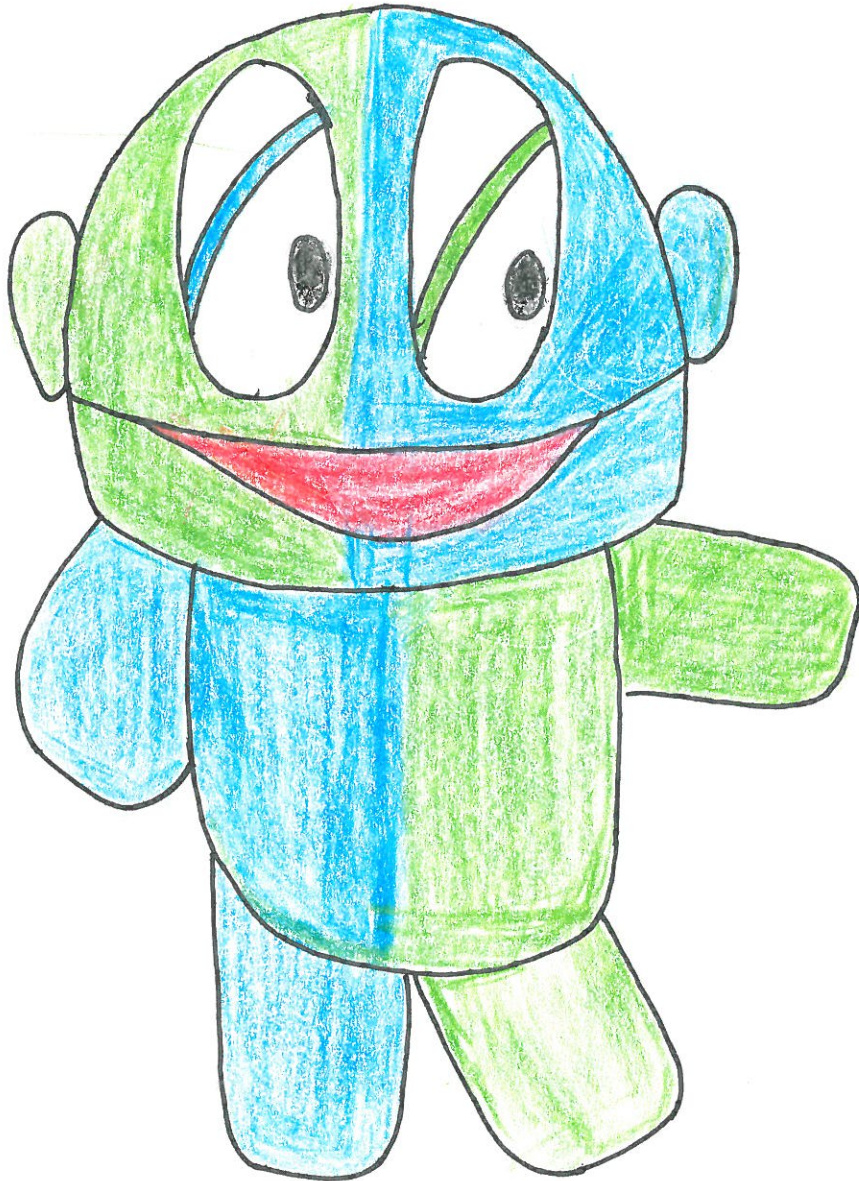


Math for Milk

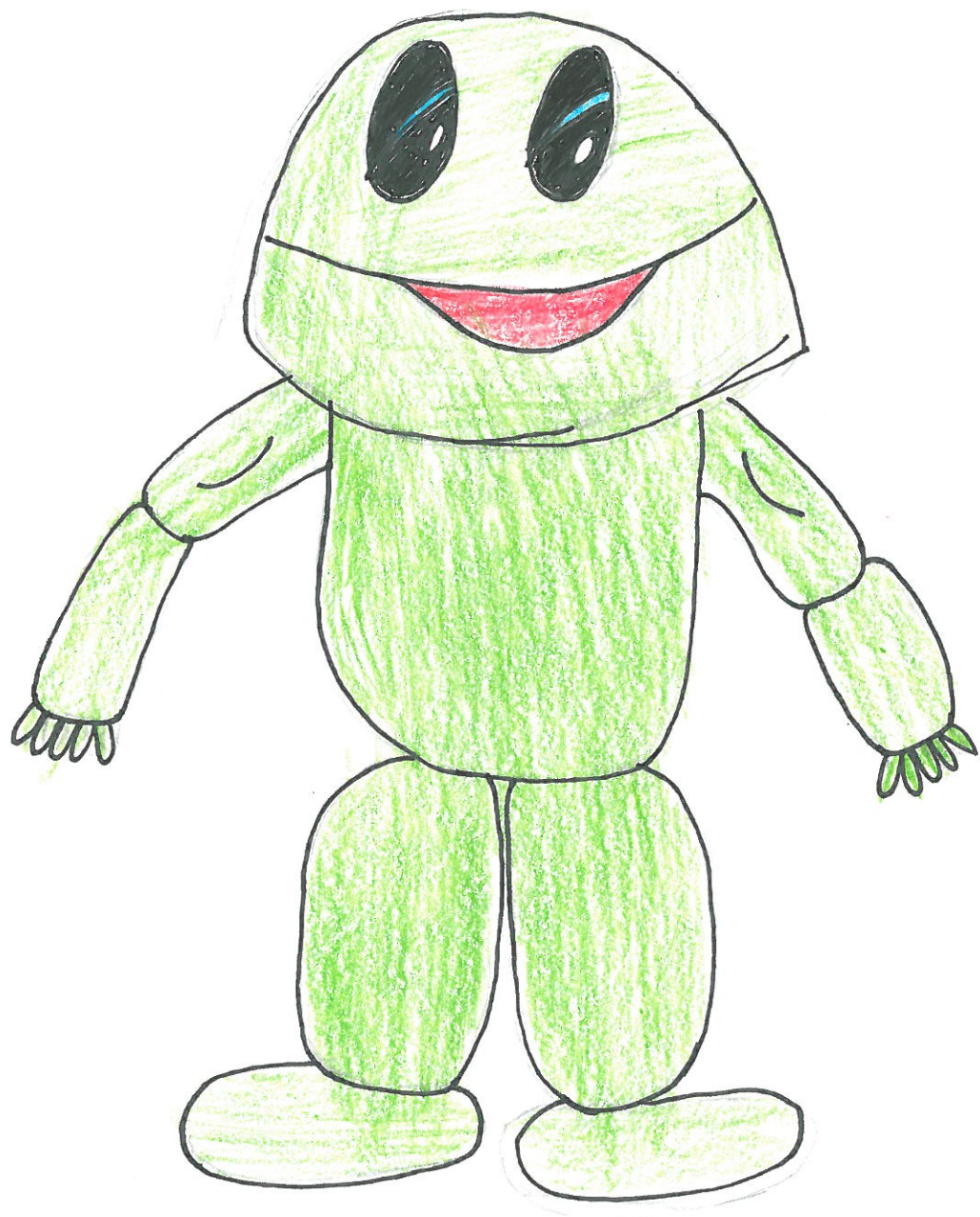
By: Sreekar Charan

In 3042:

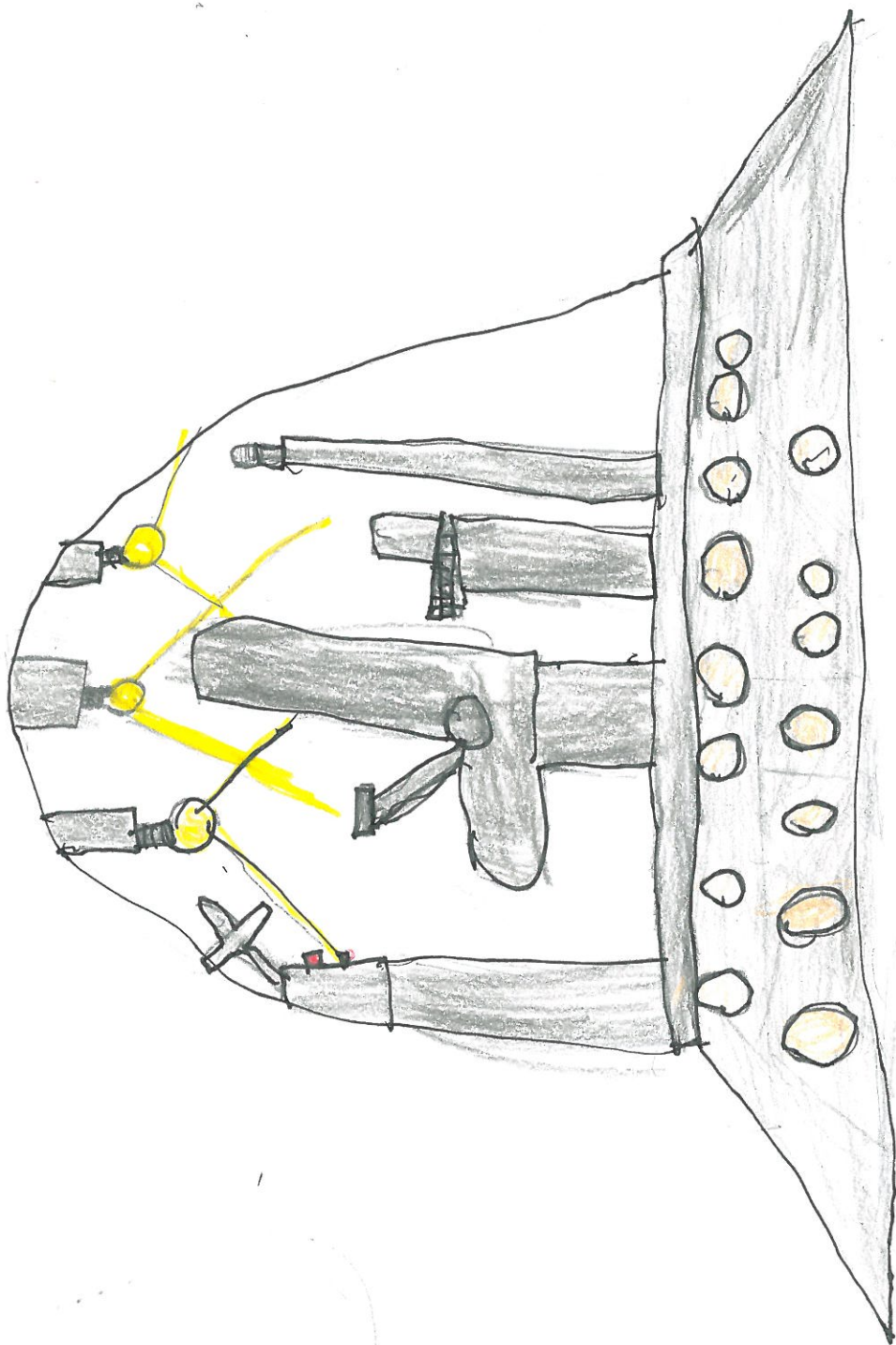
There'd been a plague on Mars, weakening Martians' bones. After some research, the Martian leader, Matzo, discovered milk's amazing properties. The aliens got in UFOs and came to Earth in hordes. They looted Earth's dairy: kidnapping cows and making it impossible for anyone but them to have milk. Slowly, the human population was deprived of calcium. Bagel shops closed due to the cream cheese shortage. Mac-and-cheese was rare. Dairy prices skyrocketed; cows became endangered. Without calcium, humans' bones began to lose density. Brie Colby-Jack, a 9-year-old girl from Dairyland, Wisconsin, saw her father, a doctor, come home from work worried as people's conditions worsened. Everyone was impoverished of nutrients from dairy. Brie wanted to change this for the better. Brie went to spy on the alien camp and figure out how to steal the dairy. When she was about to go home, she was caught by a Martian. He put handcuffs on her, and said with an accent, "I'm taking you to my leader, Matzo". The alien then said, "I must warn you - Matzo was already strong, but recently he's been drinking moo juice daily, and it's making him even stronger. Brie, guessing that moo juice was milk, nodded. The Martian took her to Matzo, who was sitting on a throne shaped like a milk gallon. He was over 20 feet tall, with blue eyes and green fur. Brie racked her mind to think of a way to get the milk back. Then, she told Matzo that she would ask him a question even she could answer and that he wouldn't be able to. Matzo became angry; he thought he could answer her. Brie struck a deal with him: if he answered the question correctly, he could stay on Earth and keep the milk. If he couldn't answer, however, he must go back to Mars. Matzo agreed. Brie asked: 3×12 . Matzo didn't know the answer. Triumphant, Brie said the answer, 36, and happily collected the milk she'd won for Earth, ensuring strong bones and teeth for years to come.



MARTIAN



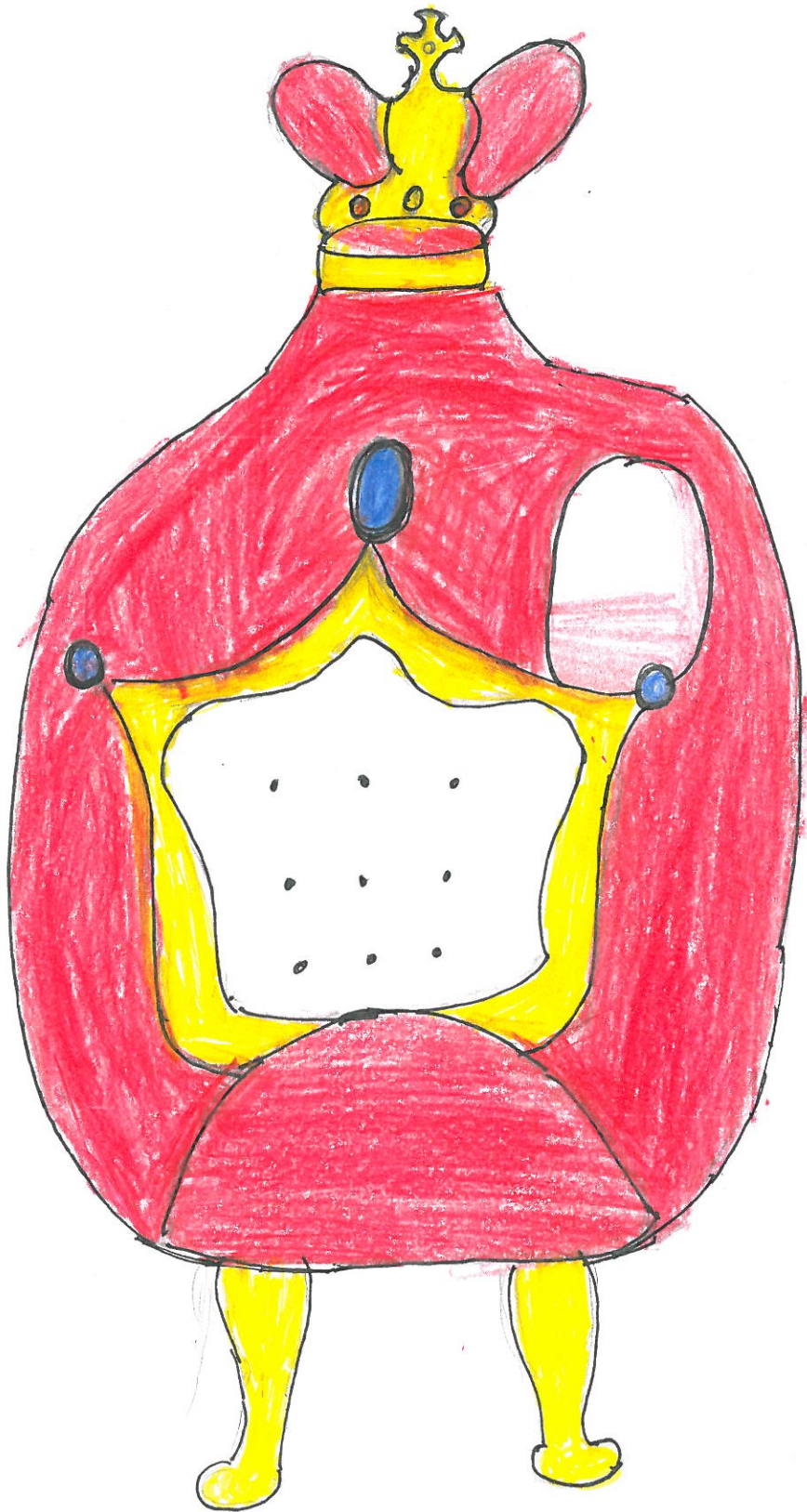
MATZO



UFO



BRIE COLBY



MATZO'S THRONE