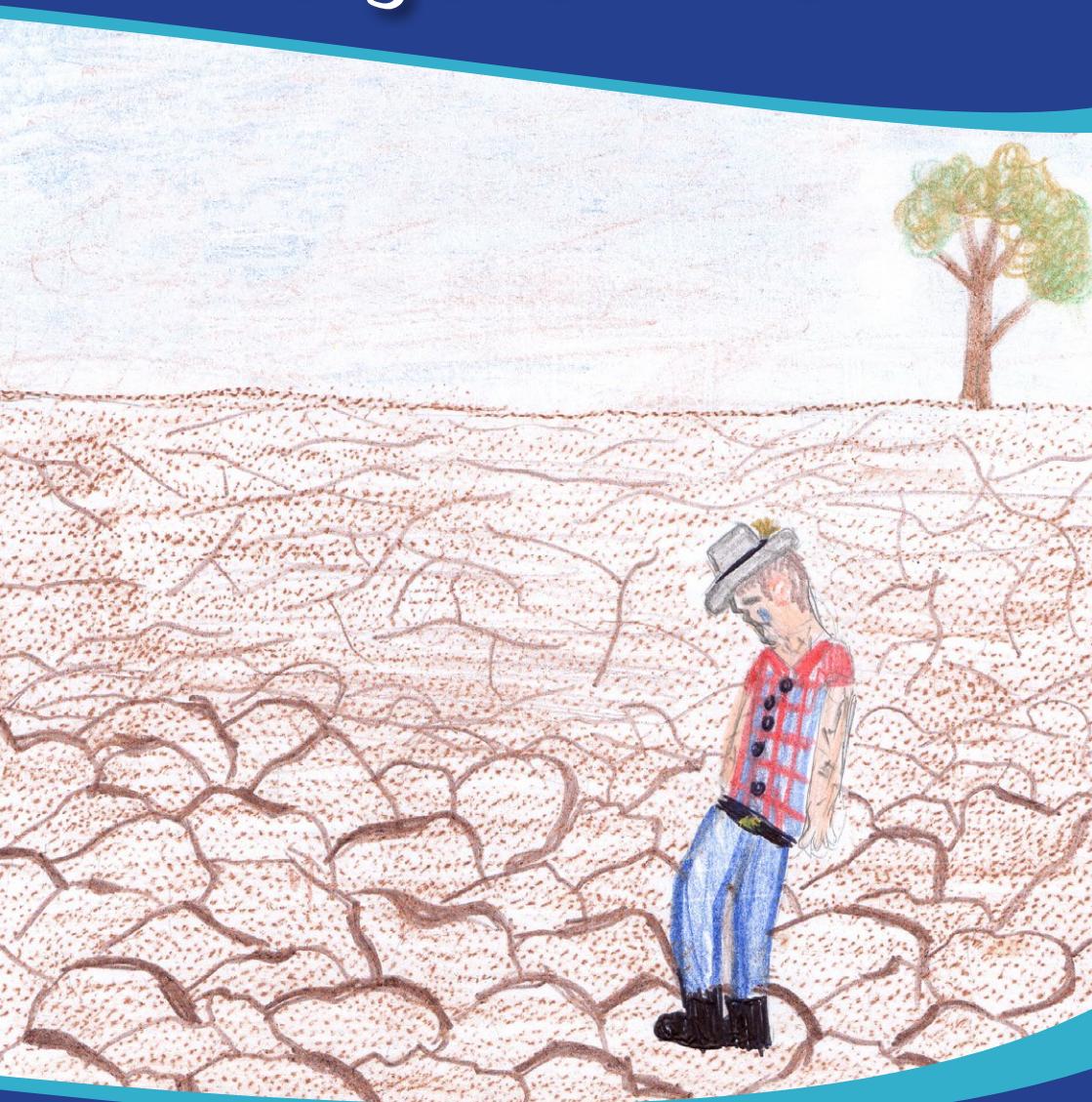


# Drought and Water



Matt Reece  
Inverell Public School



## Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by Peekdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

## Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian cotton industry. CRDC invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and extension projects that seek to enhance the environmental, social and economic values associated with cotton production systems for the benefit of cotton industry participants, regional communities and the Australian people.

[www.crdc.com.au](http://www.crdc.com.au)

# Drought and Water

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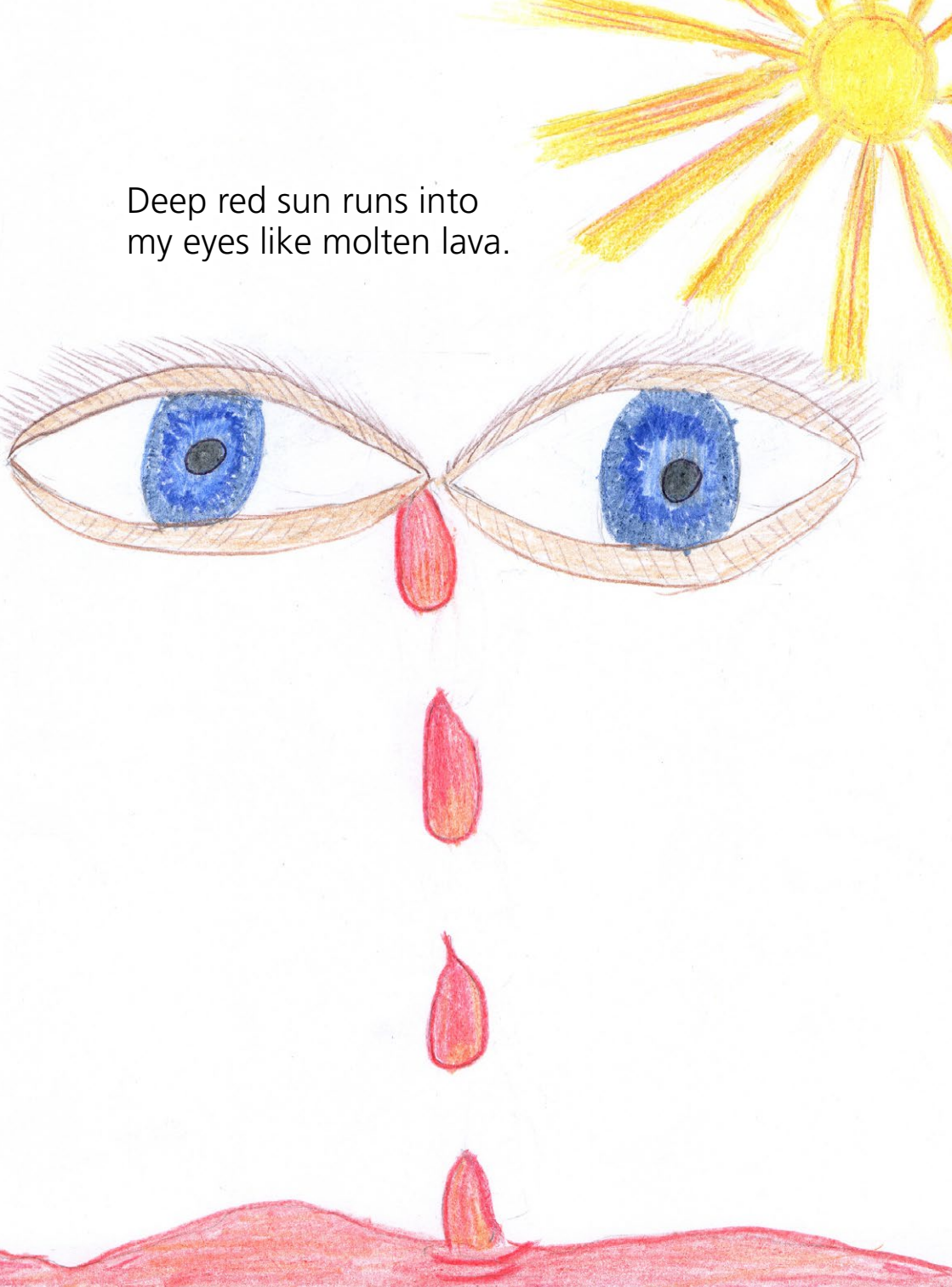
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Enviro-Stories is a PeekDesigns initiative, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au).


Reece, M. 2016. *Drought and Water*. Cotton Research and Development Corporation, NSW.



Deep red sun runs into  
my eyes like molten lava.





A watercolor illustration of a dry, cracked landscape. A barbed wire fence runs diagonally across the upper left. The ground is light pink and cracked, with two prominent red-orange diagonal streaks. A yellow kangaroo warning sign on a metal post is in the lower right, with a smaller sign below it that says "NEXT 7KM".

Bright light blinds me  
as I walk through the  
hard, dry crevice along  
the old dusty road.





The scorched dust blows through the paddocks.

My skin eats into my bones and the rusty streets  
crack quickly as the shops start to shut down.





"I'm getting severely dehydrated." I say to my friends Charlie and Harley, "This drought is just terrible."

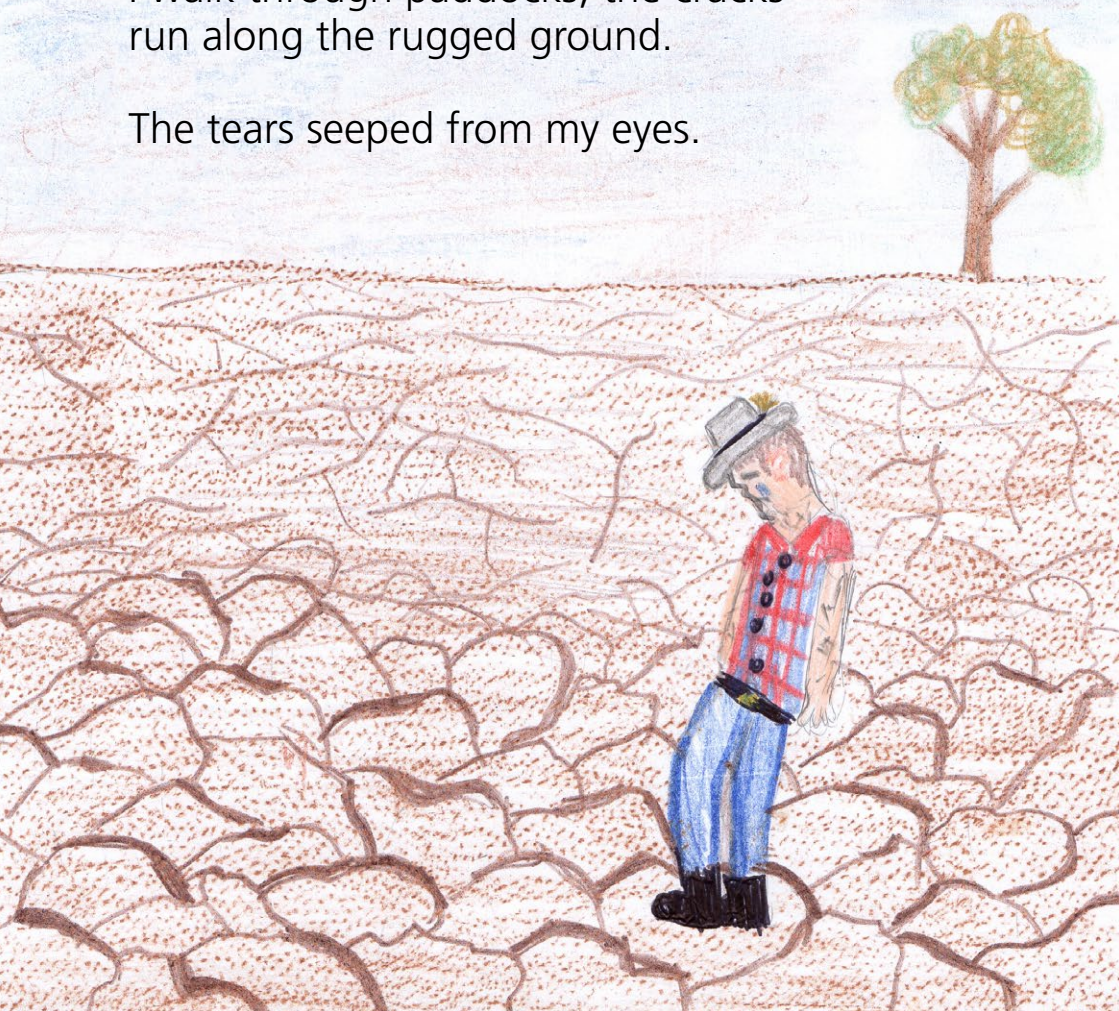
I finally got back to my farm. All I could see was dry brown dirt. There was barely any grass at all.

I have had to put five cows down. They were suffering from starvation.



I walk through paddocks, the cracks  
run along the rugged ground.

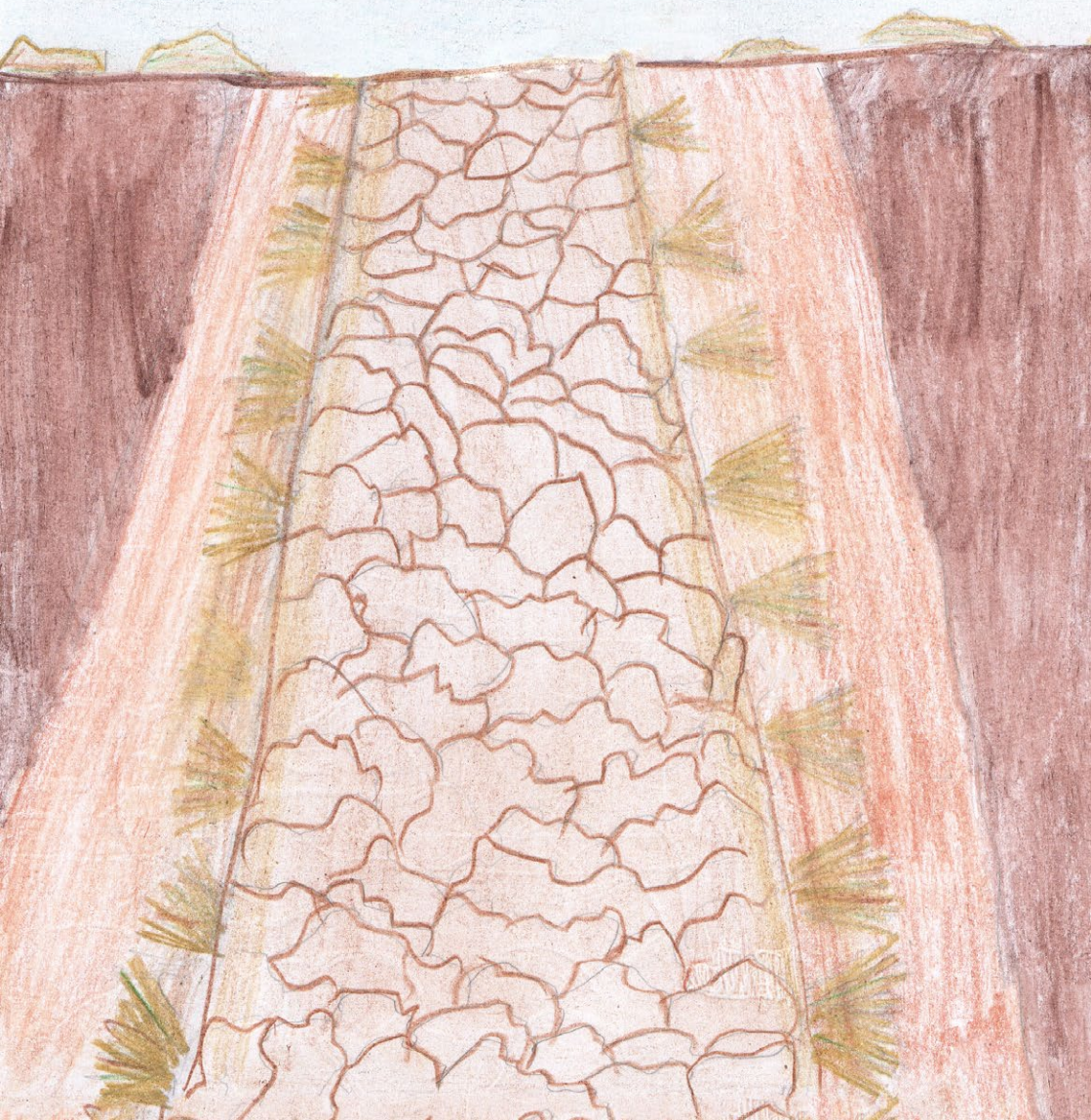
The tears seeped from my eyes.





My cattle and one-week-old calf are sick and  
my house is surrounded by lumps of rubble.

My gully is totally dry. It looks like it's been  
parched for a hundred years straight.





A wind starts blowing as I stand on  
my verandah praying for rain.

The wind gets heavier and heavier ...

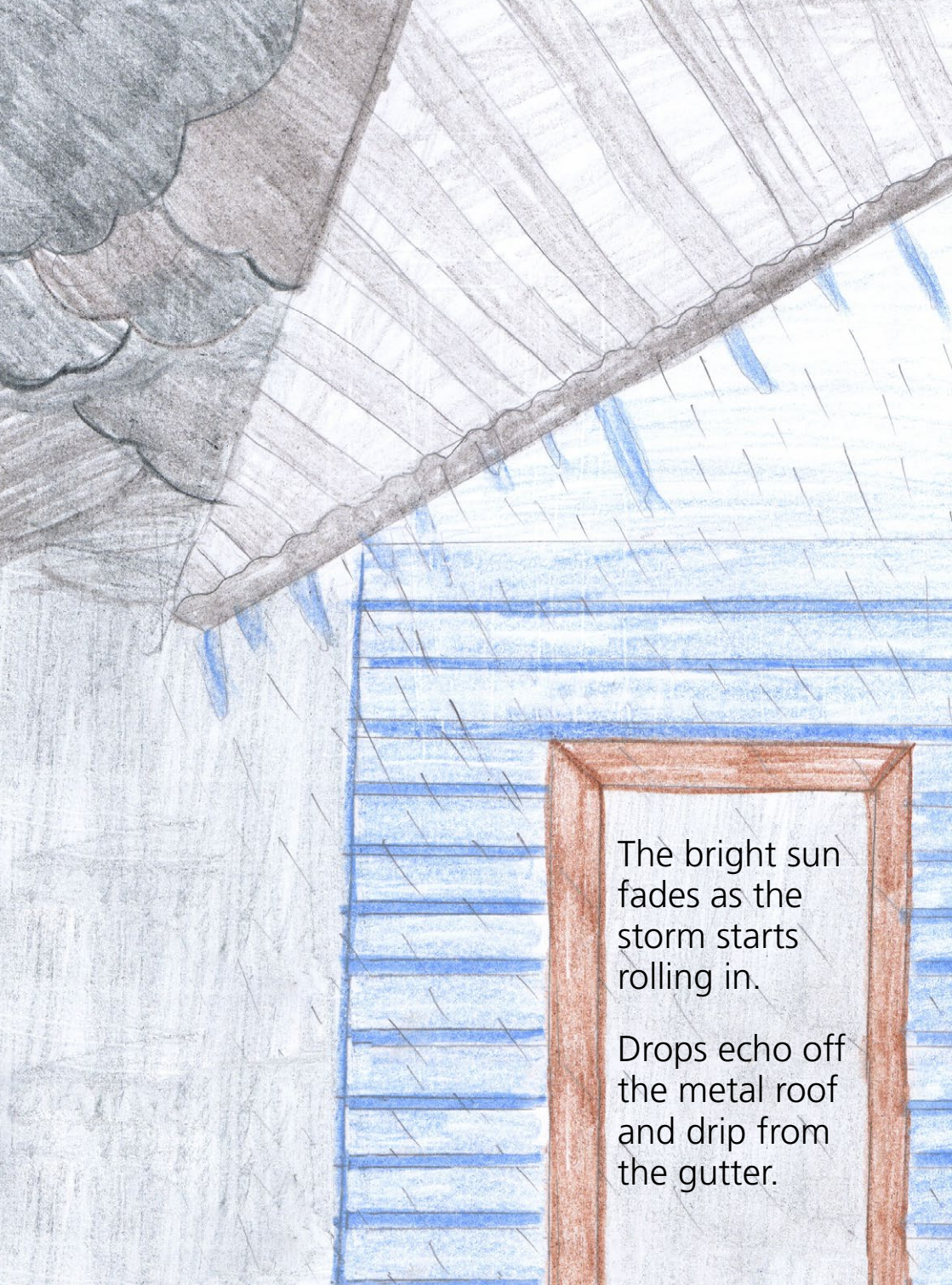






... and clouds darken the sky.

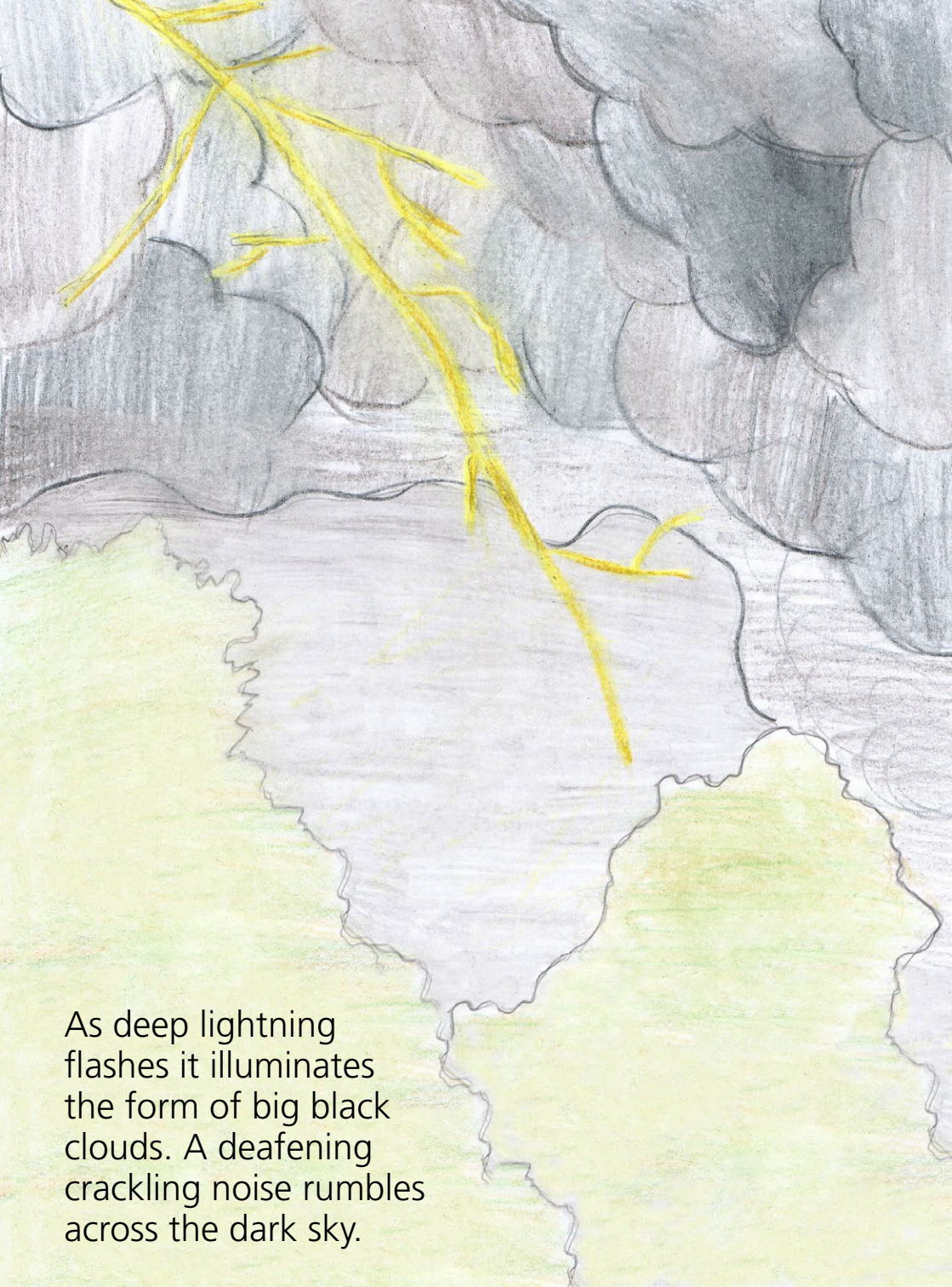




The bright sun  
fades as the  
storm starts  
rolling in.

Drops echo off  
the metal roof  
and drip from  
the gutter.





As deep lightning  
flashes it illuminates  
the form of big black  
clouds. A deafening  
crackling noise rumbles  
across the dark sky.





Cascading droplets turn into pelting rain.

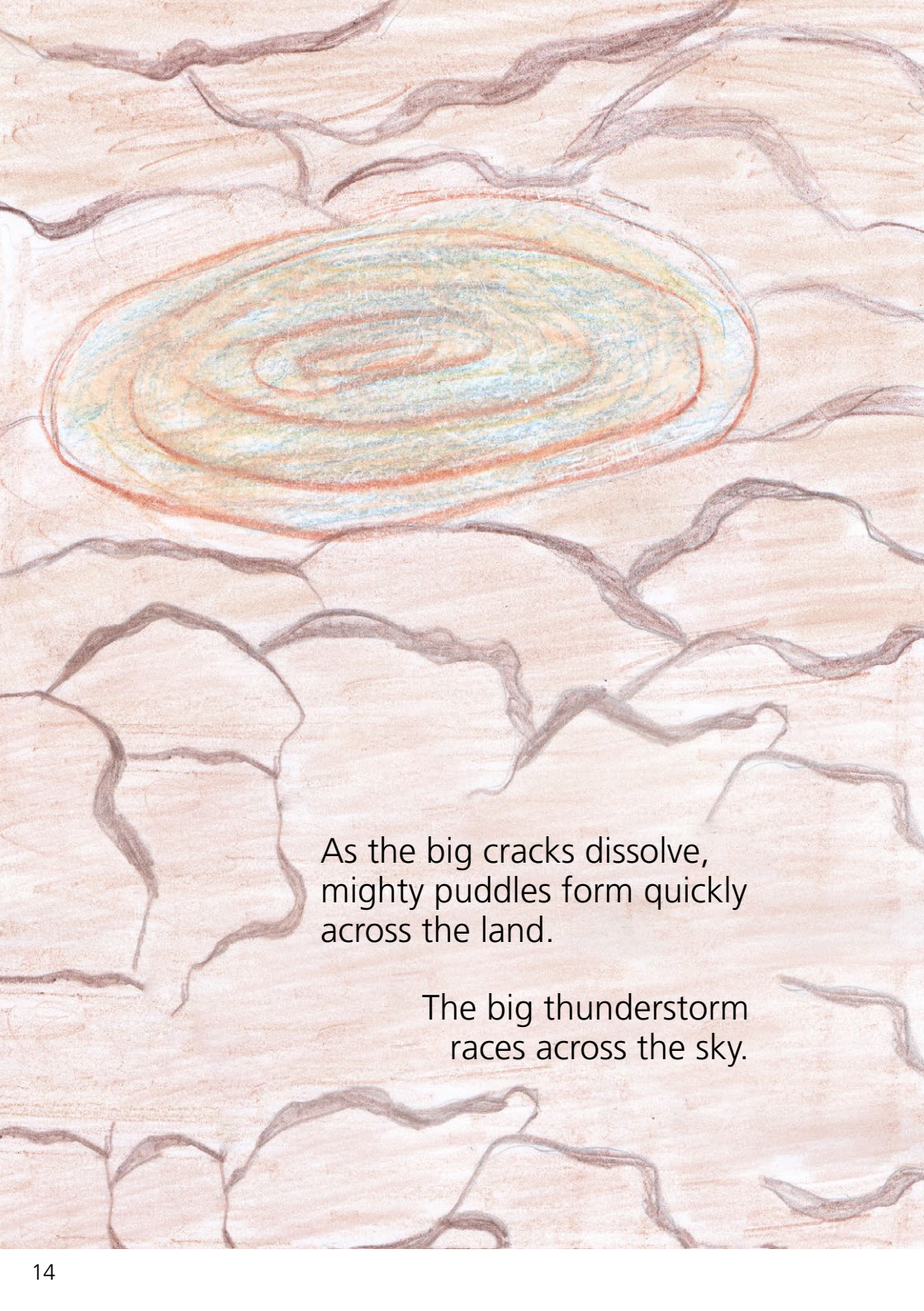
Lightning strikes along the wet ground.





I stand still and I say to myself,  
"My dream has come true."

I rush inside and ring Charlie  
and Harley. "It's finally raining,  
come over and see."



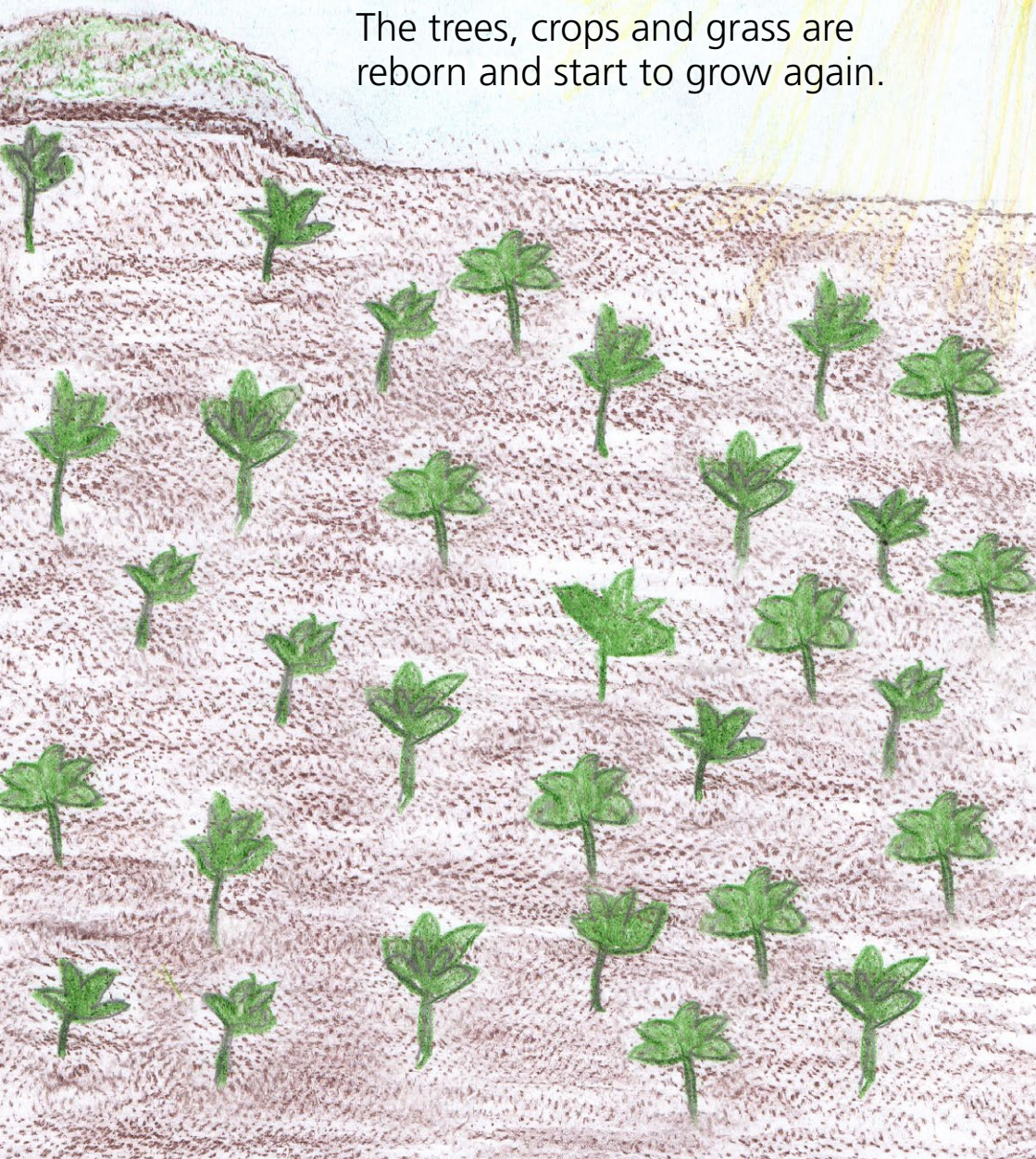
As the big cracks dissolve,  
mighty puddles form quickly  
across the land.

The big thunderstorm  
races across the sky.



Happily, the cascading rain has  
given another life to the earth.

The trees, crops and grass are  
reborn and start to grow again.







The rain brings water to all living things, giving my property another chance at life.

My stock begin to breed again and thrive in my lush paddocks.

My tanks are full of fresh clean water and ... ***I feel blessed.***









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Inverell Public School, Year 4 2016



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