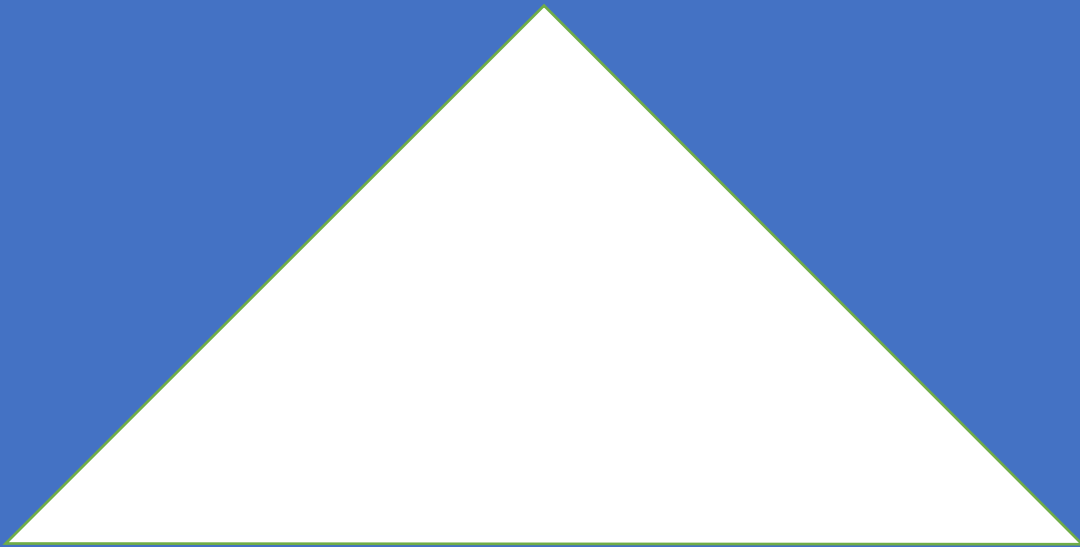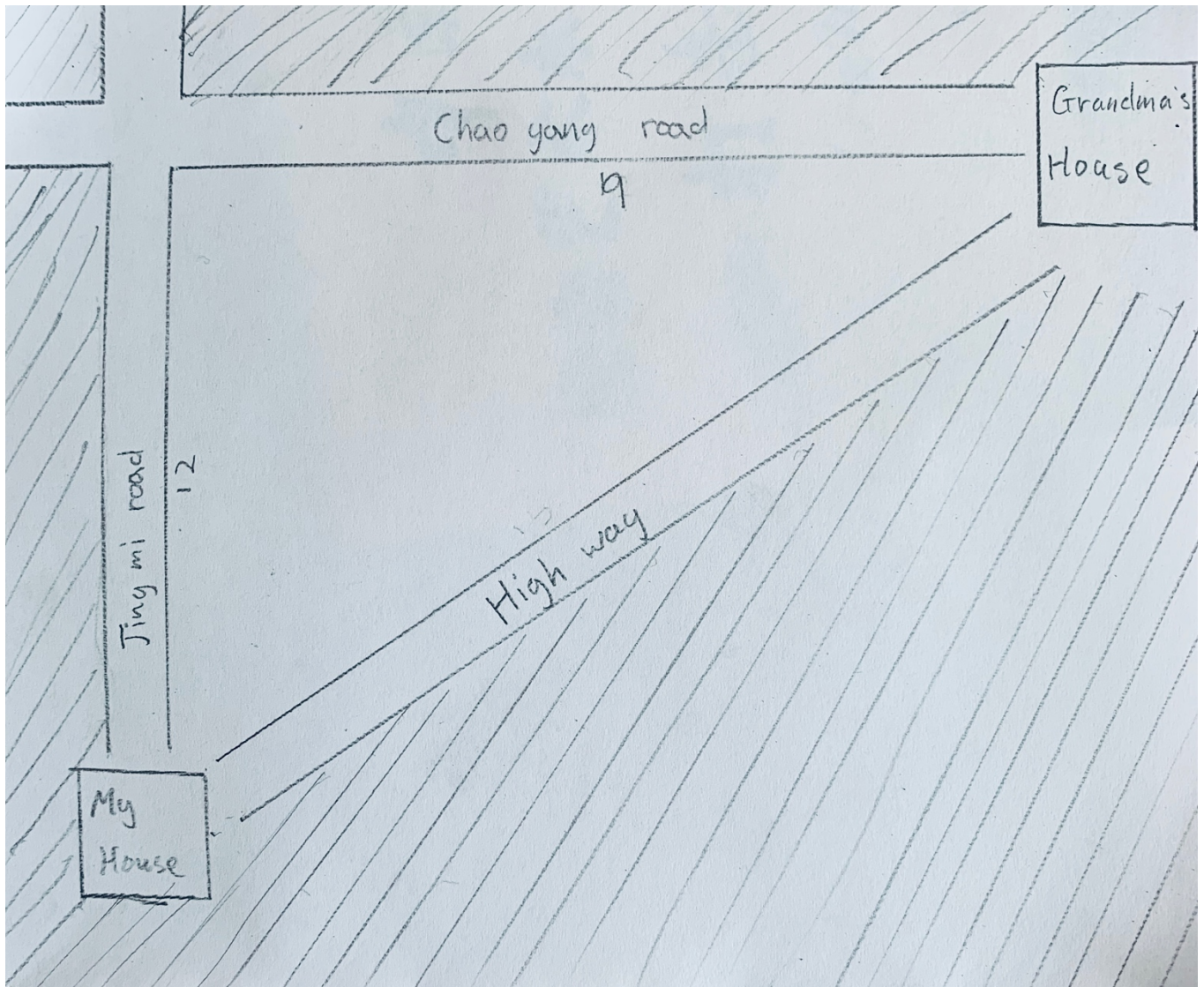# DEADLY TRIANGLE

Richard Wang

We are on a trip to our favorite grandma's house. It was a really hot day and we were all sweaty and sticky inside the car. The air conditioning won't work for some reason and I thought that we were going to die! Then I thought that it is very important to get there as soon as possible! I think that I can only resist this heat for only 20 minutes left!
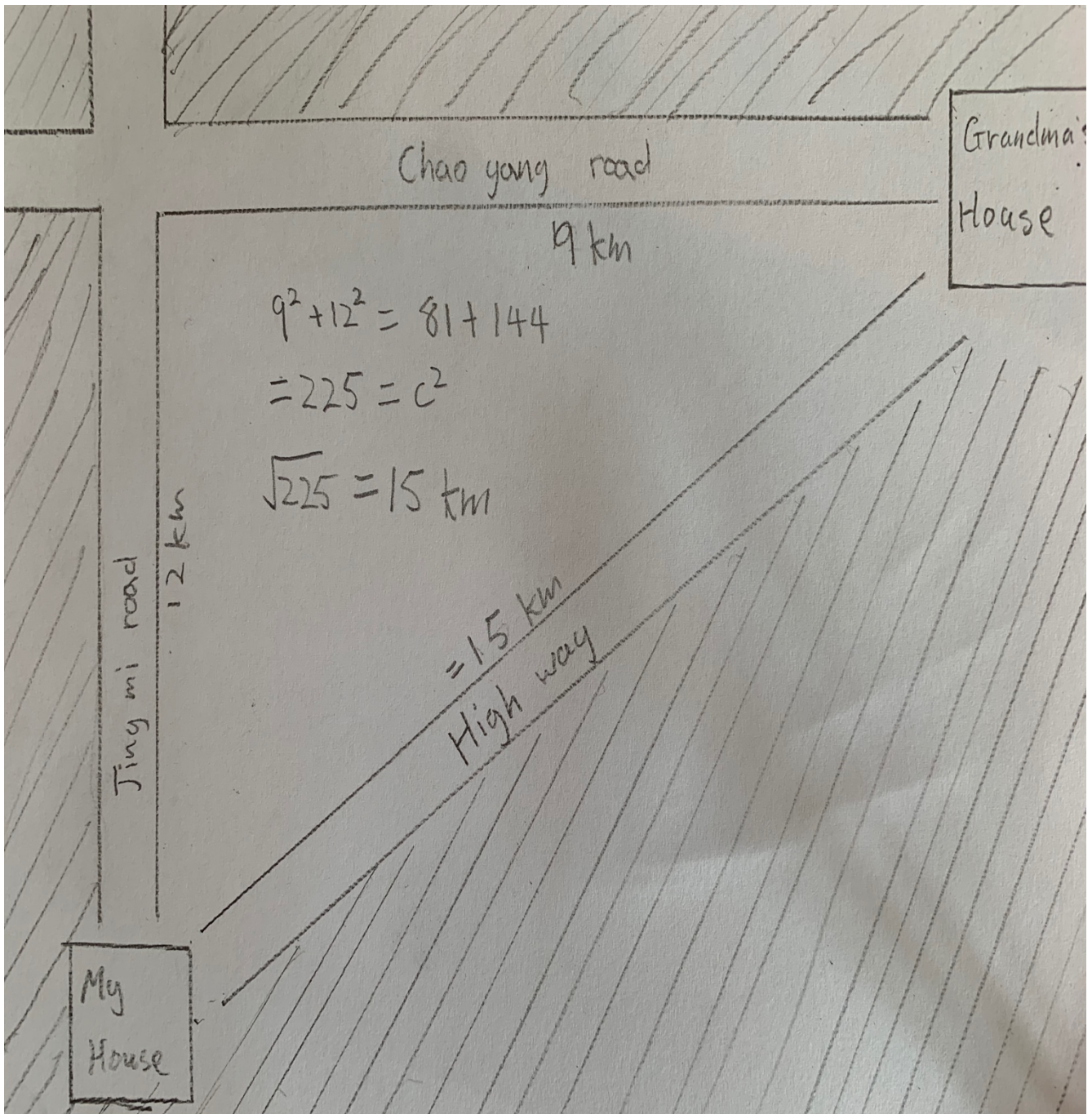
Imagine the road as a triangle, and Jing mi road is the length, and Chaoyang road is the width. If we go from Jing mi road to Chaoyang road the distance will be 12 km. Then, if travel across Chaoyang road to get to my grandma's house the distance will be 9 km. Overall, we will travel 21 km. the maximum speed that we can travel in is 60 km/h, therefore, it will take 21 minutes for us to get there. Which means that this way I will not survive from the heat! So, I am thinking of switching our route by going through the hypotenuse of this rectangle,

also known as the highway. Wouldn't it be better? "Mom, can you pass me a sheet of paper please? I really need it for surviving!"

"Here you go little, be careful of the pencil my dear." My mom replied, passing me a sheet of blank paper for me. I drew my house and the routes for us to travel in. If we use Pythagoras' theorem.

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$
$$9^2 + 12^2 = c^2$$
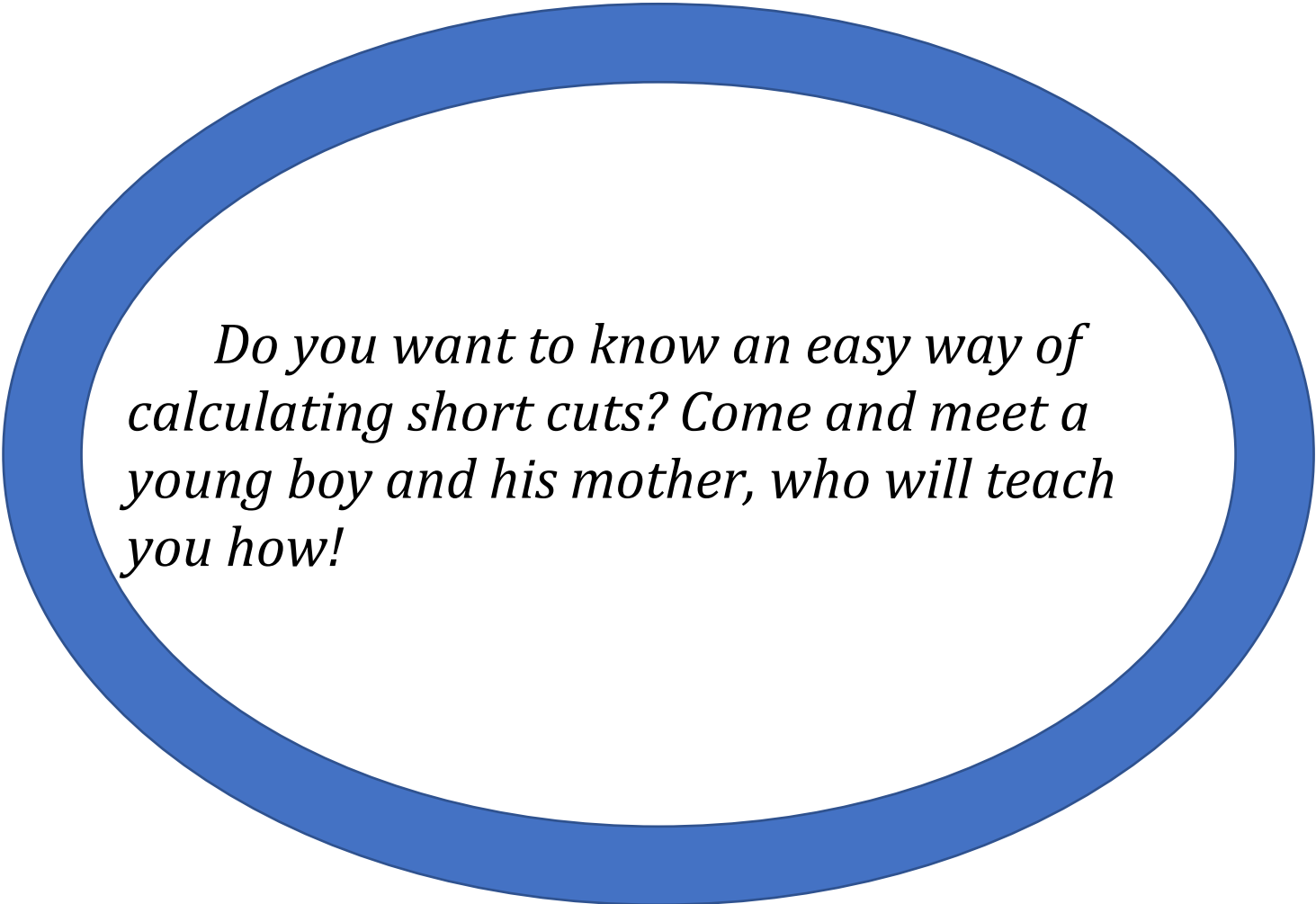$$81 + 144 = 225$$
$$\sqrt{225} = 15$$

Grandma's House

Chao yang road

9 km

$9^2 + 12^2 = 81 + 144$

$= 225 = c^2$

$\sqrt{225} = 15 \text{ km}$

$= 15 \text{ km}$

High way

Jing mi road

12 km

My House

That means that the highway is 15 km in total. That means that it will take us only 15 minutes in total! "Mom! Mom! We have to change our route!!! I have found a way for us to get there in 15 minutes!" I screamed excited.

"Really? Let me see!" My mom replied me surprisingly. "Wow! Unbelievable! How did you do this?"

"I used Pythagoras' theorem." I replied.

Thanks to Pythagoras, I am still alive!

Do you want to know an easy way of calculating short cuts? Come and meet a young boy and his mother, who will teach you how!

What the author says

"My inspiration comes from a short cartoon that I had watch when I was 6. I still remember the character hoping for a shorter way of getting to the finish line. This is why I wrote this short story so that more people can understand Pythagoras' theorem easily.