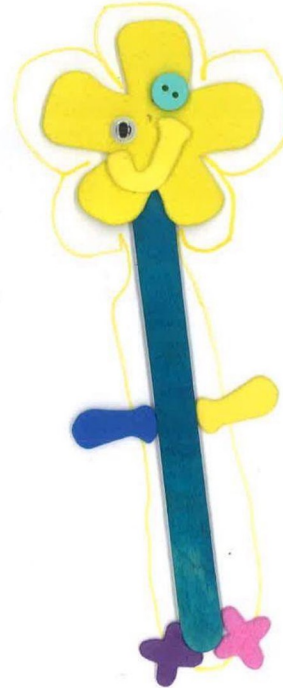
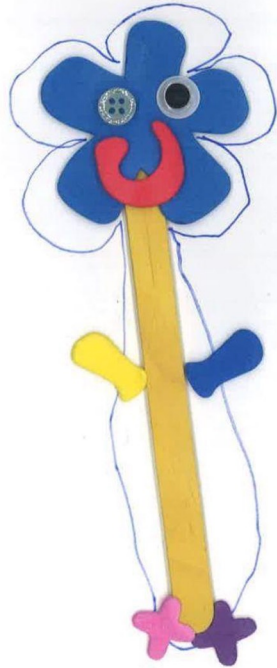


# After a War



Written by Dr. Shu-Chen Jenny Yen  
Illustrated by Austen Liu

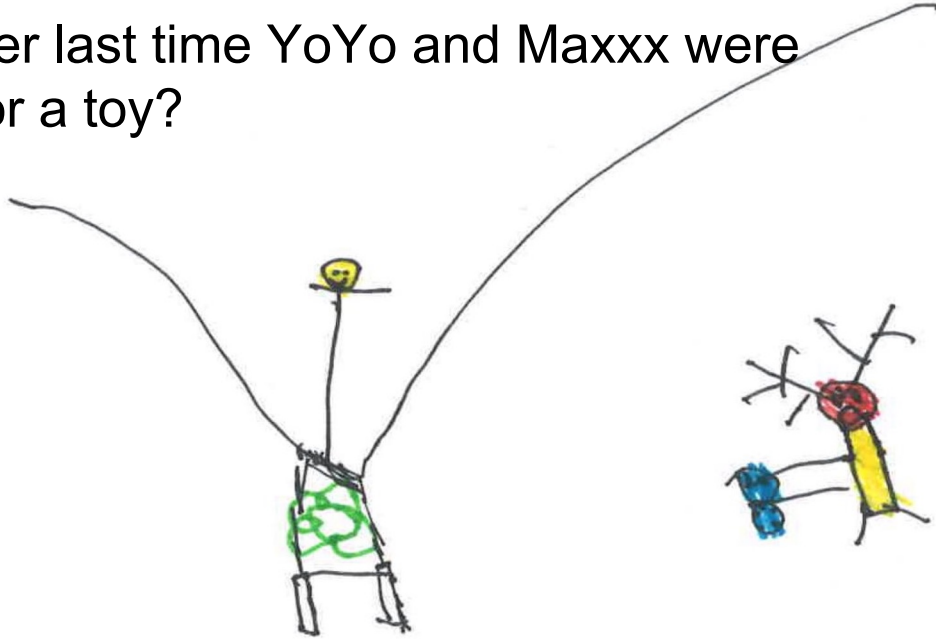
Hello Rice Ball, do you know that there is a war between two countries?



What is a war?

A war is when two or more countries fight!

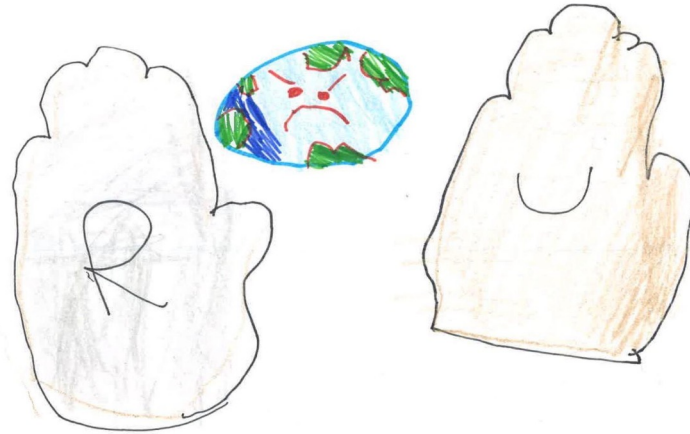
Remember last time YoYo and Maxxx were fighting for a toy?



Russia started the war, and Ukraine is fighting back. Tons of houses and buildings in Ukraine were burned into ashes.

Missiles and tanks destroyed many cities and killed a lot of people.

Ukrainian soldiers are fighting for their country and trying to save people!

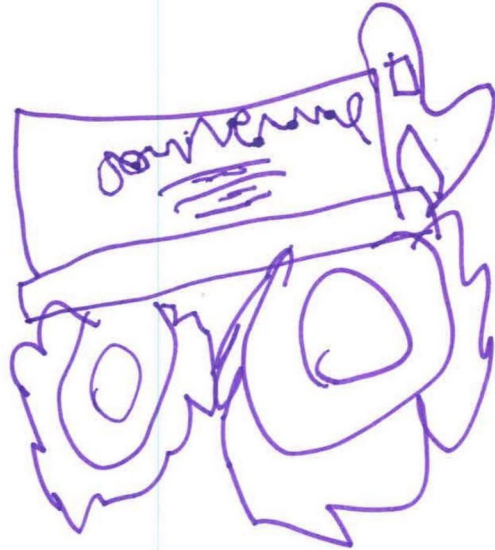


It is sad to see many houses, schools, and playgrounds were destroyed.

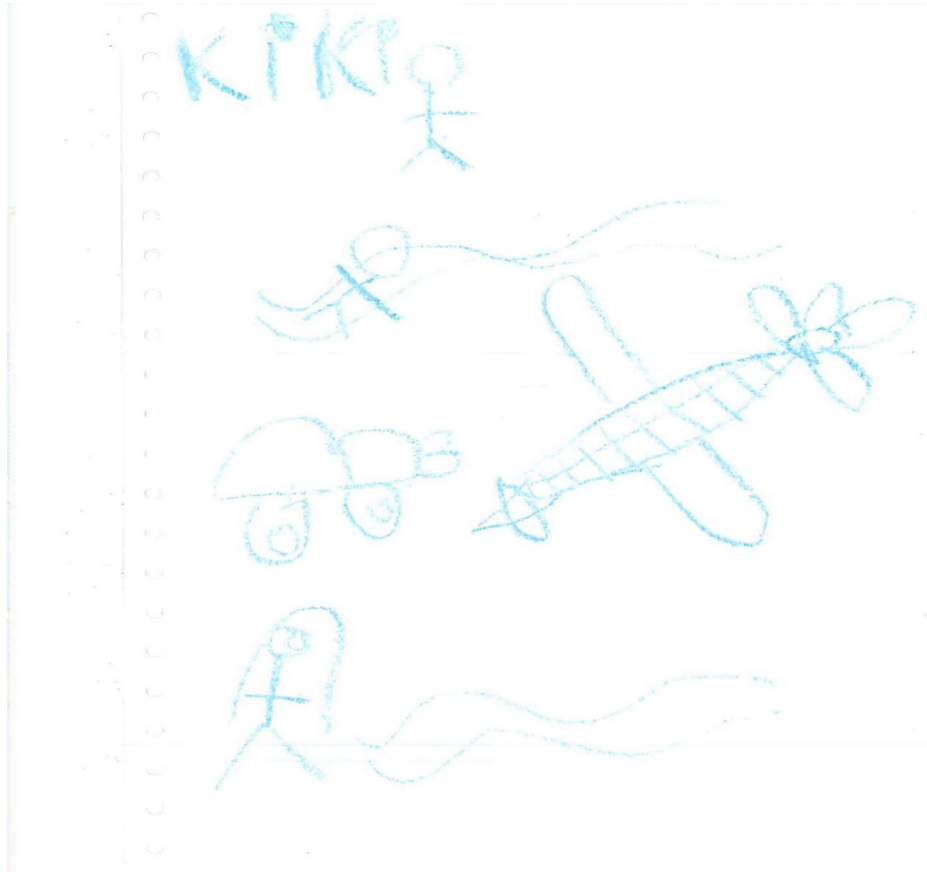


It is not safe in their homes anymore.

Some of them left early, and others stayed but were later forced to flee.



By foot, train, automobile, or airplane.



Until they reached a safe place like the Blue Dot Hubs, where they can play with toys, draw pictures, read books, and talk to someone.

They have food to eat and a place to rest.

not safe place

RUSSIA

UKRAINE

BLUE DOT



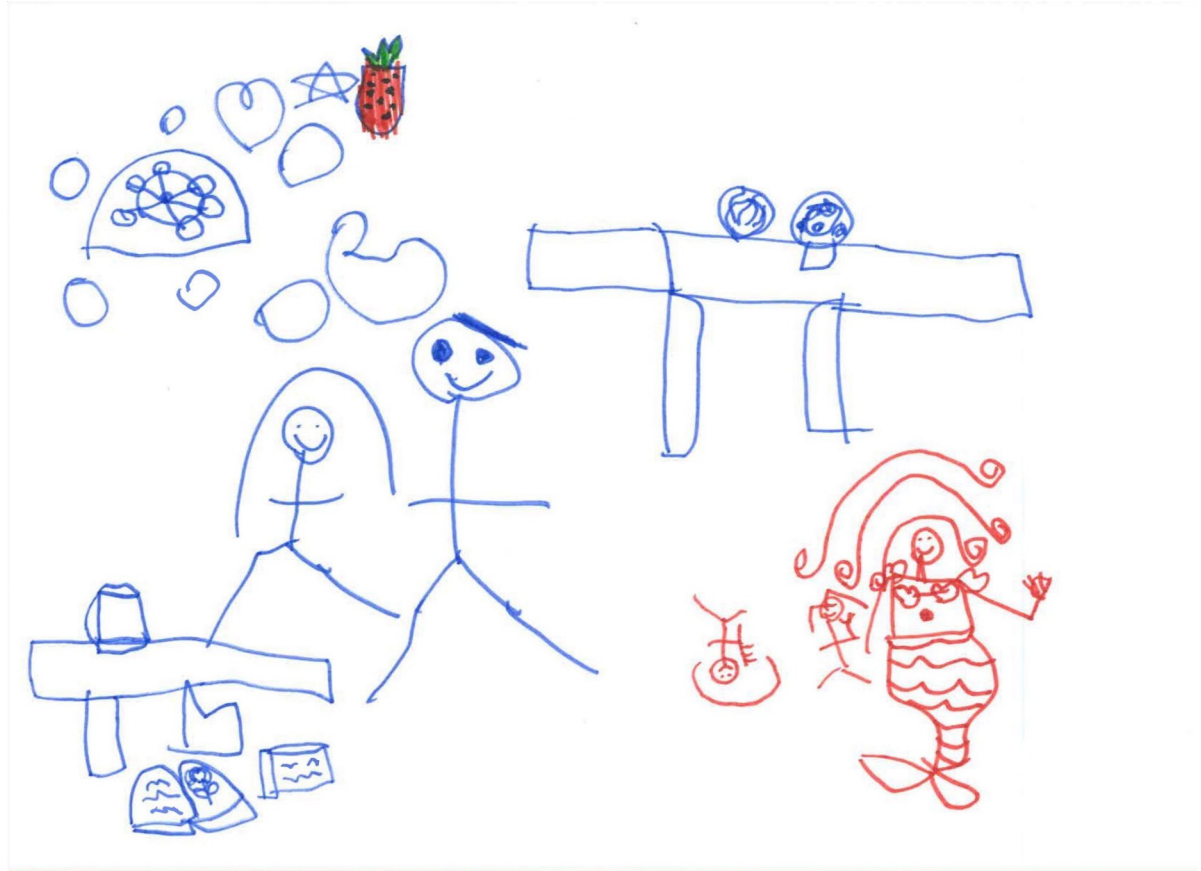
Bao, I have a lot of questions!!! Why would someone start a war?  
Why can't they just be nice?  
Why did they want to hurt people?  
What happened to the Ukrainian children?



Rice Ball, I don't have answers to many of your questions, but I can answer the last one.

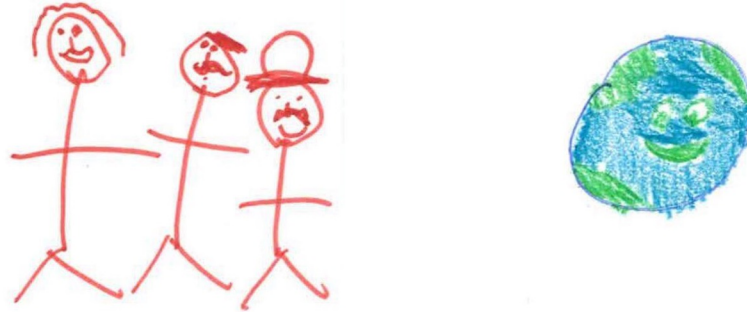
The Ukrainian children are BRAVE. They left their house with their mothers. They are tired, hungry, scared, and sad, but they keep going until they reach a safe place.

**They are my HEROES!**



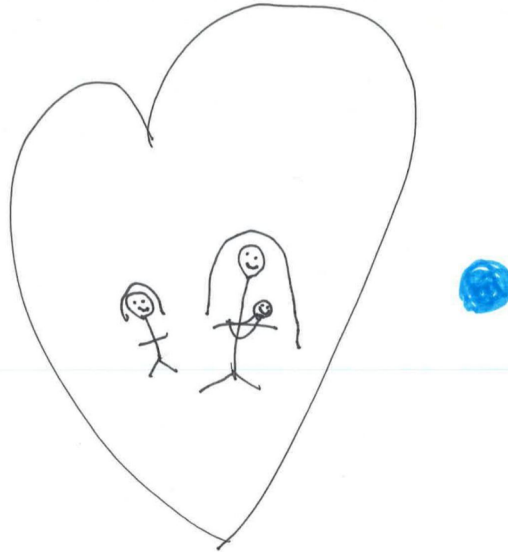
Why did they only have their mothers? Because their fathers stay and fight for their country.

**They are my HEROES!**



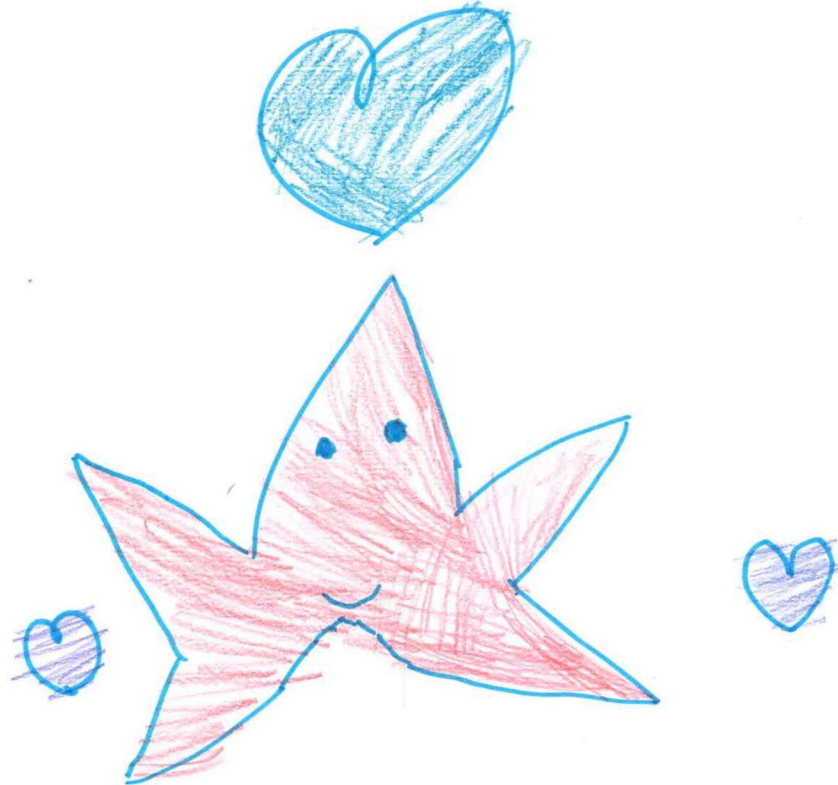
Their mothers packed their suitcases, grabbed their children tightly,  
and took them to a safe place.

**They are my HEROES.**



Bao, I am really worried about the Ukrainian children!

No Worries! Rice Ball, many people are helping them!

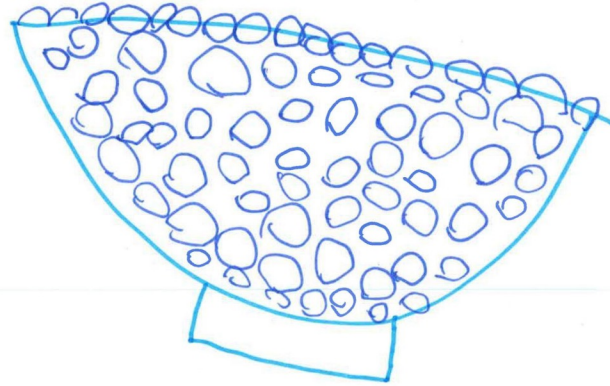


Poland is a country next to Ukraine.

When Ukrainian children and their mothers arrived in Poland, people gave them a stuffed animal called Pola!



Lots of chefs came to cook for children and their families.



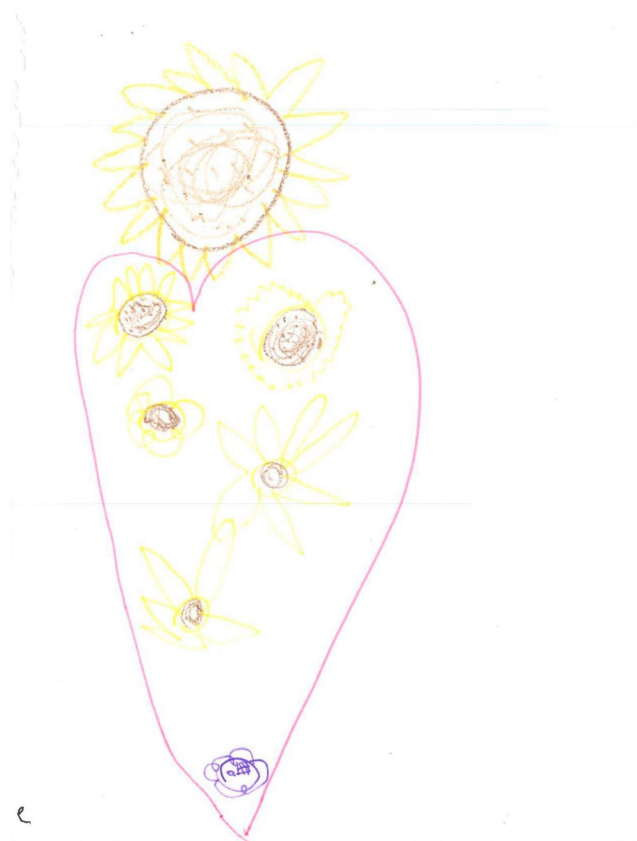
Moms in Poland leave strollers for Ukrainian moms crossing the border!



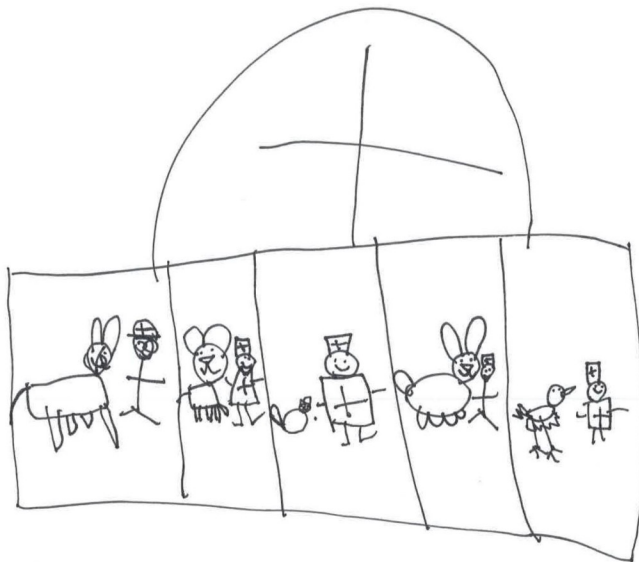


Some children join a new school.

The school is full of hugs, love, and sunflower paintings.



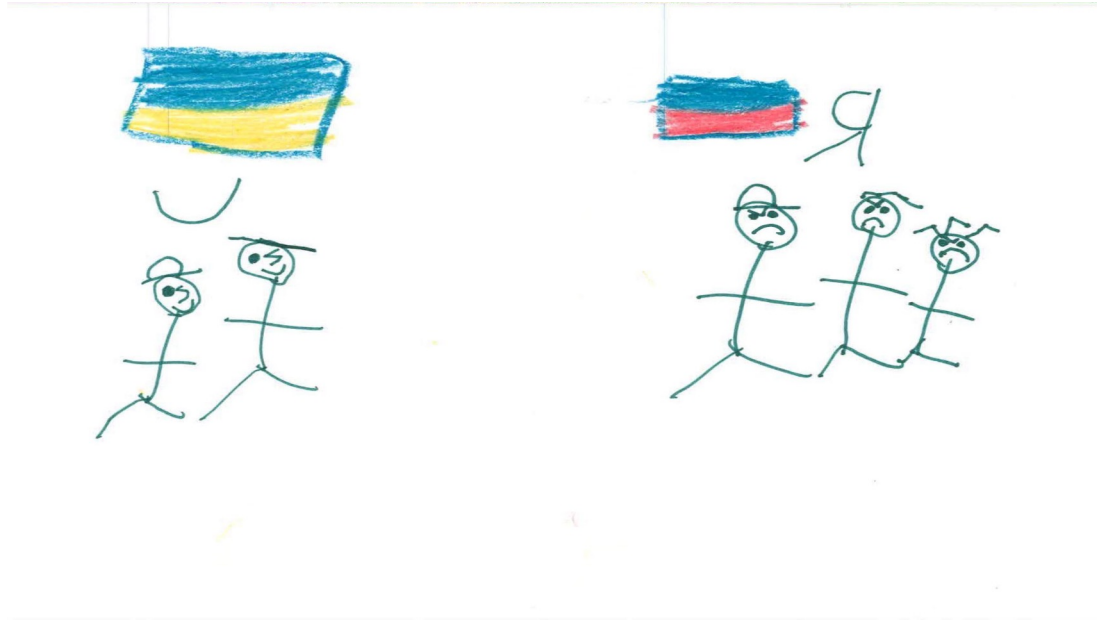
Some vets stay in Ukraine and take care of pets.



Bao, when will the war end?

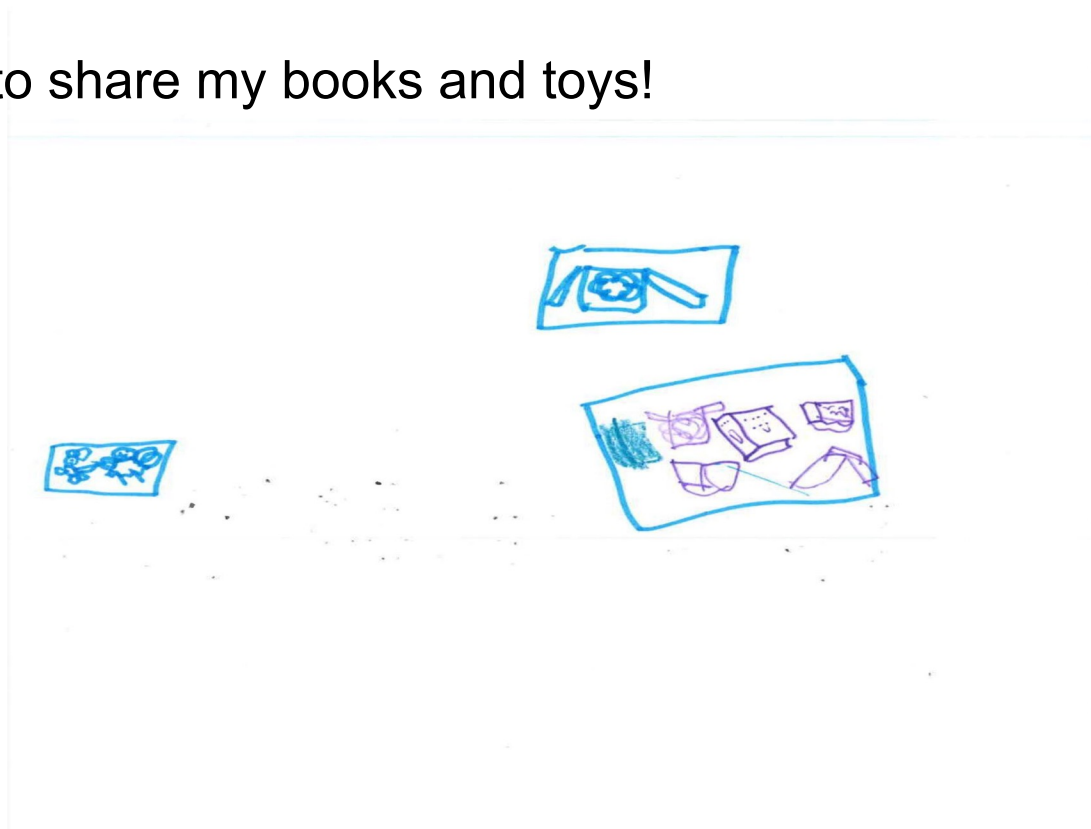
Rice Ball, I wish I knew, but I don't have an answer. I wish I could have a superpower to end this war soon.

I hope the world can be peaceful with no more wars.



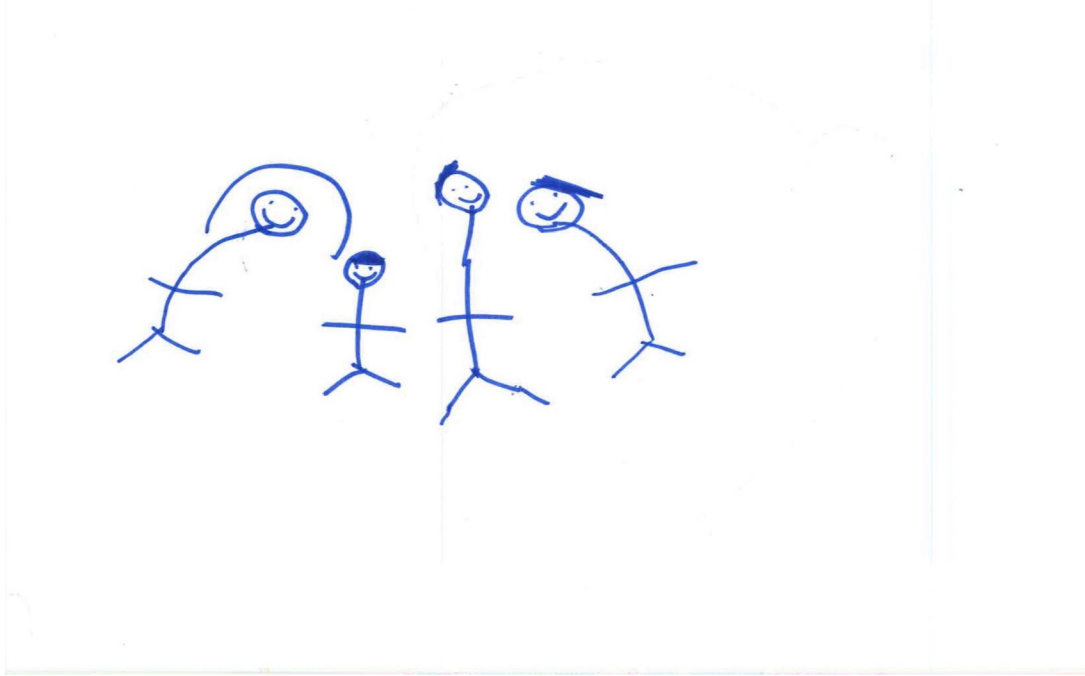
When the war ends, let's continue helping the brave Ukrainian children by donating food, money, supplies, books, and toys.

Bao, I am ready to share my books and toys!



There is a lot to do after the war!

When the war ends, I hope the Ukrainian children can reunite with their family, and build new houses, schools, and playgrounds.



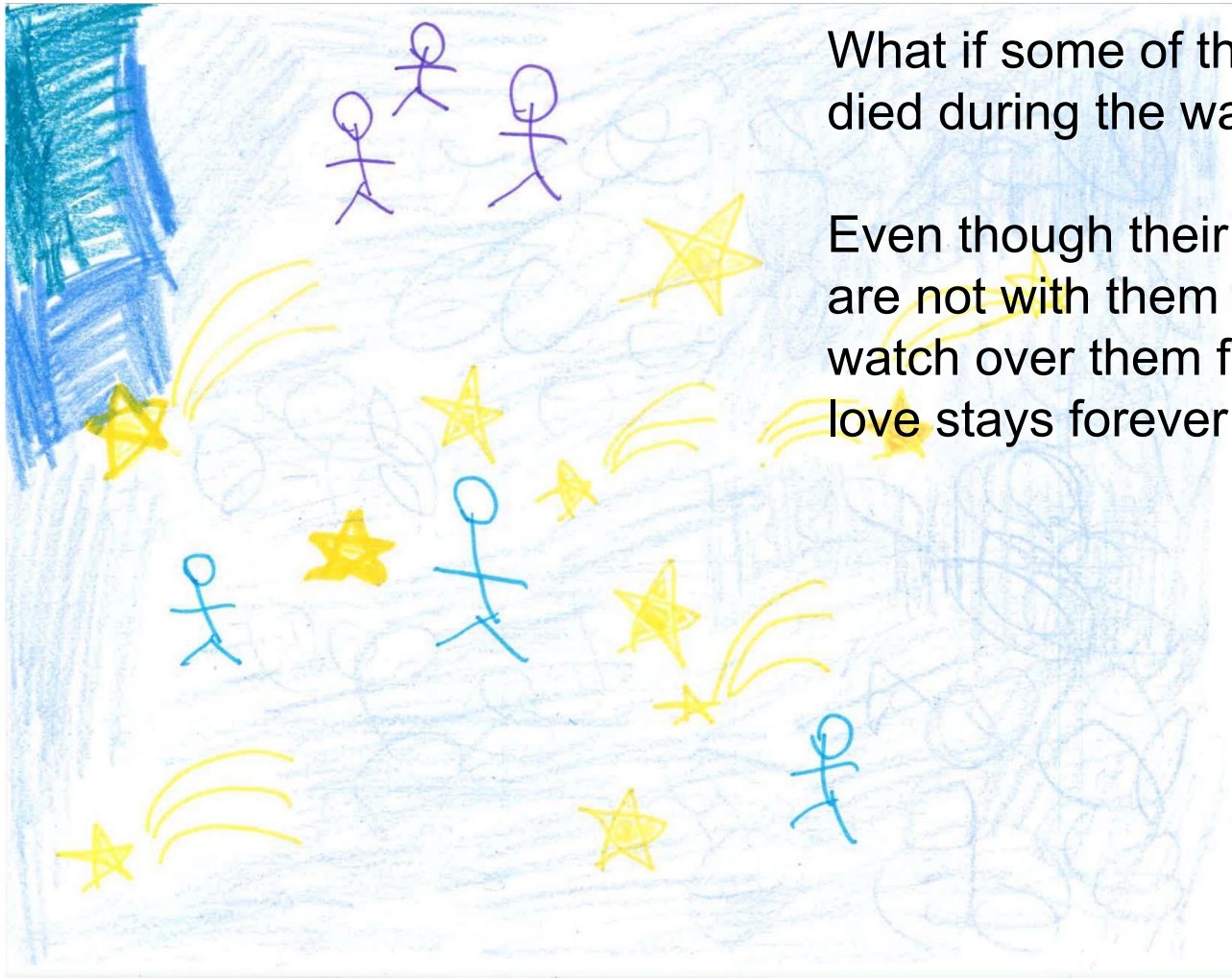
But Bao, it is very hard to rebuild something new. Is it possible?

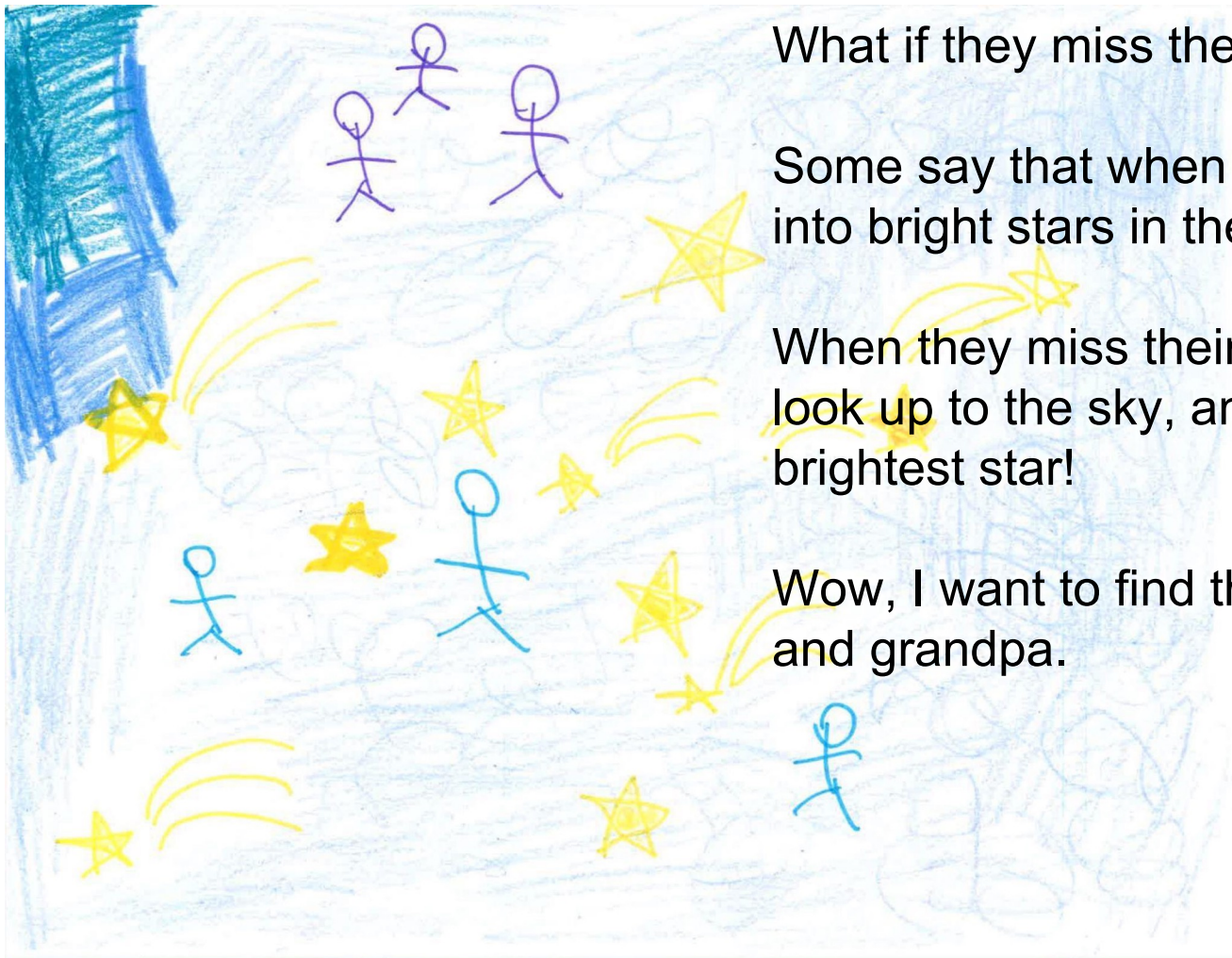
Rice Bao, it is difficult, but you know what--if we work together, we can build an even better Ukraine!



What if some of their family members died during the war?

Even though their loved ones died and are not with them anymore, they will watch over them from the sky and their love stays forever.





What if they miss them so much?

Some say that when people die, they turn into bright stars in the sky.

When they miss their loved ones, they can look up to the sky, and look for their brightest star!

Wow, I want to find the stars for my mom and grandpa.





Rice Ball, do you know what I really want to tell the Ukrainian children?

Tell me! Tell me!

There is always hope as long as we are alive!

Yup! There is always hope as long as we are alive! Fight on Ukraine!



Shu-Chen (Jenny) Yen, a professor in the Department of Child and Adolescent Studies, California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), has more than 25 years of professional experience in ECE. She has been an advocate for young children through her work as a children's book author. She has created several "social stories" in timely response to multiple international natural disasters and social crises, including typhoons, hurricanes, COVID-19, and anti-Asian racism.



Austen Liu is a kindergartner in California. She loves drawing and is full of imagination! She is a creative artist! She drew pictures for her mom's parenting book. Her dream is to become an artist and a scientist in the future. After her mom read her this social story, she started to draw pictures related to the war. Dr. Yen invited her to be the illustrator, and she happily accepted. It took her two weeks to finish drawing the whole book!