

WORKBOOK-COMPASS



This Workbook - Compass promoted by the Ombudsperson's Office of Vicenza was designed, on the one hand, to promote active citizenship of people aware of their rights and duties, and to facilitate the relation between the citizens and the local government by offering information and directives, on the other hand. In this very context, the idea was born to publish a **Special Edition** devoted to the promotion of and reflections on the rights of the child, by bringing to the limelight the rich collection of works and other products - the results of the co-operation with children - thus valorizing the effort, imagination and thoughts which deserve to be published.

The VICENZA MUNICIPALITY OMBUDPERSON'S OFFICE is an autonomous and independent organisation and the activities deal with the protection of citizens' rights. The leader of the WORKBOOK - COMPASS Project, the Ombudsperson's Office, implemented the following activities:

- promotion of active citizenship in educational institutions;
- "Let's Remove the Barriers Project" aimed at removing constructional barriers, financially supported by the Veneto Region;
- website, awarded as the best Italian website in the field of citizens' right protection on the local level.

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Workbook - A compass for the rights of the child



WORKBOOK-COMPASS



Presentation of the FROM CHILDREN TO CHILDREN Project

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Partners:
ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY
AGENCIES - ALDA
GIRAPAGINA BOOKSHOP - GALLA 1880

In Vicenza, May 2007

Dear Girls and Boys,

First of all, I would like to thank all the children who contributed with their ideas, drawings and creativity to the writing of this workbook. I would also thank all schools which participated in the projects and the involved teachers who showed commitment and sensibility: it was a team work indeed!



It would be nice to mention by name all these «*Guardians of Children's Rights*» to the readers of the From Children to Children Workbook. It is an important mission, you must be prepared for it: you must become familiar with your rights, talk about them with your mom and dad, teachers, friends and you should initiate a massive movement to DISSEMINATE IT. It is really important that all of us together keep an eye on and protect these rights, i.e. all those matters which will help you to grow up in happiness: the rights that belong to all the girls and boys of the world.

Now, I am leaving you in the company of many children, who will tell you, from one page to another, the story about the rights of the youngest citizens. Do not forget: these are your rights, too! And then: Guardians, enjoy reading!

The Ombudsman of the Vicenza Community
Massimo Pecori



This special edition of the Workbook Compass presents the end of co-operation among different fora and institutions in Vicenza, and also a search to recover and revalorise the existing cultural and informative heritage having the aim of promoting children's rights. This incentive, promoted by the Vicenza Municipality Ombudsman's Office, set the following objectives:
- to valorise and improve initiatives implemented in the region in favour of the promotion of the universal rights of children,
- to promote networks of co-operation between different institutions and fora in the region,
- to promote the transfer of children's rights by using their view, i.e. from children to children.

The project was implemented in three phases:
Identification and collection of materials and experience gained in the region.
Editing the Compass Workbook on the Rights of the Child.
Promotion and distribution of the Compass Workbook on the Rights of the Child.

The following institutions collaborated in the Project: Nurseries: SAN ROCCO, SANT' AGOSTINO, BEPI MALFERMONI, primary schools: V. PASINI, G.B. TIEPOLO, local associations and organisations from Vicenza.

The From Children To Children Workbook, which is presented here, contains a rich collection of drawings and thoughts relating to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. This collection presents only a part of the works done in school environments and organisations: just a number of works limited by the nature of publishing itself.

Free copies of the From Children To Children Workbook were distributed in the region.

An exhibition of the original works was organised and accompanied with activity programmes (readings and workshops). Web-based distribution through the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies network.

The Workbook may also be found on the website of the Ombudsman's Office and of the other partners.

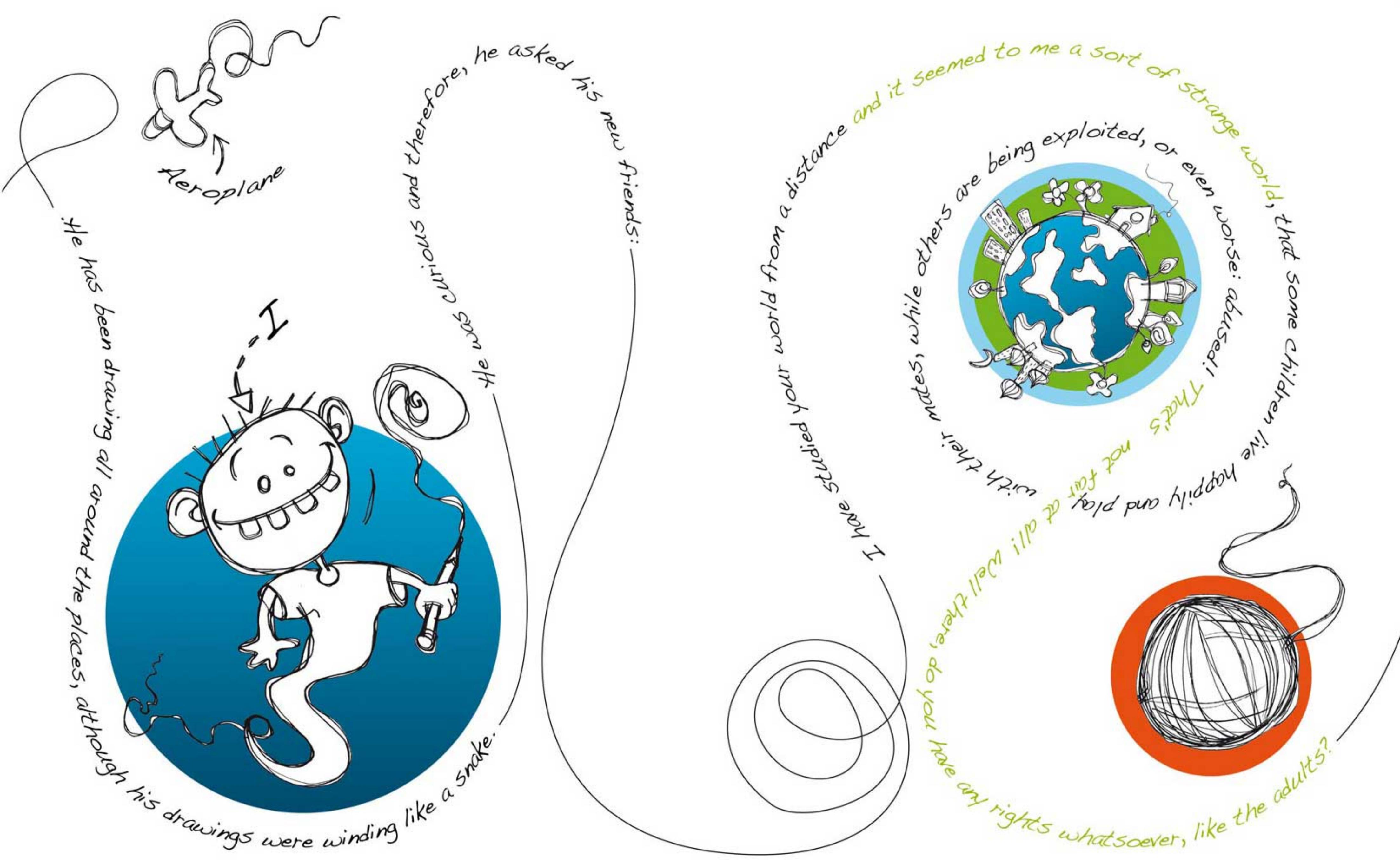
This publication was financially supported by the Vicenza Municipality Ombudsman's Office (Project Leader) supported by the Veneto Region - Directorate for International Affairs and Cooperation, Human Rights and Equal Chances (Law 55/1999) and by private sponsors.

Enjoy reading!

Project Coordinators
Diana de Tomaso and Nicola Carrarini



Thready comes from a pretty far-away planet and visits other planets in order to get acquainted with the people there. To do so, he just takes his scissors on the left hand to cut down to a school - whichever you wish! He has had a lot of things on his mind, first and foremost, obviously...



"Of course, we do!!", said Mario and jumped up joyfully.

"C'mon sweetie", said Nina and took a paper, pen and colours.







Poem
The Rights of the Child

We have our rights,
written on a special paper
and these rights protect us from evil.
And we have the right to education
and to attend school
where we can learn how to learn.
And there is medicine I need
otherwise I would get sick
but I have to make decisions
although I have the right to life
each and every child will survive.
No matter where
the child is from
we are the future,
that's for sure.
The child is happy.
You are nice and kind to us,
you do not abuse us
and you're not forced to work,
you'll make us free to
play and dream.
I wrote this poem to show
that things can be changed. You

Marianne, 10 years

Right is something you may do
because it is set by the law.

Poem
You have your rights!

You have the right to life
- not forbidden;
You have the right to freedom,
and if there's someone not letting you to
enjoy it
you have to tell them that nobody can take
it away from you!
Each child has the right
not to be neglected!
And... if you are forced to work,
say: «NO» - It mustn't be done to you!
Nobody may be abused,
This right of yours must be respected.
If you are a foreigner, or disabled or dif-

ferent
and you are mocked in a poem,
just smile and say:
Hang on! I'm a child, too!
You have the right to know your rights.
Your rights didn't disappear. They are here.
firmly.
You have to find them deep in your heart.
And demand it from those, who do not
respect your rights.

Lucia, 11 years

Each child has the
same rights (Article. 1/2)



The fundamental right
is the right to freedom!!!



Right to equality

Adults are obliged to instruct you about your rights and they must take the best care of you always
(Articles 3-4-5)

Every child has the right to life!
(Article 6)



Every child has the right from birth to name and citizenship. Every child should know his or her Parents and be cared for by them.
(Articles 7-8)

There are children who have neither names nor families.

Dear Diary, there are children who have neither names nor families. There are abandoned children because their parents died, when they were babies or couldn't take care of them for any other reason or didn't want to take care of them. They are abandoned and nobody takes them into consideration; nobody talks with them, nobody cares for them, or plays with them, nobody notices them. Imagine: these children wander around in the streets and nobody loves them. I saw some children attempting to grab some food. They were skinny, thin as a whipping post and everybody gave them a push. These no-name children are not being taken care of, they are invisible like air. Nobody accepts them, everyone gives them a push. It is not in the nature of the child to be sad, but, you know, my dear Diary, happiness finds its way even in the darkest moments only if someone lets the light.

Francesca, 11 years

The Welfare of the Child

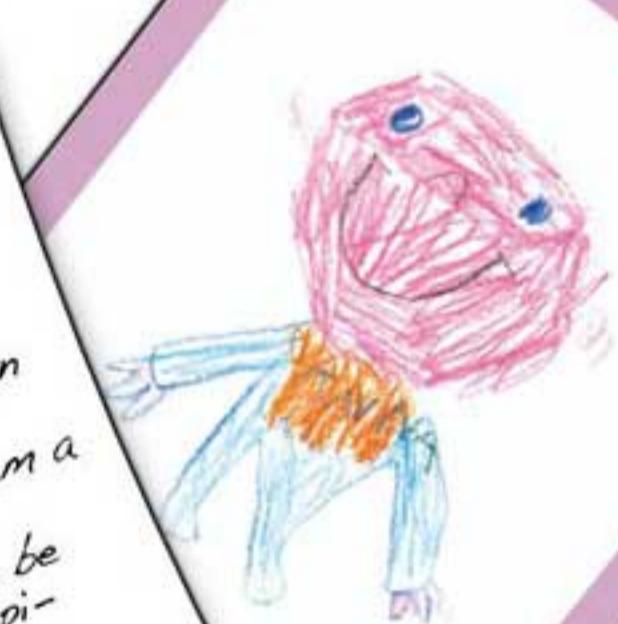
Each child has the right to family to be loved and love throughout his or her life.

Family is like a treasure, covered with layers of gold. When I feel sick, they heal me, like a happy child.

If I'm adopted I want to be respected. We have rights, which must be an opportunity to all children of all nationalities.

Maria - 10 years

GABRIEL







Children have the right to meet other people, to have friends and to establish associations, naturally, with peaceful objectives
(Article 15)



THE RIGHT NOT TO BE ABDUCTED

One day, Claudia's granny (Claudia's a nice 9-year old girl) was late to pick her grandchild up in front of the school.

All the children have long gone home, but Claudia was nowhere.

Her granny was desperate and called her parents. Claudia's teacher (who was still there) said that Claudia had gone with a tall gentleman with black hair. Claudia's family had reported it to the police and the investigation started. There was no news about Claudia for days. She was detained by a strange and weird man who pampered her, brought her presents and kept on telling her:

"You are my daughter!" Claudia just cried and cried and called her mother. The police did everything to find the girl. They distributed her photos everywhere, promised a reward to the one who would give some information, but the girl was not found.

One day, Claudia noticed that she was alone. She took all her courage and escaped from the house where she had been kept. She found herself in a strange neighbourhood. The street was crowded with people.

A lady recognised her and shouted: "It's her! She is the kidnapped girl!" The police soon arrived, and after a short while Claudia could hug her parents again. Later, they learned that the kidnapper was a man, whose daughter had been killed in a traffic accident and he had kidnapped Claudia because she resembled his daughter very much.

The police found him weeping over the photo of his dead daughter. Because of this deep pain in his heart, although for a short time, he deprived Claudia from her right to not to be kidnapped.

Francesca - 11 years

The State shall support your parents in your education and upbringing in the best possible manner (Article 18)

You have the right not to be beaten and to be protected against all forms of physical and mental violence. Children may not be abused and neglected! (Article 19)

Alessandro Torta

There was a boy, Alessandro Torta. He was not a happy boy because his parents were not the best ones. Alessandro Torta was beaten by

his mom and dad... Look there!

There goes his brother. He's a waif.

He also beats him. Someone should put

him straight.

Not all people are good in this world,

but, anyway, playing

I'm in a mood of playing

HERE WE GO 'ROUND

THE MULBERRY BUSH!

Aldo - 10 years

Poem

Once upon a time, there was a boy. He was beaten by his father every day. Poor boy!

He never celebrated his birthday. What an injustice!

He had no lunch, nor supper. It is anything but life.

He could not have his own diary. It's bad news, too.

he could never walk alone. But one day, the Association saved him and he was adopted by a nice family.

Alice - 10 years

You have the right to privacy and nobody may read your letters, diary or to interfere in any way (Article 16)

Each child has the right to be informed, in the right manner, to have access to newspapers and books, radio and TV programmes and produced especially for them (Article 17)



RICCARDO

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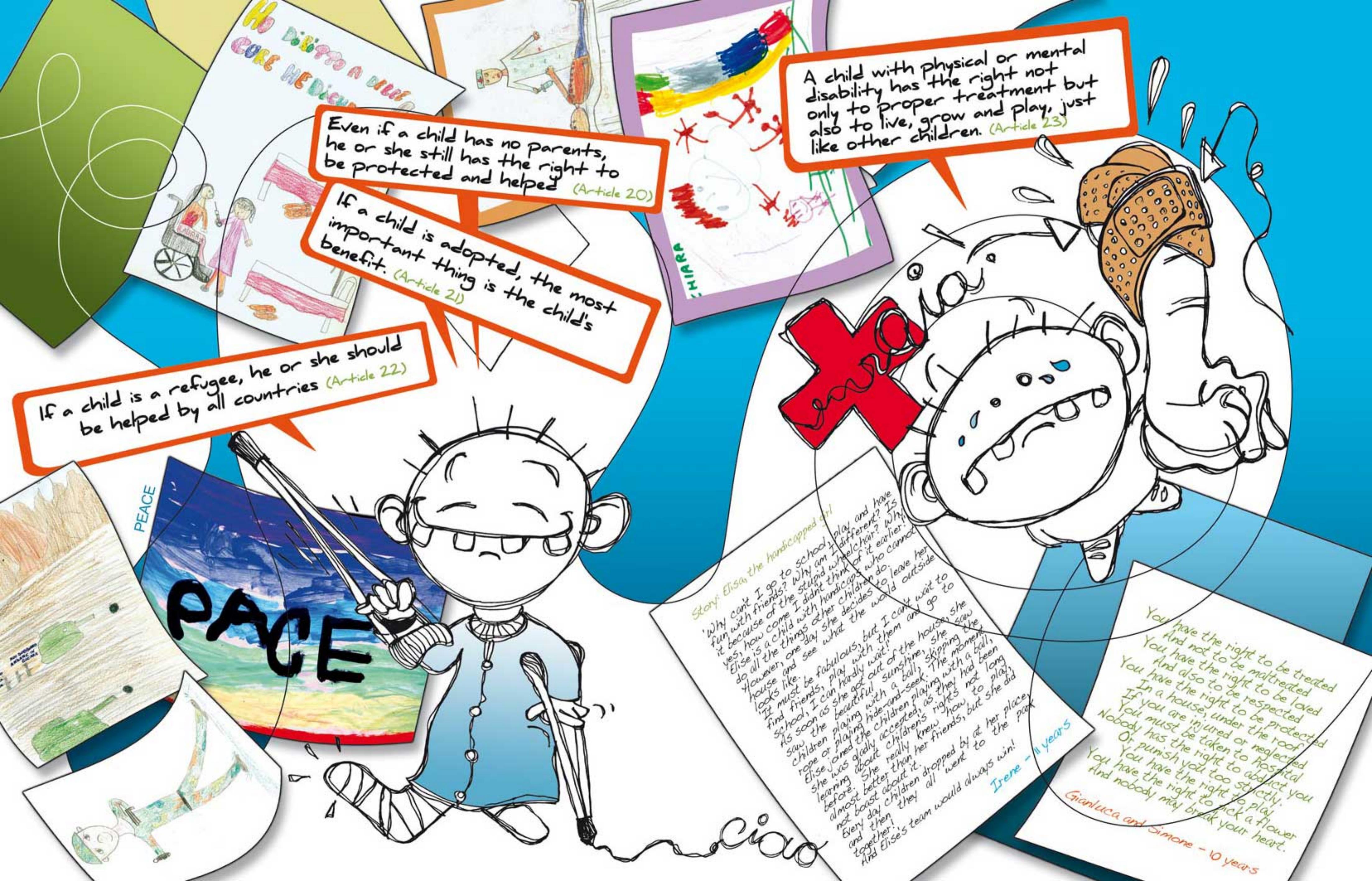
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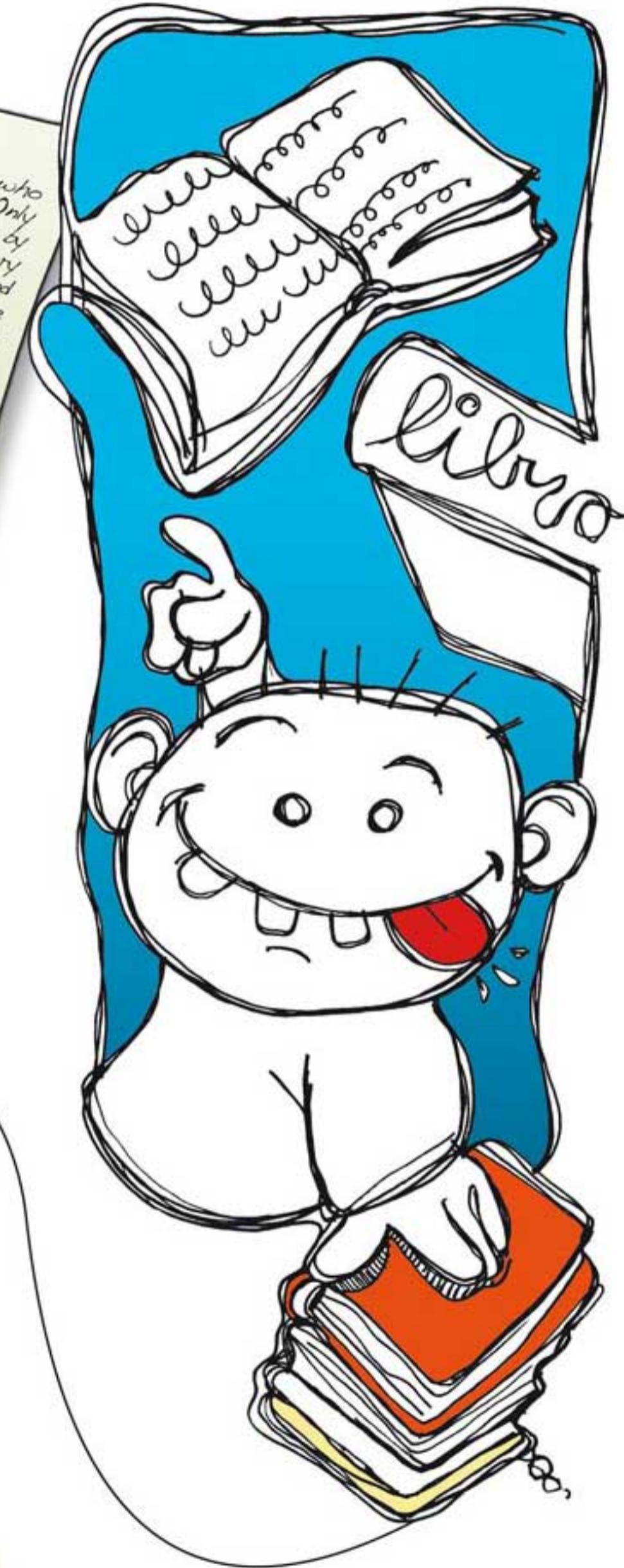
Children have the right to go to school and no child may be forced to work or stay at home and not learn how to read or write. You should be taught to be responsible, to live in a peaceful world, and respect other people and nature. (Art. 28-29)

The rights of the child are like a cute kitten
Letting you pet it But they're not always respected.
Education is the most important thing lets you grow up.
Teaching helps us even more And we're becoming geniuses
more and more. To be healthy.
You need funny and amusing jokes
Making your teeth chatter.

Anna and Mauro, 11 years

The child of rights
Once upon a time, there lived some grown-ups who did not know anything about children's rights. Only Luca, a child of nearly seven, had just learnt them by heart. He was a silent kid at school, but he was very smart and his average grade was between good and excellent. He did not have a favourite subject because he loved all subjects. He was also good at a foreign language, English. Practically, he was a model child. But his parents did not really support him, as he always had to manage things by himself. He wanted to be a vet or an accountant when he grew up, but his parents wanted him to be a mechanic, because then he would need less schooling. Luca tried several times to persuade his parents that there was such a thing as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but his parents were as hard as stone and did not believe a word of what Luca was saying. So, one day, Luca decided to bring home the booklet that the teacher had given to all the pupils in the class so they could learn about the rights of the child; and so, when he got home, he showed the booklet to his parents. The parents said immediately that he had made that booklet himself to make them believe that these rights existed; Luca, however, showed the Municipal Seal after that. The parents then believed him, and they lived happily ever after.

Gianluca - 10 years







All Rights

I have the right to play,
But also to sing.

I have the right to speak,
But also to listen.

I have the right to see
But also to be seen.

I have the right to wait
But also to dance.

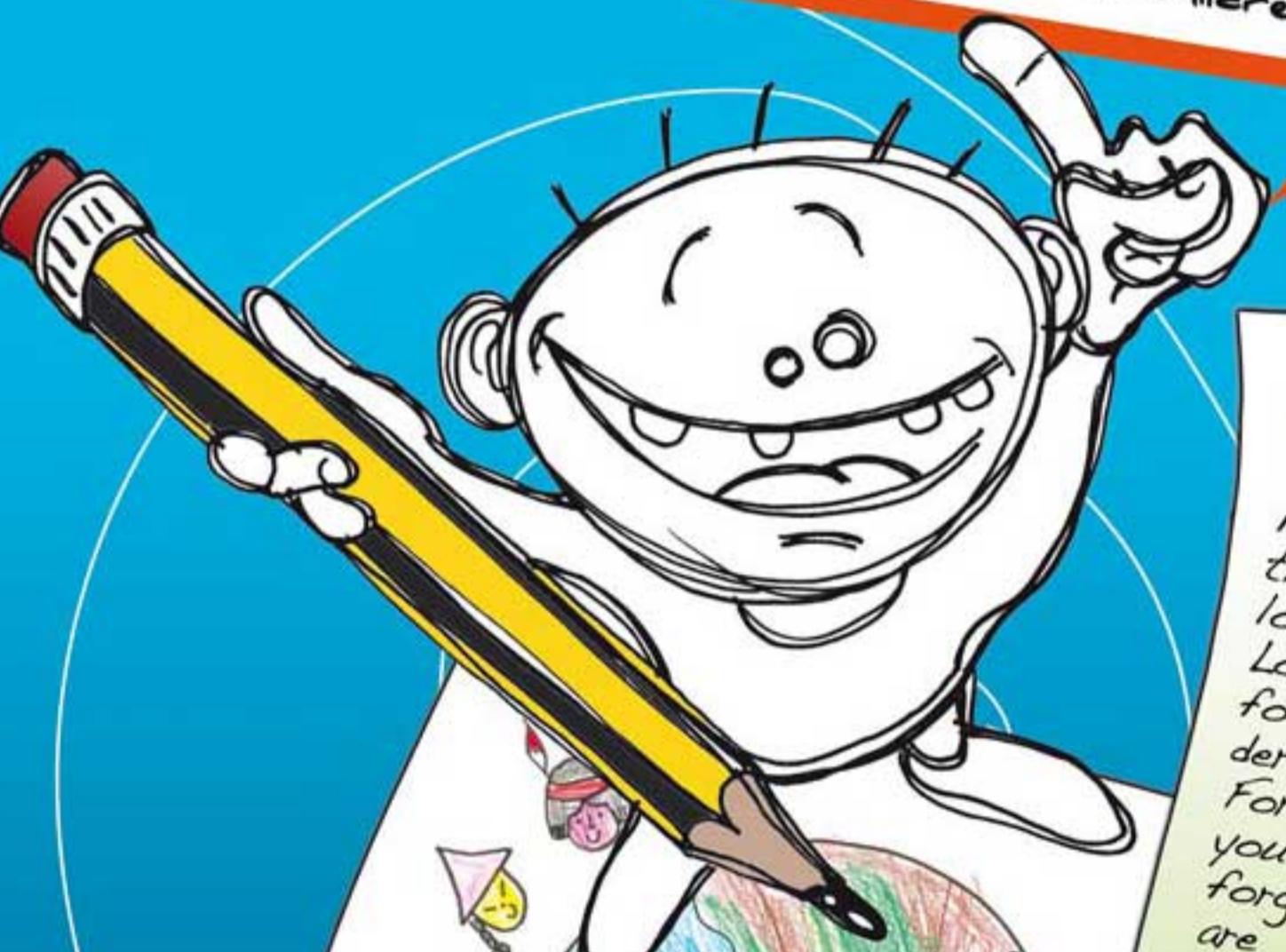
I have the right to throw a party,
But also to a siesta.

Anna - 10 years



Now you know that there are rights that are all together called a Convention; to read them with the grown-ups and understand them together with them is also a right. (Article 42)

All members not mentioned here speak primarily of the way adults and governments should co-operate to foster the rights of all children.



THE RIGHT TO BE LOVED

Maybe the most important thing for children is to be loved by their own parents. Love is as important as food. For love you do wonderful things.

For love you sacrifice yourself, you suffer, forgive, feel good when you are with someone, to die for.

Love makes those people happy who can feel and express this feeling.

Sofia - 10 years



"Having arrived at the end of this story, we must have learnt a lot, but now I'm missing it's because gravity is somewhat tiring!"

dear little house of imperfect lines..."
how? but I know Greta
I miss her

THE RIGHT TO THINK

The right to think cannot be denied to anyone. When you think of love you don't know how much it takes

When you think of a carnival you can never go wrong.

If you keep thinking you are a real lion.

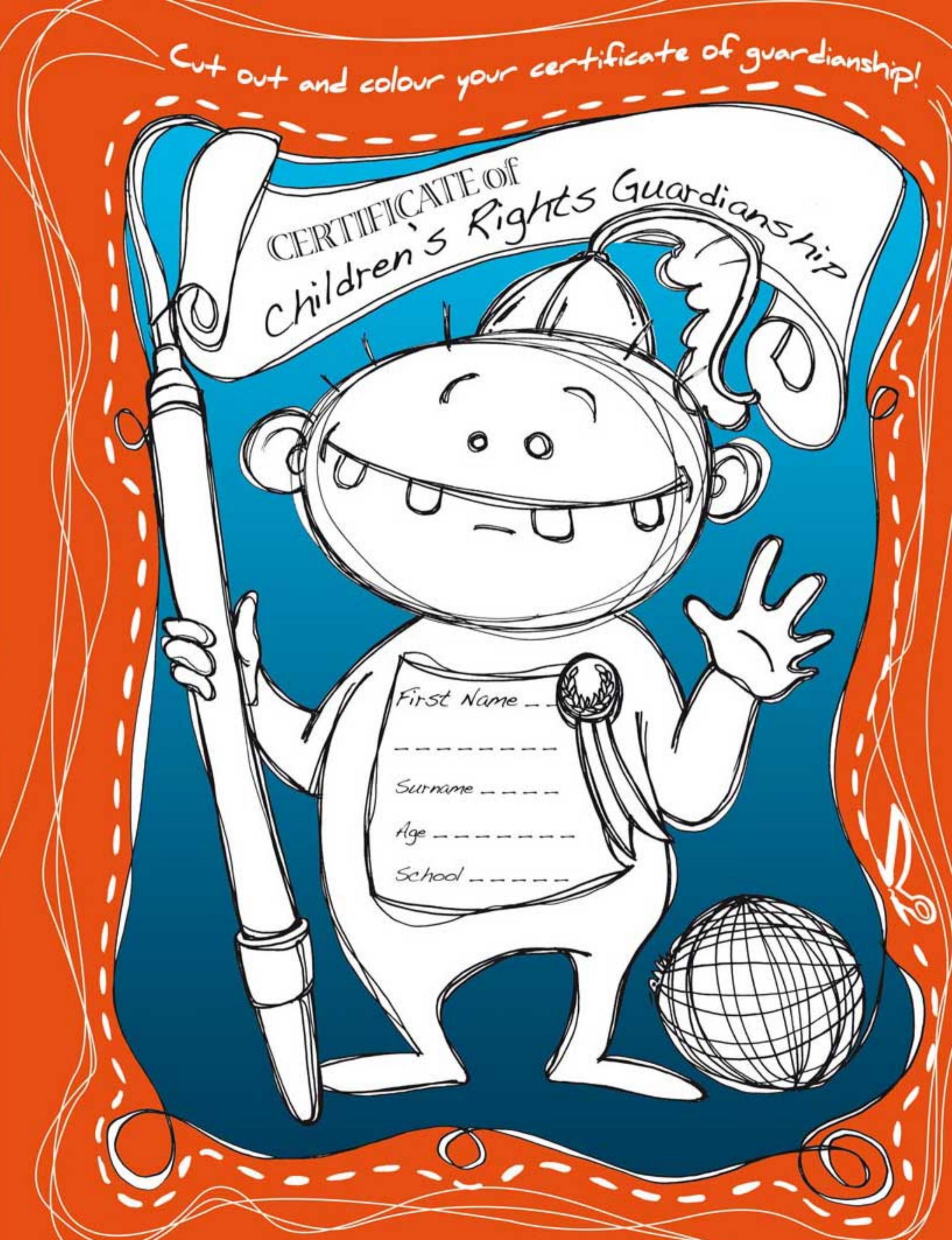
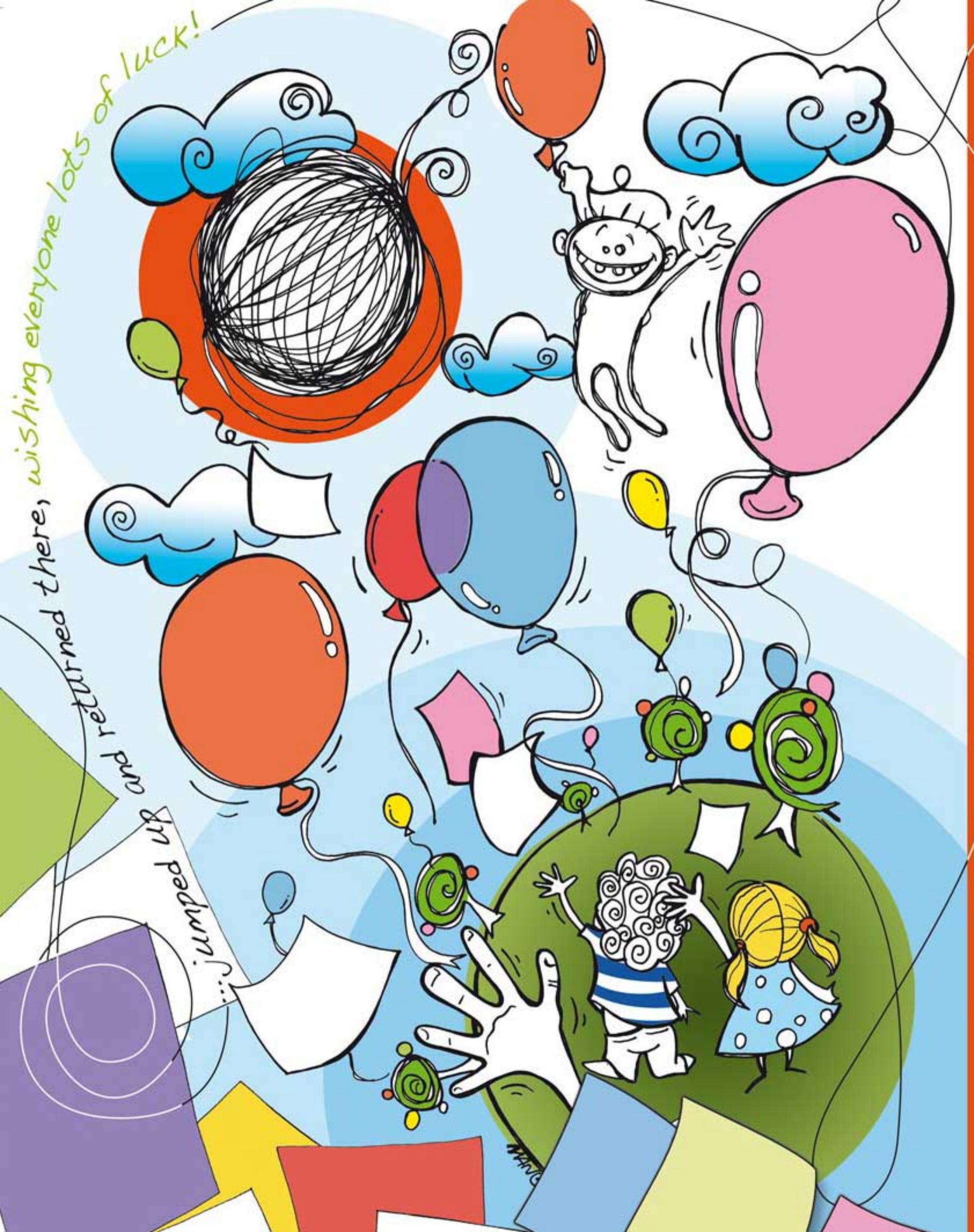
I think that the right to think will never make you feel bad

Greta - 11 years









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"There are three things left from Paradise: stars, flowers and children."

(Dante Alighieri)

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