Áxak kústaansas

Story by Lulu and Tamara Alexander

Illustrations and Translations by Karuk Breath of Life Team 2016
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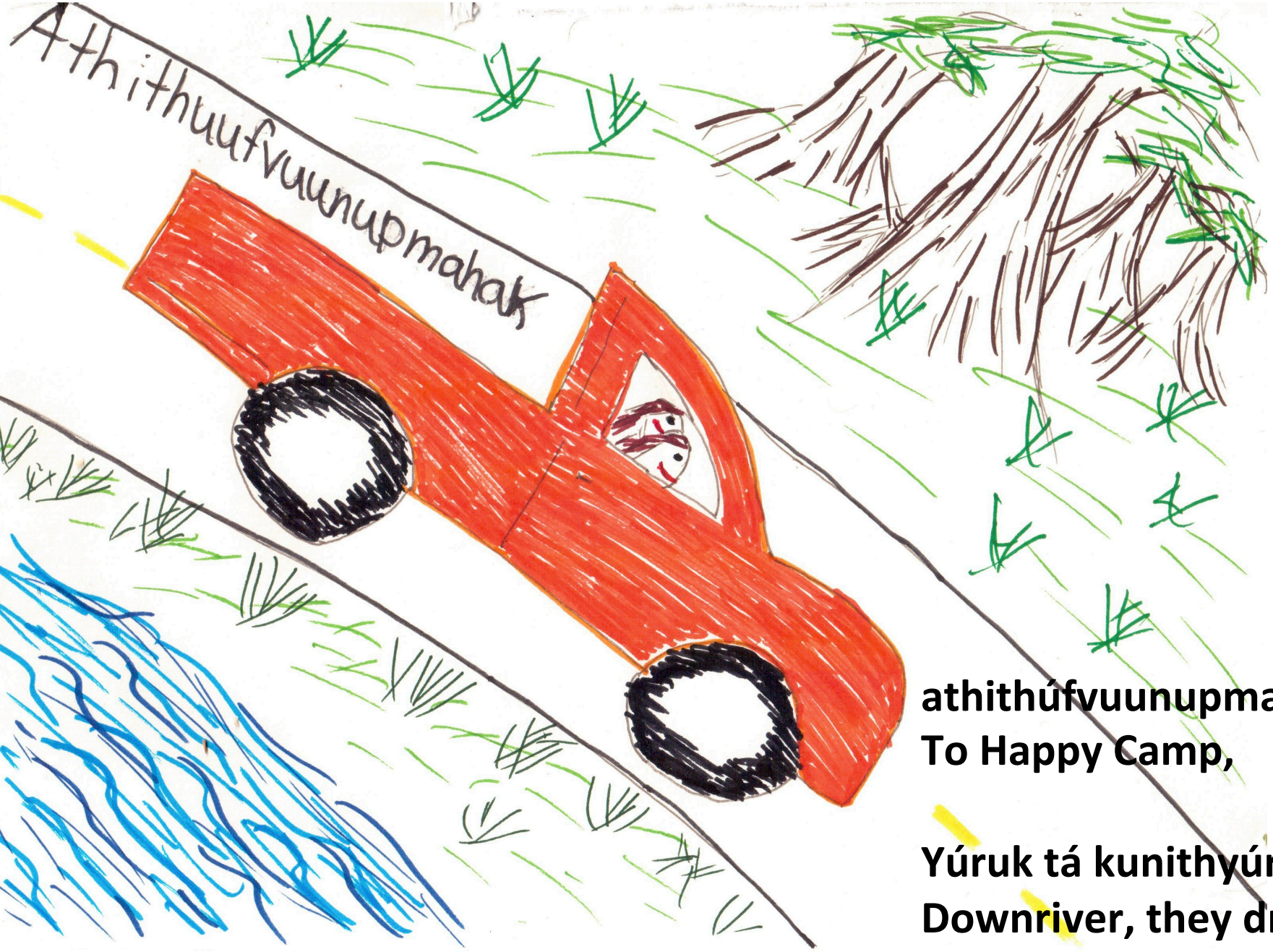
Áxak kústaansas kahtíshraamak
Two sisters in Yreka;

Káan tá kuníkrii.
There, they were living.

Yúuxas ánav
Elderberry medicine,

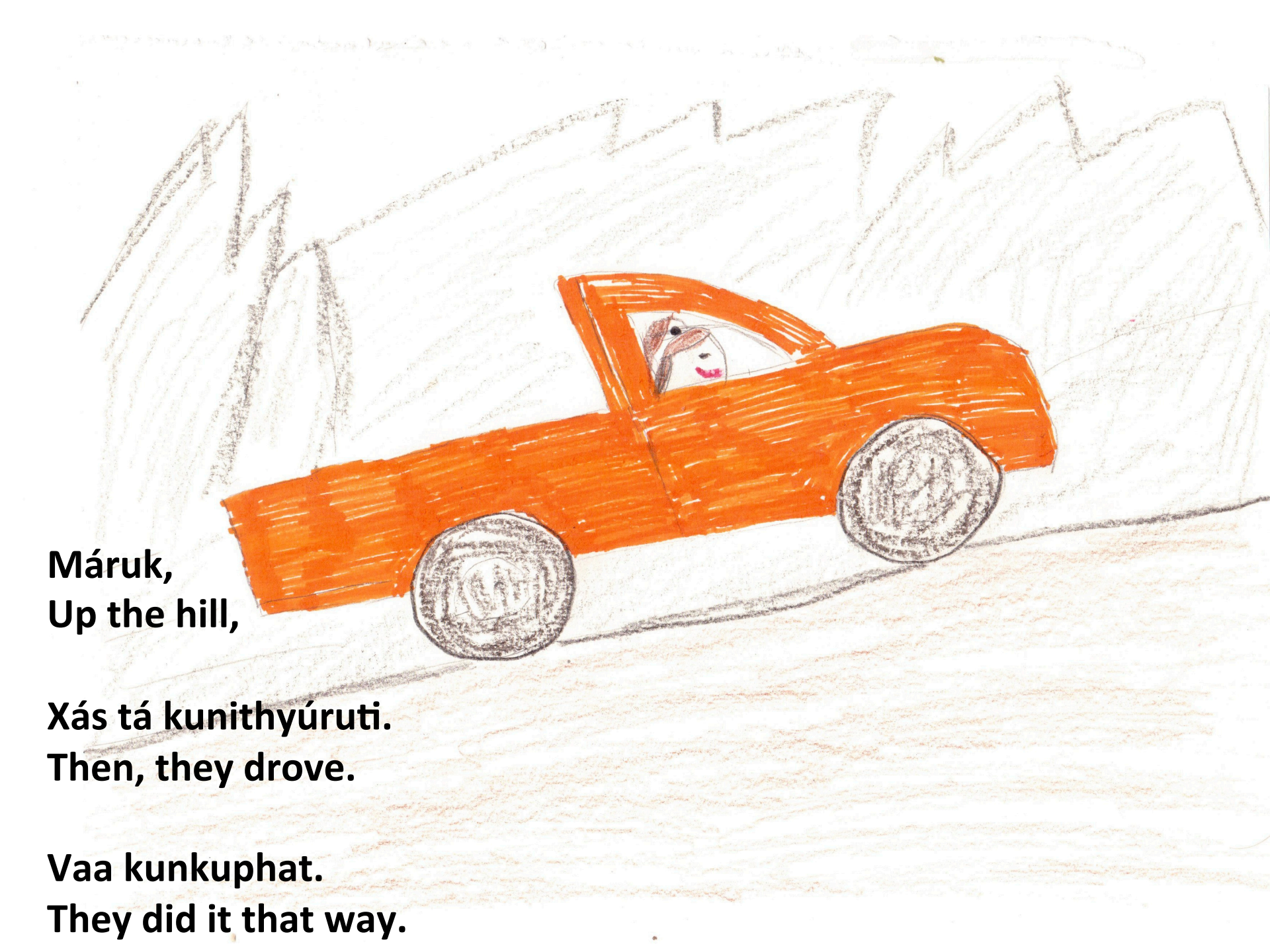
kuníkyaveesh
They were gonna make it

Vaa kunkupheesh.
That way.



athithúfvuunupmahak
To Happy Camp,

Yúruk tá kunithyúrutih.
Downriver, they drove.



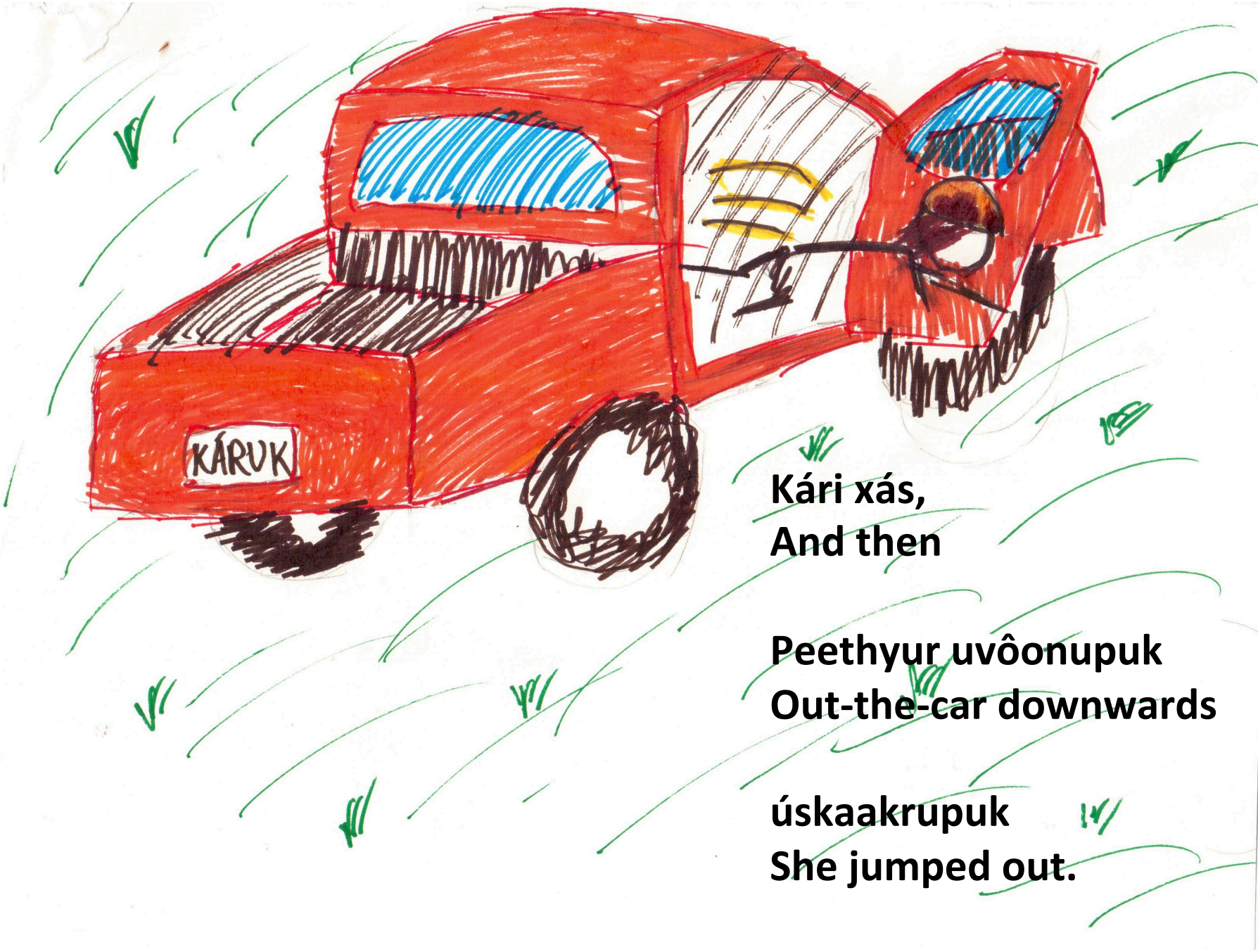
Máruk,
Up the hill,

Xás tá kunithyúruti.
Then, they drove.

Vaa kunkuphat.
They did it that way.

“Chími iim ôok neekrûuntih!”
“You wait here!”

Panánach ukpêehva.
The big sister, she yelled it.



Kári xás,
And then

Peethyur uvôonupuk
Out-the-car downwards

úskaakrupuk
She jumped out.

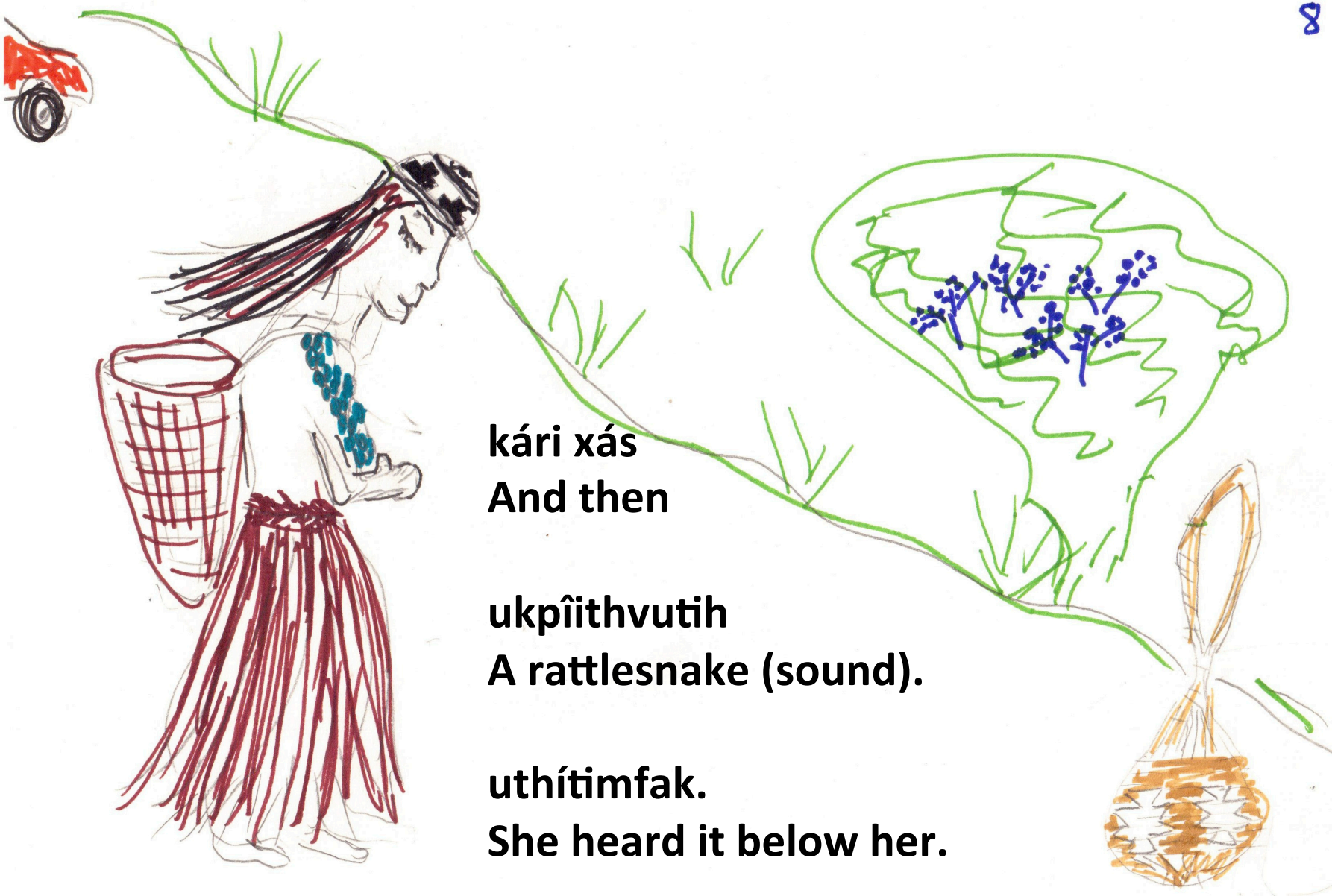
saamvánihich
A little ways downhill,

Pa yúuxas,
The elderberries,

vaa kaan kun’íiftih
There they were growing.

saamvárih
Downhill

ukvíripmutih
She ran there.



kári xás
And then

ukpîithvutih
A rattlesnake (sound).

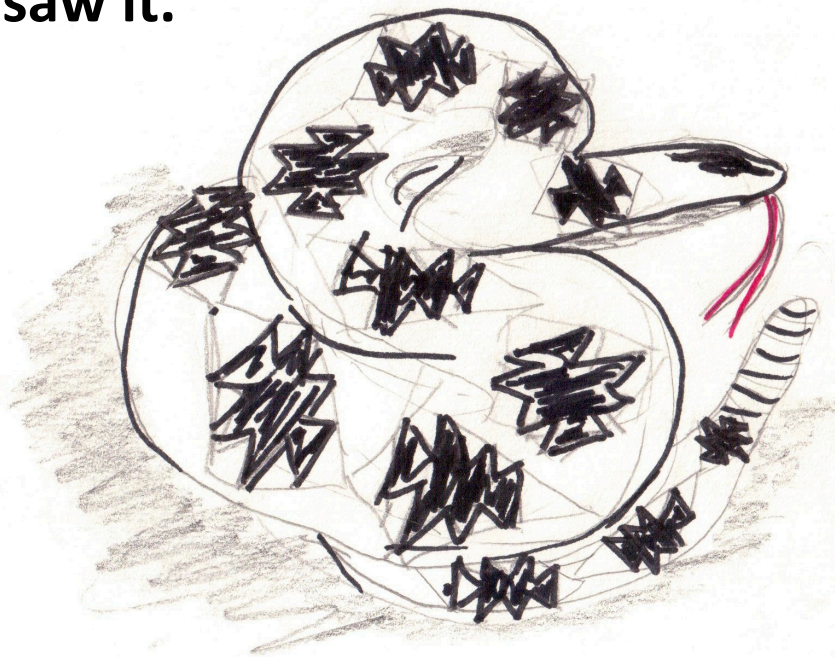
uthítimfak.
She heard it below her.

Sáam úmuustih.
Downwards, she looked that way.

Púya íf,
Behold,

patapas'apsún'anamahach.
A baby rattle.

Uum umáahtih.
She saw it.

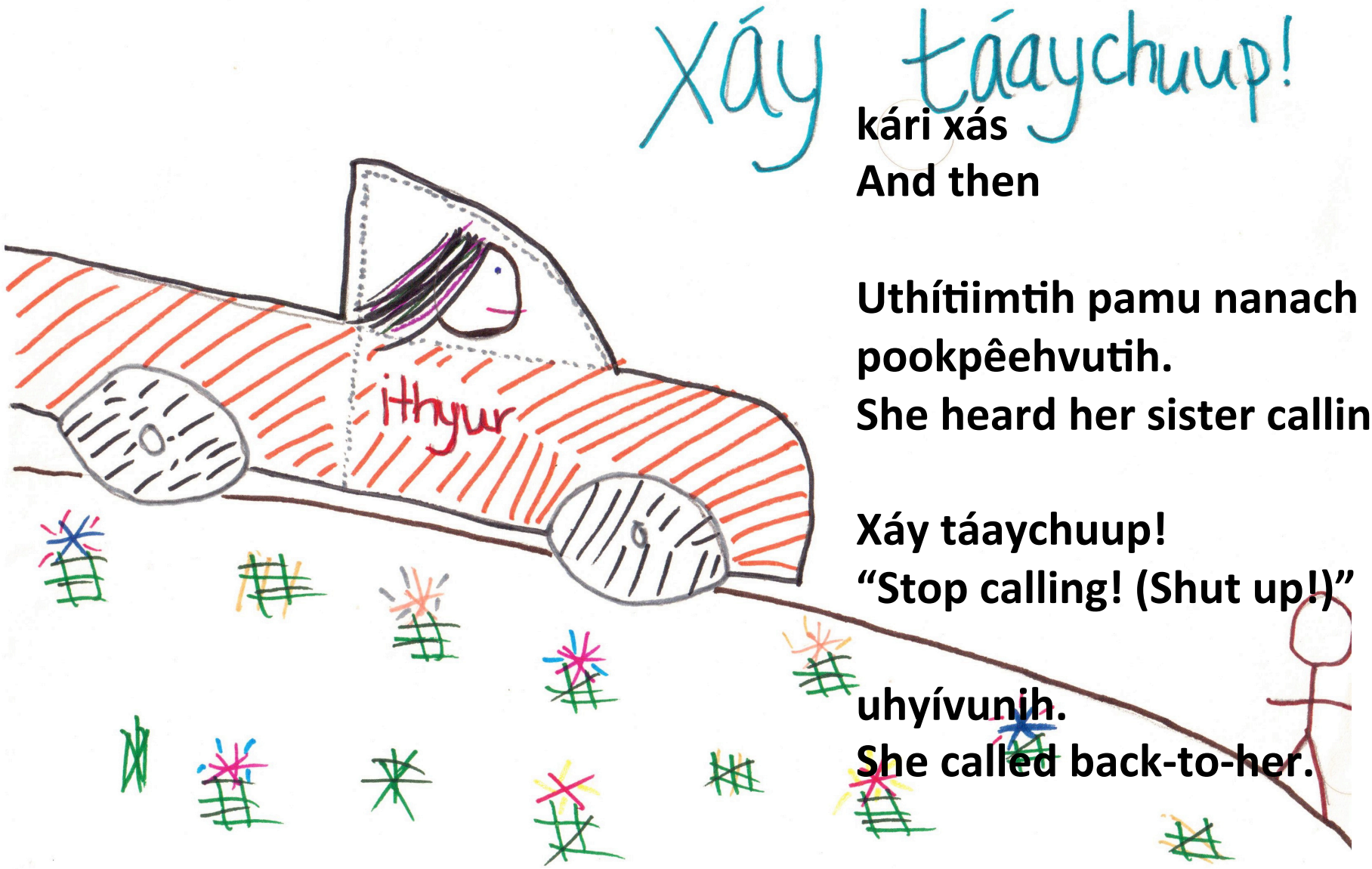


Ufurathfípiruv.
She was overly excited in a negative way.

“Ha’iiii! Nani kústaan!” Ukpêehvutih.
“Ha’iiii! My sister!” She called out.

Pa chíish ithyúrak
The little sister in the car

káan úkrii
She was sitting there.



kári xás
And then

Uthítiimtih pamu nanach pookpêehvutih.
She heard her sister calling.

Xáy táaychuup!
“Stop calling! (Shut up!)”

uhyívunih.
She called back-to-her.

Pa nánach upéentih,
The big sister said,

“Yiivánihich, yiivánihich.
Get out of my way, get out of my way.

Tapas’apsún’anamahach!”
Little rattlesnake

Pa nánach upéentih,
The big sister said,

“Ikcháxvaan xákaan nuvâarameesh.”
“I’ve got the hawk with me.”

púya vaa páy naa nik niniyéeshiip,
So, that was my best

Kupánakanakana.
That’s how it was.

víri vaa payêem tá nitáayvaar.
and so now I'm spent!