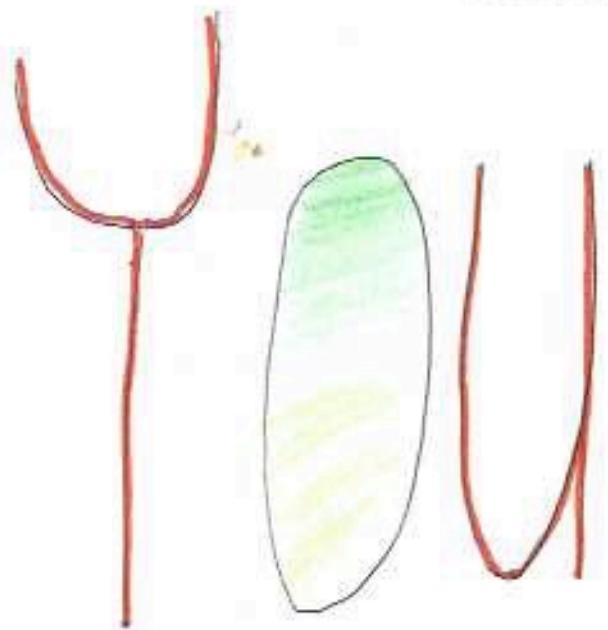


By Natalie Grubba

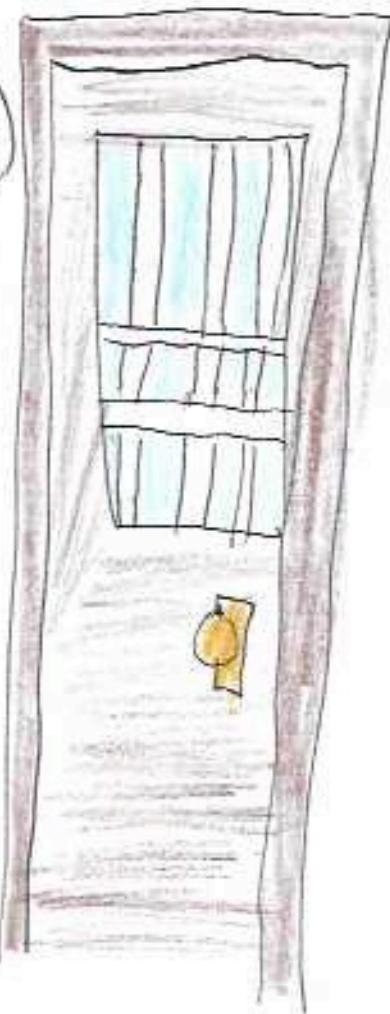


Matter





The day before...



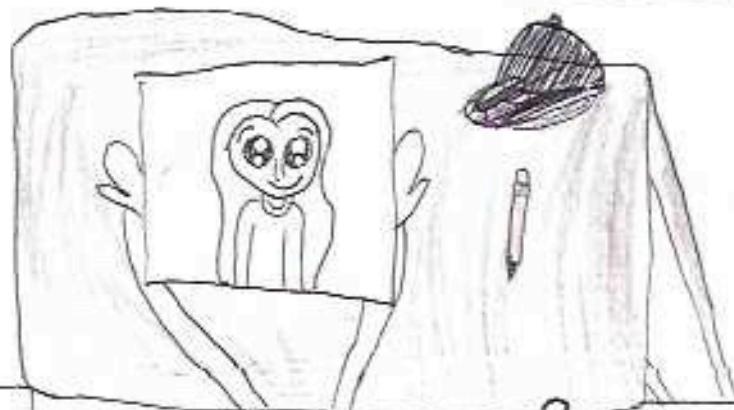
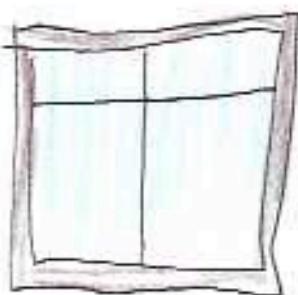
WAIT!
Put shoes
on!



I don't need
any
YES you do!



Down, ribbon



WOW!!!











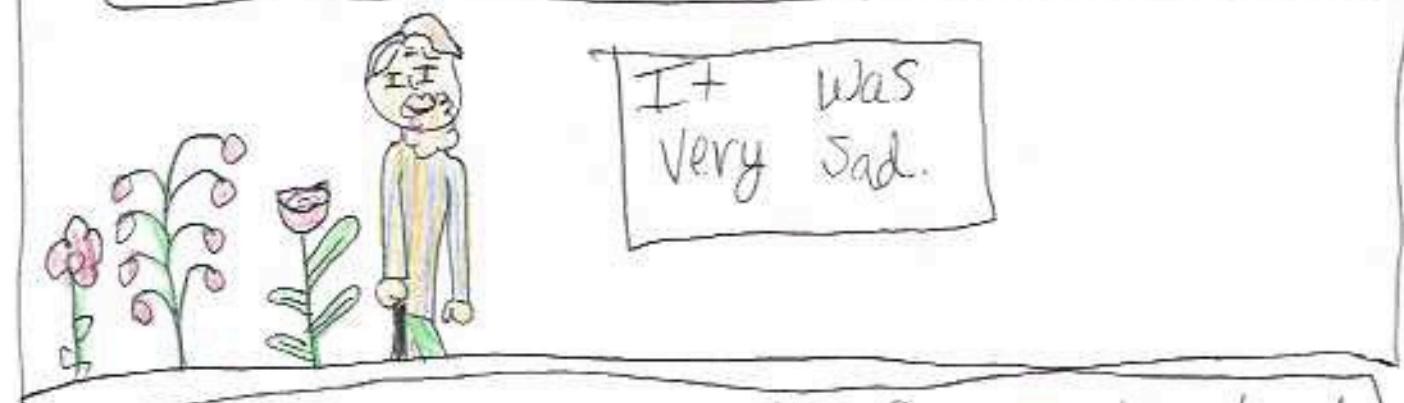
(I am talk-
ing to both
of you)



I felt really bad for my mom.



Her Dad made her that garden, right
before he moved three countries away.



He left us a note saying he had
to move for something important.

We have not seen him for 3 years.



I am so tired of having a brother



I bet Sammy is blaming me for everything



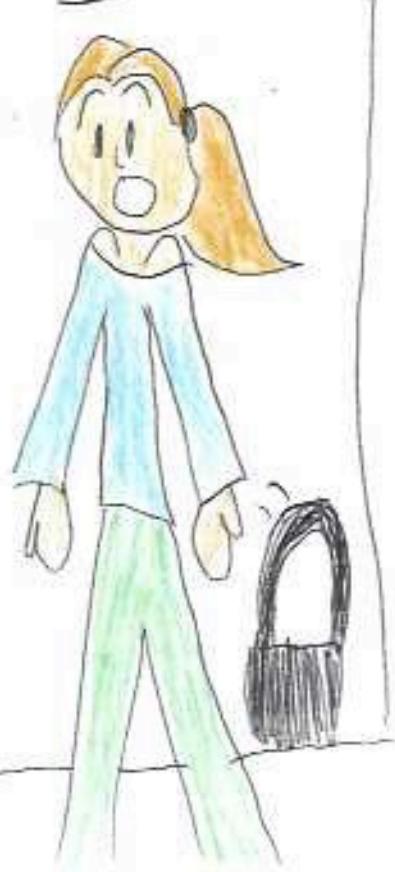
Me and mom talked

sammy-



LILLA!
LILLA!
LILLA!

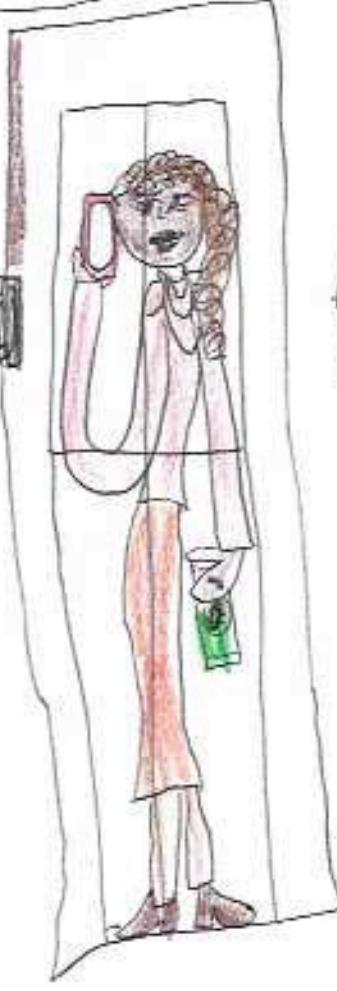
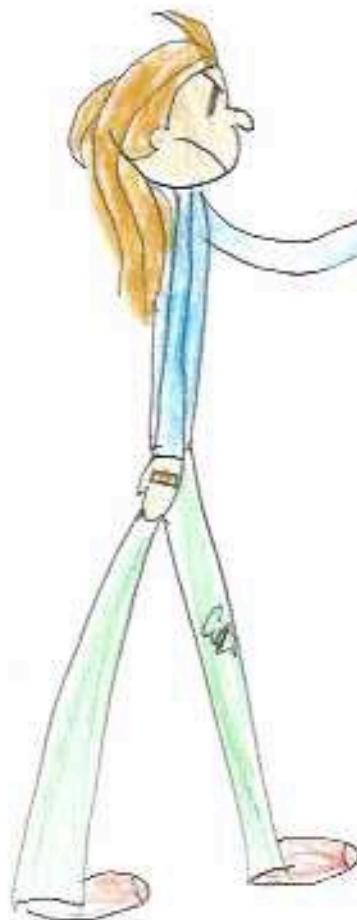








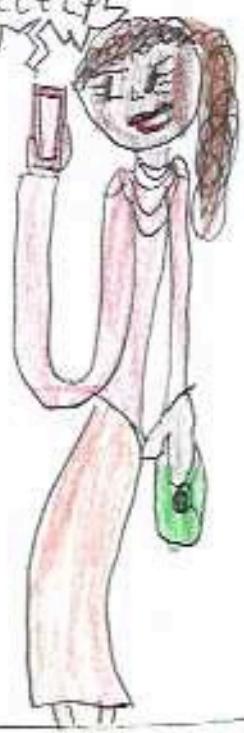
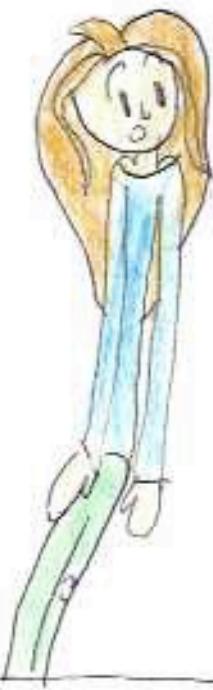
Soon...



DING
Dong



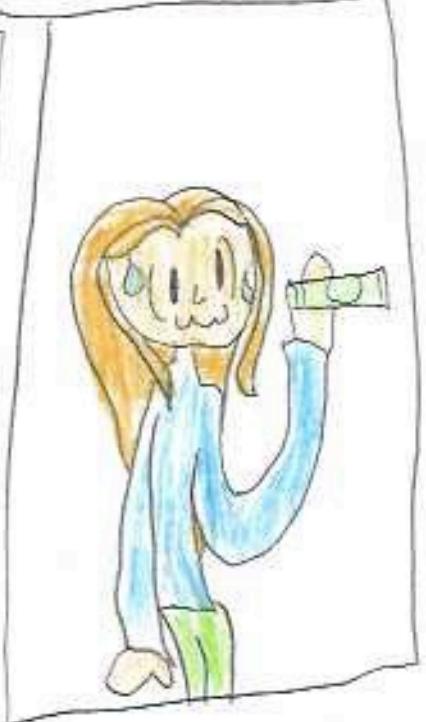
Beeeeep!



Ohi! Gotta go.
Bye!



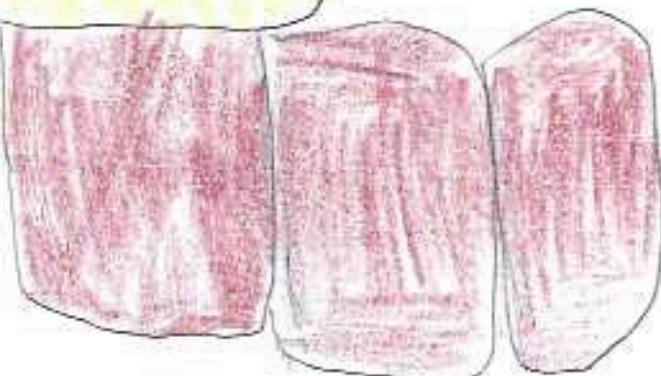
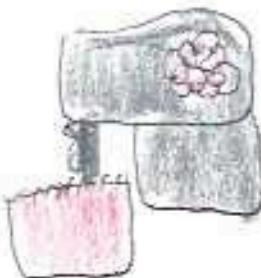






Yay! I have enough
for a sewing machine!

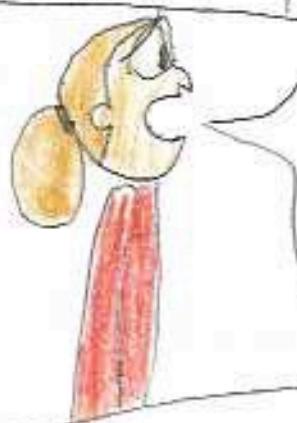
000



The next

morning

457...458



Do I have
enough for a
sewing machine?

No. 10
more dollars.





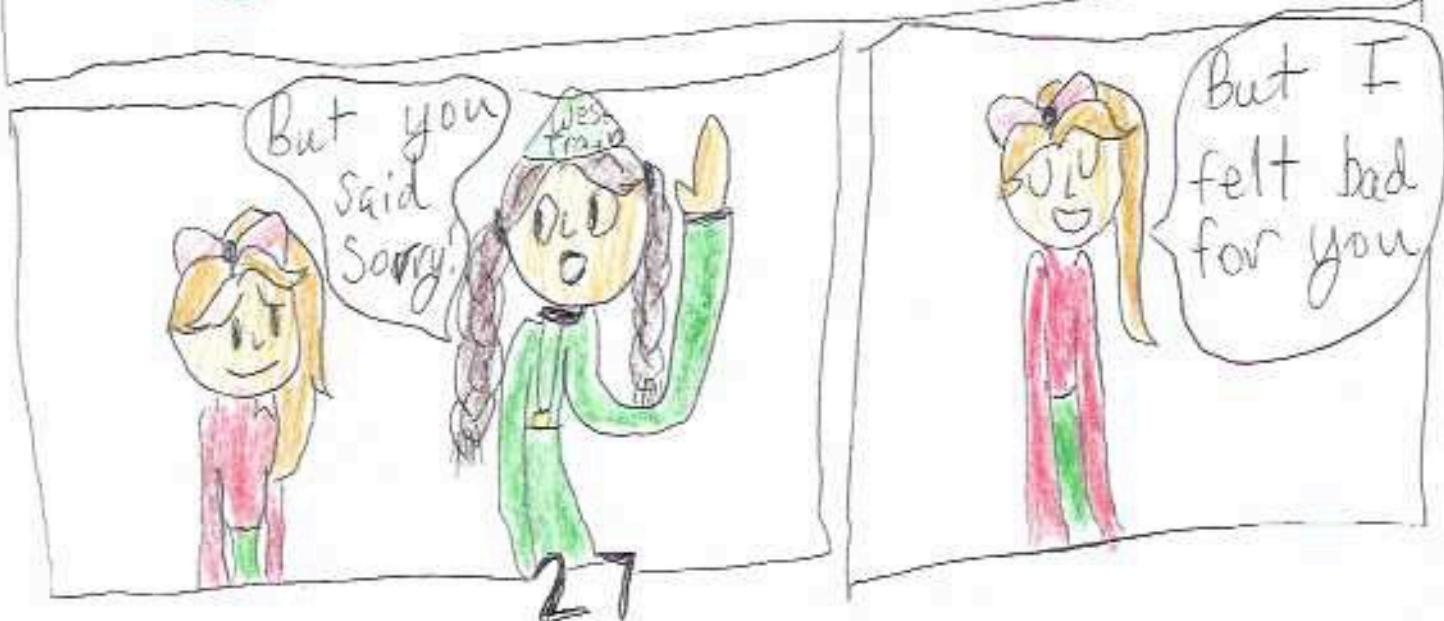
A month later...



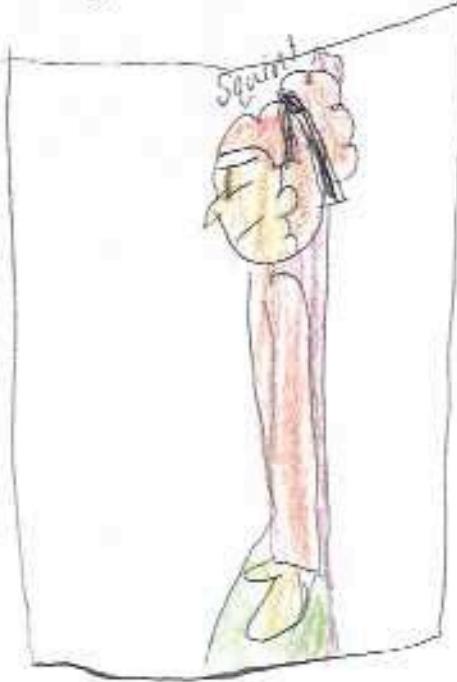
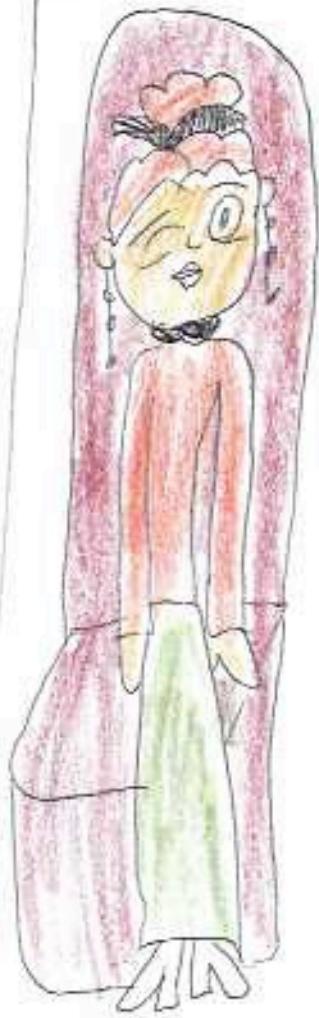


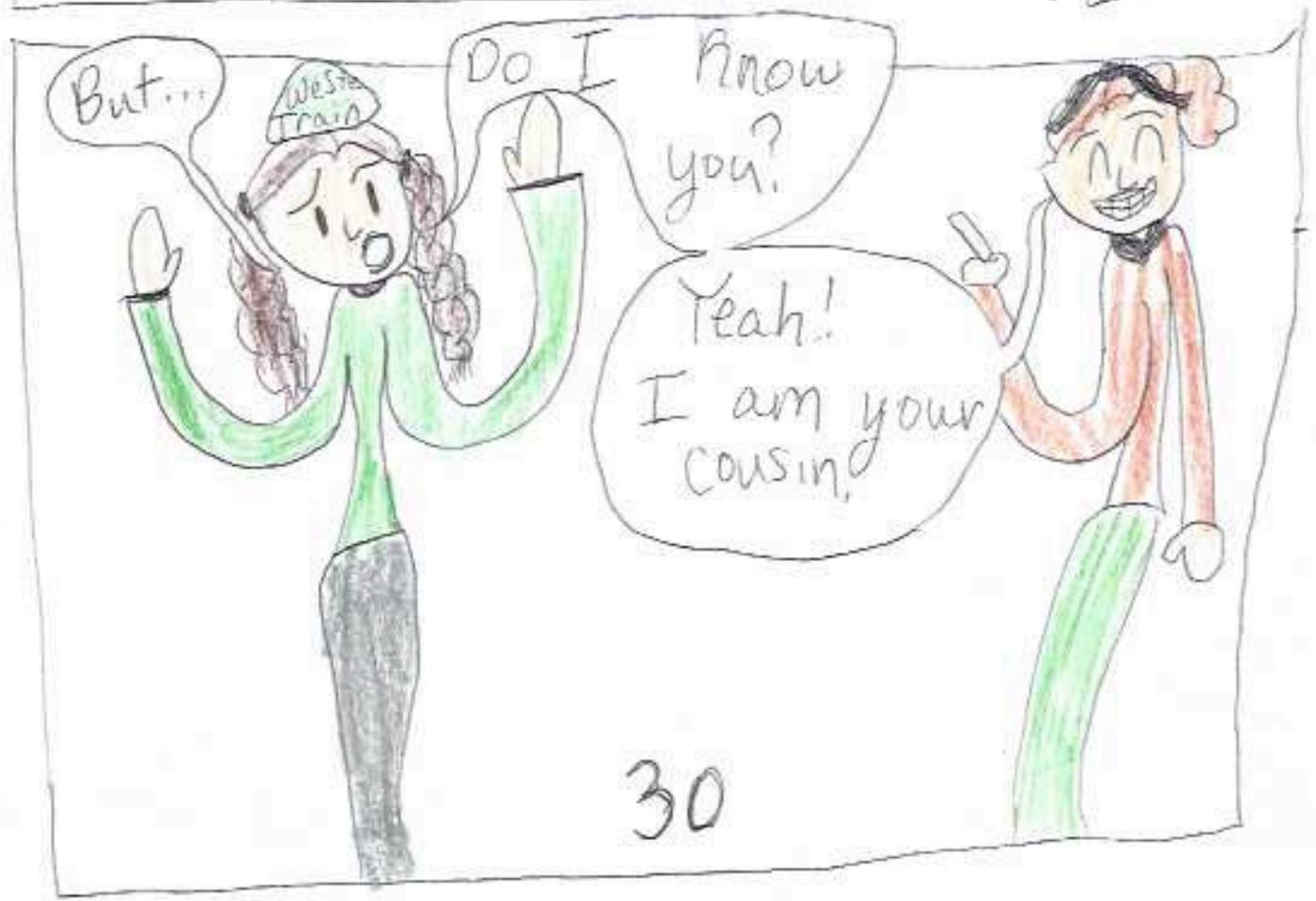














No I am
not, I don't
have any consins.

Yes you do!



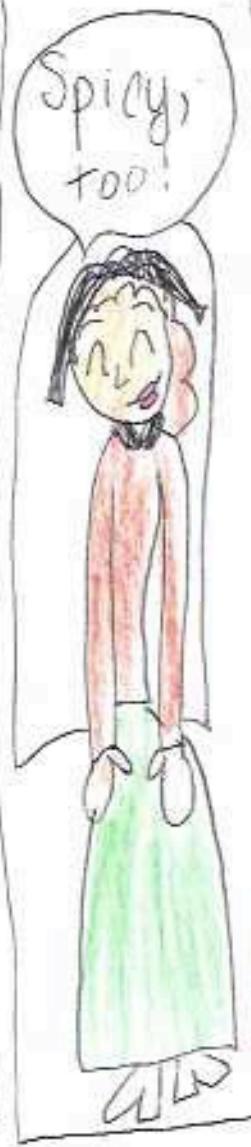


I am sorry!
I am just
embarrassed
by how small
I am.



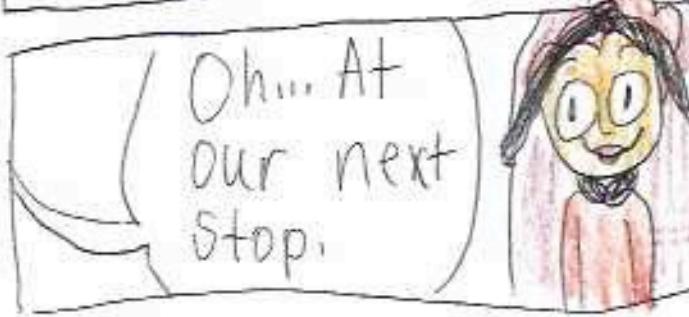
And I act like
a 6 year old.

Yeah...
True.



My Uncle
Says that
Your Uncle
is my Dad!

Emma...
Where
is Uncle
Nick?





Soon...



-And I have been teased. It has always been like that. I never got used to it. It still happens even though I am grown.

Aww...
Emma...



You matter.



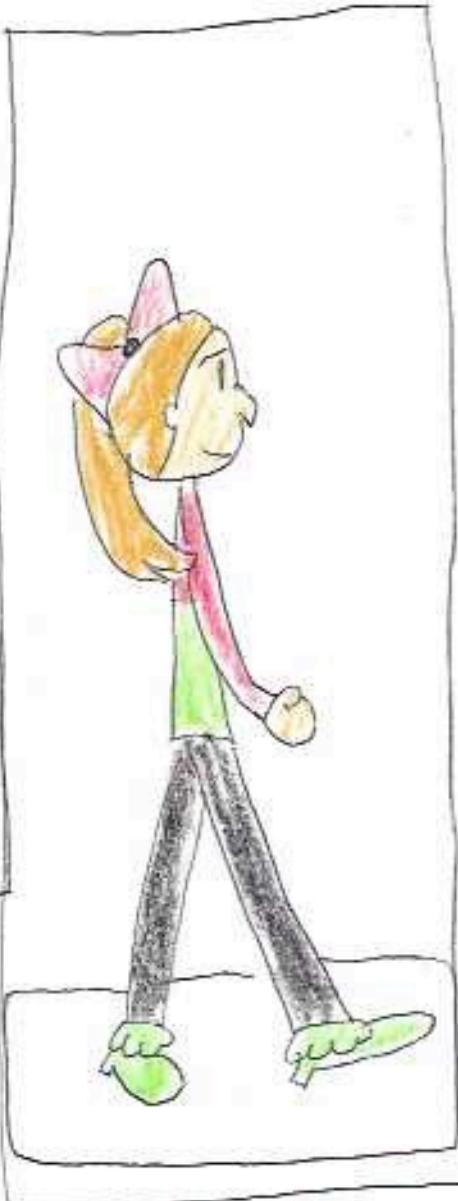


Okay... Emma, Where
is Uncle Nick?

Wellll...
first this
is our stop,
so let's get
off.



SCAREEECHH



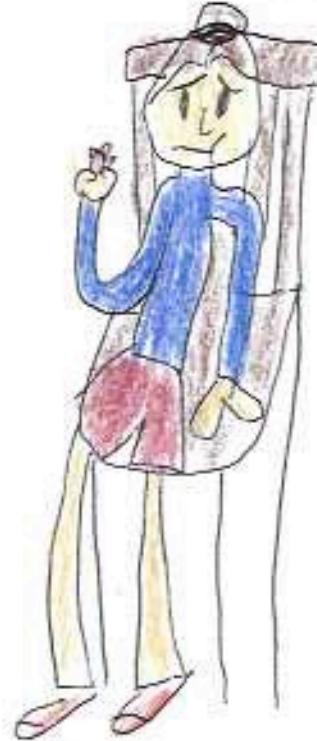


You are right.
But...

And so...



Poppy explained that Emma was lonely, living on her own.



She got a disease where she was gloomy and would not sleep. Both of her parents died, and my poppy had to step up as "Her parent".

She was living in guatamala, learning to speak Spanish.



Now Emma is cured. She is getting jobs. But she still has to live ~~with~~ with poppy.

Another month later...)



Later...



I have traveled far.
I have climbed mountains.
I have found the different
side of me.

I MATTER.



The End

