

# We Are Fungi



Words and pictures by Christine Fleming



MUSHROOM  
HUNTING DOG

MYCOLOGY  
BOOK

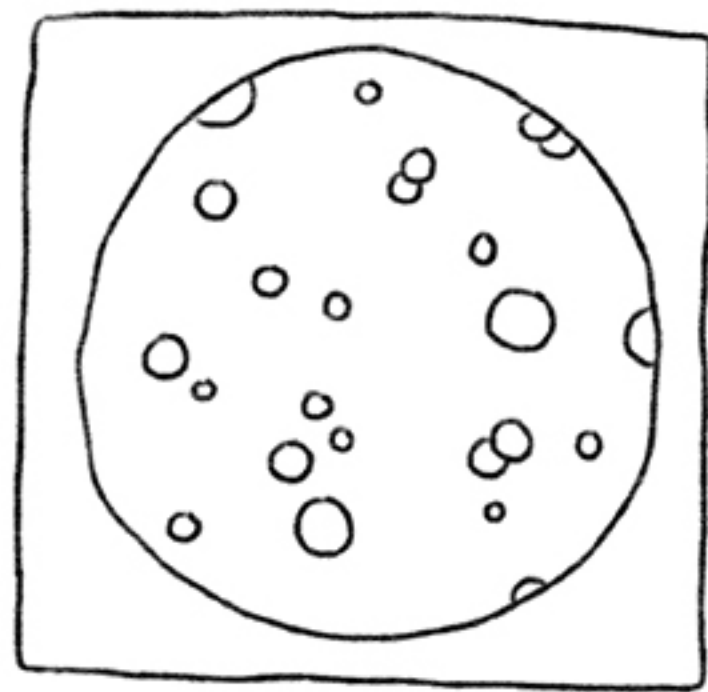
Deep inside the  
damp dark forest,

Hiding behind the  
pine needles and twigs,

Can you see us?  
Do you know us?



SINGLE  
CELL  
YEAST



We are some of the smallest  
living things on Earth.

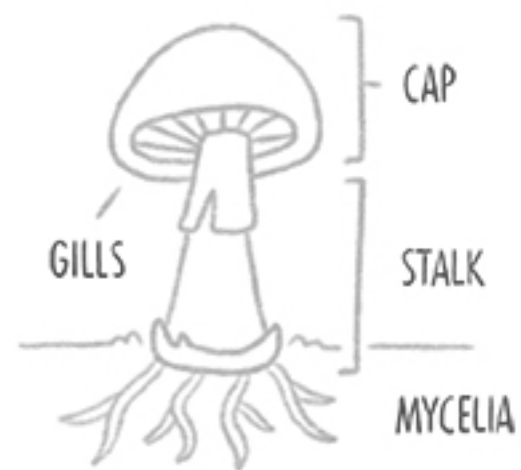
2.4 MILE WIDE HONEY  
FUNGUS COLONY IN OREGON



We are some of the biggest  
living things on Earth.

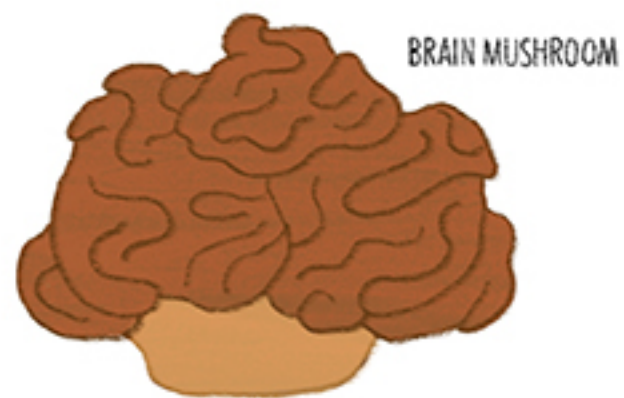


We have pores and gills.  
We have wrinkles and caps.





We are white and we are yellow.  
We are brown and we are pink.



BRAIN MUSHROOM



PUFF BALL

We look like slimey brains,

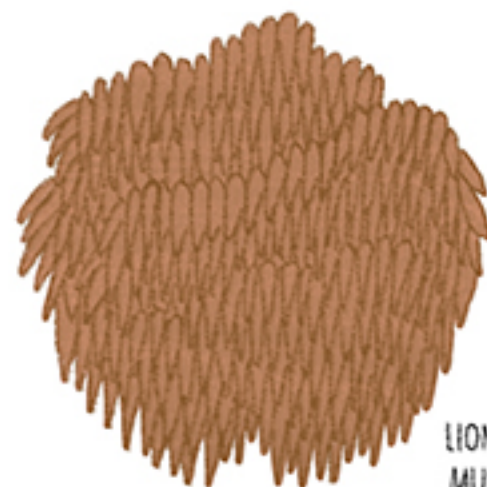


BOLETE



PINK OYSTER  
ROSE

And we look like strings of hair.



LION'S MANE  
MUSHROOM

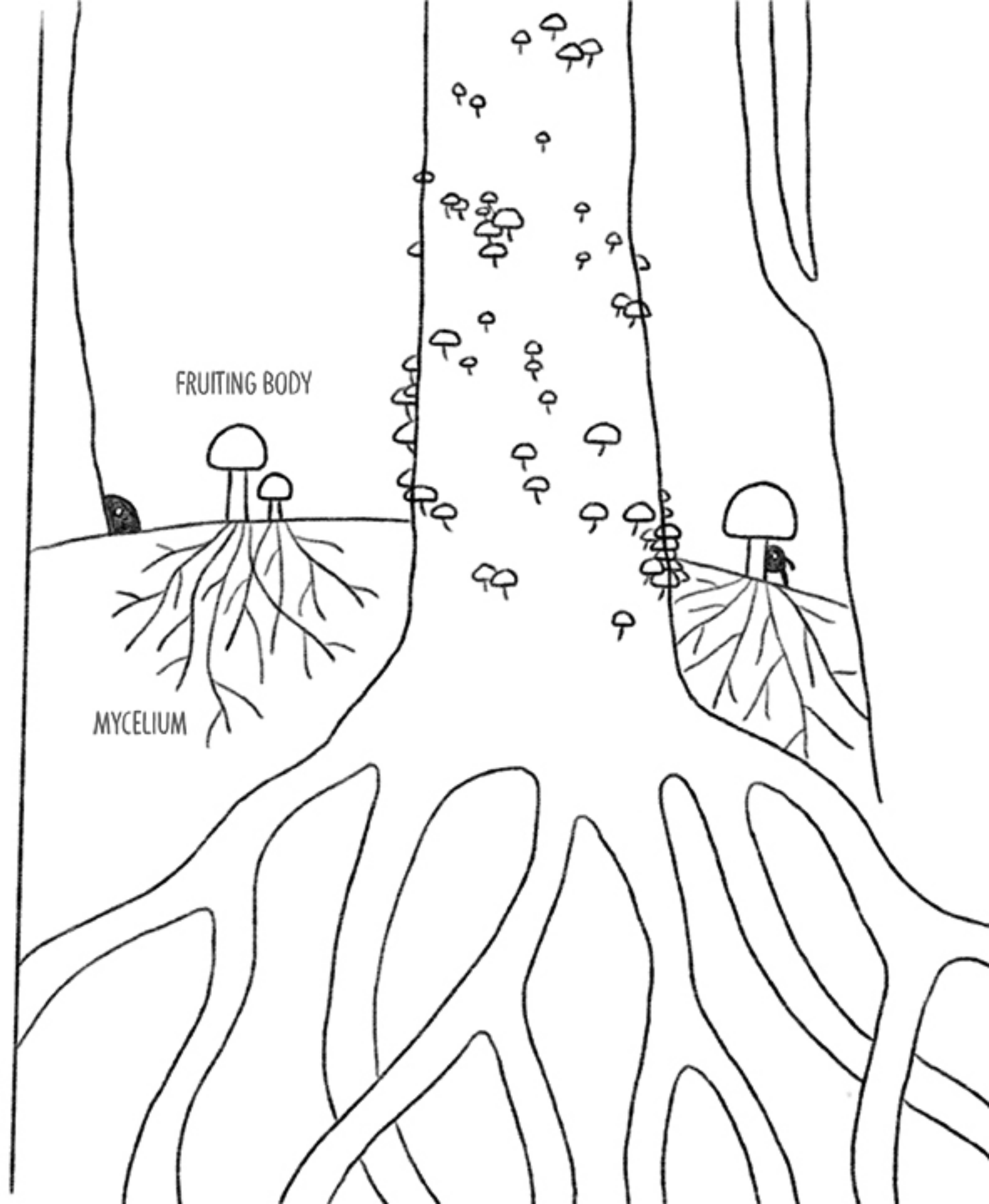


LEMON YELLOW  
LAPIOTA

We climb high above.

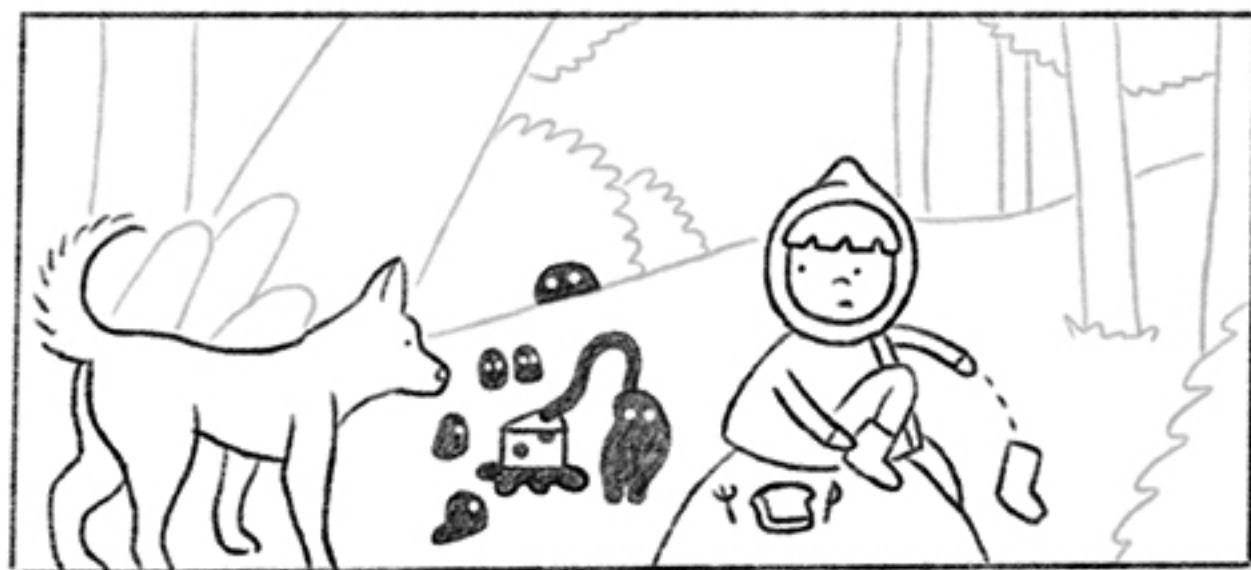
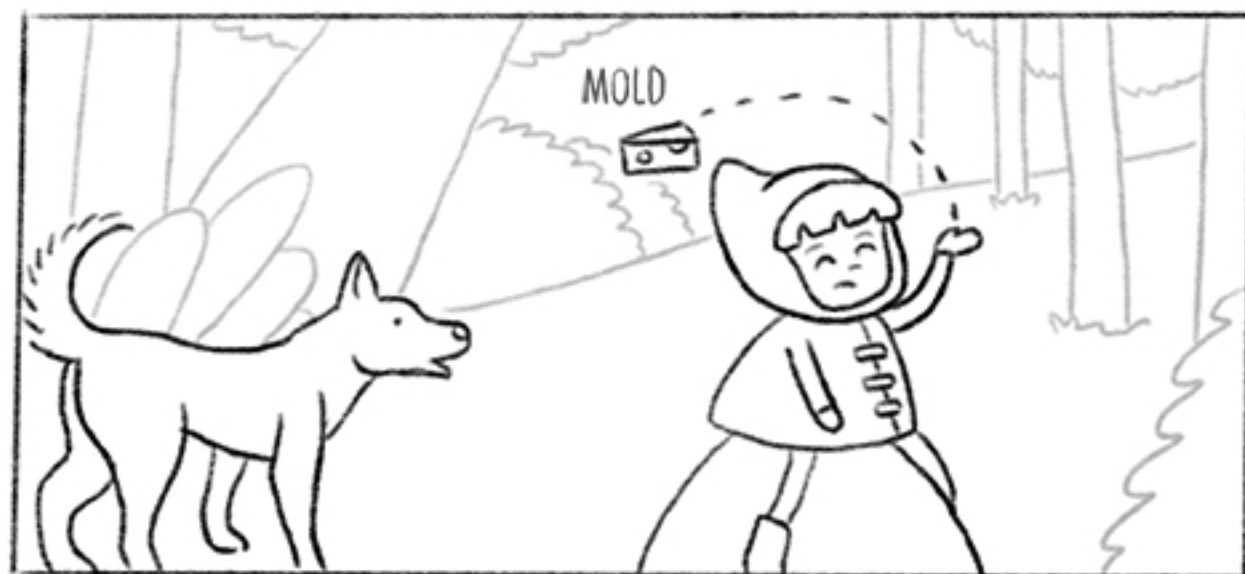


And we slither down below.





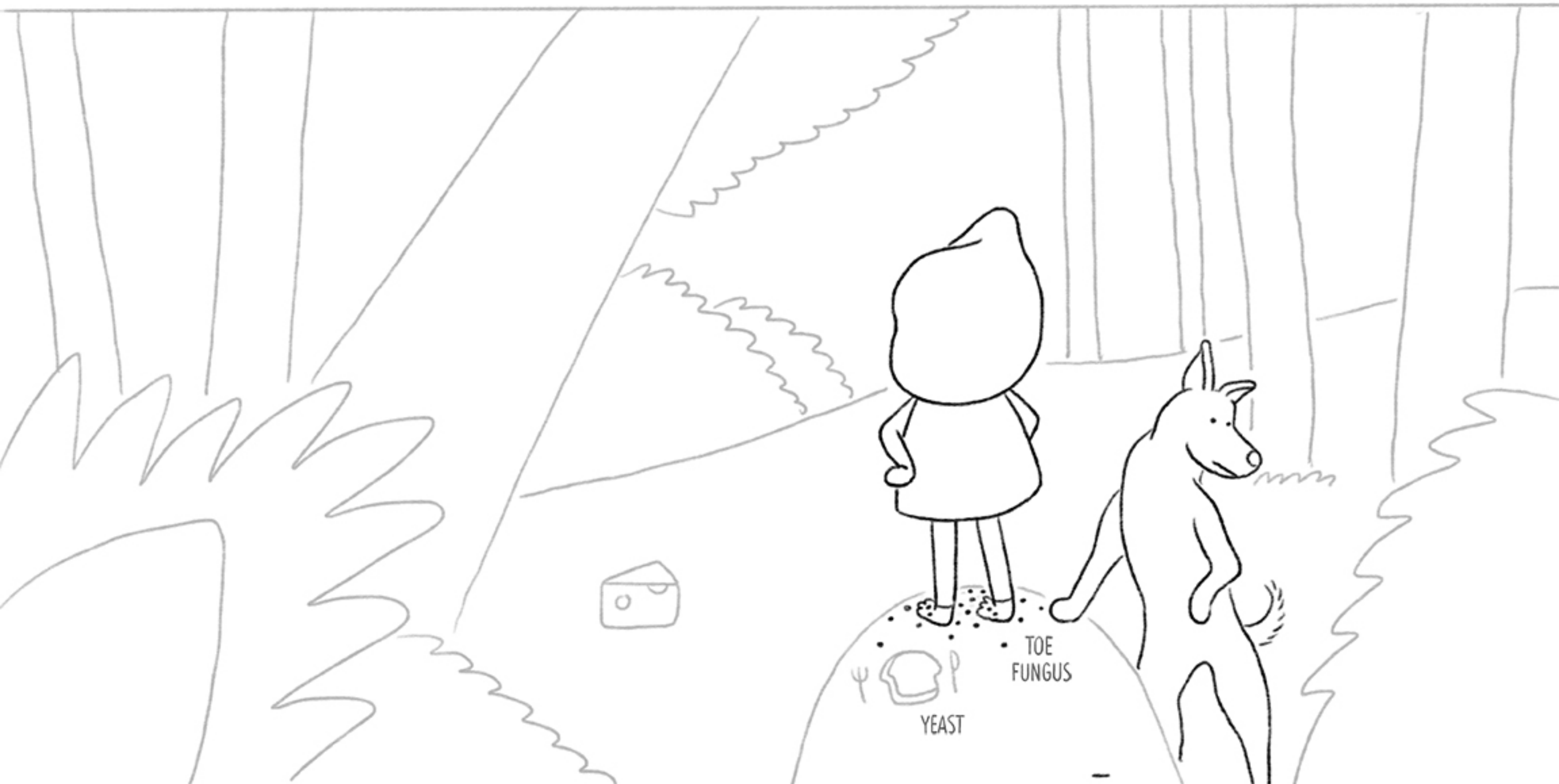
We sprout up between dead leaves  
beneath the forest floor.



And we invade the cheese forgotten  
in your refridgerator door.

We grow and hide between your toes.

We come alive and raise your bread.





We also live in poop.

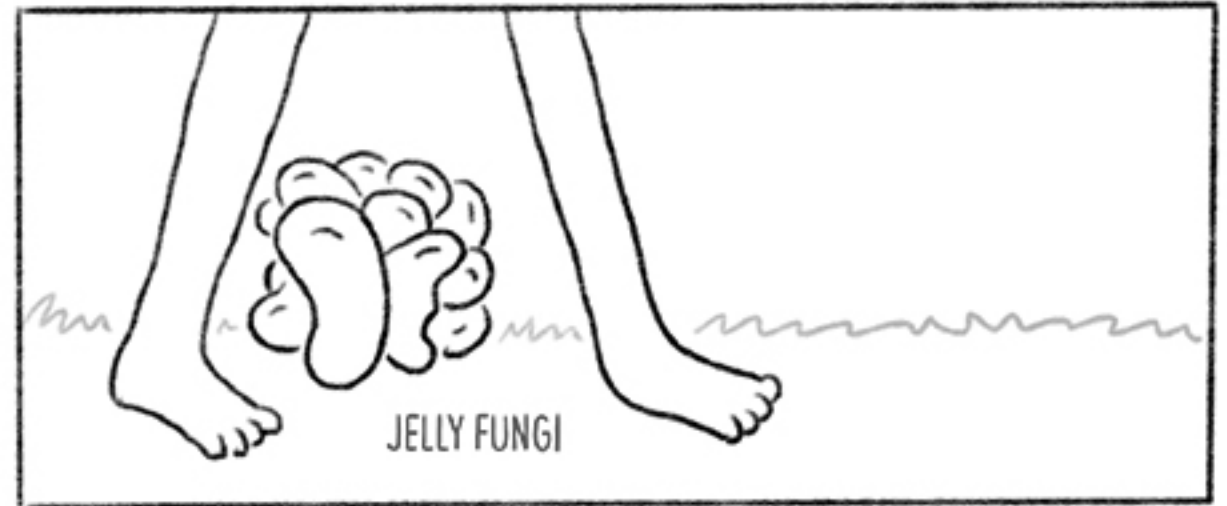


COPROPHILOUS  
FUNGI

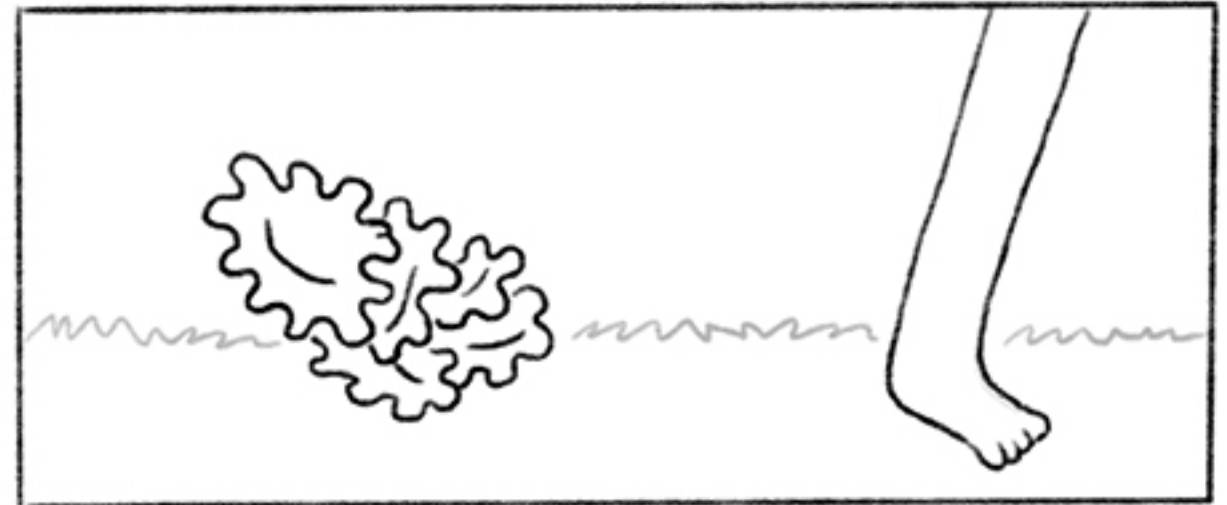




We glow green in the dark of night,  
And we commune in fairy rings.



We bulge when the air is dripping and damp.

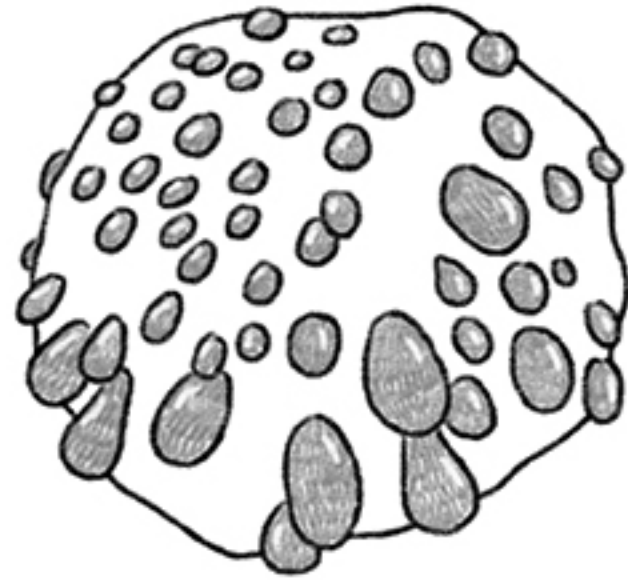


We shrivel up when the air is parched and dry.

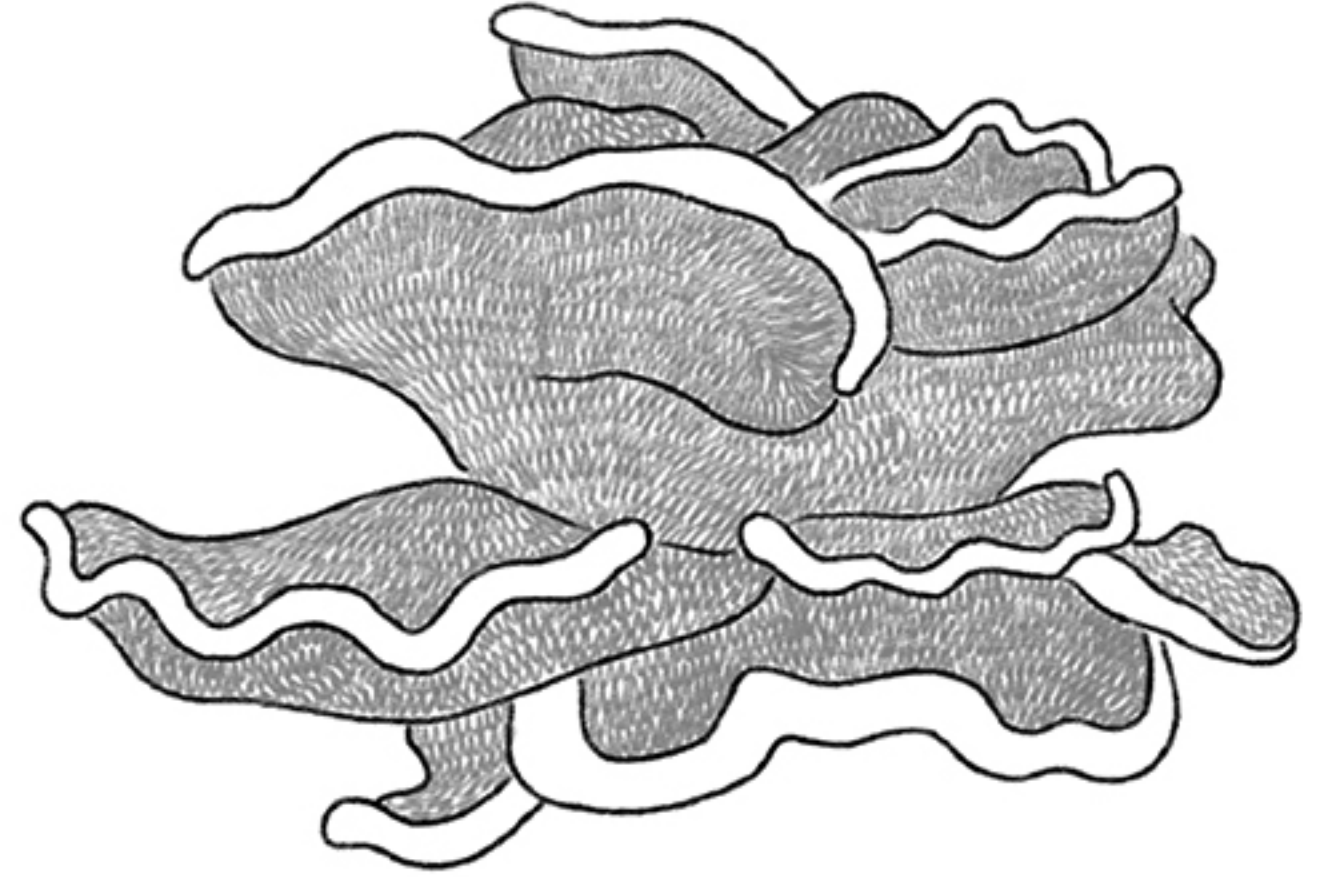
We have weird names like:



Veiled Lady,  
PHALLUS INDUSIATUS



Bleeding Tooth,  
HYDNELLUM PECKII

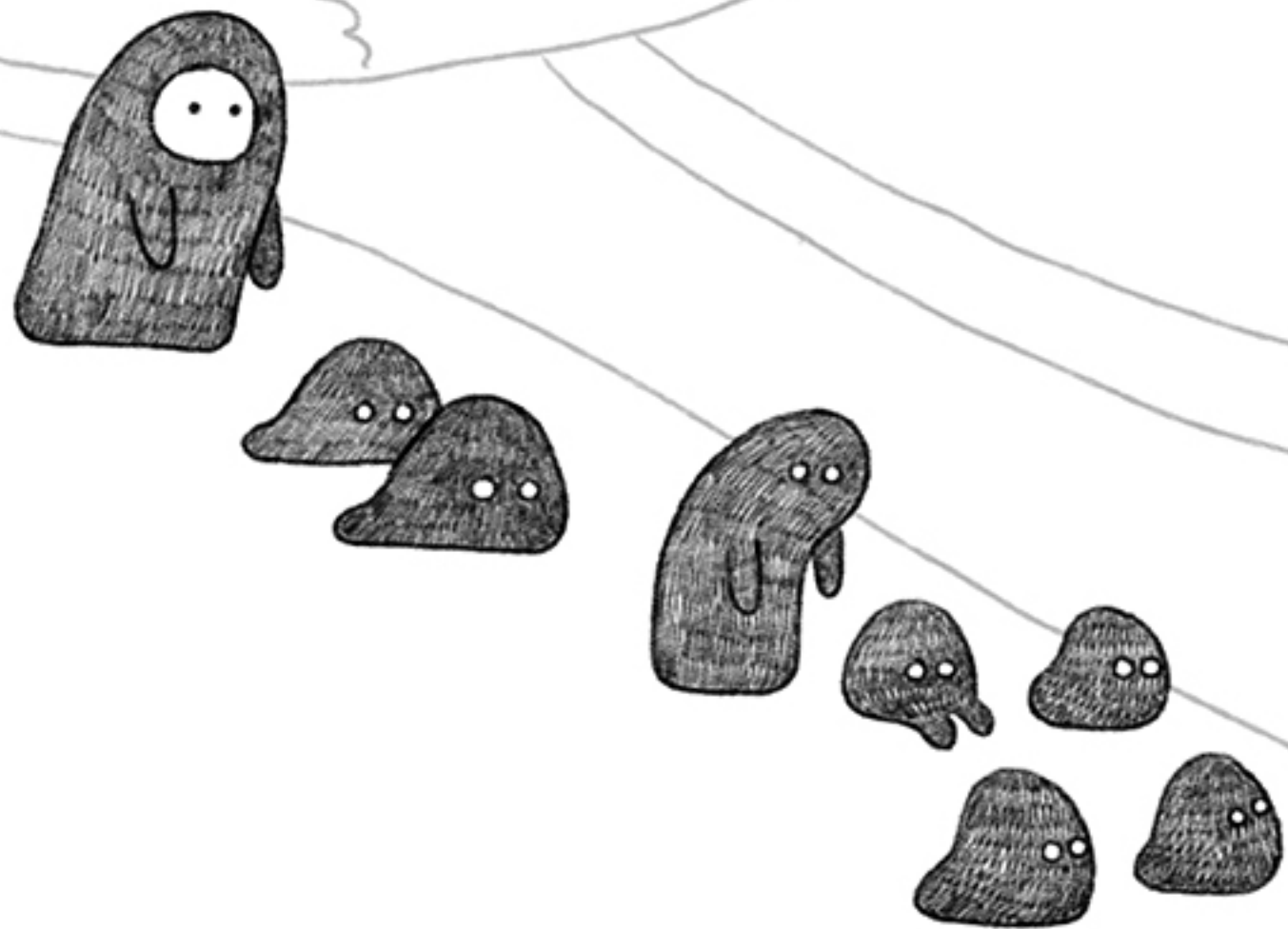


and Fried Chicken.  
LYOPHYLLUM DECASTES




We are hunted by frantic humans,  
excitable dogs, and uncontrollable pigs.

TRUFFLES



And we are ignored,  
stepped on, and  
often never seen.



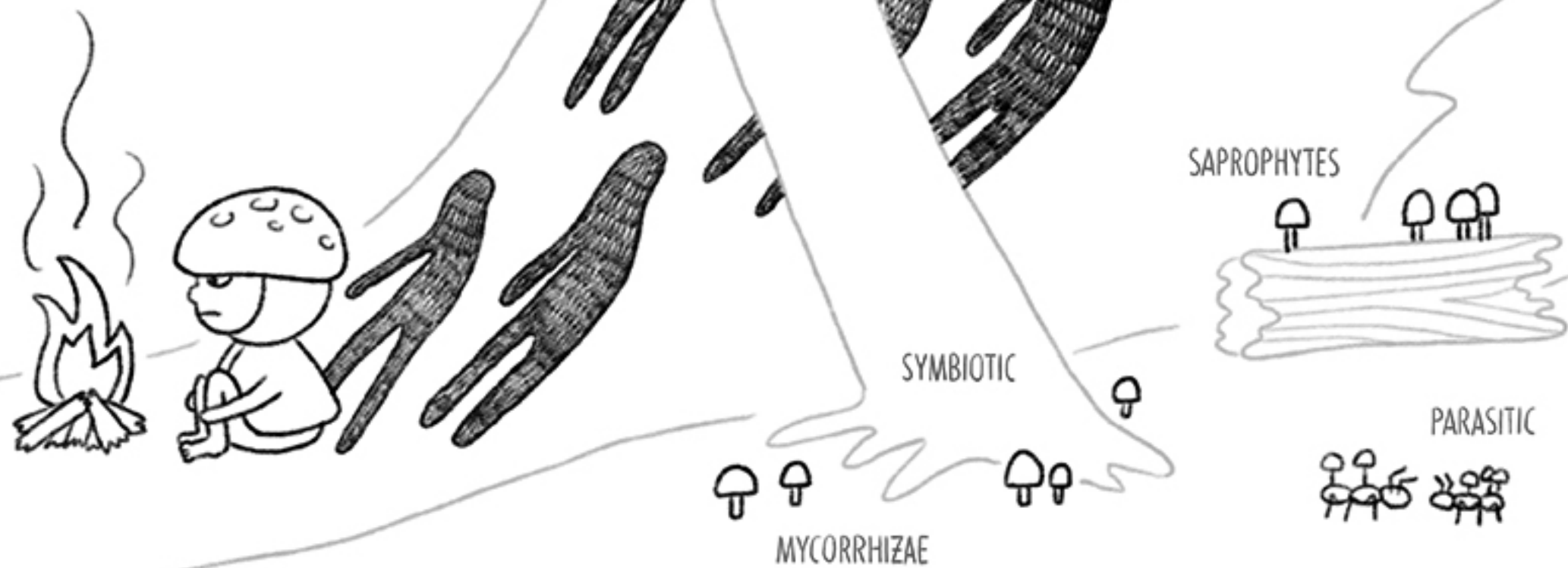
We can delight your  
tastebuds, if you eat us.

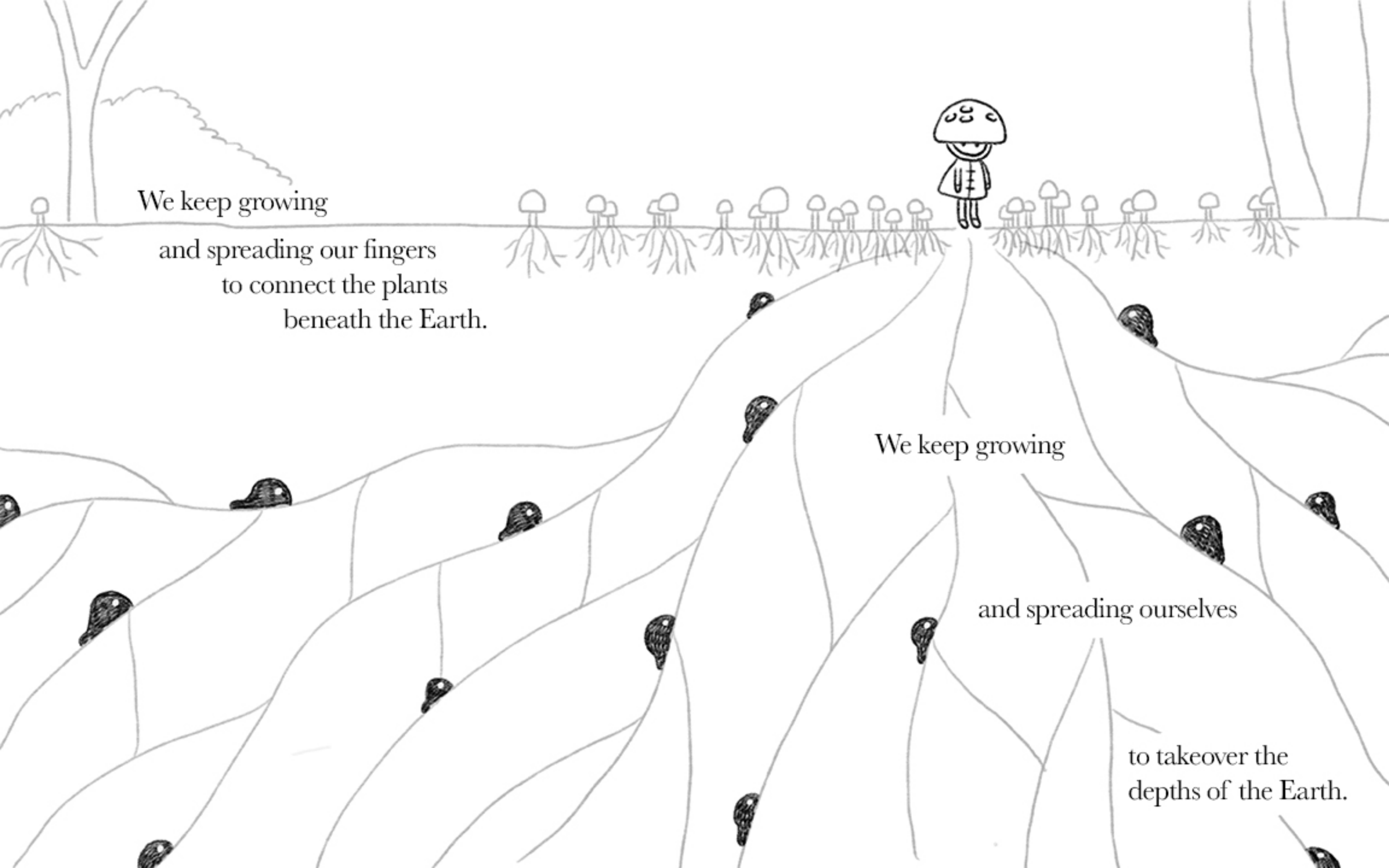
And we can displease  
your stomach, if you eat us.

We feed on dead things.  
And we feed on living things.

We are kind and polite,  
And we are friends of the trees.

We are selfish and rude,  
And we are enemies of the trees.





We keep growing

and spreading our fingers  
to connect the plants  
beneath the Earth.

We keep growing

and spreading ourselves

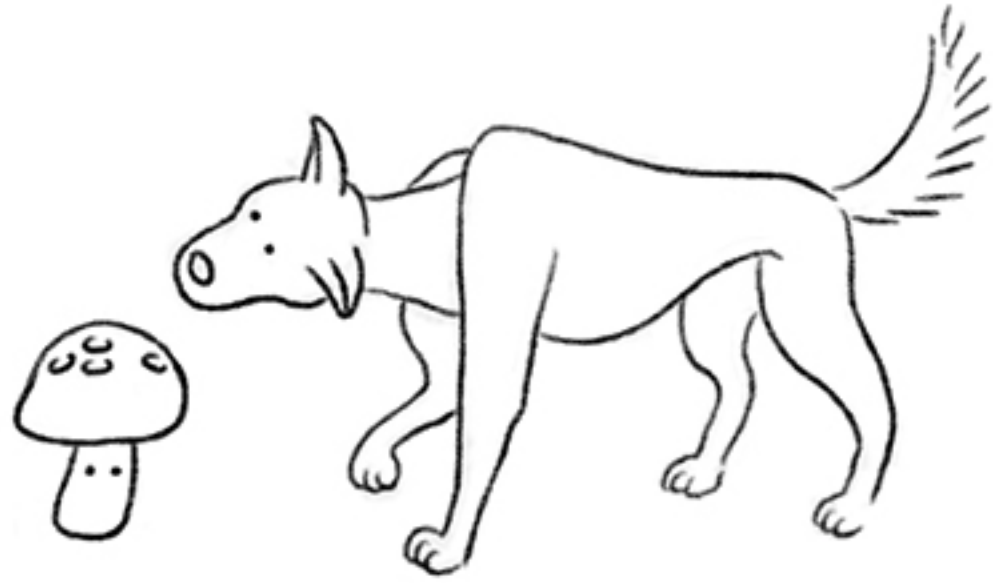
to takeover the  
depths of the Earth.

We are the kingdom of Fungi!  
We are mushrooms, yeasts, and molds.

WE ARE FUNGI!







And now you are one of us.

