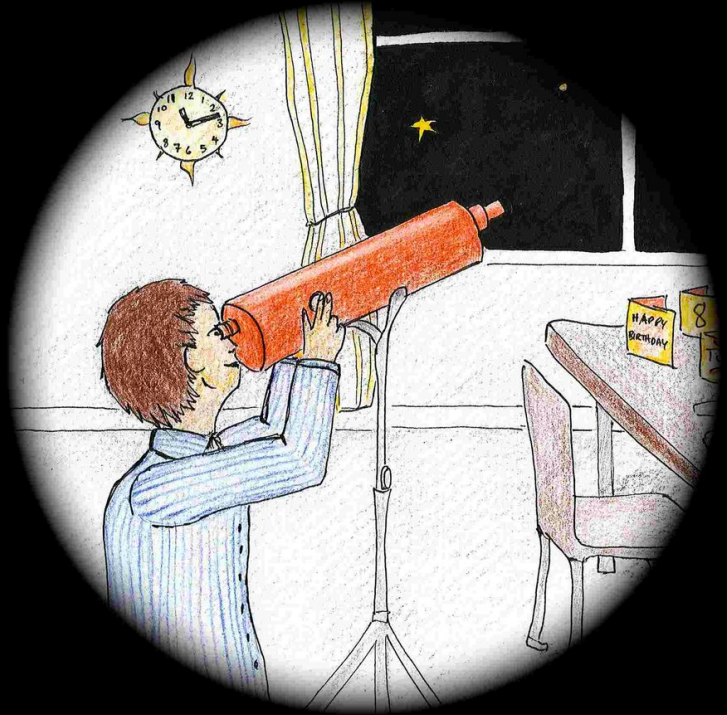


written and illustrated by
Ray Gibson

how to get
to
GUGU





Tom was a small boy who liked games, toys and puzzles.

Most of all though, Tom loved space.

So, for his 8th birthday, his parents bought him a telescope and he spent his birthday night watching the stars in the night sky.

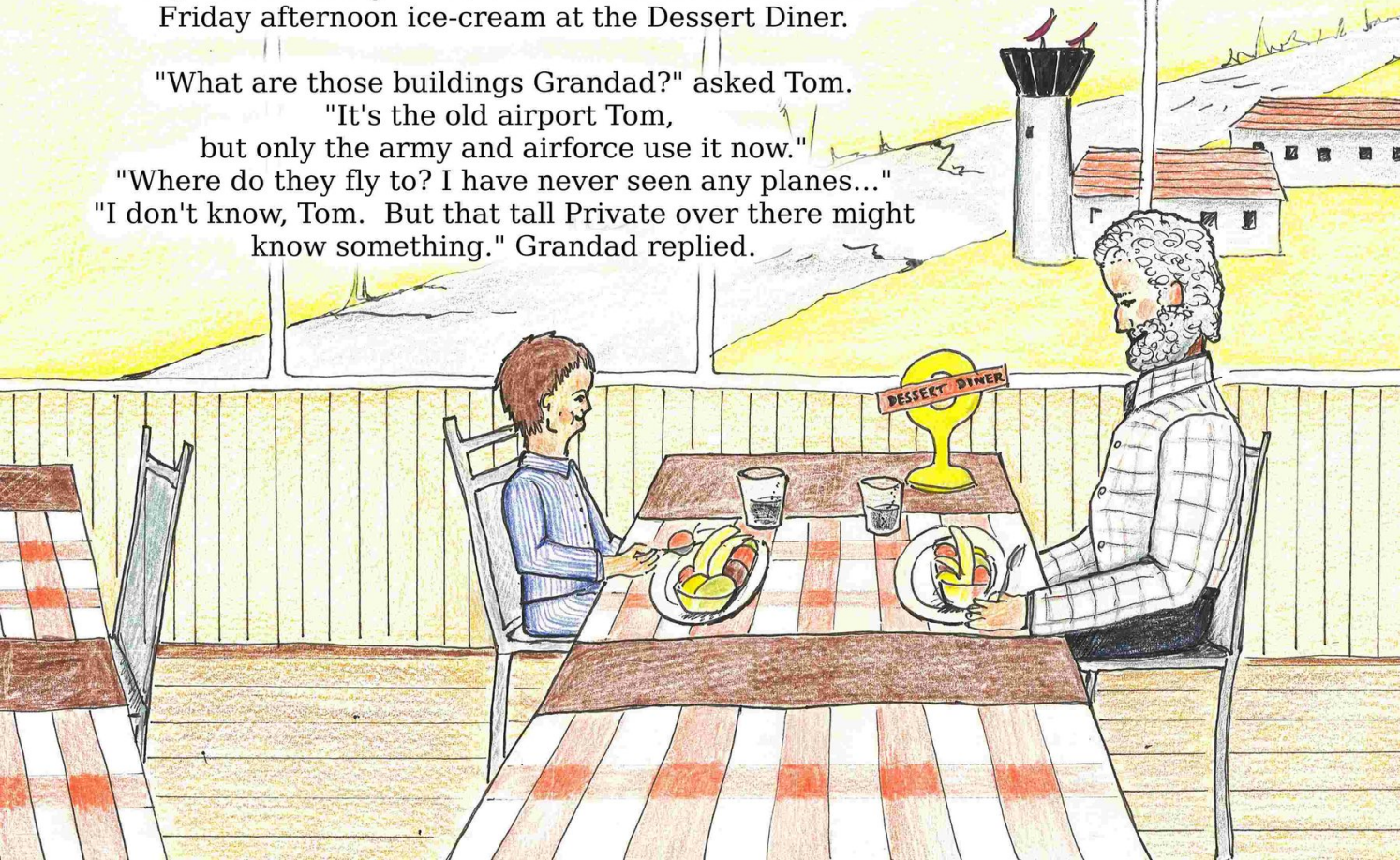
As a special birthday treat, Tom's Grandad invited him for Friday afternoon ice-cream at the Dessert Diner.

"What are those buildings Grandad?" asked Tom.

"It's the old airport Tom,
but only the army and airforce use it now."

"Where do they fly to? I have never seen any planes..."

"I don't know, Tom. But that tall Private over there might
know something." Grandad replied.





Private Mitchell truly was a giant. Even while sitting down his head was high between the lampshades of the diner.

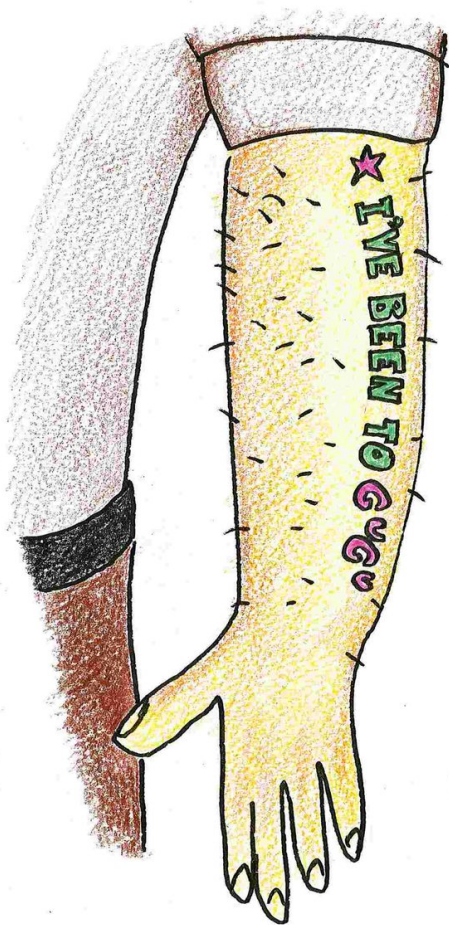
"We fly to GuGu of course!" his voice boomed, "We don't need that runway though... we fly straight up and out, through space and colours to the land of red snow!"

"Red snow?" asked Tom, excited, "Can I see GuGu through my telescope?"

"No son, it's very far away and it's very well hidden."

"So, how do you get to GuGu?" asked Tom, "Can you take us there?"

"No, sorry. Only pilots and scientists are invited to GuGu." said Private Mitchell, and he continued eating his huge plate of pancakes.



Tom was quiet.

He was still too young to be a pilot or a scientist but he wanted to see this strange place called GuGu.

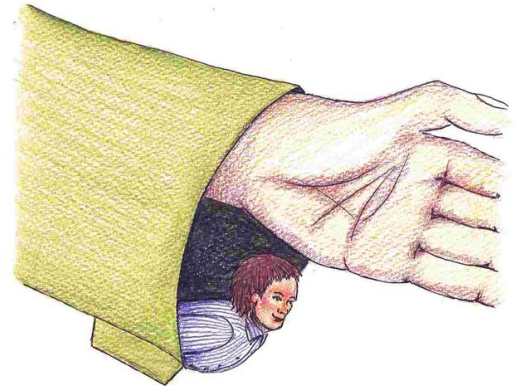
He knew his Grandad would like him to see GuGu, too. Grandad liked adventure as much as Tom did.

Tom noticed the green writing on Private Mitchell's arm, "I'VE BEEN TO GuGu", and grew more interested in where this giant had come from and where he was going.



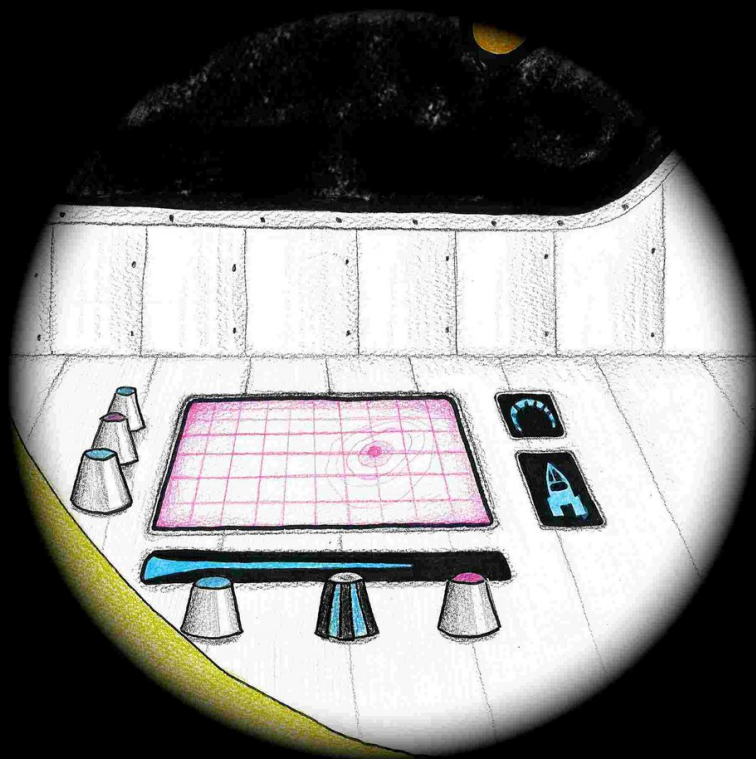
Then, Tom spotted his chance...

Private Mitchell stood to his full height of 6 metres, bending over to squeeze his head and shoulders under the ceiling. He slipped on his long green jacket and Tom jumped into his jacket sleeve. (Hidden away to join Private Mitchell on his next journey...)



Tom stayed very still with his eyes closed...
hoping Private Mitchell would not feel him inside his jacket sleeve.

Then, after about 20 minutes he decided to take a look where they were...



Wow! Tom was actually inside Private Mitchell's space plane!

He could not see much yet, just some strange buttons and displays. He listened to the radio noises with Private Mitchell's replies and kept very still and wondering to where they might be flying...



A few moments later,
he looked out further from
the jacket sleeve and saw bright
swirls of purple, yellow and blue...

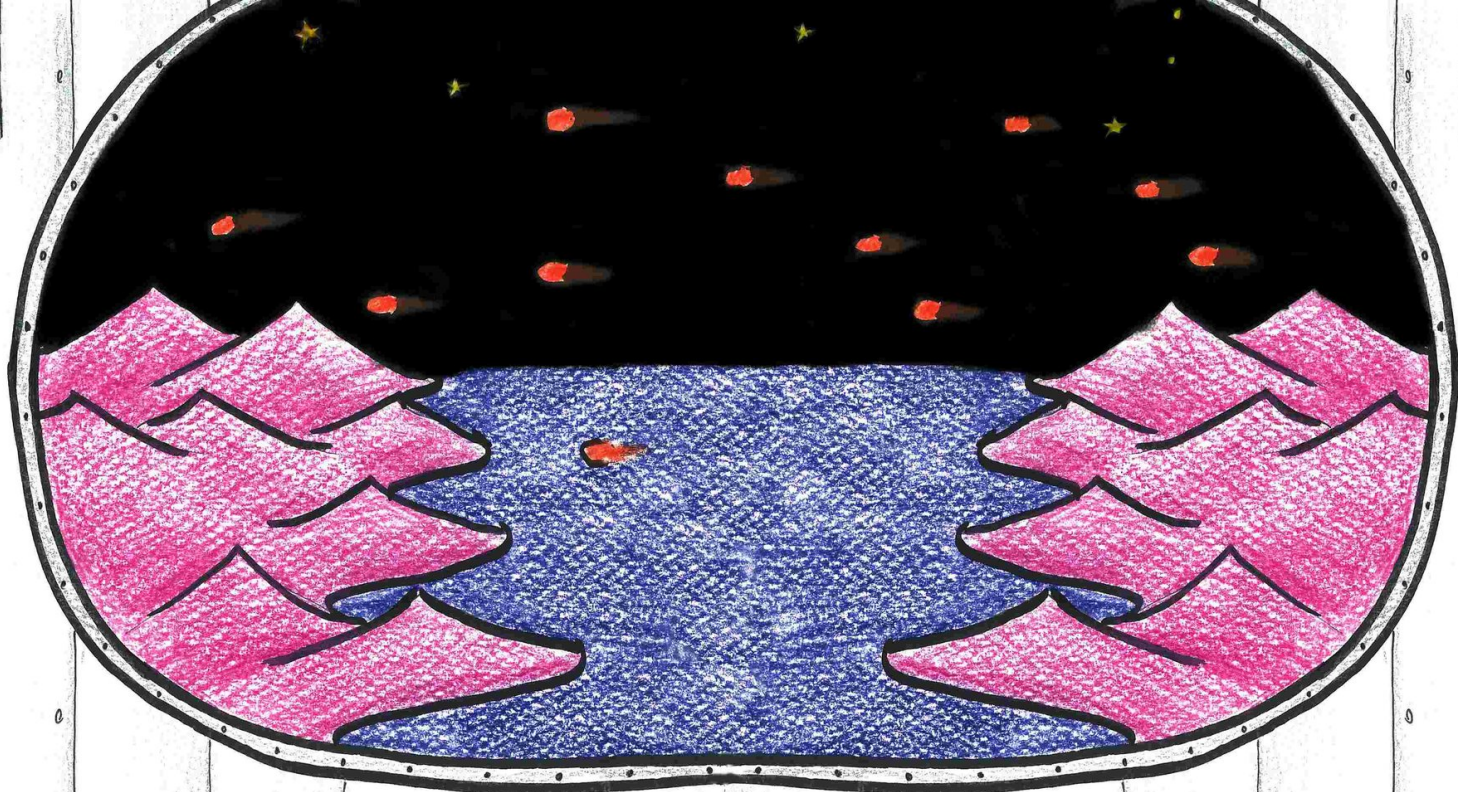
Numbers and shapes were flying
with them through space towards
a spinning black hole.



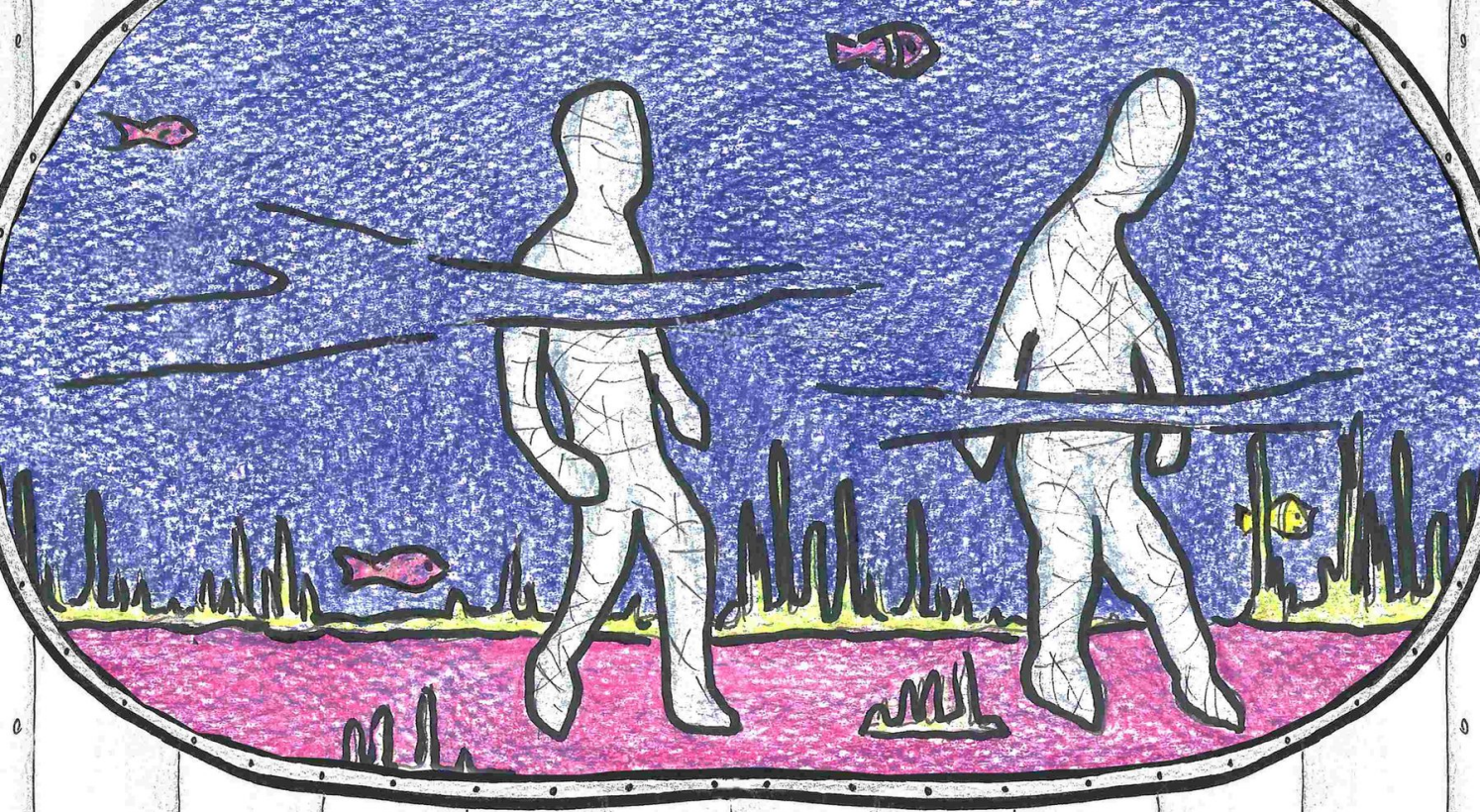
When the swirls disappeared, a strange shape appeared before them. It didn't look like any of the planets he had seen in his astronomy books.

Tom heard the landing control station over the radio,
"Come in Mitchell, you are clear to land on GuGu."
Tom's heart was racing. He was going to land on another world.

On GuGu.



As they entered GuGu's atmosphere, Tom saw purple sand dunes, a blue lake and red snow falling past the window. But, the snow did not fall like on Earth. The red snow "fell" sideways from right to left!



They landed on the surface of the big blue lake and sank down gently towards an underwater base. Tom could see ice-men walking on the bottom of the lake. He rubbed his eyes to check if he was dreaming.



They left the space-plane and squeezed into an elevator. Tom jumped out from Private Mitchell's sleeve and stood looking up into his cool face.

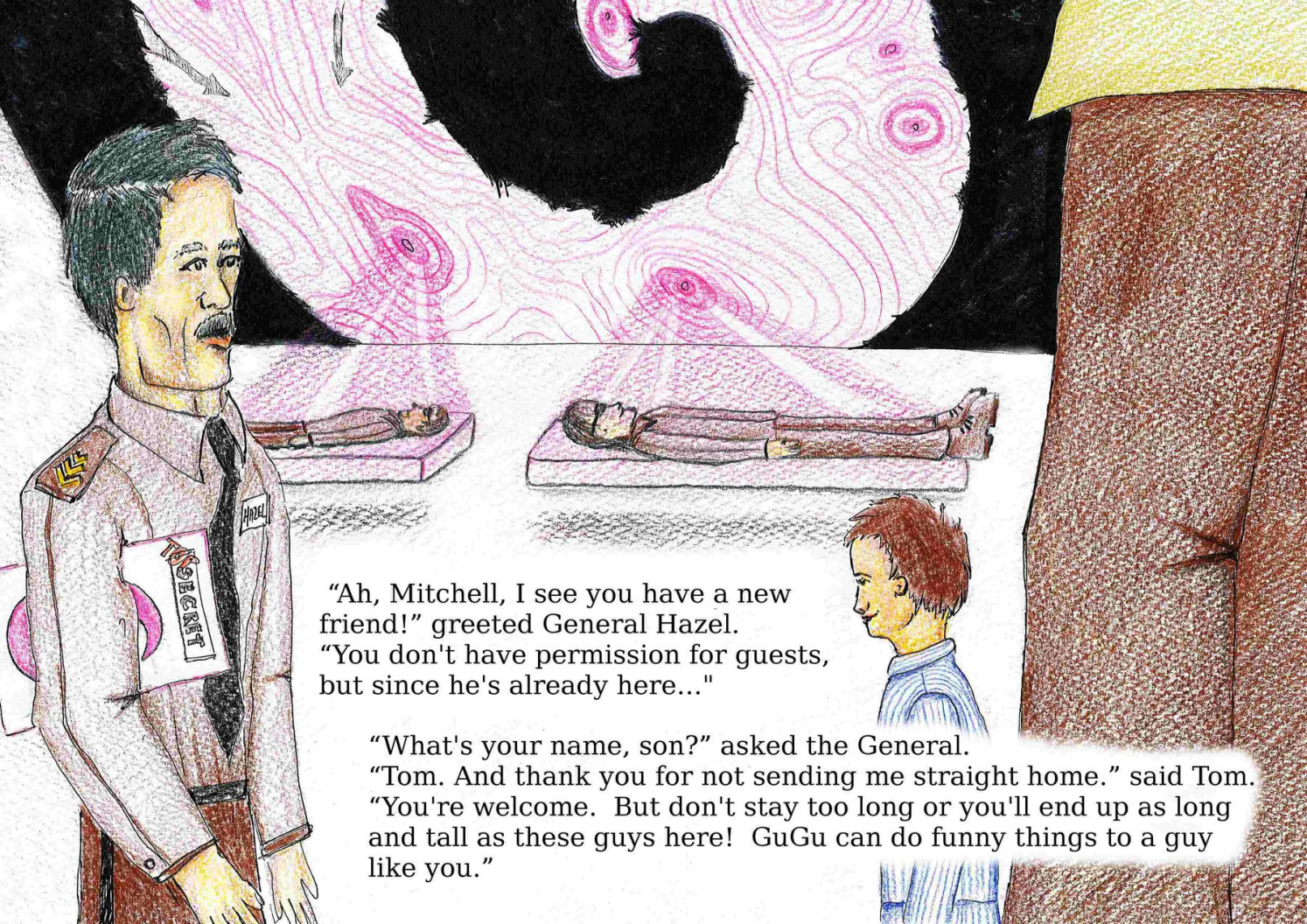
"I thought you would find a way", said Private Mitchell.

Tom smiled back.

The elevator door opened. Brightly coloured insects flew towards them offering their photographs and postcards of GuGu for sale.

They were persuasive and charming, but Tom did not have any GuGu money yet, so they hurried past the insects and walked down the white corridors of the base.





"Ah, Mitchell, I see you have a new friend!" greeted General Hazel.
"You don't have permission for guests, but since he's already here..."

"What's your name, son?" asked the General.
"Tom. And thank you for not sending me straight home." said Tom.
"You're welcome. But don't stay too long or you'll end up as long and tall as these guys here! GuGu can do funny things to a guy like you."



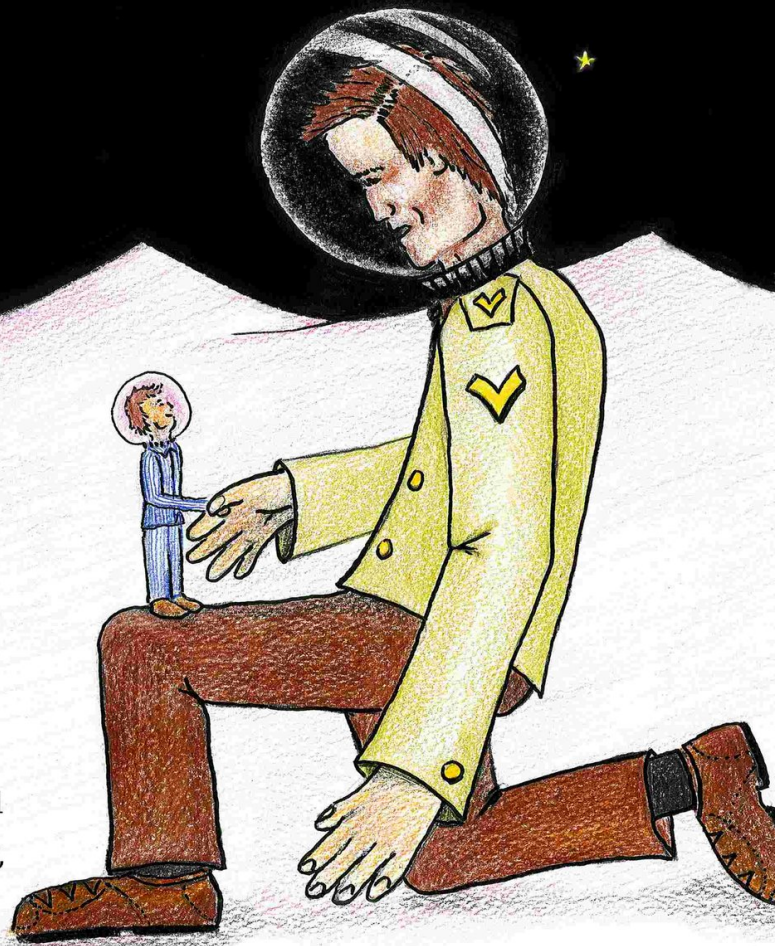
Private Mitchell fitted Tom with a round breathing hat and took him outside. He was introduced to an animal that looked like a yellow horse with extra long legs.

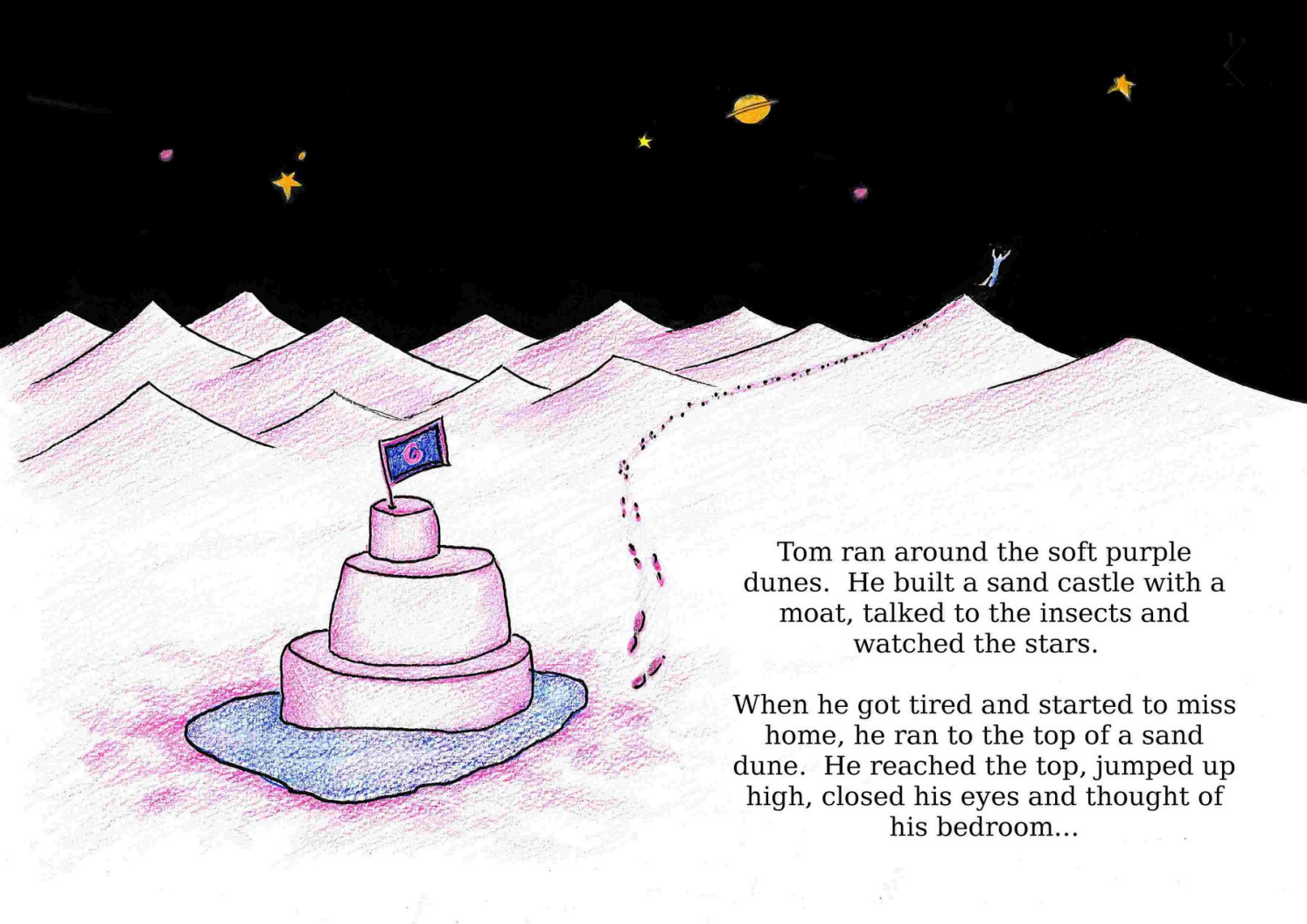
They named her “Jellupy”. She ran as fast as she could with Tom holding on tightly. From her high saddle, Tom could see all over GuGu. He could see the purple sand dunes, the yellow and orange stars and a big yellow crescent moon

Jellupy brought him back to Private Mitchell to say goodbye.

Tom shook the giant hand of Private Mitchell and asked,
"How do I get home again?"

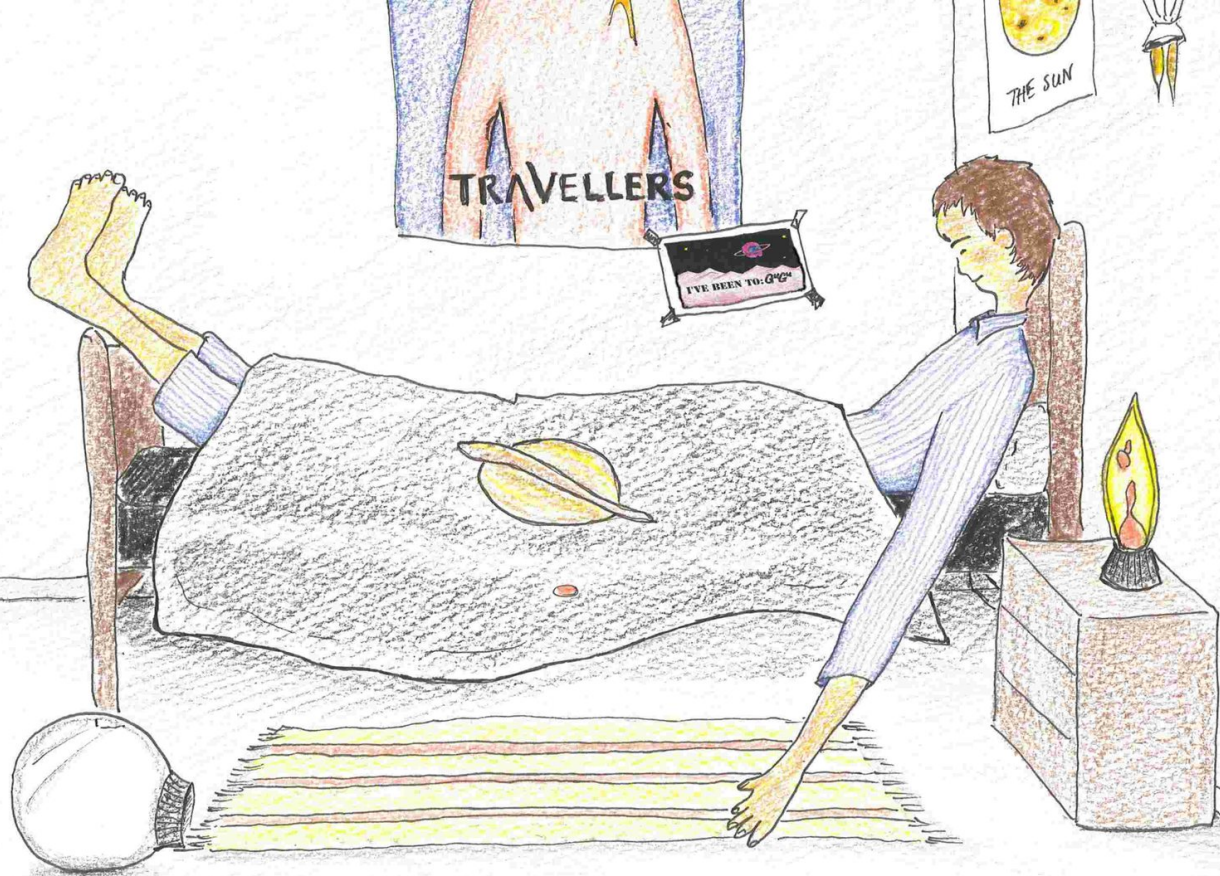
"All you have to do is close your eyes and think of your own room. GuGu will send you safely there as soon as you're ready."



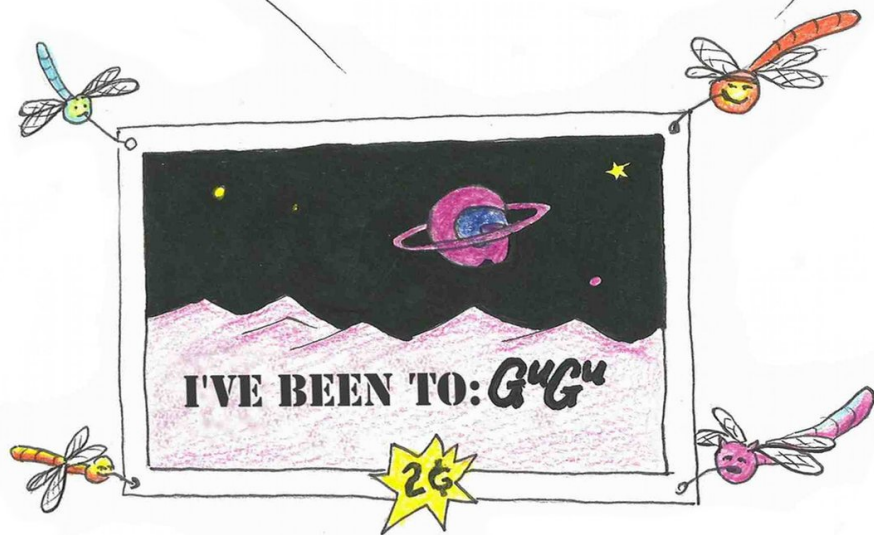


Tom ran around the soft purple dunes. He built a sand castle with a moat, talked to the insects and watched the stars.

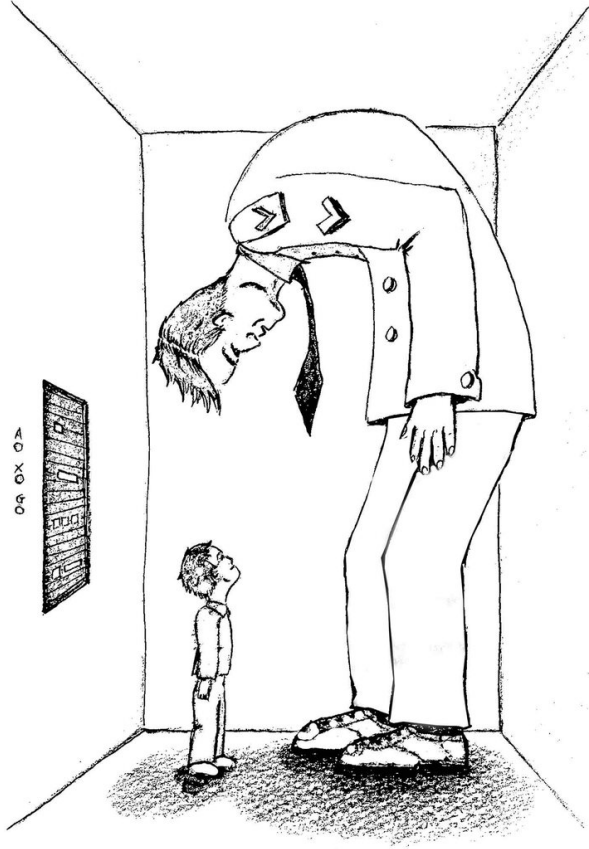
When he got tired and started to miss home, he ran to the top of a sand dune. He reached the top, jumped up high, closed his eyes and thought of his bedroom...



Tom's mother was surprised he was sleeping so late on a Saturday morning. She checked his room quietly. He was fast asleep. His stretched body was squeezed into his bed. She noticed the purple postcard and new exactly where he had been...



Add your own colours and try the Quiz:



What do you remember?

a) Which present did Tom receive for his 8th birthday?

a

b) On which day of the week did Tom have ice-cream with his Grandad?

.....

c) How tall is Private Mithcell?

..... metres

d) What colour is Jellupy?

.....

e) How many ice-men could Tom see on the bottom of the lake on GuGu?

.....

Add your colours to Tom, the stars and planets:

