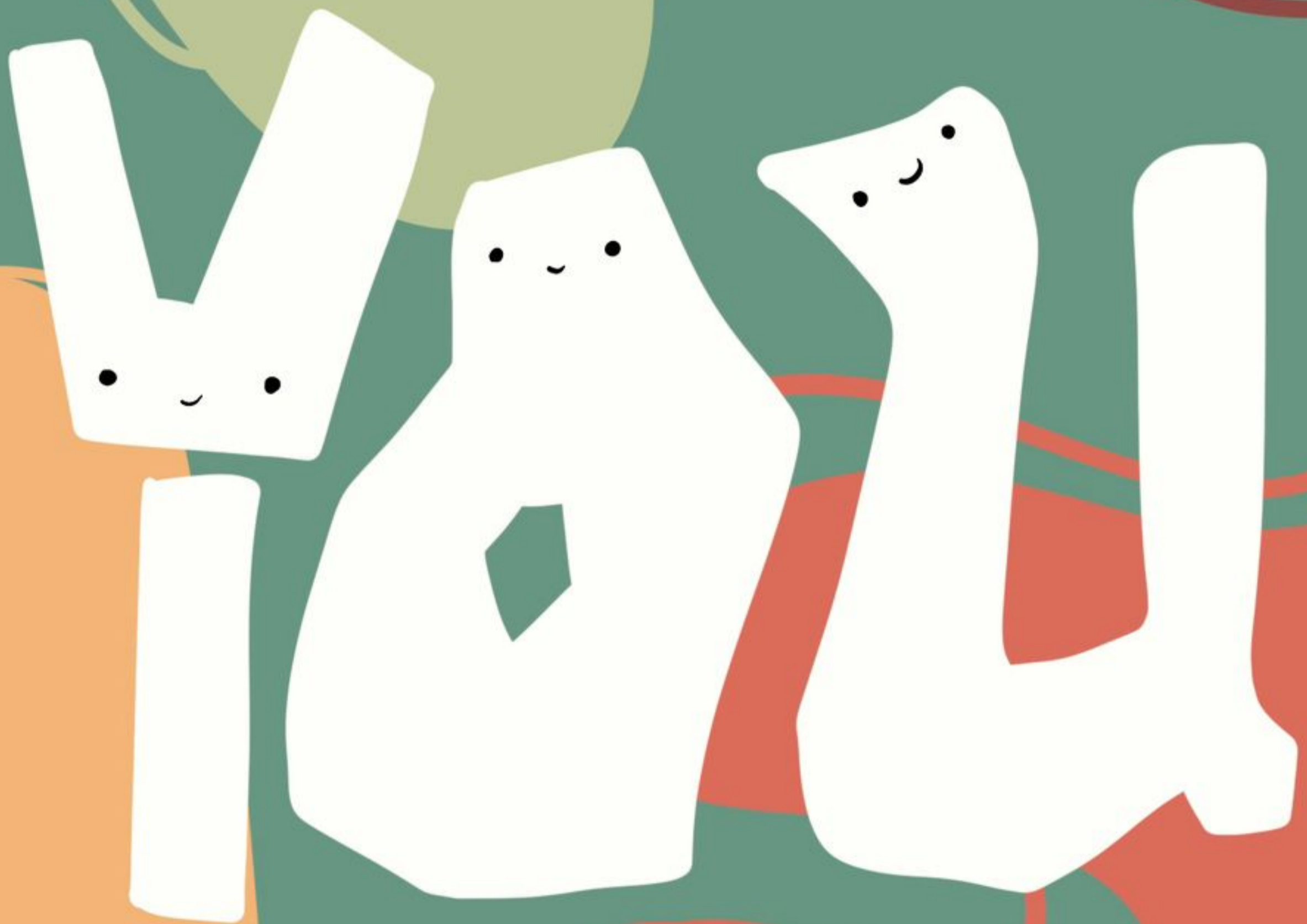


UNIQUE!

and



by Lana al Jamal

illustrations by Sleyman Haber

Hello friends! I'm James, and today I want to introduce you to my amazing friends and teachers at my new school.



Today is the first day of second grade.
My tummy is fluttering like a butterfly!
I am very excited to meet my new friends!



Meet Jana.

Jana always sits alone, but she is never lonely.

James wondered, "How can she be so happy by herself?"



Meet Mostafa.

Mostafa has a big nose that caught everyone's attention. James wondered, "He must smell all the cookies!"



Meet Timmy.

Timmy wears glasses that cover half of his face. James wondered, "He must know everything!"



Meet Chaza.

Chaza finds strength and support from her superhero mom, especially since she doesn't have a dad at home.

James wondered, "She must be brave just like her mother."



Meet Martin.

Martin loves creating and organizing patterns.

James wondered, "Why doesn't he play with toys like the others?"



Meet Hani.

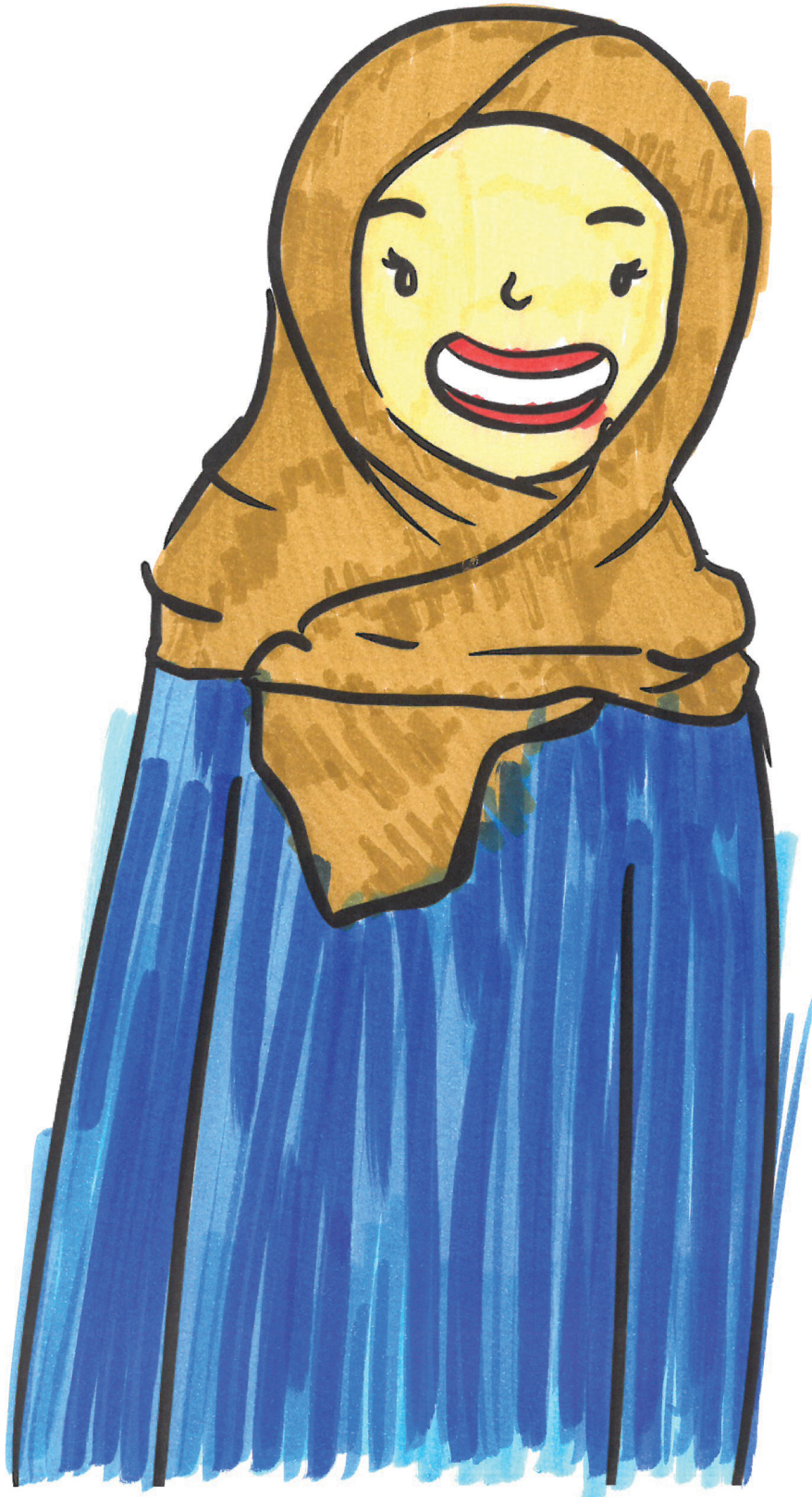
Hani brought his delicious homemade kibbeh and hummus to share with the class!

James wondered, "What do these dishes taste like?"



Meet Amira.

Amira wears a colorful hijab that caught everyone's attention. James wondered, "Does the color of her hijab hold any special meaning for her beliefs?"



Meet Miss Farah.

Miss Farah, the science teacher, has a love for comic books.

James wondered, "Science teachers don't read comics, do they?"

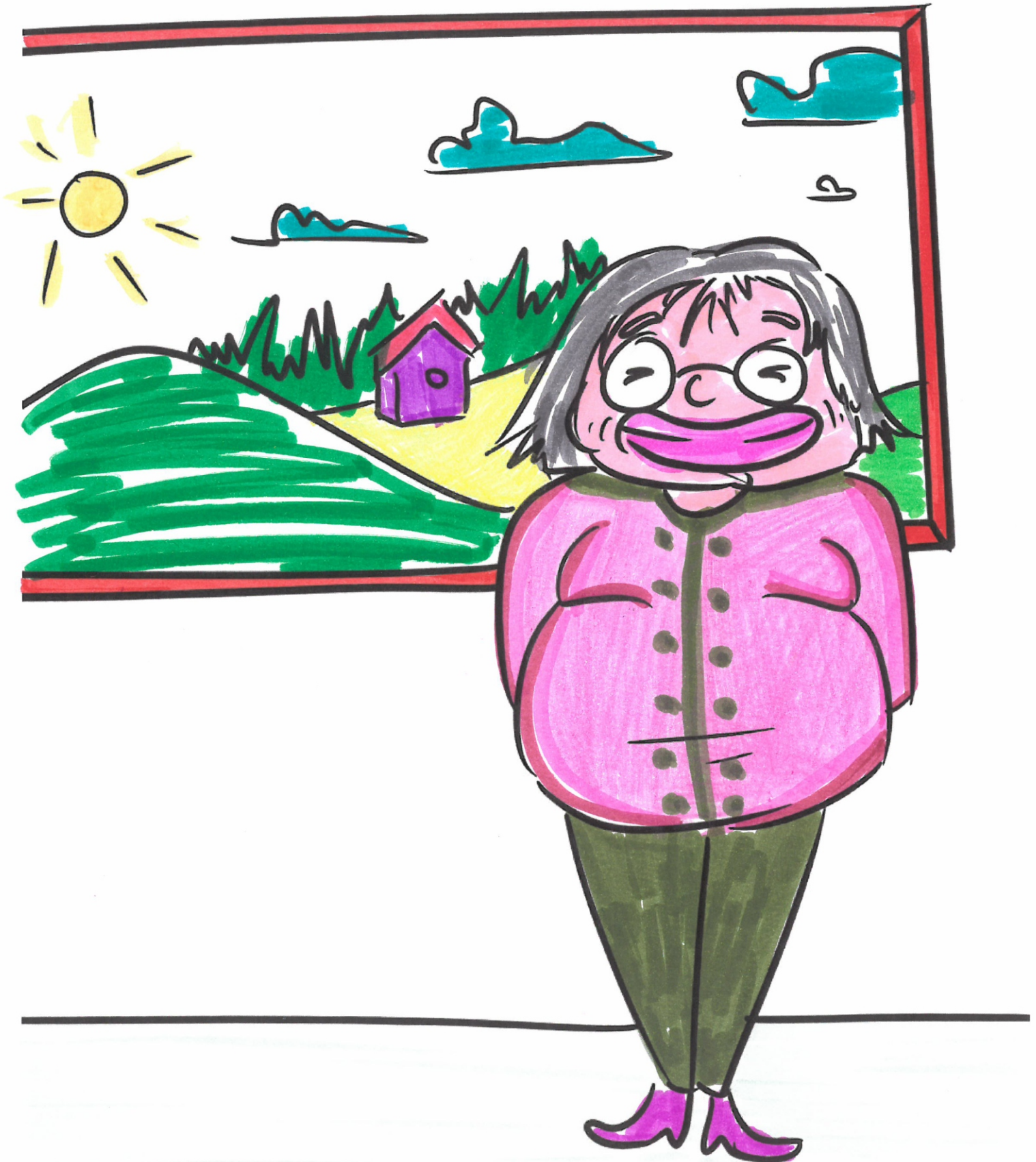


Meet Mr. Samer.

Mr. Samer, the librarian, has a secret talent. He loves gardening. James wondered, "Librarians don't garden, do they?"



Meet Mrs. Lara.
Mrs. Lara does not only teach us Math.
She makes us laugh by making every lesson a cheerful journey.



Meet Tamara.

Tamra has freckles all over her face like a sprinkle of stardust. James wondered, "Were they present since she was born?"



Meet Mr. Youssef.

Mr. Youssef is our nurse. Mr. Youssef uses his wheelchair to zoom around his office. James wondered, "Why did he choose to become a nurse and not a doctor?"



Meet Alex.

Alex fidgets all the time, He doesn't like to wait for this turn. James wondered, "Why can't he sit still like others?"



So, here we are, all different, all special.

Like a colorful puzzle, we fit together

perfectly. Our uniqueness makes our

school a fantastic place to be at!

Remember, no matter who you are, you

are awesome just as you are!