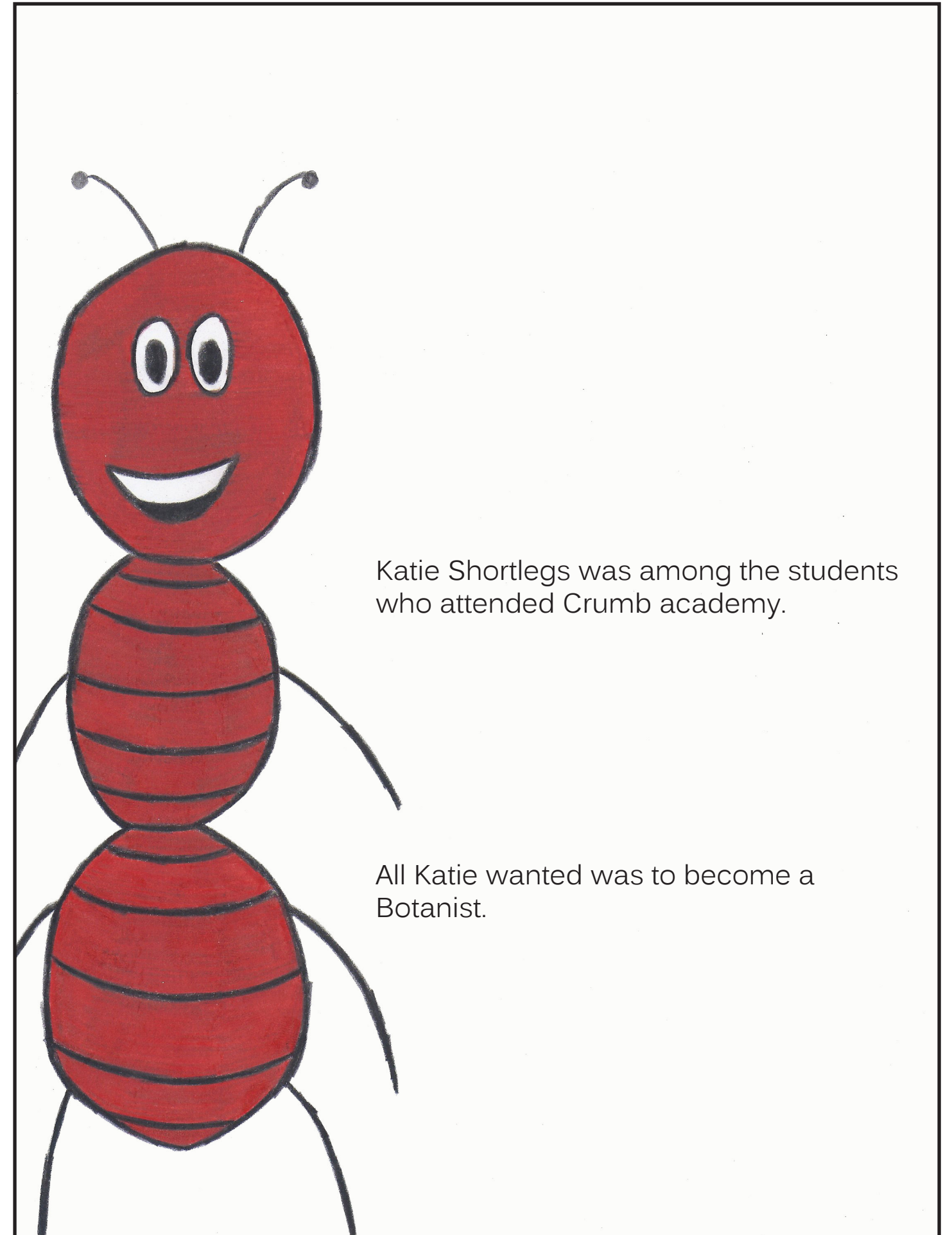
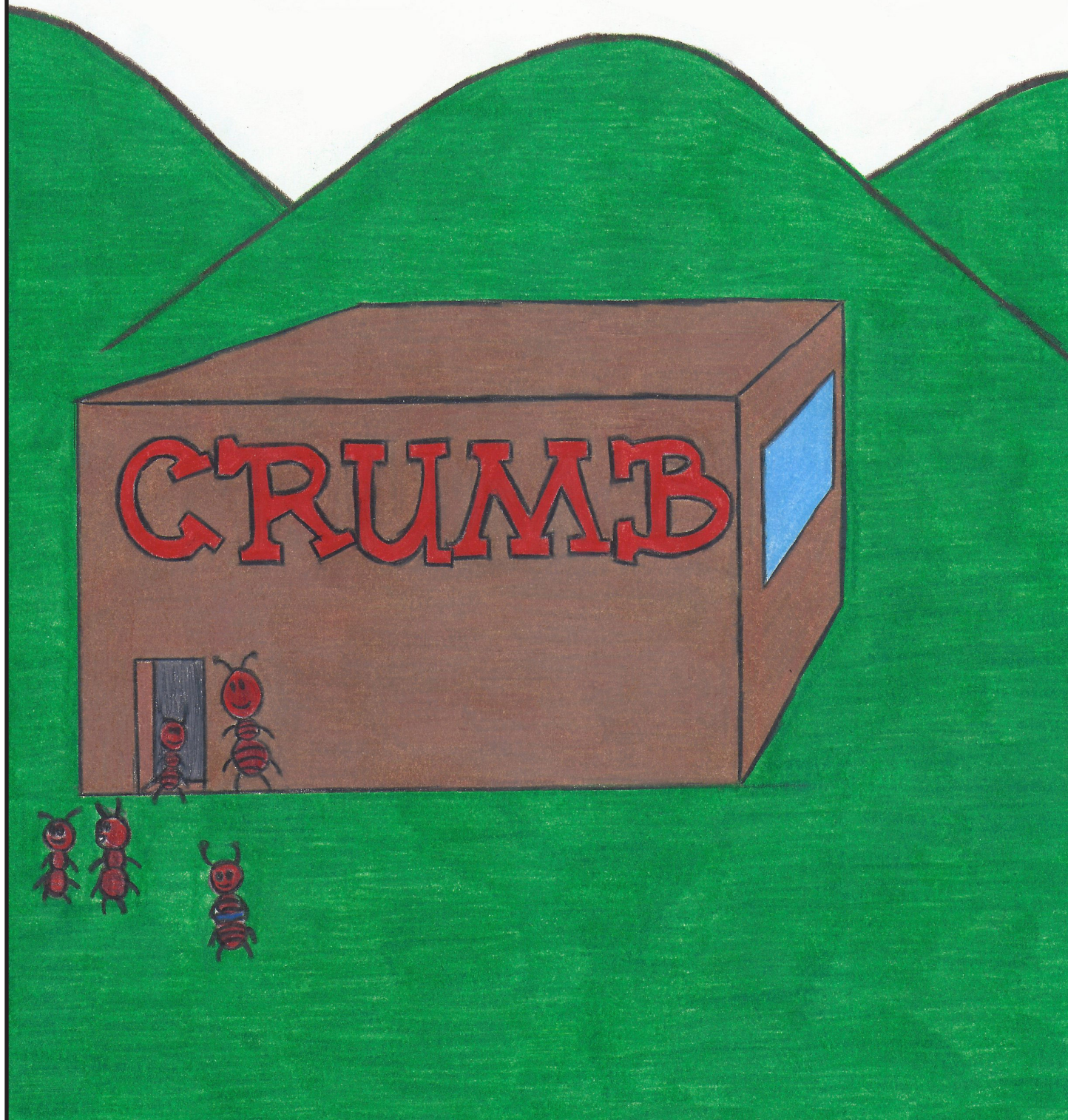


The Hike

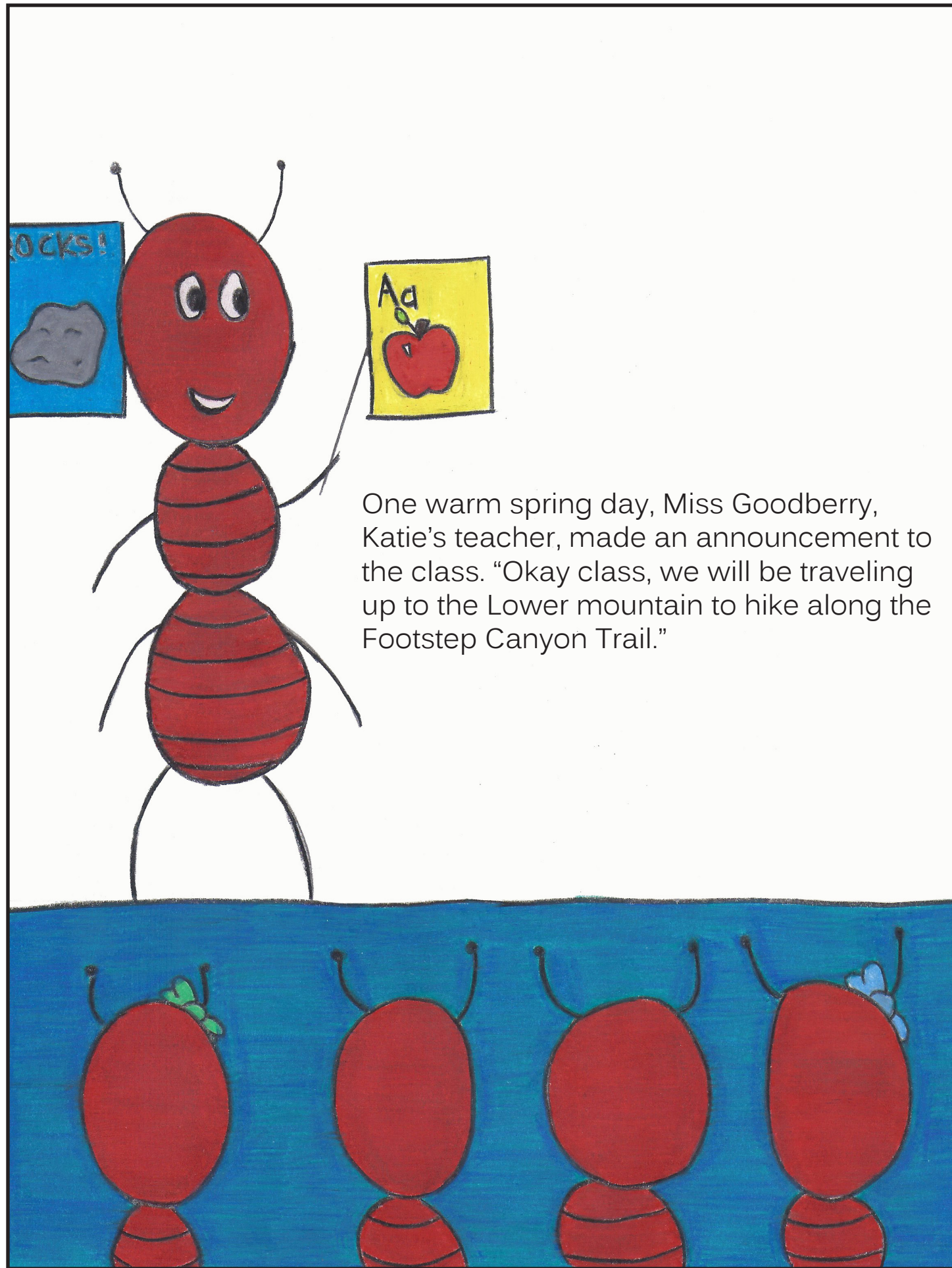
Written by Emma Hyer & Ashleigh Roper
Illustrated by Autumn Litster

In a small town by a mountainside, there was a school by the name of Crumb Academy. Here, young ants learned the basics of science.

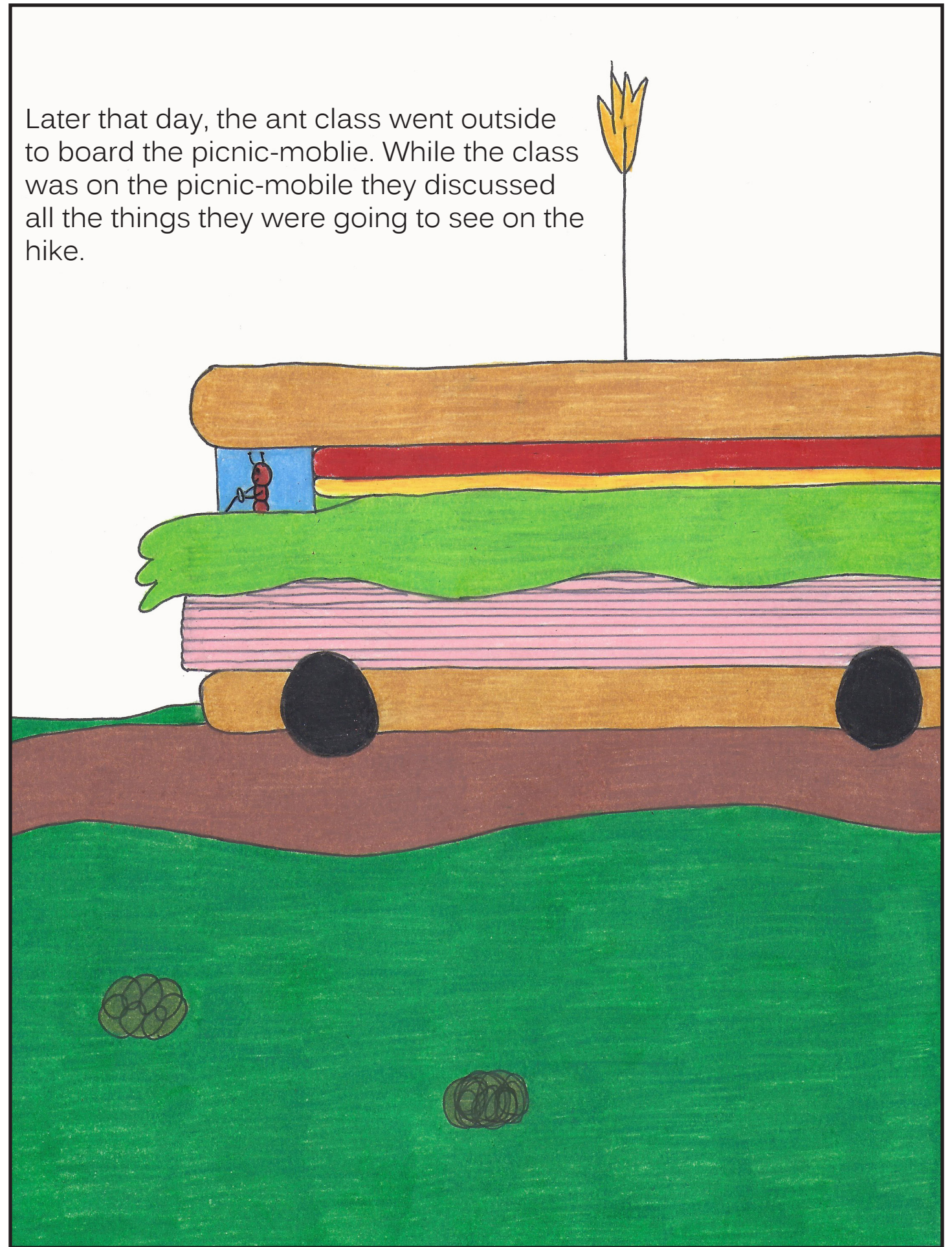


Katie Shortlegs was among the students who attended Crumb academy.

All Katie wanted was to become a Botanist.

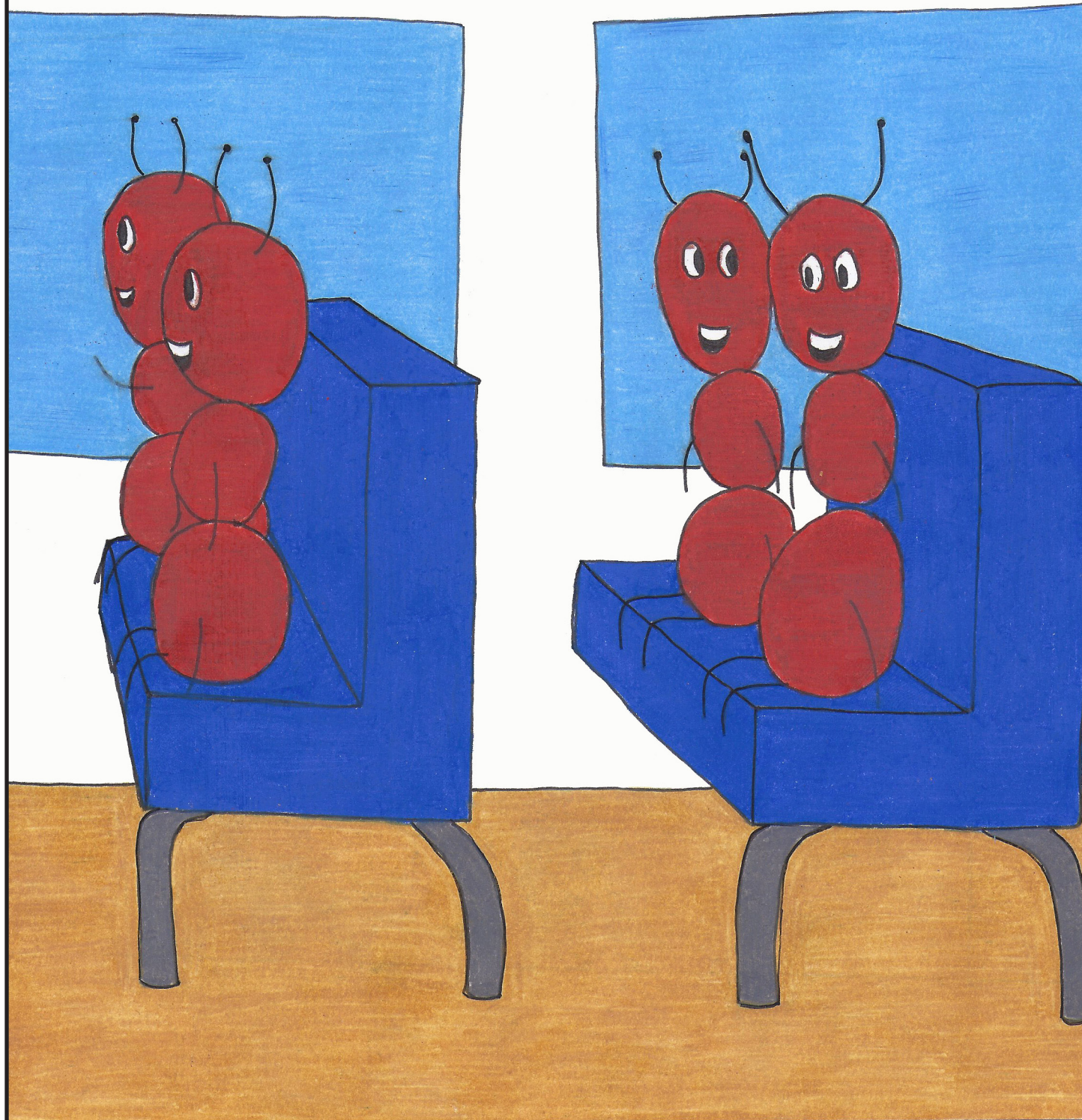


One warm spring day, Miss Goodberry, Katie's teacher, made an announcement to the class. "Okay class, we will be traveling up to the Lower mountain to hike along the Footstep Canyon Trail."



Later that day, the ant class went outside to board the picnic-moblie. While the class was on the picnic-moblie they discussed all the things they were going to see on the hike.

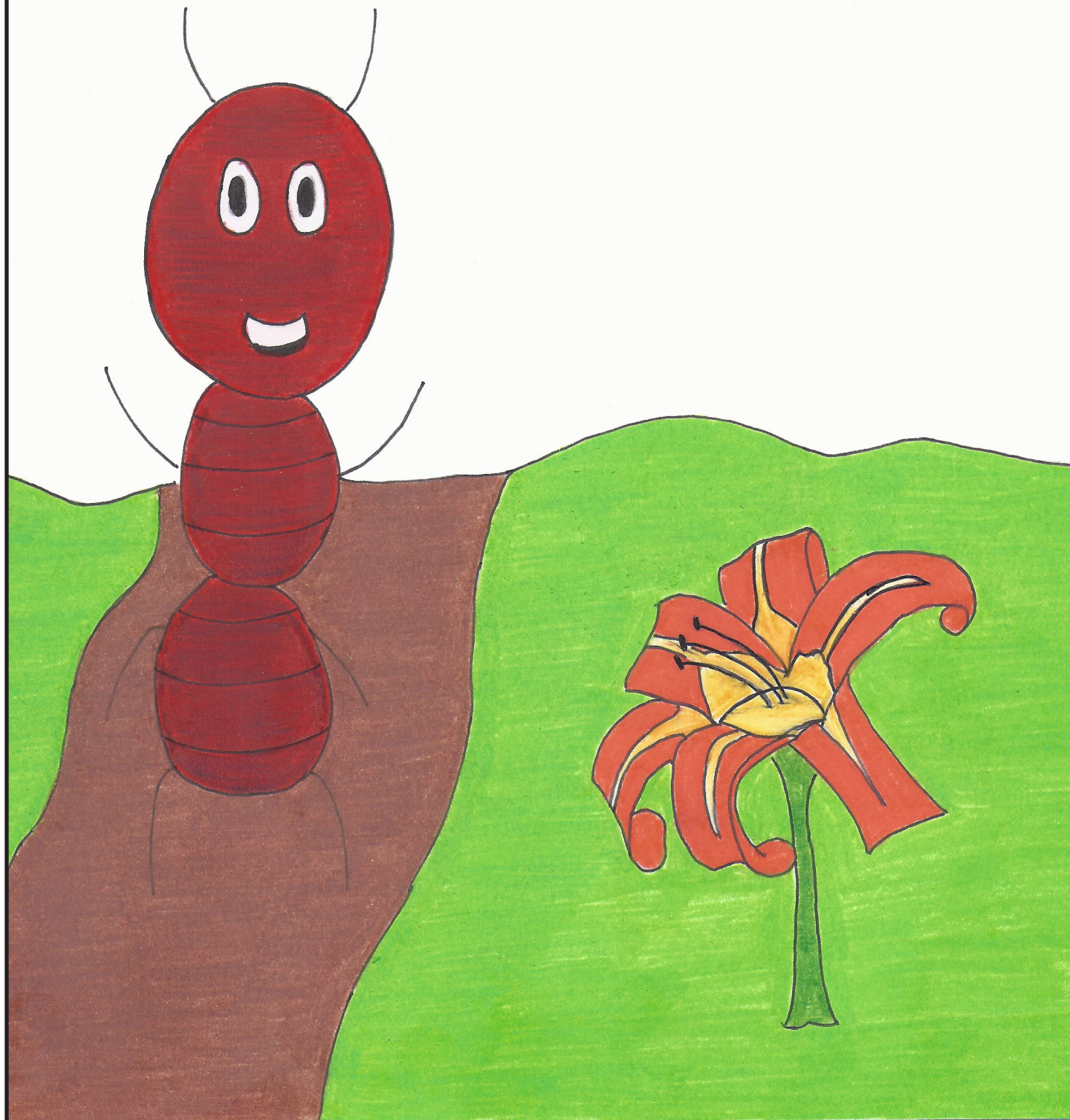
"I hope we will see some flowers!" a small ant named Delilah said. "I want to see ferns!" said another. The young ants talked excitedly about the hike for the rest of the ride.



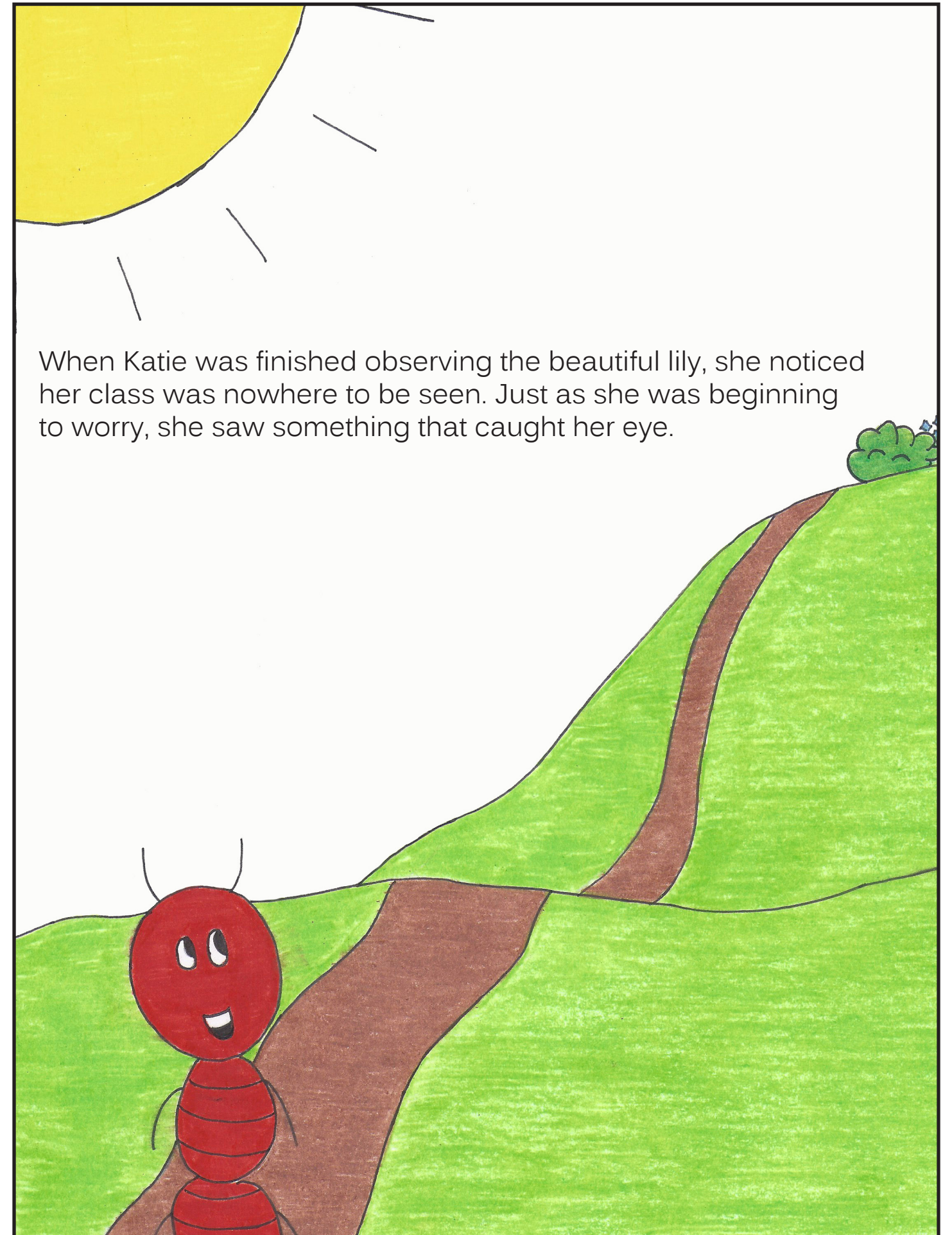
Once they arrived at the foot of the trail, Miss Goodberry said to the students, "All of you need to walk in a single-file line during the hike." And of course, being good ants, they all lined up in the straightest line anyone had ever seen.



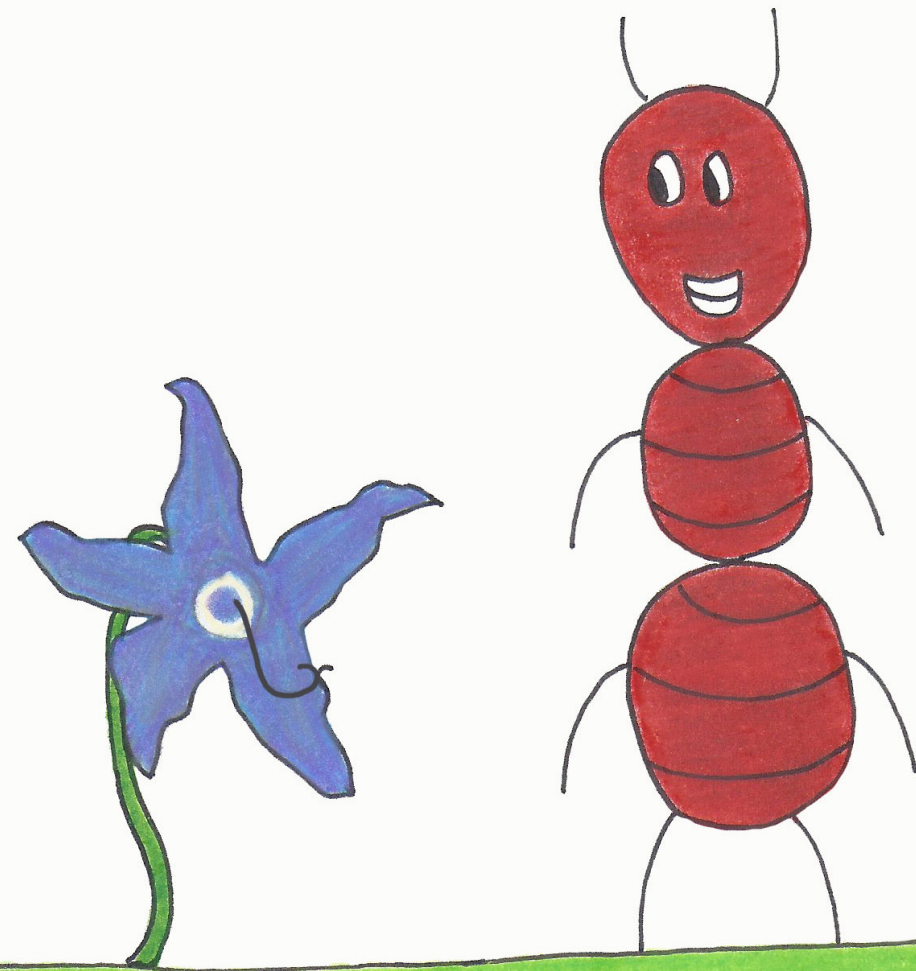
A few minutes up the trail, Katie saw a bright orange flower. She walked closer to the mesmerizing plant. "Oh my crumbs! Is that a Hemerocallis Fulva?" Katie couldn't believe her eyes! She'd never seen one in person before. She had only seen them in her science books.



When Katie was finished observing the beautiful lily, she noticed her class was nowhere to be seen. Just as she was beginning to worry, she saw something that caught her eye.



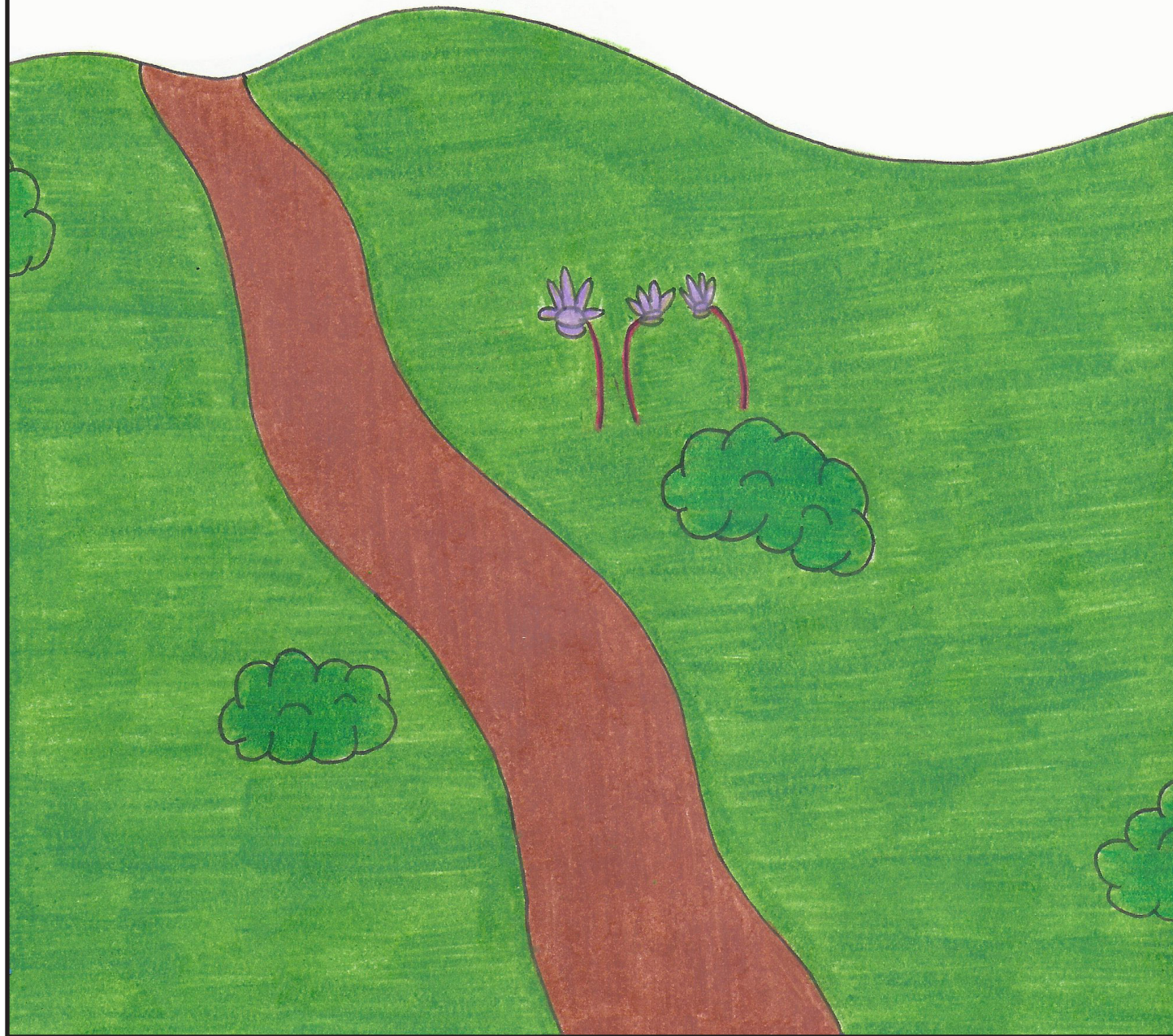
Katie ran quickly to the bushes to find a flower she had only dreamed of seeing. A *Campanulastrum Americanum*. She touched the soft petals. Looking at this American Bellflower made her feel ecstatic.



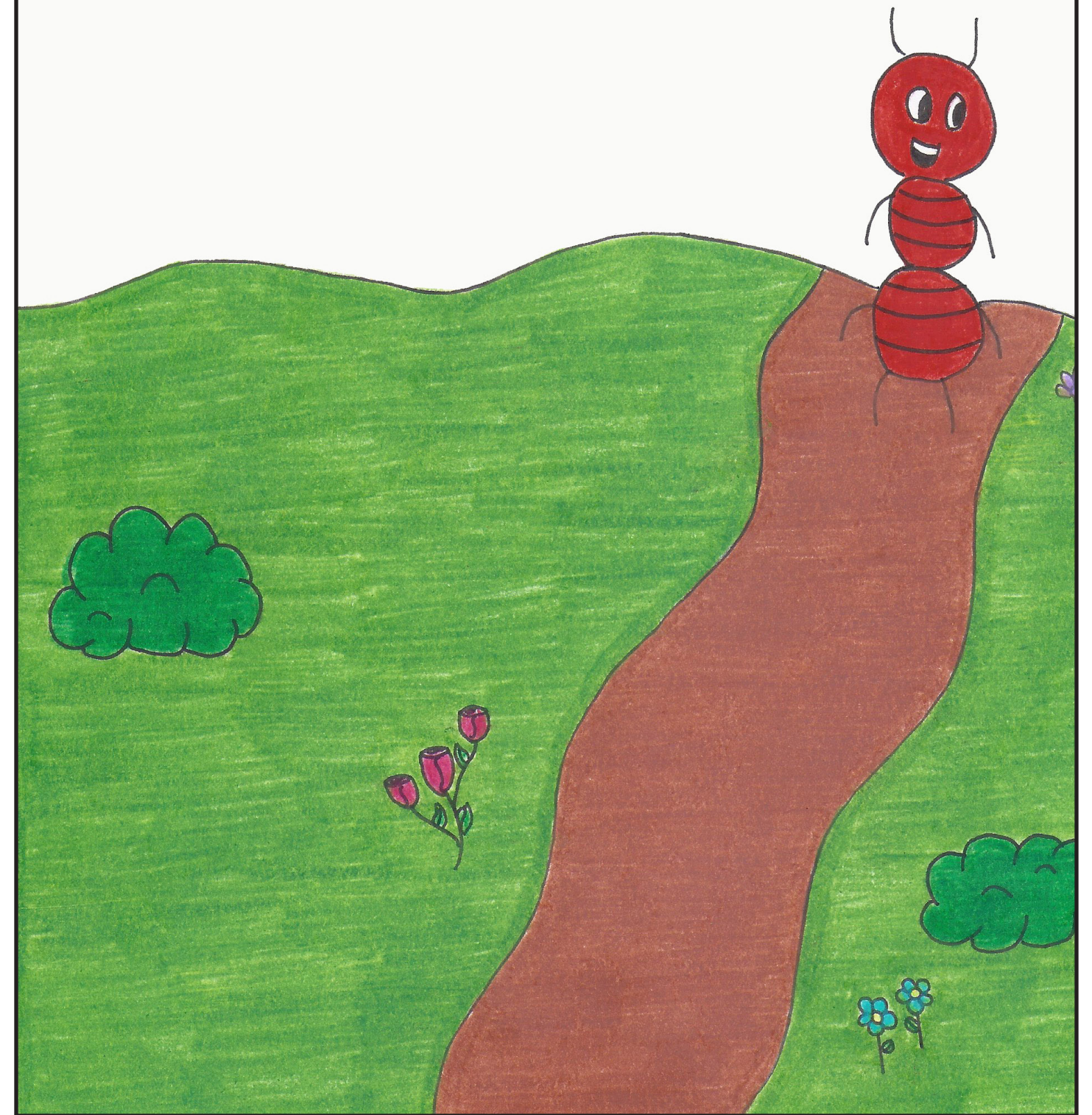
Katie wanted to see more.



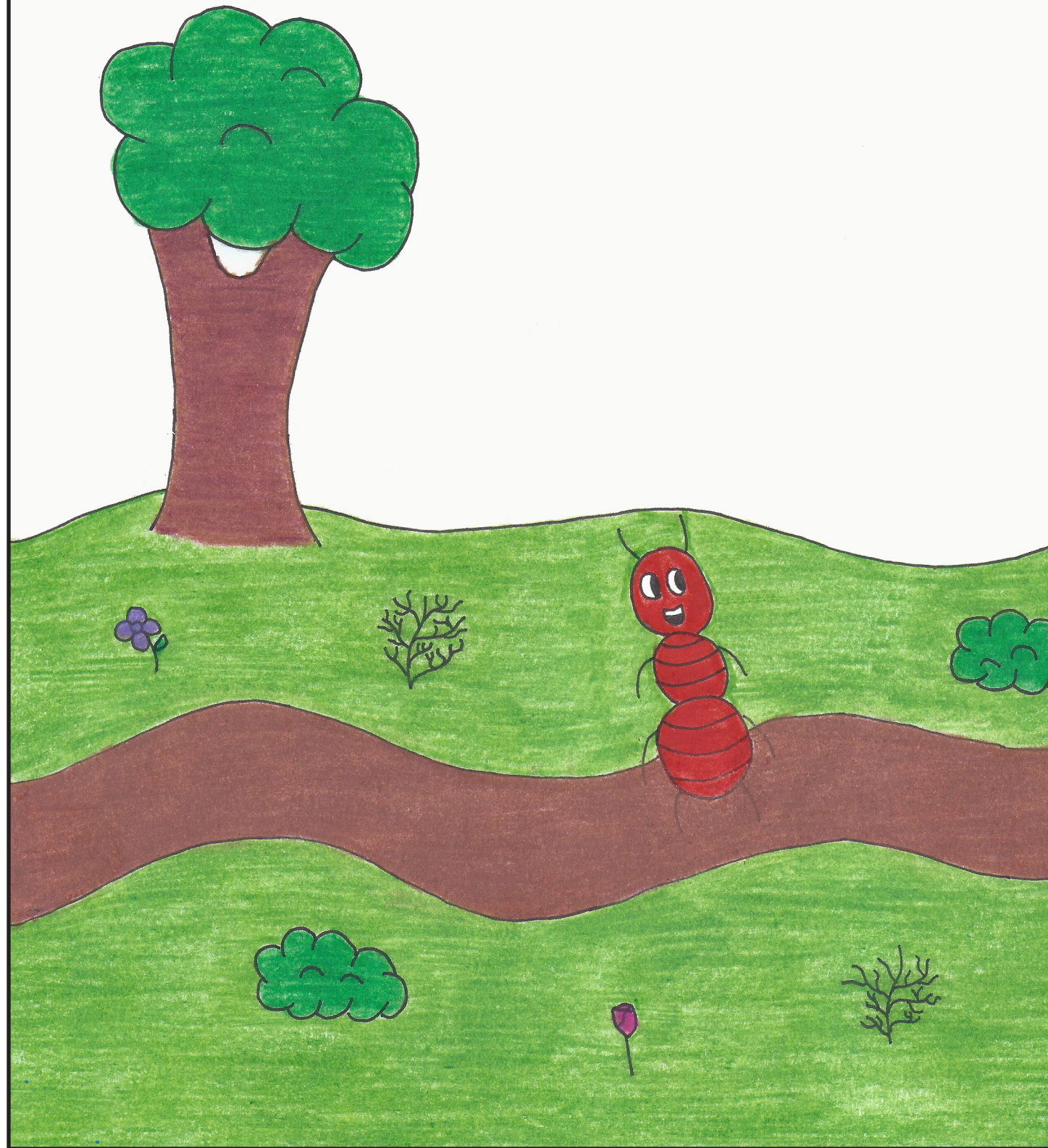
She ran up around the bend and found an exotic purple Calypso Bulbosa.



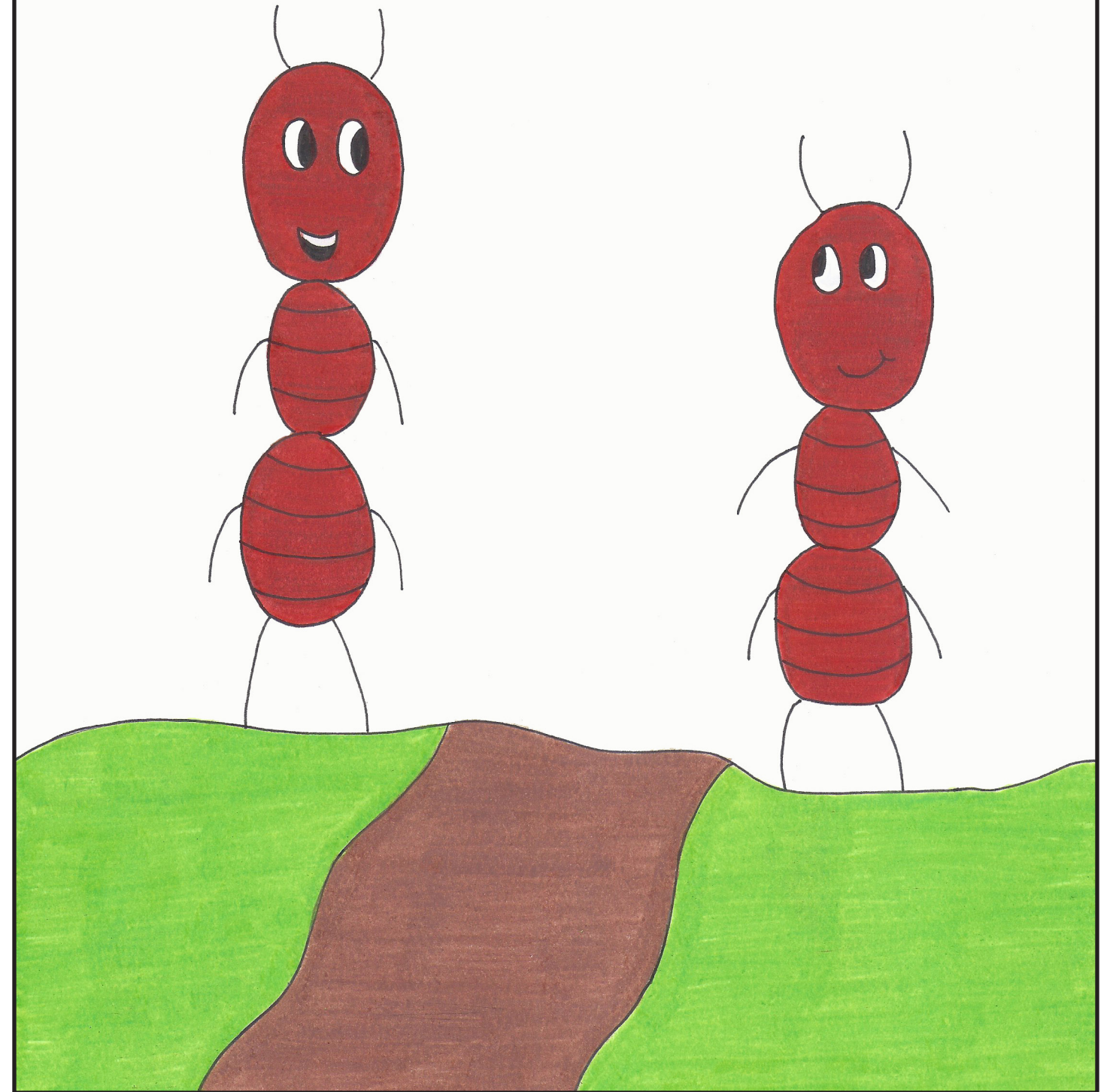
She felt a rush going through her tiny ant body as she examined the Calypso Orchid. She loved Botany, Katie could never get enough of it.



After finding a few more jaw-dropping flowers, Katie's class found her.



"Oh goodness, we found you!" Miss Goodberry said. "Now please go back to the picnic-mobile with the rest of the class like a good ant should."



Katie went to bed that night determined to go back someday and discover other wonderful flowers.

