

## The Draw-Anything Drawing

**L**AST MONTH, DAD and I walked downtown to our city’s library. In the children’s room, a librarian showed me an empty display case. He said, “We’re asking kids to draw pictures to put in here.”

“I’d like to do that,” I said. “What I should I draw?”

“Anything you want. Can you bring in your artwork by next Thursday?”

I talked with Dad. We agreed to deliver my draw-anything drawing on Wednesday.

Making that promise was the easy part. Back home, staring at a piece of blank paper, I realized I didn’t have many—or any!—ideas. And this picture’s for the library, I thought, so it has to be perfect. I sighed and frowned.

Are we there yet, Sam?



Still a ways to go,  
Thistle.

Finally, I whispered, “Why can’t I visit a castle filled with good ideas?” That’s how I started daydreaming about standing beside a strange castle. It was built from an enchanted mountain of things: sea glass, marbles, carved wood, cobblestones, even a giant’s knit mittens.

Unraveling a doorway, a mitten admitted me. After I stepped inside, a crayfish piloting an orange flying saucer landed nearby. “WELCOME,” she announced through a loudspeaker, “TO YOUR OWN MADE-UP PLACE TO FIND IDEAS. I AM MS. CLAW, YOUR TOUR GUIDE.” Ms. Claw pressed a button and the saucer’s roof folded itself up like origami. She switched off the speaker. “Please scramble in.”

I scrambled! “I’m Marigold,” I said, plopping onto a cushioned seat. “It’s nice to meet you, ma’am.”

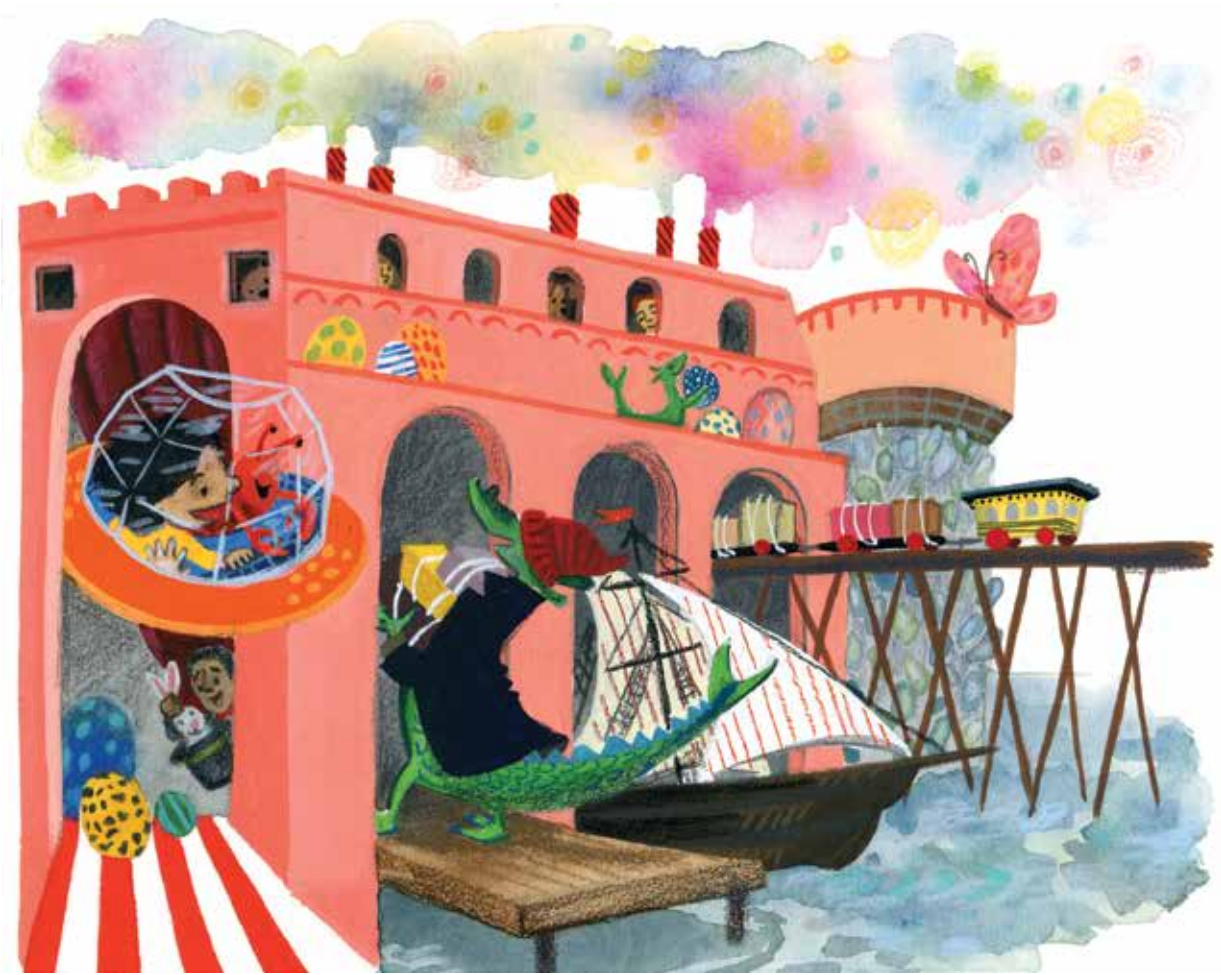
“It’s nice to meet you, too.” Ms. Claw pulled on a lever to unfold the roof. “This thing has lots of neat gadgets,” she said. “Still, somehow it was made without doors. That’s OK. The saucer is a good idea—and fun, too.”



We have to get to the oldest part of Bugtown.

Where the streets are paved in cobblestones—round stones used for building paths or walls.





Hmm. Doors or no doors, the saucer really was super. Should I draw it for the library? I decided to decide that later. “How do ideas get to the castle?” I asked, fastening my seatbelt.

“Great question. Let’s take a look.” Smoothly, Ms. Claw steered the saucer into an arrivals hall.

“Wow!” I cried.

The hall held harbors, train stations, and magic shows, all

bringing in new ideas. Lively ideas popped up on stages and jumped off stagecoaches. They vaulted out of trunks unlatching, somersaulted from odd eggs hatching. Strong dragon sailors unloaded a freighter’s big ideas. Foghorns blared as foggy ideas filled the air.

Hmm. The hall was awesome. Should I draw it? I decided to decide that later.

*Crack!* Something with hundreds

Pardon us, please, little buggies. This is our first time visiting Bugtown.



Which way to the First Flight Festival?



Keep goin’ this a’way. Look for cobbledy-stones.



of eyes and wings burst through the speckled shell of an egg as big as a basketball. Flapping wildly, the mystery creature flew away. "What's that?" I asked.

"A wild idea," said Ms. Claw. "They usually hatch fast."

Hmm. Should I draw the wild idea? I decided to decide that later.

On we zoomed. Wearing sunglasses, we zipped through the Bright Ideas Room. In other rooms, we saw hats, toys, bikes, and keys.

Musical instruments. Magical trees. We circled the New Desserts Dome and Design-A-Car Courtyard.

Hmm. Should I draw desserts or cars? I decided to decide that later. Unfortunately, next we came to an ordinary EXIT door, and Ms. Claw said, "This ends our tour." She folded up the saucer's roof. "That door leads straight out of your daydream, dear."

"Oh, no," I said. "Well, I had a wonderful time. Thank you very much!"



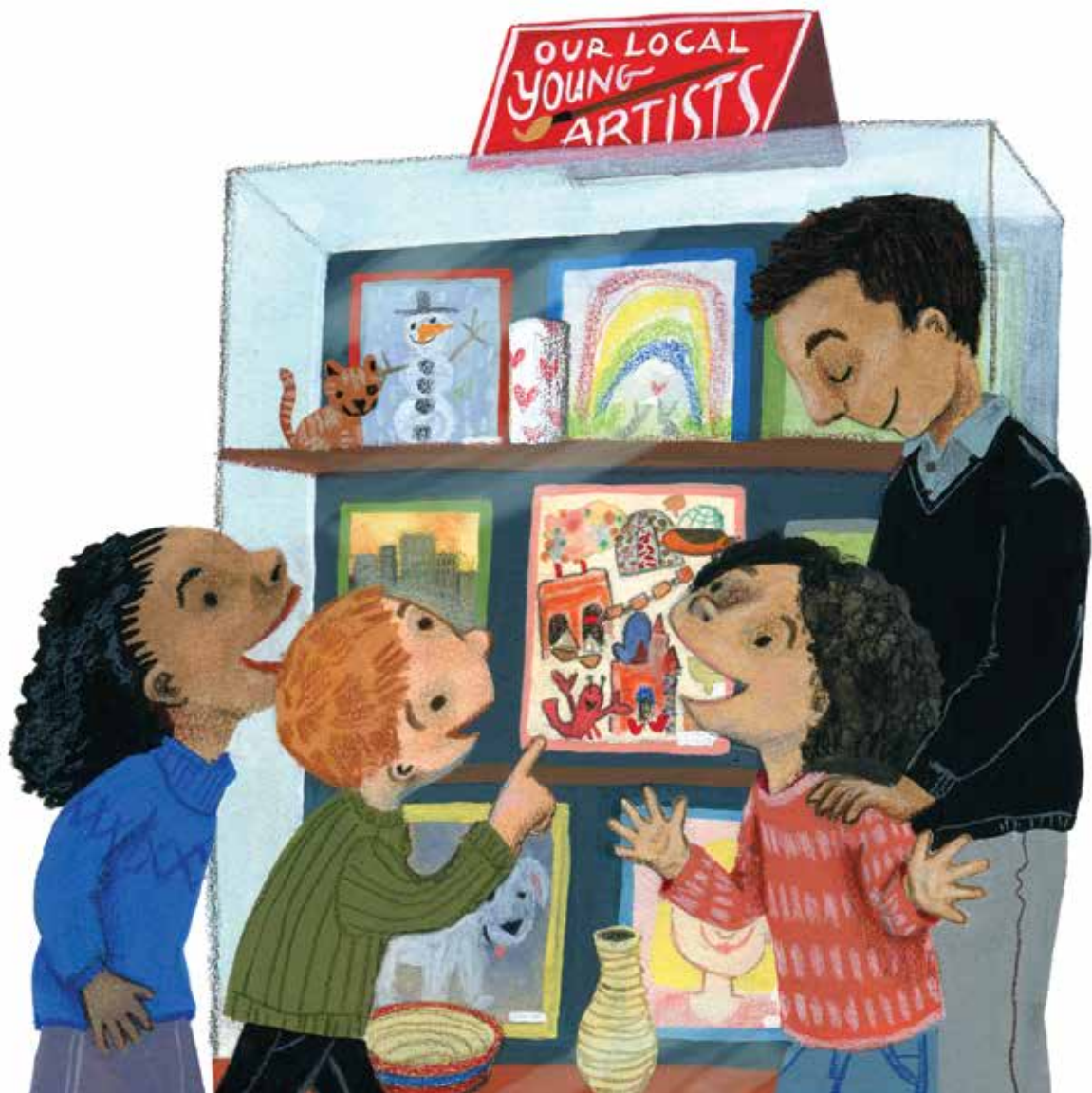
Don't you want to be up with the other flyers, Sonya?

It's OK. Thistle gave perfect directions.

Sonya prefers hangin' with the fam!

Sonya for the win!





“Me, too. You’re welcome!”  
Ms. Claw waved goodbye.

As I made myself march through the door, my daydream faded away. That didn’t matter: I’d already decided to draw the whole tour. I worked hard, finished my drawing, and brought it to the librarian.

A week later, Dad and I visited the library again. My picture was pinned in the display case’s center. It wasn’t perfect, but other kids told me how much they liked it. I could almost hear Ms. Claw say, “Drawing your daydream was a good idea, Marigold—and fun, too!” 🕷️

