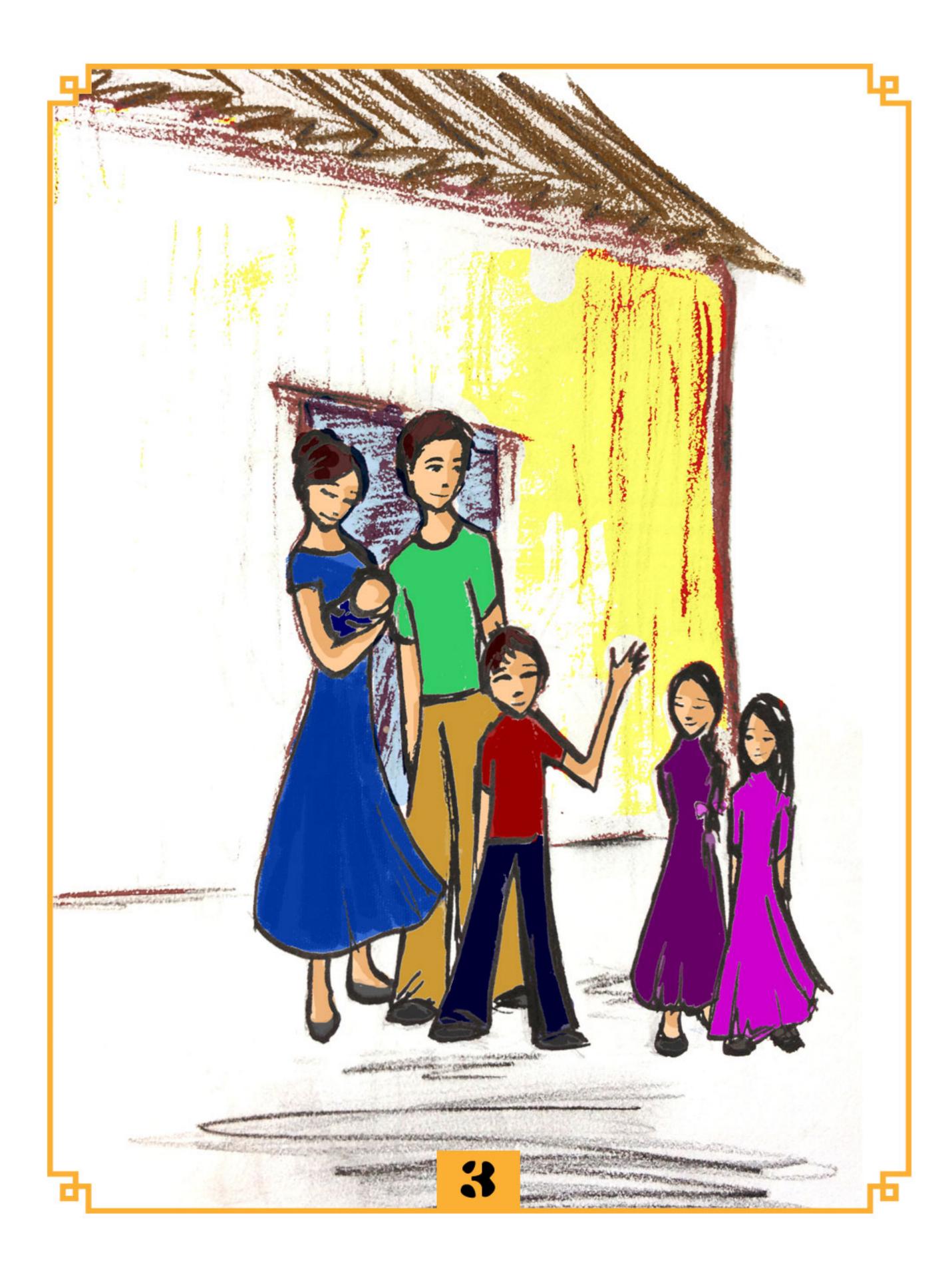


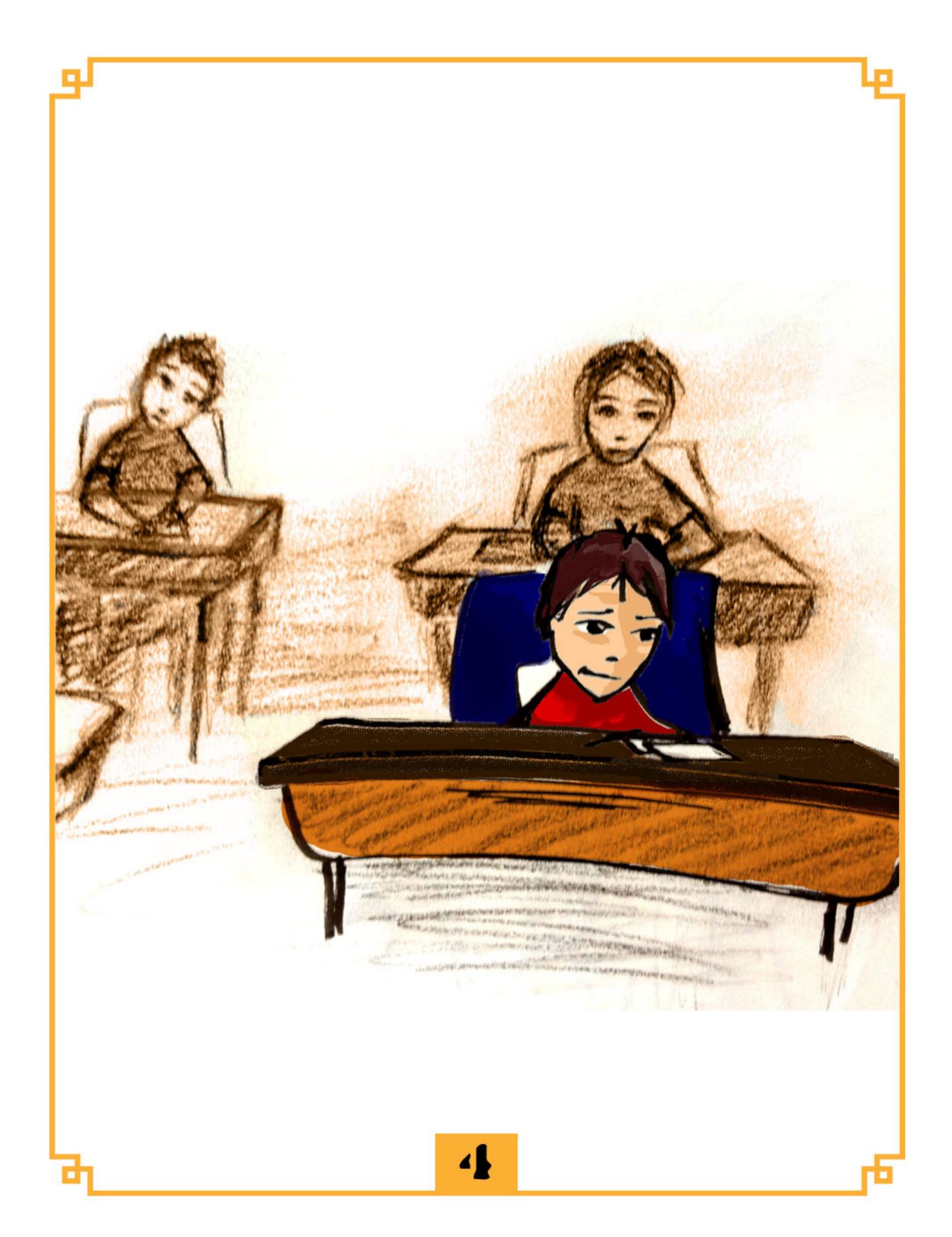
Luis's Christmas Chicks



Hi, my name is Luis. I live with my mother and father, big sisters and baby brother in a small village in southern Honduras.

My family lives in a house with two rooms and a kitchen. My favorite foods are bananas and peas, but we mostly just eat rice and beans.



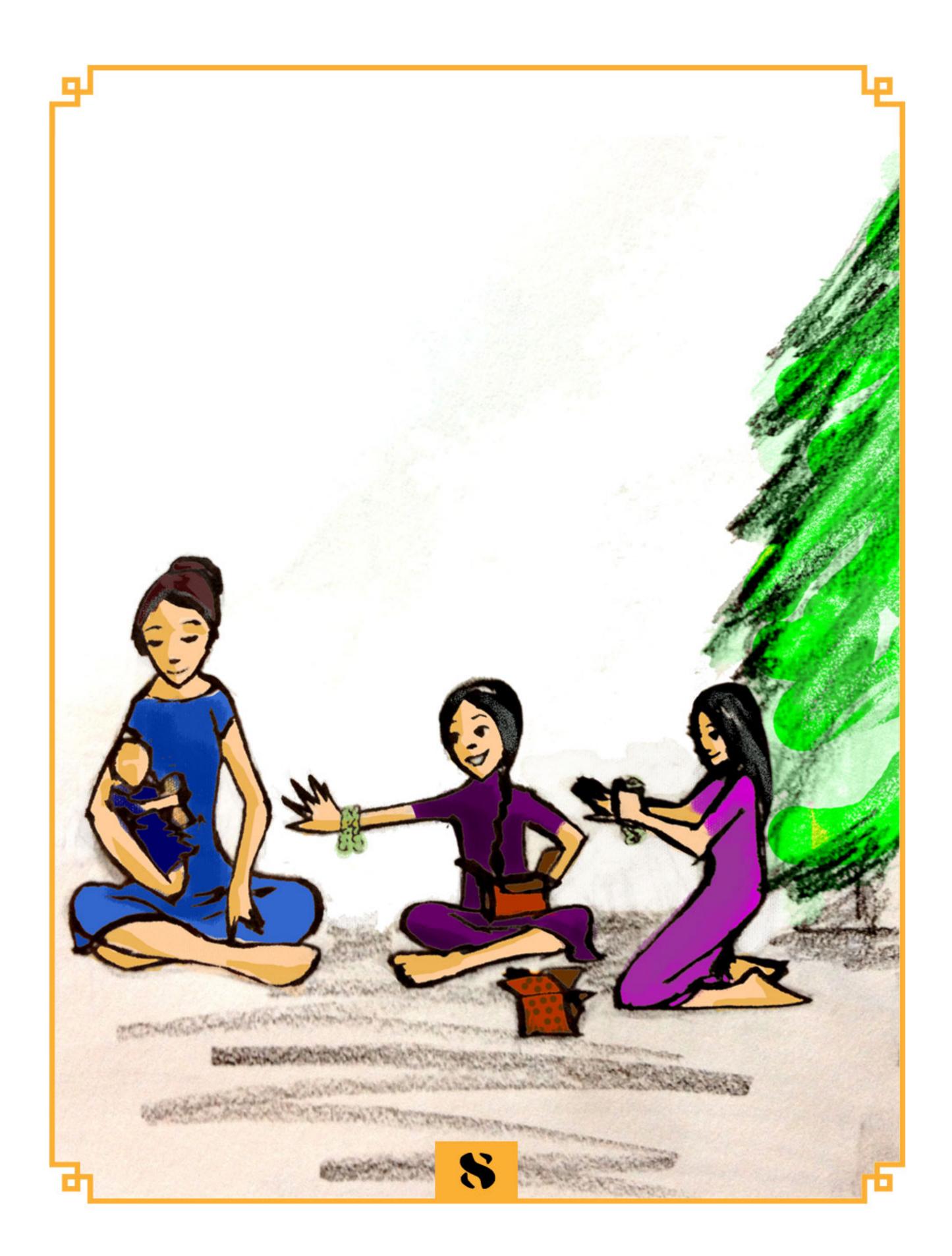


I go to school, but I have a hard time listening to my teacher because my stomach is hungry a lot. My sisters don't get to go to school, and I feel sad for them.

Christmas is coming soon, and I am so excited. I made bracelets from seeds for my sisters and a rattle for my baby brother. I can't wait to give my presents to my family.

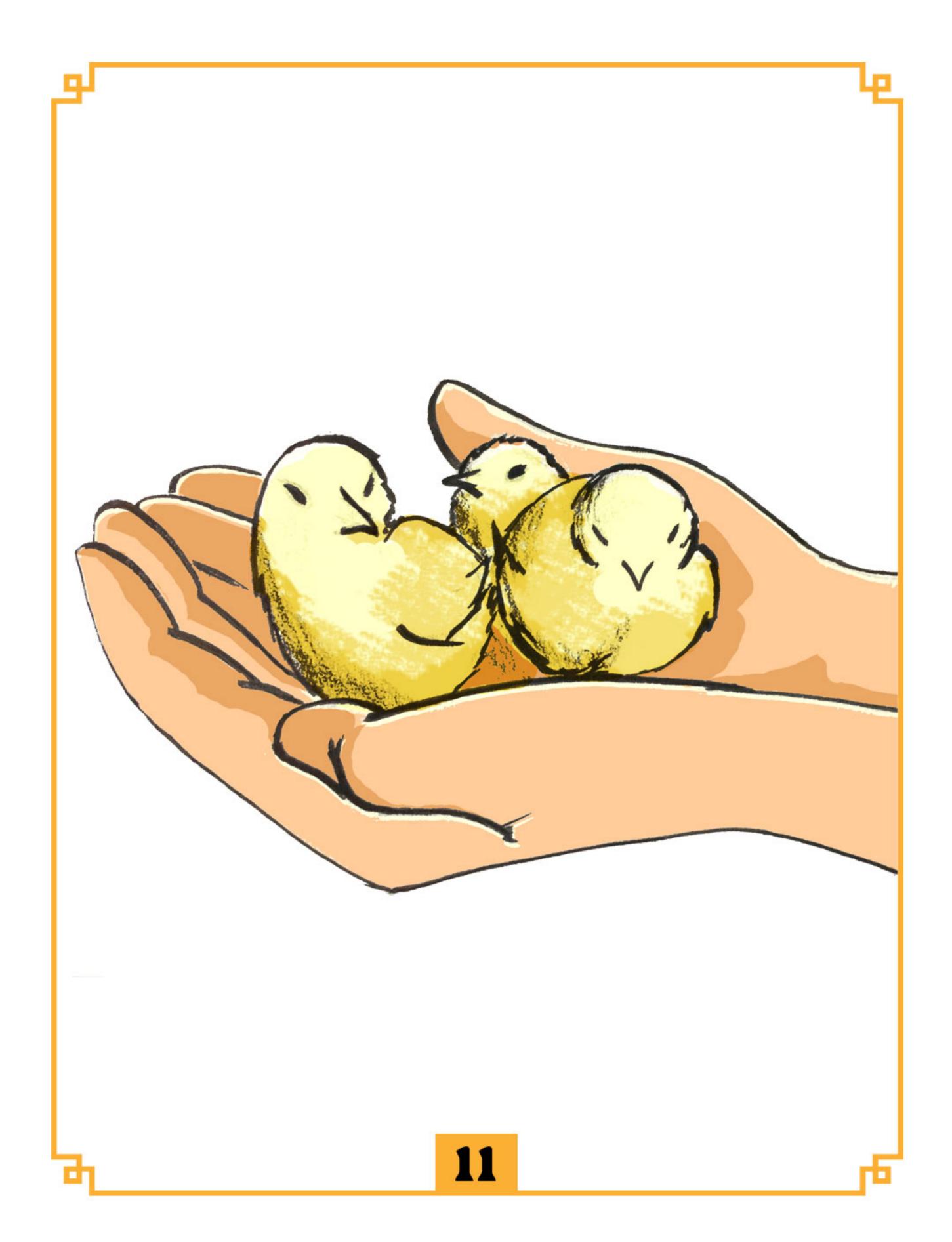
Mother is excited about Christmas this year, too. For months she and the other mothers in the village have been going to meetings and classes to learn how to take care of animals. Mother is very proud of the small house she has built for the chickens, but I don't see the chickens anywhere.

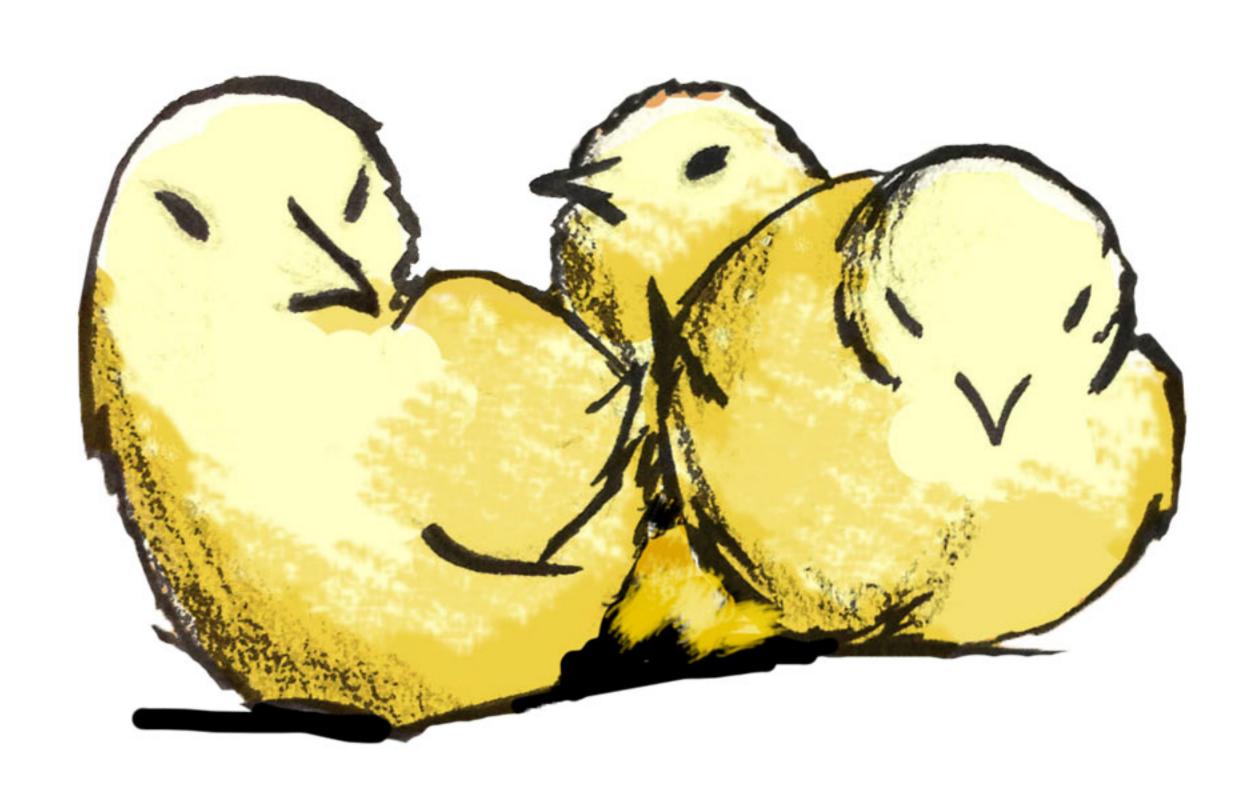




Happy Christmas, everyone!
My sisters love their
bracelets, and I think
my baby brother likes his
rattle. After lunch we are
going to a special ceremony,
and Mother says there will
be a big surprise for us all.
I can't wait!

Mother and Father say the ceremony is called Passing on the Gift. There are families in our village who have baby chicks to give us. When the chicks grow up, they will lay eggs for us to eat and sell. My sisters will go to school some day soon, and my baby brother and I will grow up healthy and strong. This is the best Christmas ever!





Now I can't wait for next Christmas, when my family can give baby chicks to another family in the village. Mother says the best part about these gifts is that the giving never ends!



The mission of Heifer International is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. Since 1944 Heifer has assisted more than 18.5 million smallholder farmer families move toward greater self-reliance through livestock, training and Passing on the Gift.®

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This Christmas day, you can help another family like Luis's by giving the gift of an animal.

