

A Feathery Friend

by Vivian B

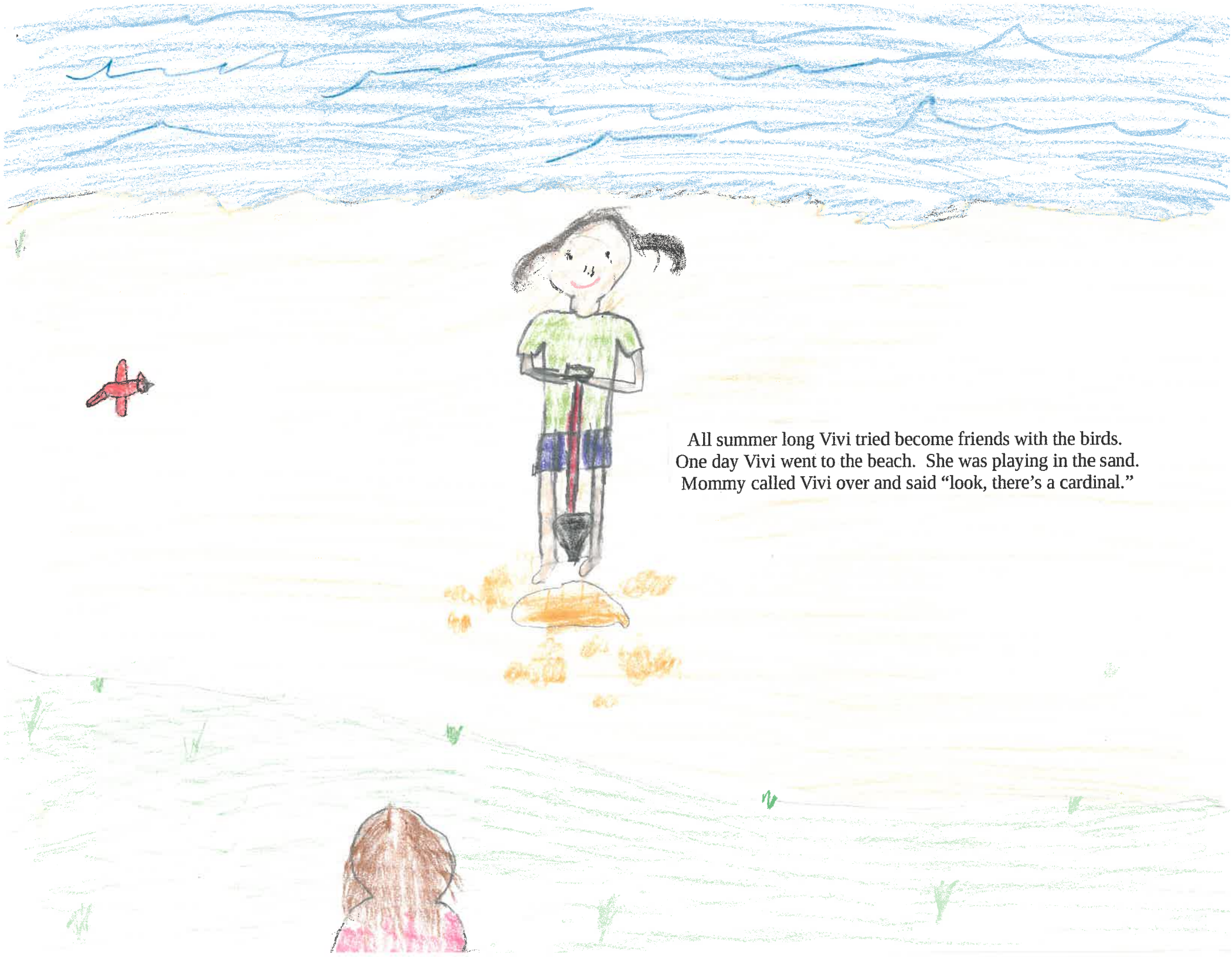


3 year old Vivi was riding her bike around the yard whistling bird calls, watching the chickadees around the birdfeeder and wondering why they all flew away when she came.



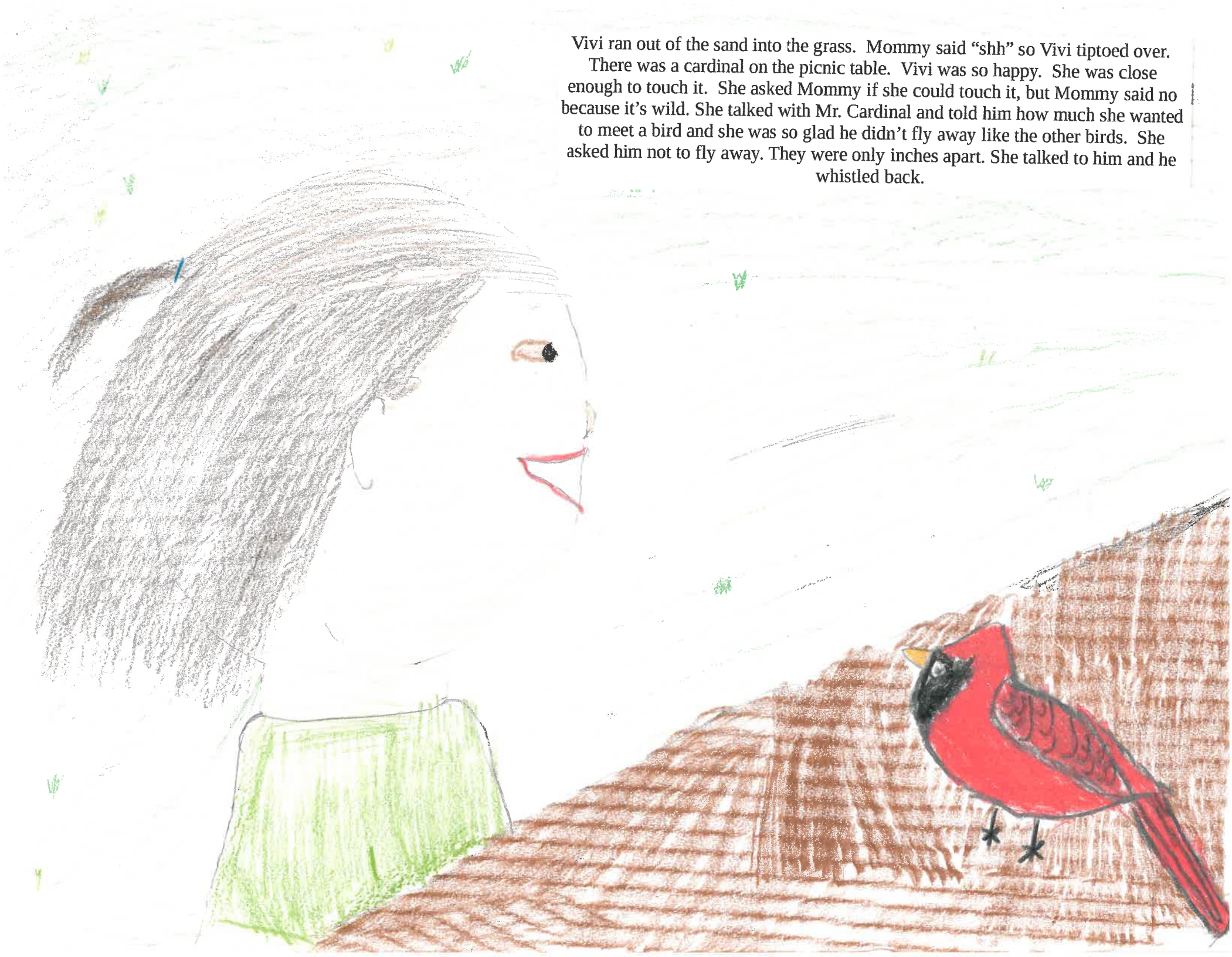


She loved watching the birds and was fascinated by them. She wanted to hold one but they always flew away. She would sweetly call to them "Birdies, don't fly away. I'm Vivi. I'm your friend." She talked to the birds and whistled bird calls, but the birds didn't understand.

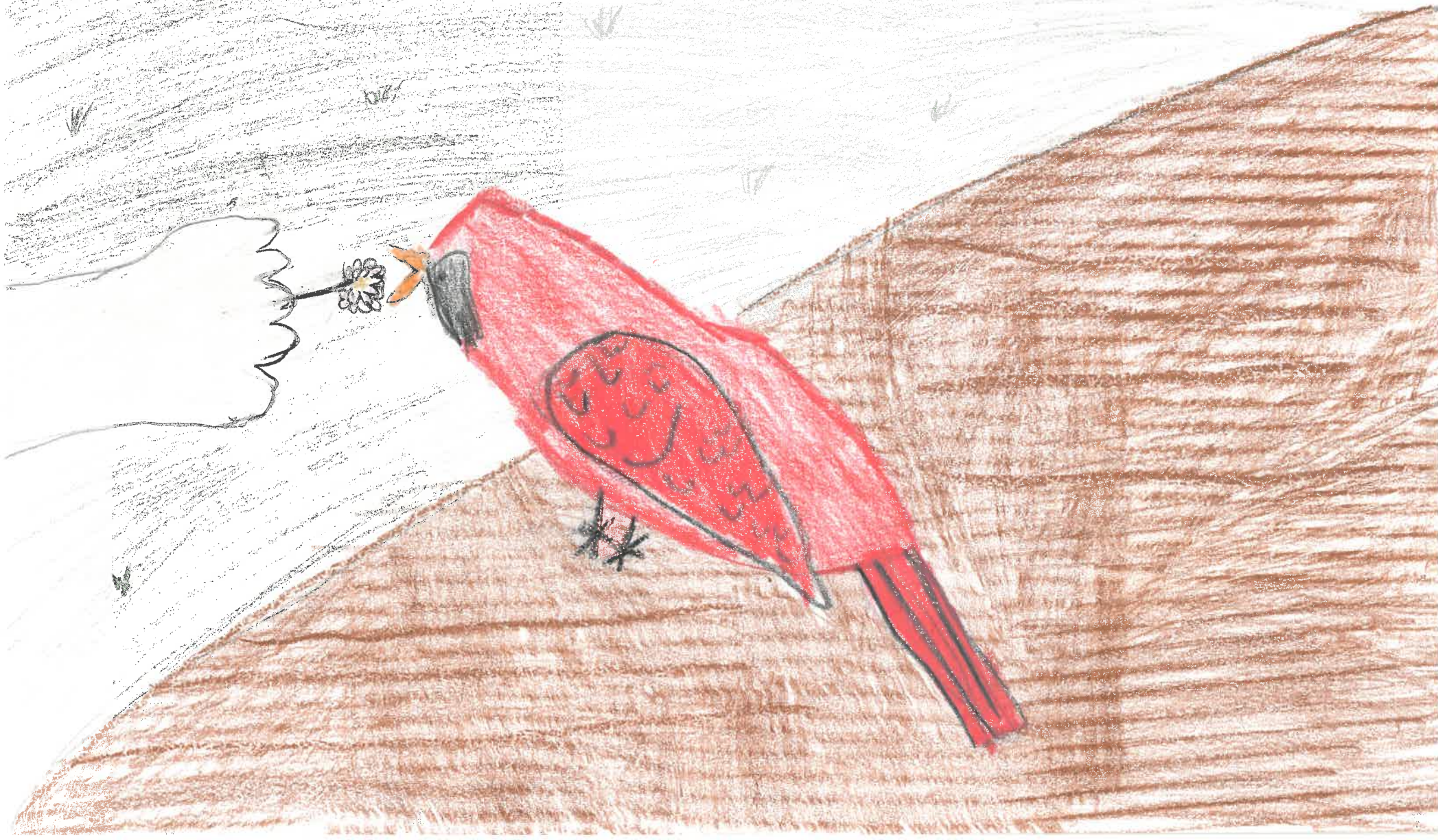


All summer long Vivi tried become friends with the birds.
One day Vivi went to the beach. She was playing in the sand.
Mommy called Vivi over and said "look, there's a cardinal."

Vivi ran out of the sand into the grass. Mommy said “shh” so Vivi tiptoed over. There was a cardinal on the picnic table. Vivi was so happy. She was close enough to touch it. She asked Mommy if she could touch it, but Mommy said no because it’s wild. She talked with Mr. Cardinal and told him how much she wanted to meet a bird and she was so glad he didn’t fly away like the other birds. She asked him not to fly away. They were only inches apart. She talked to him and he whistled back.



Vivi picked a clover flower and held it out to Mr. Cardinal. Mr. Cardinal looked at it, then opened his beak and took it from her hand. Vivi was delighted! She tried feeding him again. He hopped into the grass. Vivi knelt down by Mr. Cardinal for a long time while talking to him.



Eventually it was time for Mr. Cardinal to go back to his family and for Vivi to go dig in the sand. Vivi knew she would always remember this day and she still does six years later. Mr. and Mrs. Cardinal even built their nest by Vivi's house and had babies there. She loved watching them grow. Vivi still sprinkles birdseed by their nest and talks with Mr. Cardinal. Vivi and Mr. Cardinal have been special friends ever since the day at the beach together.



About the Author

This is a true story about what happened to the author when she was 3. Cardinals have been her favorite animal ever since she and Mr. Cardinal met at the beach. She loves learning about birds, watching them, and practicing her bird calls.

