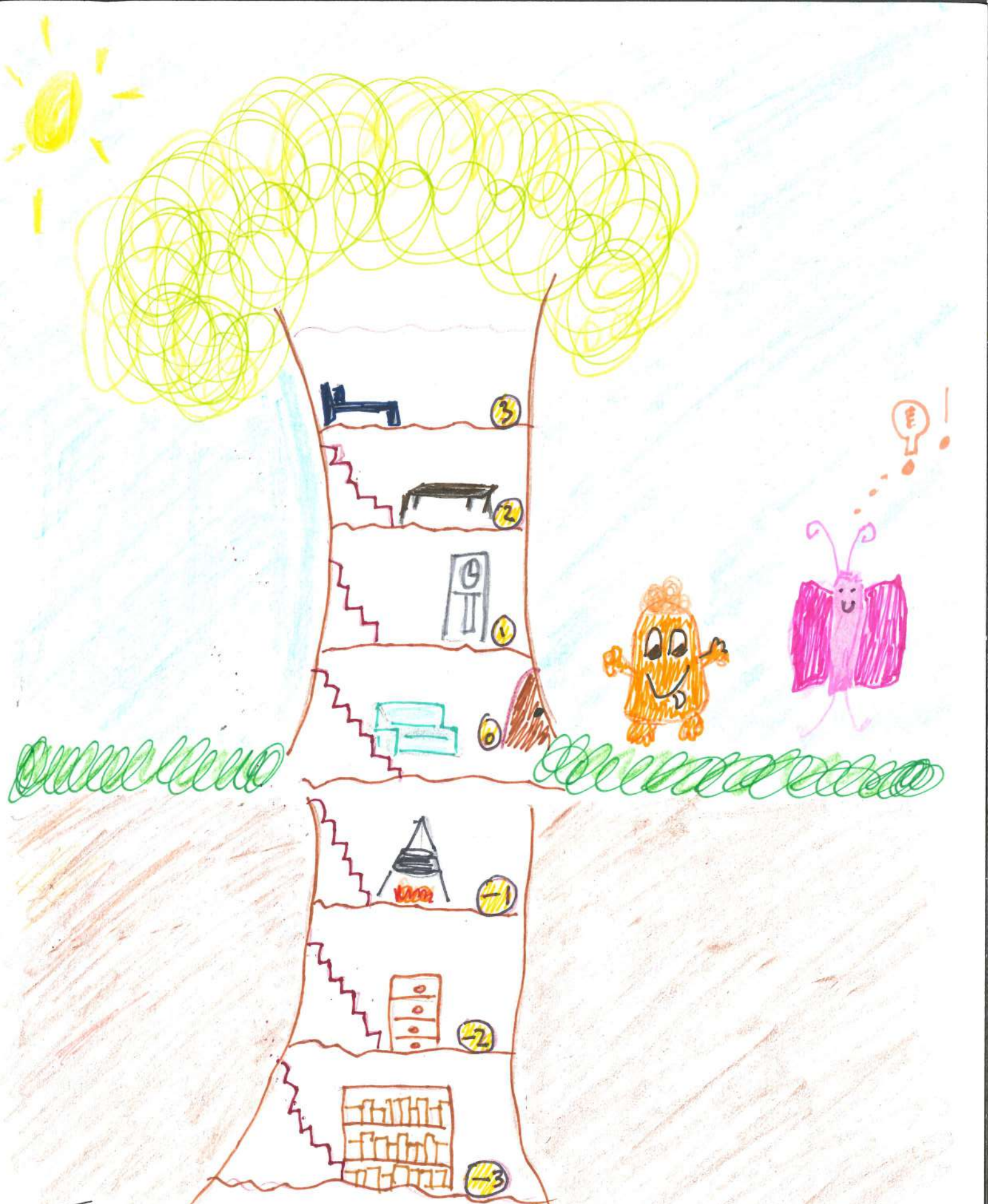


The Lonely
Troll

By Joseph Ryan



Once upon a time, in a faraway land, lived a lonely troll called Toodles. He wished that some day, a magic butterfly would help ~~them~~ find some friends.



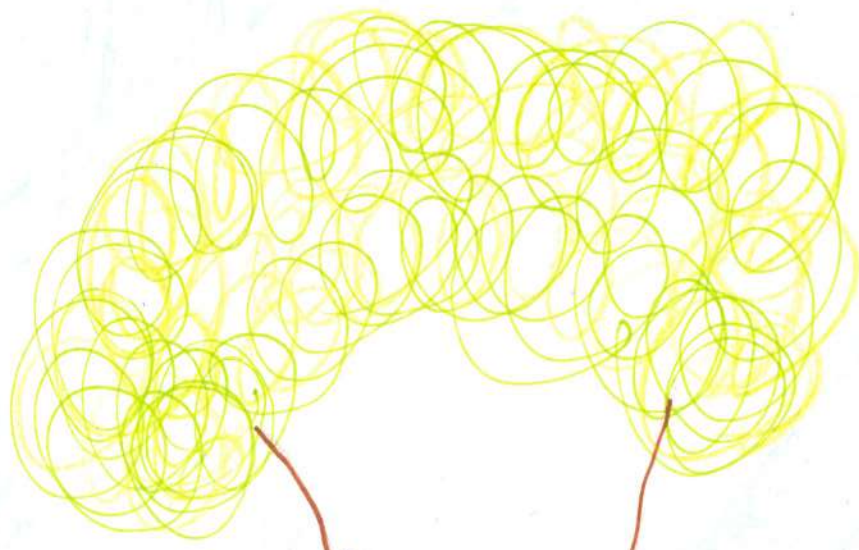
Toodles lived in an oak tree with floors above and below ground,
 Toodles loved his house but he was lonely going up and down the
 stairs of his home. Betty - the magic butterfly arrived one day and said she knew
 what to do.



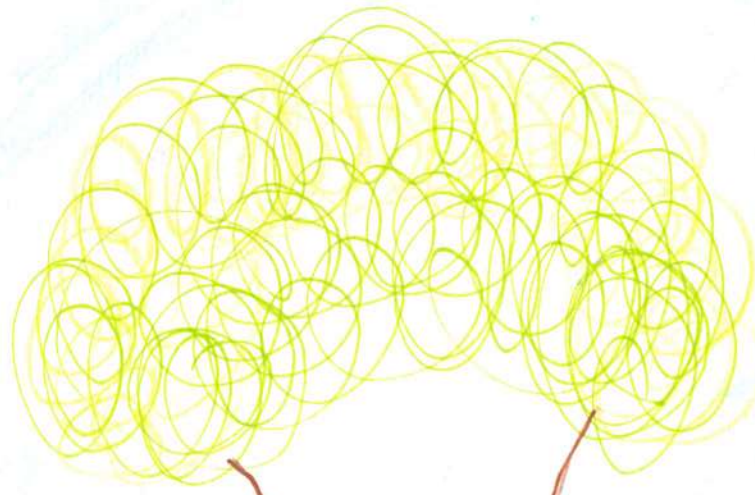
Betty said "to make my spell, the first thing I need is your favourite book." Toodles smiled. "I know I need to go down to floor -3 where my library is. I'm at floor zero now so I need to go down three floors. $0-3=-3$ "



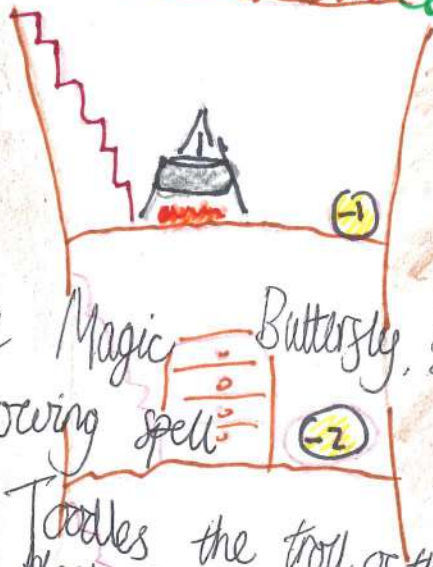
"That's great" said Betty. "Now my spell needs you to sit at a table and write your name in this book." "Ok" said Toodles, "we need to go to floor 2 where my table is. We are on floor -3 so we need to go up 5 floors!" $-3+5=2$



"We're making great progress" said Betty. "Soon I'll be able to complete my magic spell and bring you some friends. But first, I need a pair of your favorite socks!" "That's no problem" said Toodles cheerfully, we just need to go to my chest of drawers on floor -2, because we're on floor 2 now. We need to go down 4 floors. $2 - 4 = -2$



"Oh I'm tired from fluttering up and down all these stairs" whizzed Betty. "I think I need to put my wings down on a sofa and then I can whisper my spell." "Come with me" said Toodles so excited at the thought that his loneliness might be over. "We need to go up to floor zero to my sofa. Because we're on floor -2 we need to go up 2 floors. $-2+2=0$ "



Betty the Magic Buttersly, sitting comfortably on Toodles said the following spell:

"Toodles the troll of the tall oak tree,
 Needs some friends, one, two, three
 To keep him company on all these floors
 I have a book, a signature and socks from his drawers."

"There" she said, "now you go to bed and when you wake up, you will get a surprise." Toodles thanked Betty with a big troll hug and she magically disappeared. Toodles was on the sea on floor 100, so needed to go up 3 floors to get to his bed on floor 3. $100 + 3 = 3$



When Toodles woke later, he found himself surrounded by lots of other friendly trolls. "I am 'toodly' happy now!" he said. I am Toodles and I have oodles of friends!

The End