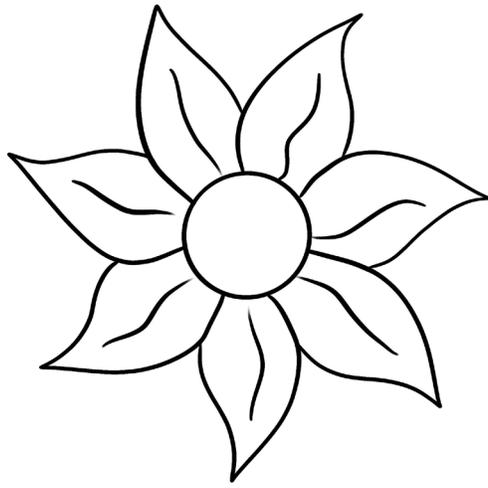


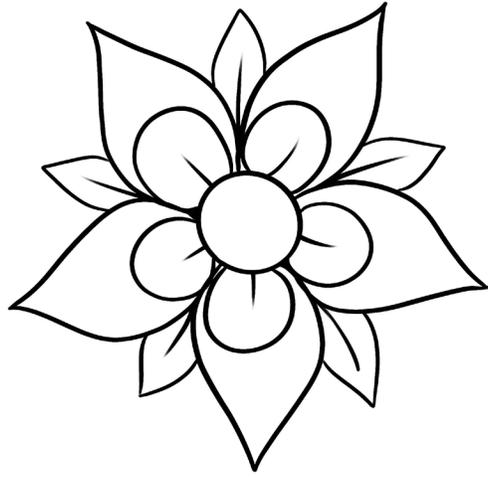
Camila's First Day

**THE BLACKWELL SCHOOL
COLORING BOOK**

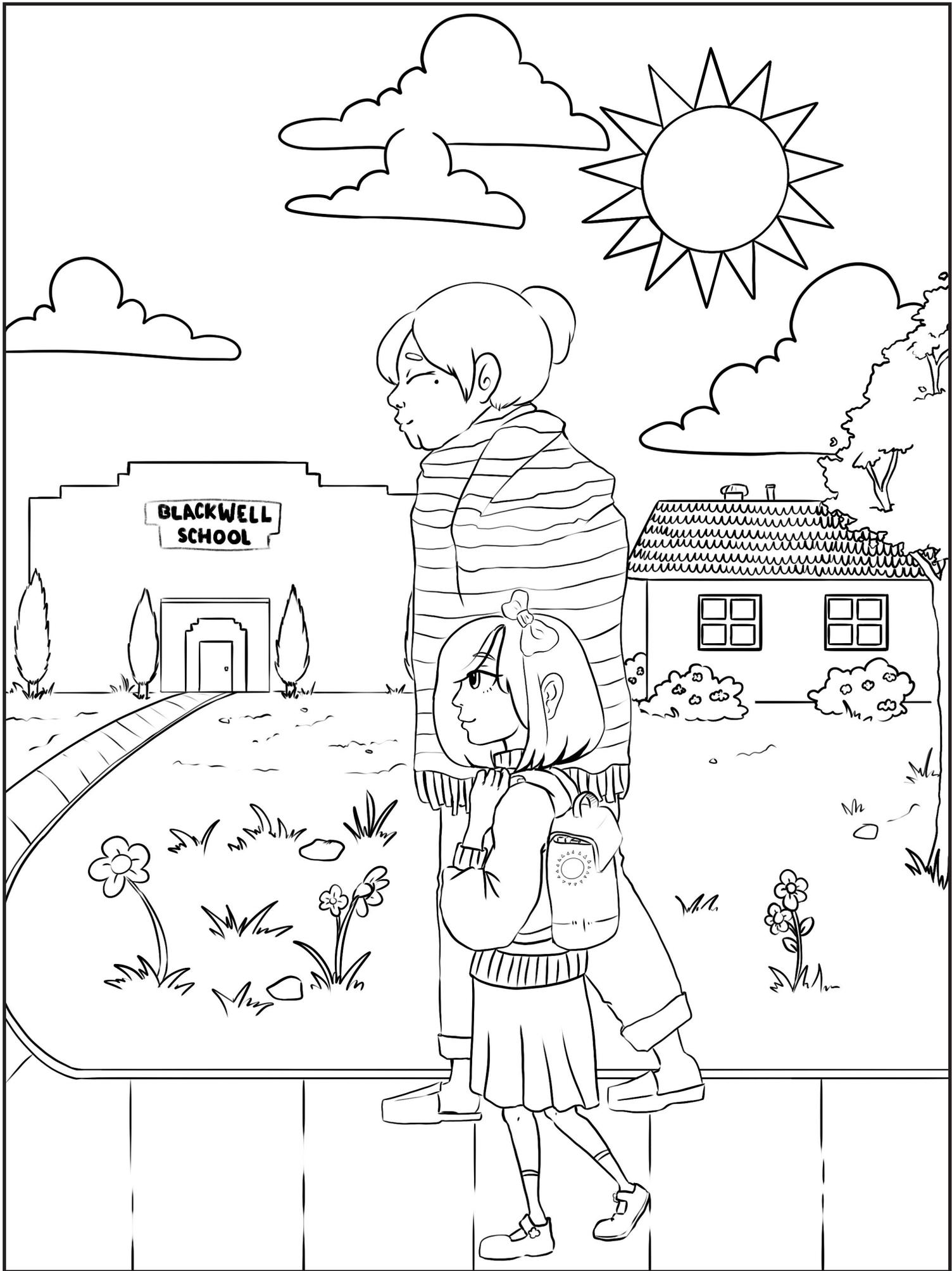


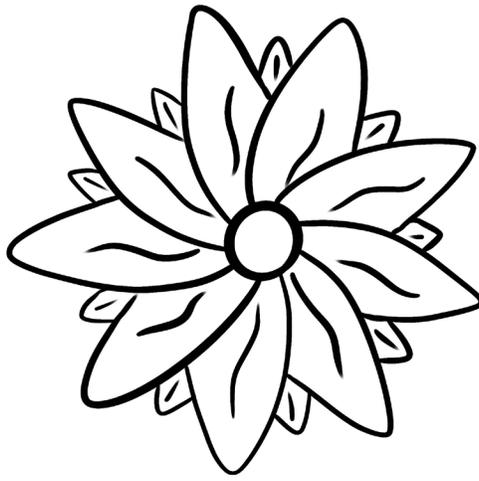
It was Camila's first day at the Blackwell School.





Camila's abuela (grandmother) walked with her to school.

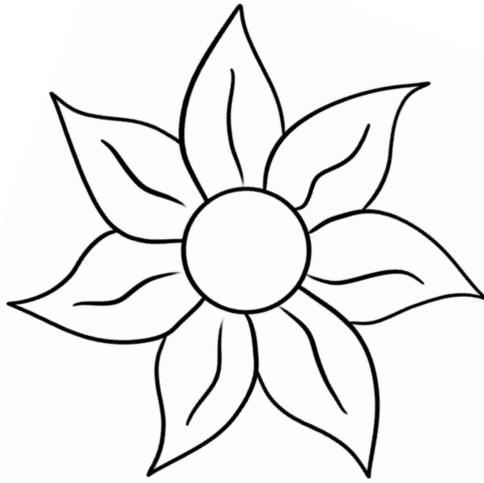




She saw all her friends on the playground.

*In those days, the Blackwell School was
for Mexican American children only.*





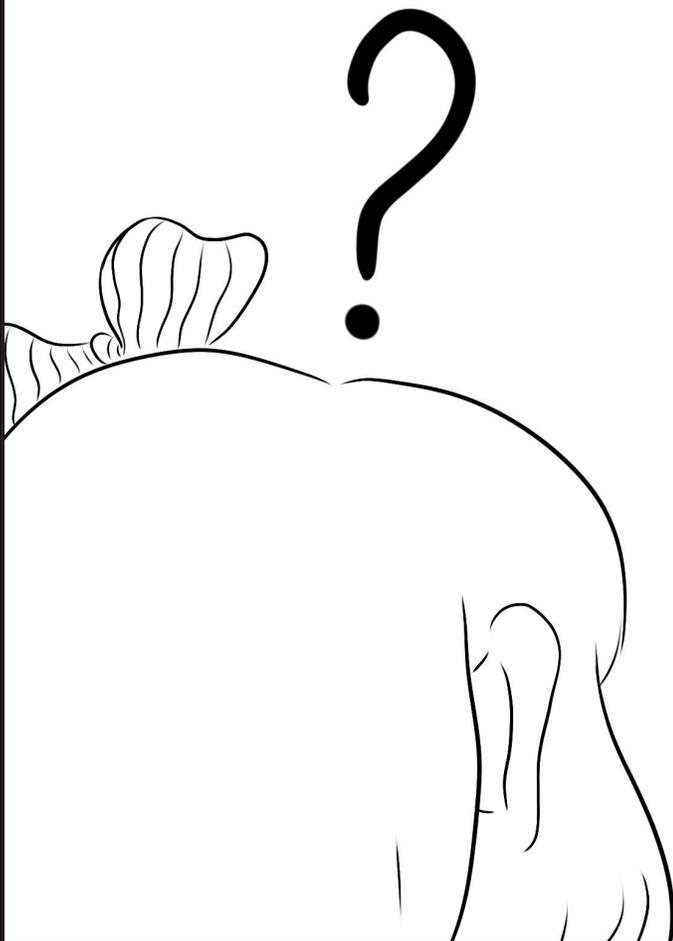
On this first day, the teacher told Camila she could not speak Spanish in school, only English.

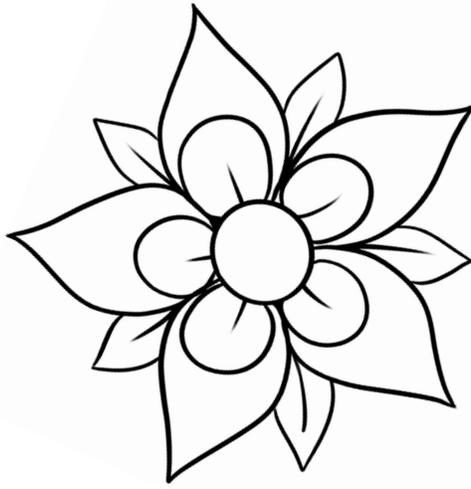
The teacher made the children write, I will not speak Spanish on school grounds on their paper.

NO SPANISH!

On a piece of paper write these words:

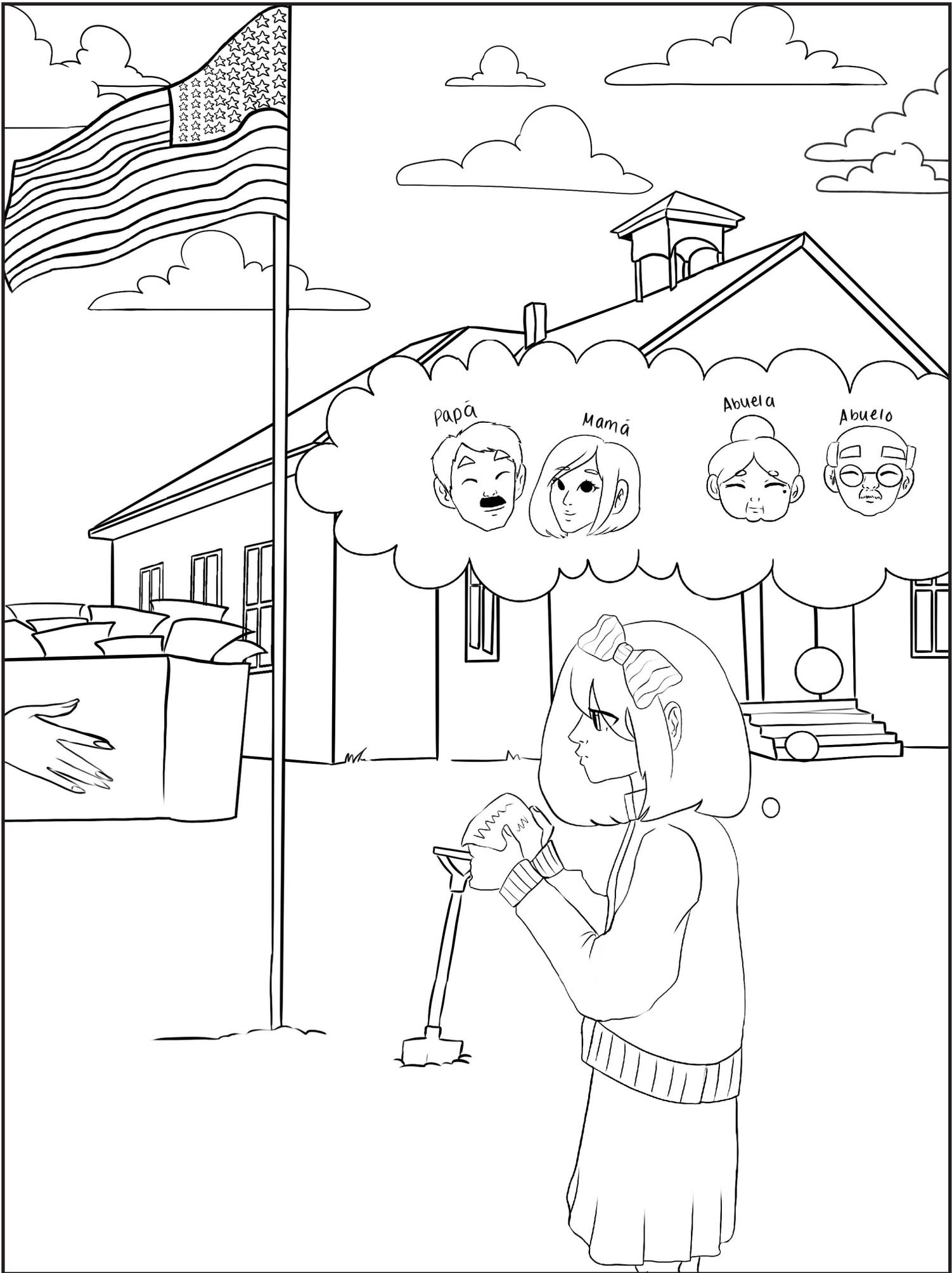
"I will not speak Spanish
on school grounds."





She made the children put the papers into a box and then she buried it next to the flagpole.

Camila was confused because everyone she knew spoke Spanish.

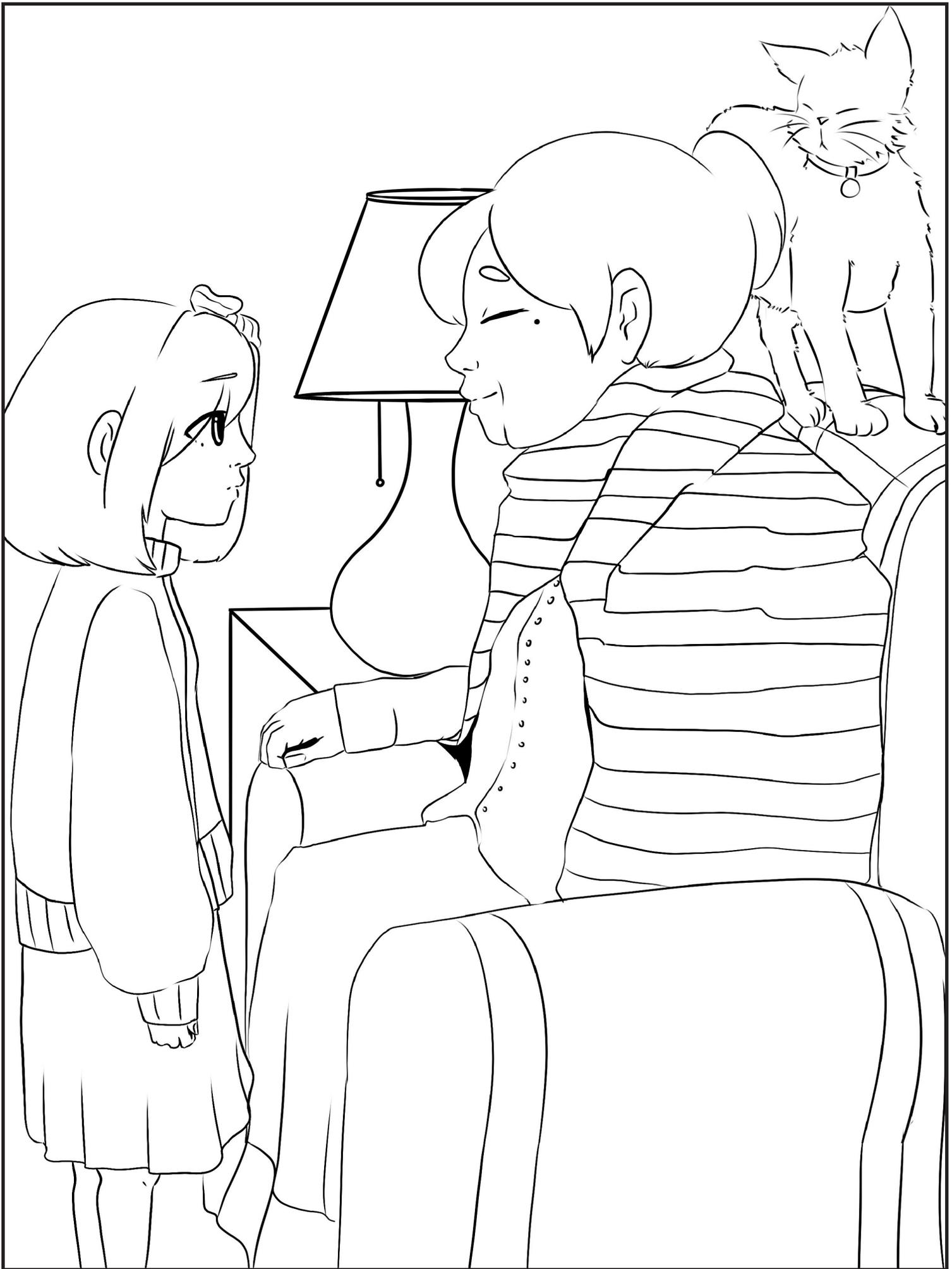


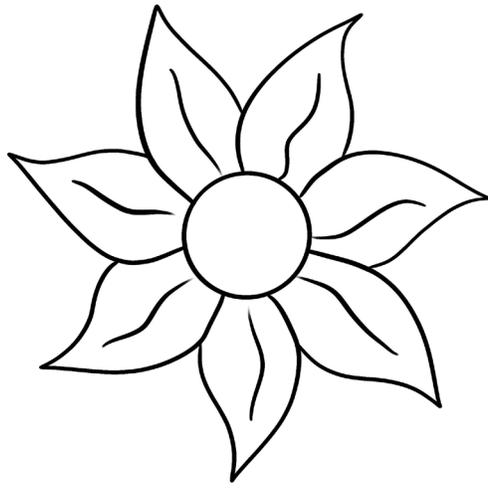


After school, Camila's abuela explained to her, "People are treated differently depending on the color of their skin."

"Even though you can't speak Spanish at school, Spanish is still a part of you, no matter what anyone else says."

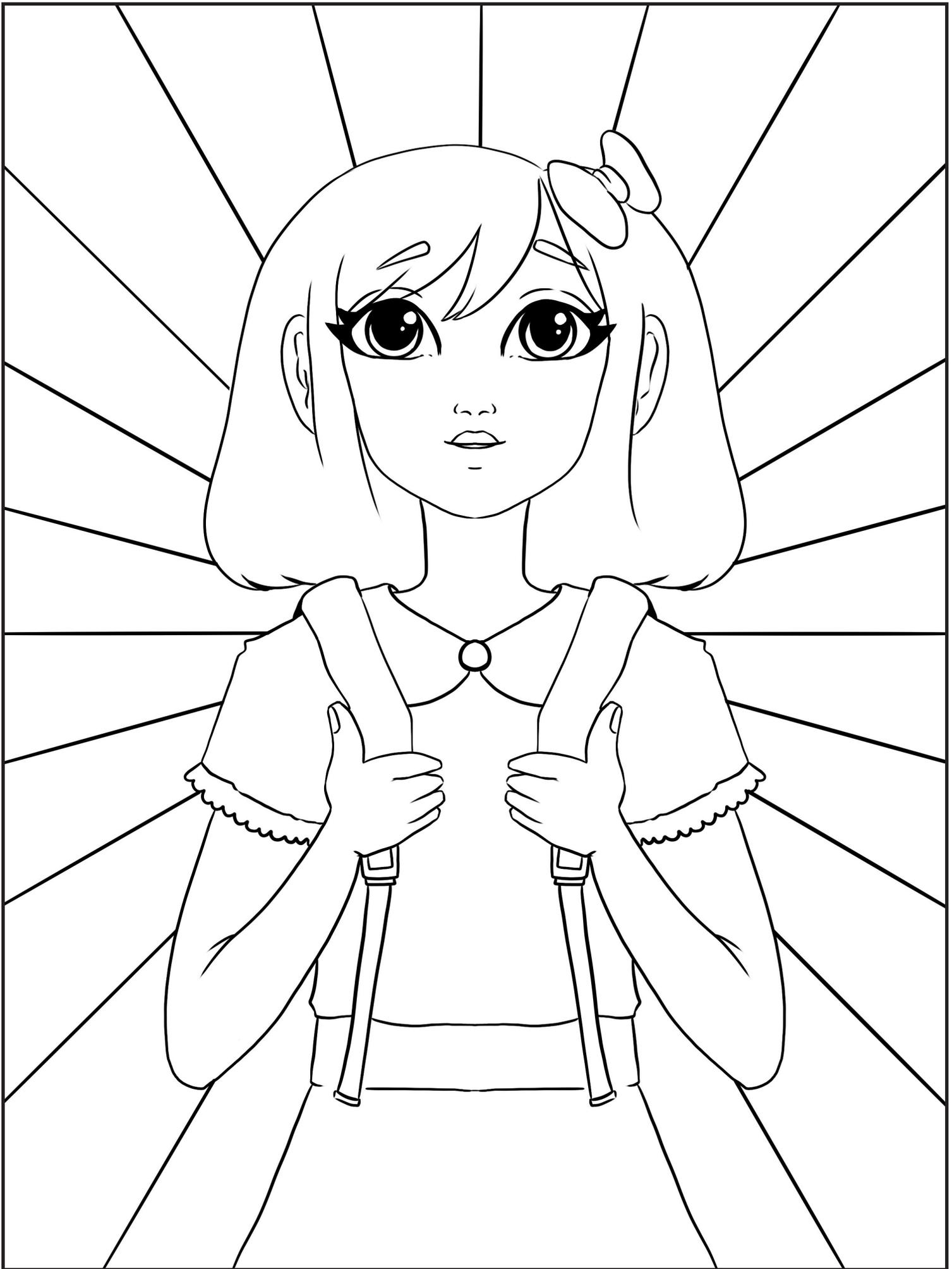
"Be true to yourself and don't lose sight of where you come from."

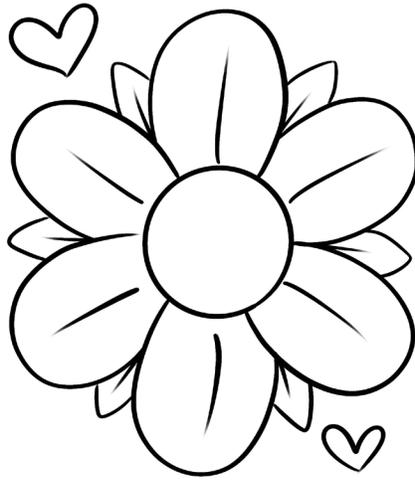




The next day Camila went back to school with her abuela's words still fresh in her mind.

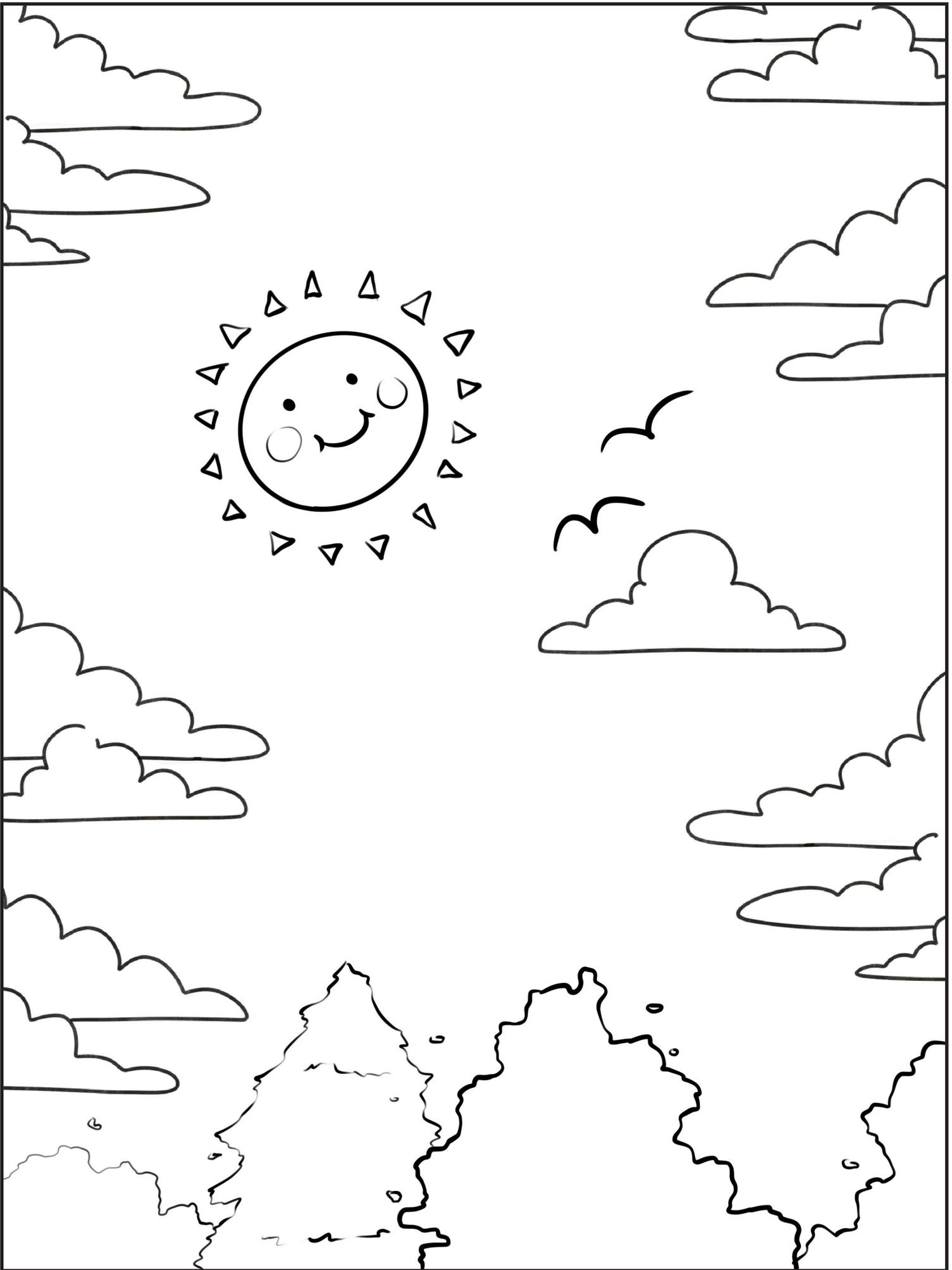
She did not let the rule of not speaking Spanish break her spirit.





Camila knew in her heart - no one could take something away that would always be part of her.

The end.





Did you know?

Did you know that Marfa used to have a separate elementary and middle school for children of Mexican descent? It was called the Blackwell School, and generations of Marfa's Latinx children went to that school. Finally in 1965, the Blackwell School closed and all the children started going to one school, an integrated school.

In 2006, a group of former Blackwell School students got together and asked the Marfa School to let them turn the remaining buildings of the Blackwell School into a museum. They wanted to remember the good times and acknowledge the bad times. And they wanted their children to learn about this important piece of Marfa history.

What do you think about the Blackwell School?

Why do you think it's important to remember the Blackwell School?

Was Camila's abuela right?

Camila's First Day

THE BLACKWELL SCHOOL COLORING BOOK

Illustrations by Aubrie Aguilar

Aubrie Aguilar was born in Alpine and has lived in Marfa all her life. She is a sophomore who aspires to become a successful artist after high school. Some of her own family members, such as her grandma and aunts, went to the Blackwell School when they were young. This is why she thinks it's very important to help create this coloring book.

Story by Febi Brimhall

Febi Brimhall was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada before moving to Marfa in the middle of her high school freshman year. During high school she participated in many extra curricular activities such as playwriting, sports, and art. Febi invested much of her time to learn about the Blackwell School in order to make her writing more meaningful. "It was my pleasure to write this story for young learners," said Febi.

Pilot Test Version, March 2021

