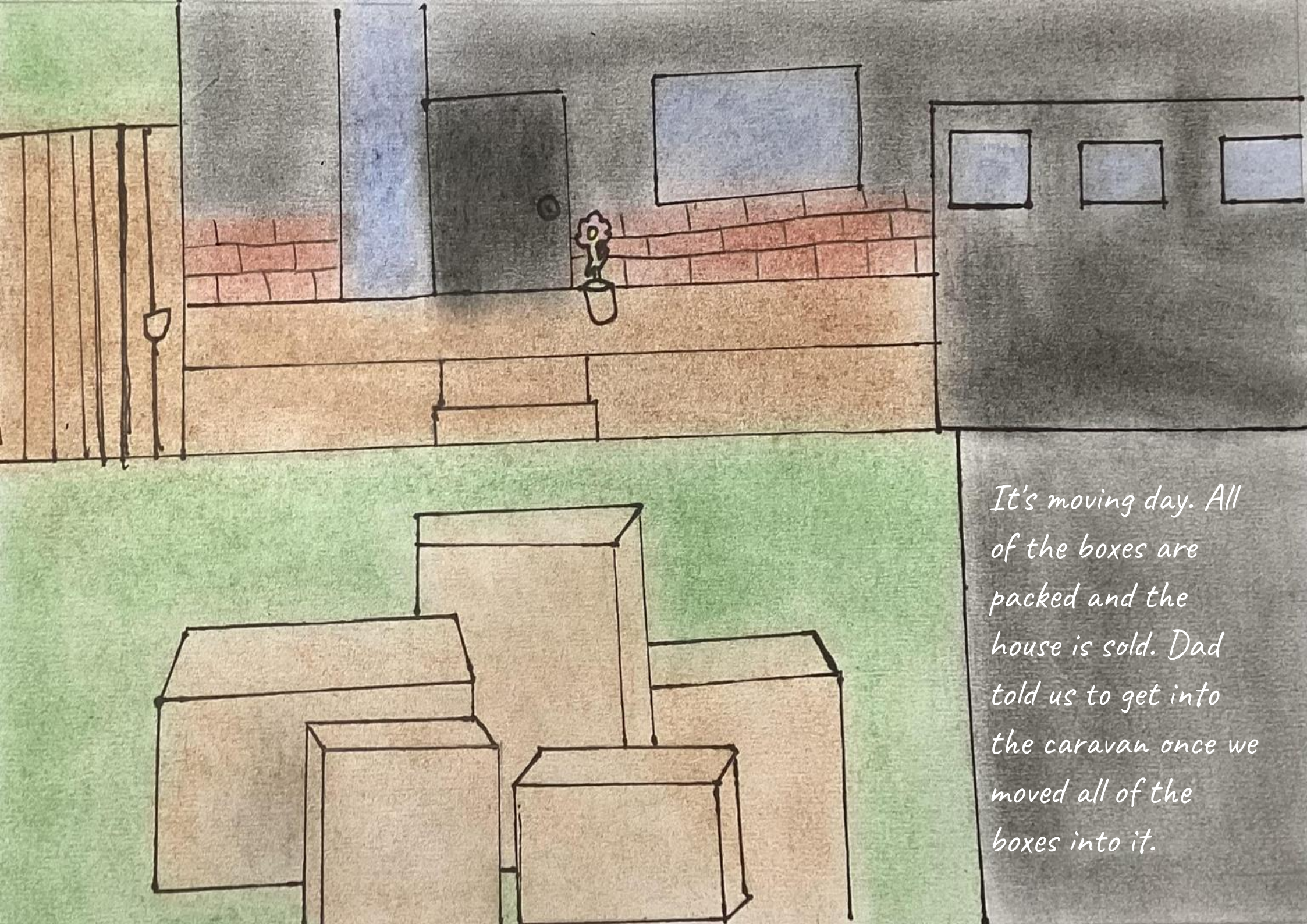


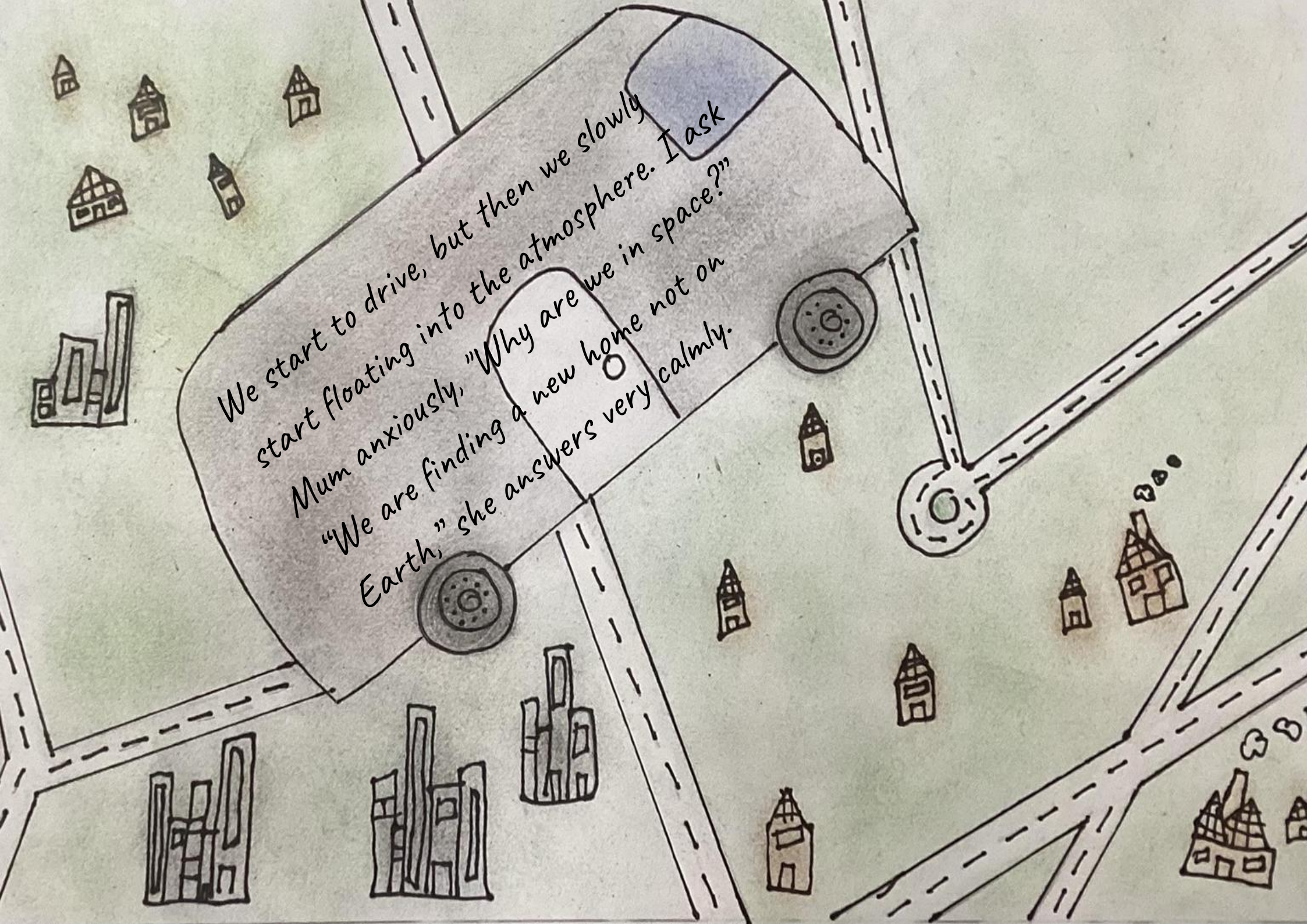


Finding a Home

Eliza P. [redacted]



It's moving day. All of the boxes are packed and the house is sold. Dad told us to get into the caravan once we moved all of the boxes into it.



We start to drive, but then we slowly
start floating into the atmosphere. I ask
Mum anxiously, "Why are we in space?"
"We are finding a new home not on
Earth," she answers very calmly.



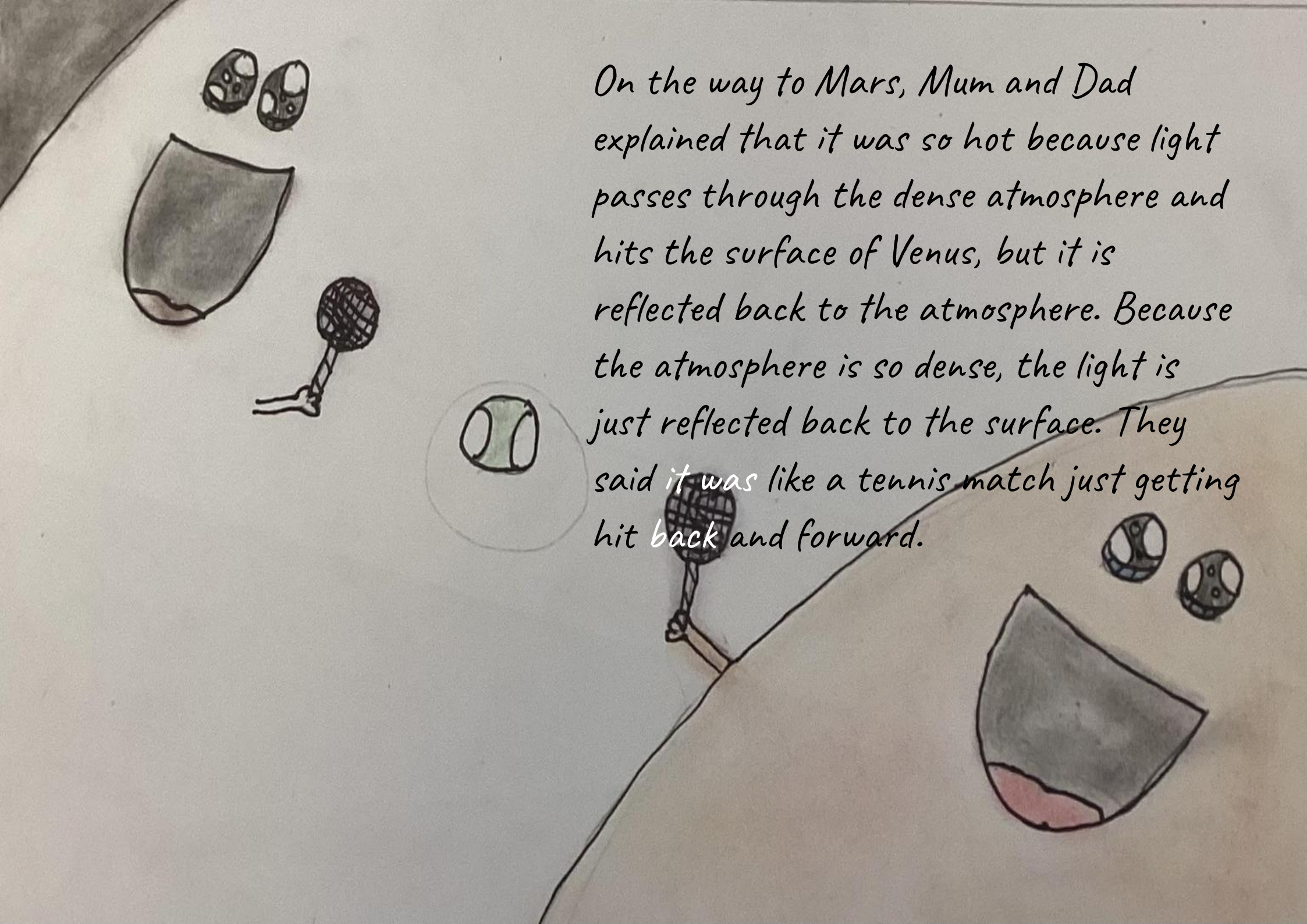
The first stop is Mercury. Tommy, my younger brother, said that Mercury is the smallest planet. That was true. When we landed, I told my family that it took us roughly 88 years to travel at 100 kilometres per hour. Tommy told me that he was not 94 years old. When we finally found the house, it looked a lot smaller in real life than in the picture.

My parents said that Venus had all of the space in the world to play ball and tag games.



When we arrived, I almost fainted! The waft of heat hit me in less than a second. It was like living in the centre of the molten lava of the Earth. The temperature was 646 degrees celsius. I know you're probably thinking, it just took you about 70 years to get to a planet with a house on it and before you even check the place out, you're leaving! But why don't you try taking a step out in this heat!

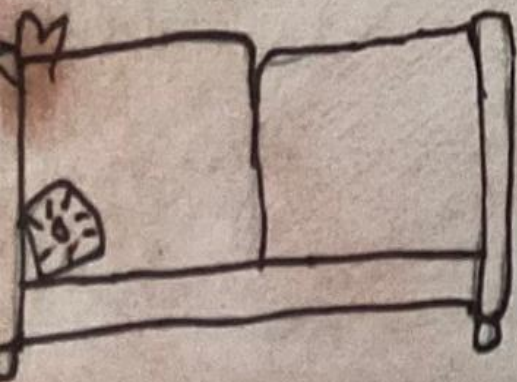
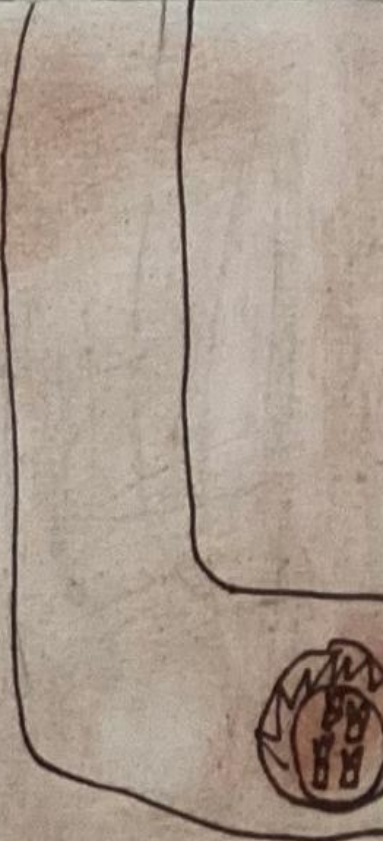
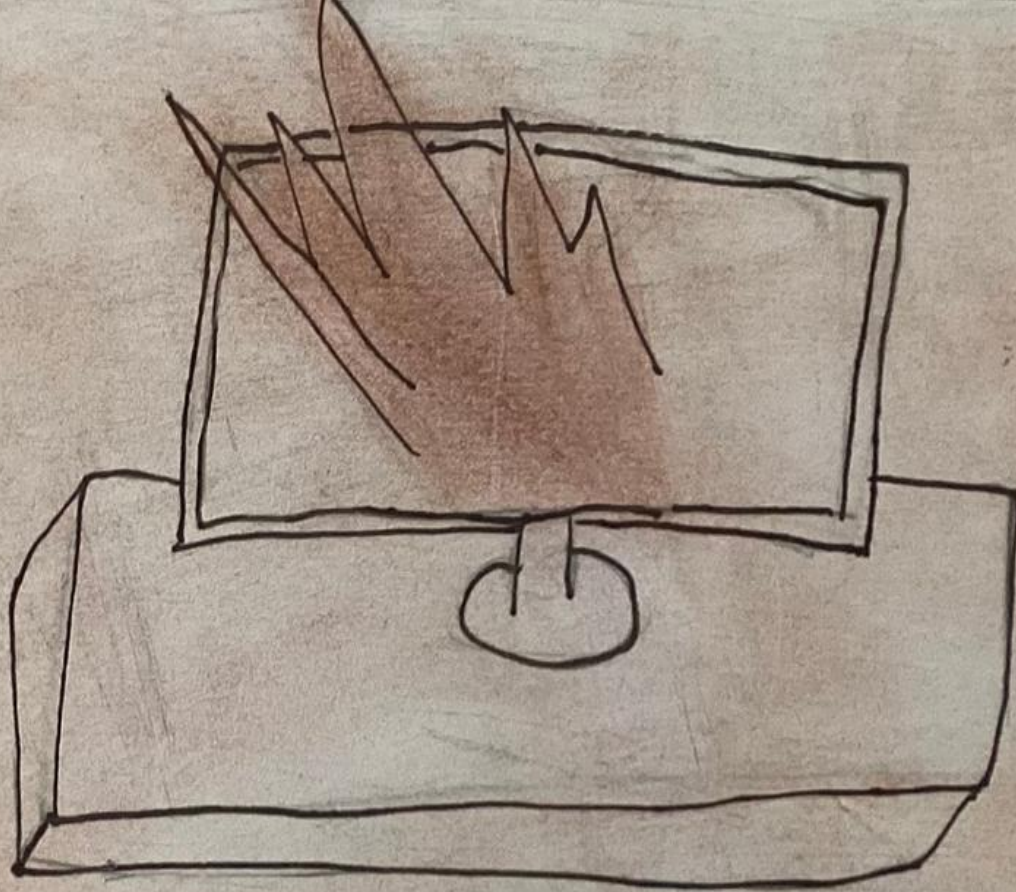
On the way to Mars, Mum and Dad explained that it was so hot because light passes through the dense atmosphere and hits the surface of Venus, but it is reflected back to the atmosphere. Because the atmosphere is so dense, the light is just reflected back to the surface. They said it was like a tennis match just getting hit back and forward.



Mars took us about 256 years to travel by caravan. Dad told us to put our warmest clothes on because Mars's average temperature is -62 celsius.



When I took a step out of the caravan, I almost broke my leg! Assuming the surface was flat, I stepped outside and walked into a crater! Tommy told me to watch my step because Mars is loaded with craters, canyons, mountains and volcanoes.



The exterior of the house was pretty, but the inside was filled with molten lava. Mum was angry because the previous owner did not mention it was an active volcano!

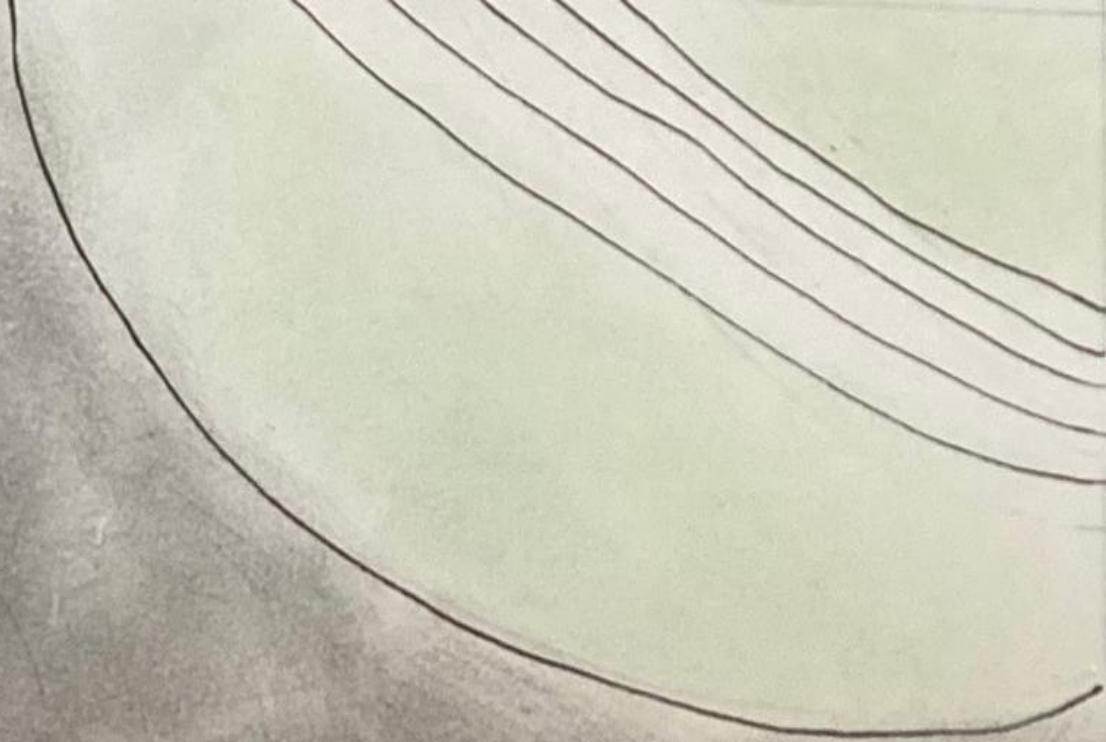
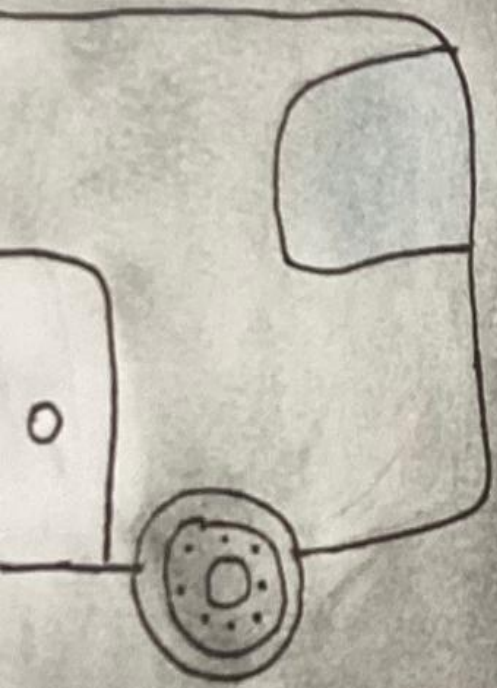
When we were a kilometre away from Jupiter, I could see the famous great red spot! Dad tried to land the caravan, but because of all the storms, he couldn't get in close enough. Instead, we landed on Europa, one of Jupiter's 79 moons and admired the largest planet in our solar system.

"It took us roughly 889 years to get to where we are and this is not what we came here for, but the view is magical," whispered Mum.

As we get closer to Saturn, the seven main rings are visible. Since there is no hard surface on Saturn, it is not possible for Dad to land the caravan, which means the house would just be floating where no one will find it. Instead, Mum came up with the idea to try to count all of its moons. In total, we counted 275 of them! Counting took a long time, but it didn't take as long as driving to Saturn, which took us about 1597 years.



Mum told me that her opal earrings look just like Uranus because of their bluey green colour. I told Mum that Uranus displays a bluey green colour because of a gas called methane.

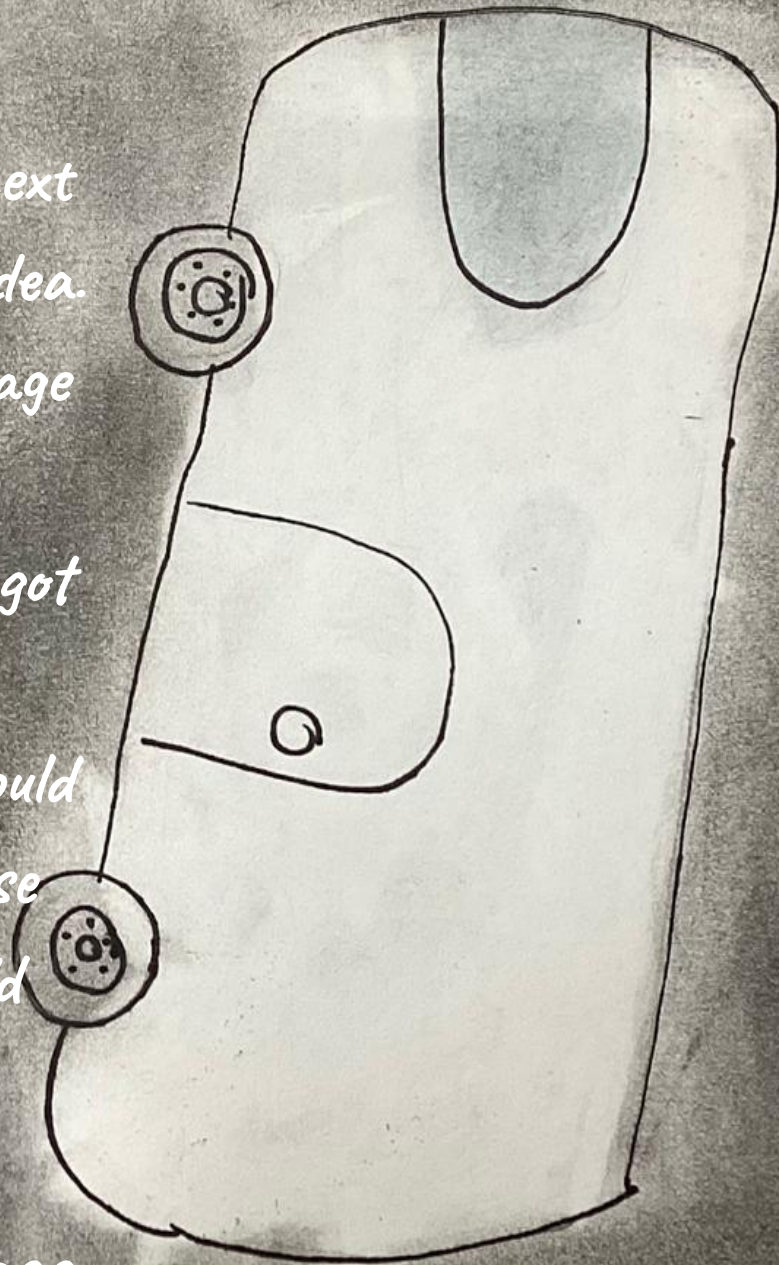


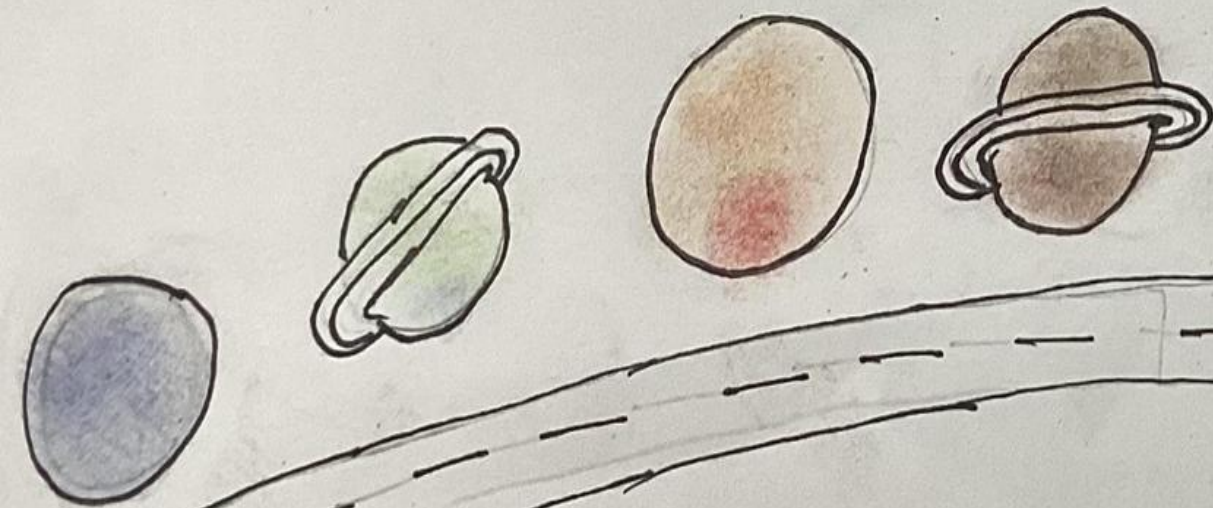
Tommy noticed that Uranus was rotating differently from all of the other planets. Dad looked it up on his phone—apparently, Uranus spins on its side. Luckily, there are no cameras that pick up speeding or using your phone in space, because on Earth, Dad would have had to pay a fine of \$1251 and he would get 5 demerit points! Even if there were cameras in space sent by people on Earth, it would take them 3274 years to reach us.



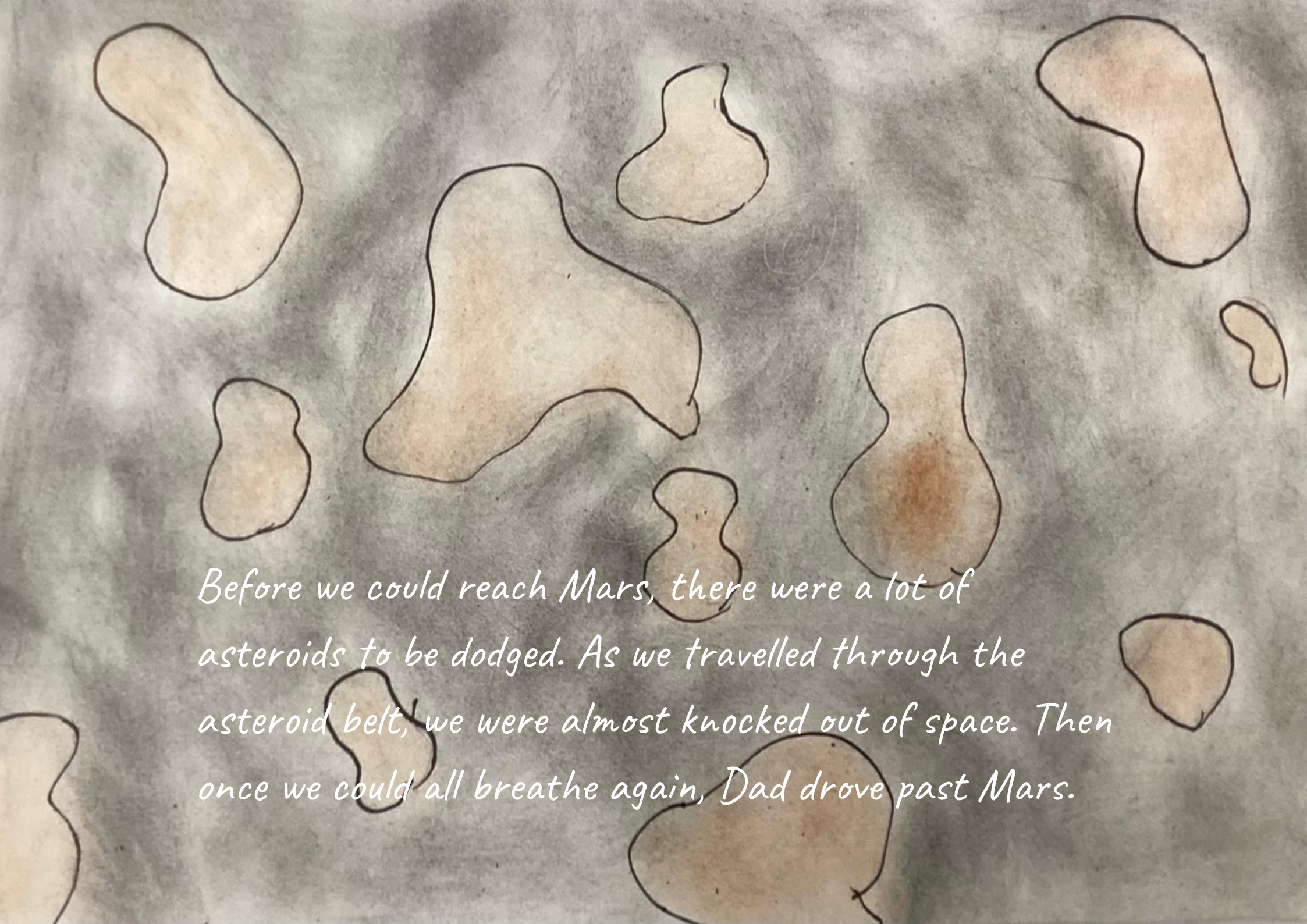
Before we even reached Neptune,
a chill ran down my spine. When
Neptune was visible, its spine-
chilling dark colour and freezing
temperature made it seem as if it
was home to some of our worst
fears!

Stopping the caravan next to Neptune was a bad idea. Because Neptune's average wind speed is 1100 kilometres per hour, we got completely blown away! There was no way we could find our way to the house in the dark, plus it would be hard enough to just drive in a straight line. That was a waste of 4899 years.



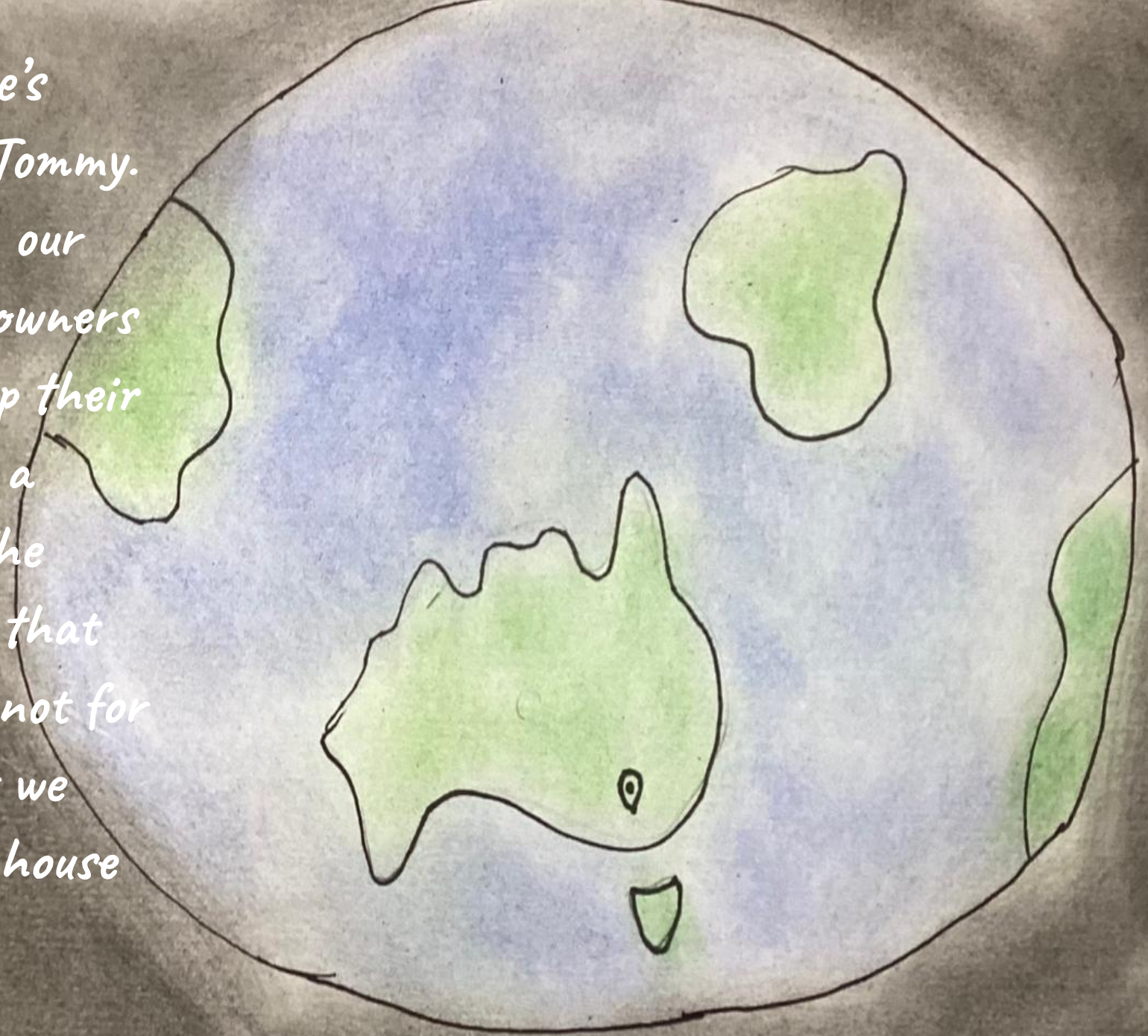


To travel back to Earth, it would take 5134 years! As we drove back, we could see the houses that were up for sale and the ones that were consumed by different kinds of gasses. We passed Neptune, Uranus, Saturn and Jupiter.



Before we could reach Mars, there were a lot of asteroids to be dodged. As we travelled through the asteroid belt, we were almost knocked out of space. Then once we could all breathe again, Dad drove past Mars.

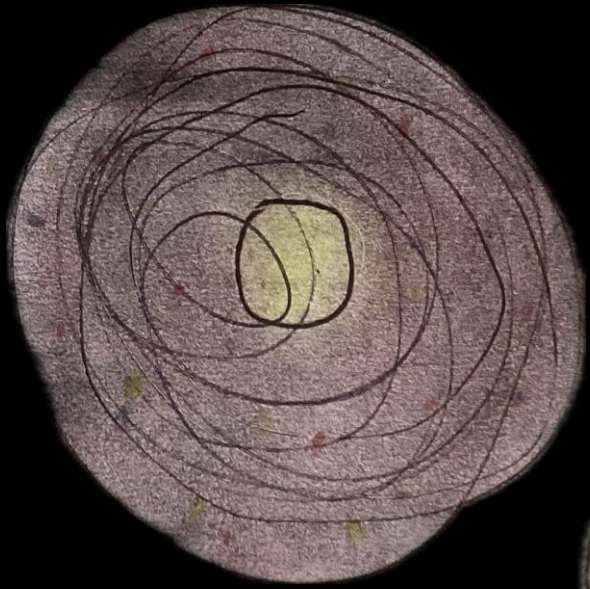
"Hey look, there's Earth!" yelled Tommy. We pulled up in our driveway. The owners were packing up their things in quite a stinky mood. The owners told us that the house was not for them and that we could have our house back.





Earth, a magical place, where the only form of life as we know of exists. It's where the green lush trees and bushes grow. Where the wombats burrow, the kangaroos hop and the koalas sleep. Where we learn about the universe and it's infinite wonders.

Acknowledgements



All measurements and data presented in this book are approximate values. They have been compiled from a range of reputable websites and sources.

