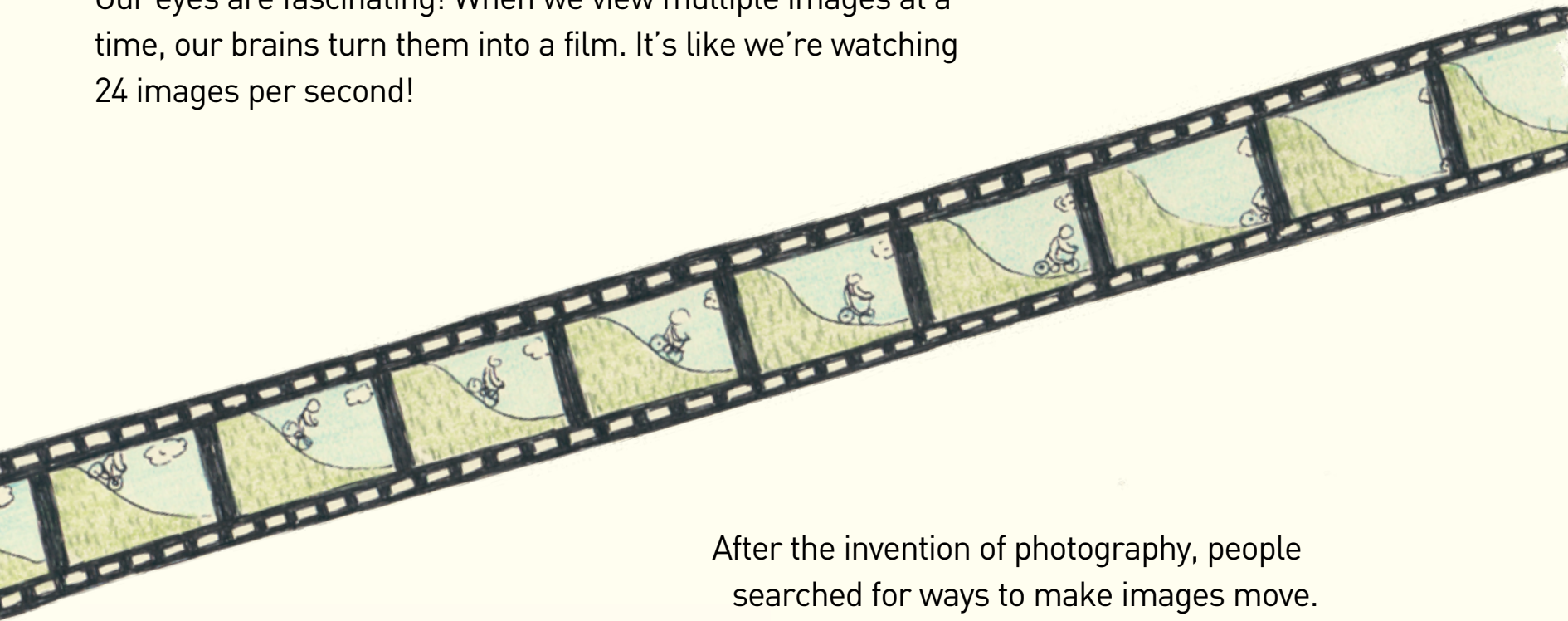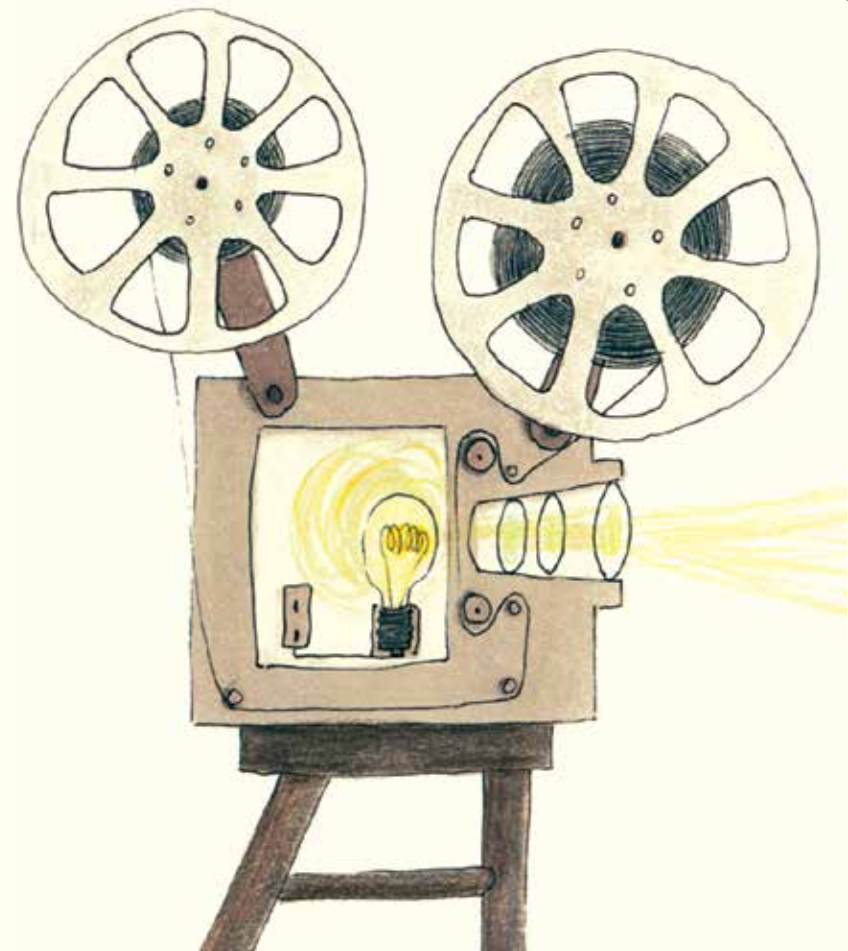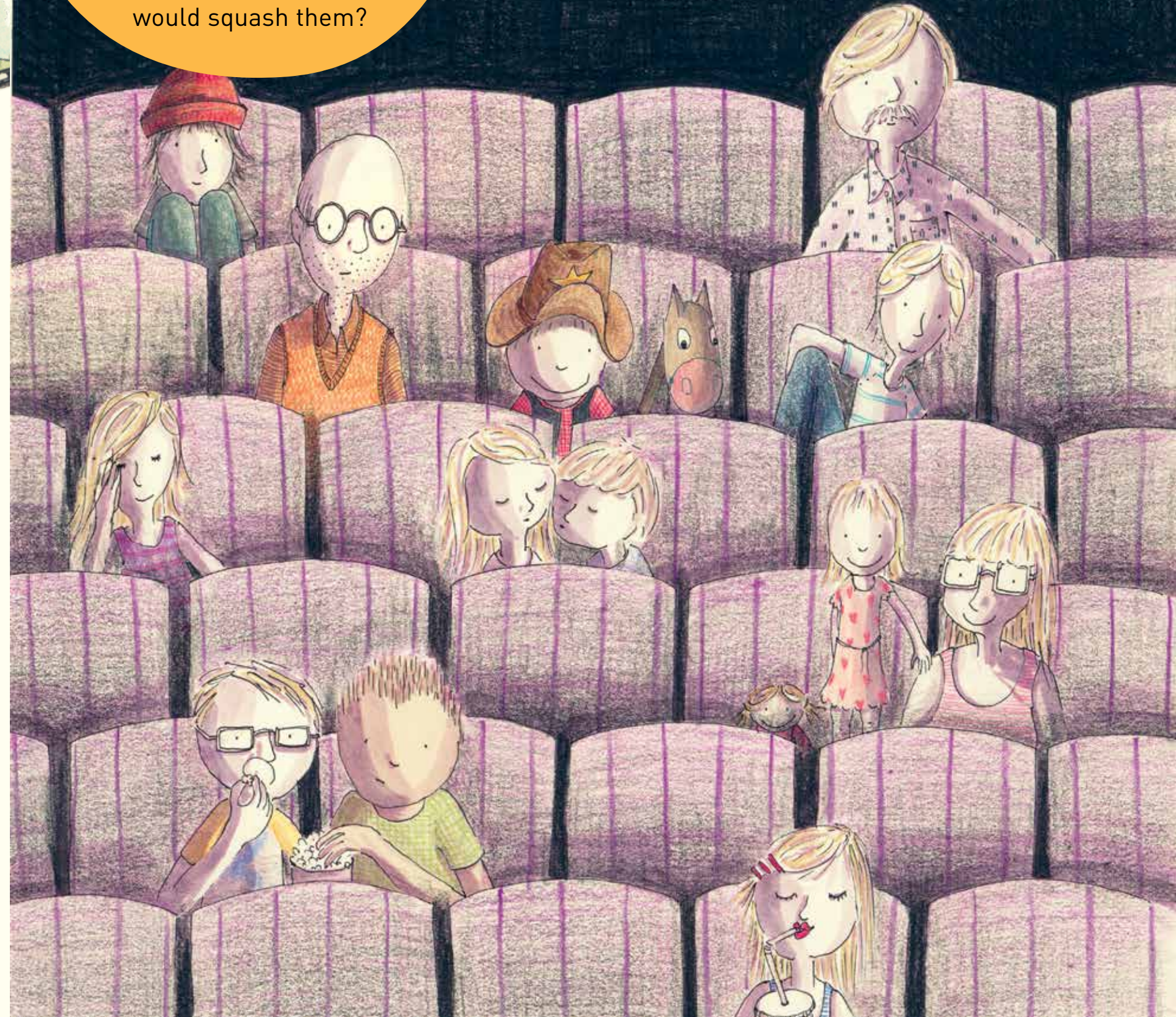# The invention of cinema

Our eyes are fascinating! When we view multiple images at a time, our brains turn them into a film. It's like we're watching 24 images per second!

After the invention of photography, people searched for ways to make images move. The result was a camera that could register the rapid succession of images on photosensitive material: film. The images could then be displayed on a screen with a projector. Just like a shadow show or magic lantern, a bright light is flashed onto a white screen. In front of the light, translucent images are magnified on the screen, making it possible for many people to view them at once. Despite many failed attempts, it was successful!

Did you know the people who were watching the movie *The Arrival of a Train at the Station of La Ciotat* (1895) were afraid a real train would squash them?

The movies, from past to present

The invention of the cinema is fairly recent; it's just over one hundred years old. In the beginning, there were only **black and white** images, even though some filmmakers colored their images by hand! Later on, **color film** was invented.

The Lumière Brothers filmed scenes from daily life. They started with the **documentary cinema**. Georges Méliès invented fantastic stories which incorporated tricks and special effects. He created **fiction film**.

The first movies were **silent films** (films without sound). In the movie theater, a pianist or orchestra played music to highlight the film's most important moments and emotions. Occasionally, in between images, a small sign appeared with an explanation or a dialogue (a conversation between actors). Later on, the **audio tape** was invented, making it possible to hear the dialogues, background sounds, and music.

Movie-making techniques are still developing today. Recording is now done digitally, rather than on film. And of course, there are now **3D movies**. When you watch them in the movie theater, you must wear special glasses. What will the movies of the future look like?

Did you know you can watch thousands of movies in a film museum or a movie library?