

IMPRESSUM:

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(Grade 4)

There is a boy,
Josip is his name,
Who wants to enjoy
In every game.



Illustration: Lea Kuštro

Mrkopalj is where he lives,
It's six centuries old.
There're many things it gives
To those who are bold.

A long time ago,
As he was told,
The children wanted to go
To discover what schools hold.



Illustration: Sara Juranić

He decided to look it up online
To find information to combine,
So he could get an idea
What used to be the criteria.

After thinking through,
He has concluded what to do.
He remembered his grandma and grandpa,
Convinced they would solve the drama.



Illustration: Aleksandar Crnković

Josip's grandparents were delighted,
And very, very excited,
When he asked them about their youth,
Telling him the truth.

The first school,
Which was cool,
Was in a teacher's home,
Where he lived alone.



Illustration: Sara Juranić



It was next to the church
So they didn't have to search
Where to learn to write and read,
To fulfill their need.



Illustration: Barbara Kanjer



Illustration: Lara Zorc Radić

Begovo Razdolje, the highest settlement,
Made an agreement -
In 1850 they opened their first school,
which was a useful tool
to play it cool.



Illustration: Vanessa Todorović

Many children wanted to study,
Instead of being always muddy.

In 1864 the leaders decided
To build a new school in two classes divided.



Illustration: Amina Zulić

Today it's a local shop,
Where everyone can stop,
But then it welcomed
376 pupils and more to be followed.



Children in Sunger, a nearby place,
Wanted to write in capital case.

In 1876 they got the chance
To give their knowledge an advance.



Illustration: Paola Jakovac



Even though they learned a lot,
Gathering each day in the same spot,
There weren't many of them,
So in 1982, they closed this gem.

Children in Tuk also wanted to thrive,
And make it easier to survive.
In 1897 they also got their school,
Where they had to obey the rule.



Illustration: Armina Zulić



They learned there for 60 years,
Overcoming their fears.
But in 1957 it came to an end,
Due to a negative trend.

Brestova Draga, a small nearby village,
Thought of a way how to manage
Children who wanted to count and write
To make their lives more bright.



Illustration: Franko Cindrić

In 1926 a school opened
And kids' perspective widened.
But only after 34 years,
It was closed in tears.



Back then they didn't have a pencil
And also no stencil.

Instead, they had a small board
And a piece of chalk everyone could afford.

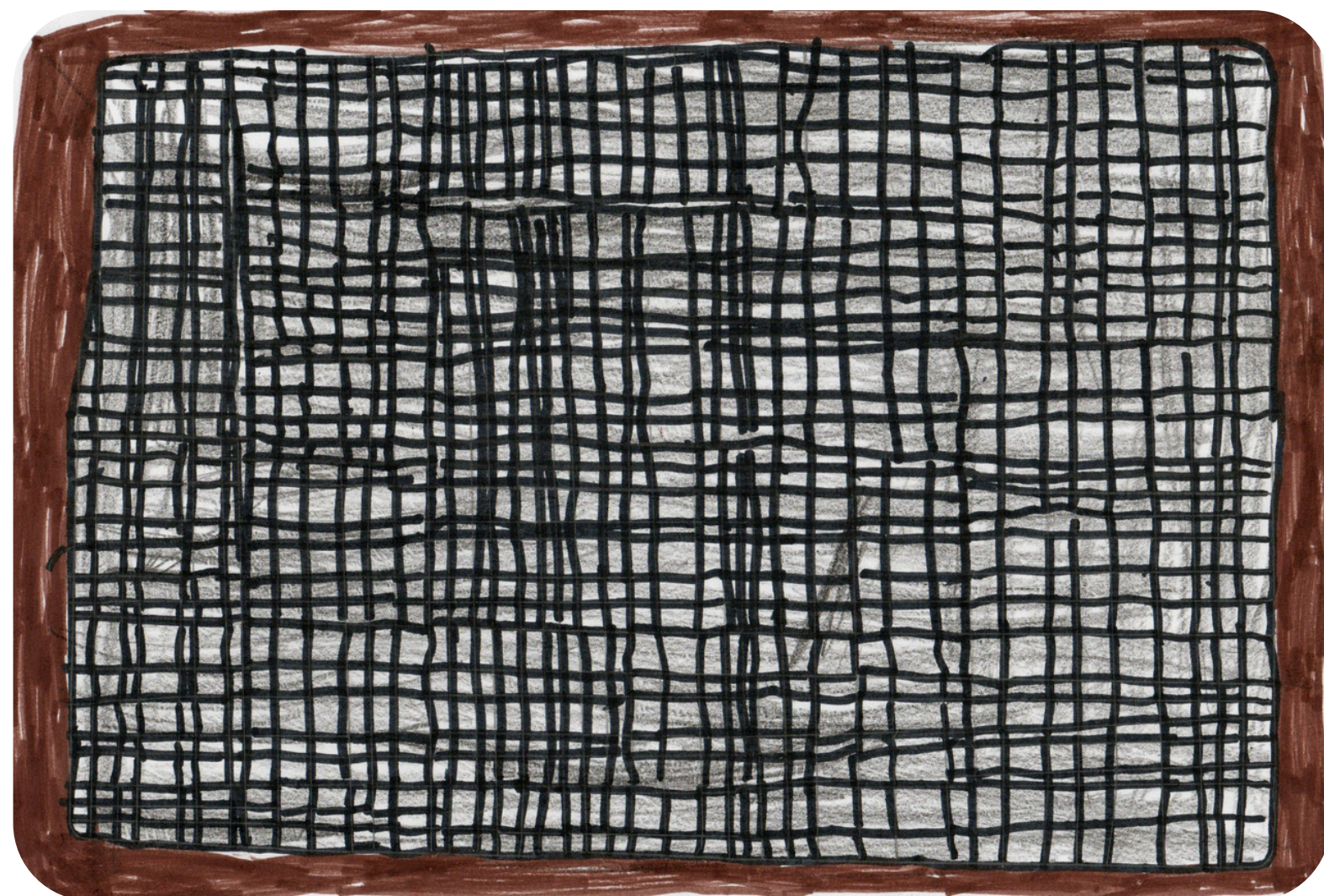


Illustration: Franko Cindrić

With time, everything changed,
And things were differently arranged.
They started using a fountain pen,
quickly becoming grown men.

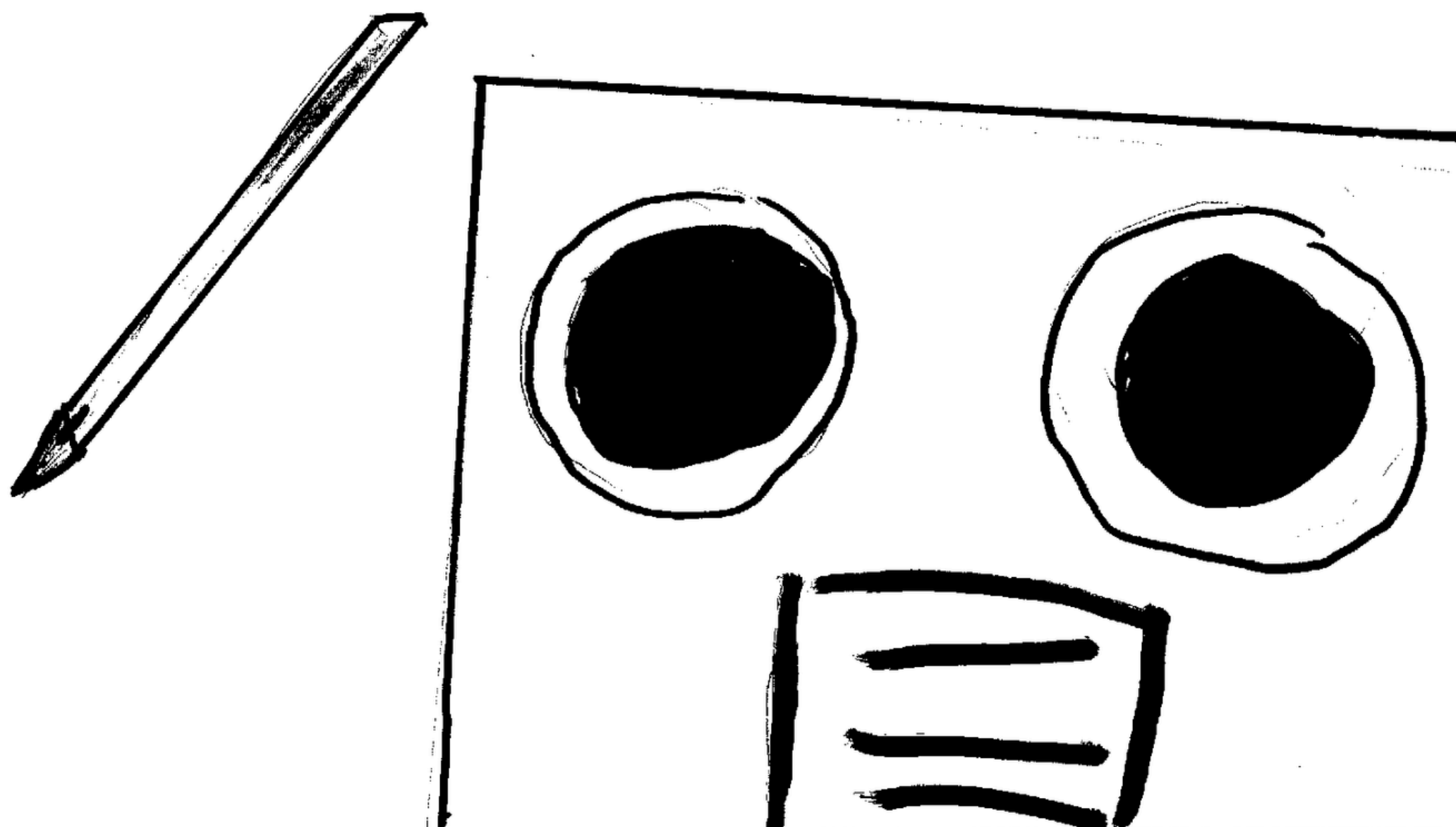


Illustration: Lara Zorc Radić

In 1968 school in Mrkopalj was opened,
And many words were spoken.

There were 367 children,
And some secrets were hidden.



Illustration: Agatha Tomić

The gym was built in 1983,
And children were free
To do all sorts of exercises
and win many prizes.



Illustration: Anna Tomić

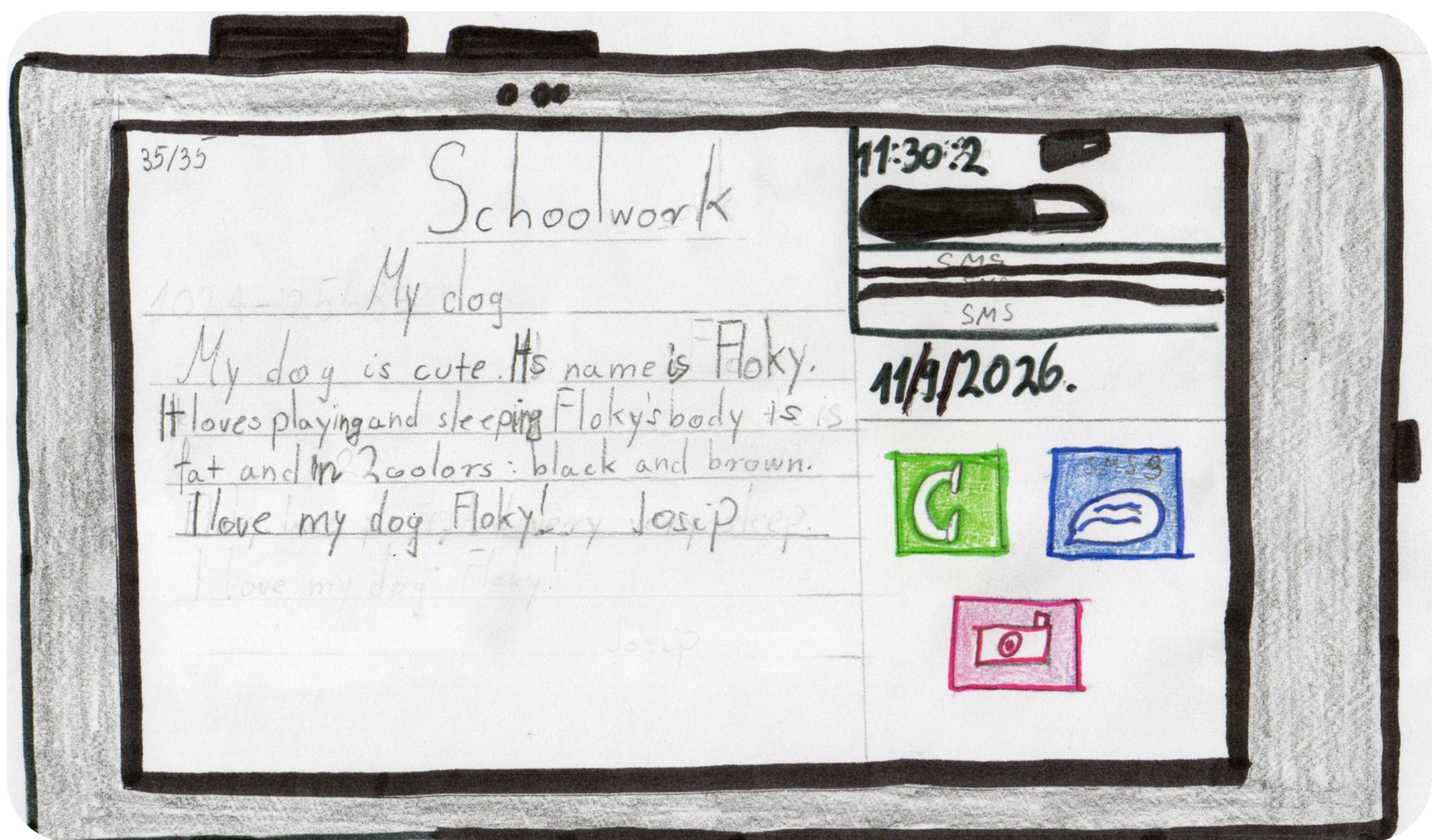


Illustration: Agatha Tomić

Today, instead of a pencil and paper
They use a tablet to draw a huge skyscraper.
And we've all developed habits
To use different gadgets.

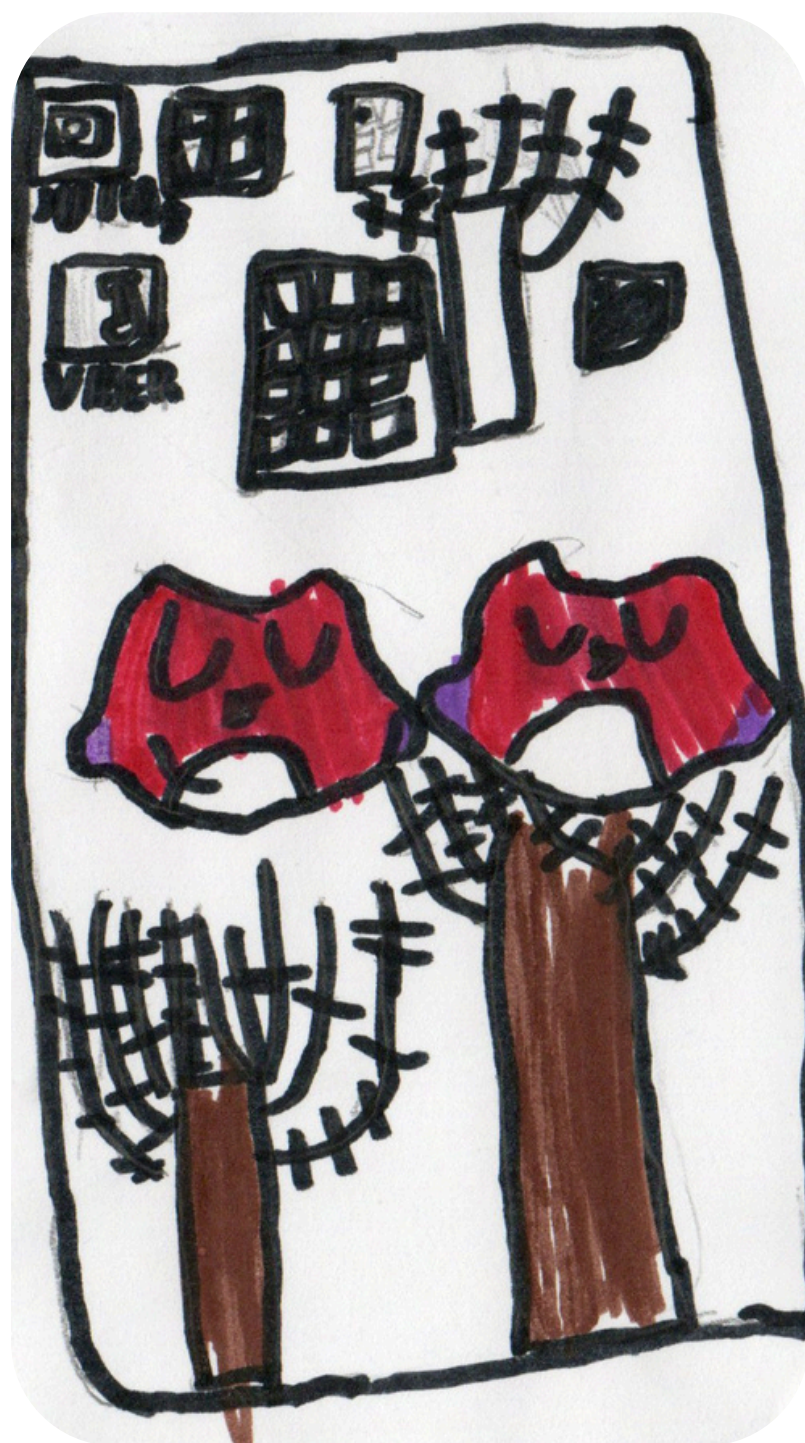


Illustration: Greta Crnić

Skiers from Mrkopalj know
How to give it a go.
Skiis glide fast on snow
Giving the place a new glow.



Illustration: Aleksandar Crnković

Mrkopalj was the first
Where the skiing burst.
Some were even in the Olympics,
Hiding their gimmicks.

Old people now remember how it used to be
When children were free
to play with many friends outside
Without needing a guide.
School was full of children's voices
And all sorts of noises.



Illustration: Paola Jakovac & Agatha Tomić

Today we're remembering those days,
Hoping there will be no delays
In making school halls crowded again.
That would be our greatest gain!

This storybook was made as a part of an extracurricular activity in English - *The storytelling club*. The activity started in 2025/2026 school year. It involved students from grades 1 to 4.

Inspired by the stories we read earlier, we've decided to create our own storybook for the 240th anniversary of Mrkopalj school.

The historical facts were prepared by History teacher Ivana Starčević Stipeć, and the story was created by students mentored by English teacher Iva Cvijetić Kovačević. IT teacher Agnješka Bolf Petković, with 5th and 6th grade students, prepared QR codes which, after scanning, lead the reader to the websites that contain historical information about the schools in Mrkopalj and the exact locations in a digital map.

