

A Great Turnaround



Will Charles
Narrabri Public School



Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for primary schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2012, the “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about life on the farm. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Australian Government’s Caring for our Country, Central West and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authorities and Cotton Australia.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Australian Government’s Caring for our Country

Caring for our Country is one way the Australian Government funds environmental management of our natural resources by supporting communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia’s natural environment and sustainability.

www.nrm.gov.au

Central West CMA

The Central West CMA is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA strives for balanced production and conservation within resilient landscapes. The catchment is located in northern New South Wales, just west of the Great Diving Range.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia’s cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in New South Wales and Queensland.

www.cottonaustralia.com.au

A Great Turnaround

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The “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program consists of the following books:

Sponsored by Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and Caring for our Country

- Fluffy’s Getting Shorn
- A Great Turnaround
- The New Farm
- The Farmer Changes His Ways
- I Own it All
- Drought and Flooding Rains

Sponsored by Central West CMA

- My Life on a Sheep Farm
- A Weekend on our Farm
- Farm Animals
- Life on the Farm

Sponsored by both the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and the Central West CMA

- Euchareena School Gardening

Sponsored by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

- Hoot the Owl Saves the Day
- Our Farms are Our Future
- Life as a Sheep
- What we have on Farms

Sponsored by Cotton Australia

- Cotton on ‘Koramba’

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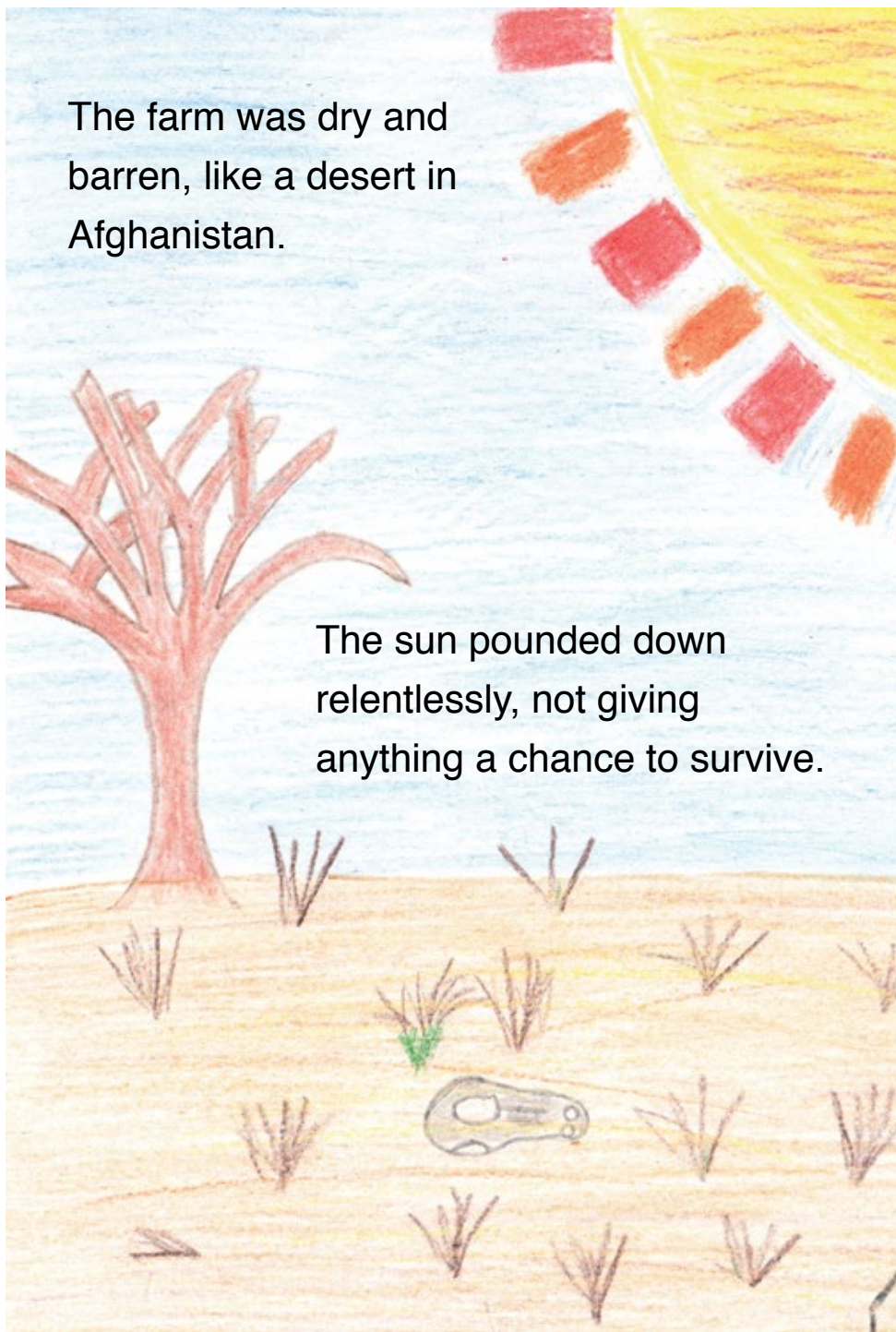
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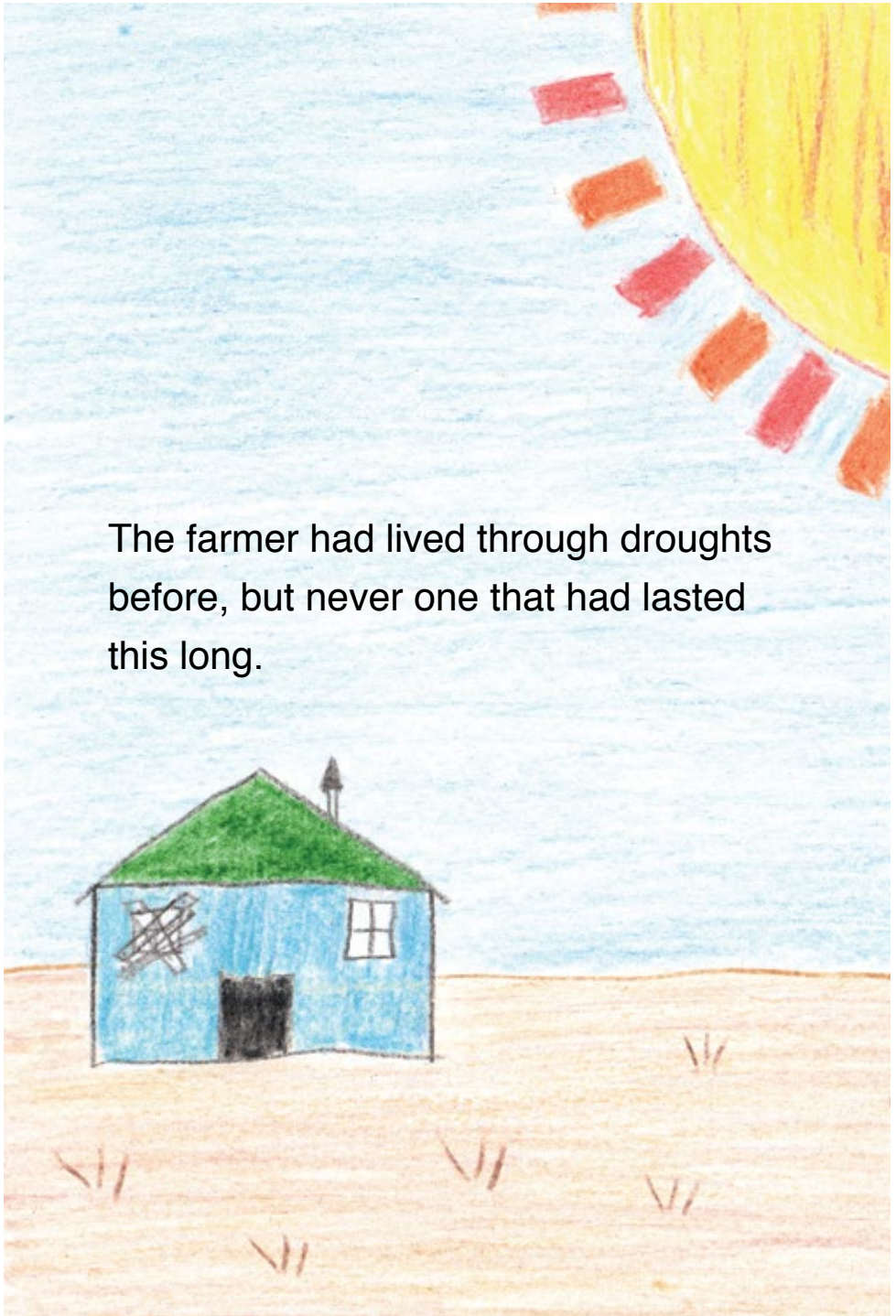
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The farm was dry and barren, like a desert in Afghanistan.

The sun pounded down relentlessly, not giving anything a chance to survive.

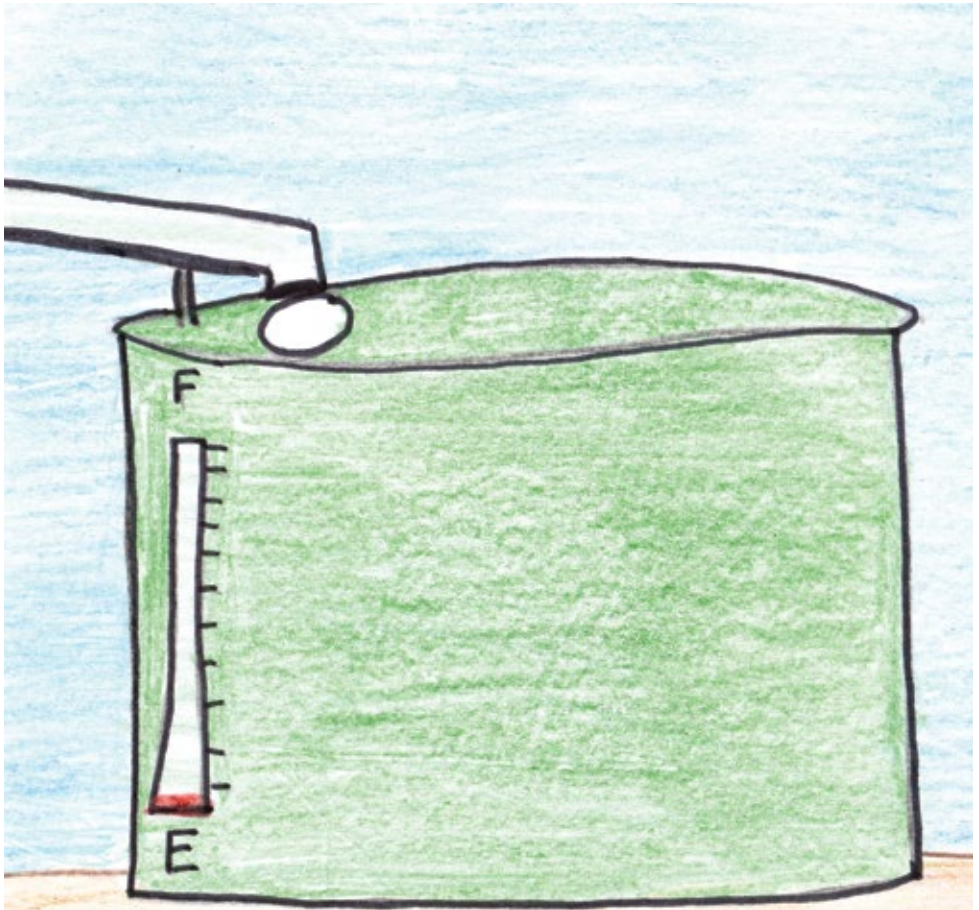




The farmer had lived through droughts before, but never one that had lasted this long.

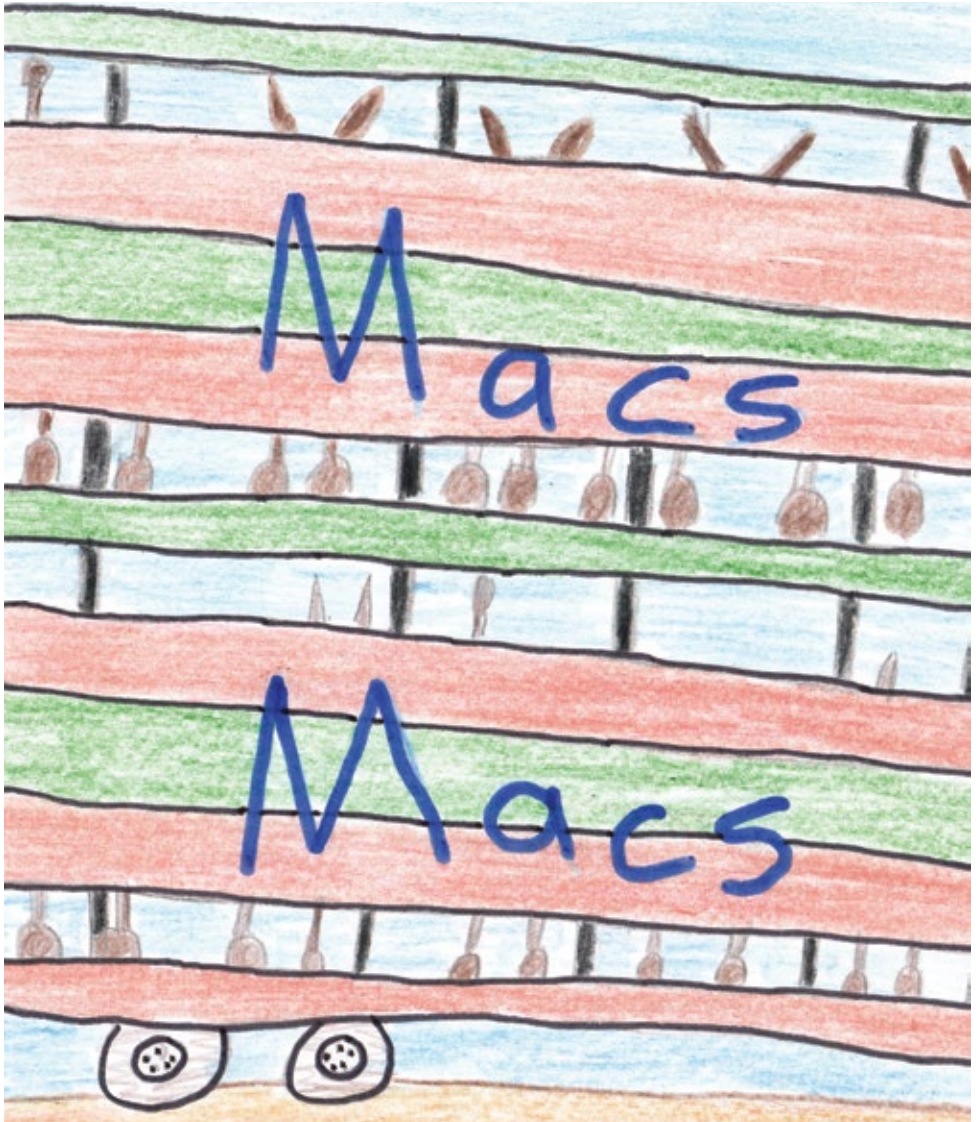
He grew depressed as he watched an ever-growing pile of bills collect on the desk in the run down farmhouse. His wife had already left the farm to find work in the town.



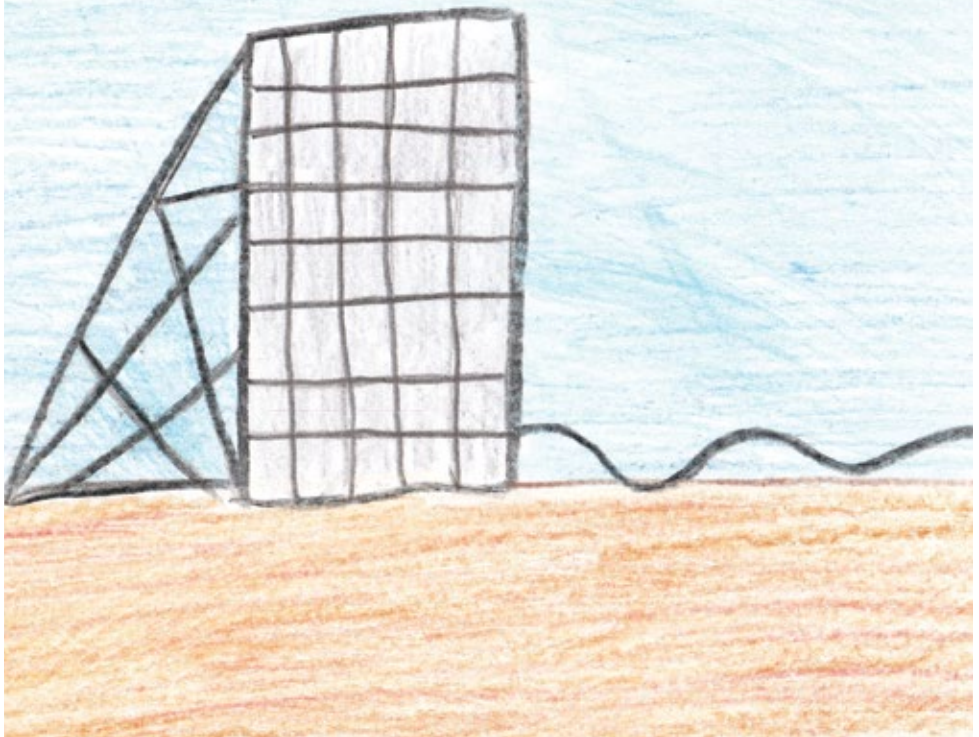


The drought was affecting more than just the land. Even the rainwater tanks were empty. Water is essential for life especially on the farm. What would the farmer do?

The farmer made the hard decision to sell off all his remaining livestock and use some drought assistance money to plan for future drought tolerance.

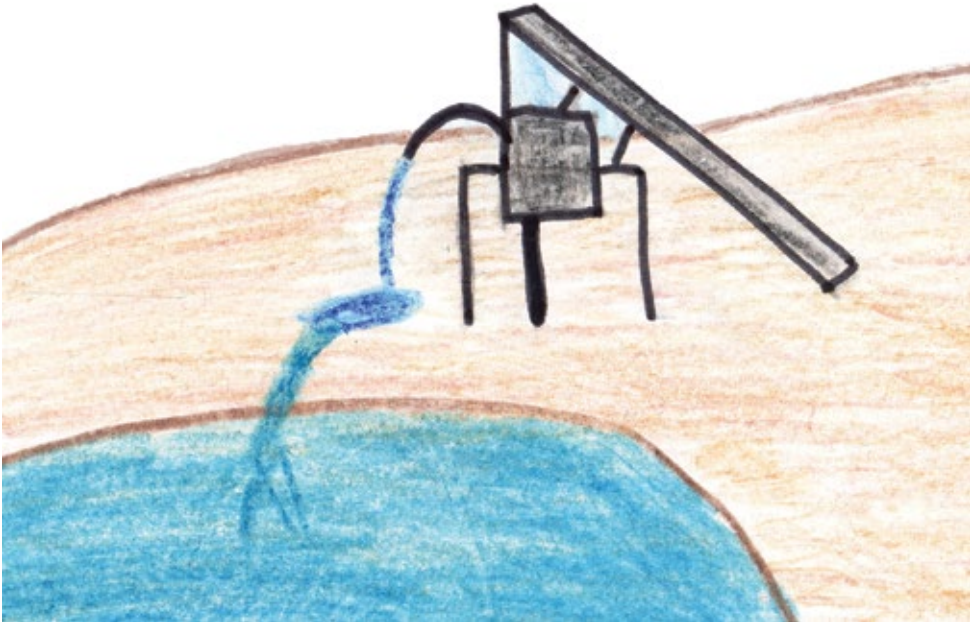


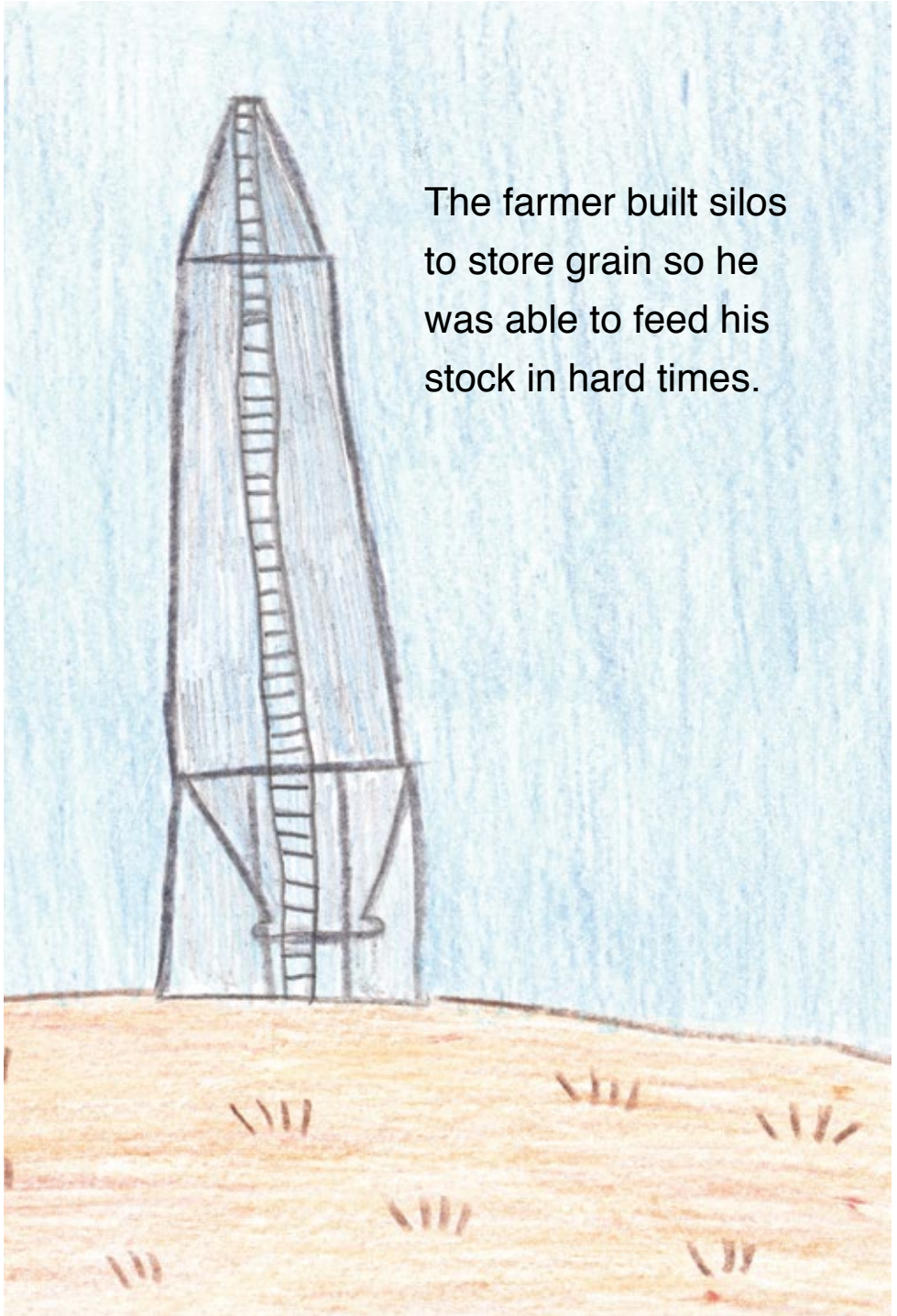
First he installed a grid fed solar electricity generation system to reduce his carbon foot print and lower his farm's electricity bill.



To improve his water situation the farmer drilled into the aquifer and installed a solar powered bore.

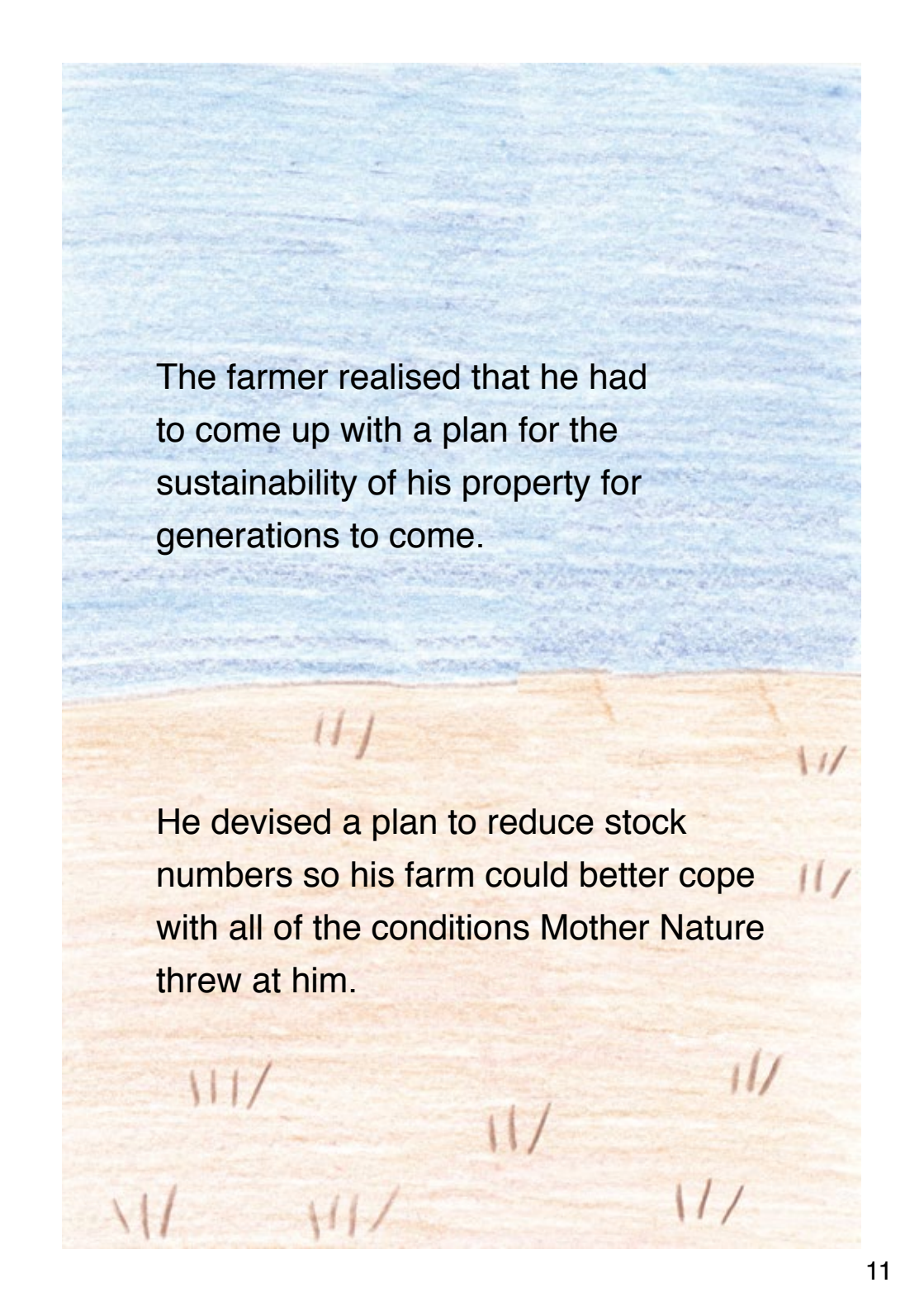
He also dug some dams to store water.





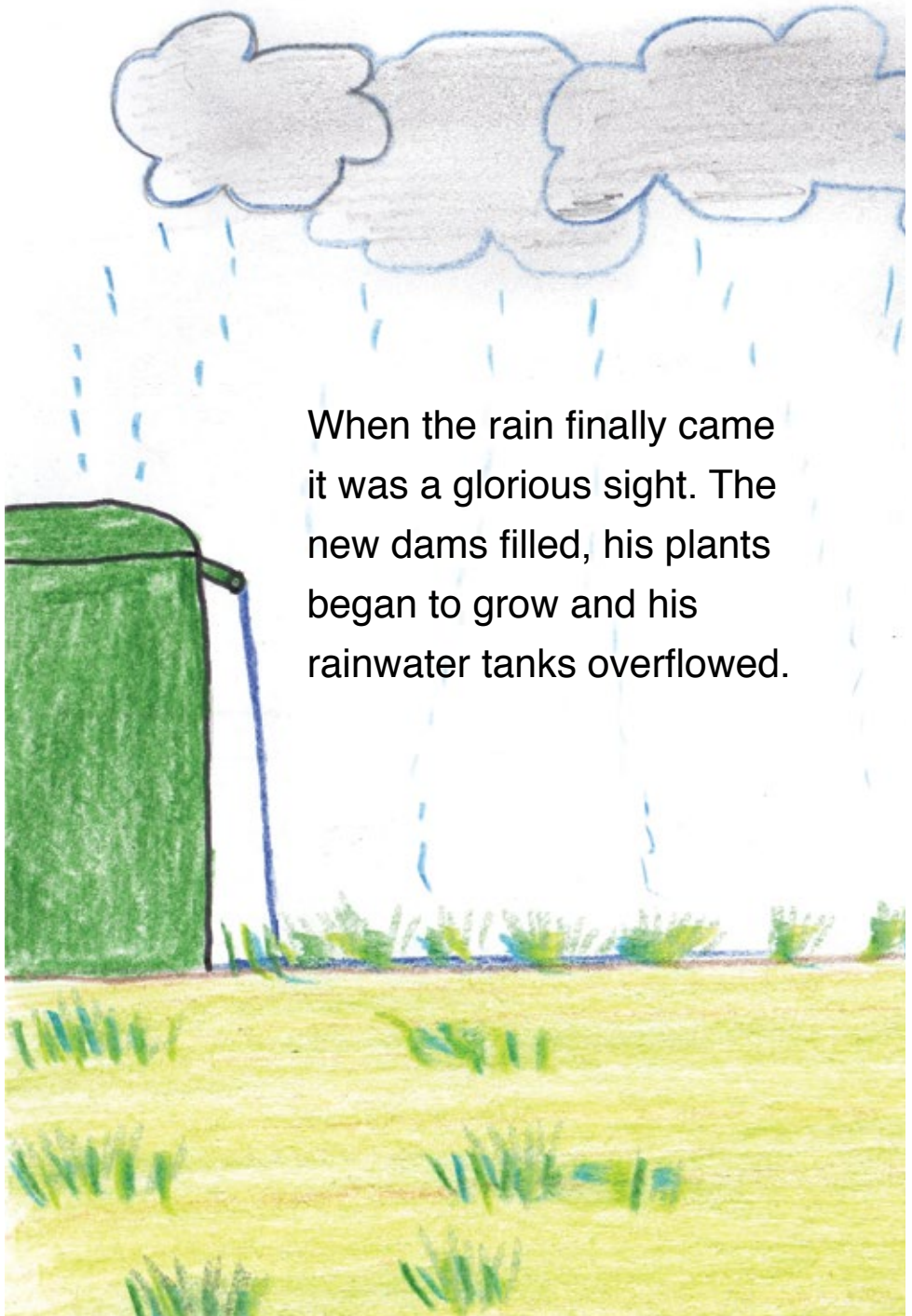
The farmer built silos to store grain so he was able to feed his stock in hard times.





The farmer realised that he had to come up with a plan for the sustainability of his property for generations to come.

He devised a plan to reduce stock numbers so his farm could better cope with all of the conditions Mother Nature threw at him.



When the rain finally came
it was a glorious sight. The
new dams filled, his plants
began to grow and his
rainwater tanks overflowed.





The farmer increased drought tolerant plant species and planted more trees. This would mean that there was food and shelter for stock in hard times.

The farmer considered new ways to increase the farm income. He settled on the decision of hosting sustainable farming tours and farm stay weekend holidays.



The farmer was reassured once again as he looked forward to a happy and more sustainable future.



Will Charles
Narrabri Public School, Grade 6 2012



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



Australian Government

Cotton Research and
Development Corporation



Catchment Management
Authority
Central West



Catchment Management
Authority
Border Rivers-Gwydir



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



National
Year of
Reading
2012