



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] comments on Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Leasing EIS

1 message

Alison Flint <alisoncflint@gmail.com>
To: Blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 2:35 PM

Dear Ms. Hayes,

Please see the attached scoping comments on the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Leasing EIS.

Sincerely,

Alison Flint



AFlint Arctic Refuge Leasing EIS Scoping Comments.pdf
7905K

June 19, 2018

Nicole Hayes

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

222 West 7th Ave., Stop #13

Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Submitted via email

Re: Scoping Comments on Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hayes,

I am deeply concerned by the BLM's proposed action to develop an oil and gas leasing program for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is truly America's last great expanse of undeveloped wilderness. It is the birthing ground of one of the world's last healthy caribou herds; critical denning habitat for endangered polar bears that, due to climate change and dwindling sea ice, are increasingly forced onto land; and "the place where life begins" for the native Gwich'in people, who depend on healthy caribou herds for their subsistence way of life. It is literally the last place on earth we should be leasing and developing for dirty fossil fuels that will only exacerbate the devastating effects of climate change on this pristine and sensitive landscape – particularly where far more economical domestic sources of oil and gas are available for development.

BLM must fully address the devastation that an oil and gas program will have on the Coastal Plain's wilderness, wildlife, and other resources. The thought that this American Serengeti could be crisscrossed with oil and gas infrastructure is heartbreaking to me – particularly when I think of my children and grandchildren who may not have the benefit of knowing such an untamed expanse of protected habitat for the most magical and charismatic of wild creatures exists. My son Finley, who is five, has never been to the Arctic. In fact, I have no recollection when, where, or how he first learned about the Arctic and its astounding wildlife. What I do know is that he is absolutely captivated. We scour the library for books about muskoxen and arctic fox. All he wanted for his birthday was a narwhal cake (the cake decorator had no idea what a narwhal was). In fact, he spent days working with his Grandma to write and illustrate a book entitled "Nory's Narwhal Adventure" about a particularly adventurous narwhal. He routinely asks what will happen to polar bears when the sea ice is gone and if there's anything we can do to stop that from happening. And he stares longingly at the caribou antler hanging on our living room wall that I found lying on the tundra nearly two decades ago on a formative trip I took to the Canadian Arctic as an eighteen-year-old, and asks to hear the story over and over again about where it came from. When I told Finley that the wildlife that so captivates his imagination may be harmed by oil and gas development in the most important part of the Arctic, he was in tears asking why anyone would do that. I told him I feel exactly the same way. He asked me what he can do, and I told him he could tell the people in the government who are proposing to do this what he thinks. So he drew the attached pictures of his favorite Arctic animals that would be threatened by oil and gas development, and I transcribed his words on one of the pages. We also attached "Nory's Narwhal Adventure" to these comments.

BLM may not forge ahead with leasing the Coastal Plain without fully considering all the reasonably foreseeable impacts that its decisions may have on the wildlife that Finley loves and other sensitive resources. That includes everything from the impacts of the infrastructure that could ultimately be developed under the leases, to the inevitable spills of toxic materials, to the degradation of the Coastal Plain's untouched wilderness values, and so much more. Any thorough and scientifically based analysis will show that the risks are just too great and that BLM must select a no leasing alternative.

Sincerely,

Alison Flint & Finley St. Pierre
Boulder, Colorado

It's important to protect the Arctic because it's melting. So we have to save it by not making more climate change. Drilling will cause climate change and hurt arctic animals like narwhals, polar bears, arctic foxes, and caribou. Narwhals are my favorite underwater and polar bears are my favorite out of water.



Polar Bear Mama + Baby on Ice berg. Finley St. Pierre (age 5)

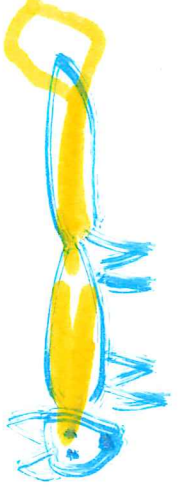
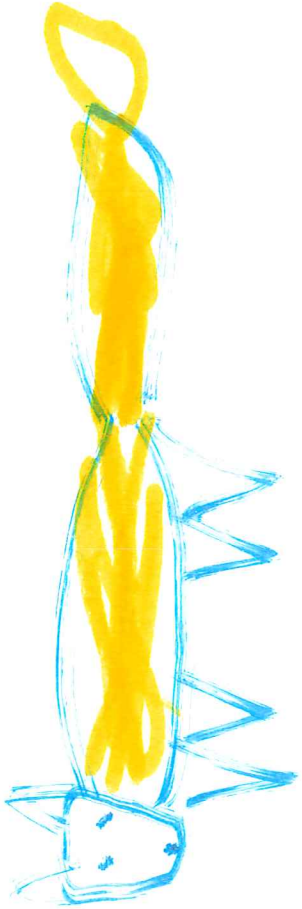
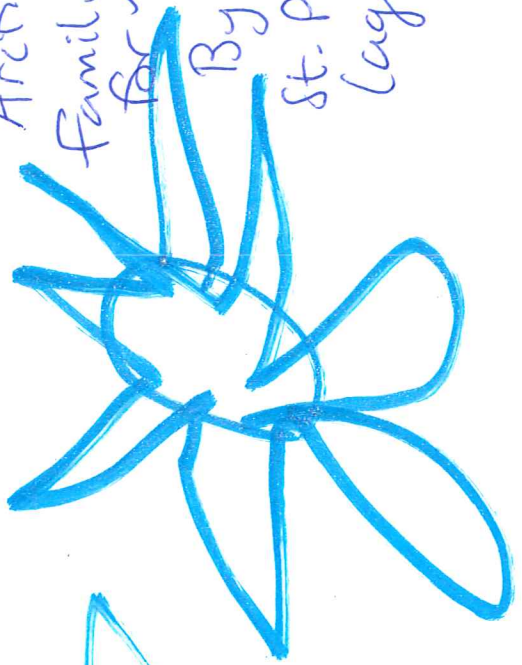
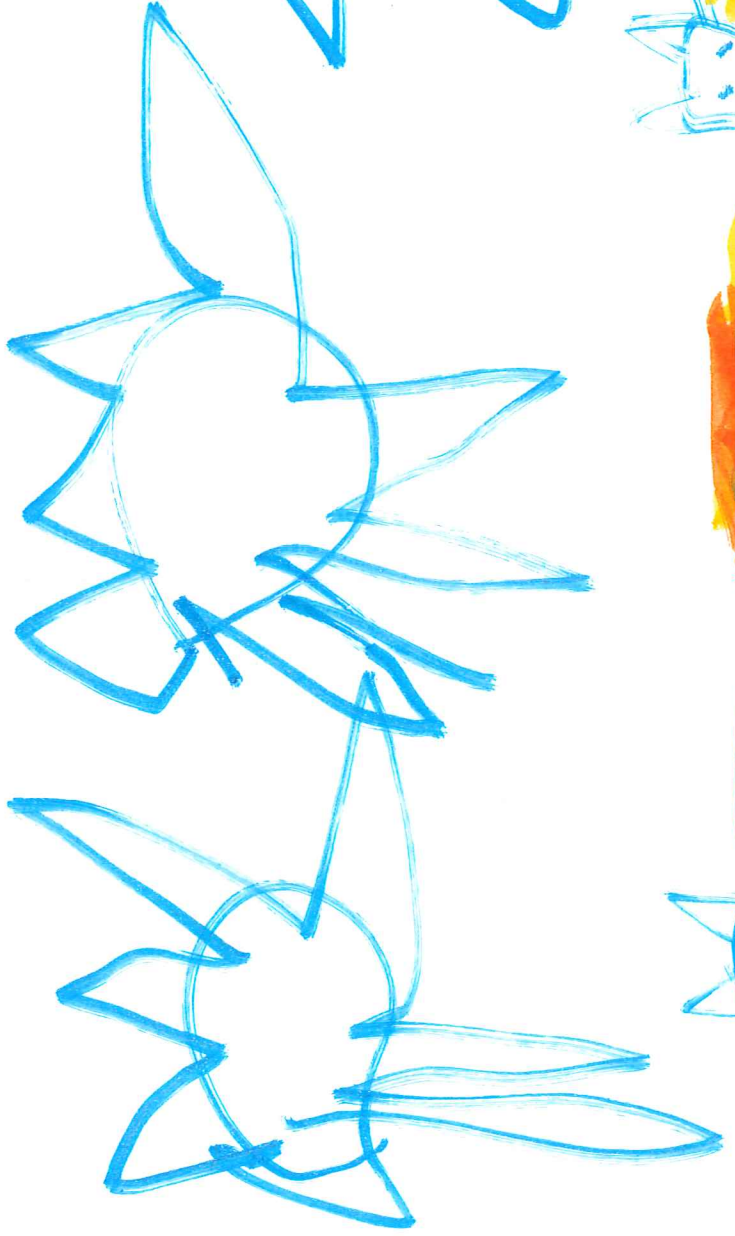


Narwhal family
By Finley St. Pierre (age 5)



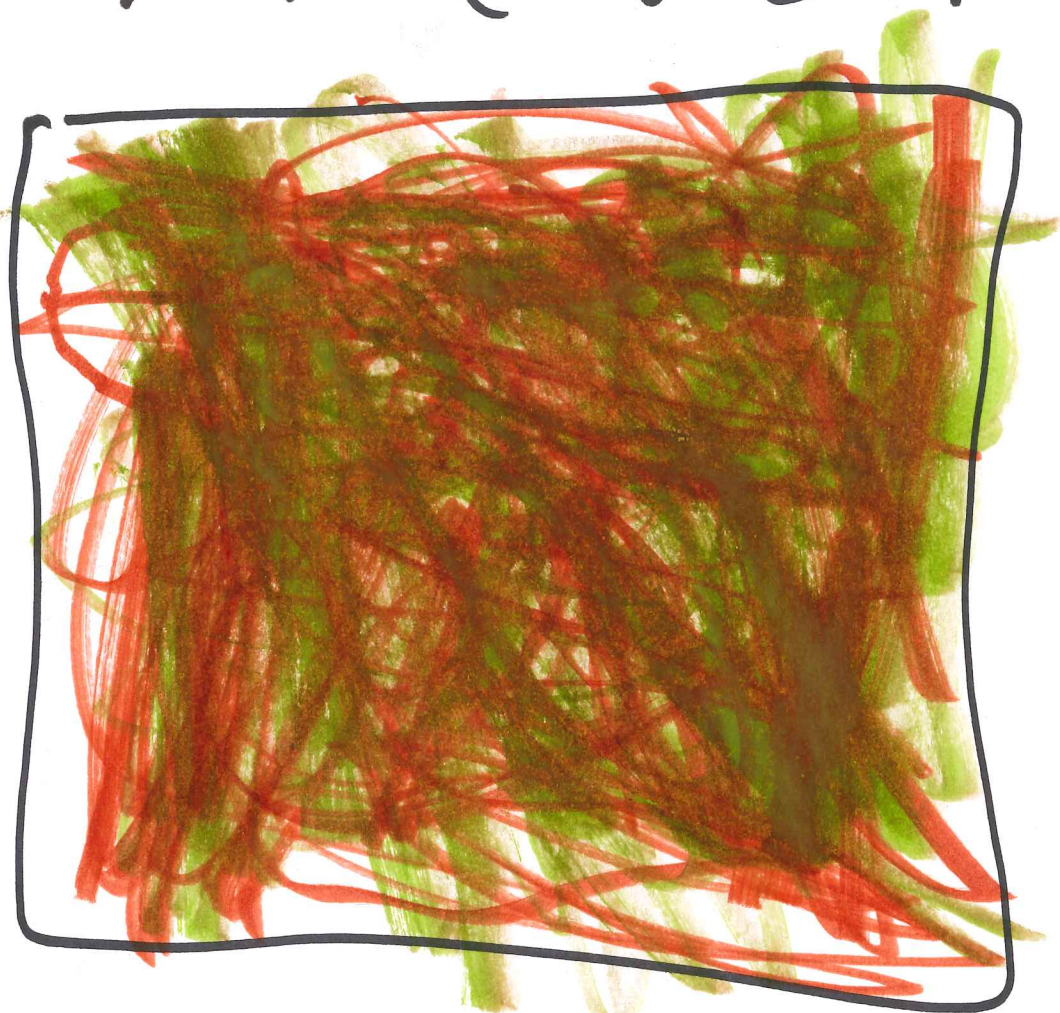
Herd of muskoxen. Finley St. Pierre (age 5)

Arctic fox
family hunting
for lemmings.
By F. V. V.
St. Pierre
(age 5)



Nory's

Narwal



Adventure

by
Finley St Pierre



Chapter One

Once upon a time

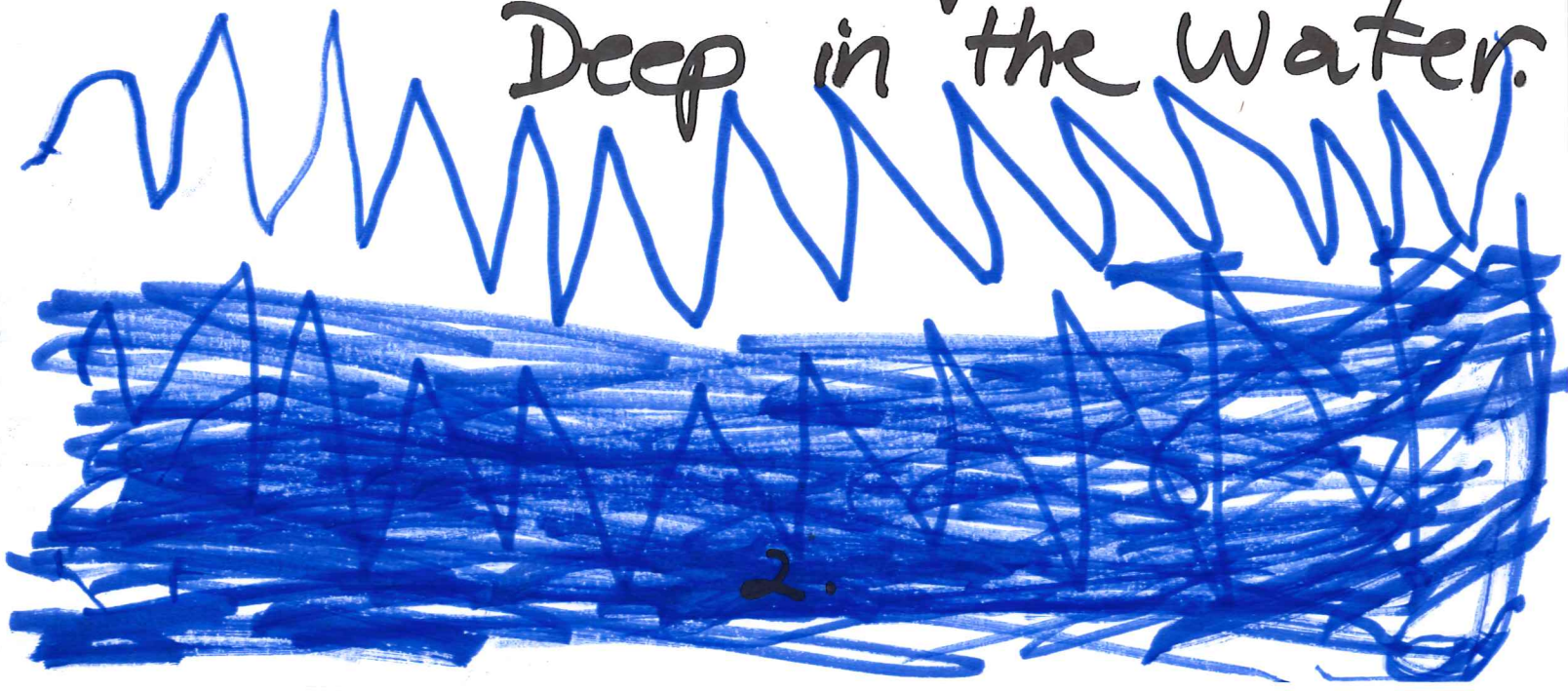
there was
a herd of narwhals.



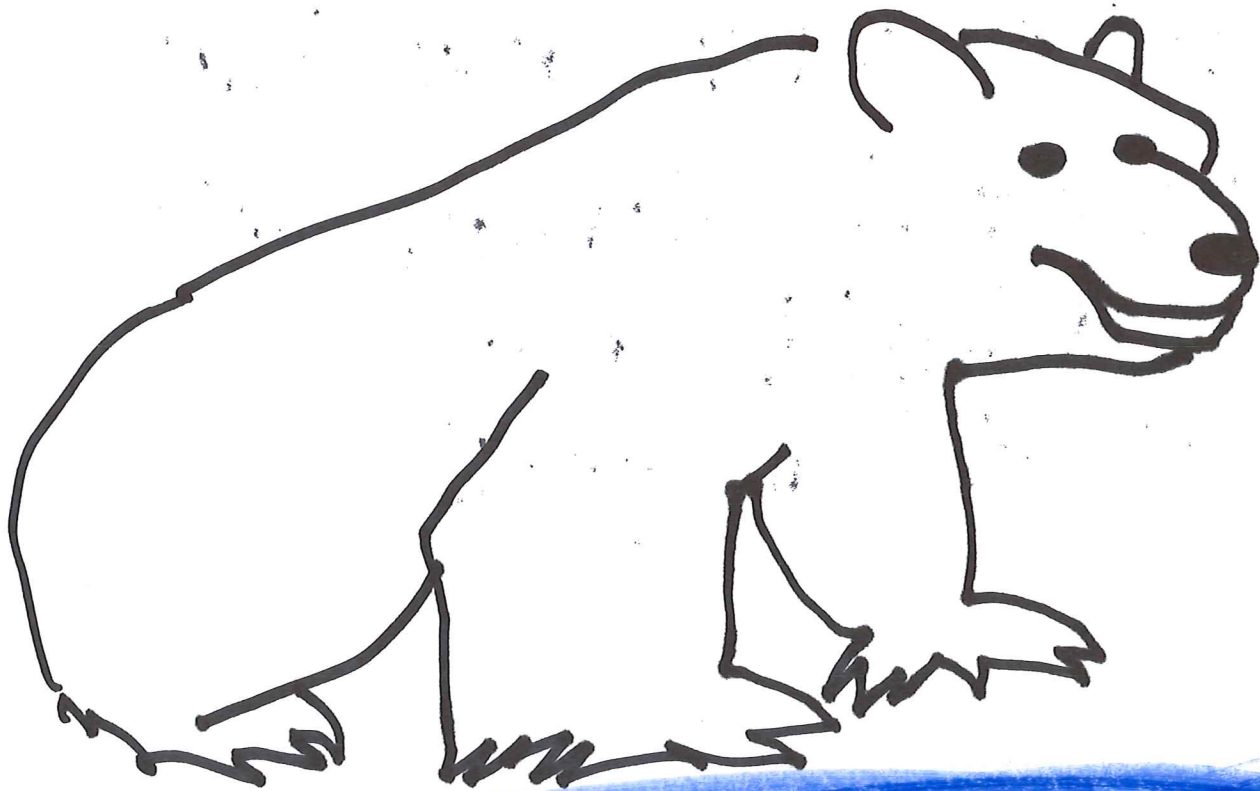
They lived in the Arctic,
swimming in the ocean
every day. One of the
narwals was a boy
named Nory.

He was very long
and was very adventurous.
His favorite thing to do
was Explore.

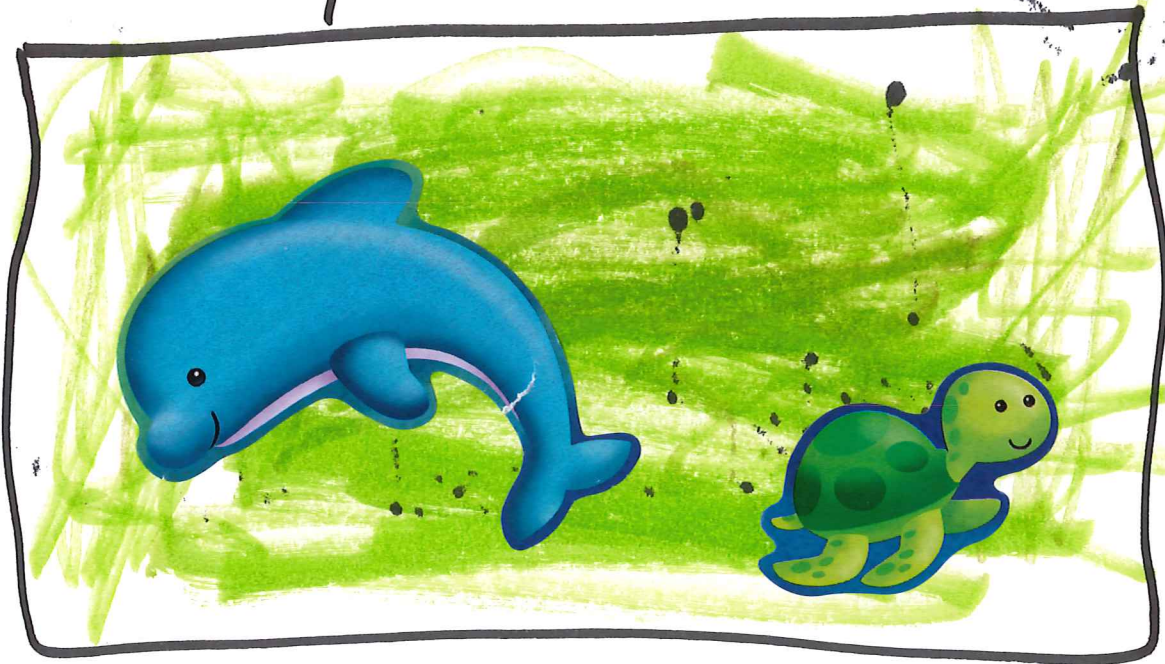
Deep in the water.

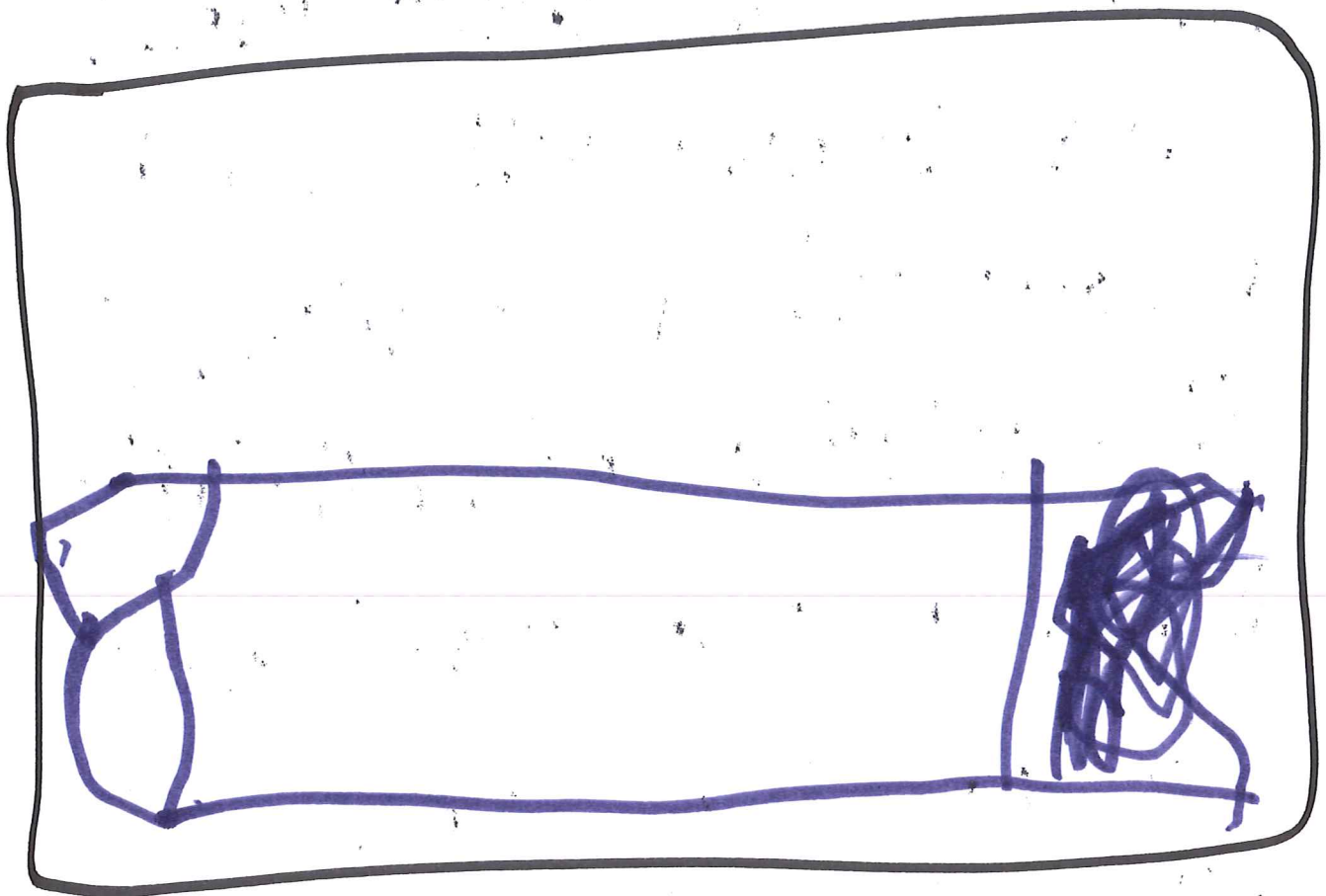


There were killer whales
and leopard seals.
There were ice bergs
in the water. Polar
bears jumped on them.



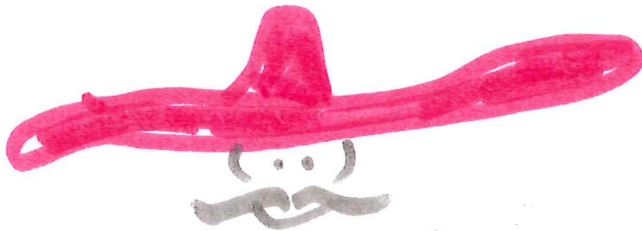
Chapter Two.
Nary started to swim
down the seashore.
Pretty soon he was in
California visiting the
sea lions and dolphins.
He had a seaweed
party with the others.





But then he had a scare -
Sharktooth showed up.
When Nary poked him
with his long tusk,
sharktooth said,
"Wanna play ? ? ? ?"

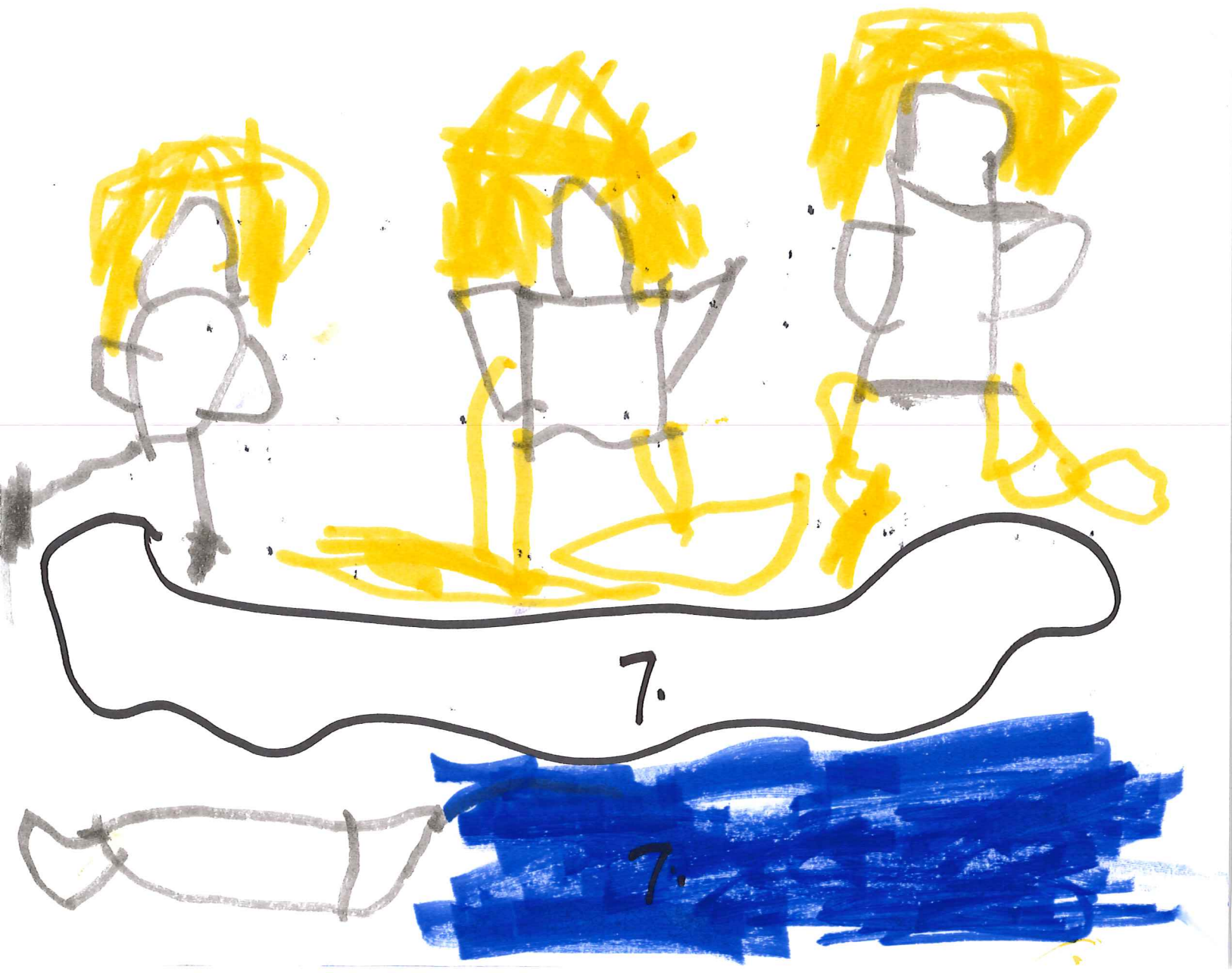
They played til
Sharktooth got tired,
and Nary said, "I
am on an adventure,
bye!" On to Mexico!



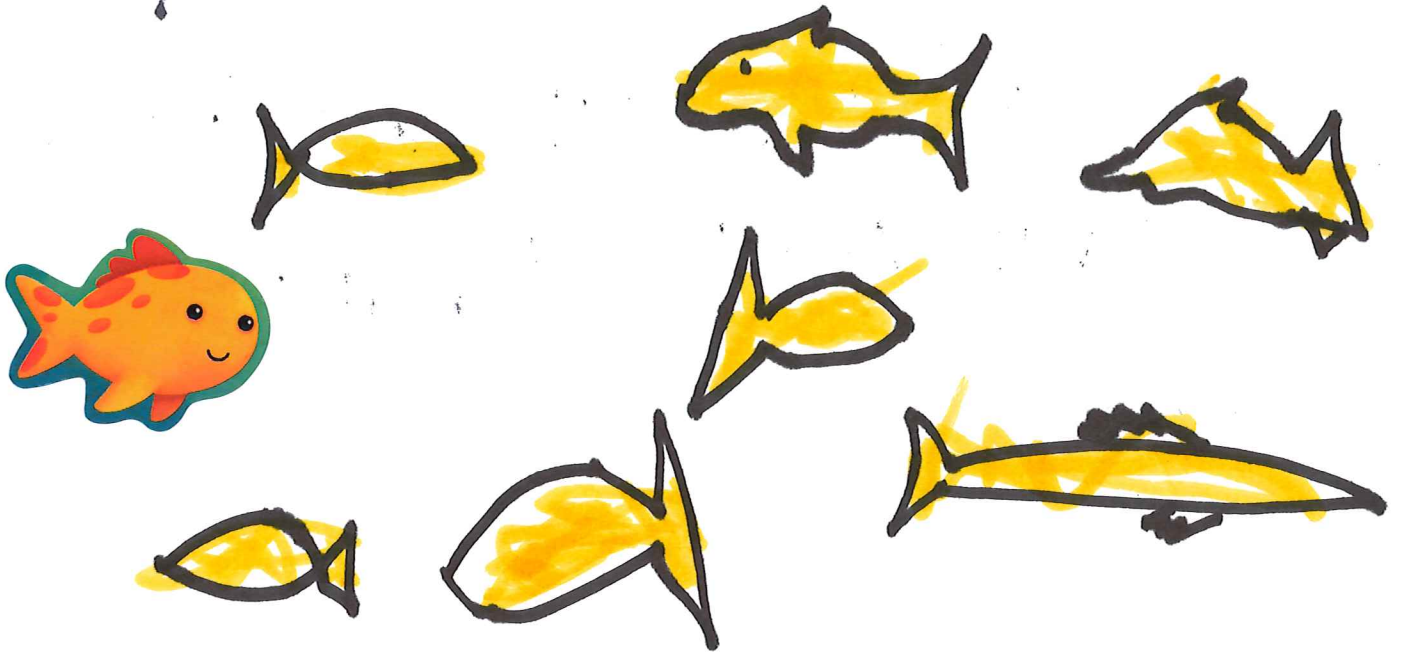
" Buenas Días!
Como Esta!"

Nary couldn't
understand Spanish.

Chapter Three.
On he swam, past
South America to
the Antarctic Ocean.
And an island of
Macaroni Penguins.



After they played, everyone
got hungry.



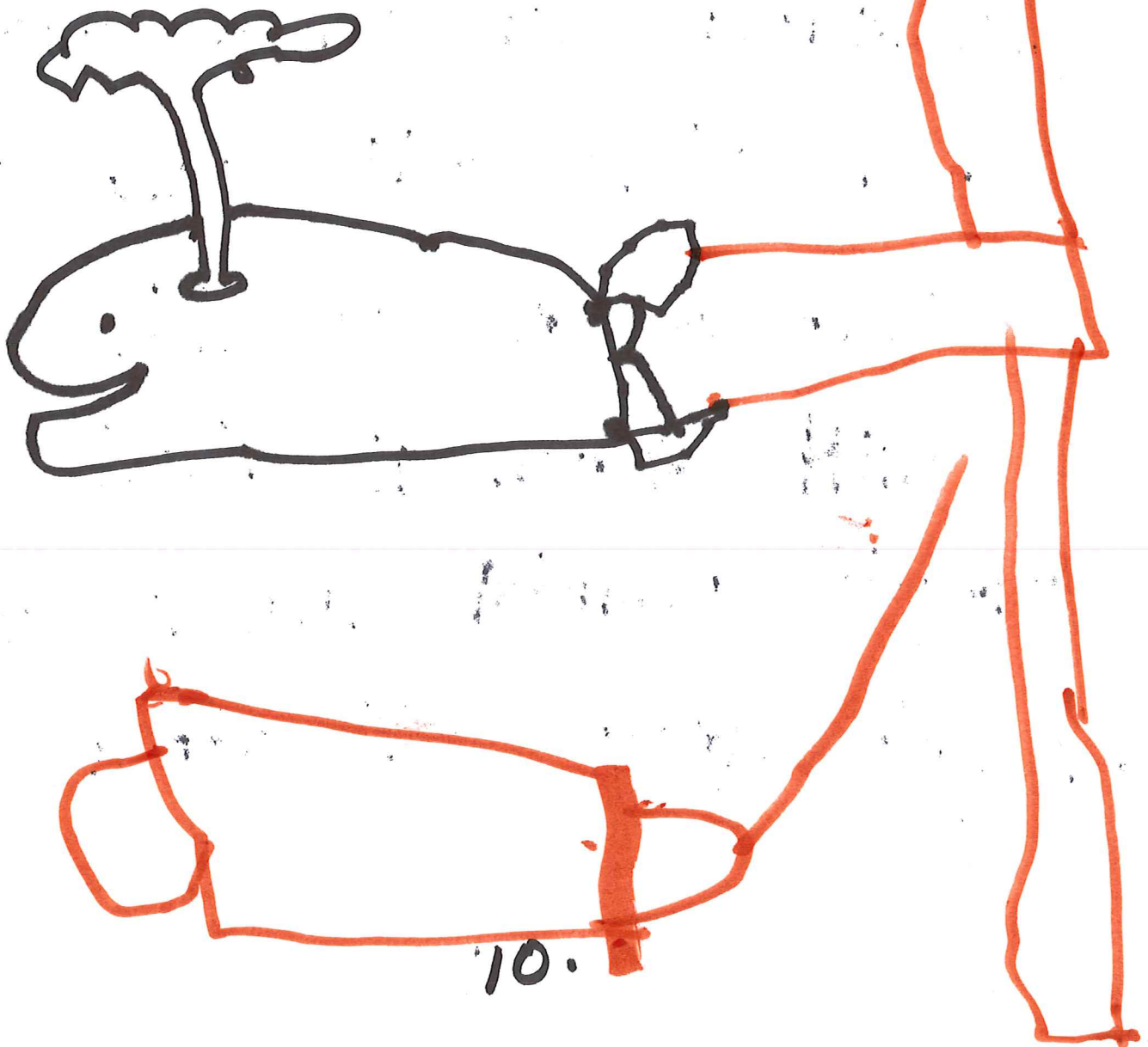
Look! A fish party.
They got full bellies.
But then....

Chapter Four.

Nary looked for his
narwal herd, and down in
the sea,
up at the surface,
there were no narwals.
He was the only one.
He felt so alone and
so lost. It made him
cry enough ~~tear~~ narwal tears
to make the ocean deeper.

Oh tucky lucky day.

Along came a humpback
whale. Nary stuck out
his Narwal to hitchhike
a ride back to the Arctic.



"Do you think I am a boat?"
the whale asked? Nary
said, "I'm so lost and
so sad. I have to find my
herd in the Arctic."

The whale said, "Come on,
here we go. You can
ride up on my back if
you don't mind a little
whale spray."

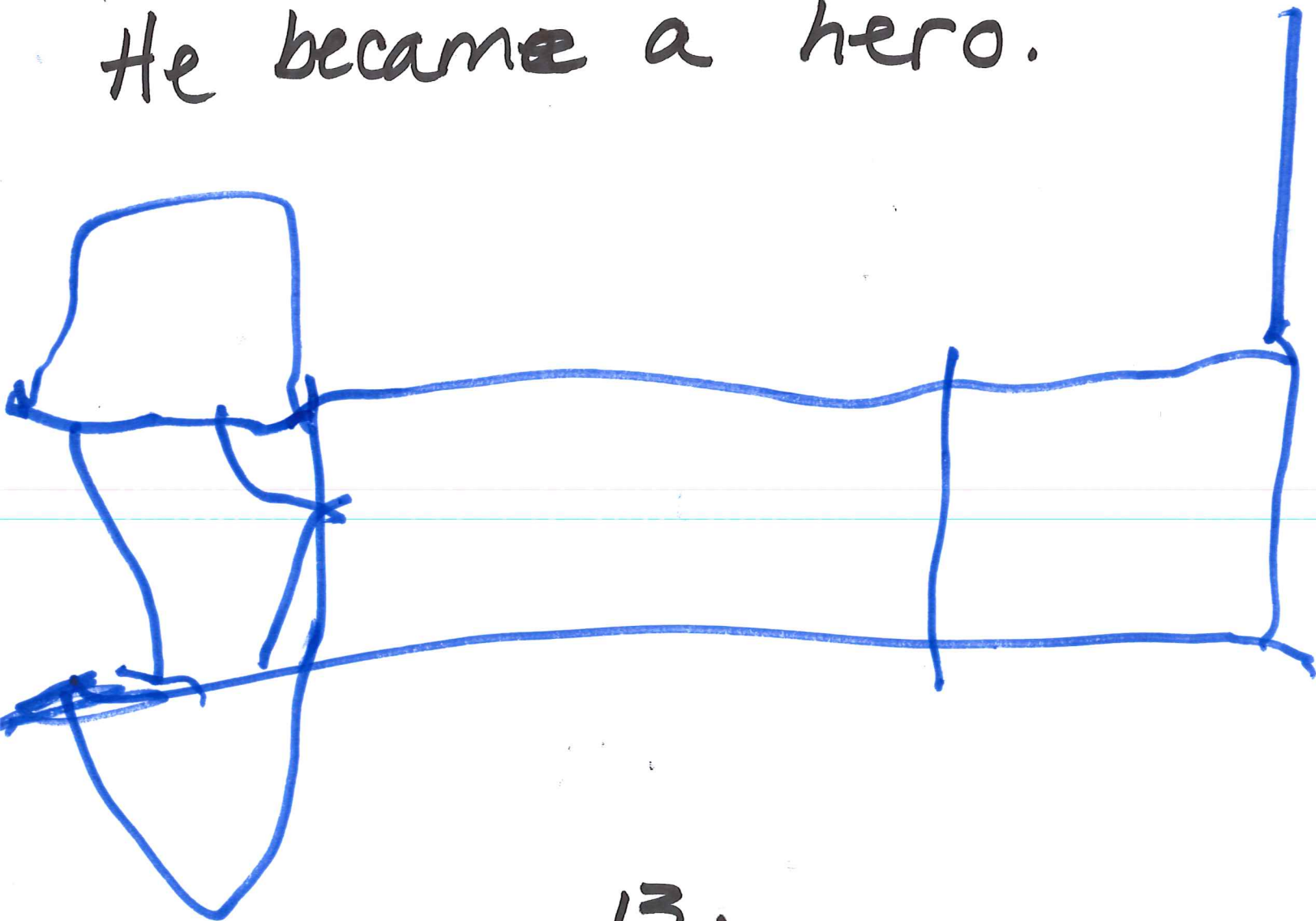
Off they went.

Chapter Five

Before he knew, Nary was
all the way to Alaska.
The whale dropped him off
at the Bubble Campfire,
a gathering place for the
Narwal herd.



And there they were!
They were so happy to see
Nary that they all did
the Fin Fin Finny Pokey.
Around the fire, Nary
told his whole adventure.
He became a hero.



Nary took the whole herd down the ocean coast and they met the Macaroni Penguins and had another feast. Of fish, of course.

From then on, Nary became the leader of the Narwal herd. He had a seaweed crown and a seaweed sceptre.



Nary proudly led them
back to the Arctic,
where the adventure to
the Antarctic became
a legend for all time
for all Narwals.

And, of course...
they lived happily
ever after.

