

# A Mouse Called Miika

MATT HAIG  
with illustrations by CHRIS MOULD

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#AMouseCalledMiika

## NOTES FOR TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS AGES 7+

**Explore Themes of:** ✓ Being Yourself ✓ Friendship ✓ Bravery and Kindness ✓ Spreading Happiness and Joy  
**Subject Checklist:** ✓ Literacy ✓ R.E ✓ P.S.H.E ✓ Art, Design and Technology

These activities have been created to prompt discussions around Matt Haig's book, *A Mouse Called Miika*, looking at the importance of being true to yourself and encouraging students to develop their reading comprehension, inference, creative writing and empathy.

## INTRODUCING . . . MIIKA!

*Miika just wants to belong. Living with elves and trolls and pixies can make a mouse feel like the odd one out. When he makes friends with a fellow mouse, Miika thinks his problems are over. But really, his quest is just beginning . . .*

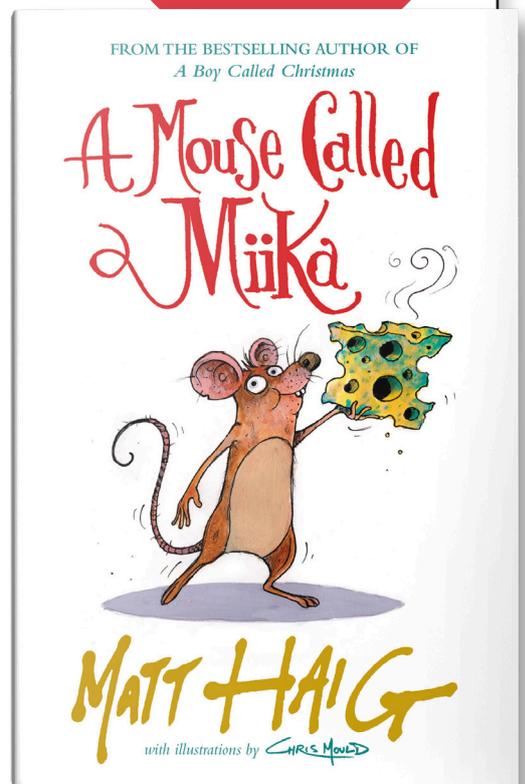
*A Mouse Called Miika is the story of a small mouse finding his place in a big world. A tale of friendship, cheese, robbery and the magical power of being yourself.*

Take a few moments to look at the cover of *A Mouse Called Miika*. Discuss as a class:

- What do you like about the illustration of Miika? What do you think is special about him?
- Why might the world seem like a big place to Miika?
- What mischief do you think Miika might get up to in the story?
- What do you think Miika might like or dislike?
- What challenges do you think Miika might face in the story?

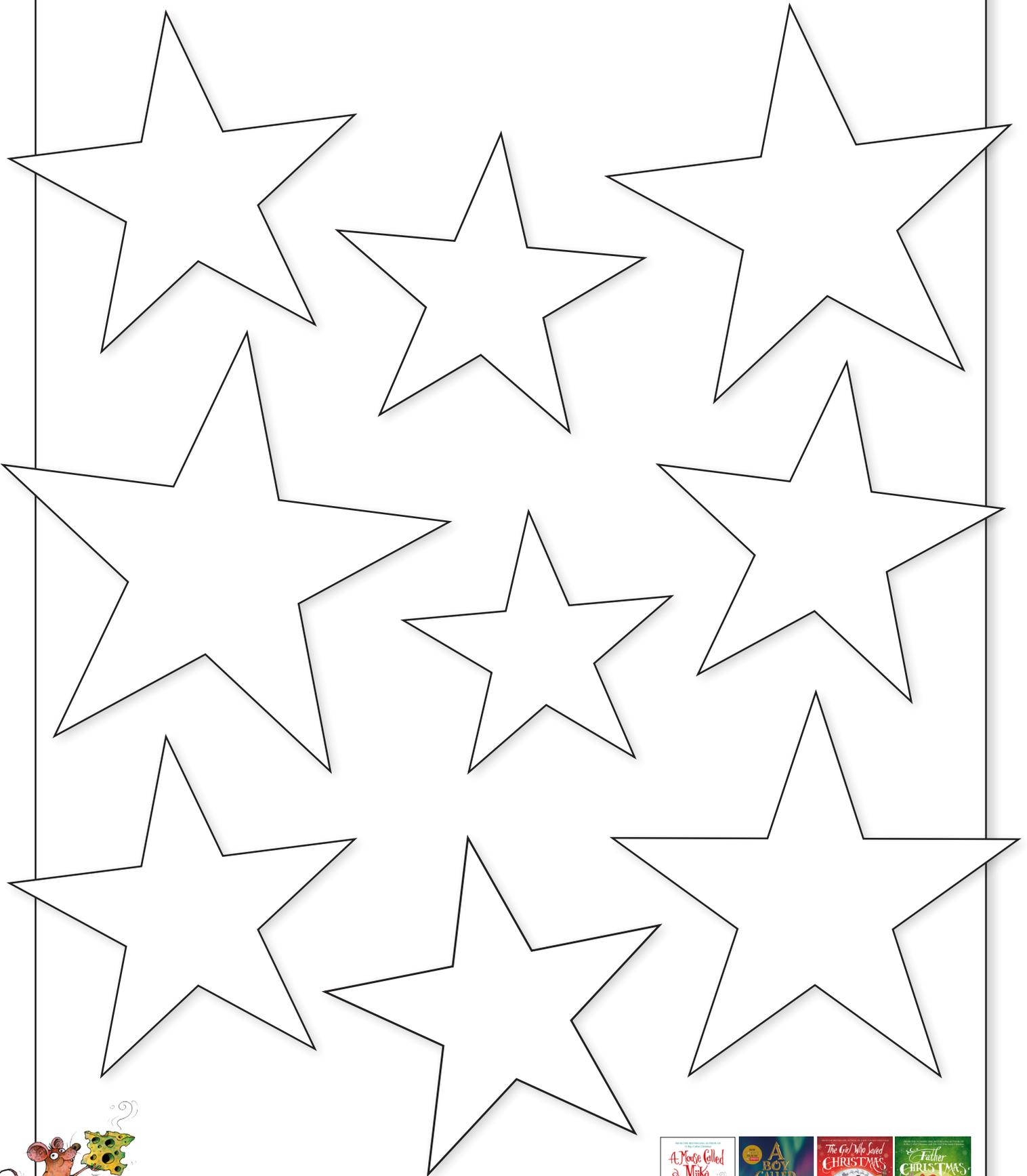
Throughout his adventures, Miika learns a great deal about himself and the kind of mouse he wants to be. On page 173, he states that:

*'I want to be a kind creature. And sometimes the very bravest thing is to be who you want to be . . .'*



**Have a chat together about what you think this means. Can you think of a time that you showed someone kindness recently? What about a time someone showed you kindness?**

In each of the stars below, note, sketch and colour-in different things and words that make you, YOU! For example, you might include personal qualities, things you believe in, and anything else that is important to you.



# QUITE UN-ORDINARY

## *A Tale of Two Mice*



Two mice were sitting in a forest, leaning against a pine cone.

They were friends. And they looked quite ordinary. They had ordinary dark eyes, ordinary pink noses, ordinary tails. One mouse was a bit scruffier than the other.

Where they lived, though, was quite *un-ordinary*. Because where they lived was the Far North.

At the very top of a country that humans call Finland is a little town called Elfhelm, which is the most unique place on the whole planet. A place you won't find on any map. A place full of brightly coloured wooden houses in winding streets. A place full of elves, and flying reindeer, and the occasional pixie.

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Extract taken from *A Mouse Called Miika*

Q1. How are the mice described in the extract? Underline key words.

Q2. Where would you find Finland on a map? What about Elfhelm?

Q3. How is Elfhelm presented as a special place? What magic might you find there?



# QUICK ACTIVITY!

Read Bridget the Brave's description of the all-famous URGA-BURGA cheese from page 95:

*'The greatest and stinkiest cheese in the whole universe . . . a mouldy blue colour, like a clear sky, and it doesn't just taste brilliant, it makes you feel brilliant'*

Write a description of and sketch your own world-famous cheese to be desired by all the mice across the land. Don't forget to give it a memorable name and list the secret ingredients that make it so delicious!

Name of cheese:

Description:

Secret Ingredients:

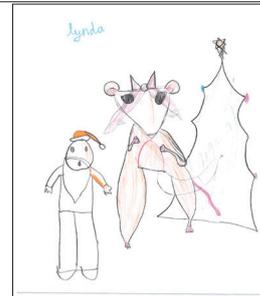
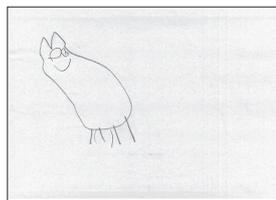
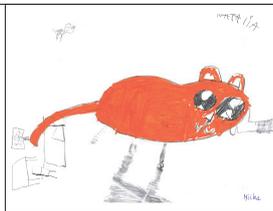
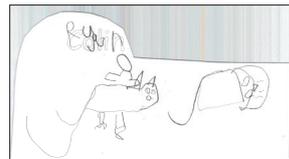
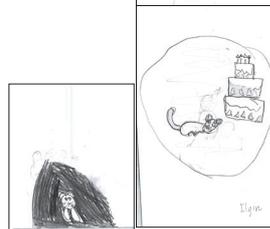
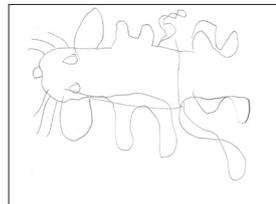
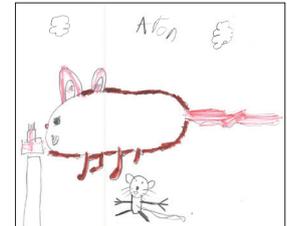
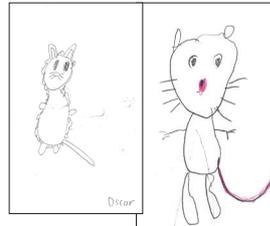
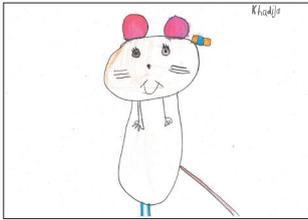
Sketch:



# MIIKA GALLERY!

## ARTISTS AT THE READY . . .

It's time to submit your own picture to the Miika Gallery!

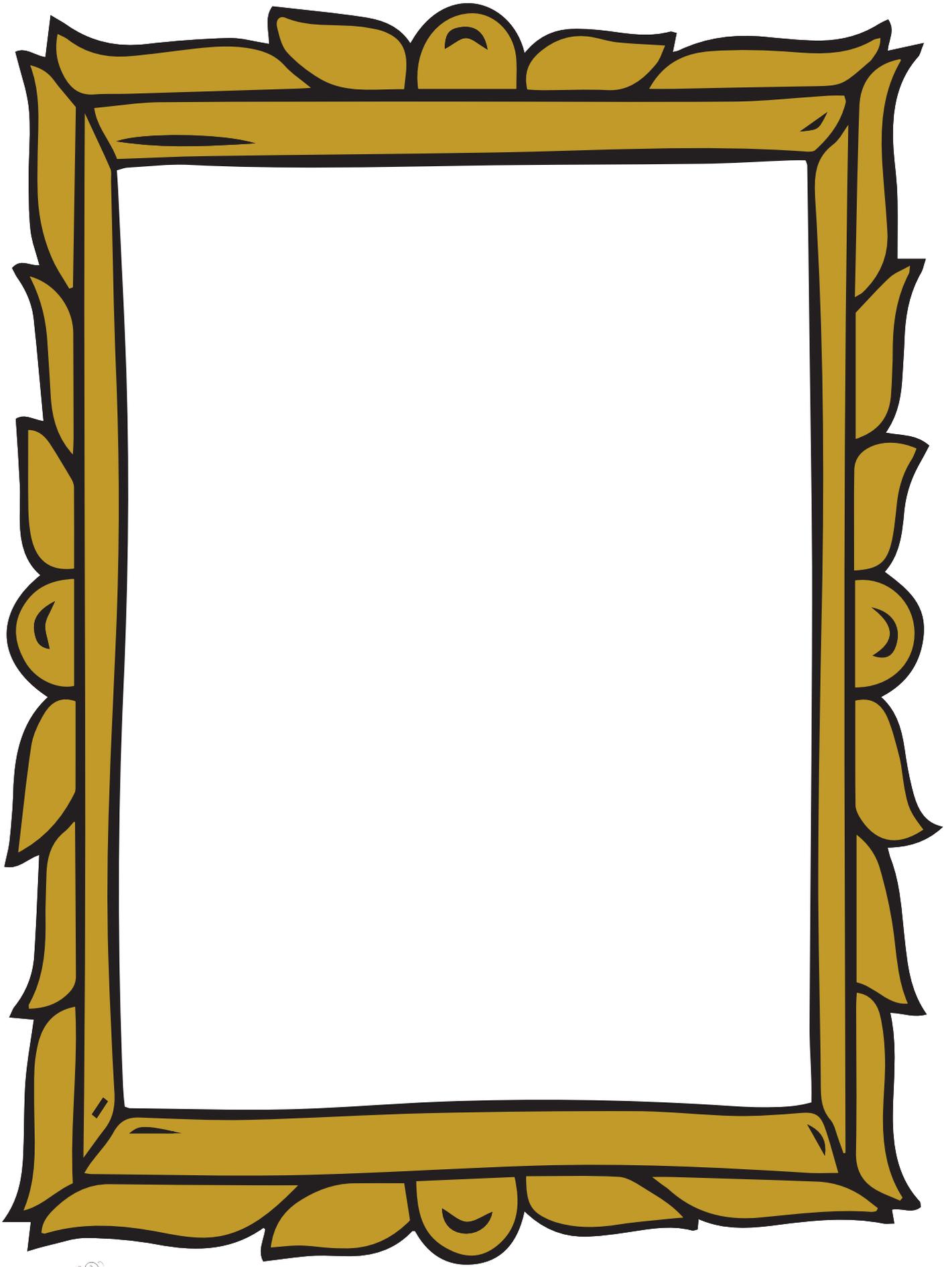


- Spend a few minutes at your tables looking over the brilliant Miika Gallery of pictures by P3 at the Royal Mile Primary School. Which are your favourites and why? Which of Miika's features can you spot? What similarities and differences can you see in the sketches?
- Then, read the description of Miika from page 3:

*'He was the less scruffy of the two, but still a little bit scruffy. His brown fur was often dotted with mushroom crumbs on his chest and tummy . . . Miika liked the elves, the reindeer and the pixies of Elfhelm'*

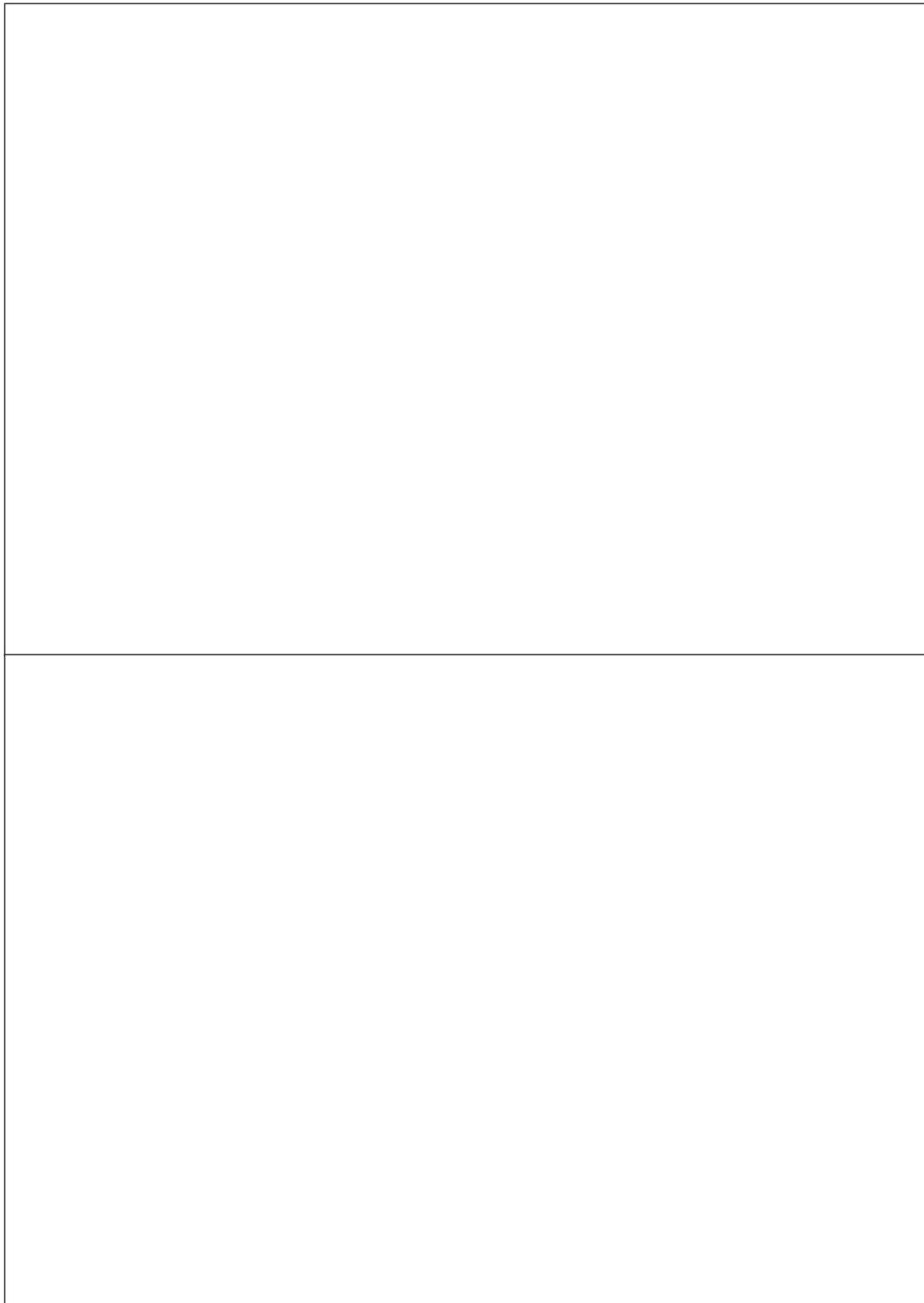
- Using the previous extract and this quote, underline or highlight key descriptions of Miika that will help you to draw him. Then, sketch your own picture of Miika and create your own Miika Gallery display together. Look over your gallery and admire your drawings together. Let them remind you to always be who you want to be!





# CREATE A THANK YOU CARD!

- Use the text and all the work you have done to inspire and design an awesome Thank You card for a friend. Perhaps someone has helped you or shown you kindness recently? Or maybe you just want to thank your friend for being who they are!
- Once you have designed and coloured in the front and back of your card, write the inside of it choosing your words carefully. Then, show kindness by giving it to your chosen friend.



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