

# CHESHIRE CT 250 GRAPHIC HISTORY PROJECT

## MAKING CHESHIRE GRAPHIC HISTORY COMICS FOR KIDS

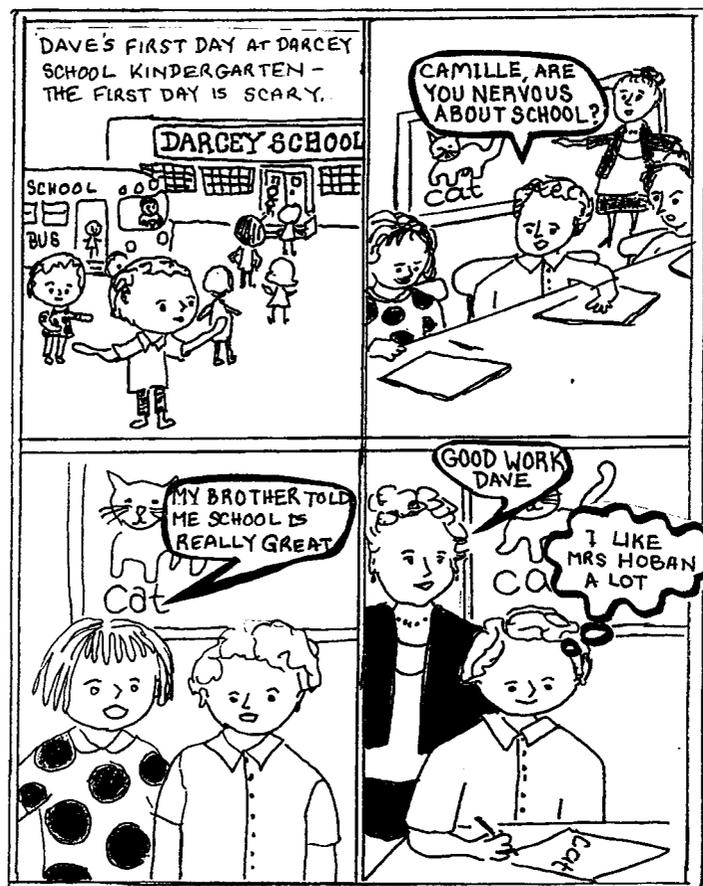
The Town of Cheshire is celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence in a special way. We wanted to tell our Cheshire stories but we felt that making another history book might be a bit boring or perhaps old fashioned. We decided that writing our town's *graphic history* – a comic book format of our history – would be a fun format that people of all ages would read and enjoy. This workbook is designed for kids to make their own comics. They can express their creativity, develop storytelling skills, and have fun building their artistic abilities.

**Why Make a Comic? Why Make a Graphic History Comic?** We feel that anything that encourages creativity is good. This project allows kids to invent characters, develop plots, and create dialogue. Kids can express their feelings and imagination freely. By combining both artwork and writing, making a history comic helps kids improve their reading and writing skills. They learn to convey stories through both words and images.

Finishing a comic gives a kid a great sense of accomplishment. They can share their story with others. The child becomes the storyteller, boosting their self-esteem as they see their ideas come to life. Even at a young age, kids can learn to think critically. They can choose the way their comic will proceed which allows them to structure a narrative, arrange panels, and convey emotions through illustrations.

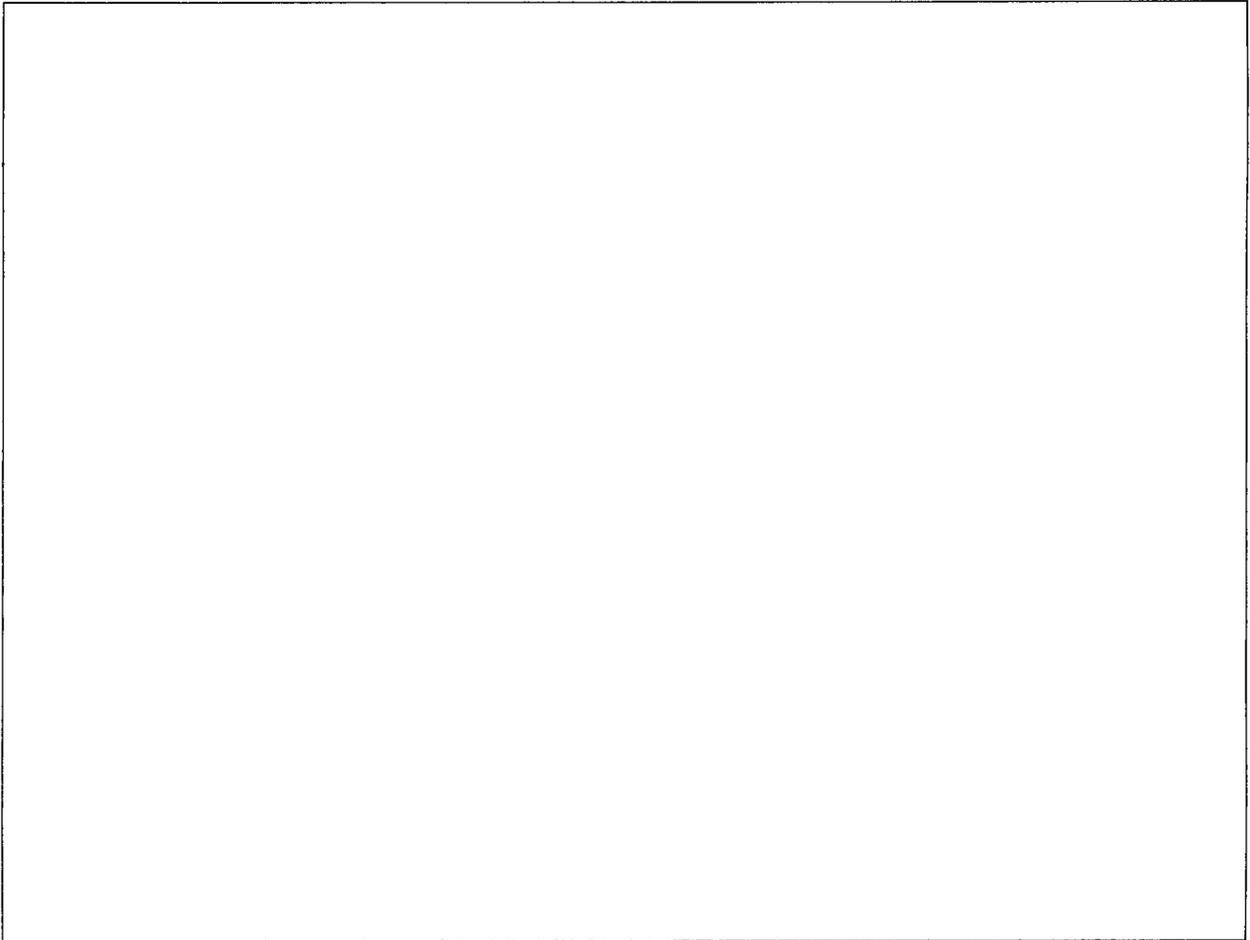
By participating in Cheshire CT 250 Graphic History project, even young children can become comic creators. They will have fun. Kids will develop valuable skills that will flow into other areas of their educational experience. And their work will be shown on the Town of Cheshire Website as well as being published in our planned Cheshire CT 250 Graphic History book (expected to be printed in January 2027).

FINISHED COMICS  
CAN BE  
BROUGHT TO  
**CHESHIRE TOWN  
HALL**  
TOWN CLERKS  
OFFICE (ATTN:  
SUSANNAH),  
**CHESHIRE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
(ATTN: SANDRA  
HERNANDEZ)  
OR  
**ARTSPPLACE**  
(ATTN: EMILY)





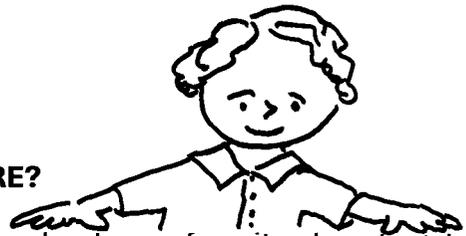
## WARM UP – YOU ARE GOING TO DRAW A CHESHIRE CAT



Completed CAT drawings can be brought to **Cheshire Library**, Attn: Sandra or to **Town Hall Clerk's Office**, Attn: Susannah; or to **Artsplace**, Attn: Emily

## MAKING YOUR CHESHIRE HISTORY COMIC

### WHAT STORY DO YOU WANT TO TELL ABOUT CHESHIRE?



There are so many stories! You can do a story about your school, your favorite place to get pizza or ice cream, going shopping with your parents, what is fun to do in Cheshire, sports you like to play and where do you play these. You might want to do a story about your family and what it's like to live in Cheshire. Maybe you want to do a story about how you or your family first came to Cheshire. These should be true stories, things that really happened.

For example: Dave said, When I started Kindergarten, I was a little nervous. Mrs. Hoban was the teacher. She was nice. She made me feel good when I went to school.

**WHAT IS YOUR CHESHIRE STORY?**

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**HOW DOES THE STORY GO?**

You are probably going to make four boxes or panels that tell your story. The first box is where your story starts and where you introduce your characters. So the first box is your beginning. Where does your story take place, meaning what is the setting?

Example: Dave’s story is at his school, at Darcey School.

Where does your story take place? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO IS IN YOUR STORY?**

Example: In Dave’s story, he has himself, the teacher, and three of his friends named Gail, Steve, and Camile. Dave decided he would tell the story, but he thinks his friends should say things, too.



**YOUR CHARACTERS:**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

You can have more than five characters. Less than five is okay, too.

**WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN IN YOUR STORY?**

This is called the plot. This is how the story goes.

You might say, “Once we went to the Stop & Shop [or Big Y] and we wanted to buy the cereal I like but they didn’t have any so I had to buy the cereal I didn’t like. I was mad when we drove on Highland Avenue to go home. When I tried the cereal I didn’t like, it turns out I did like it. I might get it again.”

Example: Dave said when he went to Kindergarten at Darcey School, he had never been to school before. He had never been on a school bus before. He never went to preschool or day care. Everything about school was brand new. It was also new for Gail and Steve. Camile had older brothers who told her what school was like so she wasn't as nervous. But everything was okay because Mrs. Hoban, the teacher, was so nice and she made Dave and all the other children feel comfortable at school.



Dave's beginning: he went to school on a school bus and everything was new.

Dave's middle: he talked to the other kids about how he was nervous. Camile says she's not so nervous because her older brothers had already told her about school.

Dave's end: Mrs. Hoban was so nice that all the children felt more comfortable and they liked school.

**WHAT IS YOUR PLOT?**

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WHAT IS YOUR BEGINNING DRAWING GOING TO BE? \_\_\_\_\_

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WHAT ARE YOUR MIDDLE DRAWINGS (TWO OF THEM) GOING TO BE?

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WHAT IS YOUR END DRAWING GOING TO BE? \_\_\_\_\_

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You want your characters to say things that actually tell the story.

For the girl that didn't like the cereal, she might say things like:



Why can't Stop & Shop [or Big Y] have my cereal? I don't like these kinds of cereal! I want the cereal I want. I'm going to be mad the whole ride home! Now I have to eat this cereal I don't like! But wait! I do like it! I might get this again!

Her father might be in the story. He might be driving the car to the store. He might say:

Sometimes we can't always get what we want. I think you could find another kind of cereal. No, I'm not going to drive to a different supermarket. You might like other kinds of cereal. I'm so glad you like this new cereal.

Maybe one of the people who work at the supermarket might say:

I'm so sorry we don't have the cereal you like. We'll have it next week, I think.

Example: Dave says: I don't think I like school. I want to be home with my dog and my Mom. I know a few of the other kids. They don't look happy. Camile says this is okay. Mrs. Hoban is really nice. She has a very nice smile. I like being at school.

Camile might say: My sister says this is fun. We're going to like Kindergarten.

Mrs. Hoban might say: Welcome to all my new students! I'm so glad you're here today!



**WHAT ARE YOUR CHARACTERS GOING TO SAY?**

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**NOW IT'S TIME TO DRAW!**

Have fun drawing your story and writing in what the characters say to each other. Use your own paper if the next page is too small. You can use as many boxes as you want. Four is a good number, but maybe you only want to do one big box. That's okay. Good luck and have fun!

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(WRITE YOUR NAME)

TITLE OF YOUR CHESHIRE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_


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or to **Town Hall Clerk's Office**, Attn: Susannah; or to **Artsplace**, Attn: Emily*