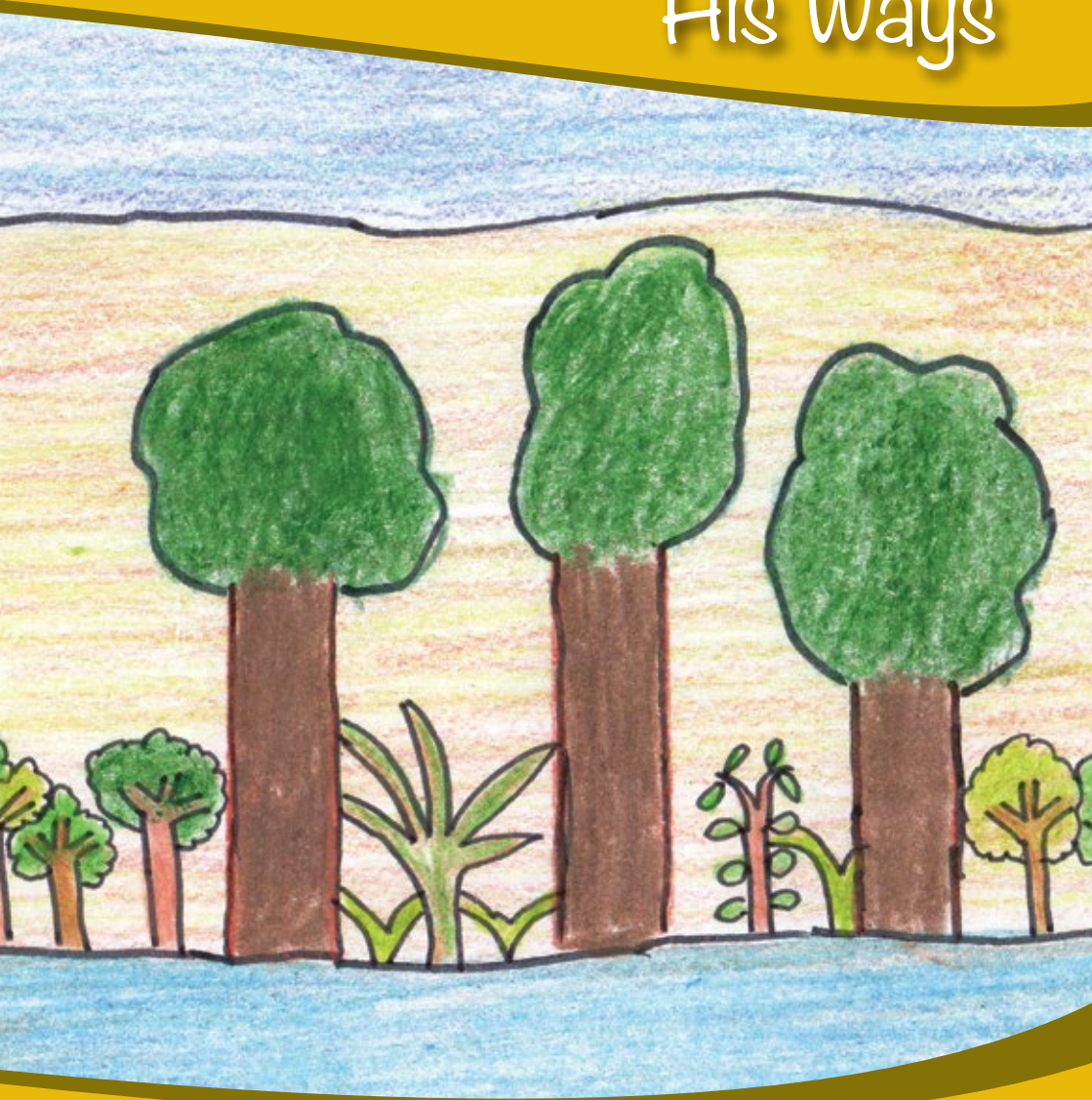


The Farmer Changes His Ways



Ethan Campbell
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

The Farmer Changes His Ways

Author: Ethan Campbell
Teacher: Timothy McIntosh
School: Narrabri Public School

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

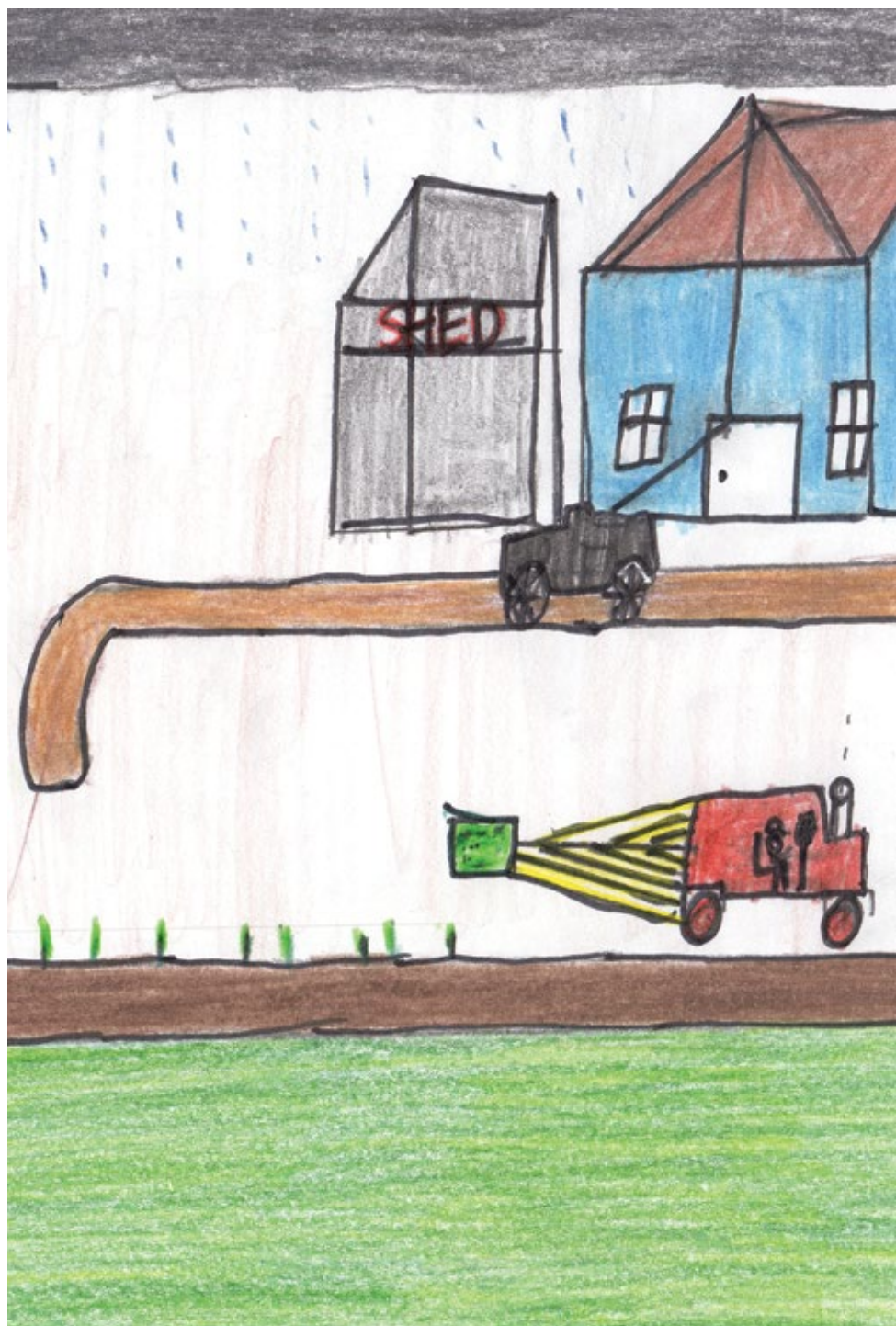
- Cotton on ‘Koramba’

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One foggy, damp morning a farmer decided it was time to grow some crops. He had prepared his field by ploughing all the land as far as the eye could see. He thought that digging everything up would give him a better crop.

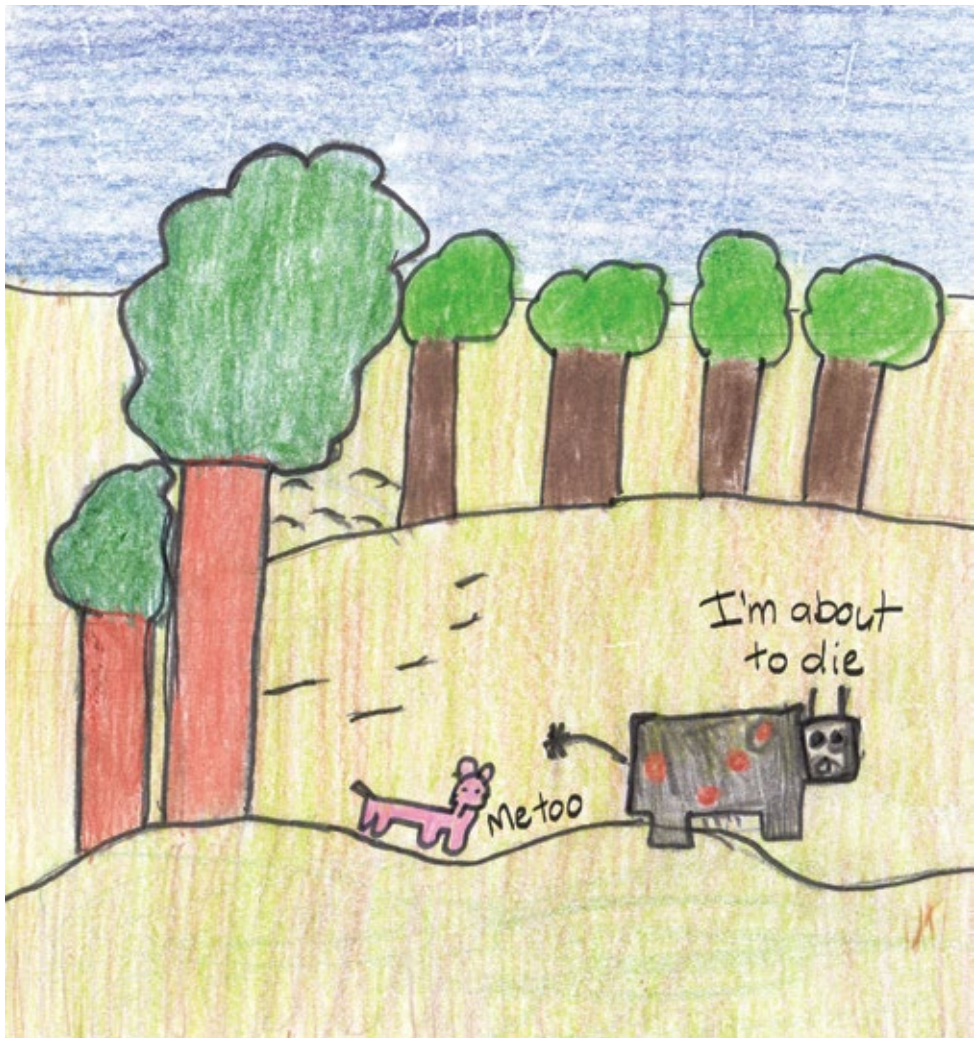
He planted his crop by sowing as many seeds as possible. He thought more seeds meant a bigger, better crop.

He decided to fertilise his crop even though it was about to rain. He poured as much fertiliser on as he could.



He watched and celebrated because he had finished his first planting of cotton.

The farmer was totally unaware how much damage he was doing to his land and the local environment. He was poisoning his farm with too much fertiliser and releasing too much carbon from his soil by overworking it.

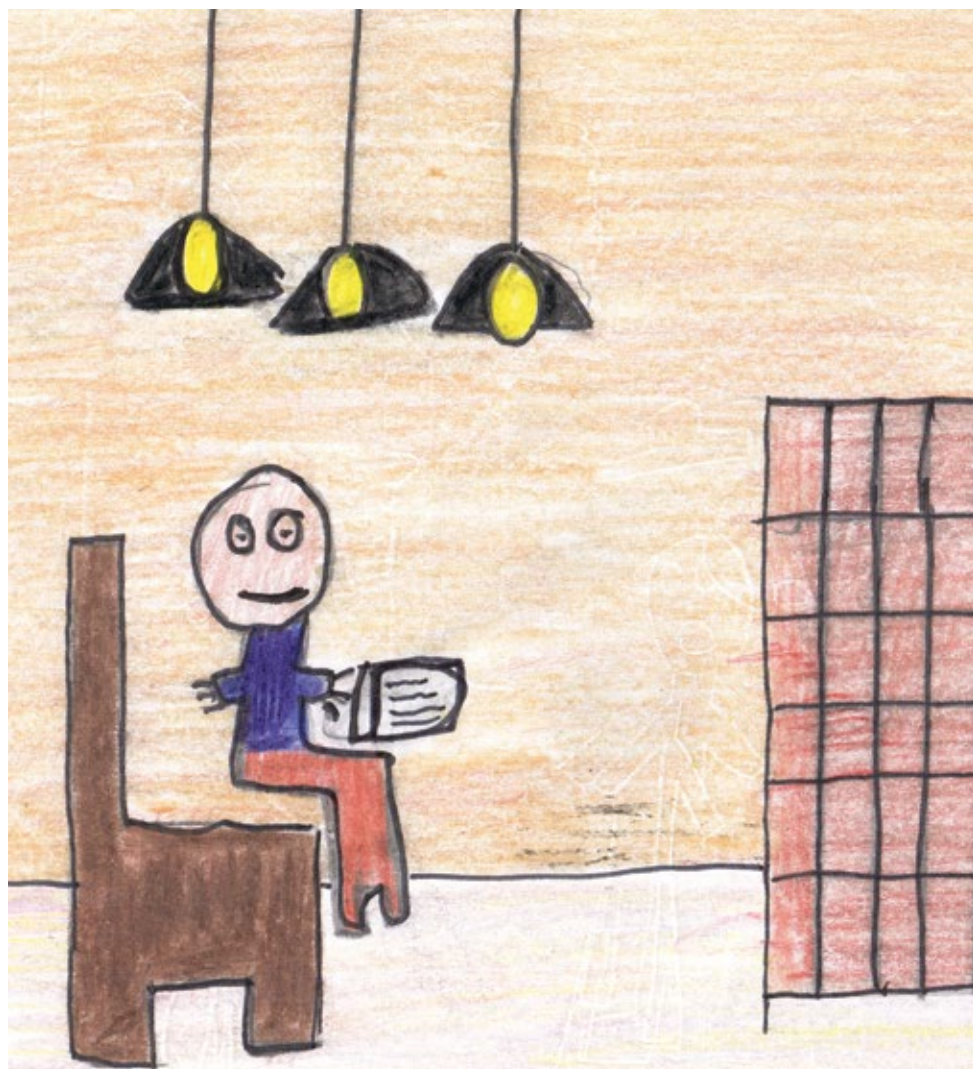


The crops and wildlife on the farm were decreasing over time. They were suffering from his poor methods of farming.

The farmer was confused why his crops looked so sick. He didn't understand about the best way to do things.

The farmer didn't prepare the soil correctly and used way too much fertiliser.



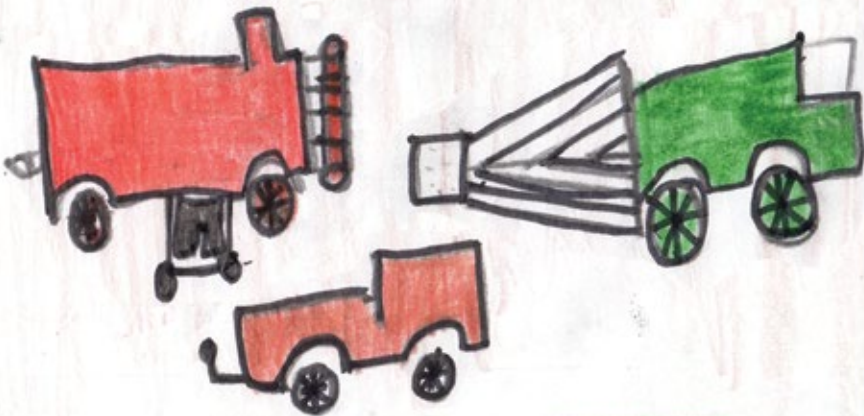


Before he continued his farming, the farmer decided to read and learn more about sustainable farming.

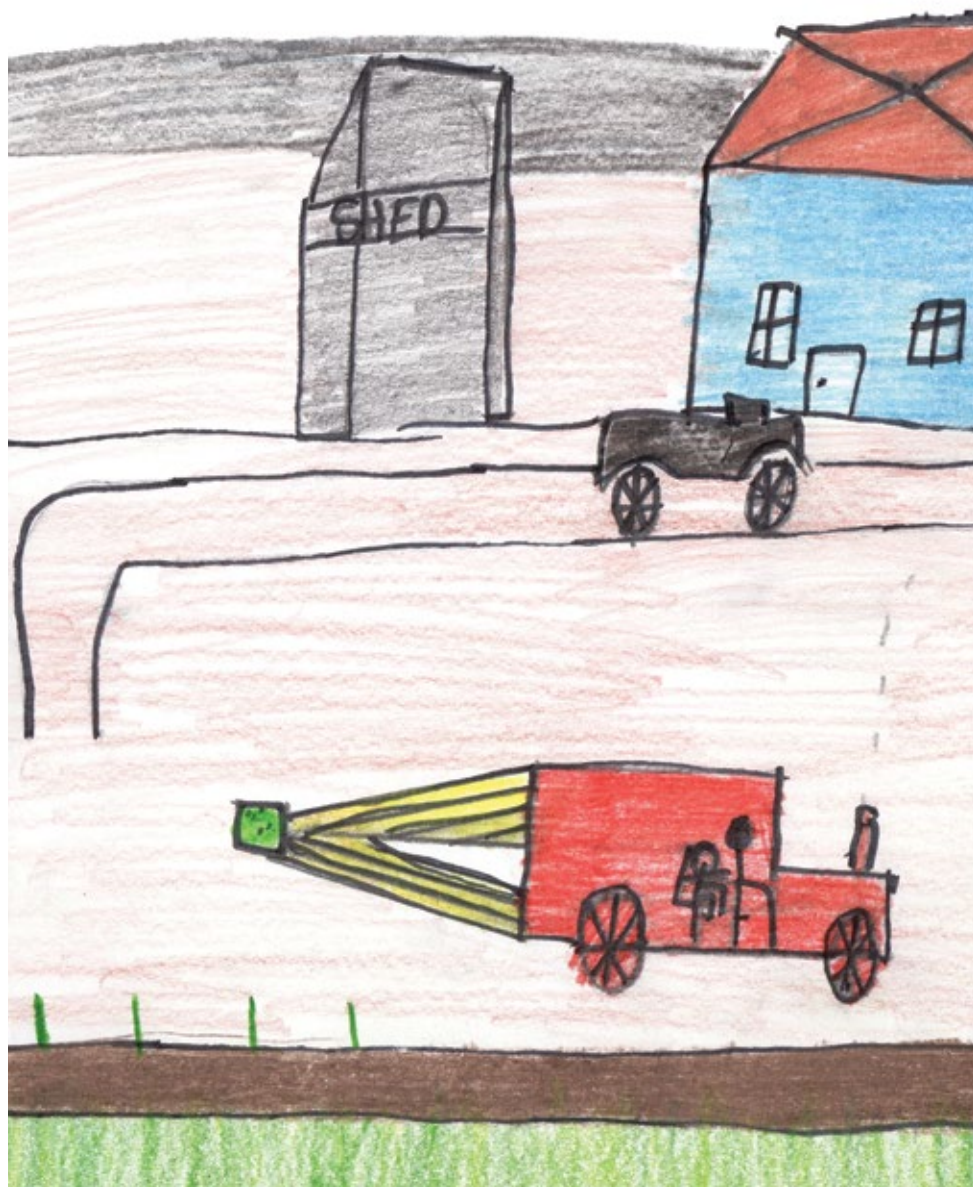
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After he had finished reading the books he started to plan his farm to make it sustainable.

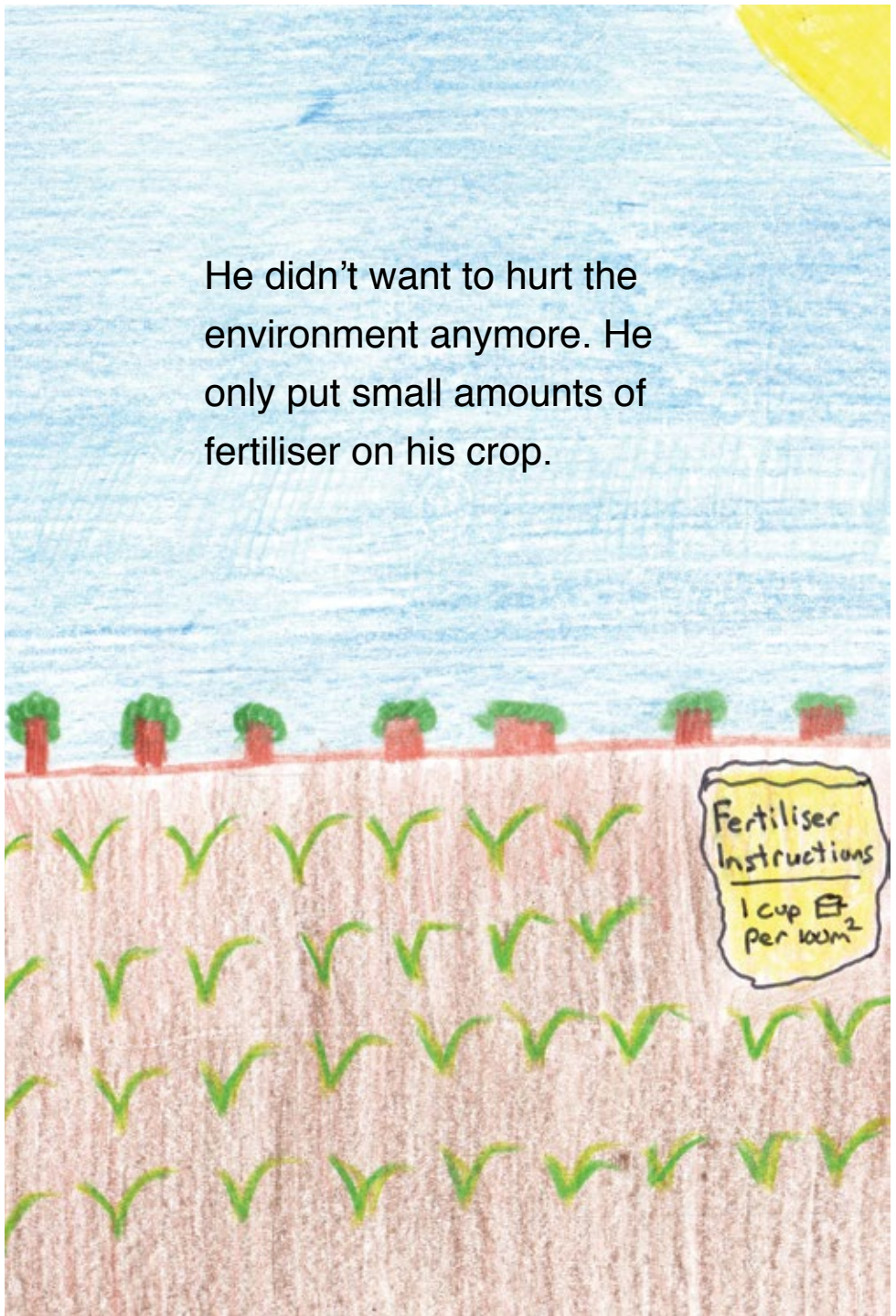
The farmer decided to change his methods by using low till ploughing. This meant that the soil kept more nutrients, the crop needed less water and it reduced erosion.



After he changed to low till he decided to start to plant his crops again. He was careful to follow instructions about how to plant properly.



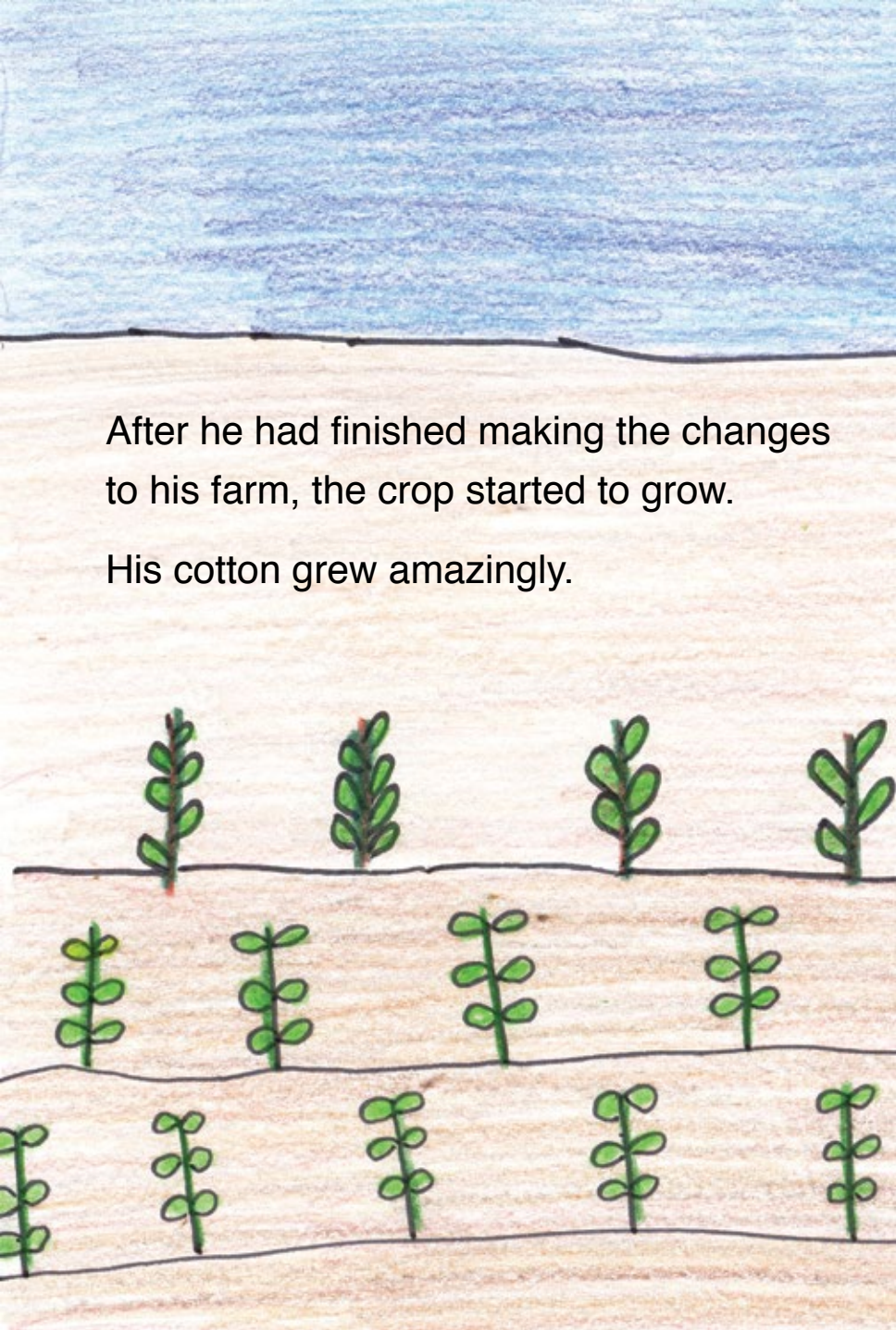
He didn't want to hurt the environment anymore. He only put small amounts of fertiliser on his crop.



The farmer hopped back into his planter and planted saplings and trees beside the river and around the edges of his paddocks.



He realised that this would attract animals to come back to the farm. This would also help protect his crop from the weather.



After he had finished making the changes
to his farm, the crop started to grow.

His cotton grew amazingly.

The farm looked fantastic. It had lots of trees and the native animals were coming back.



The farmer had a healthier, more sustainable farm.





The community recognised the farmer's efforts and gave him an award for the "Healthiest Farmer."

He returned home, proud of his effort and celebrated getting his award.



Ethan Campbell
Narrabri Public School, Grade 6 2012



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Central West



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Border Rivers-Gwydir



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**