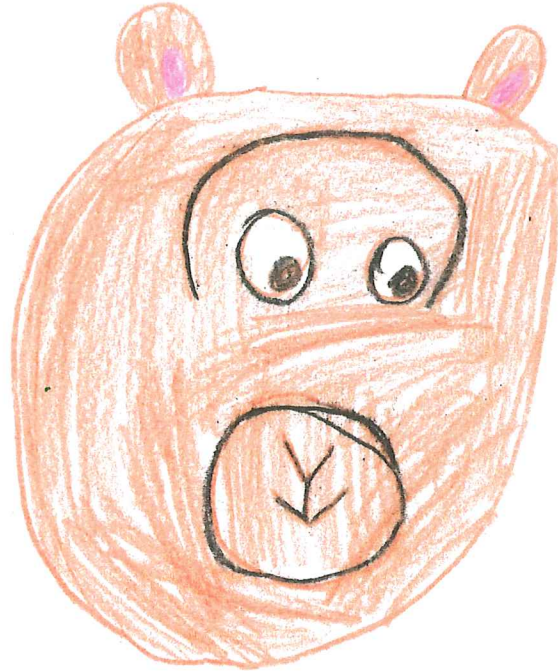


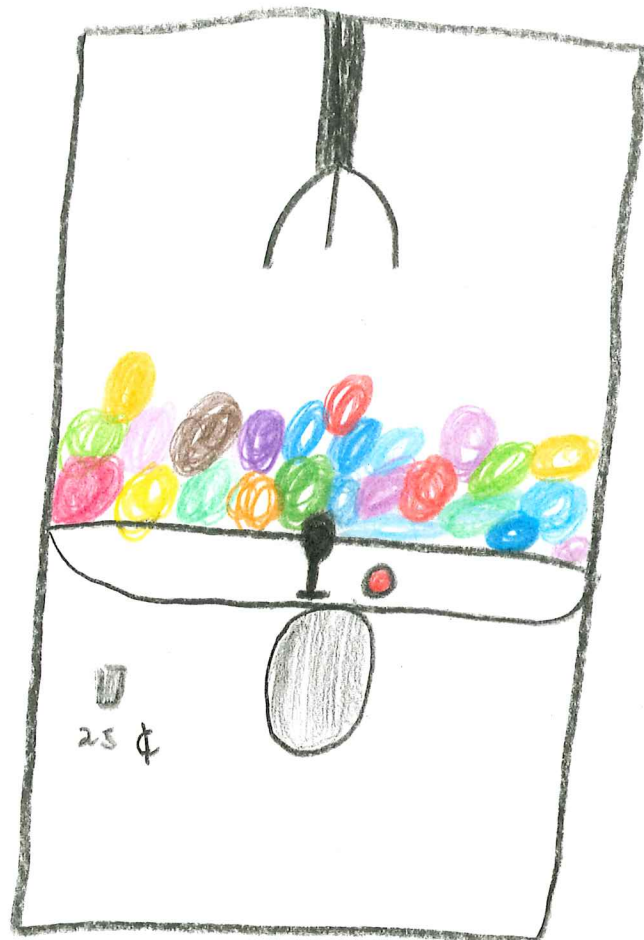
Mary's Monkey Trouble



Written by Mary Elizabeth Clark, 2nd Grade

Illustrated by Mary Elizabeth Clark, 2nd Grade

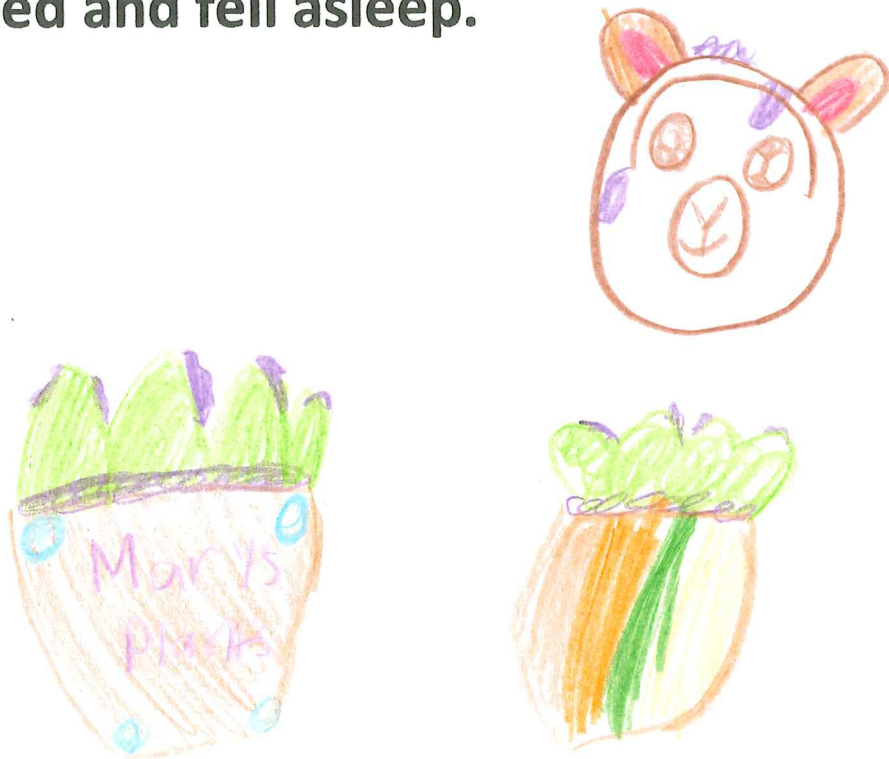
One sunny day, Mary went to a birthday party. While other kids played, Mary saw a claw machine with a stuffed monkey inside. Monkeys were Mary's favorite animal. She asked her dad for a quarter, but he didn't have one.



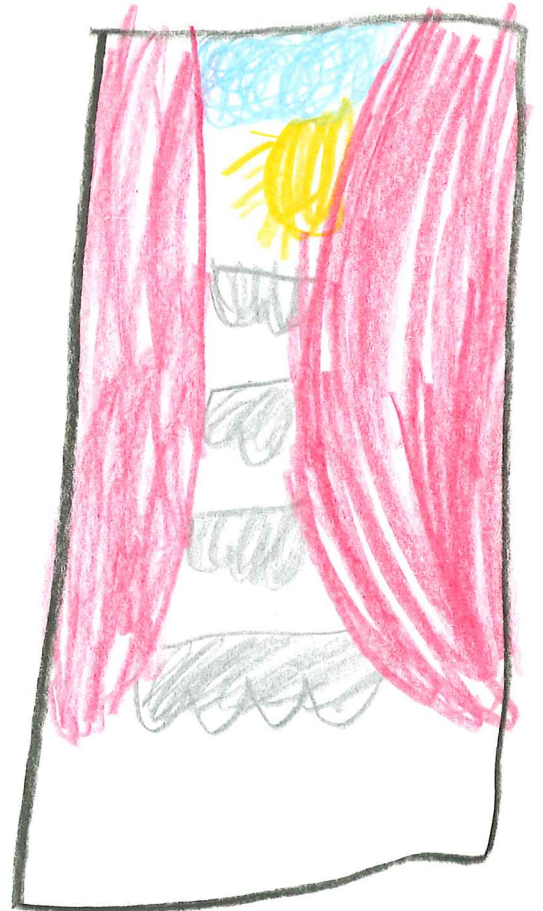
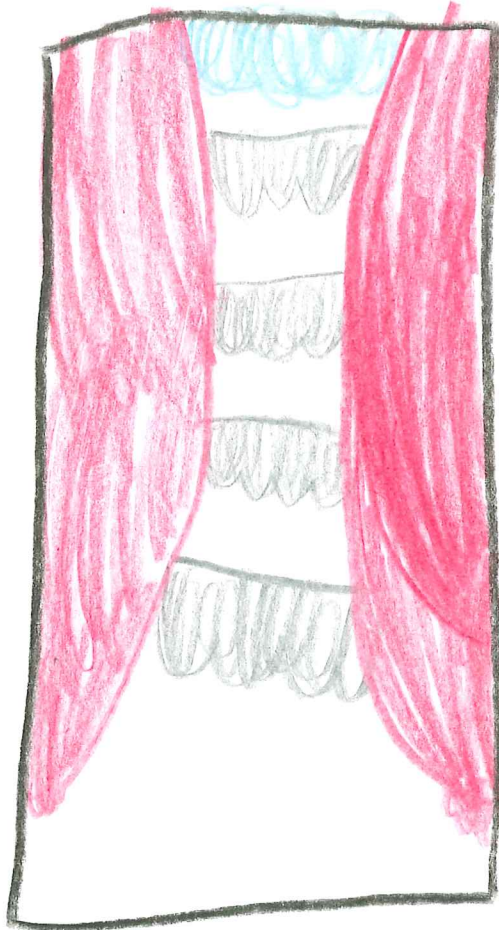
Suddenly, Mary saw a shiny quarter on the ground. She picked it up and ran to the machine. She took a deep breath, put the quarter in, lowered the claw, and closed her eyes. By the time she opened her eyes, her stuffed monkey was waiting for her. She named him "Monkey."



That night, as Mary's mom tucked Mary and Monkey into bed, Mary remembered that she needed to water her plants with the magic potion she made in slime class. Oops! She accidentally spilled some potion on Monkey. Monkey didn't seem to mind. Mary snuggled into her bed and fell asleep.



The next morning, when Mary woke up, Monkey was nowhere to be found. Mary looked everywhere. She was starting to get worried. Suddenly, she wondered, had the magic potion made Monkey come to life?



Mary noticed her room was messy. Had Monkey made the mess? She made her bed, cleaned her room, and ran downstairs to check the bananas in the kitchen. They were still there, but all the cookies were gone! Had Monkey eaten the cookies? Mary wiped up the crumbs, straightened the kitchen, and went outside.



Mary's jungle gym was strewn with toys that had been left in the yard. Had Monkey done this, too? Mary quickly picked up her toys and put them neatly away in the garage.

Mary wondered if it was Monkey or *her* that made all the messes. She was glad that looking for Monkey made her tidy up. Her parents would be so happy!



Mary went back upstairs, and as she walked into her bedroom, she spotted Monkey under her bed. He must have fallen during the night!

Mary was relieved to find him, she couldn't believe she thought her stuffed monkey might have been alive.

But as Mary looked a bit closer, she could see cookie crumbs on Monkey's face...

