

CAN I BE YOUR FAVORITE



TODAY?

WRITER: COLENE SMYER HANK

ILLUSTRATORS: CHEROKEE MIDDLE

SCHOOL ILLUSTRATOR CLUB

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

PRESENTING FROM:

♥ THE ADVENTURES OF LITTLE HEART SERIES ♥



***CAN I BE YOUR
FAVORITE TODAY?***



***A RICH HUMOROUS STORY THAT TENDERLY PLUCKS AT
THE READERS HEART STRINGS AS A WRINKLED LITTLE DOG
DISCOVERS THAT INNER BEAUTY IS WHAT COUNTS IN LIFE.***

1 Samuel 16: 7

**“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the
outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”**

WRITER: COLENE SMYER HANK

ILLUSTRATORS: CHEROKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL ILLUSTRATORS CLUB



Wrinkles, Wrinkles is my name.

Nothing new, just more of the same.

Wrinkles on my nose.

Wrinkles on my toes.

Where they come from, no one knows.



Wrinkles here! Wrinkles there!

Wrinkles absolutely everywhere!



I'm no one's favorite can't you see?
Who wants to look at someone like me?



It hurts so much when I get near.

For all they do is laugh and **SNEER!**

Life would deal me a better day

If these wrinkles would simply go away!

SNEER

SNEER



ha



HA!



HA!



Ha!

ha



**Perhaps today a plan is near
To make these wrinkles disappear.
Then everyone will be my friend
And this ugly nightmare will truly end.**

**They'll look at me and surely say
How very beautiful you look this way.**

COME, DEAR WRINKLES. COME AND PLAY!



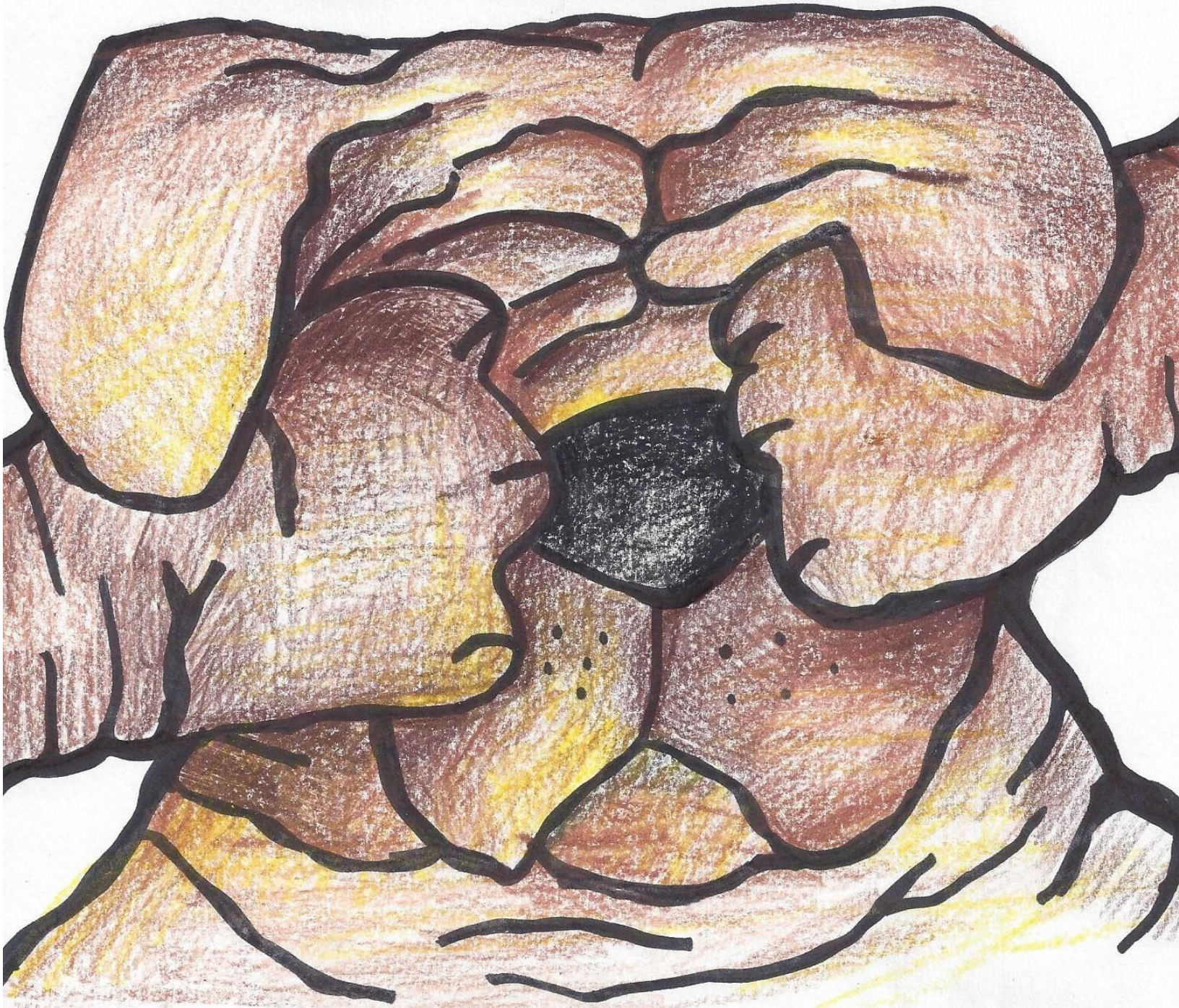


**Wrinkles thought and he did find
A brilliant plan come to mind.
Perhaps by standing on my head
They'll be gone! Completely shed!**



**He carefully stood upon his head
And leaned his back against his bed.
Pointing his toes up toward the sky
In hopes those wrinkles would fly right by.**

**But it took him only a moment or two
To know that he simply had no view.
After breathing several very heavy sighs
He realized the wrinkles had covered his eyes.**



**All in the world that's happened to me
Is for sure, I CANNOT SEE!**

Wrinkles here!

Wrinkles there!

**WRINKLES ABSOLUTELY
EVERYWHERE!**

I'm no one's favorite can't you see?

Who wants to look at someone like me?





**Rolling all over is the answer, you see
To get these wrinkles off of me.
First I'll roll way over to the right
And they'll disappear completely out of sight.**

He rolled to the left and then to the right.

But those awful wrinkles just held on tight!

Oh, my! It's all in vain.

My wrinkles are as right as rain.

It's completely hopeless don't you see?

Someone's favorite I'll never be.



**The laundry man can iron them flat!
Now why haven't I ever thought of that?
Just like it says on the front door sign
No more wrinkles, not even a line.**

**Wrinkles got in line and stood up straight
Asking the man for a special rate.
His wrinkles were big instead of small.
It would be easy to get them all.**

**Then he would surely look so fine.
It would be worth that wait in line.
Many friends would knock at his door.
Maybe one, two, three or four!**

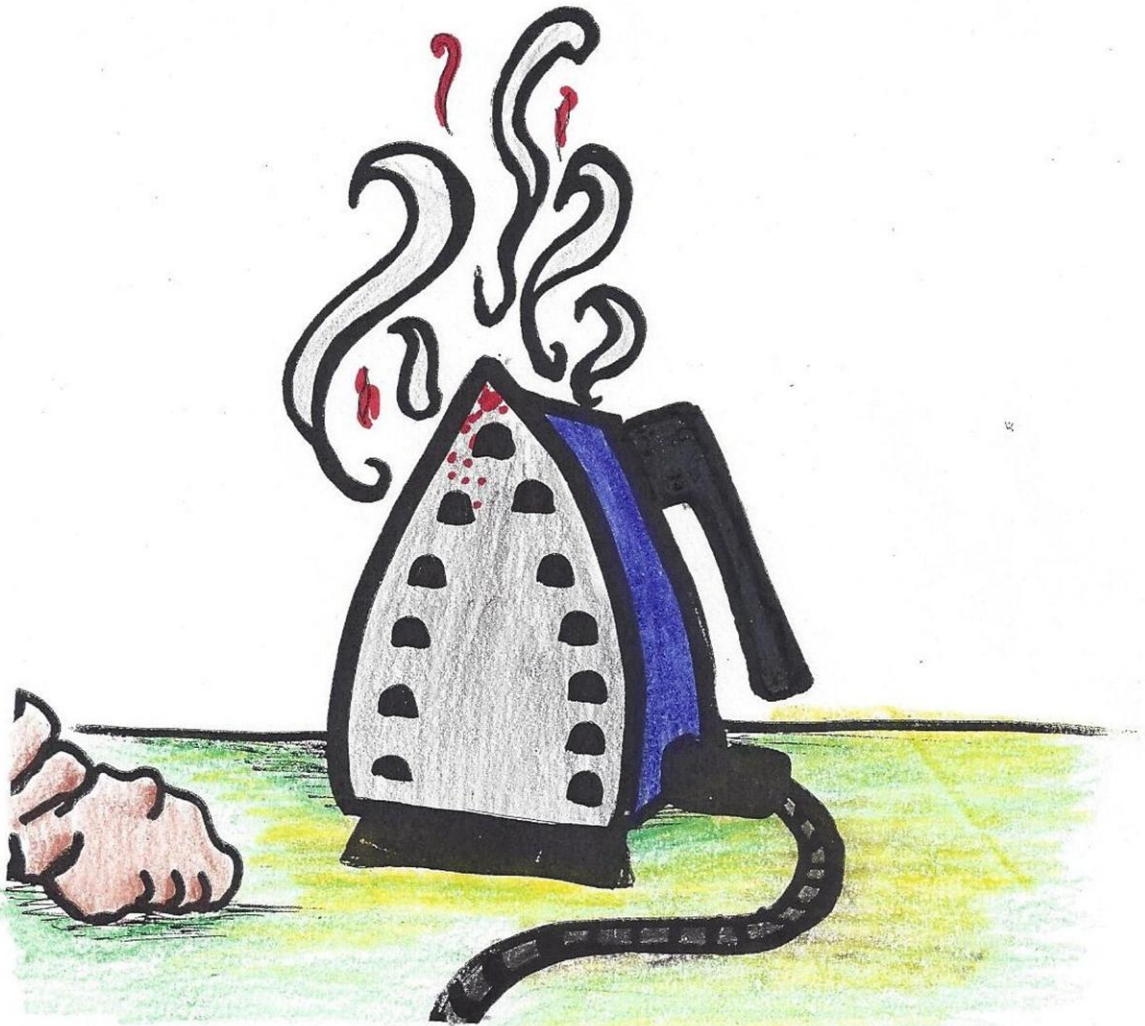


The man turned and looked with complete distaste.

Why can't you see my time you do waste?

Silly Wrinkles, I think not!

For my iron is **RED POKER HOT!**



Oh dear! Oh my! I think not!

This laundry is certainly not my spot!

This idea is perfectly insane.

Whoever said, "No pain? No gain?"

Wrinkles wasn't one to give up hope.

He'd not sit around and mope.

I'll take a trip way down the road

And totally get rid of this heavy load.

Today will be my special day.

A friend for sure will come my way.

I'll change myself from head to toe.

Then all these wrinkles will never show.

I'll be whatever they want me to be.

Never one wrinkle will they see.

Wrinkles will not even be my name.

I'll be like them; just the same.

To be like them is perfectly good.

My life will be just exactly as it should.

First he met a leopard with lots of spots
That gave little Wrinkles very happy thoughts.

Life had dealt him a much better day
Sending this spotted friend his way.



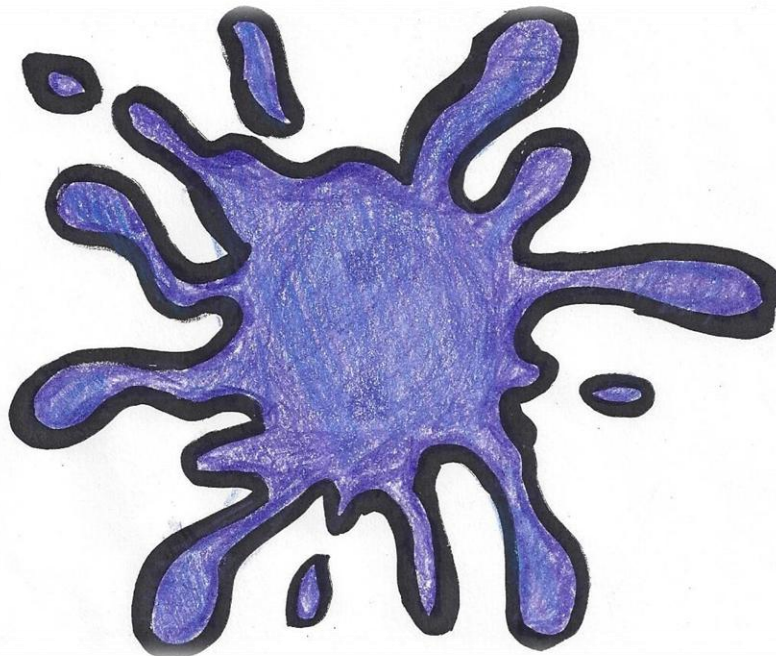
He painted all his wrinkles with pretty purple spots
In hopes the leopard would like him lots.

NO SIR WRINKLES!

I THINK NOT!

FOR YOU ARE ONE BIG UGLY

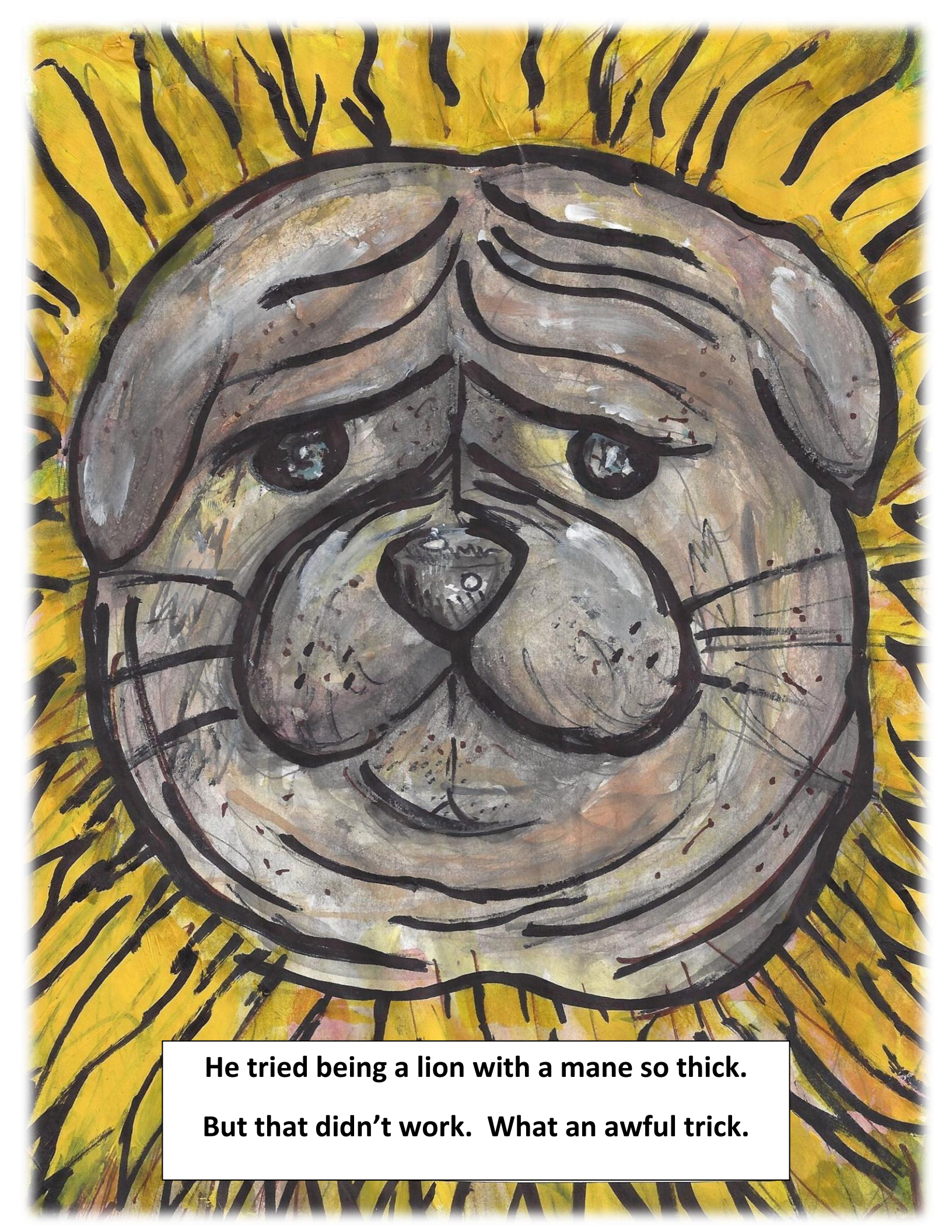
PURPLE SPOT!



SPOTS ARE HOT. CAN'T YOU

SEE? OFF WITH YOU! GET

AWAY FROM ME!

A painting of a lion's face, rendered in a stylized, expressive manner. The lion's face is the central focus, painted in shades of grey and brown with thick black outlines. The eyes are large and dark, and the nose is prominent. The mane is depicted as a thick, black, wavy border around the face. The background is a vibrant yellow with black, wavy stripes, suggesting a sun or a stylized mane. The overall style is reminiscent of a child's drawing or a folk-art style.

**He tried being a lion with a mane so thick.
But that didn't work. What an awful trick.**



Being like a zebra, all black and white

Only made him look like a dreadful sight.

Wrinkles walked sadly on down the road

Carrying a heart with a heavy load.

His face was soaked with all his tears

As his soul was troubled by his fears.





**Then he heard a voice so soft and kind.
Maybe a willing ear he did find
To listen to his troubles and his woes
And soothe the wounds from all his foes.**



"Twas Little Heart coming his way

Filled with the joy of a brand new day.

"Wrinkles, what's taken you so very long?

I thought something was terribly wrong."

Using great courage, Wrinkles did carefully say,

"CAN...I...BE YOUR...FAVORITE...TODAY?"



“Oh yes, dear Wrinkles, that you can be.

Everyone’s my favorite. Can’t you see?

My love for you is wide and long

Never getting weak, but always growing strong.

My love is gentle. My love is kind.

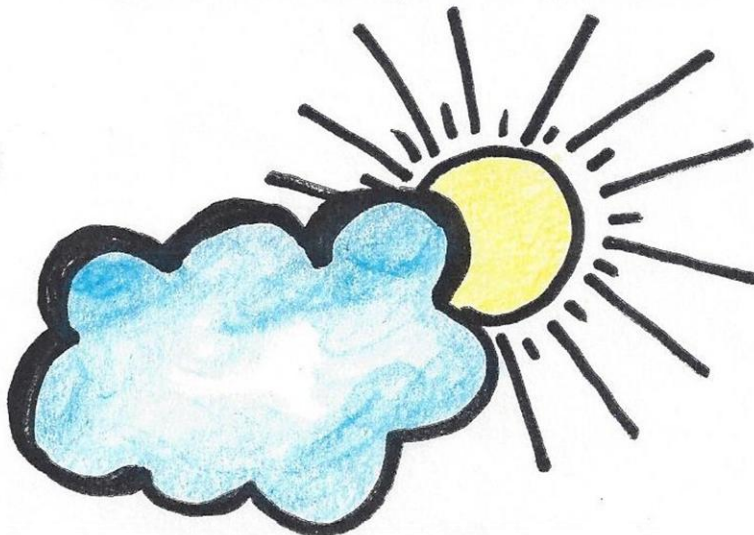
No greater love will you ever find.

Welcome Wrinkles! Welcome this day.

You’re welcome here to forever stay.

An eternal home for you I prepare

Where I’ll always be right here to care.





**Wrinkles had a face of unbelief
Which quickly turned to total relief.
He licked Little heart from head to toe
Knowing their love would forever grow.**

DEDICATED TO THE UNLOVELY



DESIRING DESPERATELY TO BE LOVED.





ABOUT THE WRITER

EDUCATION: BSE from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri, MA Ed. from Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, Ohio (Emphasis on reading and reading supervision)

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: 13 years as an instructor in public schools. Majority of career was spent in sales and sales management, corporate writer and trainer. Last position was Manager of Education and Training USA, for a nutritional company in New Jersey.

Currently serving as a volunteer reader and advocate for the elderly and reading tutor for second grade children.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**** Carol Scott, RSVP, for making the connection with Kristin Sholtis, Art Instructor at Cherokee Middle School, Springfield, Missouri, who welcomed the project with open arms.**

**** Harvey Hank, my husband, who is my rock, friend, and great supporter.**

**** Carol Weiler, Christian Health Care whose inspiration, support and love never fails.**

**** Tim Trafford, Activity Director at Christian Health Care, whose enthusiasm is contagious to the elderly and everyone that enters his sphere.**

**** Melody Childers, Assistant Activity Director, Christian Health Care whose arms of love are always wrapped around the elderly residents.**

**** Pearl Smyer, my 91 year old mother and quilter for abused children. Her tenacity is a daily example of what it takes to complete 400 quilts within the last few years; all for children who need to be wrapped in threads of love.**

**** Carla Smyer and Myrna Jent, two sisters whose love never fails.**

**** Rev. Payton Smyer; my earthly father who finished the race set before him and is now dancing with Jesus.**

**** To the elderly nursing home residents so deserving of the community members' attention.**

**** THANKS TO THE GREAT SHEPHERD OF MY LIFE, JESUS, WHO NEVER LEAVES OR FORSAKES ME, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES MY WEARY FEET STUMBLE.**

Cherokee Middle School Illustrators
and Artists:

Sarah Clark
Kristen Cox
Alex Godfrey
Kat Maples
Emily McReynolds
Wes Mitchum
Mikalah Murrell
Alison Pool
Laney Troop
Zoe Yanka



Kristin Sholtis/ Art Teacher