

LitWorld

World Read Aloud Day



February 3, 2021

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World Read Aloud Day

WHAT

World Read Aloud Day, founded by **LitWorld**, is an international advocacy day celebrated by over 170 million people worldwide.



WHY

Storytelling creates connections among people, and communities that exchange stories and engage in reading aloud together become stronger and show improved family health and nutrition, civic engagement and participation in the labor market.



HOW

Read aloud and tell stories on World Read Aloud Day, *wherever* you are! Visit litworld.org for ideas on how to celebrate!



WHEN

February 3, 2021

and annually the first Wednesday of February



Be the Story.

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World Read Aloud Day

What is World Read Aloud Day?

LitWorld founded **World Read Aloud Day** in 2010 in celebration of the power of reading aloud to create community, to amplify new stories, and to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right. Over the last ten years, World Read Aloud Day has evolved into a global movement of millions of readers, writers, and listeners from communities all across the world coming together to honor the joy and power of reading and sharing stories, and continue expanding the definition and scope of global literacy.

Top 3 Reasons to Celebrate

1

World Read Aloud Day is a celebration of oral storytelling, an ancient tradition for sharing information and building community. A person who has access to the stories of others who have overcome challenges, enacted change, and pursued their dreams is more likely to imagine how he or she might do the same. World Read Aloud Day allows us to embrace the power of creating community by sharing stories aloud!

2

World Read Aloud Day presents an opportunity to support diverse stories and authors. Nearly three quarters of all children's and young adult books published in 2019 were about white children, animals, or inanimate objects¹. BIPOC are still underrepresented in the stories children have access to and World Read Aloud Day is a chance to share some of those unheard stories with the world.

3

World Read Aloud Day is an opportunity to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right. Studies show that daily reading aloud to children puts them almost a year ahead of children who do not receive daily read alouds regardless of income, education level or cultural background.²

¹ Tyner, M. (1970, January 01). The Numbers Are In: 2019 CCBC Diversity Statistics. Retrieved October 26, 2020, from <http://ccblogc.blogspot.com/2020/06/the-numbers-are-in-2019-ccbc-diversity.html>

² University of Melbourne

World Read Aloud Day

How to Celebrate!

World Read Aloud Day is an opportunity for people all around the world to create community through storytelling. While the Covid 19 pandemic may limit the ways that we can physically come together to celebrate, there are still so many ways that we can create powerful and impactful storytelling moments with each other. Below are some socially distanced suggestions for celebrating World Read Aloud Day.

Embrace Technology

Many of us have become very familiar in recent months with virtual ways of connecting. On World Read Aloud Day, make it a point to tell a story via video chat, share a story via social media, or send a video of you reading a story directly to someone you love. There are also so many ways to experience amazing read alouds from authors, celebrities, and many others online! Go to www.litworld.org/worldreadaloudday for a calendar of Read Aloud experiences, resources, and activities that you can engage in virtually on February 3rd.

Create Intimate Storytelling Moments

Although you may not be able to host a large scale celebration on World Read Aloud Day, there are definitely many ways to celebrate on a smaller and more intimate scale. Find a moment to share a read aloud or storytelling game with your classroom, close friends, work staff, or your family. If you're unable to do so in person, do so virtually by making a special space for people to share the stories they love and the stories they want to tell.

Start Your Own Storytelling Traditions

Use World Read Aloud Day as an opportunity to establish new storytelling habits with your family and friends. Start a weekly read aloud night at home or begin a book club with your coworkers. Use February 3rd to kick off new storytelling traditions that you'll keep all year round!

Become a WRADvocate

On February 3rd, use your platforms to encourage others to celebrate the power of reading aloud and storytelling! You can post about it on social media and share your stories with the world. You can also take action locally by organizing a book drive for your neighborhood community center or volunteering to read aloud via video conference to a local classroom. Find your own creative ways to advocate for storytelling and voice on World Read Aloud Day!



World Read Aloud Day

StoryTelling 101: The 5 Story Elements



On World Read Aloud Day, you can write and share your own stories! While there is no wrong way to tell a story, knowing about the 5 story elements can help make your story interesting and easy to understand!

Character: The characters are the people (or animals, or objects!) that experience the main action of a story. Interesting characters have motivations and personalities. The more well rounded and interesting your characters are, the more interesting your story will be.

Tip: Try to understand who your characters are before you begin writing your story. What are your characters like? Are they loud or quiet? Are they thoughtful or impulsive? Are they timid or bold?

Setting: The setting of a story is when and where it takes place. A story may take place in a city or a country, a house or a school. A story can also take place in a different time period, or in a magical or fantastical space as well!

Tip: Sometime it helps to do a little “world building” before you start writing your story. What is important about when and where your story takes place? Write down the rules your characters have to follow to make the setting believable. For example, if your story is set in the 1500’s, it wouldn’t make sense for a character to check the time on their cell phone!

Plot: The plot of a story consists of all of the events that happen in it! A good plot has a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Tip: Before you start writing your story, outline the big events that your characters will experience. Make sure all of the events lead up to or affect the climax- the most exciting part- of your story.

Theme: The theme of a story is typically the lesson that the reader learns from what the characters experience.

Tip: Before you begin writing your story, think about what you want your readers to walk away understanding. For example, maybe readers of your story can learn from your characters actions that they should “Always be kind to others.”



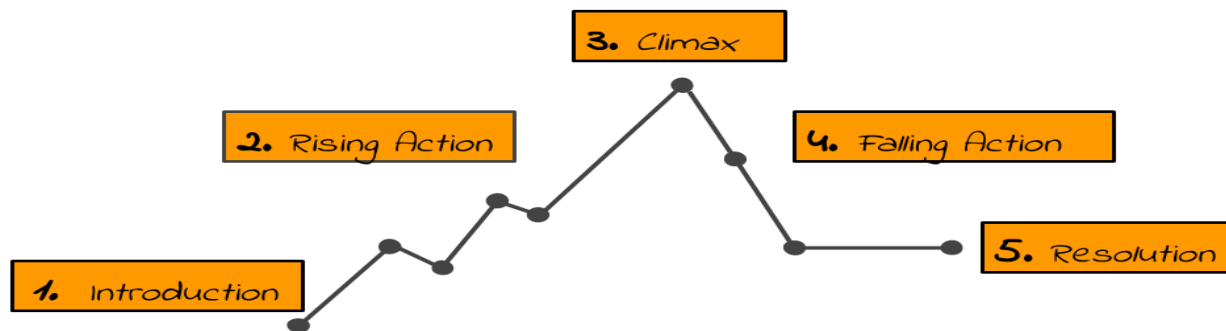
Conflict: The conflict of a story is the main problem. Stories need problems, it’s what drives the characters to do what they do!

Tip: The main conflict in a story may be between two characters. It could also be between a character and the society that the character lives in, or be between a character and nature. As you write your plot, make sure it revolves around how the characters address the main conflict.

World Read Aloud Day

StoryTelling 101: The Story Mountain

On World Read Aloud Day, you can write and share your own stories! Most narrative stories (stories with a beginning, middle, and end) have a familiar structure. You can use the story mountain to help you lay out the plot of your story so that it makes sense and is compelling.



1. Introduction: Start by introducing the main characters, the setting, and the problem.

Ex: In the story of Three Little Pigs, we are introduced to each of the three little pigs and their personalities- we know that one little pig is smart and a hard worker and the other two pigs are not as clever and are lazy. We are also introduced to a hungry wolf who wants to eat them!

2. Rising Action: The rising action is where your main characters encounter twists and turns as they attempt to solve the main problem. In traditional stories, there are often three obstacles that characters must overcome before they can do so!

Ex: In the story of the Three Little Pigs, the hungry wolf first destroys the youngest brother's house made out of hay (obstacle 1), then the hungry wolf destroys the middle brother's house made out of sticks (obstacle 2), finally the hungry wolf attempts to destroy the eldest brother's house of bricks (obstacle 3).

3. Climax: The climax of the story is the most exciting part! Here your main characters go for what they want. It's up to you whether they succeed or not.

Ex: In the story of the Three Little Pigs, the hungry wolf tries several things to destroy the eldest brothers house of bricks; he tries to blow it down, he tries to push it down, and then he finally decides to climb down the chimney to get to the little pigs inside.

4. Falling Action: The falling action is what happens right after the climax of a story. It's where we discover what happens as a result of the exciting climactic moment.

Ex: In the story of the Three Little Pigs, the hungry wolf falls into a boiling pot of water the brothers placed under the chimney! He does not get the pigs and runs off with his tail between his legs.

5. Resolution: The Resolution is the last part of a story. It's where we tie up all the loose ends and discover what lessons the main characters learned over the course of the story.

Ex: The younger brothers learn to work hard like the eldest little pig. All three live happily ever after.

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Storytelling Games

World Read Aloud Day is an opportunity to celebrate stories in all of their forms. It is a day that empowers you to become a storyteller! Writing and sharing your own stories helps you share your voice with the world!

Try these fun Storytelling activities alone or with a group to celebrate World Read Aloud Day!

It Happened To Me

This activity will help you share stories of small but important life moments with others. You can play this game in a group or use this method to think of stories you want to write about on your own.

Materials:

- Small slips of paper
- A hat, bucket, or cup
- Notebooks or paper for every participant
- Pencils or pens for every participant



Directions:

1. On each of the small slips of paper, write down one of the prompts below:
A time you learned an important lesson
A time you were very scared
A time you discovered something new about yourself or about the world
A time you were incredibly happy
A time you were incredibly excited
Feel free to add any other prompts you would like!
2. Put all the slips of paper into a hat, bucket, or cup.
3. Have all participants sit a circle
4. Pull one of the slips of paper from the hat, bucket, or cup and read what it says to the group.
5. Allow each participant 5 minutes to respond independently in their notebook or on paper to the prompt.
6. Complete 3 rounds of this- pulling a prompt and allowing participants to independently respond
7. Once each participant has responded to all three prompts in their notebooks, allow time to share. You can give each participant an opportunity to share what they wrote about any one of the prompts or allow people to volunteer to share on their own.

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Tips:

- Never force anyone to share their writing. Creating an encouraging and positive environment for this activity will help make everyone more comfortable with sharing, but sometimes participants simply won't want to. Make sure you do not put undue pressure on anyone to do so.
- You may want to provide a reader's chair or stage area for participants to share their stories. After each participant shares their story, encourage others to clap, snap, or throw shooting stars their way!

Story in the Round

Telling a Story in the Round is a fun, exciting, and creative way to share stories together! Don't be afraid to get silly!

Materials:

- Optional-Chart paper

Directions:

1. On a chart paper, write down the following reference prompts and hang it in a place where all participants can see:

Beginning: [once Upon a Time...

Middle: [Then...
And...
But...
Next...
So...
After that...
Because of that...

End: [Finally...



You can skip this step if you would like. The chart is for reference only.

2. Have participants sit in a circle.
3. Explain that you will be creating a "Story in the Round" together. This means that each participant will add a sentence to a story you all create together on the spot!
4. Start the story with "Once Upon a Time." The first prompt should include some characters and a setting (for example; "Once Upon a time there was a young girl who lived in the woods.").

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5. The person to your right should continue the story. If needed refer them to the chart and encourage them to start their sentence with any one of the “Middle” transition words (for example: “*And she had a little dog who loved to wander around*”)
6. Each participant around the circle should continue adding sentences to the story. At any point, someone can use the ending prompt “*Finally*” to end the story.

Tips:

- Encourage participants to listen to the prompts that come before theirs. Remind them that your goal together is to create a story that makes sense.
- It might help to announce a genre before the first prompt is given. You can create a scary story, a funny story, an adventure story, etc.

A Picture is Worth 1000 Words

This activity helps participants create new stories using pictures and images! Feel free to get creative as you stretch your imagination!

Materials:

- A collection of 3-5 images (*these can be famous pictures downloaded from the internet, pictures from storybooks, personal photographs or any other images you can find. Try to find a variety of subjects- one photo might be of groups of people or a person, one might be of landscapes, one might be abstract, or of animals, or drawings that the participants themselves have done*)
- A notebook or paper for each participant
- Pencils or pens for each participant
- Chart paper (optional)

Directions:

1. On the chart paper provide the following story prompts:

The Pixar Pitch:

once upon a time....

Every day...

one day...

Because of that...

Because of that...

Until Finally...



2. Select one of the images and put it in a space that all participants can see.

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3. Tell participants that they will each write a quick story based on the image
Encourage them to come up with characters, a conflict, a theme, and a plot based on what they see in the picture. They can use the “Pixar Pitch” to lay out the story by completing each sentence using the ideas they imagine after looking at the image.
4. Allow 5-10 minutes for each participant to write down a story.
5. Allow each participant to share the story they created based on the image.
6. Repeat the process for each of the images.

Tips:

- Create a positive environment to encourage participants to share their stories. You may want to provide a reader’s chair or stage area for participants to share their stories. After each participant shares their story, encourage others to clap, snap, or throw shooting stars their way!

World Read Aloud Day

Read Aloud Tips from LitWorld

Reading aloud improves listening skills, vocabulary acquisition, and the understanding of common story themes and structures that will factor into children's future success. Even for adults, reading aloud is a fun, easy way to connect people. *Use these tips to create a powerful, memorable read aloud experience!*

- Read the book beforehand to familiarize yourself with the story.
- Try a story walk instead of reading every word. A story walk is when you summarize what is happening on each page while pointing to the illustrations to help the reader follow.
- Ask questions out loud as you read. Ask listeners to predict what will happen next, how they would feel if they were in the story, or the meaning of an unfamiliar word.
- After you finish a story, discuss it with your audience! How does it connect to the listeners' lives and experiences?
- Invite your audience to act out parts of the story. Let the listeners take turns being their favorite characters and having fun!
- Make sure to *talk about the Read Aloud experience itself!* Ask listeners to reflect upon how it feels to be part of a Read Aloud community and encourage them to engage others in their family and friend circles and communities in Read Aloud experiences!



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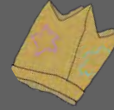
Storytelling Tips from LitWorld

Storytelling is one of the oldest art forms and is a way to share knowledge, inspire, teach and forge connections amongst people and ideas. Stories tell us about life, about ourselves, and can promote a positive understanding of others. Stories can also come in many shapes and forms! Some stories are read, some are watched, and some are told from memory and imagination. No matter what your way of telling stories is, read on to learn about making a memorable storytelling experience for all!

- **Know your audience:** whether you are telling a story to a group of children, adults or both, make sure the language and message are easy to understand and accessible to everyone!
- **Decide what kind of story you're telling!** Are the characters, events and setting real or imagined? Does it come from personal experiences or is it inspired by real life? Know the main message of the story before you begin!
- **Invite interaction with the audience of your story!** Just like a *Read Aloud*, it is important to create a positive and exciting atmosphere to keep your listeners engaged and attentive. Encourage the audience to ask questions, maintain eye contact, be aware of your voice level and your body language. You can tell your story with your body - using your hands, feet, legs, and head. Or, you can ask the listeners to perform certain simple movements during certain parts of the story.
- **Know your ending!** Before you start telling your story, brainstorm the plot, main events and your ending. When you feel comfortable with your story, you can tell it in a different way each time, but the main points will stay the same and keep you on track and your audience following along well.



WORLD READ ALOUD DAY READING CROWNS



Reading is often considered a solitary and quiet pastime, where one experiences the story internally. We imagine the characters, events from the story, the setting and experience countless feelings and emotions as we read our favorite tales. But, what if there was a way to bring all of these imaginary parts to life and show others how you see and experience the story?



Reading Crowns are a signature **LitWorld** activity that allows for all that is in the reader's mind to become visible! In order to participate, just follow the following easy steps:



- 1.** FOLD your Reading Crown! Make sure it fits you and you can comfortably wear it during your time of reading and celebrating!
- 2.** DECORATE your Reading Crown with anything you like - characters, stories, quotes, letters, stickers...the sky is the limit!
- 3.** START READING! When you wear your crown, you are in a special reading mode and can have fun reading aloud, reading by yourself, listening to a story or writing your own stories!

FOLD, DECORATE, AND READ!

Be the Story.

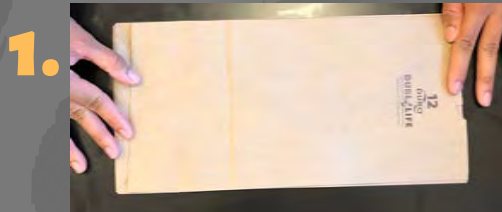
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PAPER BAG READING CROWNS

One way of making a Reading Crown is by using a brown paper bag. Follow the instructions below to make your own World Read Aloud Reading Crown, the special **LitWorld** way!



DIRECTIONS



At the closed end of the brown paper bag, fold the loose flap down towards the bottom side of the bag.



At the closed end of the brown paper bag, fold the loose flap down towards the bottom side of the bag.



Use scissors to cut a sideways "V" (>) into the corners of the thick end (the flap) of the bag.



Open the bag. One end should now have the spikes of the crown. Carefully fold the bottom end (without the spikes) about one inch up and over itself, to create a wearable crown.



Be the Story.

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World Read Aloud Day

Spread the Word on Social

Help us build the movement of World Read Aloud Day by sharing your participation, ideas, and pictures from the day with **#WorldReadAloudDay!**

What to Do

Take pictures and videos of your WRAD celebrations, then tag LitWorld on social media so we can share your content with the online community.



 @LitWorld
 @litworld
 @litworldsays

Social Media Graphics

Check our [Google Drive folder](#) for free graphics to use!

Sample Messages for Twitter

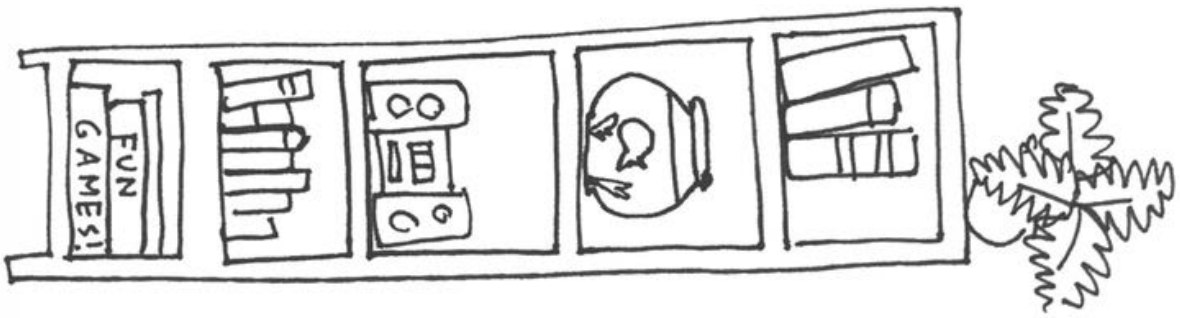
- Reading is better when we do it together. That's why I'm celebrating **#WorldReadAloudDay** today, along with millions of other booklovers across the world! Retweet and spread the word. 🧡 @litworldsays @scholastic
- Save the date for **#WorldReadAloudDay** this February 3! When we read together, we change the world - one story at a time. 📖 @litworldsays @scholastic
- #Didyouknow that reading aloud every day puts kids ahead by 1 year, no matter their background? That's just one of many reasons to join me in celebrating **#WorldReadAloudDay** today - tag a booklover in your life and spread the word! @litworldsays @scholastic
- Every story deserves the chance to be heard! This **#WorldReadAloudDay**, join me and @litworldsays to celebrate diverse stories from all around the globe!

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Sample Messages for Facebook and Instagram

- When I was growing up, the book [-----] had a huge impact on me. My [-----] read it aloud to me, and I can still remember the words. This **#WorldReadAloudDay**, tag a fellow booklover to share their favorite read aloud memories and celebrate together with @litworld and @scholastic!
- Here's one of many reasons to celebrate **#WorldReadAloudDay**: reading aloud every day is proven to put kids ahead by 1 year, no matter their background. 🧑🏻📖🏠 Grab a book, spread the word, and join @litworld and @scholastic in making a global difference!
- Booklovers, join me and millions across the world for **#WorldReadAloudDay**! Share a story, spread the word, and let's make this year's celebration one for the books. 📖😄 @litworld @scholastic

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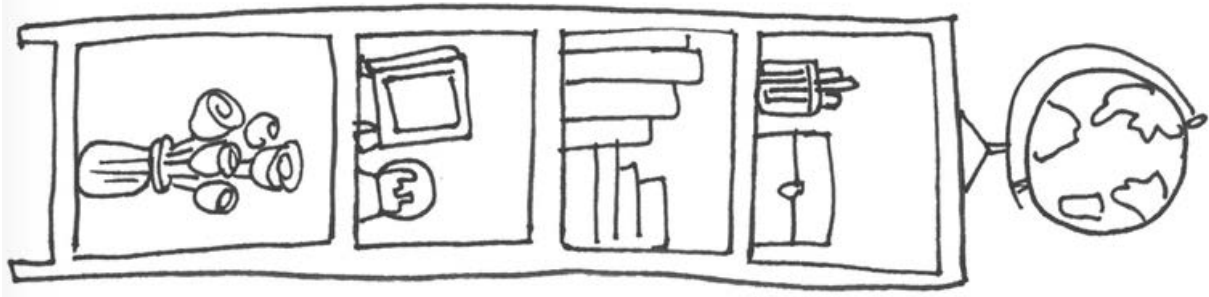


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My favorite book is...

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WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

My favorite quote is

by

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My Story



by _____

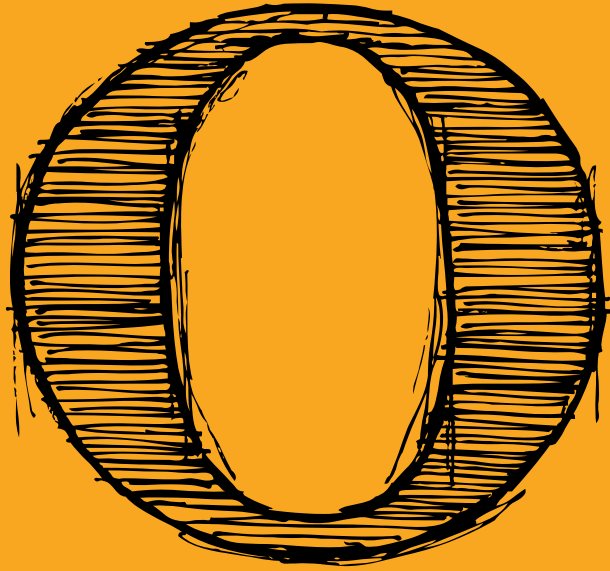
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Change the World.

READ ALOUD



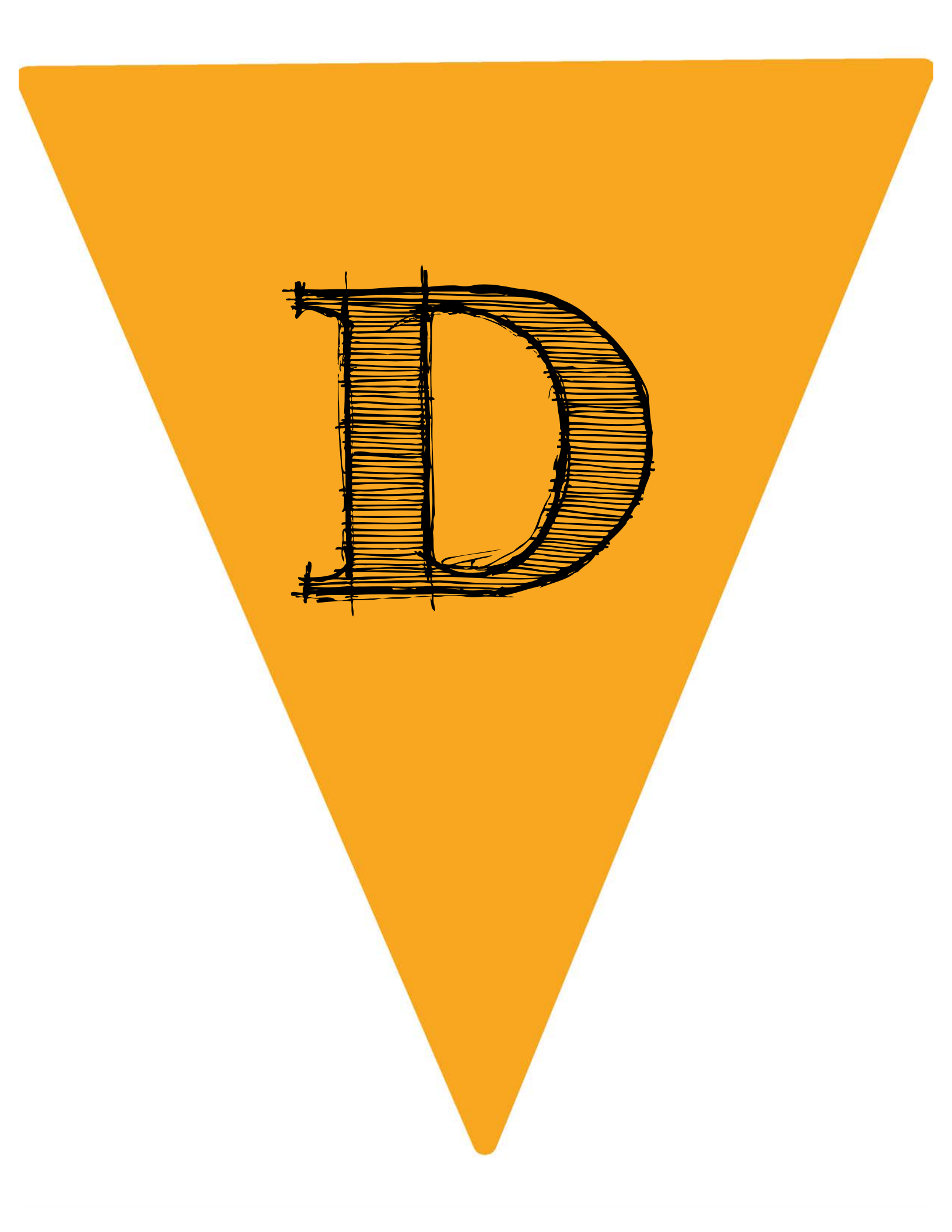
W





R

A large, solid orange inverted triangle is centered on a white background. Inside the triangle, the letter 'J' is drawn in a hand-drawn, sketchy black style. The letter consists of a vertical stem with a horizontal base and a short, upward-sloping tail on the right side. The drawing uses multiple overlapping lines to create a textured, shaded effect, particularly in the vertical stem and the top bar.



D

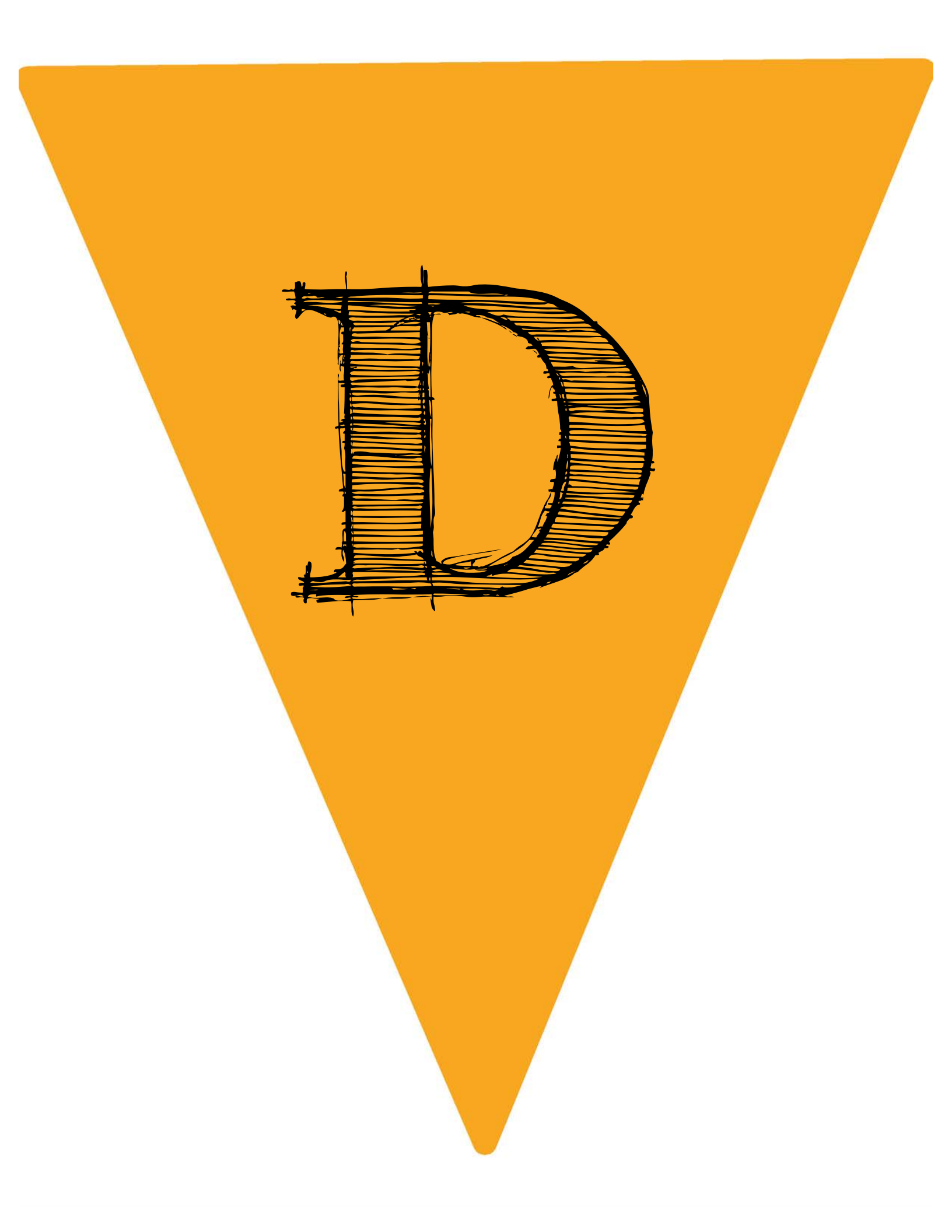




R

A large, solid orange inverted triangle is centered on a white background. Inside the triangle, the letter 'E' is drawn in a hand-drawn, sketchy black style. The 'E' is composed of multiple overlapping horizontal and vertical lines, giving it a textured, layered appearance. The top and bottom horizontal bars of the 'E' are slightly wider than the middle bar, and the vertical stem is also formed by multiple overlapping lines. The overall effect is that of a rough, artistic sketch of the letter 'E'.



A large, inverted orange triangle is centered on a white background. Inside the triangle, the letter 'D' is drawn in a hand-drawn, sketchy style using black ink. The letter is filled with numerous fine, horizontal black lines, giving it a textured appearance. The 'D' is positioned in the upper-middle section of the triangle, with its top edge near the top vertex and its bottom edge near the bottom vertex.

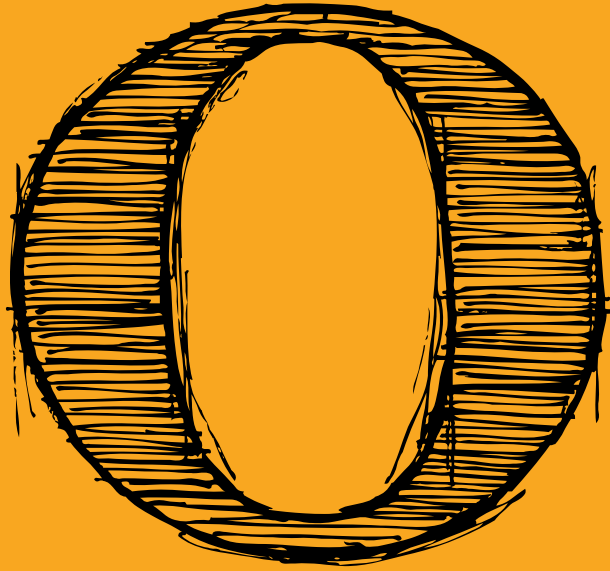
D



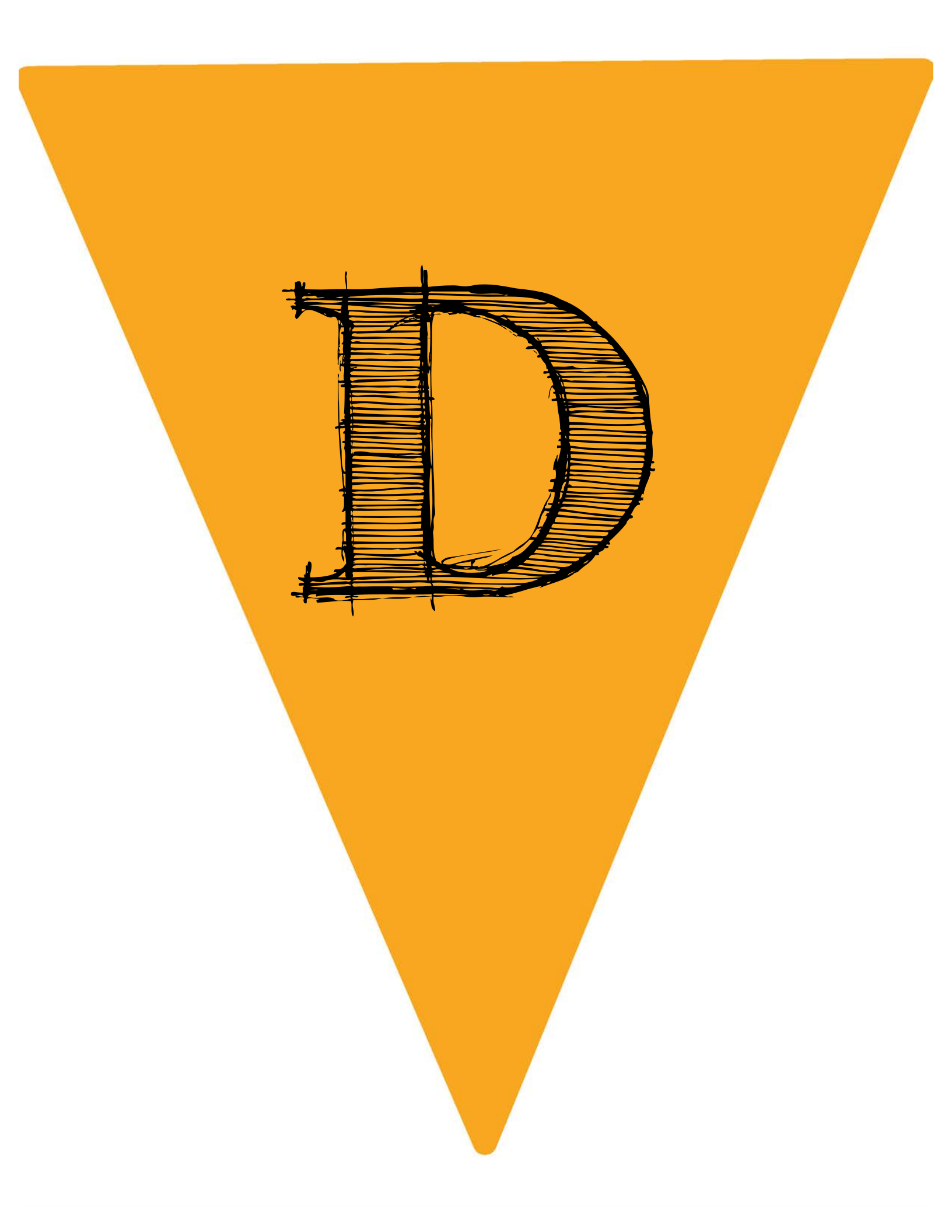


A large, solid orange inverted triangle is centered on a white background. Inside the triangle, the letter 'J' is drawn in a hand-drawn, sketchy style using black ink. The letter consists of a vertical stem with a horizontal base and a short, upward-sloping tail on the right side. The drawing is composed of many overlapping, slightly irregular lines, giving it a textured, hand-drawn appearance.

J

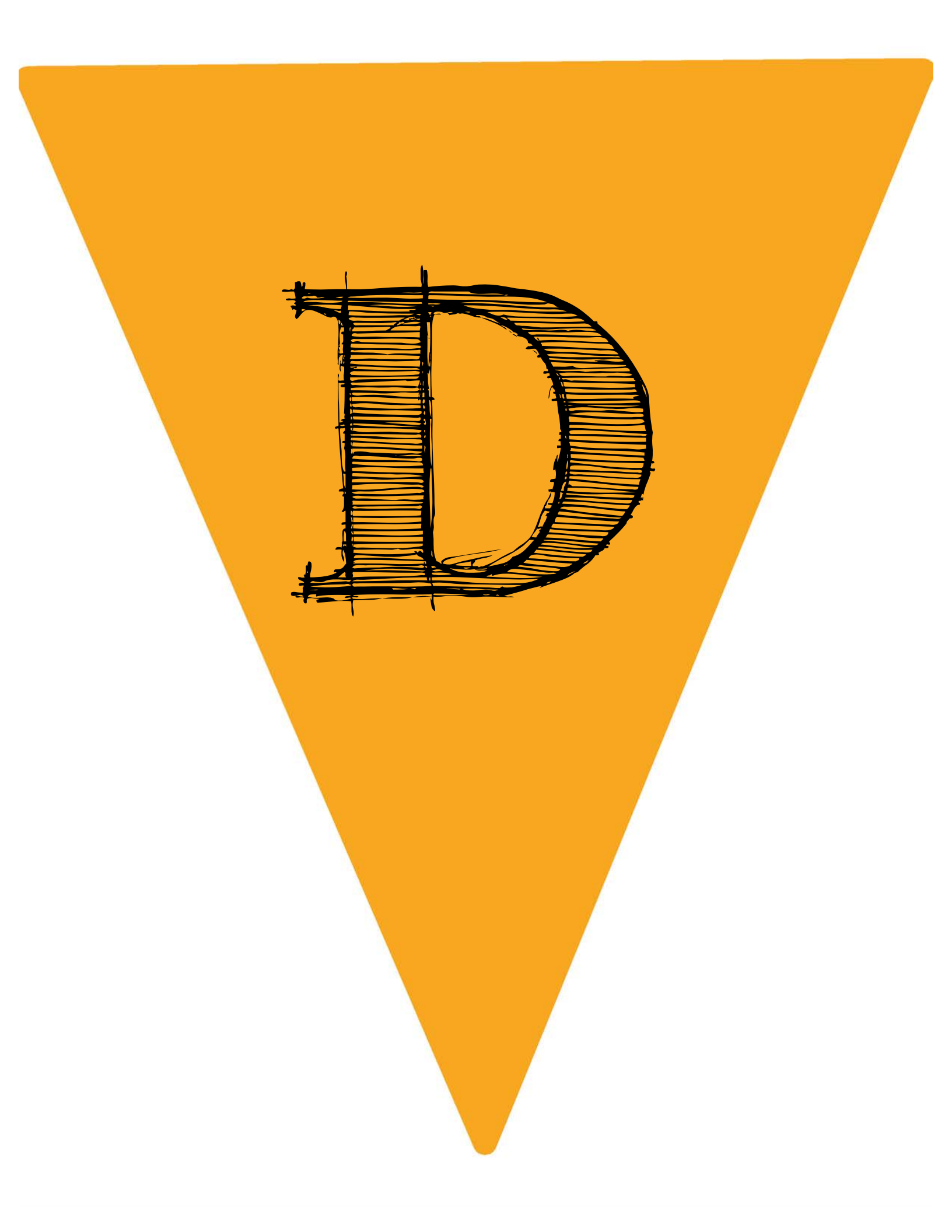


A large, solid orange inverted triangle is centered on a white background. Inside the triangle, the letter 'U' is drawn in a hand-drawn, sketchy black style. The letter is composed of many overlapping, slightly irregular black lines, giving it a textured, ink-like appearance. The top of the 'U' has a slightly jagged, hand-drawn finish. The overall composition is simple and graphic.

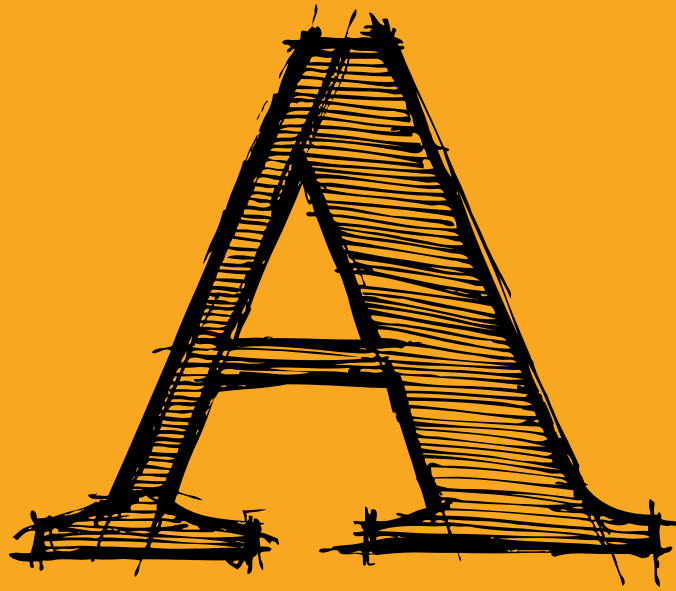
A large, inverted orange triangle is centered on a white background. Inside the triangle, the letter 'D' is drawn in a hand-drawn, sketchy style using black ink. The letter is filled with numerous fine, horizontal black lines, giving it a textured appearance. The 'D' is positioned in the upper-middle section of the triangle, with its top edge near the top vertex and its bottom edge near the middle of the triangle's height.

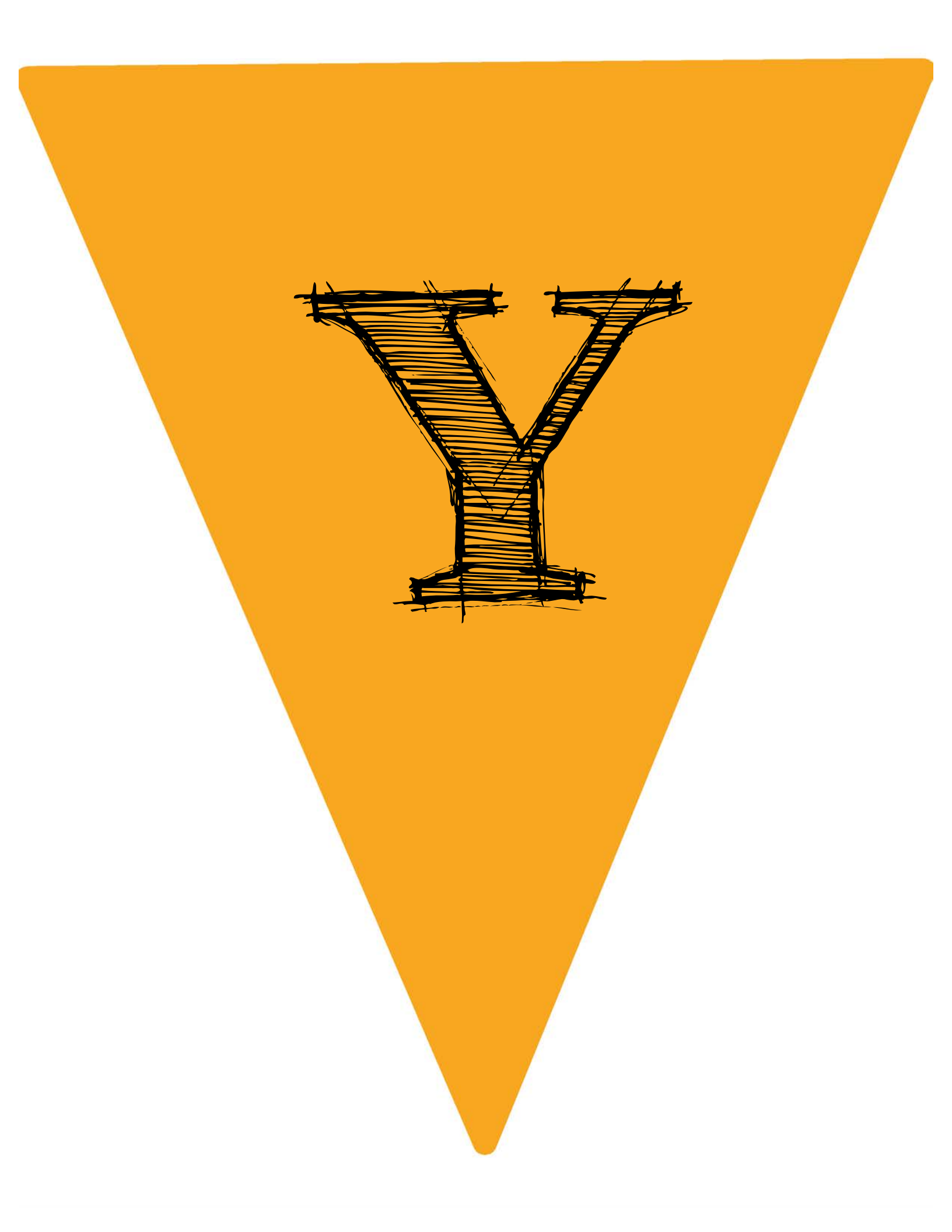
D





D





Y

