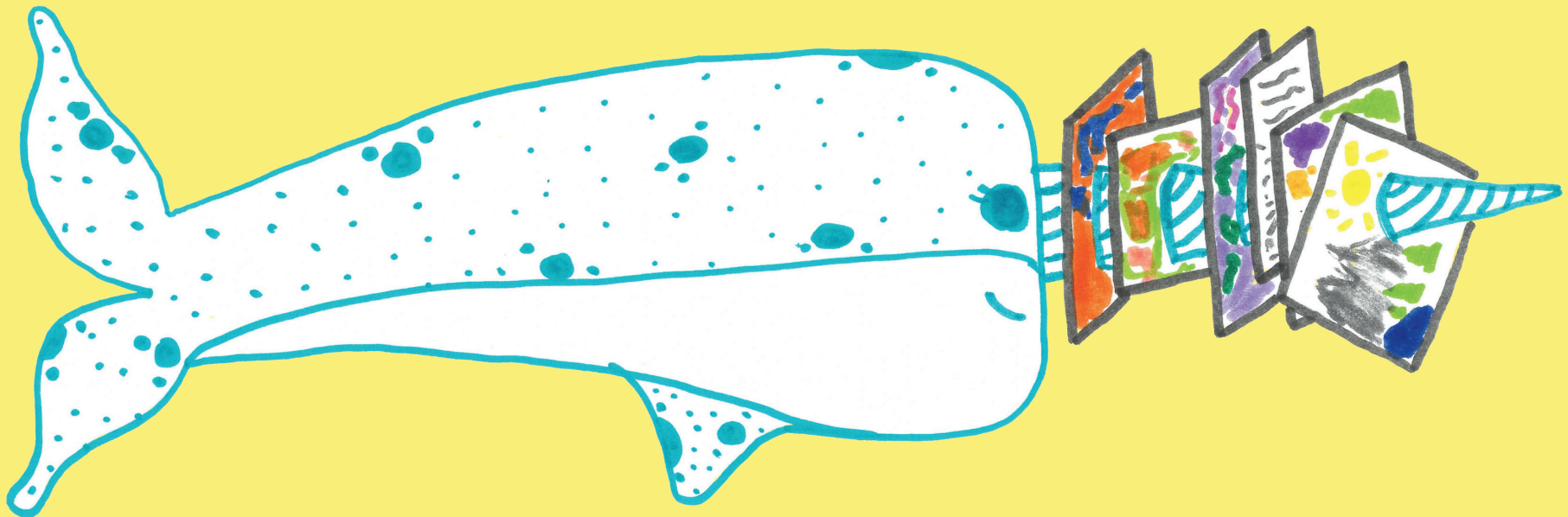


# NOTES FOR THE NARWHAL

A child rights story

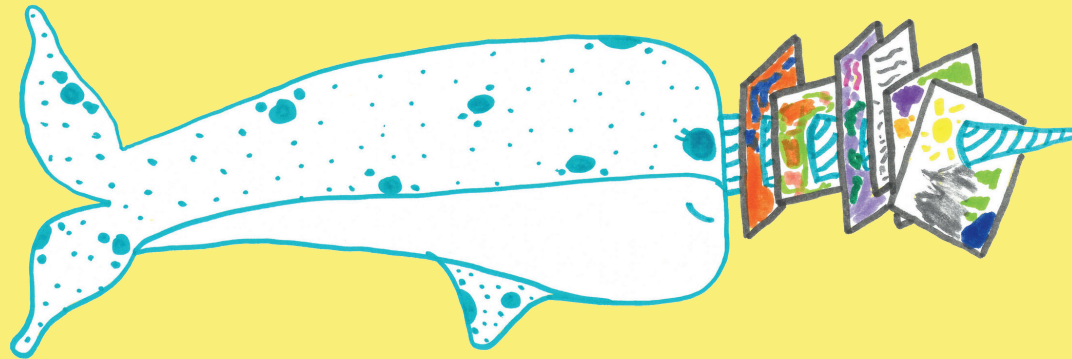


Illustrated by Blake Middle School students



# NOTES FOR THE NARWHAL

Illustrated by students at the  
Blake Middle School in Minnesota

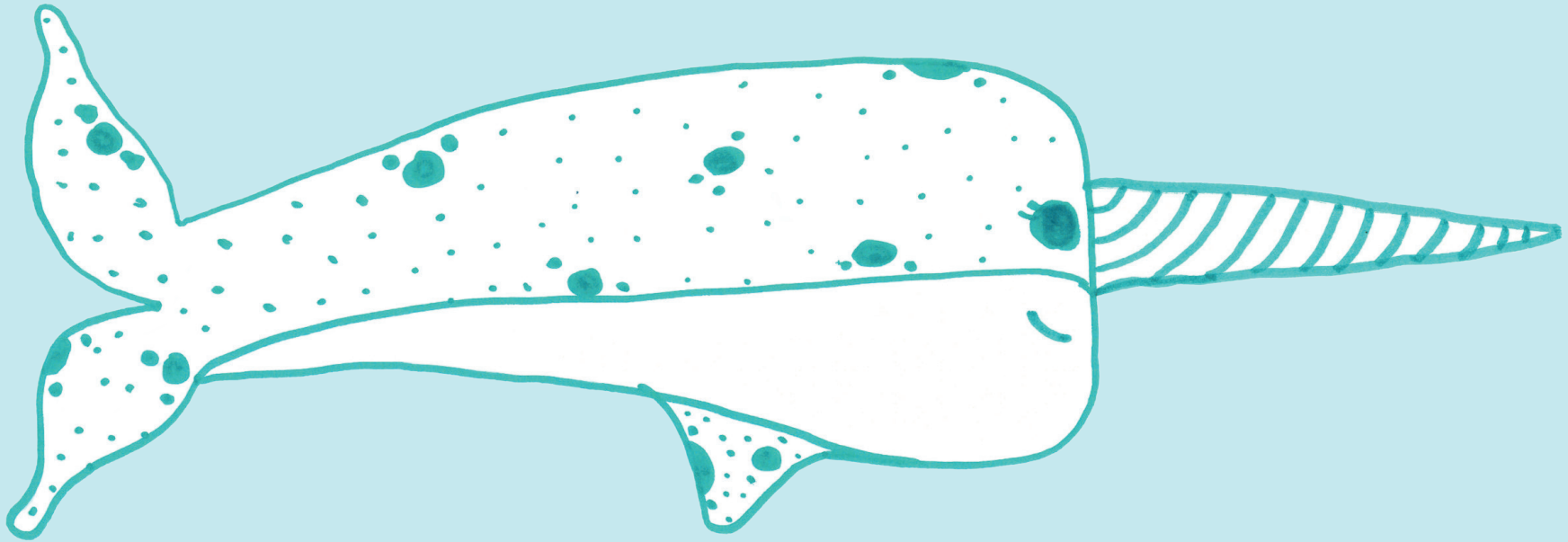


Written and compiled by  
Gabriel Shen and Erica Boulay-Ali

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**This is Nix.**



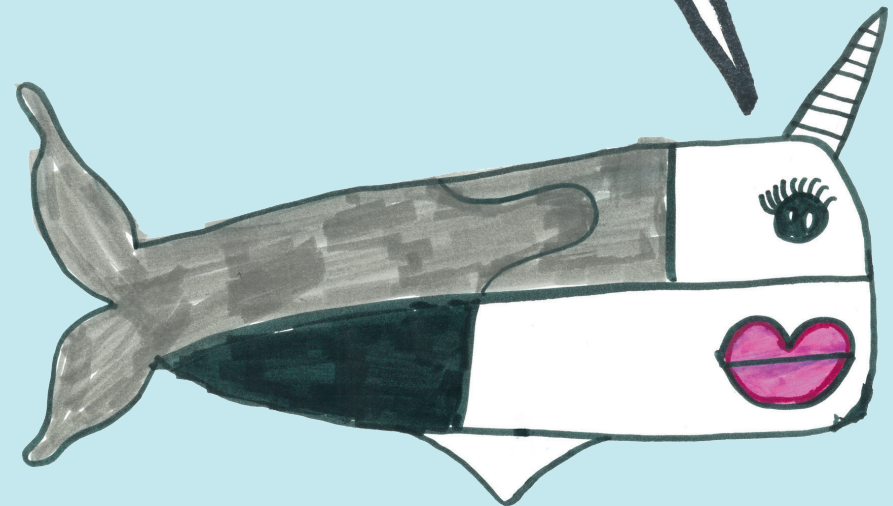
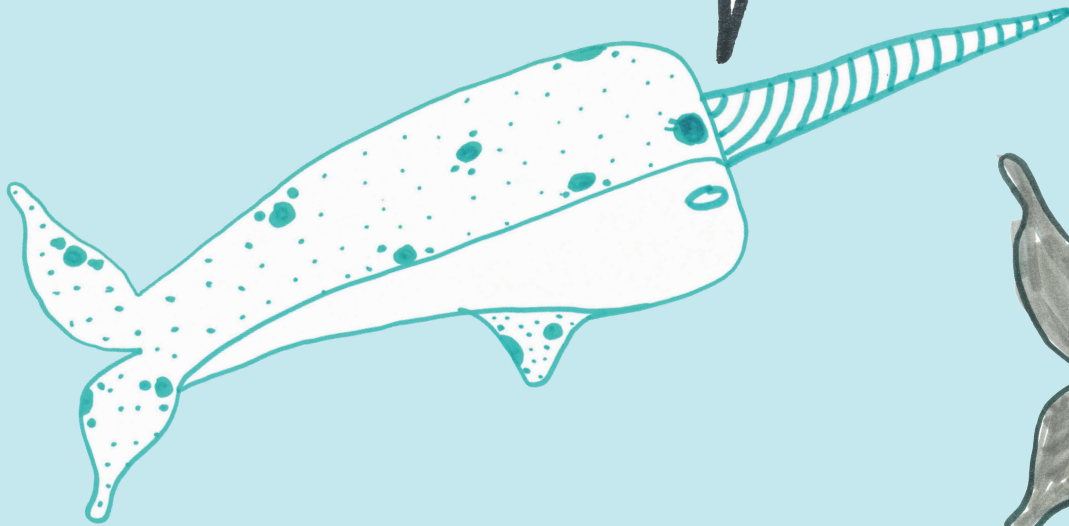
**Nix is a curious narwhal.**

*Narwhals are a type of whale. They have long tusks and live near the North Pole.*

One day, Nix saw something. Was it a fish?

Is that a fish?

No, that is not a fish.



(This is Nix's mom.)

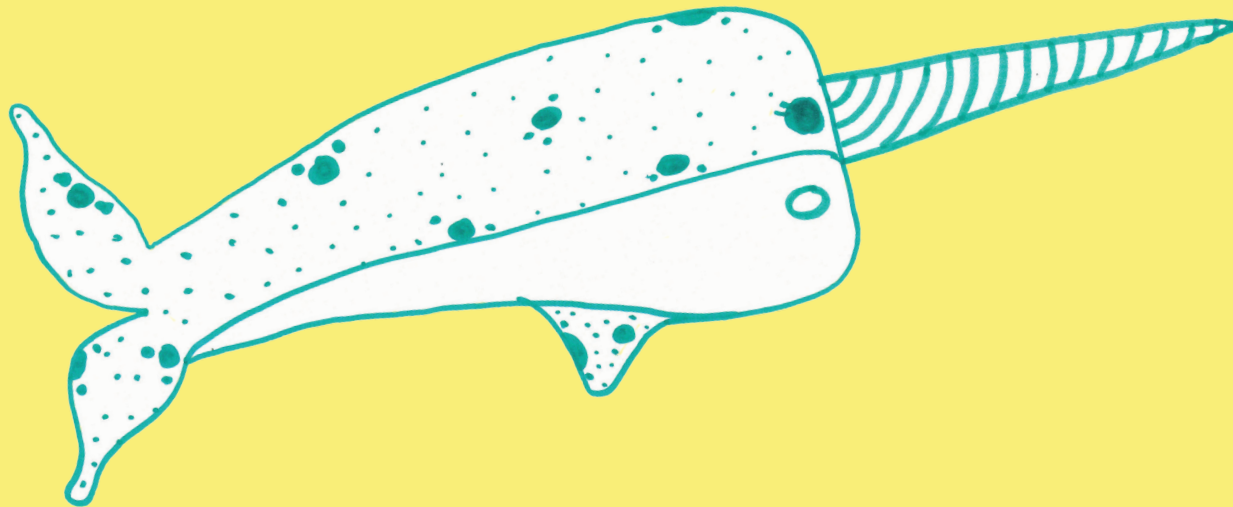
**Then what was it?**



**It was a human. It was a kid.**

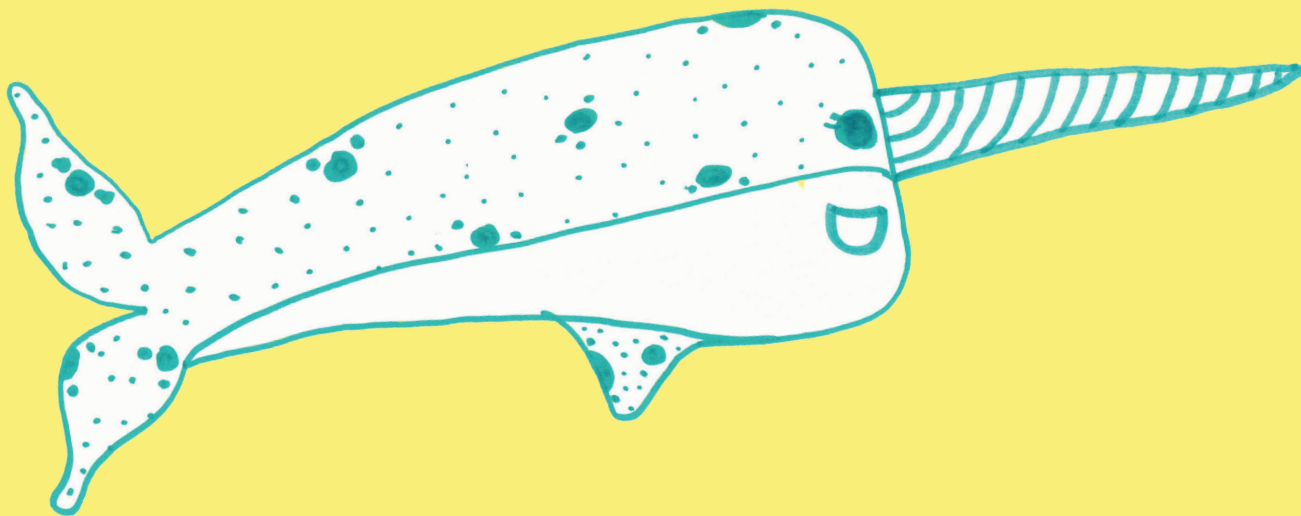
What is a  
kid?

A kid is a little  
person who can do  
special things.



Like a fish?

No, kids have special rights that are different from fish.

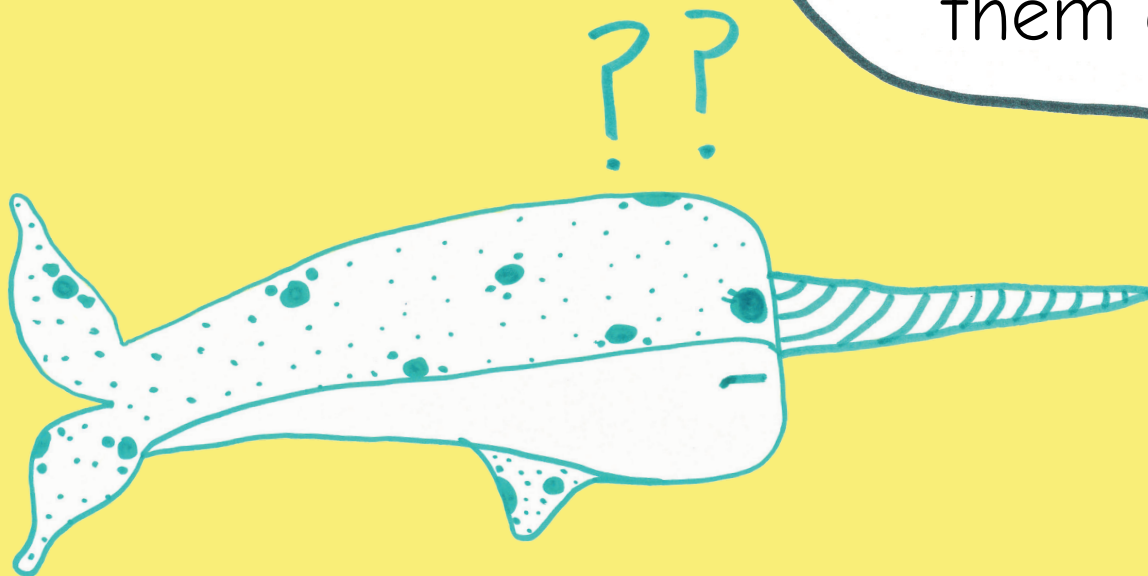


**Nix was confused.**

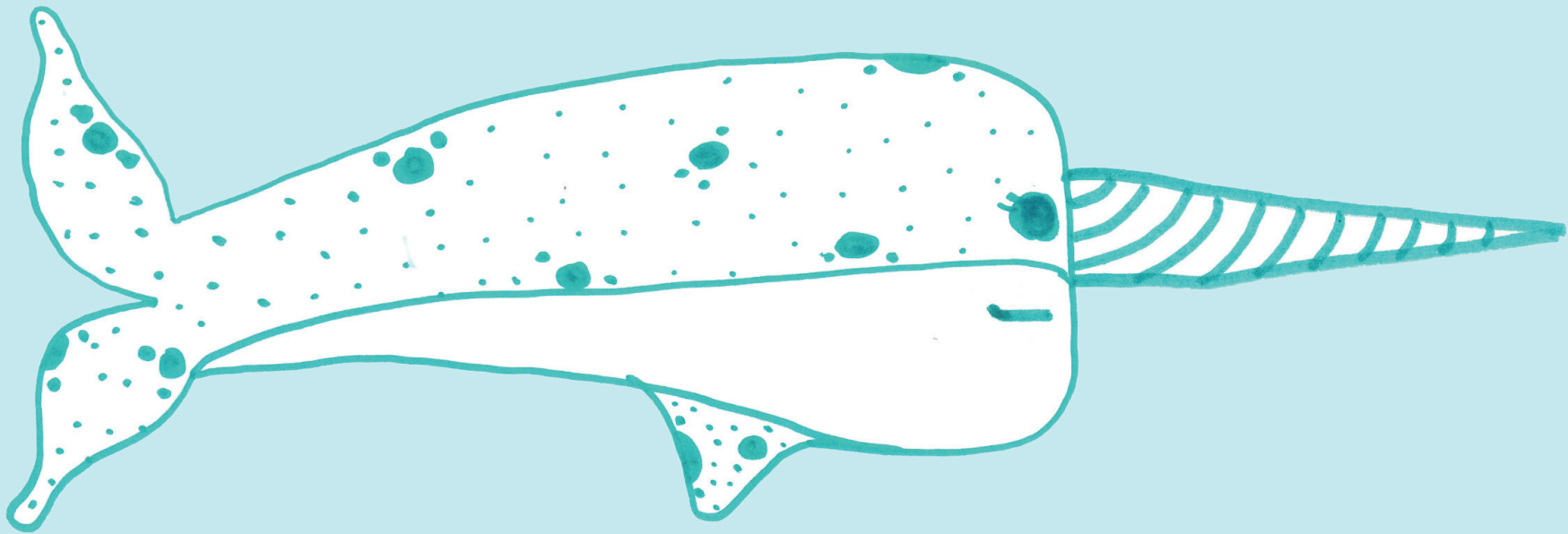
What is a right?

Rights are something you need to live a safe and healthy life.

We all have rights, and no one can take them away.

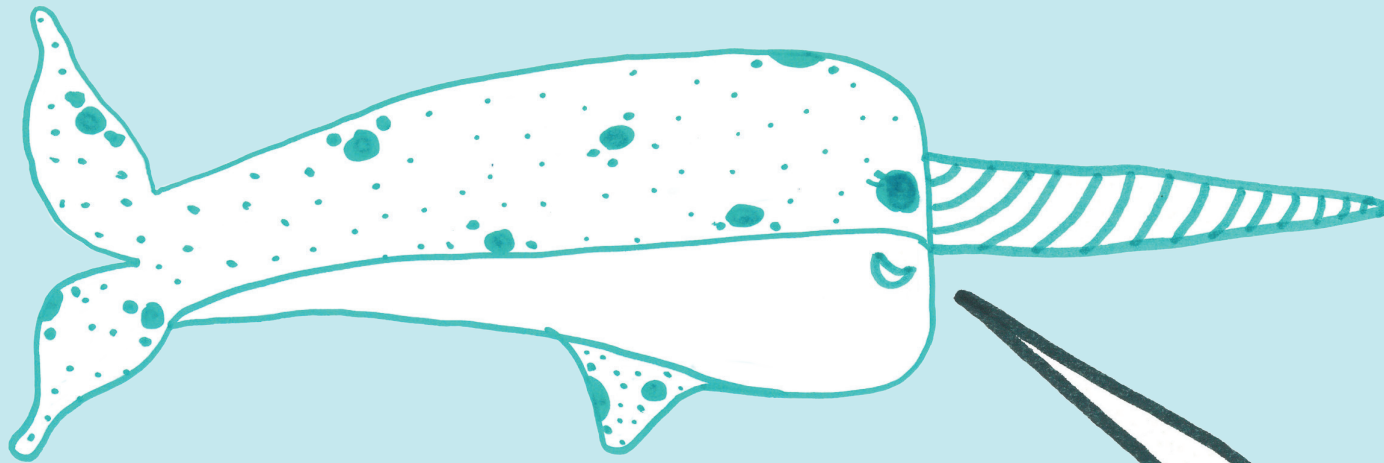


**Nix was still confused.**



**But he wanted to learn more.**

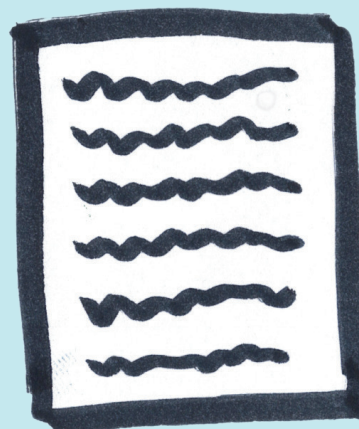
Nix had an idea.



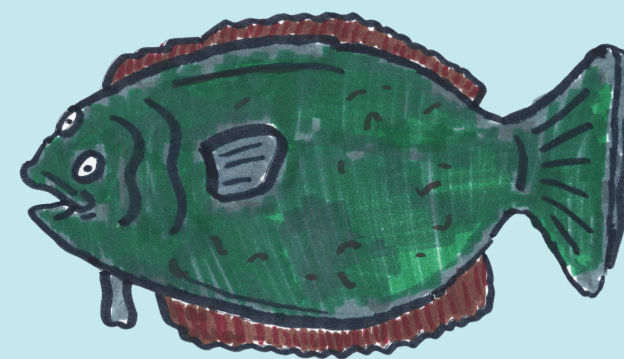
I will go around the world, asking kids about their rights!



He collected  
drawings,



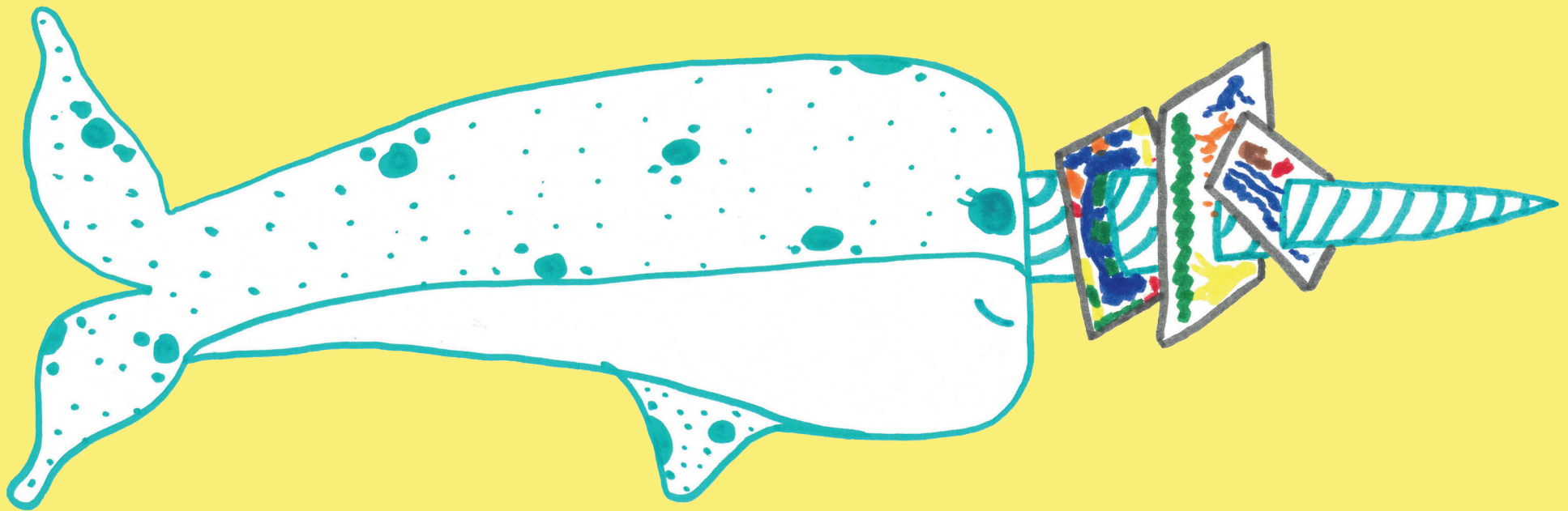
notes,



and fish.

(Nix loves fish.)

And where did he put them? On his tusk of course!



*Turn the page to see all  
the notes on Nix's tusk!*

RIGHT TO

FAMILY

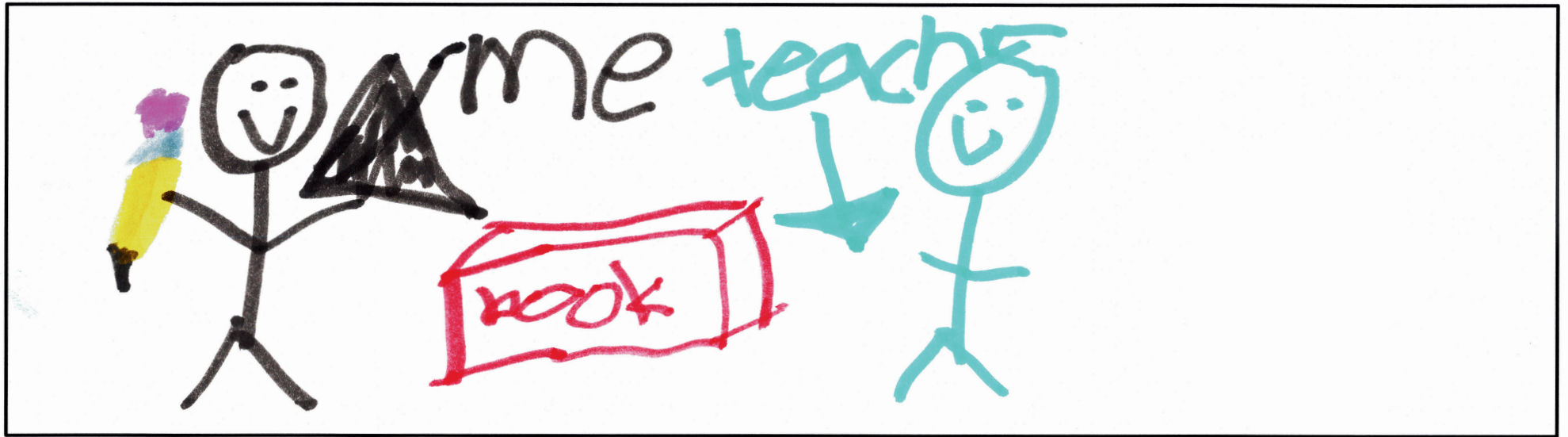


I drew trees with band-aids and safety kits on them because I have the right to nature and health!



I have the right  
to a safe home!



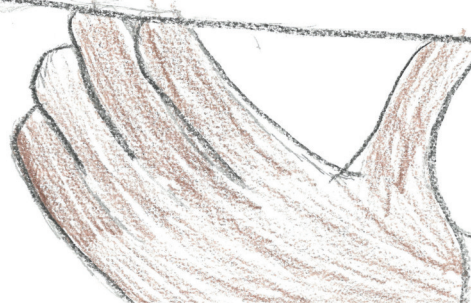
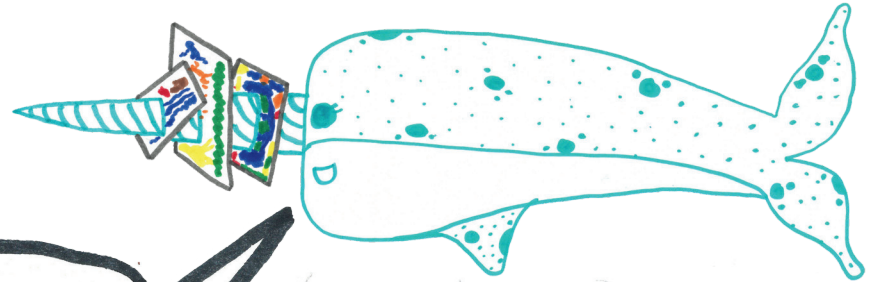


Dear Nix, I really  
like school. I'm  
learning a lot.



I have the right to  
food! I love food.

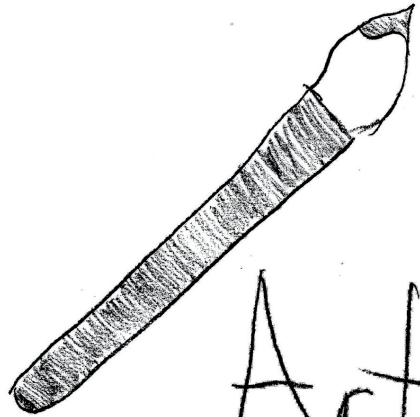
I like food too,  
especially fish!



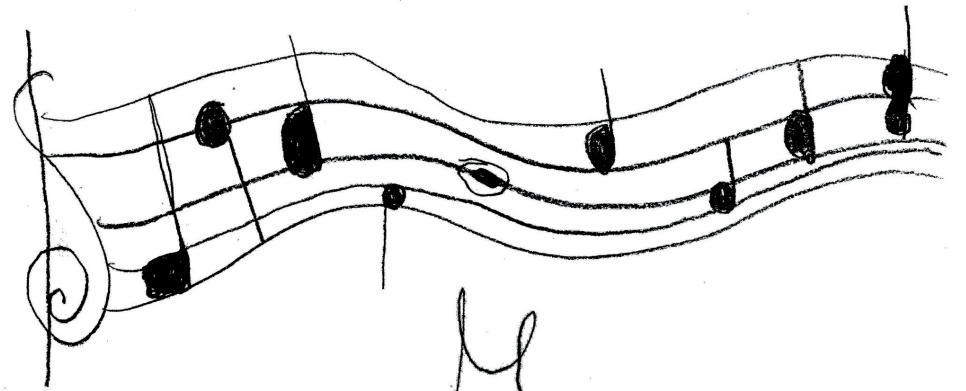
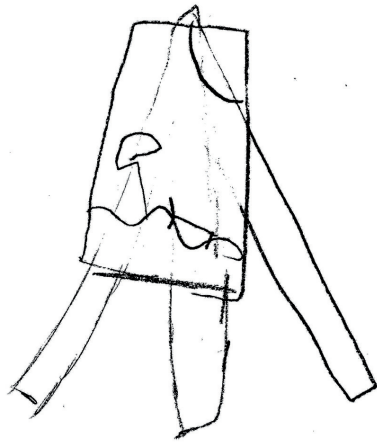
Dear Nix,

I think an important right is that grownups should listen to kids. Sometimes grownups think that kids opinions don't matter, but they do.





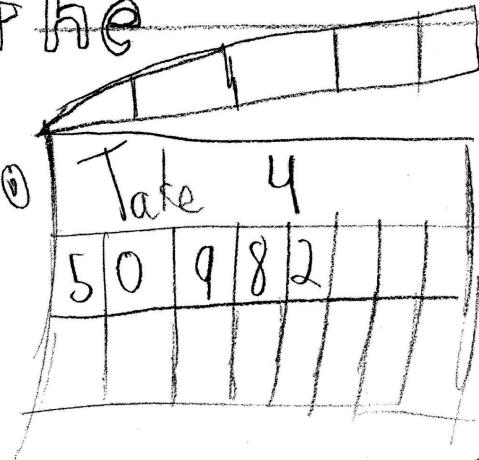
Art



MUSIC

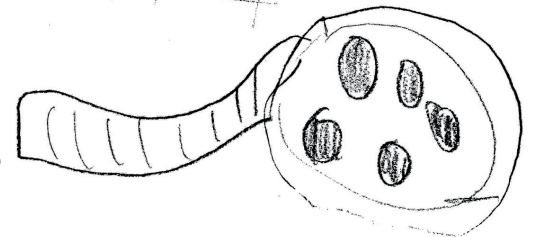
I have the

Right to



Dance

Theater

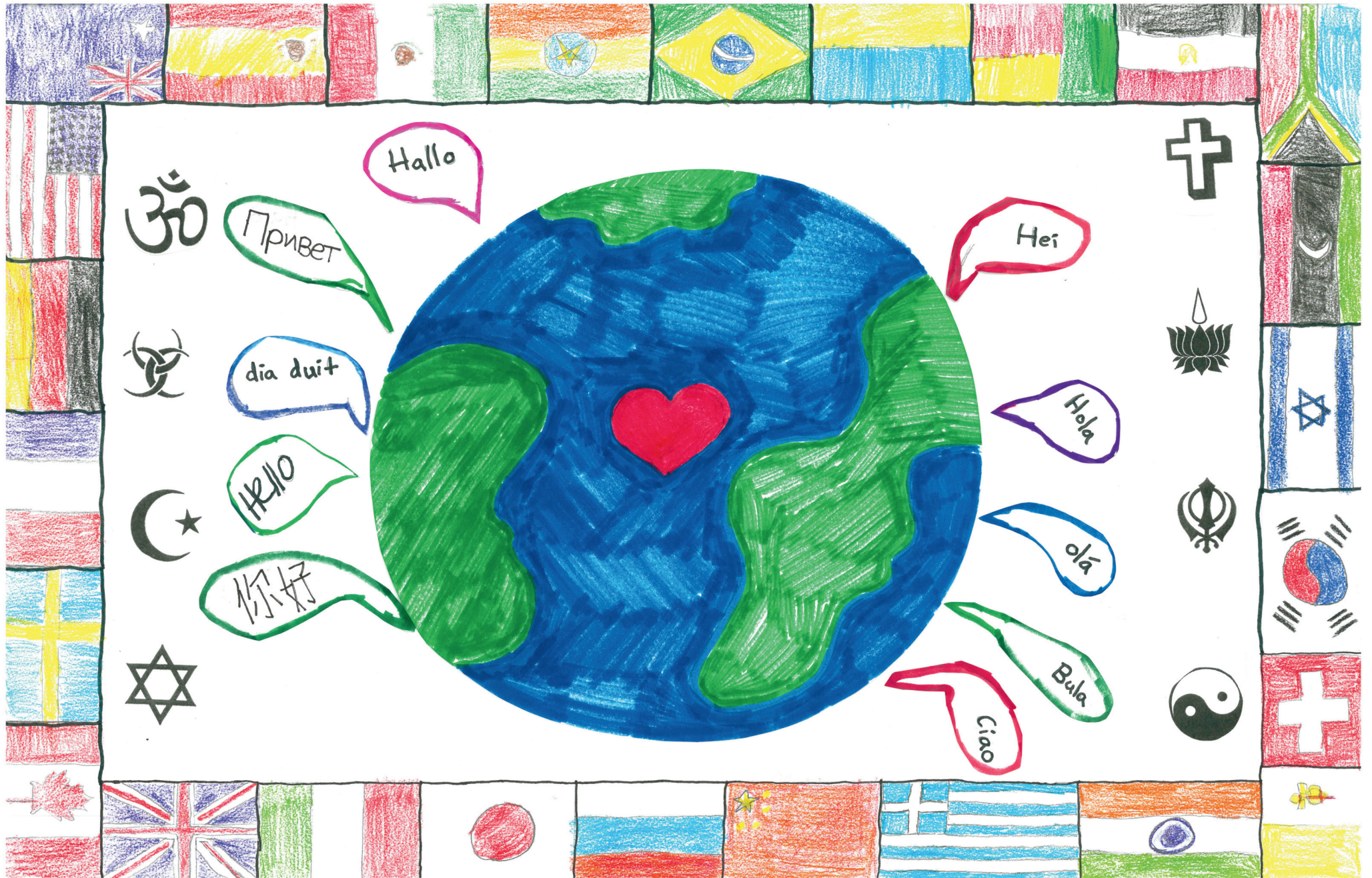


# RIGHT TO CLOTHING



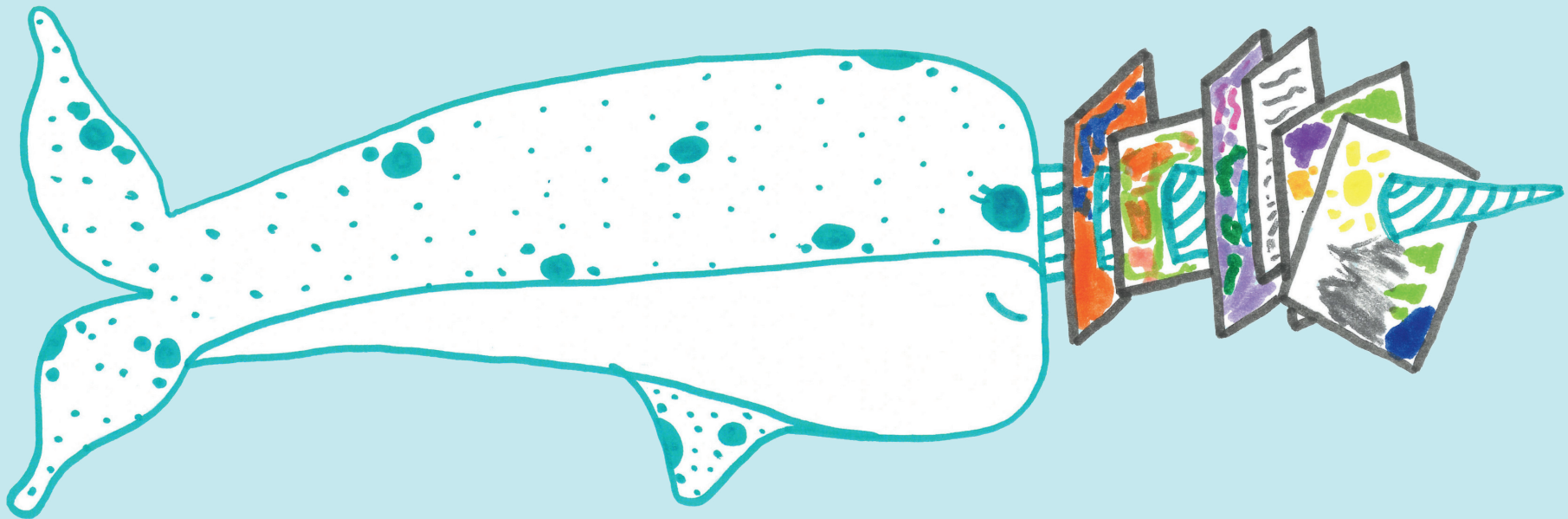
I painted my  
monkey hat  
because it makes  
me feel warm and  
safe.





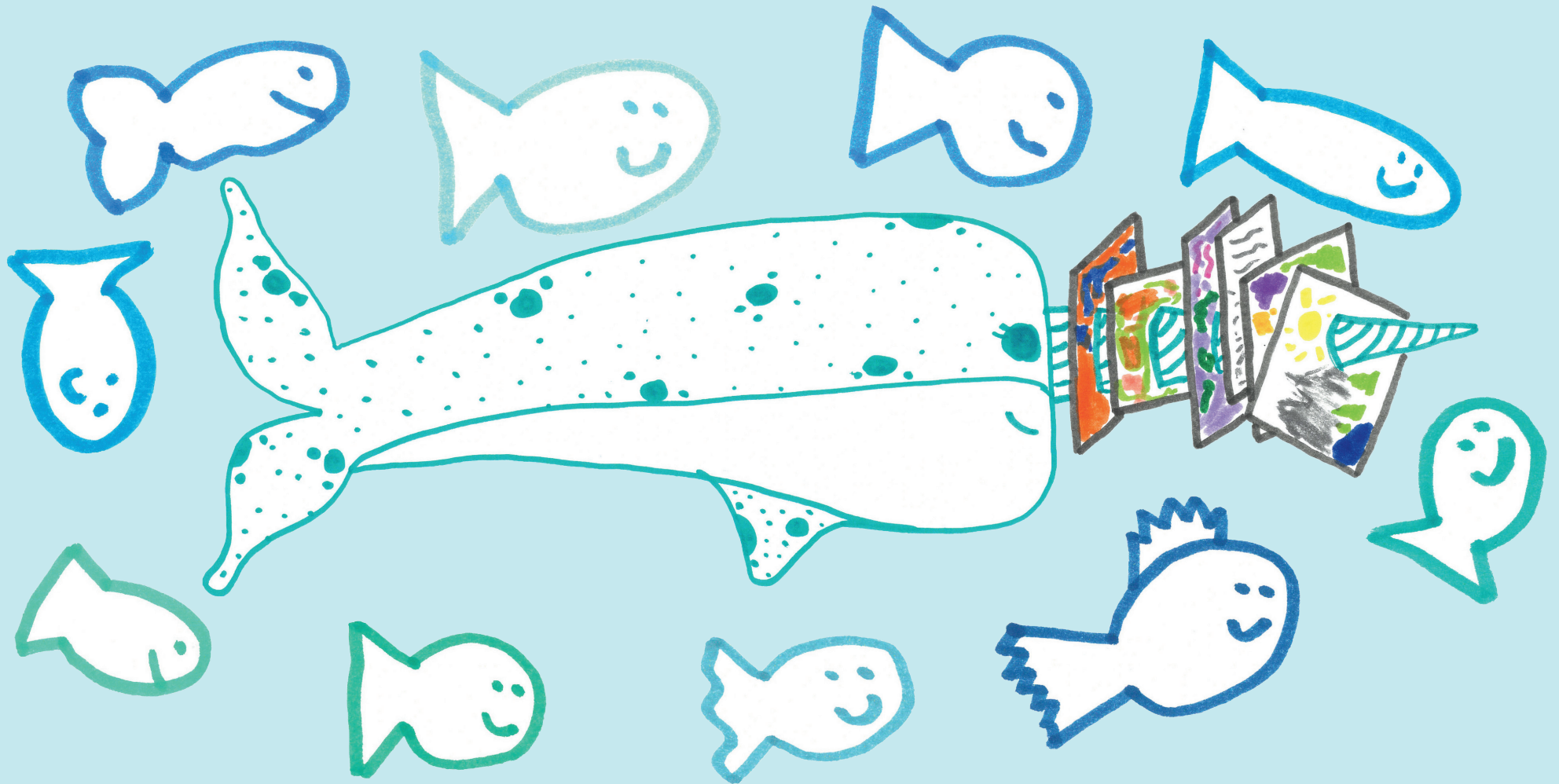
We have the right to our unique cultures, languages, and religions!

Nix's tusk was getting full.



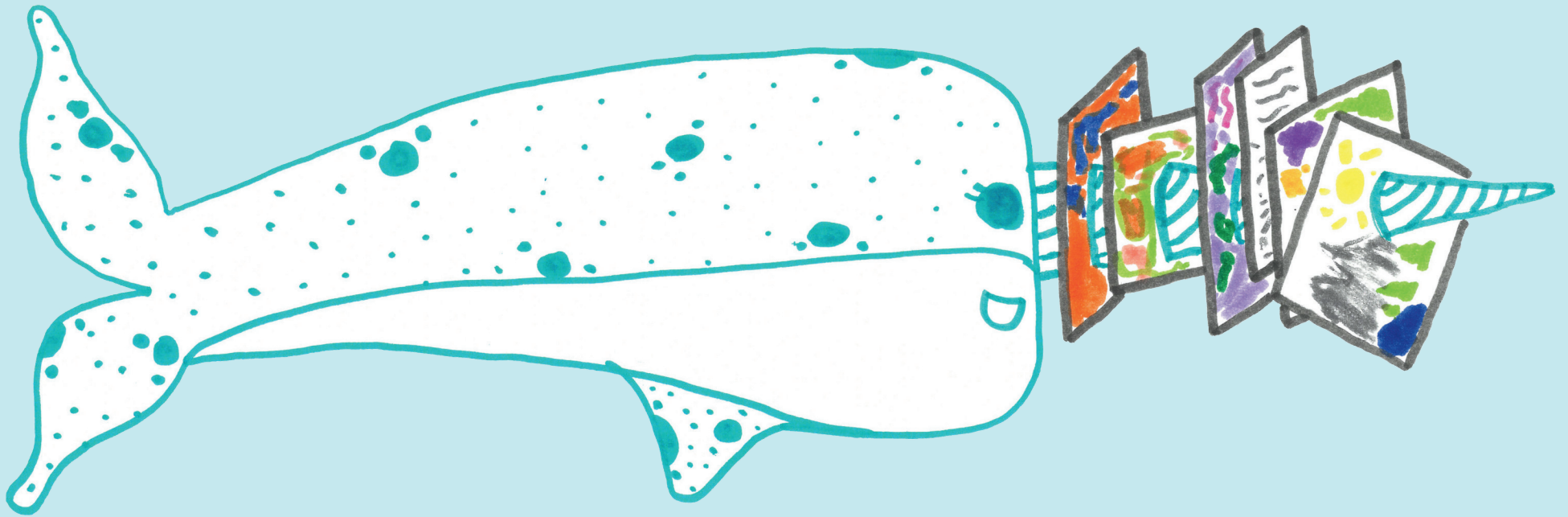
(There was no more space.)

So Nix ate some fish and kept on swimming.



Until...

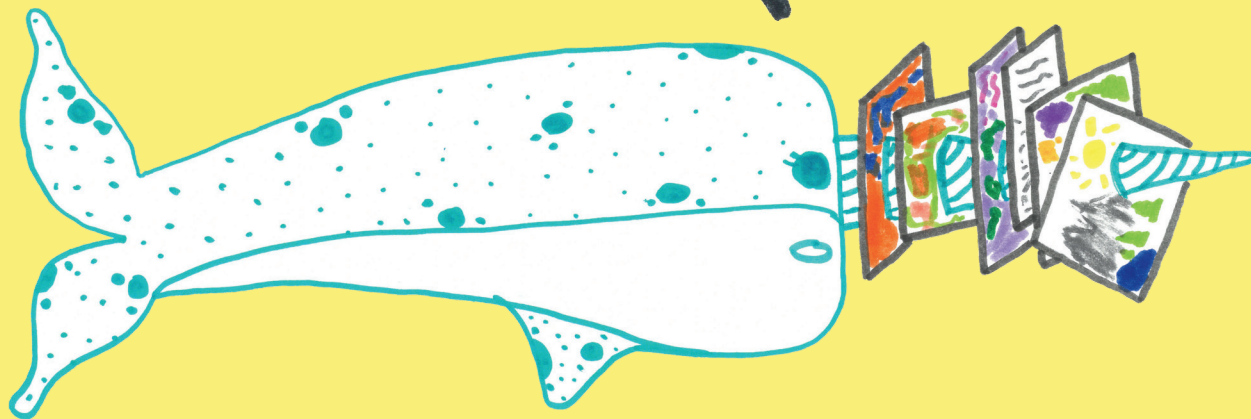
...Nix saw another kid.



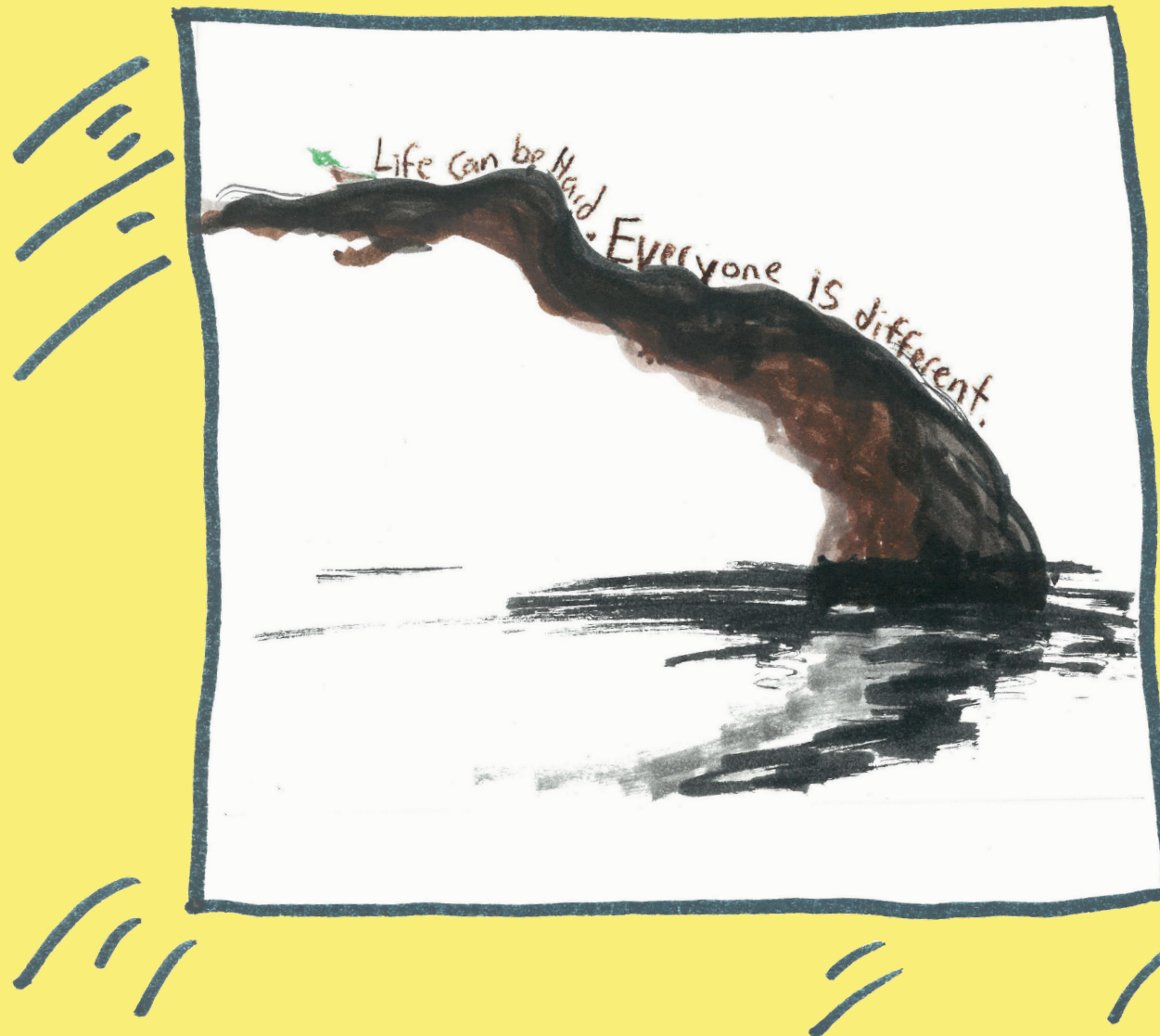
But this kid was crying.

Why are you crying?

I'm sad. I feel left out because I think differently than the other kids.



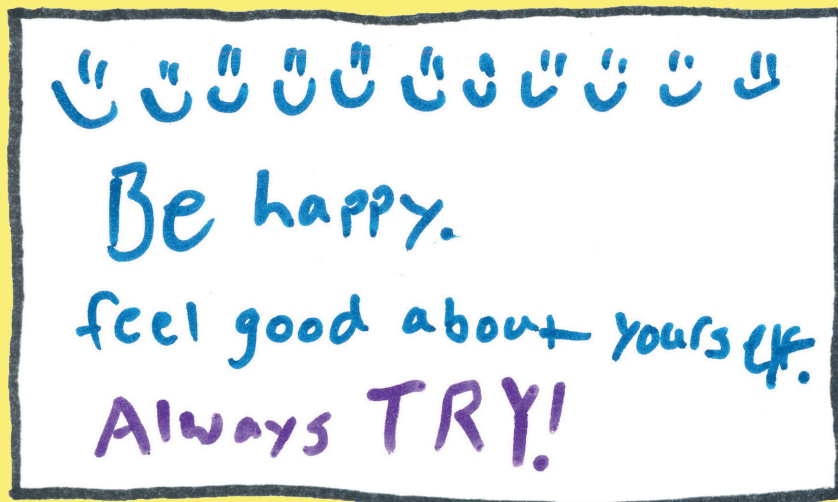
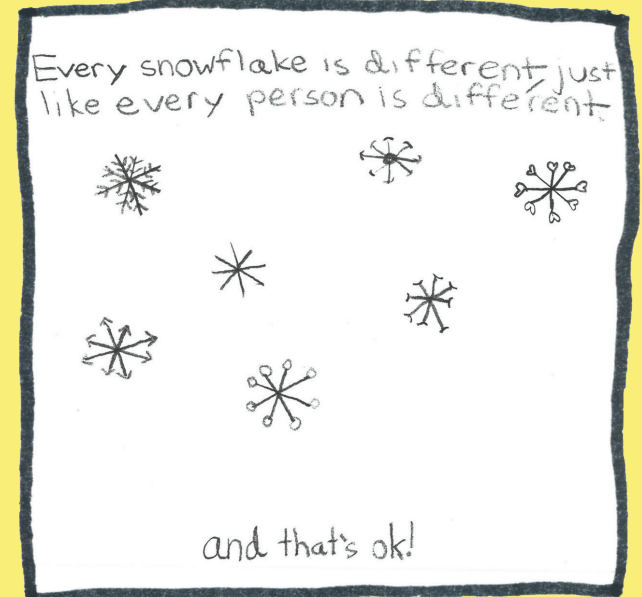
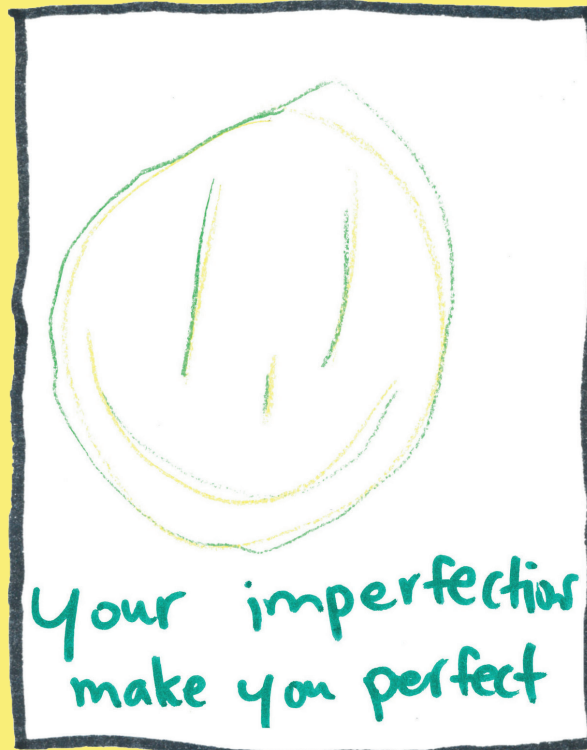
Nix wanted to help, so he pulled a note off his tusk and gave it to the kid.



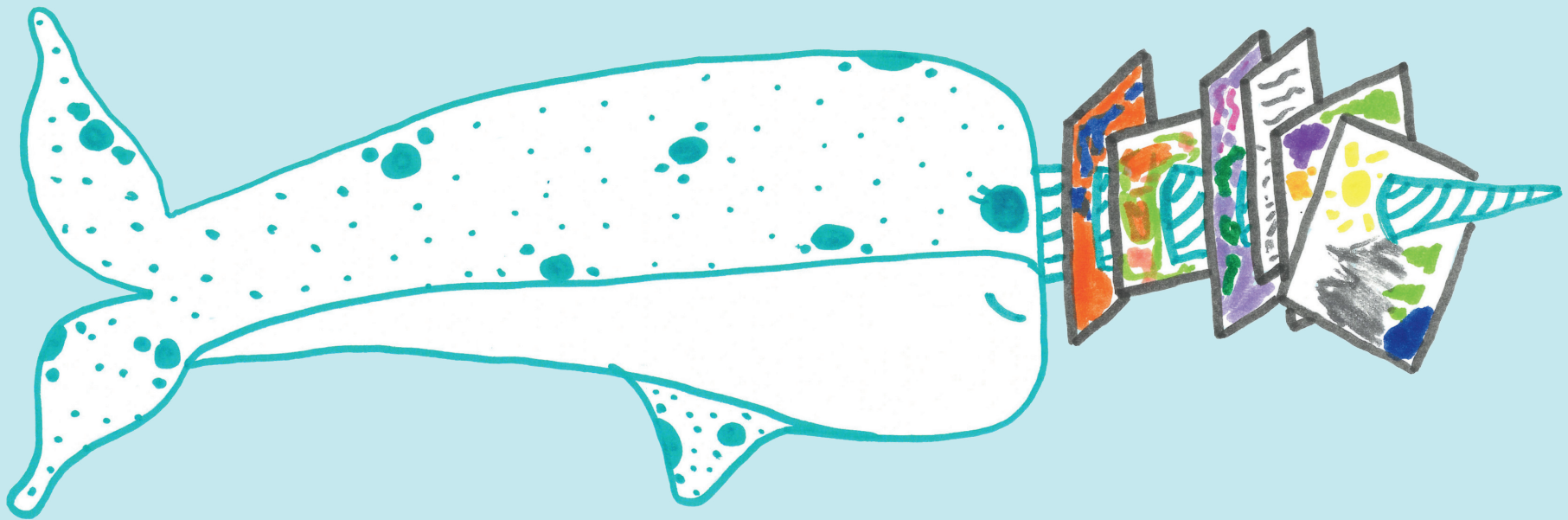
Thank you. Now I feel better.



Nix kept seeing kids who needed encouragement.  
So he gave each of them a note from his tusk.



Nix had collected drawings and notes from hundreds of kids. Now he knew all about child rights.



So he made a drawing of his own.





# More About Child Rights

All the rights that Nix learns about in this book are in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, supported by the United Nations.

Every child has these rights, and it is the responsibility of parents, teachers, and the government to make sure that all children have access to them.

If you want to learn more, scan this QR code or go to [unicef.org](https://www.unicef.org).



## About the Book

This book and several others are the result of a Blake Middle School project in Minneapolis, Minnesota – one of the country's first sites of the UNICEF USA initiative "Child Friendly Cities."

To create this book, students created unique illustrations that were then woven together into a common story.

## Illustrations created by...

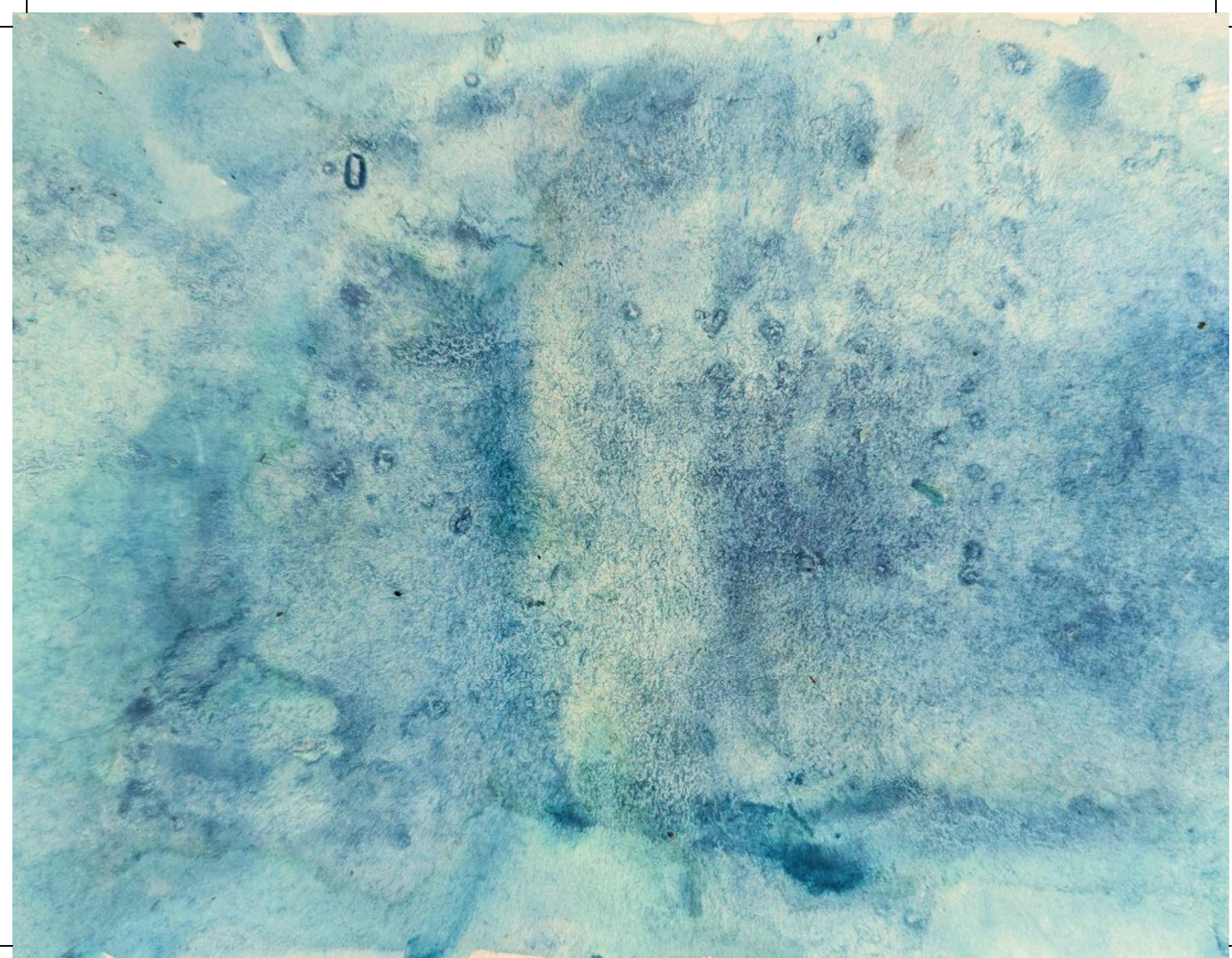
Solvei, Nina, Elise,  
Niles, Adam, Lylah,  
Caitlin, Campbell,  
Ella, Charlie, Amelia,  
José, Mateo,  
London, Miles, Eva,  
Sam, Annie, Solveig,  
Maeve, Helene,  
Mary Ellen, Andrew,  
Henry Parker,  
Malea, Sudiksha,  
Gabriel, Louie,  
Amelia, Eleanor,  
Elizabeth

An aerial photograph of a coastline with waves crashing against the shore. The water is a deep blue-green, and the white foam of the waves is visible. The land is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a natural, undeveloped area. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular box with a black border.

# Acknowledgments

Our thanks to the Hennepin Healthcare Reach Out and Read program, part of a nationwide program in which doctors give books and early literacy guidance at routine check-ups. These clinic sites, and the families who visit them, will be the first recipients of these books.

Particular thanks for printing support from The Blake School, Reach Out and Read, the Van Sloun Foundation, and Human Rights Educators USA, a project of the Center for Transformative Action.





Nix the Narwhal loves fish. Nix also loves learning new things. So he decides to go around the world, asking kids about their rights.

