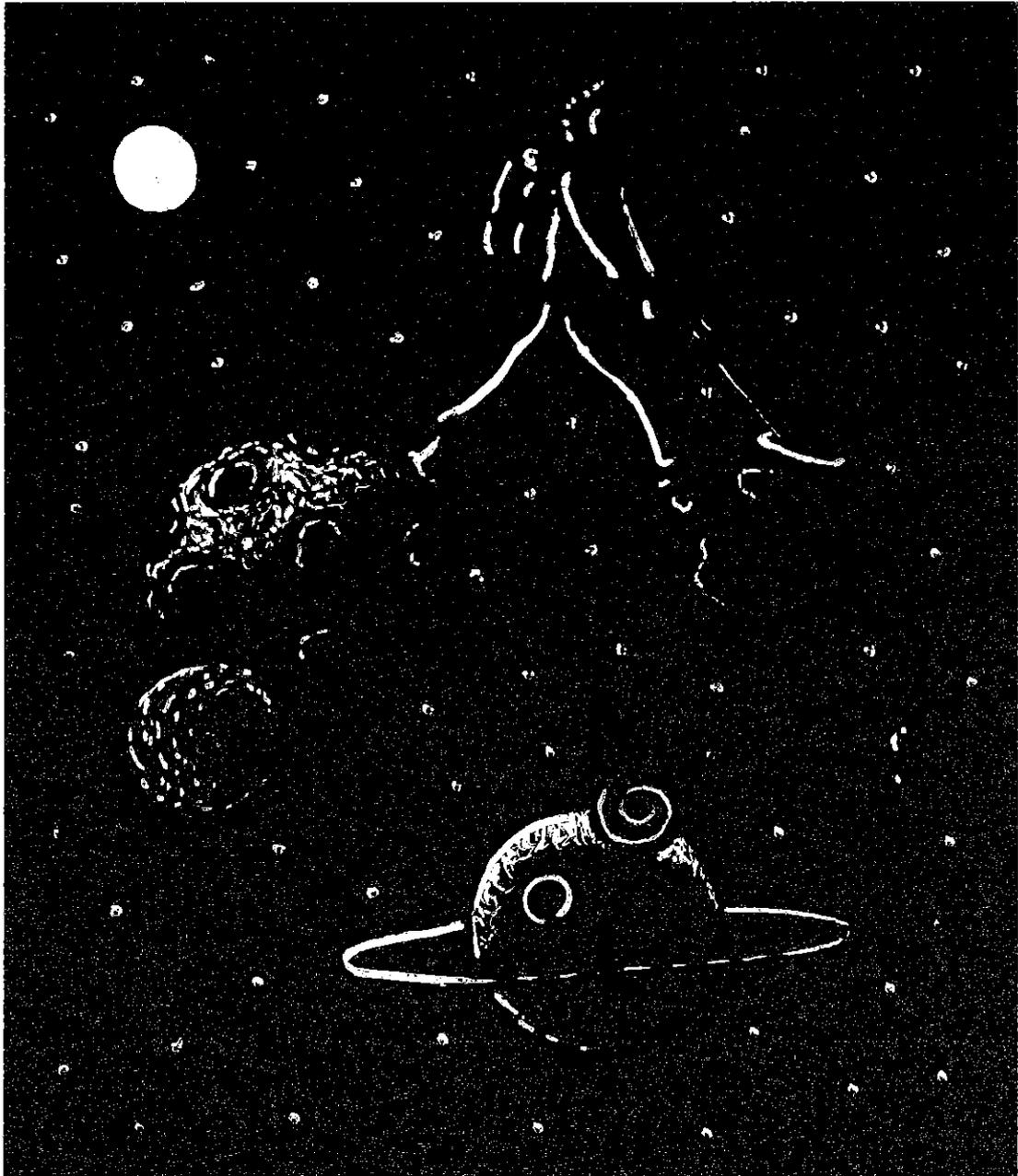
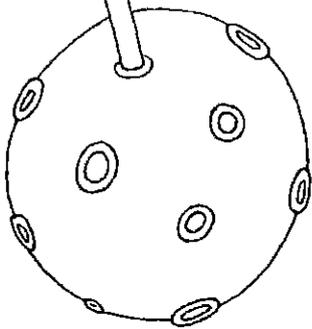


Finding Space



Poems and illustrations
by Justin Bateman

Planets:



1. Odd jobs

2. Writing

3. Gilbert

4. Lost

5. Everyone

6. Nursery

7. Map

8. Tit tat

9. Loo

10. Granny

11. God

12. Toffee

14. Billy

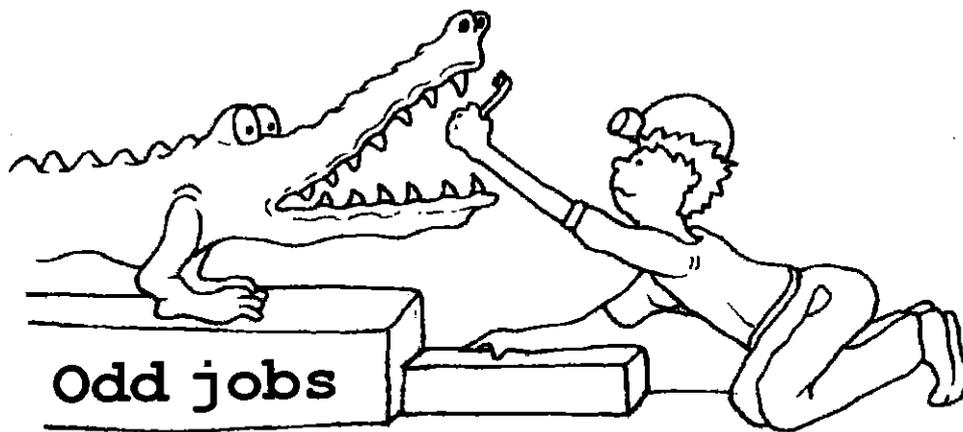
15. Often

16. Topsy-turvy

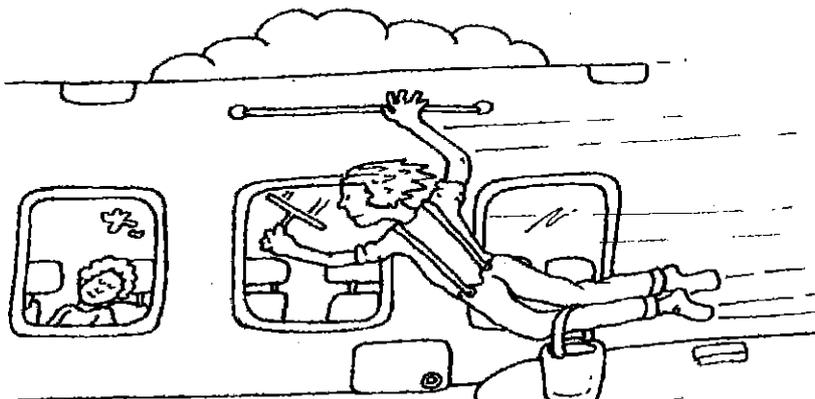
13. Echo

17. Lies

18. Spelling



I've done some very odd jobs for so many different people,
Like cleaning alligators teeth and fixing tiles on a
steeple,
I've baby-sat for frog spawn and blown bubbles for
lemonade,
Painted elephant toe nails, before a fashion parade,
I made a giant bubble bath in the middle of Niagra falls
For a giant to relax in as our bath was far to small,
I've polished a centipedes shoes, which was very boring
indeed,
I've painted spots on a cheetah, working at tremendous
speed.
Once I had to clean the windows on a giant jumbo plane,
I wasn't told it would be flying, but I did it just the
same
But now I ought to go, as I've still one job to do,
And that's to finish this sentence and now it's done I'm
through.



Writing

You must write
might

Just
writing
which
up
you

Here are the lines between

Otherwise you'll find that your

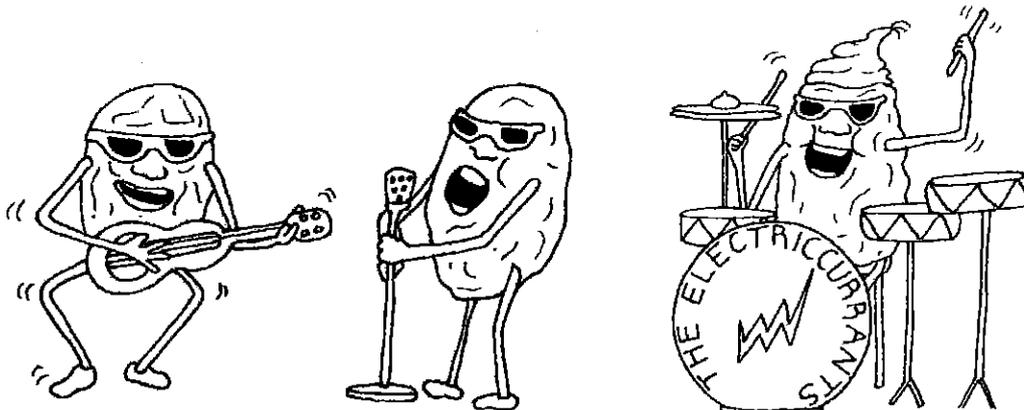
Fall off the page or curl

I sometimes wonder if the words could be mi

and
twice

Gilbert

Gilbert was a grape from the very finest bunch,
Not the sort of grape that you've eaten after lunch,
But a thinker and a dreamer who considered his
direction,
He was even a promising candidate in the Greatest Grape
Election,
His many relatives watched him, they all hoped he
might,
Become a fizzy Champagne or very expensive white,
The harvests came and disappeared
And Gilbert grew bigger every year,
Until one day Gilbert's state declined,
His parents worried, but he didn't mind,
There was only one dream to which he aspired,
To become a raisin was all he desired,
"I don't want to be fine white wine,
Or be enjoyed with bread and cheese,
I want to join the 'Electric Currant Band', you must
forgive me please",
So Gilbert left their vineyard and their
disapproving sighs,
Rolling away he heard them repeat their worried ' why,
oh why's '
"You'll end up a Sultana on a supermarket shelf" , they
sang,
"The ingredients in a fruit cake or the eyes on a
gingerbread man" ,
But he never became either or got lost in a currant bun,
Now he's a rocking raisin, and he's raisin' up some fun.



Everyone

If everyone everywhere all at once,
Blew in the same direction,
We could use the Earth as a sailing
ship,

To meet our next connection.

If everyone everywhere all at once,
Jumped from a chair or table,
It would send an earthquake across
the world,

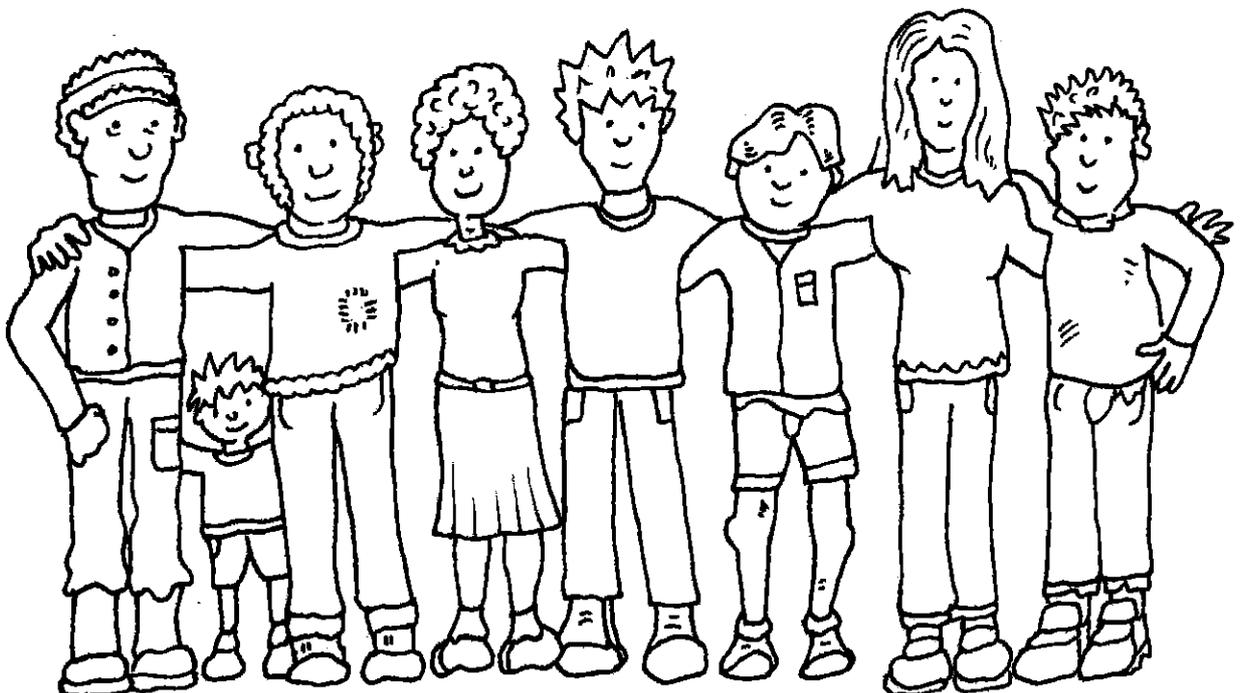
And make the Earth unstable.

If everyone everywhere all at once,
Where to clap to a similar beat,
The booming sound would rock the
ground,

And lift you off your feet.

But if no-one nowhere never tried,
To blow or jump or dance,
We won't move the Earth,
Or take a ride,

Unless it happens by chance.

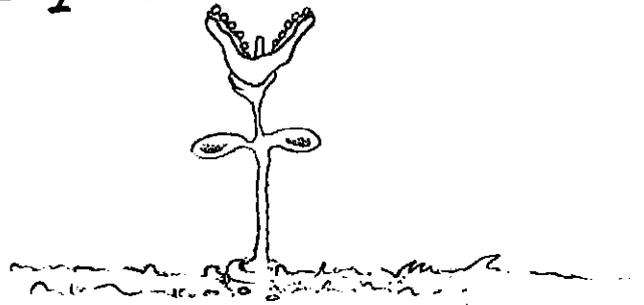


Nursery

I've quite often wondered, how poems grow,
It's really not difficult, as you see below,



It starts as just a seedling, but steadily
forms in time,
With just a little encouragement, it starts
to sprout a rhyme.



Now it should be nurtured, it may become a
rose,
A delicate flower for you to admire, with a
sweetly perfumed nose,
Or it may become a strangling weed, and drain
you with it's thirst,
Unfortunately I encourage both, as it's hard
to tell at first.



Granny

The long lost drawer
Is a magical store
Where things secretly hide
A favourite toy
From when you where a boy
Shrunk over time inside.
The long lost drawer
Is a magical store
Of things only sometimes seen,
Where as you grow tall
The toys become small,
So this is where granny has been!



God's mobile

God's mobile is amazing, it dangles in mid-air,
It only took him days to make, and space just holds it
there.

It was partly accidental, like many things he's done,
It wasn't until he sneezed that the Earth whizzed round
the sun.

But still the Earth was boring, until God rolled off his
side,

And as he started snoring, he began to move the tide.

But the picture was too quiet, lacking imperfection,

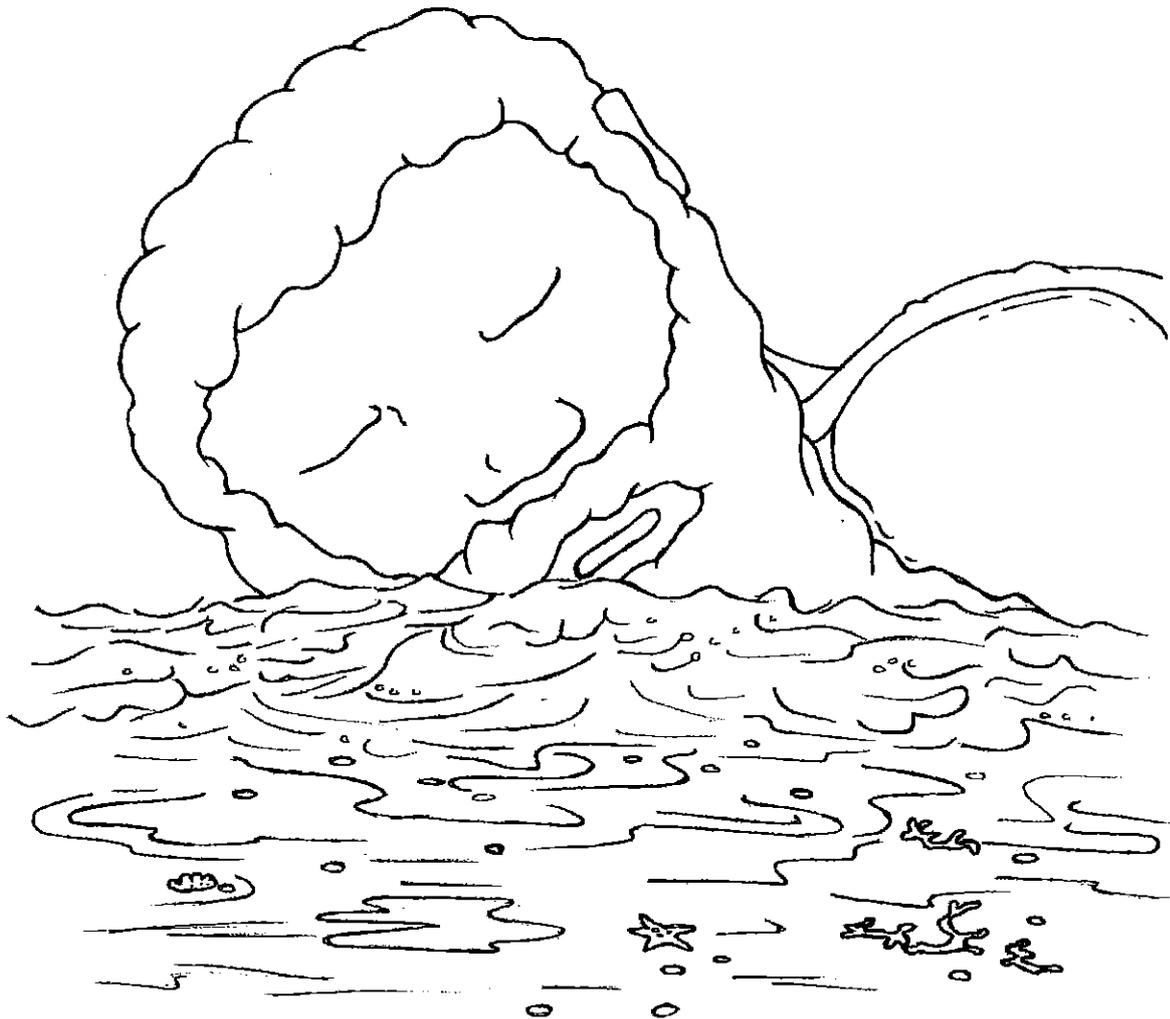
So he made a place for the human race

And said "here, have a selection".

So here we are the pieces in a giant game of chess,

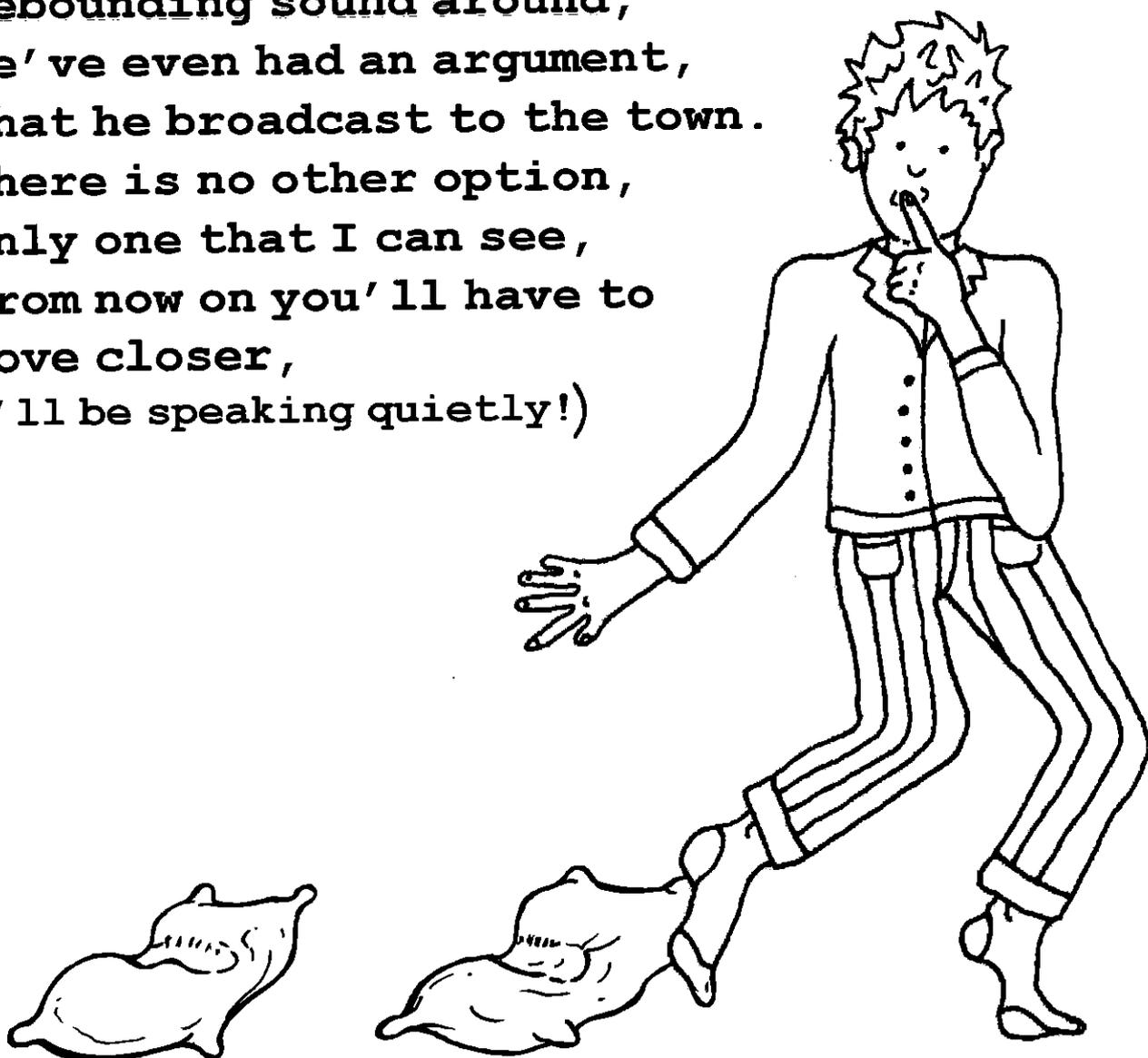
But thanks a lot for the amazing board,

On which we try our best.



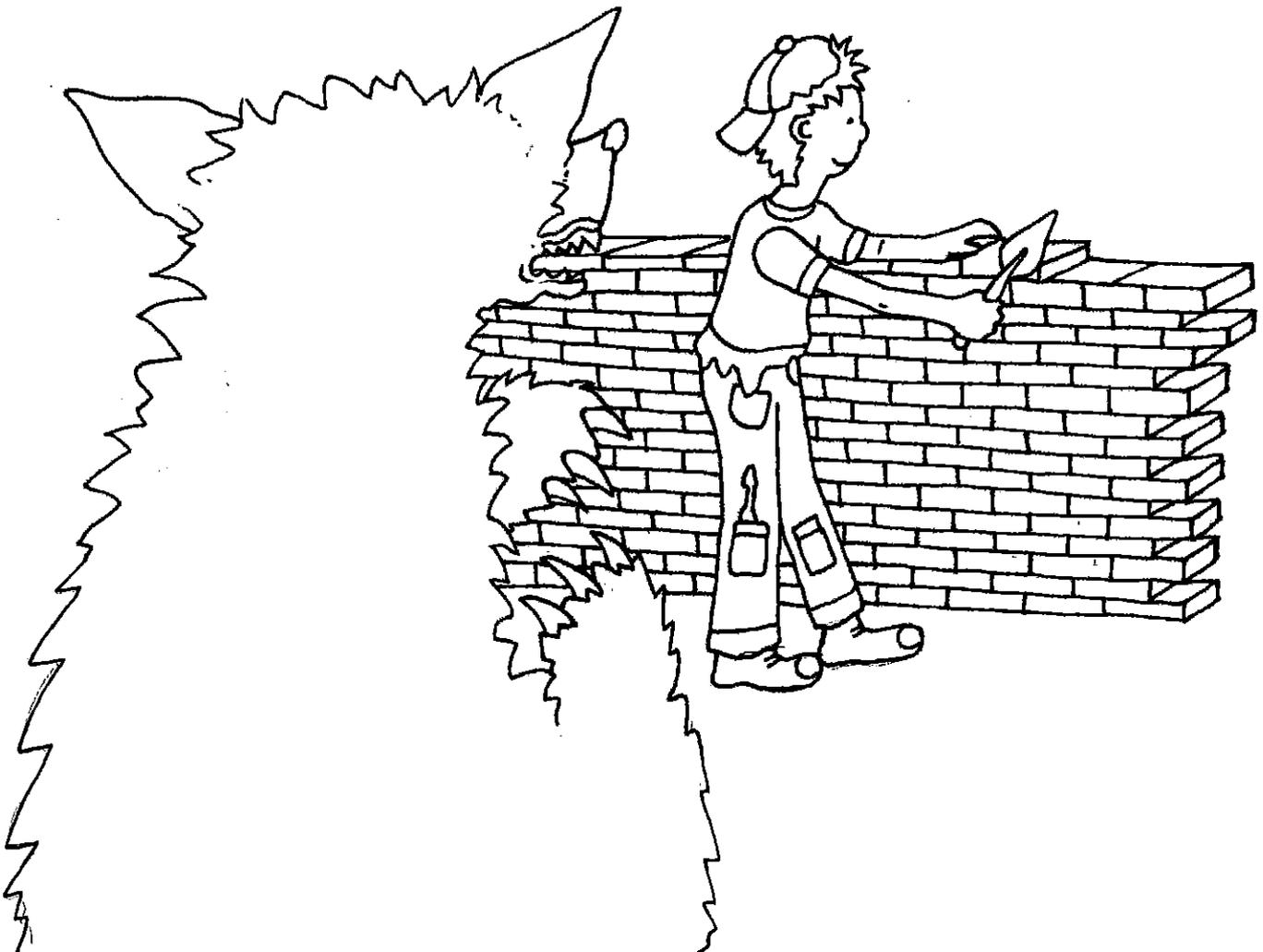
Echo

My echo 's unlike other peoples ,
If you shout "GO AWAY" ,
Your echo would slowly disappear ,
My echo shouts "NO WAY" !
He made me lose my voice ,
Although lose is not the word
It was stolen by my echo
For months I couldn' t be heard .
He' s always causing trouble ,
Rebounding sound around ,
We' ve even had an argument ,
That he broadcast to the town .
There is no other option ,
Only one that I can see ,
From now on you' ll have to
move closer ,
(I' ll be speaking quietly!)



Silly Billy

Silly Billy built a wall,
He built it strong
And he built it tall
Behind the wall
He wanted to hide
But he should have hid
The other side!



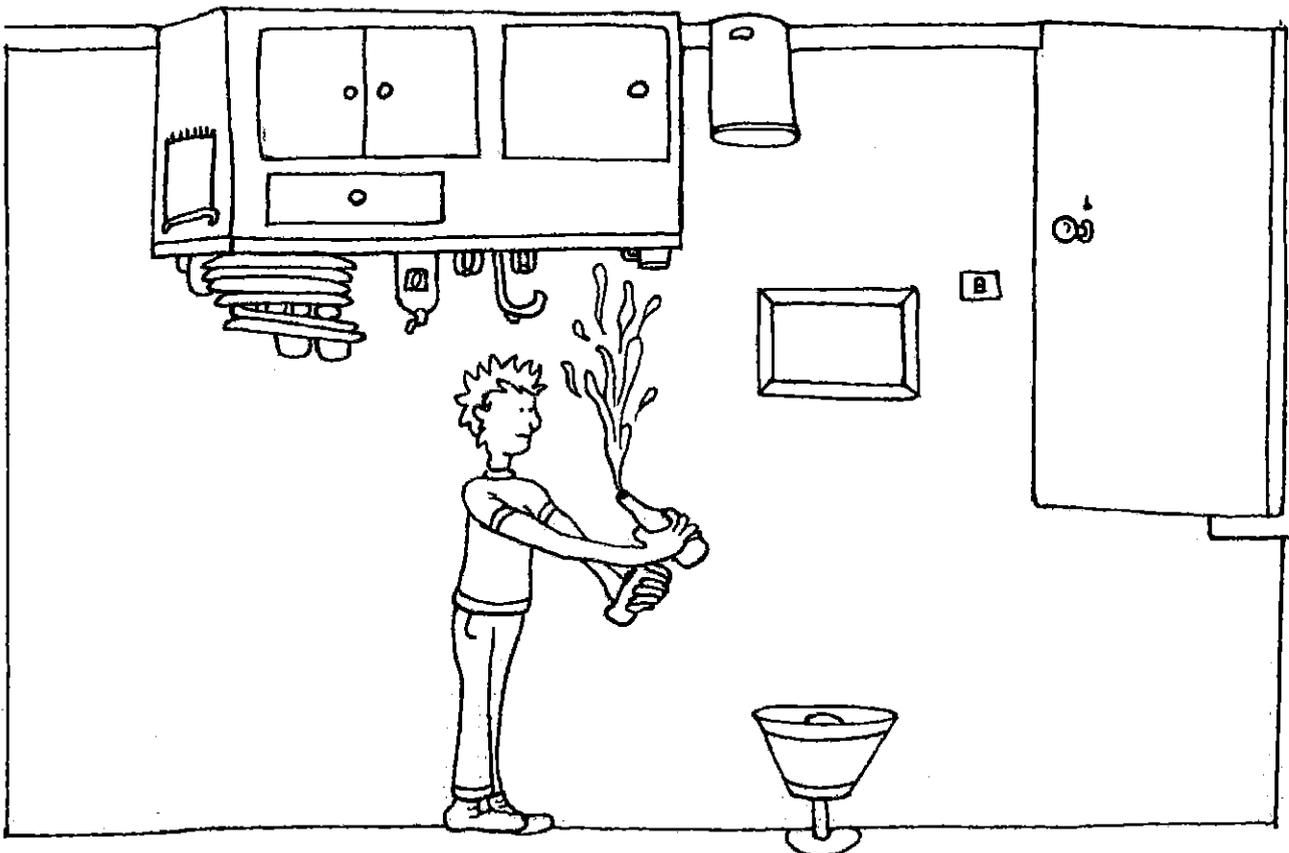
Often

Will I be in on Thursday?
Let me me see now.....
I'm often out on days off,
Some days Off on days out,
Up and out, on some days,
Some days in without.
Some days I am in within,
Down and out but in,
Or down and in without being out,
Where did I begin?
I'm in but down,
But give me a shout,
If some days Thursday
And your up and out,
Unless I'm in, not up, but in,
I'm usually round and about.



Topsy-Turvy

If the world is Topsy-turvy
And your feet aren't on the floor,
And the handles too high up
When you try to shut the door,
And when you make a drink
It pours upwards past your head,
And when your climbing up the stairs,
Your going down instead
Just think about it logically,
and take a look around,
The likelihood is, your about to fall
From the ceiling to the ground.

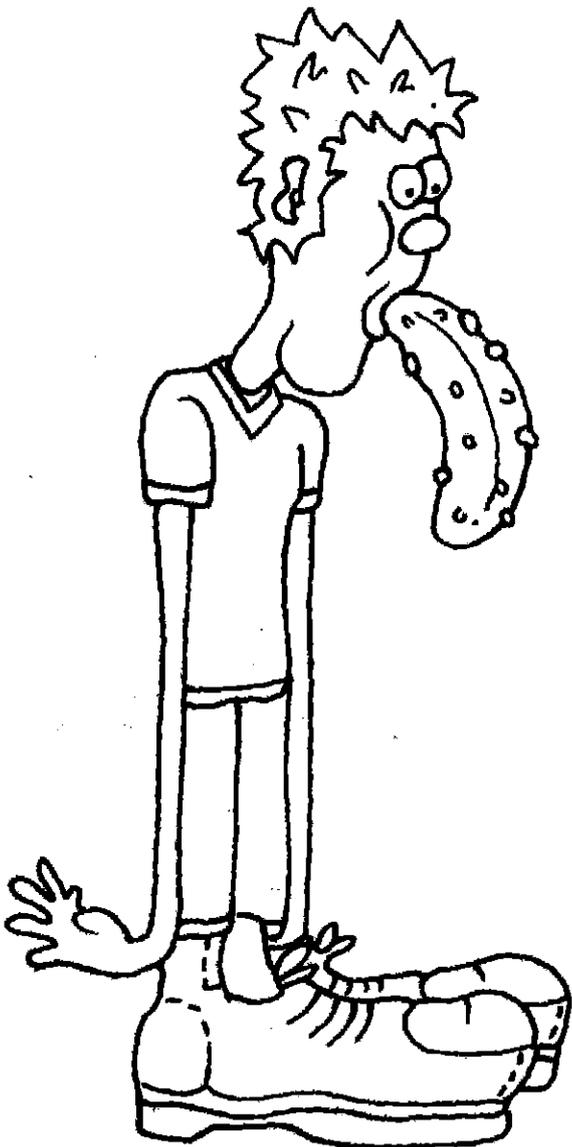


Lies

If you tell lies
You'll get spots on your tongue,
Your legs will shrink
And your arms grow long

Your head will swell to twice
it's size,

Along with your feet
And I never tell lies



Spelling

How do you spell
unnecessary?

It's unnecessary
to spell it
correctly!

