

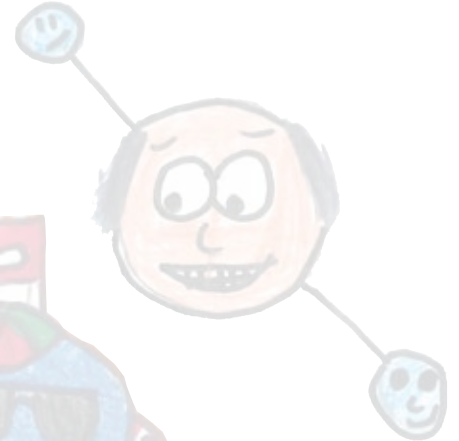


A Day in the Life of a Carbon Atom

Starring: Adom

Year 6/7 Class 2012 St Michael's Catholic Primary School
Brunswick, Western Australia







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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**



CarbonKids is an education program developed by CSIRO. It aims to educate students and the community, through interactive programs related to climate change.

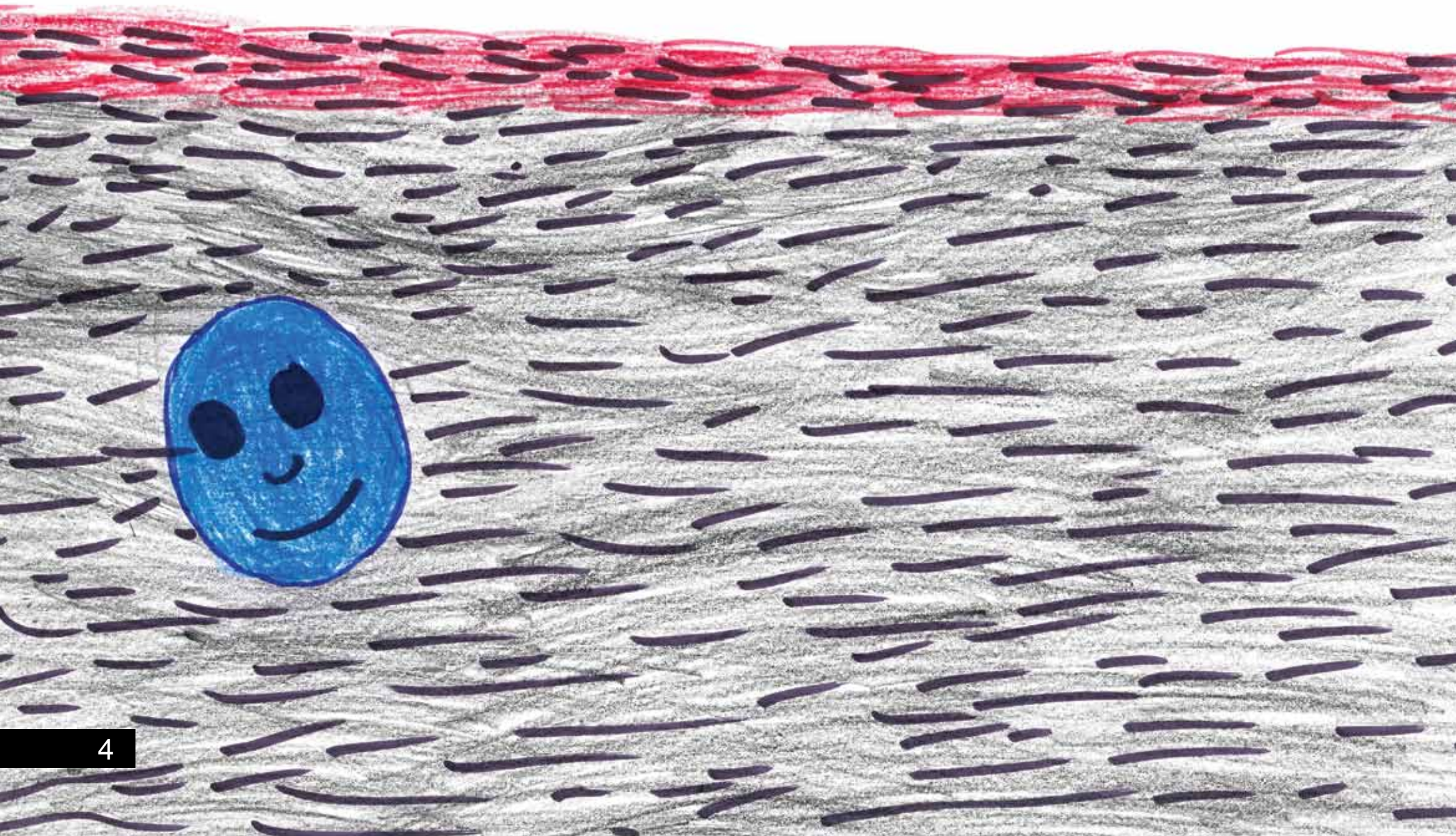
During 2012, CSIRO worked with the Global CCS Institute to develop educational materials to encourage students to learn about low emission technologies like carbon capture and storage (CCS), and the role they may play in mitigating climate change.

CarbonKids Schools in Western Australia were involved in a science communication challenge to explain the science of CCS they had learnt to other CarbonKids.

St Michael's chose to create a story. We hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we do.

CarbonKids nationally is sponsored by Bayer and supported by the Department of Mines and Petroleum in Western Australia. It was also funded by The Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute in 2012. The CarbonKids Pilot Program was supported by Shell.





**There once was a Little Carbon Atom,
who lived peacefully under the ground.**

**It was dark and peaceful and although
the Little Carbon Atom was occasionally lonely.**

He lived a happy life.



One day the Little Carbon Atom was minding his own business when he felt the ground shudder.

All of a sudden his life was turned upside down.

He was collected by large machines that cut the ground.

He was then piled into a large truck with lots of other frightened, little carbon atoms.



They travelled for what felt like forever.

The journey was long and boring.

**The Little Carbon Atom finally arrived at a
large power plant.**

**There the Little Carbon Atom was burnt
in a great big furnace.**



But in the furnace something marvellous happened.

The Little Carbon Atom lost his earthly body.

He was floating into the sky.

He was getting higher and higher.

He was free and everything was great.



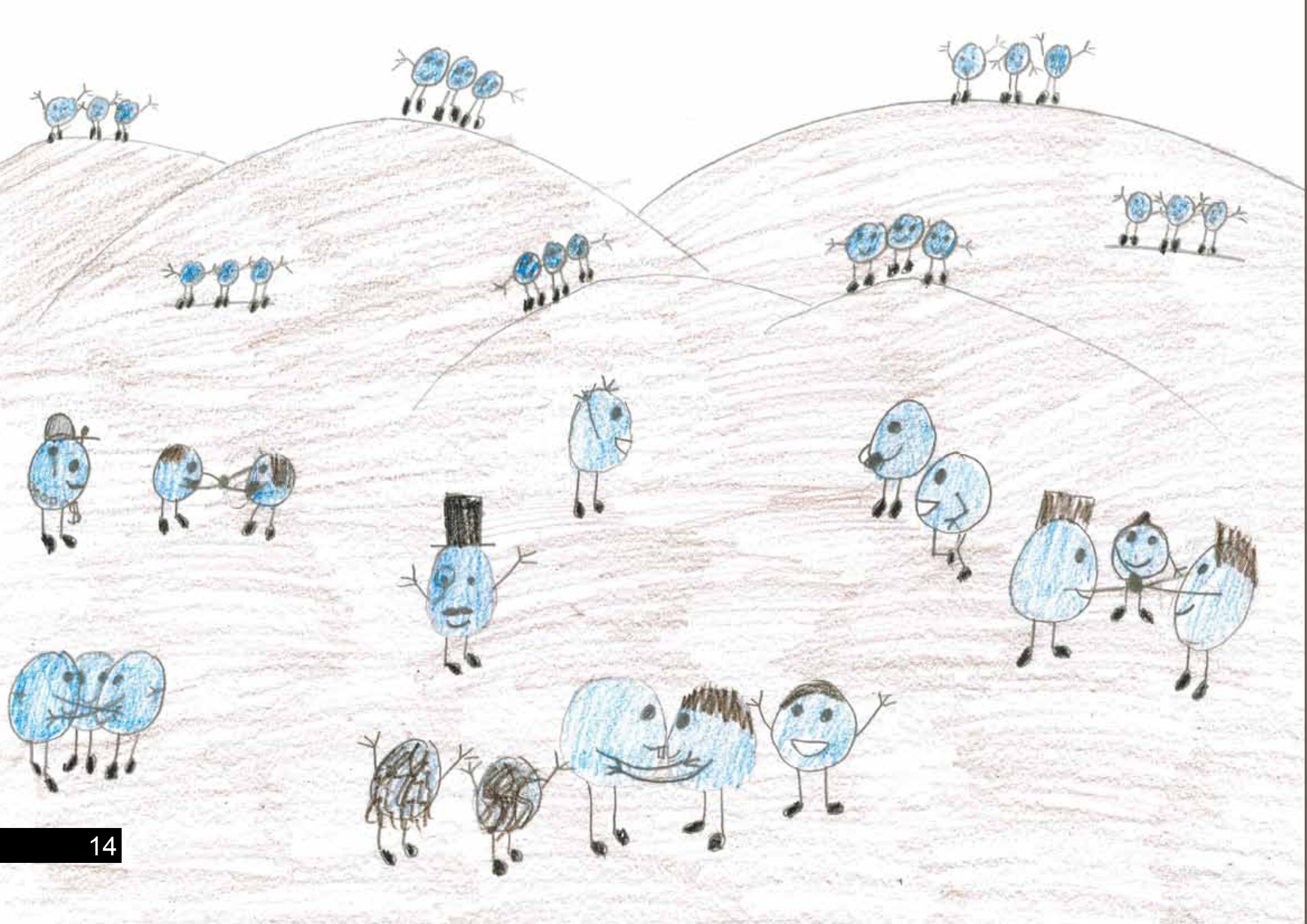
Then something EXTRAORDINARY happened.

**The Little Carbon Atom met up with
his best friends O1 and O2.**

The Little Carbon Atom was so happy.

He hadn't seen his best friends for 360 million years.

**The three atoms were so happy to see each
other they formed a strong bond and from
that day on they were known as CO₂.**



Reunions were happening all over the place.

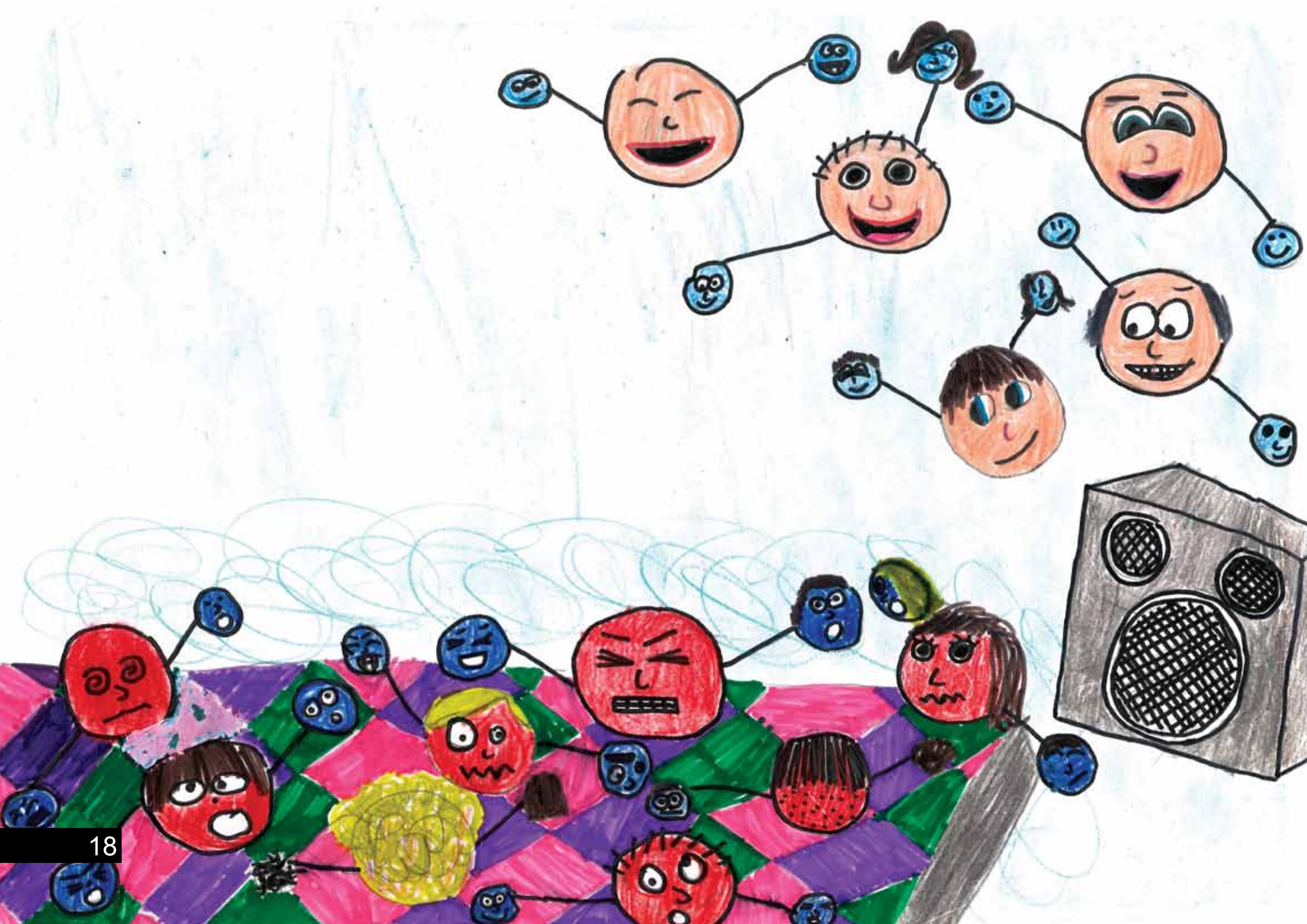
**Lots of little carbon atoms were meeting
up with oxygen atoms.**

Life was good.



It was like one big party.

But then something happened.

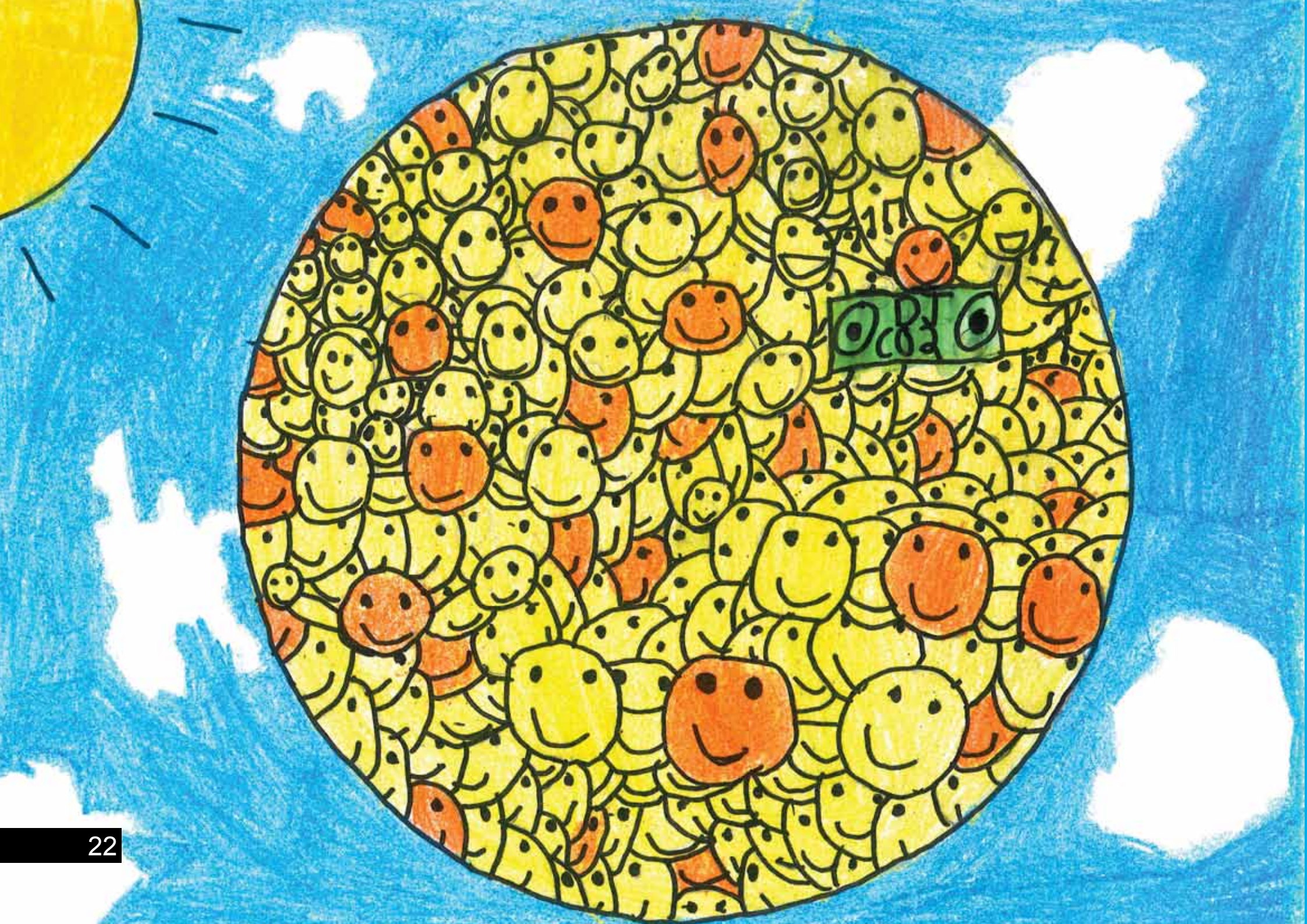


The party was getting too big, the dance floor was getting too crowded, the music was getting too loud and the dance moves were getting too fast.

But still the CO₂ atoms kept coming.



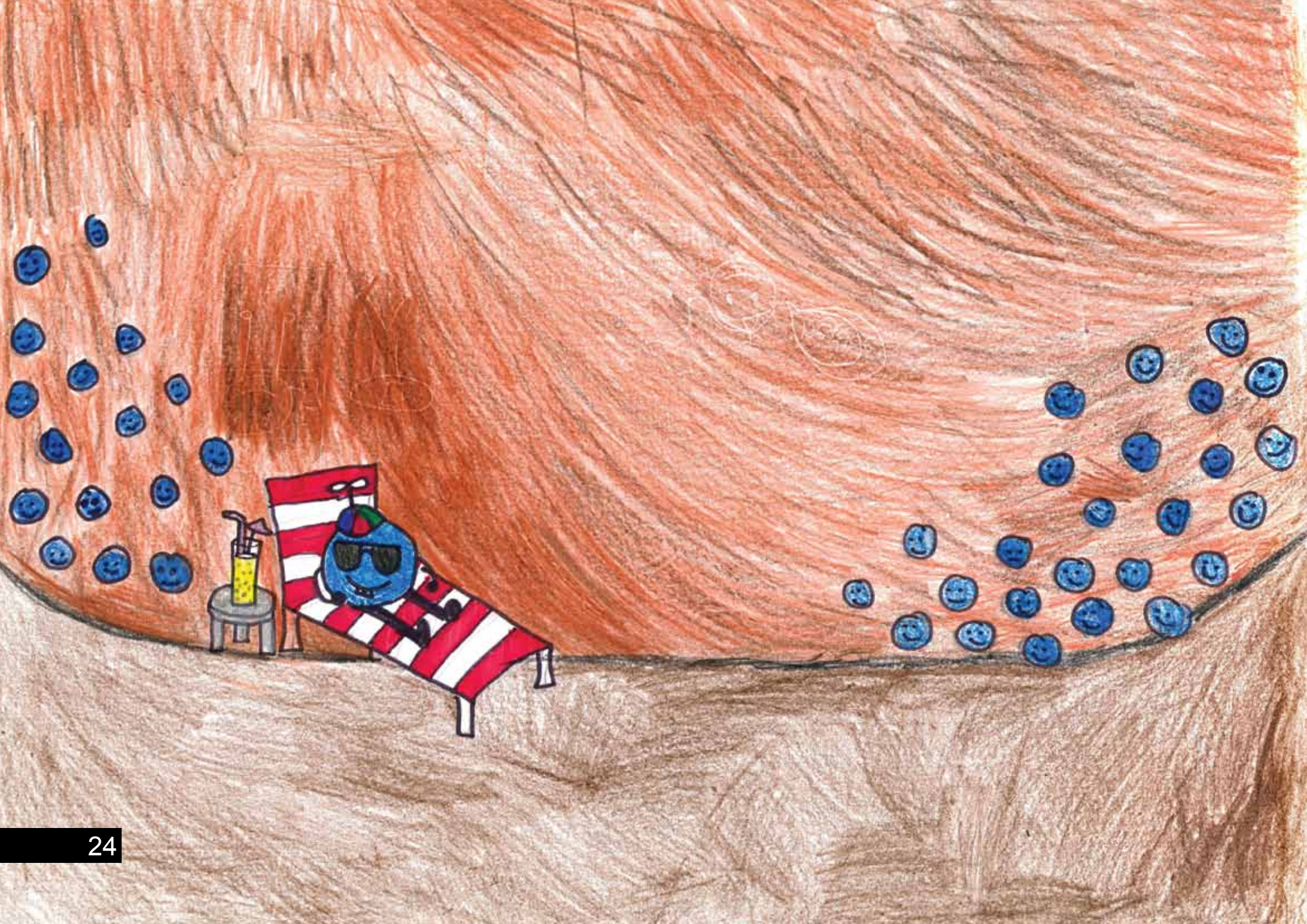
The Little Carbon Atom was not happy anymore.



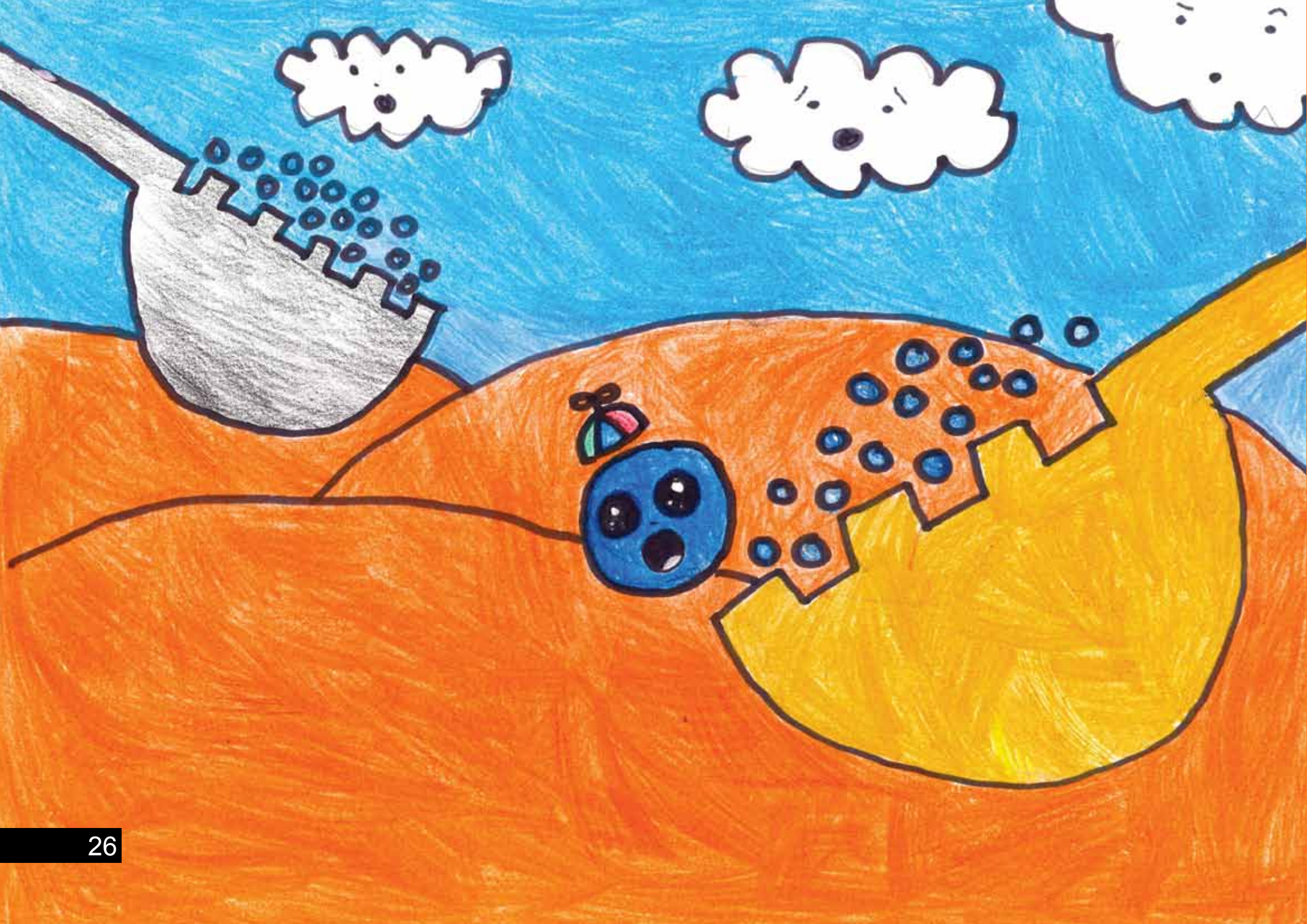
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

Meanwhile, some clever people noticed the out of control party that was happening above their heads and decided to hatch a plan.

They wanted to save other carbon atoms from the same fate as the Little Carbon Atom.



About the same time, there was another little carbon atom called Adom who used to be crammed in the ground with lots of other carbon atoms.



**But now he had been disturbed from his aimless life
by a machine that decided to scoop him out of
the ground and dump him into the back of a truck
with complete strangers.**



Adom was extremely frightened!

As were most of the atoms in the truck marked “Oxyfuel”.



**After a long trip all of the little atoms were dumped
into a tank and covered with hot oxygen.**

The hot oxygen atoms were pulling and grabbing at Adom.

He felt as if everyone wanted a piece of him!

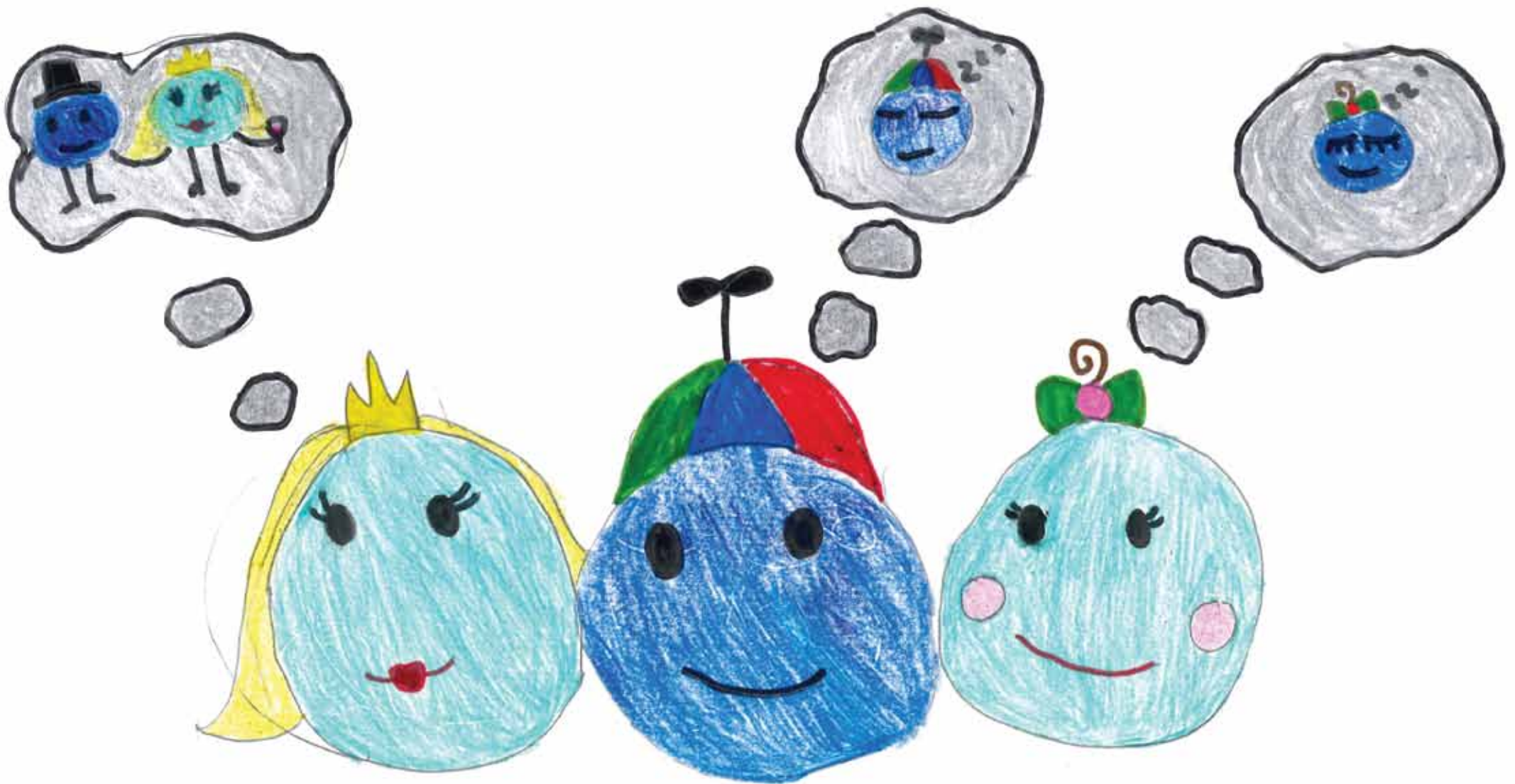


After awhile the feeling stopped.

**He looked to his left and right and realised he
was attached to two hot oxygen atoms.**

He was no longer unhappy.

**They floated around with the steam,
wondering what would happen next.**



**Adom thought he would finally be able to
rest after his extremely long day.**

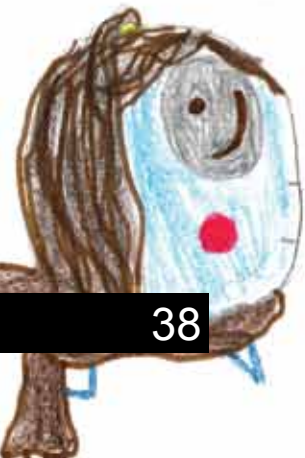
But unfortunately, his day was far from over ...



All of a sudden, he and his two oxygen friends felt like they were being pulled into a vacuum cleaner.

However, when Adom looked around he saw he and his friends were in a huge pipe, surrounded by other carbon and oxygen atoms.

He was going to wave at the others, but he felt too scared.



**Adom was being forced down for
what seemed like an eternity.**

**It suddenly occurred to him that he was extremely cold
and he had to put on his new beanie and scarf.**



**A long time later the temperature soared
so high he hastily put on his shades,
sun-screen and singlet.**



At times along the pipe Adom was completely squished between other atoms and other times he had loads of space to himself.

All the while he was wondering when his journey would end.



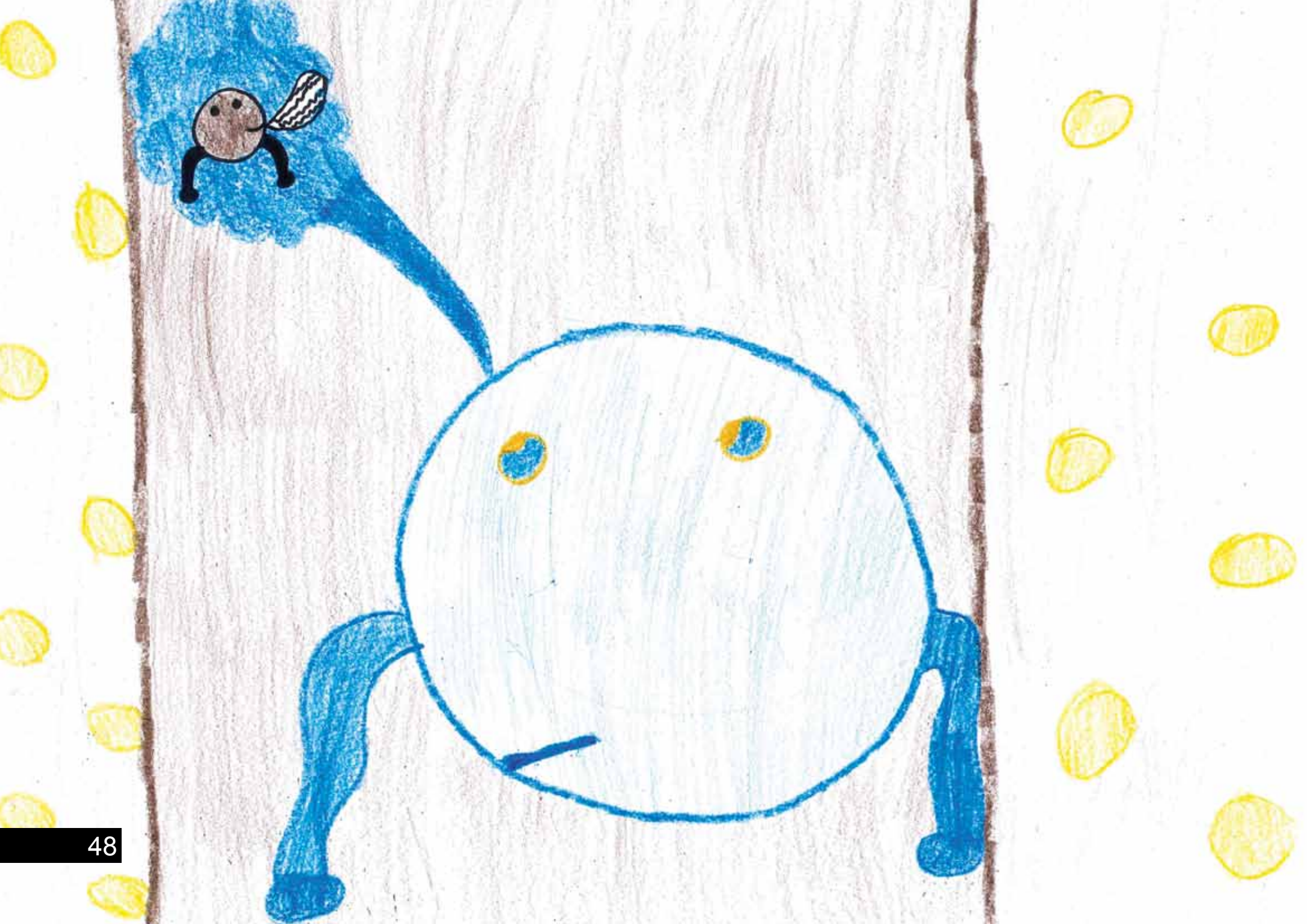
I think we're going to an empty oil mine!

**Adom was still travelling through the pipe when
he heard another carbon atom say
“I think we’re going to an empty gas field”.**



Adom wondered why they were going there.

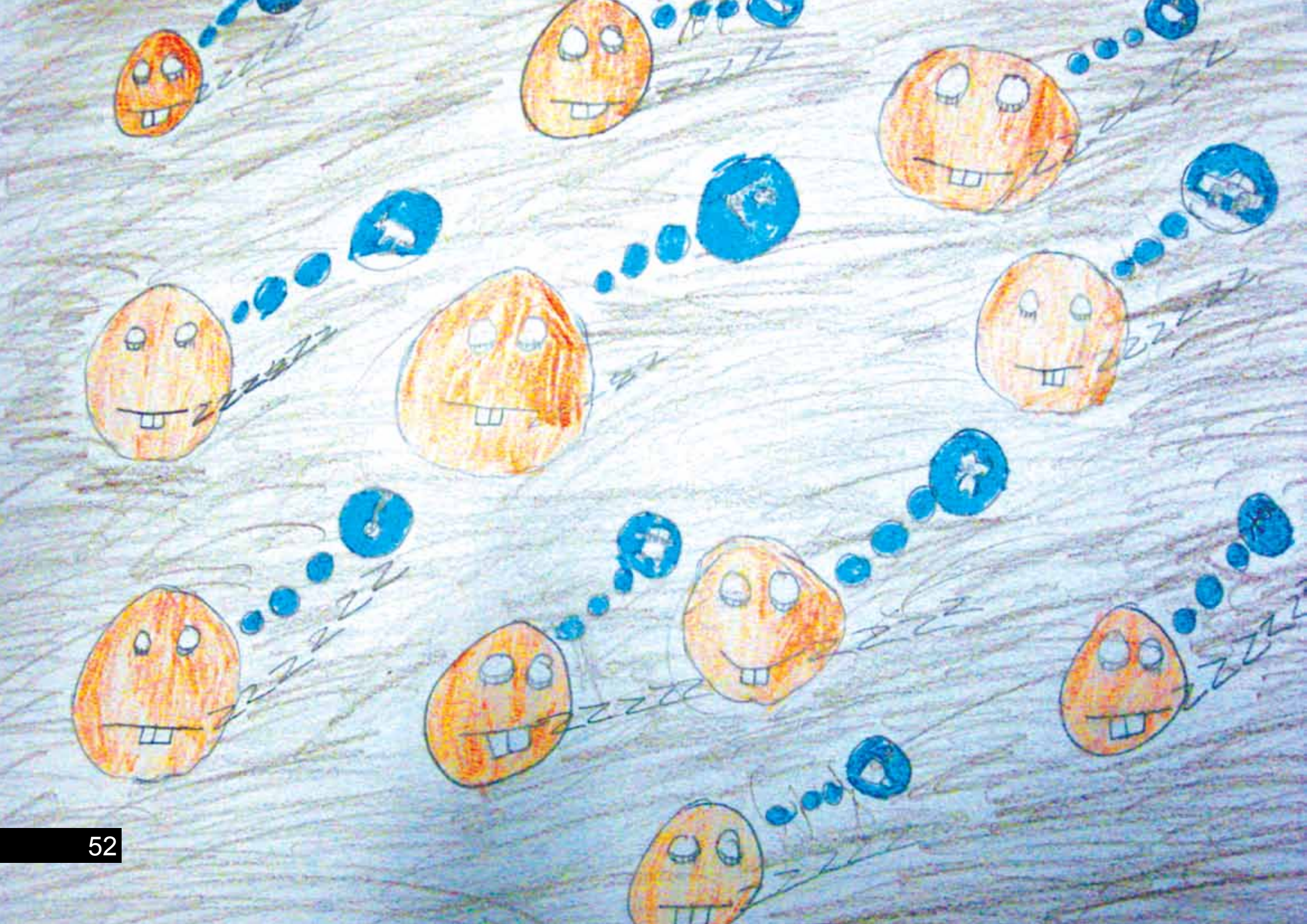
**Then he remembered something his father told him before
he went to explore the atmosphere.**



**For as long as he could remember,
Adom's dad had said,**

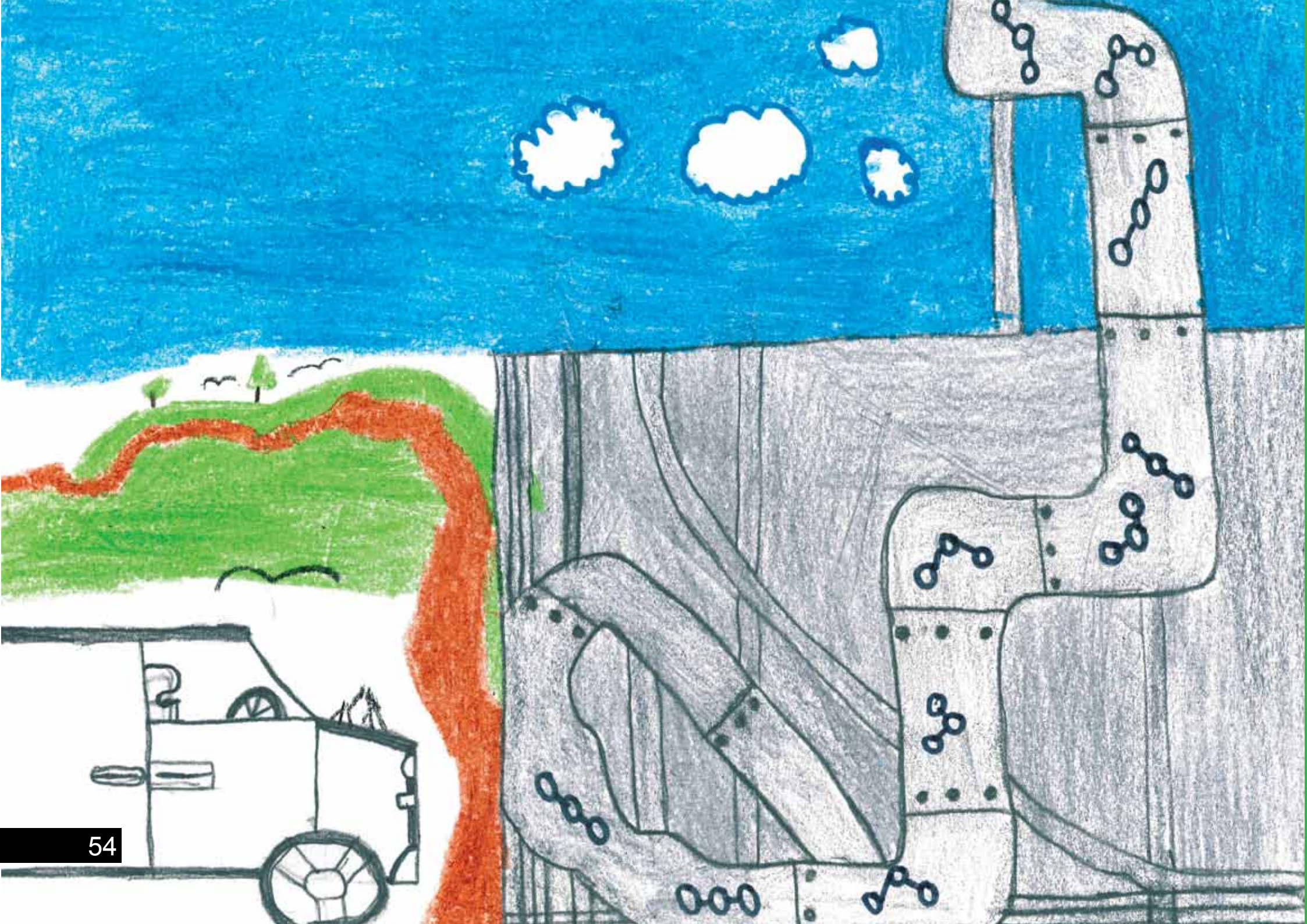


**“We are one of the most important parts of the earth.
Everything that has lived or is living is made up of us.”**



**To have such an important role involves
having a long rest.**

**For 360 million years we need to rest
underground to form coal.**



**After a very long day Adom knew his
journey was coming to an end.
He was about to go back underground.
Suddenly he had a feeling.**



The feeling of a hero, because he knew that after his very long rest he would become something that would help the humans and he would be able to complete this journey again.



The End

**No atoms were hurt during
the making of this book!**



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