

Joey's Special Eye

Story by Grace Talusan

Illustrations by Rob Harrell

Published by The Eye Cancer Foundation

The Eye Cancer Foundation is a USA 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports education, research and support services for individuals and families affected by eye cancer.

The Eye Cancer Foundation also promotes multi center, international cooperation, tumor registries and fellowship education.

For more information on retinoblastoma or to learn more about The Eye Cancer Foundation visit www.eyecancerfoundation.org

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Dear Reader:

"Joey's Special Eye" is a very special story revolving around the journey of Joey and his diagnosis of retinoblastoma. We hope this story will initiate dialogue between children and their families regarding the feelings uncovered through dealing with this diagnosis.

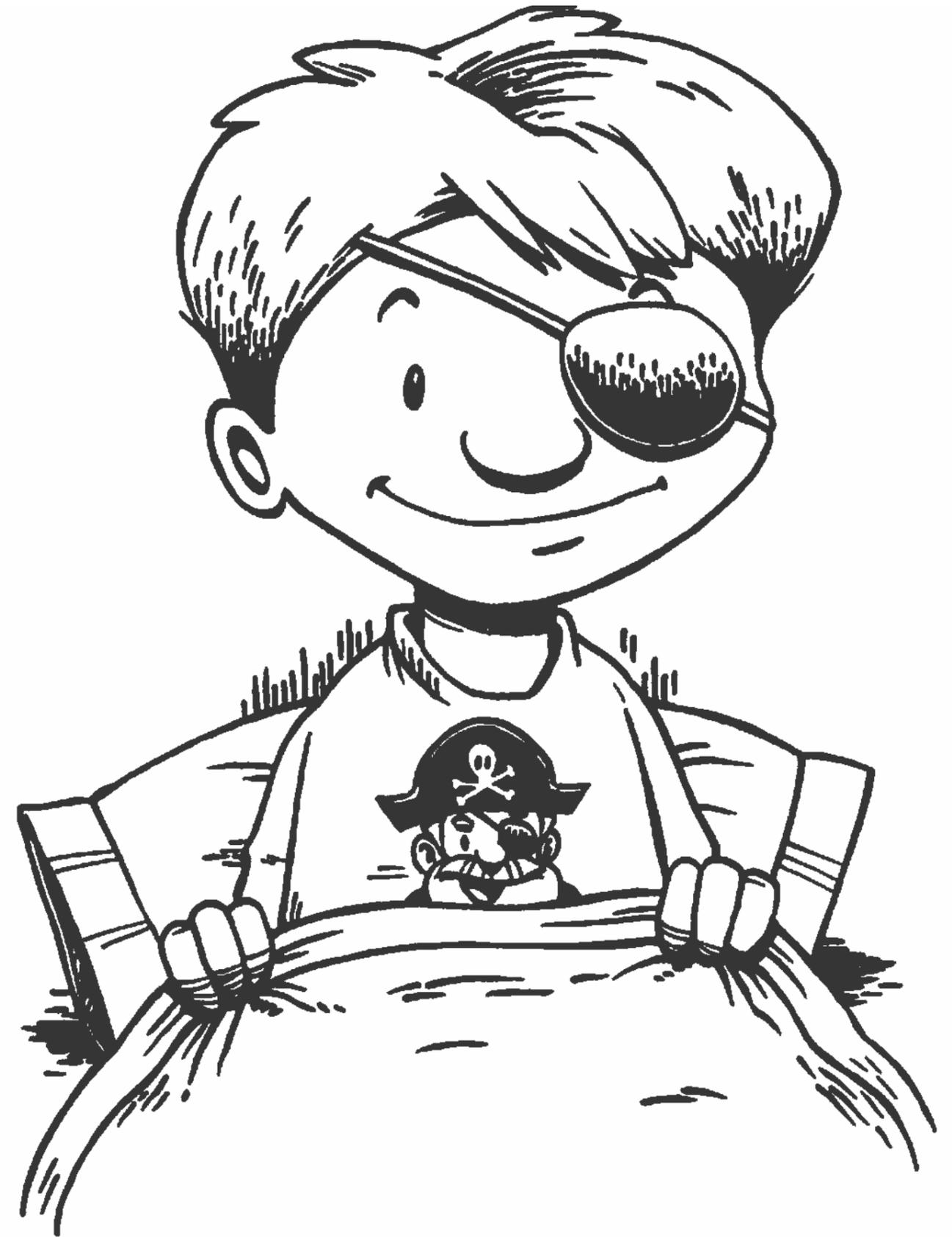
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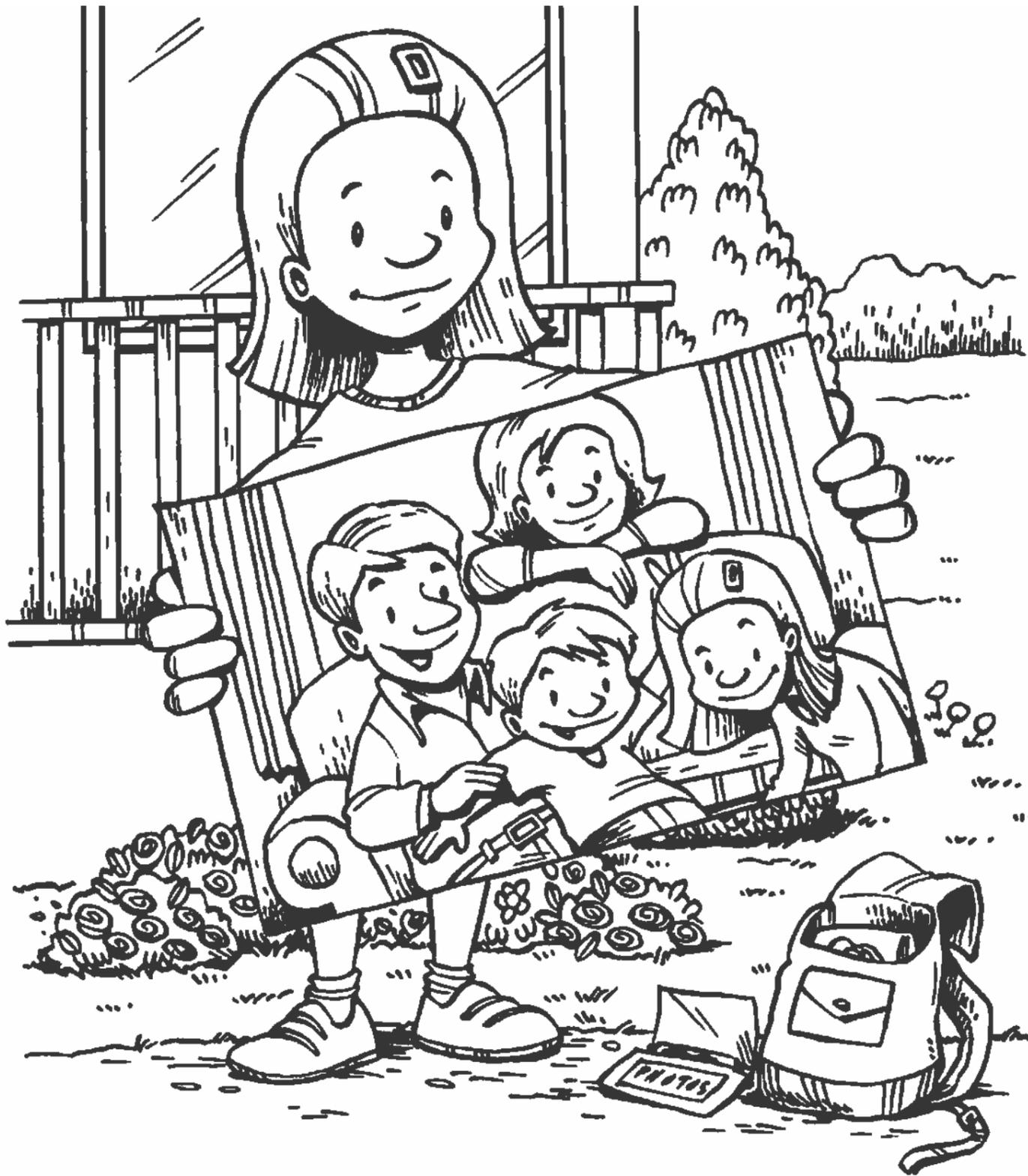
or you can visit <https://www.eyecancer.com/donate> and click "donate now" to make a donation. Your kind USA tax deductible donation will enable us to continue to provide this very special story/coloring book to children affected by retinoblastoma and their families all over the world.

Enjoy the story!

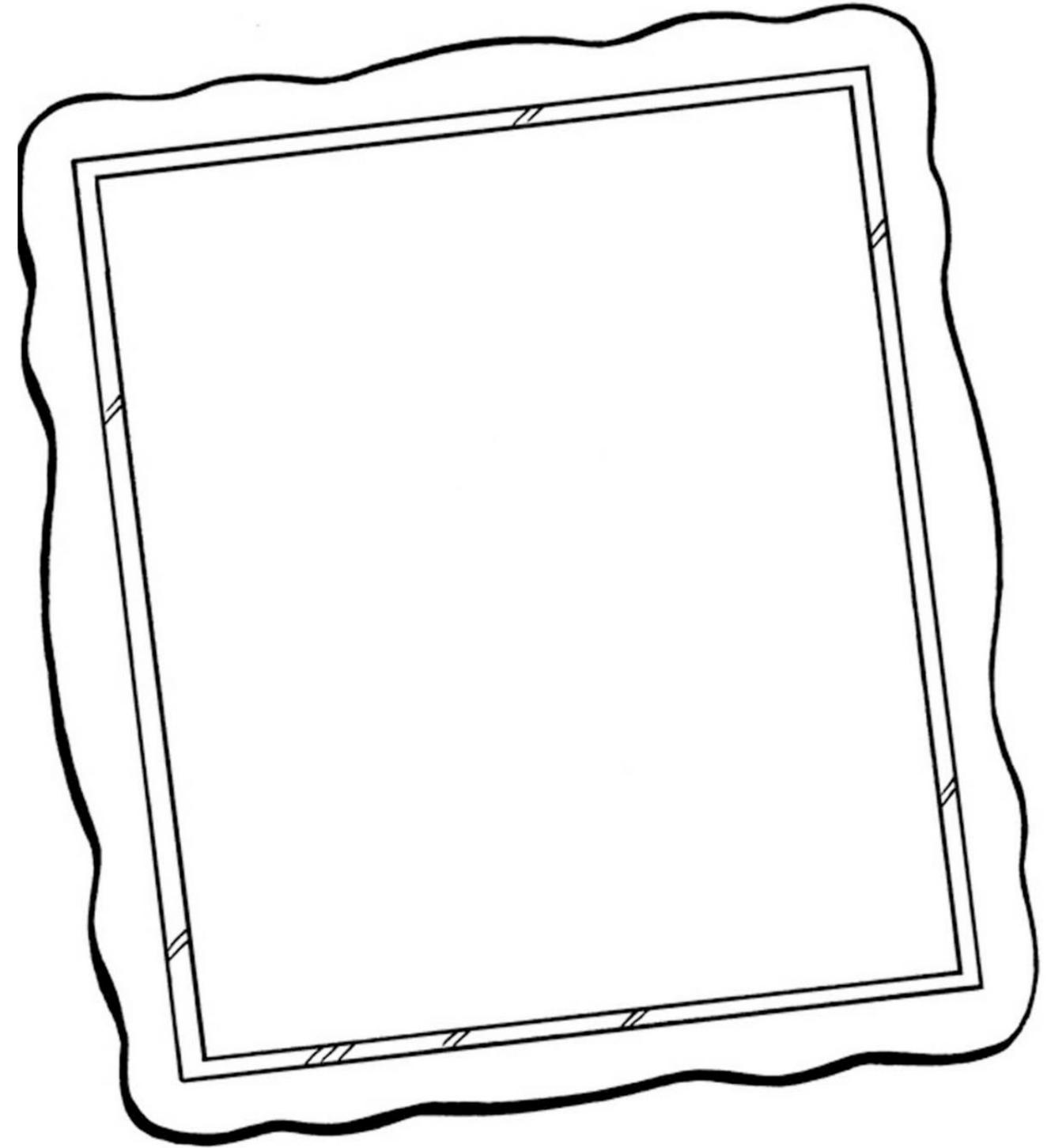
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Joey has a special eye, an eye that doesn't see.



Our parents take lots of family photos. while looking at photos one day they noticed a white reflection in Joey's eye. They didn't know what it could be so they called the doctor.



Draw a picture of your family.

About the Author

Grace Talusan is a freelance writer and teacher in Boston.

She teaches writing at Tufts University and Grub Street.



Joli and Grace Photo by Alonso Nichols 2007

Grace honors the experience of her niece Joli Vega and all survivors of Rb. She thanks her sister Liza for help with the story. She dedicates this work in memory of Joey Bergsma (www.lovejoey.com) and hopes to raise awareness for those children with Rb who don't have access to treatment (www.daisyeyecancerfund.org).

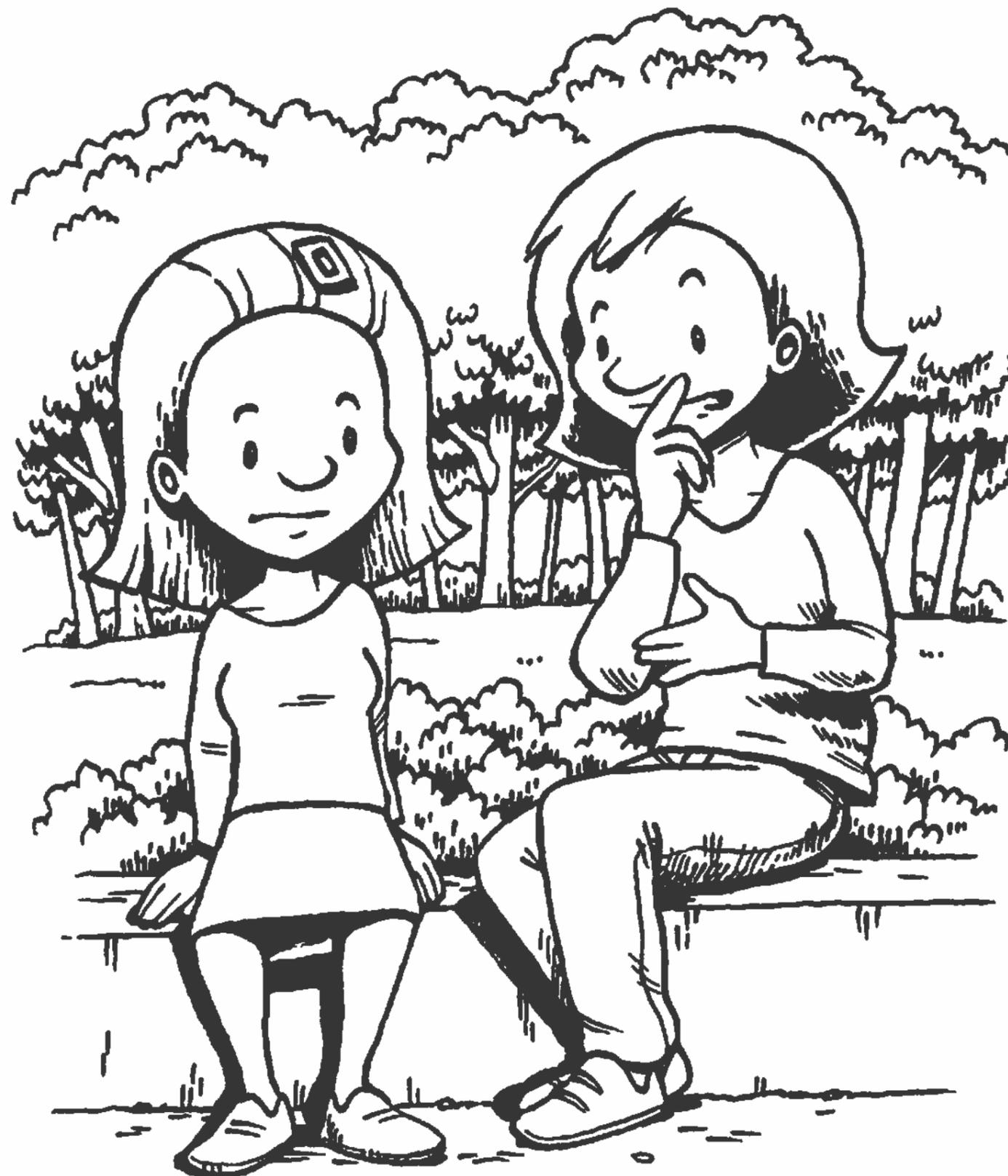


Rob Harrell Photo Courtesy of Rob Harrell

About the Illustrator

Rob Harrell has worked for years as a fine artist, cartoonist, and freelance illustrator.

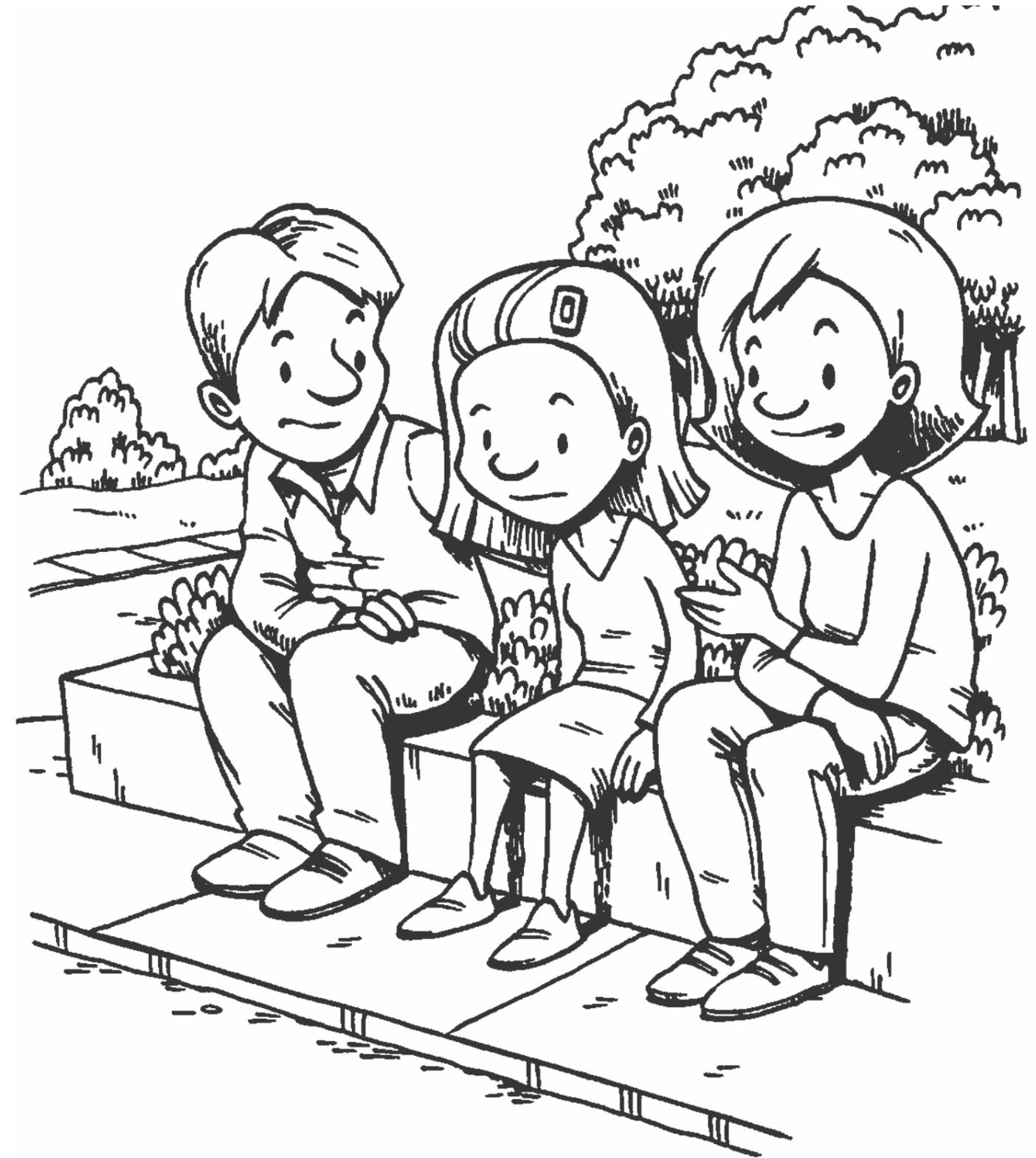
He writes and draws the daily comic strip "Big Top," syndicated internationally by Universal press syndicate. You can see more of his work at www.robharrell.com



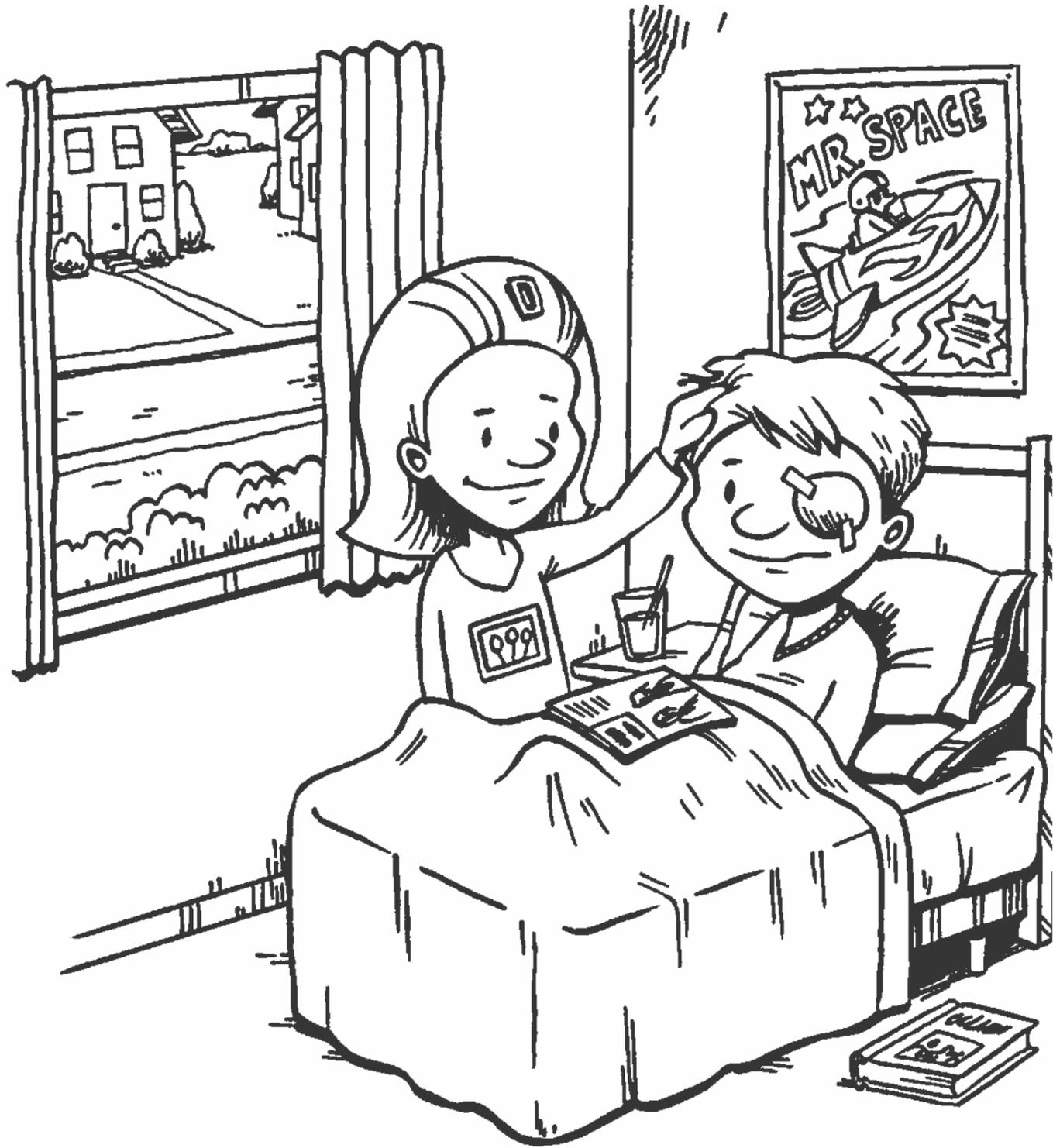
I asked my mon, "But how will Joey see with only one eye?" "Don't worry," my mom said.



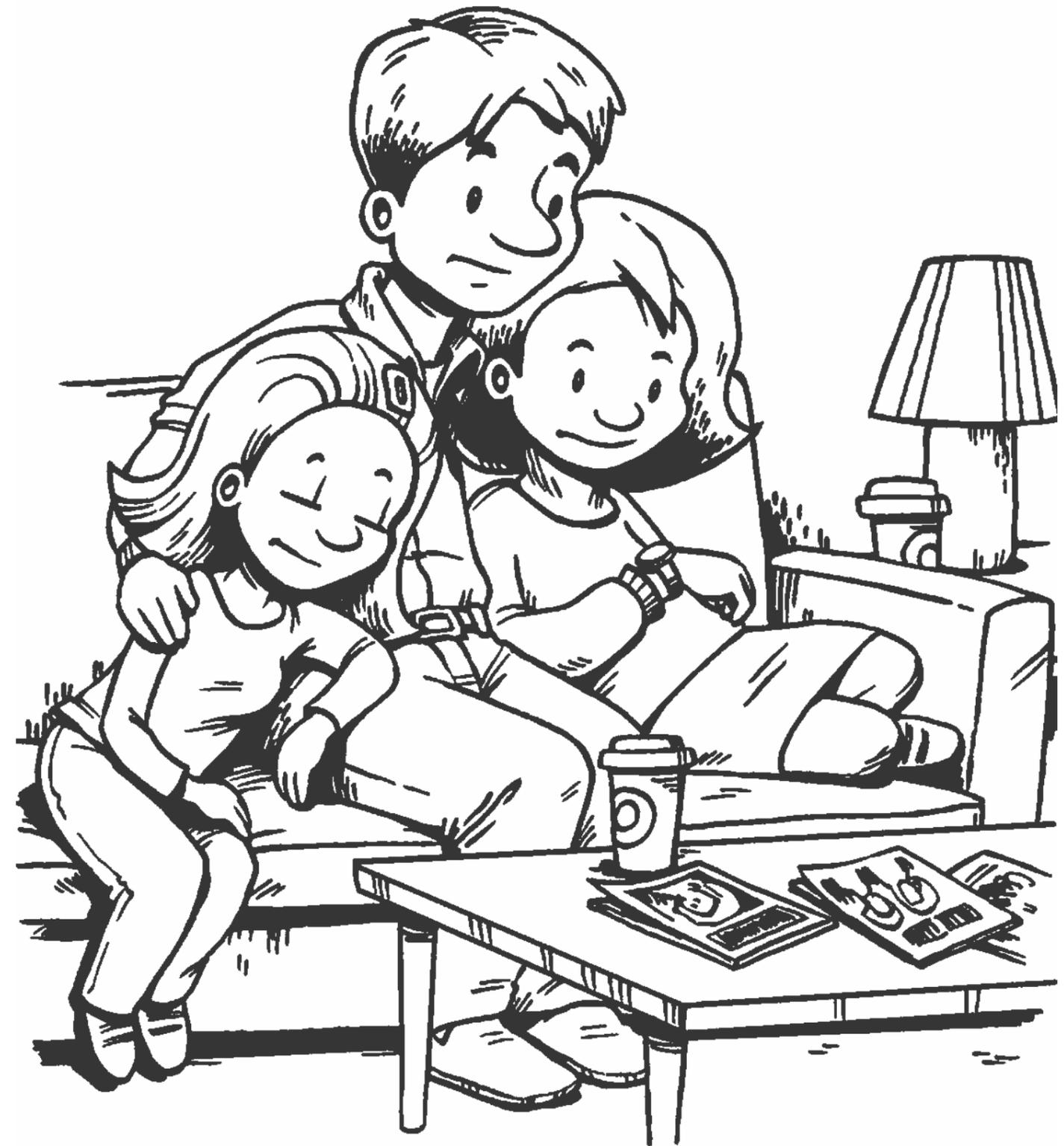
While Joey napped, the doctors took a closer look.
We waited for Joey to wake up.



After meeting with the doctors, my parents told me that
Joey had retinoblastoma, Rb for short. "The doctor will
remove Joey's left eye so he can get better," my parents said.



After the operation, Joey wore a bandage. Like a pirate!
We colored with crayons and played checkers.



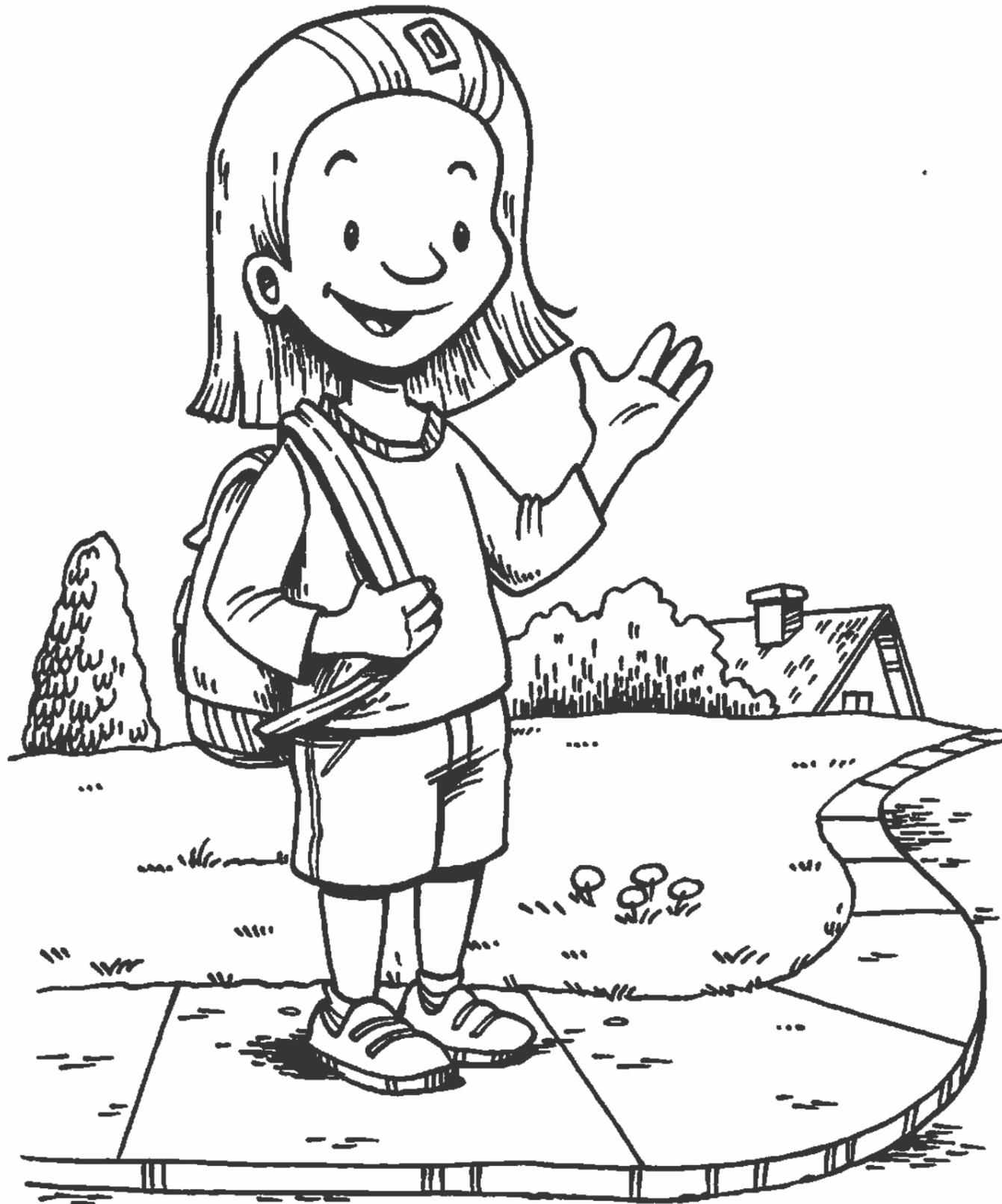
During the operation, I waited
with my mom and dad for Joey.



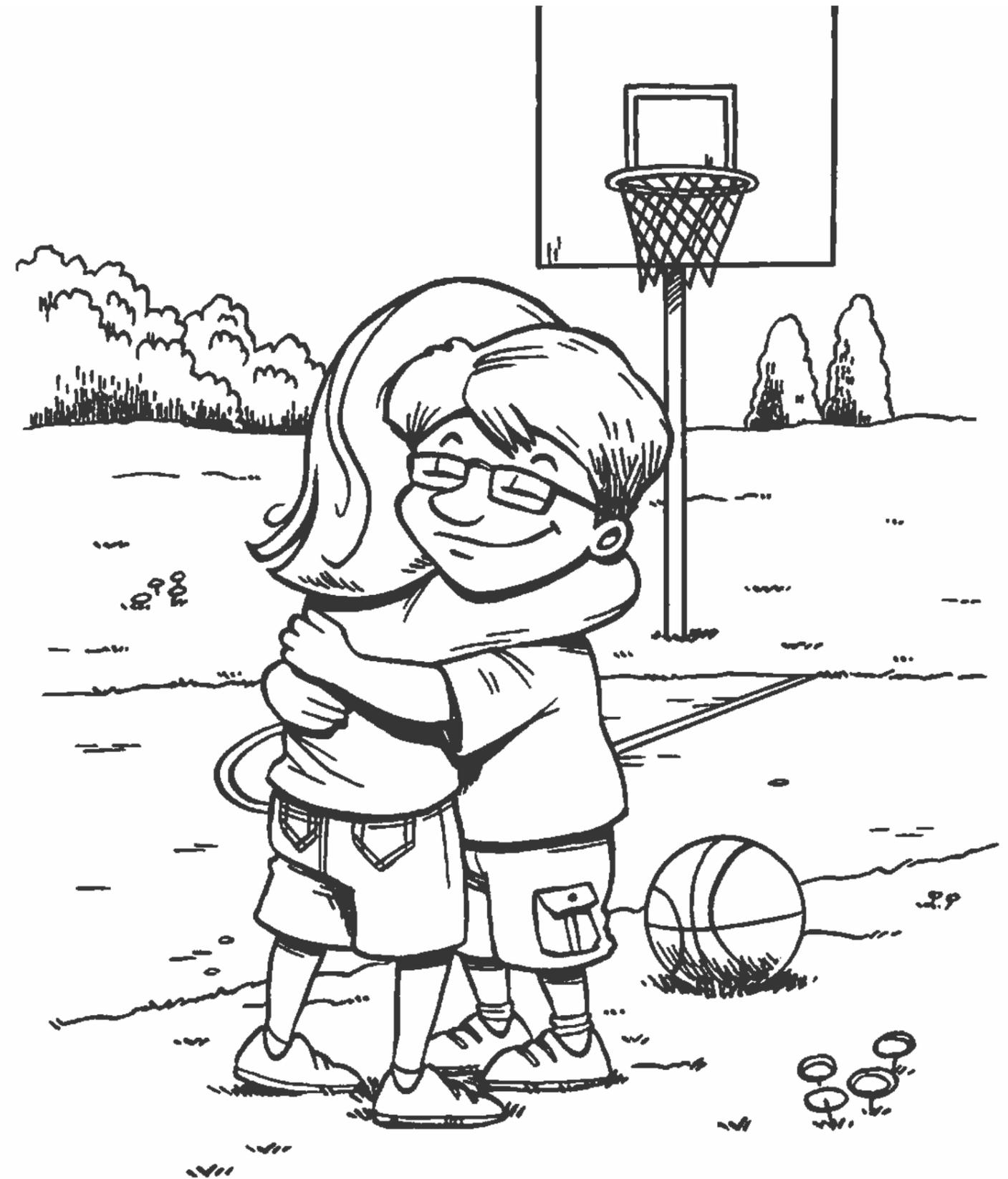
Now, Joey wears glasses to protect his eye that sees. And Joey sees just fine.



Soon Joey got his special eye. It's painted to match his eye that sees. Sometimes, my parents help Joey clean his special eye.



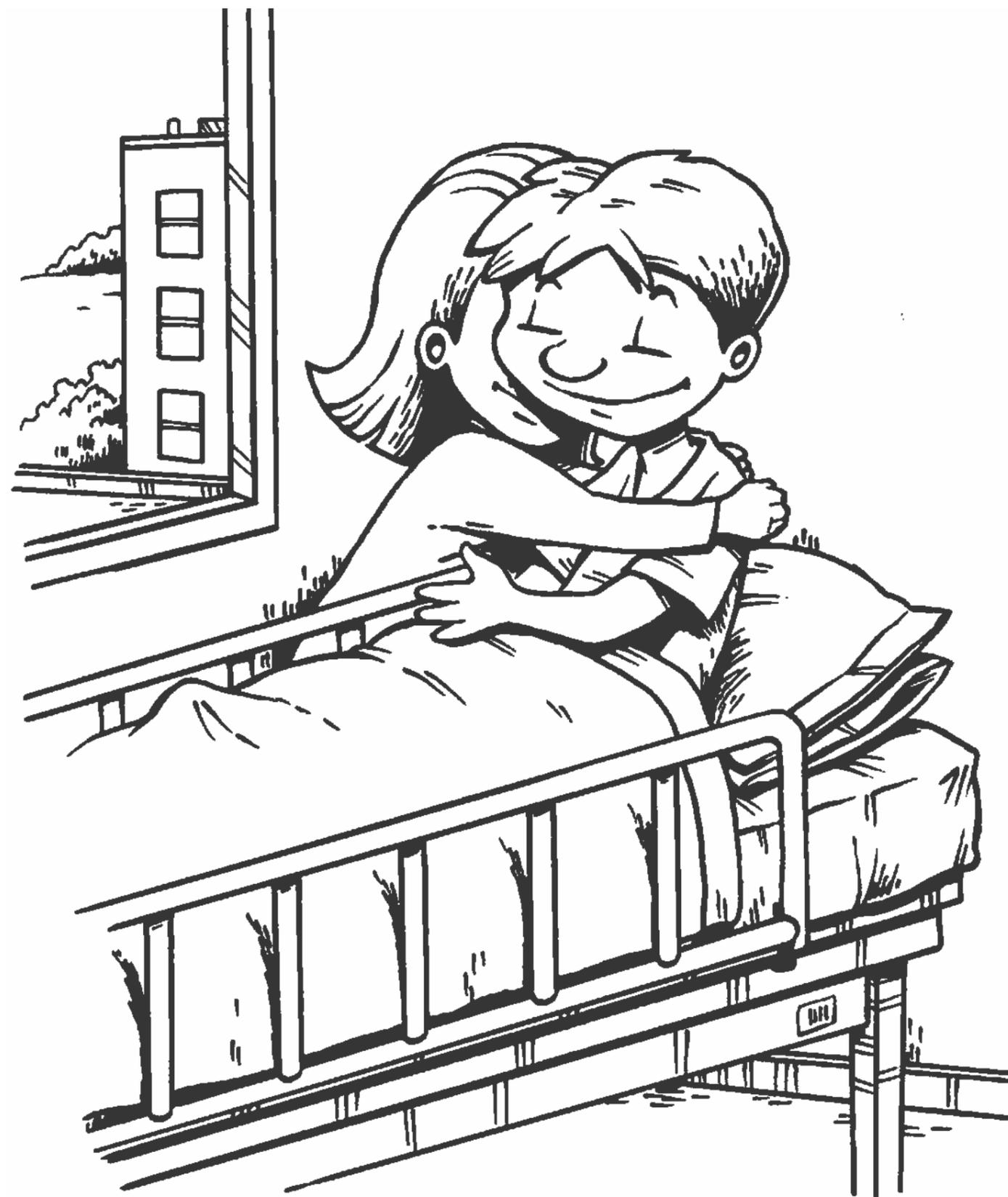
Hi, I'm Mia
I'd like you to meet my brother Joey.
We love to play basketball and tag.



I'm so happy my brother Joey is healthy.
Our parents still take lots of family photos.
They love to watch us grow.



The doctor looked at Joey's eye with a bright light. Then the doctor said, "We need to take a closer look."



Before Joey's operation, I gave him a great big hug and said, "I Love you little brother."



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