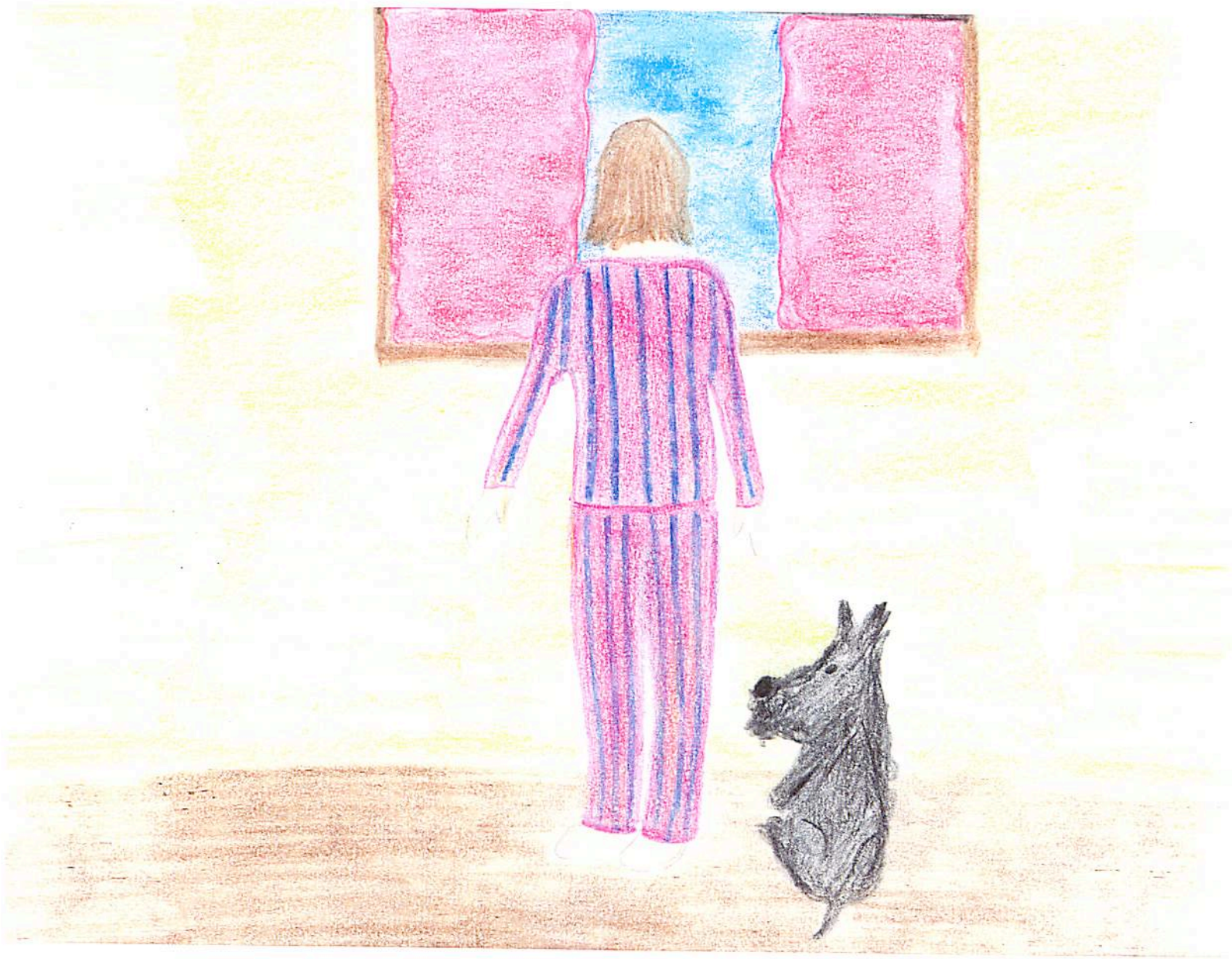


The Adventures of Sadie and Chief
By Zoe Janachek

Sadie looked out of her bedroom window. It was still dark outside. From the hallway she could hear *click clack click clack*. A little black nose pushed open the bedroom door and Chief the scotty dog sprung onto Sadie's bed. He nuzzled next to her under the big fluffy blanket.

"Mom said we have to wait until we see the sun rise, then we can wake her and Daddy up," whispered Sadie to Chief. Chief nuzzled deeper under the covers.

Soon Sadie could hear the *cheep cheep cheep* of birds outside her window, Chief's ears perked up to listen too. Slowly the sun began to rise. First the sky turned red, then orange, then finally, the golden sun appeared.



“There it is Chief!! There's the sun! We can go wake up Mommy and Daddy.”

Sadie slipped her feet into her fuzzy slippers and rushed toward her parent's bedroom. Chief stood, stretched his little legs and jumped off the bed. His slippery nails made him slide across the shiny wood floors; then he scurried after Sadie.

“Mommy! Daddy! It’s time, we can see the sun. Can we go to the beach now?!”

“It’s too early to go to the beach now sweetie. We’ll go in a few hours when it gets warmer.”

“But Chief and I want to go now! We’ve been waiting all day, since it was dark out!!”

“Just be patient honey. We’ll all have some breakfast, then we’ll pack the car and we’ll be on our way to the beach before you know it.”

But Sadie couldn't wait. She was too excited. This was her first beach trip of the summer. Sadie and Chief hurried around the house and yard collecting everything they would need for their great beach adventure. Sadie found her big green bucket and little orange shovel. Chief ran to a basket on the floor in the corner of the room and rummaged around until he found his leash. It was caught on something, he tugged and tugged until it finally broke free then he ran to Sadie to show off his success.

“Good boy. But I don’t think you’ll need that today. You can run free on the beach. We’re going to go on so many adventures. Aren't you excited?”

Chief tilted his head as if he were imagining the great adventures.

She added a towel and goggles to the pile that the shovel and bucket were forming. Sadie found a box of crayons and some paper. She wasn't sure what she would use them for but thought they might come in handy at some point. Chief trotted into the room holding his favorite teddy bear in his mouth. He set it down and barked.

“No Chief, not that. It’s too special. It might get dirty. Or a seagull could steal it.”

Chief growled and returned the teddy bear to his bed. He looked around. Suddenly the wagging of his tail was causing his entire body to wiggle. He barked and attacked a tennis ball with excitement.

“Good idea Chief. We can play fetch.”



Sadie and Chief continued to collect items for their beach adventure. Finally Sadie's parents were ready to go.

"This is a lot of stuff Sadie. Are you sure you need all of this for the beach?" asked Sadie's dad.

"Yes, right Chief?" Chief barked in agreement.

On the way to the beach they stopped at a little grocery store and bought food for their picnic lunch. Sadie and Chief waited outside of the store. They could tell that they were close. The air smelled like the ocean and sand and salt. A short while later they were at the beach.

“Come on Chief!” shouted Sadie as she ran towards the beach from the car.

“Wait!” said Sadie’s mom. “We’re all going to eat some lunch first, then you can explore.”

“Do we have to? Can Chief and I take some food and have our own picnic?”

“Well...alright,” said Sadie’s dad. “But you can’t go too far.”

“We won’t. Thank you!” smiled Sadie.

Sadie’s mom wrapped some bread, cheese, grapes and apples in a napkin. She told them to be careful and not to stray too far. Sadie put the food, some paper, crayons and the shovel into her backpack. And, with that Sadie and Chief took off running down the beach. Soon both Sadie and Chief grew tired and slowed from a run to a walk. Then they sat down on some rocks to rest and catch their breath. She ate a few grapes and tossed a few to Chief. Suddenly, Chief’s ears perked up and twitched. Sadie listened carefully.



A faint splashing sound was coming from a near by rock. They walked toward the noise.

“Be careful,” whispered Sadie.

Sadie peeked over the edge of the rock and gasp.

“It’s a tide pool Chief!” She picked him up so that they could look together.

There was a deep hole in the rock and it was filled with water. All along the wall of the rock were mussels and sea anemones. Tiny fish darted and dashed into dark corners to hide. An angry crab snapped its claws when Chief tried to sniff it.

They stood and watched the creatures for a while but soon Chief's nose began to twitch. He wiggled and Sadie set him down. He peered down the beach, Sadie squinted her eyes and tried to spot what had caught his attention. Finally she figured it out. Down the beach was a flock of seagulls.

“Do you want to go chase those birds Chief?” she asked.

Chief's tail began to wag furiously. And, with that they both took off running full speed down the beach. As they approached, the birds flew into the sky. Chief and Sadie decided to sit down and rest for a while. After resting for a few minutes Sadie noticed something shiny out of the corner of her eye. She turned to look. It was a large green bottle.



“Look Chief? A bottle, do you think there is a message in it?”
Chief sprinted to the bottle and sniffed it, then Sadie picked it
up.

“There is!” Sadie squeezed her tiny fingers into the neck of the bottle and pulled out the piece of paper. She uncurled the paper.

“Oh no Chief! The cap wasn't on tight enough and the message got soggy. I can't read the words.” Chief looked puzzled.

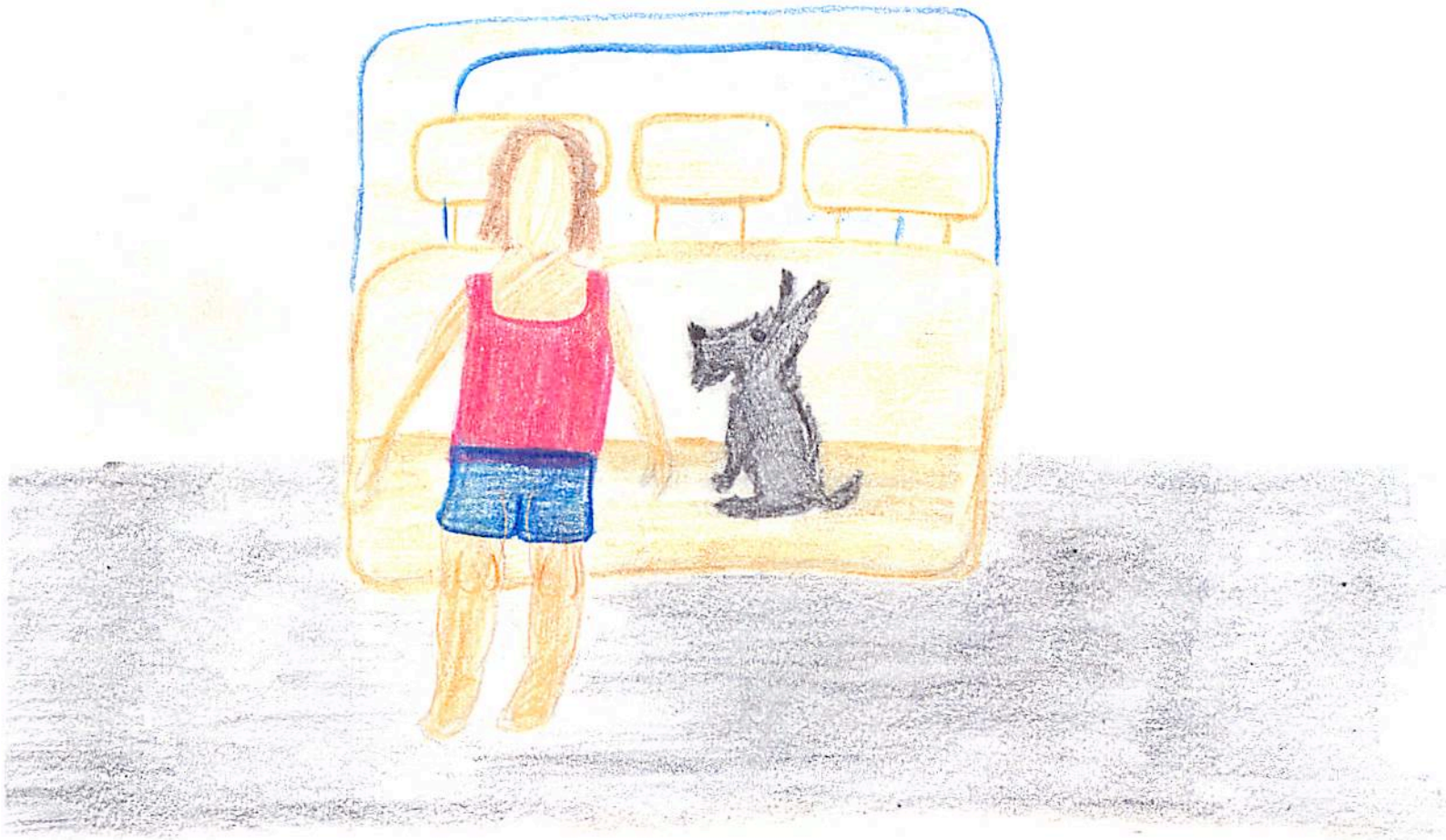
Sadie knew just what to do. She quickly pulled a fresh piece of paper and the box of crayons from her backpack.

Hello, my name is Sadie. She wrote. I am here on the beach with my dog Chief. We found your letter but it was soggy so we couldn't read it. We hope you're having a great time at sea. Send a letter back if any pirates bother you and Chief can come bite them.

Bye for now! Sadie and Chief.

Sadie carefully rolled the piece of paper and stuck it into the bottle. She made sure the cap was twisted on extra tight. And, with that she tossed the bottle back into the sea.

Sadie and Chief returned to the spot on the beach where Mom and Dad were. They built sandcastles and splashed in the water for the rest of the day.



On the way home Sadie thought of the green bottle floating in the ocean. She hoped someone would find it soon. It had been a wonderful day filled with great adventures. Sadie and Chief were soon fast asleep in the back seat dreaming of future beach adventures.