



*When I Was Young
in Worthington: 1930s*

*Kenny's
Adventure*

*written and illustrated by
Ethan Monroe, Alaine Whitmire,
and Brandon Best*

May 2003

It was 1936, in Worthington, Ohio, and it was a beautiful clear summer day. And Kenny Larson was out on a walk.

"I think I'll go fishing at the Olentangy river with Joe and Cindy today," he said.

So he went to get Cindy Marehopper and Joe Littlewood, his best friends. But on the way to their houses they were already on their way to see Kenny. As soon as they saw him they shouted, "Hi, Kenny!"

"Hey Joe, hey Cindy, you guys want to go fishing with me at the Olentangy?" Kenny asked excitedly.

"Why not?" Joe said.

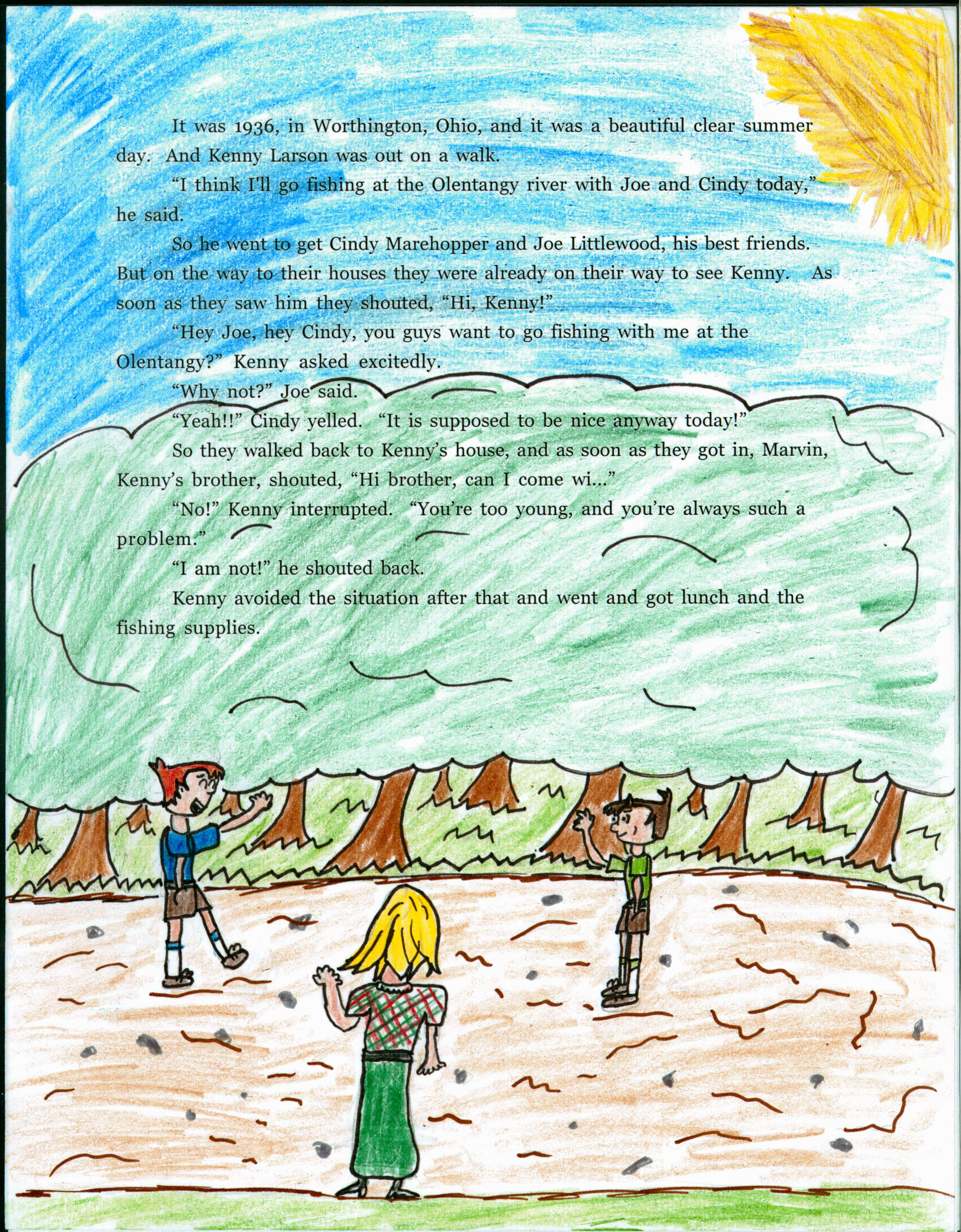
"Yeah!!" Cindy yelled. "It is supposed to be nice anyway today!"

So they walked back to Kenny's house, and as soon as they got in, Marvin, Kenny's brother, shouted, "Hi brother, can I come wi..."

"No!" Kenny interrupted. "You're too young, and you're always such a problem."

"I am not!" he shouted back.

Kenny avoided the situation after that and went and got lunch and the fishing supplies.



Next, Kenny got his Dad's truck keys, hopped in with Cindy and Joe, and put the supplies on the truck bed. They started off to the river and got there about five minutes later.

"Wow," Joe said. "The river is perfect for fishing today!"

Kenny didn't hear him because he was already fishing. And Cindy was trying overcome her fear of the worm.

"Come on Cindy, they aren't going to bite you!" Joe yelled.

"Here it goes!" Cindy said to herself as she slipped the wriggling, disgusting worm on the hook.



Joe looked back at Kenny and asked, "So Kenny, what are you having for dinner tonight?"

"We'll probably have some of this here fish and some of my mama's chicken. Then for dessert, we're going have some apple pie!" Kenny replied. He drooled at the thought of it.

"How does your mama kill the chicken?" Cindy pondered.

"First, she swings the chicken by the neck so the head falls off. Then, she boils it in some water so the feathers come off," Kenny answered. He laughed as Cindy's face turned green at him mentioning the chicken's head falling off.

"My mama and I are going pick some fresh fruit from the Brown Fruit Farm," Joe stated proudly.

Cindy laughed and spat out, "Since you boys think that you are going have the best dinner on earth, you never thought about what I'm going have for dinner. It just happens to be the newest, greatest food ever! Fritos, chocolate chip cookies, and a nice cold glass of Coke!"

"Fritos?!? My pa and mama ain't got the money to buy those!" Joe yelled as he felt a tug on his line. "I'm gettin' a bite!" He pulled out a big bass from the river.

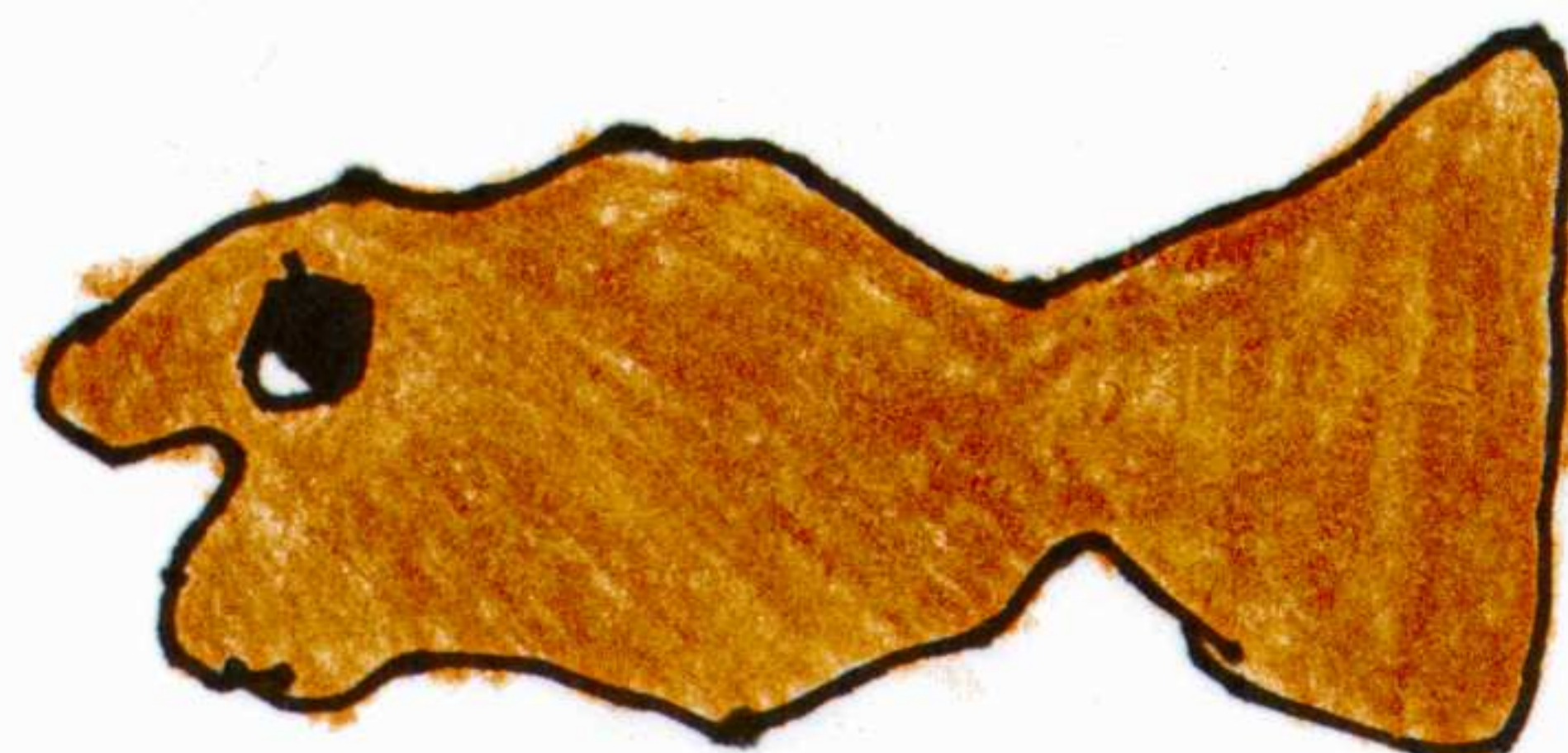
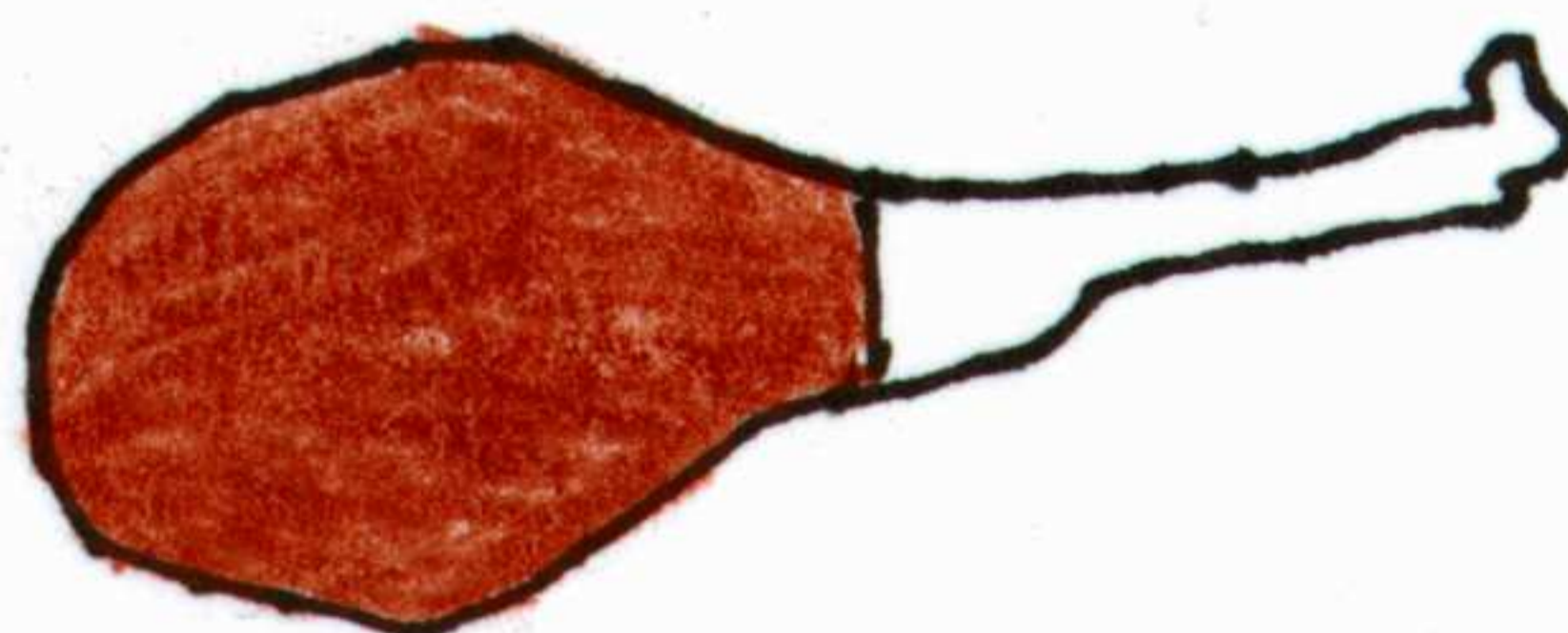
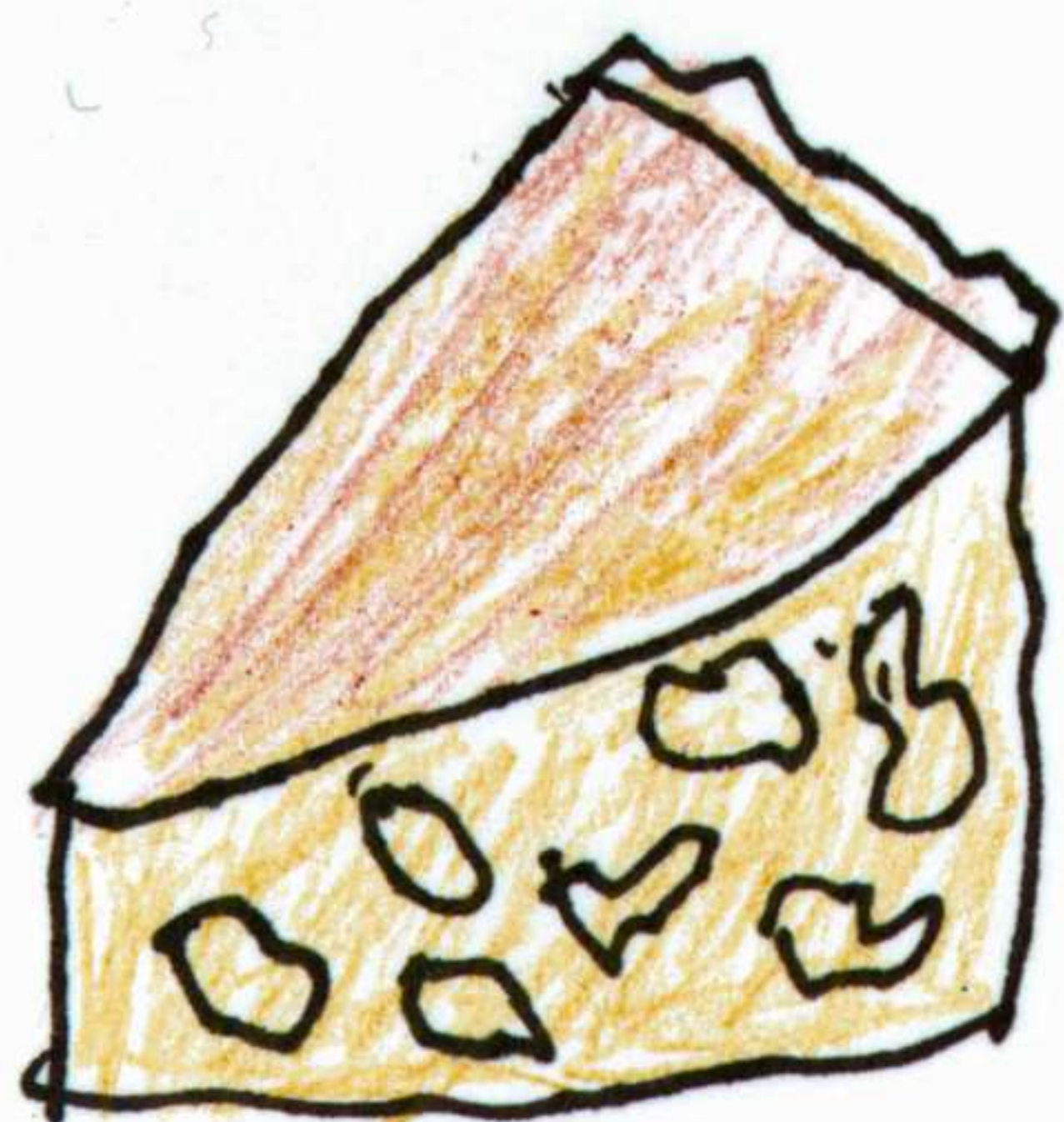
"You guys ready to eat lunch yet?" Cindy questioned, holding her stomach.

"Yeah! I'm starving!" Joe replied.

"I'll go get the food." Kenny stated.

So Kenny ran to the car and got the lunch. Joe started a fire to cook the beans and the hot dogs. They ate it up as fast as the blink of an eye.

"That was a fantastic lunch!" Cindy exclaimed.





They hopped into the car with the fish and Kenny drove back to the house after dropping Joe and Cindy off. He walked through the door of his house.

"Kenny!" his mother called. "It's about time you got home!"

"Sorry Ma, but I was fishing." Kenny explained.

"Well, it's time for you to feed the chickens, milk the cows, and go to Kroger to buy sugar and flour."

Kenny ran out to the coops and fed the chickens. After that, he jogged to the barn and started going through the process of milking the cows. He ran to the house after he was done and gave the milk to his mom. Kenny grabbed the keys and dashed out to his father's car.

Marvin and William, Kenny's brothers, asked, "May we go to Kroger with you, Kenny?"

"Sure, I don't care. I could use some strong guys to carry the sugar and flour, so you two could help me," Kenny replied.

"Yea!" they both yelled.

Kenny turned on the car and started off. When they finally got to the store, the clerk asked, "And what can I do for you boys?"

"Two big sacks of sugar and one big sack of flour," Kenny replied.

The clerk gave him the supplies he needed and Kenny gave one sack to William and one sack to Marvin.

"Thanks!" Marvin yelled as they exited Kroger.

Kenny drove home. When he got there, he set the flour and the sugar on the counter. After that, he set the table. Ten minutes after that, it was time to eat fish, chicken, and of course, apple pie!



The next morning he woke up at 6:00 am to go to school. Joe, Cindy, and Kenny all went to Flint Grade School. On their way, they stopped at the Brown Fruit Farm to get some apples for a snack.

When they got to class, they sat down at their desks. Mrs. Watson was the meanest teacher at the school, and was Joe, Cindy, and Kenny's teacher.

"Okay, class, it's time to take attendance!!" she screeched.

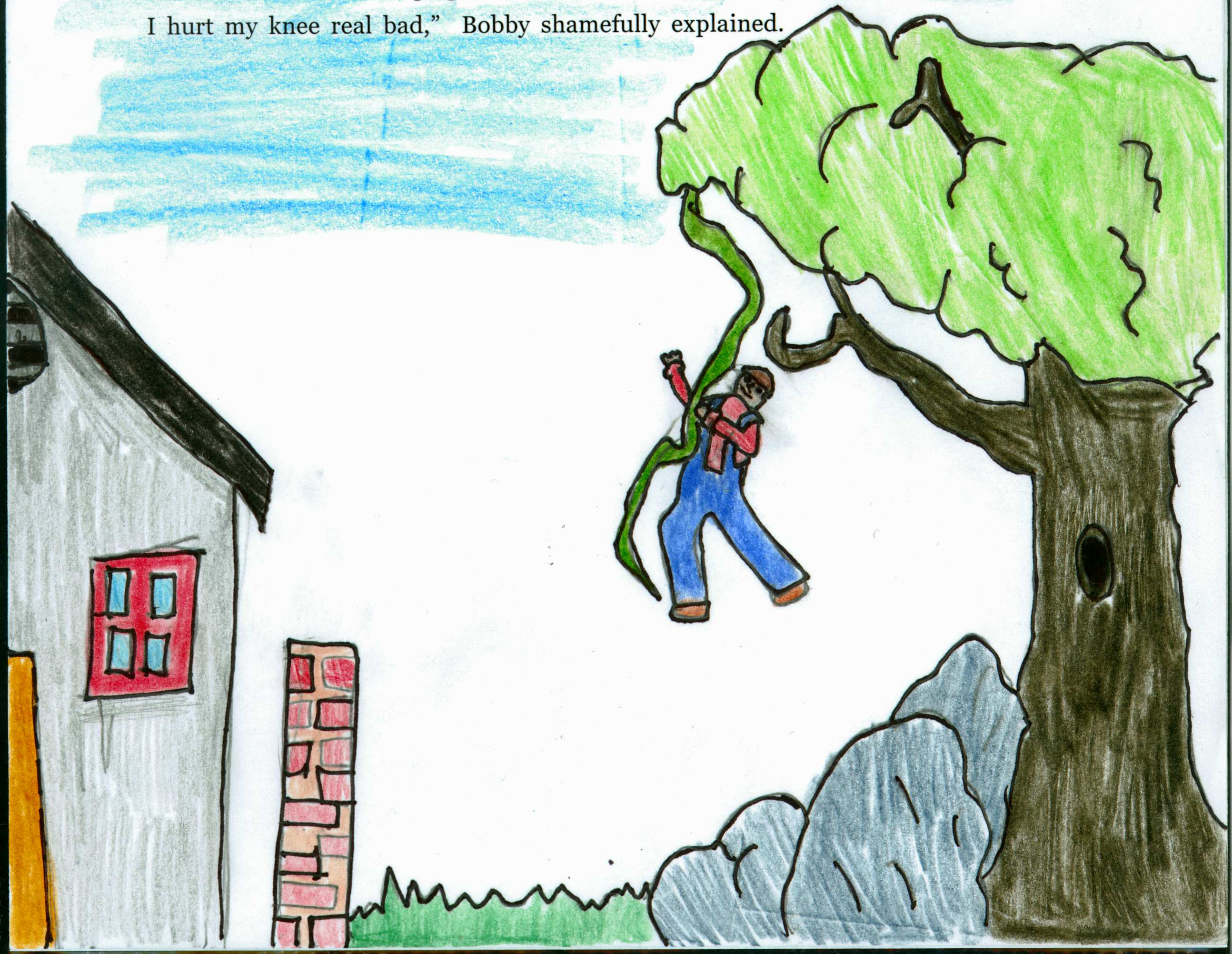
Kenny sighed, "Here it goes!"

Like an auctioneer, she yelled off the names from A to Z. The only person who wasn't there was Bobby Lobby. He was the clumsiest kid in the class, so when Mrs. Watson figured out that he wasn't there, she screamed, "Yes!"

Just then Bobby walked into the door, literally.

"Mr. Lobby, please explain yourself!" Mrs. Watson yapped.

"I was uh... swinging on the vine out there on the way to school and I fell. I hurt my knee real bad," Bobby shamefully explained.



Mrs. Watson shook her head, "You should have thought about it before you did that."

"Thought about what?" he asked.

"Just sit down!" she said.

Bobby sat down next to Kenny and Joe. But unfortunately, Pete Wise was behind him. He picked on him all the time. Pete also also picked on Cindy, his easiest target. But always, always, always Pete got stopped in his tracks by Kenny Larson and Joe Littlewood.

"Hey Bobby," Kenny whispered to his friend. "How about you, Joe, Cindy, and I go to the graveyard in the back of St. John's Church tonight?"

"SURE!!!" Bobby yelled.

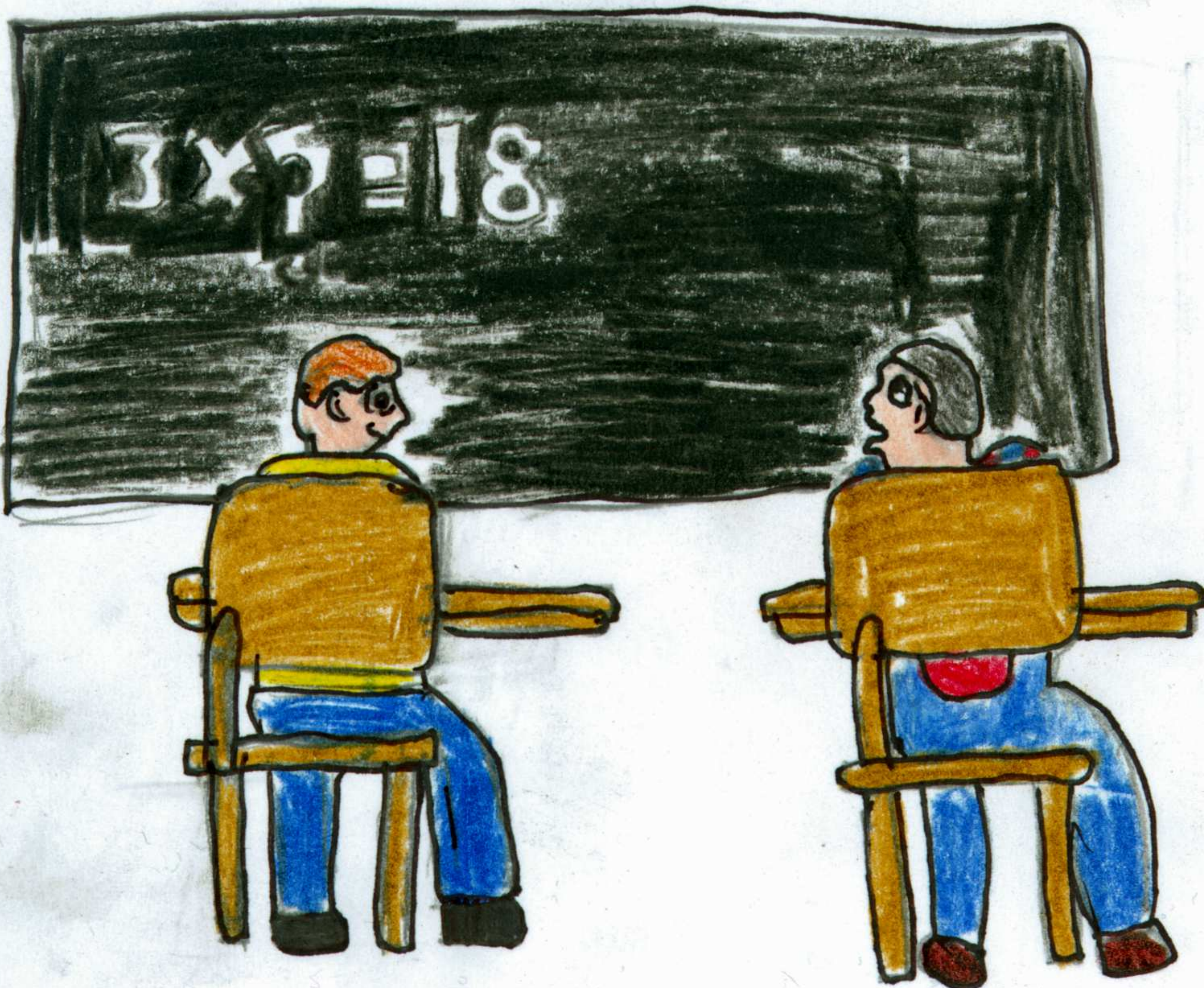
"Boys, stop talking!!!" Mrs. Watson shrieked.

"Yes, Mrs. Watson," they murmured.

After a long day of school, Kenny, Cindy, and Joe gathered at the Brown Fruit Farm, and discussed the night ahead of them.

"So we'll meet after dinner, at the graveyard behind St. John's on High Street. We'll play tag or ghosts in the graveyard," Kenny explained.

"Yeah!" Joe, Cindy, and Bobby yelled.



That night in the graveyard, the four of them didn't notice Pete Wise hiding behind one of the graves. He was planning on scaring Cindy, of course.

"It sure is creepy here!" Cindy pointed out.

"I heard that old Henry Letterman is out of his grave watching people and haunting people," Bobby stuttered.

"Oh, be quiet, Bobby!" Cindy snapped. She was getting frightened.

"Boo!" Pete suddenly yelled. He could tell Cindy was on the verge of crying.

"Ahhh!!" Cindy screamed and then burst into tears.

"He lives! Henry Letterman lives!" Joe cried out.

Bobby was so scared that he tripped over a small tombstone and then chipped his tooth on another. He started crying and ran home crying and holding his mouth.

"Pete Wise! You had better tell Cindy you're sorry!" Kenny ordered sternly.

Pete just rolled over laughing at the scene he had made. Wiping the laughing tears off of his face, he got up and went over to Cindy. "Sorry," he sighed.

"I guess I forgive you," Cindy replied. "But do it again and you're dead!"

"Guess that ruined our whole night. Let's go home," Joe said.



Kenny walked them home and soon found his way to his own house. He took a bath, got into his pajamas, and climbed into bed.

"Hey Ma!" Kenny exclaimed.

"Yes, Kenny?" she answered.

"Can you turn on the radio so I can fall asleep?"

"Sure," she replied.

"Fritos! Fritos! The greatest corn chips for your delight! And President Roosevelt has..." the radio started statically but seemed to trail off as Kenny's eyes shut.

He drifted off to a deep sleep knowing that the past few days had been great.

