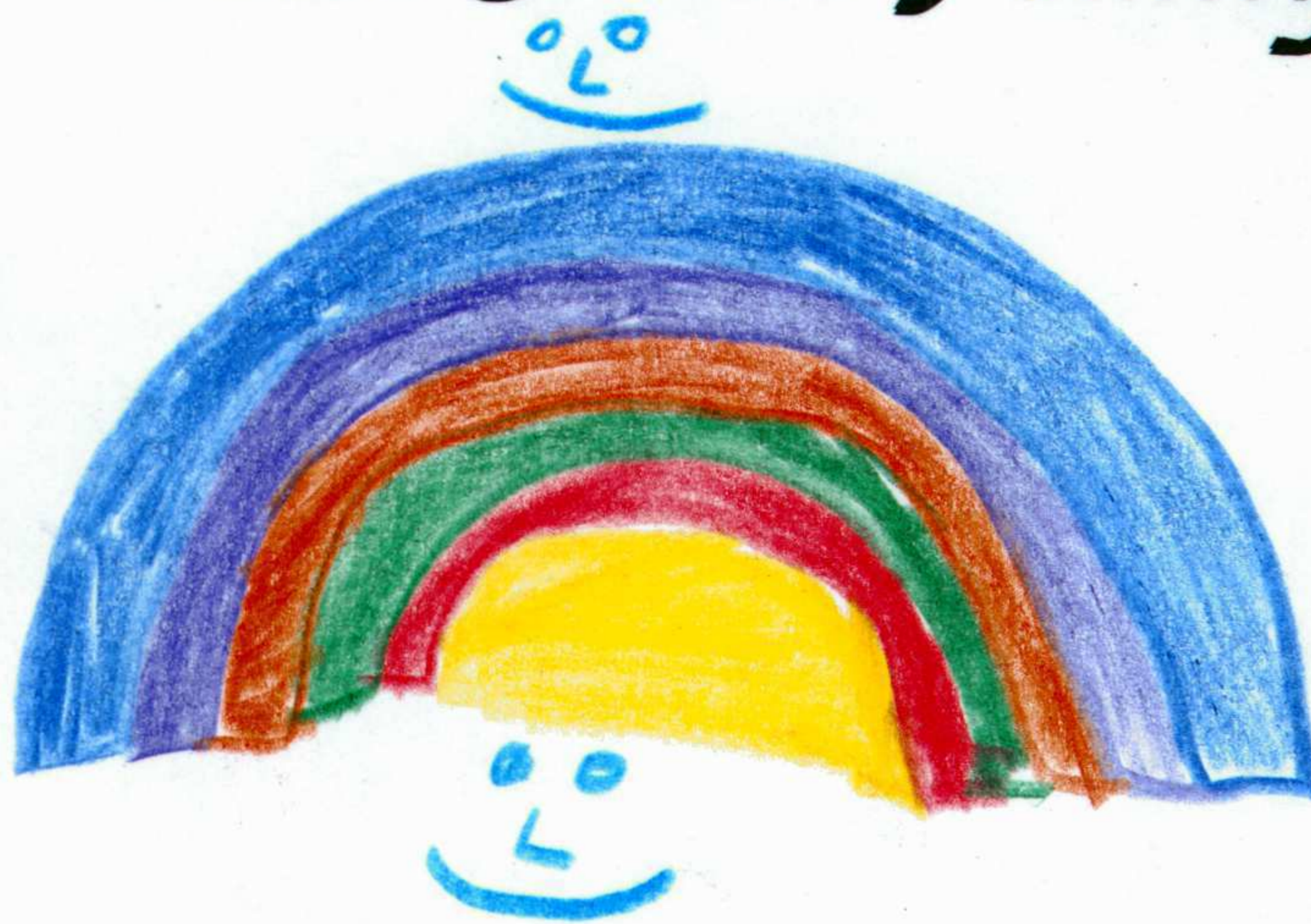


The Smiths

*When I Was Young  
in Worthington: 1830s*

*The Smith Family*



*written and illustrated by  
Ashley Gearhart, Elyse Reynolds,  
Bridget Buttery, Mike Johnson,  
and Shun Umehara*

*May 2003*

The Smiths

1830's

1830's



This book is dedicated to:  
Mrs. Watson, Miss Wood and  
Miss Swearengin



The Smiths were a regular family in the 1830s. They had a dad, a mom, and five children. The children's names were Bridget, age 2, Ashley, age 3, Elyse, age 5, Sean, age 12, and Michael, age 16. Their parents, Martha and Edward, were both 35. They lived in Indiana.



Mom Ashley Sean Michael Elyse Bridget Dad





The family was about to go on their annual fall trip to Worthington, Ohio to visit their aunt and her family.

The next day the family started packing. They decided to take their covered-wagon to get there.





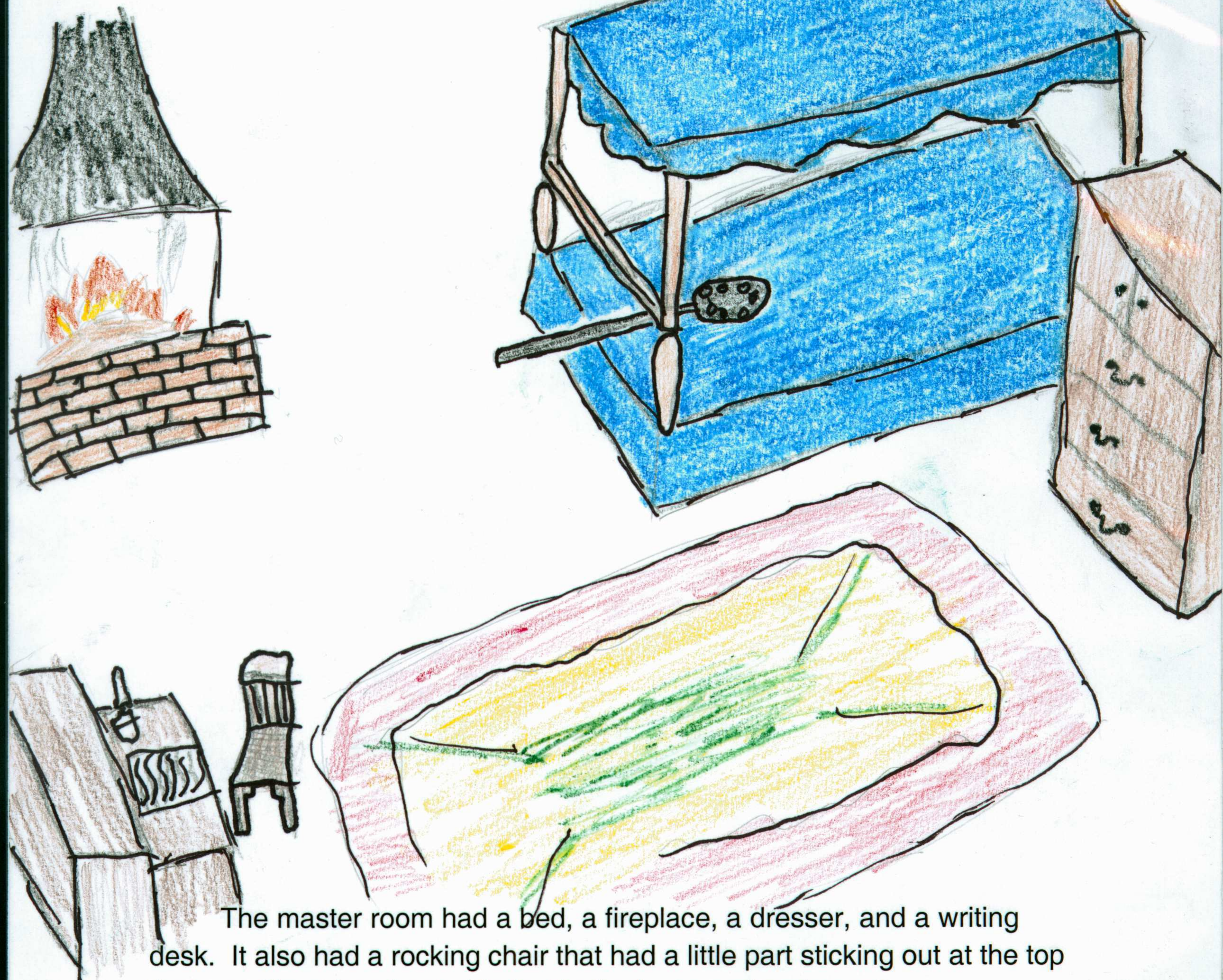
Three days later, the family left for Worthington. Four days after they left, they all arrived at their destination. They then set off for the boarding house where they were going to stay.





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The boarding house was located on High Street. The house was made of red bricks and had white painted windows. The outside of the boarding house had a beautiful garden and a huge willow tree.



The master room had a bed, a fireplace, a dresser, and a writing desk. It also had a rocking chair that had a little part sticking out at the top that was like a headrest. Under the bed was a chamber pot.

The girls' room was a lot smaller than their parents room. There were three small beds, a small fireplace, a dresser, a chair, a rocking horse, and a braided rug.

Sean and Michael had the same kind of room as the parents did.



Their family had a great first day. Michael even started to fall in love with Gertrude, who was 16. Her family owned the boarding house where the Smiths were staying. They got to know her very well because she also served the food and ate with them at meal times.







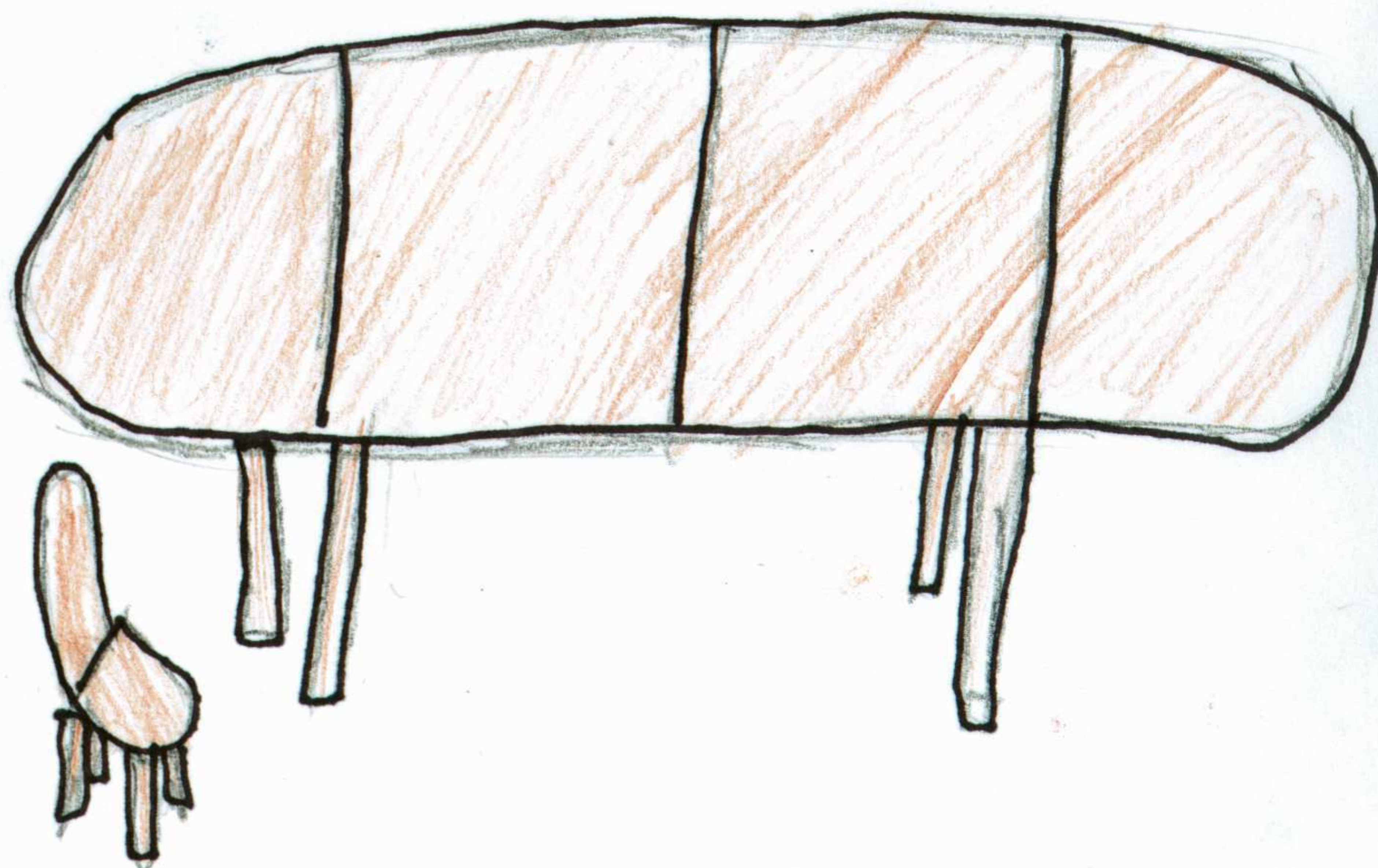
One day, the Smiths, their aunt and her family, along with Gertrude, went bowling for the first time. The bowling place they went to was small, with only five lanes. Mom, Dad, Michael and Gertrude all bowled a whole game. Elyse tried rolling a few balls down the lane. Bridget and Ashley rolled the balls down the gutter. They had a great time!

Then they went back to the boarding house and ate fried potatoes and bread. They had apple cider, weak tea, sweetened milk, and hot chocolate to drink. They thought it was delicious!





The next week, the family had to decide when they were going home. The family agreed to leave the next Monday. Michael had a little secret that soon everyone was going to know about. Michael had to get his secret out soon!





The next day, the family and Gertrude gathered in the parlor. Michael got down on one knee in front of Gertrude and asked her to marry him. She said yes.



Unfortunately, the parents did not look very happy. They were planning on Mike marrying a nice girl from Indiana. Sean spoke up and said it didn't matter who Mike married as long as he's happy in the end.



At 3:30 the family and Gertrude went to the Worthington Park. Sean took Ashley and Bridget and played tag with them. Elyse played on the monkey bars. Michael and Dad sat on one of the benches and watched the younger children play.

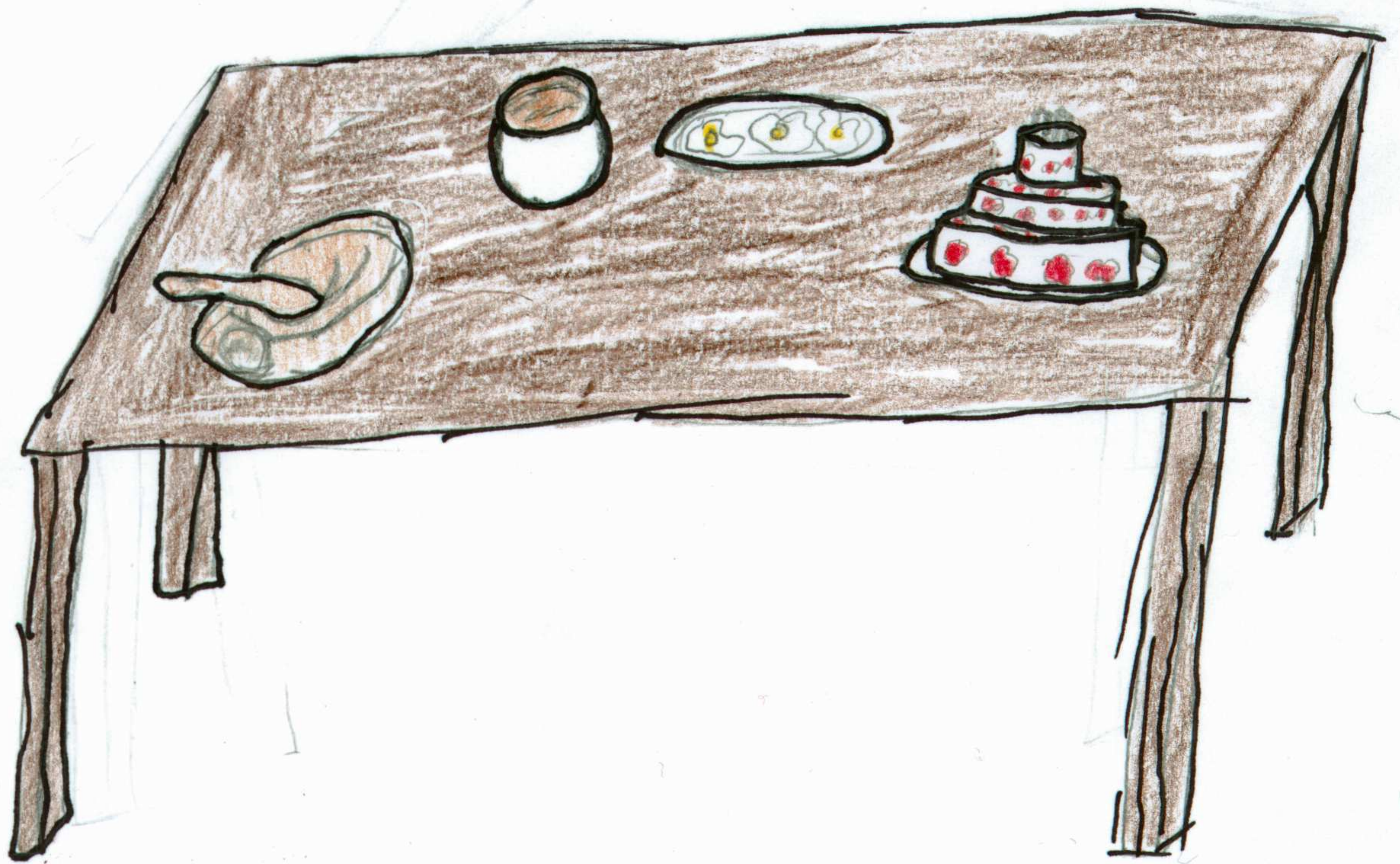






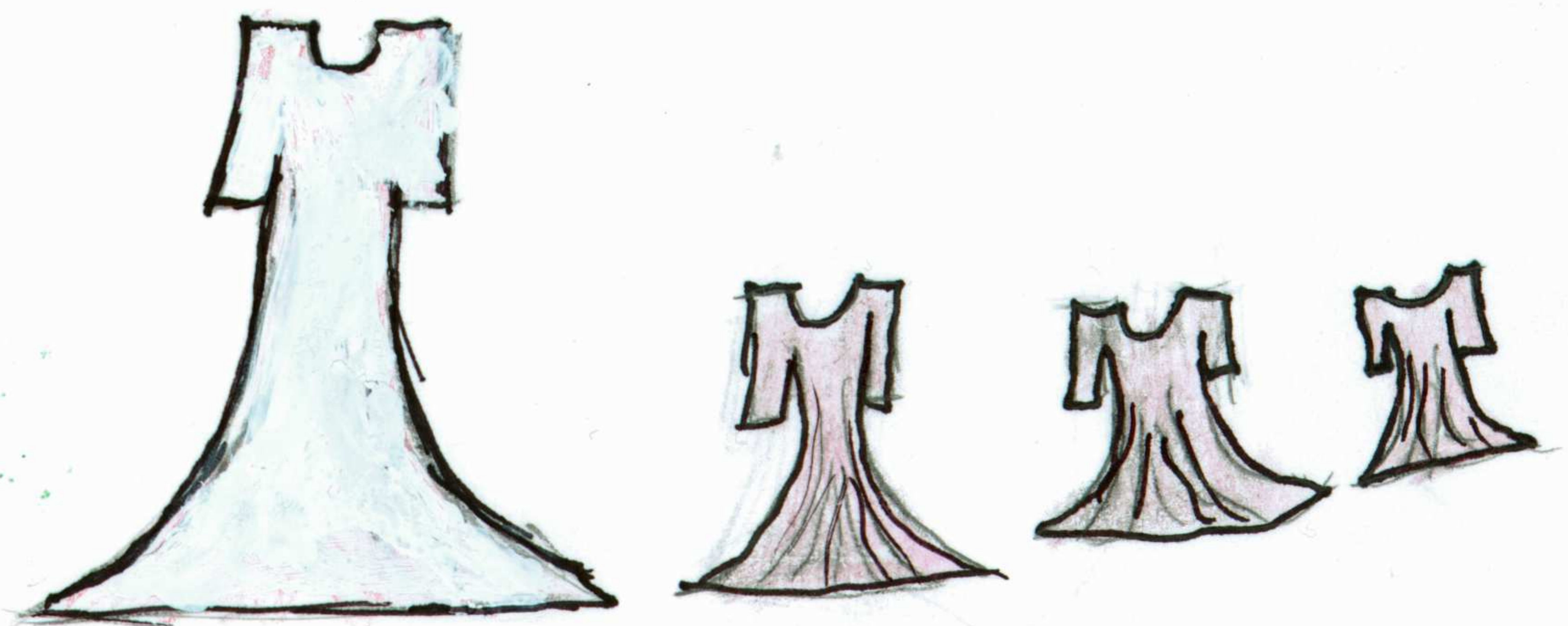
Mom and Gertrude sat on another bench on the other side of the park talked about the plans for the wedding. They had decided the flower girls at the wedding were going to be Ashley, Bridget, and Elyse. The ring bearer would be Gertrude's brother, James.





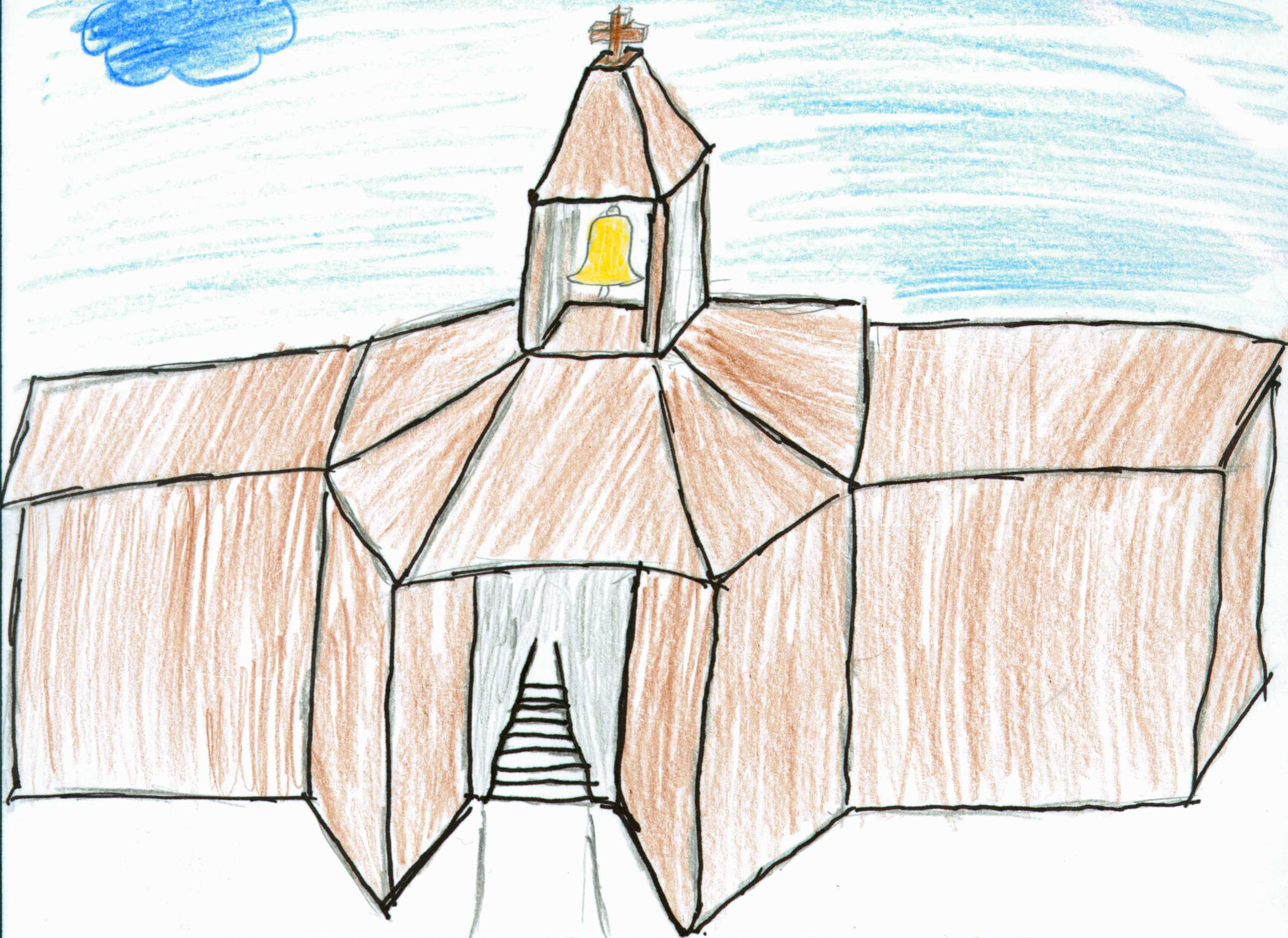
They also decided that to eat they were going to have roasted duck, potatoes, pickled beets and eggs, wilted lettuce, rice pudding, pound cake with cherry sauce, biscuits, cornbread, and a wedding cake, which is also called a stack cake. To drink they were going to have apple cider, sweetened milk, and hot chocolate.

The flower girls decided to wear pink linen dresses with pink bonnets. The men were going to wear black linen shirts and pants. The bride decided to wear a white linen dress with a full skirt and a white linen bonnet.





Suddenly, Sean collapsed. Mom and Dad ran over to see if he was okay. They discovered that he had left the earth for the rest of his life. Mom and Dad were devastated. They couldn't believe it. Sean was buried in Worthington's graveyard. They never did find out what Sean died of.



Mom, Dad, Michael, and Gertrude continued to prepare for the wedding. The wedding was set for August 17, 1833. It would be held at St. John's church, right in Worthington. The family decided that since Michael was getting married in Worthington and would live here, they were going to move here. There was just one problem. Where in Worthington were they going to live?

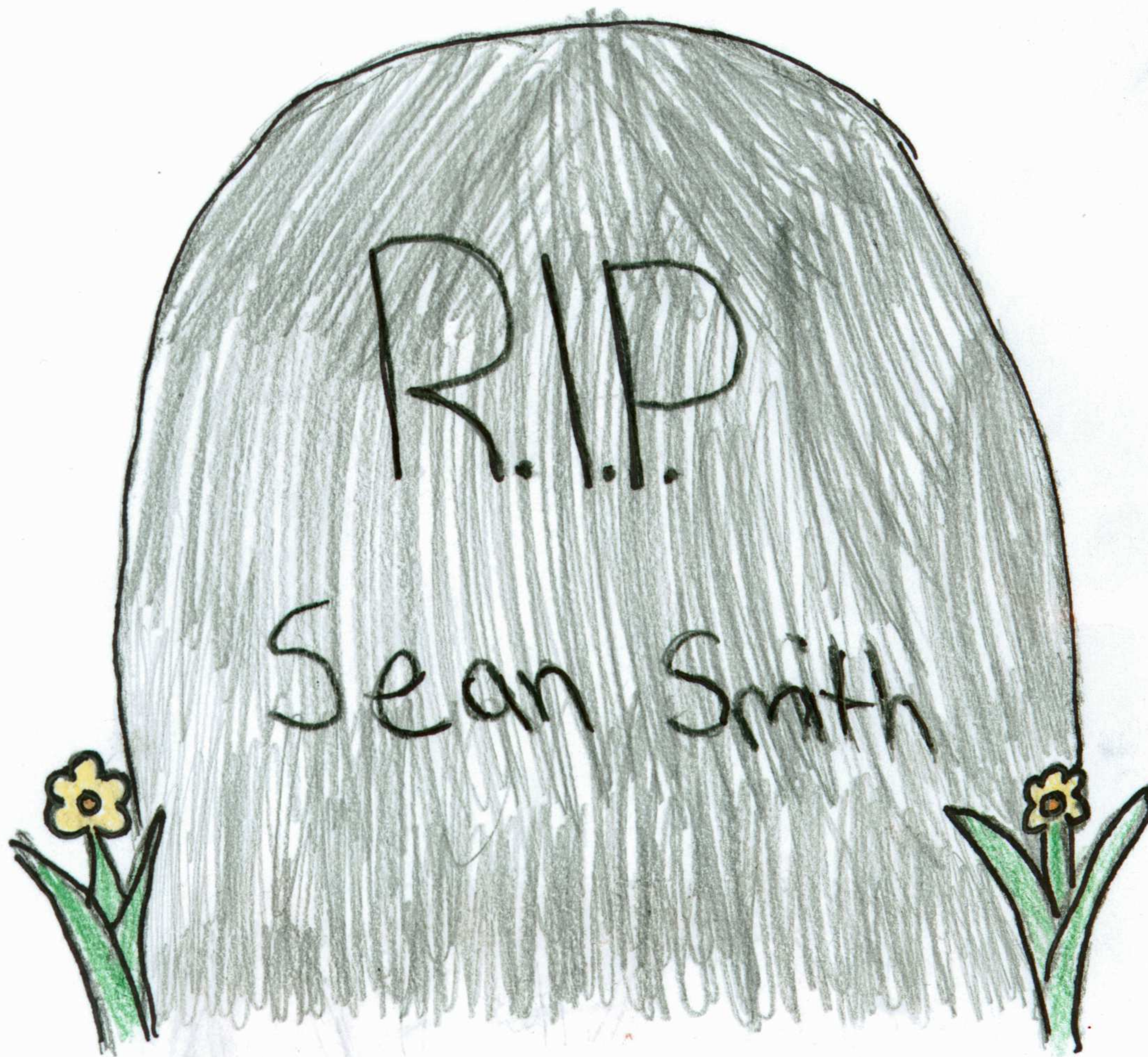


They found a quaint little house on a farm that was just the right size for the family. It had 3 bedrooms. Ashley, Elyse, and Bridget were to share one bedroom. Mom and Dad were to share another bedroom and the last bedroom was to be used for guests. There was also a kitchen, parlor, and living room. The lower floor was a cellar.

The next day Gertrude and the Smith family ate breakfast together in the boarding house kitchen. They had sourdough pancakes, fruit, bread with grape jelly, sweetened milk and apple juice.



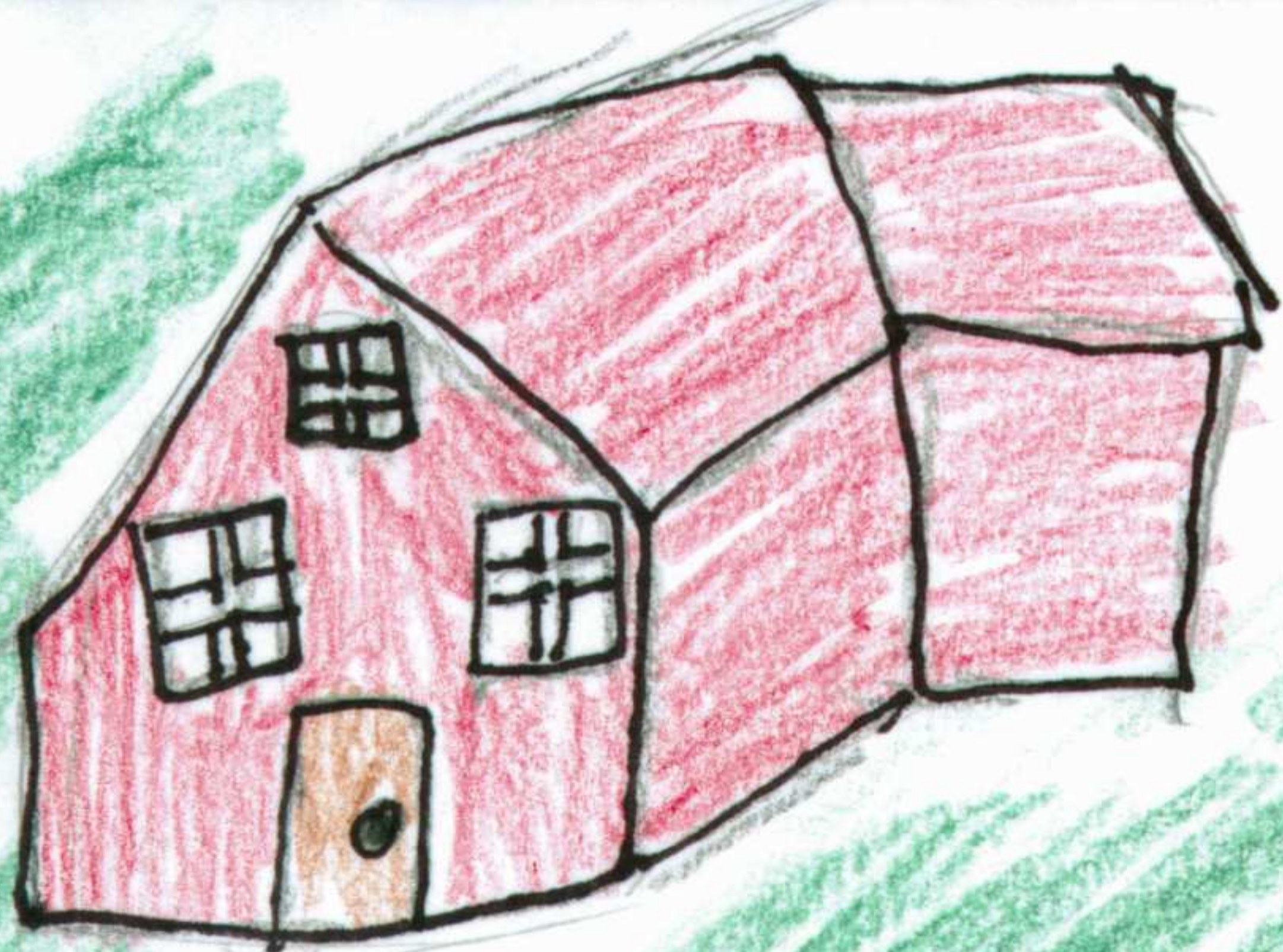




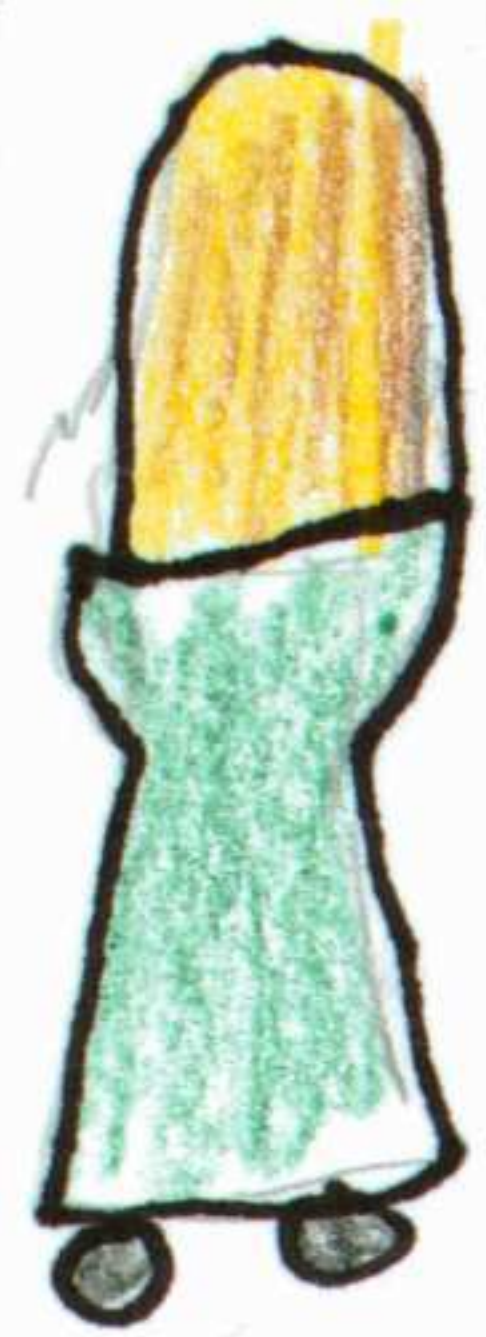
On Saturday Gertrude and Michael took Ashley and Bridget to the graveyard to visit Sean's grave. Ashley began to pick dandelions to put on the grave. Elyse and Bridget started to play tag around the graveyard. Michael and Gertrude stood with their heads bowed saying silent prayers. Then they put their heads up and saw that the little girls had run away.

Panicked, they ran back to the boarding house. They checked all of the neighbors houses. None of the neighbors had seen the three little girls. They went back to the house and there in the kitchen sat the three girls who were enjoying a loaf of cornbread. When Gertrude and Michael saw the girls, they stopped dead in their tracks.





Luckily, the parents were on a social call to the aunt and did not see the ragged girls. Nor did they ever find out about the incident. Michael and Gertrude were so relieved to see the three girls in great condition that they both ran over to give the girls a big hug.





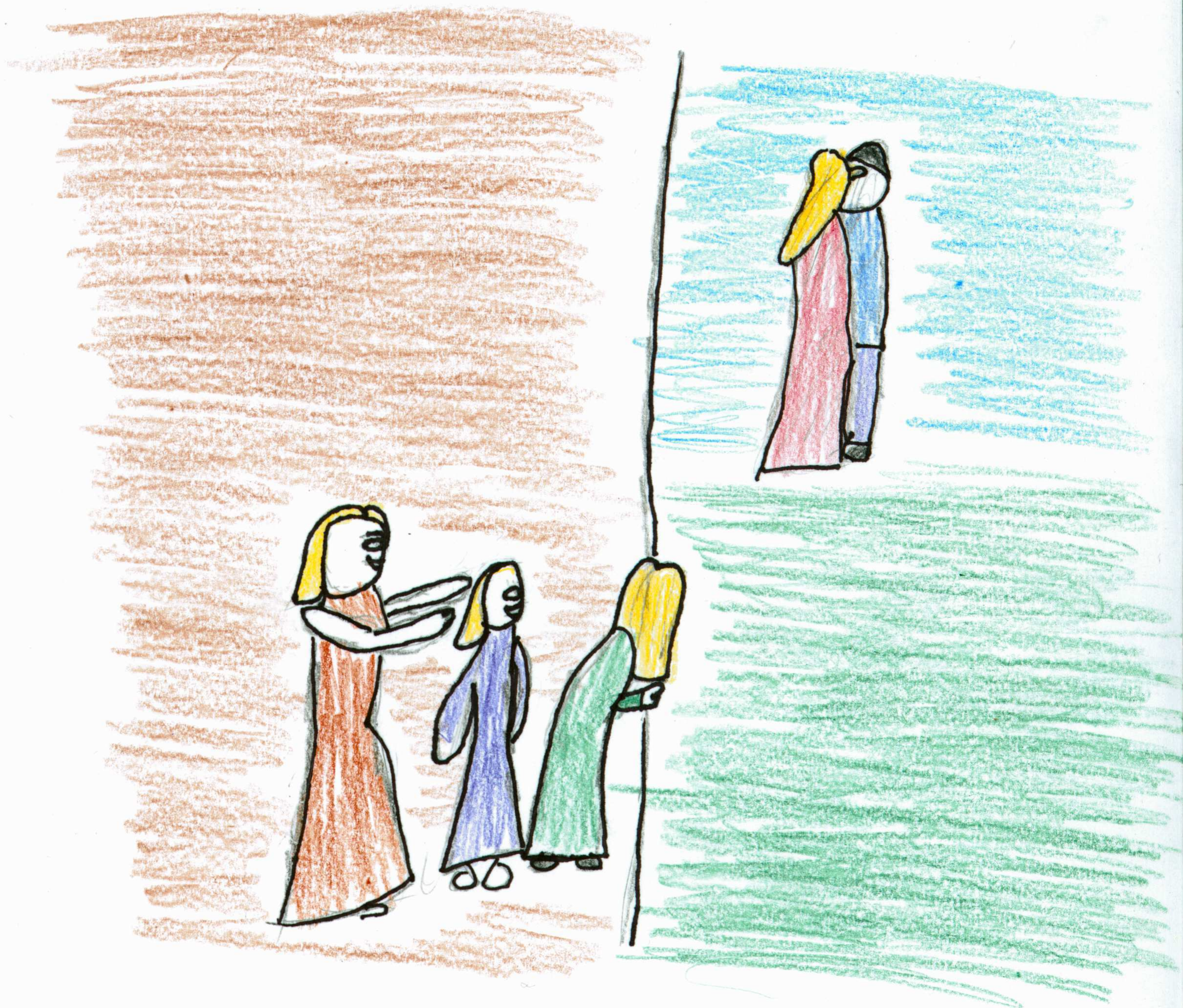
The next day, everyone had totally forgotten about the incident. They had a quick breakfast of eggs, then it was time to go to church at St. John's Presbyterian. Services started at 12:30 and ended at 1:45. When the family got back, they started to arrange the house for the wedding. It was only two weeks before the wedding so the house had to be spotless and had to be kept that way.



The next afternoon, the family and Gertrude set out for the circus. This was the first time the younger children had gone to the circus and they were running around with excitement. At the circus, they watched the clowns while they stuffed themselves silly. The clowns were juggling bowling pins and making faces at the same time. Elyse, Ashley, and Bridget laughed because the clown dropped a pin on his head.



Elyse, Bridget, and Ashley looked around the corner and witnessed Michael and Gertrude's first kiss. They started squealing just as it was all over. The couple saw the little girls and they turned and walked in the opposite direction.





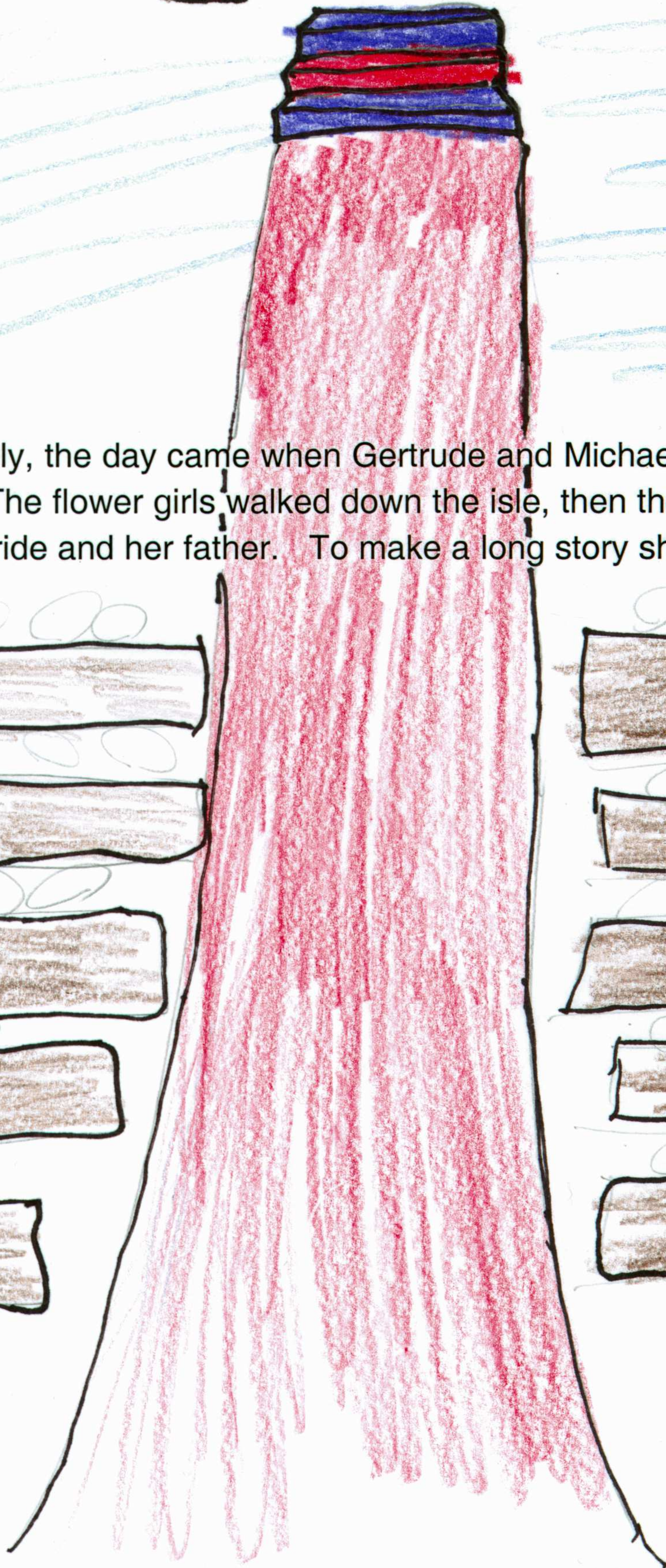
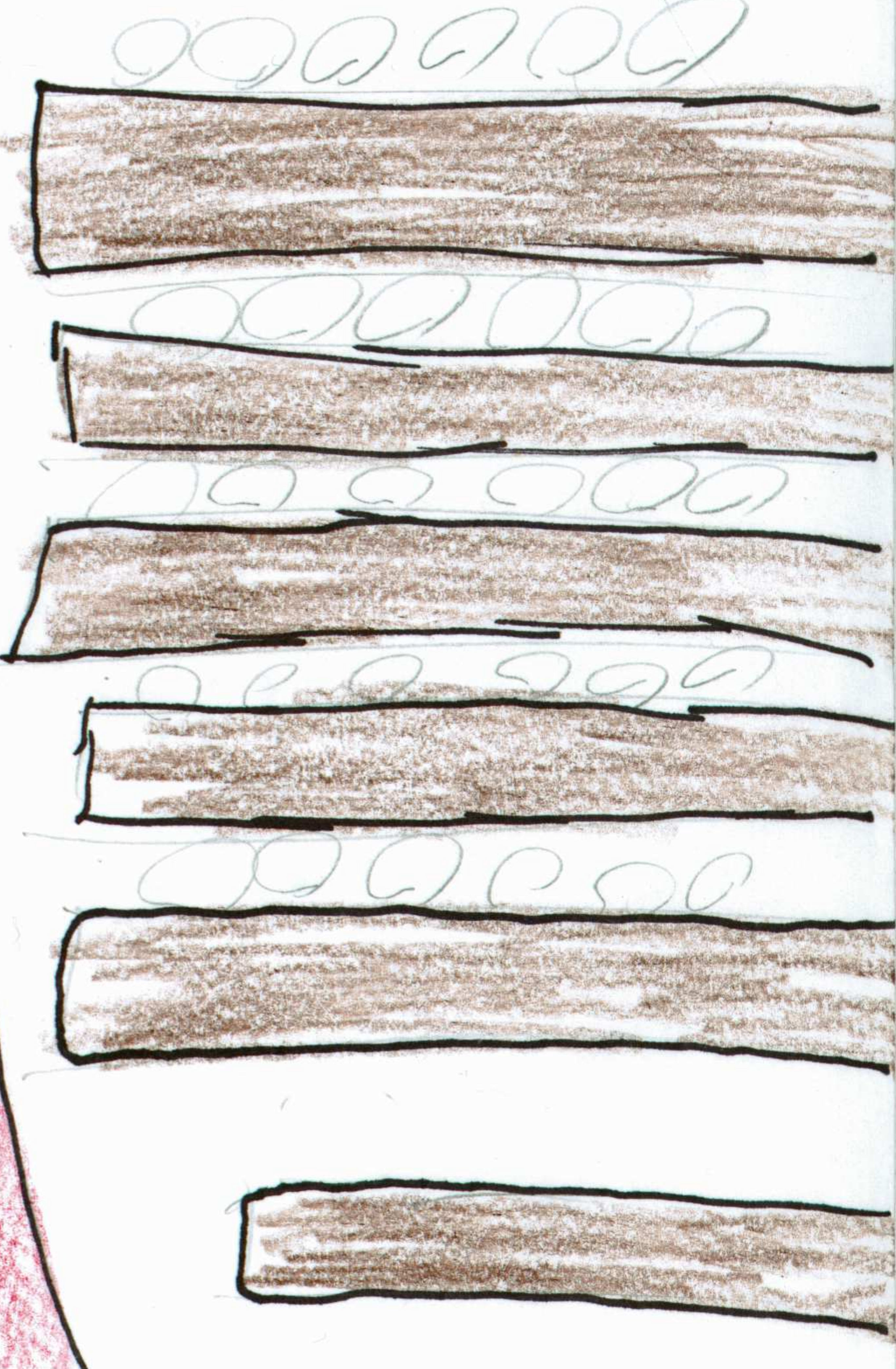


Sadly, the time came to leave the amusing circus. When they got home it was time to go to bed. Everyone climbed into their own bed and had a peaceful sleep.





Finally, the day came when Gertrude and Michael were to get married. The flower girls walked down the aisle, then the bridesmaid, and then the bride and her father. To make a long story short they both said I do.





Two years later Michael and Gertrude had a baby boy. They named their child Edward after Michael's father. The whole family lived happily for the rest of their lives.

