

**National Youth Foundation** *Presents:*

# The Ripple Stone

A Story About Kindness  
and Courage



Written by: Saanvi Lanke and Leah Wang

Dear Reader,

Thank you for reading our story. We hope it helped you feel seen, understood, or inspired. If you've ever been bullied or even hurt someone, please know that you're not alone, and it's never too late to take action. Let's be the kindness that ripples outward.

With love,

Saanvi Lanke and Leah Wang

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# Dedication:

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To the quiet ones, the brave ones, and those still finding their voice. May you always remember: your voice matters, your kindness shines, and you are not alone.

- Saanvi Lanke and Leah Wang

— 2025 —

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# Judges

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# Meet the Characters

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**Luka the  
Lion**



**Ezra the  
Chameleon**



**Raya the  
Rabbit**



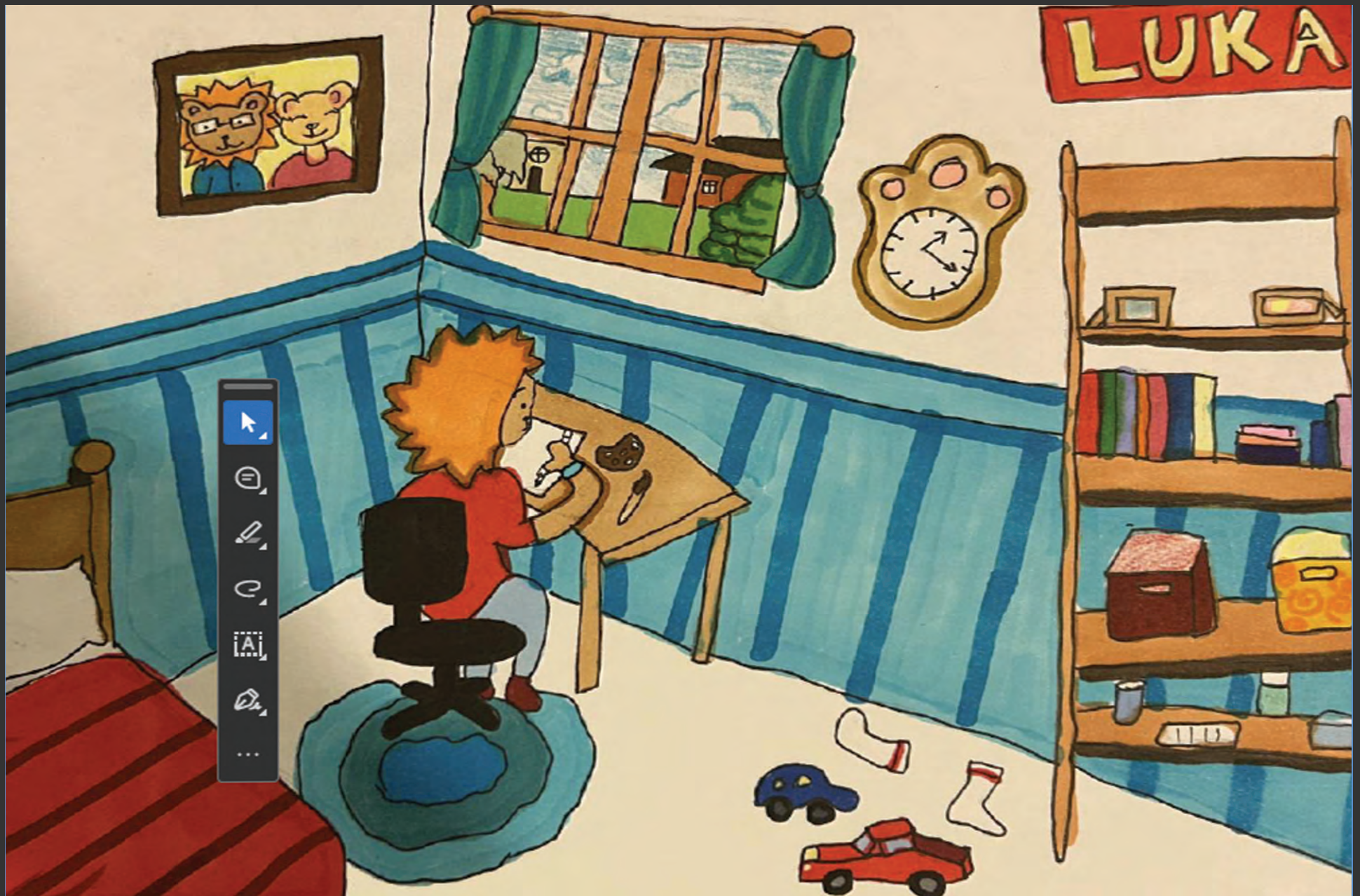
**Felix the  
Fox**



At Willowshade school, Luka often felt like he didn't belong. Raya made sure of it. Ezra saw everything, but no one ever noticed him.



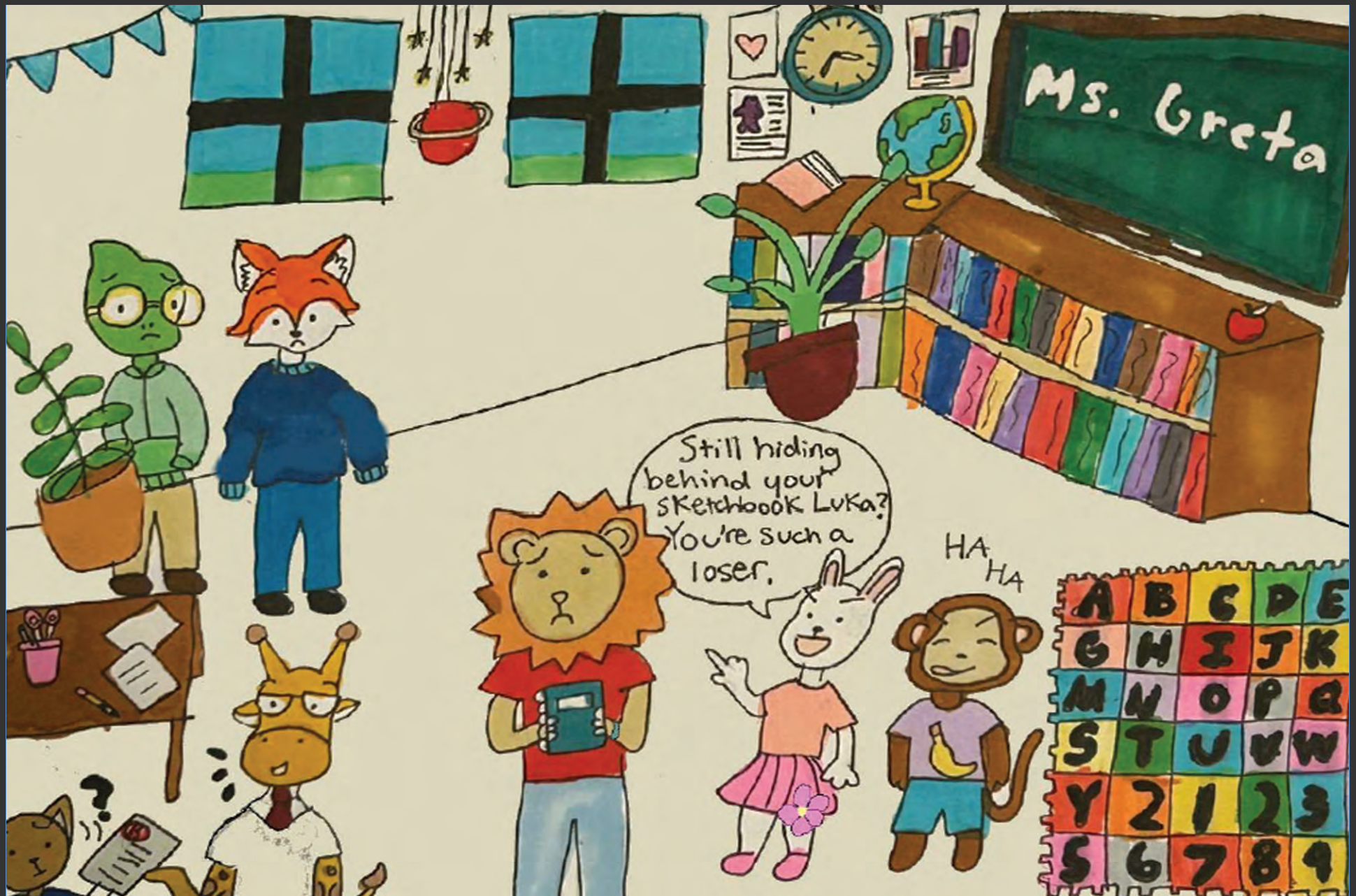
Some voices get silenced. Others fade into the background.



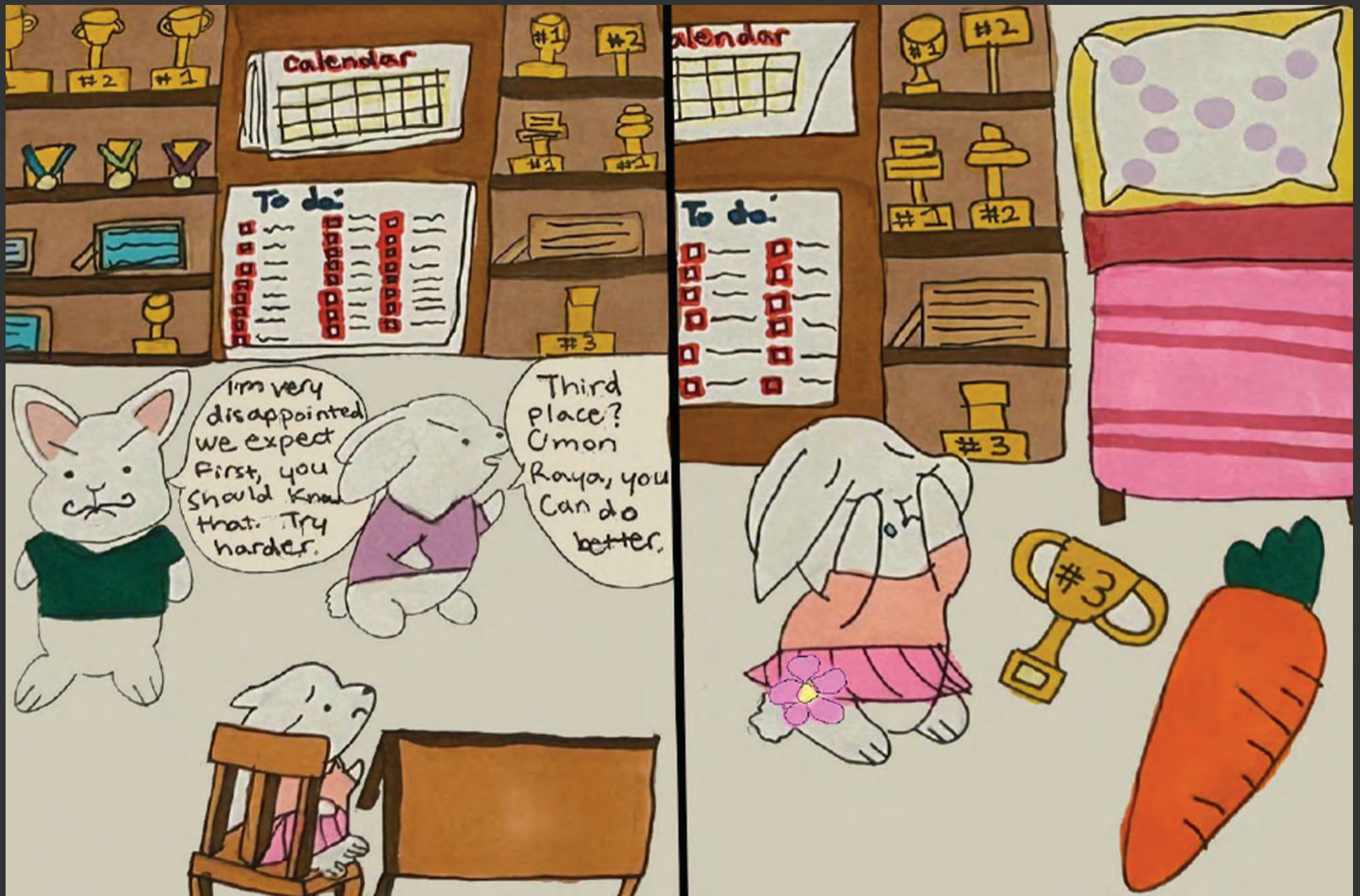
At home, Luka could finally be himself, even if that self still felt invisible.



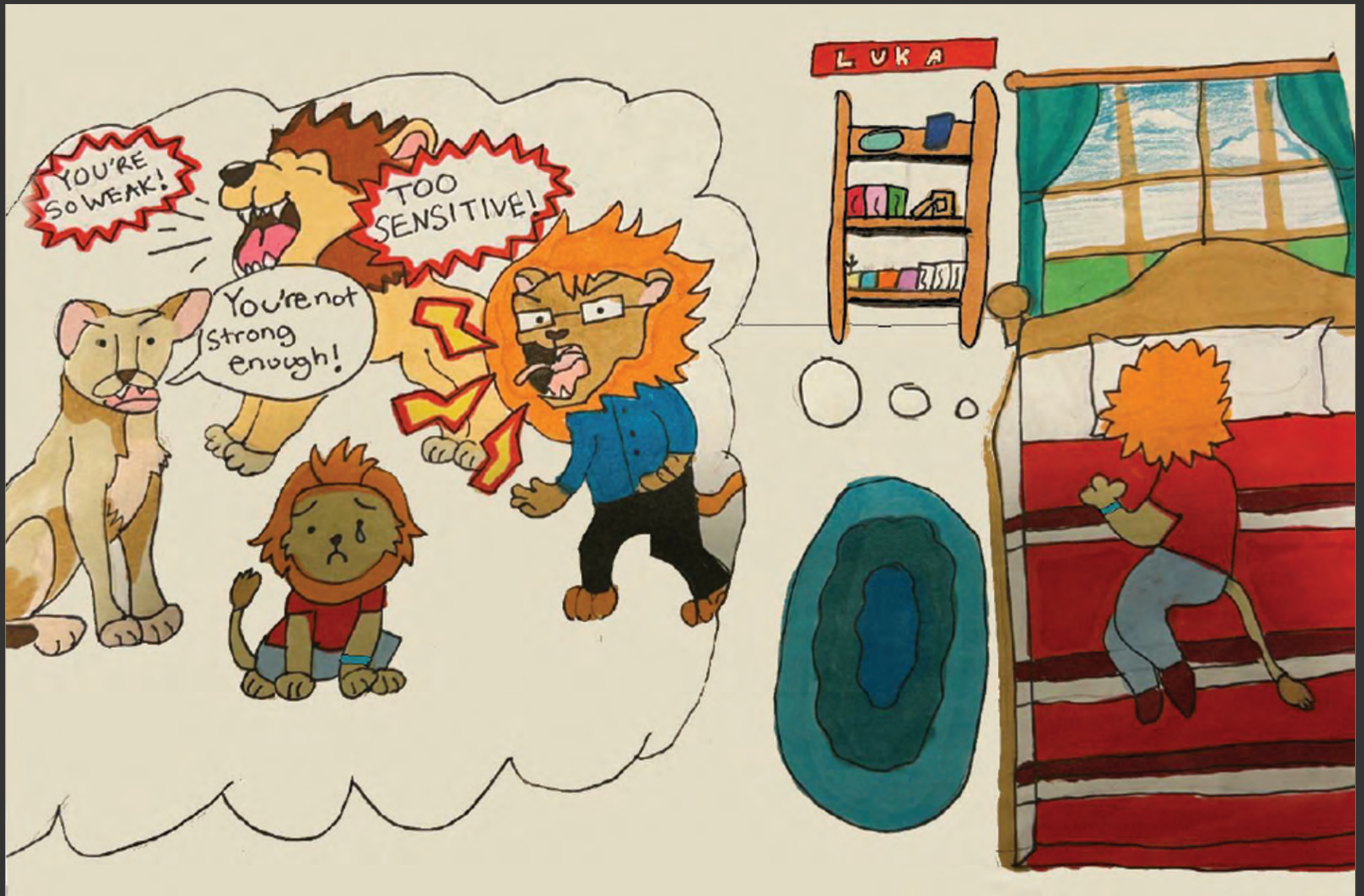
Luka saw someone else who disappeared, too.



Felix saw. Ezra saw. But no one said a word.



Sometimes the loudest ones are just trying not to be crushed.  
Remember hurt people hurt people, but that doesn't make it okay.



Even before Raya, Luka knew what it meant to feel small. He was never enough for his family.



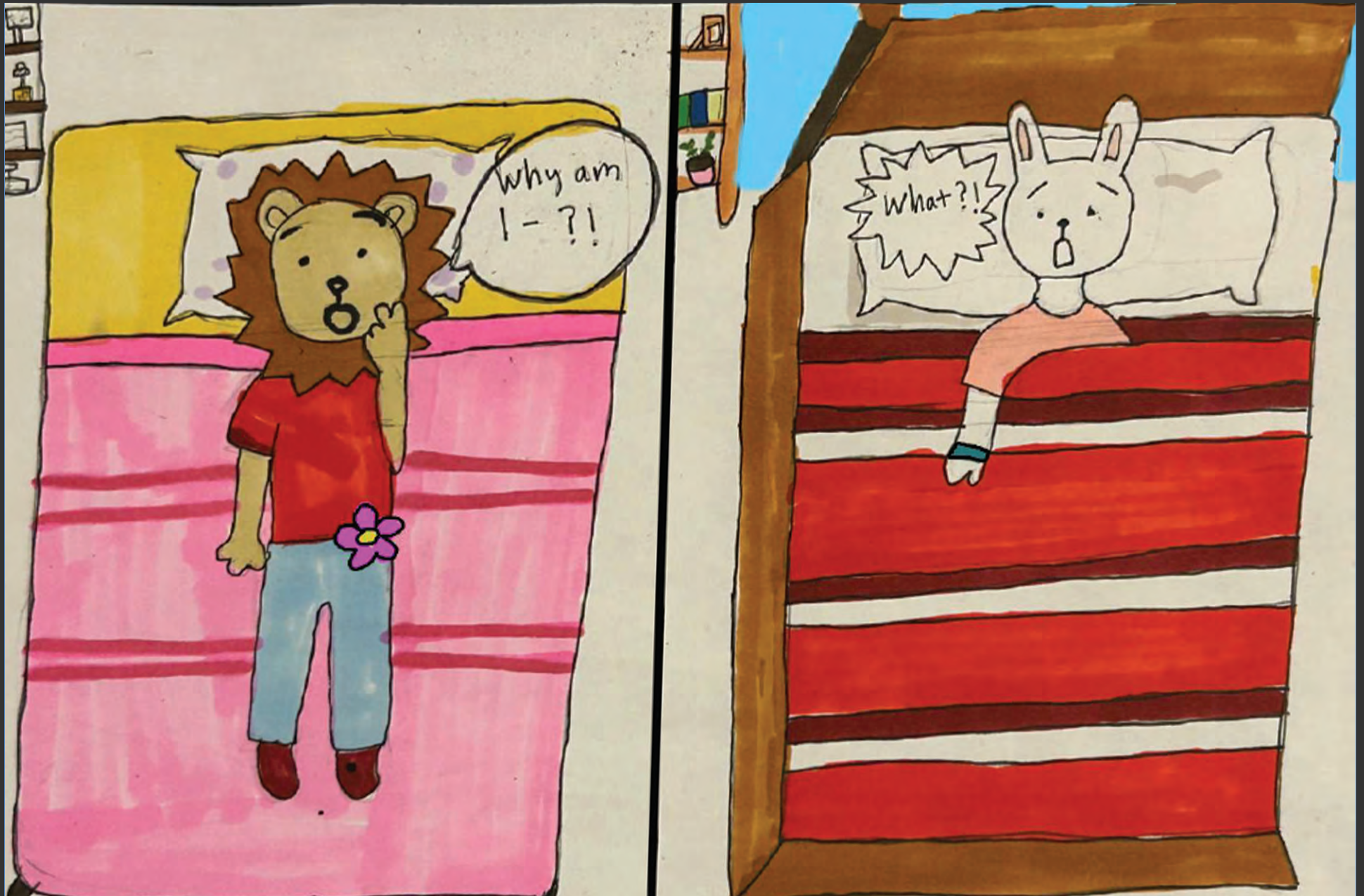
Then, one quiet evening... a ripple began.



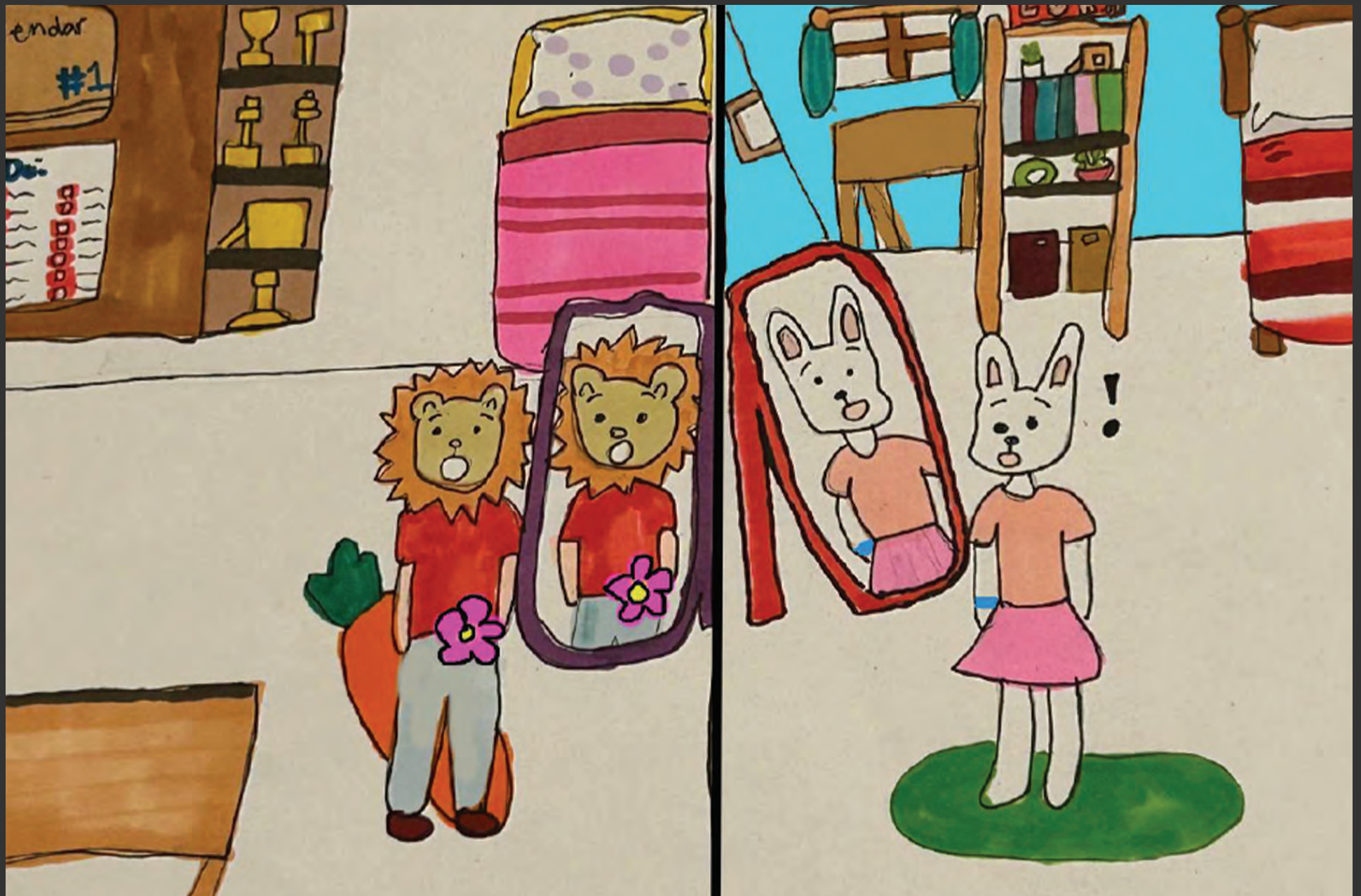
That night, the ripple stone had done something strange.

Something strange happened. Luka went to bed feeling just a little different, like the world had tilted slightly. Raya fell asleep frustrated and tired, her head full of trophies and pressure. Neither of them knew it, but the Ripple Stone had started something they couldn't yet understand.

By morning, everything would change.

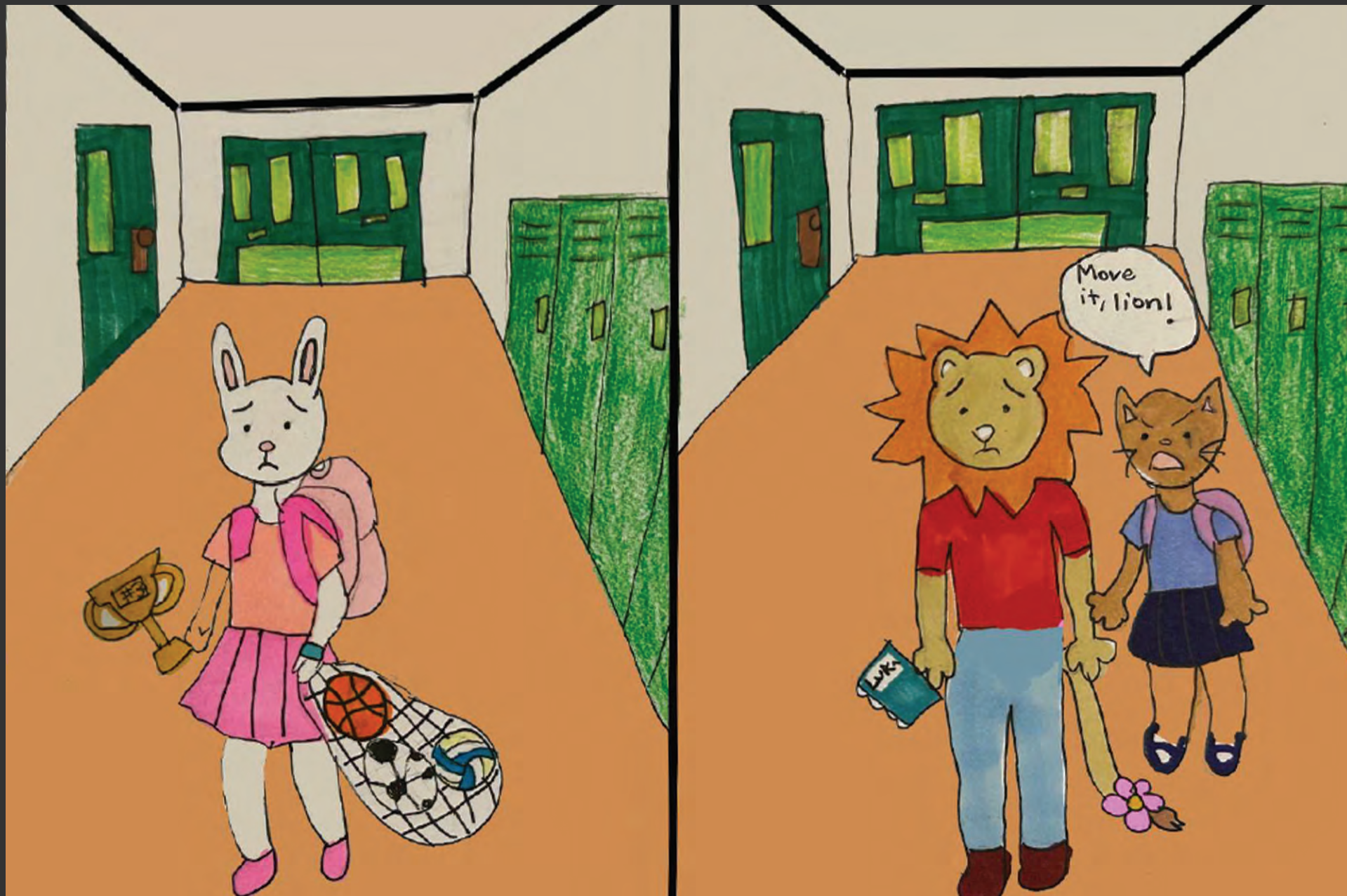


Something had changed. Luka and Raya had now switched bodies.



They weren't themselves anymore.

They had switched bodies. Luka was now living Raya's life, her room, her schedule, her expectations. Raya was now trapped in Luka's world, his fears, his reputation, and the silence that followed him. At first, they were both angry. Confused. Scared. But soon they'd begin to see what the other carried every single day.



Raya's world wasn't as easy as it looked.  
Walking in someones else's paws... isn't as easy as it sounds.



For the first time in a long while, Ezra felt seen.



Playing didn't feel so great when it wasn't your game.



For once, Raya felt what it was like to be the joke at school.



Felix finally opens up to “Luka,” not knowing it’s actually Raya in disguise. As they talk, Ezra watches from behind a tree, listening silently.



Kindness doesn't need applause.



They began to see the world and each other differently.



Raya and Luka had learned that there is more than what meets the eye.

**Luka:**

“I thought being strong meant pretending I didn’t care.”

**Raya:**

“I thought winning would make everything feel better.”

**Luka:**

“I never knew how much pressure you were under.”

**Raya:**

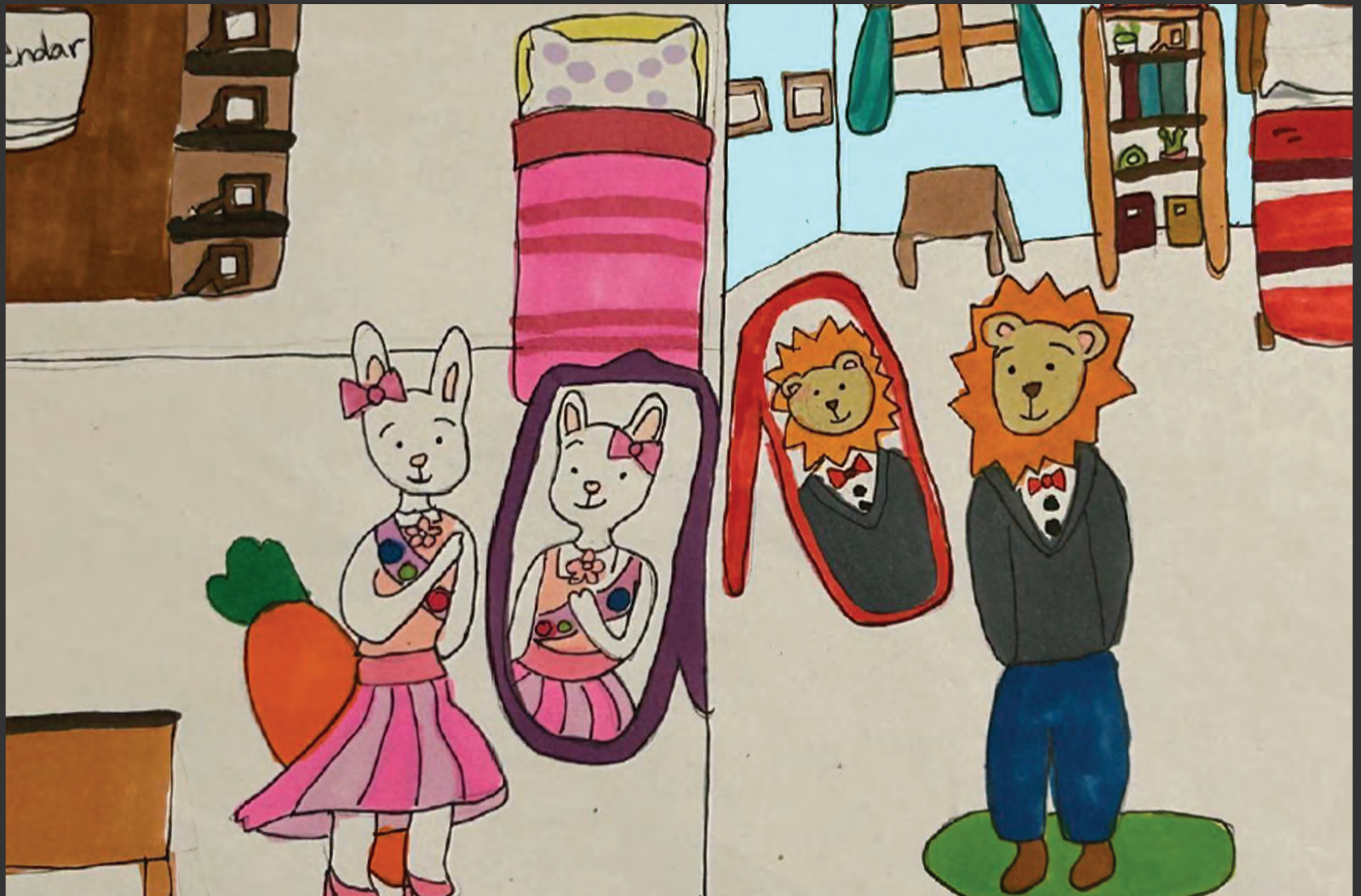
“And I never knew how hard it was to be invisible.”

**Luka:**

“I’m glad we saw each other.”

**Raya:**

“Me too.”



Luka and Raya return back to their bodies, with a newfound respect.

**Sull the Skunk:**

“Why are you always alone? Don’t you have any real friends?”

**Liam the Lamb:**

“Yeah, Ezra you look as weird as you are.”

**Ezra:**

“Please leave me alone. I didn’t do anything to you...”



This time, Felix didn't look away.

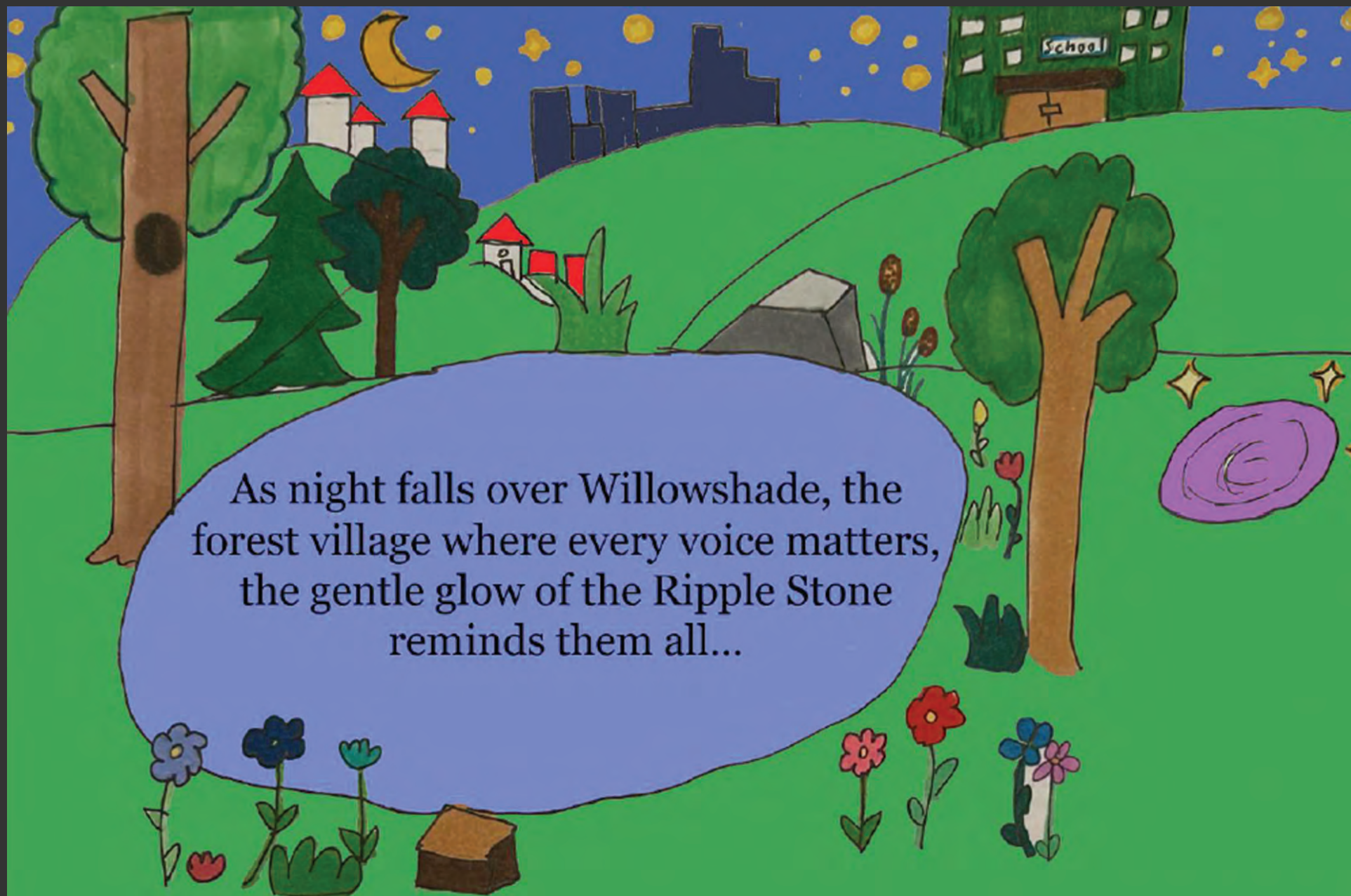


Raya learned kindness is better than winning. Luka learned courage isn't loud.

They had all faced different challenges. Luka had to learn that courage isn't about roaring, it's about speaking up, even when your voice shakes.

Raya learned that kindness takes more strength than winning any trophy. And Ezra, once overlooked, realized he had something powerful to share. They had grown, not by becoming someone else, but by finally understanding who they really were. And they knew one thing for sure:

Everyone deserves to be seen.



Kindness starts small, but its ripple can change the world.

# About the Authors:

Saanvi Lanke and Leah Wang are middle school students who believe that stories can change hearts. Inspired by real-life bullying and friendship, they wrote this book to help kids everywhere learn to lead with empathy. In their free time, they enjoy engaging with the community and building lasting friendships.



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