



## THE 2023 YOUNG MATHEMATICAL STORY AUTHOR (YMSA) COMPETITION

THE STUART J. MURPHY AWARD  
(THE 8-11 YEARS OLD CATEGORY)

### LONGLISTED

'The Unknown Shape' by Clara Ascioti (11 years old)  
at St Christopher's School (UK)

You can read the author's inspiration for the story and the judges' comments  
on:

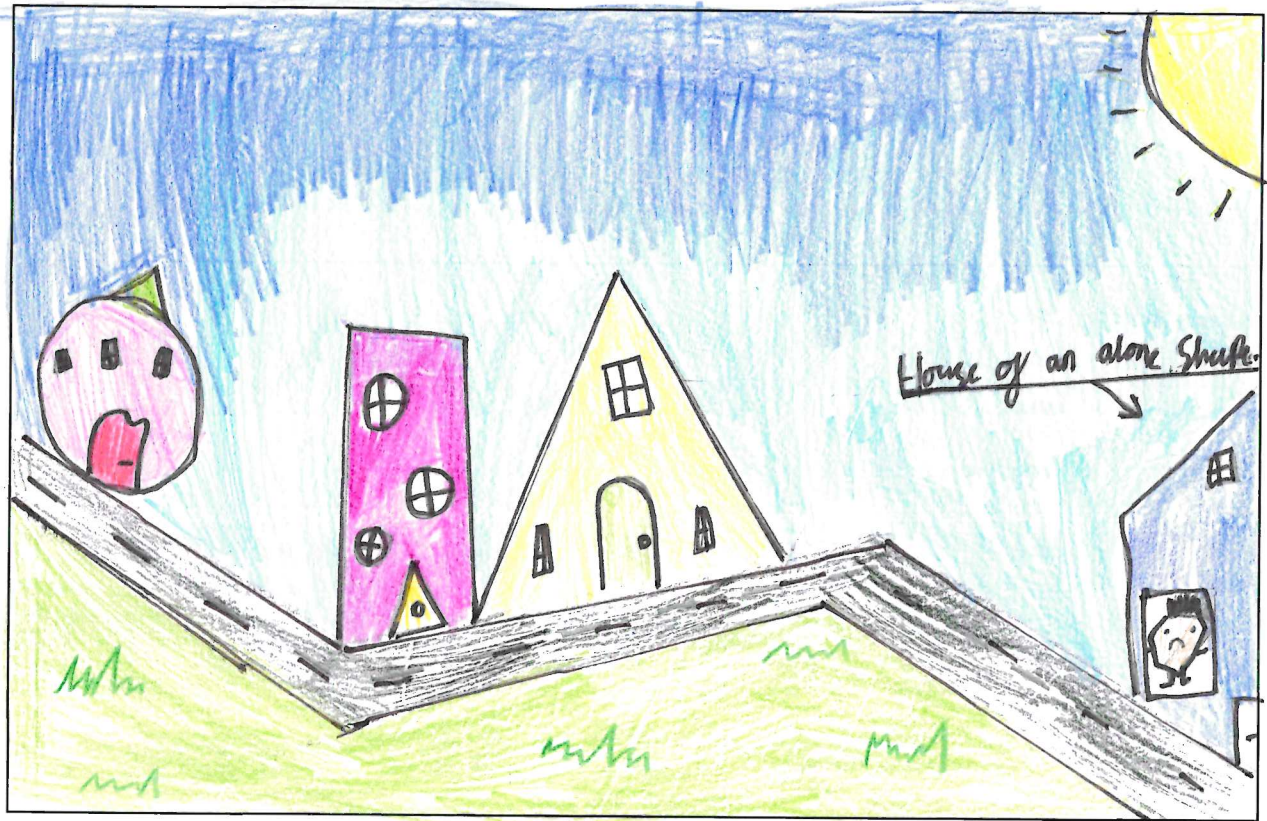
[www.mathsthroughstories.org/ymsa2023](http://www.mathsthroughstories.org/ymsa2023)

#YMSAMaths



# THE UNKNOWN SHAPE.





Once upon a time, there was a city called Shapetropolis. The houses were triangles, squares and every shape you can think of. In each house lived a family. All the families were happy. In one house on Shape, road zx1 yw2 lived a lonely shape called Shapeo. He had always wanted to find his family but the shape couldn't because he didn't know what shape he was. No one knew what shape he was. He was in an unknown shape...

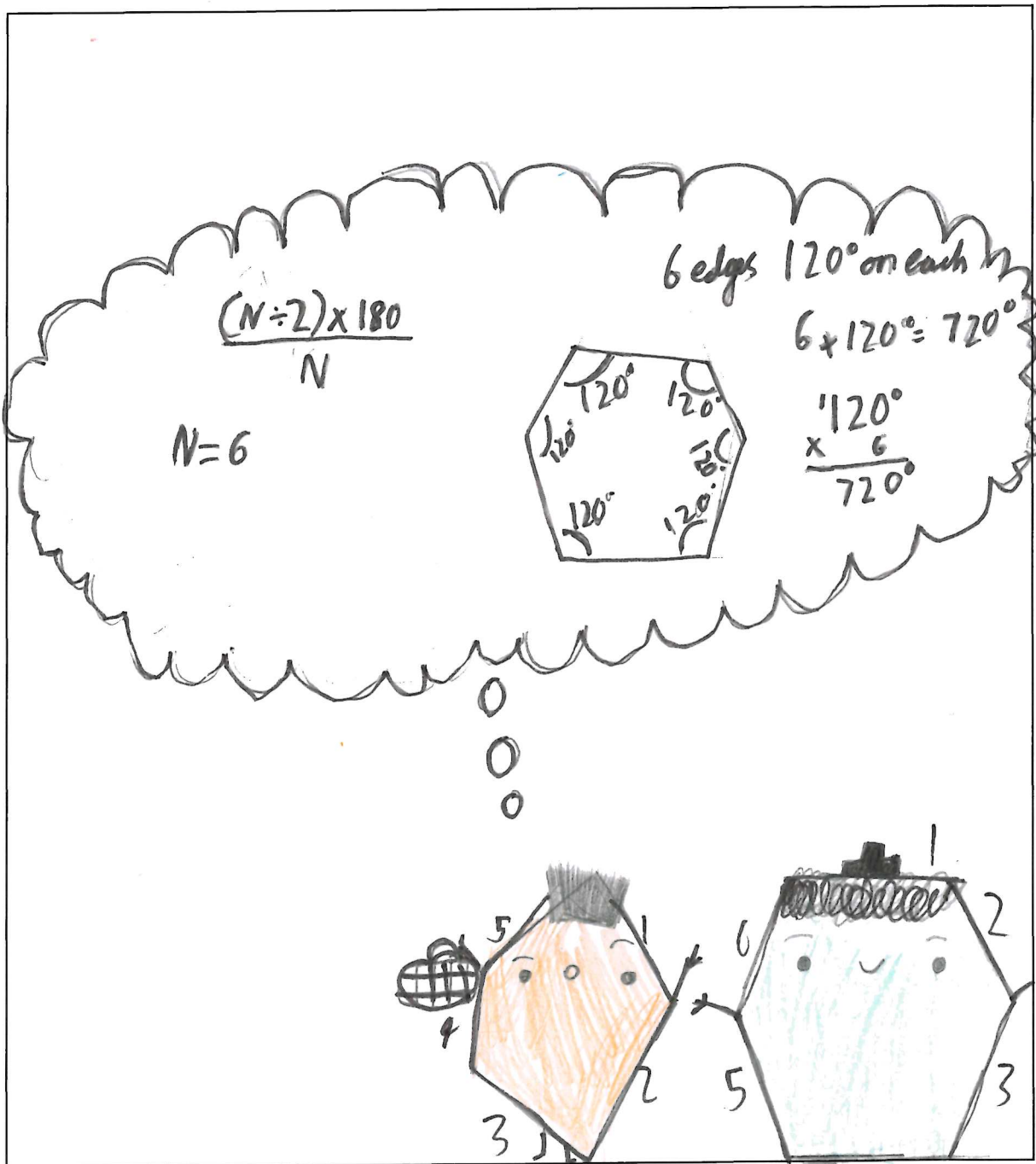


Shapeo had always wanted to find his family. People said they knew where his family was, somewhere in the forest. Shapeo planned to go to the forest. He packed food, water, bug spray and most important of all a map in case he got lost.





Shapeo went to the forest and started to look around. He went North then it was a dead end. He went South and it was a dead end. Then he went West and it was a dead end. Then he went East and it was not a dead end. So that meant his family must be living in the East side of the forest. Shapeo headed off and sang a tune that goes like this: **Triangles, Squares and octagons. Shapes are the best!!!! I see a triangle tree. I see a Square bear. I see a bee hive like an octagon!!!! But what am I? What am I? What am I?**



"Oh I see a shape, she might be my family," Shapeo said excitedly.

"Hello, are you my family?"

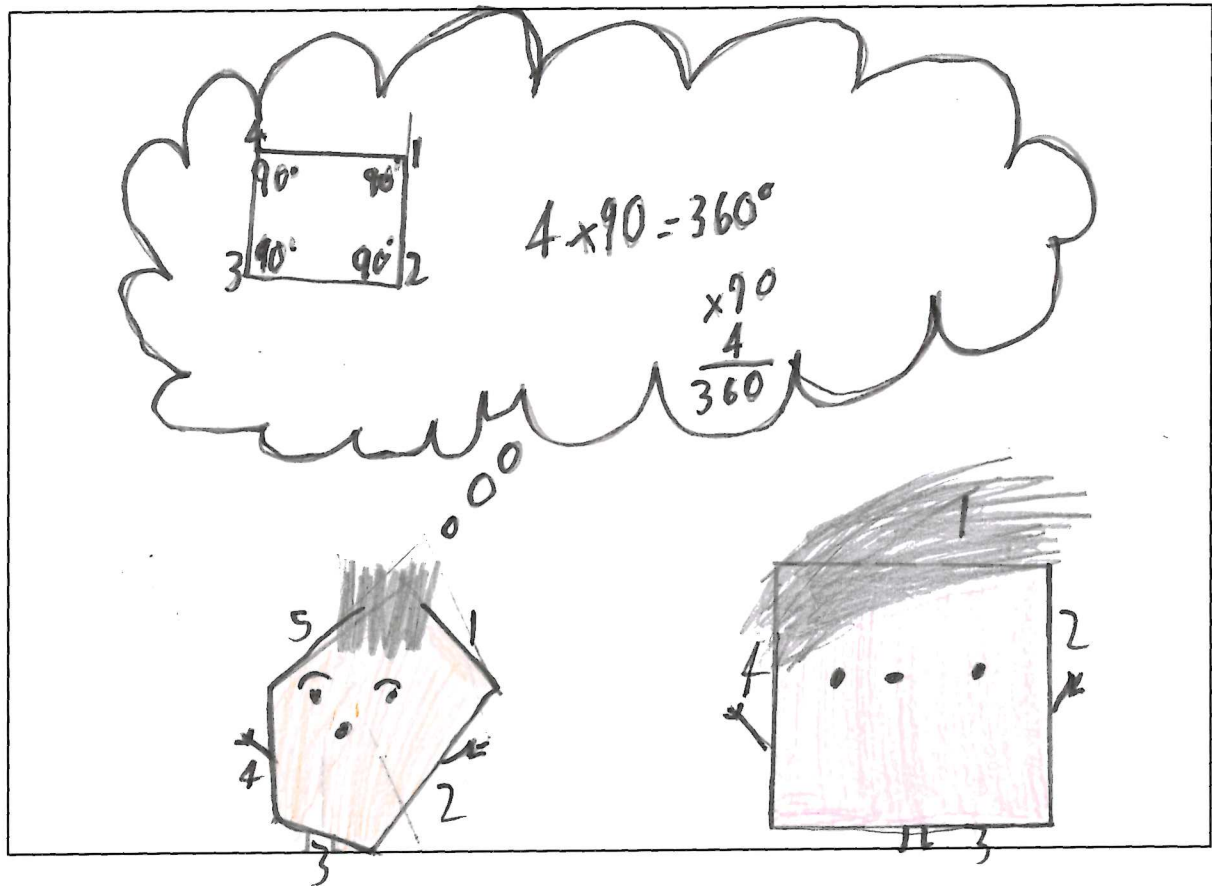
"I am not quite sure?"

"Wait a minute, you're not my family. You have 6 sides, 6 edges, 6 vertices.

"No you're not so that means you're a hexagon, but that's ok I'll keep searching,"



Shapeo continued to walk in the Forest. He saw a rectangle Deer with a baby rectangle Deer. He walked to shelter because it started to rain like Triangle cats and Square dogs. He grabbed his water, took a couple sips and sprayed bug spray because there were a lot of Oval mosquitoes. He stayed there the night, got all snuggly and went to bed. Shapeo gazed at the stars, yawned and fell asleep. He started to dream about meeting his family.



Shapeo woke up that morning and jumped up and immediately started to walk.

"Oh there's another shape over there."

"Hello, are you my family?" Shapeo said.

"I'm not quite sure, little guy" The shape said.

"LITTLE GUY, Wait a minute you have 4 sides, 4 edges and 4 vertices.

"Oh no you're not because you're a square but that's ok I'll keep searching."

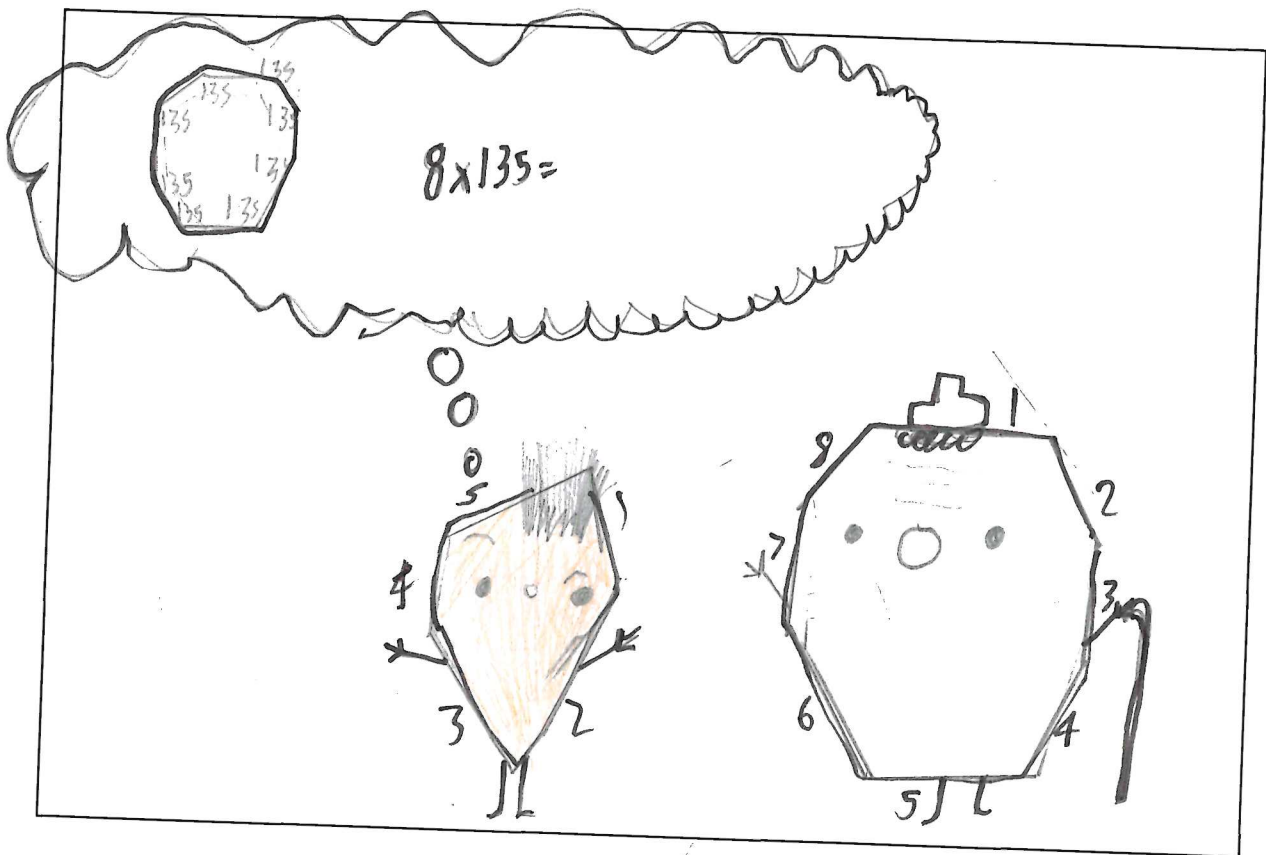
"Sorry, Little guy," Square said sadly.

"Stop calling me little guy for heaven's sake."

"Little guy?" The Square said questionably.

"UHHHHHHHH, Stop now goodbye" Shapeo said angrily.





Shapeo kept walking and something RUMBLED!!! Shapeo realised it was his tummy. So he sat down and ate his sandwich. His sandwich had circular cucumber and hummus.

"Mmmmmm I needed that," Shapeo said happily. He got back up, started walking and an oval egg was hatching. It was as beautiful as an octagon blossom tree. He continued to walk and saw a shape. He went over to the shape and asked, "Hello are you my family?"

"I'M NOT QUITE SURE?"

"WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING?" Shapeo said loudly.

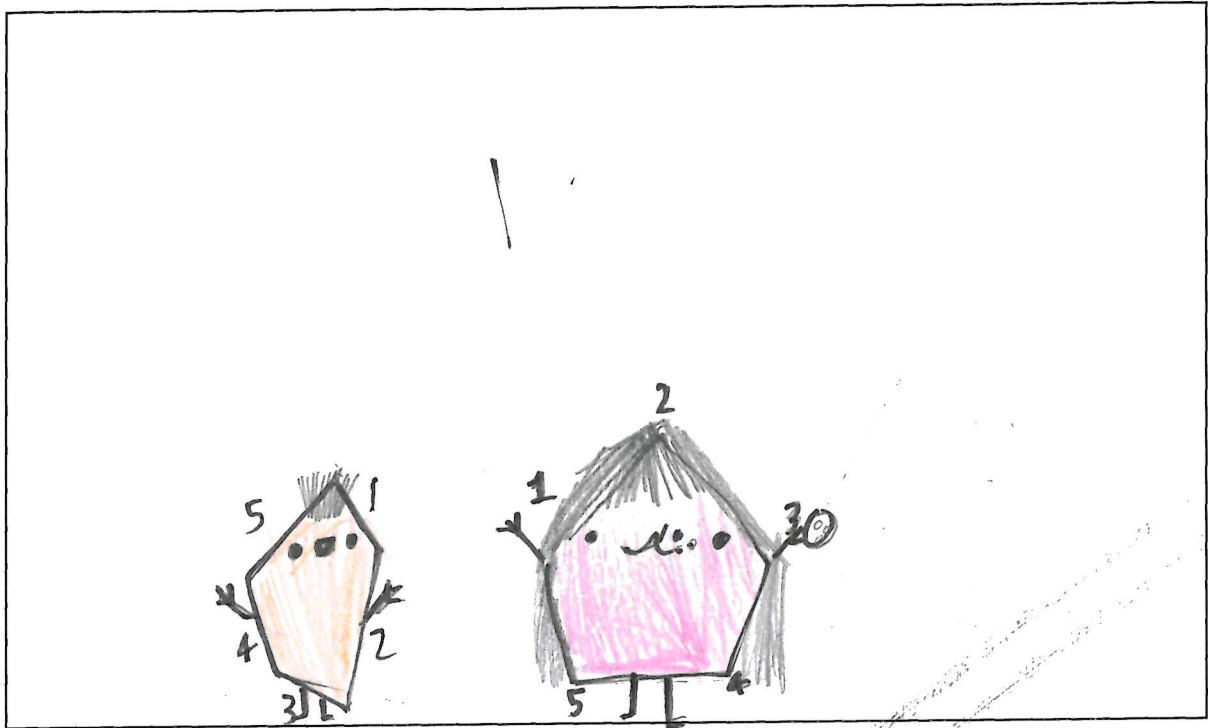
"BECAUSE I CAN'T HEAR WELL," the shape said.

"HOLD ON YOUR NOT MY FAMILY YOU HAVE 8 SIDES, 8 EDGES AND 8 VERTICES.

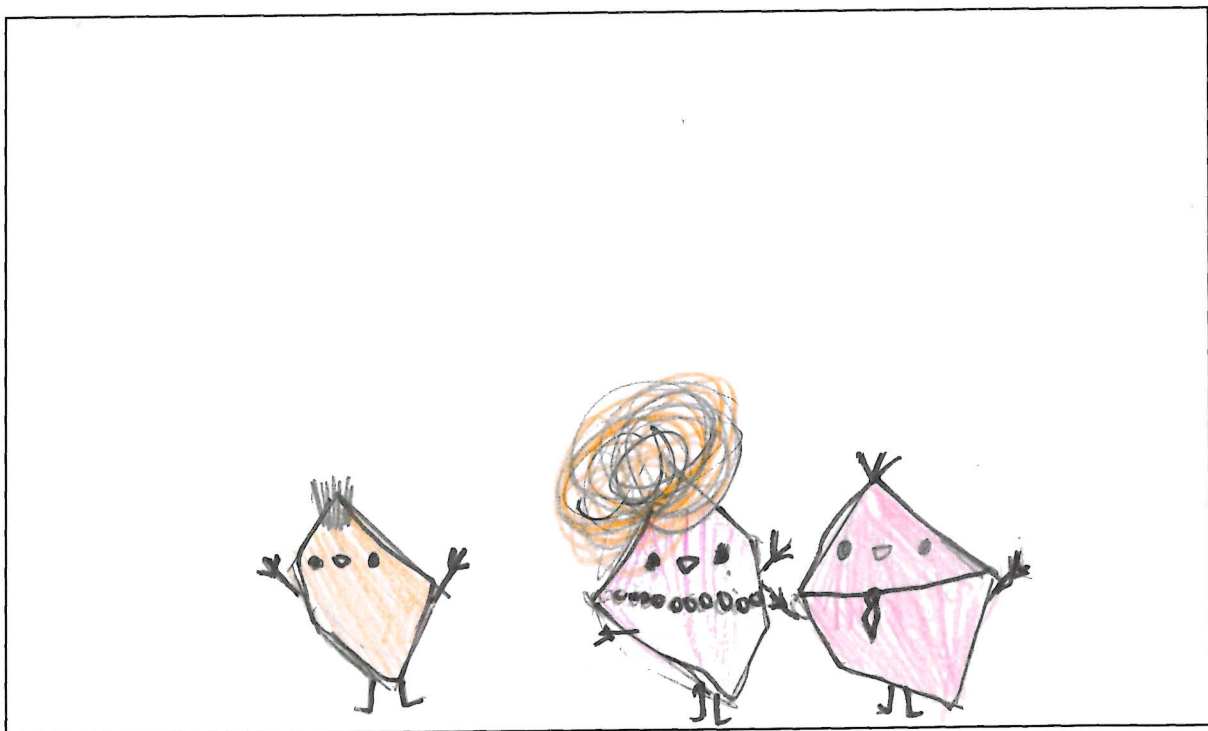
"Oh you're not, you are an octagon," Shapeo said sadly.

"WHAT?" The Octagon said loudly.

"Never mind," Shapeo said while walking away sadly.



Shapeo was walking then he saw another shape.  
"Hello, are you my family?" He said in a miserable voice.  
"Actually I am. I am your cousin Pentagon"  
"Oh yes you are my family you have 5 sides like me"  
"Do you know where my parents are?" Shapeo asked excitedly.  
"They're over there having a picnic."



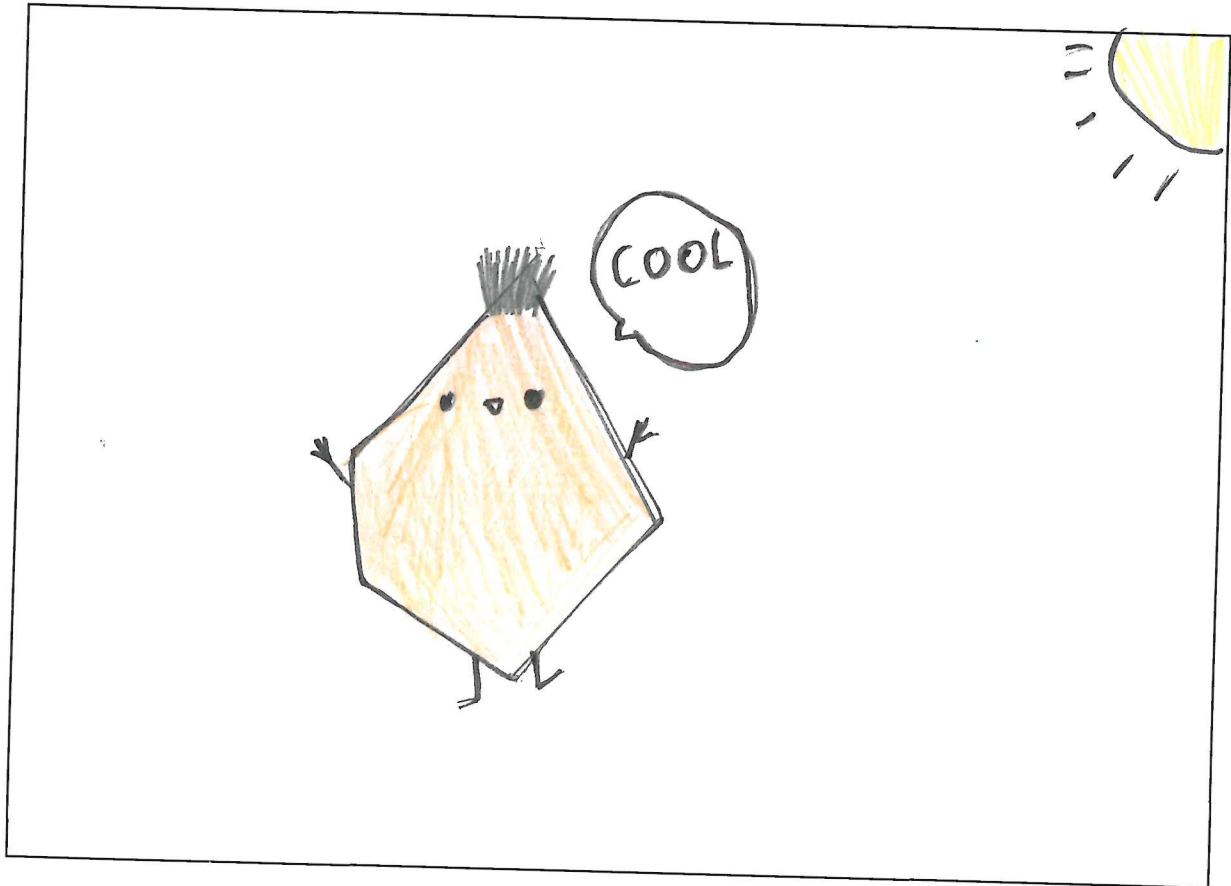
"Mom, Dad," Shapeo shouted.

"Oh darling," Mom shouted.

"We have been trying to find you for 20 Years," Dad said.

"Quick question, What shape am I?" Shapeo asked.

"You are an **IRREGULAR PENTAGON**," she said excitedly.



"Wooww cool! I finally know what shape I am!!!"

They all went to Shapetropolis and lived happily ever after

THE END

## BLURB

Shapeo is alone in a city called Shapetropillis and goes on a journey to find his family. But on the way he bumps into lots of other shapes. He does not know what shape he is. It was a mystery to him until....



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*My name is Clara Ascoti. I live in London with my 2 sisters, my Mom and Dad. I was born in New York, America. I chose this topic because I like shapes.*



