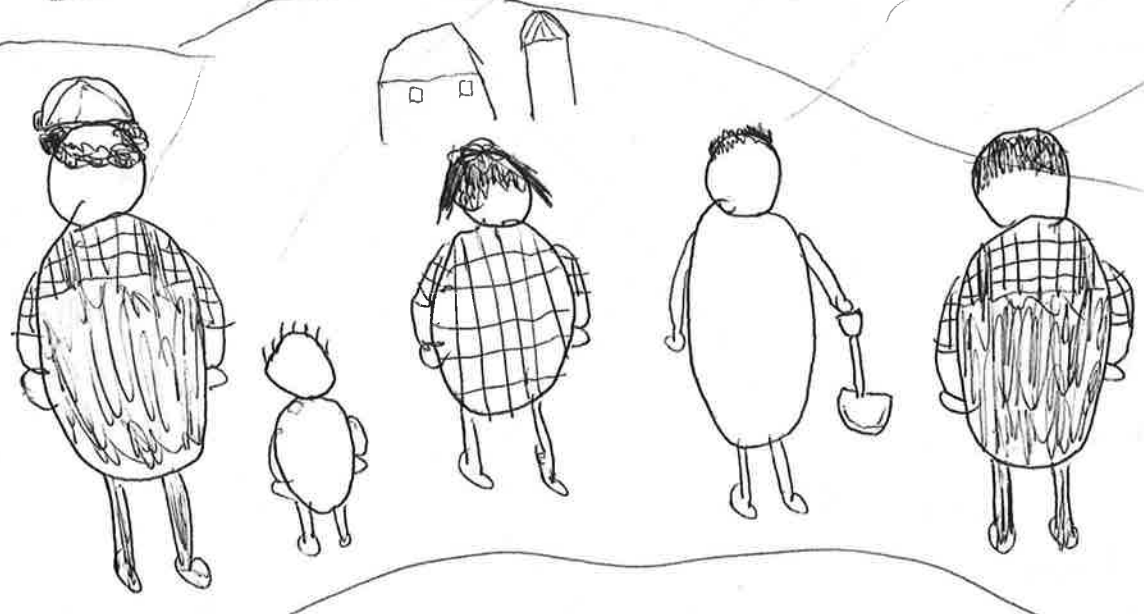


Essex
County,
Vermont



By Ari Erlbaum

"Erlbaum really understands the poignancy of small human moments... We need more like him in comics." - Publishers Weekly

"Touching" - ALA Booklist

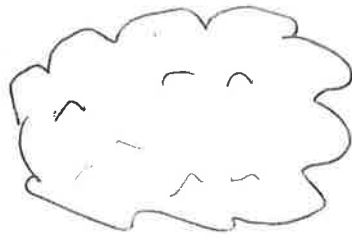
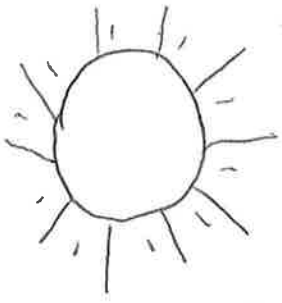
"If you read one piece of fake rural slow paced character based sequential art created in less than 24 hours, make it this one."

- Jeff Lemire, from the introduction.

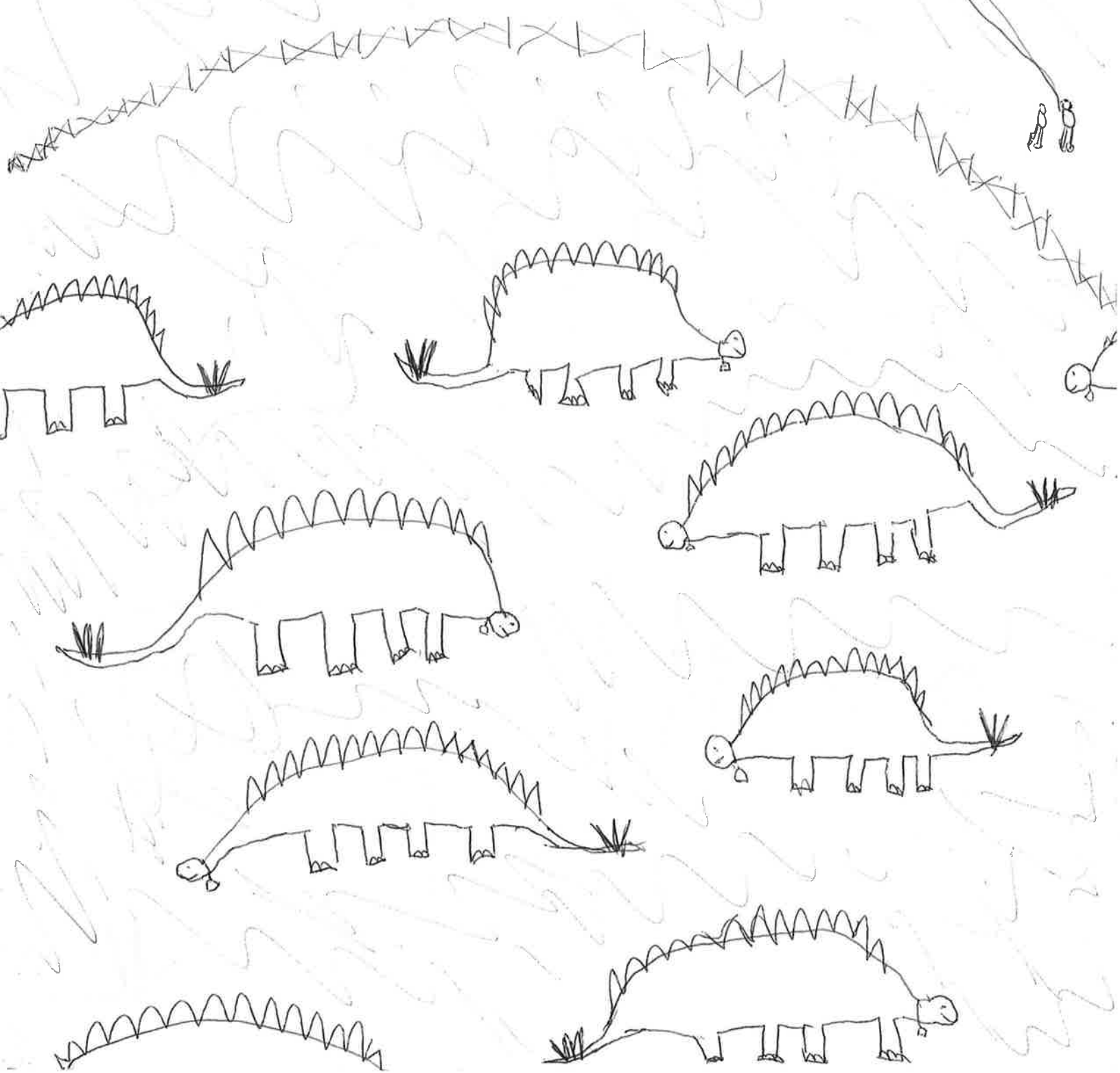
Focusing on the small moments in life, Ari Erlbaum's "Essex County, Vermont" is a touching, honest account of life in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, the author's home state. Thinly fictionalized, it shows us the deep seeded trials and tribulations that the ordinary people there go through every day. It also shows us that the fabled "ordinary person" is actually quite extraordinary.



Summer

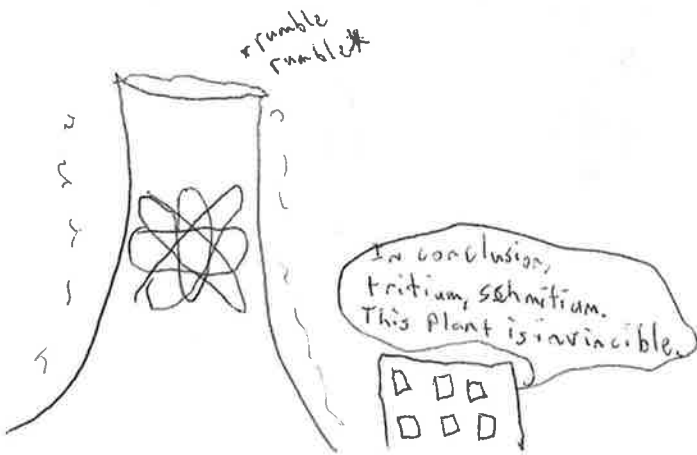
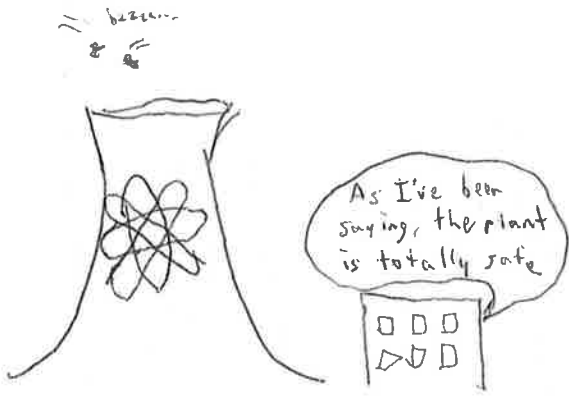


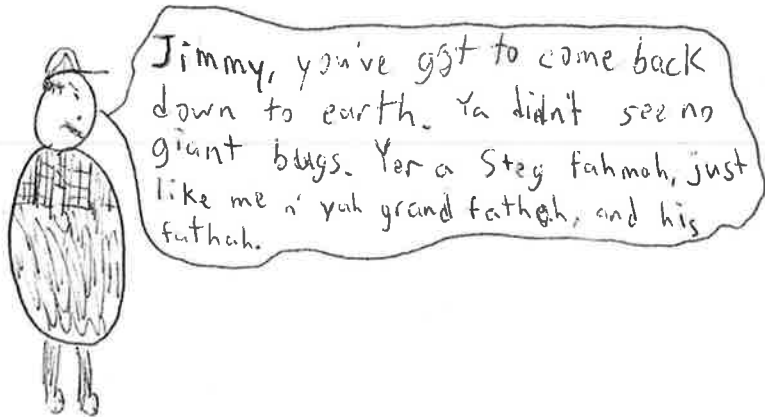
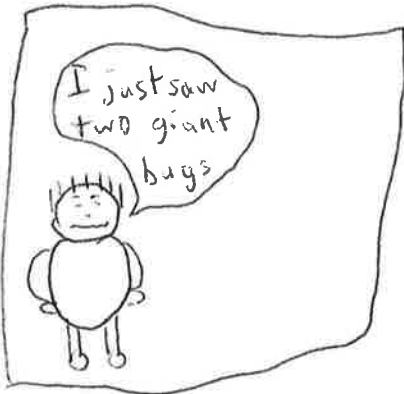
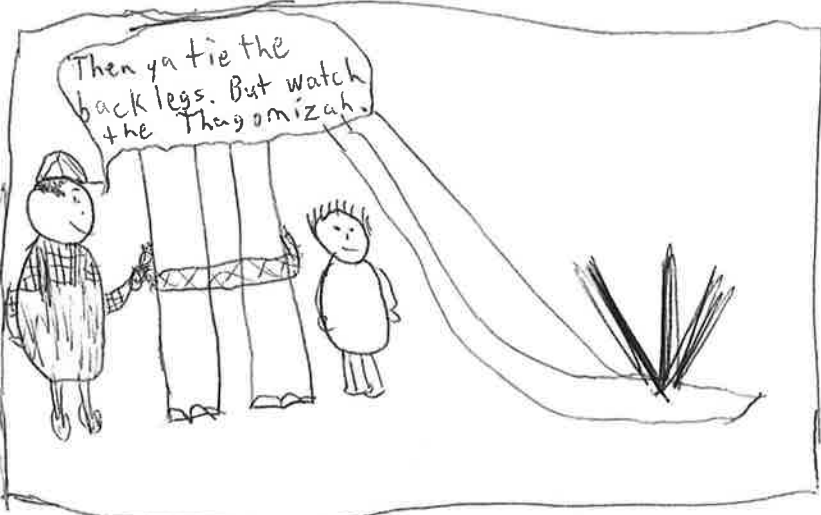
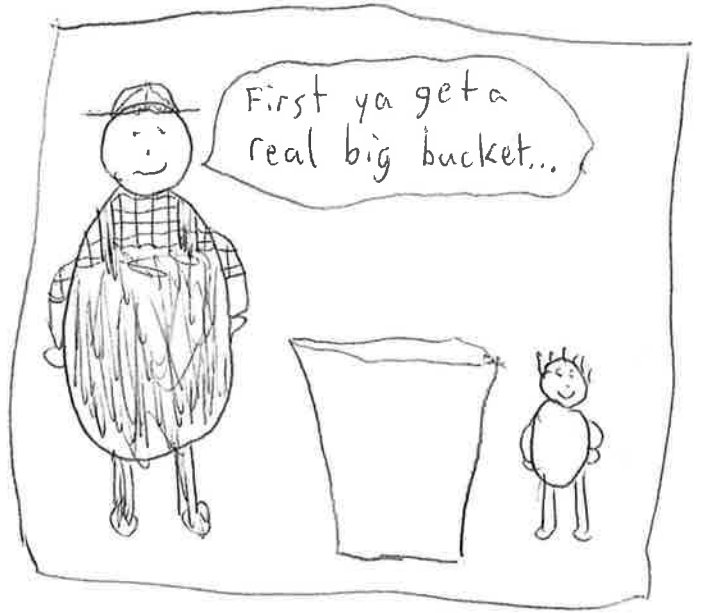
A draft stegosaurus or two
will serve ya just fine.



Fall

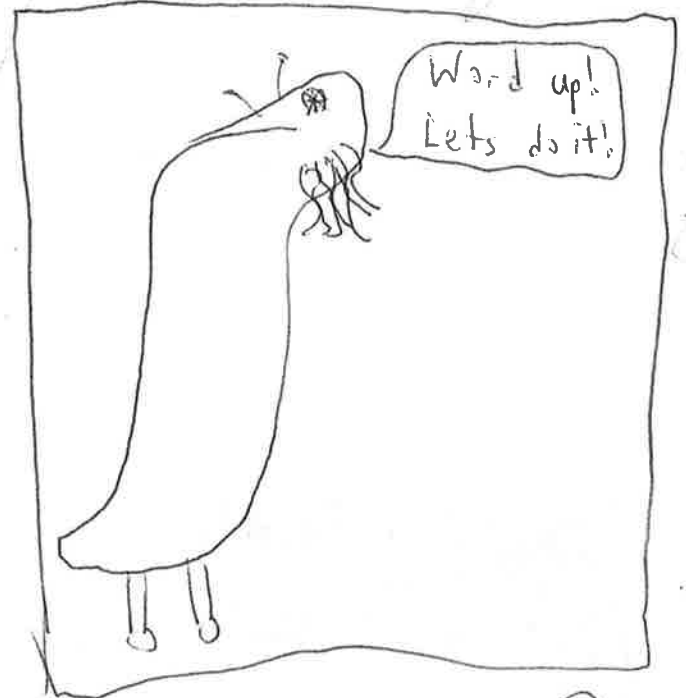
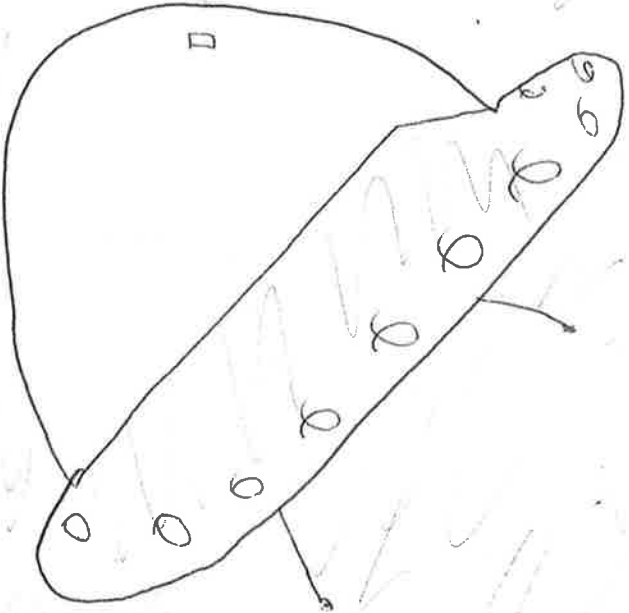
Vernon, VT





Near Alpha Centuri

Dang, we are cool!!





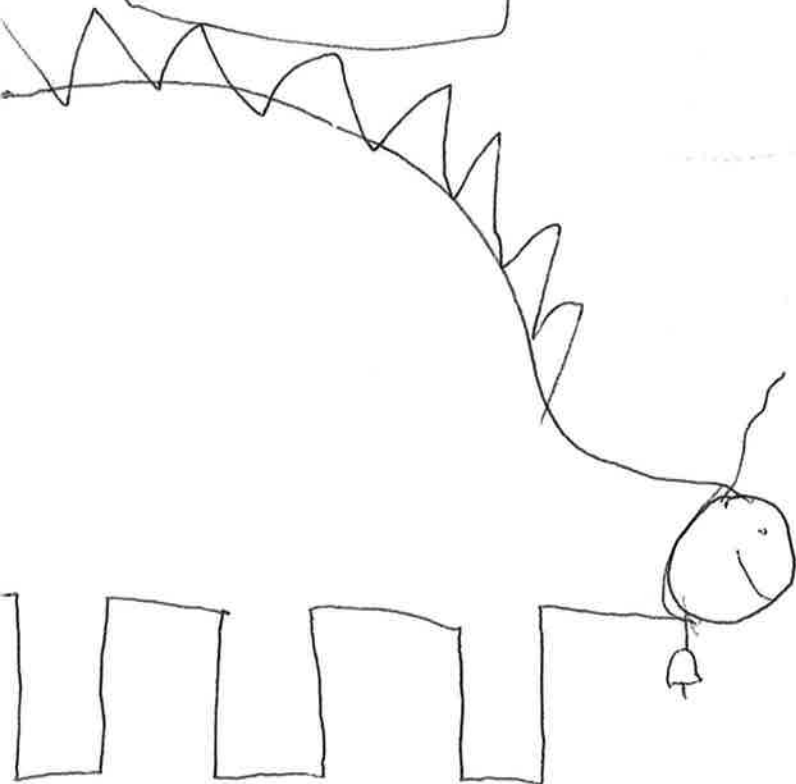
Goddamn Pothole Digger!
Go home!

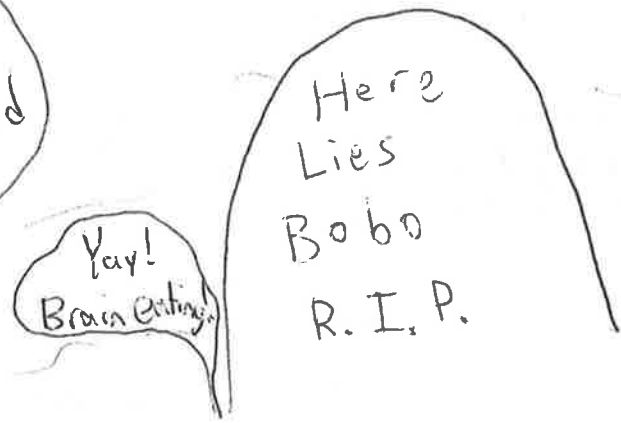


I hate my job
May as well have
run for Lister!

Winter



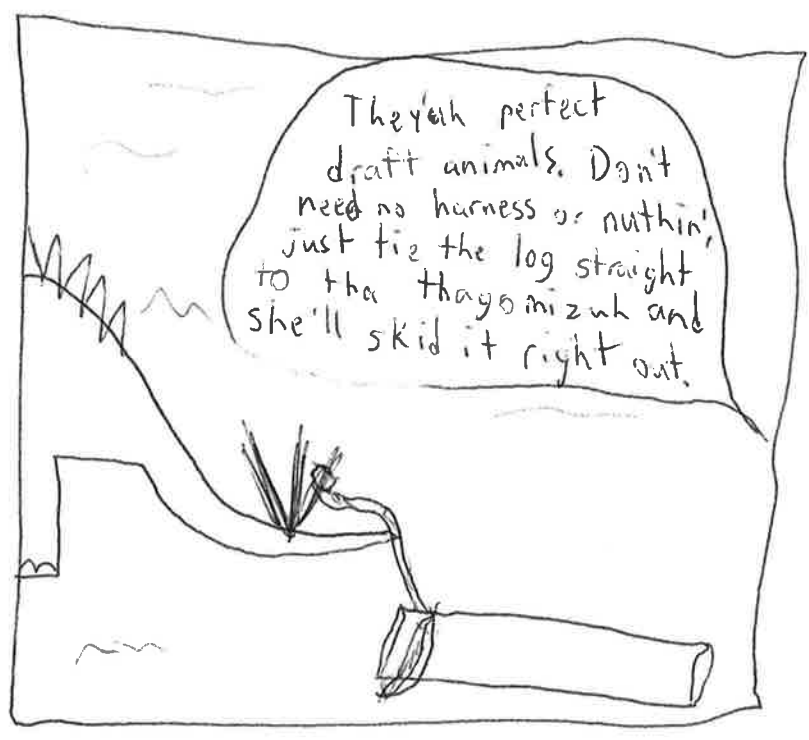






Where'd you find 'em?

I bought 'em from Fred's Steg Fuhm for a steal.



They're perfect draft animals. Don't need no harness or nuthin', just tie the log straight to the thagomizuk and she'll skid it right out.



Thanks for having me over here, Vera.

Always a pleasure, Nance, and...



Wh, did I just see a VF?



Sorry Vera, I've got to get back to the Town Clerk's office immediately.

We've got zombies coming to eat our brains, giant mutated bugs spawning to make more giant mutated bugs, now some big aliens, all converging on our town, Plus the fire department wants a new station that the taxpayers may not be willing to shell out for. I ask you, how could things get any worse?



CRASH!!



We're 100 ninjas come to attack your office.



CRASH!!

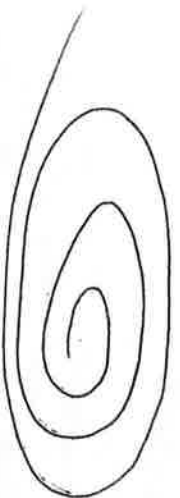


And there are 1000 more of us attacking the town.

Quick, to the time portall!



Our only hope is to get an army of cavemen to fight these ninjas.



14,000 years earlier...



Hey, will you and your cave buds fight some ninjas for me?

Actually, we're a peaceful agrarian people. This is a walking stick, not a club.



I don't have time for this.



You, Gorilla. Are you aggressive?



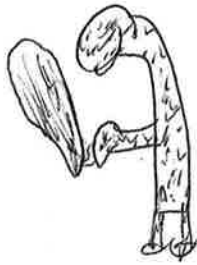
GRR AAAR!!



Good. Get your big hairy gorilla friends, take those caveman clubs, and go beat up some ninjas.



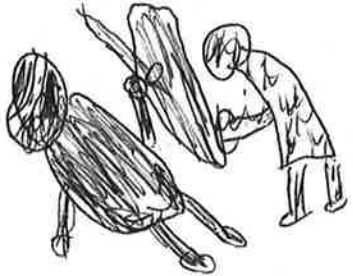
14,000 years and five minutes later...



I think that worked pretty well.



GRRR!!



Mud Season

The first Tuesday of March...

BZZZZ...

ZZZ...

BZZZZ...

BZZZZ...

And the Eyes have it, there will be funding for a new fire house. On to Other Business.

BEEP!

BEEP!

*Security Alarm

Town Hall

TOWN MEETING TODAY

Brains.

Brains.

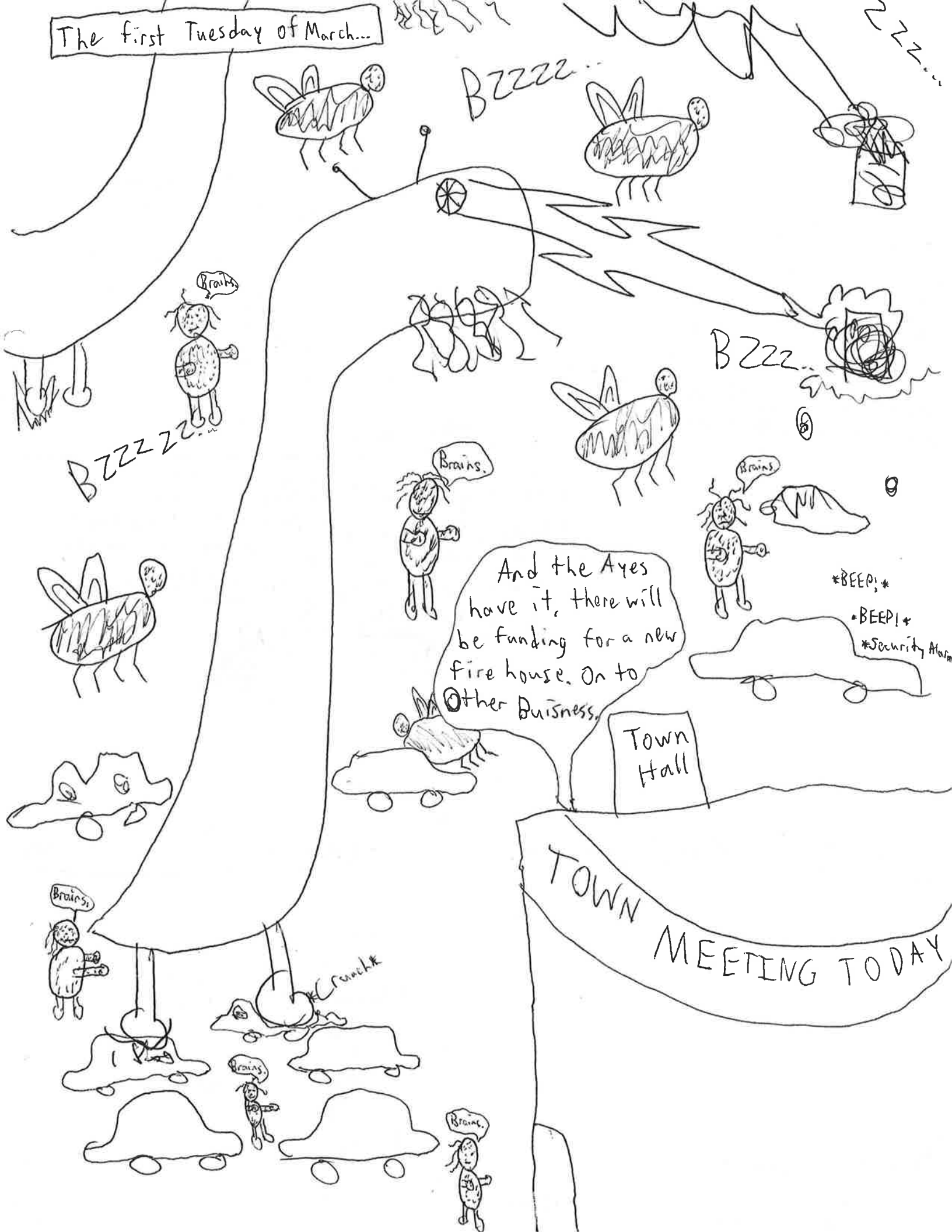
Brains.

Brains.

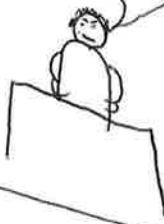
Brains.

Brains.

Crunch!



First in other buisness is the Town Clerk with the Town Report.



clap
clap *clap*
clap *clap*
clap *clap* *clap*
clap *clap* *clap*
clap *clap*
crunch

My Brains!

Aaugh

*BEEP! BEEP!

Thank you, The Town Report goes as follows: The big hairy gorillas with clubs have wiped out the ninjas and are working on the zombies, although a few are becoming Zombie Gorillas.

That is all.



weeoo weeoo!

Augh! I've been lazered!

Brains

CRASH!

BZZZZ..



OK, is there any other buisness to be carried out?

Yes, Mr. Smith?

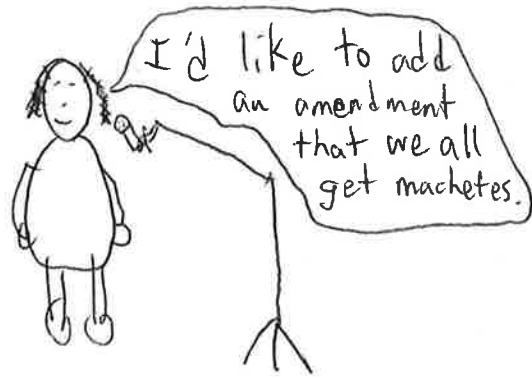


*BLRZZZ! *Crunch*

Ohno ohno. ohno!

POW!





Seconded!

Seconded

Z Am!

No! No!

POW

GRRRAAR!

Ay Carumba, it can't be!

Okay, we will now vote on the amendment, unless there's more discussion. May I remind you that because expense to the town is involved, it must be passed by a two-thirds majority.

All in favor say aye.



Aye

Aye

Aye

Aye

Aye

Aye *Crawl*

Aye

Aye

Aye

Aye

Brains

Aye

Aye

Brains

Aye

Grr...

Aye

Brains

Aye

Aye

Aye

CRASH!

Argo...

GRRRAAR!

All opposed... and it is unanimous.



BZZZZ...

Aaugh!

ZZZZT!

BEEP! BEER!

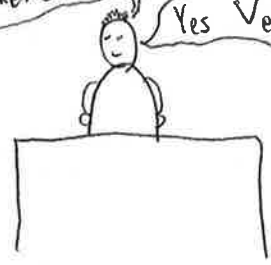
Groah, brains

BZZZZ...

Oh no!

Anything else before we vote on the motion with the amendment...

Yes Vernon,



Crunch...

brains.

* CRUNCH! *

brains.

Aaargh!

I just wanted to say that I've lived heck my entire life, and that's been many a hard time, but it always passes.



No, not... Aaargh!

BZZZ
ZZZZ...

* BLRZZZT! *

* SMASH! *

* ZAP! *

brains. Grr...

All may seem hopeless. They have great destructive power. They've got lasers, brain eating, and enormity.



Brains.

brains.

* Grunt *

Pöwl

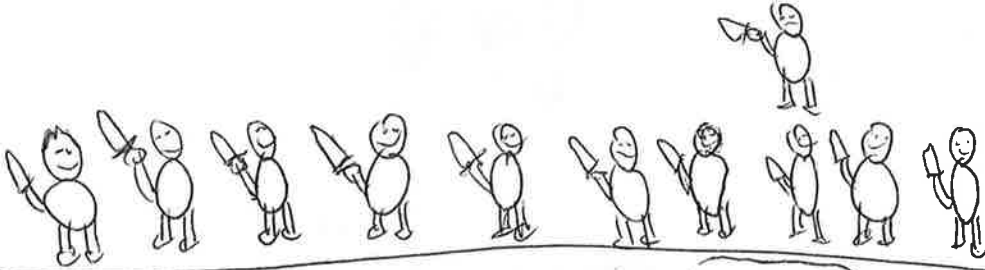
* Schlap *

* CRASH! *

BZZZ
ZZZZ...



TOWN MEE

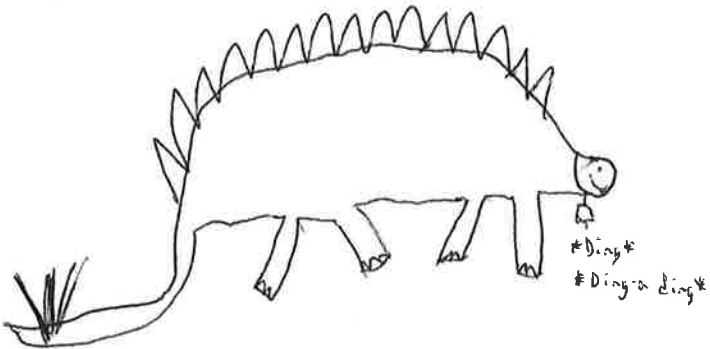


This is so Dank!



Handwritten scribbles and marks at the bottom center of the page, including some illegible characters and lines.

At Fred's Steg Farm



Come heah, gal, it's melkin' time,



Look, dad!



Oh! Well hiya Nancy. Fancy seein' you! What brings you to this neck o' the woods?



Fred, we don't have much time. We need to use your stegasauri to fight aliens, zombies, and giant bugs.

Nope.



What?!



They'uh nize herbivouhs who ain't never hurt nobody. You ain't turnin' em into killuhs now. Why, I was just tellin' my boy Jimmy that...



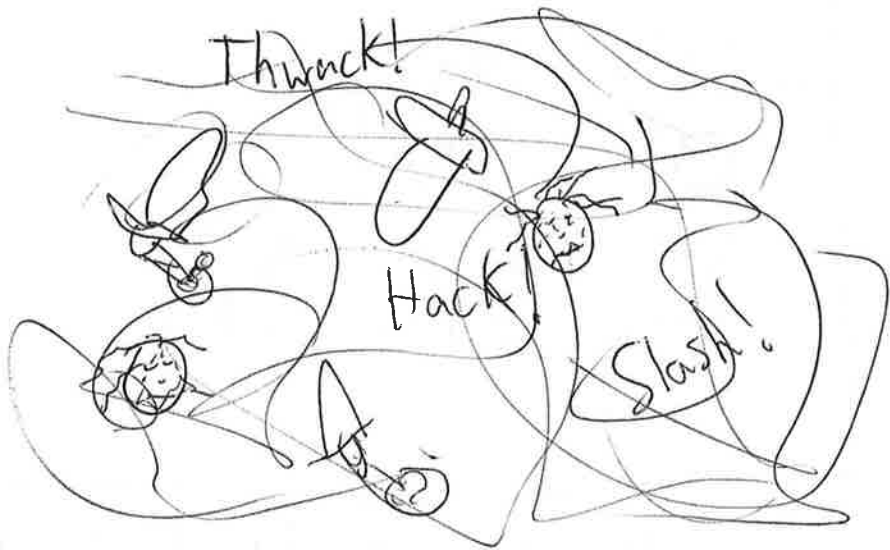
Jimmy?



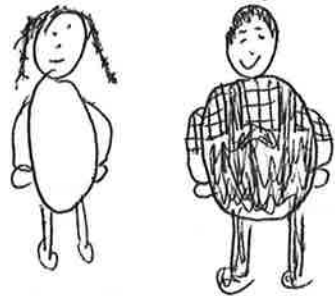
I'm gonna punch lotsa bugs real hard.



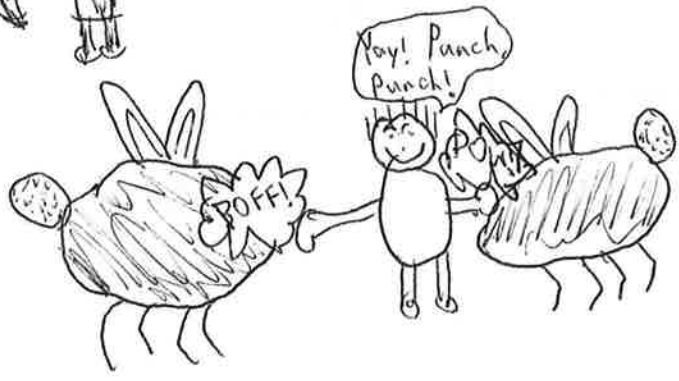
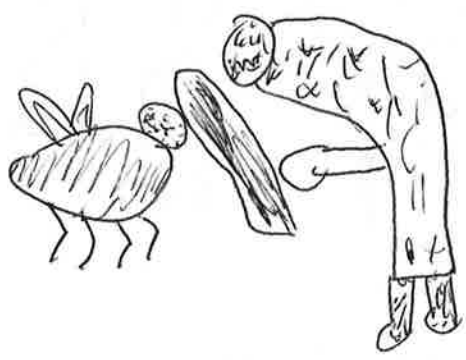
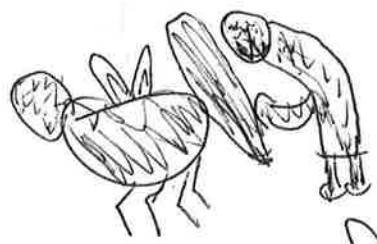
At the spot with all the zombies...



Say Jenna, them machetes was a good idea.



At the giant bug hive...



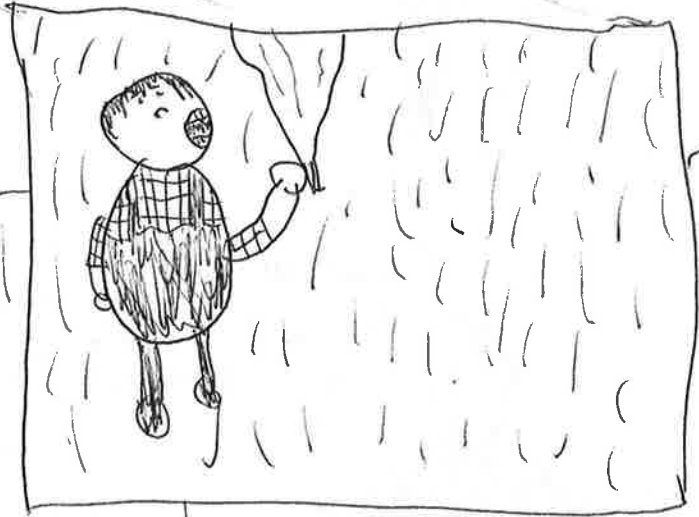
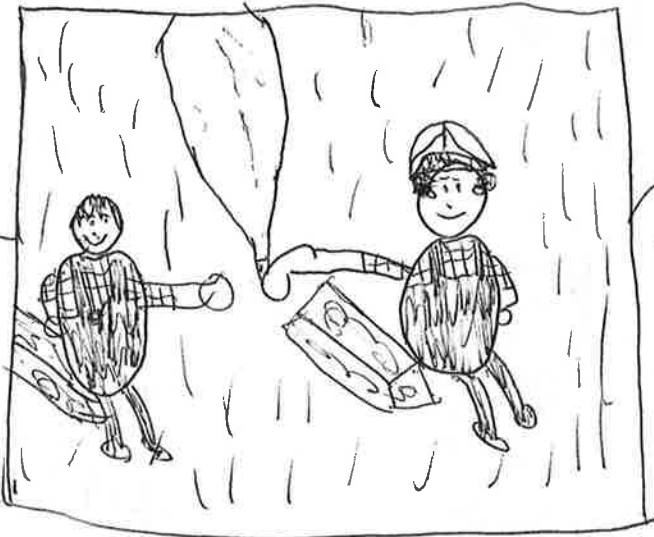
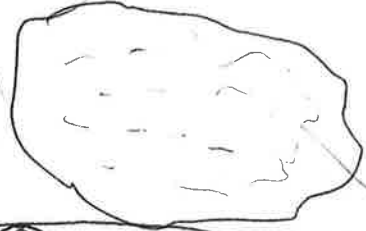
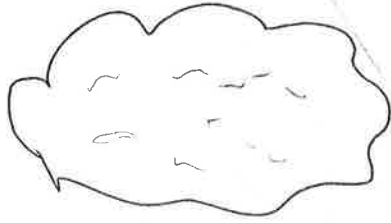
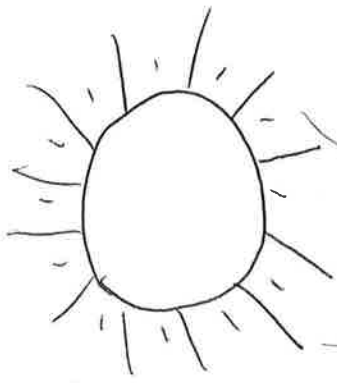
The war was over. It looked like the Tarnsfolk, four-year olds, and gorillas with clubs had won.

Hey wait a second...





Spring



BANG!

Jeezum, Fred,
one of yer steps
just exploded!

Oh my,
they nevah did
that befoah.

Nevah gets
boring 'round
henh, does
it?

No, Vern,
I suppose
it doesn't.

The
End