

*When I Was Young
in Worthington: 1940s*

*written and illustrated by
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We dedicate this book to:
Miss Swearengin, Mrs. Watson, and
Miss Wood.

Also to the kids that will read this book in
the future!!!!!!!!!!

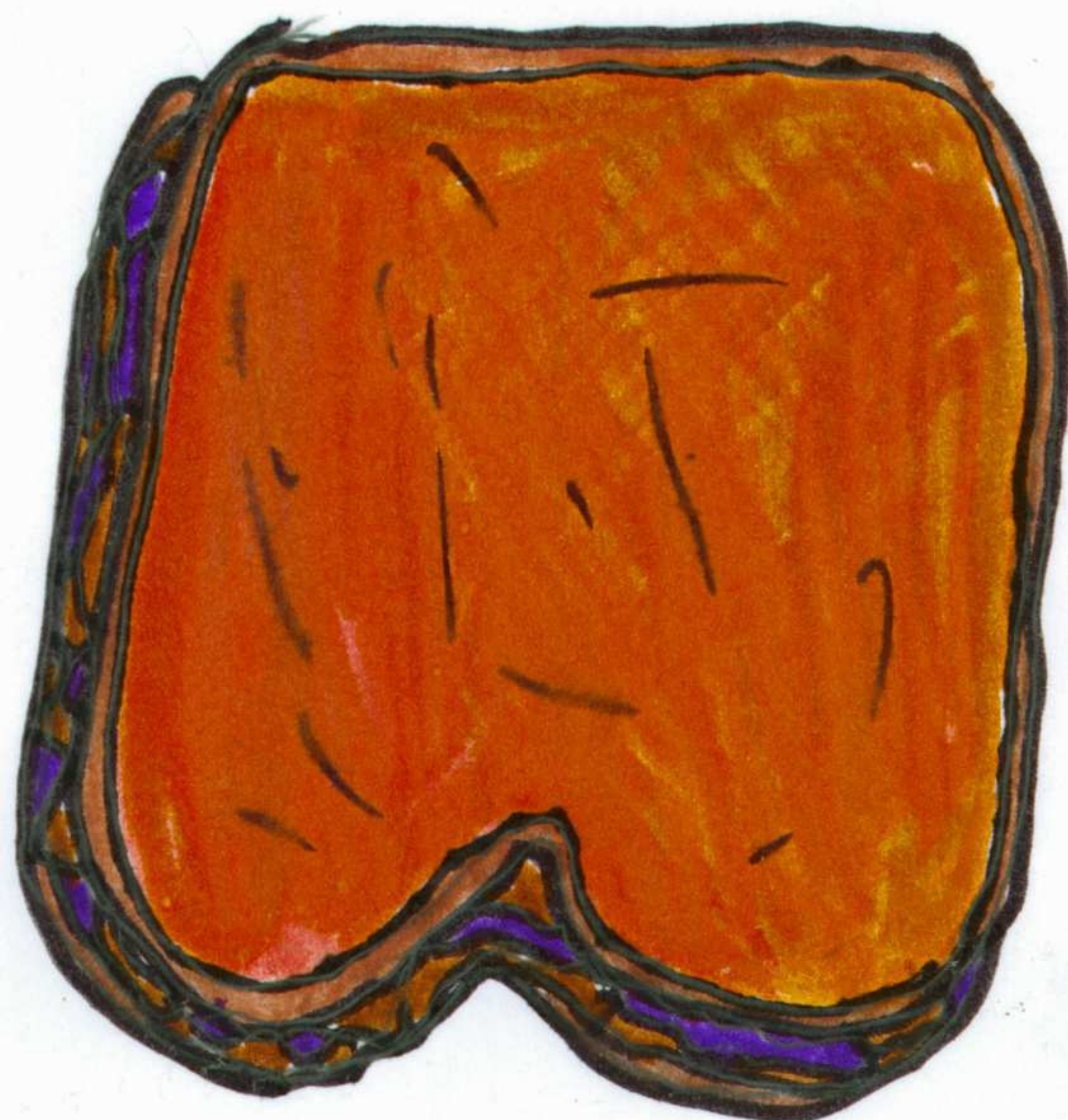
Hello, my name is Nathan William Jacobs. I used to live in the heart of Worthington in a town house with my mom and little sister. I had a dad too, but he was in the war. It was World War II and I was really scared that my dad wouldn't be coming home. He had been gone for three months. . .



One sunny day, my friends were asking me to come outside to play baseball. I put on my play shoes, blue jeans, and green jacket with the velvet collar. My mom caught me with my jacket on and told me to put on a different coat because the green jacket was brand new. We didn't have much money because of the war, so having new clothes was an honor.



My mom also said I needed to eat lunch before I could go play outside. So I sat down to eat. My mom had made my sister and me peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. It was a really good lunch.



After lunch, I went outside to play baseball. While I was walking to the vacant lot, I saw my friend Thomas Clark with his mom and they were both crying. I went up to ask them what happened. They said Pearl Harbor had just been bombed.

I gasped. My dad was stationed at Pearl Harbor. I was hoping he would be okay.

I ran home to see my mom. I told her what I had heard. She was crying too.

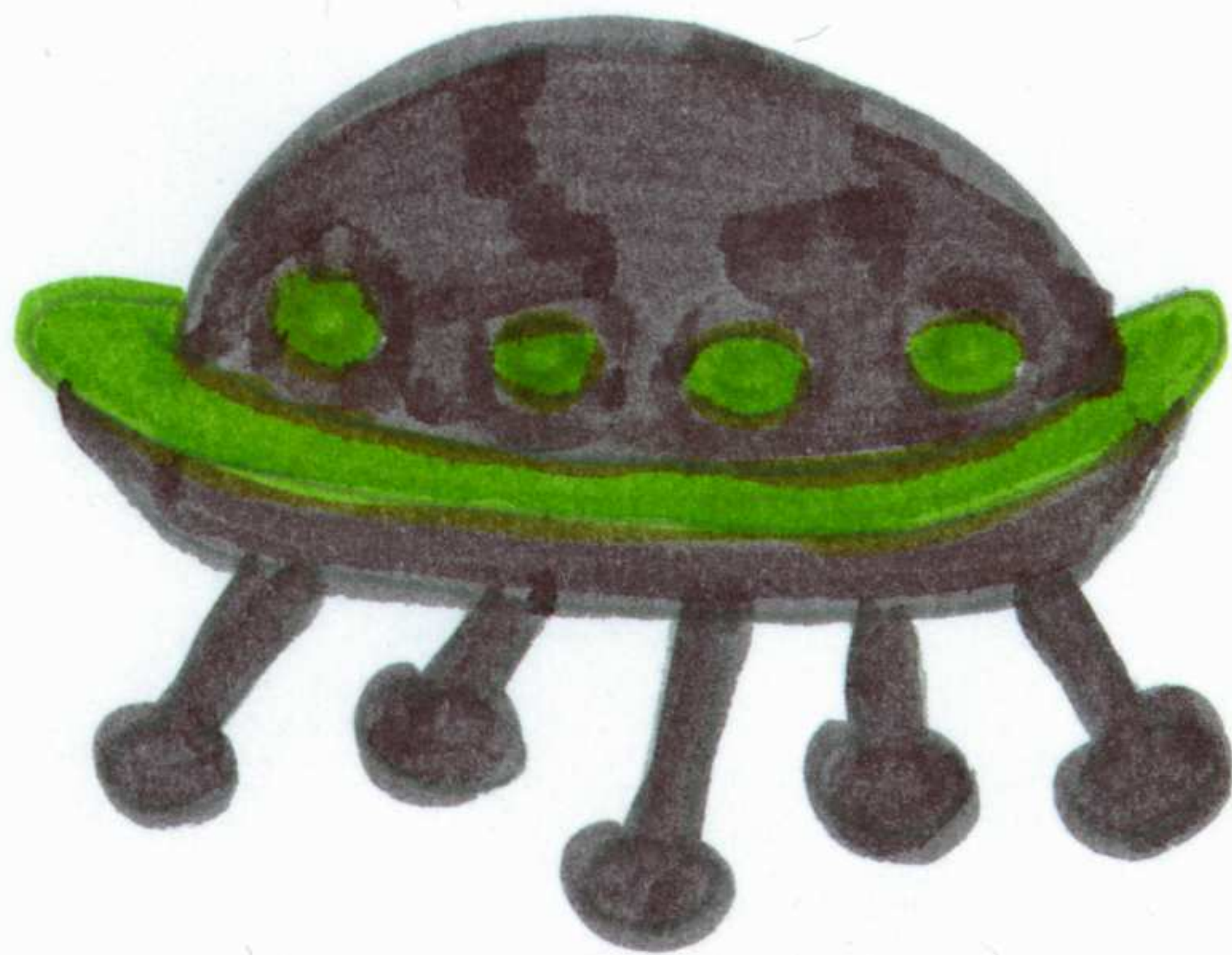
"I don't think your father is going to make it," my mom said.



The following year . . .

It had been a year since my dad had died at Pearl Harbor. My Uncle Joe often called us to see how we were. He told us how he had to move because of the new nuclear reactor that was being built near his home. He said there was too much radiation in the air. He also said he heard on the radio that the President said it's the first of its kind.





This year was different for some reason or another. People were using new words that they called hip. I thought they sounded weird. Why would you use words like: crash land, D-Day, flip side, flying saucer, and jeep?



My mom was different too. Ever since my dad died, she was doing different things. One day she just sat on the couch and listened to people talk about the war on the radio. The week before she hadn't eaten anything for lunch or dinner. I started to worry that she had not gotten over my father's death. I couldn't stand my mom crying so I went into the town shop called Joey's Comics, Candy, and More. I got the brand new G. I. Joe comic book. It made me think about the war in a different way. It made the war seem lighter than I had previously thought. On my way home, I went to Snappy's Ice Cream and got one scoop of strawberry ice cream for five cents. That was not much money back then!





It was 1943 and a lot of things were happening in Worthington. Our second cousins, the Stine's, had just had a new baby. I didn't know the baby's name but its first two initials were R.L.

My mom was back to normal. She took my sister and me out to lunch at Peterson's Family Restaurant, the so-called best place to eat around town. They had really good food, but my sister got food poisoning from the clams she ate. She was sent to the White Cross Hospital to recover.

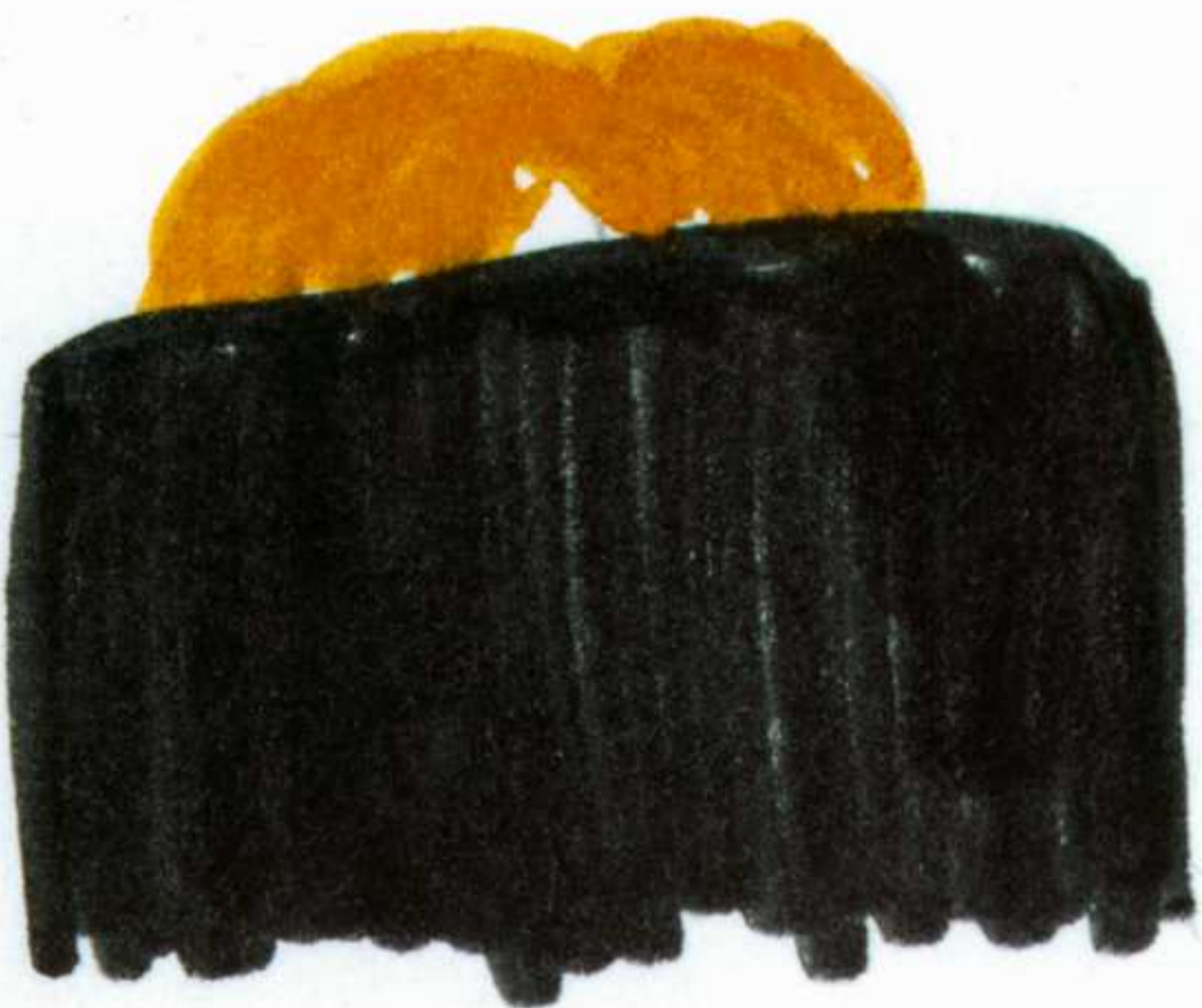
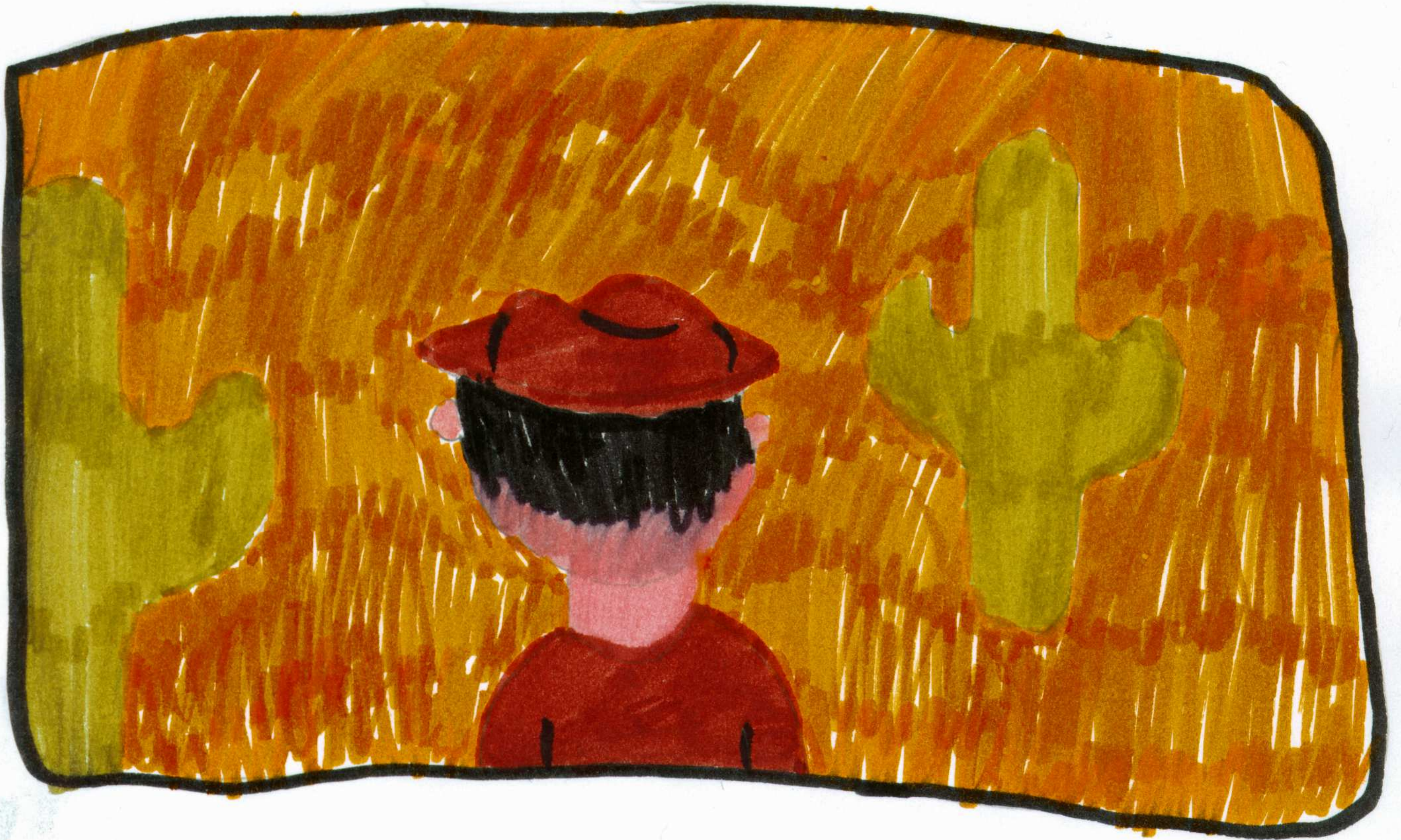
I started to get worried on her 28th day there, but then I heard a knock on the door. I opened it and there was a nurse and my sister. "She has fully healed," the nurse said. After my sister had gotten food poisoning we stopped going to Peterson's Family Restaurant.



It was in 1944 that the French defeated the Germans!

At the same time, I was going to Kilbourne Middle School. After school, I usually went home and put on my swimming trunks so I could go to the Worthington Swimming Pool. It was only a fifteen minute walk from my house. I enjoyed swimming and had a lot of fun. One day on my way home, I saw an American warplane heading back to Wright Patterson Air Force base. It was cool watching the airplane go by overhead.

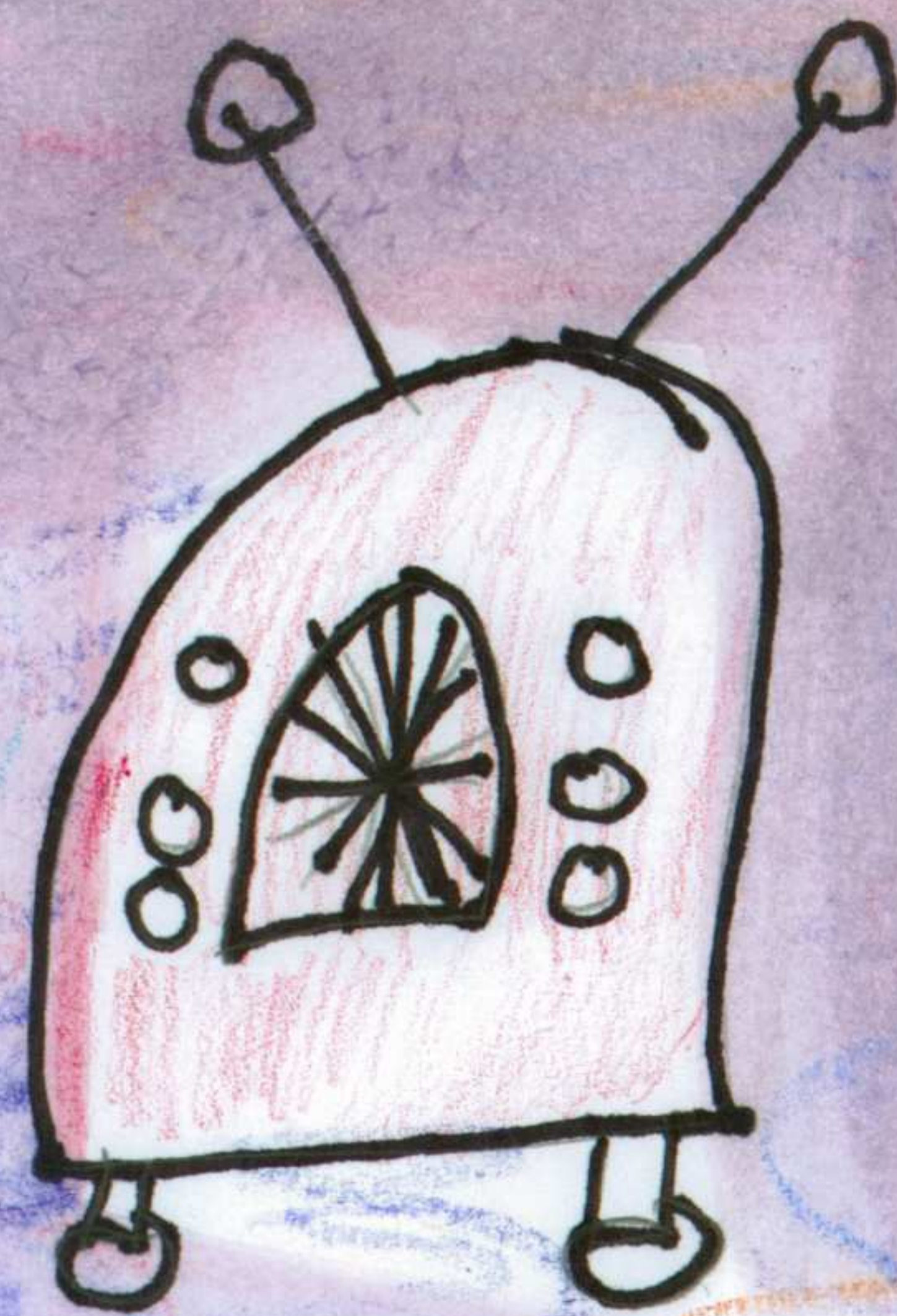
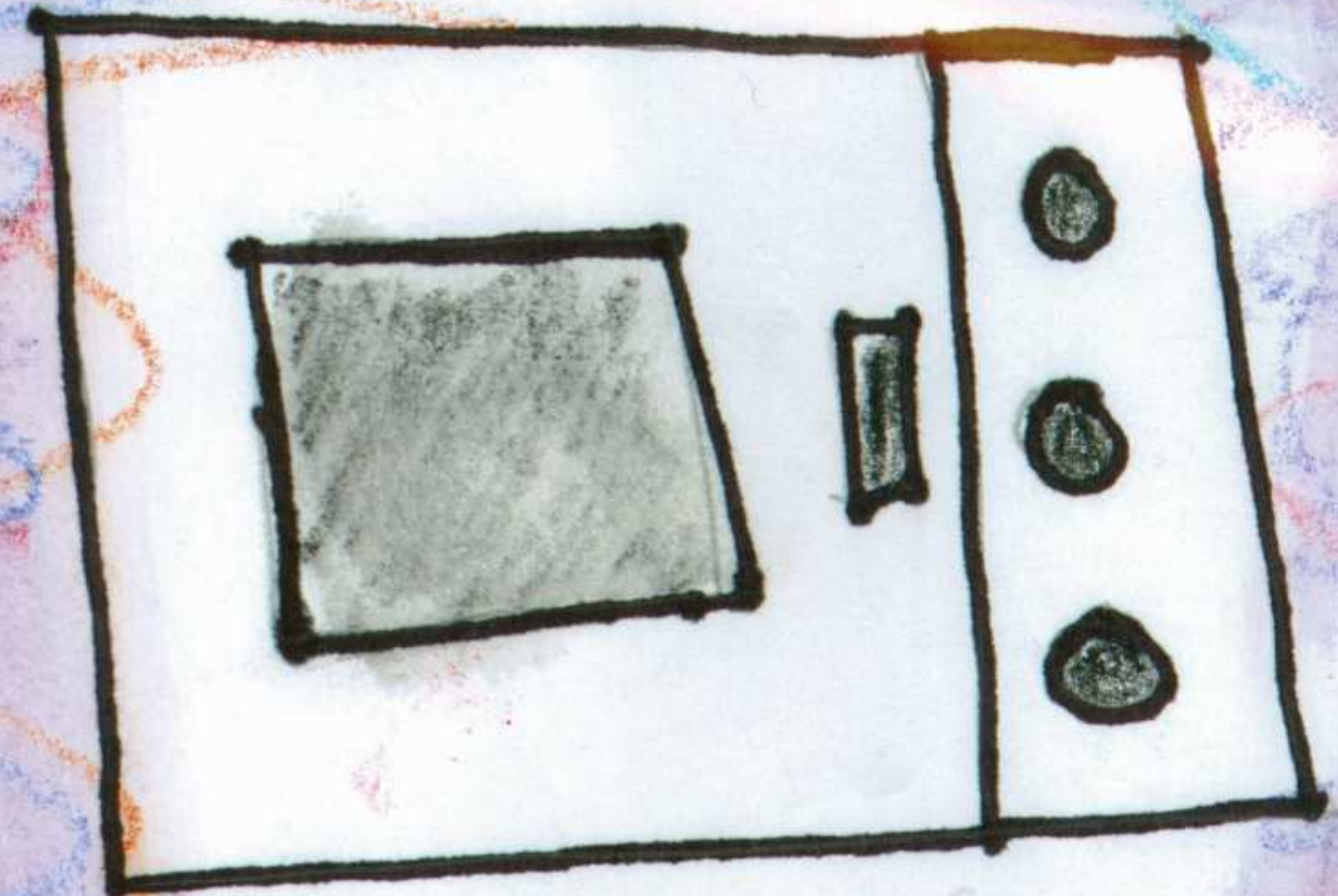
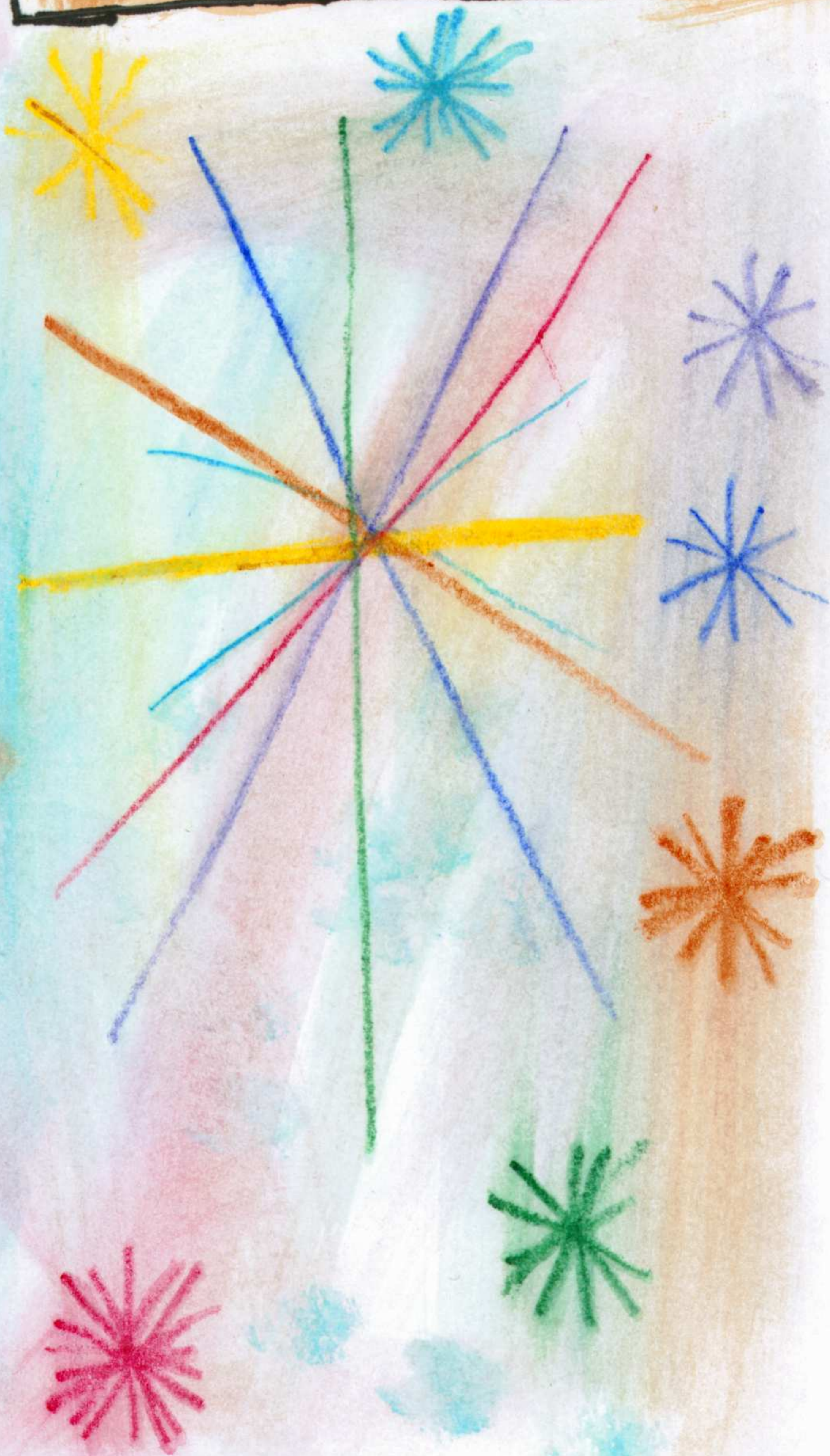
On Saturdays, I often went to the Pioneer Movie Theater with my friends. We would go see the neat cowboy movies that everyone was talking about. Often, there were shoot-outs that were pretty cool to watch!



The next year was awesome! It was 1945 and the microwave and atomic bomb had just been invented. The war was over and we had beat the Japanese!

My mom and I were starting to save up money to buy a microwave. The radio said it was the best thing since the automobile. Colonial Hills had its first Fourth of July celebration which I attended with my mom, sister, and friends. The fire works were awesome!

The city also made a five year levy to support a war memorial in Sharon Township, which was really close to my house.





Welcome
Sweet Hearts!

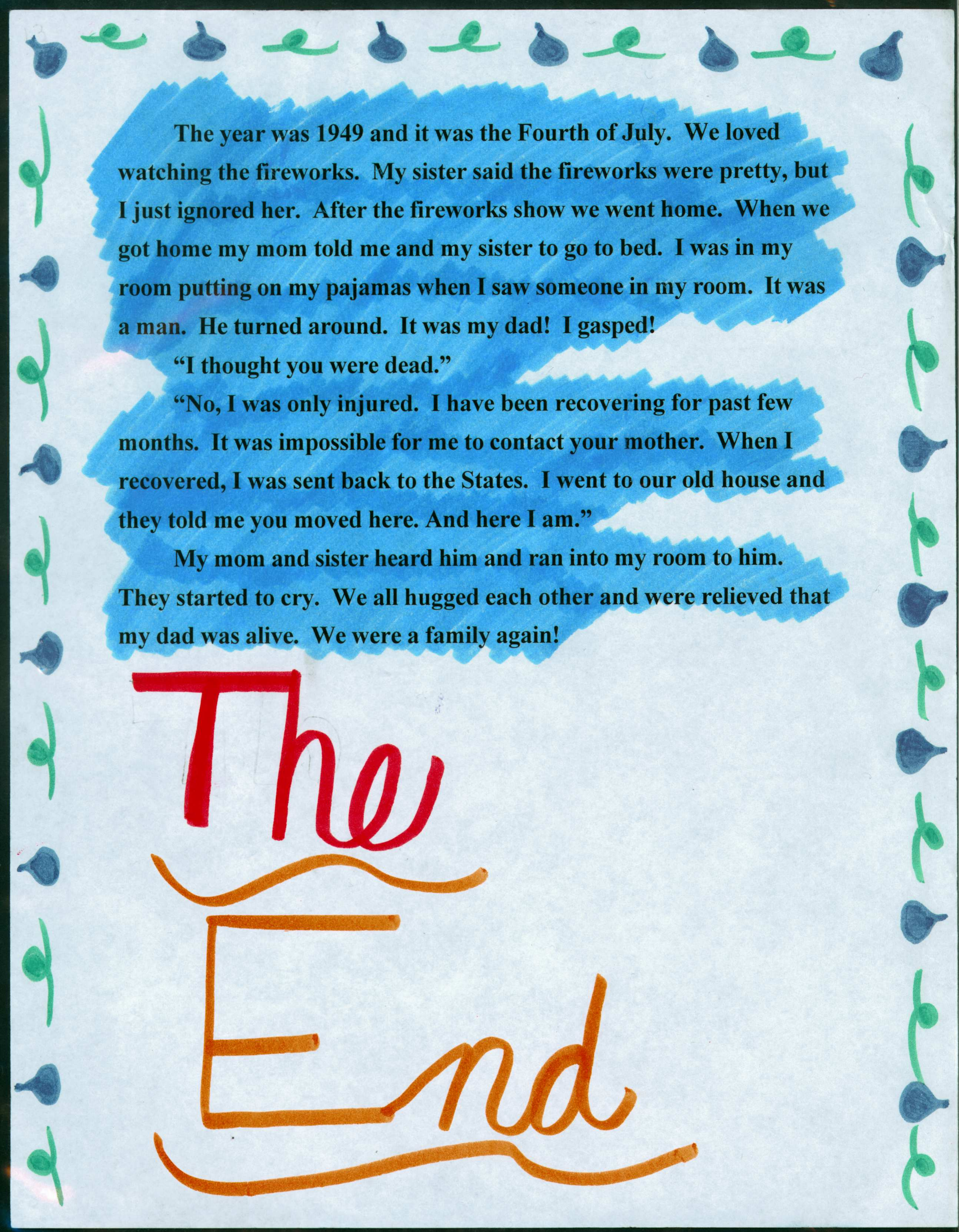
In the year 1946, the Jitterbug was a popular dance that everyone was doing. I remember a specific middle school dance that I went to. At that time, I really liked this girl named Kate Smith. She went to my school and was in all of my classes. I even got up the courage to ask if she wanted to go to the dance with me.

My mom dropped me off at the dance. When I walked in Katie was standing there as beautiful as a blossom. We ended up talking and dancing all night long. It was a wonderful time.



Then came the day our family had to move. I didn't want to go because then I would have to leave my friends behind. We were moving from Perry Township to Sharon Township.

We packed up all of our stuff into Ford and took a 10 minute drive to our new house. The cost of the house was \$10,000 dollars. The new house was also nice because we took the thick blinds off of the windows since the war was over. It had been scary with the blinds on the windows because it was so dark in the house. During the war, we had them up so enemy air craft couldn't see any lights in our homes.



The year was 1949 and it was the Fourth of July. We loved watching the fireworks. My sister said the fireworks were pretty, but I just ignored her. After the fireworks show we went home. When we got home my mom told me and my sister to go to bed. I was in my room putting on my pajamas when I saw someone in my room. It was a man. He turned around. It was my dad! I gasped!

“I thought you were dead.”

“No, I was only injured. I have been recovering for past few months. It was impossible for me to contact your mother. When I recovered, I was sent back to the States. I went to our old house and they told me you moved here. And here I am.”

My mom and sister heard him and ran into my room to him. They started to cry. We all hugged each other and were relieved that my dad was alive. We were a family again!

The
End