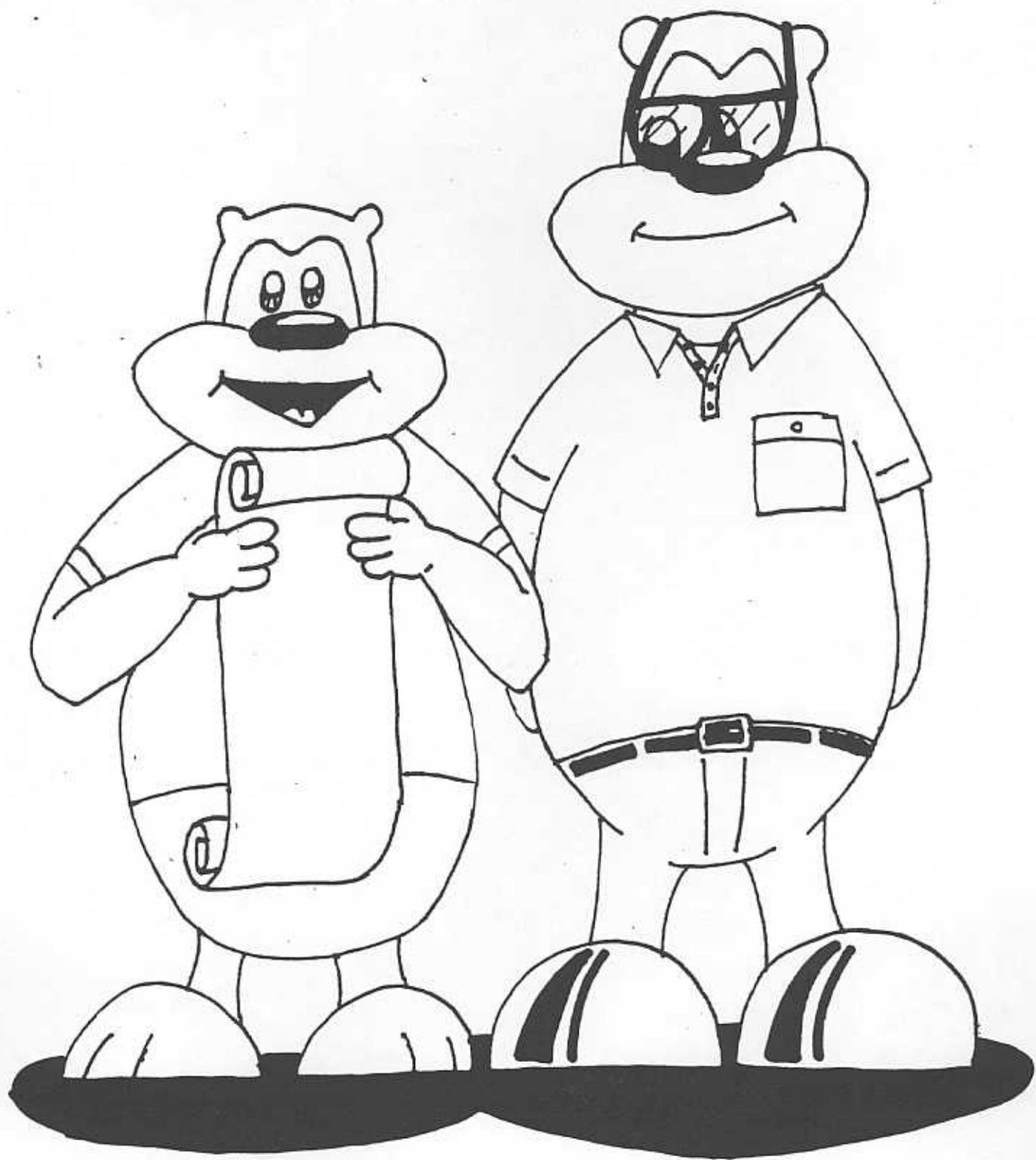


CHESTER'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE





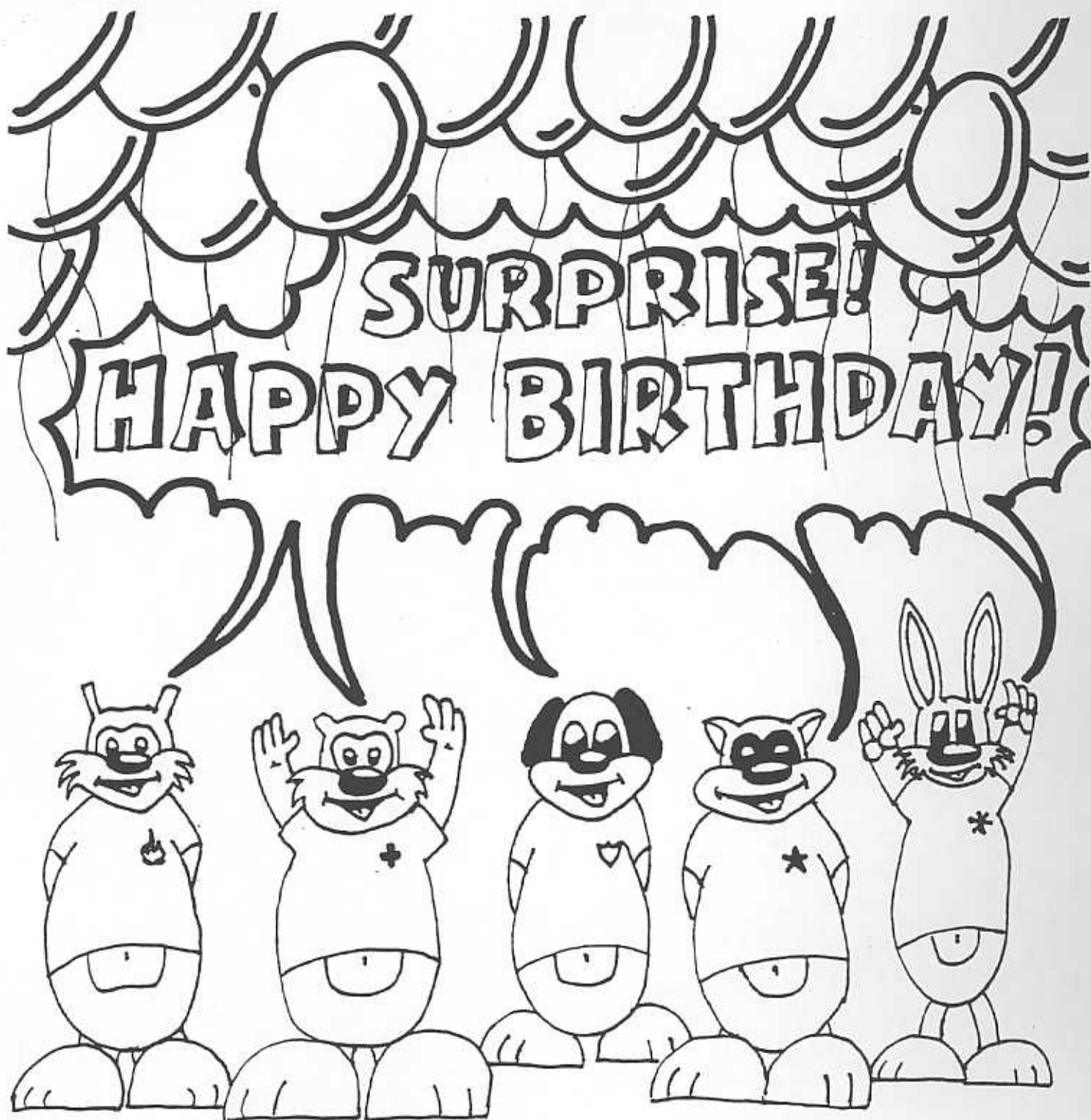
On the way home, Chester wiped a tear from his eye. He couldn't believe he was six years old today and nobody had even wished him a happy birthday.



Chester and his father had spent the whole day in town gathering all of the things on the list his mother had made for them.



As Chester walked toward the front door, he couldn't help but hope that his mom had remembered to bake him a cake.



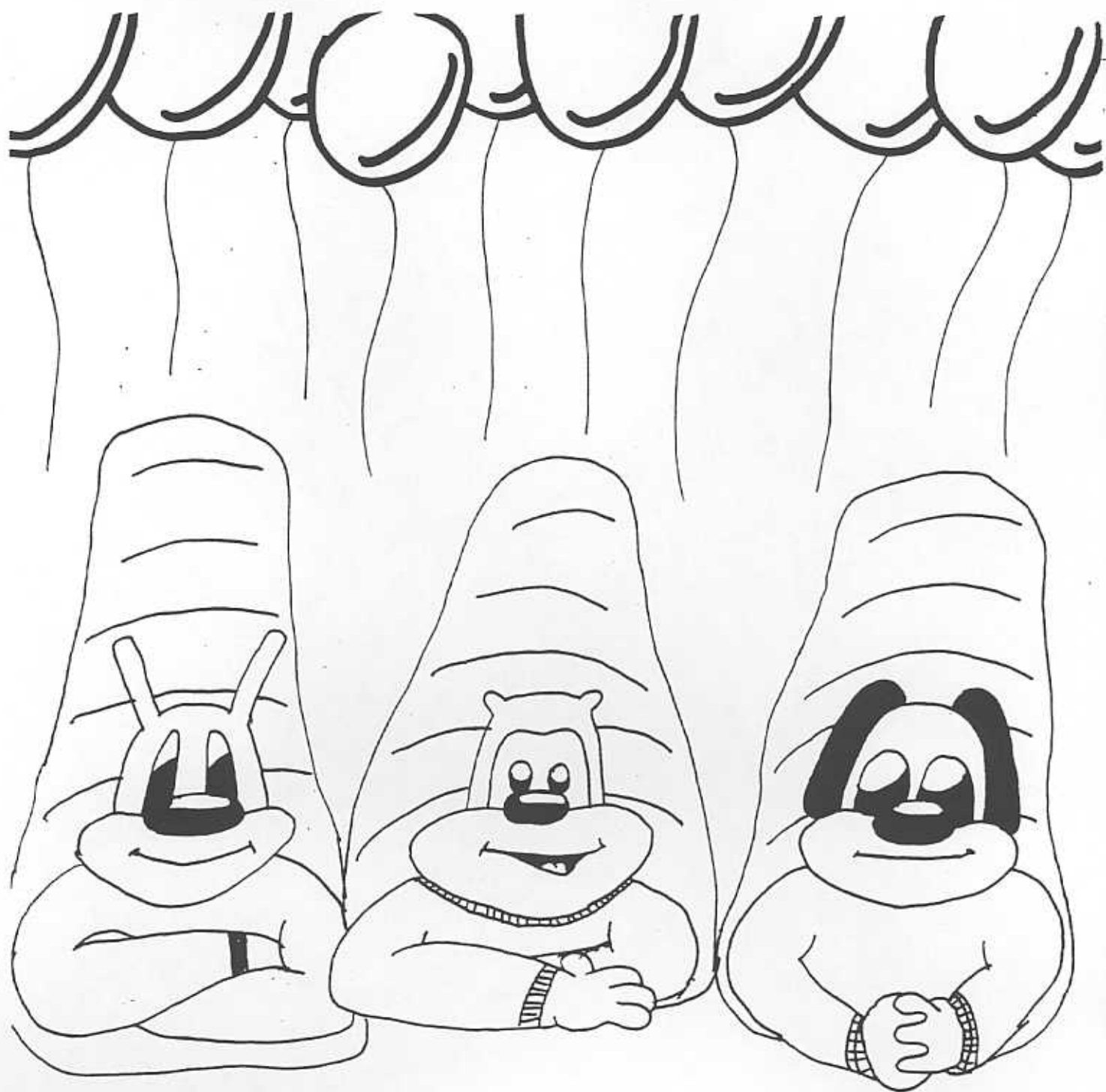
Chester's eyes opened wide as he walked through the front door and saw hundreds of balloons and all of his friends standing in the living room. "Surprise," they yelled! "Happy Birthday, Chester!"



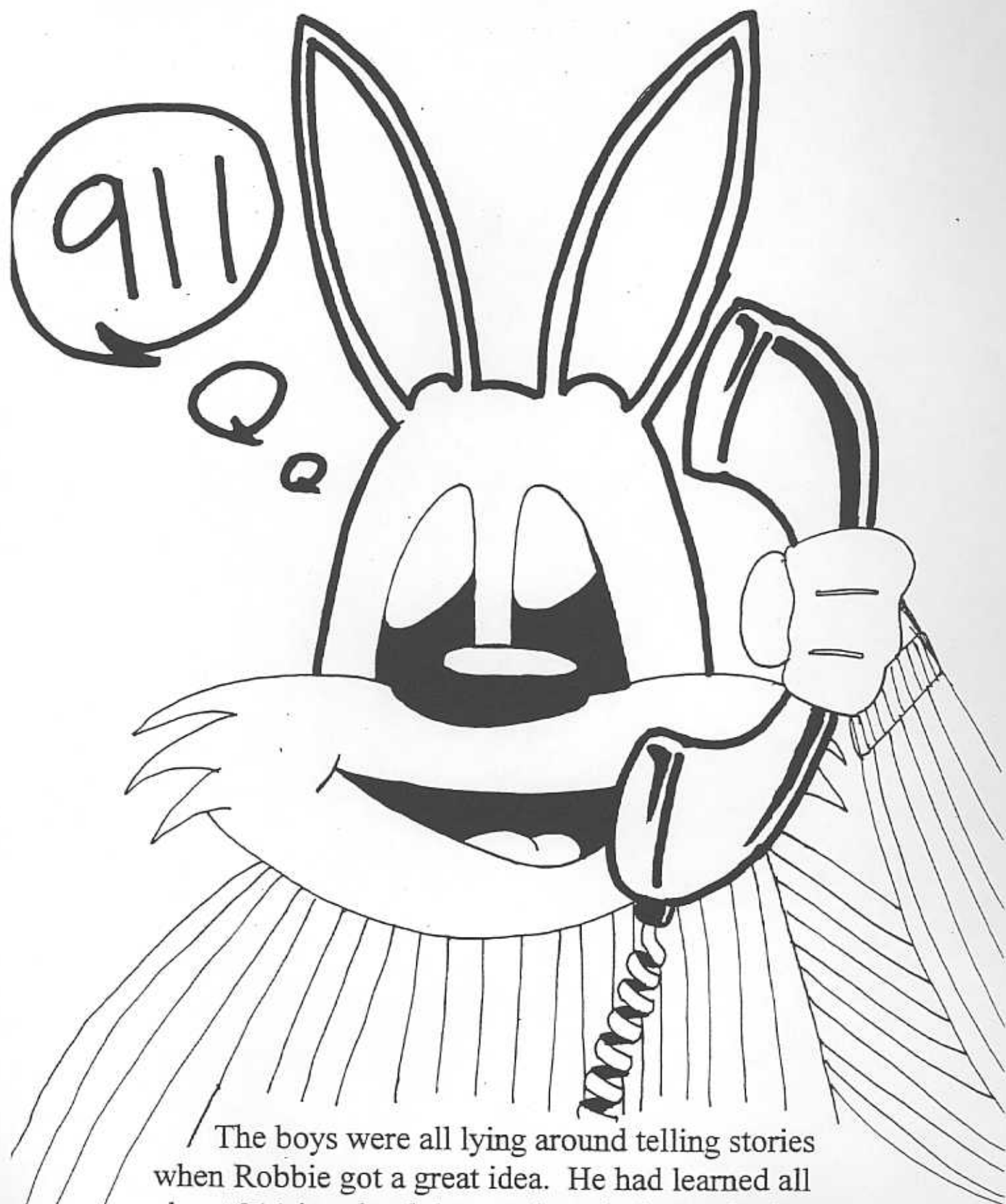
Chester walked up to his parents and gave them each a great big hug. That was when Chester's mom told him this was going to be his very first sleep over party.



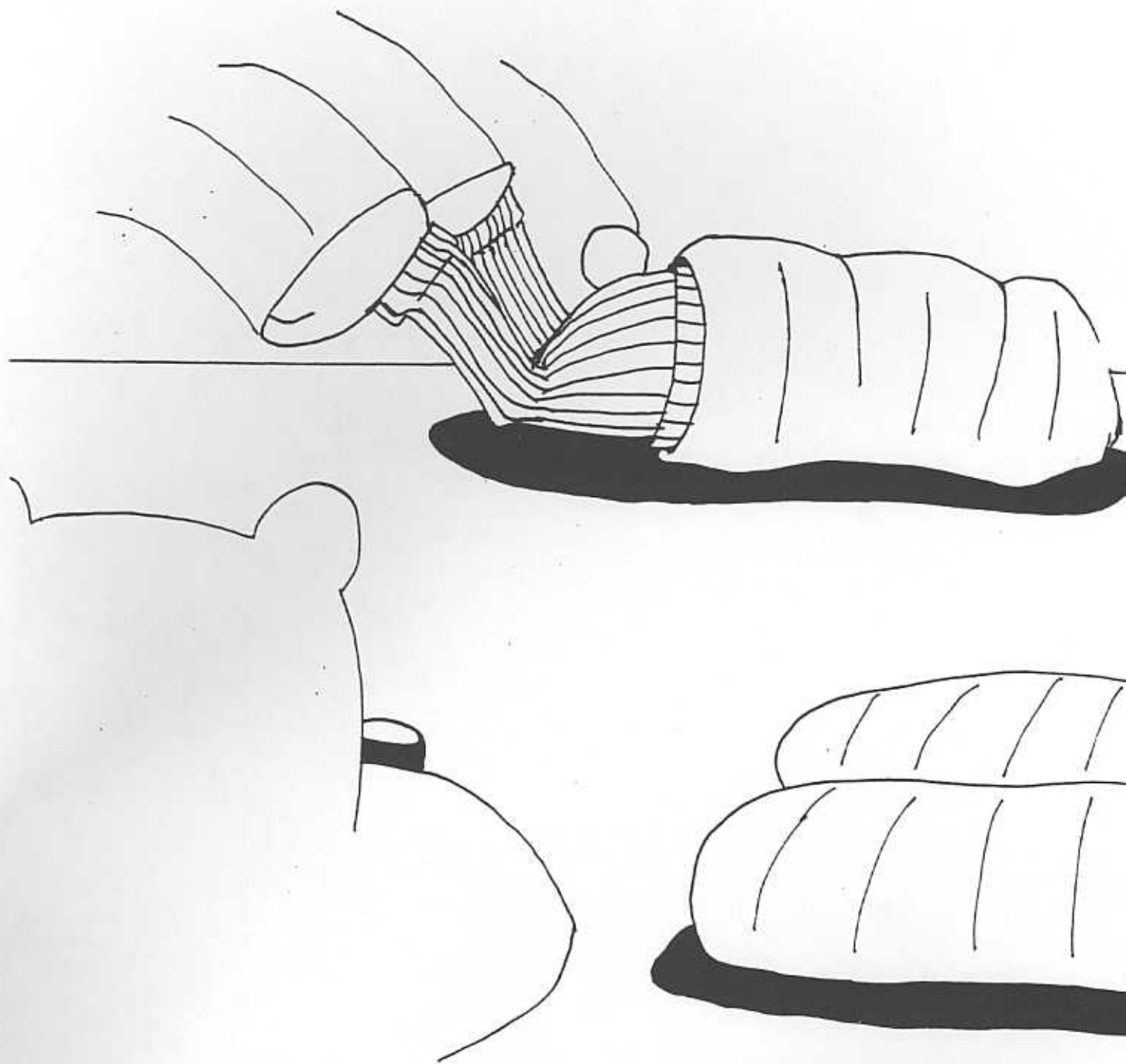
Chester and his friends played "pin the tail on the donkey," "red light, green light," and "musical chairs." After that, Chester opened his presents and everyone ate cake and ice cream.



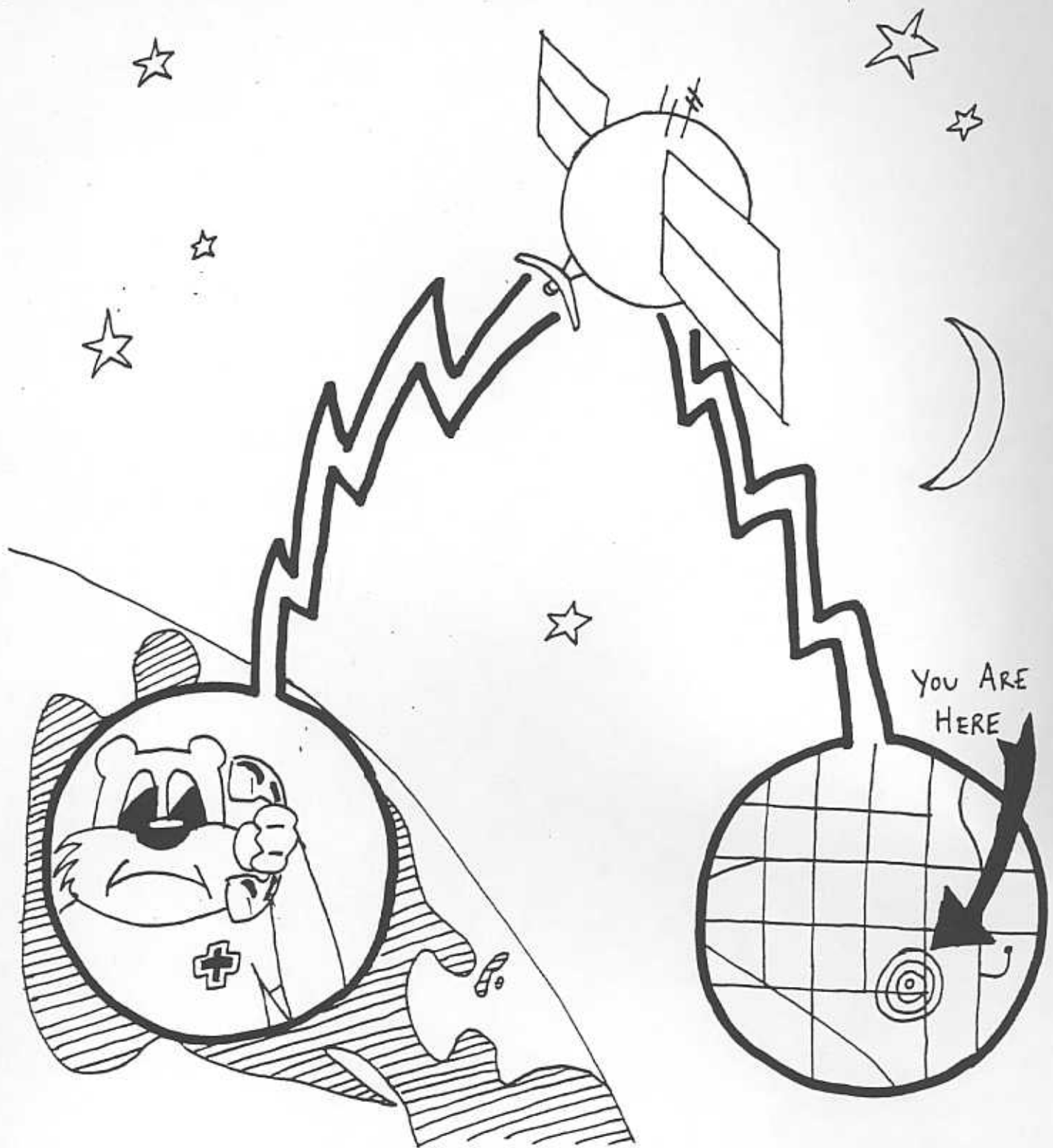
At 8:00, Chester's mom said it was time to put on pajamas and go to bed. Chester told his friends if they were really quiet, they could stay awake a little longer.



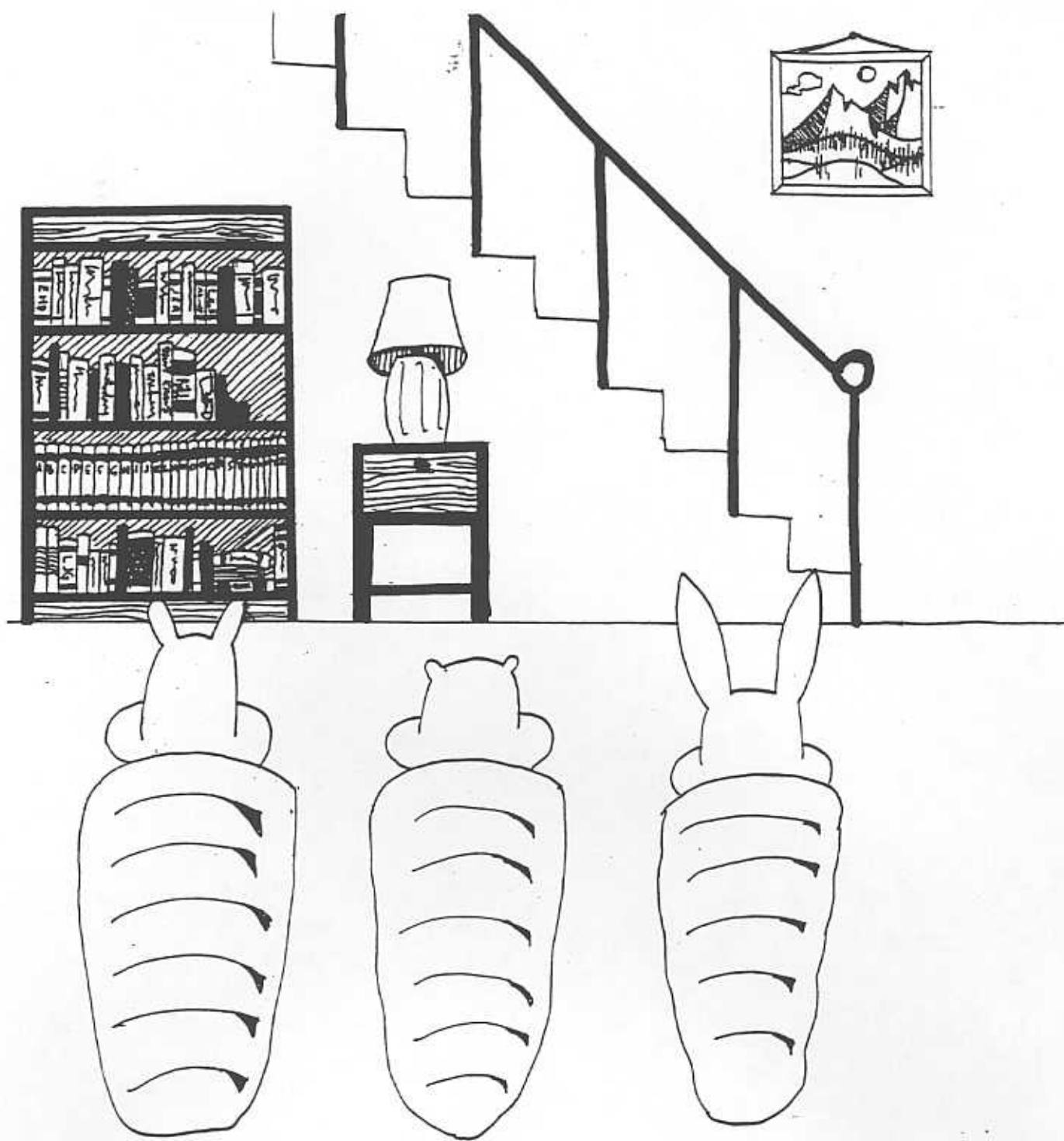
The boys were all lying around telling stories when Robbie got a great idea. He had learned all about 911 in school that week and when nobody was looking, he picked up the phone and dialed 911.



When the 911 operator said, "911, what is your emergency," Robbie got scared and hung up. He tried to run back to his sleeping bag and pull the covers over his head, but it was too late. Chester caught him.



When Robbie told Chester what he had done, Chester knew they were in big trouble. He remembered that when you call 911, the computer knows where you are calling from.



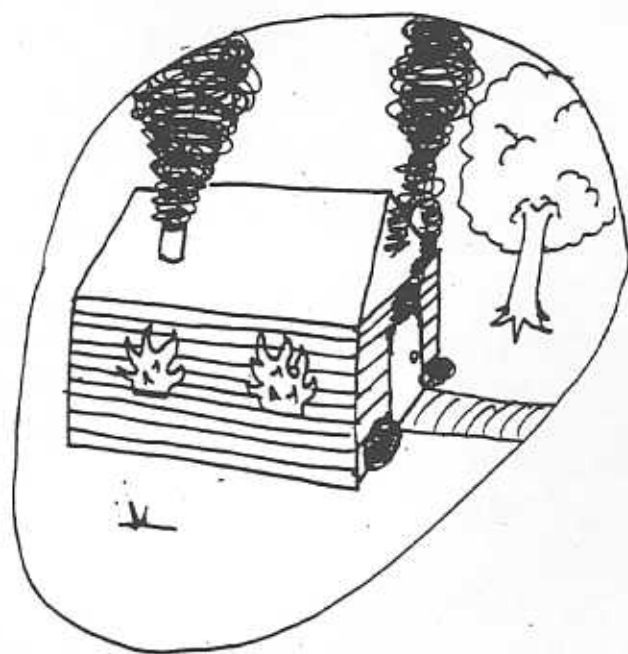
Just then, the phone rang and Chester's mom answered it. They heard her explain she was sorry and there was no emergency. Everyone held their breath waiting for Chester's mom to come downstairs, but they didn't get caught.



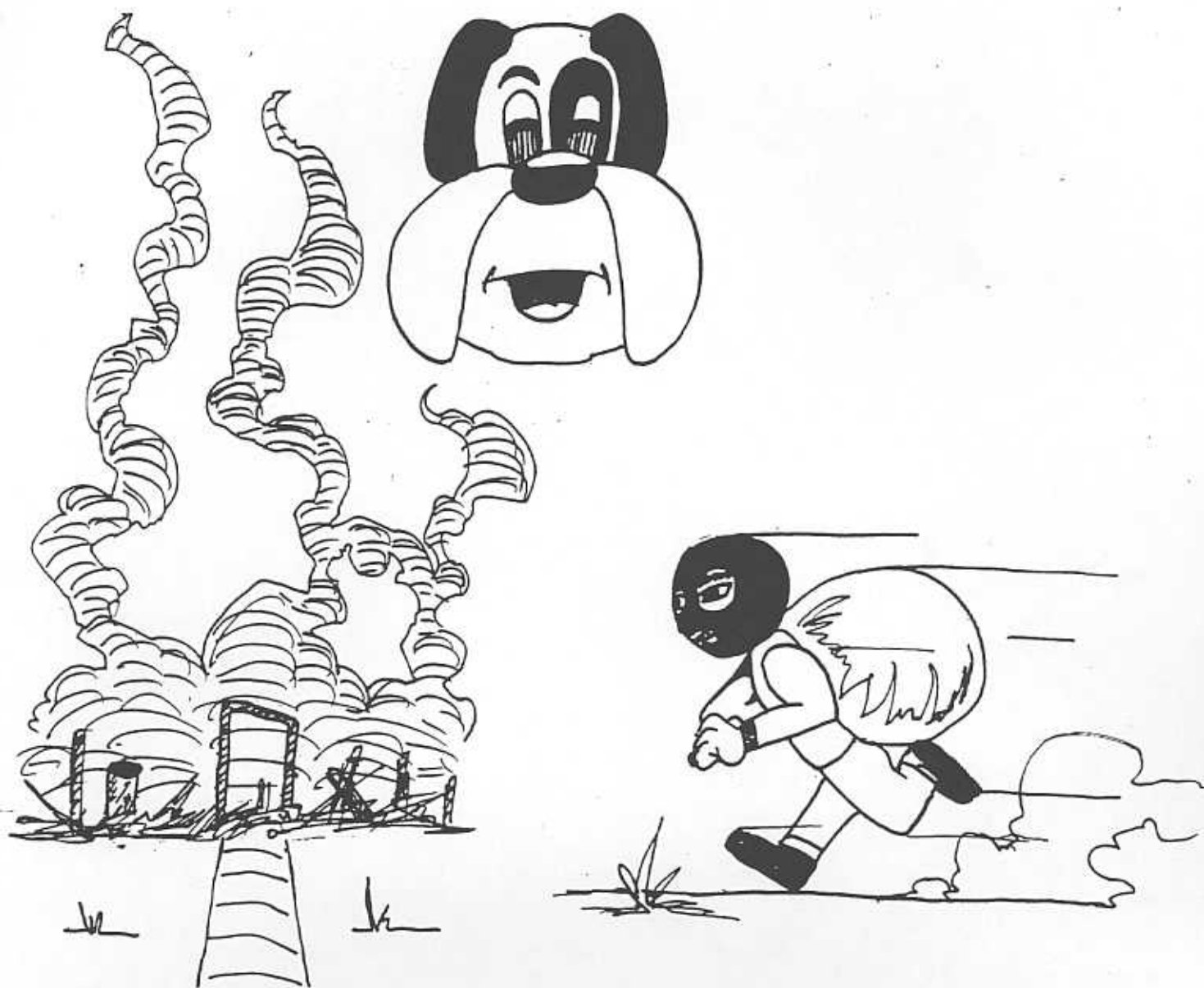
Only a few minutes later, the doorbell rang and Chester's mom asked him to answer it. Chester stood in front of the door and said, "Who is it?" That was when he heard, "This is Police Officer Bernard. Please open the door."



Chester opened the door and Officer Bernard came inside. He looked around the room at all of the scared faces and said, "Someone from this house dialed 911 and hung up. Do you boys know that 911 is a phone number that is only for emergencies?"



Chester's little brother Chuckie asked, "What is an emergency?" Robbie answered, "Mrs. Wise told us in school that an emergency is when you need help really bad and really fast." "That's right," said Officer Bernard. "Do you know what would happen if one of your neighbors had an emergency right now?"



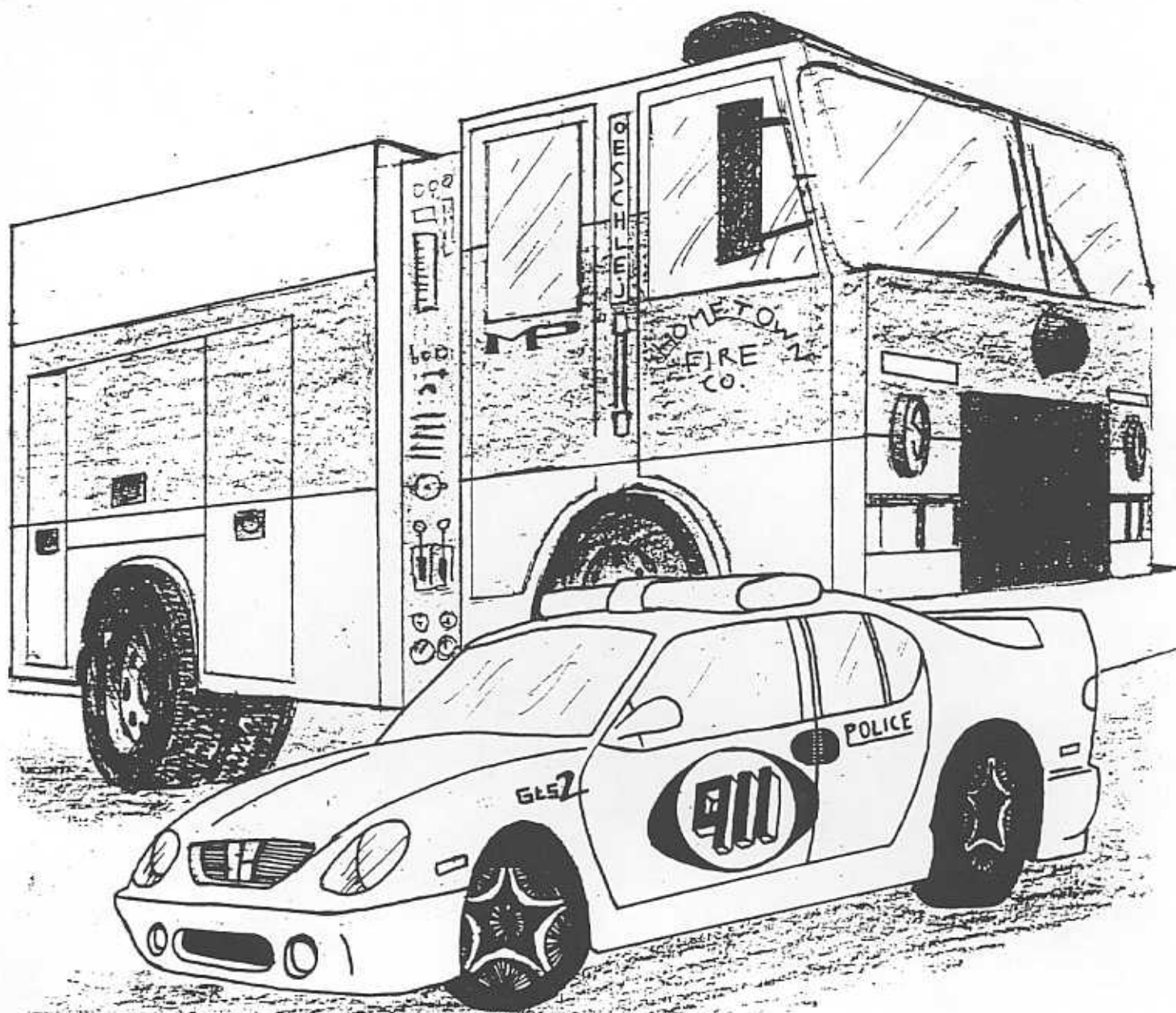
"I do," said Chester. "They wouldn't get help from the police as fast because you are here talking to us." Officer Bernard said, "That's right, young man. That is why we never play with 911. I hope you boys never do this again. Any questions?"



"No, Officer Bernard, we are really sorry," said Chester. "Today is my birthday and we have some extra cake. Would you like some?" Before Officer Bernard could even answer, they heard him being called on his radio. "Sorry, boys. I have to go. Someone has a real emergency," said Officer Bernard.



As Officer Bernard opened the door, he turned around and said, "Goodnight, boys. Enjoy your party. Oh -- and Chester, Happy Birthday!"



Chester's mom told the boys she hoped they had learned their lesson and told them it was time to lay down, be quiet, and go to sleep. The boys put their heads on their pillows and fell fast asleep dreaming about emergencies, police cars, and growing up to be a Police Officer just like Officer Bernard.

***** DID YOU KNOW ???*****

***Did you know that when you call 911, your phone number and address show up on the operator's computer screen?**

***Did you know that 911 is not a phone number to play with? It is only for emergencies!**

***Did you know that if you call 911 and hang up, the 911 operator will call you back and has to send a police officer to respond to your call?**

***Did you know that if you call 911 by mistake and you stay on the phone and tell the operator you dialed the wrong number they do not have to send a police officer?**

Chester County Emergency Services Certificate



Name _____

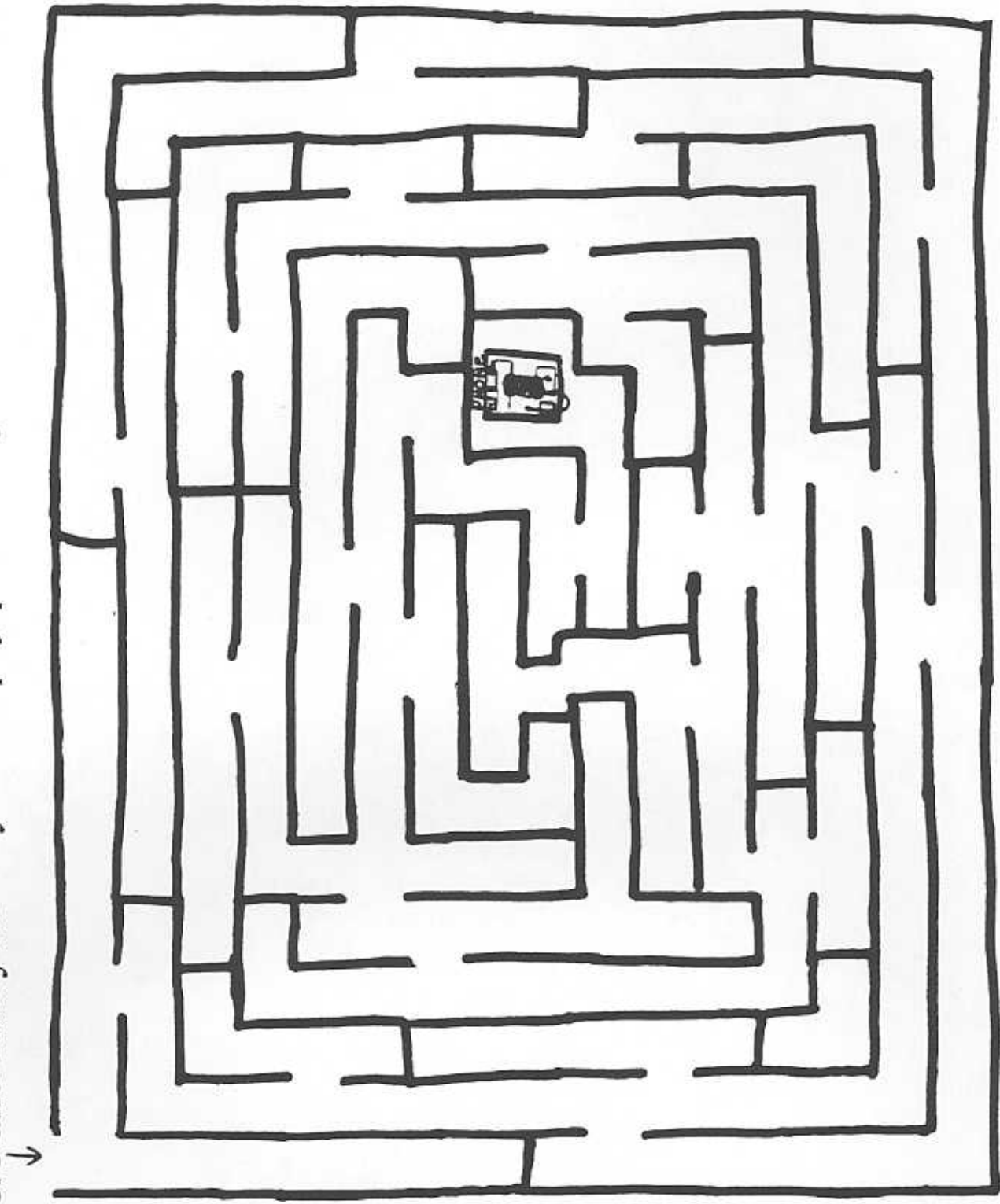
Address _____

Age _____

*Whenever I Need Help
I Call*

9-1-1

Start here and find your way to the pay phone so you can call 9-1-1 for help.



9-1-1 Maze



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Illustrated by Blake Knapp*

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