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THE STUART J. MURPHY AWARD

(THE 8-11 YEARS OLD CATEGORY)

LONGLISTED

‘The Land of Shapes’ by Ira Ramakrishnan (8 years old)

at Jebel Ali School Dubai (United Arab Emirates)

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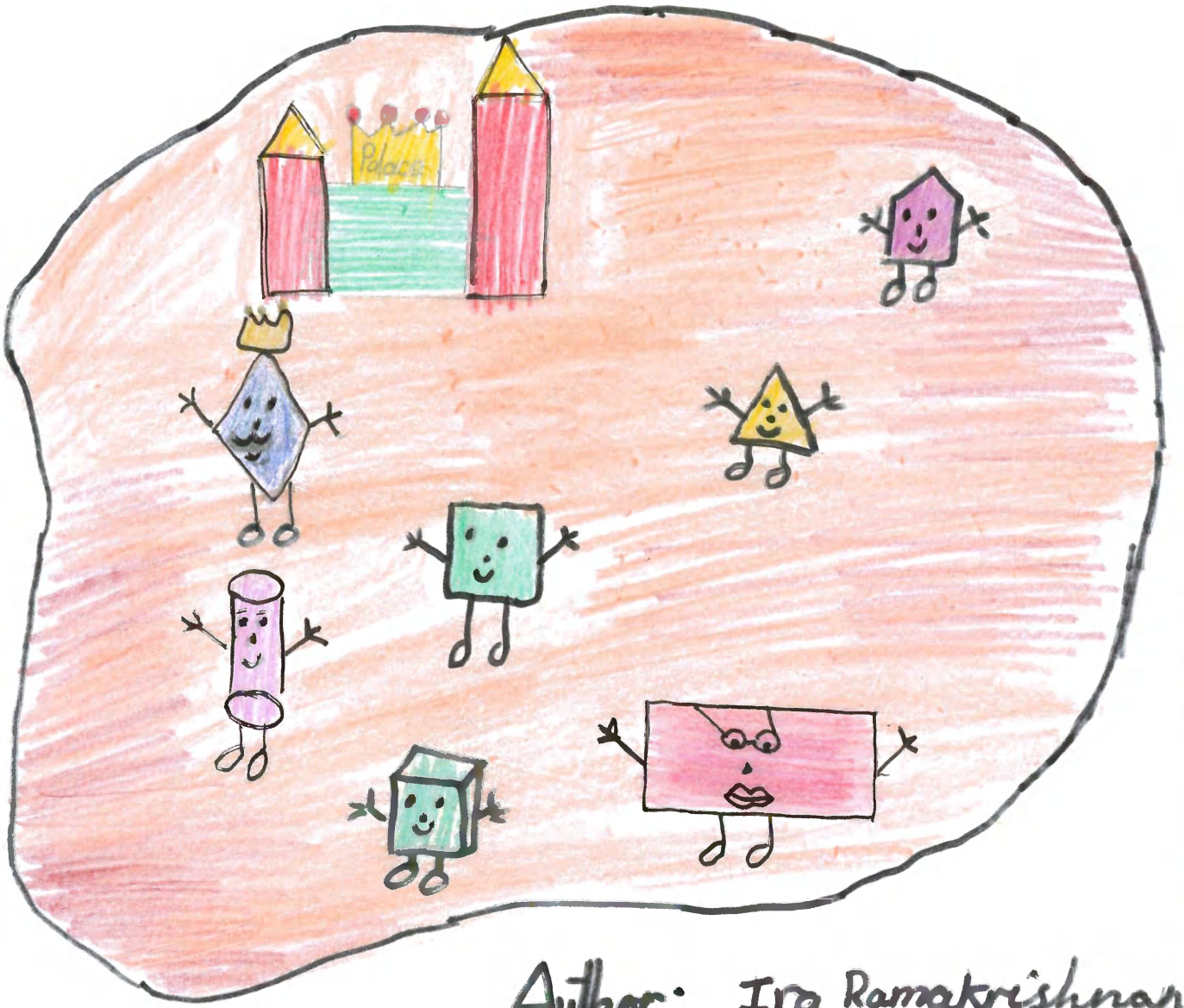
The Land Of Shapes



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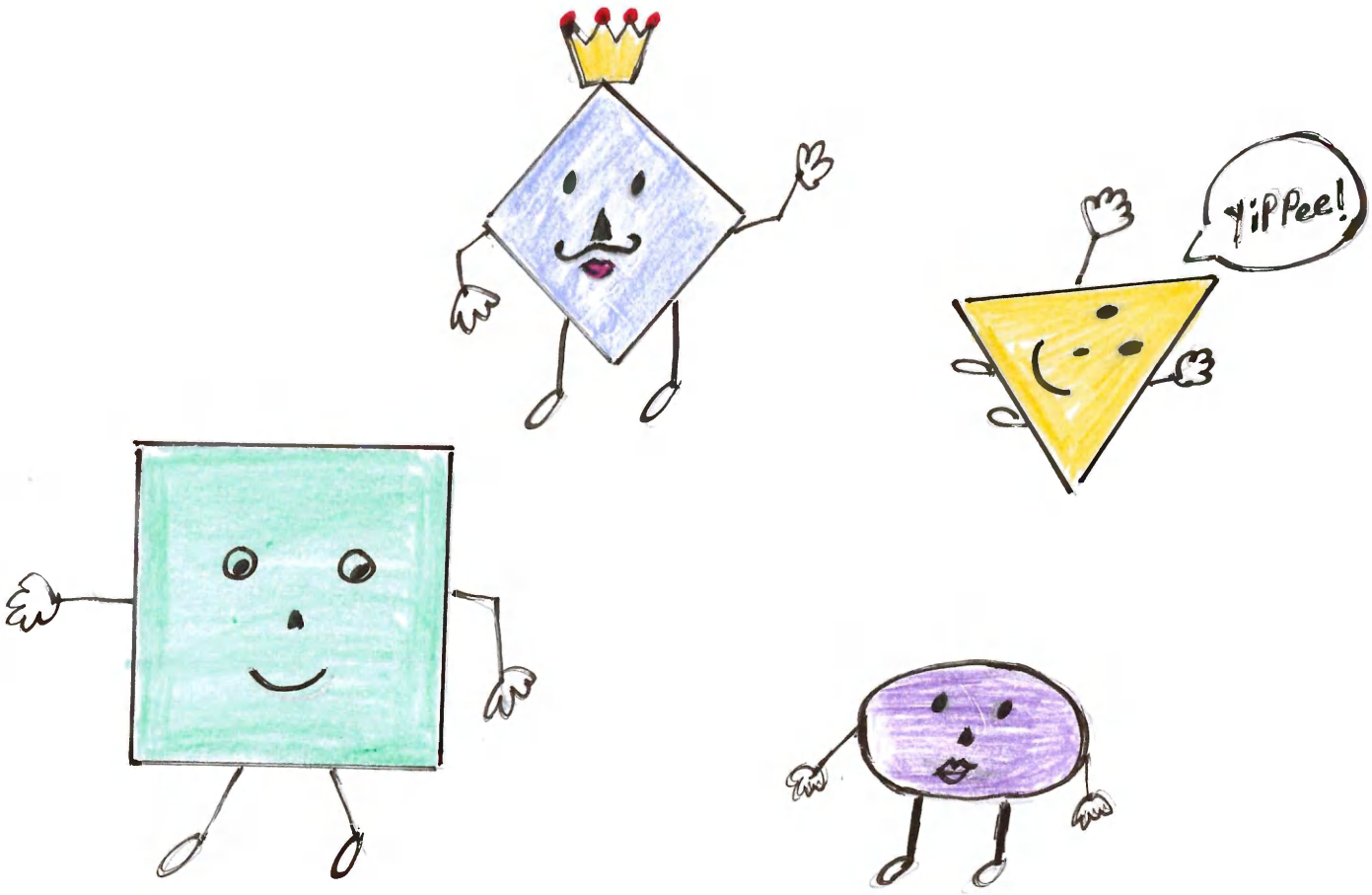
School: Jebel Ali School

Once upon a time there was a place called 'The 2D kingdom'. It was a peaceful place. The people lived happily and were always ready to help each other. The ruler of this land was King Diam. He ruled well and took care of his subjects.

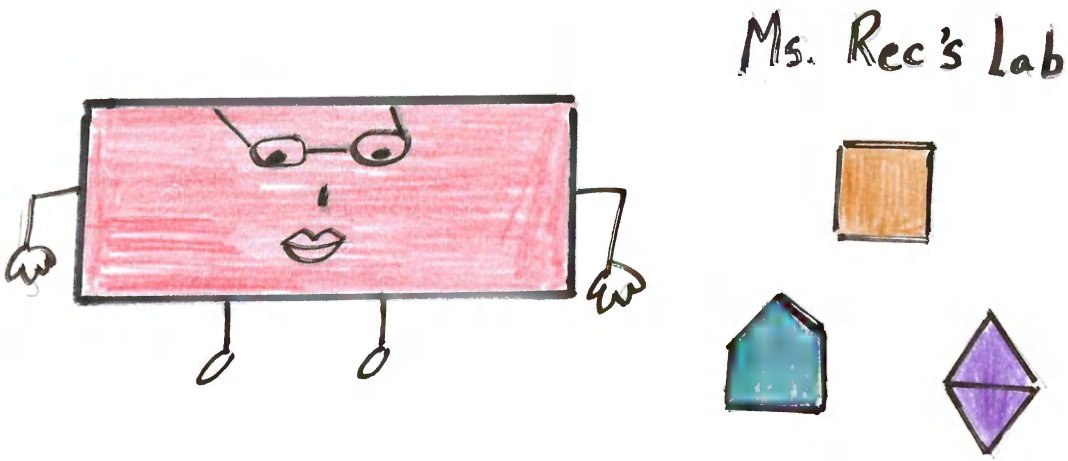
But this was no ordinary land! All those living there were not humans but were shapes! There were squares, rectangles, circles, and all different kinds of shapes. Each shape had a different size and personality. But they all had one thing in common. They were all 2-Dimensional shapes, which meant they had length and width. They were flat and had no height.

King Diam was a handsome diamond shape. He was kind, generous and was just as loyal to his subjects as they were to him.
Mr. Q was a big Square shape. He was very intelligent and charming and owned lots of shops. Mr. T was a Triangle, and he was a silly one. He always kept turning on his edges. He never took anything seriously. Ms. Ova was Oval shaped. She was a quiet girl and mostly kept to herself.



Ms. Rec was a Rectangle and the smartest lady in town. She was a scientist and loved her job. She used to conduct different experiments and always kept looking for new ideas. Everyone always encouraged her and supported her.

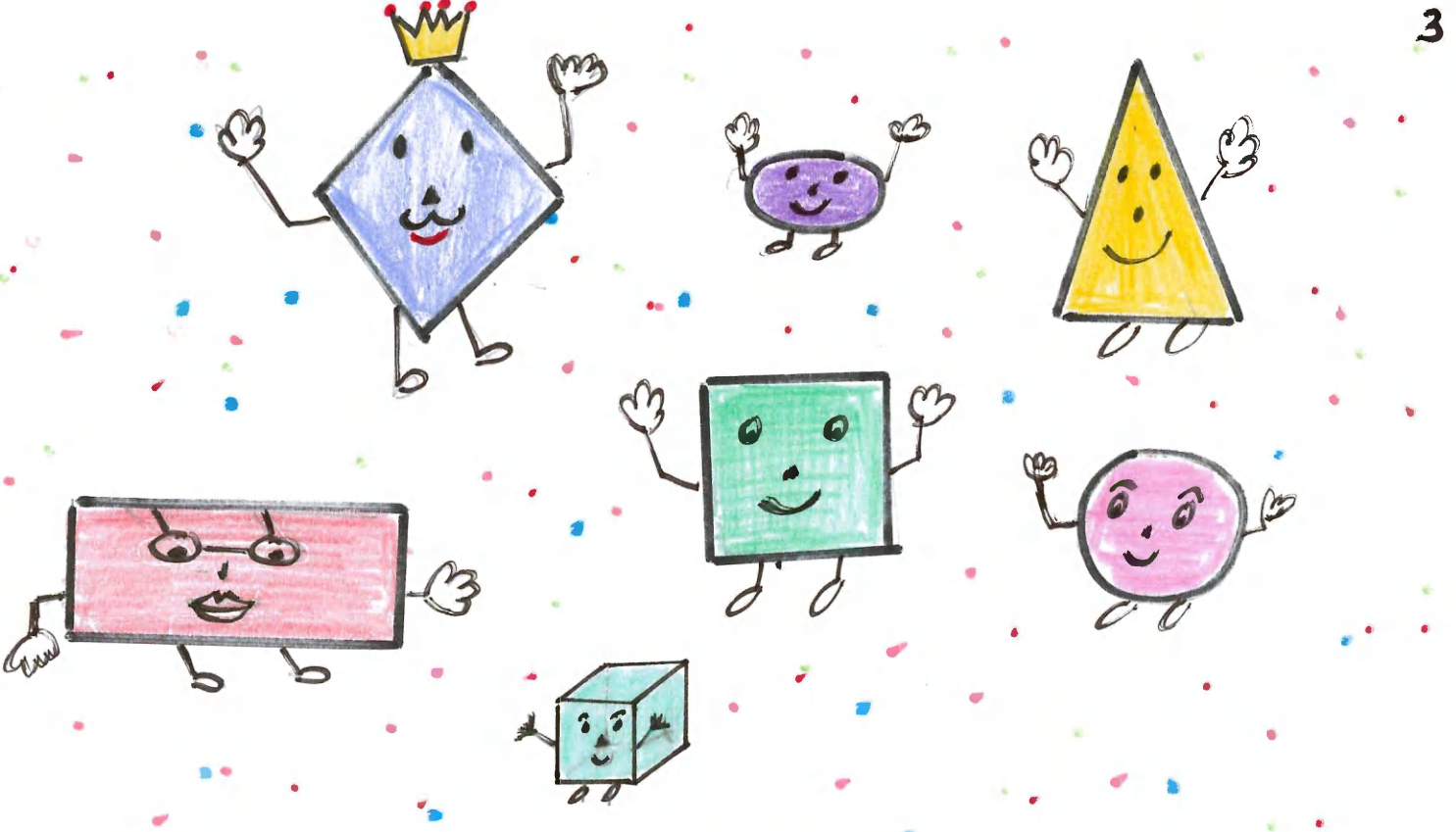
One day while working at her lab, she came up with a marvelous idea. All this while everything in the 2D kingdom was flat. She thought of an experiment to change it all!!



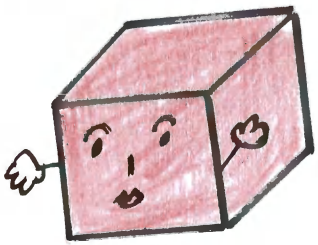
The idea was very exciting. So, she rushed to the palace to get King Diam's approval and ask for assistance. King Diam immediately agreed and also told a few shapes to assist Ms. Rec.

The next day, the experiment began. Ms. Rec took 6 squares, keeping 1 as the base and she put 4 of them vertically straight, one on top of each edge. She placed the last one on the very top to cover it and a new shape was formed. This shape had something none of them ever had- HEIGHT! It was the first 3-Dimensional shape.

She showed the results to King Diam and he was extremely pleased. It was Ms. Rec's greatest achievement ever. He named the shape - CUBE. The entire Kingdom erupted in cheers as the CUBE was introduced.



All the shapes were very excited and wanted to see what other possibilities were there. They wanted Ms. Rec to create more 3D shapes.
New shapes were formed:
Cuboid – made by squares and rectangles.
Pyramid – made by triangles and square

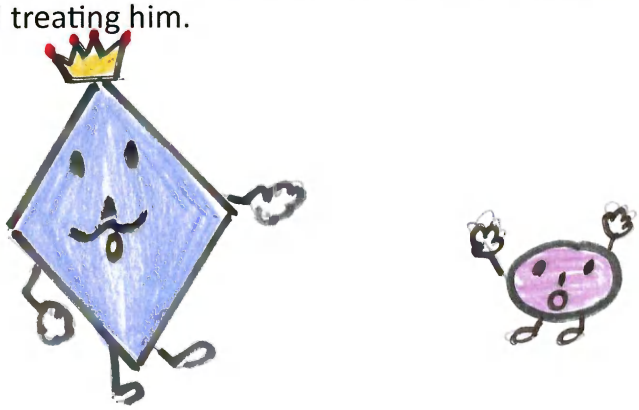


Time passed and slowly other 3D shapes evolved like the Sphere, the Cylinder and the Cone. All 2D shapes and 3D shapes lived happily as the Kingdom expanded.

However, as years went by, the 3D shapes started feeling that they were superior to the 2D shapes, because they had Height. They started treating the 2D shapes poorly and were often mean to them. The 2D shapes were hurt and felt sad. Initially they ignored them but over time they started disliking the 3D shapes. They also argued that in fact, the 2D shapes were the superior ones as they were the ones who created the 3D shapes in the first place.

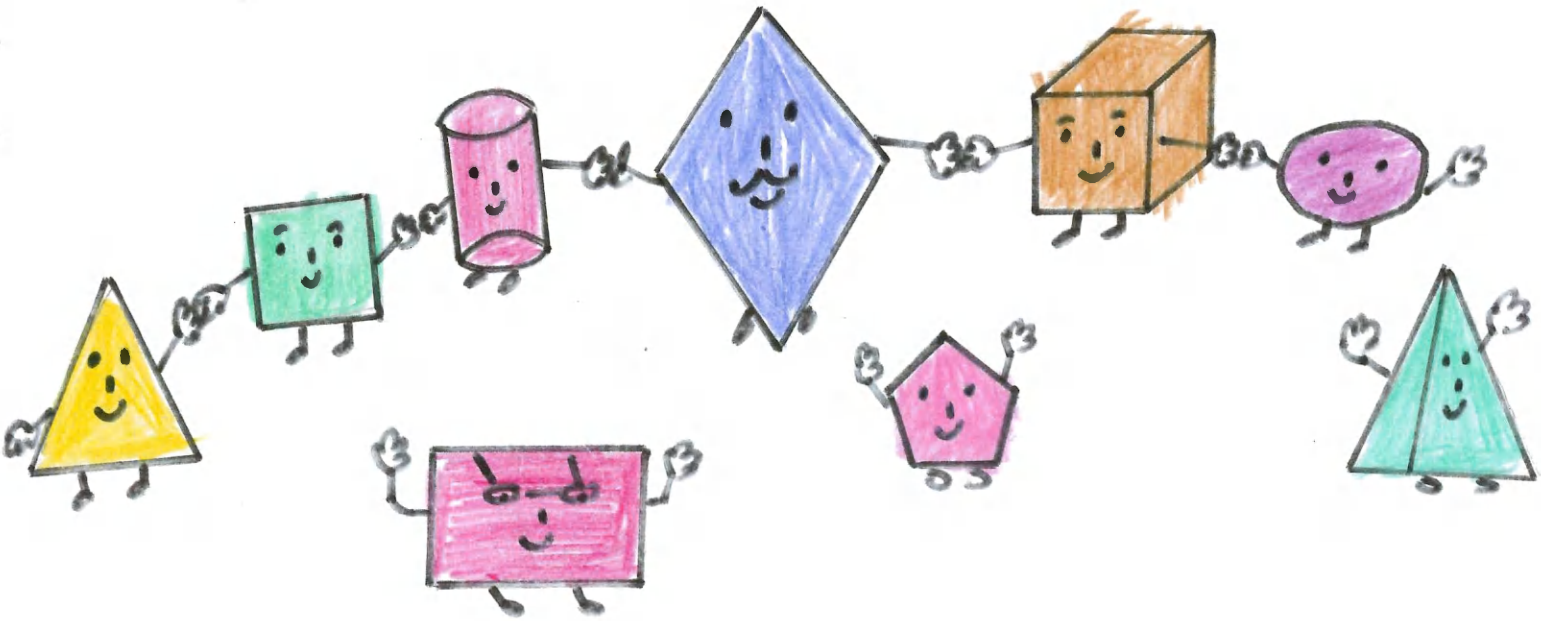
The arguments and hatred kept growing until one day it came to a point when they decided they cannot live together. A separate 3D Kingdom was formed and 2D and 3D shapes were now enemies. They were jealous of each other and kept spying on each other. They were all very bitter towards each other.

Ms. Ova was the 2D kingdom's spy. She was very quiet and could sneak around easily. Once when she was on her spying mission, she found out that the 3D kingdom was planning an attack on them. She rushed back and reported this to King Diam. The entire 2D kingdom was put on high alert.
The 3D kingdom attacked them in the morning. Everyone else in the 2D kingdom was cautious and they were safe in their homes. But Mr. T was still out. Unfortunately, he got caught in the attack and got hurt. He was saved and taken in and the Doctors started treating him.



What puzzled everyone in the 3D kingdom was that as soon as Mr. T got hurt, Ms. Pyra (the Pyramid) who was always bright and cheerful, began feeling unwell. The 3D shapes went to Mr. Boid (Cuboid), who was the smartest 3D shape to ask him why this was happening. Mr. Boid thought for a while and realized that this was because Ms. Pyra was made up of triangles. Since Mr. T had got hurt, it was affecting Ms. Pyra.
The 3D kingdom had an emergency meeting to discuss the situation. A few 3D shapes had always been unhappy about the split. During the meeting everyone agreed that they needed each other to survive.

The 3D Kingdom called off their attack and realized their mistake. They sincerely apologized to the 2D kingdom and requested if they could become one again.



The 2D kingdom was happy with the idea and embraced the 3D shapes back. They renamed their Kingdom and called it - THE LAND OF SHAPES. Once again there was peace and joy and they all lived happily ever after.

When the 2D kingdom and 3D kingdom had a war how will they resolve their issues and what will happen next? Lets find out!