

The strength of friendship

A story written and illustrated
by the children of 3B
of the school Santa Dorotea
of Casalgrande Alto



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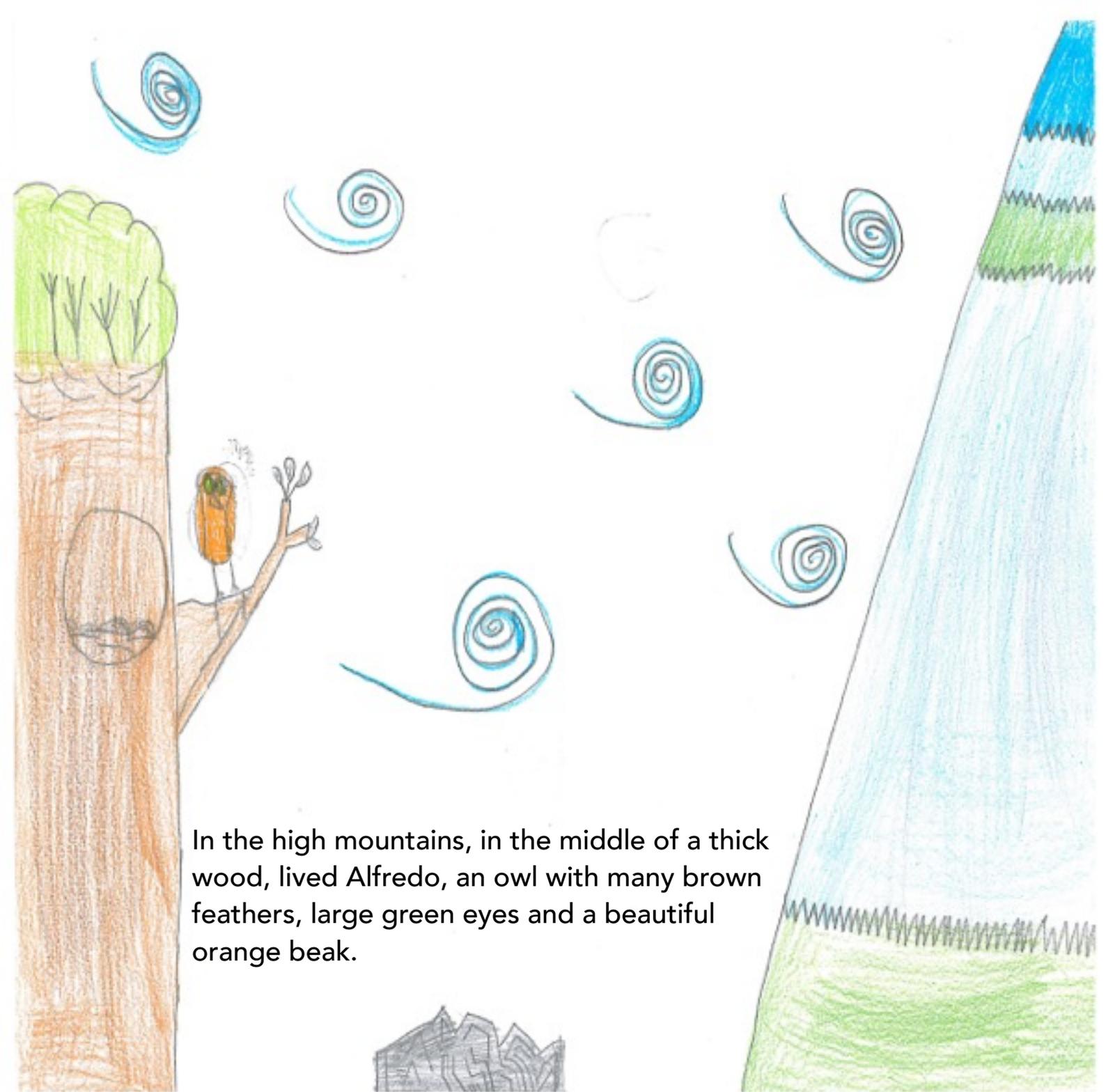
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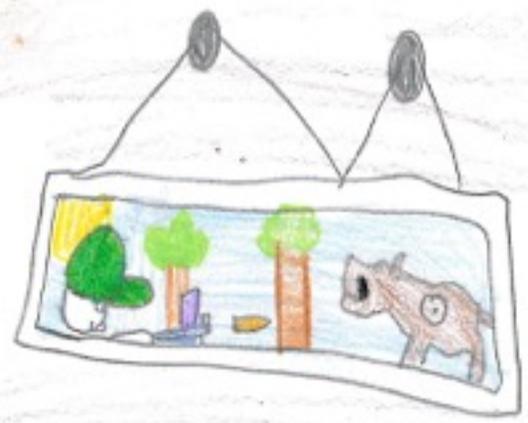
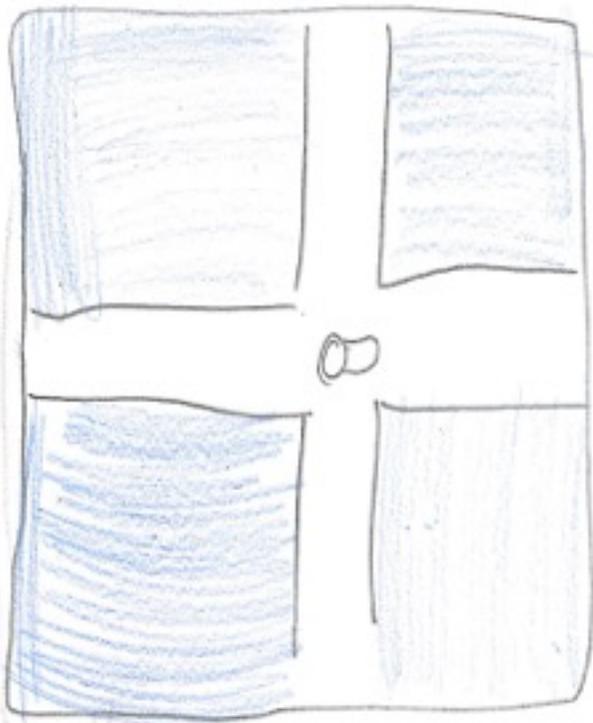
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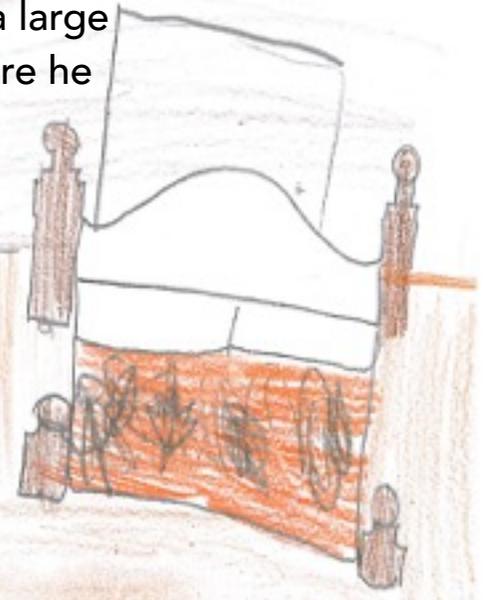
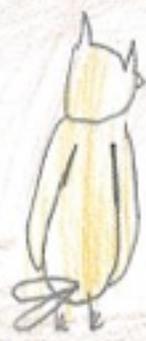
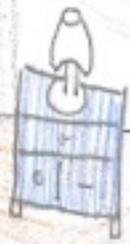
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In the high mountains, in the middle of a thick wood, lived Alfredo, an owl with many brown feathers, large green eyes and a beautiful orange beak.

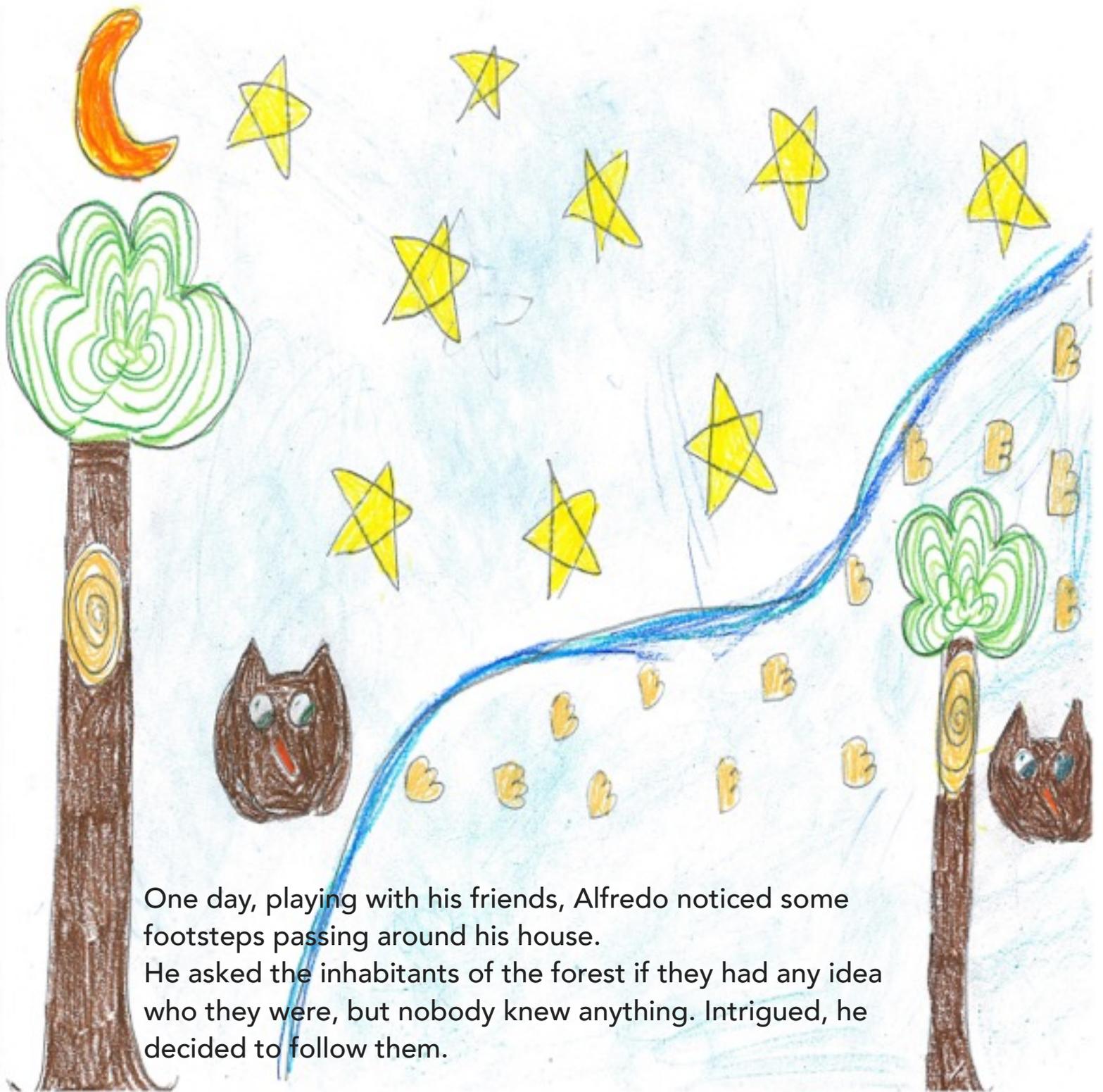


His den was large and warm: he had a large bed made of leaves and feathers where he slept during the day.

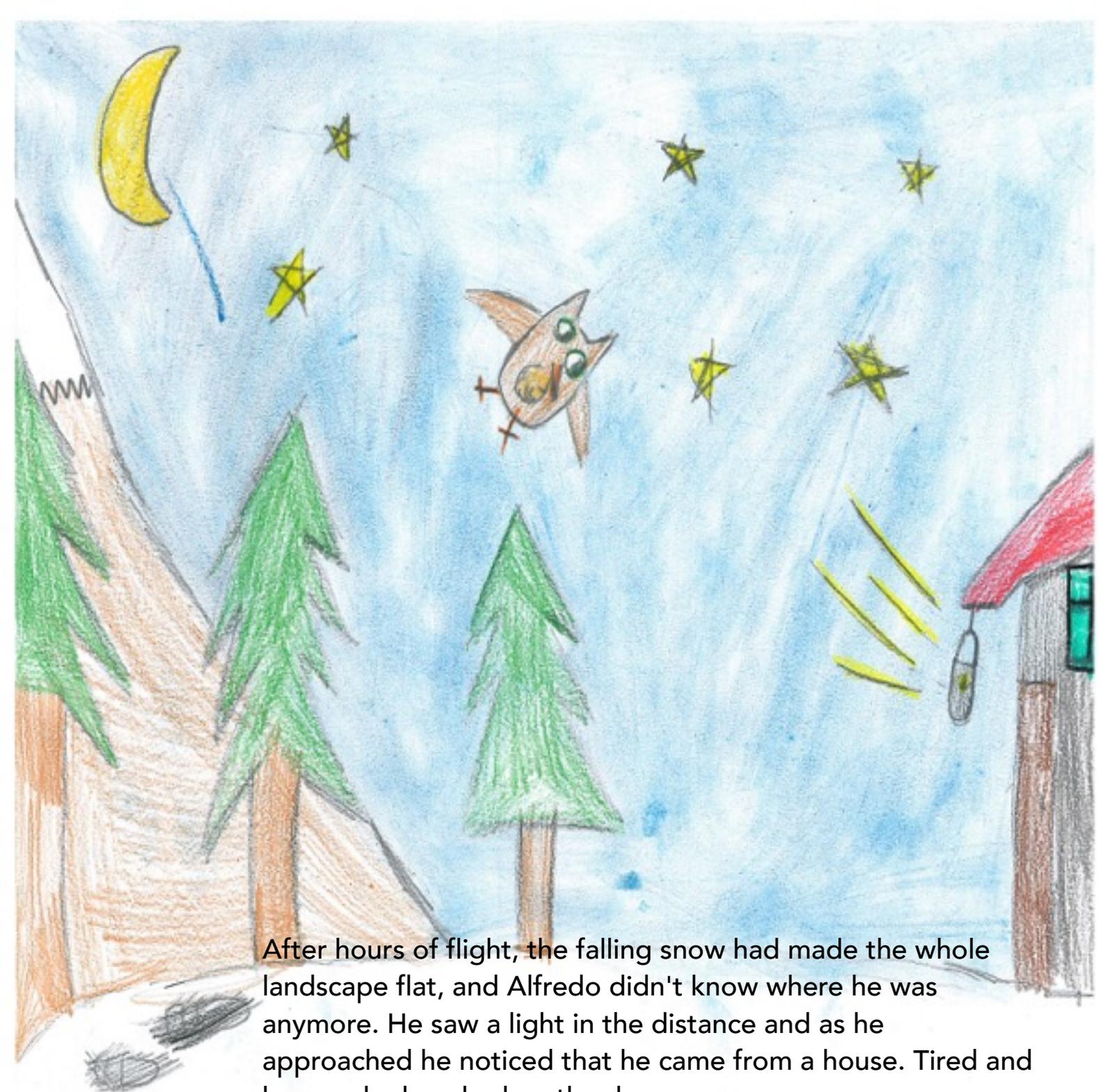




Alfredo loved to play with his owl friends and often organized parties in his tree. But most of all, Alfredo loved when the snow covered everything and with his friends he enjoyed playing snowballs and building big and funny snowmen.



One day, playing with his friends, Alfredo noticed some footprints passing around his house. He asked the inhabitants of the forest if they had any idea who they were, but nobody knew anything. Intrigued, he decided to follow them.



After hours of flight, the falling snow had made the whole landscape flat, and Alfredo didn't know where he was anymore. He saw a light in the distance and as he approached he noticed that he came from a house. Tired and hungry, he knocked on the door.

A man opened it, said his name was Alexander and he was a lumberjack. He willingly accepted to welcome Alfredo. Actually, Alexander was a ruthless animal collector. He hunted them and stuffed them to keep them in his house. He therefore decided to deceive Alfredo.



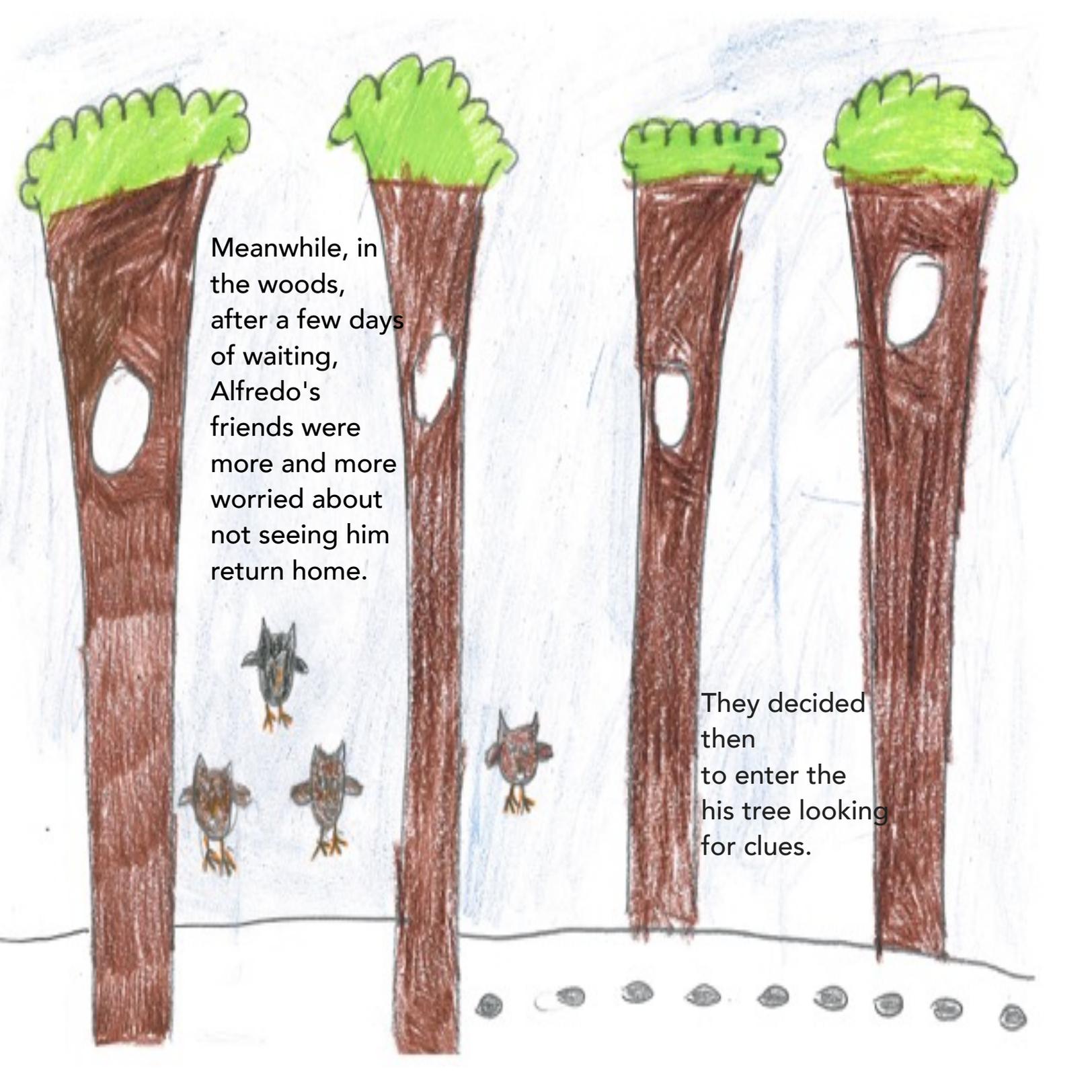


He made him sit at the table, cooked him an excellent dinner and prepared a warm bed in which to rest. Alfredo thanked him a lot and, after lunch, crouched in his bed and fell asleep deeply.



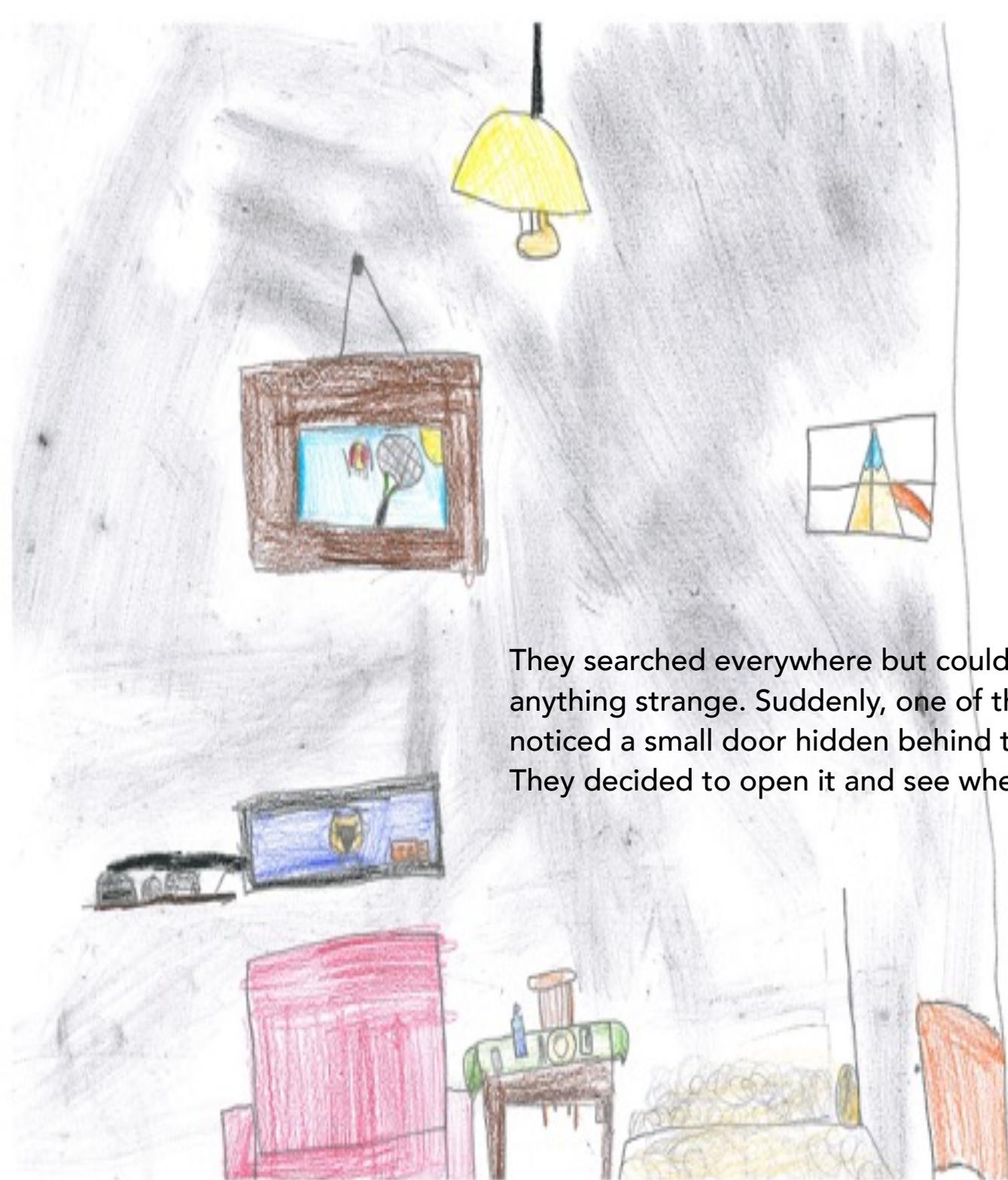
While Alfredo slept, Alexander trapped him in a big one cage and went out to go and hunt some other animal. When Alfredo woke up he didn't immediately understand what he was up to happening; he tried to open the cage but failed. Terrified, he started asking for help but remembered that around there, there was no one who could hear him.





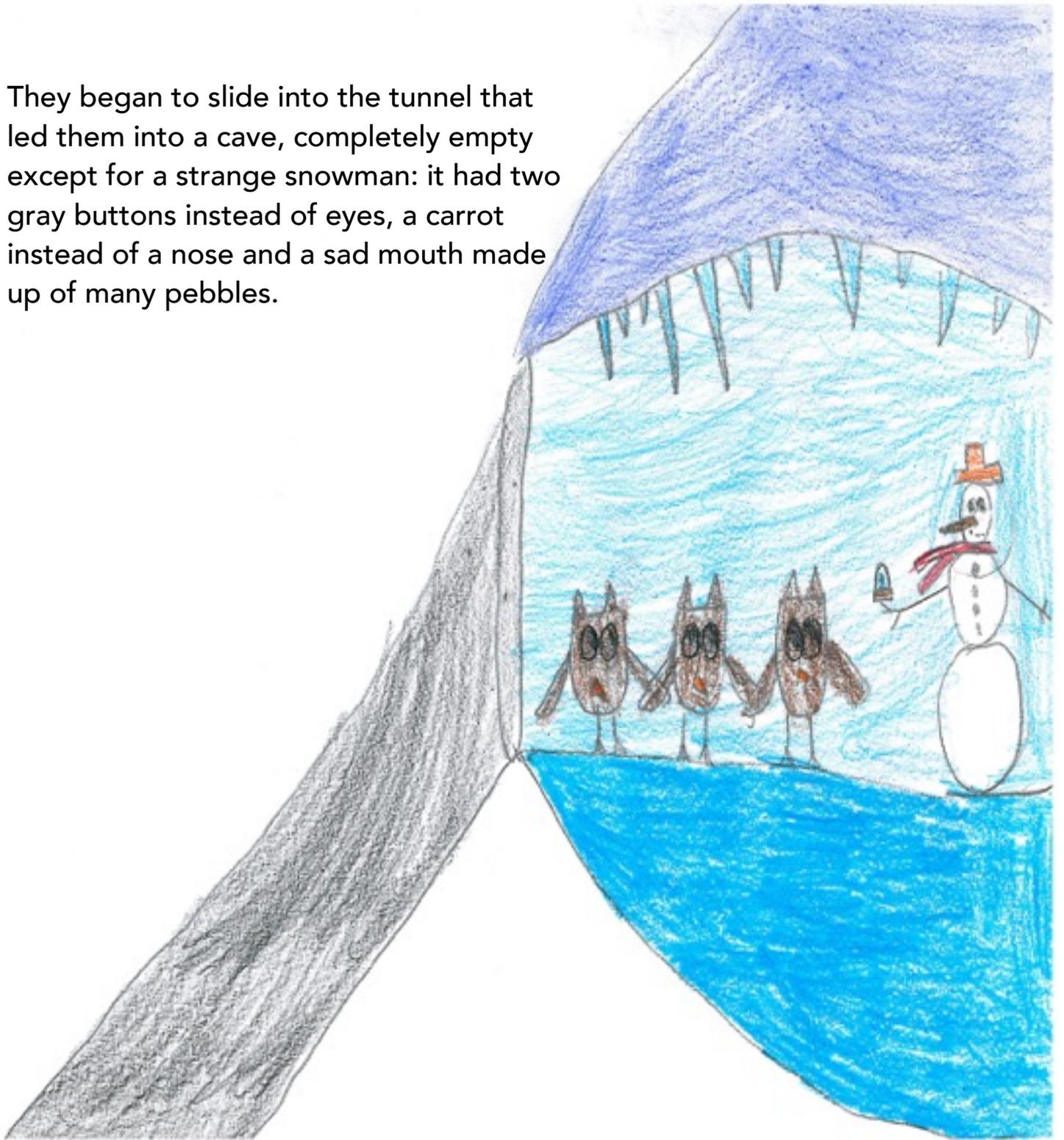
Meanwhile, in the woods, after a few days of waiting, Alfredo's friends were more and more worried about not seeing him return home.

They decided then to enter the his tree looking for clues.



They searched everywhere but could not find anything strange. Suddenly, one of them noticed a small door hidden behind the bed. They decided to open it and see where it led.

They began to slide into the tunnel that led them into a cave, completely empty except for a strange snowman: it had two gray buttons instead of eyes, a carrot instead of a nose and a sad mouth made up of many pebbles.

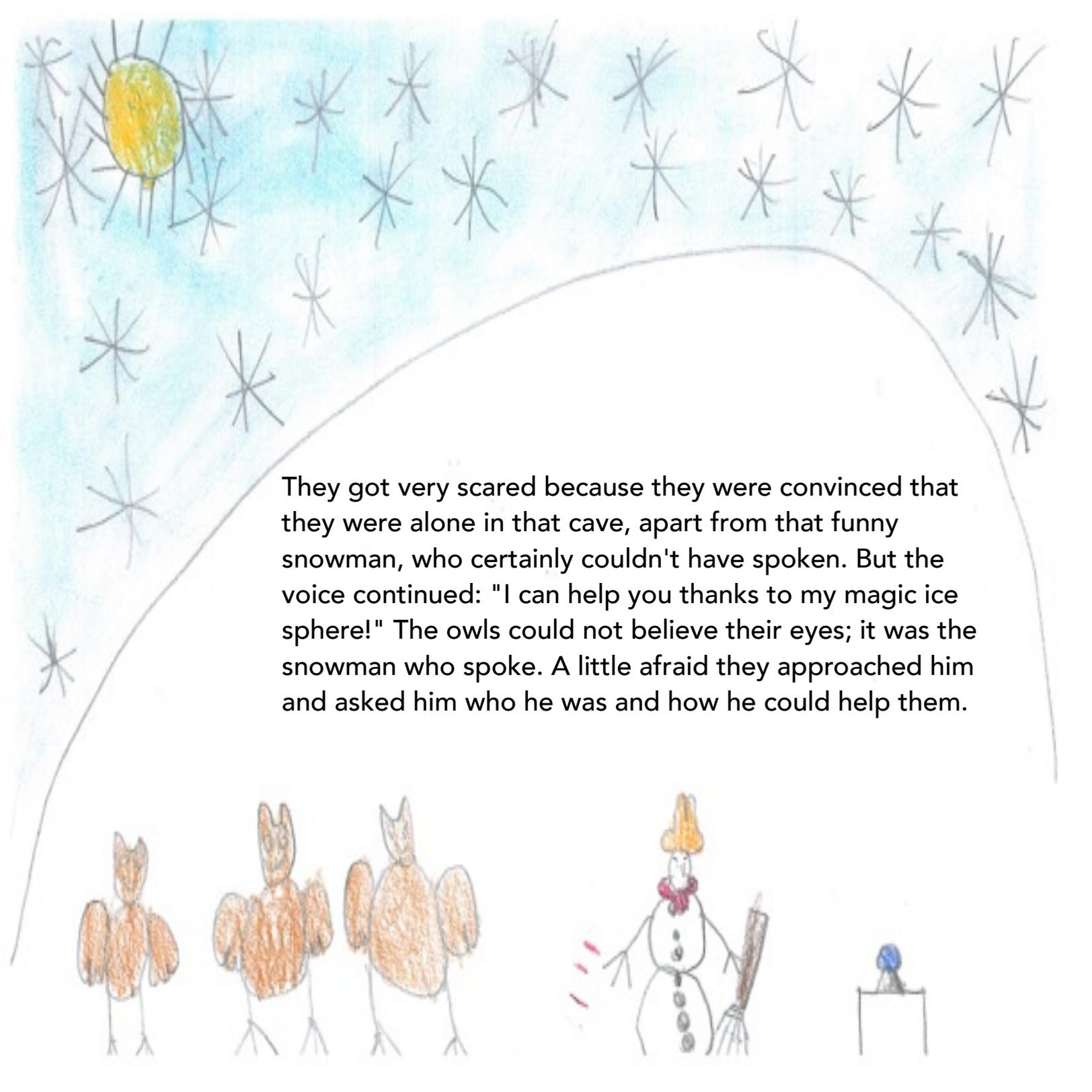


The owls decided to stay in that cave to think about how to find their friend; they devised various plans, but failed to solve the main problem.

Where was Alfredo ?? It was at that point who heard a voice say:

"I know how to help you!"





They got very scared because they were convinced that they were alone in that cave, apart from that funny snowman, who certainly couldn't have spoken. But the voice continued: "I can help you thanks to my magic ice sphere!" The owls could not believe their eyes; it was the snowman who spoke. A little afraid they approached him and asked him who he was and how he could help them.

Albert was not used to talking to anyone because no one had ever managed to get into that cold cave. He had no friends and he was alone all the time. He told the owls that he had magical powers and that he had the power to never melt.

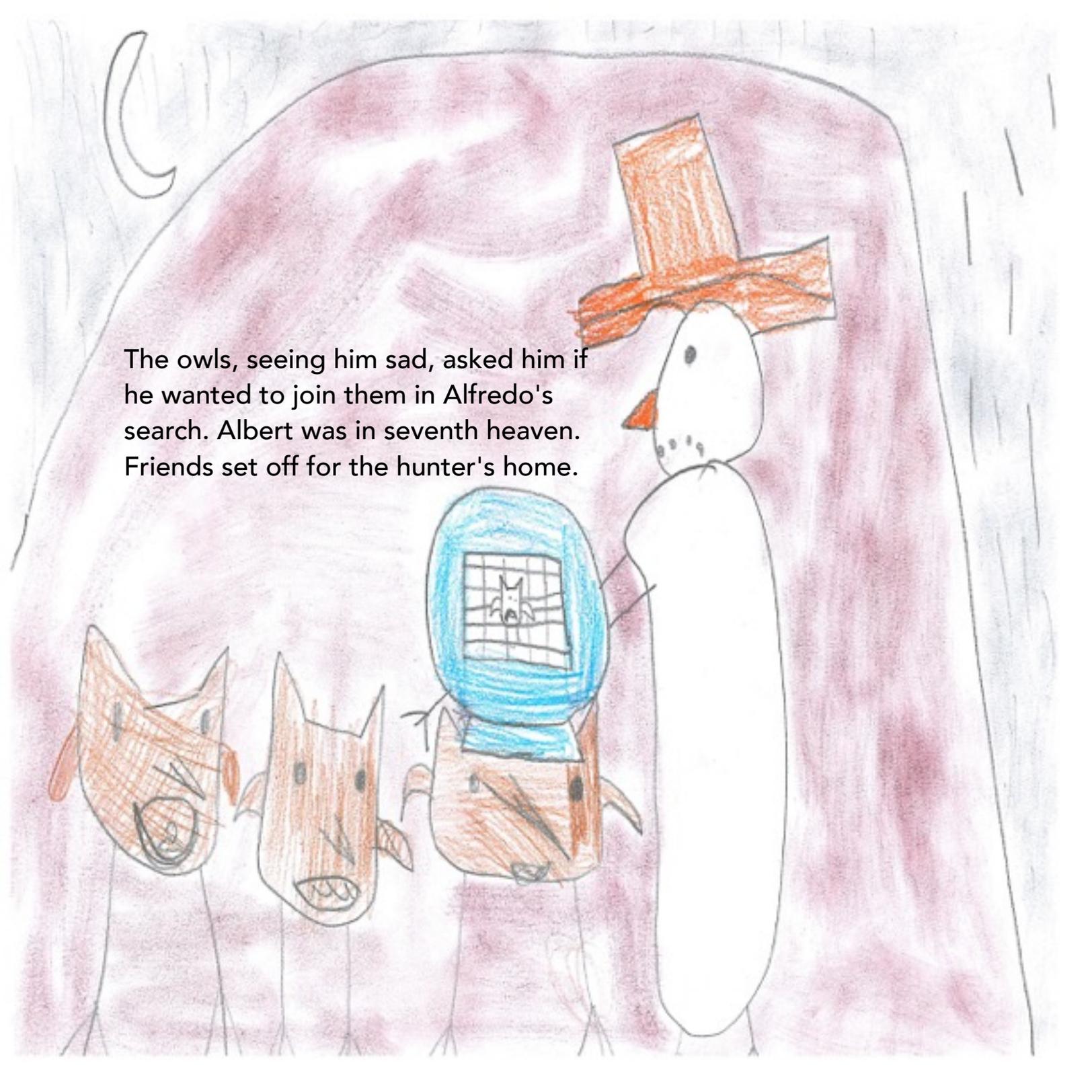
Alfredo's friends then asked Albert to help them find Alfredo.

The sphere gave off a strong white light and showed the hunter's house in the woods.



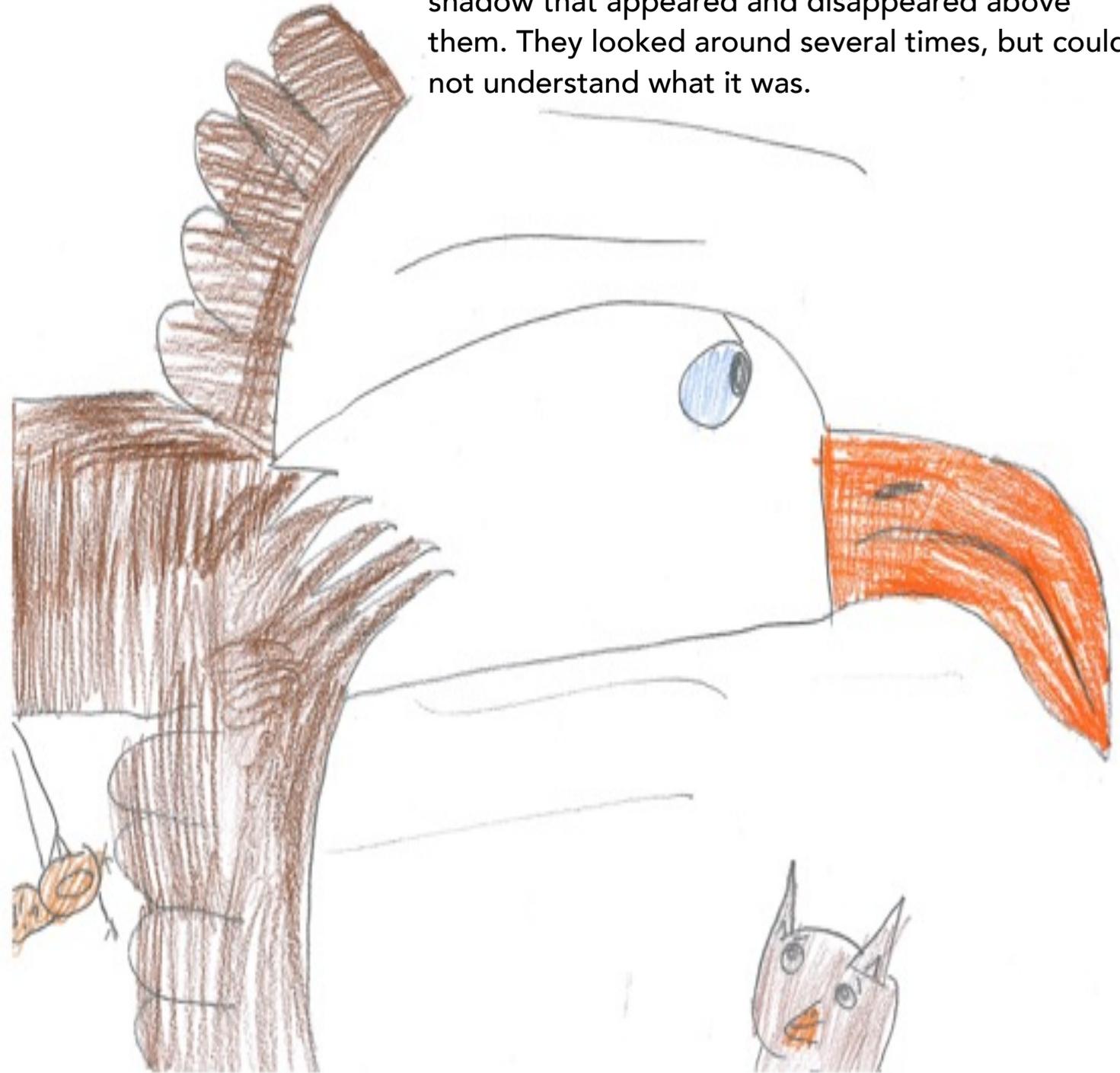
The owls immediately understood where the house was and they decided to leave at that very moment. Albert then became sad because he didn't want to be alone again.



A child's drawing in a sketchy, crayon-like style. The background is a large, rounded shape filled with a reddish-pink wash. In the upper left corner, there is a simple crescent moon. On the right side, a snowman is drawn with a white body, a small black dot for an eye, an orange carrot nose, and a hat made of two crossed orange sticks. To the left of the snowman are three owls with brown, textured bodies and large, dark eyes. The owl in the middle has a blue, rounded shape on its head with a white grid pattern and a small white owl inside. The drawing is simple and expressive, typical of a child's artwork.

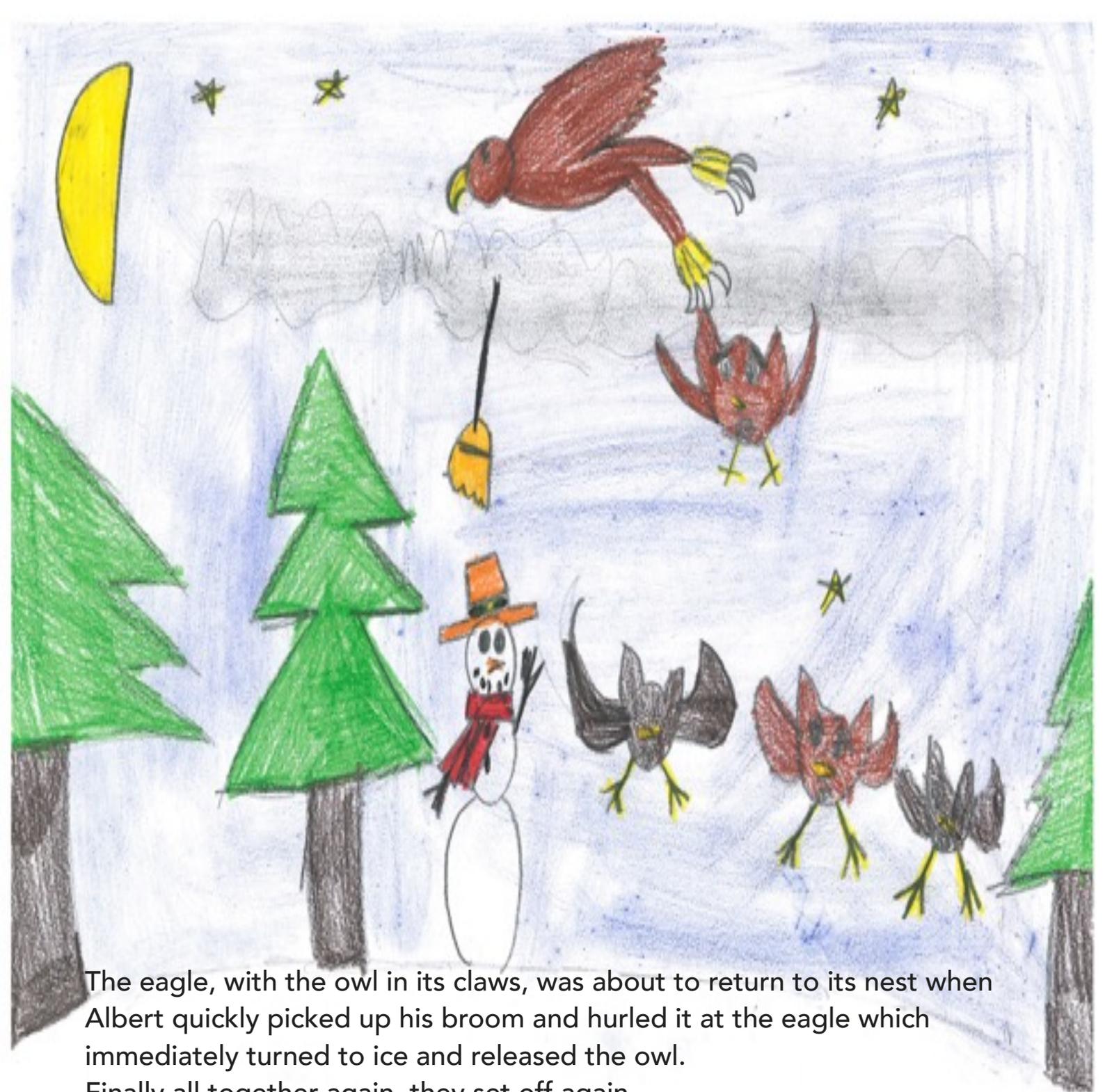
The owls, seeing him sad, asked him if he wanted to join them in Alfredo's search. Albert was in seventh heaven. Friends set off for the hunter's home.

After a little walk they began to see a strange shadow that appeared and disappeared above them. They looked around several times, but could not understand what it was.

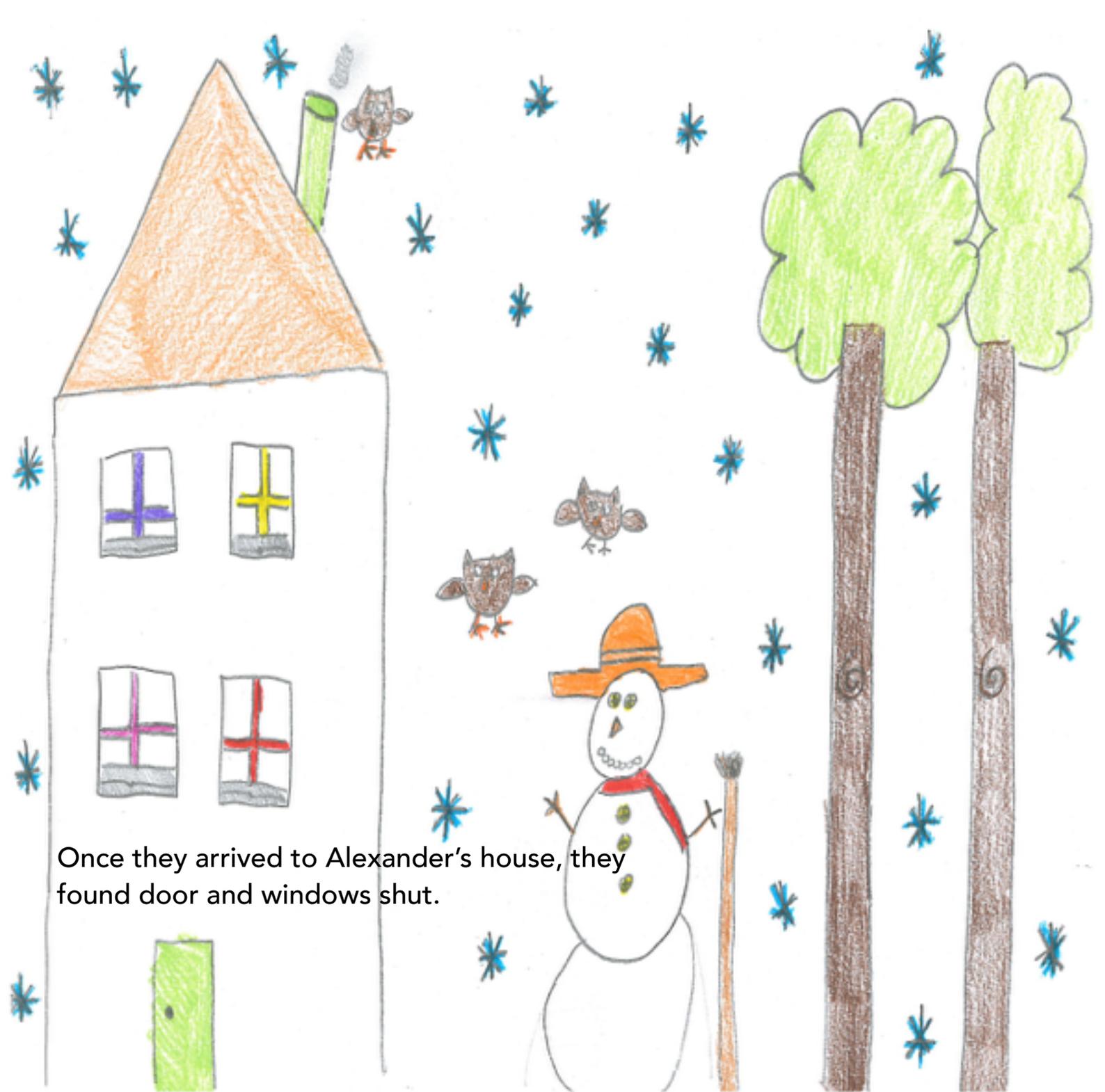




Suddenly they heard a loud rustling and they did not have time to shelter that a large eagle surrounded them with its large wings. He rushed towards them and captured one of the poor owls inside his great sharp claws.

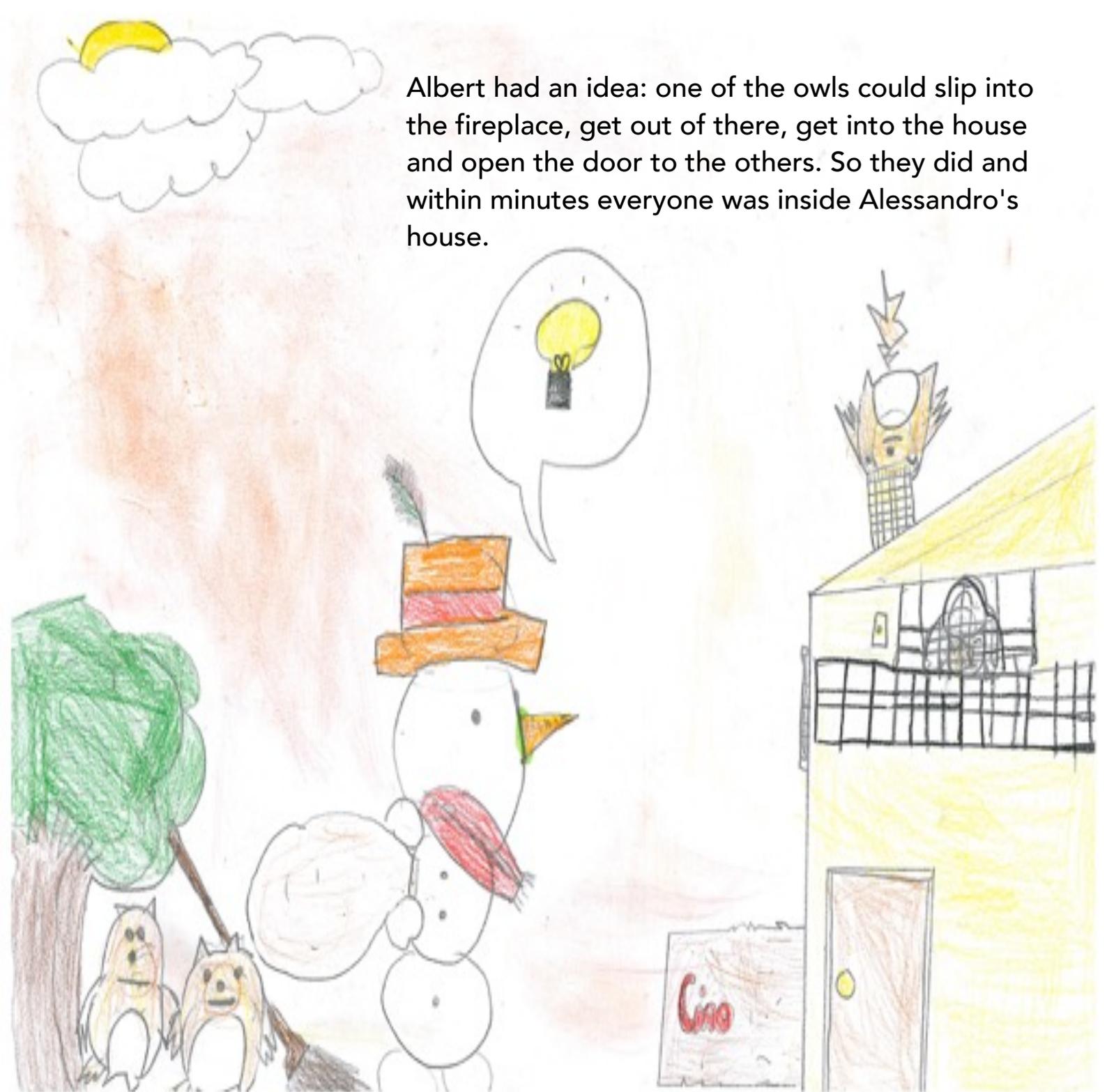


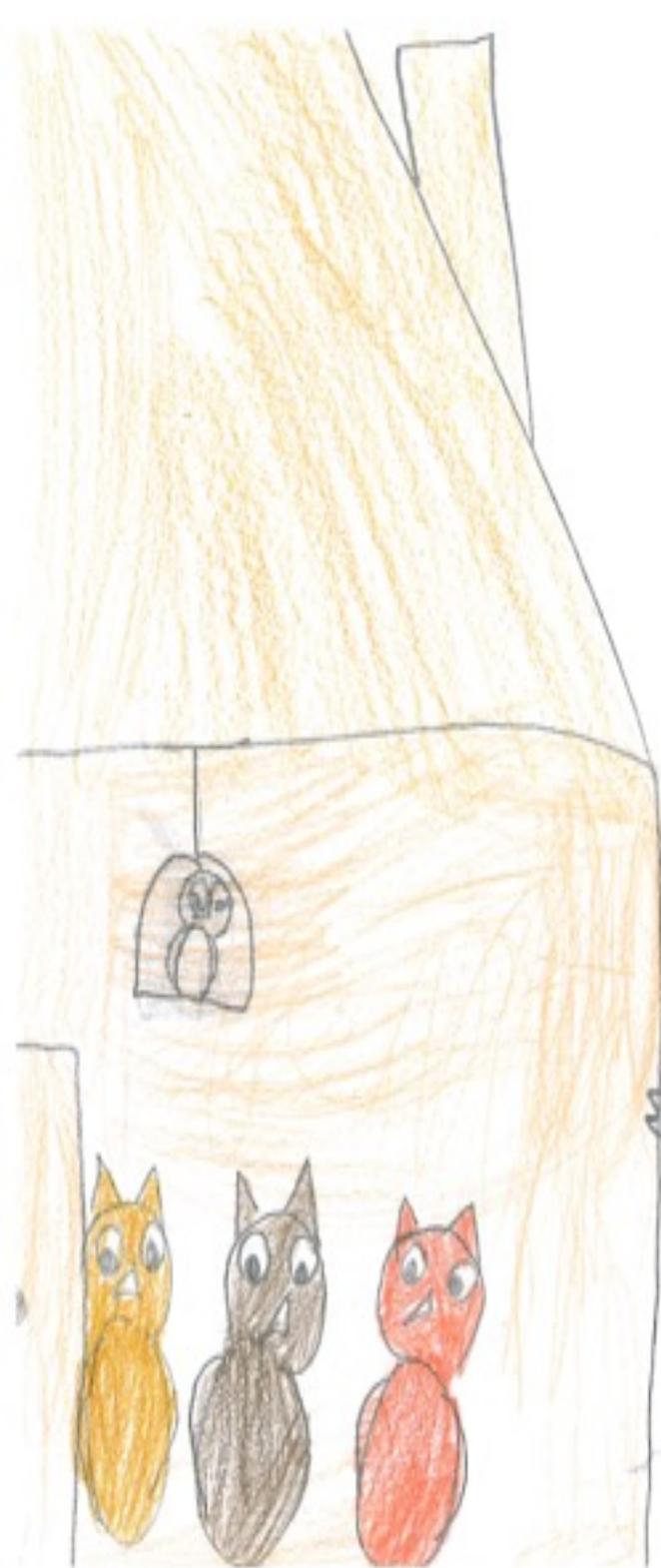
The eagle, with the owl in its claws, was about to return to its nest when Albert quickly picked up his broom and hurled it at the eagle which immediately turned to ice and released the owl. Finally all together again, they set off again.



Once they arrived to Alexander's house, they found door and windows shut.

Albert had an idea: one of the owls could slip into the fireplace, get out of there, get into the house and open the door to the others. So they did and within minutes everyone was inside Alessandro's house.





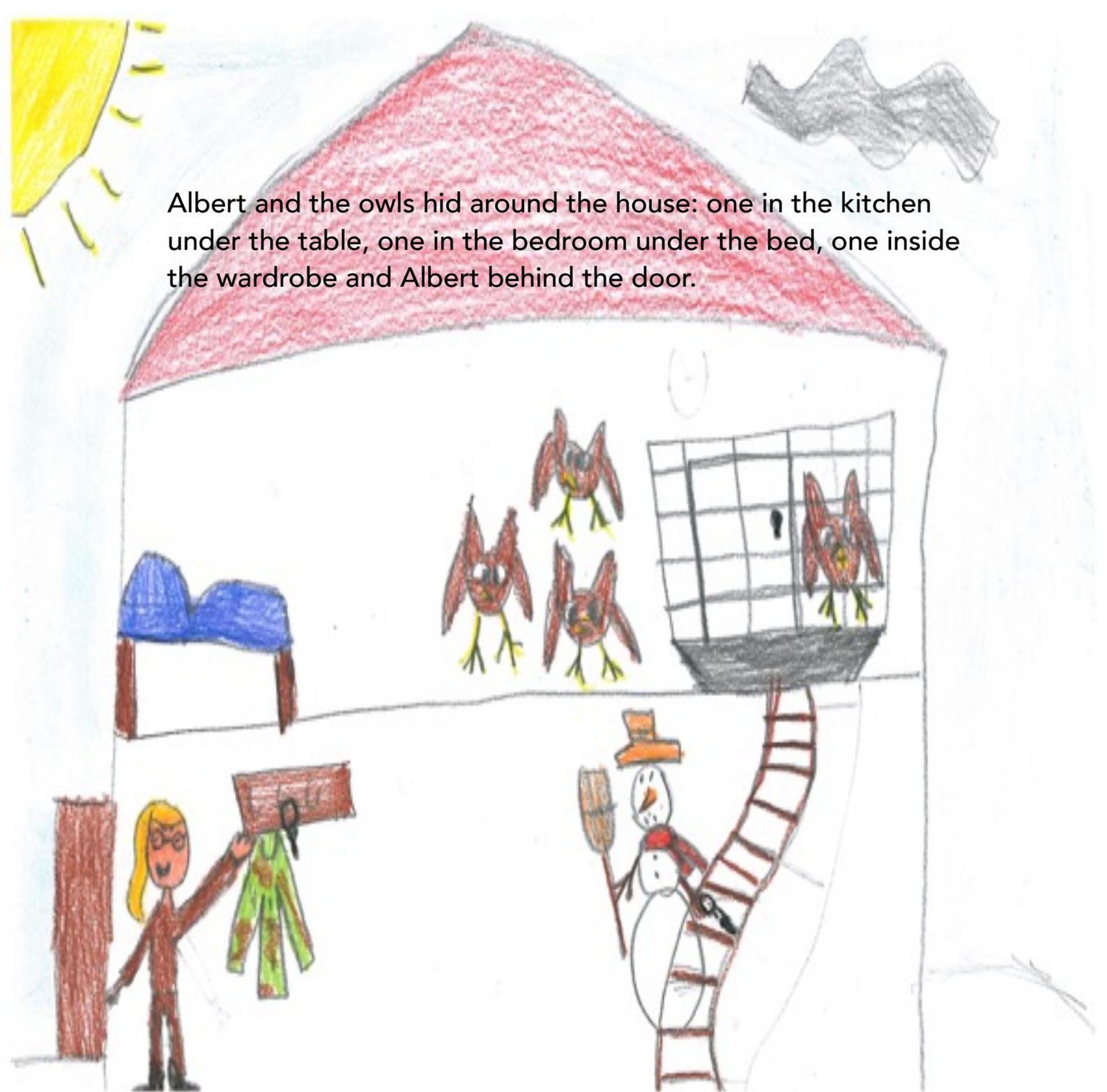
They started calling Alfredo loudly.
As soon as they found him, they
asked him how he was and looked
for the keys to open the cage.

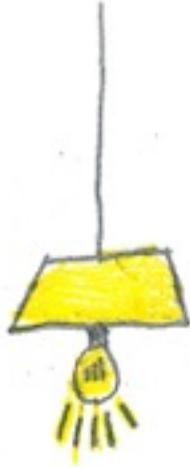




Just as Albert had found the keys and was approaching the cage, Alexander opened the door and entered.

Albert and the owls hid around the house: one in the kitchen under the table, one in the bedroom under the bed, one inside the wardrobe and Albert behind the door.



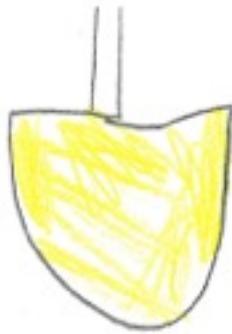


When Alexander entered everything seemed in order but at home it was colder than usual and the cold grew more and more.



Alexander, wandering around suspiciously, felt that there was something strange in the house but he could not understand what and so he went to check if the owl was still in place.

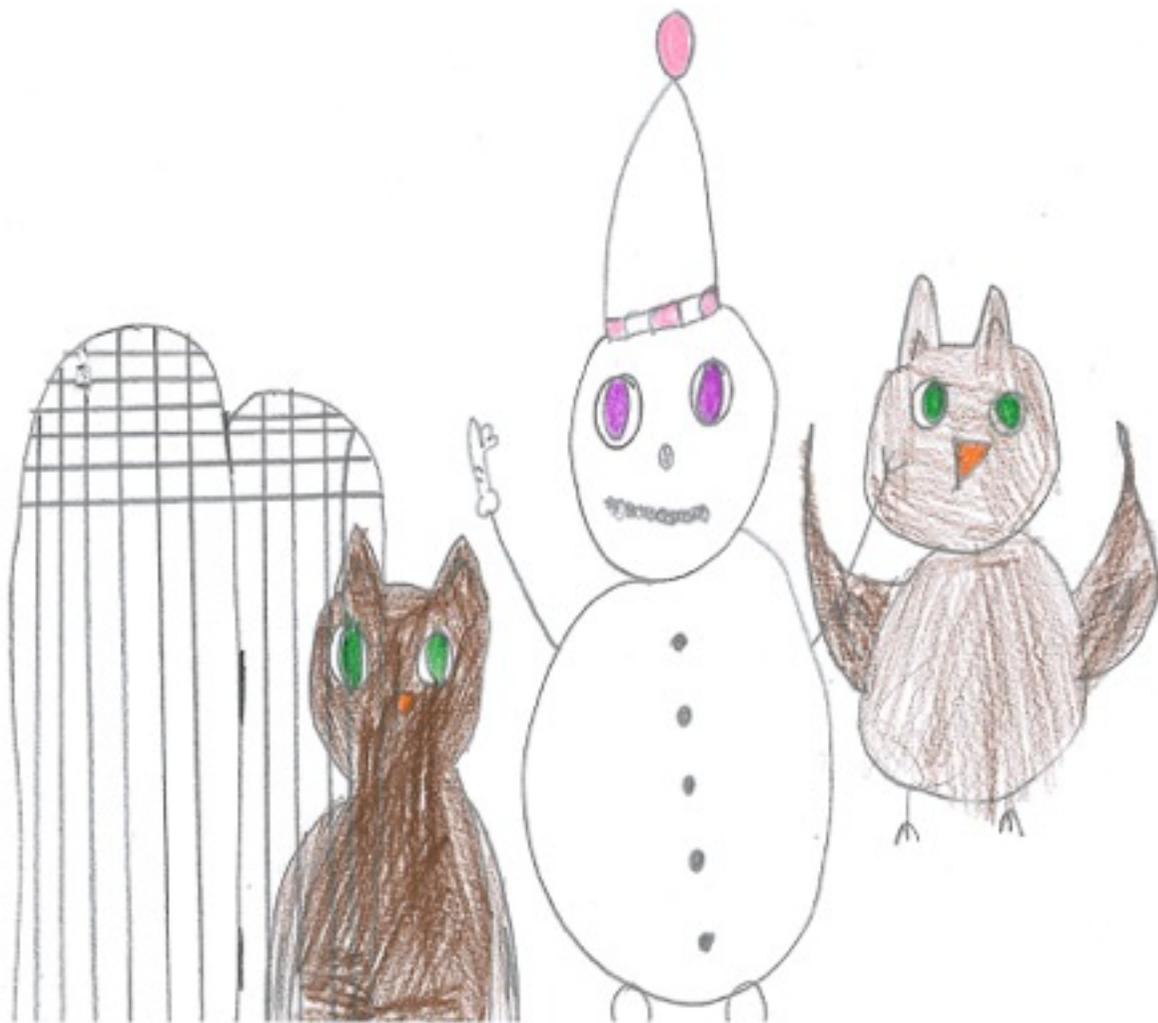




He was suddenly stuck in the legs
by two of Alfredo's friends, who,
without being seen, managed to
catch the terrible hunter.

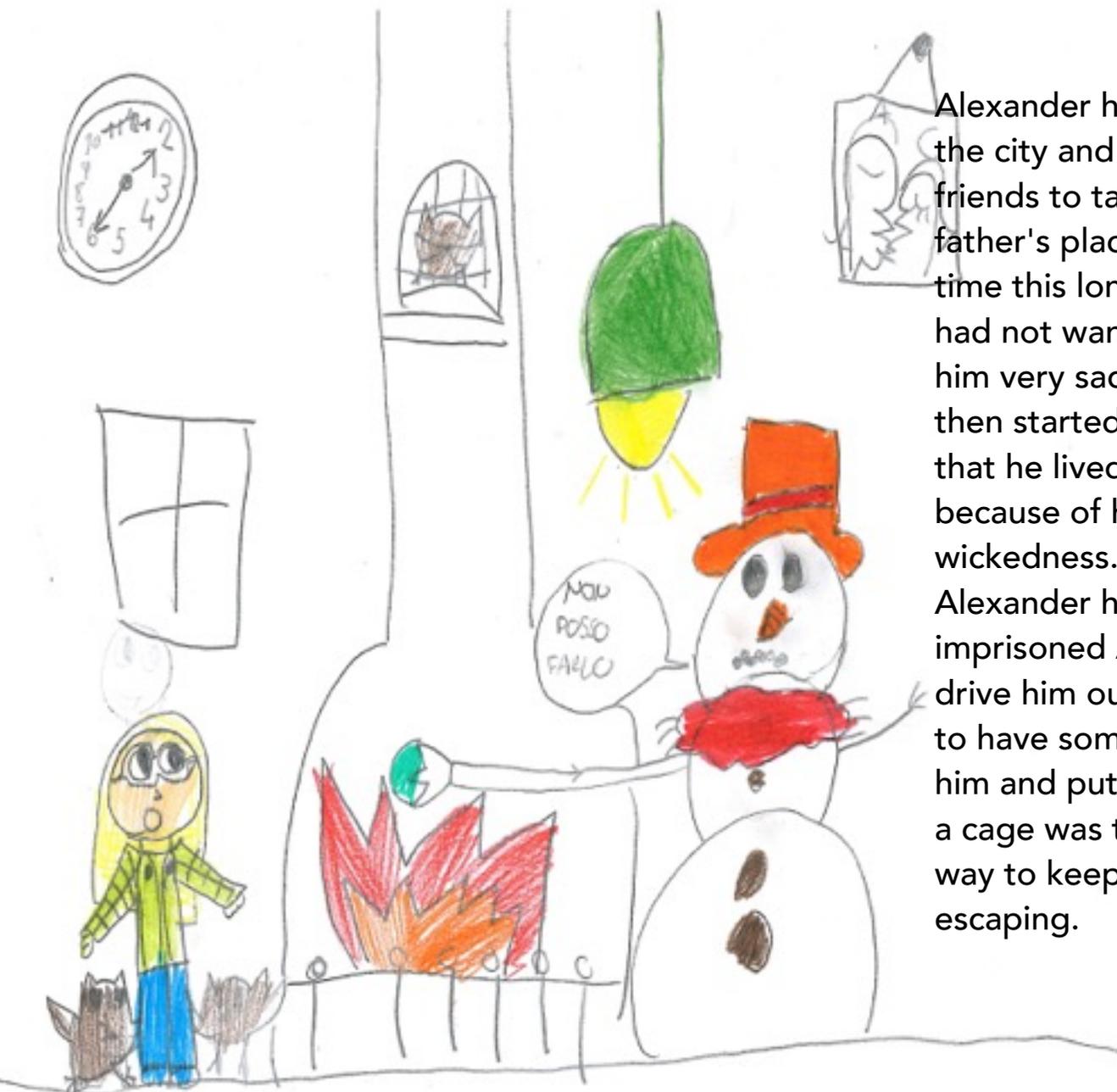


Once Alexander was immobilized, Albert and one of the little owls ran to Alfredo, they managed to open the cage that imprisoned him and all together they returned to Alexander, ready to take revenge for all the evil he had done to the animals.



When they came to him, however, they did not find the usual dark and evil hunter, but a different man, more sad than angry. Alexander admitted he wasn't really bad. He told the group of friends to be son of a woodsman who, when he was old he was gone, he had left to him everything.





Alexander had to leave the city and all his friends to take his father's place, but over time this loneliness he had not wanted made him very sad. People then started thinking that he lived alone because of his wickedness. Actually, Alexander had not imprisoned Alfredo to drive him out, but just to have someone with him and putting him in a cage was the only way to keep him from escaping.

Albert, Alfredo and his friends looked at each other and then decided to give Alexander a second chance. We must learn from our mistakes! So it was that Alexander became part of that group of friends, promising never to imprison any creature from the woods again.

