

The word for Home



Stories by W.A's 9-12 year olds
for Children's Week



Written and
Illustrated by



Connection, Home Education & Freedom

Stories by W.A's 9-12 year olds for



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Message from the Minister for Community Services, Simone McGurk MLA.

"Whether we are young or old, stories connect us and add meaning to our lives. The 2020 Children's Week Book Project invited children from across Western Australia to actively participate in the making of this book through the creation and illustration of their own stories.

As you read through the selection of stories, you will see children communicating their thoughts and feelings, using their language, imagination and creativity.

I found the stories inspiring and I encourage parents and carers to find a time in their busy day to connect and share these wonderful stories with their children.

Thank you to all children who submitted their stories.

Happy reading!"

Home

Home is your place,
Home is my place.

Maybe it's staring at the sky,
Where big birds fly.
Or looking at waves that,
Splash into caves.

Or maybe it's inbetween,
Somewhere in the middle.

Home is where you cry.
Home is where you laugh.
Home is where you sing.
Home is where you dance.

At home there's no one to mock you,
To tell you you're no good.
Home is where you're safe and sound.
Home is where you have your heart.
Home is the place where you go to let go.

When you're home, you can be you.

- Tara

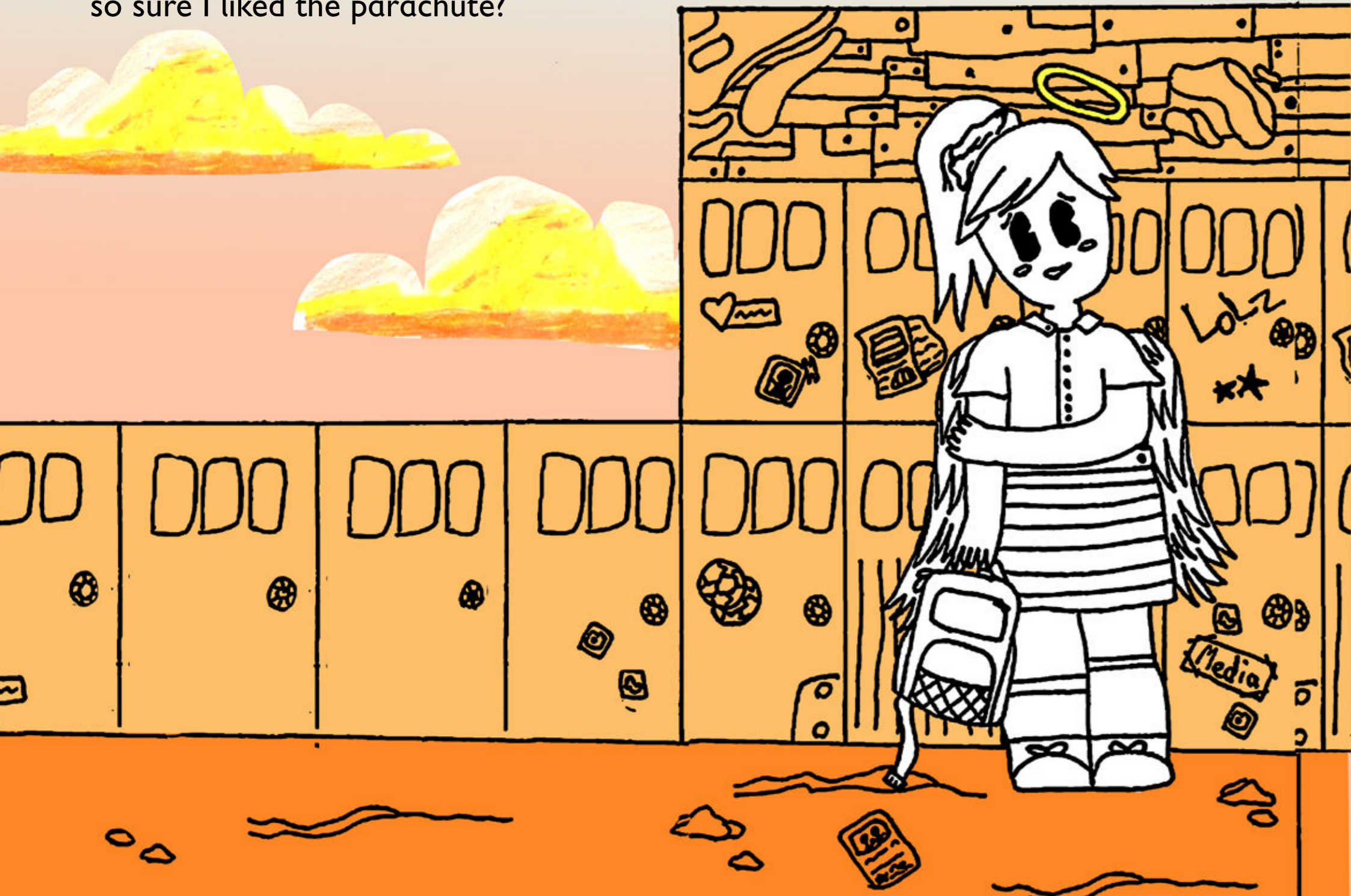


New Kid

It was my first day at my new school.

It sounded different. My old school sounded like kids on a sugar-rush and teachers going insane. But this school was quieter. Sometimes you could hear thunder, or a jet plane.

The uniforms were different. I didn't mind wearing the winged suit but I wasn't so sure I liked the parachute?



My Aunty had tried to introduce me to some kids before school started.

First she introduced me to Rainbow.

But that didn't really work out because she was always running off looking for a pot of gold.

Then she brought Storm over to meet me.

But I didn't really like the way that girl would zap me and she definitely didn't appreciate my lollipop stick collection.





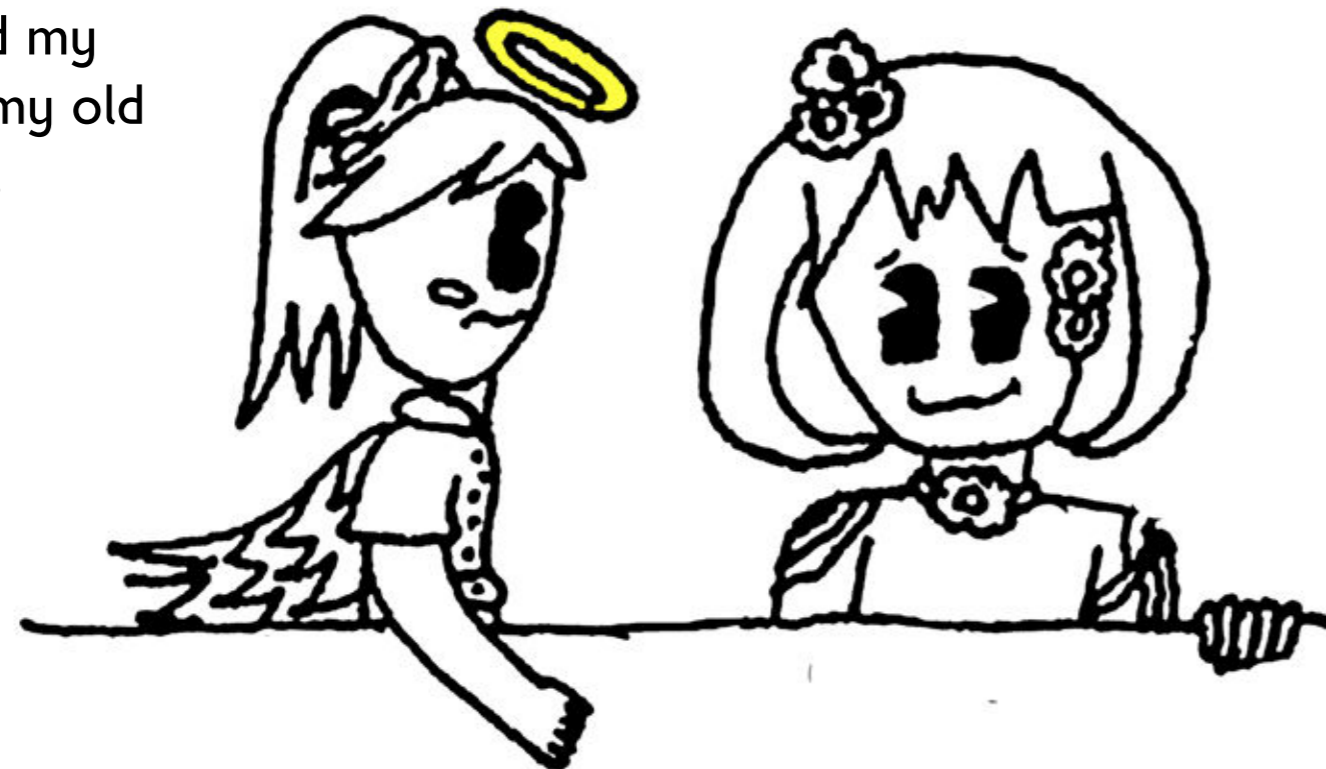
Then there was Sunny who was too bright,

and Misty who was like a wet blanket.



Aunty said I was the one being too picky, and she was probably right.

Truth is, I missed my old school and my old friends so much.



So I wasn't expecting, on my first day, that anyone would sit next to me at lunchtime. But Blue Moon did. We talked about witches and Dracula and we laughed so loudly we woke the man in the moon. It turned out that we both loved owls and bats.

After that, we decided to make an online club all about life at Sky School. We called it The Hot-Air Club. I even invited some of my old friends to join too!



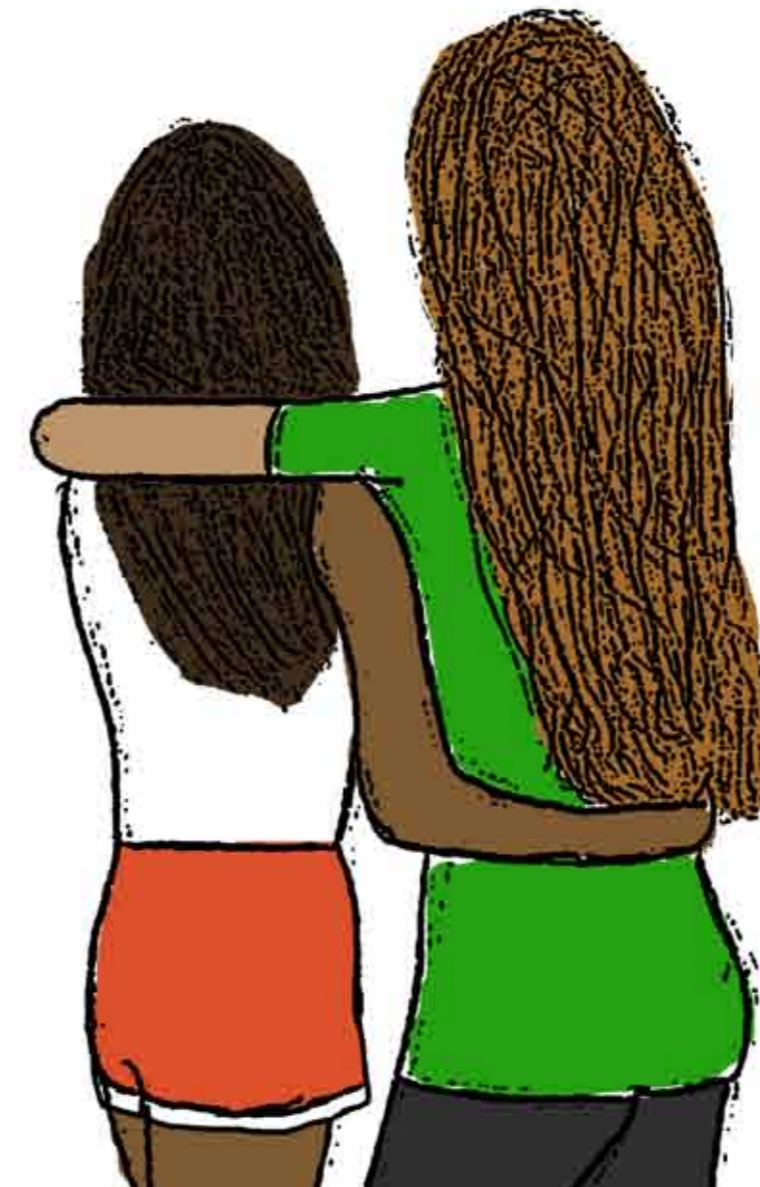
Article 15 – You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups to stay connected, as long as it isn't harmful to others.



The Word for Home

At home, the languages I speak are English, Aboriginal English and Gathang. My favorite words to say are probably “mucus” (because it sounds deadly) or “munduway” because it’s from our language. I know some words in another language too, like “gadda” which means ‘old lady’ in Ngalamar/Yinjibardi.

Sometimes I imagine what it would be like to travel far away from home to a place like New York. I think it would be interesting to go there because it’s a gigantic city and everybody talks about it. But after a while I’d probably miss things about where I live, like going hiking, hunting and exploring, the red dirt, the beaches and endless space. And I’d miss my family most of all.



In my family, we like to do things together like, going out bush. I’d miss the way that we gather and toast marshmallows and we can’t stop laughing when ants go up our legs.

I think my favourite time of the year with my family is when we go back home to country. That’s when we eat things like oysters and make damper.

People in my community celebrate things like NAIDOC and birthdays.

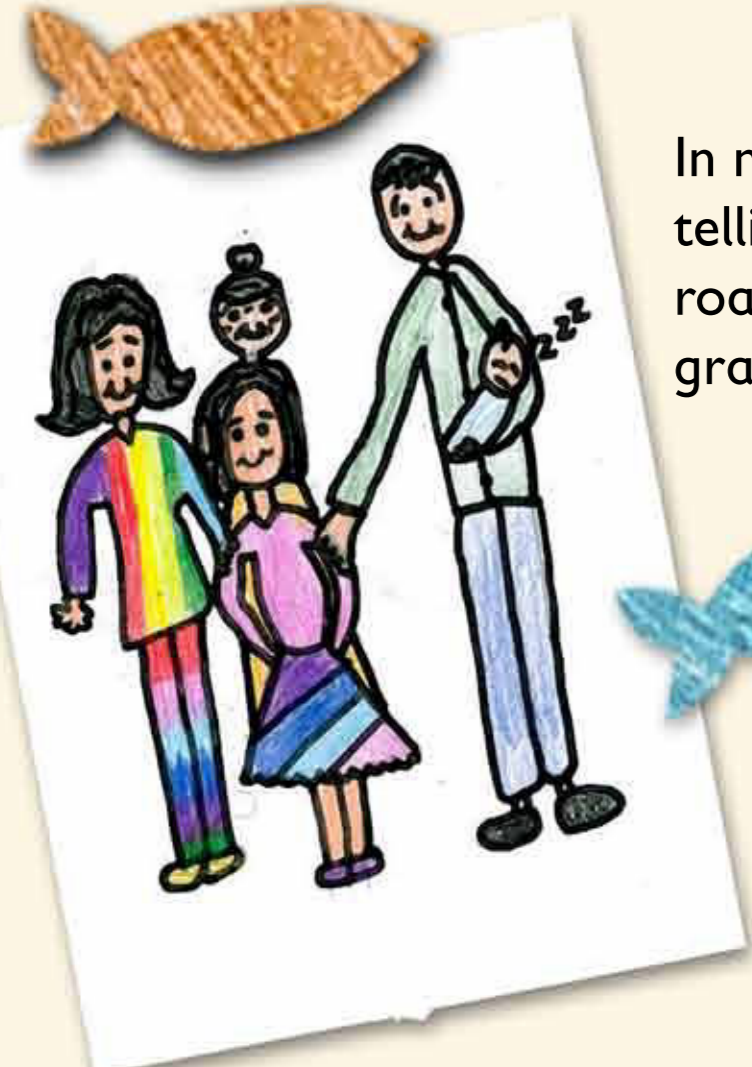
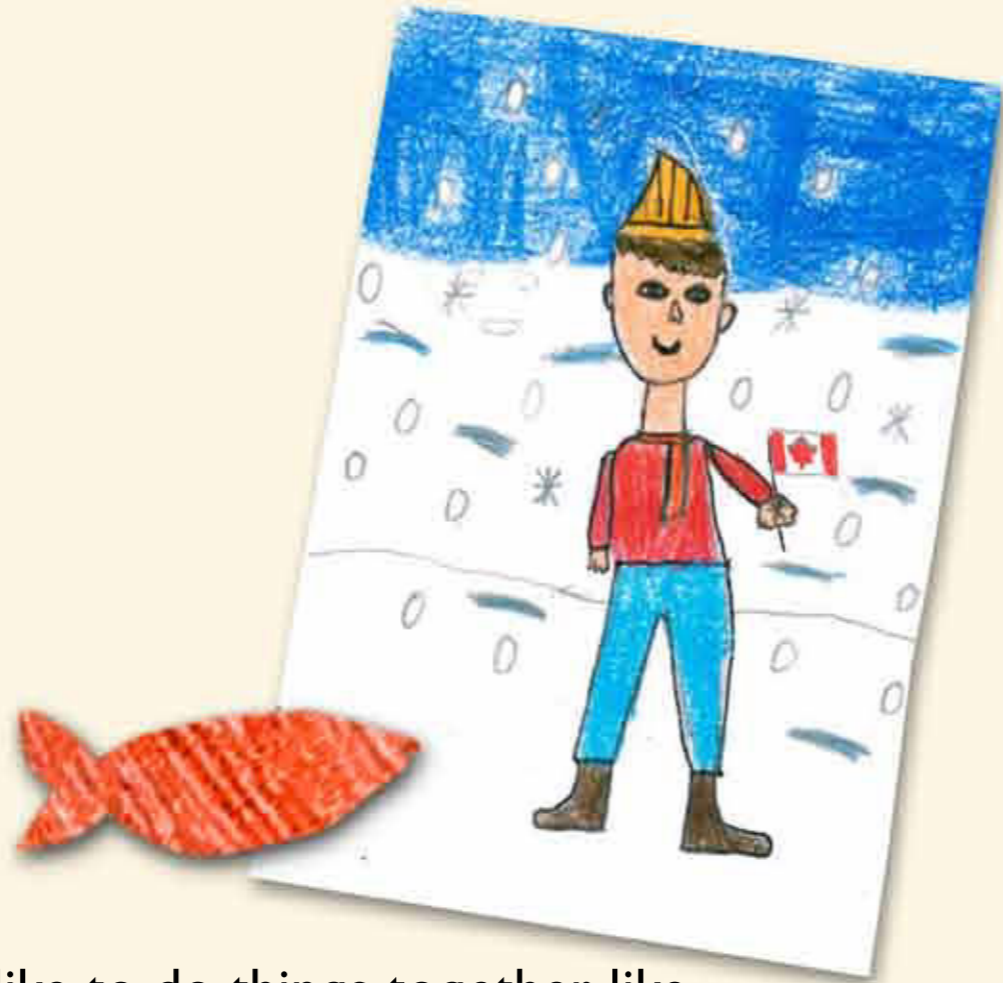
I hope that when I grow up, no matter where I go, or what I see, I’ll always be with my family and culture.

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And I'd miss my family most of all.

In my family, we like to do things together like, telling jokes and reading stories and going on road trips together. I'd miss the way that my grandmother kisses me and my mum cuddles me.



At home, the language I speak is English. My favorite words are probably “Hammerhead” because it sounds cool and “banana” because it’s fun to say. I know some words in another language too, like “kulfi” which means ‘ice-cream’ in Hindi.



Sometimes I imagine what it would be like to travel far away from home to a place like Brazil. I think it would be interesting to go there because it’s warm and there are lots of things to do, like visit the Amazon rainforest or see a carnival.

But after a while, I’d probably miss my mum, my brother and our dog, cats and fish, because they mean so much to me. In my family, we like to do things together like board games, Uno and gardening. It’s funny when we try to out-smart each other in a game. I’d miss our walks, PS4 battles and watching action movies that make no sense.

I think my favorite time of the year with my family is New Year. That’s when we have lots of time on our hands. We go to our friends house and have a barbecue and eat seafood and spring rolls while we wait for the fireworks to go off.

People in my community celebrate things like Christmas, Easter and sport!

I hope that when I grow up, no matter where I go, I’ll always have my family’s back!



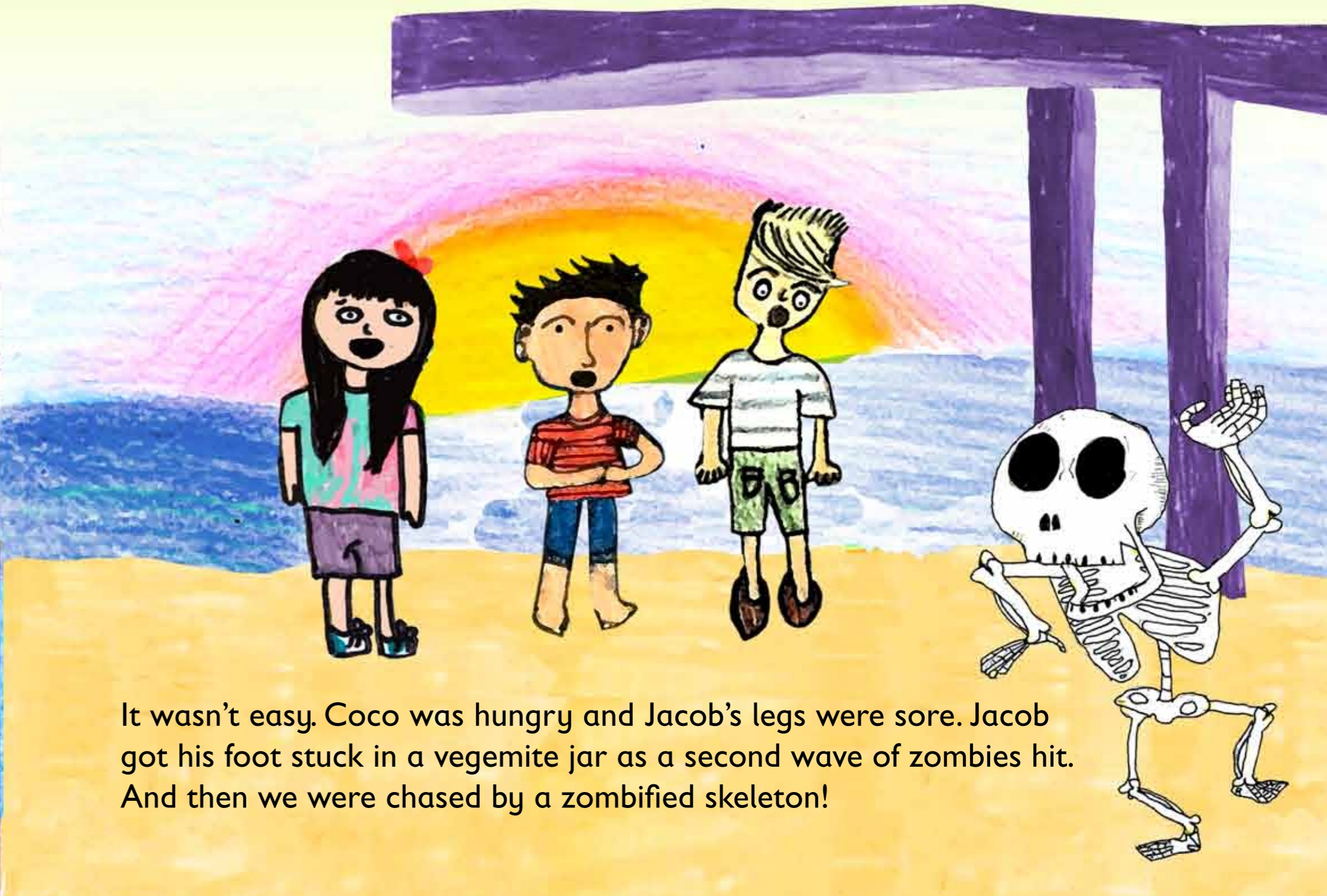
Article 30 - You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion – or any that you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.



There were others out there like us, they were hiding in underground bunkers and abandoned shopping centres. For a while we were able to get information about the zombies but then... BAM! The command centre was zombified. After that it was much harder to get updates.



But on day 300, we got a message from a kid who was hiding at an abandoned Ferris wheel, that there was a way to turn the zombies back into people. He didn't know what it was, but he said if we could get to the underwater observatory at the end of Busselton Jetty, we might be able to find out. So that's what we decided to do.



It wasn't easy. Coco was hungry and Jacob's legs were sore. Jacob got his foot stuck in a vegemite jar as a second wave of zombies hit. And then we were chased by a zombified skeleton!

When we got to the observatory, a scientist was busy setting up a radio to get the message out. She explained to us that you need to do to reverse the zombie illness, was to spray the zombies with a rare but powerful gas called Biofillia.



But before she could broadcast, a zombie came and bit her. Coco and Jacob chased it off, so the rest was up to me. I grabbed the radio and relayed the message about Biofillia to everyone. After that people knew what to do, and in time, there wasn't a single zombie left in the world.

For a while, I was a bit of a hero. They even named a bridge after me, and a school, and a kind of sausage, and a baby sloth at the zoo (so cute!).

These days I'm just a regular kid doing regular things, but honestly? After a zombie apocalypse, regular feels pretty great.



Catch a Falling Star

Everybody knows who TJ Starr is. Ever since being that baby in that ad for pickle juice, TJ's been mega famous. TJ Starr has a reality T.V. show, a signature fragrance called 'Starr From Afar' and appeared in that movie about the crocodile with a surfboard.



It was the talk of the town when we heard that TJ would be coming here. Even my little sister was so crazy about it that she drew a picture of TJ on her pillow. I admit that I thought it'd be pretty cool to meet someone famous.

I didn't think I'd bump right into them though! I was heading to the school in my wheelchair and TJ was racing around a corner when we collided.

"I'm trying to escape the paparazzi!" TJ whispered.

I was surprised how young TJ was, they can't have been much older than me.

"Here, I'll take you to my secret hide out" I said.



I took TJ to a room near my school's front office.

"Thanks so much for your help." TJ sighed, "being famous can be... kind of awful sometimes. I can't do anything without people watching me and taking photos. The other day someone took a photo of me as I fell in dog poo at a softball game. It was printed in a magazine, it was so embarrassing!"

I never thought I would feel bad for someone like that, but I did. I knew how it felt, after all. I remembered that time when I came back to school from the hospital and people were always looking and whispering and someone had taken a photo of me the day I was injured and shared it online. It was horrible.



So I helped TJ make a disguise out of some old mop heads and clothes from the lost-and-found.

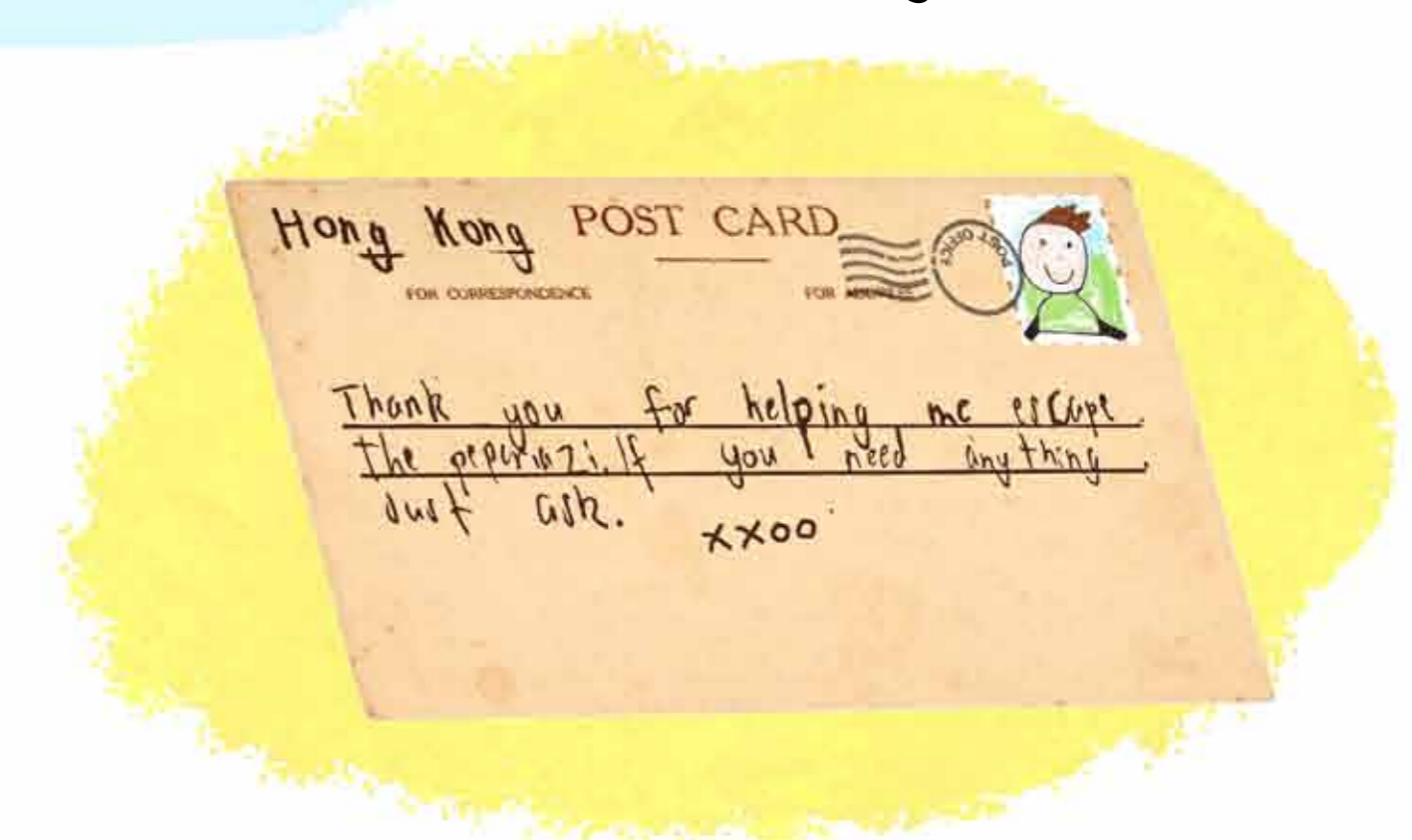
You know what happened after that? TJ Starr walked down the main street, and no one even noticed. Not even my little sister.



"When will I see TJ Staaaaaaaarr?!" she whined.

"Maybe never?" I said. And I was right! Nobody ever saw TJ Starr again.

I did get an anonymous postcard all the way from Hong Kong a few weeks later though...



Article 16 - You have the right to privacy.

About This Project

Children's Week in Australia celebrates the interests, opinions, talents and Rights of all Children by promoting the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Children's Week Book Project was a statewide initiative designed to connect and unite the children of Western Australia for Children's Week 2020.

With the support of award-winning WA Author and Illustrator, Briony Stewart, three story outlines were created for age groups 0-4, 4-8 and 9-12 years. These stories explored the Rights of Children and invited children to add their voices and make them their own. WA children from schools, early learning centres, libraries, community centres and families at home, sent through hundreds of creative stories with beautiful illustrations to match.



A selection of entries from multiple WA regions were compiled into the three collaborative books. Books that were written and illustrated by children, for children.

The Children's Week Book Project was brought to you by Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation. This project was guided by Author and Illustrator, Briony Stewart, and proudly supported by Lotterywest and Healthway promoting Go for 2 & 5. A special thank you goes out to all children who entered and to the teachers, educators and carers who supported their children to enter.



Design & Editorial: Briony Stewart
with assistance from
Matthew Lindsay & Elizabeth Hogben



Connection, home, education & freedom. These are the stories of 9-12 year old children from around Western Australia in celebration of Children's Week 2020.

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