

# My People



Written by

**Billie-Jean Taylor**

Illustrated by

**Shaylah Dodd**



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Written by Kathryn Apel and illustrated by Janet Turner

# My People



**The memories we make with our family are everything. Dedicated to my big brother Stuart. See on you the roundabout. BT**



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This book was developed with State Library of Queensland's black&write! editorial team. black&write! is a national project with a dual focus on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writing and editing.

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# My People



Written by  
**Billie-Jean Taylor**

Illustrated by  
**Shaylah Dodd**

**Hello.**

**My name is Shaylah and I am five.  
I want to tell you about my people.**





**I have a mum, a dad, a sister  
and a brother (he is very naughty).  
I also have two noondungs (dogs).**

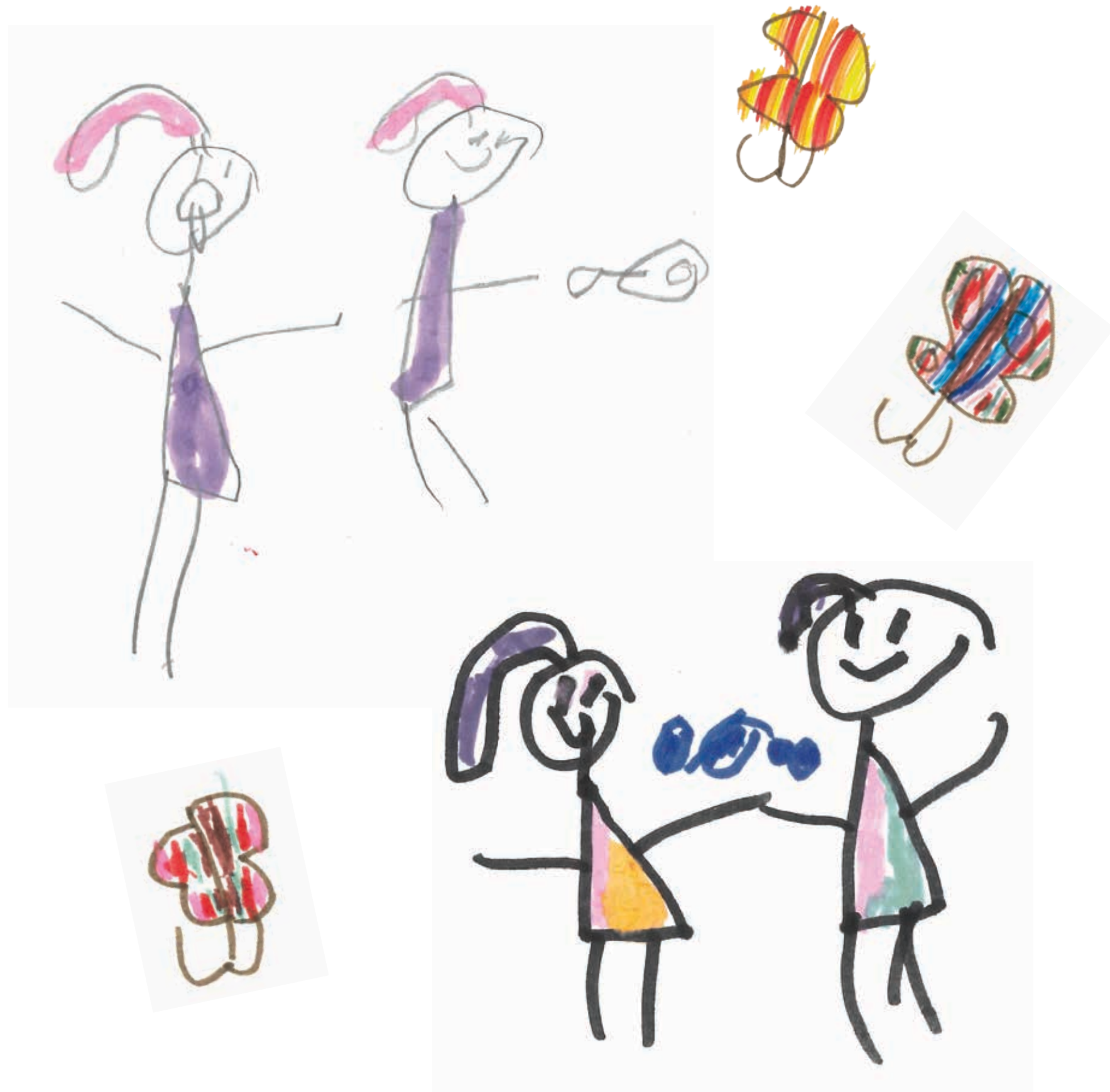
I have a nan. Her name is **Rose**,  
but Mum calls her **Rosie Posie**.

Nanna Rosie Posie gives me  
the **best hugs** when I am sad,  
makes me **laugh** when I am crying  
and gets up Mum for **growling** at me.

I love my Nanna Rose.







**I have heaps of Aunties and Uncles,  
but too many to name.**

**I am named after my Aunty Sarah  
(my mum's sister) and my Aunty Kaylah  
(my dad's sister) – Shaylah.**

**I have a favourite Uncle, but Ssshhhh,  
do not tell the others.**

**My favourite Uncle used to take me  
and all my cousins yabbing and  
fishing, and we always used to  
shake-a-leg with him.**





**My Uncle is now an angel.**

**I love and miss him  
with all my heart.**

**I have so many cousins.**

**Kowie, he is the oldest of us all  
and he loves fishing.**





**Sissy, she is the dancing queen  
in our family.**

**Cam, she lives with me and is like  
my big sister. She helps me do  
my hair in the morning.**

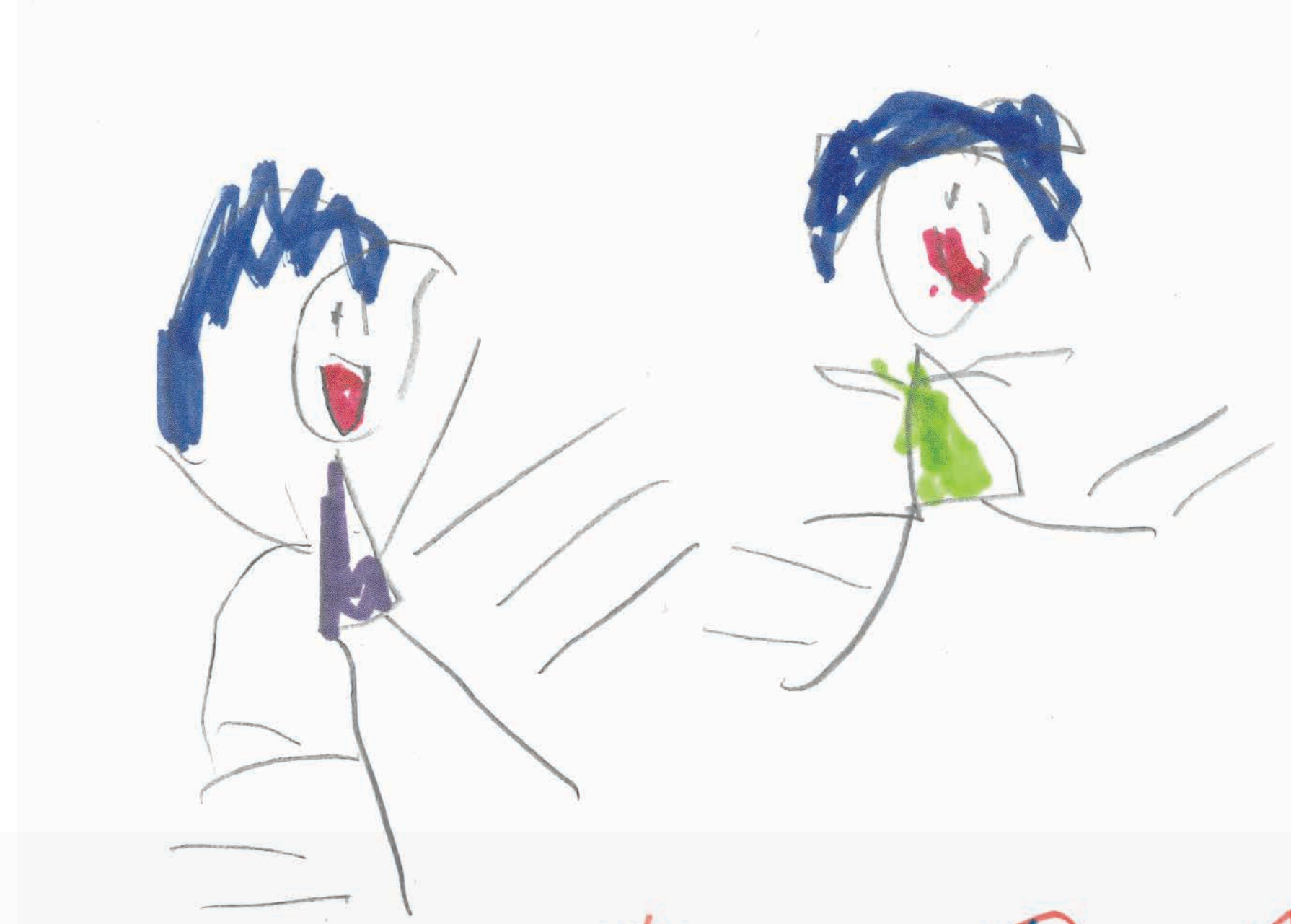




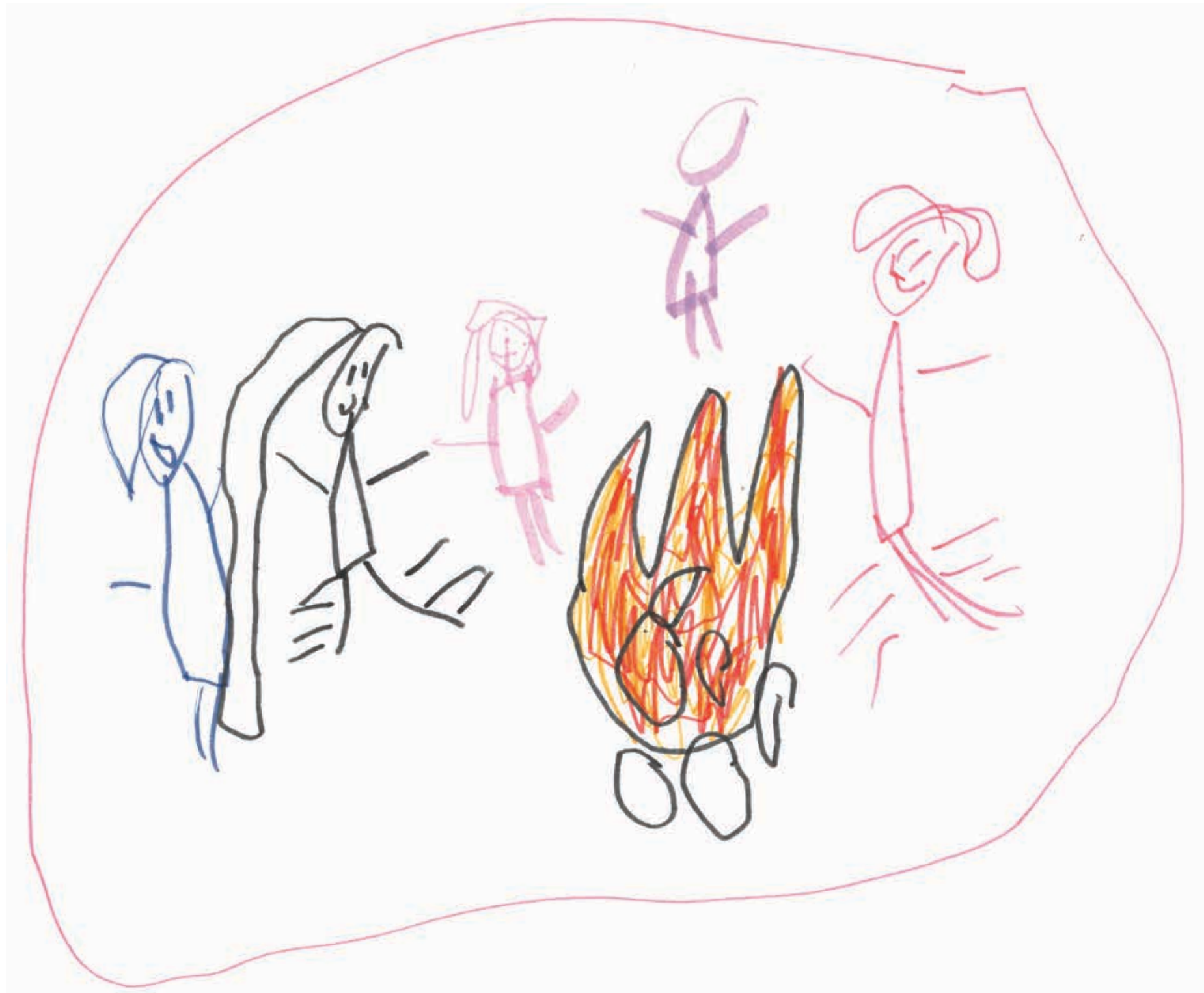
**Nennox and Dill, they are my  
two favourites because they share  
their lollies with me.**

**Panda, whose real name is Evander,  
he thinks he is a ninja.**

**TJ, who is actually my Uncle,  
is the clown of the family.**







**I have so many more and they are like  
my brothers and sisters.**

**I love when all my people are all  
together! We laugh, we play, we eat  
and we dance.**

**My Uncle John dances gammin with us  
kids and makes us all laugh.**

**I love my family, my mob, my people  
with all my heart.**

**We are all one Mob, on one Land and  
we all have one Love.**





## ABOUT FIRST 5 FOREVER

In the first five years, little moments make a big difference.

Children learn best from those closest to them – and by talking, reading, singing and playing together every day, families support their child's brain development and help them build a lifelong love of learning and discovery.

First 5 Forever is an early literacy program supporting families to make the most of this time. The program offers free sessions for children 0–5 and their families throughout Queensland's public library and Indigenous Knowledge Centre network, and provides fun, informative and hands-on tips and advice online.

First 5 Forever is an initiative of the Queensland Government, coordinated by State Library of Queensland and delivered in partnership with local government. Each year, public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres across Queensland welcome thousands of families to First 5 Forever activities.

To find out more about First 5 Forever, visit [www.slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever)

## ABOUT THIS SERIES

State Library of Queensland has published twelve new children's picture books for Queensland's littlest readers as part of First 5 Forever. The books promote strong early literacy foundations through a range of subjects and styles: the amusing antics of Queensland's faunal emblem, the koala; educational aids such as counting and alphabet books; stories of belonging; journeys of discovery; true-life tales; and much more.

Produced exclusively for State Library of Queensland and First 5 Forever, this series reflects the diversity of Queensland, celebrates the uniqueness of our state, and aims to inspire a love of reading and discovery in a new generation of little Queenslanders.

The books also showcase writers and artists with a Queensland connection who are based throughout the state. They feature emerging and established talent, as well as First Nations writers and artists whose books were developed with State Library of Queensland's black&write! editorial team.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Billie-Jean Taylor is a proud Mithaka woman. She is the mother of three beautiful children, and she calls Chinchilla home. Family is the cornerstone of her life. Growing up having her Mother, Nan, Aunties, Sisters and her best friend always encouraging her to be herself and to never back down is why she is the person she is today.



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Shaylah Dodd is the five-year-old featured in this story. She is also Billie-Jean's daughter.





**Shaylah is five and she has a big,  
beautiful family. There are naughty little  
brothers and lots and lots of cousins.**

**Shaylah wants you to meet her people.**

**Who are *YOUR* people?**