

CHILDREN STORYBOOK WORDS NATIONAL COMPETITION 2018

AMINEF
American Indonesian Exchange Foundation

FULBRIGHT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WORDS

DREAM



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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: Desta Manurung

Uroan

"Tweet..."

The birds chirped loudly to remind me that I had to wake up from my nice dream. But, my blanket still hugged me tightly like it wouldn't let me go. Then I was conscious that I had to wake up early.

I sat on the corner of my bed to make a fantasy about my holiday in Samosir.





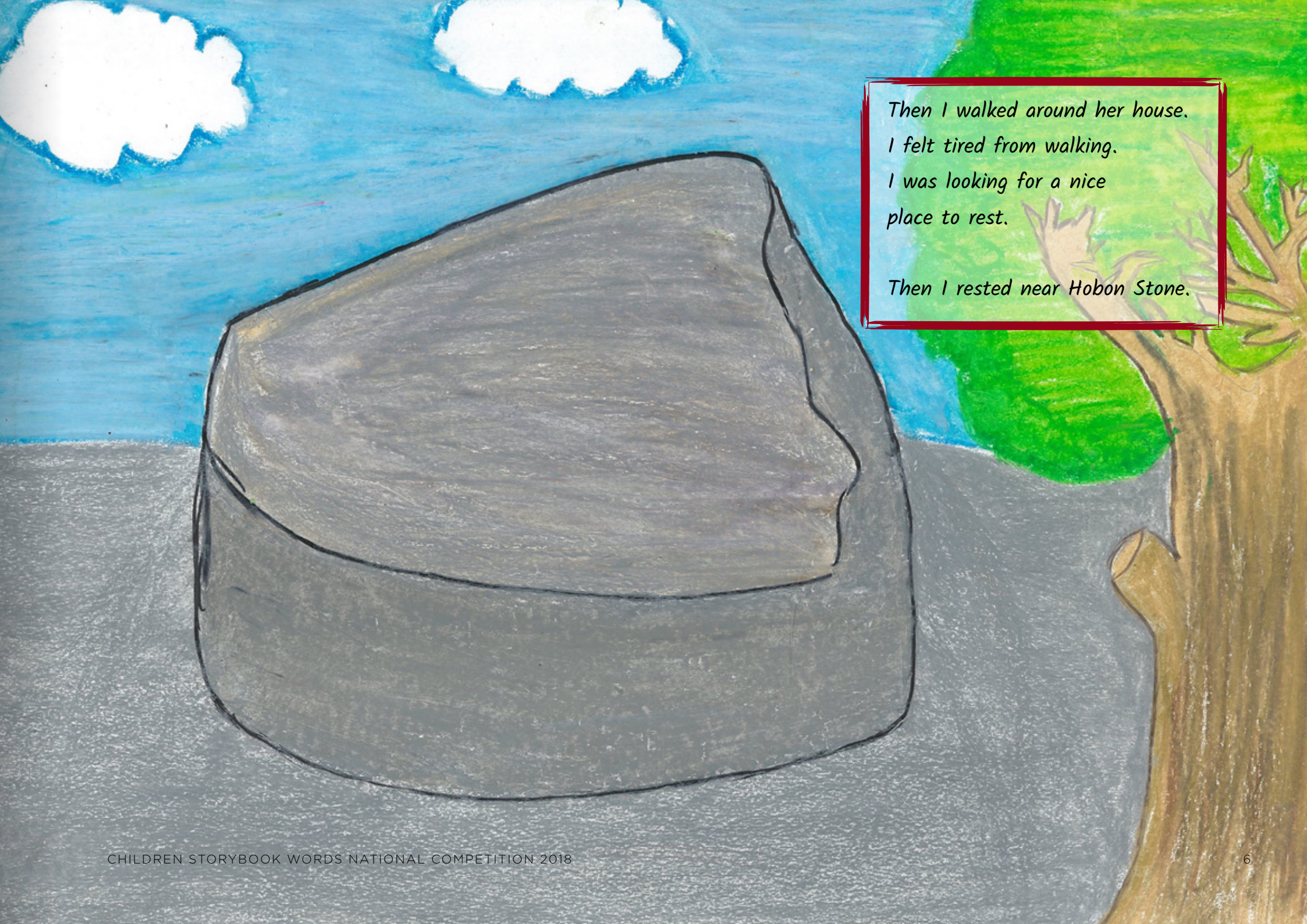
*I prepared myself to go to my grandmother's home. Going to my car and driving alone.
The flowers and butterflies danced energetically in one symphony as they did that for me all along
my trip with the sun smiled sweetly for all people in this world.*

*After driving for 2 hours,
I finally arrived at
my grandmother's house.
I wasn't patient to hug her.*

"Knock...knock...knock..."


*I knocked the door but there was no answer.
I tried to knock harder. I knocked twice
but still the same.*



A child's drawing of a landscape. In the center is a large, grey, rounded rock. To the right is a tree with a brown trunk and green foliage. The sky is blue with two white clouds. The ground is grey. A red-bordered box contains text in the upper right corner.

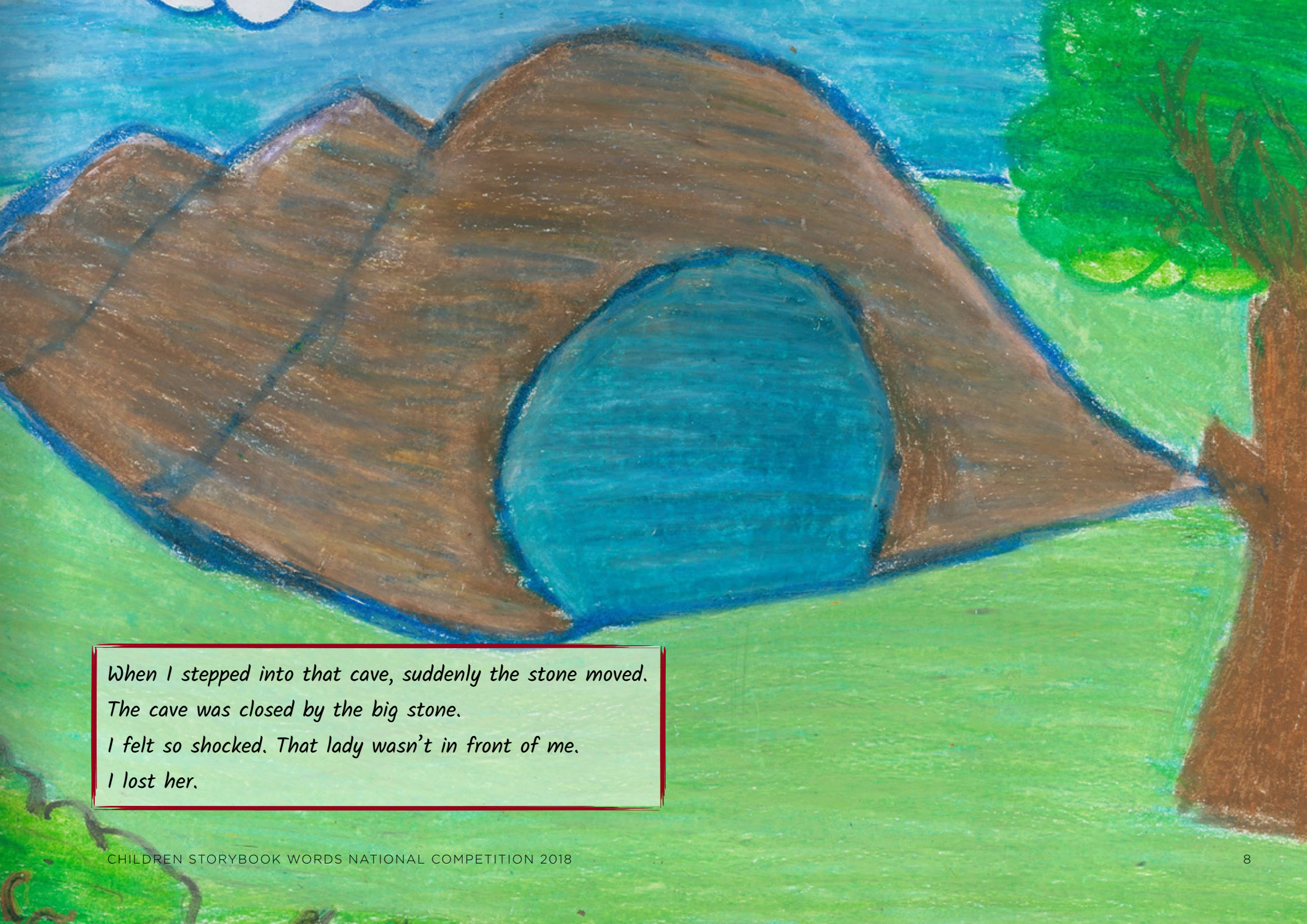
*Then I walked around her house.
I felt tired from walking.
I was looking for a nice
place to rest.*

Then I rested near Hobon Stone.



When I sat there I saw a beautiful girl.
She looked so pretty with her shiny hair and
her red lips. I think I fell in love.
She was walking in front of me.
Then I followed her because I felt so curious
where would she go.

I was walking behind her. It didn't feel that
we were already in front of the cave.



*When I stepped into that cave, suddenly the stone moved.
The cave was closed by the big stone.
I felt so shocked. That lady wasn't in front of me.
I lost her.*

*Not only that, I also saw a group of people partying.
They danced the traditional danced named Tor-Tor.*





*Accompanied by mystical Batak traditional musical instruments such as Sarune, Gondang, and Hasapi.
I liked that music. I didn't realize that I had joined them.
Until I finally screamed like I was in a discotheque.
The chief immediately shouted to arrest me and I have to be their prisoner.*

I was put in an underground cage. I wasn't alone there because there was also an intruder who had been caught before me. He told me that I must follow the tribe recognition ritual. If I still wanted to live, I had to be a part of this tribe.

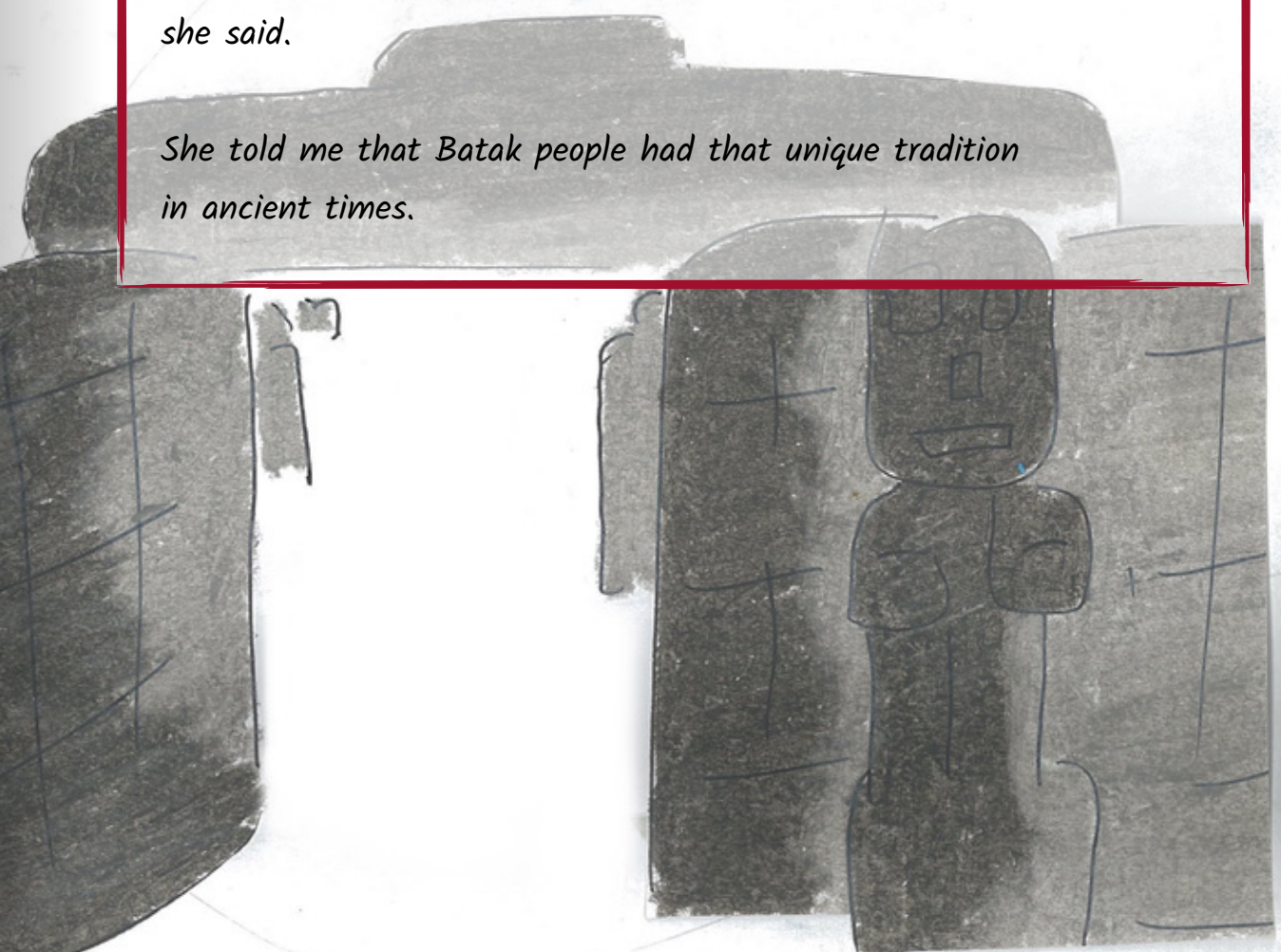


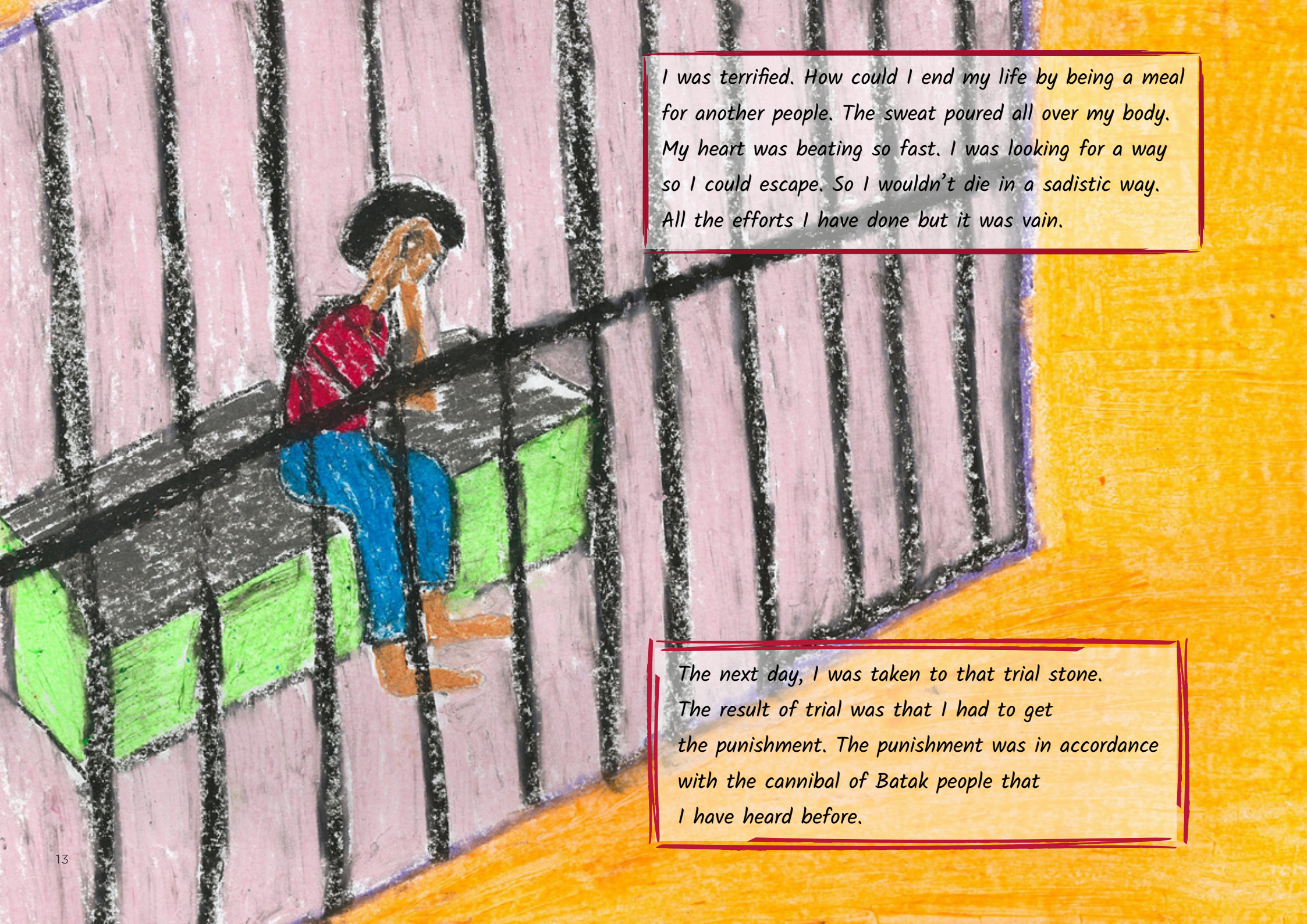


I remembered my grandmother's story.

*"Long long time ago in Siallagan, there were trial stones.
Villains would go for their trial there. If they were found guilty,
they would get a punishment. The punishment was terrible"
she said.*

*She told me that Batak people had that unique tradition
in ancient times.*





I was terrified. How could I end my life by being a meal for another people. The sweat poured all over my body. My heart was beating so fast. I was looking for a way so I could escape. So I wouldn't die in a sadistic way. All the efforts I have done but it was vain.

The next day, I was taken to that trial stone. The result of trial was that I had to get the punishment. The punishment was in accordance with the cannibal of Batak people that I have heard before.

I was laid on a big rock.
They called it the Stone of Execution.

The knife was directed to my chest.
Getting closer to the knife
so my heart beat so fast.
I wasn't ready to die.
But all people there seemed so happy.
I didn't believe that this was
the end of my life.

The knife came closer.



Closer.....

Closer.....

Closer....

"Aaaaarrrrrrggggggggghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh....."

no.... don't kill me. Nooo... I still want to live"

Suddenly I fell out of my bed. I saw my stomach but there were no scars. I looked around and I was conscious that I was in my room. Yes... in my bedroom. Evidently, I fell asleep. I didn't get ready soon but I fell asleep. How stupid I was. It was just a bad dream but it was too real. But I'm so lucky because it was just a dream.



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.

