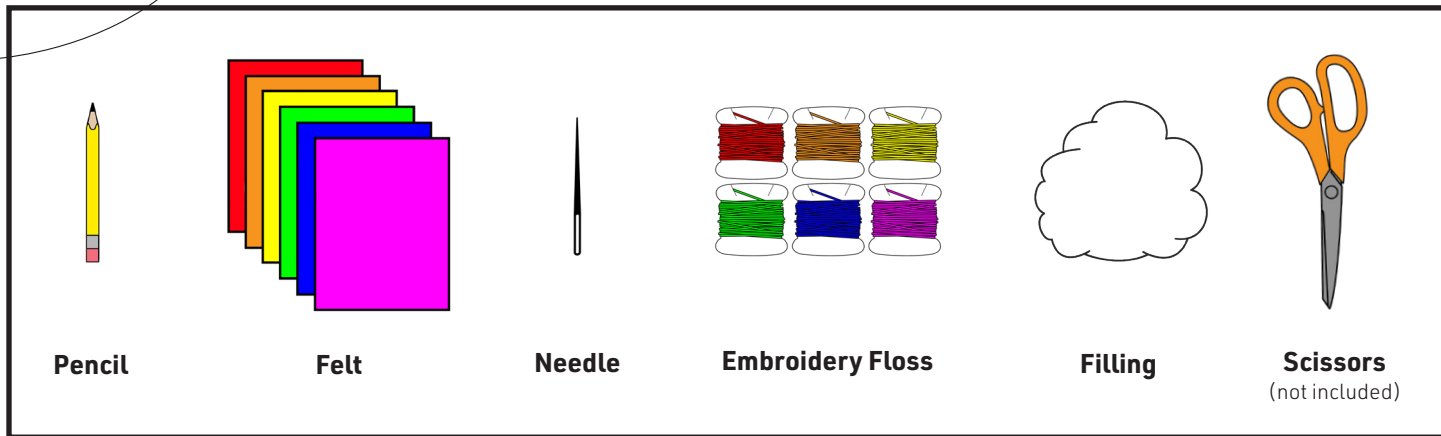


# PLUSHIE DESIGN

## Inspired by artist Mikey Anderson



**Share your message by creating your own plushie character and comic!**

### Step 1: Brainstorm

Use the questions (page 2) to generate ideas for your plushie design. If you are working with others, take turns interviewing each other.

### Step 2: Research

Before you start designing your plushie, explore the different kinds of characters present in your life. Explore your home and/or neighborhood. Where do you see characters? What do they look like? What do they symbolize? How do they make you feel?

### Step 3: Design your plushie character

Now it is time to put your ideas together. Develop your plushie character from imagination, from someone or something in your life, or from pop culture. Use the plushie bio (page 3) to draw the front and back of your plushie and give it a history.

### Step 4: Create your plushie pattern

Use the template (page 4) to draw your plushie pattern.

### Step 5: Sew your plushie

Follow the instructions (page 5) to assemble your plushie. If you are new to sewing, use the sewing guide (page 6).

### Step 6: Tell your stories

Create a comic about how your plushie is fighting injustice using the comic template (page 7).

### Step 7: Share your message

#### Glossary

**Character** is a person or other being in a story

**Equity** is the quality of being fair and impartial

**Injustice** is unfair action or treatment; inequity

**Pattern** is a design used as a guide in needlework and other crafts

**Plushie** is a soft toy

**Silhouette** is the outline of someone or something

**Social Justice** is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities

Social justice issues include: animal rights, climate change, freedom of speech, human rights (access to healthcare, housing, education, etc.), immigration, LGBTQIA rights, women's rights, prisoner's rights, racial justice, religious liberty, voting rights and more

**Symbolize** is to represent or be a sign of something

# QUESTIONS

What is one thing about your heritage/culture that is important to you?

What was the last thing that made you happy? Sad? Angry? Proud?

What is your favorite thing to eat?

What is your favorite animal?

Who is your favorite character?

What is your favorite thing to watch?

What is your favorite thing to read?

What would you get a tattoo of?

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

What social issues do you feel strongly about?

## Fill in the prompts

### I BELIEVE IN

Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom from \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom for \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom to \_\_\_\_\_

### I WILL FIGHT FOR

Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom from \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom for \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom to \_\_\_\_\_

# PLUSHIE BIO

By Mikey Anderson

## Plushie Bio!

Name

Pronouns

Special Abilities

Goals

Favorite Foods

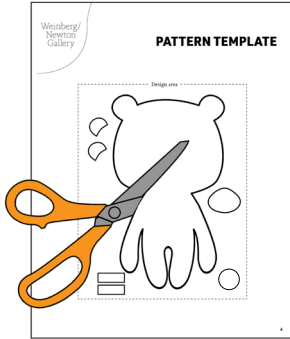
# PATTERN TEMPLATE

**Draw the silhouette of your plushie character**

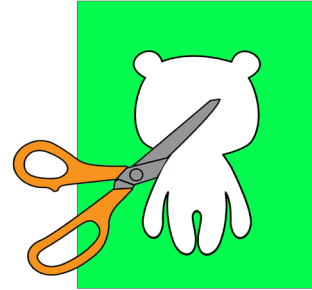


Design area

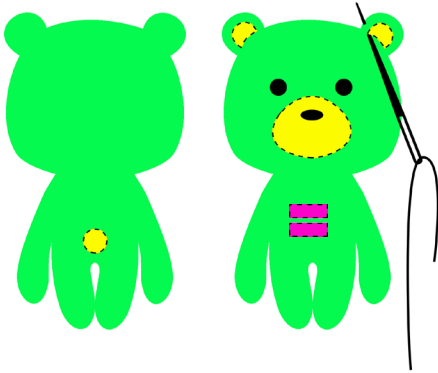
# PLUSHIE INSTRUCTIONS



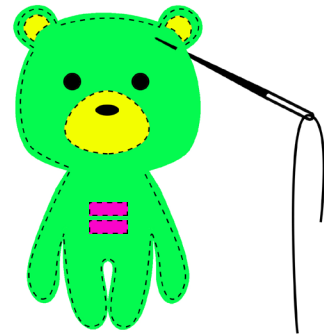
**Step 1:** Cut out your plushie pattern and details



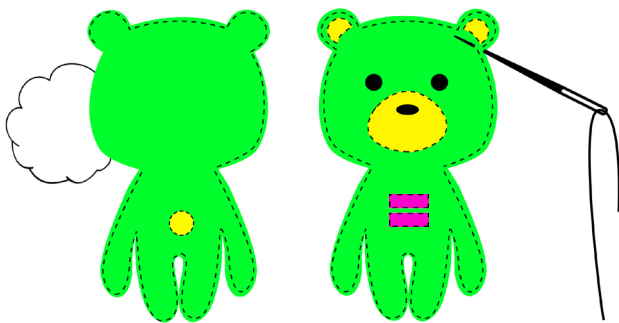
**Step 2:** Trace your plushie pattern onto two pieces of felt, then cut out



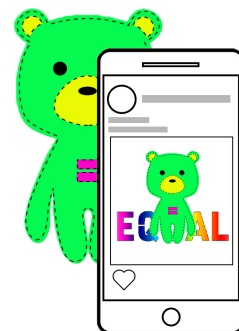
**Step 3:** Cut out the details and sew them onto the plushie silhouettes using a running stitch



**Step 4:** Sew both pieces of fabric together (around the outer edge) using a running stitch, leave a hole about three inches long to stuff your plushie



**Step 5:** Stuff your plushie with filling and sew it shut



**Step 6:** Take photos of your plushie and comic, and start spreading your message

# SEWING GUIDE

## PREPARING YOUR THREAD

### Step 1: Cut the thread

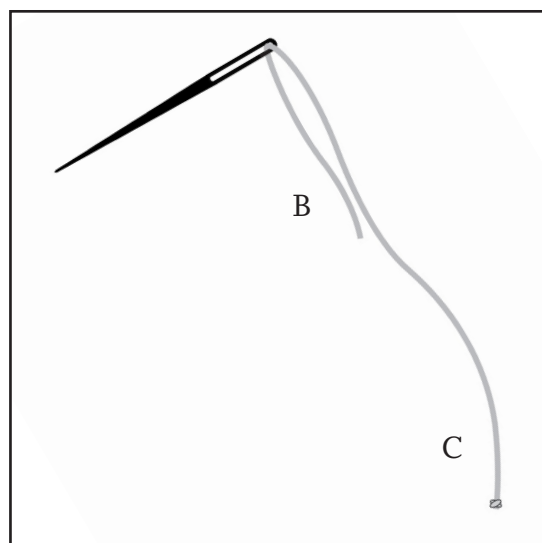
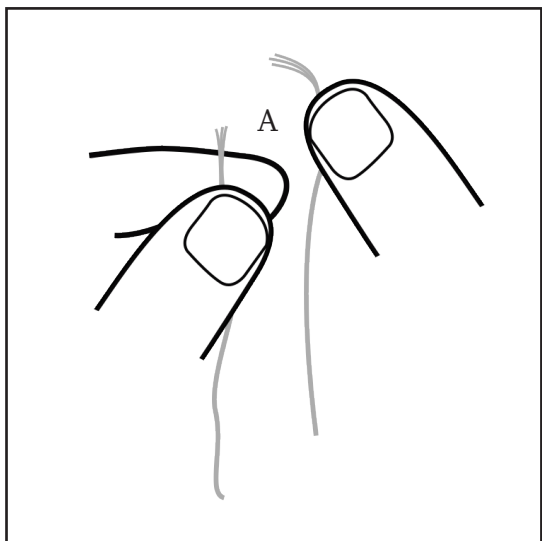
Hold the thread between your fingers and measure to your elbow (approximately 18 inches), then cut. If you go much longer than this, the thread is more likely to get knotted when you stitch.

### Step 2: Separate the floss

Embroidery thread (floss) is made up of six individual strands, lightly twisted together, that can be separated to change the thickness of your lines. We recommend working with 1 strand. To separate out a strand, hold the floss with one hand and pinch the end of one strand with the other. Gently and slowly pull the strand up and out until it is separated from the remaining strands. Only pull one strand at a time. Pulling multiple strands may cause the floss to knot.

### Step 3: Thread the needle

Pinch your three strands together and push through the eye of the needle. Pull the thread through so that one side is longer than the other. The shorter side should be approximately 3-5 inches long (B). Knot the long end of your strands (C). You may need a double or triple knot to make sure that your thread will not pull out the back when you start stitching. Once the knot is tied, trim off the excess thread.



## SEWING A RUNNING STITCH

Bring your needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, down at 4

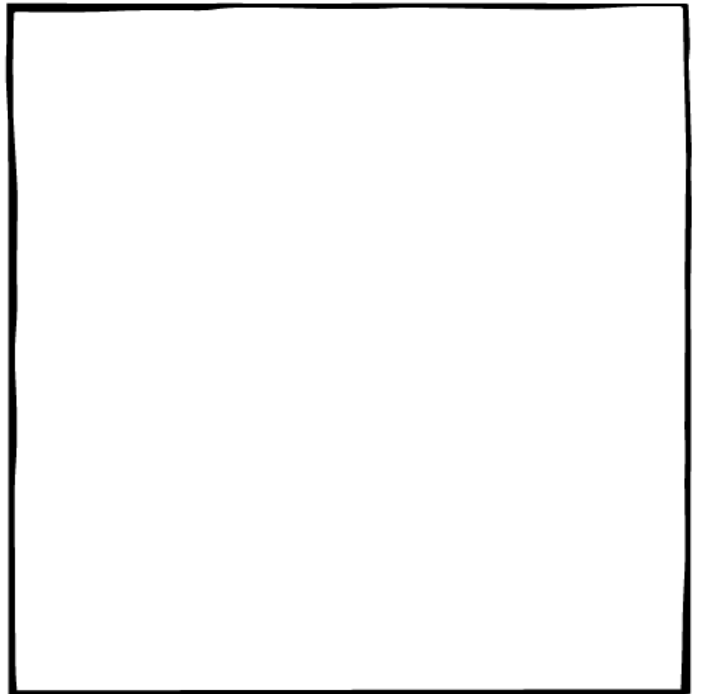
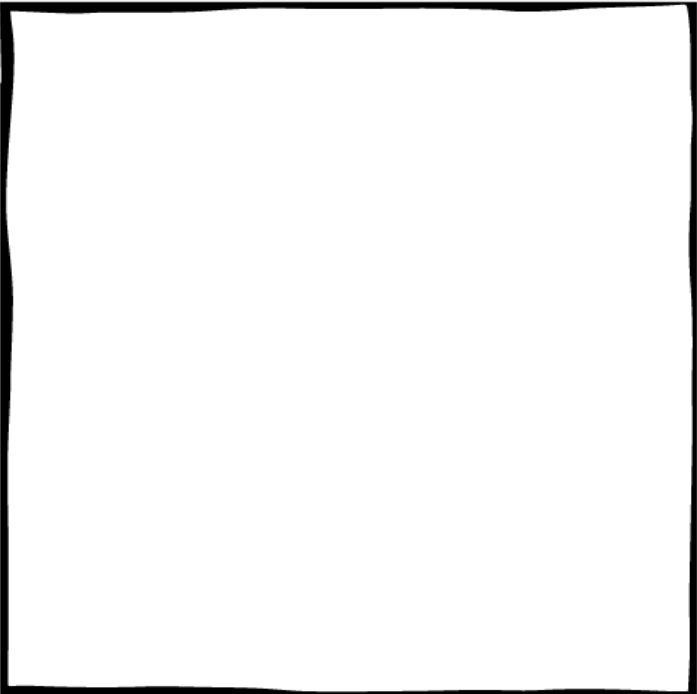
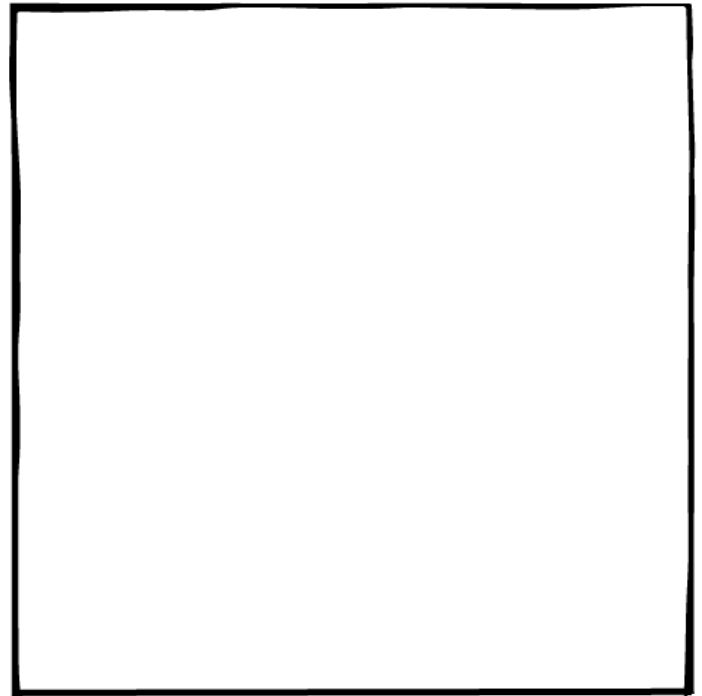
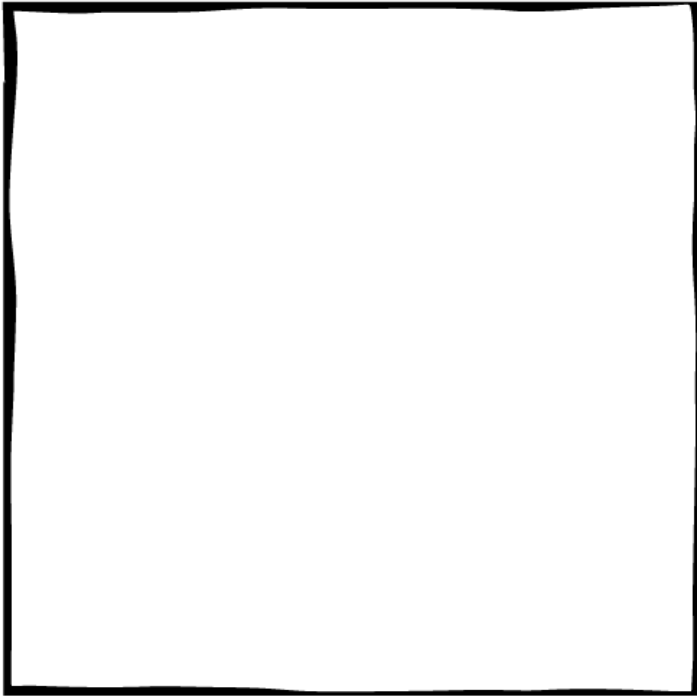


Weinberg/  
Newton  
Gallery

# COMIC TEMPLATE

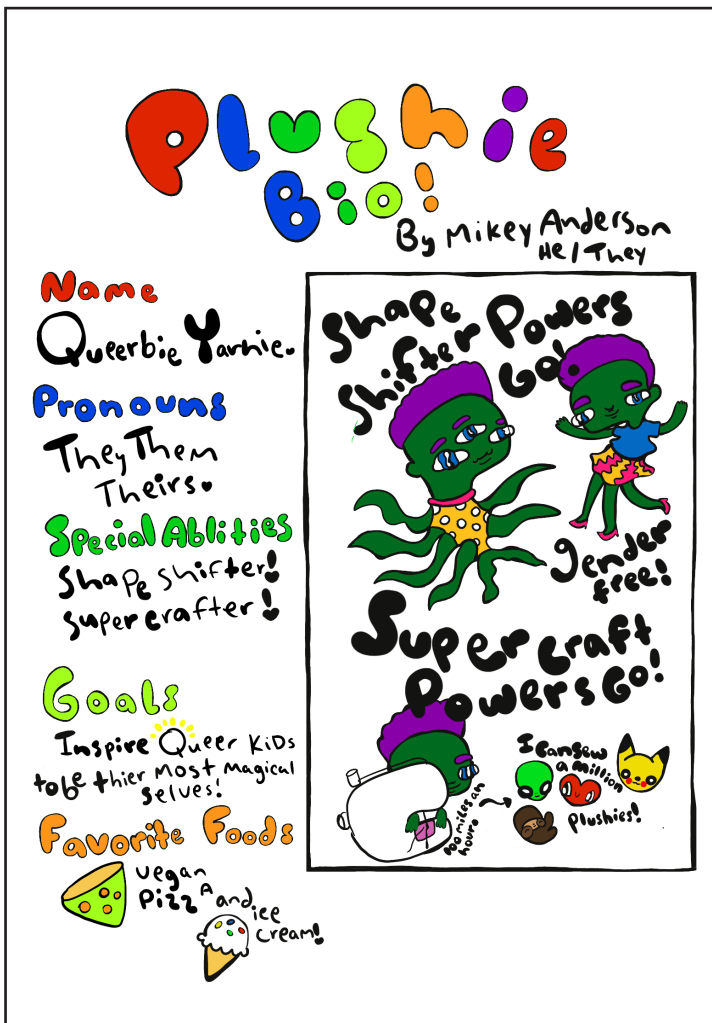
By Mikey Anderson

Four panel Plushie  
Comic!



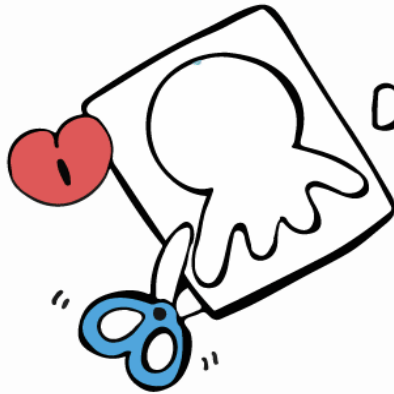
# MIKEY ANDERSON

## *Yarnies*





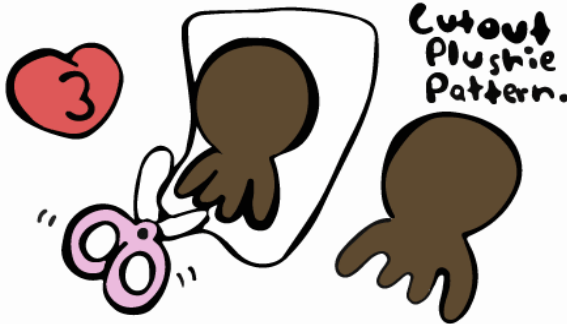
# Plushie Workshop



Draw Plushie Pattern on Paper and Cut out.



Trace Plushie Pattern on 2 pieces of fabric.



Cut out Plushie Pattern.



Put the 2 pieces of fabric together!



Leave a hole for stuffing!

Sew Plushie! with stuffing stitch!



Flip Plushie inside out!

Stuff Plushie!



Hand-sew Plushie Shut!



Decorate!



You are amazing!  
Finished!