When I Grow Up
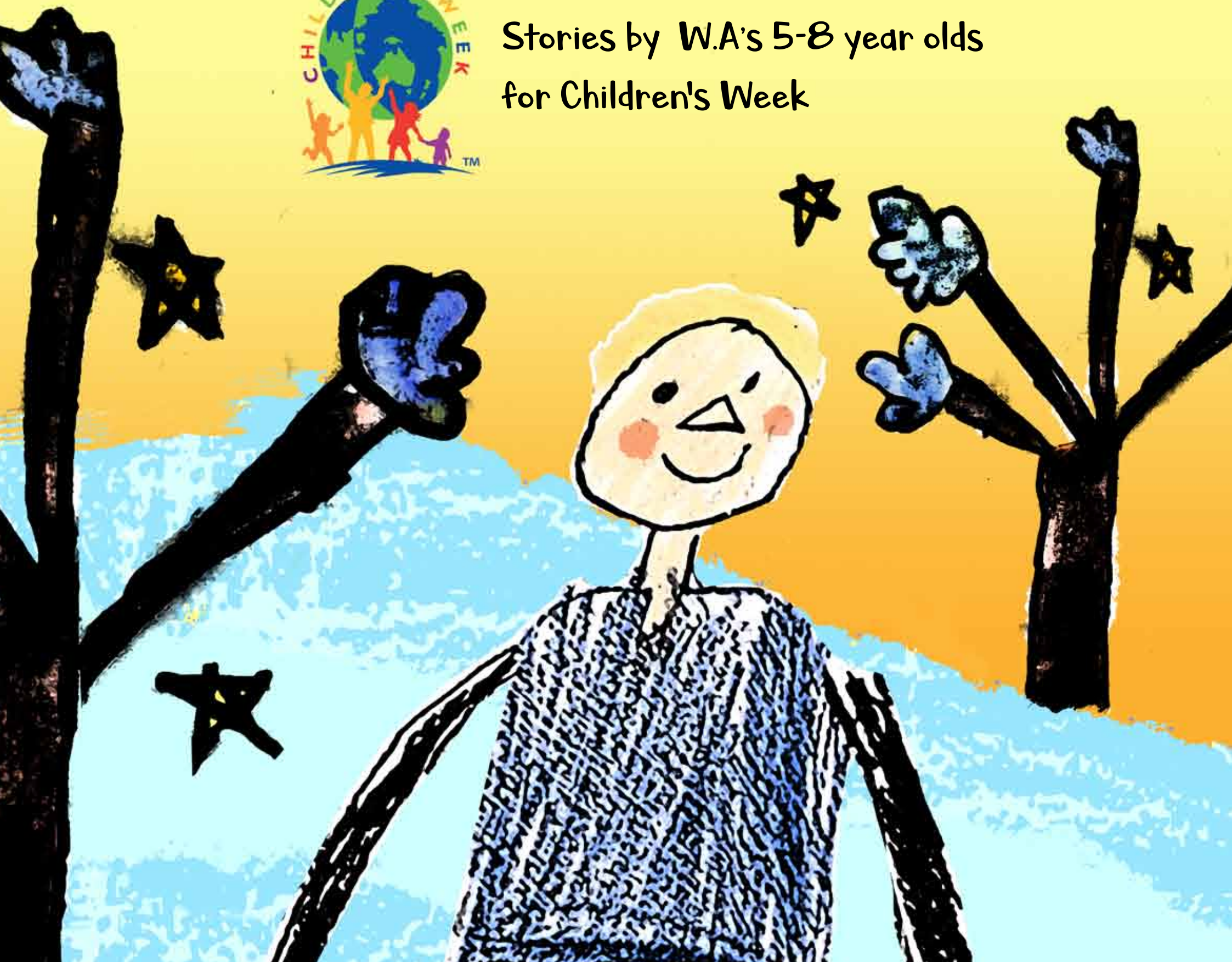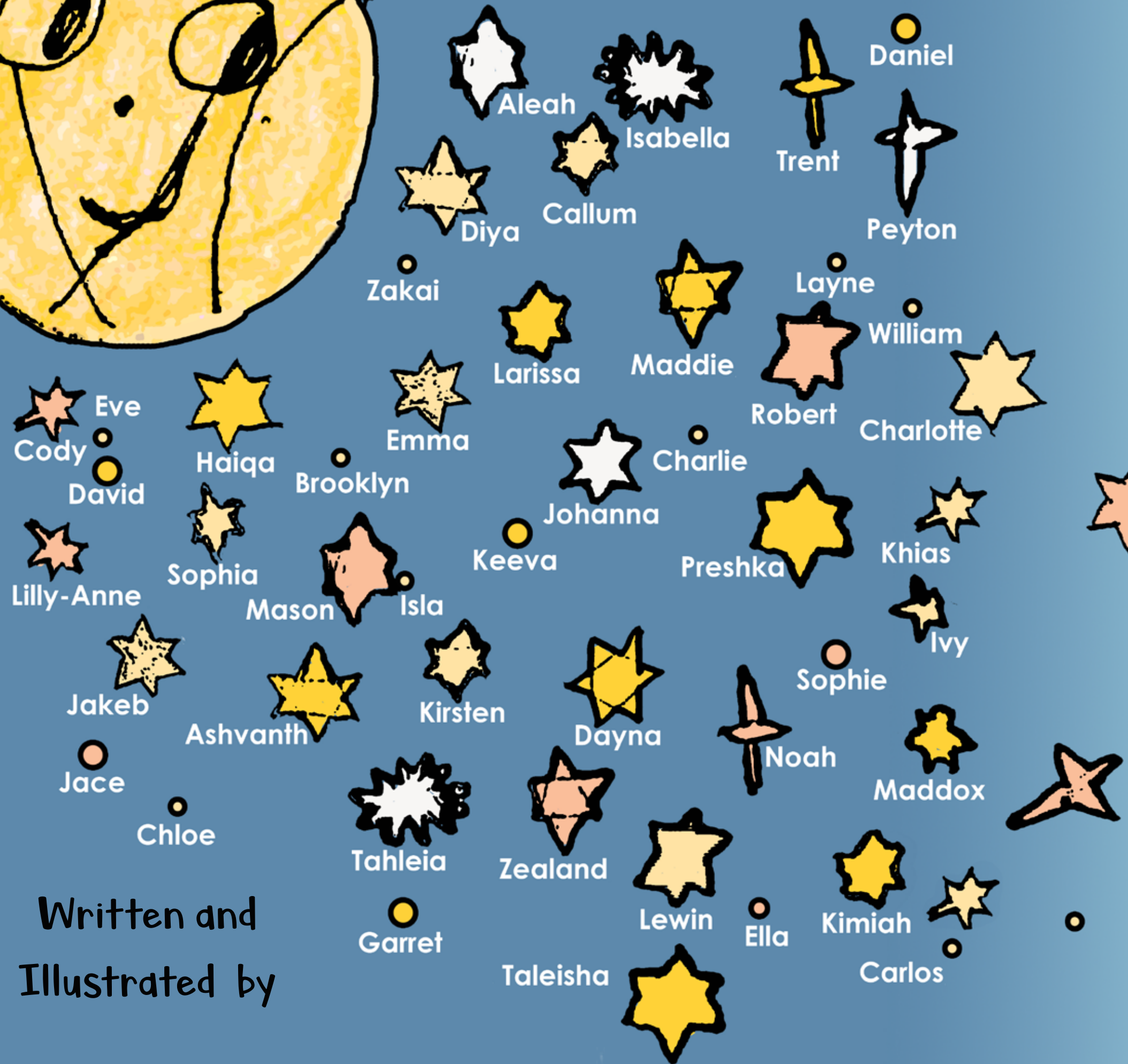

Stories by W.A's 5-8 year olds
for Children's Week

Growing, Knowing, Caring, Sharing & Being Yourself

stories by W.A's 5-8 year olds for

Meerilinga presents
CHILDREN'S WEEK WA 2020

Message from the Minister for Community Services, Simone McGurk MLA.

"Whether we are young or old, stories connect us and add meaning to our lives. The 2020 Children's Week Book Project invited children from across Western Australia to actively participate in the making of this book through the creation and illustration of their own stories.

As you read through the selection of stories, you will see children communicating their thoughts and feelings, using their language, imagination and creativity.

I found the stories inspiring and I encourage parents and carers to find a time in their busy day to connect and share these wonderful stories with their children.
Thank you to all children who submitted their stories.

Happy reading!"

Aleah
Isabella
Daniel
Trent
Peyton
Diya
Callum
Zakai
Layne
Larissa
Maddie
William
Eve
Emma
Robert
Charlotte
Cody
Haiqa
Brooklyn
Charlie
David
Johanna
Sophia
Keeva
Preshka
Khias
Lilly-Anne
Mason
Isla
Ivy
Jakeb
Kirsten
Sophie
Ashvanth
Dayna
Noah
Jace
Maddox
Chloe
Tahleia
Zealand
Lewin
Ella
Kimiah
Garret
Carlos
Taleisha

Written and
Illustrated by

The Nest

Teng lived at the top of the tallest tree on a high hill. Up there, the wind was cold and the leaves whispered, and at night Teng could hear howls in the distance.

There were dangerous creatures that lived in the forest, things like angry trufflehumps, scary bustalumps and hungry huffleclumps.

Teng had always lived in the tree. During the day he ate fruits and flowers, he climbed and swung and made things out of its sticks and leaves.

But Teng could never sleep well at night. At night Teng worried about eyes in the dark.

One day a bird landed in Teng's tree. She was the colour of a beautiful sunset and sung songs that reminded Teng of his mother's comfort.
"What's the matter little one?" sung the bird.
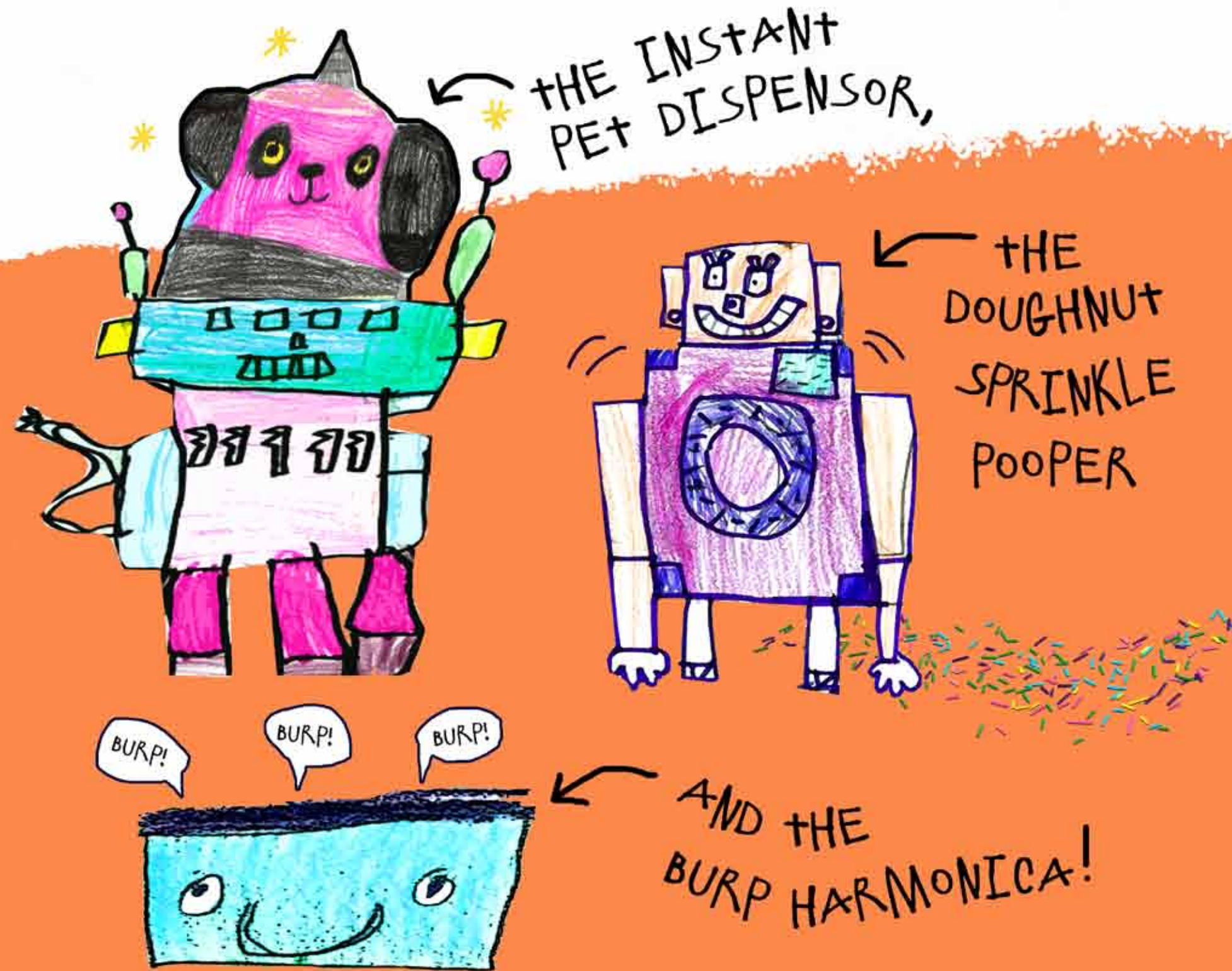Teng told her of the worry and of the dangerous creatures down below.

"Ah!" sung the bird, "I know what you need, you need a nest!"
So the bird went away and collected grass and twigs to make it the nest soft and feathers to make it warm. She added colorful plastics to make it look marvellous and wove it all into a big, wonderful nest.
Teng climbed in. It felt safe and dreamful.
"Thank you bird," said Teng.
The bird nodded and flew away, and Teng fell fast asleep.

Article 19 – You have the right to be safe, protected from being hurt or mistreated in body or mind.

Robot Me

Hi! I am a great inventor! I've invented lots of things like...

THE INSTANT PET DISPENSOR,

THE DOUGHNUT SPRINKLE POOPER

BURP! BURP! BURP!

AND THE BURP HARMONICA!

One day I invented a robot that looked just like me. I thought I might be able to get it to do things for me that I don't like doing, like making my bed, doing my homework or looking after my sister. The trouble was the robot DID love doing those things. Soon the robot wanted to do everything! It even wanted to pick up our dog's poo!
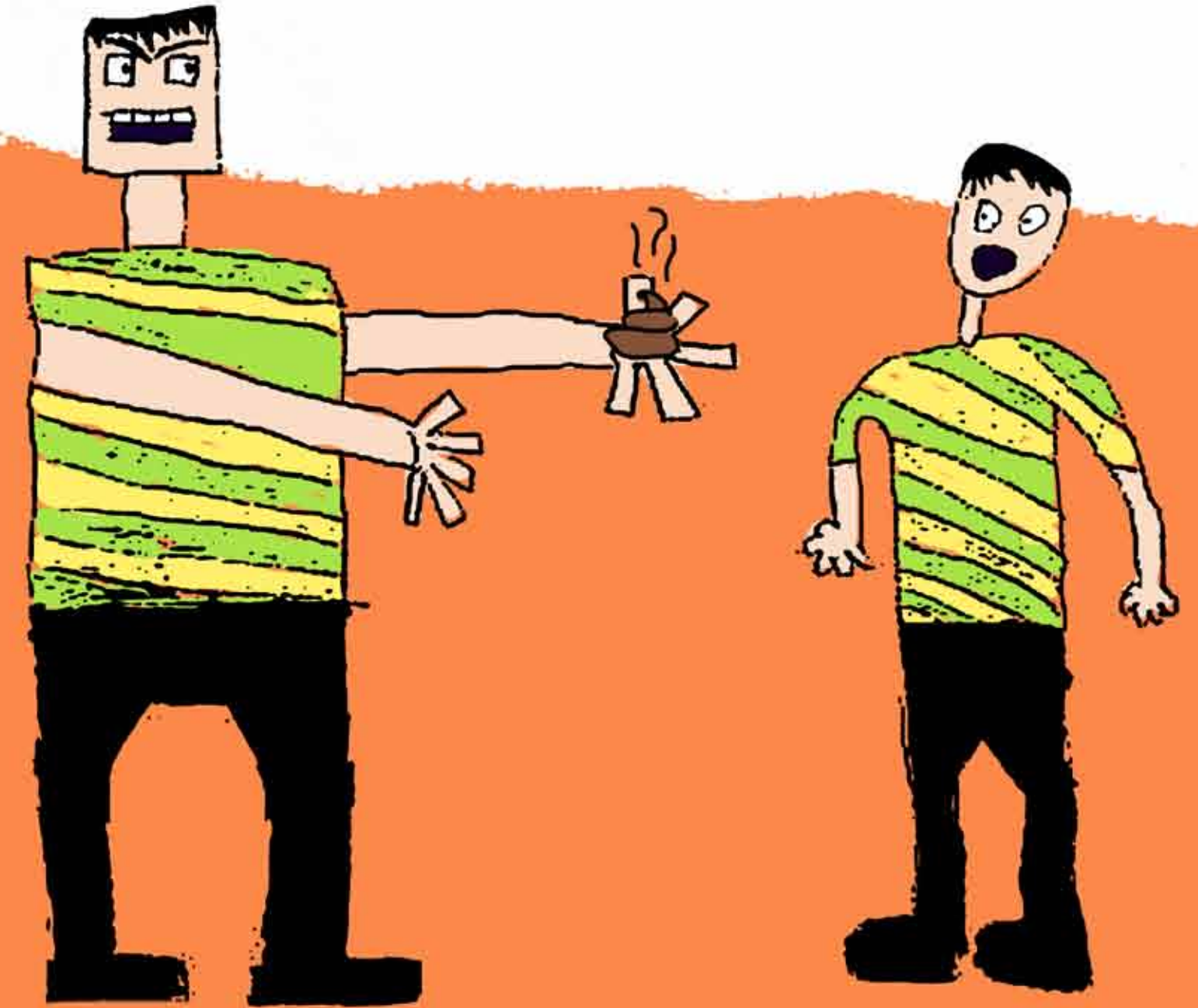
That's when the robot locked me in the fridge and ran off. It looked so much like me that no one, not even my friends knew it was actually a robot.

Luckily, I'm a great inventor. With the help of some meat pies, frozen carrots and a single ice cube I escaped!
I chased the robot all the way to my school.
When we got there my class was confused.

"That one's a robot!"

SCHOOL
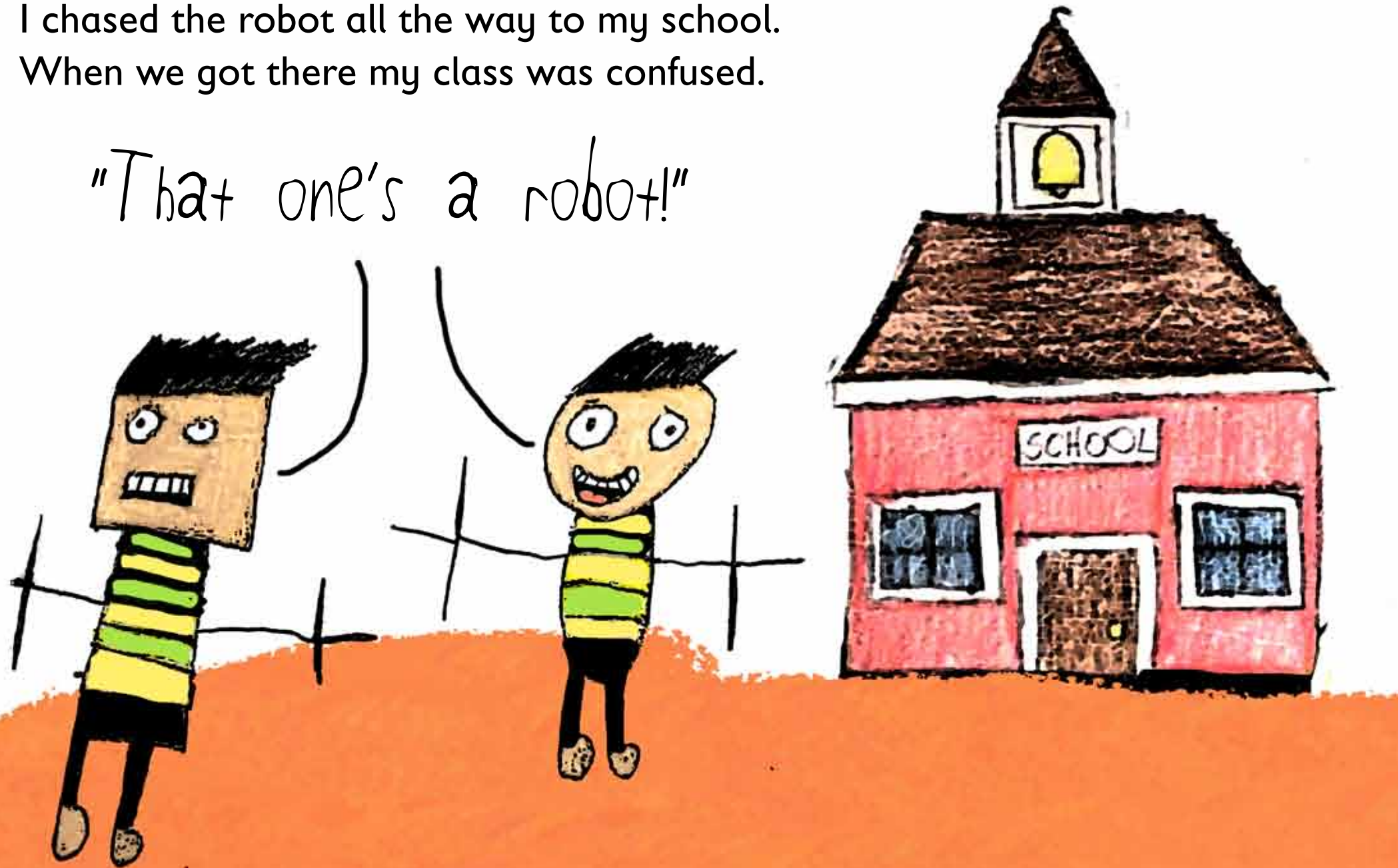
The robot and I both shouted, "That one's a robot!" At the same time.
My teacher thought for a moment then asked, "What's your name?"
The robot and I shouted, "MELTON!" At the same time.
"No," said the teacher, "what's the name on your birth certificate?"
I smiled. The robot frowned. My full name was VERY long.

"Melton Rendall War-Lion Sour-Patch-Kid Ellion Coconut Party-Popper Mentose!"

The robot knew it was game over.

These days I've used parts of the robot to build a Santa-Tracker and a swing-set.

But I'll never make another me. One is definitely enough!

Article 8 – You have the right to an identity, an official record of who you are. No one has the right to take this away from you.
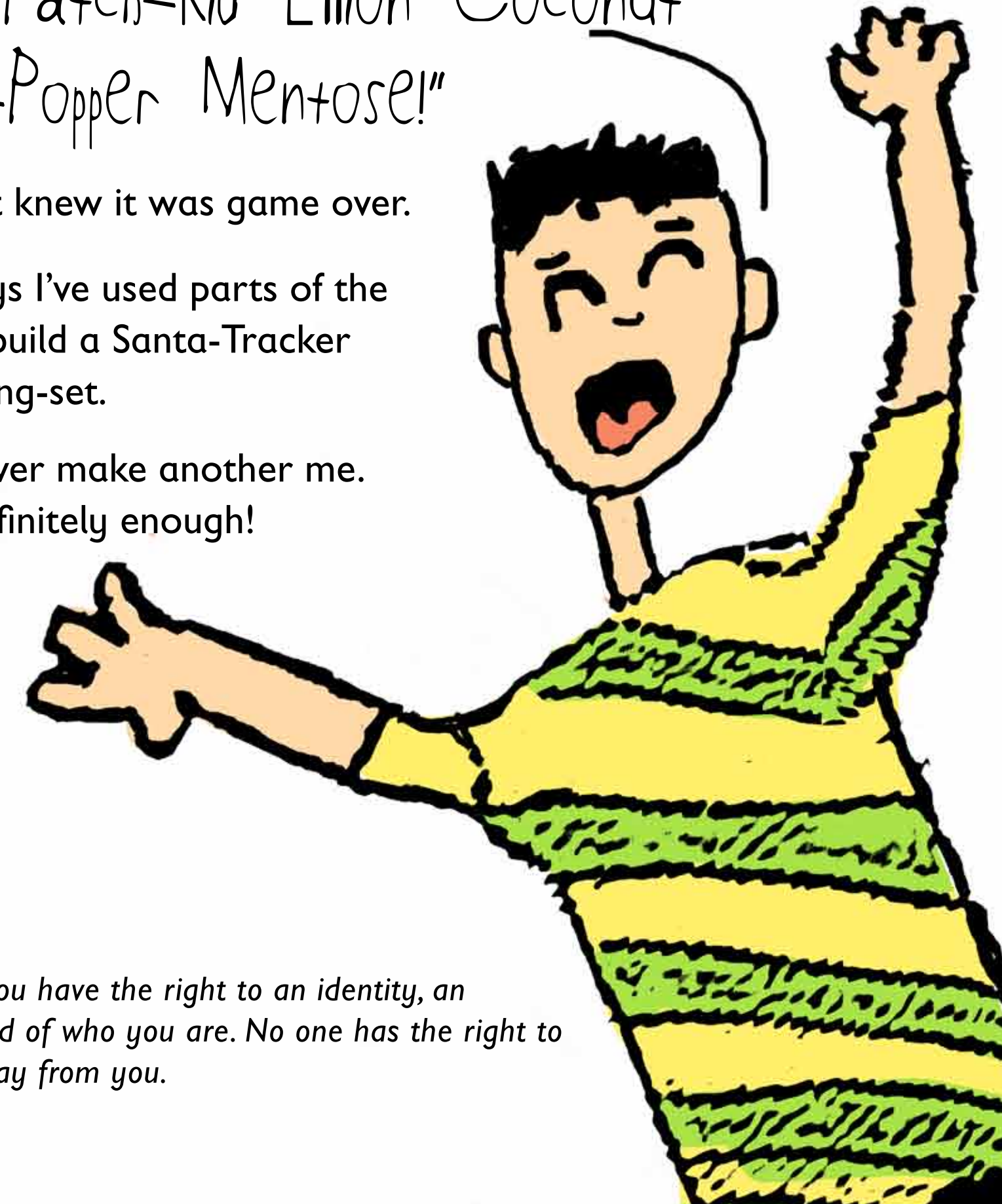
THE LITTLE BAT

There was once a little bat named Barnaby.
He was an excitable kind of bat. At night he would fly with the other young bats all the way to the high hills and back again. While they were there, they would listen to the oldest, wisest bat who would teach them how to do bat things like, loop-de-loops and how to fly as high as they could.

But one day Barnaby fell from the roof of their cave and hurt his wings. After that, he couldn't fly anymore and at night when the stars were shining like golden treasure in the sky, all the other bats would fly away to the high hills. All Barnaby could do was hang out in his tree and feel left out and miserable. He wondered how he would ever learn how to hunt for delicious fruit or how to look out for dangers like bush fires?

As the nights passed, the other bats could see that their friend was sad. So they decided that instead of flying away to the high hills they would invite the oldest, wisest bat to their tree.

From then on, every night when the moon was like a big bright marble in the sky, the oldest, wisest bat would come and teach them. They learned how to take turns to carry Barnaby and they did bat things like loop-de-loops and flying as high as they could, all together.

Article 23 – You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this convention, so that you can live a full life.

When I Grow Up

My school isn't a school for humans. It's a school for wizards and it's pretty great. The best things about my school are the magic spells and the cool experiments.

At the canteen you can order a plate of red wizard dust (and just so you know, it tastes absolutely superb). But you do have to be careful and watch out for the junior wizards because they haven't mastered their spells yet.

There are lots of things you can learn at my school. You can learn about boiling and stewing and maybe if you do you'll grow up to become a chef wizard.

You can learn how to float through the air and you might grow up to be a magician.

I'm not sure what I want to be when I grow up. Sometimes I think maybe an inventor or a master wizard or maybe an expert in potions?

My teacher says I can be whatever I want to be!

Article 29 - Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Uncle Dave

I have an Uncle Dave.
He thinks he's very cool because he's a grown-up.
A LOT of crazy things happen to Uncle Dave. He always says things to me like, "What do you know? You're just a kid."
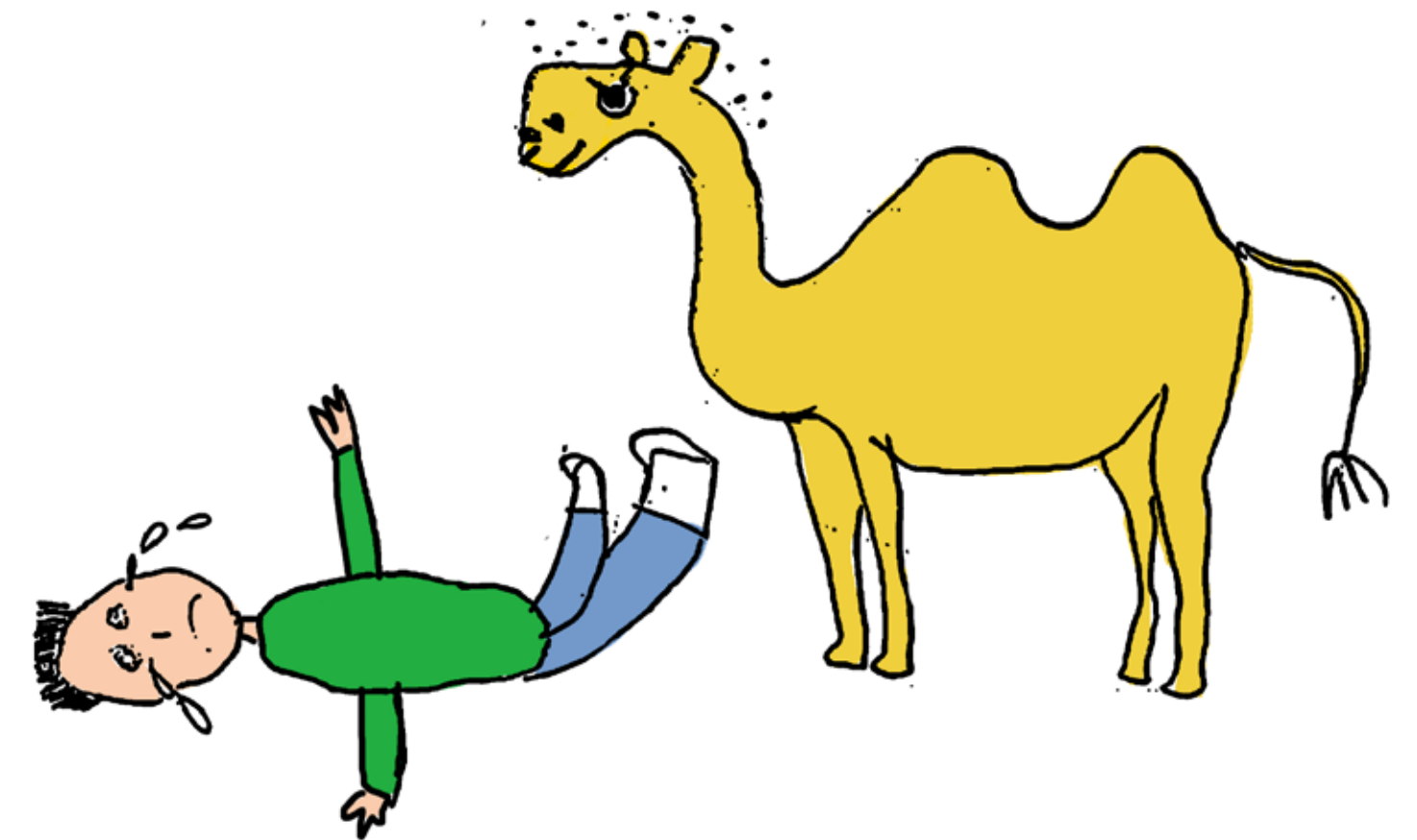But I still try to help him.
Like that time I said, "I don't think you should pat that camel Uncle Dave!"
"Why not?!" replied Uncle Dave.
"Because it doesn't look friendly, and it could spit on you!"
Uncle Dave did it anyway and do you know what happened?
The camel spat right in his face! The smell made him faint and he had to go to the hospital. I got to ride in the ambulance.

Another time when Uncle Dave was at the beach he saw a whale. He jumped right onto its back and I said,
"You better be careful Uncle Dave!" But Uncle Dave just shrugged. He wasn't even a little bit careful and do you know what happened?
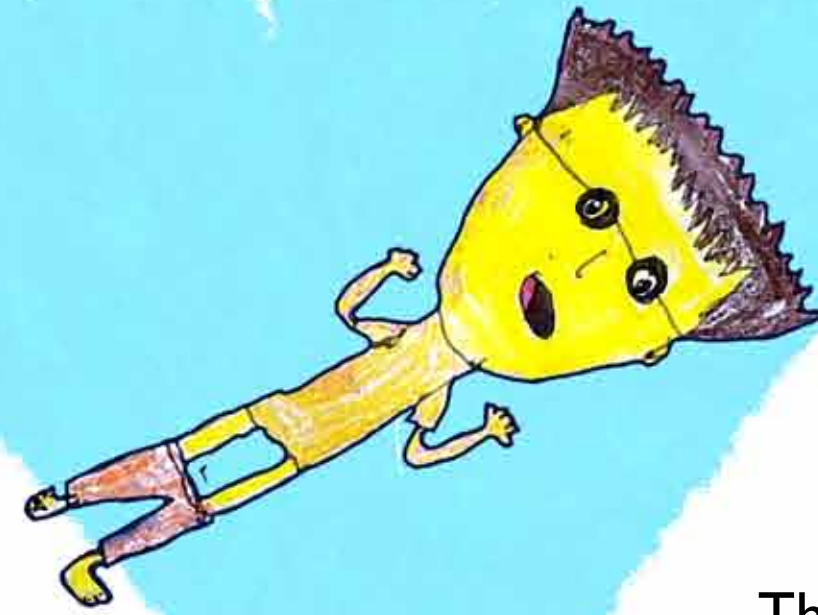
The whale blasted him right into the air and then his pants FELL OFF!

Yesterday, Uncle Dave said, "Hey, what do you think about this giant spring that I found next to a bin?"
I thought he was finally going to listen to me! I said,
"It's very nice, but I really don't think you should use it on the trampoline."
Unfortunately, Uncle Dave just said,
"You're just a kid, what do you know?"
And do you know what happened? Yep, you guessed it…

He went

REEEEEAAAAALLLLLLYYYYYYYYYY

High

All the way into space.

Article 12 - You have the right to give your opinion and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

About This Project

Children's Week in Australia celebrates the interests, opinions, talents and Rights of all Children by promoting the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Children's Week Book Project was a statewide initiative designed to connect and unite the children of Western Australia for Children's Week 2020.

With the support of award-winning WA Author and Illustrator, Briony Stewart, three story outlines were created for age groups 0-4, 4-8 and 9-12 years. These stories explored the Rights of Children and invited children to add their voices and make them their own. WA children from schools, early learning centres, libraries, community centres and families at home, sent through hundreds of creative stories with beautiful illustrations to match.
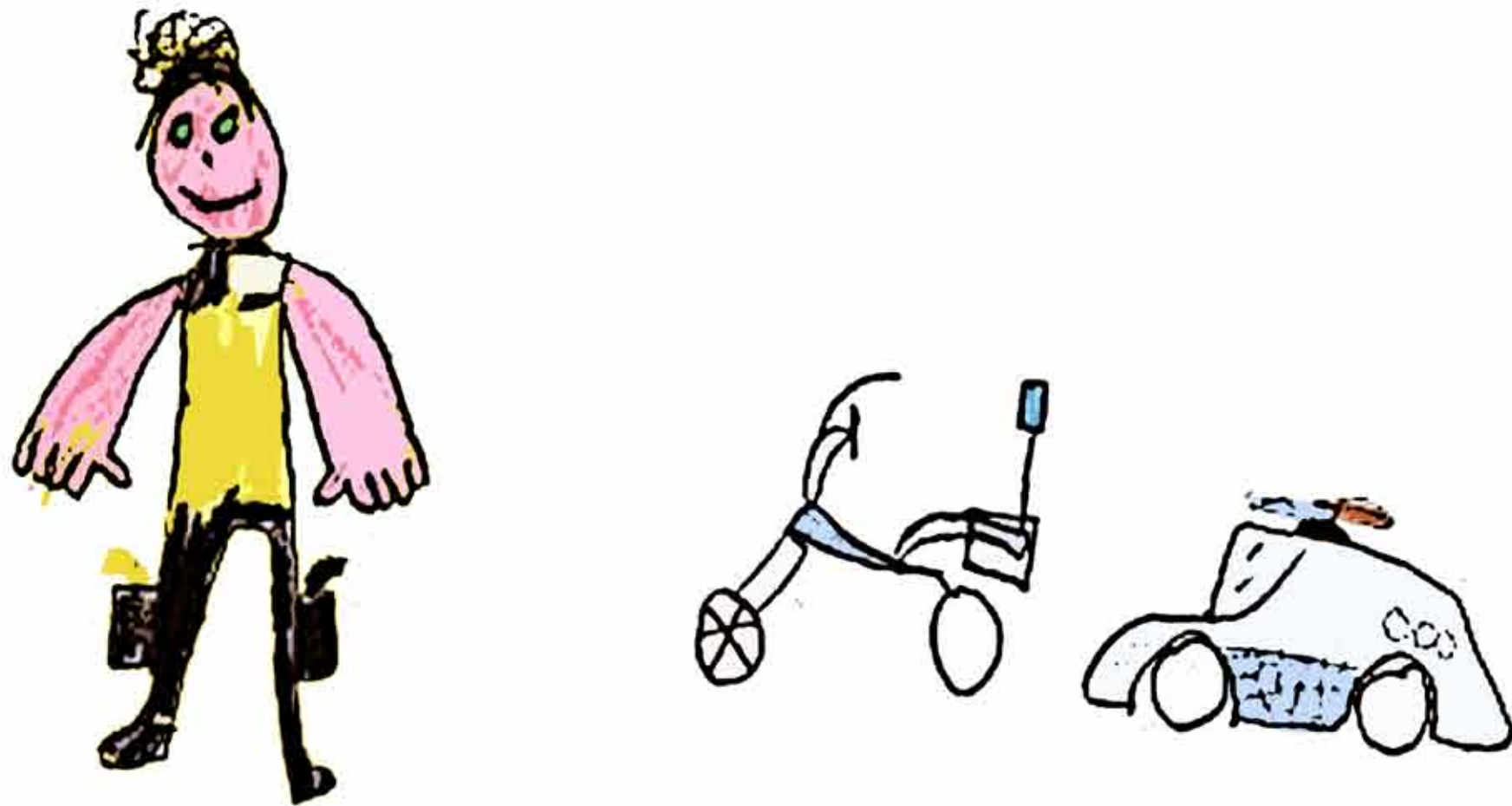
A selection of entries from multiple WA regions were compiled into the three collaborative books. Books that were written and illustrated by children, for children.

The Children's Week Book Project was brought to you by Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation. This project was guided by, Author and Illustrator, Briony Stewart, and proudly supported by Lotterywest and Healthway promoting Go for 2 & 5. A special thank you goes out to all children who entered and to the teachers, educators and carers who supported their children to enter.

Design & Editorial: Briony Stewart
with assistance from
Matthew Lindsay & Elizabeth Hogben

Meerilinga presents

CHILDREN'S
WEEK WA 2020

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Guided by Author and Illustrator, Briony Stewart, these stories were written and illustrated by children, for children.

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Meerilinga
promoting positive childhoods

lotterywest

Go for 2 & 5
FRUIT   VEG

healthway