

Stories
of PEACE &
MODERATION



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Stories of Peace & Moderation is a collaborative project of the Raoul Wallenberg School in Bromma, The Embassy of the United States in Stockholm and Stories for Society, a Stockholm-based non-profit which works with storytelling as a tool for learning and communication, www.storiesforsociety.com.

The following stories were produced by children and youth in classes 6-9 during two 3-hour workshops, in which they worked in groups to express their stories of what happens when a visitor comes to their imaginary islands, where they wish for peace to reign. The participants have been responsible for forming and expressing their stories themselves. Class 6 has told their story in Swedish language and the other classes have told their story in English language. All images and texts are created by the participants.

The workshops were undertaken in connection with a ceremony held on September 11, 2011 commemorating all victims of terrorism and extremist violence.



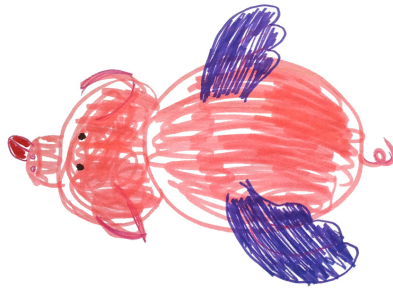
U.S. EMBASSY
SWEDEN

The image shows a stylized, handwritten signature of Raoul Wallenberg in blue ink. Below the signature, the words 'Raoul Wallenberg' are written in a blue, sans-serif font, and 'SKOLAN' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below that.

Welcome to our islands of peace!



On our islands of peace and moderation, anything is possible, we take care of one another, and all thoughts and persons are welcome.



Class 6:

Melissa kommer
till fantasins ö



När hon sitter i luftballongen på väg till oss tänker hon:

Hoppas att de på ön
inte märker att jag stam-
mar...

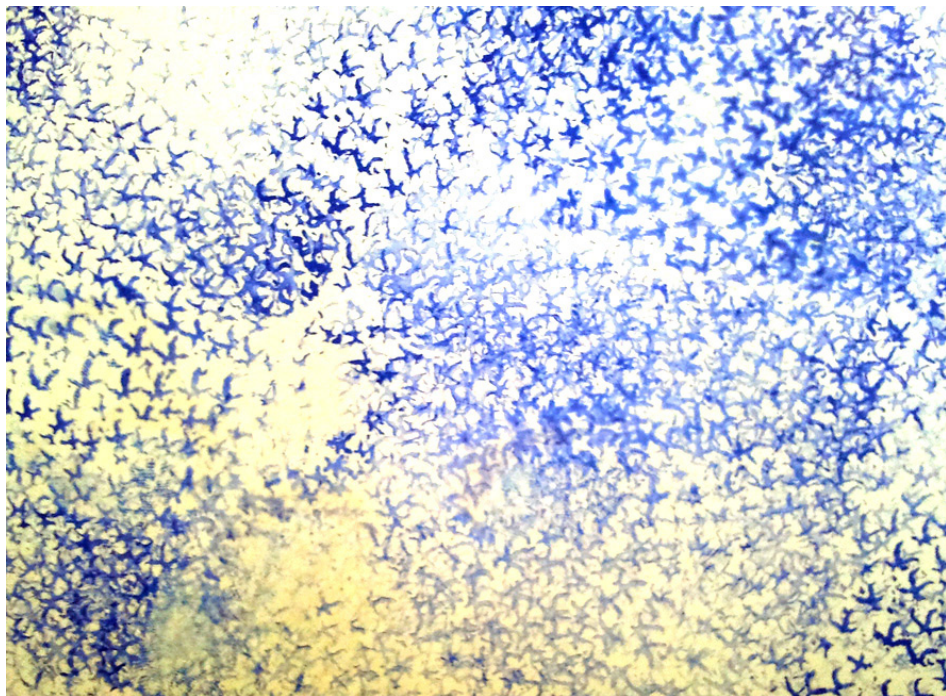
Om de inte förstår
mig är det inte
mitt fel...

Kommer jag att
hitta nya vänner?

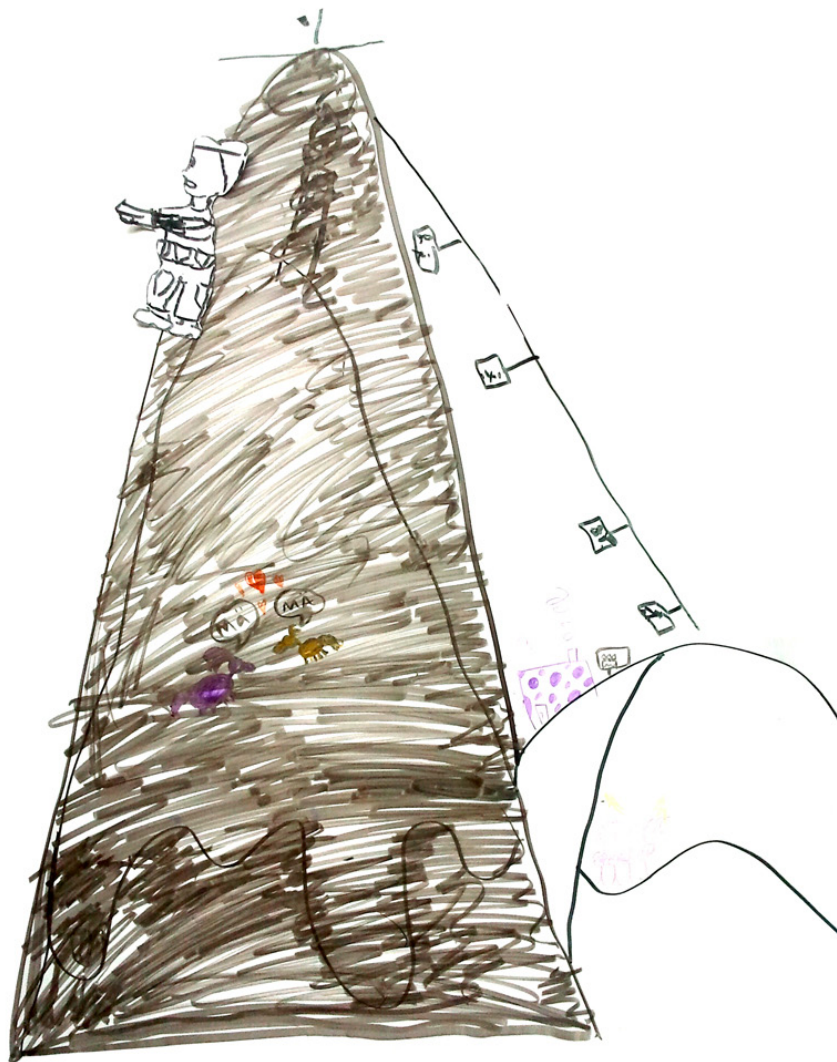
Hoppas att
det finns djur!

Jag längtar efter att spela
saxofon.

Ballongen kraschar i sjön men hon lyckas hålla sig torr! Vi kastade pil och träffade hennes luftballong. Men det var inte med avsikt.



Hon går mot berget. Vi försöker följa efter henne. När hon kommer upp på berget ser hon en giraffosaurus.



En giraffosaurus är en blandning mellan en elefant, giraff, myra, geting och en fågel. Den blir 5-10 meter lång och väger 300-700 kg.



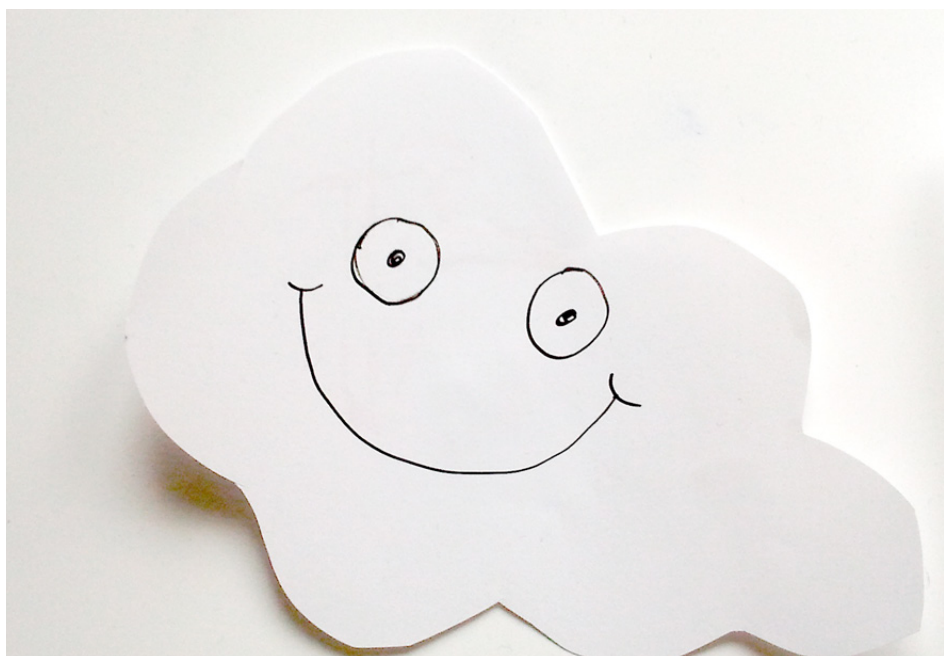
Efter en stund kommer en tjuvjägare och vill skjuta djuret. Han försöker utrota alla djur på ön. Han träffar men djuret är bara skadat, inte dött. Flickan försöker rädda djuret och ropar på hjälp. Då kommer vi.



Flickan och en av oss springer upp till musikhuset för att hämta en saxofon. Flickan börjar spela "Bää, bää vita lamm" från berget och den vackra musiken hörs överallt på vår ö. Tjuvjägaren springer ner för berget och hoppar i vattnet. Han står inte ut med vacker musik!



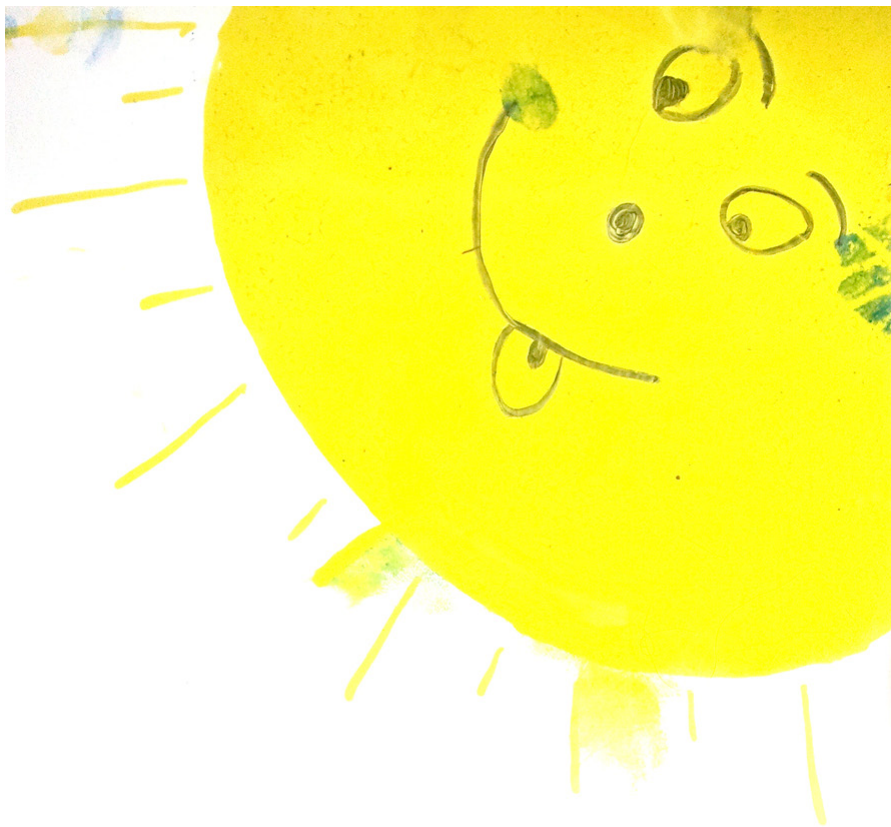
Vi ber och vill visa vår kärlek till djuret. Ett magiskt moln kommer från himmelen och säger: "Säg den här besvärjelsen medan jag kramar om djuret". Djuret blir räddat och efter det så följer djuret efter Melissa vart hon än går.



Hälften av oss smyger iväg och fixar med luftballongen och den andra hälften firar Melissas födelsedag.



Vi ber solen lysa sina strålar mot luftballongen så den smälter och blir hel igen.



Melissa lämnar den lagade ballongen som
ett minne av deras vänskap och åker hem på
giraffosaurusen som sedan åker tillbaka hem
till vår ö.

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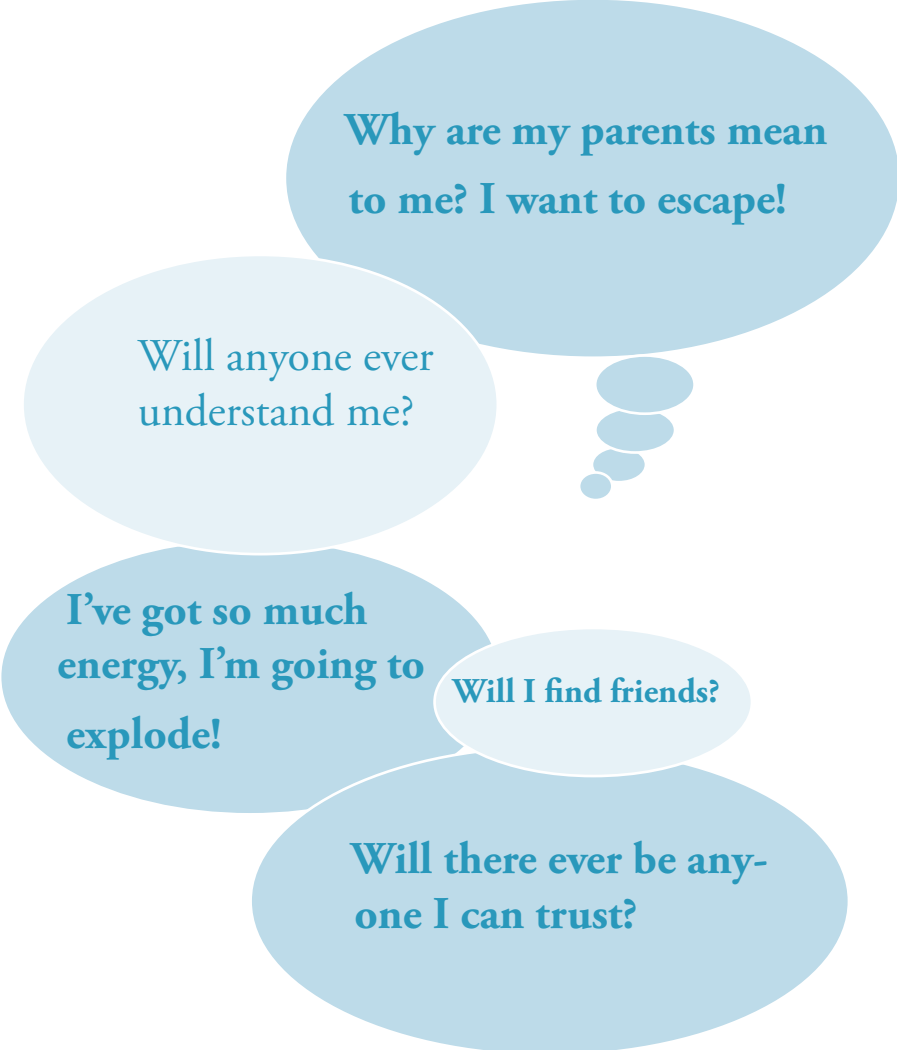
**Den dagen, som det skulle
bli flera av, mindes sedan Melissa
med glädje i alla sina dagar.**

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Class 7:

The Story of Sagolika Saga

Saga is a 15-year-old girl whose parents are mean to her and hurt her. She doesn't have any friends because she has very low self-confidence and also has difficulties expressing herself clearly. Saga wants to escape.



Why are my parents mean to me? I want to escape!

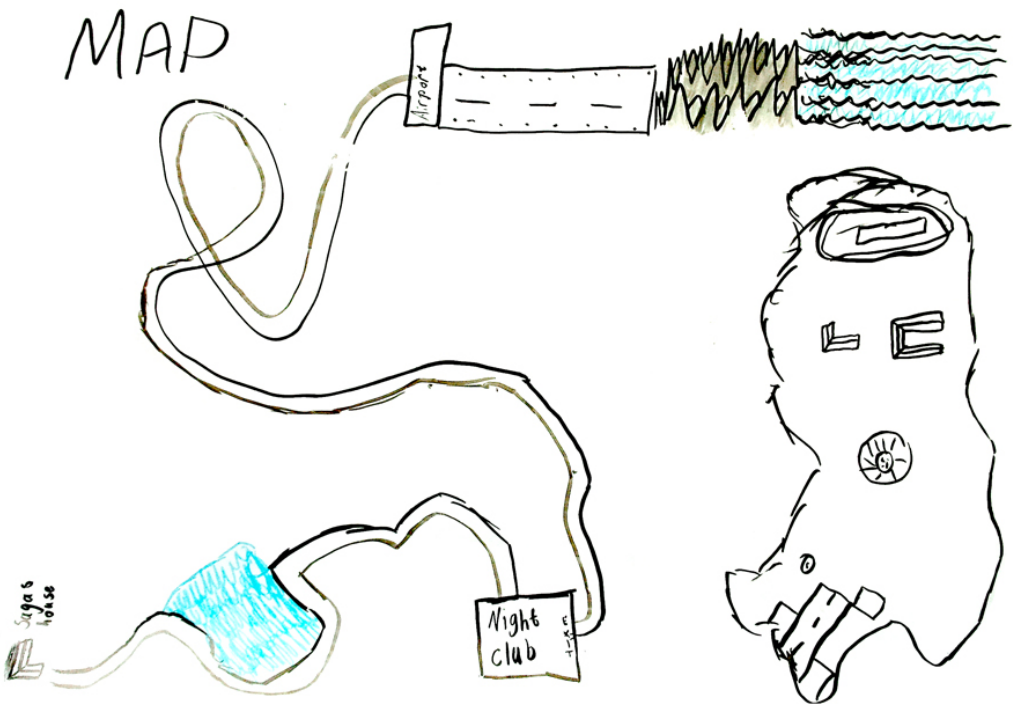
Will anyone ever understand me?

I've got so much energy, I'm going to explode!

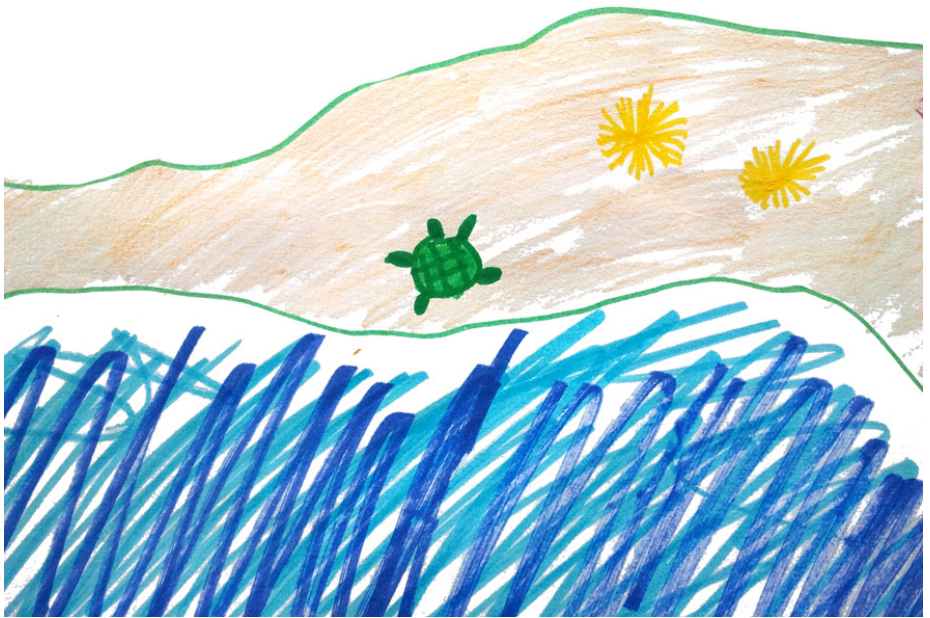
Will I find friends?

Will there ever be anyone I can trust?

Saga finds a map which shows the way to a magic island.



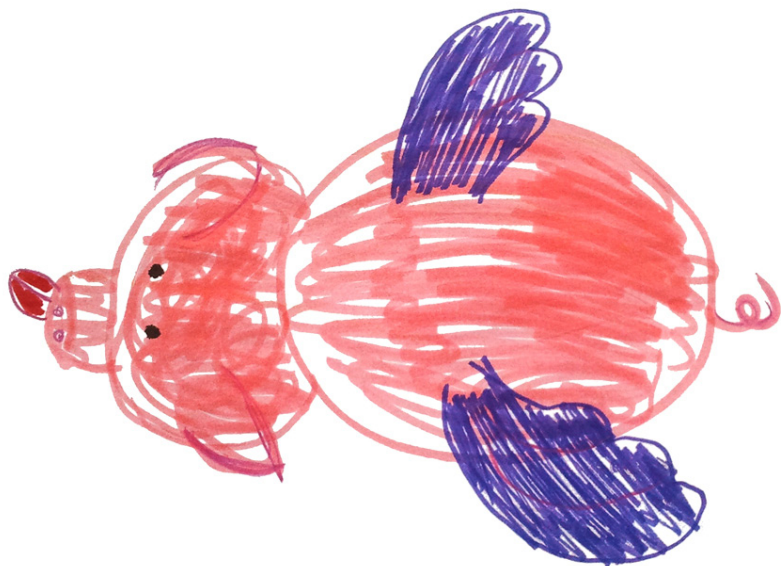
She writes to a turtle who lives on the island to ask if she can come to the island. The turtle writes back and says that she can come to the island.



Saga travels to the south of Sweden and on the coast finds a huge, flying pig who is waiting for her. The pig flies her to the island and they arrive at the pigport.

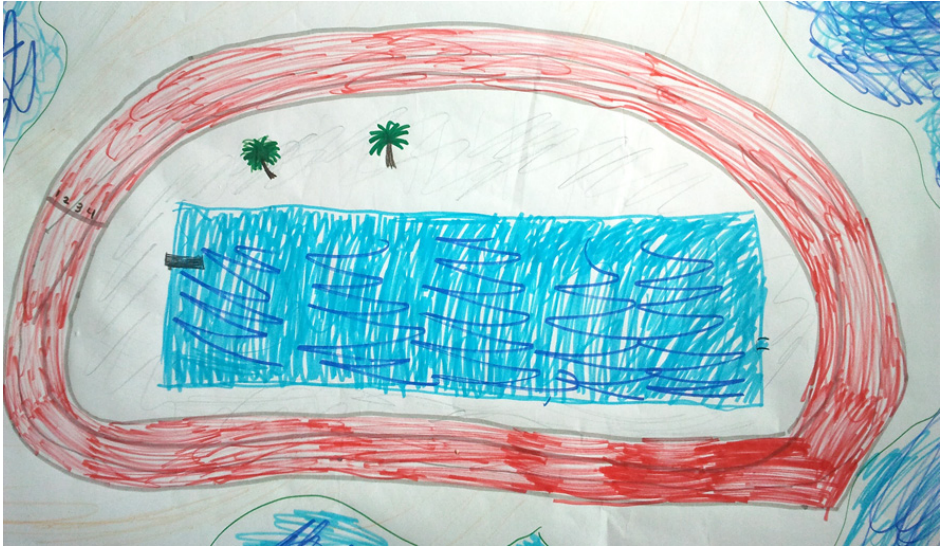


The pig, who is called Bacon, shows Saga all around the island – there is a marshmallow tree, a swimming pool and a running track. They become good friends and Bacon shows her to a little house where she can stay.



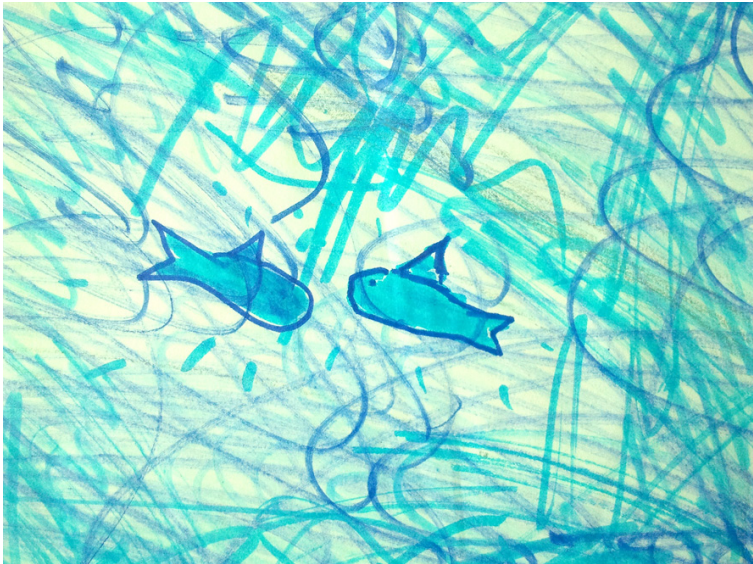
Bacon is hungry and so goes home to his Baconnanny, Nana who is the old lady who looks after him. Saga is tired and decides to have a nap.

When Saga wakes up she meets Nana, who asks her what she likes to do. Saga replies that she likes to run and swim. Nana takes her to the running track and swimming pool.



Saga asks Nana if she will run with her, but Nana says that she is too slow. However, she has a friend who can run with Saga. The friend is called Mary.

Mary and Saga enjoy running together and become friends. Mary and Nana introduce Saga to all the people who live on the island and very soon Saga has lots of friends and is very happy.



Then Saga's friends notice that she is no longer happy and looks sad. They ask what is wrong, and Saga explains that while she is very happy to be on the island and to have friends, she is sad that her parents are not nice to her.

Saga and her friends talk about this. They decide to invite Saga's parents to visit the island. During the visit Saga and her parents can talk about their problems, and Saga's friends will support her so that she doesn't have to be nervous or scared of her parents.



Saga's parents come to visit. Bacon flies them to the island and brings them to where Saga and her friends are waiting. Saga talks with her parents and explains how she feels.



She says that she is happy on the island and wants to stay there with all her friends. However, she also wants to keep in touch with her parents and says that they can visit each other as often as they want. Saga's parents agree to this arrangement.

After this Saga has a much better relationship with her parents and enjoys living with all her friends.

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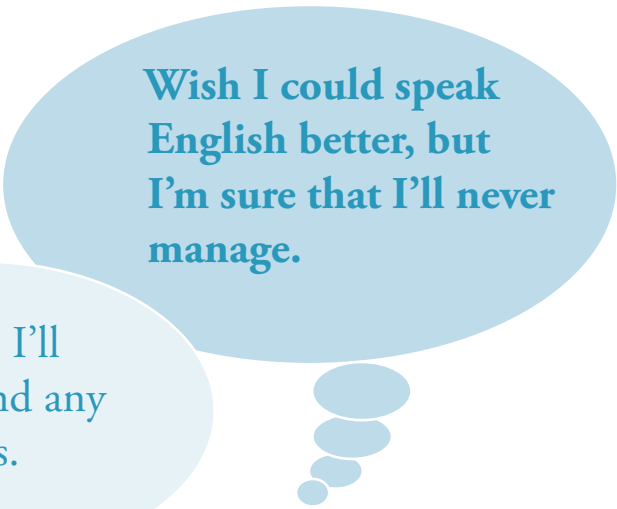
Saga remembered that day, of which there would be many, with fondness for the rest of her life.

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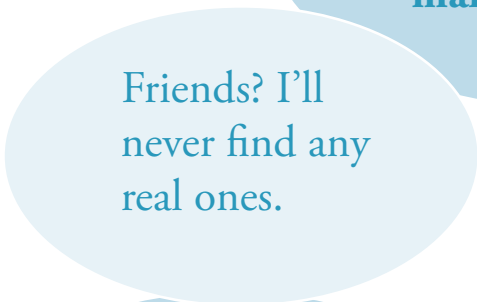
Class 8:

A Little Story of
Keivan

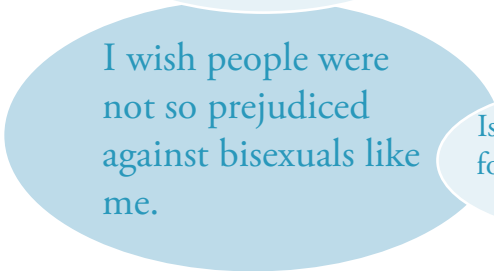
Once upon a time – it was actually a very long time ago – there was a handsome 26-year-old guy named Keivan. He was from the Middle East and he found it difficult to speak English well. He didn't have friends because he was very insecure and lacked self-confidence.



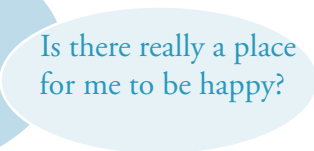
Wish I could speak English better, but I'm sure that I'll never manage.



Friends? I'll never find any real ones.



I wish people were not so prejudiced against bisexuals like me.



Is there really a place for me to be happy?

One night he was sitting alone, just as he did every night, and was thinking about his insecurity when he saw a bright light behind his window.



He opened the window and a little elf flew in. The cute elf said, “you’re invited to our wonderful island.”



Yet, there was something strange about the way the elf communicated. She didn’t SAY these things, she just let him see what she was saying. It was like talking with her eyes.

Before he got the chance to answer, she touched his finger and suddenly he saw that he was on fantasy island. Was it magic?

He looked around, and saw that the place
was very beautiful. He saw that the sand
was pink, and the ocean was a bright blue.



There were big, beautiful palm trees and he noticed that the sun and the moon were up at the same time. They had eyes, mouths and noses.



The atmosphere was very calm. He was so surprised, he didn't know whether it was a dream or for real.

He thought that if this was a dream he never wanted to wake up. But if it was real, he never wanted to sleep.

Suddenly Keivan saw the two elves that were at his window, but they were larger now and looked like angels.



They spoke in the same way - with their eyes - and said, "follow us."

He was surprised, didn't know how to act, but followed them. They took him to a café.



He saw two pretty girls standing behind a desk. The café was empty.

He came in and we greeted him. “Welcome! You’re the guest, right?” “Yes, I am,” Keivan replied, looking a little confused. “Were you expecting me?” he asked.



“We have been waiting for you,” we explained. “The angels told us you would come,” said Emelie.

Vendela walked to him and told him, “I want to introduce you to the other inhabitants of the island.”



She told him to sit and she served him a glass of iced tea.

Vendela takes Keivan to introduce him to the other inhabitants on the island. They sit together and try to learn about him. Who is he? They are curious about where he comes from.



Keivan!

He feels comfortable with them and can also tell them about his bisexuality. He says that up to now he has felt that he cannot tell anyone and has been afraid of what would happen if he did.

His new friends tell him that he can breathe easy here. On this island there is no discrimination. For the first time he felt that he didn't have to hide.

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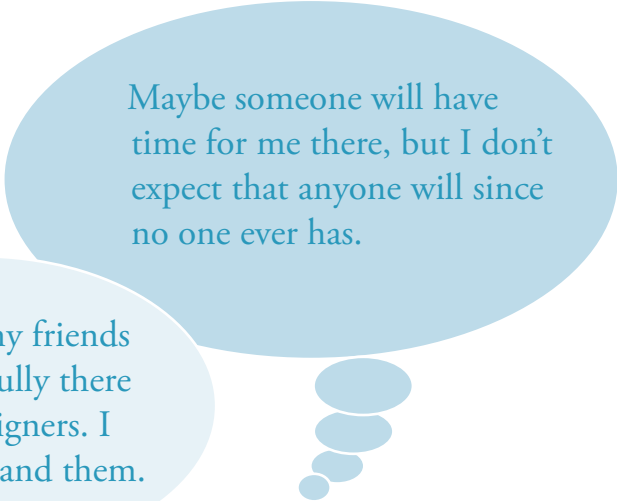
Keivan remembered that day, of which there would be many, with fondness for the rest of his life.

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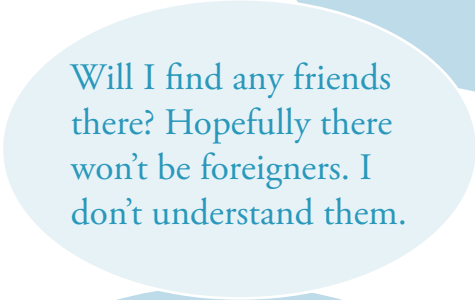
Class 9:

The Island of the Magical Fruit

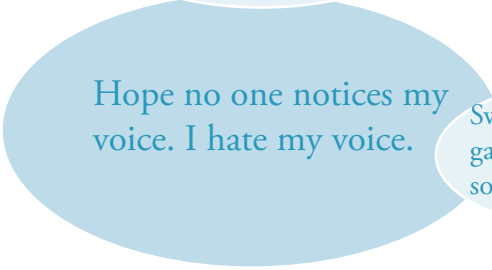
When Per was invited to the island he was very happy because he wanted to escape from his parents.



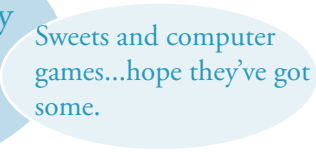
Maybe someone will have time for me there, but I don't expect that anyone will since no one ever has.



Will I find any friends there? Hopefully there won't be foreigners. I don't understand them.



Hope no one notices my voice. I hate my voice.



Sweets and computer games...hope they've got some.

In the invitation it said that he should go to Inam beach to find a rubber duck that he could use to get to the island.



When Per arrives at the island, he meets Jens, who takes him to the hut where the other are waiting with breakfast: pancakes with exotic fruits.



When everyone is ready, they ride to the Magical Fruit Tree on camels.

When they arrive at the tree Fanny climbs up it and throws down a fruit to Per. After eating the fruit from the Magical Fruit Tree, Per discovers that he can suddenly speak and understand the local language. Now he understands why the inhabitants have brought him here!



Sophia starts talking to Per and he begins to blush as he feels uncomfortable with his voice and with getting attention.



Suddenly it starts to rain teddy bears from the sky. When Per looks around, he sees a large volcano where the bears come from.

As they slowly drop to the ground, Per notices that they are equipped with cocktail umbrellas, which slow down their fall.

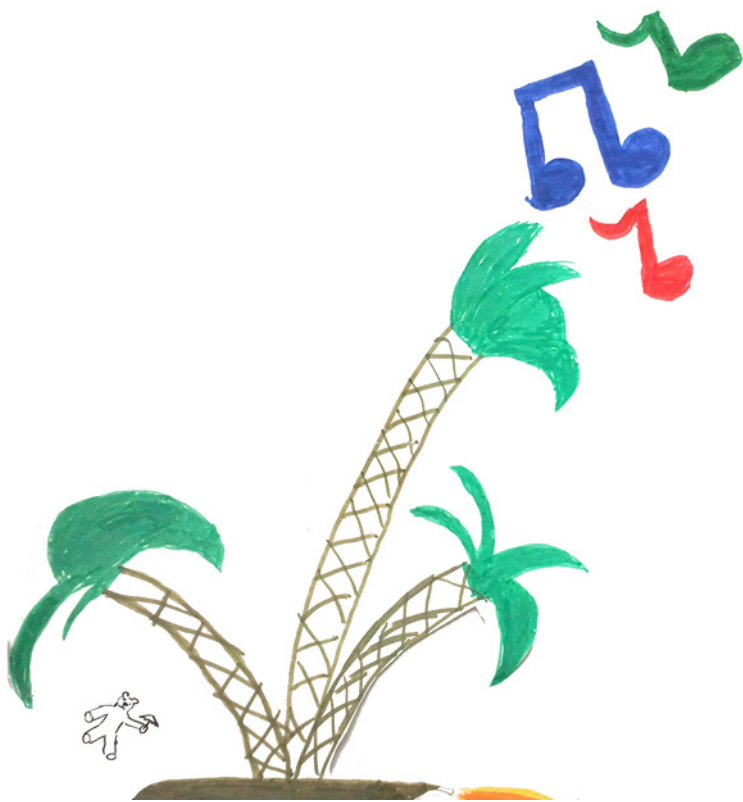


One of them falls down right at Per's feet and introduces himself as Henry.

More and more bears come up to him.
“Let’s sing a song,” says one of them. “ I
don’t sing,” says Per. “Why not?” says Elvira.
Per insists on not singing, but he encourages
the others to do so if they want.



To his surprise, Per ends up singing after all. Afterwards, Per feels better than he has in a long, long time. He feels happy and safe. The bears and people of this island didn't care about whether his voice was good or bad. They accepted him as he was.



After a long day, Per and his new friends decide to take a walk on the coast. Suddenly, a bird appears. “Oh look, it’s the ugly bird!” says Sophia.



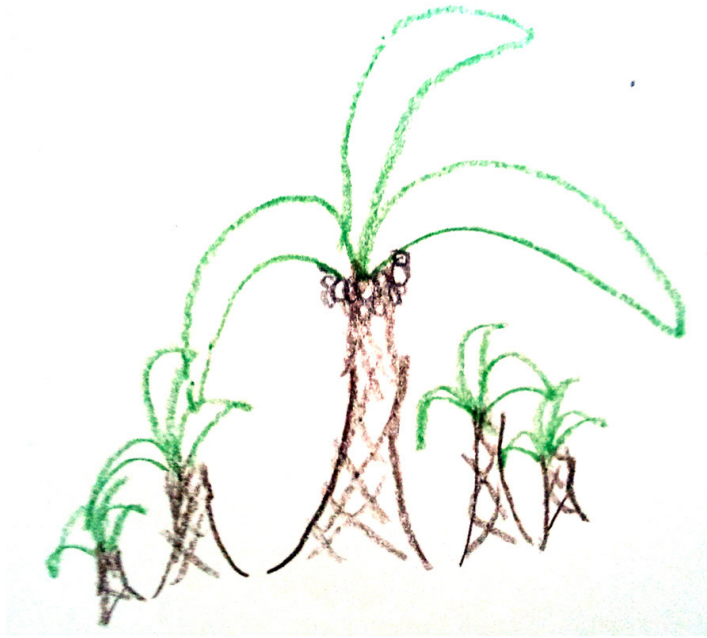
“Ugly?” says Per. “I think it’s beautiful.” “Beautiful?” the others wonder and continue to insist. “It’s the ugly bird. Why would you like the ugly bird? Nobody likes the ugly bird.”

Per suddenly realizes something: there is no ugliness, just opinion. The most beautiful person in the world will still be considered ugly by someone.



Per walks up to the bird and finds a magical fruit in his pocket, which he gives to the bird. The bird eats the fruit and starts to understand Per.

The bird asks Per if he wants a ride home, and Per gladly accepts. Per turns around and waves: “good-bye, thank you for everything, I had a really good time here.”



“Good-bye, come back soon!” the others reply.

Per left the island on the bird's back. He looked down at the island. It looked so small. And so did his problems, really.



He had realized that things are not simply good or bad, right or wrong. They just are. The rest is composed in people's minds.

He was happy with his new findings and with his day. He already longed for his new-found friends. And when he turned around, he found Henry. “Hello Henry!”



§

**Per remembered that day, of
which there would be many, with
fondness for the rest of his life.**

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Afterthoughts

I thought about 9/11 and how not to be so frustrated by small things, or by someone who is already frustrated. Fighting is not the key!

§

I had a lot of fun!

§

I have thought in a new perspective about the importance of sharing thoughts about peace with others, including that knowledge is very important for reaching peace and preventing war.

§

Att tänka mer positivt och att fred är mer än att bara hålla sams.

§

Jag har tänkt mer positivt.

§

Det är viktigt med fred och att man tar hand om varandra.

Fred är att vara snäll och att kunna ta bort elaka tankar om varandra och att behandla alla väl.

§

Fred har fått mer betydelse för mig.

§

Jag har ofta tänkt negativt, men nu ska jag ändra på det!

§

Allt var kul och intressant. Jag är glad att jag fick veta mer om peace.



