

CHILDREN STORYBOOK WORDS NATIONAL COMPETITION 2018

AMINEF  
American Indonesian Exchange Foundation

FULBRIGHT  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# WORDS

VOLUME 2

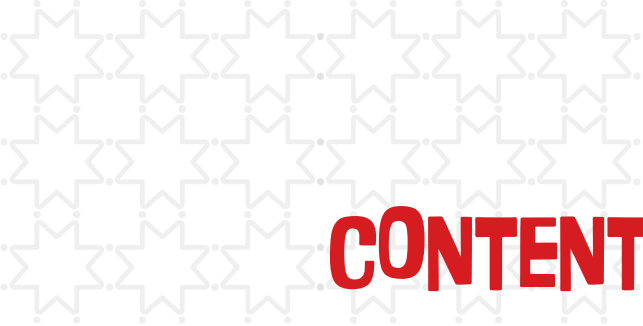


CHILDREN STORYBOOK WORDS NATIONAL COMPETITION 2018

# WORDS

VOLUME 2





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American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF)  
  
Intiland Tower, 11th Floor,  
  
Jl. Jend. Sudirman No. 32  
  
Jakarta 10220

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# FOREWORD

As Director of AMINEF, the binational Fulbright Commission in Indonesia, I am pleased to provide a few words of explanation and encouragement for this collection of stories in two volumes, which represents one of the outcomes of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETA) Program this year, 2017-2018.

American ETAs work together with local co-teachers of English in various secondary schools throughout the archipelago. The program is now in its 14th year in Indonesia.

In 2007, the fourth cohort of ETAs came up with the idea to hold what they called a “WORDS Competition” at the schools where ETAs are placed and then to bring together for a national competition the student winners of those local contests. In previous years, this has mostly meant a speech and talent contest, and has since its beginning always been an exciting part of the AMINEF year. The 10th or 11th grade students got to demonstrate their prowess in spoken English (helped of course by their ETA and co-teachers over the previous months) as well as to tell their personal stories and to show off local cultural riches and their own talents.

This year’s cohort of 19 ETAs – who by the way come from all over the US and are very diverse in background and interests, and are spread out in 19 schools in nine provinces in Indonesia – together with the AMINEF American Program staff who work closely with them came up with a new idea for WORDS. This

year’s WORDS, instead of a speech and talent contest, is focused on story-telling and takes as its story-telling theme “Hometown” or “Home.”

The national competition was held in Jakarta on April 5th at the Le Meridien Hotel. Each of the 19 students participating had to first win their local school competition to qualify for the national competition. In addition to the competition itself, there were also evening activities (bowling at a local bowling alley), a trip to Monas, and an English Olympics Activity.

But the real excitement of the event was in the oral presentation of the stories and the judging of the presentations and the physical books themselves. The jury consisted of Americans and Indonesians and included an American book artist and Fulbright researcher, Lisa Miles; best-selling Indonesian author and former Fulbrighter Ahmad Fuadi; Max Harrington of the US Embassy’s Cultural Affairs Office; and Christine Manara, a lecturer in English at Atma Jaya Catholic University, who is helping in an evaluation of the Indonesian ETA Program.

Another change in this year’s competition concerns the prizes. AMINEF chose to work with Taman Bacaan Pelangi, an NGO that focuses on children and reading this year. The winning story books are combined in a collection of story books that AMINEF is donating to Taman Bacaan Pelangi’s

library in Labuan Bajo, Flores, Nusa Tenggara Timur. The three national winners, Sherlia, Ummu, and Anugrah, traveled to Labuan Bajo to volunteer in Taman Bacaan Pelangi’s library, among other activities.

I want to congratulate here the student winners of the competition, and to salute all the 19 student participants for their creativity, enthusiasm, and high spirit. I also want to thank Taman Bacaan Pelangi for its collaboration, all the judges who gave of their time to help make the WORDS competition a success. The 2017-2018 ETAs did a tremendous job in conceptualizing and realizing the whole project, and showed dedication and enthusiasm at all stages. Finally, my thanks to this year’s ETA Coordinator Shelby Lawson, and the tireless staff of AMINEF’s American Program led by Astrid Lim: Ceacealia Dewitha, Muhammad Rizqi Arifuddin, Thasia Rayinda.

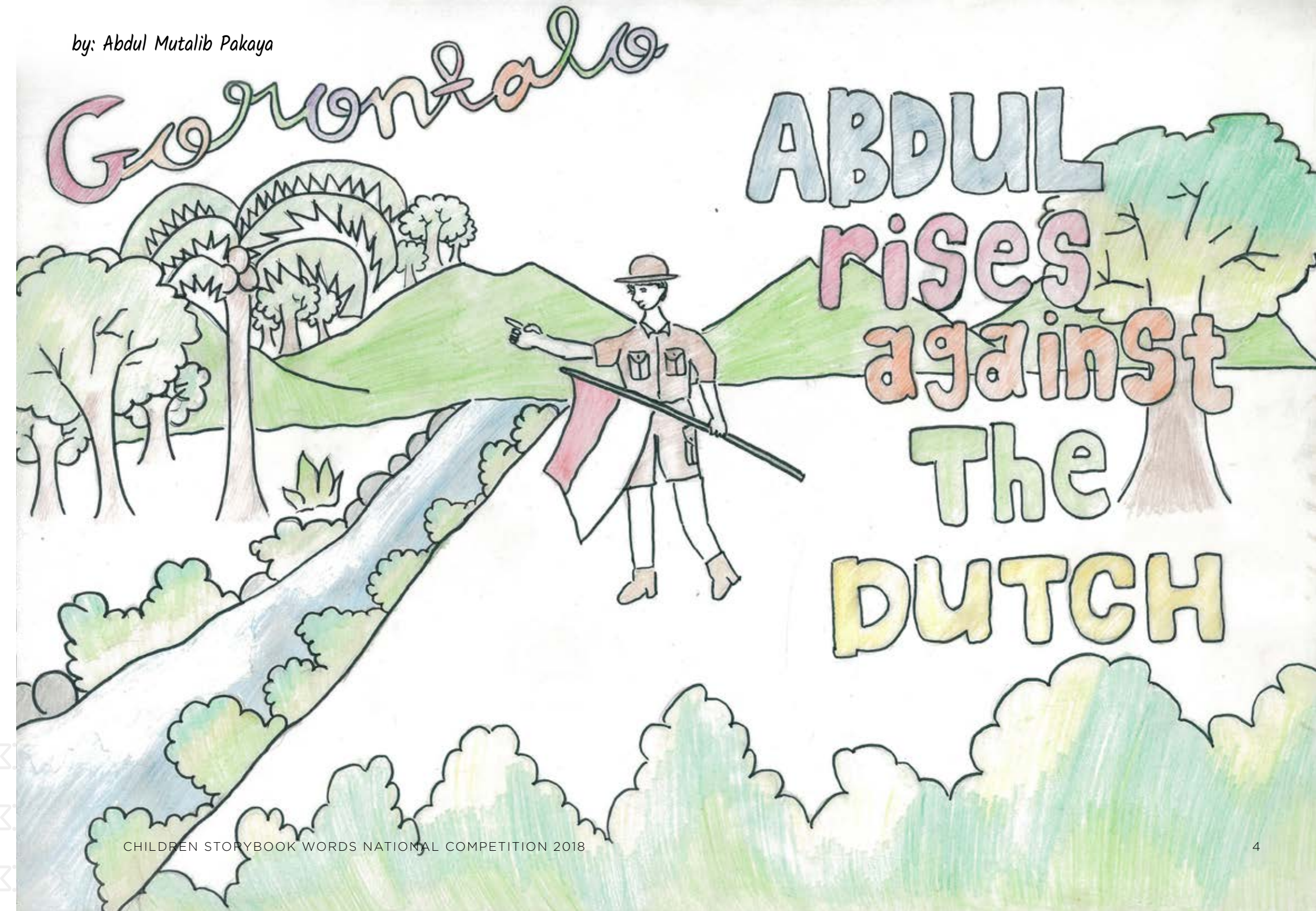
*Alan H. Feinstein,*  
Executive Director, AMINEF



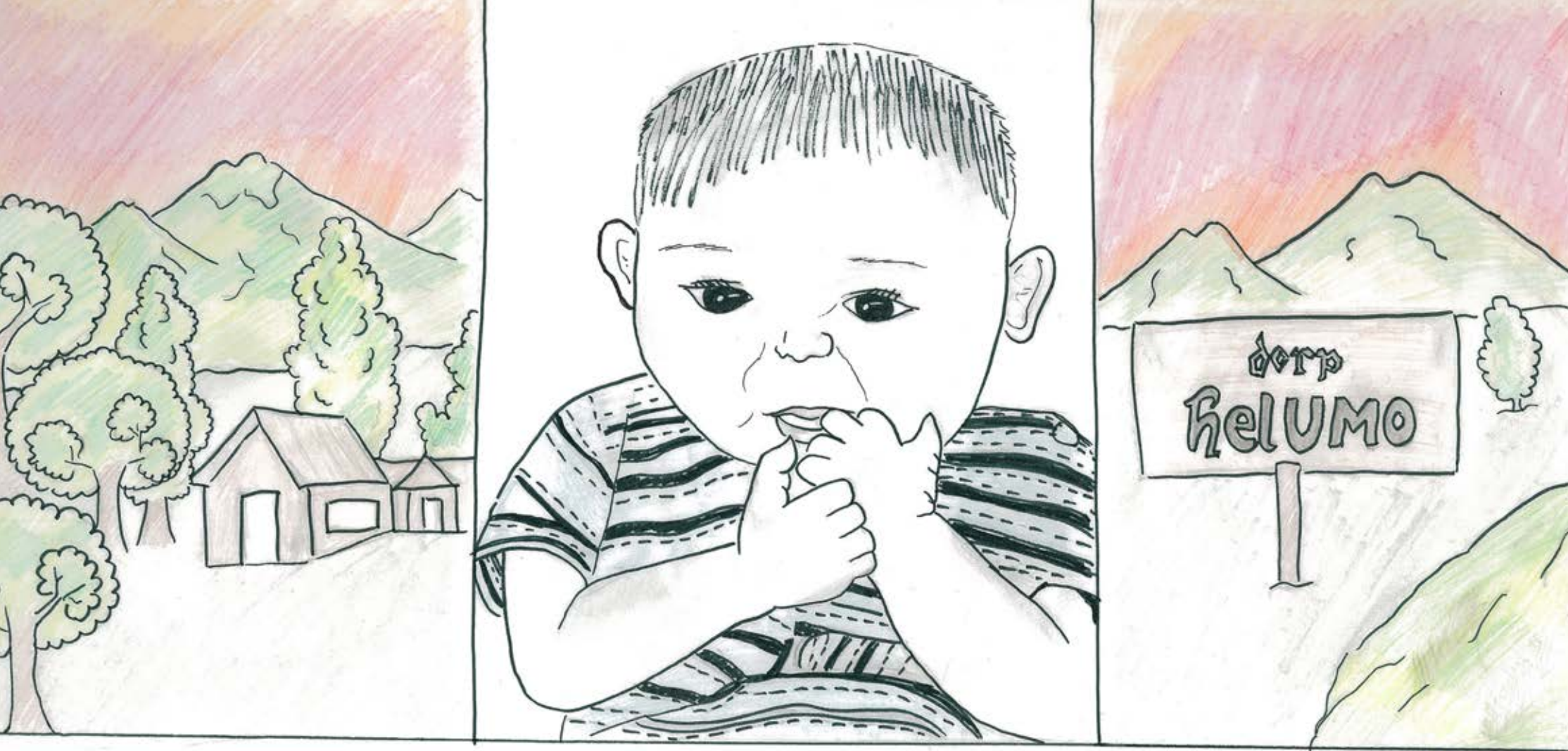
# ABOUT WORDS COMPETITION

The WORDS Competition is a Fulbright ETA-initiated event that began in 2007. For the first ten years, it was a speech and talent competition. In 2018, WORDS has been remodeled as a storybook and storytelling competition and includes a service-learning component. The three National Winners will participate in a volunteer trip to Flores Island to present and donate the first volume of the National Winners' storybooks to Taman Bacaan Pelangi (TBP) libraries, which is a non-profit organization working to establish children's libraries in remote areas of Eastern Indonesia.

by: Abdul Mutalib Pakaya







*A Long time ago in the quiet village of Helumo, Gorontalo, Abdul was born into a poor family.*

*Abdul's father, Ato, worked for the government of the Netherlands East Indies. His Mother, Nou, was a singer.*

*One day, Nou said, "My husband, look at our child. He is handsome like you."*

*Ato responded, "Yes, he is charming. May God make him loyal to our family and help the Gorontalo people."*



*As the years passed, Abdul grew into a curious and brave boy. One Night while eating binthe biluhuta, Abdul sought knowledge about the Dutch occupation and asked his father many questions.*

*"Why do you work for the Dutch who torture our people?" Abdul asked.*

*Ato explained, "My dear son, you are still a child. You will understand when you are older."*

*"No Daddy. I am a grown up and I need to know why you work for the villains!" Abdul affirmed.*

*"I cannot tell why I work for the Dutch. I can only say that the Dutch fear the arrival of the Japanese. But promise me, you will free Gorontalo from the Dutch with the help of the Japanese people," Ato replied.*



Abdul exclaimed, "Yes, of course, I will free Gorontalo."



The next day, Abdul accompanied his father to the Dutch office in Gorontalo. After arriving at the office, Ato began working. Abdul walked behind the office to play and suddenly he heard a prisoner shout for help. "Help.. Help.." the prisoner shouted.

"Mas, why are you locked up?" a frightened Abdul asked.

"I did not obey the Dutch government's regulations. They locked me up. Please help me out of here," the prisoner cried.

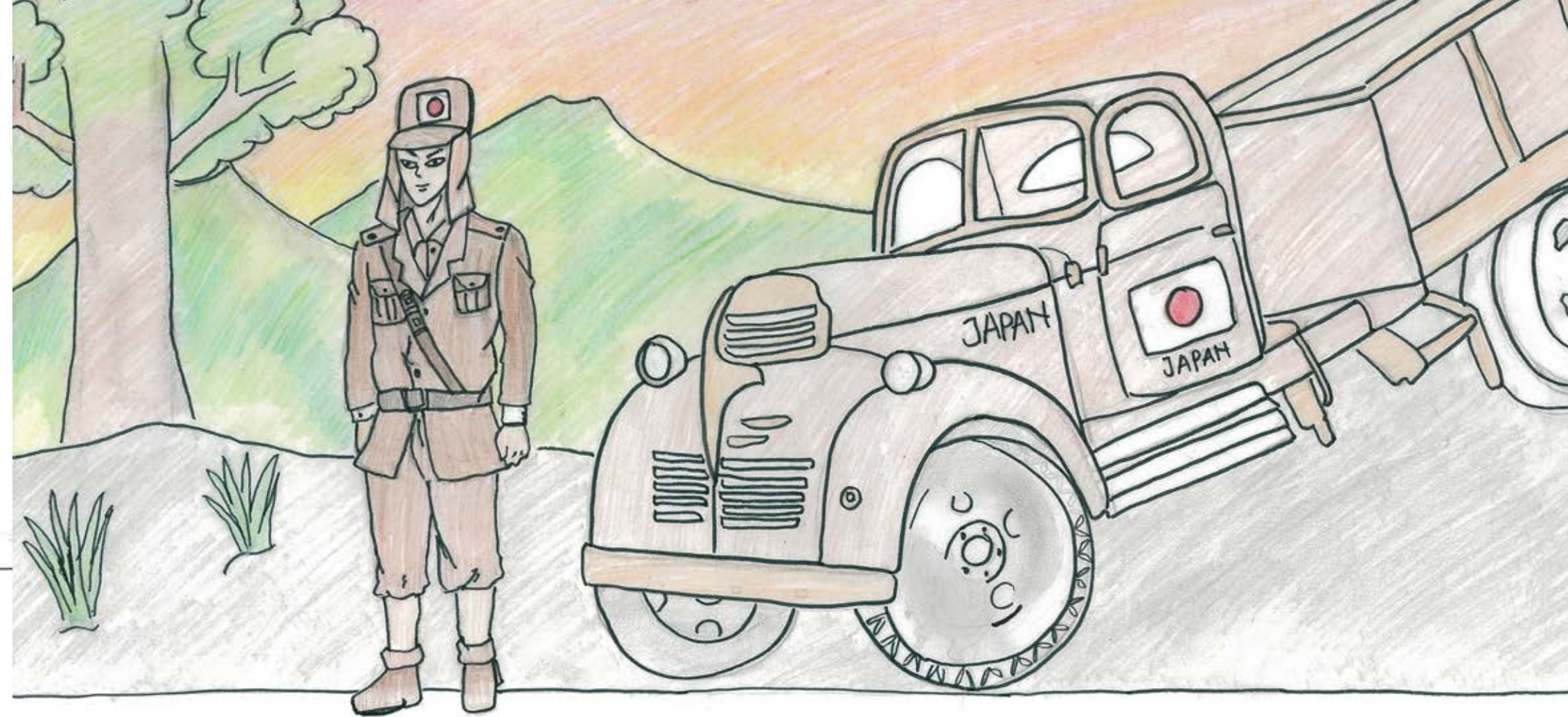
"Yes, I will help you," Abdul answered as he opened the prison door and





*Abdul returned home with his father later that day and told his father about the prisoner. But, tragedy hit as Abdul witnessed his father killed by the Dutch for sharing news about the approaching Japanese.*

*Abdul wept as he buried his beloved father in the ground. Feelings of sadness were transformed into anger directed at the Dutch*



*Abdul heard the Japanese were on their way to Gorontalo. This scared the Dutch government. Abdul used this opportunity to gather the resistance to destroy the Dutch government. "O people of Gorontalo, let us destroy the Dutch government," Abdul exclaimed in a loud voice to his followers*





*"We waited for this day!" the people shouted as they advanced. All Dutch offices were burned and the public began to raise the Indonesian flag while singing Indonesia Raya.*

*Abdul then gave a speech.*



*"On this day, January 23th, 1942, the Gorontalo people are free from colonization. Our flag is white and red and our national anthem is Indonesia Raya. Dutch rule is over." The crowd chanted and cheered Abdul as they sang Lamahu Lipu'u Halonthalo (forward Gorontalo).*

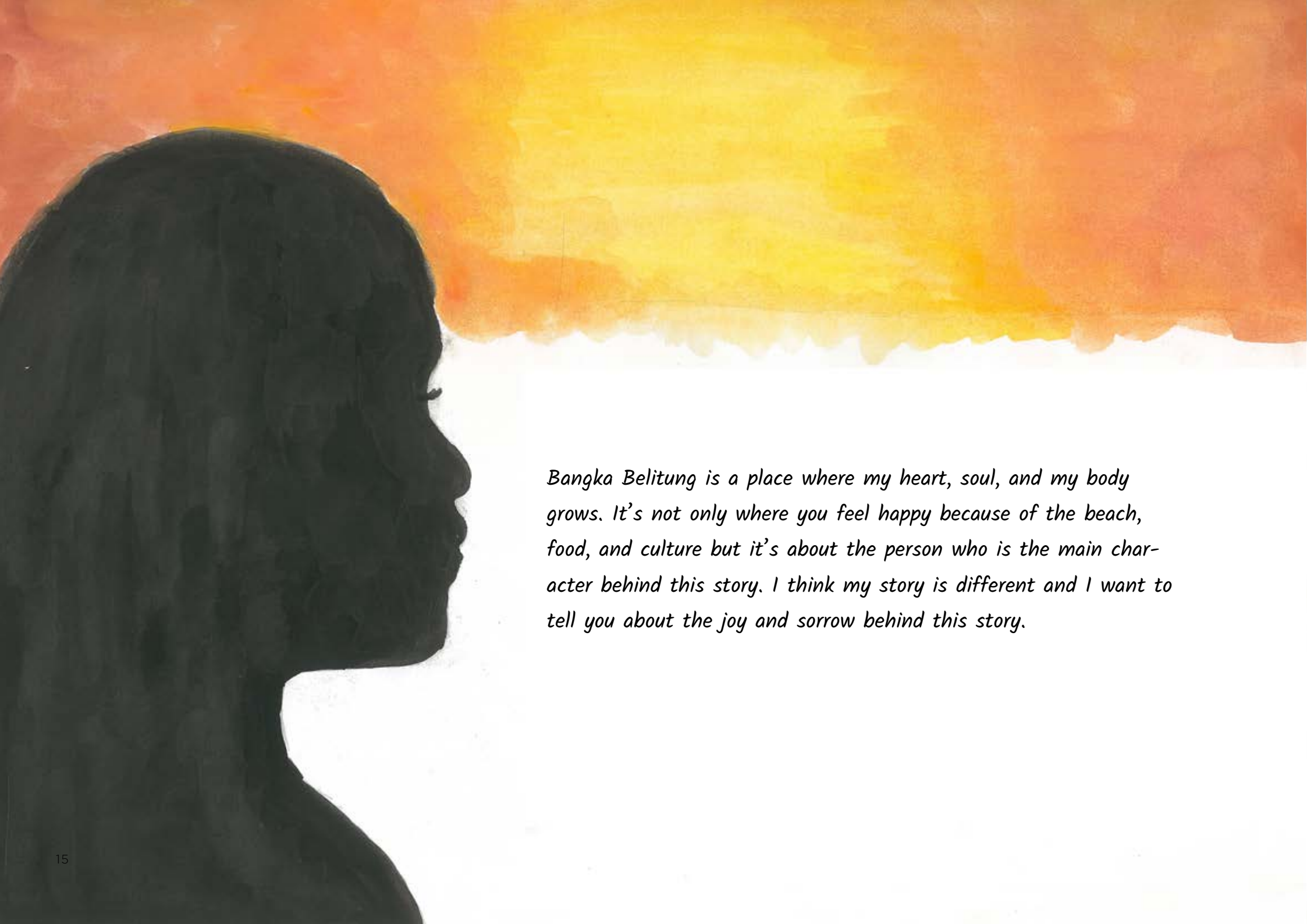




# An Independent Girl

by: Elva Julia Rose





*Bangka Belitung is a place where my heart, soul, and my body grows. It's not only where you feel happy because of the beach, food, and culture but it's about the person who is the main character behind this story. I think my story is different and I want to tell you about the joy and sorrow behind this story.*



*Feeling scared is the emotion you feel when you see your parents who have problems and get upset and fight together. This has happened to a young girl's parents. Their fighting everyday made the young girl traumatized.*





*This story takes place in Kerakas. Kerakas is a small village deserted from the hustle and bustle of the city. This place is calm and cool. Many people who live there are immigrants from Java and Palembang. There are also many illegal tin miners in this village. They're all so friendly to the young girl.*



*Kerakas was quiet unlike the young girl's house. Her days just did not have peace if we looked into her eyes. In the morning, the girl felt happy with her friends, but at night she felt cursed and blamed herself for being born into a bad family, although she knew her parents cared a lot for her.*

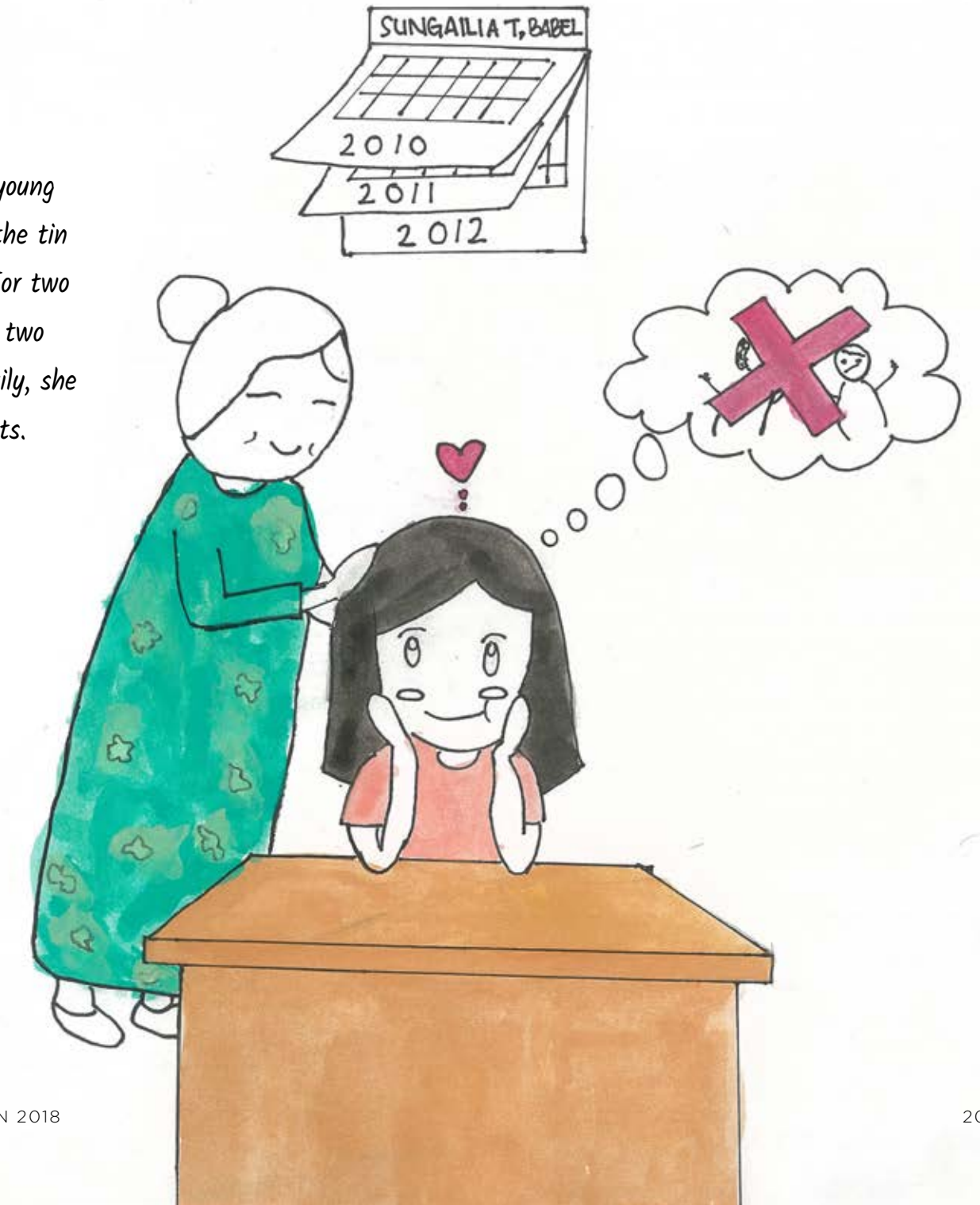




The days passed and the time changed. The young girl moved to her grandma's house in Sungailiat because her mom had to continue her study. Her mom, is a midwife. And the girl had to stay in her grandma's house because her mom thought her daddy couldn't treat her better.



Sungailiat became a second home to the young girl. Her grandma's house was located in the tin house complex, near natural hot springs. For two years, she lived in Sungailiat and in those two years she grew far from her parents. Luckily, she didn't see any more fights from her parents.





*But when she had time she would meet her parents. During this time, she only lived with her daddy because her mom moved to Koba Hospital, Central of Bangka. But she didn't just move. The girl's daddy told her, they had decided to divorce. The child had to live with her daddy.*



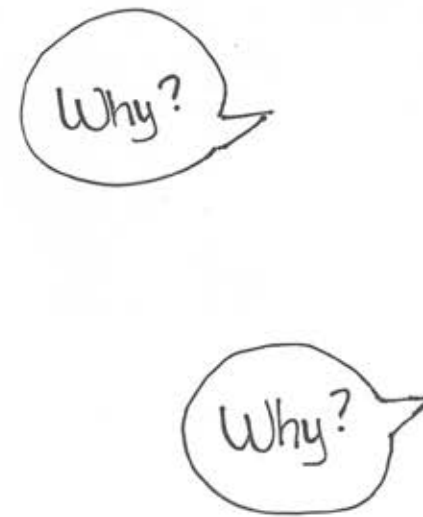
*For three years, she stayed with her daddy and her stepmom. When the young girl first saw her stepmom, she seemed kind and friendly. Overtime the stepmom changed. She didn't respect the young girl or treat her like her own daughter. The young girl wondered what she did wrong. She felt disappointed because even her father defended her stepmom.*



Everyday the young girl had to hear questions about her family. But those questions felt like mockery, "why did you choose to follow your daddy? Why did your mom change her religion? Why don't you follow your mom's religion?"



I just want to say that everybody thinks they know everything from the outside but what they do not know is how we feel on the inside. Now here I am, the young girl, standing in front of you. I am here to show that she was able to rise out of her past.

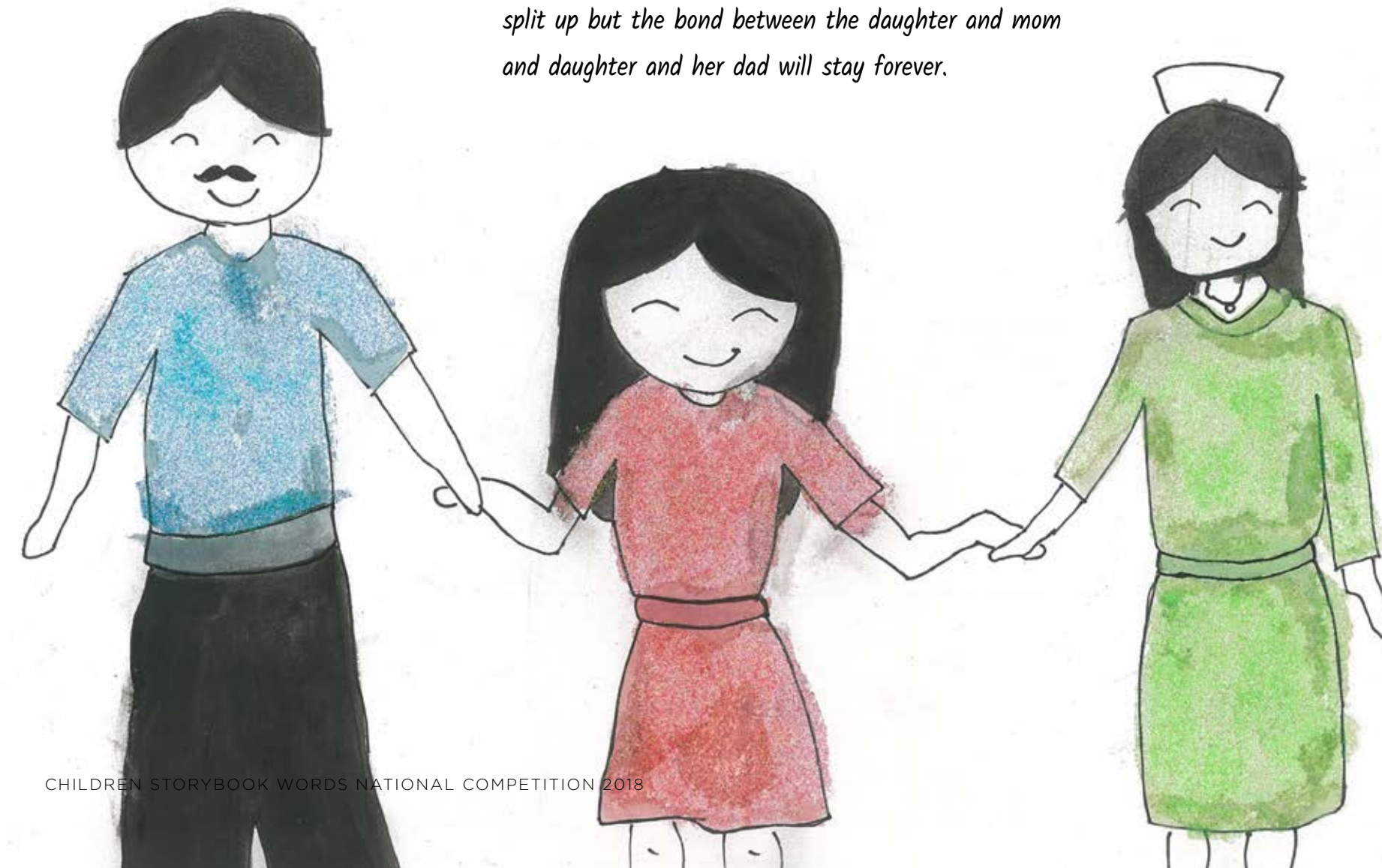






*She became an independent girl with the help of her friends and neighbors. She currently lives alone without her mom and dad. But living alone has made the young girl responsible and independent. She wakes up early, cooks her own food, cleans the house, and goes to school. She spends lots of time with her best friend who is kind and helpful. Together, they celebrate holidays, shop at the market, do homework and talk about life and love. Day by day, the young girl feels happier and thinks less of her mom and dad's divorce. She is positive and ambitious to create her future.*

*Here I am to prove we should not underestimate someone from a poor background because her family, friends, and neighbors did not stop supporting her. And as you know, the husband and wife may have split up but the bond between the daughter and mom and daughter and her dad will stay forever.*











*Once near a beautiful lake in Tomohon*



*“There lived a poor married couple”.*







*Who were being chased by a giant  
green hungry monster.  
And he smells really bad too.*



*They accidentally stepped on the footprint of the giant.  
They don't know that they smell like him.*



*Utu got an idea to meet his grandmother who  
lived at the Lokon Mountain.*



*"Here...take this flower and you have to plant  
this along the way back to your home.  
You will be saved"*



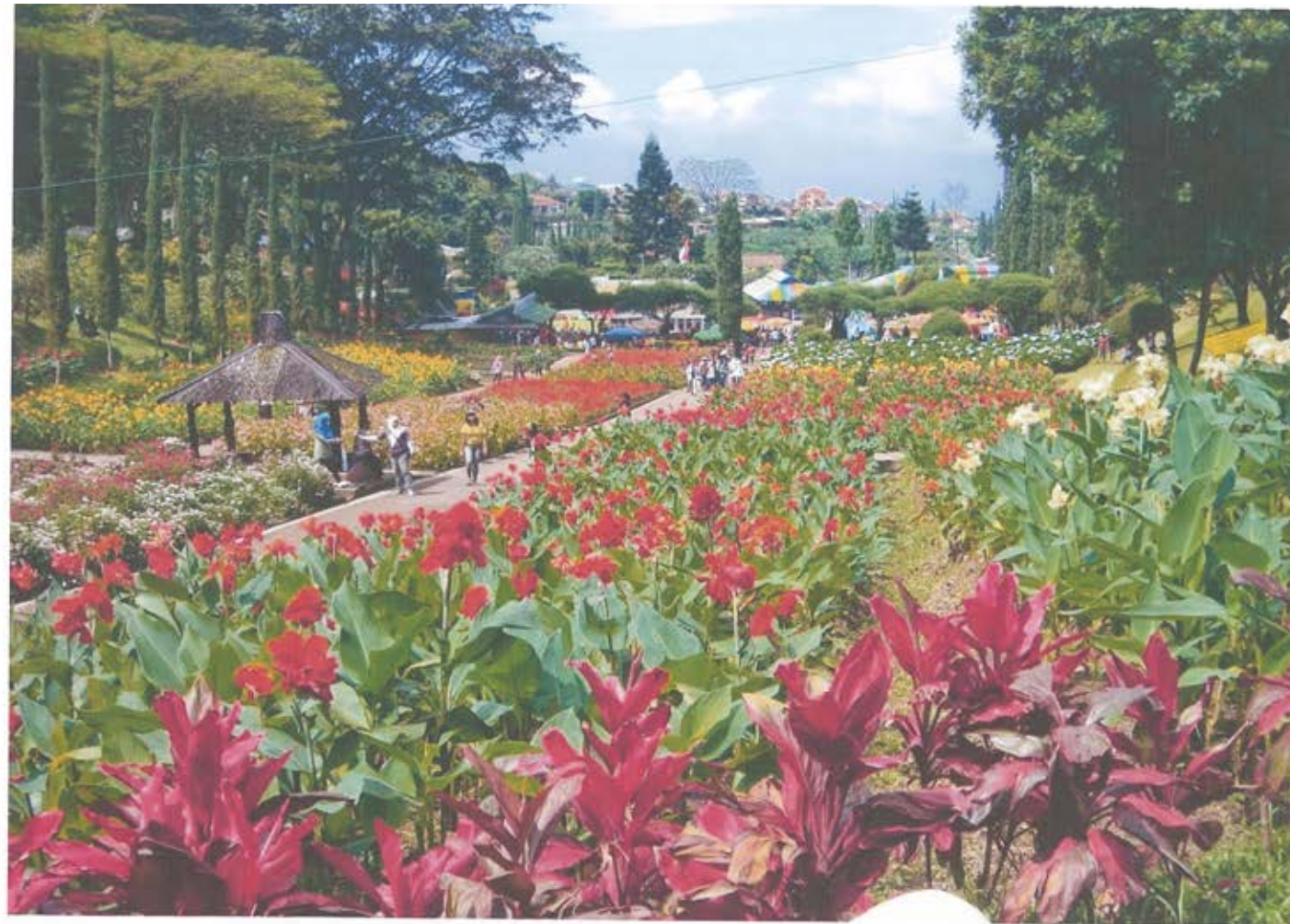


*The monster hates the smells of the  
Chrysanthemum flower.*

*When they walked back home, they started to plant the flowers along the way back.*







*It then become the flower road of Tomohon.*



*Which is why Tomohon earned the nickname of the city of flowers.*







Once upon a time, there was a little girl who lived in the middle of Surabaya city. Her name was Vibra. Vibra woke up early on the morning of November 10th, 1945 and prepared to go to school. To get to school, she always passed Yamato Hotel. On this morning, Vibra had a feeling that something was going to happen. Her feeling got stronger when she saw a large crowd of people waving the red and white flag in front of the hotel. The crowd got so angry because there was a Dutch flag that was hoisted above the Yamato hotel.



She could not walk by the Yamato hotel so she turned around and looked for another way to get to her school. But unfortunately, the crowd surrounded her and she could not walk anywhere. Vibra became afraid because of them.



As Vibra was trapped in the crowd, there was a negotiation between Indonesian youths and Dutch leaders taking place inside the hotel. The youths asked the Dutch to lower their flag, but they refused. A Dutch leader pulled out a gun and killed some of the youths!.



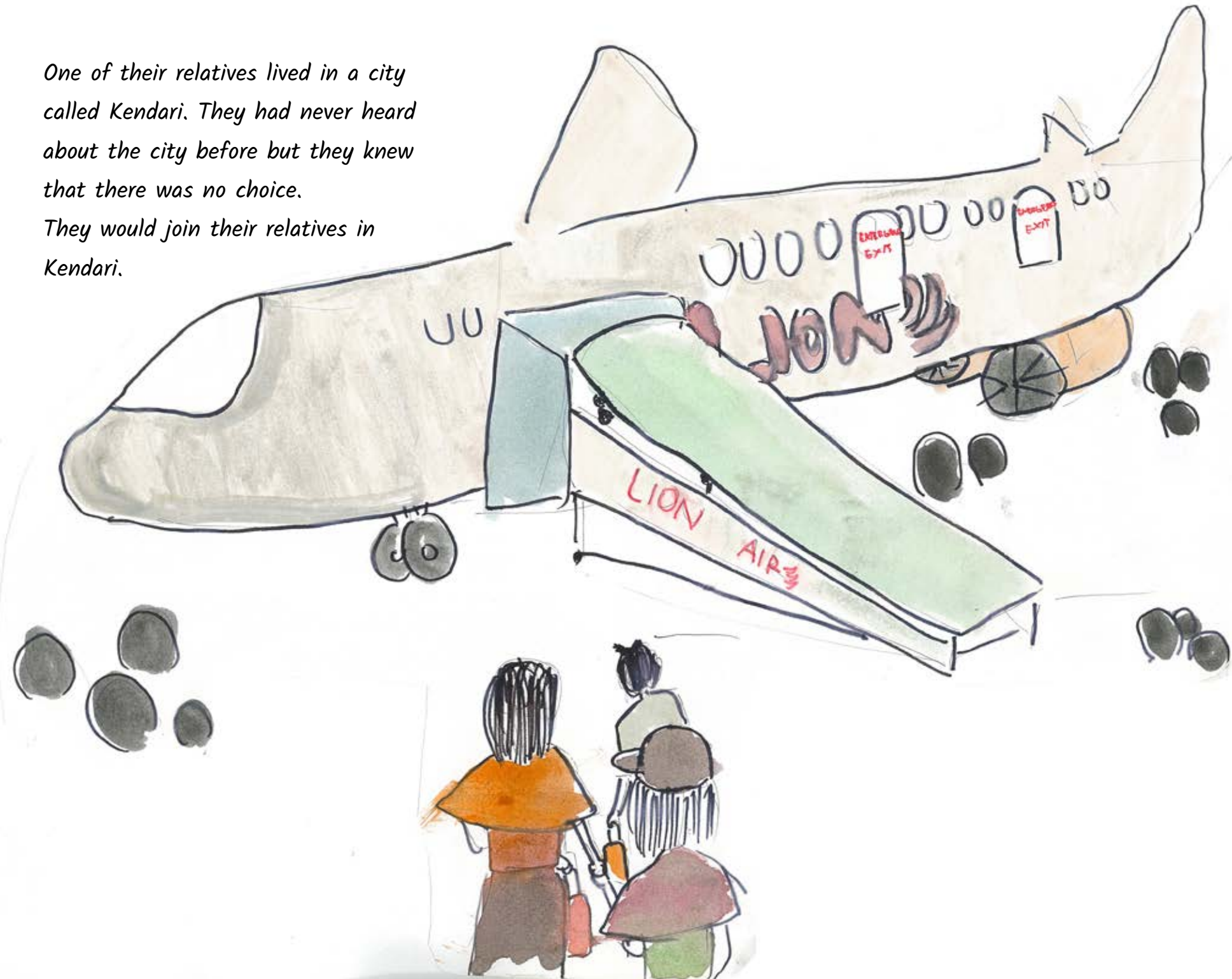
Outside the hotel, the youths scrambled up to the top of the hotel to lower the flag. Someone continued to shoot from below and several youths were hit by the bullets. Vibra became even more frightened. The crowd became uncontrollable! Everyone was looking for Dutch leaders hiding among the crowd.



Vibra ran home to tell her parents what she saw at Yamato hotel. The news spread around Surabaya very quickly so her parents had already heard about the event. They warned Vibra about the dangerous events happening around their home. The parents know that they needed to evacuate to a safer city. But where should they go?.



One of their relatives lived in a city called Kendari. They had never heard about the city before but they knew that there was no choice. They would join their relatives in Kendari.

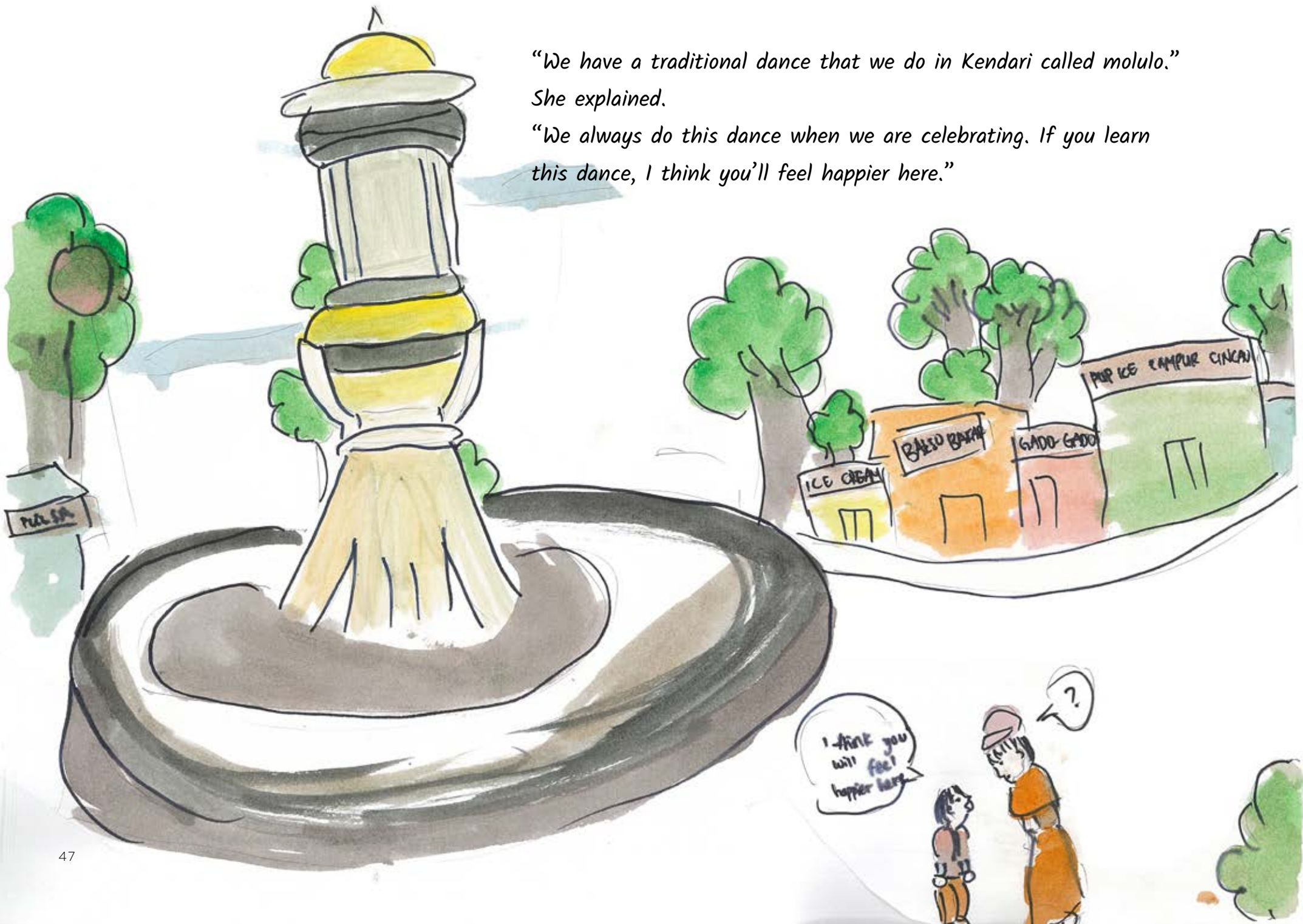


In the morning, Vibra felt sad to have to leave Surabaya. Vibra arrived in Kendari with her family and they moved in with her mother's family. Day after day, Vibra felt that Kendari was not the right place for her. Everyone used a different language around her and it made her uncomfortable.

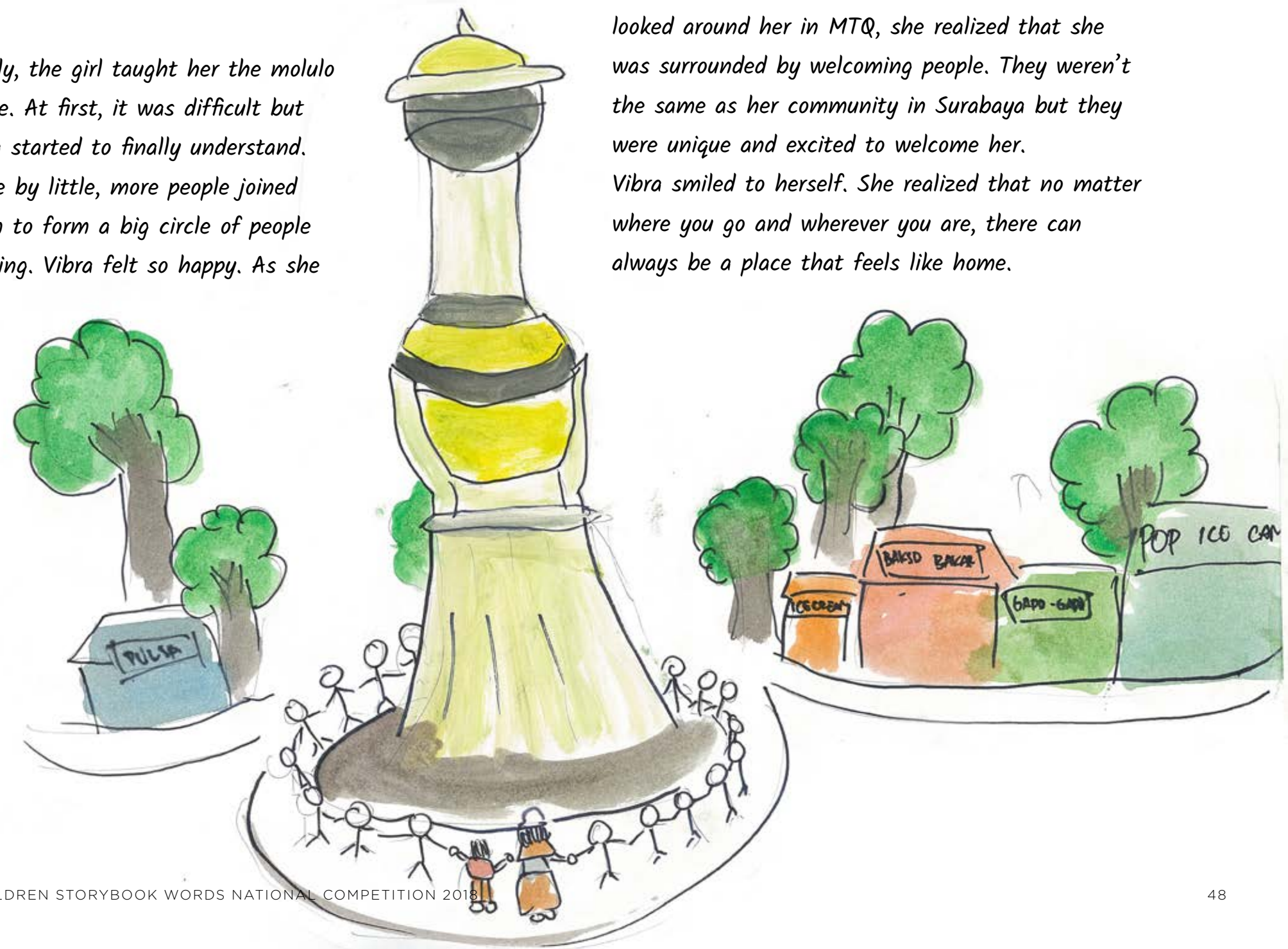
One day, a little girl approached her on the street. "Where do you come from?" she asked. "I am from Surabaya" Vibra answered. "I just came to Kendari with my family because there is a lot of fighting happening in Surabaya but I'm not sure if I'm happy here." The little girl took Vibra's hand and they walked into MTQ Park where there was traditional music playing.





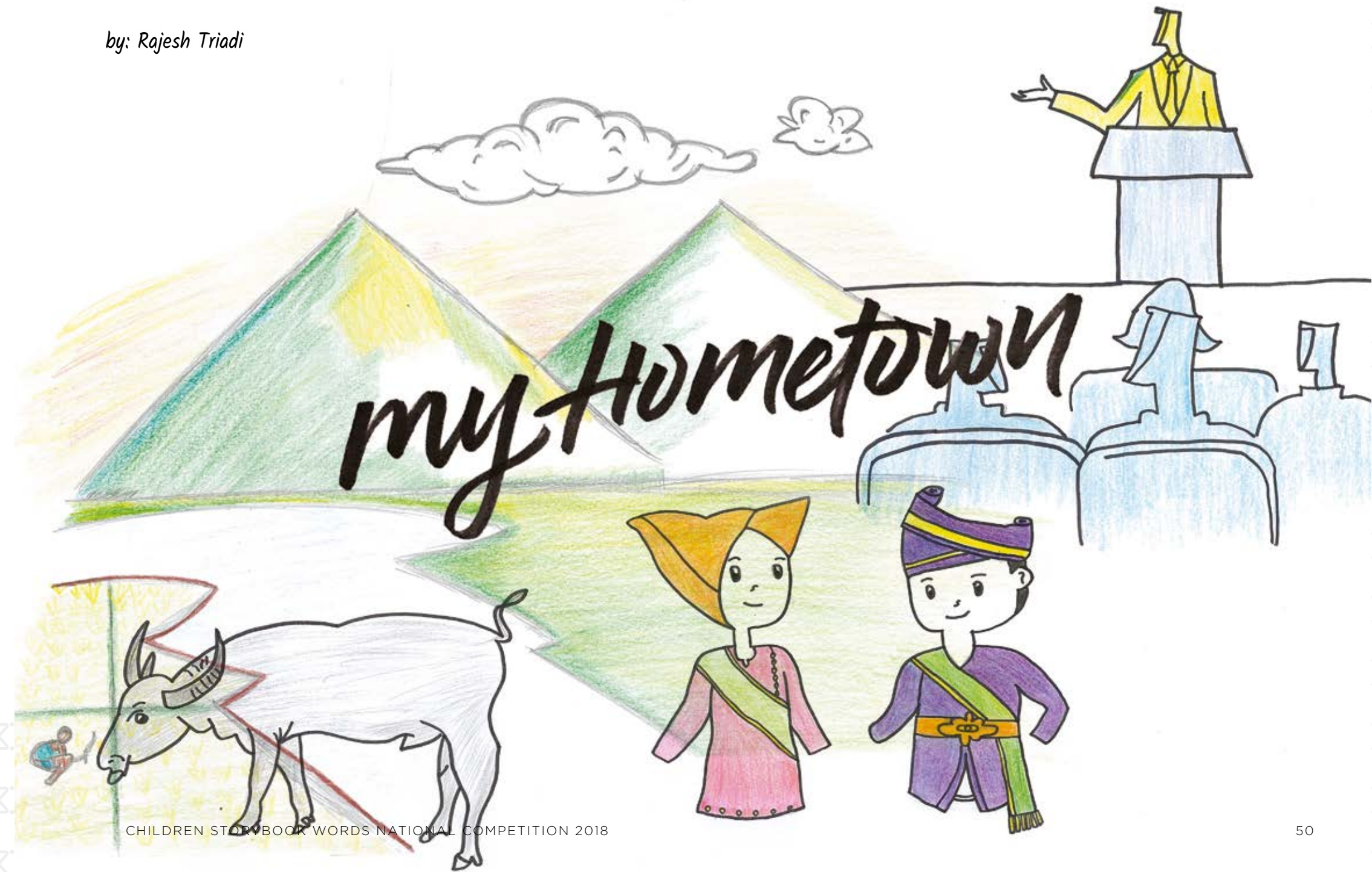


Slowly, the girl taught her the molulo dance. At first, it was difficult but Vibra started to finally understand. Little by little, more people joined them to form a big circle of people dancing. Vibra felt so happy. As she



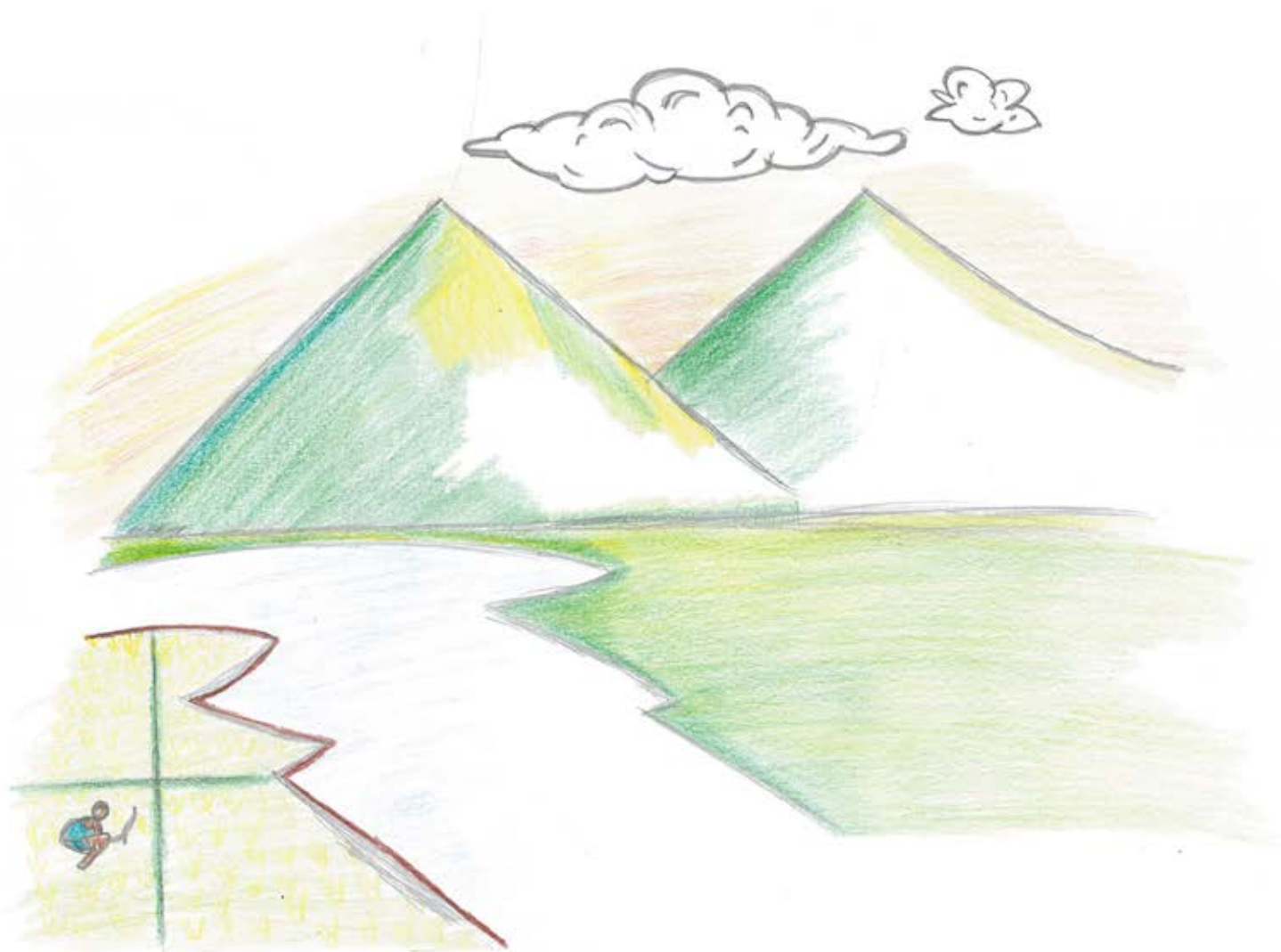


by: Rajesh Triadi

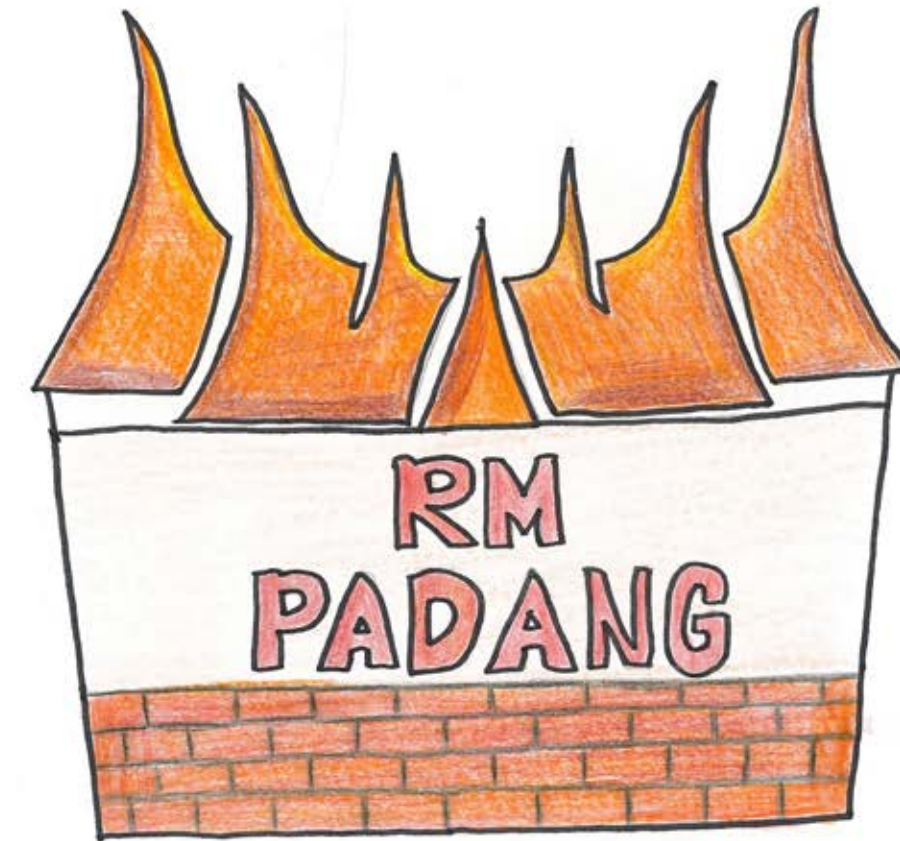




*I am from Padang, West Sumatra. I live in a small district of Padang called Bungus. What I love about Bungus are its blue ocean and beautiful green hills. Below the hills there are some rice fields that I love to watch in the morning.*



*Padang food is famous for its rich taste of coconut milk and spicy chili. Padang cuisine is one of the most popular foods in Indonesia. The famous dish that originated from Padang is Rendang.*

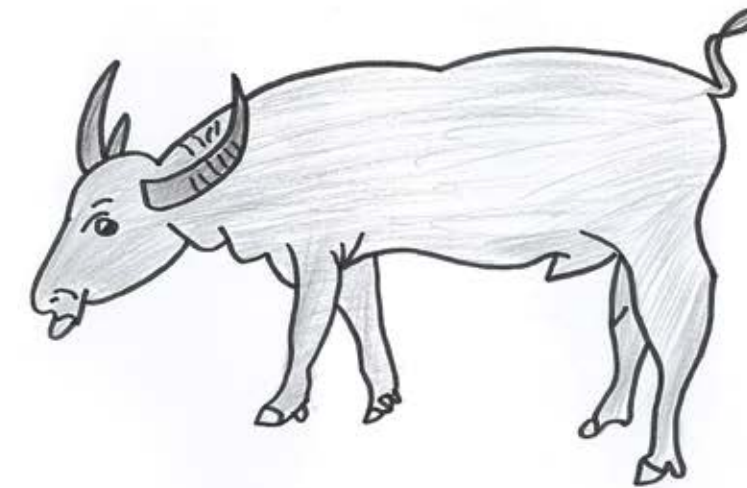




People from West Sumatra are called “orang Minang” because our culture is called Minangkabau. Minangkabau is one of the largest tribes in Indonesia, which originated in West Sumatra.

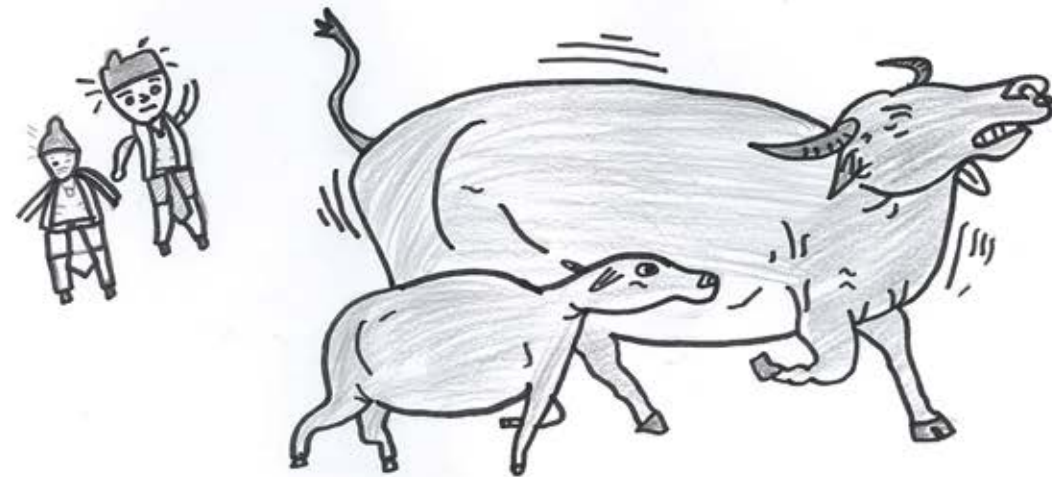


The land of West Sumatra is called Minangkabau because of a famous battle between the Minangkabau tribe and the forces of the Majapahit Empire. Both sides decided to send a buffalo to settle their dispute about who owned the land of West Sumatra.





Majapahit sent a big buffalo while the Minangkabau sent a starved baby buffalo with knives strapped to its horn. The baby buffalo went straight to the big buffalo's belly and pierces its belly while looking for milk. The winner of the battle was the Minangkabau buffalo. That's why the land of West Sumatra is named Minangkabau. It means "The Victory of Buffalo."



The buffalo is very significant for Minangkabau people. This is reflected in the architecture of Minangkabau houses. When you see the traditional house of Minangkabau, the roof looks like a buffalo horn. The traditional house of West Sumatra is called "Rumah Gadang."

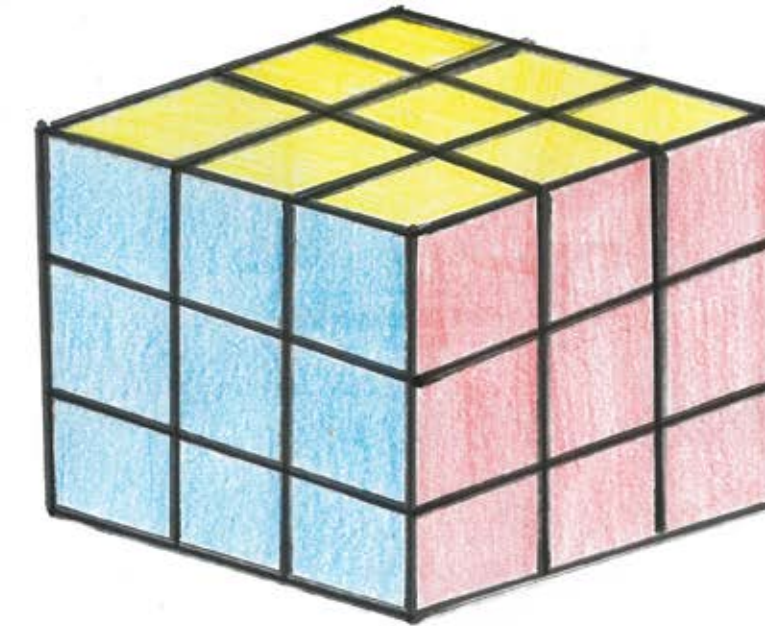




*Minangkabau people have been important in the history of Indonesia. They are known for their intellectualism. Mohammad Hatta, the co-founder of Indonesia, was a Minang. The first president of Singapore, Yusof bin Ishak, was also a Minang. I am proud to be a part of this tradition which values education.*

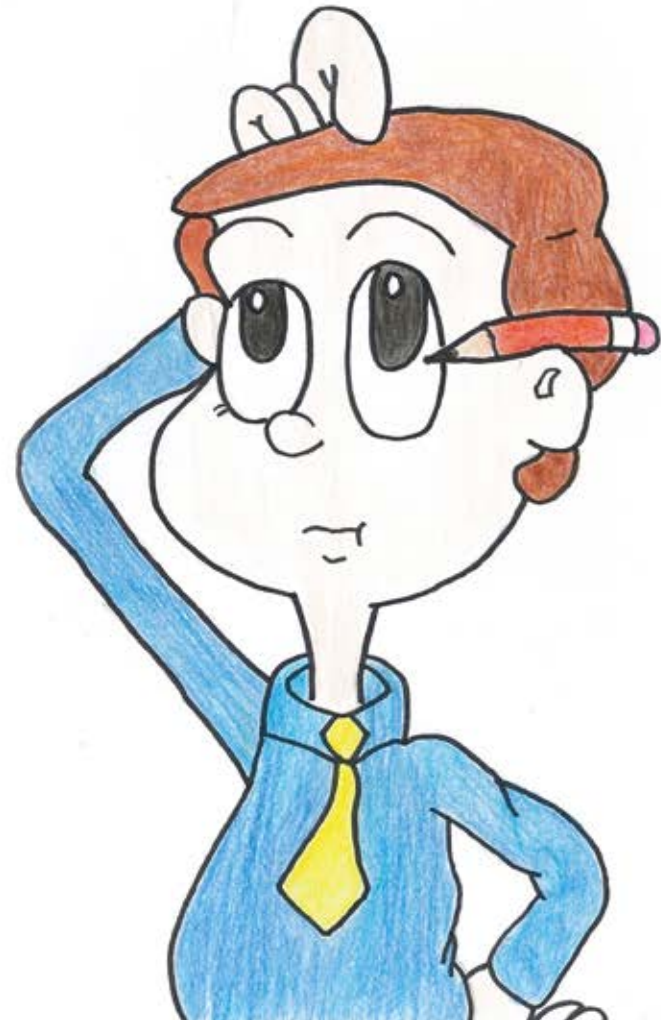


*Because I am Minang, I love to challenge myself. That's why I started playing puzzle games at home. My favorite thing to do in my house is to play puzzle games. One of the puzzle games that I like is Rubik's Cube. It was created by Professor Erno Rubik in 1974 and is one of the World's best-selling toys ever.*





*The first time I tried to solve Rubik's Cube, it was difficult. I couldn't even solve one layer. I was disappointed. I searched on the Internet how to solve the Rubik's cube. That didn't work. I gave up trying to solve the Rubik's cube.*

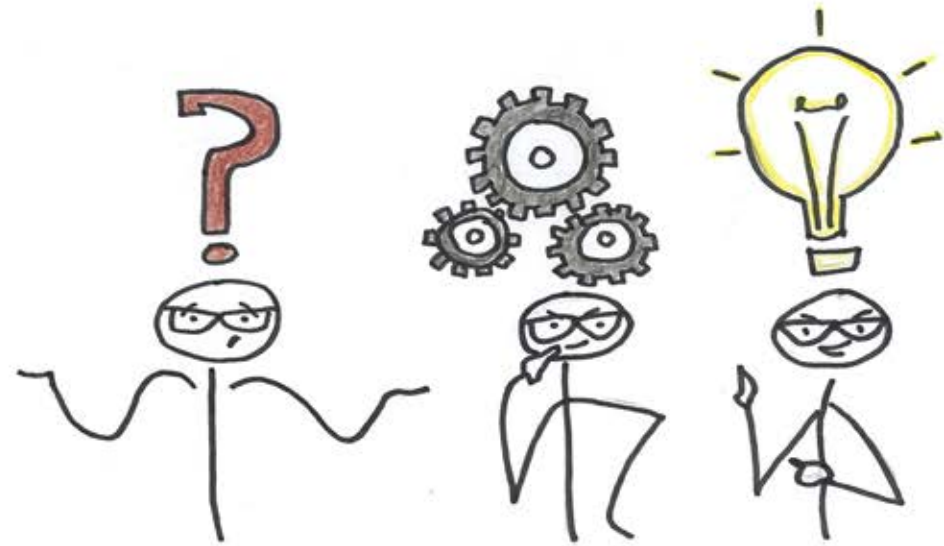


*But then, when I was in junior high school, I met a friend who could solve Rubik's cube. He could solve it in one minute. I asked him to teach me how to solve it. After I learned from him, I could solve it too. Now, it's fun to play Rubik's cube.*

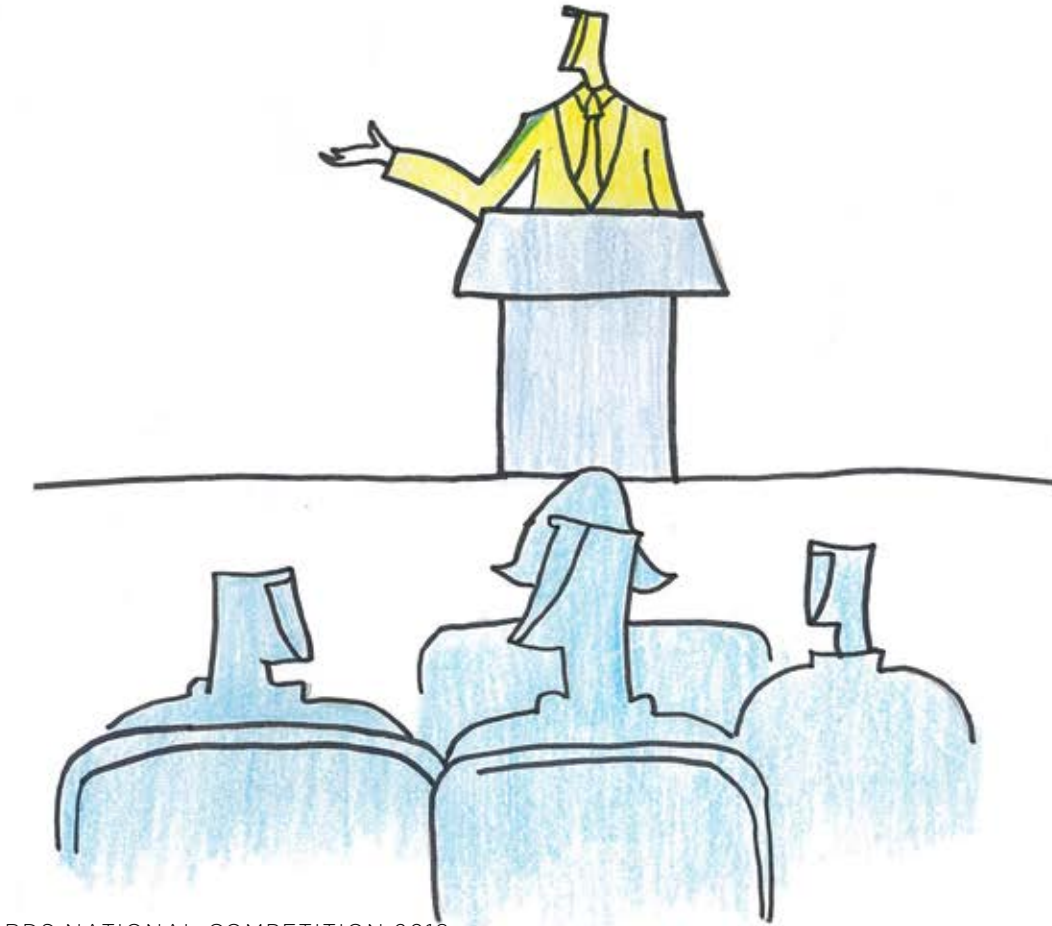




Sometimes I ask myself why else I like to play Rubik's cube. There is another reason. It feels good to get through difficult problems. Difficult problems can be solved. I try to remember that every day.



Sometimes, when I am struggling with chemistry or physics, or when I feel awkward in front of a big crowd like this one, life is like a puzzle game I can't solve. But that's why I have my Rubik's cube to help me put it all together.







NEVER  
GIVING UP





*In the village of Banyumas, Java.  
There was a couple who lived in simplicity.  
The wife was pregnant.*



*On a dark, but star-studded night, a  
beautiful and sweet baby girl was crying  
to solve the silence of the night.*





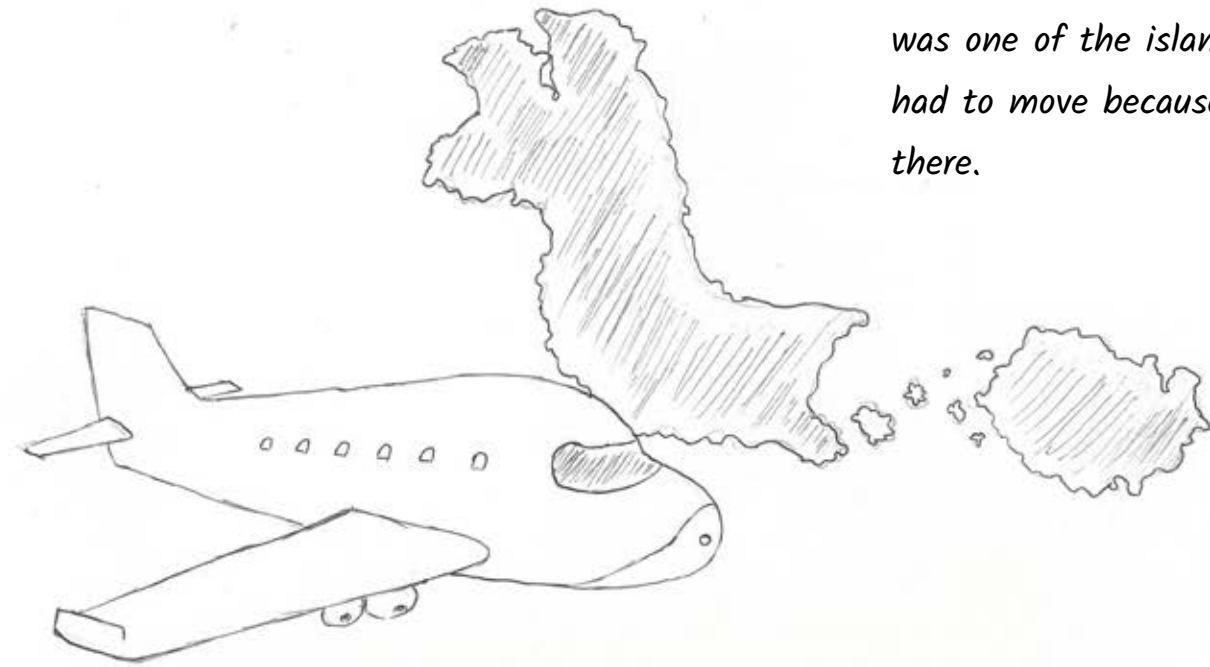
*The couple was very happy about the birth of their little daughter named Okta.*



*Day after day, month by month and step by step, the baby grew into a healthy little girl, beautiful and sweet.*

*She has the same colored hair as the darkness of the night and was shaped like a wave.*



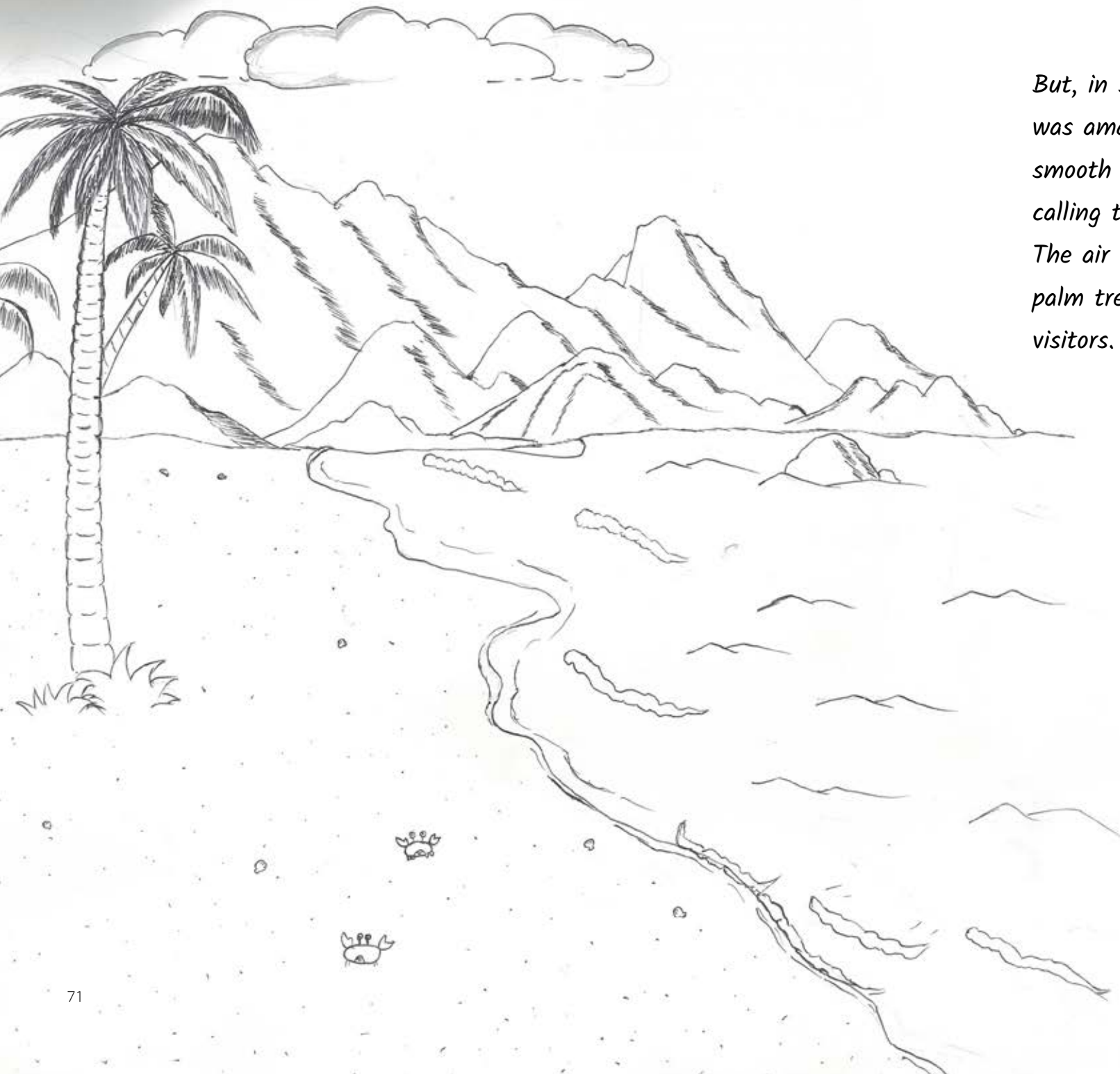


*When she was three years old, she had to leave her hometown to move to Bangka island. It was one of the islands in Sumatra. Her family had to move because her father had some work there.*



*She thought life in Bangka was not fun like life in Java because her mom said that in Bangka there were no farms and no buffalos.*





*But, in Bangka, there is a view that was amazing. There are beaches with smooth white sand and also the waves calling to get into the water and swim. The air hits the skin gently and the palm trees wave as a welcome to the visitors.*



*Year after year in Bangka, Okta grew into a talented girl. She was very fond of drawing, singing, dancing, and many more surprises that exist in her. She also joined the art competitions. Every time she could, she often wins.*





*One day, when Okta crossed the street to show her trophy from the competition to her parents, Okta had an accident. She was hit by a motorcycle that sped too quickly.*



*Her head hit the road and she had to be hospitalized for a few days and she experienced trauma.*





*The scars that could not be gone made the girl not confident and remained sad. She became uninspired to do the things she once loved. And her talent disappeared slowly.*

*One day, when Okta cried until she fell asleep.*







*She dreamed there was a boy  
on her age saying;  
“Okta, do not stop dreaming.  
If you experience defeat in  
adversity, maybe it’s because  
your efforts are not enough.  
Try to start again. Live your  
dream and imagination into  
a beautiful reality in the  
future”.*



*Instantly awakened before she found out who the  
man was in her dream and the words were like a  
mantra that slowly aroused the girl’s spirit.*





*She listened to her favorite song “The Show” and found inspiration. Every time she had free time, she trained and honed her talents and hobbies.*



*She also started to follow competitions she liked and sometimes won. At first, her parents did not allow her to go back to the competitions because they were afraid that the same thing will happen again.*



*They did not want to see her sad again, but with confidence and a little persuasion from Okta. The girl was allowed to follow the race again.*



*And to this day, Okta follows one race called storytelling happily.*

*But her trip is still long so this story continues..*





# my Weekend Problem

by: Rafly



*I am from Padang and have been living in Bandung, but my parents live in Sumatra. One day, I wanted to see my parents and went to the town where the oranges are the sweetest in the world, that place is called Limau Manis.*



*In the morning, I took a shower, and I did not forget to brush my teeth. I immediately got dressed up to go to the train station.*

*I drove my car alone, because I am single. My mom keeps asking me when I am getting married. I arrived to the train station and stood at the entrance waiting for it open.*



*I was so excited and many people were also excited because it was the weekend. I saw people who brought chickens, birds, and even a partner.*



The line looked very long but I didn't think it would take too long. The line slowly became smaller, like my spirit. And finally, after 7 hours, I came to the ticket desk for my turn. "Hi sir, I would like to buy a ticket to Limau Manis, please". I said.



"Oh hi, but there is no ticket to Limau Manis". He said. "What? I waited for 7 hours for a ticket to Limau Manis and you say there is no ticket here?!" I said.

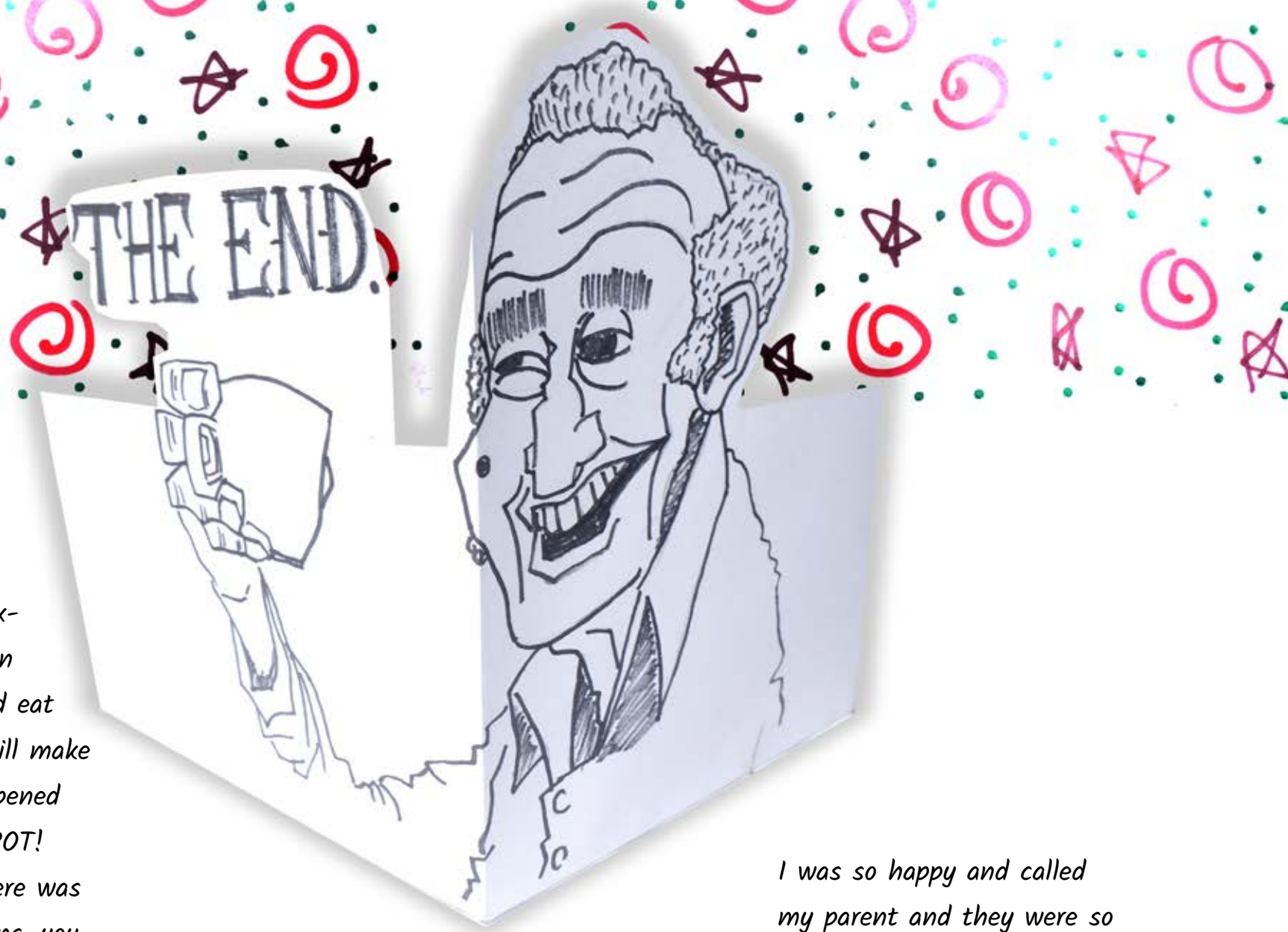
"Are you crazy? You want to go to Limau Manis from here? You think our train can cross the sea?" he said.



After that, home alone, because after 7 hours waiting in line I am still single. I called my parents and told them I couldn't go home because there was no ticket available. I was so sad.



*But I remember, my ex-girlfriend told me, when you are sad, you should eat chocolate because it will make you feel better. So I opened up a kitkat and JACKPOT! Inside the wrapper, there was a letter “Congratulations, you won a ticket for a private plane!”.*

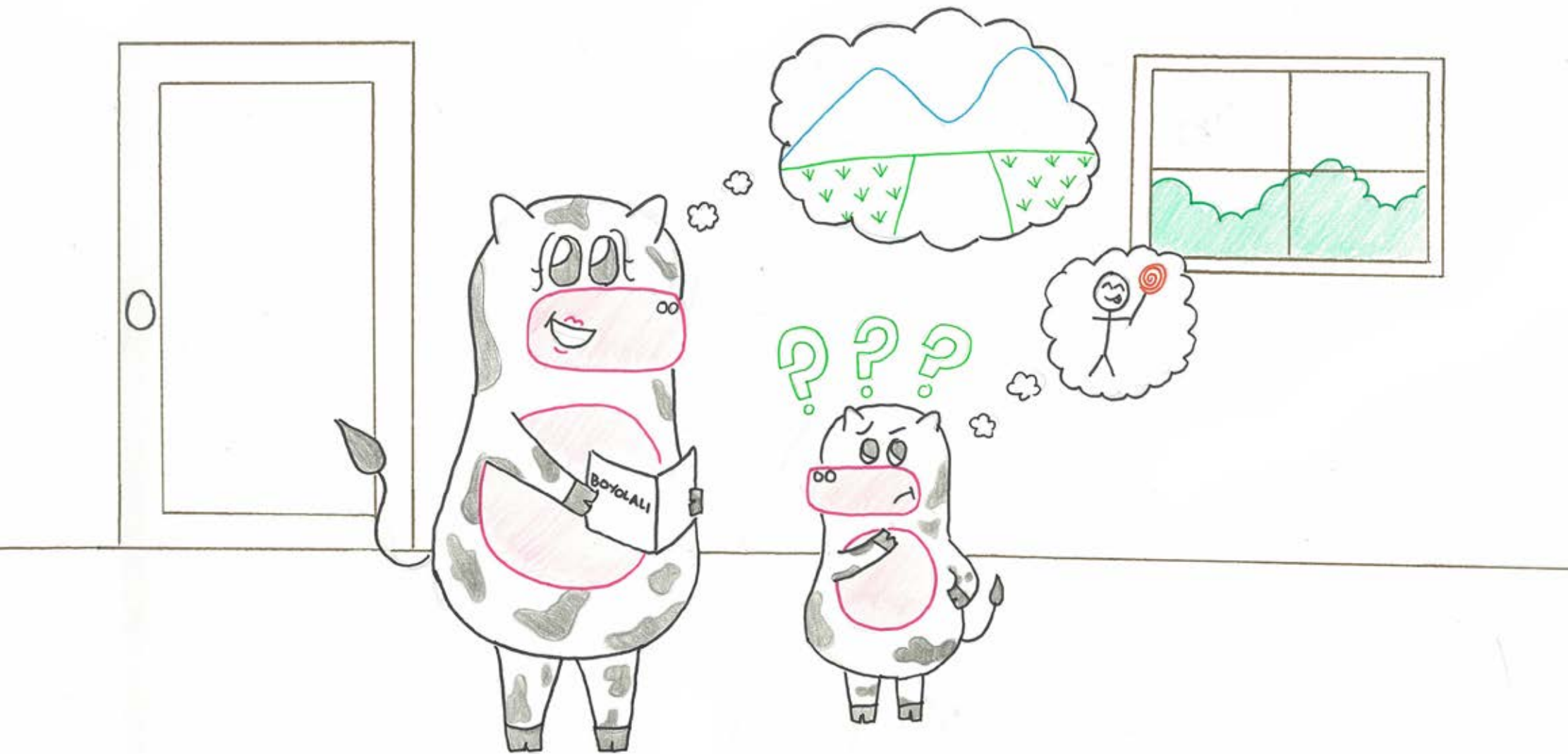


*I was so happy and called my parent and they were so happy. So next day comes, I open my eyes and scream, “HERE I COME!!!”*

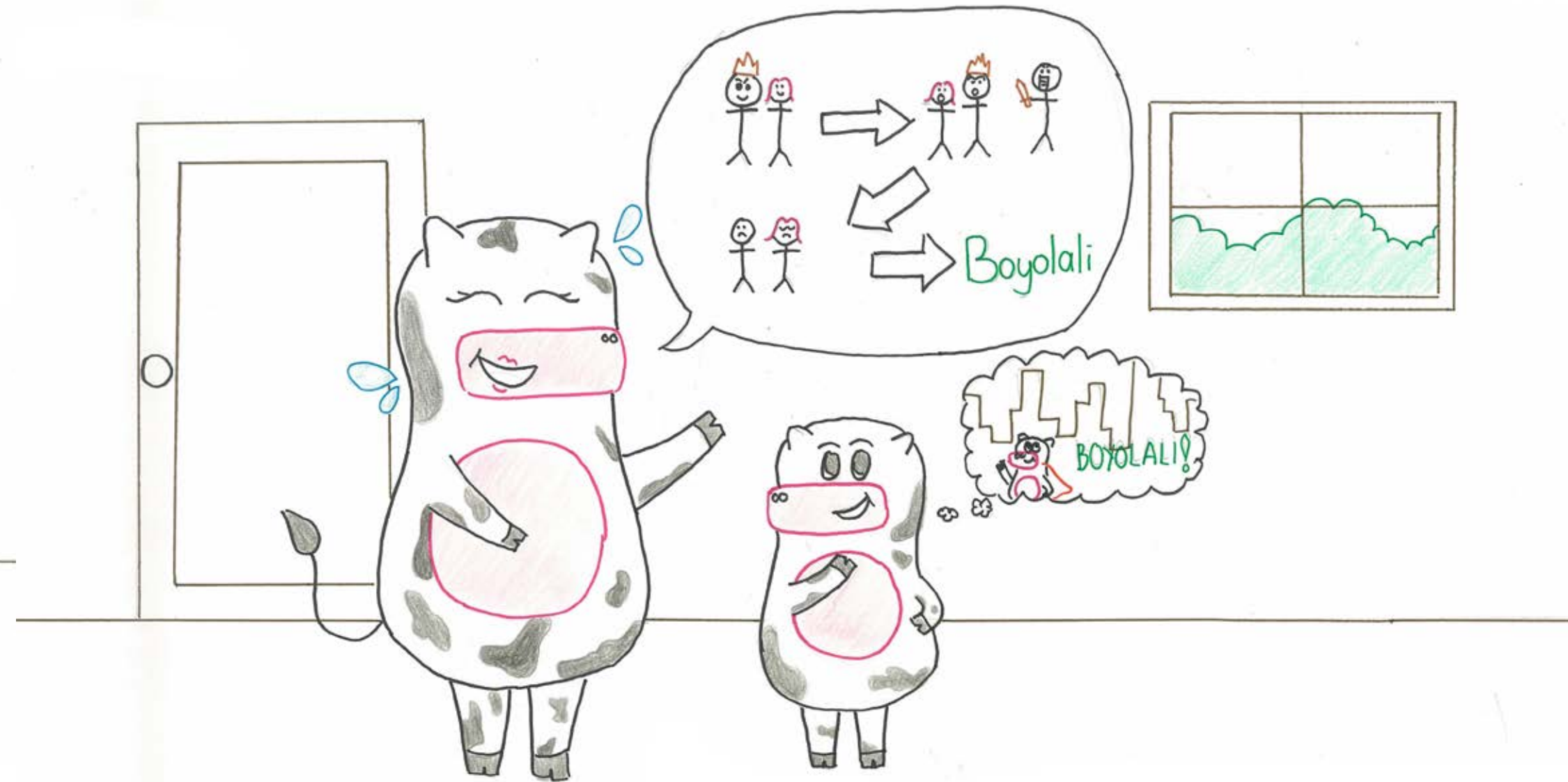






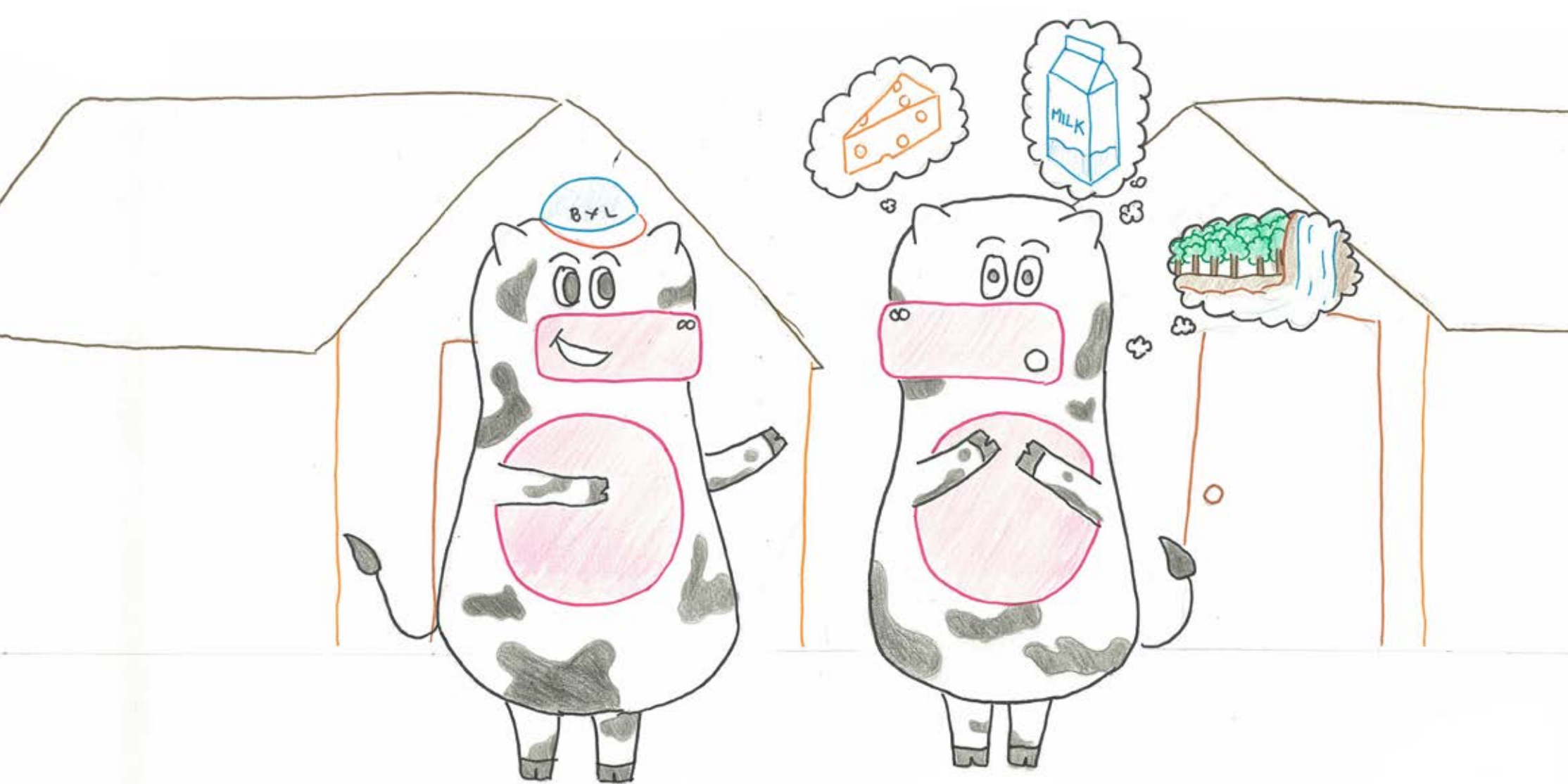


Once upon a time, in the city of Boyolali, there lived Ibu Sapi and her son named Paijo. One day, Ibu Sapi was telling Paijo about how their hometown got its name. Paijo had a puzzled-look on his face as he listened. "Boyolali?" He said. "Was there a boy holding this lollipop?" asked little Paijo.

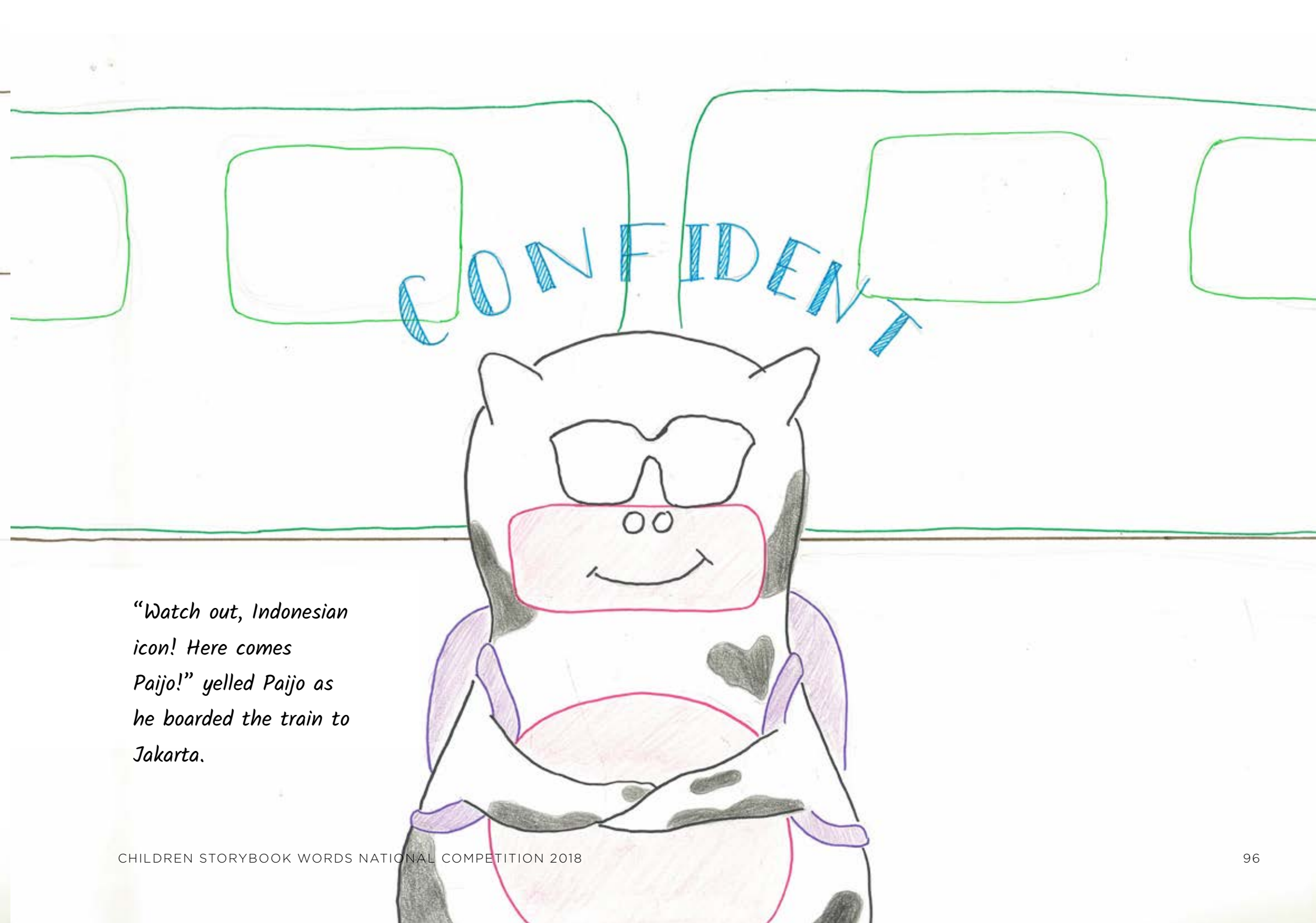


Ibu Sapi let out a cheerful laugh upon hearing her son's question. "Silly Paijo. That's not it, dear!" "A long time ago, there was a greedy king walking with his wife and his crown was stolen by a thief. The wife was sad and uttered the phrase "forget-me-not". Thus, the king decided to name this place "Boyolali". "Wow, Ibu Sapi!" cheered Paijo. "I promise to make Boyolali unforgettable by making milk and cheese in Indonesia!"





Paijo and his best friend Benny were hanging out when Benny had a great idea. "Paijo! You should join Indonesian icon! You have the best milk and cheese in the whole world!" exclaimed Benny. Paijo thought about his dream of making Boyolali unforgettable. This could be his only chance!



"Watch out, Indonesian icon! Here comes Paijo!" yelled Paijo as he boarded the train to Jakarta.



When he arrived, he became nervous as he heard the other contestants making fun of him.

"What are you doing here, ugly cow? I have great temples and all you have is milk!" jeered Croco the crocodile.

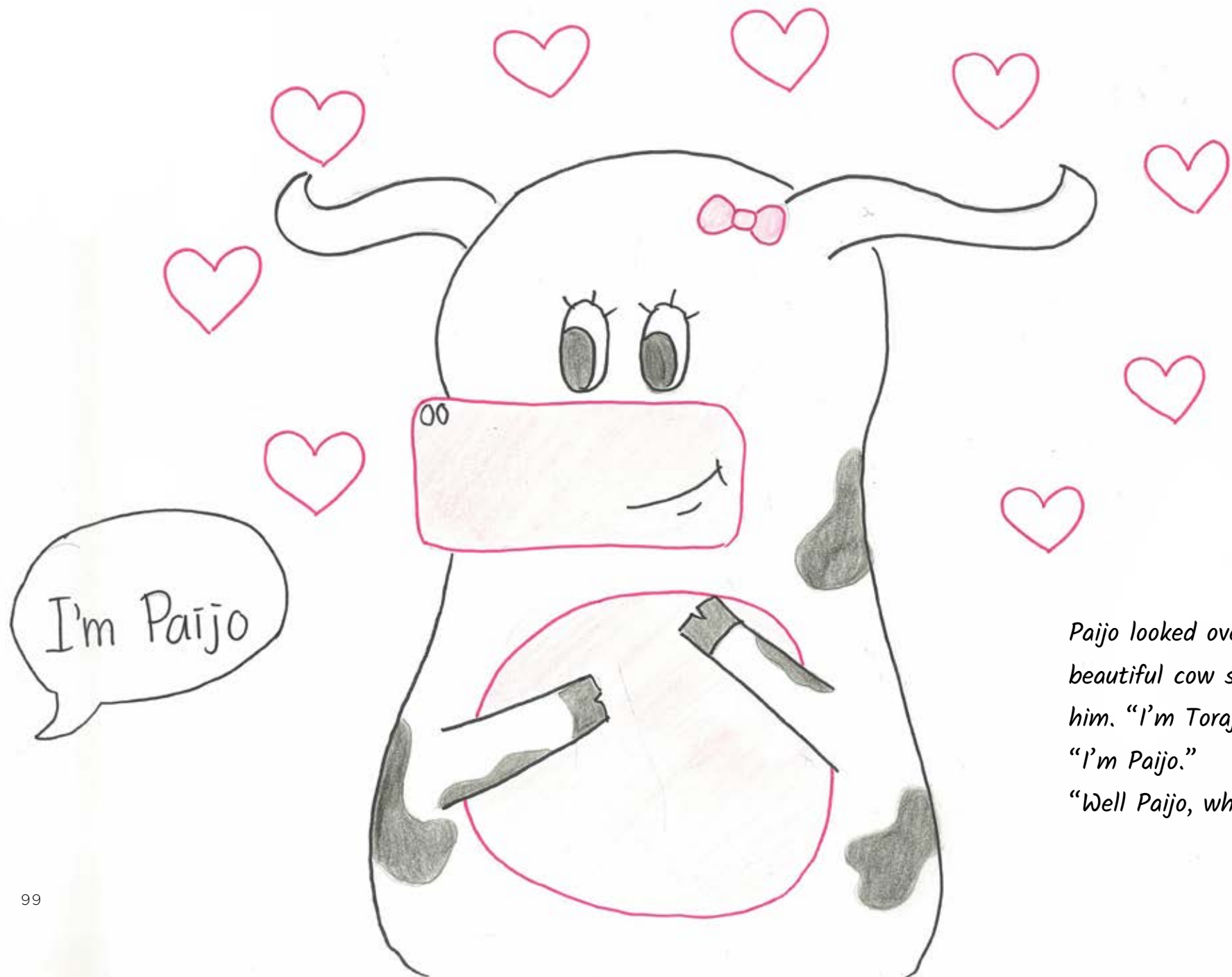
Paijo cried and left the competition feeling defeated.



Why so sad,  
my good friend?

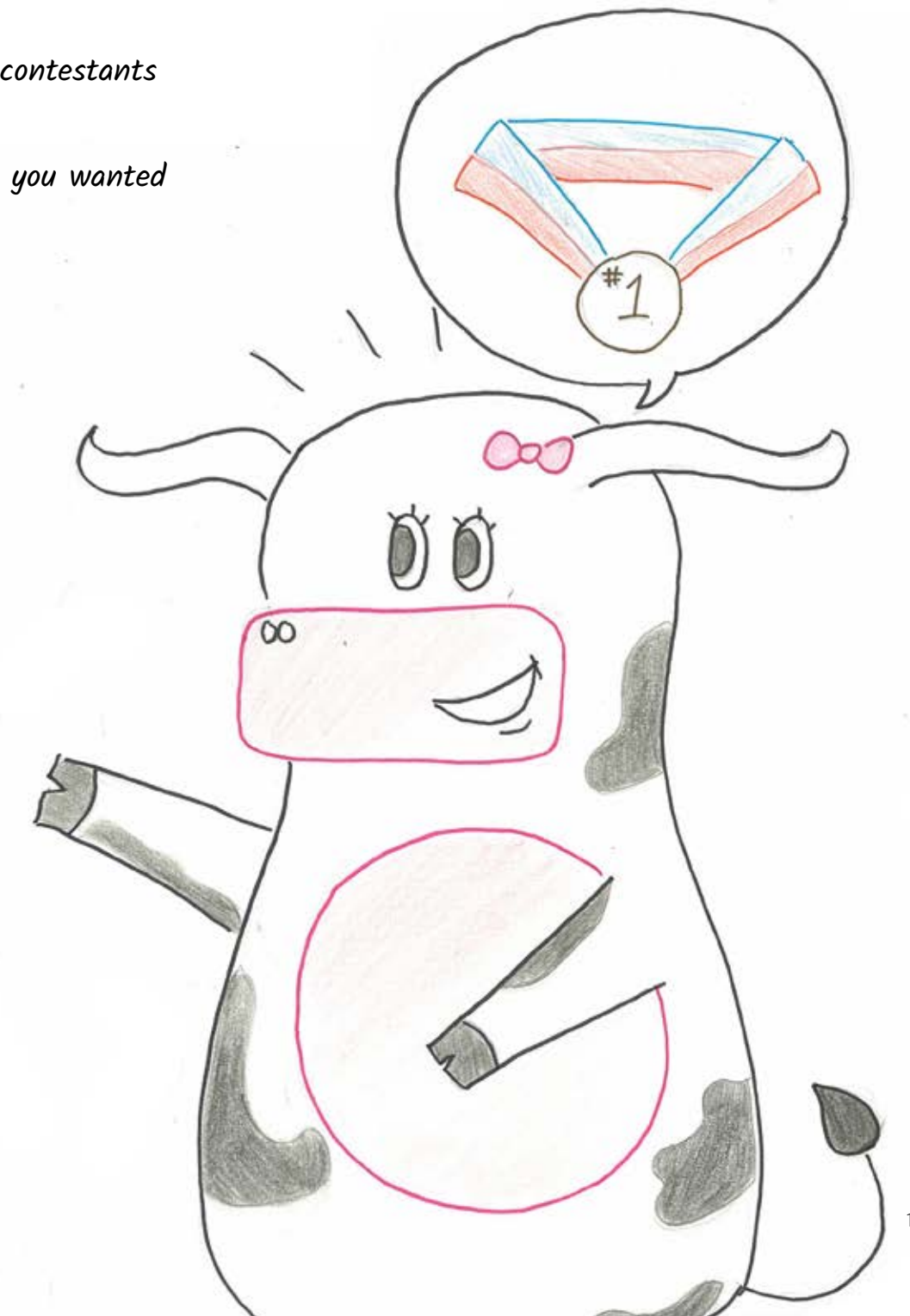
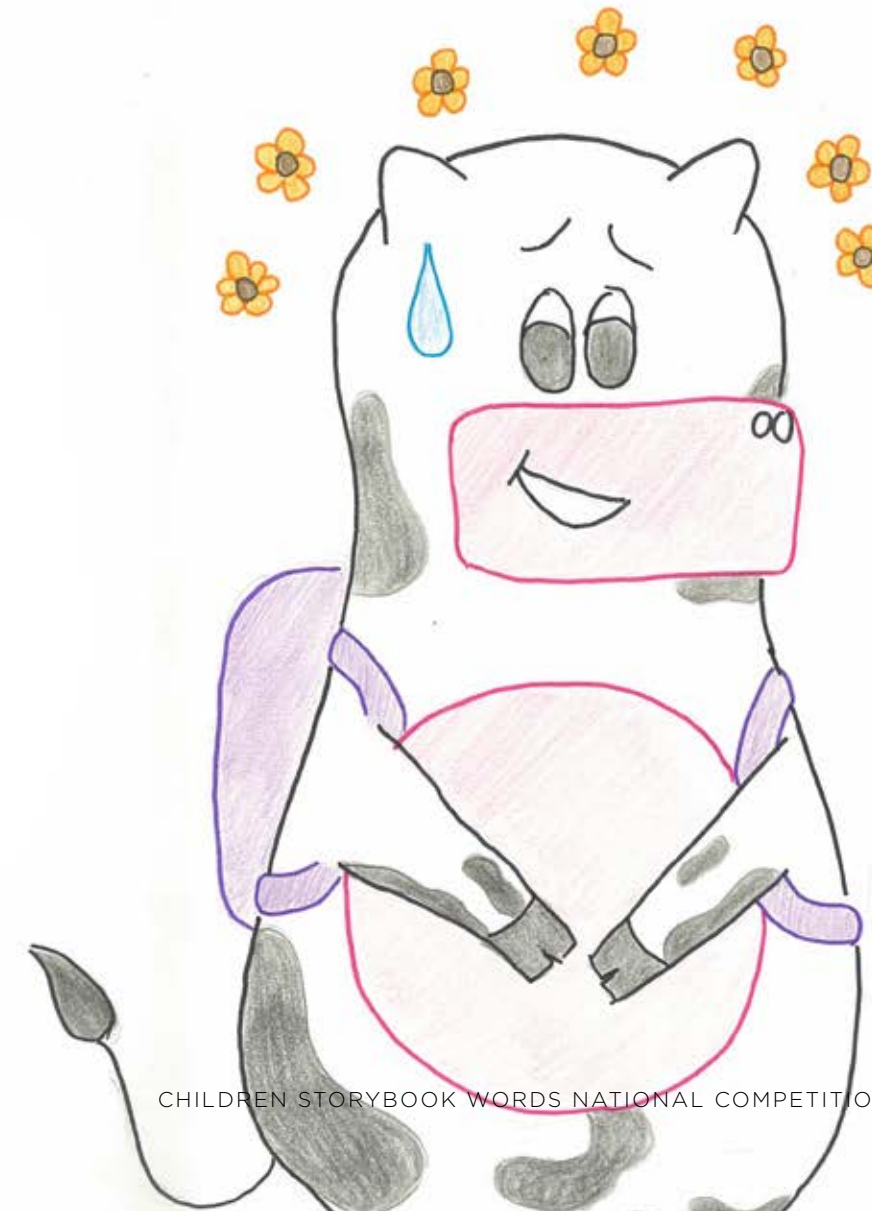
He wandered around Jakarta, thinking  
of the people he failed, when he  
heard a voice call out.





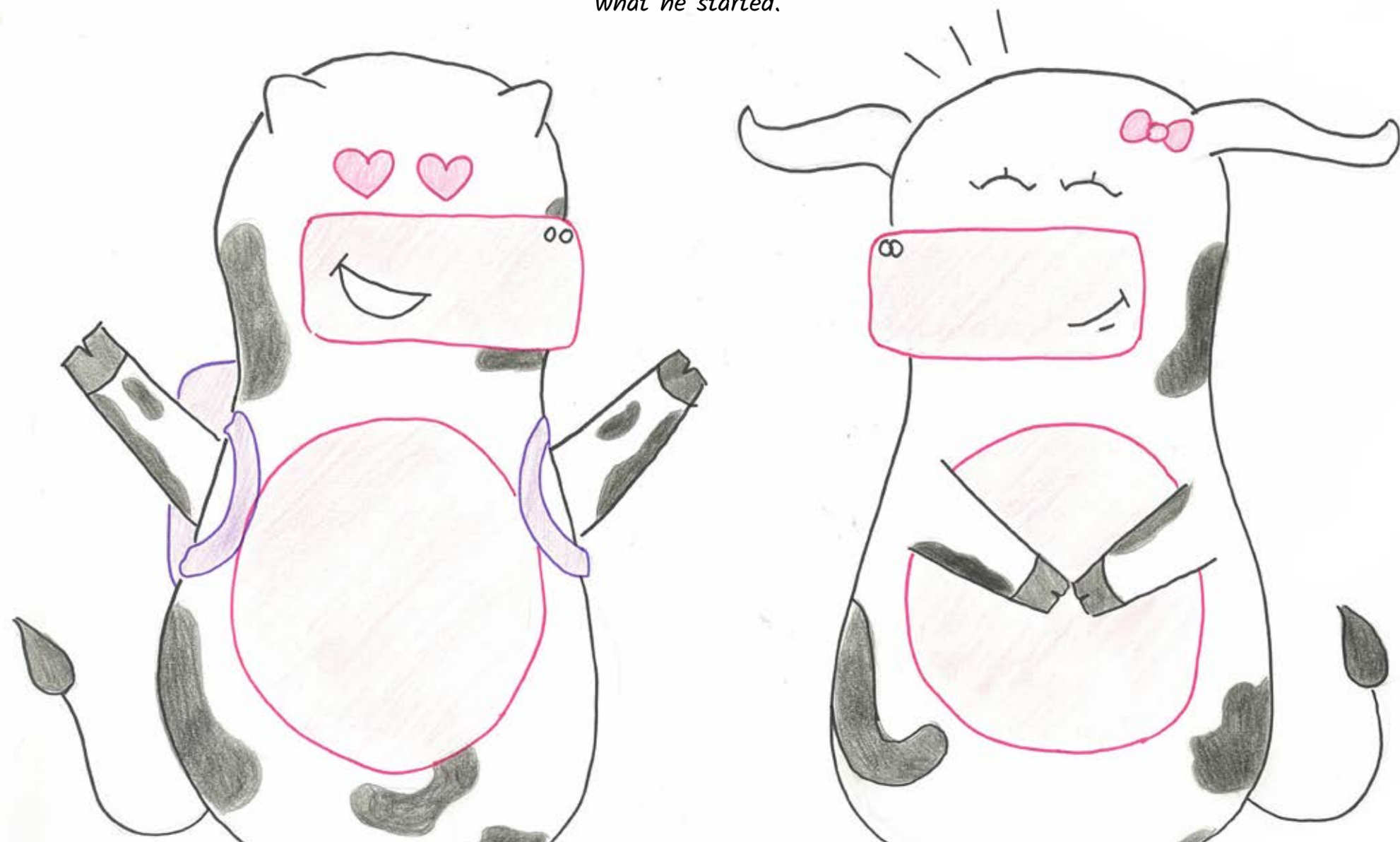
Paijo looked over and saw a beautiful cow standing behind him. "I'm Toraja, and you are..?"  
 "I'm Paijo."  
 "Well Paijo, why the long face?"

"I want to be the next Indonesian icon but the other contestants were bullying me." He said sheepishly.  
 Toraja offered words of encouragement. "Think of why you wanted this. Believe in yourself and you'll be unforgettable."

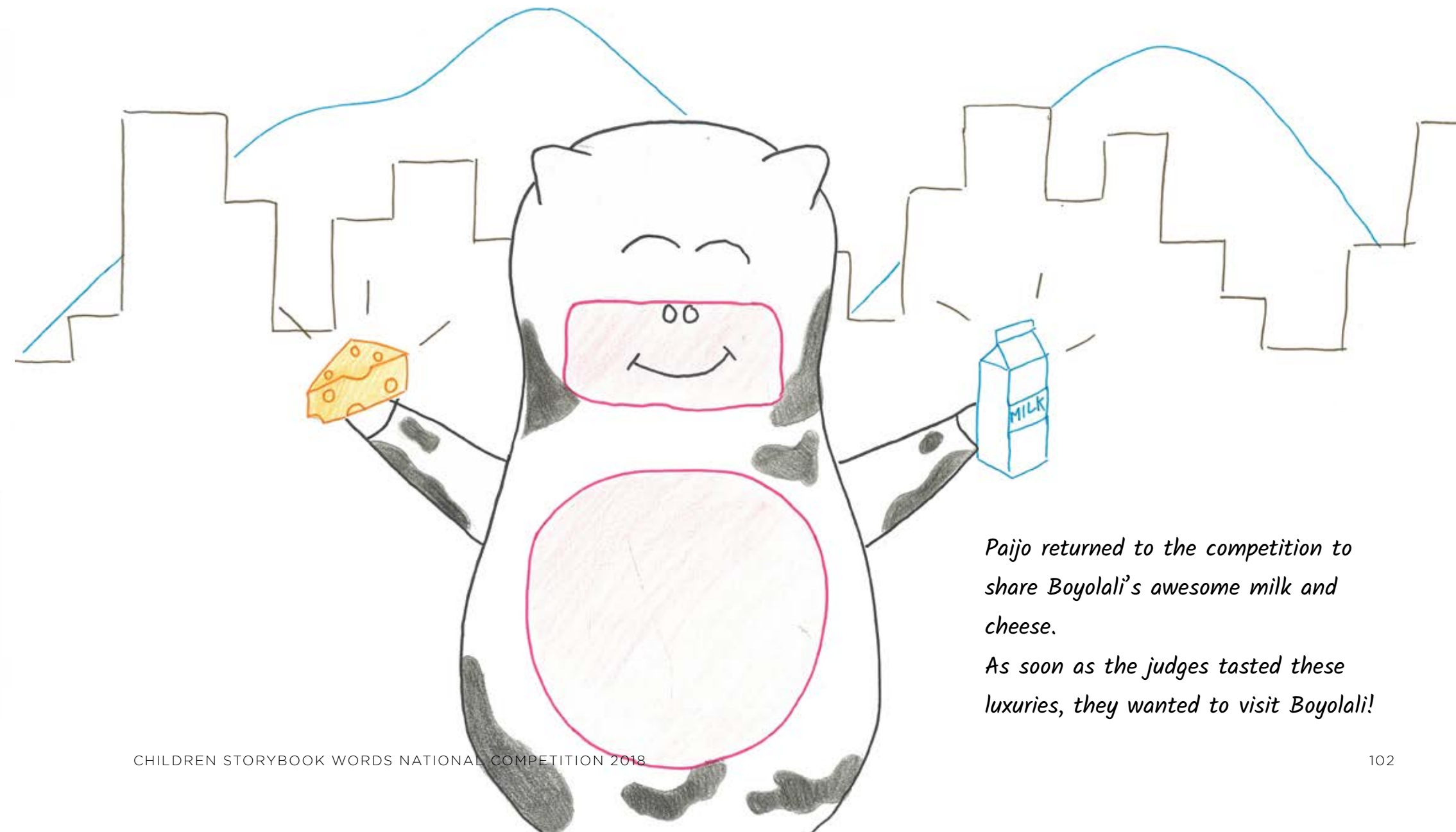




*Paijo fell in love with Toraja and thanked her for the support. He was off to finish what he started.*



## INDONESIAN ICON

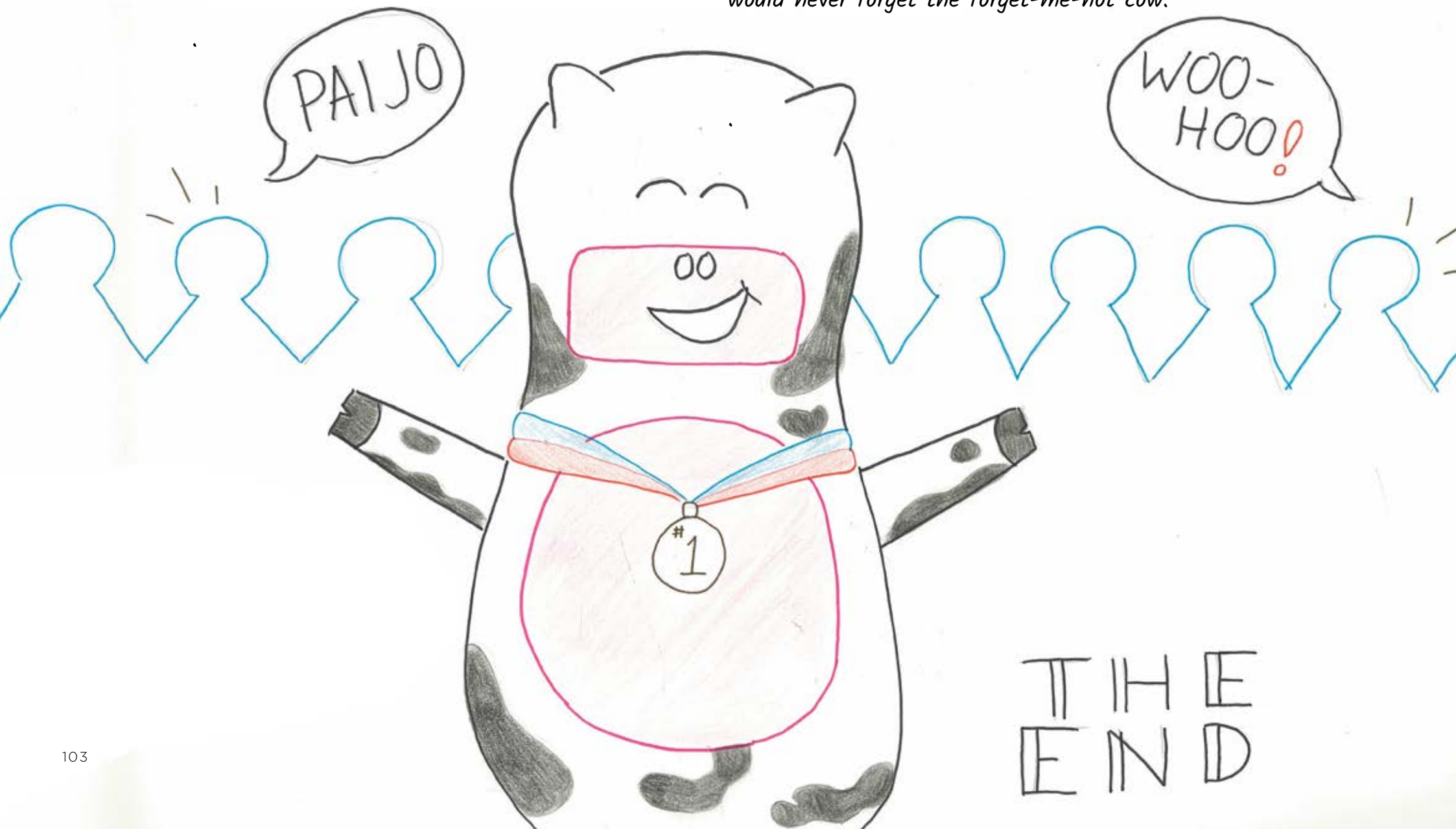


*Paijo returned to the competition to share Boyolali's awesome milk and cheese.*  
*As soon as the judges tasted these luxuries, they wanted to visit Boyolali!*



*Paijo won first place for his unforgettable performance. He was so excited to go home and share his experience with Boyolali.*

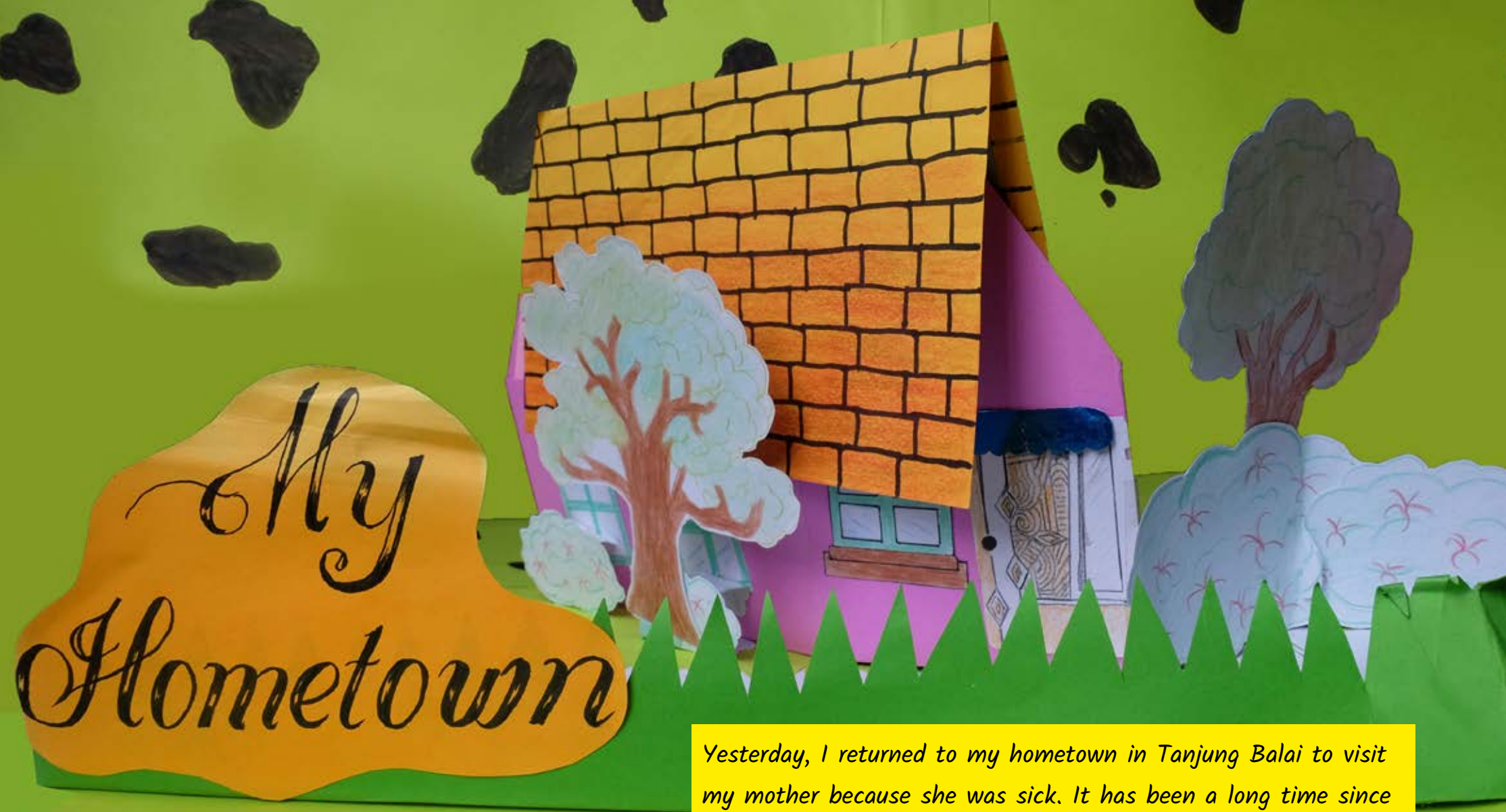
*The people praised Paijo for representing Boyolali so well. In the center of the city, they erected as a statue so that Indonesia would never forget the forget-me-not cow.*











Yesterday, I returned to my hometown in Tanjung Balai to visit my mother because she was sick. It has been a long time since last time I came back so I forgot a little bit about the streets and direction in my hometown.

After I arrived in Tanjung Balai, my mother asked me to buy some medicine at a traditional drugstore near my house. I decided to walk there. When I was on my way, I forgot which direction I should take. I looked around and then I saw a big house. I walked to that house to ask for direction. Suddenly, I heard someone whispered at me and it said, "Go away"

I thought it was only my imagination so I ignored it. I knocked at the door but there was no answer. Suddenly, the door opened itself. I saw a pair of cats talking to each other. It took a while before they have realized there was an uninvited guest. Then the first cat looked at me and said, "Hey how did you get in here?". I said, "Uh.. the door opened itself". The second cat looked at the door and said, "Urgh.. the door must be broken again!". The first cat then yelled at me, "But, you have to get out from here, because my masters won't be happy if she sees an ugly girl like you!" The first cat was really rude so I said to it, "Well, I suppose I will take my leave now."





*I headed toward the door but I bumped into a big body. It turned out he was the master.*



*He asked me to stay and have a seat first. When I wanted to reject his offer, he already closed the door and I had no choice.*

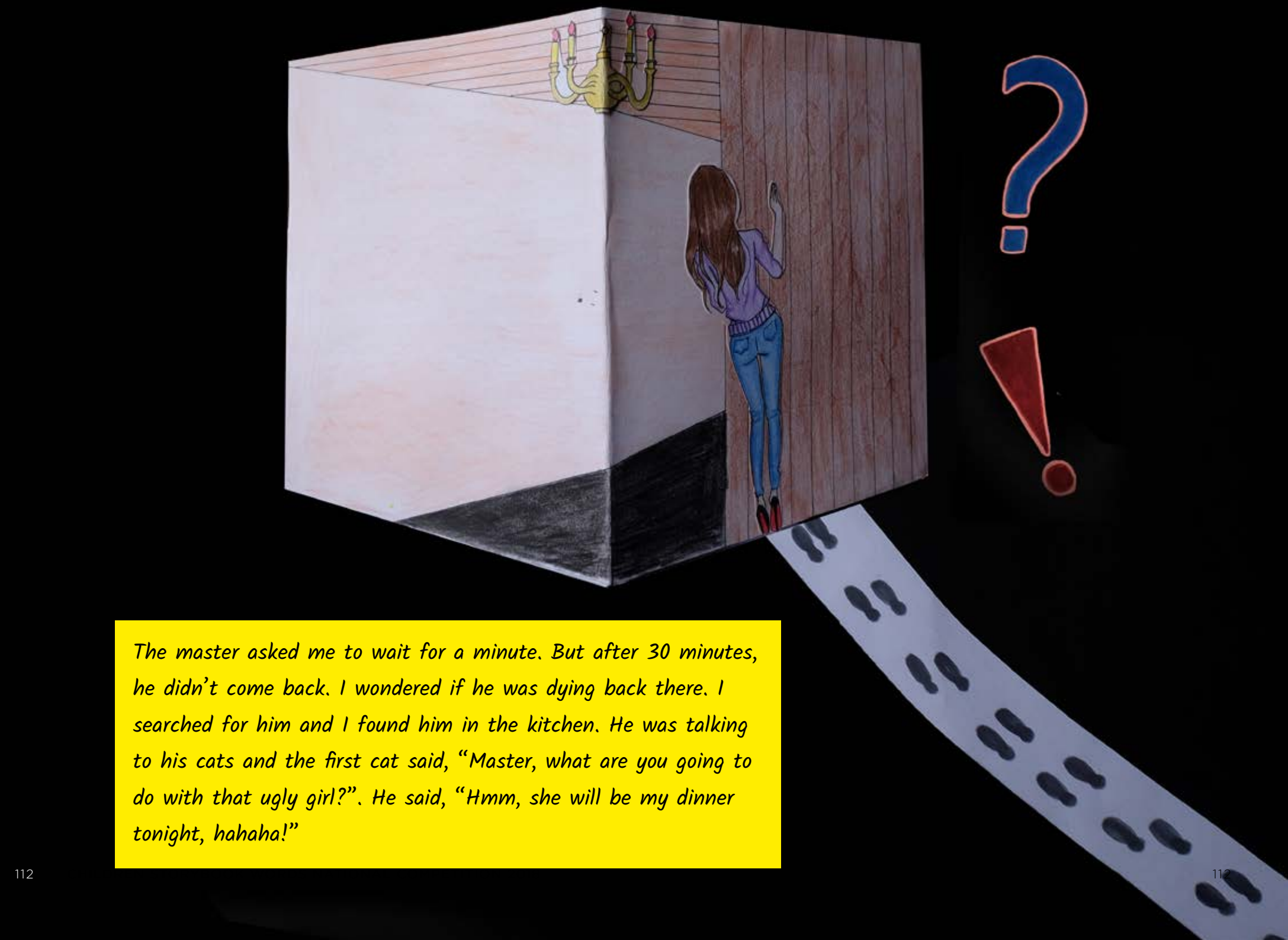
*I sat down and he asked his servant to serve me foods and drinks.*







The servant came and served me the most famous food in Tanjungbalai like green mussels, kolak pisang, and many more.



The master asked me to wait for a minute. But after 30 minutes, he didn't come back. I wondered if he was dying back there. I searched for him and I found him in the kitchen. He was talking to his cats and the first cat said, "Master, what are you going to do with that ugly girl?". He said, "Hmm, she will be my dinner tonight, hahaha!"



*I was scared,  
I immediately ran but  
I accidentally hit a vase.  
One of the cats turned  
into a lion and chase me.*

*Roar!*

*They locked me up in the room. It was  
really dark. I tried to chase away my fear  
by singing my favorite song. Suddenly, a  
man came in. He said to me, "I told you to  
go but you ignored me!"*

*FEAR*



*I said to him, "I'm sorry, I thought it was only my imagination."  
He offered his help. We tiptoed and walked carefully. I almost  
had a heart attack when we saw the second cat headed toward  
our direction. We hid behind a wall, hoping the cat wasn't aware  
of our existence. After the second cat had gone, the man told me  
to run.*

*I ran as fast as I could. When I turned my  
head, the man was already gone, along with  
the mysterious house. I returned home and  
my mother asked me what took me so long  
to come back. I told her the whole story.  
After hearing the story, she fainted!!*



# **THE SNAKE PALACE**



**BY: RENYA F. KARENSANAY**

**SMAK St. Ignatius Loyola Labuan Bajo**



One day, during a summer vacation there was a family who went to a beautiful palace to see the natural wonders of the snake palace. They were Alexander, Viviana, and their daughter Anjelika who was 10 years old.



Source of illustration: google

The snake palace is located in Weto village west Manggarai district. For two hours, they drove to the village. When they arrived, Anjelika asked her mother.

“Mom, are we there yet? I can’t wait to see the snakes.”

“Not yet honey, we still have to walk for about 40 minutes and we must also go up the hill and across the river.” Said Viviana.

“Wow.. this trip will be very challenging” said Angelika happily.





*In the village they met a guide that would take them to the palace. Then, they started the journey. First, they have to go up a hill.*

*While going up the hill, Anjelika said to Alexander “Dad, you look like Dwayne Johnson and I look like Karen Gillan on Jumanji: Welcome to the jungle movie”*

*“Are you sure? Ya.. ya.. that’s true” said Alexander*



*After that, they stopped at the edge of the river. Alexander, Viviana, and Anjelika crossed the river carefully.*





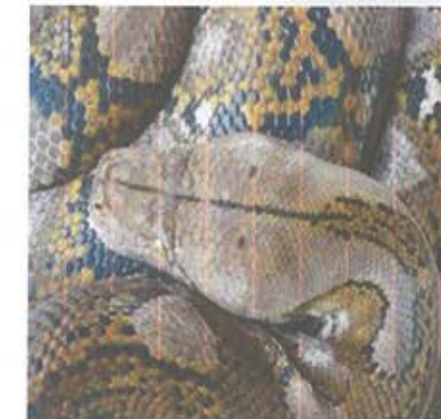
*After walking about 40minutes, they reached the snake palace. Anjelika was very excited to see it so she ran towards the cave.*

*“Stop! Don’t go carelessly into the cave before you do some ritual” shouted the guide.*



*Alexander was carrying his daughter, he was angry. “What rituals? We just want to see the snakes. We had to take a long journey and now we have to wait? Ohh it’s really annoying” cried Alexander.*

*“Please don’t cry in front of the cave. Don’t disturb the snake. If you disturb them, you will be bitten by the snake” advised the guide. Then the guide went and left them.*





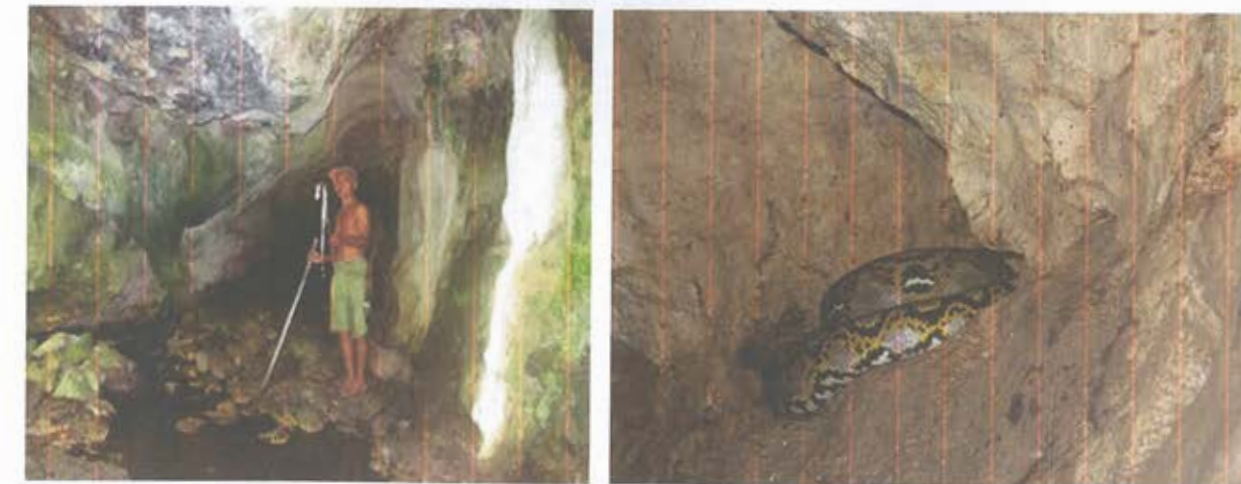
*“Alexander, I think we should follow the rules if we don’t want to be exposed to danger” Viviana tried to tell Alexander.*

*Suddenly within the cave, appeared a black python creeping towards them. When the snake was about to pounce on them, the guide arrived with the old man and stopped the snake from advancing.*



*Then, the old man approached the snake and talked to snake using sign language and magic after that the snake left them. Alexander, Viviana, and Angelika were confused by the man’s action.*

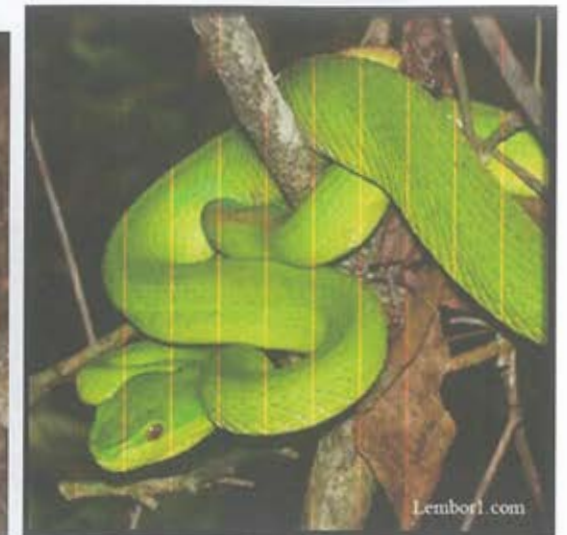
*“Mr. Alexander, this is Mr. Domi. He will do the ritual” said the Guide. They got to know each other.*



*After that they started the ritual. Mr. Domi held a chicken and said a few sentences and then cut the chicken's neck. This ritual serves to summon the snake and maintain safety. After that, they were allowed into the cave.*



*In the muddy and marshy cave, there were a lot of snakes. They stuck to the cave wall, even among the grass and swamp in the cave.*



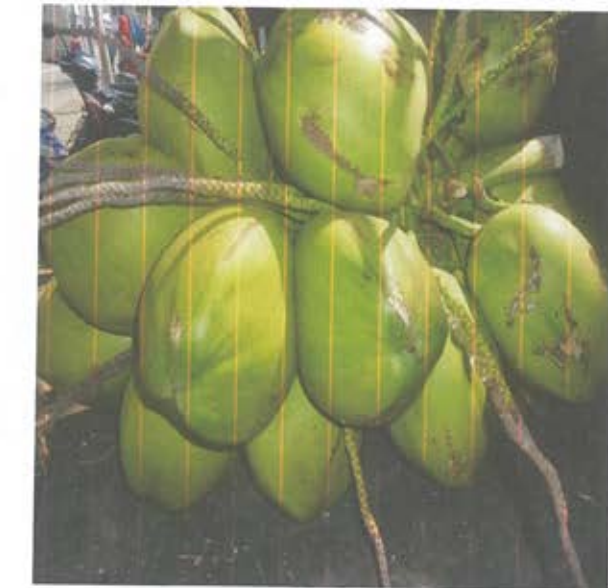


*In addition to the snake in the cave, they were also many bats.*

*“Daddy, you know I saw the snake was eating the bat” said Anjelika with enthusiasm.*

*“Wow.. that is amazing Anjelika” said Alexnder.*

*After being satisfied, they left the snake palace.*



*On the way back, they decided to pick coconuts. Finally, they left Weto village and continued their journey to Manggarai.*

# The Story Of Two Siblings And A Horse



*This is the story of two siblings who were orphans, Jony and Ani.*



*Jony worked as a fisherman and Ani had no job, she just helped Jony to collect fish.*



*They lived in a small village in Limehu. They were often ridiculed by their neighbors because they only had a small hut. They were so poor and had no property except a horse named Ben that was inherited from their parents.*



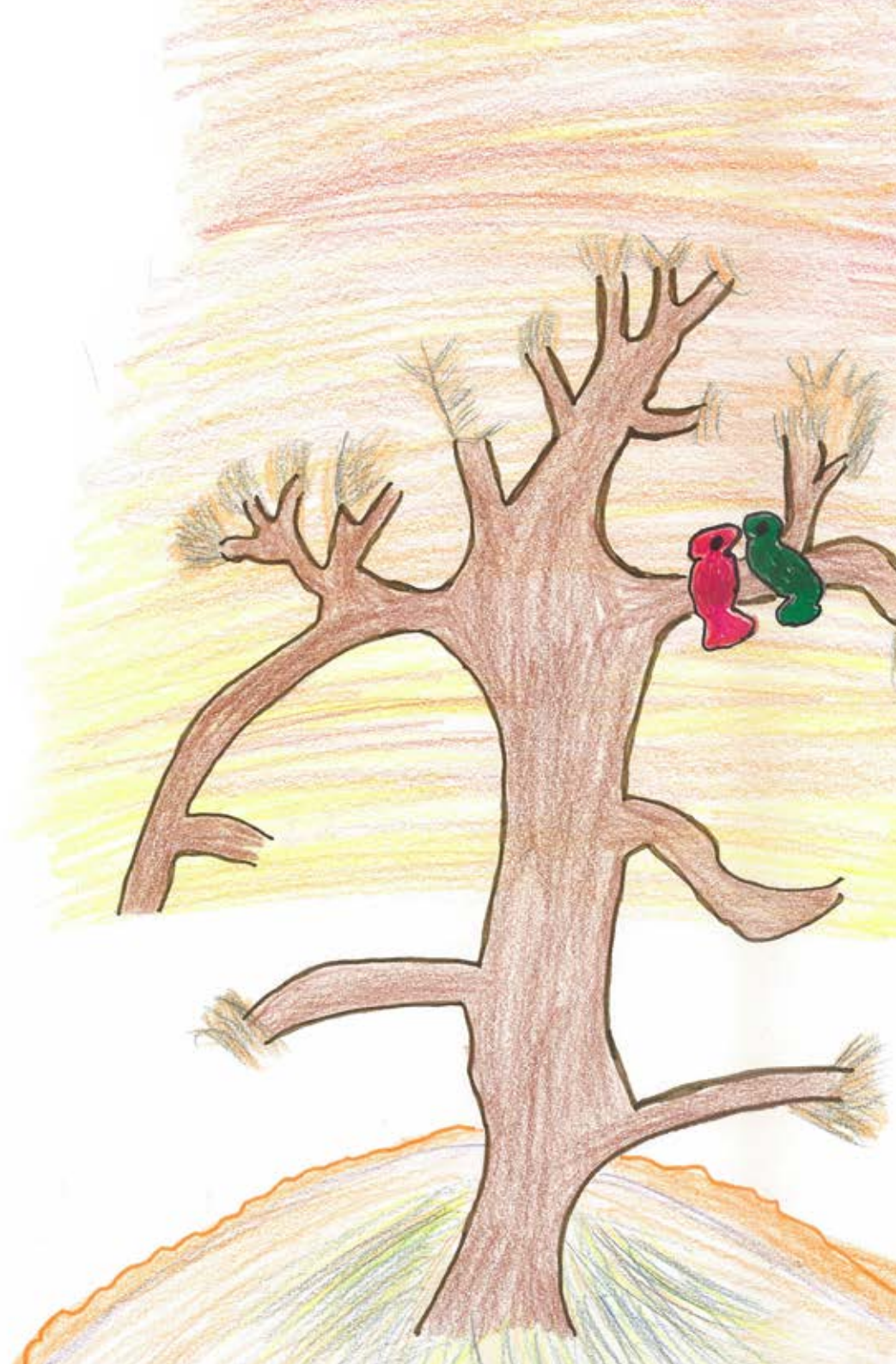
*At the lake, sometimes Jony and Ani had to fight the swift waves and linger long in the hot sun to catch fish.*





One day, the dry season arrived and they didn't have any supplies. Jony and Ani were also very hungry because they didn't have any neighbors to help them.

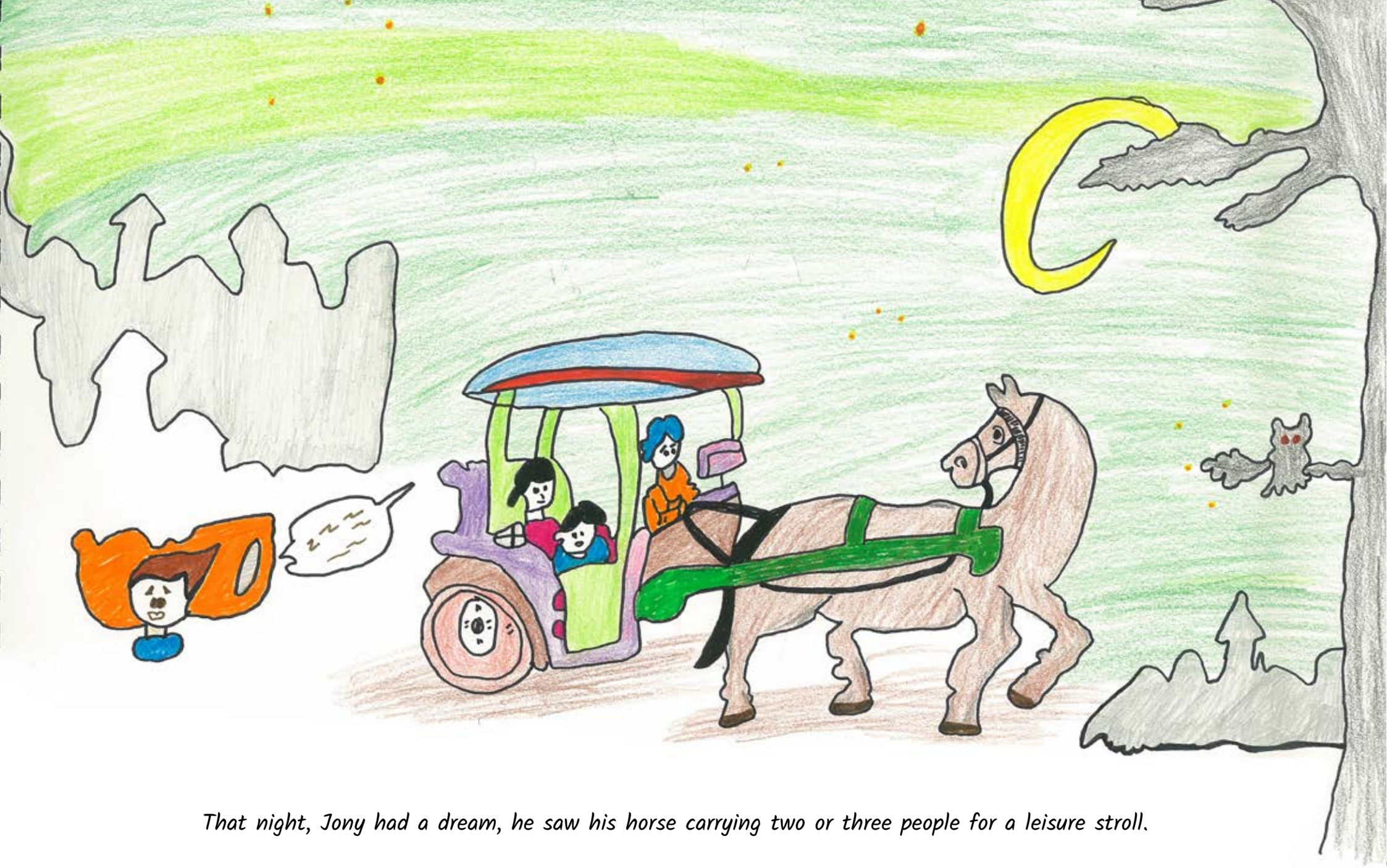
It was at these times when Jony and Ani remembered their parents; a decent life, never feeling hungry and they missed all that.



One day, Jony decided the best thing to do was to sell the horse but Ani didn't want to and yelled at him.  
(Ani) "Hey Jony, are you crazy? How can you think to sell our most precious treasure?"  
(Jony) "But we don't have anything, Ani. We are so poor and you know that"  
Suddenly Jony realized how to make this horse useful for them.



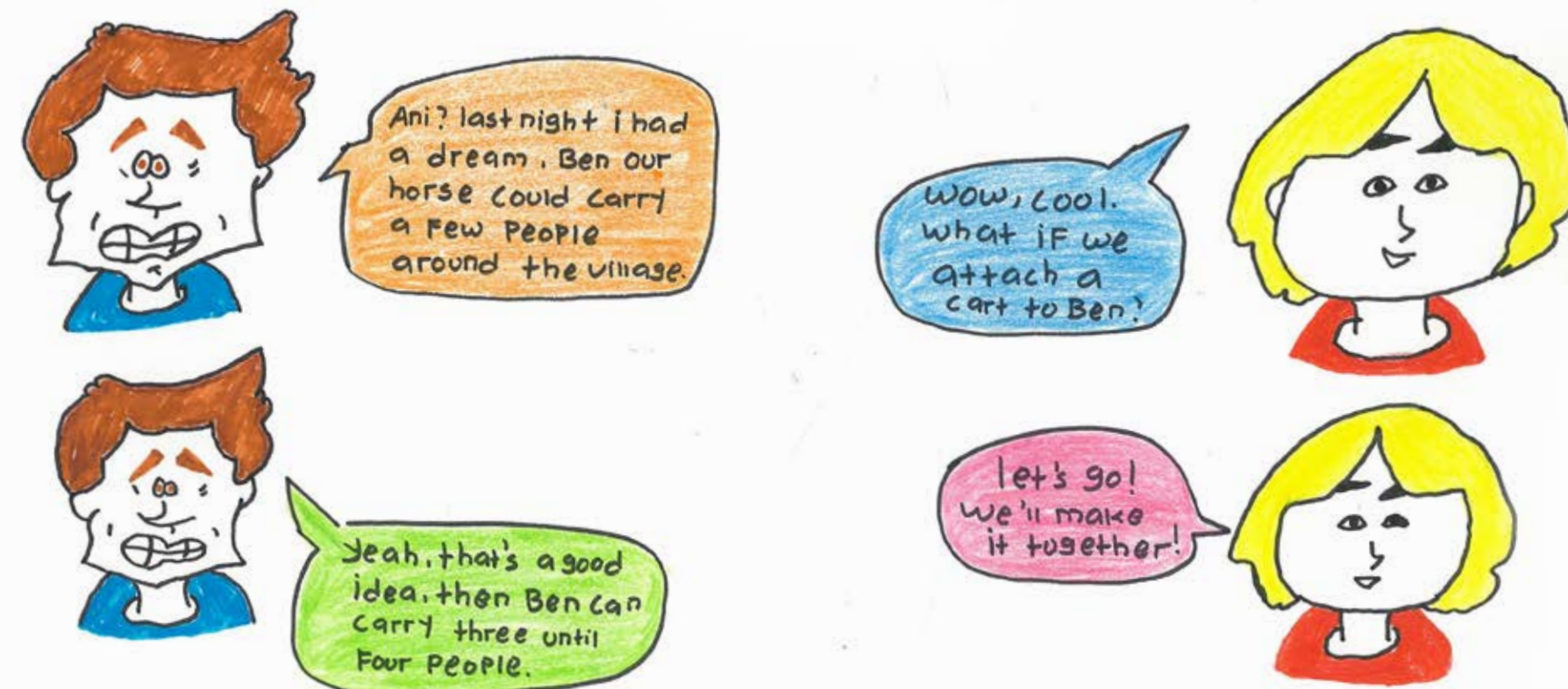




That night, Jony had a dream, he saw his horse carrying two or three people for a leisure stroll.

The next day when they were eating their favorite Gorontalo food called binde biluhuta, a corn soup, Jony told his dream to Ani.

But, they didn't know how to make it so they asked their friends. From the dream, Jony and Ani tried to make horse-powered transportation. It took a month to finish it.

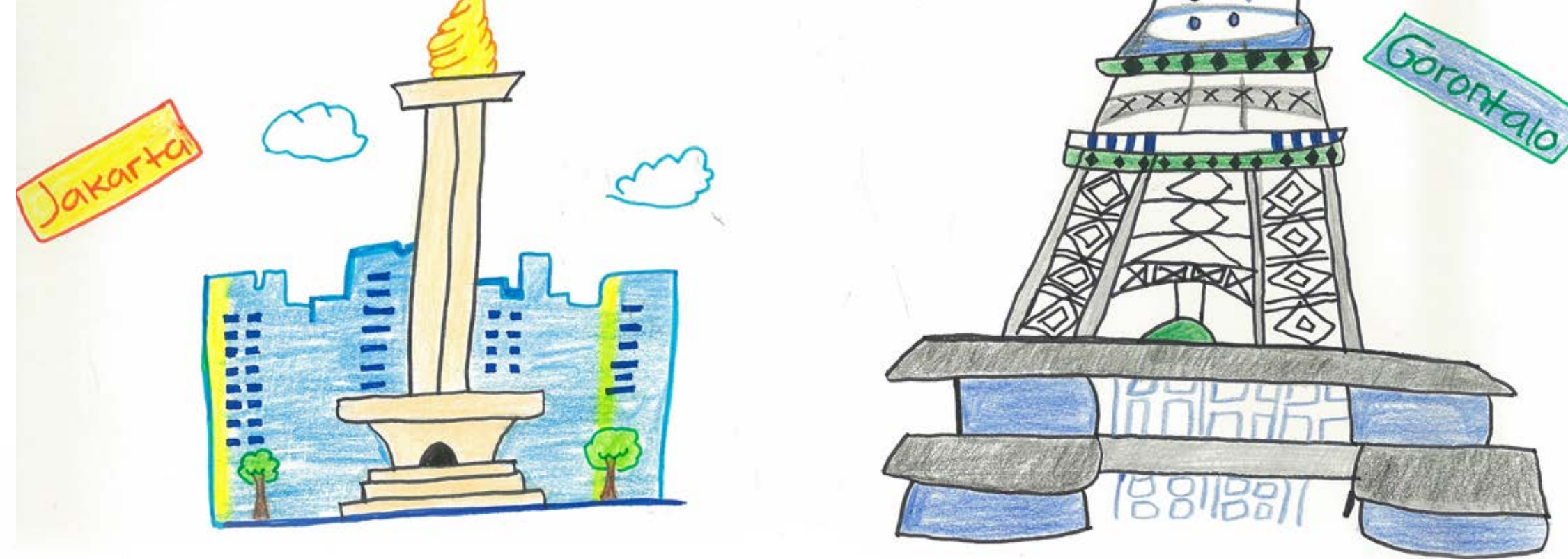




Do you know what kind of transportation? They gave it the name of bendi, because their horse was named Ben and bendi is also similar to binde meaning corn from their favorite Gorontalo food.

Since then, the bendi has been adapted by the Gorontalo community. Everyone was eager to ride a bendi.

Jony and Ani were proud of their hard work.



Their income could feed their families and the village recognized them for their contribution. They also received money, a letter of appreciation, and a big house because of their genius idea. Bendi can be found by many people all over Gorontalo because it is very unique and the only animal-powered transportation.

In Jakarta. It is called delman, but in Gorontalo this transportation is called bendi. Finally, Jony and Ani did not live miserably anymore and the whole province benefited.

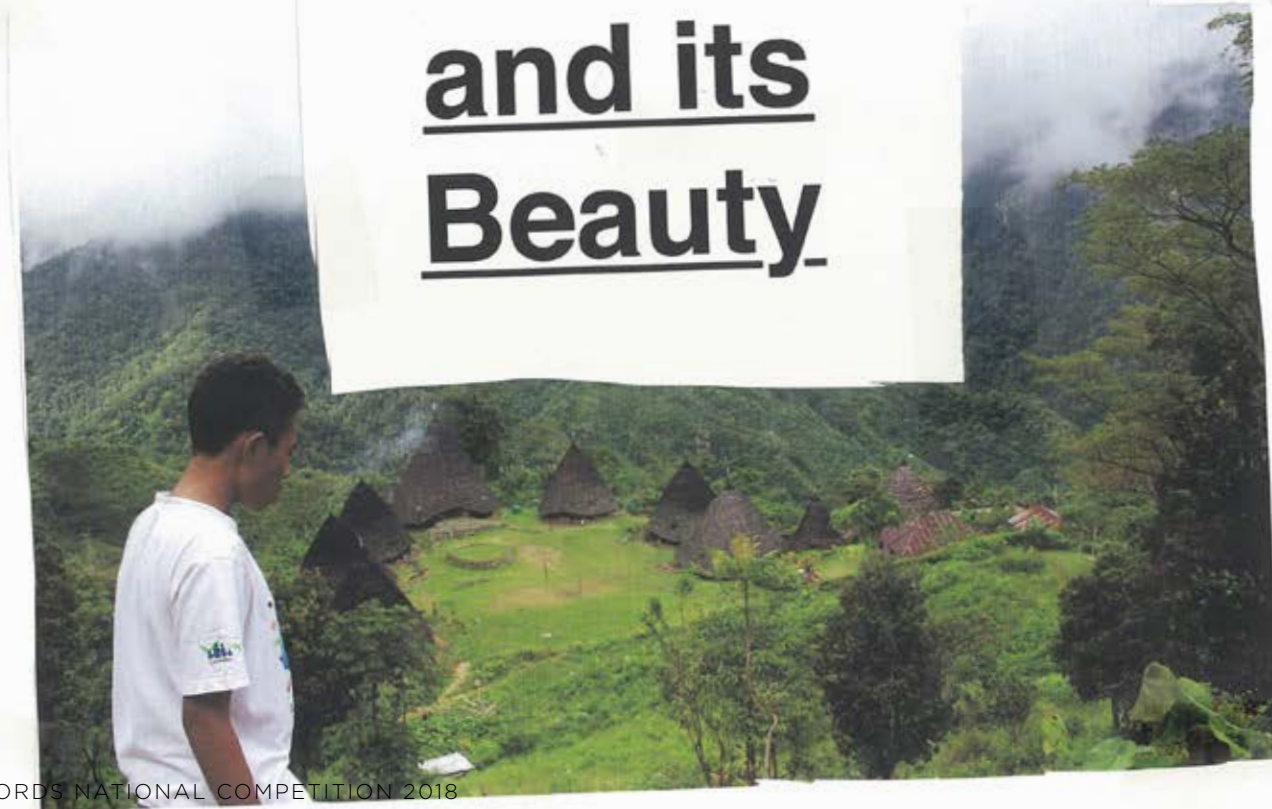


**Original  
photography  
by Irenius  
Irnas Jenno**

**Written by  
Irenius Irnas  
Jeno**

**Wae Rebo  
and its  
Beauty**

**Student at  
SMK Stella  
Maris Labuan  
Bajo**





## Wae Rebo and Its Beauty



Wae Rebo is located at West Satar Mese district in Manggarai regency, East Nusa Tenggara province.

Last year, I spent my holiday at Wae Rebo village. It was a great holiday because I had to work taking a visitor to Wae Rebo. My guest's name was Martha.



"I am a tourism student," I thought, "of course, I could do this work."

In the morning, we started from Labuan Bajo by motorcycle. On the way, we had a challenge. The road was bad. Martha was surprised and afraid.

"Don't worry. I am a good driver," I told her. Then, I drove the motorcycle through the water and rocks. "Jenn! Go slowly and be careful!" Martha yelled loudly.

When we arrived on a better road, Martha was really happy. Then, we continued our trip.





*When we started trekking by foot, on the way, we heard singing birds with beautiful voices. We could not see them because they hid in the trees. We just saw the big, green forest.*



*We trekked for three hours and finally, we arrived in Rumah Kasih Ibu Hut. We made noises with a traditional instrument. We call this Pepak. This is for the people in Wae Rebo to get ready to serve a guest.*

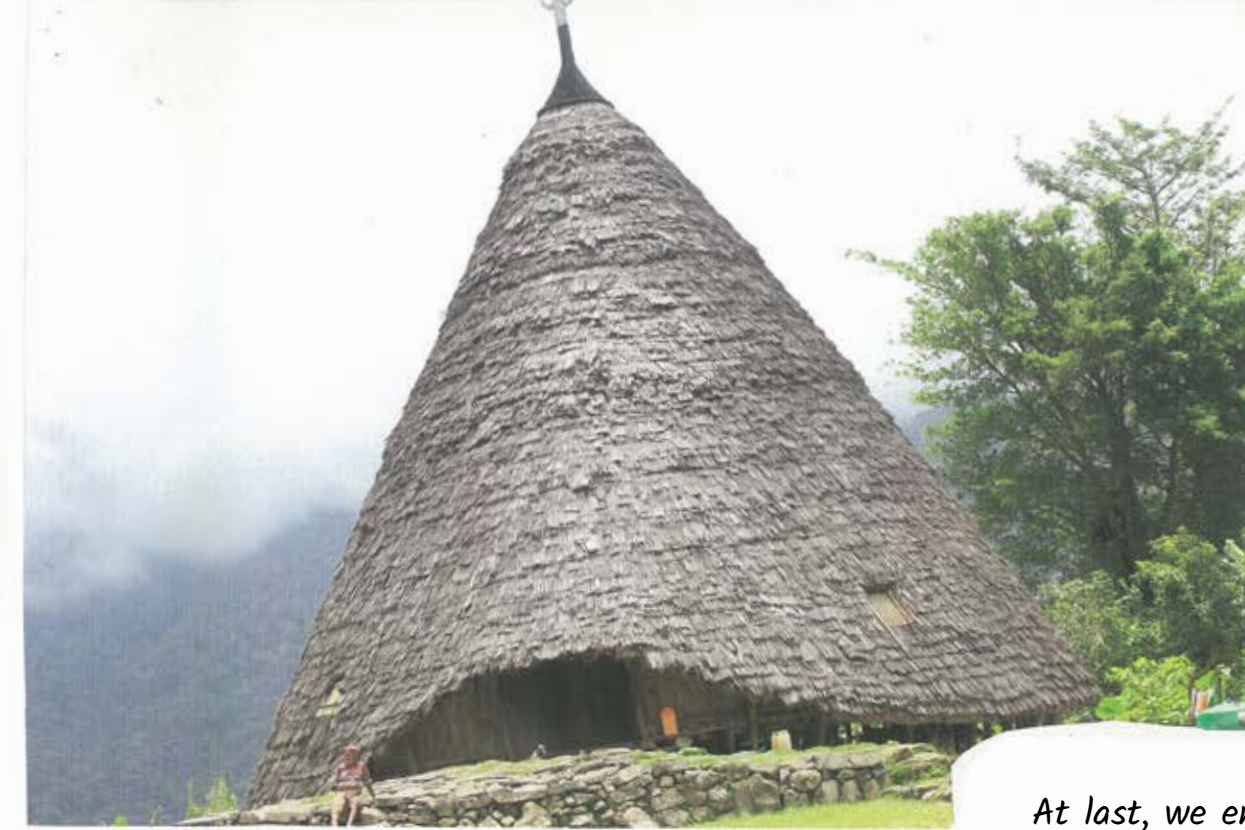
*From Rumah Kasih Ibu Hut, we could see seven houses with a cone shaped roof and beautiful scenery. Martha tried to take a picture.*





*“Hey, do not take a picture before the Wa’e Lu’u Ceremony. A few years ago, there was an incident. A guest took a picture without the ancestors and their camera broke.” I explained to her.*

*“Okay, thank you for that information, Jenn. But, we must run! I want to see the houses up close!” Martha said happily. Then we ran down the hill to Wae Rebo.*



*At last, we entered the Gendang houses where the local guide received us. Inside the Gendang house, there were eight rooms for eight different head families.*

*“They lived side by side,” explained Benjamin, the local guide.*

*“There are seven houses because of the seven sacred paths our ancestors followed to get to Wae Rebo.” He continued.*





*Next, we went outside. "In the middle of the seven houses, there is one altar. We call it, Compang." Said Benjamin.*

*"Compang is a scared place where all the ancestor's spirits meet when the Penti ceremony is held," he explained.*



*Then, we entered the guest house.*

*"Martha, it is time to pay for the overnight stay in Wae Rebo," said Benjamin.*

*"Oh, how much is it?" asked Martha.*





*"325.000 Rupiah per person, Miss." Answered Benjamin.*

*"Wow! That is expensive! No, I cannot pay that much. Are you lying to me?" said Martha loudly.*

*"Hey, Martha! Keep your words! Follow our rules here. If you do not follow our rules, there is the door for you." Benjamin replied.*

*I am Martha's guide so I felt very shy.*



*Five minutes later, the village head, Mr. Alex, came and said to me. "Hey boy, tell your guest, please follow our rules here."*

*After that, I said to Martha and Benjamin, "stop arguing! I am your guide and I feel very shy with what you do, Martha. The money has many functions for the Wae Rebo people. Please understand that."*

*There was silence. Finally, Martha apologized for the incident. And, Benjamin did too.*







*In the morning, Mr. Alex asked us to follow the Penti ceremony. “The Penti ceremony is a thanksgiving tradition to the ancestors,” he explained. Inside the Penti ceremony, there was one dance called the Caci dance.*

*After Penti ceremony was finished, Martha and I travelled back to Labuan Bajo.*



## ABOUT AMINEF

The American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF) is the binational Fulbright Commission for Indonesia. For twenty-five years AMINEF has carried forward the vision and mission of the Fulbright program in Indonesia, which in 2017 celebrated its 65th anniversary. AMINEF’s many programs for educational exchange have increased mutual understanding between the United States and Indonesia and strengthened the ties that unite our two countries. Since 1950, 2,815 Indonesians and 1,120 Americans have participated in exchanges. Approximately 80 percent of the Indonesians received graduate degrees at the master’s or doctoral levels from American universities. The remaining 20 percent participated in non-degree exchanges administered by AMINEF.



# ABOUT THE FULBRIGHT ETA PROGRAM

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program, one of US State Department-funded Fulbright programs carried out in many countries throughout the world, places recent college graduates and young professionals as English teaching assistants in primary and secondary schools or universities overseas. The program helps improve foreign students' English-language abilities and knowledge of the United States while increasing the US student's own language skills and knowledge of the many host countries around the world.

In Indonesia, the Fulbright ETAs are placed in high schools (both SMA, SMK and madrasah) where they assist local English teachers. The program has now been going for 14 years and has affected many thousands of Indonesian students and their communities across the archipelago over that period. AMINEF, in charge of the Fulbright program in Indonesia since 1992, works closely with the Indonesian ministries of Education and Culture and Religious Affairs to administer the ETA program in Indonesia.



