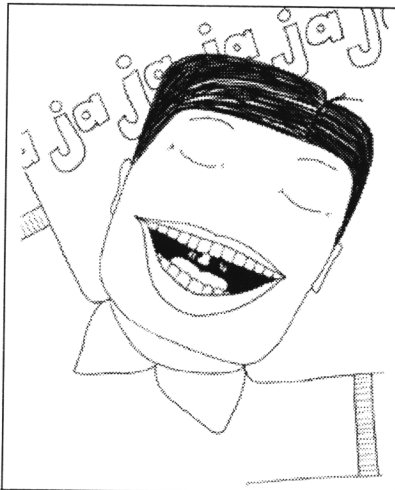


# “Magical Myths from Mexico”

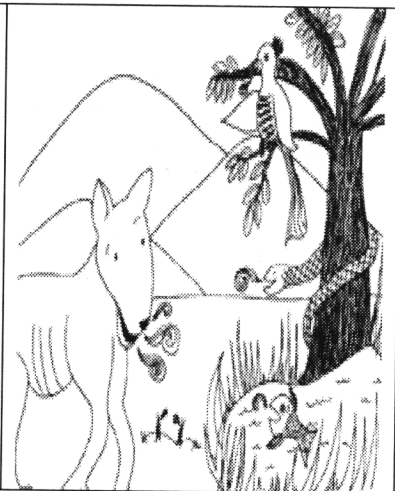
**A literature-based curriculum unit  
with Internet connections**



*The Chichtli*



*Lazy, but Lucky*



*Why Dog Wags His Tail*

## This unit includes:

- Black-and-white copy masters for creating your own picturebooks
- Sites with hyper-linked picture dictionaries and full-color illustrations
  - Geographical and cultural connections with realia
  - Pre-reading, reading and post-reading activities
    - Culminating project ideas and suggestions

**by Lori Langer de Ramirez, Ed.D.**

# Magical Myths from Mexico

## Curriculum Suggestions

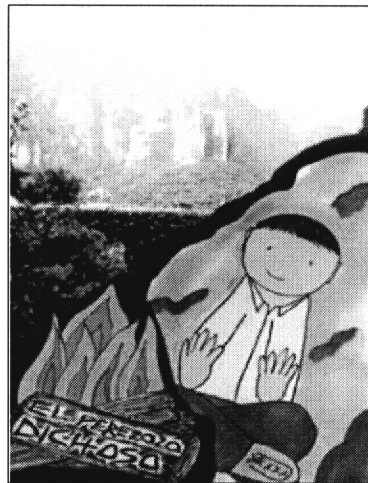


### Introduction

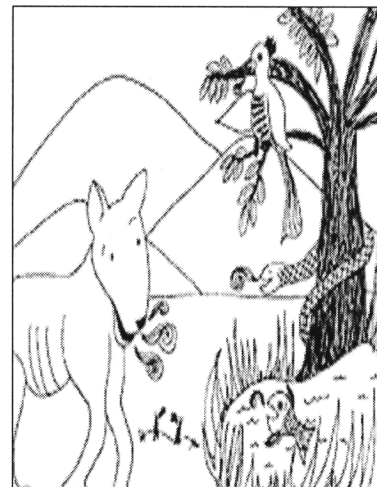
The stories in this unit are tales of fantasy and magic from different regions of Mexico. The main themes that might be explored in a curriculum unit linked to these tales are: "why" stories (stories that explain a natural phenomenon or the origin of something), magic, fantasy, luck, and Mexico (geography, peoples, etc.).



In **"The Chichtli"** (adapted from a folktale from Tepotzlán), the main character is spirit who takes on the form of a young boy. A young girl narrates the story of her adventures and travels through Mexico with her new friend.



In **"Lazy, but Lucky"**, a lazy young boy is scolded by his uncle for not working. By selling the ashes from his fire at the local market and through a series of seemingly magical events, he is able to earn money for his family



In **"Why Dog Wags His Tail"**, the dog is entrusted with the secrets of the gods. When he decided to share their secrets with the other animals, he is punished and we come to understand why dogs wag their tails instead of talking.



## Story #1: “The Chichtli”



### **Vocabulary:**

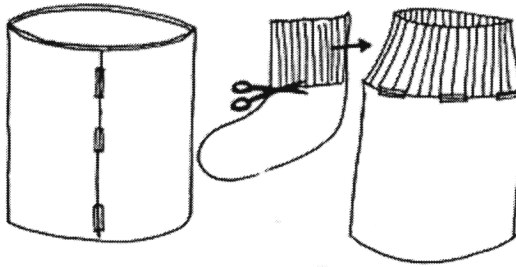
1) Copy the vocabulary cards onto card stock and cut each one out. Have students (or pairs of students) illustrate each vocabulary word in the space provided (Note: there are blank vocabulary cards available for you to add vocabulary words to the list if needed).

- ancient: very old
- annoying: bothersome
- bleed (to): to lose blood
- "boo!": a sound to scare someone
- cave (a/the): an opening in a hill
- character (a/the): a person in a story
- chase (to): to run after someone
- compare (to): to say how something is similar or different
- dance (to): to move in rhythm
- darkness (the): lack of light
- explore (to): to travel in order to discover something new
- far: a long distance away; not near
- farm (a/the): place where food is grown or animals are kept
- floating: suspended on the surface of the water
- identical: the same
- invite (to): ask someone to join
- kind (a/the): type
- miss (to): to feel bad that someone is gone
- promise (to): to agree to do something
- pyramid (a/the): a large structure built with sloping sides
- ruin (a/the): a building that has fallen to pieces
- scream (to): to yell
- secret: a mystery
- silly: foolish; ridiculous
- slippery: a wet surface that could make you fall
- suddenly: without warning
- trick (a/the): a joke; a prank
- truth (a/the): something true

- warn (to): to give notice in advance
  - wound (a/the): a sore
2. Pre-teach the vocabulary by using a magic box\*.
- Place the vocabulary cards into the magic box.
  - Ask for volunteers to pull the cards from the magic box.
  - As each card is pulled from the box, ask students to act out the vocabulary word.

**\*How to make a magic box:**

Cover an oatmeal container or other cylindrical container with colored or contact paper. Attach the top part of a large sock or leg warmer to the top portion of the container. Decorate .



**Pre-reading activities:**

1. Have students read the introduction and discuss the origin of the story.



**Weblink:** You can have students read the introduction on the website: [www.miscositas.com/chichtlieng.html](http://www.miscositas.com/chichtlieng.html)


2. Divide the students into pair groups. Provide each pair with three black-and-white illustrations and three text pages from the story. Ask the students to try to match the text with the pictures.



**Reading:**

Copy the story text and illustrations for your students. You might want to create a booklet with the pages by photocopying the text and pictures so that the image is on the left and the story on the right.



**Weblink:** *You can have students read the story on the website: [www.miscositas.com/chichtlieng1.html](http://www.miscositas.com/chichtlieng1.html) (click  through the story)*

**THE CHICHTLI Story text:**

- 1) Long ago, in a town far away, I met a crazy character.
- 2) He said he was an ancient spirit named "the Chichtli" and that he loved to play tricks.
- 3) He didn't look like a spirit. He seemed like an annoying kid to me, but I didn't care. I liked to play and fight with him.
- 4) One day he challenged me to climb Tepozteco, a really tall mountain. He said that there was a magic pyramid at the top.
- 5) I was afraid because, since the Chichtli is so silly, who knew if he was telling me the truth? I climbed up the mountain anyway...
- 6) There at the top of the mountain I saw the pyramid. The Chichtli got there first and was dancing and laughing. "How crazy he is!", I thought.
- 7) Another time our parents took us to see the ruins at Xochicalco. The Chichtli challenged me to enter a secret cave.
- 8) I went to the cave and I walked into the darkness behind the Chichtli. I was very afraid.
- 9) All of a sudden, the Chichtli screamed "boo!" and I ran crying out of the cave. The Chichtli came out after me, laughing and singing. "He's so crazy!", I thought.
- 10) My parents wanted to visit the floating gardens of Xochimilco. Since I had never seen a garden float before, I was excited about going. I invited the Chichtli to come along.
- 11) There we rode small boats and explored the chinampas – which are like floating farms.
- 12) The Chichtli chased me all over the boat. We ran and ran, even though my parents warned us not to.
- 13) The Chichtli and I fell on the slippery floor. I tore the skin on my knee and he got a cut on his elbow. "Now we're both bleeding!", I said to him through my tears.
- 14) The Chichtli just smiled. He told me that when two people get the same kind of wound at the same time, that means they are going to be friends for life.
- 15) We compared our wounds and they were identical. It was then that I realized that the Chichtli and I would be friends forever.
- 16) I'm back home now. I miss the Chichtli a lot, but my parents promised that we would go visit him in December.
- 17) After my trip, I suddenly love to play tricks. Could it be that the spirit of the Chichtli has taken over my soul?

## ? **Post-reading activities:**

1. Check for understanding by asking comprehension questions:
  - What does the Chichtli do each time he invites the girl to a new place? *[he plays tricks on her]*
  - What are some places that the Chichtli and girl visited? *[a pyramid in Tepotzteco, the ruins of Xochicalco and the floating gardens in Xochimilco]*
  - Why did the Chichtli say that he and the girl would be friends forever? *[because they got the same wound at the same time]*
2. Discuss the story with students by asking their opinions about the events:
  - Do you think Chichtli is a spirit, or a playful boy? ¿Why do you think so?
  - The girl always says that she's afraid to do some of the things that the Chichtli recommends. Why do you think she follows him anyway?
  - Do you think that the Chichtli is a good friend? Why, or why not? Do you have any friends like him?

## Story #2: “**Lazy, but Lucky**”



### **Vocabulary:**

1. Copy the vocabulary cards onto card stock and cut each one out. Have students (or pairs of students) illustrate each vocabulary word in the space provided (Note: there are blank vocabulary cards available for you to add vocabulary words to the list if needed).
  - ash (an/the): what is left after something is burned

- coin (a/the): a metal form of money
- decide (to): to come to a conclusion about something
- exchange (to): to change one thing for something else
- hurry (a/the): a rush; fast
- laziness: state of not wanting to work
- "poor thing!": an expression that shows the speaker's pity
- receive (to): to get
- rest (to): to relax and do no work
- robber (a/the): someone who steals
- scary: frightening
- treasure (a/the): something valuable
- try (to): to make an attempt
- woods (the): an area with a lot of trees, a forest

2. Pre-teach the vocabulary by using the cards as flash cards.



***Pre-reading activities:***

1. Have students read the introduction and discuss the origin of the story.



**Weblink:** *You can have students read the introduction on the website:*  
[www.miscositas.com/lazy.html](http://www.miscositas.com/lazy.html)


2. Divide students into small groups. Have the students predict the story by arranging the black-and-white illustrations into the correct order. Ask one member of each group to tell their version of the story to the class. Vote on whose version of the story might be right.



***Reading:***

Copy the story text and illustrations for your students. You might want to create a booklet with the pages by photocopying the pages back-to-back.



**Weblink:** You can have students read the story on the website: [www.miscositas.com/lazy1.html](http://www.miscositas.com/lazy1.html)  
(click  through story)

**LAZY, BUT LUCKY Story text:**

- 1) Juan loved to rest all day by the fire while his uncle sold flowers at the market. One day, tired with his laziness, the uncle sent Juan to work.
- 2) "But what should I sell?", the boy asked. The uncle thought for a minute and then said "the ashes from your fire". So Juan went to the market and tried to sell his ashes.
- 3) At the market, a woman said to Juan: "Oh, my. No one is going to buy that. Take this coin... you poor thing!"
- 4) With his coin the boy decided to buy a scary devil mask.
- 5) Happy with his mask, Juan went to the woods to make a fire and rest. But a group of robbers saw the flames and came to warm themselves next to the fire. Soon they all fell asleep.
- 6) When they woke up, the robbers saw Juan with his mask on and they got scared. They thought that he was the devil for real! They left in a hurry and left all of their stolen treasures behind.
- 7) Juan brought the treasures home. His uncle was surprised to see all that the boy had received in exchange for his ashes!

**? Post-reading activities:**

1. Check for understanding by asking comprehension questions.
  - Why did Juan have to go sell in the market? [*because his uncle was tired of his laziness; because his family needed the money*]
  - What five events occur that lead up to Juan getting the treasure? [*first: his uncle sends Juan to the market to sell something; second: a woman gives Juan some money; third: Juan buys a devil mask; fourth: some robbers see Juan with the mask; fifth: the robbers get scared and leave their treasure*]
  - How does his uncle react to Juan's treasure? [*his uncle is surprised*]
2. Discuss the story with students by asking their opinions about the events.

- Do you think that it is fair that Juan ends up with the treasure at the end of the story?
- What might you have done with the treasure?
- Do you think that Juan learned a good lesson at the end of the story? Why or why not?

### Story #3: “Why Dog Wags His Tail”



#### **Vocabulary:**

1. Copy the vocabulary cards onto card stock and cut each one out. Have students (or pairs of students) illustrate each vocabulary word in the space provided (Note: there are blank vocabulary cards available for you to add vocabulary words to the list if needed).
  - Creator (the): the being who created the world
  - impress (to): to convince someone that you are extraordinary
  - secret: something hidden; a mystery
2. Pre-teach the vocabulary by asking students to predict each word based on the accompanying illustrations.



#### **Pre-reading activities:**

1. Have students read the introduction and discuss the origin of the story.



**Weblink:** You can have students read the introduction on the website: [www.miscositas.com/tail.html](http://www.miscositas.com/tail.html)

2. Show students the illustration from the story. In a round, ask each student to describe one thing they see in the picture.






### **Reading:**

Copy the story text and illustration for your students.



**Weblink:** *You can have students read the story on the website: [www.miscositas.com/tail1.html](http://www.miscositas.com/tail1.html)*  
(click  through story)

#### **WHY DOG WAGS HIS TAIL Story text:**

Long, long ago, animals could talk just like humans. All animals knew the secrets of the natural world, but only Dog knew the secrets of the Creator.

Trying to impress his friends one day, Dog called out: "Gather around, and I will tell you the secrets of the Creator."

The Creator heard Dog's offer and became angry. To teach Dog a lesson, he took the power of speech away from him. Since that time, when Dog wants to say something, he wags his tail instead of his tongue.



#### **Post-reading activities:**

1. Check for understanding by asking comprehension questions:
  - According to the story, who could talk many years ago?  
*[all the animals could talk]*
  - Who knew the secrets of the Creator? *[the dog]*
  - Why did the Creator punish the dog? *[because the dog was going to tell the Creator's secrets to all the other animals]*
2. Discuss the story with students by asking their opinions about the events.

- Why do you think that the dog knew the Creator's secrets, and not some other animal?
- Why do you think that the dog wanted to tell the Creator's secrets to the other animals?
- Do you think that the punishment given to the dog was fair? Why, or why not?

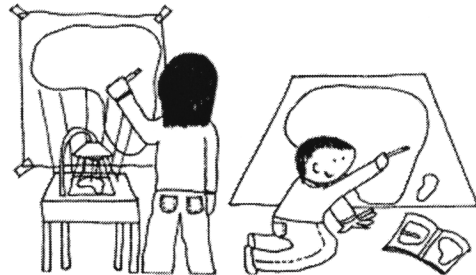


## Culminating activity suggestions:

1. Have each student choose four black-line drawings from their favorite story. Ask them to color them and arrange them onto a piece of oak tag to create their own short story. After a rough draft on scrap paper, they can write their text directly onto the oak tag below the drawings and put a title to the story above.
2. Have students write and illustrate original myths.
3. Ask students to find myths from different Spanish-speaking countries. Have a "tell-off" in which students tell their stories to the class. Using a floor map of Latin America\*, have students tell their story standing on their story's country of origin.

### \*How to make a floor map

*Using a shower curtain liner, trace the shape of Mexico freehand, or project the image onto the sheet using an overhead projector and trace. Be sure to use permanent markers!*



4. Take a "fantasy trip" to Mexico. Use the realia provided as you "visit" sites of interest.



**Weblink:** You can have students view the realia on the website: [www.miscositas.com/mexicorealia.html](http://www.miscositas.com/mexicorealia.html)

# Vocabulary Cards

# VOCABULARY CARDS – *Magical Myths from Mexico*

**ancient:**  
very old

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**annoying:**  
bothersome

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**bleed (to):**  
to lose blood

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**"boo!":**  
a sound to scare someone

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**cave (a/the):**  
an opening in a hill

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**character (a/the):**  
a person in a story

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**chase (to):**  
to run after someone

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**compare (to):** to say how  
something is similar or different

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

# VOCABULARY CARDS – *Magical Myths from Mexico*

**dance (to):**  
to move in rhythm

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**darkness (the):**  
lack of light

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**explore (to):** to travel  
in order to discover something new

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**far:**  
a long distance away; not near

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**farm (a/the):** place where  
food is grown or animals are kept

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**floating:** suspended  
on the surface of the water

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**identical:**  
the same

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**invite (to):**  
ask someone to join

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

# VOCABULARY CARDS – *Magical Myths from Mexico*

**kind (a/the):**  
type

*Magioal Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**miss (to):**  
to feel bad that someone is gone

*Magioal Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**promise (to):**  
to agree to do something

*Magioal Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**pyramid (a/the):** a large  
structure built with sloping sides

*Magioal Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**ruin (a/the):**  
a building that has fallen to pieces

*Magioal Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**scream (to):**  
to yell

*Magioal Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**secret:**  
a mystery

*Magioal Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**silly:**  
foolish; ridiculous

*Magioal Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

# VOCABULARY CARDS – *Magical Myths from Mexico*

**slippery**: a wet  
surface that could make you fall

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**suddenly**:  
without warning

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**trick (a/the)**:  
a joke; a prank

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**truth (a/the)**:  
something true

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**warn (to)**:  
to give notice in advance

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

**wound (a/the)**:  
a sore

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*

*Magical Myths from Mexico – “The Chichtli”*



## VOCABULARY CARDS – *Magical Myths from Mexico*

<p><b><u>ash (an/the):</u></b> what is left after something is burned</p> <p><i>Magical Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>	<p><b><u>coin (a/the):</u></b> a metal form of money</p> <p><i>Magical Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>
<p><b><u>decide (to):</u></b> to come to a conclusion about something</p> <p><i>Magical Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>	<p><b><u>exchange (to):</u></b> to change one thing for something else</p> <p><i>Magical Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>
<p><b><u>hurry (a/the):</u></b> a rush; fast</p> <p><i>Magical Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>	<p><b><u>laziness:</u></b> state of not wanting to work</p> <p><i>Magical Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>
<p><b><u>"poor thing!":</u></b> an expression that shows the speaker's pity</p> <p><i>Magical Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>	<p><b><u>receive (to):</u></b> to get</p> <p><i>Magical Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>

# VOCABULARY CARDS – *Magical Myths from Mexico*

<p><b><u>rest (to):</u></b> to relax and do no work</p> <p><i>Magioal Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>	<p><b><u>robber (a/the):</u></b> someone who steals</p> <p><i>Magioal Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>
<p><b><u>scary:</u></b> frightening</p> <p><i>Magioal Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>	<p><b><u>treasure (a/the):</u></b> something valuable</p> <p><i>Magioal Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>
<p><b><u>try (to):</u></b> to make an attempt</p> <p><i>Magioal Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>	<p><b><u>woods (the):</u></b> an area with a lot of trees, a forest</p> <p><i>Magioal Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>
<p><i>Magioal Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>	<p><i>Magioal Myths from Mexico – “Lazy, but Lucky”</i></p>

# VOCABULARY CARDS – *Magical Myths from Mexico*

**Creator (the):**  
the being who created the world

**impress (to):** to convince  
someone that you are extraordinary

*Mitos mágicos de México – “Why Dog Wags His Tail”*

*Mitos mágicos de México – “Why Dog Wags His Tail”*

**secret:**  
something hidden; a mystery

*Mitos mágicos de México – “Why Dog Wags His Tail”*

*Mitos mágicos de México – “Why Dog Wags His Tail”*

*Mitos mágicos de México – “Why Dog Wags His Tail”*

*Mitos mágicos de México – “Why Dog Wags His Tail”*

*Mitos mágicos de México – “Why Dog Wags His Tail”*

*Mitos mágicos de México – “Why Dog Wags His Tail”*

**Realia**

# REALIA – *Magical Myths from Mexico*

For color versions of this realia, visit  
[www.miscositas.com](http://www.miscositas.com)

## REALIA from MÉXICO

Nº 5644

**AUTOTRANSPORTES  
 OCOTLAN DE  
 MORELOS  
 S. A. DE C. V.**

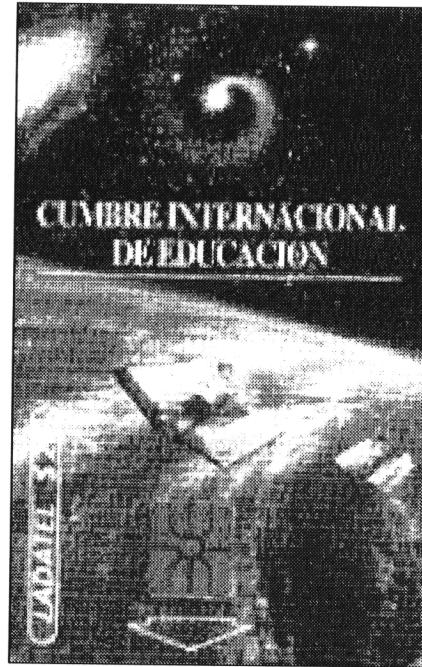
R.F.C. AGM-801113-NT4  
 CLAVE PS-42696  
 OAXACA- Miguel Galteris  
 OCOTLAN de Erik Casarón

**CARRO 21**

Este boleto es personal y le da derecho a ser Seguro del Viajero. Buena en la tarca y salvo 424 de exportar. No es transferible. Exijan -Customero y Muéstrela al Inspector.

**Bofeto del Pasajero  
 Buena por un viaje sencillo**

**\$ 8.00**



**RECIBO DE PRGO DE HOTEL**

Nº 15277

fecha: a \_\_\_\_\_ de \_\_\_\_\_

Sr.: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ No. de Habitación: \_\_\_\_\_

Concepto: \_\_\_\_\_

NO ES COMPROMISANTE FISCA. NI FECTIVA

EN FEB. 2006

NOTA DE VENTA Nº 16795

PAISEC DE LA REFORMA 55 PLANTA BAJA  
 COL. ANARZ DELER, CUAHUTLÉMOC  
 C.P. 06480 TEL. 5436 8912 MEXICO, D.F.

MESA	MISERO	PERSONAS
1	3	2

9 # 9  
 1 Juo  
 60  
 19  
 \$79

**PAGADO**

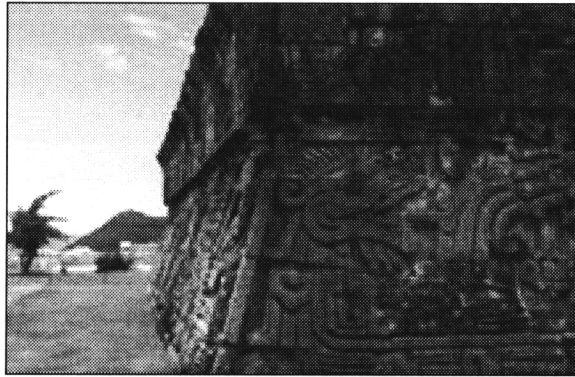
SUB-TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 I.V.A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

NO SE DEBE RECIBIR ESTE RECIBO SIN LA PRESENCIA DEL CLIENTE EN EL MOMENTO DE LA EMISION DEL RECIBO. EN CASO DE QUE EL CLIENTE NO ESTE PRESENTE EN EL MOMENTO DE LA EMISION DEL RECIBO, EL CLIENTE DEBE FIRMAR EL RECIBO EN EL MOMENTO DE LA EMISION DEL RECIBO. EN CASO DE QUE EL CLIENTE NO FIRMARE EL RECIBO EN EL MOMENTO DE LA EMISION DEL RECIBO, EL CLIENTE DEBE FIRMAR EL RECIBO EN EL MOMENTO DE LA EMISION DEL RECIBO.

# Copymasters

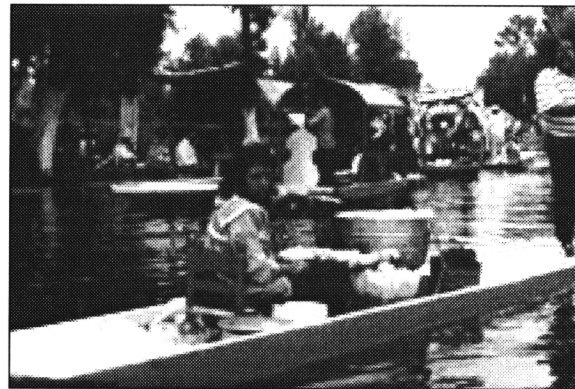
## Introduction: "The Chichtli"

The legend of "The Chichtli" comes from Tepotzlan, Mexico. In the story, this naughty character visits many different famous sites in Mexico.



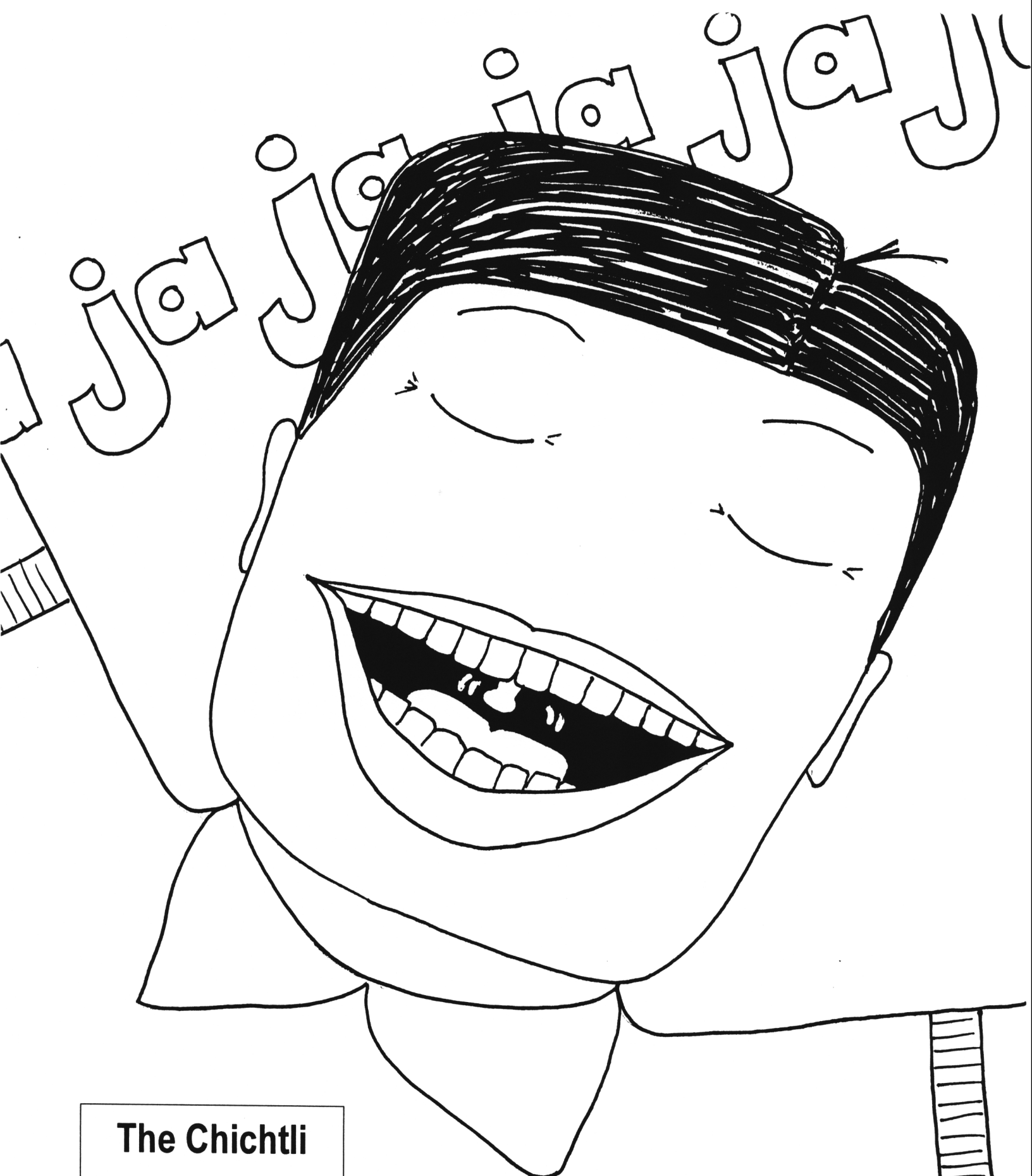
<<< The photo on the left shows a view of the ruins of Xochicalco.

The photo on the >>> right shows the floating gardens of Xochimilco.



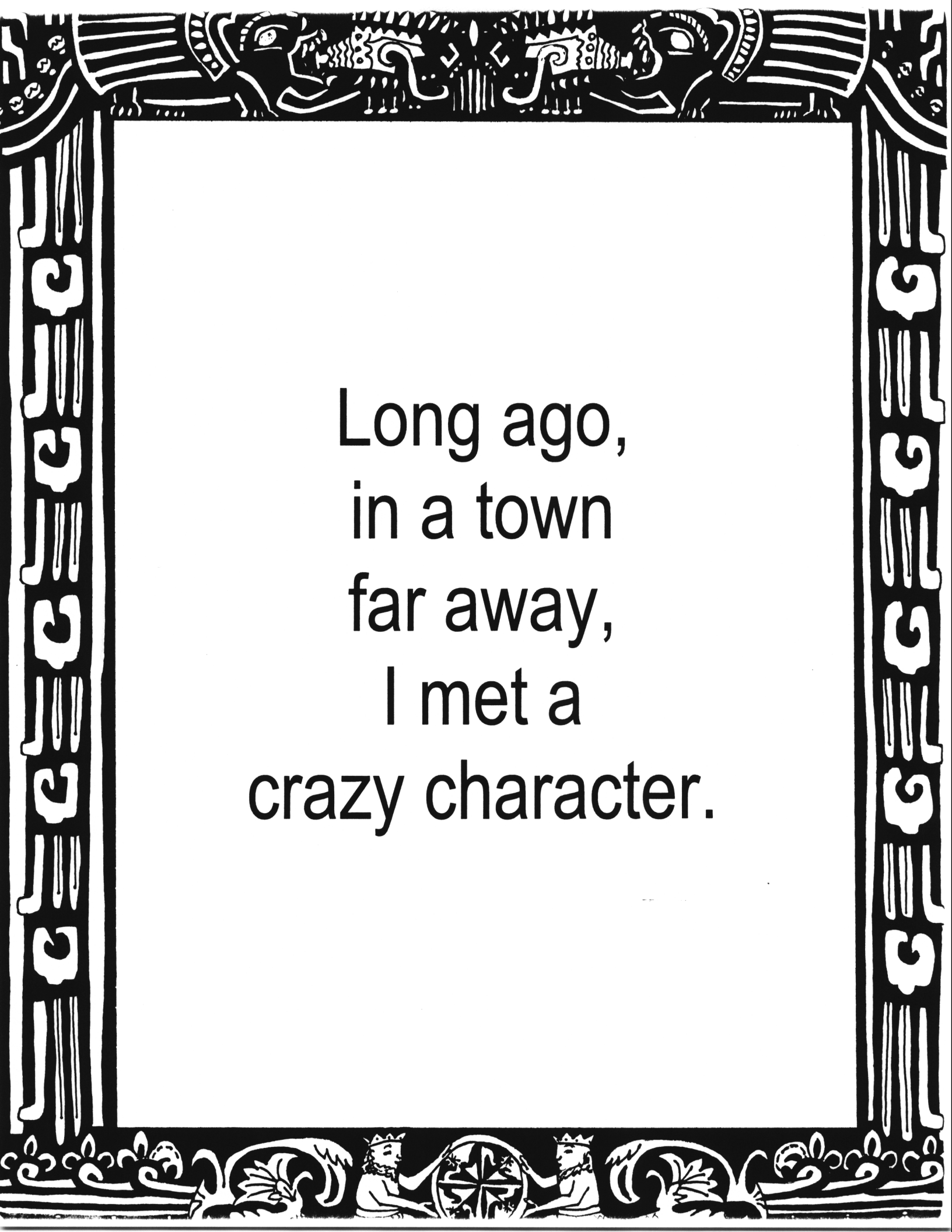
What do you think these two places have in common?






## The Chichtli

by Lori Langer  
de Ramirez

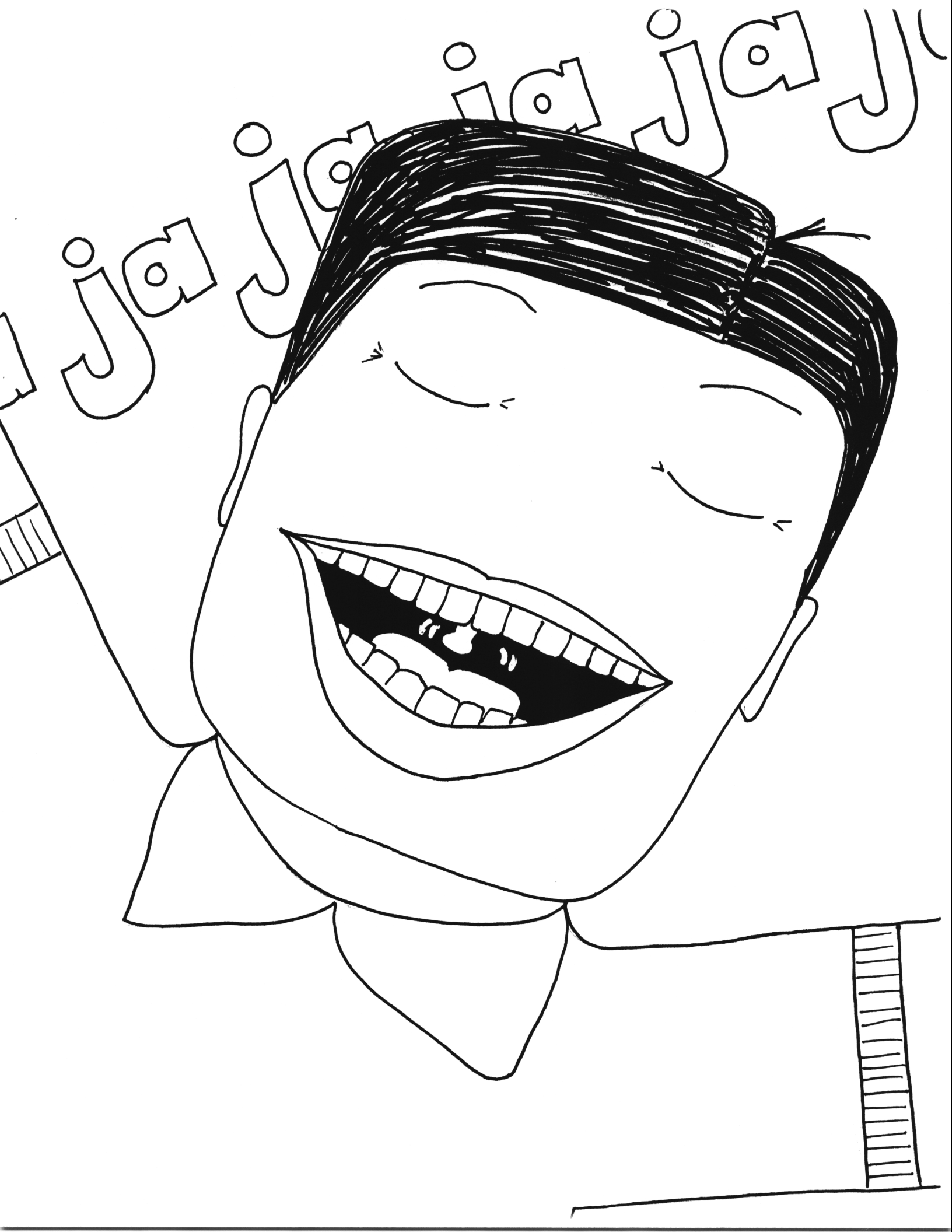


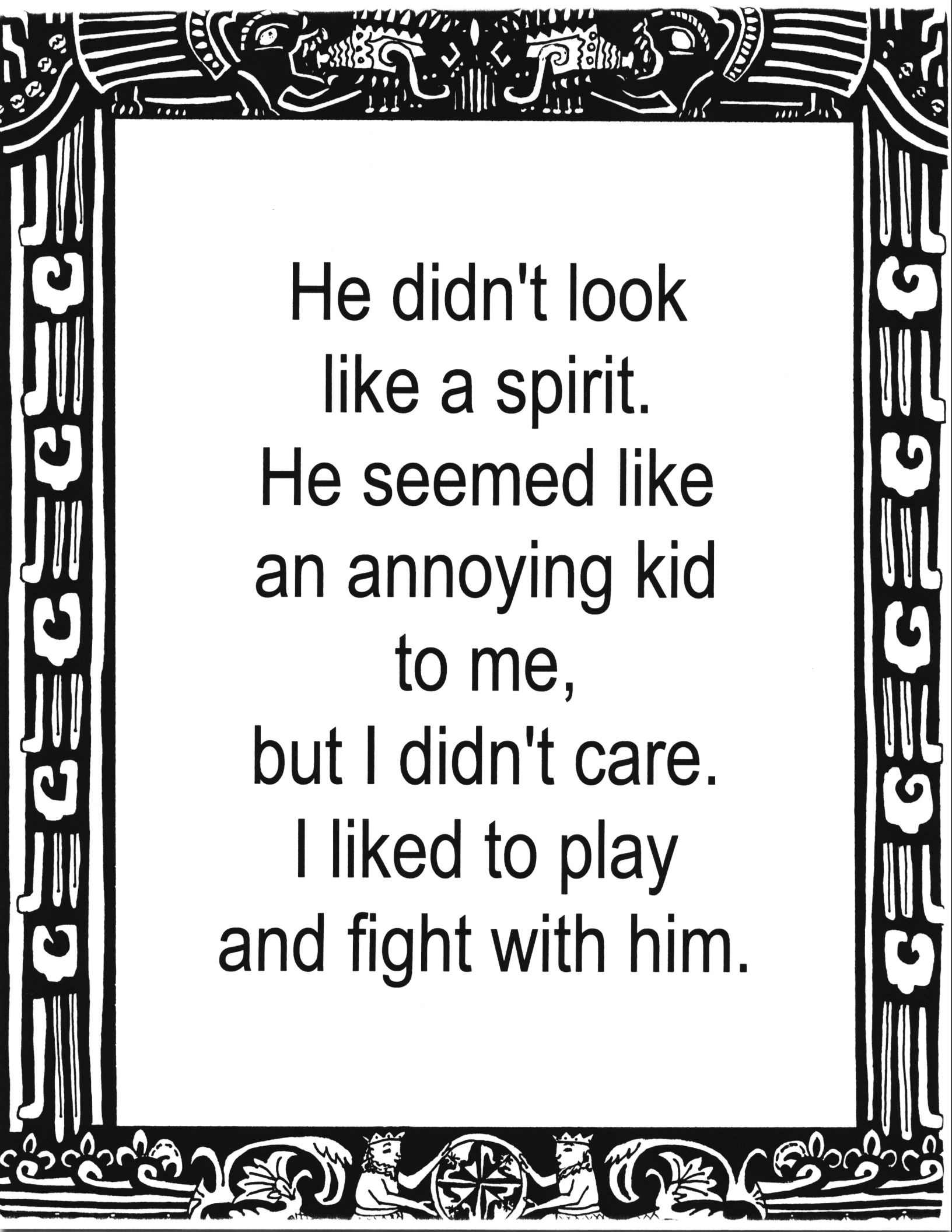
Long ago,  
in a town  
far away,  
I met a  
crazy character.



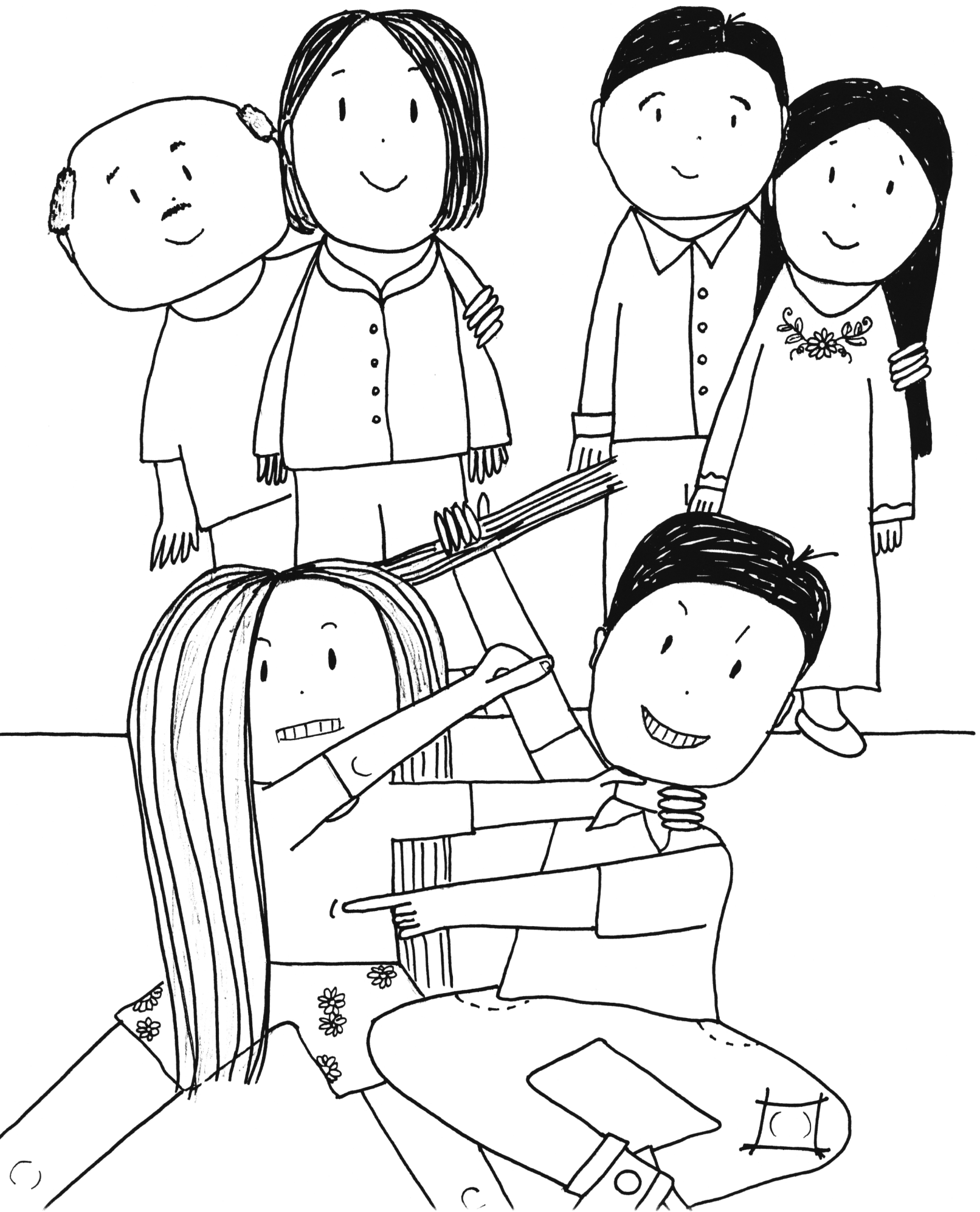


He said he was  
an ancient spirit  
named "the Chichtli"  
and that he loved  
to play tricks.

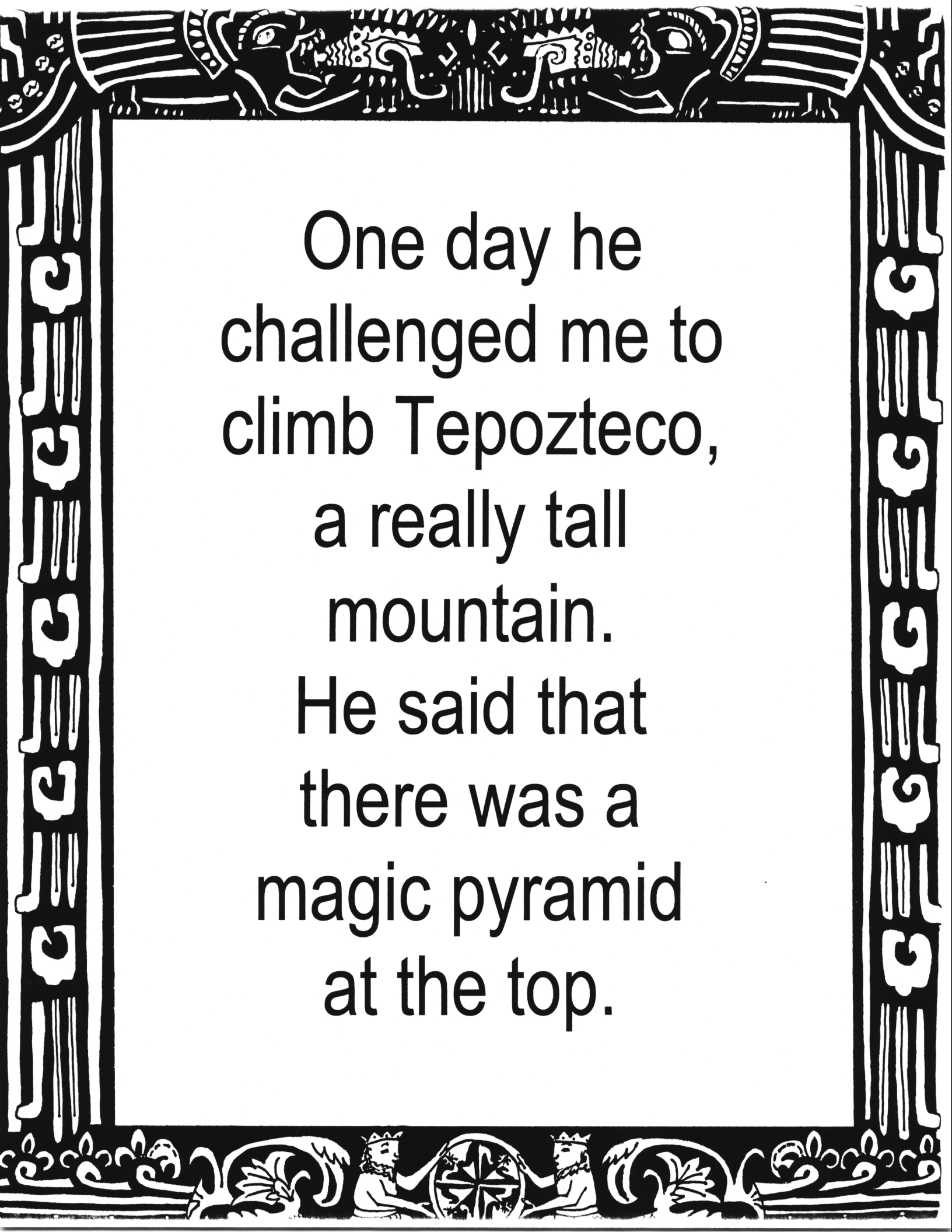




He didn't look  
like a spirit.  
He seemed like  
an annoying kid  
to me,  
but I didn't care.  
I liked to play  
and fight with him.

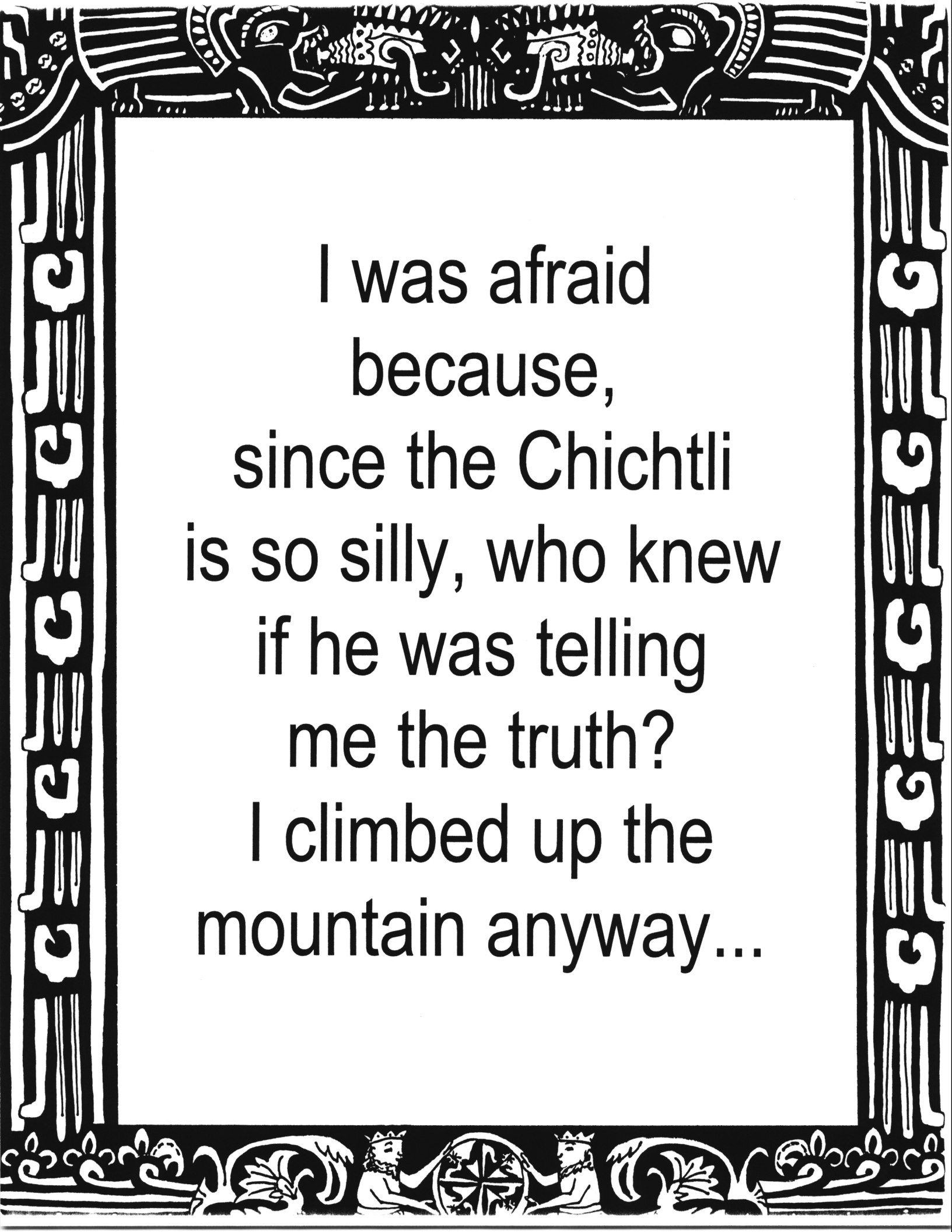




A decorative border surrounds the text. The top border features two stylized Aztec heads facing each other with intricate patterns. The sides are decorated with vertical bands of repeating geometric and organic shapes. The bottom border shows two figures, possibly rulers, flanking a central circular emblem with a cross-like design.

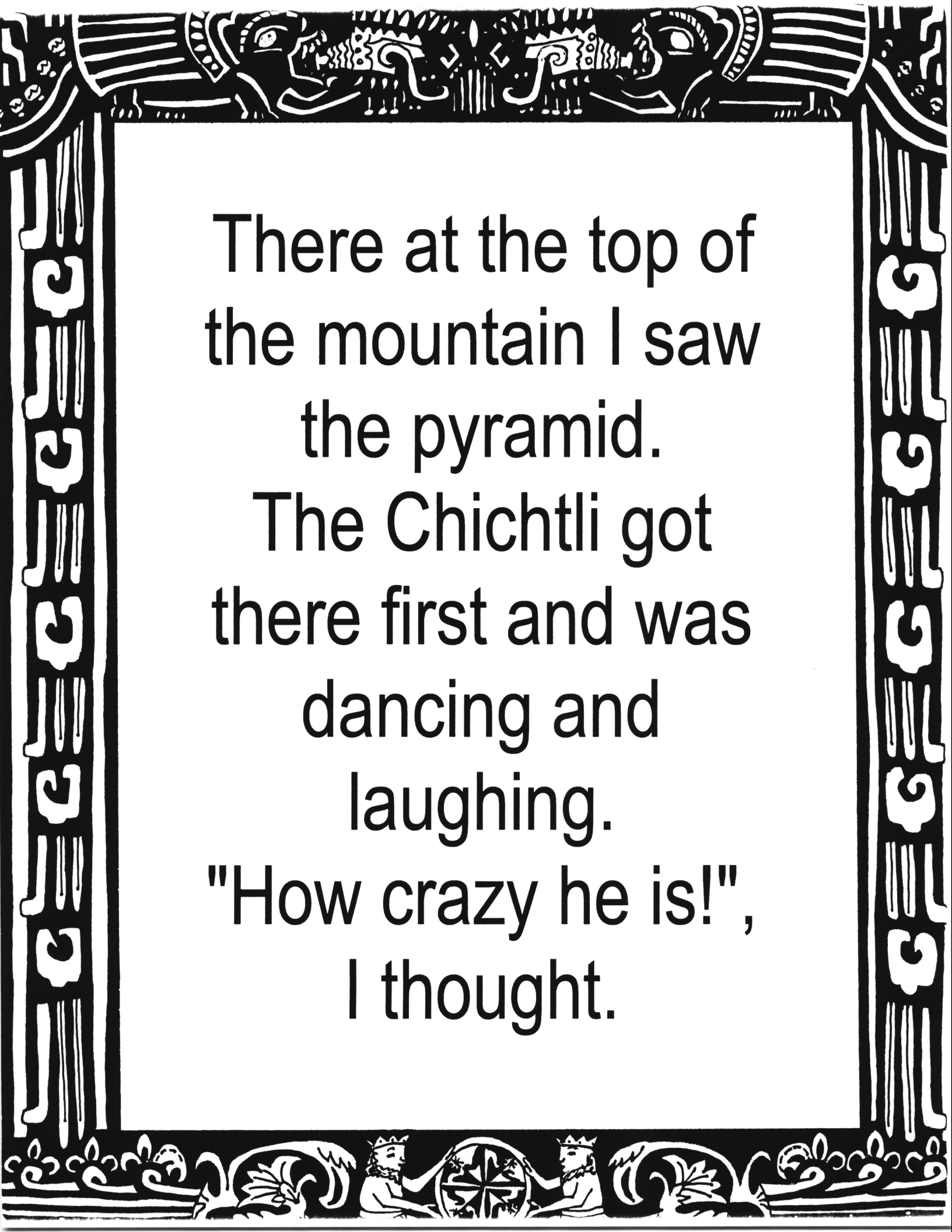
One day he  
challenged me to  
climb Tepozteco,  
a really tall  
mountain.  
He said that  
there was a  
magic pyramid  
at the top.





I was afraid  
because,  
since the Chichtli  
is so silly, who knew  
if he was telling  
me the truth?  
I climbed up the  
mountain anyway...






There at the top of  
the mountain I saw  
the pyramid.

The Chichtli got  
there first and was  
dancing and  
laughing.

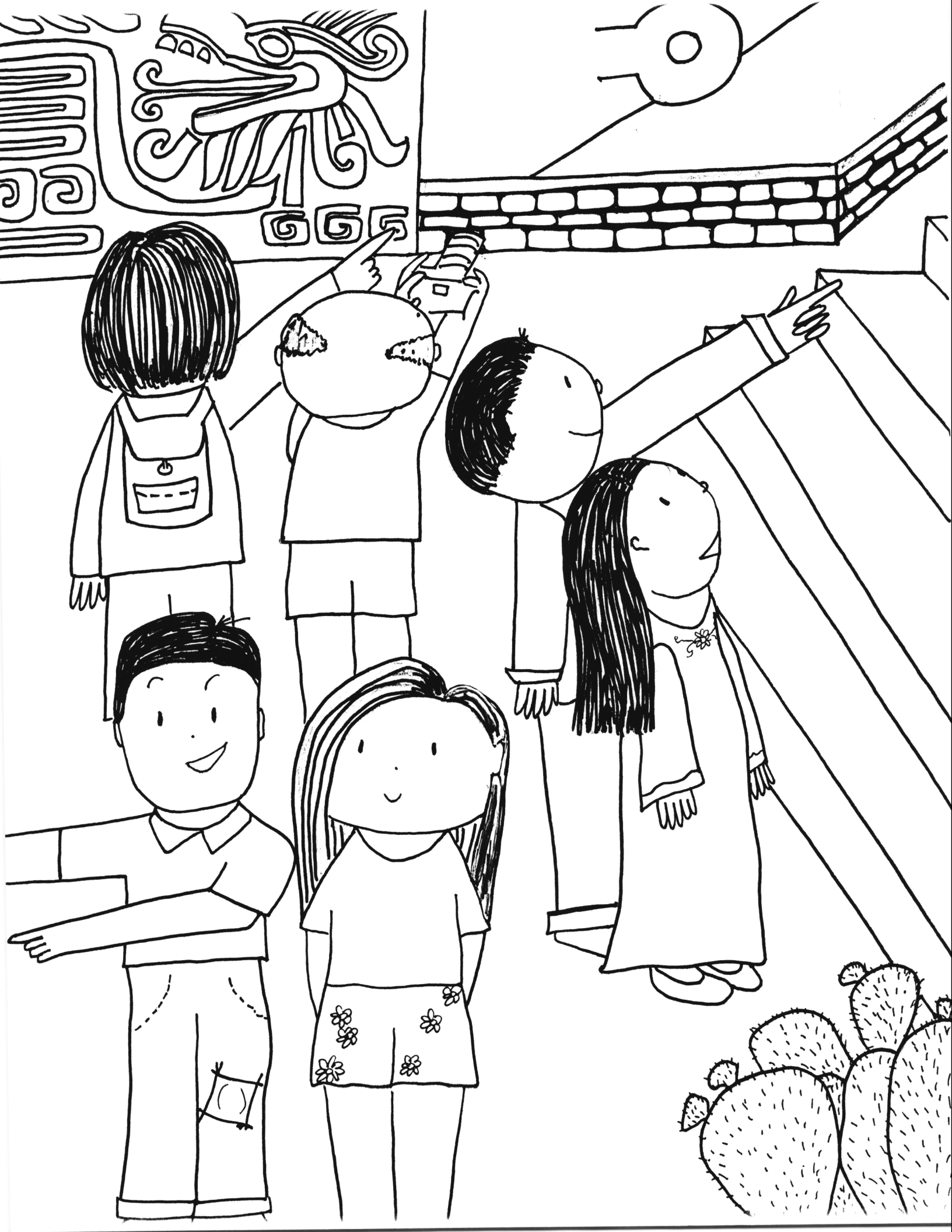
"How crazy he is!",  
I thought.



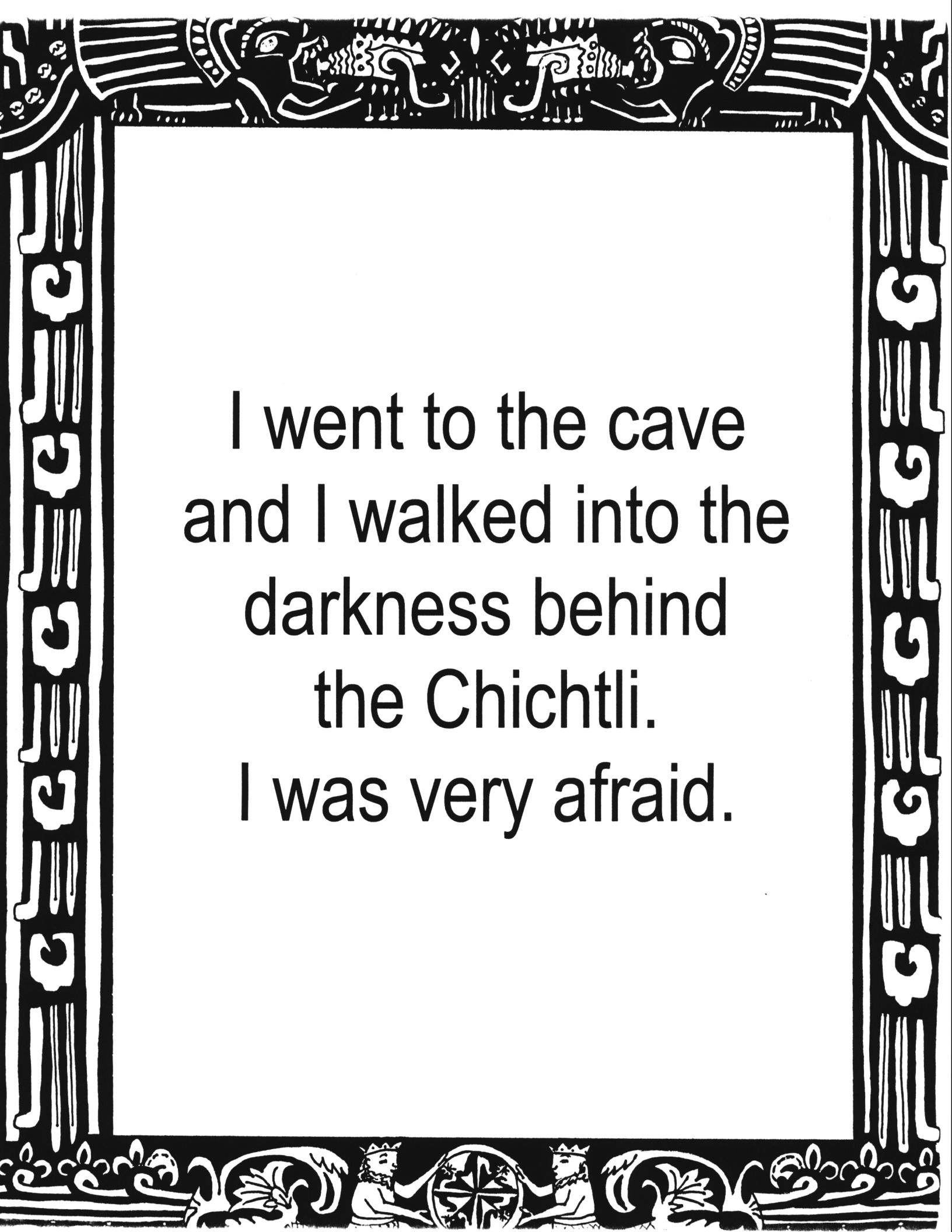




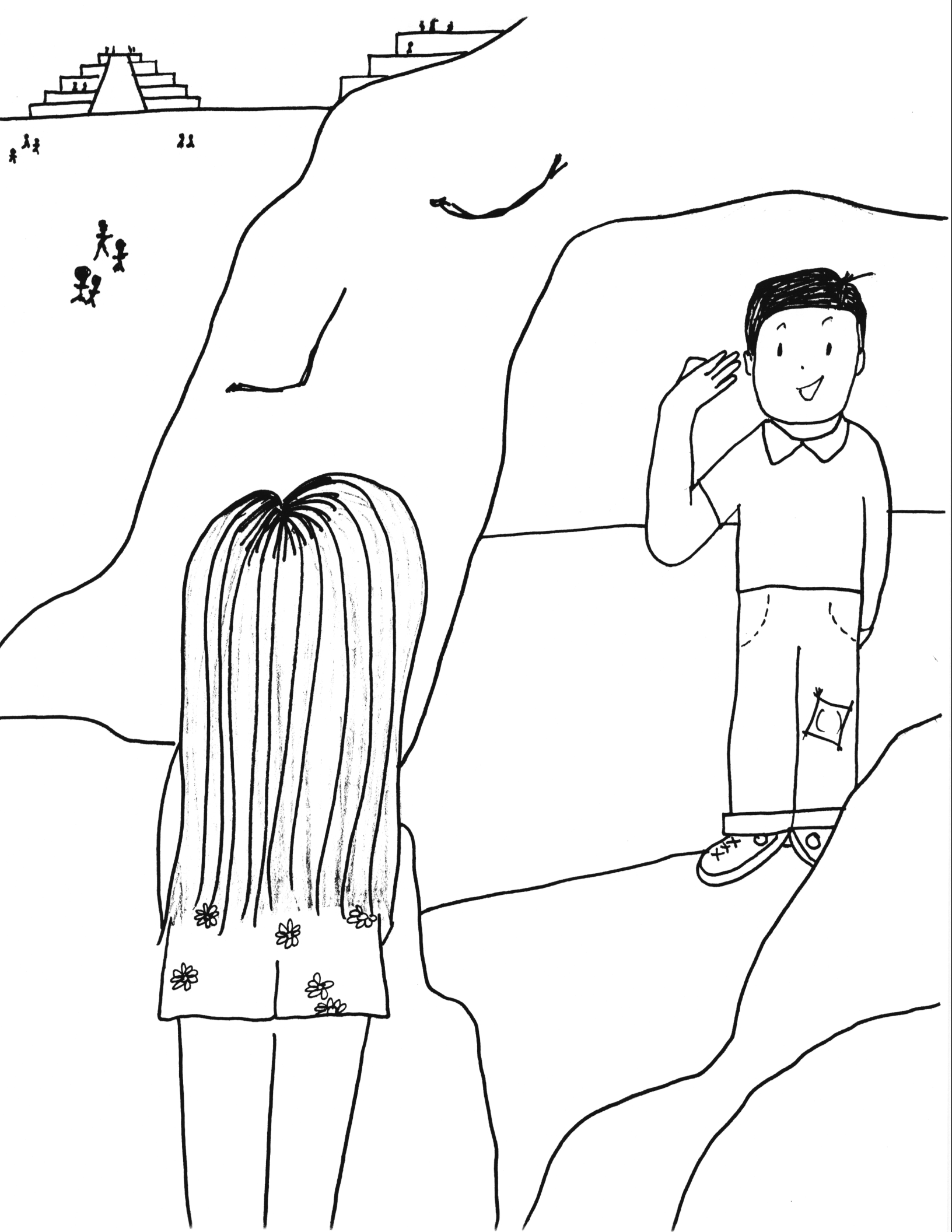
Another time our  
parents took us to  
see the ruins at  
Xochicalco.  
The Chichtli  
challenged me to  
enter a secret cave.

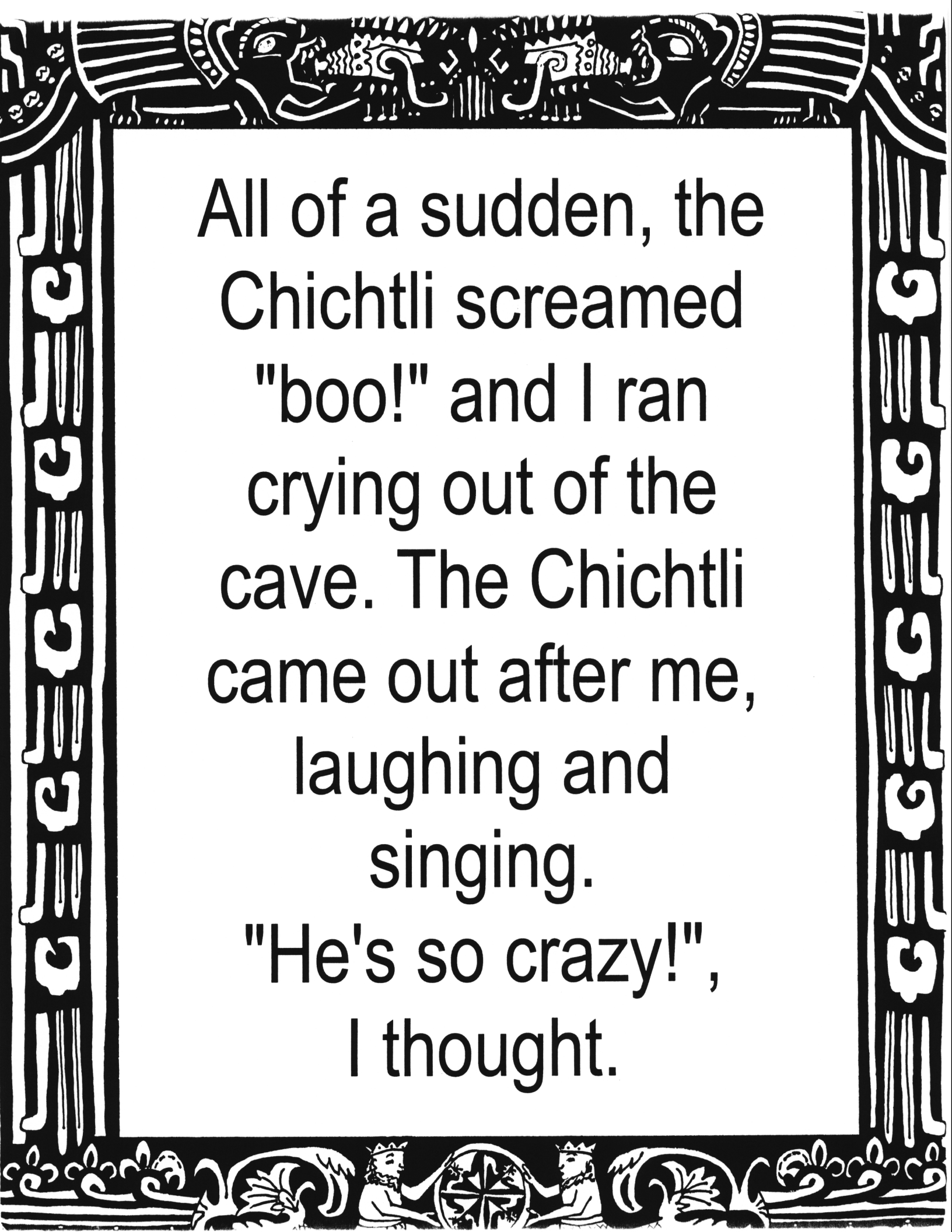







I went to the cave  
and I walked into the  
darkness behind  
the Chichtli.  
I was very afraid.





All of a sudden, the  
Chichtli screamed  
"boo!" and I ran  
crying out of the  
cave. The Chichtli  
came out after me,  
laughing and  
singing.  
"He's so crazy!",  
I thought.





My parents wanted  
to visit the floating  
gardens of  
Xochimilco.

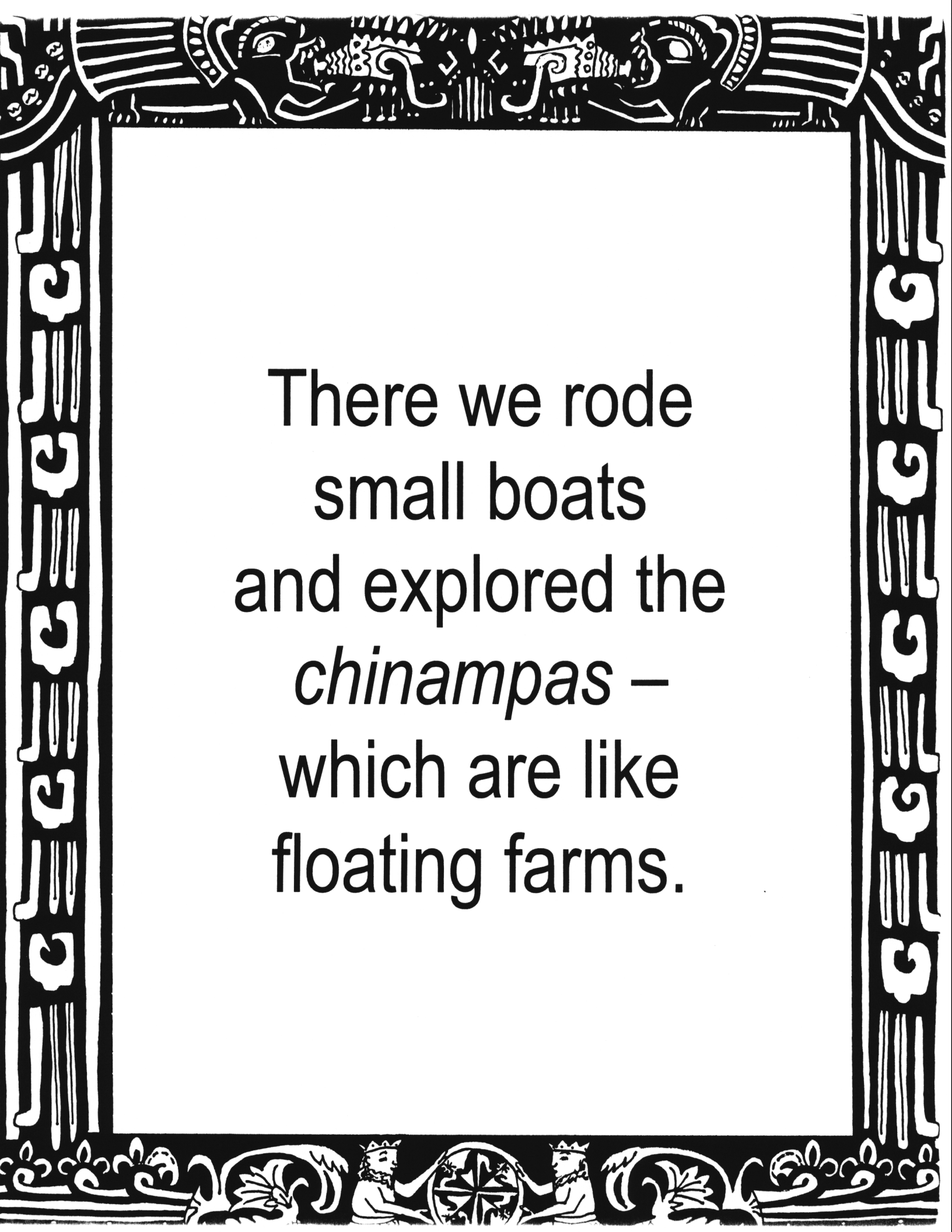
Since I had never  
seen a garden float  
before, I was excited  
about going.

I invited the Chichtli  
to come along.

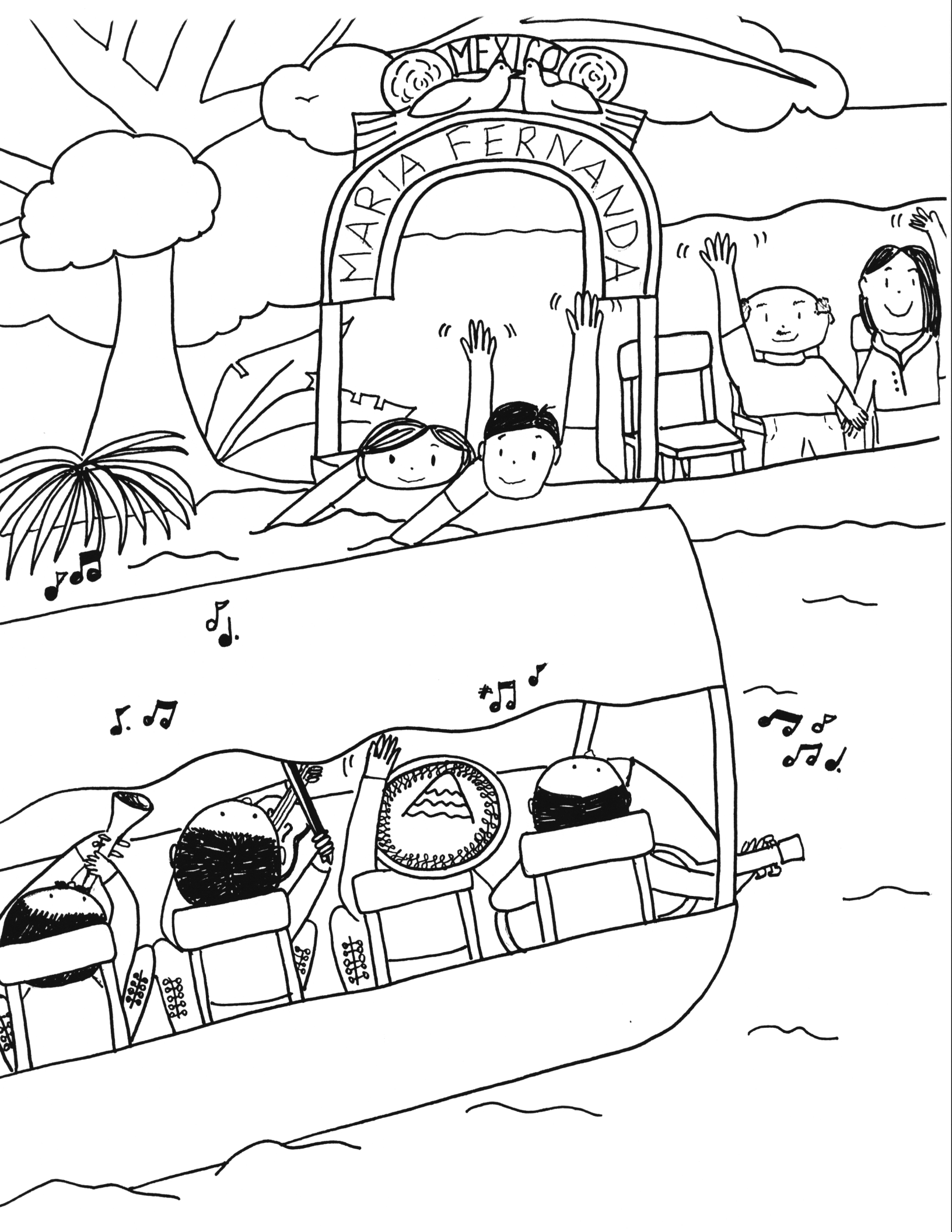
Saludos  
desde Cochimilco



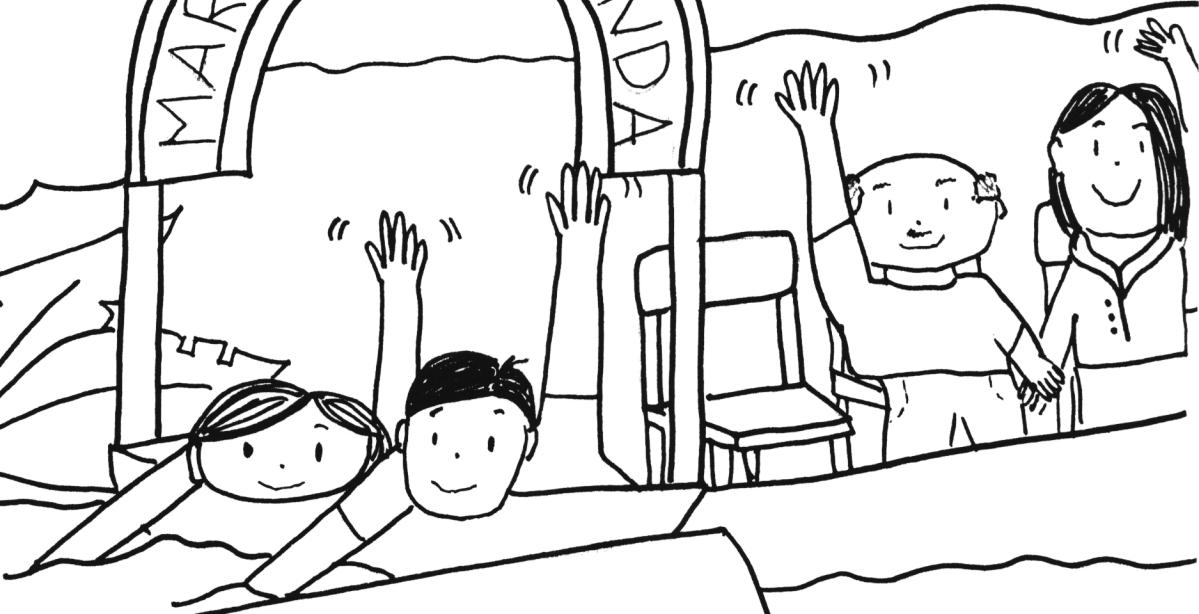


A decorative border surrounds the text. The top border features two stylized Aztec-style faces with large eyes and open mouths, facing each other. The bottom border shows two figures, possibly rulers or deities, seated and holding a large circular object with a cross-like symbol. The left and right borders consist of repeating geometric and organic patterns.

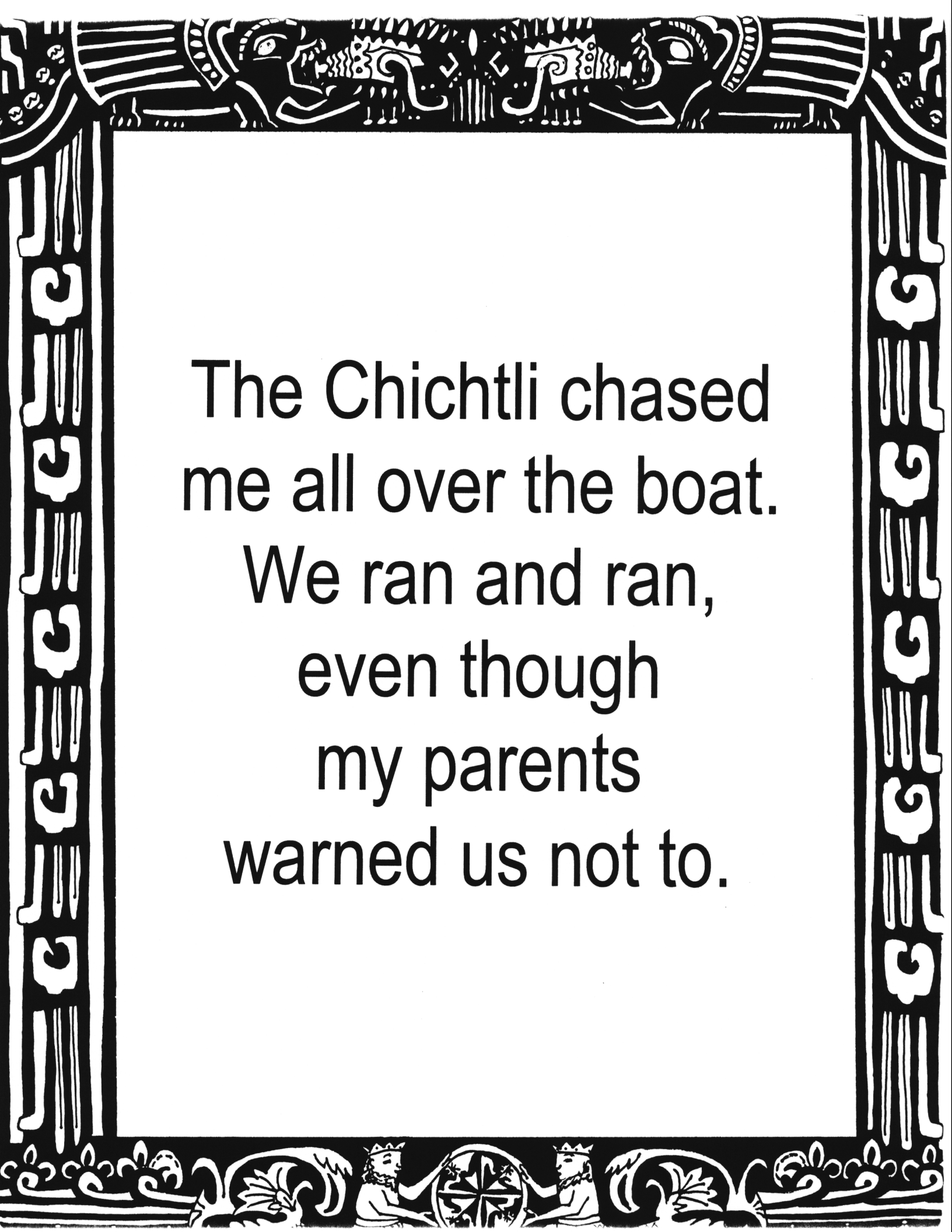
There we rode  
small boats  
and explored the  
*chinampas* –  
which are like  
floating farms.



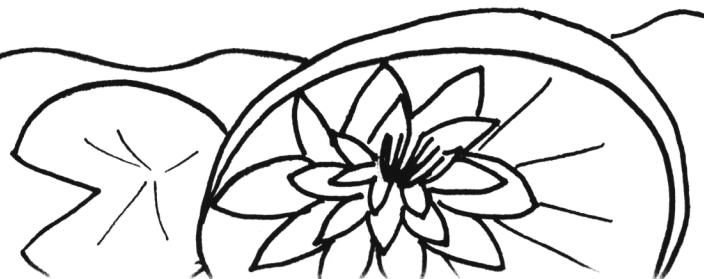
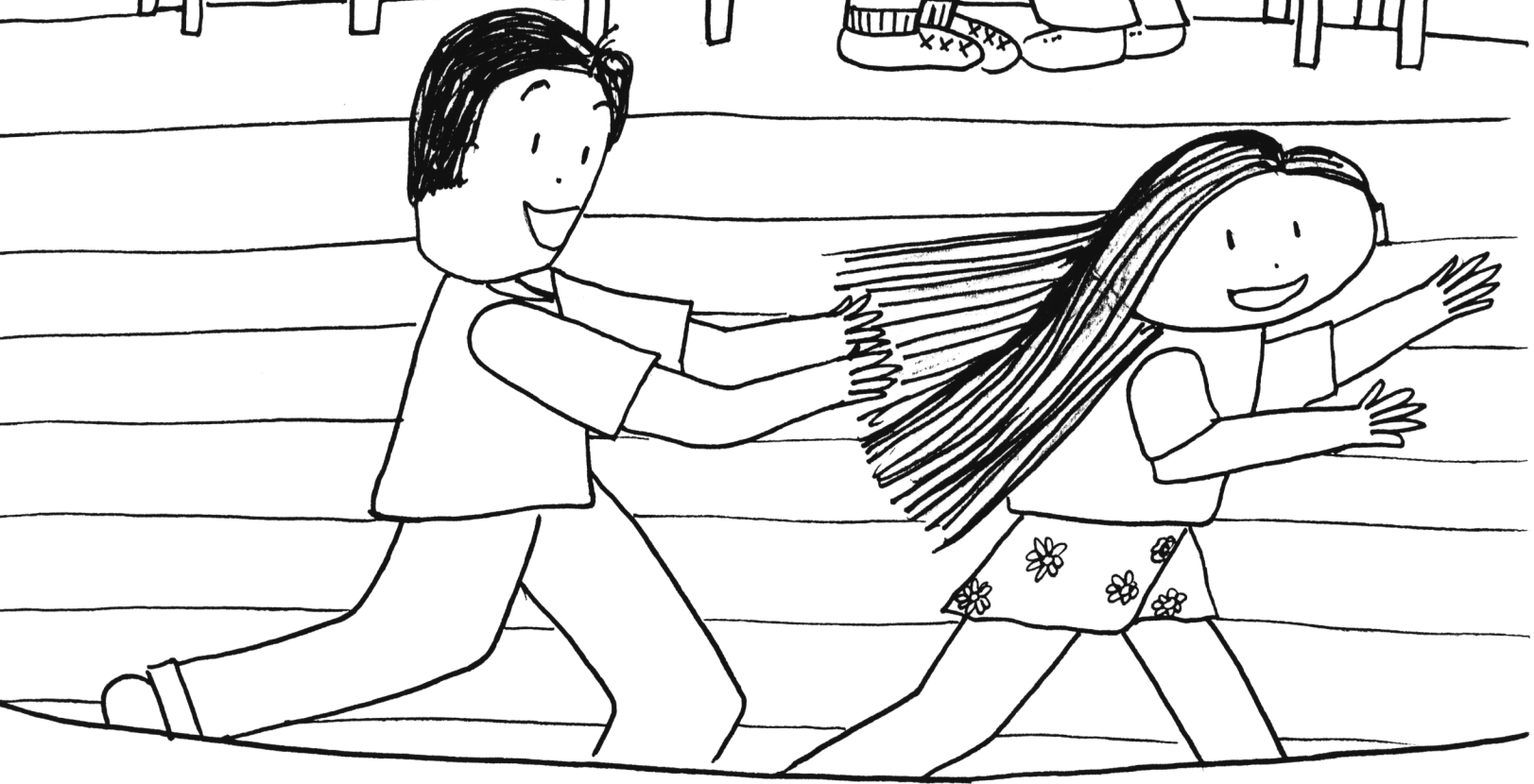
MEXICO  
MARIA FERNANDA

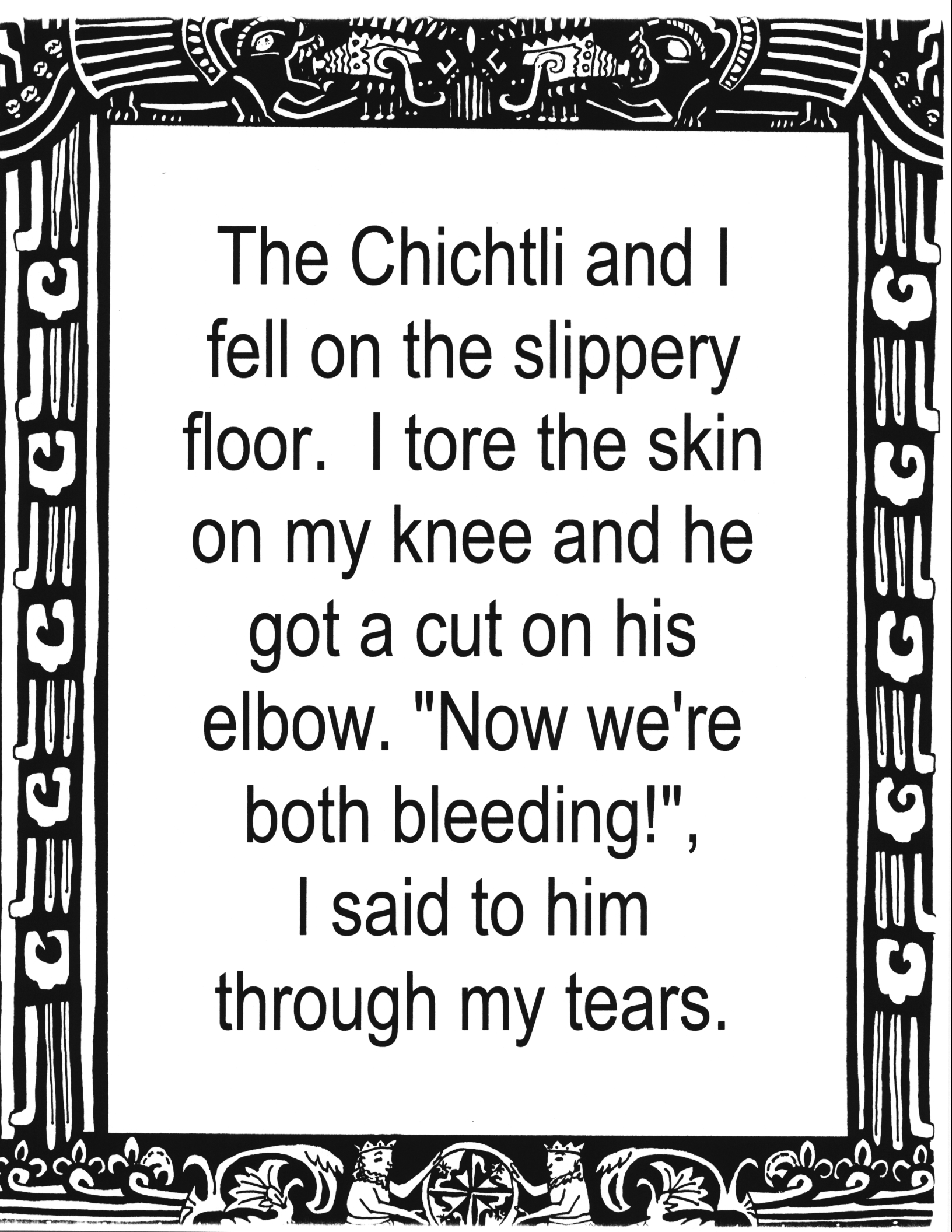




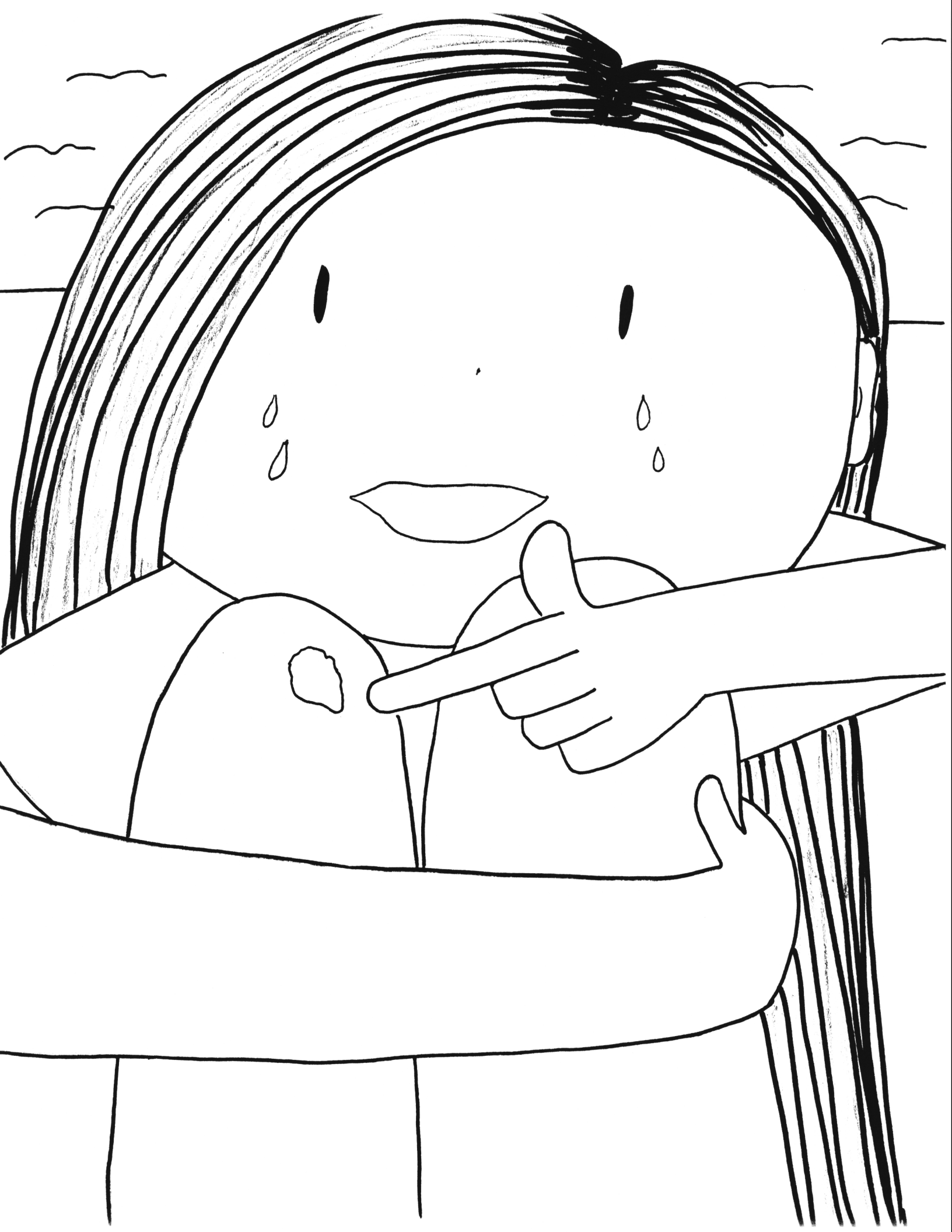


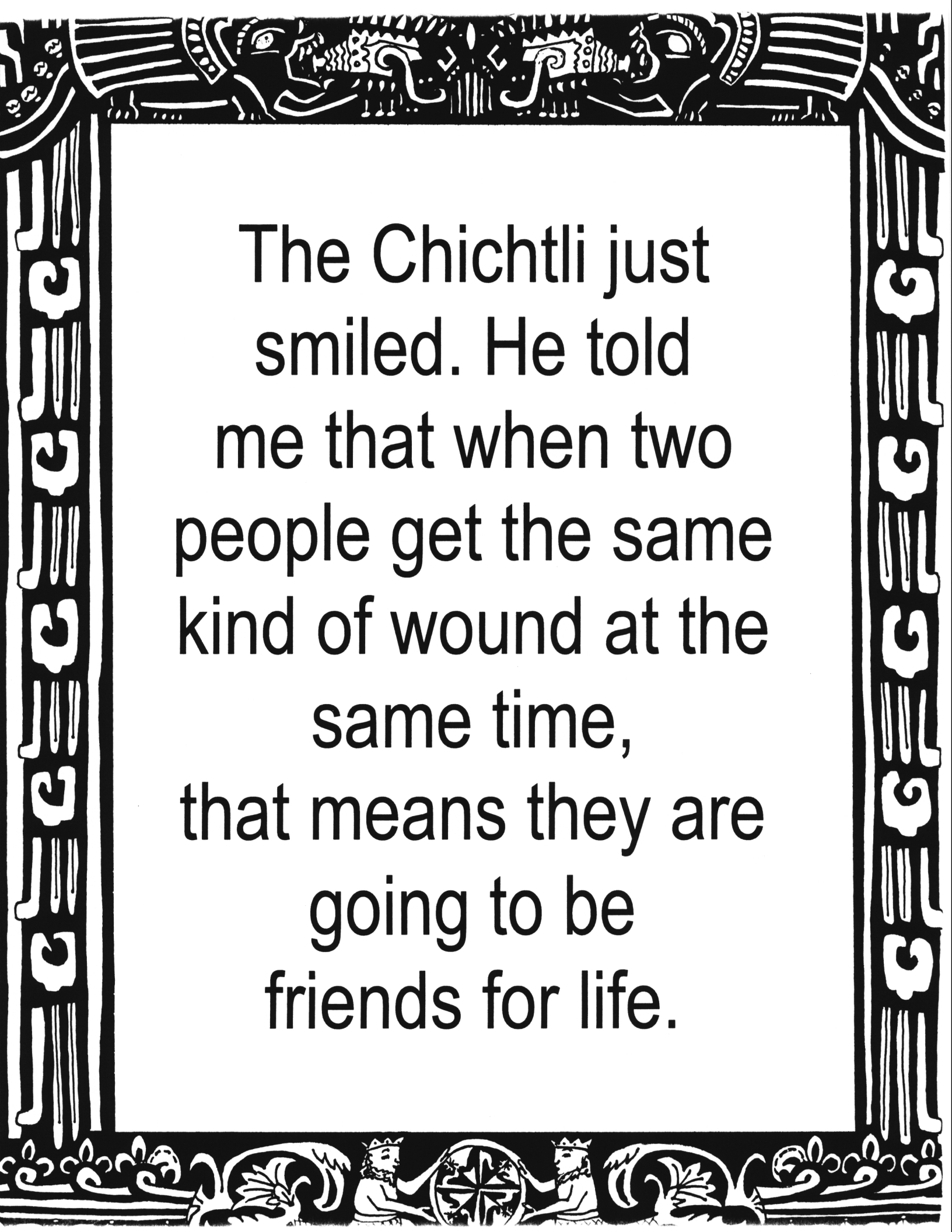
The Chichtli chased  
me all over the boat.  
We ran and ran,  
even though  
my parents  
warned us not to.





The Chichtli and I  
fell on the slippery  
floor. I tore the skin  
on my knee and he  
got a cut on his  
elbow. "Now we're  
both bleeding!",  
I said to him  
through my tears.

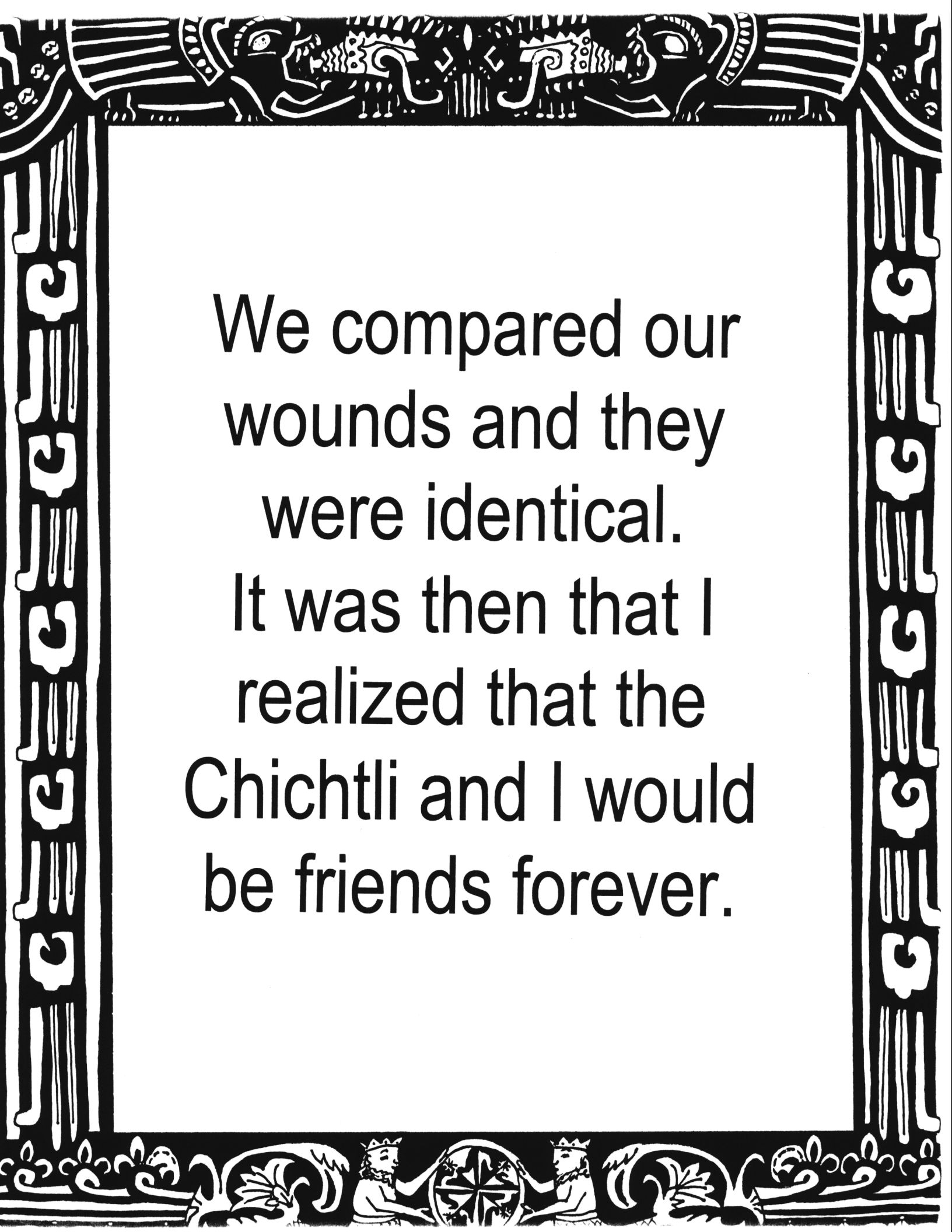


The page is framed by a decorative border. The top border features a central motif of two stylized figures facing each other, possibly representing a ritual or a scene from Aztec mythology. The sides of the border consist of repeating geometric and organic patterns. The bottom border shows two figures seated at a table, with a central circular emblem between them, possibly a sun or a shield.

The Chichtli just  
smiled. He told  
me that when two  
people get the same  
kind of wound at the  
same time,  
that means they are  
going to be  
friends for life.








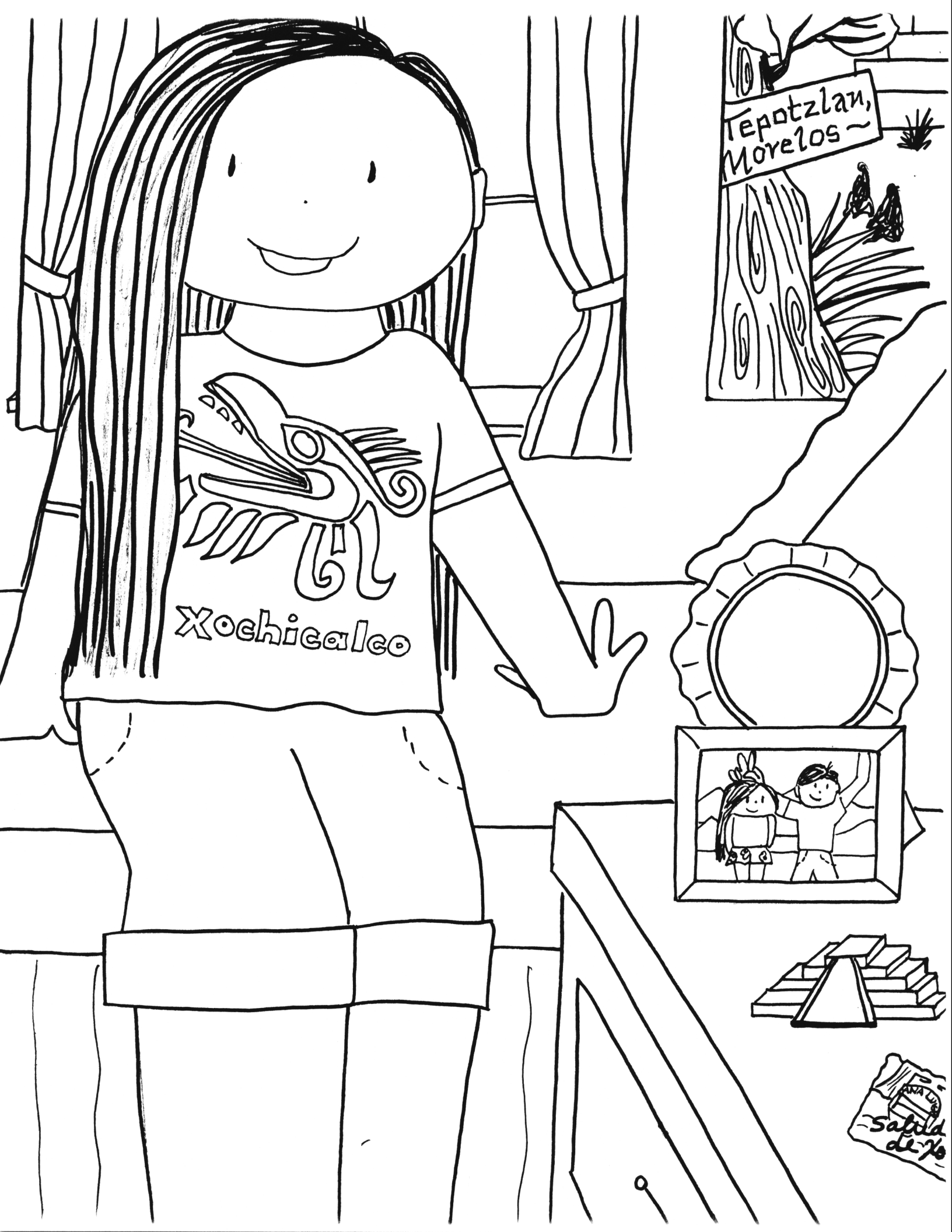
We compared our  
wounds and they  
were identical.  
It was then that I  
realized that the  
Chichtli and I would  
be friends forever.





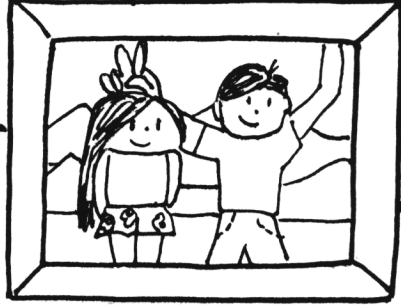
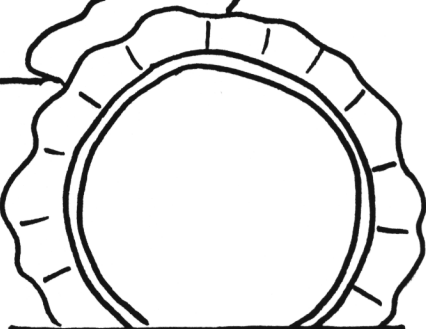



I'm back home now.  
I miss the Chichtli  
a lot, but my parents  
promised that we  
would go visit him  
in December.



Xochicalco

Tepetzlan,  
Morelos ~



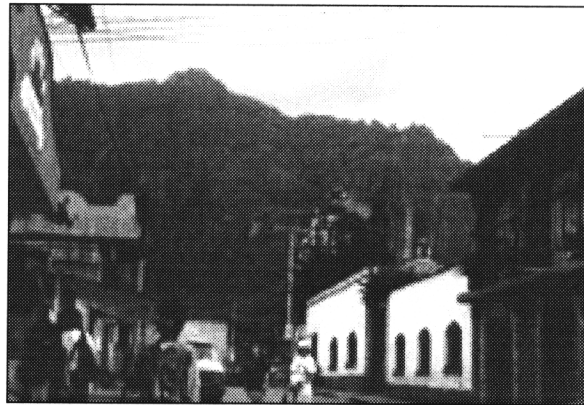


After my trip, I  
suddenly love to  
play tricks. Could it  
be that the spirit  
of the Chichtli  
has taken over  
my soul?

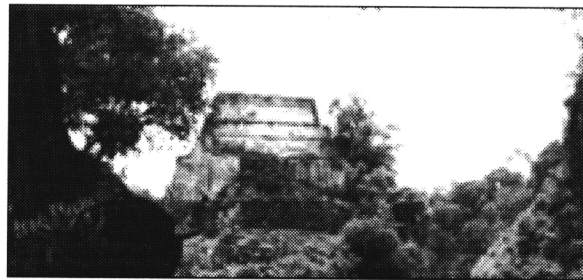


**Introduction:**  
"Lazy, but Lucky"

"Lazy but Lucky" comes from  
Tepotzlan, Mexico.



According to many people, the pyramid  
on top of Tepozteco has magical energy.  
They say that to climb the mountain  
is good luck.

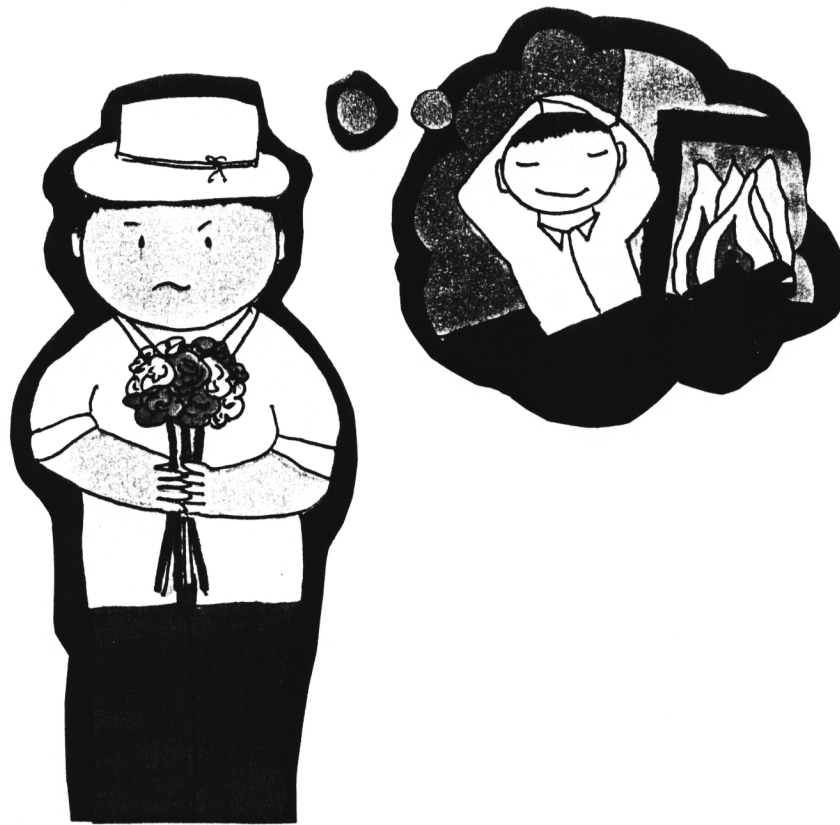


What do you think?

# Lazy, but Lucky

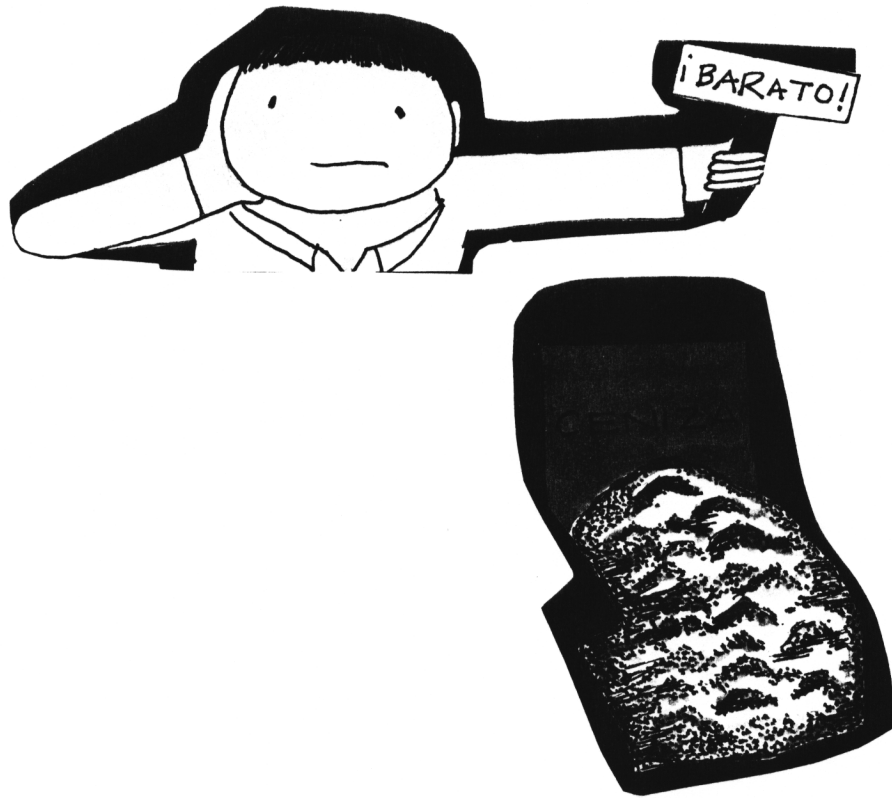


by Lori Langer de Ramirez



Juan loved to rest all day by the fire while his uncle sold flowers at the market. One day, tired with his laziness, the uncle sent Juan to work.



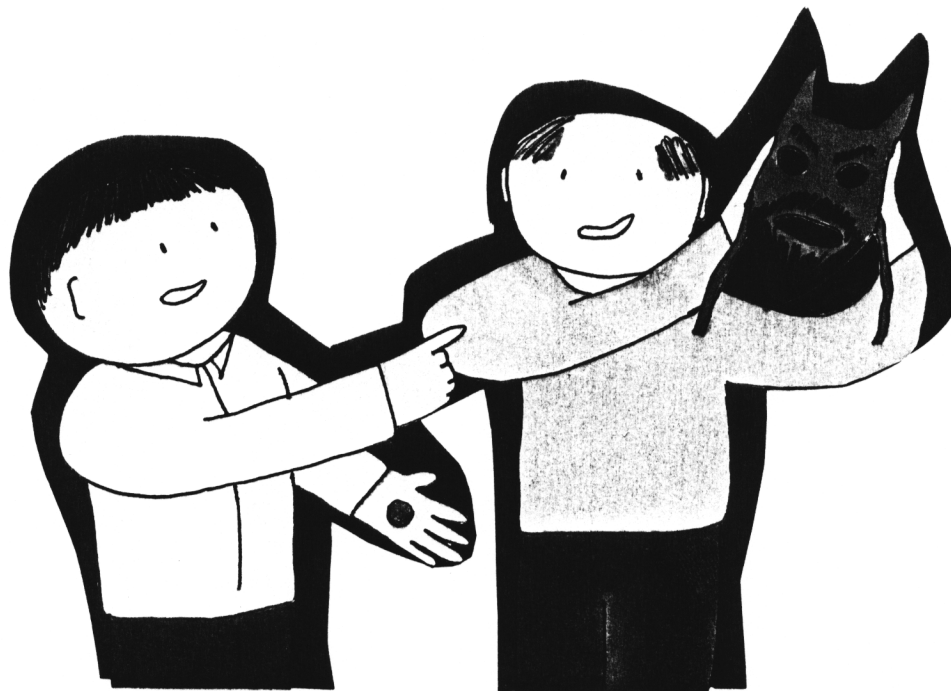


"But what should I sell?",  
the boy asked. The uncle  
thought for a minute and then  
said "the ashes from your fire".  
So Juan went to the market  
and tried to sell his ashes.





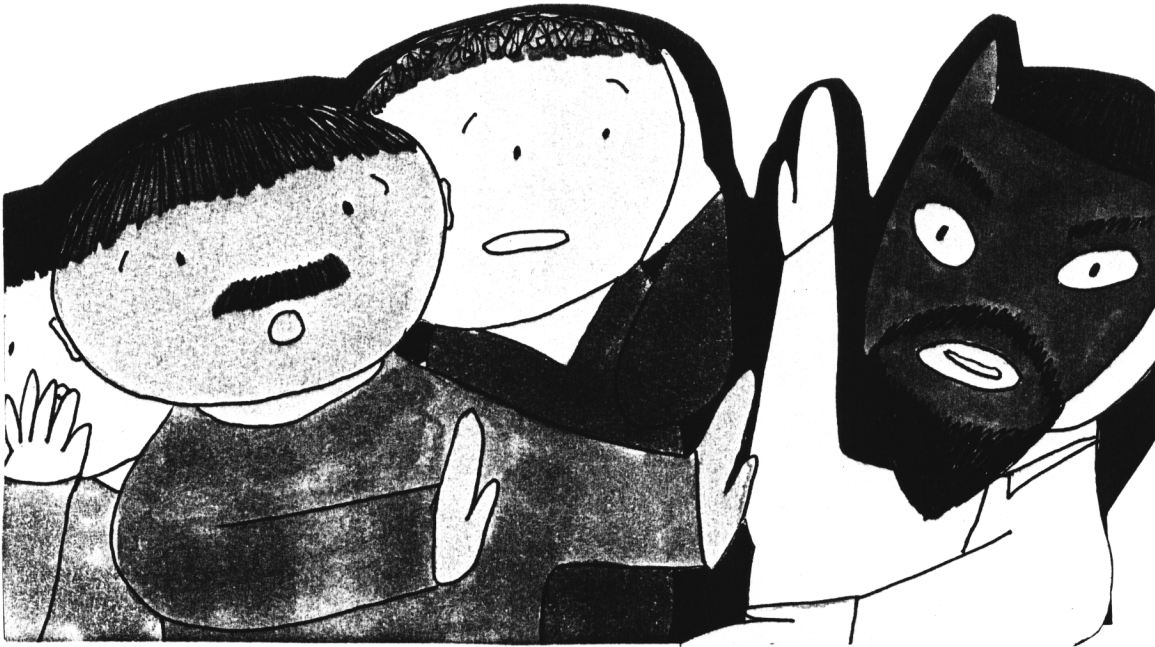
At the market, a woman said to Juan: "Oh, my. No one is going to buy that. Take this coin... you poor thing!"



With his coin  
the boy decided  
to buy a scary  
devil mask.



Happy with his mask,  
Juan went to the woods to make  
a fire and rest. But a group of  
robbers saw the flames and came  
to warm themselves next to the  
fire. Soon they all fell asleep.



When they woke up, the robbers saw Juan with his mask on and they got scared. They thought that he was the devil for real! They left in a hurry and left all of their stolen treasures behind.



Juan brought the treasures home. His uncle was surprised to see all that the boy had received in exchange for his ashes!

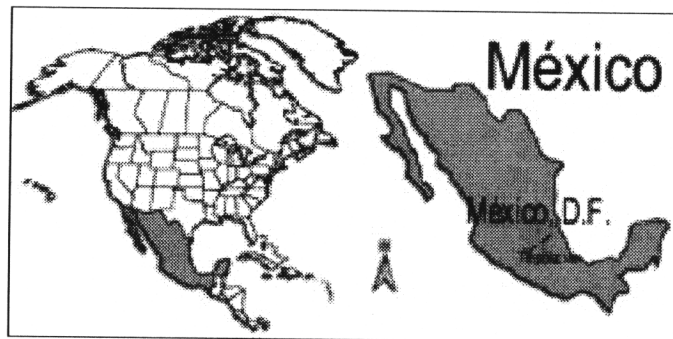
## Introduction:

### "Why Dog Wags His Tail"

"Why Dog Wags His Tail" is a Mayan tale. The temple in the story is modeled after the pyramid in the photo below, called *Chichen Itza*, in the Mexican Yucatan.



The dog in the story is an "escuintle", a very small, hairless dog, similar to a Chihuahua.

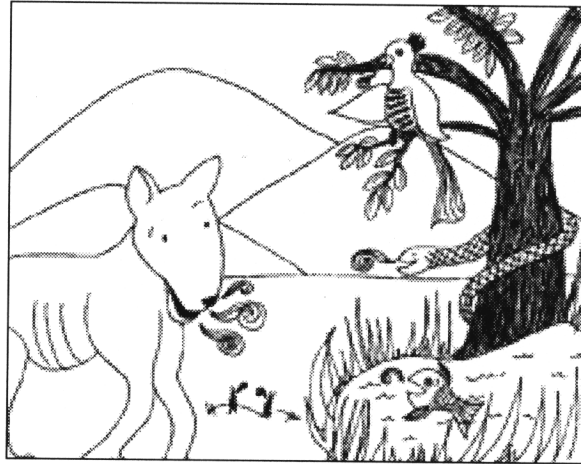


Have you ever seen a dog like this one?

# Why Dog Wags His Tail

## A Mayan story

Adapted by Lori Langer de Ramirez



Long, long ago, animals could talk just like humans. All animals knew the secrets of the natural world, but only Dog knew the secrets of the Creator.

Trying to impress his friends one day, Dog called out: "Gather around, and I will tell you the secrets of the Creator."

The Creator heard Dog's offer and became angry. To teach Dog a lesson, he took the power of speech away from him. Since that time, when Dog wants to say something, he wags his tail instead of his tongue.