

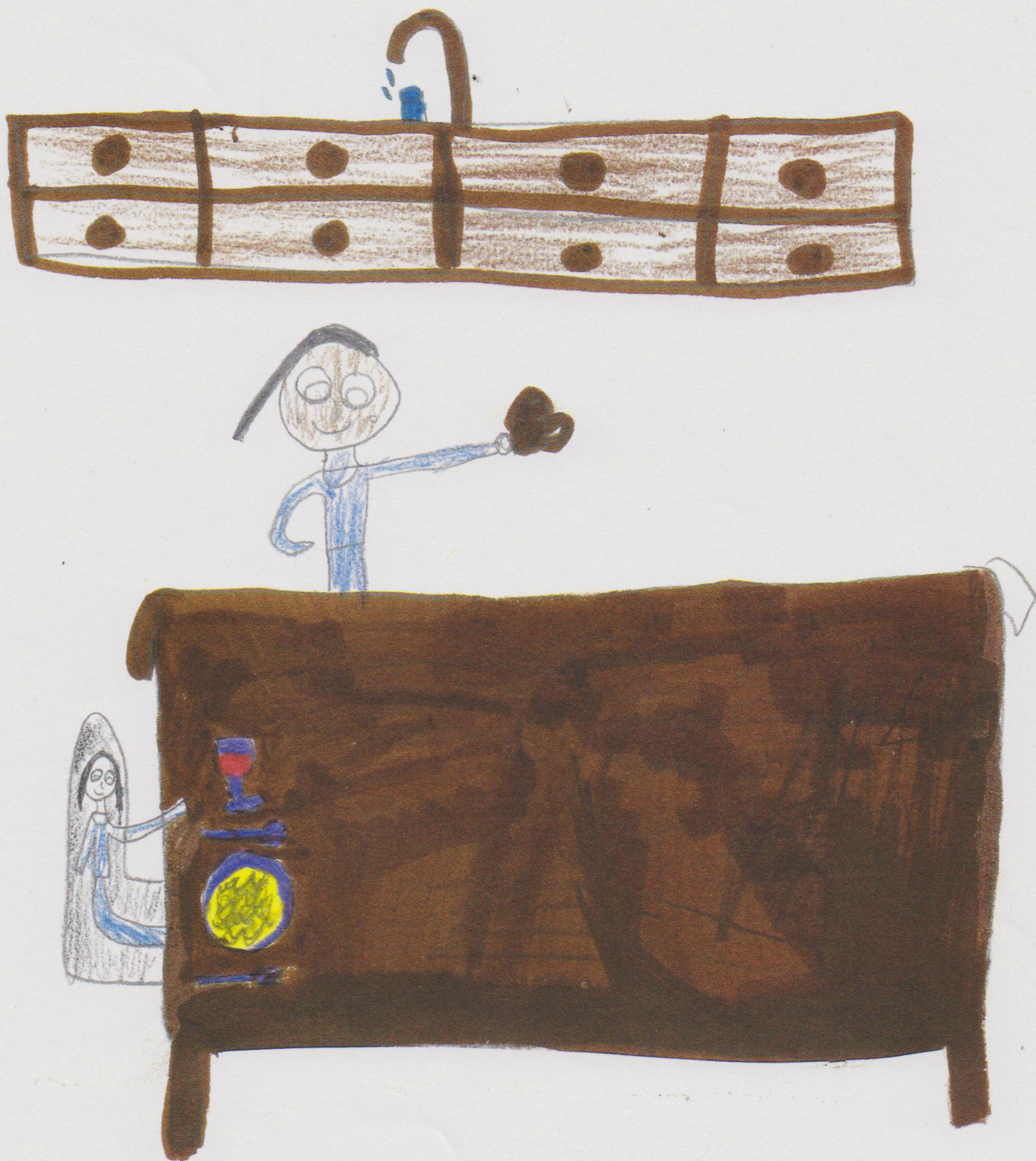
The Syrian Girl



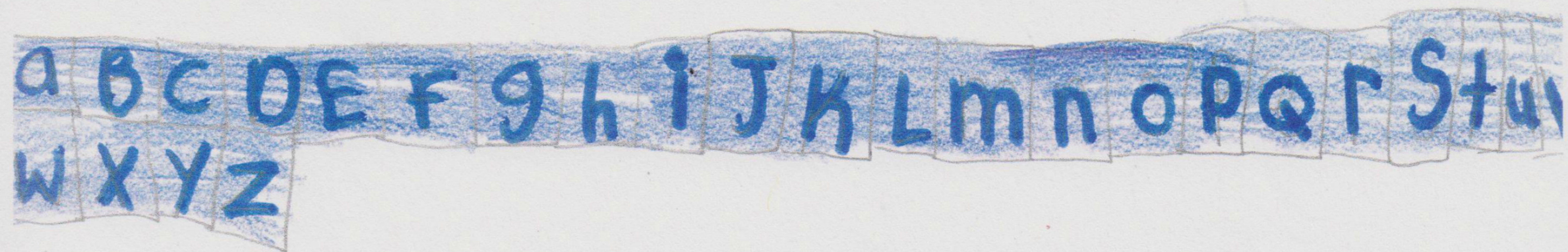
By

Hala Saleh

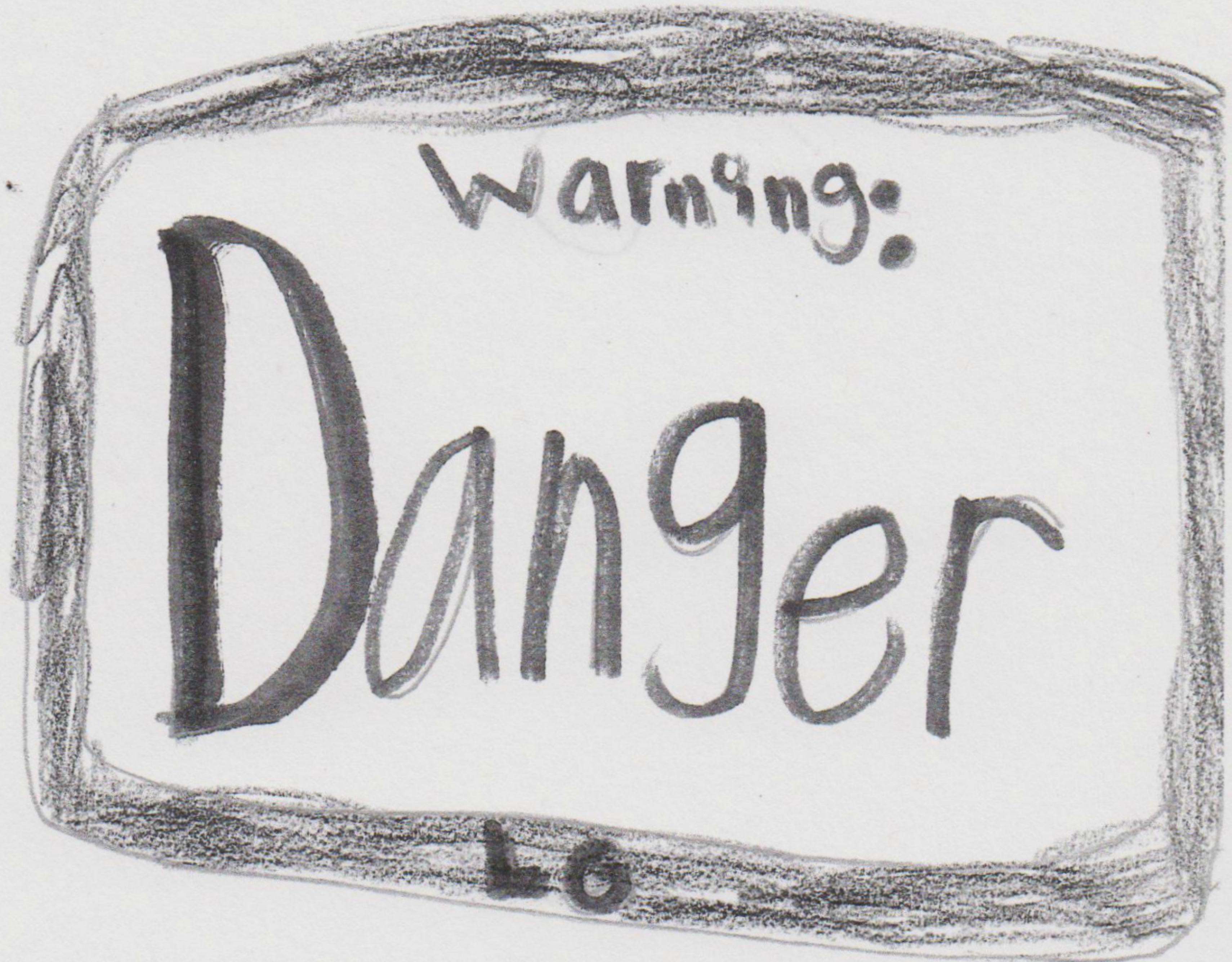




There was a girl named Fatima. She lived in Damascus, Syria. She loved her friend, Noora. They used to eat together in Ramadan, the month of fasting.

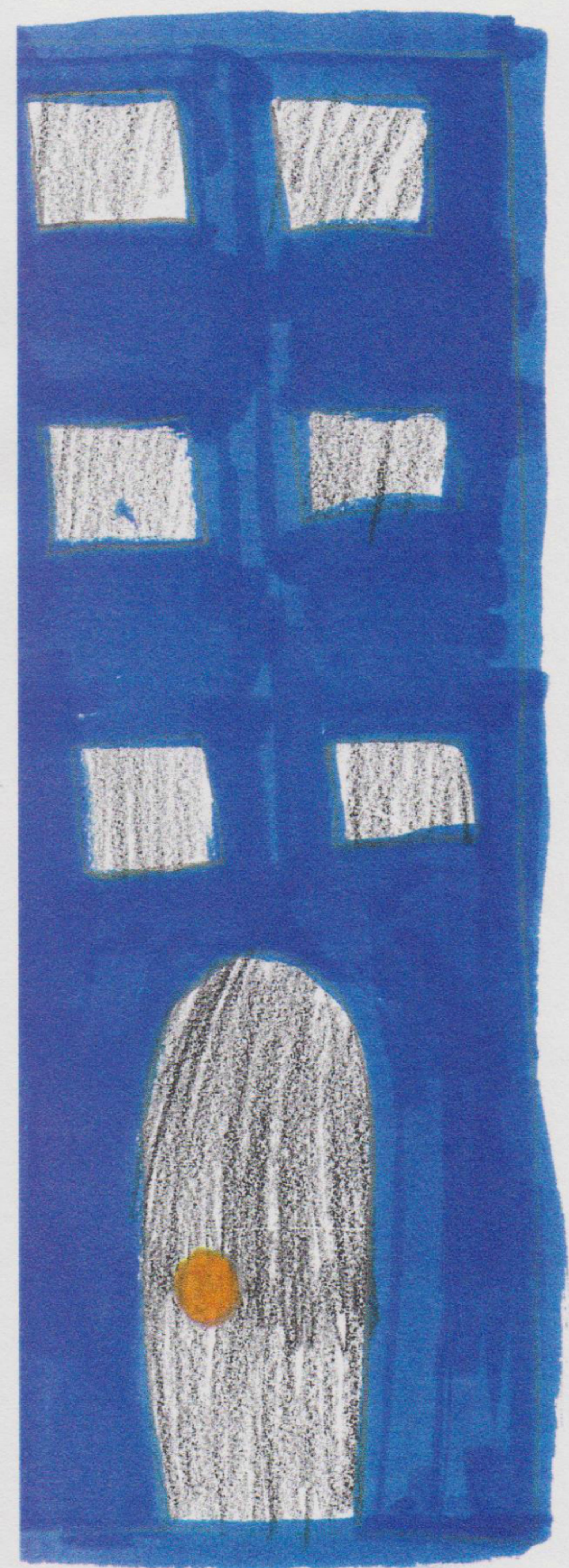


Fatima, an intelligent girl, loved reading. At school, Fatima had Noora in her class, which made it more fun.



One day Fatima and her neighbors watched the news. They said that people should stay in their homes. Damascus was a safe place; however, people in other cities were in danger. They told people not to go out.

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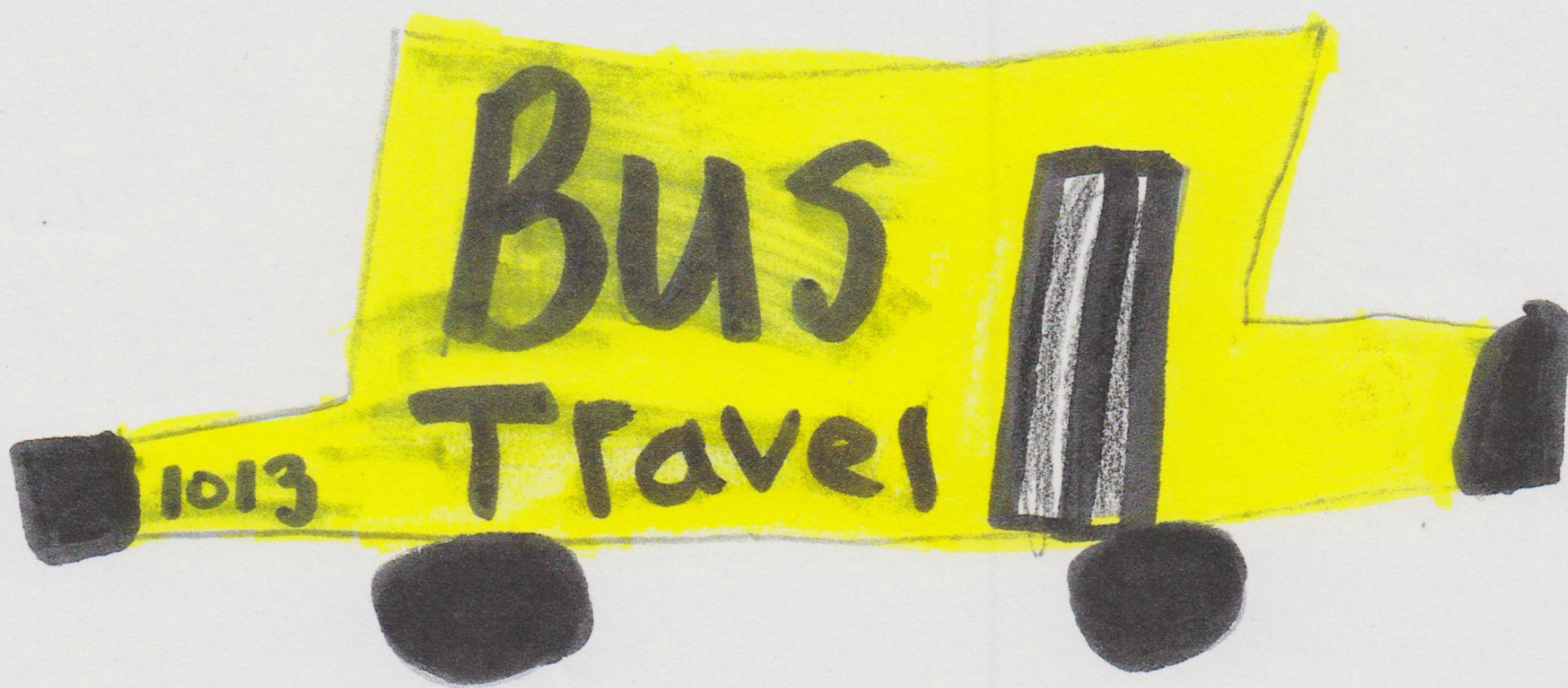
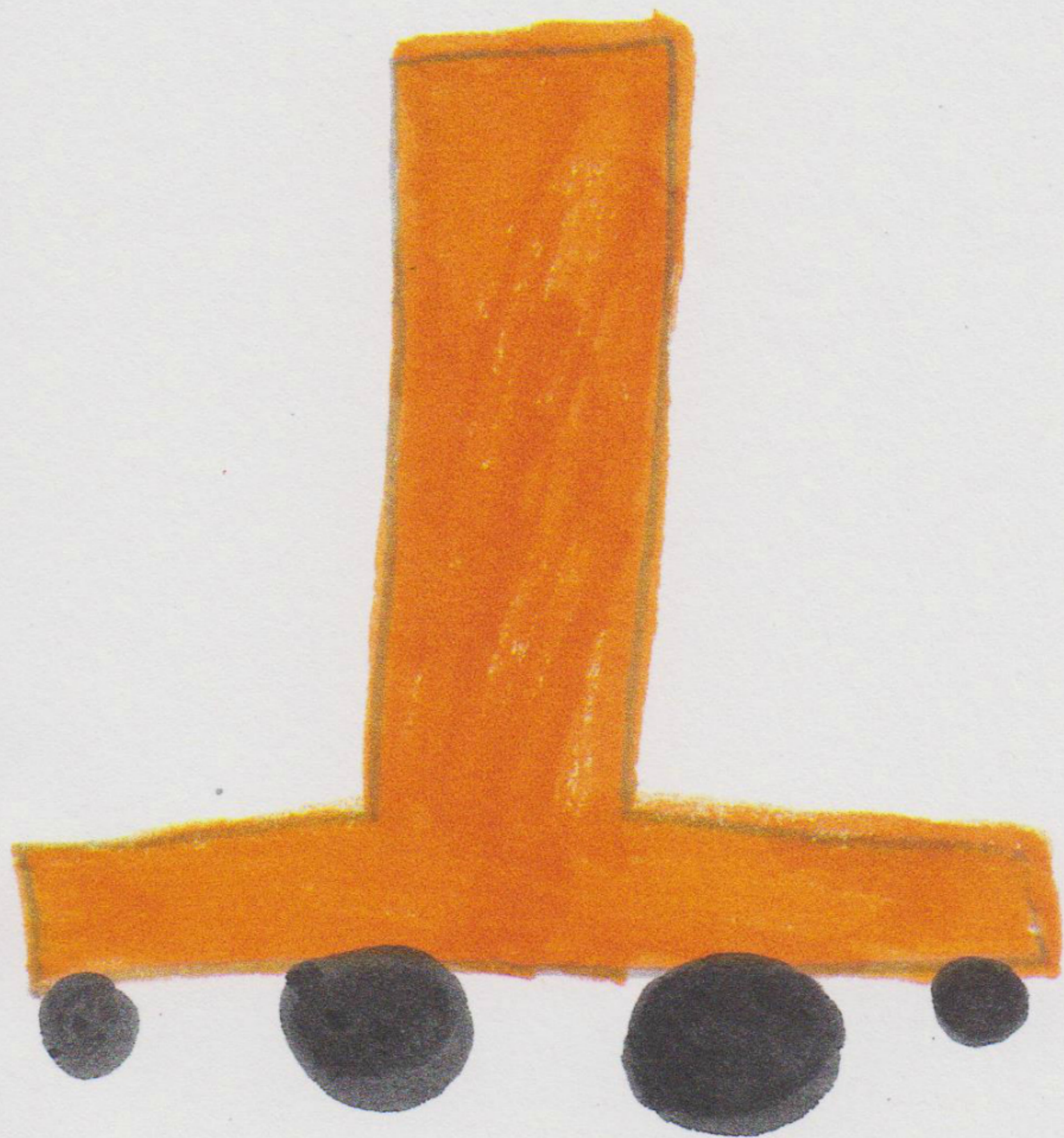
Six months later, Fatima and Noora haven't seen each other or gone to school. Suddenly, Fatima had an idea! They can learn at home together. War won't stop their education.



Studying with Noora was an awesome idea! They learned a lot together, like how to add and subtract.



One day, Noora and Fatima had an argument about who's smarter. They decided to make a challenge. Each of them would prepare a question. Whoever answers wins.



Unfortunately, there wasn't time. In Damascus, there was a Level 5 danger. That means no one will survive. Everyone rushed to save their families.



Fatima and her family left safely. They were not ready to do so. They left their home behind not knowing when they might come back. They didn't know where they were going.



Fatima asked her father about Noora's family. Her dad didn't answer quickly. Then he looked her straight in the eye, and he said, "They passed away because of a bombing at their house."



This was a shock for Fatima. Tears were dropping from her eyes.



When she woke up, she was in Jordan. She had a new home. Now she always imagines that Noora is studying with her again. Fatima always tells her, "You're smart, my BFF."