

Neuroscience, threat response in  
humans and implications for

Safeguarding

Unveiling Child Sexual Exploitation

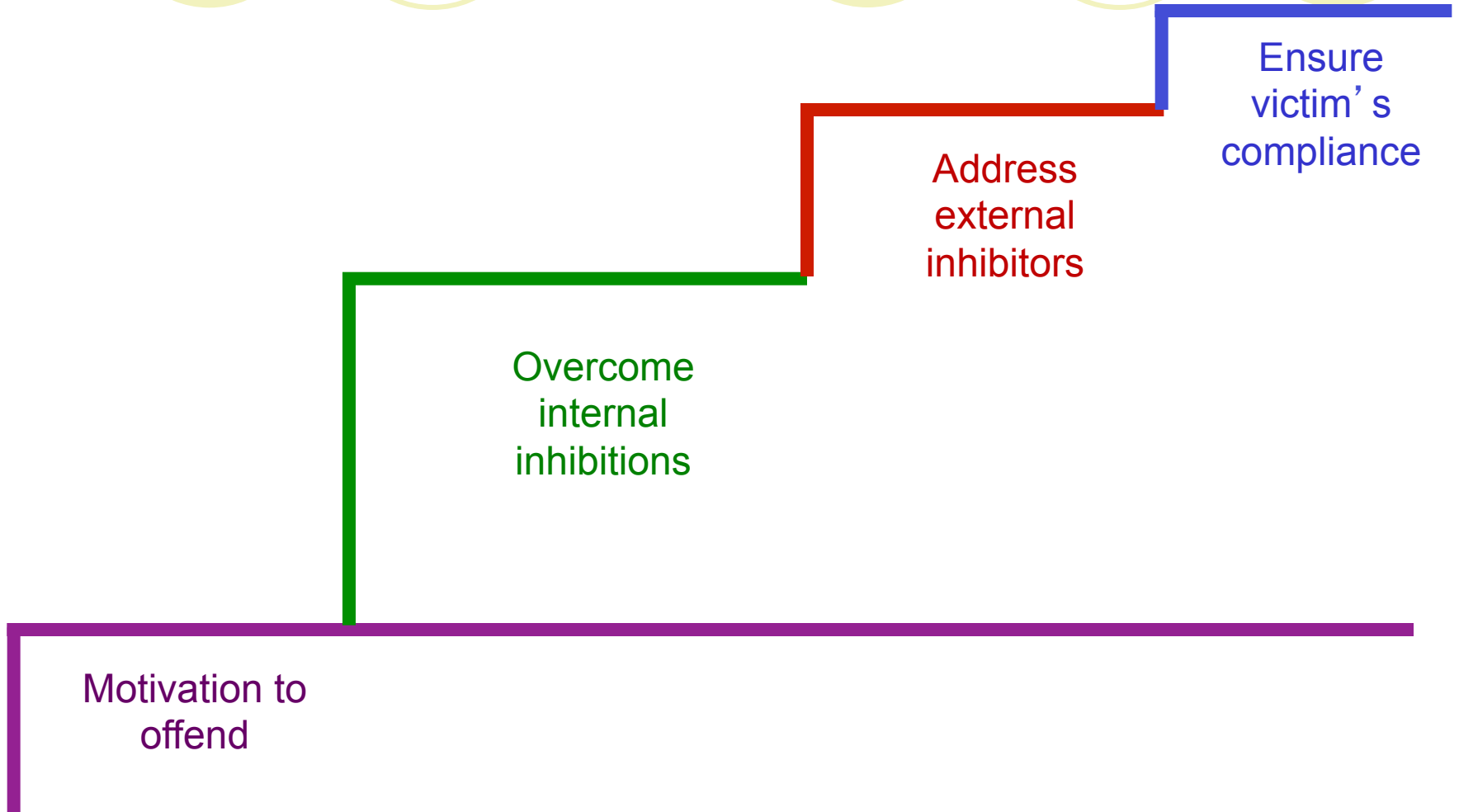
Zoe Lodrick  
Psychotherapist



**Four steps to  
offending.....**

# Finkelhor's preconditions

(Finkelhor, 1984)





**Creating opportunity.....**

# Dealing with external inhibitors

Environment selection – considering potential inhibitors



Consider how / when victim(s) might enter the 'field'



Victim selection – vulnerability / accessibility / desirability



Consider any potential objection / opposition from others



Victim contact strategy



# Human response to threat.....

# Brain function when threatened.....

Cortex

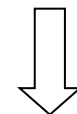
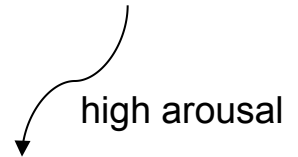
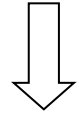
Hippocampus

Thalamus

Amygdala

Hypothalamus

Chemical release



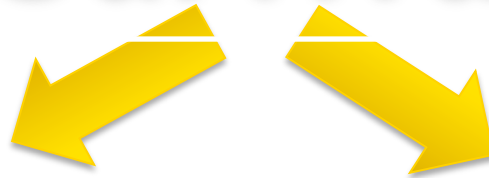
The amygdala mediated response:

Success....?



Immediate

Survival

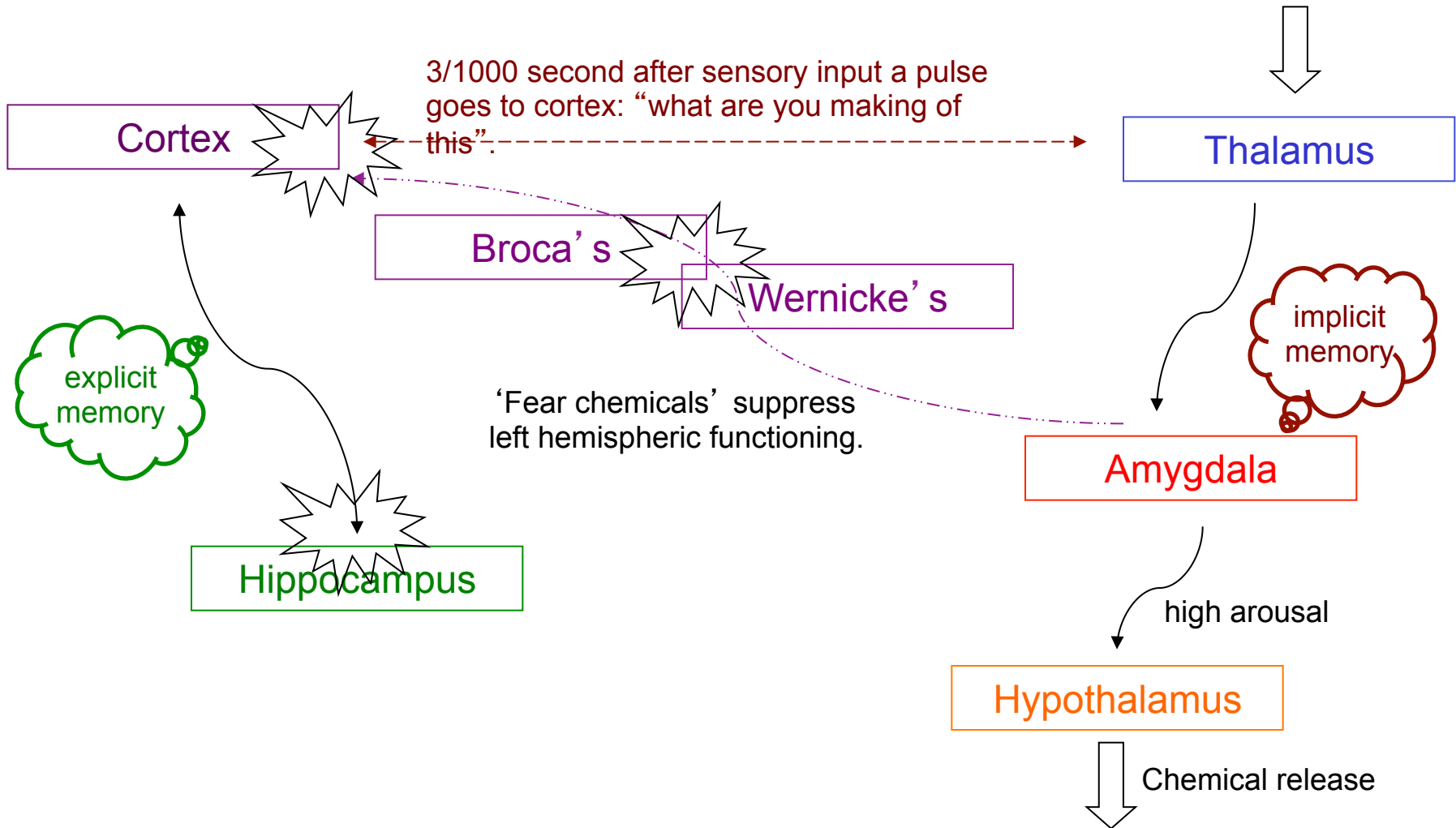


**1. ATTACHMENT**

**2. PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**



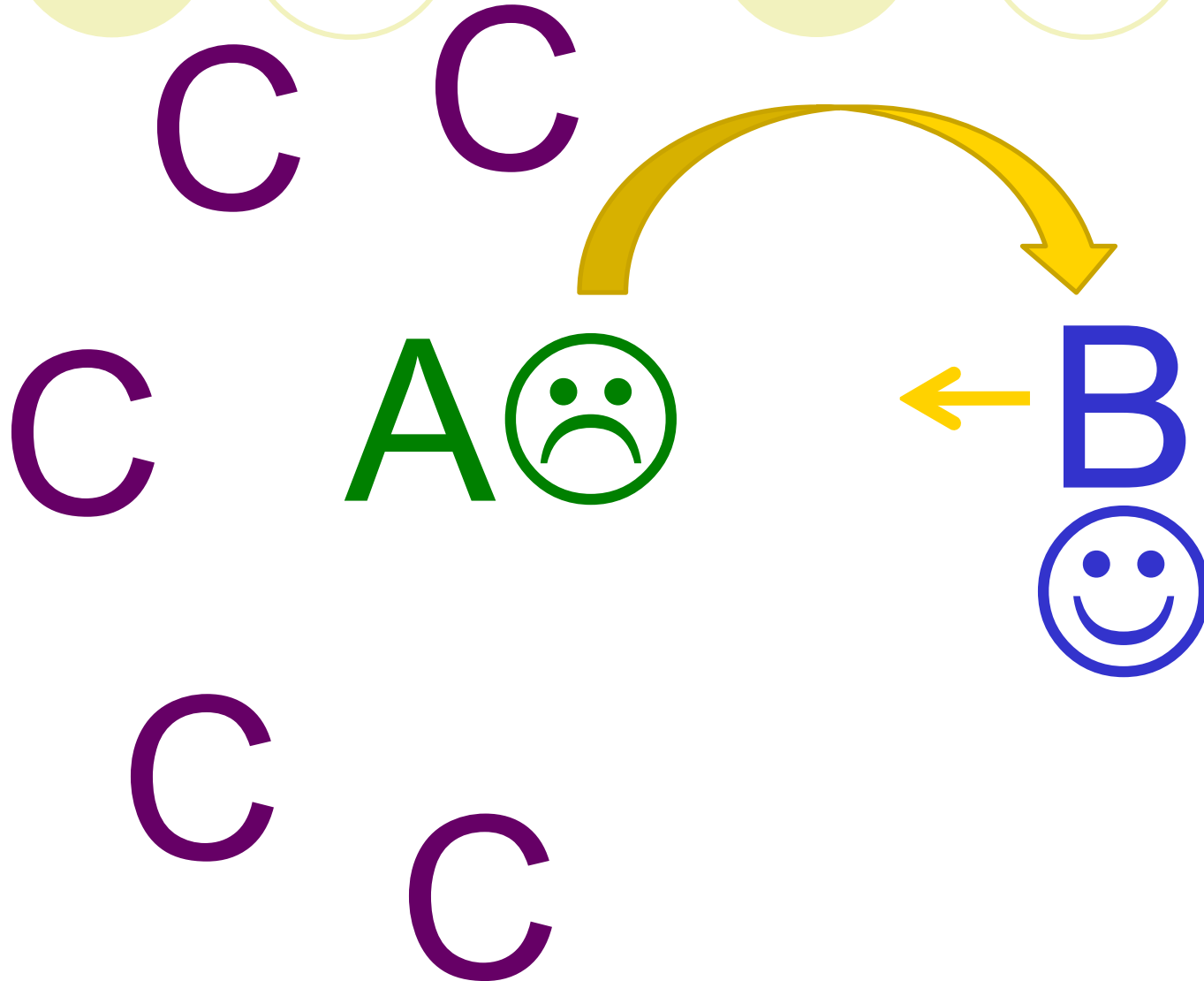
# Brain function when threatened.....



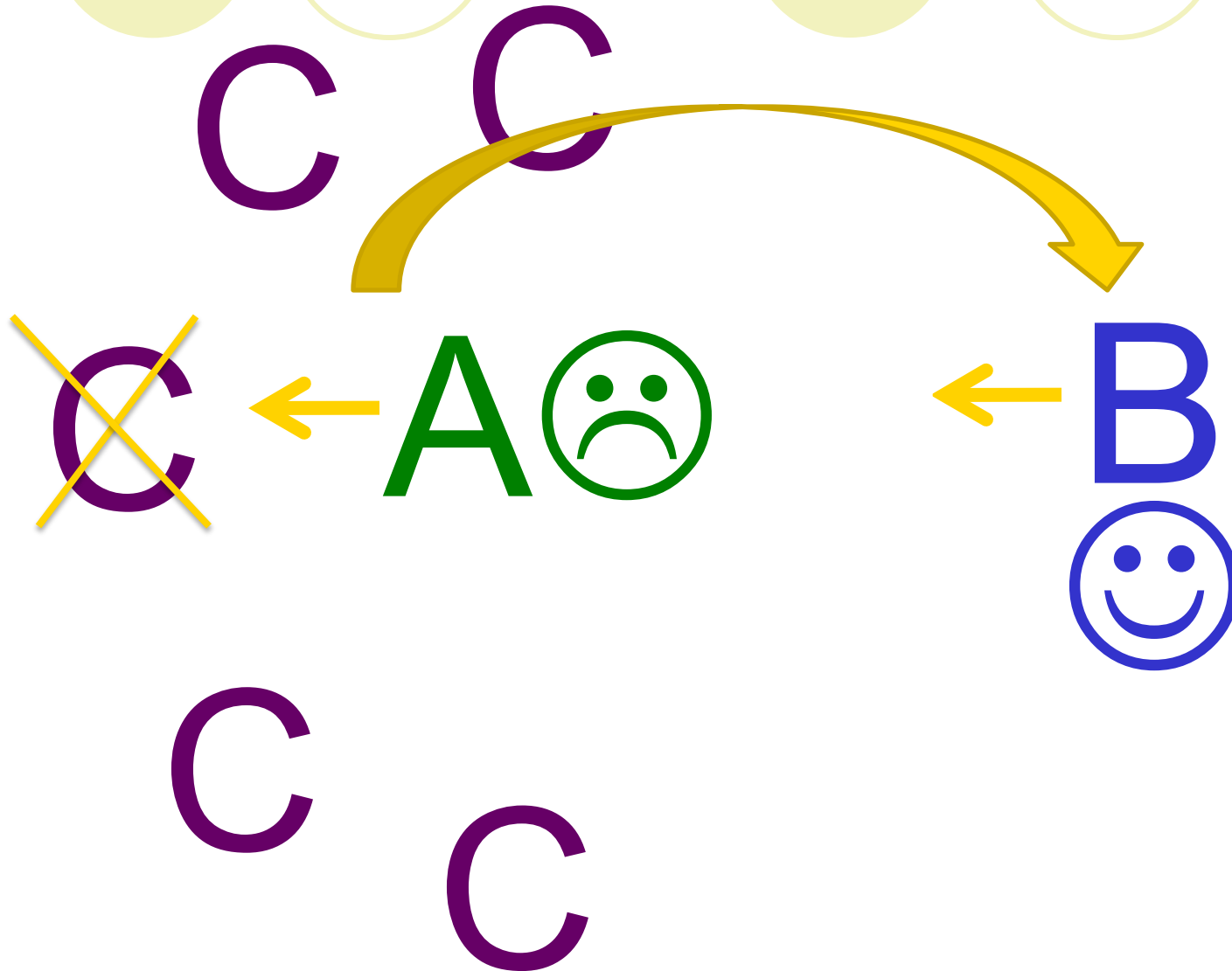
The text is surrounded by six circles of varying colors and styles. One circle is a thin yellow outline at the top center. Two circles are solid yellow, one at the top right and one at the bottom right. Three circles are solid yellow, one at the bottom left, one at the bottom center, and one at the top left.

**Attachment; its awfully  
useful.....**

Attachment in action:



Attachment in action expanded:





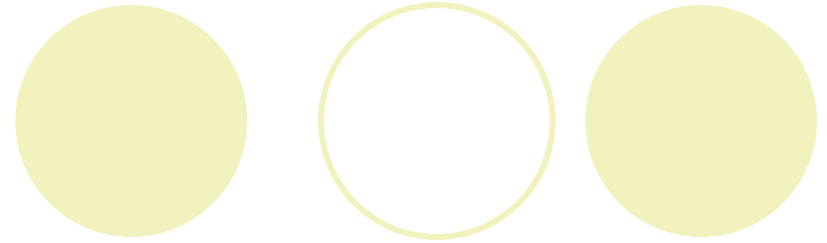
**Trauma bonds.....**

# Bonding is a survival strategy.....

- The amygdala will prioritise the preservation of attachment over individual threat response.
- There are many, many examples of love overcoming fear.....
- Bonding / attachment is more vital to the survival of the human species than one individual's life!

# Trauma bonds

(or 'Stockholm Syndrome')



## Foundation:

- Perceived threat to integrity.
- Harsh treatment interspaced with small kindnesses.
- Isolation from perspectives other than the 'abuser' s' .
- Perceived inability to escape.
- Develops after only 4 days.....

# Trauma bonds cont...



## Symptoms:

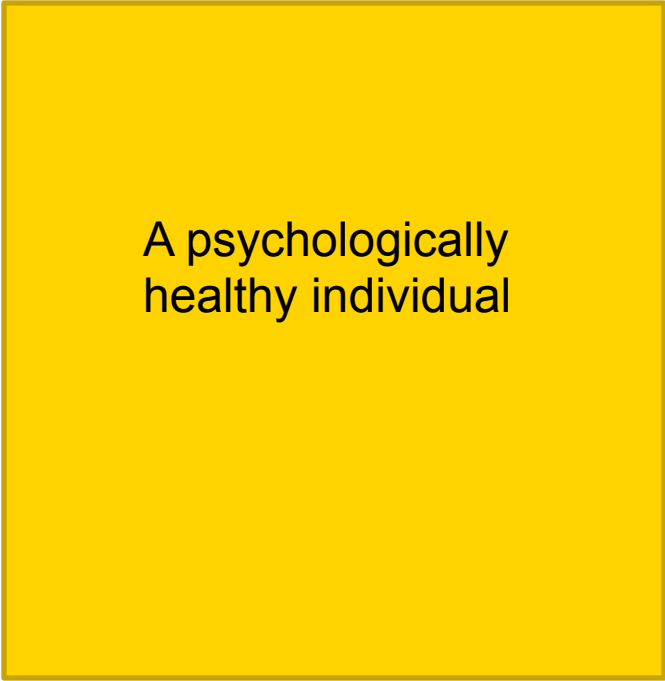
- Positive feelings toward ‘abuser’ .
- Negative feelings toward potential ‘rescuers’ .
- Support of ‘abuser’ s’ reasons and behaviour.
- Inability to engage in behaviours that will assist release / detachment.






**Trauma is cyclic.....**

# Relational patterns persist.

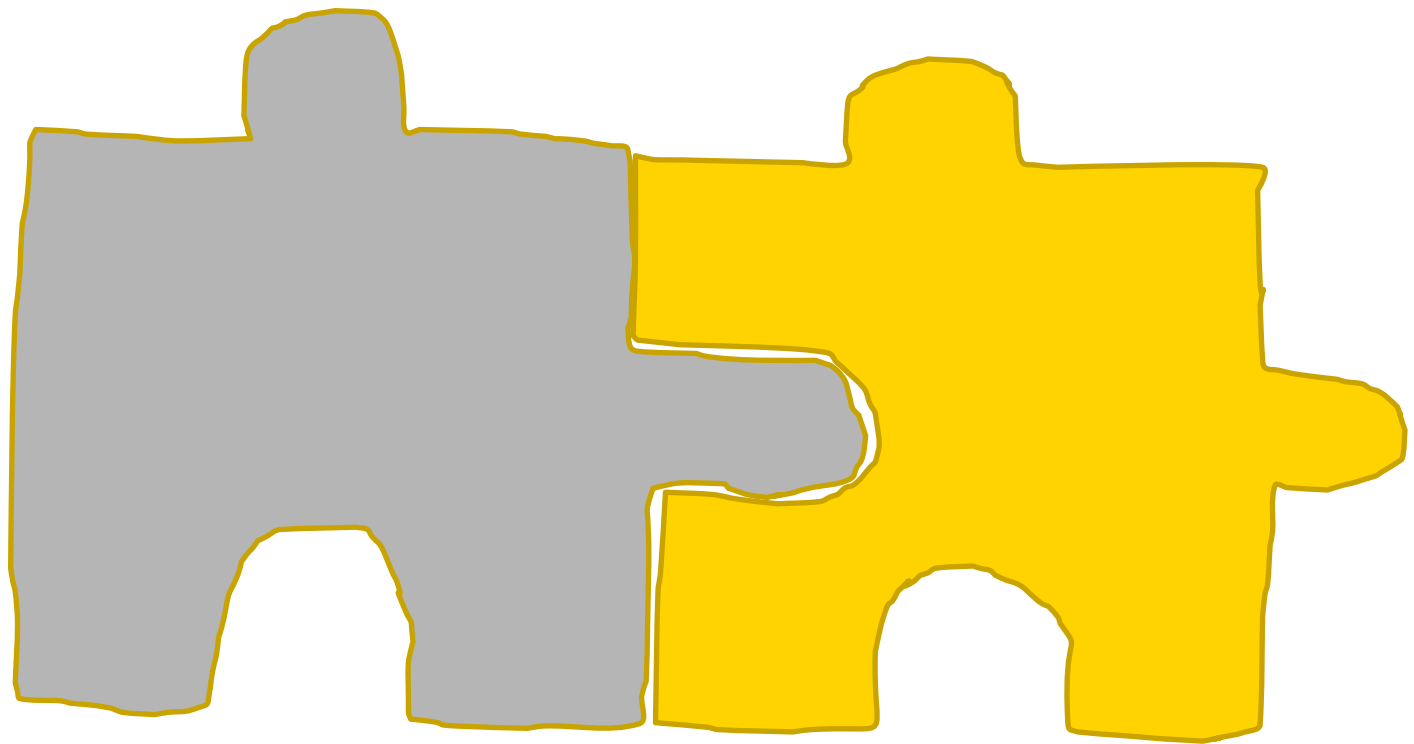
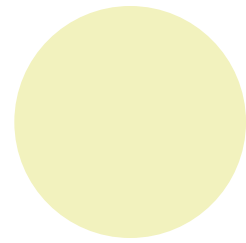
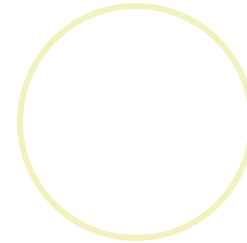
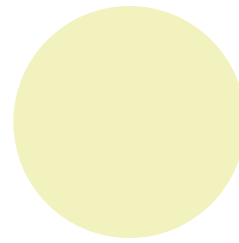
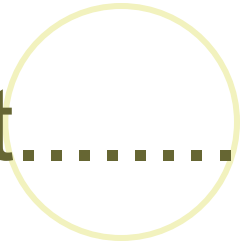


A psychologically  
healthy individual

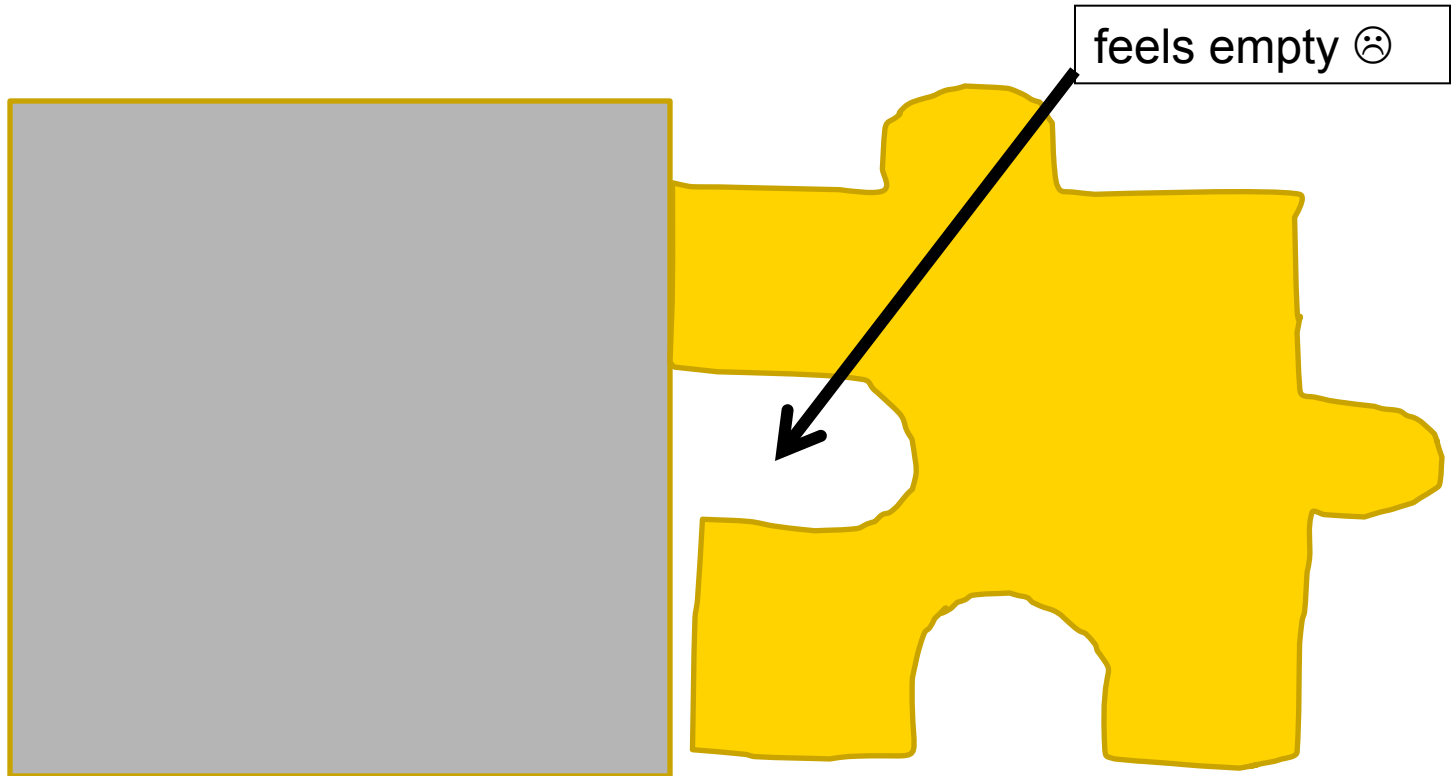
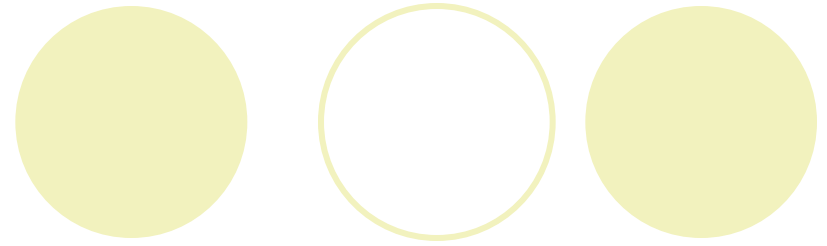


An individual  
with a few  
'psychological  
knocks and  
scrapes'

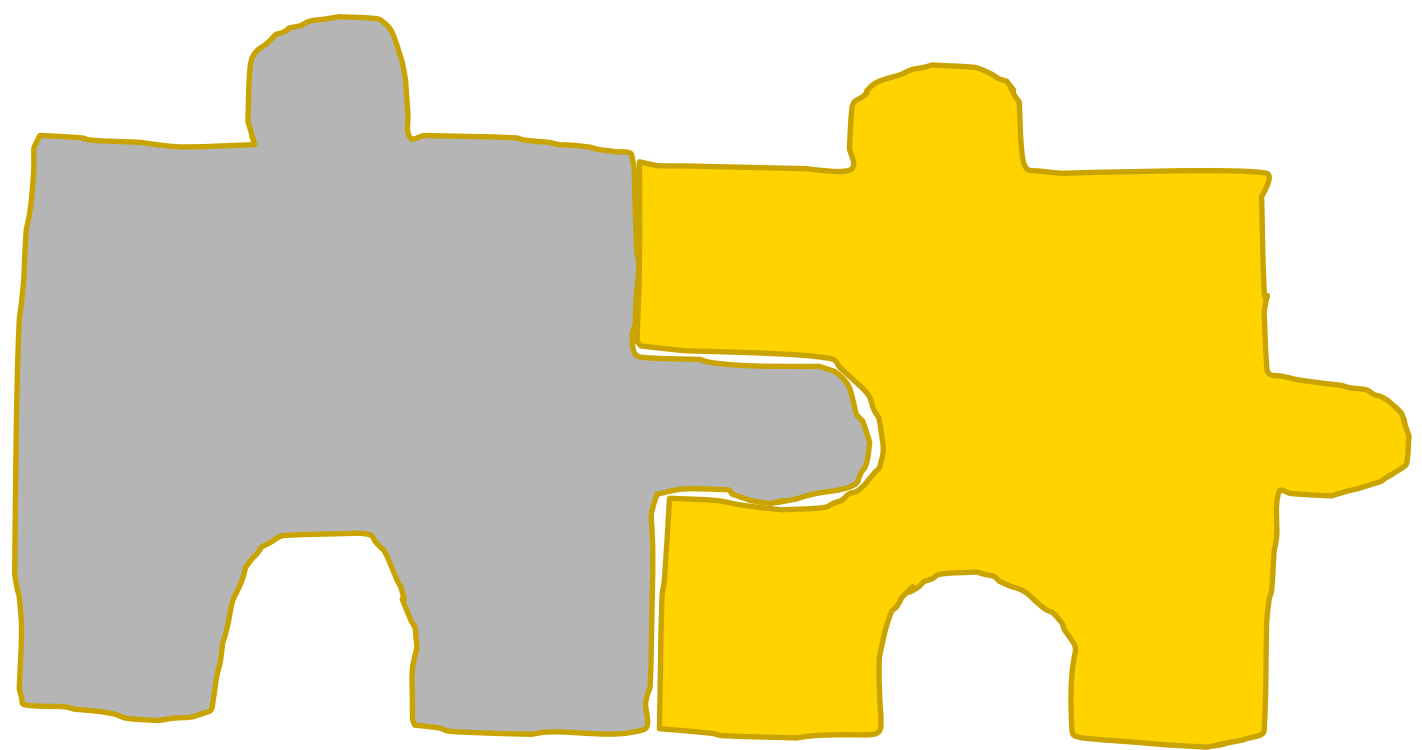
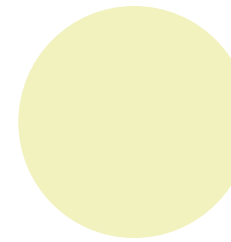
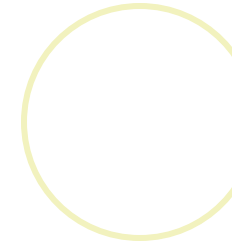
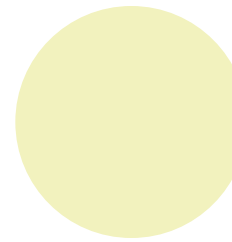
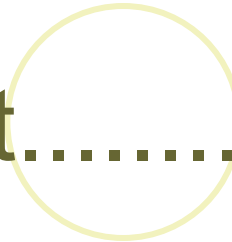
A nice fit.....



A poor fit.....

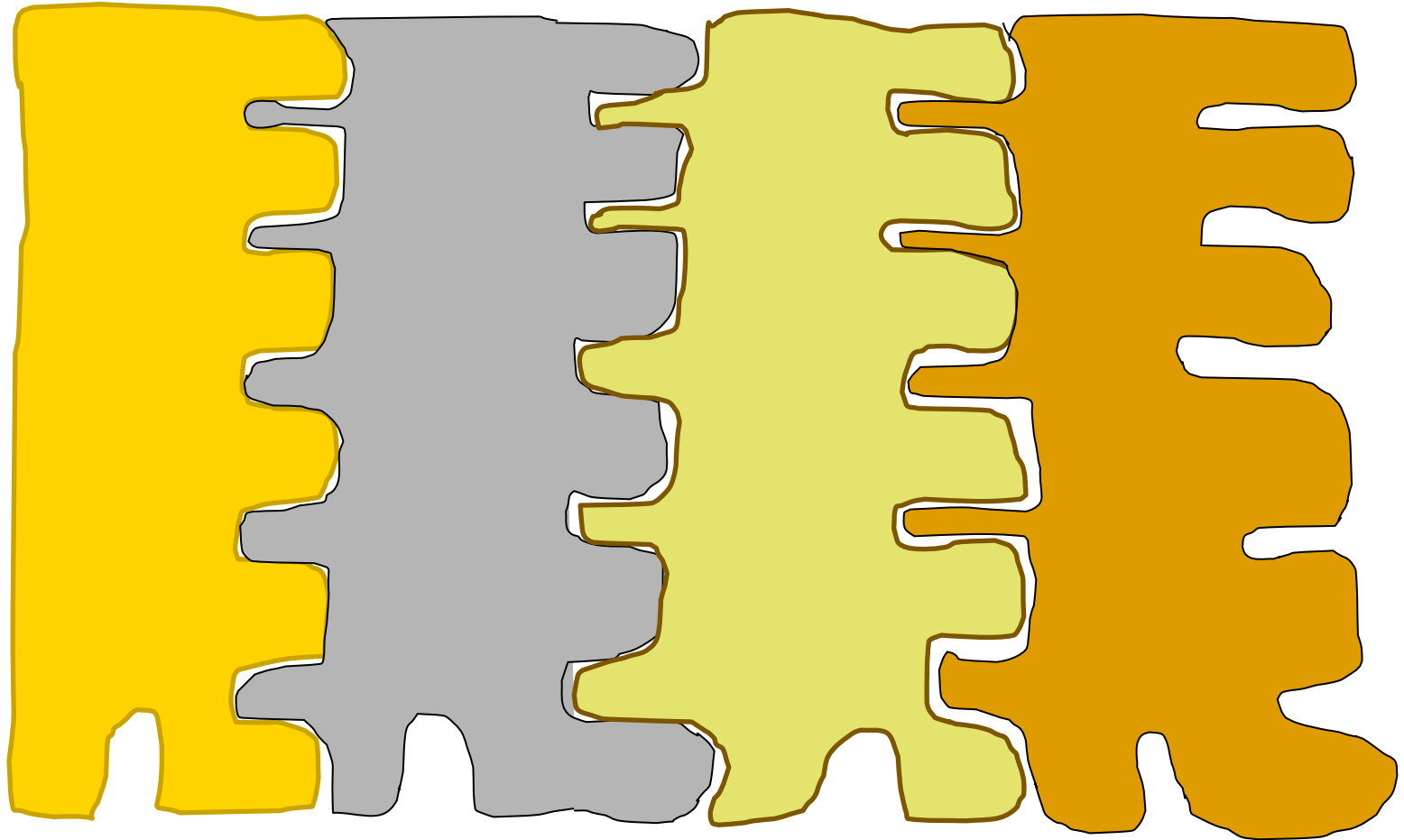


A nice fit.....

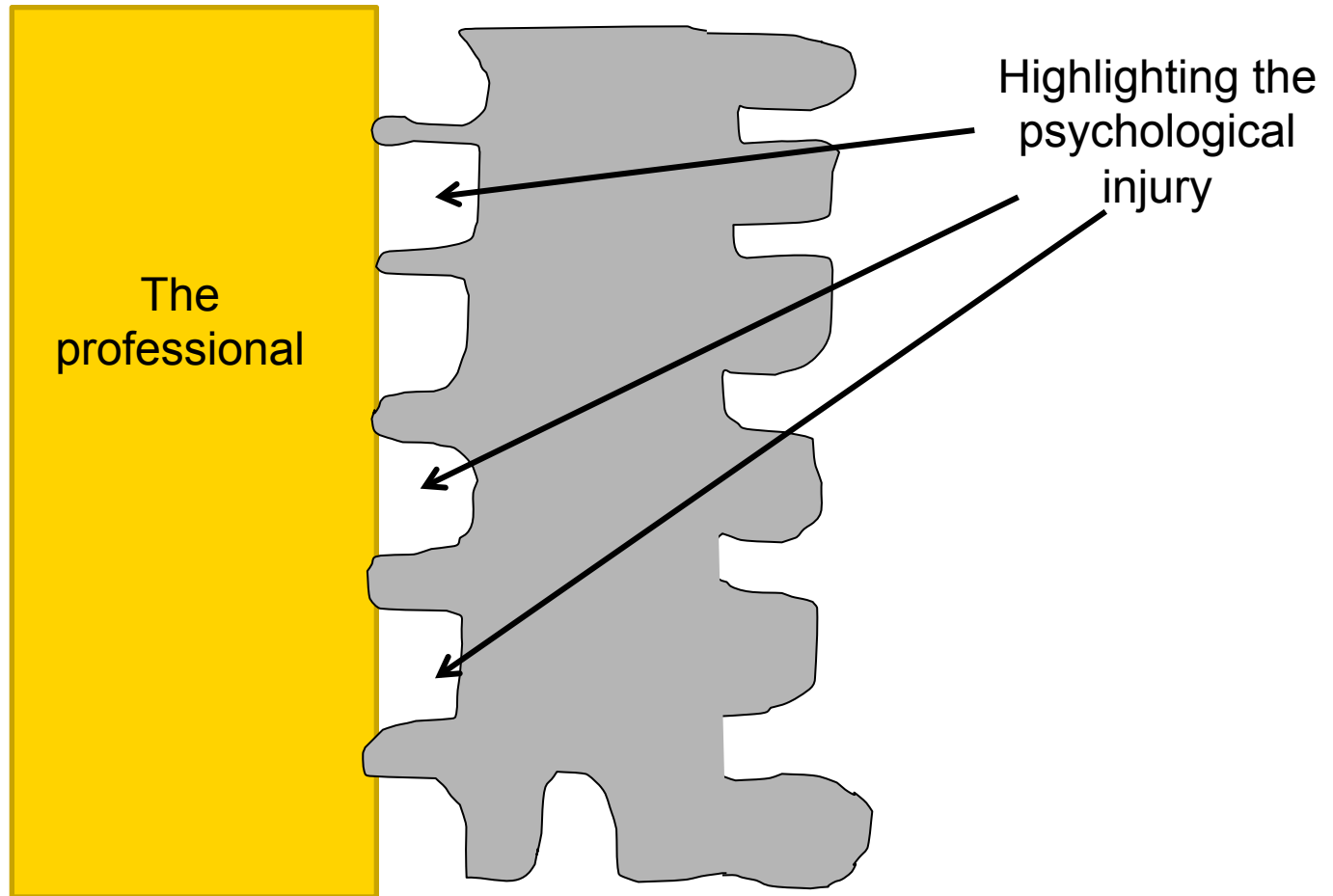


# Man hands on misery to man....

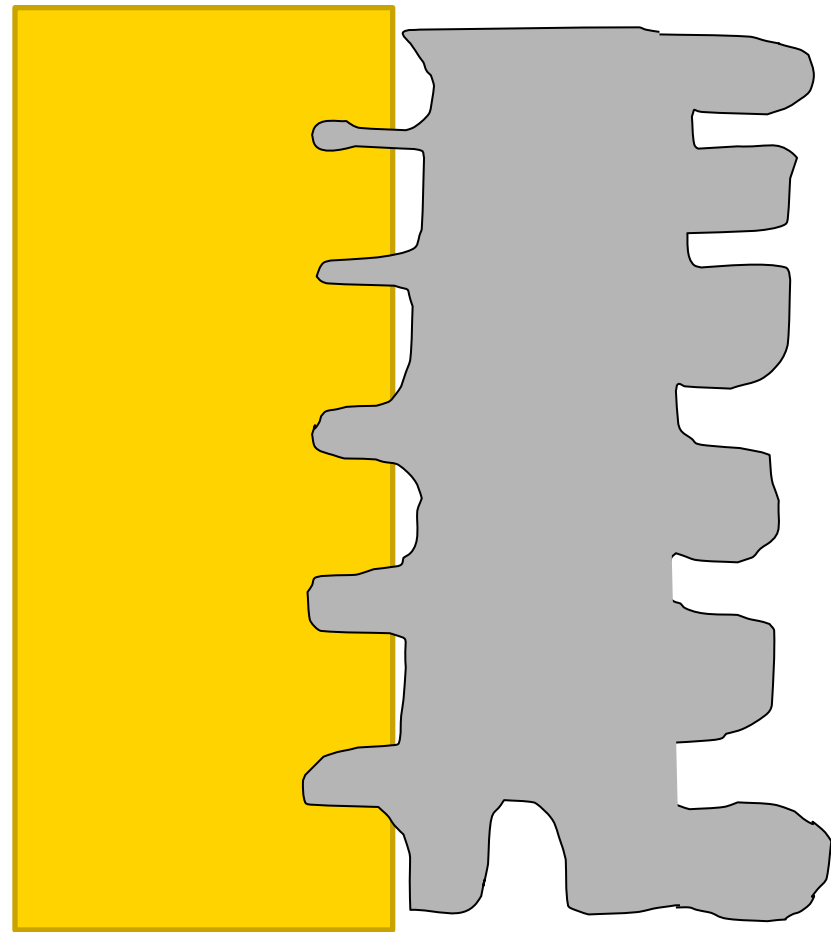
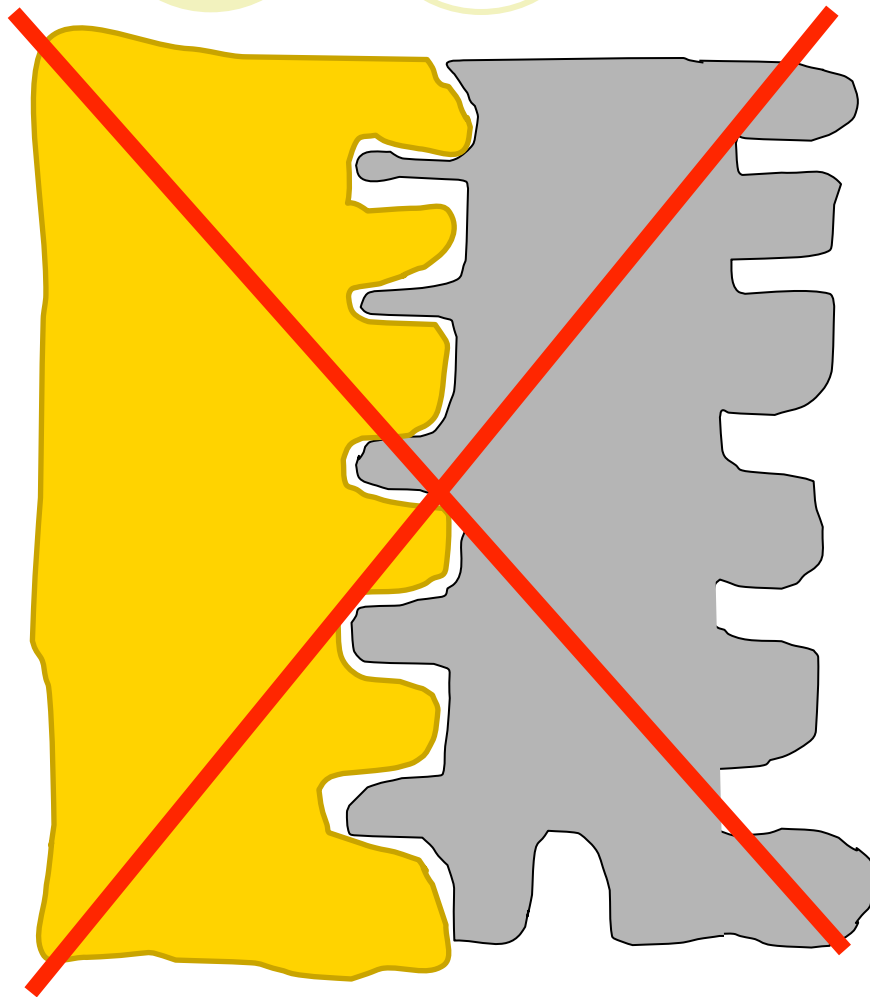
(Phillip Larkin; 'this be the verse')



# Feeling 'bent out of shape' ....

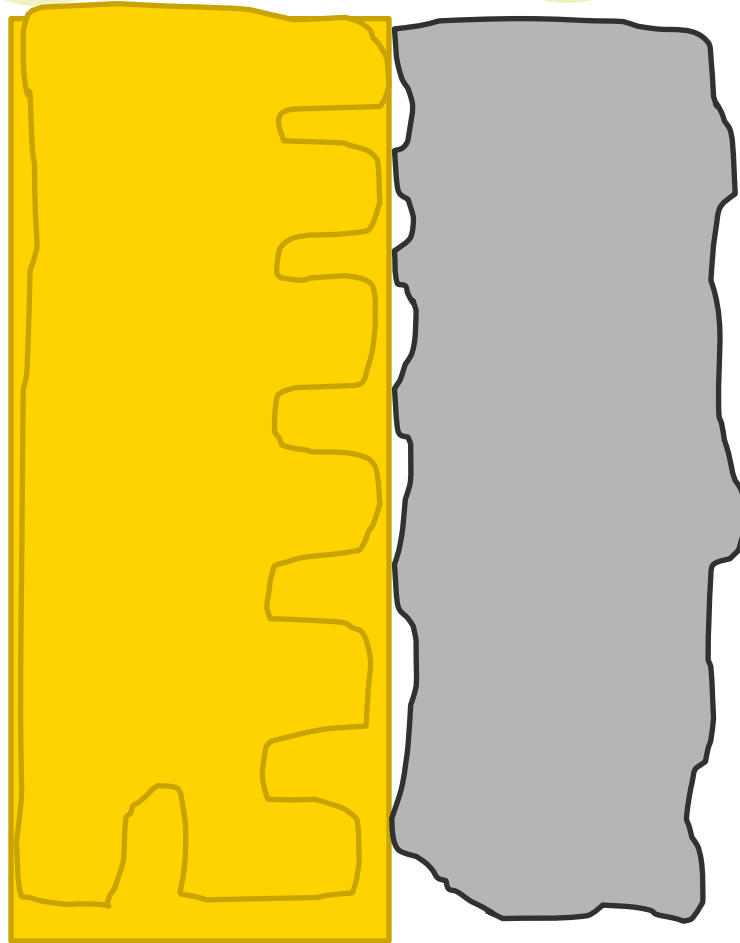


# The challenge for professionals....





The new psychological shape....



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