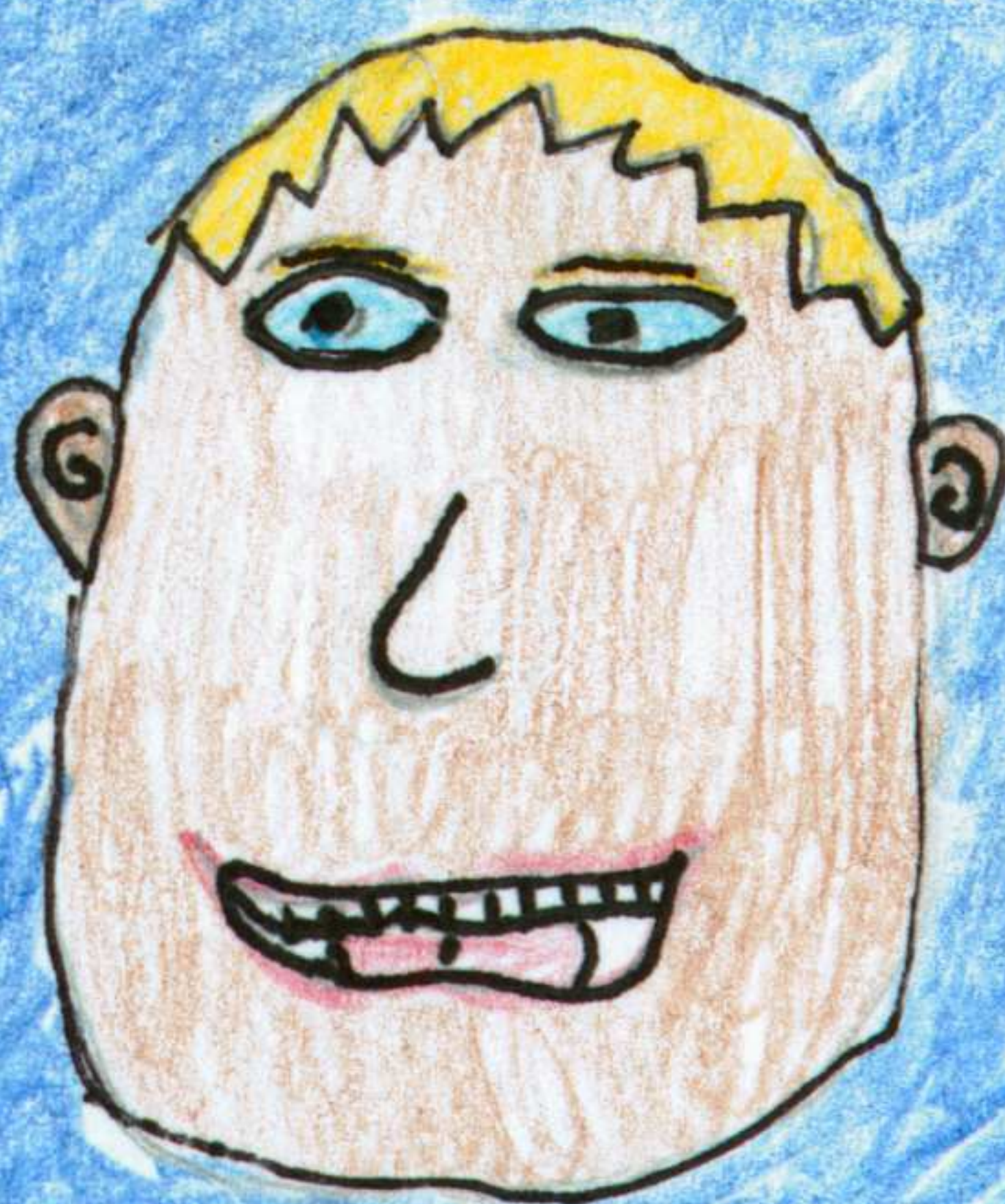


*When I Was Young
in Worthington: 1900s*

*The Life of
Charles Green*



*written and illustrated by
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We would like to dedicate this book to the sixth grade teachers of Granby Elementary. Mrs. Watson, Miss Wood, and Miss Swearengin. Without their help we wouldn't be able to do this project.

The year was 1903 and many new things were just coming out. Charles liked all of the new fashions, foods, and electronics. He could not go one day without the latest new foods – an ice cold Pepsi and a warm bowl of Kraft macaroni and cheese, extra cheesy. The Hershey's chocolate bar didn't really count as part of the meal, but it was more of a treat afterwards.



“Get me my food!” Charles Greene, at the age of eleven, screamed at his maid in his home on North Avenue in Worthington, Ohio. Charles lived in a big house with his extremely rich parents.

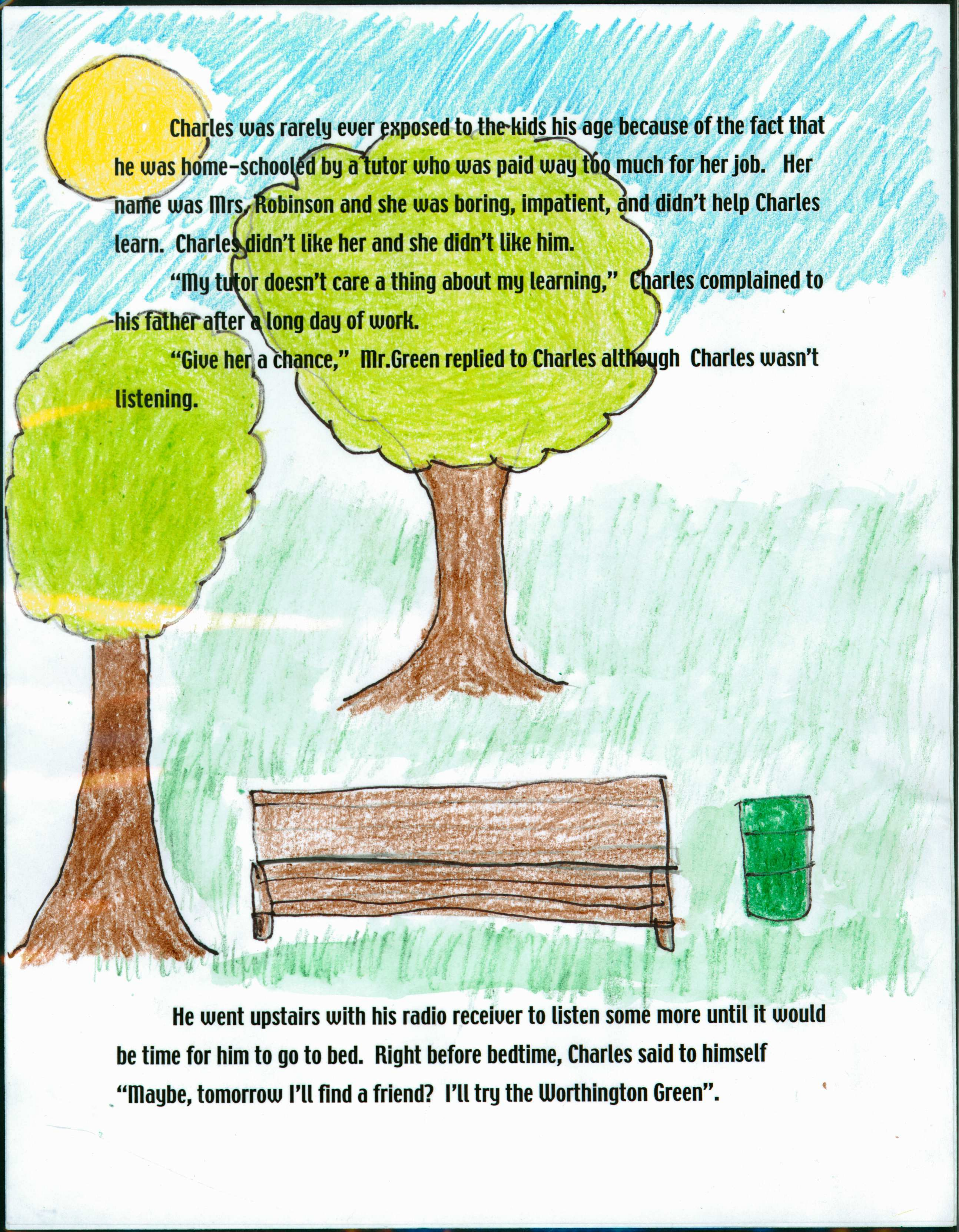
“Okay, okay, I`m coming. Hold your horses Charles,” replied the maid.

“ Well, I don't have all day!” he cried. The rich boy was very impatient.

“I`m sorry!” The maid said in a sarcastic voice.



When the meal was finished and Charles was full, he left the kitchen. Listening to the family's new radio receiver was what he liked to do most. He never really had a good friend. All the people he liked as a possible friend either didn't like him or just moved away. Charles had always tried his best to be nice, but always ended up being a snob. His method of finding a friend was showing off the latest new things, from clothes to electronics.



Charles was rarely ever exposed to the kids his age because of the fact that he was home-schooled by a tutor who was paid way too much for her job. Her name was Mrs. Robinson and she was boring, impatient, and didn't help Charles learn. Charles didn't like her and she didn't like him.

"My tutor doesn't care a thing about my learning," Charles complained to his father after a long day of work.

"Give her a chance," Mr. Green replied to Charles although Charles wasn't listening.

He went upstairs with his radio receiver to listen some more until it would be time for him to go to bed. Right before bedtime, Charles said to himself "Maybe, tomorrow I'll find a friend? I'll try the Worthington Green".



The next morning when Charles awoke, he discovered that he had overslept. His radio receiver was announcing the arrival of a new book called The Wizard of Oz.



As he went downstairs he noticed a small package on the sofa. He already knew what it was. It was his monthly birthday present from his Grandma. Grandma Green was very old and had a very bad memory span. Mr. Green has been planning to bury Grandma Green in the St. Johns Cemetery for quite a while now..... but she's is still living. Charles opened the present, it was a teddy bear. Teddy bears were quite popular during this time.

"Maybe this is my new friend I wished for," Charles said sarcastically. "A teddy bear..... honestly, doesn't she think I'm a little old for that?"



Charles looked at the newspaper. It seems that a group of kids broke into the Victorian House at 484 Washington Street. The Victorian House was a very nice house in Worthington with 28 rooms. He also read that there had been a serious car crash involving two Harley Davidsons motorcycles.



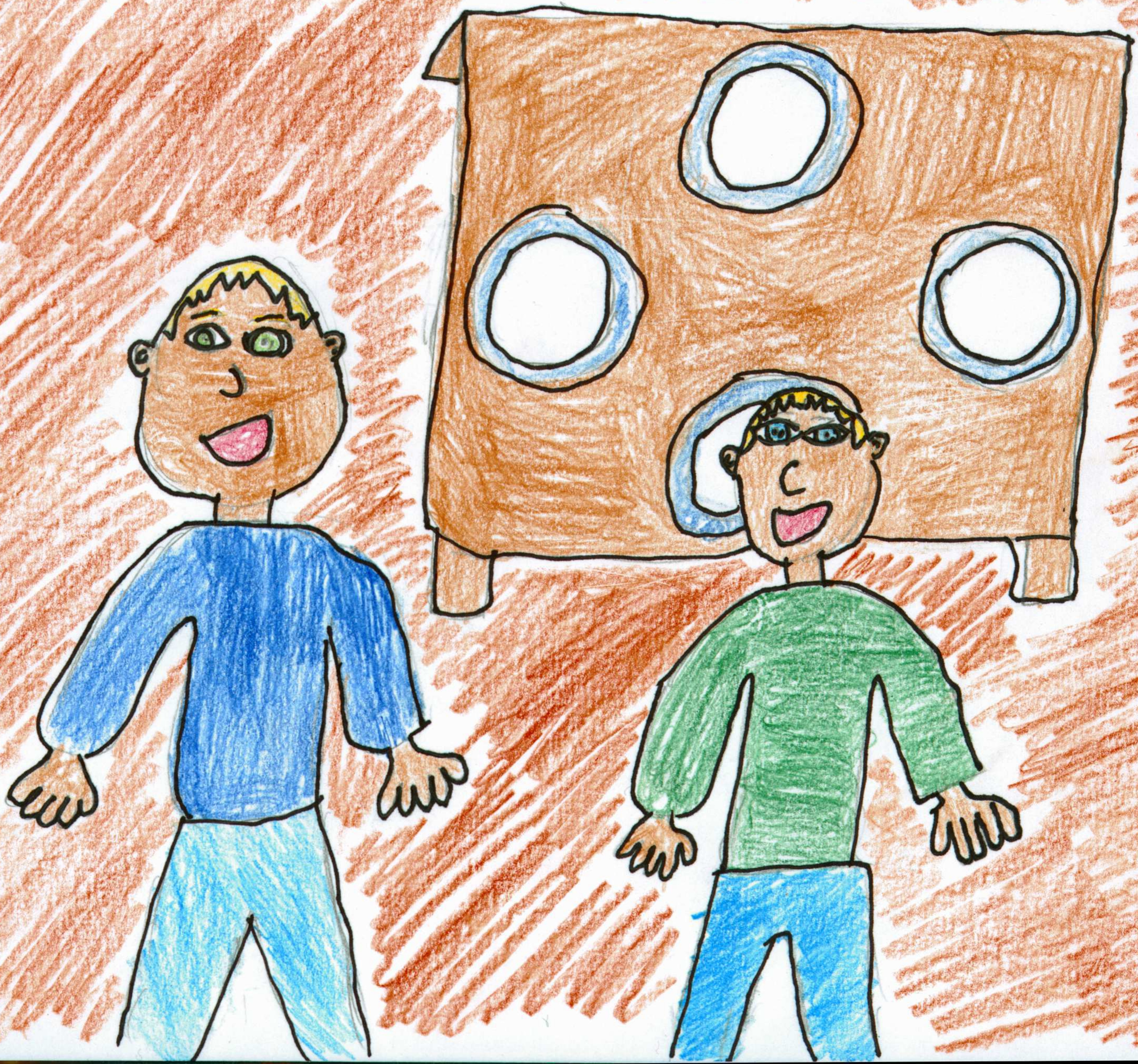
"Hey listen," his father said. "The new neighbors are moving in next door today. They have a girl about your age. I heard she's nice."

"Why would I care?" asked Charles.

"Maybe you should go over there and introduce yourself to her," Charles' dad replied.

"No thanks. I don't make friends with girls," Charles argued with his father.

"That tone will get you a free ride to your room! It would be nice if you went over to meet her," Mr. Green replied.



Surprisingly, Charles did as he was told. He started over to the new neighbor's house, but the girl ended up running into him before he got there.

"Hello," said the girl.

"Hi. What is your name?" Charles stared at the girl.

"Mary. How about you?" she asked.

"Charles."

"Hi Charles. What a funny name."

Once Charles heard her make fun of his name, he just let it out.

"Oh, well I wish you never moved here!" Then Charles turned around to go inside and eat a snack. His father came in and yelled at Charles for not being nice to the new girl. He made Charles go back outside to apologize.

"Sorry," he said with his fingers crossed behind his back.

"Yeah right! Like you mean it," said Mary as she walked away.

Charles growled. "Fine then," he said.



So he went inside and lied to his father saying, "I apologized Father."

"Good job, Son," replied Mr. Green.

Charles then went to his room. He sat on his bed depressed, wondering how he could get Mary to like him. Soon he went downstairs and ate dinner with his father.

His father said "Do you like our new neighbor?"

"No," said Charles lying.



That night Charles couldn't sleep. He was thinking about the new neighbor. He desperately wanted to see her again. He hoped he would meet her again at the Worthington Library where he was being privately tutored.



The next morning, after he skipped breakfast, he arrived at the library hoping to see Mary again. He spotted her!

"Mary, over here!"

Just then the librarian turned and hushed him.

"Sorry!" he apologized.



Charles walked over to Mary and started talking at a nervous pace. "So, huh. what's new?"

"CHARLES!!!" His tutor yelled, "What are you doing? You're wasting time..... valuable learning time!" Mrs. Robinson screeched. "Get over here now!" Mrs. Robinson had a very short fuse for wasting valuable "learning" time. She made class go extra long that day.

Finally after class, Charles was relieved. Outside the library as he was walking home, he saw Mary.

"Hey Charles," she said. "Do you want to go skip rocks in the Olentangy?"

Charles couldn't keep back a smile. He had made a friend. Mary liked Charles and Charles liked Mary. They became the best of friends in Worthington.

