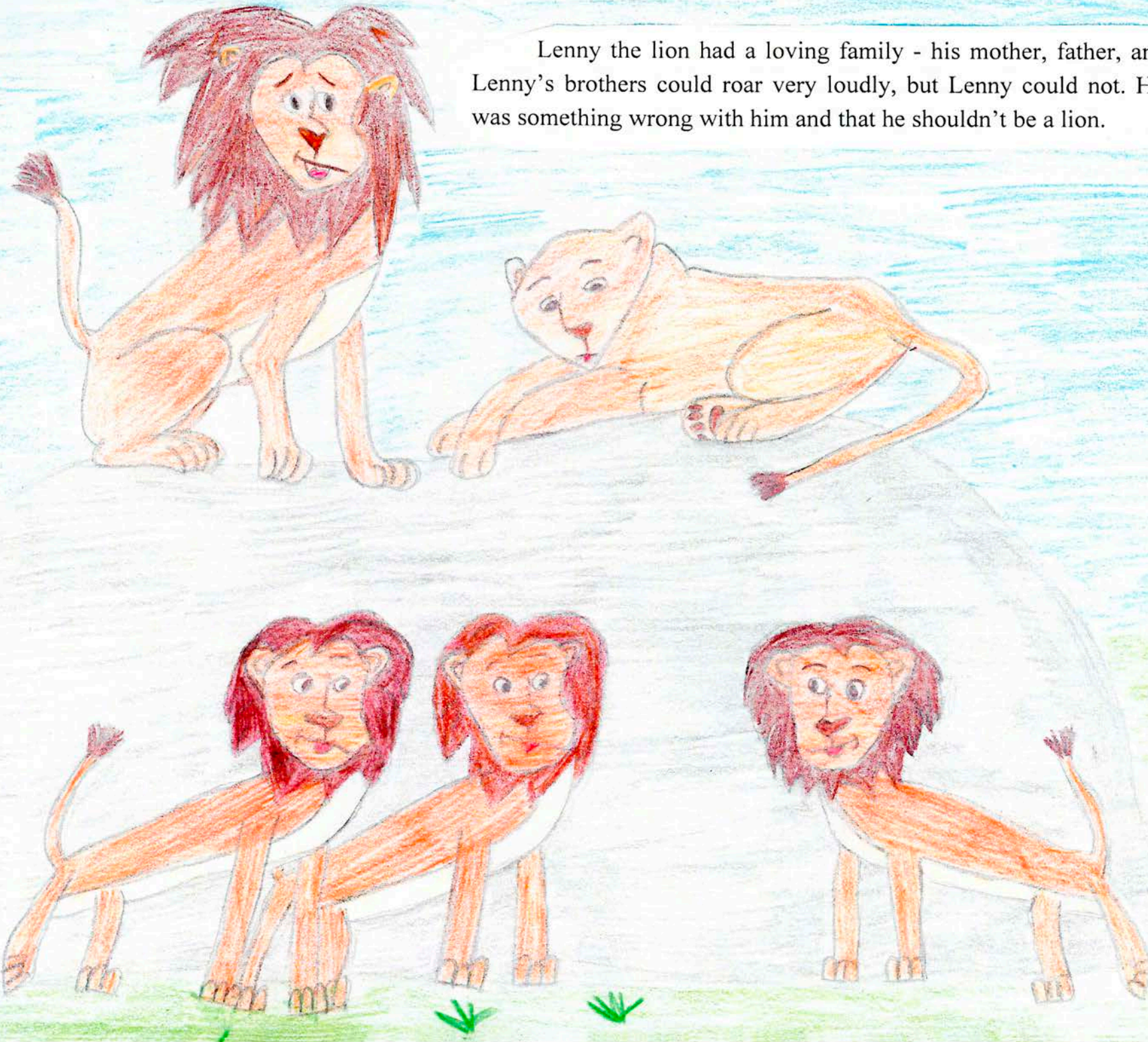


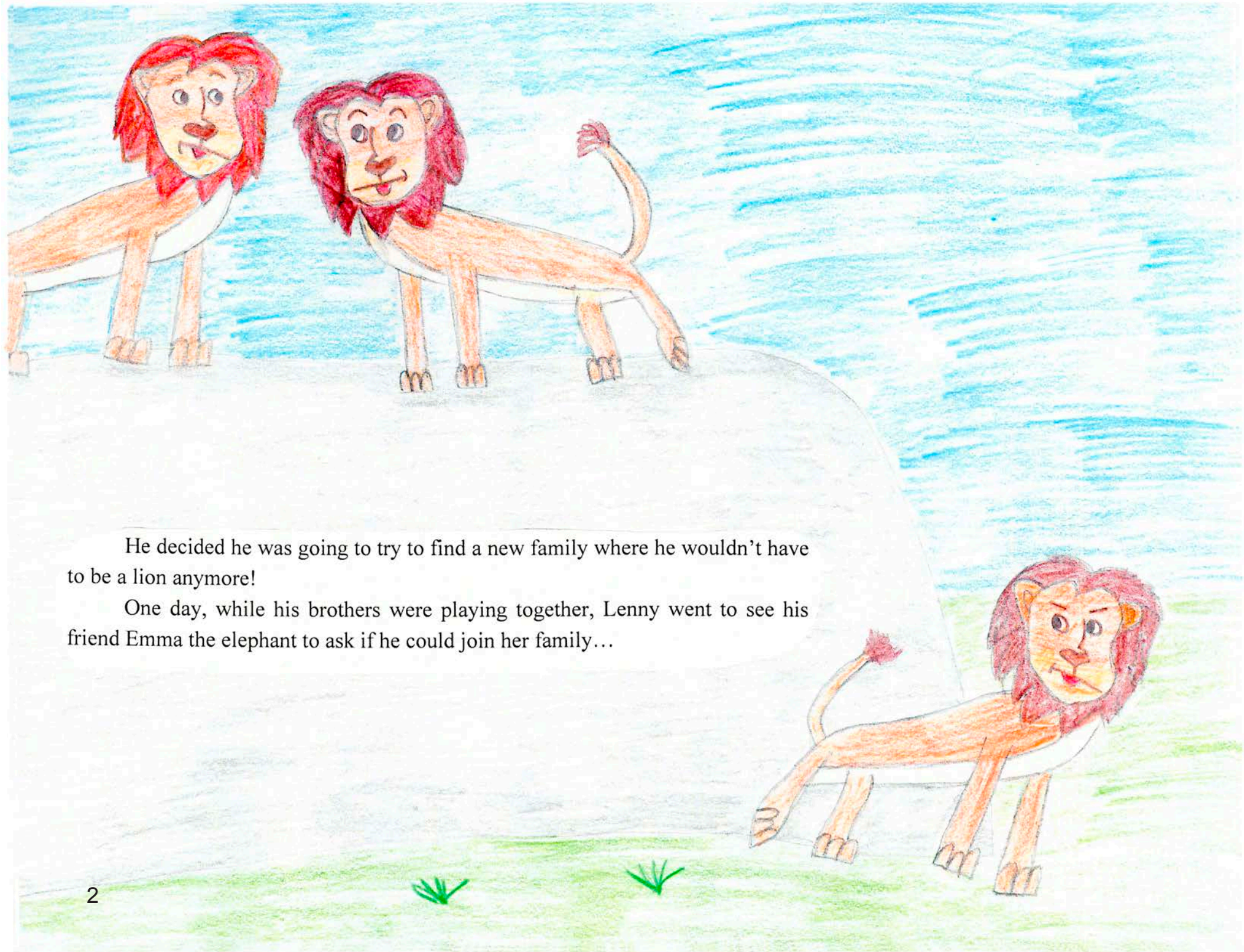
Lenny the Lion



Written and Illustrated by Leah Cussen

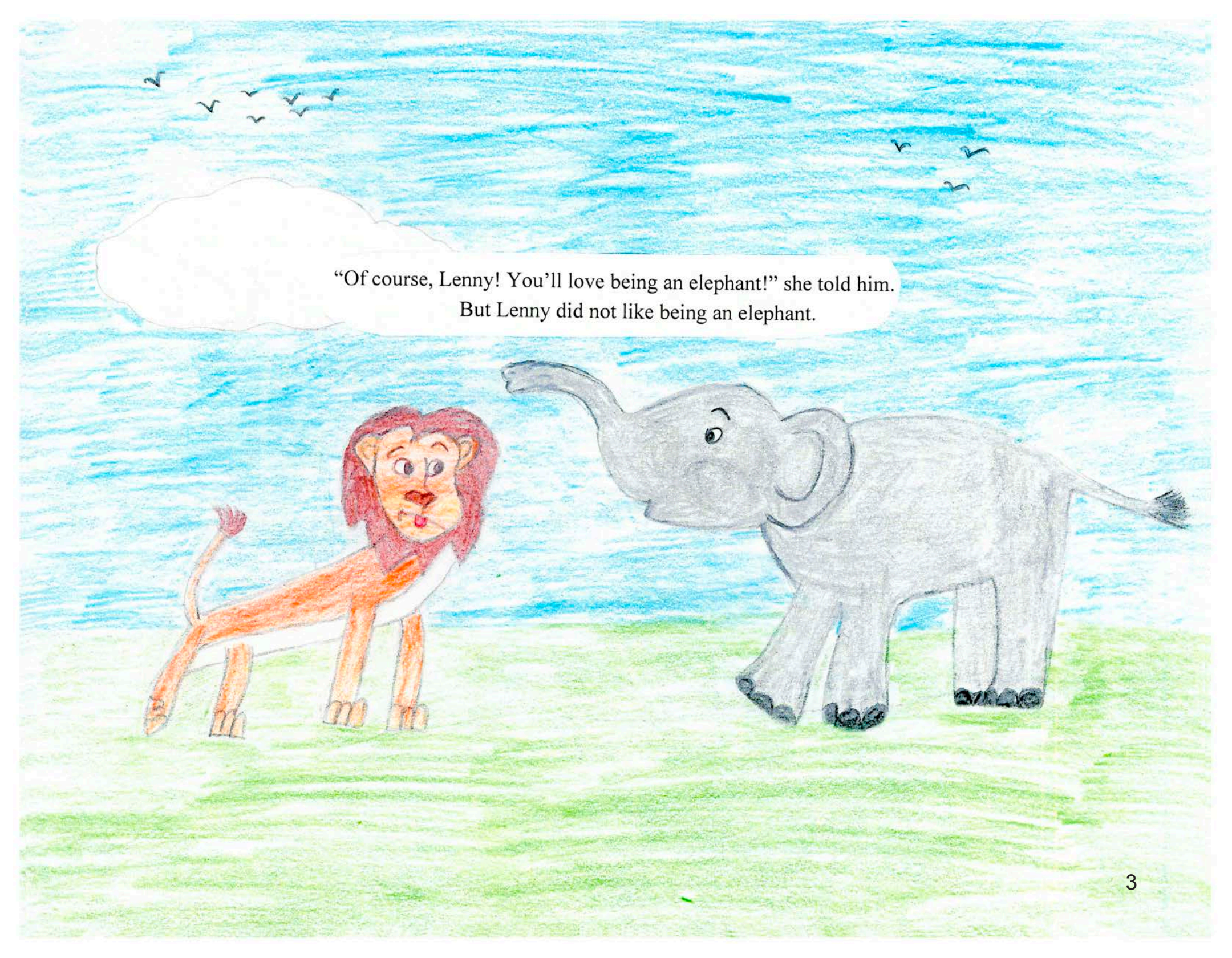
Lenny the lion had a loving family - his mother, father, and two brothers. Lenny's brothers could roar very loudly, but Lenny could not. He thought there was something wrong with him and that he shouldn't be a lion.



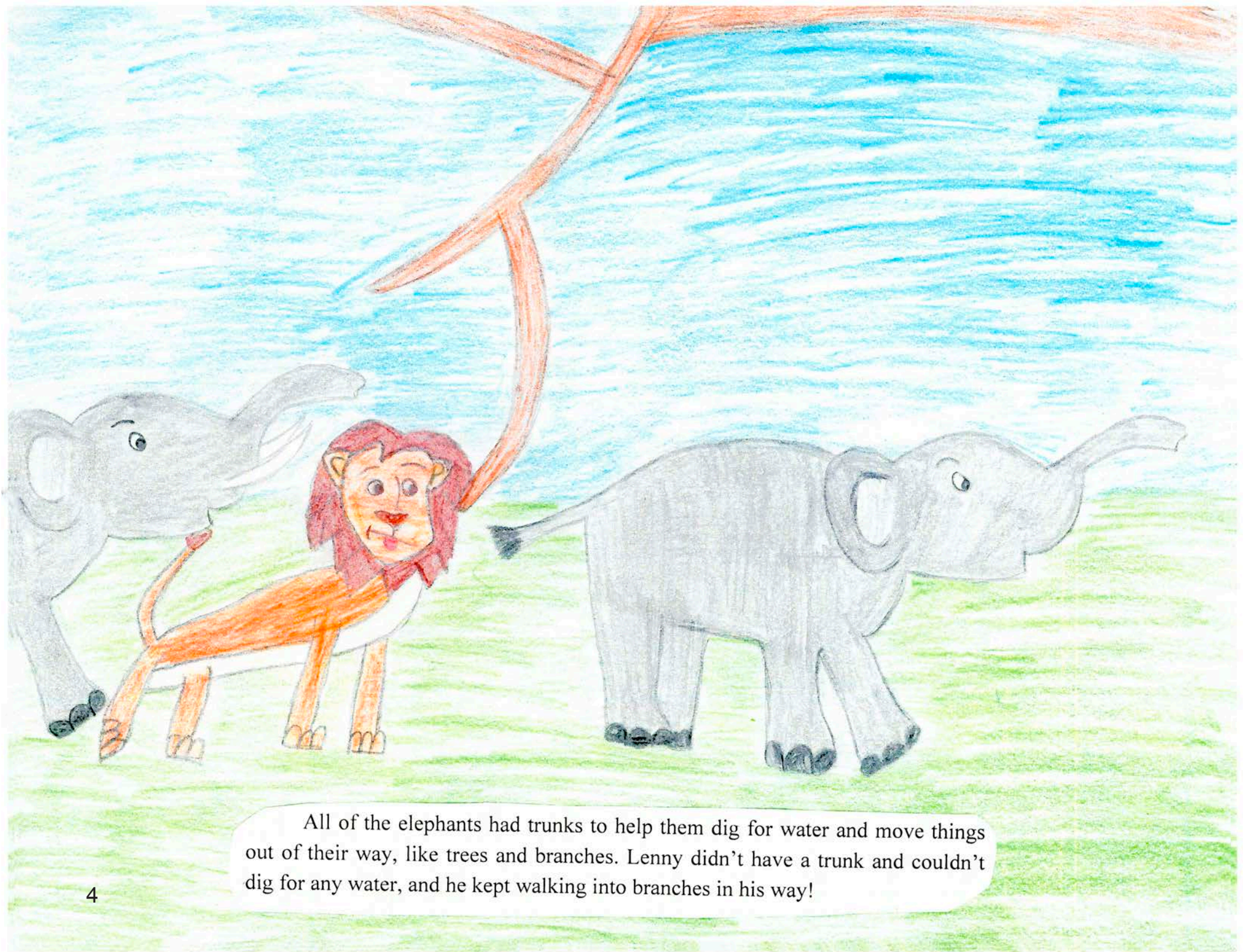


He decided he was going to try to find a new family where he wouldn't have to be a lion anymore!

One day, while his brothers were playing together, Lenny went to see his friend Emma the elephant to ask if he could join her family...



“Of course, Lenny! You’ll love being an elephant!” she told him.
But Lenny did not like being an elephant.



All of the elephants had trunks to help them dig for water and move things out of their way, like trees and branches. Lenny didn't have a trunk and couldn't dig for any water, and he kept walking into branches in his way!



He decided he was going to try to find a new family where he wouldn't have to be an elephant anymore!

He went to go visit another friend of his, George the giraffe...

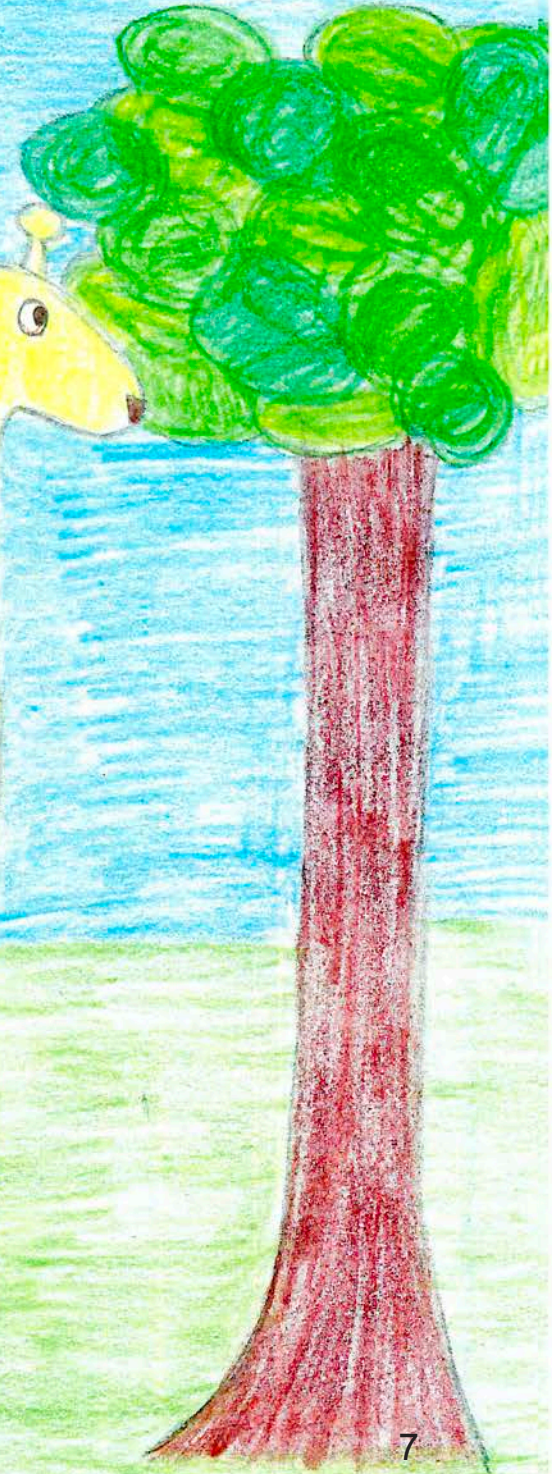


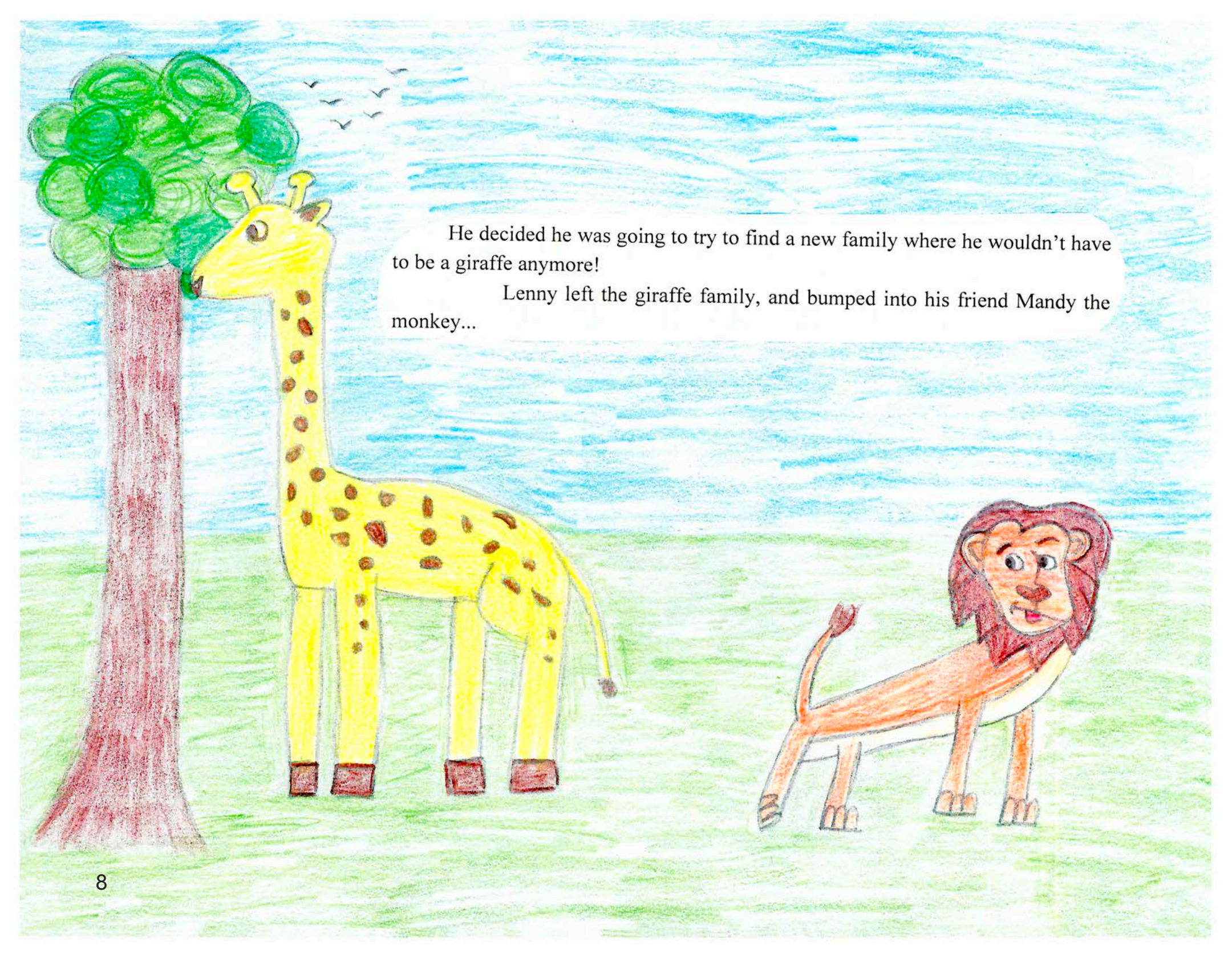
When Lenny asked if he could be a part of George's family, he replied,
"Sure! You will love to be a giraffe!"

But Lenny did not like being a giraffe.



All of the giraffes had long necks to help them eat the leaves on tall trees. Lenny didn't have a long neck and couldn't get any food for himself.





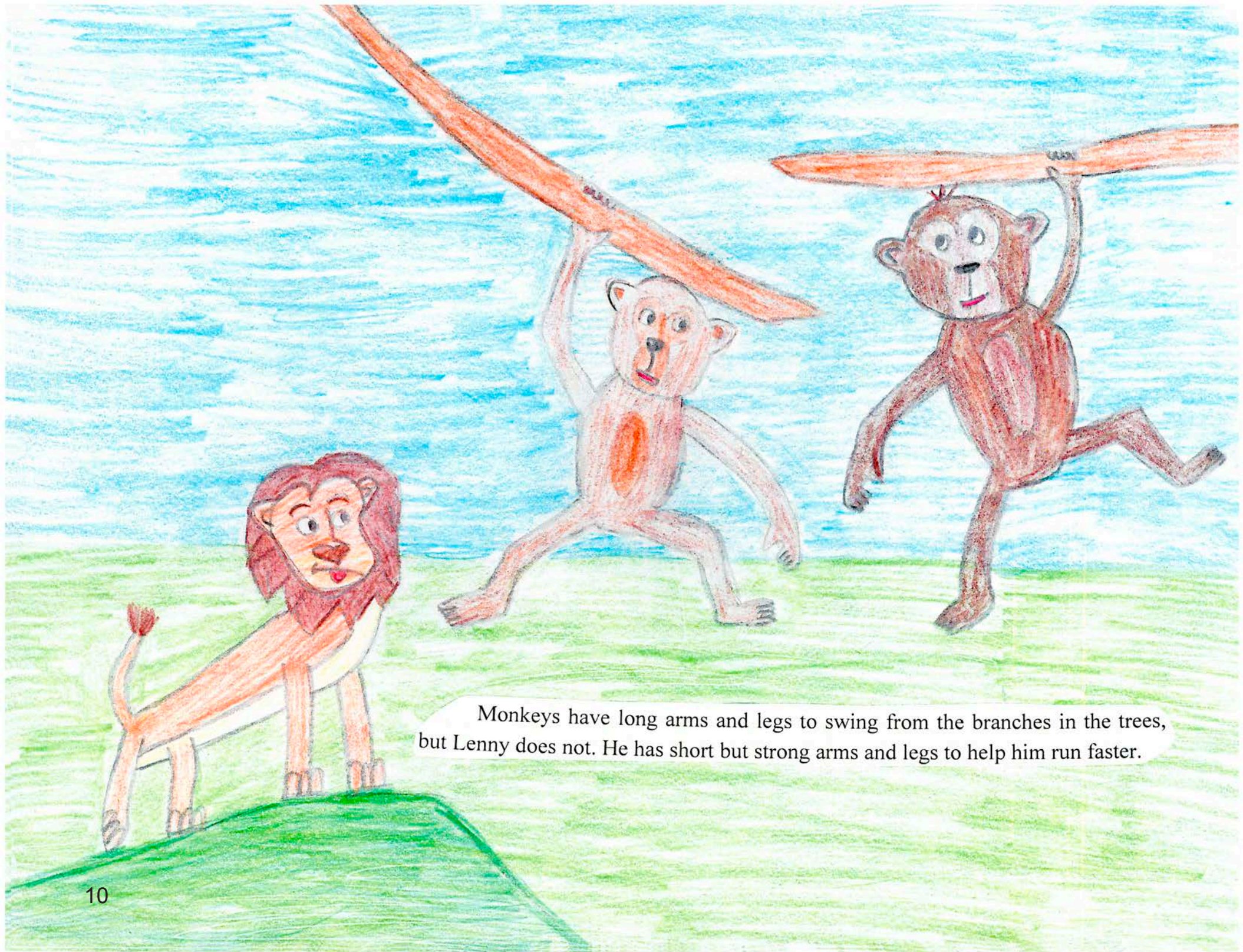
He decided he was going to try to find a new family where he wouldn't have to be a giraffe anymore!

Lenny left the giraffe family, and bumped into his friend Mandy the monkey...

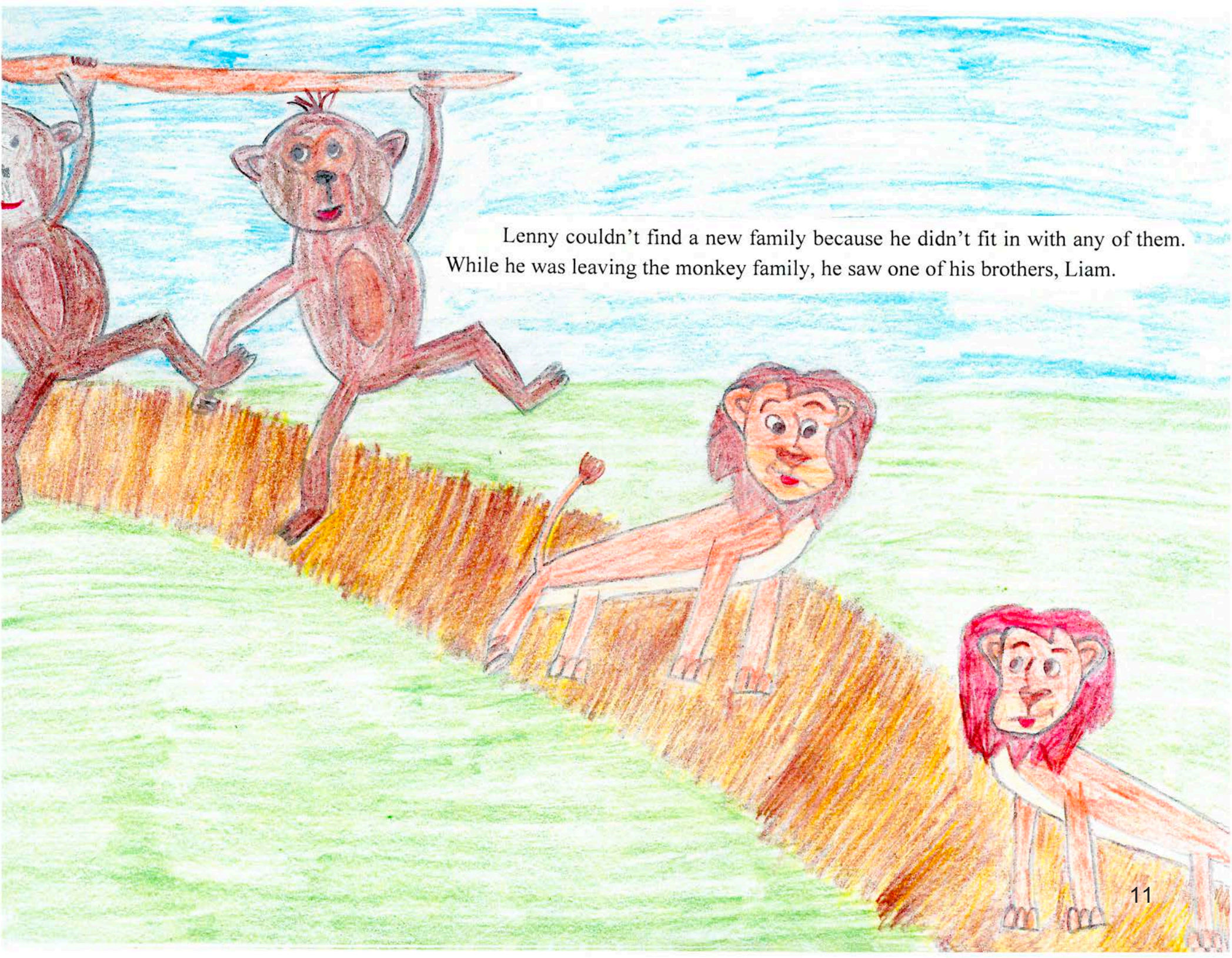
He told her about his journey to find a new family, so she invited him to stay with hers. She said, "Being a monkey is awesome! You will never want to leave!"

But Lenny did not like being a monkey.





Monkeys have long arms and legs to swing from the branches in the trees, but Lenny does not. He has short but strong arms and legs to help him run faster.



Lenny couldn't find a new family because he didn't fit in with any of them. While he was leaving the monkey family, he saw one of his brothers, Liam.

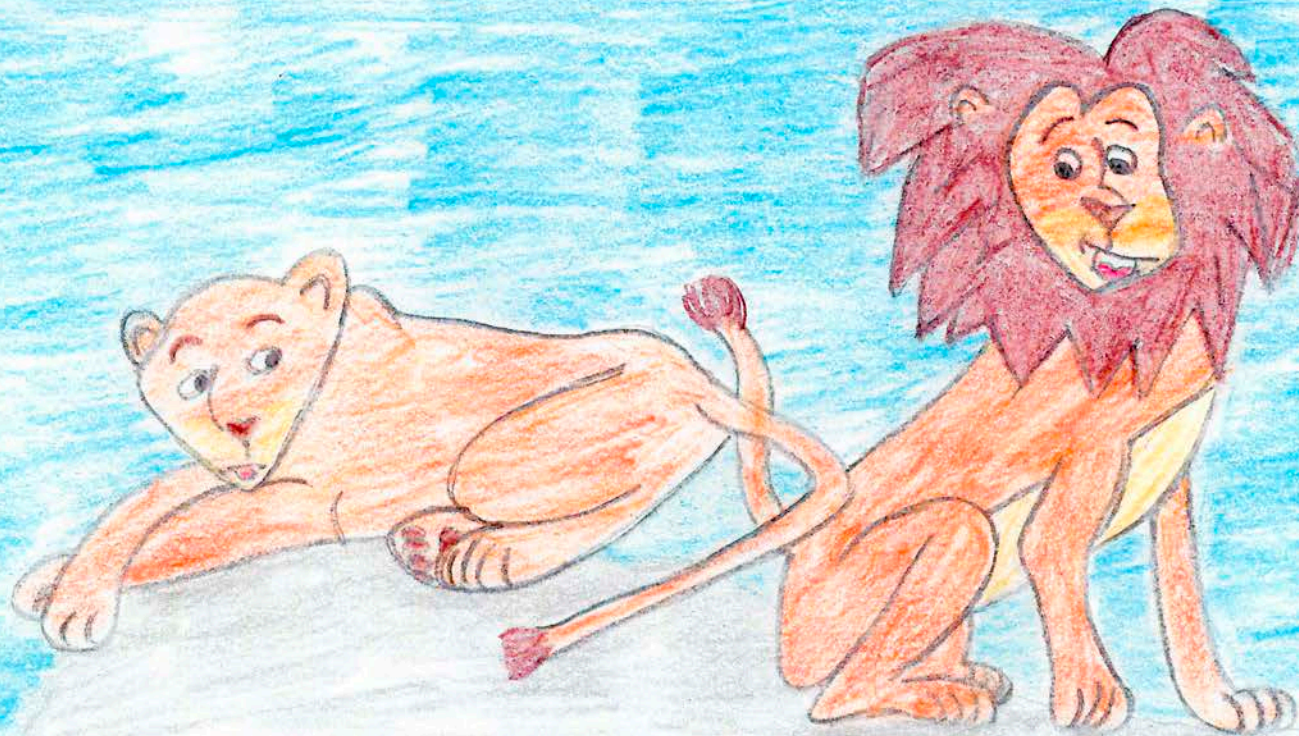
When Liam spotted him, he ran over to him and tackled him in a hug.
“We’ve been worried about you, Lenny! Where have you been?” Liam asked.

Lenny told him about his search for a new family.



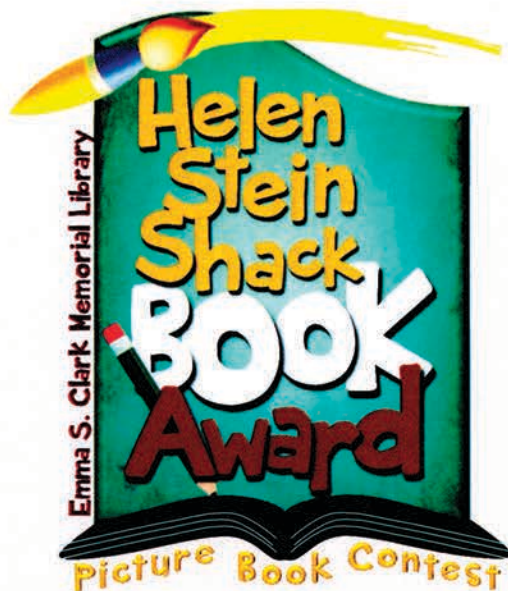
When he was finished, Liam said, "Do you know why you didn't fit in with any of the other families? It's because you belong with us! We have always loved you no matter what your roar sounds like. We never want you to feel left out! Please come home, Lenny. Your family misses you."





Lenny suddenly realized that this whole time, he had been searching for something he already had, a family who loved him even if he was different.





This book is a grand prize winner for the **2015 Helen Stein Shack Picture Book Award**, a contest at Emma Clark Library which showcases the young writing and artistic talent in Three Village.

The award is given in memory of Helen Stein Shack by her family. As a teacher, Mrs. Shack was committed to the education of children, and she especially loved literature written for them. She was a frequent visitor to Emma Clark Library where, even in retirement, she kept current with the latest children's books. The library is grateful to the children of the late Mrs. Shack who have established a substantial endowment with the library to cover the ongoing cost of presenting this annual award.



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