



*When I Was Young
in Worthington: 1870s*

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One sunny day, Sarah and James Williams were walking home from school. They lived in a town called Worthington and their school was Cherry Hills School.

As they approached their house, they saw their mama in her rocking chair as she was sewing. They decided they should get to their chores before their mother started scolding them.



The William's family lived in the 1870's. James and Sarah were both ten and they were twins. They fought often and they got in trouble often too. Their house was made of brick. The house had light bulbs which were recently invented and big fire places. It did not have plumbing so the Williams used outhouses and wells. They used their fireplace to cook. The Williams' home was on a farm that had cows, horses, pigs, and chickens. Each animal had to be fed and their pens had to be cleaned.

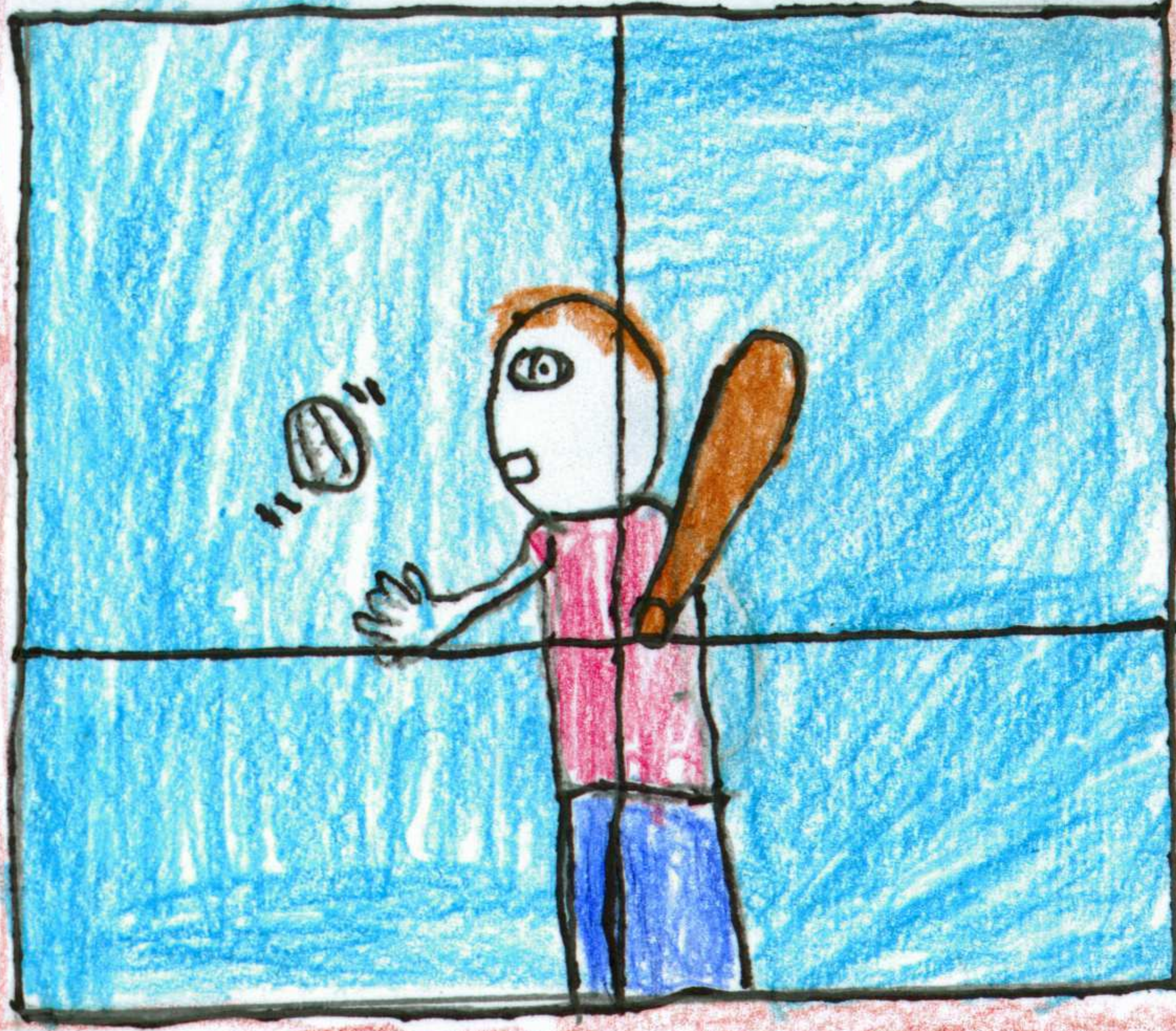
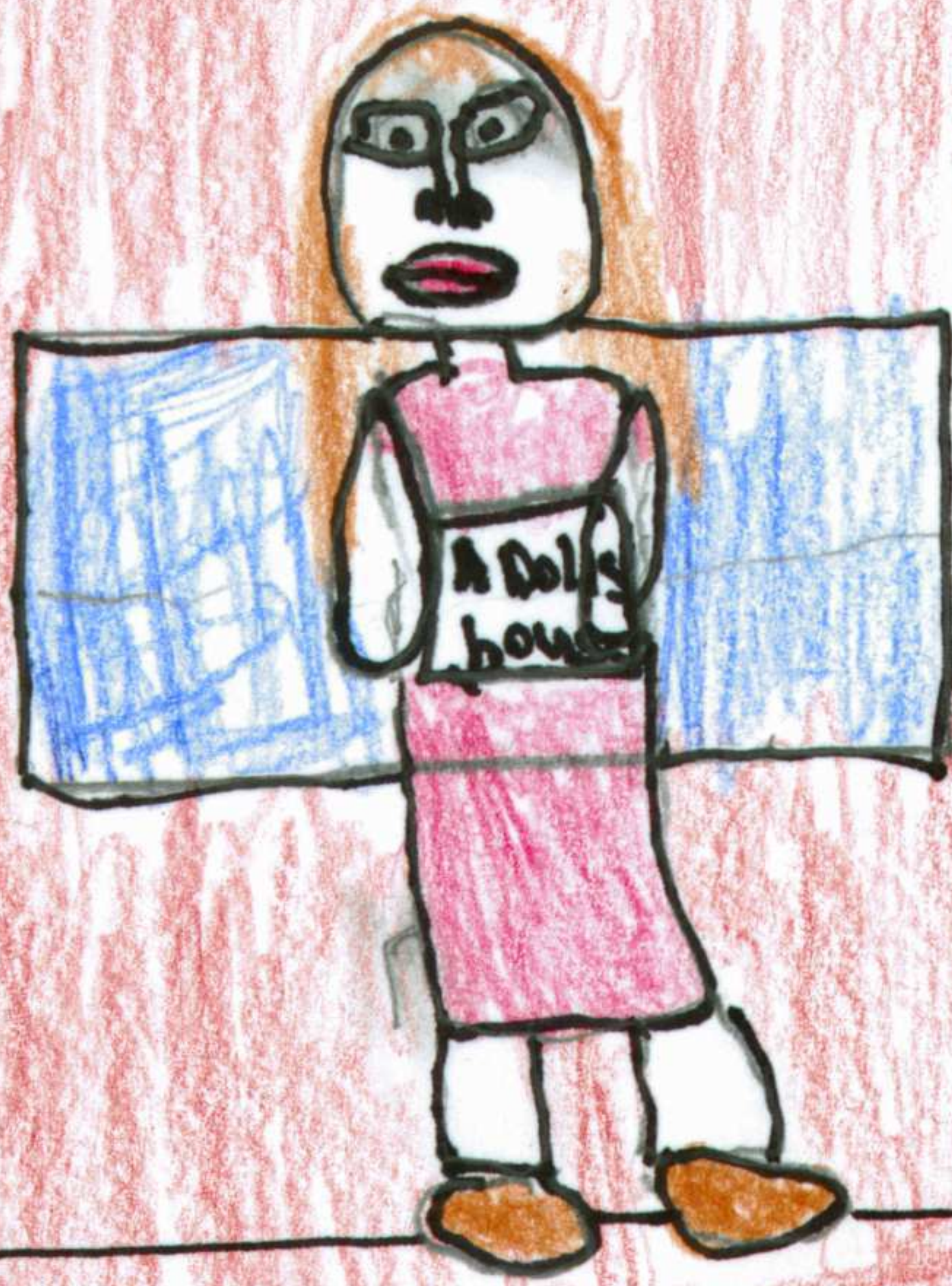




Now that the Civil War was over, life was easier because all the men were back to help with the work load. James and Sarah were glad that their father was back because they had really missed him.

After doing their chores, Mama sent James and Sarah to town to get some tea, Mama's favorite drink. They walked down Main Street looking for the first store that sold tea. The twins came to a store called Harry Leisure. They walked in and saw that the store has a cash register, a new invention. After they got tea, James and Sarah headed towards home.

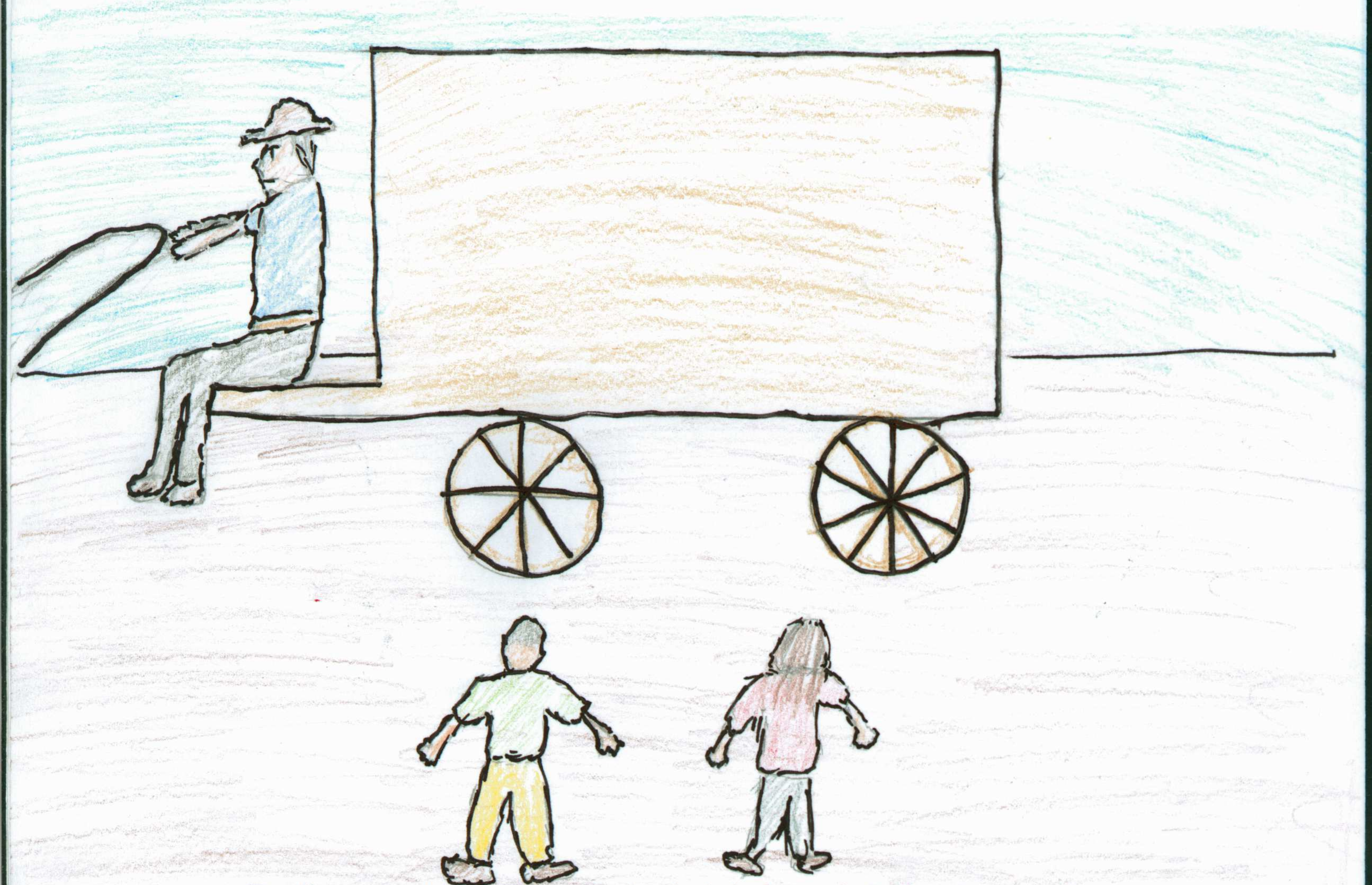




When James and Sarah entered the house, Mama was setting the table. She had prepared a wonderful feast. After finishing dinner, Sarah ran up to her room and read one of the only books she owned The Doll House.

James went out to play baseball, America's pastime. Before long it was dark and they knew their father would be home soon. The twins put on their pajamas and went up to bed.

When they woke up, it was time to get ready for school. They ate their breakfast and when they were finished, they gathered all their supplies and started on their two mile walk. On the way there, they passed a building called the Kilbourne Commercial Building. They also walked down Main Street. Sometimes Mrs. Wilta Pinney would give the twins a ride. She would pick kids up with her horse and buggy and take them to school.

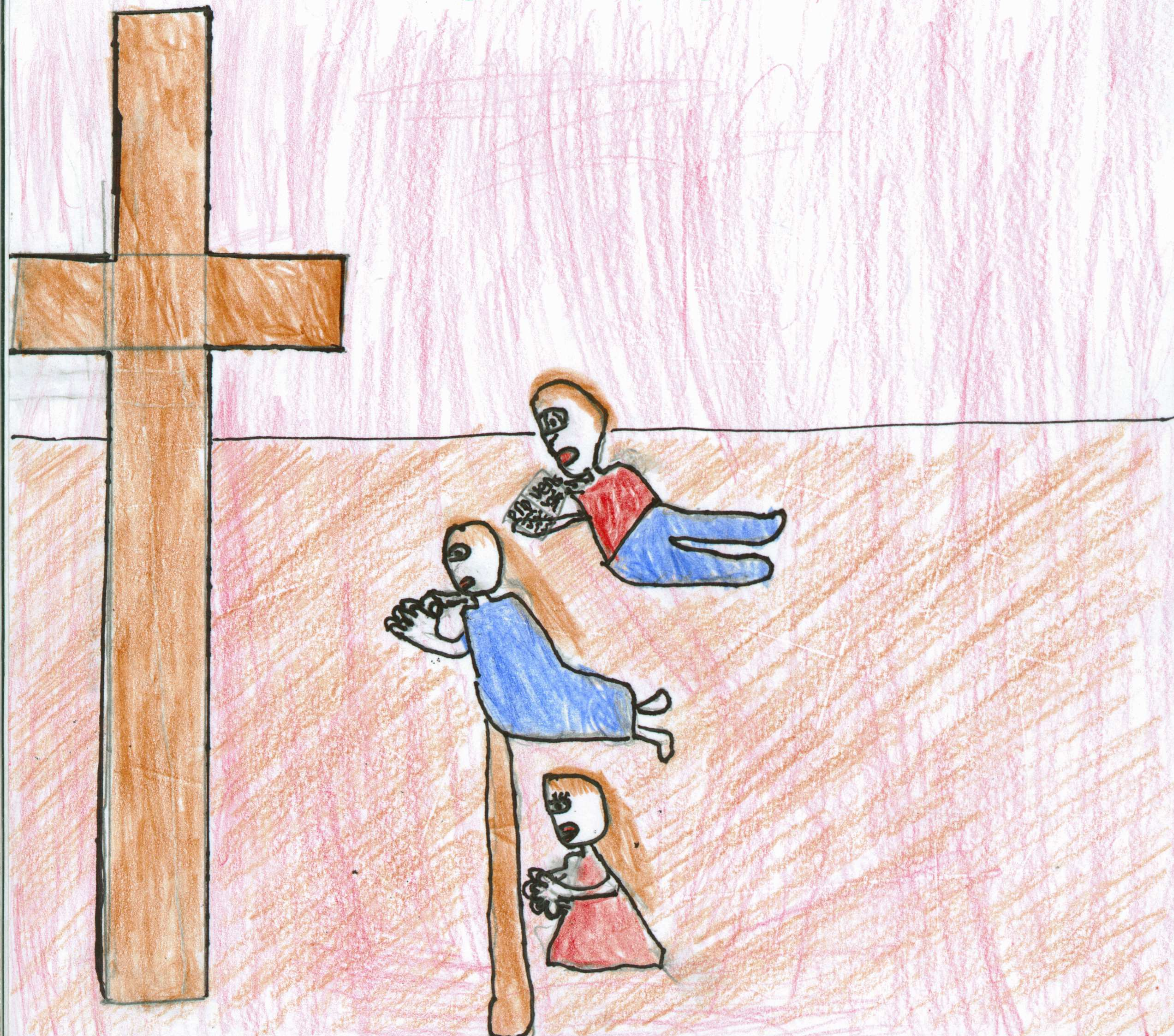


In the mornings, Tom, their dad, left and Katherine, their mom, had the house all to herself. She started cleaning the house since the kids were not there to mess it up.

Back at school, Sarah and James noticed that more and more kids were missing each day. When they asked the teacher, she said that everyone was getting exposed to the Yellow Fever. When they got home they told their mother that everybody in town was getting Yellow Fever so she got paranoid. Mama decided she would not let them go to school anymore. The kids were worried too, but still they wanted to go to school because not many kids got that opportunity.



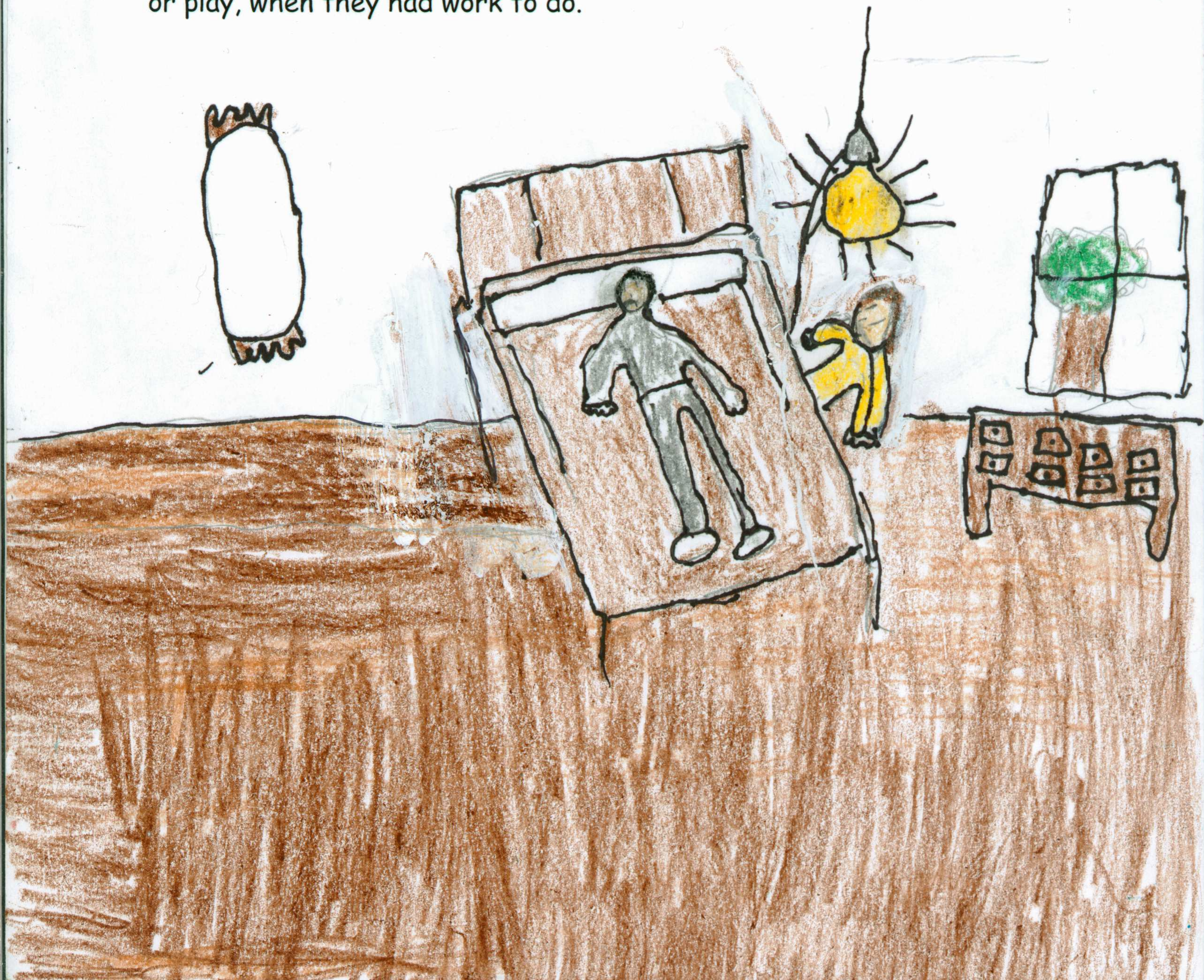
That night they went to the St. John's Episcopal Church to go and pray that the fever would not effect them. When Tom got home, he was feverish. Mama got really worried and made him get to bed. She had James and Sarah bring water in from the well and pick vegetables from the garden. She was planning to make soup for their father. She also wanted to keep the kids away from him. She suspected that he had Yellow Fever, so she gave him everything he needed.

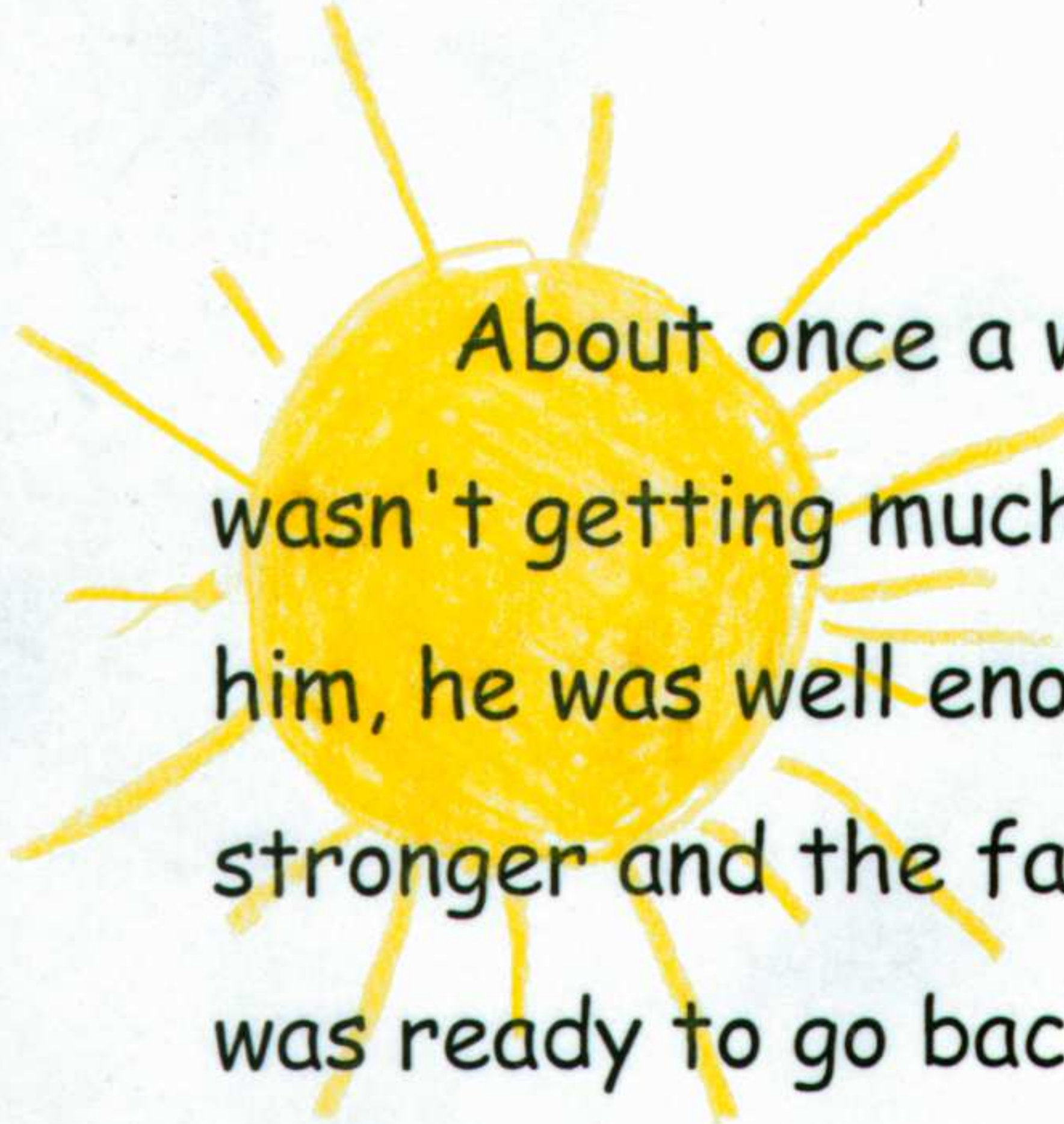


As the days went past, he got sicker and sicker. Mama got really busy with tending to Tom and that left little time for the children. They were getting bored being alone all the time. Then one cloudy afternoon Mr. Black, their father's boss, came to see how he was doing. While on his visit, he told them the whole town was getting the Yellow Fever and he was not surprised that Father had got it. He also commented that many were dying from it.



After Mr. Black left, Mama sent James and Sarah into town to find a doctor. The only doctor for miles was Dr. Brown. Luckily, he came when father was sleeping. Dr. Brown woke him up for the bad news that he had been diagnosed with Yellow Fever. Now Mama and the kids were really scared for their father's health. The whole family had to pitch in and help with their father. There was no time to read, or play, when they had work to do.





About once a week, Dr. Brown stopped in to check on Father. He wasn't getting much better. Then one day when Dr. Brown checked on him, he was well enough to get out of bed. Each day he got stronger and stronger and the family's spirits got higher and higher. Finally, father was ready to go back to work again and when he finally did, it was a ghost town. Everyone was still recovering from the Fever.

Day by day, more people came back to town and at last, their lives got back to how they used to be. Mama even let Sarah and James go back to school. Unfortunately, some people lost their lives, but the majority of the town was back to normal. Everyone would always remember the year of the Yellow Fever.

