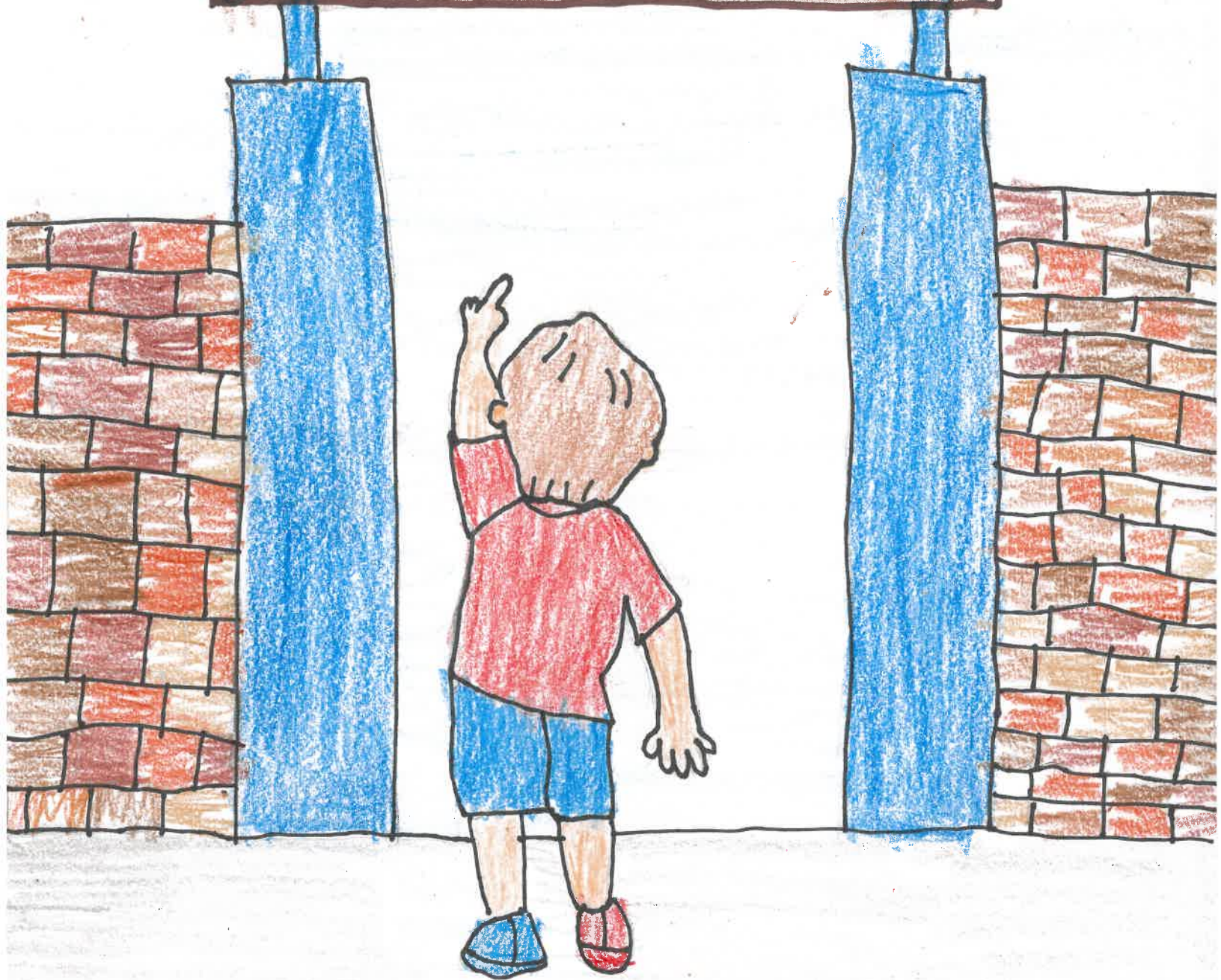


# The Lonely Gorilla



By: Elias Cooper

ZOO

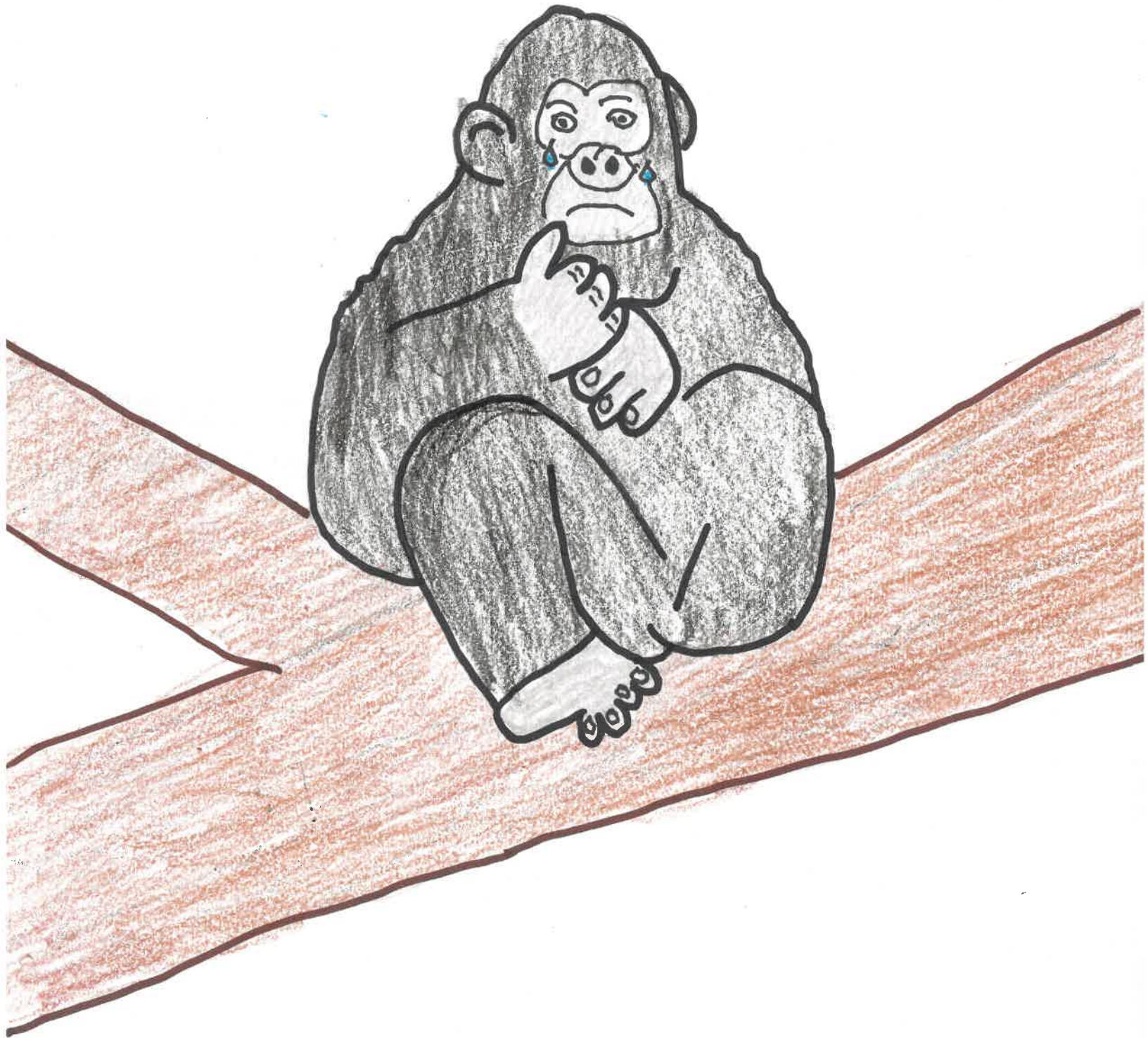


Kevin lived near the zoo so he visited almost every day. All the zookeepers knew him. One sunny day he noticed an empty enclosure with a sign:



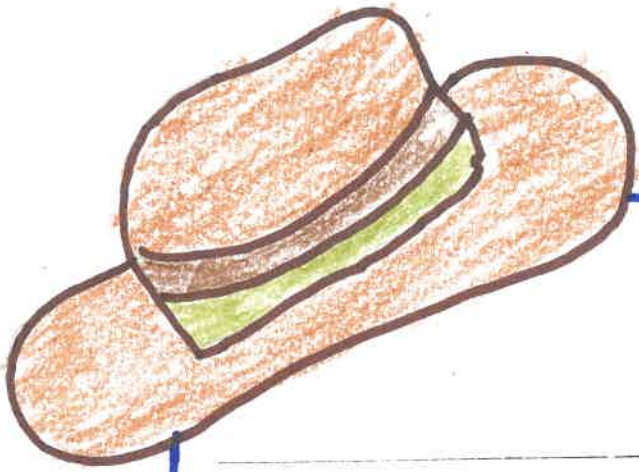
New Animals  
Coming Soon

He couldn't wait! In a few days, the sign was gone and there was a young gorilla alone in the enclosure. Kevin talked to the zookeeper and learned that Bongo the gorilla had been injured and even though he was better, he couldn't live in the wild anymore. Bongo looked very sad. Each day Kevin tried talking to him, but he looked sadder and sadder every day. One day there were tears on his face.



Kevin read about gorillas and learned they don't live alone. They live in groups called troops, with at least five other gorillas. No wonder Bongo was miserable, he was lonely.

Kevin wondered what he could do. He thought about it all night. Finally, he had an idea. He decided to write a letter to the zookeeper and explain why they needed more gorillas.

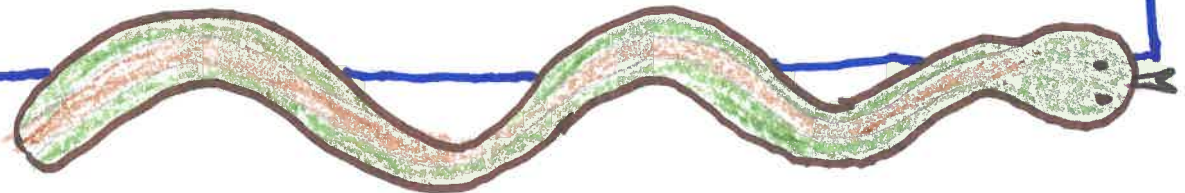


Dear Zookeeper,

The young gorilla is sad.  
He needs friends. Gorillas  
don't live alone. Please  
find him some gorilla  
friends.

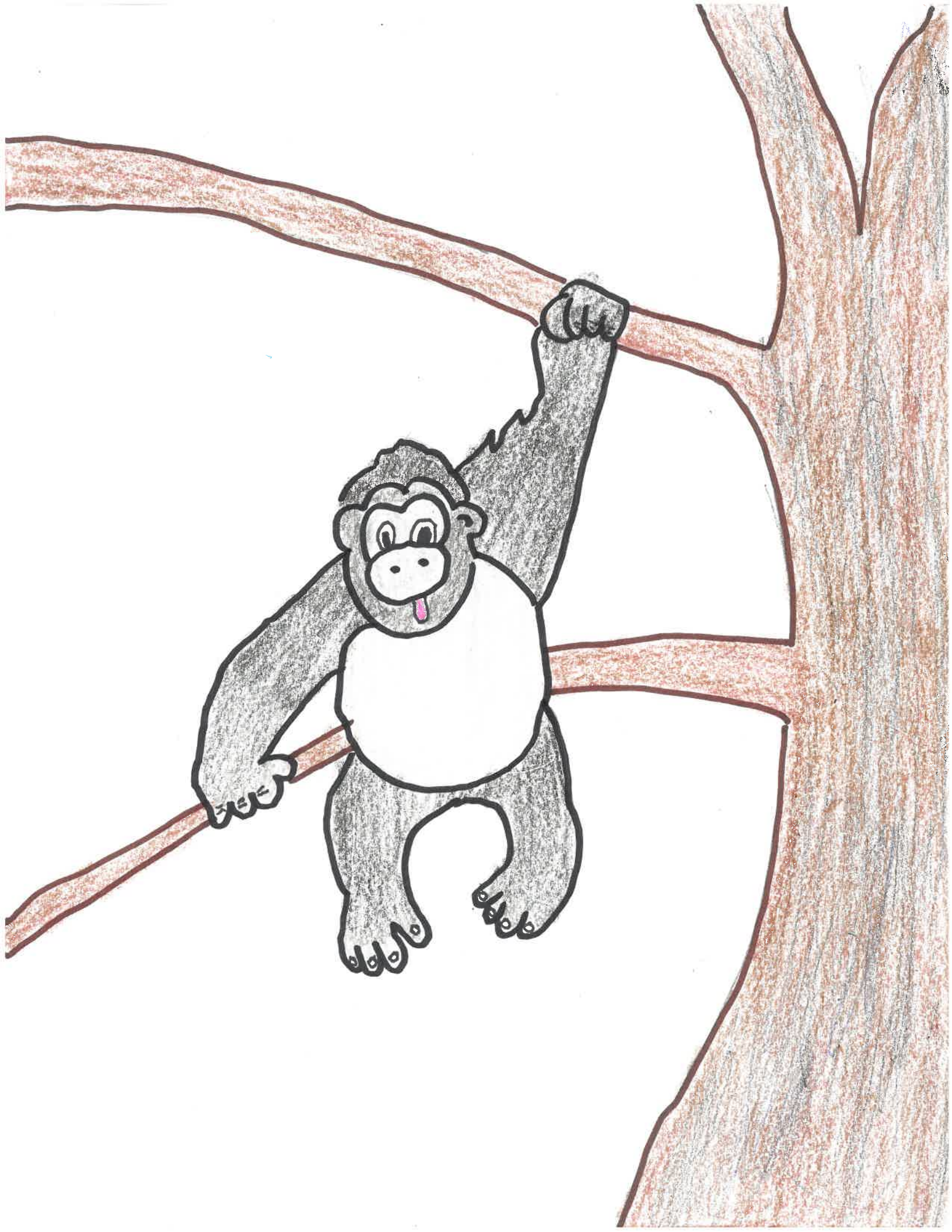
Thank you,

Kevin



He gave the letter to his favorite zookeeper. The next week, the zookeeper came to talk to Kevin when he was visiting Bongo. The zookeeper said they found other gorillas they could bring to their zoo. They would be delivered in four days.

Kevin was excited, he marked the days off the calendar. On the fourth day, he went to the zoo as soon as it opened. He ran to the gorilla habitat. There were three new young gorillas and a mother gorilla. They were hooting and roaring, playing in trees or sitting with the mother gorilla in the enclosure. They all looked so happy!



The next time Kevin came to the zoo Bongo brought his new friends to the window like he wanted Kevin to meet them. While Kevin was watching the gorillas, the zookeeper came and gave him a shirt, badge, and hat and told Kevin that since he had helped them so with Bongo, they were making him an honorary zookeeper. Kevin went home happier than he had ever been.

