

B y E t h a n d e W i t t

The List.

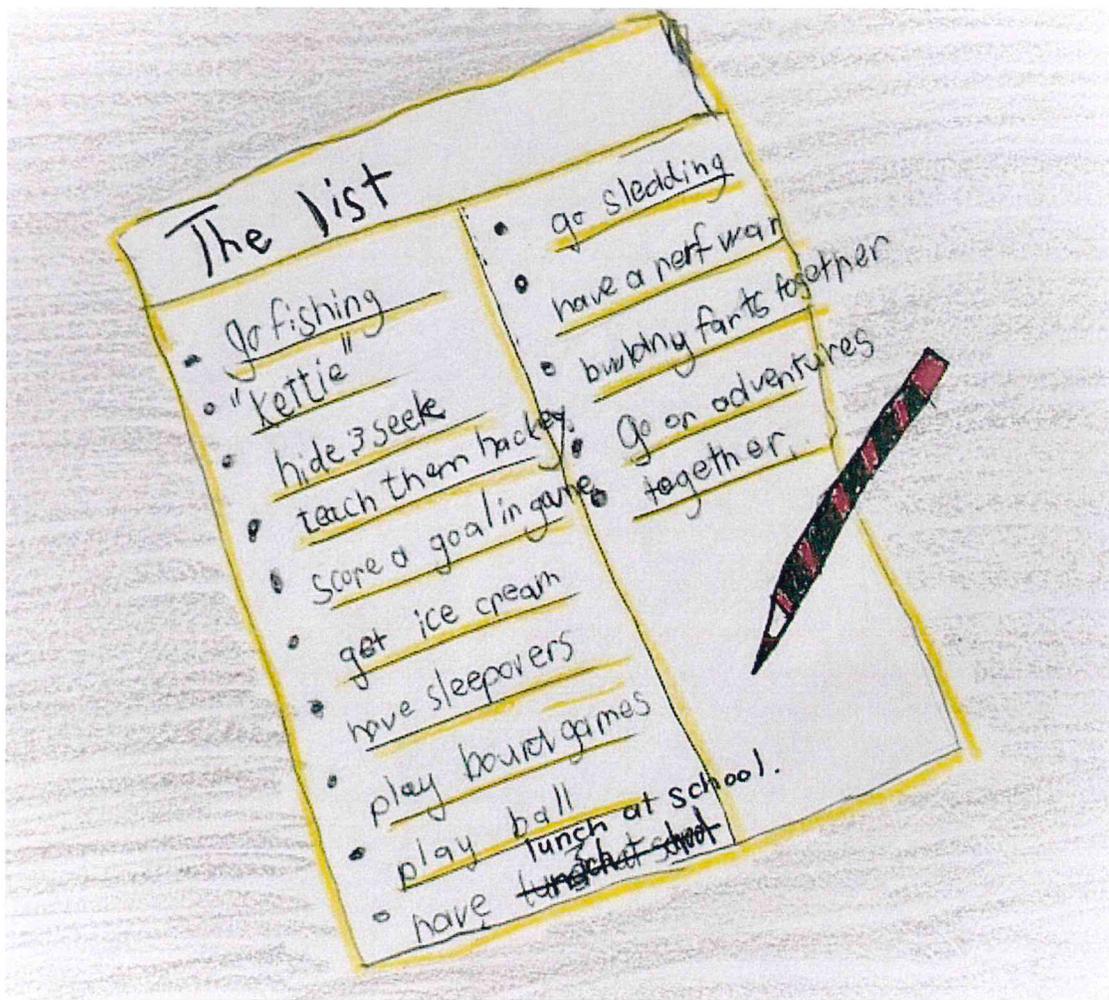
Story & drawings by
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Based on a true story.

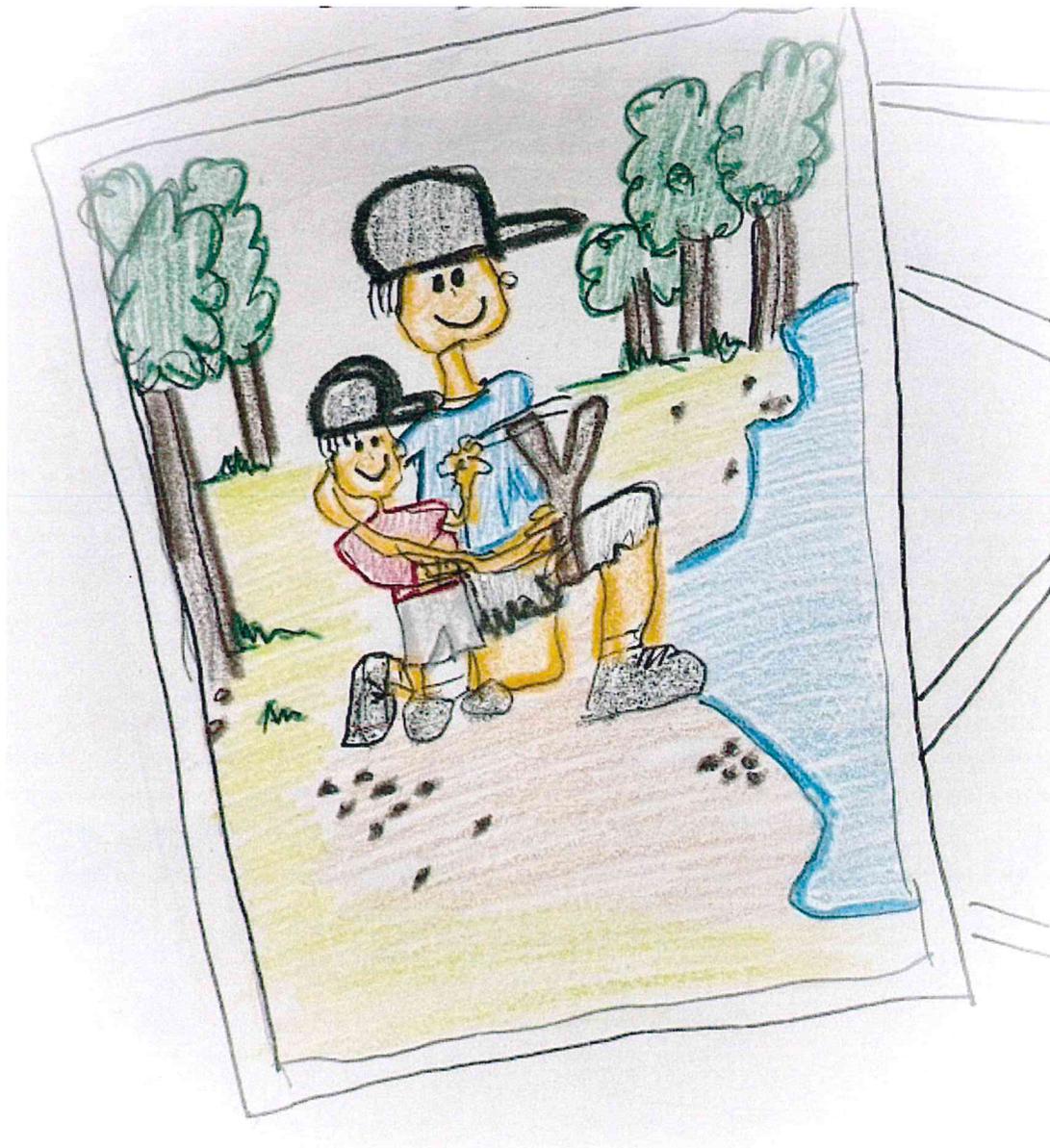
Once upon a time there was a boy who grew up on a farm and loved going on adventures. The farm was his happy place...yet something was missing. He used to watch his friends and their 'Ouma + Oupa' (South African name for Grandma + Grandpa) attend school events, have lunch together and show up to their sport games. This made him sad.



On these days, the boy would go home and make lists...of everything he would love to do if he ever did get to meet his Ouma & Oupa. These lists were kept safely in his treasure box at the bottom of his closet.



Then one day, his Mom showed him a plane ticket...
they were coming! Ouma and Oupa were finally coming to visit!
Last time he saw them he was too small to remember.
He dug through old pictures and found the picture he remembers...
Oupa teaching him to shoot 'kettie' (slingshot).



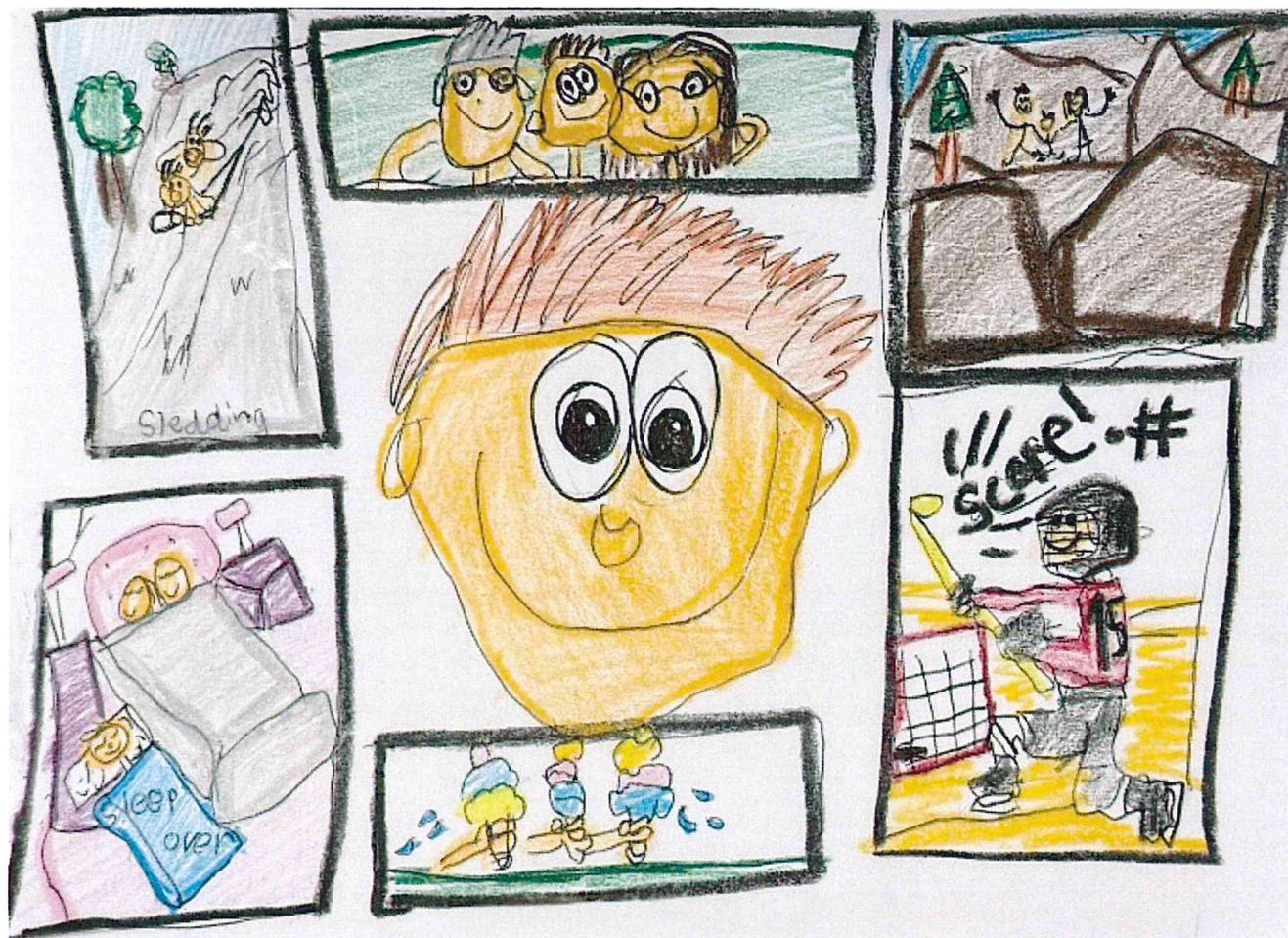
He dug out his list, helped Mom get their room ready
and they were off to the airport.

His heart was beating fast. Everything he has been waiting for
was about to come true...Then they appeared.

He ran and hugged them
as though he has known them all his life!



The next few days felt like a dream...it went by so fast.
They went sledding and had ice cream, he taught them
his hockey tricks and they even went on
an hiking adventure! Oupa brought his 'kettie' (slingshot)
and time stood still.
His heart felt warm and full.



Then the day came to say goodbye...
His heart felt heavy and tears wet his clothes
as he hugged them tightly.
Oupa bend down and spoke kindly to him...
this will not be the last time I come to visit, I promise.
Go on and make us a new list,
and when we see you again, we will check off
all the new things on your list...I love you very much!
And with that, a glimpse of hope warmed his heart.
After all - he was best at making lists!



Total word count: 342 words