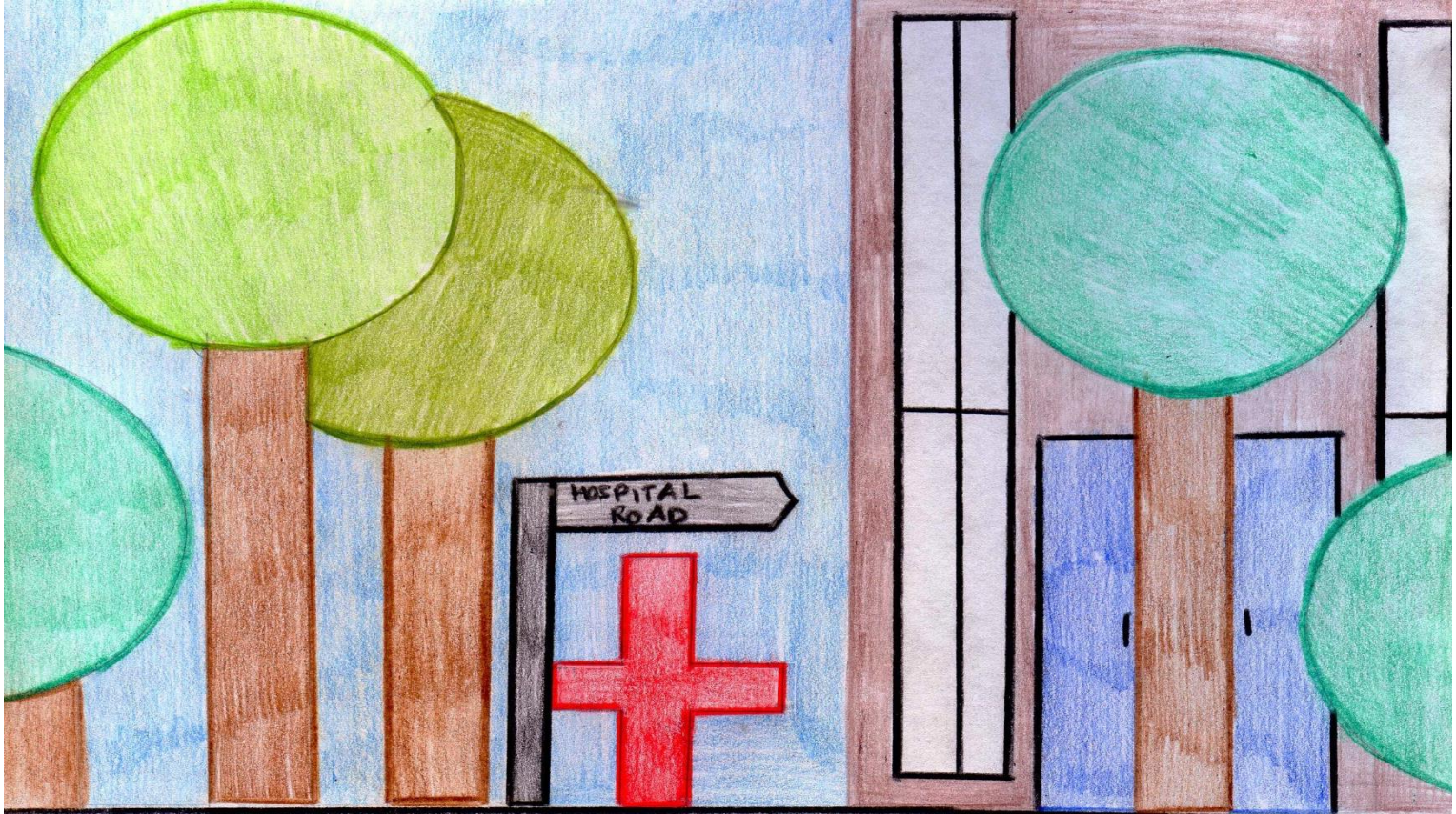


Arlo's Adventure

Aimee McClean



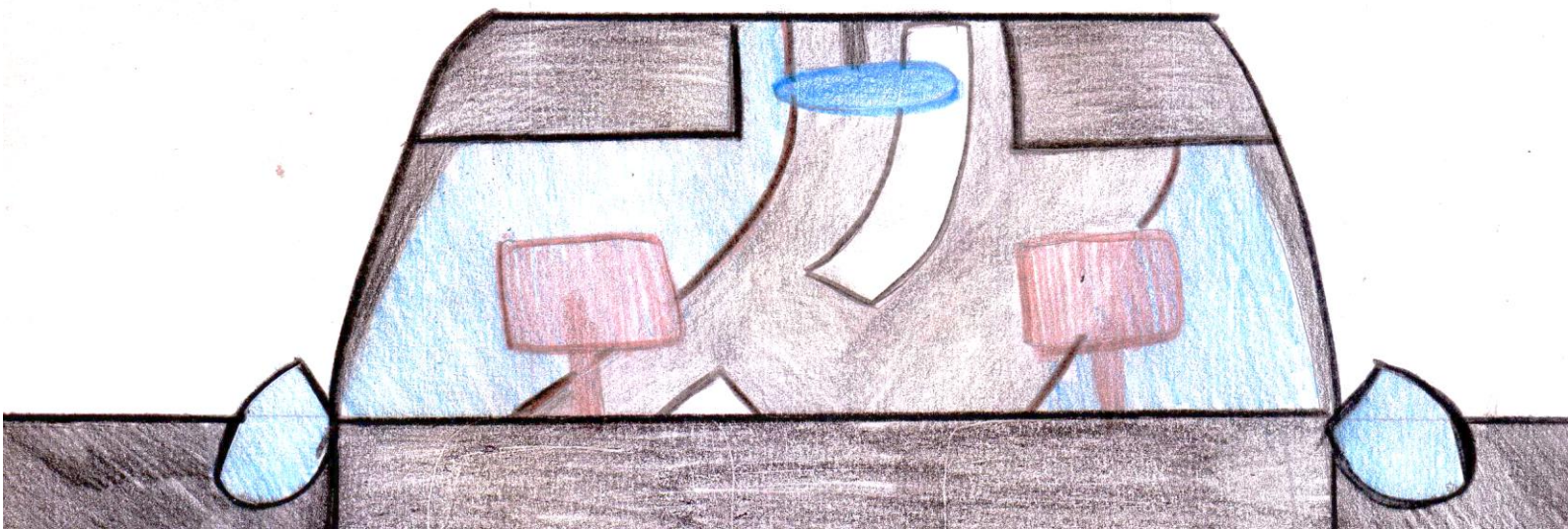
Lovely little Arlo awoke from sleep one day.
When mummy came in to get him out of bed, he cried...
"I want to go out and play!"

Mummy said no and helped him up,
Soon he was washed and dressed.
You see, Arlo had to go to the hospital today,
So he looked his very best.

In the car he looked out the window, watching as trees went by.

It was the month of May and the leaves were green.

Peering through the glass, Arlo thought of his class and how they were on his team.



Arlo was ill and sometimes off school, but when he came back was always warmly welcomed, which he thought was super cool.

He knew the route and as they got close, little Arlo began to cry:

Mum said not to worry and soon the tears began to dry.

Arlo approached the hospital and the building was very tall,
Inside it was filled with lots of people who were both big and small.
As they walked through the doors, his heart was racing with fear...
Until he saw the lovely lady who cried, "Hello, Arlo, my dear!"
All of the staff were very loving, careful and kind;
As he walked, the negative thoughts began to leave little Arlo's mind.



Today Arlo was introduced to Katie, a very kind-hearted nurse:
Having never met before, Arlo was quite afraid at first.
Then they walked around and had a great big chat...
Katie held his hand and soon became a friend, saying
*"That's the thing about nurses - we will stay right here with you until
the very end."*

Arlo watched out as he travelled through the wards, peering through doors and sneakily reading the boards.

He soon came to realise that not everyone was the same...

Everyone had different illnesses which all had different names.

On his travels he saw man, woman and child,

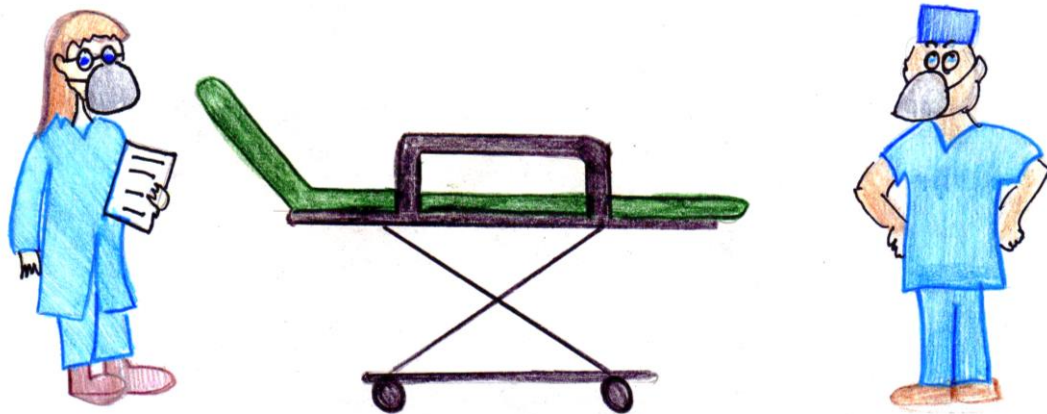
One thing they had in common though, was that everybody smiled.

'*Maybe I shouldn't be scared!*' he thought as he made his way past room three,

Where Arlo later met Cooper, who had fell and cut his knee.



He then ventured far beyond, creeping his way down the halls.
As Arlo looked, he saw beds and stretchers placed against the walls.
Lots of nurses were wearing masks to help keep each other safe,
As Arlo passed he was not scared as he could see their friendly
face.
In the lift he then met Jack, who had fell off his horse and broken a
bone in his back. Although he was sore Jack said not to worry,
So Arlo left the lift and continued his adventure, this time not in a
hurry.



As he climbed over the surgical lights, Arlo saw Barry who had got in a fight.

He couldn't believe how many people were at the hospital, all waiting to be seen:

Arlo winced at what he would have missed if he hadn't been.

'I can't wait to go to school tomorrow,' thought Arlo.

'I can't wait to tell my friends.'

As they walked, he took a look up and saw the hallway coming to an end. Katie was still with him, mummy still there too.

They saw lots of patients and Arlo met a boy named Sam.

He was here for an X-Ray, but said the doctor was really nice - Arlo's mind was put at ease as he listened to his new friends' advice.



As his nerves were starting to ease, Arlo realised a hospital is nothing to fear: rather a place that heals us, keeping us safe all year.

Arlo bumped into Rosie who was told that she had cancer, but after lots of trips and treatments she was given the all clear.

'I'm really glad I came today,' thought Arlo as he remembered of all his new friends.

'It's cool to know that going to the hospital doesn't mean the world will end.'

As Arlo walked with mummy and had a little think,

He realised it's not so bad after all and his butterflies began to sink.

Yes, hospitals are scary; they can often be lonely too,

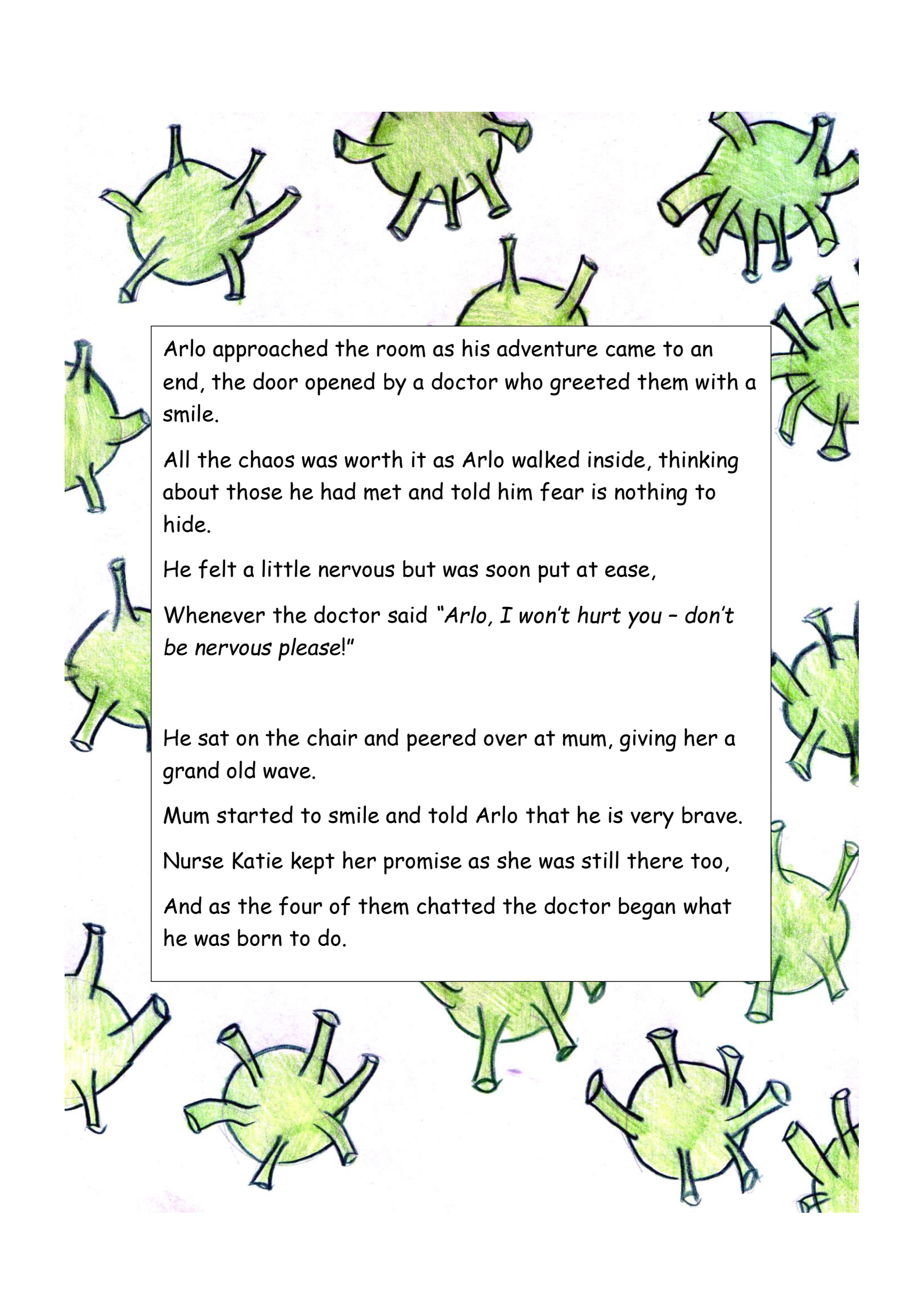
But the people there are lovely and they give you yummy food.

Hospitals can be good and bad, the people are there to help;

Hospitals are where cute babies are born, when so much love is felt.

They try to take the pain away and are a safe, warm place to stay.





Arlo approached the room as his adventure came to an end, the door opened by a doctor who greeted them with a smile.

All the chaos was worth it as Arlo walked inside, thinking about those he had met and told him fear is nothing to hide.

He felt a little nervous but was soon put at ease,

Whenever the doctor said "*Arlo, I won't hurt you - don't be nervous please!*"

He sat on the chair and peered over at mum, giving her a grand old wave.

Mum started to smile and told Arlo that he is very brave.

Nurse Katie kept her promise as she was still there too,

And as the four of them chatted the doctor began what he was born to do.