

Fortunately, I am a Rock:

Tantalizing Tales of the Rock Cycle.

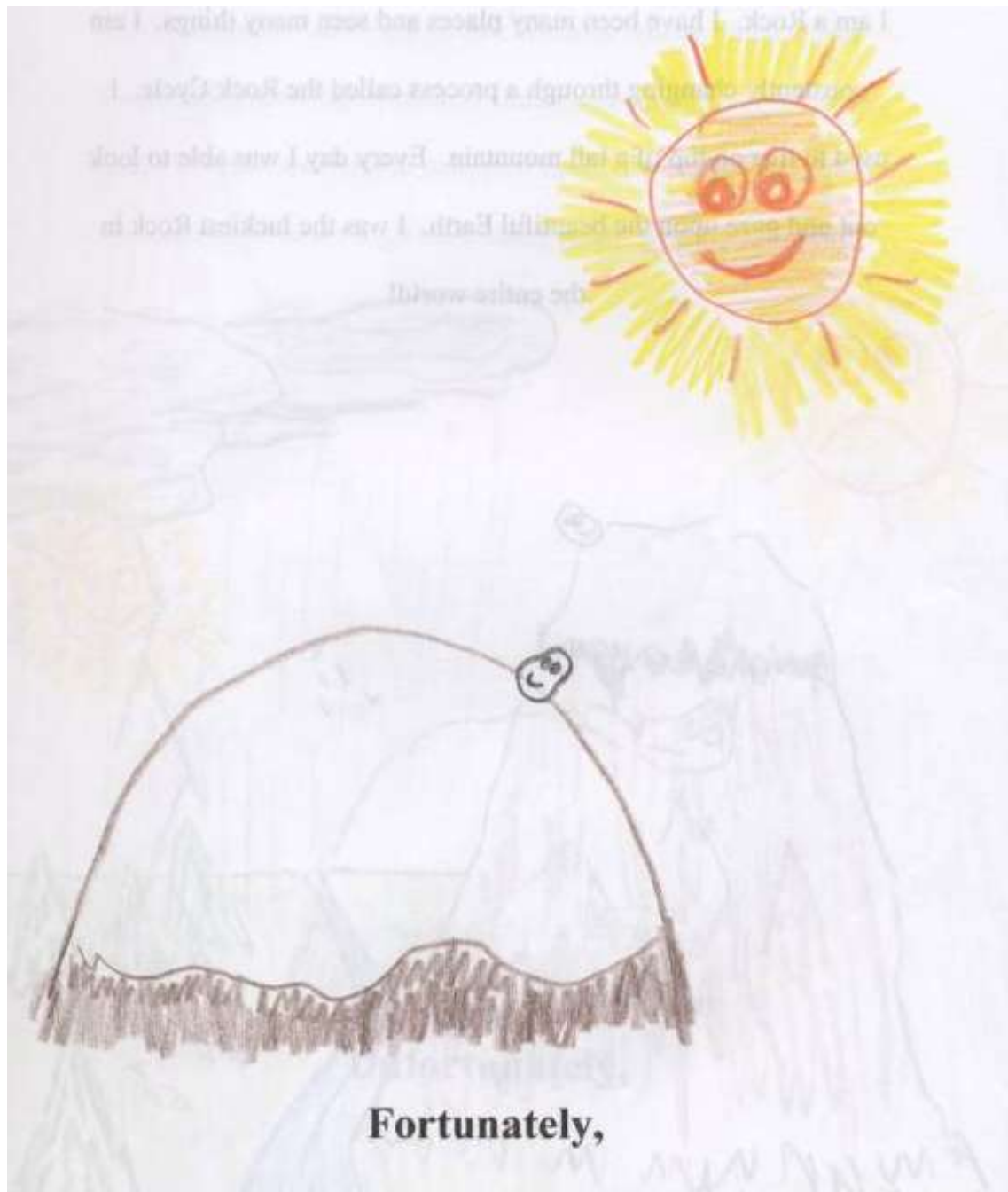


By

Sarah J. Miller

For my pet rock Sharon

Your strength and resilience are an inspiration.



Fortunately,

I am a Rock. I have been many places and seen many things. I am constantly changing through a process called the Rock Cycle. I used to live on top of a tall mountain. Every day I was able to look out and gaze upon the beautiful Earth. I was the luckiest Rock in the entire world!



It was so hard that it finally pushed me right off of the mountain.

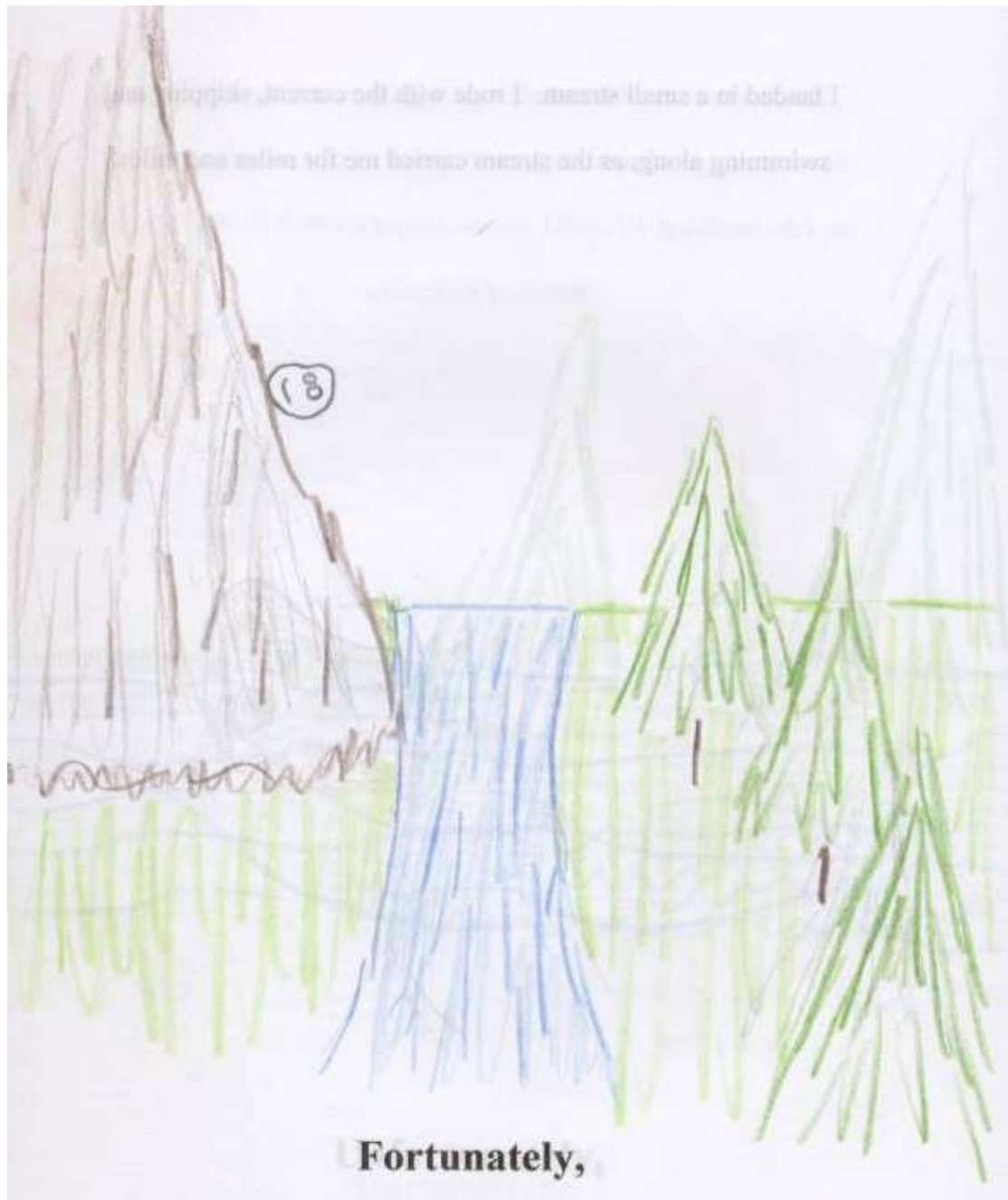


Unfortunately,

Fortunately,

It was really windy, cold and wet on top of the mountain. For years and years I was weathered. Raindrops pelted me, ice tried to crack me and the wind kept whipping at me. One day, the wind blew so hard that it finally pushed me right off of the mountain.





Fortunately,

I landed in a small stream. I rode with the current, skipping and swimming along, as the stream carried me for miles and miles.

Crack me and the wind kept whipping at me. One day the wind blew so hard that it nearly threw me out of the stream.

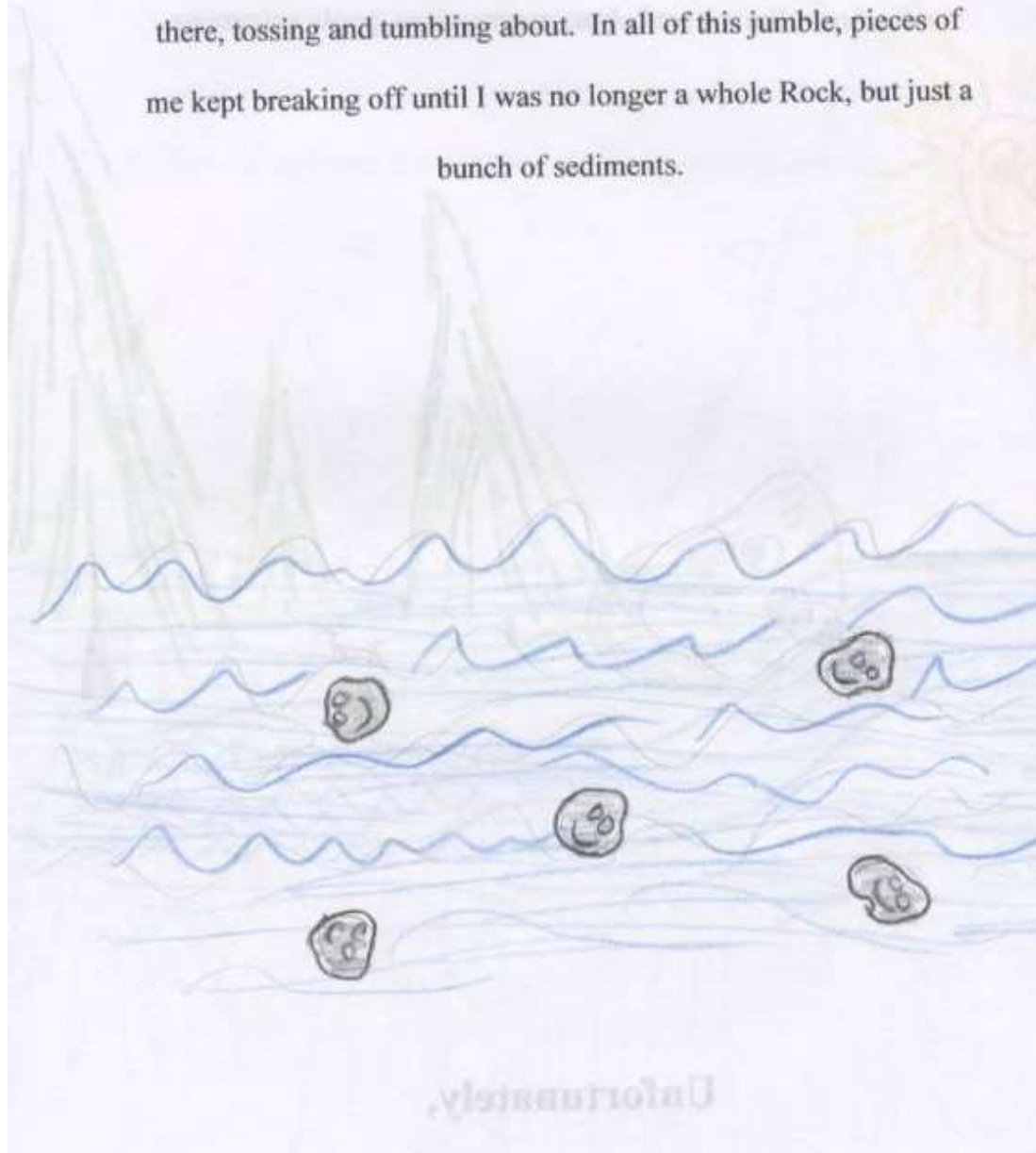


Fortunately,



Unfortunately,

The stream turned into a raging river!! I was thrown here and there, tossing and tumbling about. In all of this jumble, pieces of me kept breaking off until I was no longer a whole Rock, but just a bunch of sediments.



The river flows into the ocean. It was finally able to settle down and

take a rest on the ocean floor.



Unfortunately,
Fortunately,

The river flew into the ocean. I was finally able to settle down and

take a rest on the ocean floor.

me kept breaking off until I was no longer a whole Rock, but just a

hunch of pebbles.



The river continued to push more and more sediment on top of
me, so things started to get pretty crowded. After a while, I could
no longer see the ocean and all of the sediment upon me was
getting very heavy.



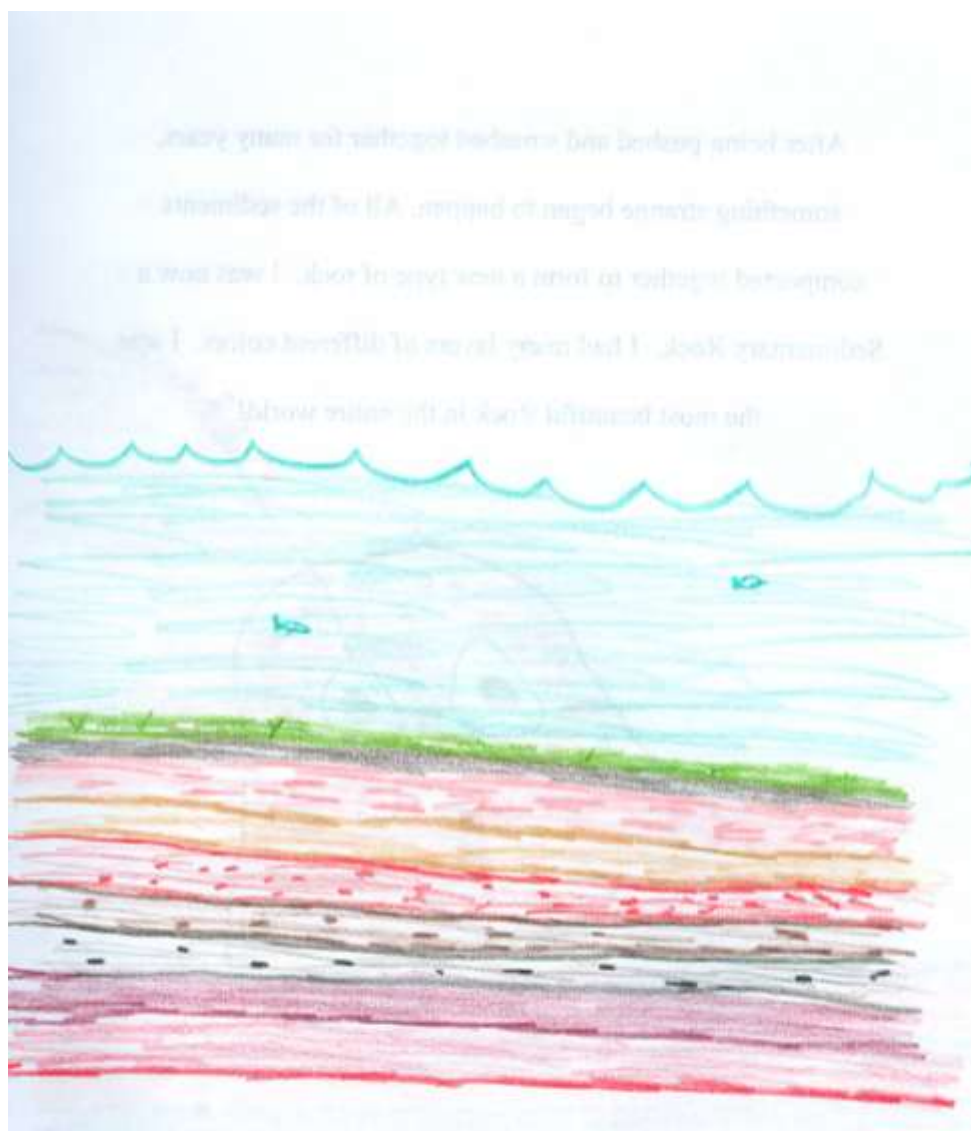
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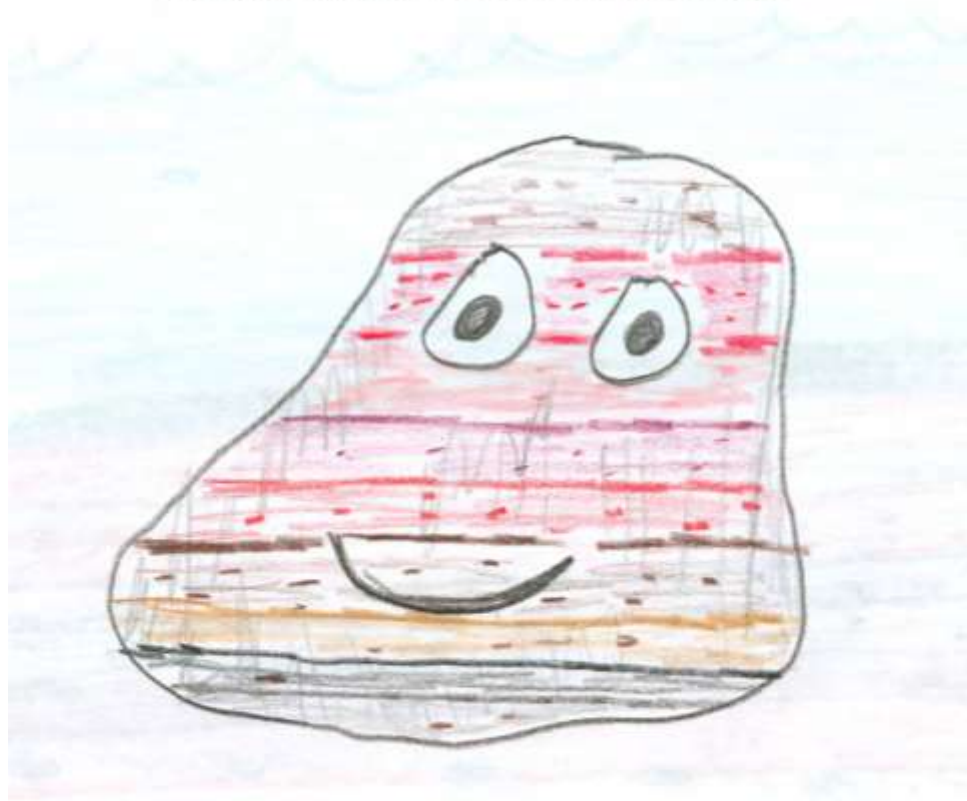


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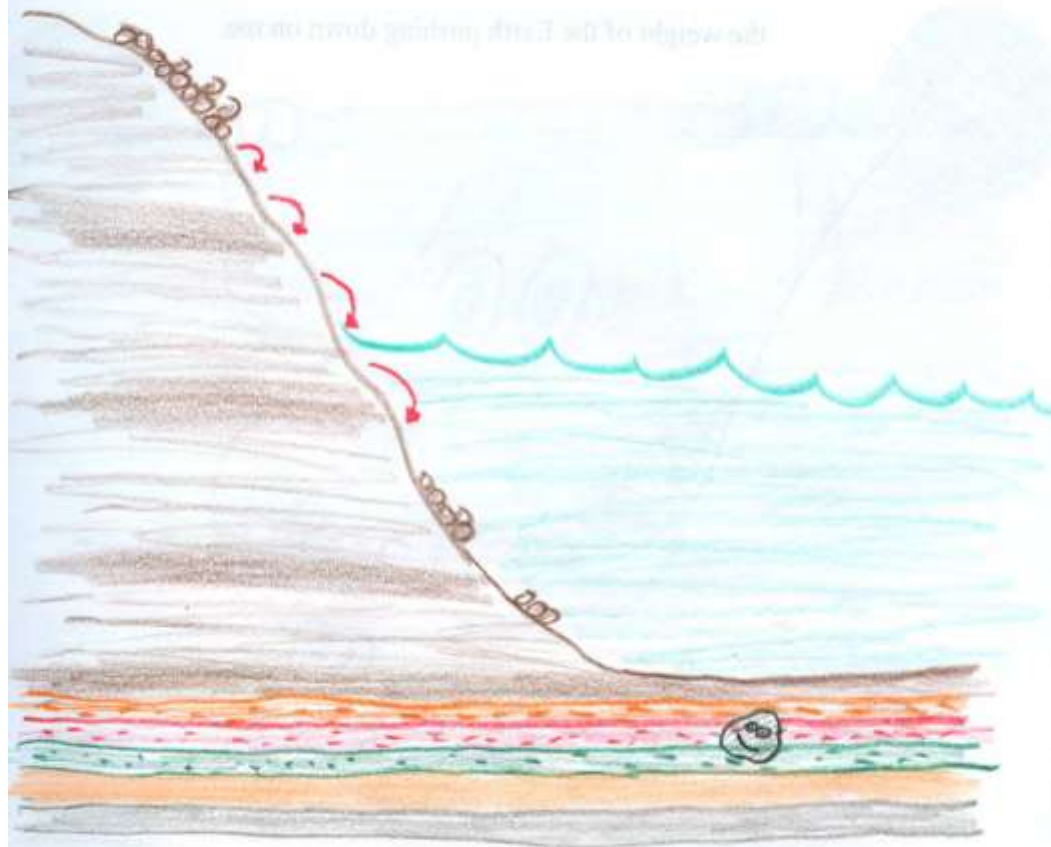


Unfortunately,
Fortunately,

After being pushed and smashed together for many years, something strange began to happen. All of the sediments compacted together to form a new type of rock. I was now a Sedimentary Rock. I had many layers of different colors. I was the most beautiful Rock in the entire world!

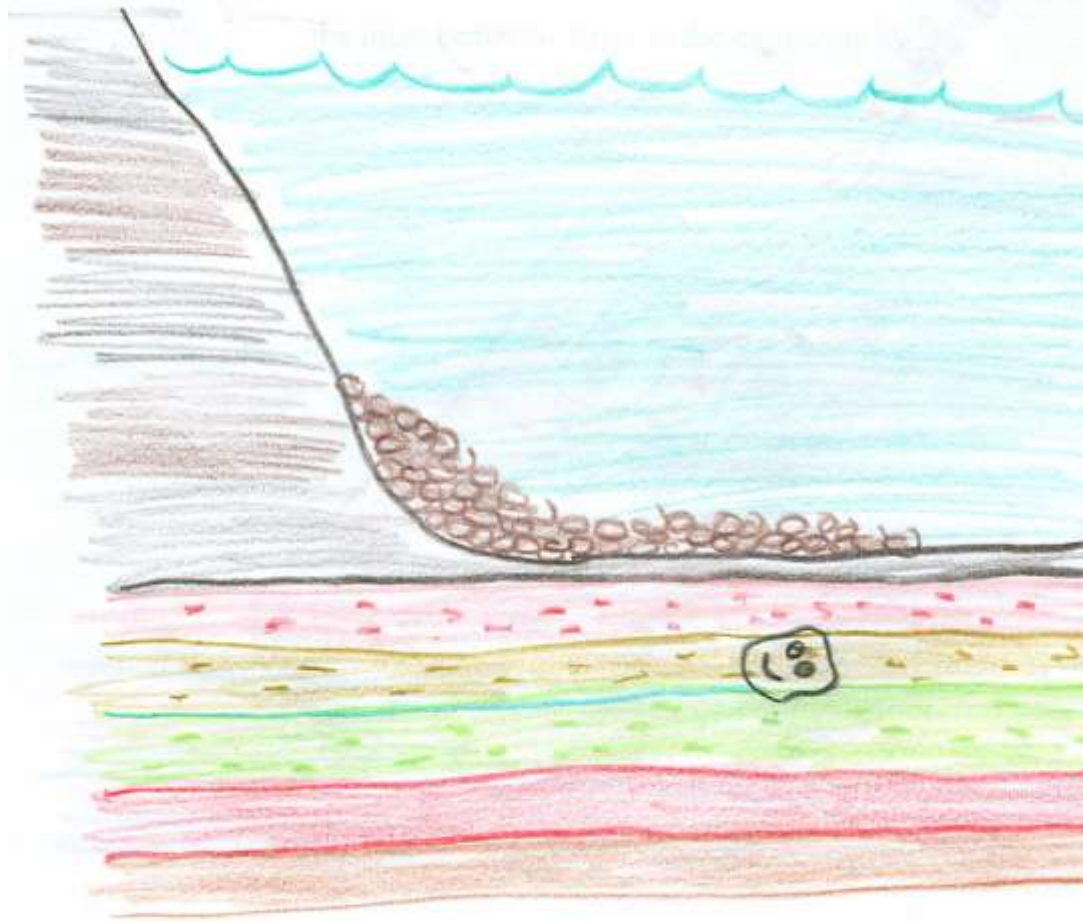


There was a terrible landslide so some more rocks and sediments
were piled on top of me. I was now deep inside the forest. It
started to become very hot and there was so much pressure that
the weight of the Earth pushing down on me



Unfortunately,

There was a terrible landslide so even more rocks and sediments were piled on top of me. I was now deep inside the Earth. It started to become very hot and there was so much pressure from the weight of the Earth pushing down on me.

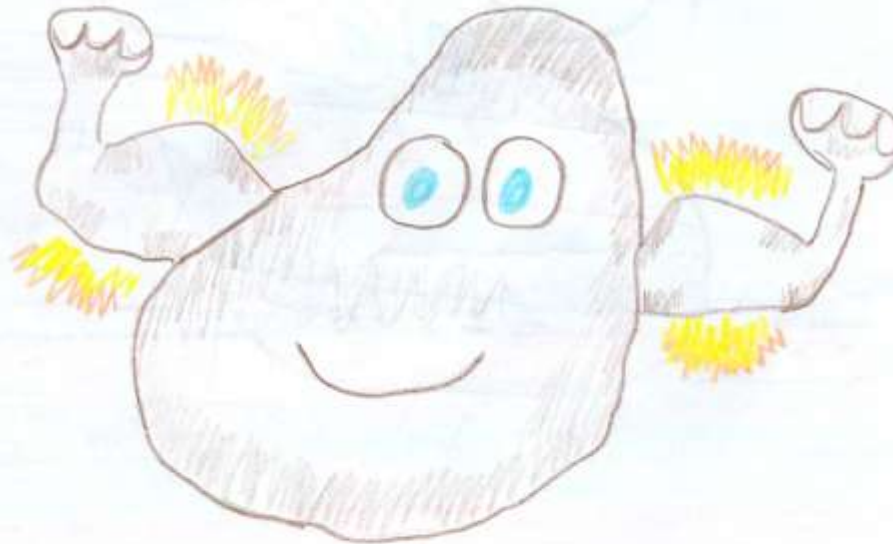


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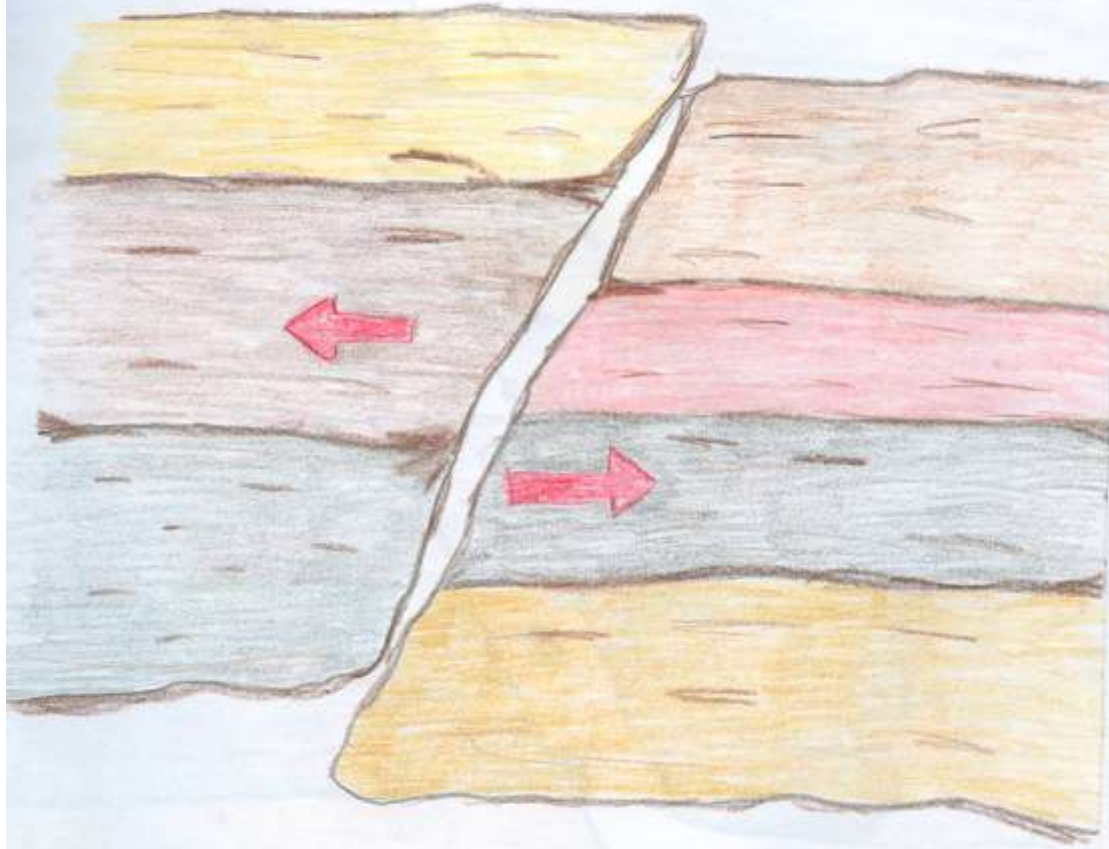


Fortunately,

The heat and pressure began to change me. Like a butterfly, I went through a metamorphosis. I emerged as a Metamorphic Rock. I was a tough Rock with a solid crystal structure. I was deep within the Earth where no wind or water could weather me. I was the strongest Rock in the entire world!

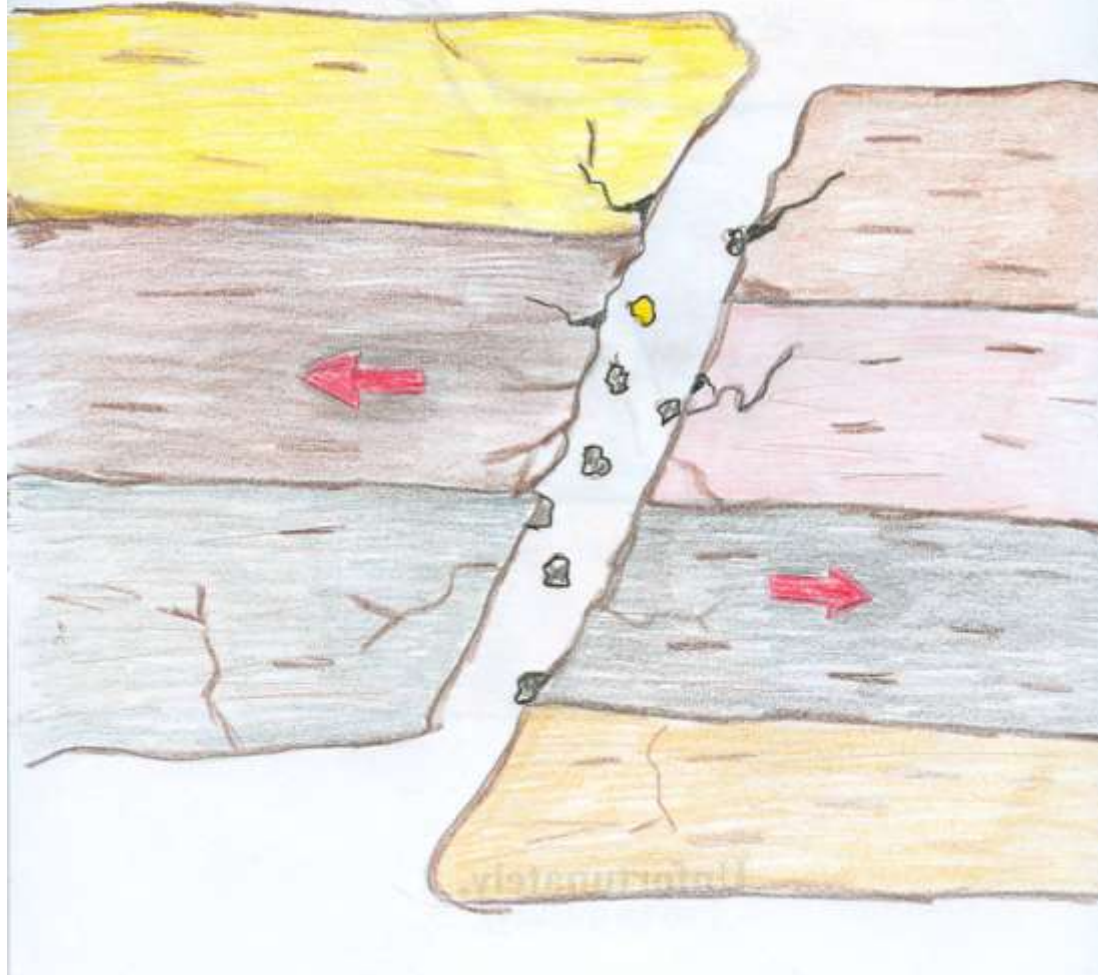


The Earth began to tremble and shake. EARTHQUAKE!!! Pieces
of the island to break and crumble as I was pushed even further
into the depths of the Earth.

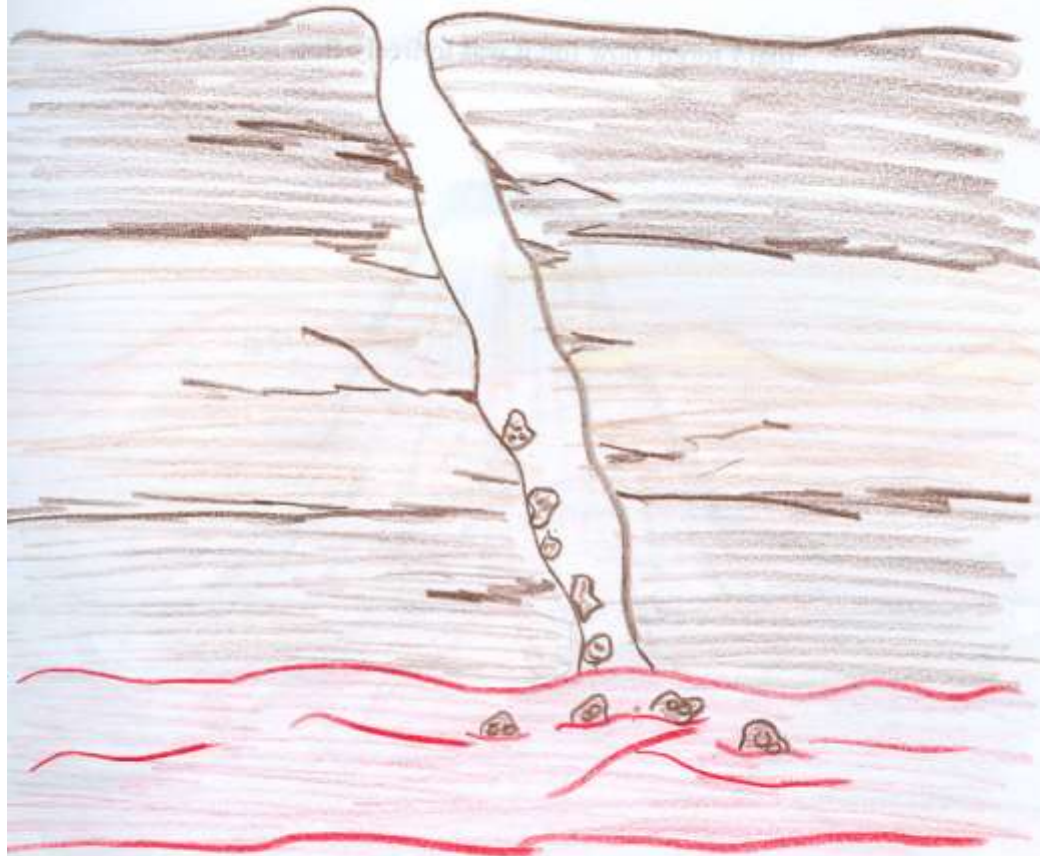


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The Earth began to tremble and shake. EARTHQUAKE!!! Pieces of me started to break and crumble as I was pushed even further into the depths of the Earth.

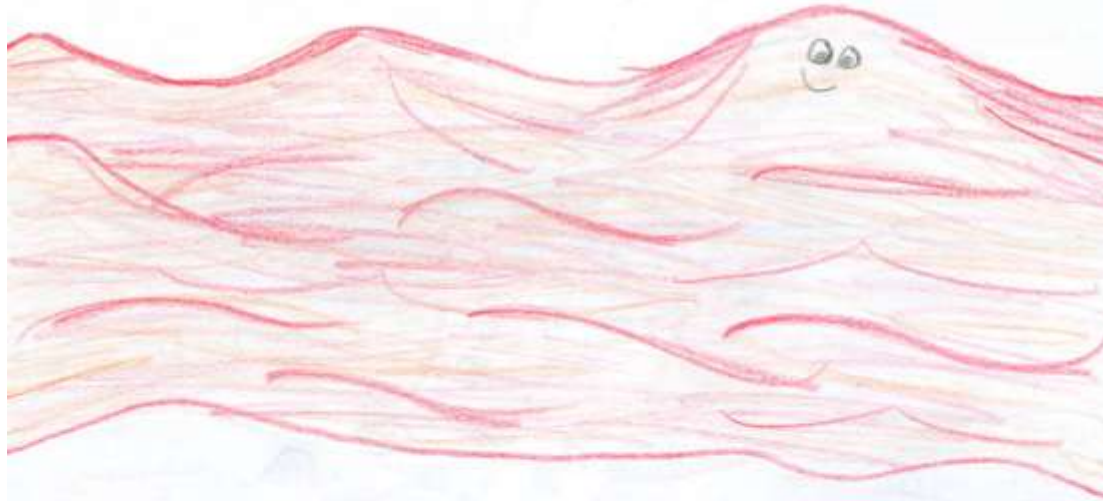


It was extremely hot this deep inside the Earth. In fact, it was so hot that I melted into magma. I had been a solid rock for so long.



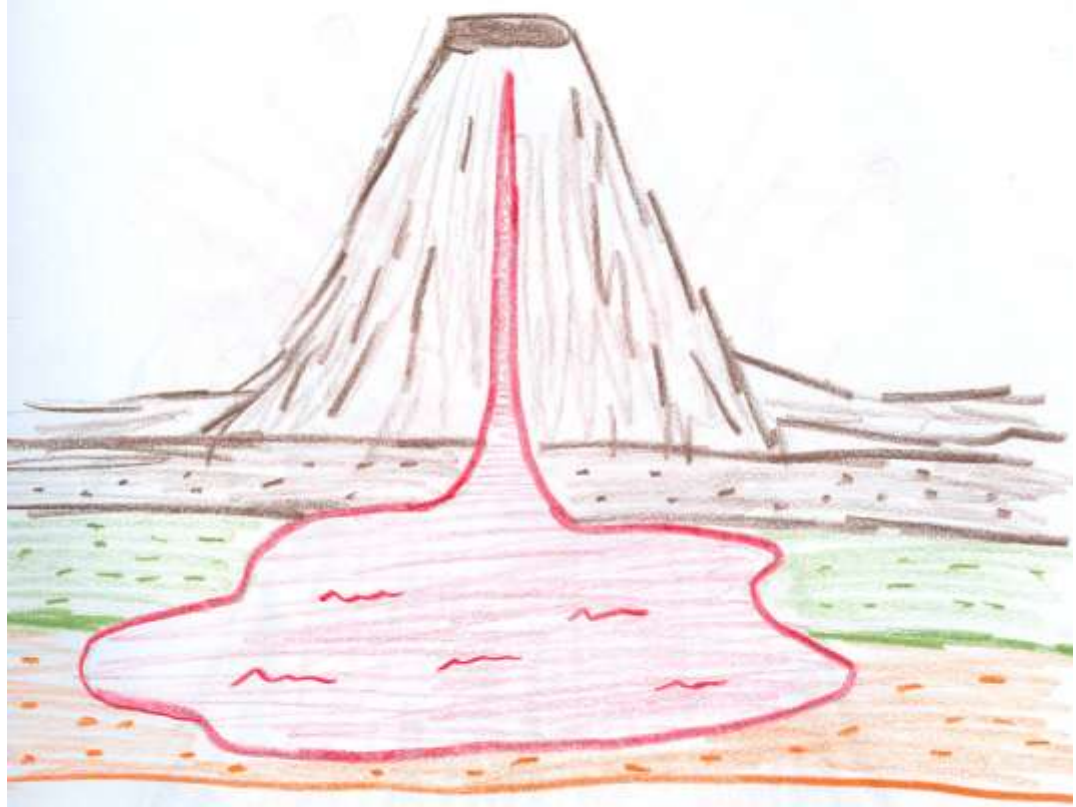
Unfortunately,
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It was extremely hot this deep inside the Earth. In fact, it was so hot that I melted into magma. I had been a solid Rock for so long that I forgot how fun it was to freely flow around.



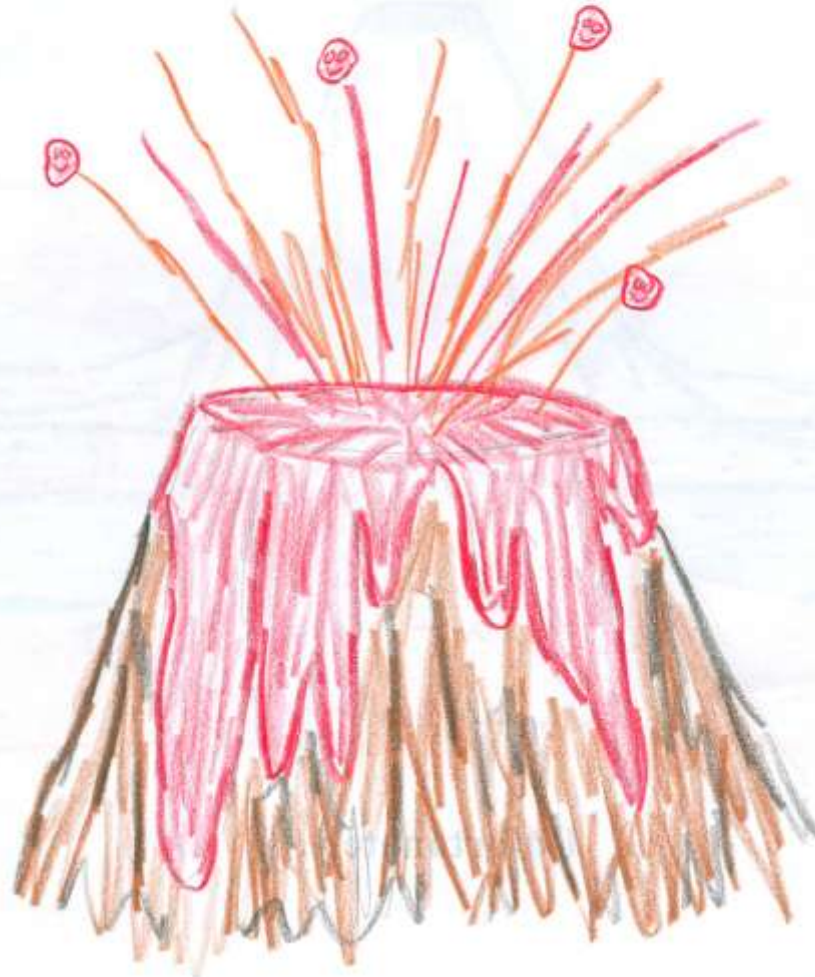
...to the ...
...the ...
...the ...

...the ...



Unfortunately,

I began to be thrust upwards against my will. I was pushed and shoved until the next thing I knew, I burst right out of a volcano and into the sky. I flew for hundreds of feet until I started hurtling toward the ground.



I finally landed in a very soft (on the top of a mountain) it was

I twirl around out here on the Earth and I quickly began to harbor I

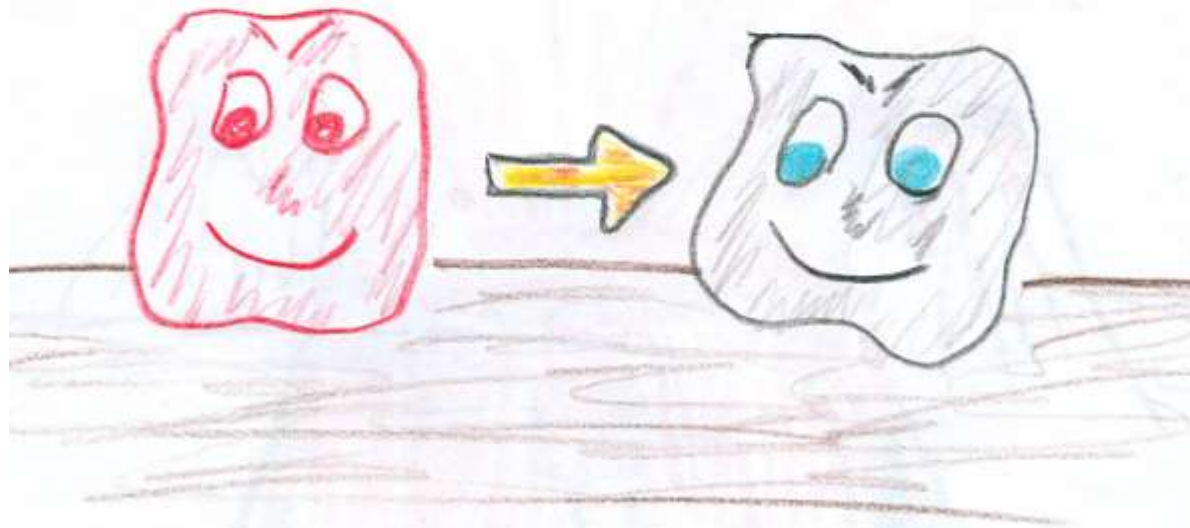
am now an Island Rock. I am black and very glossy, I am the

blackest rock in the entire world!



Unfortunately,
Fortunately,

I finally landed in a cozy spot on the top of a mountain. It was much cooler out here on the Earth and I quickly began to harden. I am now an Igneous Rock. I am black and very glossy. I am the shiniest Rock in the entire world!

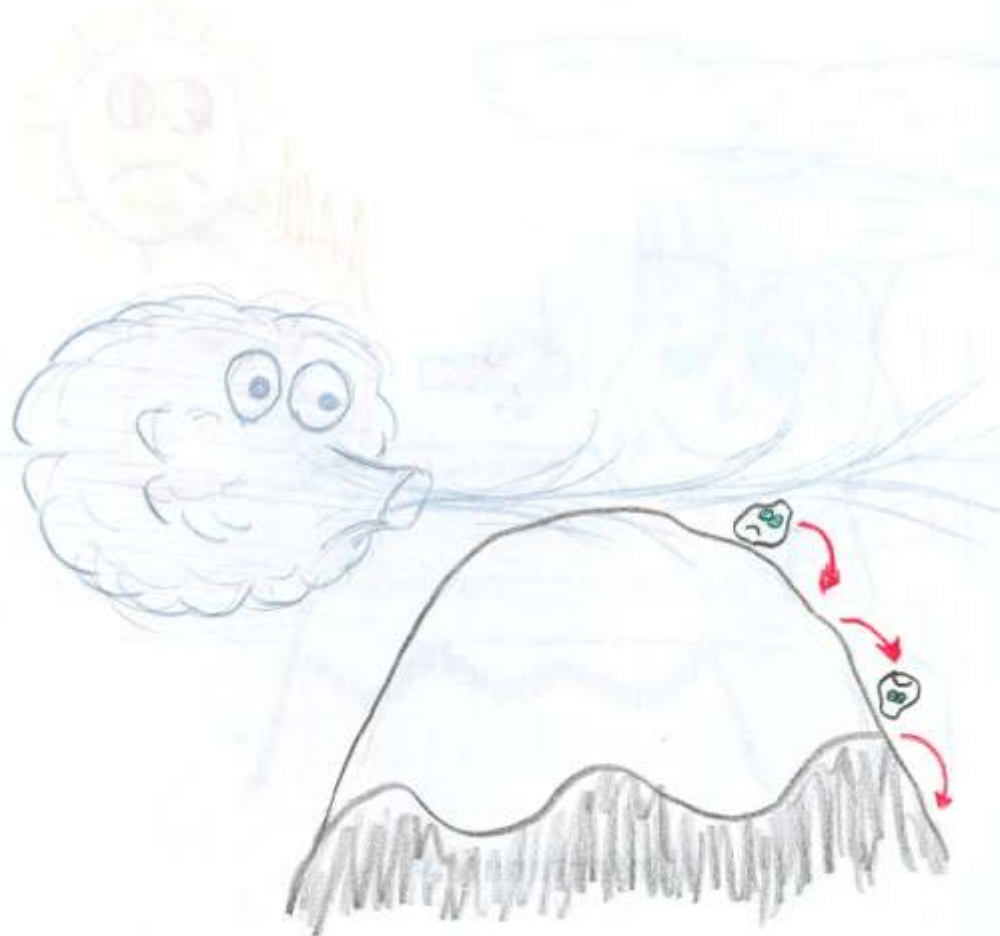


It was really really cold and wet on top of the mountain. You
and your I was worried. I think I felt me. I tried to
stand and the wind kept whipping at me. One day, the wind
blow so fast that it finally pushed me out of the mountain.

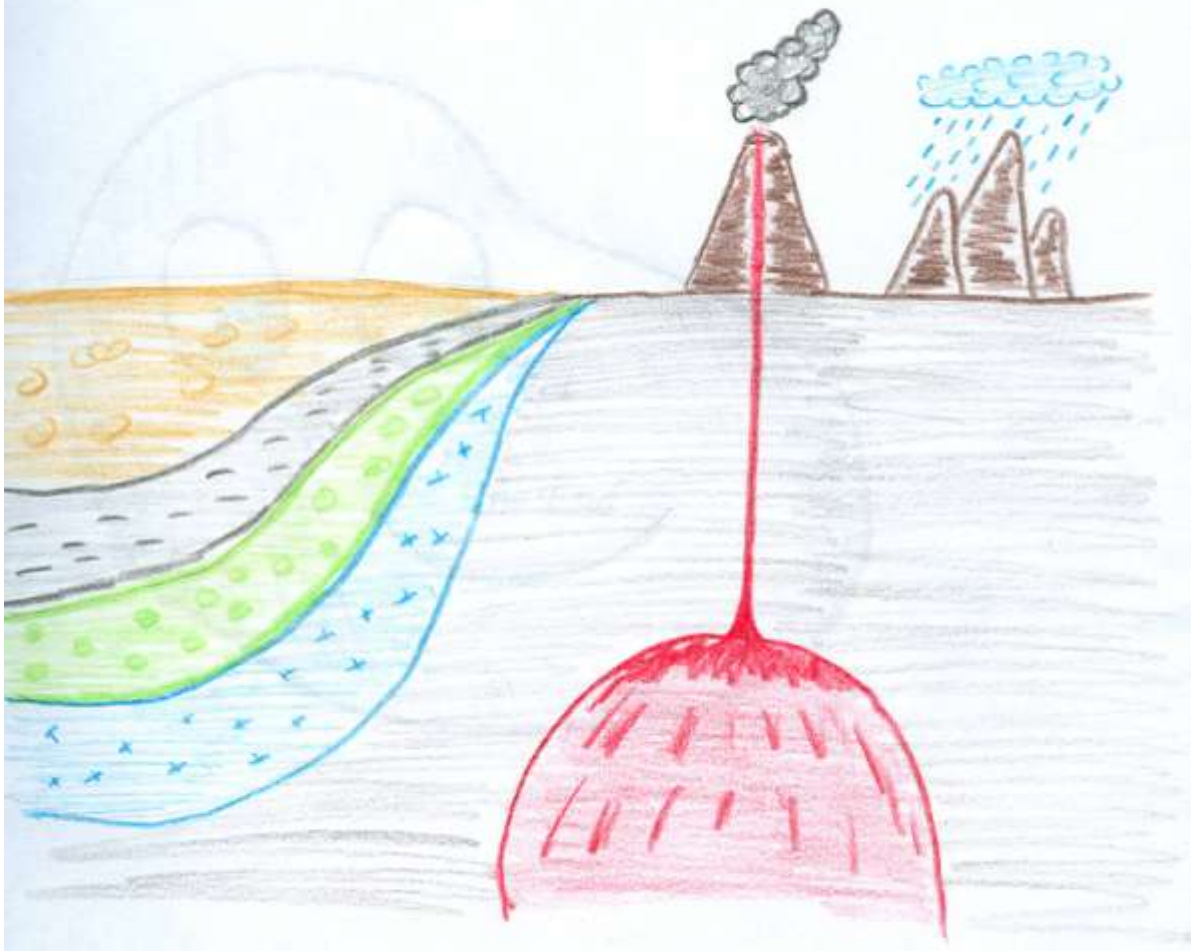


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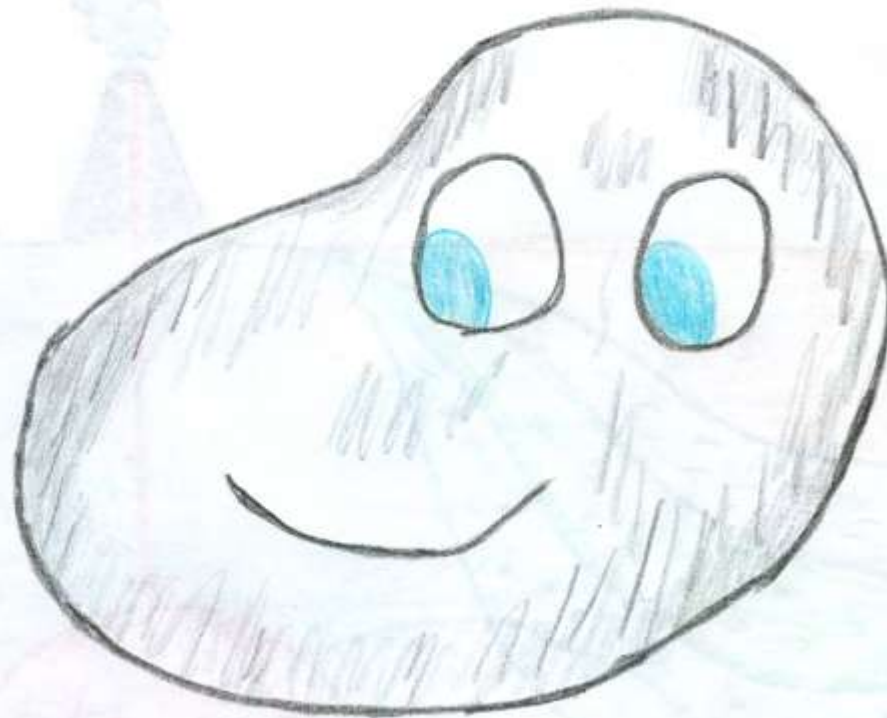


I am a Rock. I have been many places and seen many things. I am
occasionally changing through a process called the Rock Cycle. I
wonder where my next journey will take me. Do you?



Fortunately,

I am a Rock. I have been many places and seen many things. I am constantly changing through a process called the Rock Cycle. I wonder where my next journey will take me. Do you?



Not

The End

Fortunately, I am a Rock:

Tantalizing Tales of the Rock Cycle.



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