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LET ME TELL YOU A STORY

Stories from children in Bhutan

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ANIMALS

Five friends lived together - a big black dog, a smart black rat, a black and white cat, a grey ox, and a wise man. They lived in a small jungle.

One day they went on a picnic. They made a camp fire, where they all sang, ate dinner, and went to sleep. In the morning, they went to collect more sticks for the fire. Four of the friends returned, but the cow did not.

The next day they went to look for the cow, but they could not find her. As they were going back, they heard a noise - it was the cow, caught in a trap ! The rat cut the trap with his sharp teeth, and the cow was free. They went home happily.

Jigyel Ugyen Lhendup, 11 years
Illustrated by Francesca Sanna



LOST CAT

Chhimayed Tenzin Pelyang, 11 years



Once upon a time, five friends were very close. They were a big, strong dog, a rich bird, a helpful donkey, a very fast cat, and a very kind panda. There was never a day that they were not together. Only at night, they would have to go back to their own homes to eat dinner and sleep in warm beds. They would roam together in the smallest city in Japan.

Once, they went to a forest they had never been to before. The cat was very excited and quickly ran into the dark and scary forest. She thought her friends were following her, so she kept running. However, her four friends were taking a rest, so they didn't know where she had gone. The cat was lost ! They kept looking for her, and just when the sun was about to set, they heard a crying cat. When they followed the noise, they found her, and the five friends lived happily ever after.

FINDING THE WAY

Kinzom Sheryang Pema, 9 years



Five friends loved to go to the river. They were two lions and three cats, who lived in a forest.

One day, they went for a picnic. The cats brought the food and the lions brought everything else you need at a picnic. All of them went and enjoyed, but when they were returning, the five friends got lost.

Then, the lions noticed their old footsteps, and followed them till they found the way home. They all lived happily ever after.

TWO FAIRIES AND A FLOWER

Pema Tshering Tshogyel, 9 years



In the middle of the night, I looked outside my window and saw two fairies. I listened carefully and realised they were fighting about a flower. The flower was a beautiful lotus.

I thought about a solution and searched how to make a lotus. I learnt to make a paper lotus and gave it to the little fairies. They were delighted.

FIVE FRIENDS

Rigden Chuwan, 12 years

In a small village, there were five very good friends who lived together. They all had different interests; one was very playful, another loved to read books about heroes, a third was very naughty and plotted different pranks every day. The two others were an artist who wanted his paintings to be shown to the world, and a boy who really wanted to become a writer.

One day they went out together, to find some mushrooms. They searched and searched, and found all the mushrooms they wanted. As they were heading home, suddenly it started to pour, and there were strong gusts of wind. They went to a canopy to find shelter. It rained and rained till midnight came. Finally, after a long time, they went home to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate. One of them made mushrooms for dinner. The next morning, they were doing their morning chores as usual. One took the cattle to graze, and one chopped the wood as the others slept. They always worked in the morning and played at night. Everything was back to normal.



CARING FOR EVERYTHING !

Tandin Bidha, 10 years



Once upon there lived two people, Tenzin and Dechen. Both of them loved plants and animals and were very helpful people. One of them would regularly water plants in the city park. There was a plant which grew very slowly, but its flowers were beautiful. The plant was dangerous but the man did not care and continued watering it. The other was always smiling and loved animals as if they were humans. He also helped people. Both of them were very good at heart- they planted more trees, helped look after animals and provided support to fellow human beings.

KUNDAN'S FRIENDS

Tandin Gyeltshen Dorji, 12 years



Five friends called Chogyel, Kundan, Dawa, Dechen, and Tandin, lived together in an art class room. They all wanted to draw something they liked. They took their drawings to class, all except Kundan, because he couldn't draw ! Kundan's friends all came together to help him. He tried again and again, and finally created some beautiful art.

MAGIC FROM A UNICORN

Woesalma Chhodron Chogyel, 7 years



I looked outside the window and saw a magical unicorn! The unicorn was so pretty. Using its magical powers, it gave me two pretty wings. I flew away in the sky. When I was flying, I saw a lot of hunters. The unicorn had given me magical powers and I used them to trap the hunters so they could not hurt any more animals.

EXPLORING THE WORLD

Pema Tshogyal Lhazom, 12 years



Once there was a lazy yellow cat that was dirty all the time. One day, when she was sleeping on the grass, her friend the rabbit, who was very neat and active, saw her sleeping and went there. When the rabbit asked the cat, "Why are you always sleeping in the same place when we live in such a huge area?" The cat replied, "What do you get from roaming around everywhere? It is better that I sleep." Then the rabbit told the cat, "There are so many different things to see! You can discover so many new things in this world." The cat realized that the rabbit was right and started exploring the world.

BIG FRIENDLY GIANT

Bikram Limbu, 10 years

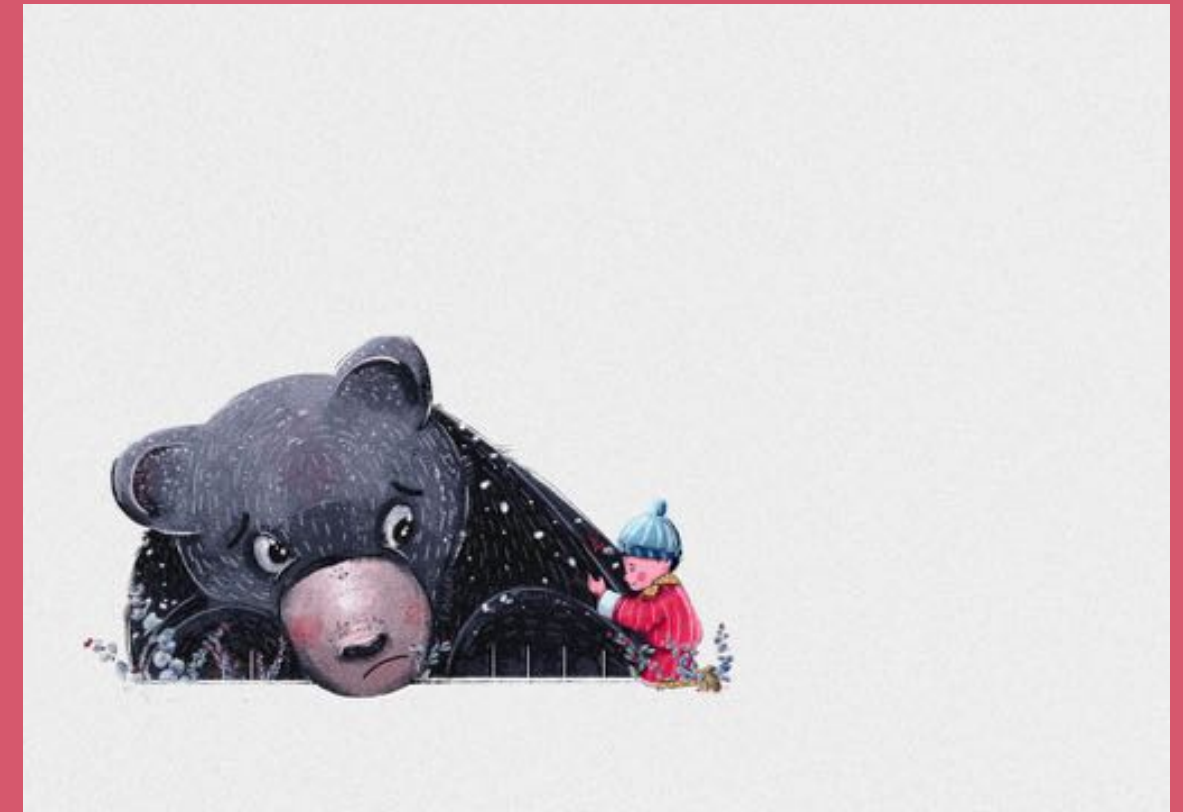
Illustrated by Ugyen Dorji



Outside my window, I saw a bear who had been hurt by a hunter's arrows.



Even though my mother warned me that the bear may attack me, I went to help the bear.



My father and his friend helped the bear to walk, and it went back to the forest.

DEKI & HER CAT

Tsheten Zangmo, 12 years



Once upon a time there lived a girl called Deki. She lived in a village called Tukke and had a cat called Tinkey. Deki loved her cat and always took care of it.

One day she was looking for Tinkey as she wanted to give the cat its night bath. She searched for Tinkey for hours and thought that maybe Tinkey will come back at night. So she waited for Tinkey to come back and fell asleep.

In the morning, when she woke up, she searched the house looking for Tinkey but didn't find her. Deki went for a walk to refresh her mind and found the dead body of Tinkey on the way. She went near the dead body of Tinkey and started crying, mourning the loss of her beloved cat. Deki was so upset that she didn't speak to her parents. Deki's mother realised that she must do something for her daughter.

She brought a cat that looked like Tinkey and gifted the cat to Deki. This made Deki very happy. The cat, Deki and her family lived happily ever after!

A PLACE IN THE CLOUDS

Once there was a lady with a 5 month old baby. One day, she lost her job, and when she was on the street with her baby, a dog chased her around.

While working hard to help her baby, she saw some birds, flying, and wished to be able to fly to a new home and be safe, just like them.

Chogyel L.R. Wangdi, 12 years
Illustrated by Pema Choden



VISIT TO THE MUSEUM

Kelzang Jamtsho, 12 years



Throughout our childhood, my friend and I wanted to visit a museum. We would always wonder how it would be inside one, but we could never visit since nobody would take us.

One day my father came back from a tour, and I begged him to take us, and he agreed. I ran to my friends house and we were both very excited. On Sunday, our father took us. My friend Tashi and I saw so many things in one place ! We enjoyed for six hours and then came back home.

MAX & THE BIRD

Kinley Phuentsho Dorji, 9 years



Once there was a very kind and brave boy called Max. One day he was going to the forest to get some fresh apples and mangoes. He saw a beautiful bird who had hurt her wings. He helped the bird to fly away, and hoped that he too could start a new story. He was happy that he helped the bird.

PINK FLOWERS

Tashi Yenten Pelzang, 11 years



In the early morning, I looked outside my window and saw a bright rainbow and pink flowers on trees. I thought for a while and realised it was spring! The rainbow had many colours such as Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet. The trees that look pink are cherry blossoms and when one looks, they can see many flowers from these trees. They were all so pretty.

Then I wanted to play outside but my mom said “no going out before eating.” This was a problem as I didn’t like eating in the morning. Nevertheless, I ate and went outside to play and when I looked at the ground, the pretty pink flowers weren’t there. This was the second problem - the disappearance of the pink flowers.

One morning, when I looked outside the window and saw that pink flowers had fallen from the trees, I snuck out and played outside. That way both my problems were solved!

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Drowa Zangmo, 12 years

Once in a beautiful and natural country called Bhutan, there were five friends. They were called Tashi, Dorji, Tshering, Tandin, and Pema. They always met at school, which is what made them so close. Tashi was always in the kitchen, since he was a chef. Dorji and Tshering always played in the grounds, since they loved sports. Pema was interested in art, and he loved to draw and paint. He would never miss his art and crafts classes. Tandin's hobby was math, because he wanted to study engineering when he grew up. Each of them knew where to find the others.

One day it was Pema's birthday, and it was decided that it would be celebrated at the VAST art class, since his four friends knew how much he loved drawing and painting.

They needed a little extra time to set up everything that was needed for a birthday party. Tandin was decorating everything for the party, and Tashi prepared food since he was a chef. At last, at 5 in the evening, they celebrated happily together



IN THE LAND OF FIRE

Sonam Tashi Gyeltshen, 11 years



Long ago, in the land of fire, it was protected by a sprite known as the flame dragon.

There were so many different things in the land of fire, and the flame dragon protected them all from the demon dragon.

A FUNNY SCARY INCIDENT

Dhondrup Nyima Loday, 10 years



Once there lived a man named Jonathan. He woke up and saw something outside his window that scared him so much he ran to his friend's house.

He said, "Max, Lizzy, I saw something terrifying. I saw myself staring at me" His friends laughed and said he was lying. He took them to his house and told them to look through the window. Max went in and ran out just as scared as Jonathan. Then Lizzy went in and took the two of them back in. She said, "come on guys, the window is just closed, that was your reflection" Max and Jonathan felt embarrassed. The End.

BEFRIENDING A BIRD

Yeshey Tshokey, 10 years



I looked outside my window and saw beautiful mountains, trees and beautiful birds flying. The mountain almost looked green in colour and was dotted with trees that shaped like a broccoli. The flying birds had coloured feathers. I asked my mother if I could go out . She said, "Sure, you can go out but remember to not go very far." I was very excited to go out and said, "Okay Mom".

I went out and played. I also took some pictures of mountains, trees and birds, using my phone. Suddenly, I saw that a bird had fallen to the ground. I went close to it and saw that it was hurt.I picked up the bird and took it inside my house. I took care of the bird and after some days it could fly again. Since that day, the bird and I became best friends forever.

THE DOG & THE UNICORN

Ngawang Lham, 9 years



Once upon a time, there lived a big brown dog who loved bones. One day the dog was looking for some food but couldn't find any. There was a pinkish blue unicorn who had fallen from the sky and broken one of its wings. The unicorn, like the dog was looking for food. When the dog saw the injured unicorn, it ran towards it and helped it. The dog by then had found a bone under a big rock and realised that both of them should search for food. The dog suggested that they should do it together. With some help, the unicorn felt better and they went on about their search for food.

DRAWING WHAT I SEE

Jigme Tenzin Wangpo, 10 years
Illustrated by Francesca Sanna



I looked outside the window and saw a beautiful garden. I saw a dog, a bird, beautiful green grass and wonderful blue sky. I brought my drawing book and started painting.

A NEW HOME

Thubten Dradul Gyaltshen, 11 years



There were once three men who didn't have a home. They saw some birds and hoped that they too could have a home and start a new story.

One day they went to collect firewood, when they saw a river full of fish. They realised they could build their own home near the river with wood near the river and mountains. They lived happily ever after.

HELPING A FRIEND

Jetsun Pema, 11 years



Once, there was a group of five friends who lived in a thick forest. They were a small, black bird, a brown deer, a fat white cat, a big black and white dog, and a small fox. They were all very cute and kind. One day, they decided to go on a picnic, and found a beautiful spot. When they finished eating, the deer and the cat started to play together.

Suddenly the deer fell into a hole, where a hunter had set a trap ! She was very afraid. Her friends began to wonder how they could help her. They thought and thought, till the bird had an idea. They all brought a rope and asked the deer to hold onto it, but she couldn't. So the bird flew into the hole and tied it around the deer's body. It worked, and they all lived happily ever after.

A MERMAID & ME

Karzay Yeega Seldon, 7 years

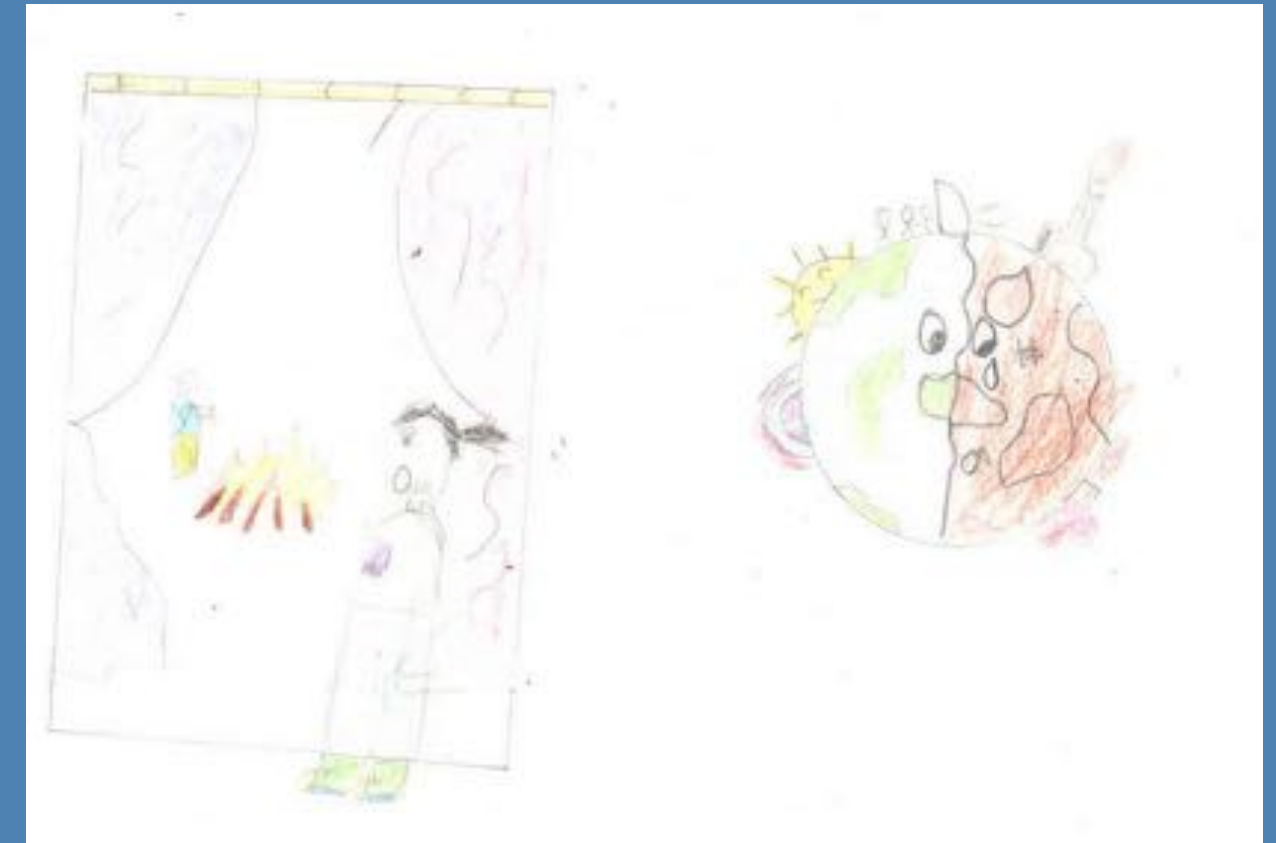


I looked outside my window and saw a Mermaid. She was very pretty.

The Mermaid then gave me a wand, and I turned into a mermaid. I was happy and went in to the river.

FIGHTING AIR POLLUTION

Tenzin Dorji, 11 years



I looked outside my window and saw Dema and Kinley burning plastic. I explained to them that burning plastic is bad. Later, I saw Tenzin and Ugen littering, and I told them that is also bad for the environment. Tenzin and Ugen agreed, and stopped.

The next day I saw Dema and Kinley burning plastic again and we had a fight, but Tenzin and Ugen supported me - in the end, we all decided to fight air pollution.

THE MONKEY & THE FIELD

Ngawang Tendrel Wangchuk, 12 years

Once upon a time there was a village where there were many houses. I lived in a house that was located roughly in the middle of the village with my family and a big tree grew in front of it. The big tree in front of our house was home to a monkey. One day the monkey observed that our field was full of maize and suggested that we should harvest it. My father said that we should sell the maize in the market and my mother said we should cook it and consume it.

I was cutting and gathering the maize crops from the field with my brother and we were confused about what we should do in this situation. The monkey, my brother and I finally decided that we'll make both mother and father happy by dividing the maize crops equally between them. We enjoyed eating maize and made some money by selling it in the market. We lived happily as a family ever after.



LING'S ADVENTURE

Nandani Rai, 12 years

Long ago, there lived a boy named Ling, who was the son of gods. He had silver hair that made him more special to everyone. One day, a demon went to the god's abode to steal the boy. They went with an army of monsters and after a while, the gods got so engrossed in fighting them that they lost sight of the boy. The boy was stolen by the monsters and they took him to the underground world where he was locked in a cage. The gods couldn't enter the underworld and they were worried about the boy. They realised that dragons could help them save the boy as they were the only creatures apart from monsters and demons who could enter the underground world.

There was a dragon named Starfall, who was the only one who was brave enough to help save the boy. She went deep into the cave that led to the underground world. She was so fast that the monster didn't see her coming. She saw the boy with silver hair locked in the cage and she broke it to let the boy out. Ling then climbed on Starfall's back and went to the gods. The gods were delighted to see that both of them were alive. They were grateful and rewarded Starfall for her bravery with a special gift.



I LOOKED OUTSIDE MY WINDOW

Lhawang Pema, 11 years



FIVE BROTHERS

Sherab Nima Yoezer, 11 years



Once, there were five brothers. One was very fat, two were very tall, and two were very thin, like sticks! Their mother had died when they were very young, so they always stayed together. One day, one of the brothers had a transport to Phuntsholing, and so they all had to go with him. While they were on their journey, there was a landslide, and three of them were badly injured. The two brothers who were safe took them to a hospital. They had to stay there for one month, but after that they lived happily ever after.

LEARNING SOMETHING NEW

Rigzin Tashi, 10 years

Outside my window, i saw a man riding a horse around the ground, jumping up and down. A few minutes later, he fell off.

My friends Tashi and Norbu quickly came down and took him to hospital. The rest, Dawa, Nima, and Ugyen, came with lunch to give the rider.

The rider said Dawa should learn to ride a horse too and become a circus rider. He told Dawa to practise at a horse shop. The rider got better and went to the circus to perform his riding show.



FINDING A LOST PET

Kundan Kumar, 12 years

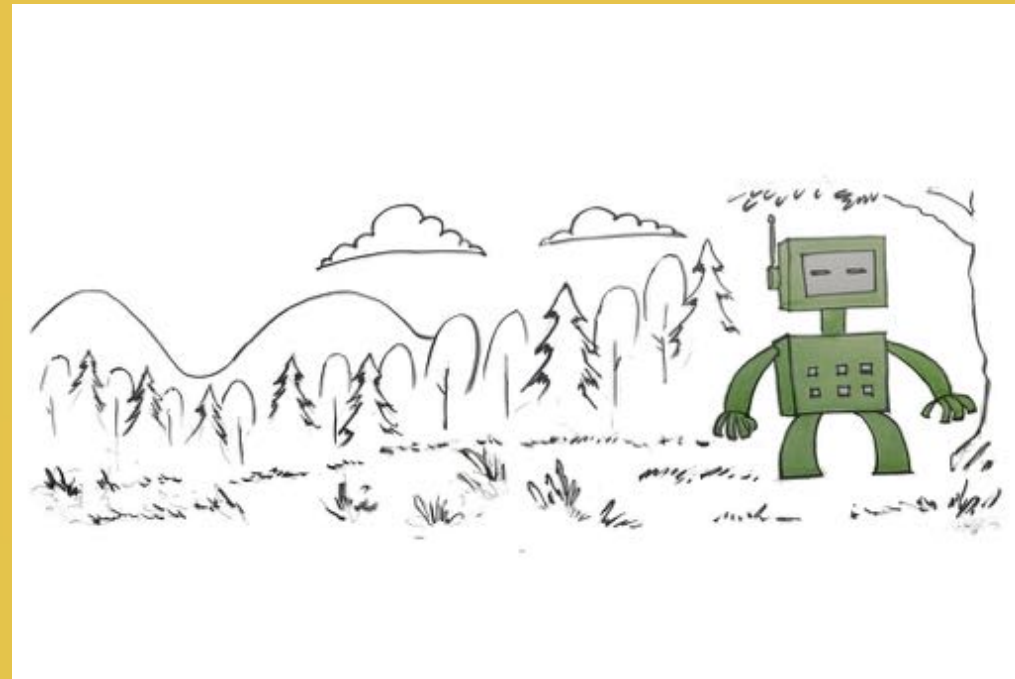
Somewhere in Bhutan, five friends lived close together. One of them was called Nimes, and he had a very nice hairstyle. Another, called Dawe, was very pretty. She had a pet dog, who was her friend. Her name was Snow White. There were two more boys; Tshering, who was good at football, and Nima, who liked to sing. Once, they all went on a trip. There, Snow White got lost. They all went looking for her, but she was nowhere to be found. They went home, and looked again, but they still couldn't find her.



One day, three years later, Dawe went for a walk early in the morning. There, she saw her dog sleeping under a tree! Snow White had grown up and she was very big. Dawe called all her friends, who came to the tree. Snow White woke up, and they all went home, and were very happy.

THE GREEN ROBOT

Kitsab Karma Namgyel, 8 years
Illustrated by Wang Rana Gurung



Once there was a robot with green skin. He was short, but still very big. He lived in a dark forest with four of his friends, two lions and two boys.



The forest was big and cool, and one of the boys went to get some wood so they could make a fire.



He had a map with him, but he dropped it by mistake. He got lost, and became very scared.



His friends searched everywhere for him, and as they looked, one of the lions found the map lying on the forest floor.



The friends used the map to find their way through the forest, and soon they found their missing friend !



They went home, and ate rice, egg, and meat. The End.

TWO GIRLS

Dorji Dhradhuel, 8 years

Once upon a time, there lived two daughters with their father in a small house. One of the girls was very active while the other girl was lazy.

One day the father advised the girls to get a job. The active girl readily agreed to the proposal and said, "Yes father, I will get a job." The lazy daughter, on the other hand wasn't ready to accept her father's advice and said, "No, I will not get a job. I think I will stay at home and do household chores.

A day passed and the active girl went out and found a fairy's house. She went inside the fairy's house and was fascinated. She suggested to her lazy sister, that she too should visit this fancy house but the lazy girl didn't listen.

A few days passed by and one day the active girl came home with money. When the lazy girl saw the active girl had become rich, she was angry, jealous and went to work.



THE TIGER & THE FROG

Jamyang Yoezer, 11 years



Once upon a time, there was a big forest, and a frog and tiger lived there. One day, the tiger was telling the frog something, but the frog wasn't listening. This angered the tiger and it went to prey on the frog. However, the tiger couldn't eat the frog as it was being protected by another tiger whom the frog had befriended. The frog laughed mockingly and said to the tiger that had come to attack it, "Now you cannot eat me, haha!"

A LITTLE GIRL AND HER FATHER

Sonam Lhayul, 12 years



Once, in Bhutan, there lived a small girl with blue eyes and pretty black hair. She lived with her rich family, but one day her father lost his job, and they had to move to a small house.

The little girl saw some birds outside and wished that they too, could find a new home. Hearing his daughter's words, her father started crying.

A SUDDEN CHANGE OF FORTUNE

Kinley Gyeltshen , 12 years

Once upon a time, there lived a king called Wangchuck Gyeltshen. He was a good ruler and ruled his country and he always helped people. The people of his country also loved him and appreciated his kindness and bravery.

In that country, there lived a boy called Nawang and he had a friend called Tashi. Tashi's mother's name was Choden and he came from a rich family. Nawang was poor and had no family. One day Nawang and Tashi went to the forest and were playing a game when Tashi lost his key. He was afraid that his mom would scold him when she would find out that Tashi had lost his key. Both Tashi and Nawang looked for the key. Tashi entered a big hole searching for his key and got into trouble, and Nawang got trapped in a net. When Tashi screamed for help, a tree came to his rescue and helped him out of the hole. Meanwhile, Nawang too screamed for help and a monk came to his rescue. Both Tashi and Nawang were freed and they thanked the monk and tree for their help. Both the tree and monk went back to the place they came from. The sky was growing dark and the two friends were running towards the direction of the setting sun as they couldn't see the path clearly.

After running for a while, they reached the king's palace. The King asked them about their family, where they stayed. Tashi responded by saying that he lived in a village with his mother, Choden. Nawang said how he was poor and lived alone as he had no family. The king said to Nawang that he would adopt him as his son as he had no queen or sons of his own. Almost overnight, Nawang's life changed and he lived happily ever after with the king in his palace.



AN ADVENTURE

Dechen Tshomo, 12 years

Five friends lived close together. Their names were Tshering, Yeshey, Dotu, Langzom, and Sonam. Tshering was smart, tall, thin, and he loved reading. Yeshey was shorter than Tshering, and was good at heart. Dorji was fat, and tall like Tshering. Langzom was creative, but he had a bad temper. Sonam liked to take naps, and was thin and kind. They lived in a village near Punakha Dnong. Their house was welcoming - it was small on the outside, but large on the inside, and it was very modern.

One day Tshering was very curious about the moon, so he thought about visiting it. He went to his friends and said, "Hey, don't you think we should go to the moon?" "I think we should go", said Sonam. "We could float around and have a nice nap." Tshering was doubtful. In the end, they all agreed, and the next afternoon they got to work. After five months, three weeks, and two days, they had finished.

They were just about to lift off when suddenly, Sonam went missing. They searched all around the house that was small on the outside but big on the inside, but he was nowhere to be found. At last, they found him in a pile of grass. They were very happy and flew to the moon together.



A GREENER TOMORROW

Palden Y. Wangmo T, 12 years



A BEAUTIFUL SCENERY

Hemal Biswa, 11 years



FLOWER GARDEN

Yangchen Lhaden, 10 years

Once upon a time in a beautiful flower garden, there lived three best friends - a sunflower, rose and lotus. They were afraid of insects and hated summers. Every time, they slept they prayed for the presence of different flowers in their flower garden. They had enough food to eat and share amongst themselves and with others. They talked all day like chatter-boxes. However, one day it was raining. They were scared that the insects would show up. Their fear was proven right as after a while insects such as ants and cockroaches showed up. They started climbing up the flowers.

The three friends struggled through the summer, fighting the insects and hated the experience even more. This went on for two or three months and with the advent of autumn, the insects took their leave and went back to where they came from. The three friends were happy and soon realised that the ants had brought seeds with them.

The seeds grew into beautiful flowers and the wish the three friends had in mind came true - there were such beautiful flowers in the flower garden now! This changed their minds about insects! They lived happily ever after in their flower garden.



LOST IN A DARK FOREST

Tashi Sonam Yangzom, 11 years

One day, a group of five friends were going to a dark forest. They were a sweet, brown dog with a kind heart, a nice boy who lived in the forest with a friendly raven, a rat who loved everyone, and a selfish, absent-minded rabbit. As the friends journeyed, it turned dark. The rabbit was angry with raven, and suddenly she found herself in a dark place.

Once she reached, she forgot why she was angry, because she was so absent minded. Because her friends loved her, they went looking for her in the village. Meanwhile, in that dark place, the rabbit missed her friends. As soon as she said 'Oh, how I miss my friends!' out loud, she was back among them, and they all lived happily ever after.



SCHOOL FRIENDS

Tashi Dorji, 12 years

Illustrated by Francesca Sanna

In a school, there were two children whose fathers were best friends. These two children, Tashi and Tendey, were not friends in the beginning. They used to fight often. But one day, when Tashi was in a problem, Tendey helped him and from that day onwards, they became friends. So many different things can happen in a school.



A SPECIAL SURPRISE

Pema Yangsel Wangdi, 9 years

Once there were five friends. Sammy was the leader, and Jim was the clumsy one. Lani was the only girl in the group. Ciel and Gabriel were twins. They were both fat and short, and looked the same. They lived in an old neighbourhood together. One day, it was Lani's birthday, and the boys had forgotten! The four of them realised later on, and decided they needed help to plan a birthday party in the neighbourhood. Sammy was clueless about Lani's birthday. He was eating his breakfast of eggs and bacon when he suddenly got a text from Lani. Even after speaking to her he did not realise it was her birthday!

In the evening, Jim called him saying there was a big emergency, and that Sammy needed to meet him and the others at the park at once, and told him the problem. They had all forgotten Lani's birthday!

They immediately started working on the party, with only a few hours to do it. They made the decorations her favourite colour (light purple). They invited all the kids in the neighbourhood - everyone was really excited! While everyone was hiding to surprise her, Sammy texted her to come over as fast as she could. When she entered the room, everyone jumped out and yelled "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" In the end, she was very happy with what her friends had done for her. Sammy and the others were glad that she enjoyed the party.



MAGIC AT A PICNIC

Mejur Pelden Choden, 7 years



Once, five friends wanted to go on a picnic. They were a big, furry lion, a fluffy bird, a dog, a rat, and a cat. Just when they were ready to go on the picnic, it started to rain. Suddenly, a magician came by, and made it sunny. The five friends were able to go on their picnic!

A BEAUTIFUL BIRD

Jamphel Wangmo, 12 years



When I looked outside my window, I saw a light-blue coloured bird flying in the sky. The bird was flying to its nest and I went outside to see what happened next. I learned that the bird had children and was feeding them. After feeding her children, the bird took off again. I followed the bird and it led me to a beautiful garden.

It was a good day.

A BRAVE KING & A KIND MONK

Kuenzang Tandin Dorji, 10 years



Once upon a time, there lived a king who was very brave and he would do anything to protect his kingdom. The king had lots of strong and brave soldiers who would protect the kingdom even at the cost of their lives. However, the soldiers couldn't always protect the kingdom and so the king ALSO had a lot of brave knights at his service. These brave knights had strong horses. There were a lot of people living in the kingdom and they loved their king very much. However, the people living there had a nasty habit of killing animals. There was a monk, who saw many people killing animals and asked them to stop such cruelty towards animals. Instead he asked these people to grow crops but they wouldn't listen to him and continued killing animals. So the monk meditated and told the animals to get out of the forest.

The next day, the people living in the kingdom looked everywhere but couldn't find even spot a single animal. A lot of people died of starvation in the following days. These people of the kingdom went to the monk and begged the monk to bring back the animals. They promised the monk, that from now on, they wouldn't kill animals.

EVERYONE NEEDS A FRIEND

Sonam Choki Dema, 10 years



Once upon a time there lived a girl called Pema who lived with her parents and a dog. She was studying at Oxford University and was home for her holidays. One day her mom was telling a story on friendship and Pema was listening, with her dog by her side. Pema's mom began the story with a question, " Everyone needs a friend, they say, but have you wondered why? This is because life is not like a comfortable soft cushion in reality but having friends can make it better and comfortable. We must remember, however, that some friends are kind and honest while many might be bad ones. We shouldn't fall for the bad ones. Friends are the ones we play with and share our food.

We should follow some rules in friendship and help each other when in need. For instance, if one is hungry, we should help them by sharing our food. Friendship is like a super glue that holds people together. My mom tells us that we are poor people and we shouldn't fight with friends and cause unnecessary trouble . She advises we must never be too proud, help each other, and do things together.

MAKING A PLAYGROUND

Kinley Jigme Yoezen, 12 years



Once there was a child who always wanted to play football, but could not because there was no playground.

He spent ten hours to make his own playground with the help of his friends and father. They realised they could play so many different things in the playground, not just football.

HELPFUL KUEN !

Jigdreal Jampel Tenzin, 9 years



Once there was a boy named Kuen Zang, he was a great guy who always helped animals and people. On his way to his home it was raining, and he saw a bird stuck in a tree. He helped it to get out.

THE ELK WITH BLUE FUR

Krishita Pradhan, 13 years

Once upon a time there lived a majestic elk with blue fur. He had two twisted yellow horns. He lived in an enchanted forest deep inside the earth. It was a place where it was hard to see the blue sky. It was not disturbed by any humans. The elk was very happy because he met his wife who was very beautiful. One day they were going to the pasture when a hunter captured his wife. She was taken to the city in a train. She was kept in a cage just to earn money. The husband was very sad and he thought of saving his wife. So he went to his friends and asked for their help. He said to his friends that, "We must do this together." They travelled for two days and finally they found his wife locked in a cage. They opened the cage and saved the wife. They ran to their forest because the human hunters were chasing them with guns. Luckily, they survived and lived happily ever after. -



FLY AWAY HOME

Tandin Gyeltshen, 12 years
Illustrated by Tshering Yangki

Once there were two children who lived in the street with their mother. They were very poor. One day they looked up in the sky and saw some birds. One of the children said, "I hope, one day, like these birds, we will find a new home. A home where we can be safe and begin our story again."



THE BOY WITH MAGIC POWERS

Chimi Choden, 11 years
Illustrated by Yeetob Dorji

Once upon a time there was a small unknown town. There lived a greedy king called Higa. He ordered people to bring food for him. Then slowly, the people in the town had to pretend that they had enough food but in reality they were running out of food.

All residents of the town, devised a plan and went to the top of the mountain. There lived a boy who could solve the problem and fulfil the town's dream. The residents of the town requested the boy to help them. "Please help us," they said. The boy after hearing this plea, asked the people of the town, "What is your problem? What brings you here?". They replied, "Our king is very greedy and we are on the verge of starvation as he has finished our food."

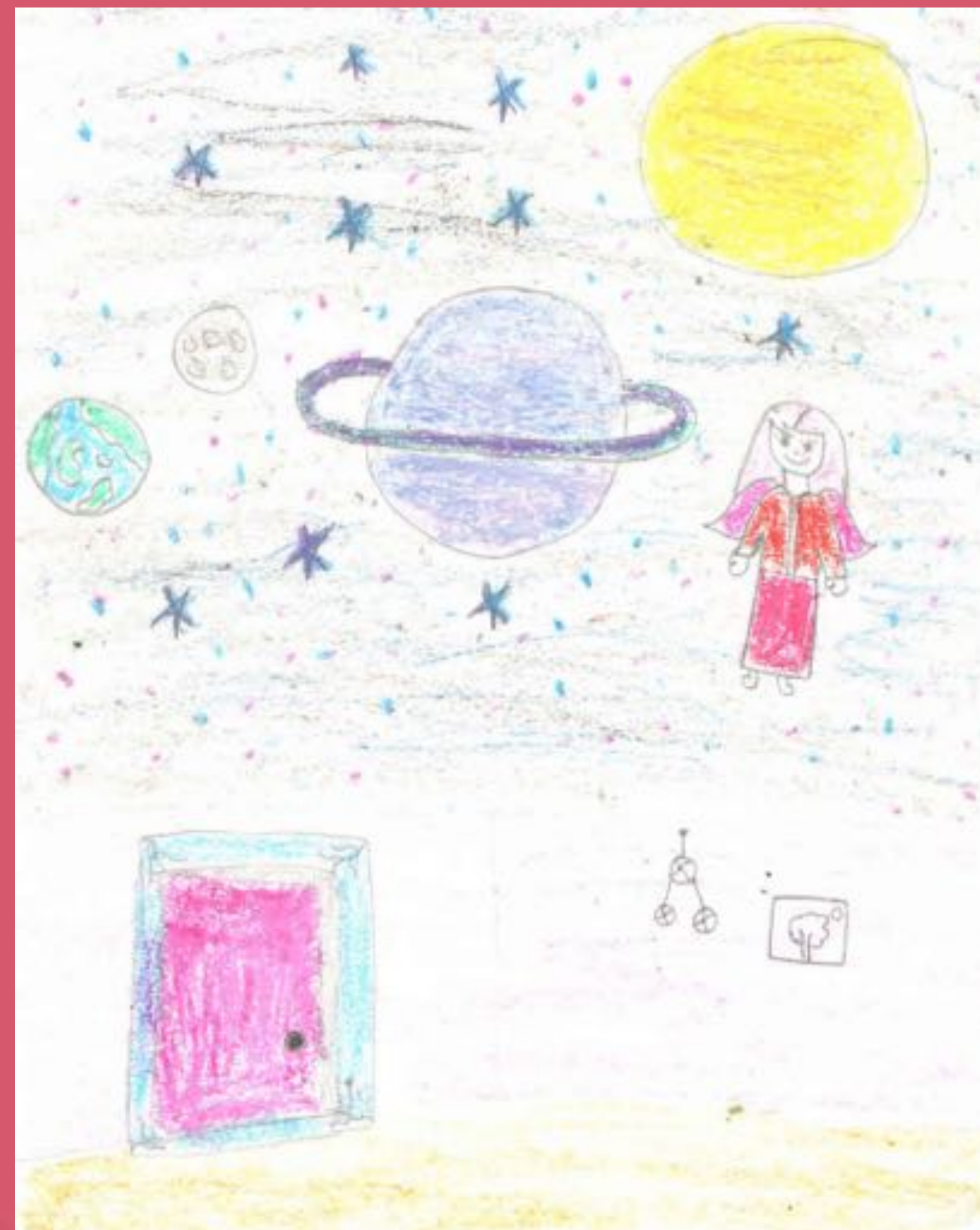
As soon as the boy heard about the issue, he used his powers to cast a spell on the king. When the people of the town got back, they realised that the king's stomach would hurt when they ate food! Gradually, the king stopped eating a lot of food and peace was restored in the town. The people were so happy and very grateful to the boy who lived in the mountain. They all lived happily ever after.



A MAGIC DOOR TO SPACE

Sonam Pelzom, 12 years

A long time ago, there was a place where the sun and the moon shone together in a grassland with many flowers. There was a magic door to go to space. An old man went through it. Soon his daughter got worried because he wasn't coming back. She went to find him, and found so many different things on the other side of the door - three fairy god mothers, and so many other people living in space. She found her father and went home.



BECOMING FRIENDS AGAIN

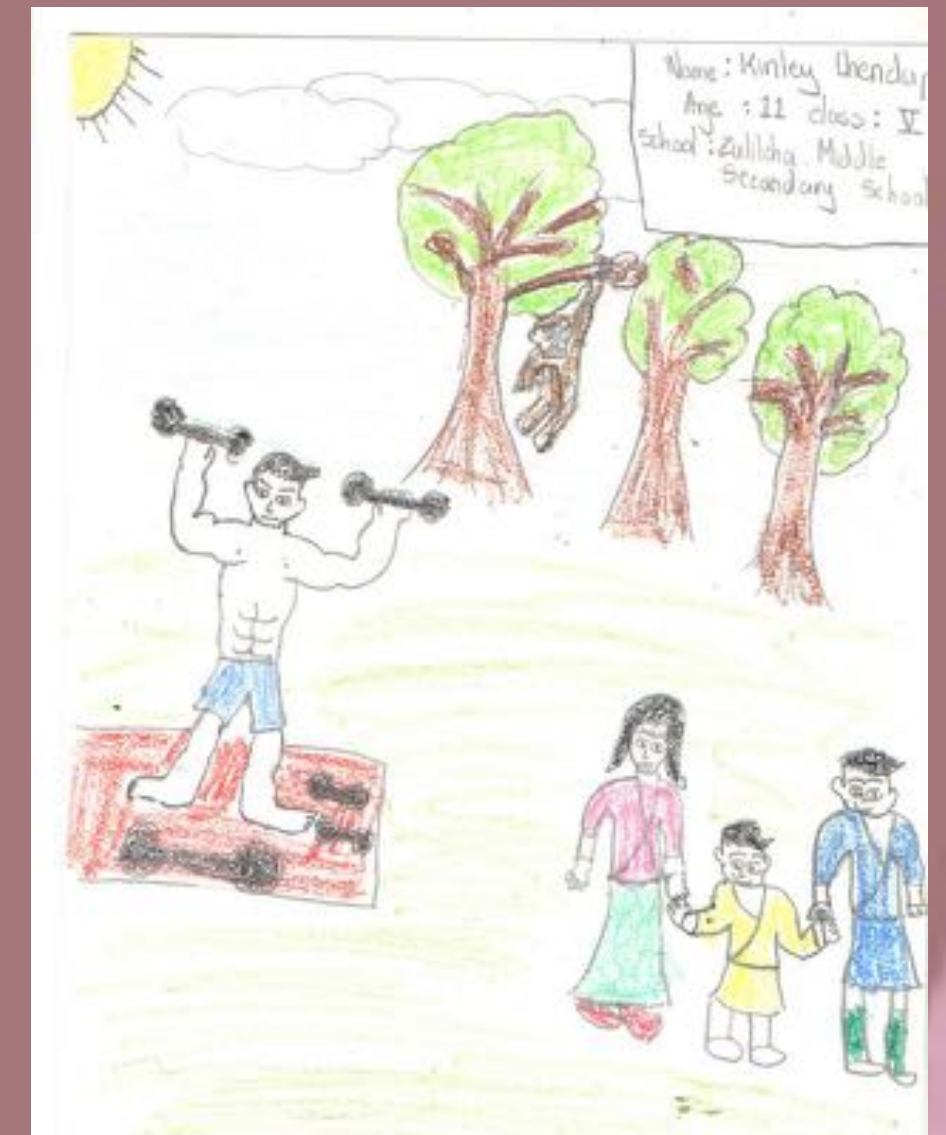
Jamyang Phuntsho, 11 years



Once, there were five boys who lived in a big building. They were Dory and Tashi, who were very kind, Yeshi, who was short, the cool and friendly Shoerab, and the evil Wangdi. One day when they went to town, they found some gold and started fighting for it among each other, except Wangdi. They were not friends for three months. Then, Shoerab said that their problem was the gold, and they decided to donate it to an old man.

GOING OUTSIDE

Kinley Lhendup, 11 years



I woke up early in the morning and saw a man running. He was a body builder. I also saw a monkey jumping from one tree to another in the forest. Since that morning, whenever I looked outside my window, I saw the man running and this went on every day.

I was faced with a problem, my parents had told me to not go outside. However, one day my parents were happy as they got a new house and they let me go outside. Thank you.



NEW FRIENDS

Geden Dema, 11 years

Once upon a time, there lived four friends, namely an elephant, an ant, a lion, and a fox. They were friendly in the jungle, where all the food grows. Once, they went to the riverside, where the fox lived, and ended up having a fight so bad that they could no longer face each other. The ant and the elephant were best friends and ignored the lion and the fox. They went to VAST. There, they met a father and his family. As it was far away, the father had left his home long back. The wicked lion and fox knew that the family would not be at home, and decided to destroy everything.

The family became friends with the elephant and the ant. When they went home, they found the lion and the fox destroying everything. Since the elephant and the ant used to be friends with the lion and the fox, they convinced them to stop. The fox and the lion too became friends with the family, and everyone lived happily ever after.



GOING HIKING

Tandin Kunzang Wangchuk, 10 years

One beautiful morning, I looked outside my window and saw a lot of trees and animals. The sun was shining, with white clouds. My parents thought we should go out for a hike. The soil was muddy because of heavy rain the previous night, but my parents decided mud could not ruin our plan so we went for a hike anyway !

THE LOST PUPPY

Sonam Dechen Wangmo, 11 years



I saw a puppy playing with a stick outside my window. It was very hungry so I gave it some food. I looked for the puppy's owner, but I couldn't find them anywhere, so it stayed with me. I fed it, washed it, and played with it every day. One day it fell sick, but the doctor said it would be fine after some rest. We went to walk outside and I played. My puppy and I lived happily together.

HOME FOR ANIMALS

Dechen Wangmo, 11 years



Two dogs were friends. They were lost, and they hoped for a home like the birds. They looked and looked, and finally found a small home for animals. There, they lived happily ever after.

FOUND A FRIEND

Pema Deki, 8 years
Illustrated by Ugyen Dorji



One day a cat and its owner went for a walk down a path dotted with a lot of trees. They were mesmerised by such a scenic path and even saw a group of three friends playing.



They kept walking for a while and suddenly realised they did not keep track of the path they had taken. They were lost. That is when a black dog came to their rescue and helped them get home.

LOST AND FOUND

Once upon a time, there lived a girl in a village. One day she decided to go to the village to get some berries and fruits for her family. However, on her way she realised she had lost her way. When she didn't return for a long time, her family realised something must have happened. When the villagers heard that the girl had not returned, they felt sad and expressed their concern. They suggest to the father of the girl that he should visit the king and request some help. Upon hearing about the missing girl, the king sends a brave knight and asks the father of the girl, a boy and a dog to accompany him. Meanwhile, after having lost her way in the forest , the girl wandered fearfully through the forest in the night. She was trying to locate a way back to her village and stumbled upon a lake. Suddenly, she heard some noise that was coming from the bushes behind her.

She ran away out of fear but that noise was the sign of nothing dangerous. It was actually the search party that had set to look for her and comprised the knight , the boy, dog and the father of the girl. Upon reaching the lake , the dog started running fiercely and crossed the lake. It had picked up a scent of the missing girl and was trying to follow that. The dog eventually found the girl and the dog led the girl back to the village. All villagers were delighted to see that the missing girl had returned safely to the village. They lived happily ever after.

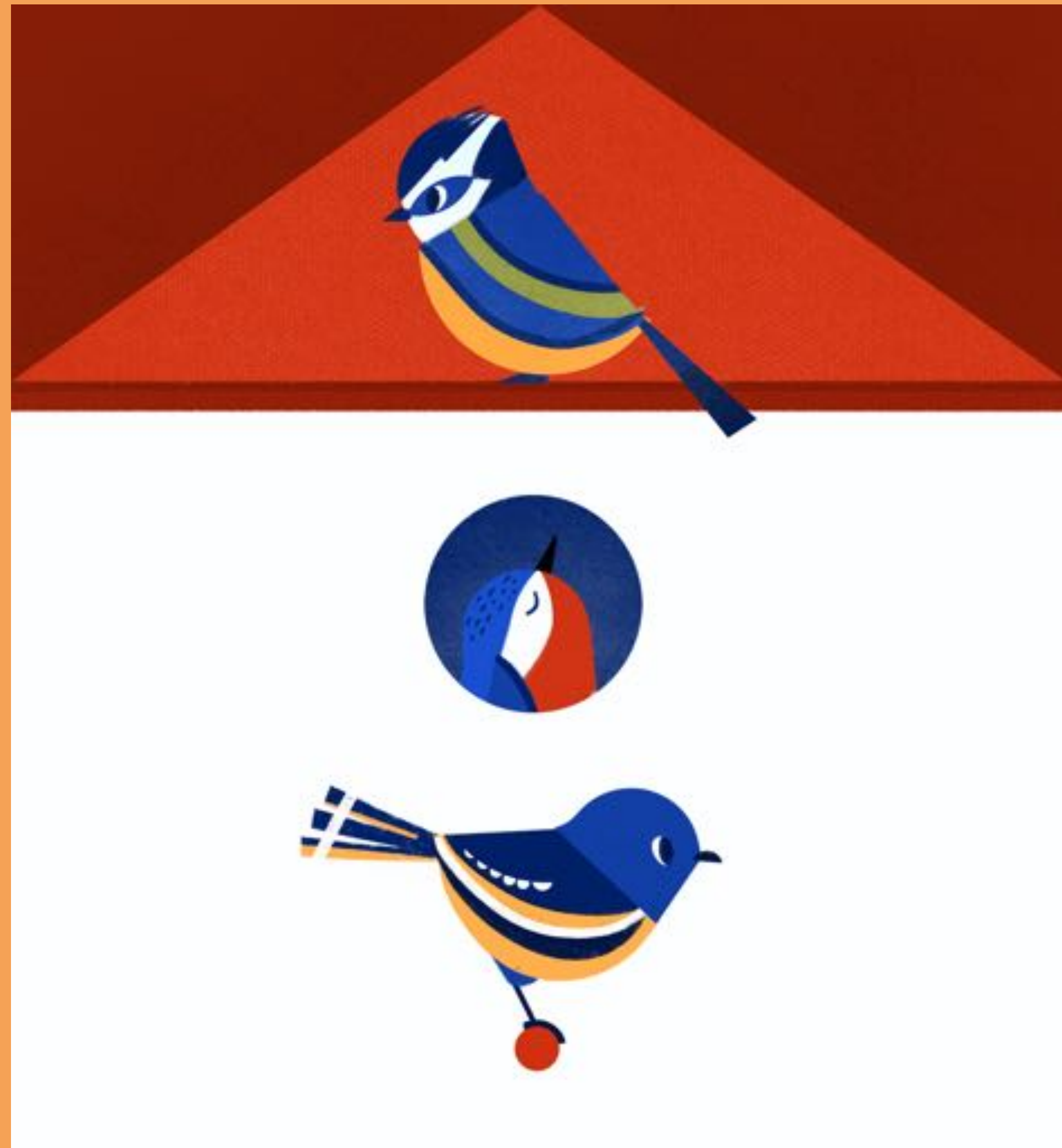
Yeshey Regyel Rinchen, 9 years



THREE BIRDS AND A HOME

Trashi Rigyel Onchuk, 8 years
Illustrated by Francesca Sanna

Three birds had no home. When they were looking for a new one, they found a man who was getting robbed. The birds helped him, and the man gave them a home.

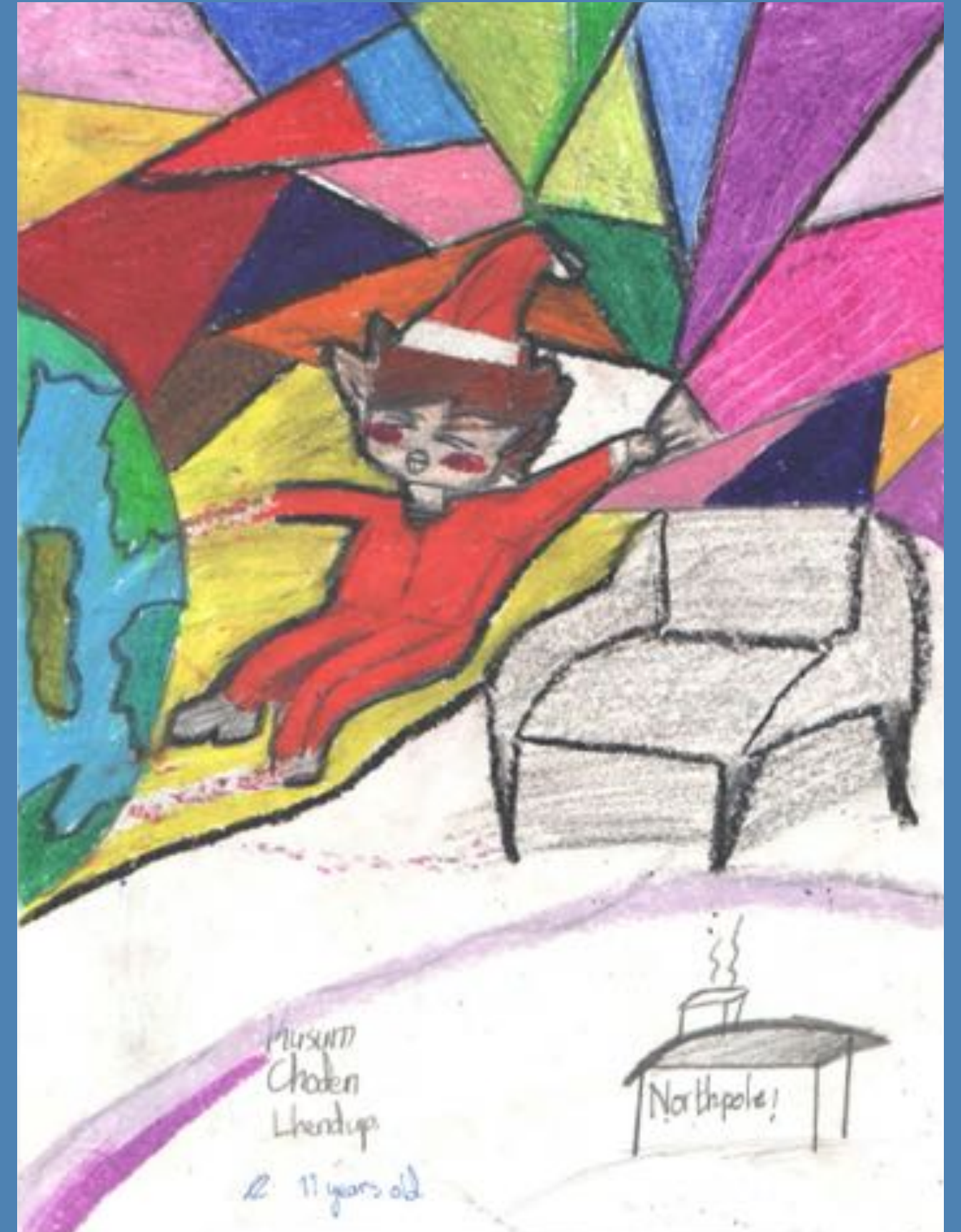


SANTA'S ELF

Kusum Choden Lhendup, 11 years

Once upon a time, not too long ago, there was an elf who lived in the north pole with Santa. The elf wanted to go to the human world but Santa said it was too dangerous.

The elf secretly went anyway, and roamed the human world undercover. He thought, there were so many different things in one place, the human world! Santa did not punish him, since he truly loved the elf.



A FLUFFY DOG

Chone Yezer Wangmo, 11 years



One day I looked outside my window and saw a fluffy dog with a fluffy tail. I saw that it was bleeding and quickly went to get a bandage. After the blood was cleaned, my family said I could keep the dog. I was very happy.

A GREAT IDEA!

Chenga Youden, 11 years



I looked outside my window and saw a landslide, from a volcano. I was shocked! I saw many people shouting and screaming and tried to think of how to save them. Suddenly I had an idea. I told everyone to run to the ocean. They brought ten big buckets of water, and I climbed on top of the mountain and poured them out. It worked! The people shouted "Thank you for saving us!". They treated me like a queen and I lived happily ever after



TWO FRIENDS

Eshana Rai, ??? years

I looked outside my window and saw a bird singing. Suddenly a dog barked at the singing bird. I was scared that the dog would eat the bird, but they started to play with each other.

The next day I saw a mountain covered with snow and the rain started to come as the snow of the mountain melted. The next morning I saw a person making a fire, and brought a bowl full of vegetables and a packet of marshmallows. They started to put the vegetables on a long stick and cooked them in the fire.

A LOST FRIEND

Naanggysel Ugyen Lhazin, 11 years



There were once five insects who were fast friends. They were a tiny ant, a ladybug who was a bit rude, a wise worm, a lazy dragonfly, and a butterfly with colourful wings. They lived in a peaceful garden that belonged to a kind girl. They had everything they wanted there, and when it became dark, a light would switch on automatically.

One day they decided to move to a different place and started looking for a place to start their new life. They looked and looked, but could not find a peaceful place. At last, they found one place near a river. The next day, when the ant was collecting leaves to cook some food, she saw a big leaf that she thought would be enough for the day. When she went to pick it up, she slipped into the river! She tried to call out for her friends, but nobody was there. In the afternoon, the worm was hungry, but he couldn't find the ant. He gathered all their friends and said, "Our friend ant is missing, where did she go?" The friends said, "She might have gone to look for some food. The worm replied, "It's been hours, and she hasn't returned. Let's all go and search for her." So they went to search for their friend the ant. They went up the hills, near the waterfall, and to a wooden house near the garden where they used to live.

While they were walking, they saw a spider. They asked the spider if he had seen the ant. The spider replied, "In the morning, when I was making a web by the river, I saw a small ant trying to pick up a big leaf, and while she was crossing the river she slipped into it, and the water flowed over her" The four friends thought that it must have been their friend the ant. They decided to follow the river and hoped they would find her.

ALL ALONE

Deepose Rai, 12 years



Once, there was a boy who wanted to go to another country. He had to get a passport made and look for a job. Abroad, he had no home to stay in and nobody to stay with. It was raining heavily, and he got drenched.

He saw some birds and wished for a new home like them.

GIANT APPLE TREE

Tenzin Yangchen Dorji, 11 years



I was playing with my friends, and I heard a sound. I looked outside the window and saw a giant apple tree. Just as I called my friend Kelzong to look at it, it started to vanish.

It was all a dream!



FRIENDS TOGETHER

Sonam Jigme Namgyel, 8 years

Once there was a tall boy called John, who lived with his friend Johnny. John loved animals, and one day he had an idea. He made a team with a strong lion, a funny monkey, a small cat, and his friend Johnny.

They all went to the jungle and had lots of fun. One day, while looking for food, the monkey went to the top of a very tall tree and got stuck. All his friends went looking for him. When they found him, the lion brought a rope, and the cat climbed up the tree to help the monkey come down. The friends lived happily ever after.



LULU & LILY

Jampel Choden, 9 years

Once upon a time there lived a girl called Lucy. One day she was walking towards the river and upon reaching the banks of the river, she saw a girl with her dog. Lucy asked the girl she just met, "What is your name?". The girl replied, "My name is Lulu and my dogs name is Lily."

Lucy asked Lulu, "Do you want to come with me? To this , Lulu replied " Yes." Lucy then said, " The problem is that we can't cross the river, so let's go back. "No", said Lulu, she continued " We can cross the river together. So they went ahead and crossed the river by holding each other's hand and finally reached their destination. They were happy and had a good time together.

THE LION, THE MOUSE AND AN APPLE

Once upon a time, there was a mouse and a lion. One day the mouse was hungry and he wanted to eat an apple. However, despite trying for a long time, the mouse couldn't climb up the tree. The lion saw the mouse and asked him what had happened. The mouse told the lion how he was hungry and had failed to climb the apple tree. The lion said, "I could help you, little mouse." The lion then roared so loudly that the mouse was high up in the air and I raised his arm and caught the apple.

One day the lion was being hunted down and entrapped by a hunter using a net. The mouse came to its rescue and cut the net with its teeth. The lion thanked the mouse for his help. They became good friends from then and realised that they had to survive and must do it together.

Sherab Pelchen, 8 years
Illustrated by Francesca Sanna





BEAUTIFUL BHUTAN

Namdrel Thinley Yangzin, 11 years

There was a child who badly wanted to travel the world. He asked his parents, and they agreed to take him.

The family took a plane from America to Bhutan, and saw so many different and beautiful things in the country. The child went back and told his friends and family about Bhutan.

FLOWER THIEF

Tenzin Chopel, 10 years



Once I looked outside and I saw a farmer among our flowers. I thought he was a good farmer, but actually he was cutting and taking our flowers. I told my mom, and she was shocked and called the police. When the police came, the farmer had already left. There were flowers strewn all around the road, and the policeman followed the flowers till he found the farmer. When we found the farmer we chased him, and he was punished for cutting our flowers.

SONIC & MAX

Gaden Phuntsho Zangpo, 10 years



Once there were two boys who loved to run around. There was one with long hair called Sonic, and his younger brother Max. One day they played a lot, and got lost in a jungle.

Time went by, and soon it was night. Max was scared, so Sonic told them a story about two birds who loved to fly around very fast. The birds got lost, but they found their house. Max said he hoped they could find their home too, just like the birds.

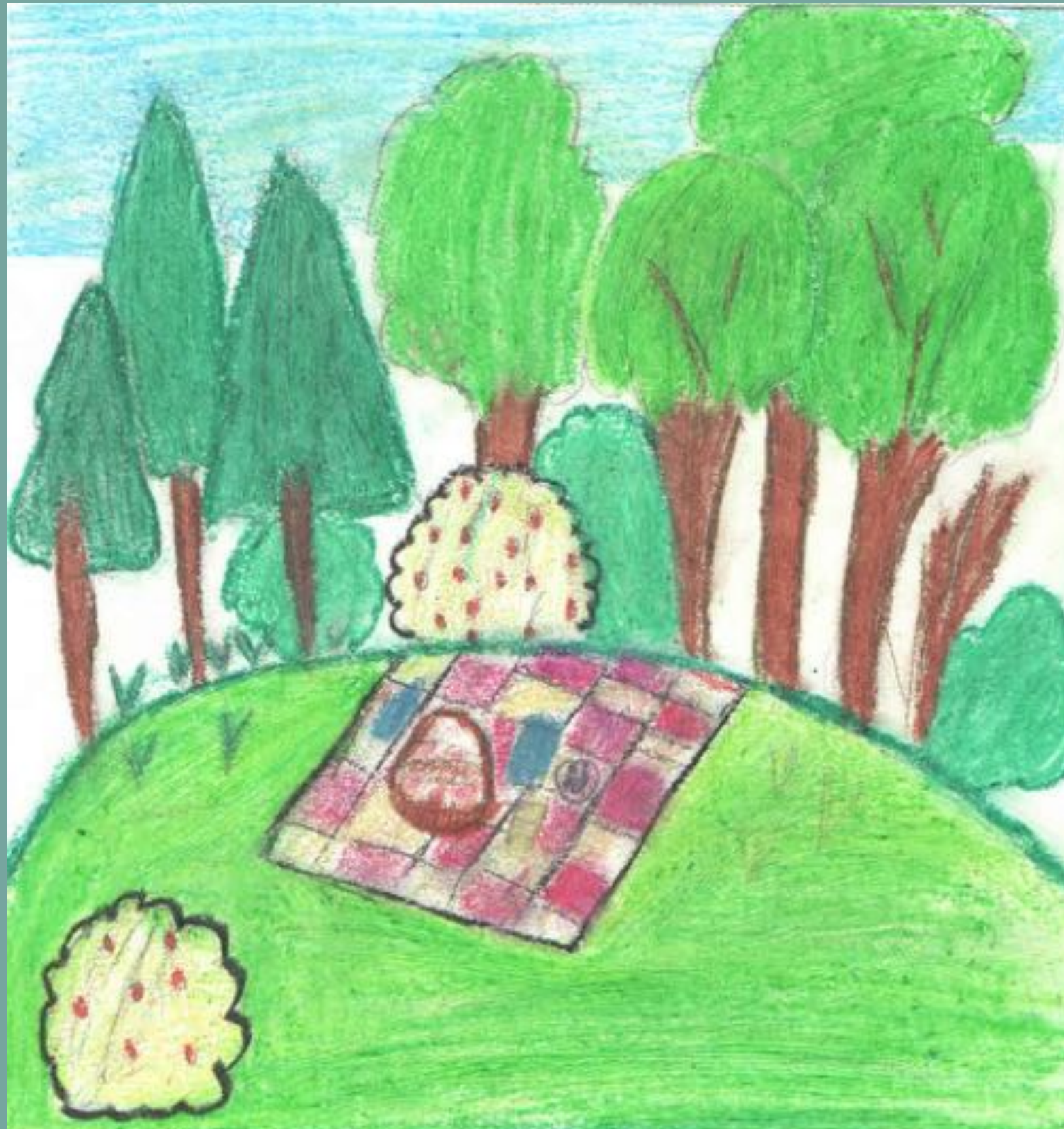
SAVING A FRIEND

Tenzin Lhaden, 10 years



In 1996, there lived a family whose members were always sad because they lived in a forest. The daughter's name was Lhaden and her best friend was called Yangchen . One day Lhaden went into the forest to collect some wood as they needed to light a fire. There was no light at their house and they also needed some fire for warmth. When Lhaden was about to go home after collecting the wood, she found wild animals such as bears, tigers running towards her. She dropped all the wood and ran towards her house but then realised it was too far away. When she looked back, she saw that none of the animals were chasing her anymore and she sat down to have a cup of tea to calm herself down.

Suddenly, the animals showed up and started howling and kicking Lhaden. Yangchen came running to help her and Lhaden learned these animals were Yangchen's pets. Yangchen took Lhaden to her house and looked after her, treating Lhaden almost like a princess. After a week , Lhaden had recovered from the attack and she lived happily with her family and Yangchen.



PICNIC

Esha Tamang, 11 years

One day, five friends were going on a picnic in a forest.

They were a soft dog named Lily, a mean cat called Mena, a fat cow named Katy, a kind bird named Jack, and a pig called Pinky, because she was pink.

They were all very cute. They lived in a clean, beautiful, green village. On their picnic, Mena went to the toilet and wouldn't come back !

The four friends were so worried, and looked everywhere for her. Lily followed the cat smell, and they found their friend! Everyone lived happily ever after.

THREE DOGS FIND A HOME

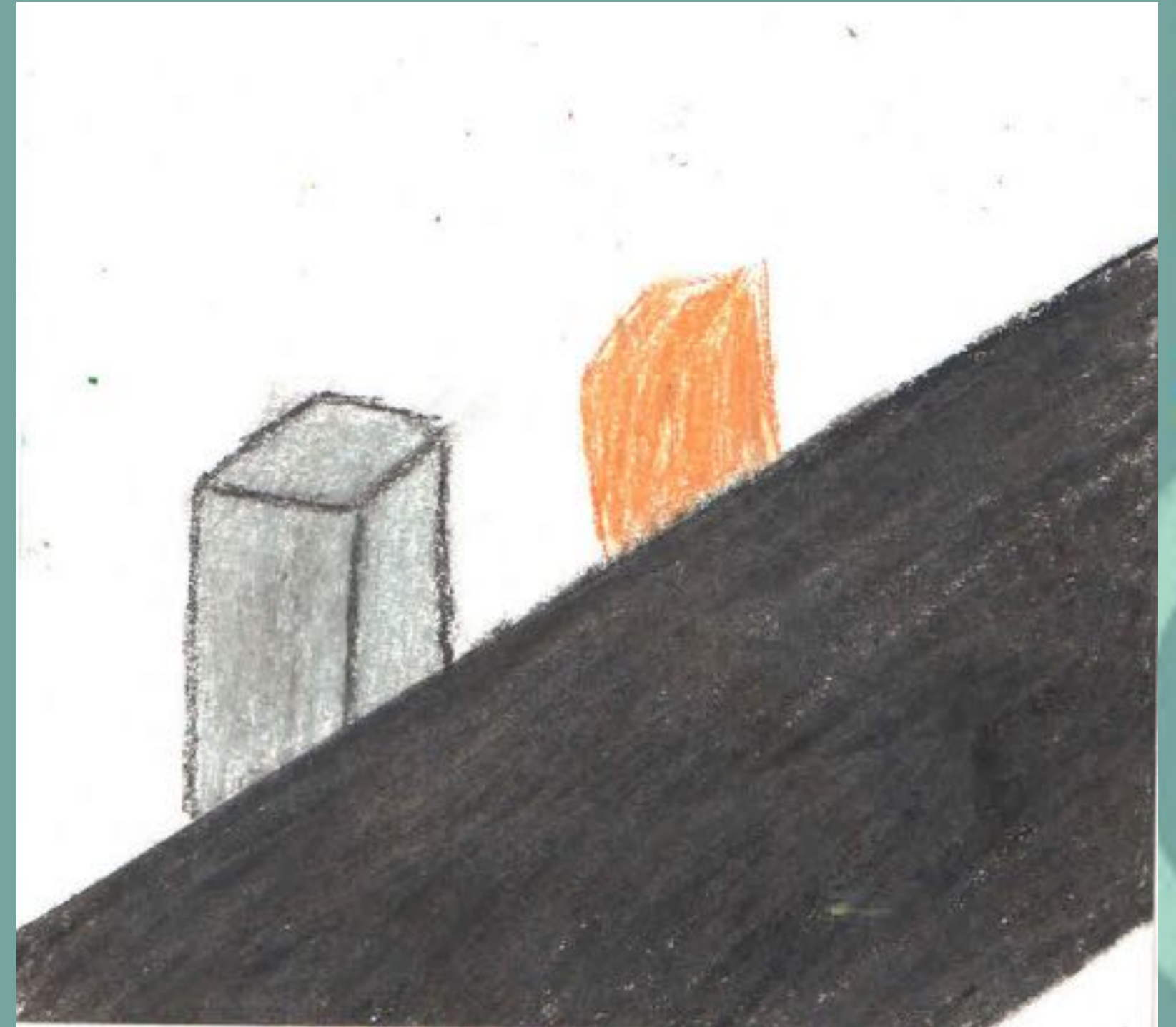
Rinchen Wangmo, 12 years



There were three dogs; one had a white paw, and the other two were twins. On a cold evening, they were walking through the forest, when they saw some birds. They hoped to find a home too. One day two boys and girls picked up the dogs and took them home, just like they always wished. They lived happily ever after.

A STRANGE SIGHT

Khamsum Tshokee, 12 years



HELPING AN INJURED BIRD

Tenzin Nima Wangmo, 9 years

I looked outside my window and saw a flock of birds flying to their houses. One bird was left behind. I could tell it was injured. It flew down to the ground that was right next to my house. Unfortunately, the bird had landed before the house of Mr. Smith, the bird shooter. I quickly ran next door and carried the bird to my house. The bird was badly injured.

When my mum came home, I told her what had happened. She was shocked to hear about what had happened and when I finished telling her everything, she took the bird to the vet. The vet assured us that the bird would be fine very soon. After the bird had recovered from its injuries, it flew away with the other birds.



VISITING A TOY SHOP

Sonam Yeshel Dorji, 12 years



Children went to a toy shop where they found so many different things.

A BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE

Kinzang Rinzin Wangmo, 10 years



On a fine day in the forest, I woke up early and looked outside the window and saw a beautiful flower garden and animals. I watched the birds sing till sunrise. It was beautiful and peaceful. The animals drank water and ate grass till they were satisfied. I watched them. Sadly, after sunrise, the animals went home with their families.

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Stories from children in Bhutan

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