

The Emperor



and



The



Nightingale

- Ahhh But this nightingale is prettier than the other!!! Look at her gold feathers and ruby eyes. And it sings better than the living nightingale. Before she sang more beautiful than she does now.

- I don't want her anymore. Throw her away of my palace.



The servants were very sad because they loved BIRDY the nightingale but she said:

- You don't understand - said BIRDY. I am very sad in this palace. I miss my life in the gardens. I like the open air, the sun, the rain, the wind... and my bird friends!! My songs are becoming very sad inside this cage.

So, they opened her cage and BIRDY left flying and saying goodbye to the servants with her wings.

One month later the emperor was bored of his golden nightingale. Her tune was always the same and it didn't move. He wanted his old nightingale.

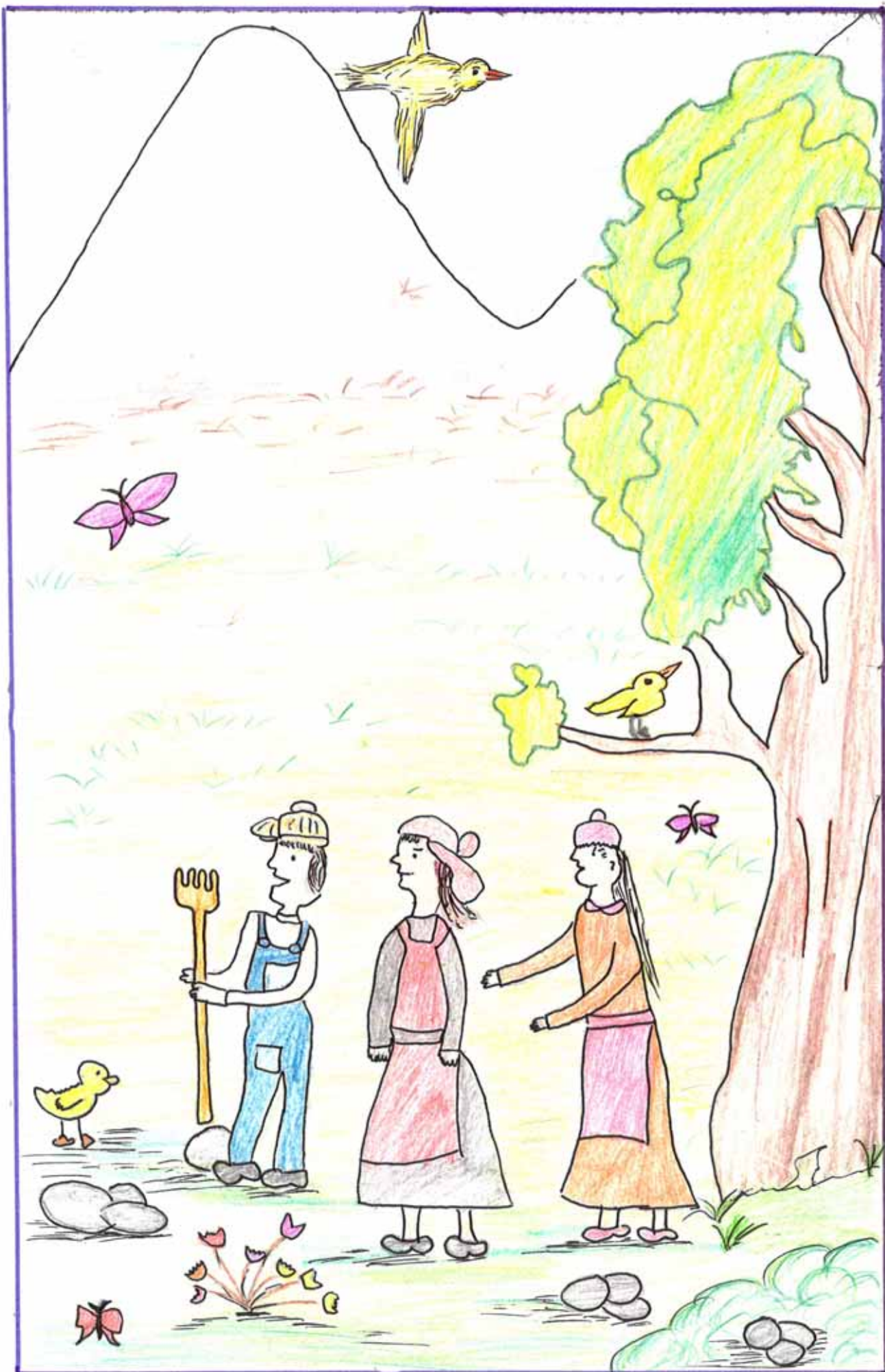
- Servants!!! I want the bird back. Tell the gardener to look for her again.



. The gardener went outside to the marvellous gardens and listened carefully for BIRDY songs -
He found her in a pine with other birds that sang with her.

- BIRDY - said the gardener. You have to come again with me to the palace ...
- No, I don't want to live in the silver cage.
- BIRDY, I am sorry It is an order from the emperor.
- No, I have an idea. tell the emperor to come for me. He is always in his palace and he does not know his beautiful gardens.
- Ok, I will do what I can.

The emperor was very, very angry but he had not any other way to bring the nightingale back.



Early in the morning, when the sun was rising, the Emperor started his way through his gardens and forests.

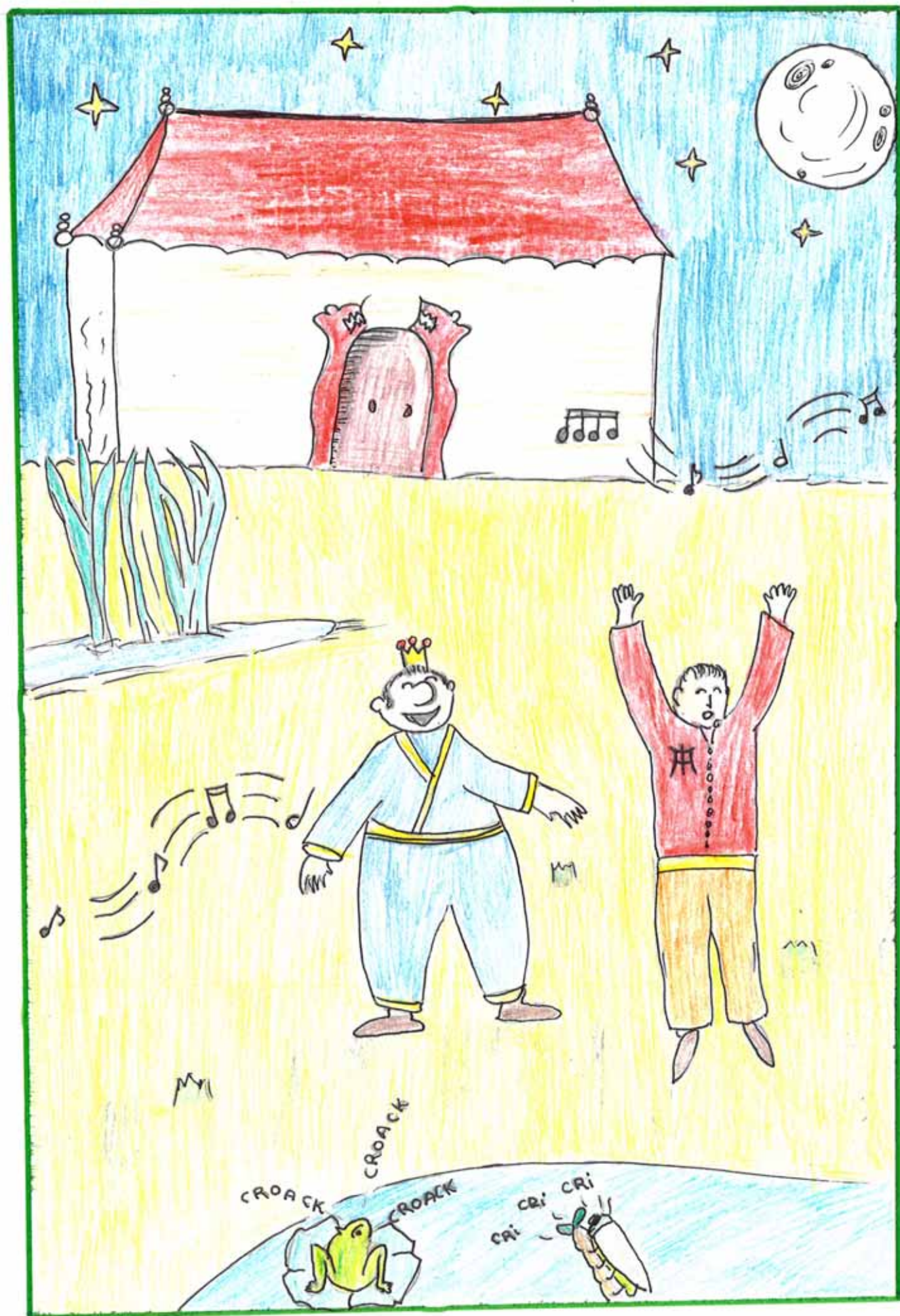
- Emperor - said the gardener - Don't you hear all the noises of the gardens? Don't you think they are very beautiful?

The emperor was very angry but he was beginning to enjoy the walk. When they arrived where BIRDY was, the emperor was not angry. He was very happy and feeling very free.

- Hello Emperor - said BIRDY. How are you? I want to show you my new songs.

Then, she started to sing and all the animals to do the choirs.

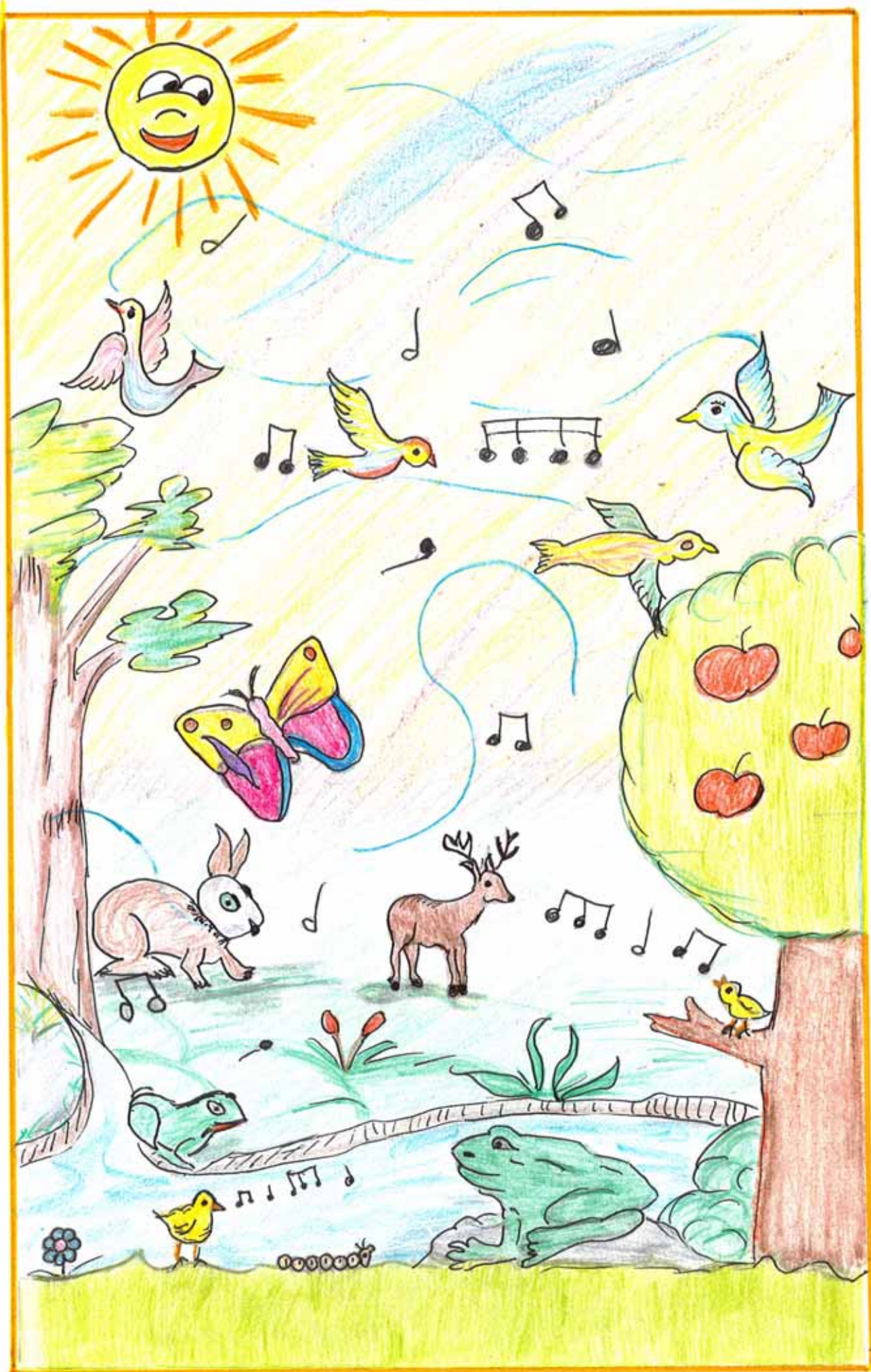
The other birds sang, the frogs croaked and the wind made the trees and plants twinkle.



- Ohhhhhh..... it is the most beautiful music !! - said the emperor. Now I understand why you don't want to live in my palace.

- Yes, emperor - said Birdy. The gardens and forest are my home. Here I am free. I can fly and I can make friends and I feel happy to sing. You live in your big palace and although you are free you don't enjoy freedom. So, you don't care to take freedom away from other people or animals.

- Yes. I am very cruel and you are right. I am always in my palace and I want everybody to do what I do. Now I understand that everybody has to live their life or they will be like the golden nightingale in the silver cage, that now I hate because it sings always the same and doesn't move.



The Emperor had learnt a very good lesson
and all the people of his lands
loved him since then.

BIRDY and his friends started to give
concerts in the gardens for everybody.

The Emperor was always among the
public.

