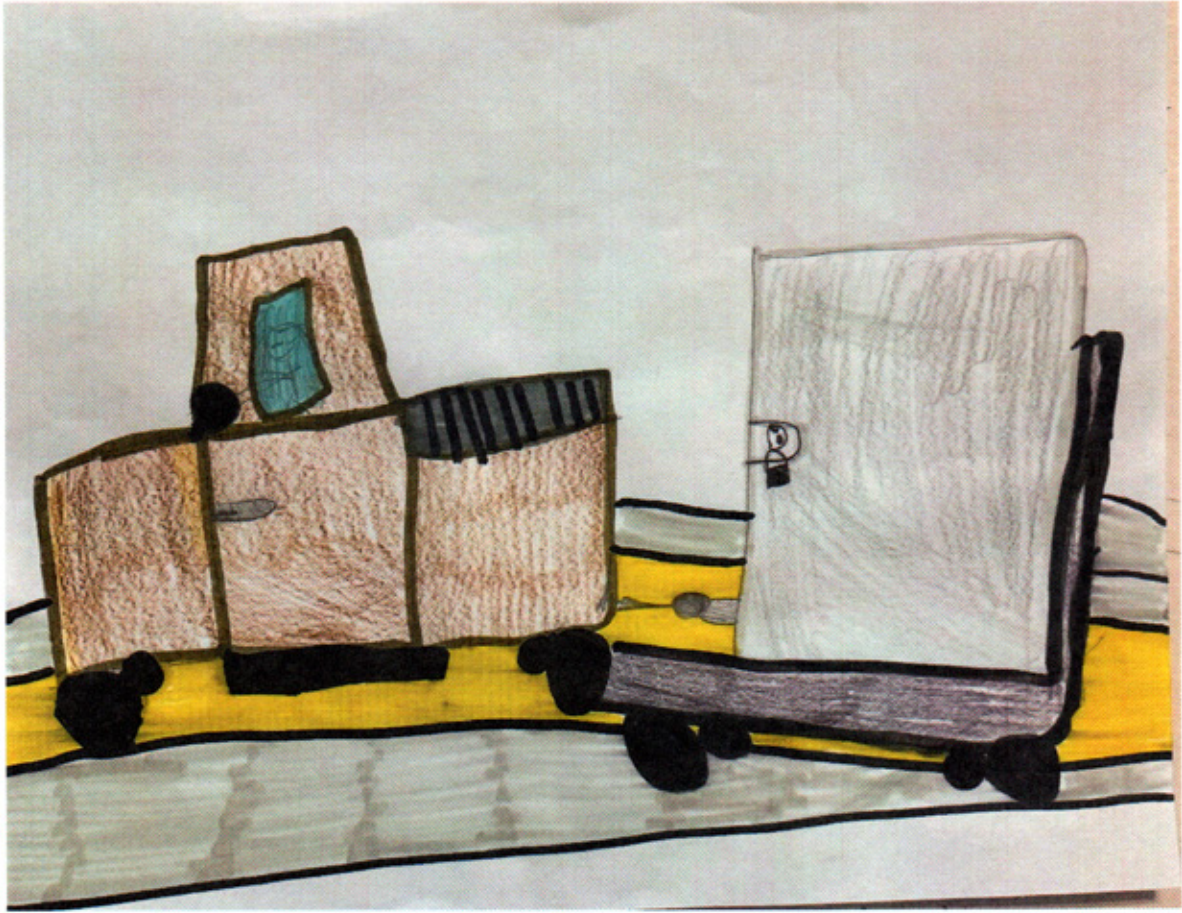




The Missing Lion

By Lennon Mai

Grade 4



The zoo was perfectly normal... until they brought in a lion. The lion's name was Ivan. Ivan the Lion.



Ivan never wanted to come to this zoo. He liked the wild, where he could run free. Ivan was scared when they brought him in.



“Alright, Ivan,” Ava, the zookeeper, sighed tiredly. “McKayla! We’ve got a feisty one today!”

“Grrrr...” The lion growled angrily.

The zookeepers put the lion in his own cage.



They went back to their office and fell asleep.



Morning came, and Ivan was still asleep, but the zookeepers were wide
awake.



Ivan finally woke up, and they fed him some fresh steak. Ivan refused at first, but then he smelled it and quickly snatched it out of their hands.



All the other animals had been trying to be friends with Ivan, but he was so mad to be there that he just sat there silently.



Nighttime came again, and Ivan just couldn't be there any longer. They had taken him away from his family! Ivan was very smart, though. Carefully, he used his sharp claws to pick the lock.



Slowly, the cage door creaked open. He quietly slipped out and ran to find his family, and the zookeepers heard nothing.



Morning came, and the zookeepers woke up to see... Ivan was missing!



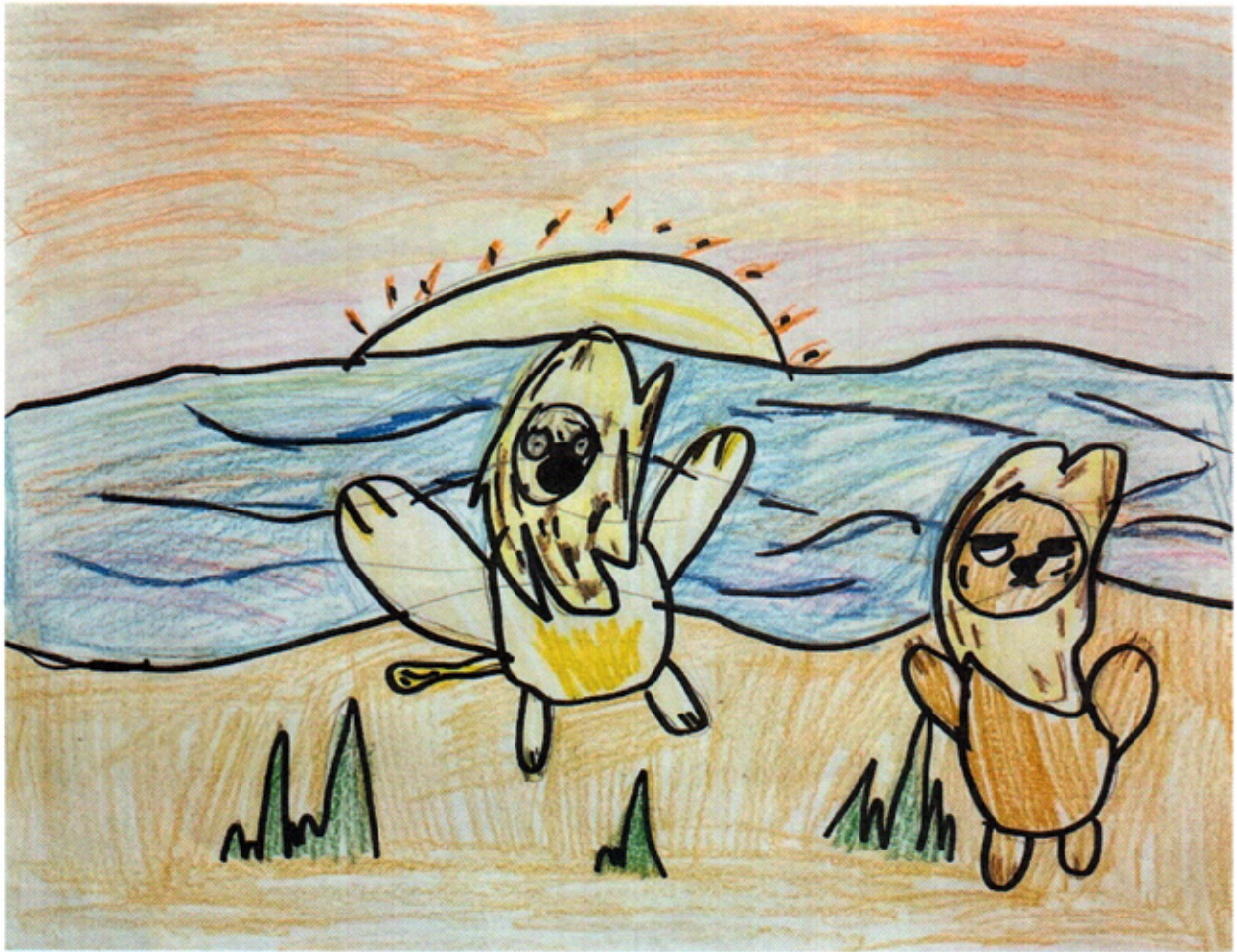
They looked everywhere for him. Up! Down! All around! But no lion.

It was getting late, and they were getting tired. But they were still looking

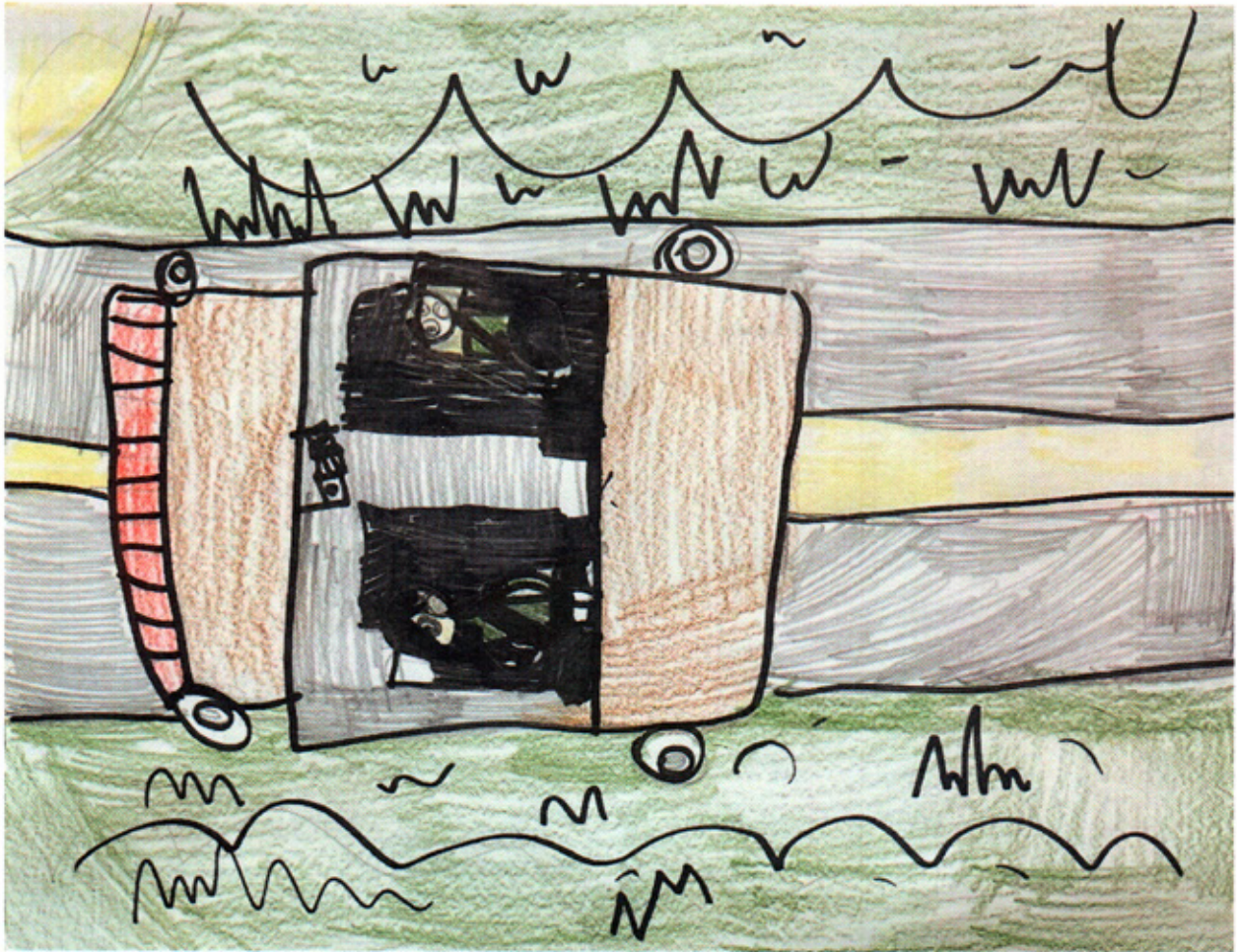
for the missing lion.



Meanwhile, Ivan was still searching for his family.



Finally, he found them and ran to them and hugged them tightly. They were happy to see each other again.



The zookeepers still hadn't found him, and it was pitch dark outside. They decided to go in their car and sleep when, all of a sudden, they heard a noise. They got up and went outside...



...and there was Ivan, cuddling peacefully with his family. The zookeepers smiled at each other, got back in their truck, and drove back to the zoo happily.



Some animals belong in cages.

But Ivan belonged with his family.