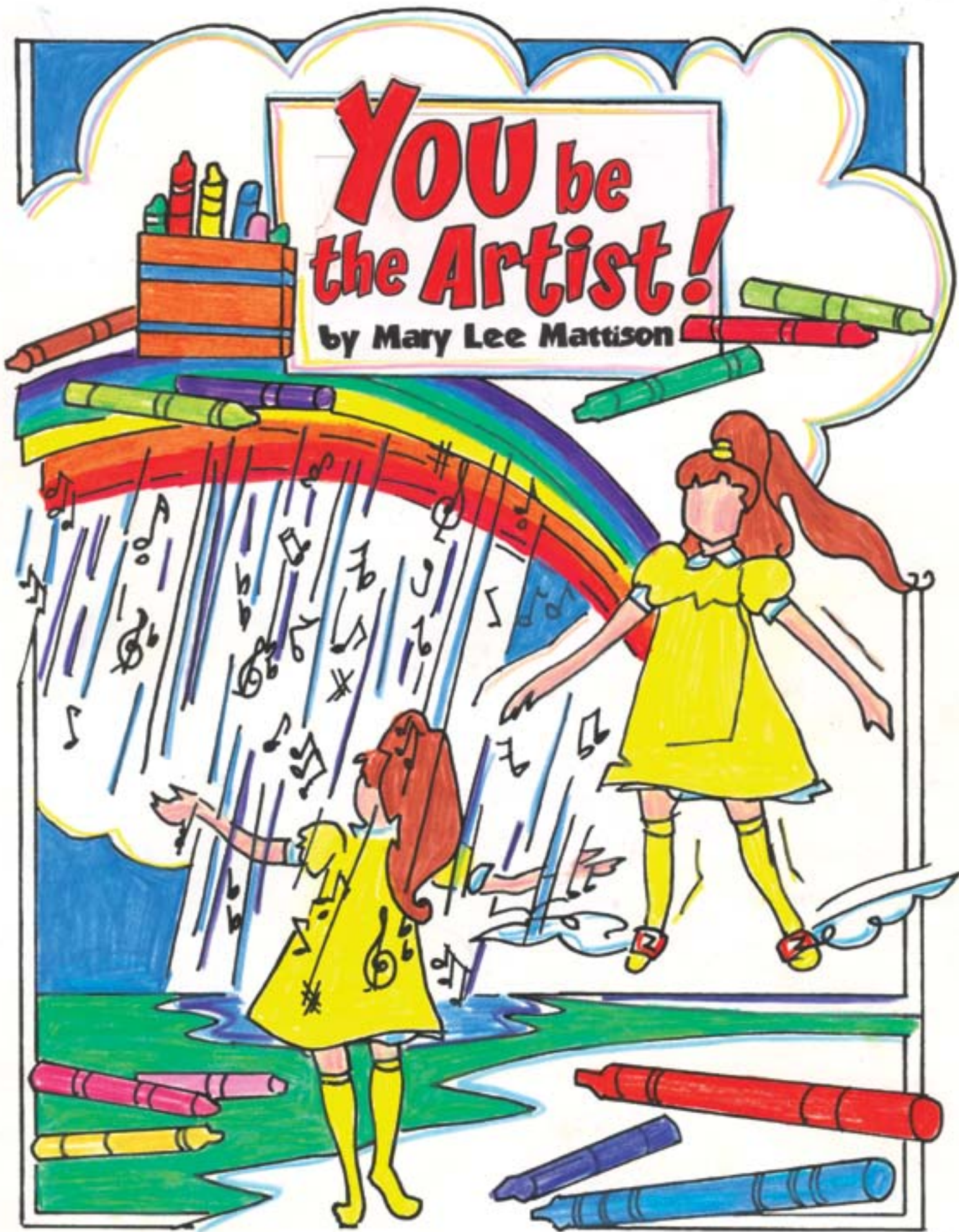


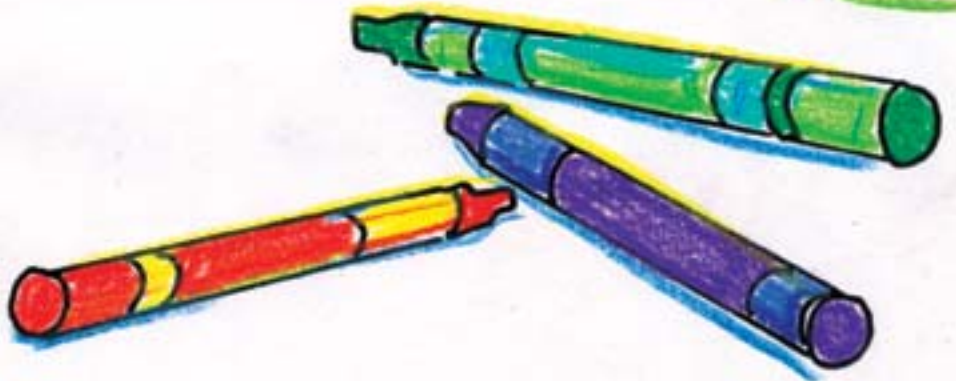


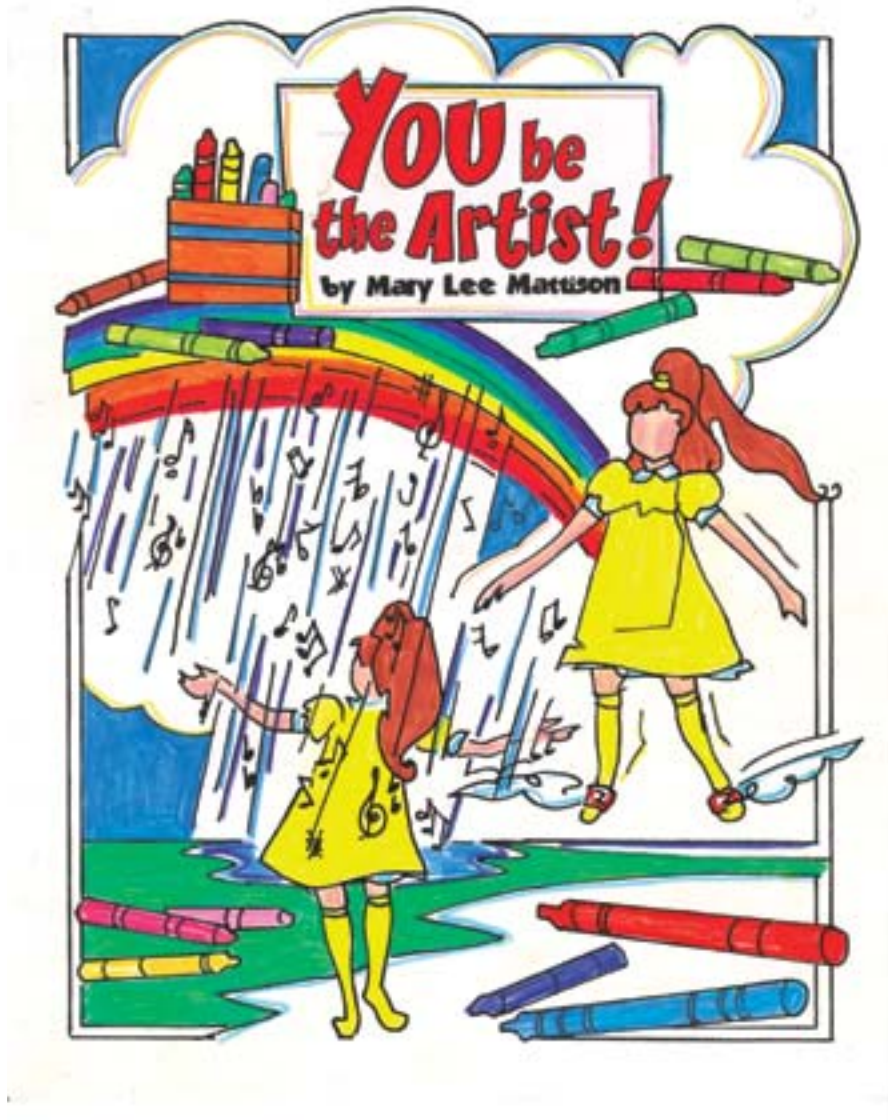
# YOU be the Artist!

by Mary Lee Mattison









## **You be the Artist©**

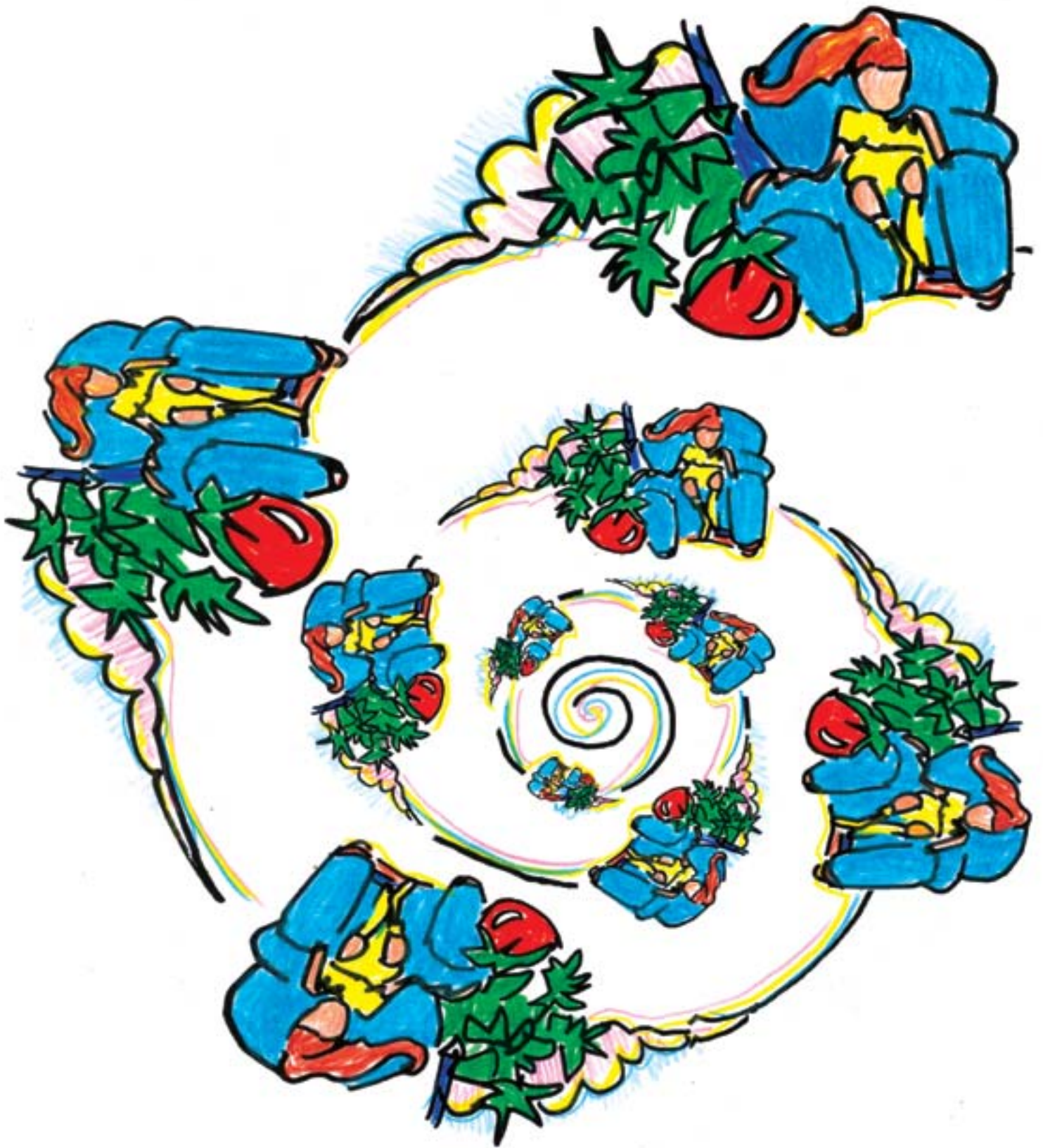
Written & Illustrated by Mary Lee Mattison  
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Imagination is the Key ~  
Engaging Books for Creative Kids©

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[www.theartfairy.com](http://www.theartfairy.com)  
[www.maryleemattison.com](http://www.maryleemattison.com)







Do you ever get bored  
when there's nothing to do,  
and there's no one to play with?  
I've felt like that too!



Your mom says,  
“No T.V.  
*No Video Games!*”

She wants  
you to  
play **quietly**  
while  
she entertains.



Outside it's raining,  
or it's *too* hot,  
or *too* cold.

Maybe you've been out  
for hours and must,  
"*Stay in now*"  
you're told.

You've eaten your lunch.  
You're too big for a nap!

So you just stare out  
the  
window  
like  
your  
house  
is  
a  
trap!



You may think that you're stuck here.

But no....That's not so.



Come with me and I'll show you.





You can do anything.  
You can be anywhere.  
You just need crayons and paper  
And your thoughts...and you're **there!**

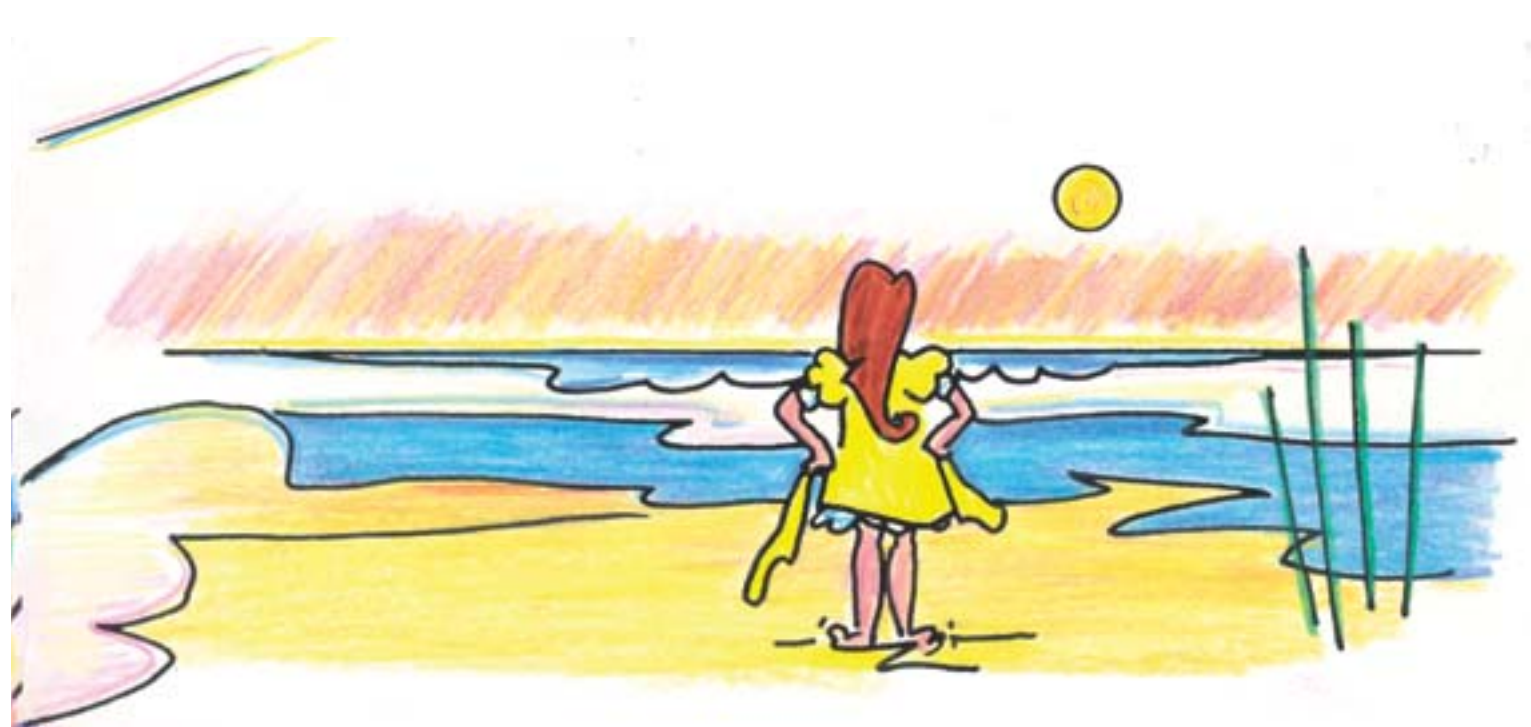
Ta Da!

You can sing on a mountaintop high in clouds.

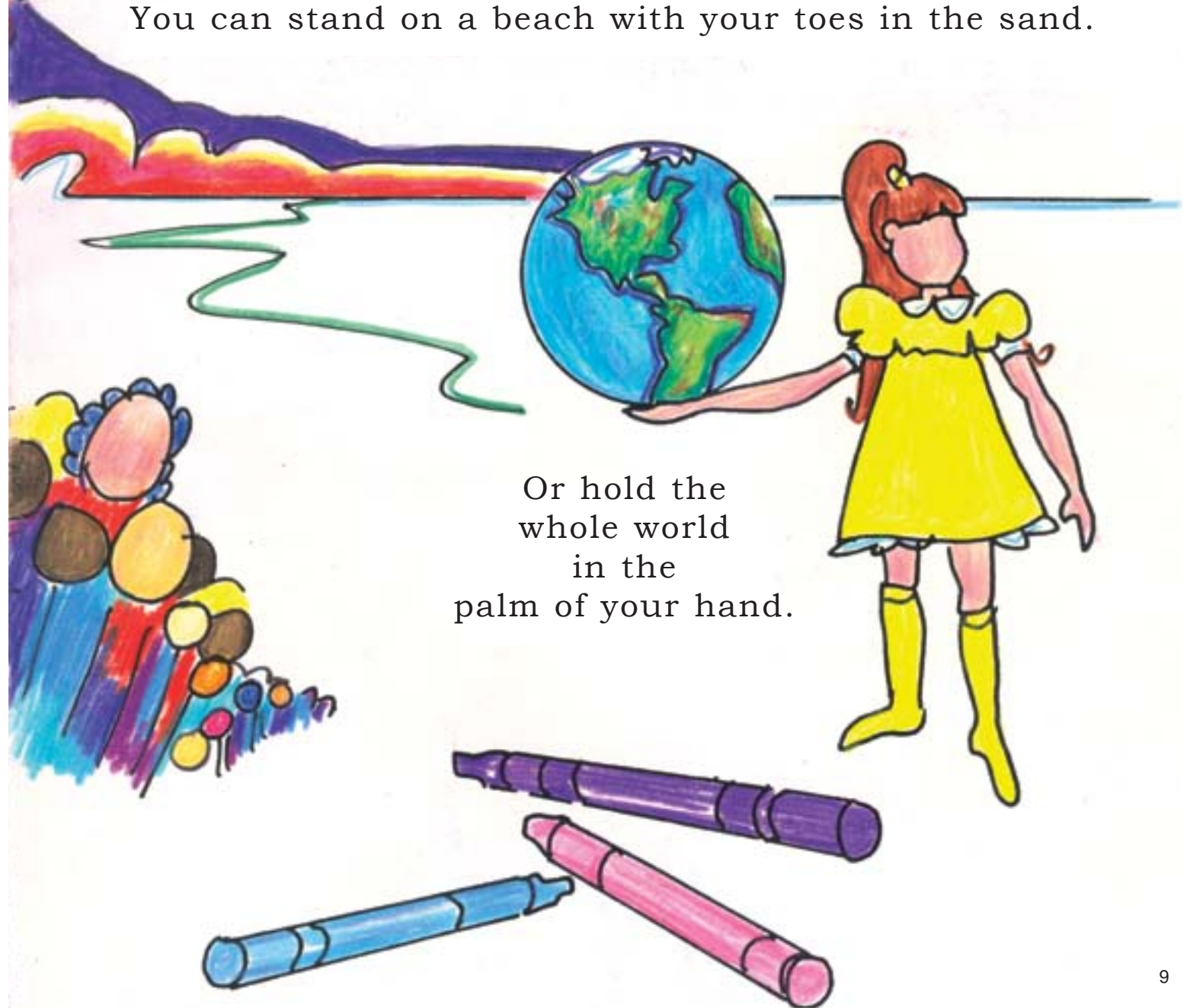
You can be all alone.



Or be part of a crowd.



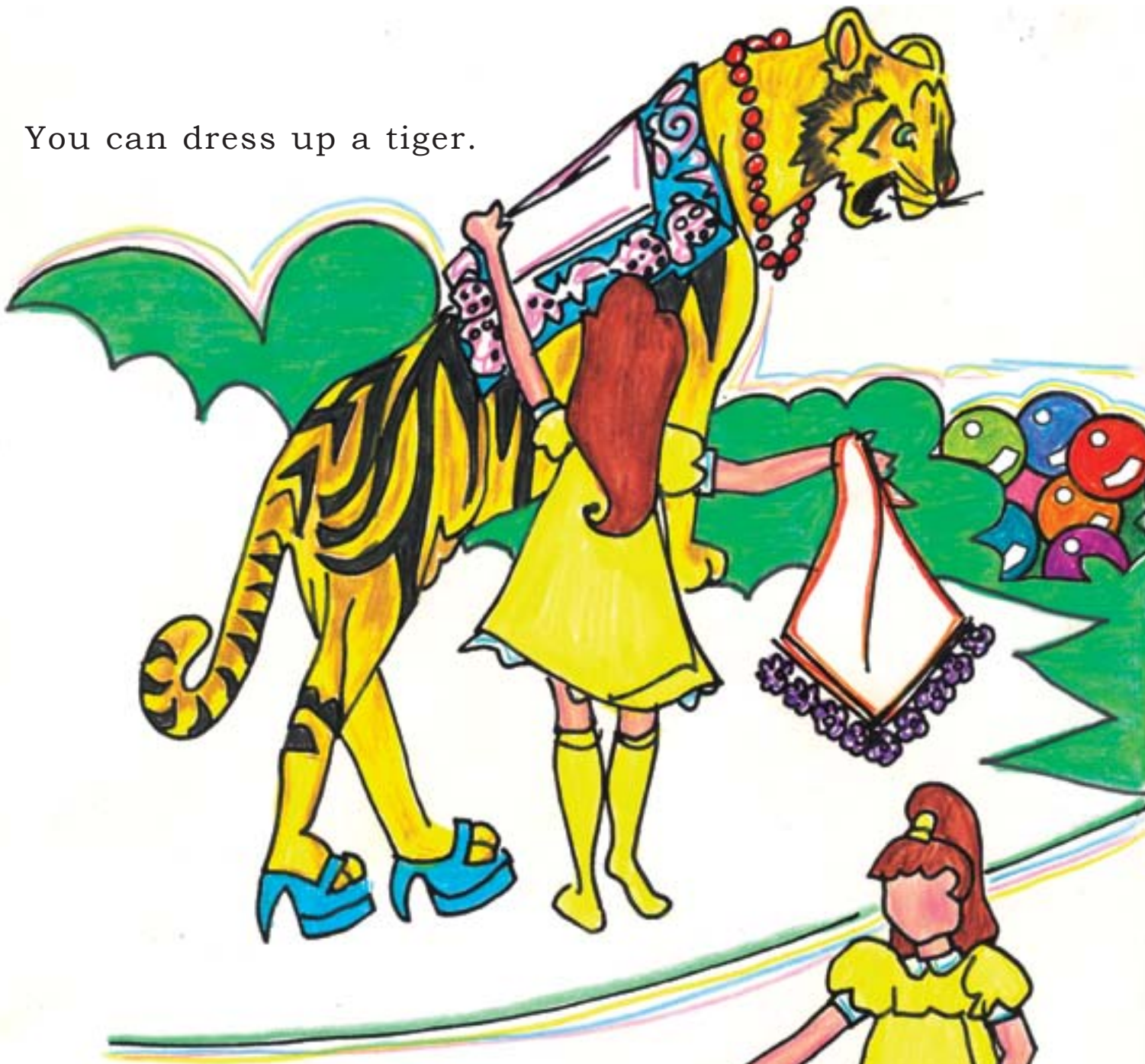
You can stand on a beach with your toes in the sand.



Or hold the  
whole world  
in the  
palm of your hand.



You can dress up a tiger.

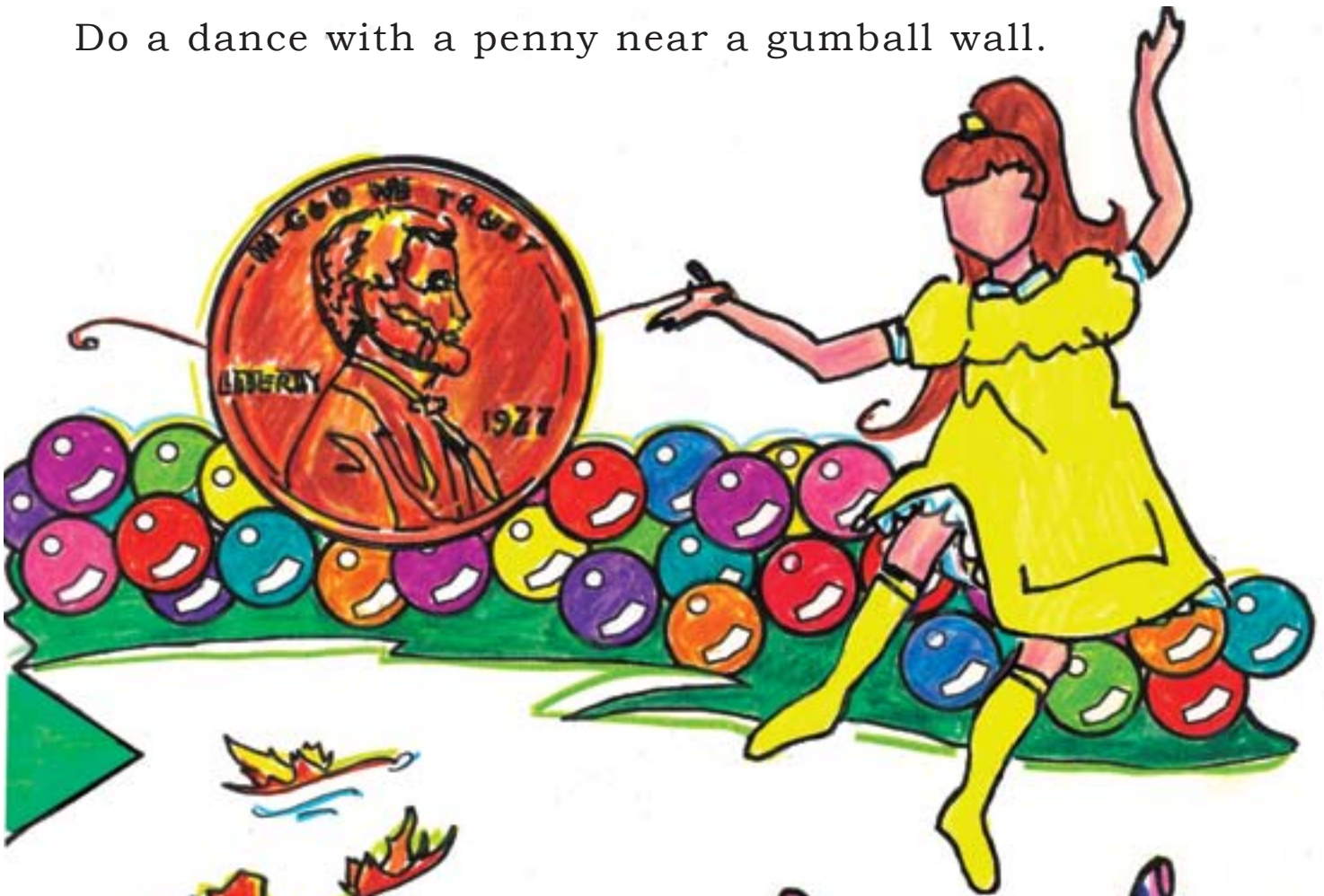


You can make elephants small.





Do a dance with a penny near a gumball wall.



Catch a  
red and gold leaf  
and take a wild Autumn ride.



Or plant trees that grow feathers.  
You can decide.





You can paint icebergs in Egypt.

You can sit on the moon.





Soar to an upside-down town,

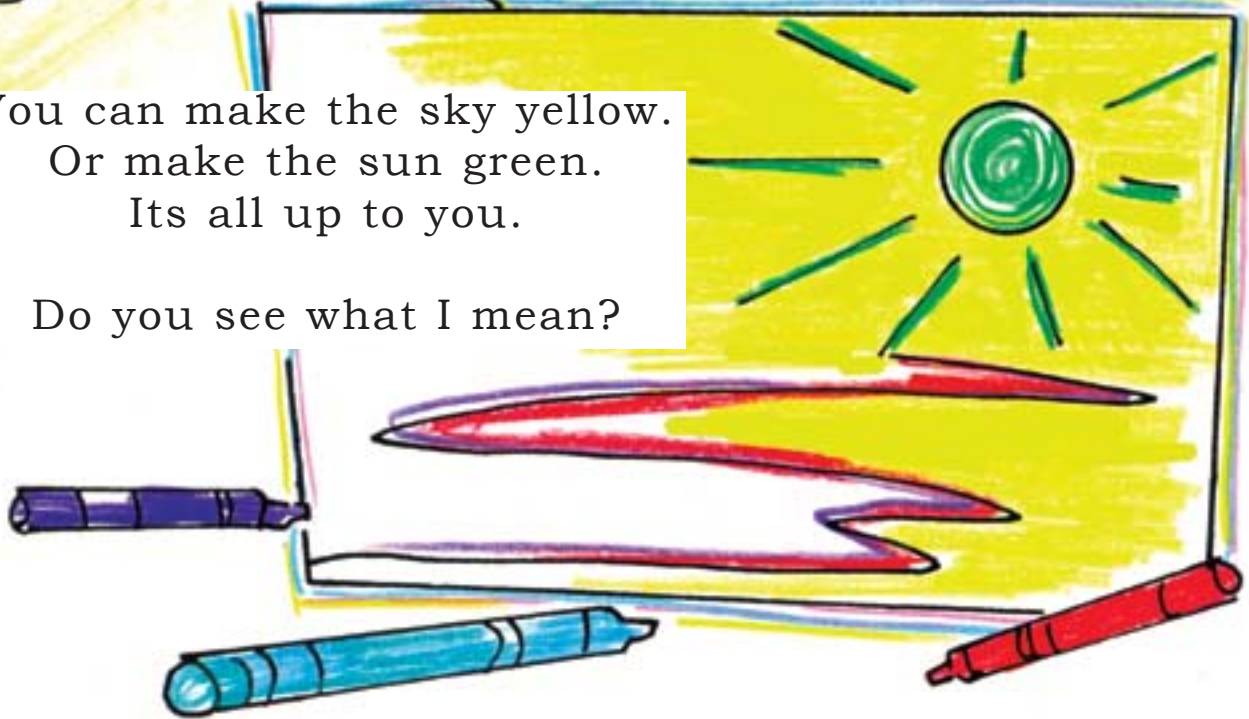


then build a snowman in June.



You can make the sky yellow.  
Or make the sun green.  
Its all up to you.

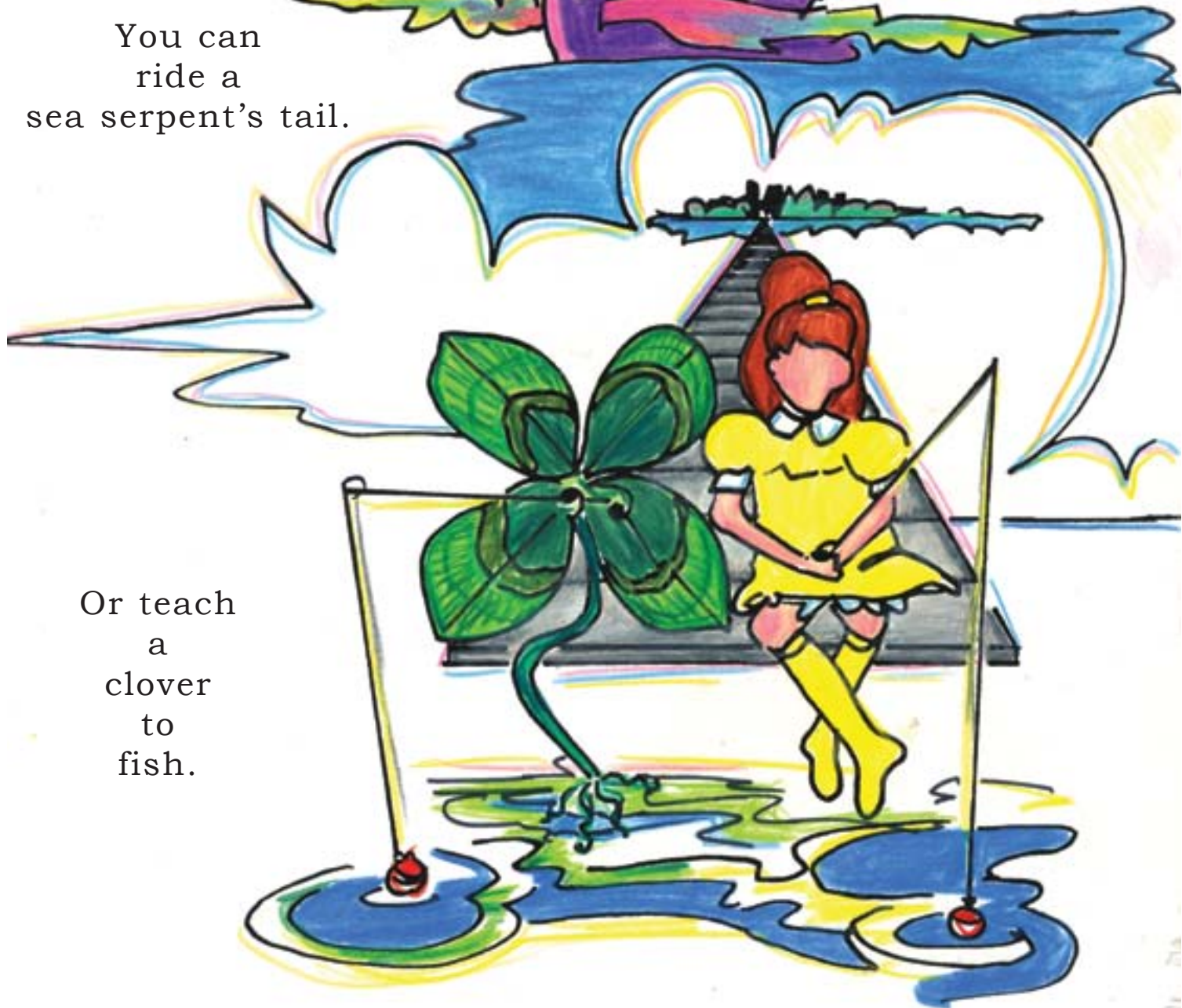
Do you see what I mean?







You can  
ride a  
sea serpent's tail.



Or teach  
a  
clover  
to  
fish.





Or...  
pretend  
that  
your chair  
is sweet  
licorice.

Art can't be right or wrong.  
It doesn't have to look real.



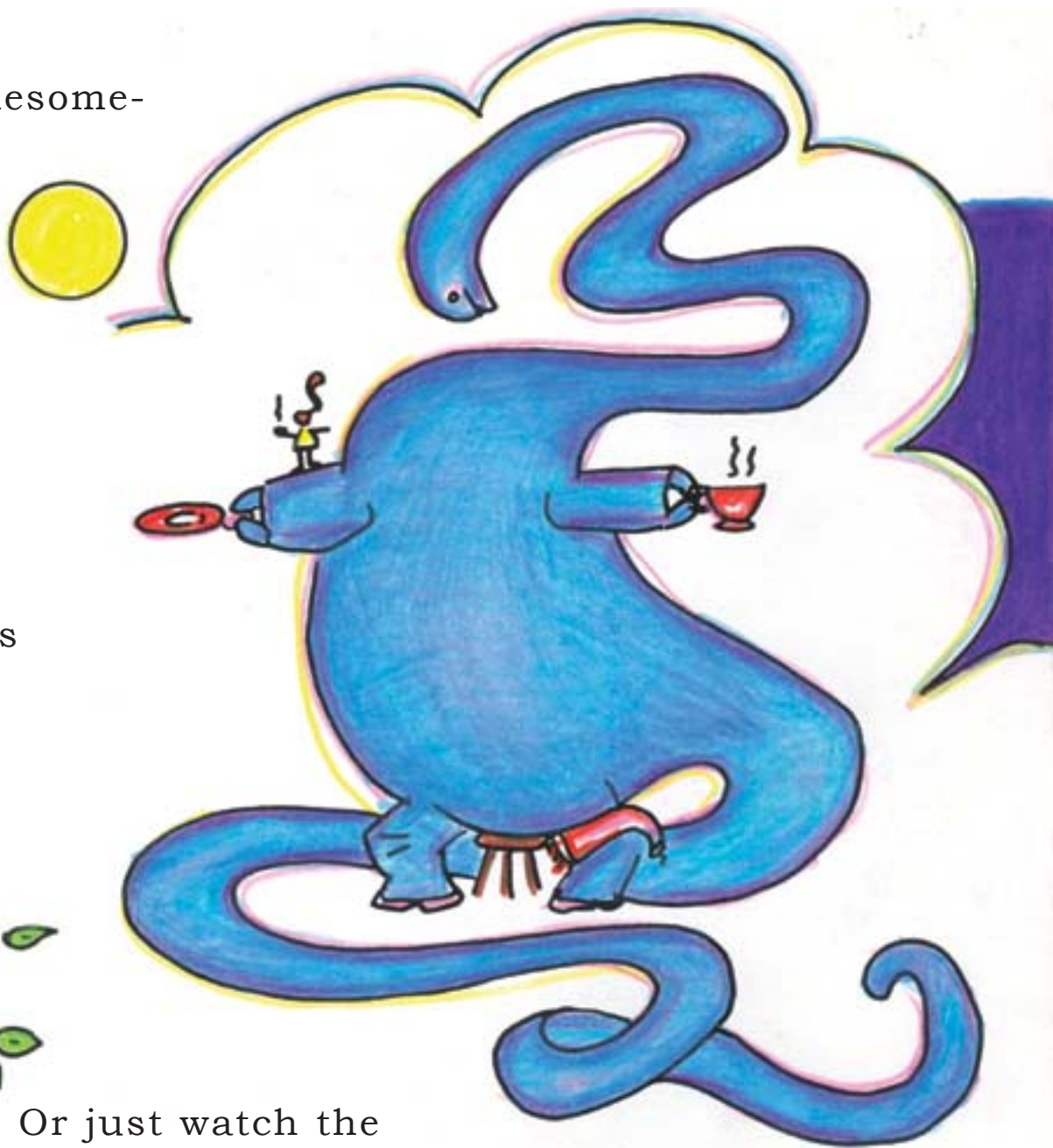
Draw  
a  
whole  
page  
purple,  
If  
that's  
how  
you  
feel.



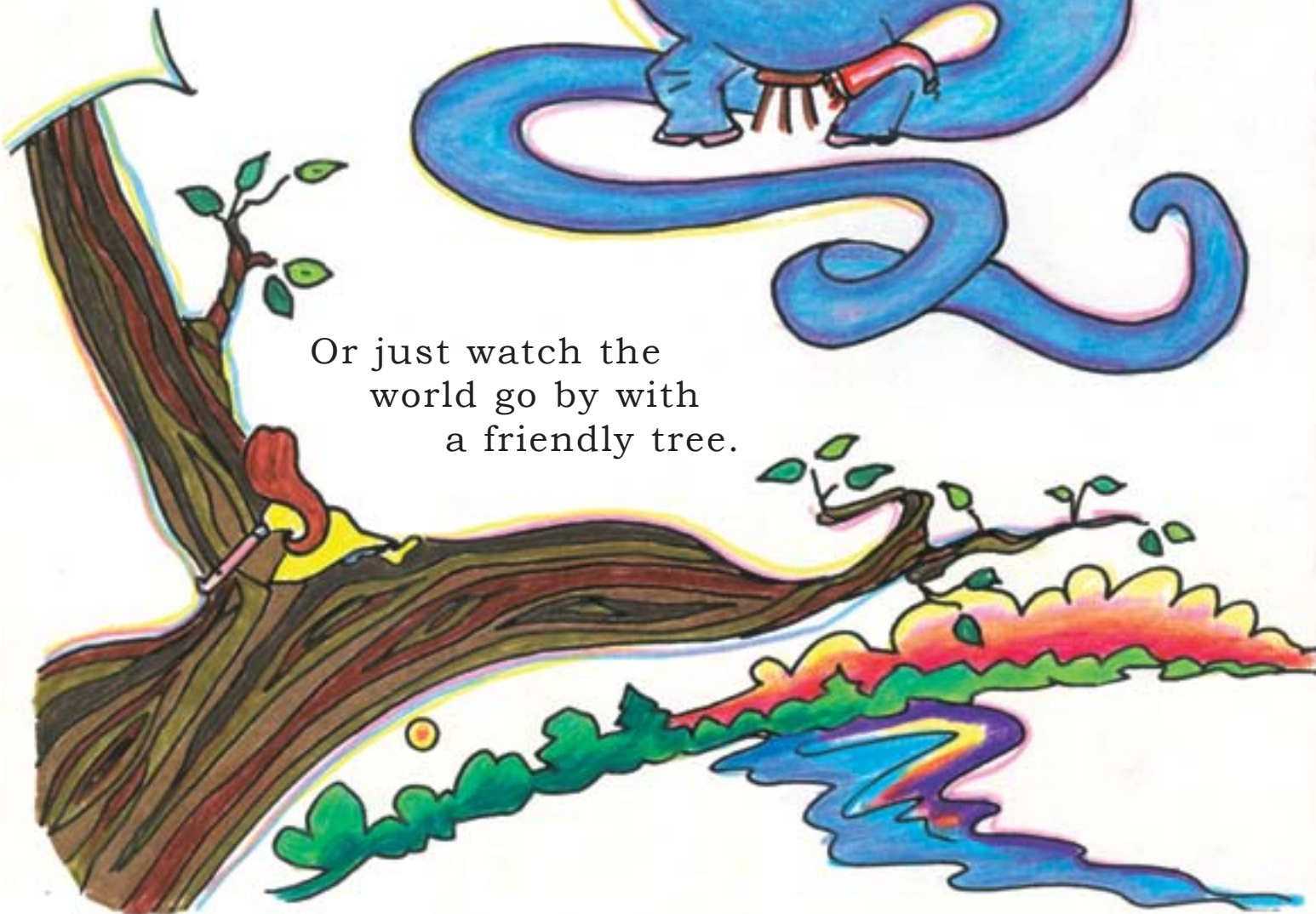
If you get lonesome-

Draw up  
some  
huge  
company.

Perhaps-  
you could  
invite  
a polite  
brontosaurus  
to tea?

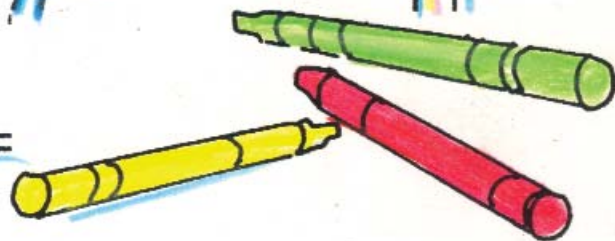


Or just watch the  
world go by with  
a friendly tree.



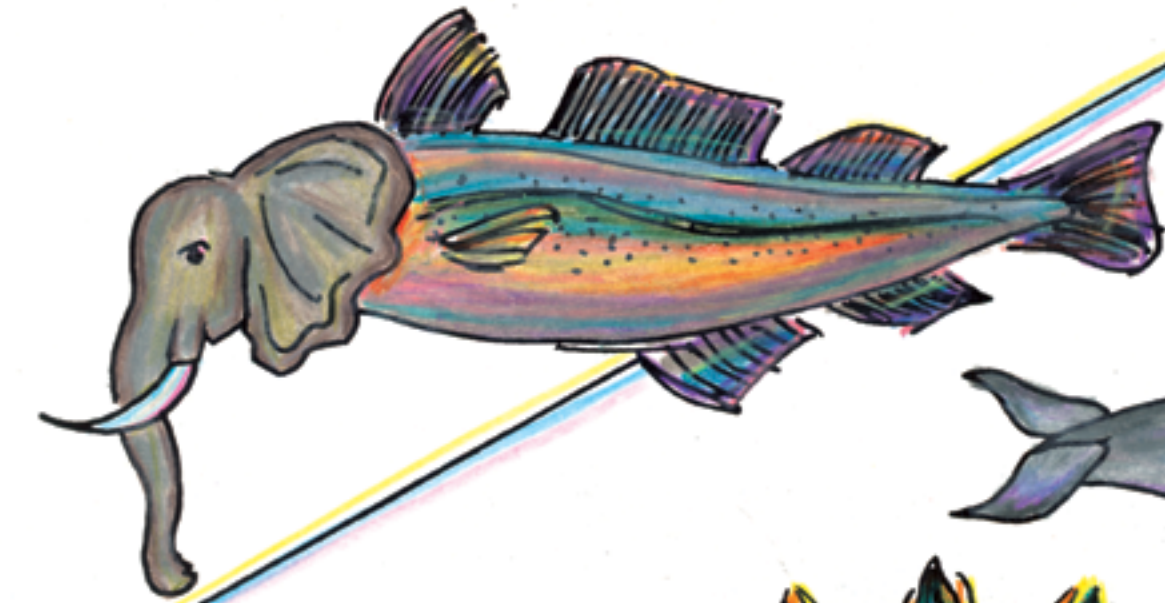


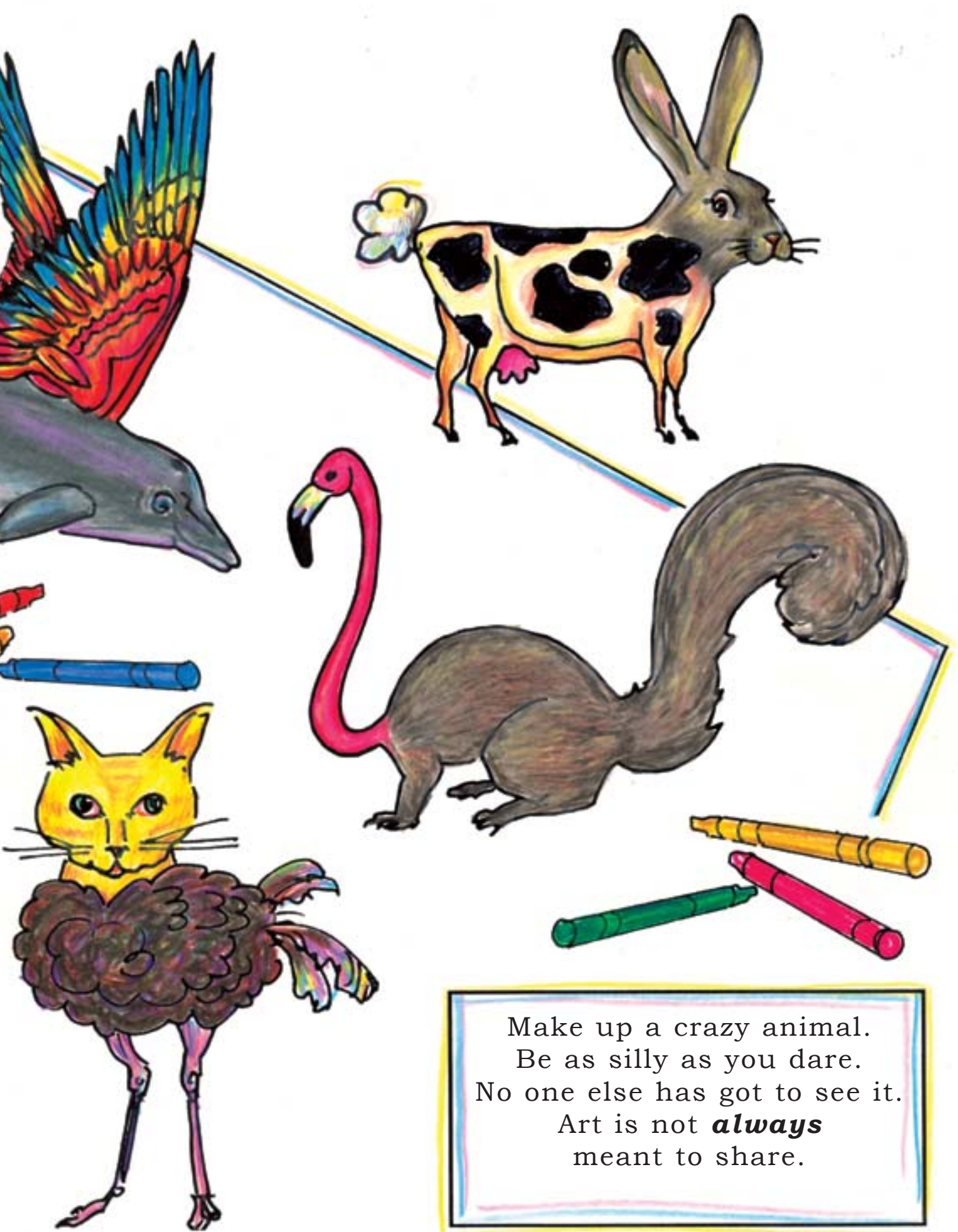
Take your book and **s t r e t c h** out on a popcorn cloud.



If that's too quiet?  
Color up the whole room till it's **NOISY AND LOUD !!!**







Make up a crazy animal.  
Be as silly as you dare.  
No one else has got to see it.  
Art is not **always**  
meant to share.



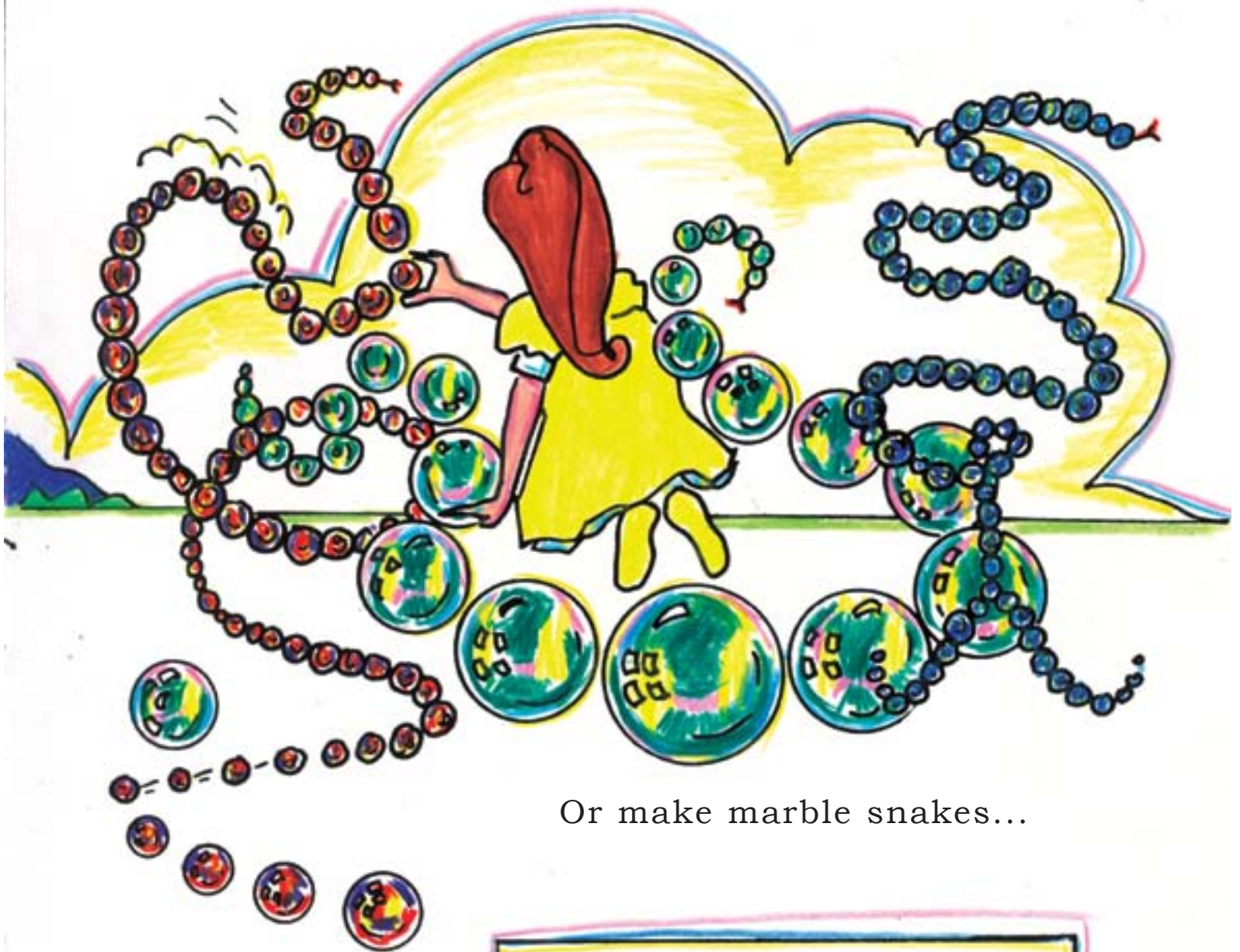


For a smile- Bake a mile-high, birthday cake...cake

To cool off-  
Take a break on a soft, snowflake lake.

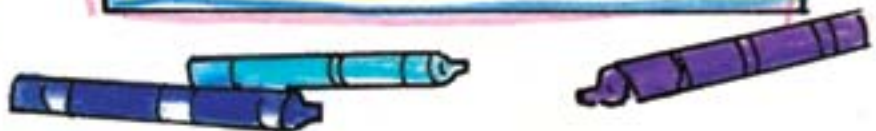






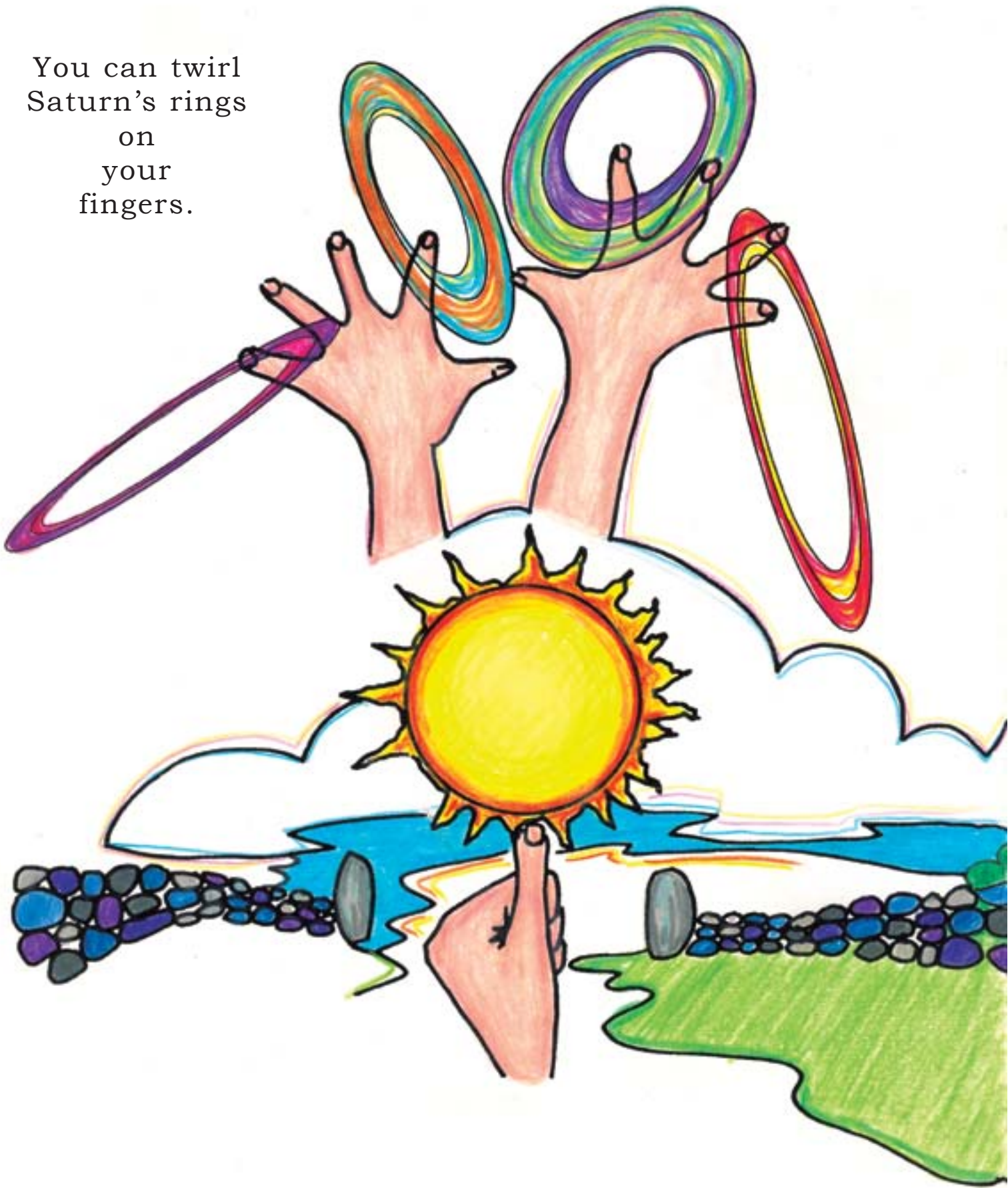
Or make marble snakes...

Don't worry  
how it comes out.  
In Art-  
You just  
can't  
make mistakes.



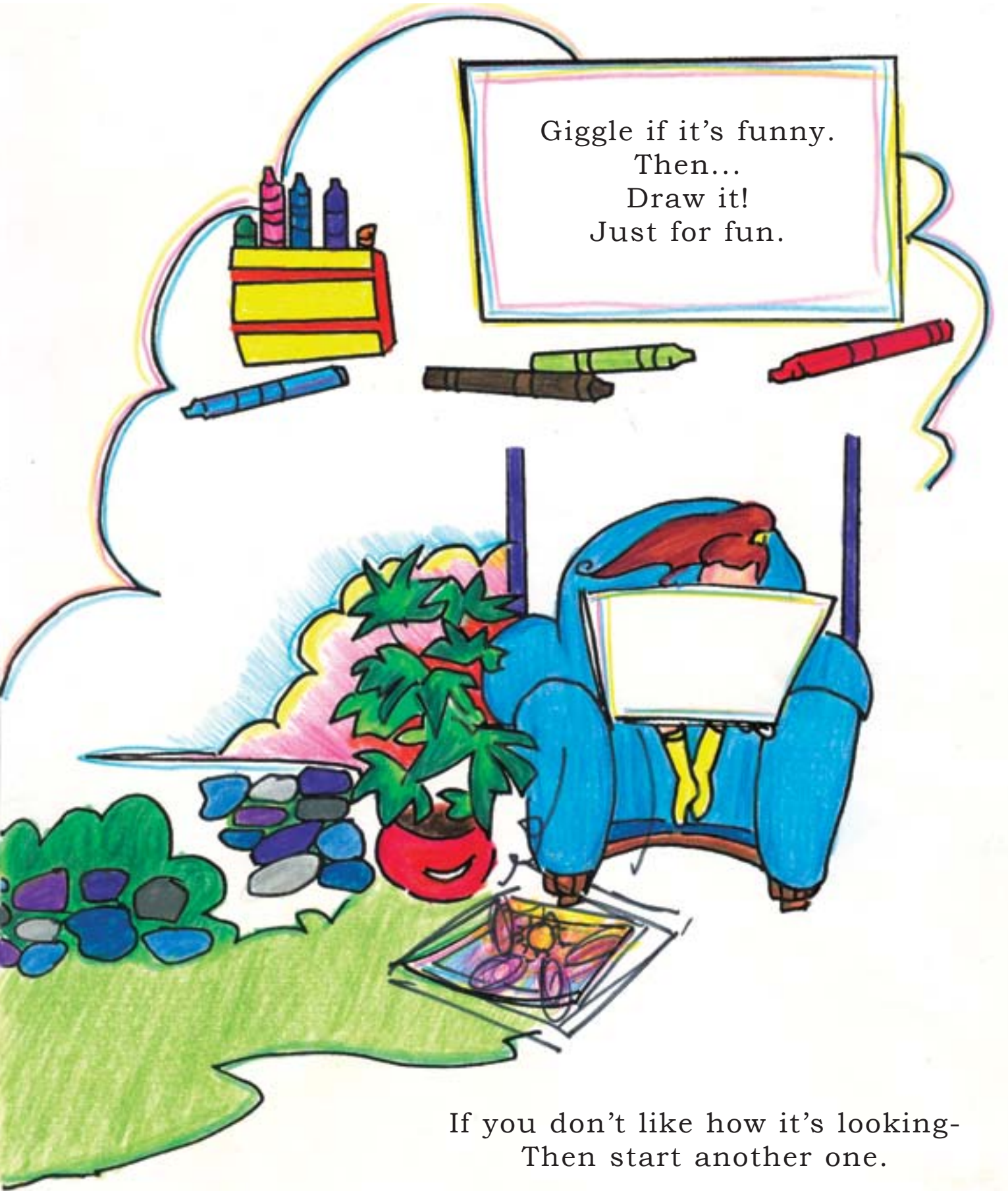


You can twirl  
Saturn's rings  
on  
your  
fingers.



Balance the sun on your thumb.

Giggle if it's funny.  
Then...  
Draw it!  
Just for fun.



If you don't like how it's looking-  
Then start another one.





Picture a place  
you'd like to visit.  
Think up some things you'd  
like to be.





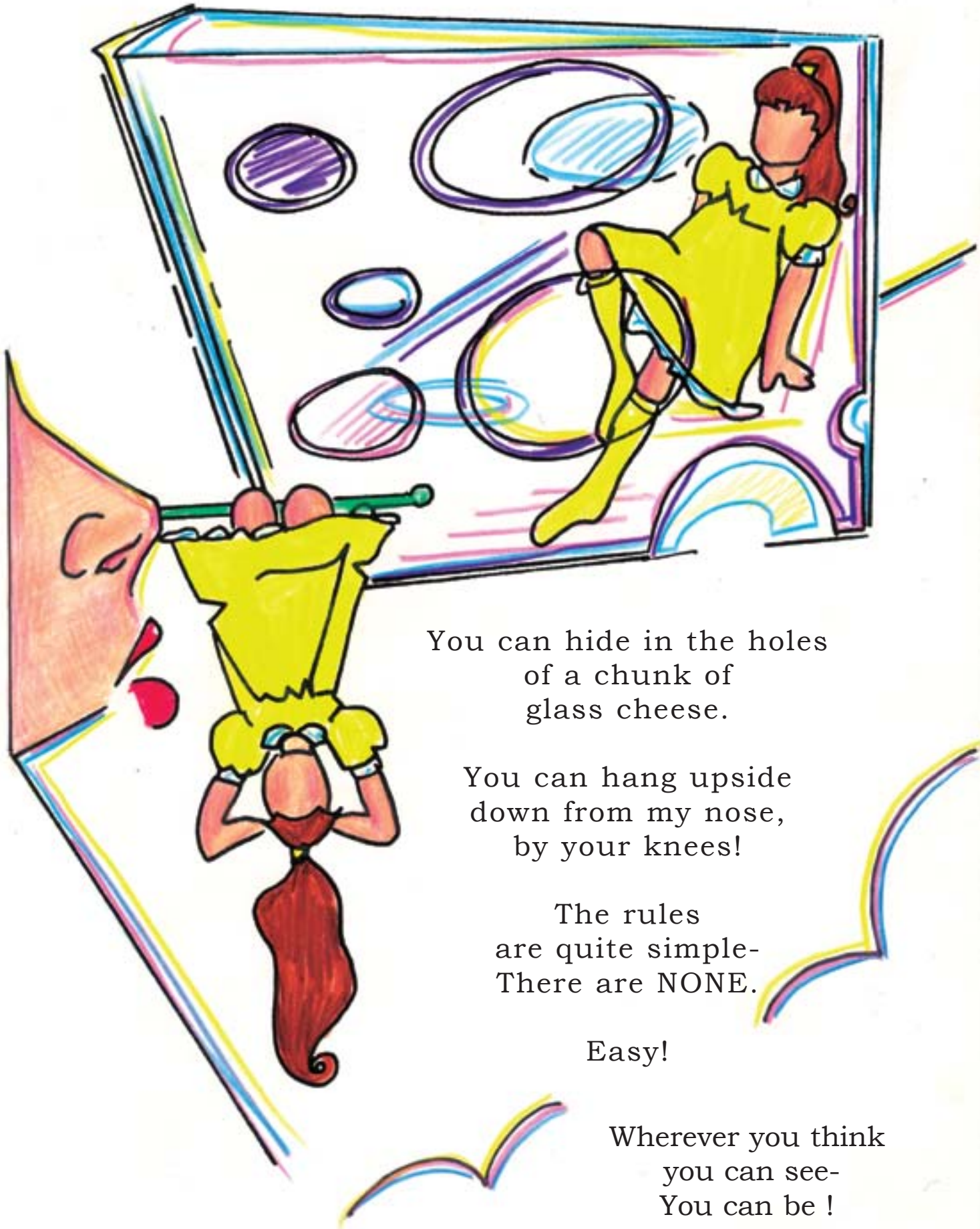


To  
unlock  
the  
door  
to  
Make-Believe

***Imagination*** is  
The **KEY**.







You can hide in the holes  
of a chunk of  
glass cheese.

You can hang upside  
down from my nose,  
by your knees!

The rules  
are quite simple-  
There are NONE.

Easy!

Wherever you think  
you can see-  
You can be !

**YOU be the ARTIST-**  
You can open that door.  
Let in all the Wonders.  
That's what they're  
there for!



You can ski  
down a bubble,  
if  
that's  
what  
you'd like.

Or ride the Double Crowns  
Triple-

With no hands  
...on your bike !!







You can try shoes that fly.



You can have a pet jet.



Or make it rain Music!  
Do you get the trick yet?

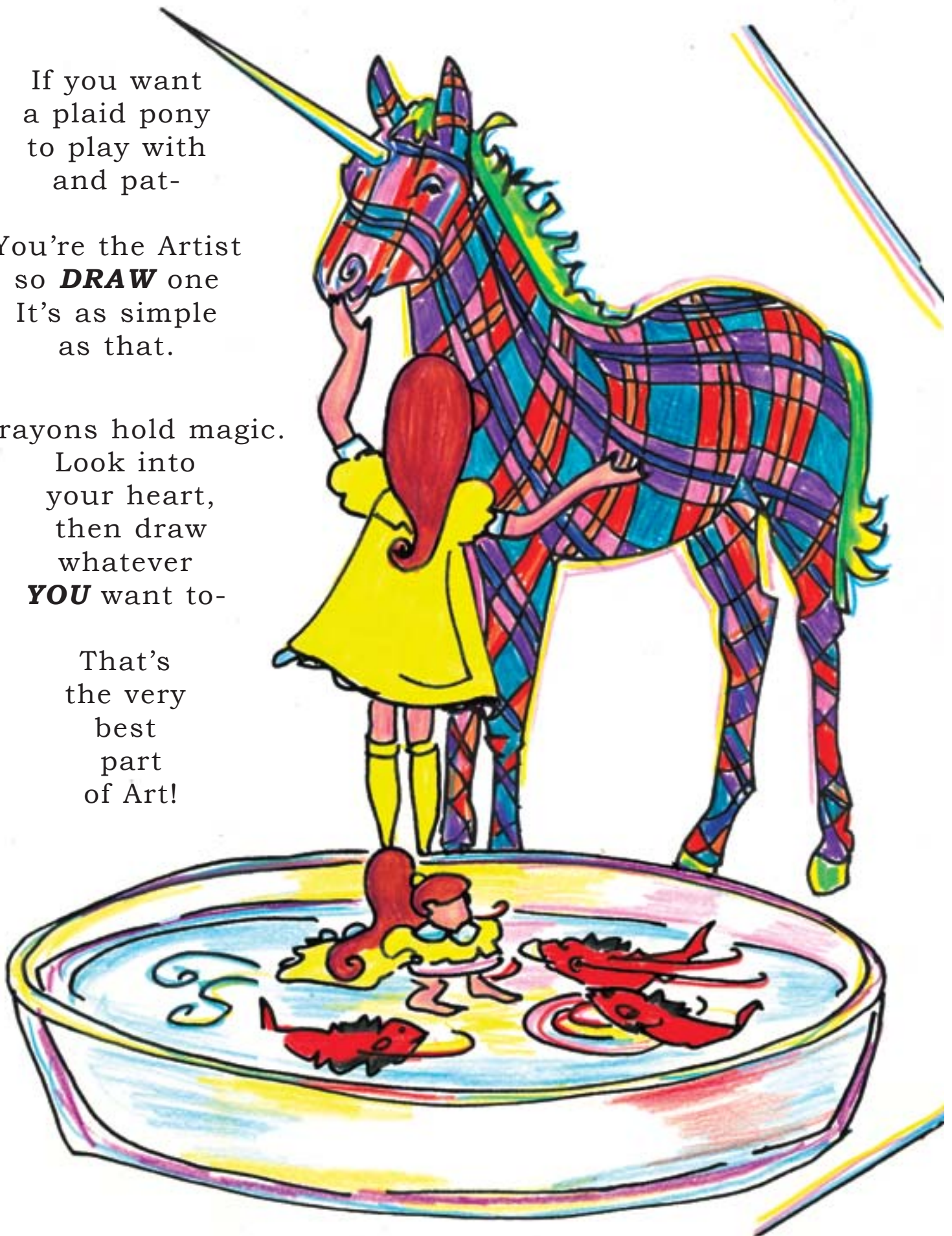


If you want  
a plaid pony  
to play with  
and pat-

You're the Artist  
so **DRAW** one  
It's as simple  
as that.

Crayons hold magic.  
Look into  
your heart,  
then draw  
whatever  
**YOU** want to-

That's  
the very  
best  
part  
of Art!



So the next time you think you have nothing to do-  
because there's no one to play with-

You'll know that's not true...



With just crayons and paper and however you feel...





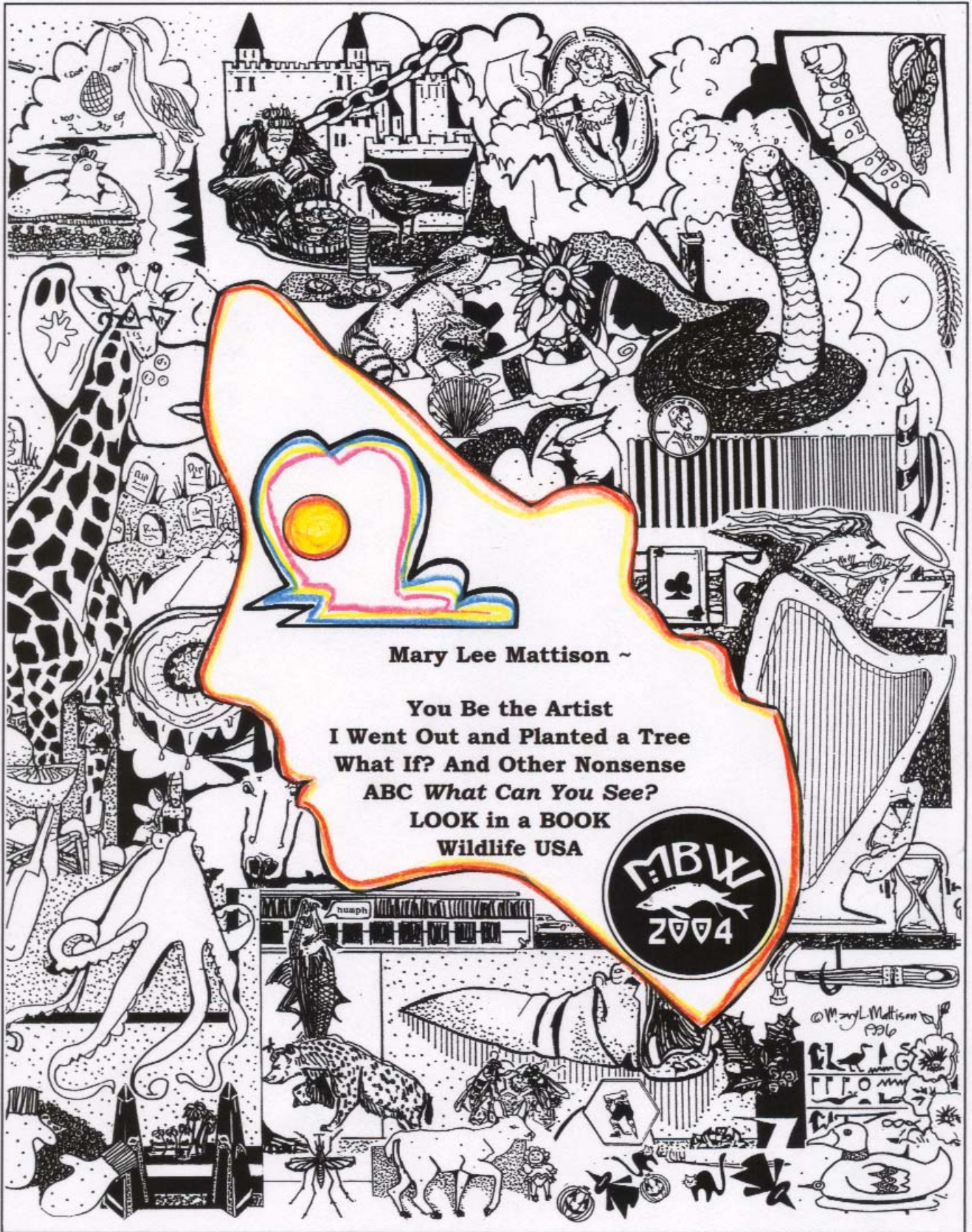


**The End**

...Of *my* story now  
**You be the Artist!**

*The*  
**ART**  
*Fairy*





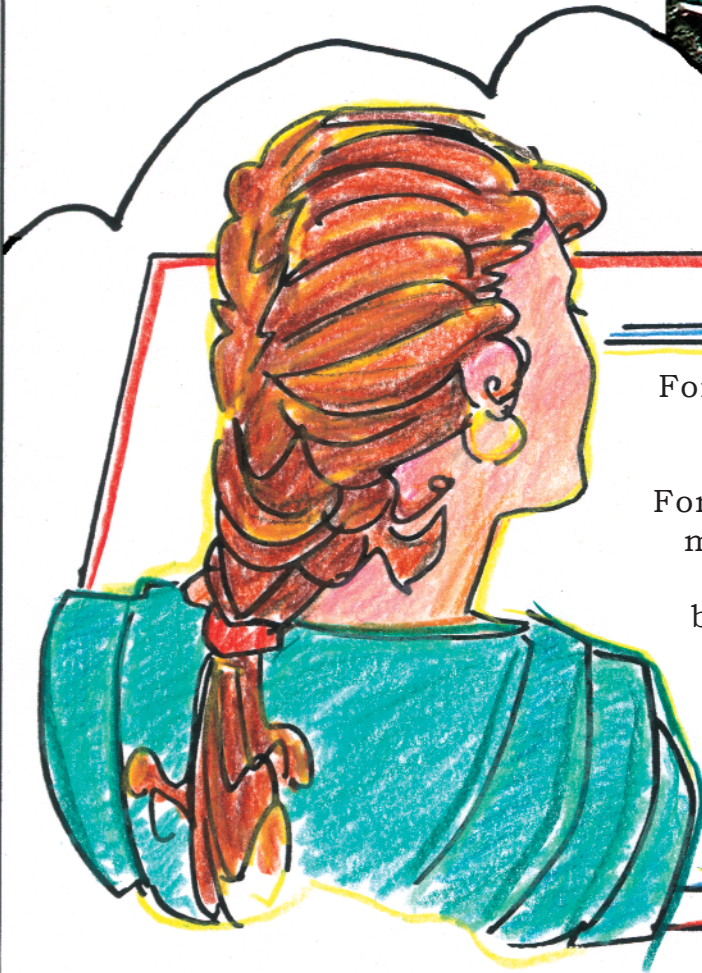
Mary Lee Mattison ~

**You Be the Artist**  
**I Went Out and Planted a Tree**  
**What If? And Other Nonsense**  
**ABC What Can You See?**  
**LOOK in a BOOK**  
**Wildlife USA**



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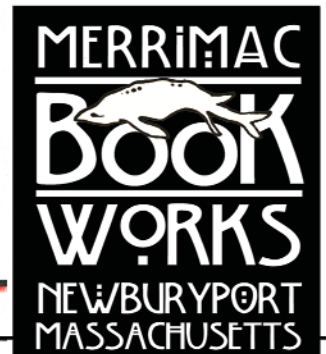




For My Sweet Tessa ~  
and Mother.

For Hannah & Rachel,  
my favorite nieces.  
For my many  
brilliant nephews.

...and for all you  
Budding  
Artists  
out there!

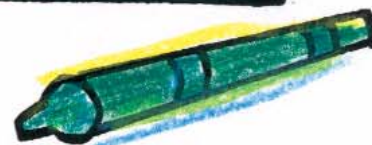
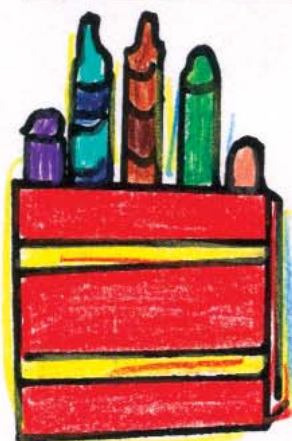




**You be the Artist**  
encourages activity and celebrates the boundless possibilities created by looking at the ordinary world in new and unusual, sometimes downright silly ways.

New England artist Mary Lee Mattison inspires children to explore their creativity via an outrageous sense of humor, whimsical illustrations and wild imagination. She is known locally as **The Art Fairy** for giving out free boxes of crayons and original drawings to color.

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ISBN

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Early Reader 5 to 8 years.



