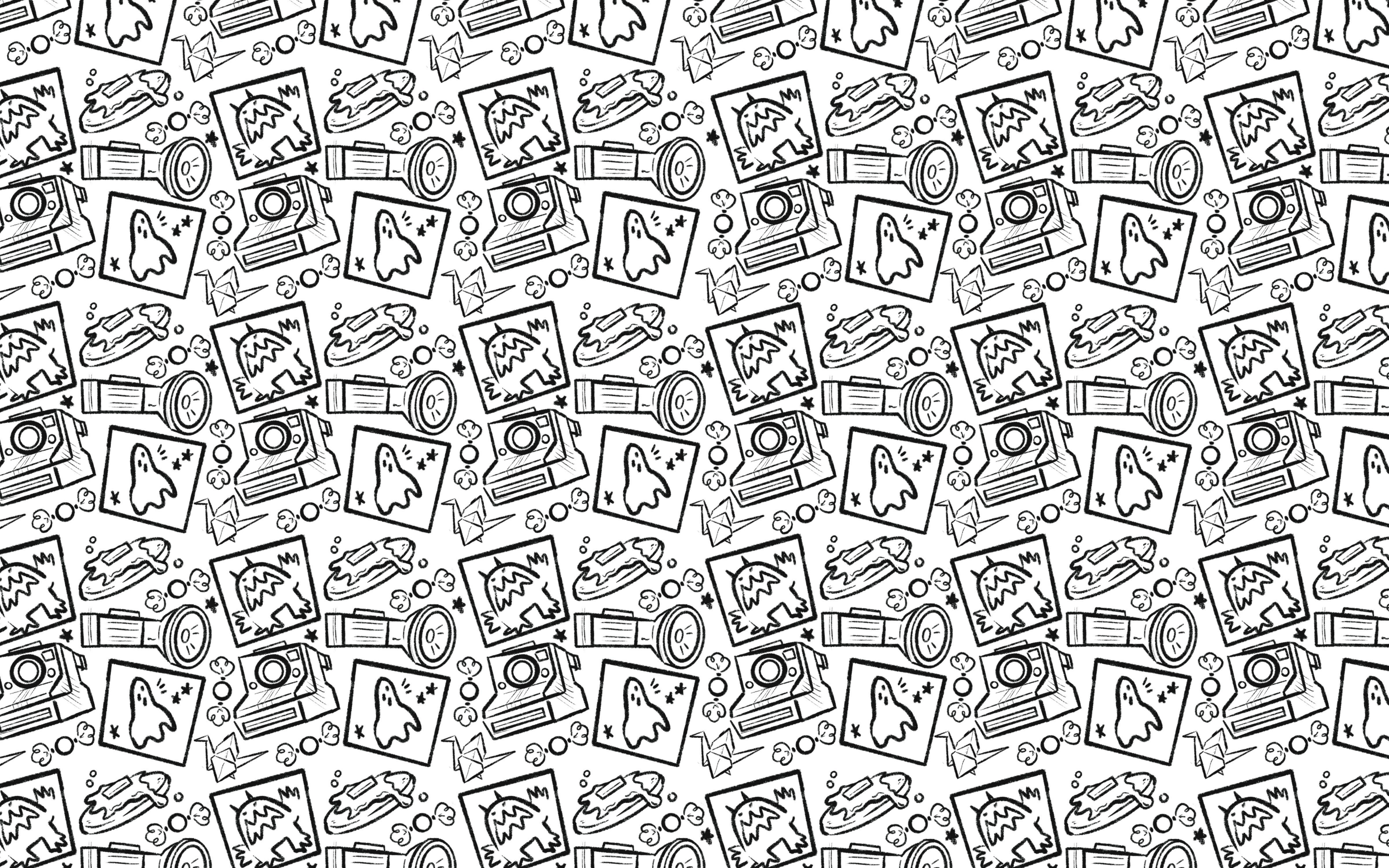


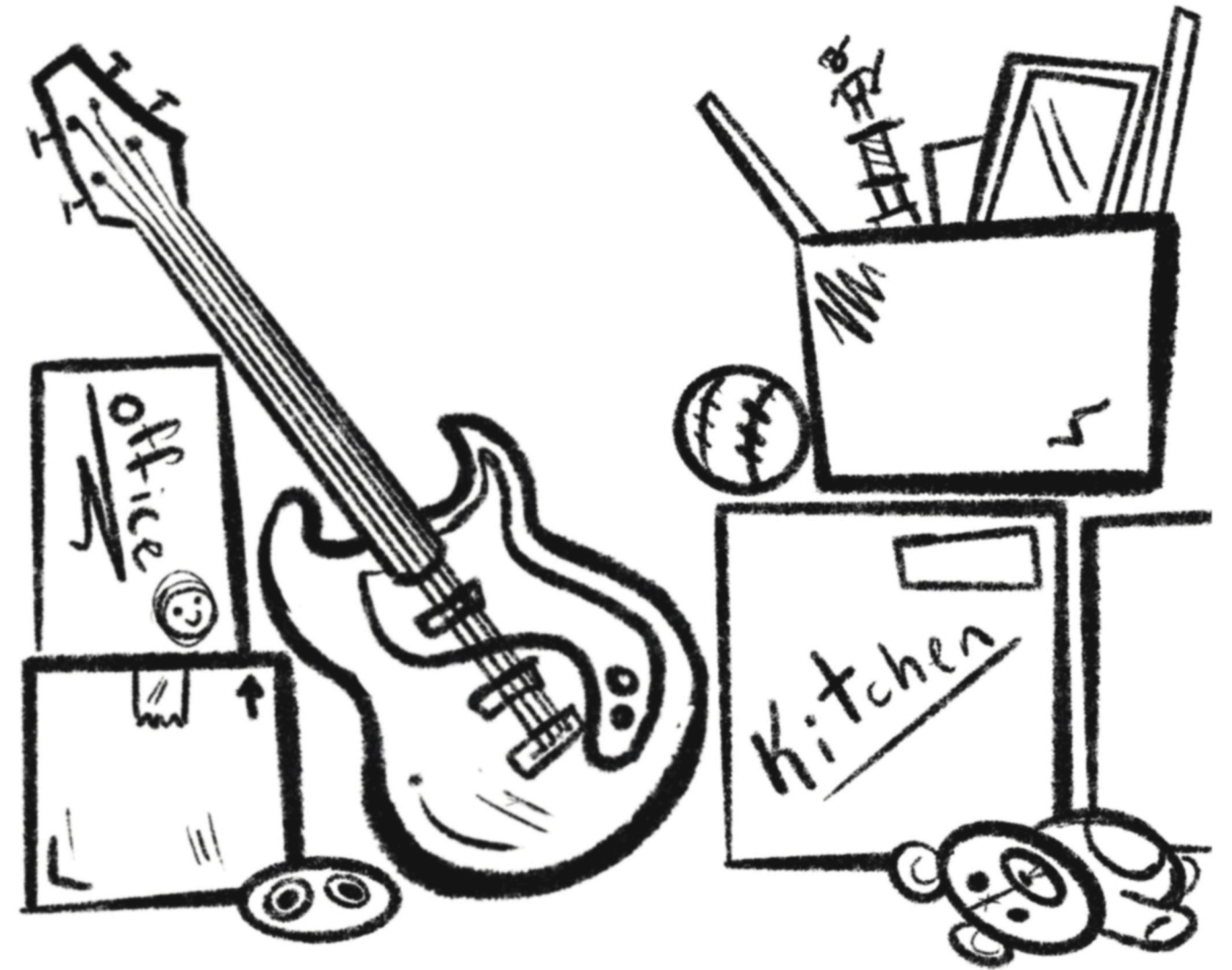
BEN'S HOUSE IS HAUNTED!



Written and illustrated by Maya Brown



Ben's House is Haunted





Ben and his family have just moved into their new house.



He lives in a new neighborhood with a new school, a new park and a new yard.





**He's far away from
all his friends, and
grandma and
grandpa too**



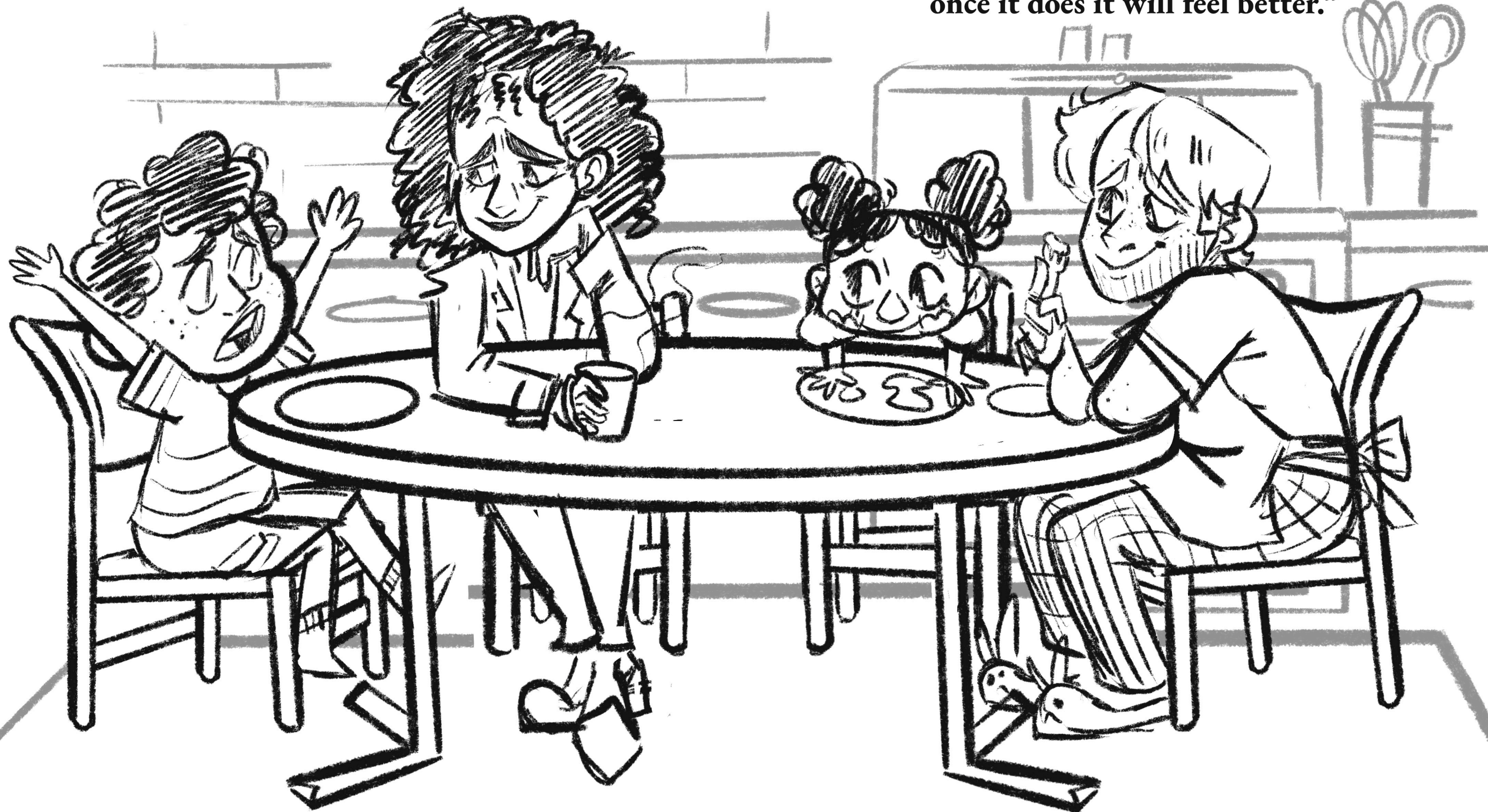
**He has a new big room the he doesn't have to
share with anyone. But he misses his sister's
nightlight.**

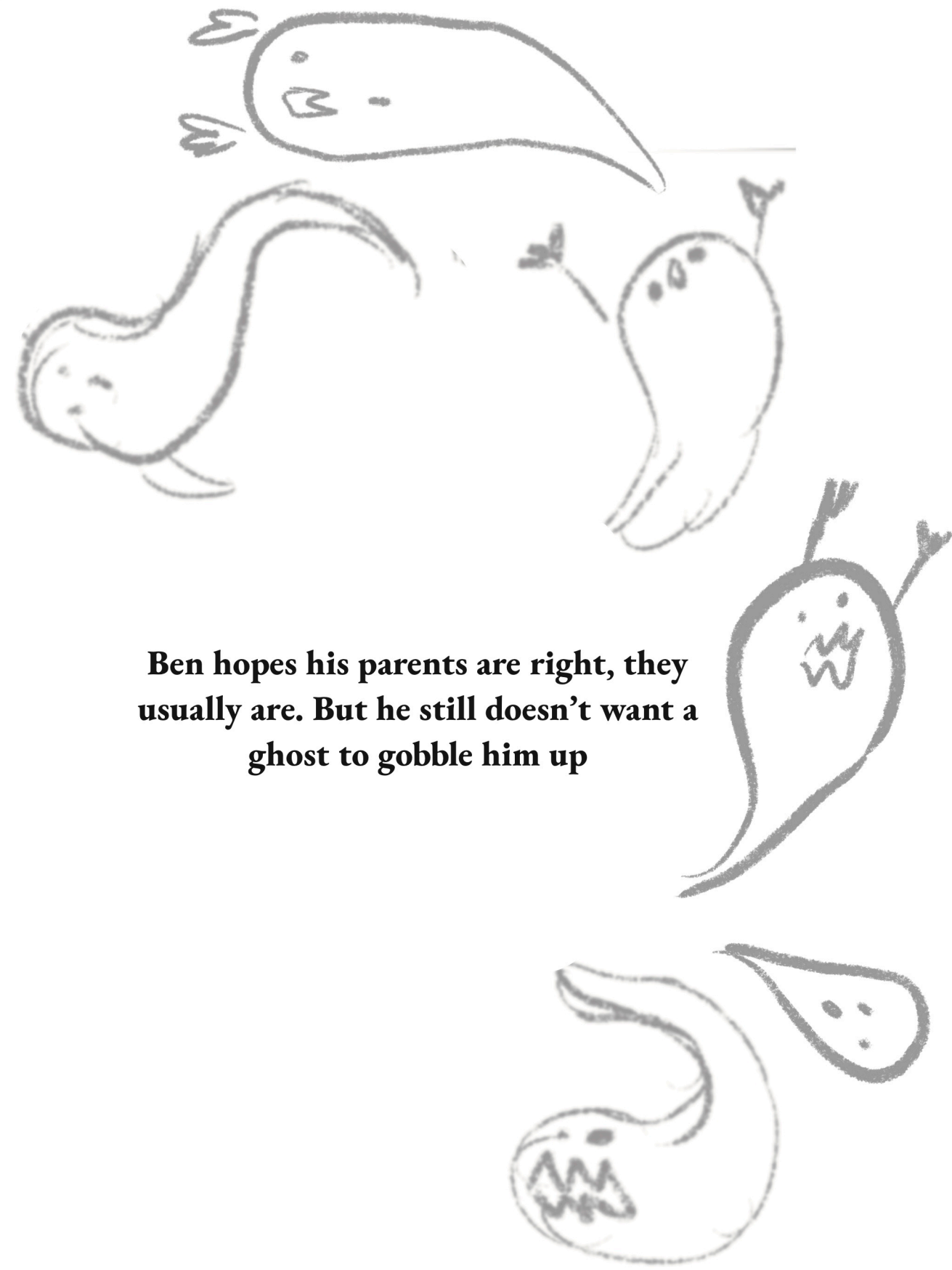
The first night, Ben hears something scary. “Oh no!” he thinks, “our house is haunted!”



The next morning Ben tells his parents the news, "I heard a ghost last night! The house is haunted, we have to move out!"

Dad laughs at him, "Our house isn't haunted it's just old!"
Mom tells him, "Our house just isn't used to us yet, once it does it will feel better."





Ben hopes his parents are right, they usually are. But he still doesn't want a ghost to gobble him up



That night, Ben tried to sleep, but he wakes up to that sound again, louder this time!

**“It’s probably just the old pipes,”
says Dad the next day at breakfast
“I know you’re nervous but our
house isn’t haunted.”**



**If they don’t believe him he’s
just going to have to show
them. He borrows Dad’s
camera and Mom’s flashlight**



Ben tiptoes down the stairs, following the sound to the family room

Sitting at the piano is a ghost!



He was right !

**“Why are you crying?”
asks Ben**

**He starts to run
away, but he hears
the noise again, it’s
her crying.**

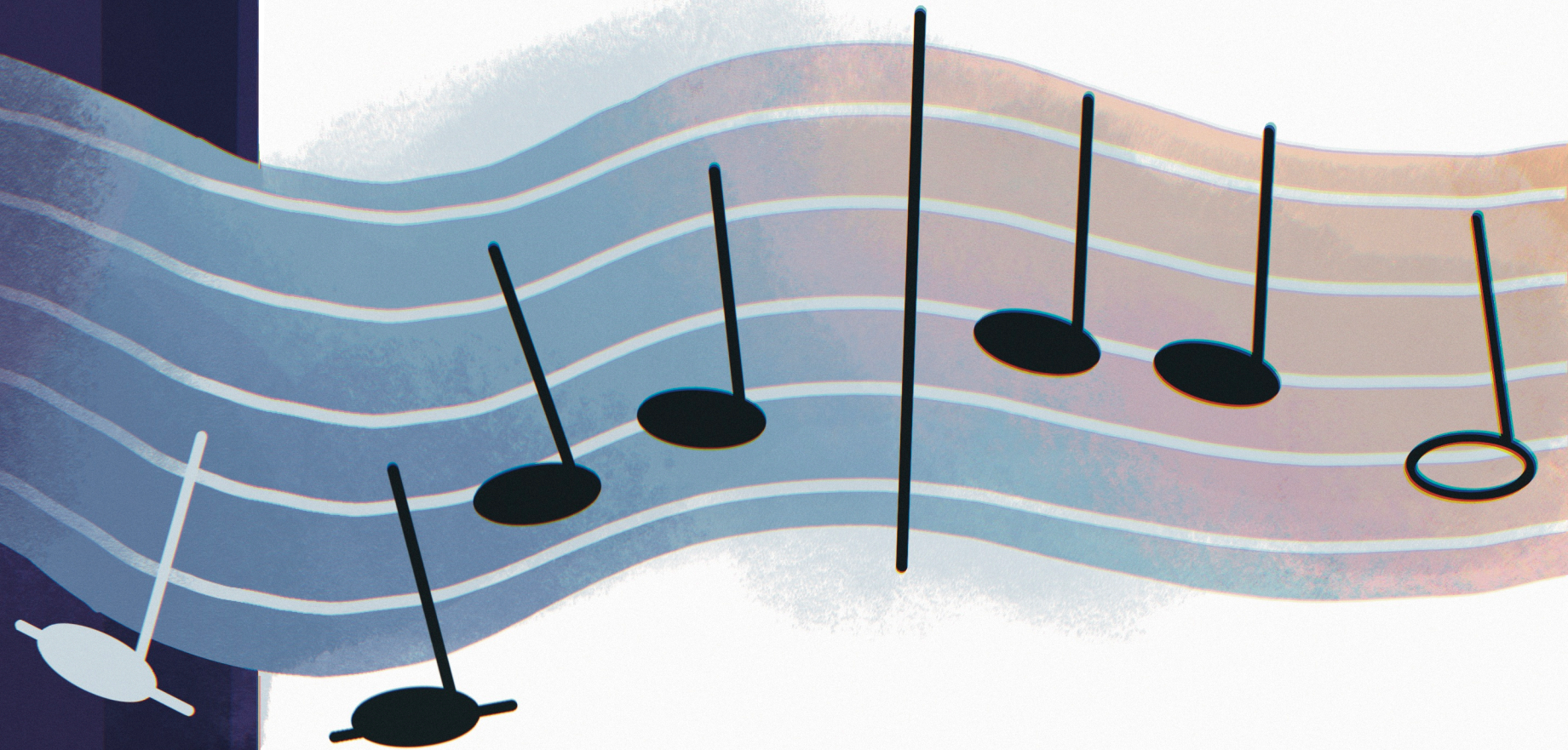




**“There’s a new
family here!
I’m scared!”**



**“You don’t need to be scared of us, I’m Ben.”
She wipes her eyes, “I’m Erica”**

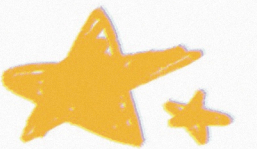


“Can you also play piano?” asks Ben

“Yeah!” exclaims Erica.

The two play the piano together,

becoming fast friends





**The next morning, Ben reports to his family.
“I was still right, but Erica is really nice so
we don’t have to be afraid anymore!”**

“Does that mean I don’t need to be scared of my new job?” asks Mom

“Or the parents at the new park?” adds Dad



“Nope!” says Ben, “I bet they’re just as scared as you are!”



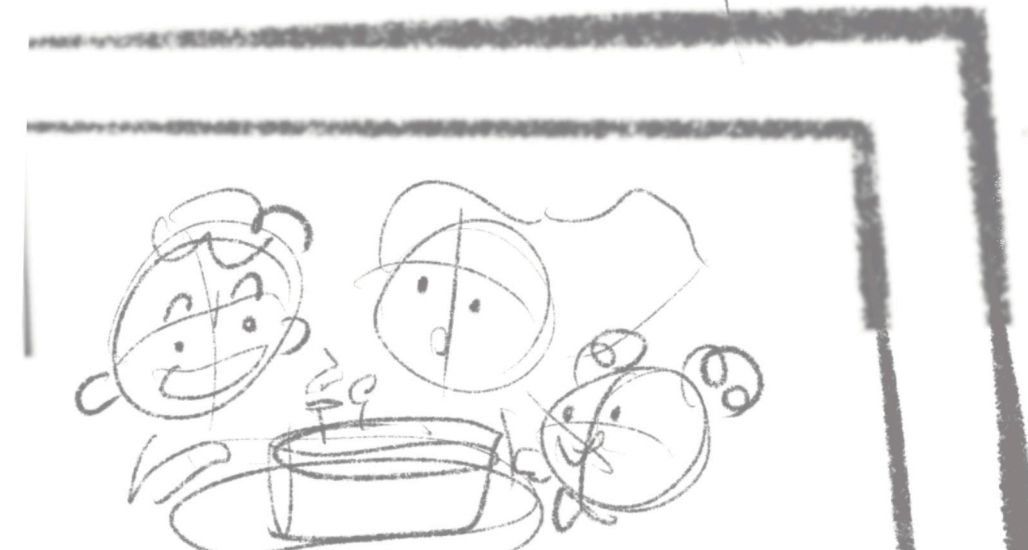
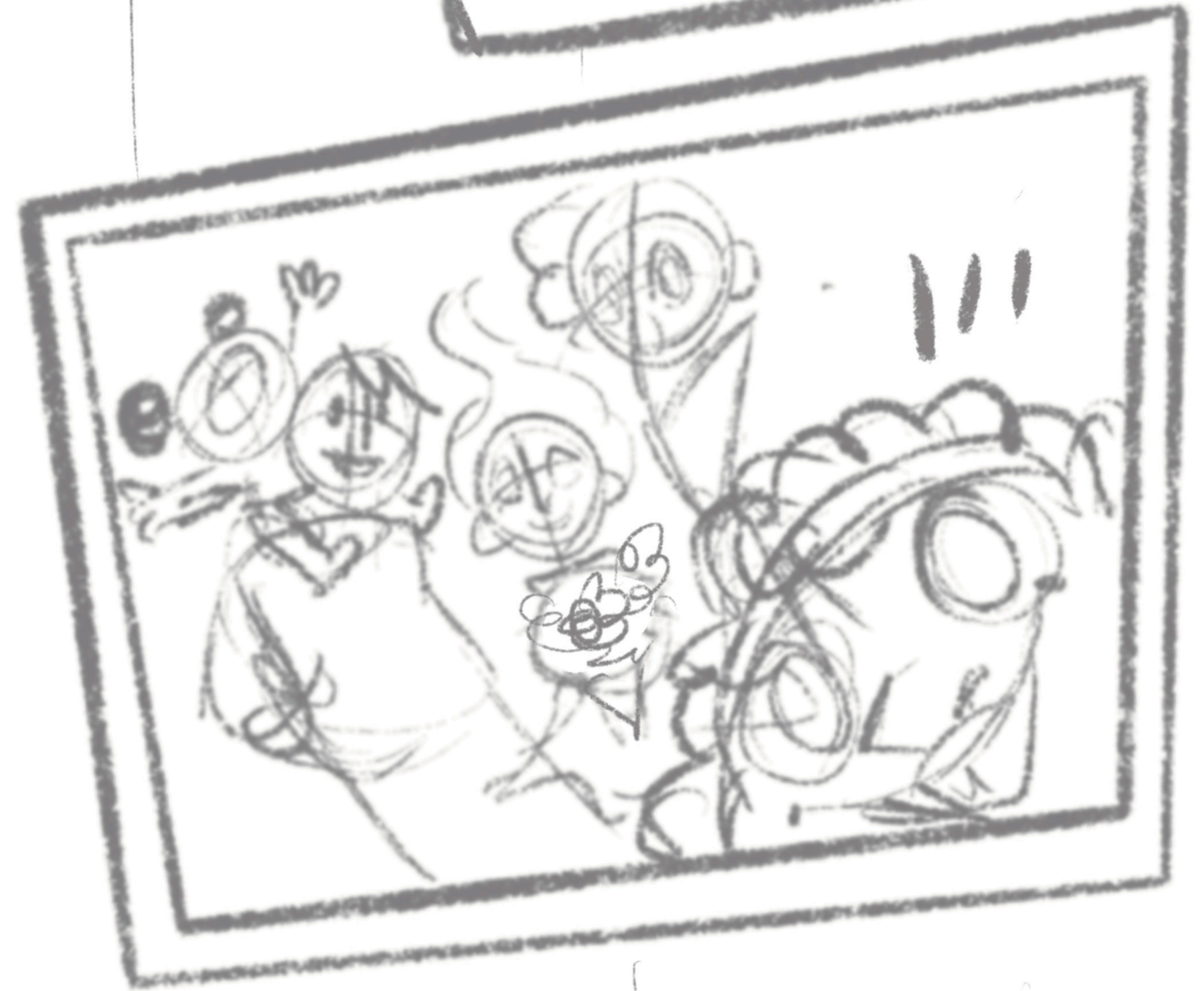
“So,” asks Mom, “When do we get to meet Erica? Can she come to dinner tonight?”

“Sure! I’ll ask her” says Ben



That night Erica got to meet the new family...

Her new family.



**THE
END**