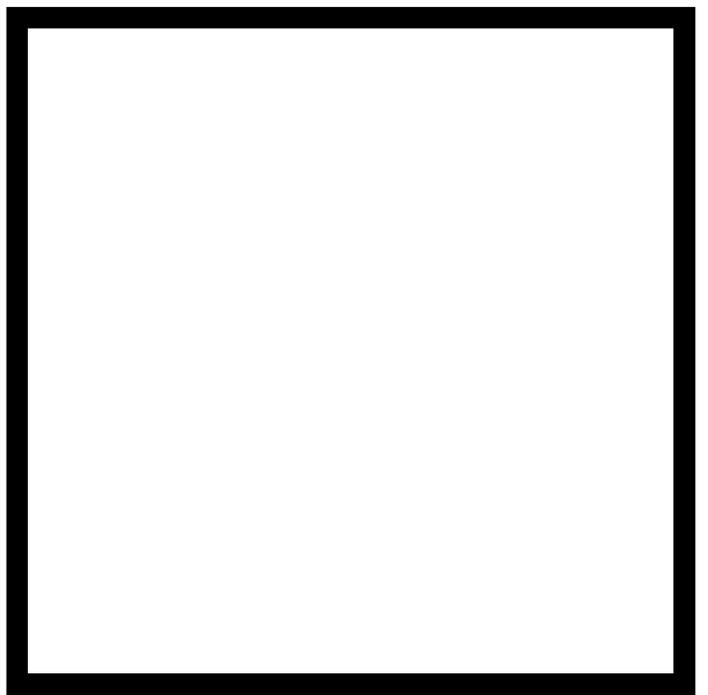
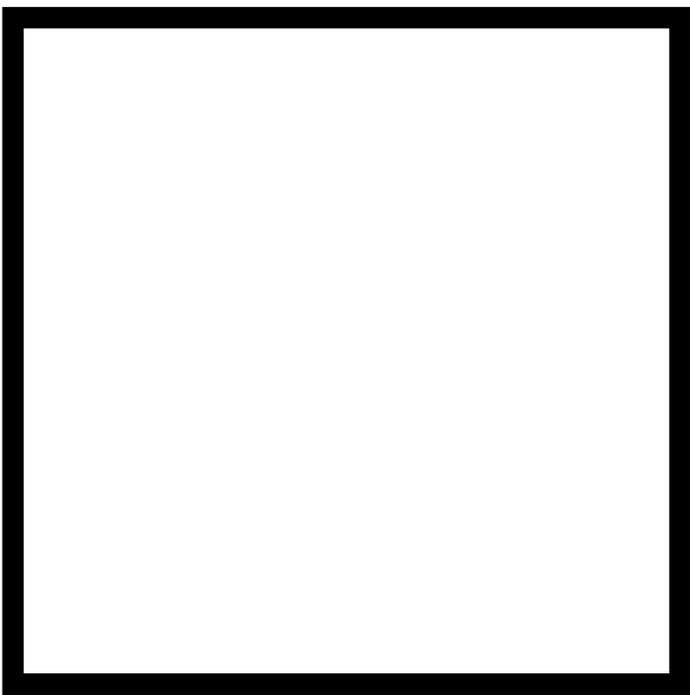
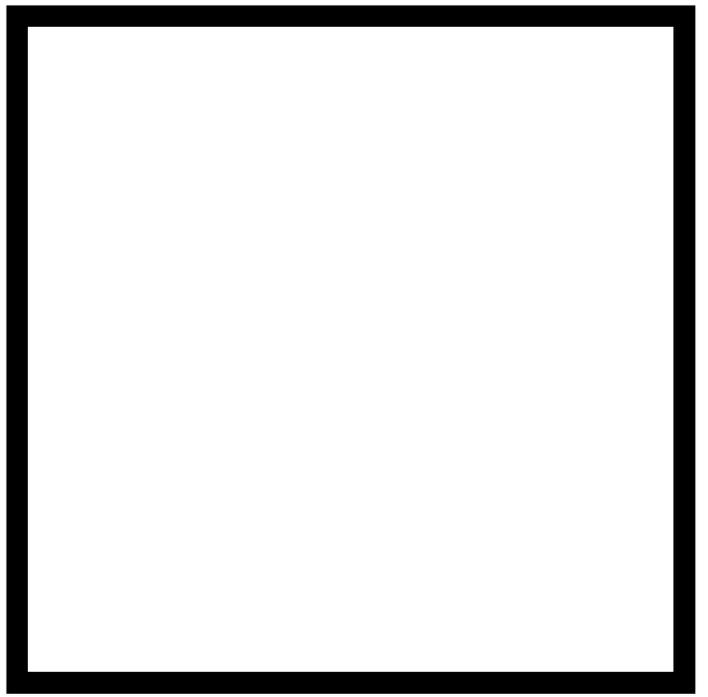
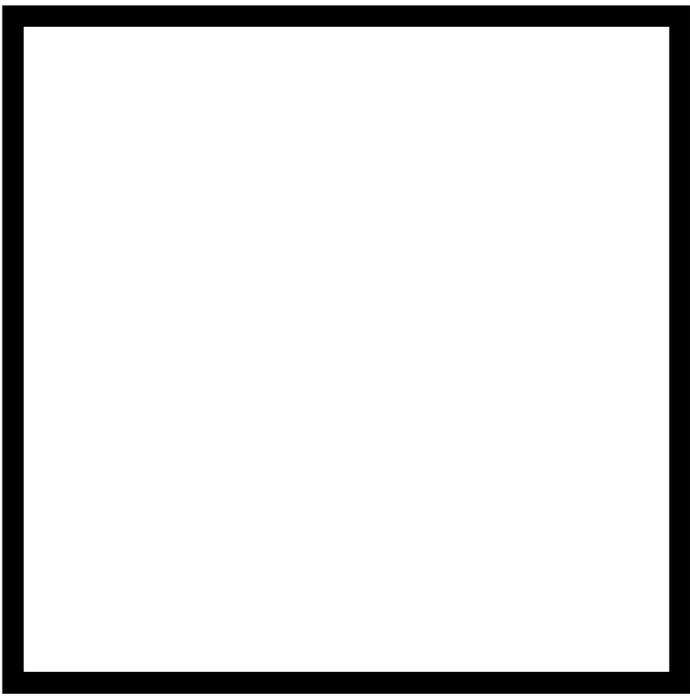
In your comic strip have the character talk or think about the important parts of your life that you want to share with others.

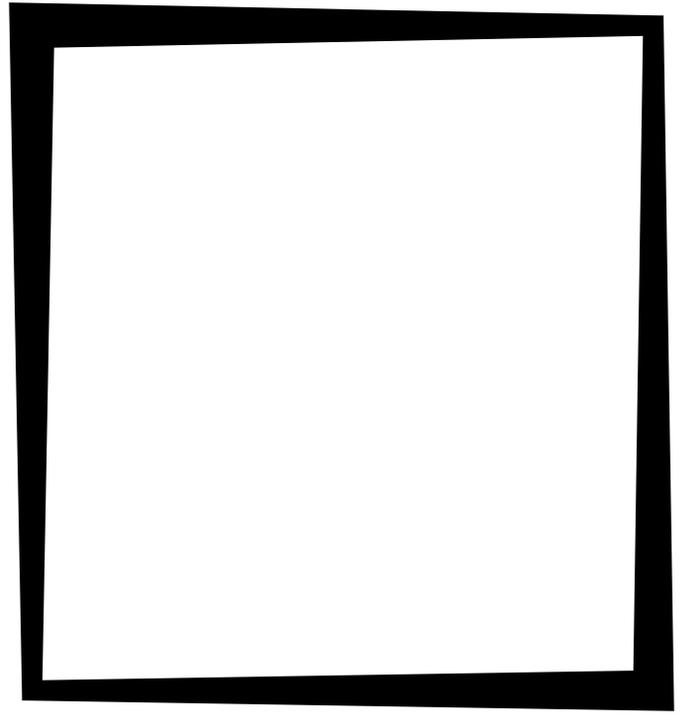
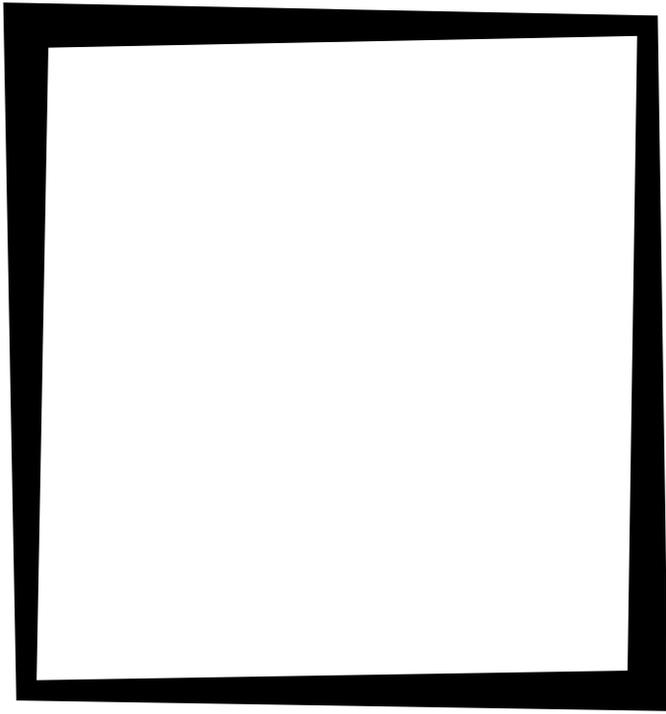
In the next section you will begin drawing and creating your mini comic book.

# ACTIVITY: CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC BOOK

Use the information or story you wrote in the previous activity to begin creating your comic book. Remember that it does not have to be perfect, it does not have to be complete, this is just a fun space to express yourself.







## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: CELEBRATE THE HEROES IN YOUR LIFE

Think about who has been an extraordinary hero to you. Is it your teacher? Your grandma? A doctor? Your sibling? Consider the traits and qualities of this person: are they strong, smart, loving, caring, do they do a really cool trick, have they taught you something that you will always remember? Now, create a picture of them in the space below that best illustrates why they are a hero of yours.

# RESOURCES

**Visit Red Planet Books and Comics to explore their Native comic collection, some comics are available for digital download:**

<https://redplanetbooksncomics.com/>

**Visit our virtual exhibition of "Indigenous Futurisms: Transcending Past/Present/Future:"**

<https://www.artsteps.com/view/5e6bb844c131b94e2168ad2b>

**If you would like to learn more about Indigenous Futurisms, visit the link below:**

<https://www.cbc.ca/books/walking-the-clouds-1.4170829>

**To learn more about Jeffrey Veregge, visit his website below:**

<http://www.jeffreyveregge.com/>

**Creating your own comic book online:**

**Storyboard That: A Free Storyboard Creator**

<https://www.storyboardthat.com/>

**Make Beliefs Comix: Create Comics Online**

<https://www.makebeliefscomix.com/>

**Resources About Indigenous People**

**An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People**

<https://www.amazon.com/Indigenous-Peoples-History-ReVisioning-American/dp/0807049395>

**"All the Real Indians Died Off": And 20 Other Myths About Native Americans**

<https://www.amazon.com/Indigenous-Peoples-History-ReVisioning-American/dp/0807049395>