

Where'd the
Dolphins
Go?
by Christina
Morgan

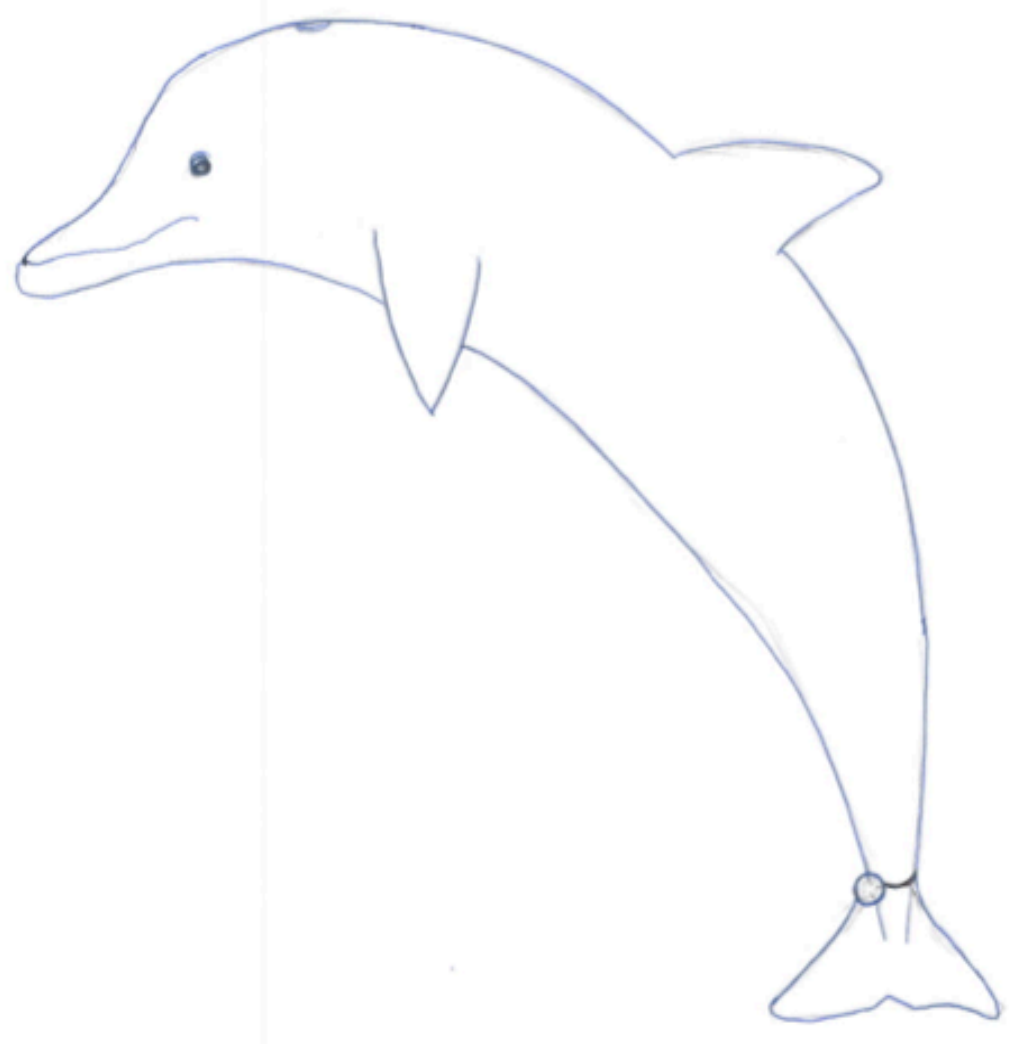
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Dedicated to
Allison Bush

In a big house on the ocean there lived two young girls, Chloe and Jennifer. Their house was raised high off the ground, built into the side of a hill. Huge windows wrapped all the way around the house, and there was a giant pool in the backyard.



And in the pool, lived the girls' three beautiful dolphins. They called the dolphins Fin, Twister and Flick. Each dolphin had a special sand dollar tied with a blue ribbon around its tail.



The girls taught the dolphins to do tricks when they blow a whistle. And every weekend the girls and their dolphins put on a show. First, Chloe blows the whistle once. Fin swims down the pool, wiggling his top fin as he goes.



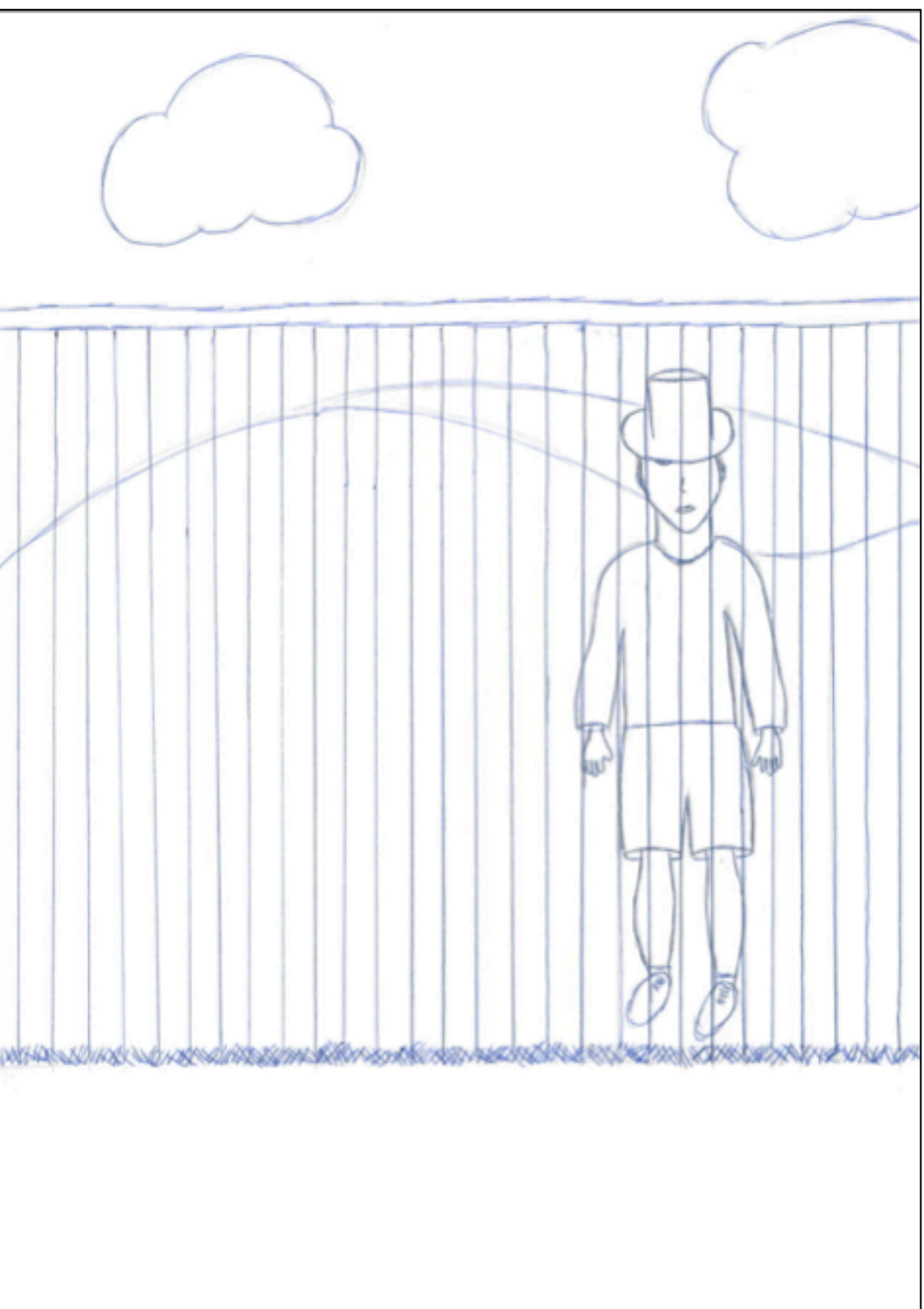
Next, Chloe blows the whistle twice. Twister swims to the bottom of the pool, then jumps and twists in the air before she hits the water.



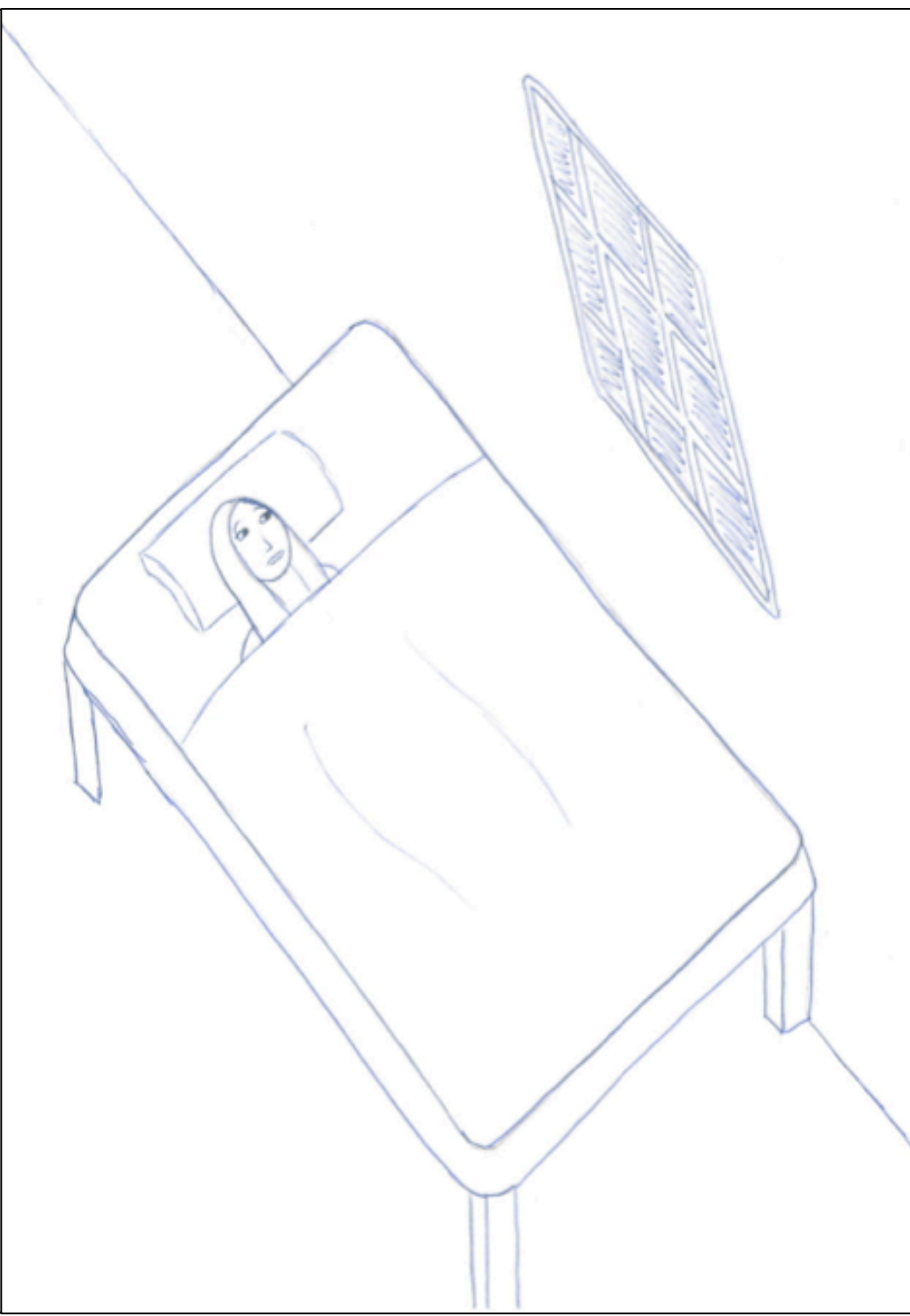
Finally, Jennifer blows the whistle three times. And Flick jumps high into the air then dives, flicking his tail as it enters the water and splashing everyone in the crowd.



One day after the show, the girls were cleaning up by the pool. "Don't forget to lock the gate!" their mother yelled from inside the house. The girls turned to the gate and noticed a tall man in a hat watching them from outside the fence. He stood there for only a moment before turning and walking away.



That night, Chloe woke up to silent darkness. She didn't hear any splashing in the pool outside. She walked over to the window and looked out at the pool. The gate to the pool was open. The dolphins were gone. She laid awake all night worried, thinking about where the dolphins might be and who had taken them.



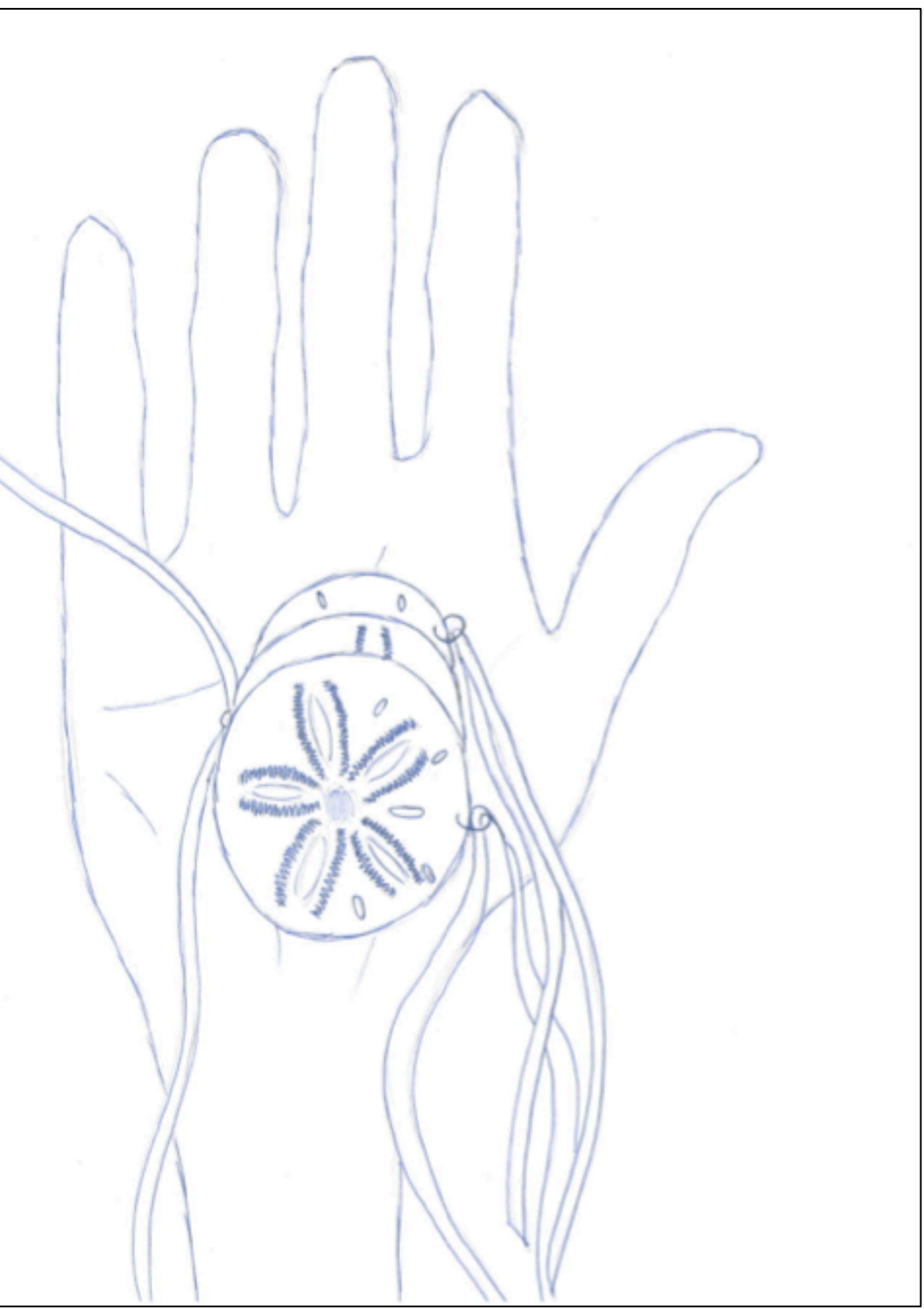
Finally morning came. Anxiously, the girls made fliers with pictures of the Fin, Twister and Flick and posted them all over the town.



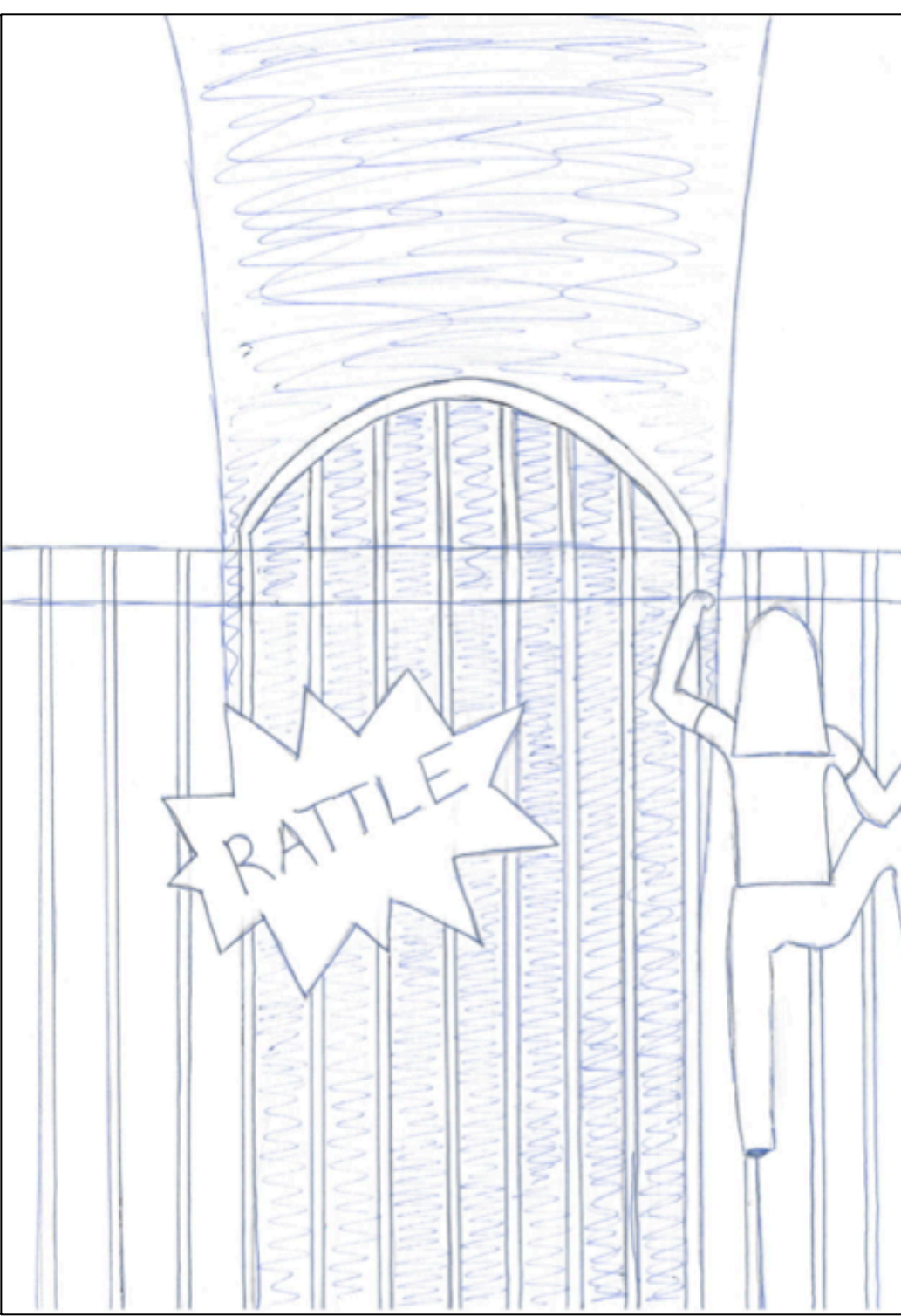
As they were walking back to their house, Jennifer spotted a sand dollar on the sidewalk. It looked just like Fin's.



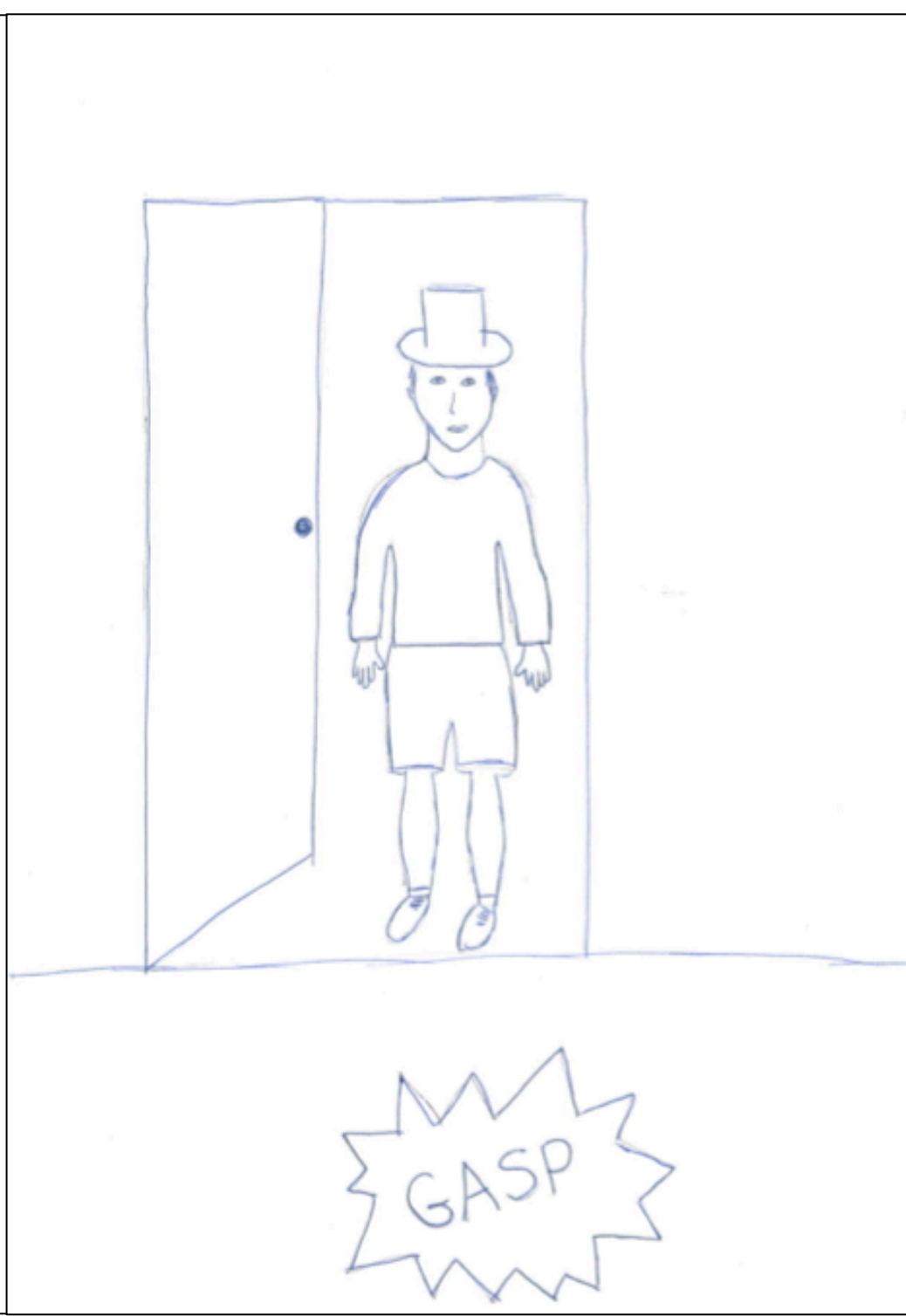
Down the street, Chloe saw Twister's. And in front of a large gray house with metal gates all around it, the girls found Flick's.



The girls shook the gates, but they were locked. Panicked, Chloe started to climb over the gate, and Jennifer followed. They ran to the front door and knocked as hard as they could.



The front door opened and a man stood in the doorway. It was the tall man in a hat. "I was wondering when you'd find me," he said smiling. "Follow me."



He led the girls through the house and into the backyard. In his pool, Fin, Twister and Flick were swimming, their skin shimmering in the sun. "I'm a friend of your parents," the man told them. "They noticed you were getting careless with your dolphins...like leaving the pool gate open...and asked me to take the dolphins, so you would see how important it is to take good care of them."



The girls were so relieved the dolphins were safe they jumped in the pool to swim with them. The man in the hat jumped in too. And Chloe and Jennifer never left the gate open again.

