

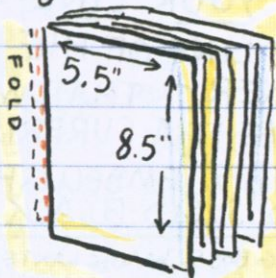
## exercise

# CHARACTER 'ZINE

adapted from an exercise by DAN CHAON

This is a longer  
SUSTAINED EXER-  
CISE that IS BEST  
DONE IN ONE  
SITING.

you will need  
YOUR COMPBOOK,  
a PEN, TIMER, and  
4 SHEETS  
OF 8.5" X 11" PAPER  
FOLDED in HALF  
to make an 8-  
page BOOKLET



This exercise will  
work for FICTIONAL  
or NON-FICTIONAL  
characters



1 Start  
by  
MAKING  
A LIST  
OF  
PEOPLE  
YOU  
KNEW

take 90 SECONDS WHEN YOU  
WERE YOUNGER

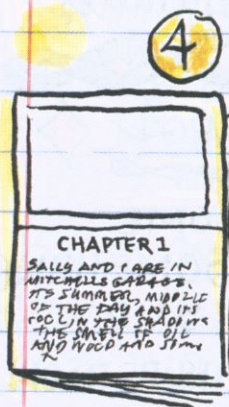
2 Choose one -  
MAYBE SOMEONE  
YOU HAVEN'T  
THOUGHT OF in  
A WHILE OR SEEN  
LATELY

3 PICTURE the  
two OF YOU in  
a SCENE FROM  
EARLY ON in YOUR  
RELATIONSHIP

about 2 hours



Draw an X  
ACROSS A PAGE IN  
YOUR COMPBOOK and  
WRITE the answers  
TO THE 'X' PAGE (P.145)  
Questions ANYWHERE  
on the page

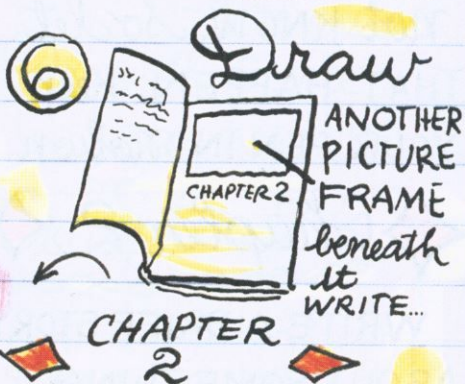


4 Draw  
a FRAME  
that takes  
UP ABOUT  
HALF OF THE  
FRONT OF  
YOUR 'ZINE  
AND WRITE

"CHAPTER ONE"  
BENEATH IT. Spend  
4 minutes WRITING UP  
THIS SCENE. YOU  
CAN CONTINUE ON  
THE BACK SIDE OF  
THE PAGE BUT NO  
FURTHER.

Begin with your  
character's name  
TELL US WHERE YOU ARE.  
make your story fit the space

5 DRAW the TWO OF  
YOU together  
in THIS SCENE.  
MAKE SURE TO  
include WHOLE BODIES  
AND indication OF  
SETTING 4 MINUTES



WE WILL REPEAT  
THIS FORMAT FOR  
ALL 8 CHAPTERS

Beginning each  
chapter on the  
right hand page,  
WRITING ON THE  
FRONT and BACK  
OF the page.





**A**LTHOUGH YOU MAY  
be WRITING ABOUT  
A REAL PERSON, THIS  
exercise requires  
YOU TO MAKE UP SOME  
PARTS that YOU MAY  
not KNOW, so let  
THAT HAPPEN. Keep  
YOUR PEN IN motion

### ◆ Chapter 2 ◆

WRITE A BRIEF STORY  
ABOUT SOME THING  
THAT HAPPENED TO  
YOUR CHARACTER  
When they were  
LITTLE - 3 minutes  
- then -  
DRAW a SCENE FROM  
THE STORY - 4 MINUTES  
INCLUDING WHOLE  
bodies AND SETTING  
Will GIVE YOU more  
INFORMATION ABOUT  
YOUR story.



### ◆ Chapter 3 ◆

DRAW AN OBJECT  
you ASSOCIATE  
WITH THIS PERSON  
- 3 minutes

WRITE ABOUT IT  
- 3 minutes



### ◆ Chapter 4 ◆

WRITE SOME  
DIALOG - SOMETHING  
SOME ONE SAID  
ABOUT THIS PERSON  
to YOU OR TO SOME  
ONE else - 3 minutes

DRAW your  
character EATING  
THEIR TYPICAL LUNCH.  
make SURE WE  
CAN TELL where  
they are AND what  
is around them



## ◆ Chapter 5 ◆

DRAW a scene  
WITH YOUR CHAR-  
ACTER DOING  
SOMETHING ALONE  
that GIVES US SOME  
IDEA OF THEIR DIS-  
position toward  
THE WORLD  
- 3 minutes

BEGIN with your  
character's NAME  
and WRITE up this  
scene. WHAT'S GOING ON?  
3-MINS

## ◆ Chapter 6 ◆

WRITE A scene  
THAT TAKES PLACE  
IN PRESENT DAY  
WHERE YOU EN-  
counter SOMETHING  
THAT BRINGS this



character to mind,  
YOU CAN BEGIN WITH  
SOMETHING like  
"I THOUGHT OF (name)  
YESTERDAY WHEN....

- 3 minutes

Draw the scene  
- 3 MINUTES

## ◆ Chapter 7 ◆

WRITE A SHORT  
SCENE in WHICH  
YOU IMAGINE them  
ON A TRIP SOME-  
WHERE. AT SOME  
POINT IN the STORY  
they SAY SOMETHING.  
- 3 minutes

Draw A SCENE  
FROM the TRIP. ◆  
what are they  
WEARING? WHAT ARE  
they DOING? 3 mins  
WHAT WILL they SAY?



## Chapter 8

WRITE a SHORT  
Scene that IS  
SORT OF A SNAP-  
SHOT OF ONE OF  
the LAST TIMES  
YOU SAW EACH  
OTHER. INCLUDE the  
SETTING. 4 MINS

Draw it 4 MINS

Cover and  
Back cover



FOLD ANOTHER SHEET  
in HALF

DRAW A BIG FRAME,  
The title of your  
'ZINE IS the NAME  
OF YOUR CHARACTER.

Draw a full-  
body PICTURE OF  
YOUR CHARACTER  
AND LETTER the  
TITLE - 5 minutes



on the  
"BACK  
COVER"  
draw a  
LITTLE  
SOME-  
THING  
RELATED

to the STORY



SLIP the COVER on  
AND Dig it!