



The Magical Adventures of the  
**Rainbow Serpent**



## ‘Snake’

Cover image.  
Colour pencil,  
paper and acrylic  
on cardboard.

by PADDY.



# The Magical Adventures of the Rainbow Serpent

A story created with  
the children of  
Buxton and Marysville  
Primary Schools.

Dreamt by Julia Peddie.







**This story was created from stories, artwork, puppets and art projects created by the children of 'the Triangle' following the 'Black Saturday' bushfires in Victoria on February 7th, 2009.**

**The metaphors found here demonstrate the healing power of art in recovery. A big thank you goes to the Triangle Arts Group and the Royal Children's Hospital.**





One day Snake emerged from his burrow and went on an adventure.





He went to the  
Golden Forest.  
He found a tree,  
curled up and  
went into a  
deep sleep.

Before long  
he was dreaming,  
but these were no  
ordinary dreams.

The tree was a  
magic talking tree  
and told Snake  
many stories  
of things from  
long, long ago.





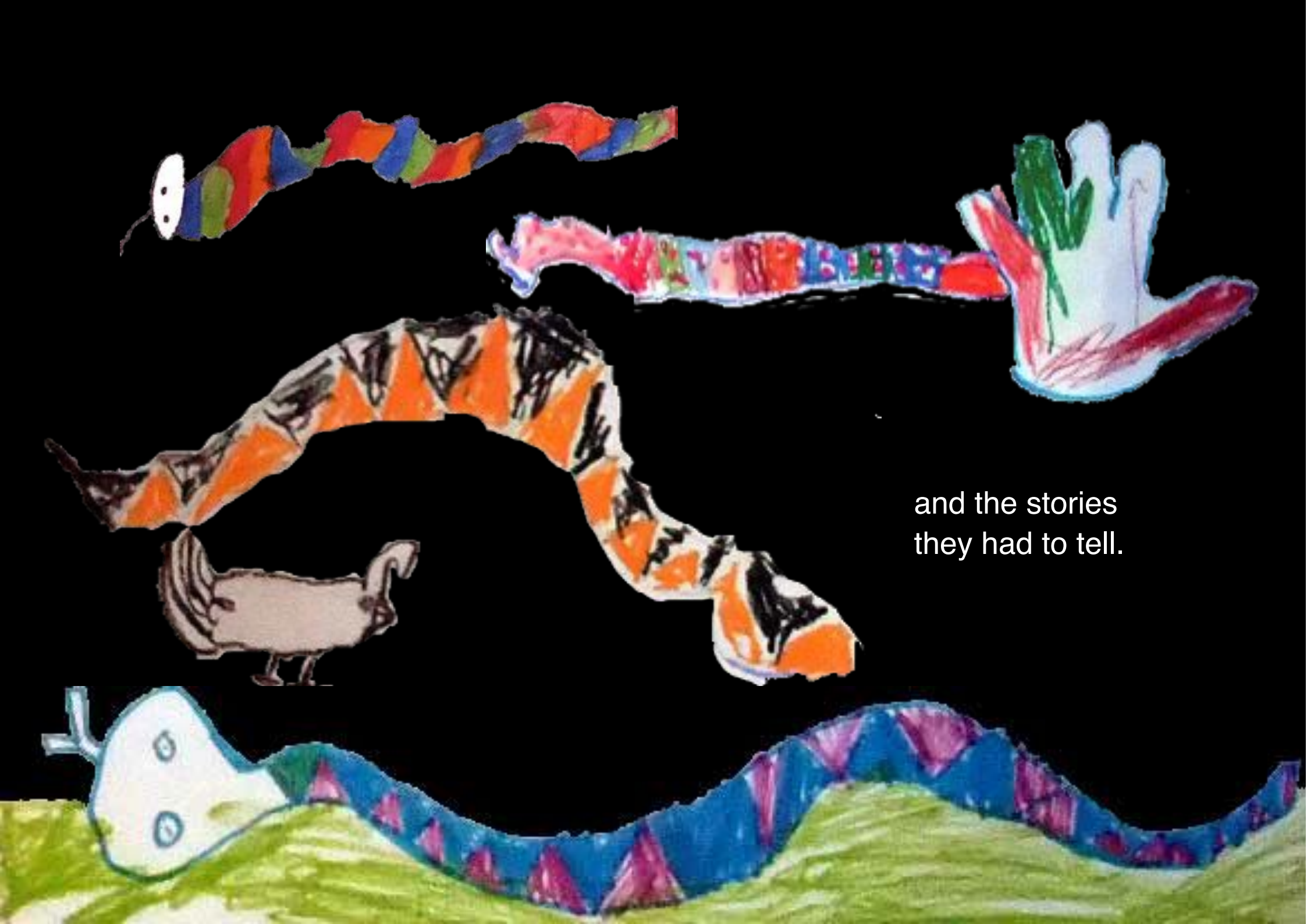
He dreamt so many stories  
and he slept all through  
the day and the night.





He dreamt  
of all his  
ancestors,





and the stories  
they had to tell.





One dream stood out more than all the others.



He was flying through the night sky,  
past all the stars in the Universe,







and  
came  
upon a  
strange  
planet that  
looked like a

# DOG!





He decided he would go and visit.



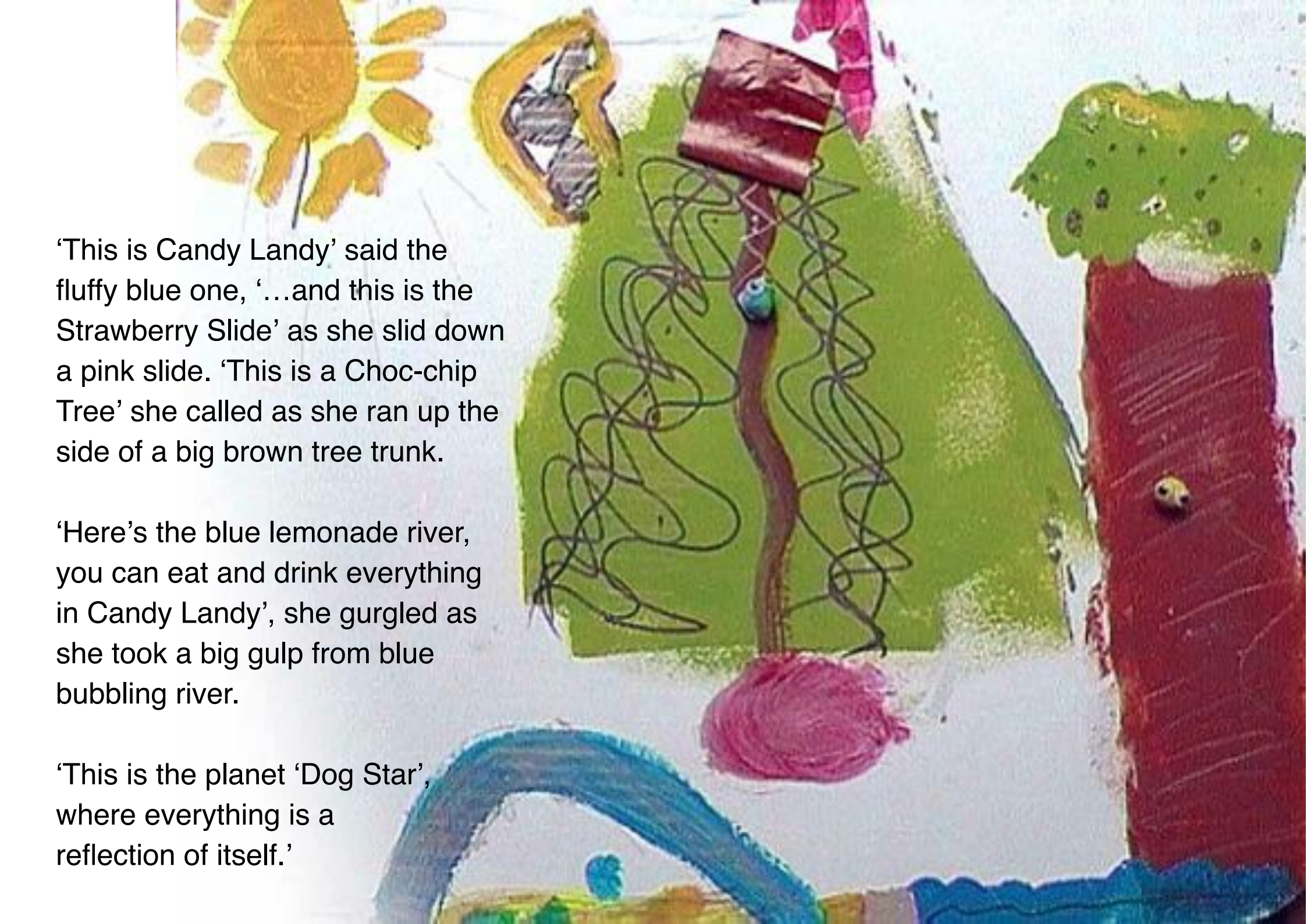


It was a vey colourful planet.

When he landed, he was surprised  
to see himself in reflection.

Snake noticed some small fluffy creatures playing in  
a stream, so he slid over to ask them where he was.





‘This is Candy Land’ said the fluffy blue one, ‘...and this is the Strawberry Slide’ as she slid down a pink slide. ‘This is a Choc-chip Tree’ she called as she ran up the side of a big brown tree trunk.

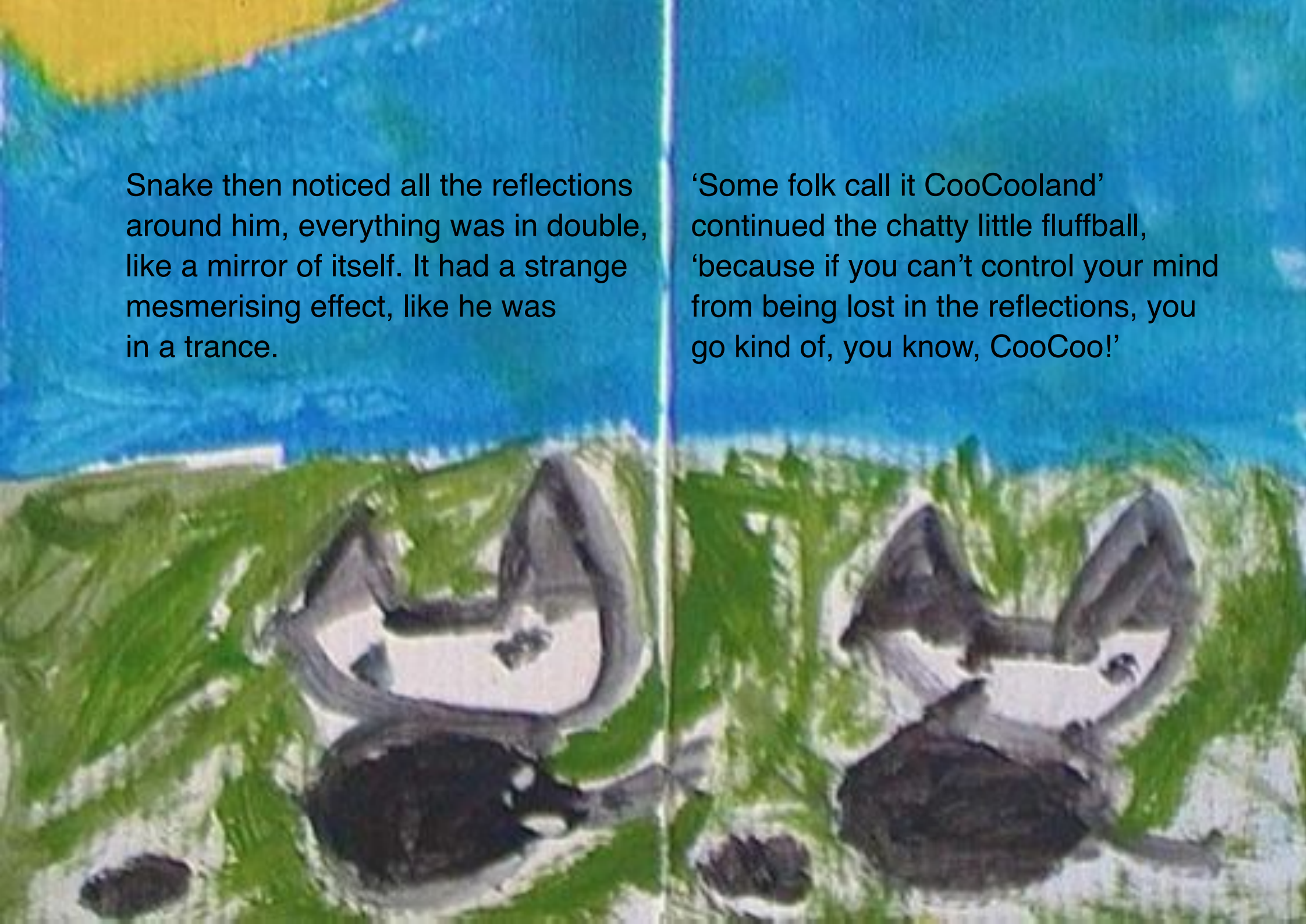
‘Here’s the blue lemonade river, you can eat and drink everything in Candy Land’, she gurgled as she took a big gulp from blue bubbling river.

‘This is the planet ‘Dog Star’, where everything is a reflection of itself.’



Snake then noticed all the reflections around him, everything was in double, like a mirror of itself. It had a strange mesmerising effect, like he was in a trance.

‘Some folk call it CooCooland’ continued the chatty little fluffball, ‘because if you can’t control your mind from being lost in the reflections, you go kind of, you know, CooCoo!’







Snake looked at his reflection  
and smiled. It smiled back.

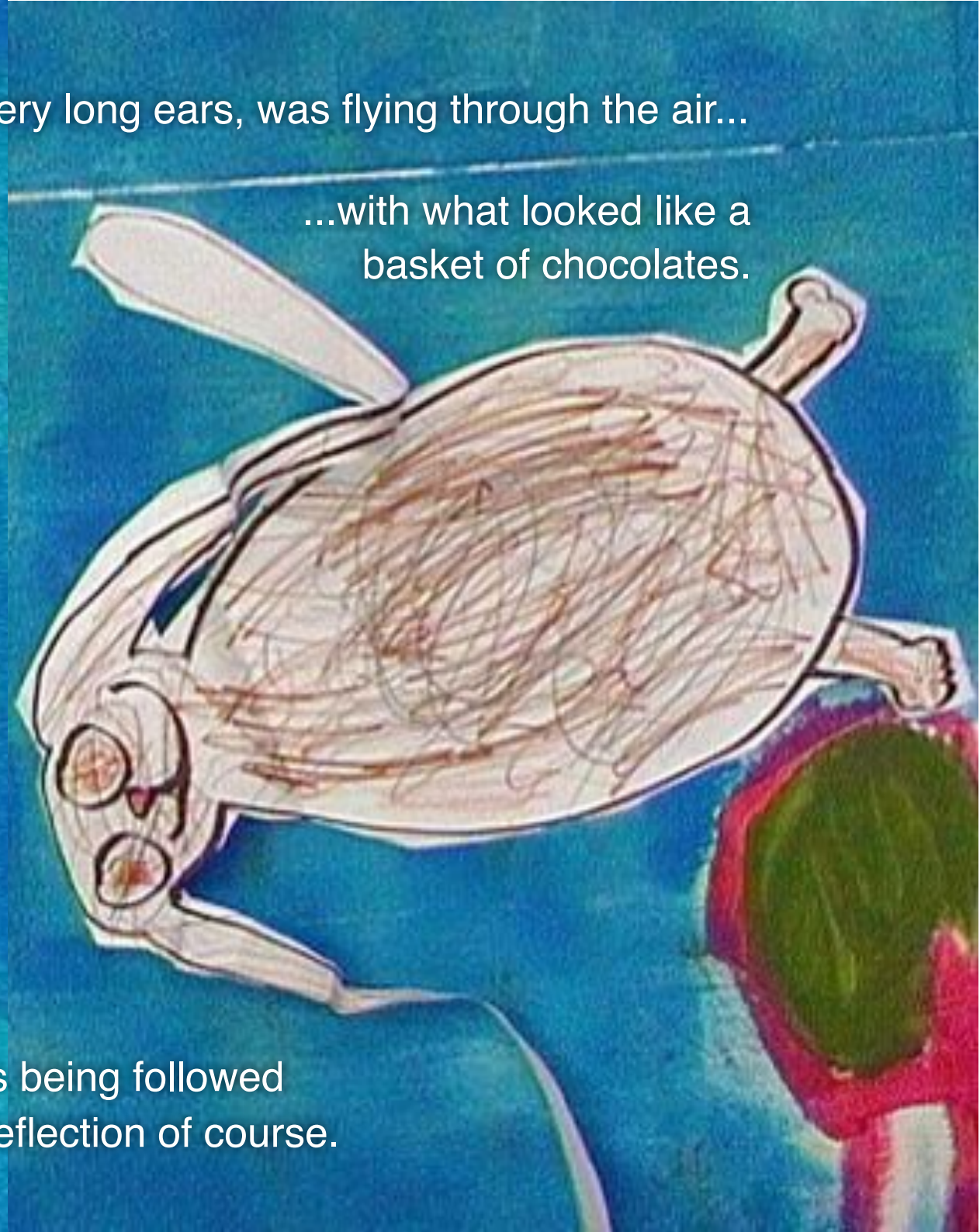
It copied his every move exactly,  
except that the left was the right  
and the right was the left.

He said goodbye to the fluffball,  
and walked past a park.





A dog with very long ears, was flying through the air...



...with what looked like a  
basket of chocolates.

The dog was being followed  
by his own reflection of course.



A colourful cheeky bird  
landed in front of him,  
picked up a seed  
and flew off.

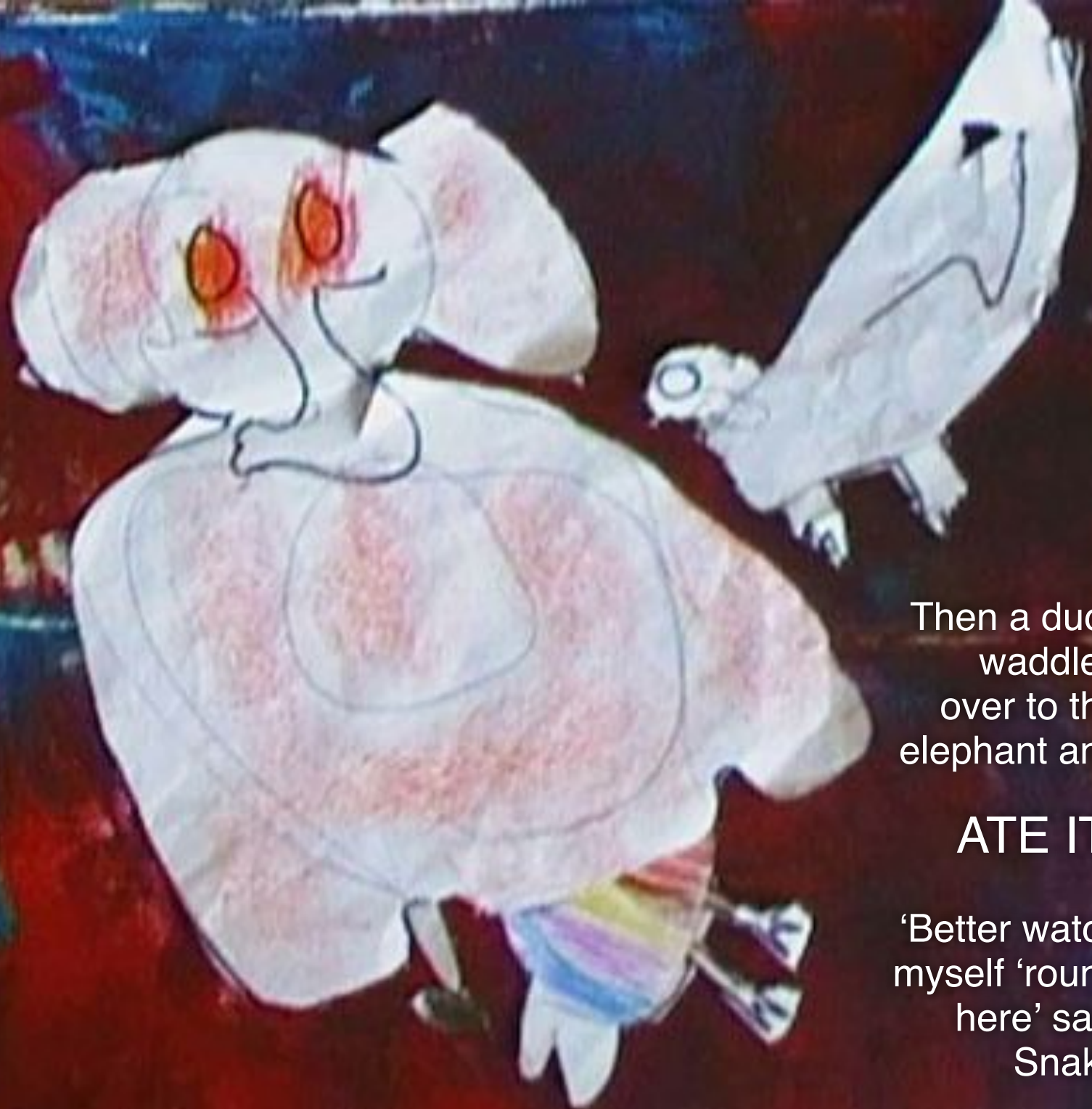


It landed in the park  
just as a huge elephant  
was sitting down.



The elephant sat  
on the cheeky bird  
and it was

**SQUISHED!**

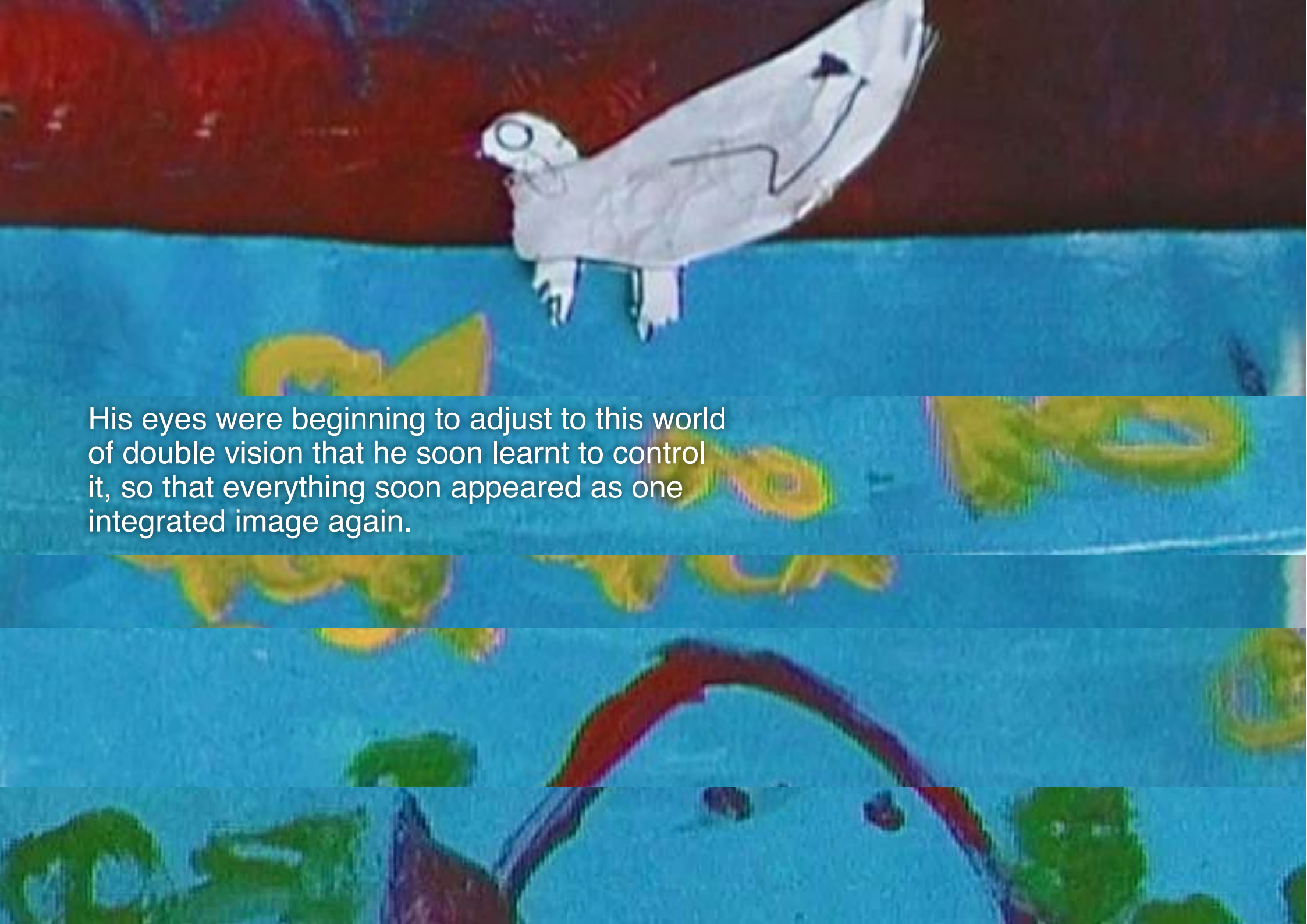


Then a duck  
waddled  
over to the  
elephant and

**ATE IT!**

‘Better watch  
myself ‘round  
here’ said  
Snake





His eyes were beginning to adjust to this world of double vision that he soon learnt to control it, so that everything soon appeared as one integrated image again.





He saw a  
very tall  
giraffe,  
a dog  
and a cat  
all going  
inside a  
pink marshmallow house...

They were carrying  
several bags  
of popcorn  
and a  
very large  
saucepan.





He noticed a very big fluffball  
hiding behind a tree looking at  
him. Snake slid over to say hello.

‘Please don’t eat me’ squeaked  
the fuffball. ‘I’m sick of  
everyone eating everybody in  
this place’ he whimpered.

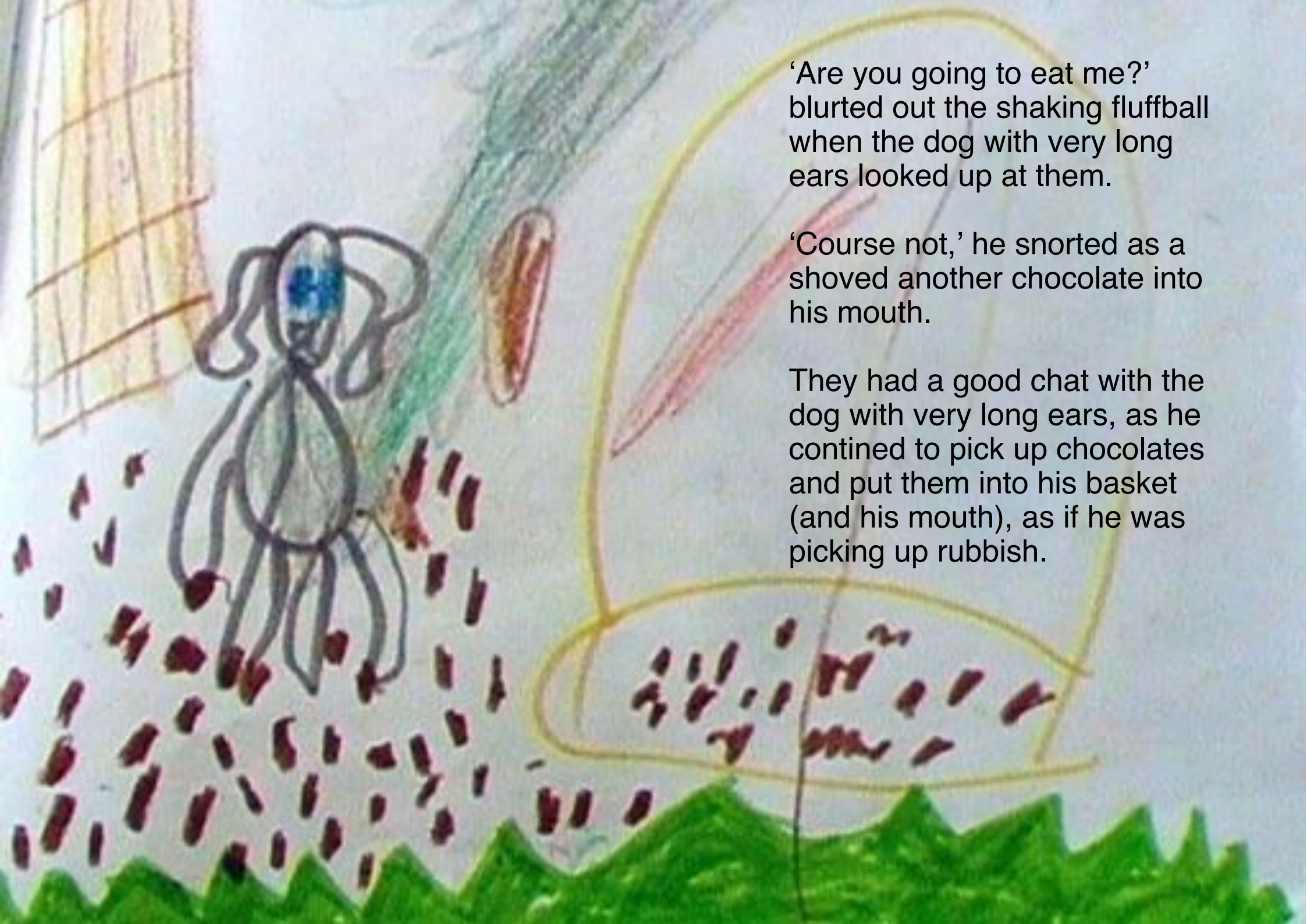
‘Course not’ hissed Snake.

‘I’m a bit worried about that dog  
over there’. He pointed to a dog  
with very long ears, collecting  
chocolate in the park, while  
scoffing down mouthfuls and  
licking his lips.

‘Lets go and talk to him’. said  
Snake.







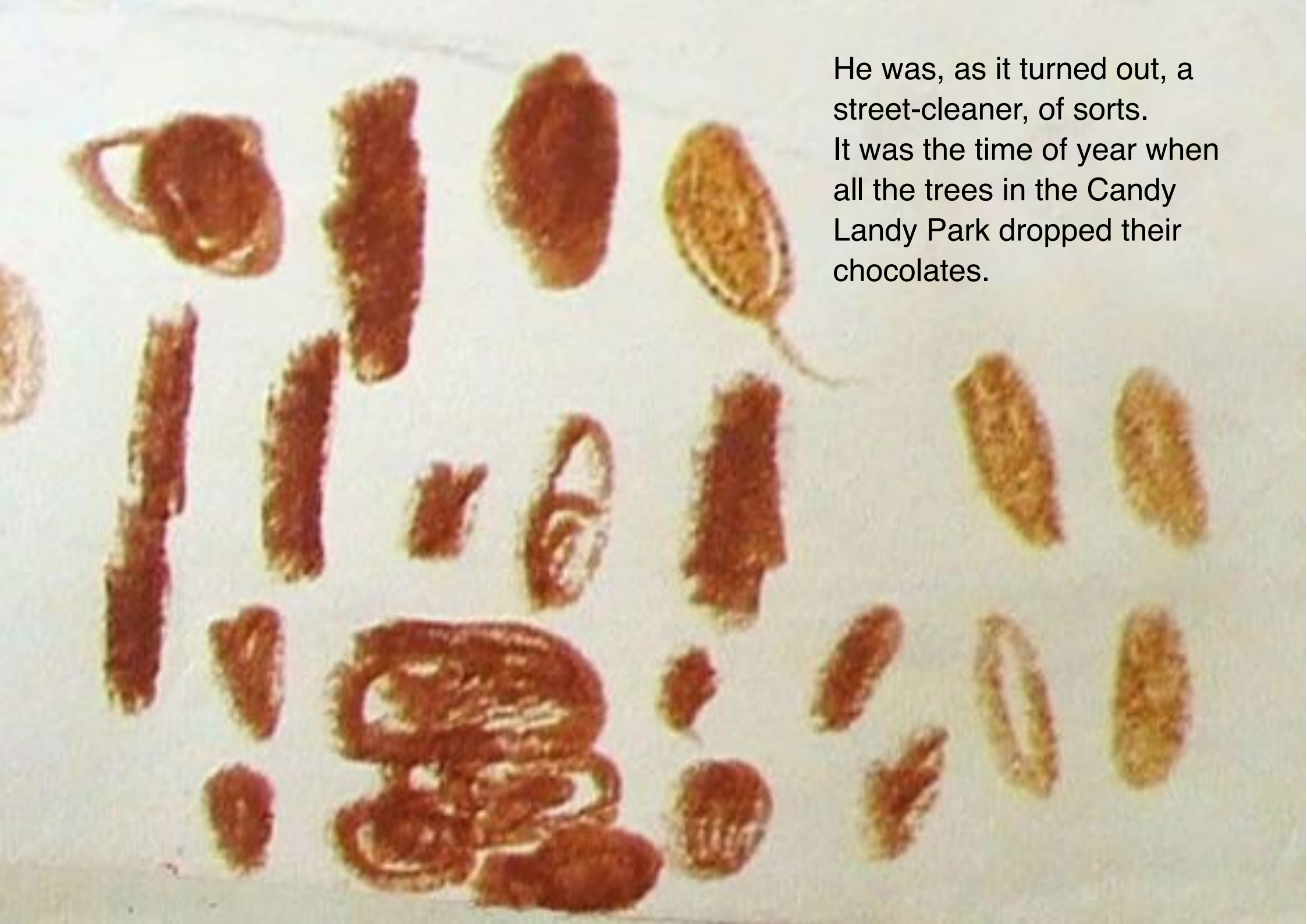
‘Are you going to eat me?’  
blurted out the shaking fluffball  
when the dog with very long  
ears looked up at them.

‘Course not,’ he snorted as a  
shoved another chocolate into  
his mouth.

They had a good chat with the  
dog with very long ears, as he  
continued to pick up chocolates  
and put them into his basket  
(and his mouth), as if he was  
picking up rubbish.



He was, as it turned out, a street-cleaner, of sorts. It was the time of year when all the trees in the Candy Landy Park dropped their chocolates.

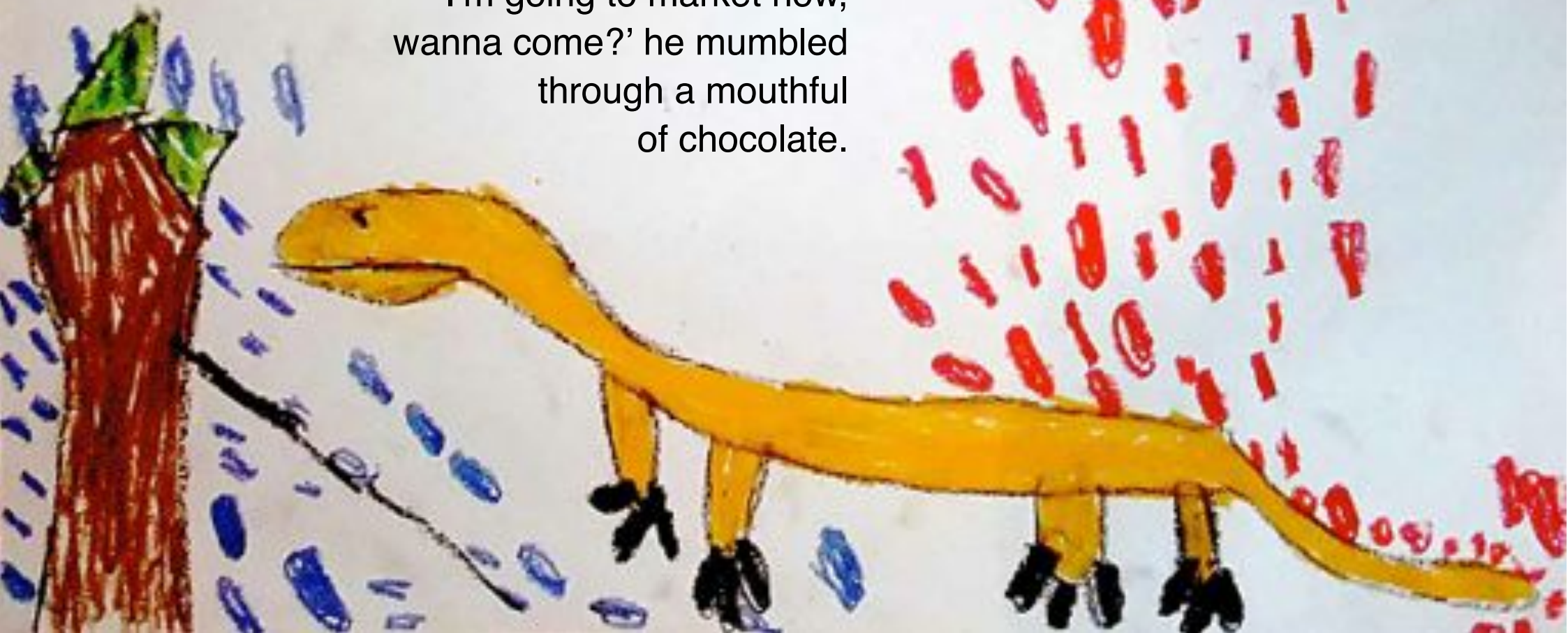




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It was very difficult for the fluffballs to tell the difference between the chocolates and the animals' pooh, so his job, with his acute sense of smell, was to pick up all the real chocolates and sell them to the fluffballs at the market.

'I'm going to market now, wanna come?' he mumbled through a mouthful of chocolate.







The market was very bright and colourful, everything was made of candy. There were lots of fluffballs of different colours and sizes. Some were drinking in chocolate cafés and little ones were playing in the street. Snake looked up at a tall Fairy Floss Tree and it smiled and winked at him. He blushed.

The dog with very long ears started selling chocolates to customers while he continued to speak.

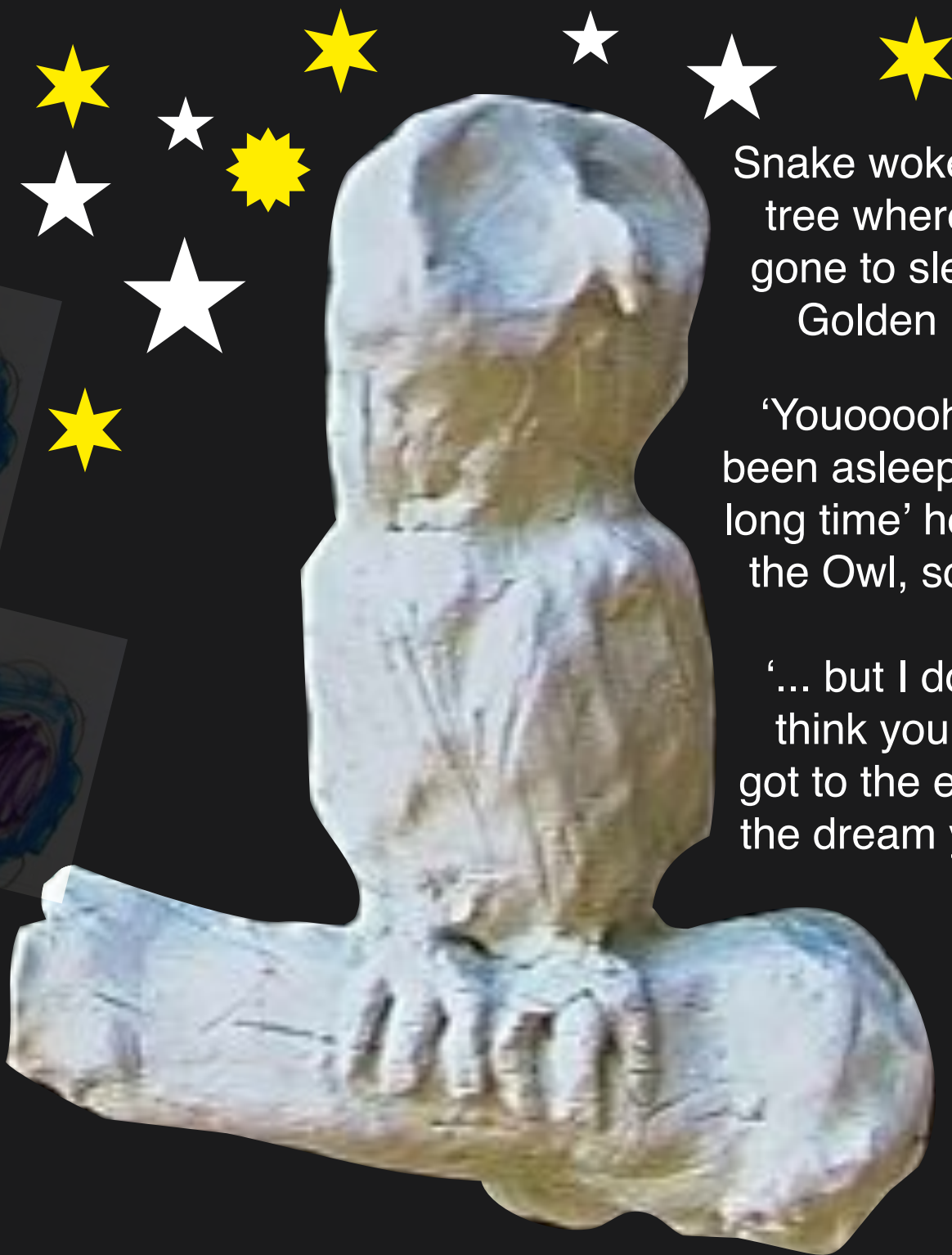
‘The fluffballs are too scared to go out into the forest. ever since the over-eating epidemic started; they’re afraid they’ll get eaten.’

‘Shame,’ he continued ‘the Golden Forest is such a magical place.’

Snake looked at him quiscally, because his words reminded him of the Golden Forest at home, where he had... fallen asleep ... in a ... tree ....







Snake woke up in the tree where he had gone to sleep in the Golden Forest.

‘Youoooooh’ve been asleep for a long time’ hooted the Owl, softly.

‘... but I don’t think you’ve got to the end of the dream yet!’.



Snake smiled, went back to sleep and returned to his dream...





Back in Candy Landy,  
things had changed  
dramatically.

‘The Pinchies are coming!’  
screached a terrified  
fluffball.

The sky was very red  
and full of big-clawed  
creatures flying like a  
plague of locusts upon the  
town.

The Pinchies were big  
and red and scary and  
snapped at the fluffballs  
as they ran for their lives.





Everyone was  
frightened and  
started to run  
around shutting  
windows, screaming  
and hiding.







A big Owl swooped over Candy Landy and was hooting like crazy, telling everyone to follow him to the Golden Forest to the safest place there was... the Magic Golden Tree. Everyone followed hiim and hid inside the biggest tree they'd ever seen.

Inside they felt a little better, but everyone noticed that someone was missing – it was Tallie the Giraffe.

Suddenly they heard a strange popping sound. Slowly at first... one at a time...

Pop...

Pop...

Pop...





Then Tallie the Giraffe came running into the Magic Golden Tree, ducking her long neck and quite out of breath , ‘ I just had to ... make... some... Popcorn!’

Then they heard it... a low, loud rumble... then...



Bang...  
Crack...  
BOOM!

The pink marshmallow house exploded, like a volcano with flaming popcorn spewing out of its chimney, covering Candy Landy in hot popcorn rocks.

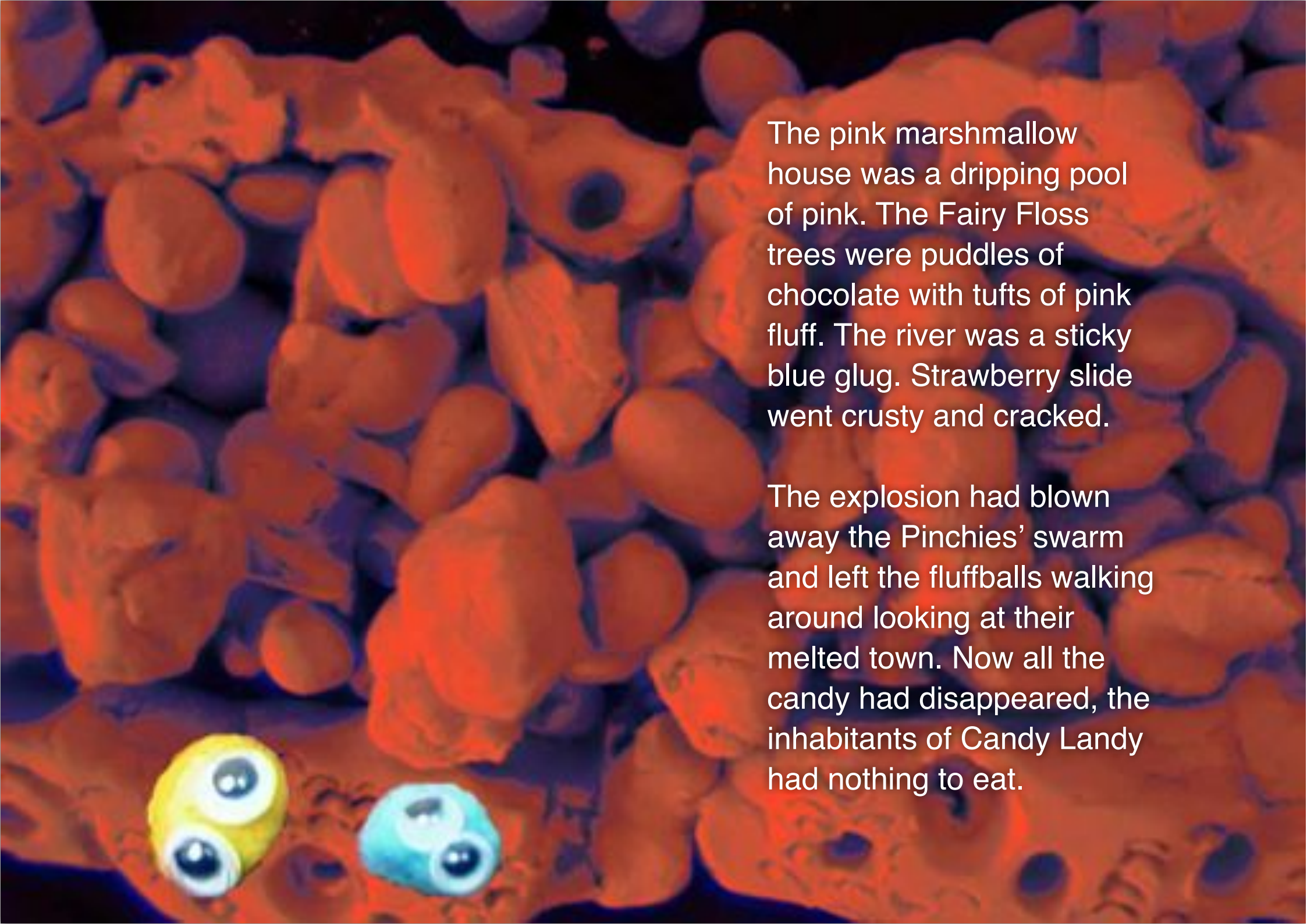
Everything started to melt with the heat of the explosion.

BANG

crack

BOOM!

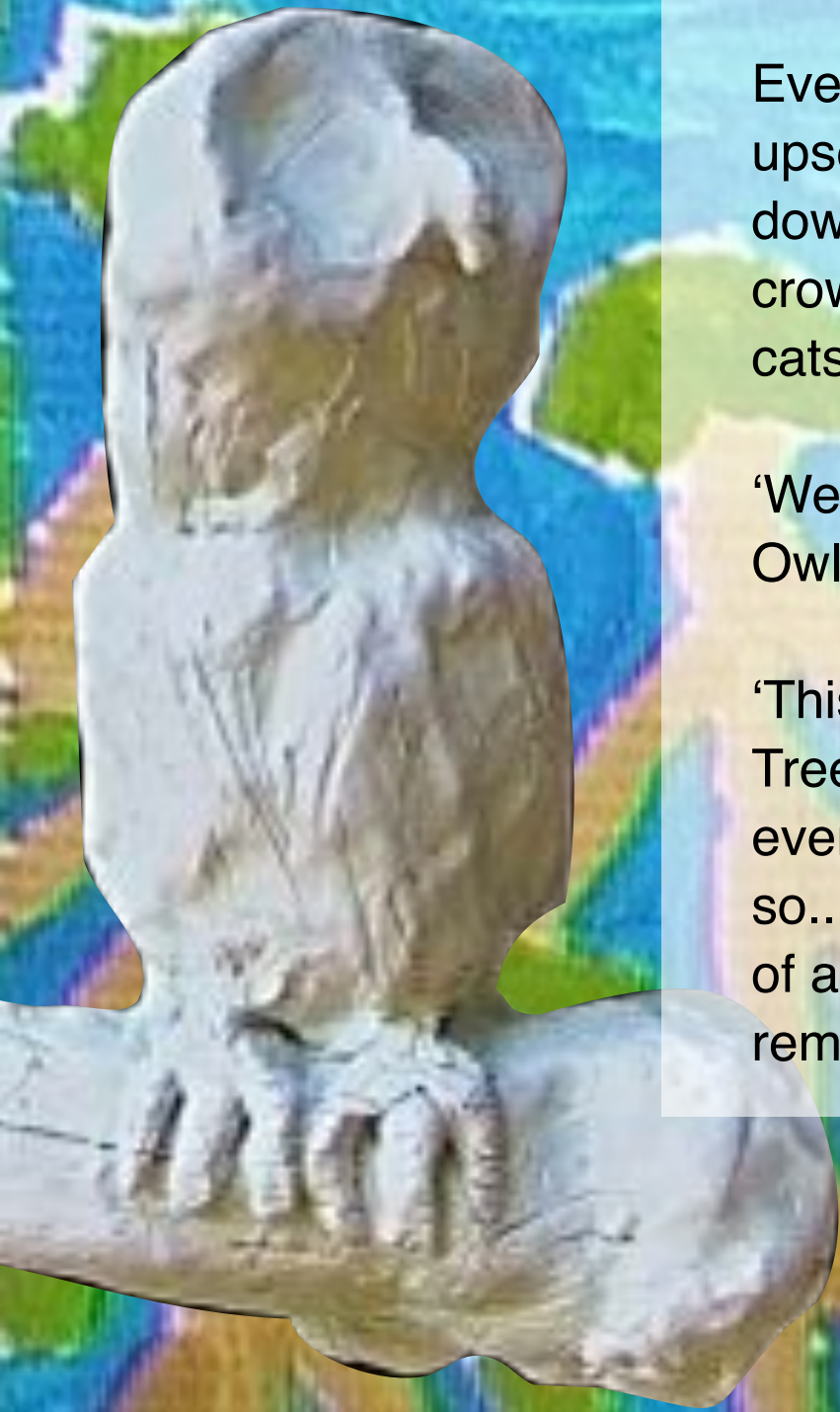




The pink marshmallow house was a dripping pool of pink. The Fairy Floss trees were puddles of chocolate with tufts of pink fluff. The river was a sticky blue slug. Strawberry slide went crusty and cracked.

The explosion had blown away the Pinchies' swarm and left the fluffballs walking around looking at their melted town. Now all the candy had disappeared, the inhabitants of Candy Landy had nothing to eat.





Everyone was rather upset and Owl swooped down and addressed the crowd of fluffballs, dogs, cats and other creatures.

‘We’re all friends here’ Owl reassured them.

‘This is the Magic Golden Tree and it provides everything we need... so... there’s no eating of anyone here,’ he reminded them.

‘Remember this place, yooooouh will always be safe here.’ he hooted.

A Dog stepped forward and said ‘I am a Dogtor’. If anyone needs medical attention please see me.’

Snake then realised it was the dog with very long ears. Instead of a basket of chocolate, he had a basket of nuts, seeds and herbs.





Soon the fluffballs settled into the Golden Forest and enjoyed all the food the Magic Golden Tree provided.

Tallie and her friends built steel houses so they could still have popcorn nights with their friends, safely.





One day, Snake realised he had been living on the planet of Dog Star for a while now, and couldn't believe that he was still dreaming.





He'd even forgotten about the reflections.  
As soon as he thought about the reflections he saw his own.  
And he could hardly believe his eyes.





He turned around to see he was covered in a brand new skin.  
It gleamed like armour...

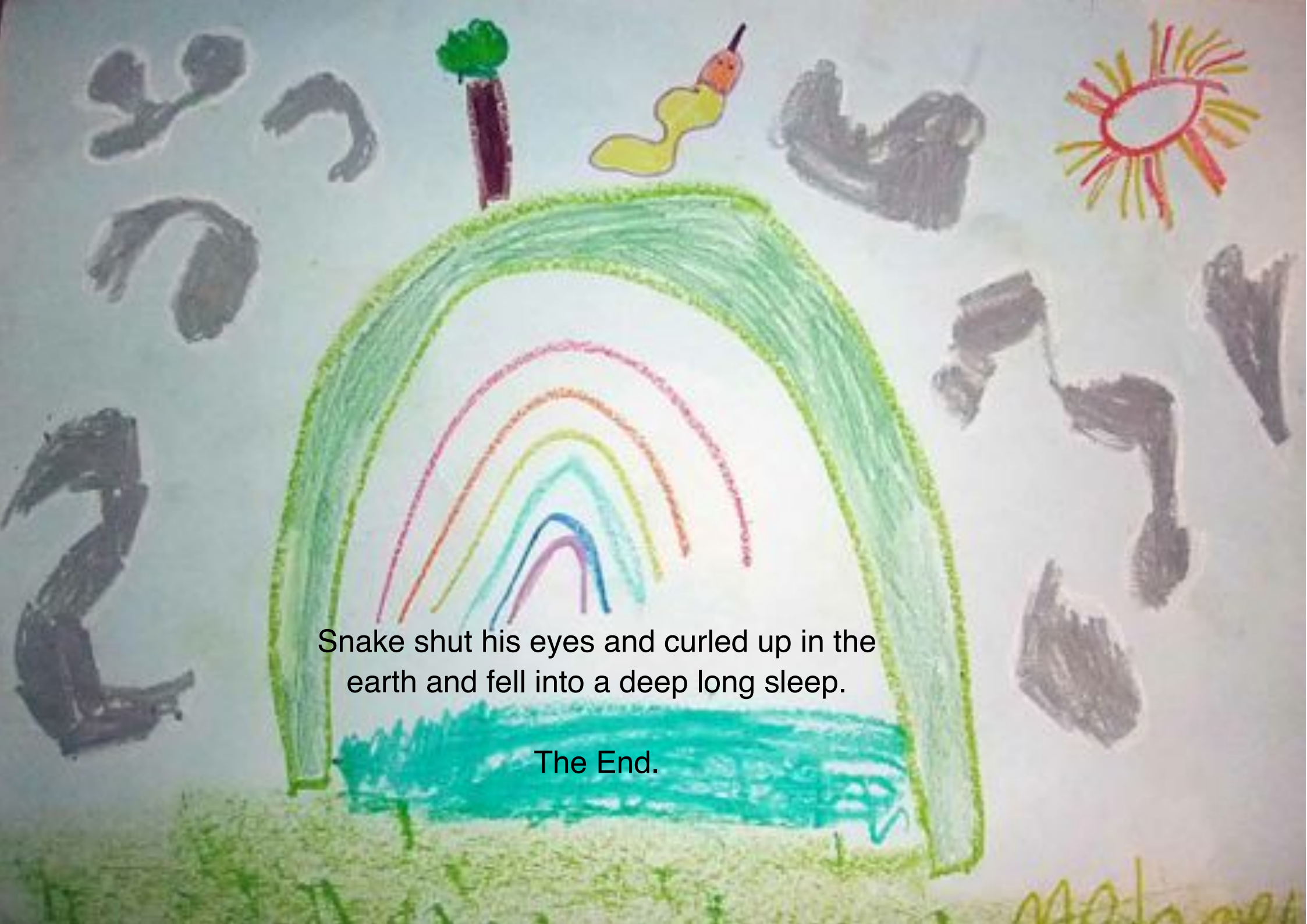




Magically he was all the Colours of the Rainbow.

Owl flew down beside him and said 'Yoooouh are still Dreaming Snake, and always will be. This is your home, now. Here you are the Rainbow Serpent.





Snake shut his eyes and curled up in the  
earth and fell into a deep long sleep.

The End.