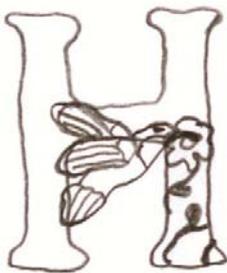
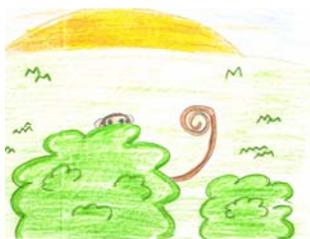


# THE IU GLOBAL VILLAGE LIVING- LEARNING CENTER & TEAM SCHOOL'S BOOKS & BEYOND

PRESENTS

## THE WORLD IS OUR HOME: A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES





## **Books & Beyond:** **a collaborative project of the Newark Collegiate Academy, Indiana University's Global Village Living- Learning Center and the Kabwende Primary School**

Books & Beyond is a collaborative project of Newark Collegiate Academy (Newark, New Jersey, U.S.A.), Indiana University's Global Village Living-Learning Center (Bloomington, Indiana, U.S.A.) and Kabwende Primary School (Musanze, Rwanda). Books & Beyond is an innovative, newly established project which promotes intercultural communication, literacy skills, advancement of education, and service-learning by engaging students in authoring, illustrating, publishing, and marketing a collection of short stories. Working in small pairs, IU's Global Village students mentor Newark Collegiate Academy high school students and together the partners develop short stories that are compiled into a book and sent to Rwanda. Copies of the book, along with teacher training guides and professional development workshops being developed for Kabwende Primary, will serve as models for the Rwandan students to create their own books. The Rwandan students' stories will be sent back to the United States, compiled in an anthology with the existing stories from New Jersey and Indiana, and will be sold, with the profit from the anthology returning to Kabwende in Rwanda. Along the way, students acquire skills in authoring, mentoring and collaborating, intercultural communication, grant writing, documenting and fund-raising.

For more information please contact:

Lauren Caldarella at the Indiana University Global Village Living-Learning Center ([lcaldare@indiana.edu](mailto:lcaldare@indiana.edu)) or

Ali Nagle at the TEAM Schools ([anagle@teamschools.org](mailto:anagle@teamschools.org))

## ***Thank You***

*This project could not have been successful without the contributions of many dedicated people and organizations. First, we must thank Nancy Uslan for her ability to unite diverse educational institutions in a common goal, her vision for the project, and dedication to seeing it through. From Indiana University, we want to thank the IU College of Arts & Science, IU Global Village Living-Learning Center, the IU Center for Language Technology and Instructional Enrichment, Bob Vantine with the Office of Mentoring Services and Leadership Development, WTIU and the Telecommunications Department, Katy Bradford and the IU Foundation, the IU Student Foundation's Metz Grant, Residential Programs & Services-Academic Initiatives and Services, Dennis Perkins, Alexander Weinstein, the School of Education Fund for the Advancement of Peace and Education, the School of Education Proffitt Internal Grant and the Proffitt Summer Fellowship, Professor Beth Lewis Samuelson and James Kigamwa. We also want to thank the TEAM Schools family, with a special thanks to Nate Smalley, Faith Blasi, Ben Cope, Ryan Hill and Pallavi Dandu. We owe thanks to Do Something.org, Dawn Knight's Westfield High School class and the Indiana Campus Compact. And most importantly, thanks to all the students from the Global Village-Living Learning Center and the TEAM School's Newark Collegiate Academy who dedicated endless hours to making this a reality.*



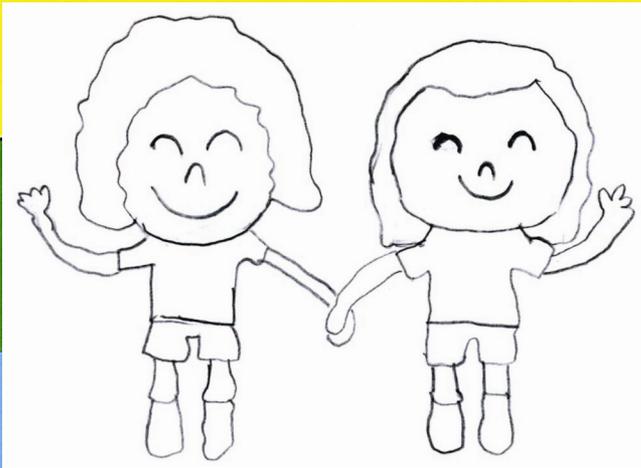
Indiana | Campus Compact



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

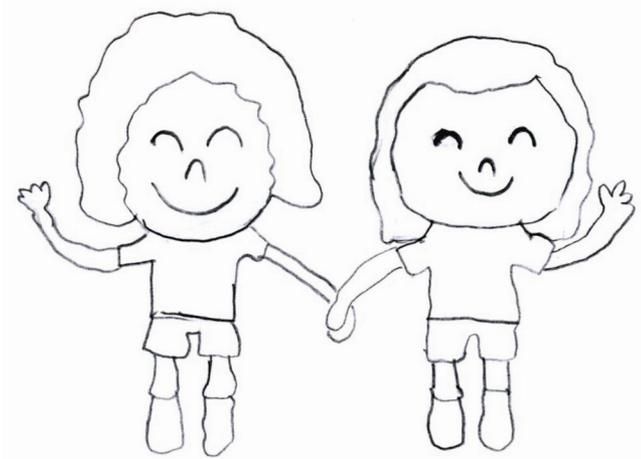
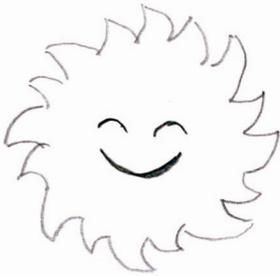
A-Z TRIP TO THE ZOO.....	4
HOME IS.....	12
THE ZOO.....	20
A DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.....	28
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.....	36
ANGELICA’S BIG DECISION.....	44
NAOMI GOES TO SUMMER CAMP.....	52
JOHN’S DREAM.....	60
THE LONELY MONKEY.....	68
WISHING UPON A STAR.....	76
LUX AND ESTELLE.....	82
THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY .....	90
GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT.....	98
A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME.....	105

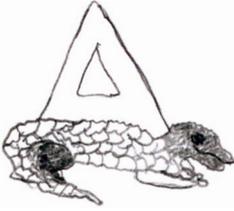
A-Z trip  
to the  
zoo



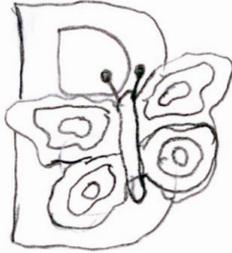
By Sarah Hayden  
Illustrations by Hilary Gaiser

It was a sunny day and best friends Mark and Maya went to the zoo. The kids loved to go to the zoo together. At the zoo, they learned about animals and their homes.

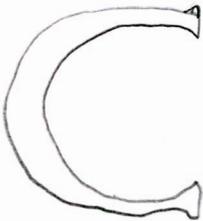




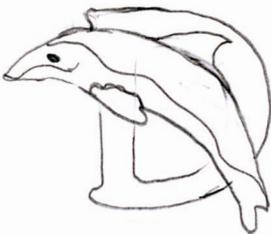
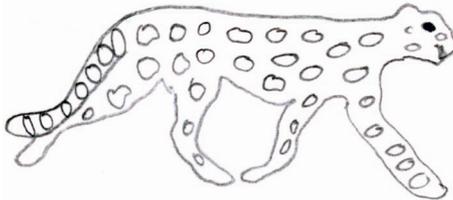
A is for alligators. Alligators live in swamps and rivers.



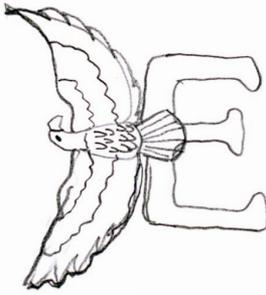
B is for butterflies. Butterflies live in trees and on flowering plants.



C is for cheetah. Cheetahs live on the African savannah.



D is for dolphin. Dolphins live in the ocean.



E is for eagle. Eagles live in tall trees and on cliffs.



F is for frogs. Frogs live by water.



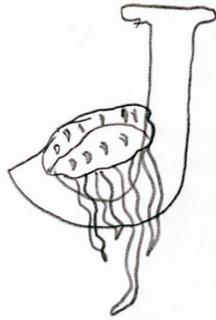
G is for giraffe. Giraffes live on the grasslands of Africa.



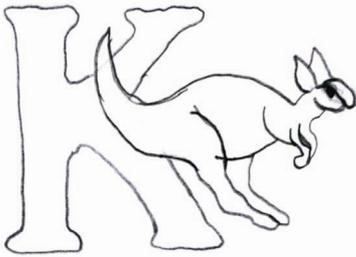
H is for hummingbirds. Hummingbirds live near flowers.



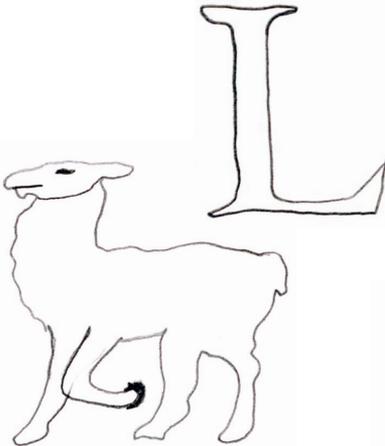
I is for iguana. Iguanas live in dry climates.



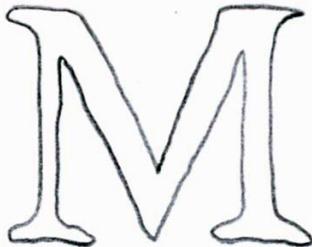
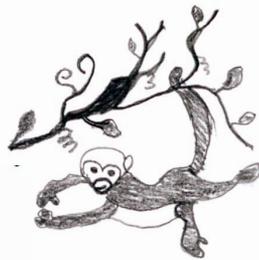
J is for jellyfish.  
Jellyfish live in  
the ocean.



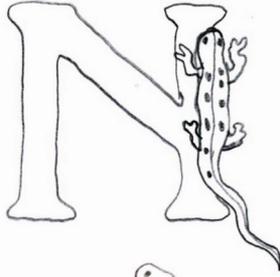
K is for kangaroo.  
Kangaroos live in  
the outback of  
Australia.



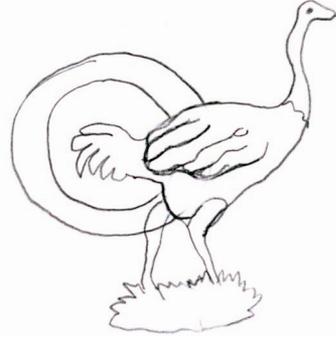
L is for llama.  
Llamas live in  
mountains of  
South  
America.



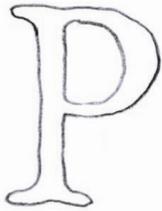
M is for monkey.  
Monkeys live in  
jungles.



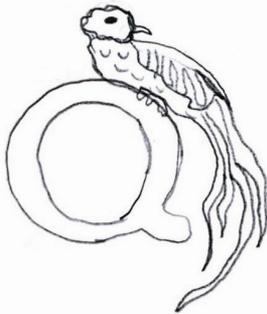
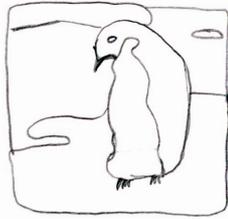
N is for newt.  
Newts live in  
dark and wet  
places.



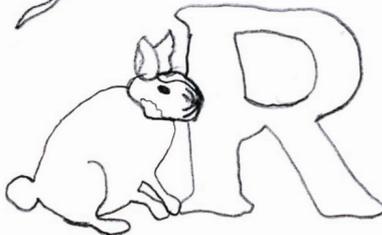
O is for ostrich.  
Ostriches live in the  
grasslands.



P is for penguin.  
Penguins live on  
the ice of  
Antarctica.

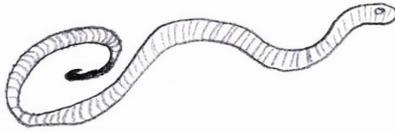


Q is for the quetzal. The quetzal lives in the rainforest of Central America.



R is for rabbit.  
Rabbits  
live in the  
grassland.

S



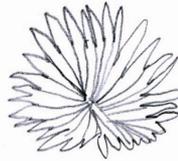
S is for snake. Snakes live on the sea and land.

T



T is for tiger. Tigers live in the jungle.

U



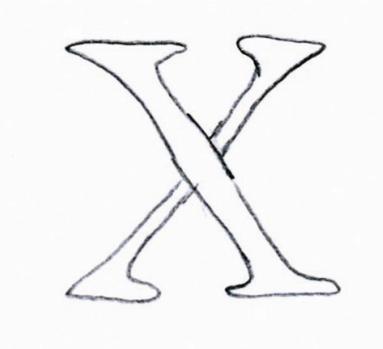
U is for urchin. Urchins live on the coastal reef.



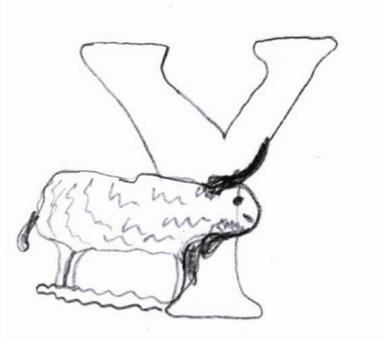
V is for vulture. Vultures live on the savannahs of Africa.



W is for walrus. Walrus live in the Arctic sea.



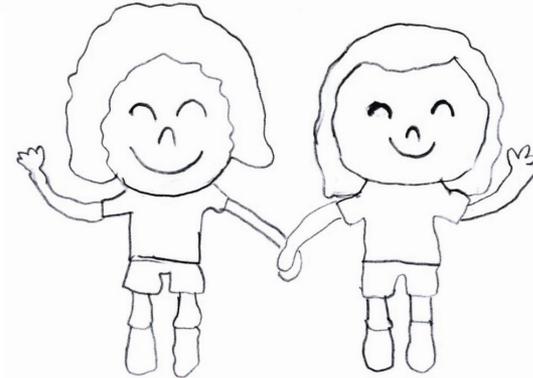
X is for x-ray fish. X-ray fishes live in fresh water.



Y is for yak. Yaks live in the mountains of Central Asia.



Z is for zebra. Zebras live on the grassy plains.



The girls learned where all the animals live. They said goodbye to the animals and promised to visit the zoo again.

# HOME IS...

by Kendra Golson

and

Megan Hamersley



My name is Charlie.  
Yesterday, I lost my home!

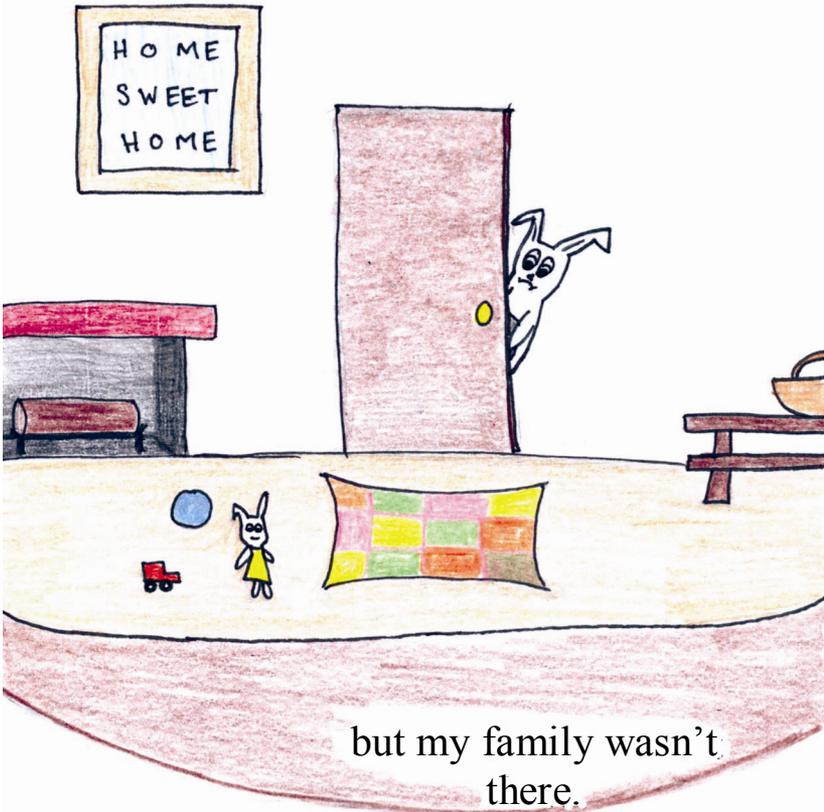


Well, it's my fault...



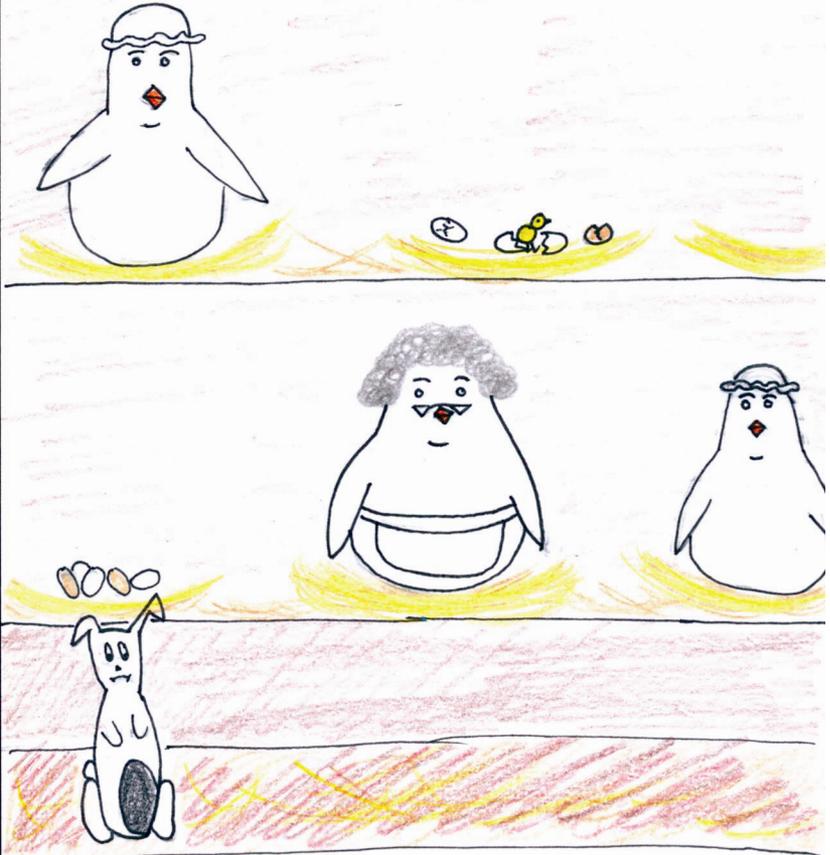
I went into the garden for a snack and the farmer scared me away. And now I'm lost!

I found my way back to  
my burrow...



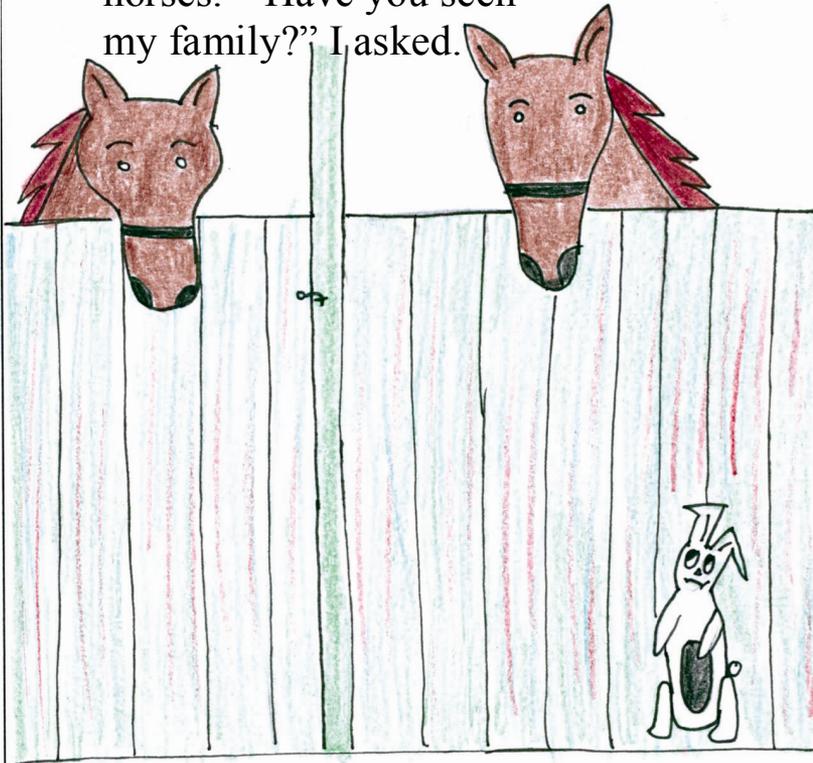
but my family wasn't  
there.

I went to the coop and asked  
the chickens, “Have you seen  
my family?”



But the old hen just  
shook her head.  
“Go ask the  
horses,” she said.

Then I went to the stables and looked up at the horses. “Have you seen my family?” I asked.



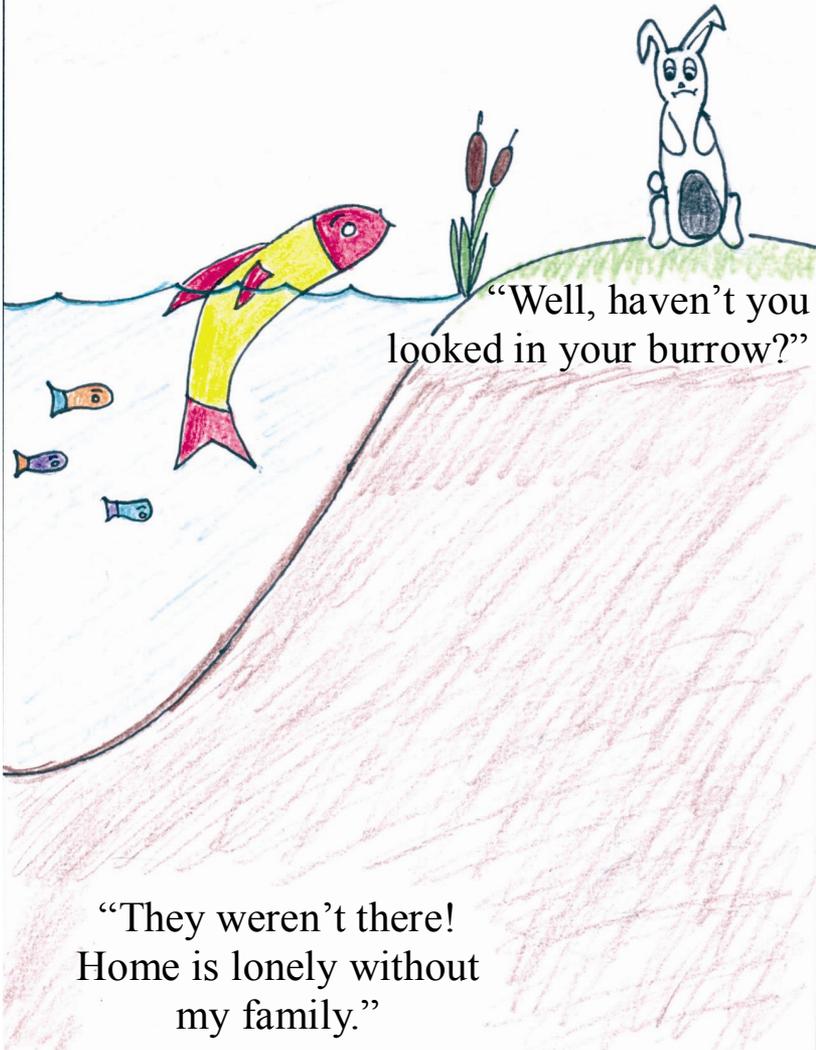
“We haven’t seen any rabbits here,” said the horses. “Maybe you should go ask the cows.”

The cows were in the pasture, and I hopped up to one and asked, “Have you seen my family?”



He replied, “Well, no, I haven’t.” As he munched on some grass, he suggested, “Go check the pond.”

As I walked up to the pond,  
a fish popped her head out.  
I asked, “Have you seen  
my family?”



All of a sudden, I heard my  
momma's voice behind me.  
"Charlie! Where on earth  
have you been? We've been  
looking for you everywhere!"



I was so happy that  
I gave my family a  
big hug. My  
burrow would feel  
like home again.

# The Zoo

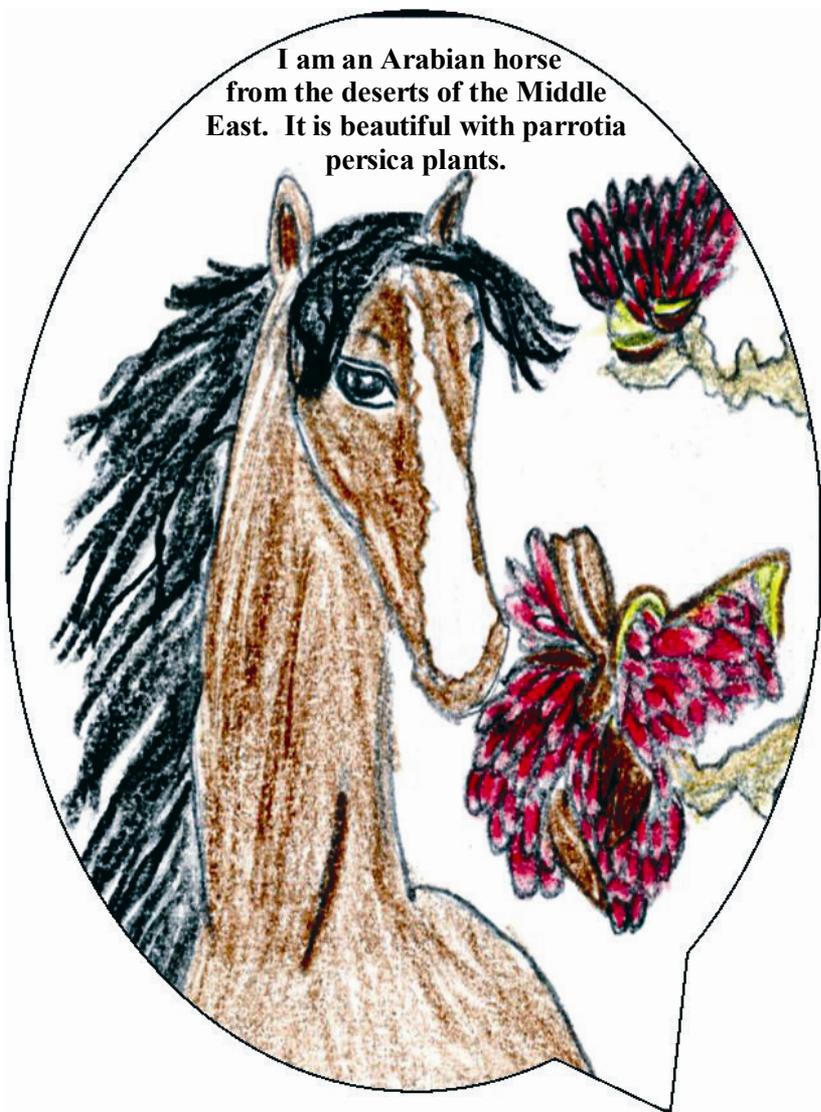
By Nayyirah Sabir



The Jersey Zoo is a new zoo, and the animals are just getting to know each other.  
What are they talking about?

Here is an Arabian horse.

**I am an Arabian horse  
from the deserts of the Middle  
East. It is beautiful with parrotia  
persica plants.**



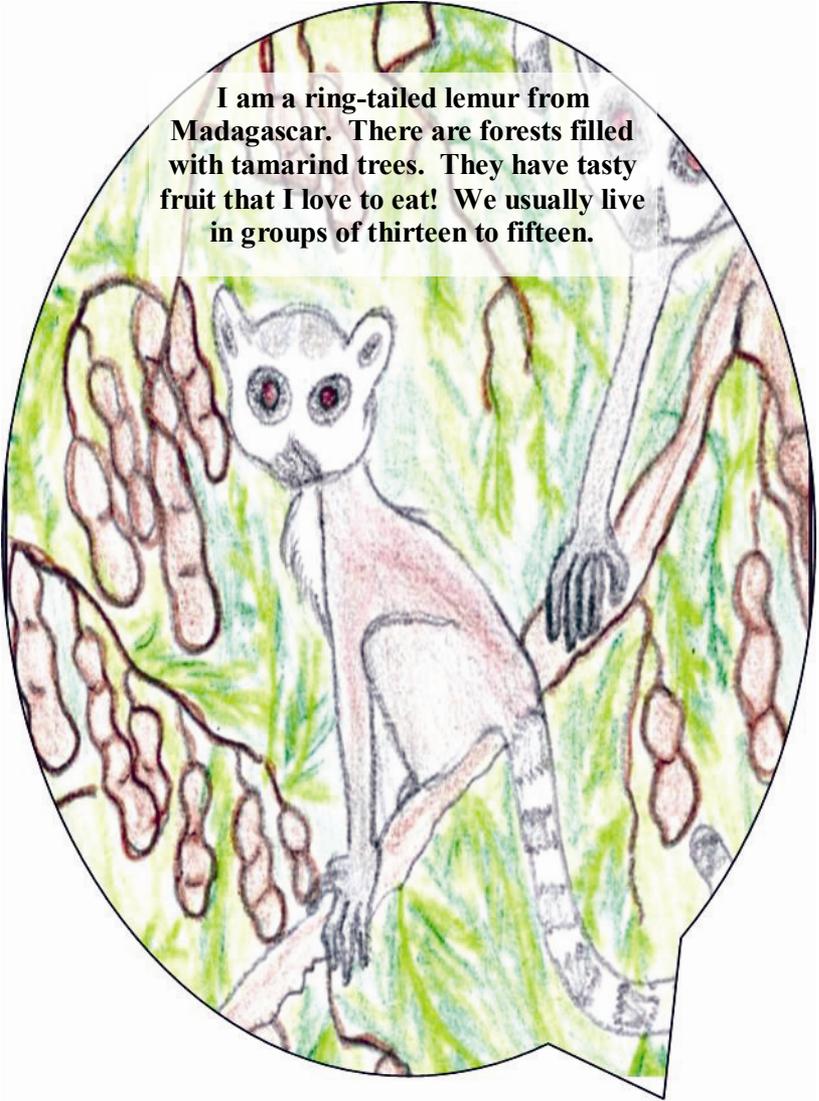
Here is a zebra.

**I am a zebra, and I am from the grasslands of Kenya. Other zebras are in Ethiopia. We usually live in large herds.**



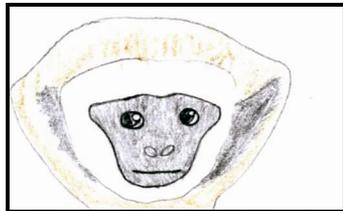
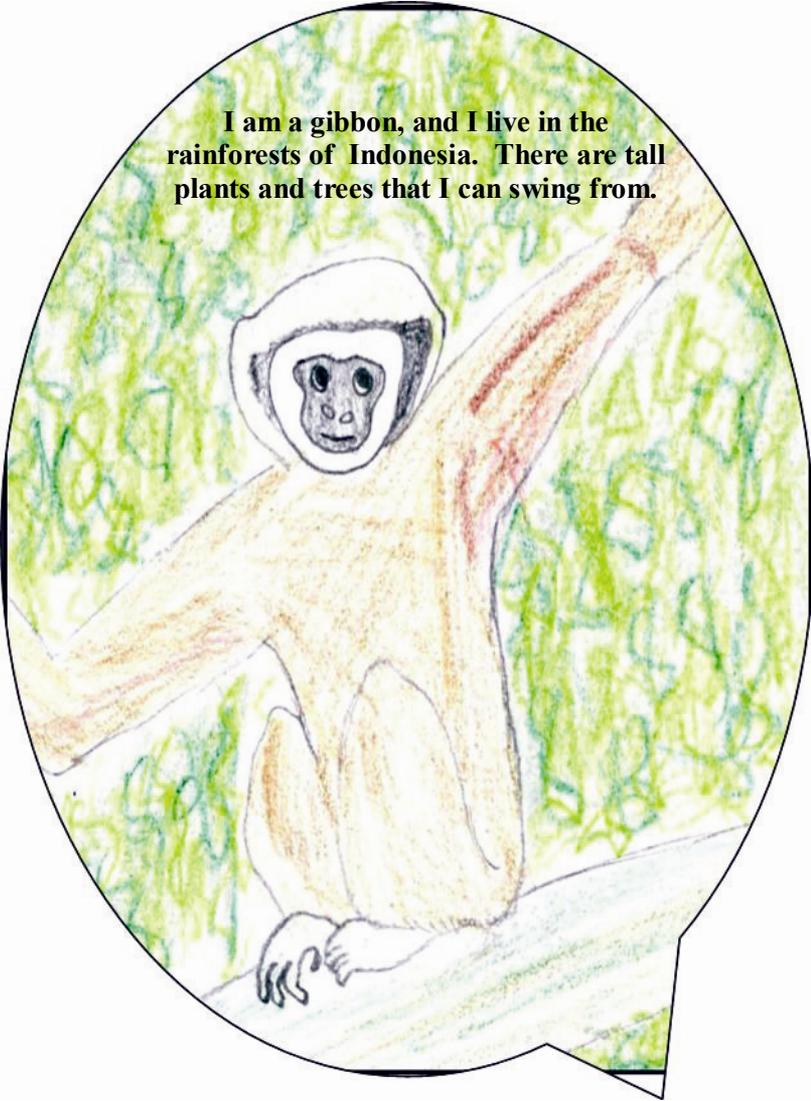
Here is a ring-tailed lemur.

**I am a ring-tailed lemur from Madagascar. There are forests filled with tamarind trees. They have tasty fruit that I love to eat! We usually live in groups of thirteen to fifteen.**



Here is a gibbon.

**I am a gibbon, and I live in the rainforests of Indonesia. There are tall plants and trees that I can swing from.**



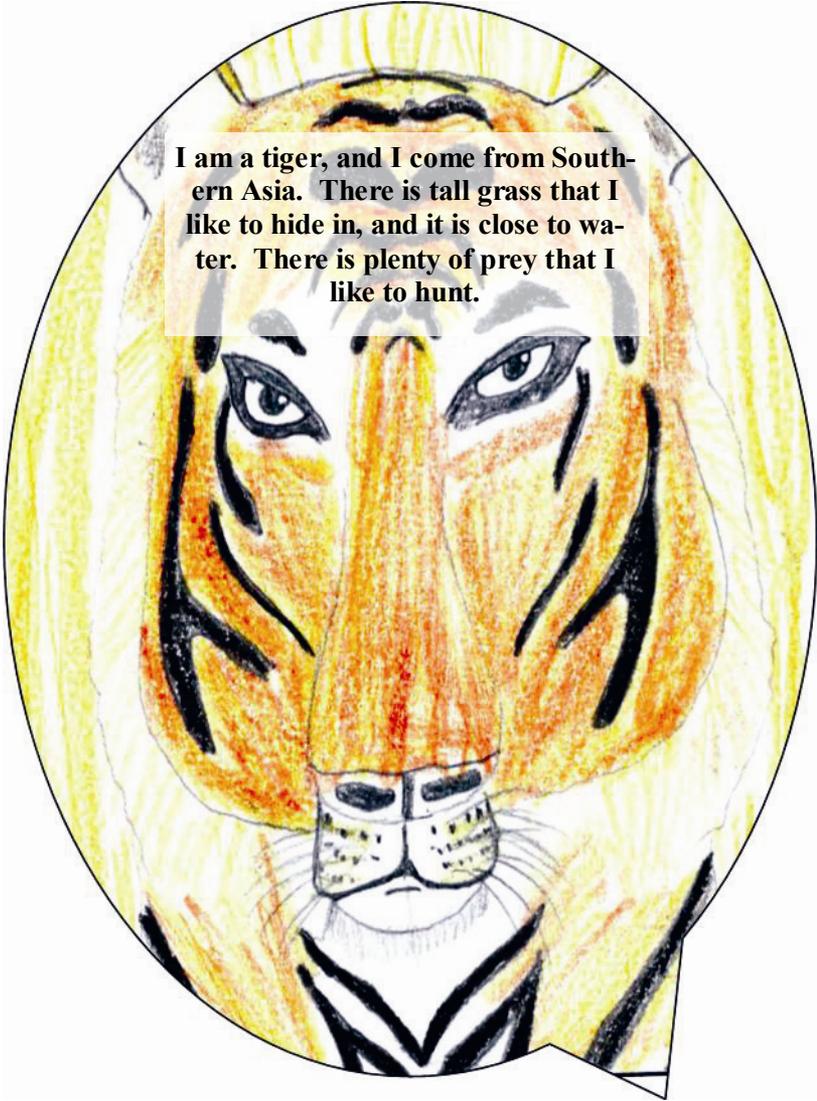
Here is a puma.

**I am a puma, and I am from the  
South American mountain forests.  
There are a lot of spurge flowers in  
that area.**

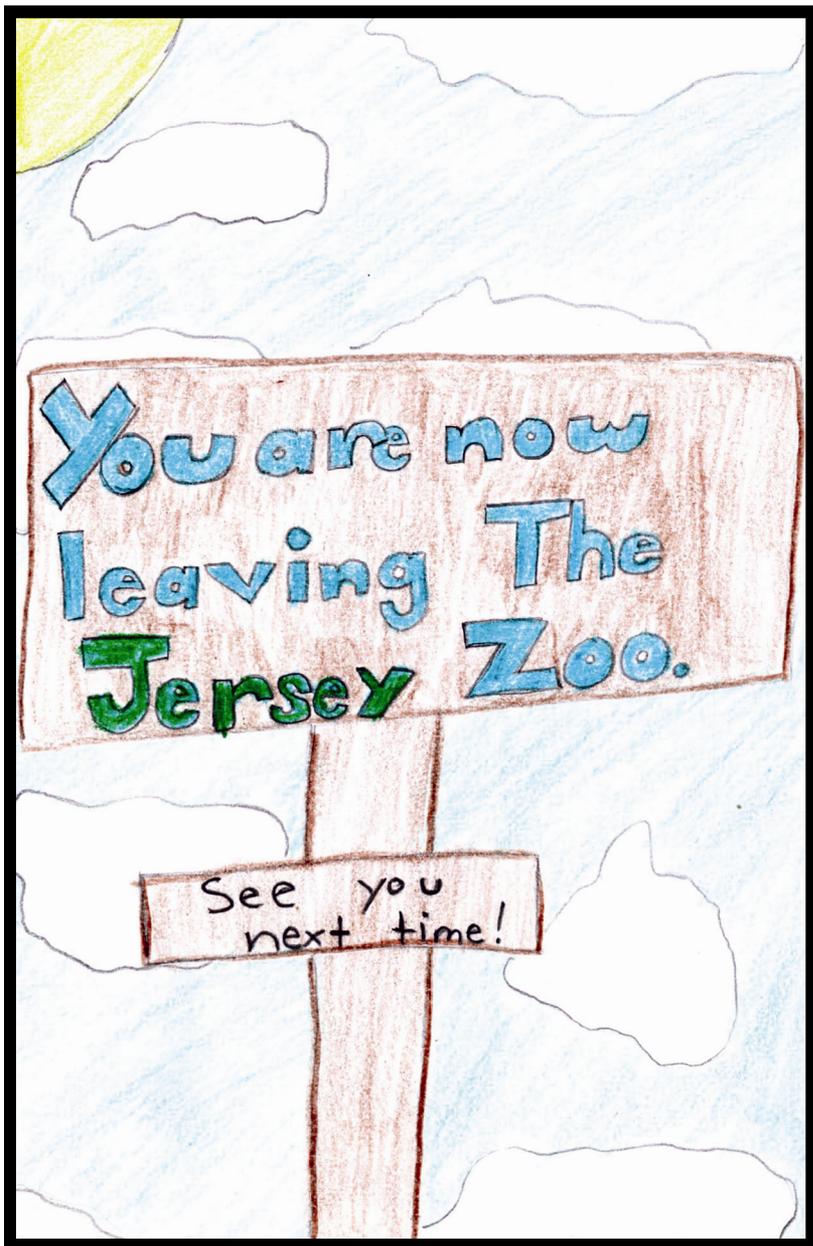


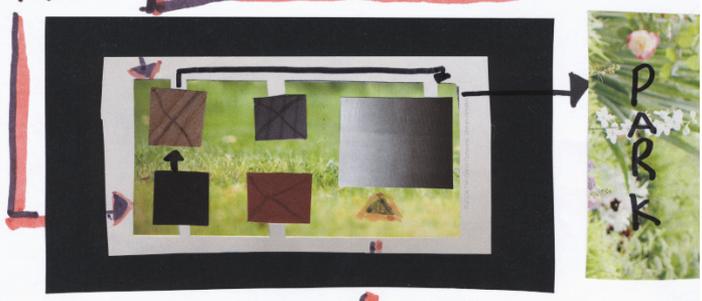
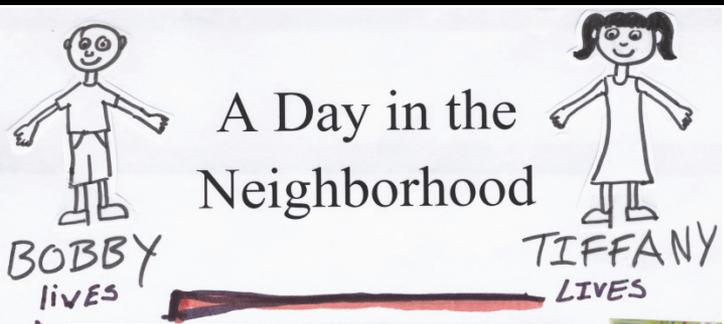
Here is a tiger.

I am a tiger, and I come from Southern Asia. There is tall grass that I like to hide in, and it is close to water. There is plenty of prey that I like to hunt.



At the Jersey Zoo, there are many animals that are alike but come from different homes. Which one is your favorite?





by Emma Engelhardt and Atiya Drayton





In an average quiet American neighborhood, a young boy named Bobby woke up to a beautiful, sunny, summer day. He could hear his parents in the kitchen downstairs.

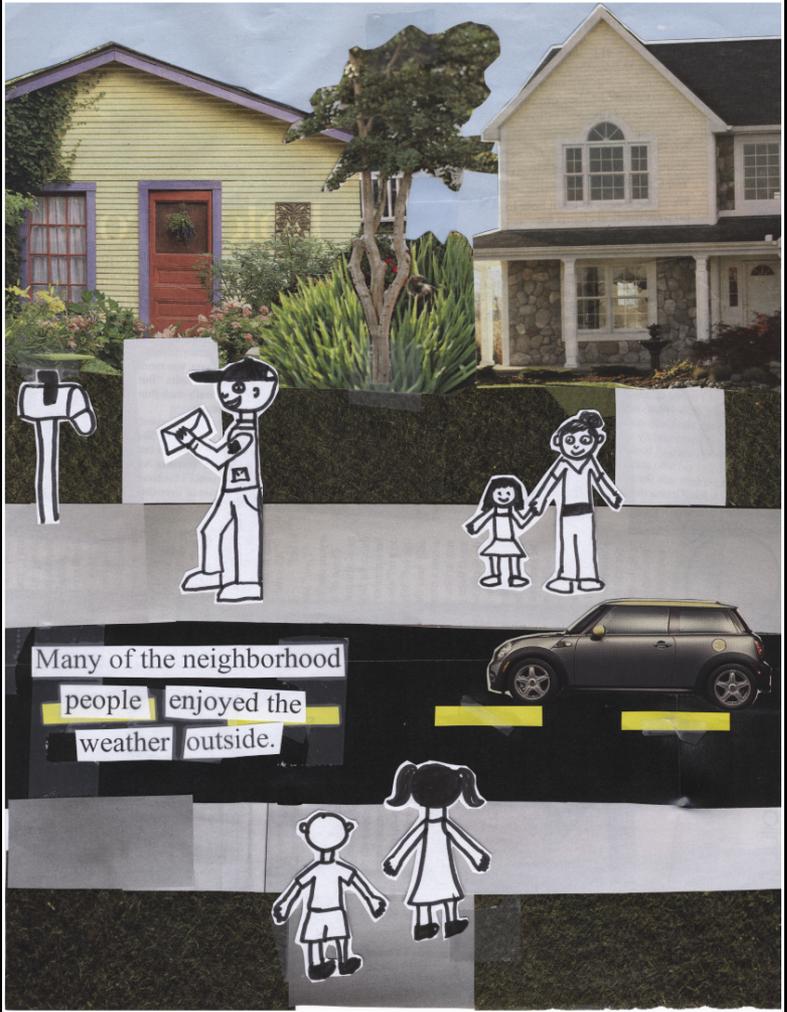
He put on a T-shirt and some shorts. He went to the kitchen to join his family. As usual, he sat next to his dad at the table and ate. Looking out the window he saw his neighbor, Tiffany, sitting in her backyard reading a book.



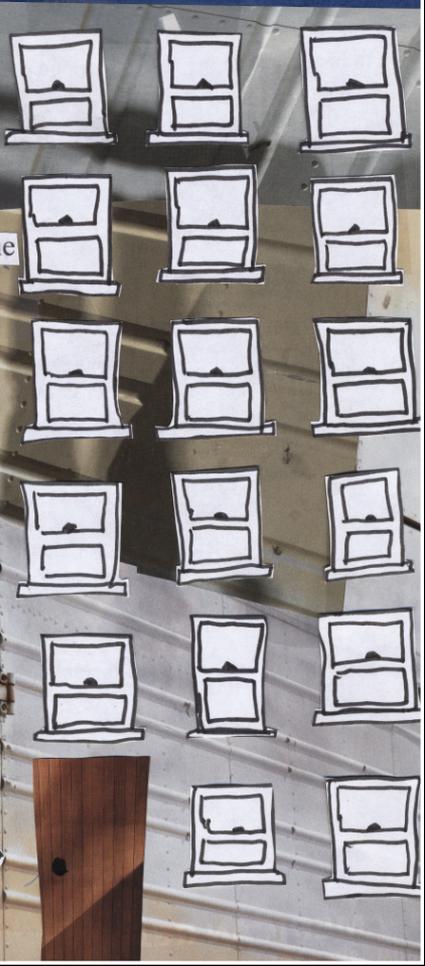
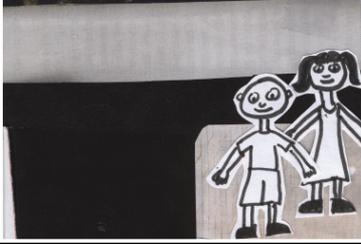
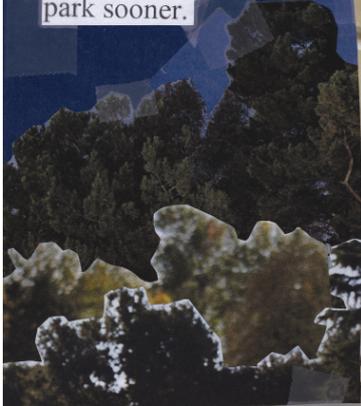


Tiffany's dad and grandmother listened to the radio in the living room. Her dad relaxed with a glass of lemonade and her grandmother knitted. Tiffany put on her shoes. She and Bobby walked out the front door to the sidewalk.





They arrived at the apartment complex on the corner. They decided to split up to get their friends because it would take less time and they could get to the park sooner.





Tiffany rode the elevator to the sixth floor where Rose lives. Her home was quiet because she only lives with her older sister.

As soon as they were ready, Tiffany and Rose ran down the stairs to wait for the boys.

Hello

Bobby! Matt is playing with his siblings. He will be ready in just a minute. Would you like a cookie?

No thank you Mrs. Smith.

We just want to get to the park and play!



Bobby went to the third floor to get Matt. Matt's home was loud because he has a lot of siblings. Matt's mom answered the door and greeted Bobby. When Matt was ready, the boys raced outside to join the girls. Then they all walked to the park.

At the corner, the crossing guard helped them cross the street. It was dangerous to cross the street when there were cars around.

Finally they arrived at the park!

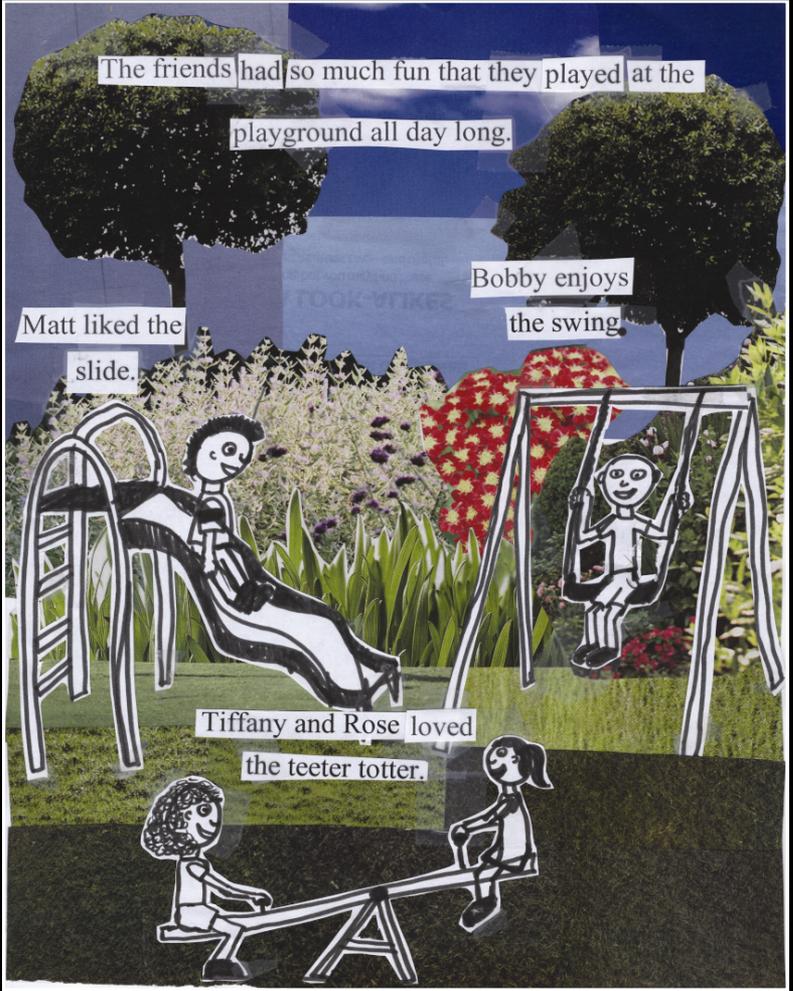


The friends had so much fun that they played at the playground all day long.

Matt liked the slide.

Bobby enjoys the swing.

Tiffany and Rose loved the teeter totter.

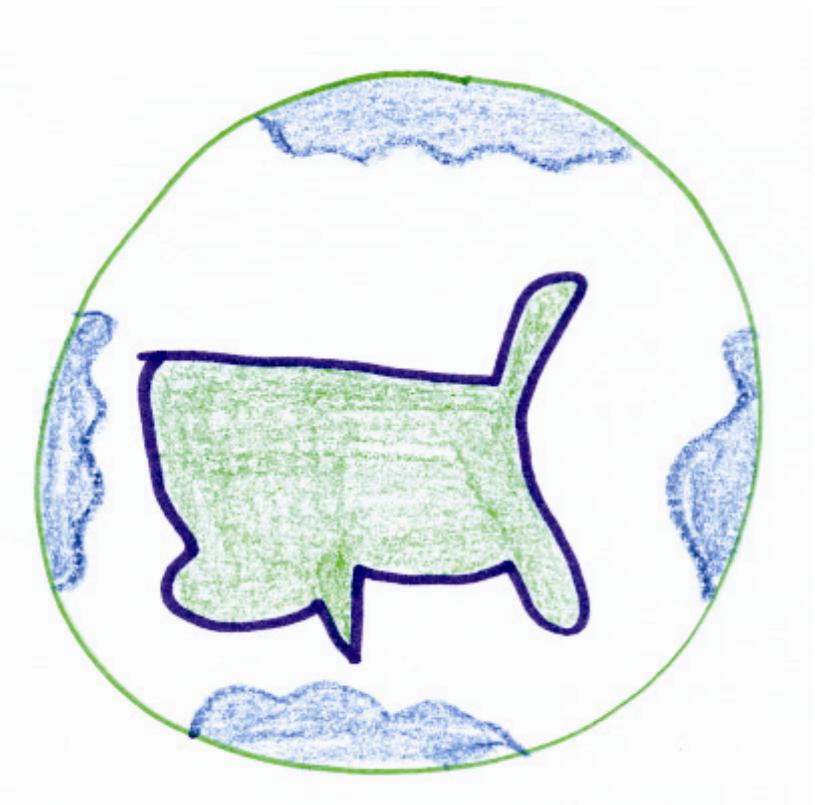


# Home for the Holidays



By Bethanie Johnson and  
Melissa Bullinger

# Introduction



In the United States, we celebrate special traditions and holidays. Some are religious holidays; others are historic and cultural. In this story we tell you about some holidays that we love to celebrate in the United States.

# JANUARY

Happy New Year! I'm Aaron. We all gather on New Year's Eve, to celebrate the upcoming year together. This is a great time to spend with my family. We count down to the new year together.

10...9...8...count with me!



# February



I'm Cecile. My favorite holiday is Valentines Day. It is always on February 14th. It is a great day to show people that you love them. My dad gives my mom a bouquet of roses and a box of chocolates.

I give my parents and friends big hugs.

# March and April

I'm Jan. Easter is a Christian holiday. We celebrate the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Many people go to church. The Easter Bunny brings candy for the children's Easter baskets.



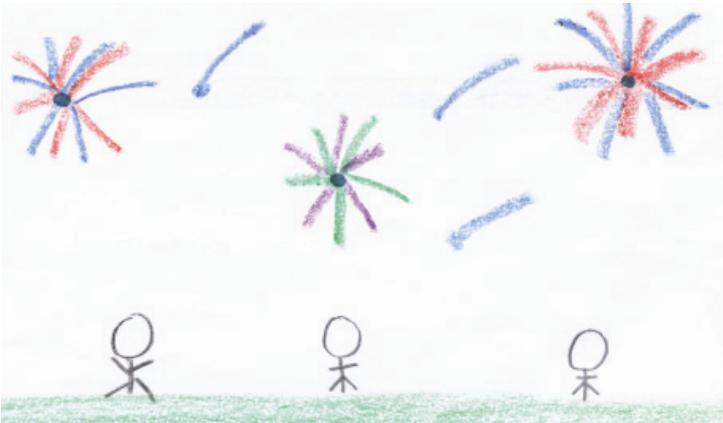
# May and June

I am Stephanie. I will graduate from high school in May. I will soon have my diploma. After the graduation ceremony, I will have a party to celebrate with family and friends.



# July

My name is Hannah. On the Fourth of July the United States celebrates its independence. It's the birthday of the United States. Family and friends eat hot dogs and watch the beautiful fireworks!



# August

My name is Caleb. I am celebrating my Bar Mitzvah. A Bar Mitzvah is celebrated when a Jewish boy has his 13th birthday and becomes an adult. We read from the Torah, the Jewish book of holy writings. We eat, dance, and celebrate. Bar Mitzvahs are not just celebrated in August. They are celebrated year round just like birthdays!



# September



My name is Khalid and I am Muslim.

Every year my family and I celebrate Ramadan.

During Ramadan we fast for a month.

We only eat after sundown. At the end of Ramadan, we have a big feast.

We thank Allah for our blessings.

# October



Boo! Happy Halloween! My name is Amy, but today I am a princess. On October 31st, we dress up in funny costumes. We go to the houses in our neighborhood, knock on the door, and say "Trick or treat!" Then we get candy!

# November

Happy Thanksgiving! I'm Brad. I am going to spend the day with my family. We will eat some delicious food and watch a parade and a football game. Thanksgiving is a day for showing how thankful we are for family and friends.



# December

Merry Christmas! I'm Audrey. Every year my family and I celebrate Christmas. On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus



Christ, and exchange gifts, We also decorate our homes with lights and a Christmas tree, and send Christmas cards to people as a warm greeting.



I'm Zahrd. We are celebrating the African American holiday Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is held the last week of December. Kwanzaa comes from African celebrations of the first harvest.

During Kwanzaa, we also celebrate African history and culture. Kwanzaa recognizes seven important principles: Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba, and Imani. Every principle has a candle that goes with it. We light the candles with our families each night.

# Angelica's Big Decision



By Tamonica Braswell and  
Madelyn Kissel

Photographs with Katie Heishman,  
Claire Frye, Lauren Caldarera and Danny Shields

My name is Angelica. I have a problem. Should I go to an okay school close to my home, friends and family? Or, should I go to a great school that is very far away?



Angelica thought long and hard.  
She decided to ask other people for  
advice.



“I will ask my mom  
first,” thought Angelica.  
“Mom, what do you  
think I should do?”

“I love you so much, Angelica, and I want what is best for you. Even though I will miss you very much, I think you should go to the better school to get the best education that you can,” Angelica’s mom said.



Even though Angelica understood what her mom was saying, she still wanted more advice from others.

The next person Angelica asked was her best friend. She told her friend her problem.

Her friend said, “Angelica, you are my best friend and you will always be my best friend. I think you should go to the great school. We will still see each other a lot. I promise.”



“I still  
want more  
advice,”  
thought  
Angelica.



Then she talked to her favorite teacher, Mr. Shields.

After hearing the problem, her teacher told her, “Angelica, as your teacher I want you to get the best education you can. Education is very important. Know that everyone here loves you and will miss you. But we all want what is best for you.”

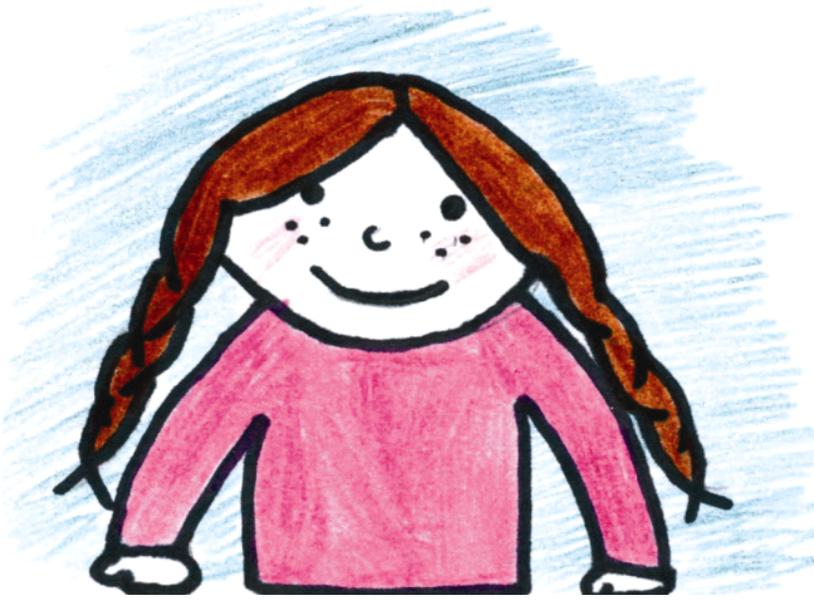


“As much as I will miss my family and friends,” Angelica thought, “I know that they will miss me too. I agree with them that I should go to the better school. I will still see them a lot and we can write back and forth.”



*In the end Angelica went to the better school far away. She made new friends and still saw her old friends a lot.*

# Naomi Goes to Summer Camp



By Edressa Kamal and  
Adrianna Pappas



Naomi is ten years old. "You can go to summer camp this year!" her dad tells her. "Daddy, what will I do at summer camp?" Naomi asks.

"You will sleep in the woods, learn to swim, and make new friends."

Lying in her bed that night, she thinks about summer camp. "What if it is too dark to sleep in the woods at night? I do not like the dark! What if when I am learning to swim and the water is too deep? I do not like deep water! What if the camp counselors are mean? I do not like mean counselors!" Naomi goes to sleep. She worries about the dark woods, deep water, and mean counselors.



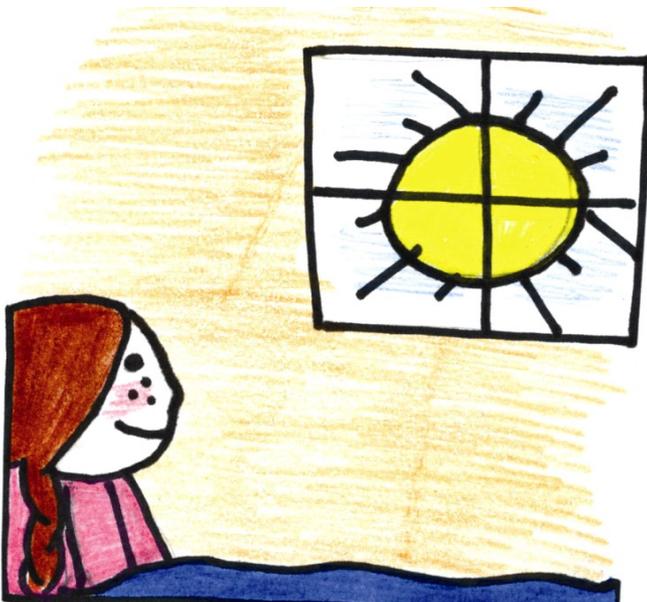
The next morning, Naomi's dad wakes her up. "Today is the day you go to summer camp!" he says.

"Daddy, I don't want to go to summer camp. I am afraid of the dark woods, deep water, and mean counselors!" she says.

"Naomi, do not be afraid. Summer camp will be a lot of fun."

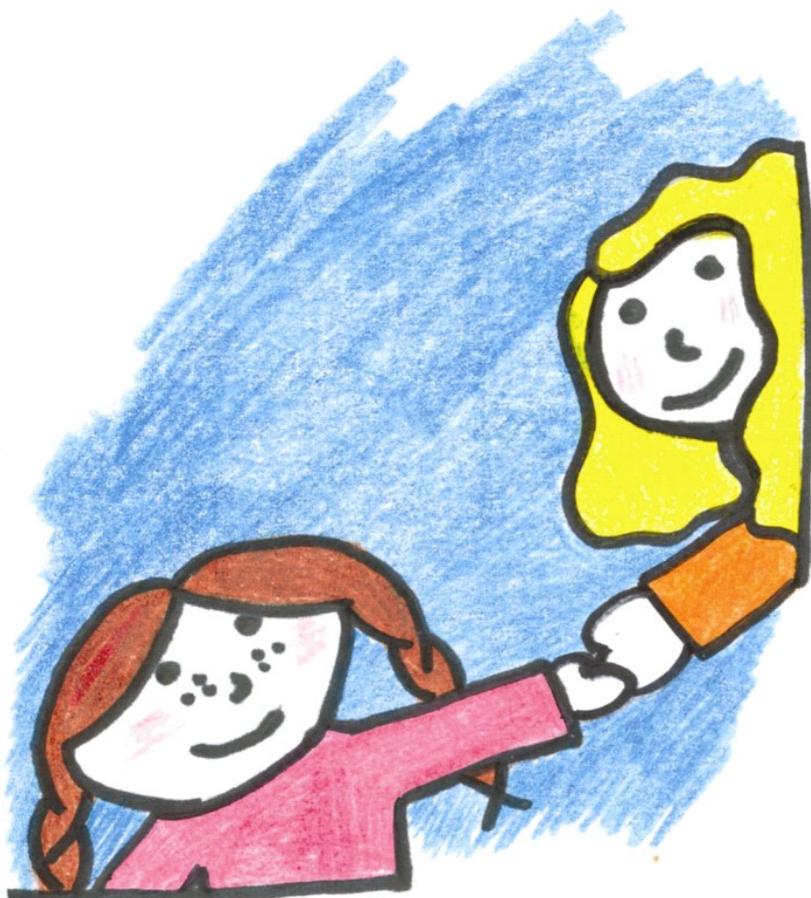
"But what if I miss home, Daddy?" she asks.

"Don't worry Naomi, summer camp will soon feel like your second home."





They drive in the car for a long time. Then they arrive at the camp. It has cabins in the woods to sleep in. They will keep her out of the dark. The lake is beautiful, too, and not very deep. It is perfect for swimming.



Naomi gets out of the car. She is greeted by a woman. The woman is very nice. "Hello Naomi! My name is Miss Kendra. I am happy to see you! I am your camp counselor." She shakes Naomi's hand and is very friendly. Naomi waves goodbye to her father and joins the other kids.

Naomi likes summer camp. She has fun sleeping in the cabin at night. She loves swimming in the lake. She makes a lot of new friends and the counselors take good care of her. It feels just like home.



One week later, summer camp is over.

Naomi's dad comes to pick her up. "Daddy!  
Summer camp was so much fun!"

"Did you miss home at all?" he asks.

"No! Summer camp was great. Can I go again  
next summer?"



# John's Dream

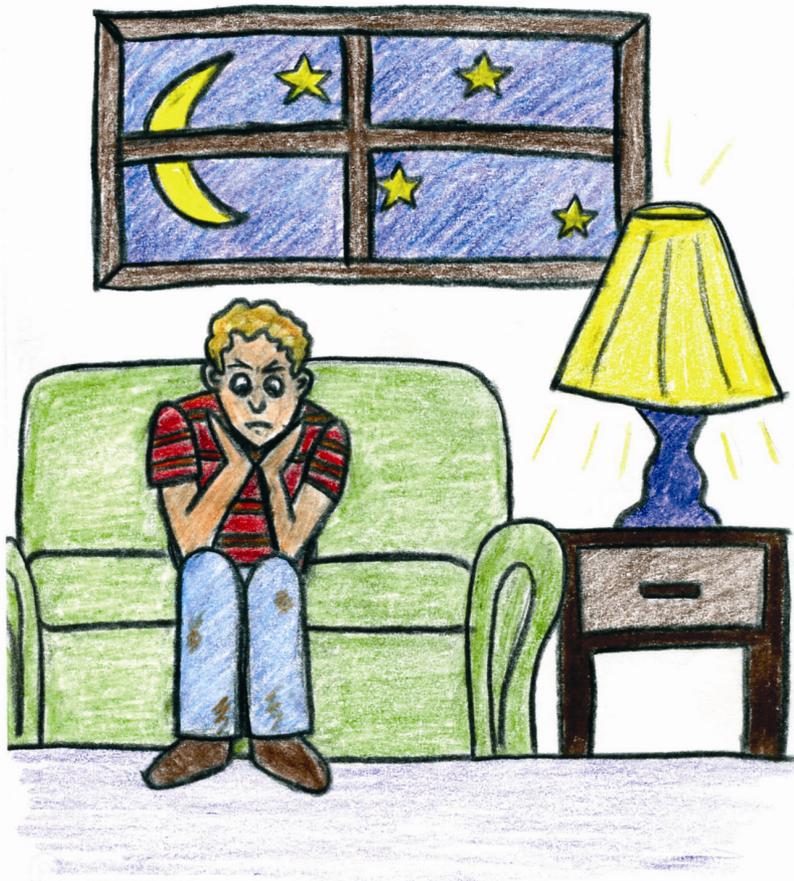
Written and Illustrated by  
Brandon Wright and Leah Myhre



This is John. He is the biggest boy in his class. He doesn't have many friends. After school, he likes to play tricks on other kids, the teachers, and the Headmaster.

One day at school, John was in a lot of trouble. He threw a rock at another student named Sam. The Headmaster saw him. Sam was hurt. The Headmaster was very angry at John. The Headmaster talked to John's parents about his bad behavior.





That night, John's parents were upset.

"Why are you throwing rocks at other students?" asked his mother.

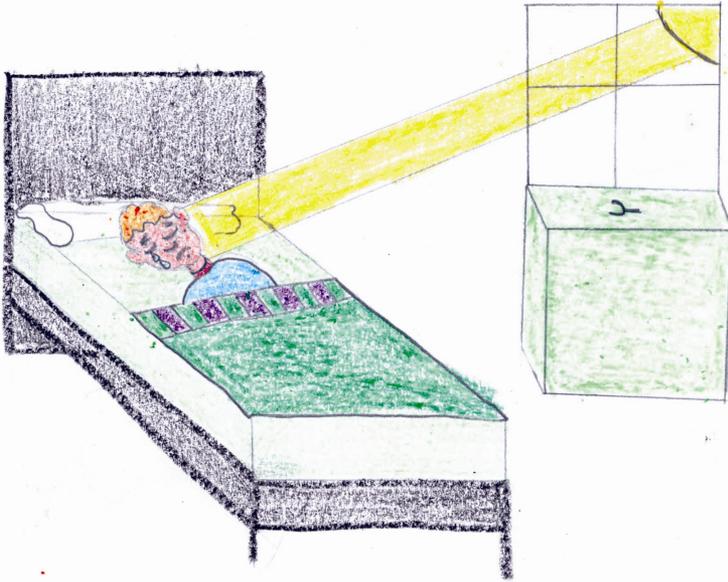
"I don't like them," said John.

"Go to your room! Your mother and I are unhappy with you," said his father.

John walked to his room. He was angry with everyone: Sam, the Headmaster, and his parents.

That night, John had a bad dream. Sam was there, and *he* was throwing rocks at *John*. John was hurt and scared. Then he dreamed that he was the Headmaster! He had to punish students all day, which made him very angry and sad. Then he dreamed that he was in his house. His parents told him to leave because he was a bad child. He was scared and sad.





When John woke up, he was in his room. The bright sun was shining. He ran to his parent's room and woke them up.

"What is it, John?" asked his mother.

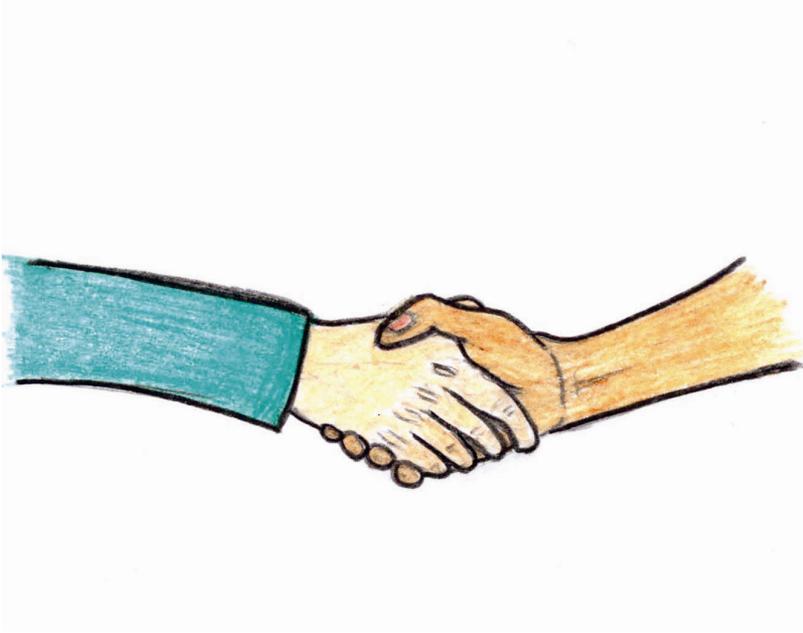
"Please, can I stay? Don't make me leave! I'm sorry, I'm sorry!" cried John.

"What are you talking about?" asked his father. "You don't have to leave, John. You don't have to worry. It was only a bad dream. We love you, John."

John hugged his parents and went to school.

At school that day, John visited the Headmaster in his office. John told the Headmaster he was sorry for his bad behavior. John told him that he wanted to be a better student in the future. The Headmaster was happy.





John left the Headmaster's office. After school he saw Sam. Sam was scared. John told him he was sorry for throwing a rock at him. He was sorry for hurting him and making him feel sad.

"I'm sorry, Sam. Can we be friends?" asked John.

"Sure," said Sam, and he smiled.

John and Sam walked home together. John was very happy because he had made other people happy too.

John realized what was important. Now that he had a new friend, he felt he had a bigger home. He learned that home and friendship are very important.



# The Lonely Monkey



By Britney Wade  
and  
Michelle Garrett



"I hate this place! I want to leave. There are so many rules. I can't be free and do what I want," the monkey thought. He lived in his cage at the San Diego Zoo. "I wish that I could see what life is like outside of these walls ..."



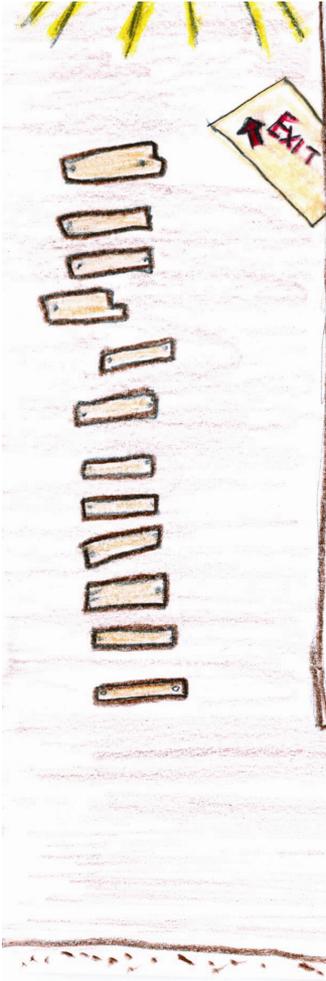
One morning, the zoo keepers came around to give the monkeys their food. He slowly turned the key in the lock. As the door creaked open, the monkey jumped out.

"CATCH HIM!!!" The zoo keeper screamed. The monkey ran through the crowd. Some of the children laughed and others were frightened.

As the monkey ran in circles, the zoo keepers struggled to capture him. The tall zoo keeper tripped and fell on the concrete. The other zoo keepers tripped over him. The monkey escaped.

The monkey stopped running far from the zoo. He wanted a new place to live. He hid in a bush in a field. "Oh my! This bush is scratchy!" he said. "This is not a very good home!" He got up and ran on.





Not far away, the monkey found a hole in the ground. It was cozier than the bush, but something felt wrong. He noticed a pile of seeds in the corner. They looked good to eat. As he grabbed some seeds, a sharp, squeaky voice said, "What are you doing?" The monkey turned to find a grumpy gopher staring at him. "THIS IS MY FOOD AND MY HOME. GET OUT!"

The monkey ran out of the hole. He was afraid of the gopher.



Next the monkey stopped in a forest. "These trees are just like the ones at the zoo!" he thought. "But they're so big." He climbed up one of the trees and looked around. "And there are so many."

He smiled. He ran from branch to branch. He jumped from tree to tree.

Then he tripped and fell on a thorny vine. "Ouch!" he shouted, and he tried to pull away from the thorns. He couldn't move! He was stuck! "Oh no! Now what?" he thought.

The forest was not a good place to live after all.

"I'm cold," he said. "And I'm tired. And I'm stuck here." He started to cry. "And I'm hungry. I miss my friends. I want to go home to the zoo." He picked the thorns out of his tail.

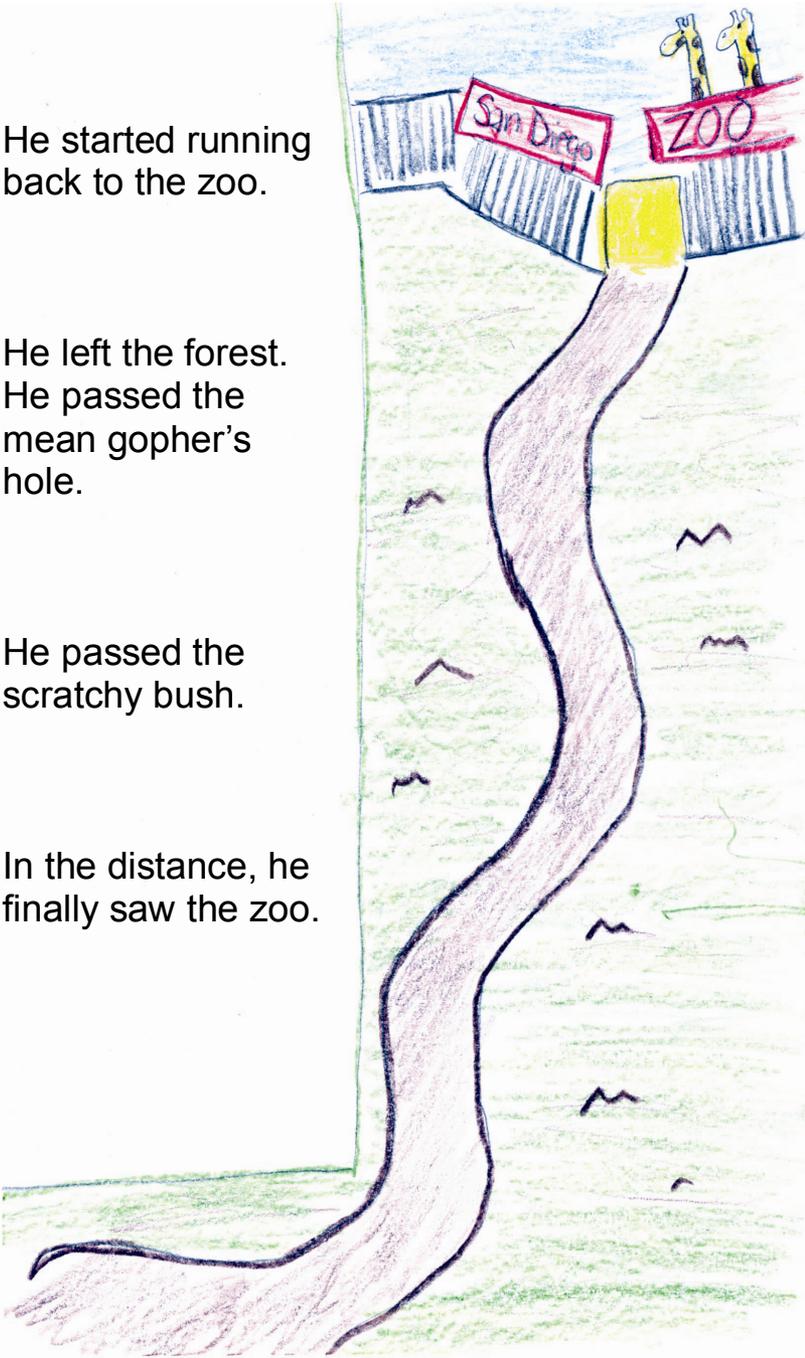


He started running  
back to the zoo.

He left the forest.  
He passed the  
mean gopher's  
hole.

He passed the  
scratchy bush.

In the distance, he  
finally saw the zoo.



When he finally got back to the zoo, he was back at his home.

He climbed up his favorite tree.



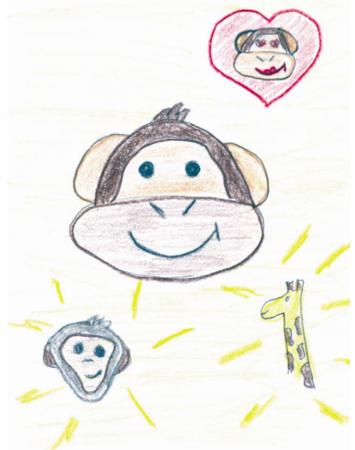
He wasn't tired anymore. He was happy.



The bananas tasted so good!



Most importantly, he was with his friends once more.



**This was really home!**

# Wishing Upon a Star



**Written by Andrea Hynes**

**Edited by Rachel Schend**

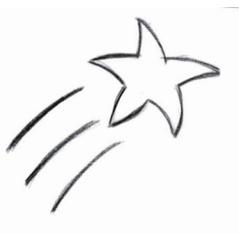
My name is Tashi Holiday. I am fifteen years old. Every night I wish upon a star, and I ask for one thing. I wish for a family that will love me and care for me. I will explain.

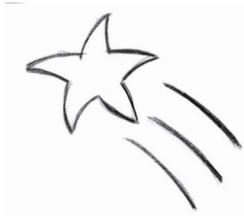
I live in an orphanage in the state of New Jersey. My life here is all structured. There is no freedom. The people in charge here tell us when to bathe, when to go to sleep, when to wash, and when to eat.

Just the other day, I was outside talking and laughing with friends. The head of the program told us to go to our rooms.

So now you see why I wish upon stars and ask for love from a family: a mother, a father, and maybe a sibling. This is the missing link in my life.

If only I had a family...





My favorite saying is, "Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there's love you can't go wrong." It tells the story of my life. Every night, I pray for a family to help me get out of this orphanage. I gaze at the stars and ask them to give me a home. I ask for a family to love me.

Today is "Family Day". I am nervous and excited. On Family Day, families come and spend time with the orphans in order to find someone to adopt.

Family Day is usually like this for me: I always expect to find a family that wants me, but it never happens. I cannot give up hope, though.

The headmistress, Ms. Jackson, said that I have an appointment today. On the outside, I am smiling, but on the inside I am anxious. I *need* a family.



I talk to my friend Darren about my appointment. I tell him how I feel. "I can't wait for today," I tell him.

"Why?" Darren replies. "It is always the same thing. You go to the meeting, but you never get adopted."

I tell him, "I know, but I cannot give up. I believe I will find someone to love me."

The headmistress takes me to my meeting. I follow her outside to a table. She introduces me to a young African-American lady. She is very nice. I hope she can be my mom.

She shakes my hand. She says, "Hello, Tashi. I am Shanice Brown. I would like to get to know you. Is that okay?"

I reply, "Sure." I feel really comfortable with her.

"Did you know I also lived in an orphanage when I was young?" ask Shanice.

"No, I didn't," I say.

"I know how it feels to live in an orphanage. It can feel very lonely. When I felt sad, I would say to myself 'Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do.'"

I know that saying!!!

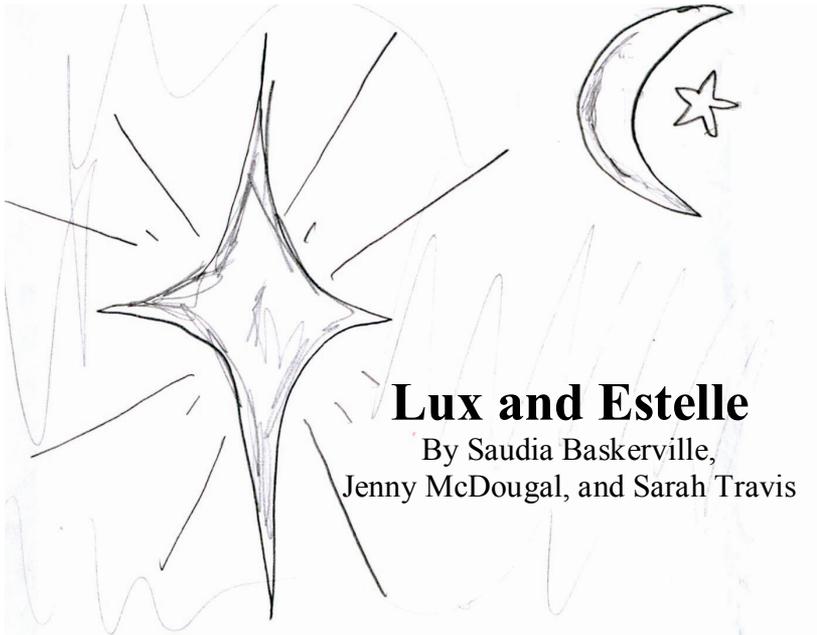
"Where there's love, you can't go wrong," we say together.

Shanice smiles, and tears well in my eyes. Shanice say, "I have finally found my daughter. I see myself in you."

"I finally have someone to love me. I have someone to call mom and a place to call home. I have a family," I reply. We both smile. Happiness, security, and love are in the air.

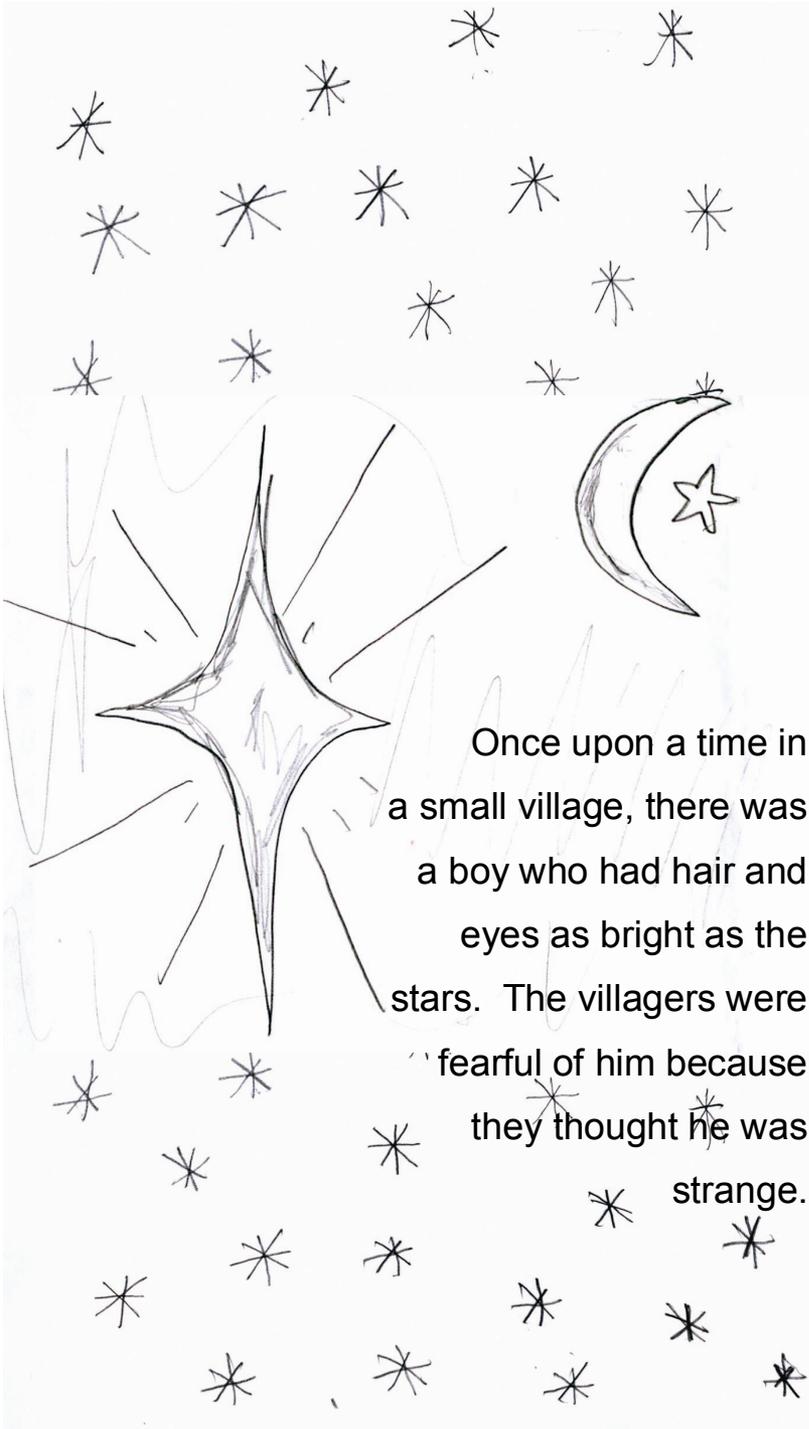
*The key is to not give up. Just do what you want to do. Oh, and I can't forget to say, wishing upon stars is also important.*





# **Lux and Estelle**

By Saudia Baskerville,  
Jenny McDougal, and Sarah Travis



Once upon a time in a small village, there was a boy who had hair and eyes as bright as the stars. The villagers were fearful of him because they thought he was strange.



One day, a sad princess was sitting alone under a tree. She saw the boy and quickly wiped away her tears.

“Hello,” the boy said.

“Oh my!” she said. “It’s you. You’re the strange boy I’ve heard about.” She paused.

“My name is Estelle. What’s your name?”

“I don’t know,” he stated, “but why are you sad?”

“No one in the castle will play with me.”

“Why is that?” he asked.

“Everyone is a grownup,” she pouted. “I feel alone all the time. I don’t belong at home even though I live there.”

She stood up and brushed off her dress. “Why don’t you have a name?”

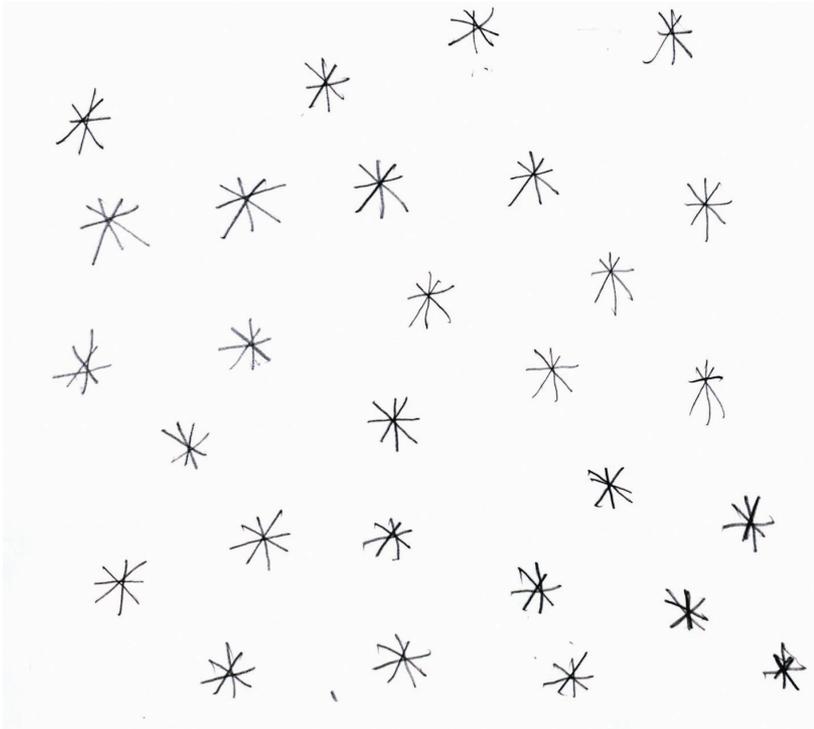
He replied with a shrug.

“Then I shall give you one... how about ... Lux.”

“Lux?” he asked.

She smiled, “Yes, because you remind me of the stars in the sky.”





The boy was happy that Estelle gave him a name, and he came to see her often. “Will we be friends forever?” Estelle suddenly asked one day.

“Of course!” he said. “I have never met anyone who can warm my heart like you. So no matter the distance between us, we shall always be friends.”

“I feel that you will leave me soon,” Estelle said.



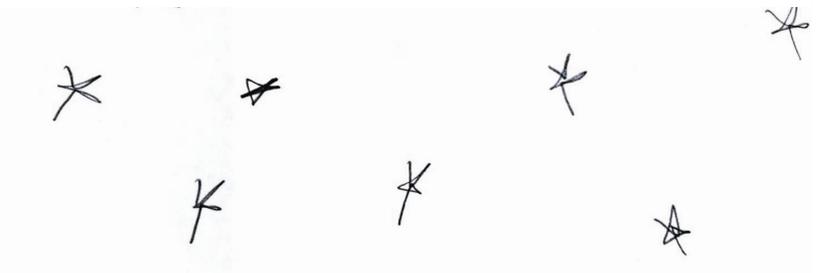
“I am always around. If you wish to see me,” he stated, “then simply look to the night sky.”

“Why the sky?”

“You’ll understand,” he replied with a small smile.

“So you are leaving,” Estelle said sadly, “but you are my only friend. I feel safe and happy around you.”

“You’ll understand,” he said again. Then he left.



Every day, Estelle searched the night sky, trying to understand what Lux had said. Many years passed, and she was engaged to be married. “I wish I knew what he meant,” she complained, “because I can’t find him in the sky.”

“Then you aren’t looking hard enough,” said a familiar voice. Estelle turned around, and Lux was standing there. He was still a child with a white glow around him.

“Lux!” she exclaimed. “I can’t believe it’s you! You’re still so young.”

“I am a star, and stars age very slowly,” he said.

“Stars? You’re a star? That’s why you’re such a strange boy,” she said.

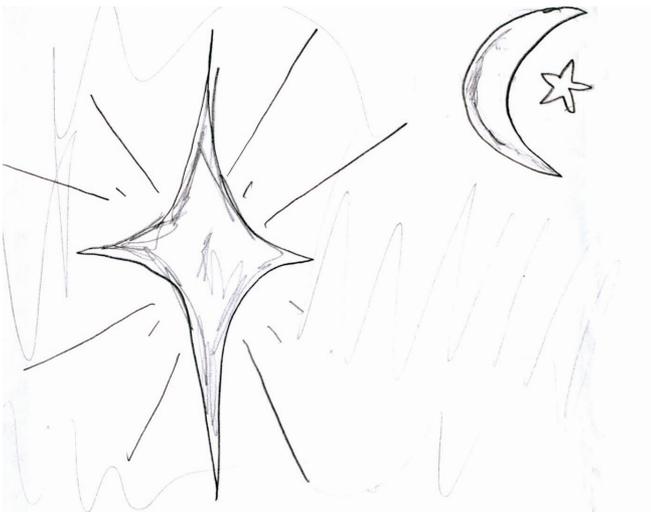


“I understand you’re getting married soon, but you still seem so lonely and unhappy,” said Lux.

“That’s because you left!” Estelle frowned. “I told you I felt safe and happy when you were around.”

“My true home is in the night sky,” said Lux. “But, now that you have found me, you no longer have to feel alone, because I will always be around. When there is darkness, I will be your light.”

“I understand,” Estelle said happily. “So we shall always be friends! I shall never feel alone knowing that you are always near.”



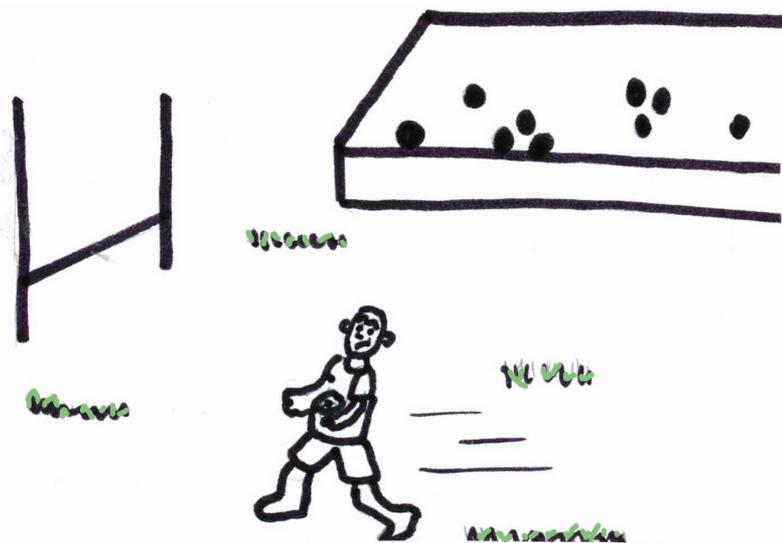
# The Importance of Family



By  
Kareem Walker  
and  
Emily Neitzel

Adam was a popular person. He lived in a small city. He was very strong. Adam loved to play sports, especially rugby. He dreamed of becoming a professional rugby player. But he had a problem.





Adam had plenty of friends, but none of them really cared about his dream to be a professional rugby player. They just rolled their eyes and shook their heads when he was always practicing.

One day he was practicing on the field alone. He saw two of his friends and he waved. They ignored him. Later he said to them, “I thought you guys were my friends!”

They said, “You never have time to be friends! You are always practicing rugby!”

But Adam just ignored them.

That day when Adam went home, he asked his father, “Are you coming to my game tomorrow?”

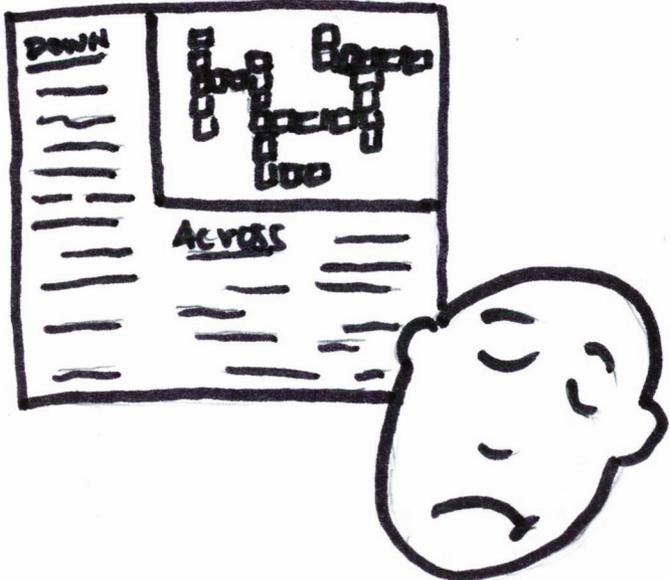
His father said, “I’m too busy.”

“What are you doing now that’s so busy?” asked Adam.

“I have to work,” his father said, returning to his crossword puzzle.

“Is work more important than me?” Adam said.

#### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Adam's team lost the game. He went home very upset. His father said, "Didn't you have a game today?"

Adam replied, "Yes, but you never come to my games!"

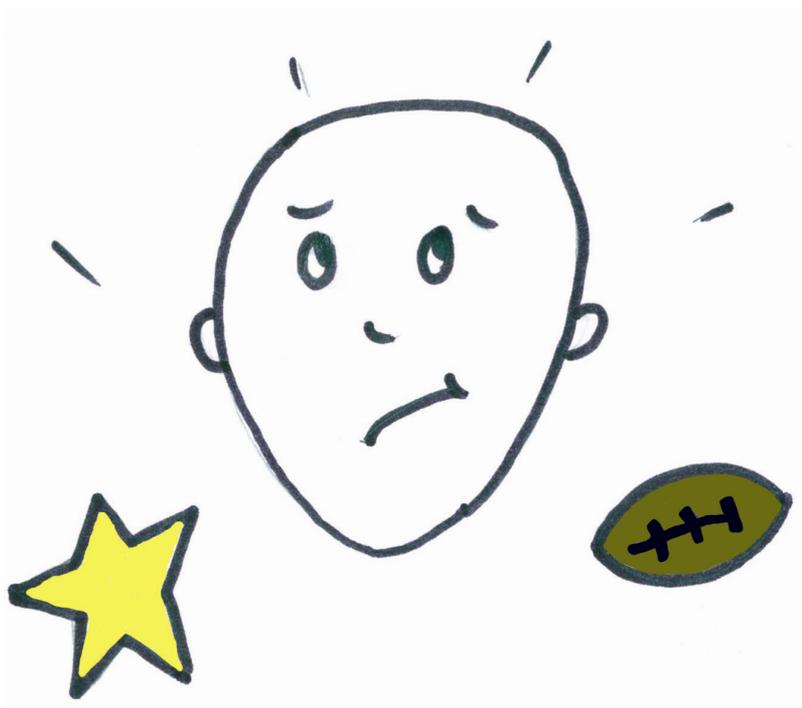
The father said, "I'll come to the next game."

Adam said, "That's what you always say."

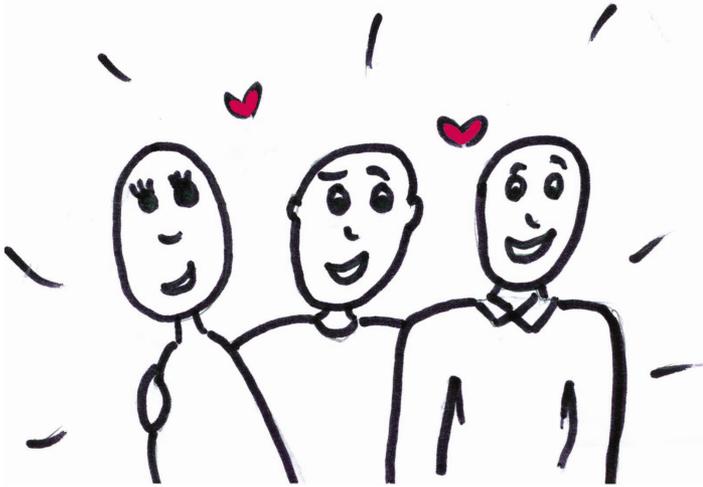


As the years passed, Adam's dad and friends still didn't show up to any of his games. Adam became the star of the national team. He played in the Olympics, and his dad didn't come to that game either.





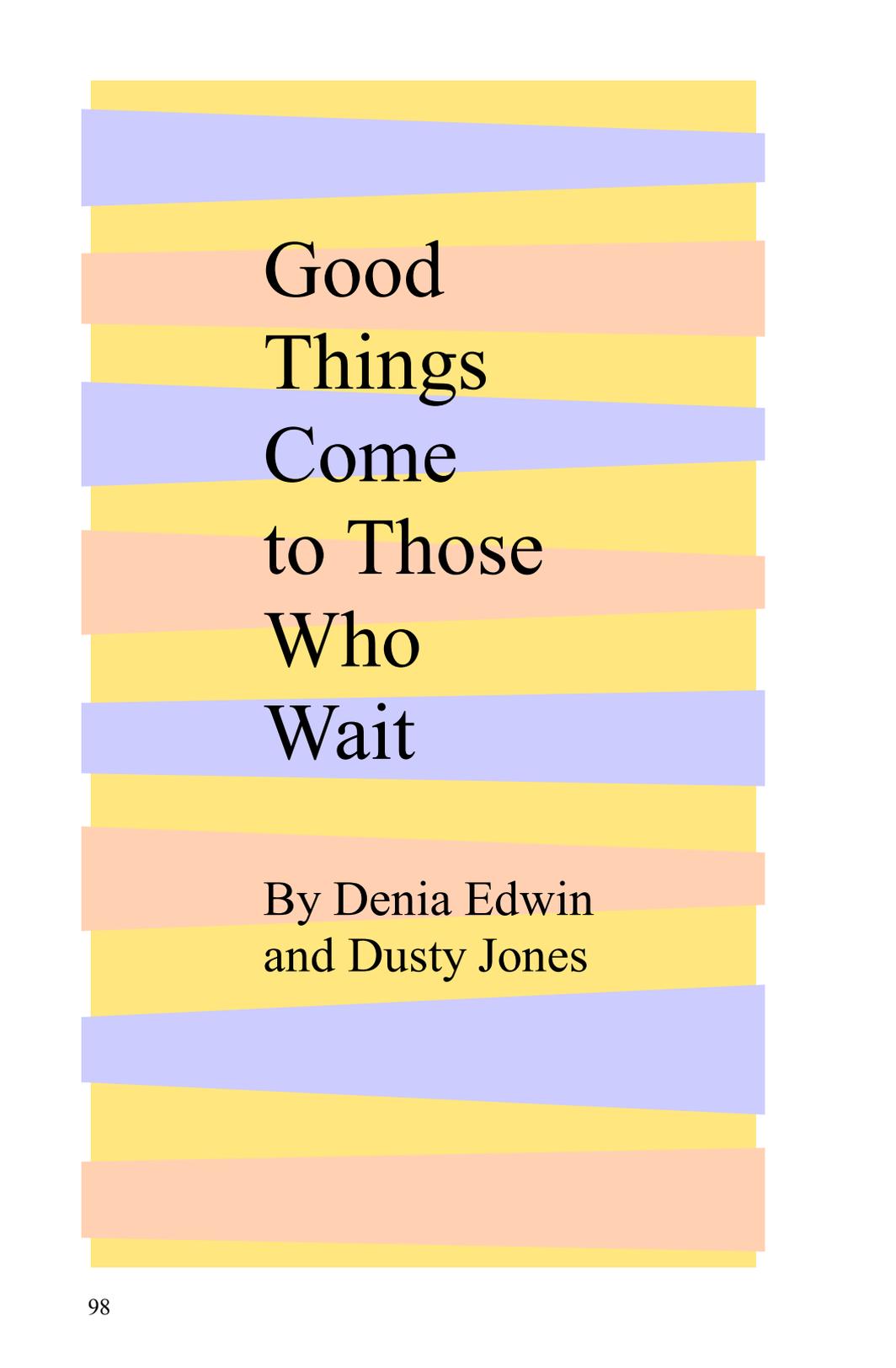
Even though he was very famous and a great rugby player, he still wished his dad would come to his game.



One day he played a game in his hometown. The game started, and Adam looked into the crowd for his dad. His team was losing by one point.

He saw his dad and his friends. When he saw his dad and his friends, he scored the winning point for his team. After the game, he ran to his dad and friends and hugged them. He began to cry, and they said, “We’re sorry we never came to your games before!”

Adam told them, “All I wanted was for you to be there for me.”



Good  
Things  
Come  
to Those  
Who  
Wait

By Denia Edwin  
and Dusty Jones

“Mommy, Mommy, can you please buy this game for us? Please?” begged DJ and her two brothers, Austin and Allen.



Their mother was not giving in, not this time. They were so good at begging that she would usually buy them what they wanted. But instead she replied, “Good things come to people who wait.” Her three children stared at her silently. They were too defeated to talk.

But DJ, the eldest, would not take “No!” for an answer. She wanted this game and knew how to get it.



DJ said to her brothers, “We need to figure out a way to purchase this game!”

Allen said, “We can find some money, buy the game, and play it. Mommy will never know about it.”

DJ and Austin were surprised that Allen could think of such an awesome plan. They agreed to follow along.

Austin, the brave one, went searching through his mother’s purse. He took out all the money. Then he yelled, “Let’s go!”



Austin, Allen, and DJ ran to the game store. They found the game they wanted. Austin and Allen were so excited.

DJ wasn't smiling. Austin and Allen asked her, "DJ, what's wrong?"

DJ explained, "You guys, I think that this is wrong. Remember what Mommy said. 'Good things come to those who wait.'"

"Good things  
come to those  
who wait."



Allen and Austin thought about their mother's words. Then, Austin placed the game back on the shelf.

The three children walked home in silence.

Then Austin said, "Let's put the money back in Mommy's purse."

"And not tell Mommy," added Allen.

"Or maybe we should tell Mom what we did and apologize." corrected DJ.

"You're right," said Austin. "Let's hurry!"



When the kids got home, their mother was standing at the door. She was smiling.

She said, “DJ, Allen, and Austin, I have a surprise for you!” She pulled out their new game. The kids were silent.

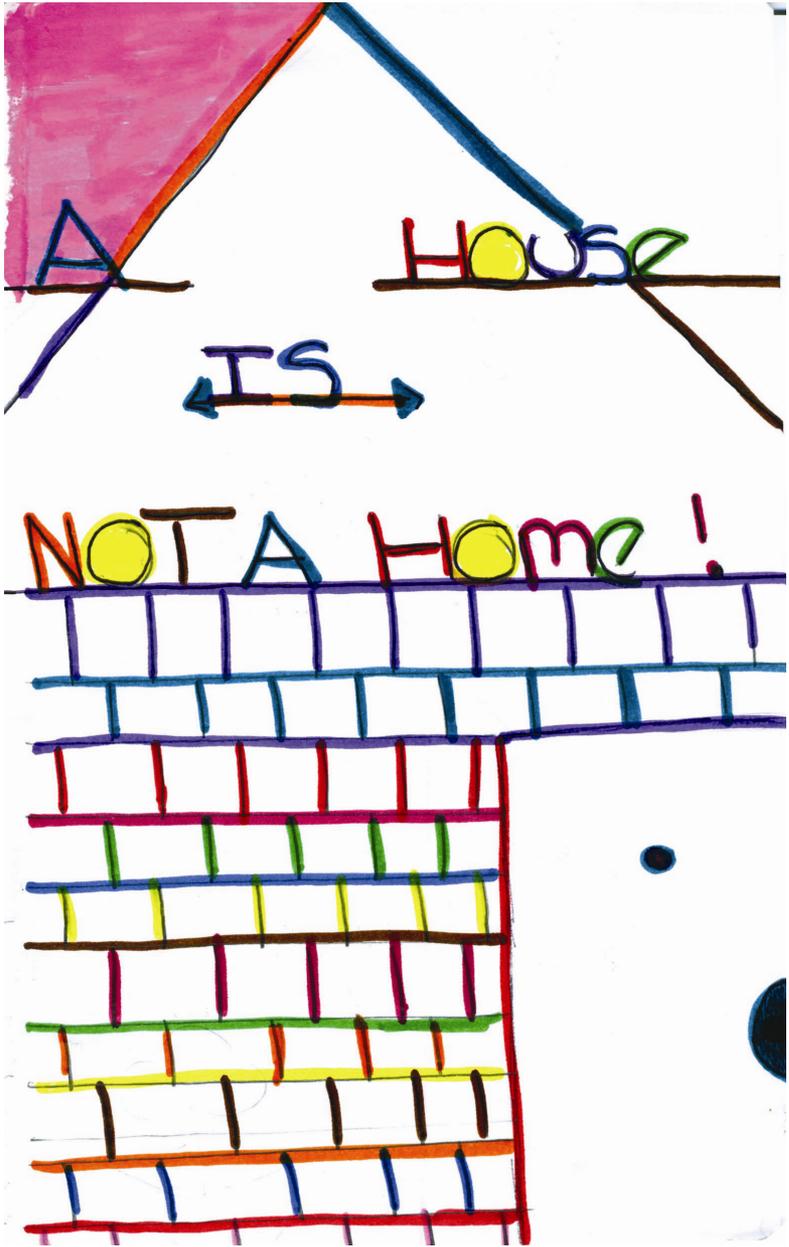
Their mother asked, “What’s wrong? Aren’t you happy?”

DJ said, “Of course we are, Mommy, but remember what you said: ‘Good things come to those who wait.’ Well, we have been bad, so I think we have to wait.”

Austin gave his mother the money from her purse. Their mother smiled, “Thank you for being honest and responsible, kids.”

“We have to wait,” the kids said together.





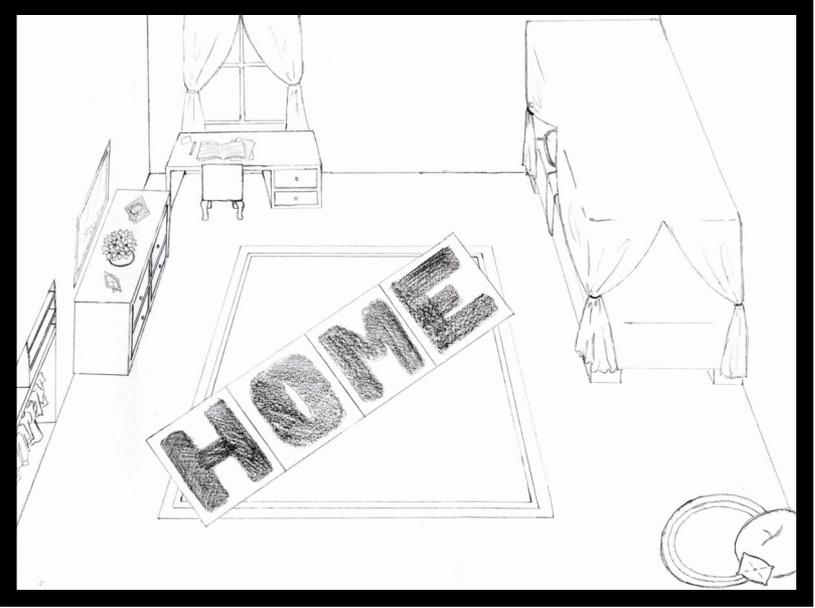
**By Shania Jackson and Alyssa Rosch  
Illustrations by Shania Jackson and Kim Trippi**

**My name is Hermani, and I am thirteen years old. I have a big family. I have four brothers, one sister, and a mother. We are all different. We each have different ideas of what home is. Home can be a place or a feeling. Some people say that food, smells, music, clothing, or many other things can remind them of home.**

**For me, home is where you can be yourself. Everyone wants to have a home. Everyone has a different home.**



## **My bedroom is my home.**



**My room is a place where I can be myself, no matter what. I can do all kinds of silly, crazy things, and it doesn't matter. When I am in my room, I like to dance and sing, even though I can't really sing well.**

**But I feel comfortable and safe, so I sing anyway. I also like to put on my mom's make-up, shoes, and clothing. But most of all, I like to write poems about how I feel.**

Here is my poem:

**Palms sweaty, heart racing,  
Walking home at night alone is scary,  
But my home is not my home.  
My home is not my mom,  
My sister, or my younger brothers.  
My home is my room.  
My sanctuary,  
My refuge,  
My retreat.  
It is where I sing and dance,  
And I can be completely myself.  
My room is where I feel most safe.  
Tomorrow may be uncertain,  
But no matter what happens,  
I always have my room,  
To return home to.**



## AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS

### TEAM SCHOOLS

TAMONICA BRASWELL

KAREEM WALKER

EDRESSA KAMAL

SHANIA JACKSON

BETHANIE JOHNSON

DENIA EDWIN

KENDRA GOLSON

ATIYA DRAYTON

ANDREA HYNES

SAUDIA BASKERVILLE

BRANDON WRIGHT

BRITNEY WADE

NAYYIRAH SABIR

BRIAN SMITH

MAYA DENDY

### INDIANA UNIVERSITY

MADELYN KISSEL

EMILY NEITZEL

ADRIANNA PAPPAS

ALYSSA ROSCH

MELISSA BULLINGER

DUSTY JONES

MEGAN HAMMERSLEY

EMMA ENGELHARDT

RACHEL SCHEND

SARAH TRAVIS

LEAH MYHRE

MICHELLE GARRETT

SARAH HAYDEN

HILARY GAISER

BRIDGET TRENT

## EDITORS

ALI NAGLE

FAITH BLASI

ALEXANDER WEINSTEIN

JEFF HOLDEMAN

BETH LEWIS SAMUELSON

JAMES KIGAMWA

LAUREN CALDARERA

## PROJECT SUPPORT

CAITLIN RYAN

CHRIS PURVIS

ELEANOR STEVENSON

KIM TRIPPI

JANA KOVICH

ADDY BRYAN

ABBY BORMANN

EMMA MUNCHEL

ANDREA SCHUBA

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