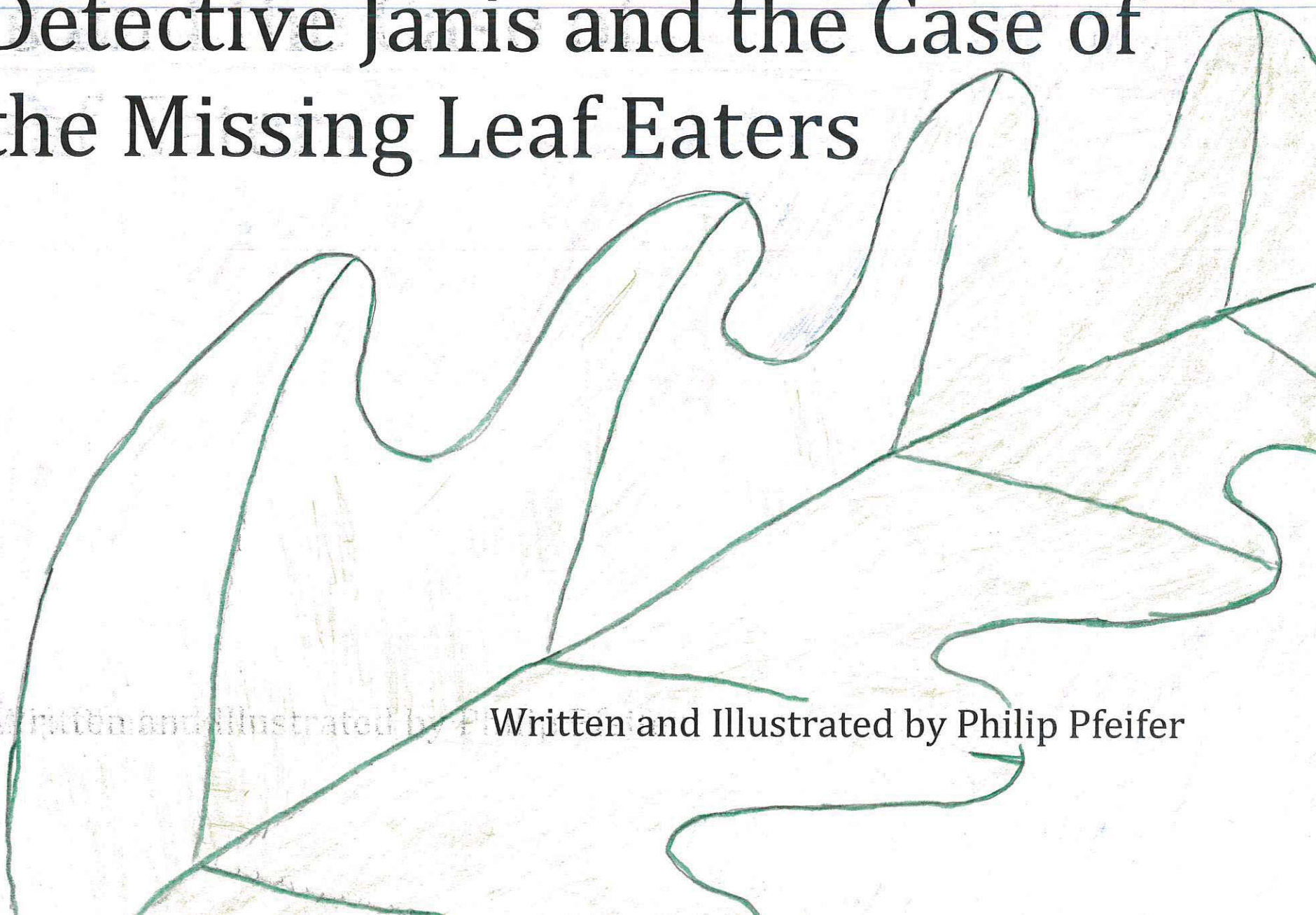


# Detective Janis and the Case of the Missing Leaf Eaters

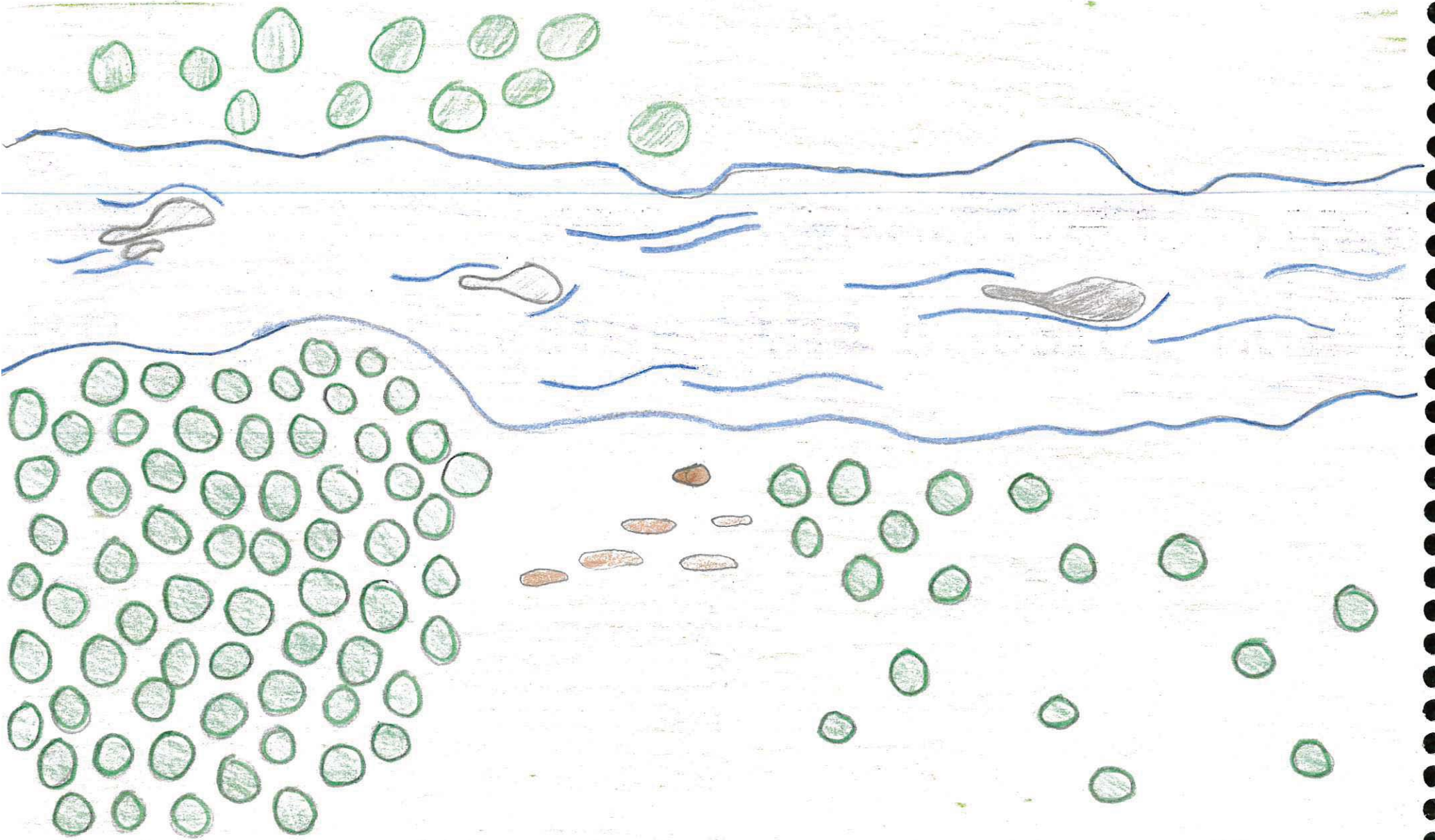


Written and Illustrated by Philip Pfeifer

I wrote this piece to provide an educational children's book that explains the changes from forests to grasslands in the Miocene. I believe that children have a larger aptitude for understanding scientific concepts than we give them credit for. In this vein, I decided to write this children's book on the Janis et al article, and break down the scientific article in terms that I think would be reasonable for ages 3-6 to understand. The illustrations are there to entertain and help clarify to the students the content of the page.

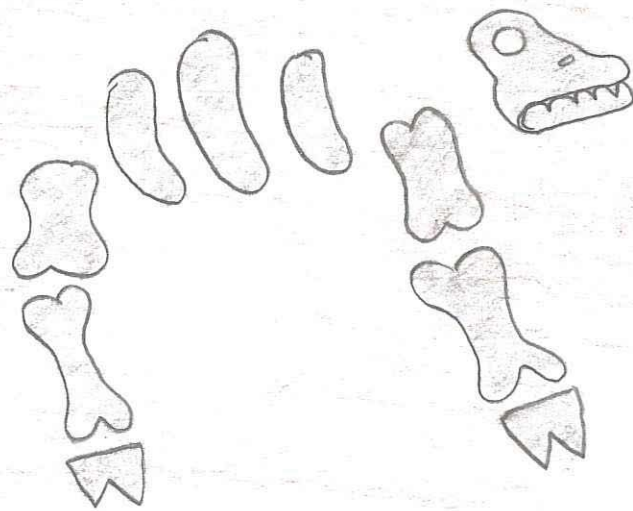
A Long Time Ago, Before You or Me, There Used to be a World, Full of  
Animals and Trees





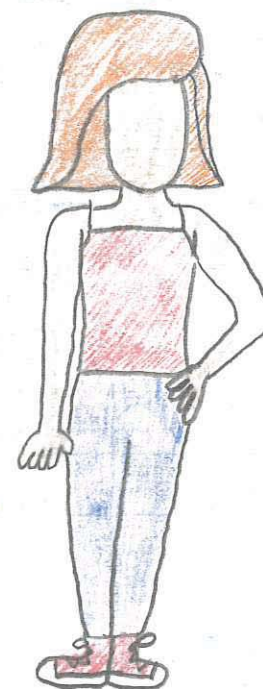
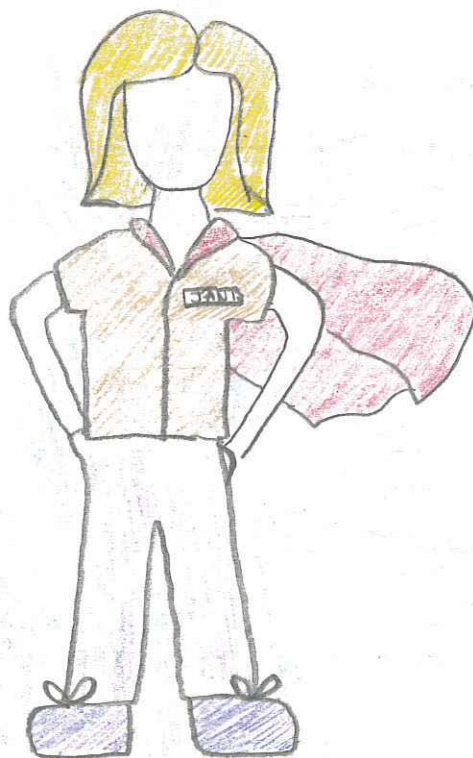
There Weren't That Many Grasslands, in the Early Miocene, and  
Everywhere Were Browsers, or Things That Eat Only Leaves

But Today We Rarely See Them, Because Some Went Extinct,

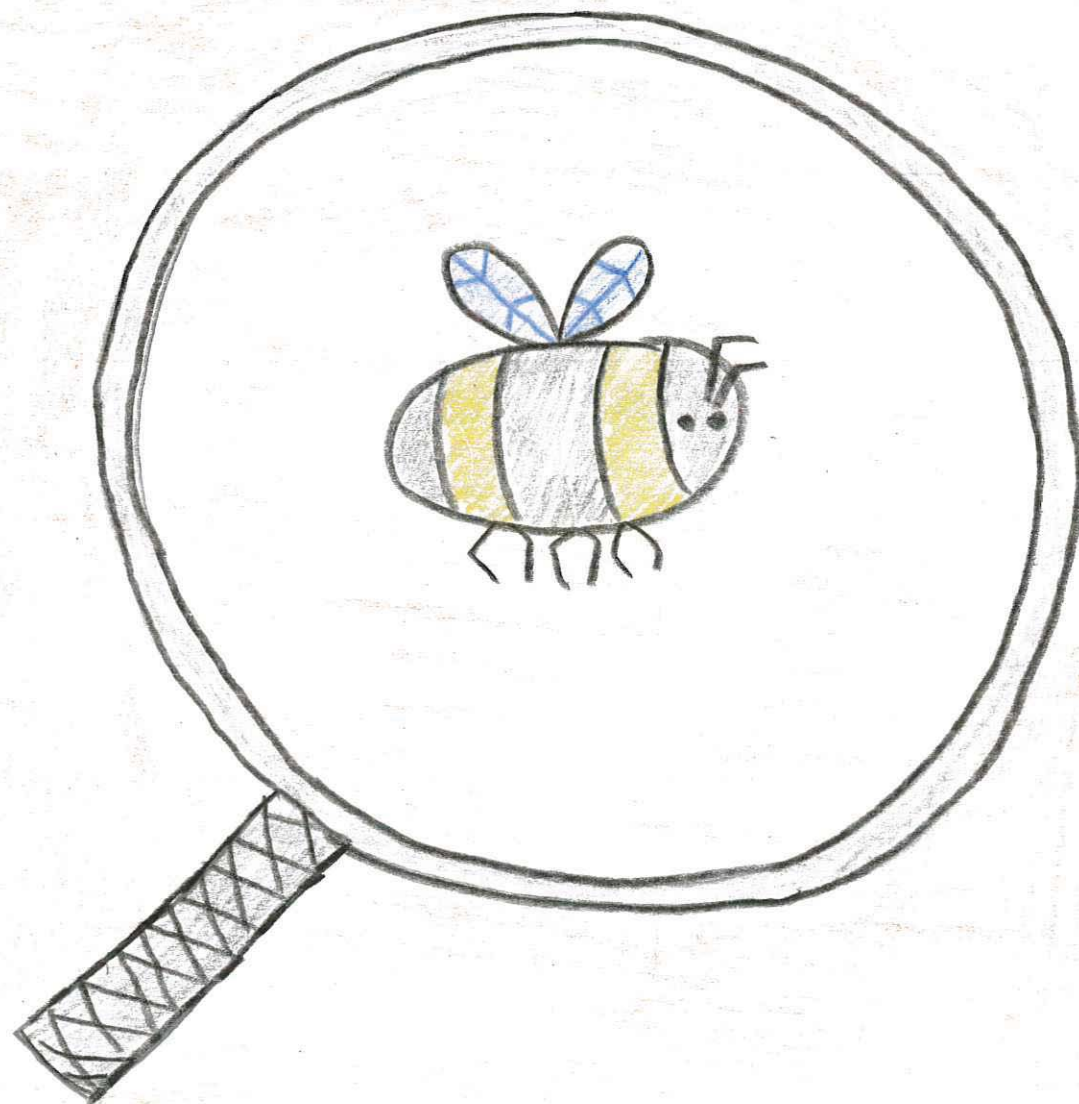


And No One Had an Idea on What to Say or Think

Then Along Came Janis, and Damuth and Theodor, and They Set Out  
to Find, What Happened Long Before



They Worked as P. I.'s, or Paleontologist Investigators, and Examined the Fossils of Everything, from Insects to Alligators



They Searched to Find the Reason, Why Browsers were Gone, and  
How Come Our Hooved Friends, Weren't Able to Live On





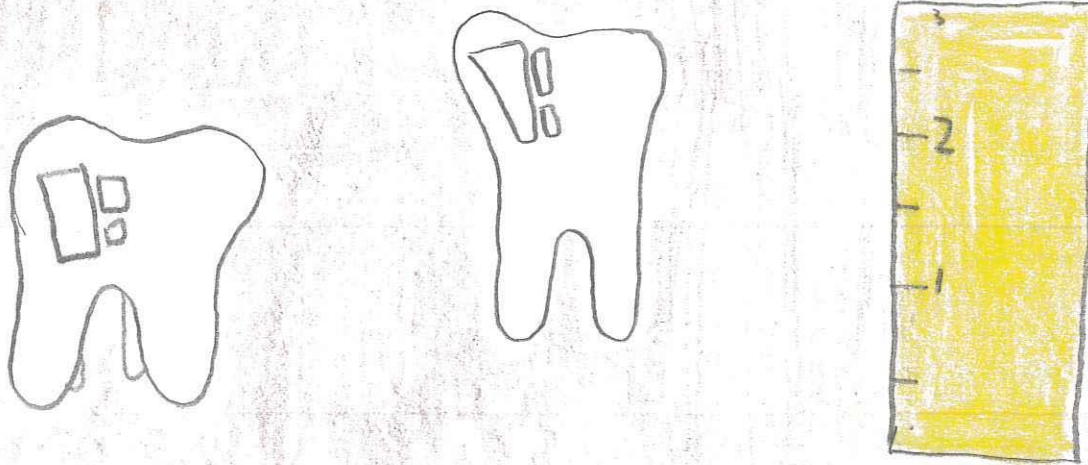
The Detectives Gathered Fossils, Scattered in the Dirt, and Gained Clues As to the Changes, That Took Place on Planet Earth



The Fossils Were Pretty Tricky, When Janis Put Them Into Groups,  
But an Idea Came to Her, When She Saw A Tooth



She Said, "Give Me All The Fossils, With the Longer Teeth, Because They Need Such Long Chompers, as Grass is What They Used to Eat,



Then They Took The Fossils, Whose Teeth Were Really Short, and Put Them in the Group, that Used to Eat Leaves and Snort

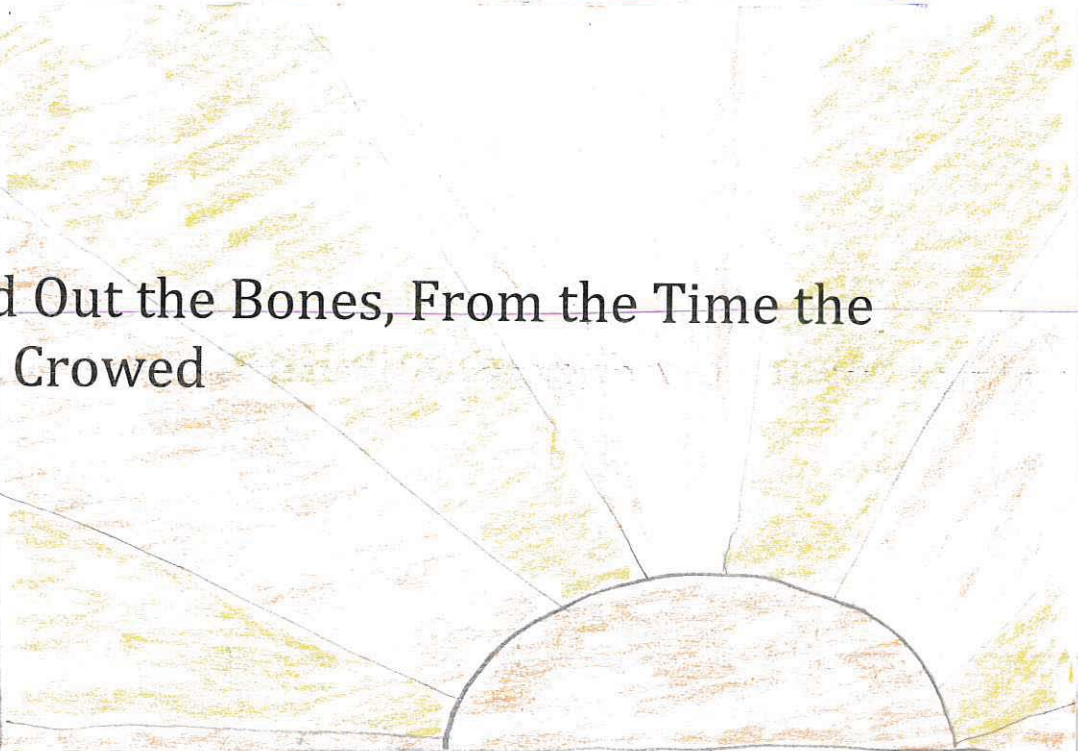
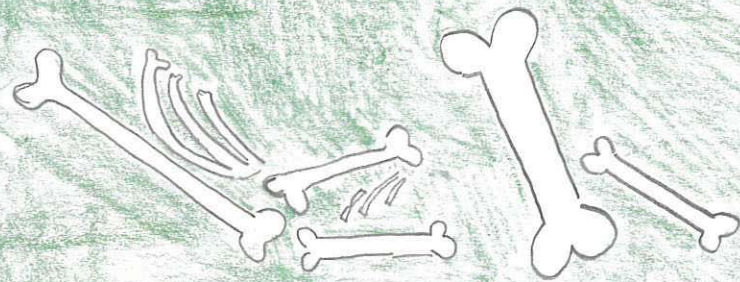
And When They Had Grouped the Fossils, and Put Them on the Tables, They Counted Out Their Numbers, as Best as They Were Able

SHORT  
(BROWERS)

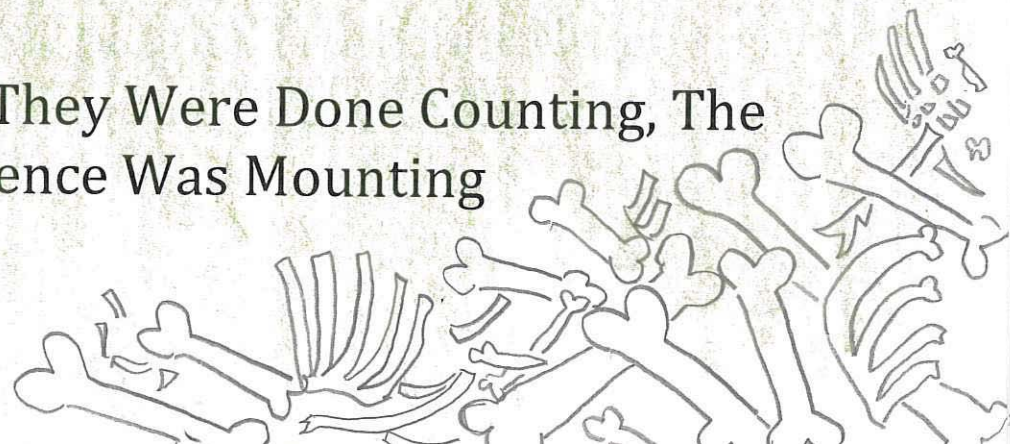

LONG  
(GRAZERS)



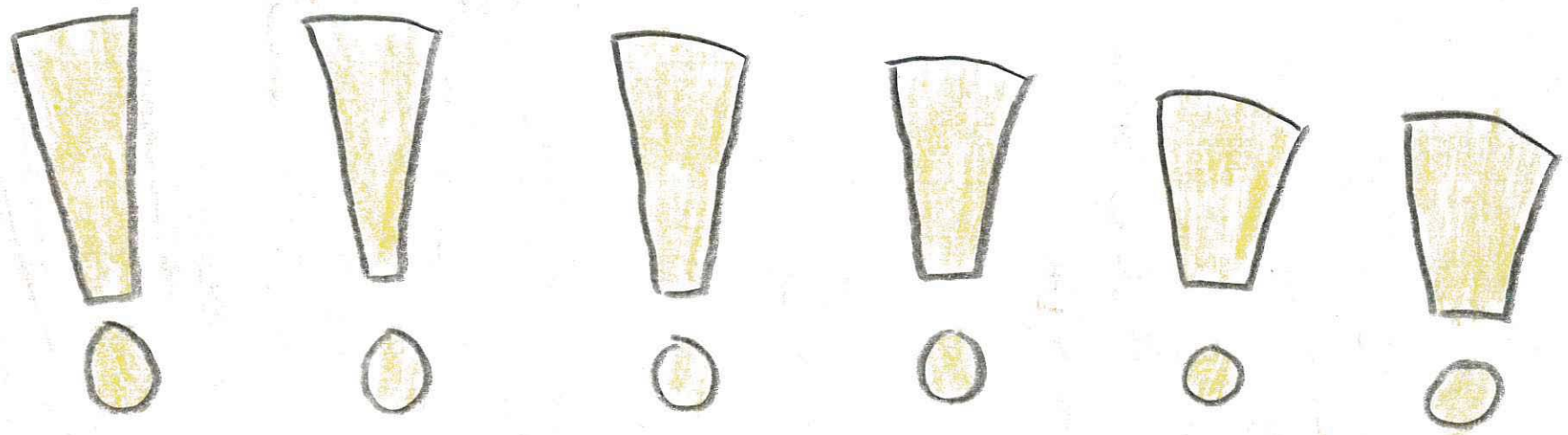
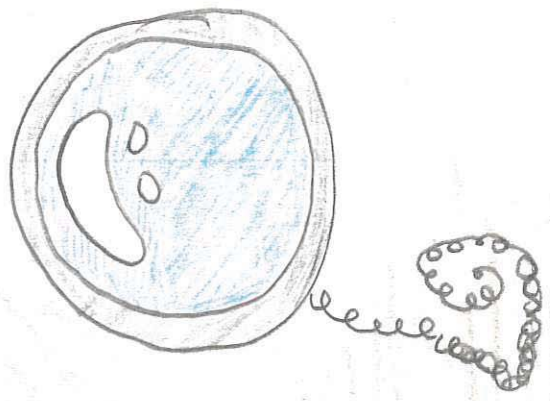

Deep Into the Night, They Counted Out the Bones, From the Time the Sun Went Down Until the Rooster Crowed

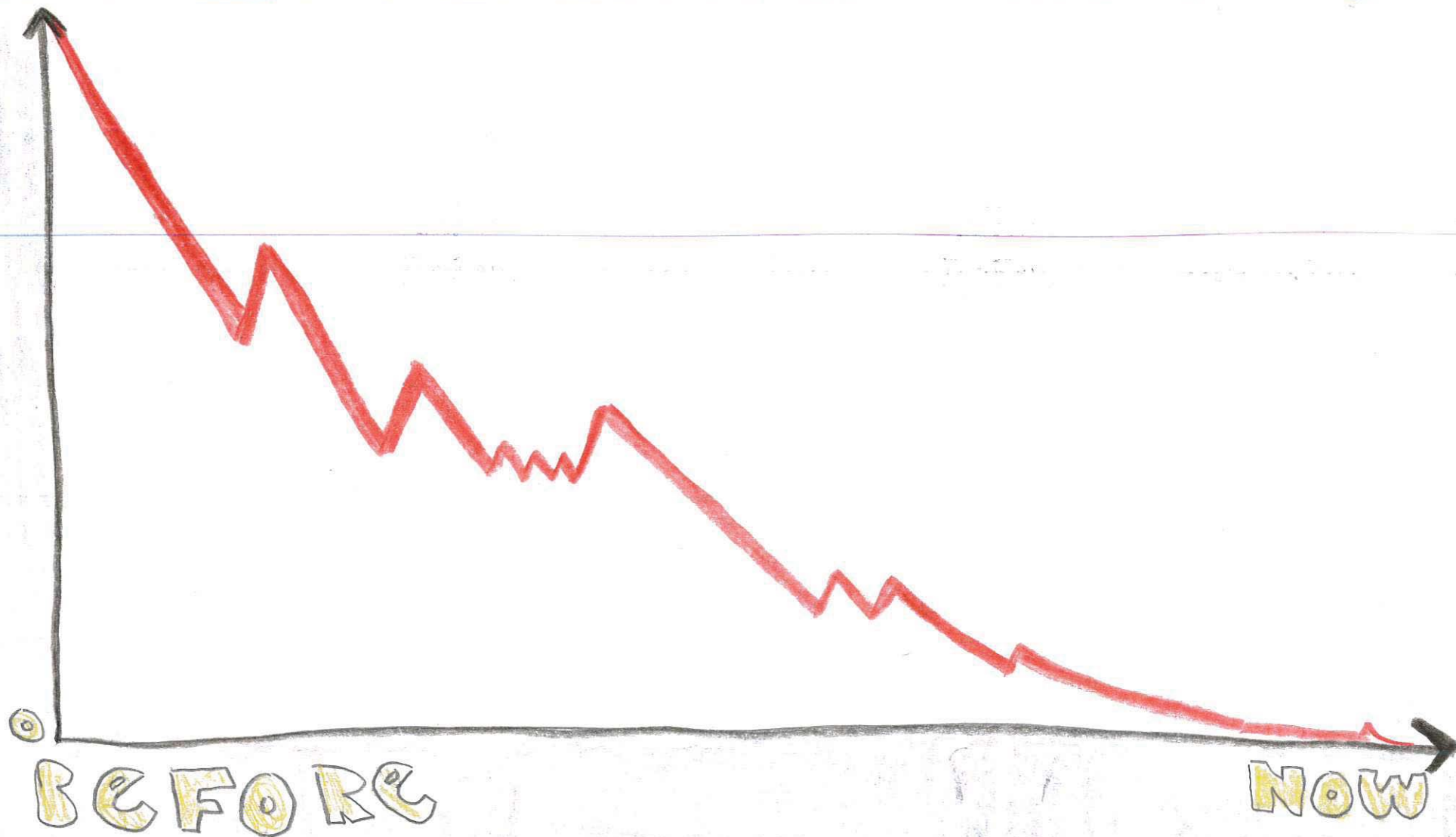


But Then That Next Morning, When They Were Done Counting, The Detectives Finally Saw That the Evidence Was Mounting



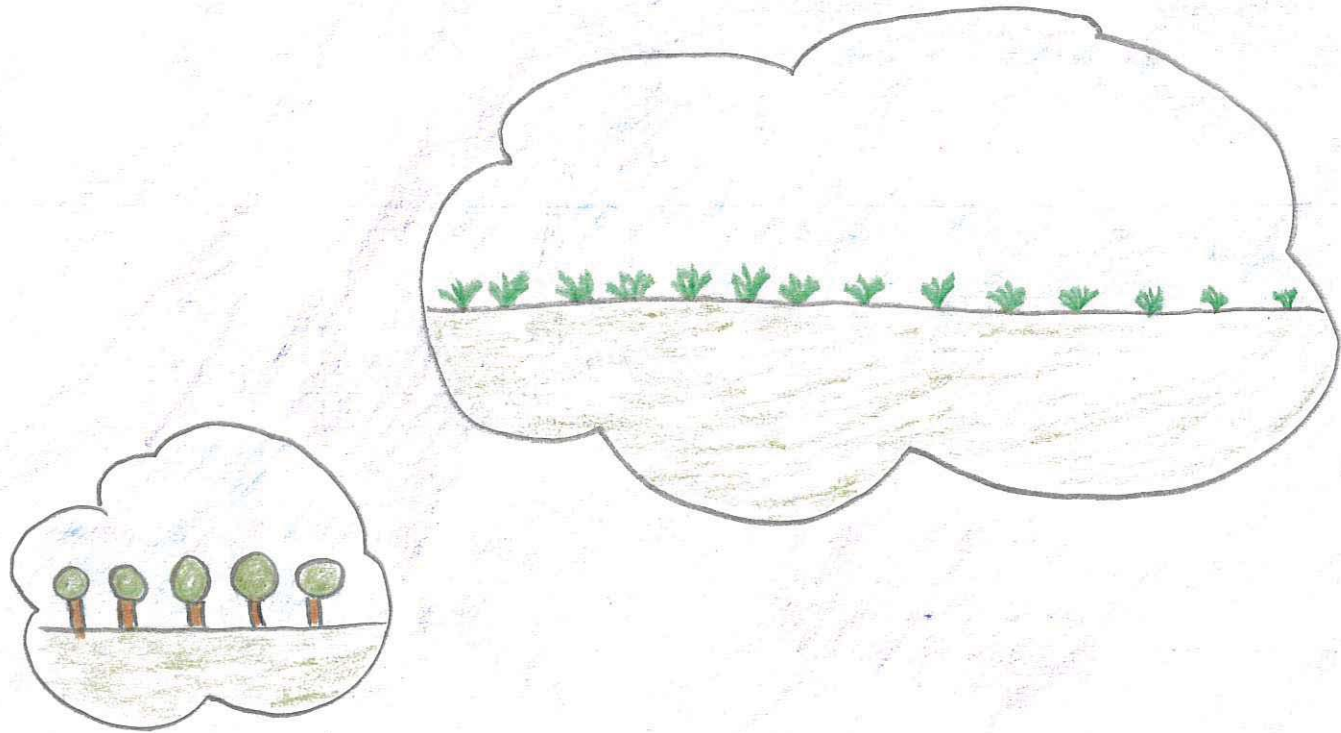
They Were Surprised at What They Saw, as It was Unexpected, but  
Wanted to Let People Know, as No One Would Have Guessed It





The Bones Couldn't Lie, The Numbers Told the Truth, but Numbers of Both Groups Went Down in Time, Whether Short, or Long, Toothed

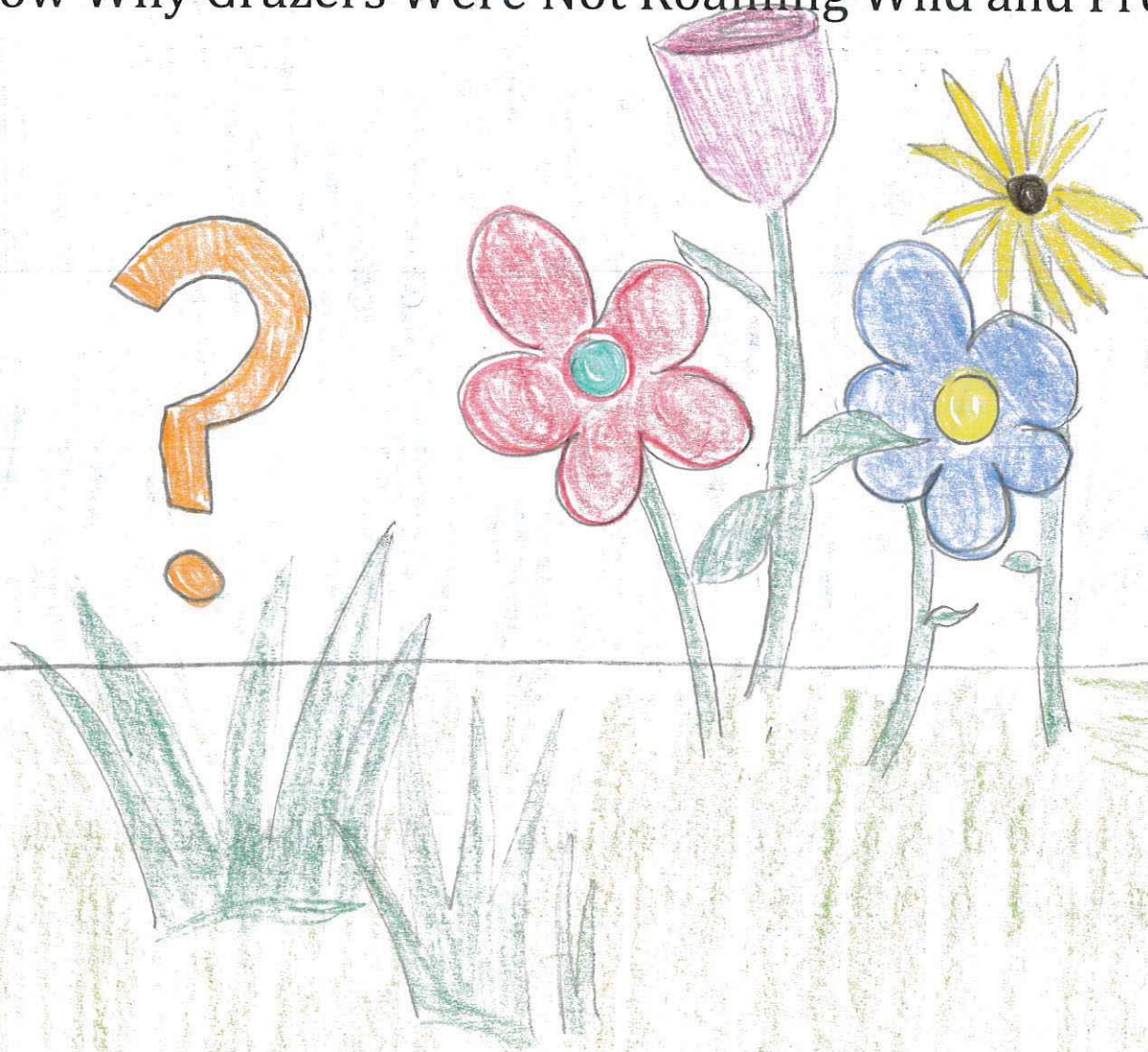
They Puzzled at the Questions, at What This Could Mean, Until One Day Janis Got a Thought, Almost Like in a Dream



In This Thought She Saw The Forests, The Trees All Went Away, and Sprouting In their Places, Were Grasses There To Stay



This Explained Why Browsers, Couldn't Find Their Trees, But Didn't Show Why Grazers Were Not Roaming Wild and Free

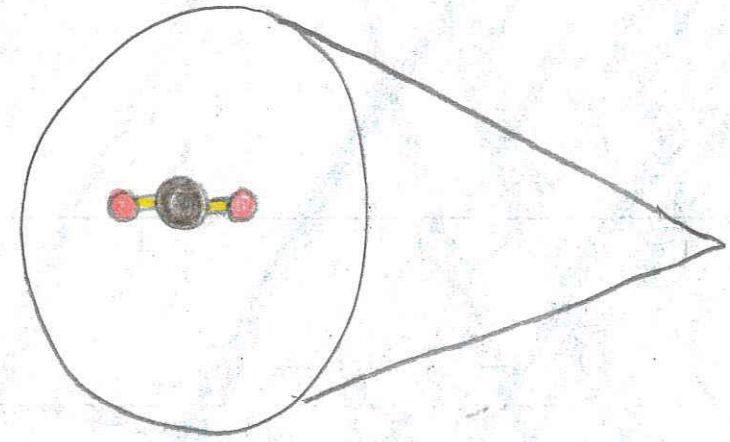


She Then Thought That Just Maybe, If the Trees Were No Longer  
There, the Answer Was All Around Us, Found Within the Air



Since Air Is What Plants Use, Much Like You and Me, Maybe the Air  
Was Different, and the Trees then Couldn't Breathe

Janis and Her Team, Came To Decide, That the Air Then Was Lacking Carbon Di-Oxide



CLOSE UP

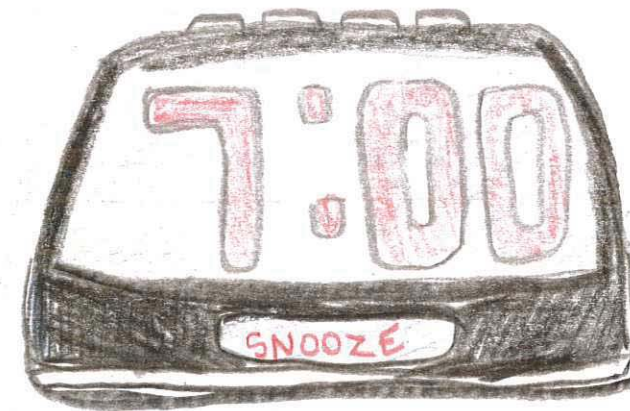
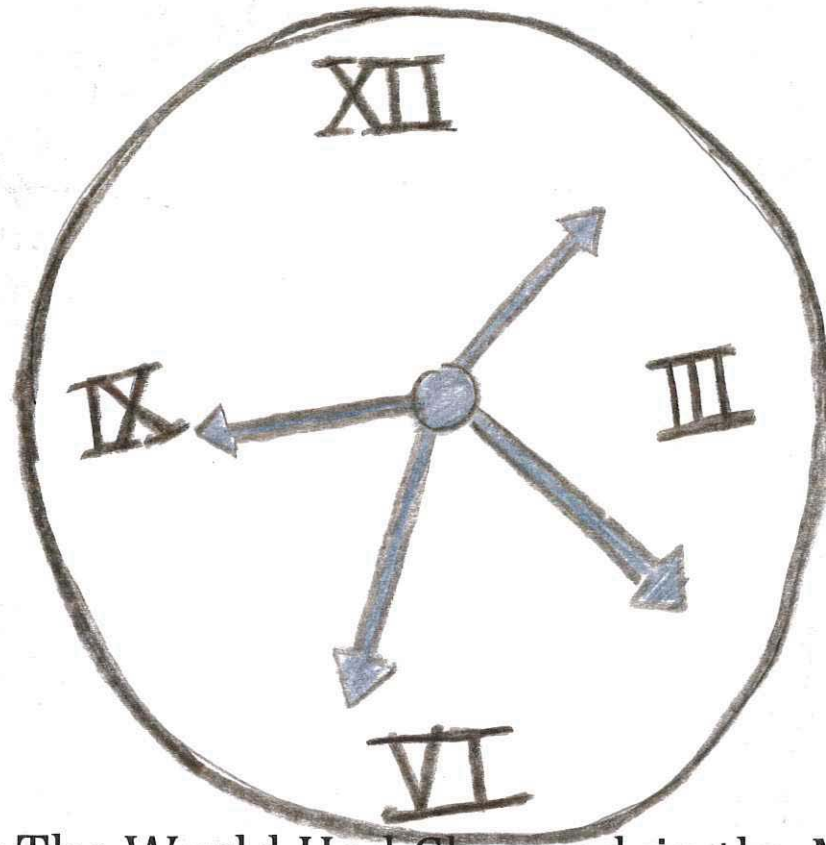
AIR

Just Like We Have Parts, Like Noses, Ears, and Hair, Sometimes Parts of Things are Smaller, Like the Parts the Make Up Air

Since Plants Need The Carbon Dioxide, In the Air They Breathe,  
There Were Less Plants for Animals to Munch, Be It Grasses, Shrubs,  
or Trees

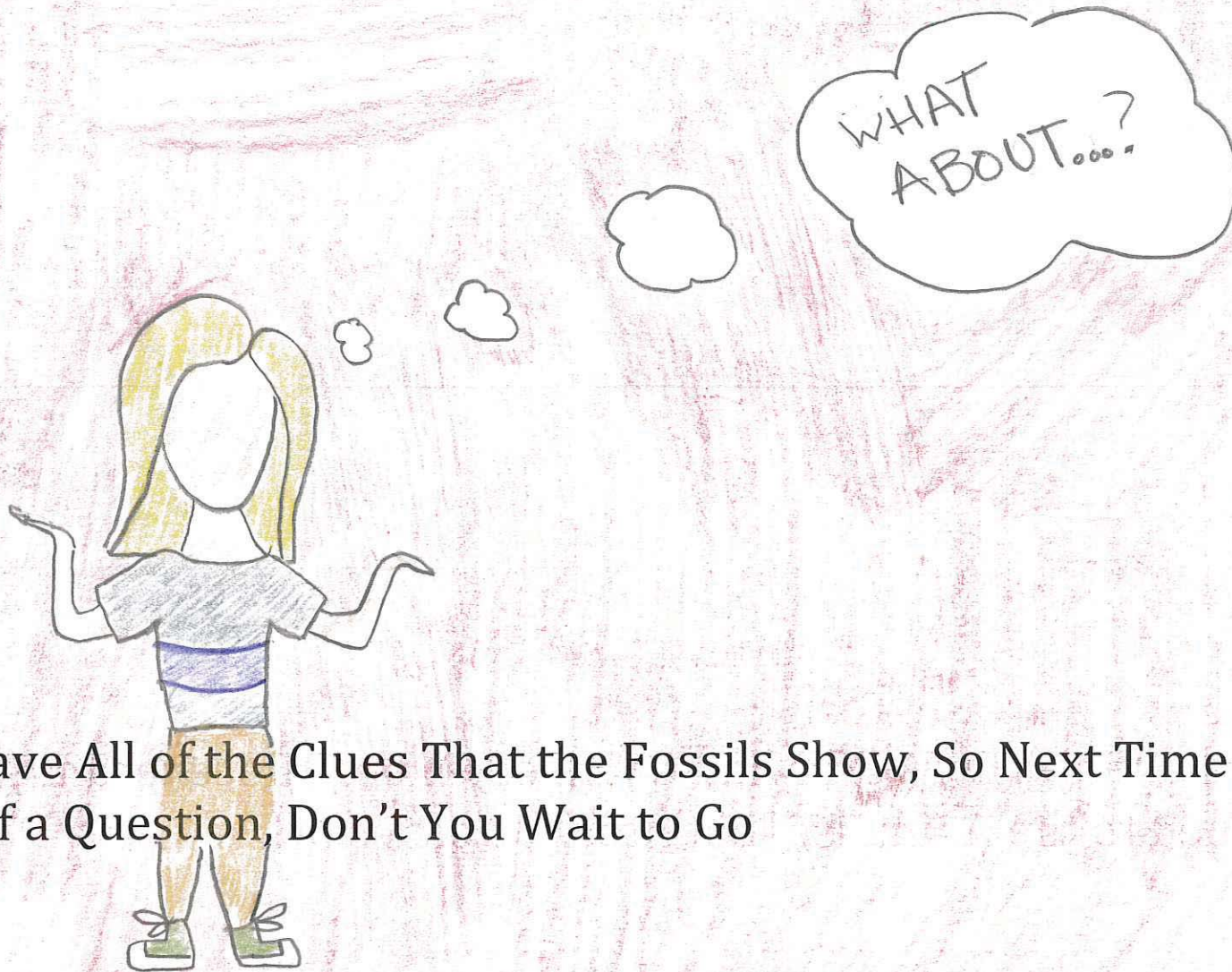


Since There Were Less Plants to Eat, the Animals Went Extinct, for Millions of Years the Question Stayed, Until Janis Had to Think



About the Way The World Had Changed, in the Miocene, and What Happened to the Animals, That Ate the Leaves of Trees

So If You Have a Question, Sitting On Your Lips, Of What the World Was Like Before, Ask a Paleontologist



They Have All of the Clues That the Fossils Show, So Next Time You Think of a Question, Don't You Wait to Go



Philip Pfeifer is a graduating senior from Knoxville, Tennessee. His favorite Dinosaur is the Triceratops. His three favorite things are Space, Baseball, and Pizza. When he grows up he wants to pitch for the New York Yankees.

