

**MAKER  
FUN  
FACTORY**

**8+**  
AGES



**Cuttable**

# CARDBOARD



**Creations**

CUT LOOSE YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS



MIKAL KEEFER & ELISA HANSEN

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# ***Introducing... drum roll, please... you and your creativity!***

Michelangelo had marble. Picasso had paints. You've got cardboard!

You've also got ideas. *Great* ideas...some you've thought of and some are still wandering around waiting for you to notice them.

We'll help you unleash your creative genius and set you free to create spectacular stuff.

And we know you will because you've got "creator" wired right into your DNA.

You were created by *The Creator* and take after him in lots of ways. One of those is that you've got a creative spark eager to ignite.

And you were also given a heart that lights up when you serve people.

That's why we'll suggest ways to use each of these projects to encourage and delight others. Your family. Your friends. Someone you just met who's suffering from a bad case of the "blahs."

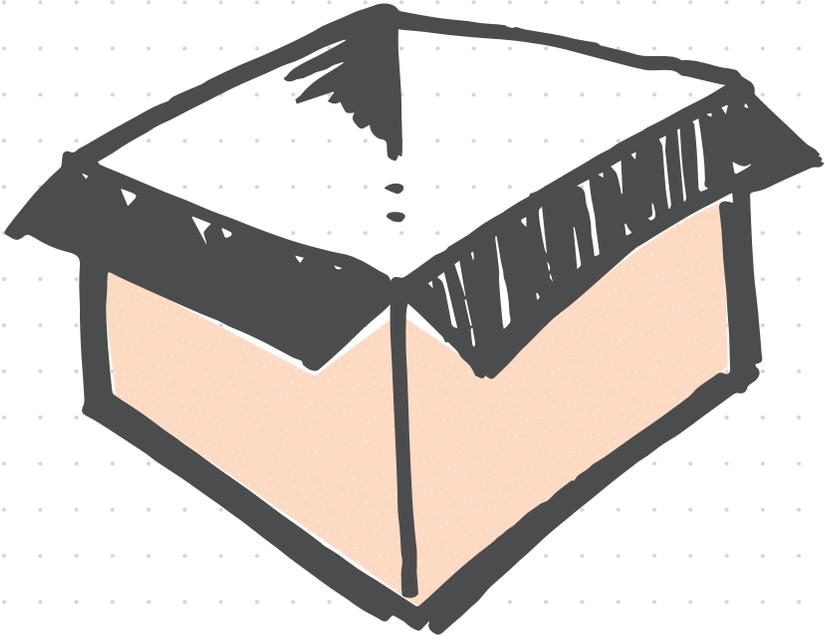
So...you ready?

Us, too. Let's make some cool stuff!

Your Maker FunFactory Fans,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elisa Mikal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elisa & Mikal



# *Cardboard Creations 101*

*IT'S TIME TO CREATE A MASTERPIECE...*

# ***But safety first.***

In the right hands, your Klever Kutter™ (the tool that came with this book!) is about the safest way ever to cut cardboard. But you're still handling a razor blade, so let's make sure you're ready before you start slicing.

Start by having a safety-minded grown-up make sure you're using the Klever Kutter™ properly. And not just any old adult—pick one who wants you to grow up with all your fingers attached.

## ***Proper Klever Kutter™ Technique:***

1. Hold cardboard firmly in place on a hard surface. Keep your holding hand away from where you'll make a cut.
2. Position your Klever Kutter™ at one end of the cardboard, placing the blade against the cardboard.
3. Pull with even pressure toward yourself for a clean, crisp cut.

It's that easy—which means it's easy to get careless. Don't get careless. Practice while that caring adult stares over your shoulder, and then have that adult sign your official *Cardboard Cutter Card* before you get started.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a certified caring grown-up, attest that \_\_\_\_\_ has completed *Cardboard Cutter Training* and is ready to make spectacular stuff safely.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_

(Grown-up's name here)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

Congratulations! Now cut out your card so you can proudly carry it forever.

# 10 Frequently Asked Cardboard Questions:

1. **Does my Klever Kutter™ work for every kind of cut?**

It works best for heavy lifting: cutting up boxes and making straight cuts. For curving cuts and small details, have scissors handy, too.

2. **What kind of cardboard do I need?**

Great question! All cardboard is made of pressed paper pulp, but some cardboard's thick and some is thin.

For almost all your projects, thin, single-wall cardboard works best. It's easier to cut, easier to fold, and easier to find.

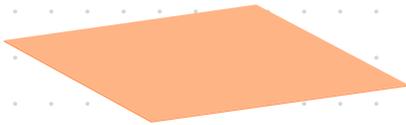
And, so you know, the projects start out easy and get increasingly more challenging. So don't jump to the back of the book unless you're a Level 10 Certified Cardboard Commando.

3. **So, umm...what's "single-wall" cardboard?**

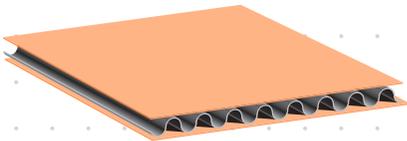
Okay, so you're not a Commando. Check out the diagrams below.

Wall: a solid sheet of paper

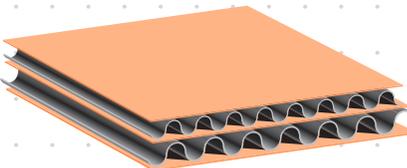
Flute: a wavy piece of paper glued between two walls.



**No-Flute Cardboard:** Like a cereal box; just a solid wall of paper.



**Single-Wall Cardboard:** Two walls of paper with a flute sandwiched between them.



**Double-Wall Cardboard:** This thicker cardboard has three walls holding two flutes between them. It's stronger than single-wall cardboard.

#### 4. Where can I find cardboard?

You could buy it at home improvement stores, but why not get it for free? Check out these spots:

- **Craigslist** often features free packing boxes.
- **Grocery stores** may let you snag freebies during times they're restocking (warning: that's usually late at night).
- **Bike shops** receive bikes in long, narrow cardboard boxes.
- **Bookstores** usually get books in...*wait for it*...boxes!
- **Hospitals** constantly get shipments in boxes.
- **Retail stores** are piled high with boxes—but some (like Walmart) bale their boxes to sell, so don't just grab boxes without asking. And *definitely* check with any place that sells TVs and microwaves.
- **Ask grown-ups** to scout around their workplaces and to give you their recycled cardboard.
- **Don't forget to snag any cereal boxes** that show up at your house, too.

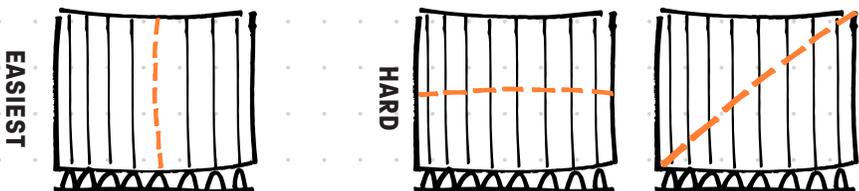
Say "thank you" to any cardboard donor by giving that person one of your cardboard creations!

#### 5. Should I recycle my leftover cardboard?

Usually, but not always. Don't recycle used pizza boxes—they're greasy. Waterproof containers (like juice boxes) can't be recycled, either. But most other cardboard is perfect for recycling! By the way, the planet thanks you for caring.

#### 6. How do I bend cardboard?

It's easy when you "score" the cardboard first. You'll use the end of a popsicle stick—which means you'll need to buy a popsicle—yum! With your popsicle stick, push down on one wall of the cardboard and crush the flute under it. Then you can fold the cardboard along that crushed line. But crush *parallel* with a flute—not across a bunch of flutes—or scoring gets messy. See below:



7. **Can I paint cardboard?**

Yes! Use **acrylic paint**—a light coat won't soak in and leave the cardboard soggy. Plus, it won't crack as easily as tempera paint when you bend the cardboard.

8. **How do I stick cardboard pieces together?**

If an adult gives you the okay, use a hot glue gun. But clear packing tape works, too, and duct tape. Have both kinds on hand as well as a glue stick. Just avoid white glue—it takes FOREVER to dry!

9. **What's the best way to cut cardboard?**

Your Klever Kutter's™ best for big cuts, but *if* an adult gives you the okay, you can try one of these:

**Scissors**

Pros: An easy way to make curving cuts on thin cardboard—very handy!  
Cons: Your hands get tired.

**Box Cutter**

Pros: Really, really good at cutting boxes. Which explains the name.  
Cons: Equally good at cutting fingers.

**X-ACTO Style Craft Knives**

Pros: Precision and sharpness.  
Cons: May be difficult to control.

**Kitchen Knife**

Pros: Easy to find.  
Cons: Your mom will *not* be happy.

**Swords**

Pros: You get to talk like a pirate while cutting.  
Cons: Good luck explaining where you got a sword.

**Klever Kutter™**

Pros: Safety, safety, safety.  
Cons: None we can think of—especially *if* you're with an adult. And *if* that adult is helping you cut carefully and responsibly.

10. **Okay, okay, can we get started with a project now?**

Thanks for being patient. Now dive in and have fun!  
Oh, wait...one more thing...

# Using Graph Paper

What is  
"Giraffe"  
paper?

## About the Graph Paper...



Some people like mapping out every detail before they start a project. We're hoping that's not you.

Why? Because we can't tell you exactly how big to make your helmet. That sort of depends on how big your head is. It's exactly the right size, by the way.

And how big or small do you want to make your fish...or boat...or noggin to hang on your wall? We don't know—but you do!

So here's what we did for you: We showed you a sketch of what finished projects look like. And showed you the parts and pieces that make up each project.

But after that? It's up to you.

Follow along with what's on the graph paper and you'll be pretty close on the proportions for each project. Or do what we do: start cutting and see how it goes.

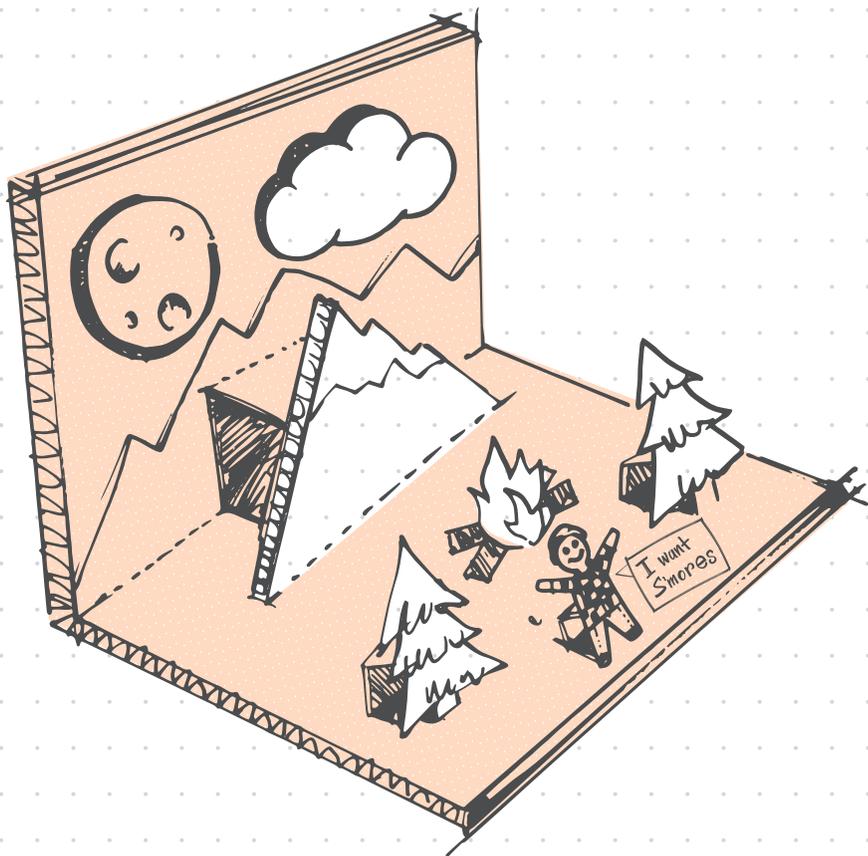
We left you plenty of room for your own creativity because we're sure you've got it to spare. Besides, you might take a project a whole different direction. That's fine with us—we love seeing you get feisty!

So get rolling. You'll learn as you go. And remember: **IT'S JUST CARDBOARD.** You can always tape it back together!

Now, onward to your cardboard creations!

***This is  
"Graph"  
Paper!***

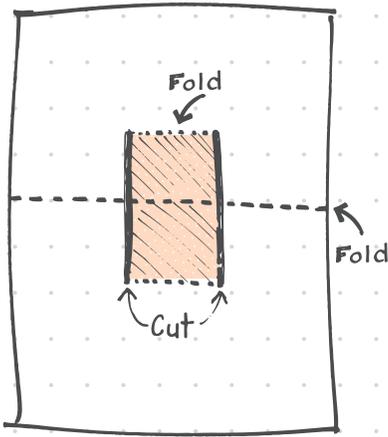
***Cool, huh?***



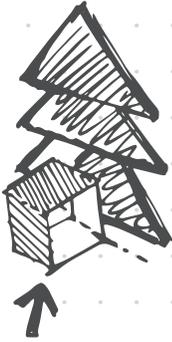
# ***Eye-Popping 3-D Cardboard Cards***

*When you care enough to send something wacky,  
wonderful, and completely cardboard—send this!*

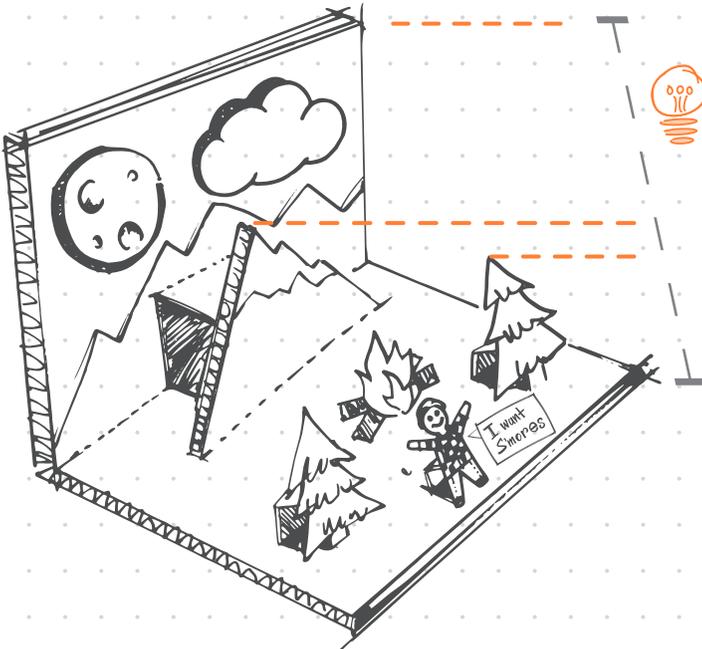
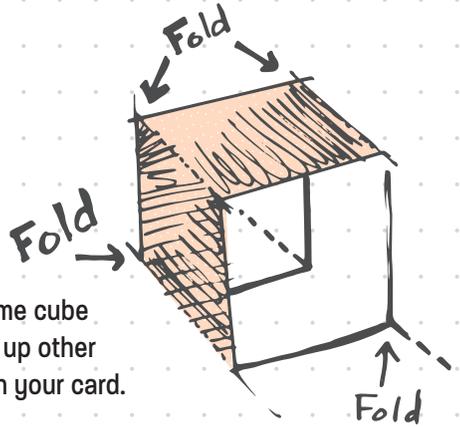
Here's how to make a 3-D card that's easy to mail, but feel free to super-size it for in-person delivery. Nothing says "I'm thinking of you" like a 5-foot card!



1. Fold your card down the middle. Then cut two parallel lines in the center.
2. Reverse the center fold to make a cube shape that will support what you glue to it—this is what pops up when the card is opened.



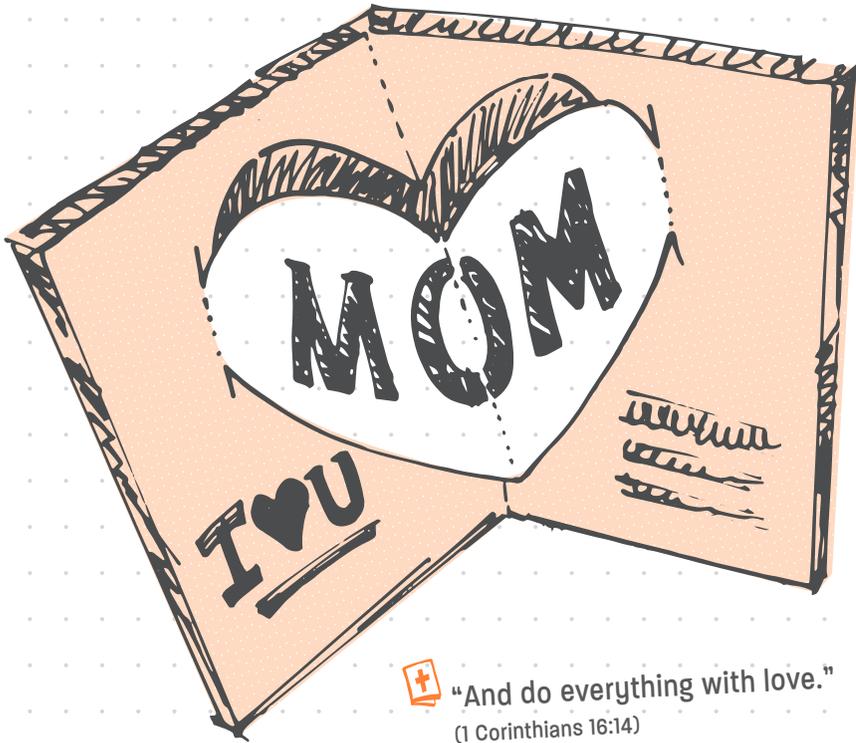
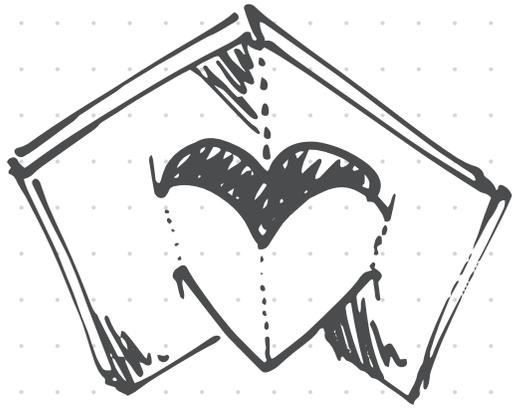
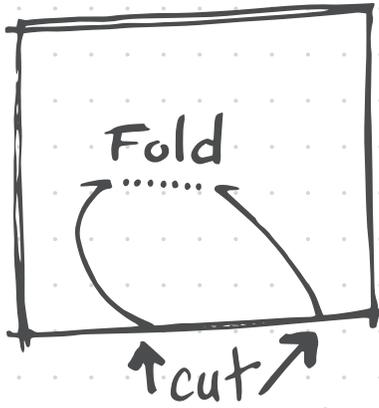
3. Create the same cube shape to hold up other 3-D objects on your card.
4. Use markers, cardboard, cotton balls, pocket lint... and make a scene!



Make sure that any 3-D objects will fit inside once the card is closed.



Use the same technique  
to create other 3-D shapes.  
Experiment away!



“And do everything with love.”

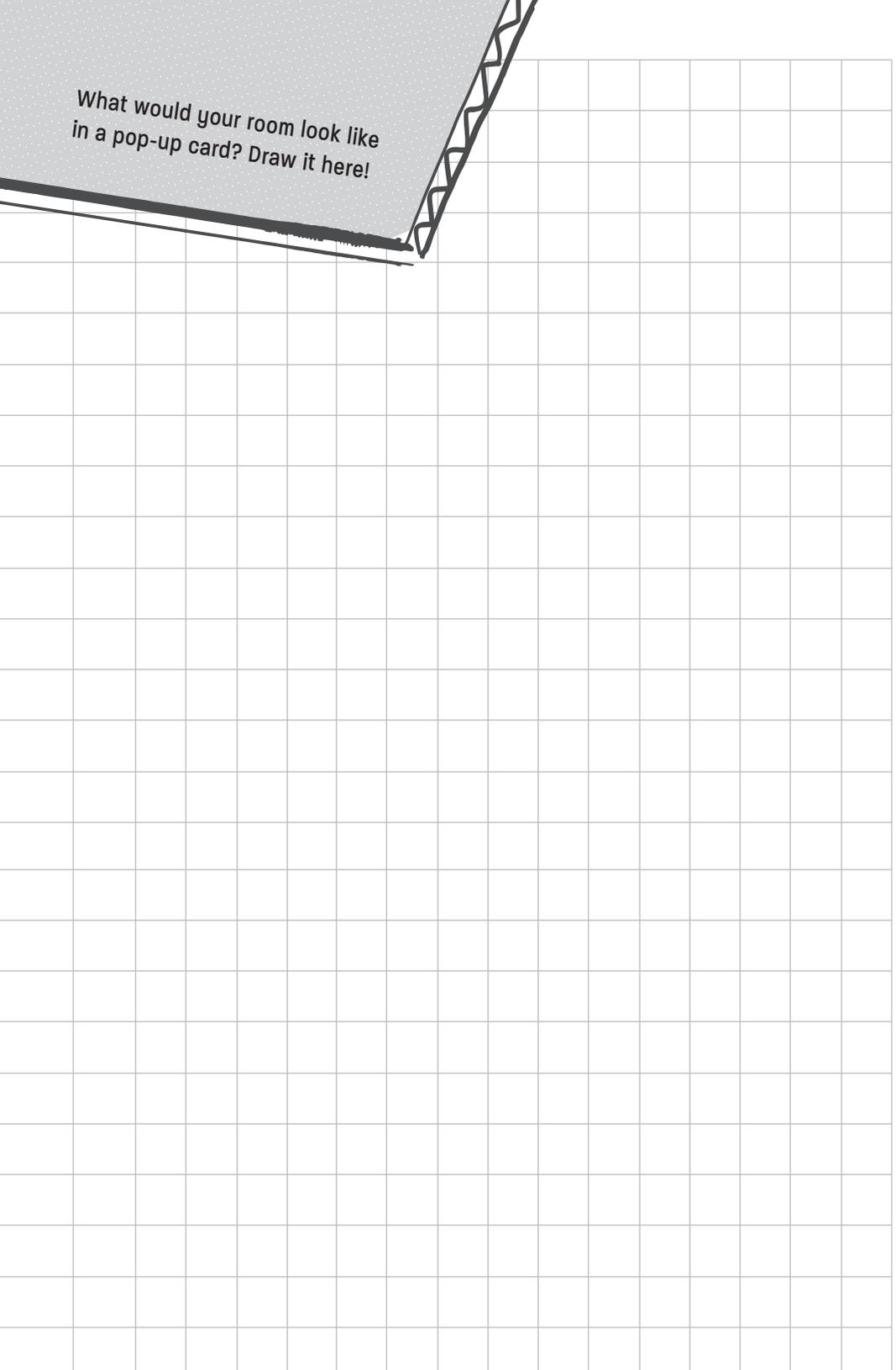
(1 Corinthians 16:14)

This is the perfect cardboard creation to give to someone who could use a smile. Decide who'll get a card—and pray for that person as you make it for them. *That's* working in a loving way!



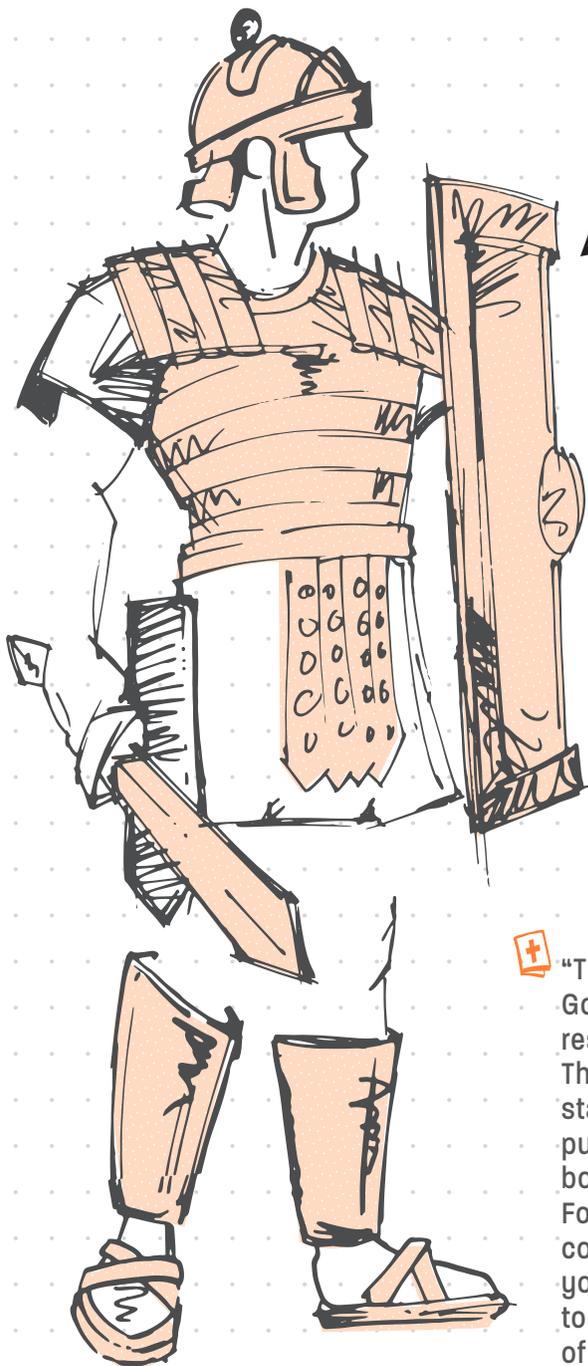
**Make a best-ever birthday card...thank-you card...national Donut Day card (first Friday in June)...whatever you want!**

What would your room look like  
in a pop-up card? Draw it here!



# The Armor of God

*Suit up! Helmet, belt,  
breastplate, shoes, shield,  
and sword... Hey, each  
piece of your armor sounds  
a lot like some other armor  
described in the Bible...*

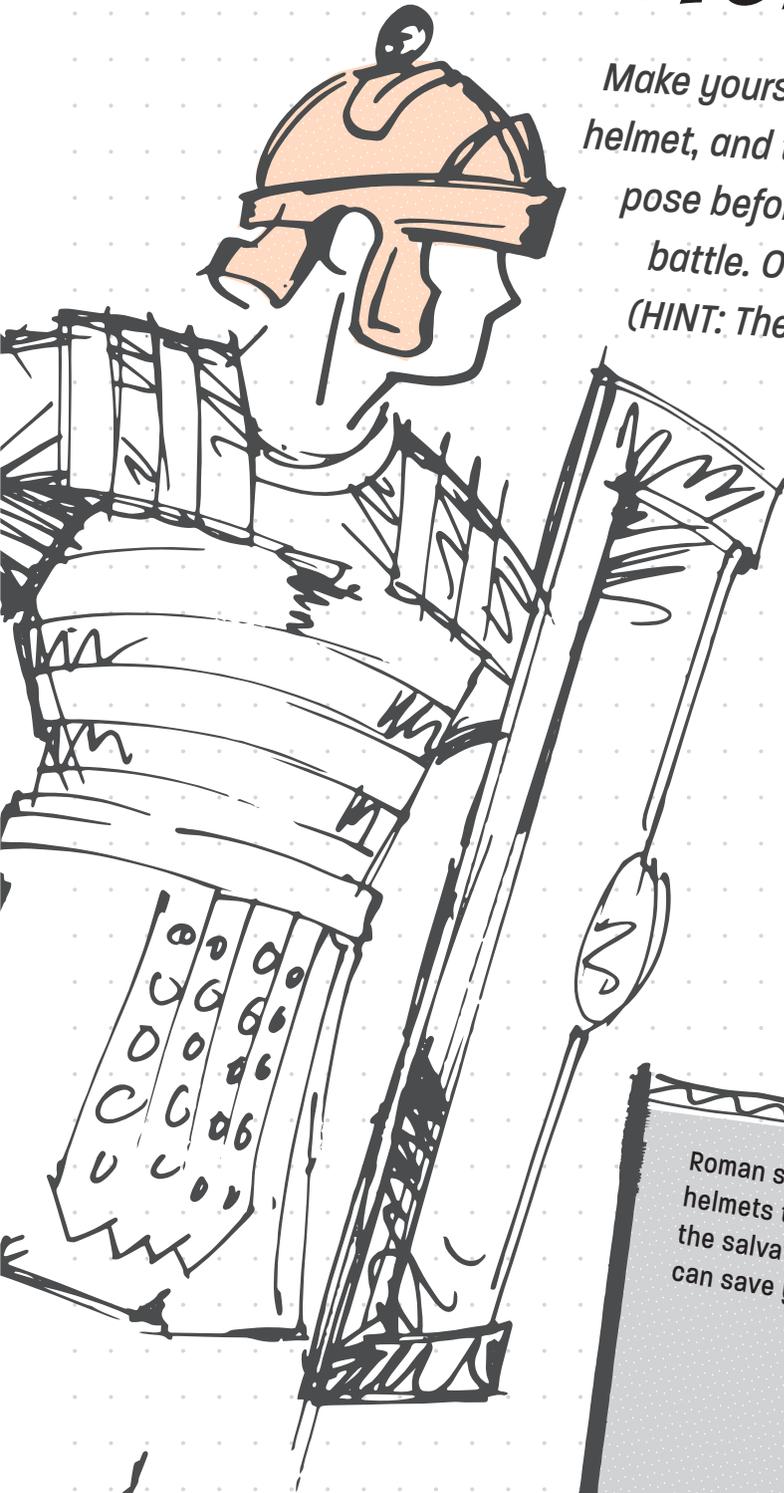


“Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

(Ephesians 6:13-17)

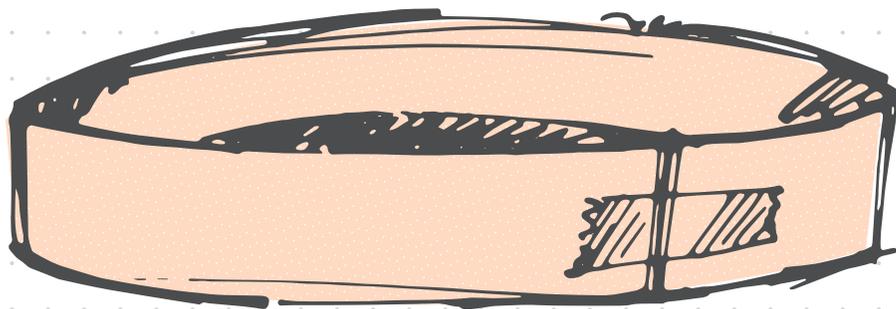
# Helmet

*Make yourself a personalized helmet, and then strike a heroic pose before you head into battle. Or take a selfie. (HINT: The selfie's safer.)*

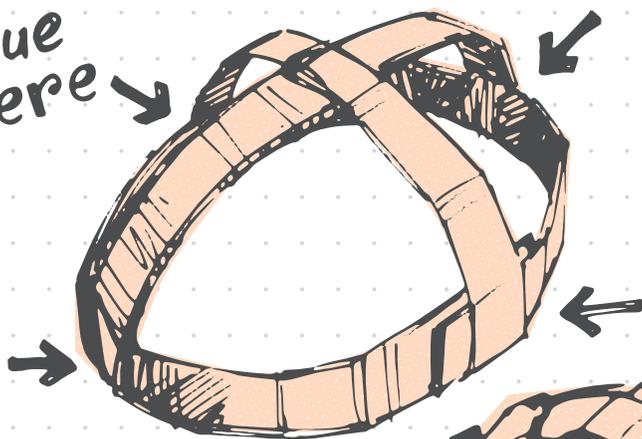


Roman soldiers depended on helmets to save their lives. And the salvation offered by God can save your life—forever!

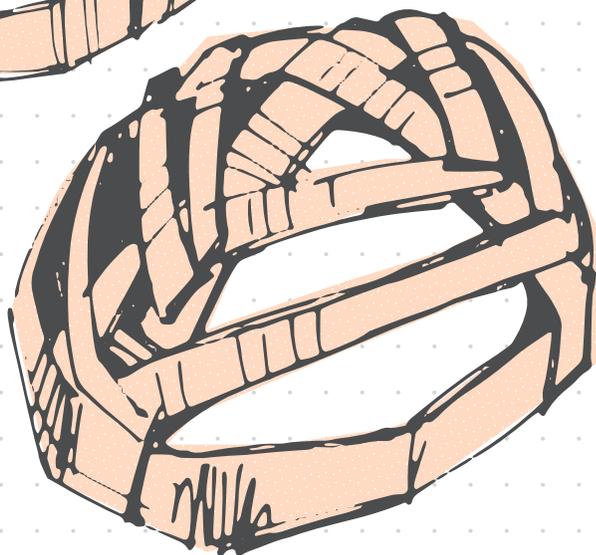
1. Start by measuring the strip that goes around your head and figure out the size of other pieces from there. Tailor-making your helmet means it won't be slipping over your eyes during combat!



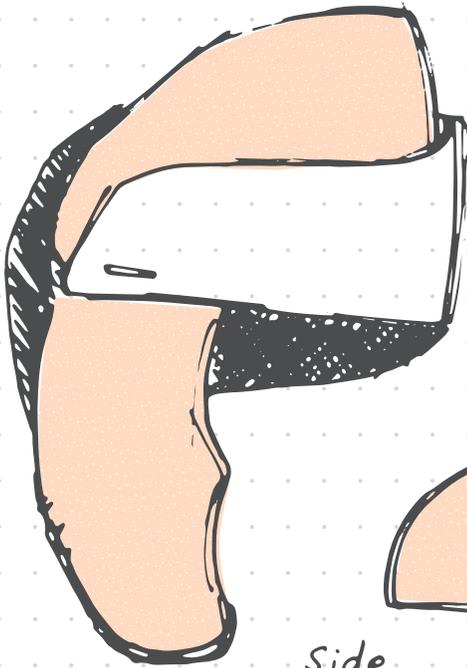
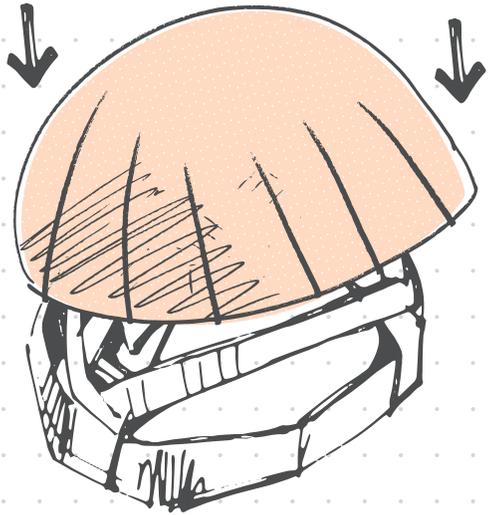
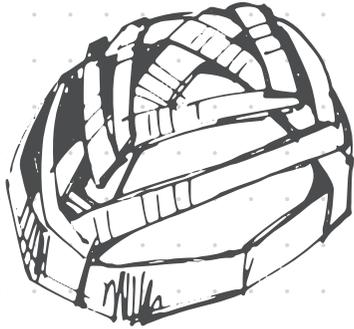
Glue  
Here



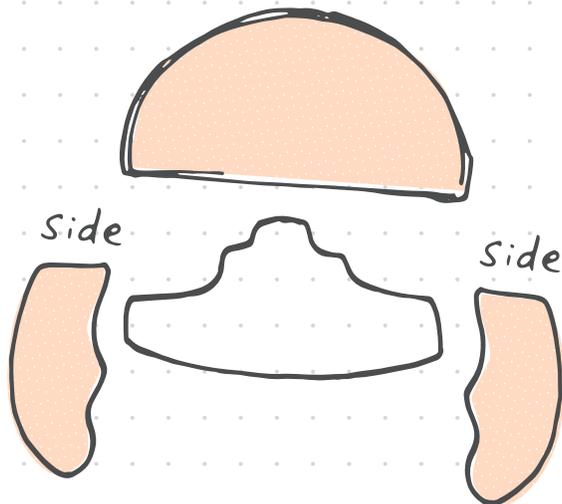
2. Measure and make your helmet foundation.



3. Cut up a no-flute piece of cardboard as shown to be your helmet. Cereal boxes work great and smell good, too.



4. Glue or tape the helmet to the helmet foundation and trim off any parts that don't look like a helmet.
5. Cut out and attach the cool Roman fake-sideburns sections.
6. Growl. It helps you sound scary and amuses your dog.



# So why is the Bible talking about pieces of armor?

It's because Paul, the guy who God used to write a big chunk of the New Testament, said everyone who follows Jesus is in a battle. A *spiritual* battle.

That means the devil is always doing his best to pull you away from Jesus. Always feeding you lies about yourself and God and life.

But when you strap on the truth you discover in the Bible and from listening to Jesus, when you protect your heart and stand firm with him, you'll be okay.

You'll be *better* than okay. You'll win—because Jesus has already won!

The stronger your friendship with Jesus, the better. So how's that going? You two spending any time together?

Ask Jesus: *How can we become even better friends?* Listen for what he says...and decide to do it!

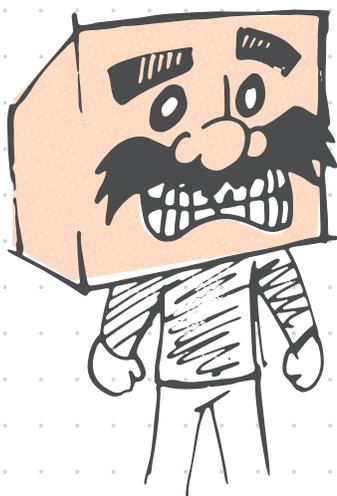
# Inspiration Station!

Congratulations! You're now a Master Maker of Cardboard Creations, so keep on creating!

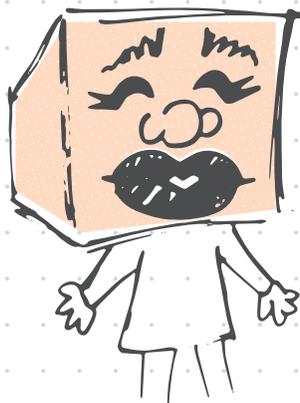
Pick an idea from the list below. One that'll cheer up the sick. Remind your parents you love them. They're all good—and so is the idea you're about to add to the list!

Ring Castle Frog mask Doll bed  
Ukulele Wallet Basket Airplane  
Hall of Fame ID card Fort Purse  
Glasses Aardvark Crown puppet  
Nameplate Checkerboard Dentures  
Calendar Bicycle Placemat  
Cowboy hat Handcuffs Umbrella  
Toothbrush Crêche Locket  
Purse Eiffel Tower Christmas tree  
Football helmet Christmas ornament

# About the Authors and Illustrator:



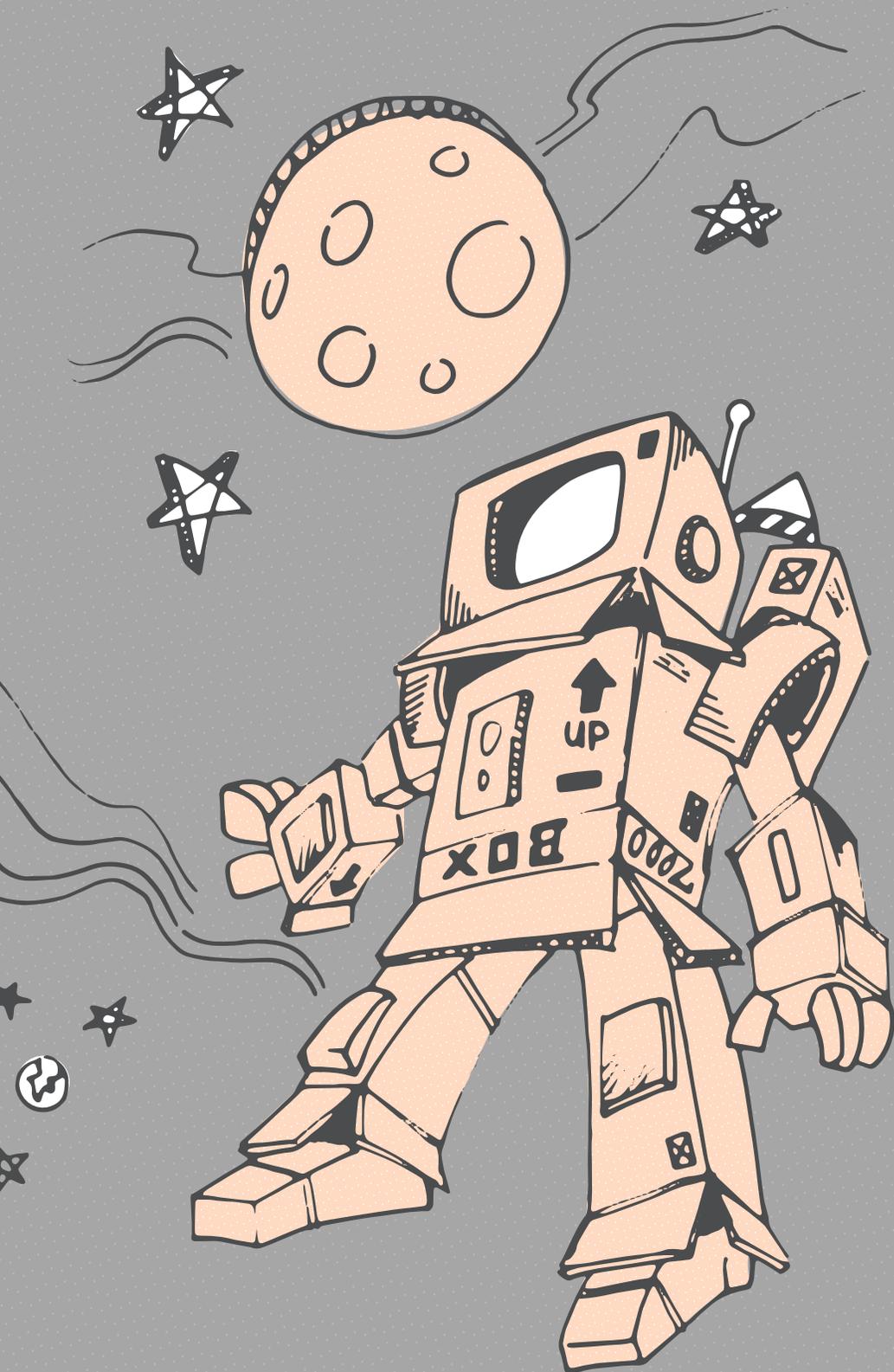
**Mikal Keefer** is a grandpa who's never met a cardboard box he doesn't think could become part of a fort. Or umbrella stand. Or cowboy hat. Mikal frequently writes for Lifetree Kids ([mylifetree.com](http://mylifetree.com)) and other Group Publishing resources.

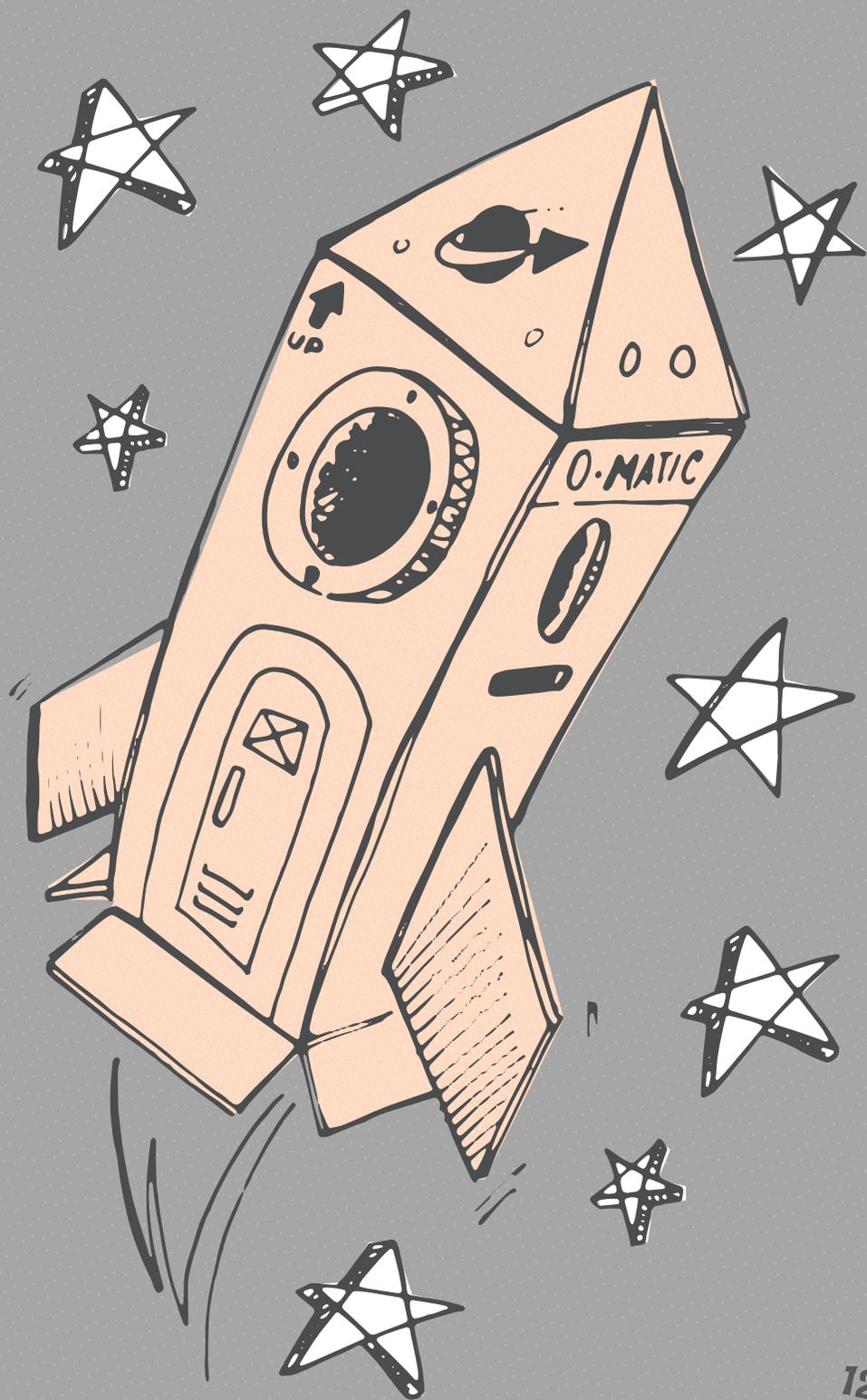


**Elisa Hansen** is a craft-a-holic who doubles as a set wrangler and craft designer for Group Publishing's award-winning Vacation Bible School. She once constructed a workable spaceship out of a refrigerator, bicycle pump, and 20 feet of sausages. Okay, not really...but she'll give it a try!



**Darrin Stoll** is a hockey-playing illustrator who doubles as a ninja. He's mastered the art of silence and can therefore appear anywhere, anytime...INCLUDING BEHIND YOU RIGHT NOW! Ha! Made you look!





**MAKER  
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# Cuttable CARDBOARD<sup>TM</sup> Creations



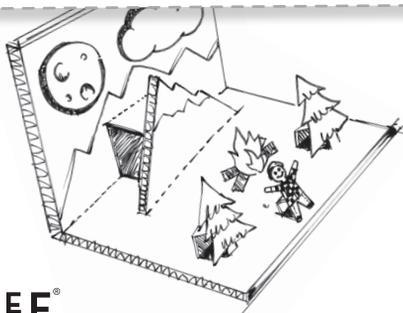
Michelangelo had marble...  
Picasso had paints...  
**You've got cardboard!**

## ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GET BUSY CREATING...

- **Eye-Popping 3-D Cards** that practically *leap* out of envelopes!
- **A Particularly Perky Perch** that's perfect for your cardboard aquarium.
- **Cutout Portraits** that put you, your family, and your friends on display.
- **The Armor of God** designed especially for you!
- **Plus** you can craft a rock-stopping Goliath and hang his head on your wall, fire up a cardboard oven, fill cardboard vases with cardboard flowers, and launch a floatable boat!

Each cardboard project is a faith-building adventure in creativity and caring—and more fun than anyone should be allowed to have without exploding.

**Get started now!**



  
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