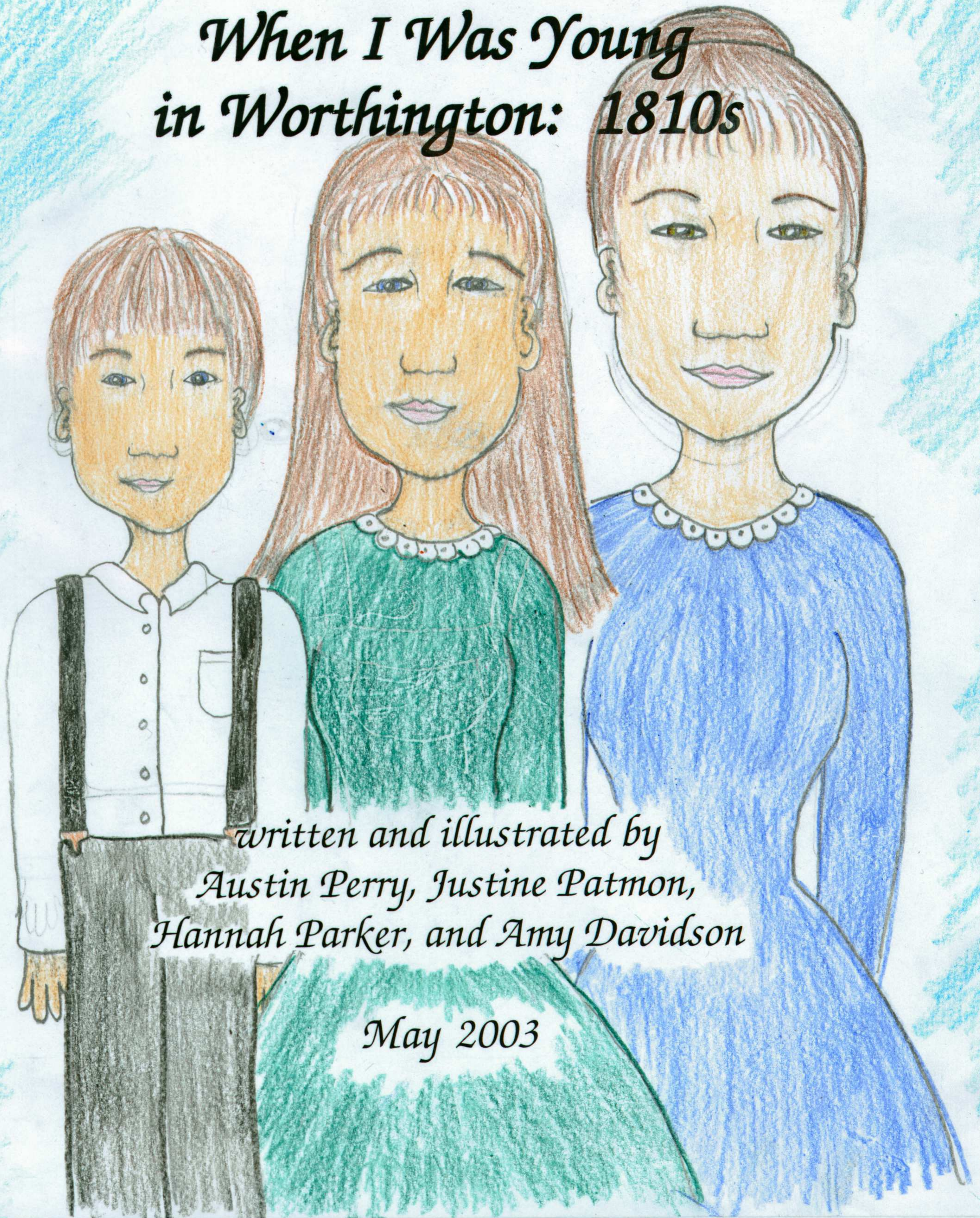


*When I Was Young  
in Worthington: 1810s*



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*Back in the 1810s, in the town of Worthington, lived a boy named James Smith. James was an eleven year old boy who lived a very normal life. To start his days he would get up out of his bed made of hay and feather and put on his white shirt, trousers, and suspenders. Then he went down for a breakfast of bacon (from the pig his family owned), eggs (from their chickens), and an apple (that the Smith's grew in their orchard). To drink he had fresh milk (from the cow).*

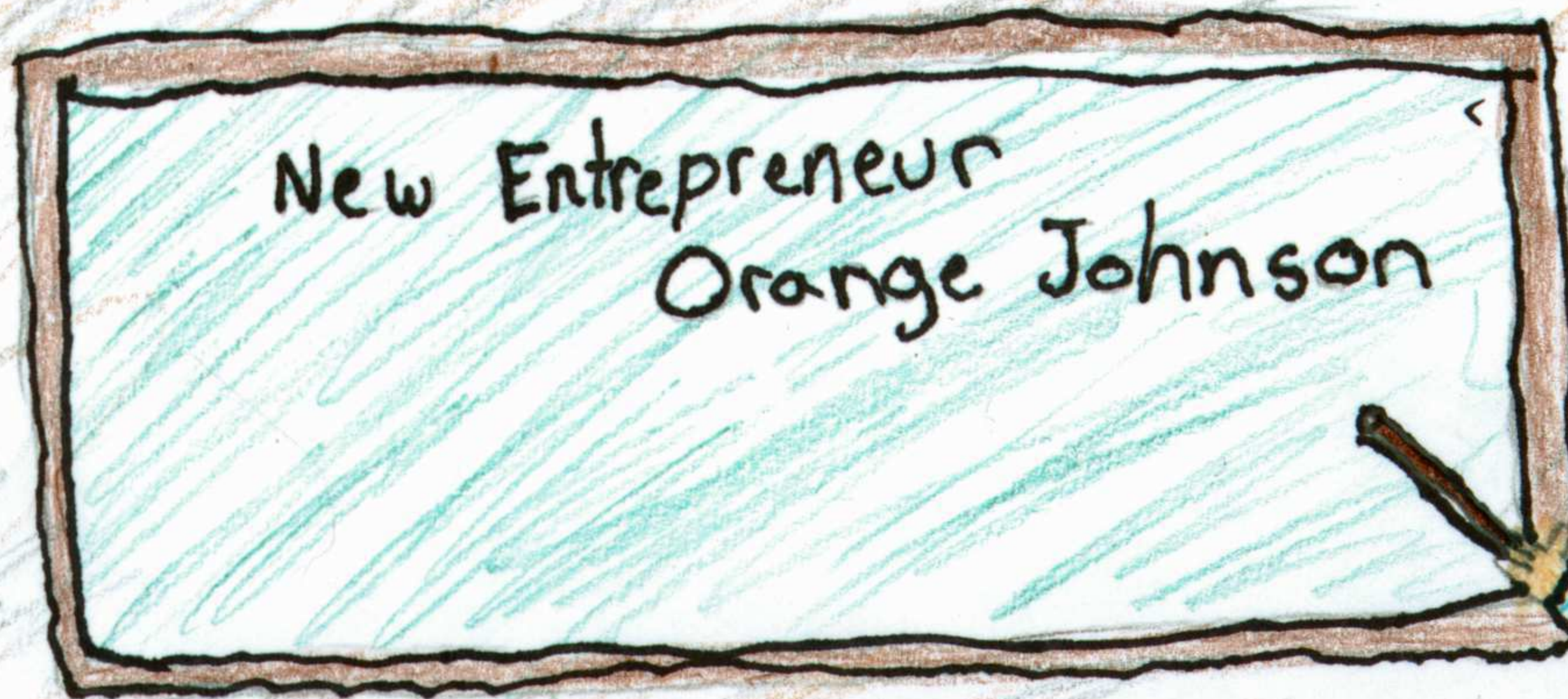


*After he finished his breakfast he went into the barn to start his morning chores. He fed the cows, chickens, and the pigs. After that he collected the chickens' eggs. His last chore before he headed off for school was brushing the horses.*

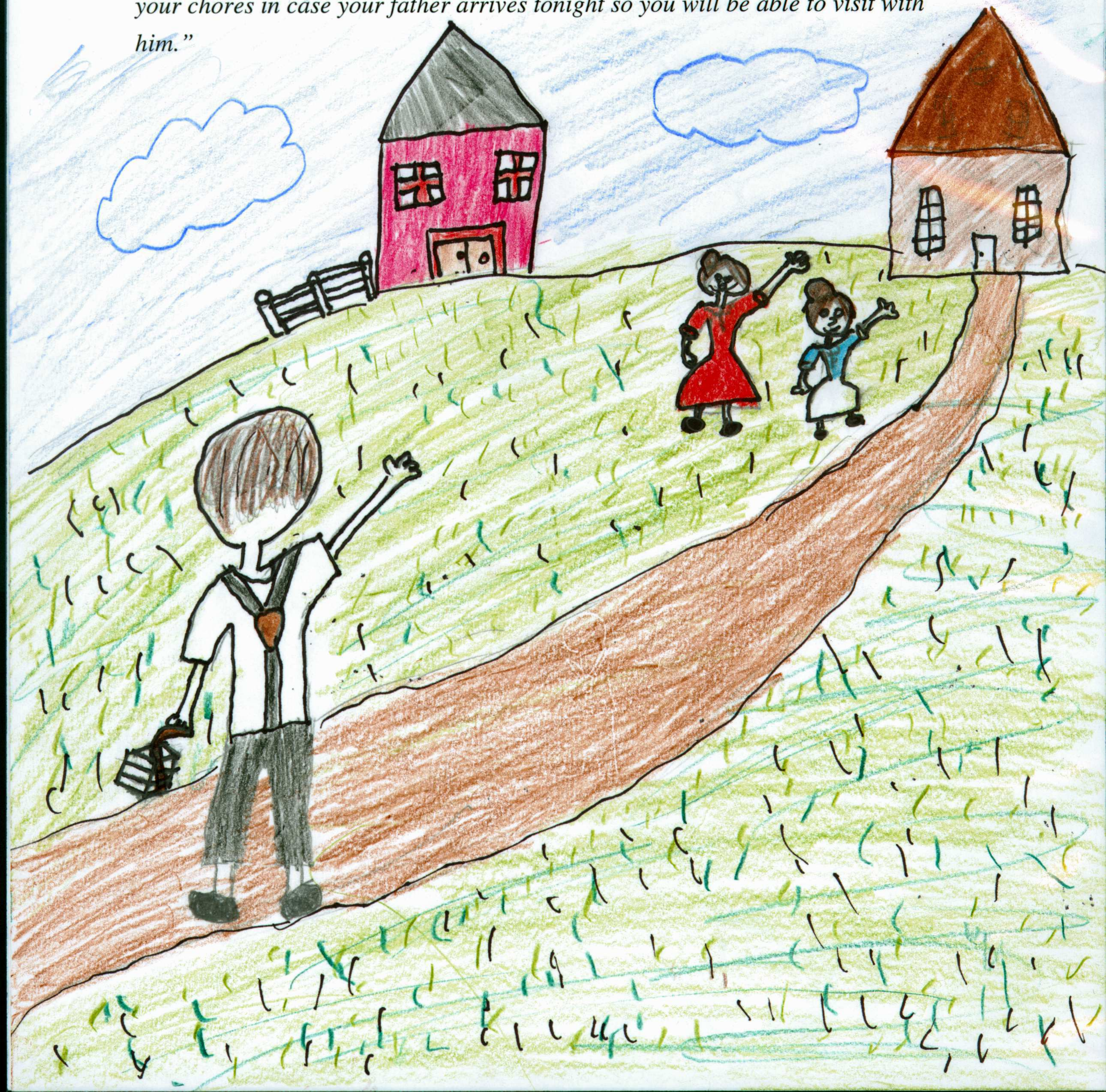


*James arrived at Worthington Oak Tree, his one-roomed school house built of oak tree logs, after a two mile walk from his house. He joined the other sixth grade boys who had already arrived. Shortly after, they began class. They learned about President James Madison and about the entrepreneur Orange Johnson who had just moved to Worthington.*

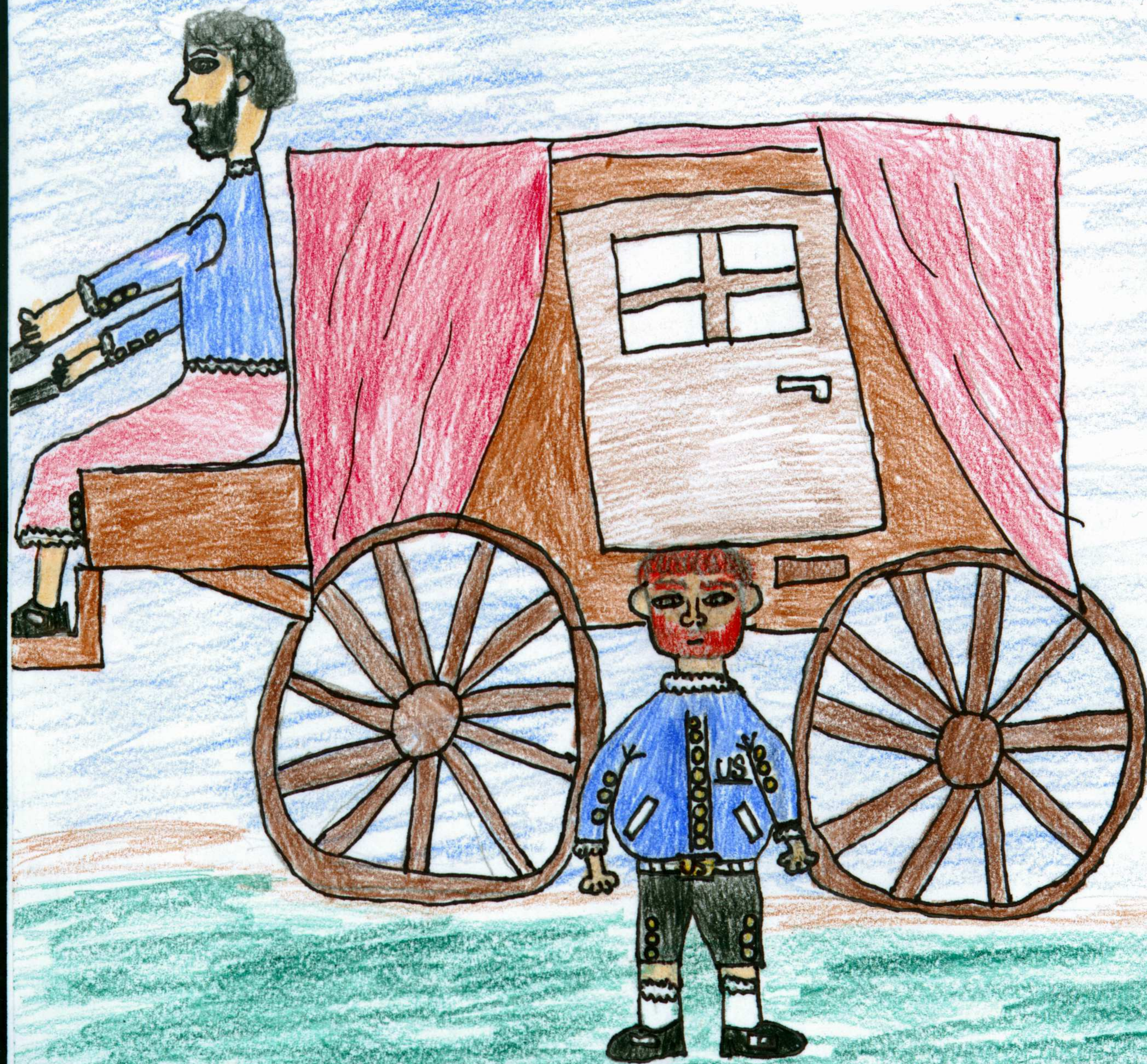
*At noon, James and his classmates ate lunch. He ate corn bread and chicken with apple cider fresh from the the apple orchard. After he was done with his lunch he finished the rest of the school day. Then he went home.*



When he had arrived at his house he found his older sister, Carla, was home early from working as a servant in Orange Johnson's house. That day James' father was coming home from Mr. Madison's War (the war of 1812). His father's leg had been badly wounded from gunfire so his troops decided he should go home because he would not be of much use. His mom said, "James, you should finish your chores in case your father arrives tonight so you will be able to visit with him."



*He went out into the vegetable field to plow. He plowed with a horse-drawn plow made of wood. He also chopped wood. By the time he was done with all the chores it was time to wash up for supper. His mother said to go into the kettle room (kitchen) and take a bath with water heated over the coal fireplace. They were halfway through supper when an unfamiliar carriage arrived at the house. James and Clara ran out the front door to the carriage, but didn't see who they expected. Instead of their father, who had dark brown hair and was tall and slender (like Carla and James), the man who got out had red hair and was short and plump. The kids just looked at him in shock but he ignored them and walked up to the front door where Mrs. Smith was standing.*



*"Mrs. Smith, I presume," spoke the man.*

*"Yes, may I help you?" said mother curiously.*

*"I am Mr. Edward Shannahan. I am the general's personal assistant."*

*"Nice to meet you sir, may I help you?"*

*"May I speak to you in private?"*

*"Yes, this way please," Mrs. Smith led him into the house.*

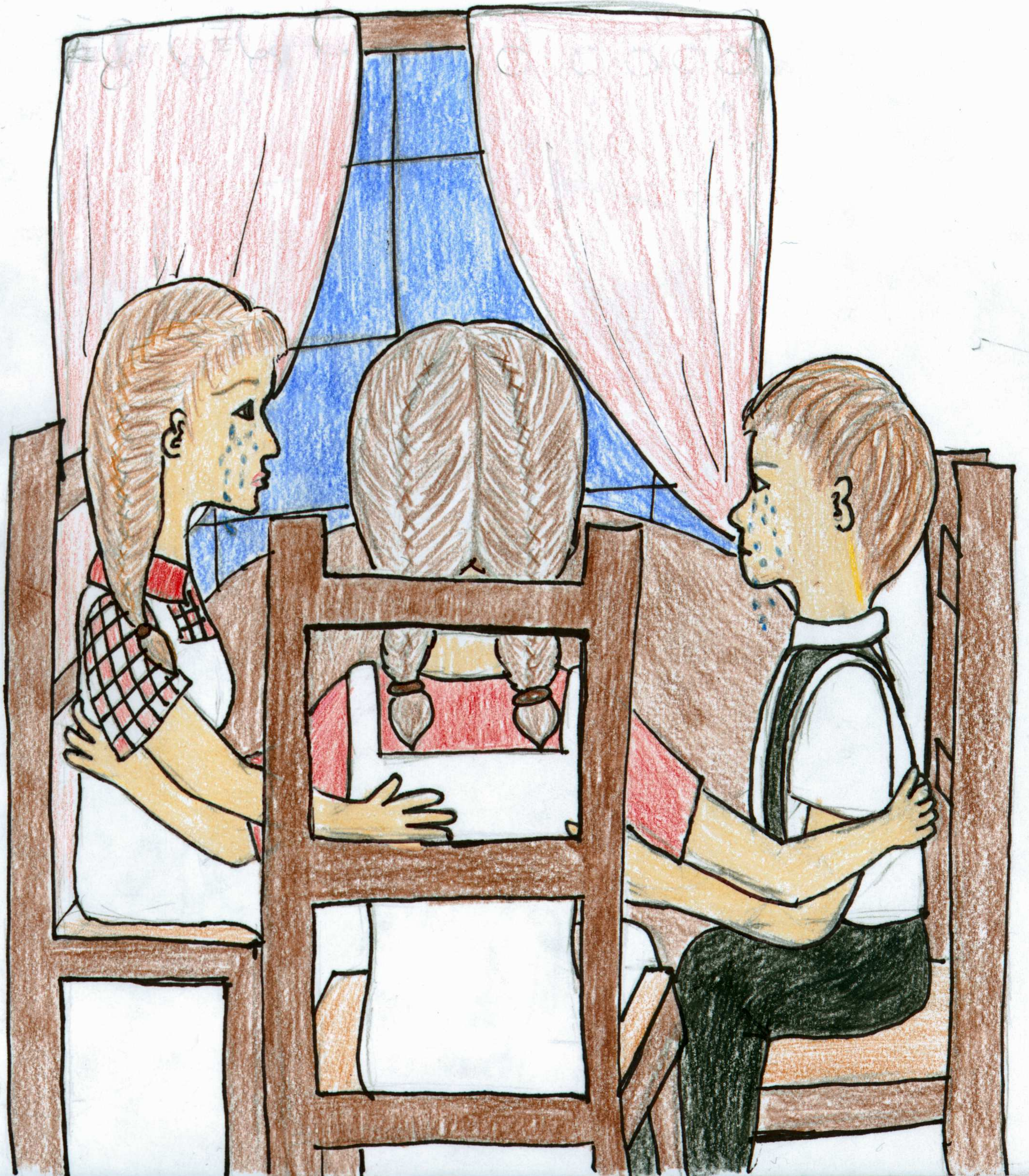
*Once they were both settled at the table the man finally spoke. "This is not easy to say, but your husband stopped at a house to rest because he had been traveling a long time. The servant girl at the house was cooking dinner and accidentally spilled a bucket of hot coals on the rug and it caught on fire. The rest of the family did escape. Unfortunately, your husband could not escape because of the wound in his leg. He passed away early this morning."*



*Mrs. Smith was shocked. "Thank you for coming." She shook his hand, trying to encourage him to leave before she started crying.*

*"Again, I'm very sorry," he said in a gentle voice.*

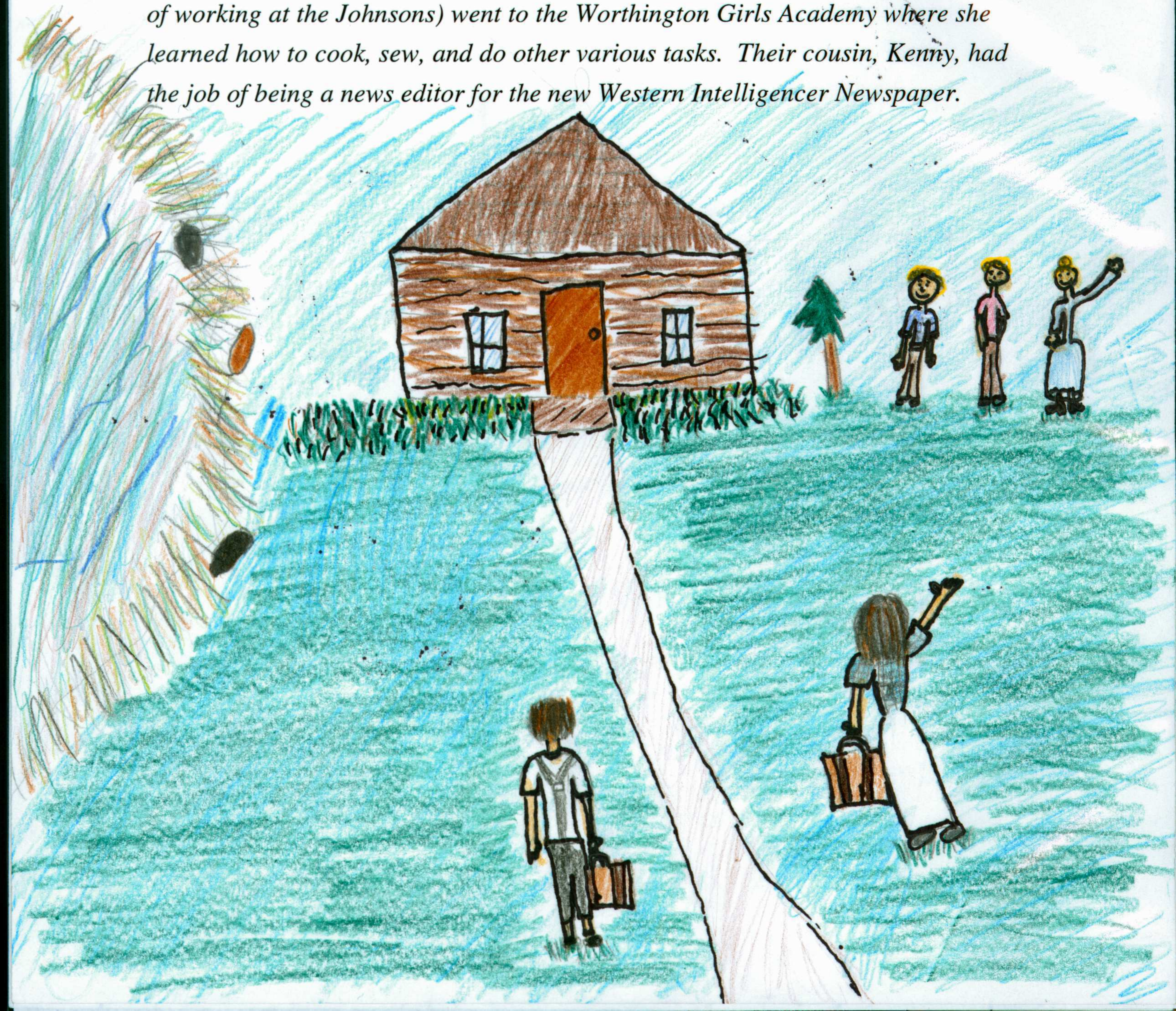
*After he left Carla and James came in. They had been right outside the door and heard the whole conversation. They all hugged and started to weep together. James was going to have to be the man of the house now.*



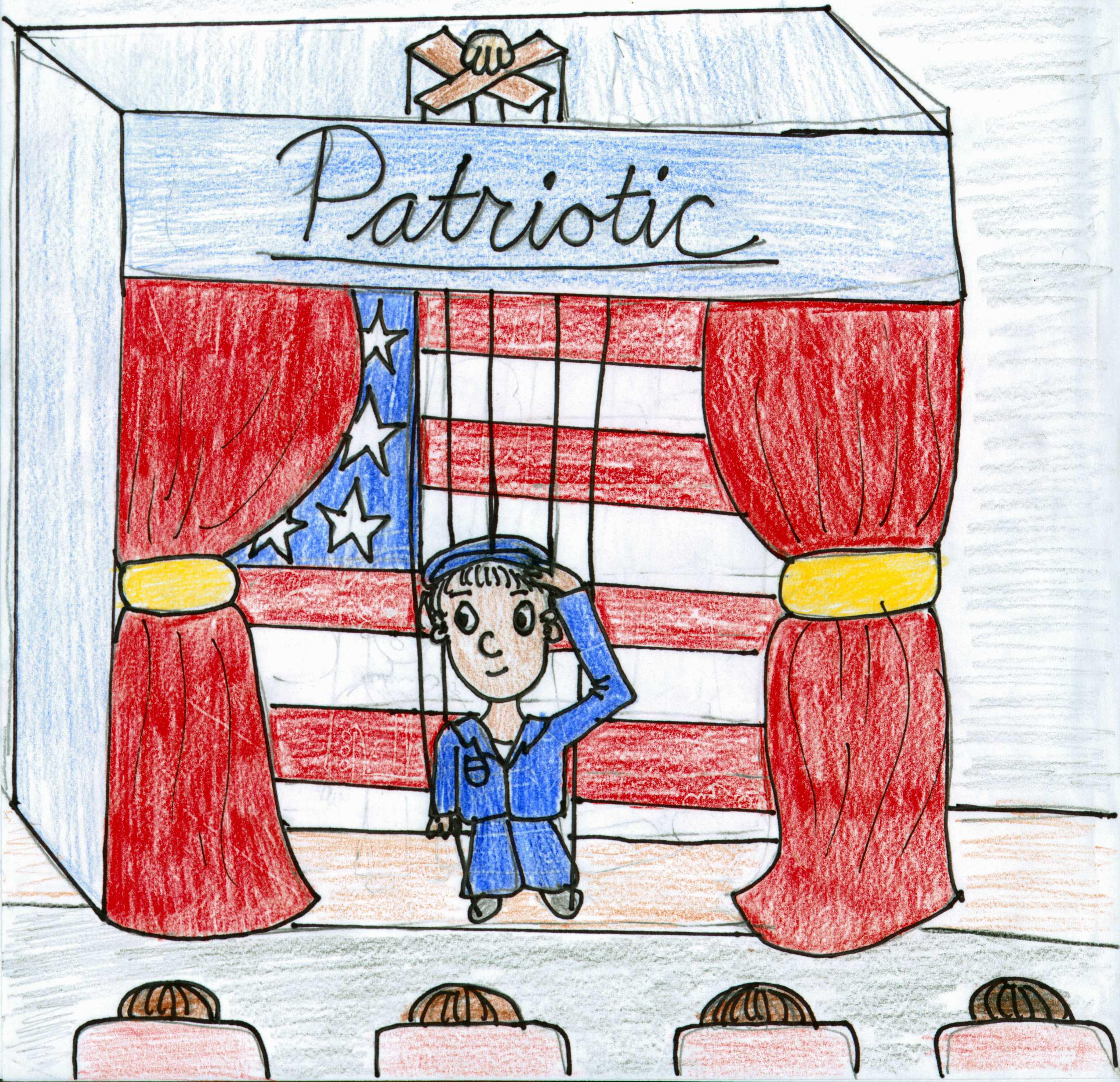


*A few years passed. James and Carla had some rough years without their father. Now their mother was suffering from scarlet fever. Since their mother's illness was extremely contagious, they had to go and live with their Aunt Patricia, Uncle Tom, and Cousin Kenny. (Their mother had a personal nurse to take care of her.) They were not able to visit their mother much since their aunt and uncle's house was five miles away (the house was right next to the Olentangy River). When they did visit their mother, though, they had to take their Uncle Tom's horse and buggy.*

*James quit school to help Uncle Tom with work in the fields. Carla (instead of working at the Johnsons) went to the Worthington Girls Academy where she learned how to cook, sew, and do other various tasks. Their cousin, Kenny, had the job of being a news editor for the new Western Intelligencer Newspaper.*



Aunt Patricia and Uncle Tom wanted to cheer Carla and James up by taking them to a puppet play. This week's theme was Patriotic, in light of the news of Zophar Toppings death (the only person from Worthington to die in the war of 1812). After the puppet play Aunt Patricia and Uncle Tom took them home for a turkey dinner.



The next morning James woke up early to find Uncle Tom sitting in the kettle room (the kitchen). He was talking quietly to Aunt Patricia, who was cooking the fish that James had caught fishing the other day. His sister was just finishing her breakfast before leaving to go to the Worthington Girls Academy. Before everyone was off to start the day Uncle Tom said he had important information to share.

He said, "Yesterday I stopped by your house. Your mother's nurse said that the scarlet fever was subsiding and soon she will be well."

James was very excited. The news meant that he could finally live with his mother again.

