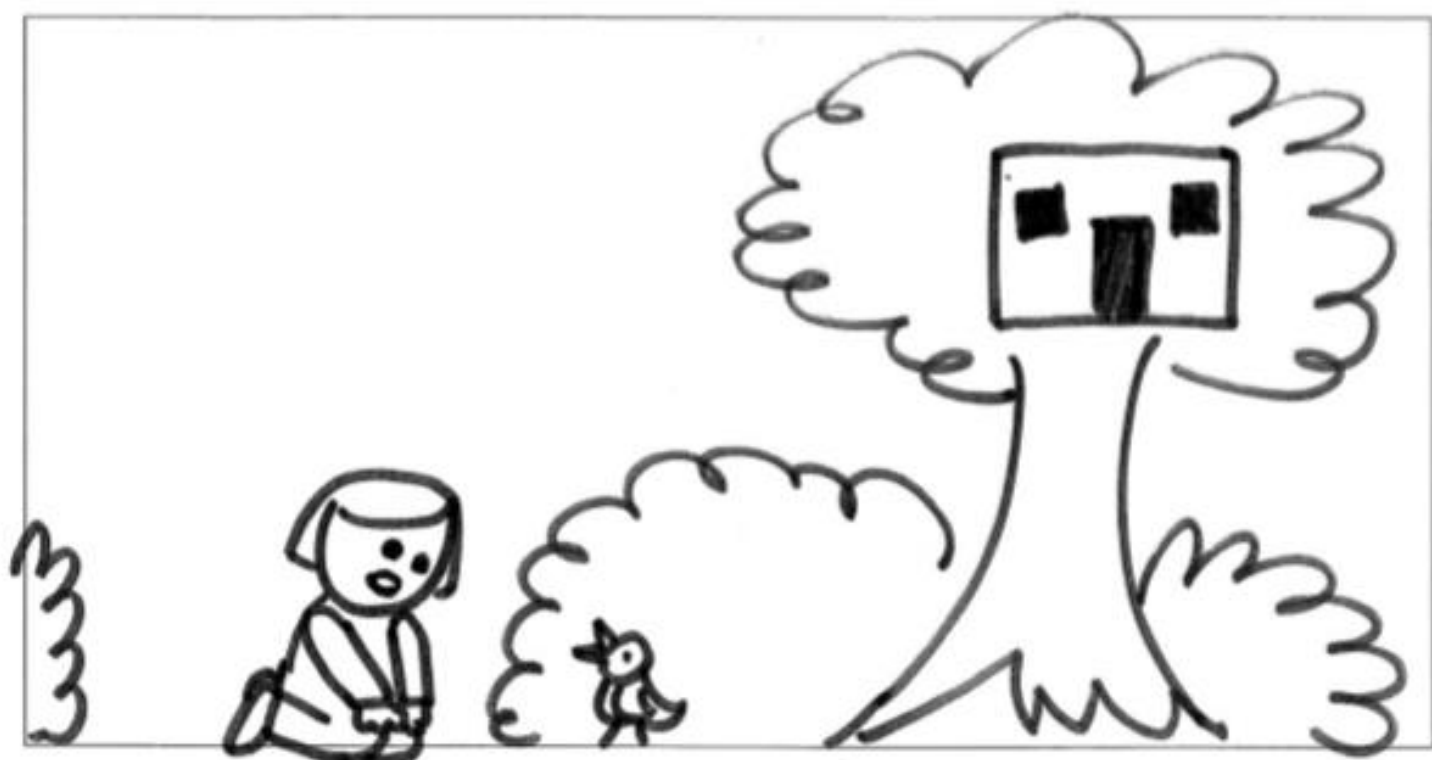


Gretchen heard a noise.

Peep peep caw! Peep peep caw!

"What is that?" she thought.



She crouched by the path.  
It was a fierce bird. Gretchen  
felt afraid.



"I'll be brave," she thought.

She scooped up the bird in  
her sweater.



Gretchen hid her head in  
her hands. Crack! She  
was cold.



Then the storm passed.

Gretchen's mom yelled,

“Gretchen, come inside and  
get dry. I made hot chocolate.”



Gretchen raced for the  
house. Her mom was in  
the door. She ran fast.



She felt safe at last.

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