

SILLY WISHES

and other funny poems



by
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Illustrations by
Helen Bar-Lev

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**For our children and grandchildren, Danny,
Guy, Alon, Maya, Yael, Eyal, Shanee
and Dana**

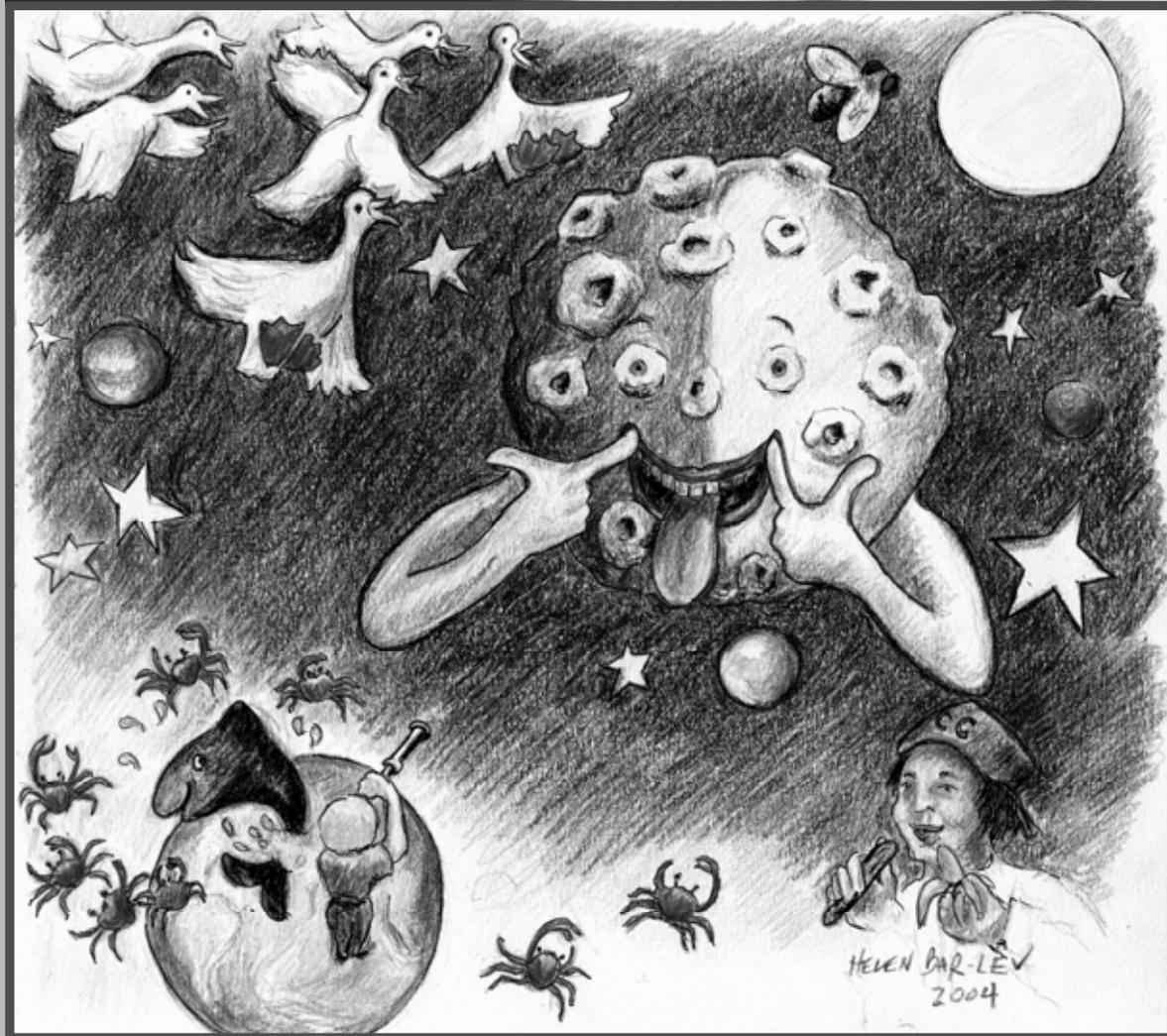
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*A
Daffy
Dance
Party*

HELEN HALL
2004

A

Six merry chimpanzees went to a dance
dressed in purple shirts that they bought last year in France
they wore bellboy hats and licorice pants
and ate banana marzipan while balancing on their hands

D

A pair of waltzing ostriches frowned at them from high
a careful camel moved aside while straightening his tie
a Doberman and a Dachshund exchanged disgusted glances
and muttered, they should ban these apes from coming to our dances

A

F

F

Y

Twelve performing fleas who were sleeping in the rug
climbed up on the chimps' backs and gave their ears a tug
then the chimps started scratching and jumping even faster
and they fell into a bowl of punch which caused a right disaster

Two cumbersome hippos who'd been waiting for a drink
got punch all down their trousers, which turned a frightful pink
they backed away so suddenly they bumped into a boar
who upset a cabbage salad which fell straight onto the floor

D

A

N

C

E

A lazy goat who up till then was sitting in the corner
saw the lady hippo slipping and shouted out to warn her
she turned away but then she stumbled on a piece of slaw
and sat down on two turtles who were coming in the door

The disc jockey, a walrus, shouted, come on now my hearties,
let's all join in and make tonight the best of swimming parties
so fill your glasses to the top and let's all drink a toast
to the wettest dancing party that's ever graced this coast

P

A

R

T

Y

No sooner said than done, a grinning beaver grabbed a bucket
and threw the contents at the DJ, who deftly tried to duck it
and two brown kangaroos who were sitting on the sofa flirting
were suddenly surprised to get a strawberry milkshake squirting

The chimps then got excited and jumped on the chandelier
and started hosing everyone with foamy ginger beer
and some rabbits who really got fed up of being splashed and sprayed
filled a tub and had a lovely swim in lukewarm lemonade

And as the night went on, the party kept on getting wetter
which made the jovial DJ feel that life couldn't be better
for all the sloppy, watery mess, the gurgling commotion
made the walrus feel quite back at home inside the heaving ocean



*A
Funny
Goat
Dream*



A FUNNY GOAT DREAM

**Godfrey the goat had a dream one night
that woke him up, so he turned on the light
but as hard as he tried to remember the dream
the details kept running away from him
so he emptied his head out on to the ground
and started to sort through what he found
and to make sure there was nothing that he missed
he picked up a pencil and made a list
and here's what he found...**



**One old rhyme that he'd completely forgotten
about wooly pajamas (or was it cotton?)
a chewed up multiplication table
which explained why at maths he wasn't so able
three jokes about Englishmen and Scots in some other land
the point of which he didn't understand
two telephone numbers that he'd learnt off by heart
useless now since they'd changed how they start
rules about which way to cross the street
and stuff about closing your mouth when you eat...
a few new words to God Save the Queen
some nasty things he'd said that he didn't mean
several lies he'd told that sounded quite neat
and some secrets he'd promised not to repeat
but of that funny dream there wasn't a trace
and now in his head there was lots of space**

**.....so he turned off the light and went back to bed
and woke up in the morning with this rhyme in his head**

HEVLEY
2004

*Fun
at
the
Movies*



**F
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M
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V
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S**

**Two silly-billy little hedgehogs
went to a movie in the mall
dressed in their best pink and blue togs,
they bought a popcorn that was so tall
they couldn't see the screen at all
so they stood up on their back feet
on top of the folded up seat**

**Some rabbits behind started to frown
and complained loudly, 'please sit down
none of us can see the show
you're not made of glass you know'
so they put the popcorn on the floor, but you can guess..
it fell right over and made a mess**

**In the row behind the rabbits sat a duck
who at all this noise began to cluck
'why do you rabbits have to shout?
I can't hear at all what the movie's about'
Behind the duck were sitting three parrots
eating lettuce and chomping on carrots
who got fed up at all this talking
and pretty soon they started squawking**

**Then the trouble really let loose
as behind the parrots was sitting a goose
who poked the parrots with her walking stick
making them start to wriggle and kick**

**The duck got a parrot foot on her back
so she stood up and started to smack
but she smacked the rabbits by mistake
making them start to tremble and shake**

**So the rabbits stood up and left the hall
and the hedgehogs threw popcorn at them all
and three little froggies started to bawl
and nobody saw the movie at all**



The Animals'

Fancy Dress Party



The Animals' Fancy Dress Party

Oh what fun, I'm most excited
To a fancy dress party I've been invited
It's at half past two down at the zoo
Perhaps you'd like to come along too?
We'll watch the animals try to recognize themselves
Despite their clever attempts to disguise themselves

So here we are, it's extremely amusing
All those fancy dresses are quite confusing
But I intend to discover who's really who
I'm not all that baffled, what about you?

Here's an interesting colorful fellow
Dressed like a parrot, all green and yellow
But just take a look at the size of his beak
And that bag underneath it in which he could keep
A huge load of haddock or a bag full of kippers
And his feet, large and flat are all webby like flippers

Take a guess who this is, think you can risk it?
He's all dressed up as a chocolate biscuit
But in spite of his efforts to look flat and round
He's really quite long and curled up on the ground
If you watch for a while you're bound to find
That sooner or later he'll start to unwind



I'm sure that this character's not what she seems
She's all dressed up like a tin of baked beans
Watch out! Those beans have started jumping
Maybe they're Mexican beans or something
Wrong, this girl's from the other side of the world
And her big strong tail has now unfurled
And some little fellow inside her front pouch
Is throwing those beans at me, stop it now, ouch!

Standing there in the corner's a very strange couple
Both so alike, they're each other's double
They're all dressed up in spotted pajamas
But instead of the cakes they're eating bananas
Both are jumping and scratching, and doing gimmicks
What one does the other mimics

Well I'm having fun I have to confess
I never seen a nicer fancy dress
But I'm having one problem I must admit
which makes me giggle a little bit
I peeked in the mirror to comb my hair
and what I saw made me stop and stare...

Two long ears grew out of my head
My tail twitched round like a hairy thread
Some funny long teeth stuck out of my jaw
And I couldn't stop braying hee haw hee haw



A Little Planet Rhyme



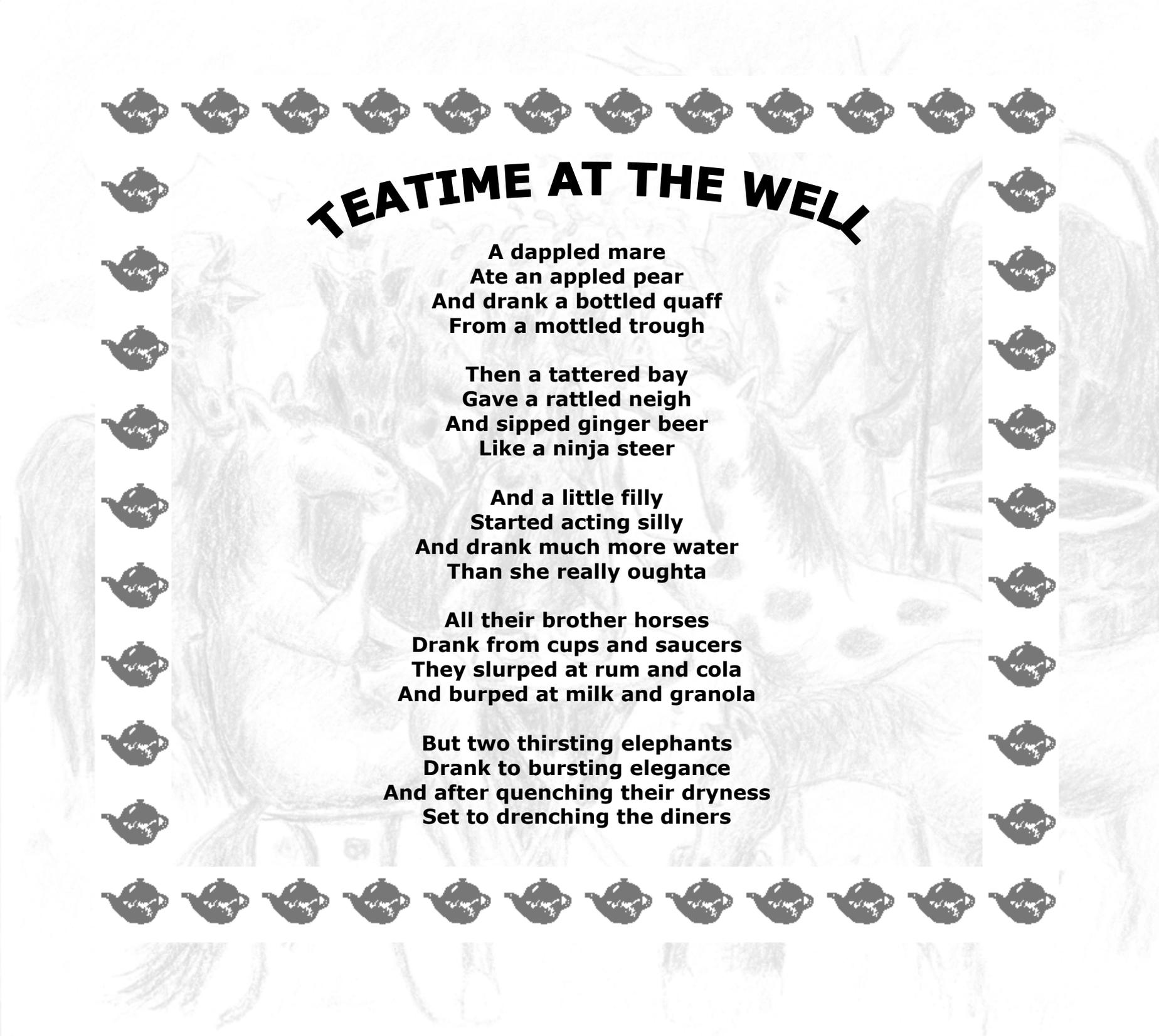
A Little Planet Rhyme

Teddy Tadpole as a rule
was always the smartest kid at school
he could do sums with both eyes closed
and finish his homework while he dozed
history for him was a piece of cake
dates that he forgot he could always fake
but suddenly one strange day last September
the names of the planets he couldn't remember
so to make sure he'd not forget them the next time
he made up this funny little planets rhyme:

Mercury is number one
a baby planet close to mother sun
after Mercury comes planet Venus
whose blind green eyes have never seen us
then comes Earth, that's us you know
where all the toffee apples grow
after Earth, and fourth, comes Mars
whose cooking's much tastier than Pa's
Jupiter's a monstrous ball
he's the biggest planet of them all
Saturn's number six, that's easy,
as her rings make you quite dizzy
I wish someone could explain us
why number seven is called Uranus
The next planet I always forget
oh, yes, Neptune, whose sea gets you wet
last comes Pluto, he's a doggie, isn't he?
if you don't believe, just ask Walt Disney
Well, that's all, what a pity
there aren't new planets to add to this ditty

Teatime at the Well





TEATIME AT THE WELL

**A dappled mare
Ate an appled pear
And drank a bottled quaff
From a mottled trough**

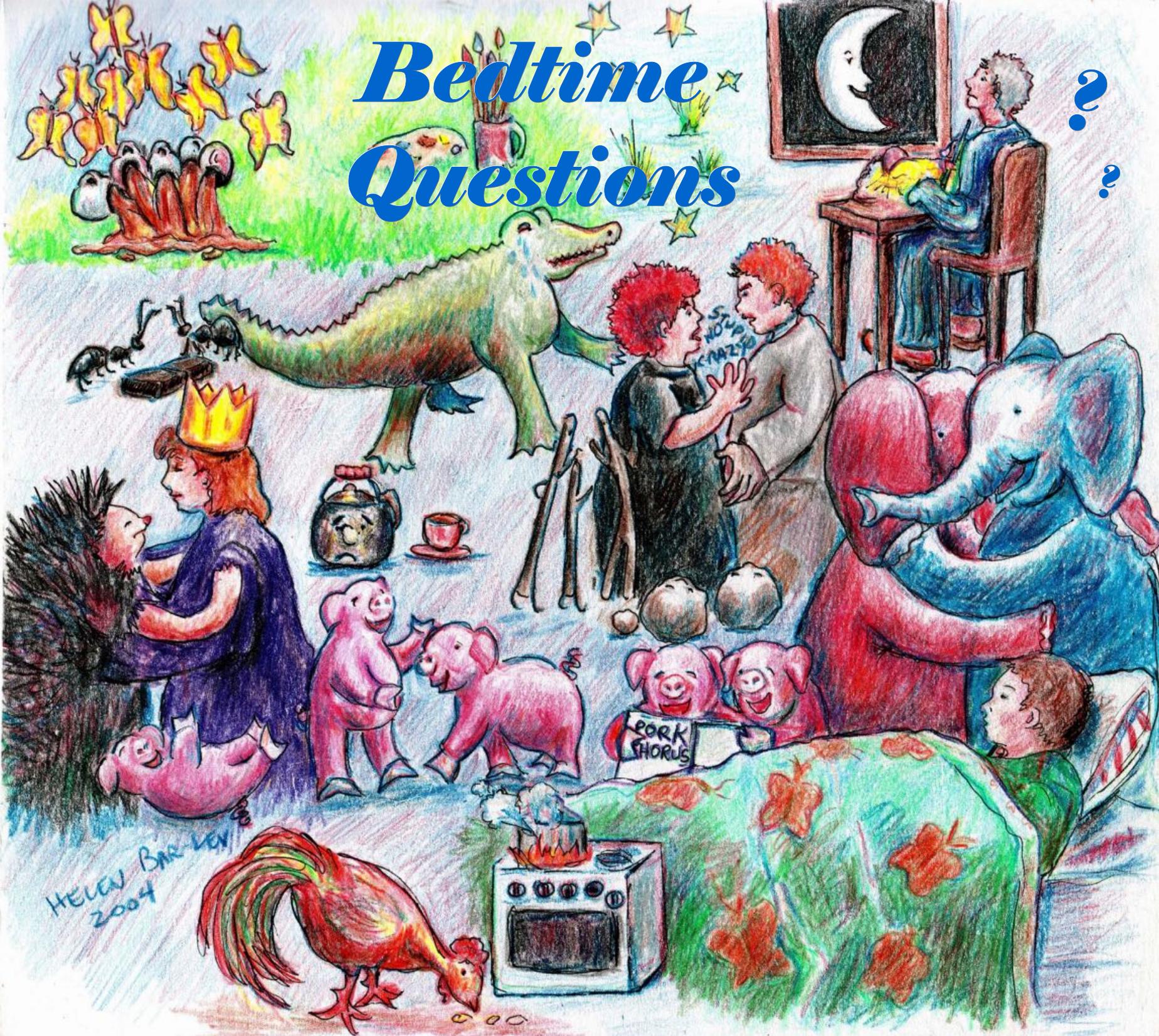
**Then a tattered bay
Gave a rattled neigh
And sipped ginger beer
Like a ninja steer**

**And a little filly
Started acting silly
And drank much more water
Than she really oughta**

**All their brother horses
Drank from cups and saucers
They slurped at rum and cola
And burped at milk and granola**

**But two thirsting elephants
Drank to bursting elegance
And after quenching their dryness
Set to drenching the diners**

Bedtime Questions



HELEN BAR-LEV
2004

BEDTIME QUESTIONS

How many tears does the crocodile cry
When he's on his way to the sea in the sky?
How many elephants waltzing in June
Could turn on the lamps of the raspberry moon?

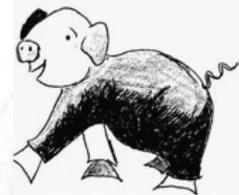
How many piglets cavorting in glee
Could sing the pork chorus and dance happily?
How many butterflies bouncing so free
Could cause all the cups to pour saucers of tea?

What would the rooster say supposing he knew
That all the chickens had been cooked in the stew?
What would the ants do if they had a clue
That all the chocolate was coated with glue?

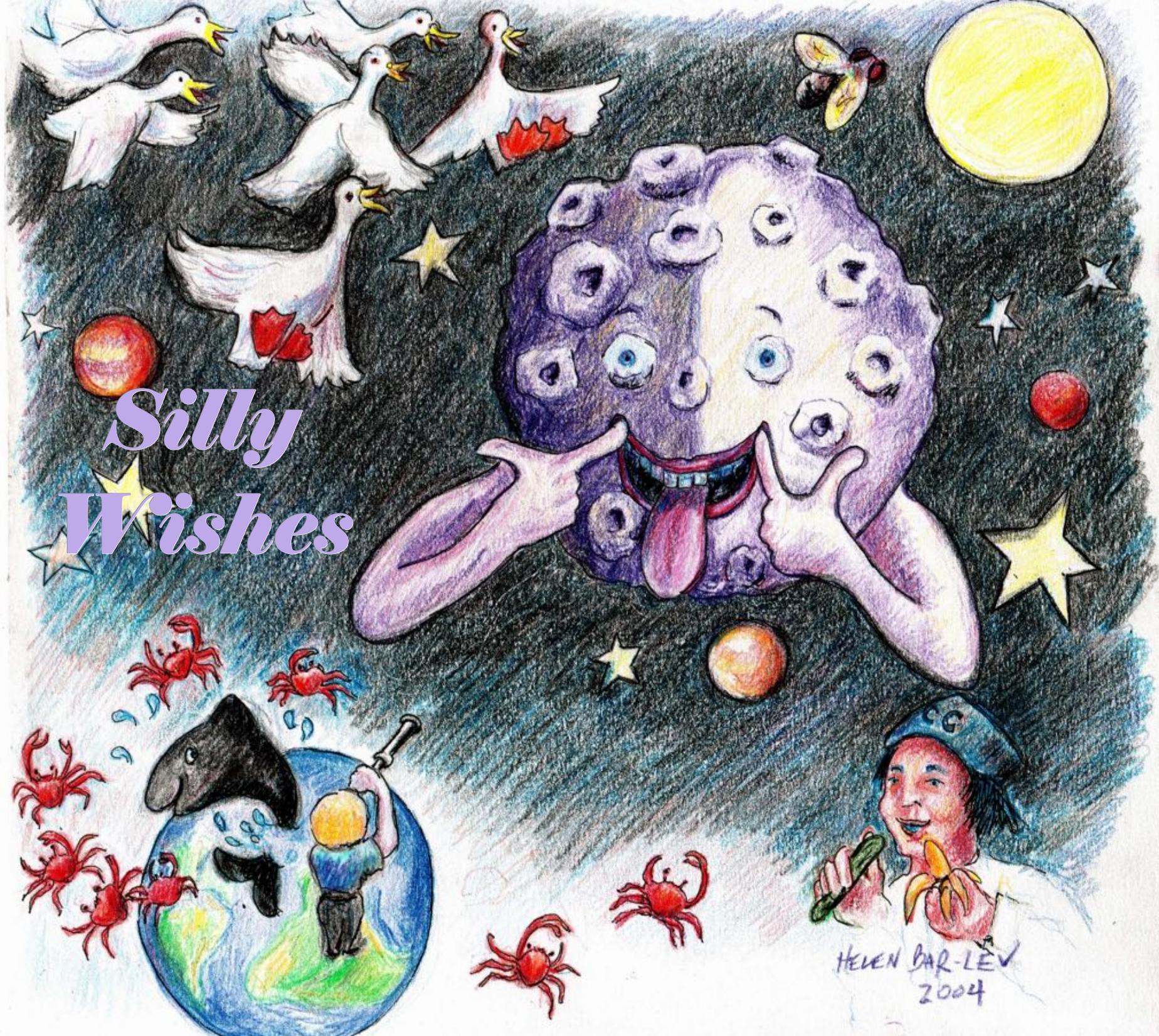
What would the moon say to all those old charmers
Who write poems about her while still in pajamas?
What would the sticks and the stones do to harm us
If they but knew that it takes words to alarm us?

How could the grass know if it's really green
If all God's paintbrushes weren't on the scene?
How would the kettle know where the tea's been
After the porcupine danced with the queen?

Why are old horses always called Ned
Why is God's name not supposed to be said?
Why do the questions go round in my head
Just when its time to be going to bed?



*Silly
Wishes*



HELEN BAR-LEV
2004

**S
I
L
L
Y**

**If I were a fly
I'd fly so high into the sky
that the sun would fry me to a frizzle
and wild geese would cackle at my sizzle**

**If I were a question mark
I'd pose riddles just for a lark
and make up millions of quizzes
with many more isn'ts than is's**

**If I were a whale in the ocean
I'd make such a din and commotion
that I'd wake lazy crabs who as a rule
are usually late for school**

**If I were a stocking
I'd do things so shocking
that old fashioned ladies and men
would never ever wear me again**

**If I were a double-decker sandwich
I'd start giggling in gibberish language
that would stop children gobbling to mutter
this avocado tastes like peanut butter**

**If I were the man in the moon
I'd pull faces and pretty soon
some amateur astronomer ignoramus
would discover me and become world famous**

**If I were Christopher Columbus
I'd eat bananas with cucumbers
and solve the often-asked question
why Americans have so much indigestion**

**W
I
S
H
E
S**

Funny Forest Animals



FUNNY FOREST ANIMALS

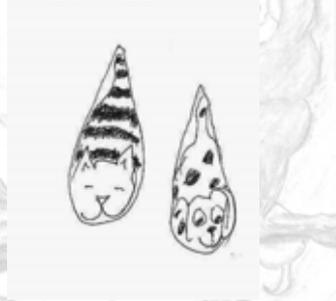
Perched on a twig
sat a tubby old pig
singing hey twiddle twaddle
and oink fam fum
when a clockwork alligator
who was munching a potato
passed by humming and drumming
wiggle waggle, piggle pobble
and tim tam tum

Then an owl who was snoring
and a lion who was roaring
syncopated gruffly wuffly
in the beehive branches
and this shook a caterpillar
and a purple armadillo
who was trembling rather roughly
while wobbling on his haunches

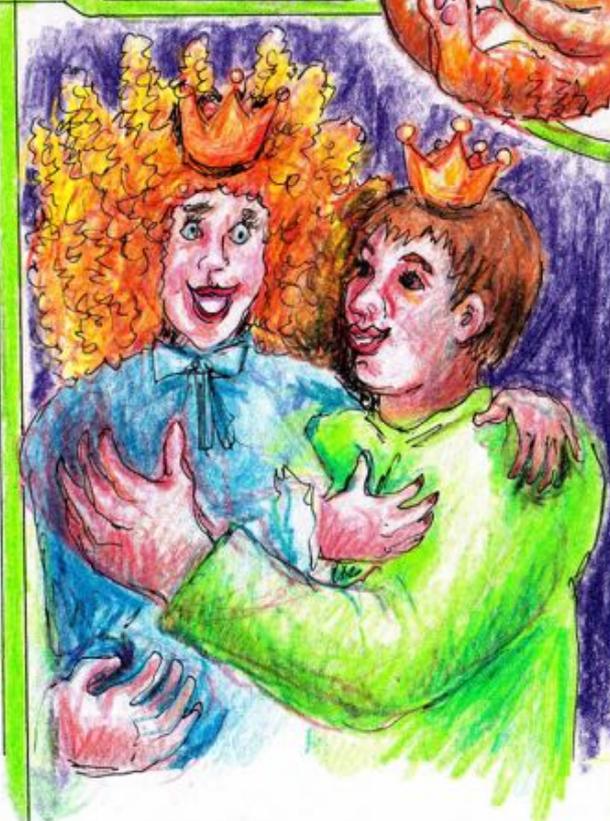
Under the ground
in a chocolate colored mound
crouched a little old mole
who was having his lunch
he complained like a parrot
while chomping at his carrot
I can't even hear myself nibble or crunch
and my false teeth are shaking
at all the noise they're making
it's hard to find another carrot to munch

Then a cloud passing by
who was jogging through the sky
heard all this frightful din
and couldn't hide a grin
and he couldn't stop giggling
when his throat started tickling
cos' he didn't know whether to laugh or cry

Then his tummy shook with laughter
as they all sounded dafter
than an orchestra of hogs
or a barrel load of frogs
but all the noise ear rending
came to a sudden ending
when it started raining cats and dogs!



Royal Antics Before Breakfast





ROYAL ANTICS BEFORE BREAKFAST

The princess the frog and the cat
were lying on the bed

When the frog pulled the blanket
the cat fell on the floor

When the princess pulled the blanket
the frog started to snore

So she prodded him in the back
and he faced the other way

For a while he stopped his snoring
but her prodding kept ignoring

So she pulled him back towards her
and he turned into a prince

And he hugged her to reward her
- they've been hugging ever since

And what about the cat
who'd been banished to the mat?

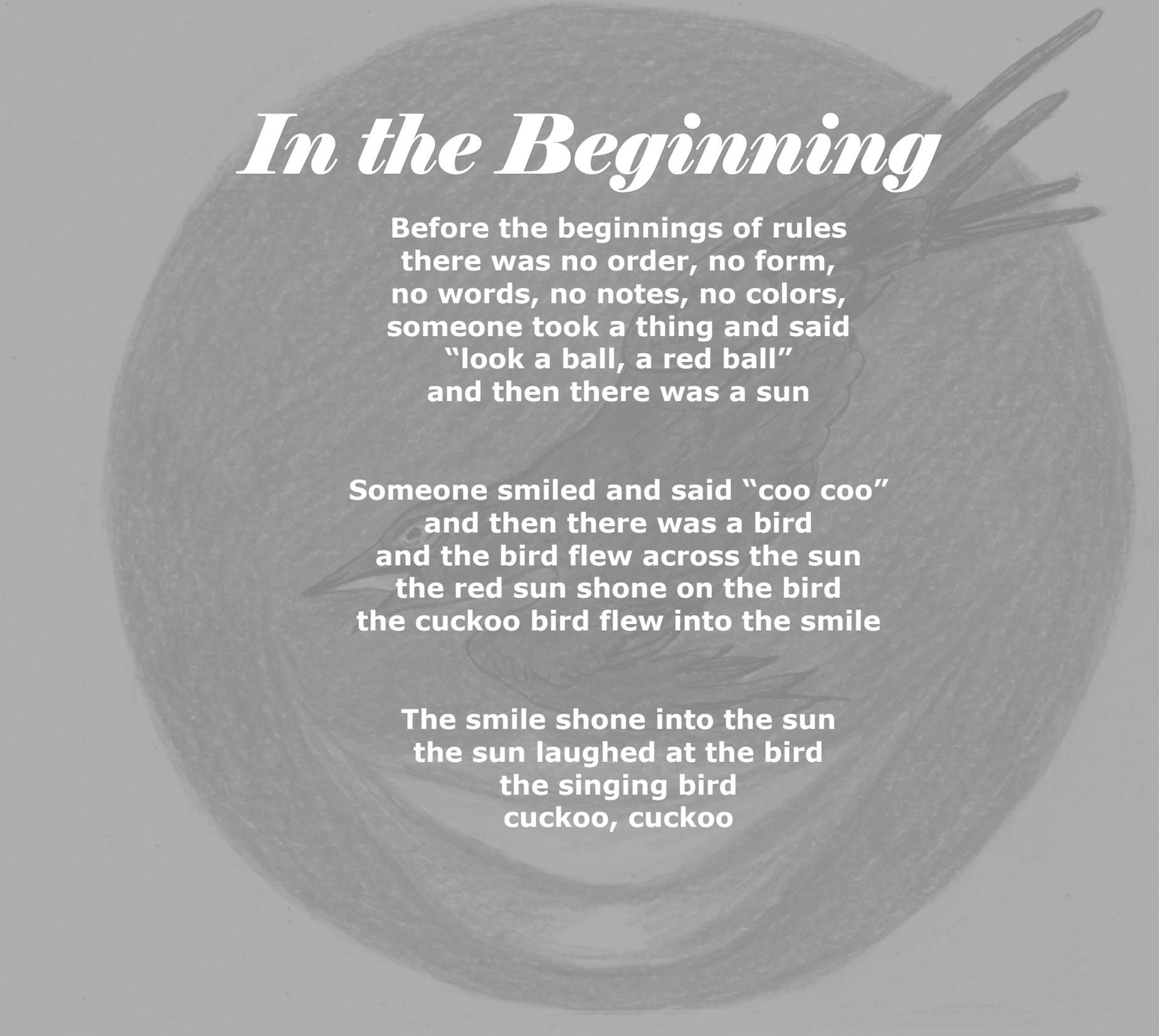
He'd missed his breakfast once again
and there's not much fun in that

So that's all the telling I can bear
the end of this small ditty

About a very happy royal pair
and a very hungry kitty

In the Beginning





In the Beginning

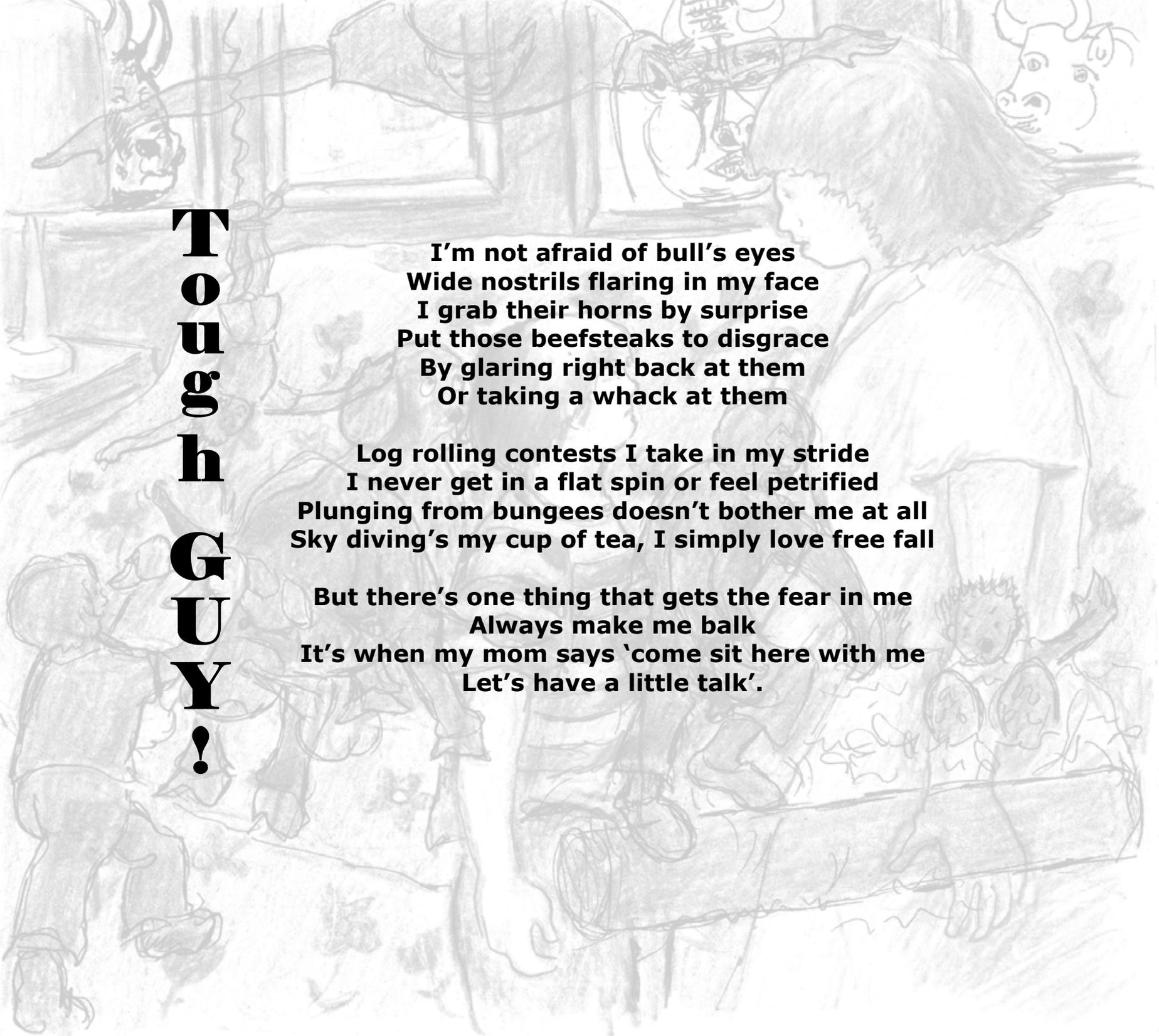
**Before the beginnings of rules
there was no order, no form,
no words, no notes, no colors,
someone took a thing and said
"look a ball, a red ball"
and then there was a sun**

**Someone smiled and said "coo coo"
and then there was a bird
and the bird flew across the sun
the red sun shone on the bird
the cuckoo bird flew into the smile**

**The smile shone into the sun
the sun laughed at the bird
the singing bird
cuckoo, cuckoo**

Tough Guy!





T o u g h G U Y !

**I'm not afraid of bull's eyes
Wide nostrils flaring in my face
I grab their horns by surprise
Put those beefsteaks to disgrace
By glaring right back at them
Or taking a whack at them**

**Log rolling contests I take in my stride
I never get in a flat spin or feel petrified
Plunging from bungees doesn't bother me at all
Sky diving's my cup of tea, I simply love free fall**

**But there's one thing that gets the fear in me
Always make me balk
It's when my mom says 'come sit here with me
Let's have a little talk'.**

A vibrant, textured illustration in a style reminiscent of watercolor or pastel. The scene is set outdoors with a blue sky and green grass. In the upper left, three rabbits are visible: two are pink and one is white with black spots. A large brown bear is in the center, looking towards the right. In the foreground, a girl with large white eyes and a pink hat is looking towards the viewer. To the right, a clown with a red nose and a red and white striped hat is visible. The overall composition is whimsical and playful.

*Wind Cloud
Circus*



WIND CLOUD CIRCUS



Faces in the clouds

forever changing

rolling round transformations

circus tricks where

lions turn into wind trees

families of rabbits scuffle across snowfalls

donuts loop on jugglers' poles

bears climb over after sugar candy

..and curtains part for the briefest

photo album glimpse of a moon mother

hurrying across her appointment

crying it's late, it's late





Parrot Talk



PARROT TALK

**Mr. and Mrs. Parrot
Were having a chat
About this and that
On their branch after lunch**

**You won't believe this said Mr. P
Clicking his beak in evident glee
But I heard some kids say the other day
That parrots just repeat what others say
So how come he asked with a cackling squawk
I hear every day that kinda talk?**

**Sure beats me replied his wife
Never heard such nonsense in all my life
They really don't know what they're missin
Why don't they just shuddup and listen?**

*Sherlock
Holmes
and the Case
of the Itchy
Bumps*



*Single Handed
Against the
Chocolate
Thieves*



Singlehanded against the chocolate thieves

I'm a flying boy
On a rescue mission
To save the world
From a grave condition
Octopus monsters have declared a war
They're gobbling the planet's chocolate store

Go faster, go faster
I must prevent disaster
And act before it is too late
To save us from an unsweet fate

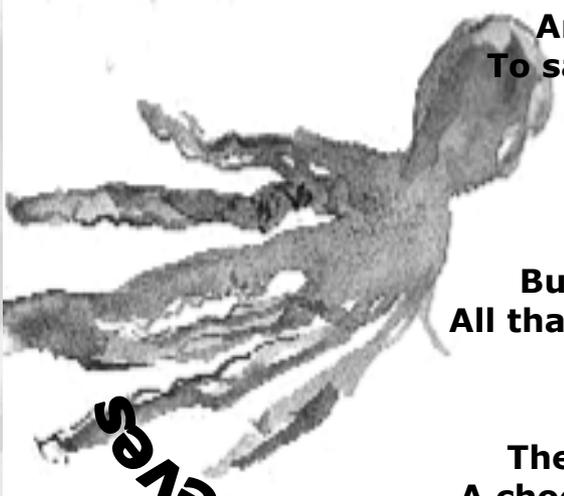
On a bombing raid
I dive straight at 'em
And then release
My secret weapon
Marshmallows and blueberry pies
Rain on those octopii by surprise

Go faster, go faster
I must prevent disaster
And act before it is too late
To save us from an unsweet fate

They see me coming
And quick as a wink
Turn their heads
And squirt with ink
But to the octopuses' dismay
All that comes out is chocolate spray

Hurray hurray
I've saved the day
The octopii are squirting away
A chocolate river runs down the hill
And everyone can drink their fill

Singlehanded against the chocolate thieves



MacGinger

Surprise





MacGINGER SURPRISE

**Tinsel and patchwork and candy floss flowers
nimble-toed eiderdowns, sugar-sweet showers
chocolate bunnies with rainbows for eyes
and fizzy Macginger surprise!**

**Tongue twisting riddles and licorice mazes
buttercup verses and dandelion daisies
three cornered circles and gossamer skies
and fizzy Macginger surprise!**

**Cloud flying crocodiles cry prickly tears
lemonade puppies with kitty-cat ears
pink meringue custard on crispy French fries
and fizzy Macginger surprise!**

**Giggling genies rubbed out of their lamps
Catherine wheel starfish and Oystershell clamps
whales that blow kisses and bubbles that rise
and fizzy Macginger surprise!**



Lollipop Lullaby



loliPOP LULLaby

**Whisk me away to the south of days
where three cornered hats perform gypsy plays
where wagon wheels bustle down autumn leaved ways
whisk me away to the south of days**

**Bounce me over the tumbleweed flats
where chestnuts are marbles and donkeys wear hats
where poodles do headstands and mats sit on cats
bounce me over the tumbleweed flats**

**Whistle me under a crooked old moon
where flats turn to sharps and frogs learn to croon
where summer nights sing a sweet raspberry tune
whistle me under a crooked old moon**

**Nibble my kneecaps and wobble my hips
with dandelion posies and rosy licked lips
where chocolate almonds eat coconut chips
nibble my kneecaps and wobble my hips**

**Pull up my blankets and tuck off the light
play cobweb music to spangle the night
let me peep a dream telescope in backward delight
pull up my blankets and tuck off the light**



The Upside Down Planet



**On the other side of the Milky Way
There's a world where night is lighter than day
Where the ground is up and the sky is down
Where the sand is green and the sea is brown
Where fish fly in the sky, birds swim in the sea
Where three's before two and A's after B
They call their world Boggly while chortling with mirth
And everything there is the opposite from Earth**

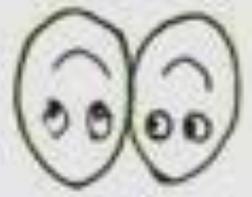
**Breakfast on Boggly is the evening meal
They spread toast on jam, eat oranges with peel
And on Friday, which on Boggly is the first day of the week,
They all speak Norwegian and think that it's Greek
Kids go to work, moms and dads go to school
And no one gets punished for playing the fool
They go barefoot in winter, wear boots in the summer,
And when the TV is broken they call for the plumber**

**The rules of Boggly are made by the kids
So there aren't many things that the law forbids
Not taking a bath isn't considered a sin
Watching TV till midnight is definitely in
Vegetables on Boggly don't have to be eaten
And marshmallows your bedtime can sweeten
Brushing your teeth is not really needed
And dentists' warnings don't have to be heeded**

**Everything's the wrong way around on Boggly
Fish and chips and hamburgers all taste like broccoli
But our upside-down is their down-side up
And their most ordinary things are all messed up
They wear their trousers inside-out
But call it outside-in without a doubt
They leave everything lying around higgledy-piggeldy
But on Boggly they call it boggeldy-biggeldy
They put their left shoes on their right feet
And eat their pudding before their meat**

**But the best thing about this funny world
Is that insults there are never hurled
They don't get angry at each other
As every Humpty is Dumpty's brother
And if they occasionally disagree
They don't blame each other like you and me
They never shout or scream or cry
But grin and proclaim
"You're right, not I"**

*the
Upside
down
planet*



paper



capers

PAPER Capers



Two origami figures
discarded in a bin
frustrated
incomplete
rustled into
conversation

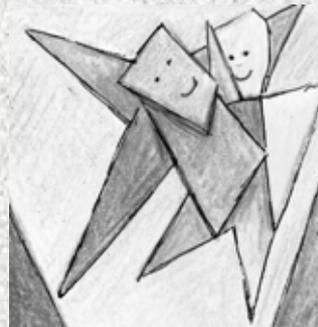
Hello who are you?
I'm a bird
but my wings are backward
I can't fly.
What are you?
I don't know
some kind of an animal
I guess, that got crumpled

Hey you know what?
let's refold each other

I'd like that

Look, undo this flap
put a new crease here
and here
now fold this way

Now it's your turn
bend
close back on yourself
open this way



Like this?
Yes, press here
Hey, maybe we could
join up?

Like this?
Yes
And this?
Yes
This is nice
Oh yes!
Just one more fold

Oh wow
a bird dog!

No silly
a pterodactyl



Toothpaste Blues





Toothpaste Blues

**Zing zang toothpaste
Crispy wispy minty taste
Just for fun can't they invent
Paste that doesn't taste of mint**

**How about hamburger flavor
With mustard pickle ketchup savor
Or paste that tastes like hot cross buns
You only use when Easter comes**

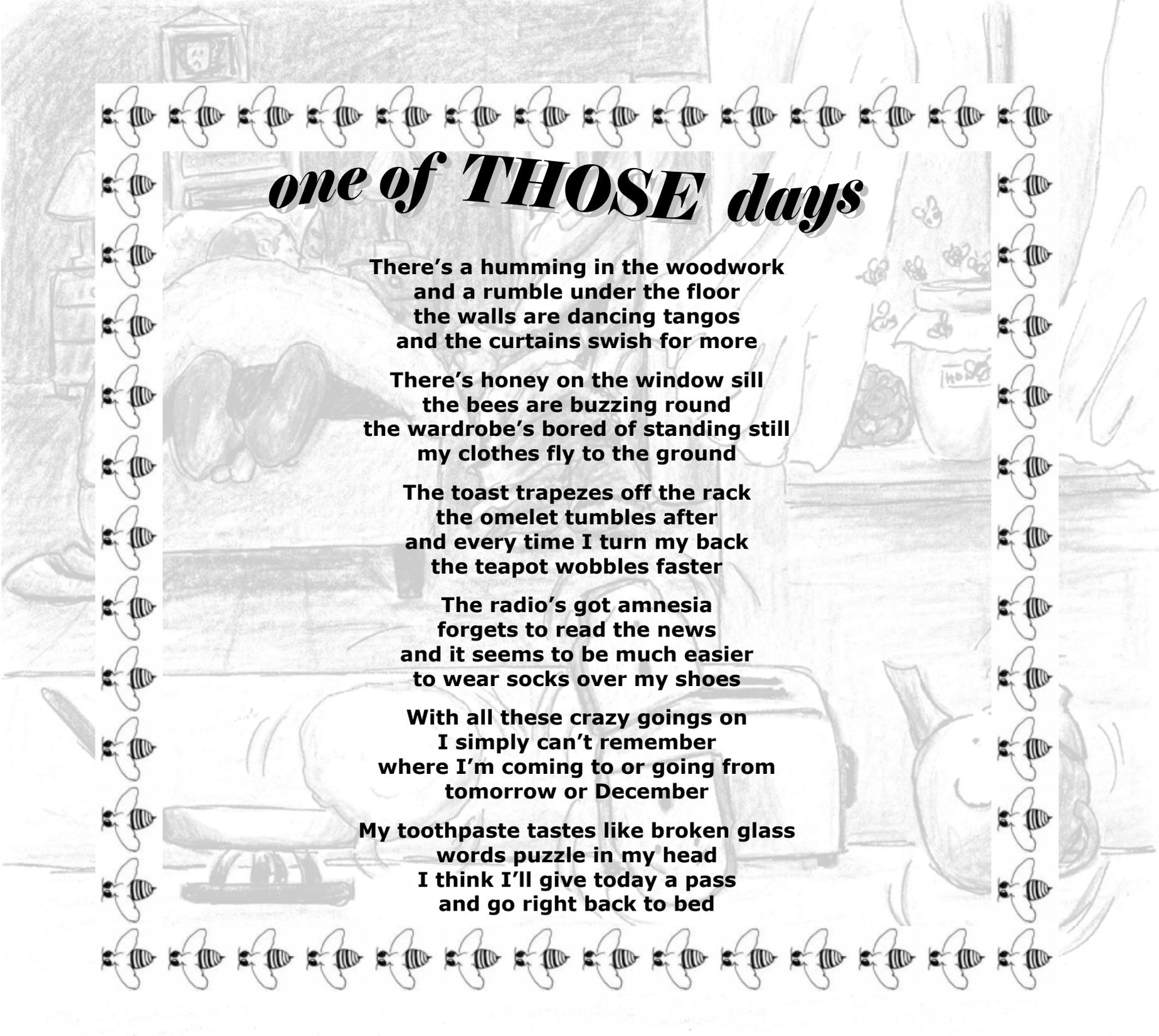
**Popcorn flavor would be fine
I'd brush each tooth eight times or nine
And spend the rest of every day
Rinsing those little bits away**

**What about boiled veggie gel
With broccoli or spinach smell
Nobody would ever use it
Even dentists would refuse it**

**In the end you might agree
that peppermint's best for you and me
Unless by some fantastic slip
They make a taste like chocolate chip**



One of Those Days



*one of **THOSE** days*

**There's a humming in the woodwork
and a rumble under the floor
the walls are dancing tangos
and the curtains swish for more**

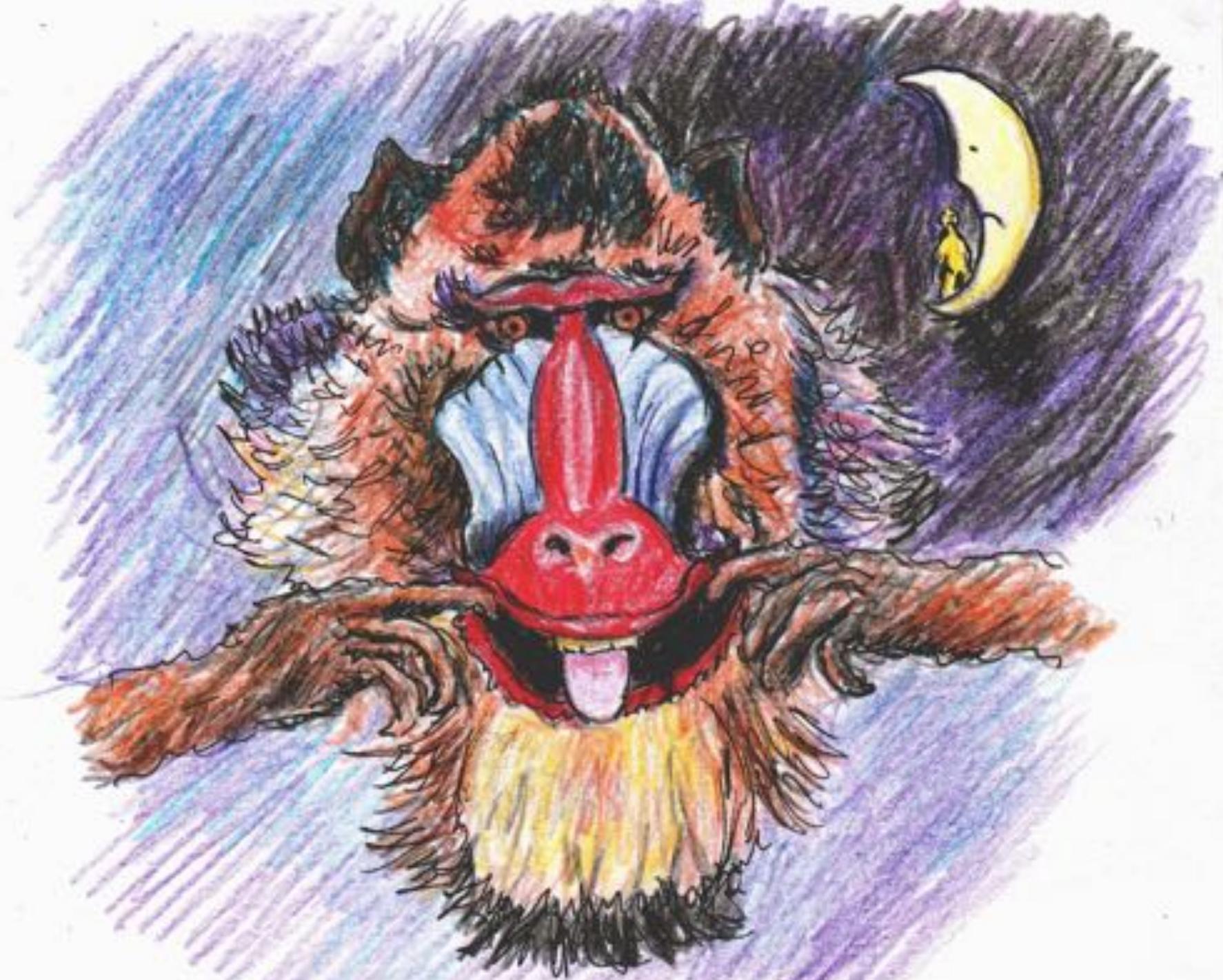
**There's honey on the window sill
the bees are buzzing round
the wardrobe's bored of standing still
my clothes fly to the ground**

**The toast trapezes off the rack
the omelet tumbles after
and every time I turn my back
the teapot wobbles faster**

**The radio's got amnesia
forgets to read the news
and it seems to be much easier
to wear socks over my shoes**

**With all these crazy goings on
I simply can't remember
where I'm coming to or going from
tomorrow or December**

**My toothpaste tastes like broken glass
words puzzle in my head
I think I'll give today a pass
and go right back to bed**



*The **Stick-Out Tongue** Song*

the stick-out



tongue song

**When you're standing on a cusp
your shadow behind the moon
leave your wretched feelings in the dusk
make like an amiable baboon
let your body brush the light
and amble on into delight**

**When things are going upside down
and you feel like you've just hurled
squeeze your face up into a frown
stick your tongue out at the world
let your body brush the light
and amble on into delight**

**Stick your tongue out in delight
and everything will be all right**





Lickety Split



**Timothy Tubbs was the school's fastest kid
Ran circles round others in all that he did
Lickety split he'd call out in glee
Lickety split you'll never catch me**



**Geometry problems he solved in a flash
History essays he wrote in a dash
Long division he did in his head
Lickety split it's so easy he said**

**He could swim twenty lengths before others did ten
And while we all rested he'd do it again
He could run like an ostrich, kick like a mule
Jump higher and longer than all in the school**

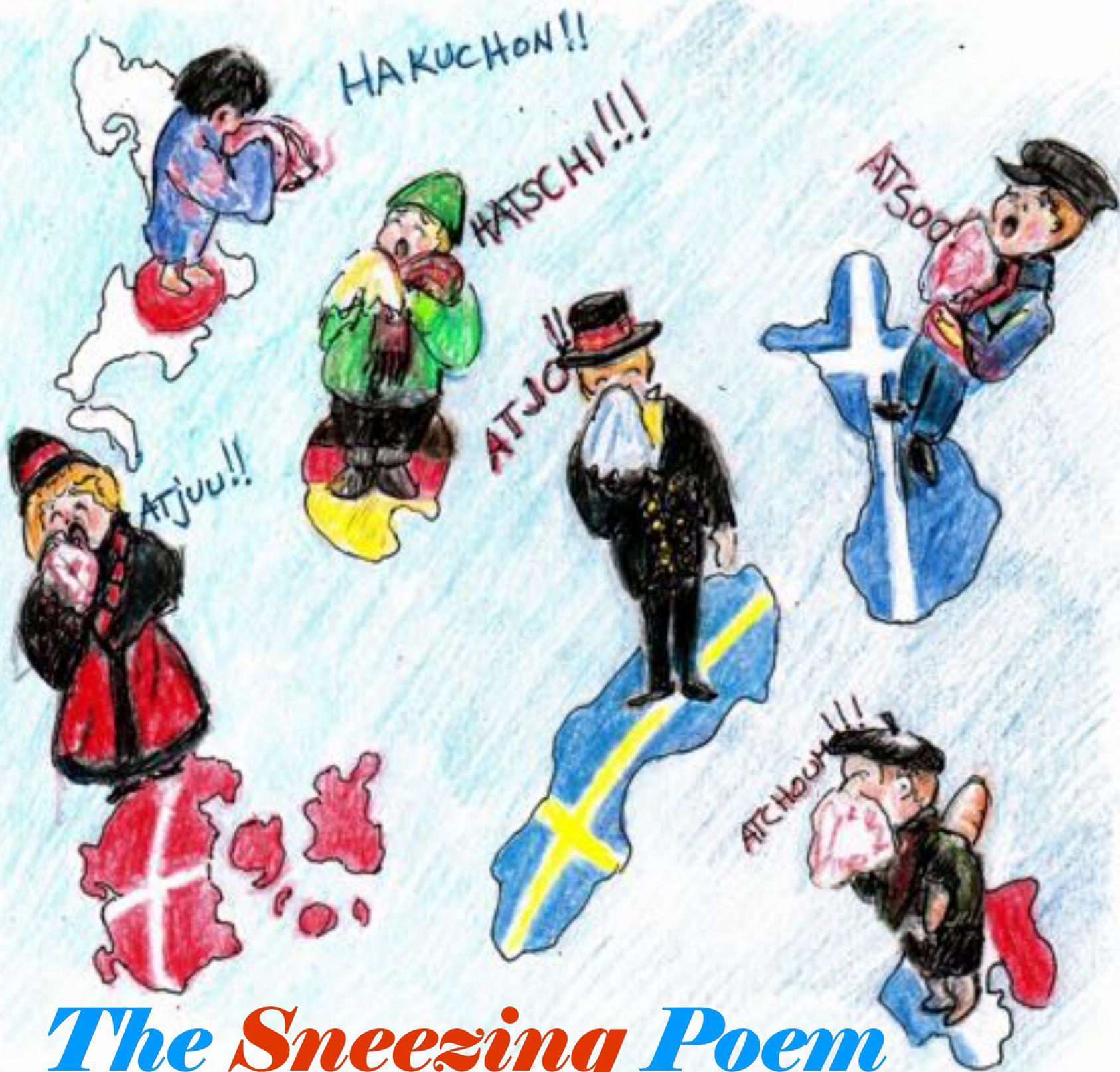


**As a joke we suggested that he race a train
That'll teach him a lesson, he won't brag again
But as we all waited expecting the worst
Lickety split, Timmy finished the first**

**So now we're all out there improving our speed
We practice each morning, fatigue we don't heed
We race through our homework, swim lengths in the pool
Lickety split we're the world's fastest school!**



Lickety Split



The Sneezing Poem

the sneezing poem

Sniveling saints, it's winter again
time to freeze in snow and rain
time to cough and time to wheeze
time to splutter, time to sneeze

But next time that you sneeze 'atchoo'
and someone near you says 'bless you'
or 'wipe your nose' or 'not again?'
just change your language and count to ten

In Denmark they sneeze out with 'Atjuu'
to which you say 'Prosit' in accents sexy
and in Finland they make a loud 'Atsoo'
and bless you with 'Terveysteeksi'

When they sneeze in France they go 'Atchoum'
that sounds just like a sonic boom
but an 'à tes souhaits' will change their mode
and dampen down their urge to explode

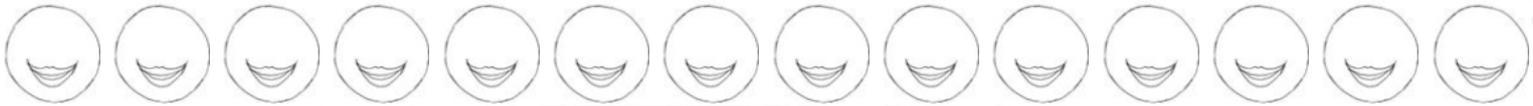
The Germans say 'hatschi' with all their might
to which you should respond gesundheit
while in Japan they sneeze 'Hakuchon'
to go round a frosty mulberry bush on

My book of records says one Arthur Grimes
could sneeze more than five hundred times
but it's my belief that this record so grand
he managed by peppering his hand!



Circles of Fun!





**Write a poem about a tree
said the man in the moon**

The blue child wrote:

**My grandfather is a tree
his roots are the words of the bible
his branches are the paths of our land
his fruit fills the sky indescribable
like circles in my mind**

The yellow child wrote:

**An ancient tree
felled in the fields
lies quietly in the grass
its age concentrically revealed
like circles in my mind**

The green child wrote:

**God gave man a tree
man made a knife, a saw
worked on the tree, worked, worked
the tree became a chair a door
a piano a hoop
so many toys man made, his tree
like circles in my mind**

The indigo child wrote:

**I couldn't sleep last night at all
I lay there in my thoughts
then remembered my favorite place
it is a tree of sorts
I climbed its branches to the sky
opened my ears right down to my toes
and heard other children laughing there
like circles in my mind**

Circles of mind

