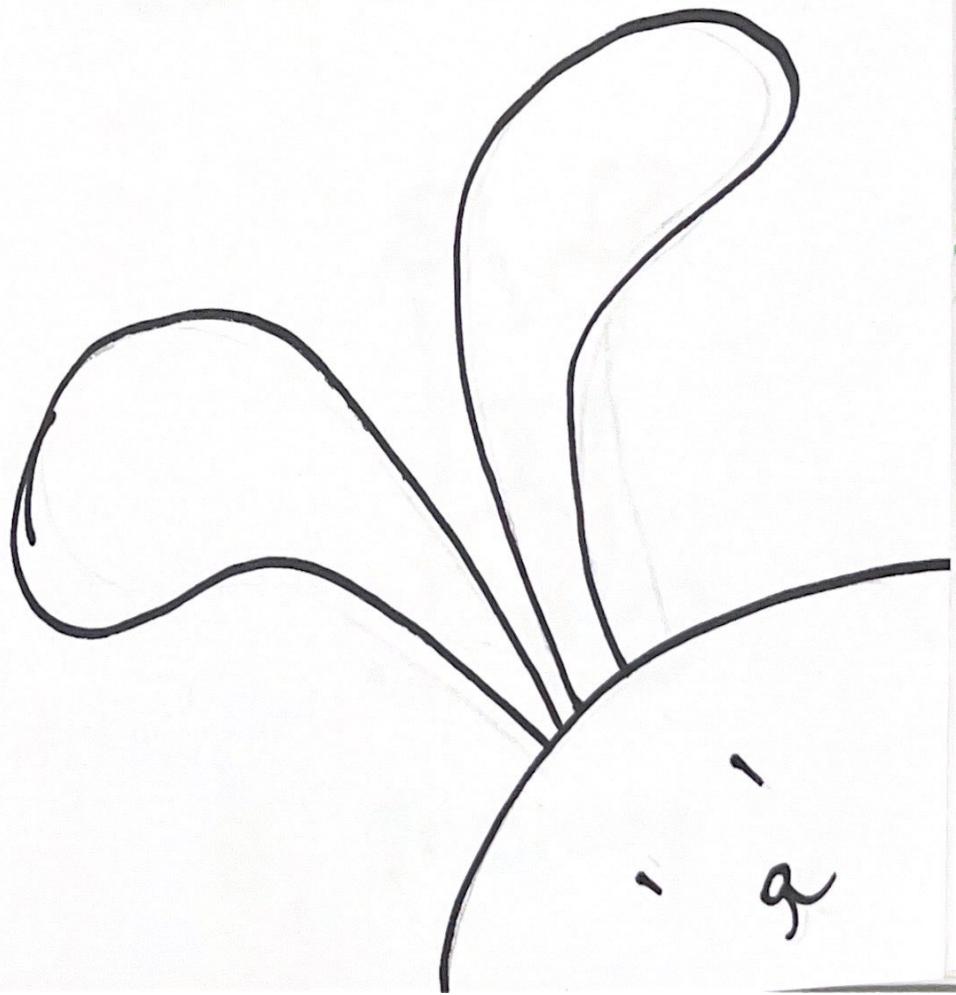
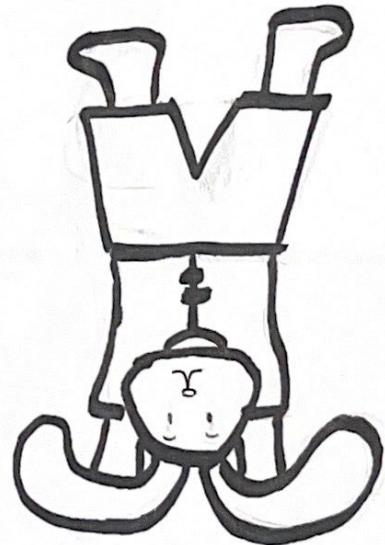


For the lost children.

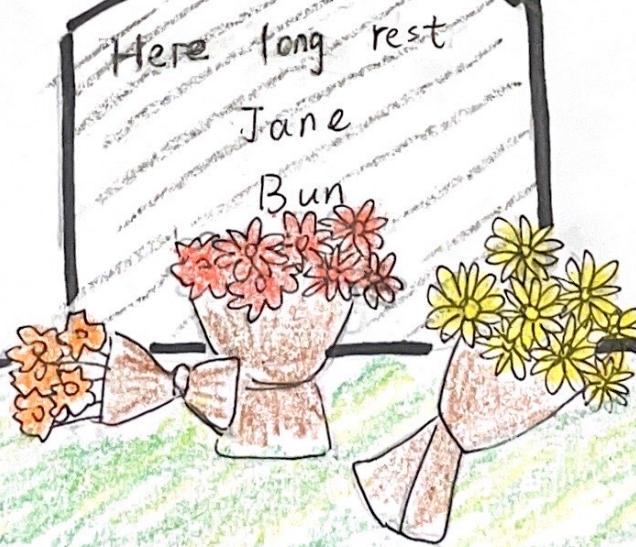


Hi, Bye,  
mom.



By J: Zheng

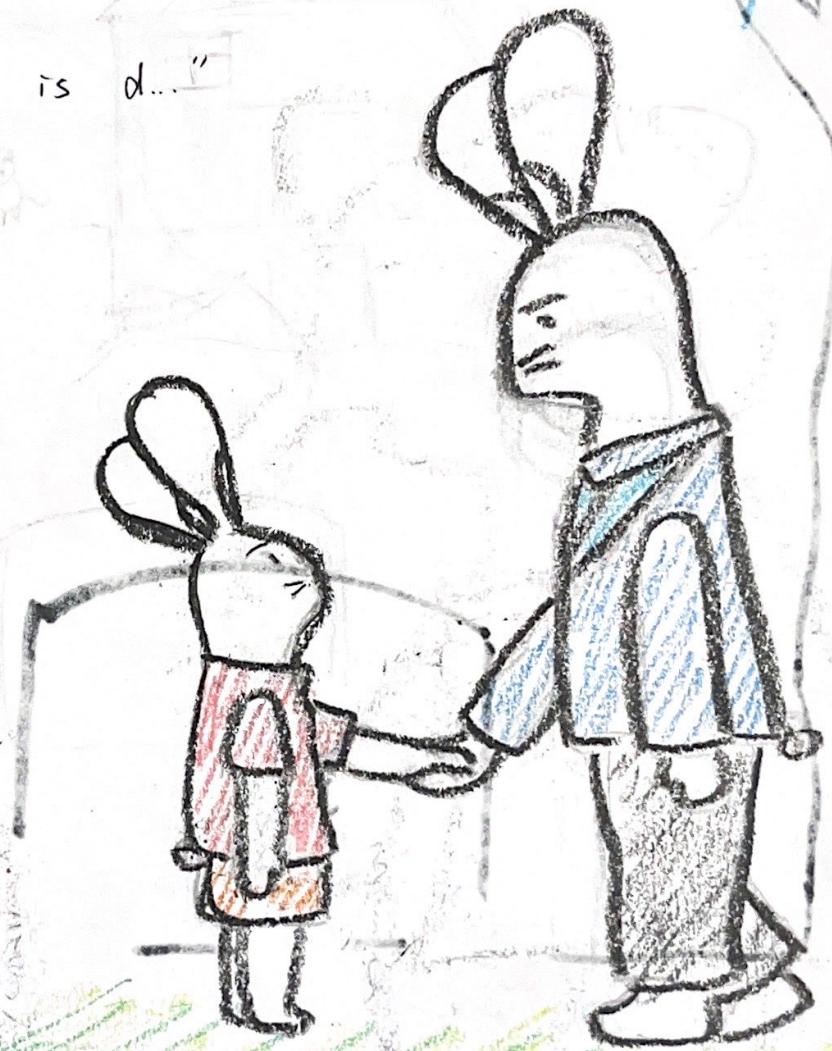
Residences in the Animal Hill  
are gathered in the backyard  
of the Buns.



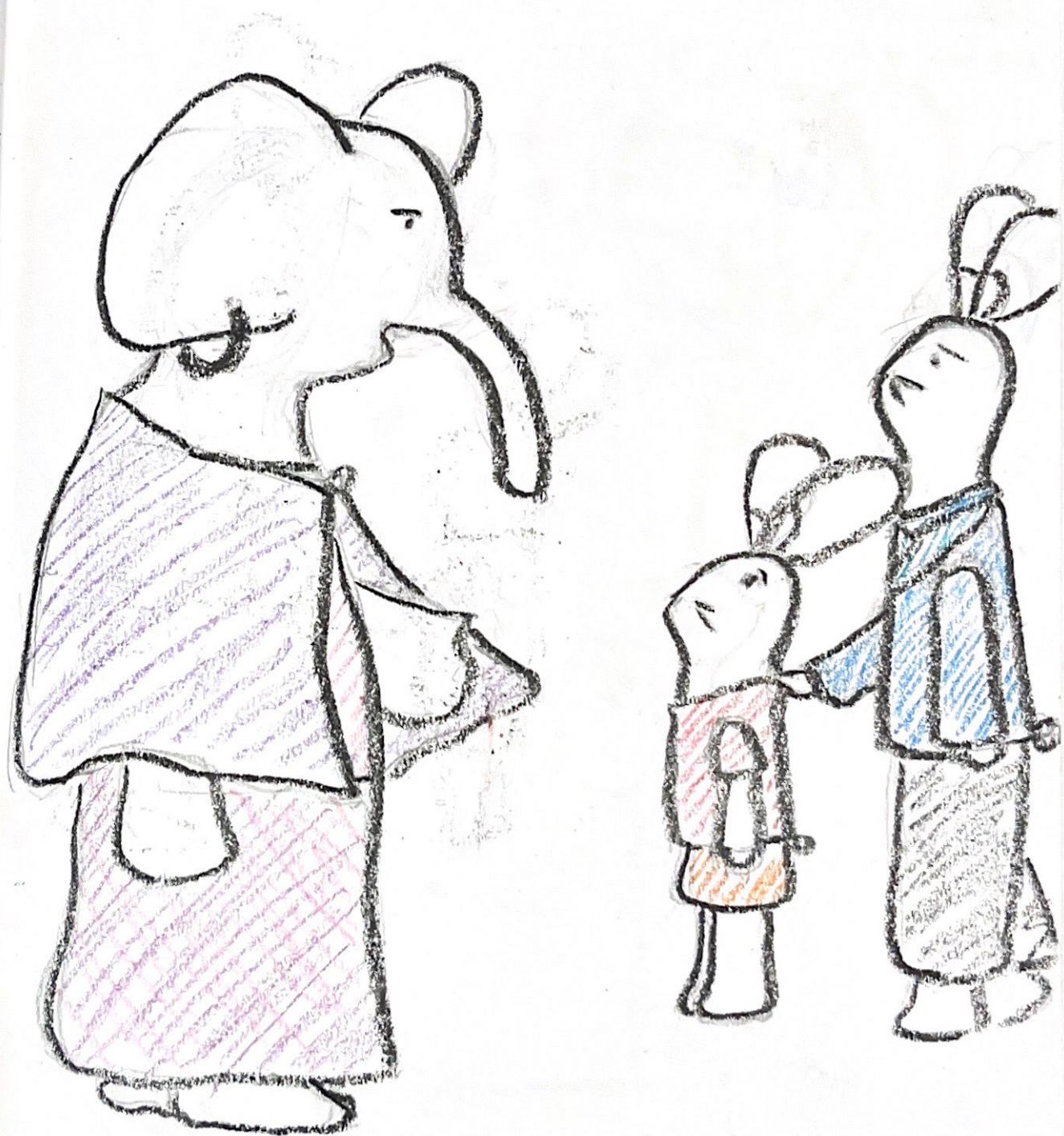
"What does that mean?" asked Mike.

"Why is mom sleeping in the yard not in bed?"

"Because your mom is d..."

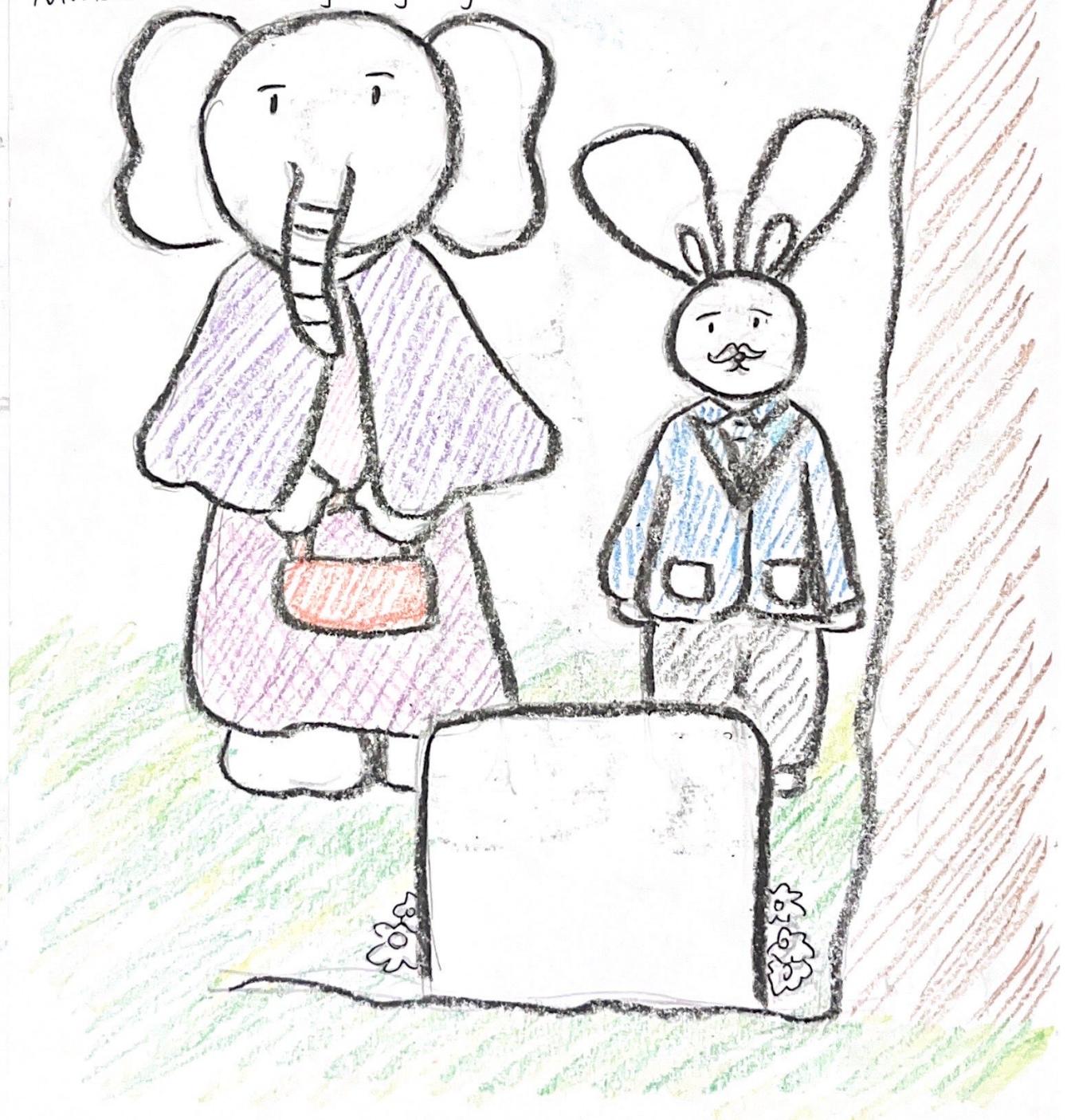


"She just needs a rest." interrupted by Mrs. Elephant'



"He is too little to know about death. Just tell him Jane is sleeping. He will know when he grows up." Mrs. Elephant told Mr. Bun. "Trust me, I raised little Elle. I know kids better than you."

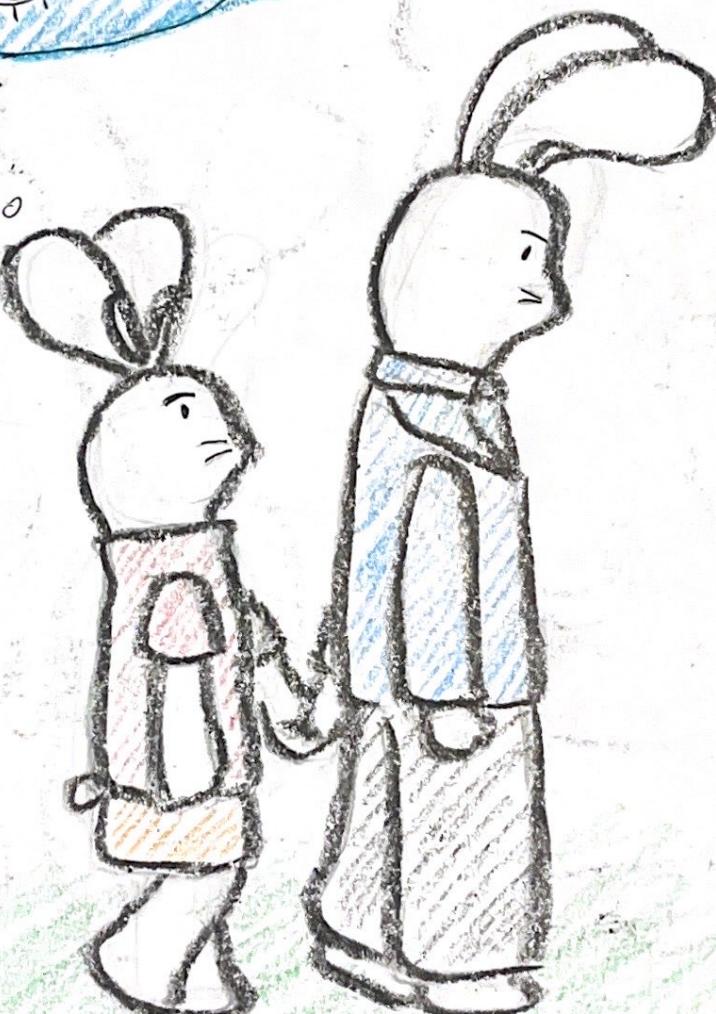
Mr. Bun didn't say anything.



And told little Mike,  
"Mom is just ... sleeping ... for a  
long time."



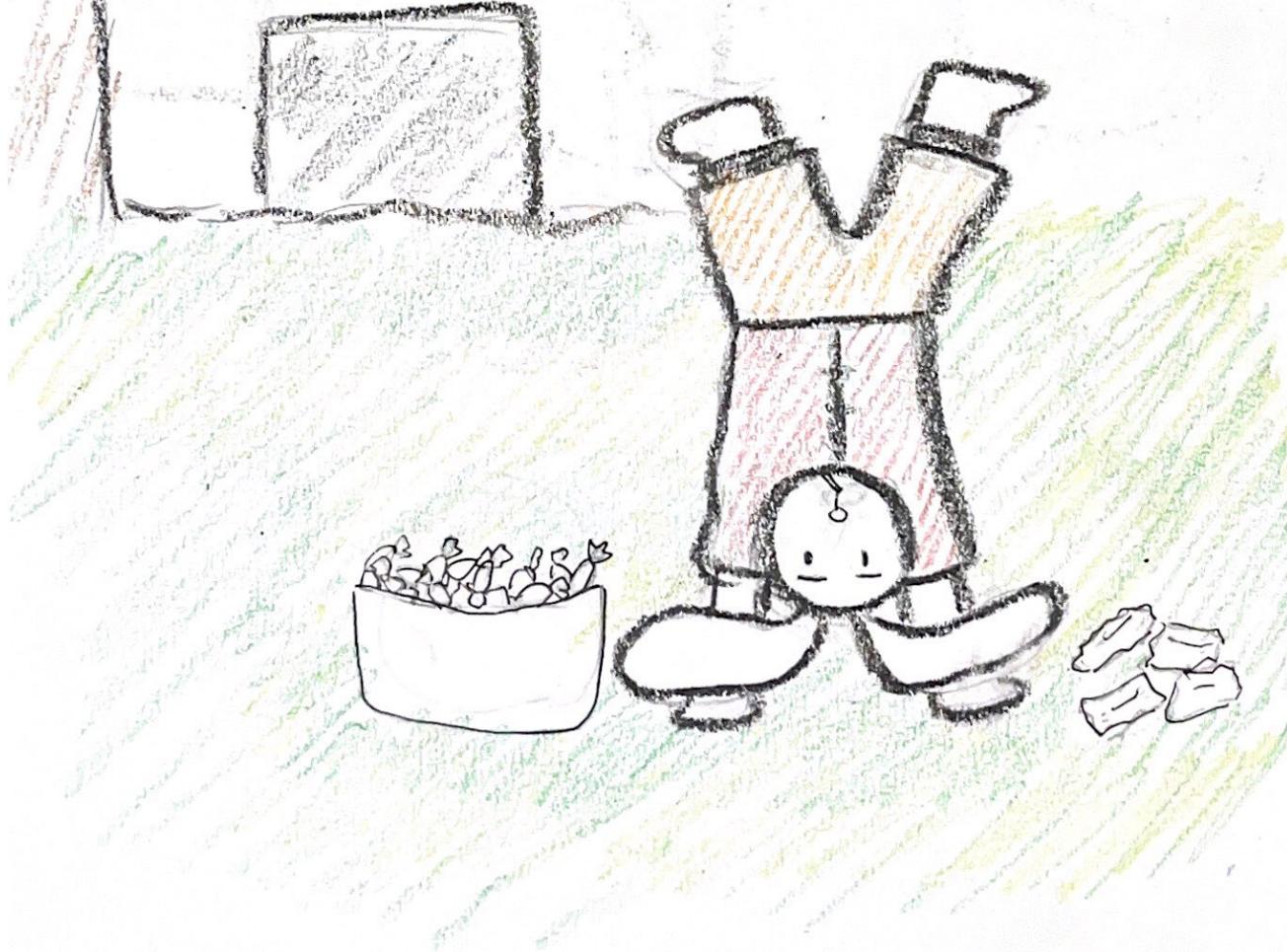
Mike nodded his head, but he  
made a decision: "I'm going to  
wake mom up."

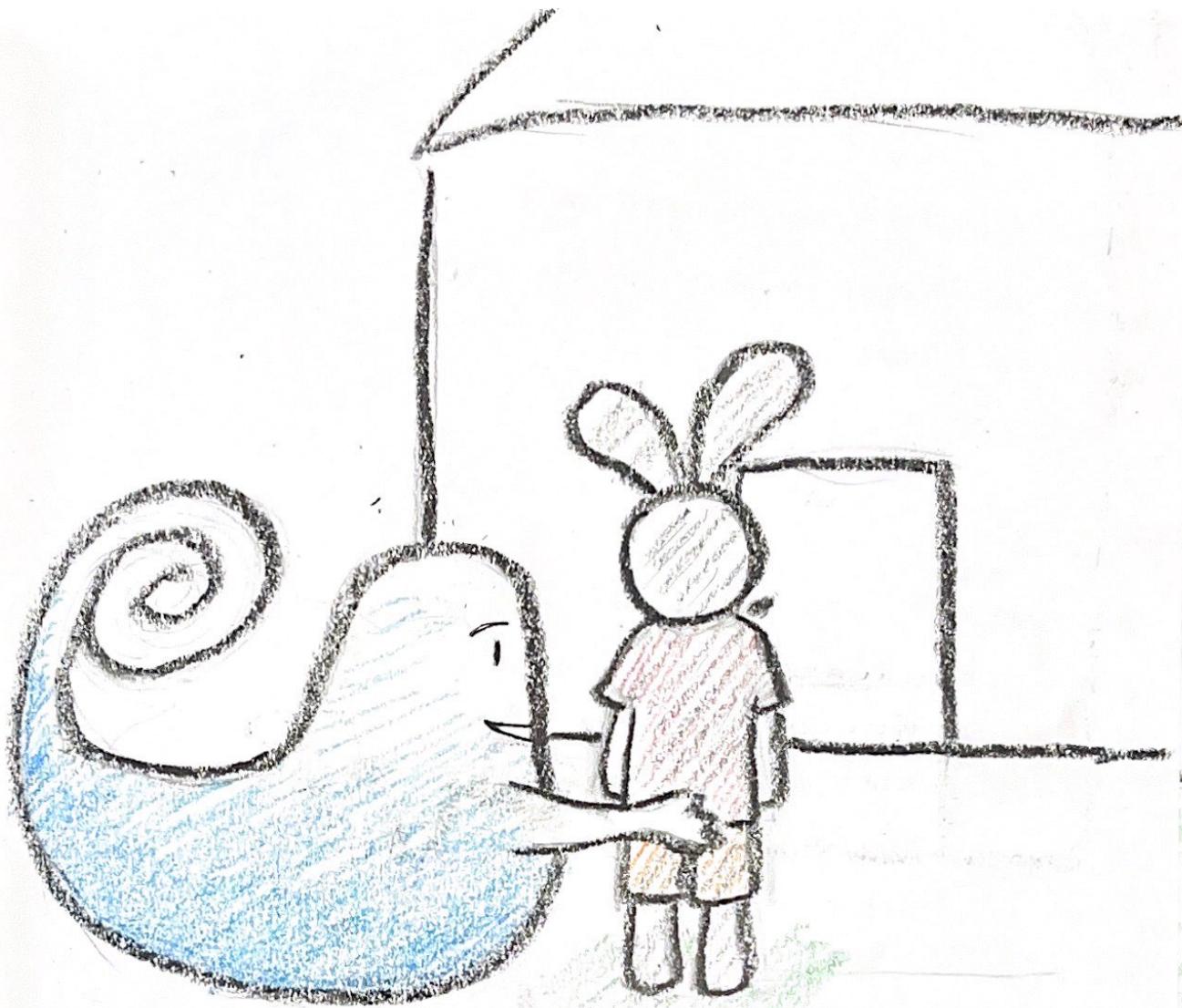


The next day, Mike went back to the yard, where Jane sleeps.

"Mom, wake up! Look, I'm eating a basket of candies!"

Mike turned upside down with a full mouth of candies.



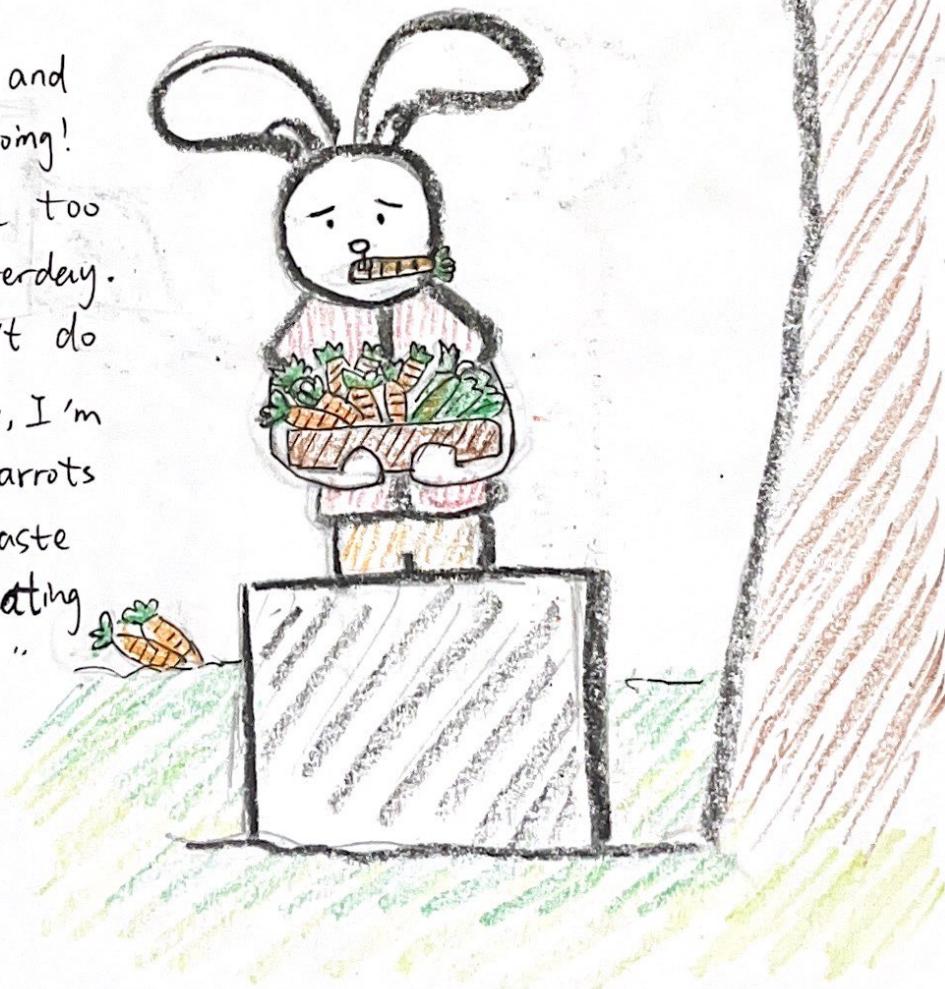


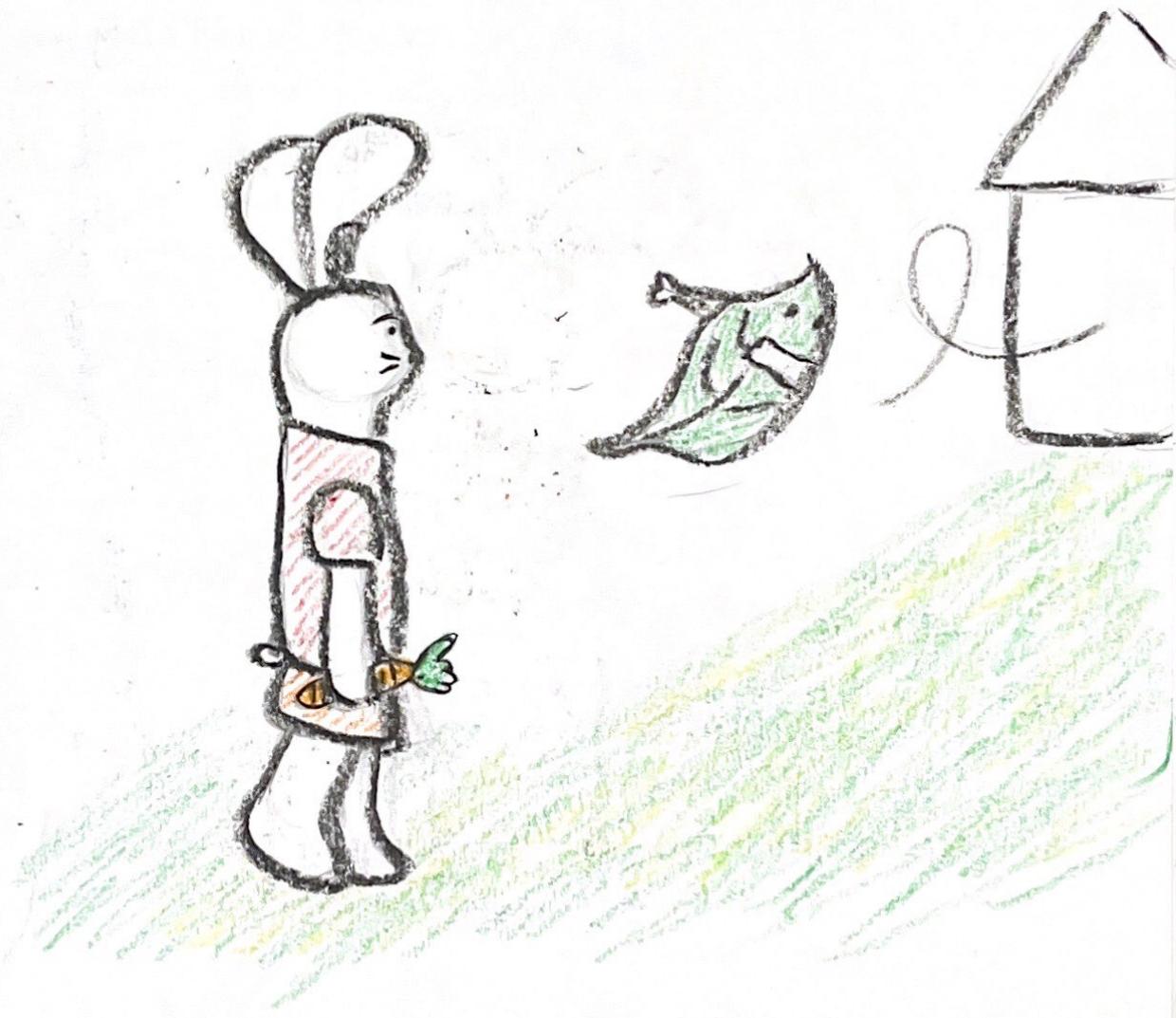
No answers...

The gentle wind blows him back  
to his home.

Mike didn't give up. He went back to the yard, where his mom sleeps, with carrots and beans.

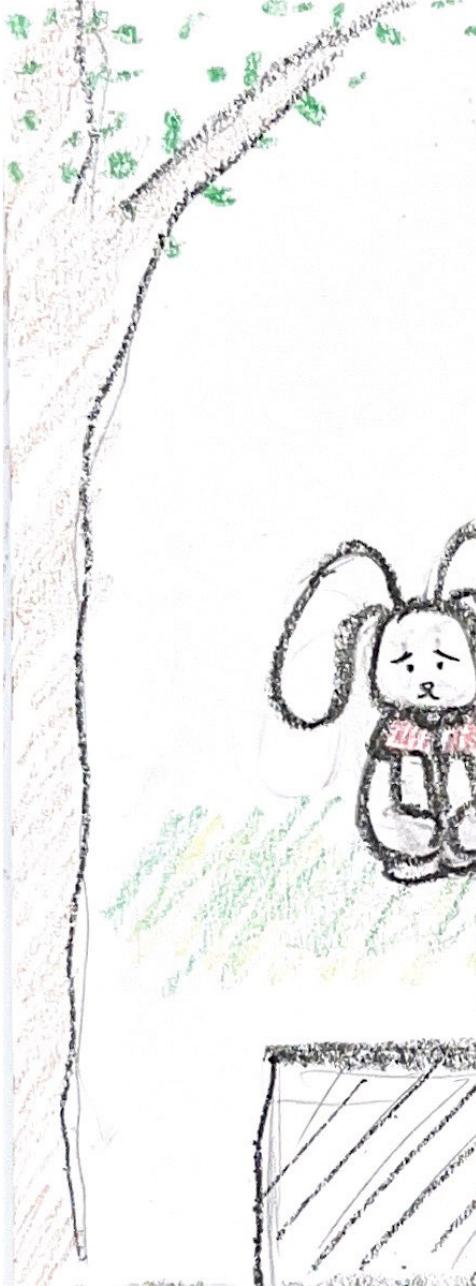
"Mom, wake up and see what I'm doing! I'm sorry I ate too much candy yesterday. I promise I won't do it anymore. Now, I'm eating all the carrots and beans. They taste bad, but I'm eating them now. Look!"





No answer...

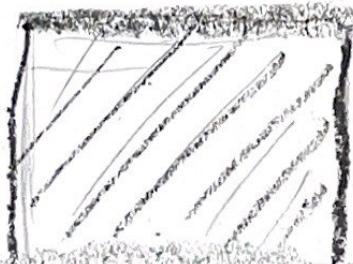
The fallen leaf directs him  
back to his home.



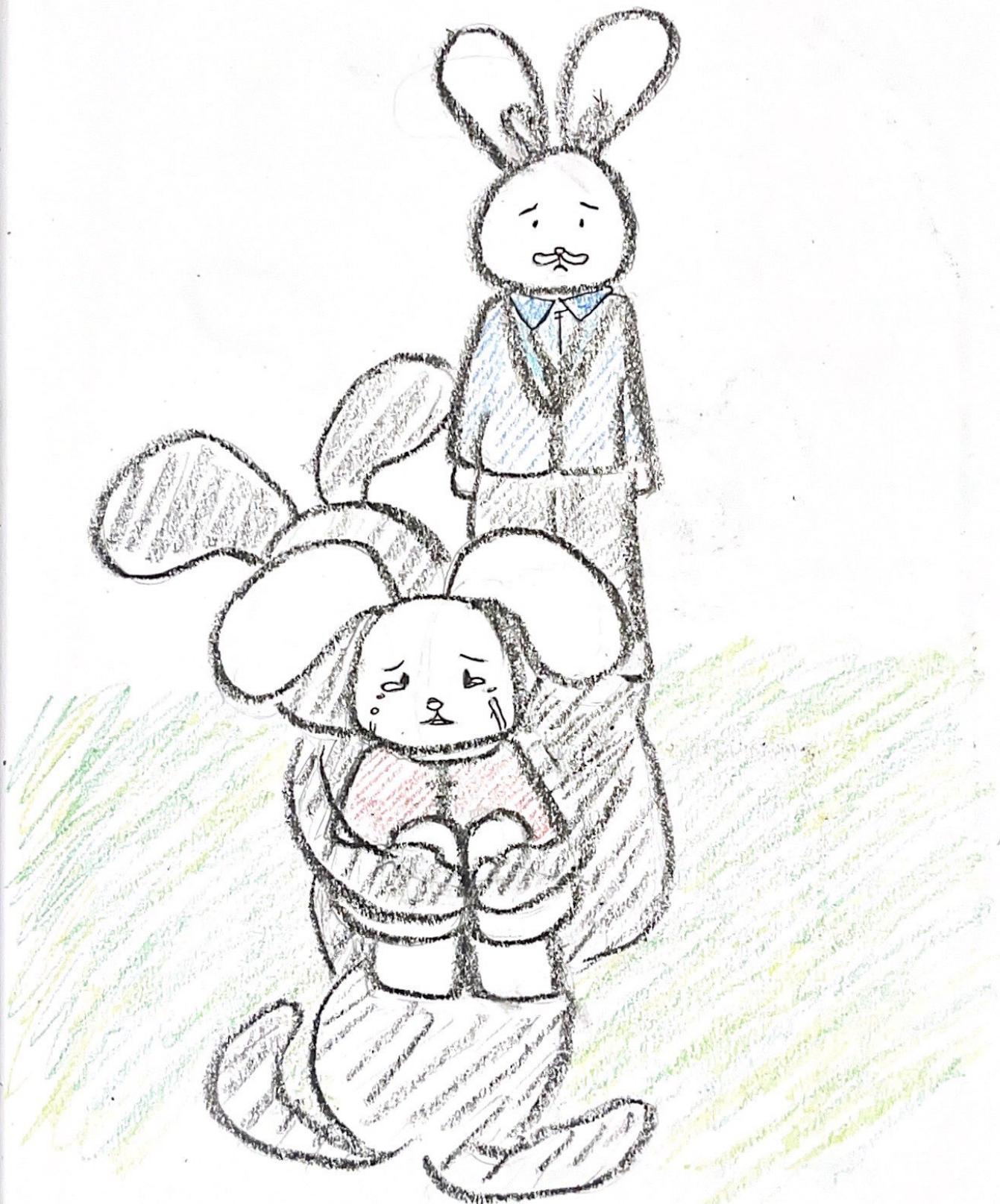
Mike went back to the yard again, where his mom sleeps.



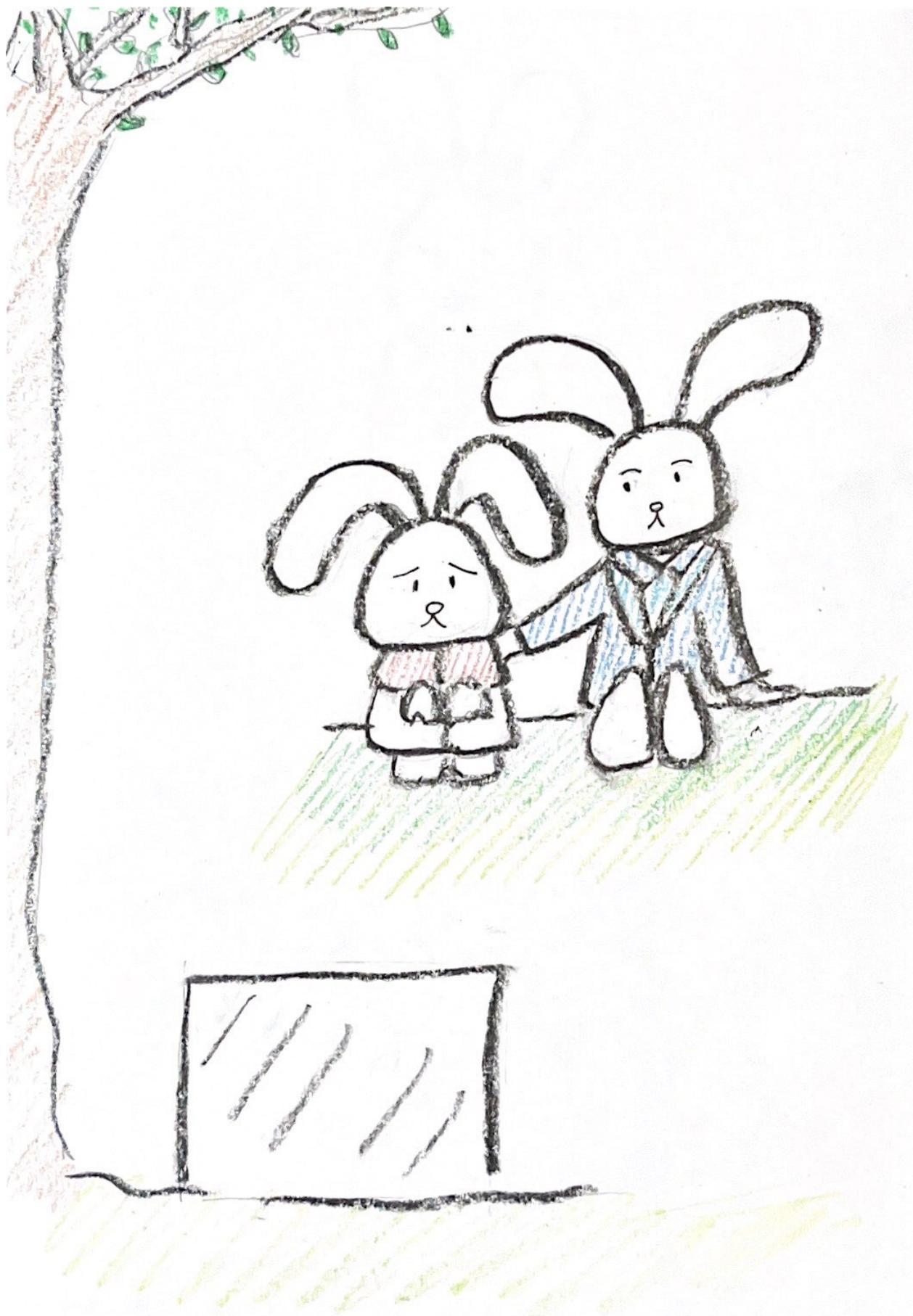
"Mom, I went to bed early last night. I'm sorry for the mean things I said to you before when you asked me to go to bed. I promise I will be a good boy."



"Can you wake up  
and  
hug me?"



No answer...  
The shadow of Mr. Bun hugs him.



Mr. Bun went ~~to~~ to his son and sat next to him.

"Is mom sleeping because I ate too much candy?"

"No, but It's bad to eat too many candies."

"Is mom sleeping because I don't like carrots and beans?"

"No."

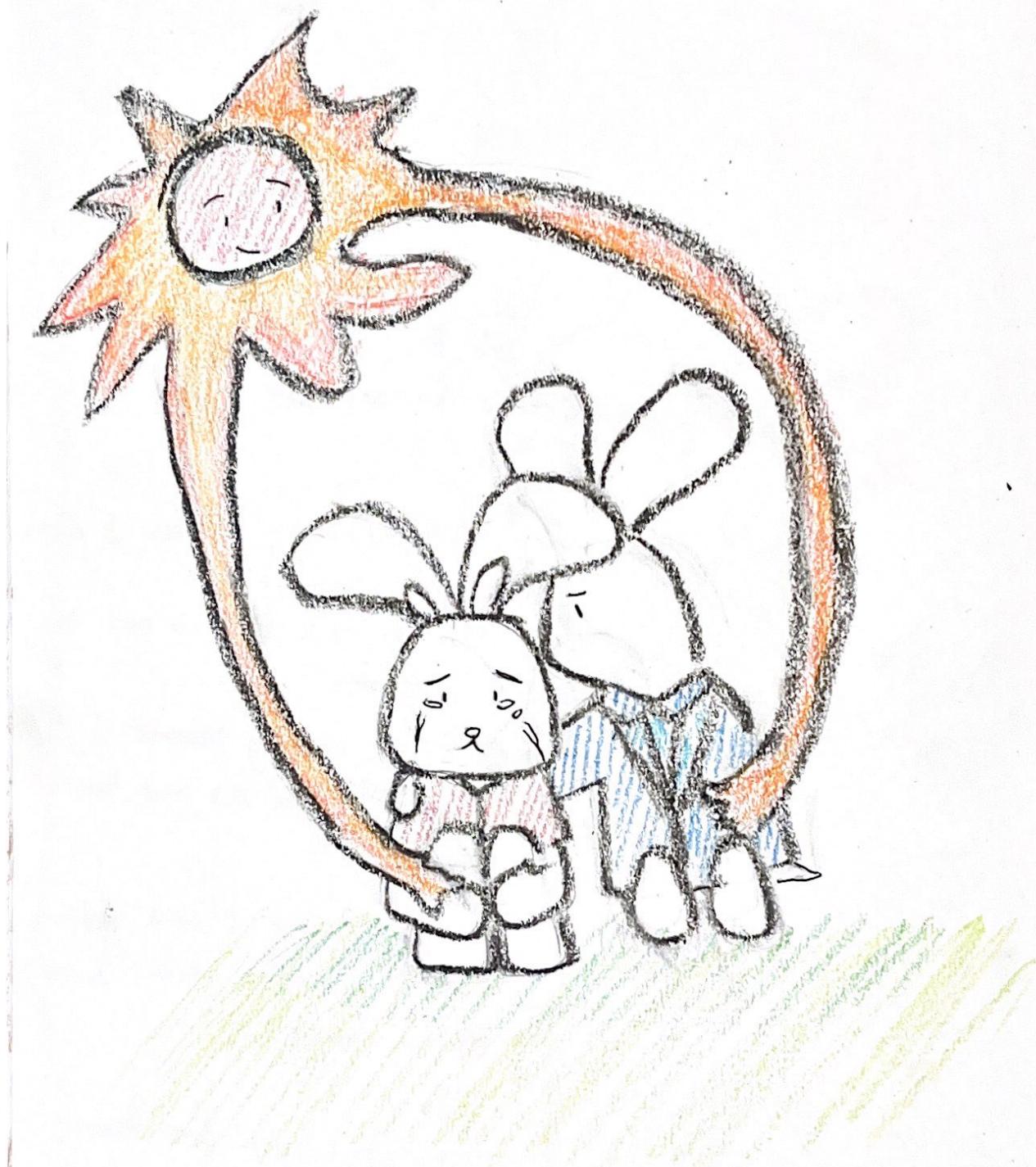
"Is it because I said I don't love her in the fight? I really didn't mean it."

"No."

"Is it because she doesn't love me?"

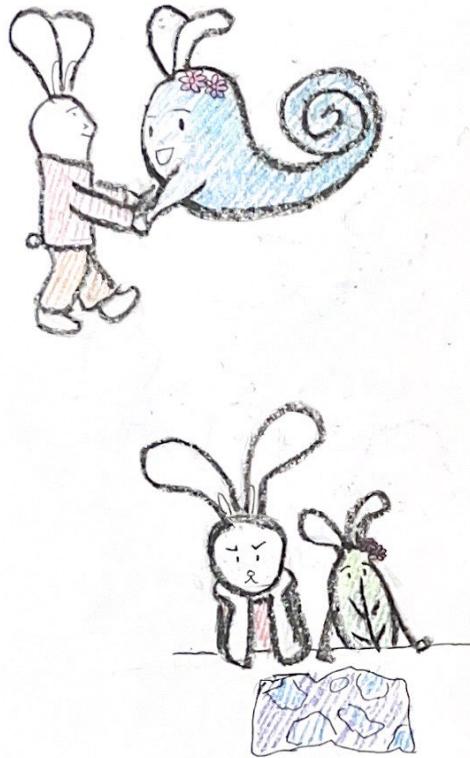
"No, she loves you."

"Why she is sleeping and not waking up?"



"She is dead. We can't see her again.  
But she is with you all the time  
because she loves you."

Mr. Bun and the sunlight gave Mike  
a hug.



That night, Mike had a dance with the wind.  
Mike solved puzzles with the fallen leaf.  
Mike kissed the sunlight.  
Mike kissed his mom.  
In dream.



The next day, Mike brought a flower to the yard, where his mom sleeps.

And he took a nap next to his mom.

