Every DATASET has a PERSPECTIVE
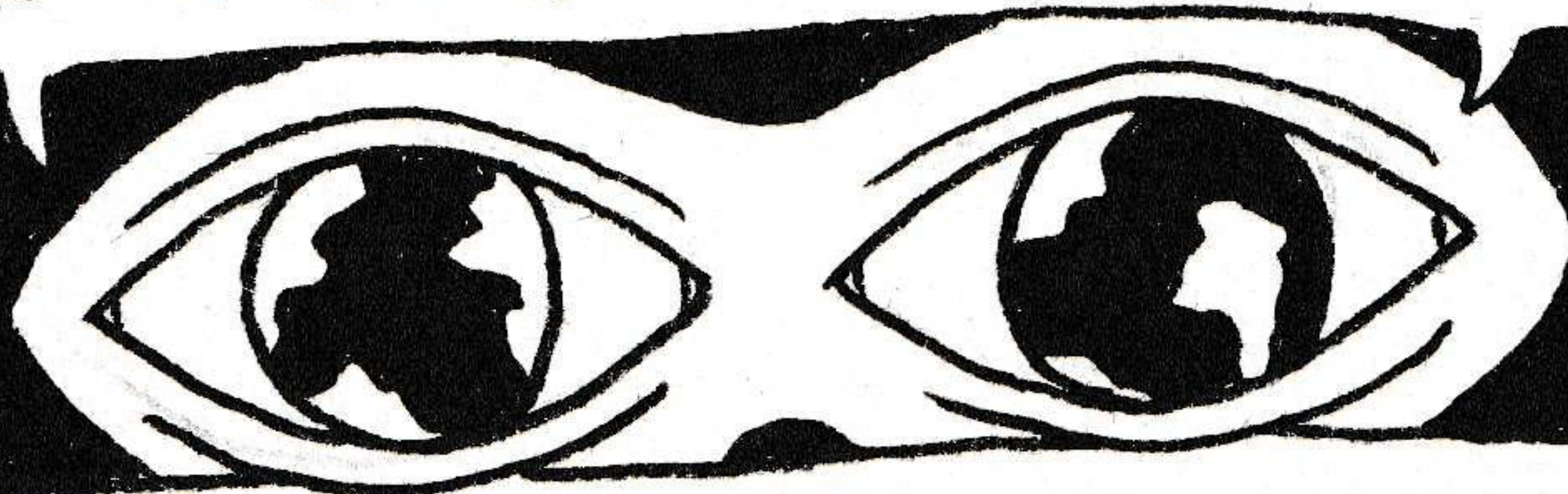
THIS IS BECAUSE WHEN YOU TURN SOMETHING INTO "DATA", YOU HAVE TO MAKE A LOT OF CHOICES.

TAKE ANY OBJECT, LIKE THIS TREE. IT SEEMS SIMPLE, BUT IT CAN MEAN MANY THINGS IN MANY WAYS.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO record , measure ,

OR describe HERE ?

LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT. SO...

WE COULD DESCRIBE IT AS

SPRUCE   ADULT   HEALTHY

OR MAYBE...

EDIBLE SPRUCE TIPS   LUMBER

MEDICINAL NEEDLES   FIREWOOD

FLEXIBLE INNER BARK

OR MAYBE...

26 FT TALL   8 FT WIDE

2000 LBS   907 KG
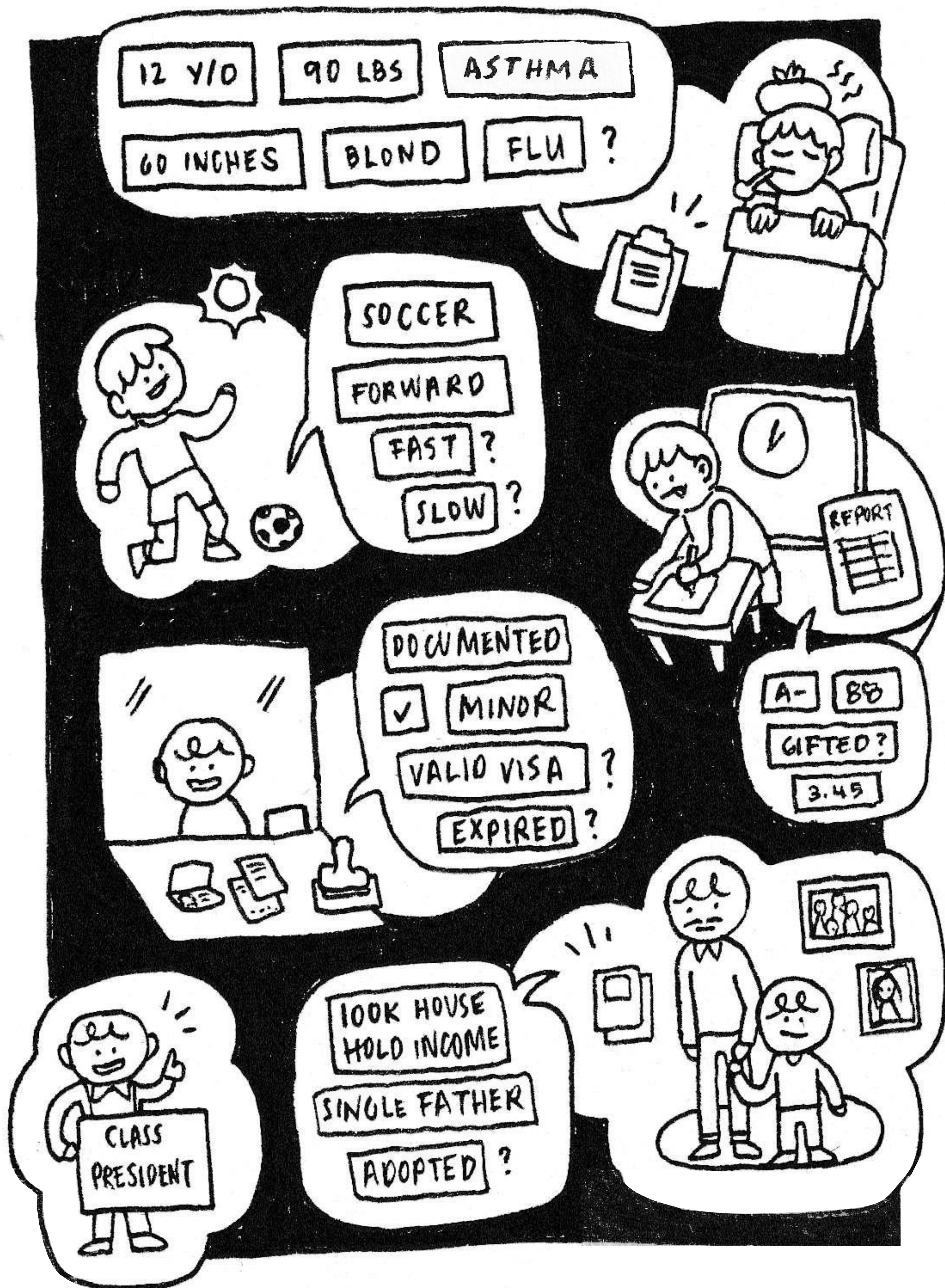
OR MAYBE EVEN

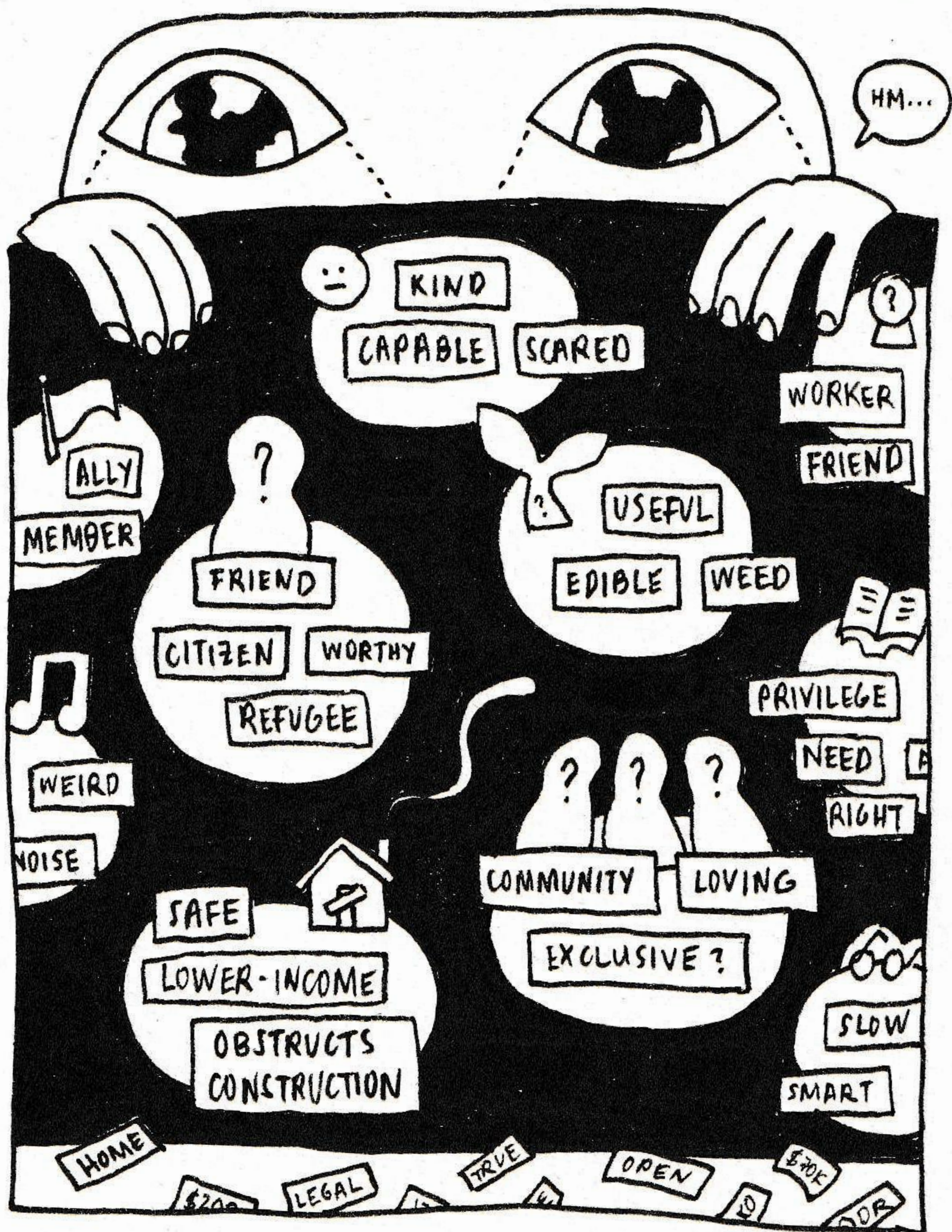PREMIUM-GRADE CHRISTMAS TREE

$250-300   BOUGHT/SOLD

WHAT FITS?

WHAT DO WE LEAVE OUT?

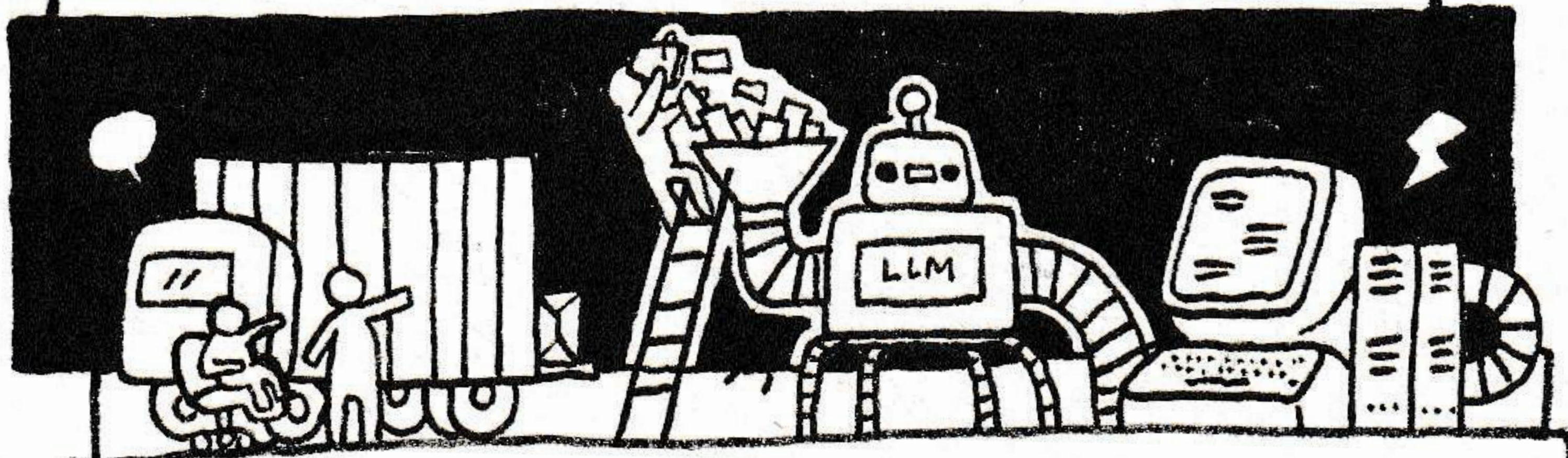EACH OF THOSE CHOICES TELLS A STORY.

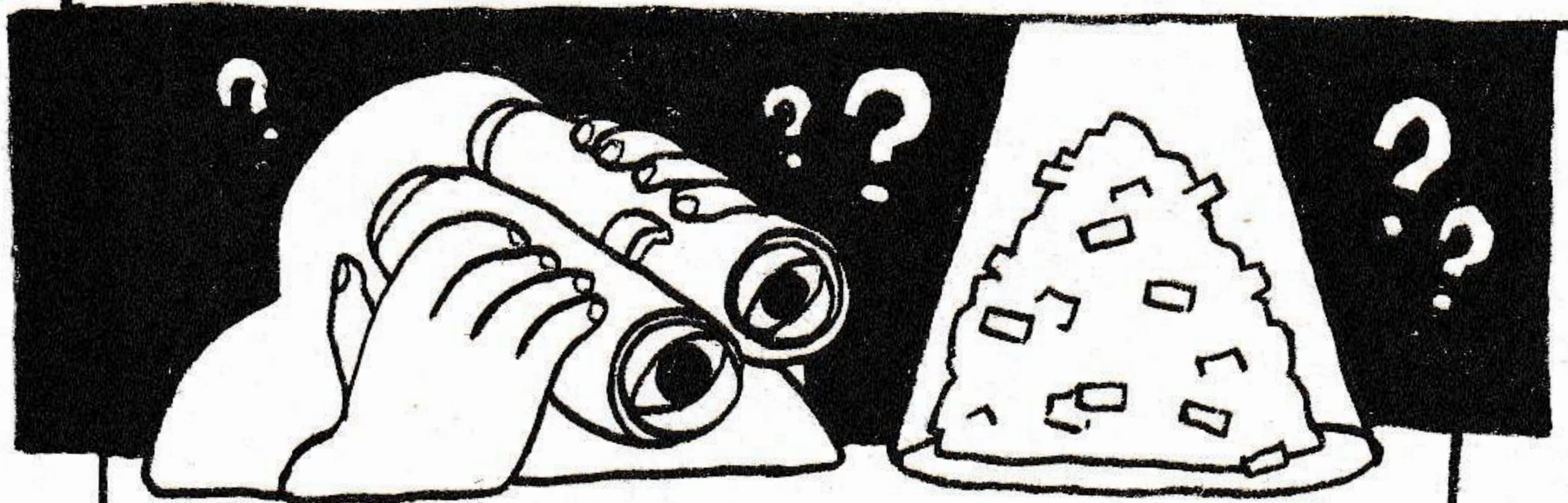THE BITS OF DATA WE SEE SHAPE OUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD AROUND US.

SO WHENEVER YOU SEE DATA (OR THINGS LIKE AI MODELS TRAINED ON A WHOLE LOT OF IT), ASK YOURSELF:

HOW WAS IT MADE? WHERE DID IT COME FROM? WHAT CHOICES WERE INVOLVED? WHY?

WHOSE PERSPECTIVE IS IT SHOWING? WHAT ARE THE SCOPE & LIMITS OF THIS POINT OF VIEW?
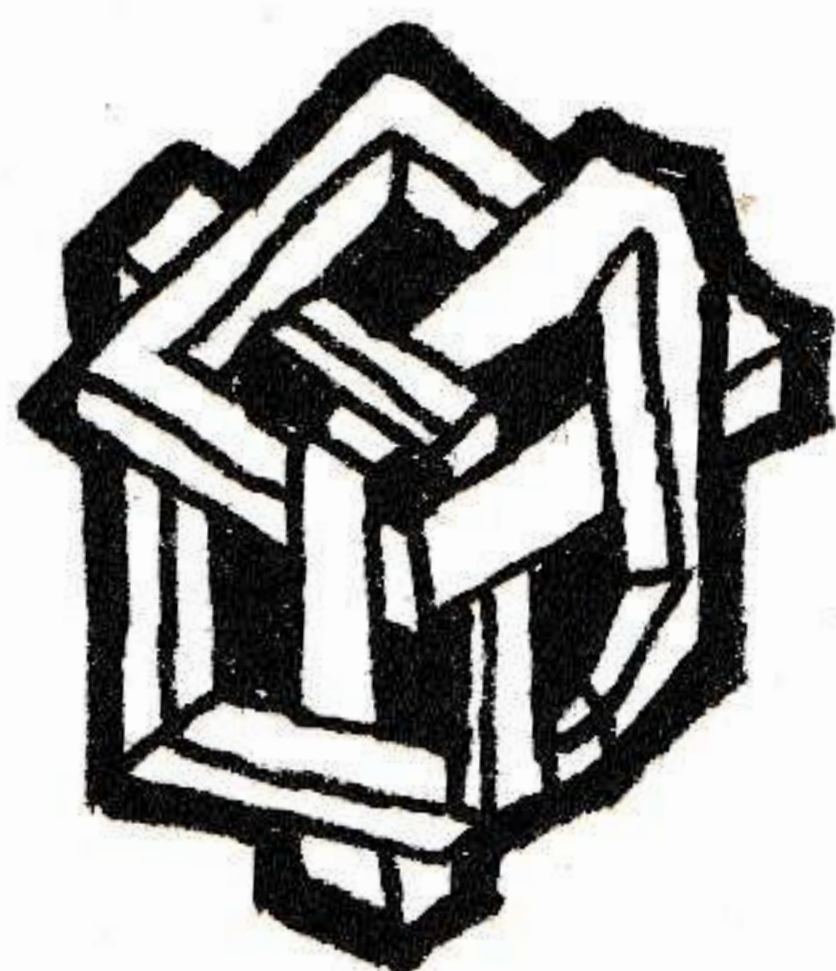
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,

WHAT STORIES DOES IT TELL?

WHAT MIGHT BE MISSING?

DAIR

dair-institute.org