

# *My reading sketchbook!*

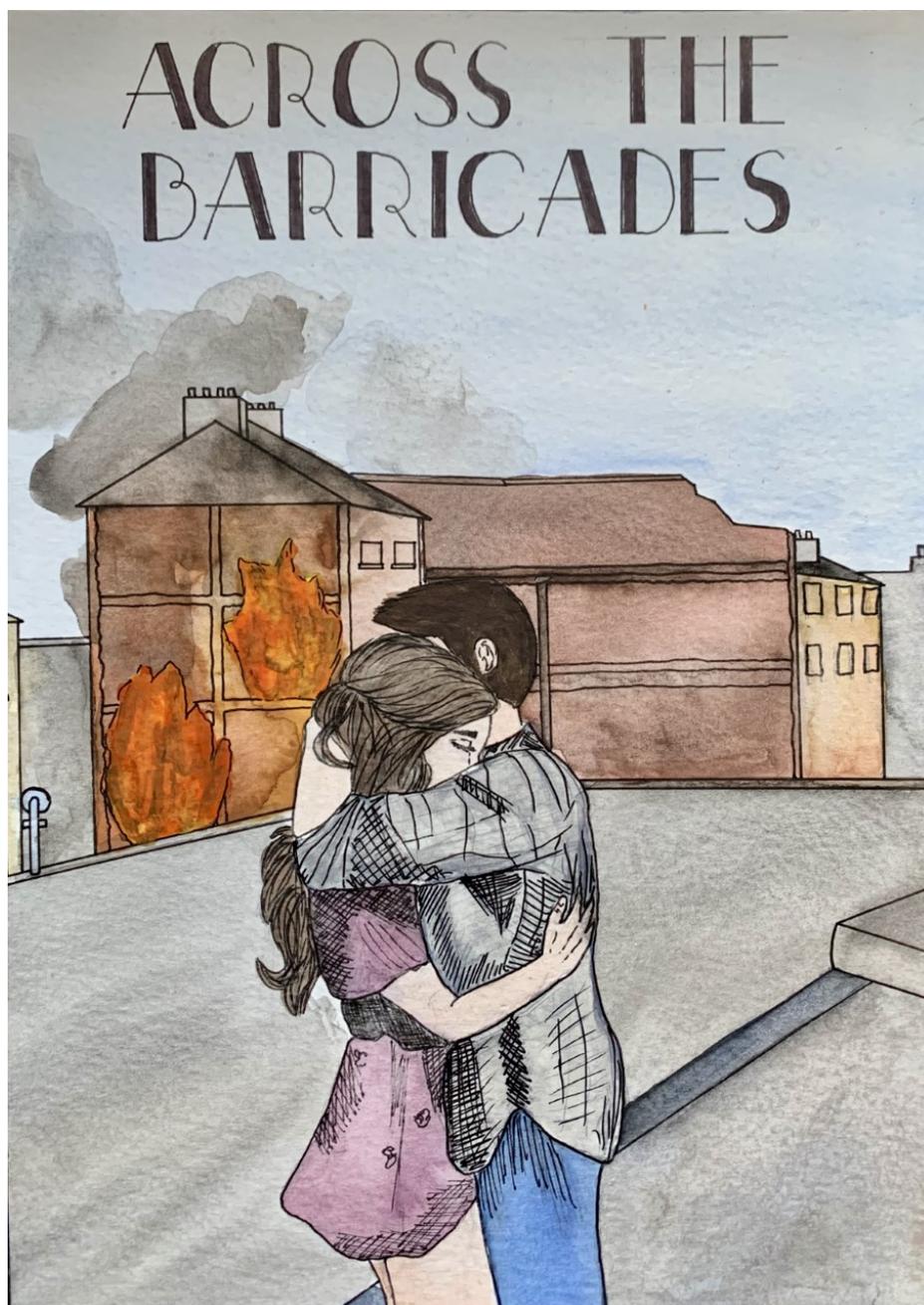
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## Introduction:

Ever since I was little, I have always been fascinated by art. Back then, I painted in our art room at home and turned everything upside down. I used my mother's old art utensils and I was totally hooked. As time went by, I started painting the paint-by-numbers pictures and I drew in books in which you paint model's clothes. It was a lot of fun creating your own clothes and painting assessors. At school, art was and still is one of my favourite subjects. For two or three years, I have been painting a lot with acrylic paints and watercolours. I have often looked up paintings on websites and have copied them. Mostly I have been painting subjects like animals or nature drawings. Then, I also started drawing pencil sketches, with mixed results at first. I have been drawing cartoon characters or mandala drawings. My family has always been very supportive and I am very grateful for having them. They have been giving me good feedback about my drawings, which made me continue.

In the meantime, I am always trying out different techniques and learning things that I didn't know before. One thing I enjoy drawing are portraits. I drew a friend, some family members and myself too. It takes a lot of time, but the reactions of the people seeing the results makes me very happy and motivates me a lot to keep drawing.

With this work, I started reading books differently. Sometimes I paused the reading and thought of some illustrations that I could make. I took my sketchbook and drew what came up to my mind. Most of the illustrations were created by that sort of random thinking I did. For some other illustrations, I had to watch some pictures of the backgrounds, for example the nature environment or the cities in which the story happens.

Since I started in High-school, I have liked the English language very much. Most of the time, I talk English with my friends, or just say different words in English. I think it's a very beautiful language and it's easy to read. I mostly read my books in English, which is also a reason why I wanted to write this work about English literature in English.

Some of the books I read, did we read in class. One of them is called *Rabbit-Proof Fence*. In November 2020, I drew an illustration of the main characters and decided that my TRAPE was going to be about me drawing book illustrations. Afterwards I read the first book of the "Kevin and Sadie series", recommended by my teacher, because we were reading the second part in class. This first part of the series was very interesting and made me very curious about reading the next parts.

This whole process encouraged my curiosity for new books that I could read and draw. However, I wanted to illustrate something else that would add a bit of flavour. I finally picked out some poems by Tim Burton and illustrated them. There is something creepy about the way his poems he writes and I found that very interesting.

I was very interested in all the stories and put a lot of effort into the illustrations, which took time. Now I am very satisfied and have learned a lot with this TRAPE.

## What is an illustration?

### Definition of an illustration:

Everyone has seen an illustration before and maybe thought nothing of it. But where exactly do you see illustrations and what do they declare?

Here are some examples of where exactly you can find illustrations:

- On books
- On posters
- On flyers
- On buildings
- On websites
- On food packaging
- In advertisements
- etc.

In other words, you can see illustrations almost everywhere. Illustrations are pictures, animations or photos that explain what is happening in an event, a story or anything else. Take a book illustration for example; this can only be an illustration if the image/photo says something about the book and gives some insight. If there is a dark and creepy illustration on the book cover, then the book is not a romantic love story with the perfect "happy ending", but rather a scary story or a thriller.

The word illustration comes from the Latin "*illustratio*", which means lighten up, provide enlightenment, also spiritual or intellectual enlightenment. An illustration can also be a movie, for example a cartoon movie. These movies can be drawn by an illustrator, so they're basically an illustration, too.

## History of literature illustrations:

### Since when have illustrations been used in literature?

Illustrations were made from woodcuts a long time ago, and from them came illustrations as we know them today. At the beginning of the 15th century, card games were made with a block printing process. This block printing involved printing patterns with carved wooden sticks or blocks. Patterns in a wide variety of shapes were carved into the wood, coloured with ink and pressed onto plain paper. Block printing emerged and became very popular. A few years later, letterpress printing became more and more popular. People who were printers by trade began to print and make books and then used the block printing process to illustrate the books.

The woodcut patterns were often used various times for other books. Saints were carved on some of these woodcut patterns and collected to fill several books with a wide variety of saints. After some time, relief printing and movable metal type were used so that the pages in the books contained both text and illustrations. However, this was either very expensive or very laborious and took time and precision. The very first book to use a different technique for illustrations was the Bolognese edition of Ptolemy's *Cosmographia*, produced in 1477. However, a technique illustrated by engravings was used for the illustrations and not a woodcut print. This book was also the first to contain printed maps.

In the mid-16th century, woodcuts were gradually replaced by engraving and etching techniques, which became mainstream between 1560 and 1590, first in Antwerp and then in the main publishing centres of Germany, Switzerland and Italy. They remained popular until the end of the 19th century. Here, the illustrations were printed separately on other pages, and not attached to the pages with texts.

In the late 15th century, engravings and etchings illustrations became clearer and more detailed. However, etchings were used less because they were much more expensive. In this age, quite a lot of scientific and technical works, children's books, atlases, etc... were produced. were produced and illustrated.

The expensive books, for example on geographical subjects and nature stories, as well as some children's books, had hand-printed illustrations that got also coloured by hand. In Europe, none of these experimental techniques were used at the time; they continued to use the usual techniques of etchings. A few centuries later, colour printing of illustrations became established in Europe. In East Asia, colour printing with many different woodblocks became more common; the fully developed technique in Japan was called "Nishiki-e" and was used in both books and "Ukiyo-e" prints.

In 1798, Alois Senefelder, a German author and actor, invented lithography. However, this was not made public until 1818. Lithography allowed for greater text variety and accuracy. The artist could now draw and paint directly on the printing plate itself.

New technologies developed in the 19th and 20th centuries provided new resources for artists and designers. In the early 19th century, photo-engraving techniques made it possible to copy photographs from books. This process uses light-sensitive gelatine to transfer the image onto a metal plate, which is then etched. Another technique developed in France, in the mid-19th century, was chromatography, which made colour printing possible.

However, the process was extremely expensive and time intensive, as the artist had to make a separate colour plate for each colour used. In the late 20th century, the process known as offset lithography made colour printing cheaper and less time-consuming for the artist. The process used a chemical process to transfer a photographic negative onto a rubber surface before printing.

The 19th and 20th centuries once again saw new different art movements and their representatives. The representatives were particularly interested in rich book illustrations and book designs. Aubrey Beardsley, was a representative of Art Nouveau and aesthetics, which had a great influence on the creation of today's illustrations.

Today, book illustrations are painted either by hand or with the help of electronic devices. These illustrations are either painted on tablets with certain apps or on a computer with various programmes. But there are also drawing tablets that are only suitable for drawing and painting.

It is very interesting to see how certain devices for illustrating have evolved from woodcut printers to the tablets. Over time, of course, the whole art culture has changed and so have the

different art styles and techniques. I once painted on a “drawing tablet” and it was a completely different experience than drawing with my own hand or painting with a brush and paint. However, this way is easier because you can correct your mistakes without kind of ruining the illustration.

Here are some examples of some old techniques:

a woodcut print:



“Nishiki-e”:



Lithography:



“Drawing tablet”:



## My book choices:

Here are all the books I read for my work. I read some of them in my English classes and some of them in my free time. Overall, the books were all very exciting and I enjoyed reading all of them.

### *The Twelfth Day of July:*

*The Twelfth Day of July* is a book written by Joan Lingard and it's the first part of the "Kevin and Sadie" series. The story is about two kids and their growing friendship, and the beginning of their love. The story happens in Belfast in Northern Ireland, during "the Troubles" in the 1970s. The Troubles, also called the "Northern Ireland conflict", has been a conflict between the Protestant unionists and the Roman Catholic nationalists. The Catholics want Ireland to be all together, so one country, while Protestants want Northern Ireland to stay part of Britain.

The story begins in the Protestant Street. Tommy and Sadie Jackson are looking forward to the 12th of July, which is a celebration day for Protestants. Before dinner, Mr. Jackson asked his children why they celebrate this day. Suddenly Mrs. Jackson and Sadie started fighting and her mother tried to beat Sadie. They don't have a good relationship and fight a lot. She flees from the kitchen to the street and Tommy follows her.

The Jackson family house doesn't look like other houses on the street. That's because of the painting on their wall. It shows a mural of King Billy (William III). Later, Tommy and Sadie met Linda Mullet and Steve (his last name is unknown), and go to Mrs. McConkie's shop to buy some more decoration for the street. The kids are discussing about whose street is going to look the best.

Meanwhile in the house of the McCoy's, Brede McCoy is talking about the Catholics with her parents. Afterwards she goes out and meets Kate Kelly, her best friend, and a group of boys. Kevin McCoy, Brede's brother is also there. They talk about ruining the mural of King Billy and writing "Down King Billy" on it. At night, Kevin and Brian Rafferty take some paint and sneak to the Jacksons house. They ruin the mural like they planned but Sadie and Tommy see them. She runs after the boys and catches Kevin but she must let him go. That was Kevin's and Sadie's first ever meeting. Back at the house, some neighbours wake and are standing around the event. Sadie swears revenge.

At home, Kevin sneaks in and his father catches him. Kevin says he didn't do anything and goes upstairs. The next day, Kevin's parents know what Kevin did. Mr. McCoy is very proud of Kevin but his mom isn't. She is sad that her son does things like that. All of a sudden they get a telegram, which says that Kevin's grandmother is very ill. Mr and Mrs McCoy directly pack their stuff and drive to the grandmother, which means that the siblings are alone.

On the 8th of July, Sadie and Tommy plan their revenge and decide to do something that night. In the afternoon, they buy some orange paint and put it under their beds. Later at night, they sneak out, go to the Catholic area and paint on a wall. They write down "God bless King Billy, no pope here". Then, Brian sees the siblings and chases them. He catches Sadie, but Tommy manages to escape. Brian takes Sadie to the McCoy's, and Kevin is surprised. Brede is being

friendly and offers her some tea but she refuses. Kevin and Sadie start fighting because they don't accept each other's opinion. He lets her go but, Brian and Kevin already start to plan the next trick. The next day, Kevin and Brian go to the Protestant area and meet Sadie and some of her friends. They start fighting, but two men are able to calm them down.

At home, Sadie and Tommy decide that they want to make more money for some more decoration for the street. They start selling chips, but accidentally they set the kitchen on fire. Luckily the fire is extinguished, but Mr and Mrs Jackson come home and see the misery. Of course, they get very mad and yell at their kids. Sadie and Tommy are lying in their bed and think about Kevin and Brede. The parents meet the Mullets, because they need to get out of the house.

Kevin is having a party at home, and after the party he goes to the Protestant area again. He prowls up to the Jacksons house and enters their kitchen. He sees that there has been a fire and wonders what could have happened. All the sudden Mrs Jackson comes back home and screams when she sees Kevin. Kevin runs away. Tommy and Sadie come downstairs and Sadie knows that Kevin must be the unknown person in the kitchen. She goes to the McCoy's' house and wants to let Kevin know she was there. Sadie writes on their wooden table "King Billy was here. Long live King Billy", but Kevin watches her. Sadie takes flour and throws it at him, and the whole kitchen is full of flour. She flees again and hides in a neighbour's backyard. Luckily no one sees her, but some Catholic kids are searching for her. Kevin sees Brian sitting on the street and notices that he has fallen asleep. So, he decides to look out for Sadie on his own, but after some time he also gets tired and goes home, thinking that Sadie must be home already.

The next morning, Mr. Jackson gets worried because Sadie isn't in her room and doesn't come for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Tommy and some other children start searching for Sadie, while she's still hiding in some Catholic people's house. Tommy and the children can't find her in the Protestant area, so they go to the Catholic part and start asking some Catholics if they saw her. The Catholic children say they didn't see her and Tommy decides to go home.

Kevin and Brede want to keep searching for her and think that she could have hidden in someone's backyard. They also remember that Mr Mooney, a neighbour of the McCoys', left the other day. The siblings go to his house and find Sadie in the kitchen. Kevin grabs her arm and says that she can get home right after cleaning up their kitchen, but Sadie starts screaming out for help. Mr Jackson and some other Protestant men start searching for Sadie in the Catholic area, because she still hasn't come home. Suddenly, some Catholic people come and all of them start discussing. Then, Sadie comes out of the house and says that she has been kidnapped by Kevin and some other people. These lies nearly cause a big fight, but luckily some policemen come up and settle the difficulties.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, Sadie gets all ready for the parade. She puts her outfit on and marches through her room. She meets some friends, and they collect some stuff for the big bonfire at night. In the end the minister doesn't decide which street looks the best, which makes Sadie mad, but she and her friends have lots of fun. They start a fire and dance around it. On the Catholic side, Kevin and some other kids see the bonfires and decide to go to the Protestant area at night. A few hours later, they go to the enemy's side and meet some Protestant children. Sadie is also there. All of a sudden, the situation escalates, and the kids start fighting badly. They

throw stones and other sharp stuff at each other. Brede wants to stop the fight, but she is the one who gets hit by a stone. She starts bleeding on the head and ends up in the hospital.

Finally, it's the glorious 12<sup>th</sup> day of July. The only problem is, that Tommy and Sadie aren't happy anymore. They can't stop thinking about Brede, so they decide not to go to the march but go see Brede at the hospital. Mr and Mrs Jackson are confused and don't know what could have changed their mind about the 12<sup>th</sup>. At the hospital, the siblings meet Kevin. Brede still isn't awake and the three of them spend the day together. The only thing they think about is why the Catholics and Protestants can't live a peaceful life all together.

My opinion:

In my opinion this book is a great book for every age and personality. You understand how bad "the Troubles" must have been for both sides. I'm sure they daily lived in fear, anger and suffer. Kevin and Sadie's characters are making you think about lots of things like, self-confidence and respect for other people. Both characters have a big heart, even though they act tough and fearless. They're just scared and think a lot about the whole problems. Another thing I like is that while reading you directly notice that there is a closeness between the two kids. The book was easy to read and it was funny to read some Irish words that I've never heard of or never read before.

## *Across the Barricades:*

The story is about a girl called Sadie and a boy called Kevin, who become good friends, and even a bit more. This book is the second part of the "Kevin and Sadie series" and it's set in Northern Ireland in the Belfast area in the 1970s. Back then, the Catholics wanted Ireland to be all together so one country while Protestants wanted Northern Ireland to stay part of Britain.

The first part of the "Kevin and Sadie series" is about the friendship of Kevin (a Catholic) and Sadie (a Protestant). Kevin and Sadie had some little run-ins and did some tricks to each-other, like painting the walls or devastating the kitchen. These tricks were never that bad or rude, they were just kids and didn't understand how dangerous the Troubles, especially the hate between these two states were. One time, there was a big fight between some Catholic and Protestant kids. Sadie, Kevin, Tommy (Sadie's brother) and Brede (Kevin's sister) were trying to end the fight but then Brede got hurt on her head and had to go to the hospital. The next day was the glorious 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, which was supposed to be a great day for Sadie and Tommy, but they were sick with worries because of Brede, so that they decided to spend the day at the hospital and not to go the parade. It was a sad ending, but the story continues.

*Across the Barricades* is the second part of this series. After the accident of Brede, they haven't seen each other for 3 years. Finally, Sadie and Kevin meet again, and the story continues: On day, after 3 years of silence and not seeing each other, Kevin McCoy and Sadie Jackson finally meet again. The two of them are automatically attracted to each other. They have both changed a lot, not only externally, but they have also become more mature. Kevin and Sadie decide to go up to the top of Cave Hill and run into Linda Mullet. Linda was an old-school friend of Sadie's, who is also in love with Tommy Jackson. Unfortunately, Sadie and Linda don't have a good relationship. Linda is a very arrogant person and she likes to snitch when Sadie does things she's not allowed to. That's the reason why Linda goes home and tells her mother (Mrs Mullet) about the meeting of Kevin and Sadie. Sadie's mother is worried because Sadie stays out a lot and doesn't come home for dinner. Then Linda goes to the Jacksons' house and tells them that Sadie met a Catholic boy. Her parents are mad and disappointed at the same time, because they are scared that Sadie would get into trouble.

At the same moment, Mary McCoy (Kevin's mother) is also upset because Kevin comes home late again. Their uncle Albert, who is the brother of Pete McCoy (Kevin's father), visits the family. Brede McCoy (Kevin's sister), who is the second oldest child of eight children, goes to see her best friend Kate Kelly and meets Brian Rafferty. Brian is an old-school friend of Kevin's, but their relationship is very toxic, because Brian has become a very hateful person and wants to fight the Protestants.

After going up on Cave Hill, Kevin and Sadie go to a café and they meet some girlfriends of Sadie's. The girls act very strange and start to gossip about Sadie meeting a Catholic boy. Sadie, who doesn't care about the thoughts of other people, laughs at them. Kevin and Sadie continue to talk, but after some time, their mood changes. The teenagers start to argue about their religions, but luckily they get along and start walking home. Kevin, who is a gentleman, brings Sadie home.

Meanwhile, Tommy and Linda go out and meet Steve at a café. Steve is also an old friend of Sadie's, but he has the same energy as Linda, and they're both not very pleasant. Steve tells

them that he has joined the lodge, an organisation of radical protestants. After that, Linda and Tommy walk home and on their way, they meet Sadie and Kevin. Linda starts acting very arrogant and they start to argue, because she can't understand why Sadie would hang out with a Catholic. Sadie ignores her and goes home with Tommy, and Linda and Kevin also go back to their houses. Back home, the Jacksons have been waiting for Sadie and they fight again.

While going home, Kevin meets Brian, who has been waiting for him, because he needs to show Kevin something. Kevin and Brian go to Brian's house and Brian shows him a box, which lies under his bed. Shook after seeing what's in the box, Kevin gets mad at Brian and wants to leave his room. In the box there is a gun and ammunition. Brian tells Kevin that he has joined a group to fight against the Protestants, but Kevin isn't amused by it. He thinks that is horrible and walks out of the room. As Kevin is getting down the stairs, he looks up and sees Brian pointing the gun at him, but he isn't scared at all and leaves his house.

A few days later, Kevin and Sadie meet again and go to Bangor. They swim in the sea but it's way too cold, so they get out of the water. After talking about some stuff, Kevin and Sadie argue again and Kevin walks away. Out of nowhere, it starts to rain and Sadie is still sitting in the rain. Kevin returns to her and they kiss. This was their first ever kiss. Unfortunately, they miss the last bus and need to walk back to Belfast.

As they're walking home, a car stops next to them. It's uncle Albert, who takes the teenagers with him. They drive a bit and uncle Albert talks with Sadie, thinking she's a Catholic, when suddenly the car breaks down. Now the three of them must walk home. On their way, they see a blown-up military vehicle. Someone blew it up, probably some Protestants.

Uncle Albert talks with some soldiers and Kevin decides to take Sadie home, because he doesn't want anything to happen to her. As they walk home, three men come up to them, Mr Jackson, Mr Mullet and Tommy. Mr Mullet gets angry and aggressive. He wants to fight Kevin but luckily Tommy stops them. Everyone besides Kevin goes home to the Jacksons' house.

As Kevin is walks back home he hears gun shots. He throws himself to the ground and sees someone getting shot. Right away, Kevin walks home fast when he runs into Brian. Brian knows about Kevin meeting Sadie and he is very mad about it. Of course, they argue again.

The next day, as Kevin is walking home from his shift at Mr. Kelly's scrapyard, he gets beaten up by Brian and some other boys. They're wearing masks, but Kevin knows that one of them must be Brian.

A bit later, Brede McCoy searches for Sadie. She asks people on the street but no one knows her or where she lives. At the shop of Mrs. McConkey, Brede stops and drinks a cup of coffee, when Mrs. Mullet comes up. Brede and her start talking and Mrs. Mullet brings her to Sadie. At the Jacksons' house, Brede meets Tommy again, and they are happy to see each other. Sadie and Brede go into a cafe to talk about something very important. Brede asks Sadie with her whole heart to stop seeing Kevin. She tells her what happened to Kevin and that he isn't safe anymore, if they continue meeting each other. Sadie feels horrible and doesn't know what to do.

At the same time, Kevin, who's still injured and hurt very bad, tries to walk up to Cave Hill. He waits up there, but Sadie doesn't come. Kevin decides to go back home, when suddenly a man called Mr. Blake comes up and helps Kevin. Mr. Blake is Sadie's old geography teacher, but now he's much older. Mr Blake wants to drive Kevin back home, when Sadie finally arrives. She runs up to them and they drive to Mr Blake's house. Mr Blake calls a doctor to help Kevin. Sadie talks with Kevin and tells him that she has decided that it's better if they don't meet each other again. Kevin is sad and mad at the same time. He feels awful, because he hates the fact that other people are ruining their relationship.

Mr Blake is a Protestant and lives in a street, where some Catholic and Protestant people are married and live together. He sees that the teenagers' plight and offers his help. He says that they can meet at his house. From now on, their appointments will take place at Mr Blake's house. Sadie goes back home.

On her way, Sadie hears a loud bang and realises, that Mrs McConcey's shop has exploded. Mrs McConcey herself didn't make it, she died while being in her shop. Sadie feels angry, and there is more bad news. She has lost her job at the hat department, because she missed lots of her shifts. Sadie feels very disappointed in herself. Luckily, Mr Blake offers his help and asks Sadie if she would like to work for him. She would do his housework and help him. A neighbour of Mr Blake's, Moira Henderson, offers her another job as a babysitter. Moira is an artist, but she doesn't have enough time to paint because of her kids. Now, Sadie has two jobs and has time to meet Kevin.

Kevin, meanwhile, is still injured and can't go to work. He's in his room, when his baby sister is about to be born and his mother needs to go to the hospital. Because of that, uncle Albert comes to the McCoy's and tells Kevin that the army is doing house searches now. It is the McCoy's' turn now, so they need to prepare themselves. Brian's house is searched, but the army doesn't find anything. Kevin has a weird feeling, because Brian must have hidden his box with the gun. In fact, he hid the box in Mr Kelly's scrapyard. Kate Kelly, who's been rejected by Kevin, tells the army that it must have been Kevin who hid the gun at the scrapyard. The army goes to Kevin's house and takes him with them to the police station. Brede is scared and goes with them. She tells the police that there must have been a mistake, and she also tells them that Kate has been rejected by Kevin and maybe accused him for this reason. The police understand the situation and let Kevin go home.

After his release, Kevin waits for Brian on his way home. He fights him and punches Brian multiple times, so that Brian starts bleeding. Kevin runs away to Mr Blake's house.

Mr Blake is worried, because he is getting threatening letters. Kevin and Sadie don't know anything about the letters and Mr Blake doesn't want to tell them. He doesn't want them to be scared or worried. At the Jacksons' house, someone wrote on their wall "A traitor lives here", and Tommy washes it away. That day, Kevin, Sadie and Mr Blake want to ride out of town. They sit in the car and want to drive, when suddenly they have an accident. The nuts of the wheels were almost unscrewed and fell off as they were driving. Thank God nothing serious has happened, but they call the police, who tell them that someone must have damaged the car on purpose. Kevin, who goes back to work, gets fired. Mr Kelly doesn't trust him anymore, after that what has happened with the box. Kevin yells and tells him that Kate lied, but Mr Kelly feels offended and tells Kevin to leave right away.

Kevin and Sadie decide to meet in Bangor again. Kevin tells Sadie that he thinks it's better not to meet ever again because it's way too dangerous and other people are getting hurt because of them. They're both sad but they agree it's the for the best. At home, Kevin gets a visit from Mr Kelly, who says he's sorry and wants Kevin to work for him again. Kate has revealed that she lied about the box and who placed it in the scrapyard. Kevin refuses Mr Kelly's proposal, because he wants to leave the town.

At the same time, something terrible happens to Mr Blake. A petrol bomb has been thrown through his window and he has died in the fire. Sadie and Kevin hear the news and are broken. They think it's their fault that he was murdered. Kevin finally decides to leave the town. A few days later, he packs his stuff and buys a ticket for a boat ride to go to London. He says goodbye to his family and almost everyone cries like a baby. On his way to the boat, he sees Brian and ignores him. He also meets Kate, who apologises to him and wants to start a new relationship with him. Kevin refuses and leaves her, standing completely broken on the street. At the harbour, he sees Sadie standing next to the boat. She decided to go with him and bought a ticket. The two leave Belfast and start a new life in London.

My opinion:

This book made me realise how bad the Troubles were, just like the book *The 12<sup>th</sup> Day of July*. The book was easy to read and I felt like I was living with them in that town. I felt sorry for Mr Blake's and Mrs McConcey's deaths. These events were very sad and I felt a lot of sympathy. The characters of Sadie and Kevin are in my opinion very interesting. In a way, they're the same, but also completely different. Anyway, I enjoyed reading this book and am sure that I'm going to read the other parts of the "Kevin and Sadie" series, too.

## Stone Cold:

The young/adult novel *Stone Cold* is a story about the horrors of living on the streets. It was written by Robert Swindells who won the prestigious Carnegie medal for *Stone Cold* in 1993. The book is listed as a thriller or horror book. The main characters are a teenager, who calls himself "Link" and an ex-army soldier, who calls himself "Shelter". They never give their real names at all.

The story is told from the two sides. The first chapter is about Link's perspective and the second one is about Shelter's side, and so on. The thing I like a lot about this book is that you can see that Robert Swindells writes Link's part in the way that a teenager would write a diary or a story. In Shelter's case, the book is written in a way that is a bit creepy and abnormal because he has mental issues.

### The Main Characters:

#### Link's perspective:

Link started living on the streets of London at the age of sixteen, because he used to live in a broken and abusive home. He couldn't handle it anymore and decided to become homeless and go to London. He didn't know how dangerous it is to live on the streets. In one chapter, he explains that for example sleeping at night can cause your death. You can easily freeze to death in winter or get killed by some other homeless person. It's very difficult to find a sleeping place where you don't get into trouble with the police or some other people. If you're lucky, you find, for example, a doorway of a shop. But still, the floor is cold and hard and it's not getting comfortable all night long.

After some time, he finally found a friend who calls himself "Ginger". Ginger was living on the streets for a long time and helped Link to get along. He gave him tips and helped him with how to raise money. They were always together, but not when they were begging and asking for money. But one day Ginger went somewhere to meet some mates of his down in Holborn, and he never came back. That day Ginger went missing and Link realised that someone must have done something to him or he went away, leaving Link alone. He looked for him and couldn't find him anywhere. When Link was completely broken and tired, he went to a café and met a girl called Gail. She told him she was now a homeless person too, and asked him to help her, which he did. Link wasn't alone anymore, which made him feel happy again and they both kind of fell for each other. Luckily, there is a happy ending, but not for the love of Gail and Link.

#### Shelter's perspective:

The forty-seven-year-old Shelter was an army soldier for twenty-nine years, but he had to leave the army because he wasn't mentally fit anymore. He was kind of mad about it, but he planned something else to help his country. He wanted to kill the country's enemies. In this case, he meant homeless youths. His plan was to found his own army with the dirty, scruffy and pimply youths and turn them into soldiers. He started looking out for some of them and told them some things so that they would follow him home. At home, he killed them coolly. Shelter said that he wanted to clean up the garbage on the streets. One time he saw Link and Ginger and they asked

for money. Shelter just looked at them and walked away, but the boys started laughing, which made Shelter mad. He said that he never forgets a face and that these two were now on his blacklist. After some time, he saw them again and immediately followed them in the hope that they split up, which they did. It was that morning that Ginger told Link he would meet some mates of his and Shelter knew it was time to choose his victim. At first, he wanted to take Link home, but Link fell asleep and he thought it would be better to get Ginger. When Shelter saw Ginger, he told him he hit Link with his car and that Link mentioned Ginger. Ginger believed him and followed him. That day Ginger was murdered by Shelter and got a place in his own army. Link was completely alone again, at least that's what Shelter thought. However, Shelter didn't know that Link met Gail and wasn't alone anymore. After some time, when more and more homeless youths went missing, Link and Gail started to think this through and thought that somebody must be behind all these mysterious disappearances.

### The end:

In the end, Link found out who that mysterious man was, who was talking to all the homeless youths who later went missing. Link knew where Shelter lived and spied on him. Gail went away because they fought and she was mad at him. Shelter went out and saw Link standing in front of him. He immediately took the chance to get Link into his flat and kill him. Link was naive and thought Shelter was just a nice man, who cared about homeless people. But little did he know that Shelter was a serial killer and killed his friend. In the flat Link got attacked by Shelter. He beat him up very badly and showed him the hole in which his friend and other people were lying. Shelter shaved their heads, got them boots and army clothes.

Link was almost killed by Shelter and was at his limit, when the police came and saved Link. Gail was the one who called the police, because she couldn't find Link and was worried about him and his safety. Shelter got arrested and Link was finally feeling safe again. Unfortunately, Link found out the truth about Gail, who was a journalist and wasn't homeless. She was in fact doing an experiment. Her name was Louise Bain and she left Link alone. The end is sad because Link is still living on the streets and he's alone again.

### My opinion:

Overall, I enjoyed reading this book. It was scary and made me want to read it in one go. It is written in a style that is easy to understand and it was interesting to read what it is like to live on the streets. It was making me sad to read what people must go through all day long as a homeless person. I started to feel happy and blessed that I don't have to live like them because I have everything I need to be happy. It made me think a bit about life and the problems many people have to face, but I don't. I recommend the book to every person and all ages. If someone doesn't like scary stuff, then the book isn't something for them. Sometimes I had to take a break and realise what was written in the book, but for me it wasn't that bad.

## *Rabbit-Proof Fence:*

*Rabbit-Proof Fence* is based on a true story about 3 Aboriginal girls. It is set in Australia and it was published in 1996. The 3 girls are members of the stolen generation, which means that they were removed from their families in the early 20th century, because they were mixed-raced children. The author is the daughter of one of the girls. The girls and lots of other children were put in a government settlement, but Molly, Daisy and Gracie could escape. This is the story about the 3 young girls, who walked 1,600 kilometres to their home, following the rabbit/proof fence.

Molly Craig lives in a little village in the desert in Australia. She has 2 cousins: Daisy Kadibil and Gracie Fields. Her cousins come and live with her. Every girl has an Aboriginal mother and a white European father. The Australian government is increasingly uneasy about mixed-raised children. The racist beliefs dominant at the time meant that mixed-race children were considered superior to indigenous children and should be separated from them. White officials travelled around to find and remove semi-indigenous children, and then transport them to one of the settlements. Molly is about 14 years old, when a white woman writes to Mr. Neville, the Chief Protector of the indigenous people. She said: "There are two half-caste girls in Jigalong." "I think you should see them because they are going crazy with white people."

Later, a white local Aboriginal protector called Constable Riggs arrives at the camp and informs his family that he is taking Molly, Gracie and Daisy to the Moor River Aboriginal Settlement. The parents are heartbroken but cannot resist. Gracie's mother condemns the girl's white father for not intervening and saving the girls. He tries to explain that the interference is against the law, but she still feels unable to extricate herself from it.

The girls are tired and exhausted from crying. They sit in the policeman's car and drive along the rabbit-proof fence. The car stops in a town, where the girls meet Constable Melrose and his wife. The wife gives them some food, but after that they're put in a jail cell for the night. After some days, the trip goes on and the girls get put in a train to Port Hedland. The girls see that the surrounding area changes more and more, and after a few hours they see the ocean. A few days later, they arrive at Port Hedland and go aboard a ship. The stewardess's name is Gwen Campbell. She is very nice to the girls, just like the other crew members, but the girls are still scared and heartbroken. The ship sails down the coast of Western Australia.

After 5 days, the ship arrives at Fremantle. The city of Fremantle is a very active port city. There are many people around them, who are all very noisy. The three girls move on and must get into an ambulance. There are reclining beds in it and they can rest there. The journey continues and ends a few hours later in a city called Perth. This city is even louder, more crowded and more restless than Fremantle. The girls go to the "Math Perth Girls Home" where they sleep for the night and travel to their destination the next day.

Molly, Daisy and Gracie must bear another few hours of driving until they arrive at the Moore River Native Settlement. Overall, they drove and sailed over one month and a half until they arrived at the settlement. There is nothing nice about the camp. There are overcrowded bedrooms, barred windows and even padlocks on the doors. All in all, the three of them feel like

they are in prison and Molly thinks and creates a plan. She doesn't want to stay there any longer and thinks about how the three of them could escape. During their time in the camp they meet other children. They also learn what punishments there are. Molly also puts her plan together a few days later and the next day the three cousins carry it out. In the morning at breakfast they pack some things and while the other students go to school, the girls run away. They run as fast as they can.

Molly's plan is to find the rabbit-proof fence and orientate themselves by it, as they know that if they go that way, they will eventually arrive at their home village. They also know that they must go north, as their village is in the north of Australia. On their way, which they walk barefoot, they have to face some problems. They are hungry and therefore hunt rabbits. They hide and sleep in rabbit burrows. The three girls drink water from dirty rain puddles; that's why they look forward to some rain. Mr. Neville, the Chief Protector of Aborigines calls out for help to the people who maybe see the girls. He says he's scared for their safety. Lots of policemen start searching for the girls but the rain covers their tracks, so they can't find them that easily.

On their way, the girls meet some other people who give them some food and matches to make some fire. Some of them don't want to tell the police about seeing the kids, because they feel empathy for them. On the other side, there're also people who report them, but the police are always a bit too late. Molly, Daisy and Gracie can always flee and never get caught.

At some point, they meet another woman, who tells them that Gracie's mother doesn't live in Jigalong anymore but in a nearby town. Gracie decides to leave the girls and go to the next train station and drive to her mother. Molly and Daisy don't want her to leave and they feel like it's not the right decision. They try to change her mind but Gracie refuses and leaves her two cousins alone.

In October 1931, Molly and Daisy finally arrive at Jigalong. Their family is so happy to have them back and they decide to leave Jigalong as fast as they can, before the police come.

Gracie went to the nearest train station and was told her mom wasn't in that other town. She still wanted to wait for her but she got caught by some policemen. Gracie was sent back to the Moore River Native Settlement and received an education as a housekeeper. She got married and she had 6 children.

Molly, who had an appendectomy nine years later, also got caught with her two daughters. A few years later, she could once again flee with her youngest daughter and walked the same route again. Doris Pilkington, the author of the book, is one of Molly's daughters and decided to write this book about her mother's experience and awful journey.

My opinion: \_\_\_\_\_

I personally think this book is a very sad story. While reading the book, I felt lots of empathy with the three girls. They had to leave their family, friends and hometown, to go to a completely new place. I feel very sorry for them and for Gracie. If she hadn't left the others, maybe she would have lived a better life and wouldn't have had to go back to this awful settlement. Overall this book was easy to read, and I enjoyed reading it a lot.

## Poetry illustrations

All the poems I chose to illustrate are from Tim Burton. Tim is not only a director, producer and screenwriter, but also an artist and an author. There is something very strange about the poems Tim has written and illustrated. They are all very dark, and yet, in my opinion, they tell a story which makes you think about things. Things, you never really think about. I like his style very much and the illustrations look great too. They are very simple and yet look amazingly good. I have chosen three of his poems and illustrated them. I found them very interesting and could think of many illustrations in my head.

### “The Girl with Many Eyes”:

“One day in the park  
I had quite a surprise.  
I met a girl  
who had many eyes.

She was really quite pretty  
(and also quite shocking!)  
and I noticed she had a mouth,  
so we ended up talking.

We talked about flowers,  
and her poetry classes,  
and the problems she'd have  
if she ever wore glasses.

It's great to know a girl  
who has so many eyes,  
but you really get wet  
when she breaks down and cries.”

### “Stick Boy and Match Girl in Love”:

“Stick Boy liked Match Girl,  
he liked her a lot.  
He liked her cute figure,  
he thought she was hot.

But could a flame ever burn  
for a match and a stick?  
It did quite literally;  
he burned up pretty quick.”

## “Voodoo Girl”:

“Her skin is white cloth,  
and she's all sewn apart  
and she has many colored pins  
sticking out of her heart.

She has a beautiful set  
of hypno-disk eyes,  
the ones that she uses to hypnotizes guys.

She has many different zombies  
who are deeply in her trance.  
She even has a zombie  
who was originally from France.

But she knows she has a curse on her,  
a curse she cannot win.  
For if someone gets  
too close to her,  
The pins stick farther in.”

## My drawing process

### *The Twelfth Day of July:*

For this book, I decided to draw a picture of the two characters looking at each other. At first, I wanted to draw Kevin and Sadie sitting next to each other, or holding hands. In the end, my thoughts changed, and I drew something completely different:

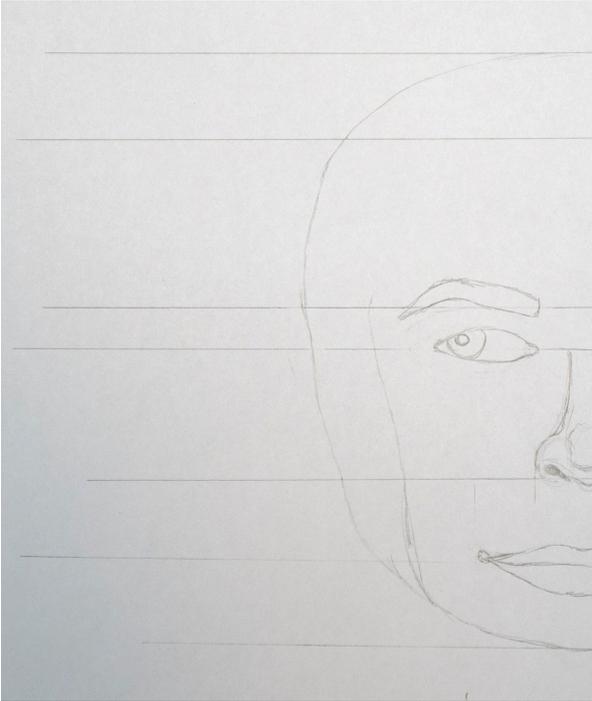
1. My first sketch was about the two of them holding their forefingers.



2. Another sketch is about someone holding out his/her hand to another person.



3. The third sketch is a face I drew with proportions. It doesn't look quite right, but it led me to draw the final the result in this type of way.



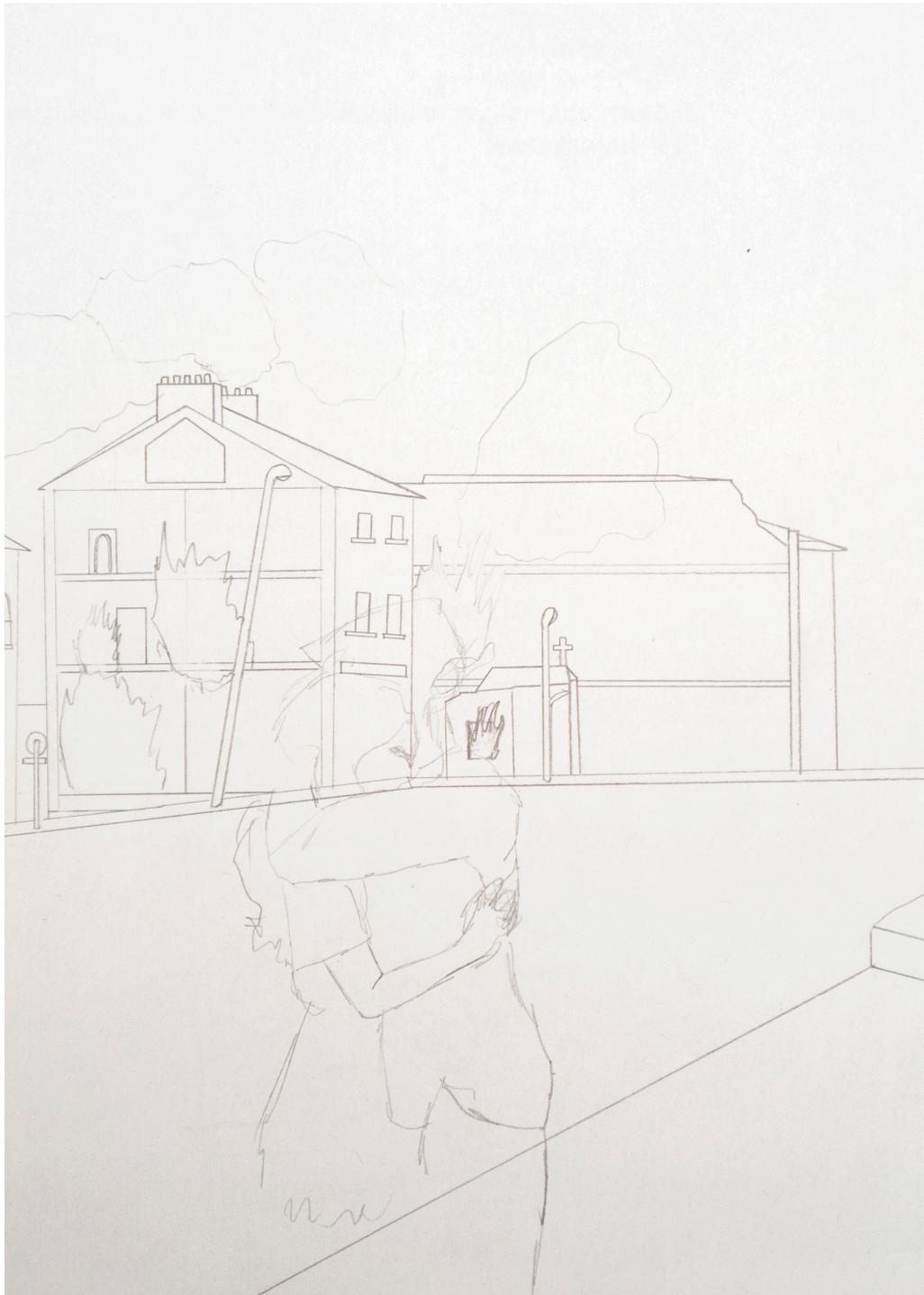
4. The fourth sketch looks mostly like the end result, but is still different. I changed the face and the eyes, because in this sketch the eyes of Kevin and Sadie clearly don't look at each other. I decided to draw it again and I'm much happier with the result.



*Across the Barricades:*

For this book, I decided to draw something more dramatic, but romantic at the same time. I searched for a picture of Belfast in the 1970s. Luckily, I found a picture of a house and I started to draw a street. I wanted to draw a big fire in a house, and Kevin and Sadie standing in front of it. At first, I wanted them to hold hands, but I thought a hug would look better. Basically, I looked for a sketch of two people hugging each other and drew the characters as I imagined them.

This is my first and last sketch of *Across the Barricades*. Right after this sketch, I drew the final illustration:



### Stone Cold:

For this book, I wanted to draw a sad and scary illustration. The book isn't a funny book, so I only wanted to use black, grey and blue colours. These colours are describing the book very well and I like the result.

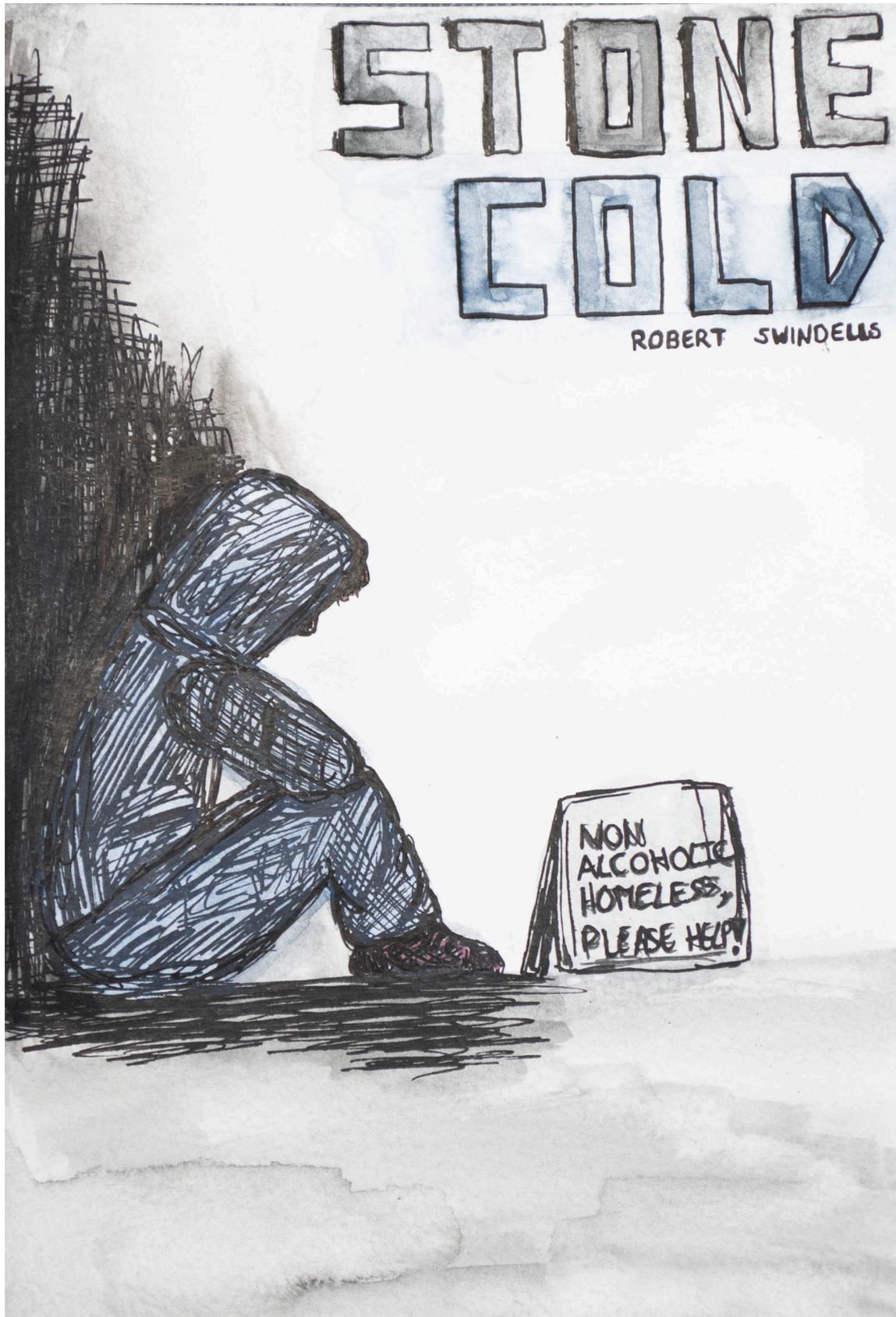
1. I started drawing Link sitting on the floor looking at the ground.



2. For this sketch, I tried to draw Link again, sitting next to a typical red door in London.



3. The third sketch looks more like the result I wanted, but I thought there's too much detail, so I changed it.



### *Rabbit-Proof Fence:*

This book is a sad story and it made me think a lot about what I could draw. I wanted to draw a scene which happened in the book. Finally, I chose to draw the three girls walking in the desert. Behind them you can see the rabbit-proof fence which is very long. I also decided that the three girls would hold hands, to show their deep connection.

1. I didn't add too much detail, because it was only a sketch and this made me come up with the result. I basically just added some more details and colours to the final result.



### *“The Girl with Many Eyes”:*

For this drawing, I just started drawing the finale illustration right away. It took me a bit, but the result looks good and it makes me very happy, for drawing it at one time. I chose to draw the illustration with coloured pencils and not with watercolour colours.

## “Stick Boy and Match Girl in Love”:

For this poem, I wanted to draw the Stick boy and match Girl hugging each other and the flames would slowly burn them. It looks very dramatic and I think it’s the perfect way to show their love.

1. On this sketch, you can’t see, that the Boy is a Stick and the Girl is a Match Girl. That’s why I changed it. Their heads are way to big.



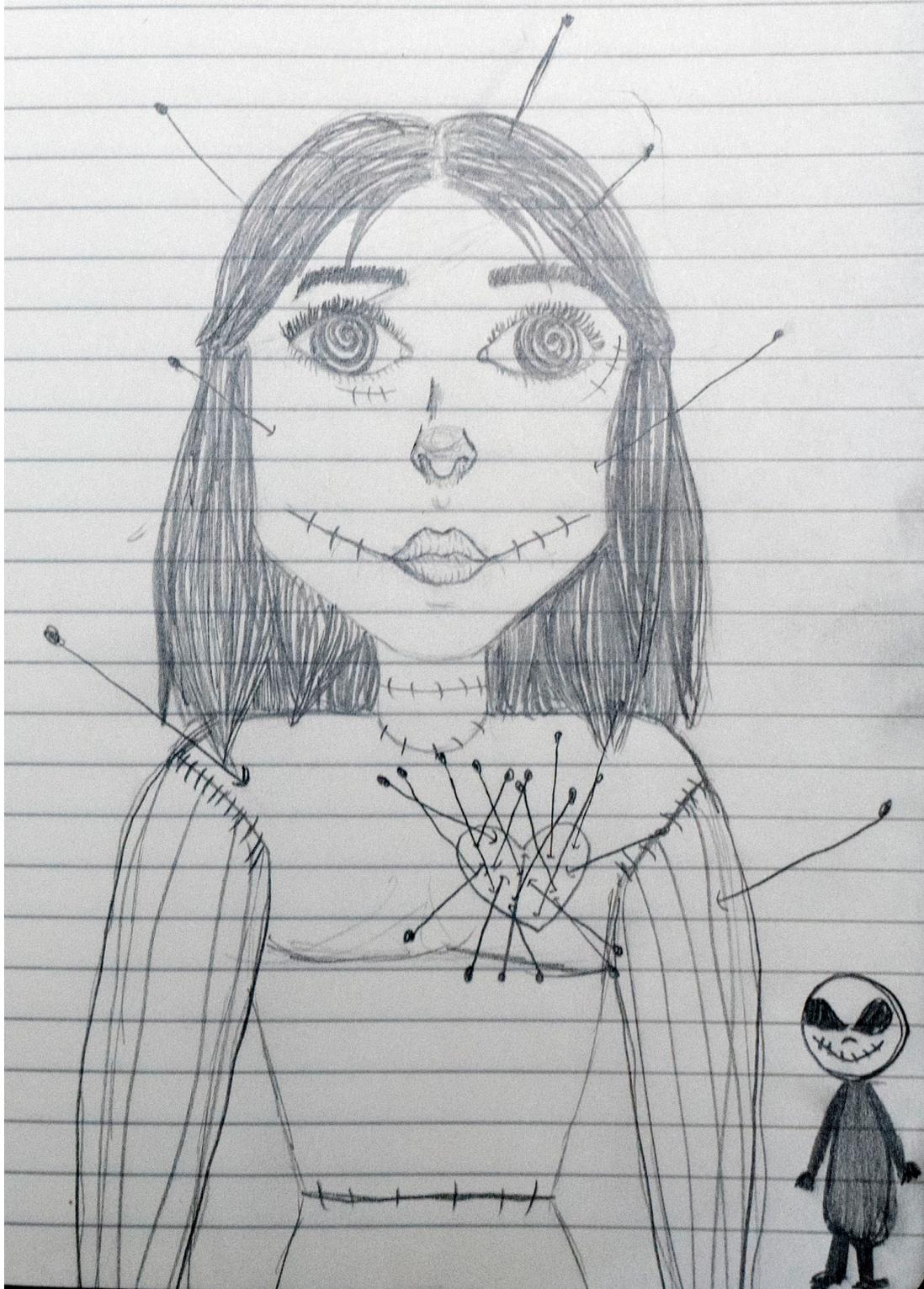
2. This sketch looks much better, but it still wasn’t the result I wanted to have.



## “Voodoo Girl”:

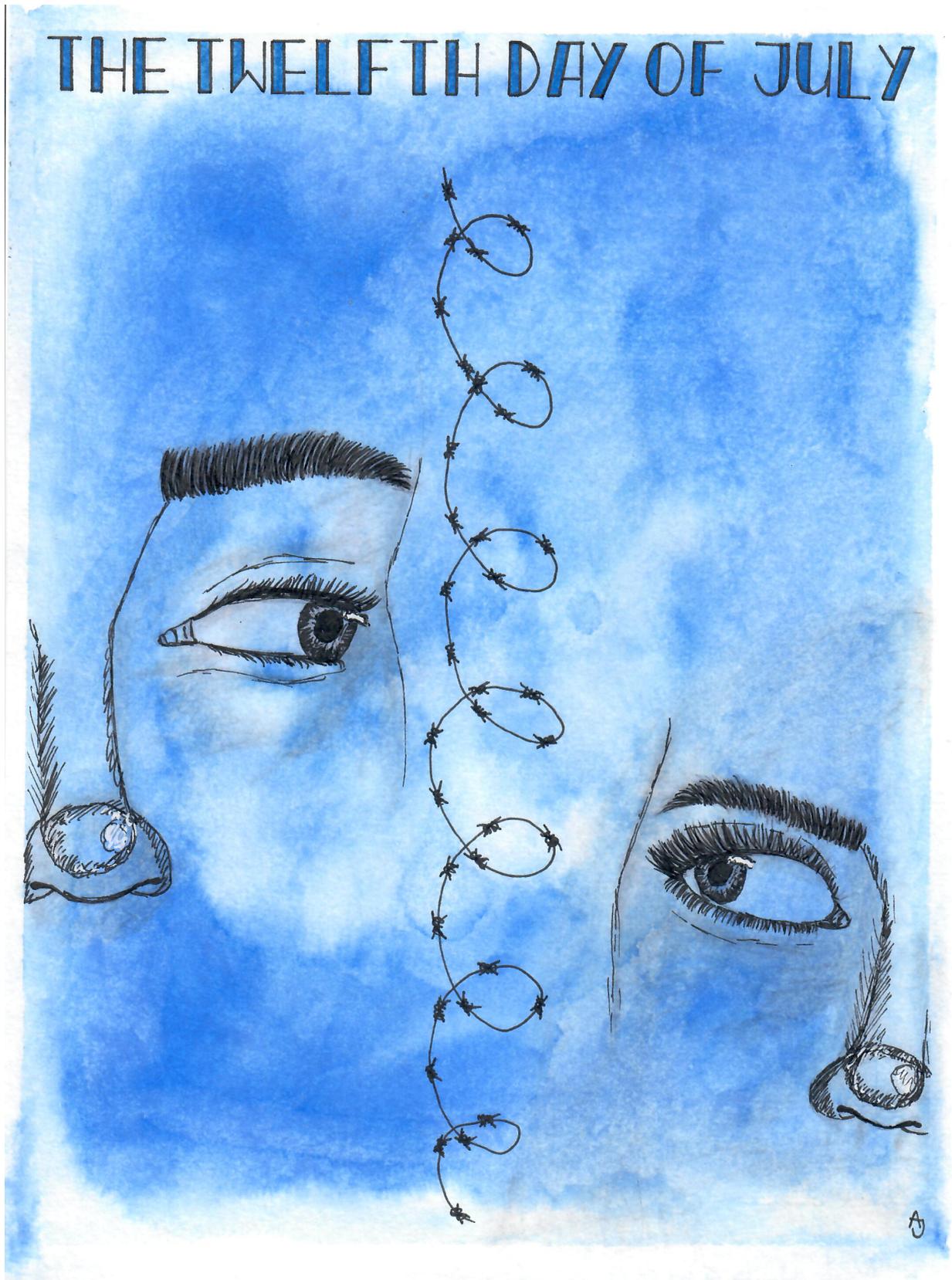
For this illustration, I wanted to draw the Voodoo girl in a creepy way. I wanted her to show pain. The needles which stick into her heart look painful, which I wanted to make people see right away. Her eyes were also an important point that I wanted to make people get scared of.

I liked the way she looked, but I wasn't fully convinced, so I drew another illustration. On the right bottom you can also see one of her zombies.



The final results

*The Twelfth Day of July:*

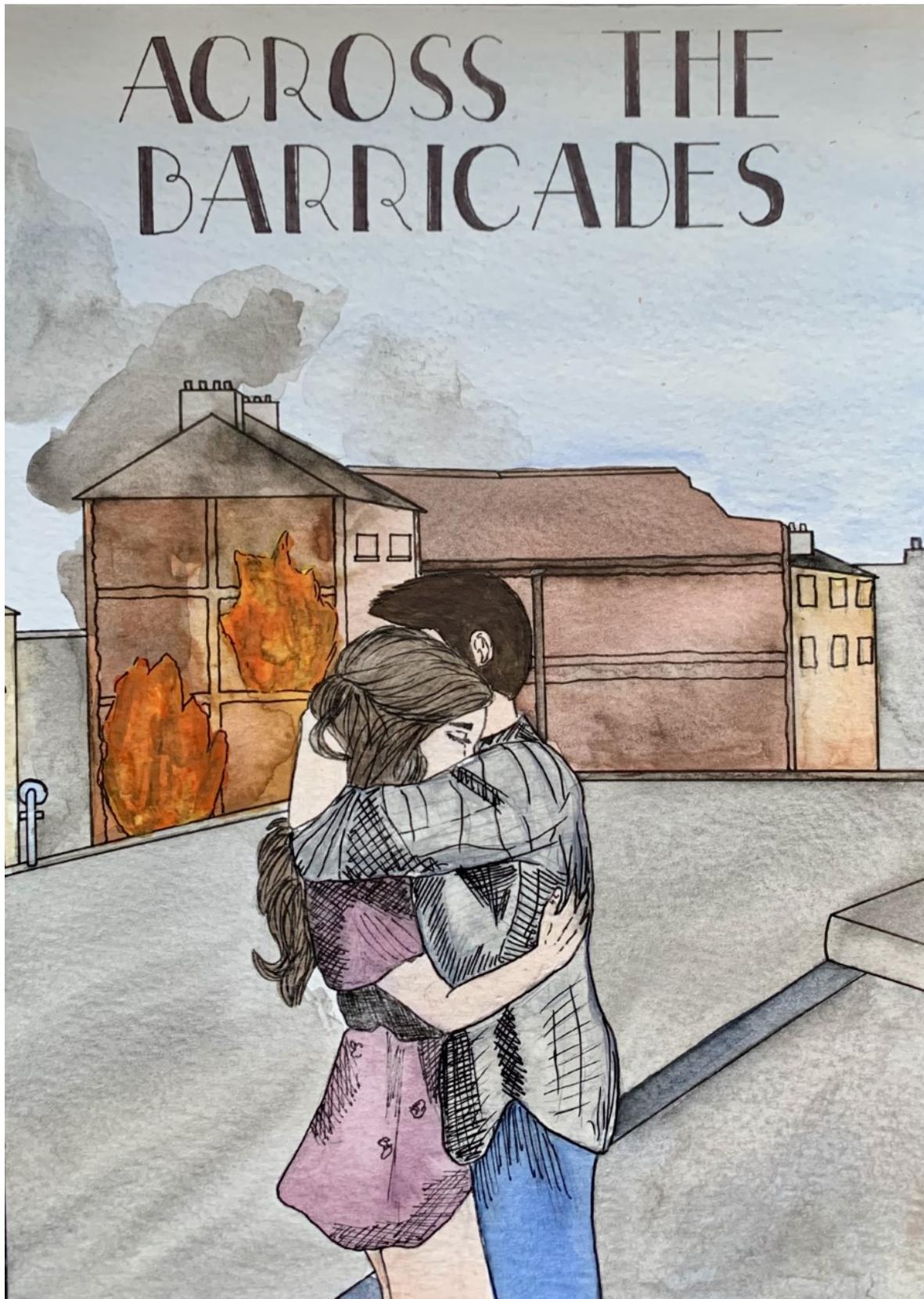


This is the final illustration of *The Twelfth Day of July*. As you can see, I drew two people, in this case Kevin and Sadie, who look at each other. Between their faces is some barbed wire, which separates the two persons. The barbed wire prohibits the kids from touching, which is also a theme in the book. Kevin and Sadie come from different religions and can't be friends or anything else. The deep look of the both of them otherwise shows that they kind of have a connection and want to be together. In the book, the two couldn't stand each other, yet they had a connection and were drawn to each other in a certain way. At the end they became friends, and their story continues.



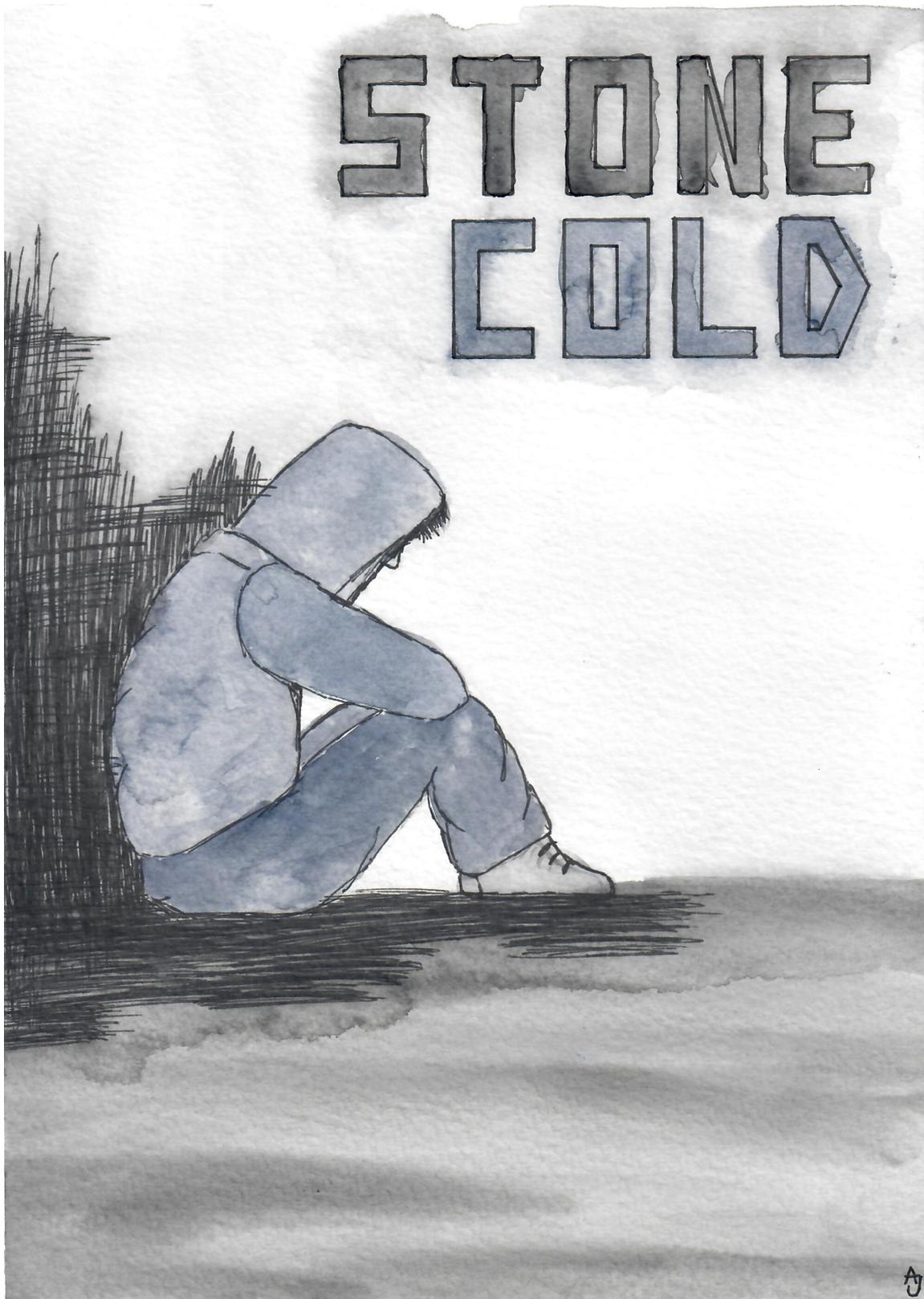
I also drew another illustration. This drawing shows a scene in the book in which Kevin McCoy ruined a mural of King Billy. I looked for a picture of King Billy and drew it with acrylic colours. Then I took some red paint and tried to ruin it, like a little boy would do it. The result looks fine to me, because it's a good example of what the book is about.

*Across the Barricades:*



This final illustration of Kevin and Sadie hugging each other, describes the book in a good way. In the background, you can see a fire in a building and the smoke slowly rising. I wanted to make people think about what could have happened to the teenagers or what's going on in the book. The two hugging each other, is supposed to be a sign of true love and caring.

Stone Cold:



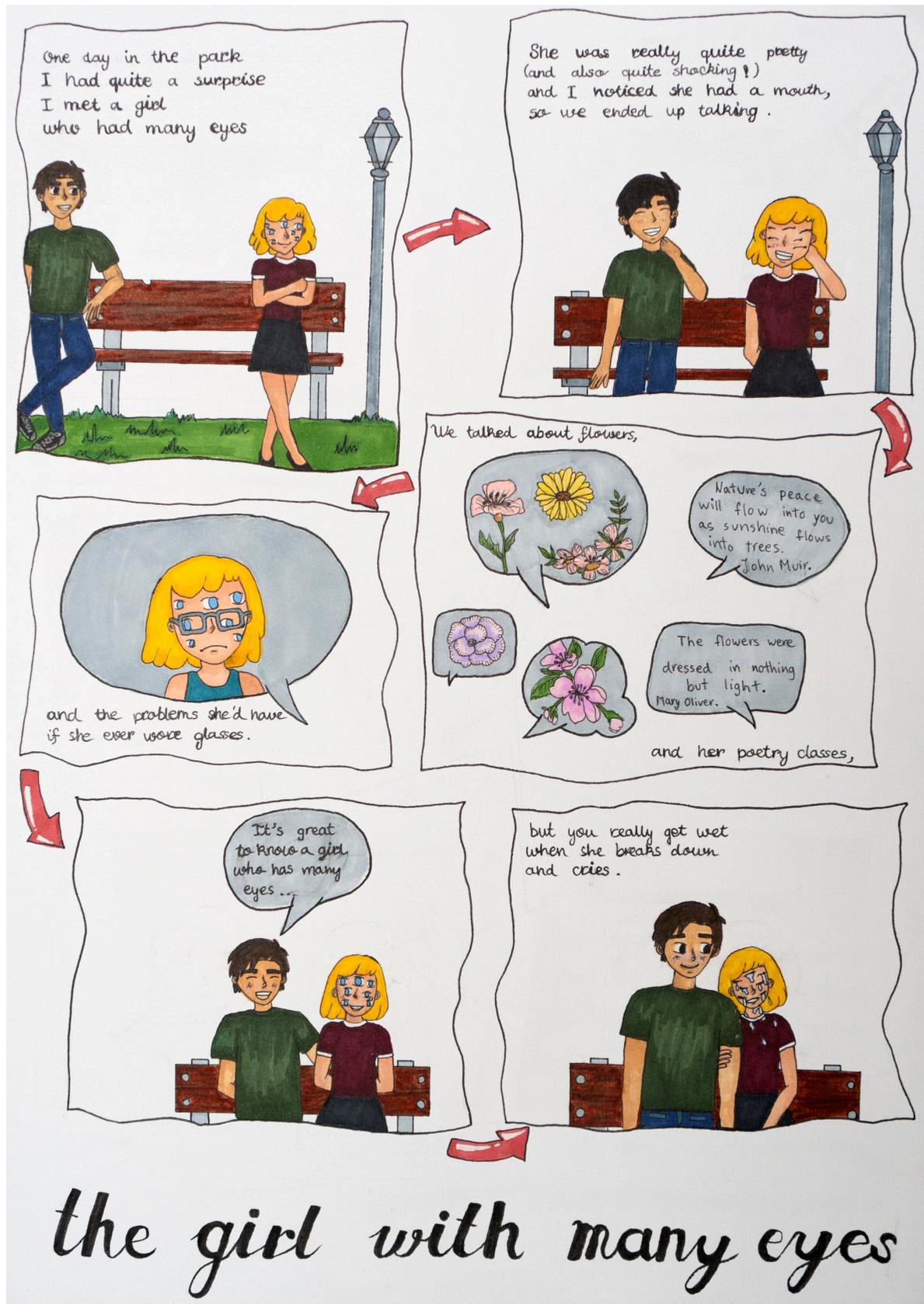
For this book, I created a sad illustration. You see a boy sitting on the cold ground and wonder what could have happened to him. As you're reading the book, you slowly understand the illustration and see why I chose this one. One thing I also like about this illustration is the headline, which looks like a cold stone.

*Rabbit-Proof Fence:*



This final illustration looks very interesting. The thing I like a lot is that you can see the long rabbit-proof fence and the girls dresses look very dirty. Although, I also like how they hold their hands, because it shows their deep connection to each other. Overall I like this illustration a lot and think it's a great way, to kind of show what the book's about.

“The girl with many eyes”:



This illustration is one I drew right away. I wanted to draw a storyboard, where you can see their conversation and emotions. I drew that one with coloured pencils and it took me a bit of time. Overall I like the final illustration.

“Stick boy and Match girl in Love”:



For this illustration, I wanted to show the love of the Stick Boy and the Match Girl. Their hug shows that they love each other, even though they start burning. The hearts which burn too, are also a sign of their love to each other. The Stick Boys and Match Girls smiles make me laugh every time I look at the illustration.

“Voodoo girl”:



This illustration is one of my favourites. I like the way she just stares at you with her cursed eyes, and the one tear shows that she doesn't feel happy. The needles which stick out her heart look painful and her zombies look very scary. One of the zombies is French, that's why I drew him a French hat. In my opinion, the illustration looks strange, but in a good kind of way.

## Conclusion

This TRAPE made me think a lot about different things. In September 2020, I had no idea what I would write my TRAPE about. I knew I wanted to write it in English, but I couldn't find any topic. Luckily, my tuteur gave me a helping hand. I've finally decided to write a reading sketchbook. In November 2020, I drew an illustration of the book *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, which had increased my motivation to continue to read and paint.

After some time, I realised two things. First, the reading part took its time. I wanted to write some summaries of the books and made notes while reading. This process doubled the time, I wanted to spend on reading the books. In the end this wasn't the most time-consuming part, but it still kind of seemed endless.

The second part was the drawings took their time too. While drawing, I can be a perfectionist. I'm never fully happy with my drawings, which made me draw the illustrations multiple times, until I was with the results. When I look at the final illustrations right now, I'm very happy and satisfied. I'm proud about myself and happy that this work made me learn a lot about illustrations.

Even though it was a little stressful at times, I am happy that I wrote a satisfactory TRAPE.

## Acknowledgment:

I would like to thank everyone who gave me strength and motivation.

First I wanted to thank my tuteur, Maurice Broers. My tuteur and English teacher helped me a lot to find the topic to write my TRAPE. At the beginning, I felt very lost and undecided, but I got a lot of support and motivation. I am very grateful and would probably not have written such a work without Mr Broer's help.

Next, I would like to thank my family and friends who have also been very supportive. My family helped me to improve the illustrations and to take and edit the photos. My friends have supported me with motivating words and helped me a lot.

*Azzeri Jana*

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