

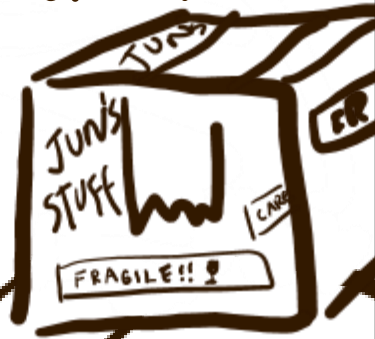
different.

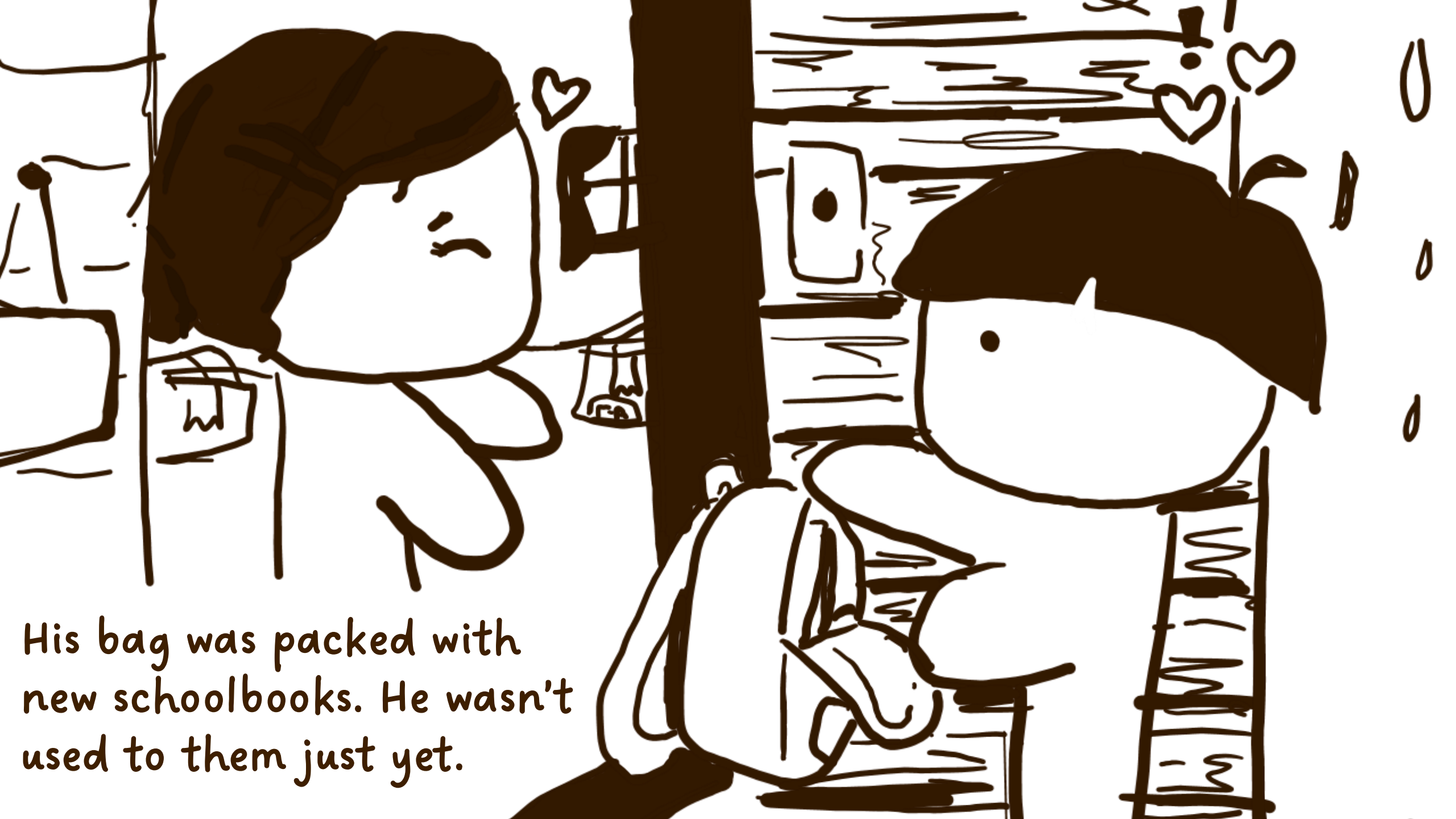
Ella park



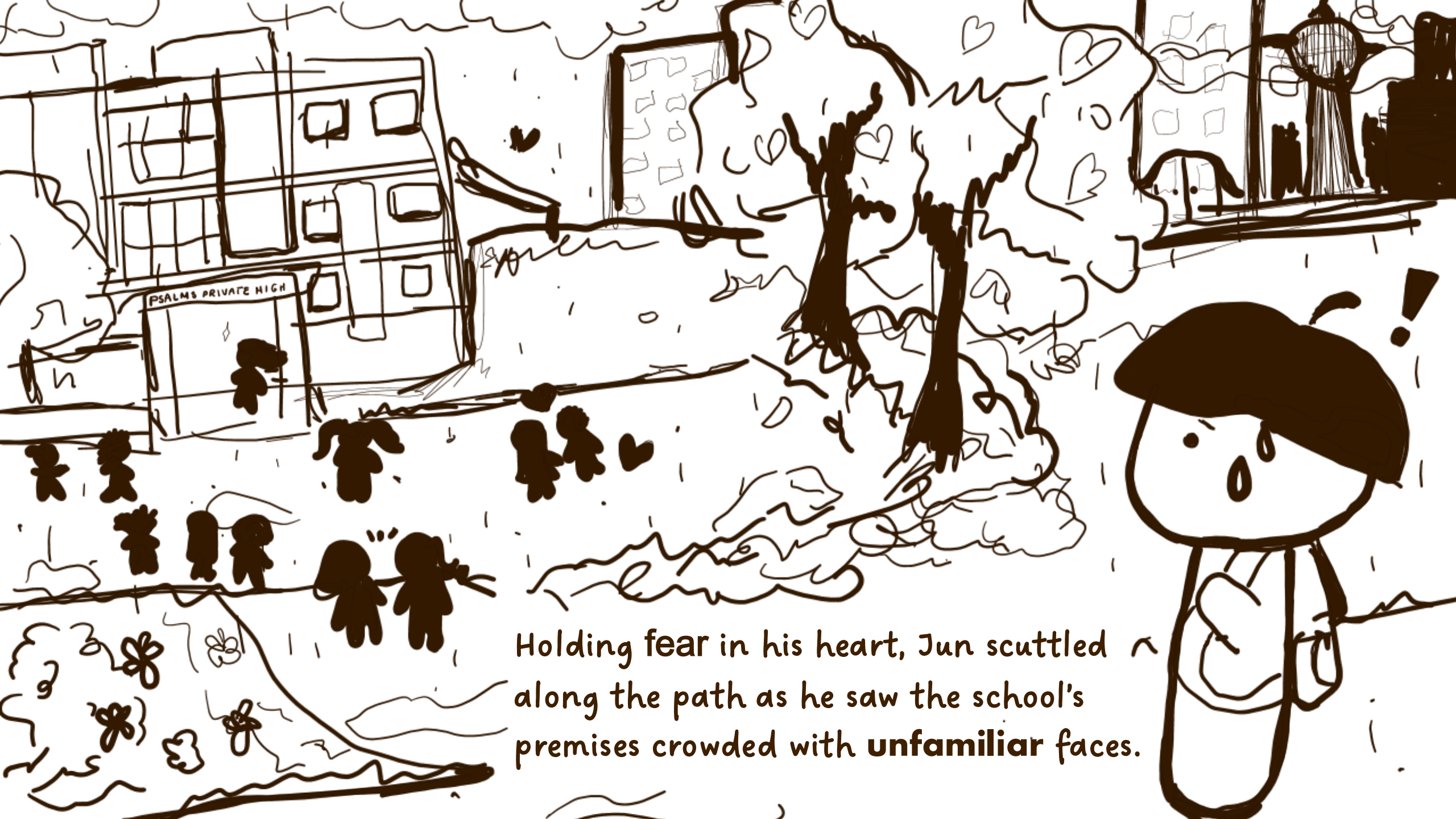
It was a school day, but not like any other.

The weather was withered, his possessions boxed, something in the new city air felt different.





His bag was packed with new schoolbooks. He wasn't used to them just yet.



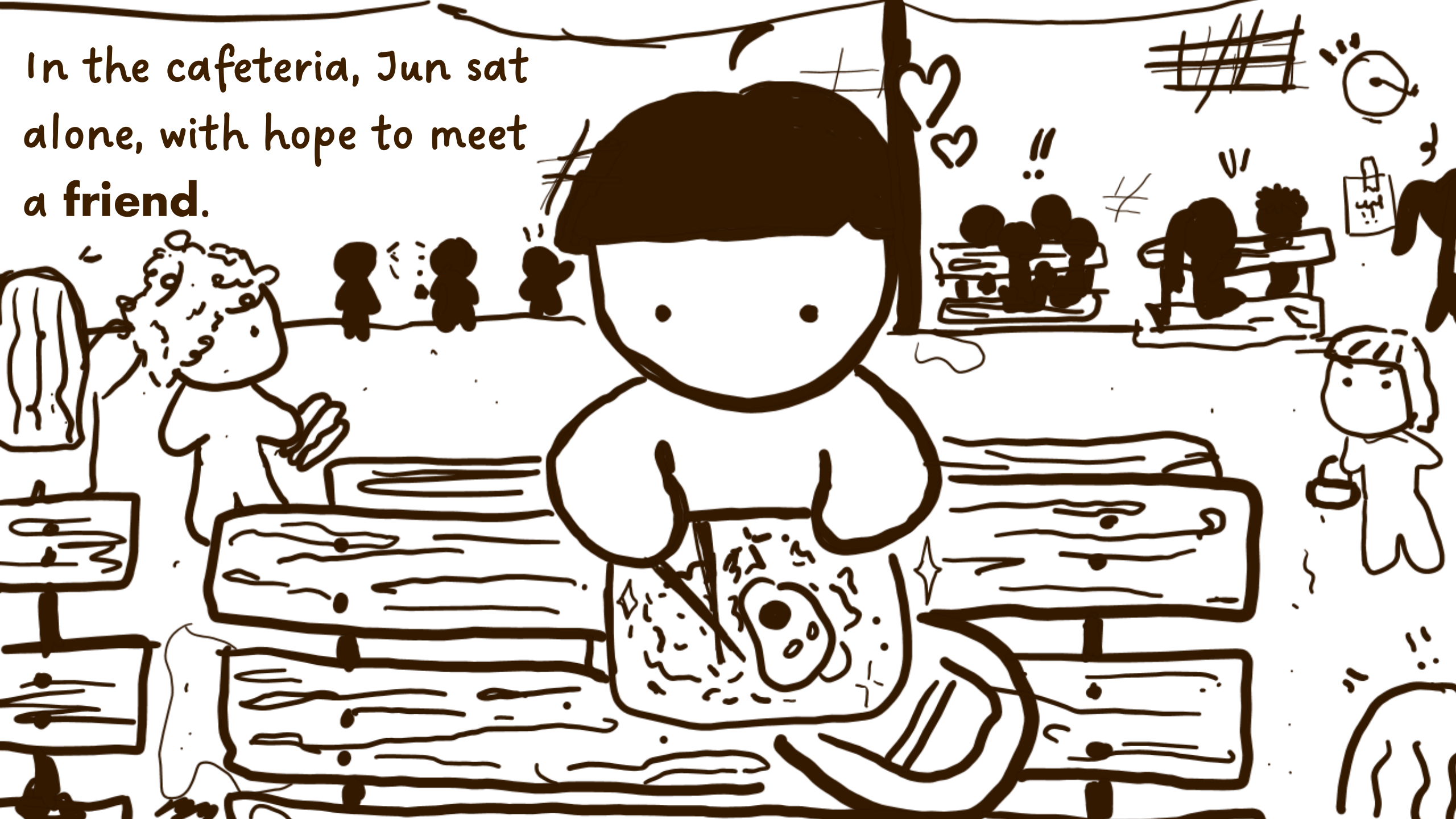
Holding fear in his heart, Jun scuttled along the path as he saw the school's premises crowded with **unfamiliar** faces.

He walked the footpath
and the whispering grew
louder.




The words seemed to spiral
around him, not loud enough to
hear, but clear enough to feel.

In the cafeteria, Jun sat alone, with hope to meet a friend.

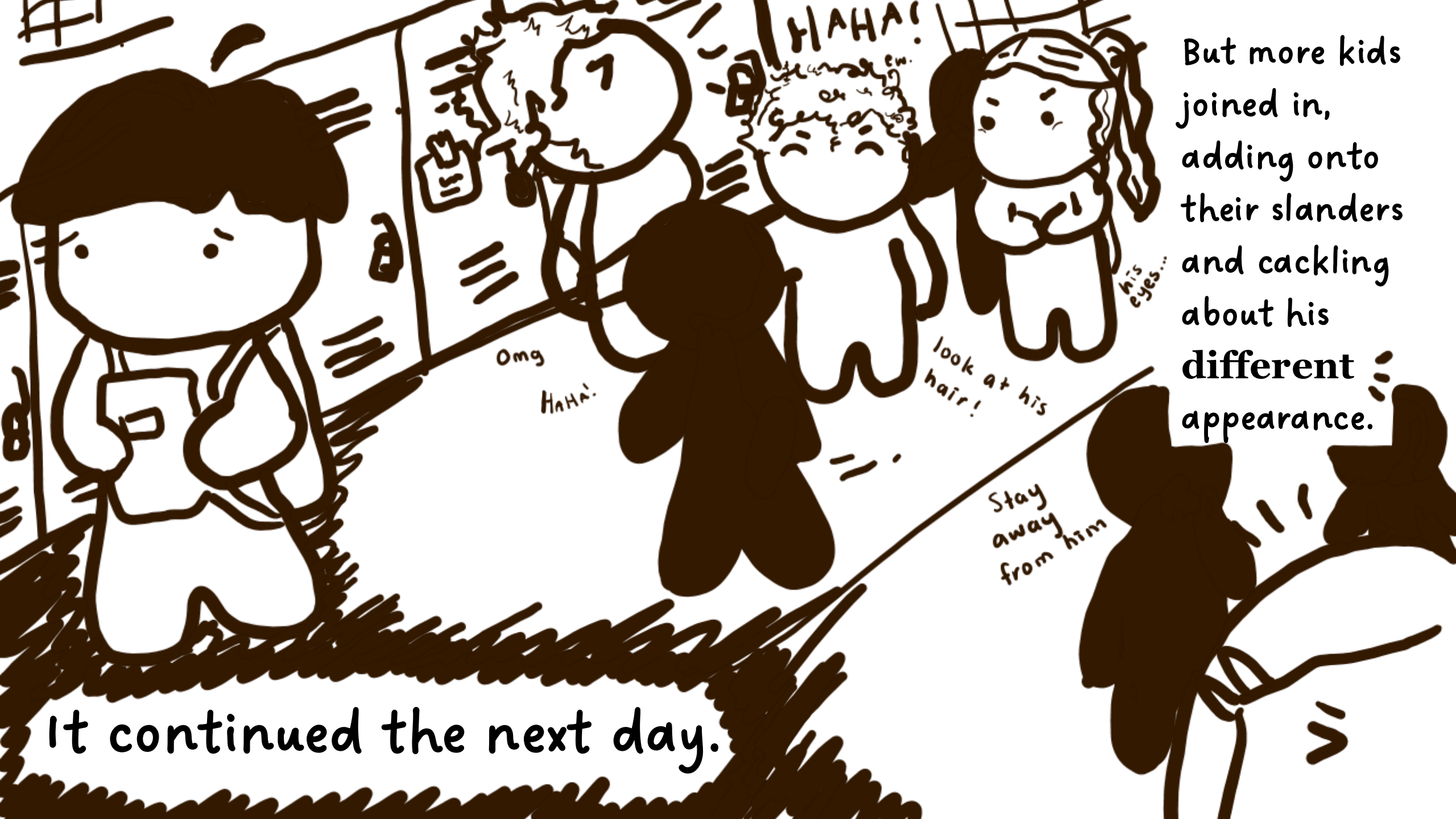


A group of kids stopped by, and one of them snickered, "You're sitting at **our** table, Jun!" they pestered. "Go back to where you came from."





A nest of restless snakes
coiled in Jun's stomach.



But more kids joined in, adding onto their slanders and cackling about his **different** appearance.

It continued the next day.

Jun sat alone again,



He's so weird



surrounding

loneliness

The

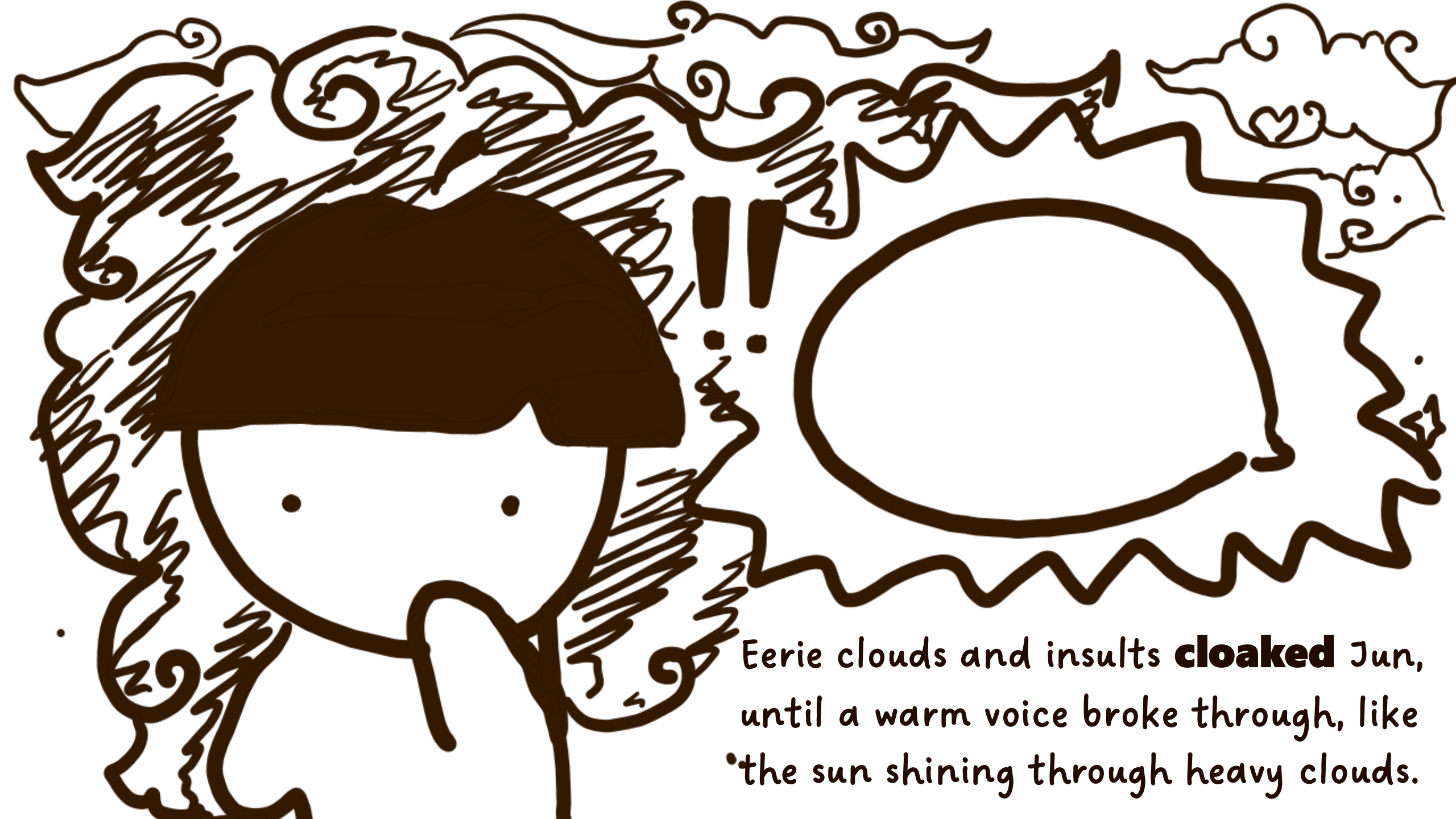
him

like a

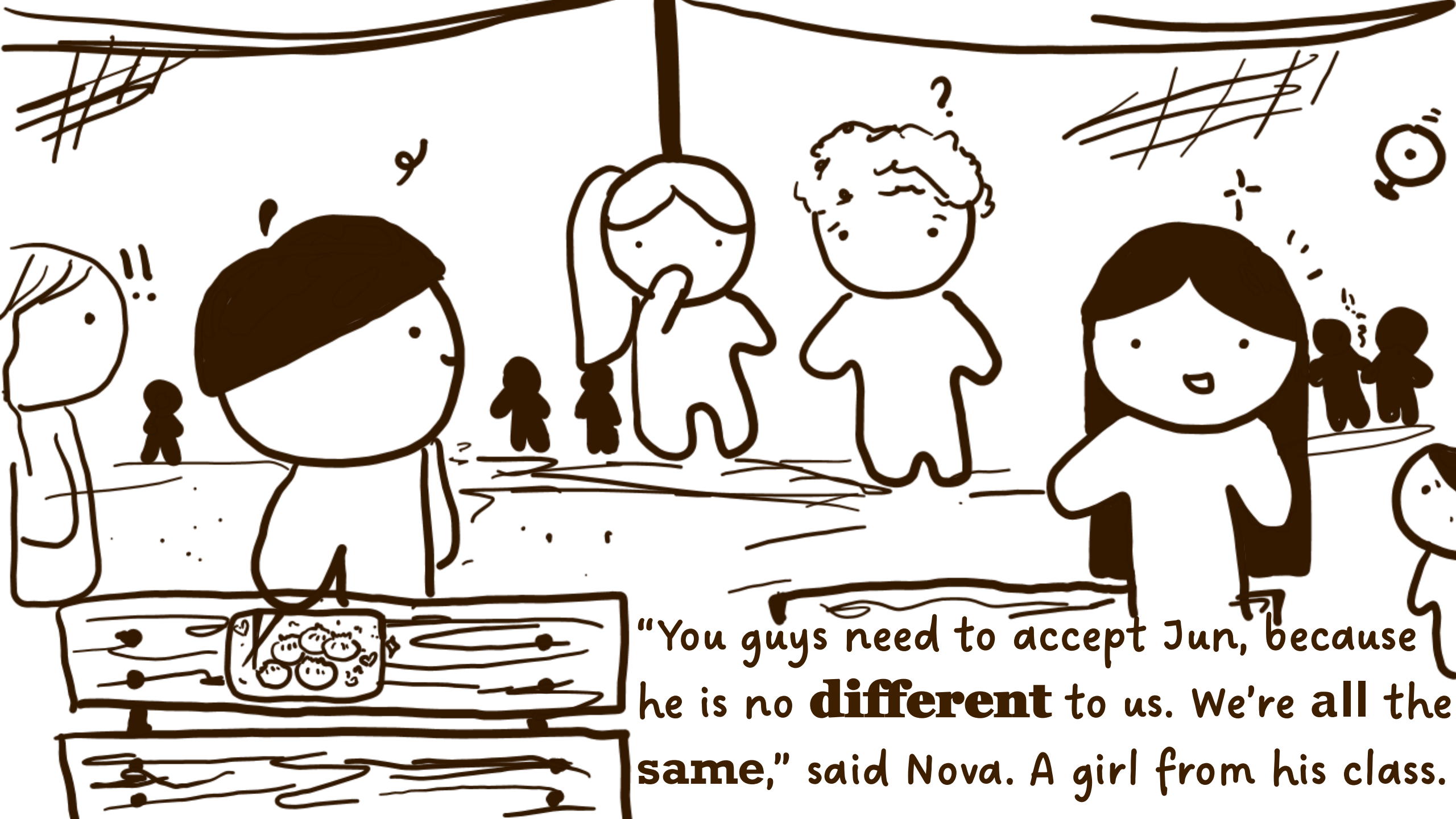
heavy

fog.





Eerie clouds and insults **cloaked** Jun,
until a warm voice broke through, like
the sun shining through heavy clouds.



"You guys need to accept Jun, because he is no **different** to us. We're all the same," said Nova. A girl from his class.



One friend at a time, Jun's **differences** were welcomed and accepted. Because everyone belongs.