

# THE CULVERT CATS



*Writer: Colene Smyer Hank*

*Illustrators: Cherokee Middle School Illustrators Club  
Springfield, Missouri*

# THE CULVERT CATS



***A TENDER STORY OF LOVE THAT CROSSES ALL  
BOUNDARY LINES IN REACHING OUT TO  
OTHERS IN NEED***

***LUKE 10: 27***

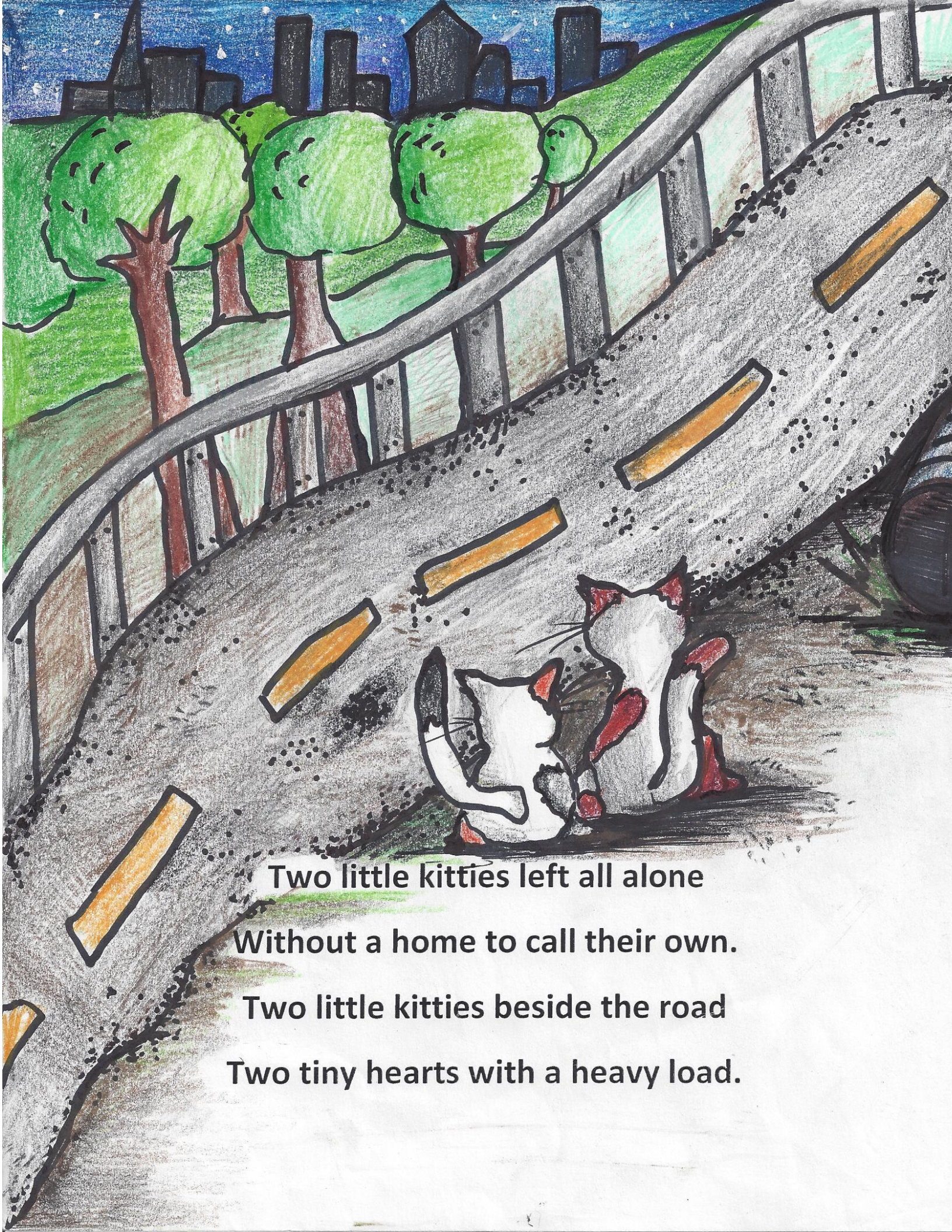
***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your  
strength and with all your mind, and, ‘Love  
your neighbor as yourself.’”***

***Writer: Colene Smyer Hank***

***Illustrator: Cherokee Middle School Illustrators Club, Springfield, Mo.***

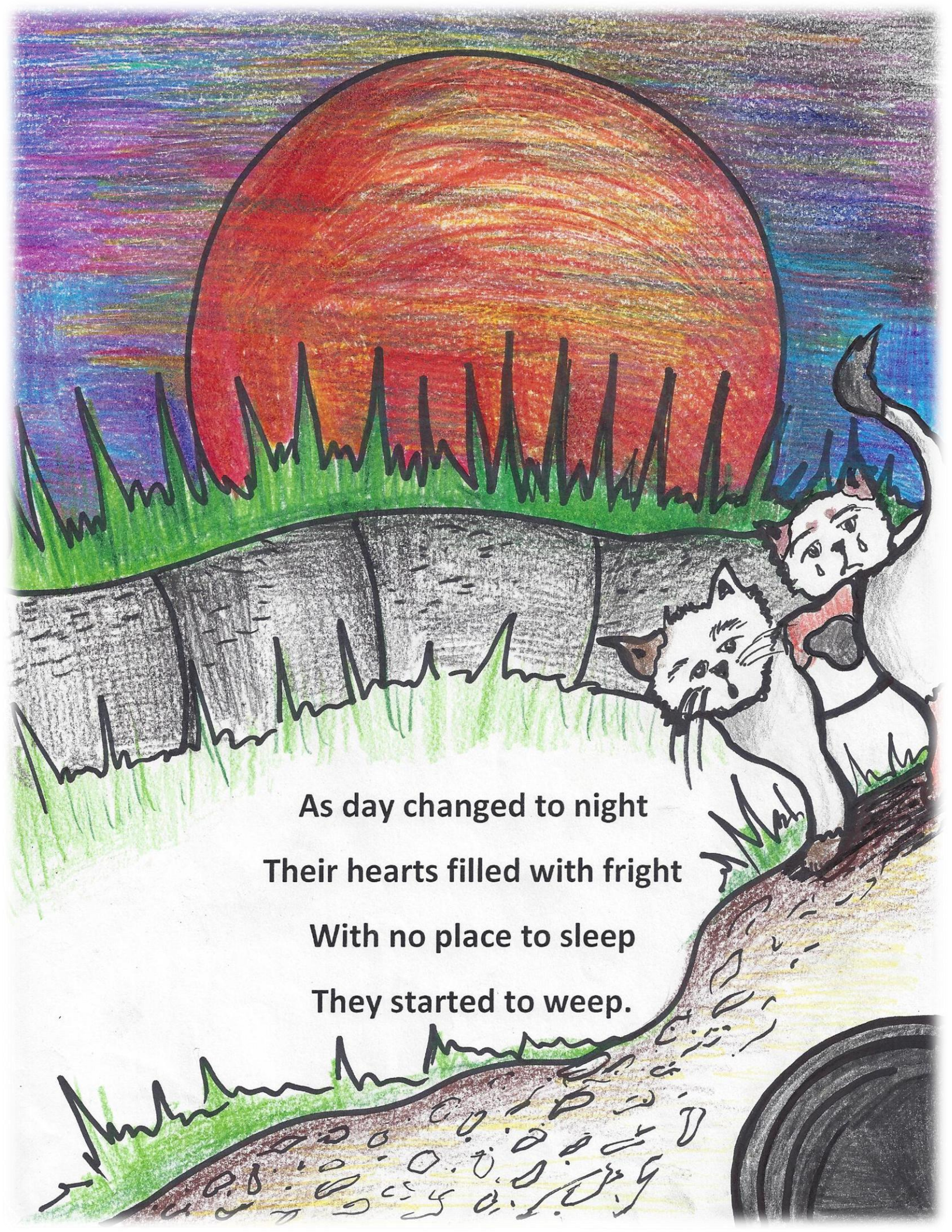
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Two little kitties left all alone  
Without a home to call their own.  
Two little kitties beside the road  
Two tiny hearts with a heavy load.





As day changed to night  
Their hearts filled with fright  
With no place to sleep  
They started to weep.





Stop little kitties and dry your eyes  
Answers will come to anyone who tries.  
If you just think with all your might  
You'll get through this long dark night.





They looked to the left and then to the right

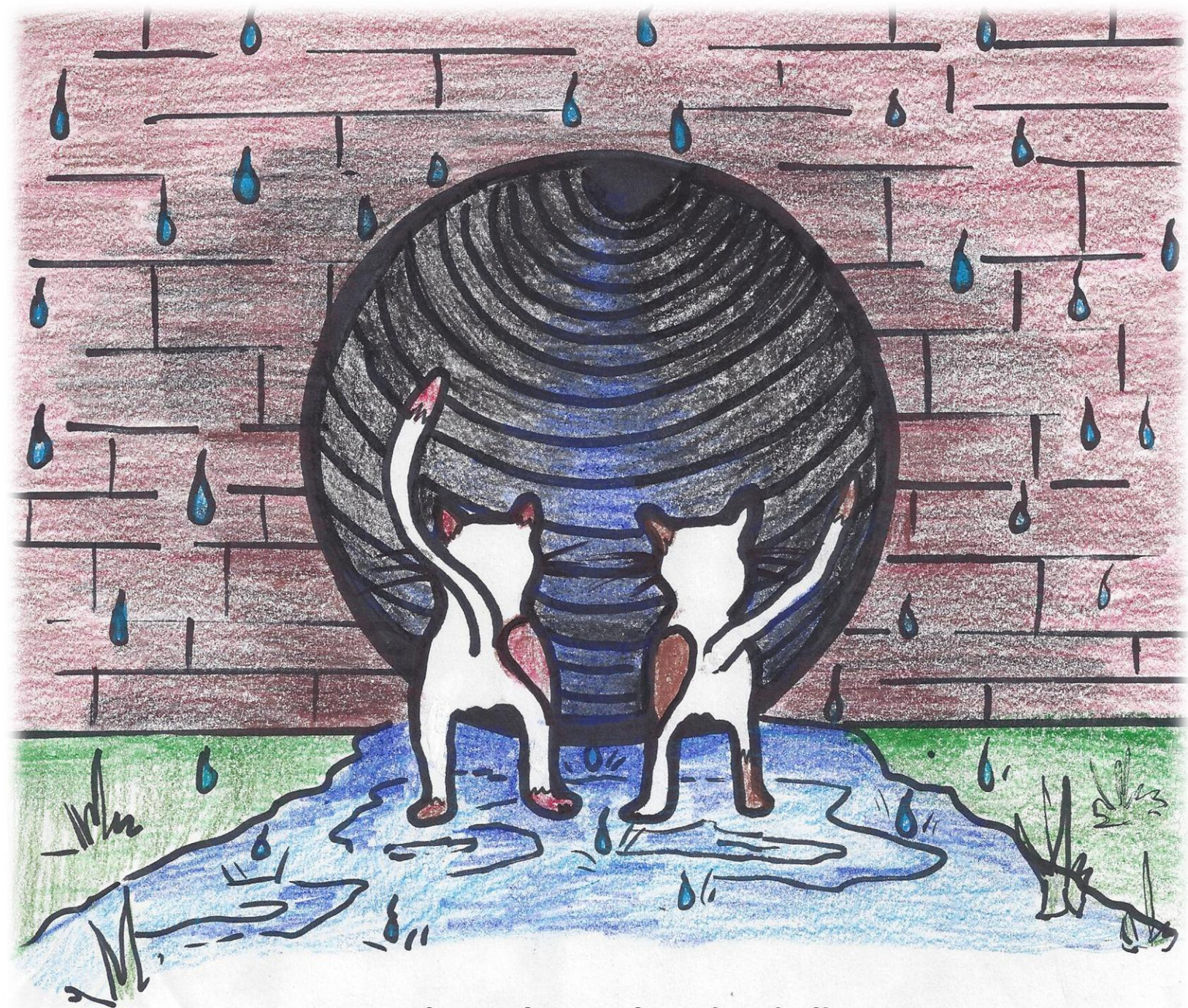
And both saw the culvert come into sight

A long black pipe, down under the ground

A place where they both would be safe and  
sound.

Two little kitties left all alone without a place to call their own!





Into the culvert they both fled  
A scary place without a bed  
No soft pillow for either little head  
Nor a dish so the two would be happily fed





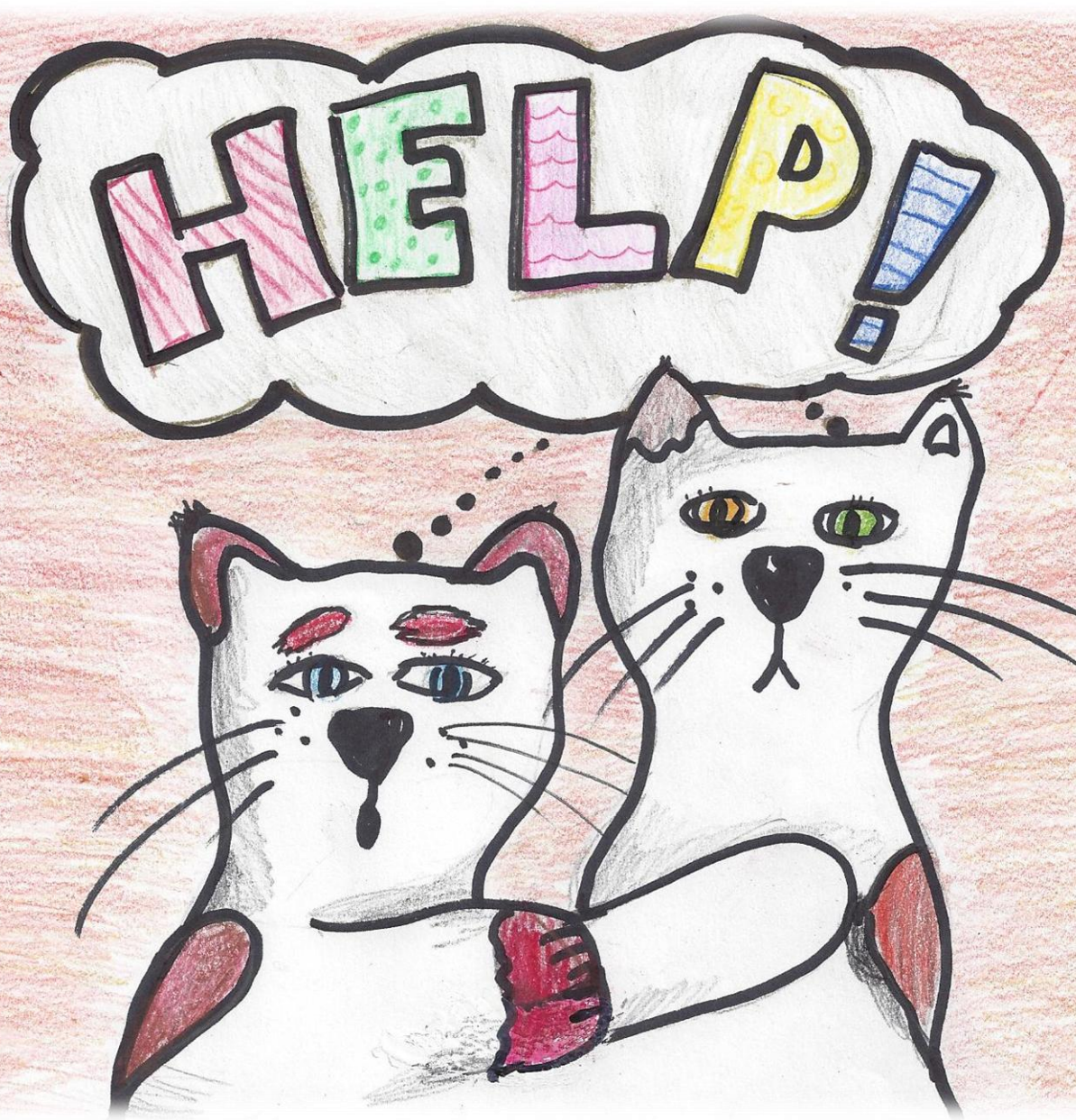
Cars on the road. Sounds on the ground.

Screeches filled the air. Loud noises from everywhere!

THUNK!







**Two little hearts beating so fast. How long  
would this horror last?**

**Two little kitties held each other tight  
All through the long and lonely night.**

**Not a bit of sleep, not even a wink.**

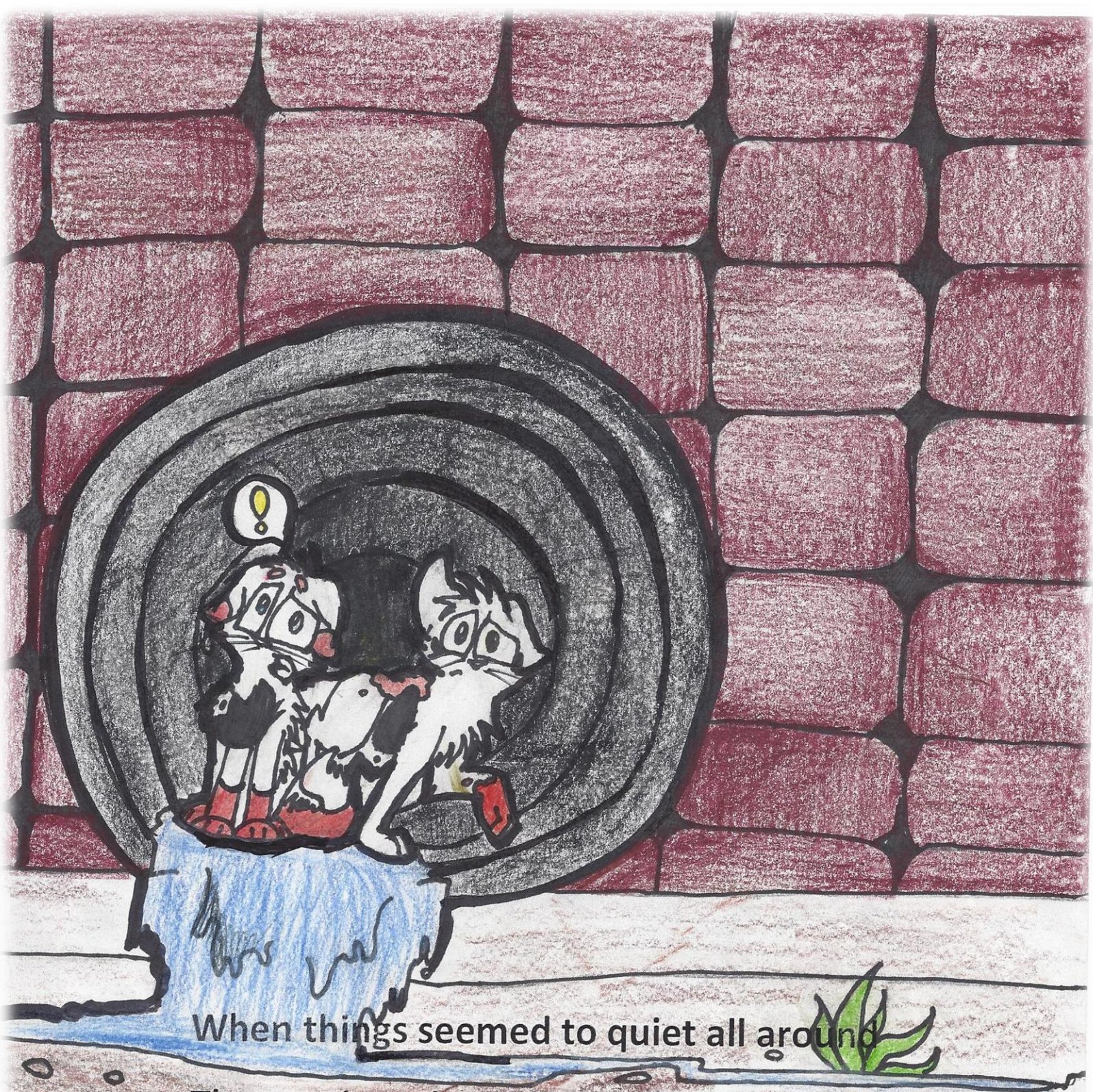
**Would someone come and help, you think**





Early bright rays of the morning light  
Signaled an end to the long, lonely night.  
Would life's dark clouds finally move away?  
For two little kitties deserving of a better day?





When things seemed to quiet all around

The two heard a different sort of sound.

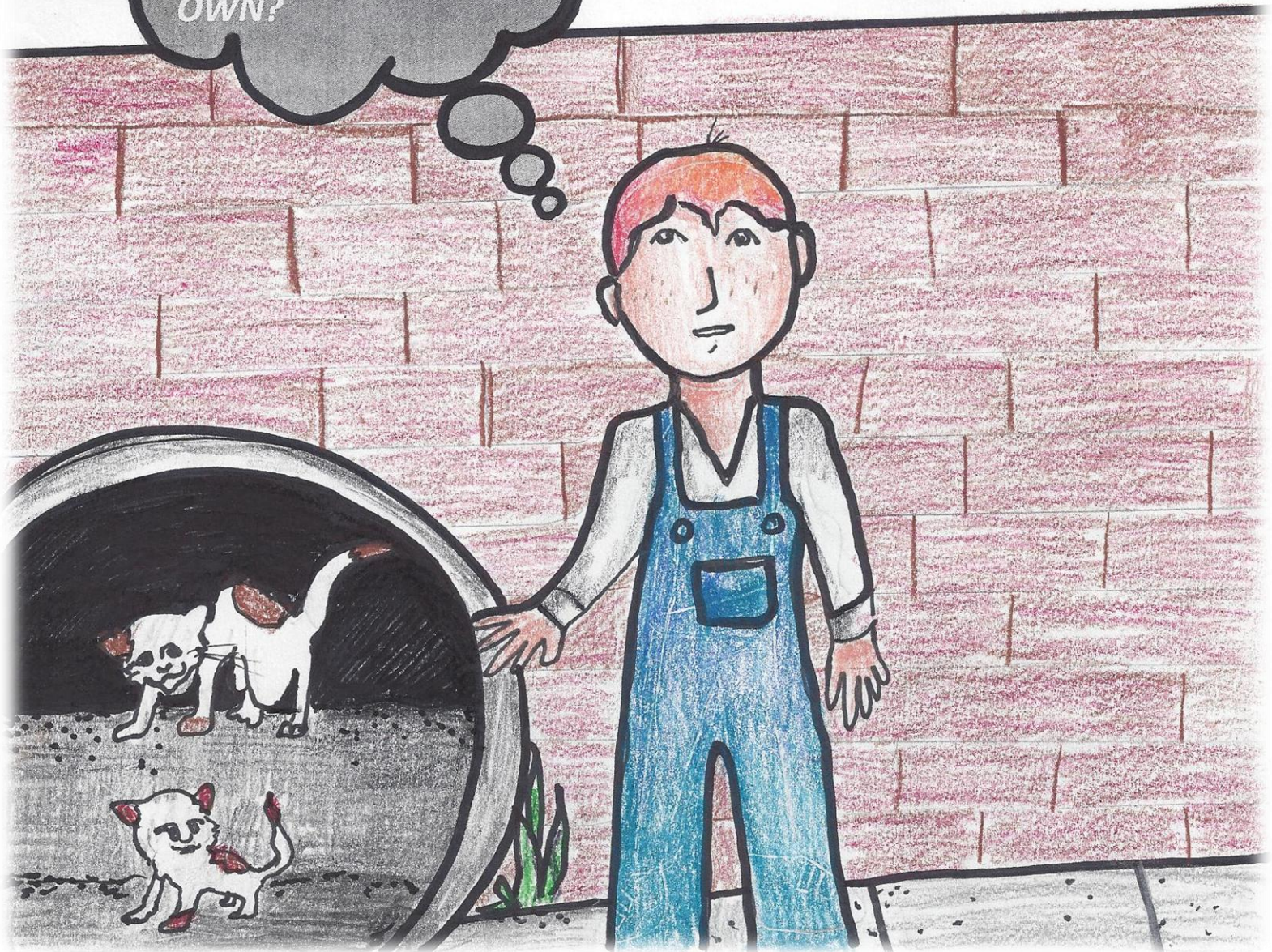
'Twas Little Heart quickly coming their way

Filled with the joy of a brand new day.



Stopping in his tracks, he heard a tiny cry  
As two little kitties under the culvert did fly.

POOR LITTLE  
KITTIES ALL ALONE  
WITHOUT A HOME  
TO CALL YOUR  
OWN?





He fed them both some nice warm milk

And spoke with a voice as soft as silk.

I'm truly your friend, can't  
you see? Come with me!  
Come with me!







Lightning streaked across the sky!

*Come little  
kitties, we'll have  
to fly!*





Two little kitties under his coat

Little Heart appeared to gently float.

As his feet quickly moved over the ground

Two little kitties near his chest slept sound.

The beat of his heart  
let both of them know  
the depth of his love  
that would forever flow.





Rain on the roof! Rain at the door  
Two little kitties would worry no more.  
Two little kitties all safe and sound  
Two little kitties with love all around.



Little Heart and the kitties went out to explore  
**THE BIG WIDE, WIDE, WORLD AND MORE!**

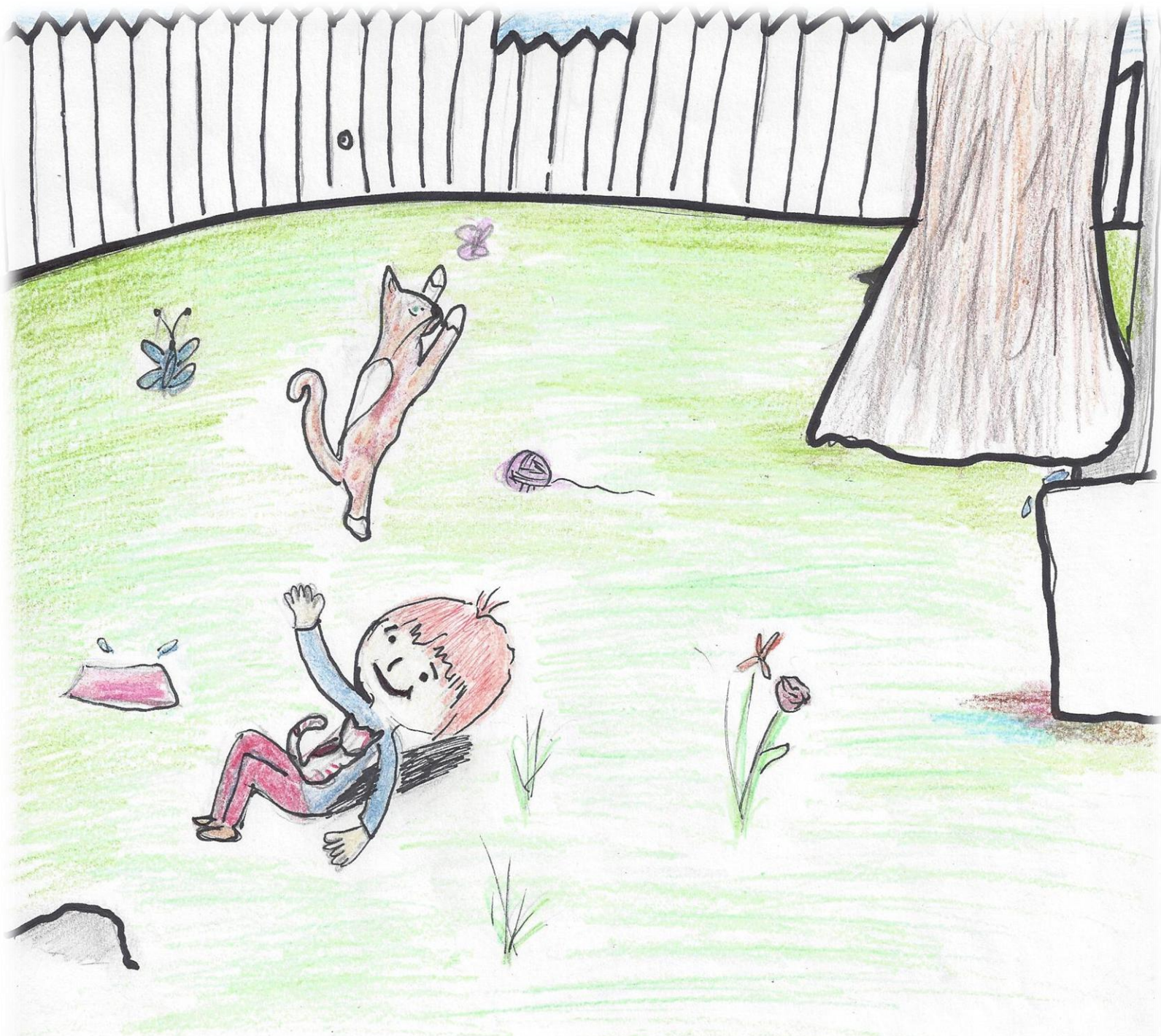






Up in the trees they climbed so high  
And tried their best to touch the sky.  
Birds flew by and chirped their name  
While big busy bumblebees did the same.





Back on the ground they chased their tails  
Stopping only once to drink from the pails.  
Little Heart and the kitties were always on the  
run. Rolling and tumbling! Oh, what fun!



Neighborhood cats watched from the right  
and were truly stunned at the  
**STRANGE, WEIRD, SIGHT!**



Oh, dear! Oh, my! Oh, brother!

Those two kitties think Little Heart is  
their mother!





**Then they gathered in a defiant troop**

**Closing all around the little group.**

**This was ENOUGH! Over the top!**

**This nonsense absolutely had to stop!**

**This whole thing was as plain as day.**

**How could they even think that way?**



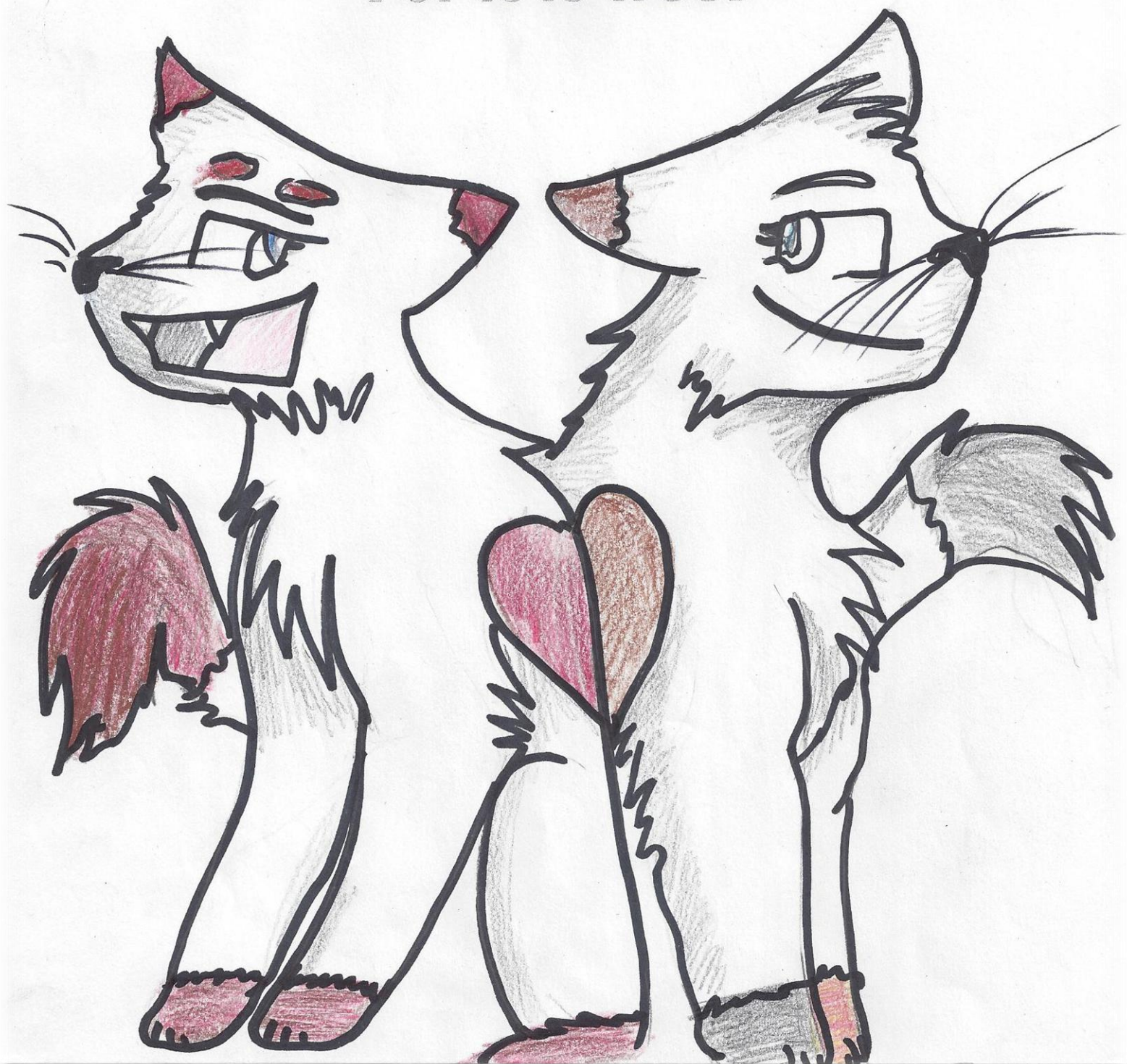


"Oh dear! Oh, my! Oh, brother!  
How can you think  
Little Heart is your mother?"





***"His love for us is plain to see!  
There are no strings.  
For it is free."***





“He is gentle. He is kind.  
No greater love can we ever find.  
His love for us goes on and on.  
Not only in this world, but beyond.”



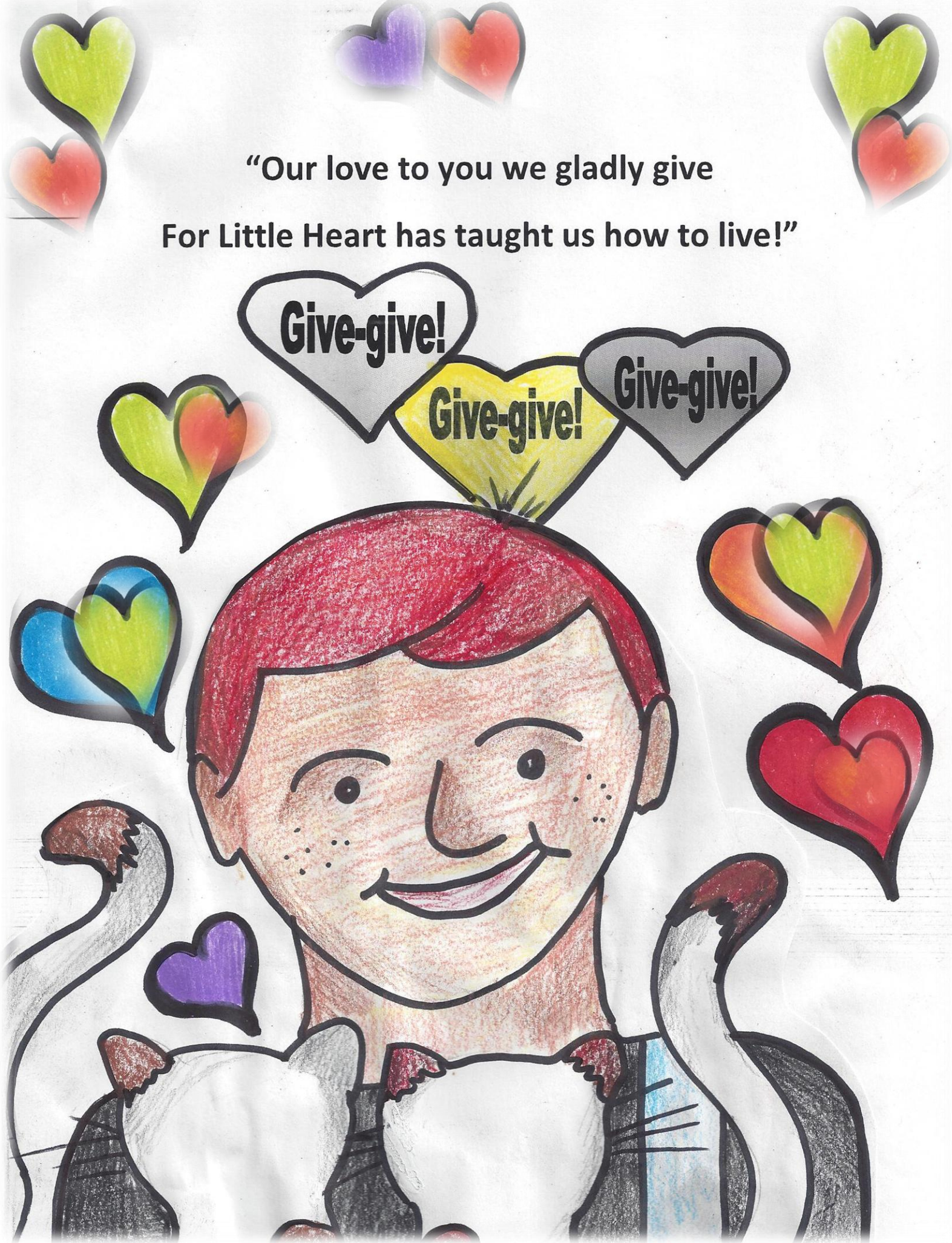


**"Our love to you we gladly give  
For Little Heart has taught us how to live!"**

**Give-give!**

**Give-give!**

**Give-give!**





# ***A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO...***



***FOSTER PARENTS, CASA WORKERS, SOCIAL SERVICE  
STAFF MEMBERS, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION IN LOCATING A  
LOVING FAMILY FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE HELPLESS  
AND ALL ALONE***





**Dedicated To: Carla Smyer, writer's sister**

**Rescuer Of: Two Little Kitties In A Culvert**

***"Oh, dear! Oh, my! Oh, brother!***

***They truly thought Carla was their mother!"***



**CARLA**



# **Cherokee Middle School Illustrators**

**Ryan Batt**

**Stevi Berry**

**Michelle Carnahan**

**Makayla Maxheimer**

**Sophia Moore**

**Chad Myers**

**Kersten Prestien**

**Bailey Schuldt**

**David Stanley**

**Drew VanHise**

**Kristin Sholtis/ Art Teacher**