

Mike Florek

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This is the first slide.

Many science words are not simple.



HARD TO SAY



HARD TO WRITE



HARD TO REMEMBER

Things and ideas have a lot of parts.



MANY PARTS OF
THINGS HAVE SCIENCE
NAMES.



SOME PEOPLE DON'T
KNOW THE NAMES OF
THE PARTS.

This can be bad.

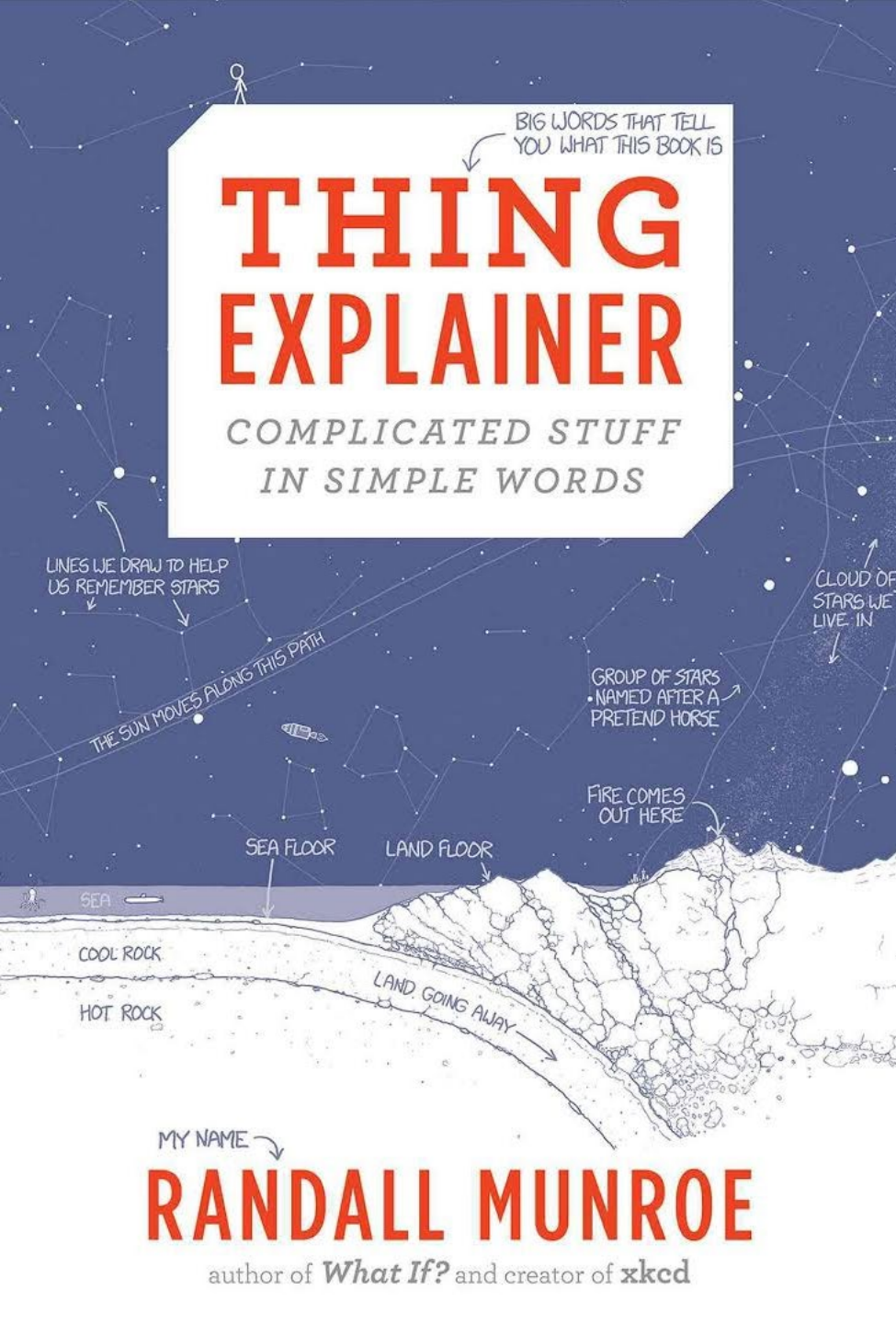
The Answer?

Teaching Students How to Explain Big Ideas with Simpler Words

MIKE FLOREK – (NAMES THAT ARE NOT SIMPLE ARE OKAY)

Step 1

Read a book.



Thing Explainer

This is the book we read.

It explains big ideas in small words.

It is funny.

Step 2

Choose a thing.

Laws for Choosing Things



1) CHOOSE A THING
THAT IS NOT SIMPLE.



2) CHOOSE A THING
THAT CAN BE TALKED
ABOUT AT SCHOOL.



3) CHOOSE A THING
YOU CAN DRAW.

Step 3

Study the thing.

Laws for Studying Things

1

Read school papers.

2

Read business papers.

3

Use the thing yourself (unless you should not).

4

Tell us what you read.

Step 4

Draw the thing.

Laws for Drawing Things



1) YOU DRAW THE
PICTURE.



2) MAKE IT LOOK GOOD.

Step 5

Explain the thing.

Laws for Explaining Things

1

Choose interesting parts.

2

Use simple words.

3

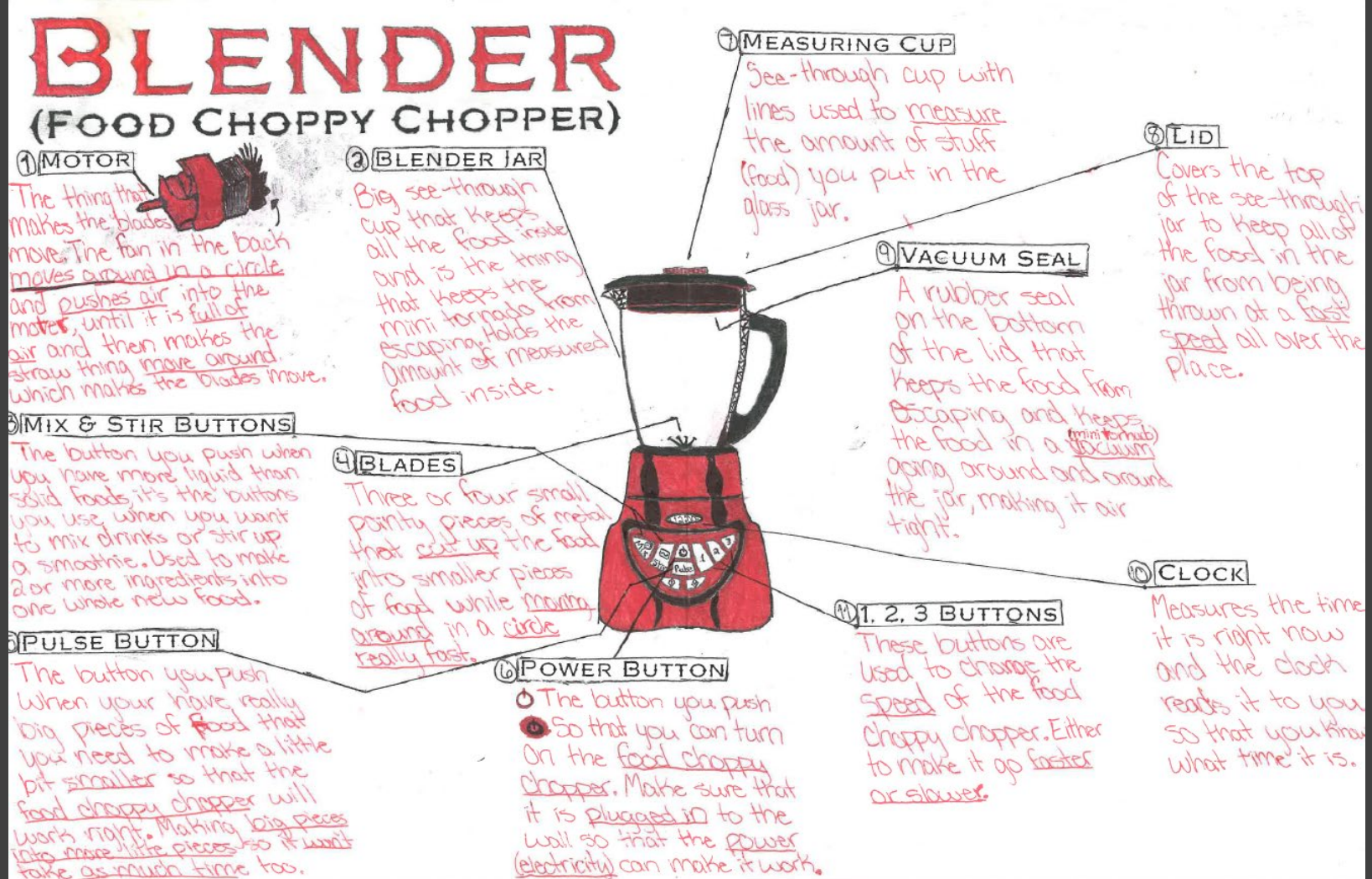
Pretend you are talking to a child.

4

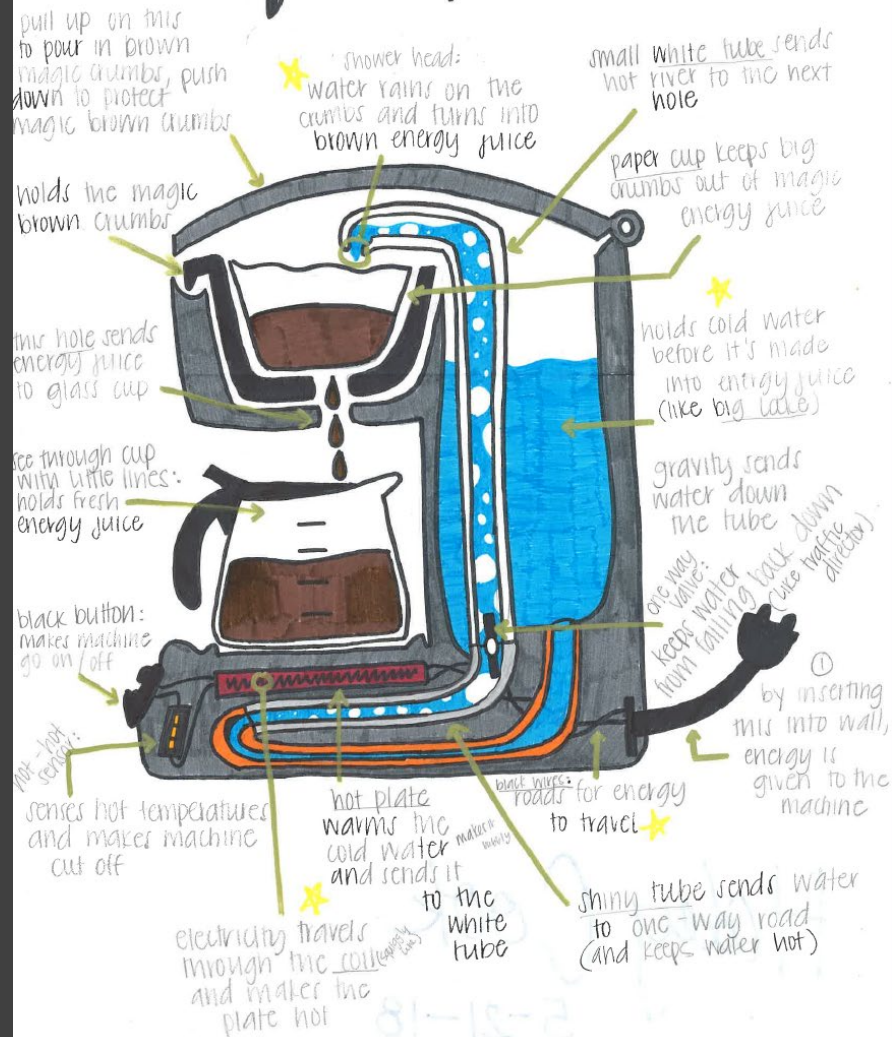
Pretend the child knows some things already.

Blender

This is a good Thing Explainer.



energy juice machine



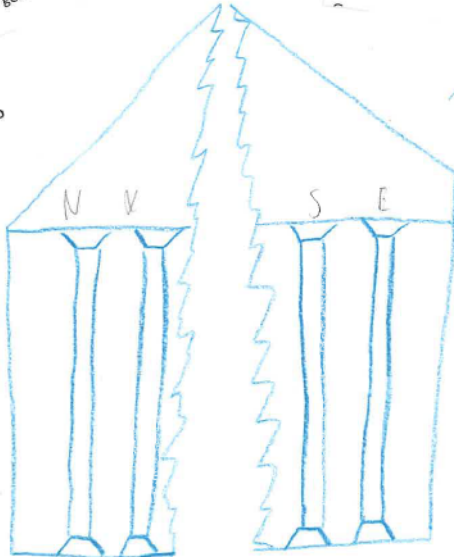
Coffee Maker

This is a good Thing Explainer.

The 2008 Financial Crisis

Sometimes it is okay to say yes to a strange idea.

The 2008 Financial Crisis



Money Machine Broken: This is what happens when people spend too much money on things they should not be, like houses, and can't pay it back. Houses are taken away, banks fail, and jobs are lost, with people becoming afraid of what'll happen to the markets next.

Henry Paulson: He liked to give out money from taxes to people who did not pay their taxes, like banks.

Mortgage-Backed Security: When people borrowed money from their banks, the banks wanted to make even more money off them. So, they put their borrowed money into a "security", and sold it back and forth between each other. When people could not pay the money back, it became worth nothing, and people in banks lost lots of money, so they got a bailout to get their money back.

Lehman Brothers: A bank who had failed after they made it look like they had more money than they really did, and had too many mortgage-backed securities that they didn't know what to do with them. After they had their stuff taken away and people lost their jobs, the markets decided it would be a great time to fall apart too.

Debt Levels: When people borrow money from banks, they take on debt. A debt has to be paid off, or else bad things will happen, like your stuff will be taken away. When many people take on debt, it's measured in "levels". When many people start to stop paying debts, the level goes up. When lots of people aren't paying their debts off, but it's still a low number, the level either falls or stays the same.

Security: Something banks use to make money off other companies and each other.

Alan Greenspan: His liking of getting lots of money fast, so he made sure he could by making it easier for big banks to take your money. He knew that this event would come, but he still didn't do anything to prevent it, like a true banker.

Bankruptcy: When someone who can't pay back the money they owe, they file for the bankruptcy. It means that they cannot pay back debts, or money that they owe, so the people in charge choose what they want to take of theirs, or what they want to do with their stuff. Usually, a person in a long black robe that sits on a bench (called a judge) says what and what cannot be taken.

Bailout: When the people in charge think it's a good idea to give money to people who only kind of pay taxes. The people who give these bailouts are because they thought the people getting those bailouts would make the mess even worse if they did not. The people in charge hope they will get the money back soon, but everyone knows they won't.

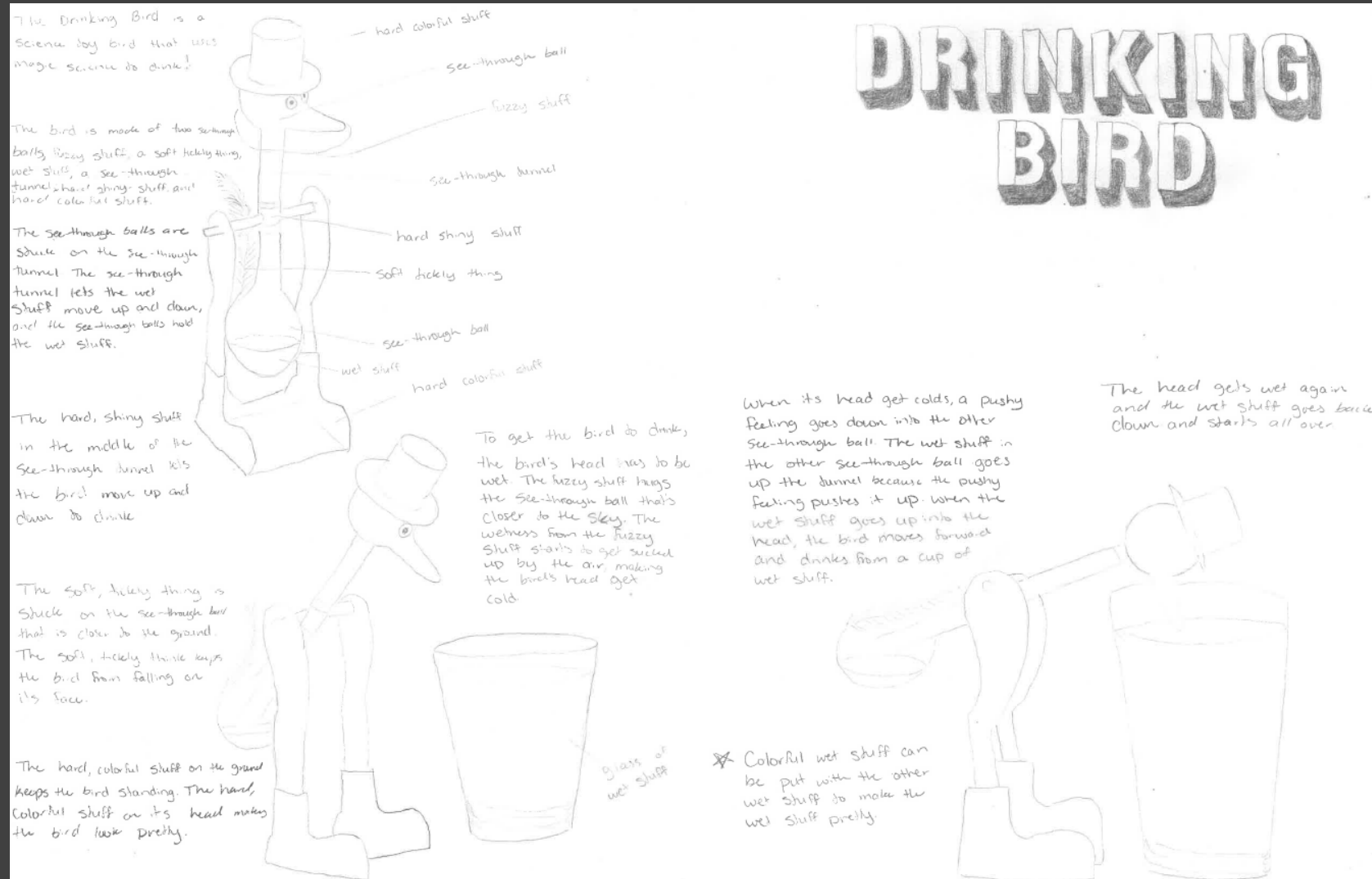
George W Bush: He just did what Henry Paulson and the Republican Party told him to do. He also gave money to people who didn't pay their taxes.

"Mr. Paulson I don't feel so good..."

"He you go!"

Drinking Bird

I like this Thing Explainer best.
It is hard to read.





QUESTIONS?



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