

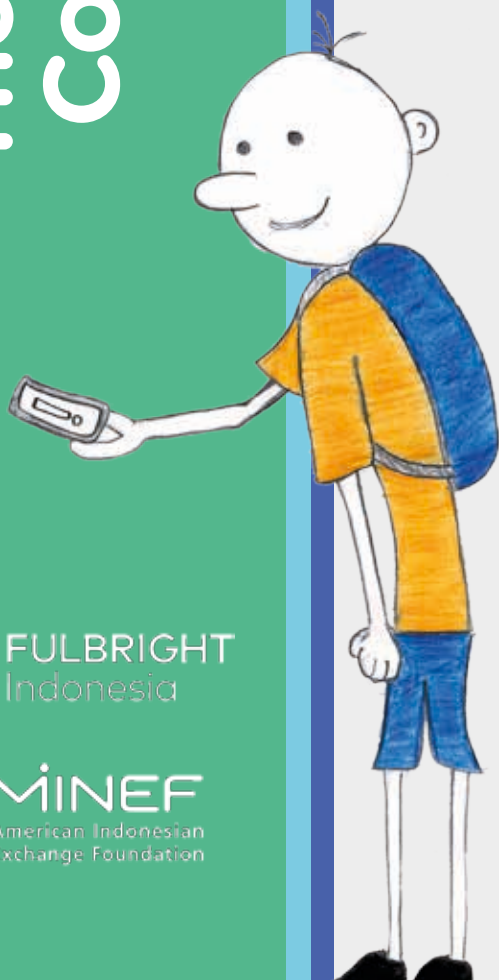
# The 2019 National WORDS Competition - Storybooks

Volume 5



# WORDS

Future  
of  
Indonesia



The 2019 National  
WORDS Competition

# 22 Storybooks

Volume 5

# WORDS

Future  
of  
Indonesia



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American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF)

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All storybooks including illustrations are courtesy of participants of National WORDS Competition 2019.

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.

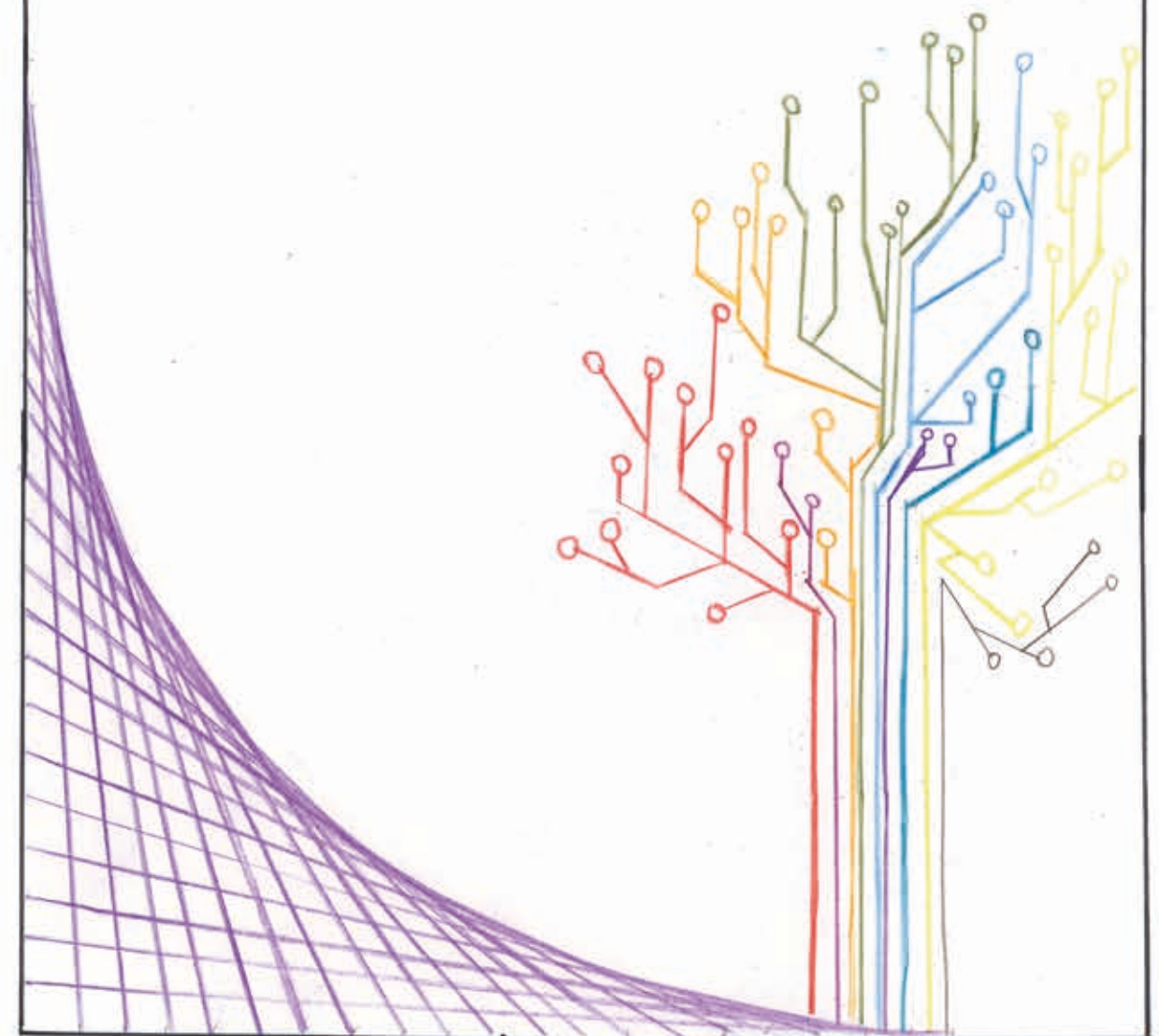
Following this same format for ten years, the WORDS Competition was a speech and talent competition. In 2018, WORDS was revamped as a storybook and storytelling competition and includes a service-learning component.

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.

# The Use Of Technology

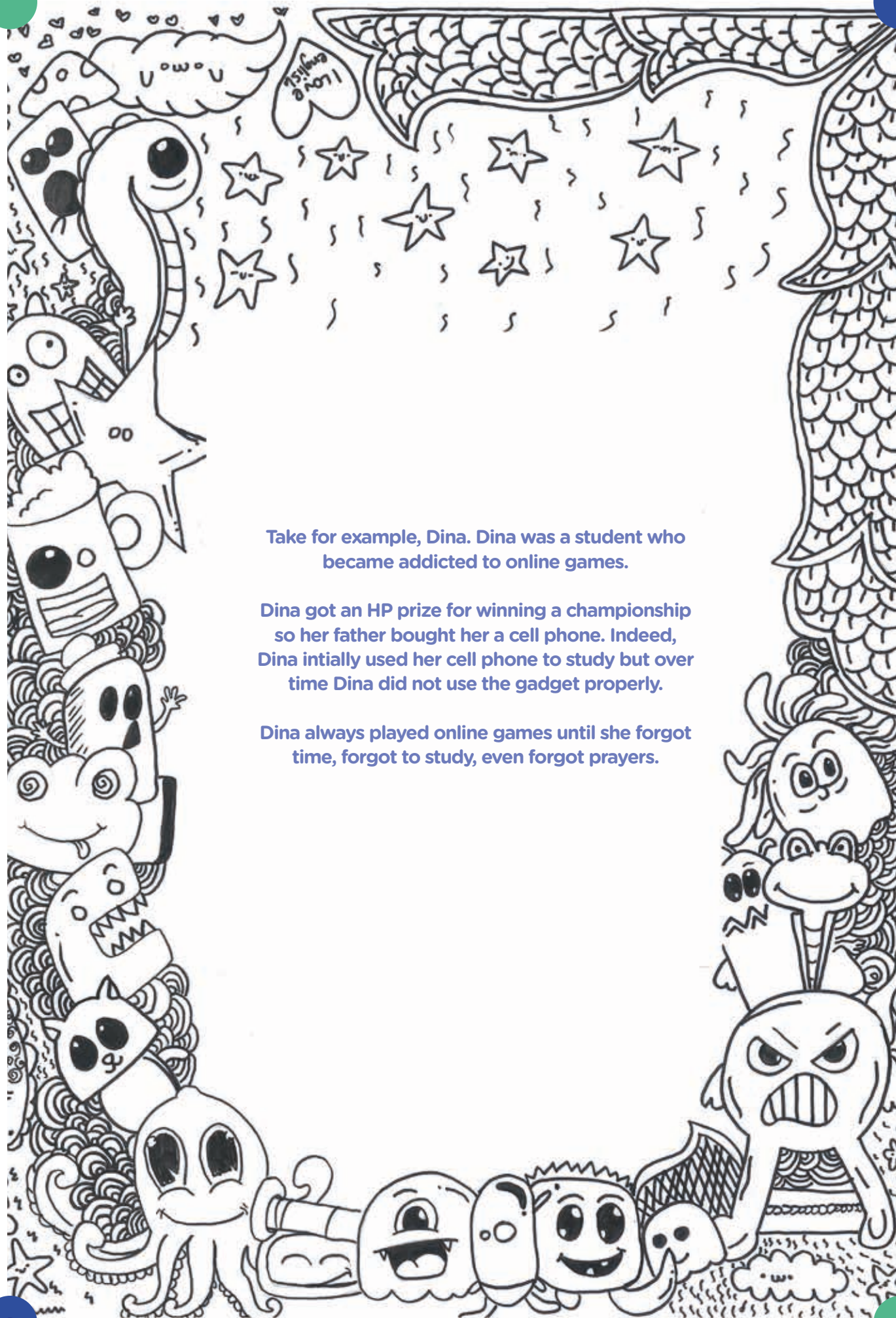
Denik Agustiningrum











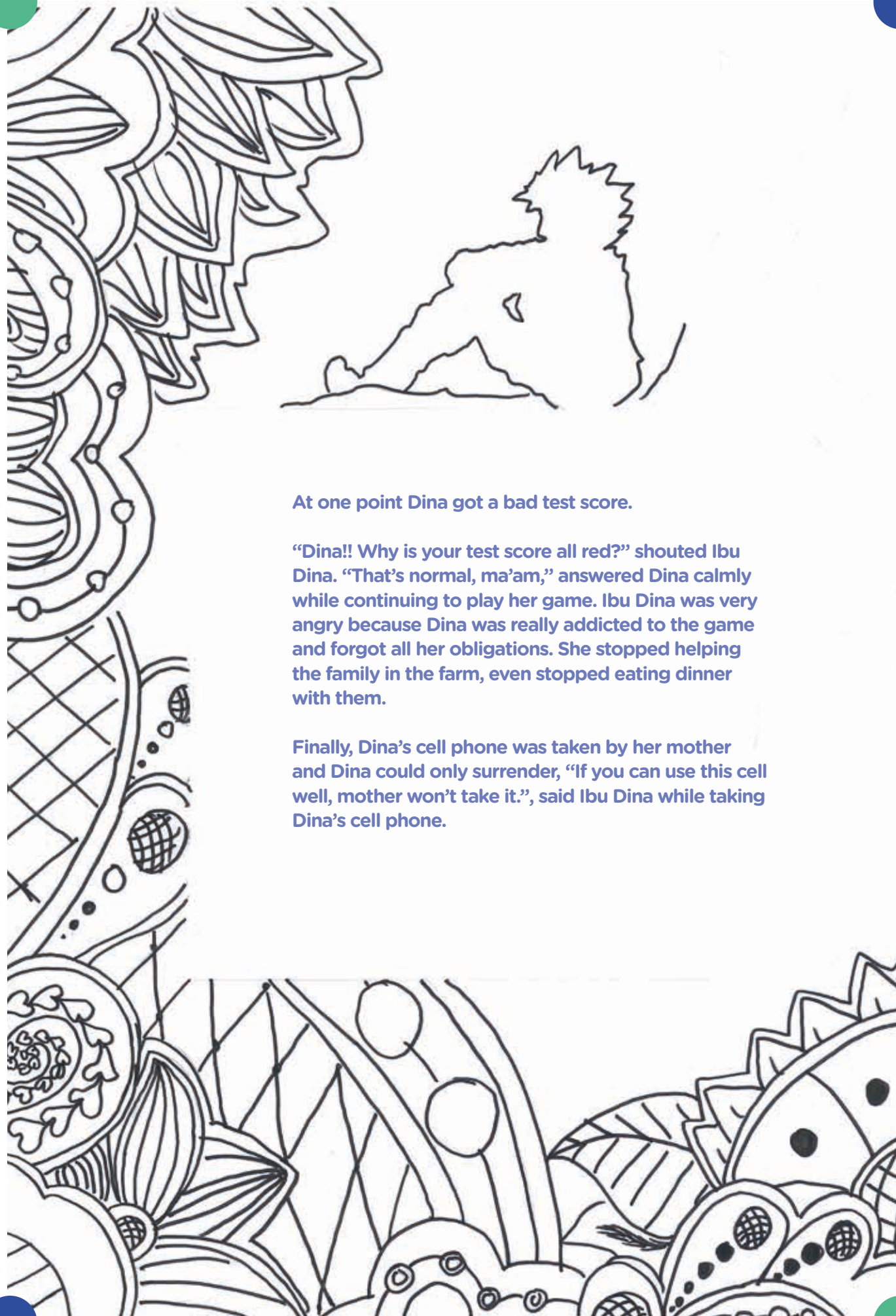
Take for example, Dina. Dina was a student who became addicted to online games.

Dina got an HP prize for winning a championship so her father bought her a cell phone. Indeed, Dina initially used her cell phone to study but over time Dina did not use the gadget properly.

Dina always played online games until she forgot time, forgot to study, even forgot prayers.







At one point Dina got a bad test score.

“Dina!! Why is your test score all red?” shouted Ibu Dina. “That’s normal, ma’am,” answered Dina calmly while continuing to play her game. Ibu Dina was very angry because Dina was really addicted to the game and forgot all her obligations. She stopped helping the family in the farm, even stopped eating dinner with them.

Finally, Dina’s cell phone was taken by her mother and Dina could only surrender, “If you can use this cell well, mother won’t take it.”, said Ibu Dina while taking Dina’s cell phone.





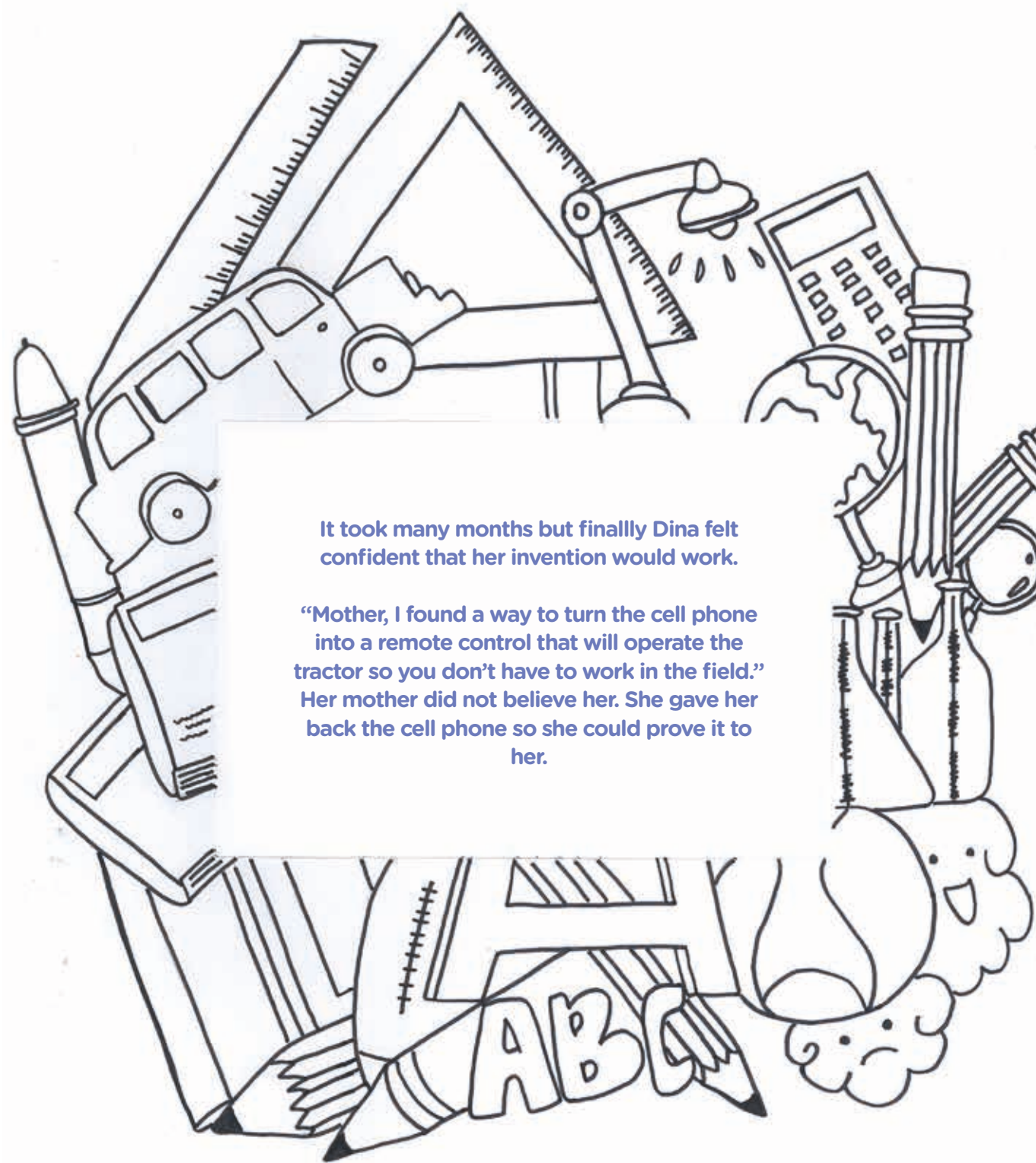


Dina had to find a way to get her cell phone back. Without the gadget she started to focus on school work and spent more time helping her family on the farm.

Learning science and math in school gave Dina an idea. "What if I create a digital tool that turns cell phone into a controller for the family's farming equipment?" thought Dina. Dina got right to work using information from class to design her tool.







It took many months but finally Dina felt confident that her invention would work.

“Mother, I found a way to turn the cell phone into a remote control that will operate the tractor so you don’t have to work in the field.” Her mother did not believe her. She gave her back the cell phone so she could prove it to her.






First, Dina transferred the hand-written code to the cell phone. Then, she connected a device to the tractor so it would receive signals. Her family gathered around her for the big moment. Would it work? Were her calculations accurate? 4...3...2! Rumble, rumble, rumble. The tractor was moving! "Dina, you did it! We're so impressed," said her family.







Dina had her cell phone back and planned to use it differently. Indeed she continued playing games but she also found time to study and teach her family how to use the technology to tend to the farm. Her grades improved as she became more aware of how her education could help her solve problems using the gadget she loved so dearly. Her family also had more time now that the technology alleviated their work, with the extra time the family invited foreigners to their land to teach them ancient wisdom of plant science, farming techniques, and cultural traditions.

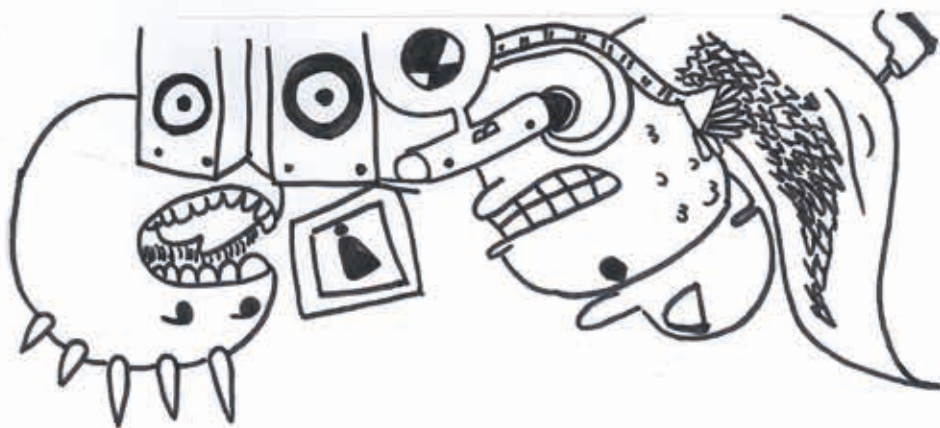






The moral of the story is that all technology has both negative and positive impacts depending on how you use it.

Denik Agustiningrum would like to thank her family for inspiring her to write a story about technology and nature. Her father built two machines to help reduce labor on the family farm. He is very proud of his inventions and also very proud of Denik's accomplishments in English.





## About the Author



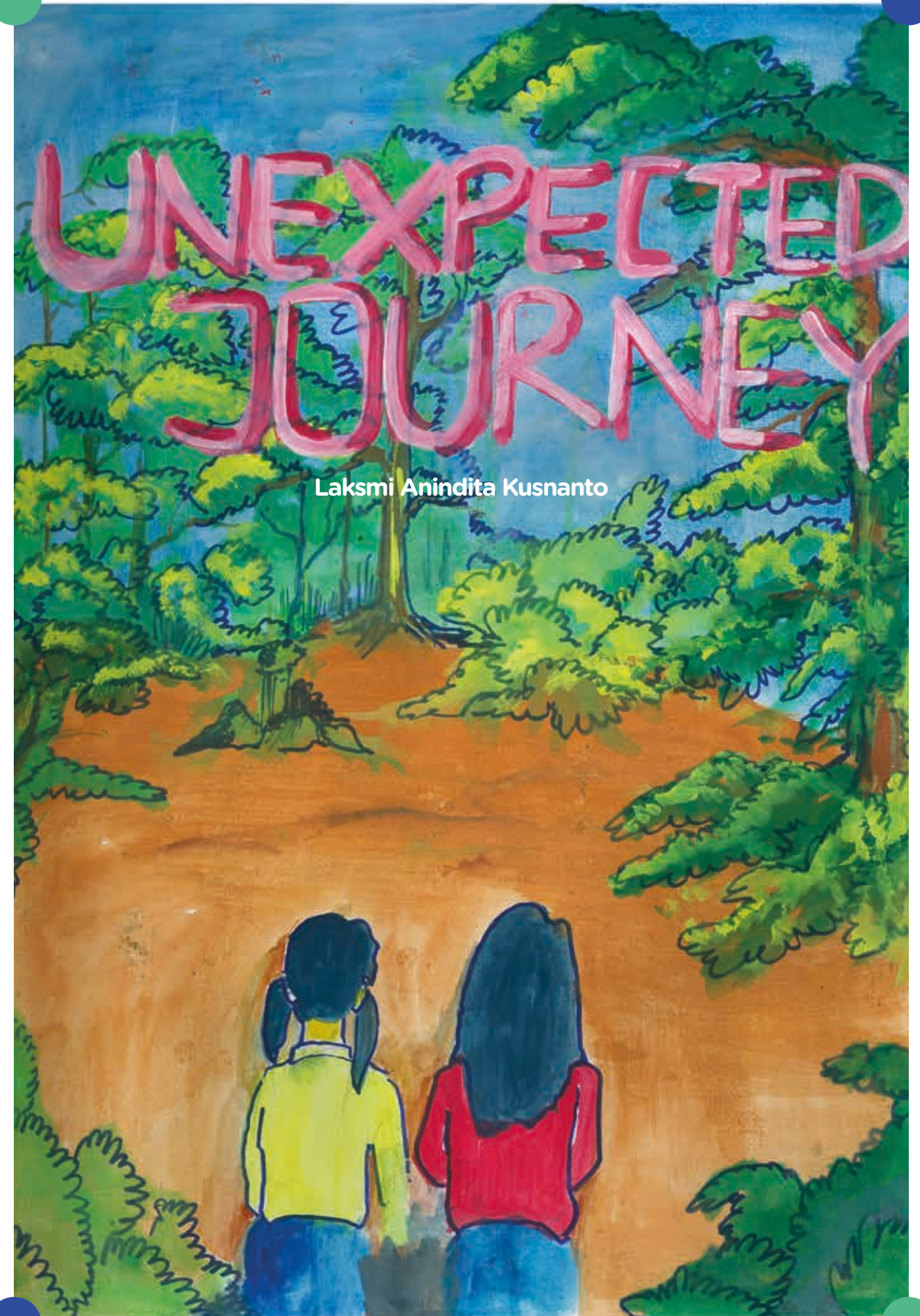
My name is Denik Agustiningrum. I was born on August 2, 2002 and I am the second child of two siblings. My family and I live in a very beautiful and comfortable village called Pajaran. At SMKN 9 in Malang I focus on animation. Every day after school I play badminton with my father (he has a mustache). My dream is to be a lecturer. I really like reading and making up stories that feature different emotions. I really enjoy learning English, Indonesian, and Mathematics. The reason I joined the WORDS Competition was to make my parents proud because they work very hard to send me to school.





# UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

Laksmi Anindita Kusnanto





Camelia



Ashley



Local Villagers

President



Indonesia Green Project Team





It was a tough day  
for Camelia.  
She was so exhausted  
from her job.  
She constantly felt  
both bored and tired.

One day, she had  
a spontaneous idea.



She talked to her best friend, Ashley, about her idea.

"Ashley, I'm so bored with my job.

I think I want to try something different."

Ashley responded, "Different like what?"

"I think I want to travel all around Indonesia"  
she responded.



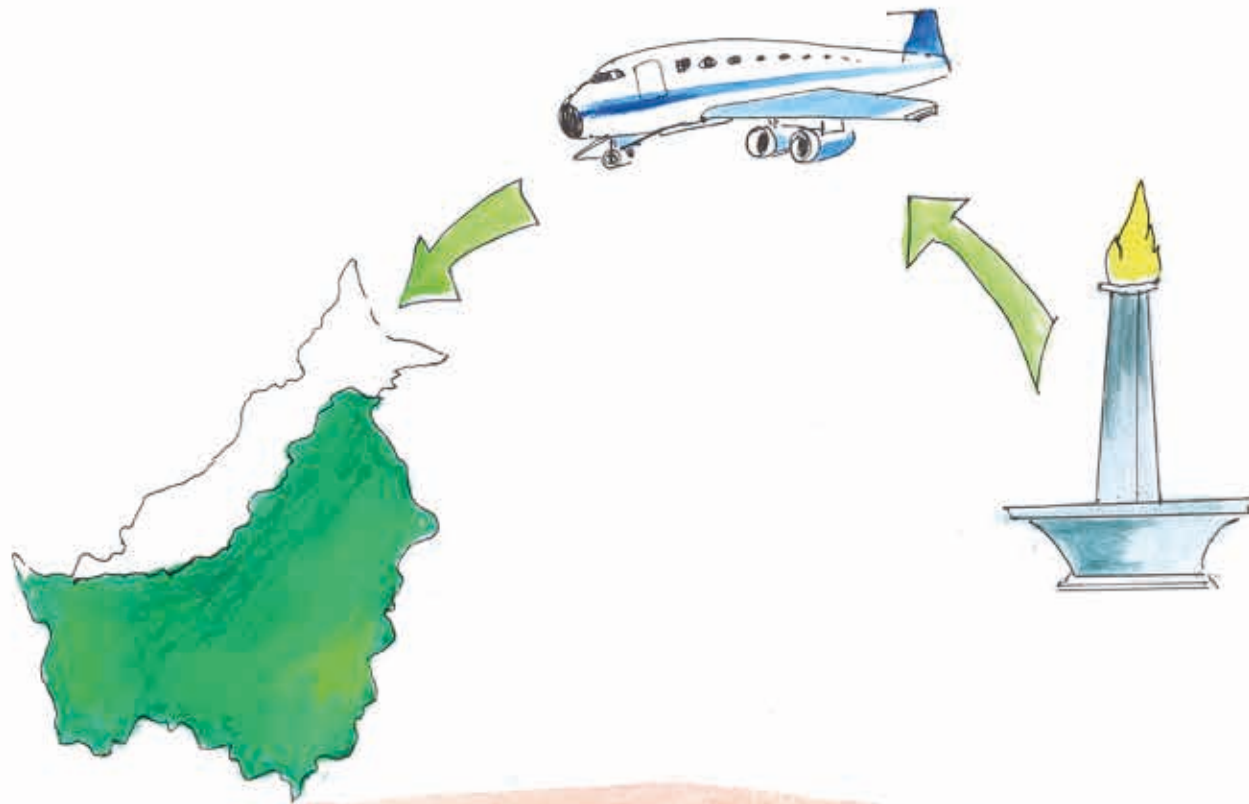
"Wait, what? Are you serious, Mel? Why?"

"I want to describe our wonderful country in a book."

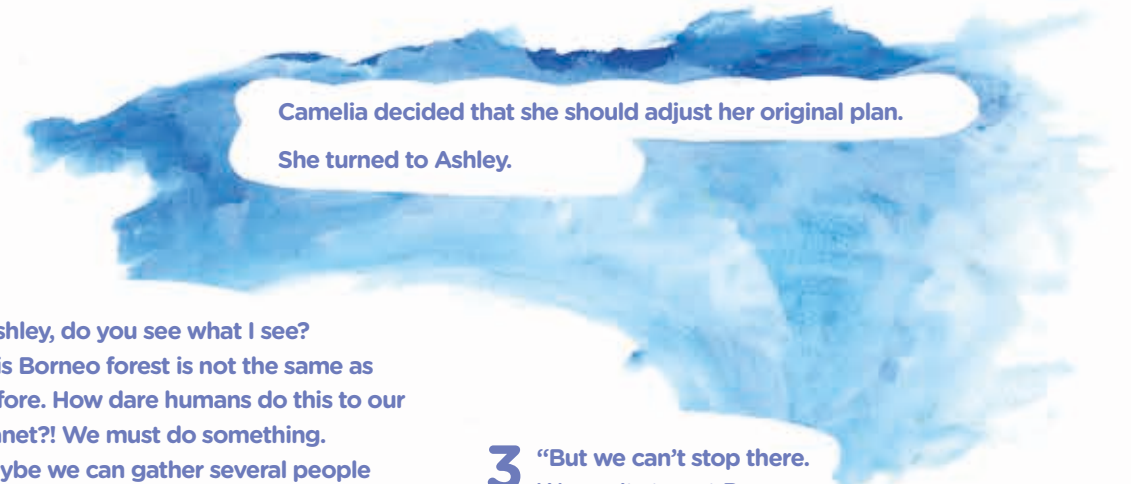
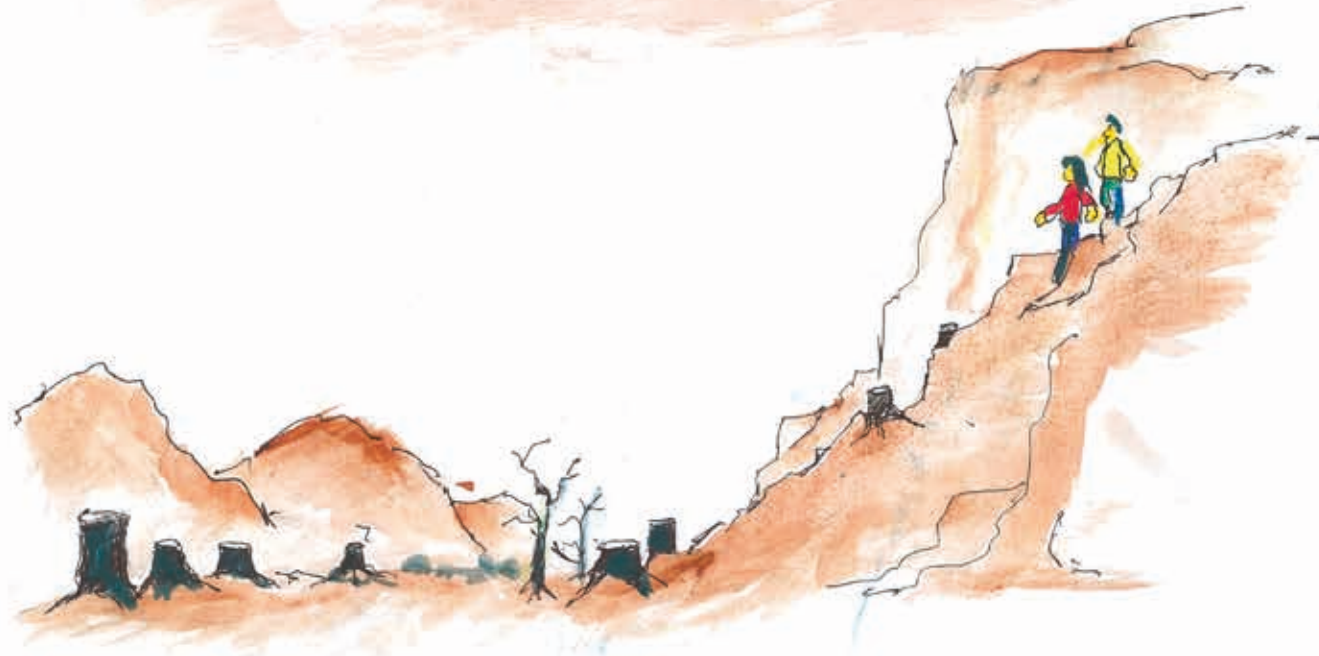
"Wow, you really did mean different.  
Do you mind if I join you?"

"Of course, I don't mind! I think it would be much more fun  
if I make this trip with my best friend!"





The girls began their journey on Borneo island where 13 million hectares of the dense forest stood. Camelia and Ashley arrived and were shocked. Most of the trees had been cut sporadically and the forest had nearly as much trash as it had trees.



Camelia decided that she should adjust her original plan. She turned to Ashley.

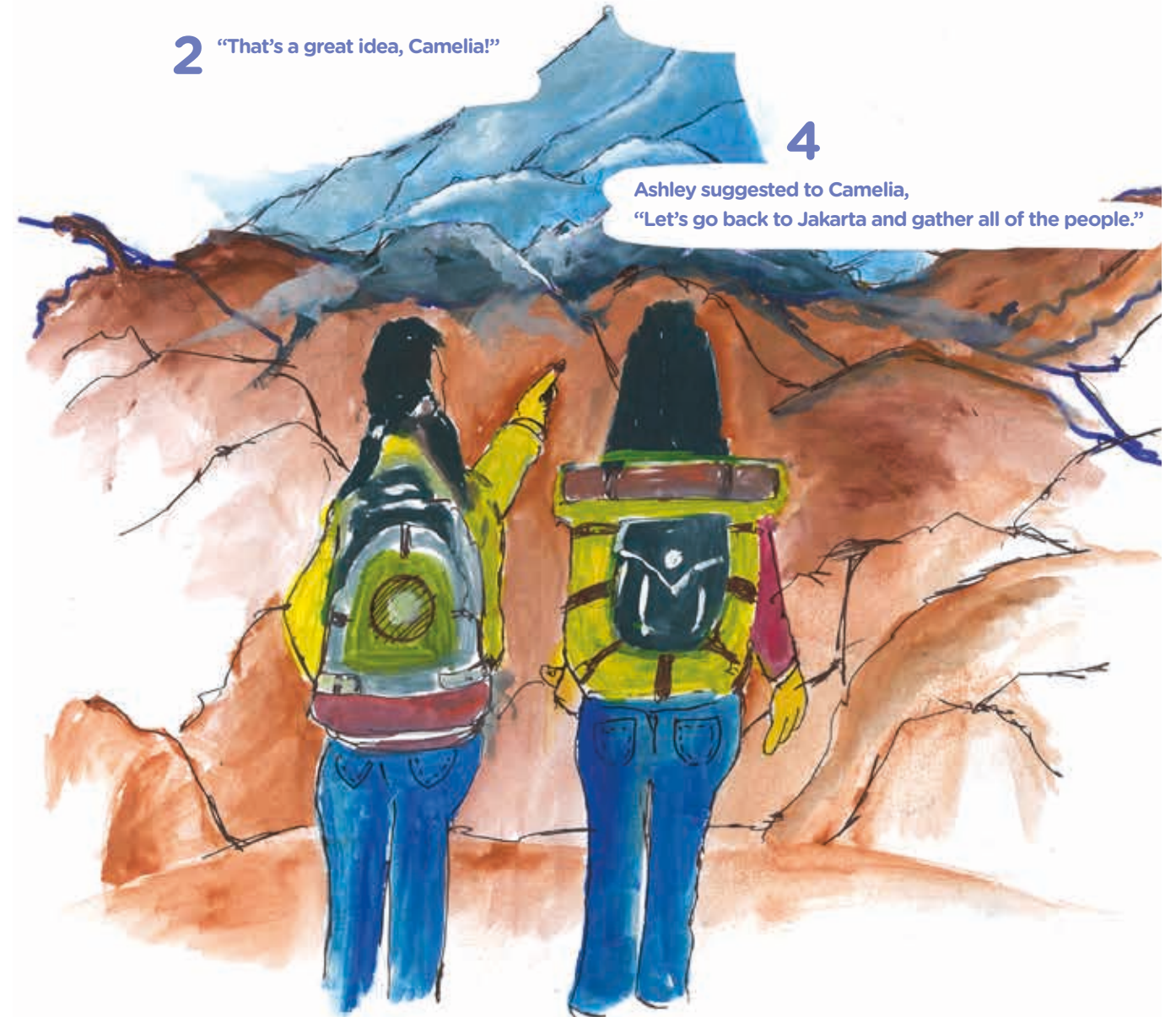
1 "Ashley, do you see what I see? This Borneo forest is not the same as before. How dare humans do this to our planet?! We must do something. Maybe we can gather several people and invite them to take action."

3 "But we can't stop there. We can't stop at Borneo. We must do something to change this problem, little by little at first, but eventually, for all of Indonesia."

2 "That's a great idea, Camelia!"

4

Ashley suggested to Camelia, "Let's go back to Jakarta and gather all of the people."







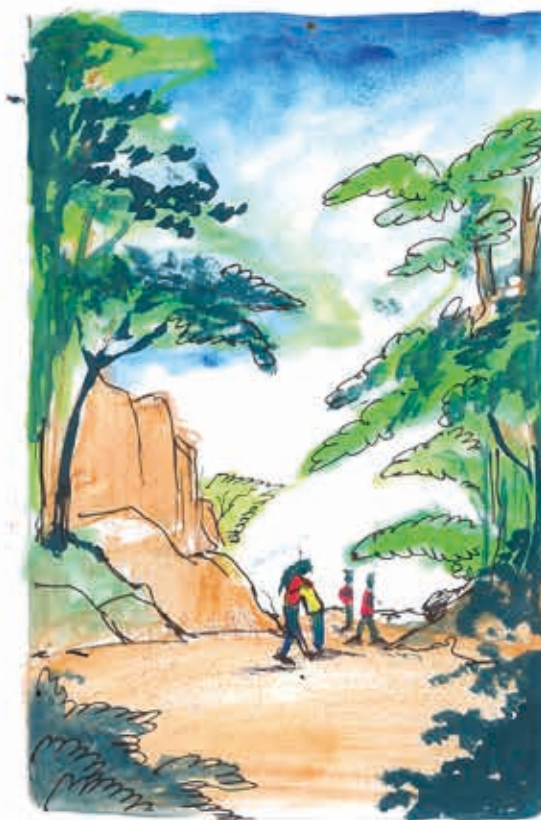
The next day, the two girls arrived in Jakarta and immediately gathered people to build a team, that they called the "Indonesia Green Project". The team decided it would go out to various forests across Indonesia and begin cleaning. Step by step, it seemed like they were making a difference.



One day while working in Sumatra, Camelia found herself alone, lost in the middle of the forest. Camelia was very scared about the situation. She saw the footprints of a tiger and her heart began beating so fast.

Camelia turned, looking frantically for her team member, "Hello guys, where are you all? I'm scared. Anybody help. Hello? Help me please!"

And then she found her team members but she was still frantic.





(krrkk krrkk krrkkk)

"What is that sound? It's still getting louder!"



But then the sound stopped. Ashley was confused but quickly realized the sound was from a squirrel behind the bushes.



"Oh... It's only a squirrel!"

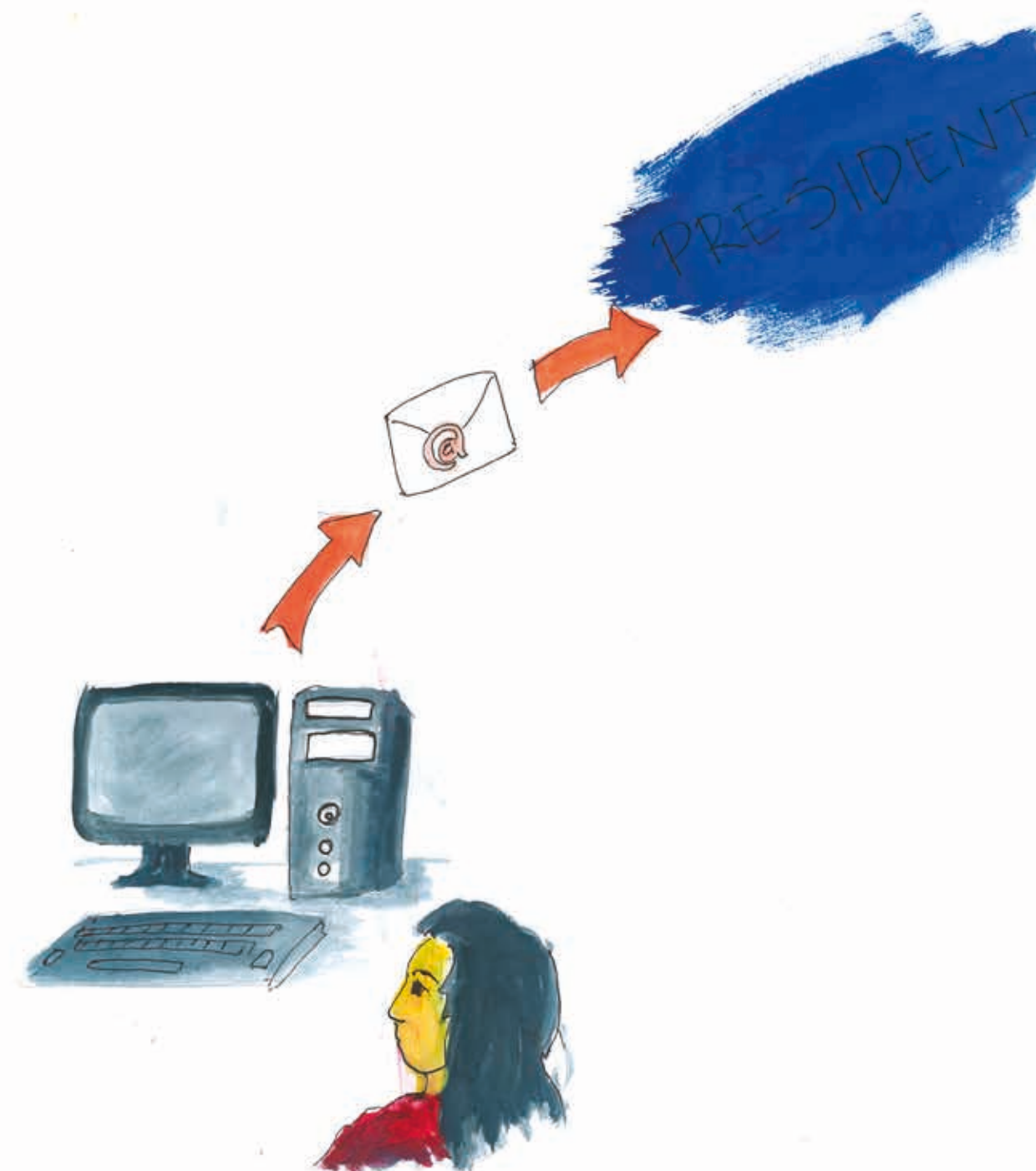


A moment later, two local villagers approached the team and escorted them out of the forest.





The girls decided that maybe they weren't prepared to fix reforestation by themselves. Instead, they decided to start visiting cities and smaller towns across Indonesia and share about environmental cleanliness. The girls made the events interesting with visuals and entertainment.



Ashley even decided to send an email to the President about the project. Within two days, the girls were invited to meet the President and they presented the results of their work, and their vision and mission.



## About the Author



Laksmi is a 10th grade student from SMAN 1 Temanggung in Temanggung, Central Java where she participates in many extracurriculars like Scout, English Club and music. She really enjoys singing and traveling. Laksmi hopes to spend more time traveling around Indonesia. Some of her favorite places in Indonesia are Raja Ampat and Labuan Bajo. After senior high school, she plans to attend university and become a physician.



The president liked the sustainability and community-focus of the Indonesia Green Project. He believed young people would be the change of the future in Indonesia and that this future needed to look a lot greener.





Shahifa Birru Muthahari



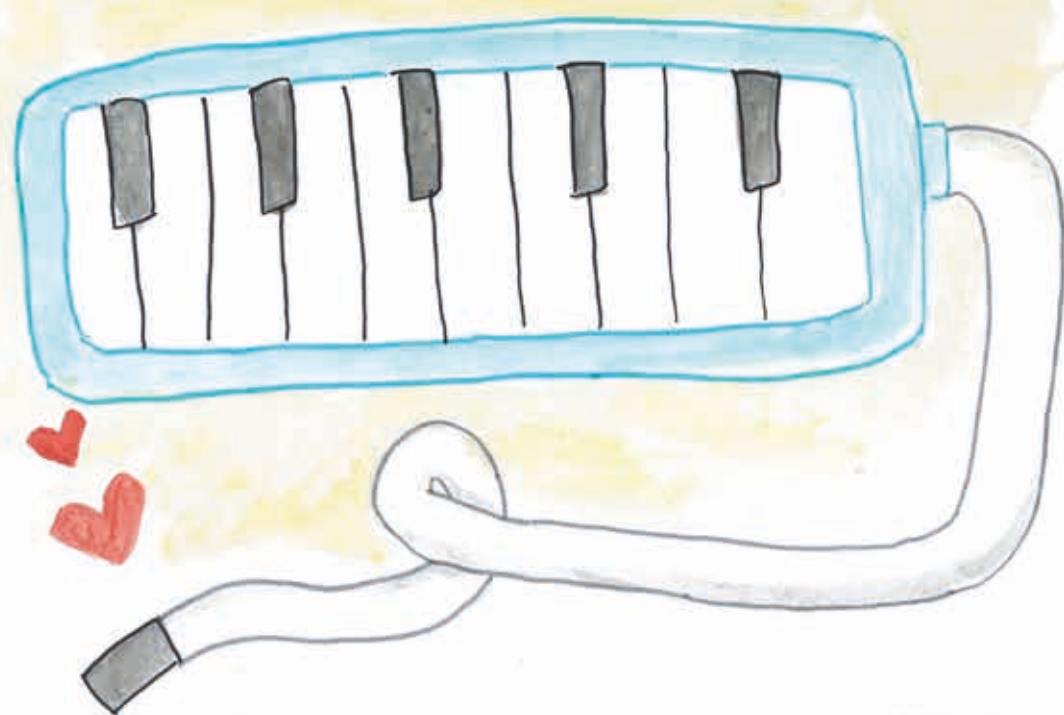


People in Indonesia love to eat sweets.  
 If they feel happy, they eat ice cream.  
 If they feel sad, they eat candy.  
 If they feel angry, they eat chocolates.  
 If they feel bored, they drink coca cola.



Like other Indonesians, Wayo has bad eating habits. Wayo is 15 years old. She lost her hearing 3 years ago because she listened to music too loud and too often.





Even though she is hearing impaired, she doesn't give up doing what she loves. Because most people in Indonesia do not know sign language, she plays pianika to express her feelings instead.



For example, when she feels sad, she plays "Sadness and Sorrow" from the Naruto OST.

When she feels happy, she plays "Happy" by Pharrell Williams.



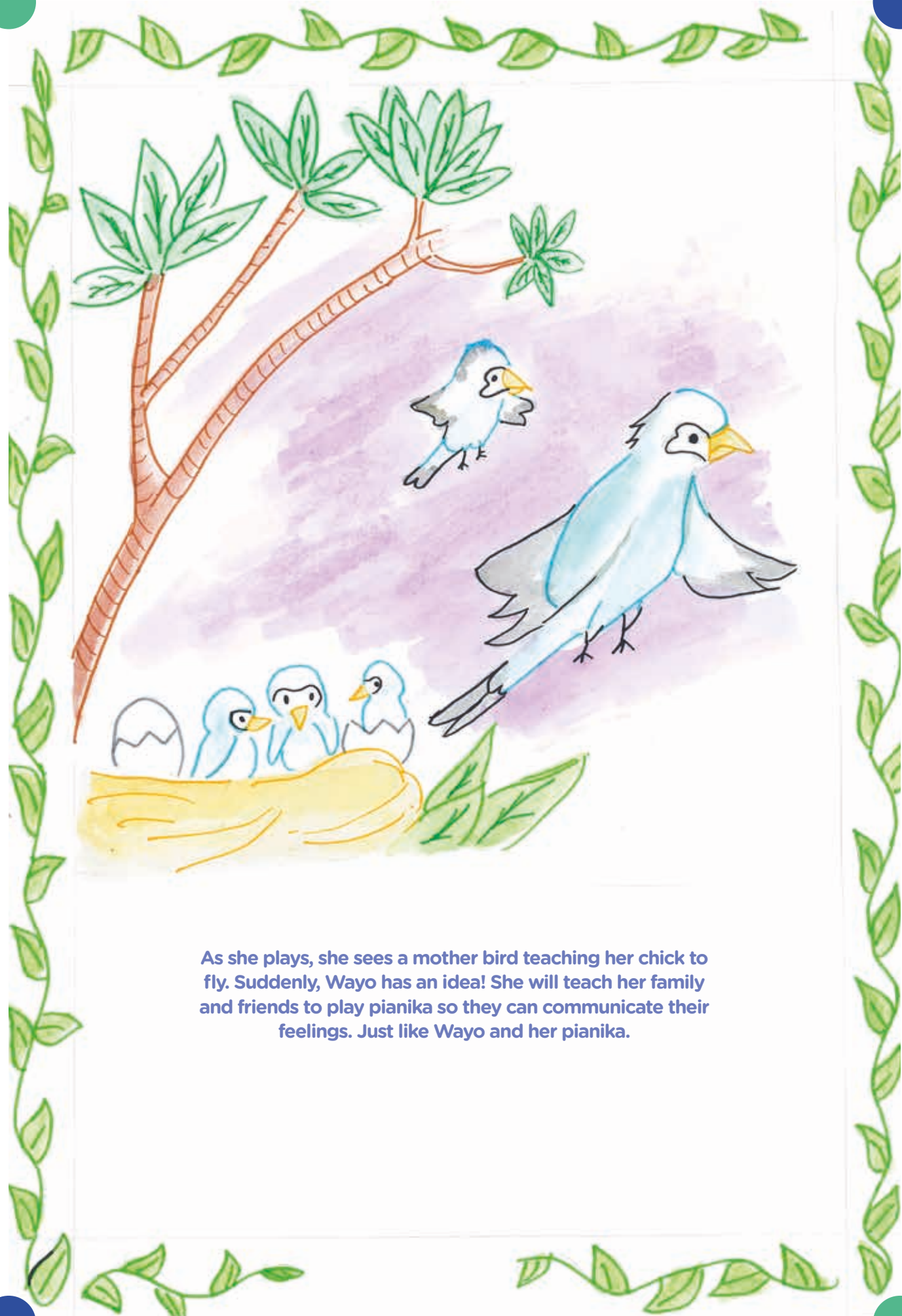


As the people of Indonesia continue to eat too many sweets and sugary beverages into the future, day by day and one by one, they begin to crack their teeth and lose their voices. Soon, they aren't able to talk to each other.

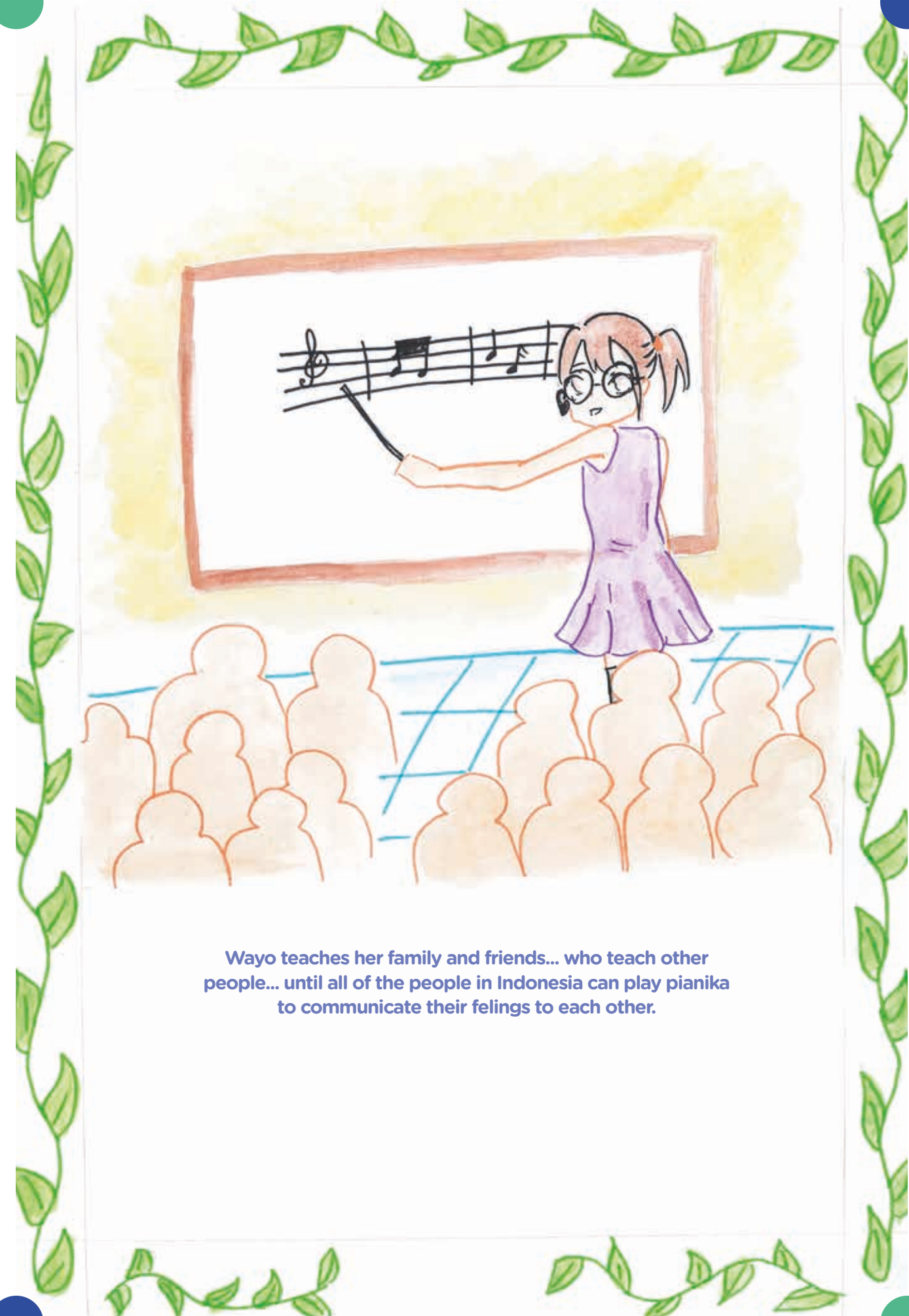


Sad, Wayo plays a song on her pianika. She thinks, "My country is so silent. People can't talk and laugh with their friends or family anymore. They look so unhappy."





As she plays, she sees a mother bird teaching her chick to fly. Suddenly, Wayo has an idea! She will teach her family and friends to play pianika so they can communicate their feelings. Just like Wayo and her pianika.



Wayo teaches her family and friends... who teach other people... until all of the people in Indonesia can play pianika to communicate their feelings to each other.





Soon, the massive sound of all of the pianikas in Indonesia can be heard all over the world. One day, the tooth fairy from America comes to Indonesia, because she loves music so much.

When the tooth fairy finds out that all of the people in Indonesia have cracked their teeth and lost their voices, she decides to help. Before she helps them, she says, "If you want to get your voices back, think:



You must have  
SOMETHING —

more than you  
LOVE MUNCHING

— NO MORE SUGAR AND SWEETS —

you must find something  
HEALTHIER TO EAT



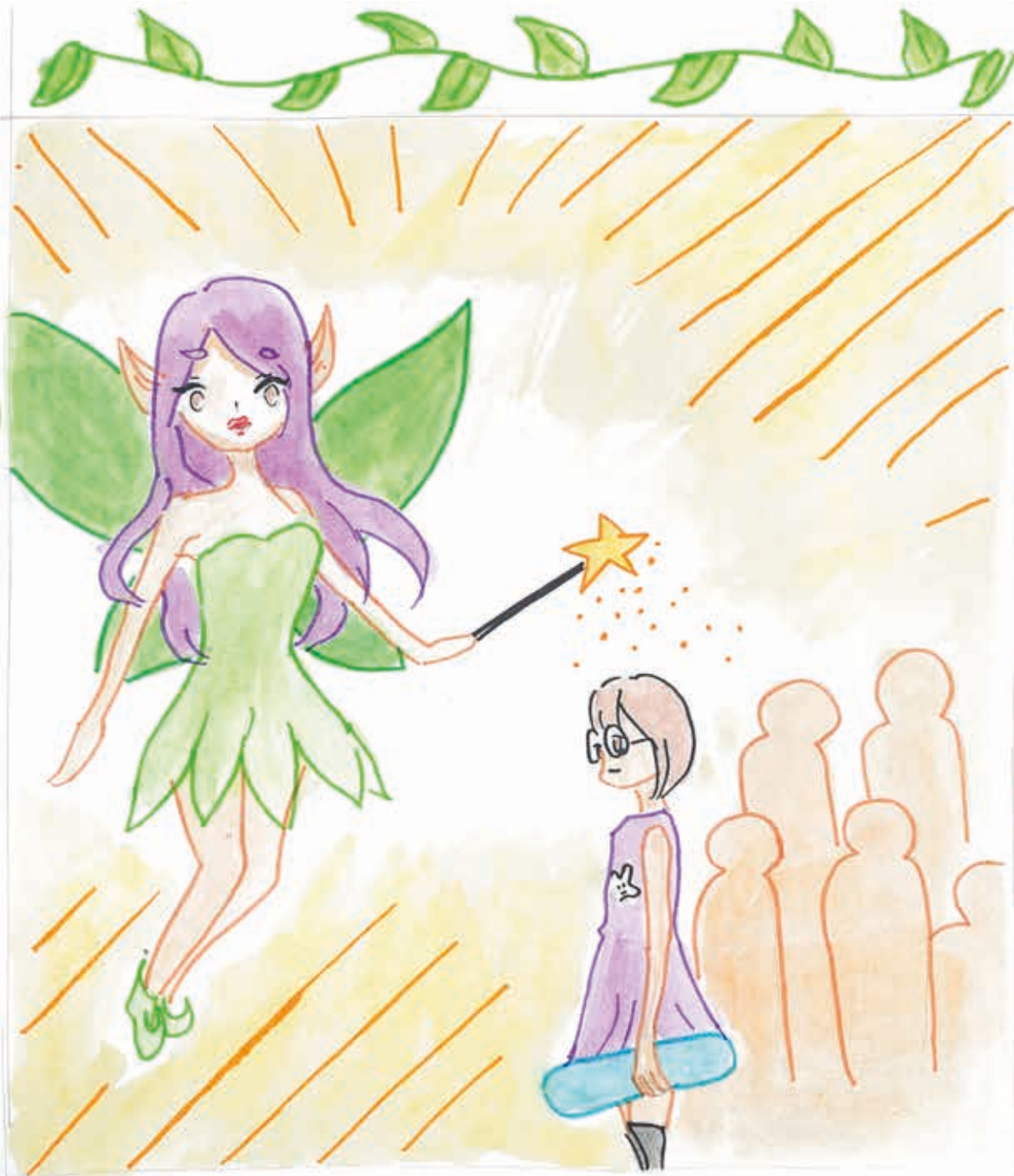


The Indonesian people stare into each other's eyes. "What do we love more than munching?" they think.



As they wonder, Wayo picks up her pianika and plays the Indonesia Raya. Soon, everyone picks up their pianika and plays the Indonesia Raya with Wayo.





The tooth fairy speaks. "So, do you love your country more than you love sugar and sweets?"

They nod their heads. The fairy grins. "You have finally found your true love! I will fix your teeth." Wayo and the Indonesian people smile and shout, "We finally get our voices back!"

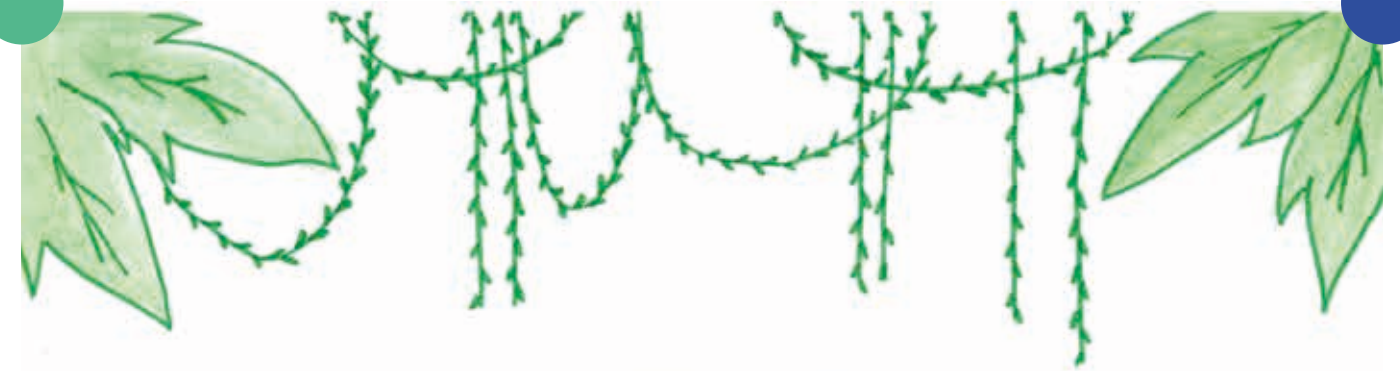


The Indonesian people learn to eat fewer sweets. They realize that they must maintain their health to maintain the health of their country, too. They also start to learn sign language to include everyone, especially if they have a disability.





After the Indonesian people regain their health, Indonesia begins to hold an annual pianika festival to remind people about the importance of health, love of country, and inclusivity.



This Story Is Dedicated  
To All Of The Children  
In Indonesia





# About the Author



Hi! My name is Shahifa Birru Muthahari. My friends usually call me Syabi. I was born in Manado on the 7th February 2004. I am 15 years old and I am in the tenth grade at MAN Model Manado. My hobby is drawing and I can speak Thai and Japanese a little bit. I hope I can visit those countries and I also hope that I can learn other languages too.





**WORLD**

**NEED<sub>s</sub>**

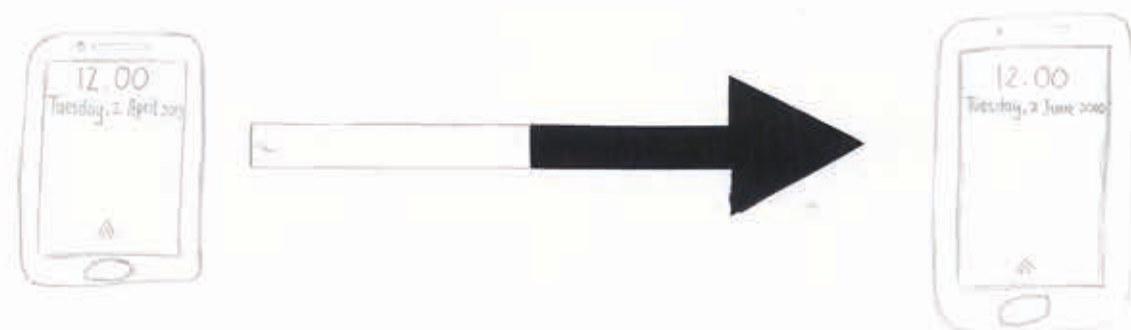
Willia Angelique S.

**PLANT<sub>s</sub>**





One day, when I was walking around after study I suddenly saw a big blue hole in front of me. I was curious, "What is that? It has a pretty color. Can I enter the hole?" Then I stepped slowly toward the hole. Can you guess what happened?



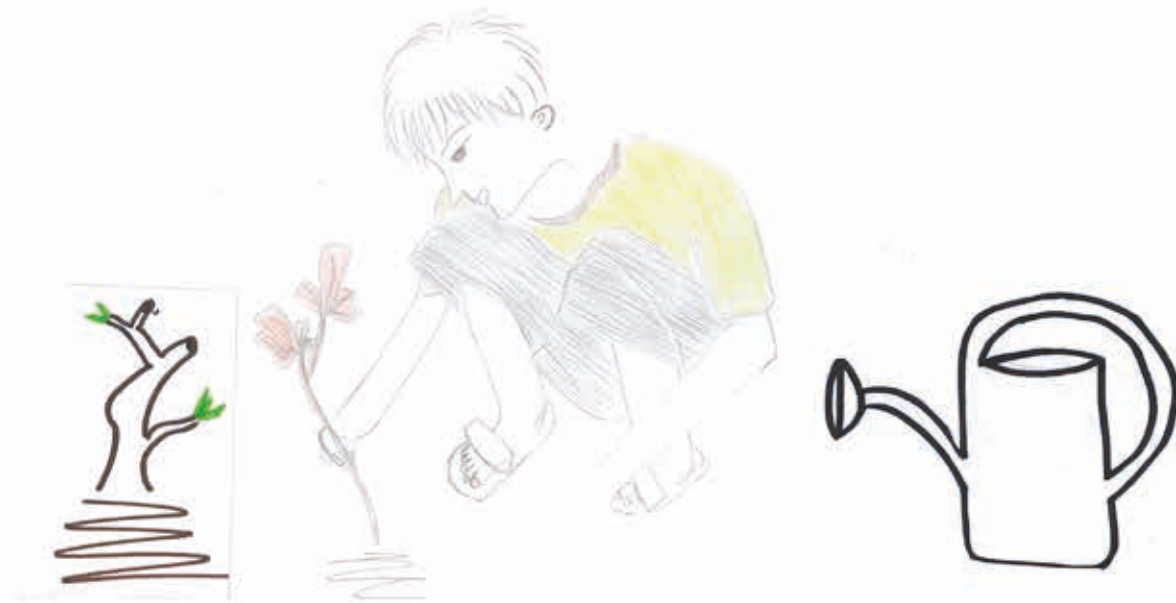
The time moved so fast. I checked my phone, I'm surprised because I realized today is 2nd of June, 2040! Now I know that hole is a time machine.



After that, I walked to see how Pangkalpinang is in 2040. There were more big buildings everywhere. And I thought Pangkalpinang became a modern city. But, as far as I go I can't see any trees, or even grass. This environment felt very hot and arid because there are no plants that make the air fresher. I think, "Hmm maybe the place for trees was used to build those buildings. I kept going. Then I met a boy in an area that was surrounded by big and high buildings.

I greeted him.  
 "Hi, what is your name?"  
 And he answered me, "Hi Auntie, my name is Ryan. What are you doing here?"





“Nice to meet you, Ryan, I just walked around.” I stared at him and asked myself what is he doing here? Where are his parents? And he seemed like he knew what I was thinking. He said, “My parents know I am here because twice a week I come here to take care of this tree. Maybe one day it could be a big tree.” He said while showing me the plant behind him.



He hoped that the condition of the earth he lives in now was like 25 years ago, with many trees that make the air fresh. From one tree, others would realize how important plants are for the earth.

Then I walked again while asking myself, “Could that boys wishes change the world? Would those wishes even be granted?”

I didn’t notice I was home already. The next day I so happened to cross the same area again and I saw him watering his plants.

Then I came to him and took a lot. How surprised I was seeing the little plants blossoming its first little flower.



The next day, I didn’t see that boy and again the next week. It continued until 3 months and finally I met his mother and she told me Ryan has passed away because of cancer. Without us knowing, the little plants missed Ryan and felt sad because Ryan couldn’t take care of them anymore so the little plants sang.

Goodbye Ryan,

Hope you rest in peace.

I promise I will grow well,

And I wish you were here,

And Ryan I will not forget you.



However, the little plants fulfilled their promise. They grew to be big, strong trees, and I was wrong. I whispered to myself, one may not be strong enough to change the world but in the end we are never alone.

In honor of the boy, his mother invited people to plant trees in the place he used to plant. After a few years, the city became fresher and more trees existed as the boy hoped.



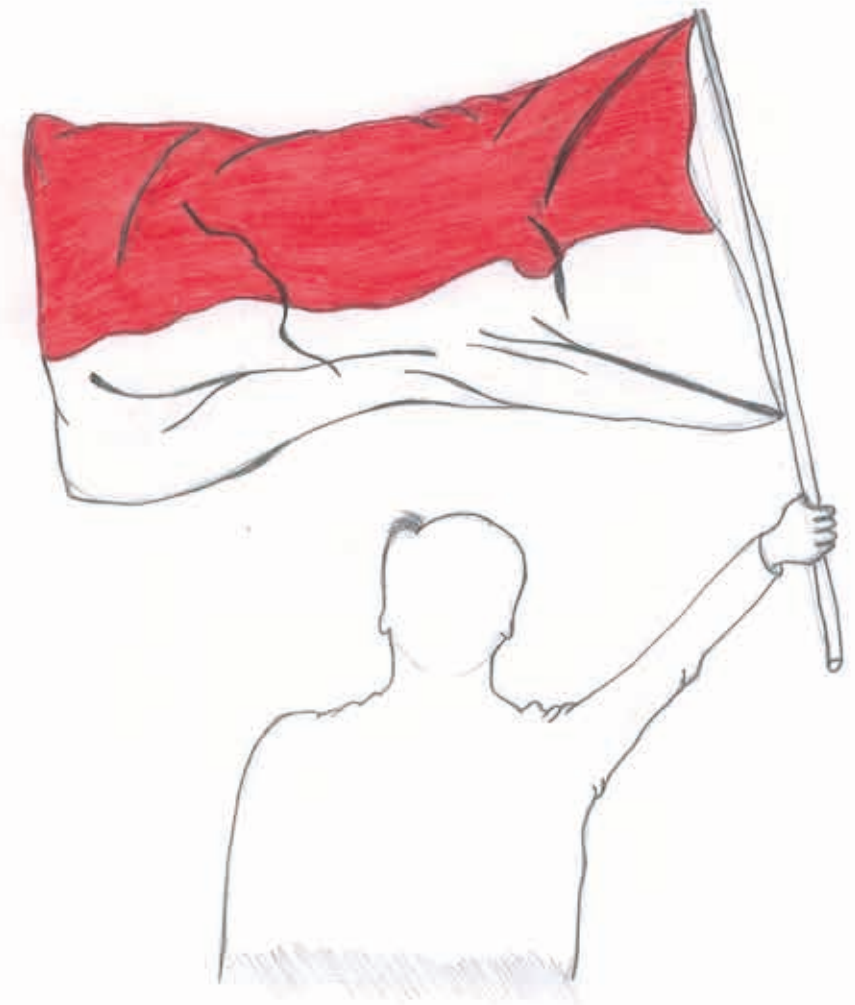
# About the Author



My name is Willia Angelique, you can call me Willia. I'm 15 years old and I was born in Pangkalpinang. I'm a student of tourism school in Pangkalpinang (SMK 3 Pangkalpinang) and I'm in first class of tour and travel business. My hobby is reading comics and some novels, I hope to become a tour guide and travel the world.



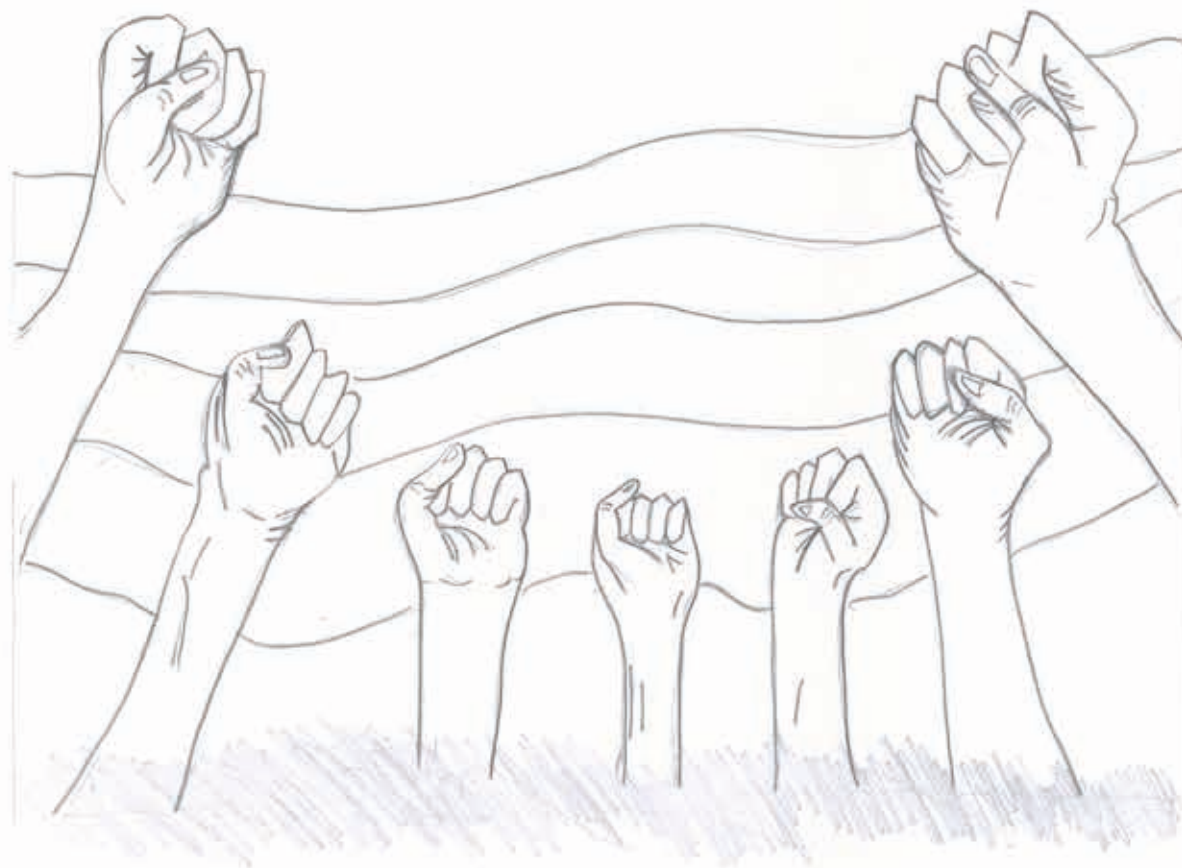
# Youth of the Nation Foundation



Written and illustrated by Deo Rachman



Youth has a big role to play in the future of Indonesia. Youth is a figure that always brings changes. Changes in the life order of some areas are quite influenced by the power of youth. The progress or decline of a nation is in the hands of youth as agents of change.



But, what happened to Indonesian youth today?

Indonesian youth today seem to have lost their identity because of the adverse effects of globalization is the use of gadgets.

That is to say that Indonesian youth have been neglected technological sophistication and made themselves busy with their respective social media as if they were in a different world.

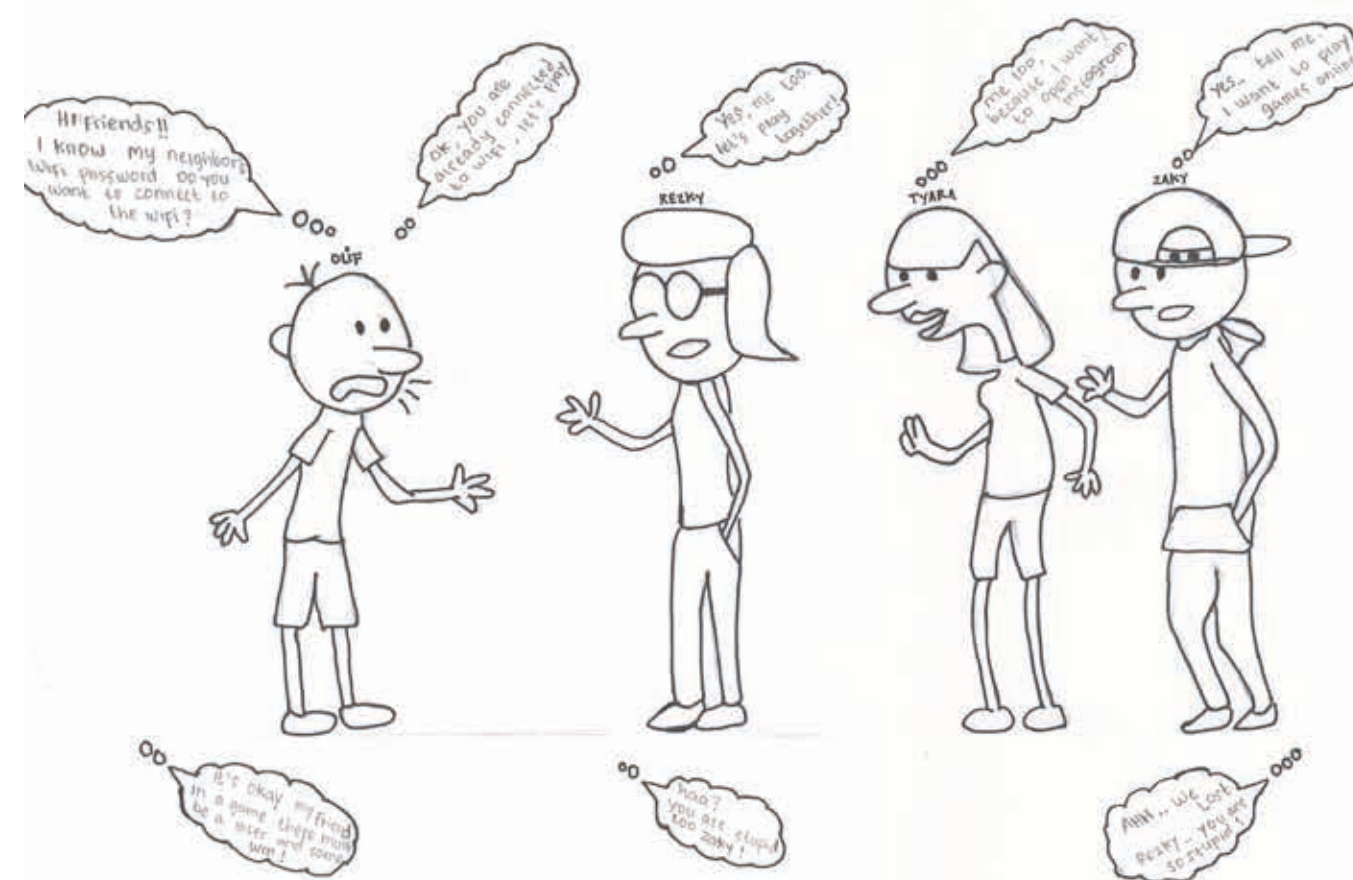




In my housing complex, there is neighbor who has wifi. One of the youths in the complex knows the wifi password and he tells other friends. So, that his friends can also use wifi to play games online, instagram, tik-tok, and the others in their respective gadgets.



When they play gadget, they forget everything. Like forgetting worship, lazy to eat, even forgetting to rest. When they play gadget many of them got angry at themselves, speaking harsh words, laughing alone, sometimes even dancing alone.





While Tiara busy dancing alone, even though her friends were angry.



While youth in other countries have been able to produce invention and earn from their work, even give money to their parents from the sale of their work.



Youth like this is what Indonesia needs, so that Indonesia is more advanced for the future. What I fear is, if, future Indonesian youth still behave like this. Maybe the future of Indonesia will bleak because its youth are busy with their gadgets. Regardless of the lives of those will come.





I hope the Indonesian government rules in limiting the use of gadgets. For examples, when at school students are prohibited using a cell phone or gadget so that the students are more focused on learning. When going home from school, students should be allowed to use gadget from the time they come home from school until maghrib time.

After maghrib they should be banned to use gadgets so they can focus on reviewing the lesson taught by the teacher at school. When finished studying, they could gather with family members in order to remain a harmonious family.



I hope that, the government creates gatherings where young people can channel talents. They can be more useful than being busy playing a gadget that never stops.



# About the Author



Hello! My name is Deo Rachman, but you can call me Deo. I was born in Padang on the 8th of March 2002. My hobby is playing basketball. I hope that one day, I can become a professional basketball player. I am a student at SMAN 11 Padang, and my organizations in school are OSIS and English Club. I am excited to meet new friends from other parts of Indonesia at the WORDS Competition!



## 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.



