

Margaret Beisenbeck

Stories

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PROLOGUE

Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.

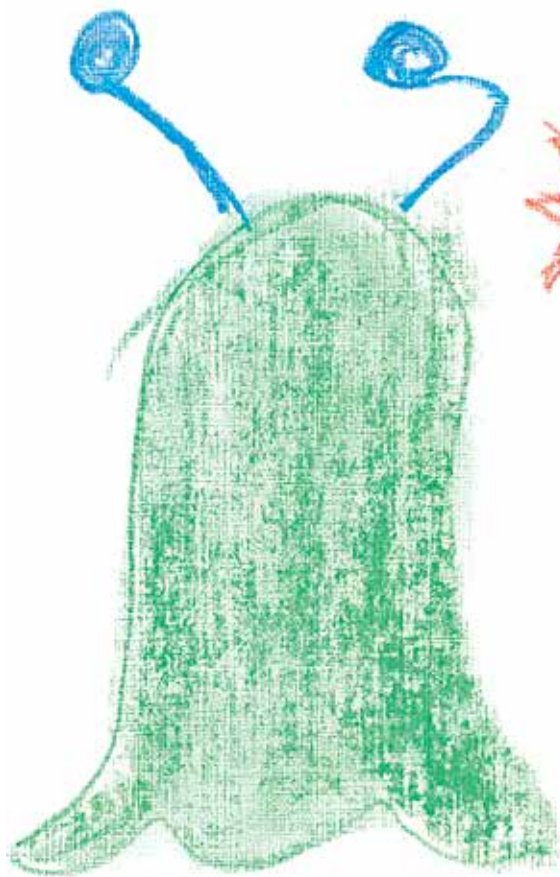
Benjamin Franklin

A child's imagination is infinite. Children look at life with unblemished eyes. After writing two books of poetry, accompanied by her own drawings, Margaret is presenting us with this book, her first steps into writing stories.

The monsters that sometimes haunt children's dreams (whether daydreams or nightmares) are one of the topics children like to read about. If you want to know how to do away with them, you should read "How to Defeat Monsters".

Elementary school experiences are sometimes unforgettable. Margaret has turned into fiction the pranks our classmates play on others (and sometimes on us), embarrassing or happy moments, the first friend, our teachers. All these can be relived in "An Odd Grade Four" or "The Tennis Tournament". Moreover, there are vignettes with life lessons so that we don't forget.

I invite you to find light reading, reading for fun in these pages. I give my greetings to Margaret for her approach to look at life and to picture it through her drawings.



How to Defeat Monsters

Chapter 1

The early December day began with big grey clouds that first sent rain, and then turned into little flakes of snow. There was a log cabin in Passau, Germany, that was very petite, but cozy. The cabin kept warm anyone inside it. In the cabin there was a small living room, a small bathroom, a little kitchen, and an attic upstairs. There was a vase with wild flowers in the livingroom, and on the mantelpiece photographs of Tom's grandpa (who had suddenly disappeared). In the attic, eight-year old Tom was lying down still in his pajamas on a green sofa, waiting for his grandma to bring him breakfast. Tom was blond and wore glasses and was small for his age. His parents had died, so he was staying with his grandma in her cabin. Grandma was seventy-six years old, but she was still an active and lively old lady. People called her insane because she always talked about some monsters she had seen when she was young in Passau. From that moment on, she was trying her whole life to run away from the monsters. To escape from the monsters she lived in this small cabin near the Bohemian Forest; it was famous for its blueberries. Grandma loved making blueberry jam. Grandma never allowed Tom to go to the Bohemian Forest because she said there were monsters. But she did not say anything about monsters to Tom. He would never disobey his grandma, would he?

Chapter 2

When his grandma came with his breakfast, he stared at her and then at the tray. She loved this tray that had belonged to her great grandmother. Tom was starving! He had been waiting for his food and he was drooling when he smelled the food. Then grandma brought the breakfast to the sofa; on the plate there were eggs, bacon and a cup of tea with milk. He grabbed the plate and began eating straight away untidily and rapidly.

“You are very hungry! Oh! Look what I just invented!” grandma exclaimed. She showed Tom a small television that was used in 1950’s.

“Grandma that is an ancient TV...!” Never mind... he said to himself. And then Tom finished. He handed her the plate.

“You are eight, right?”

“Yep!” Tom replied.

“I think you are a big boy, and you should have some physical exercise, so go out, make a snowman and pick some blueberries, so I can make you some jam.”

“Really?”

Grandma nodded. Tom was so excited that he ran downstairs and grandma could hear the steps go BOOM, BOOM! Grandma sighed and smiled. She was so happy that her grandson could have some fun. But grandma was worried that maybe a monster could eat Tom because he had just eaten, and that meant he was kind of fat. And for monsters he would be juicy and small, so easy to eat.

Chapter 3

Tom went to the drawer that was filled with his clothes, and took a warm hat, scarf, gloves, a sweater, and warm pants and boots with silky leather. Then he rushed to the kitchen while dressing up and got a basket. Next he whooshed like a tornado through the door. And there he was: a little boy that had just eaten went outside to have some fresh air and do his hobby, building a snowman and helping grandma. Then he put the basket down and rolled a pile of snow to make the tummy of the snowman. Suddenly, Tom saw a black cat. He saw it so clearly that he did not have to step closer. Then he heard a fart sound. He did not do it! The cat did it! And then:

“Hello, you are Jonathan’s grandson, right?” the black cat asked.

“AAAAAAHhhh!!”

Tom shouted, running away, leaving like he had fire in his pants. Every time he looked back the cat was getting further, but he did not realize that he was going the direction of the Bohemian Forest. Then he stopped. He looked around and he saw he was in the forest. Suddenly he heard some voices around; scattered, cackled voices, as a trogglehumper struggling to be free. He followed the voices, and as he was getting nearer it sounded like cats and he heard his name! He was so curious that he followed the voices. At last he saw where the voices were coming from, they were coming from cats scattering about; but the weird thing was that the biggest cat was on the stage in front of all the black cats. They behaved as if they all were afraid of her. Then suddenly:

“SILENCE! “Shouted the biggest cat on the stage. “Who has a plann? It betterrrr be goodd”

“I have one, your magnificence, your splendor, your stateliness, your dignity, your greatness, your grandness, your majesty, your...”

“Just get to the point!”

“Oh yes! Your magnificence, your splendor, your stateliness, your dignity, your greatness, your grandness, your majesty, your...”

“You are fired!” And then she turned him into ashes!

“Oh, your mistress! Your name is not in the science book! That is a tragedy!” exclaimed one of the cats.

“Whoarrreyouoo?”

“Let me introduce myself : I am the Monster.”

“Nice name! Well, monsters, take of your disguises and rest to your souls!”

Suddenly Tom saw several cats turn into hideous monsters in front of his own eyes. Some had five eyes, some were like liquid. But the ugliest of all was on the stage without skin. She only had a dress on and some hairs on top of her head coming out from her crown. She was the Queen! The only beautiful thing was her crown, full of diamonds and rubies. It had been stolen from the former king.

“I have a plannn!” said the Queen. We can make soup filled with a potion. Once the little people have eaten the soup, they arrre going to become even morrrre little and then we snatch them and eat them. The ingrredients for the drrinking potion are

The hearrts of two frogs

Thrrree human eyeballs

One jarrr full of skunk liquid

And also 60 diamonds.

Do you agree?”

“Actually not. See if...”

“You do not agree! You are fired!”

“Oh, no majesty, you got me wrong I was agreeing with you,” said the monster that was sweating a lot.

“Do you guys agree?”

“Marvelous! Excellent!” everyone shouted.

“Before we do the plan, we have to rest in the cottage where that mean Jonathan lives in, then we can rule the Earth!” exclaimed the monster queen.

Tom was so scared! He ran away even faster than he was running away from the cat! He went out of the forest. And then he got to his cottage and said:

“Grandma! Is my grandad’s name Jonathan?” Tom asked.

“Yes, but how do you know that?”

“Because an ugly, hideous monster said it! He was saying that they are going to rest here and then rule the world!” Tom said panicking.

“What!” Grandma stood up, looking at him in a weird way and then said, “Do you want to save the world?”

“Well, of course, what are we waiting for?”

“For you to tell me the plan!” Granma said while grinning. “And you are going to make the plan!”

“What! You make me do all the work! At least make me a soup...” Tom stopped.

“Why did you stop?”

“Soup...” Tom was thinking saying the word over and over. “Ah! I have an idea! But first, can you make 100 soups?”

“Of course!”

Chapter 4

“**T**he cats are coming!” Tom exclaimed near the window while watching the cats come. “Soups ready?”
“Yep!” grandma replied.

Ding dong! Tom went and opened the door and he watched a long time. He stared at the cats with amazement, because they were all making cutie faces, so he could let them in. Tom really wanted his plan to work so, he said, “Come in!” He led them to the couch and put a sign that said, “Sleeping Time, 5 seconds! The cats were very cozy that began sleeping. But suddenly in five second’s grandma said: Dinner Time!” Grandma was shouting with a sauce pan and with a spoon. All the cats went rushing about. But then the main cat with a crown left the shrinking potion on the couch and left happily, so Tom got the shrinking potion. It was in a huge perfume bottle with a sweet smell of flowers; he was getting a little sleepy over the smell so he rapidly zoomed and gave it to grandma. Then, grandma put the potion into each soup and she gave it to each cat. When each cat finished with their soup they went to sleep. They were all hugging each other except one, the queen. Then, suddenly all cats began to shrink, and got smaller and smaller until they were really tiny.

“Heyy! What happened?”

“See, how I defeated them, you should be very happy. But, don’t you have to free someone?” grandma asked.

“Free who?” Tom asked.

“It’s ok. He is coming. You are going to like this person a lot!” grandma exclaimed.

Suddenly there appeared a person walking from the darkness outside toward Tom. Tom looked outside, and he recognized this person.

Chapter 5

Tom finally got another look; it was grandpa! When grandpa got to the cottage he opened the door and kissed his grandson and then helped Grandma.

“Where were you Grandpa? “

“I was locked in a cage and I couldn’t get out until someone defeated that hideous monster.”

“By the way, Grandpa, can you build a sign?”

“Of course!”

Everyone lived happily ever after. Tom and his Grandpa made a sign that read, “CATS THAT LOOK LIKE MONSTERS ON SALE HERE”. Monsters were a big hit, so big that the President of the neighboring country came and he loved them! As a reward they got a million dollars.

NORMAL

POPULAR



An Odd Grade 4

On a hot summer day, there was a young girl with brown hair and brown eyes. She was ready to go to school with a purple backpack full of books. Mary, that was her name, was really nervous; it was June 1st, the first day of exams.

Mary had studied all night for it, because her parents always told her, “Mary, you have to do your homework,” but she did not care. However, though she did not agree with her parents all the time, she sometimes listened to them because she loved her parents.

Mary looked at her watch: 7:30! She beat her record. Then she went happily to school. When she got to school, she sat down on a bench and said hello to the security guard.

“Hello, MS” said Mary.

“Hi! How are you?”

“I am fine.”

Everyone greeted her, except for the popular girls. They never greeted anyone except each other. The whole day they talk and talk about beauty and, well, let me not tell you the whole story.

“Hi, Josephine!” said Andrea.

“Hi, Andrea! I hope you can come to my sleepover!” said Josephine.

“Of course! You are like my best friend.”

Andrea is the most suspicious one of all. She and her mom look at

everyone with evil eyes as if you have done something bad. By the way, she has a crush on Max. He is Mary's worst enemy since 1st grade. But now he is coming along. He plays football, soccer, and he is the smartest of all the boys in Mary's class. Suddenly, Mary heard a noise, footsteps; it was Sid, Mary's best friend. He is sometimes a little aggressive and he wants to be a chef in the future.

"Hey! Did you study for our Math exam?" Mary asked.

"There is a math exam?!" Sid exclaimed.

"You did not practice for the math exam!" Mary shouted.

"Na! Just joking".

"That was a good one!"

And then, Mary heard Andrea tell Josephine, " Oh my god! Look at Sid. He is so fat! He is like a huge ball!" Andrea said whispering. Then the mother, Andrea, Andrea's sister and Josephine started to laugh.

Mary went to Sid and patted his shoulder.

"Don't worry, you are not a ball," Mary tried to calm him down, because he was about to cry.

Then suddenly the security guard said that the school was open and that everyone could enter. Everyone rushed in, except the popular girls; they walked like in slow motion. Mary and Sid said, "This was preposterous!"

"Hey, Mary! How do you convert a decimal into a fraction?" asked Sid.

"Aren't you supposed to know that?"

"Well..."

“It is okay, but I am not telling you!”

Then, Mary ran off and then she saw John, her crush in 3rd grade, but not anymore.

“Wait up!” Mary exclaimed.

And then John said turning around, “Is Jennifer around?”

“No! They are out there talking about parties and gossiping.”

“Pheww!”

“Why?”

“Because if they find me they are going to ask questions about Max! And that is supper annoying.”

Max-cool, Netherlands John-kind, Germany Allan-unspeakable, Indonesia

Caroline-grandma, Canada, her parents divorced Robert-aggressive, Spain, loves football/soccer William-private part touchier, Italian Josephine-butt mover, ugly, Spain Paul-tall, Germany Manuel-weird, wears braces and glasses, Brazil Juliet-red-haired, U.S.A Mike-normal, Bolivia Samantha-African, weird Juliana-hair flicker, ugly, Venezuelan Alice-tattle-tale, shouter, Argentinean, gossipier Jim-runs with his butt up, Spain Sid-aggressive, Bahamas Adam-speaks low, Chile Christine-skinny, mean, Germany, gossipier Leo-king of lies, England Andrea-gossipier, friend-user, ugly, fat, Spain Wilson- sucks his thumb, aggressive, England Jennifer-gossipier, ugly, short Sam-reader, disgusting, Canada Chris-disgusting, skinny, boney, Germany Cody-crazy, sexist, always wants to be first, Egypt

When Mary read the note, she wanted to tell Mike to stop throwing these notes at her. But when she asked Mike if he had done it, he said that he

had not. Mary did not really care, because that was true, but why to her?

Then, the bell rang. Many boring exams went, and finally the interesting part. Mary and her friends were walking, and Leo found a piece of paper that read, "Alice loves Max". Then the popular girls made such a big fuss about nothing. They started speaking, no, shouting at Mary about nothing, explaining that they were making a big fuss about nothing. They kept on, and they went so hard, that they hurt Adam's and Leo's feeling saying that they were the ones who wrote that. Mary was so tired about it all, that she told Ms. Goldsmith what was happening. Then, everything went to normal.

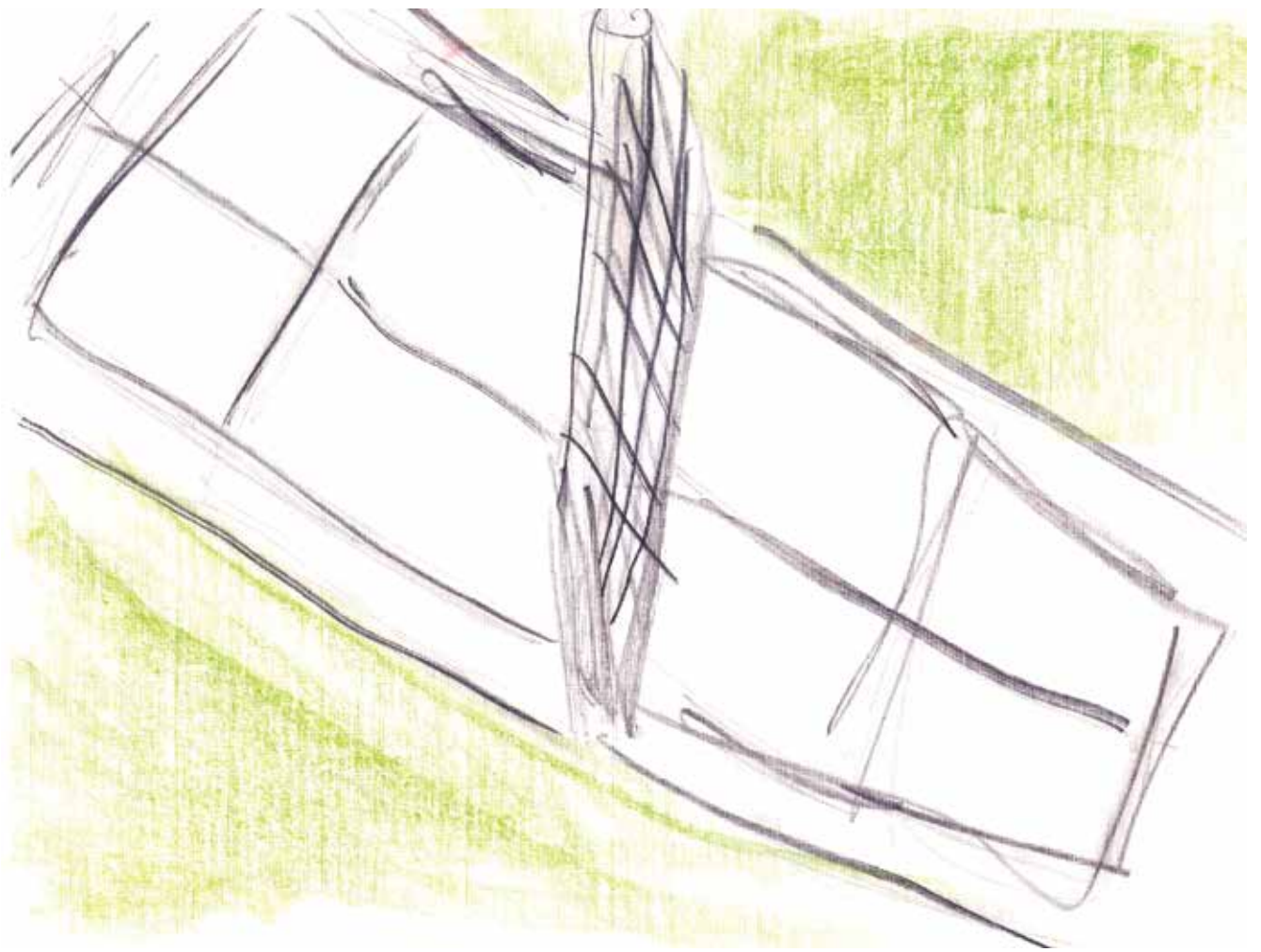
Everything was normal; but there was one day when Mary found out that she had A+ on every subject. The sad part is that Mary also found out that the popular girls said that she was greedy; just because Mary always wants to be first, just to compete! The popular girls also use the boys to do things, just for Push-Pops! I know the Push Pops are delicious, but you cannot force people do something, just for candy!

Well, actually let me give you with more details. They are cruel and evil and Mary learned that Andrea wanted to practice her English! So she talks more with the English people, but she still is hanging out with the popular girls.

Suddenly, one day a weird thing happened: the popular group wanted Mary to betray her friends. They put all the blame on Mary while she was in the bathroom. They said, "she said that we are mean and jealous."

Luckily Mary said that she had said that because they had hurt five of her friends, so she did not get in trouble. What really happened was that Mary was in the bathroom, and she saw Leo crying. He told her that these girls had accused him of saying that they were stupid and that he cursed. He said he would never do that again. Some other day Mary saw Adam crying while he was reading a book in the library because the popular group said that he was a baby. Mary knew that they were telling the truth; she also knew that her friends had not said that.

There was also a peculiar event. On the June 21st, Alice said that Mary was too old to have her mom at her side. The truth is that Mary got in trouble for nothing, because she had kicked them so hard on the stomach that they had a mark there. The point is that they were saying,» Too bad that Mary's parents are so awful to her, and did you look at them! They are hideous! Even though Mary said that her parents are smart, they look so dumb!» So Mary hit them on the stomach. She begged the teacher not to tell her parents, and the teacher didn't. The teacher punished Mary, because of nothing! But what Mary wanted to do was to have a happy future, and to make her parents proud of her.



Tennis Tournament

There was once a boy named John that always wanted to be naughty. He shouted at most of the kids. He thinks that he is the most intelligent and the handsomest boy in school; besides, he is a tattletale and do not forget that he never listens to the teachers. He always wants to be first and he is disrespectful. He never wants to lose, and always gossips and jokes around. One of the sports he really likes is tennis, so he entered the tennis competition. It would take place on Saturday, 9 o'clock in the morning.

On Saturday, John packed his things and was joking around playing with his friend Sanchez. When Manuel came, John acted like Manuel was his BFF. Manuel just ran away as if John was a weirdo. Even though John looked confident, deep inside he was not; he was terrified. To disguise his fear, he says that he is eight years old, so that is why John cannot beat Manuel. What a life!

John was competing, but thinking:

Will I ever beat him, or will he beat me?

He was winning, but he was afraid of Manuel. Manuel was the smartest and the best at tennis in the school. He defeated all the Mexicans in tennis. He made a book of Poetry. How could he win over this? But John gained confidence, because there were more people cheering for John than for Manuel. That was until he saw five more people cheering for Manuel.

John beat Sanchez, his friend. It was easy because Sanchez knew very little about tennis. He and his mum always said Sanchez was good at tennis.

They were lying, but what could people do? Will they say to themselves, 'You are such a liar!'; but if people say that, then they will give you an evil look.

He ended up in the finals. John was really worried. He acted as if he was confident, but when Manuel defeated him in all of the games, he did not cry, he just went to his mommy and said cried, "Mommy!"

From that day on, everyone gossiped about John.



The Magical Cards

Once upon a time, there was a boy that would play cards for any money. His name was Harry, he was great at cards. The town hated him, because they were losing money! So then the villagers asked a magician if he could trick Harry and beat him at a game of cards. The magician accepted.

The magician played a game with Harry for a million dollars. Harry was very confident, until he saw a bunch of cards he did not know, so that meant that he had lost.

Lesson: Check first when you are playing cards.



The Kidnapped Boy

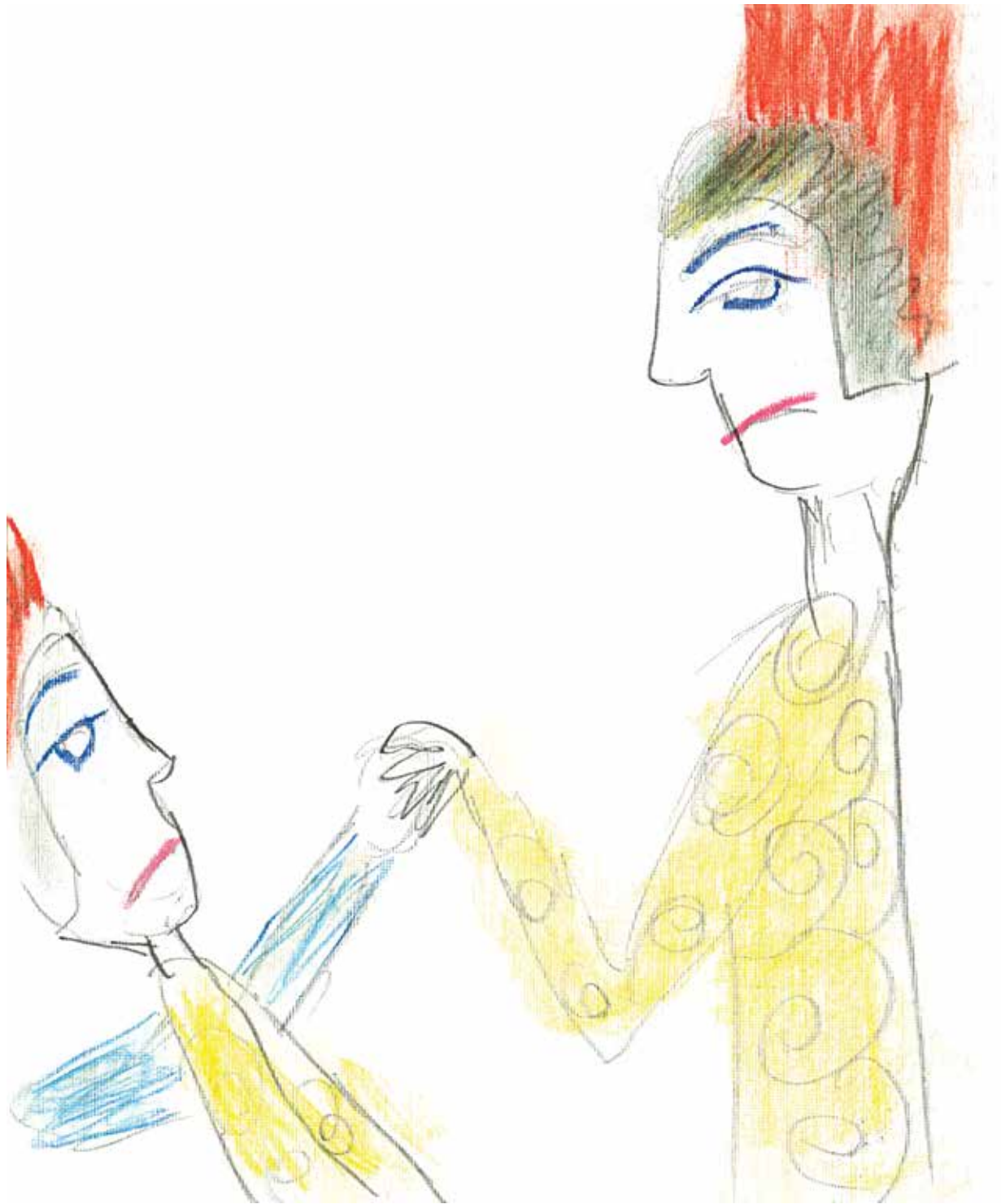
Once upon a time there was a boy that was named after his father, Henry, the president. He in turn had been named after Henry the Eighth, so he continued with the tradition.

One day, Henry was walking to school, and then someone kidnapped him. There was a hole in the bag, so Henry could see where they were going. They were going into a store that had a Closed sign. However, the person who was holding Henry, entered. Suddenly, the kidnapper and a person with a green gym suit gave the kidnapper \$4000 in exchange for Henry. When he opened the bag he said,

“Well, well! Who have we here...”

“Put your hands up!” someone said behind him, but when Henry looked at the police that had followed Henry, the man in the green gym suit took a gun and held it up to Henry’s mouth. Remembering his karate lessons, Henry he kicked the man hard on the shin, and he was saved.

Lesson: Learning martial arts will help you in difficult situations.



The Guilty Gladiator

In the days of the Roman Empire, there was one gladiator named Hell who had a friend named Heaven. They were very good friends. They ate together; when they fought together they supported each other; they did everything together. However, they never fought against each other.

Then there was an announcement that there would be a battle, as gladiators do from time to time, to amuse the Emperor and the people. Hell did not know who he would be fighting against. When he got to the fighting court, a voice said,

“You will fight against Heaven!”

“Oh man!”

“It is O.K, I CAN FIGHT YOU!” Heaven said.

They fought, but Hell was better so when he was about to kill Heaven he looked at the king and the king ordered him to kill Heaven. After he killed his best friend, he could never eat or sleep, because he was feeling guilty.

So, on a bright day, he could not stand it anymore! Dreams of his friend haunted him, so he decided to join his friend. There they joined hands forever.

BACK-BIOGRAPHY

Kazakh by nationality, but a citizen of the world, Margaret Beisenbek (May 6, 2002) is an ambitious little girl who is keen on mathematics; sports (swimming, tennis, tae kwon do); music (piano); painting; and computer technology. She likes jokes, and her most cherished hobby is reading. She has already published a first book of poetry, and this is her first book of stories.

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