My Family. My Story.
2019

Expressions of Children Raised By Relatives Or Other Significant Adults

My Family. My Story.
Art Contest 2019

Organized by
IDHW Service Integration

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 “Kinship Care.”

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 Kinship Care 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 Kinship Care in Idaho visit: www.211.idaho.gov

My Family. My Story.

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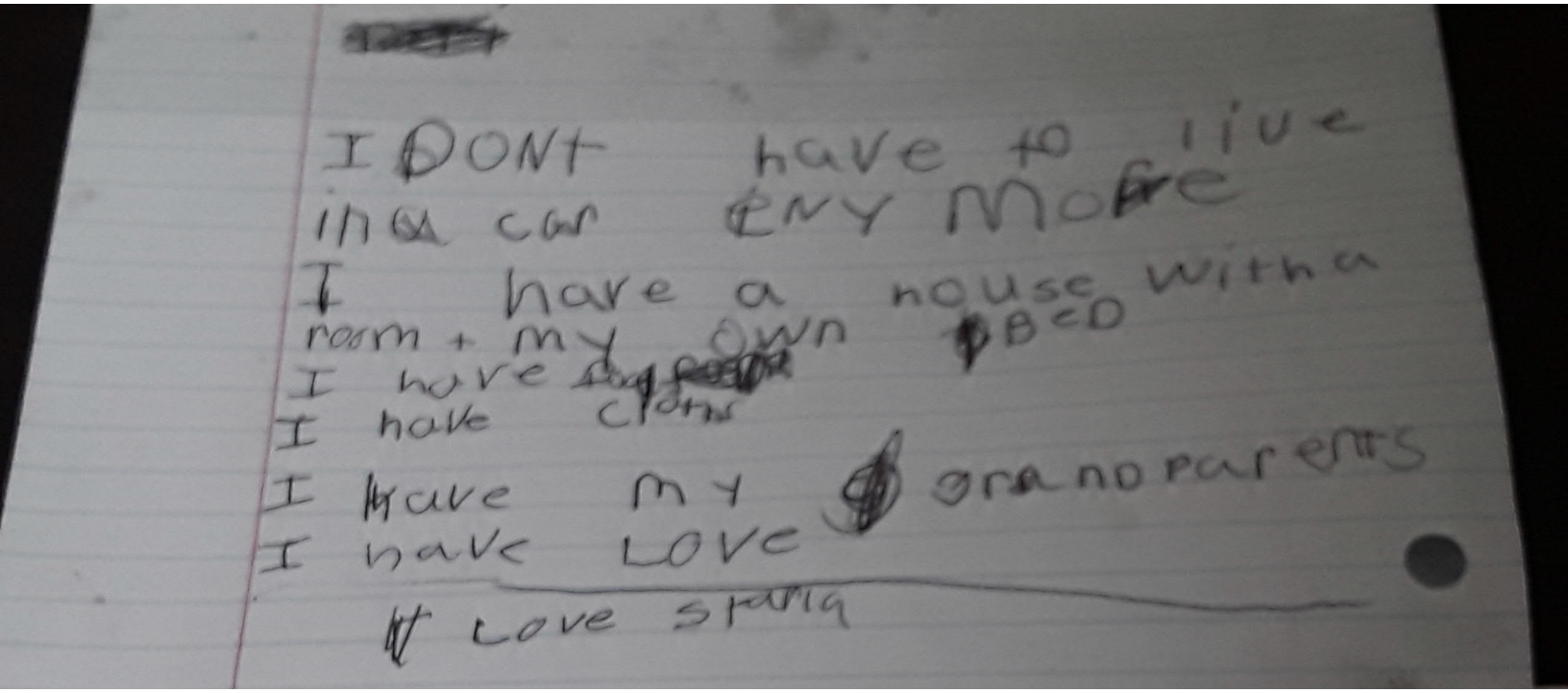
I like when my granma holds my hand Because I feel Safe with my granda

Dalton Age 4

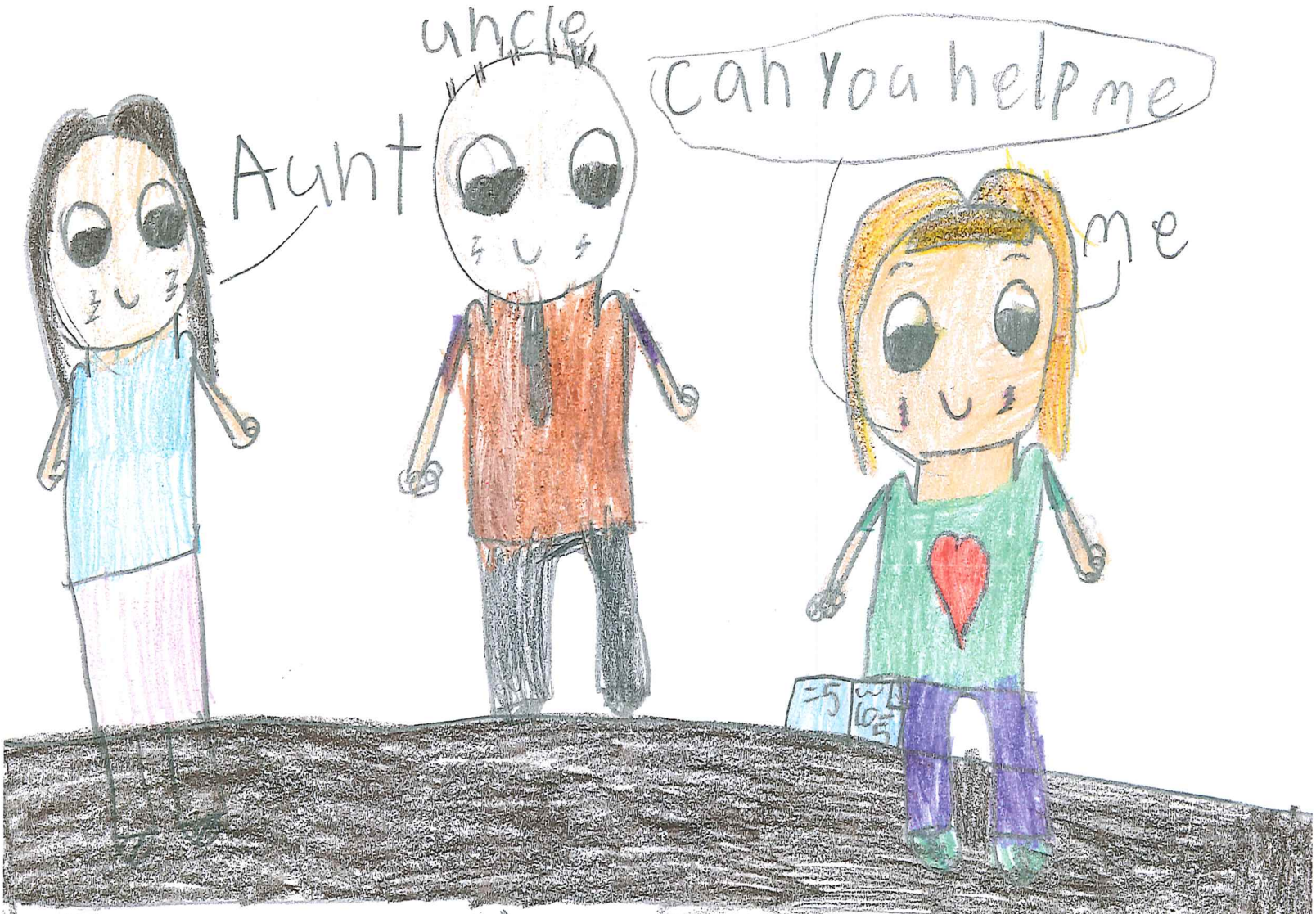


I DONT have to live
in a car ENY More
I have a house with a
room + my own BED
I have
I have clothes
I have my grandparents
I have LOVE
I Love starla

Starl Age 7

I Love to Live with my Grandpa and Grandma
we do a lot of fun things together.

Belinda Age 7



This is my Aunt and uncle helping me With my homework And I am lucky that I have them and they help me So much.

Avery Age 7

Avery

Lola Age 7

WINNING ENTRY

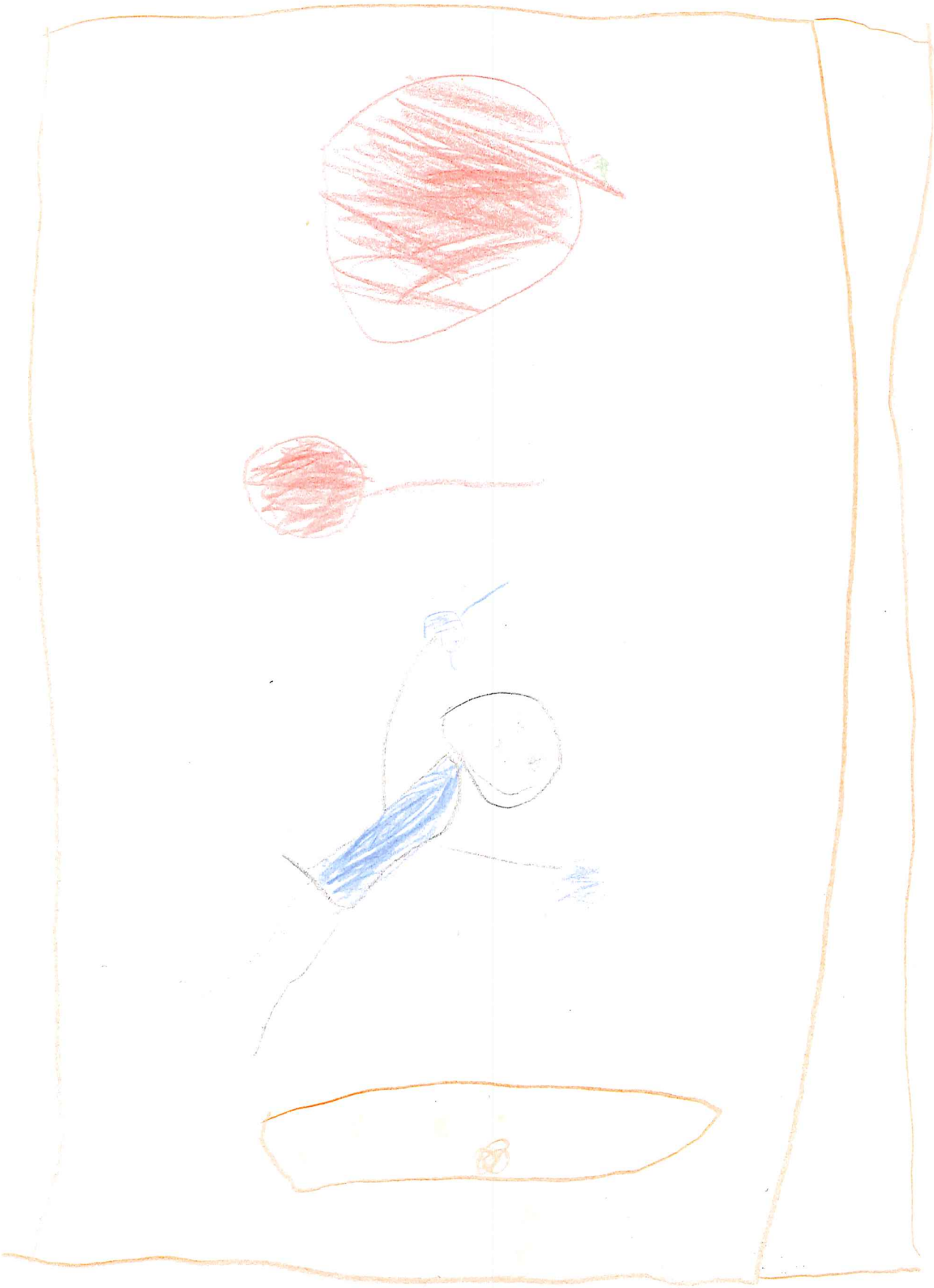
Rainbow promise

I have good times with my family. They always take care of me and keep me happy. We are moving forward one step at a time to the future. We love each other very much. God keeps promise.

by Haylen

Haylen Age 6

Liliauna Age 3



Destiny Age 5

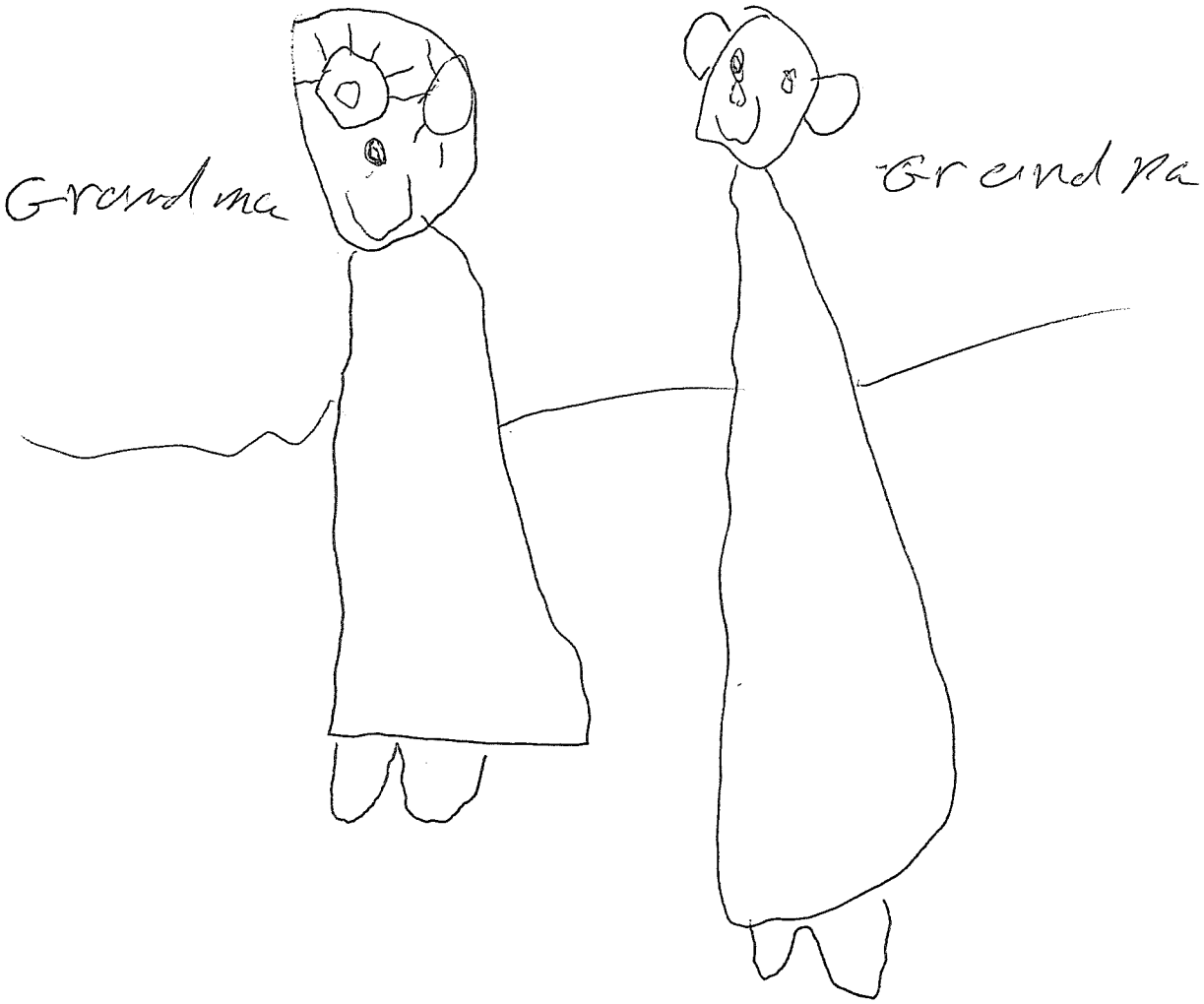
When asked what
MAKES Destiny happy
she drew a picture:

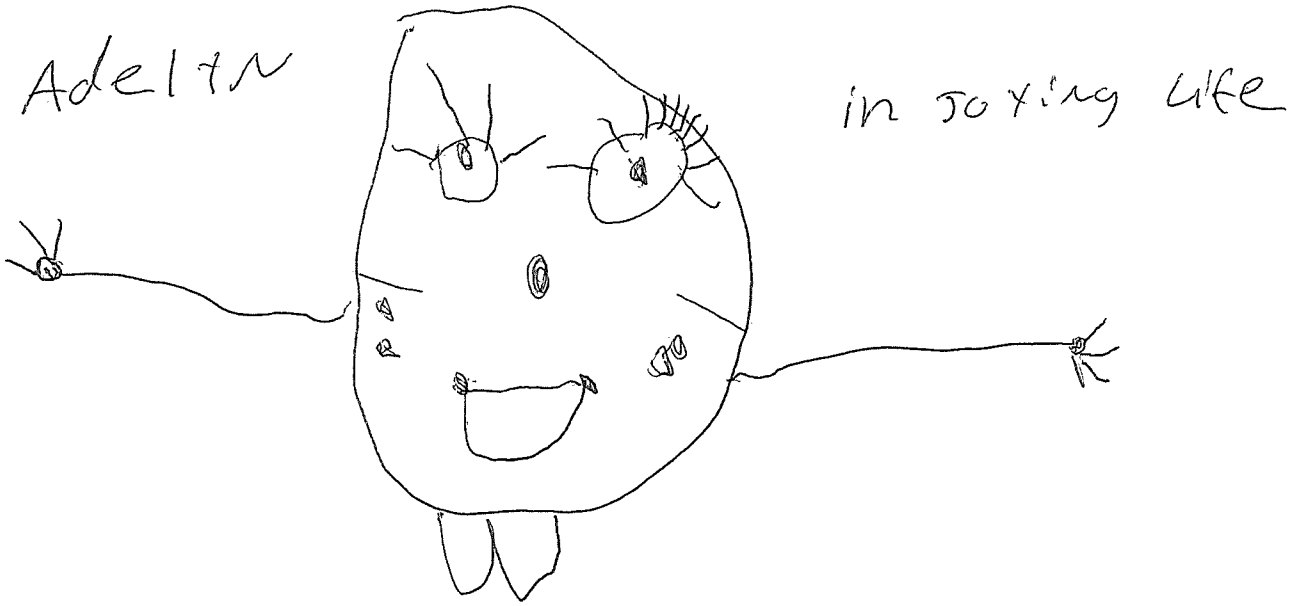
1 My MAMMA (GRANDmother)
2 Our house
3 Cherries
4 Apples

Destiny Age 5

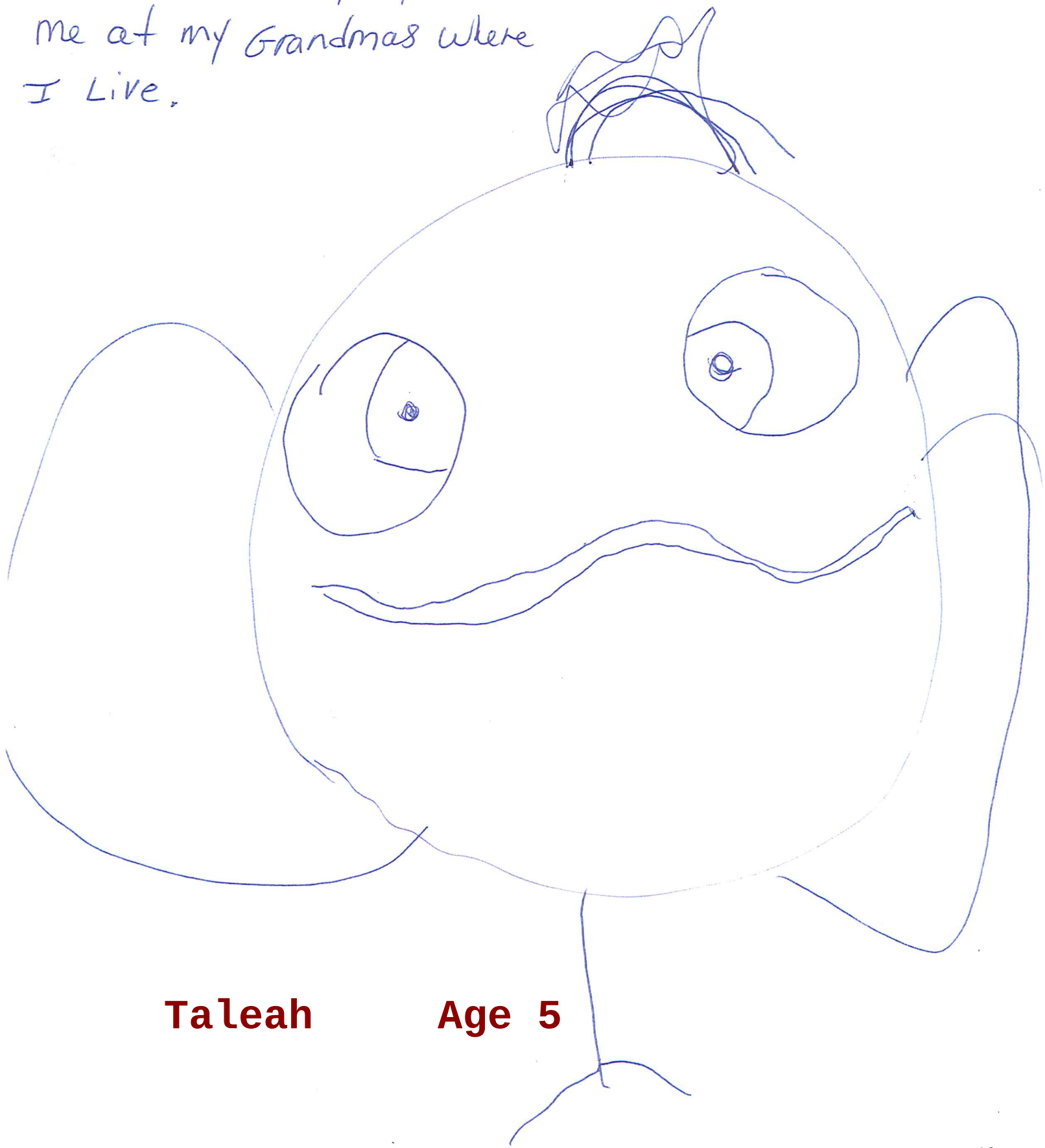
Adelyn Age 4

Adelyn Age 4





This is my uncle Bill
he comes everyday To See
me at my Grandmas where
I Live.



Taleah Age 5

WINNING ENTRY

Home is where I Play and where I can be me.
my FAMILY Loves me. nana and papa Mean a Lot
to me.

Skylar Age 7

Austyn Age 5

Austyn

My family and our Dog.

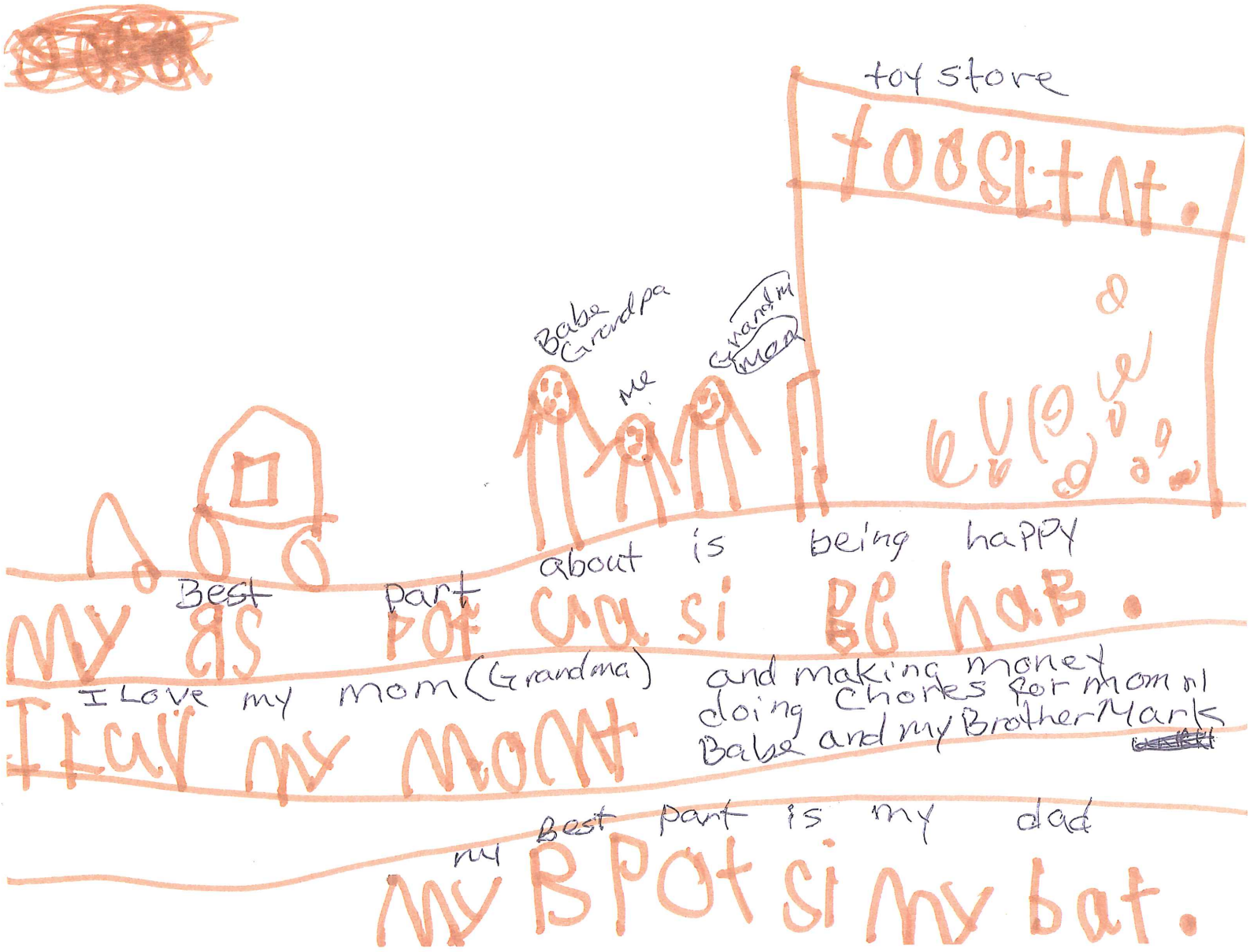
♡'s are lots of LOVE.

Austyn Age 5

Luna Age 6

We have lots of going to the park
No fighting anymore. Have lots
of fun with cousins. Go to school
we write at school and
the End Go home after the park

Nerelie Age 6


toy store
Babe Grandpa
me
Grandma
Best part about is being happy
I Love my mom (Grandma) and making money doing Chores for mom and Babe and my Brother Mark
my Best part is my dad

Joshua Age 7

Hello, my name is Aurora I live with my grand-Parents. I live with my grandParents because my Parents did drugs. Living with my grandParents has made a Positive impact and difference in my life because we dont move every year, I dont hear all the fighting and I dont have to see the Police every other week or so. I dont have to worry about not having a roof over my head, I dont have to worry about not having food for dinner. I love knowing I can make friends at School and not having to leave them. I was So tired of only eating at school. I dont miss the Power, water and all that turning off because my mom didnt Pay the bills, and my mom stealing stuff, us walking everywere. But there are some things I miss like my mom, my friends, all the good times I had with my mom. But I am happy and Safe were I am at and thats what matters

WINNING ENTRY

Aurora Age 11

One of the many ways my family has made a positive diferanes in my life is bringing me to chrch

Cason

Age 11

WINNING ENTRY

Derrick Age 11

Derrick

Hi my name is Kadence and I would like to tell you my story. It all started when my mom married my step-Dad, his name is ; and my moms name is A So what happened was, once they were married my mom was happy but my mom also did drugs. Anyways my step-Dad got abusive. Eventually my mom got mentally abusive. My step-Dad was phisically abusive. My mom and step-Dad started to fight every day and every night. But he was mostly abusive to the girls like me my mom and my little sister, but there were other kids. Like he was also abusive to my baby brother who was 1-2 at the time. After a few years of abuse and fighting I ask he my grandma to get gardien ship of me and she did so now I live here life isn't amazing because were poor so we dont always get what we want but I like it here alot better because theres no abuse or fighting hardly ever. I never want to see my mom at all again thanks for listening to my story

Story

F - Fun
A - Awesome
M - marvelous
I - incredible
L - loved
Y - yours

Poem

Kadence Age 11

Hi my name is Mayan [redacted] I am being raised by my great aunt and uncle who I call mom and dad. I've been permenently living here for 7 years but they've been helping take care of me my whole life. I live in a really nice house that I can do a lot of fun stuff at. I also have the oppurtunity to go to church and learn about the gospel. I feel like I am blessed to have parents that can take care of me and be like their own child.

Mayan Age 9

Ive always had a happy family with my nana and peep and yes like every family we've faced some problomes but we get through it together, and we love each-other with all our hearts, we share almost every thing if we can.
And of corse I Love my mom aton but she cant take care of me or my brothers.

By - Maddy

Maddy Age 9

My Papa, Nana, and I like to visit Island Park together.
This is me and my Nana after a hike
This is me and Papa after a hike.

Krista Age 9

Ways Living with my grandparents

is changing my Life. they take me to church, they pray With me before bed, they keep promises, they Dont Forget about me, they are there

For me, thay Love me, they help me on school Work. And they Are awesome and have really changed my Life and are still helping me change today. I Started Living With my grand parents when I was 2.

my name is patence and I am 9 yers old.

Patience Age 9

Yasmin Age 10

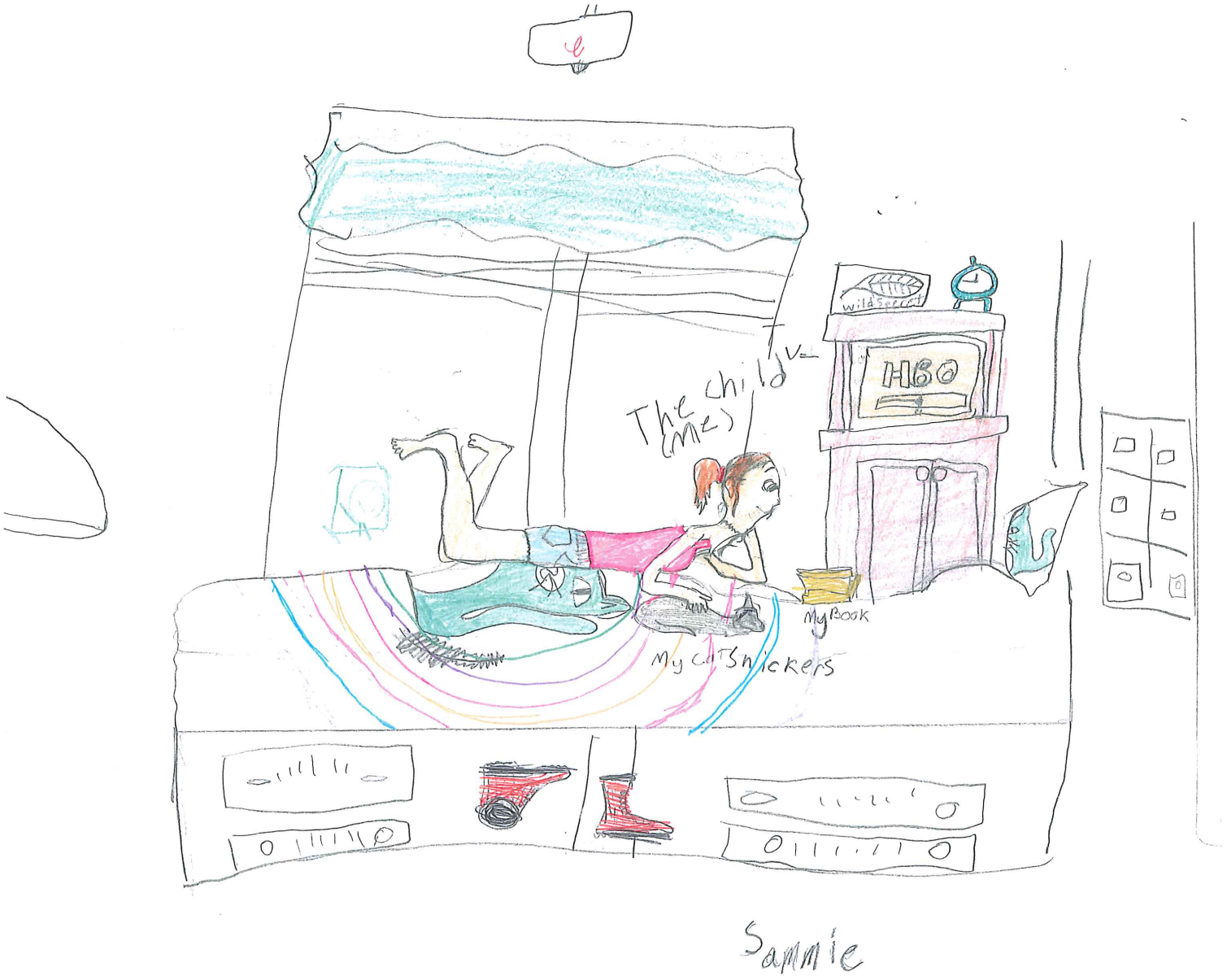
How My Life Has Changed by Sammie

My life has changed a lot because of my aunt and uncle. In the past, which was actually two years ago on the 4th of July, My dad took me to see my aunt and uncle for a week, but as soon as I got there, I knew it was the right place for me. I said to my aunt, "I want to live here forever and ever. My dad said no at first, than he said yes. It was the best thing I had ever heard.

I used to live in hotels and move every week. Now I have my own room and cool stuff. My aunt and uncle are the best.

Sammie Age 8

Sammie



Sammie

Sammie Age 8

MY LIFE EMMA

MY STORY

Age 18

Emma Age 8

my life is so great
I Love it. my sist and mick
take great care of
me, they give me
alot of stuff like
food and drinks
And a room and
clothes and toys
skool supplis and
a tv dvd player dvds
tak me places and thi
is the end

Emma Age 8

My Family, My Story ♡

Emma

Age: 8

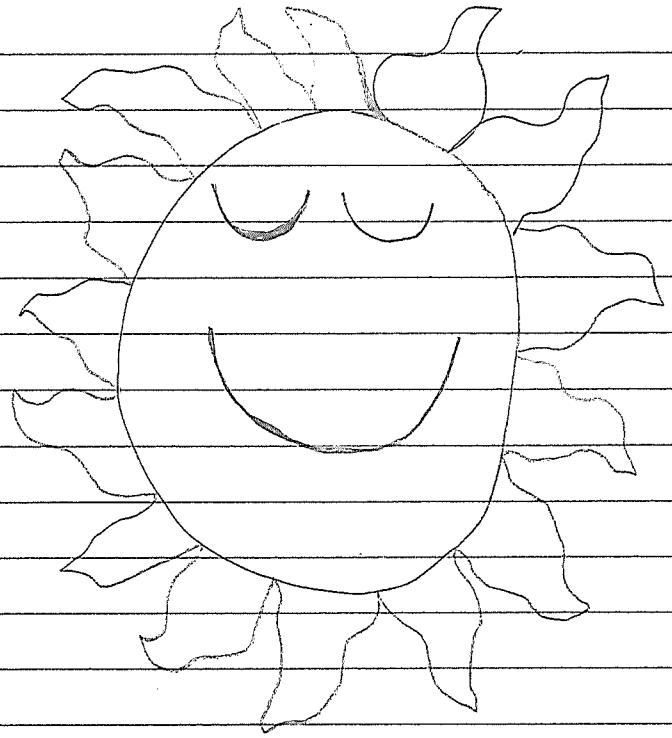
Emma Age 8

Emma Age 8

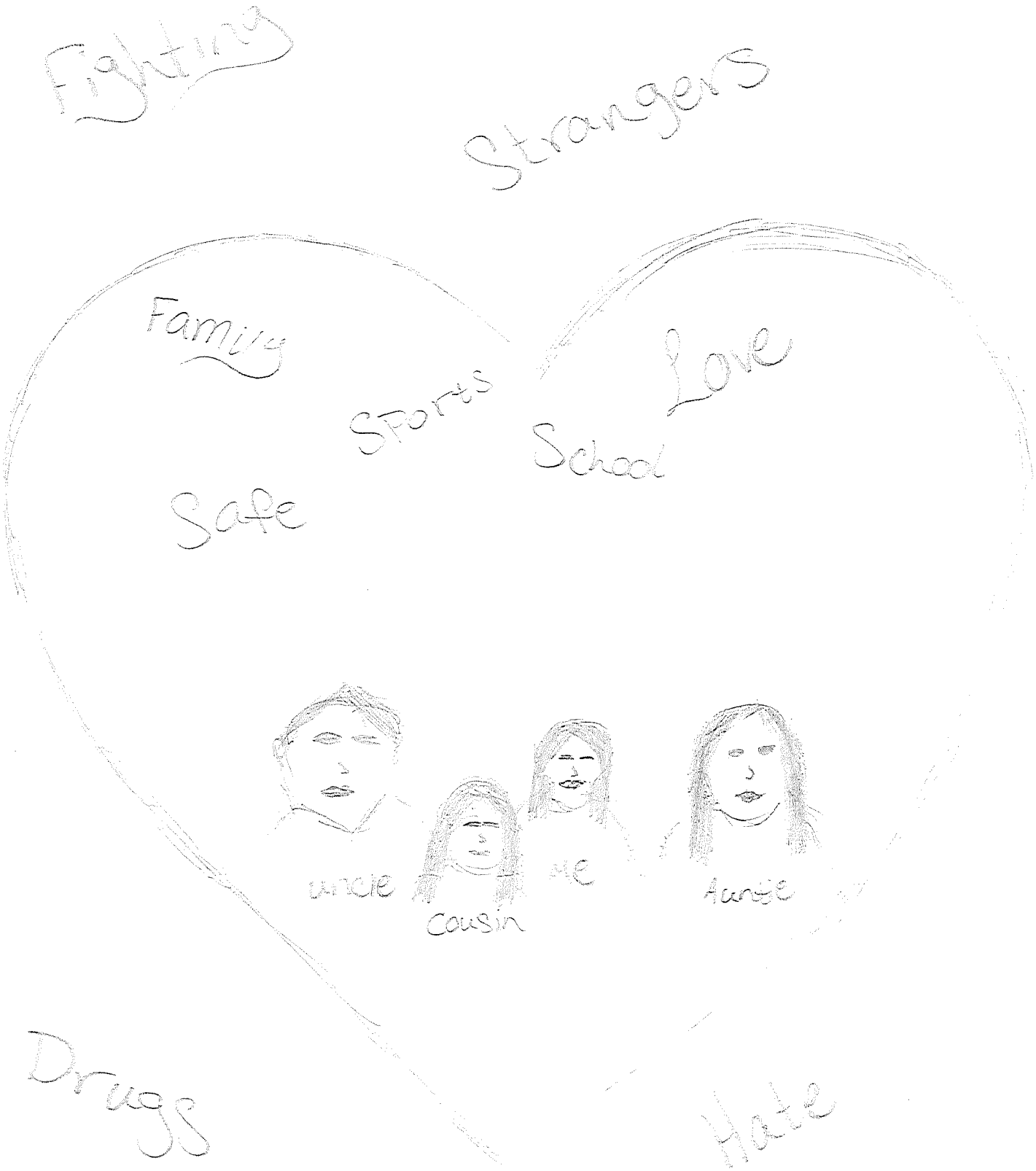
I Love my family alot.
They are in my
hart. I will Never
let them DOWe.
and mick is Sooo
COOL. I Like
Thit. and Sisy
She is Soo. Soo
Brave. alot lot
and Bren he
is so FuNNY. alot.
and me mest up alot but I can
change killy, then

My family. My story

The way my story starts out is that I Live with my Aunt and my Uncle. My Aunt and Uncle also took gaurdianship of her 5 year old sister. My Aunt and my Uncle have showed a positive difference in my life by not only showing me but proving to me that no matter how bad life goes you can always turn it around. They have provided me more then just a family they have provided me a home. Without there help I dont know where I'd be today. They have showed me Faith, Love, Courage, Warmth, and happieness. My name is Kaylee and Im 12 years old and that's my Family. My story.



Kalylee Age 12



Bryleigh Age 16

Hi my Name is Bracken and I have to say Living with my grandparents ~~that~~ has MADE my Life so much Better Because I'm not trapet inside of a place I can Do fun things I get to hang out with friends, I Don't get abuses any more.

Someone once told me that I will Never get any where in Life But ~~that~~ Now I know thats Not ~~that~~ ture

I get good Grades at School

I get to Do things Like camping Hunting fishing go ATV Rides, Play sports.

I Will Do what it takes to Be a good person in Life And help kids that have gone though a tough time in their Lifes.

Thank You

By: Bracken

Bracken Age 14

This is my essay about how living with my grandma makes a Positive impact. I'll be talking about things such as Providing food, helping me with school, driving me to martial arts, and Providing a home.

The first and Possibly most Positive outcome of living with my grandma, is that I've never had to starve. My grandmother is a teacher. During the School Year she goes to school and works hard for her Paycheck. This allows her to buy a great quantity of groceries for the household of five People. Every food item she buys is enough to fill us up for all three meals of the day. I think her work ethic will stick with me when I have a family of my own.

Sometimes I don't do well in school. When I need help with homework, I go up to her room to ask for assistance. Even when she's busy, she stops what she's doing for a second and helps me with math, science, etc. Whenever I need help with homework, she is willing to help me if she's available.

My grandma cares that I can defend myself. I seem to get bullied at school. So one of my extracurricular activities is martial arts. Every Saturday, my grandma drives me to my class. I think of that class as a way to learn self-defense. If there's a situation where a bully Physicall hurts me, or tries to, I can use those skills against that Person. This makes me feel confident when grandma takes me there.

Last but not least, she provides a middle-class home for me to live in. My grandmother also uses money out of her paycheck to pay bills. Without her or her job, I wouldn't have a roof over my head, water, or even gas for a working stove.

Overall, living with my grandma has had a very Positive outcome. I am thankful for my Privileges and food she buys. I am also thankful for everything she does for me. That is all I have to say. :)

Brycen Age 14

WINNING ENTRY

My name is Brian, I'm 15 yrs old, and me and my sister Madison both have lives with my grandma for about 14 yrs.

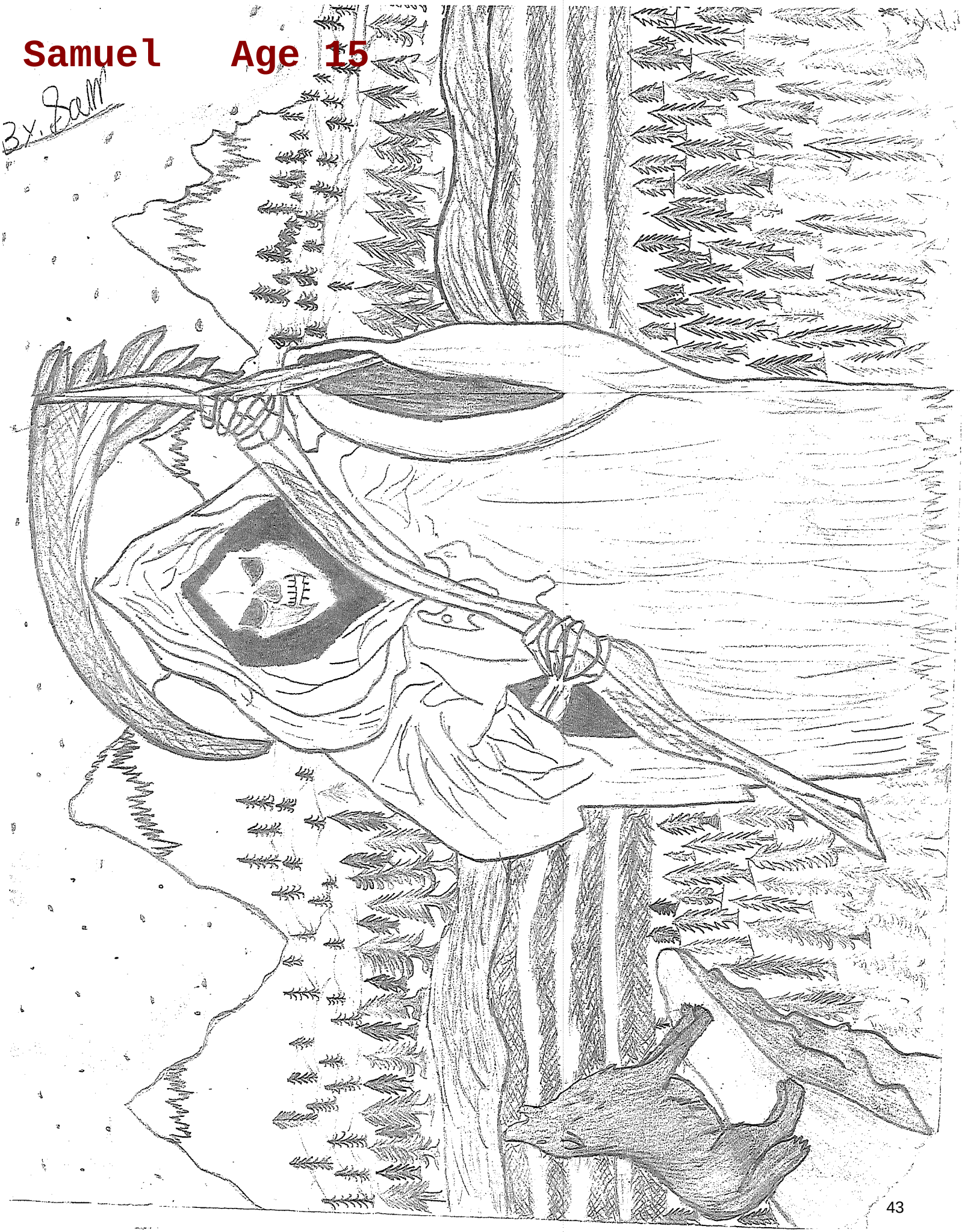
My grandma takes good care of us, she given up her life to raise us, and we love her for that. Grandma has always been there for us, so we are hoping something good happens for her.

She's our grandmom

Brian

Brian Age 15

Samuel Age 15



Samuel Age 15

15 months ago I was arested for posession of pot. I was given probation, put on house arrest, given 25 hrs. of community service, manditory counsiling and a heafty fine. Today, because of hard work and people who loved and cared about me, I am drug free, off house arrest, did my community service, off probation, and my fines are paid. I am free. I no longer feel like the "Grim Reaper" is on my heels.

WINNING ENTRY

Joei Age 17

Joei
Age: 17

Title: you can't speak butterfly language with caterpilar people

Joei Age 17

I chose to draw this for the art contest because before, when I lived with my mom I would bury and hide all my emotion. until someone would upset me and I'd unleash all of my burried emotions on them. I'd freak out even if it was something small but now my aunt pam has taught me to express my emotion and voice now I'm feeling instead of shoving it all down and being scared to say anything. so now when someone or something upsets me I can calmly talk about it instead of being so hostile. My aunt has helped me grow so much and I'm so thankful for her.

My Grandma (my mom)

Karlee Age 13

When I was born
my mother was wild as a Storm
She was barely fifteen and to young
to care for me My grandma stepped in and
with her is where I have always
been She's my mom, and has
been from day one She gives me all
her care and love I think shes
from Heaven above She gave me a
home a place I know I belong She's
my Rock because She's always there
and shown me how I can rise up from
any place, anywhere She's shown me there
are options in life the biggest choice
is not doing wrong, but doing right
She's talked to me about school and
I like to go I think its cool I can
be more than a mother and a wife
I've choosen college so I can have
a better life I don't have to depend
on a man to hold my head high and
make my own plan Being popular in
school is NOT what its all about
Education, happiness, good choices are
my way out No drugs, drinking, no
poverty thats the life I choose for me
Because of love, support and grace I can
and will make it in life, anywhere and any place
I am a young woman who has been taught to be
free. kind, and smart. that women will always be me.

[redacted]

It has made my life diffrent
because it made me Super happy living here.
I didn't want to go to a foster home after my
grandma passed away. I love it here alot and everyone
is super nice to me and they helped me alot.

Chrisshell Age 13

My Family. My Story.

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

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Text Your ZIP Code To 898211

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