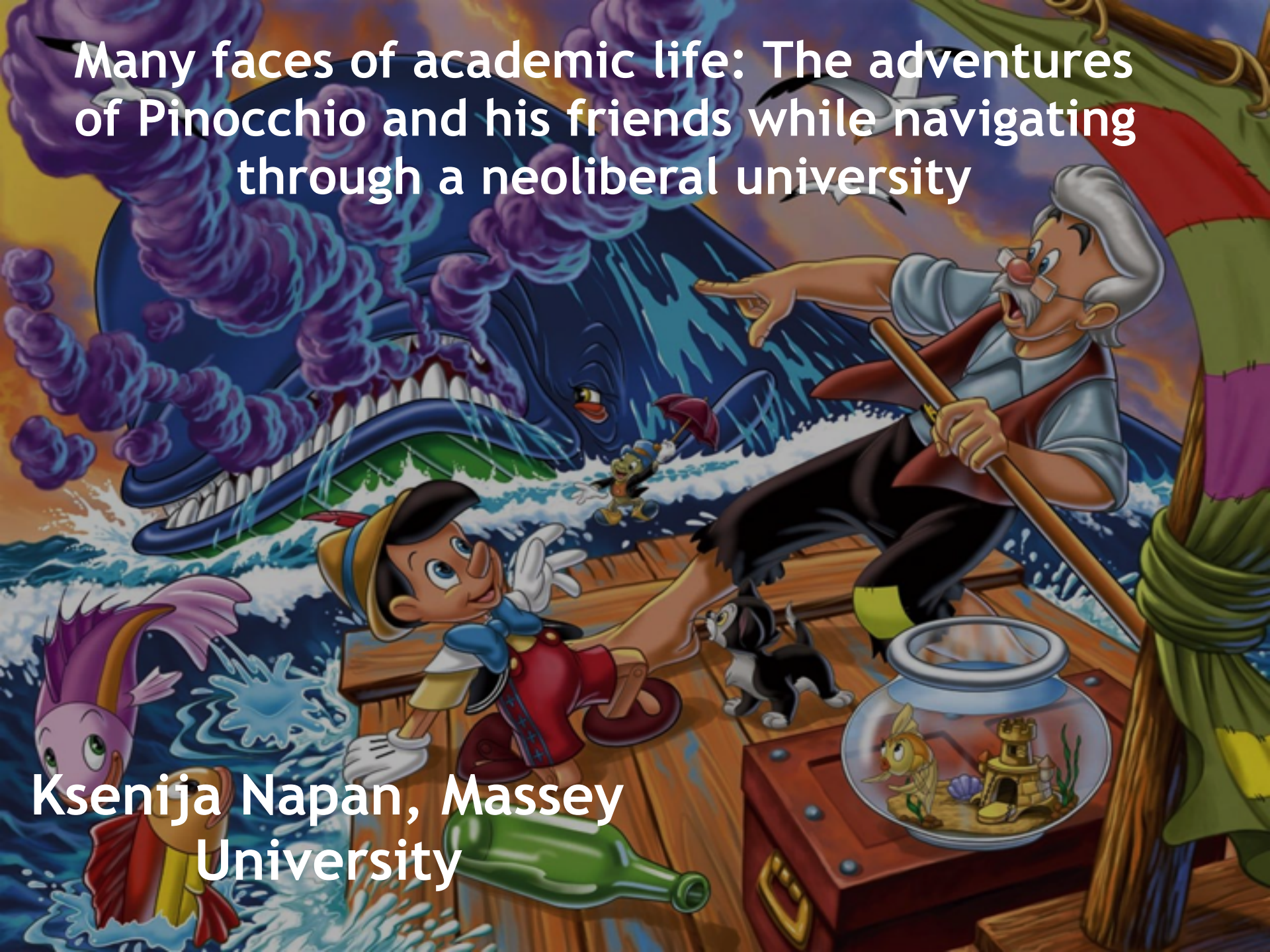


Many faces of academic life: The adventures of Pinocchio and his friends while navigating through a neoliberal university

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Tena kotou katoa
Tihei Mauri ora



Ko rererangi Air New Zealand Boeing 777 te waka
Ko Medvednica te maunga
Ko Sava te awa
Ko Ngati Pakeha te iwi
Ko tangata Tarara te hapu
Ko Te Noho Kotahitanaga te marae
Ko Ngākau Māhaki te wharenui
Ko Ksenija Napan toku ingoa
No reira, tena kotou tena kotou
tena katoa

Inquiry questions

- Do we need a public university, corporatized university or something else to bring forth the world?
- Are academics in Aotearoa really critics and conscience of society, and what happens when we are?
- How can creativity and innovation flourish within academia?
- How did we end up in a whale?
- Do main characters have a power to retell the story?

Outcome: co-creating an alternative story that we, as AKO Academy members would love to be part of.



Geppetto

- **Role in the story:** Geppetto created Pinocchio and his dream is for him to become a “normal boy”. He wants him to fit and go to school. Geppetto is getting old and needs someone to take over his business and take care of him in his old age.
- **Potential metaphor:** Parent, creator, inventor,
- **Polarity:** unconditional love/selfishness
- **Qualities:** reciprocity, mutuality, unconditional love - how do we manifest these qualities in our teaching?



Pinocchio

- **Role in the story:** Starts his life as a wooden marionette. Pinocchio is known for having a short nose that becomes longer when he is under stress, especially while lying. His clothes are made of flowered paper, his shoes are made of wood and his hat is made of bread (sustainable chap!)

Collodi describes him as a “rascal,” “imp,” “scapegrace,” “disgrace,” “ragamuffin,” and “confirmed rogue,” with even his father, carpenter Geppetto, refers to him as a “wretched boy.” Upon being born, Pinocchio immediately laughs in his creator’s face, whereupon he steals the old man’s wig.

- **Potential metaphor:** student, novice teacher
- **Polarity:** wild at heart/golden heart
- **Qualities:** the sense of having a mission can have a transformative potential, importance of play and not following instructions blindly, lifelong learning, experiential learning



Let your
conscience
be your
guide

Jiminy

- **Role in the story:** Pinocchio's conscience, works really hard but does not have much power
- **Potential metaphor:** Our role of being critics and conscience of society
- **Polarity:** free will/constraints imposed by culture, beliefs, societal norms
- **Qualities:** honesty and integrity



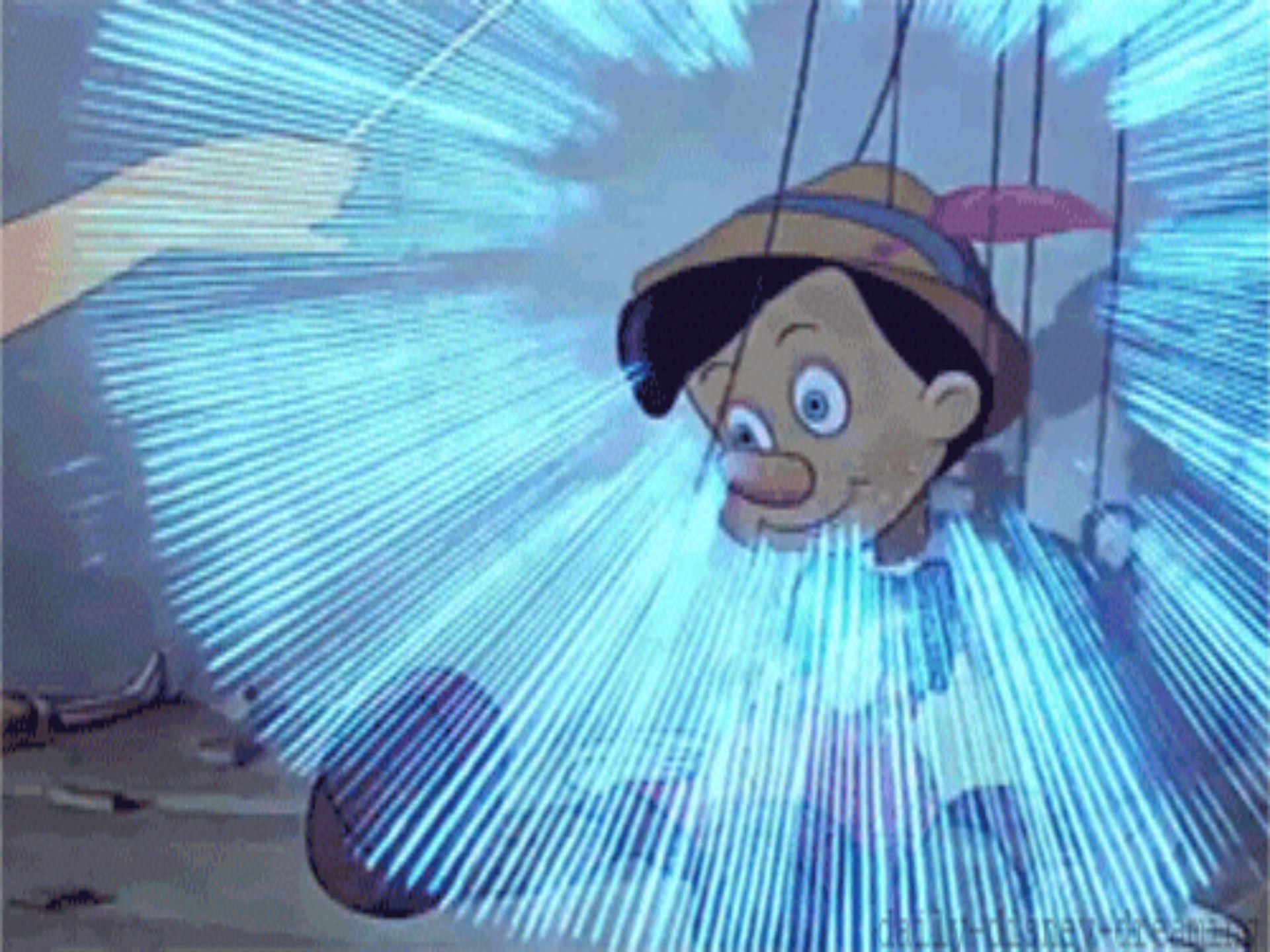
Monstro

- **Role in the story:** Enormous sperm whale. In search of Pinocchio, Geppetto, Figaro and Cleo are swallowed whole. Monstro later swallows Pinocchio, when he comes searching for his father.
- **Potential metaphor:** Corporations, large departments, PBRF, publish or perish, greed, illusion of scarcity, but also - research and discovery happens in the whale - Pinocchio's creativity comes to surface, container for drama to happen, think tanks, isolation can help
- **Polarity:** whales do not eat people, he appears scary but he becomes a home for Geppetto, Figaro and Cleo for two years. Similarly, corporations and large universities are supposed to support life not drain it out of people, sustainable growth vs. corporate greed
- **Qualities:** importance of the actual place for learning, on-line (Cloud, Moocs) or in class, can quality learning happen in a stinky belly of a whale?



Stromboli, Mangiafuoco or Karabas Barabas

- **Role in the story:** He is a puppeteer, a showman and very greedy, his primary concern is making money. As such, he is delighted to buy Pinocchio from Mr. Cat and Mr. Fox (called Honest John and Giddy in Disney's version). He locks Pinocchio in a cage to ensure that he doesn't return home. Although eccentric and entertaining, Stromboli is also a threatening and imposing villain with an anger management problem.
- **Potential metaphor:** expressions of power and control at Universities, bullying, various cages externally imposed
- **Polarity:** charismatic charm/violent outbursts, social change/ social control
- **Qualities:** the power and danger of short term incentives, seductiveness, manipulation, marketing, education as commodity, human (marionette) rights, minimal vs. living wage....



Blue fairy and her effects

- **Role in the story:** She repeatedly appears at critical moments in Pinocchio's wanderings to rebuke the little wooden puppet for his bad or risky behaviour. Pinocchio initially resists her good advice, but later comes to follow her instructions. She in turn protects him, and later enables him to become a 'real boy'.
- **Potential metaphor:** all goodness and benefits of attaining education come at price of following prescribed pathways
- **Polarities:** goodness/conditional love; internal/external power; following rules/creativity
- **Qualities:** she has supernatural powers but uses them sparingly and conditionally



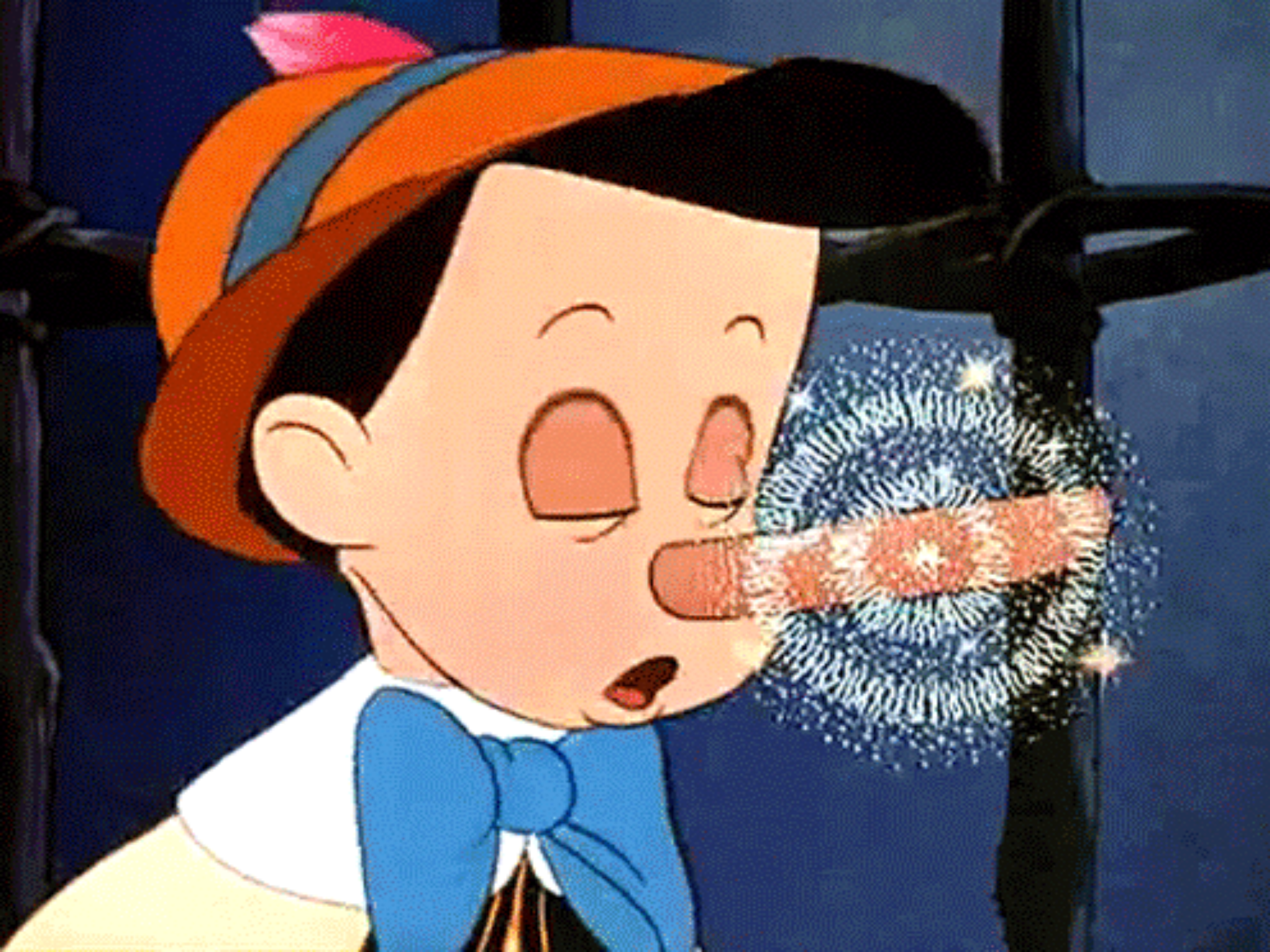
A Cat and a Fox (Honest John and Giddy)

- **Role in the story:** In Carlo Collodi's story, Honest John is an unnamed sly fox that pretends to be lame, but later gets his comeuppance by being lame for real and even losing his tail, having sold it for money. Gideon was originally a cat who pretended to be blind until ultimately gaining that disability as a comeuppance. They plead for Pinocchio to give them food, but Pinocchio will give them nothing, as he claims they have earned their fates.
- **Potential metaphor:** what goes around comes around, for example letting students pass when they do not demonstrate competence damages society as a whole
- **Polarity:** naivety/trickery, academic integrity/jumping through hoops
- **Qualities:** the need to be accepted, social influences on students, be careful what you wish for, fake it till you make it



Turning point

- **Role in the story:** Pinocchio turns into a donkey and realises that Geppetto is in danger.
Transformation can happen when people are internally motivated by what they have become or by longing for their loved ones.
- **Potential metaphor:** education as transformation
- **Polarities:** whole people learning/ fragmented disciplinary bound knowledge; training/education
- **Qualities:** transformation, change, motivation



The nose itself

- **Role in the story:** The best-known of Pinocchio's characteristics is his nose, which grows in length when he tells a lie. The nose only appears a couple times in the story, but it reveals the Blue Fairy's power over Pinocchio when he acts disobediently. After struggling and weeping over his deformed nose, the Blue Fairy summons woodpeckers to peck it back to normal.
- **Potential metaphor:** what we try to hide becomes apparent, one way or another
- **Polarity:** truth/lie
- **Qualities:** transparency, honesty, mistakes can be corrected, no pain no gain....

Conclusion and ideas to ponder...

