

A Tree's Life

Written and illustrated by the 2021 Year 5/6 class
from Mukinbudin District High School



ENVIRO

stories



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource 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

Wheatbelt NRM

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated (Wheatbelt NRM) is an independent community-based organisation involved with natural resource management endeavours within the Avon River Basin.

www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au

A Tree's Life

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Hotspot Heroes

The Hotspot Heroes Enviro-Stories Program involved schools from the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia learning about the biodiversity, threatened species and feral animals in the wheatbelt area. A Hotspot Hero is someone who is willing to stand up and take action to help prevent our threatened plants and animals from fading into oblivion.

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National
Landcare
Program



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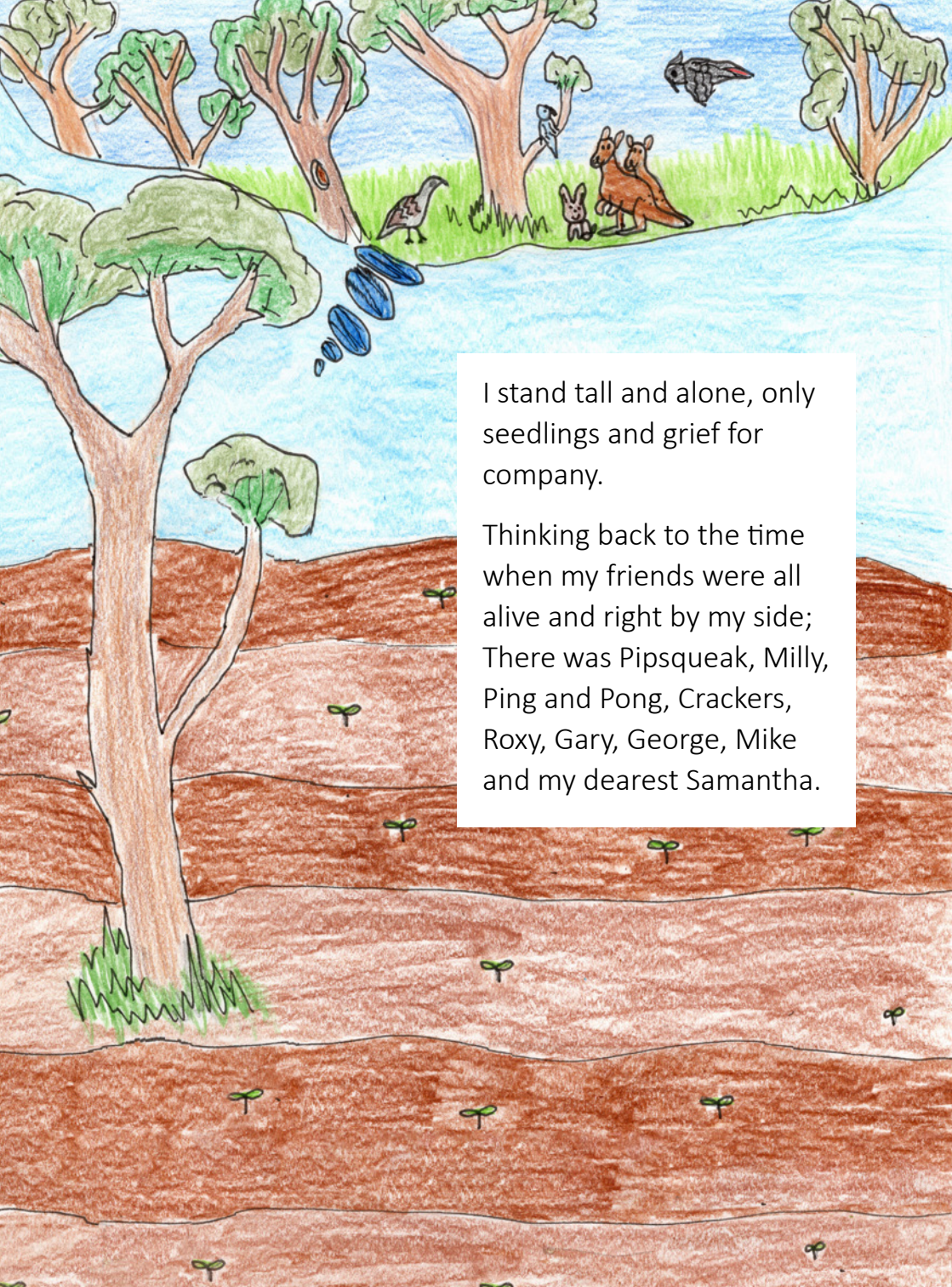
Series: Hotspot Heroes Enviro-Stories, Book

Enviro-Stories is a Peekdesigns initiative, www.peekdesigns.com.au

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I stand tall and alone, only
seedlings and grief for
company.

Thinking back to the time
when my friends were all
alive and right by my side;
There was Pipsqueak, Milly,
Ping and Pong, Crackers,
Roxy, Gary, George, Mike
and my dearest Samantha.



I remember back in our day, when we were the seedlings,
George the gimlet and I had a friend called Mike the
mallee.

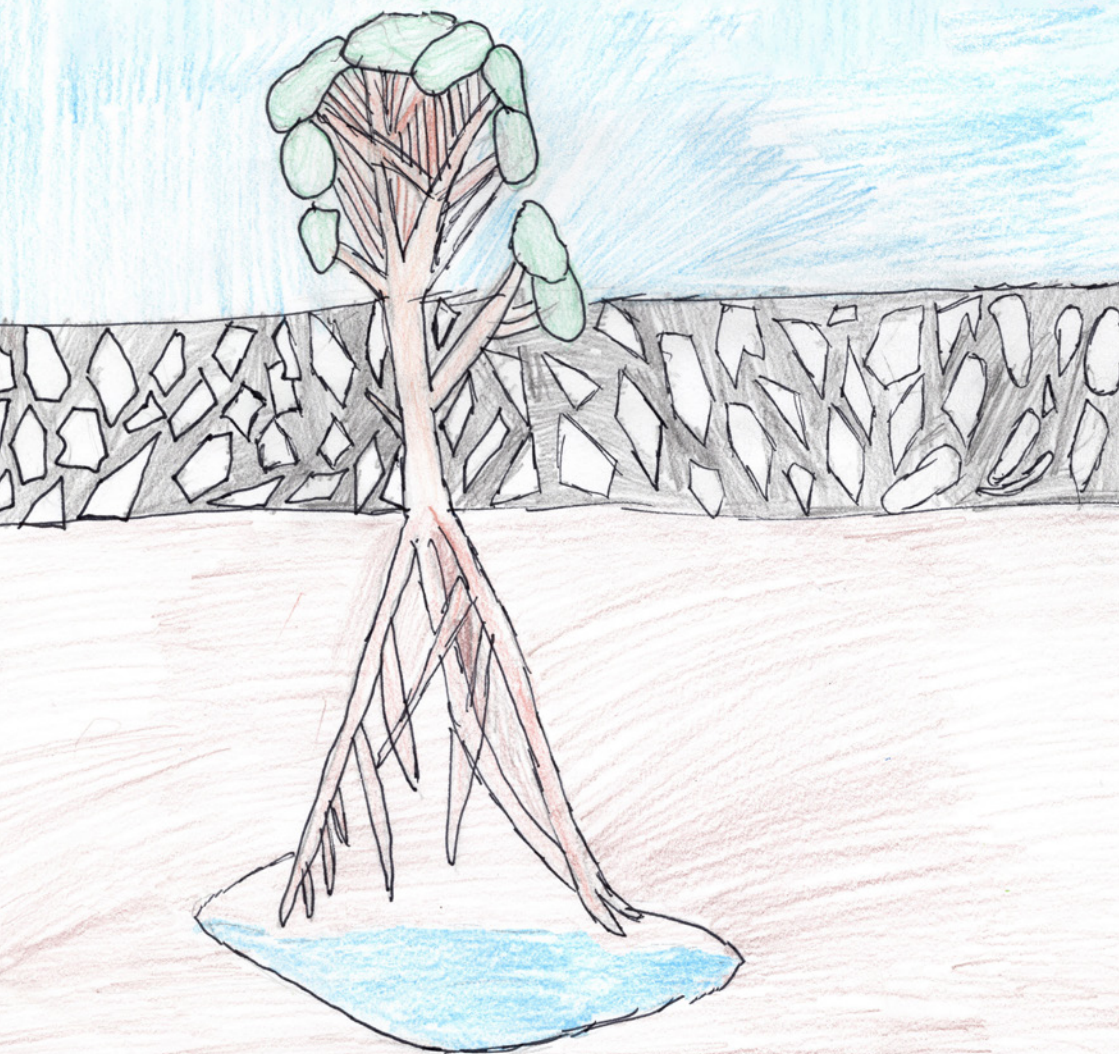
The Indigenous people protected all the land. Plants and
animals were everywhere, until the drought came...

I felt so hot and thirsty. I needed water badly. There was no water anywhere. I couldn't take it much longer.

The drought felt like it had been going on for years.

I needed water. As I stretched my roots down, I found that the water was too salty for me.

I just had to wait it out.





I remember the huge lightning storm just before the drought broke!

Red, orange, blue, green and yellow flames erupted because everything was so dry.

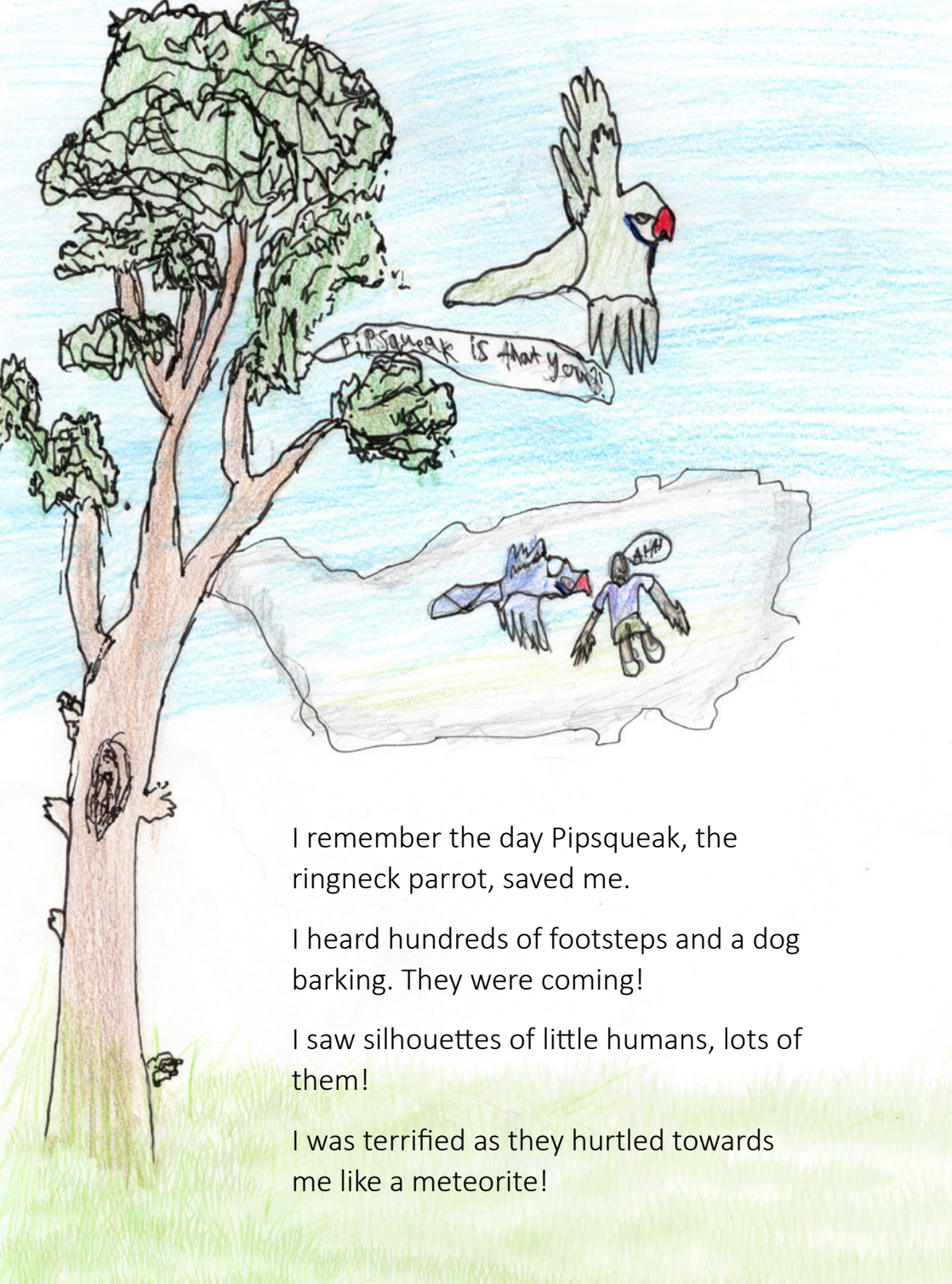
All my animal friends fled. Crackers the red-tailed black-cockatoo, Pipsqueak the ringneck parrot, Milly the malleefowl and even Ping and Pong the kangaroos.



Gary and George the gimlets were safely protected by Samantha the salmon gum and I.

Suddenly, Samantha was struck by lightning and a huge branch fell off and burnt.

Luckily the humans came in a big red vehicle that made it rain. We all survived, but many of our animal and tree friends were not so lucky.



I remember the day Pipsqueak, the ringneck parrot, saved me.

I heard hundreds of footsteps and a dog barking. They were coming!

I saw silhouettes of little humans, lots of them!

I was terrified as they hurtled towards me like a meteorite!

I was engulfed by little humans who were climbing me and ripping me apart.

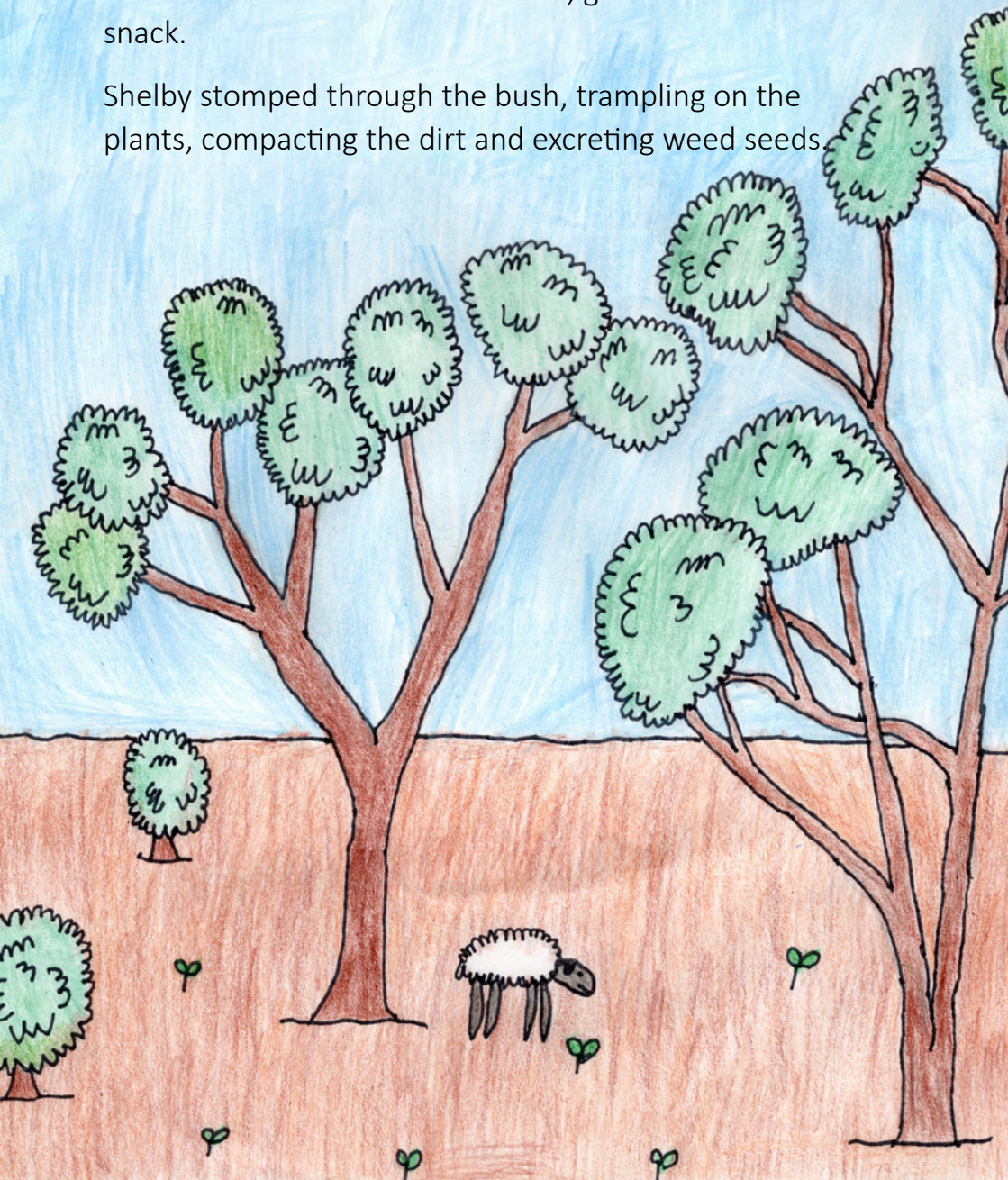
There was a screech of horror and Pipsqueak started swooping at the humans, trying to chase them away.

I will never forget Pipsqueak. He was family.



I remember, a couple of years ago, Shelby the sheep took over the bush. She escaped through a broken fence and into the bush for a fresh, green afternoon snack.

Shelby stomped through the bush, trampling on the plants, compacting the dirt and excreting weed seeds.

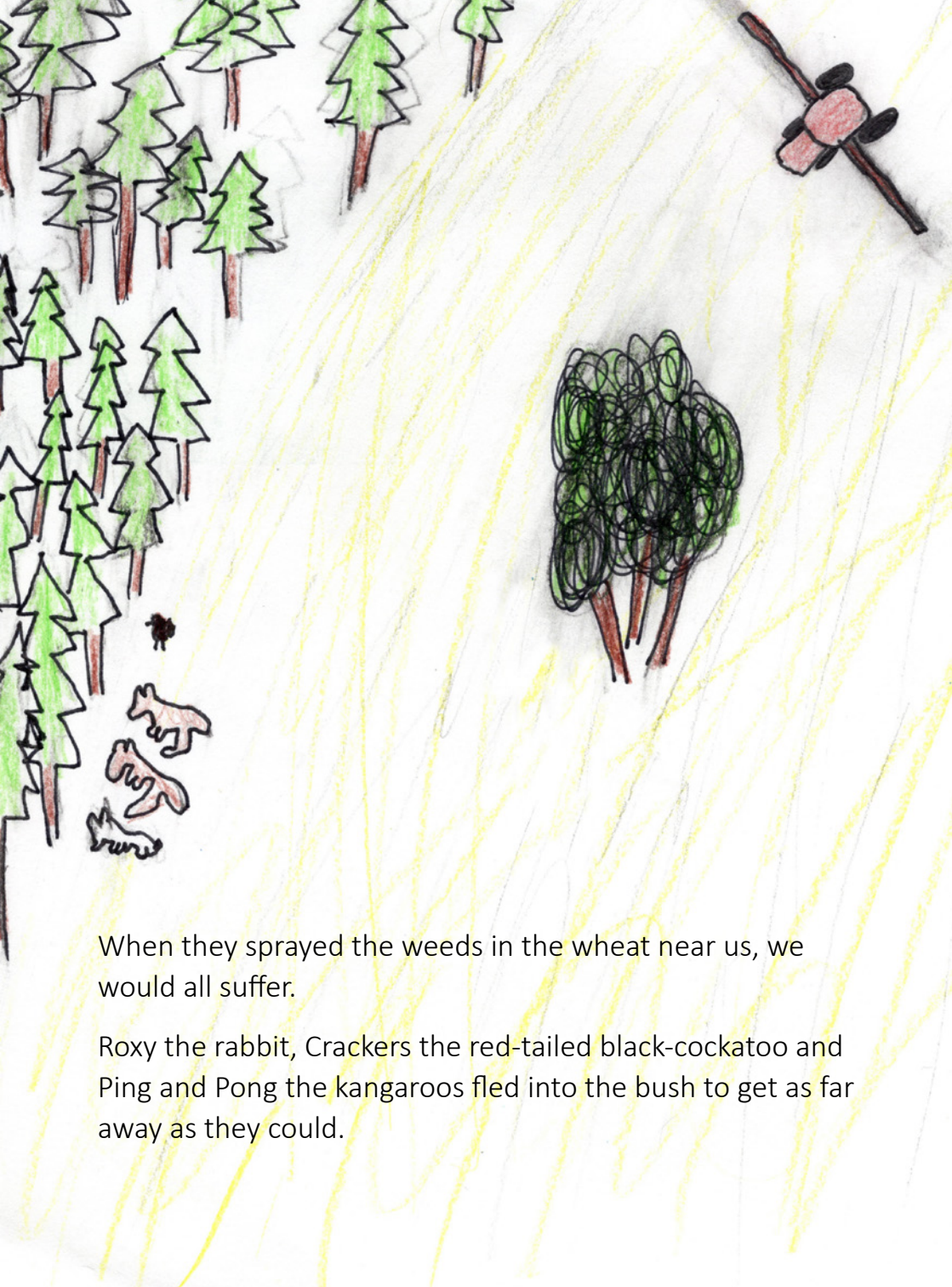




I remember when Poh, the farmer of Eaglestone Farm, decided it was time to spray the crops near our bush home.

I saw the sprayer in the distance. The same sprayer which caused us grief.

As Poh and his little girl Lizzie entered the paddock with their big boom sprayer, all of the animals started to fret from the terrible psssssss noise.



When they sprayed the weeds in the wheat near us, we would all suffer.

Roxy the rabbit, Crackers the red-tailed black-cockatoo and Ping and Pong the kangaroos fled into the bush to get as far away as they could.

I saw animals and birds gasp for breath and fall to the ground.

Samantha, Gary, George, Mike and I could not move. We were stuck in the middle of the paddock and would get sprayed by the deadly chemicals spread by the wind.

Many native species lost their lives from the chemicals. I was lucky to make it through.





Thankfully one day there was a spanner in the works and the sprayer broke down.

As Poh got out of the vehicle, he noticed the dead animals and plants that lay around him.

The sprayer was broken anyway, so he chose not to continue using chemicals in the future.





I remember when Lizzie came back from being away studying - she was much older.

She learnt that we (Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt) are critically endangered and about how to protect us. She started to fence us off so we couldn't get hurt by sheep and cattle.

I always feared there would be none of us left, there was danger everywhere, but once Lizzie returned I started to feel safe again.

Lizzie arrived one day with a trailer of seedlings. Her and Poh, an old man now, planted them with care.

She is also making some animal shelters to encourage native animals to return. Slowly I am making new friends; Hip and Hop the kangaroos, Mallow the malleefowl, Pipsqueak Junior the ringneck parrot and Cookie the cuckoo shrike.

Although I grieve for all those I have lost, I look down with hope for the future.





2021 Year 5/6, Mukinbudin District High School