

**National Youth Foundation** *Presents:*

# *I Wish*



**Coopertown Elementary School**  
**Project Coordinator: Kate Koegel**

**Written and Illustrated by:**  
**LYDIA S. ABIGAIL O. BRENN A F.**

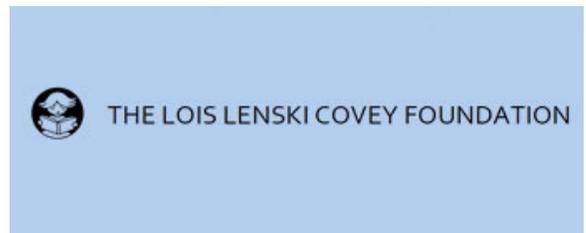
---

# 2017

---

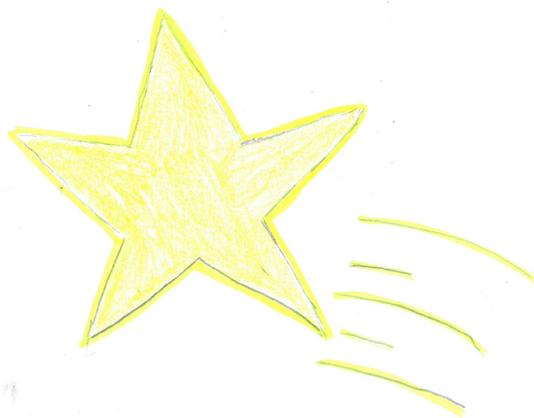
## Youth Writers Workshop Sponsors

---



*I wish I was treated better. This didn't happen at my old school in China. At my new school, they went too far. They made fun of my glasses. They made fun of my clothes and hair. They made fun of my nationality.... They made fun of me. But I was lucky. There were people that stood by me, with me and for me.*

*I thought it was me. The second I walked into Mrs. Smith's 5th grade class, everyone stared at me. Then when the teacher walked out to talk to the principal, everybody started making faces at me, except for two girls named Amanda and Harley, so I sat with them. They said hello, and then were quiet. Then a boy named Jeff came over and made fun of my glasses. He called me four eyes. "Stop," I said. Then it got worse...*



Treat people now you want  
to be treated.



# SMART COOKIES

Amanda Jeff

Harley

Alexis

Lucas

Katie

Charley

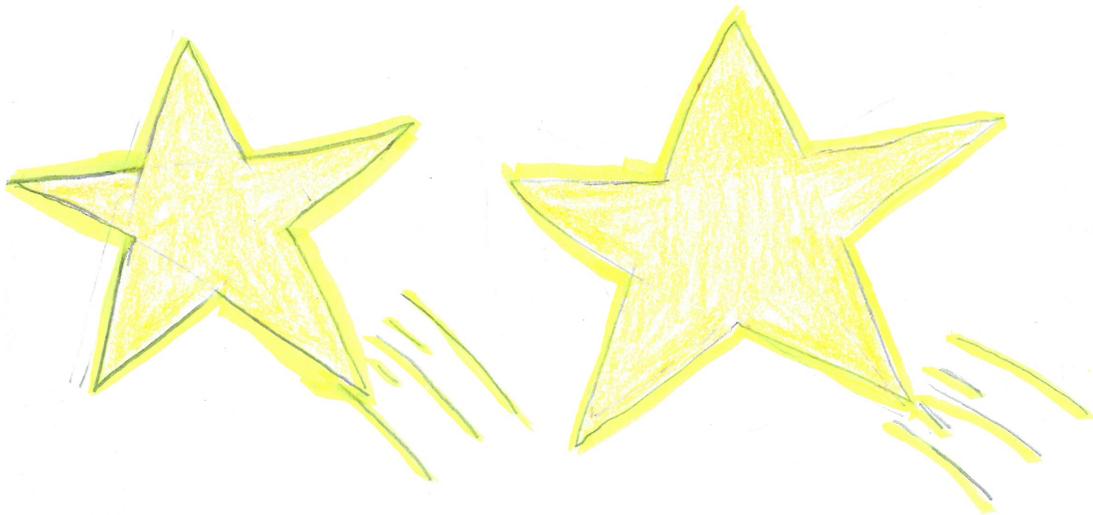
Jeri

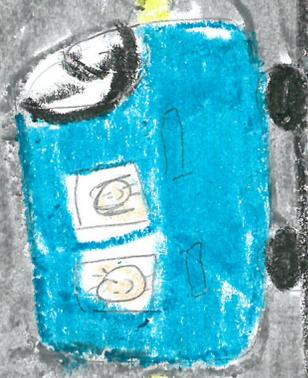
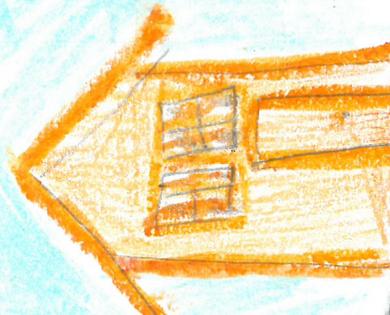
Mia

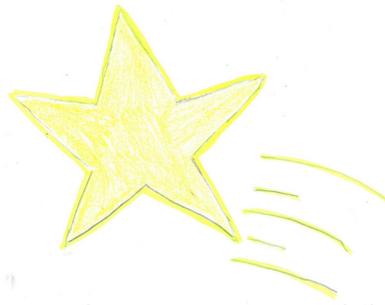
Ella

*He heard my accent and made fun of it. He walked away and started laughing about it with his friends. At that moment, I wished that the floor would open and swallow me whole.*

*Later that afternoon, when I arrived at my house after being tortured on the bus, my mom asked me how my first day at my new school went... I looked down and didn't answer. I then walked up to my room and started to cry. "This is so unfair," I thought, as I silently cried myself to sleep.*

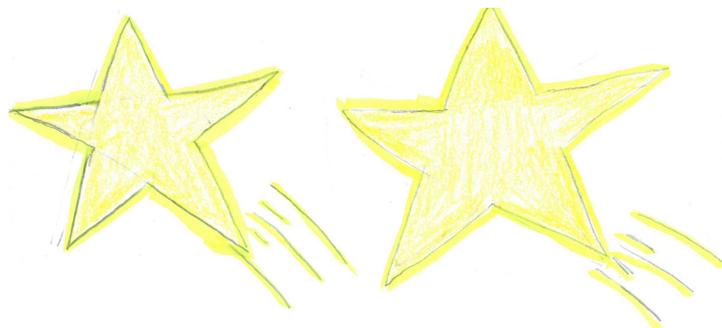


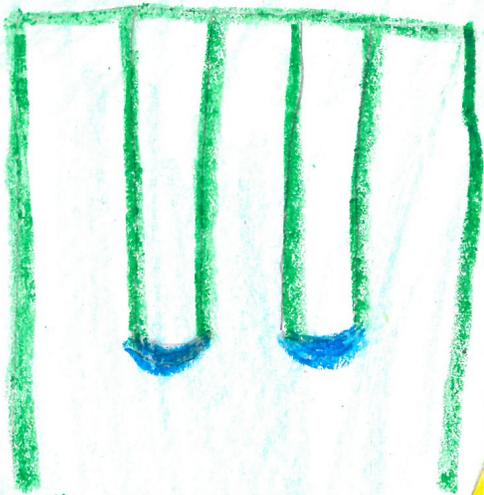
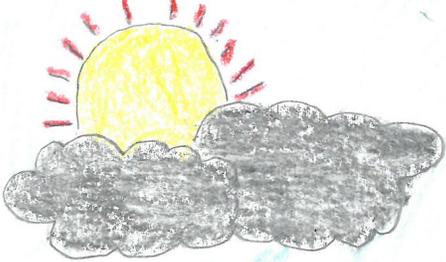




The next day, I woke up and got prepared for the next day of embarrassment at school. Right when I got on the bus, it was yesterday all over again. Kids were shoving me around and calling me names. About two hours later, it was recess. Jeff and his friends (aka “the cool kids”) were playing kickball on the field. Then, while I was playing jump rope by myself, Jeff came up to me and asked, “Do you want to play?” “Sure,” I said with excitement. “Okay, you go play on the playground by yourself, and afterwards, I’ll teach you about a little something called sarcasm,” he said in a jeering voice. “STOP,” said a voice in the background. It’s Amanda and Harley!

Harley said, “She’s not going to be playing all by herself, she will be playing with Amanda, Eliza and me, and we will be playing something much better than kickball.” “Let’s go,” said Harley. “Thanks for doing that guys,” I said. “No problem, plus Jeff doesn’t know what he’s talking about,” said Amanda.





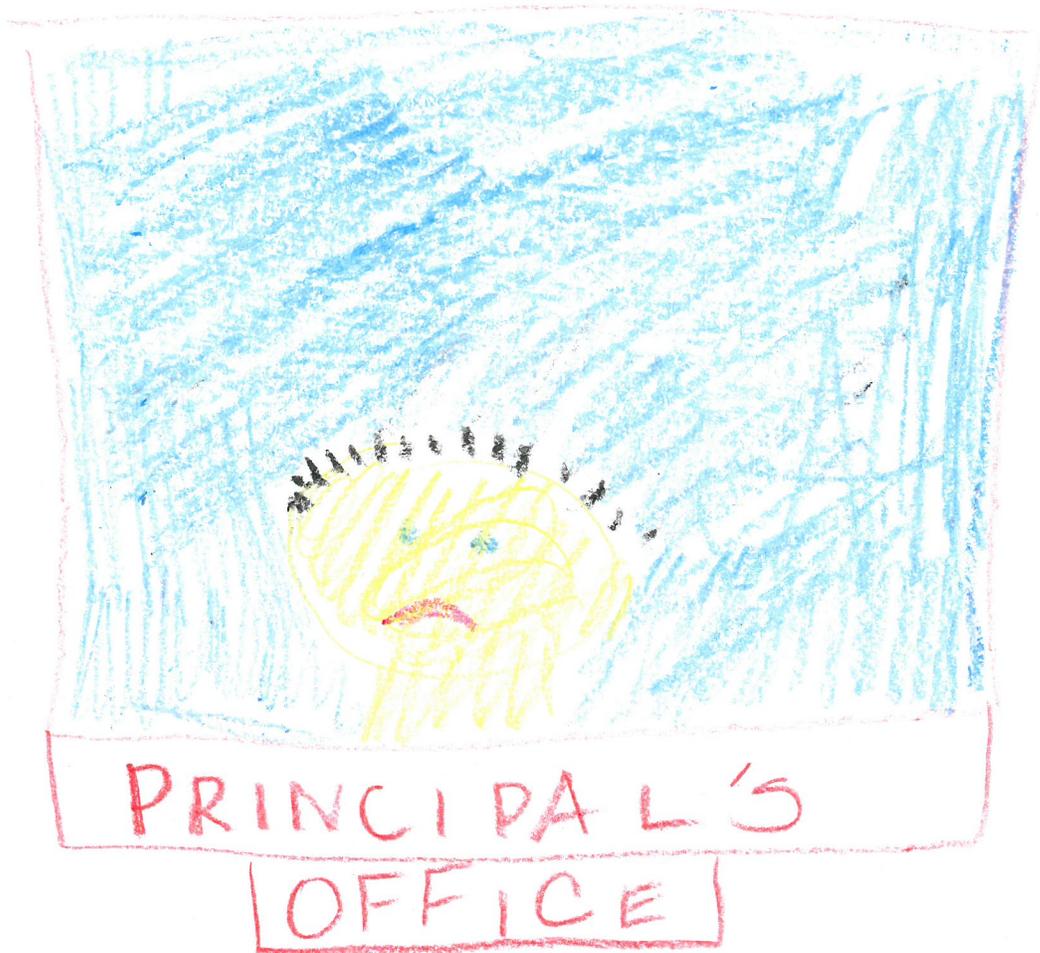
“Now, what are we going to play?”, I asked. “I don’t know. How about... tag, you’re it!”, Eliza screamed. Then the day started to get better – people stood by me. When I got home, Mom asked me how my day at school was, and this time I answered, “It was great.” “I’m so glad to hear that.... Hey, why don’t I make some egg tarts to celebrate!”, said mom. Mom and I ate dinner, then we ate dessert. When it was time for bed, I said something I never thought I would say about the next day at my new school, “I can’t wait for school tomorrow.” I went to bed, and the next morning I got up and rushed to get dressed, to eat and brush my teeth and ran to the bus stop. I got on the bus and, before I knew it, I was at school. I yelled “hi” to Amanda, Harley and Eliza and immediately started a conversation and started having a great time... until Jeff came over.





“Hey four-eyes!” Oh, no, it’s him again. “Can you not?”, said Amanda. “And just why should I listen to you?”, he said to Amanda. “Because, if you don’t, a little someone will get Ms. Smith into this classroom,” another group of kids came over and said. All of a sudden, I feel a sudden rush of panic that they will make fun of me. “Be quiet, Jeff!”, said a boy from the new group. “What are you talking about, Lucas?”, said Jeff. “I thought you were done making fun of people, but apparently not.” He’s actually standing up for me! “You obviously don’t know me very well then,” Jeff retorted. Eventually, everybody in the grade is gathered around the big group. In the end, Jeff is put in the principal’s office for bullying me.





Children:

Jeff

Hanksman

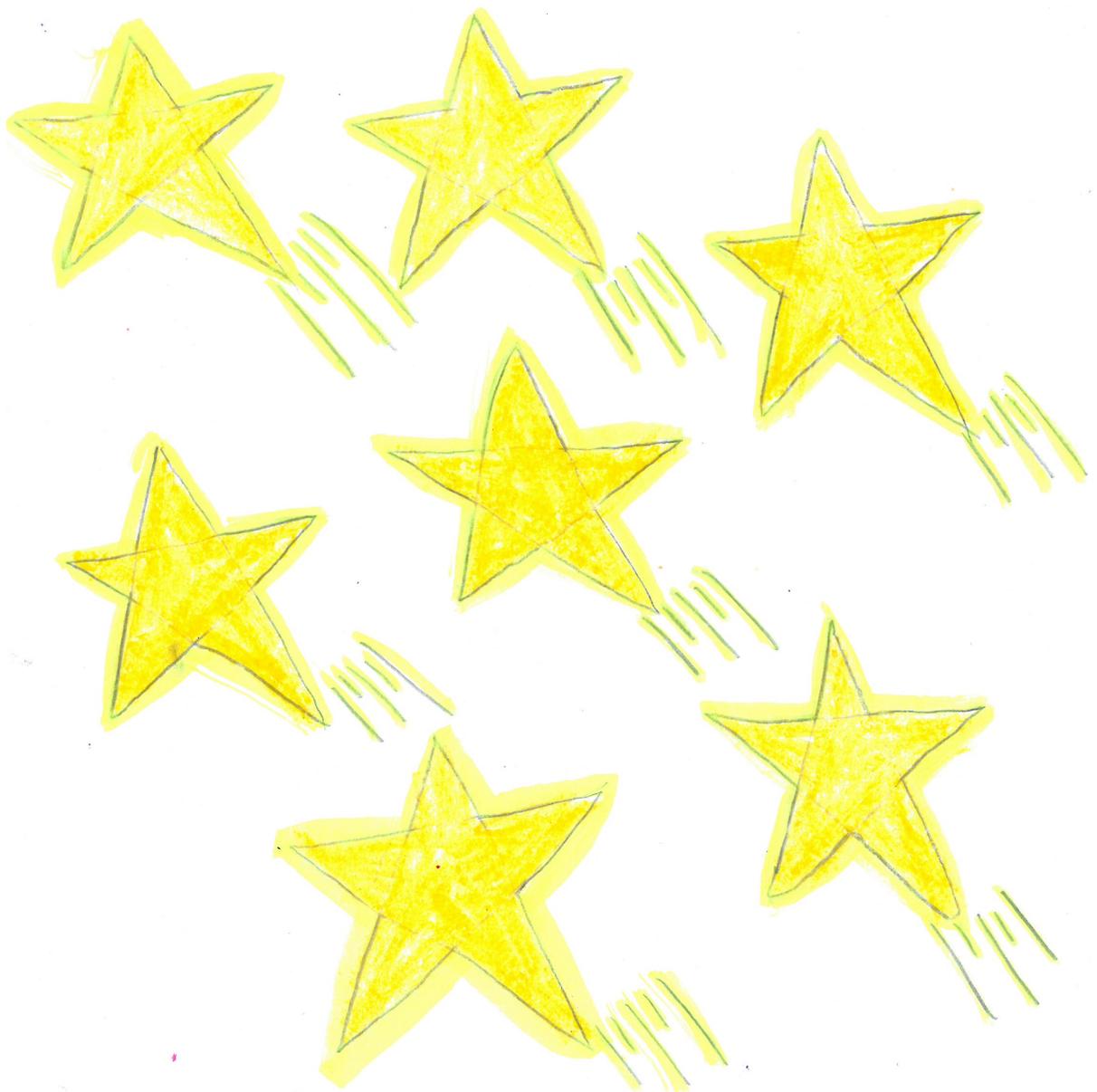


Later that afternoon, Harley asked Amanda, Eliza, and me if we wanted to come over. My first get-together with my new friends at this school, I thought to myself. "Hold on, let me call my mom first," said Amanda. "Me too," I said. So I called my mom, and she said "yes, I can come over," said Eliza. "Me too," I said at the same time as Amanda. So, we walked over to her house and knocked on the door. "Hi!", said Harley's mom.





The playdate ended up being super fun! We made ice cream and a fort and played games outside. When I got home, my mom reminded me that my birthday was coming up soon. "I should probably invite Eliza, Amanda and Harley!" I was so excited, but then I realized that I only had three friends. I felt so awkward.



Fort  
of  
a wesome



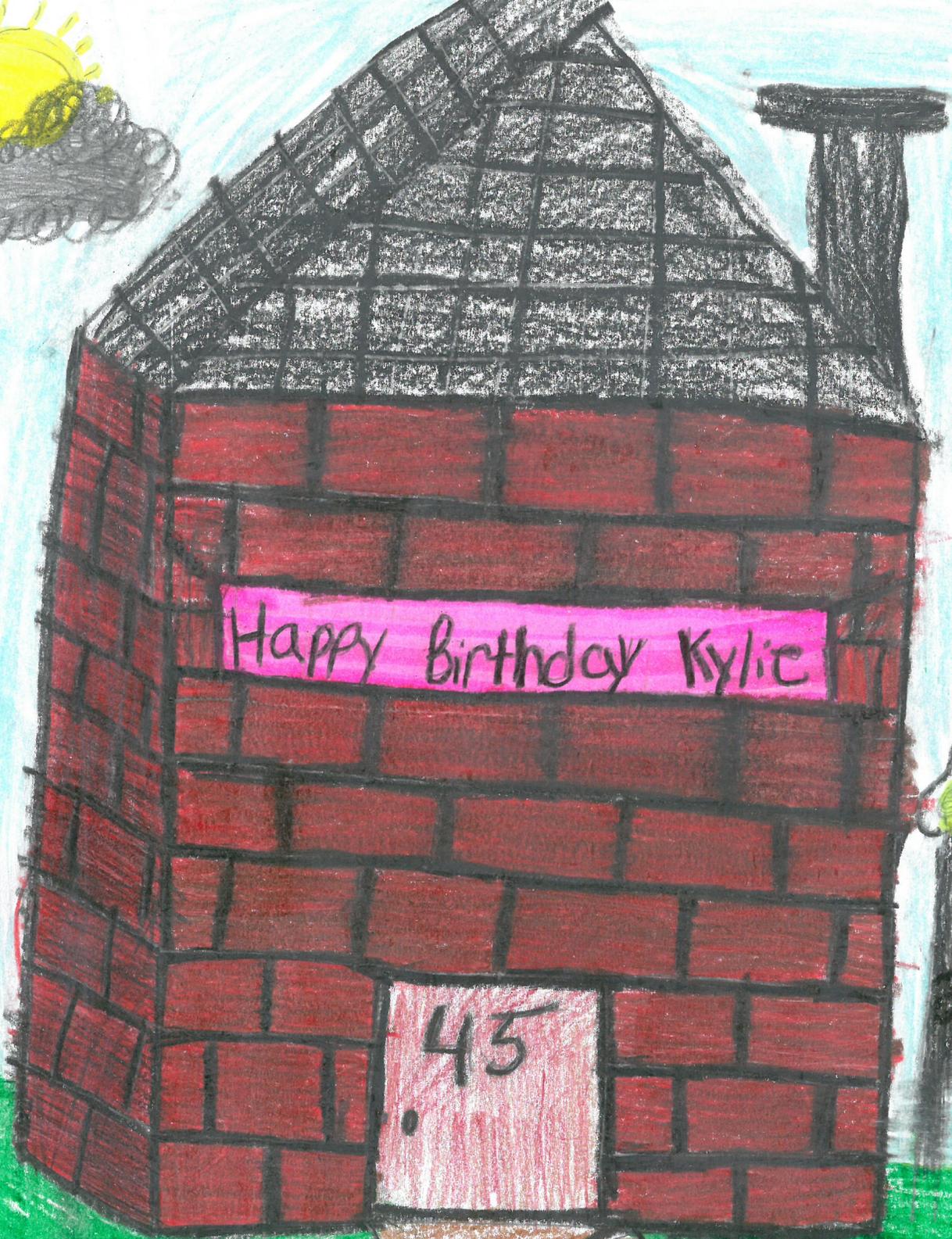
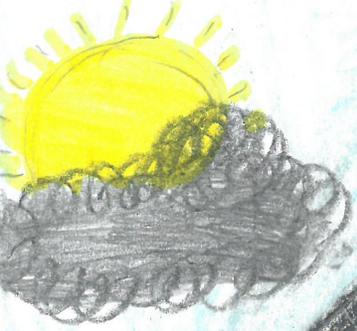
Over the next five weeks, I gained five more friends: Katie, Ella, Tori, Mia and Charlotte. That's eight people I can invite to my birthday party! Eventually, I made eight invitations for my party. I handed them out at school, and everybody said they would try to come. Mia and Katie looked very excited to be invited. Harley, Amanda and Eliza had the reaction I had imagined. They all said that they would definitely be there.



You're invited

*A few days later, everybody had responded and said that they would be there. When everybody arrived on the big day, I was ecstatic! First, we played a game of "Twister," and Harley won. Next, we ate the pizza that my mom had ordered. When everybody left, I was really happy. I finally have real friends! There is no way life could go down from here.*





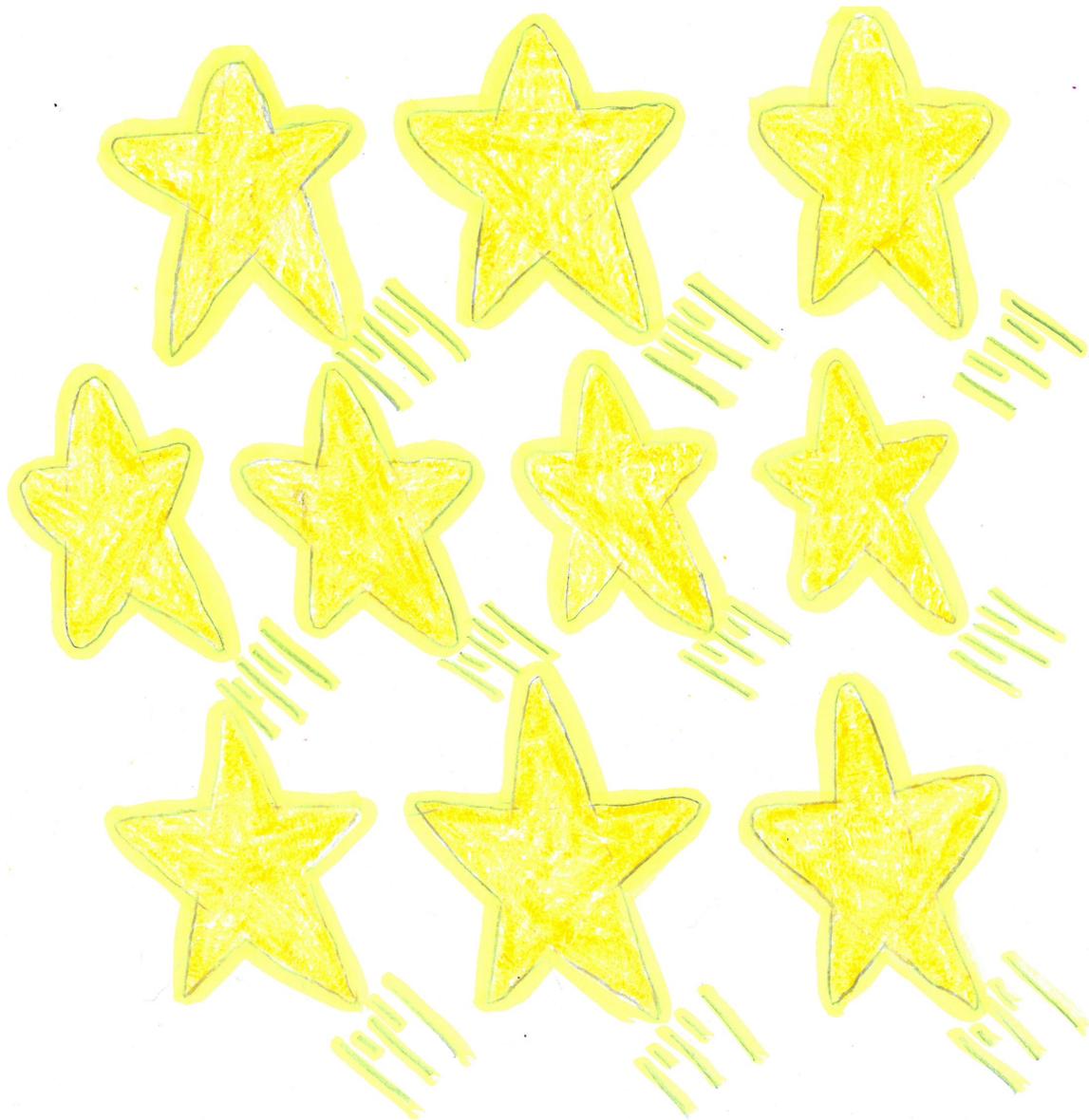
Happy Birthday Kylie

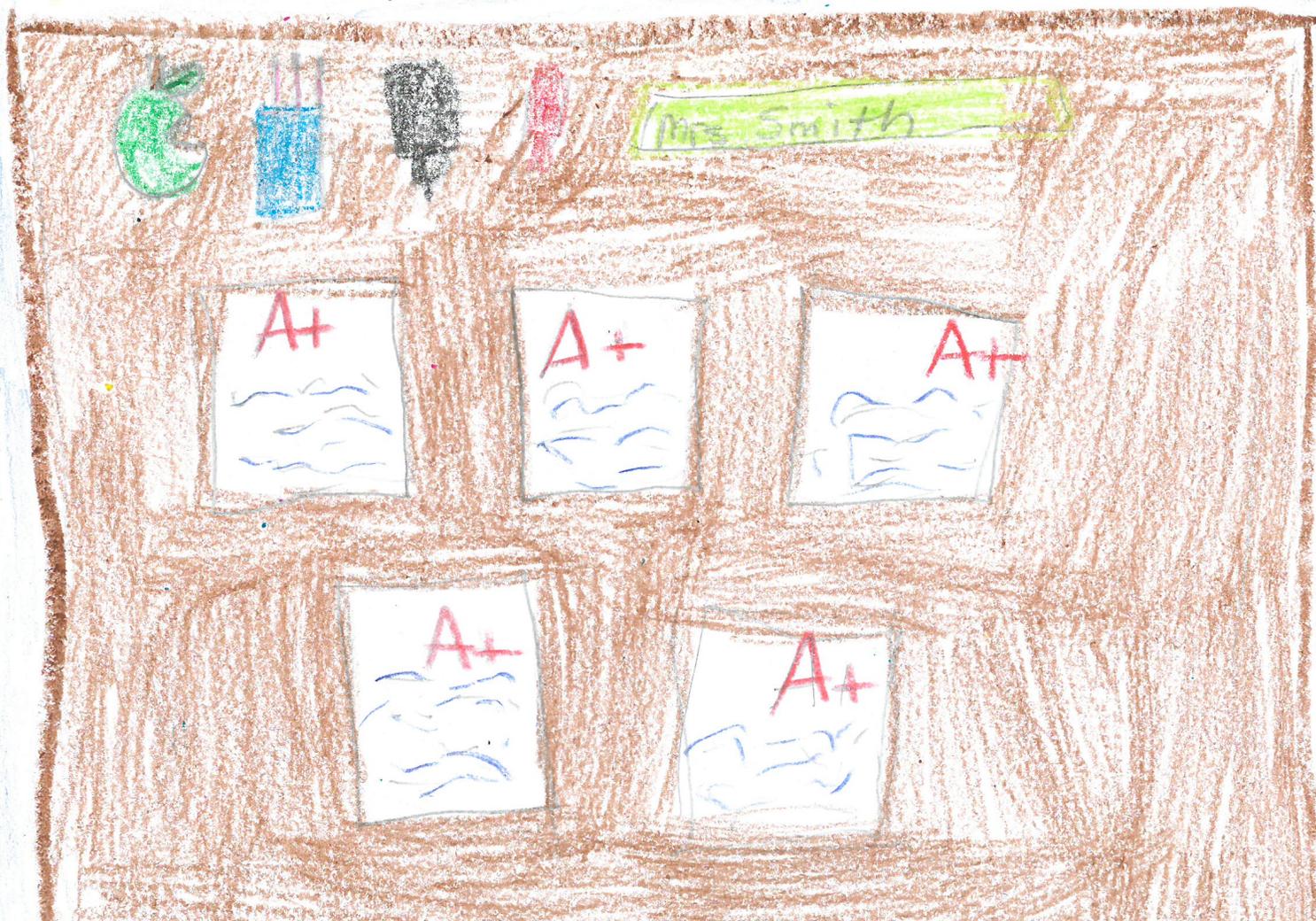
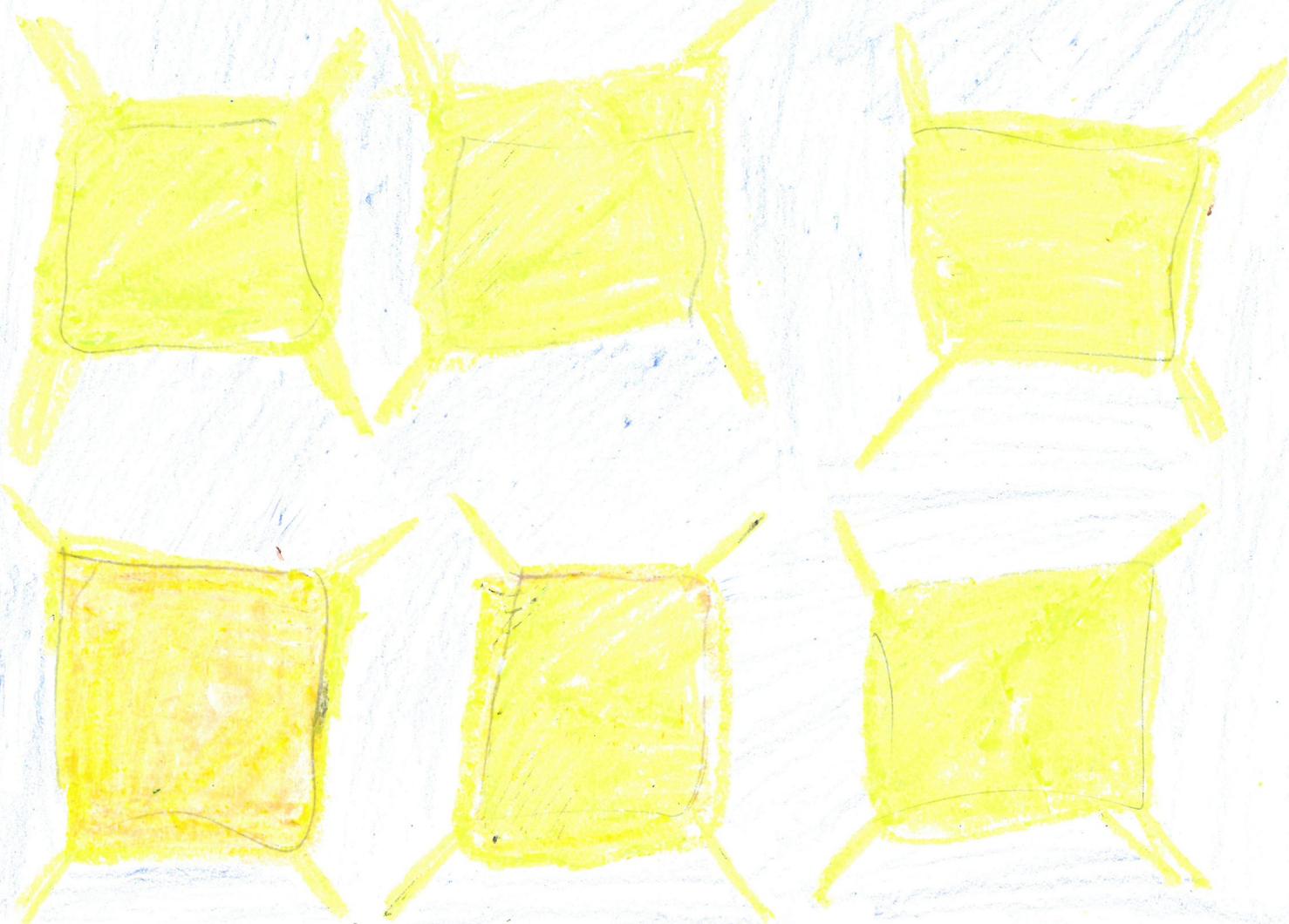
45

Happy Birthday Kylie



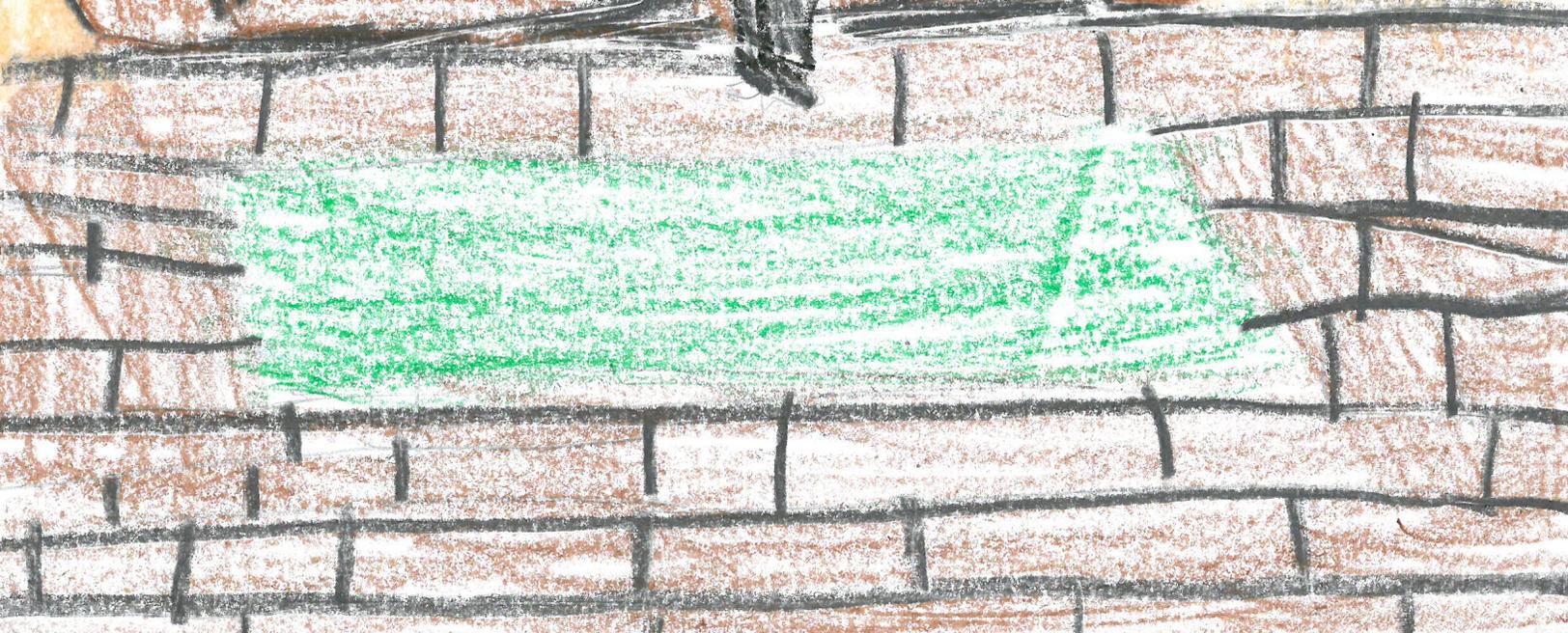
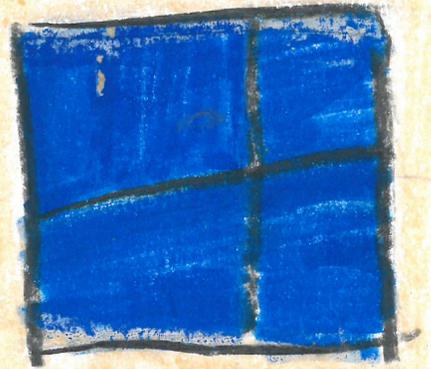
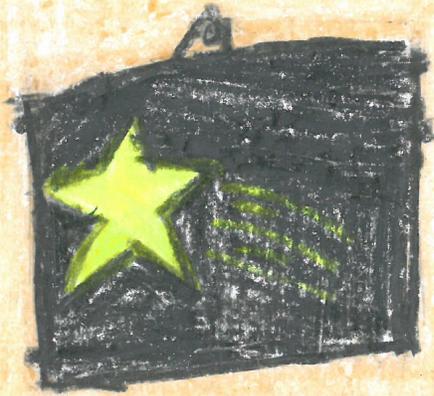
The rest of that month was amazing! I earned five A's in school, and the year was coming to an end. There were many parties and celebrations about graduating from elementary school and going to middle school. Everybody was getting excited for summer break. Although it was an exciting time, we were starting to realize that we wouldn't ever attend school here again.





*Over the years, my friends were amazing to me. I ended up winning the kindness award at my middle school. My classmates were much nicer to me, and I felt like everybody finally accepted me. Graduation after graduation, I felt more accomplished. My wish came true.*





## OUR MISSION

The National Youth Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of children through creative educational programming. Our mission is to promote tolerance and equality, while helping young students develop their literary skills through academic and team building projects.

## STUDENT BOOK SCHOLARS

Collaborating with professional athletes from the NFL and the NBA, NYF administers the Student Book Scholars team writing contest. The main goals of our program are to offer an innovative and competitive writing program, to publish books that students will want to read, to make the books available to public libraries and to offer a writing competition theme that is timely and allows students to express themselves in a constructive manner. This past spring, we teamed up with Robert Covington of the Philadelphia 76ers and Jordan Hicks of the Philadelphia Eagles to help promote the Student Book Scholars competition. The timing of this program was perfect, because professional athletes are increasing their involvement and taking a more visible role in bringing about social change. Robert Covington and Jordan Hicks are both exceptional athletes, leaders in the community and positive role models for today's youth. Also, as active participants in professional athletics, they personally know the importance and benefits of positive self-expression and teamwork. On behalf of National Youth Foundation, we congratulate the 2017 winning team from William C. Bryant Elementary School!

[NationalYouthFoundation.org](http://NationalYouthFoundation.org)



[NationalYouthFoundation.org](http://NationalYouthFoundation.org)