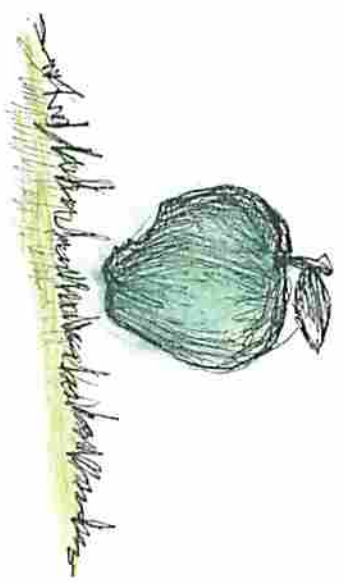


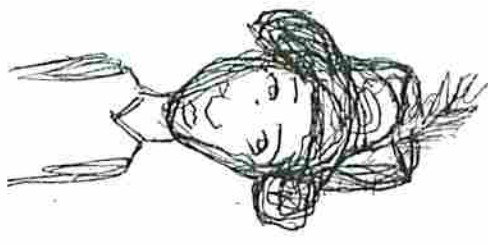
Jade always wears a hat. She doesn't eat green apples and she hates lying in green grass.

Jades favorite color is grey.



This is why, on sunny days, while everyone else is smiling, Jade is angry.

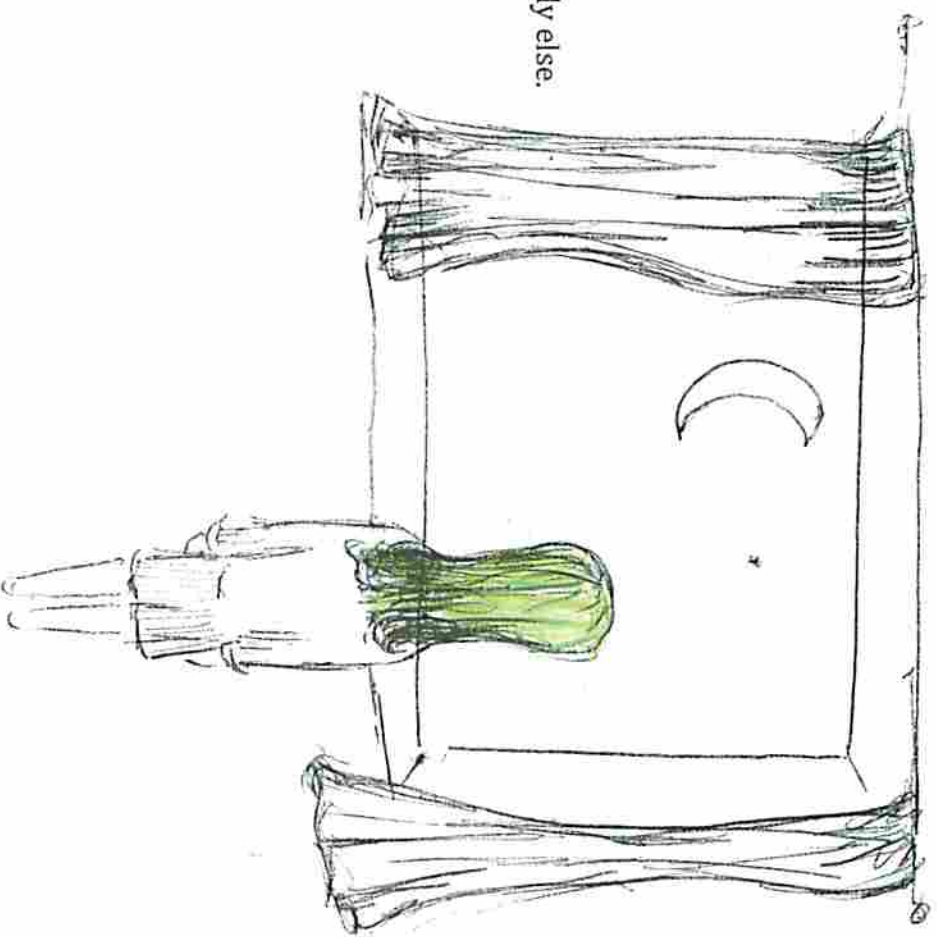
On grey days colors are muted but today with the sun shining. Everything would be bright. All the colors of the world would be popping. And under her hat, Jade would be hot and frowning.



See, there was one thing that made Jade different. Underneath the hat that she never went without was a head covered in hair that was the brightest color of green. She couldn't help it, she was born that way. But Jade hated her hair. It made her different from the other kids. They all had black, brown, red, or blonde hair—but nothing like green. She was forever nervous about anyone at school seeing her green hair.



One night, Jade was looking out the window and saw the first star of the night and she decided to make a wish. She wished for there to be no color in the world so that none could tell that her hair was an astonishingly bright color of green and then she would finally look like everybody else.



When Jade woke up in the morning, she woke up to grey. And when she looked in the mirror she realized her wish had come true—even the usual green of her hair was no longer there, instead, she had a head of grey hair. Jade smiled, leaving her hats on their rack, she went to school.

On her walk, she enjoyed the new found freedom of her hair blowing out behind her in the breeze, of how refreshing it was not to be afraid of people laughing at her if they caught a glimpse of green. The world was so many shades of grey, she loved seeing her favorite color in everything, saw detail in things she hadn't even noticed before. When she started skipping a little, she instinctively reached to her head to keep her hat on but realized that it was a worry she could do without now.



But when Jade got to school, something was different and it wasn't just because the whole place was grey. There was an odd silence and no one was playing or even smiling. They sat in their desks, hands crossed. No notes passed, no paper airplanes soaring through the air, no secrets whispered. Jade could hardly recognize her friends for everyone in the class was dressed remarkably similar.

"What is with everybody?" Jade asked her friend Tonya.

"Whatever do you mean?" Replied Tonya.

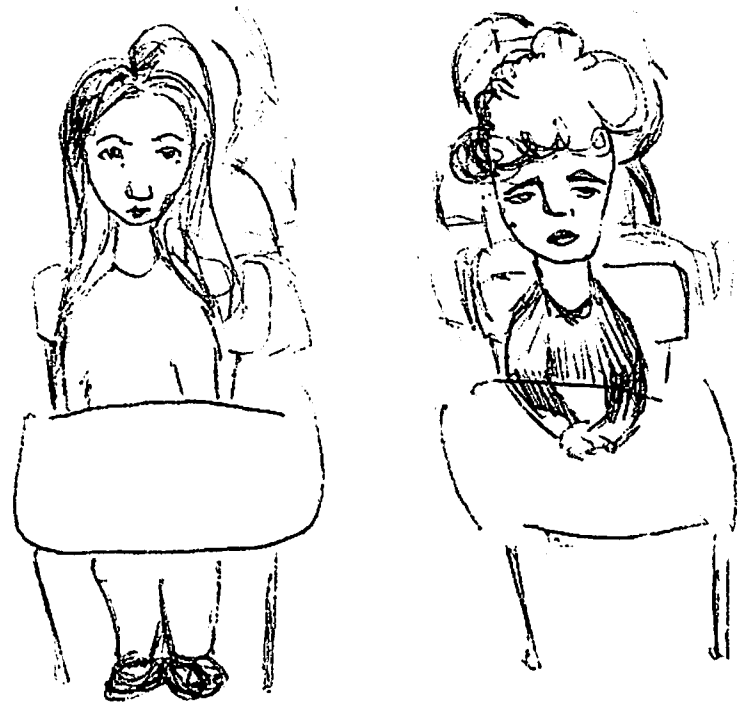
"Oh no. If this is what a world without color is like then I don't like it at all!" She said more to herself than to Tonya. But Tonya replied with a surprising answer, "What's color?"

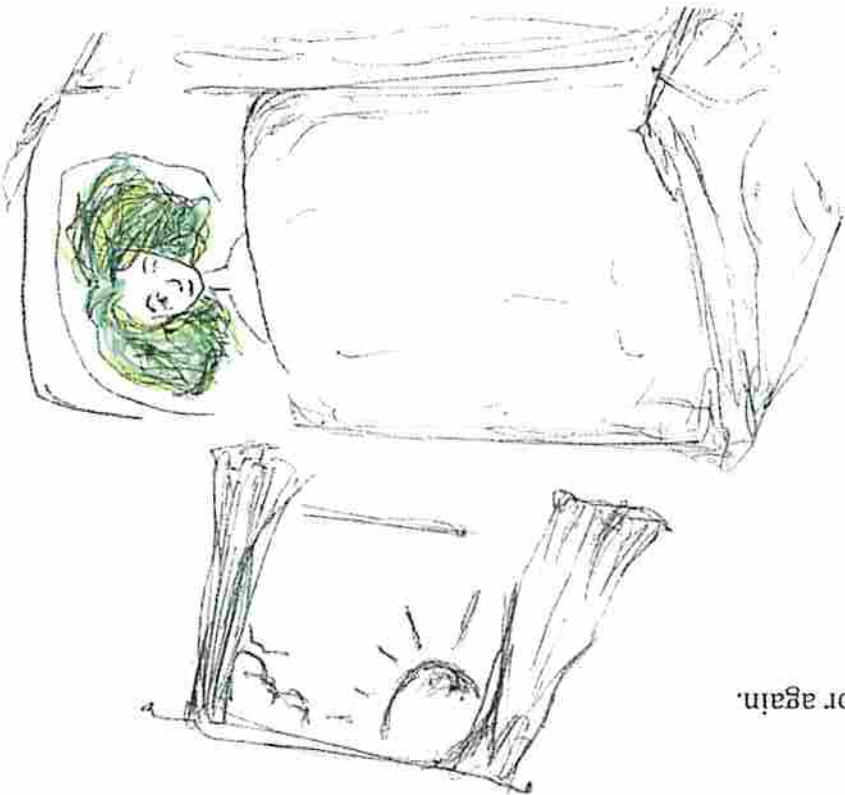
"Uuh, its. Its like...brighter or...different from all this grey..." Tonya was looking at Jade with her head tilted to one side looking very confused. "Its like the way fruit tastes," Jade tried again. How do you describe color to someone who has never seen it?

"I don't get it," said Tonya.

"Never mind." And Jade turned around in her seat with a frown.

I guess that's what makes color so special, Jade thought to herself. Its so much a part of the world that I didn't even realize how important it was. Jade realized that she was the only one who could fix this. She hated how dull everyone had become, didn't like how no one was different. And suddenly she missed her green hair.





So that night, when she saw the first star, she wished for there to be color again.
Hoping with all her heart that all would go back to normal and
the world would be vibrant again. The next day, when she woke to
the sun in her eyes—yellow and bright, she smiled. Leaving her hats
behind she left her hair out, green and proud.



At school when people saw her hair, it was as if they hadn't seen a color more beautiful in their lives. They ooded and awed, demanding an explanation as to why she had hid this before. And when she explained that she used to hate it, the other kids just shook their heads, "Its just what makes you different," they all said.

