

The 2019 National WORDS Competition - Storybooks

Volume 3



WORDS

Future
of
Indonesia



The 2019 National
WORDS Competition

22 Storybooks

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Future
of
Indonesia



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American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF)

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These storybooks have been lightly edited for clarity.

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 series of books, which represents one of the outcomes of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETA) Program this year, 2018-2019.

American ETAs work together with local co-teachers of English in various secondary schools throughout the archipelago. The program is now in its 15th 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 format was fine-tuned by last year’s cohort into a storybook and storytelling competition instead of a speech and talent contest.

This year’s cohort of 22 ETAs – who by the way come from all over the US and are very diverse in background and interests, and are spread out in 22 schools in eight provinces in Indonesia – together with the AMINEF American Program staff who work closely with them came up with this year’s storytelling theme “The Future of Indonesia.”

The national competition was held in Jakarta on April 4th at @america. Each of the 22 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 a visit to the newly built US Embassy in Jakarta. Other sessions focused on peace education and tolerance building in collaboration with Ayu Kartika Dewi, a Fulbright Visiting Student alumna who is currently Managing Director of the Indika Foundation and co-founder of SabangMerauke.

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 Aziza Noor, a graphic book artist, and Fulbright Visiting Student alumna; Brad Horn, Regional English Language Officer at US Embassy, Jakarta; Peggy Shaw, Education Coordinator, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy, Jakarta; Aditio Tantra Danang of Dongeng Toleransi, and Theresia Pratiwi, Fulbright Visiting Student alumna and English language specialist.

The winning storybooks books were “Big Sharkie and Little Remor” by Tiara Fitra Ramadhani Siregar (SMAN 1 Padang Sidempuan, North Sumatra), who was the grand-prize winner; “Bella, The President” by Carina Hakim (SMA Don Bosco Padang, West Sumatra) who took home the second prize; and “Unexpected Journey” by Laksmi Anindita Kusnanto (SMAN 1 Temanggung, Central Java) who garnered third place.

As a prize for this year’s national competition, AMINEF chose to work with Ferdinandus ‘Nando’ Watu, a Community College Initiative Program alumnus. Nando is involved with ecotourism efforts in his hometown of Detusoko, Ende, East Nusa Tenggara. The winning storybooks were combined in a collection of storybooks that AMINEF donated to the Taman Bacaan Masyarakat Ende and RMC Detusoko libraries in Ende. The three national winners, Tiara, Carina, and Laksmi, and their ETAs traveled to Ende to lead reading and writing workshops for these communities, among other activities.

I want to congratulate here the student winners of the competition and to salute all the 22 student participants for their creativity, enthusiasm, and high spirit. I also want to thank all the judges who gave their time to help make the WORDS competition a success. The 2018-2019 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 Arshelle Carter, and the tireless staff of AMINEF’s American Program led by Astrid Lim: Ceacealia Dewitha, Muhammad Rizqi Arifuddin, Thasia Rayinda.

Alan Feinstein,
Executive Director,
AMINEF

About the WORDS Competition

In 2007, the fourth cohort of ETAs came up with the idea to hold what they called a “WORDS Competition”. They planned competitions at the schools where they were placed. Then, the first place winners of the local competitions along with their ETA’s gathered in Jakarta for a national competition.

Following this same format for ten years, the WORDS Competition was a speech and talent competition. In 2018, WORDS was revamped as a storybook and storytelling competition and includes a service-learning component.

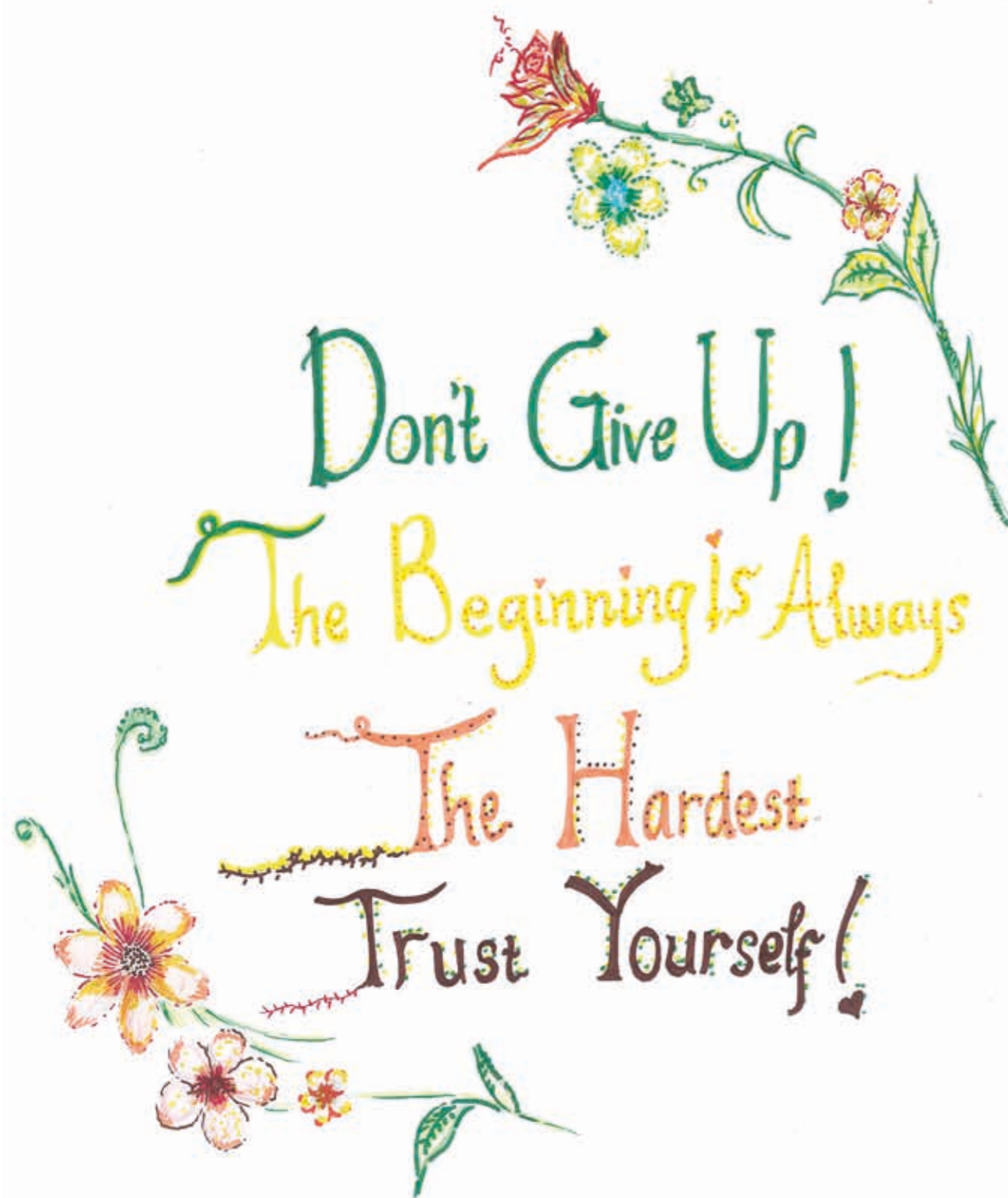
Since the beginning, the WORDS Competition has always been an exciting part of the AMINEF year. The 10th or 11th grade students demonstrate their prowess in spoken English (helped of course by their ETA and co-teachers during months of preparation) as well as to tell their imaginative stories to show off local cultural riches and their own talents.

2019 marks another Indonesian presidential election. Capturing this moment, the theme for this year’s WORDS competition is “The Future of Indonesia.” The top 3 winners of the national competition and their ETAs will participate in a service-learning trip to Flores Island. For the service component, the students and ETAs will volunteer their time to share their storybooks and engage with community members in Ende, Flores.



Rheananda Alike Batubara

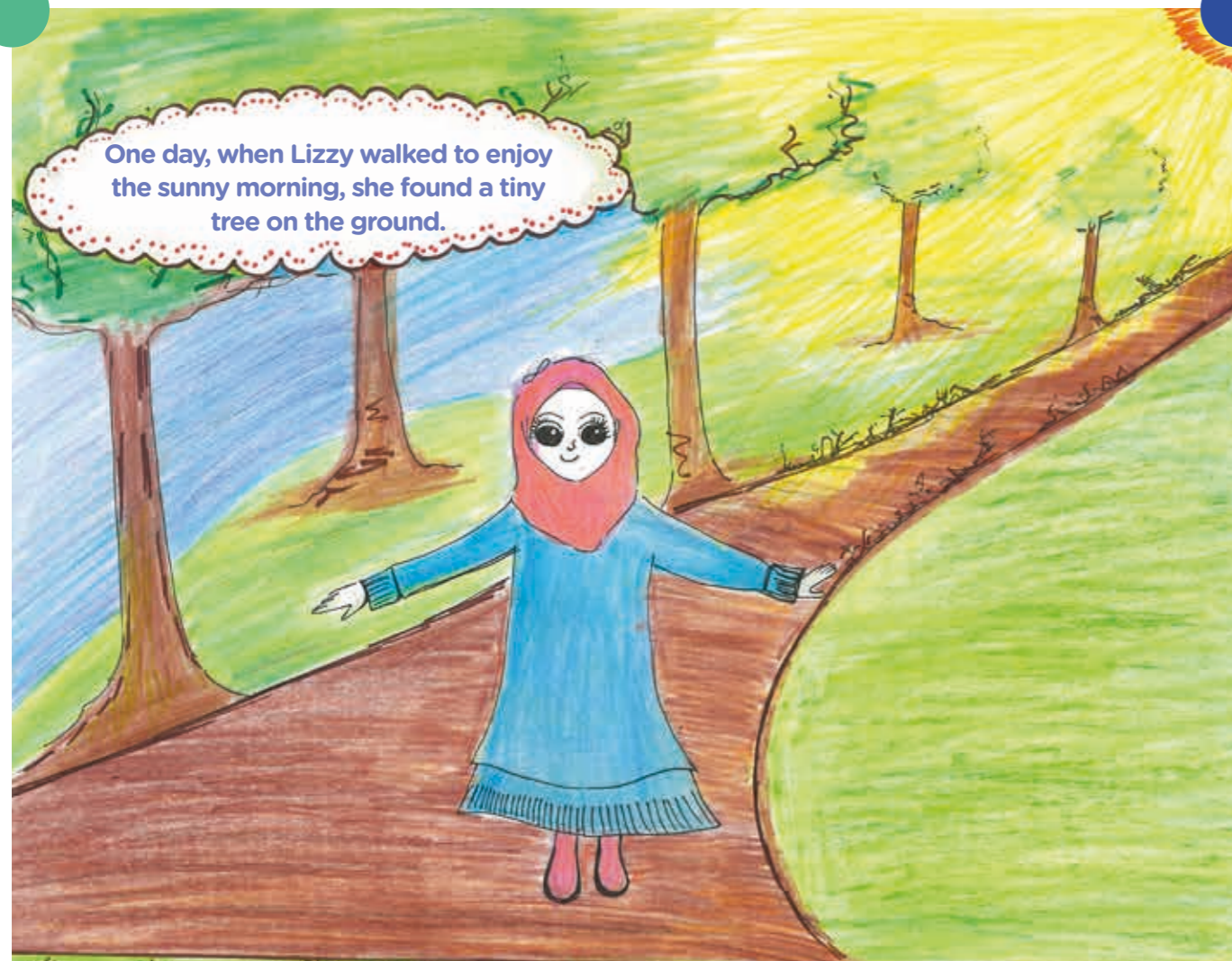
Rhea♥





Once upon a time in Padangsidempuan, there lived a cute little girl named Lizzy who really loved trees and hated logging.

Part 2 The Tiny Tree



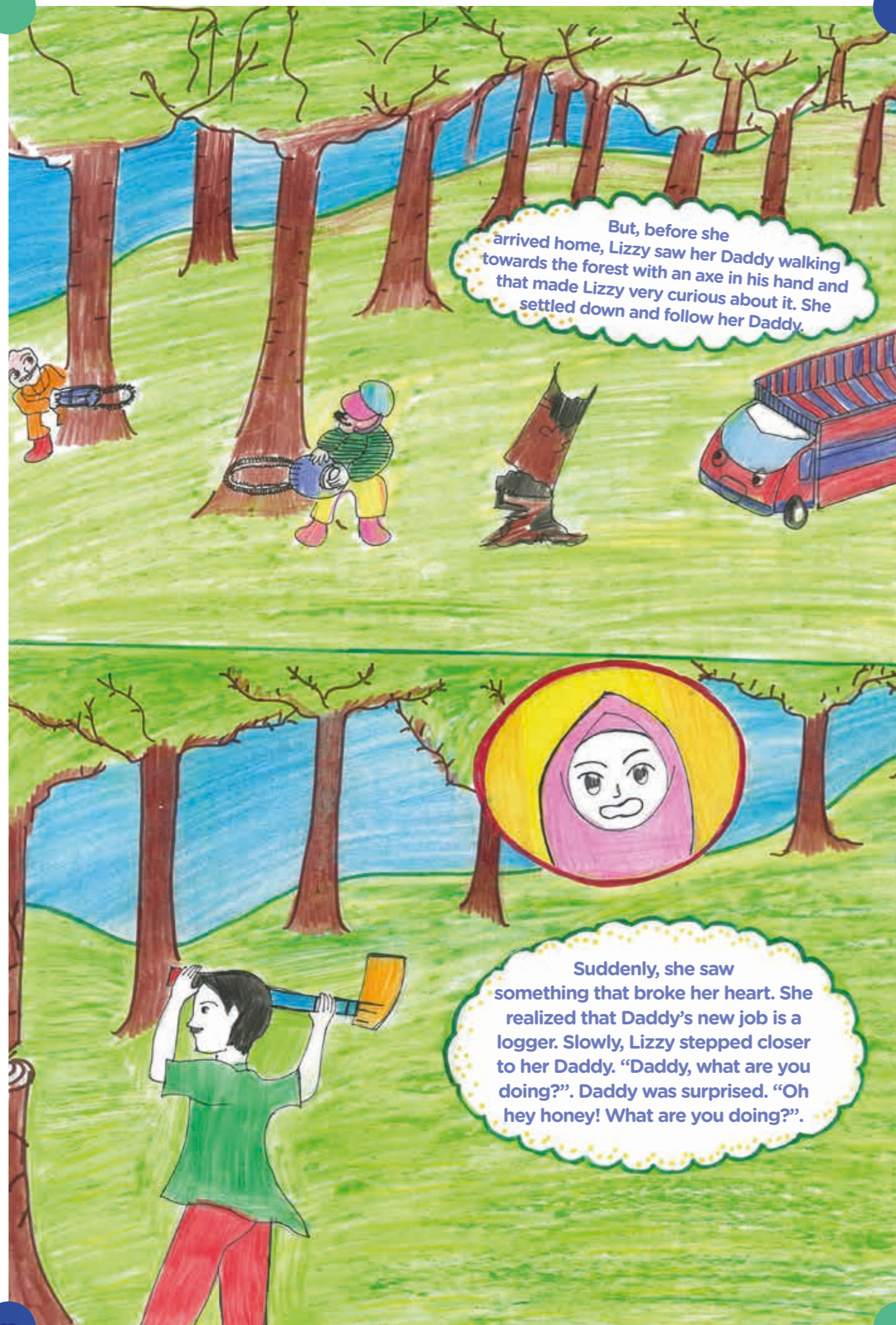
One day, when Lizzy walked to enjoy the sunny morning, she found a tiny tree on the ground.



"Oh my gosh! Look at this cute tiny tree, hmm.. I think I'm going to take it home and plant it"

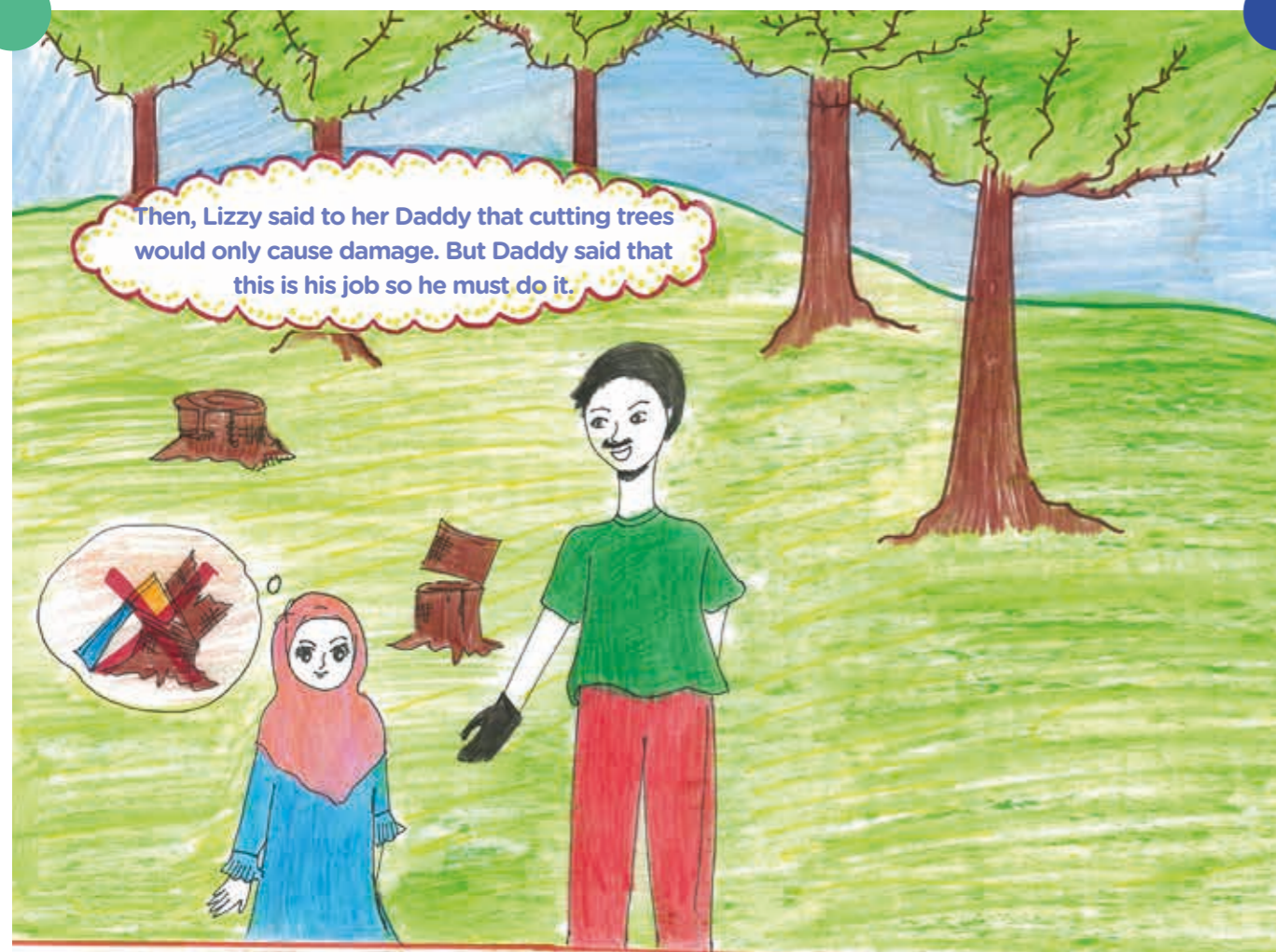
Part 3

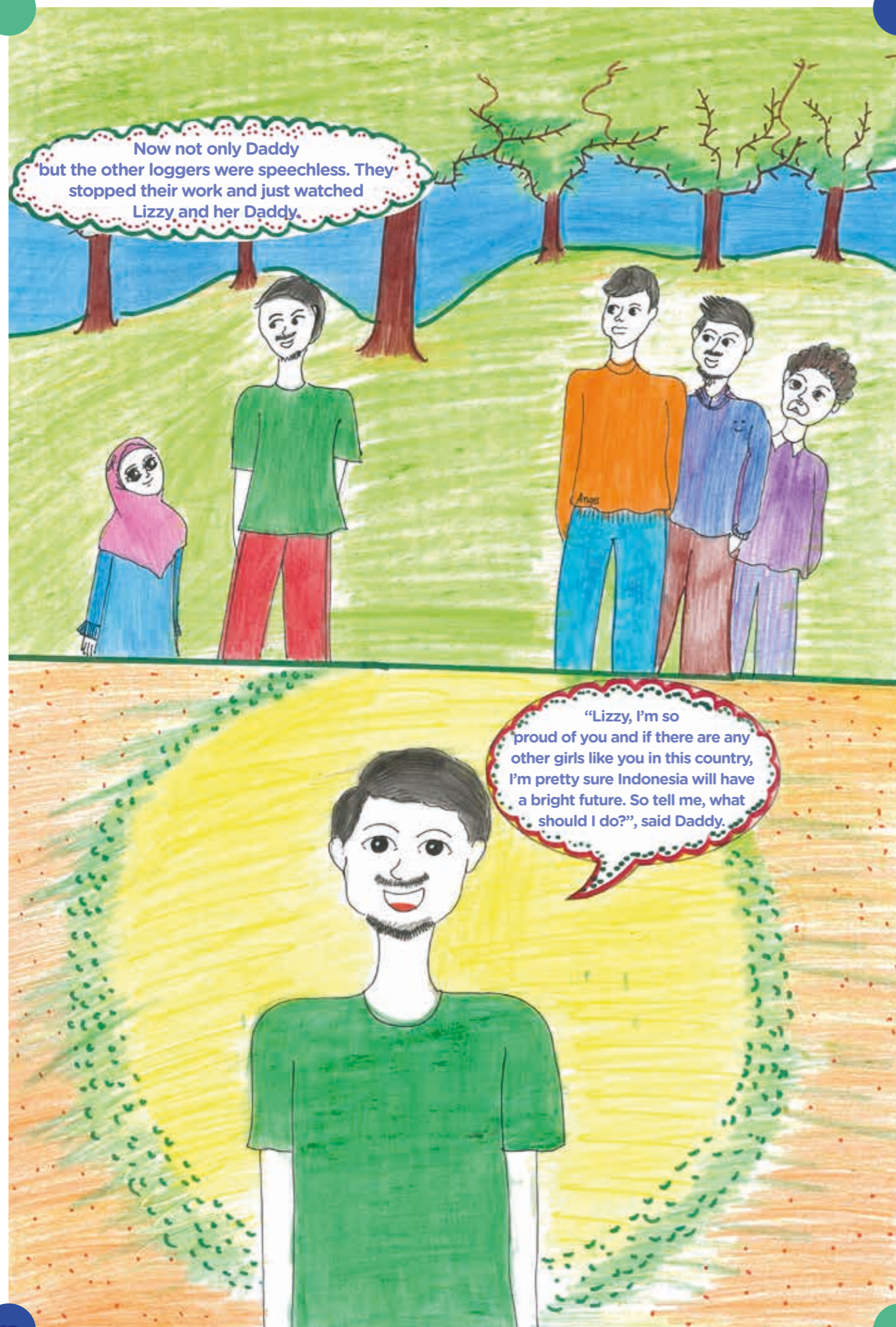
Daddy



Part 4

Replantation





Part 5

Let It Grow



About the Author



Hi! My name is Rheananda Alikha, but you can call me Rhea. I live in Padangsidimpuan. My hometown is really famous for "salak." That's a unique fruit from my hometown. My hobbies are watching cartoons, listening to music, singing and reading novels. I study at SMA Negeri 5 Padangsidimpuan. I am really excited to meet all the participants from other towns at the WORDS National Competition.

LOVE INDONESIAN CULTURE

Aulia Nur Salsa Billa





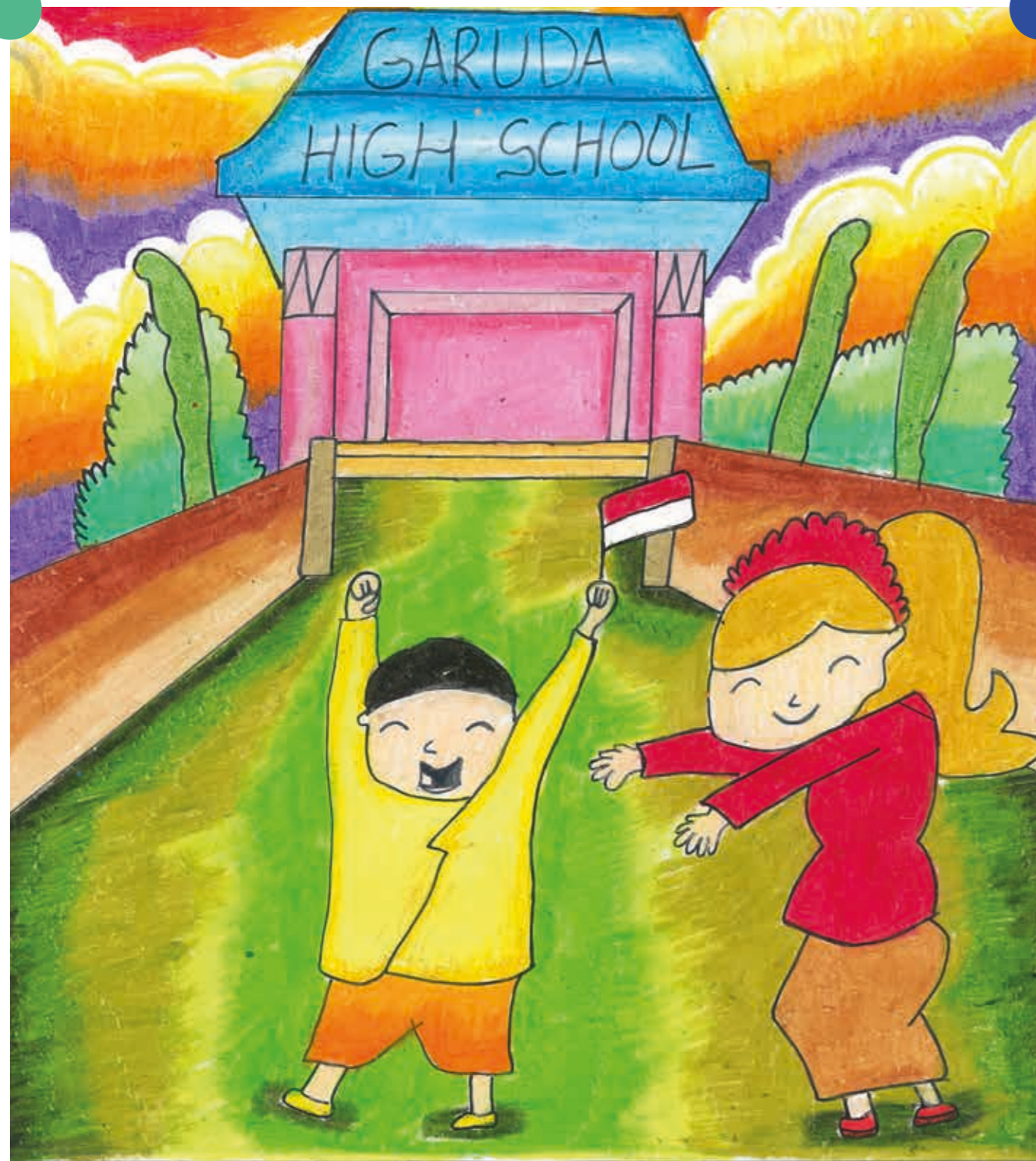
Once upon a time, there was an art at Garuda High School.
The students presented Indonesian art performances in commemoration
of Indonesia's independence day.

A student named Sekar presented a traditional dance from Java. The dance was named
Gambyong dance. Of course, Sekar was happy after dancing Gambyong dance because
she really liked traditional Indonesian dances. When she arrived backstage, she met her
friend named Bima.



"Hi, Bima! Did you see my performance? What do you think?"
"Hmm... Sorry I didn't see your performances because I don't like Indonesian culture."

Bima was a student who didn't like Indonesian culture. The younger generation tended
to like the cultures of other countries. Now, not many of them were interested in culture.
Then, Bima returned home, because he felt sleepy, he fell asleep very well.



When Bima opened his eyes, he was at school. He also entered the dance room. The dance room which was usually full of traditional masks and clothes was now gone! Later, he met Abhista, his friend.

“Hi, Abhista! Why is the art in this school gone?”

“Ya. Now the culture has disappeared in Indonesia because everyone doesn’t want to conserve our culture. So, Indonesia is now a country without culture.”



Hearing stories from Abhista, Bima was very sad. The fading of moral values in society was also seen because of the extinction of culture in Indonesia. Then, he was approached by a friend: Arjuna.

“Bima.. see the video on my gadget. Do you think it’s good to show breakdance or K-pop dance at the school’s birthday events?”

“It would be great if you took a cultural theme, right?”

“Haha.. Why should we care about culture? Culture is very ancient” replied Arjuna.



Suddenly, Bima's body was thrown off into a beautiful city. In that city there were many tall buildings. Some people looked very harmonious with beautiful cultures. But, Bima was surprised to see this country dance to traditional Indonesian dances.



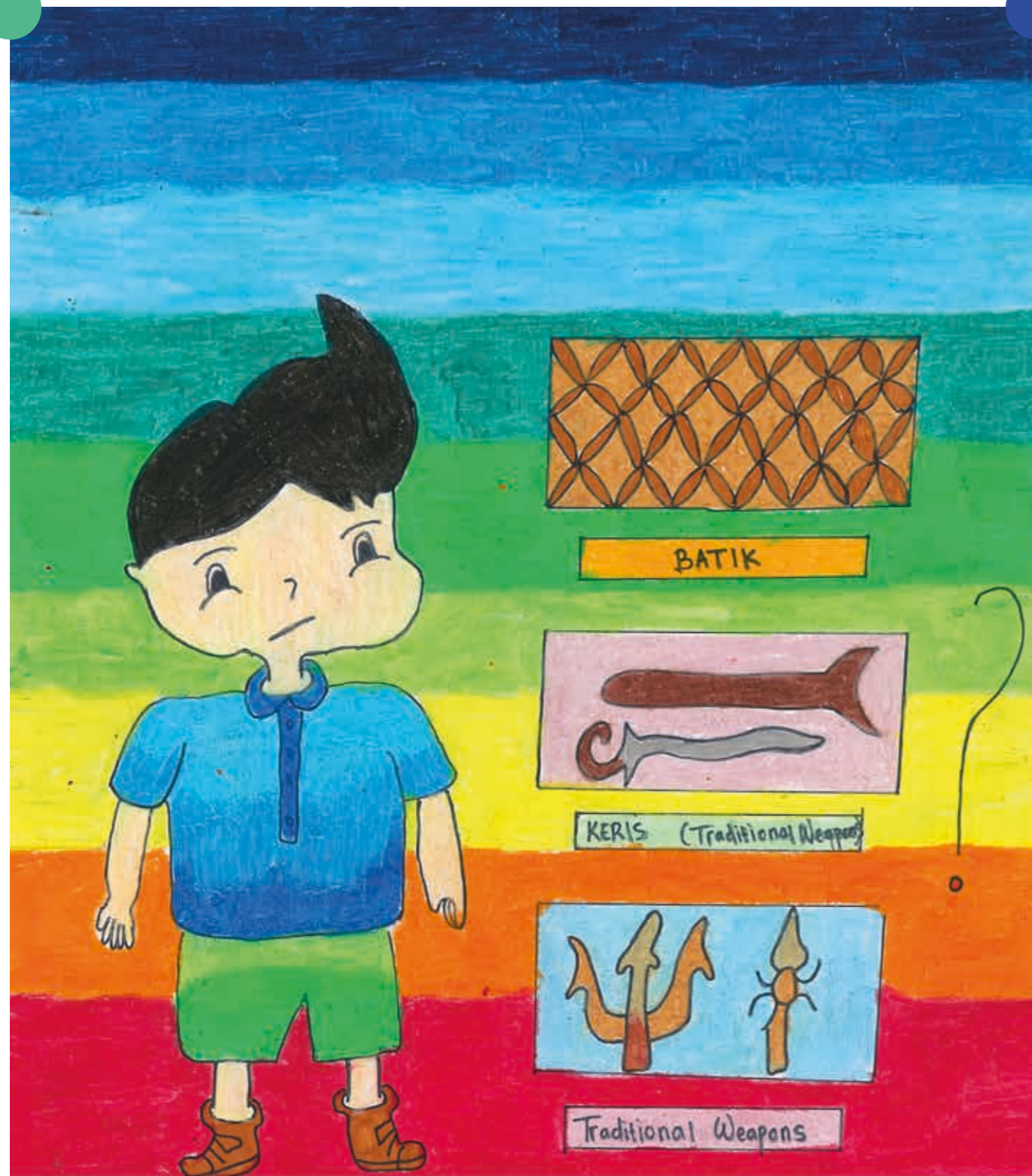
When entering a building, Bima thought that he was indeed in Indonesia, but he was surprised to see the writing displayed outside the building wall.

Written "Dream Country".

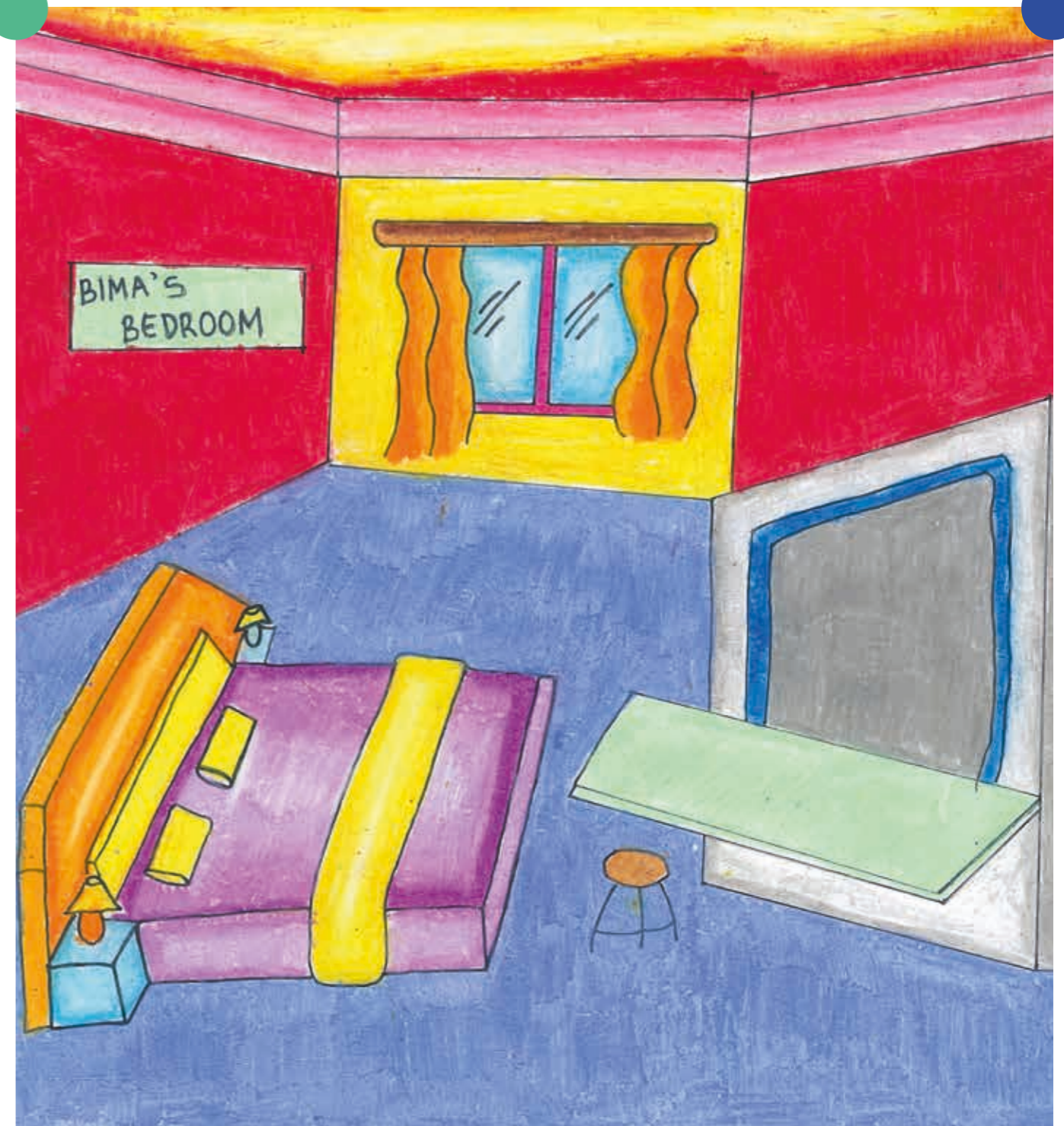
Apparently, this was not in Indonesia! He asked people in the Dream Country.

"Why are many Indonesian culture displayed in this country?"

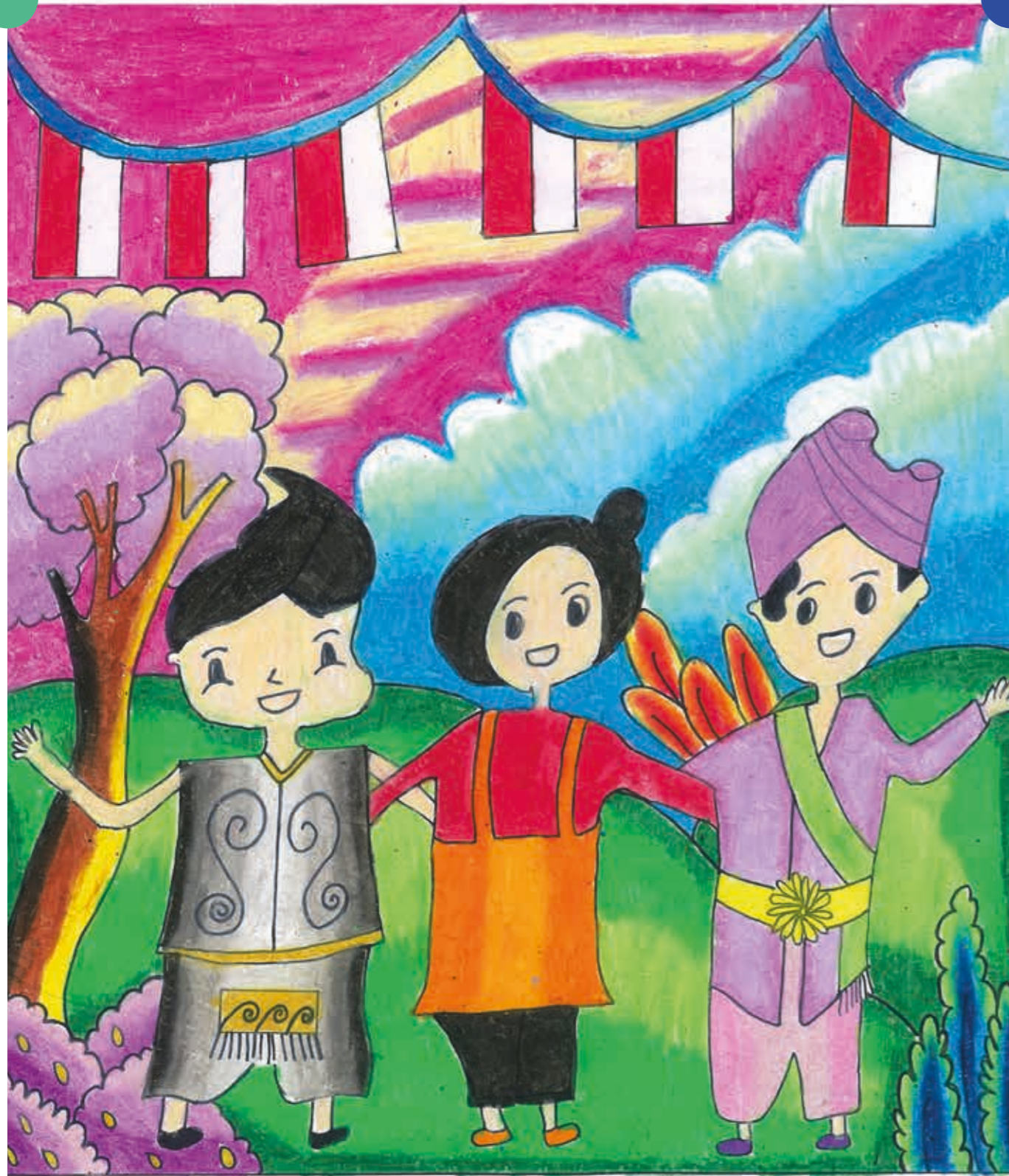
"Now, the Dream Country has Indonesia culture because Indonesian people did not care about their culture so the Dream Country took that culture."



Bima was very sad to see this situation. He was aware that Indonesia's culture was very diverse and unique. But, why did very beautiful cultures get forgotten by the Indonesian people? If he could turn back time, Bima promised to love and learn about Indonesian culture.



Suddenly, he felt his body fall down on floor. He opened his eyes slowly and looked around. He seemed to know this place. Ya... this was his bedroom! He realized that he had dreamed a long time. The whole story was just a dream. At first, he was very worried about if it was real, but now he was relieved because it was only a dream.



He had an idea to increase the spirit of learning cultures for himself.
He also invited his friends to hold an art bazaar.



In the future, Bima really loved Indonesian culture. He invited
people around him to love Indonesian culture more.

And finally, now culture has grown rapidly. In the future of
Indonesia, Indonesian culture is well known abroad.

About the Author



My name is Aulia Nur Salsa Billa, but you can call me Salsa. I live in Demak where I was born, and my favorite subjects are English and history. I want to work at the embassy for my career. I love cycling and watching movies.



PLEASE RETURN
MY GREEN FOREST

PLEASE RETURN MY
GREEN FOREST

The story of a damaged forest
caused by irresponsible human
beings

Sisca Febriyana

A Story for my
Dearest reader

Smart humans are human
beings who are good at
Taking lessons in every
Problem

A Story by
Sisca Febriyana

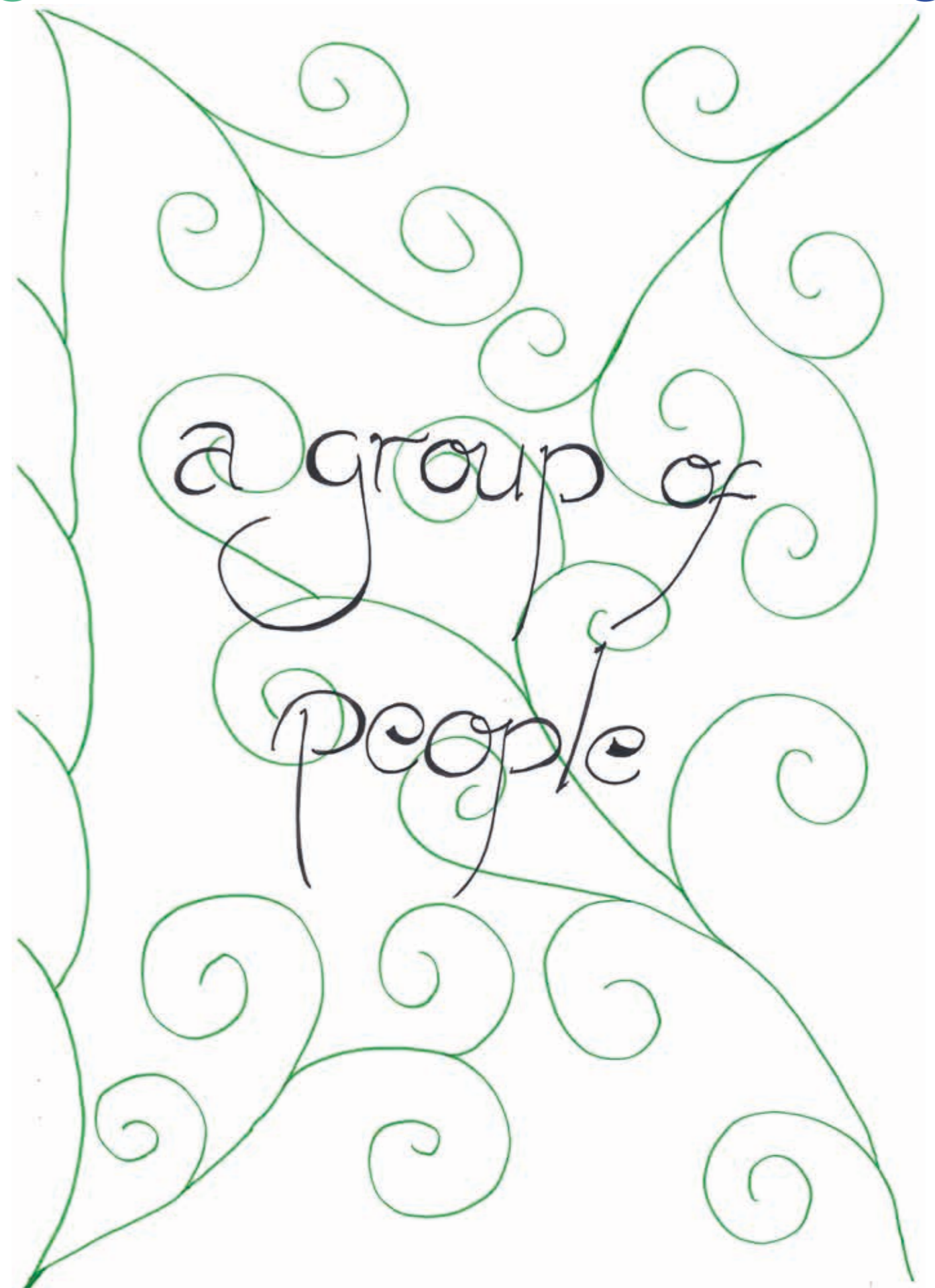
- 1 Ejat and Trea
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- 4 Enormous responsibility
- 5 Ejat's Friends
- 6 Destroyed Forest
- 7 Remember of Trea
- 8 Bad news
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- 10 Dry season
- 11 The disaster
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In ancient times, there lived a bird of paradise on a banyan tree in a vast, beautiful, and shady forest. The bird and the banyan tree were named ejat and trea. They lived happily with others Forest dwellers. The situation in the forest was so calm, peaceful, and safe.

So many animals and plants that live in the forest continue to go well as the day before.





Until one day, there came a group of people who planned to cut down and burn the forest for settlements. The forest dwellers felt very sad, they were very confused about what to do. Humans have a lot of weapons, so they could do whatever they want.

Discussion

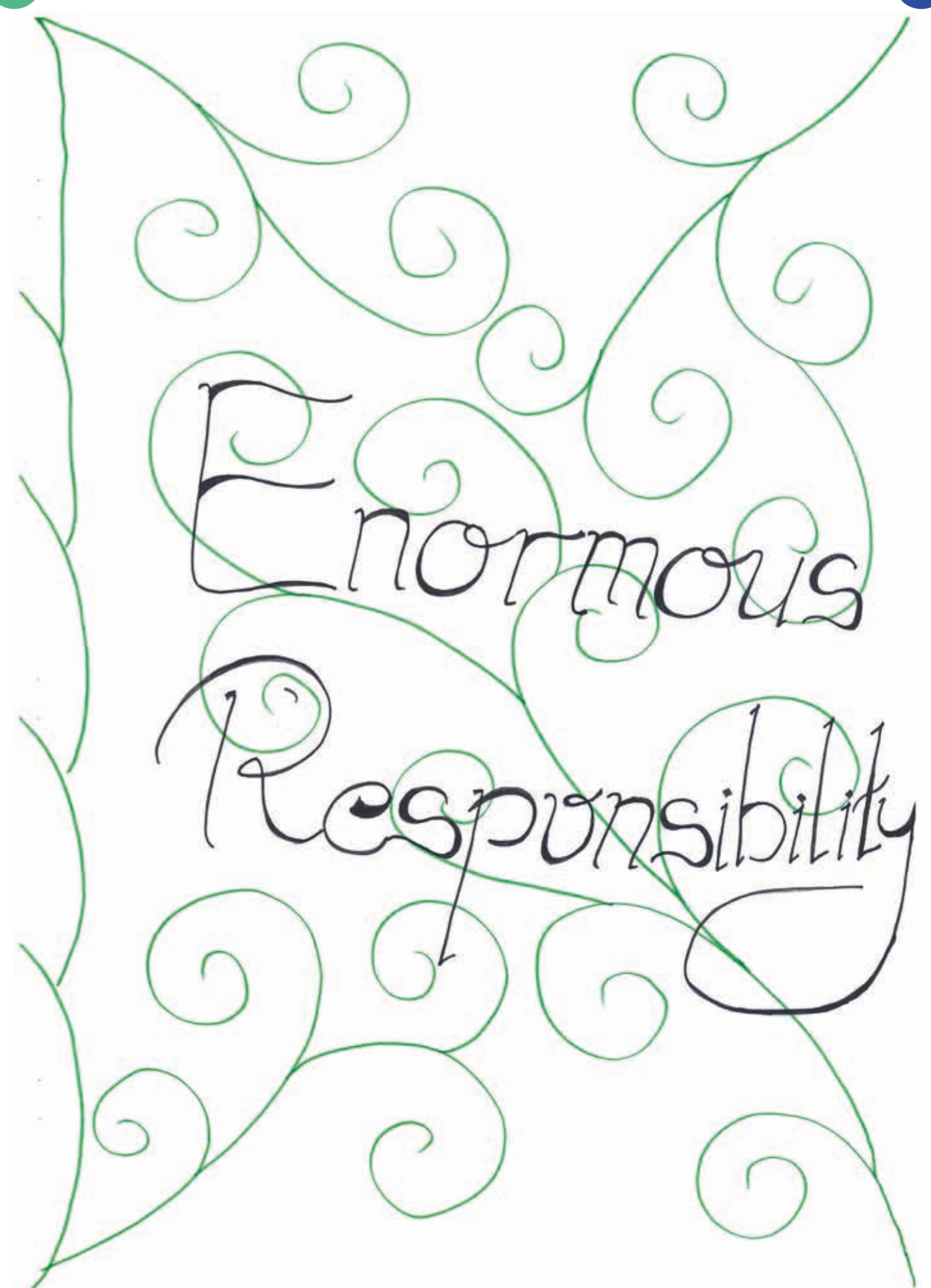


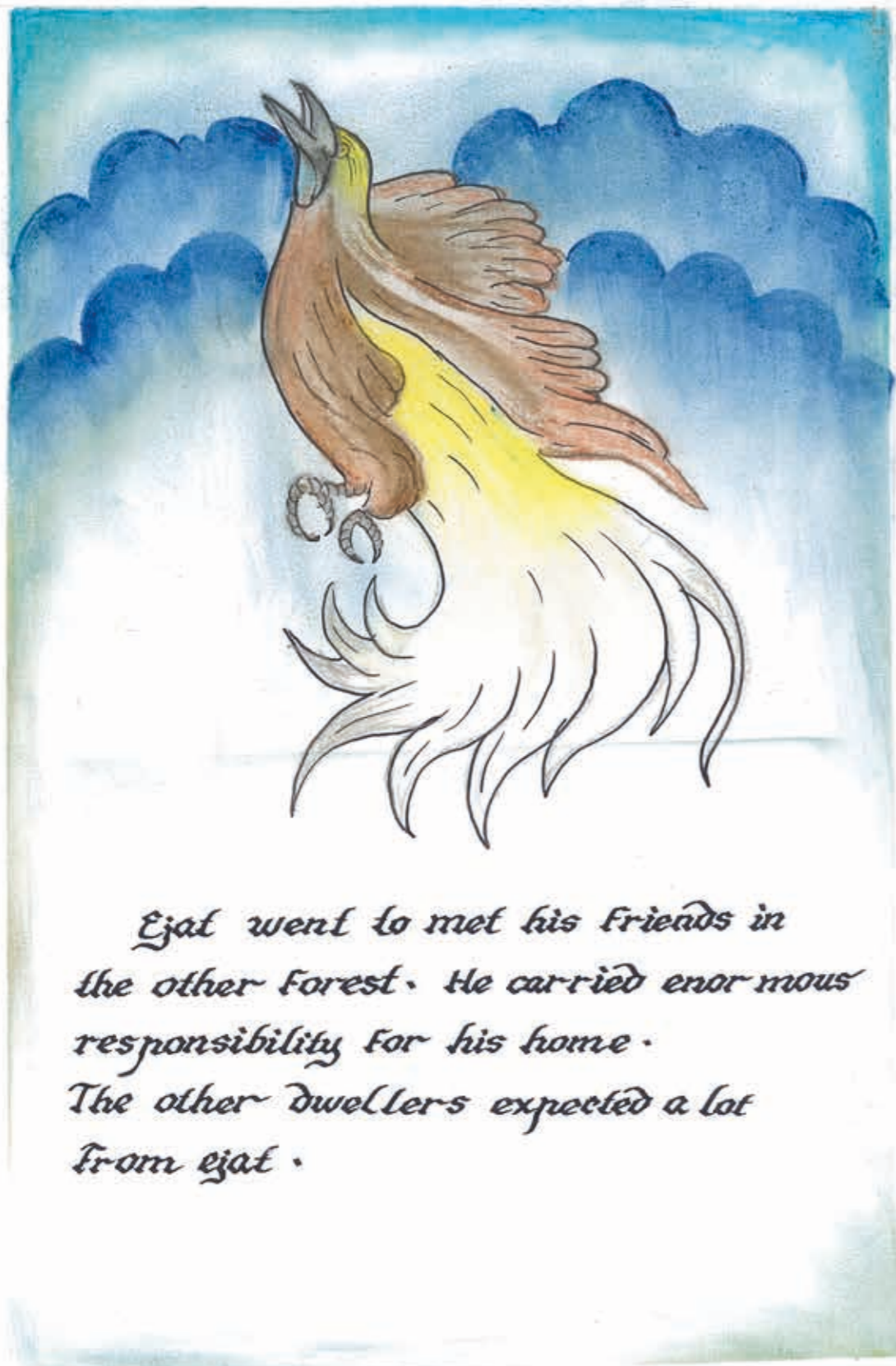
The Forest dwellers also held meeting to discuss the plans of humans.

"My Friends, what should we do to prevent humans from clearing this forest?" asked Trea. No one answered Trea's question, they didn't know how to stop humans. The discussion continued until Ejat spoken up

"My Friends, I will seek help from other birds to prevent humans from destroying the forest"

"Oh of course, we will always pray for you so you can succeed it" said the other Forest dwellers





Ejat went to meet his friends in the other forest. He carried enormous responsibility for his home. The other dwellers expected a lot from ejat.





*Finally ejat met his Friends.
 Than ejat told what was really happening
 in the forest where he lived.
 After that, ejat's Friends agreed to his request
 to help resolve the problem.*

*Destroyed
 forest*



Finally, they arrived at the forest where ~~that~~ lived.
 But everything had change dramatically.
 The once beautiful forest was destroyed.
 Many remaining tree trunks had fallen and
 remnants from forest burning were scattered.

Remember of
 Tree



Suddenly, he remembered his friend tree. then he flew around the forest to search for tree. it turned out that tree had been charred and cut down and then burned

"Why are human so bad? they are so greedy this all the inhabitants of this forest were destroyed" Ejat said.

Ejat felt very sad because his home disappeared and he also lost his friends, the forest dwellers, including tree. In addition, ejat also felt very guilty and very sorry because he couldn't do anything to help his friends. Even though ejat's departure was for the common good, Ejat still felt guilty.

Bad news



After the incident, ejat lived his life in silence. every time he always remember s his friends who are gone. However, ejat still tried to return to live happily even without his friends. Until one day ejat was flying around the damaged forest. Then he met a farmer whose name was tantan.

"O Farmers, I have come to bring bad news to you and to all the people around this forest" ejat said

"What is the bad news? what do you know? you're just a small bird that doesn't know anything" said tantan

"It is true that I am only a small bird, but I know what will happen as result of logging and burning of the forest. After this there will be a big disaster if the surrounding residents do not repair this forest" said ejat.

Left the
farmer



After that, Ejal left the farmer with the hope that someday the surrounding residents, including the farmer, will become aware of what has been done.

Dry season



Finally, some time before the settlement contraction was carried out, there was long dry season which caused the surrounding residents to run out of food and clean water.

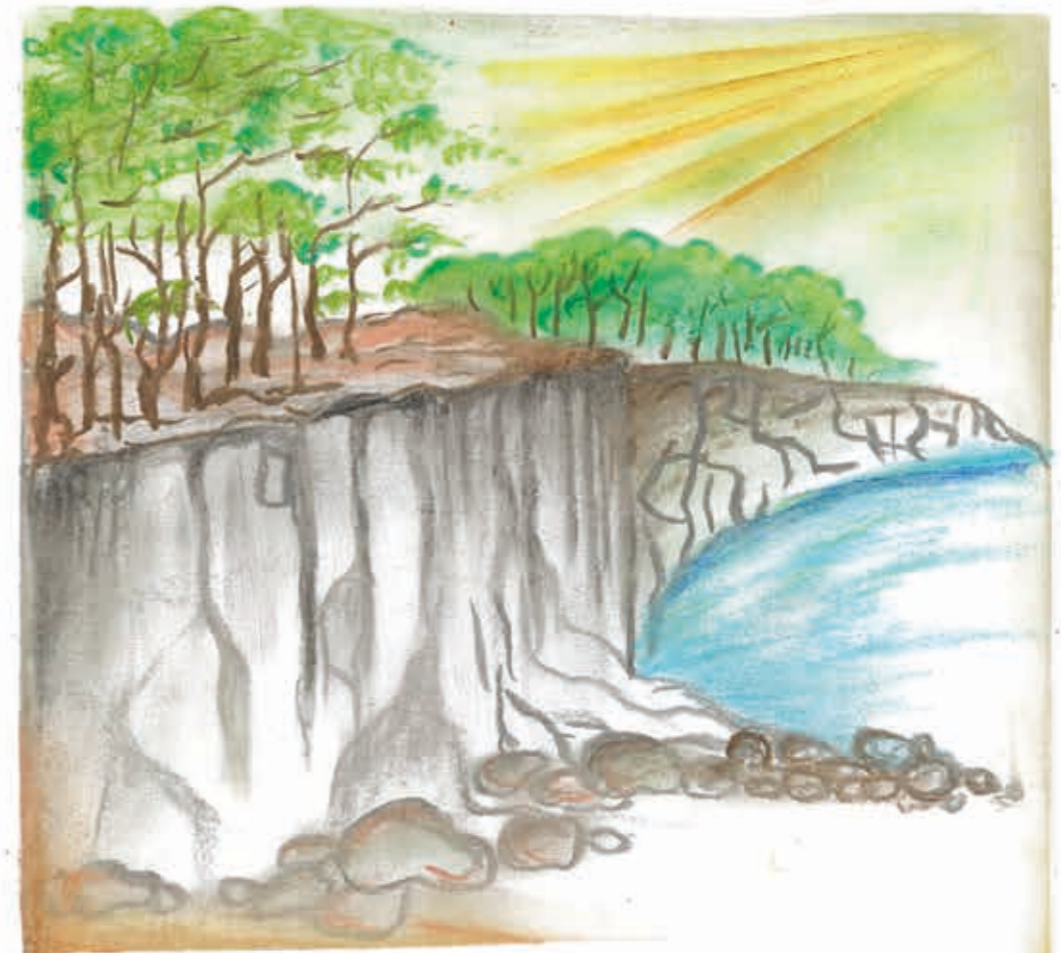
the residents were confused what to do, they did not know where to find food and water sources. there was no forest that produces food and holds clean water reserves.

Everything was dry and barren.

The Disaster



*Suddenly there came heavy rain -
which flushed the area.*



*Which caused a huge landslide and
many casualties. likewise the houses
of residents who were severely damaged.*

Regret



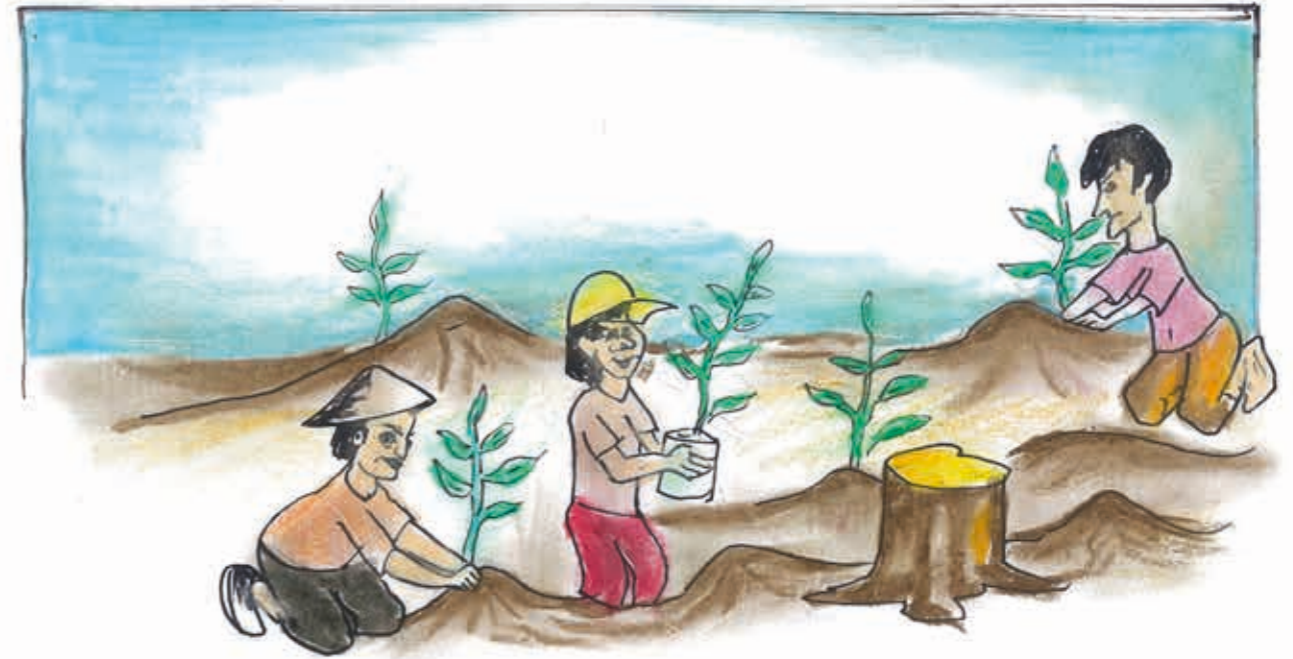
Right after the disaster occurred, tantan went to look for ejat. tan tan approached ejat and felt very sorry for him.

"Apparently, everything you said at the time was true, you are right. I am sorry for not believing you" said tan tan.

"Never mind, it already happened. It is better for you to try repairing the barren forest now" said Ejat.

"Yes. From now the residents around this forest and I, will begin to green the forest, we will no longer damage nature" said tan tan.

Starting to Reforest



After the incident, the surrounding residents, especially Tantan, realized the importance of forest for life. Finally, after they realized they were starting to reforest the forest. They want the forest to be green, beautiful, and not arid so that the rainwater can be absorbed maximally by the roots of the plants and reserve clean water in the dry season. They also hope that one day it could also produce food for the animals surrounding population.

About the Author



My name is Sisca Febriyana, many people usually call me Sisca. I was born in Temanggung on 2nd February 2002. My hobbies are cooking and listening to music. Now I study in MAN Temanggung, especially in 10th science 5. I participate in Red Cross Teen. In this community I learn alot about the basics of health science. I also participate in the Fashion Extracurricular and in the Scout.

I feel so happy and very excited to go to Jakarta to take part in the English story competition. I am also very impatient to meet new friends from various regions in Indonesia. Surely I can learn many things from them such as tolerance, their regional culture, and most importantly about story telling well. In my opinion this is also a good opportunity to gain new knowledge and experience.

SAVE OUR FOREST !!!

Putri Amalia Ramadani



In 2030, the trees in the forest of Indonesia are decreasing. There is illegal cutting down of the trees. The forest is not guarded anymore. Simon lives in the forest with Mike. Simon and Mike are a chipmunk and an apple tree. They are best friends.



One day, Simon woke up from his sleep: "Hmmm.. I feel fresh."
 "Good morning, Simon. How was your sleep?" asked Mike.
 "Oh, morning too, Mike. My sleep was very sound," Simon responded.
 "Hmmm.. and I hope you dreamed about me, Simon!"
 "Of course, I always dream about you Mike!"
 Mike and Simon laughed together and were very happy. Then, they sang together.



On the next day, Simon went to look for some food. On the way, Simon met Gilbert. Gilbert is a rabbit.
 "Hi, Simon!"
 "Oh, hi. How are you, Gilbert?"
 "Hmmm.. I'm not good, Simon."
 "What? Why?" Simon asked.
 "You can see around us. Our forest is not guarded anymore. The trash is everywhere. Our forest is not clean anymore," Gilbert explained.
 Simon thought for a minute, and then said, "You are right. If our forest is damaged, what happens to us?"
 "Then we have no more home," Gilbert said sadly.
 Simon felt sad, and after that Simon left Gilbert and went home.

When Simon arrived at home, he asked Mike,
“Mike, do you know what happened to our
forest?”



Mike responded, “Yes, I know. The trash is everywhere
and there is illegal cutting down of trees.”

“What can we do, Mike?”

“Simon, we can’t do anything. We can only pray that
there is a miracle to help our forest.”

Day after day, the condition of the forest
became more and more damaged, the trash is
everywhere.



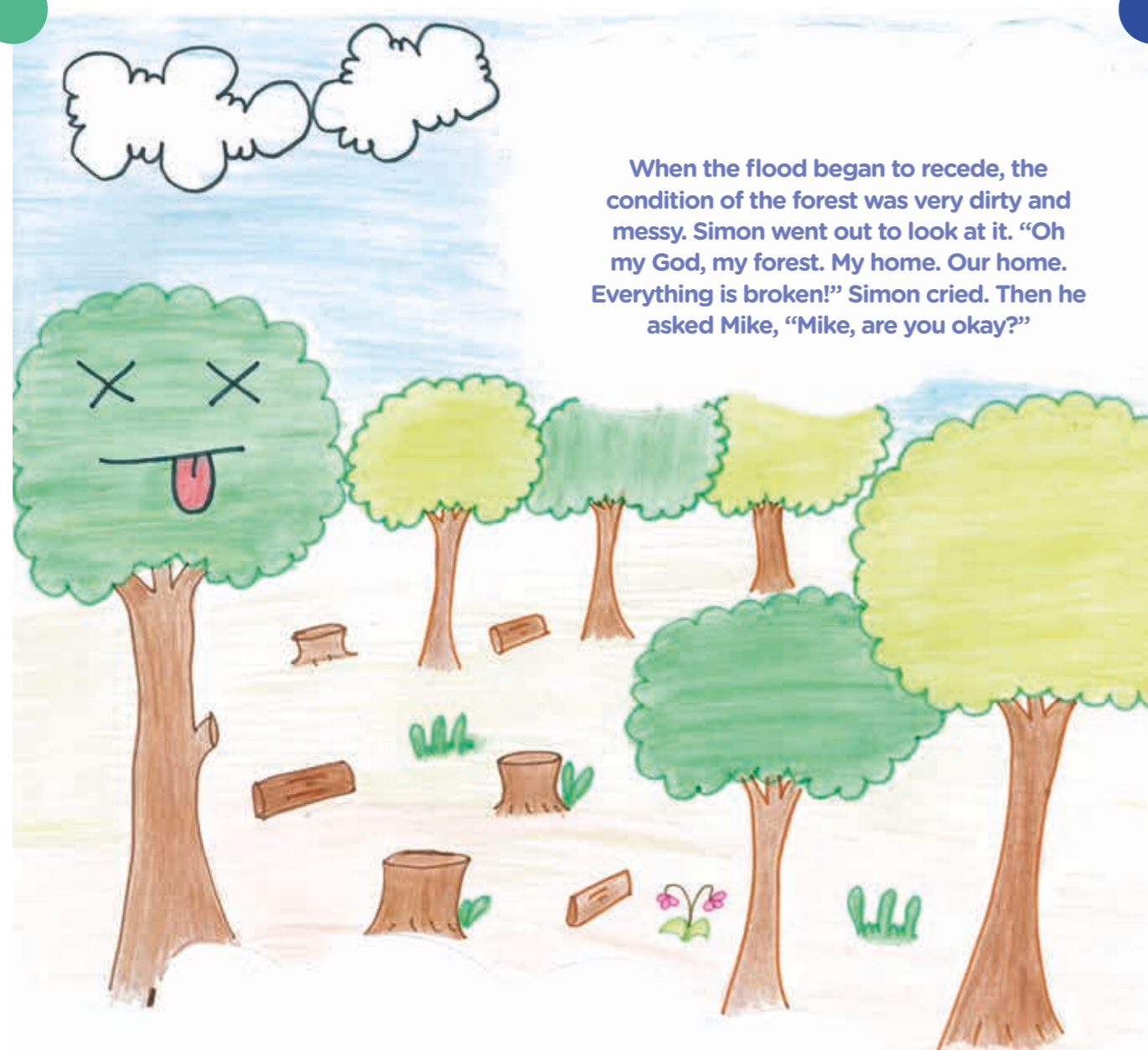
A few days later the rain fell very hard. The water
overflowed and drowned many animals, including
Simon.

“Ahhhhh help me. HELP ME! I can’t swim!!!” Simon
yelled.

“Simon, hold on to my branch. I know you can go up.”
Simon held Mike’s branch and then managed to rise.

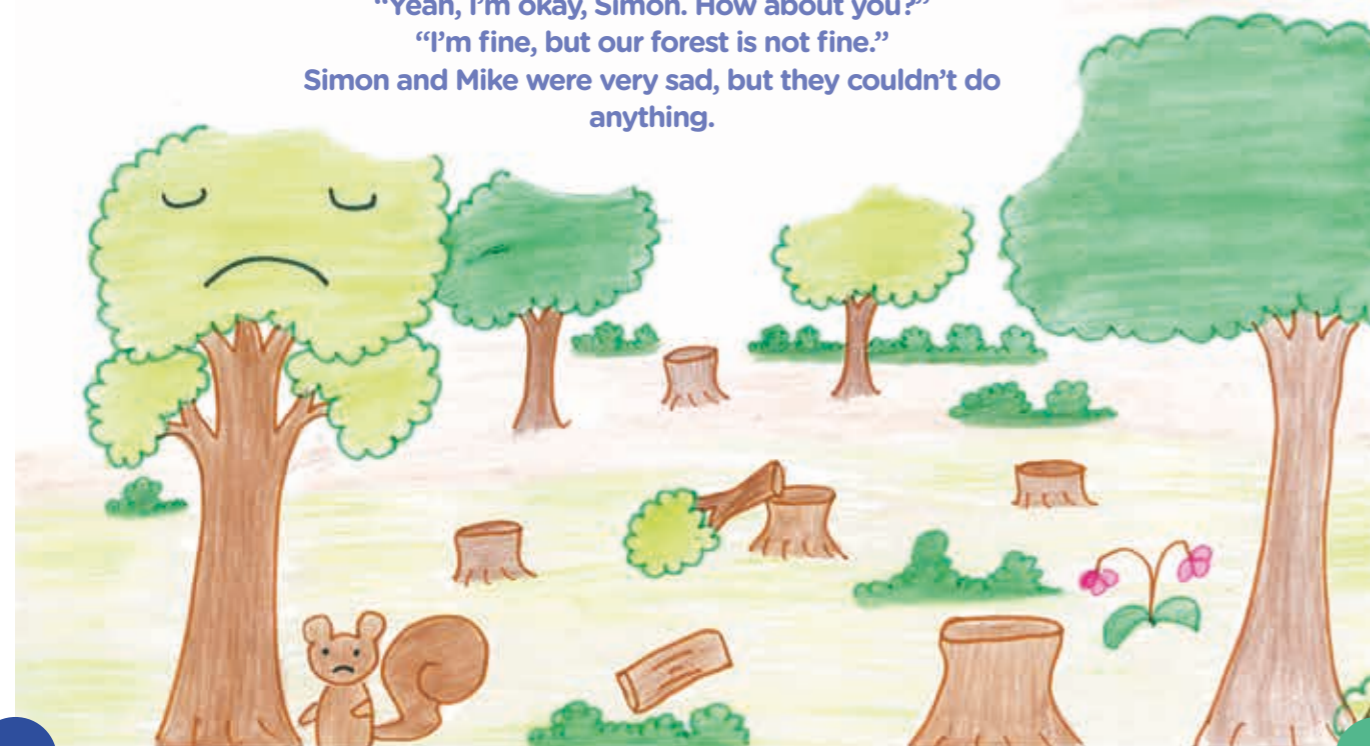
Simon was very scared.

Mike said, “Simon, stay here until the flood is over.”



When the flood began to recede, the condition of the forest was very dirty and messy. Simon went out to look at it. "Oh my God, my forest. My home. Our home. Everything is broken!" Simon cried. Then he asked Mike, "Mike, are you okay?"

"Yeah, I'm okay, Simon. How about you?"
 "I'm fine, but our forest is not fine."
 Simon and Mike were very sad, but they couldn't do anything.



A few days later, the president of Indonesia saw the condition of Indonesia's forest. He felt sad, and decided to make a new regulation:

No more illegal cutting down of trees!!

After that, Mr. President delivered his speech. He said:
 "All this time, we were too busy with building construction, so we forgot to protect our nature. We must save our forest. We must save our nature."

The next day, all Indonesian citizens started to clean up the forest.



Now, the trees and animals are very happy. Their home is clean again. There are new trees, and there is no more illegal cutting down of trees. Simon and Mike are very happy.



"I'm so happy, Simon, because our home is back."
"Me too, Mike. And I hope nothing worse will happen."
Finally, the trees live very safely with the other animals in the forest.

This story tells us that we must stop cutting down trees illegally, right now!!



The End

About the Author



Hi! my name is Putri Amalia Ramadani, but you can call me Putri. I am 16 years old. I was born in North Sumatra, but now I live in West Sumatra. My hobbies are reading, drawing, and listening to music. My ambition is to become a teacher one day.

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 15 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.

