

# The Spider and the Dragon



Written and Illustrated By Althea M. Böcys

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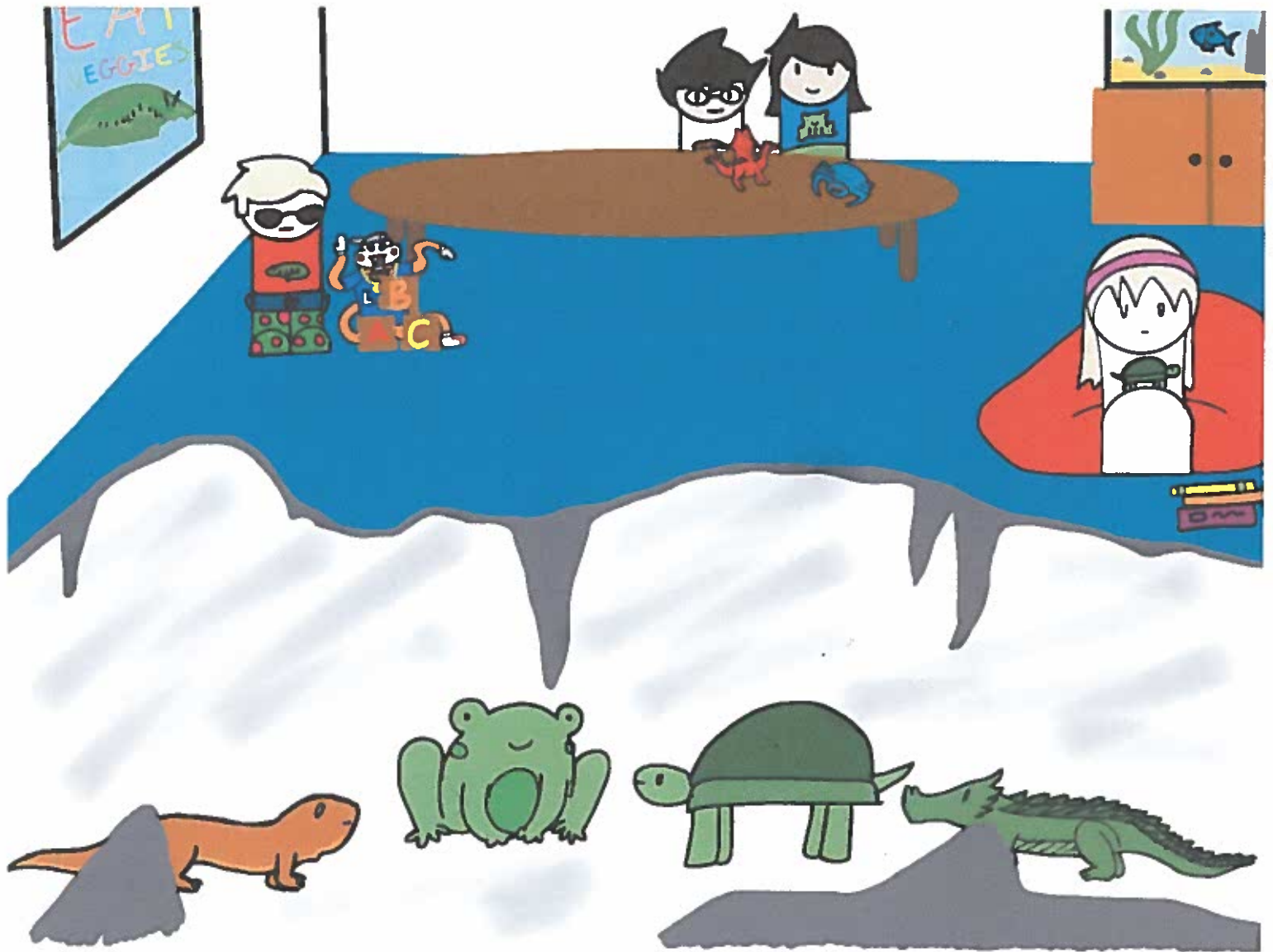
Dedicated to Emma, a super awesome buddy. May your imagination take you on an endless adventure.



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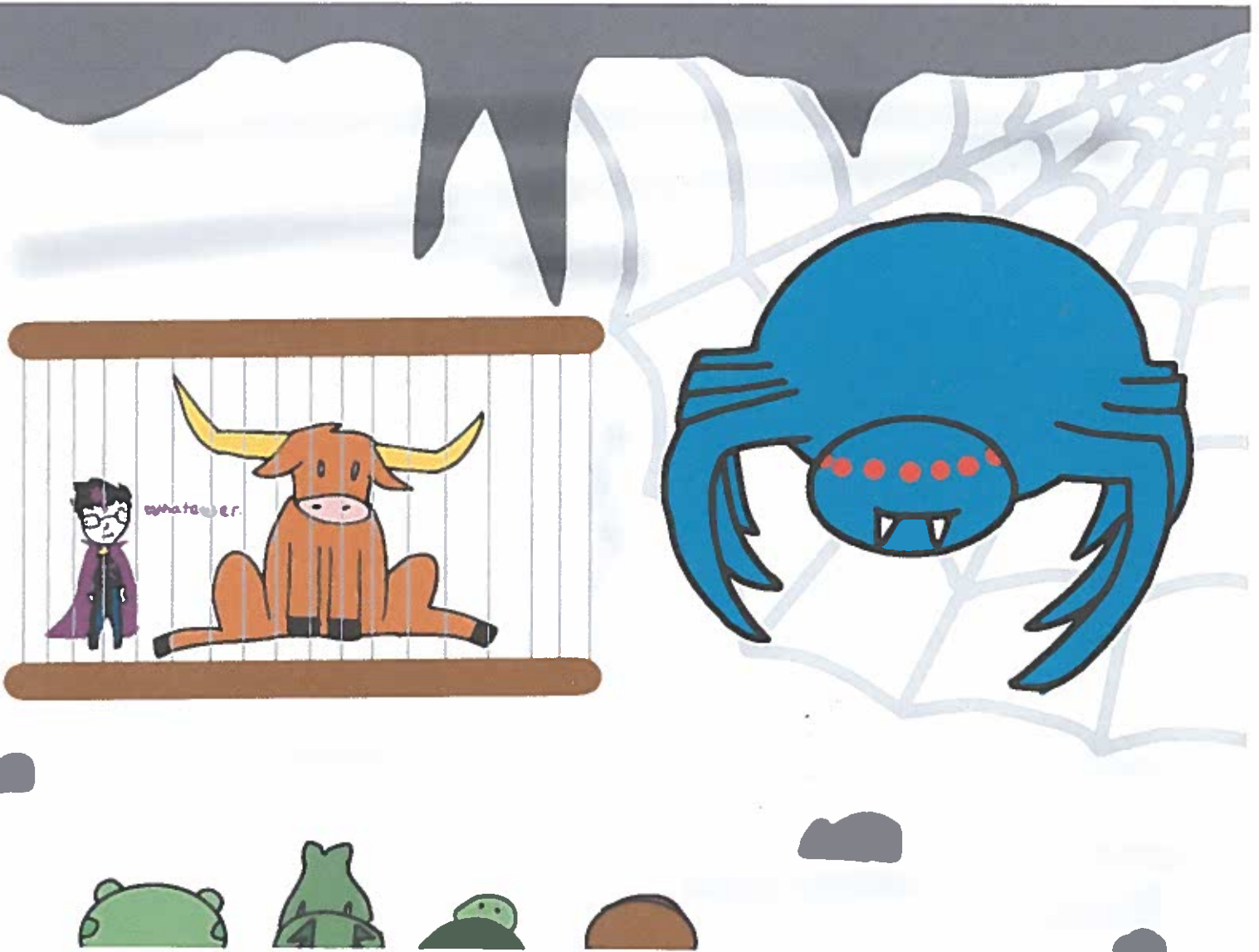
I stood in the Doctor's office, bored. I was going to get my shots today. My friends were with me, and we waited in the play area. When would the doctor call me up? It seemed to take forever, but to pass the time we became heroes on a mission.



It was dark and clammy, somewhere in a deep cave. Strands of sticky white rope wove around the rocks. A huge spider stood before us, along with a small cage.



A huddled shape sat behind the bars, and I knew what we had to do. But a silken voice stopped us. "Not so faaaaaaast. I need you to do something for me. Go to the Dragon's Lair and give me the Blue Diamonds. Then, I will release your friend. But not until you succeed."



Accepting the terms, we streaked out towards the cave entrance. A lush jungle stretched before us, and we had no idea where to go. The trees were so thick we couldn't see through them. Turning around, we saw Frog climbing the tree. She had found a way! Looking above the tree tops, she could see the pathway clearly.



Heading through the dense jungle, we heard a slow

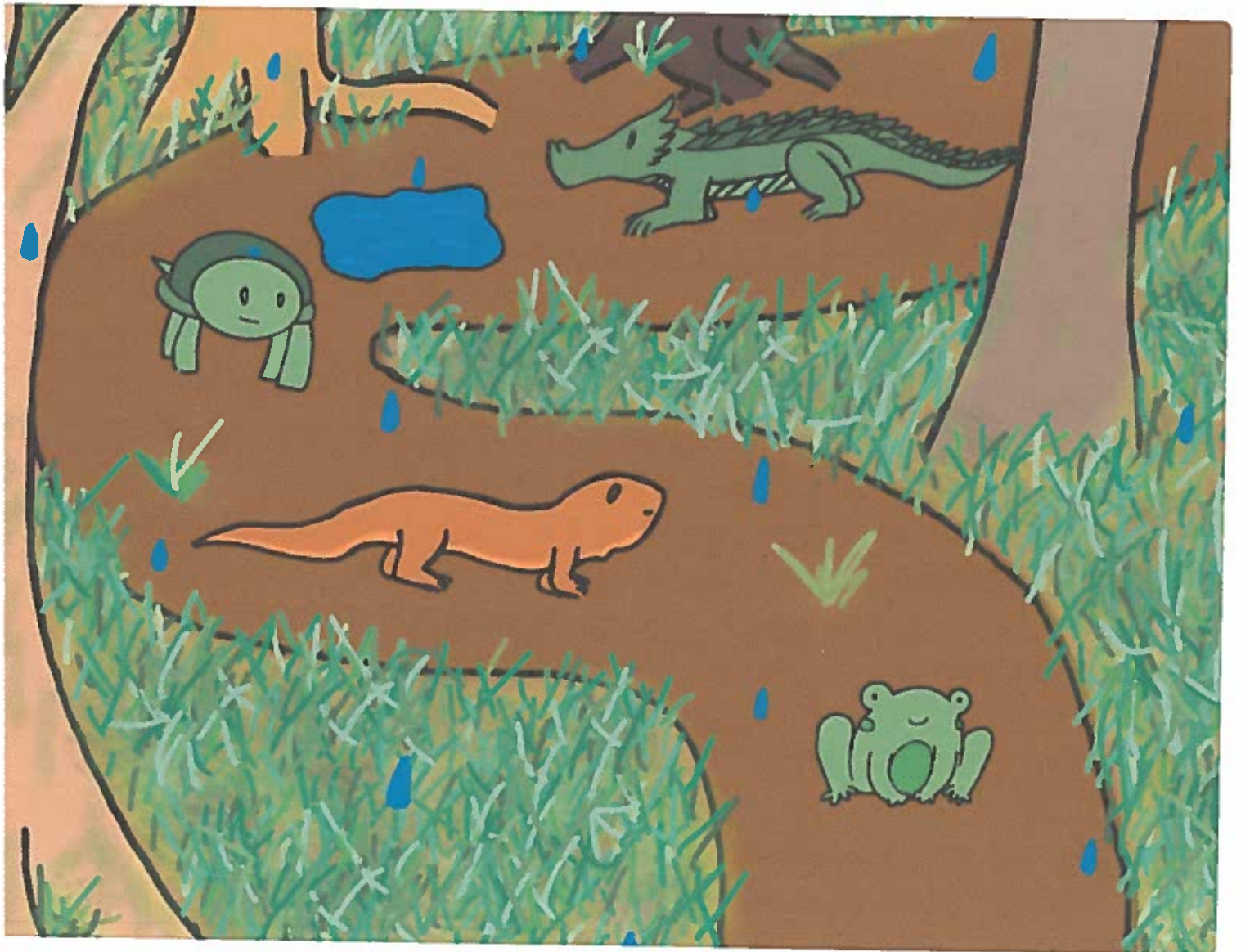
pit

pat

pit

pat

It grew faster, and more pit pats were heard. And then Turtle felt a drop on her head. It was just the rain!



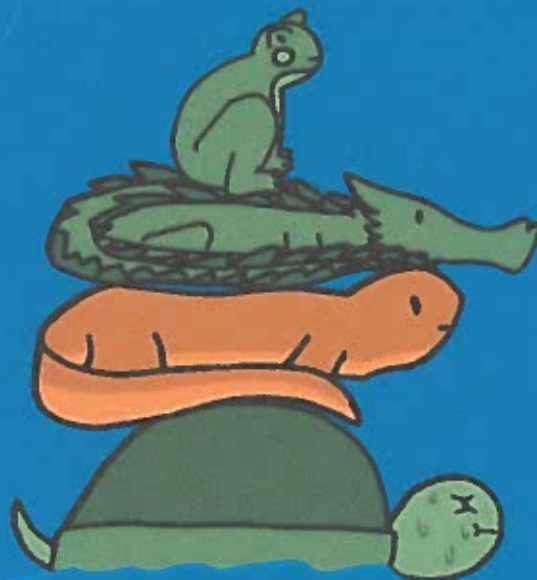


Soon all of us came to a clearing, and a downcast sigh came from all of us. For there was a river in our path, and all this rain had made it big and swollen. So big, in fact, that it covered the stepping stones that led across.

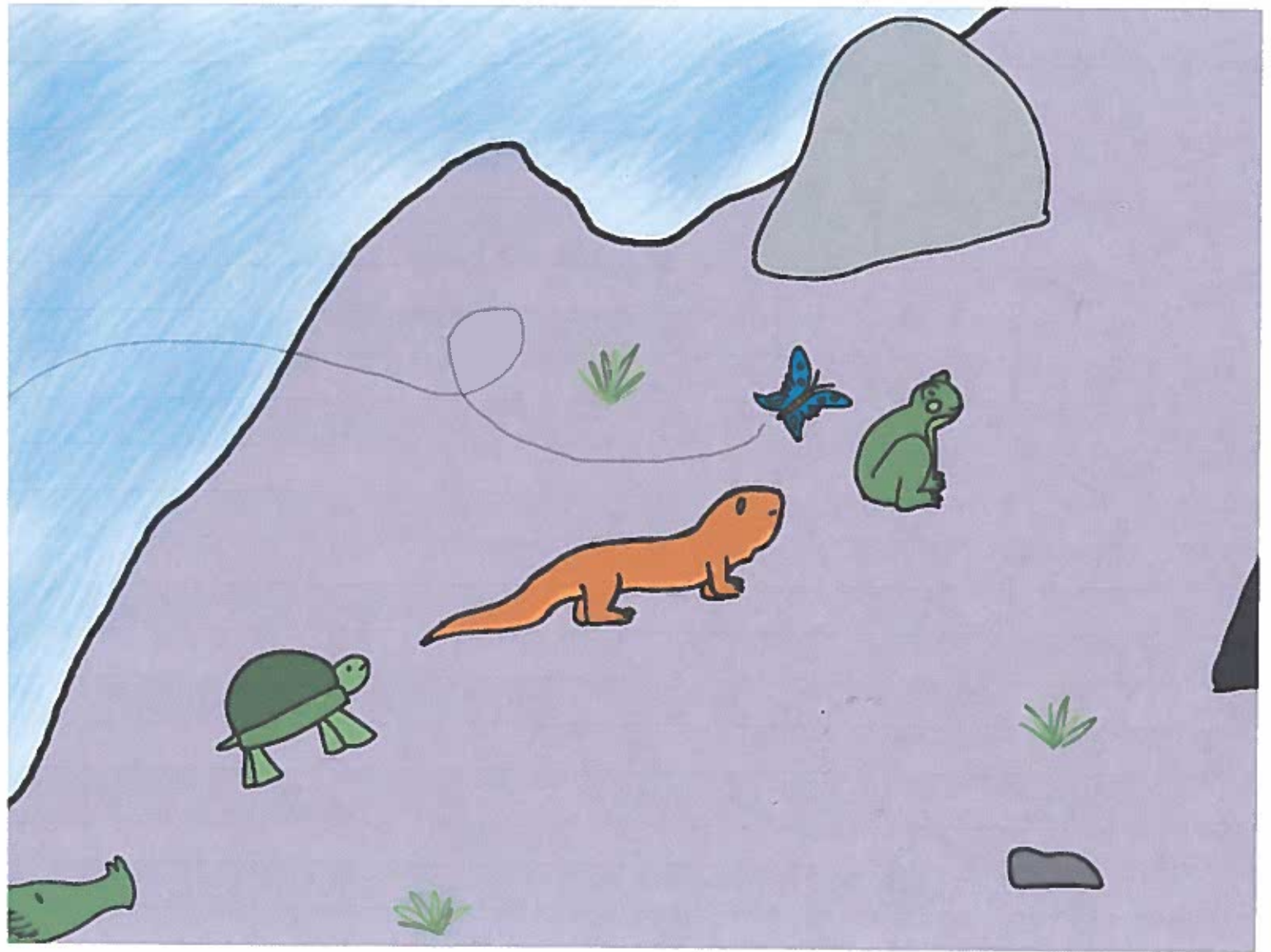




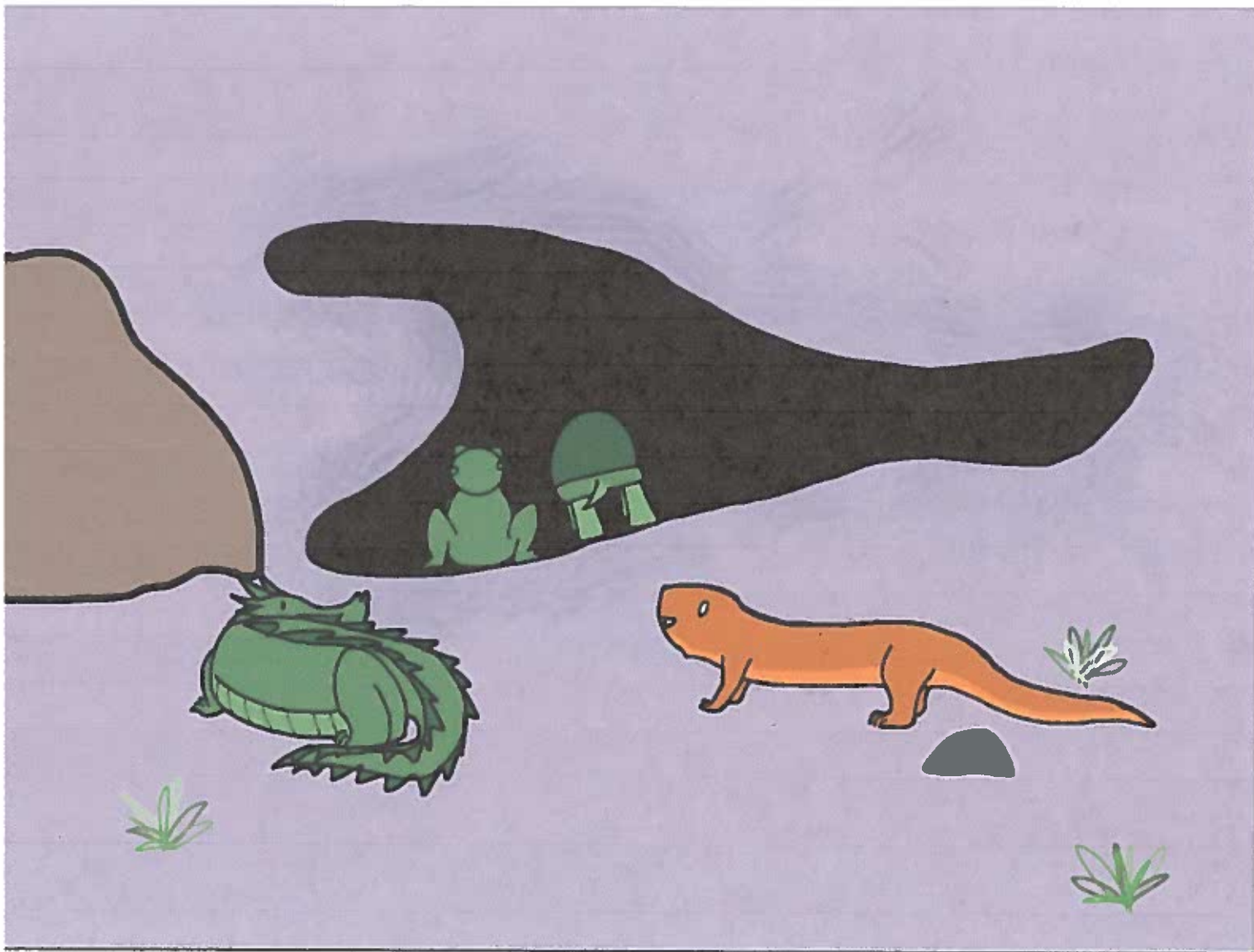
We almost turned around again, but Turtle came up with an idea. "Hop on my back!" She said. And so all of us clambered on top, wondering what she would do. Turtle started walking with all of us on her back, trembling from the weight. But she was strong, and started swimming across the river! I almost fell off halfway through, but Turtle got us to the other side safely.



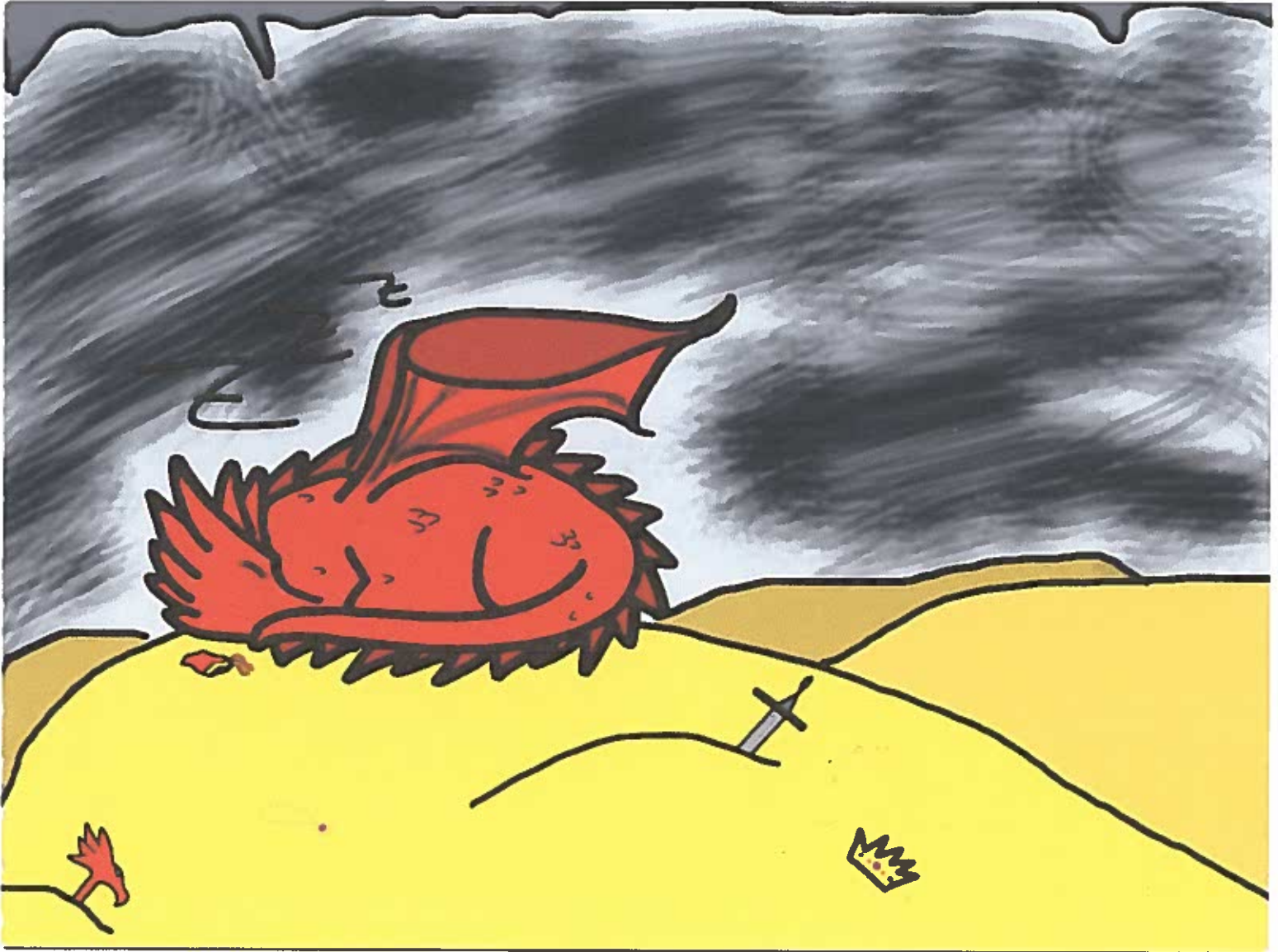
As we continued walking, Frog kept on checking to make sure we were on the right path. After I had been walking so long my feet hurt, she cried, "We are almost there! Just a little farther!" And so we kept marching until we came to a great mountain. Frog told us this was it, but I didn't see an entrance, so we kept moving.



It got steeper and steeper, until we couldn't go any farther. And we still couldn't find the Dragon's Lair. Luckily, Alligator knew where to find it. He saw a large rock blocking the entrance, that was why it was so hard to find. Just when we were about to celebrate, we got sad. How could we move the rock and get in? Alligator helped us solve that, too. Using his strength, he pushed so hard that the rock moved away! And so we began to enter the Lair.



We saw the great dragon lying asleep on a heap of treasure. Snores filled the cave, and we planned on how to take the Blue Diamonds. Frog said we should give up and go back. Turtle said we should steal it. Alligator said we should fight for it. I said we should wake her up and ask for them. "NO!" They all shouted, because they all thought it was a bad idea.



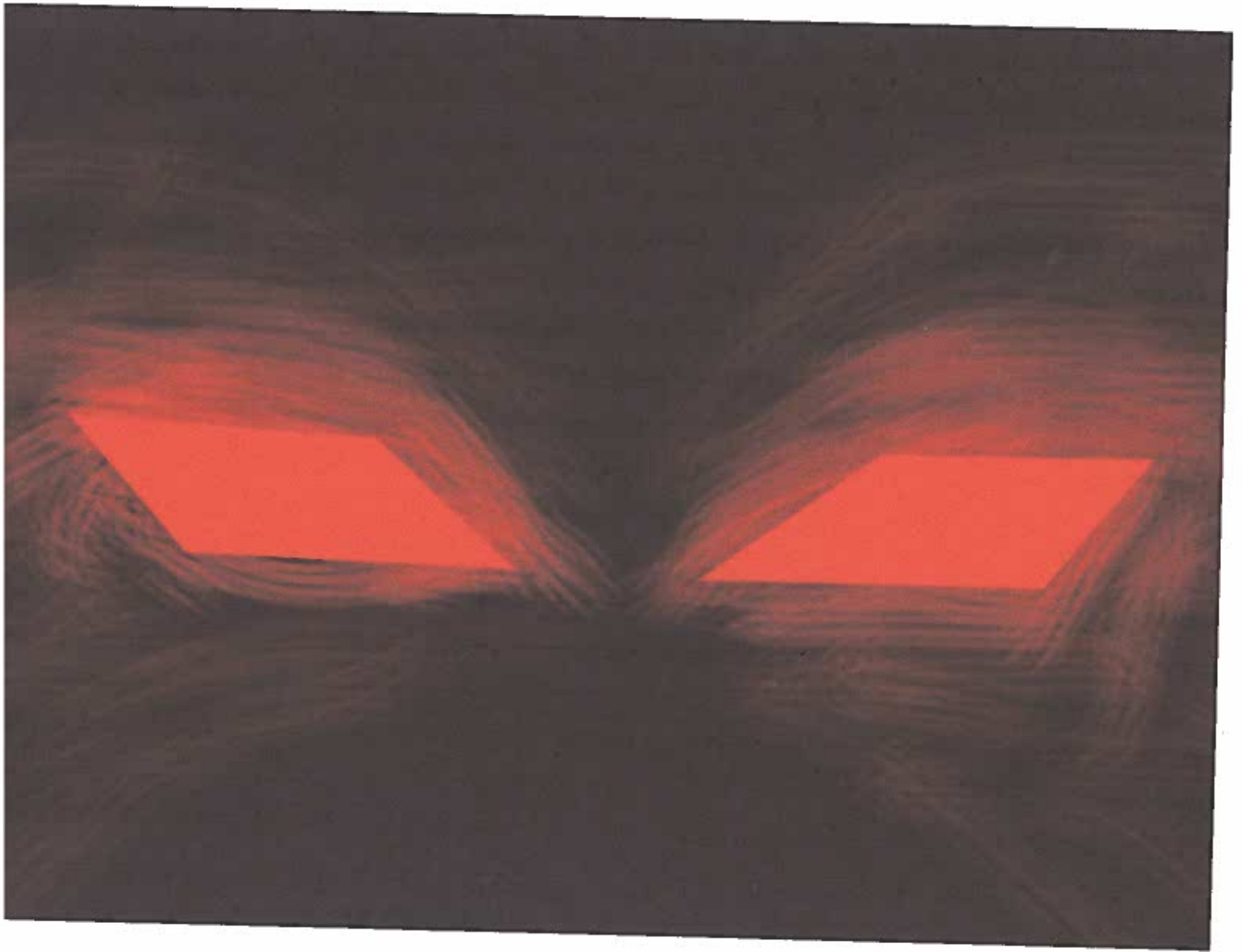


But their shouting woke up Dragon, who looked at us with a hunger in her eyes. **"WHO DARE WAKE ME?!"** She roared in anger. We all looked up, scared, until I spoke up. "W-would you please give us your Blue Diamonds? We—I—need them to help a friend...please?"

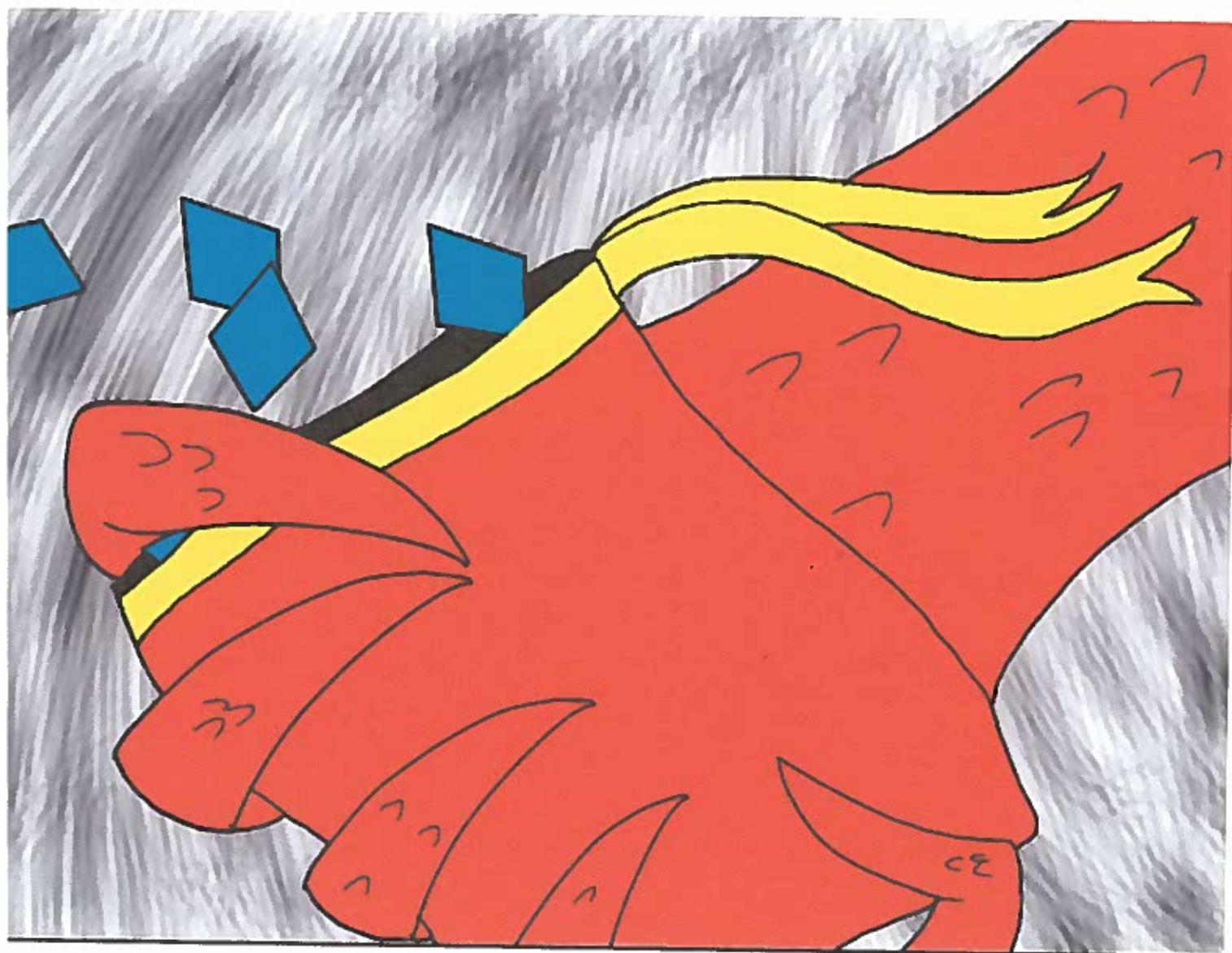


**"WHY WOULD I HELP YOU?! YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING FOR ME BUT WAKE ME UP!"** Dragon shrieked. She continued. **"DO YOU KNOW WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF THEY FELL IN THE WRONG HANDS? THEY ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS THING IN EXISTENCE! I SHOULD JUST EAT YOU NOW!"**

"I—I'm sorry for waking you up. But we really need them. If you give it to us, we'll leave..." I shuddered. Dragon looked at us hungrily, her eyes burning with anger.

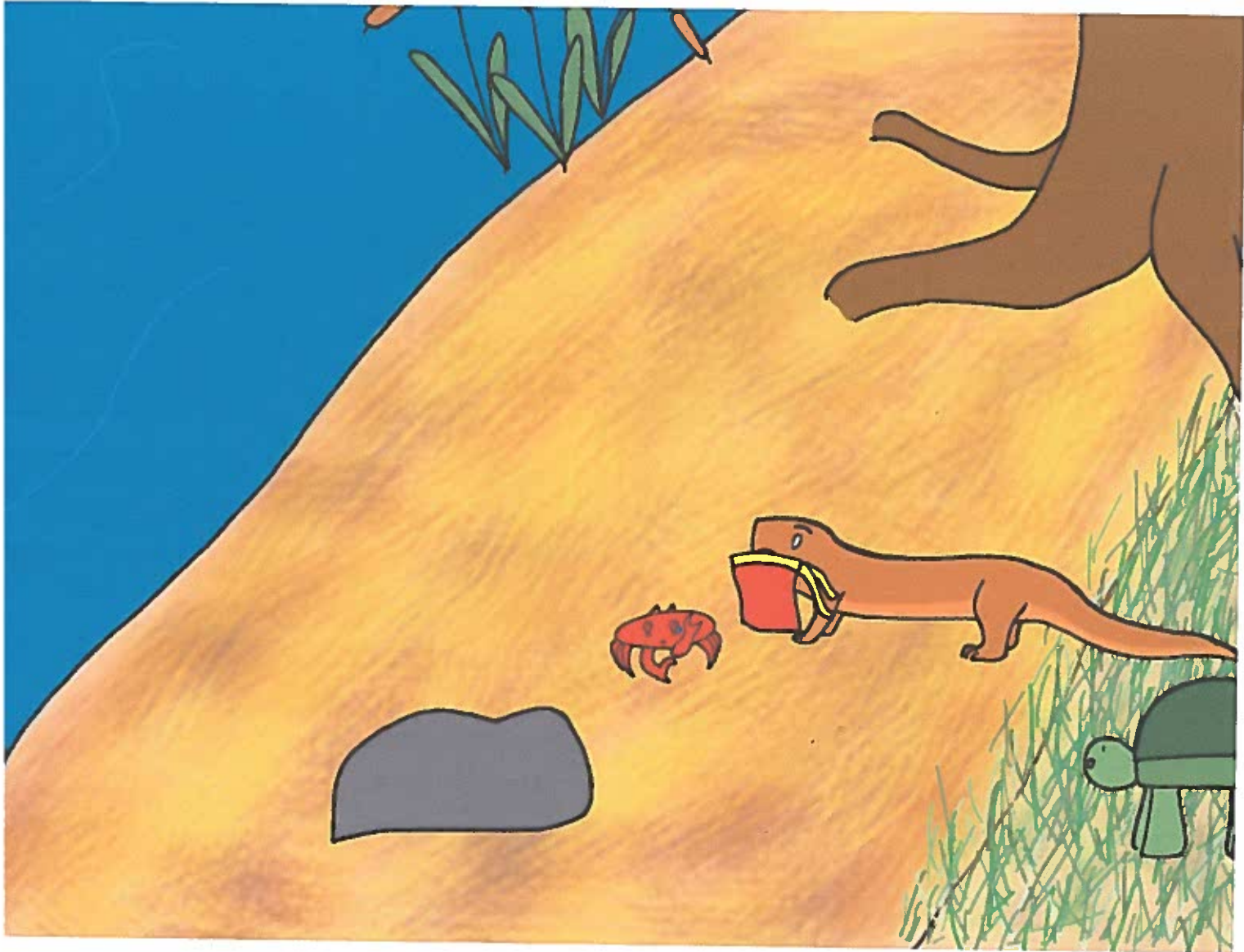


**"VERY WELL. TAKE THEM. BUT DO NOT COME CRAWLING BACK TO ME WHEN EVERYTHING GOES WRONG. GO SAVE YOUR FRIEND."** We all sighed, glad to have it over with. Dragon handed us a velvet bag, and inside you could hear the *chink chink* of diamonds against each other. I took it slowly from her claw, and we headed back through the cave.





Traveling through the jungle, it was easier heading back. I just had to be careful not to drop the Blue Diamonds. Otherwise, all our hard work would be for nothing. At one point, a crab had tried to take the bag from us, but it was too small to get it.



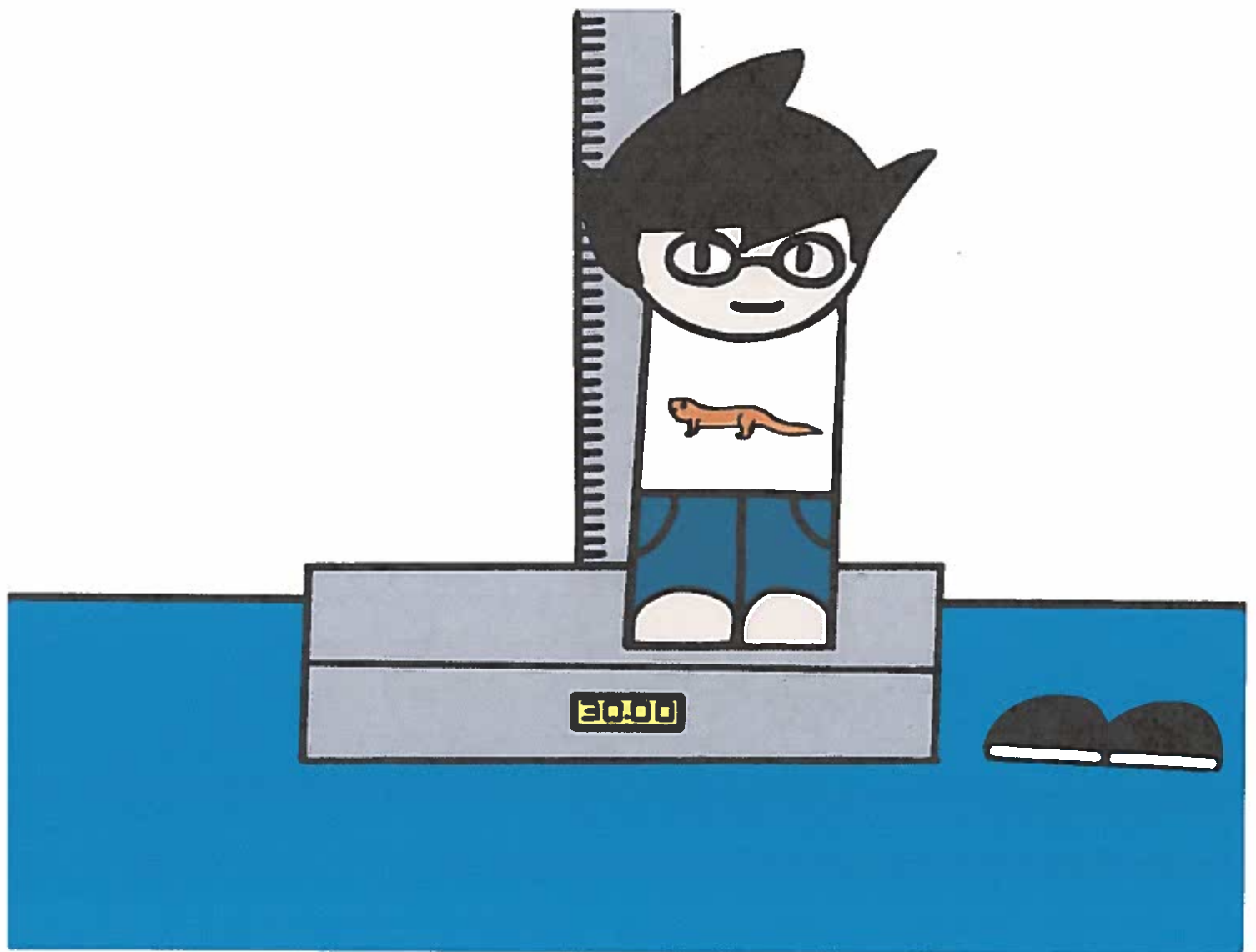


Eventually, we made it back to Spider's cave. Going through the rocky tunnel, we finally saw Spider. "Diiiiiiid you get the Blue Diamonds?" She asked. We all answered 'yes' at the same time, and handed her the bag. "Veeeeeeery well, a deal is a deal." And with one smooth motion, she unlocked her prisoner's cage.

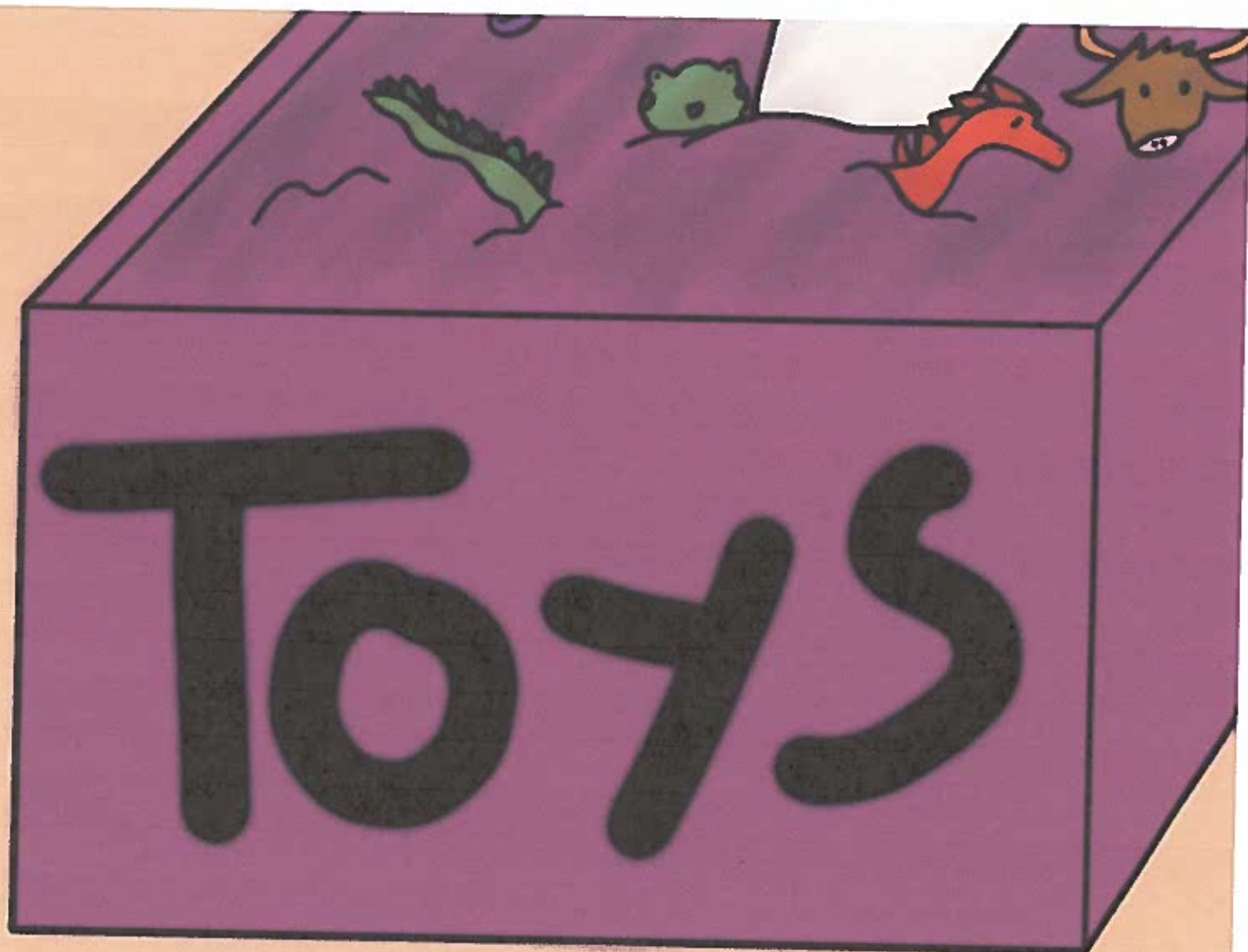


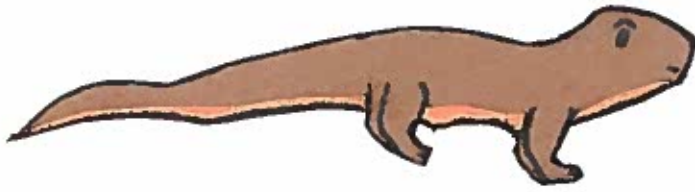
"Is there a Jones here? It's time to get your shots." I looked up, not so nervous now. I guess being with my friends helped me overcome that.

"Yes, that's me!" I answered bravely. I realized that shots would help me more in the long run, and even if it may hurt now, the end prize makes up for that. The nurse looked up, smiling. "Someone sounds excited! Take off your shoes, please. Then step on the scale. I want to see how much you weigh!"



I stepped out of the office, and the shots hadn't hurt at all. My mother congratulated me, and the nurse said I could take something from the toy box. I chose a toy dragon.  
"Thank you," I whispered.





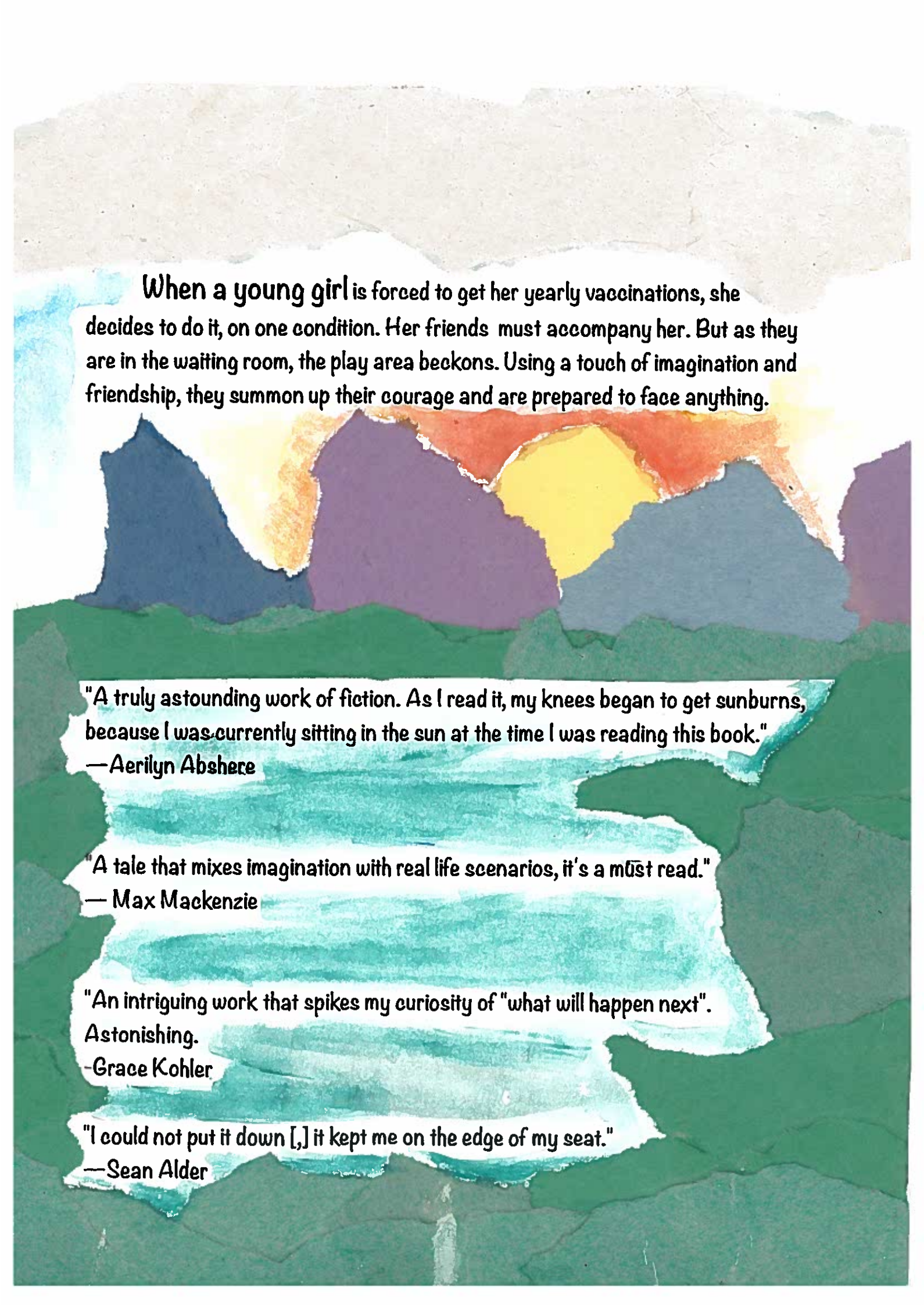
## About the Author/Illustrator



Althea M. Böcys loves to do many things. This is her second children's book, and she hopes to write many more. Attending Cheldelin Middle School, she plans on being a biochemist when she grows up. She has lived in Oregon all her life, but has moved from place to place in it. She enjoys traveling around, and has been to many places such as London, South America, Canada, and Washington D.C. Her hobbies include reading, drawing, writing, and obsessing over things like the webcomic Homestuck. Other obsessions include (but are not limited to) Lord of the Rings, The Name of the Wind, Starwars, Startrek, Dungeons and Dragons, and Doctor Who.







When a young girl is forced to get her yearly vaccinations, she decides to do it, on one condition. Her friends must accompany her. But as they are in the waiting room, the play area beckons. Using a touch of imagination and friendship, they summon up their courage and are prepared to face anything.

"A truly astounding work of fiction. As I read it, my knees began to get sunburns, because I was currently sitting in the sun at the time I was reading this book."

—Aerilyn Abshere

"A tale that mixes imagination with real life scenarios, it's a must read."

—Max Mackenzie

"An intriguing work that spikes my curiosity of "what will happen next".

Astonishing.

—Grace Kohler

"I could not put it down [,] it kept me on the edge of my seat."

—Sean Alder