

THE SEVENTH

Lakshmi

In far away place lived a king and a queen. They had almost everything they needed and wanted. Their palace was as huge as a town, it was 3067042 toothpicks long, and had 44 bed rooms including a gigantic dinning room with 56 chairs, a backyard filled with toys, a swimming pool and chariots for the king and queen to go riding.



The king and queen were very nice to the people and were always on the side of villagers when they were needed. Everyone in the village respected them and treated them as gods. They enjoyed their life as it was, looking after their people's wealth and safety. The king and queen adored children very much and wanted some for their own.

They had been married for very long time, but they were not granted any children. The queen wept a lot, looking at the villagers' kids. One day the king heard that there was a fairy grandmother in town who was granting wishes. The king along with the queen rushed over to the fairy grandmother. The king and queen took turns explaining their problem to the fairy grandmother. The fairy felt pity for them and wondered how such a nice rulers didn't have any children.



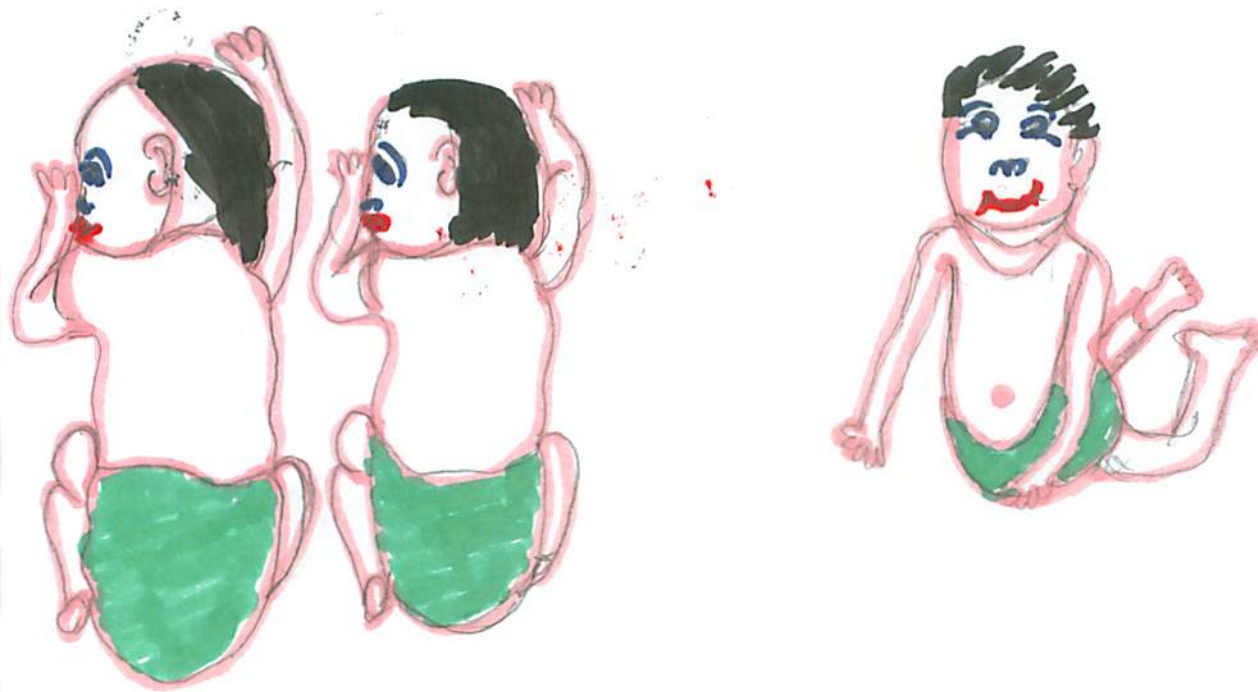
The fairy grandmother questioned, "How long have you two been married?"

The king answered, "Seven years."

"Very well then," the fairy replied.

"I will grant you with a gift, but I am not sure what you will end up with."

After seven months the queen gave birth to not one, not two, not three, but seven little princes. The king and queen were totally surprised and happy to have given birth to seven children at a time. All the kids were born with healthy, chubby bodies, except the seventh prince. He was weak, skinny and seemingly hopeless.



Looking at their seventh baby they worried about him and didn't leave him alone for a second. He was later named "THE SEVENTH," because no one could think of a suitable name for him.

"The Seventh"



THE SEVENTH turned out to be a very different child. While the other six brothers of him were playing, THE SEVENTH would be sleeping. While the others were sleeping, THE SEVENTH would be yelling, screaming and wake them up to ask them to play with him at that time.

As all of them grew up, the six of them turned out to be smart, strong and were able to rule the kingdom. However THE SEVENTH was still weak, silly and not as intelligent as the others, but a very curious man.

The king and queen worried about their seventh son and tried talking with him and to make him understand how to be a ruler, tried teaching him the difference between

good and bad, and also explaining what the purpose of his life is. THE SEVENTH was not ready to listen to his parents, and always ignored them. He was the one who always brought shame to the family because of his bumbling curiosity.

A few days later the king and queen heard that the fairy grandmother was in town again and went to thank her with three-treasure chests full of gold, diamonds, pearls and rubies. The fairy grandmother took the king's offer and was overjoyed by all the nice gifts. At the same time she also noticed a disappointed expression in the king and queen faces.

The fairy grandmother asked, "Is there anything that's bothering you?"

The king and queen looked at each others faces and replied, "The gift that you granted us gave seven sons, and we were pleased to have such great sons.

The fairy grandmother asked, "Then what's wrong?"

They replied, "They all are great and make us happy all the time except the seventh prince."

He was very different from other six of them. He acted foolish, selfish, and weak all time, and his greatest virtue is his curiosity.

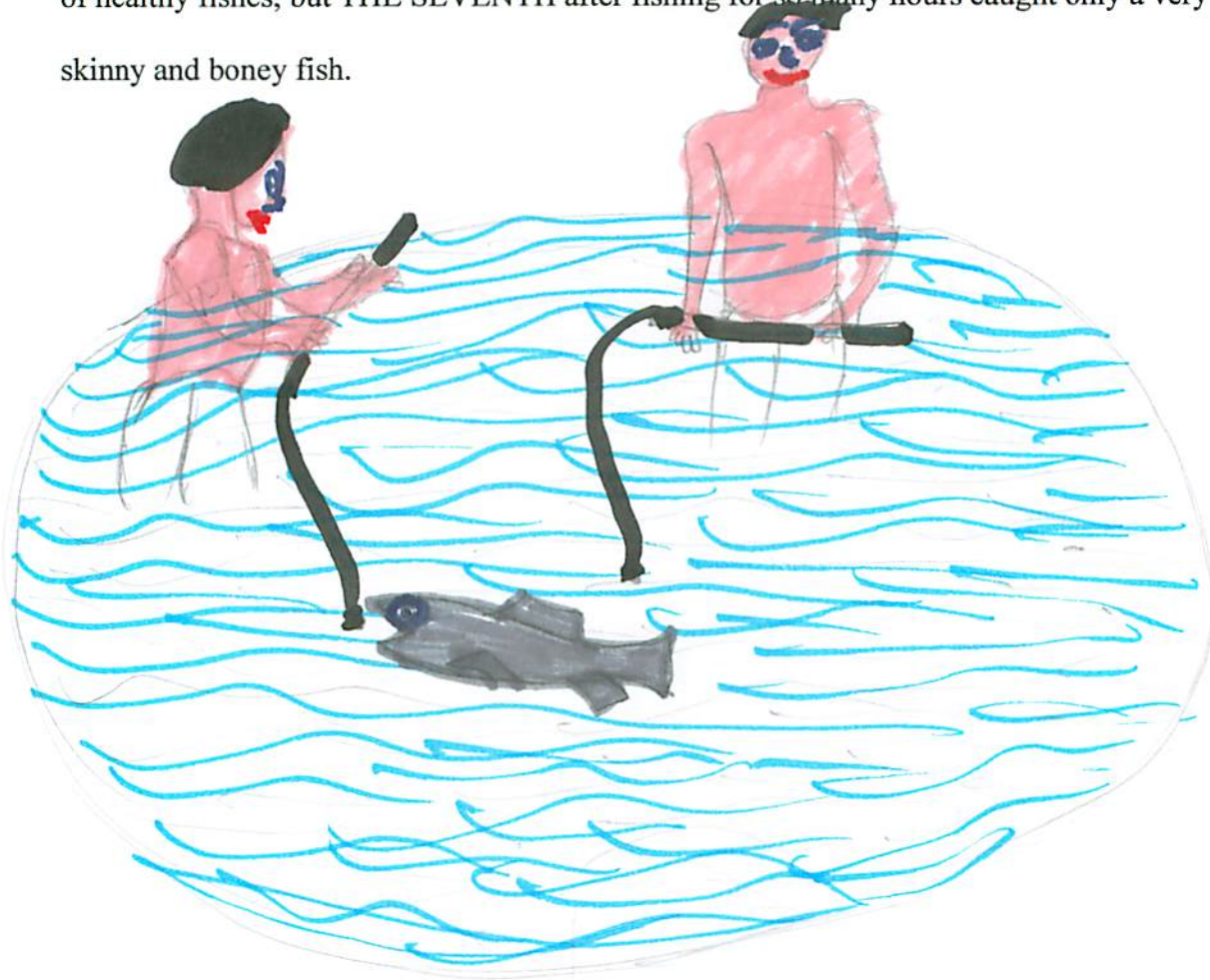


The fairy grandmother thought about the problem for a while and advised the king and the queen to send their lovely seven children to the river to fish.

The king and queen returned to their palace and the next morning they asked their seven sons to go fishing in the river and get seven fishes.

They all went to the river with their fishing rods on their parents' request. The children all jumped into the freezing water to catch fish. Six of the seven sons found a lot

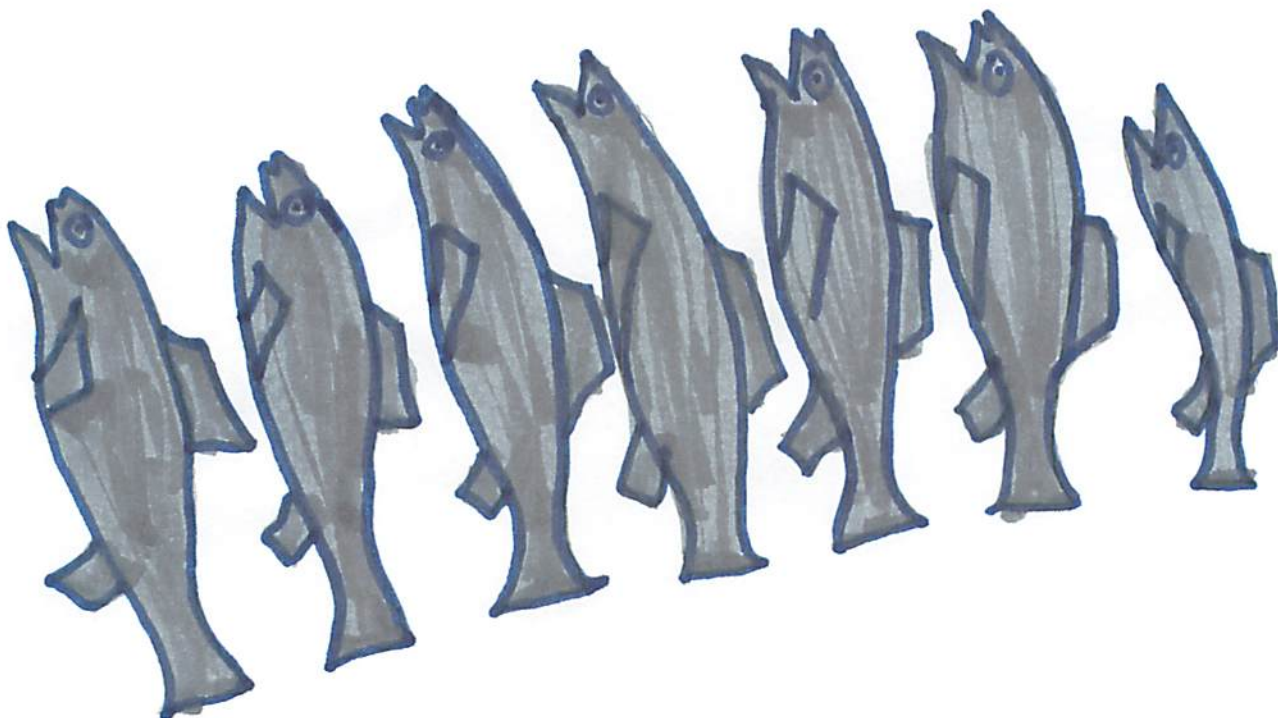
of healthy fishes, but THE SEVENTH after fishing for so many hours caught only a very skinny and boney fish.



All the seven princes took their fish to the palace and showed their parents the fish. The parents were happy for their six sons and even more impressed by their seventh son for at least getting one. After admiring their fish, the king and queen told them to dry their fish in the backyard, so that they could have them for dinner.

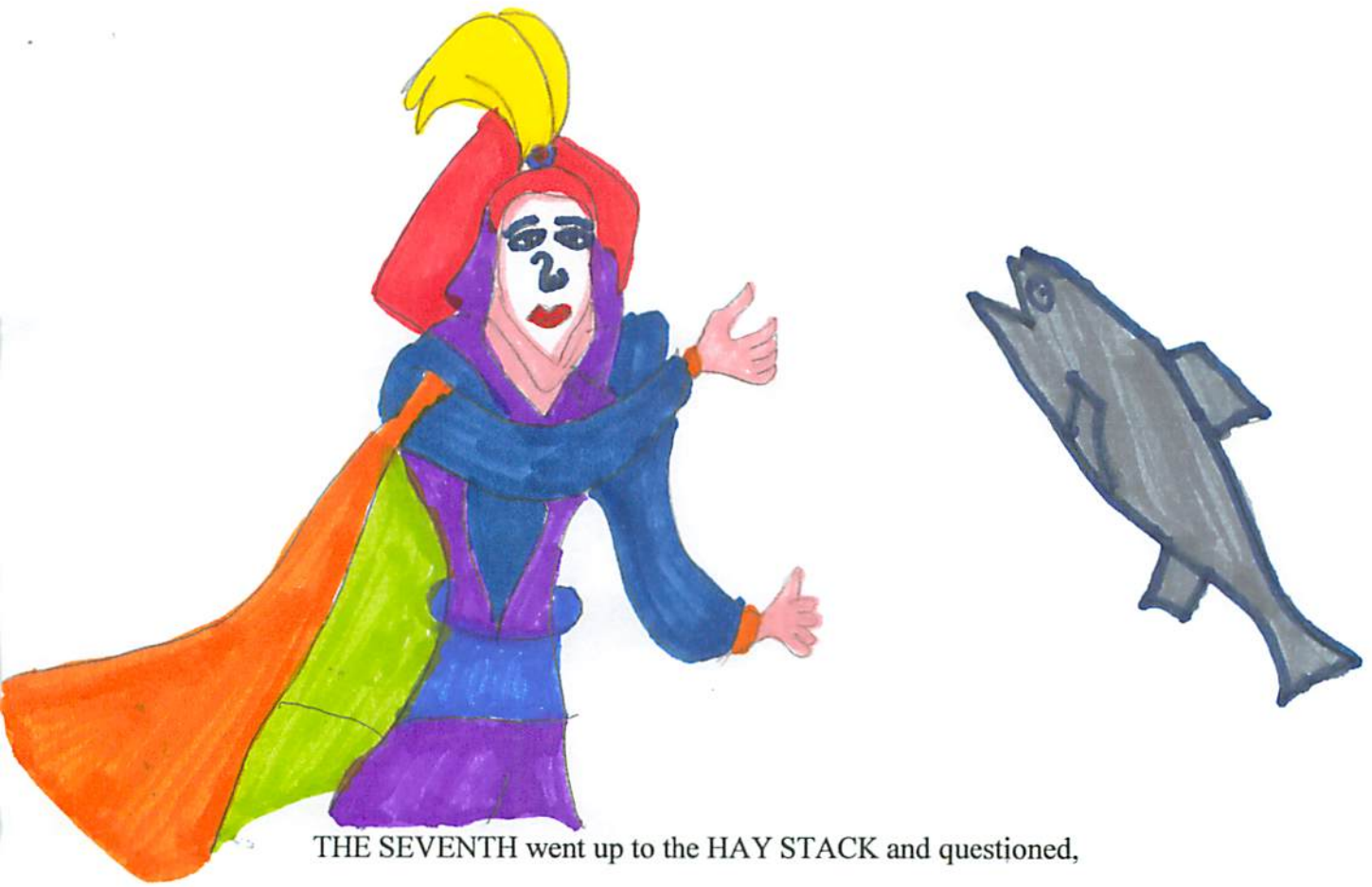
All the seven sons laid their fish in a straight line in the sun for them to dry. The skinny and boney fish, which THE SEVENTH caught, was the last one in the row to dry.

While the six of them were playing, THE SEVENTH sat in backyard waiting for his fish to dry. In the late evening the seven princes went to pick their fish up for dinner and felt happy because their fishes were dried, but THE SEVENTH prince was disappointed because his one and only fish in the row did not dry. THE SEVENTH decided to figure out why his fish did not dry.



THE SEVENTH went up to the FISH and questioned it, "FISH.....O FISH.....Why didn't you dry?"

The skinny and boney fish answered, "I did not and could not dry because the hay stack was in my way and blocked the sun rays."



THE SEVENTH went up to the HAY STACK and questioned,
“HAYSTACK.....O HAYSTACK..... Why were you in my fish’s way and blocked
the sun from it?”

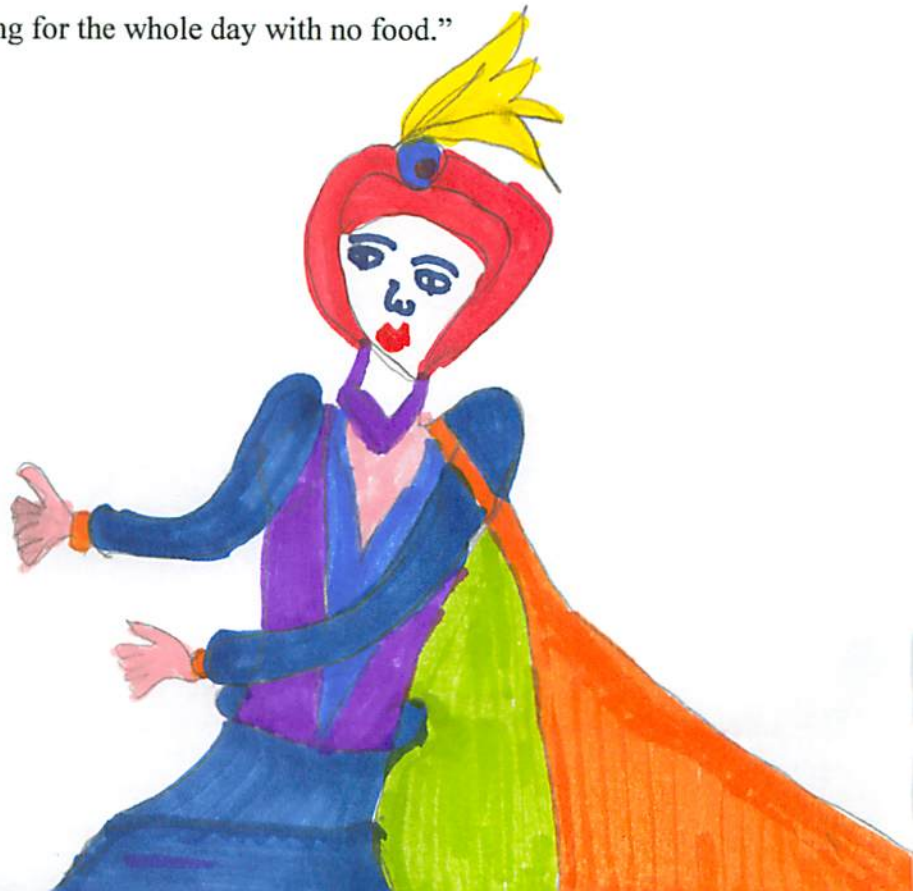
The haystack answered, “What can I do, I can not move and the cow was
supposed to eat me.”





THE SEVENTH went up to the COW and questioned, "COW.....O
COW.....why didn't you eat the hay?"

The cow answered, "I really felt hungry and tried eating it but the peasant did not
untie my leash, so I have been starving for the whole day with no food."



THE SEVENTH went up to the PEASANT and questioned, "PEASANT.....O PEASANT.....Why didn't you unleash the cow, that poor cow has been starving all day and my fish did not dry because of it."

The peasant answered, "Let it starve, I am starving too. If I don't get food then I am not going to do any work."

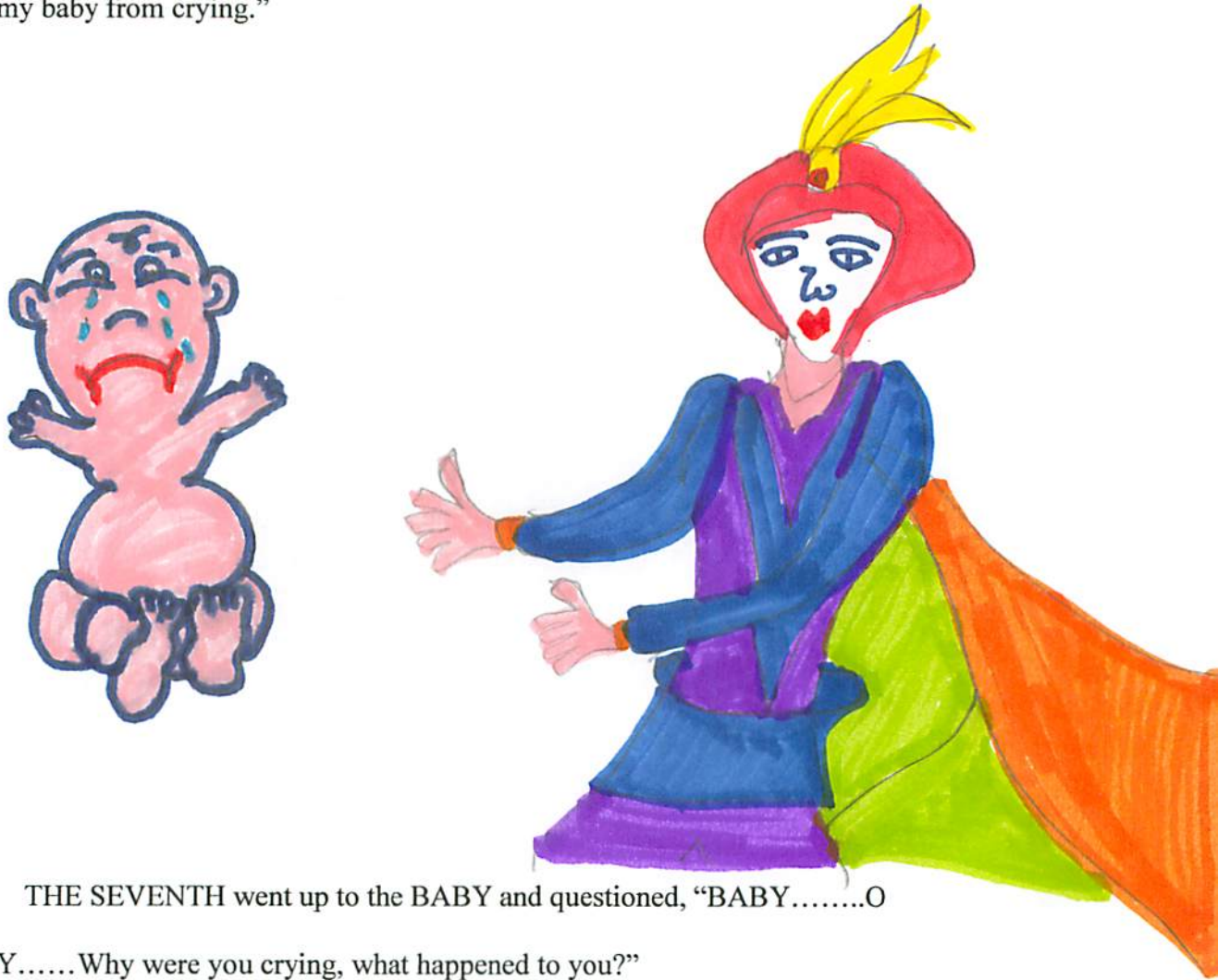
THE SEVENTH asked, "Why didn't you get any food?"

The peasant replied, "My mother didn't feed me."



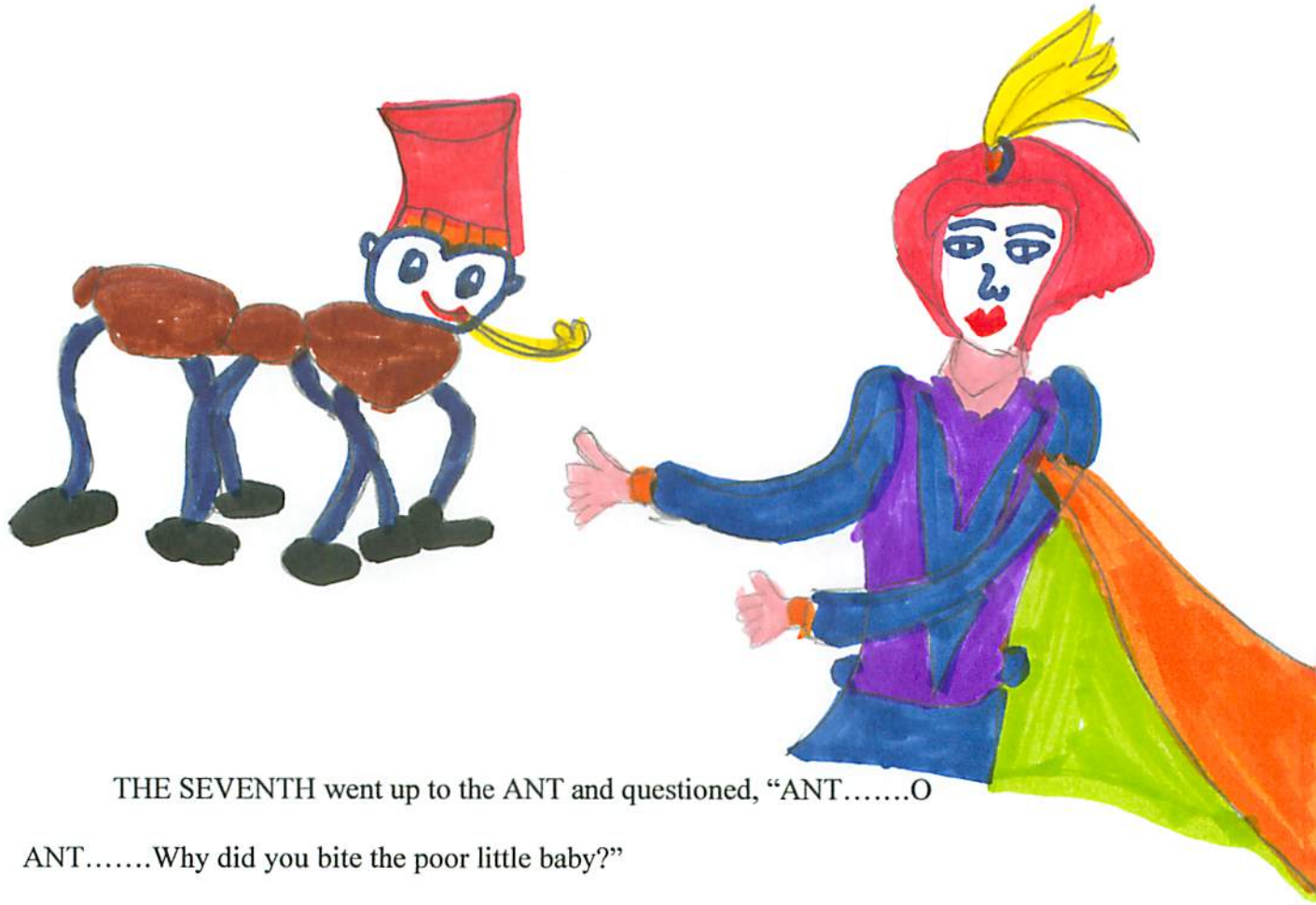
THE SEVENTH went up to the peasants MOTHER and questioned, "MOTHER.....O MOTHER.....Why didn't you feed your son, mother?"

The poor mother answered, "I wanted to feed my son, but I was busy trying to stop my baby from crying."



THE SEVENTH went up to the BABY and questioned, "BABY.....O
BABY..... Why were you crying, what happened to you?"

The cute little baby answered, "The ant bit me."



THE SEVENTH went up to the ANT and questioned, “ANT.....O
ANT.....Why did you bite the poor little baby?”

The ant answered, “I bit her because she poked my stomach and ruined my ant
palace.”