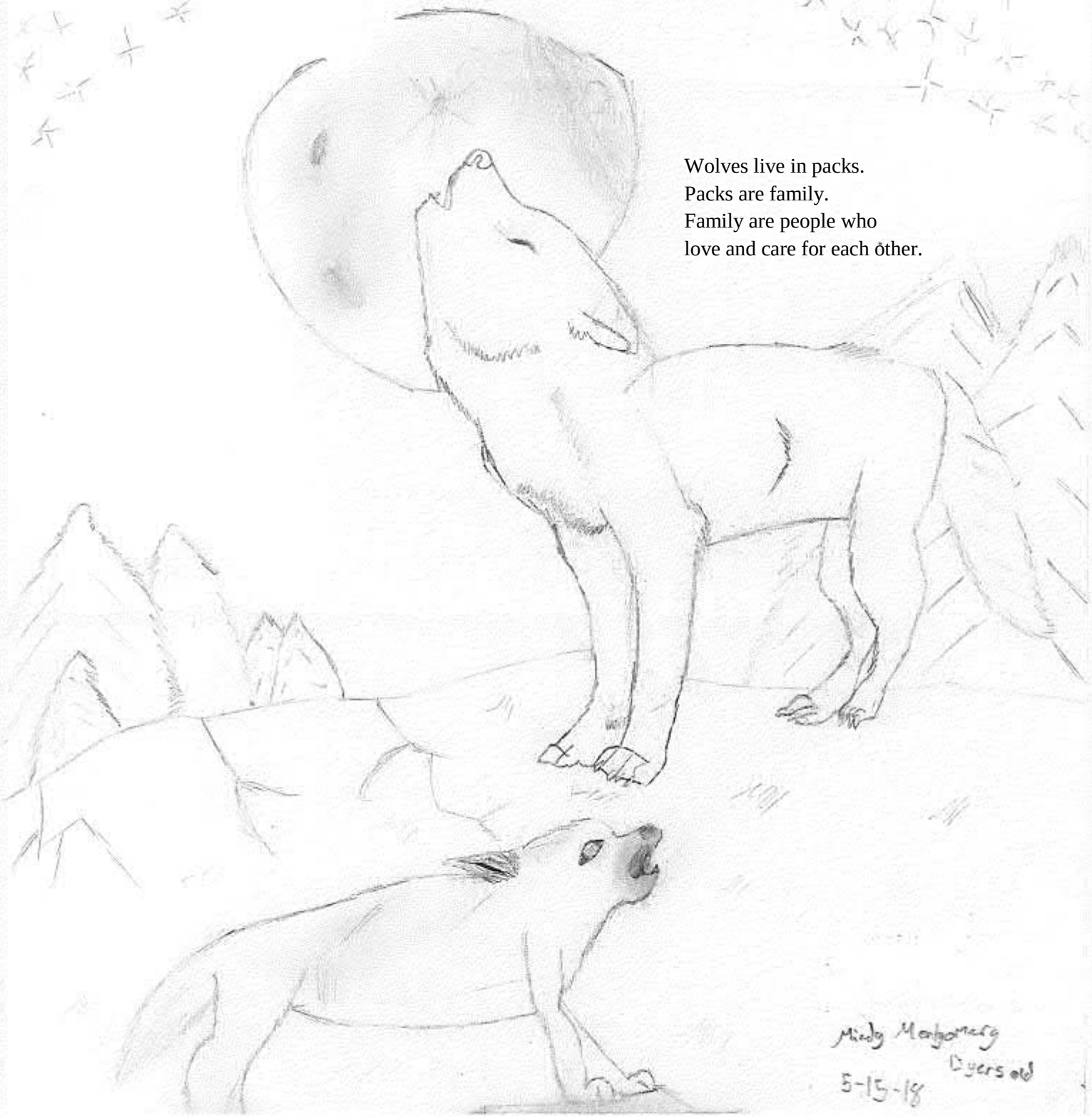
My Family. My Story.

Idaho KinCare Project 2018

Expressions of Children raised by Relatives or other Significant Adults



My Family. My Story.

Art Contest 2018

Organized by the
Idaho KinCare Project

This booklet can be found online at

www.211.idaho.gov

My Family. My Story.

Our best hope is for parents to love and care for their children and to raise them in a happy, healthy home. However, family crisis sometimes requires children to be placed with relatives or other meaningful adults in their lives. This type of arrangement is commonly referred to as "KinCare."

In Idaho, over 29,000 children under the age of 18 live in households headed by grandparents or other relatives (6.8% of children in the state).

The My Family. My Story. Art Contest's purpose is twofold: to recognize the contributions of KinCare providers and to provide the children who participate an opportunity to feel connected with other children in similar situations.

The following poems, essays and drawings are the expressions of children who were placed in difficult circumstances, yet have the resiliency to share their experiences with others.

These are their families and their stories.

For more information about KinCare in Idaho visit: www.211.idaho.gov

The Idaho KinCare Project, 2018

My Family. My Story.

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Elina

Age 20 months

My name is Emily. I live in a new family. I go to a new school. My school is the best. My new family has five brothers and sisters and two parents, who are my aunt and uncle but I call them mom and dad. I am six, I have lived with my new family for 3 years.

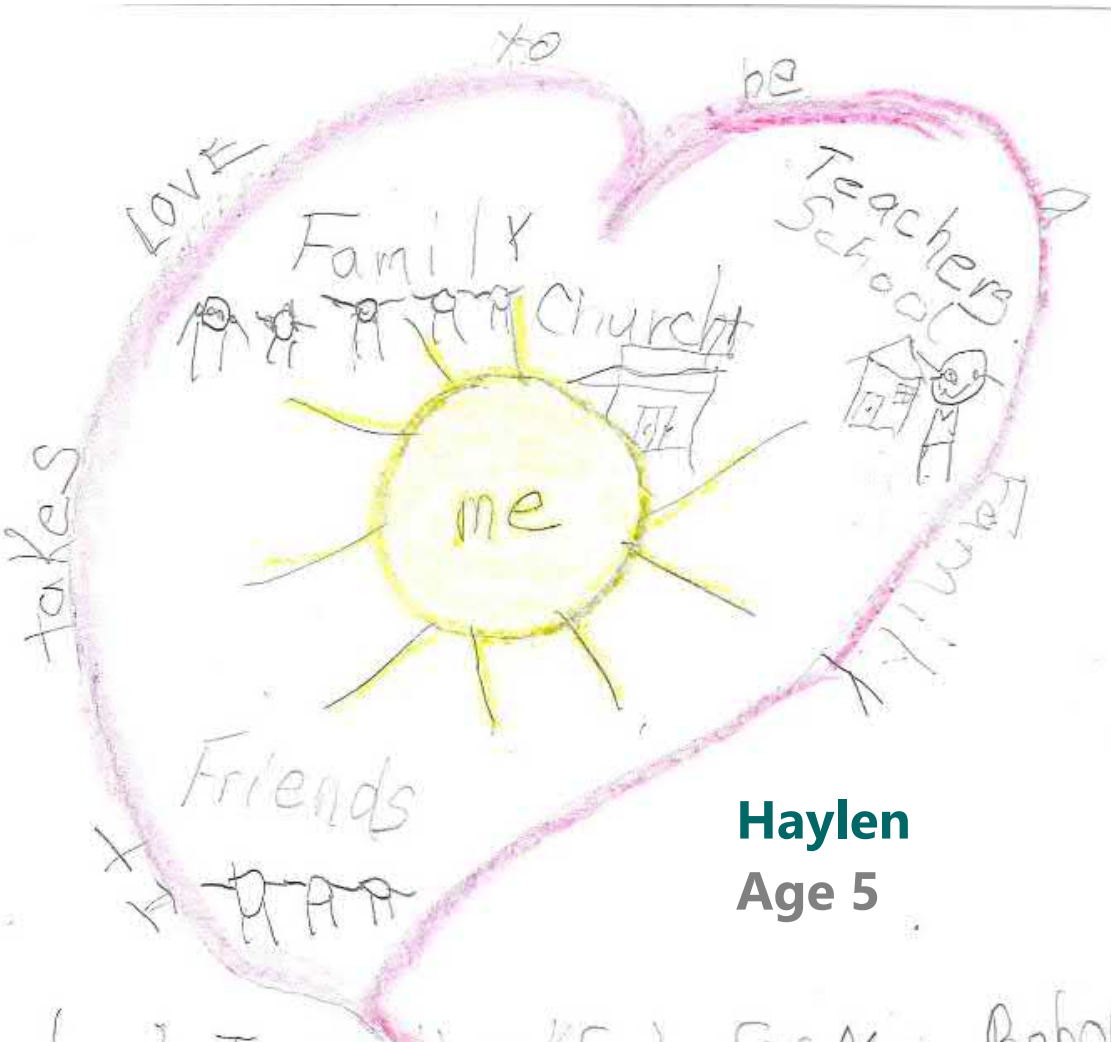
Emily

Age 6

I used to live in a homeless shelter in Pennsylvania with my mother and sister. My grandpa came and got us and took us back to Arizona with him. It was a long drive. We lived with him and my grandma for a few years and I got to meet my other brother and sister. It was very hot there but we had fun in the swimming pools and going camping and riding in grandpa's boat. Five years ago we came to Idaho and I got to meet more relatives. My grandpa is like my dad, we go on adventures. We walk in the woods, ride bikes, go camping and fishing and have squirt gun fights. I have always called my grandpa dad because he has always raised and treated me the way a father should. I have my own bed and my own room and don't have to stay with my mother's friends all the time. Best of all was getting adopted by my grandma and grandpa my new mom and dad.

Greyson

Greyson
Age 8



Haylen
Age 5

In mr heart I am thankful for My Bebop and Grandma; Family, church, school and friends.

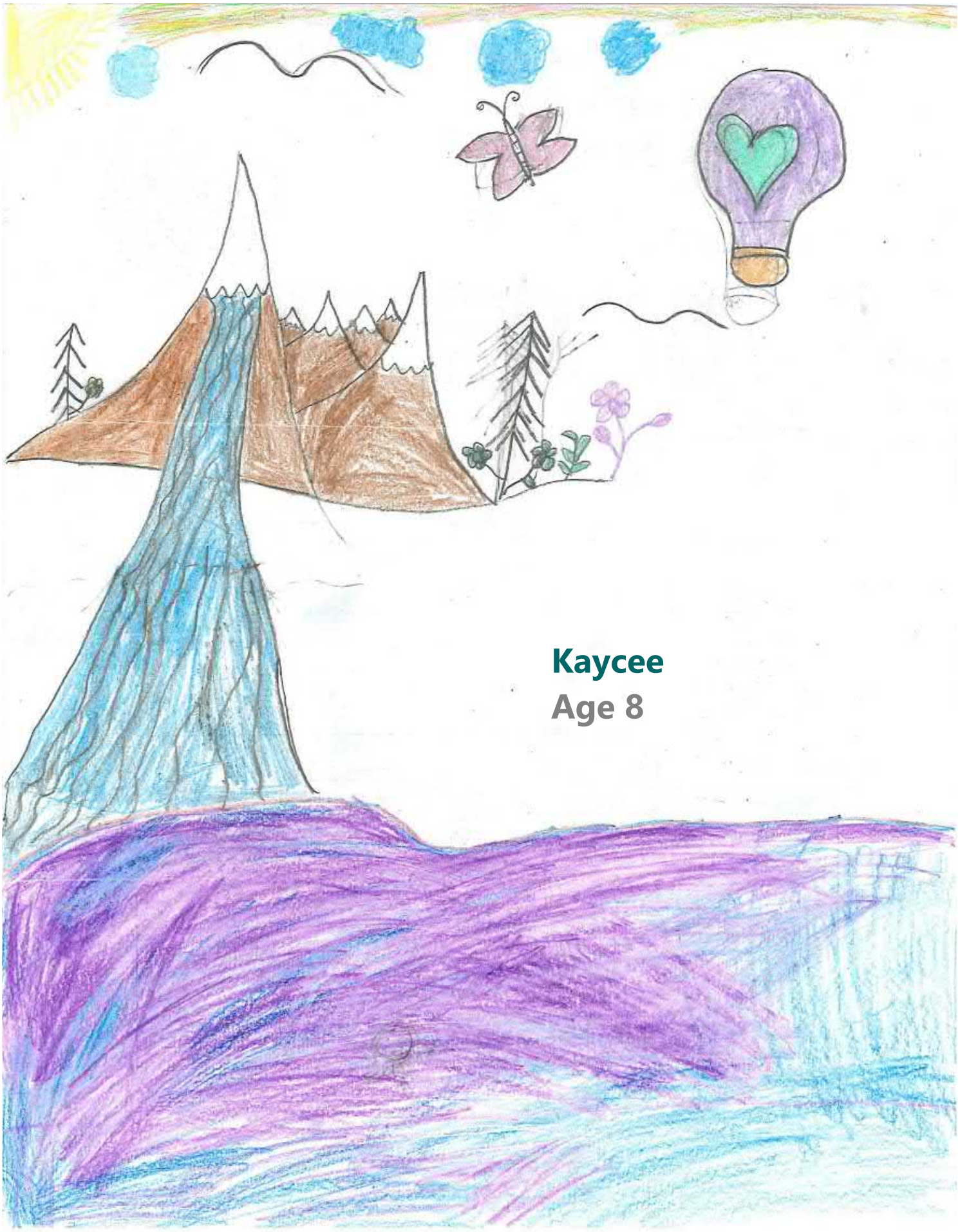
I have LOVE in MY heart for all of them. They love and take care of me.

My name is Hope Sagan, And as you know
I was raised from my aunt Natalya and my
uncle Alex. They are a great family. Now that
Me, Emily (my sister), And Aiden he is 3 years old. And
We are a ~~[illegible]~~ Family of 8! How it all
started was my parents started doing drugs. And
that really effected me in so meany ways.
because I lost my house, My stuff, And my
Parents. Once, I saw a friend coming over.
and after I saw my biological Parents
(Kirstan, Emmanuel) Putting shots in their
arm. "Mom dad, what are you doing?" I asked
with anxiety, "don't leave they said back.
But a few months later my grandma stay
by at my ~~house~~ hotel and she picked me up.
And I thought that was the last time
I would see them again. I felt
so sad. I could never be with my
Parents again I thought to my-self. We
had visits but they got bad again now I
Can't visit. My dad is not doing good
at all. My mom is doing great. Now, I
am doing great. I get to do so much
fun activites like Jiu-Jitsu with my
cousin daniel. And I get to go to
an amazing school! And I hang out
with my new family every day!

Hope

Age 10

Winning Entry



Kaycee
Age 8

My grandma takes us on beautful nature walks. She takes us to the park. My grandma tries hers best even whien she is out of money. She always givs us a nice birthday ever. She always brings us flowers and balloons at their birthday. She is so nice. she is the best grandma. I love her very much. I miss my grandma every day at school.

Kaycee
Age 8

Kaylee
Age 5

Kolina
Age 11

with mr my Guardians, I wouldent be well fed. Without my Guardian I wouldent have shelter. But with my Guardians I have Love. With my Guardian I have Protection, with my Guardians I have scholoship. With my Guardians I have Life.

♡ I love my Guardians ♡

The End.
I love to read my favorite books with my Nana.
I like to go camping with Nana.
Haha
NANA
LOVE
COOLER
I LOVE to go to church with Nana
JESUS
us

Krista

Age 8

Lidia

Age 13

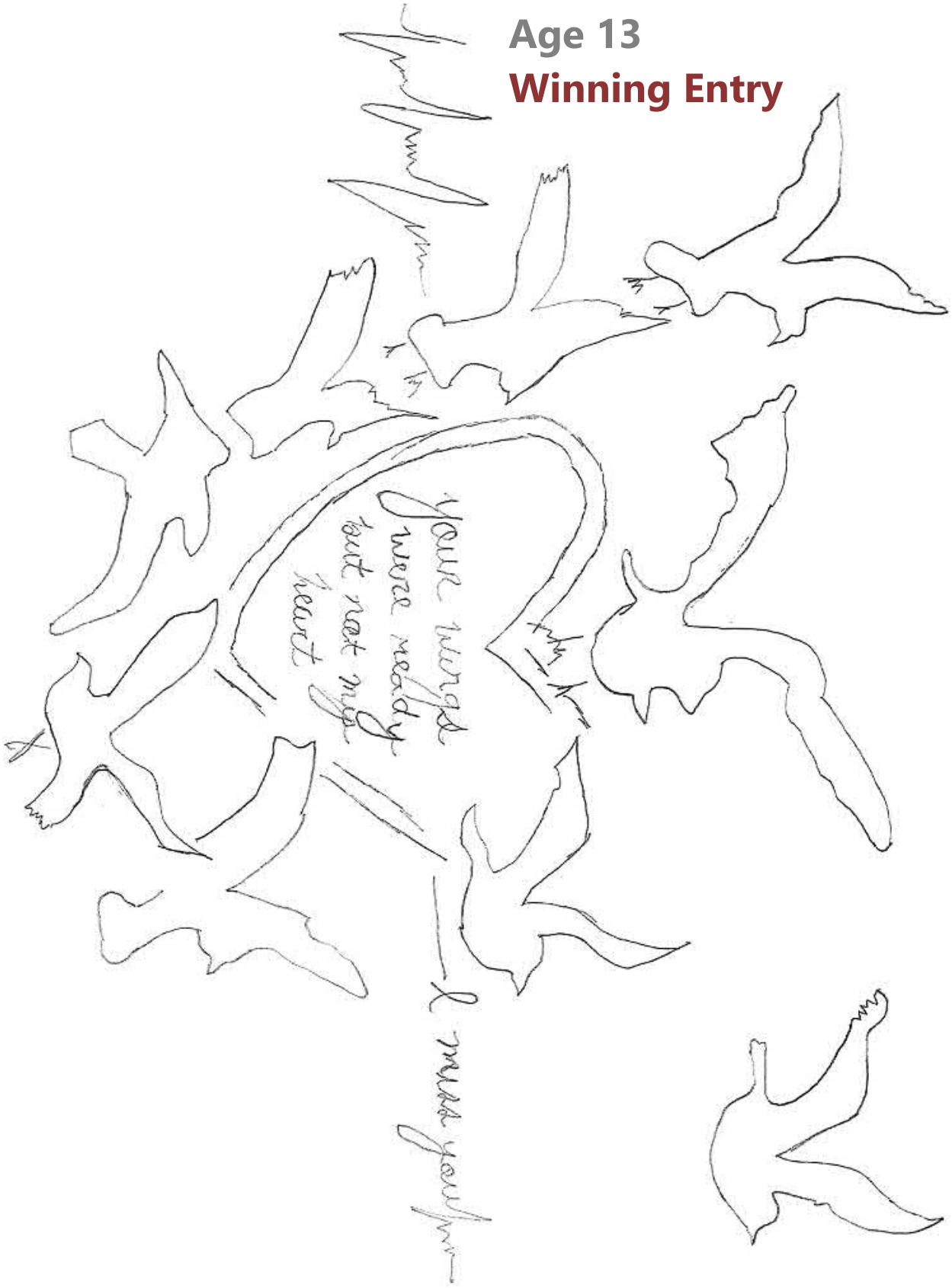
Winning Entry

My name is Lidia and I'm 13 years old. I live with my sister Daisy. My mom passed away 6 years ago. If me and my brother didnt live with my sister we would of been in a foster home and I wouldnt like that because I wouldnt be able to see my brother and sisters. So I'm really thankful for what my sister did for my brother and me. I wouldnt ask for another sister because I already have the best one. My sister always make sure we have everything we need. Also she make sure we do good in School and have goods grade to make my mom proud from above. Sometimes I do wish my mom was here to tell me everything going to be OK. I always ask myself WHY did my mom have to leave so early. Ever since my mom passed away my family started falling apart and it didnt feel the same no more. I'm glad I got to live with my sister because she always is there for me no matter what. I'm really glad to call her my sister.

Lidia

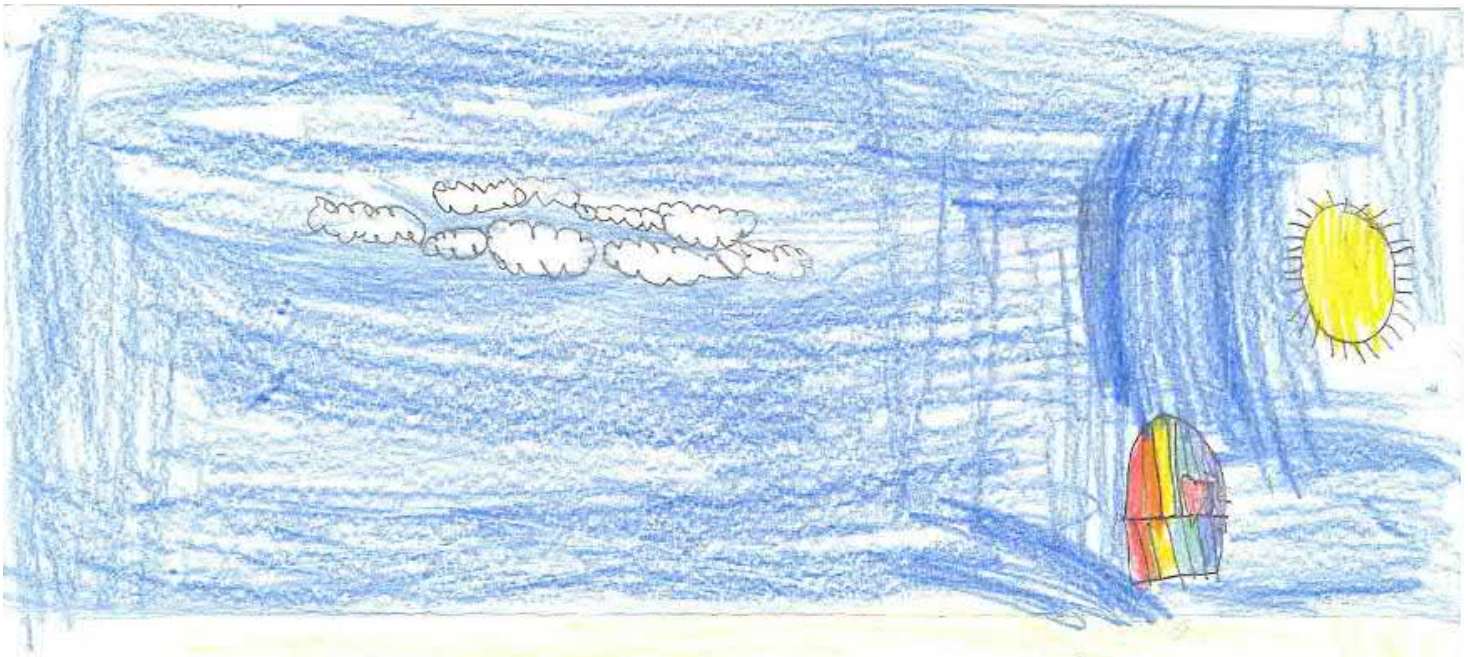
Age 13

Winning Entry

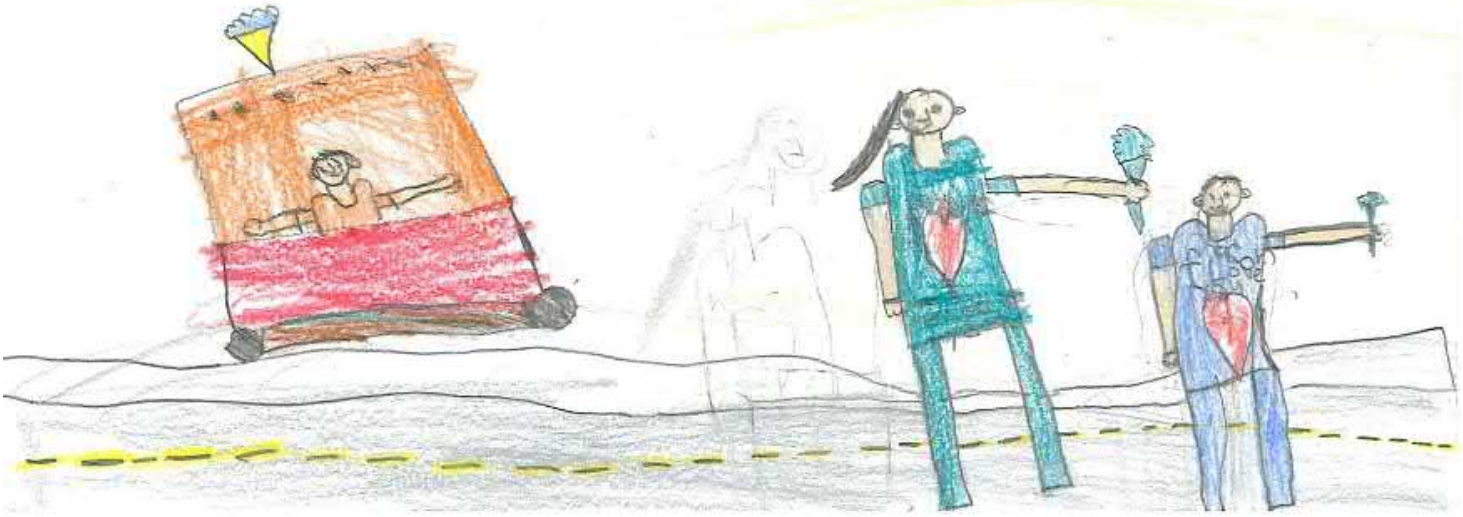


I've lived with my Grandparents since 7 years old & I can't describe how much they've changed my life. Without their support, love & kindness, I wouldn't be doing half of what I do now. I do musical theatre, I am so passionate about it & they have paid for piano lessons, voice lessons & also let me take theatre & choir classes to help me succeed. They have never, ever let me down. Even with everything I put them through, they have always been there as a shoulder to cry on or a couple ears to listen to my pain or sadness. They've taught me lots & made sure I succeed in school. We've had our ups & downs, but in the end, ~~it'll be worth~~ it's been worth every step. This journey has barely started, so I can't wait to see what's in store for us! Even though it's hard to know you're not with your parents, you still have someone to love you & nurture you through your youth.

Madysen
Age 15

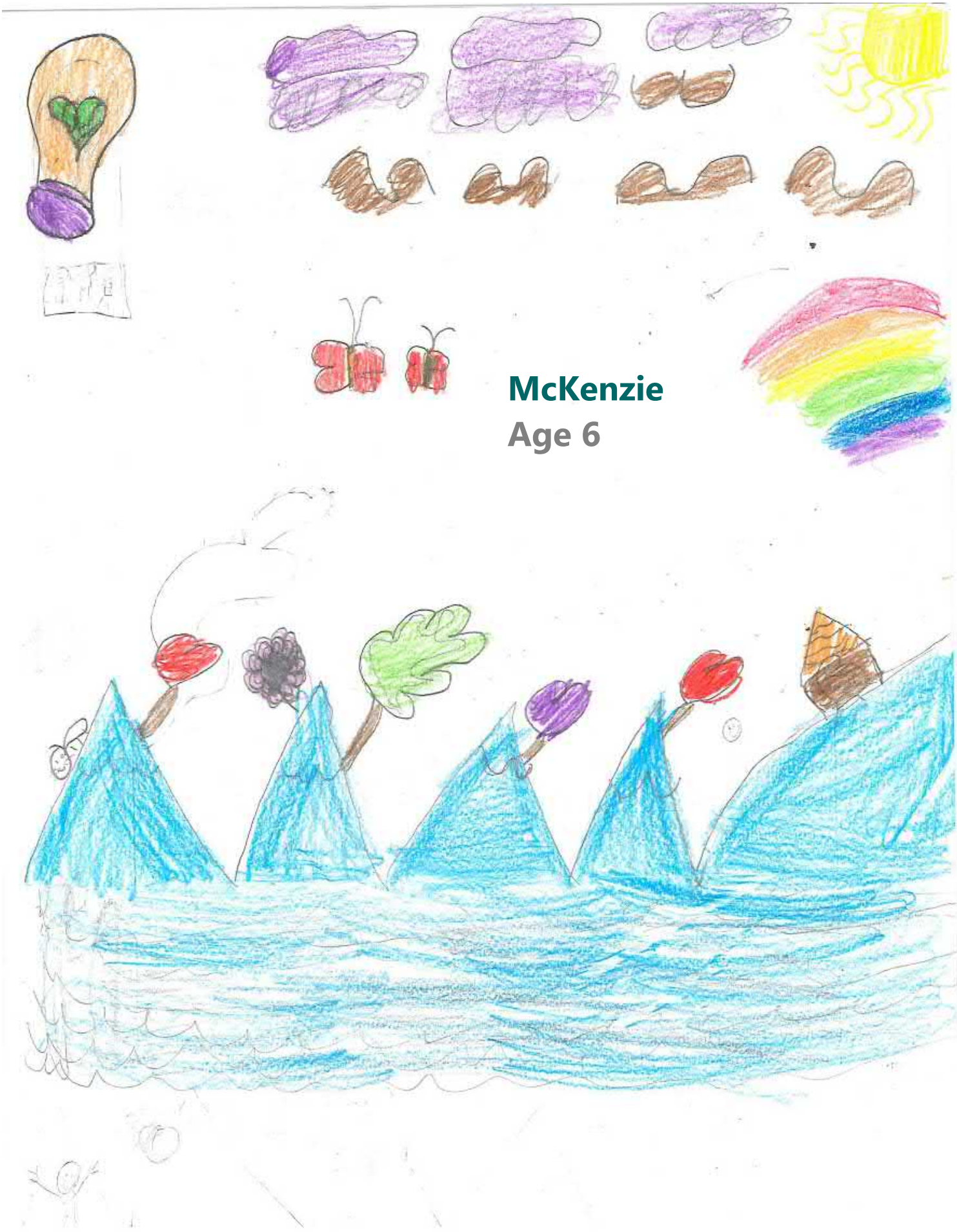


Mason
Age 6



Gramo lets us have big brthas
I Love My FAMILY gramo
Takes us to get icecream

Mason
Age 6



McKenzie

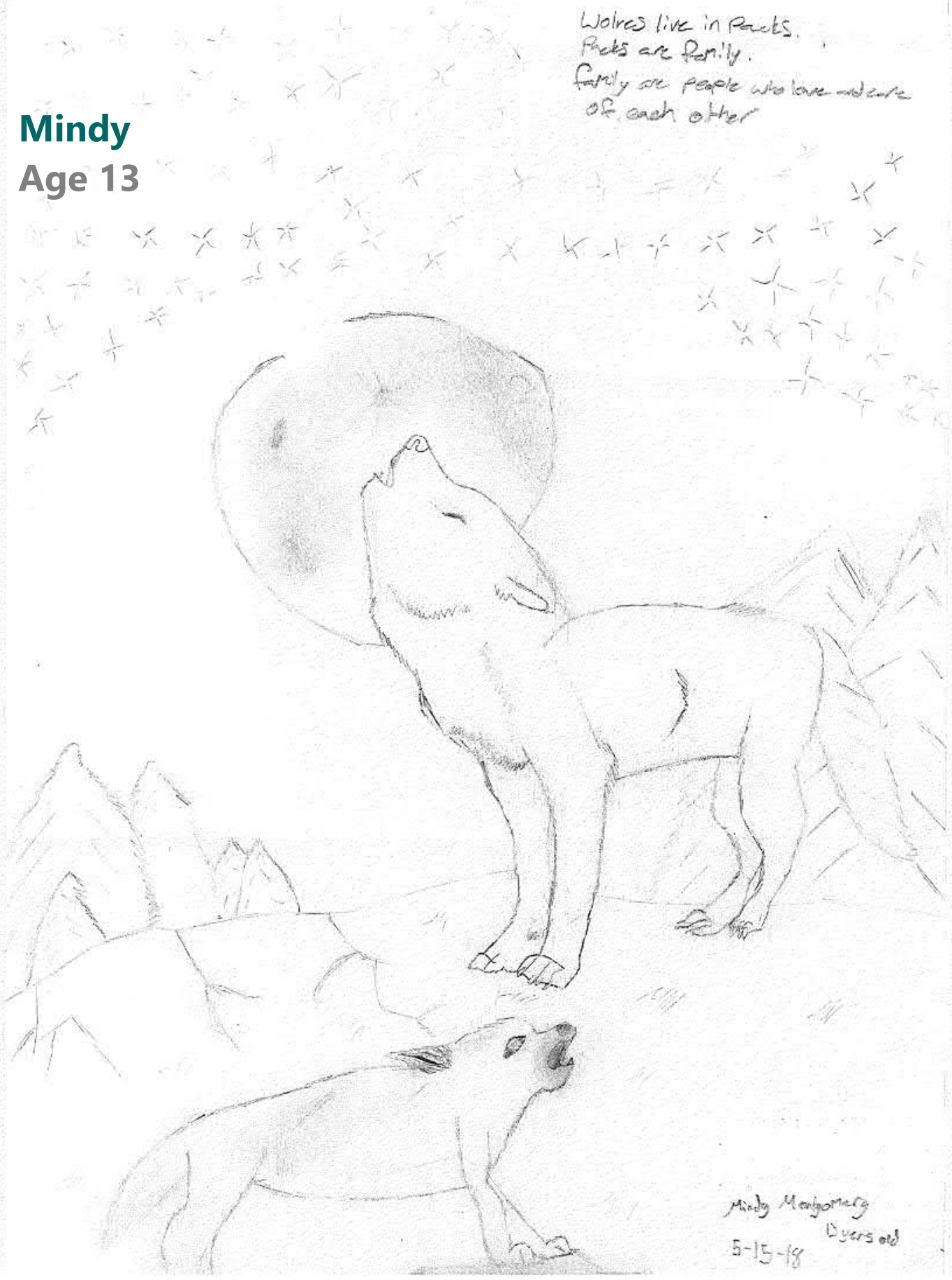
Age 6

my grandma takes us on beautiful
nature walks. she takes us to the park.
my grandma celborate my birthday
she is the Best grandma ever.

McKenzie

Age 6

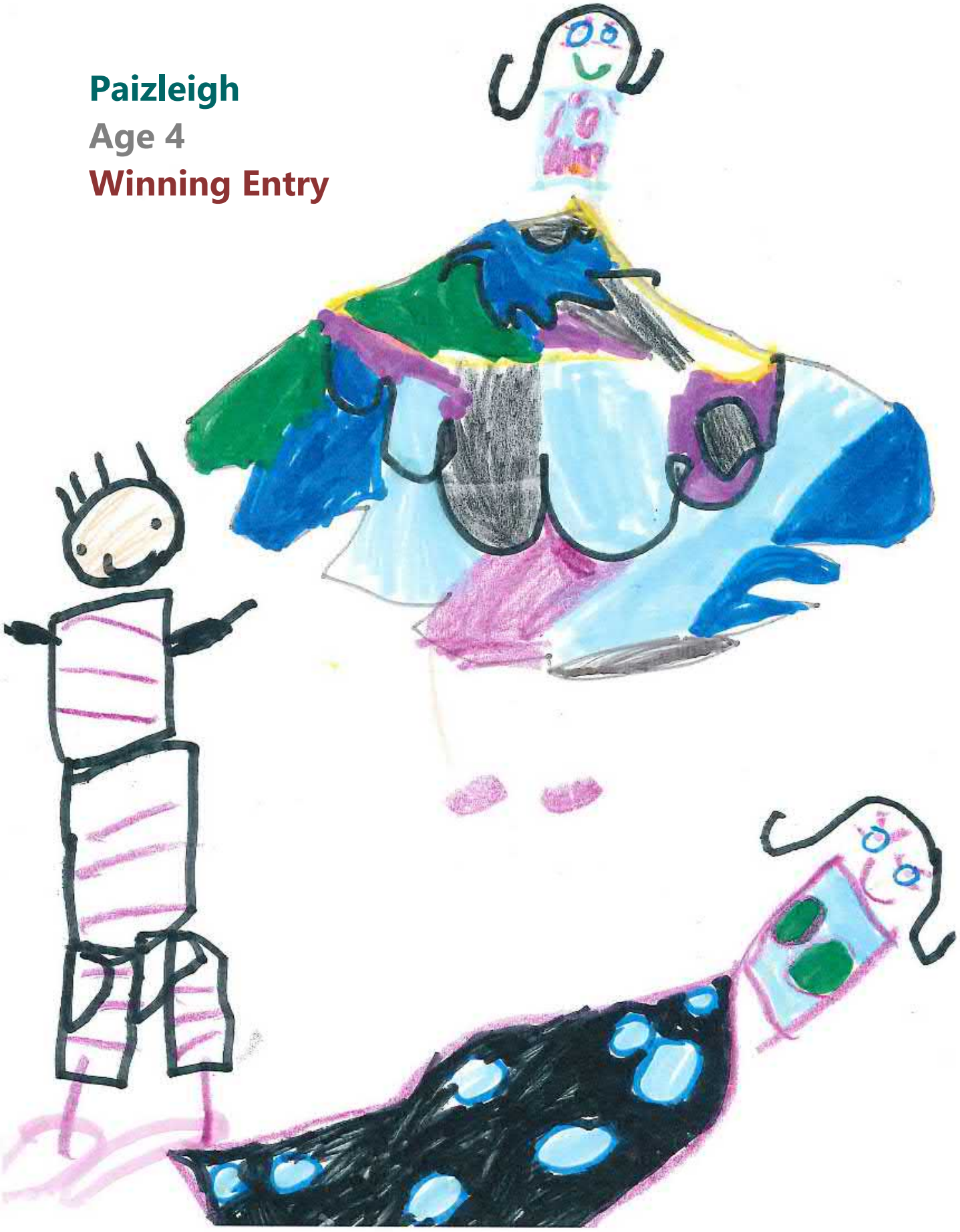
Mindy
Age 13


Wolves live in Packs.
Packs are family.
family are people who love and care
of each other
Mindy Montgomery
13 years old
5-15-18

Paizleigh

Age 4

Winning Entry



Paizleigh Turner, our grandaughter drew a picture of herself, grandma and Grandpa. She is a princess and grandma is Queen and Papa is King. We are living happily ever after.

Paizleigh

Age 4

Winning Entry

Riley
Age 11
Winning Entry

I like living here Cause it changed my life. I even have my own room. I think Aunt Ardith's is the best. There's no bugs in this house like there was in the last one.

Story

Pickture

Sammie Noble

Sammie

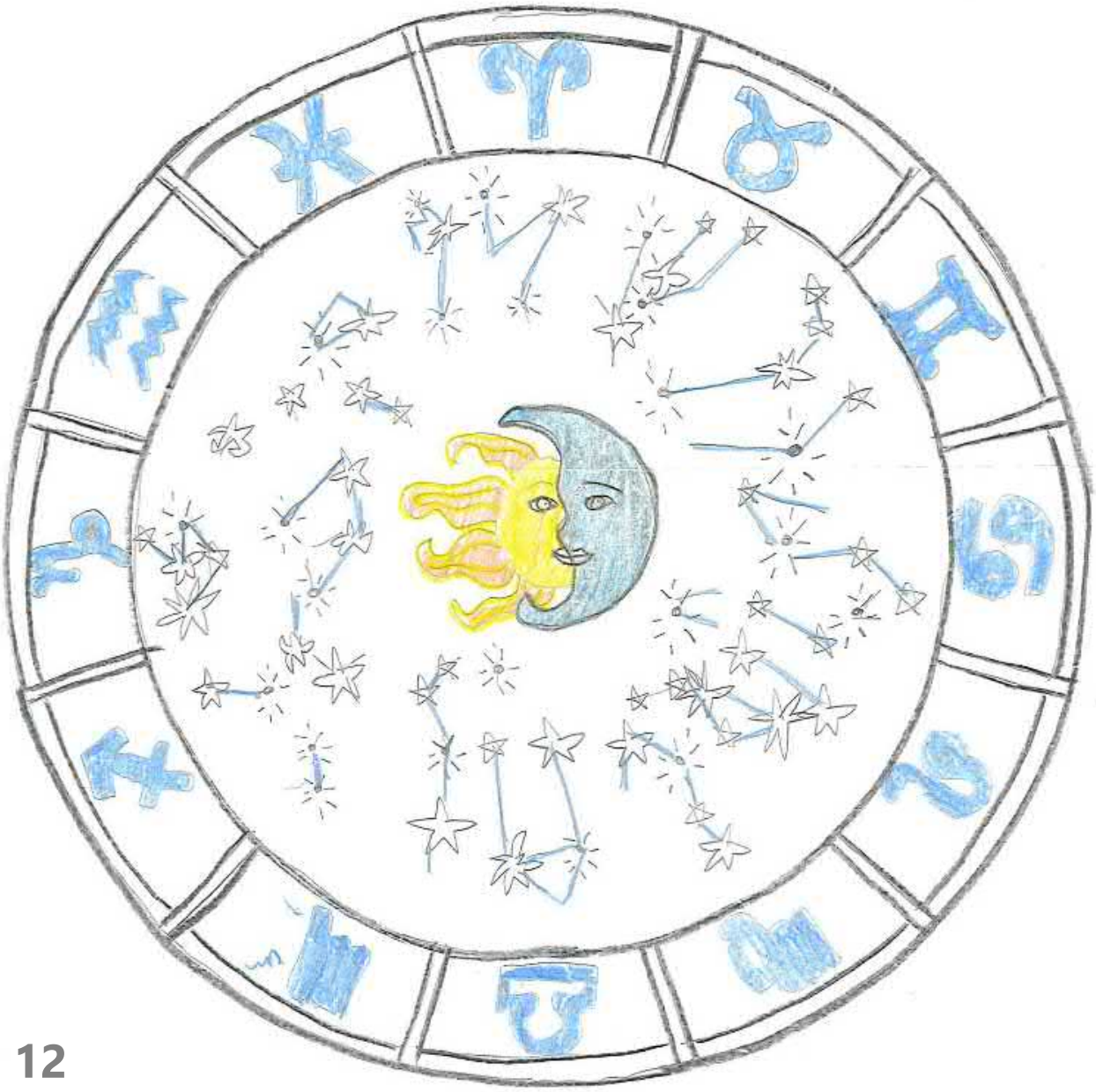
Age 7

Winning Entry

Star
Age 15

When I'm asked who has made a positive impact in my life, My aunt is the first one that comes to mind.

I'm 15 years old, and I have been living in Idaho now for almost two years. I was taken in by her when I was going through a hard time in life and wasnt doing so well. If it wasnt for her, I wouldnt be as good as I am today, also with the positive impact. I feel as I'm doing better in school. Focusing on graduating high school and knowing that with her here I can get through anything. Looking back to day one and my present now, its unbelievable how one person can make a difference and do so much to see you grow. My aunt will always be the first to make sure im doing the right thing. She has helped me realize I can do what I want as long as I set my heart & mind to it, because being positive makes us better with accomplishing things.



Zoe
Age 12

May the stars carry your sadness away. May the flowers fill your heart with beauty. May hope forever wipe away your tears. And above all, may silence make you strong.

This is my dog Sammy, at my new house with my new family. I was born prematurely and addicted to heroin. I got to go home from the hospital to my aunts house 3 years ago. Now I am healthy and happy.

Aiden
Age 3

Ashton
Age 13
Winning Entry

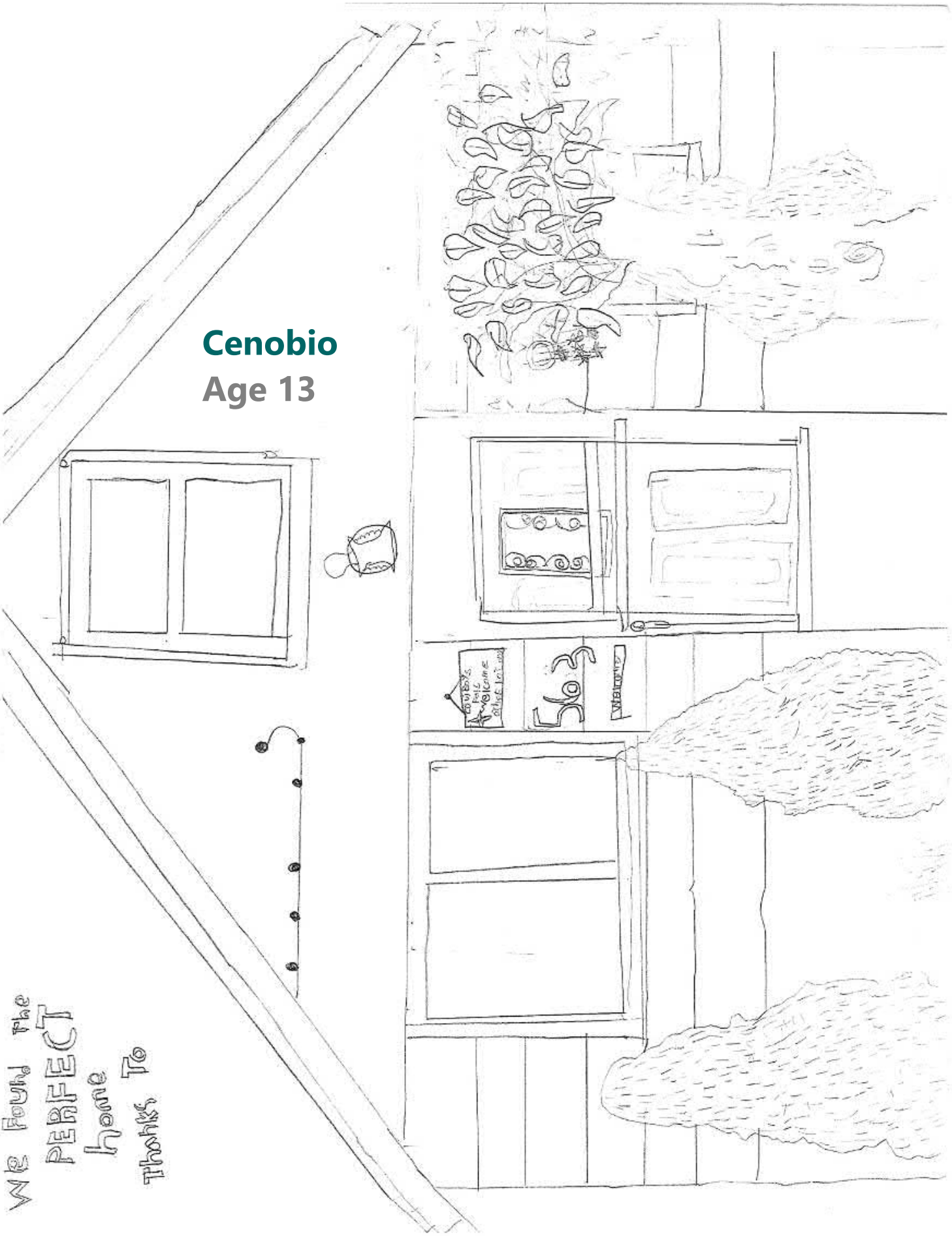
The change for the good.

So far during my 13 years of life I would say that this has been an emotional rollercoaster to say the least. I was born in Coeur D Alene and I lived with my dad and my mom we lived up in Silverton Idaho down in the silver valley. It was terrible my mom was doing anything thing she could to get painkillers while my dad was shooting up meth. The worst part was I was missing a whole bunch of school and that sucked while my brother went to school. My mom would be really upset and yell at me for no reason and I would cry myself to sleep because I thought I did something wrong. Fast forward a year my parents got a divorce. My mom and dad would always fight with each other like domestic violence type of fights. I moved in with my dad because I knew with my mom it would not be a healthy home for me. By now I'm in the 1st grade and everything was going way better it was amazing. Then when I was in 2nd grade my dad met this girl at work her name was Kitti and they started to date and she was really nice and we had a fun with her moving in. She moved in for about 4 months and then my dad said we are moving in to her basement and I knew right her this was not going to be a good place to be at. O and when they were together they slowly started to drink more and more mind you before my dad met Kitti he never drank in front of us. We moved in though and it was fine getting used to the new schools and that's when it hit. They started getting in really really bad fights to the point where I was almost thinking about killing myself (I was in 5th grade) yeah it was getting bad she would make fun of me and pretty much bully for stuff like IBS it's a digestive problem. And all her family started to move in at once point it was 10 people in this really really little basement that's not including the animals. But I was doing whatever I could to get out of the house I would be in my room and hear them screaming at each other and my trying to cry myself to sleep. She would kick us out of the house to the point we had nowhere to go and she knew that. I had to live my mom for a little bit but then I left because one time I walked in her room and she was asleep with a needle in her arm. So I moved back with my dad and it was getting worse and worse by the day. And then I got a phone call that my uncle was moving up here with his new girlfriend and I was like this is my way out of this so we visited him and he said we could move in and we took advantage of this and we moved me and my brother and ever since it has been amazing knowing that you have a stable home and the fact that they care about me is we go to church every Sunday and it's fantastic having food whenever I want!!

Audrina

Age 8

Hi my name is Audrina I have a great life. I have a bike, toys, a bed, and A home I love my grandma She gives me helthy food I ride ~~to to~~ Out in gimnastics it went well it was fun. I love my home and dad is going to get Out soon so it is nice!



Cenobio
Age 13

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A heartfelt thanks to our participants and to all our KinCare families, making a difference in children's lives around the state of Idaho.

My Family. My Story.

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