

The Kangaroo

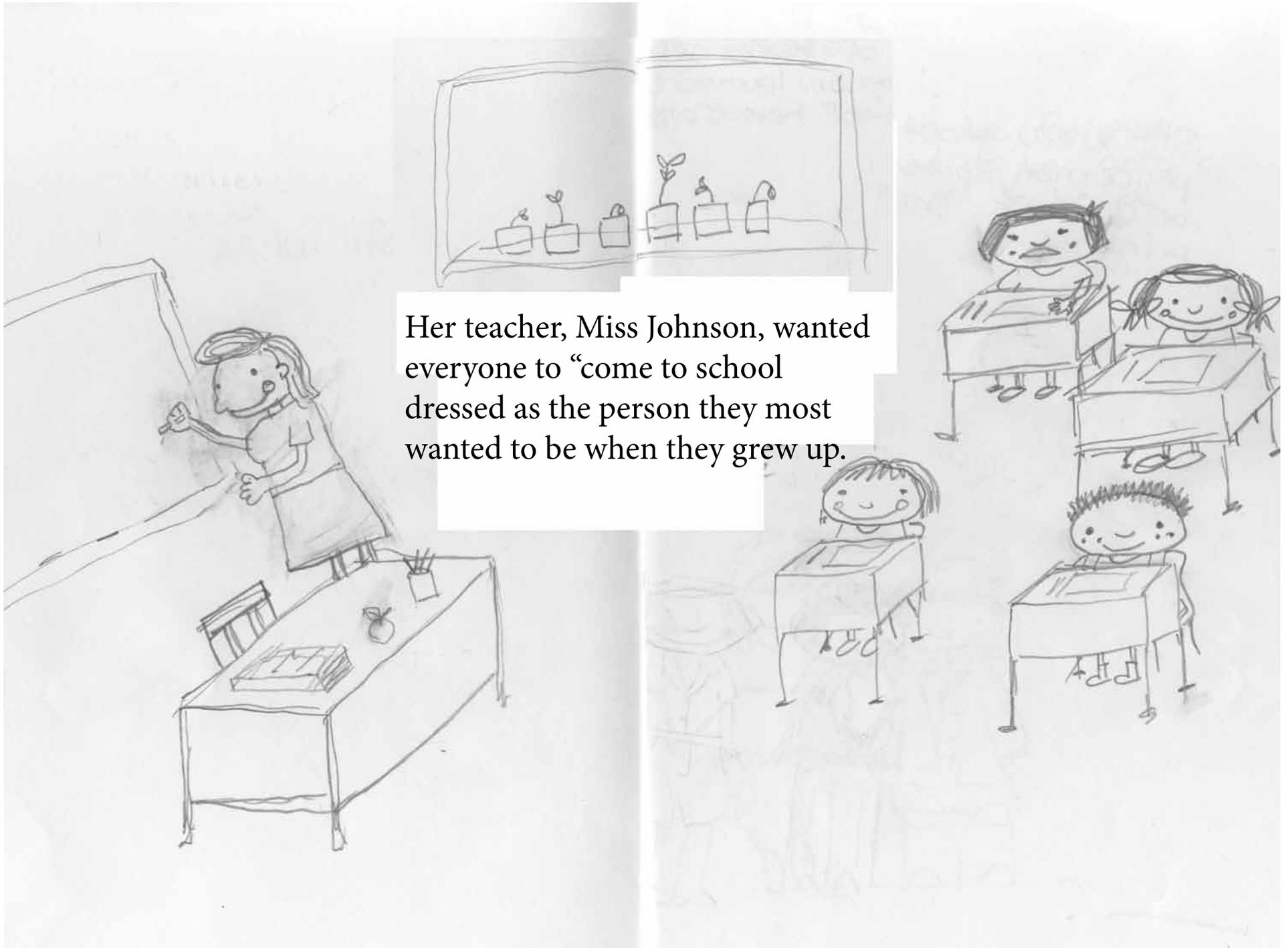
by
Janet Bailey

This is Allie.



All her life, Allie had known what she wanted to be when she grew up.





Her teacher, Miss Johnson, wanted everyone to “come to school dressed as the person they most wanted to be when they grew up.

She knew most of her friends wanted to be firemen, policemen, doctors or lawyers. Some wanted to be actors, or dancers. One of her friends even wanted to be a princess.





Her parents had always told her she could be whatever she wanted to be when she grew up.

She just had to work hard at it. She was willing to work as hard as she needed to get where she wanted to be.



Her Mom had always told her that practice makes perfect



She had been practicing hopping for along time, almost a whole week!



She was getting better, but wasn't sure how long she could hop for.



But that seemed like the least of her problems



how was she going to grow fur or a tail?...

or ears?

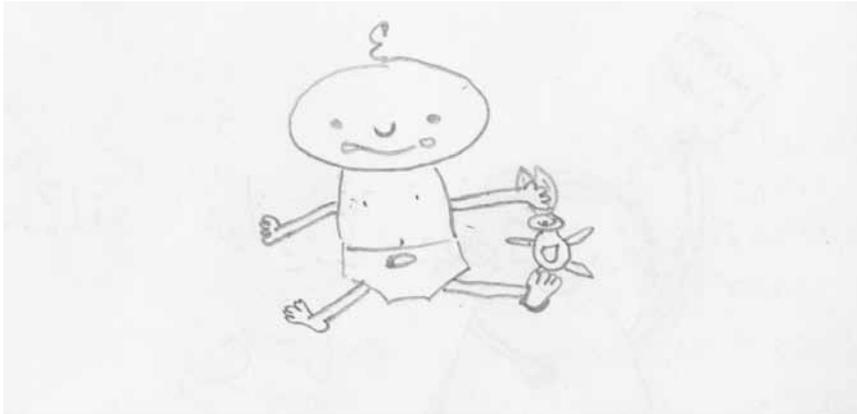


And what about a pouch?? That was a tough one.



She knew she wanted to be a kangaroo but she didn't know how she was going to get there!

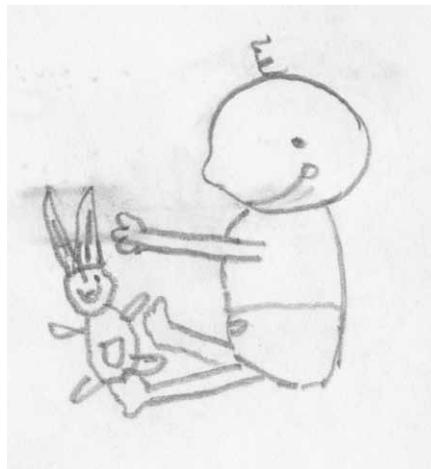
For as long as she could remember she'd always wanted to be a kangaroo!



She loved the long ears and tail, the way the fur felt against her skin



It may have been because that was the first stuffed animal she had received as a baby



And especially the tiny little baby joey hidden in the pouch.



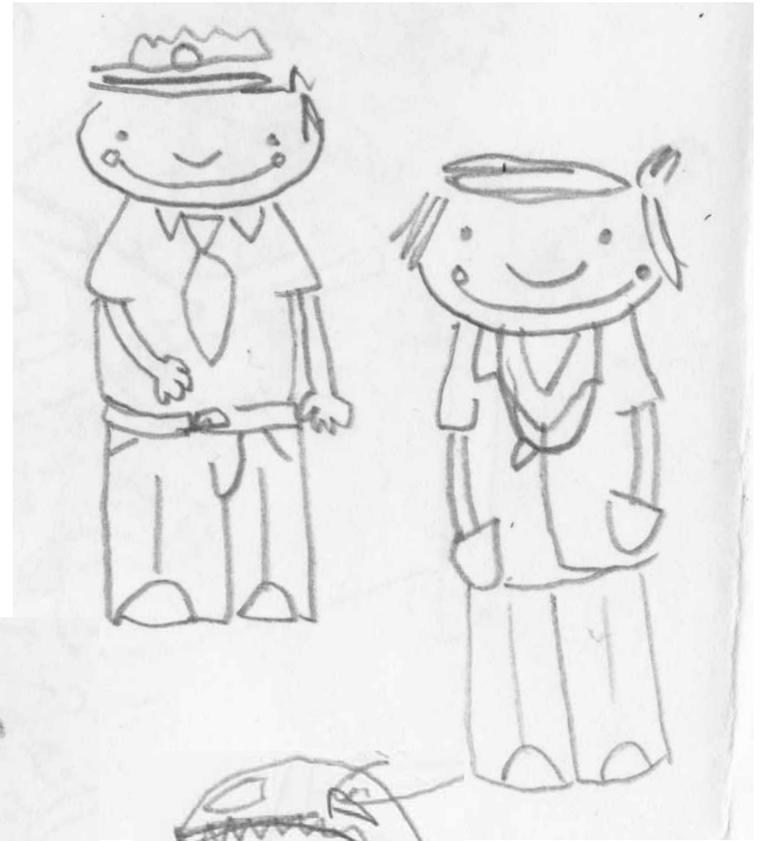
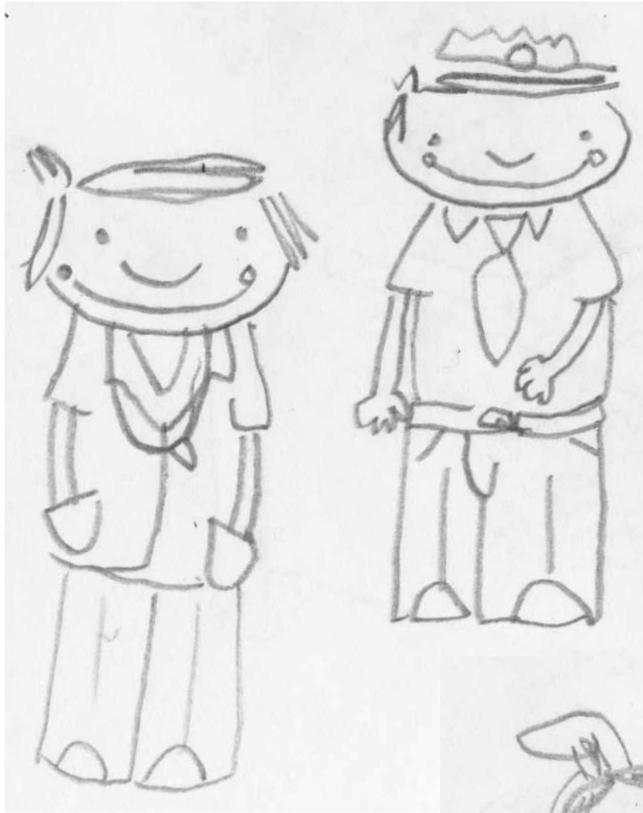
She knew that once she was a kangaroo, that's exactly where she would keep all her precious things.



Her Mom had helped her find her old kangaroo costume she had worn last year for Halloween. Allie hadn't been able to tell her Mom what she wanted it for – just that it was for a project at school.



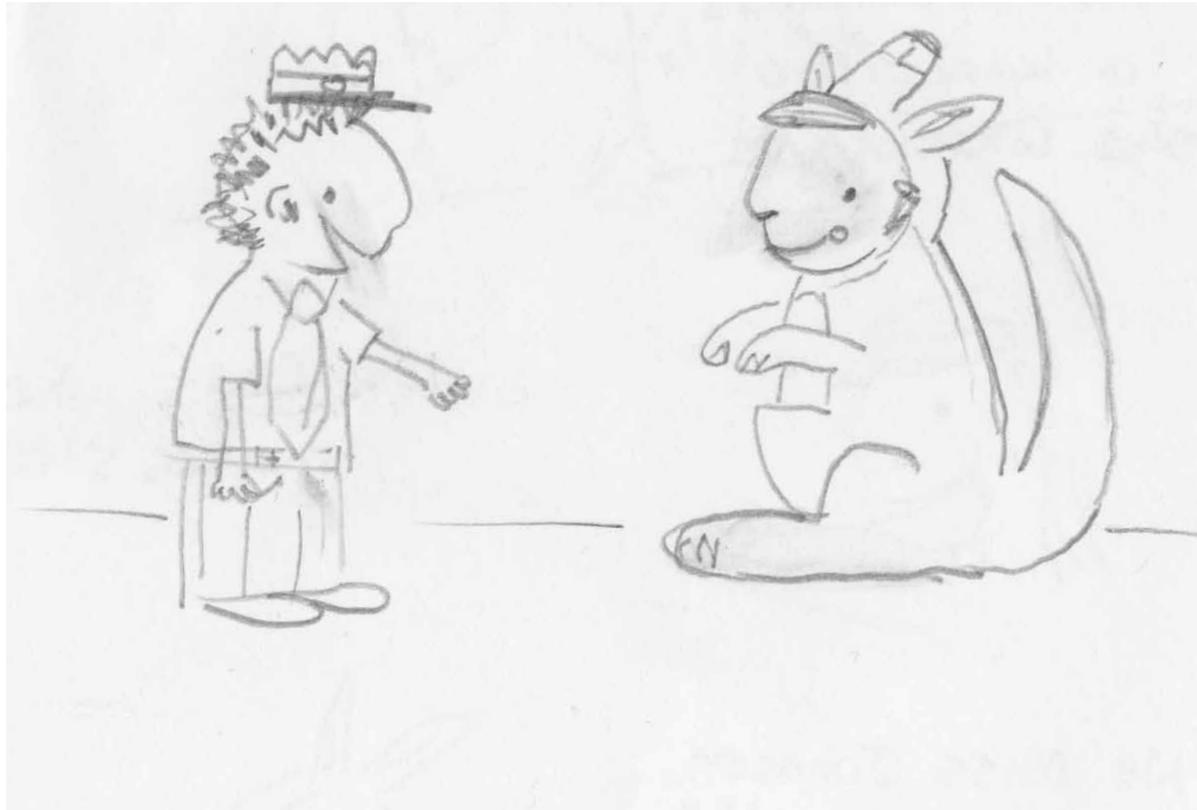
Allie couldn't wait to see her face when she walked out on stage and Miss Johnson introduced each of them.



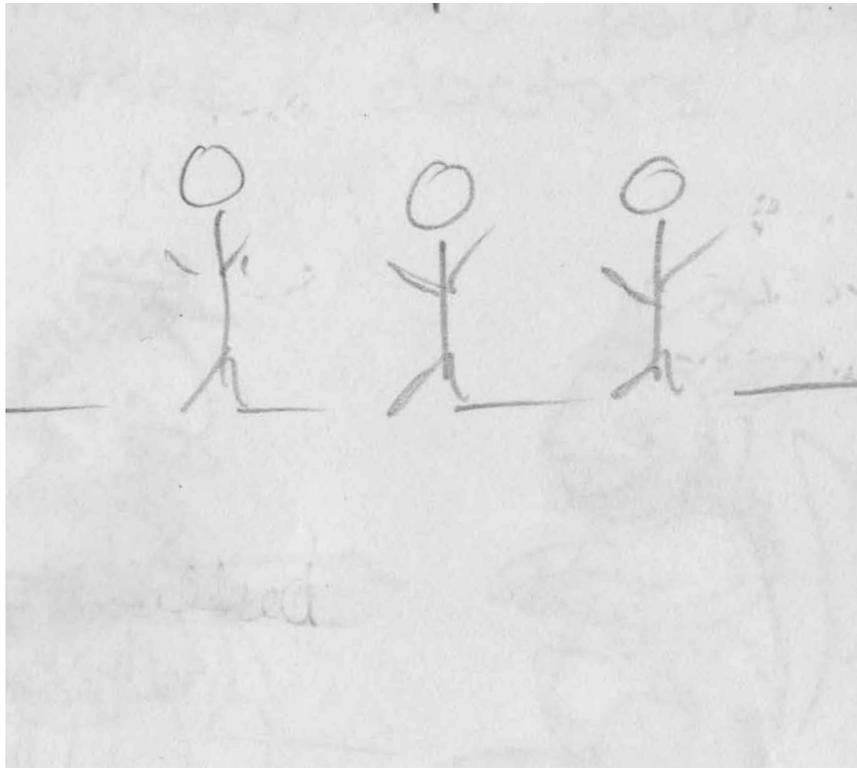
At school they all gathered
back stage.

Everyone looked at Amy
strangely - all the firemen
and policemen, nurses and
doctors.

Evan Meyer asked her what she was supposed to be.
“Isn’t it obvious?” She replied pointing to her pouch.



As they walked out on stage, Miss Johnson introduced them. When she got to Allie's name she said Keeper at a Zoo.



Allie walked out in her kangaroo suit.



“No Miss Johnson, a Kangaroo!” she whispered,



“A Chef who makes stew.”

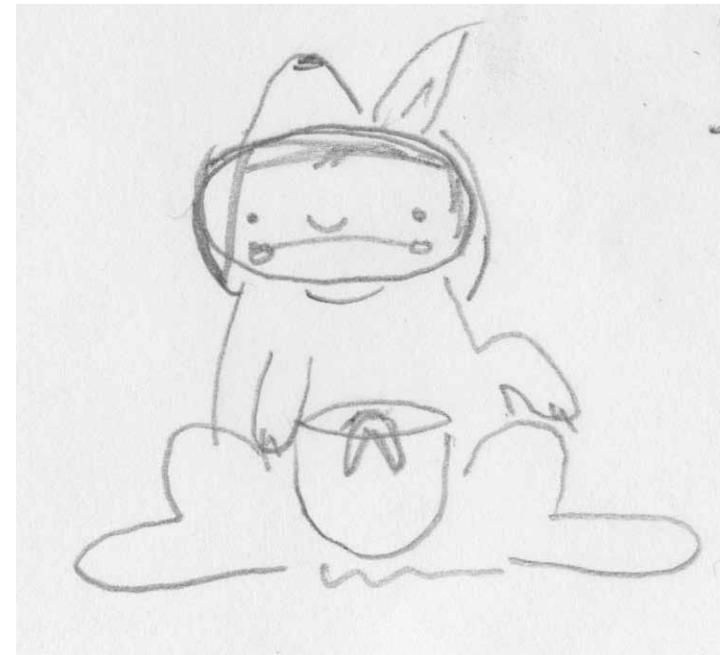
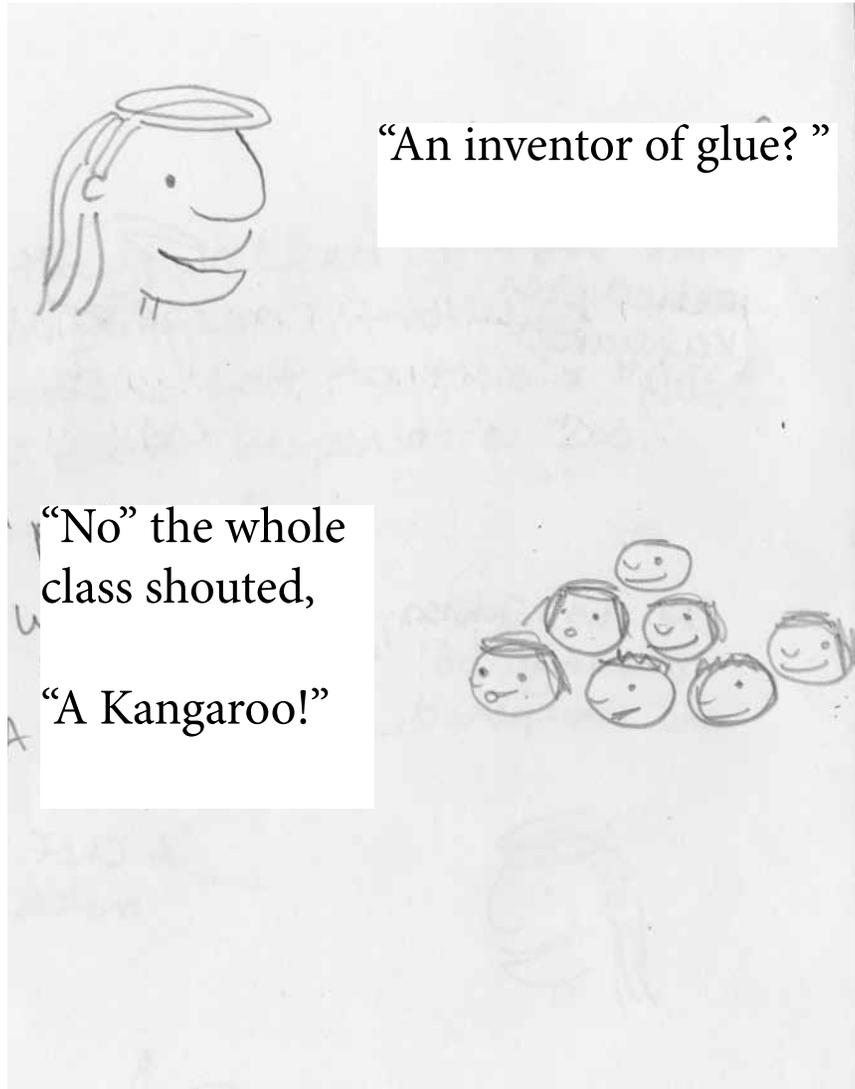


“No Miss Johnson a kangaroo”, she said a little louder.



All the parents tried to contain their laughter. Meanwhile, Allie had turned two shades of red and she was trying to hide behind one of her ears.

She looked for her Mom and saw a big smile on her face. Her Mom was giving her the thumbs-up sign.



Miss Johnson was embarrassed and apologized to Allie.

“I’m so sorry Allie, of course – a kangaroo, you want to be a kangaroo! I should have realized.

Allie smiled, relieved.

And then she did what all kangaroos do – she hopped off the stage!

“I’m sure whatever she ends up being, knowing Allie, she’ll be wonderful at it!” said Miss Johnson.

The end.