

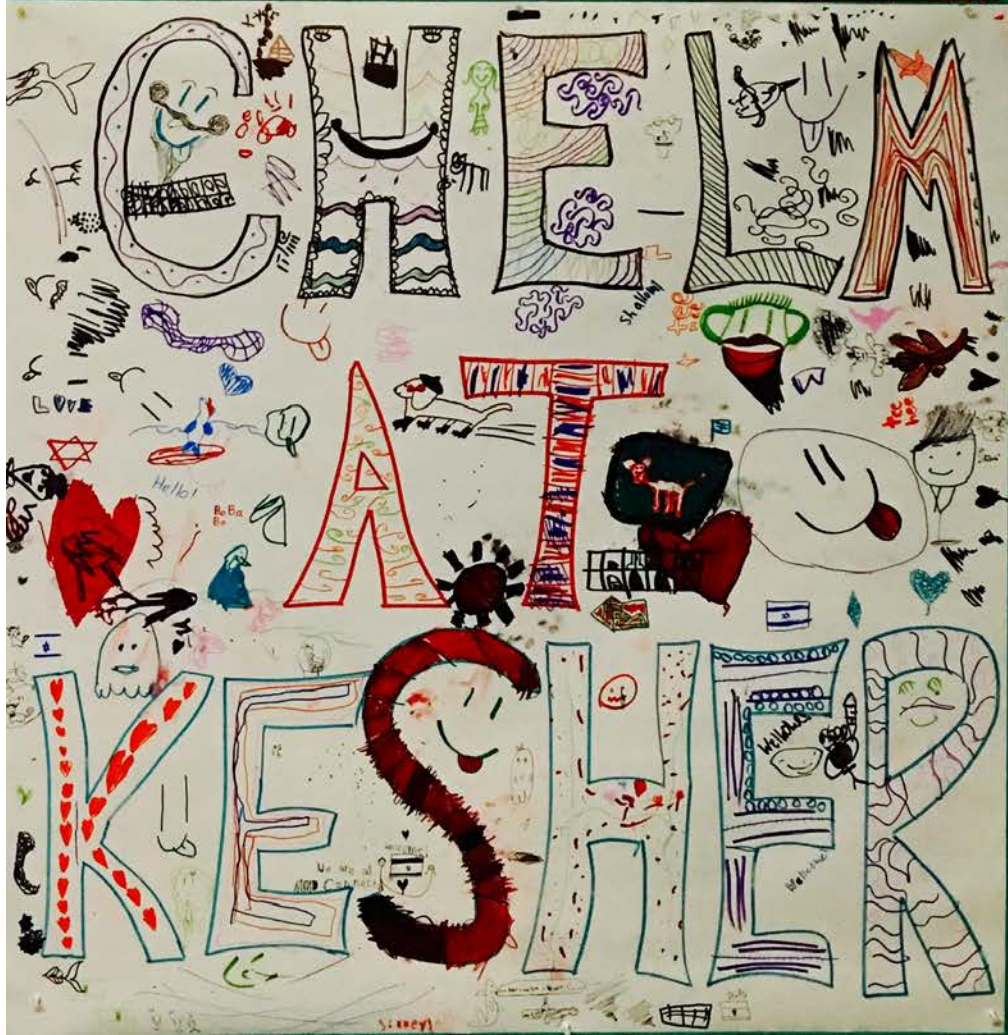
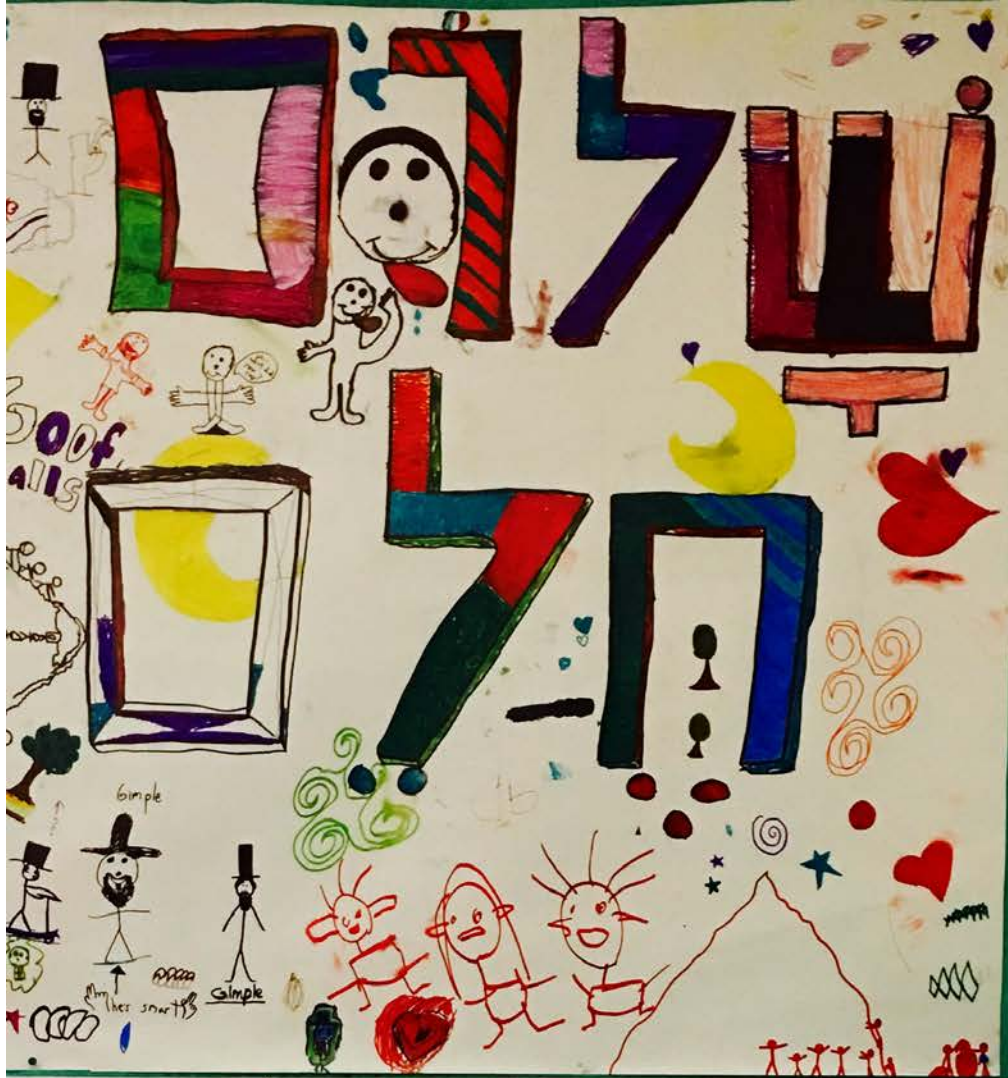
# *The Silly World of Chelm*

*By: The Kesher School at Eitz Chayim 5777  
(Grades K-7)*

*136 Magazine Street, Cambridge, Ma. 02139*

*Student artwork and all writing is original*







## Introduction:

For a week this past semester, all the students and teachers at The Kesher School at Eitz Chayim excitedly entered the marvelous and upside down world of Chelm. This unit folded well into our History and Memory Curriculum. ‘Chelm’ stories are Jewish Folk Tales about different circumstances unraveling in the Polish town of (you guessed it!!!) Chelm, an imaginary City of Fools (which is also a real place – please see these two links below:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/the-serious-history-of-a-comical-town/> and <http://blogs.boston.forward.com/zionist-dialogue/188811/jewish-humor-and-the-village-of-chelm/>

Besides learning about some of the history of the Jewish community in Eastern Europe of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, students had a lot of fun reading and hearing different Chelm stories (some in *Ivrit*/Hebrew) about the “wise” folk and their silly decisions. Kesher EC also hosted guest author, Alan Radding, who read and discussed his story, Chelm Keeps Kosher, with our students. Alan was part of Kesher EC’s Second Annual Author’s Series and met with students in grades K-7 to read and discuss his story and reveal the process behind becoming a Jewish writer. Here is a link to his story:

<http://jewishfamilystories.com/?p=108>

As a culmination to this creative unit, students, under the guidance of their teachers Shuli Ben-Natan, Seth Hurwitz, Sam Frydman, Mitch Gordon, Ayala Snir, and Natalie Sperber-Bassani, worked to create illustrations, comics, and written responses to the different stories. Students also produced a HUGE and colorful Chelm Banner, which is on display in our Children’s Library. This booklet: **THE SILLY WORLD OF CHELM**, has been uploaded to our website for your viewing pleasure at:

<http://www.kesherschoolec.org/projects>. Please share this one-of-a-kind project with friends and family and also let us know your thoughts, as your children would love to know what you think. Don’t hesitate to respond in verse!

**Dale Norman**  
**Seth Hurwitz**

**School Director**  
**Layout and Design**

**[dale@kesherweb.org](mailto:dale@kesherweb.org)**

SHORASHIM Tuesday + Thursday

Students were inspired by Gimpel and the stories of the wise men of Chelm.

They were most interested in the story "The watermill that wouldn't work" featuring the wisest fool - Gimpel. These drawings all explore this story and the history of the time.

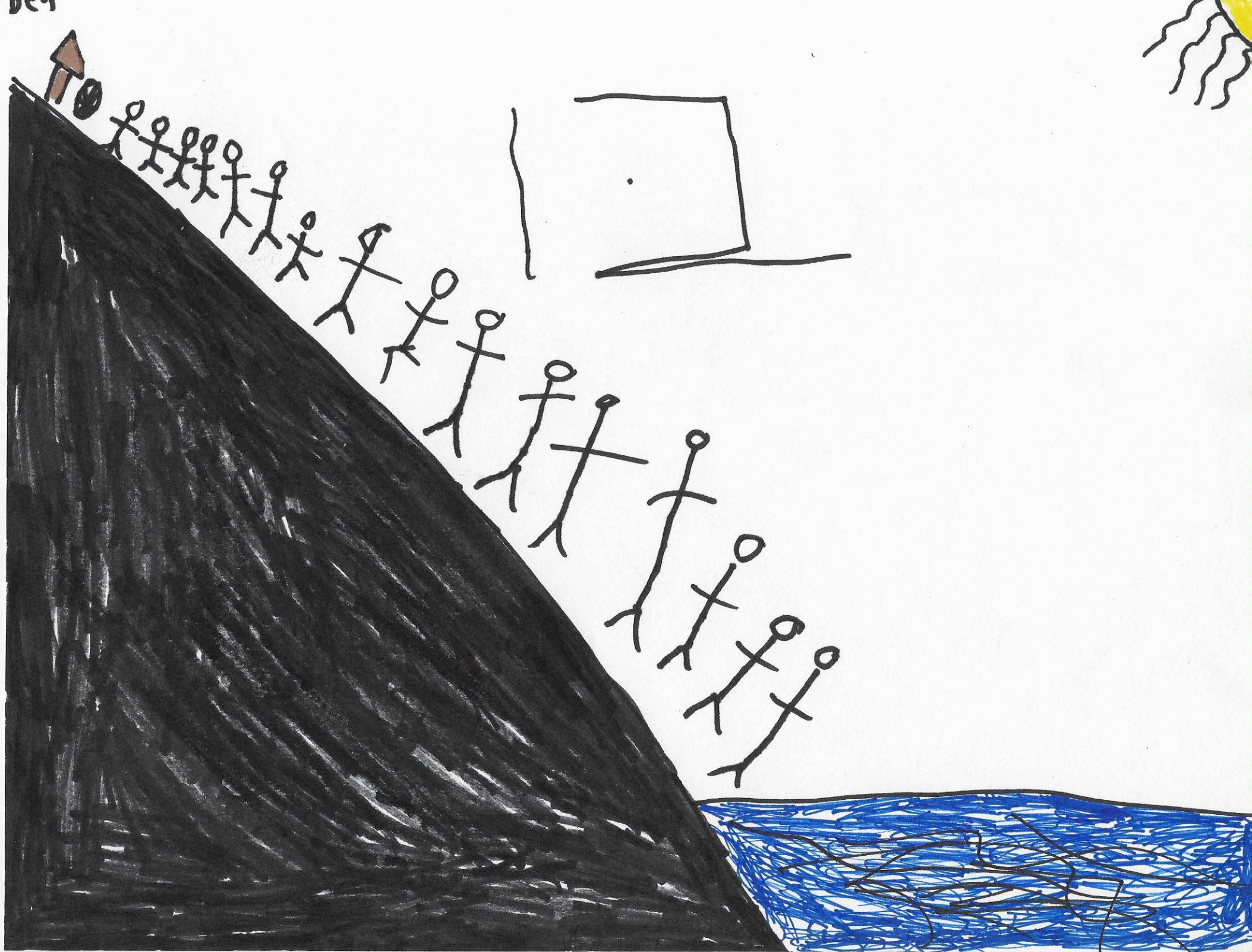
Shora'shim teacher  
Ayala Snir.



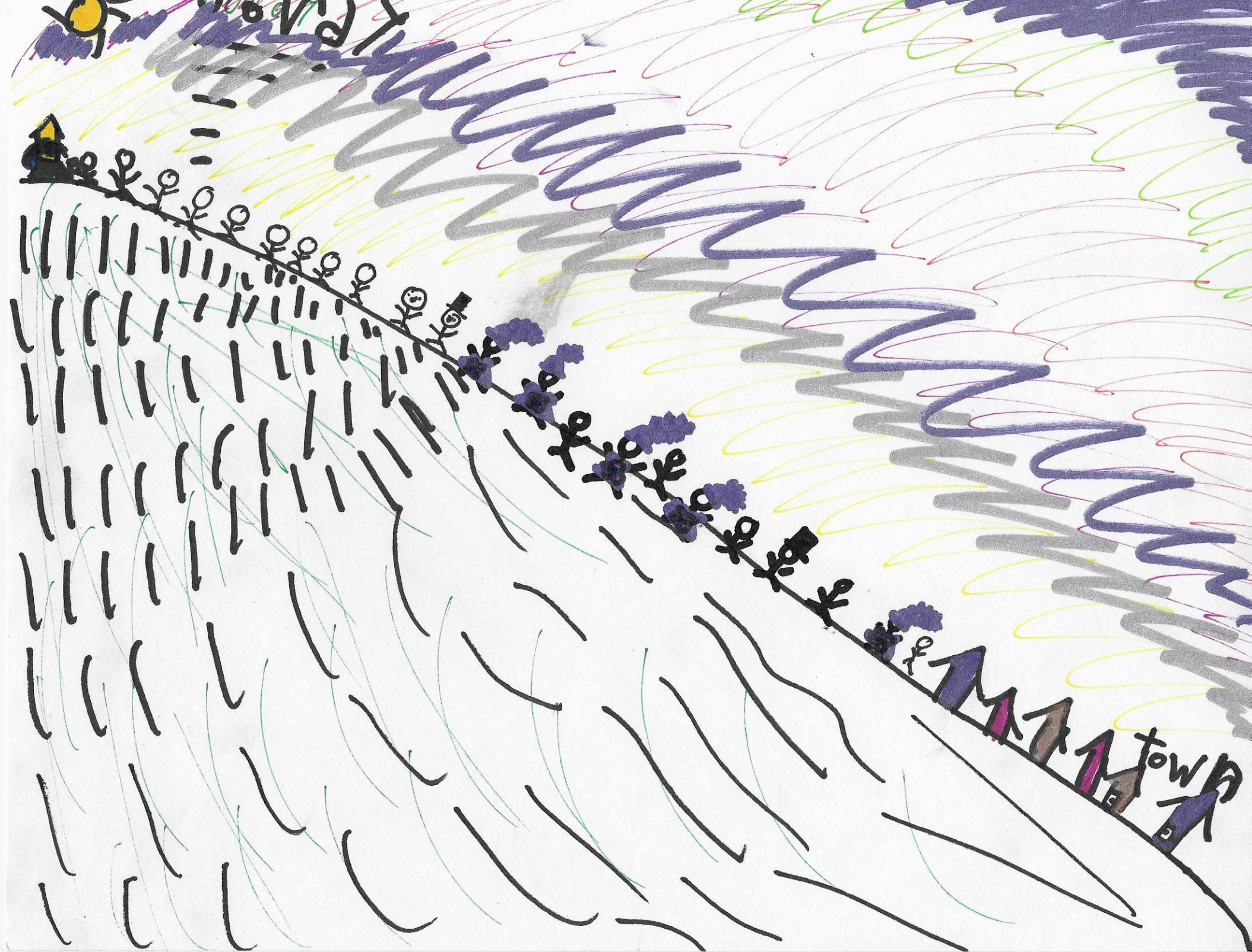
PHIL



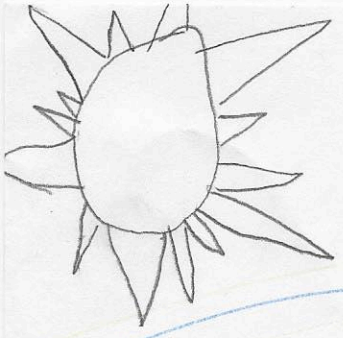












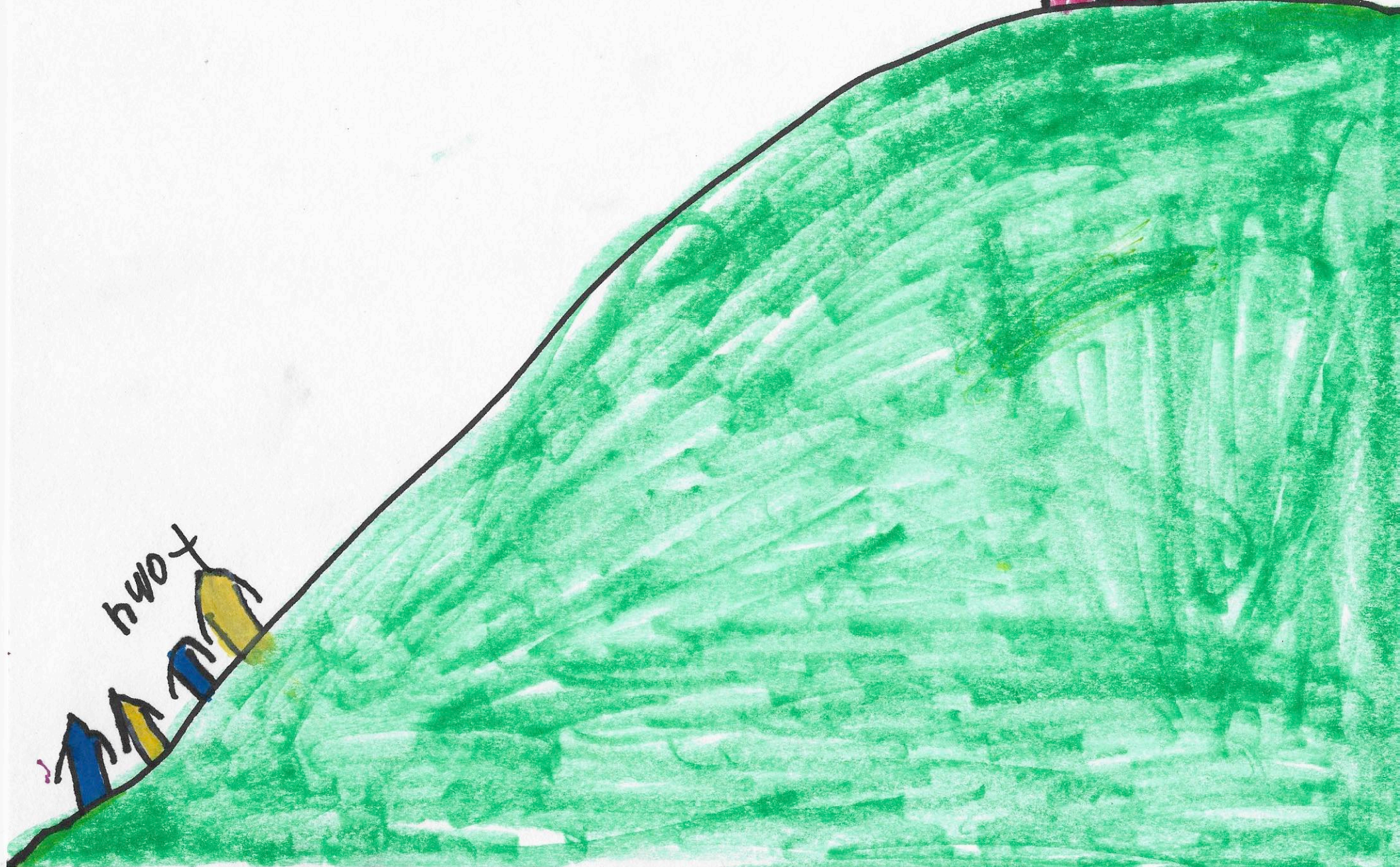
Nora Flannery







Harriet











These are the Chelm artworks  
of Shorashim students in  
Shuli Ben-Natan's M/W  
class. The students were  
so amazed by the way the  
people of Chelm thought  
and behaved. It was great  
seeing their sense of  
humor as they were  
immersed in this East  
European culture.

ה'תשנ"ב

Shuli Ben Natan

Shuli Ben Natan



① LIFE is a SILENCE

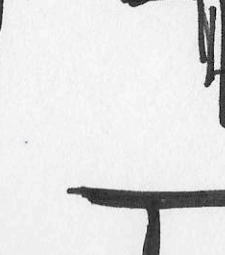
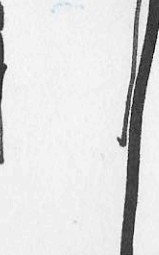
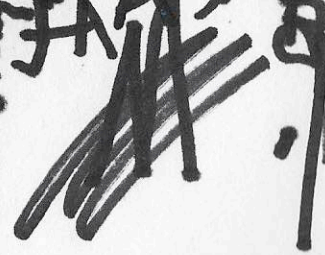
BIO

ANCE

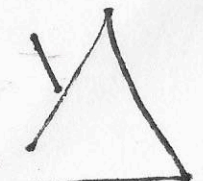
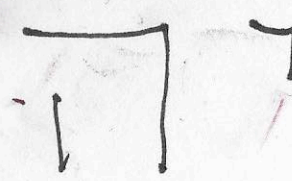
STR

T

T



Maia





Revben

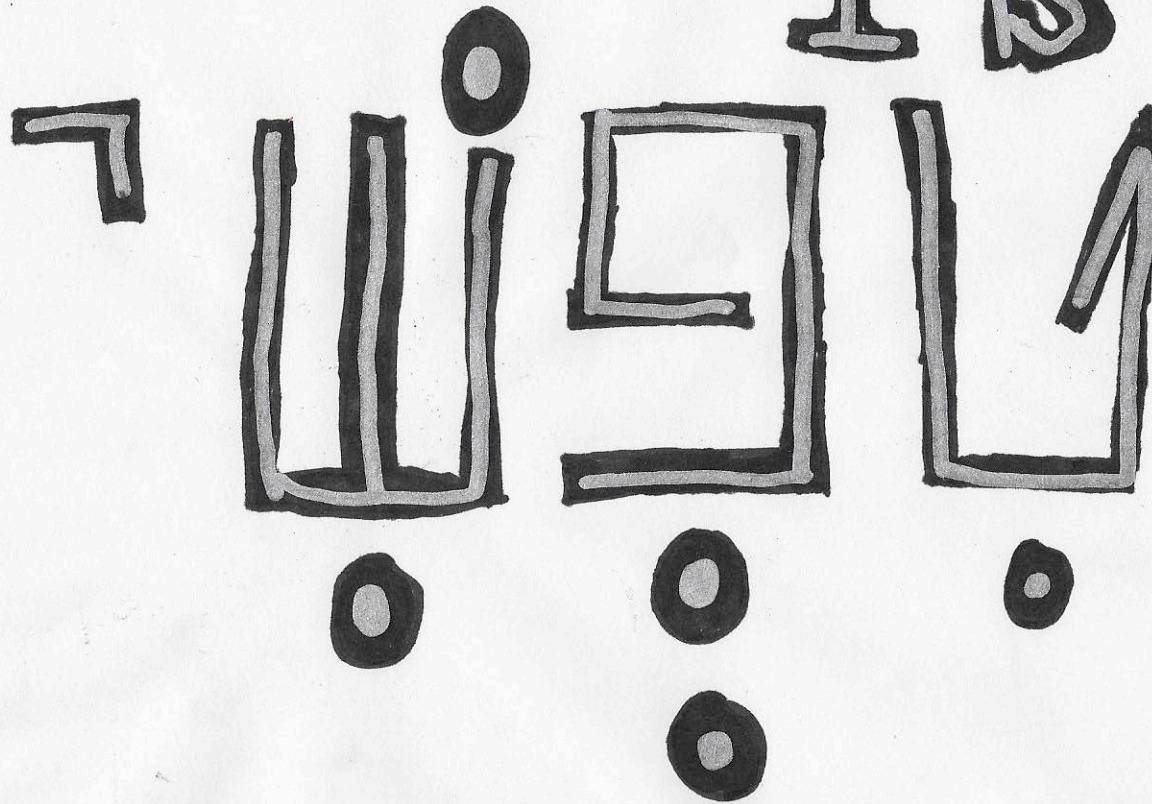




helm

IS

Lamuel  
of  
Flower



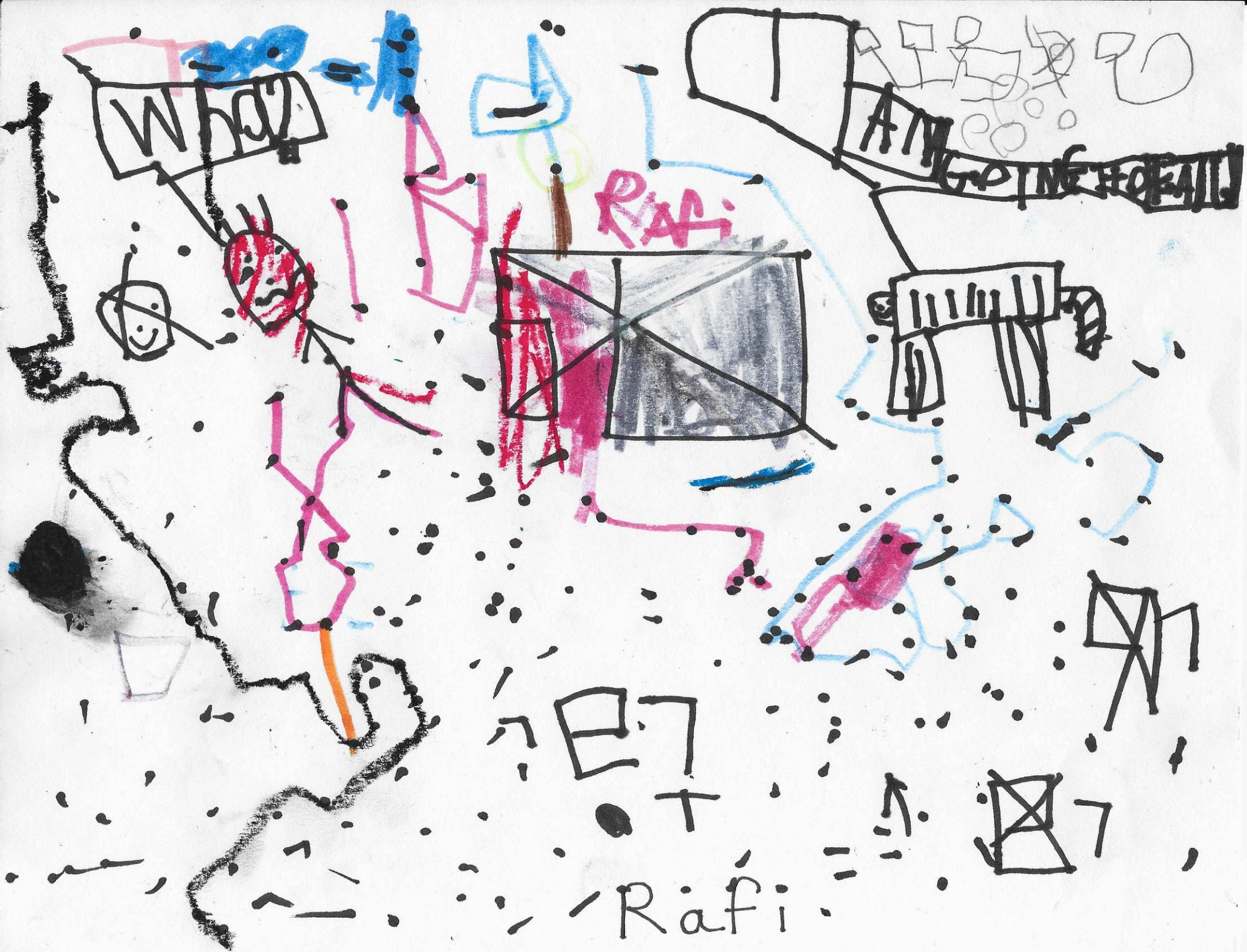






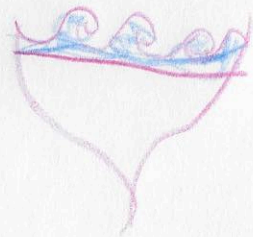
chlem Peol bo not no lots of Stalf that  
bo not no the entSr about the Wotr Mil.  
the Peol of chlem wr going to got sam  
Wodr of a Wodr Mil don by the river. but  
it was riley far a Weoa So one day 10 wis  
Peol of chlem went to get sam Wodr ~~by~~ by the  
river one of the 10 Peol of chlem sed wir do  
we haf to go so far good a we schin well  
I do not rily no the rily that. then he  
cam up with a ideat wir bont we Mack a wr  
own river that sed yes And that is the  
end of this story. the end! ~~grie~~







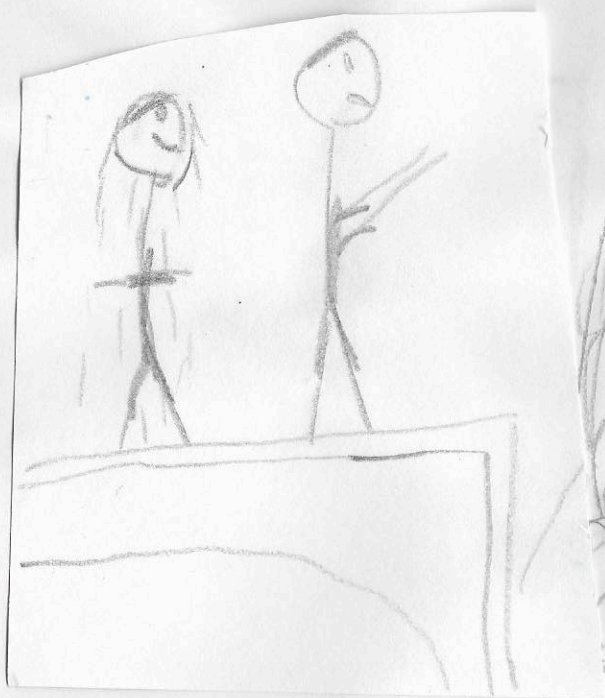
Rebby Miller





רדת

חלל





Ruby

LOVE

Ruby

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~



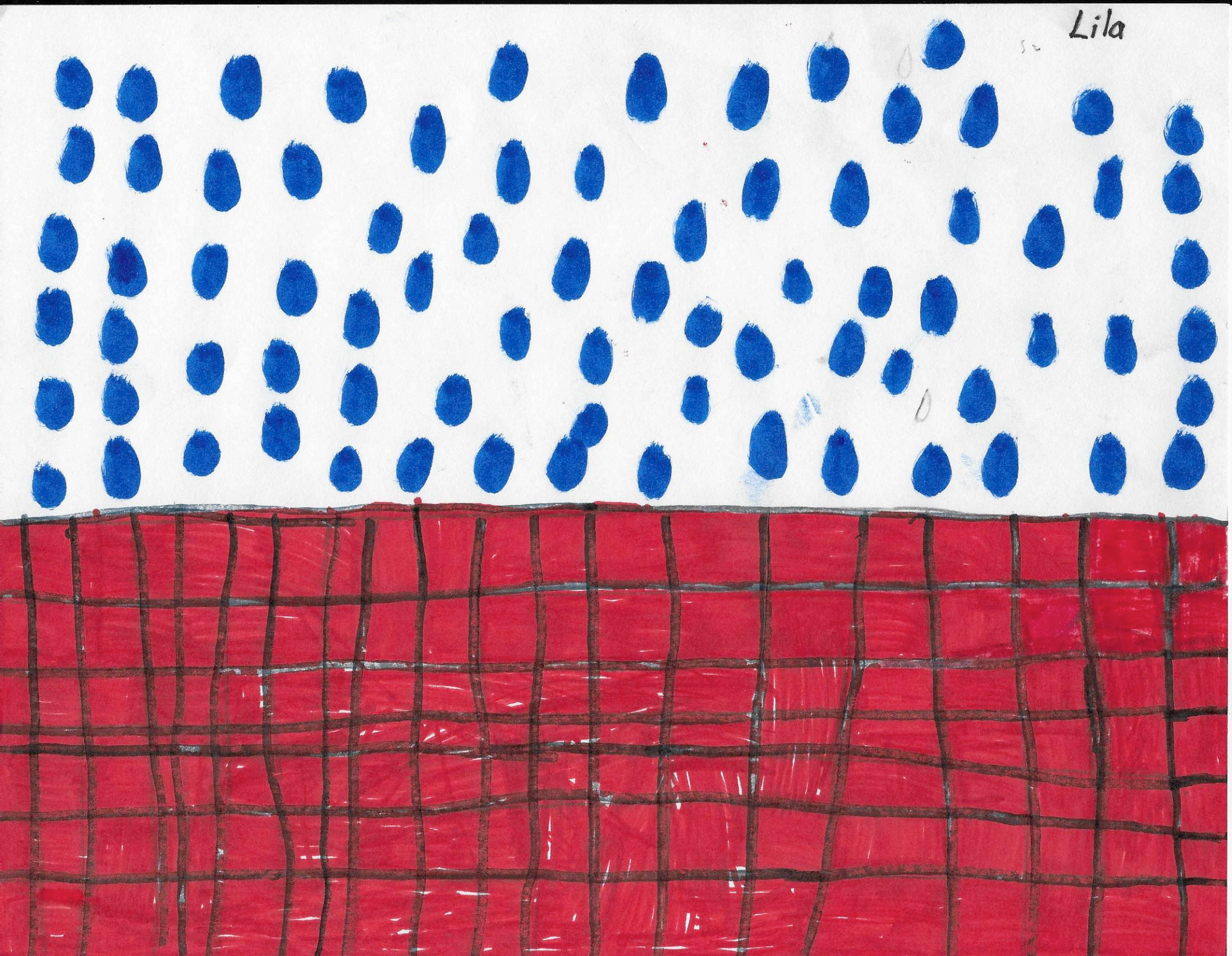
The Nitzanim Students on Mondays and Wednesdays interpreted and responded to the Chelm stories in a variety of ways. Some students chose to place important Chelm characters into original stories of their very own, whereas others identified key comedic events in illustrations of their own design.

The students' work comprises the use of comic "frames," pop-culture references (especially to Pokémon), novel illustrations, and even the short story format. Their humor is evident, as is the fun shared by all in the creation of this body of work.

Seth Hurwitz  
Nitzanim Teacher  
Mondays + Wednesdays



Lila

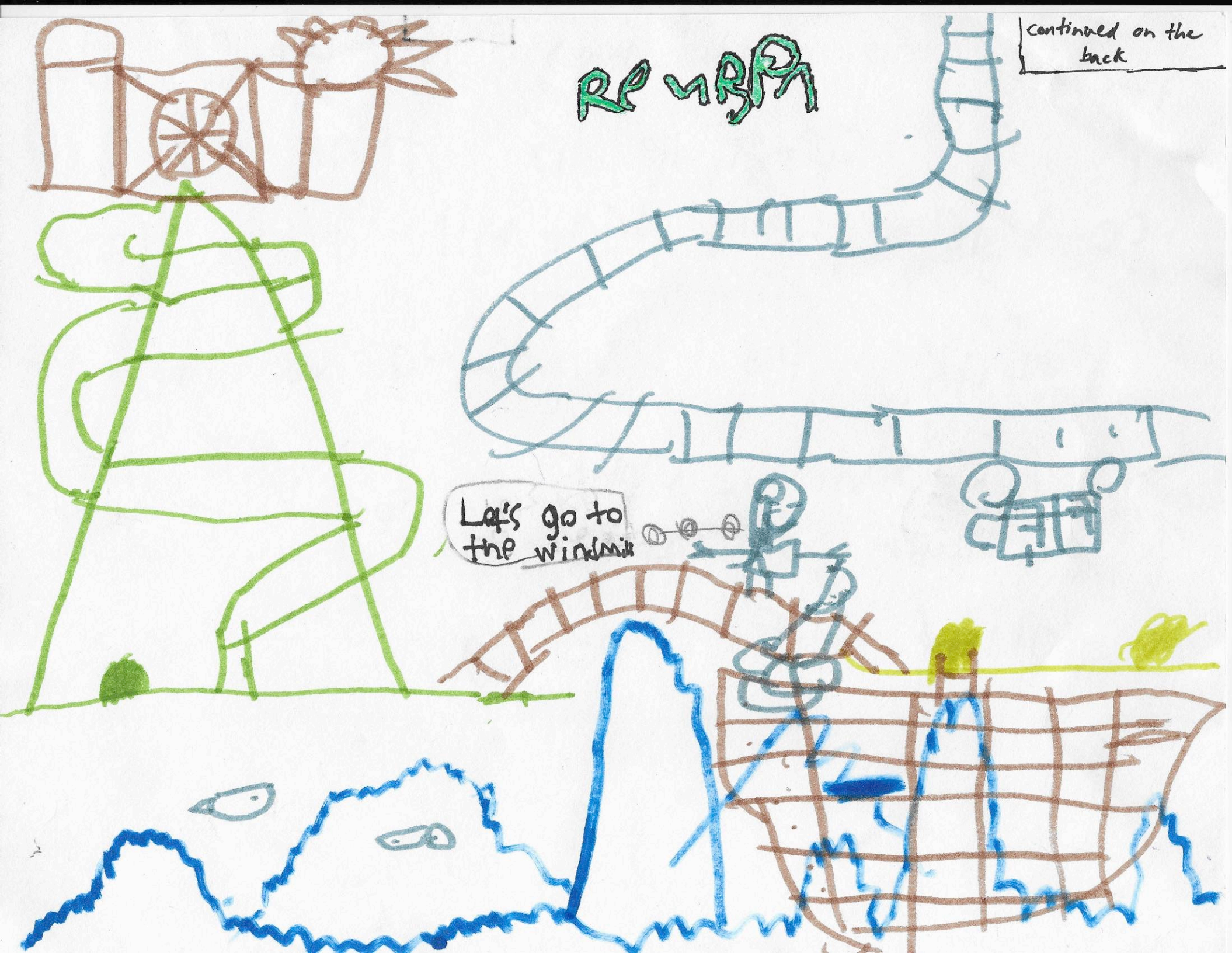




RE MRA

continued on the  
back

Let's go to  
the windmill





GIMPLE is throwing ~~the~~ <sup>RAWBEN</sup> LOBSTER

in A DEAN. He is thinking to  
go to the windmill then He

Yeh, aK's He's going to go to the

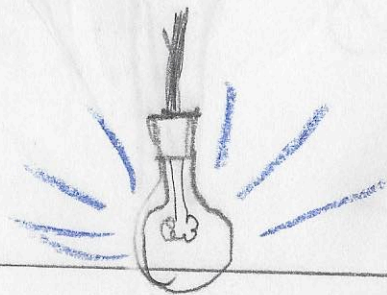
W. Ark. and check to see if

the LOBSTER is ~~lost~~ to see if he

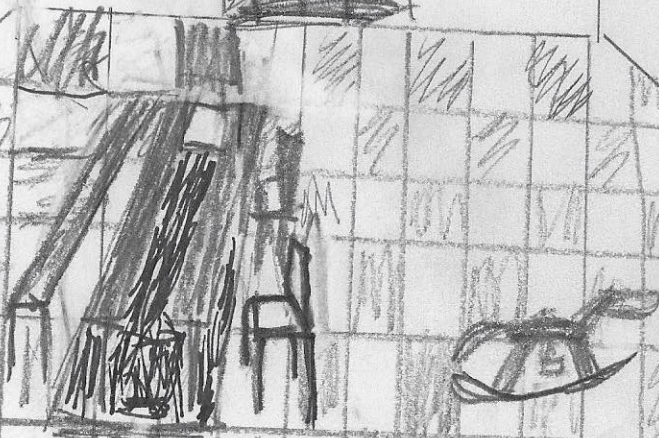
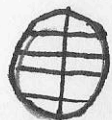
could of eating it.



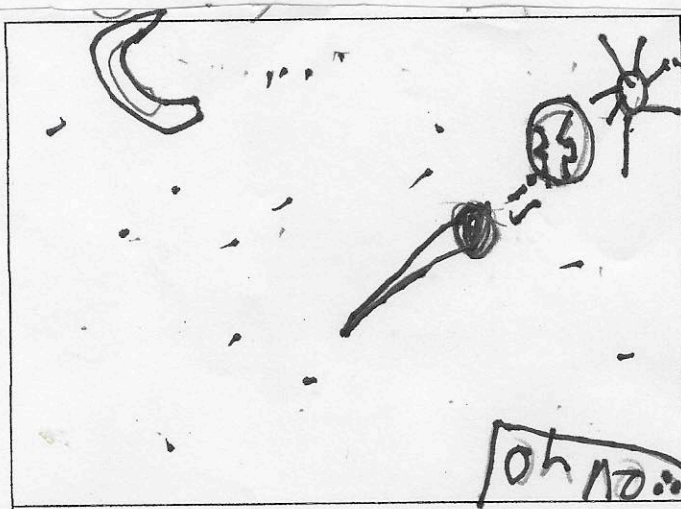
B E R B E C O



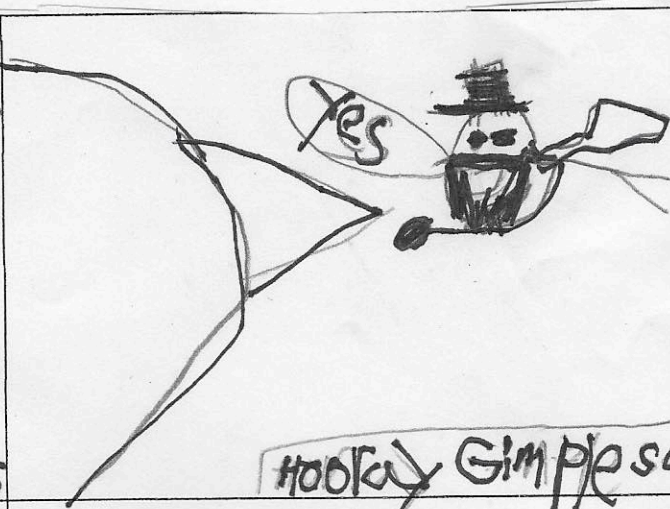
M A X







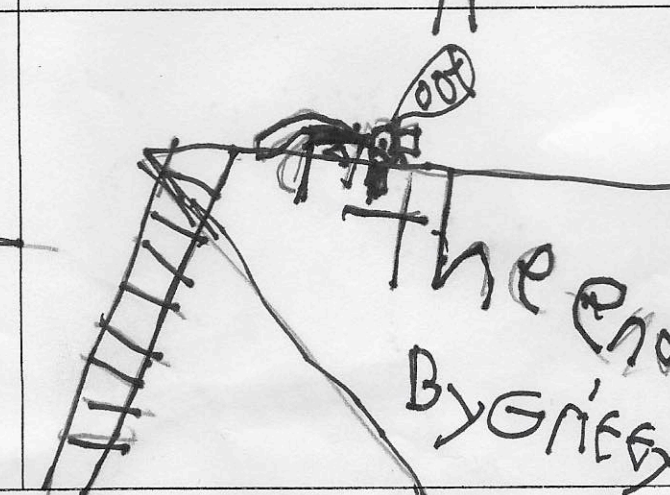
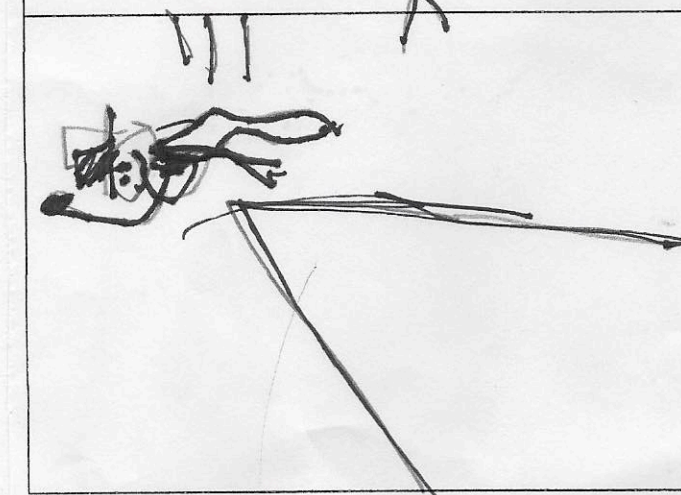
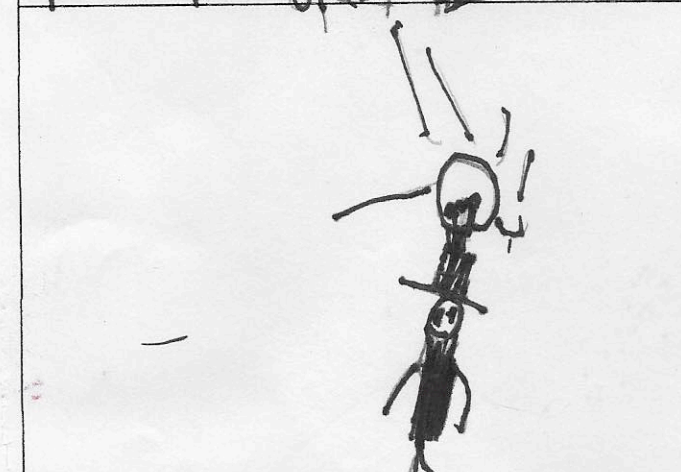
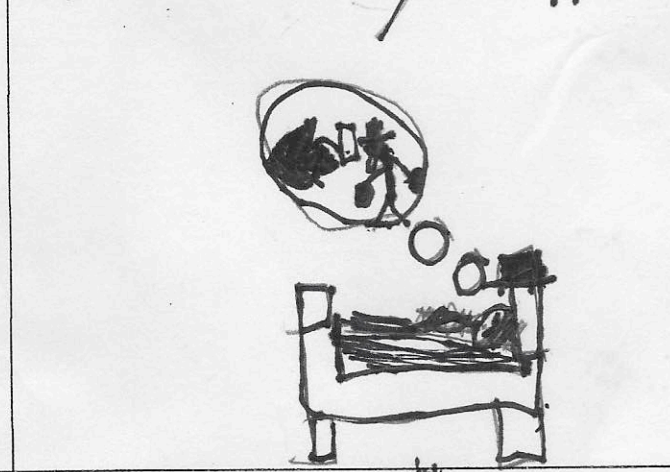
Oh no...



Hooray Gimple saved



Gimple's father



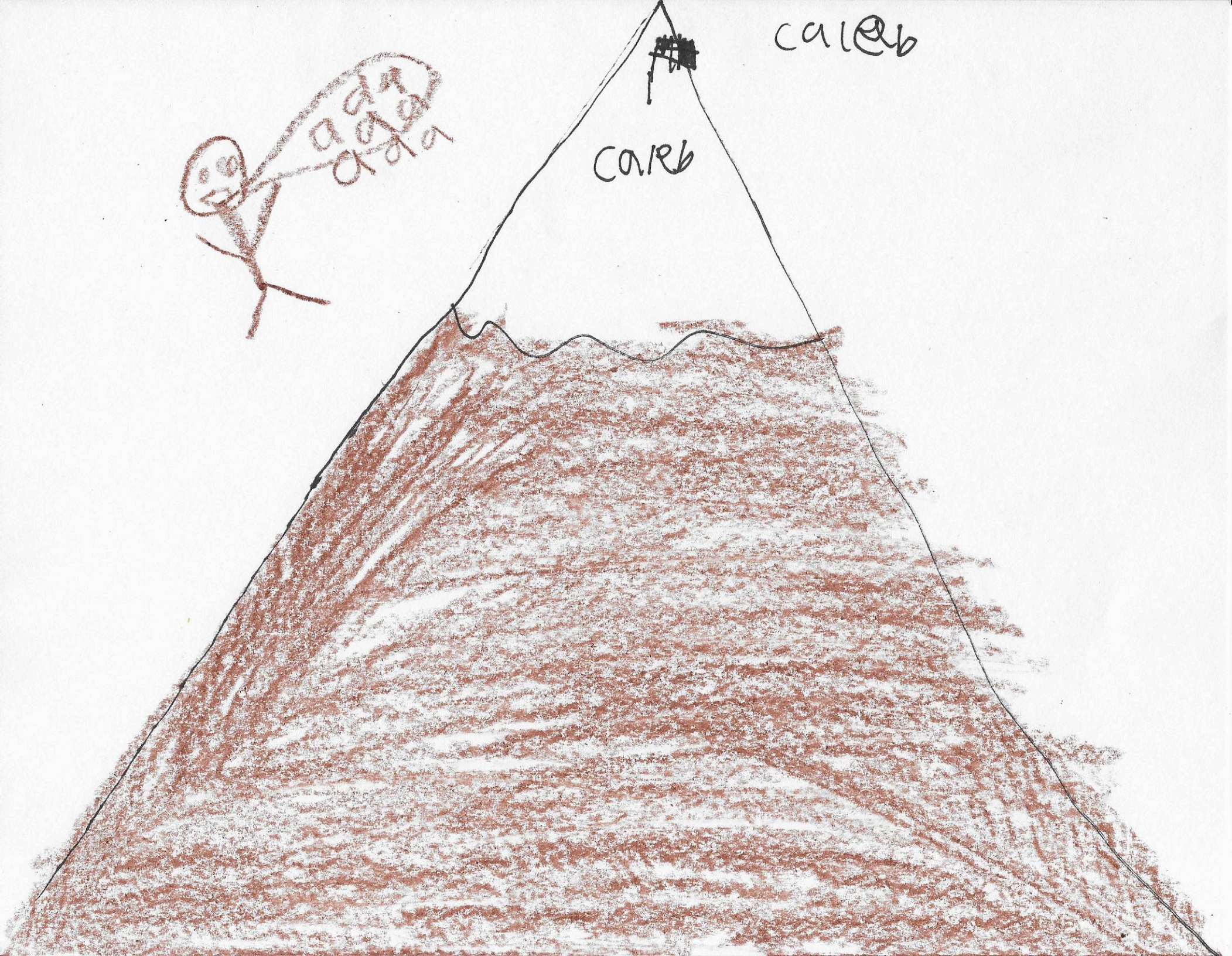
The end  
By Giffey



about ~~75~~ 10,000 <sup>Rose</sup> pieces  
of pottery. ~~Y~~ a person  
he <sup>quickly</sup> ~~quickly~~ made a <sup>building</sup> ~~building~~

Now a person came along  
~~and~~ ~~T~~ pulled a piece out  
• and the whole building  
collapsed. he was sad  
again because he spent  
about 100,000 ~~he~~ dollars  
on pottery. So he said food  
is art so after a year  
he got it finished. at nite  
he went and stepped there.  
that knite a cow came and  
ate it ~~it~~ then a tiger came  
and ate the cow and Every  
thing in site The End







# Theo!

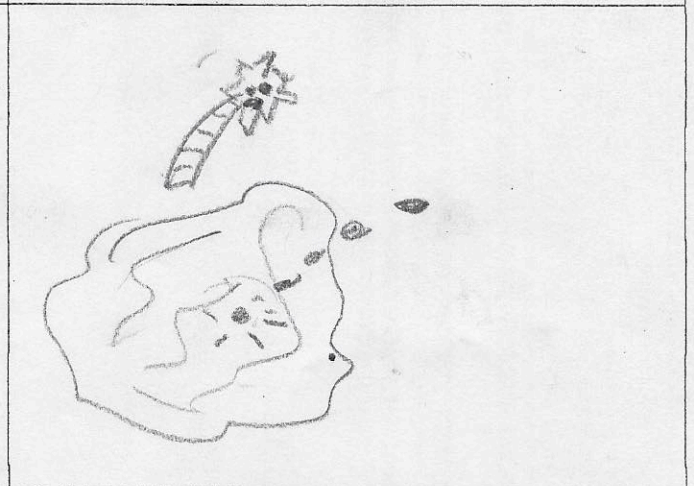
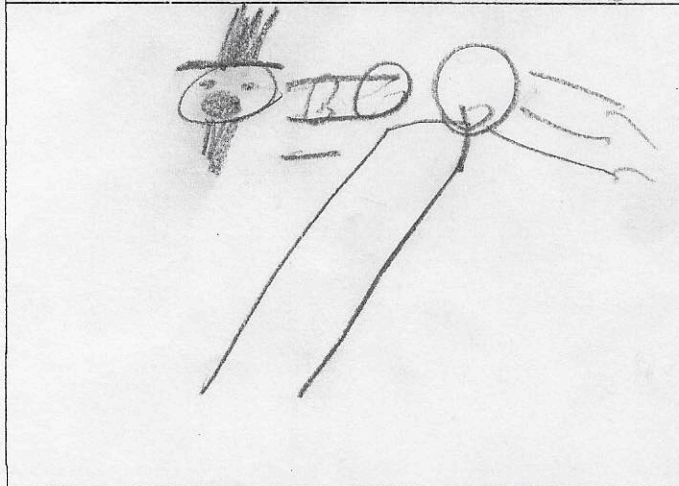
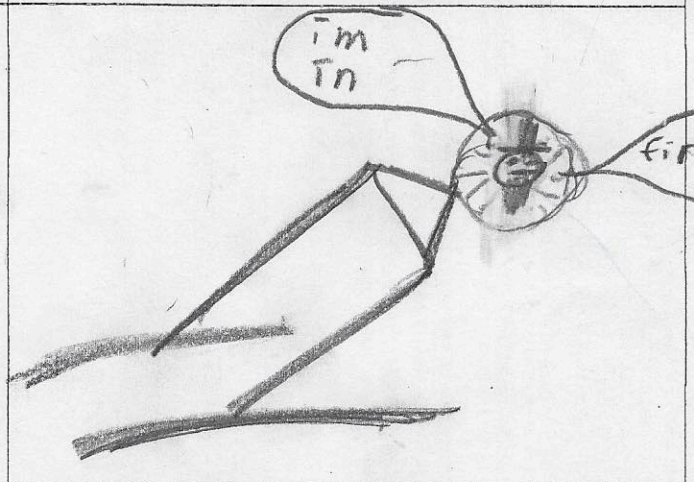
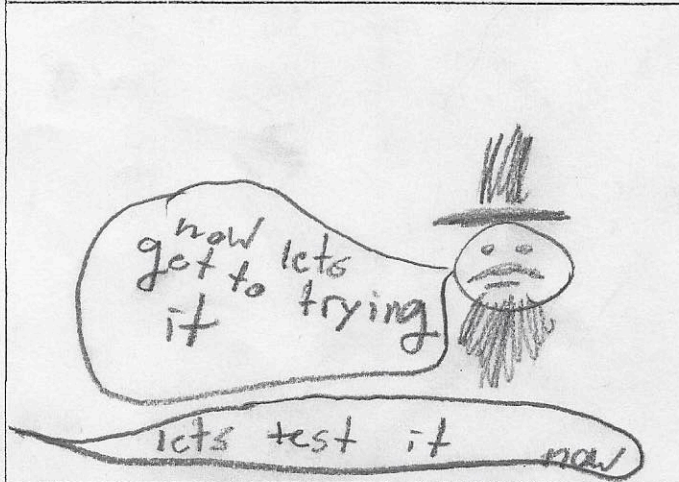
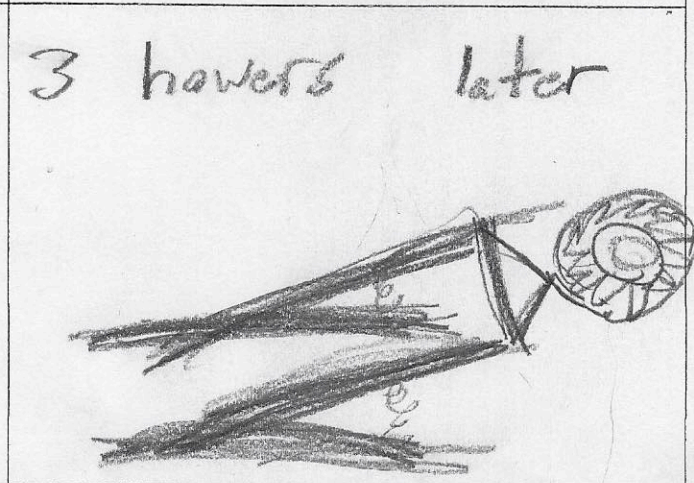
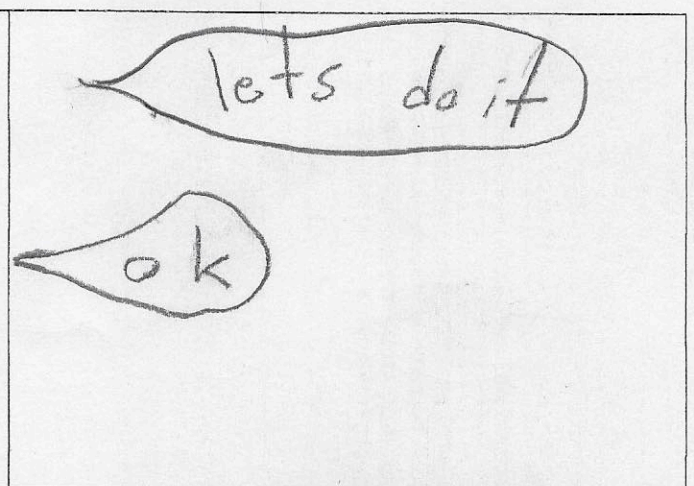
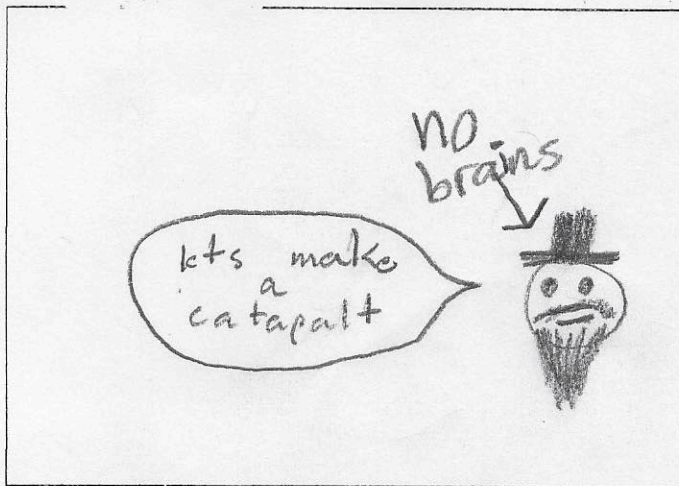


gimpel ↓



gimpel  
Thinks he can  
time travel





zach



# Long Meeting 黃海清

ONE DAY...

Maybe there  
is a secret  
city inside  
that wall...

Hmm...

Hmm...  
I have a  
good idea

For a couple  
days...

A week later...

okay  
lets do this.  
full steam  
ahead...

BAH N!

oh my  
god...

hmm...  
lets try again...

THE  
END



# Kalanit 7 Lereta 7 Reva in Magix



One day a girl in Helm named Kalanit  
7 her friends Lereta and Reva went out Side.  
↑ Reva asked "What are we going to do?"  
then Kalanit Said "I dont no." Then they  
Saw a orange light and they jumped  
into it. Then they felt themselves Sliding  
on a Slide and they landed in Magix!  
"What is this place?" "I dont now but  
We should jump into the orange light  
again to get back to Helm." So they  
tried but it Vanisht. Then they Saw  
another orange light... TO BE CONTINUED!



For "Chelm Week" the  
Nitzanim class drew  
scenarios of situations they  
thought would be done by  
the people of Chelm, many of  
them including Pokemon!  
We had a great time coming  
up with funny ideas and  
writing Hebrew words on our  
projects.

Sincerely,  
Natalie (Tuesdays + Thursday



Adina



בית = house  
אדם = person  
שמש = sun



# HELLO

GOAT ~~and~~ BARKS When Chell is Looking

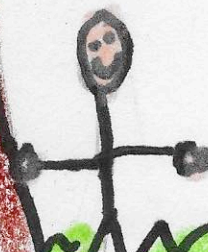
Pokemon







Ufo with  
Pikachu in  
it and chelrite  
pushing a  
mountain





# CHELM





# CHELM plays Pokemon

Evelyn

Cambridge

One day some pokemon realized that they were in Chelm. And they ran into some jews and the jews ran to the pokemon the jews said I play pokemon "I am playing wright know. I am also looking for food do you have any food" Said the jews: "No" said the pokemon.



Evelyn

They ran together to find  
some food they ran and  
ran and ran and finally  
they found some and  
the jews said I Love pokemon  
and the pokemon said I Love  
you and chelm. And jews  
said me to.



CHELM □ ⚡ □

□.□ = Soos-horse

Xw T = Deshe-grass

Xw → X = People -anas him



Gabriel BF



What if a <sup>Nava</sup> auto used  
a Helmites TVW  
to play a Violin.





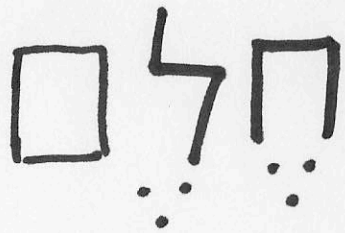
The 4-7<sup>th</sup> grade class  
had a great time getting  
creative with Chelm.

We did some awesome  
stories and cartoons.

Kind regards,  
Natalie Sperber Bassani  
(Mon. + Thurs.)



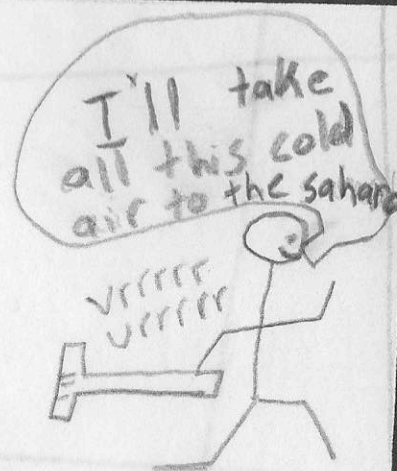
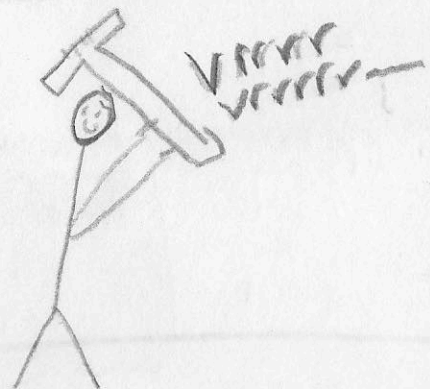
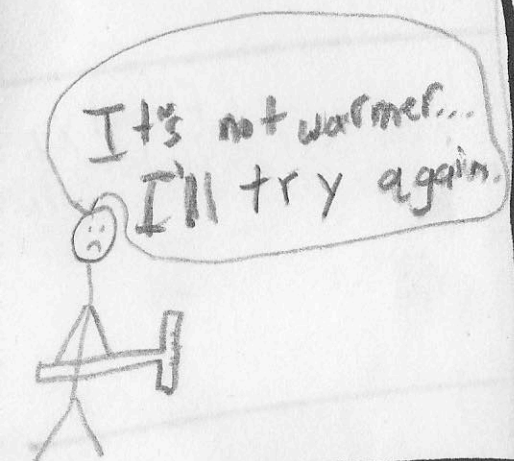
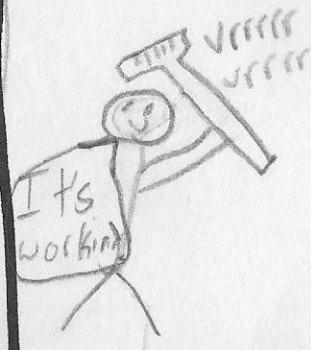
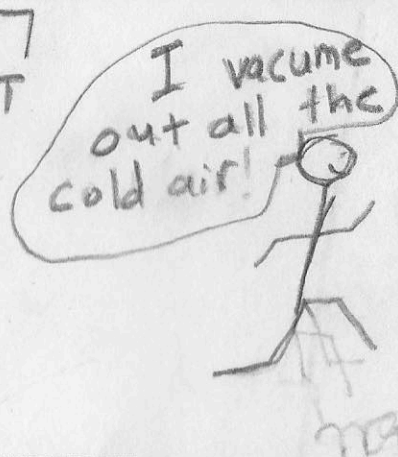
Harriet



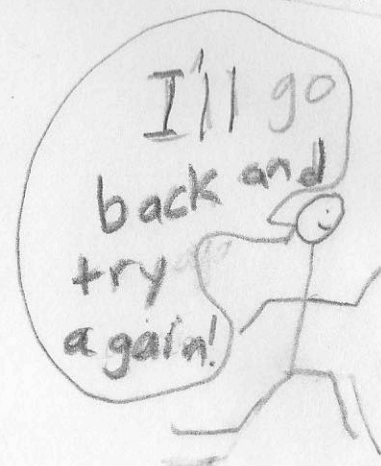
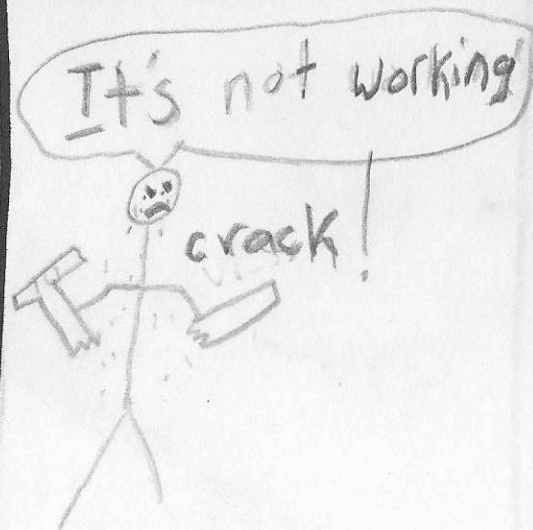
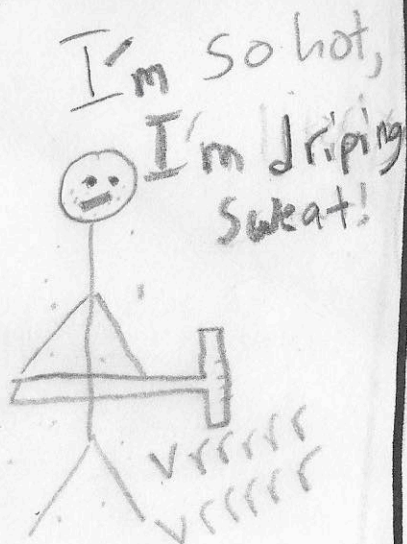
I'm going to bury  
this hamburger and  
grow a hamburger tree!



by Noah Brown

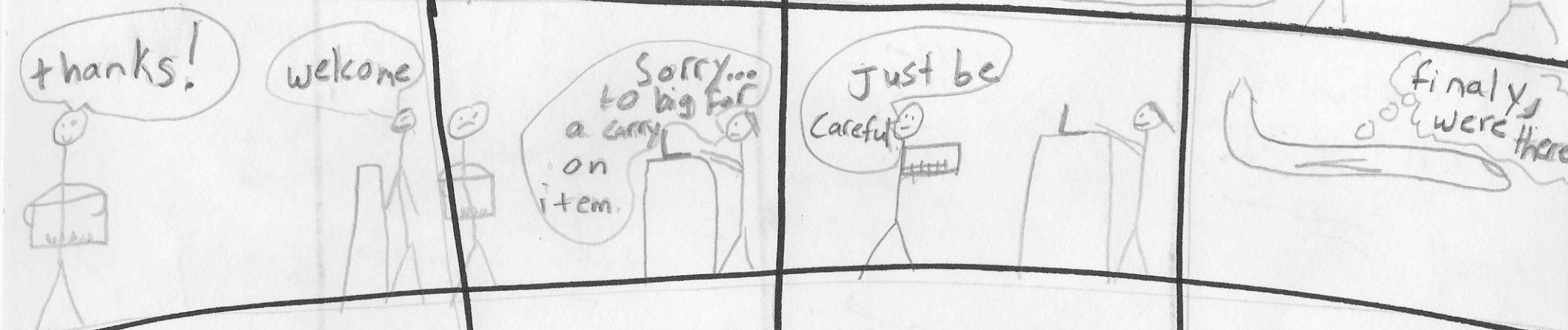


Multiple Days Later...





Contd...



crash

contd...



I'm going  
to travel  
to Cambridge!



Yay! I'm finally  
here!



By → Isaac F.

Sweet!  
A hot dog  
stand.



What  
can I  
do for  
you?



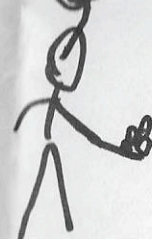
I would  
like a  
large  
chili dog.



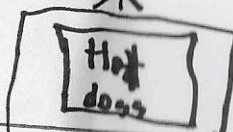
That will  
be  
\$1.50



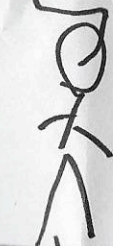
Here.



What  
the heck  
is that?



They  
are  
the best.



I'm sorry  
we only  
accept  
Benjamins.



What  
are  
Benjamins.



Come  
back when  
you have  
a life.



He left asking one  
question to himself.

What  
a life!



The  
end





# Wise Men of Chelm

## Drum + Chant

[FANGA MELODY + Rhythm]

MITCH

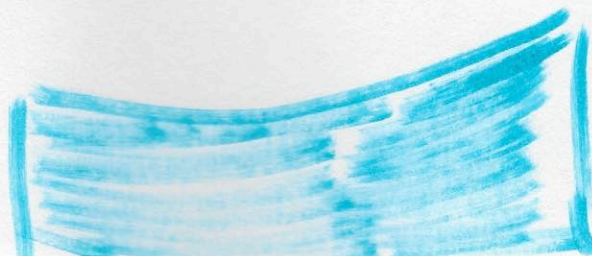


(Chorus) The Wise Men of Chelm are fools,  
Wise Men of Chelm.  
Did they ever go to school?  
Wise Men of Chelm.

Verses 1 They tried to move a mill.  
Wise Men of Chelm.  
They pushed it across a hill.  
Wise Men of Chelm.

Verses 2 They tried to catch the moon.  
Wise Men of Chelm  
Reflected in water, they'll see it soon.  
Wise Men of Chelm

(Chorus - Repeat)





# Chelm Chart - Page 2

Verse 3

They rolled a millwheel down a hill.

Wise Men of Chelm.

Someone's head is stuck there still.

Wise Men of Chelm.

Verse 4

In Chelm they seem to make mistakes.

Wise Men of Chelm.

Yet they think their solutions are great!

Wise Men of Chelm.

End Chorus  
(Call)

Wise Men of Chelm.

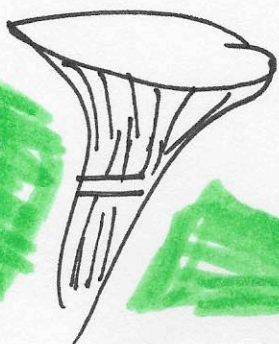
(Response)

Wise Men of Chelm.

Wise Men of Chelm.

Wise Men of Chelm

3X





# Chelm Chant - Page 3

verse 5

Somebody Stole their Coats.

Wise Men of Chelm.

I wonder if they ever Vote?

Wise Men of Chelm

verse 6 Gimpel + Motel Come From The <sup>ST</sup> <sub>TOWN</sub>

Wise Men of Chelm

WiseST Men They Ever Found.

Wise Men of Chelm.



These are the creations of the older students at Kesher EC after our Chelm immersion earlier this year. Students learned about this town, which exists in reality and in fiction. They also met Author Alan Radding and heard him read his story "Chelm Keeps Kosher." The Chelm exploration fitted in well with our History & Memory Unit and our students were able to reflect by learning to understand differing points of view in Jewish folklore. Students also incorporated Hebrew words into their understanding of "Chelm".

Mitch Gordon.  
Spiritual Drummer + upper grade  
Judaic Studies Teacher

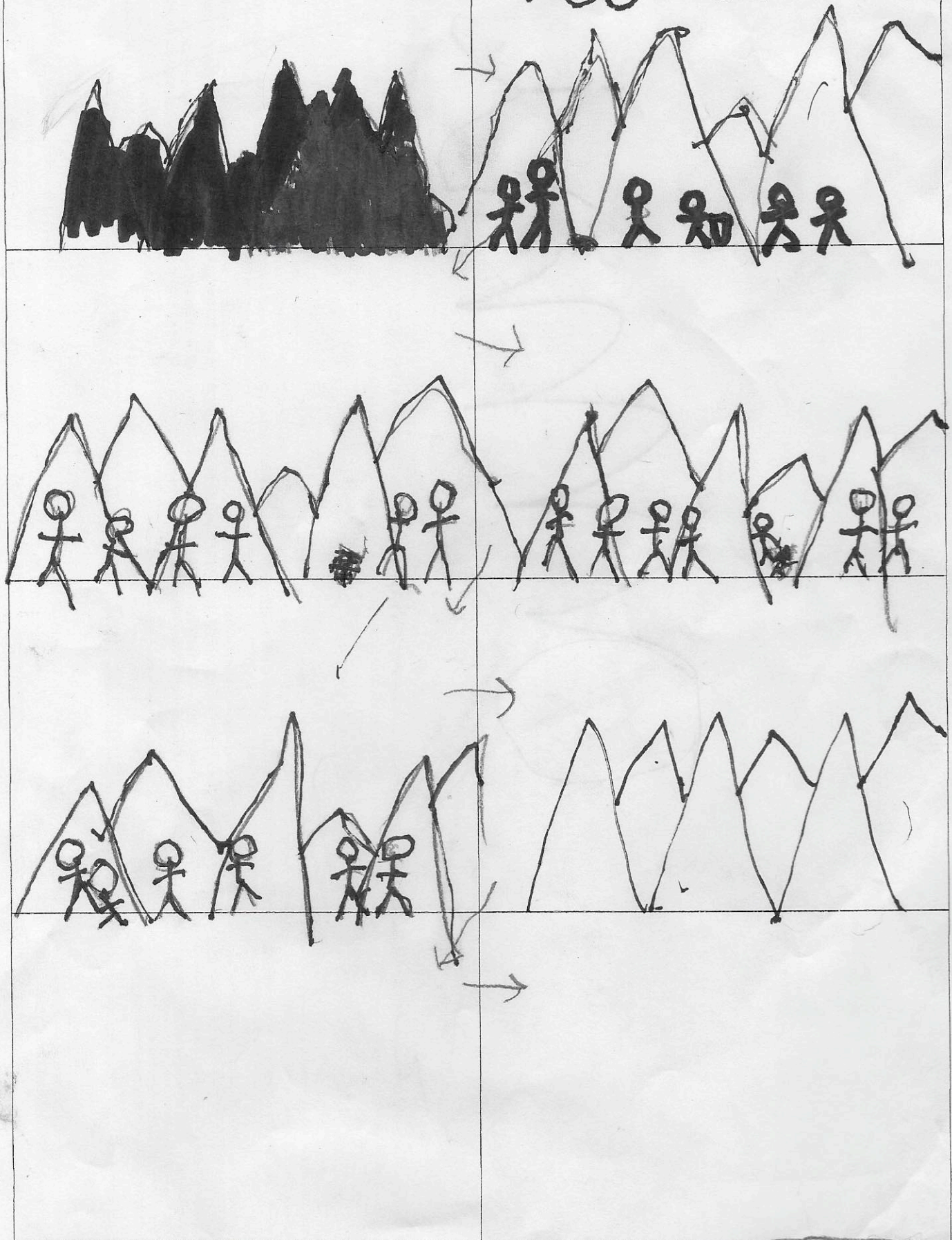
Sam Frydman  
Hebrew / Ivrit Teacher, upper grades  
Tuesday + Thursday.



# How Cheim Moved The Mountain

omni

ain



Mountain



# Chelms perspective of weather

by Anna and Lev

One day Gimple was walking home when it started to rain. He had always wondered where rain came from. So when he got home he called a town meeting. The chelmites thought, and thought, and thought until someone came up with an idea. "I know!" said a chelmite. "Maybe when we are bad we he punishes us with bad weather and when we are good he gives us good weather!" Gimple was delighted. "Of course!" he said. "That's perfect!" Now the chelmites decided that so that they would get good weather, they would be good. Over time it got very warm in Chelm. The chelmites were very happy. "So all we have to do is be nice and we'll get warm weather all year round!" said the chelmites.

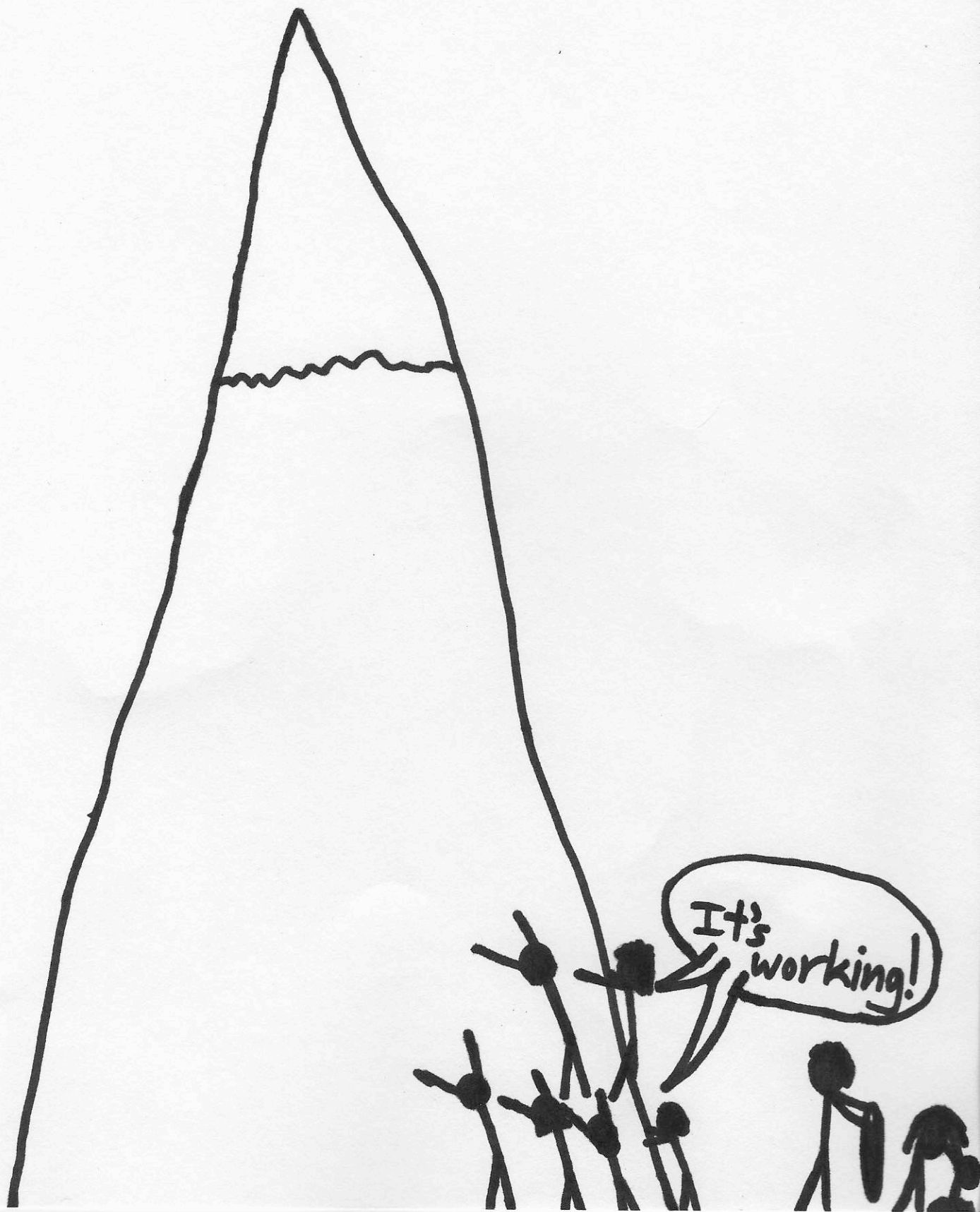


One day, 10 horses decided that  
Chelm was SO BAD! Then they wanted  
to make a Plan on how to destroy  
Chelm. After 6 or 7 months they had it! They would  
stampede all of Chelm and it would be **DESTROYED**!  
So they got 85 more horses and told them the plan.  
The horses agreed so they stampeded! But the  
Chelmites did not know who to attack, so they  
attacked THE MSECRES!!!! In 10 minutes,  
**HORSES RULED** ~~CHELM~~!!!! (YAY)

Gabriel and talia



How Chelm "<sup>Charlie</sup>grew" (They tried  
to move a mountain for room)





© 2017

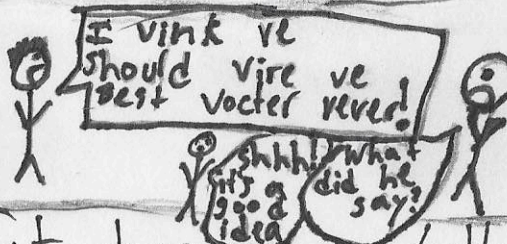
By Mia & Theo  
They greats

# How the CHELMITS Found the BEST Doctor

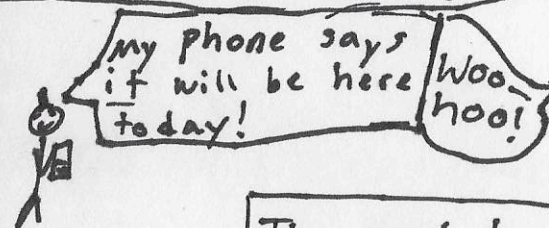
One day Themo drank lemonade,



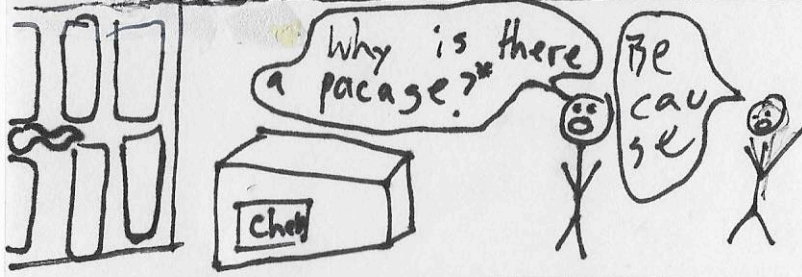
He was so sick that his father simple called a town meeting



so they hired a doctor. Doctor melon-tree. ;)

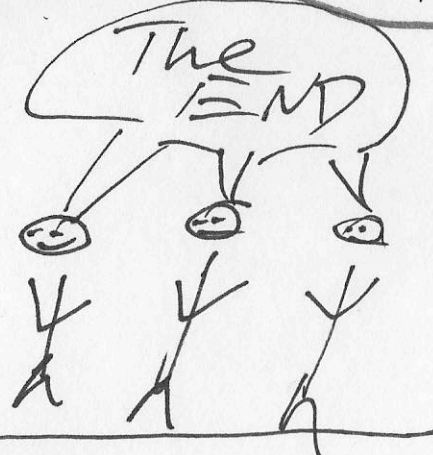


But when it came they were very sad



it turns out that the doctor was not a doctor and it was a documentry\*

The next day...





best of: Wiseman of the Cheimites

"drown the sea creature"

"lets ask the animals if we can kill them"

"build an ark to keep kosher"

wiseman  
of  
cheimites



"dead fish are alive"

"I'M NOT STUPID!!!"

"Why would you say that?"

"I'M a MAJOR in Idiocy"

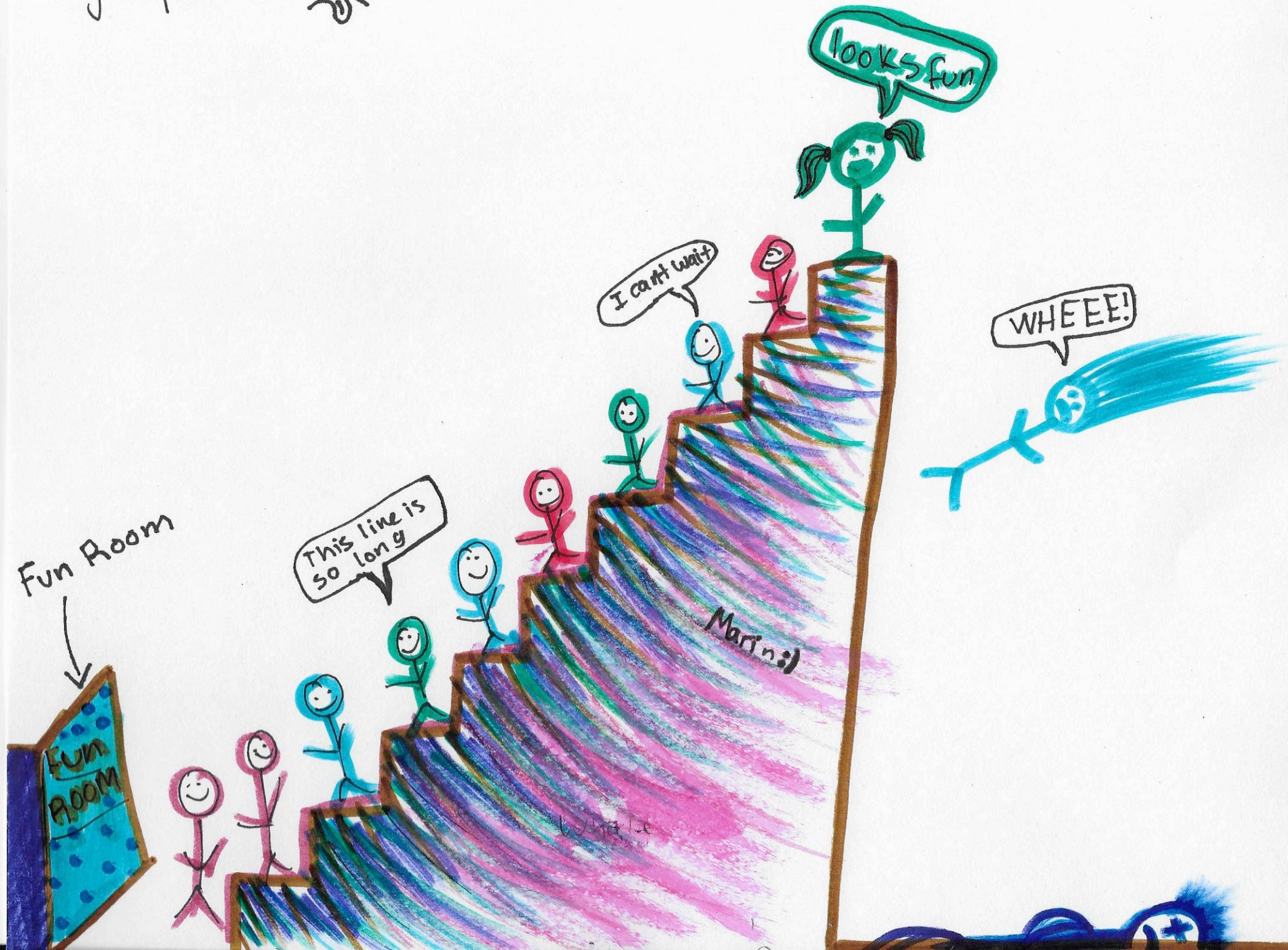
"OR WAS IT a MAJOR idiot"

"either way, be quiet!"

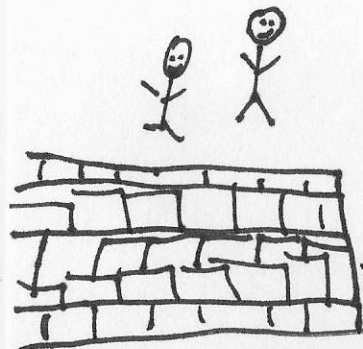
MICHAEL F



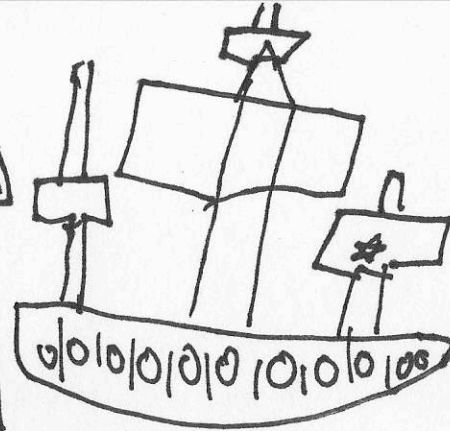
By: Superman x x







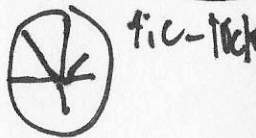
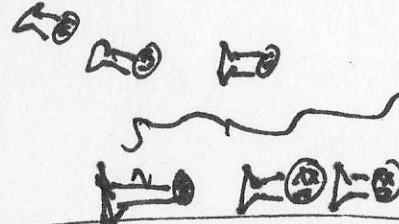
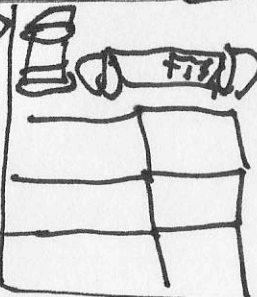
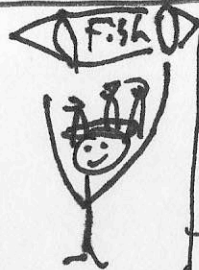
"Let's buy fish  
and put in the  
water to reproduce  
so we can have  
fish to eat"



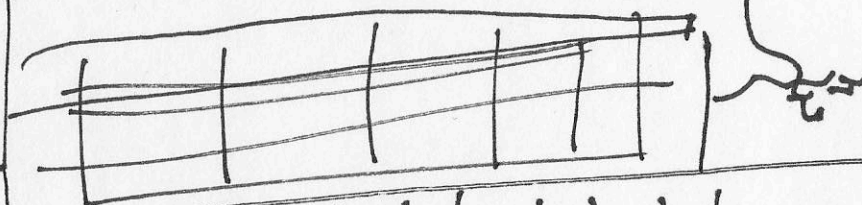
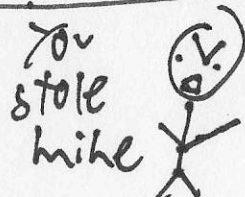
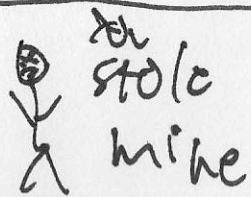
Fish w



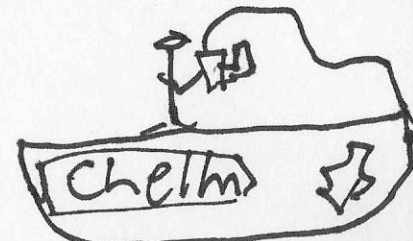
"Let's open up our  
fish and put them into  
the water for them  
to reproduce"



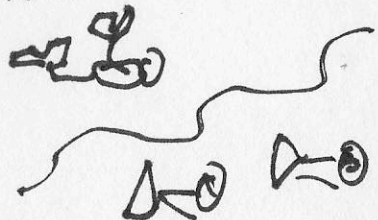
creeps go get out  
Fish!



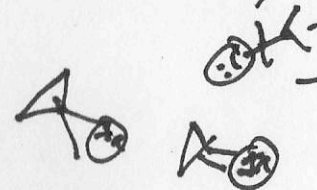
AHHHHHH



let's drown the sea  
monster and kill our fish

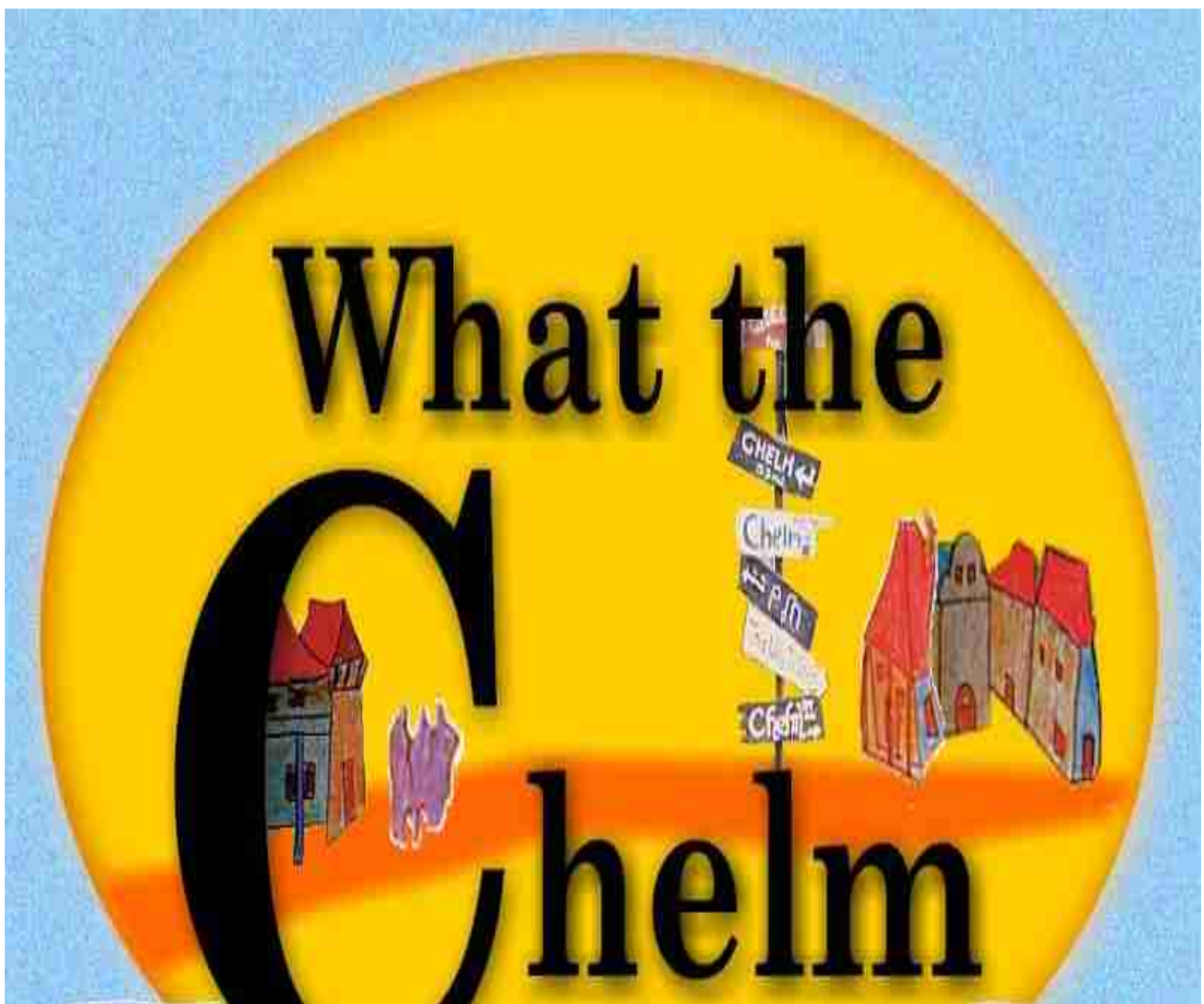


"but where are our fish!?"





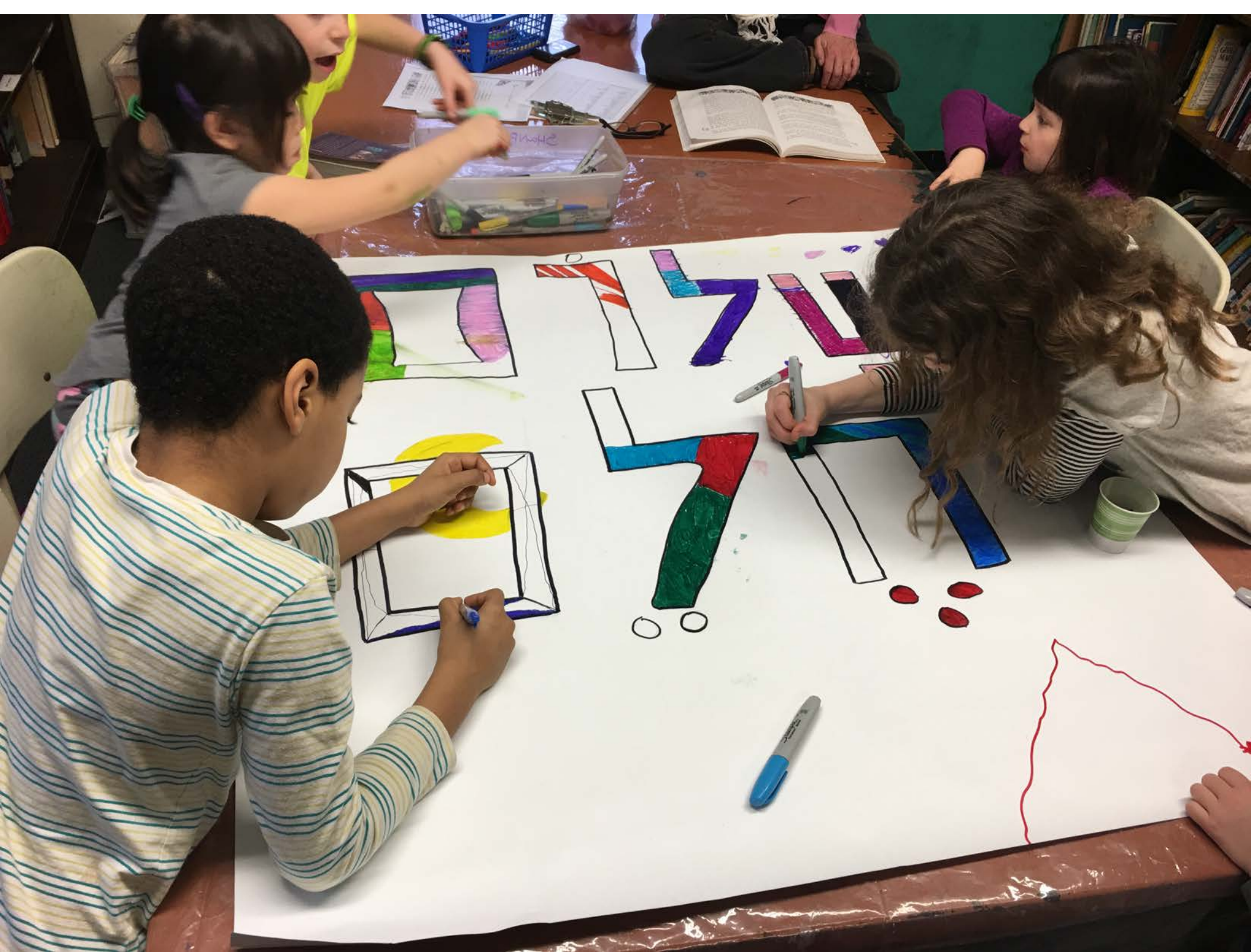
# חלם in Photos at Keshet EC























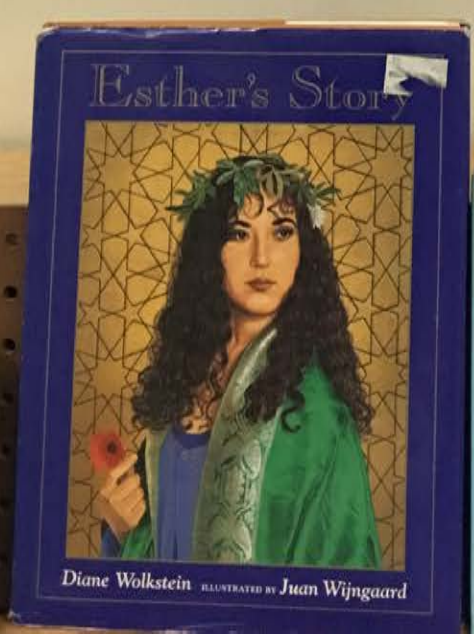


# CHELM



fix.

































המלחמה  
בירי  
טפשי  
מצחיק  
לובסטר



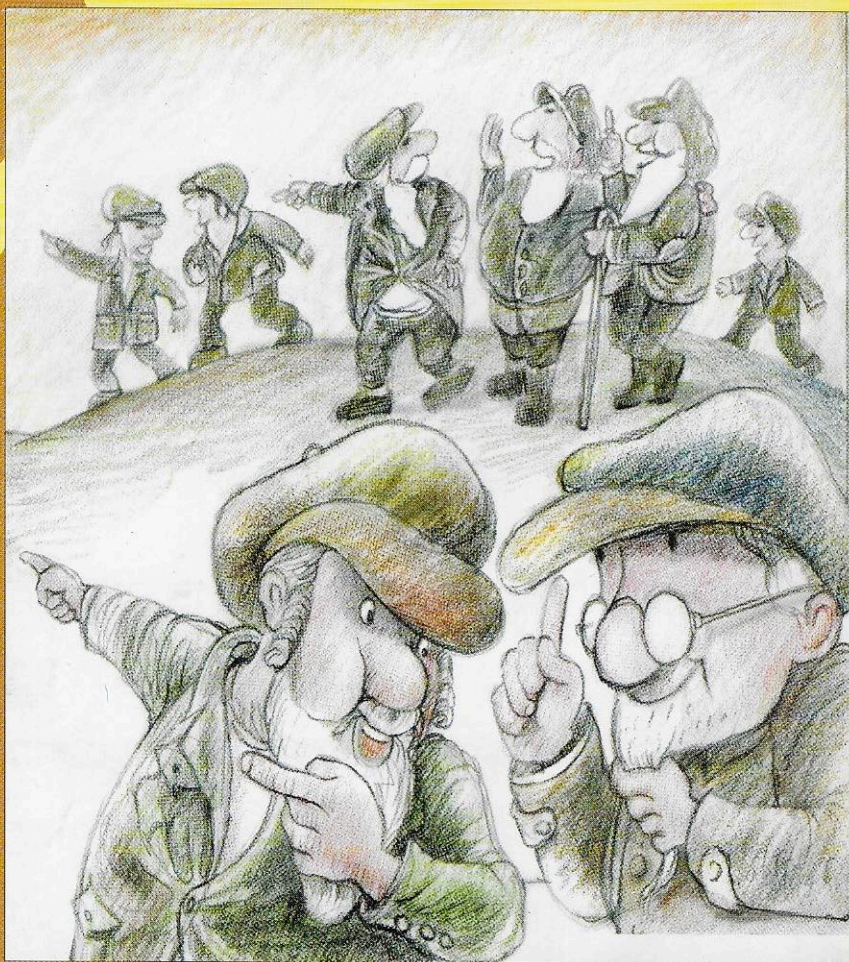
# Books Read at Keshet EC for Chelm Explorations and Fun



# הַאֲנָשִׁים מֵחֵלָם דוֹחֵפִים הָר

עיבדו: מירה אואן ואסתר ברונר

על פי סיפור עם





*"A delightful little book...a classic of its kind."* THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

# **The Wise Men of Helm** **& Their Merry Tales**

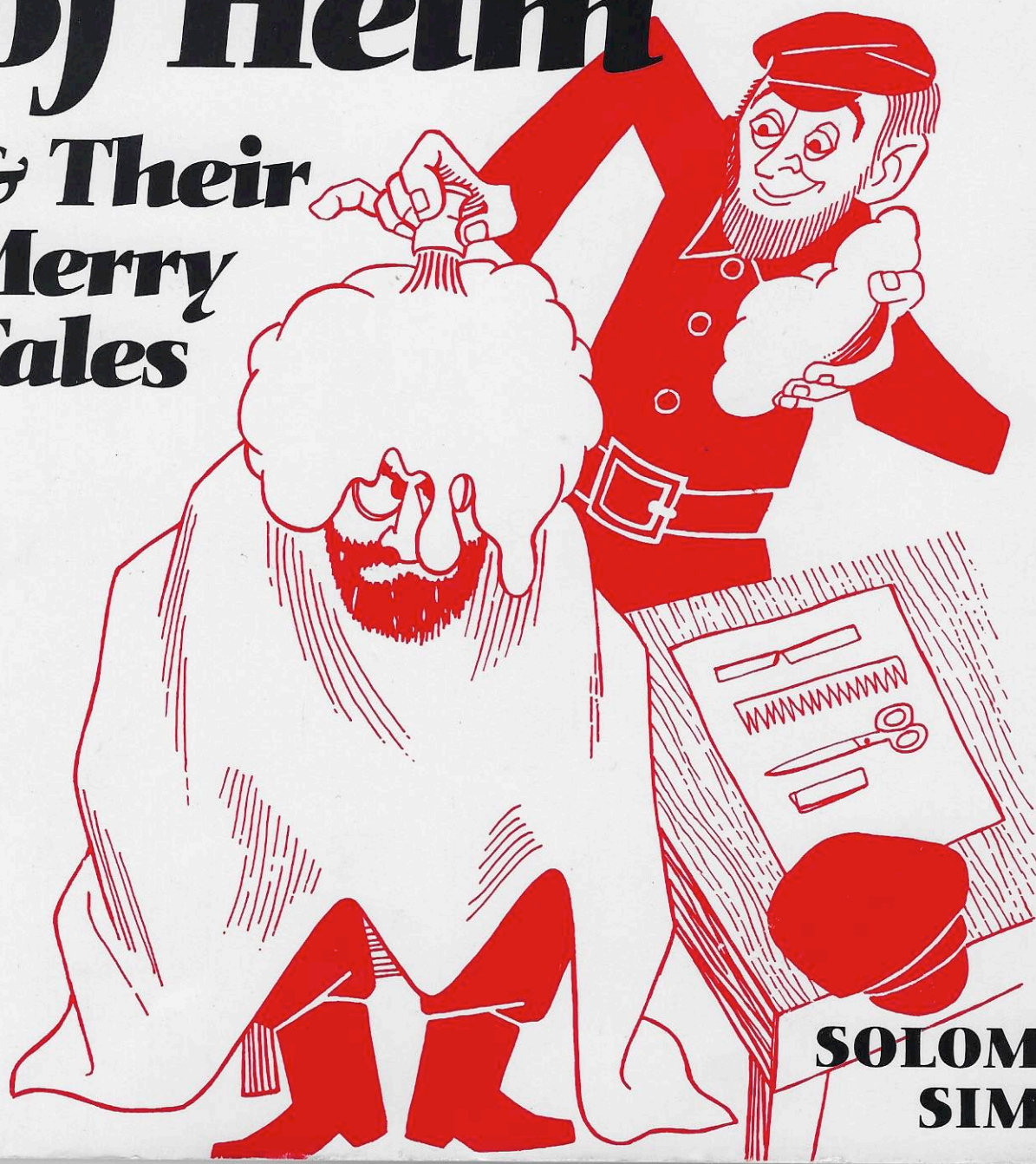


**SOLOMON  
SIMON**



# **More Wise Men of Helm**

**& Their  
Merry  
Tales**



**SOLOMON  
SIMON**



# Final thoughts on חלם:



The past months have been difficult ones indeed based upon what has been going on in our own country. Having our students look at the world through a topsy-turvy Chelm lens has afforded everyone a safe and artistic outlet for their own feelings. These whimsical stories, often written during times of great turmoil for Jews in Eastern Europe, provided an outlet for the people who lived and wrote at those times. Our school community is all the richer for having dedicated our time and energy to humor, irreverence, satire, and unadulterated fun.

Stay Tuned for More Adventures  
In Jewish Education

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617-576-0830