

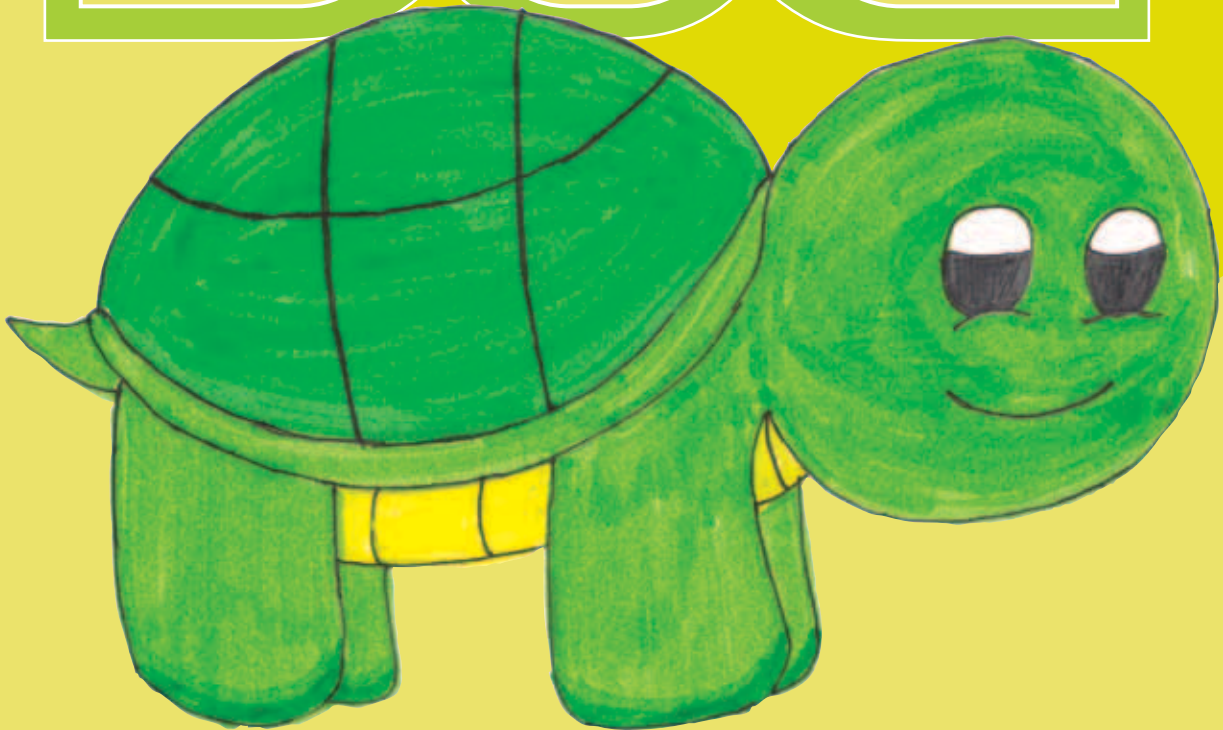
©  
Otis  
the Turtle  
gets Water Wise

Written by:  
Chloe Hernandez

Illustrated by:  
Cassi Tichy



“This book is dedicated to my family, friends, teachers, and everybody in the world who is as interested in saving water for our world as I am!”  
— Chloe Hernandez





**It all started at the pet shop.**

I was just relaxing with my turtle buddies when a family stopped at our tank.

**“I like that one!”**

exclaimed the little girl as she pointed at me. So I figured I had myself a new home.







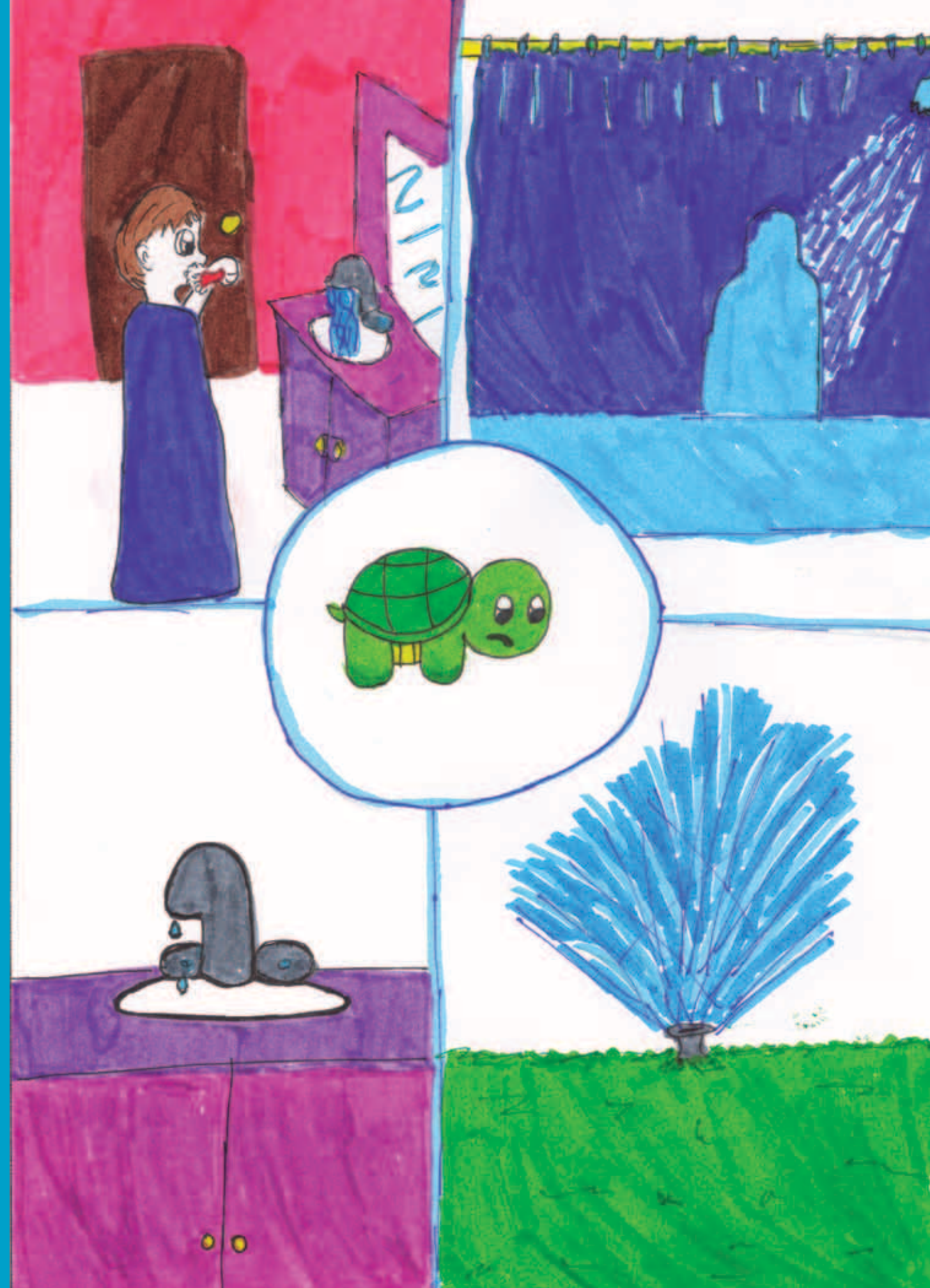
My new family was very nice.  
I was well fed, and I played with  
the kids a lot. There was only  
one problem.

**They were water wasters.**



They left the water running while brushing their teeth, took very long showers, had dripping faucets, over watered their plants, and left the sprinklers on too long. This had to stop and I knew it.

**But, I just didn't know what a little turtle could do.**







## The next day:

**“Otis, I’m home!”**  
the little girl announced.

**“Christopher, where is Otis?”**

**“ Did you check his tank?”**  
he replied.

**“ Yes. He’s not there!**  
**Let’s go look for him,”**  
she suggested.



# Earlier that day:

I knew I should have been in my tank, but they had left the sprinklers on and the faucet dripping.

I escaped from my tank while the kids were at school and the adults were at work. First I climbed out the window, ninja style, across the lawn and turned the sprinklers off.

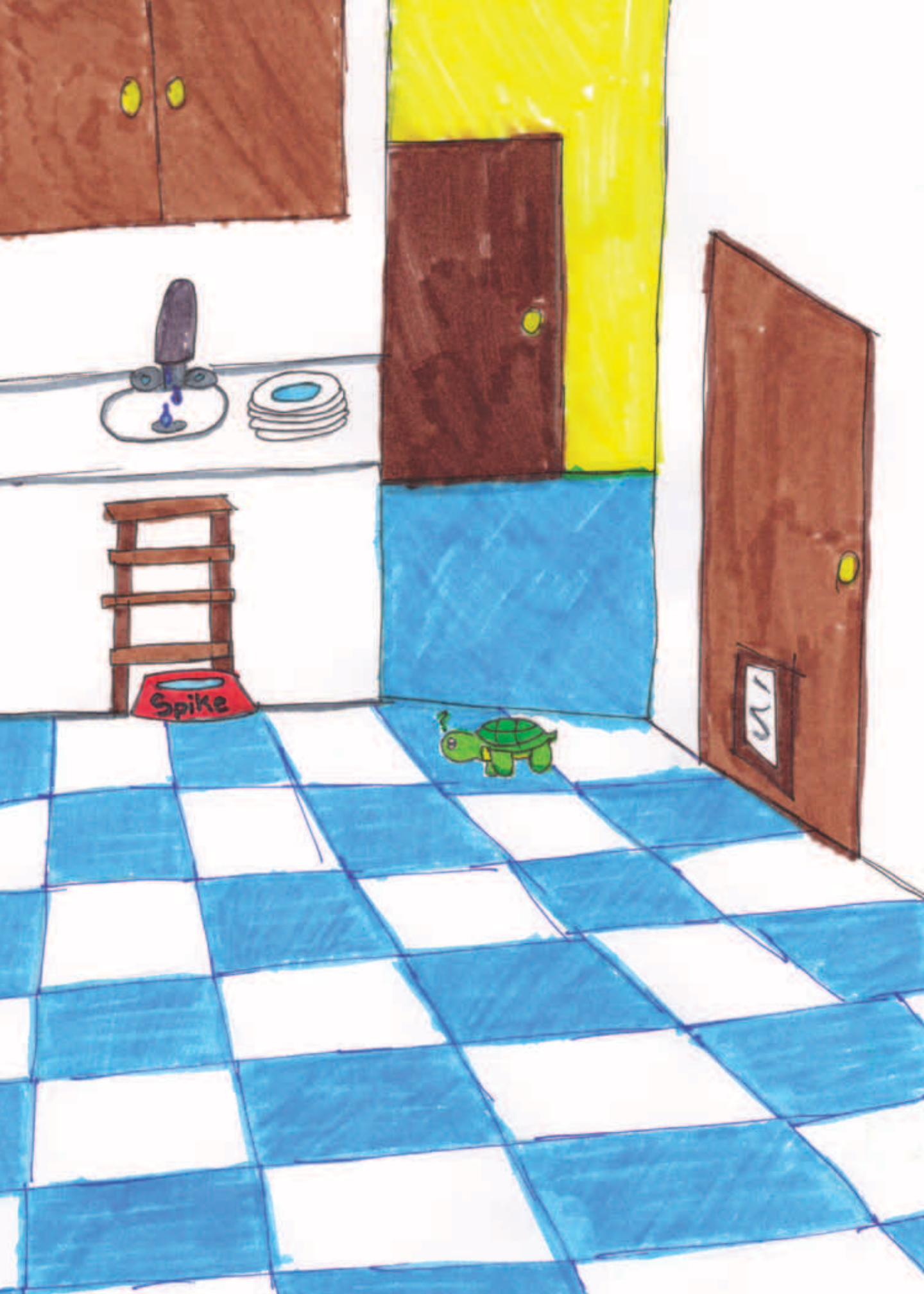






Then I had to find a way to get back in the house. I went under the fence where Spike (my family's dog) had dug a hole.

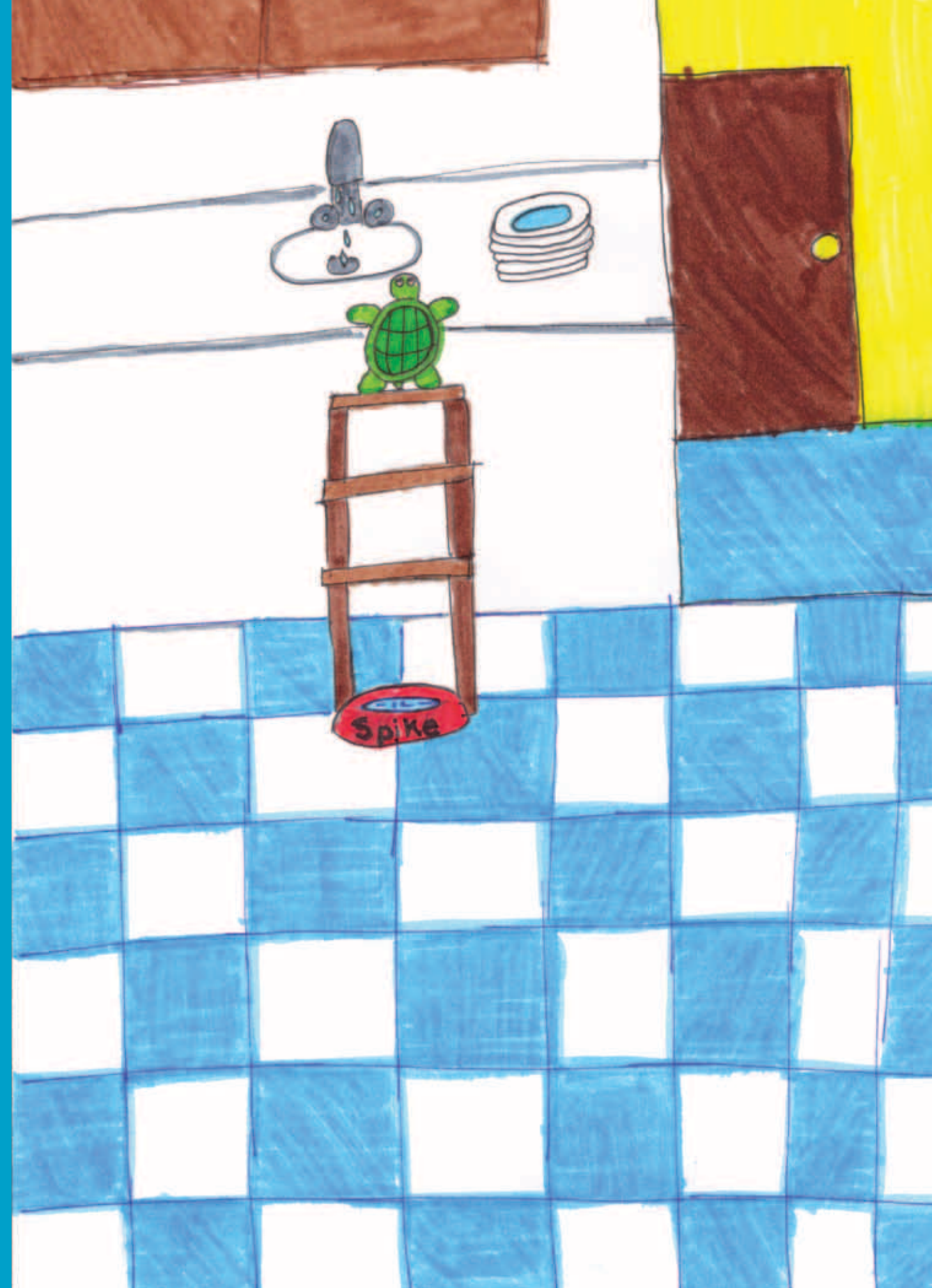




I went through the doggie door,  
and then I had to go turn off the  
dripping faucet. **I had to get  
up to the sink, but how?**



I had an idea. I would use Spike's water bowl to climb up onto the step ladder. Then I would get onto the counter and the rest would be easy.







Suddenly I heard a loud **CRASH!**  
I had accidently knocked down  
some dishes. I looked around.  
“Good, no harm done,” I thought.  
Then I remembered Spike. He had  
been sleeping, and the dishes woke  
him up. Oh no, big Spike would  
surely eat me up! Better make this  
a quick job.



Then I heard the front door open.  
**“Otis, I’m home!”** I heard. Uh oh,  
the children were home! I ran like  
lightening to the sink.

As it turns out, turtles can’t run so  
fast, so by the time I got to the sink,  
the children had found out that I  
was gone and were looking for me.  
“Go Otis, go!” I thought.



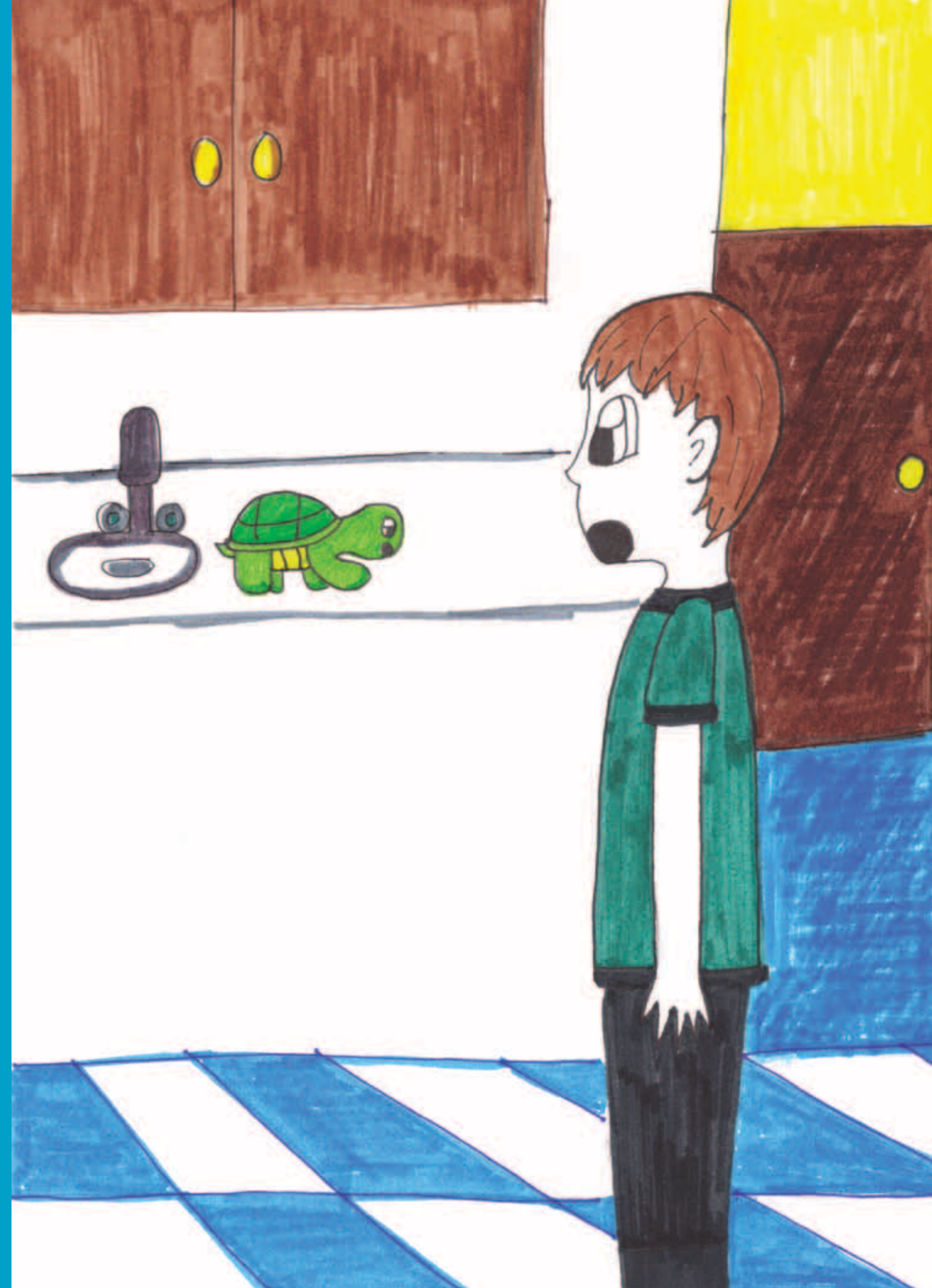


**“Otis, there you are!”** Oh no,  
Christopher found me. Well there  
was only one thing to do.

**“Hello Christopher,”** I said.

**“What? Otis, you can talk?”**

**“Yes, and I am sorry I am out  
of my tank, but I saw that you  
left the faucet dripping and  
the sprinklers on, and that wastes  
a lot of water. Water is precious,  
and we turtles definitely need  
it to survive.”**







**“I’m sorry, I didn’t know. Can you tell me some other ways to save water Otis?”**

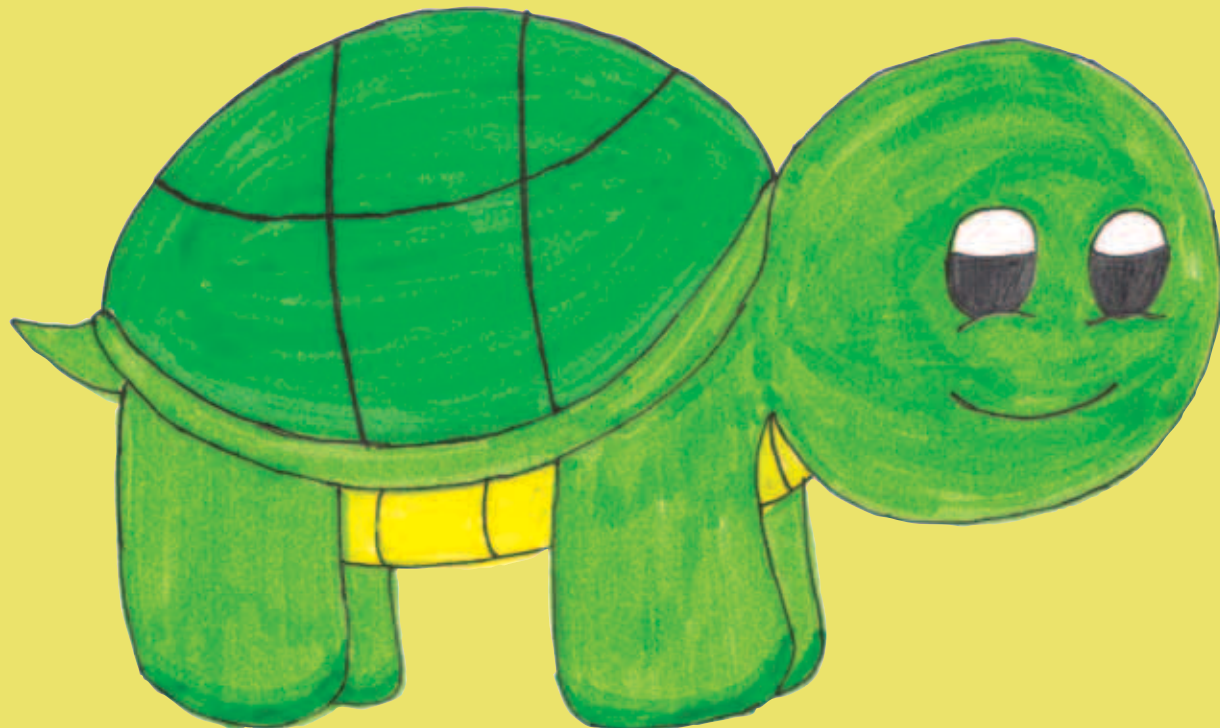
**“Of course I can!”**

So Otis and the children discussed ways to save water. For example, when it rains outside Otis told them to turn off the sprinklers. He also suggested that they plant a California Friendly landscape, which uses about 50% less water than grass. He then told them that they should not use water to clean the driveway; instead, they should use a broom. Then Christopher and his little sister shared the information with their friends and neighbors.



Because of Otis the Turtle, many people learned how to use water wisely.

# Thanks Otis!



## Chloe Hernandez . Author

Hi, I'm Chloe Hernandez, and I'm a sixth grade student at Margarita Middle School. I enjoy writing, playing sports, and spending time with my family. I got my inspiration for this story from my pet turtle whose name is Otis. I consider Otis to be more of a friend than just my pet!



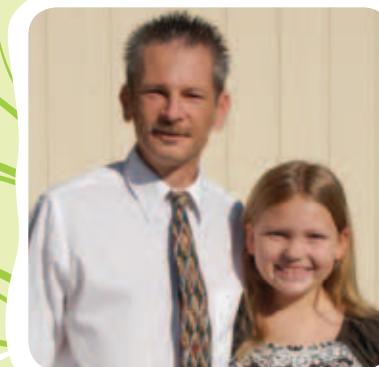
## Judy Stickel . Teacher

I am a sixth grade teacher at Margarita Middle School in Temecula Valley Unified School District. I have enjoyed creative writing and drawing since I was in elementary school, and now have the joy of watching my students become creative writers. I believe in writing across the curriculum and using the visual arts to enhance my lessons.



## Hi! I'm Cassi Tichy . Illustrator

Being a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Valle Vista Elementary School (in east Hemet) has been so much fun this year! I really LOVE school, especially Science and Math. Some of my favorite things to do are singing in the school choir...drawing... learning to play the piano and oboe...drawing...collecting different kinds of giraffes...drawing...and hanging out with my friends and family...oh, and did I mention that I like to draw?! Yes, it's true! 😊



Having been an artist since I was about two years old, some would say it's "in my genes." I find it very interesting and exciting to see my improvements each year. Anime-type characters, as well as portraits of my friends and various animals, are what I am best at creating.

Someday, I plan on becoming an elementary school teacher, but I know that I will always remain an artist, too!

Finally, I really want to thank EMWD for such a wonderful opportunity and honor to illustrate this book! I hope you enjoy it as much as I do!

## Todd Baker . Teacher

Todd Baker has been teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Valle Vista Elementary School in the Hemet Unified School District for the past seven years. He has earned his B.A. in Psychology, and holds a Master's Degree in Teaching.

It is evident that Mr. Baker cares deeply about education, the students in his class each year, and their academic and personal successes.

He offers the following thoughts about himself:

*"I love teaching and learning through humor. All students are encouraged to look at life and education through multiple perspectives. There are many creative ways to solve problems and answer questions, as there are many ways to live life."*





# Acknowledgements

Eastern Municipal Water District Education Specialist Malea Orloff developed the Write Off program to encourage the wise use of water through literature. This program promotes cross-age learning and curriculum, providing an opportunity for middle school students to write and illustrate a water education story for elementary school students.

Eastern Municipal Water District wishes to thank the following students, teachers, graphic designer, and advisory committee for their collaboration and contributions in the development of this book.

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## **BOOK DESIGN**

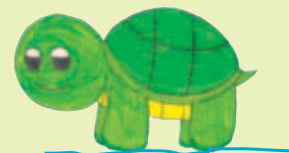
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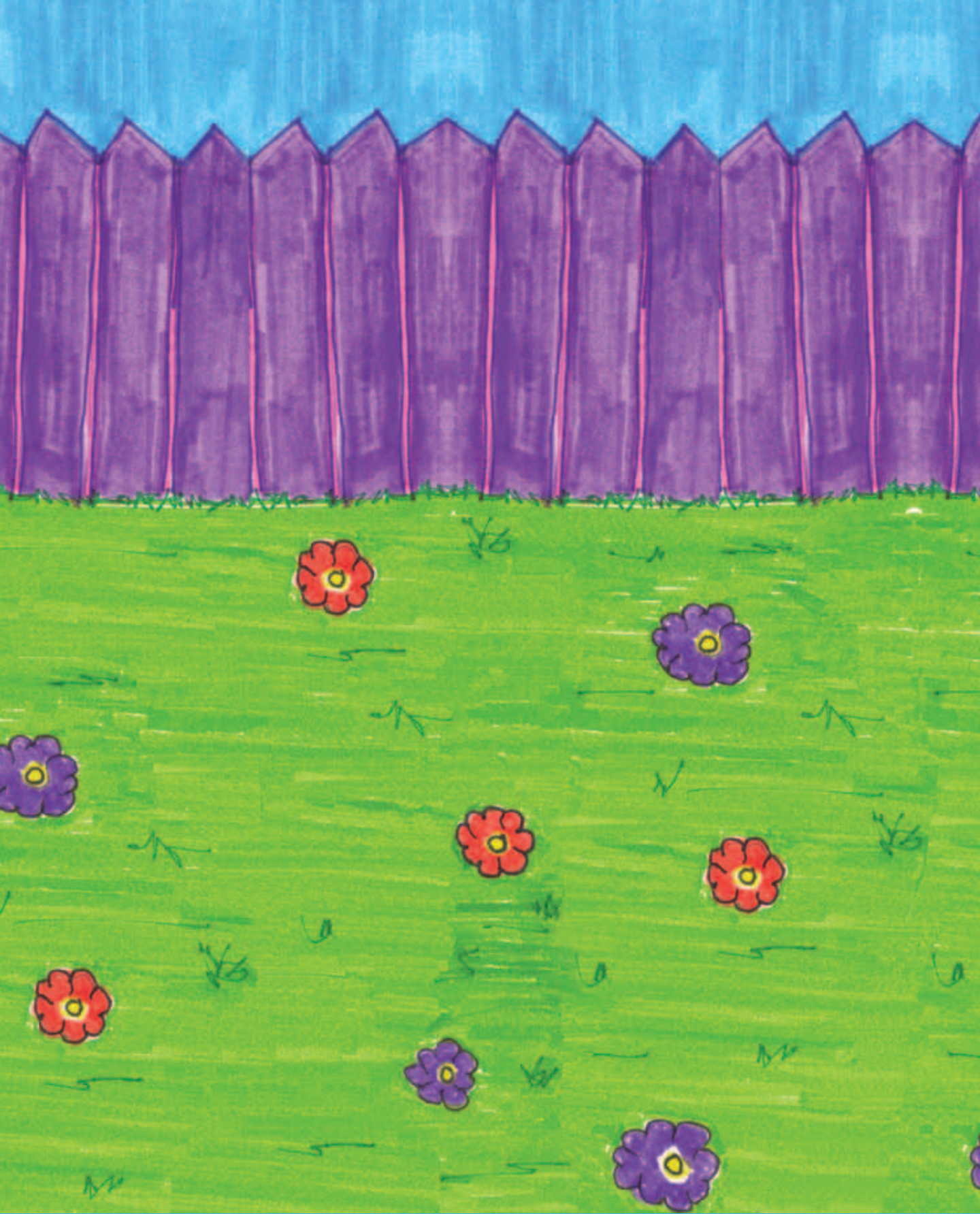
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