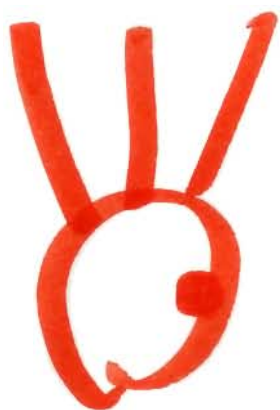


The Staring Contest

By Sean Kearney



Joey and Clara were bored. It was a bright and sunny day and they couldn't think of anything to do.



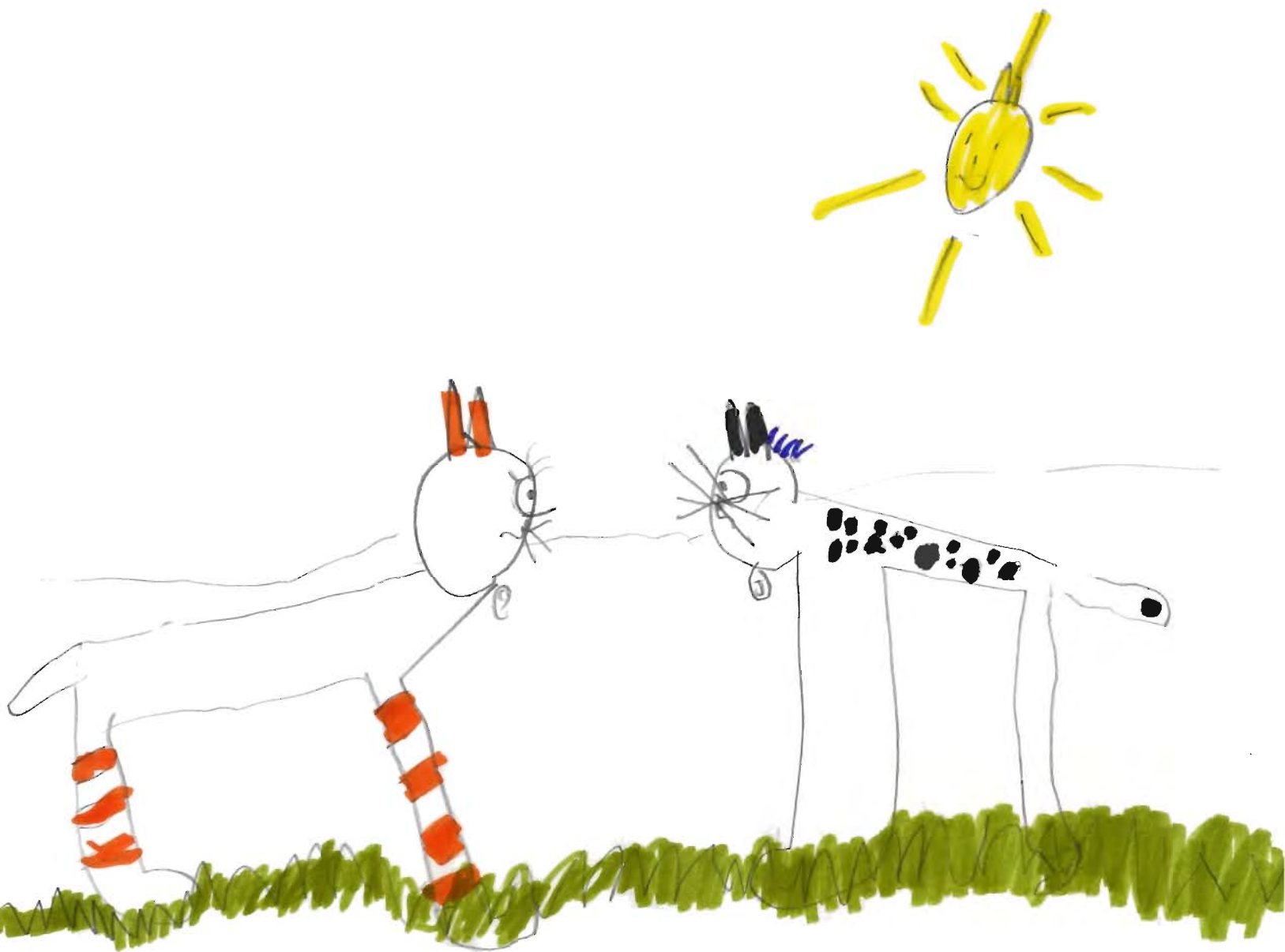


An idea popped up in Clara's head.

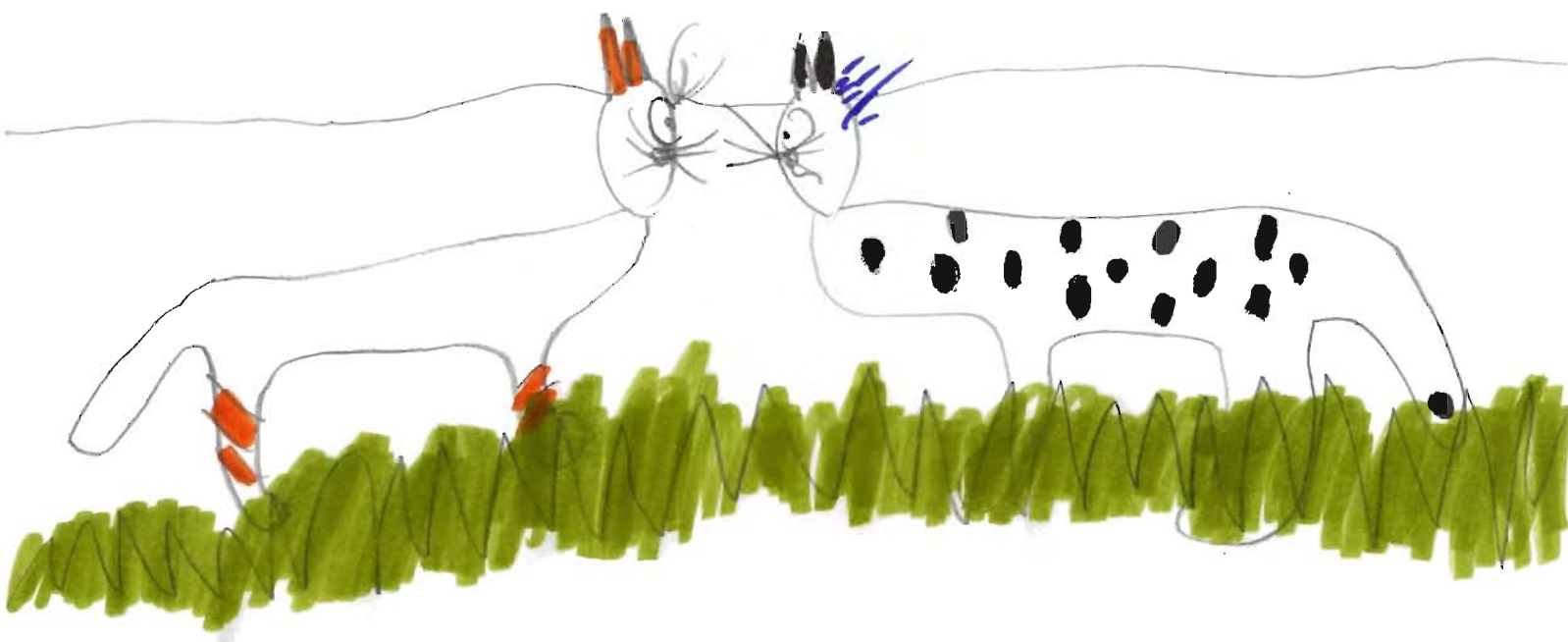
"Hey Joey, do you want to have a staring contest?" she asked.

"Sounds like a great idea!" declared Joey.

The staring contest began.

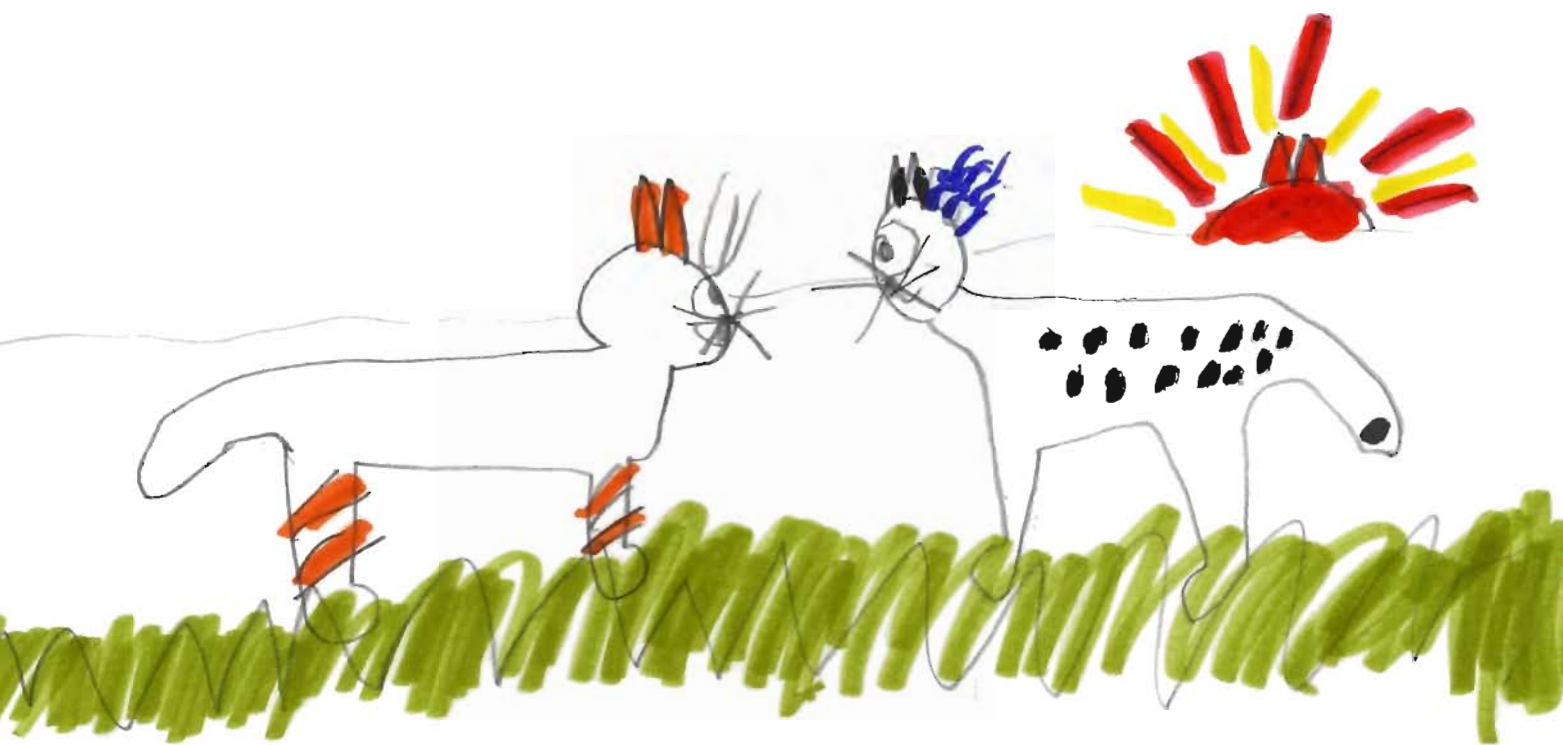


Clara did not blink. Joey did not blink.
The staring contest went on for hours and
hours ...





...and hours...



...and hours.



The staring contest became boring. They started thinking of all the things they could be doing. Clara thought about flying kites. Joey thought about playing a game of Monopoly. Clara thought about a game of tag. Joey thought about wrestling.

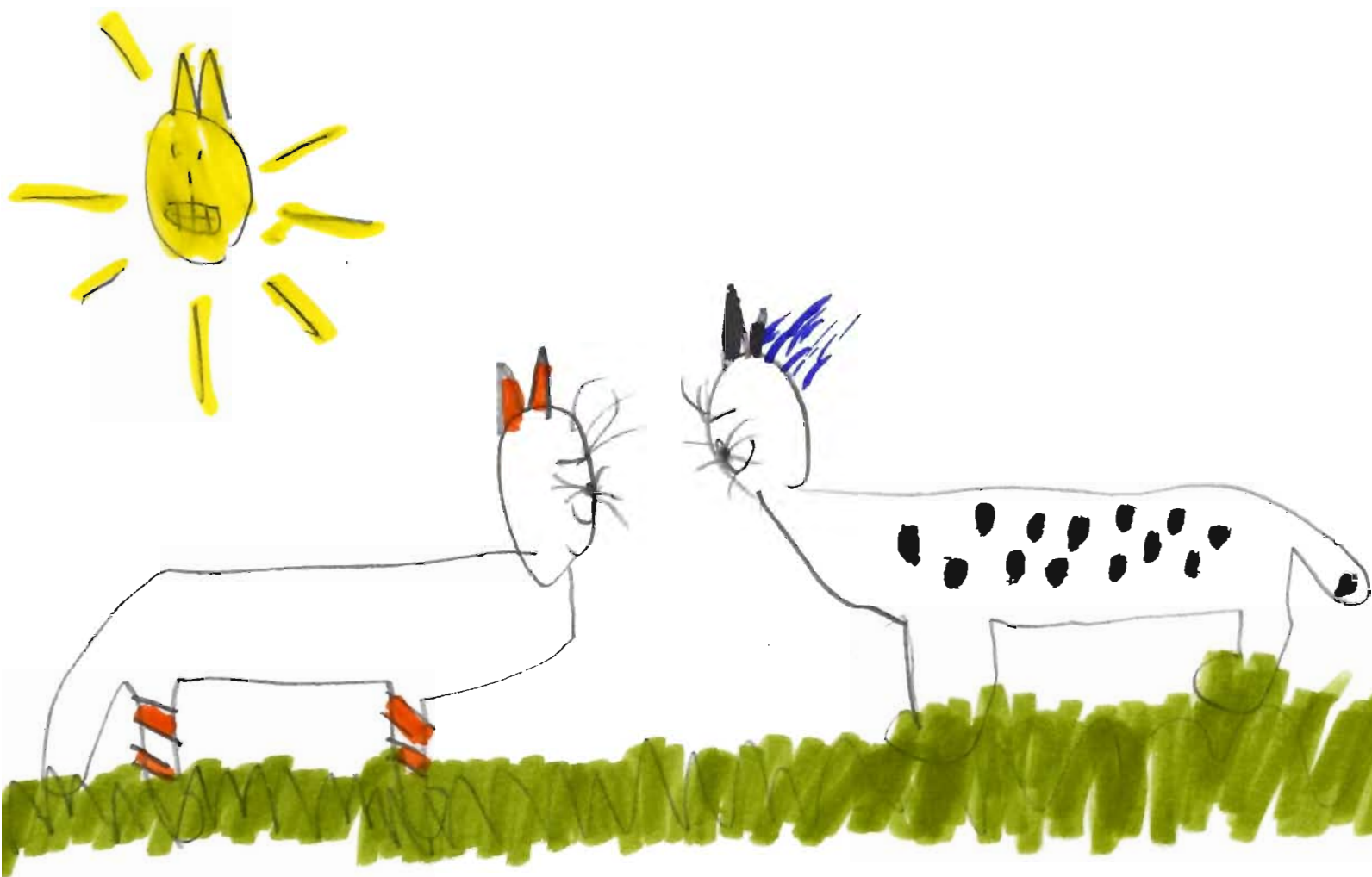


“Joey, I’ve been thinking of about a million things we could do together,” said Clara.

“Guess what?” said Joey. “I have been thinking about a million more.”

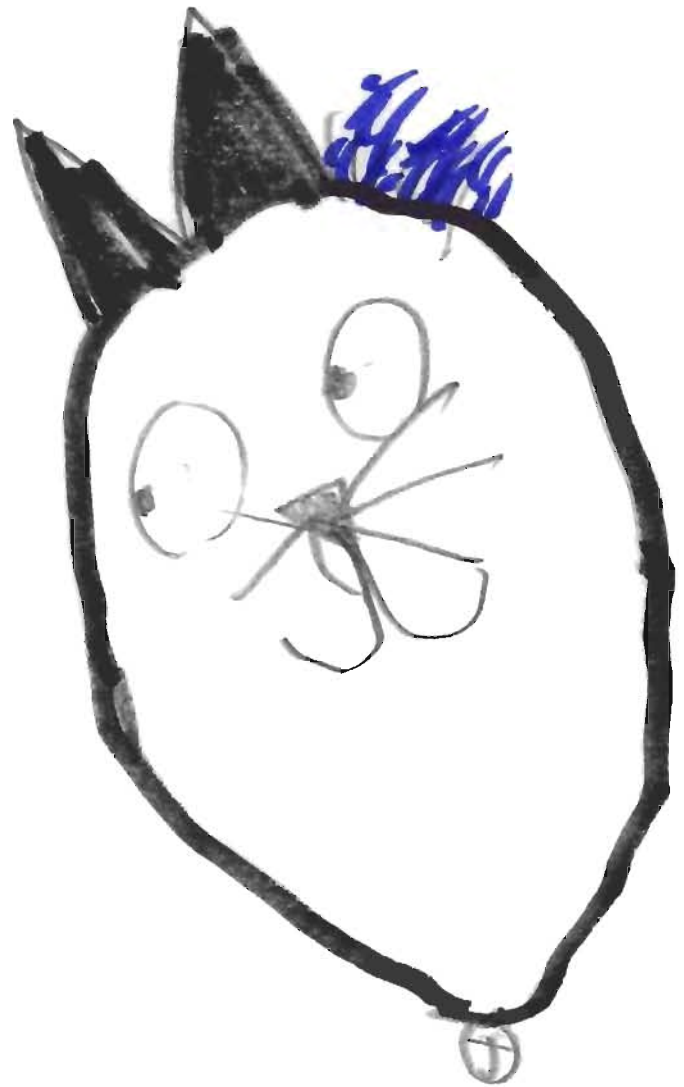
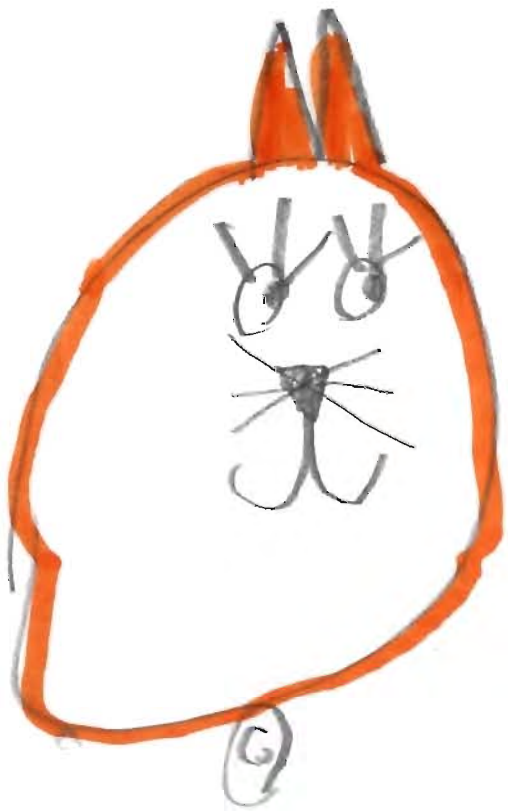
“What do you say we blink at the same time?” asked Clara.

Joey agreed.



“On the count of three. One, two, three, BLINK!” they both cried out loud.

From then on, whenever Clara and Joey were bored and wanted to think of fun things to do, they would...



...have a staring contest!