

# On the Importance of the Droplet Position and Orientation for Effective Visual Storytelling

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## 1. Extended Abstract

The props are integral part of visual storytelling in comics and cartoons. In this paper, we illustrate that even a simple prop such as a simple water droplet is important for effective storytelling. Using examples, we show that a small change in the positions and orientations of the props can change our perception of a character's facial expression and personality. Such a change effects our perception of the current emotional and physical state of the character by changing the plot of the story.



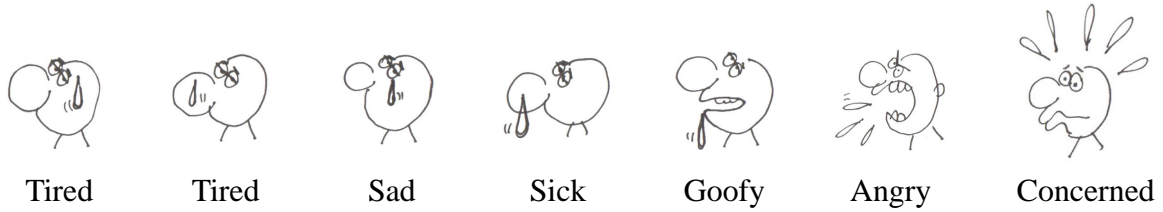
**Figure 1:** These illustrations created by Ergun Akleman show that by simply adding water droplets in different parts of face we can change the expression from happy to sad, tired or sick.

The Figure 1 show that by simply adding water droplets in different parts of face we can change the expression from happy to sad, tired or sick. This example show that the props are not simply additions that enhance the story but they can be integral part of effective storytelling.

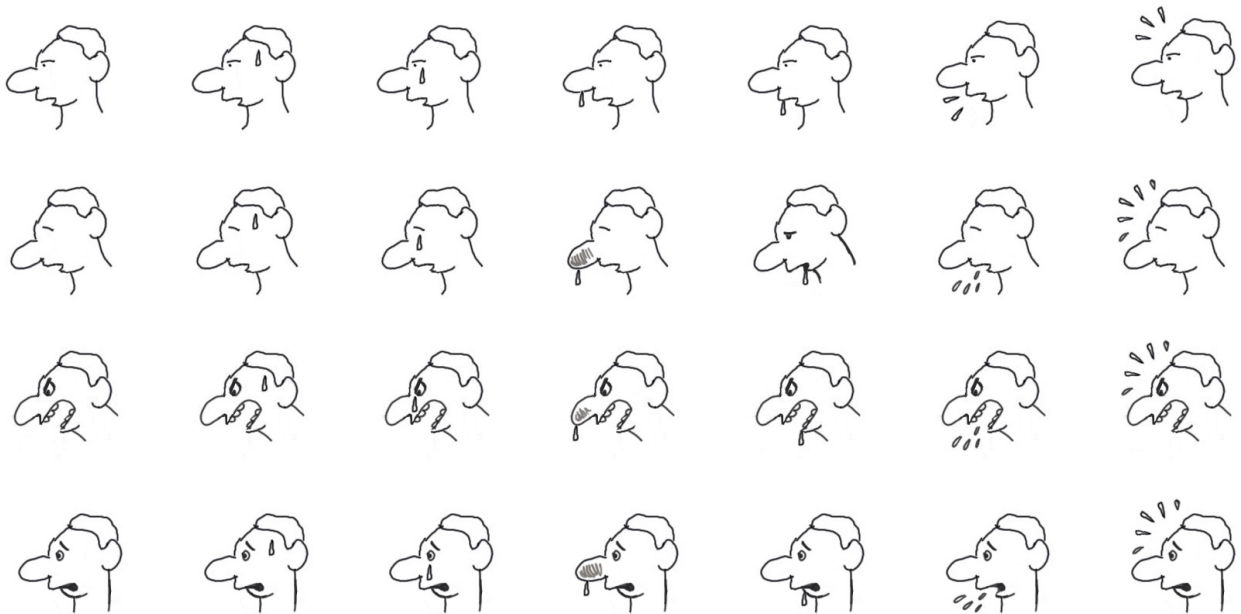
Motivation for this paper came from the images shown in Figure 2 by Hakan Celik. In this particular example, although he used a very economical drawing, Hakan also included facial expressions that emphasize the meaning provided by the positions of water droplets.

To have a systematic study, we have created a series of images by adding water droplets to faces with a wide variety of facial expressions as shown in Figure 3. This provided a matrix of

images where columns provide droplet positions and rows provide facial expressions. Based on qualitative analysis of this matrix of images, we conclude that unless facial expression is strong, the position and orientation of water droplets can determine the emotional and physical state of the character.



**Figure 2:** These simple cartoon faces by Hakan Celik show the importance of the water droplet positions in a face for visual storytelling.



**Figure 3:** This systematic study of cartoon faces by Ergun Akleman show that for water droplets can overrule neutral emotions and contribute strong emotions.