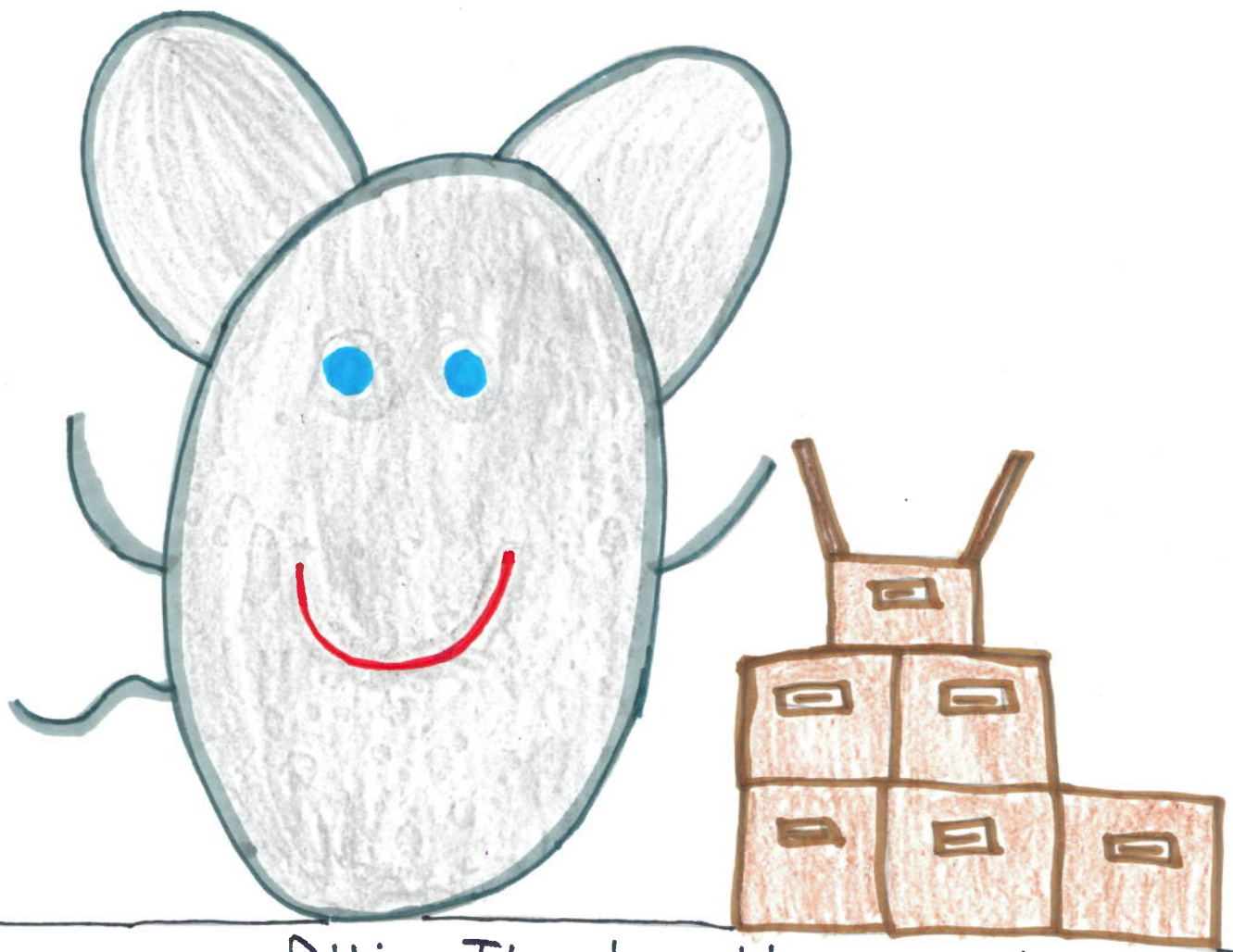
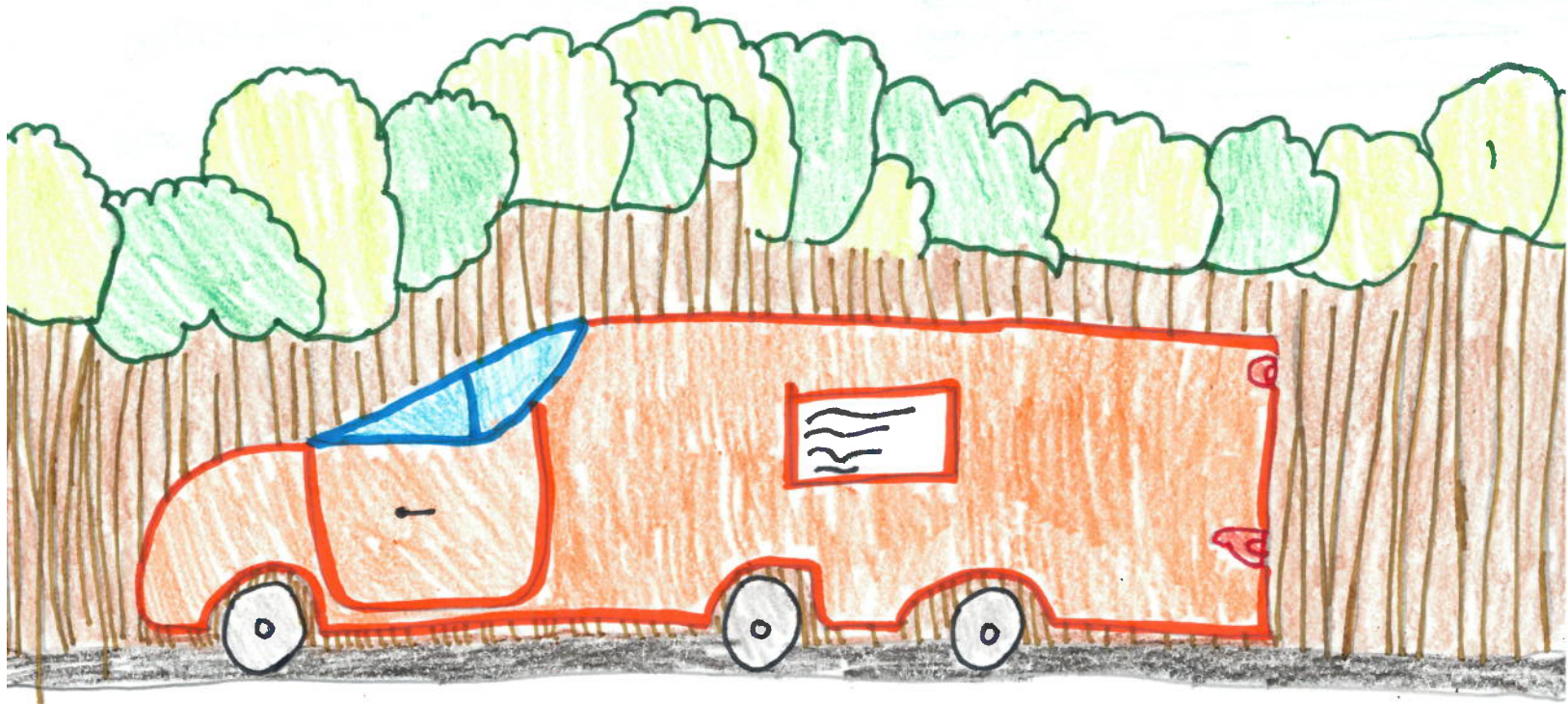


# MAXwell Mouse & THE New Neighbors



By: Theodore H. Quiring



Maxwell mouse had a nice blue house, a wife and 17 children. It was a special day for the neighborhood. A moving van and motorcycle were coming down the street. The mouse family hurried to the window.





"Look there's a new family moving in!"

"Yippee! We have new neighbors!" Said the 17 children.

"Oh no! Look how slimy they are!" Said Maxwell.

"They are sooo slow!" Said Mrs. Maxwell.



Next door a Snail was Slowly Sliding off a bright orange motorcycle. TWO other Snails Slowly lifted two big brown boxes and Slowly carried them to the front door.



"I have an idea! Let's give them a block of cheese!" Said Mrs. Maxwell. So they packaged up their very best block of cheese and dragged it behind them.

**DING! DONG!**

They wait. And wait. And wait. But no one ever comes.

The mice family left the cheese and scampered back home.





When the Snails finally opened the door, no one was there.

Just a big block of cheese.

"Ewww!" Said the little Snail.

"Who would leave this?!"

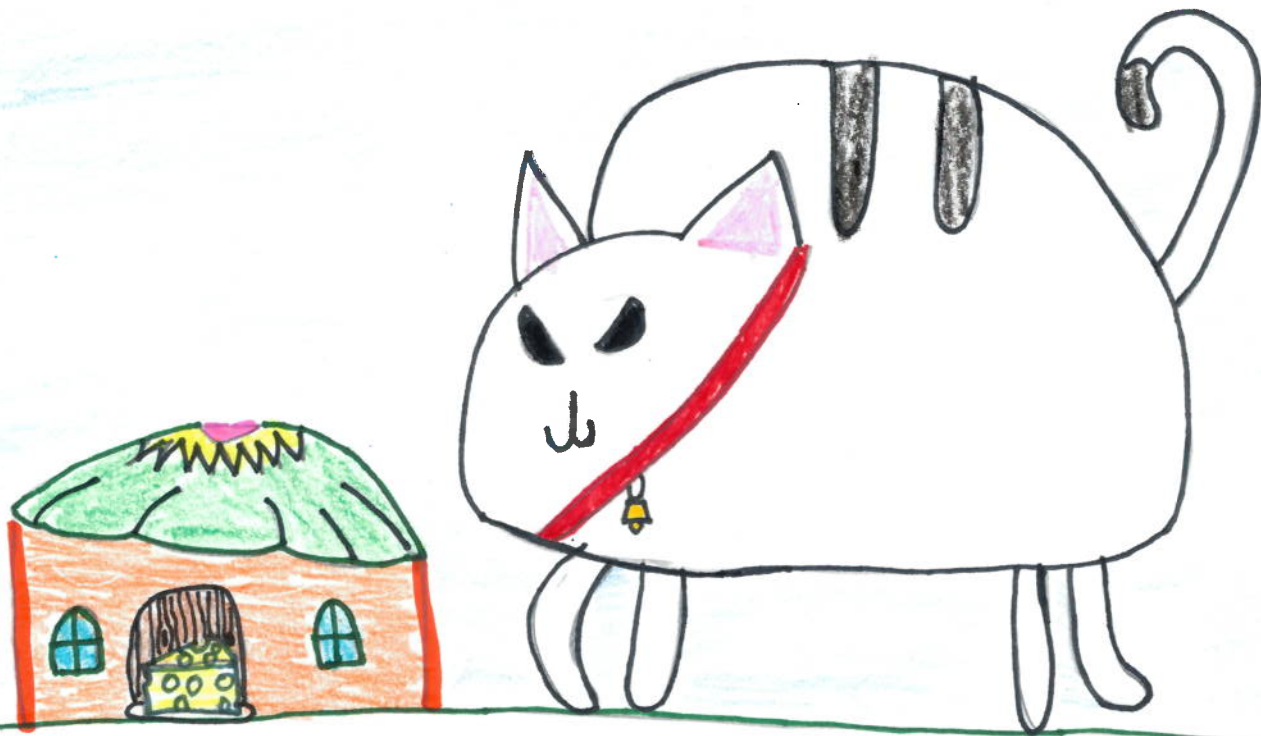
"I know!" said Mr. Snail. "It must be our next door neighbors."

"Then how about we take them some of our best juicy grubs?"



The Snail family slowly pulled a  
pile of juicy grubs next door.  
"Ewww!" said the 17 children.  
The neighbors decided they do  
not have anything in common.

But then there was trouble.



Later that afternoon a black and white cat  
Came Strolling down the road.

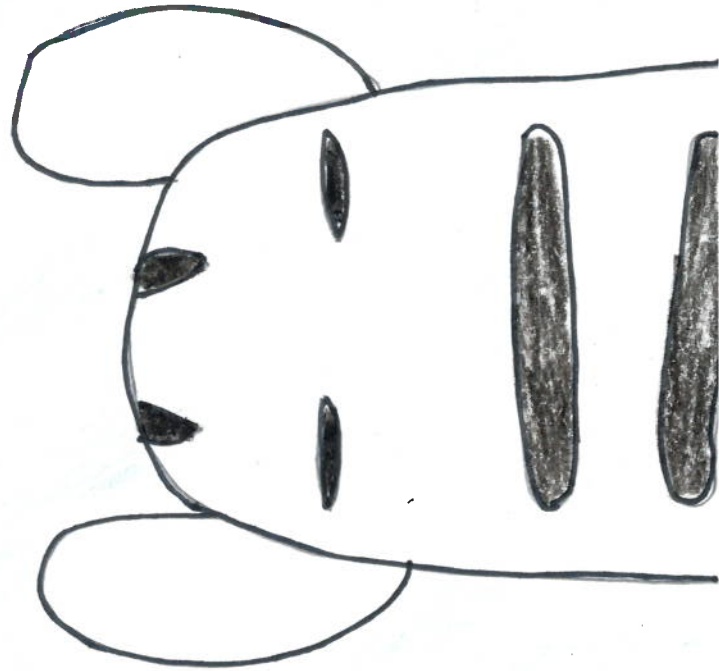
"Jingle-ling-ling!" Went the cat's bell.

"Just as I thought"... Said the cat to

himself When he Saw the cheese at  
the Snails' house.

"The mouse family will be my dinner  
tonight!"





The hairy monster pawed through the roof of the snails' new house.

But the snails fully retracted inside their shells.

"I thought there were mice in this house!"

The disappointed cat moved on down the road.

"Jingle-ling-ling," went his bell.



"Whew!" Said Maxwell. "The Snail family saved us and our house!"

"Yippee!" Said the 17 children.

Snails may be slow and slimy...

But nice to have as new neighbors.



THE END!

