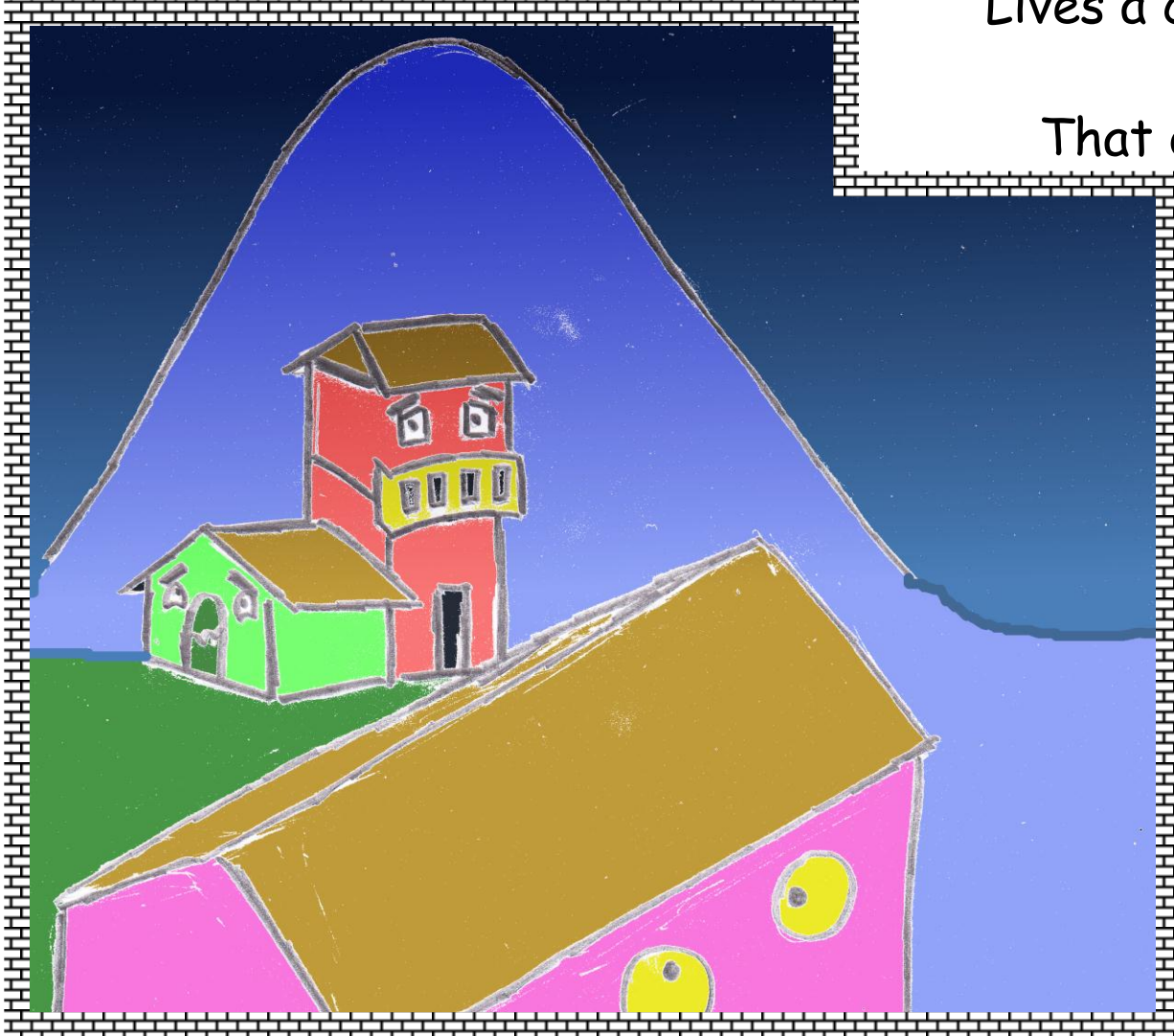


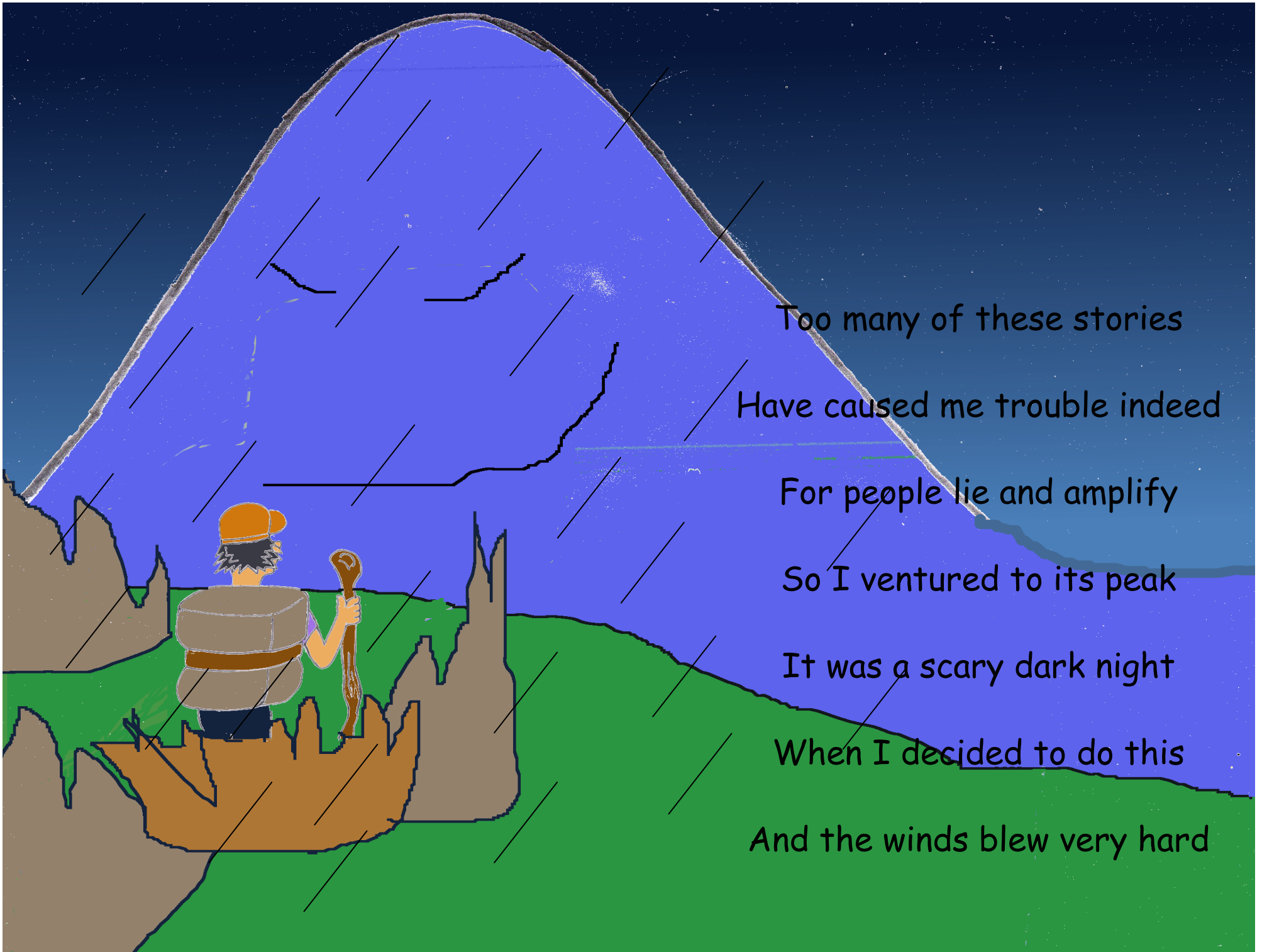
The Mountain's Monster

By Giovanni Valencia



Up above the scary mountain
Where the spooky noises shriek
Lives a creature of many faces
That only at night appears





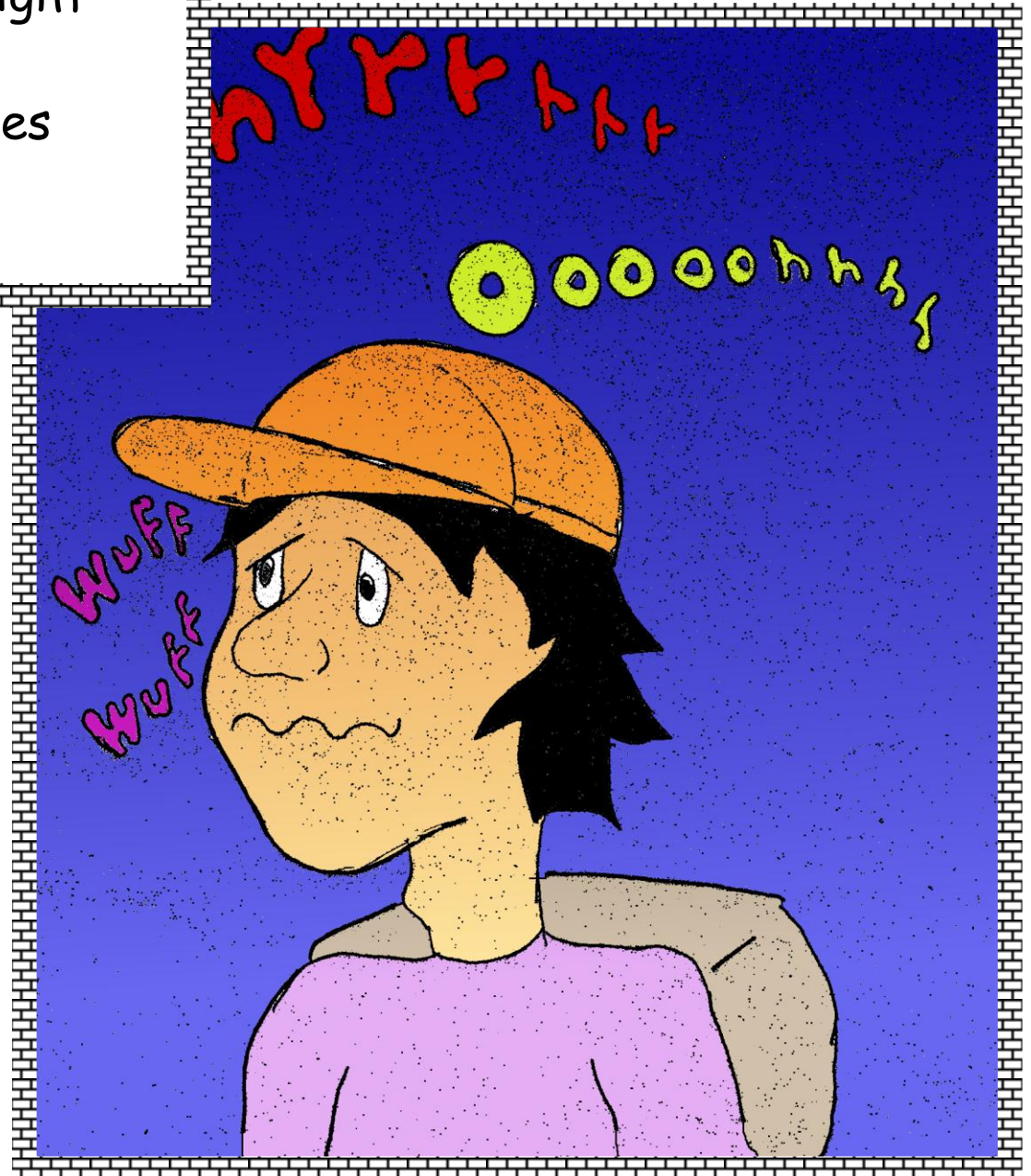
Too many of these stories
Have caused me trouble indeed
For people lie and amplify
So I ventured to its peak
It was a scary dark night
When I decided to do this
And the winds blew very hard

As I climbed the great mountain

I heard the sounds of the night

The noises of my nightmares

The monster's lullabies



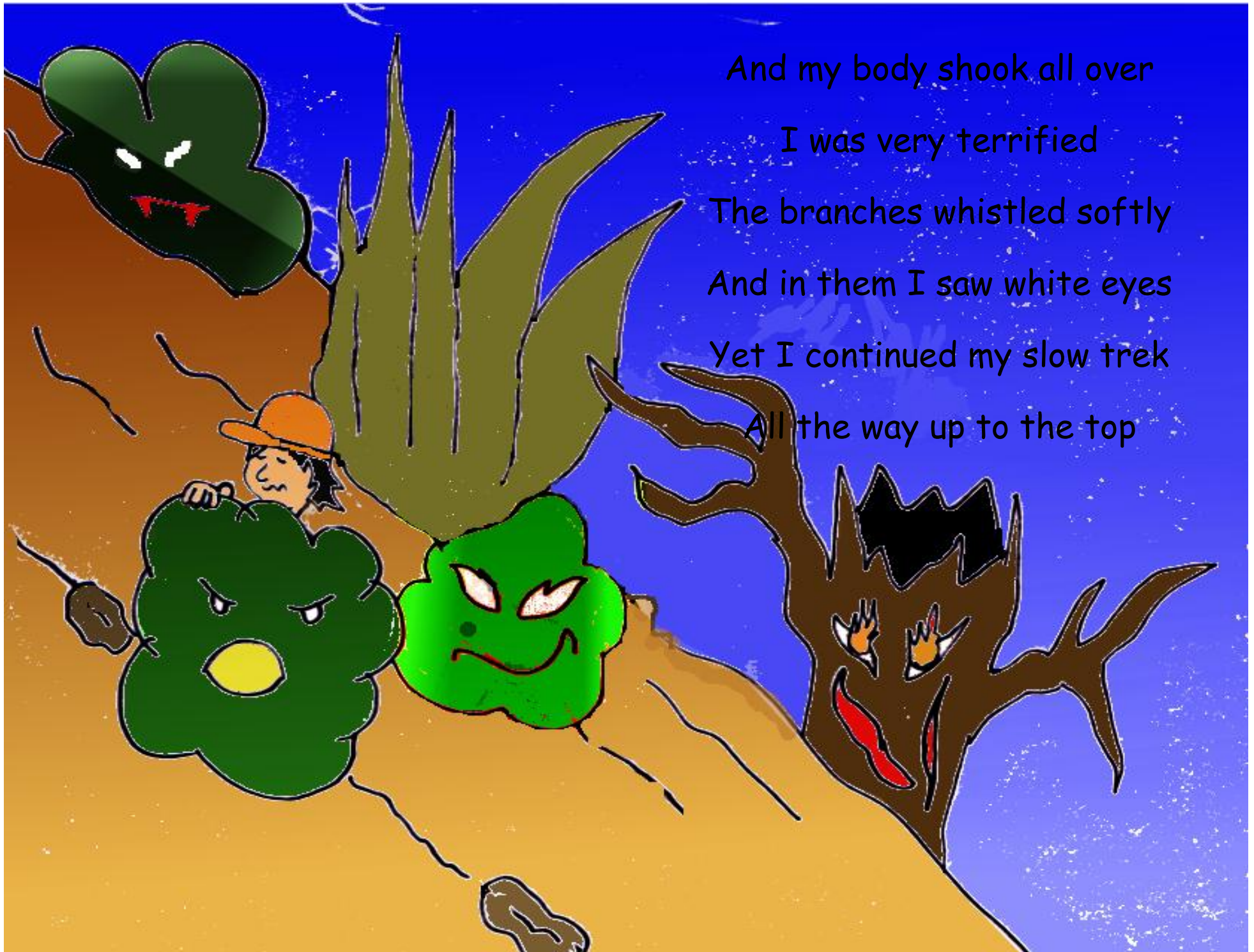
The ground was very muddy

That a few times I slid

Back down a few meters

Making it impossible to begin





And my body shook all over

I was very terrified

The branches whistled softly

And in them I saw white eyes

Yet I continued my slow trek

All the way up to the top

Wet and shivering I wandered
Until the monster's cave showed
Between the trees and out of nowhere
Something inside it glowed
And out the dark the biggest eyes
That I had ever seen



But you see I had expected this

For no monster in their right mind

Would permit a stranger in their house

No monster would be so kind



But as the eyes grew closer and bigger

So did my surprise

For this was no monster at all

This was a cute cub with big eyes



He was friendly I might add

And said the mountain was his home

Said he'd seen no monsters there

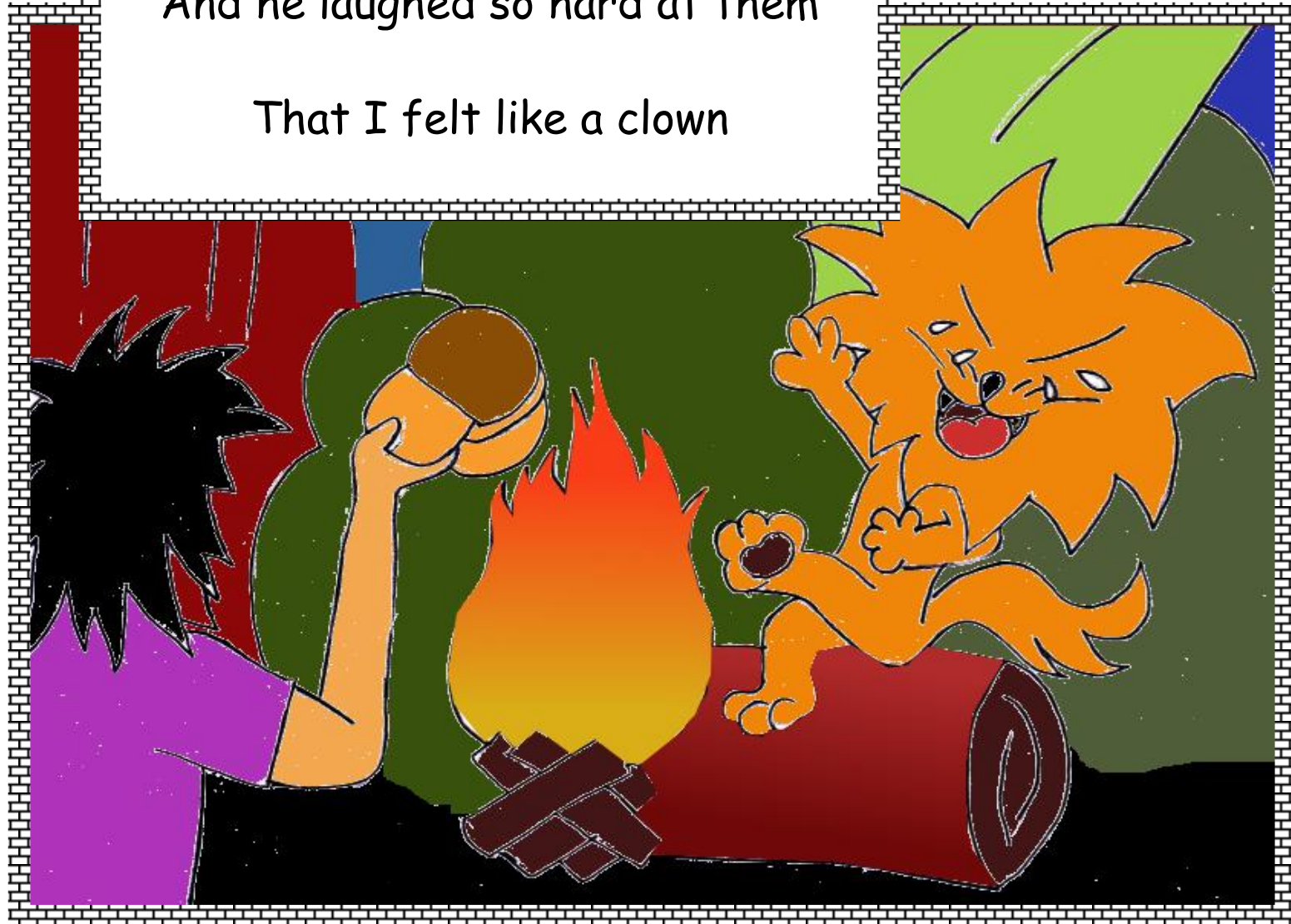
Under the trees or the stones



We talked the whole night
About the way he lived up there
He lived a peaceful life
And he never got scared



I told him about the stories
That went around the town
And he laughed so hard at them
That I felt like a clown



Through the night and till the morning

We talked and drank tea

As it turned out the little monster

Had better manners than me





In the morning as I was leaving
He said "it's been a pleasure to meet
Tell the people there's no monster"
But I couldn't guarantee...

He asked why...

And I told him it's a whole other story

And that the people believe

What they can't understand is bad

And so finally we agreed

To keep the legend as it was

And not bother to tell a soul

That the scary mountain was the house

Of the monster with big claws