



I
REMEMBER
JOE BRAINARD

Coming

Of

Age

A polaroid-style photograph of a blackboard with white text. The text is written in a cursive font.

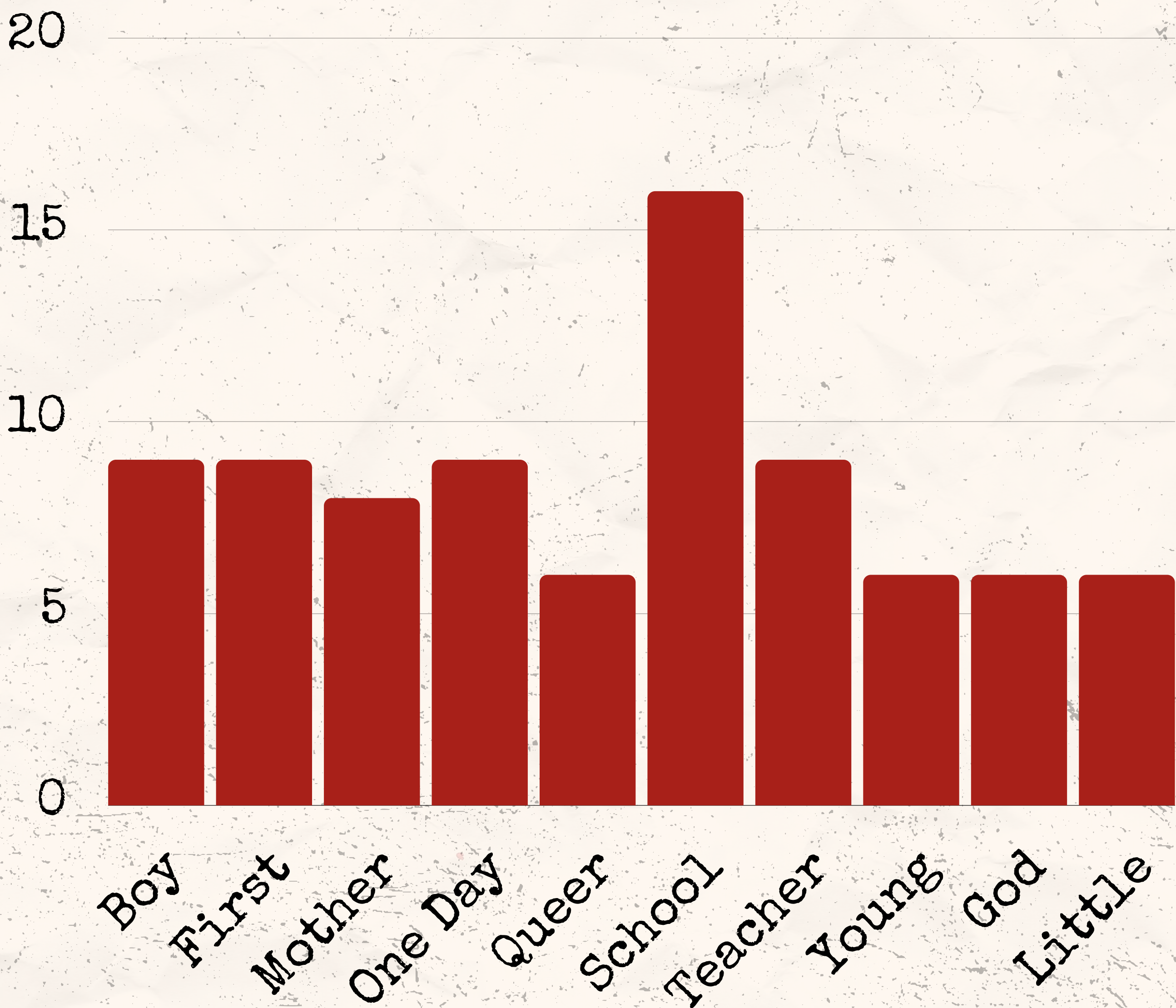
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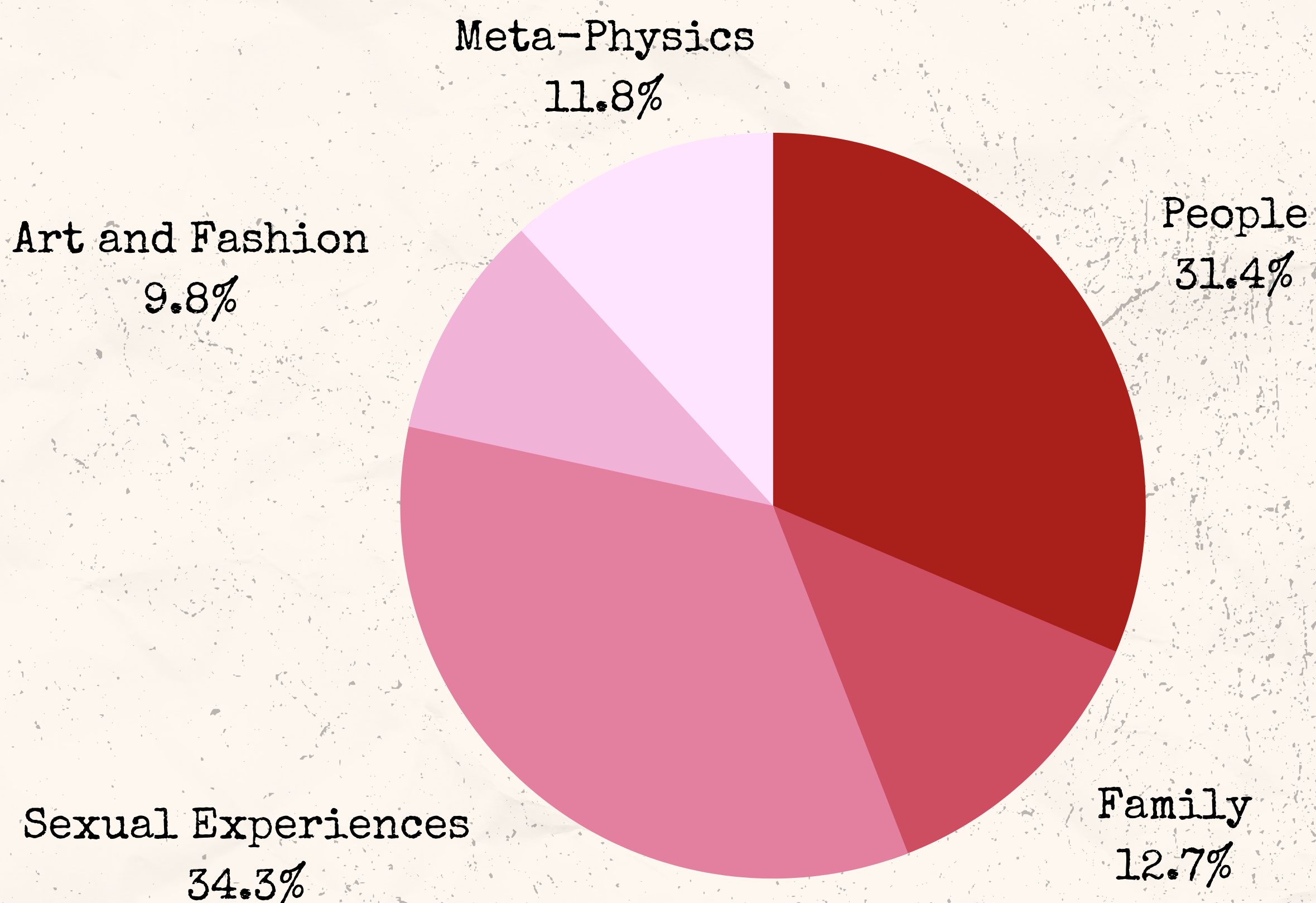
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Arshi Ali
Shane Donnally
Fawaz Khan

introduction

For artifact one, we created an index that tracks the theme of coming of age in the experimental memoir, *I Remember* by Joe Brainard composed of a list of “I remember” statements presented in non-chronological order. Brainard’s memoir follows his coming of age as a gay male artist who moves from Tulsa, Oklahoma to a community of artists in New York City. The range of experiences in the book, along with its experimental format, challenged us to question what we consider to be a coming of age moment. Through closer attention to the book, we defined the scope of coming of age as reference to a memory that marks a transition from childhood into adulthood, including experiences that mark a loss of innocence, exposure to social and cultural influences, and a gaining of self-awareness through growing up. At the same time, the definition of coming of age is still ambiguous. In *I Remember*, we come to the conclusion that coming of age includes reinventing yourself, learning from the experiences, ugly or beautiful, and from your perspective creating the life you desire.



While reading our index you will find words that may seem out of place. Although some of these may not seem like they qualify for coming of age moments, their context is important. One example being the word "Feet" on page 25. This word references Brainard recalling body parts and features he likes within the context of sexual experiences. The exploration and discovery of the sexual world in our view is undoubtedly a coming of age moment. It's a learning experience, a new perspective. In our index, you will see many similar words only further showcasing the depth and density of coming of age in this memoir.



During analyzing it quickly became evident that our theme is a central part of I Remember. You could even say I Remember by Joe Brainard is a coming of age memoir that encompasses art and fashion, metaphysics, People, Family, and Sexual experiences. Through analyzing these facets we learned that people and sexual experiences were the highlight of the coming of age moments in this text, comprising 65.7% of them as seen in the graph above. Keeping this in mind. The following index is what we believe represents Joe Brainard's Coming of age moments in I Remember.

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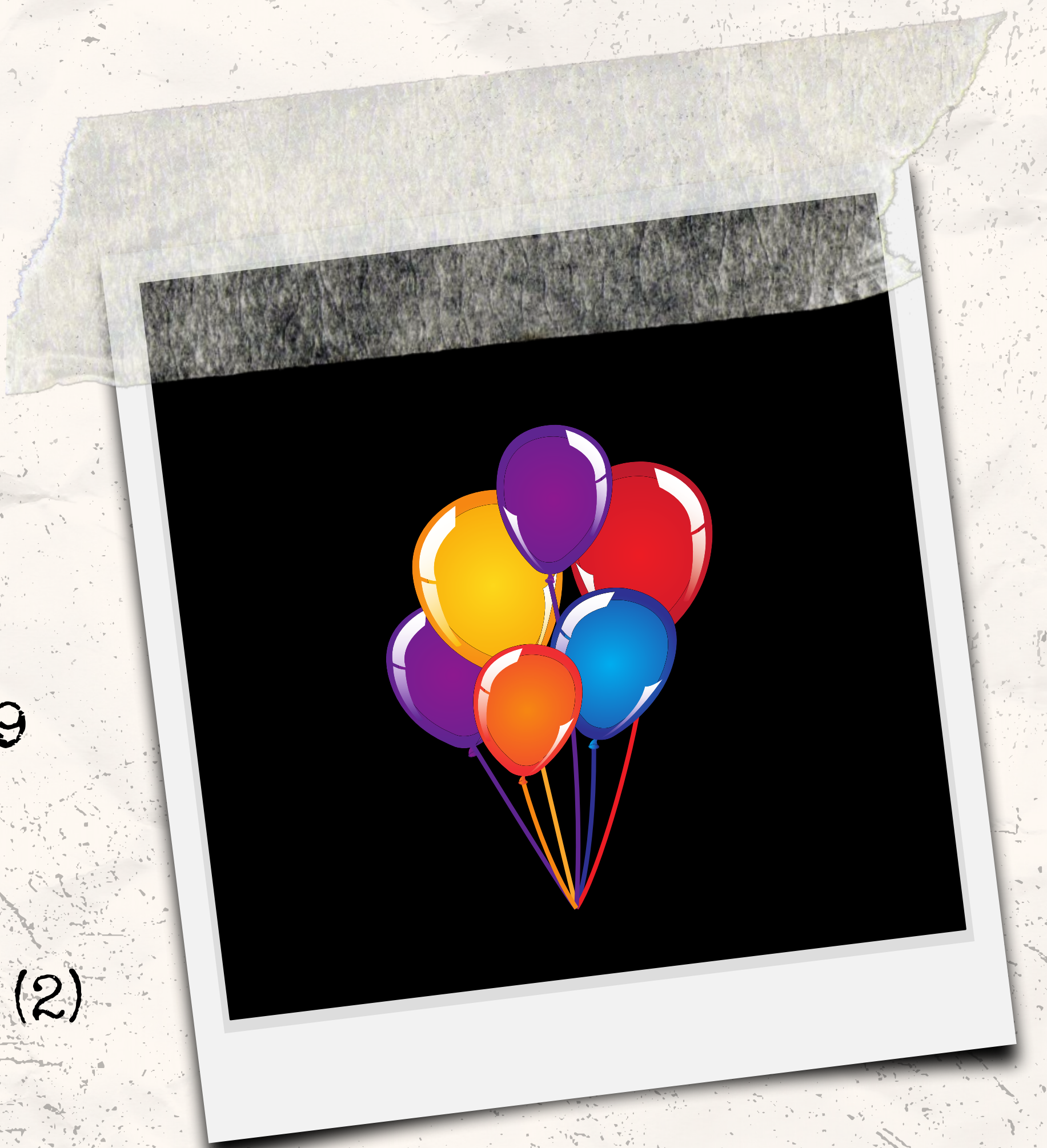
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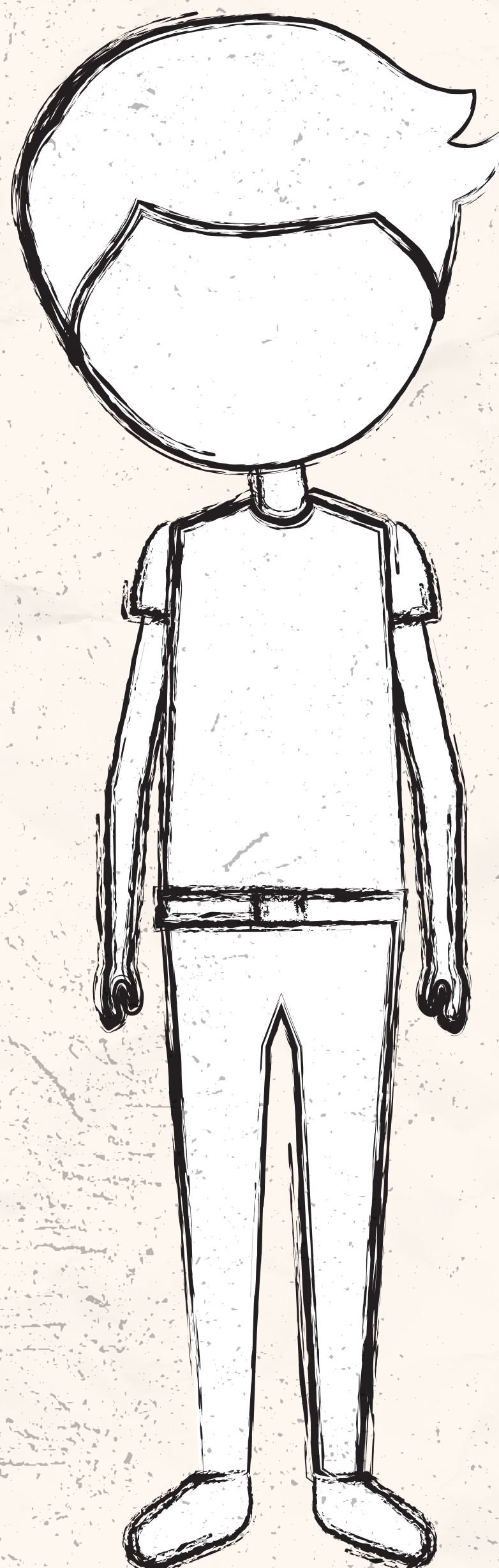
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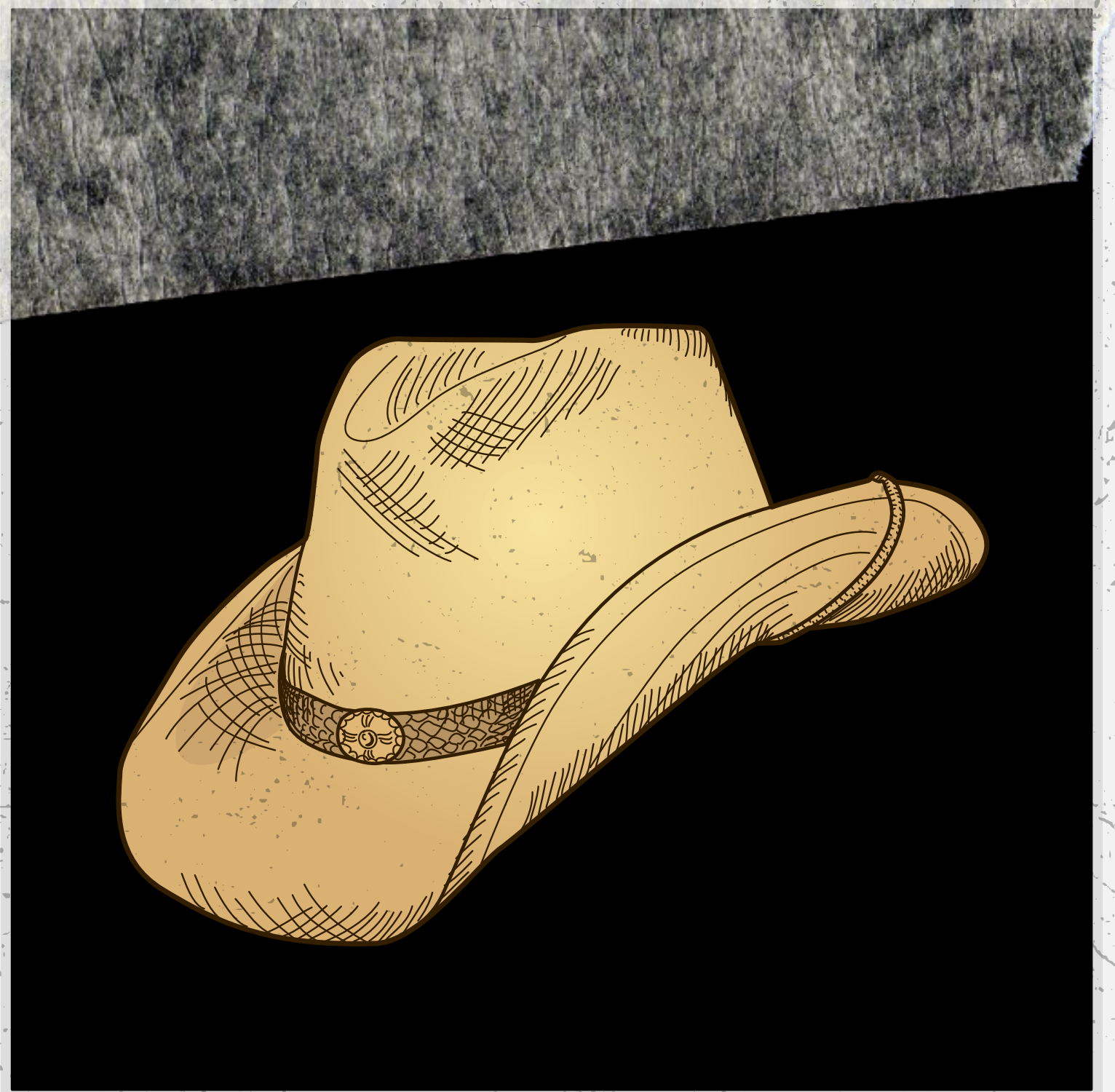
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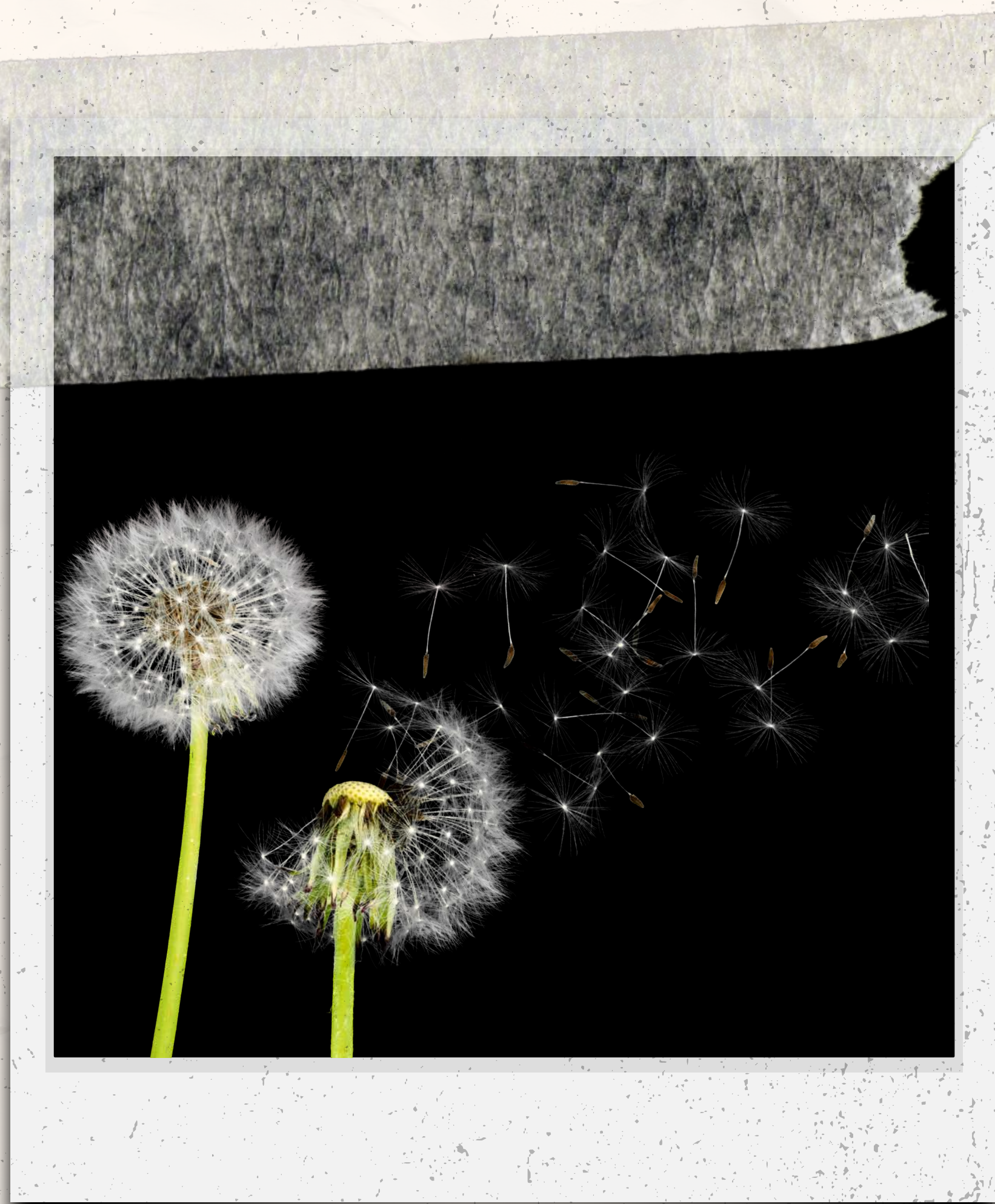
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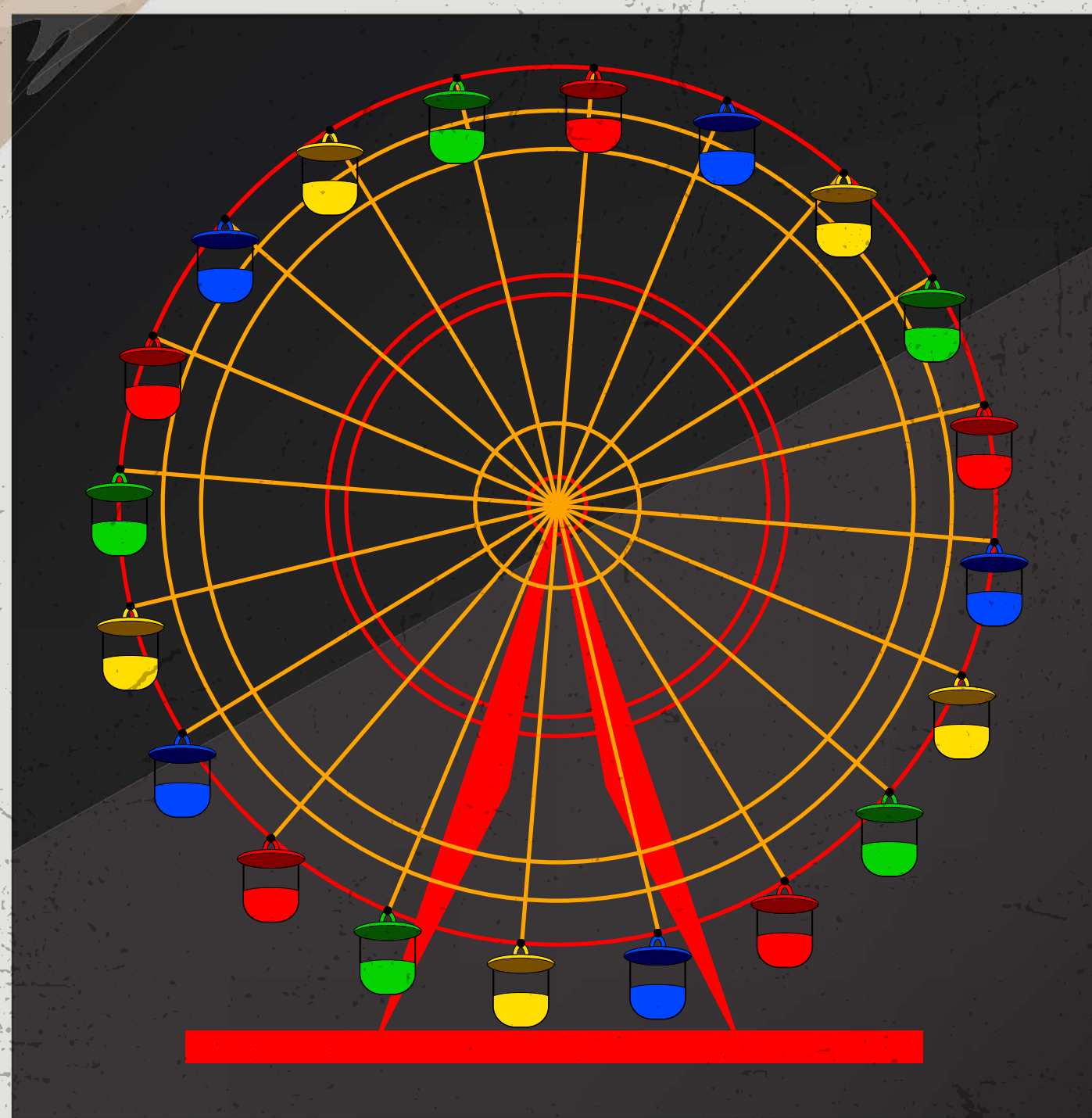
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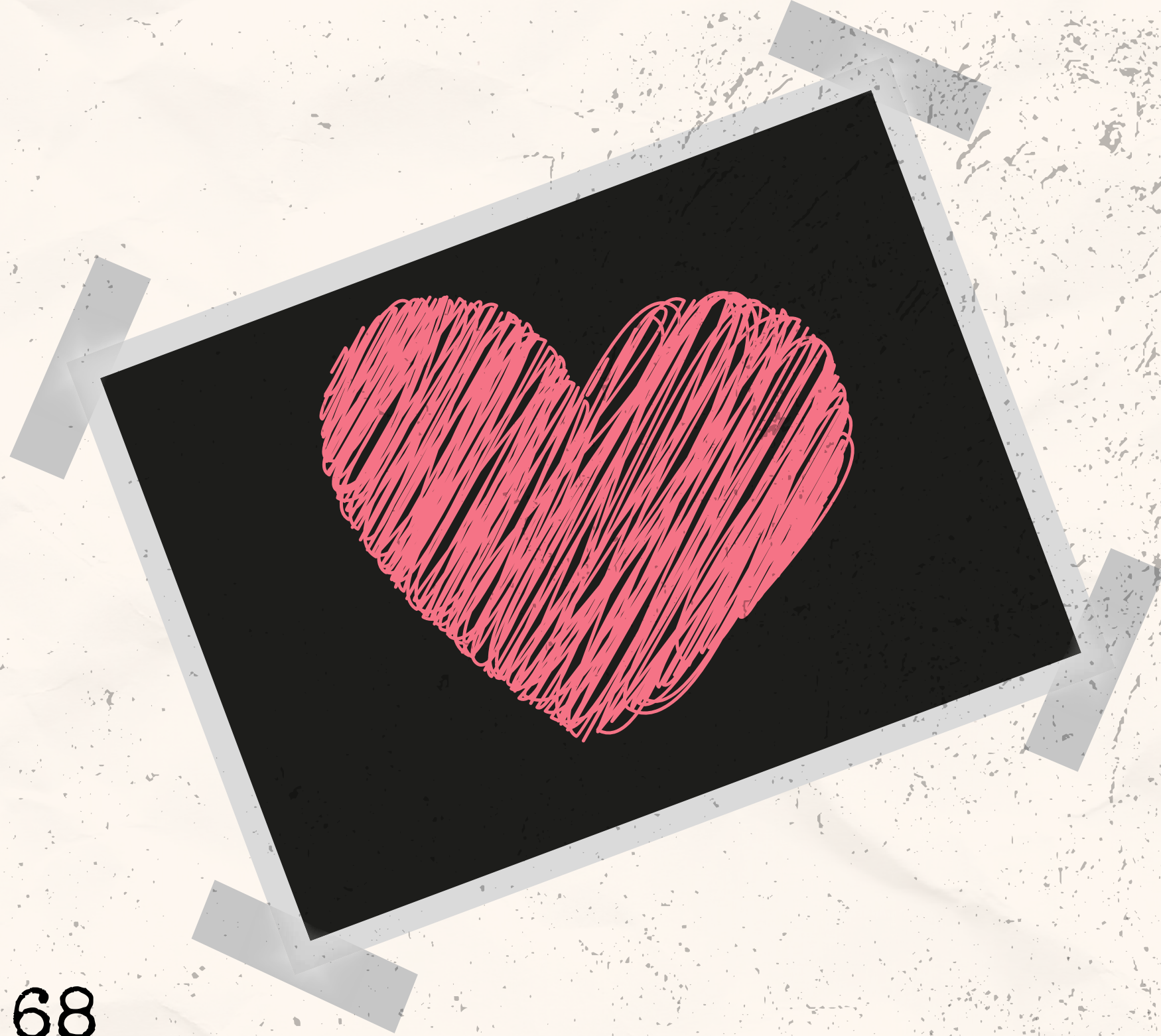
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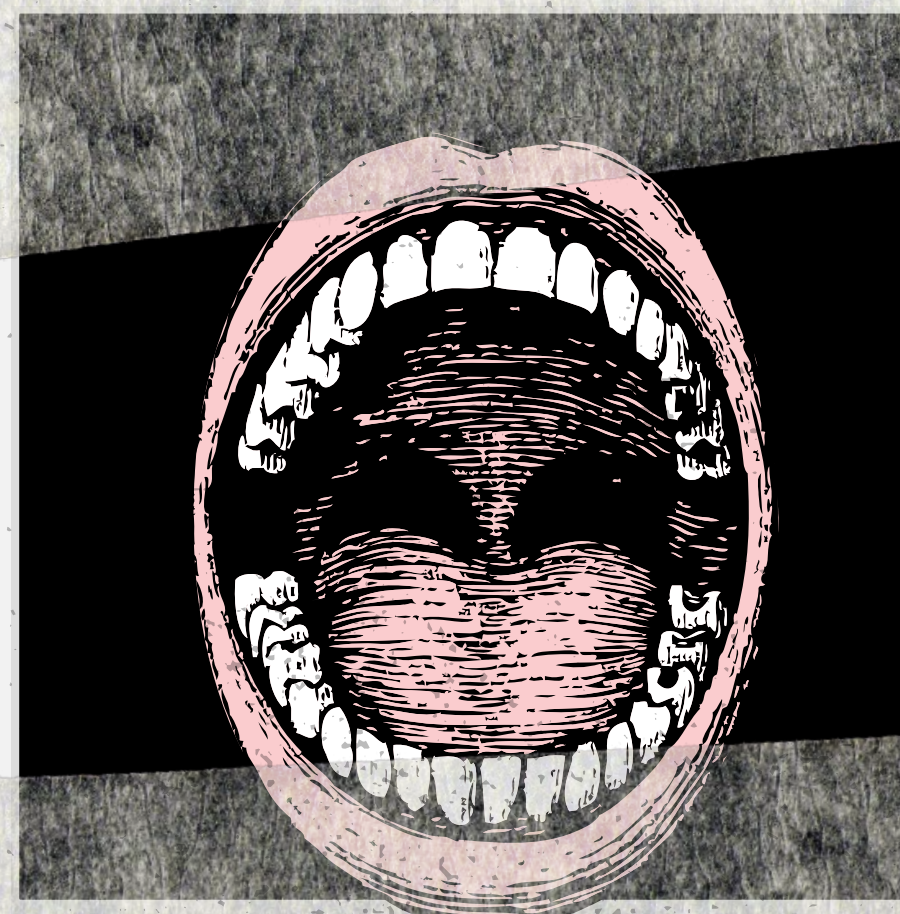
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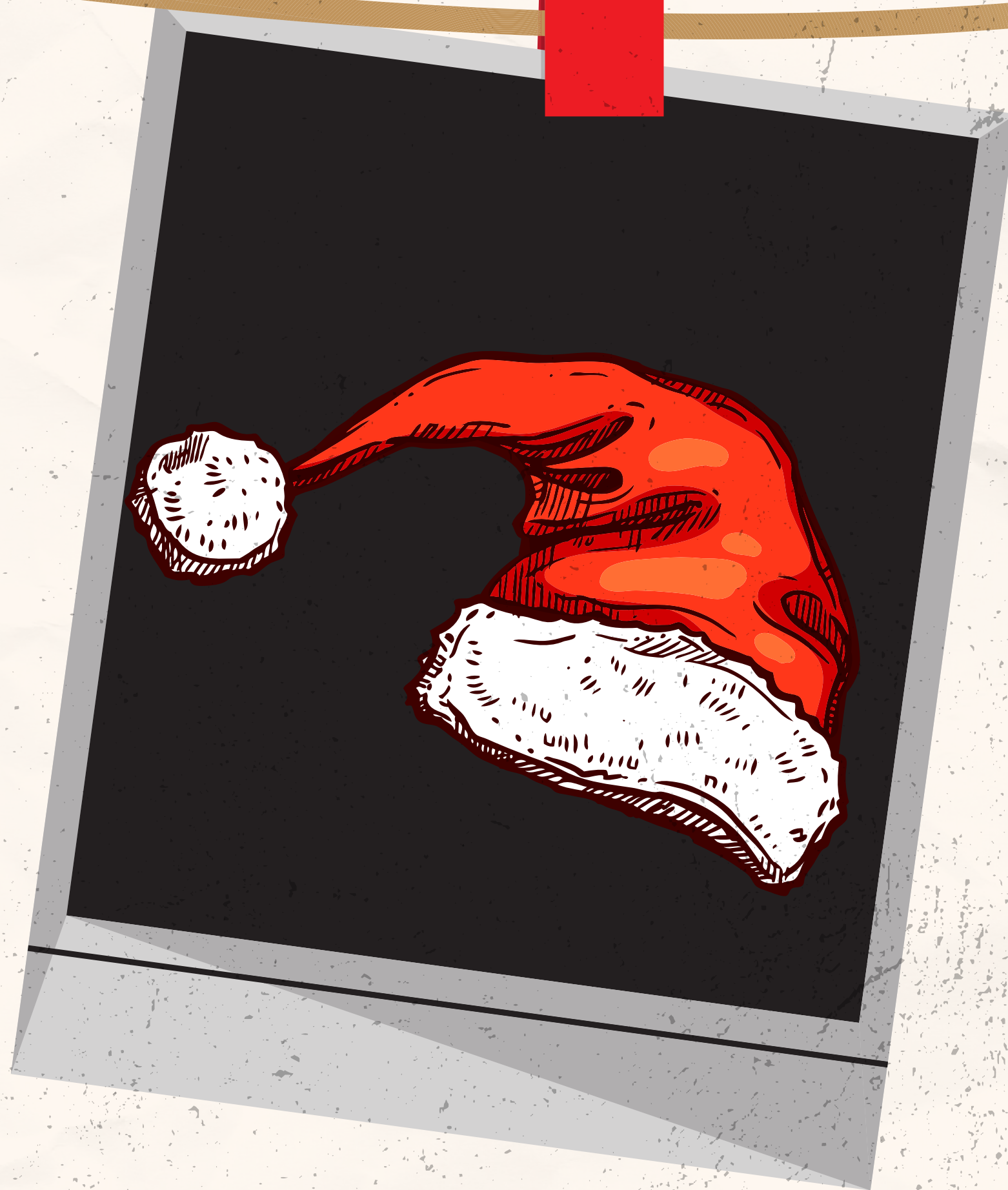
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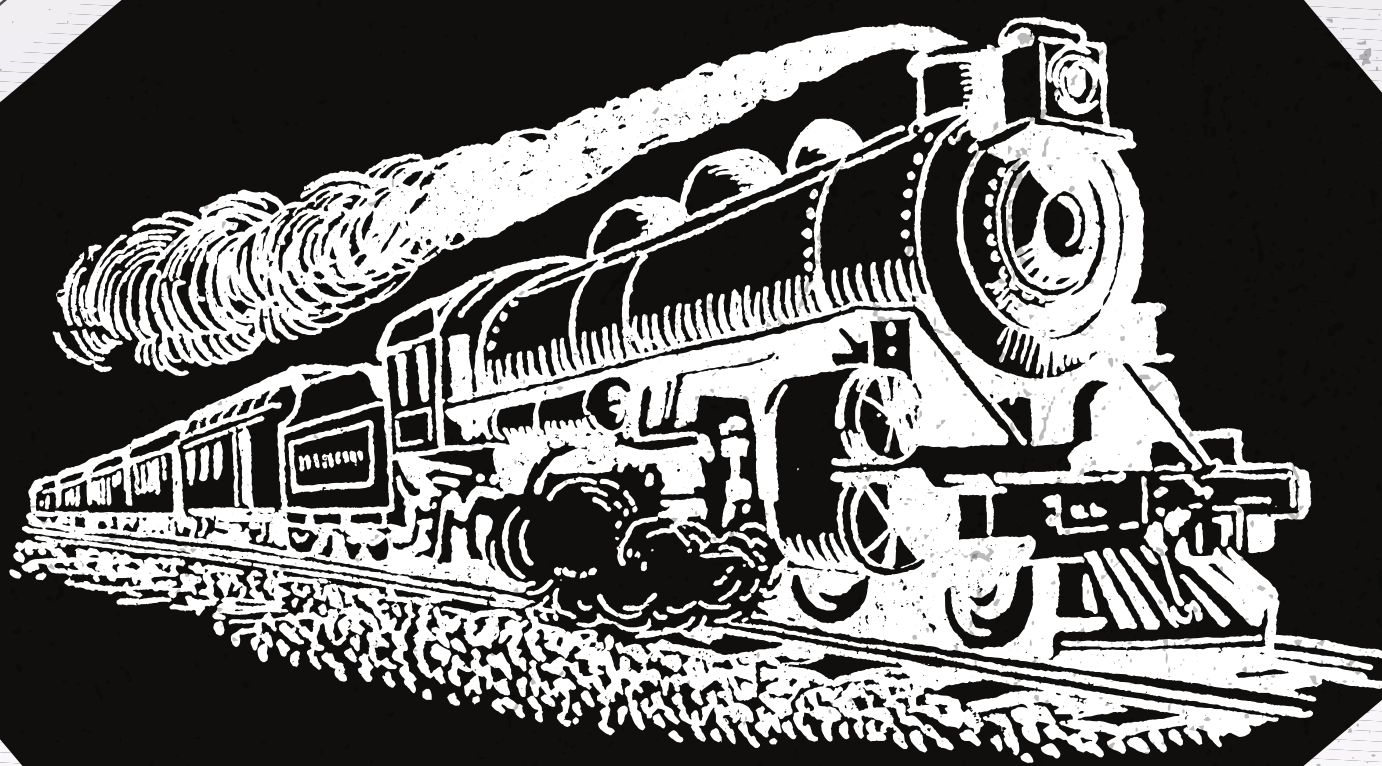
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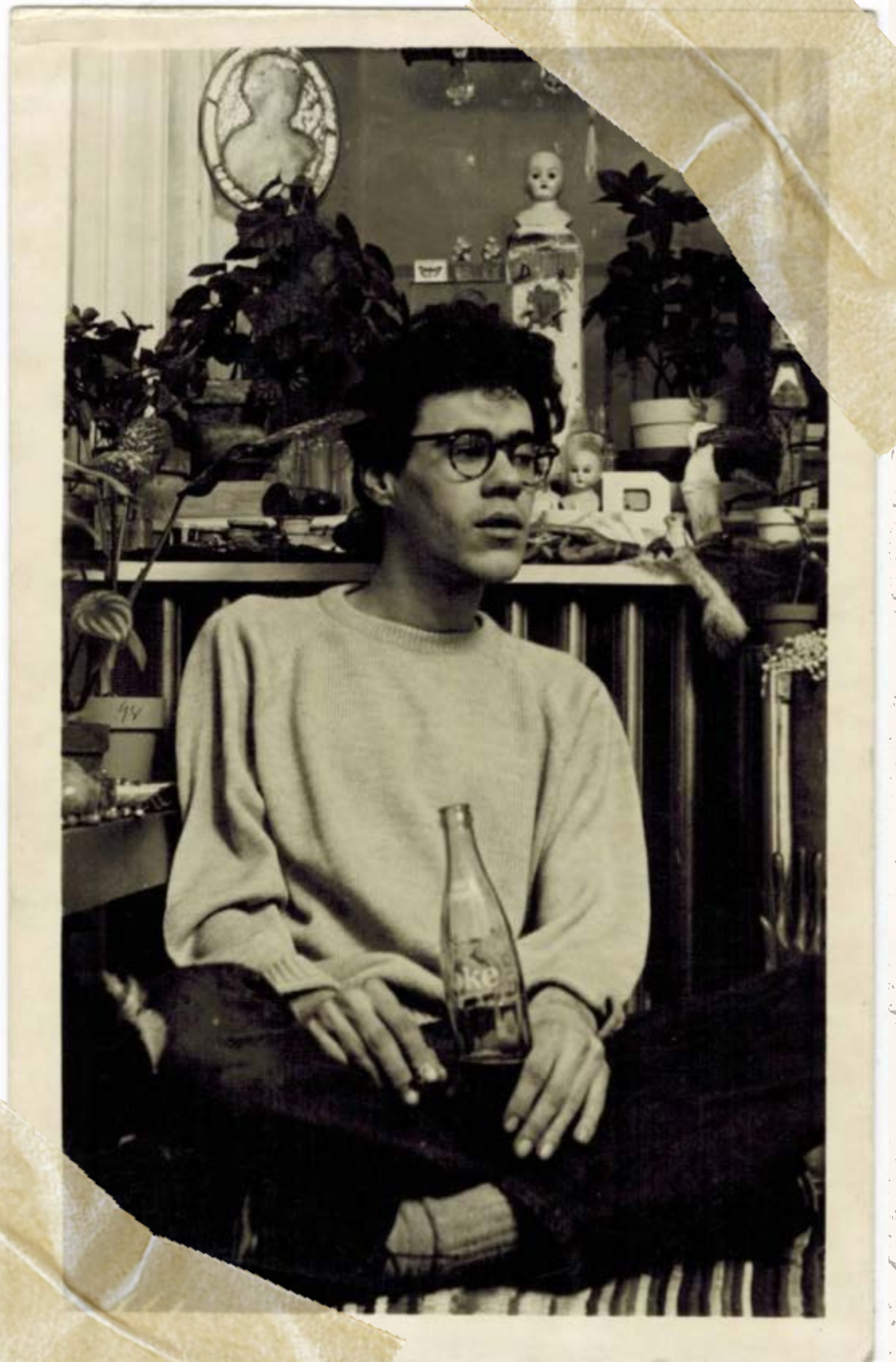
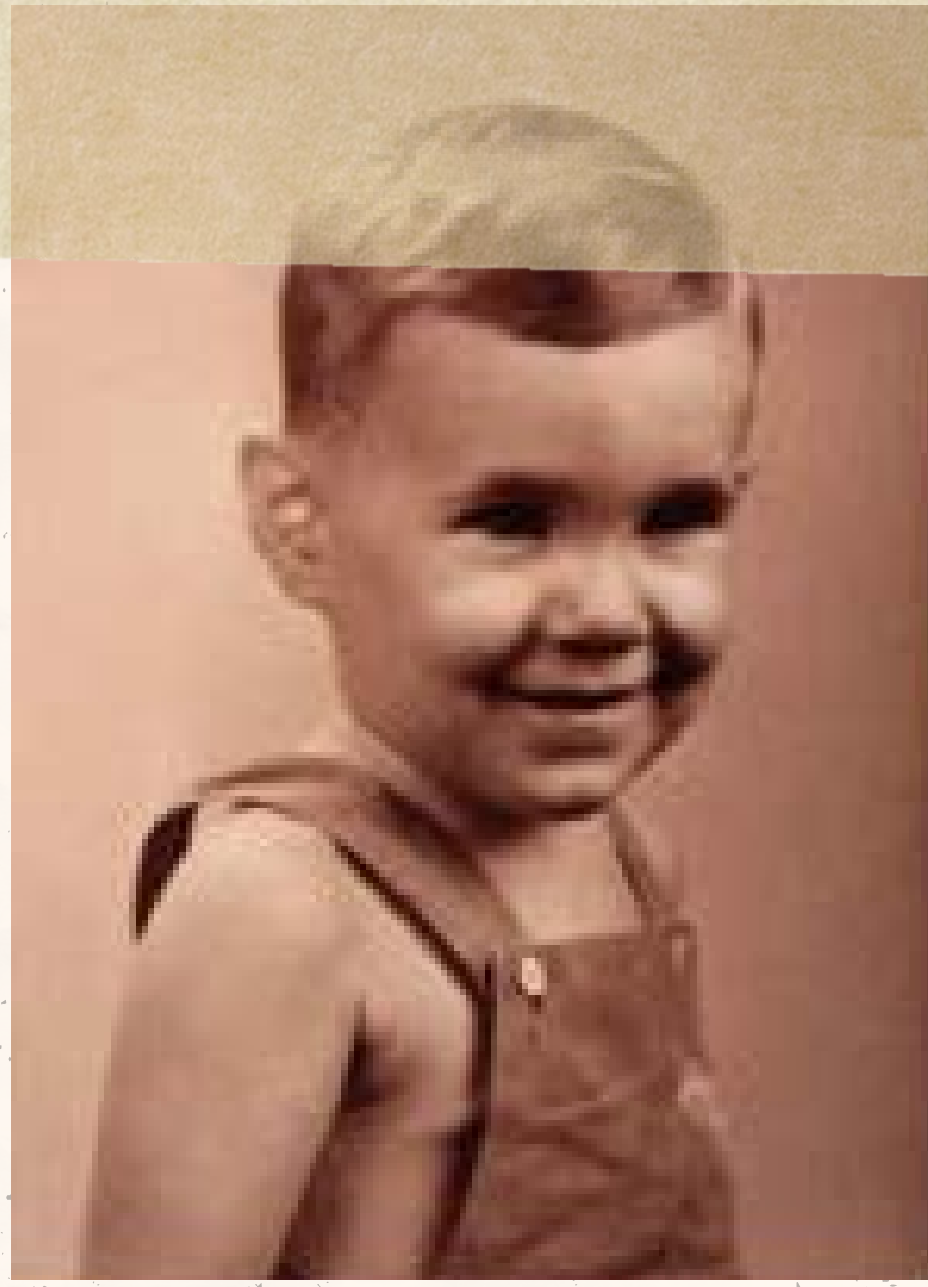
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LOVE
JOE