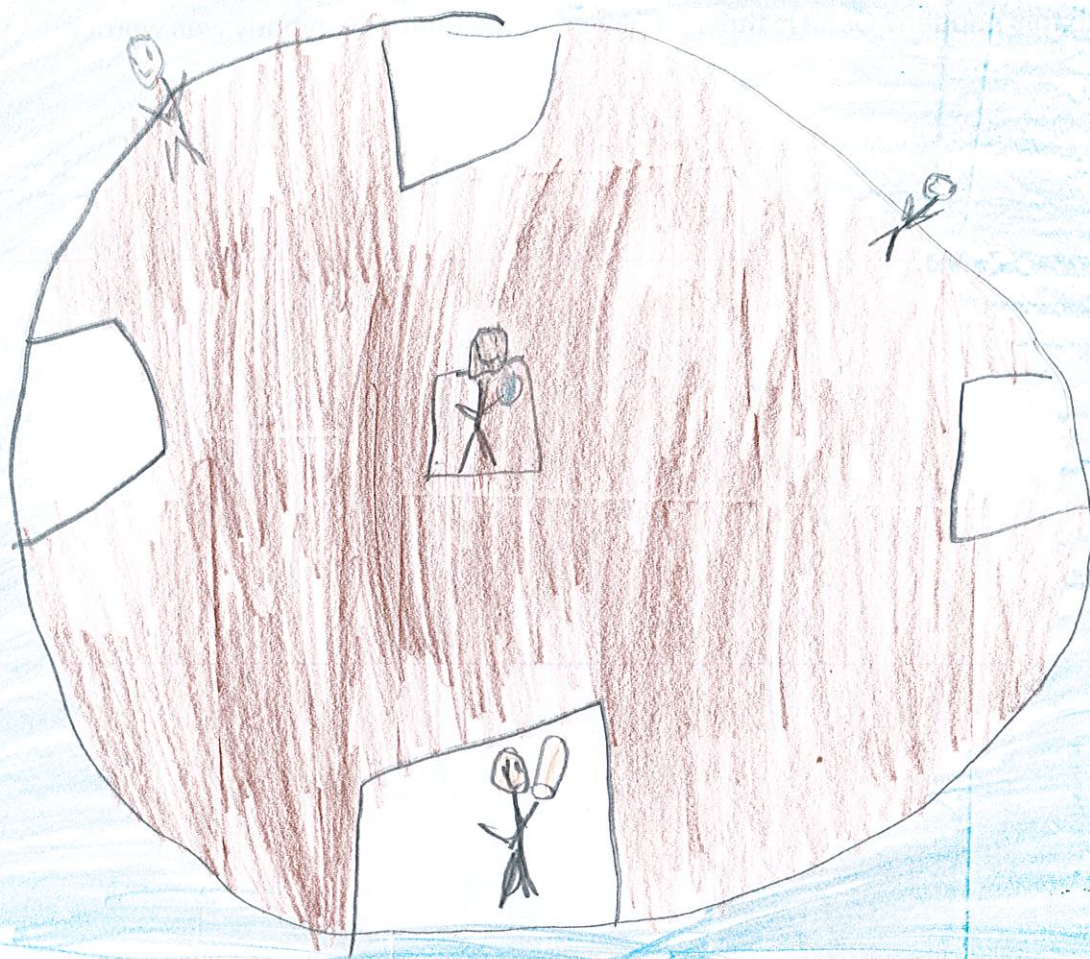


Gracein's Big Game



by Graham Ifland

Hello! My name is Gracein. This year I am going to play baseball. Right now, I am at baseball practice. Tomorrow is the championship. We are going to play the Blue Tigers. We are separated into teams, and I am in the outfield. Mark is about to pitch the ball to Gabe.

So Long Gabe!

CRACK! Wow, that ball is so high up I can't even see it. "Ow!" cried Gabe. The ball has hit his leg! Coach hurried to Gabe. "Are you okay?" asked coach. "I don't think so," said Gabe. How could this happen? Gabe is the best player on the team. Everybody was worried.



Scaredy Cats

After a few minutes coach said to go home and come back tomorrow. For the first time ever, we called ourselves scaredy cats. What if we lose 86 to nothing? What if we lose our second-best player? Today was the worst day of my life.

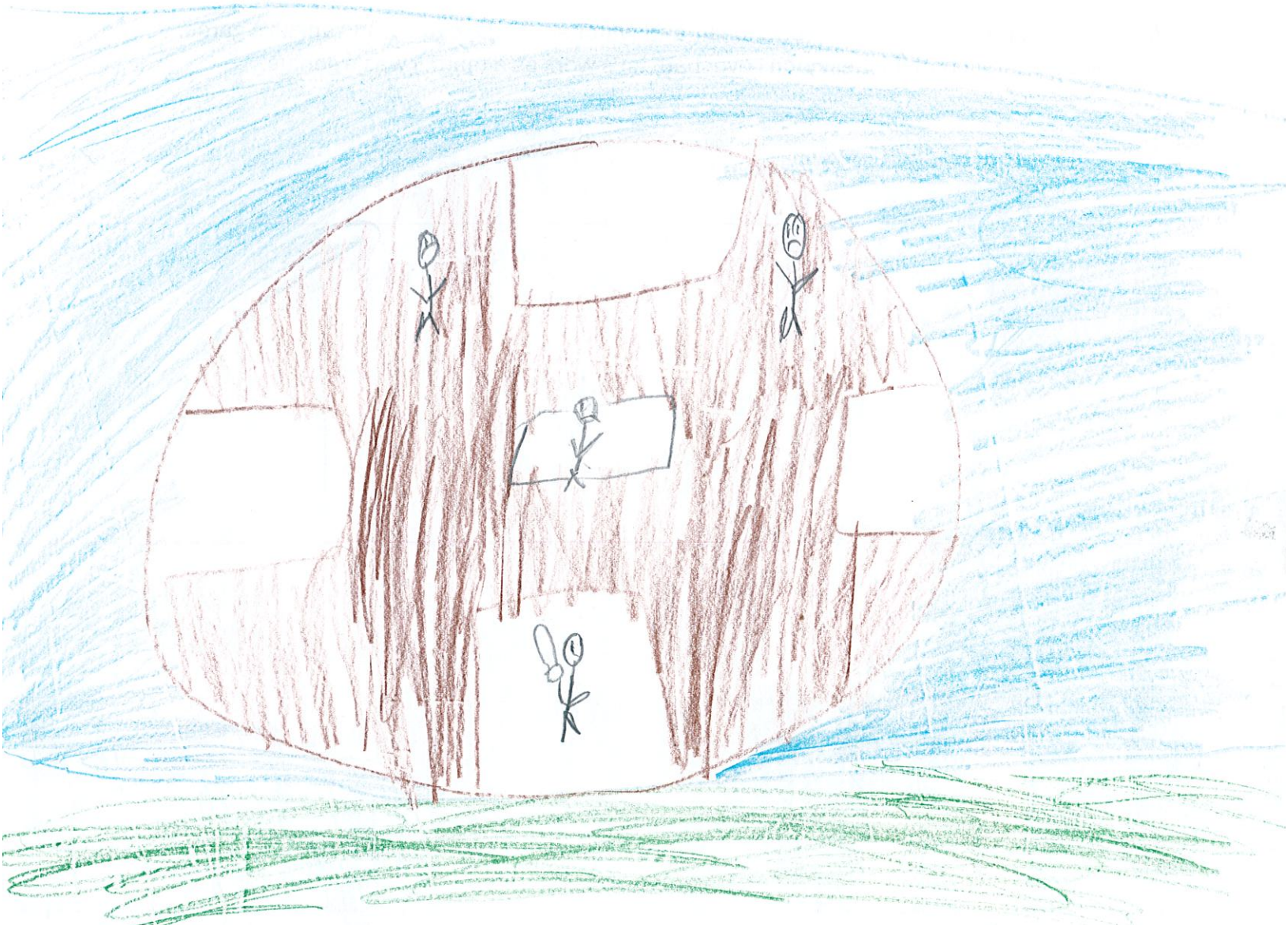
I'm a Genius

When I got home, I sat on my favorite chair and watched the Dodgers and Yankee's game. Five minutes later I had the best idea I ever had: let's work as a team! I was a genius.



Bad Game

Right now, we are losing 9 to 1! What will we do? Their pitcher is too good. Wait, I have an idea! I rushed over to coach and told him to call a timeout.



The Talk

Once everybody was on the bench, I said, "We are losing by a lot, but we can still win this championship game if we work as a team; never give up!" We got on the field and were confident about WINNING!!!!

Good Game

In the eighth inning, we started a comeback. We scored over and over again until we were tied. The Blue Tigers could not score. We were in overtime.



VICTORY

After three tough innings, I was up to bat. First pitch: strike! Second pitch: strike! Third pitch: ball! Fourth pitch: ball! Fifth pitch: ball! Here it is, the pitch that will decide it all. CRACK! Home Run! Everybody on The Nuggets ran on the field. **VICTORY!**

