

Mar 7th, 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Using Color, Comics, and Creativity to Cultivate Comfort for Military-Connected Kids

Kasey L. Bozeman
University of Georgia, kaseyb@uga.edu

Sophia Rodriguez
sophia.rodriguez1999@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/nyar_savannah



Part of the [Art Education Commons](#), and the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bozeman, Kasey L. and Rodriguez, Sophia, "Using Color, Comics, and Creativity to Cultivate Comfort for Military-Connected Kids" (2017). *National Youth-At-Risk Conference Savannah*. 53.
https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/nyar_savannah/2017/2017/53

This presentation (open access) is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences & Events at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Youth-At-Risk Conference Savannah by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Using Color, Comics, and Creativity

To Cultivate
Comfort for
Military-
Connected
Kids



Kasey Bozeman & Sophia Rodriguez

Kasey Bozem an



- **Military Programming at Summer Camp**
- **Intern at Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters**
- **County Extension Agent (Ft. Stewart)**

Sophia Rodriguez

- **Student at Bradwell Institute**
- **State 4-H Vice President**
- **Artist**
- **Father served in Army (suffers from PTSD)**





Military- Connected Youth

“Military families are a diverse population whose needs vary over time and across demographic groups. No single story can encapsulate who military families are or what they need to flourish in military and civilian communities.”

- Clever & Segal



UGA
extension



Fact or Fiction

A student whose parent deploys as a member of the National Guard is often the only child in class whose parent is in the Armed Services. His or her isolation, and the acute financial and social significance to the student of the parent's absence and worries about his or her safety and the stress of the family's lengthy re-integration.

FACT

Fact or Fiction

As the total number of months of deployments increases, the child's anxiety level functions declines, with adolescent boys (ages 11-13) experiencing more stress than children of any other age.

FICTION

Fact or Fiction

Length of deployment

and time between deployments

(“dwell time”) affect family functioning.

Longer deployment and shorter dwell

time are associated with less effective

parenting, less effective child coping,

and greater family instability.

FACT

Fact or Fiction

Children of veterans with PTSD are at higher risk for depression and anxiety than children of non-combat veterans; they may also develop PTSD symptoms of their own in response to the parent's PTSD-related behaviors.

FACT



Arts-Based Education

***“The arts teach children
that problems can have
more than one solution
and that questions can
have more than one answer.”***

- Elliot W. Eisner



UGA
extension



18 USC 707

“When using an arts-based inquiry approach, there is often a tendency to try to do too much or to become lost in the process.”

- Savin-Baden & Major



UGA
extension



18 USC 707



**Make a Mess
and
Get Creative**

Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning

- **Reach students not normally reached**
- **Learning environment of discovery**
- **Greater student connection**
- **Challenge - regardless of level/ability**
- **Sustained, self-directed learners**



**Our Project:
Tie Dye
for
Troops**



4-H Leadership in Action

- **Allows 4-H youth to be a leader in their communities**
- **Our project uses color, creativity, and comics to relate to military children.**
- **The goal of our project is to create a safe space for the children to share their feelings.**



UGA
extension



Tie Dye for Troops

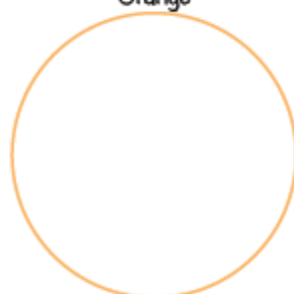
Using Color, Creativity, and Comics to Cultivate Comfort
for Military-Connected Kids

Fill the circle with pictures, words, or symbols that express how each color makes you feel.

Red



Orange



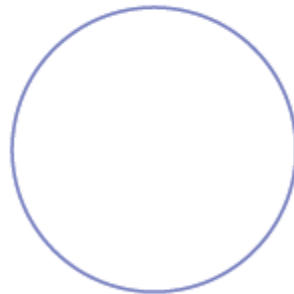
Yellow



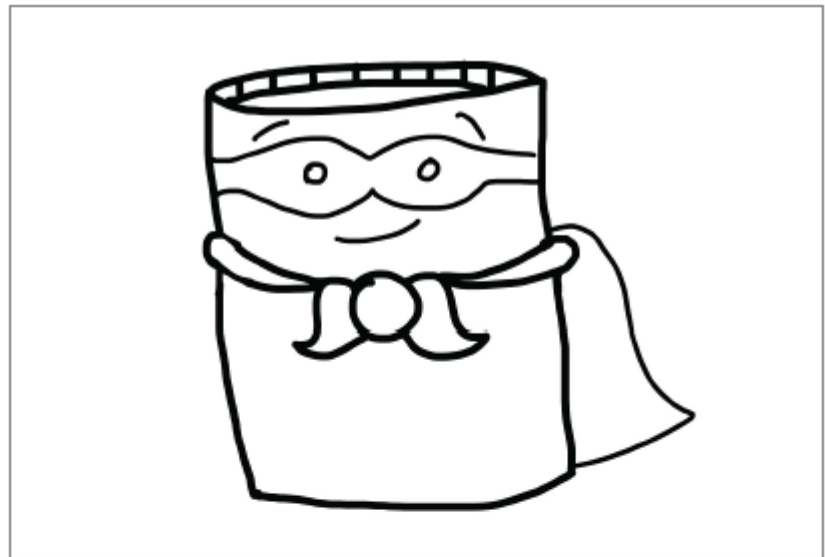
Green



Blue



Purple



Color in your Super Pillow comics!

SUPER PLOW IS ALWAYS THERE FOR GREAT FRIENDS!! WHETHER YOU NEED A SECRET KEEPER, A SCREAMS AND TEARS ABSORBER, OR JUST A GOOD HUG. SUPER PLOW IS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU!



THE ADVENTURES OF

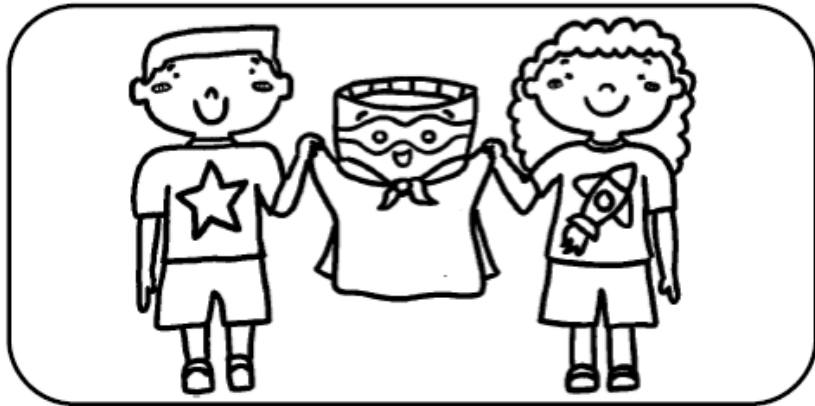
SUPER PILLOW

AND

YOUR NAME



SUPER PILLOW IS ALWAYS THERE FOR GREAT FRIENDS!

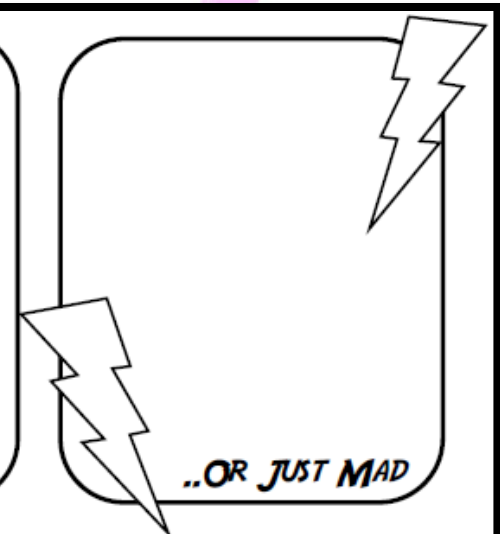


Draw Yourself in the Blank Boxes Showing Those Emotions!

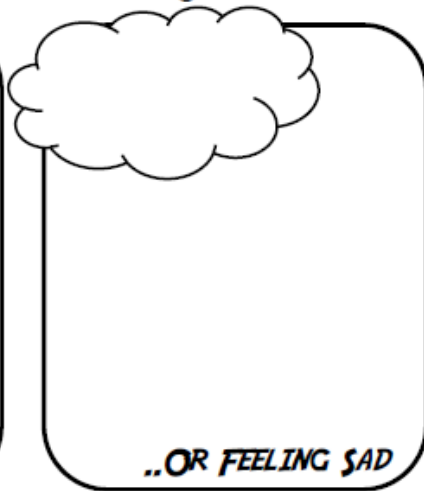
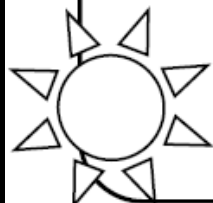
WHEN YOU'RE EXCITED..



..OR JUST MAD



WHETHER YOU'RE HAPPY..



..OR FEELING SAD



SUPER PILLOW SUPPORTS YOU NO MATTER WHAT!





The Idea of Resiliency

Building Resilience in Children and Teens: Giving Kids Roots and Wings
Kenneth Ginsberg & Martha Jablow

Resilience



*the capacity
to rise above
difficult
circumstances*



UGA
extension



Resilience

the trait that allows us to exist in this less-than-perfect world while moving forward with optimism and confidence even in the midst of adversity



UGA
extension



18 USC 707

Resilience



- **Mindset**
- **Challenges as Opportunities**
- **Strength from Problems**
- **Uneven**



UGA
extension



18 USC 707

The Seven C's of Resilience

- **Competence**
- **Confidence**
- **Connection**
- **Character**
- **Contribution**
- **Coping**
- **Control**



Com pet en ce

the ability to handle situations effectively

- **acquired through actual experience**
- **develop skills to effectively manage challenges and trust personal decisions**
- **adults guide youth instead of “fixing” problem/situation**



UGA
extension



Confidence

the solid belief in one's own abilities

- **rooted in competence**
- **safe, inclusive environment**
- **face and cope with challenges**
- **try new ventures & trust their abilities**

Connection

*the positive relationships
with people & surroundings*

- family, friends, school, community
- sense of security = strong values
- belonging to a wider world & being safe within it



UGA
extension



Character

the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual

- **fundamental sense of right and wrong**
- **strong sense of self-worth = more comfortable making decisions & demonstrating caring attitude**



UGA
extension



Contribution

the doing something cooperative or altruistic to benefit others

- **sense of purpose = motivation**
- **take actions that improve the world**
- **making a difference or impact**



UGA
extension



Coping

the dealing effectively with something difficult or challenging

- **variety of adaptive coping strategies**
- **effectively manage with stress**
- **helpful to have adults model coping strategies**



UGA
extension



Control

the believing in one's ability to make sound choices & avoid risky behavior

- realize they can control the outcomes of their decisions and actions = more likely to know that they have the ability to do what it takes to bounce back
- adults allow youth to make decisions



UGA
extension





**What can
you do?**



Thank You!

Kasey Bozeman
kaseyb@uga.edu

Sophia Rodriguez
sophia.rodriguez.1999@gmail.com