# Sheffield Hallam University

Say What? Dialogue animation by hearing-impaired students: challenges and opportunities.

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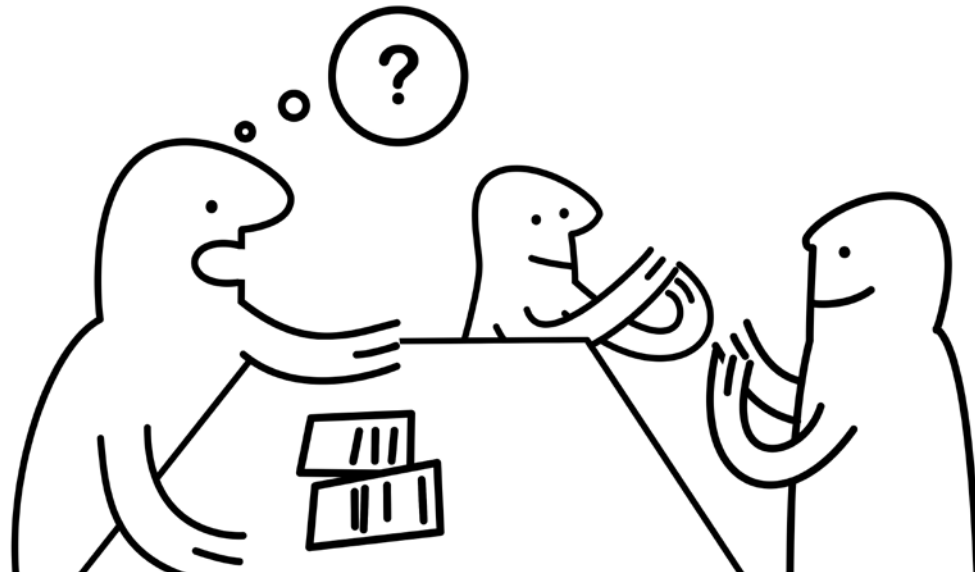
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# Say what?

Dialogue animation by hearing impaired students:
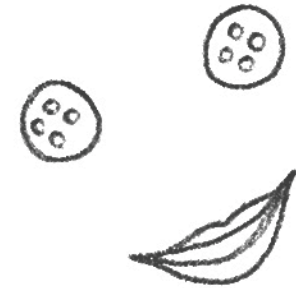
## Challenges and opportunities

By Melvyn Ternan, Senior Lecturer in Animation @ Sheffield Hallam University

# Preamble

Dialogue Animation: A staple diet of any student developing within the field of Animation

Find sound clip → Dope sheet → Storyboard → Design puppet → Design mouth set → Animate → Post Production → Delivery

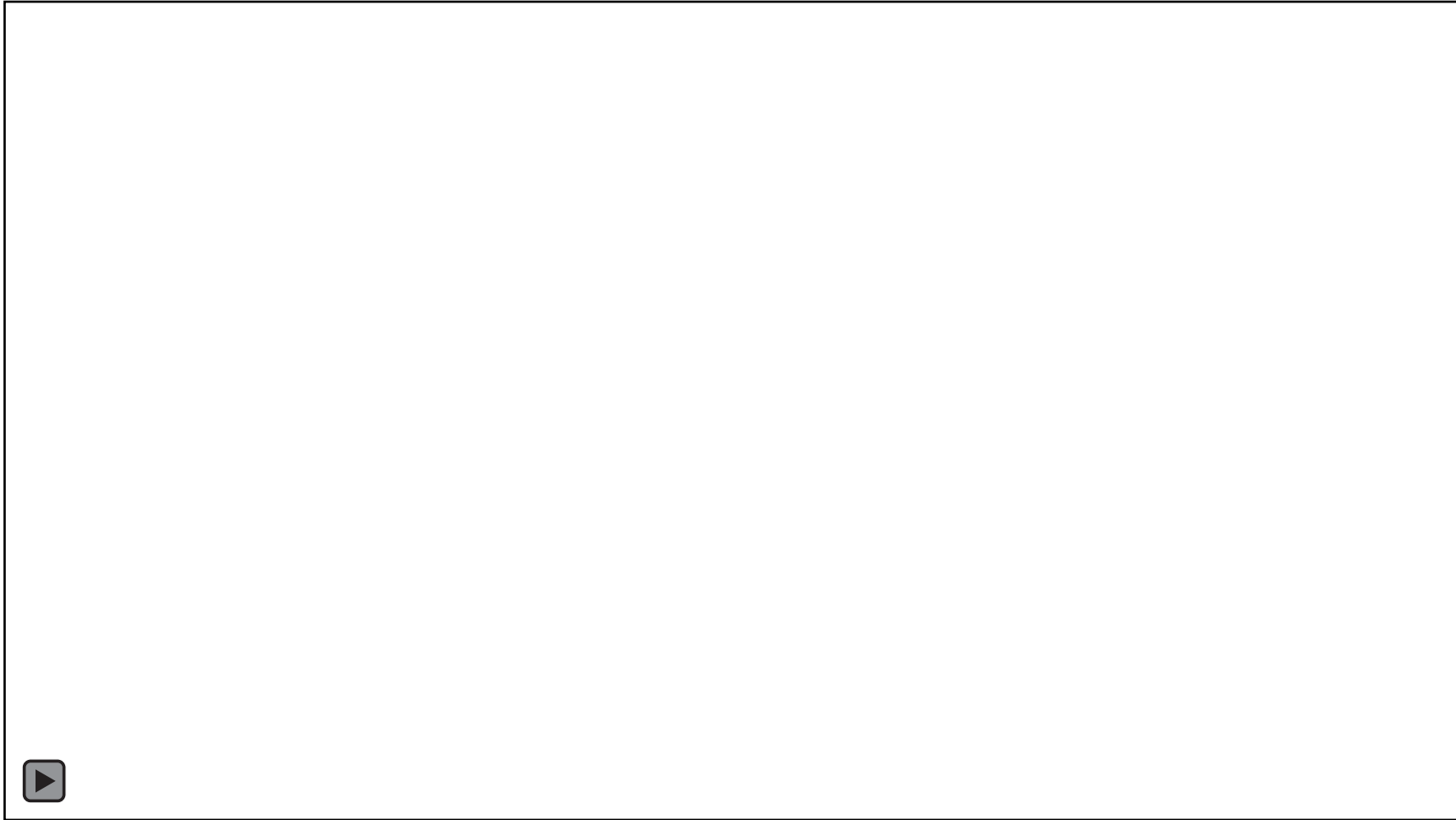Technical and Creative process
Juxtaposition
Character performance
Staging
Dialogue Animation

# Pom Pom Moment!

# Preamble

Jack Humpherson, 2nd year Dialogue Animation piece

# Challenges

How can
Audio based, Stop Motion, Dialogue animation work for
BSL?

**B**ritish **S**ign **L**anguage

**Technical process challenges**     **?**     **Teaching process challenges**

# Challenges

How can
Audio based, Stop Motion, Dialogue animation work for
BSL?

**B**ritish **S**ign **L**anguage

**Technical process challenges**

**?**

**Teaching process challenges**

The 'Straight Ahead' nature of Stop motion
Can be challenging

Adjustments necessary in a brief and marking
scheme could also prove difficult

# Challenge 1 - inclusion

*'The student may need to engage in a different task with separate classes'*

# Challenge 1 - inclusion

# Challenge 1 – inclusion - solution

"Dual Format" Lecture slides

Record the Audio using your phone or Video

any method you wish - as long as:

It can be played back as an audio file on your computer Video file

It is clear

it is easy to understand

# Challenge 2 – task brief & Marking Scheme

## Audio based marking scheme sample

| | How much it's worth | Fail (0-39) | | | 3rd (40-49) | | | 2.2 (50-59) | | | 2.1 (60-69) | | | 1st (70-100) | | | | Feedback |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | LOW 1-29 | MID 30-34 | Marginal 35-39 | LOW 40-43 | MID 44-46 | HI 47-49 | LOW 50-53 | MID 54-56 | HI 57-59 | LOW 60-63 | MID 64-66 | HI 67-69 | LOW 70-77 | MID 78-84 | HI 85-92 | Exceptional 93-100 | |
| **Supplementary production pieces** Dope Sheets Character / puppet Designs Storyboard(s) Production Schedule | Worth: **25%** | One or more documents are missing. Those present are poorly presented / lacking in detail. | | | All documents are present. Each or most are to a low standard. Rushed work or missing relevant information. | | | All elements are completed and show some effort but more time could have been used to develop the documents further and make them extremely clear. | | | Each element is clear and well presented. Well thought out schedule and good character designs showing puppet measurements, colour and character development. | | | It is obvious from each element that a lot of time and effort has been put into making the documents clear and presentable. Dope sheet is immaculate, Character designs are plentiful, showing development Storyboards read extremely well and production schedule is to a professional standard. | | | | |
| Audio Quality | Worth: **10%** | Dialogue is very hard to understand. Extremely poor quality sound. | | | Dialogue can just be made out in either all or some of the sound clip. Compression quality low. | | | Dialogue can be made out but ambient, Foley or other noises interrupt. Compression quality is ok. | | | Clear dialogue. Some quick spoken / quiet words are hard to understand but overall acceptable. Good quality compression. | | | Extremely clear audio with excellent audio compression. Sounds like a professionally recorded sound track. | | | | |
| Lip Synch Quality | Worth: **20%** | Very little, if any of the animation synchs to the dialogue in the sound track. | | | Some of the lip-synching works but some words are misrepresented visually. Mouths are either too small or turned away / hidden from camera | | | Lip-synching works for the most part with only some notable issues. Mouths can be seen but some obstructions have occurred. | | | All lip-synching works and is represented visually well. Mouths are clear and easy to see. | | | Excellent lip synch that works well visually. Good mouth shapes that are clear and easy to see and fit the unique intonation and inflection of the dialogue being spoken. | | | | Your feedback for all work on this task has been recorded as an audio file that accompanies this grade |

# Challenge 2 – task brief & Marking Scheme - solution

## Audio based marking scheme sample

| | How much it's worth | Fail (0-39) | | | 3rd (40-49) | | | 2.2 (50-59) | | | 2.1 (60-69) | | | 1st (70-100) | | | | Feedback |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | LOW 1-29 | MID 30-34 | Marginal 35-39 | LOW 40-43 | MID 44-46 | HI 47-49 | LOW 50-53 | MID 54-56 | HI 57-59 | LOW 60-63 | MID 64-66 | HI 67-69 | LOW 70-77 | MID 78-84 | HI 85-92 | Exceptional 93-100 | |
| **Supplementary production pieces** Dope Sheets Character / puppet Designs Storyboard(s) Production Schedule | Worth: **25%** | One or more documents are missing. Those present are poorly presented / lacking in detail. | | | All documents are present. Each or most are to a low standard. Rushed work or missing relevant information. | | | All elements are completed and show some effort but more time could have been used to develop the documents further and make them extremely clear. | | | Each element is clear and well presented. Well thought out schedule and good character designs showing puppet measurements, colour and character development. | | | It is obvious from each element that a lot of time and effort has been put into making the documents clear and presentable. Dope sheet is immaculate, Character designs are plentiful, showing development Storyboards read extremely well and production schedule is to a professional standard. | | | | |
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## BSL based marking scheme sample

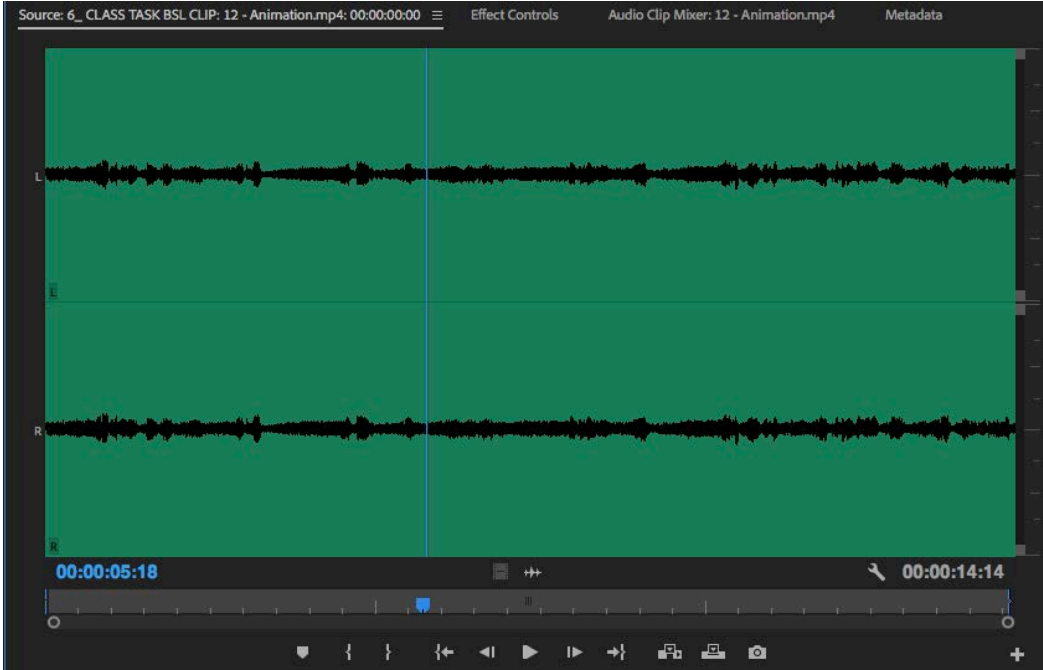| | How much it's worth | Fail | | | 3rd | | | 2.2 | | | 2.1 | | | 1st | | | | Feedback |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Supplementary production pieces** Dope Sheets and script of dialogue Character / puppet Designs Storyboard(s) Production Schedule | Worth: **30%** | One or more documents are missing. Those present are poorly presented / lacking in detail. | | | All documents are present. Each or most are to a low standard. Rushed work or missing relevant information. | | | All elements are completed and show some effort but more time could have been used to develop the documents further and make them extremely clear. | | | Each element is clear and well presented. Well thought out schedule and good character designs showing puppet measurements, colour and character development. | | | It is obvious from each element that a lot of time and effort has been put into making the documents clear and presentable. Dope sheet is immaculate, Character designs are plentiful, showing development Storyboards read extremely well and production schedule is to a professional standard. | | | | |
| **BSL** Quality | Worth: **25%** | Very little, if any of the animation portrays the dialogue in the script | | | Some of the BSL works but some words are misrepresented visually. Hand signs are either too small or turned away / hidden from camera | | | BSL works for the most part with only some notable issues. Hands can be seen but some obstructions have occurred, making it hard to understand | | | All Signing works and is represented visually well. Hands are clear and easy to see. | | | Excellent Signing that works well visually. Good hand shapes that are clear and easy to see and fit the unique dialogue in your script | | | | Your feedback for all work on this task has been recorded as a |
| Animation Quality | Worth: | The characters move but | The hands are the | Even hand and mouth | The entire hand and | A thoroughly well animated short. Face, hand | | | | | | | | | | | | |

# Challenge 4 – What to reference instead of sound?

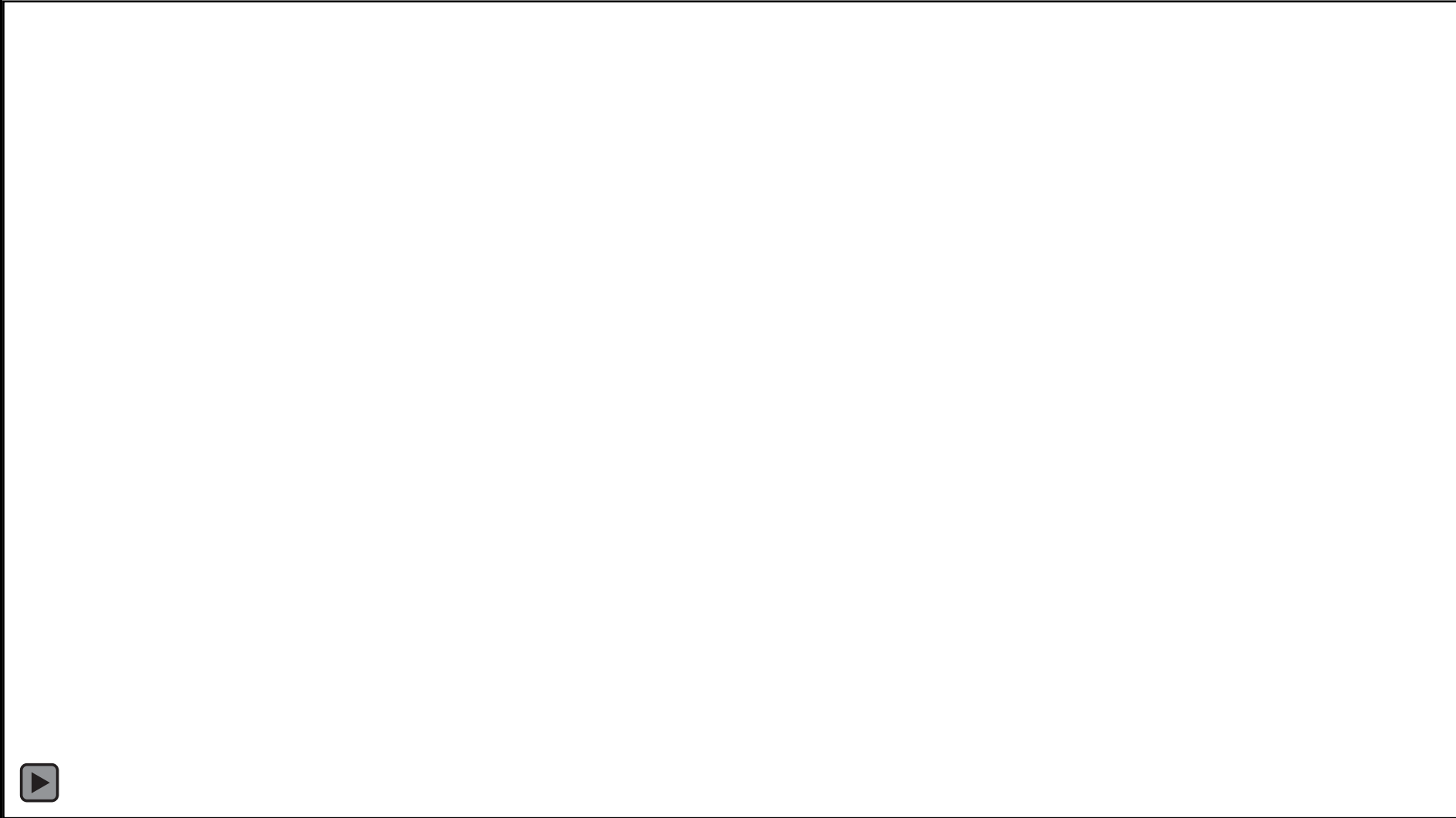<u>□□□□□□ □□□□□□□</u>                              <u>□□□</u>

SOUND CLIP                                    TEXT


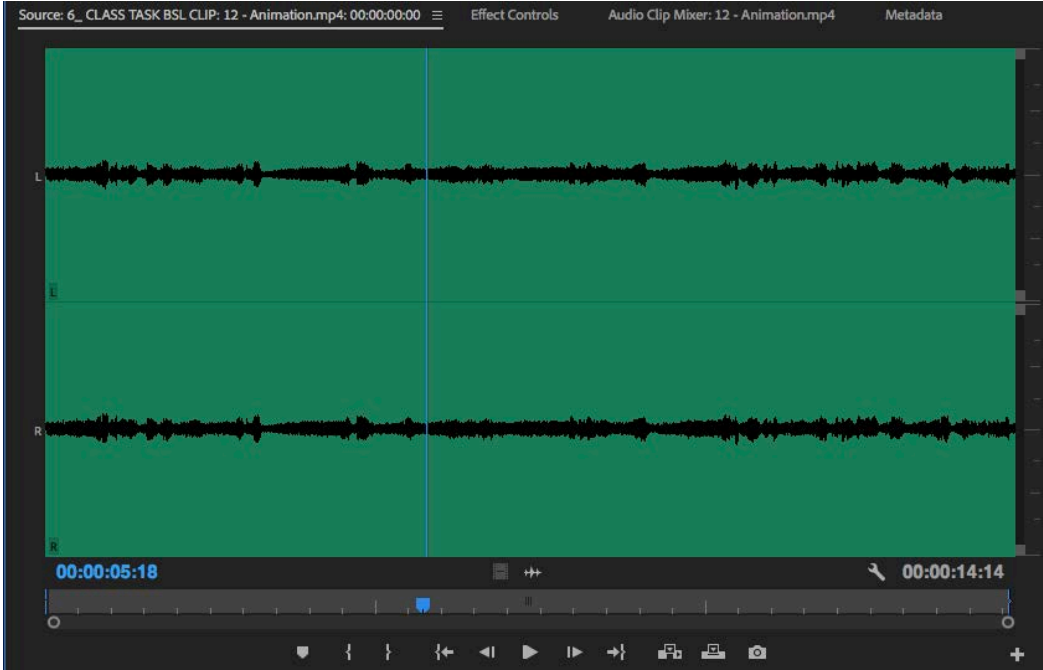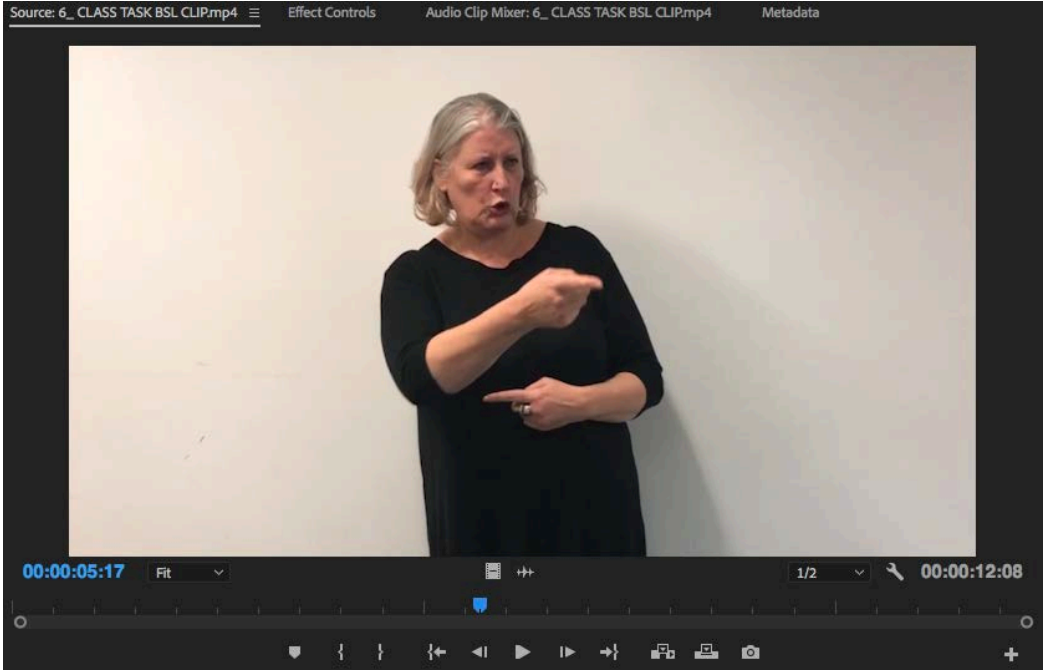
"You"

# Challenge 4 – What to reference instead of sound?

# Challenge 4 – What to reference instead of sound - Solution

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SOUND CLIP                                  VIDEO

# Challenge 5 – Dope Sheeting BSL

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Dope Sheet denoting:
mouth shapes

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Dope sheet
denoting: just hand
gestures?



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# Challenge 5 – Dope Sheeting BSL - Solution

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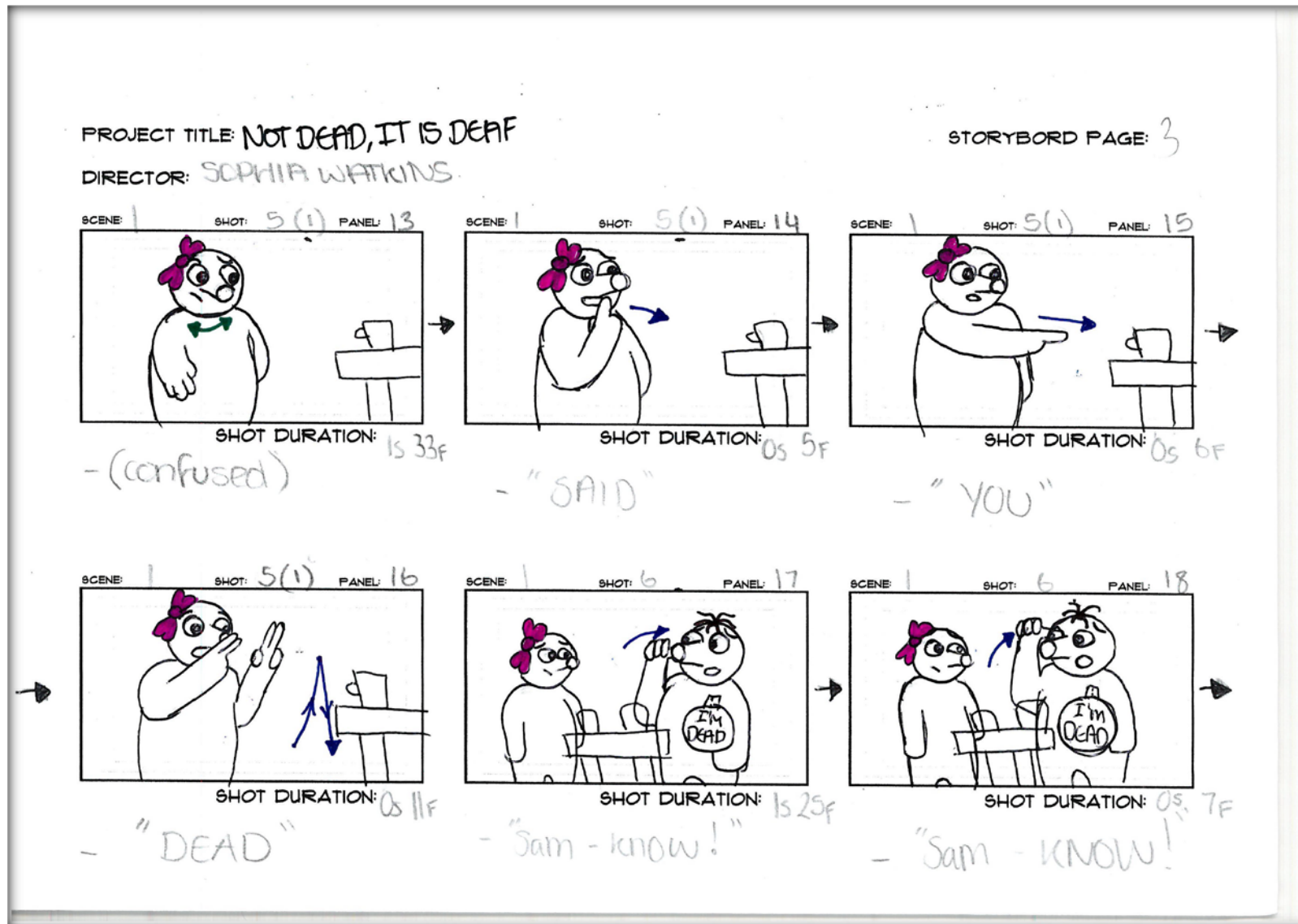Dope Sheet denoting:
mouth shapes

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Dope sheet
denoting: Right hand
gestures
Left hand gestures
Facial expressions
Mouth shape
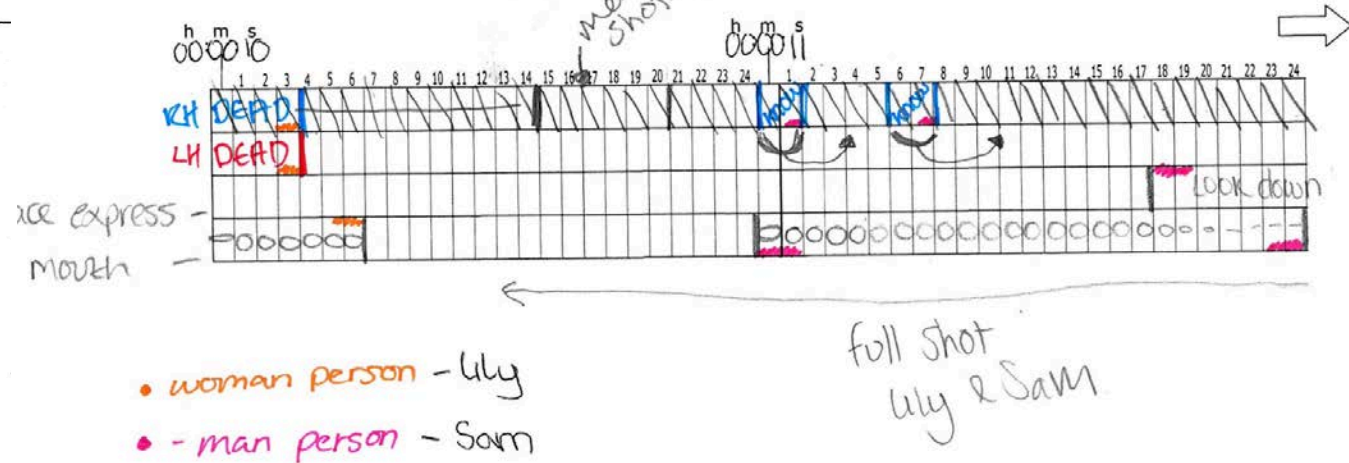
# Following the rest of the workflow – puppet designs
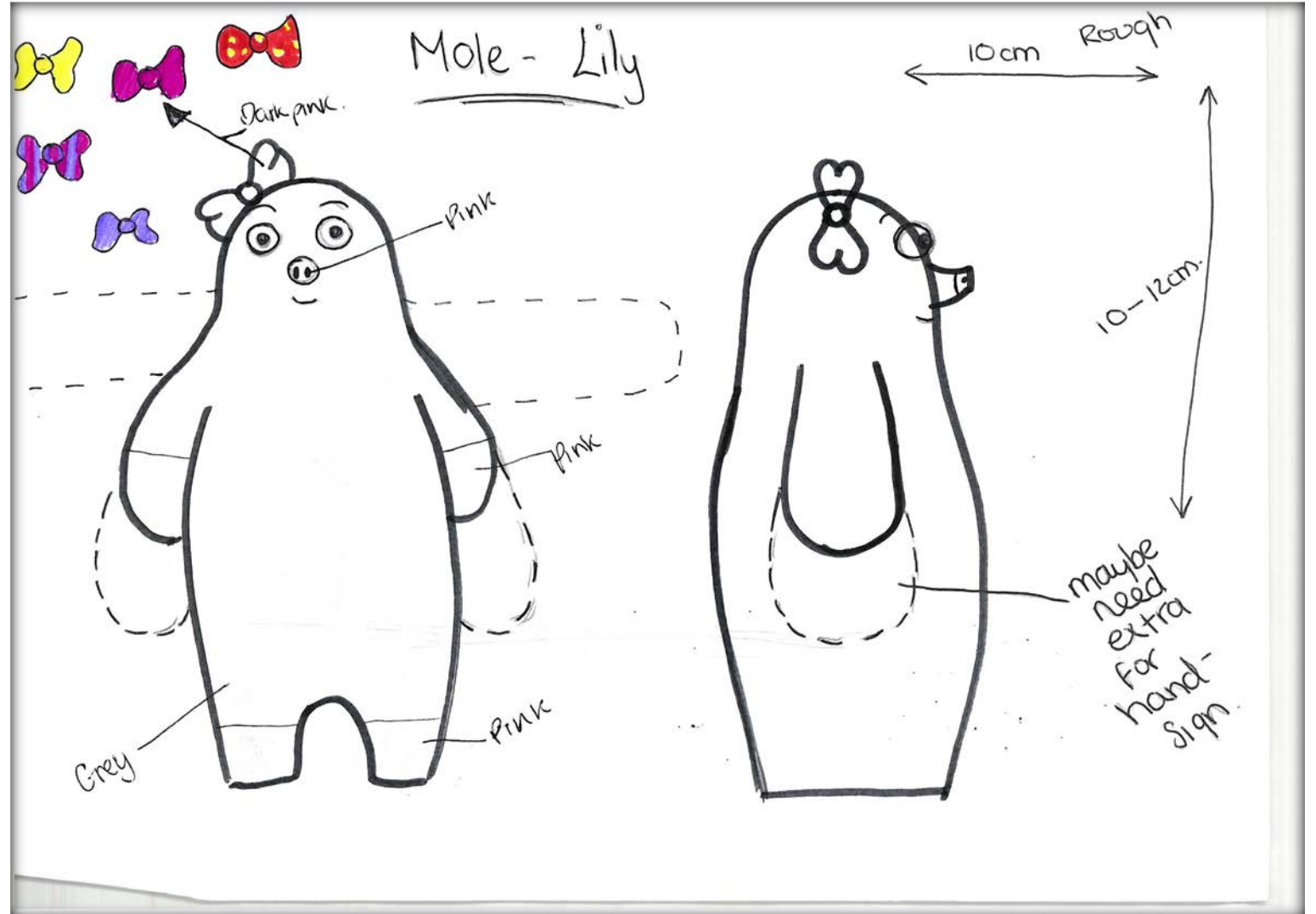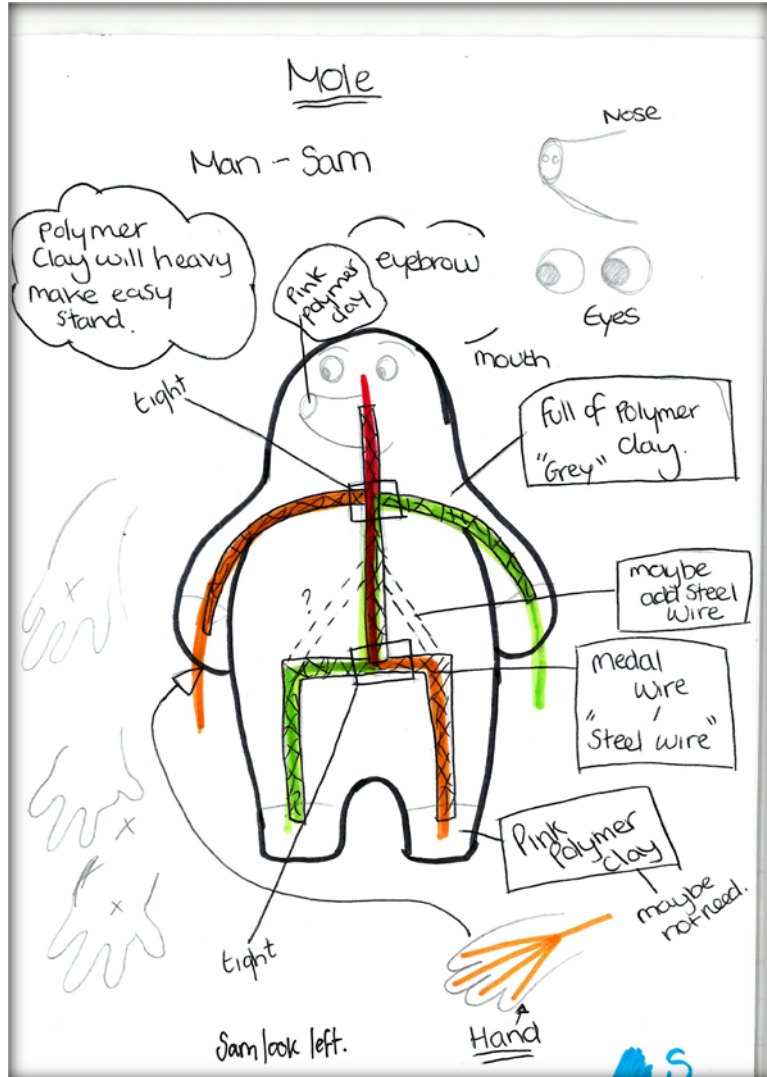
# Following the rest of the workflow – story boards

# Challenge 6 - Feedback

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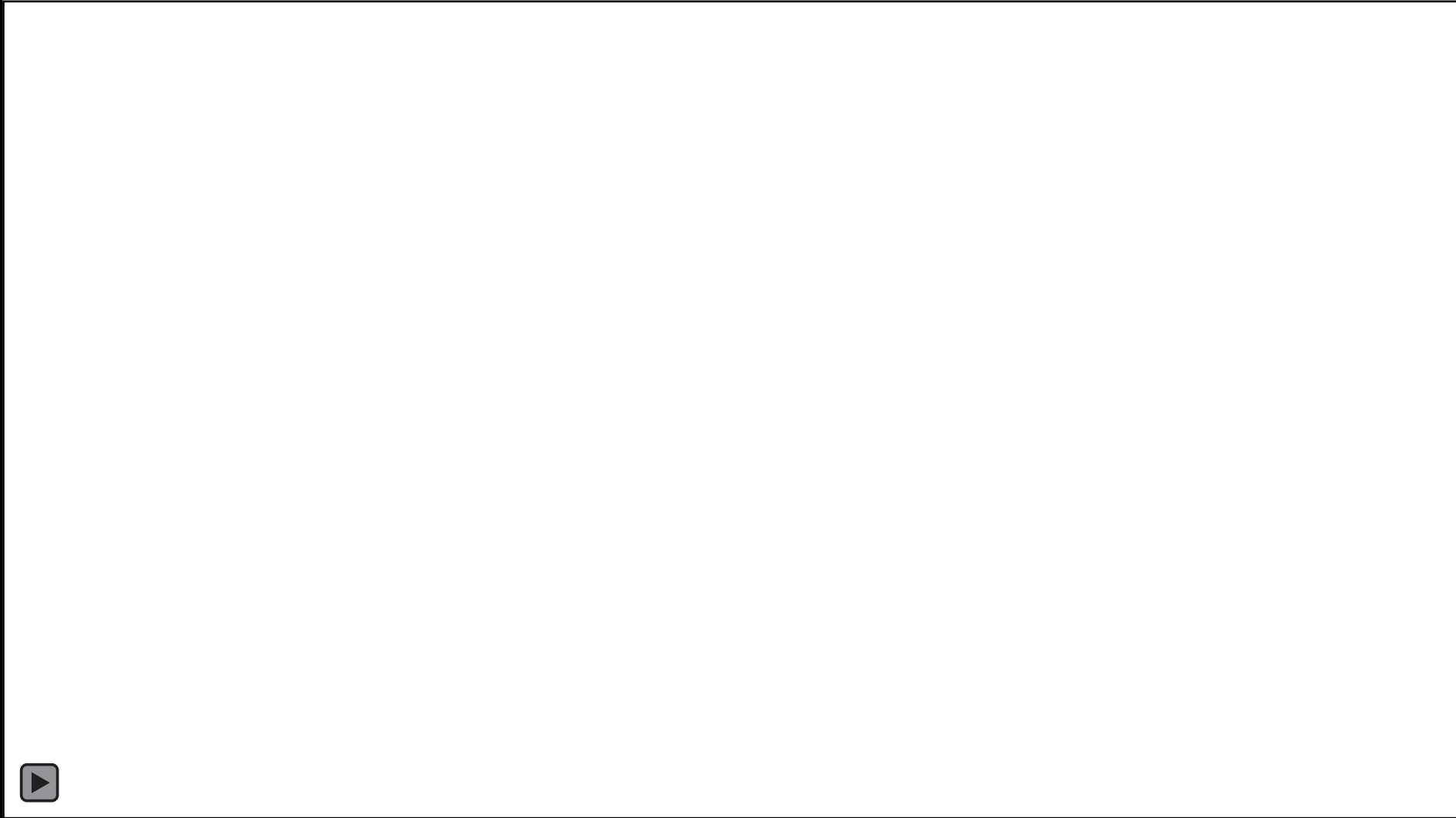sheet on your grade
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# Challenge 6 - Feedback
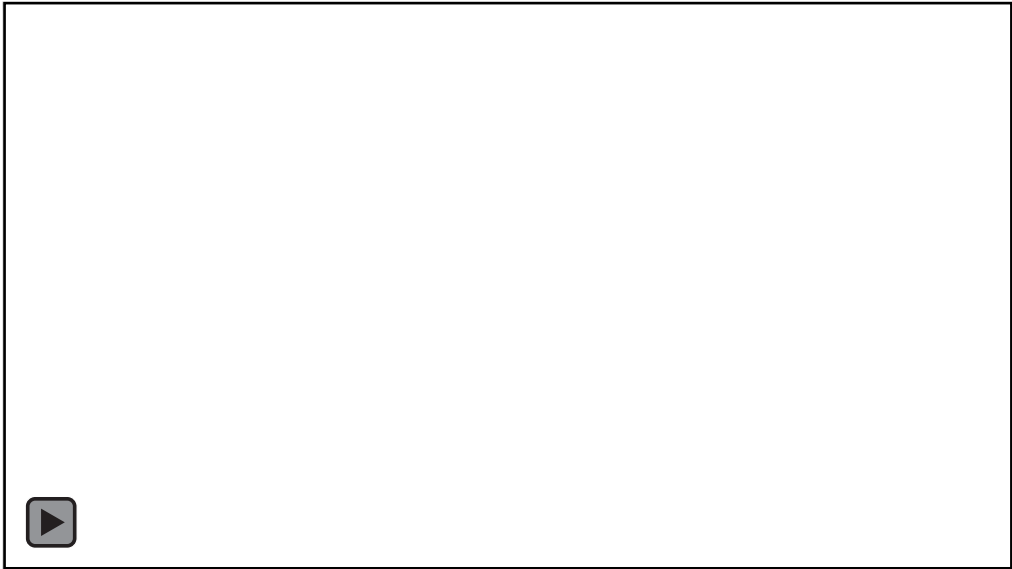
# Challenge 6 – Feedback - solution

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Your feedback for all work on this task has been recorded as an audio file that accompanies this grade sheet on your grade centre.

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attention

JH TASK 2 Audio Feedback.mp3

00:06:23

### ⬚⬚⬚

## A video of BSL feedback

# Final Output – without subtitles

# Final Output – with subtitles

# Opportunities

Giving a BSL Animation student the SAME opportunity to develop within animation

Developing a new workflow for Stop Motion Dialogue Animation

Offering my findings to be used by other Institutions and Industry alike