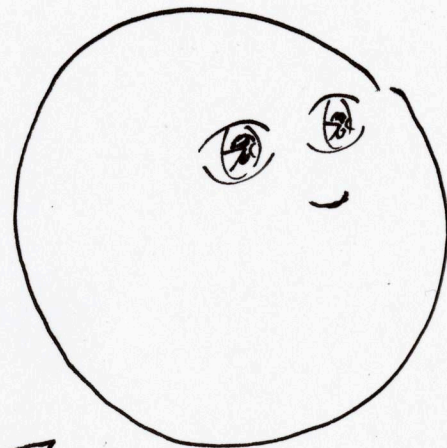


BILLY THE

VERY

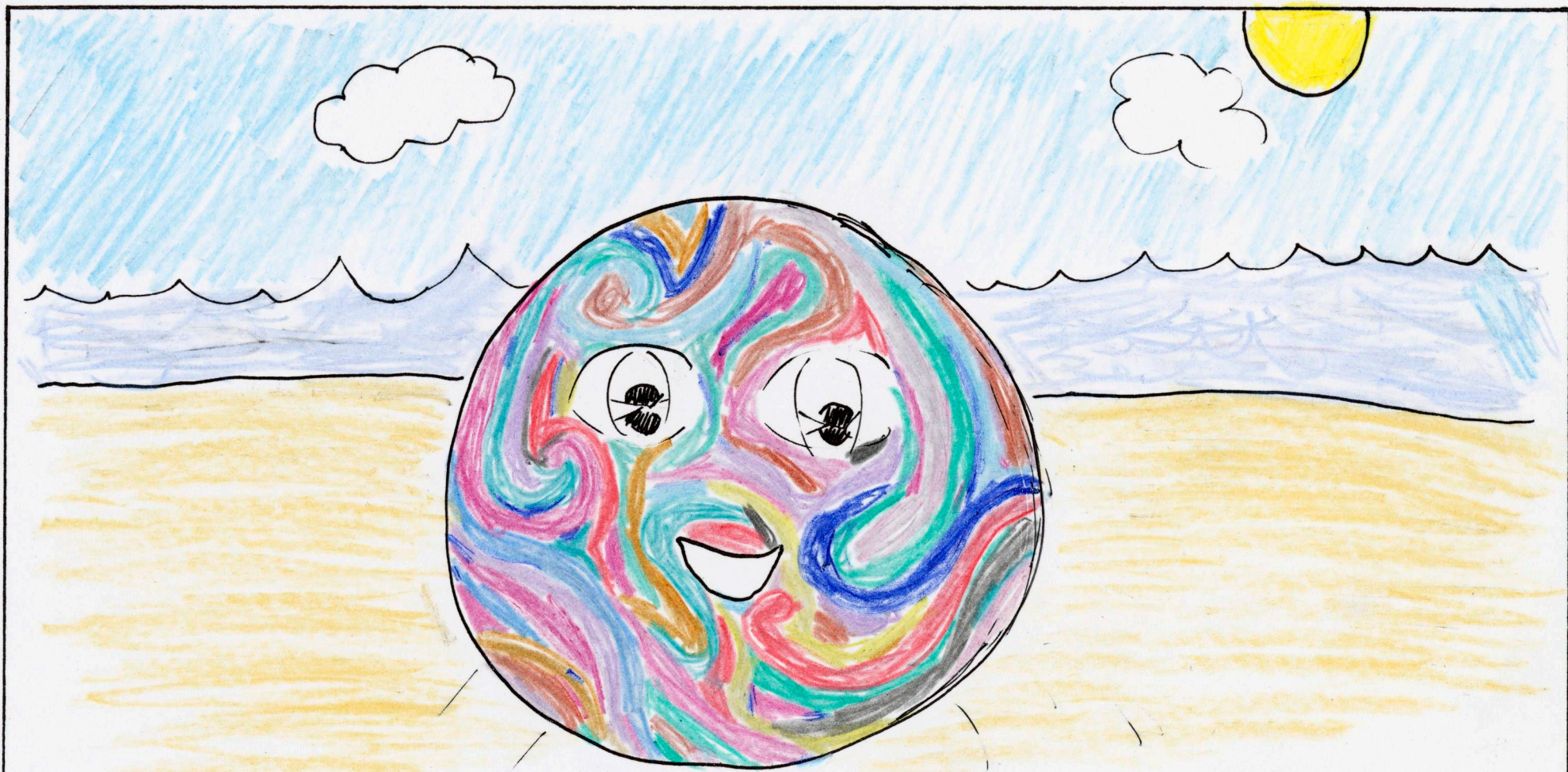
BOUNCY

BABY

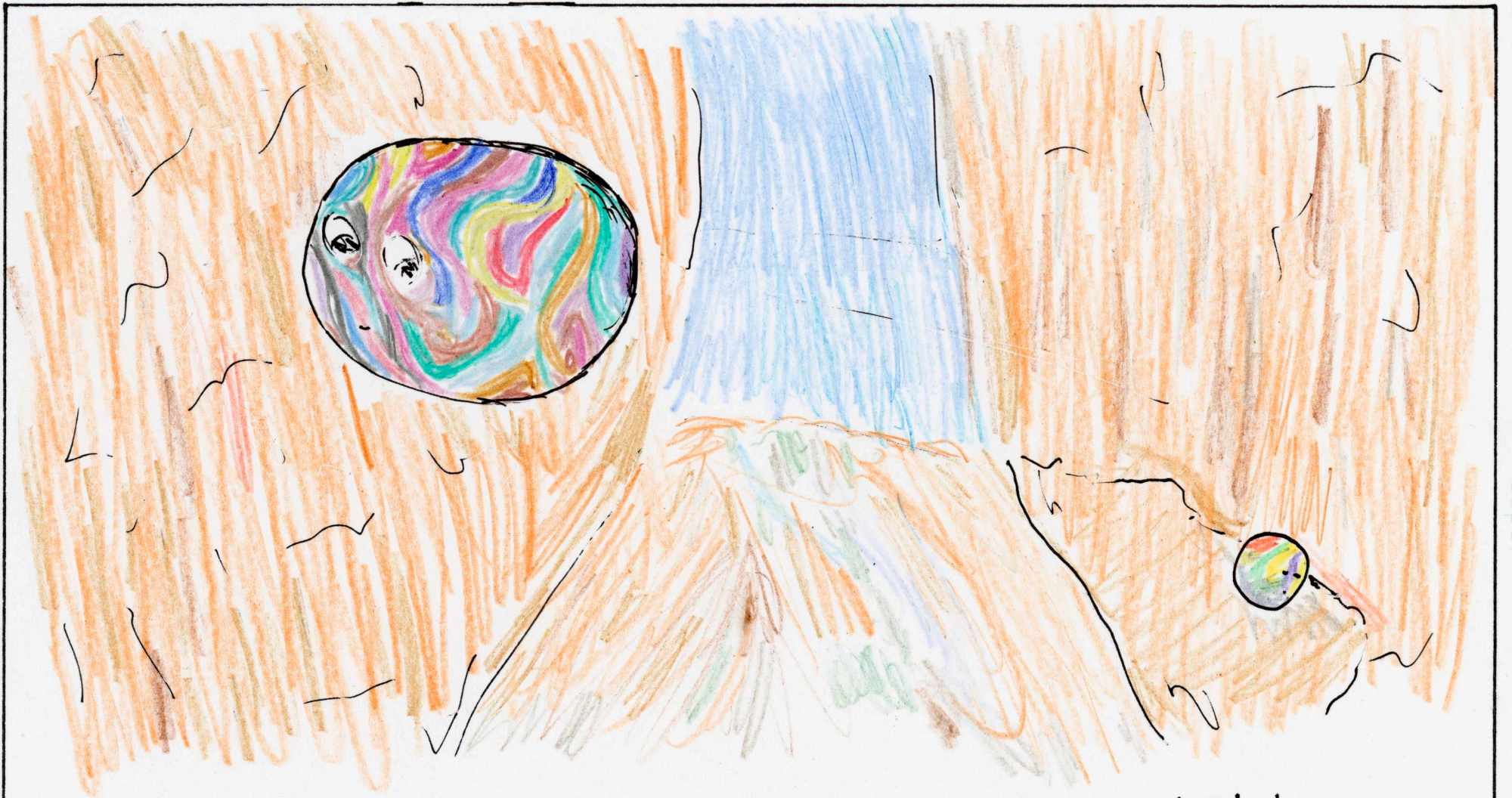




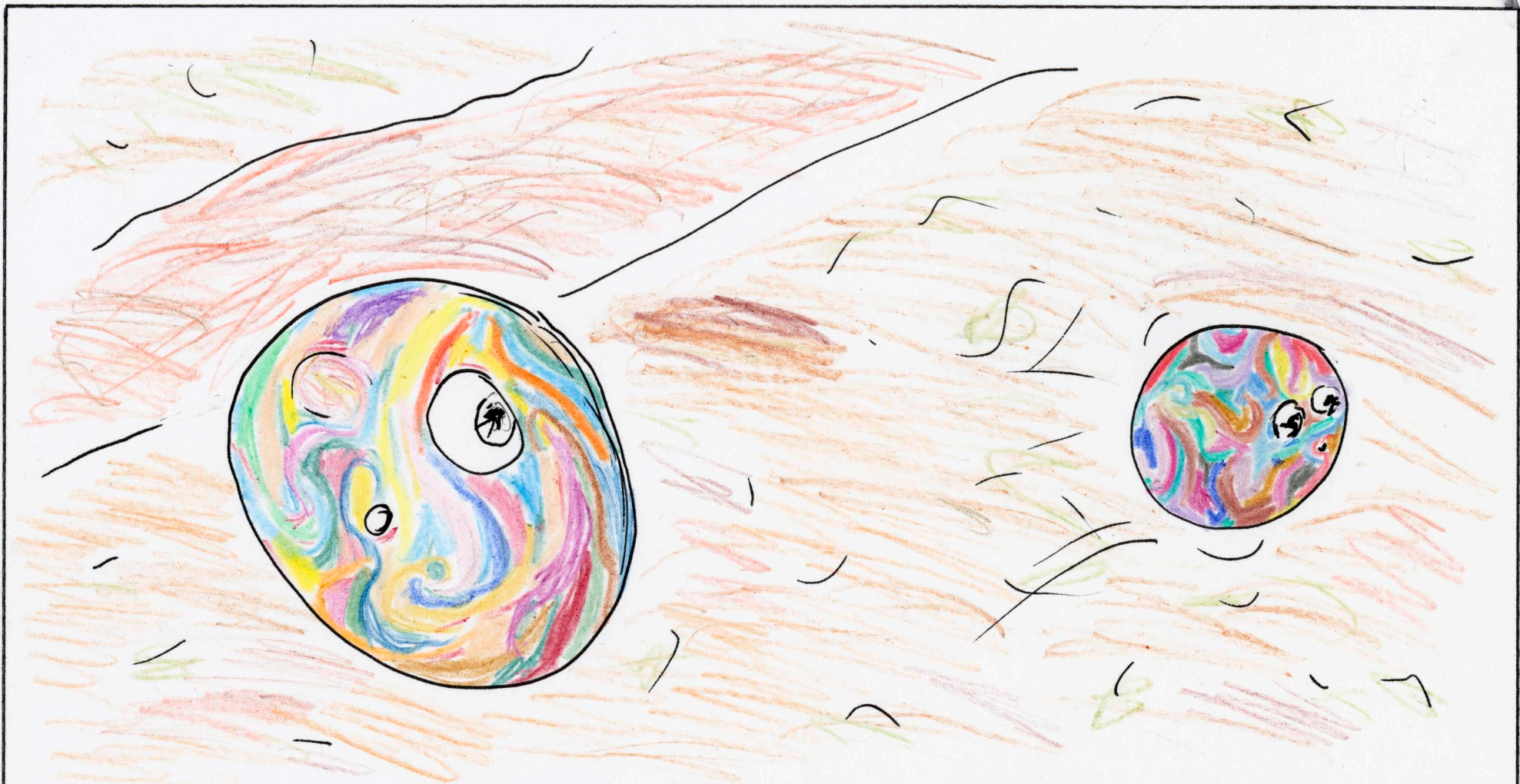
Billy was a baby who was made of rubber. He was swirly and bouncy and could bounce oh so very high.



He would bounce all over the planet Earth. He would bounce to hot springs, mountains, cliffs and beaches. Billy had a fun time bouncing, and hardly knew where to bounce next.



One day he was bouncing back and forth in a canyon. It was there that Billy met Sebastian.



Sebastian was taking a nap at the bottom of the canyon. He awoke with a start at the sound of an unfamiliar baby rolling nearby.



Hello, you must be Billy.

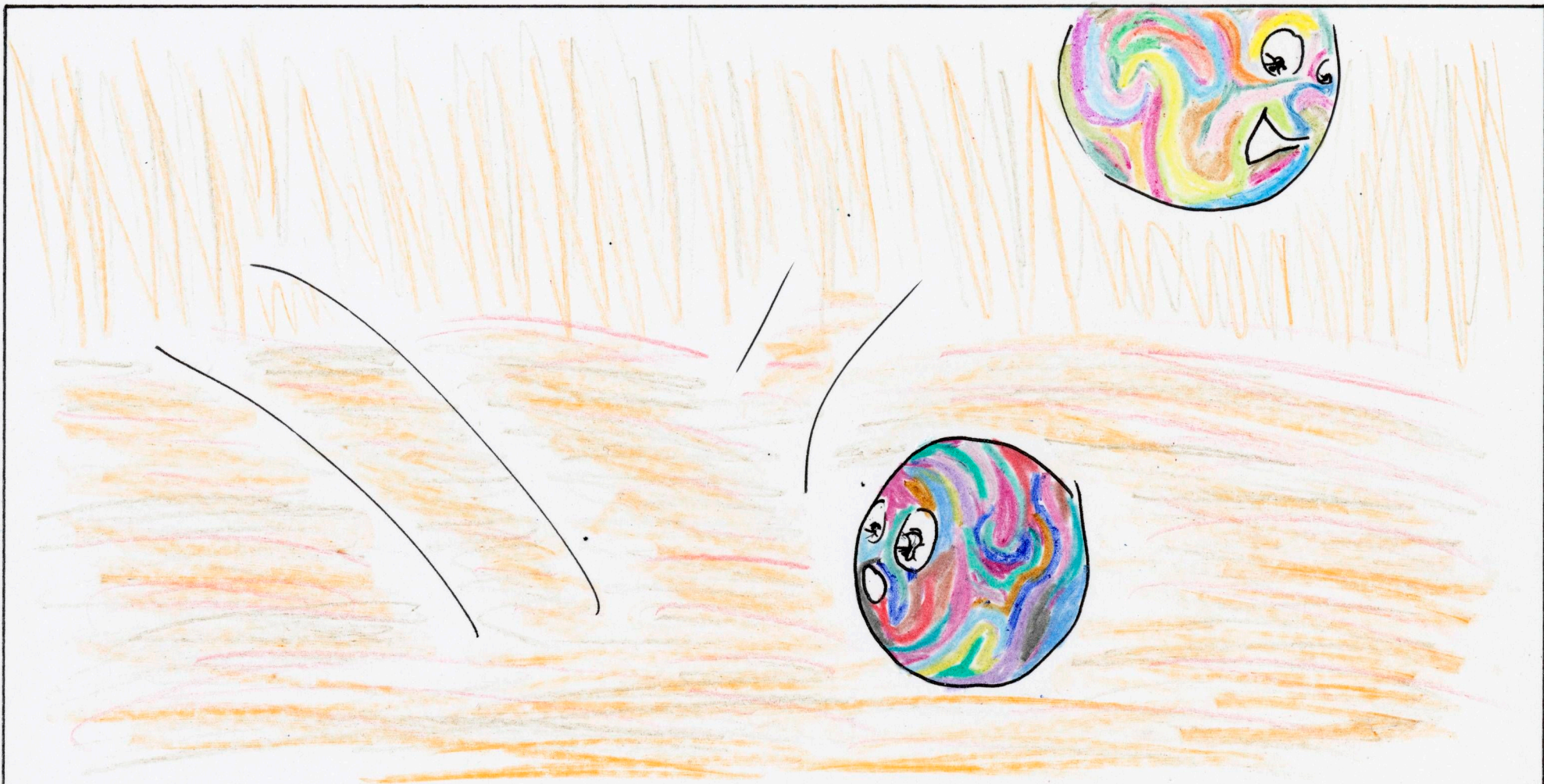


Yes, who must you be?



I am Sebastian, the Even Bouncier Baby.

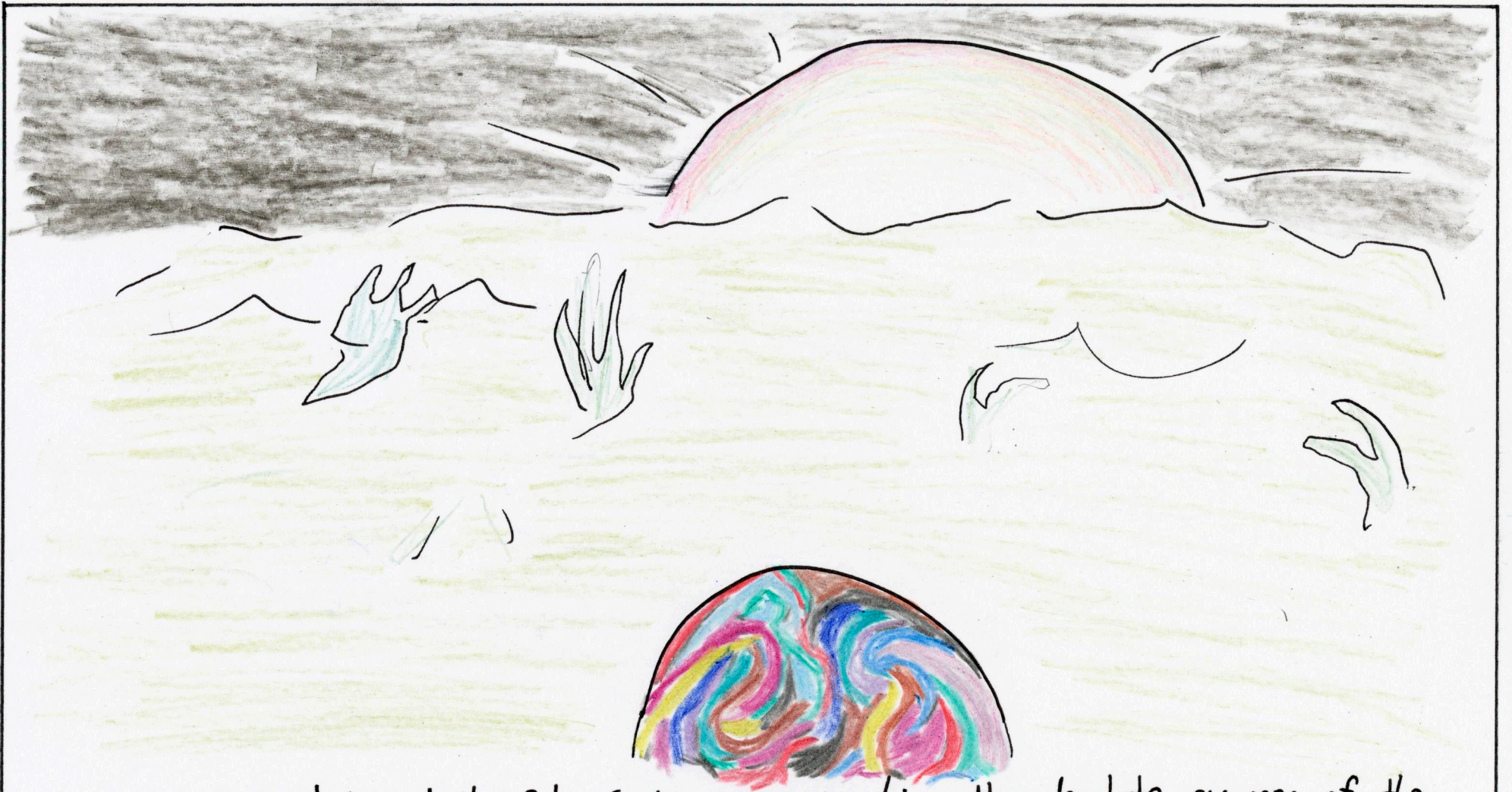
Pleased to meet you, said Billy the Very
Bouncy Baby.



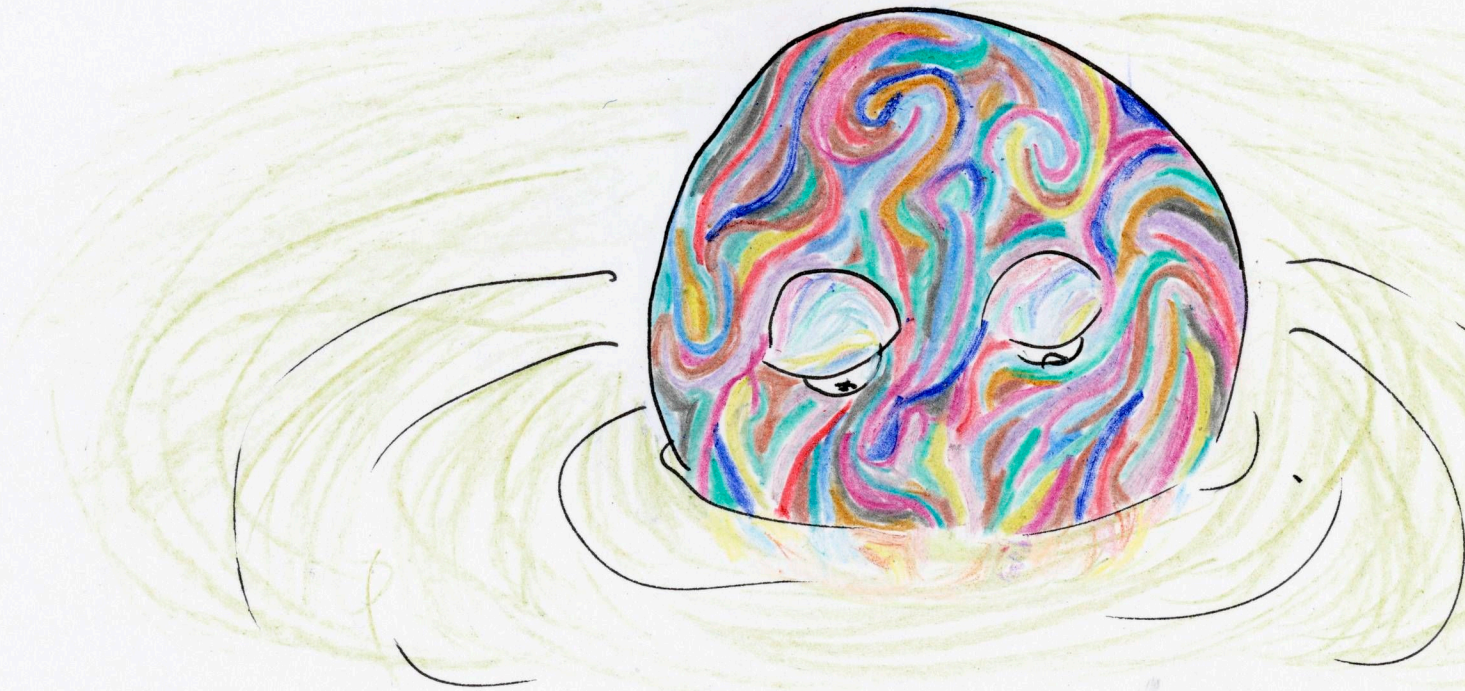
You know, you don't have to always bounce around Planet Earth. You can bounce across the Solar System — watch!



Billy and Sebastian bounced to the rings of Saturn, the pits of the moons of Jupiter, and the shaky, gassy center of Jupiter itself.



Then Billy ventured beyond the Solar System, even reaching the desolate swamps of the single planet rotating around Proximus, which was a star.



But Billy felt lonely, and homesick. What if he never saw his family again? Would they remember him?



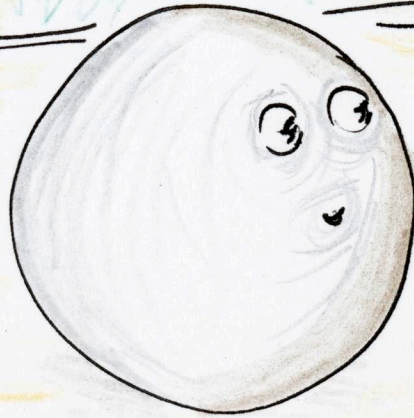
After fixing himself an instant breakfast of bouncy juice and bouncy scrambles, Billy propelled himself back into the orbit of the Sun and went back to Planet Earth.



He went back to his old neighborhood and began bouncing up and down along the sidewalk.

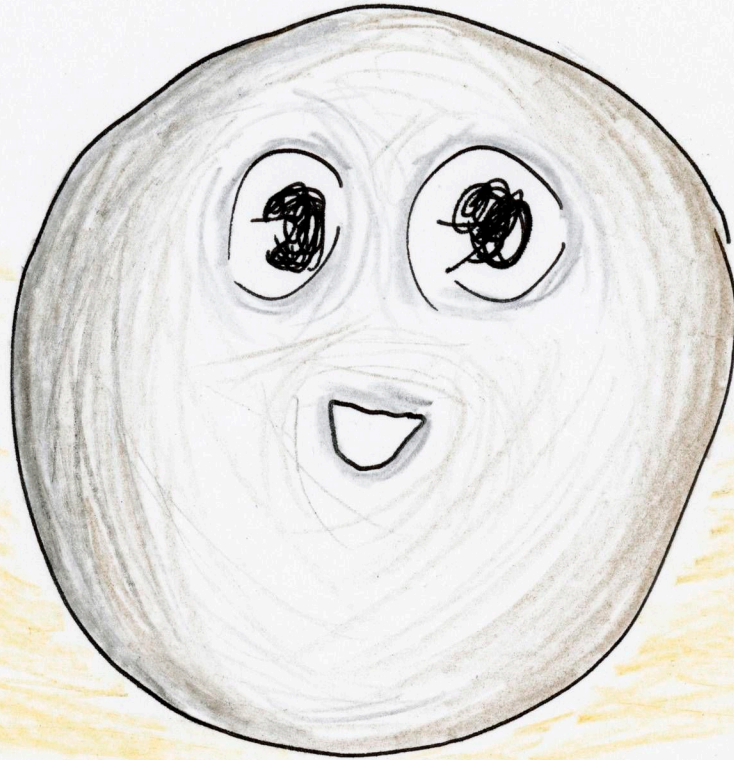


Then a girl baby named Betsy rolled over to him.



Hello, Billy. I am Betsy the Not Very Bouncy.

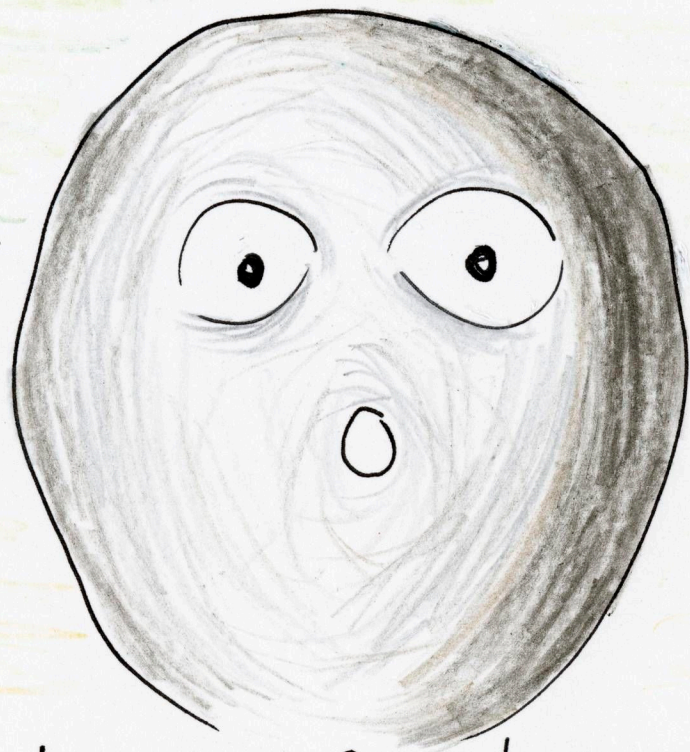
Billy said, You shouldn't be so hard on yourself.



That's the problem. I'm not bouncy because
I'm made of metal.



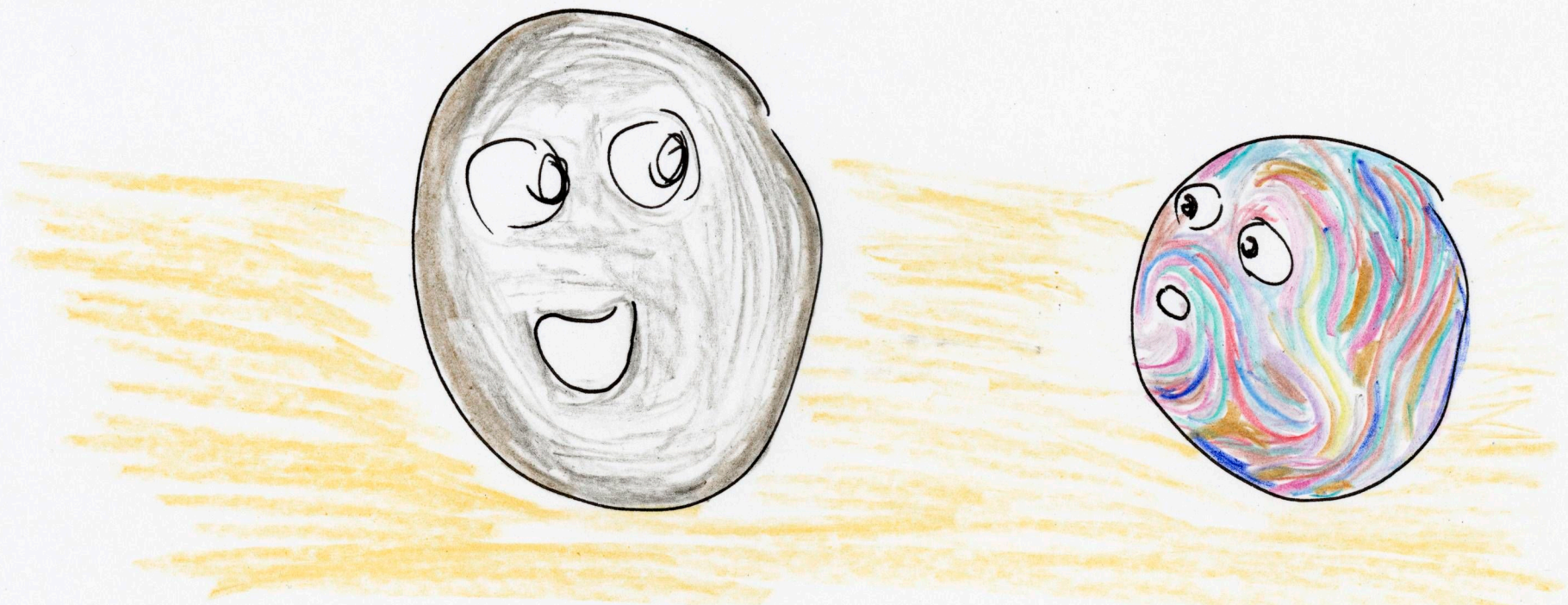
You know, Billy, you shouldn't be so sad. A tumbleweed blew past them.
How did you know I was sad?



Because you are bouncing as if you have no place to go.



I'm not bouncing much because if I were to bounce too far away, I wonder if I would never bounce again. Well, maybe it's not that. It's that I miss my family when I'm not with them.



I was like you once, said Betsy the
Not Very Bouncy.

What happened?



See, I bounced so far beyond any star or planet that I worried myself sick and I froze into a gummy statue. Most of my rubber turned to metal. It was because I was so full of worries that the rubber in me hardened, And that is why I never go bouncing anymore.



What do you mean? Will that happen to me?


Really?

No, Billy the Very Bouncy Baby. You can go wherever you want. But wherever you go remember that your family and friends love you.

Betsy said, Yes.



Then Billy bounced to a river, a glacier and a volcano. He was filled with joy because he knew that he could always come back home whenever he felt like it.



So long, Billy!