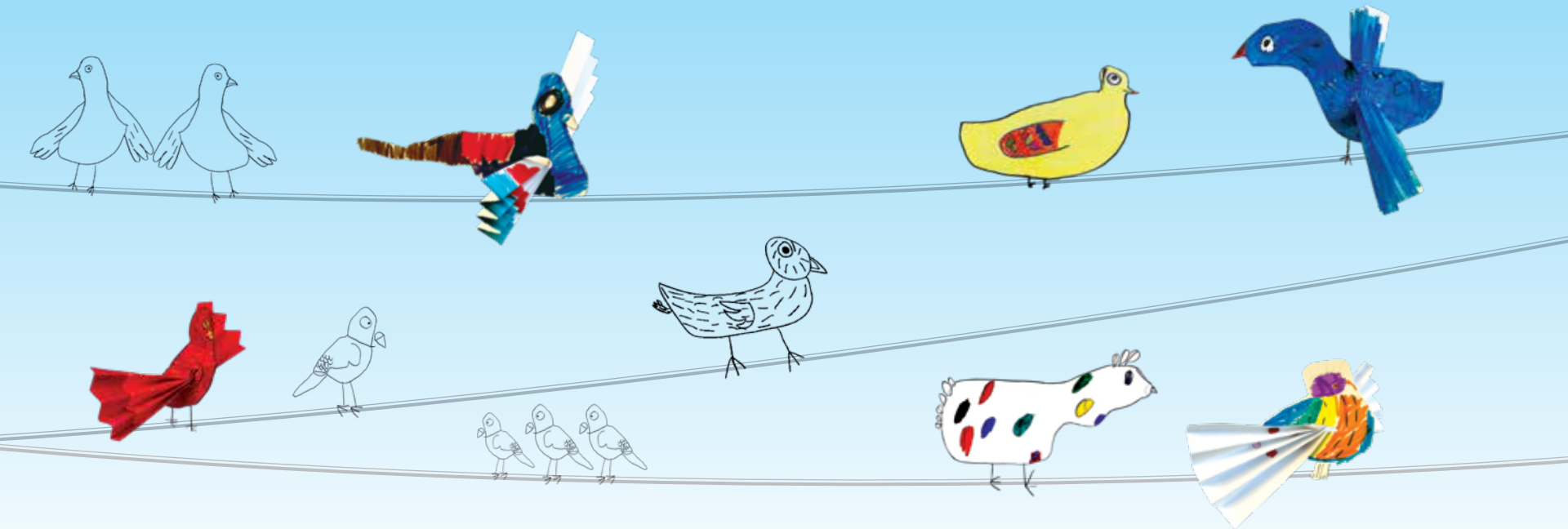




# The Funniest Class in the School Made Funny Pigeons

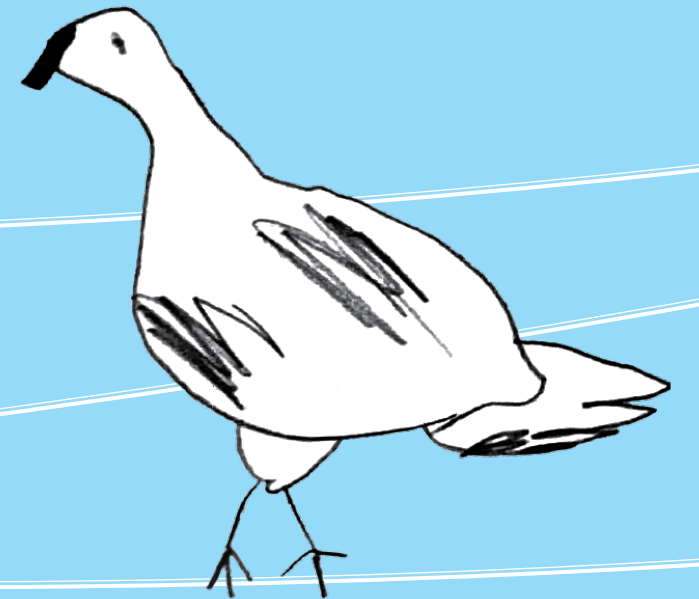
Class 480 at P.S. 4 Duke Ellington School



# The Funniest Class in the School Made Funny Pigeons

By Class 480 | P.S. 4  
Duke Ellington School

Behind the Book | New York



Behind the Book's mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

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Behind the Book

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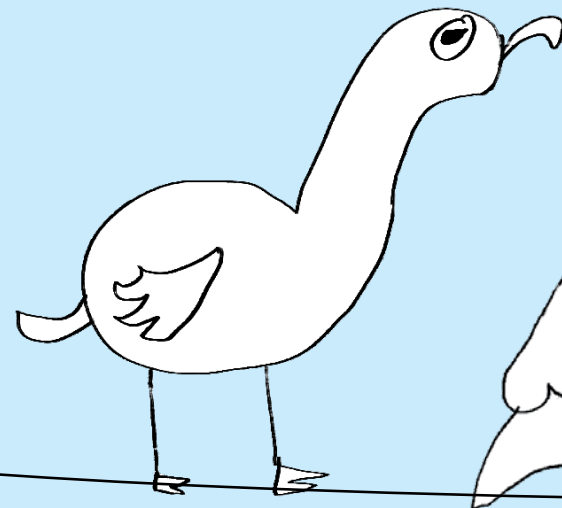
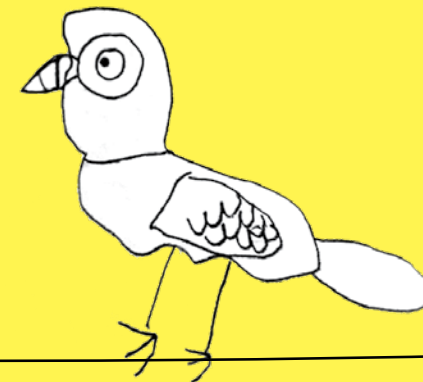
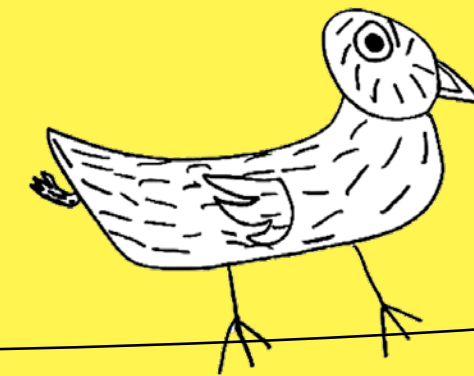
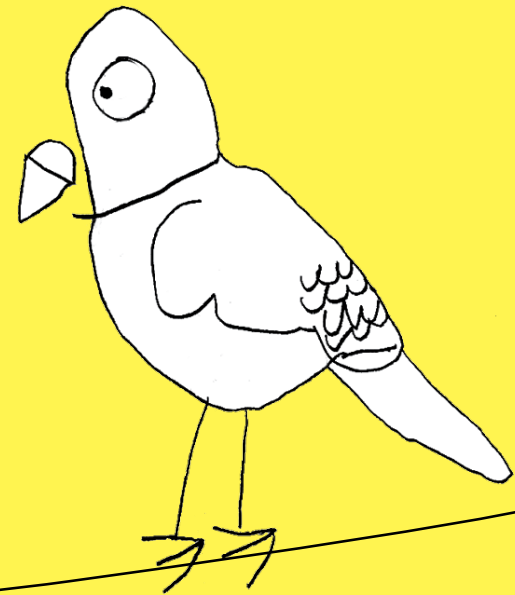
Printing: BR Printers, coordinated by Kathleen McCourt & Lauren Parrott

Due to COVID all Behind the Book programs were provided virtually. We recognize and appreciate our teachers and students for persevering during this very challenging time.

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students' work as received from the teacher.

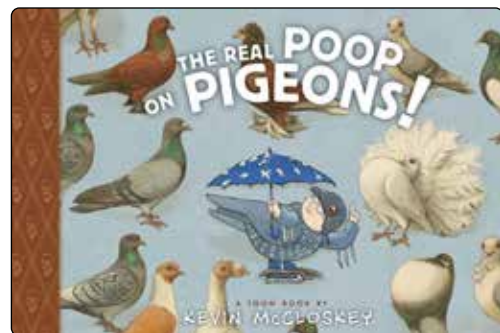
This book was made possible by a generous grant from The Korein Foundation.

*Class 480 wants to  
dedicate this book to our  
friends and family at  
P.S. 4 Duke Ellington  
for being such a great  
community and school.*



## About the Program

Pity the poor pigeon. People in New York City think they are pests and wish they would all disappear. But this winter, Ms. Mann’s 4th-grade class discovered a whole different side to the misunderstood birds. They learned that pigeons are fascinating animals while reading *The Real Poop on Pigeons* by Kevin McCloskey. Students explored an



essential science question: How do animals develop physical features to adapt to their environments?

The class learned and shared a lot of surprising facts about pigeons—they can actually fly almost as fast as a car! Kevin invited students to draw along with him and showed them photos of pigeons with fancy tails and tiny beaks.

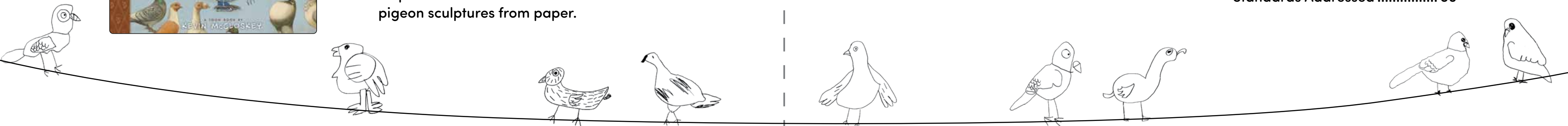
The Wild Bird Fund visited the class to lead a research workshop. Members showed how the students could be good stewards for pigeons in the environment. They gave a remote tour of the animal clinic where students saw live pigeons and even a raptor! Behind the Book teaching artist Candice Humphries helped the students create their own pigeon sculptures from paper.

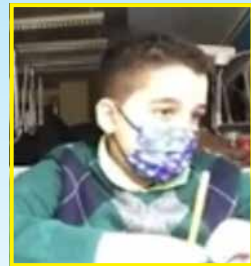
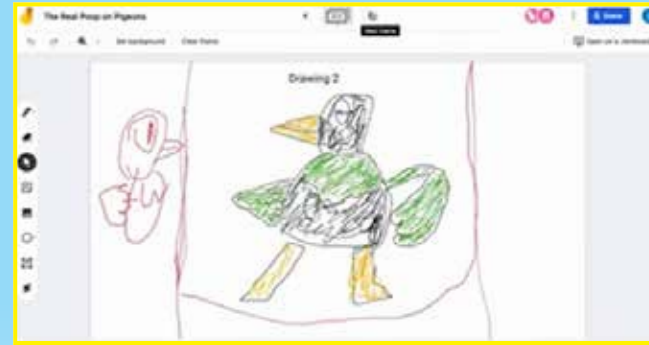
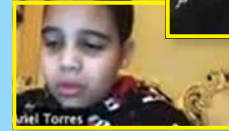
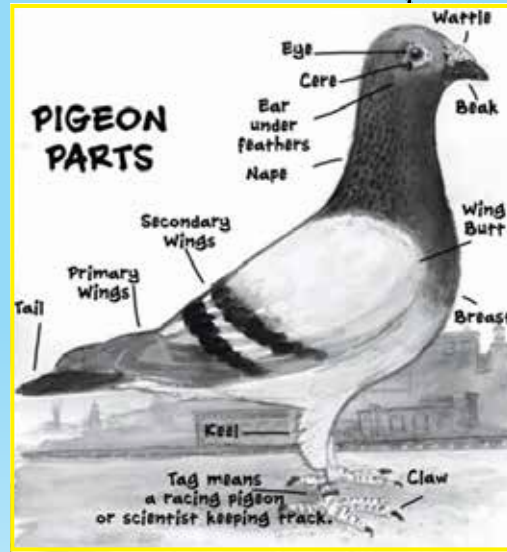
During the writing workshop, students invented physical features for pigeons that could help them survive in the wild. Then they wrote about their imaginary new breeds of pigeons that could survive in almost any situation.

This program helped the students view pigeons in a new way—not as pests, but as survivors in a difficult world. We hope you can appreciate these strong creatures and think about how all living things must adapt to their environment.

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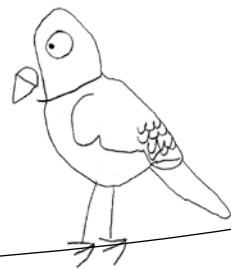
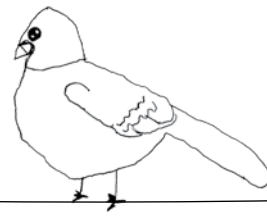
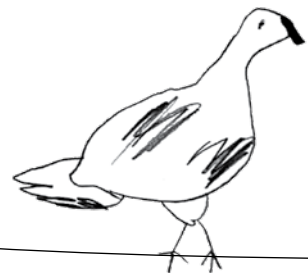


## Melanie

My pigeon is called the Doctor Pigeon because it makes people feel better. My pigeon has pink and red polka dots and a rainbow body. I chose these features because a doctor pigeon makes people feel better with bandaids and medicine.



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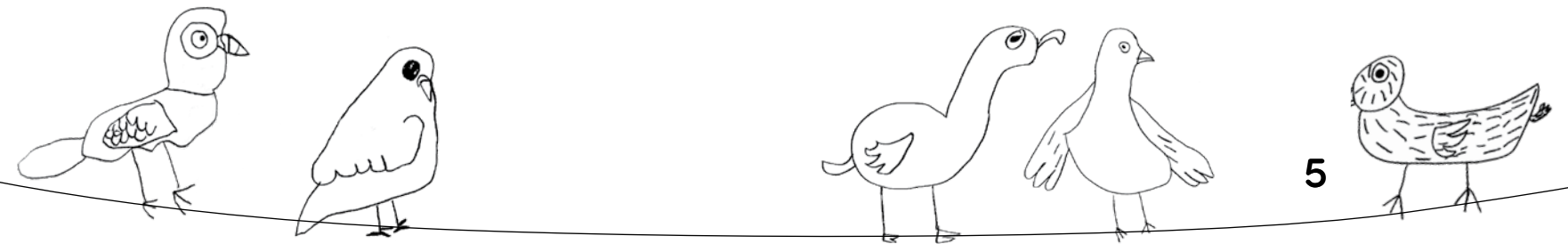


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## Emily

My pigeon is called the Rainbow Pigeon. My pigeon has rainbow colors on its body. It has wings that are rainbow. Red, orange and yellow. I chose these features because I love colors. The pigeon changes colors when it flies.

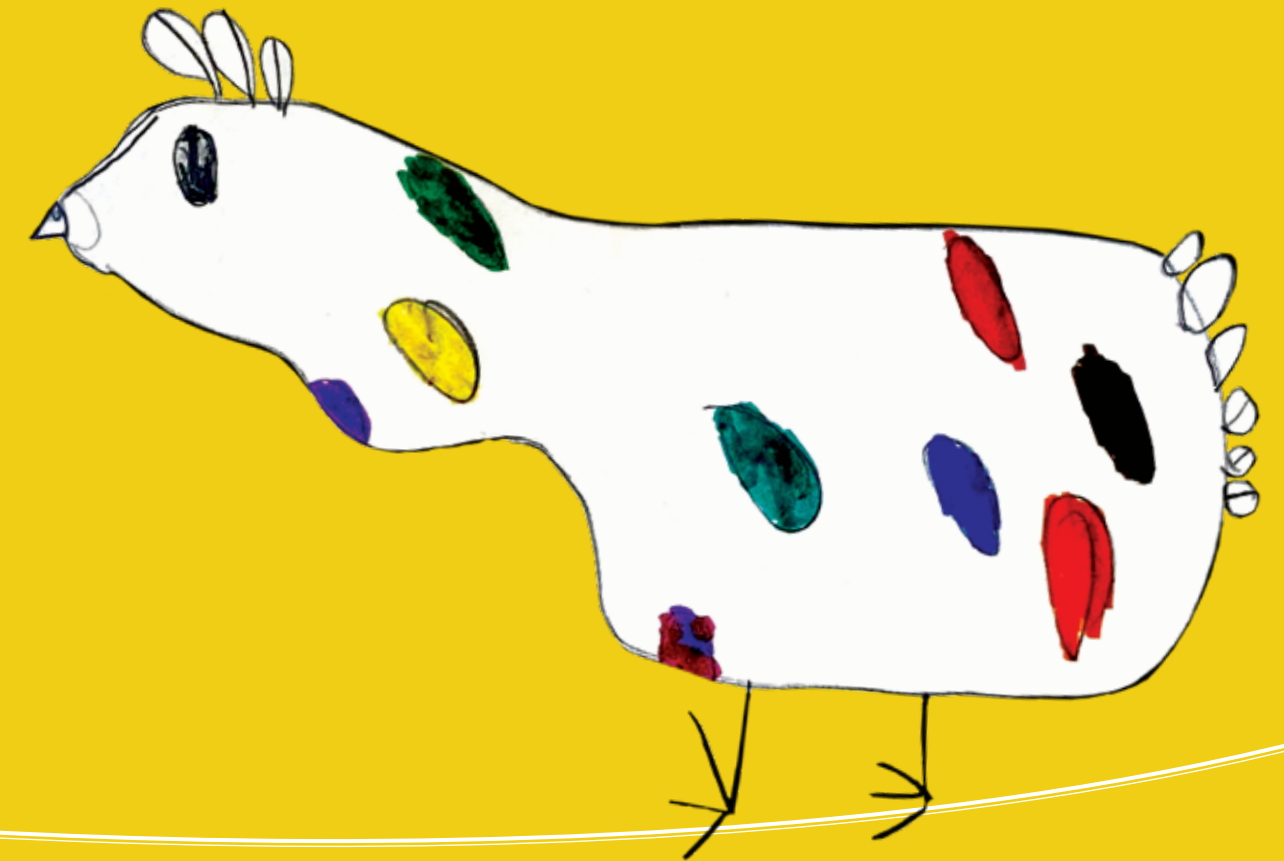
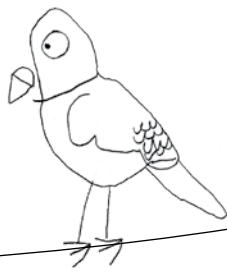
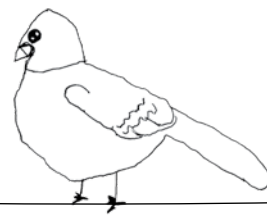
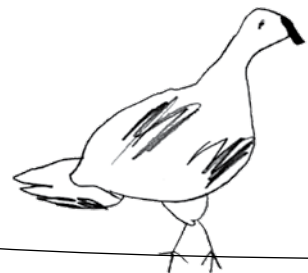


## Azariah

My pigeon is called the Colorful Spot Pigeon. My pigeon has spots that are different colors on him and a white body. I chose these features because he can change into any of these colors all by himself just like a chameleon. This helps him hide when he is hurt.

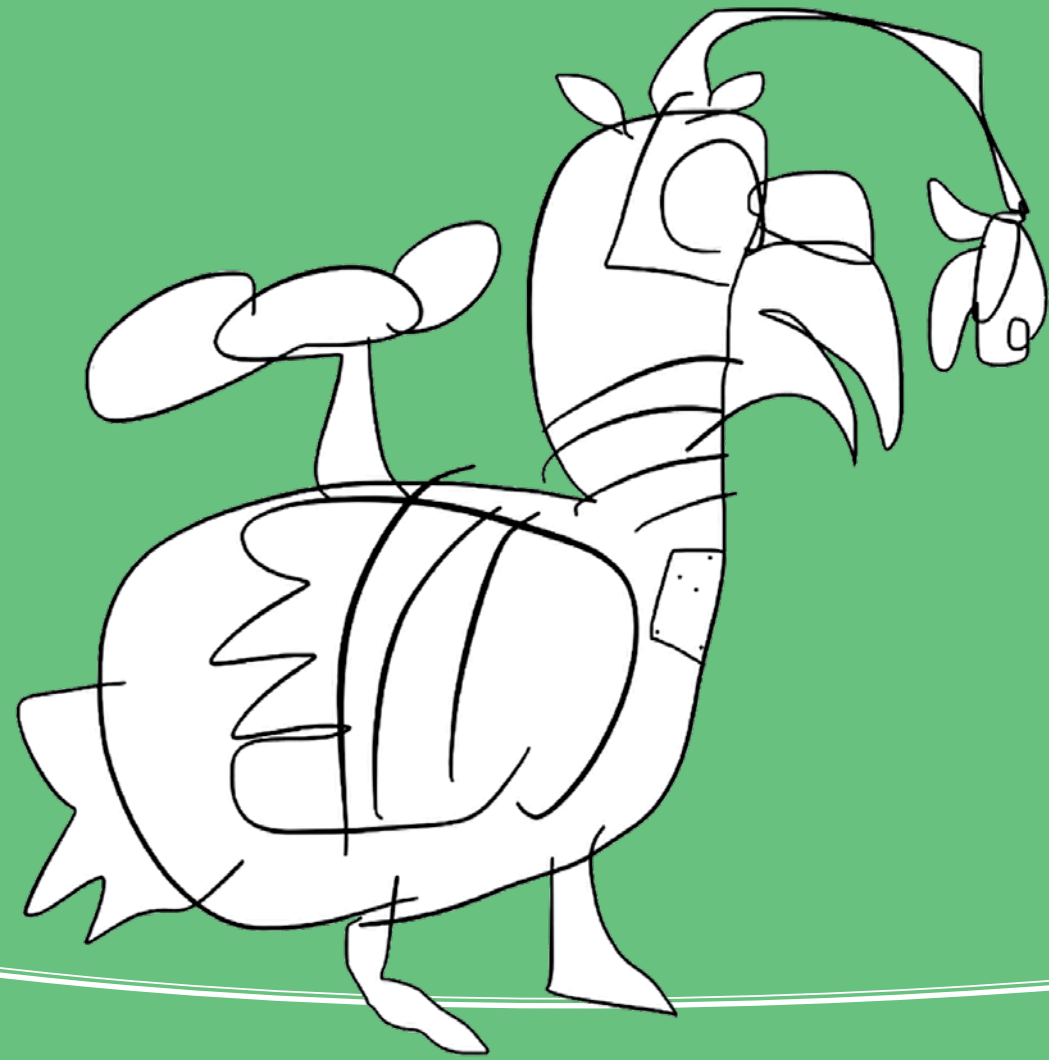


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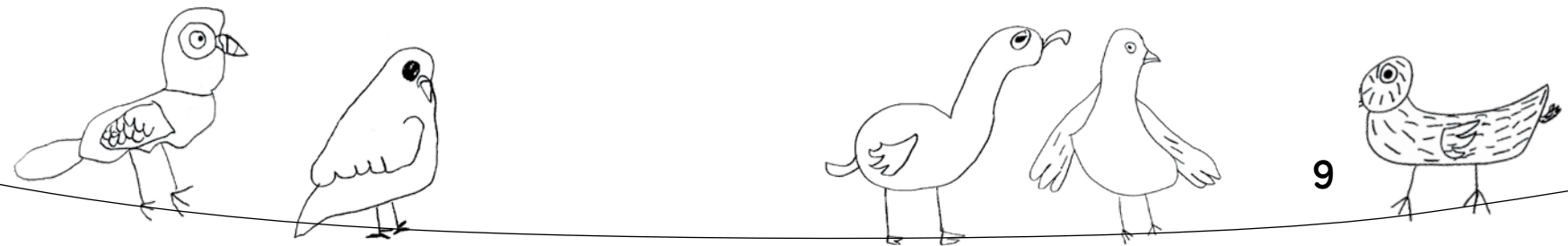
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## Eli

My pigeon is called the Cyborg Pigeon. My pigeon has robot arms and can fly with double wings. It is colored like a NY pigeon with a little bit of robot color. I chose these features because I thought it would look great if a pigeon looked like a robot. It has a fan because if it becomes too hot it can torun on the fan. And it likes music.

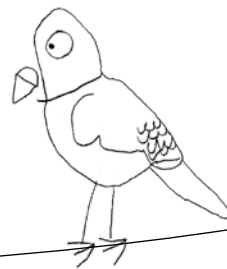
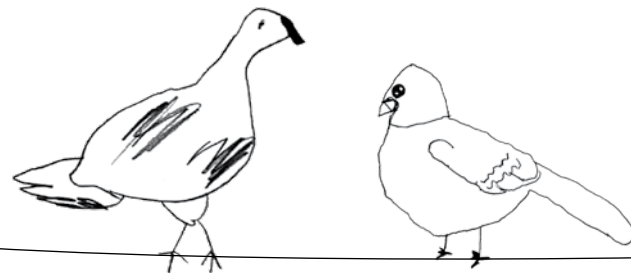


## Anthony

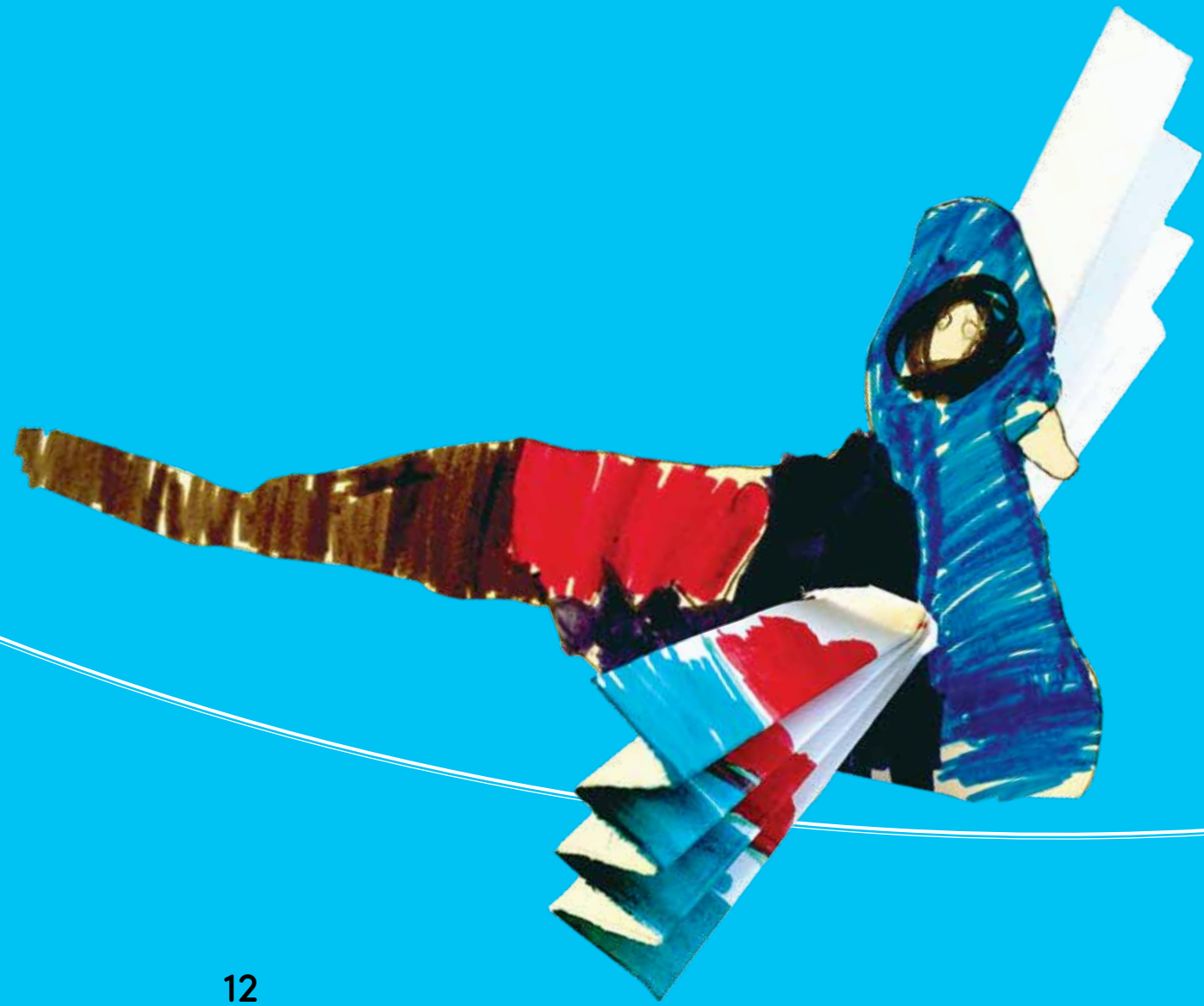
My pigeon is called the Birdie Pigeon.  
My pigeon can talk to humans. It has red  
feathers. Pigeon drive.



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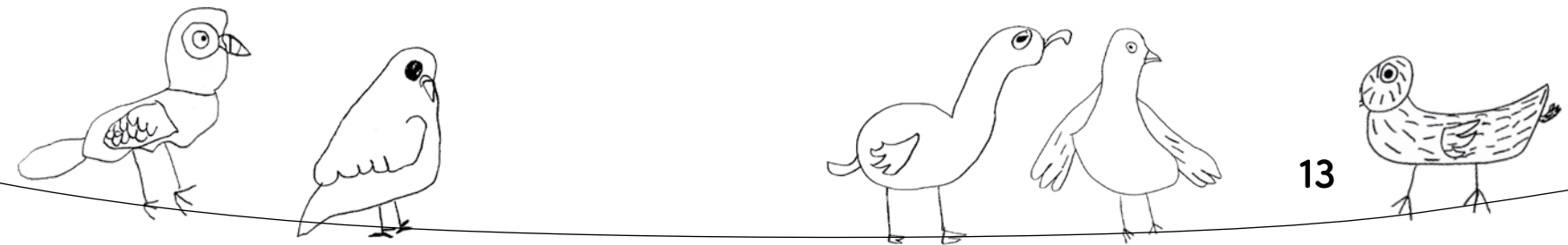


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## Joseph

My pigeon is called the Umbrella Pigeon. My pigeon has feathers on its head that can protect people from the rain. I chose these features because it will be very helpful if people don't have a lot of money to buy an umbrella or a raincoat, they can go under a pigeon.

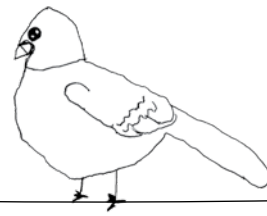
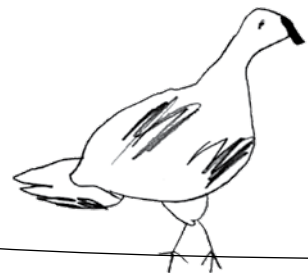


## Ganelle

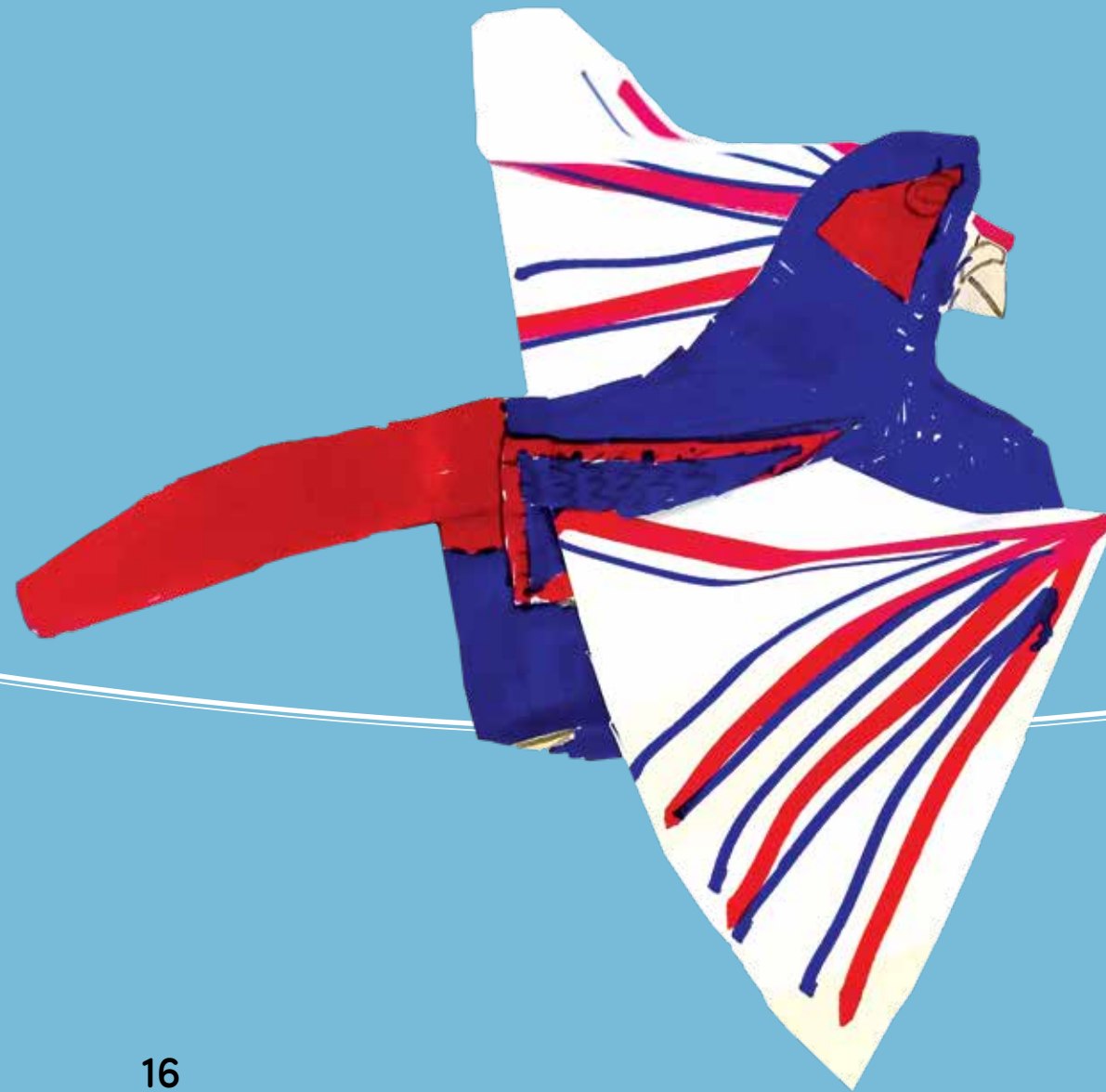
My pigeon is called the Fire Ice Pigeon. My pigeon has ice feathers that when it touches something it turns to ice. It also has snowflakes on its wings and when it flies, snow falls off of it. I chose these features because it makes her comfortable because sometimes it's warm outside.



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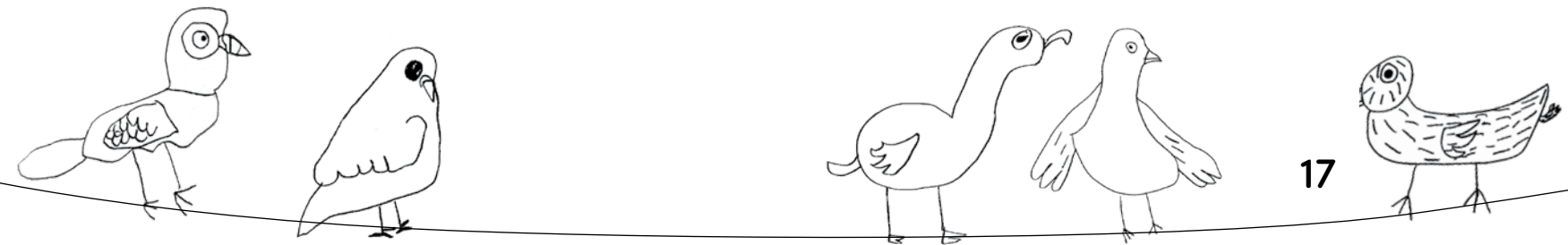


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## Jonathan

My pigeon is called the Underwater Pigeon. My pigeon has camouflage feathers and body. Everytime it goes under water it turns blue and everytime it goes on the sand his turns yellow. He changes color when he touches something. I chose these features because like this, predators cannot get to him.

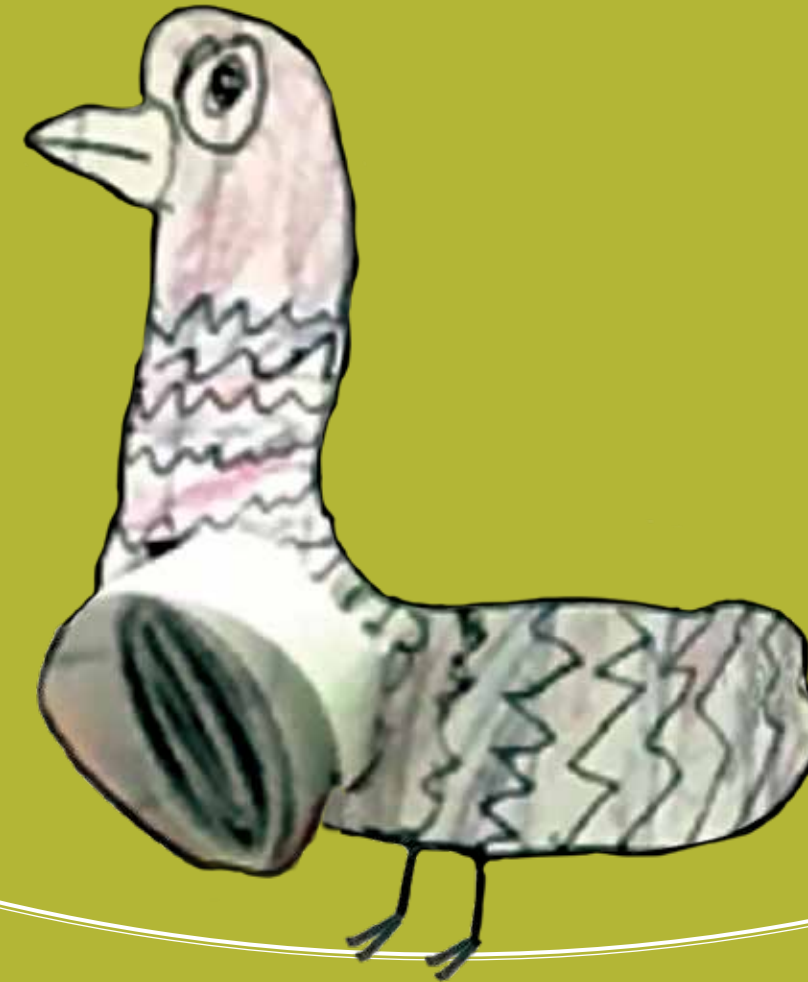
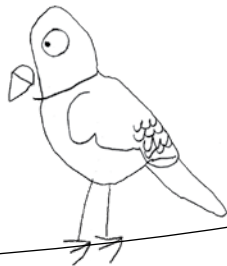
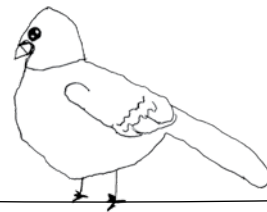
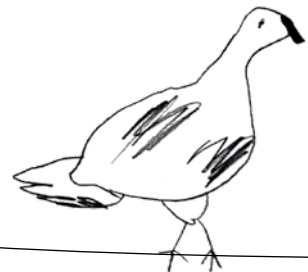


## Yoskar

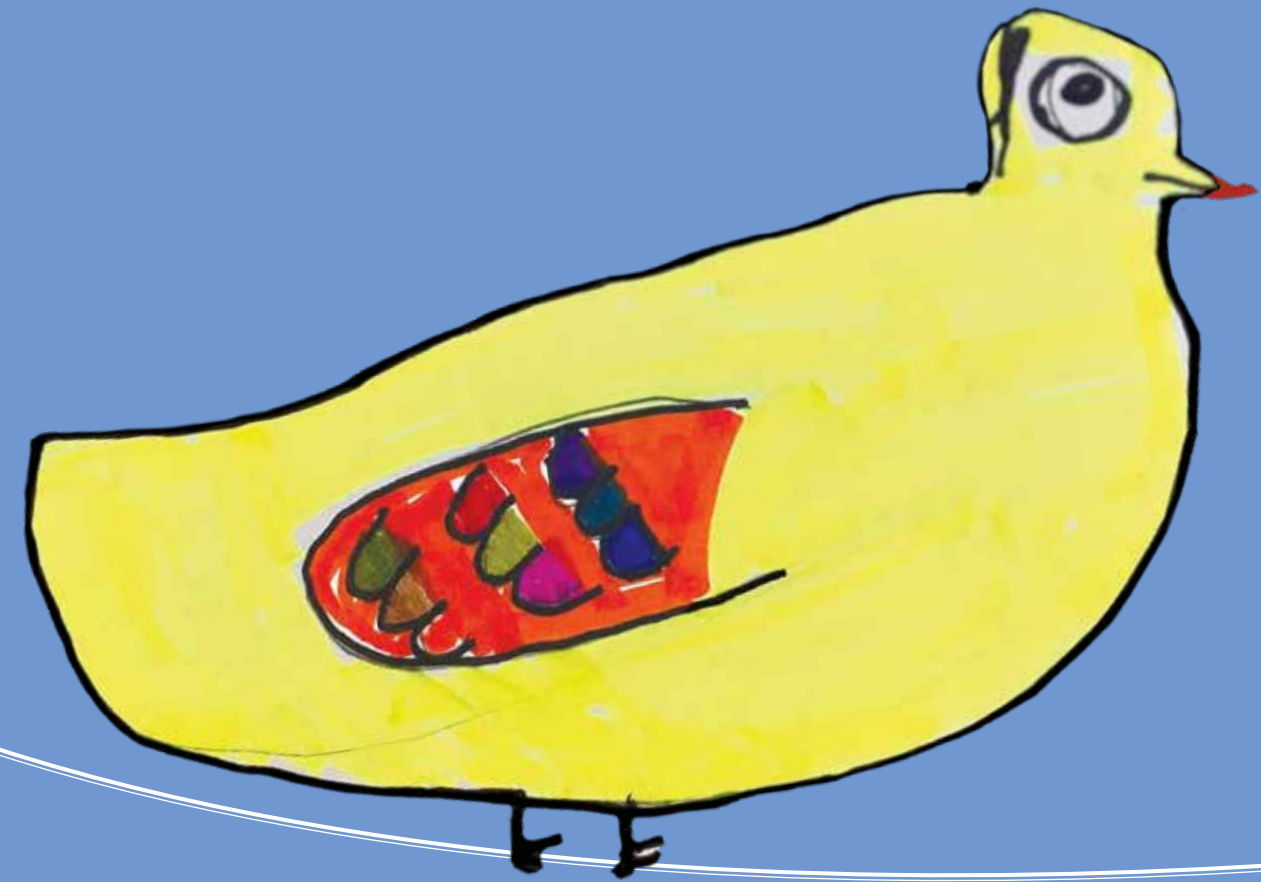
My pigeon is called the Wild Card Pigeon. My pigeon has blue and red feathers. And he eats rice and chips. I chose these features because I like them a lot. And the Wild Card Pigeon is a good name for a pigeon. He drops when he flies and he can fly super fast.



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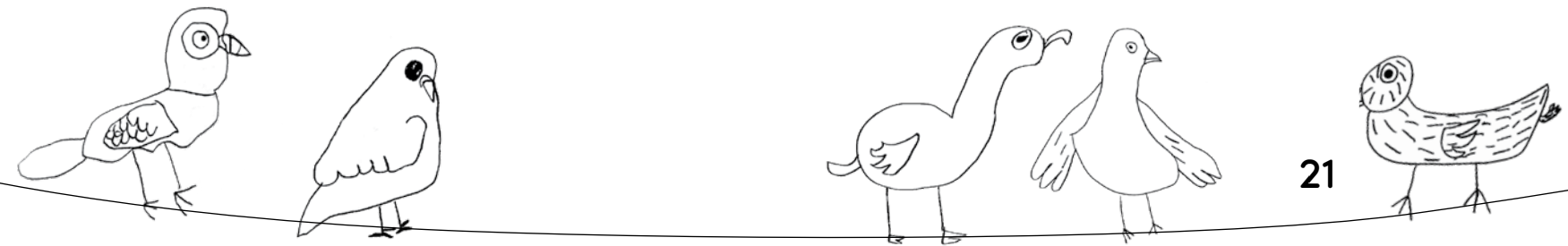
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## Ariel

My pigeon is called the Mario Pigeon which rhymes with Oreo. My pigeon has yellow feathers as yellow as the sun. I colored the wings red. And the beak is yellow too. I chose these features because the pigeon is supposed to be black. Black is going to be very scary.



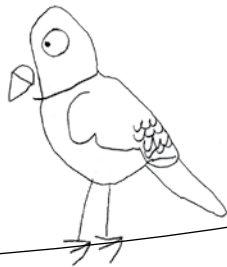
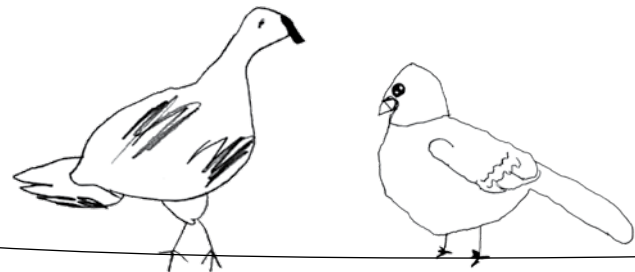
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## Abiel

My pigeon is called Mr. Pigeon. Mr. Pigeon has a big beak so he can eat good. He has lots of feathers so he can fly super fast. Big eyes so he can fly through any storm. Good wing and feet so he can land smoothly. And that is the facts of Mr. Pigeon.

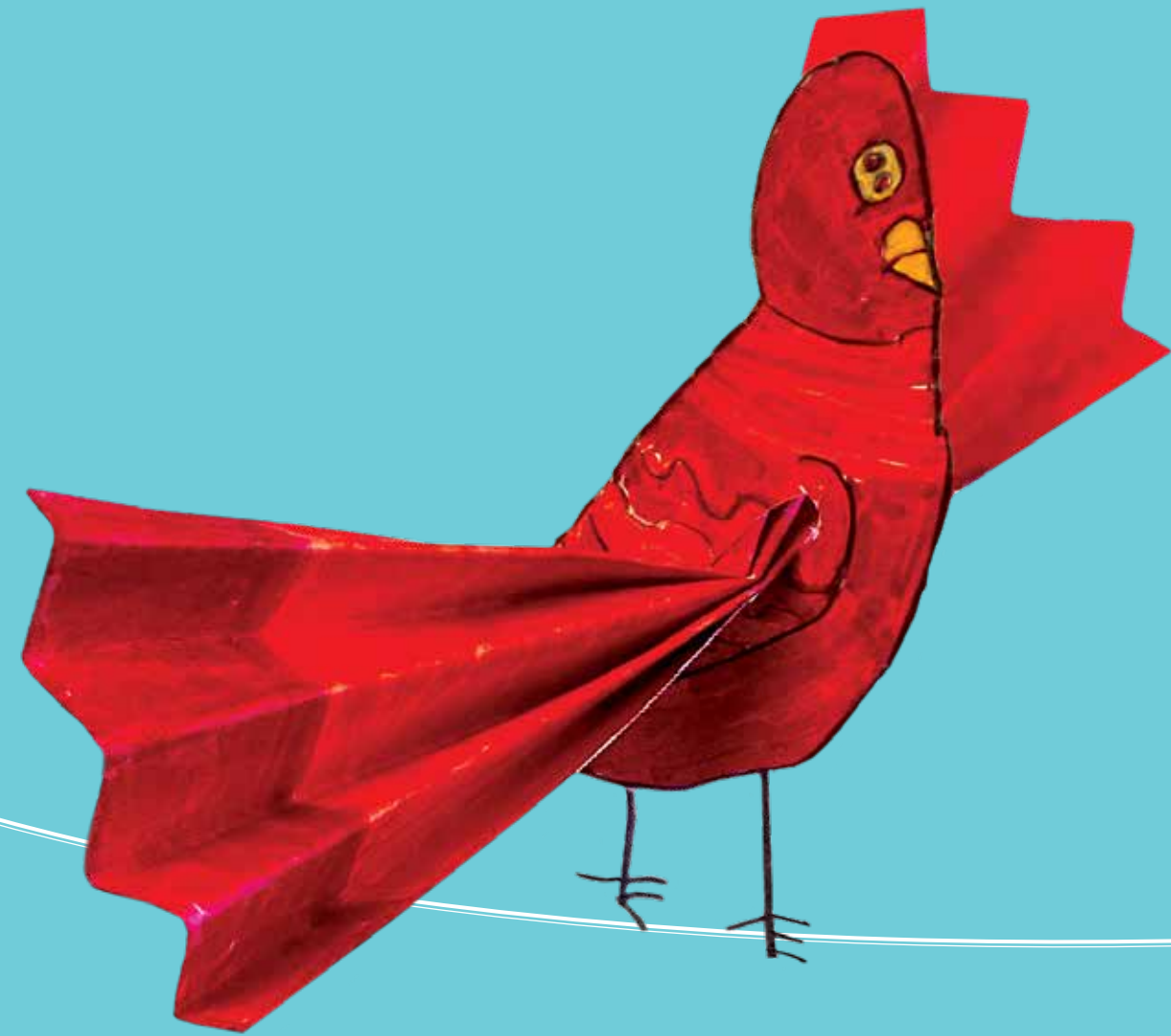


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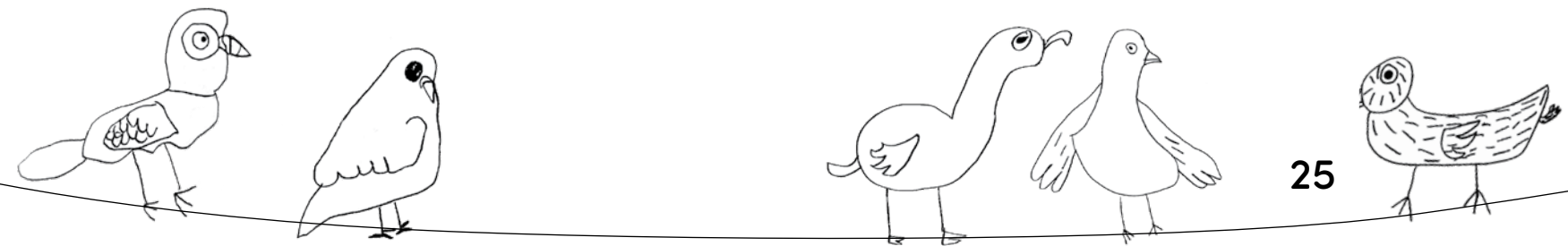
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## Steven

My pigeon is called the Fireball Pigeon. My pigeon has red and orange feathers. His beak is orange and his eyes are also orange. I chose these features because he can shoot fireball powers and that's what makes his red and orange.

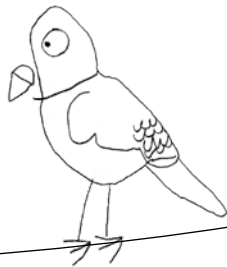
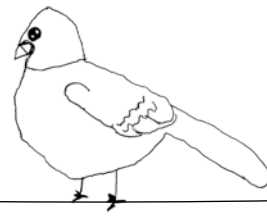
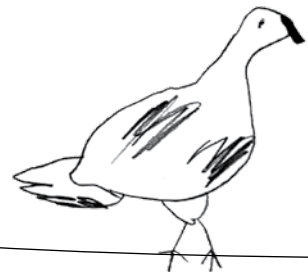


## Ms. Mann

My pigeon is called the Feathered Neck Pigeon. My pigeon has bright green and purple feathers around its neck that make it look like it's wearing a feather boa. These feathers can also be found on its wings, tail and feet. I chose these features because they make her look more regal and fancy. But the feathers on her feet also protect her from various types of string getting caught around them.



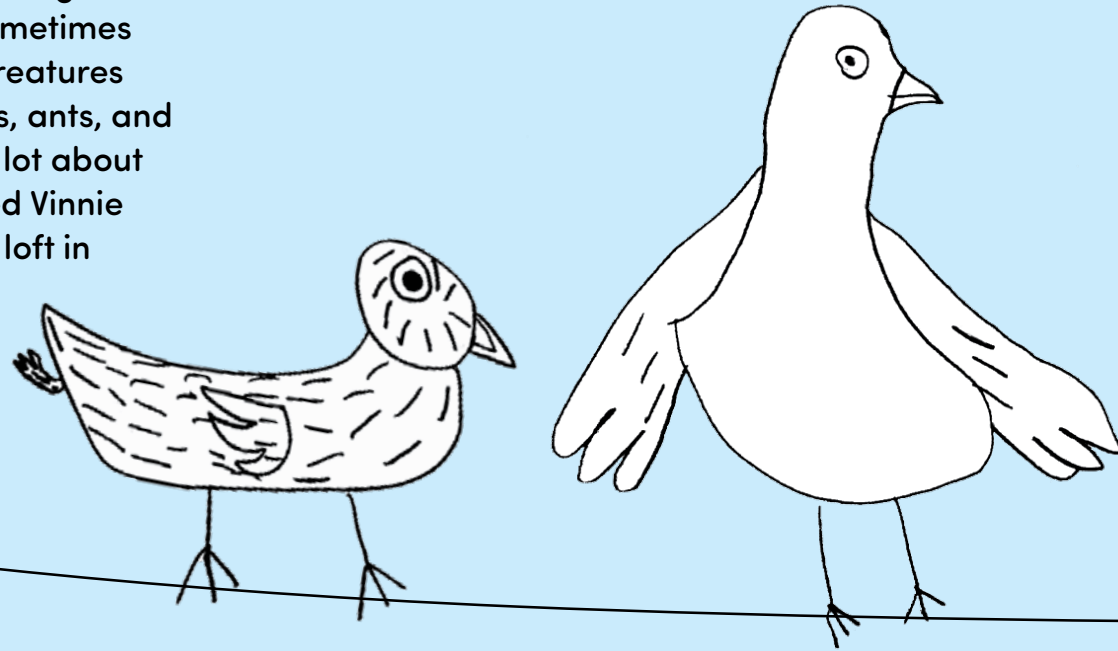
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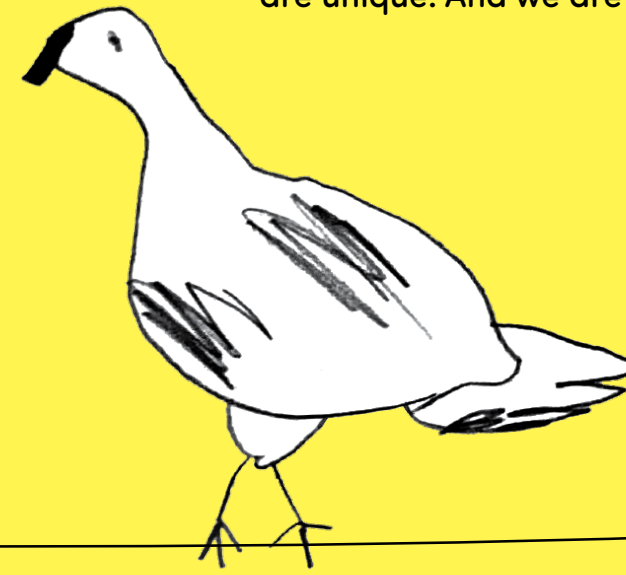
## About the Visiting Author

Kevin McCloskey was born in Rahway, New Jersey and received his MFA from The School of Visual Arts in NYC. He is the author and illustrator of the 'Giggle and Learn' series for Toon Books. He travels the country sharing fascinating facts about common, but sometimes misunderstood, little creatures including worms, snails, ants, and pigeons. He learned a lot about pigeons when he visited Vinnie Torre's rooftop pigeon loft in Hoboken, NJ.



## About the Student Authors

Class 480—the best class ever—is made up of 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders and is super fun. We like to play with robots, read lots of books and learn about a lot of fun stuff. We are video gamers. We are artists. We are writers. We are loud. We are happy. We are sometimes shy. We are unique. And we are unstoppable!



## About Behind the Book

Behind the Book brings authors and their books into classrooms to build literacy skills and foster a community of lifelong readers and writers. Working with classes from Pre-K through 12th grade, our series of workshops is designed to bring books to life and inspire students to reach their full potential. Behind the Book is embedded in the class curriculum, nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in New York City public school students. All programs meet the Common Core Learning Standards.

## Common Core Learning Standards Addressed

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1

Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

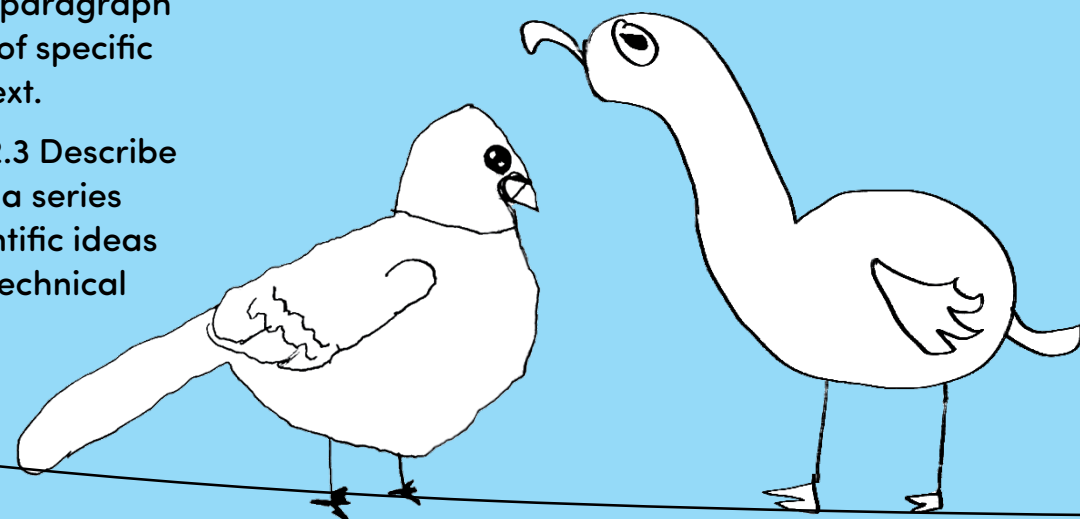
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.2 Identify the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.3 Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.5 With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.7

Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).



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