

FULL **STEAM** AHEAD, Europe!

THE EUROPEAN MYSTERY

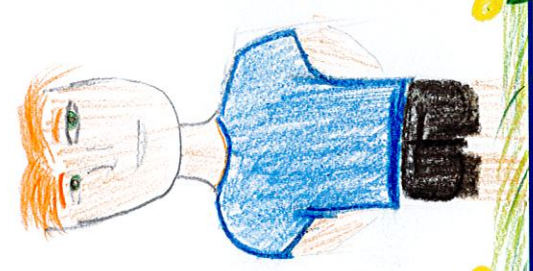
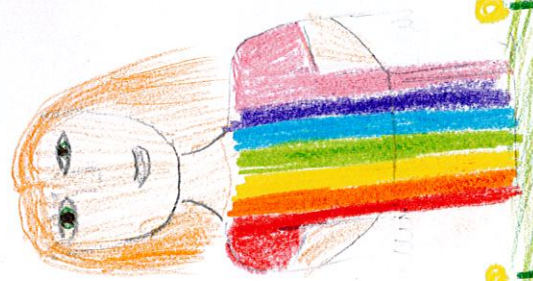
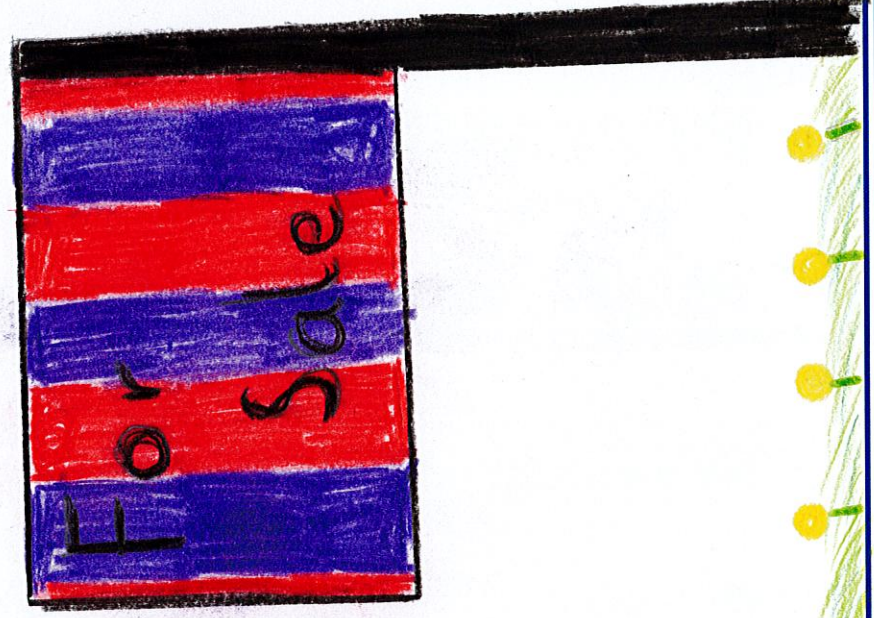
*A book written by
and for european
children*



Co-funded by the
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Beep! Beep! The dusty alarm hit 7AM. It was officially the second day in the Thompson's new residence. They had moved from Bishop Auckland to Escomb. The place was old – and there wasn't much furniture in place yet. Neither of the twins wanted to wake up but they knew their parents wouldn't be too pleased if they didn't, so Maddie and Marcus went down the creaky staircase to their new kitchen where they found their three dogs, Roxy, PJ and Benji.



The dogs appeared to be staring at a cupboard beneath the kitchen sink and barking. "Marcus?" whispered Maddie. "What are the dogs looking at?" Marcus shrugged his shoulders. Unhelpful. Maddie suggested that they should go in and check it out. She cautiously opened up the cupboard and after a minute of carefully inspecting they noticed a small latch. It was a trapdoor!

"I say we venture inside!" exclaimed Marcus, bravely as he dragged his twin sister down into the trapdoor.



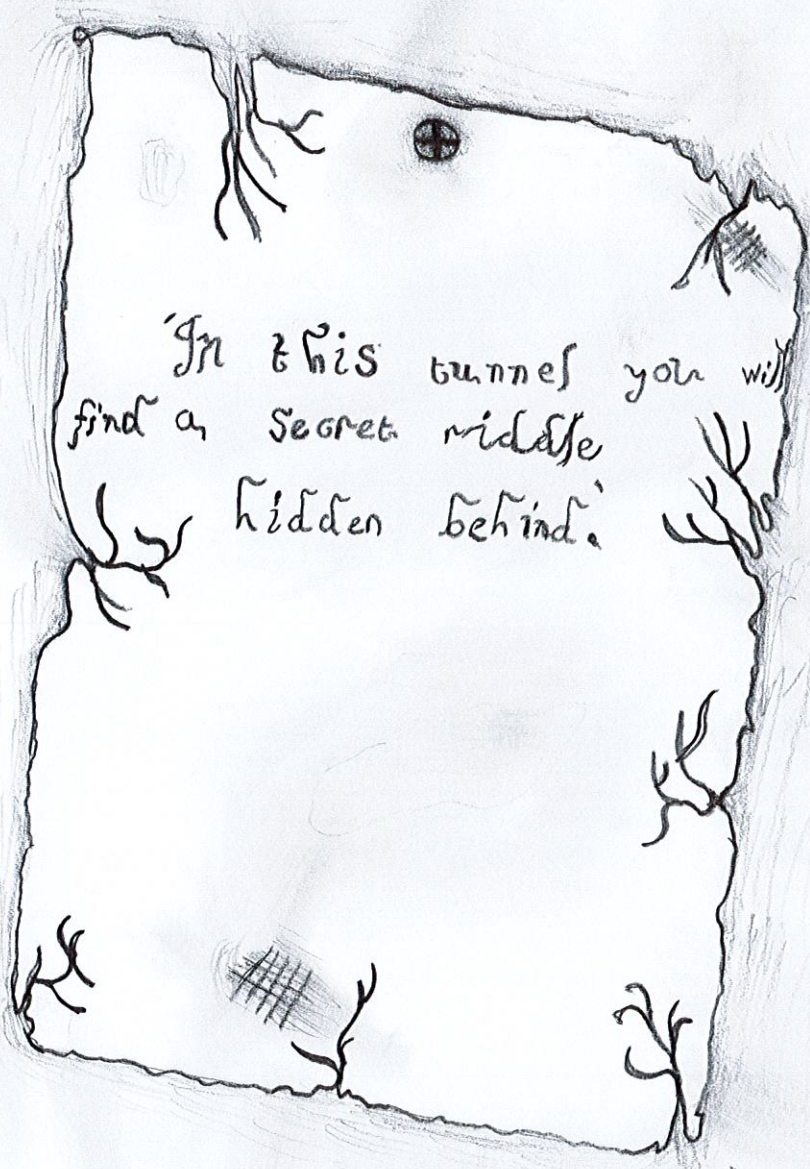
As they went through the door, they found a note attached to the wall. It read:

'In this tunnel which you will find a secret riddle hidden behind'

"What?" questioned Maddie.

"Maybe this is a clue. What if the riddle is behind something?" Wondered Marcus.

"Maybe." Said Maddie.



In this tunnel you will
find a secret passage
hidden behind.

Maddie and Marcus searched for the riddle but they could not find it.

Then, Marcus shouted "I found the riddle!"

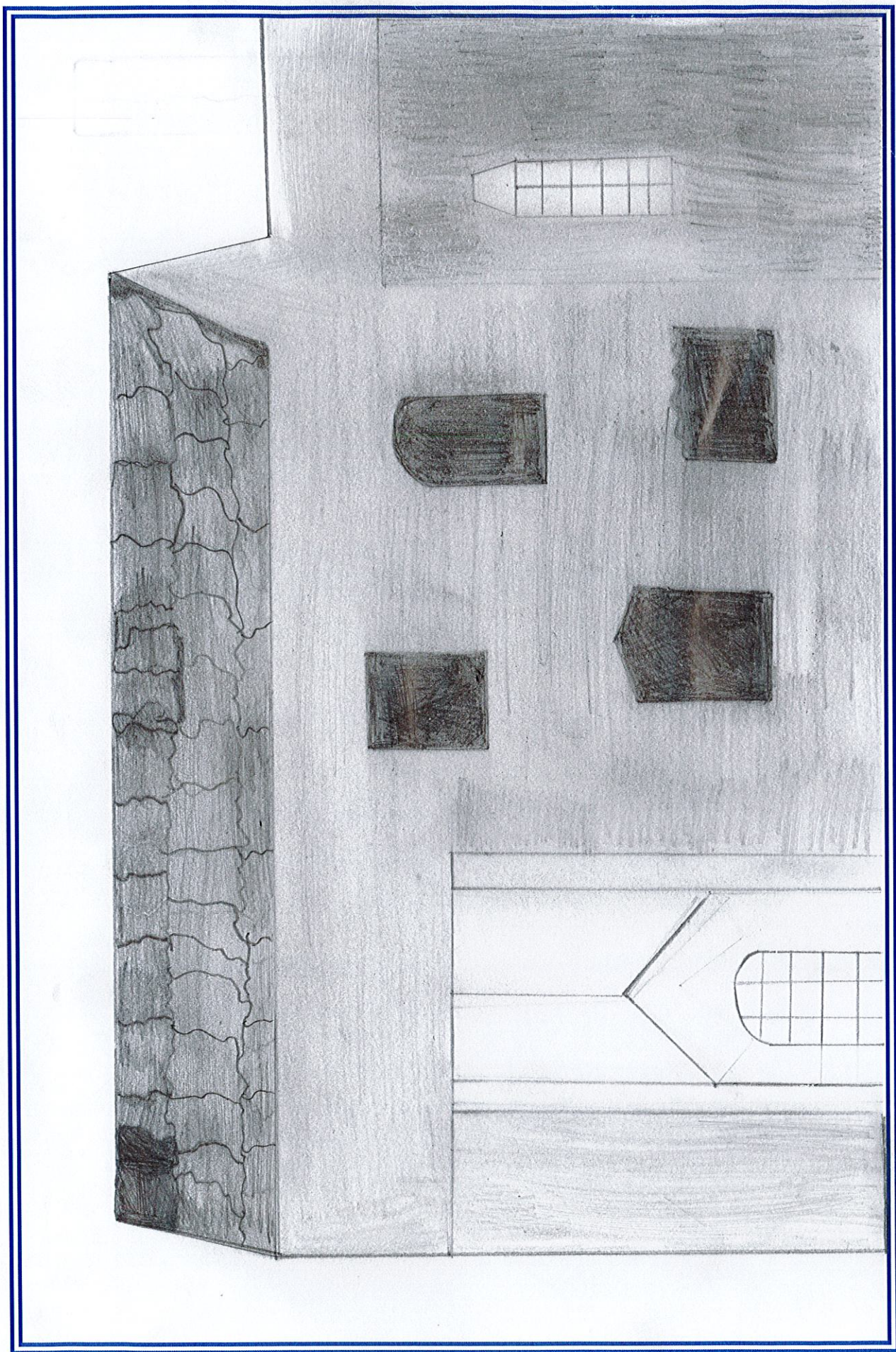
"Great, what does it say?" Exclaimed Maddie.

Marcus read out the riddle:

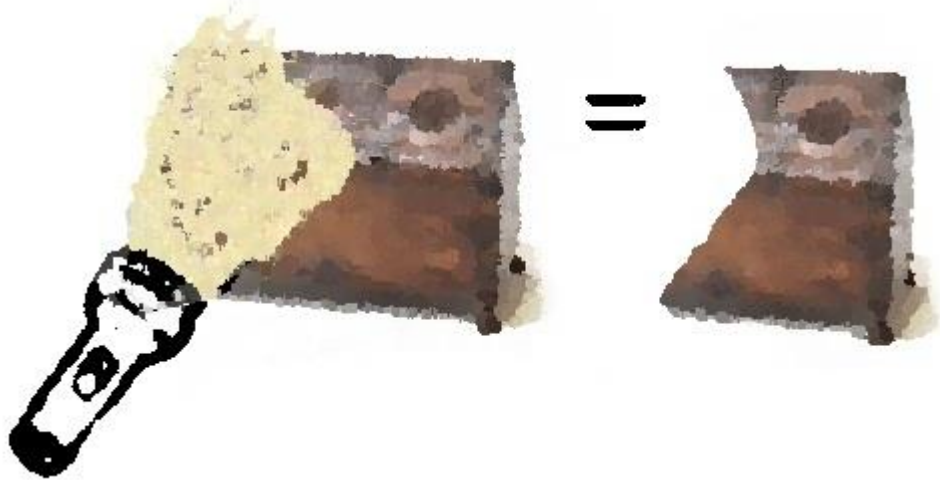
'Along this tunnel which will lead into a church where you will find a scroll shaped like a seed.'

"Escomb Church?" questioned Maddie.

"Let's go and see what's there!"



Maddie and Marcus found the third riddle in the tunnel. It was a picture.



Maddie and Marcus came into the church. There was dark. But some sunshine went through dirty windows. After a while, they found a scroll shaped like a seed. It layed on the dusty and old chest! It was still dark. They could not read what was there.

Marcus saw that there is a mirror on the top of the old chest. He opened the old chest. He thought that a sunshine could be better with the reflection from the mirror. But Maddie saw that the old chest is not empty.

There was a flashlight. But.. When she shined light on the scroll, almost all parts of scroll with the text disappeared . Marcus had only a pice of the scroll in his hand and... a little seed. They looked at the flashlight. And then, they understood the last riddle. They looked to the each other. Marcus hugged Maddie.

He held out his hand with the flashlight to the up. And he shined light from the flashlight on their bodies. And.. at this time they disappeared. Daily sunshine was suddenly for them so strong. They had to closing their eyes for a while. When they opened their eyes, they saw a wooden cottage on the edge of the forest. And they saw a little foreign boy in front of the wooden cottage. He held in his hand their a pice of the scroll.



Food, a knife, and music

They asked him, if he can read what is written in the scroll. Maddie and Marcus went closer to the foreing boy. He was Josef. He started to read: "Wood, a knife, and music."

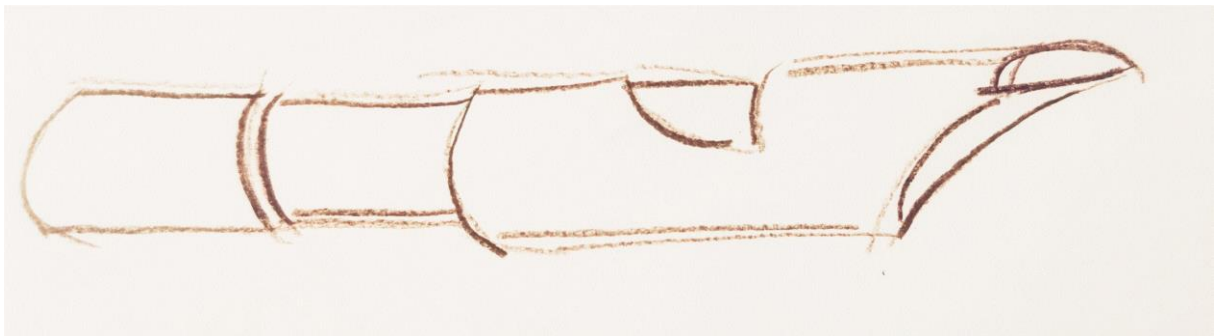
Josef saw that Marcus has got a seed in his hand. "We have to plant it", sayd Josef. Josef made a little hole in the ground. And Marcus dropped the seed. Josef went to bring a water. But before he returned with the water, from the seed a tree was grown. They knew the tree. It was a willow. And Josef understood the scroll's riddle. WOOD, A KNIFE, MUSIC.



Josef he cut a thicker branch and started to create something. Marcus asked him: "What are you doing?" And Josef answered : "a wooden whistle". Maddie was surprised. "How do you know how to do it?" Josef smiled. "It is our tradicion. The Czech tradition.

„So, here you are." Said Josef and he handed the whistle to Marcus.

Marcus put the wooden whistle to his lips and whistled



Marcus was very good at playing instruments. Maddie and Josef asked him for his favourite song. He played a song he had listened to during his last summer holidays in Yeles. It was called 'Resistiré'. Maddie and Josef were paying full attention to every note he played, when suddenly they saw a ladder appearing at the bottom of the willow.

The children were very surprised and Marcus stopped playing the whistle. At the time, the ladder began disappearing.

Then, a farmer, in white T-shirt and jeans, approached to them. His name was Antonio.

- Hi, kids. Who was playing that nice song? – Antonio asked
- Me! – Marcus answered
- Can you play it again, please? It was a song which my grandma sang to me when I was younger - the farmer said.

Marcus played the song and, while he was playing, the ladder appeared again. Maddie and Josef started to climb up. The ladder was getting higher and higher but, when the two children were by the middle of the tree, Antonio burst into tears because of the memories the song brought to him, and Marcus stopped playing when he saw Antonio crying. Then, the ladder stopped growing and Antonio told him:

- You have to keep playing the whistle so that the ladder can reach the top of the tree, where you will find the next riddle.



Marcus obeyed the farmer and he continued playing until Maddie and Josef got the top of the tree.

- Come on! Go up! – Maddie said to Marcus and the farmer

Antonio and Marcus, without stopping playing the melody, went up to the top of the willow. Once there, they found a pair of glasses. Josef put them on, he stared at Antonio and he observed how a picture appeared on the farmer's T-shirt.



- I found the riddle! – Josef exclaimed.

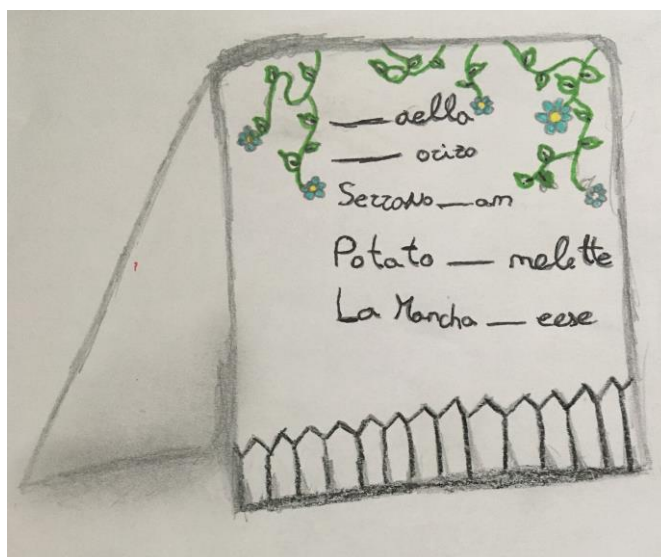


Maddie was already very tired and hungry. They hadn't eaten anything for two days.

- I'm hungry –Maddie said
- Me too! – Marcus exclaimed
- If you solve the riddle, you will have a lot of delicious food that you will love – Antonio told them

Josef lent the magic glasses to Marcus, he put them on and he saw a path going down the hill. Everyone followed him walking down the path where they found shiny letters which they collected, keeping them in their pockets.

At the end of the path, they found an old restaurant closed with a sign on the front door.



- Some letters are missing here!- Maddie exclaimed.
- I get it! They are the letters which we take in our pockets!- Josef resolved

They completed the sign with the help of Antonio. When they put the last missing letter, they heard a very loud noise. The doors were opening!

Inside the restaurant, there were five tables full of paella, chorizo, Serrano ham, La Mancha cheese and potato omelette.

The children ate delicious food so that their tummies were full, too full and they had tummy ache. Then they asked the waiter for help. The waiter had an idea and he took Maddie and Marcus to sauna. The waiter told them that sauna is a place where you can relax and forget about tummy ache or any other problems you might have.



When the children came out of the sauna they started to hallucinate and they realized they had food poisoning. The waiter gave them salty liquorice and rye bread, which helped cure the food poisoning. He also said that the Finns eat salty liquorice and rye bread alot.

After growing tired of talking the children went out. There was a large rock in the yard and they ran to it to play. They noticed that there was a clue carved on the rock. It said: *"When you squat down ten times and jump up twenty times, a sauna elf will appear in front of you. He will help you get back home."*



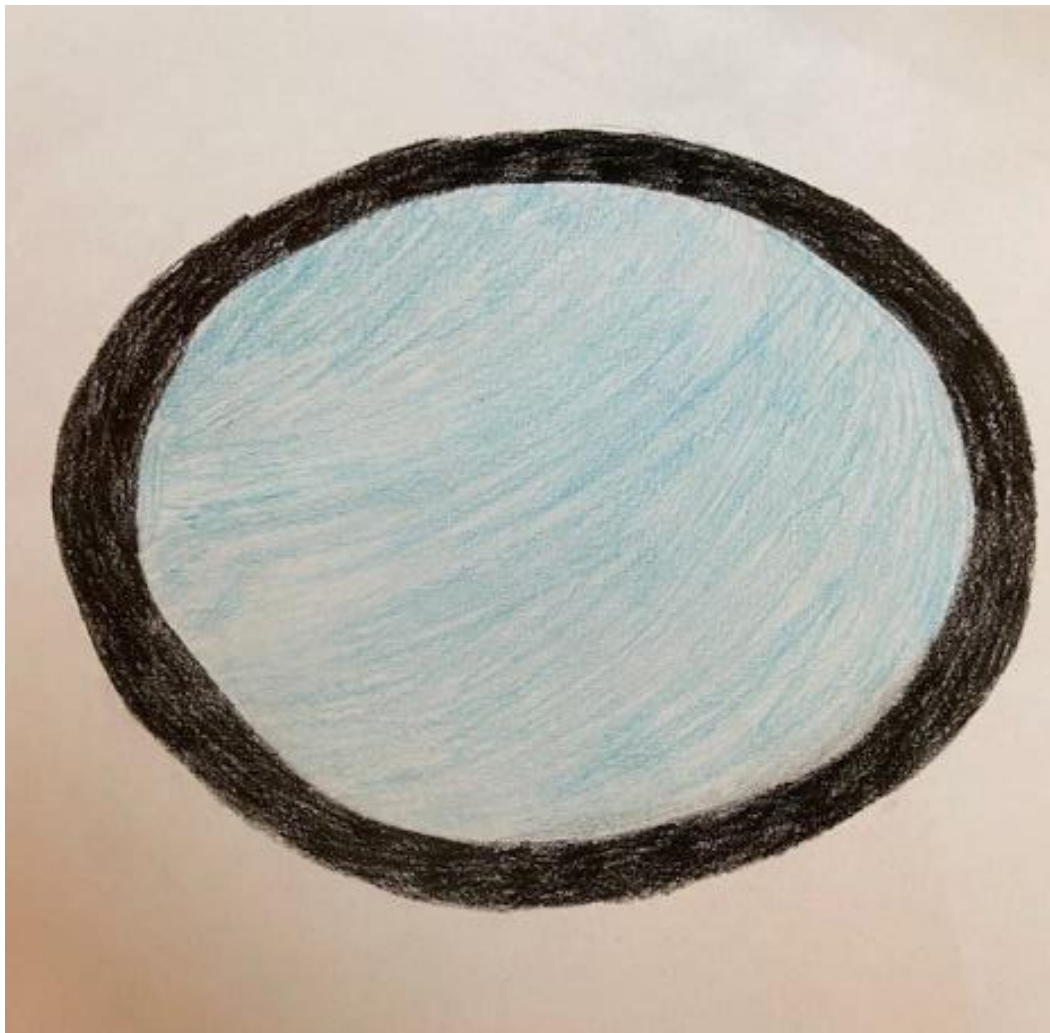
After Maddie and Marcus had done everything it said on the rock, a sauna elf really appeared in front of them. The sauna elf had a cap on and he was holding a lantern and a birch whisk in his hand. The children asked: "*How can you help us?*" The elf answered: "*I will help you find the next clue. Follow me!*"



So the children followed the elf to another sauna. This sauna was greater than the sauna at the restaurant and it was in the middle of a forest. The sauna elf encouraged the children to go inside and before they managed to do it the elf disappeared into thin air.

When they stepped inside the sauna the children immediately noticed a piece of paper which said: *"Go next to the wall and say the magic word: the mystery of Europe."*

The children obeyed and the wall opened. There was a secret portal behind the wall. The portal led to a farm.

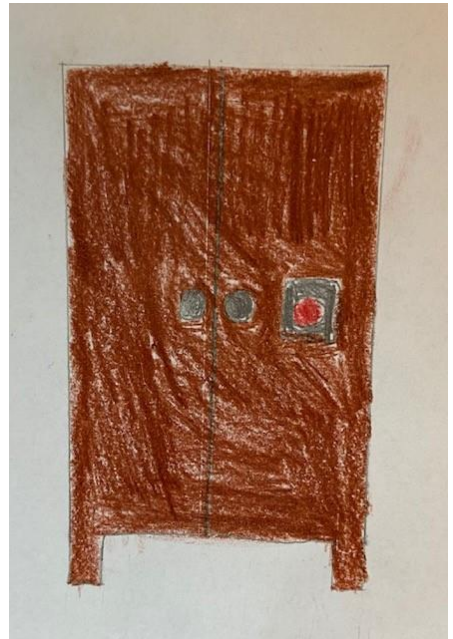


There was a farmer who took care of the cattle on the farm. He asked the children to help him milk the cows.

Maddie and Marcus milked the cow and got a bucket full of milk.



And then the cow disappeared into thin air and a new portal appeared instead. The portal took them into a deserted house. There was only one piece of furniture, a wardrobe, in the deserted house. There was writing on the wall. It said: "*Go to the wardrobe and look for a button.*"



The children went to the wardrobe and found a button inside it. Maddie and Marcus pushed the button and the house began to shake. And so they teleported back home. And then they lived happily ever after at home.

