

My Mallikjuag Adventure

Sheet One: A and her Family

YOUR answers to these questions provide ideas for a story about an 8 to 10 year old girl from Cape Dorset, living there in 2009.

The story will be written **IN YOUR VOICES**—that means with your ideas and your words coming from your answers to these questions.

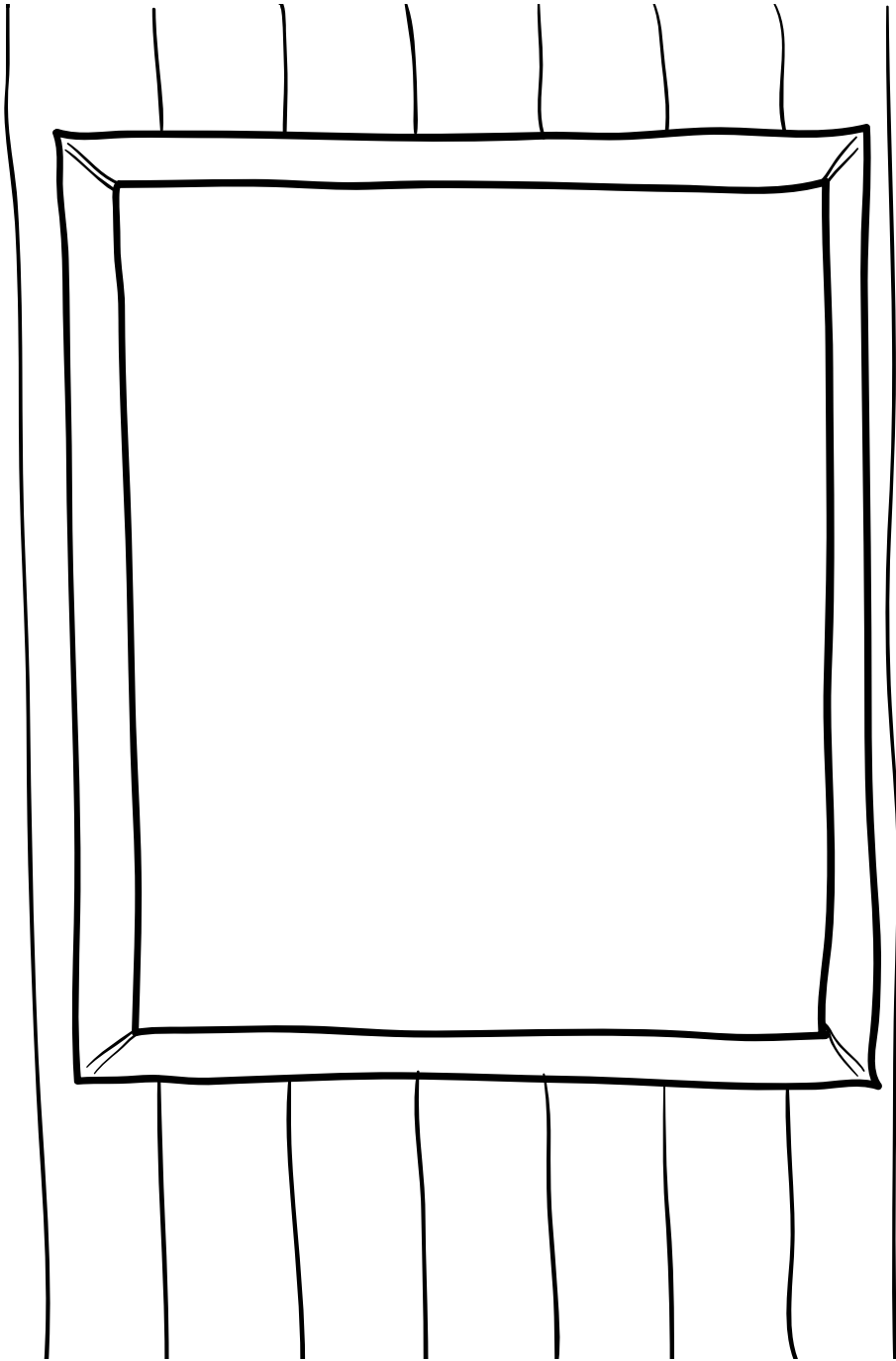
The **AUDIENCE/LISTENERS** for this story are yourselves and the people in your community, but also, people who do not know Cape Dorset. Readers, far away, will come to see a little about your community through your eyes.



My Mallikjuag Adventure

1. A lives in Cape Dorset. Should we call it Cape Dorset or Kingait? Why?

2. A has a favourite window in the house where she likes to stand and look out. Describe what she sees when she looks out her window in August.

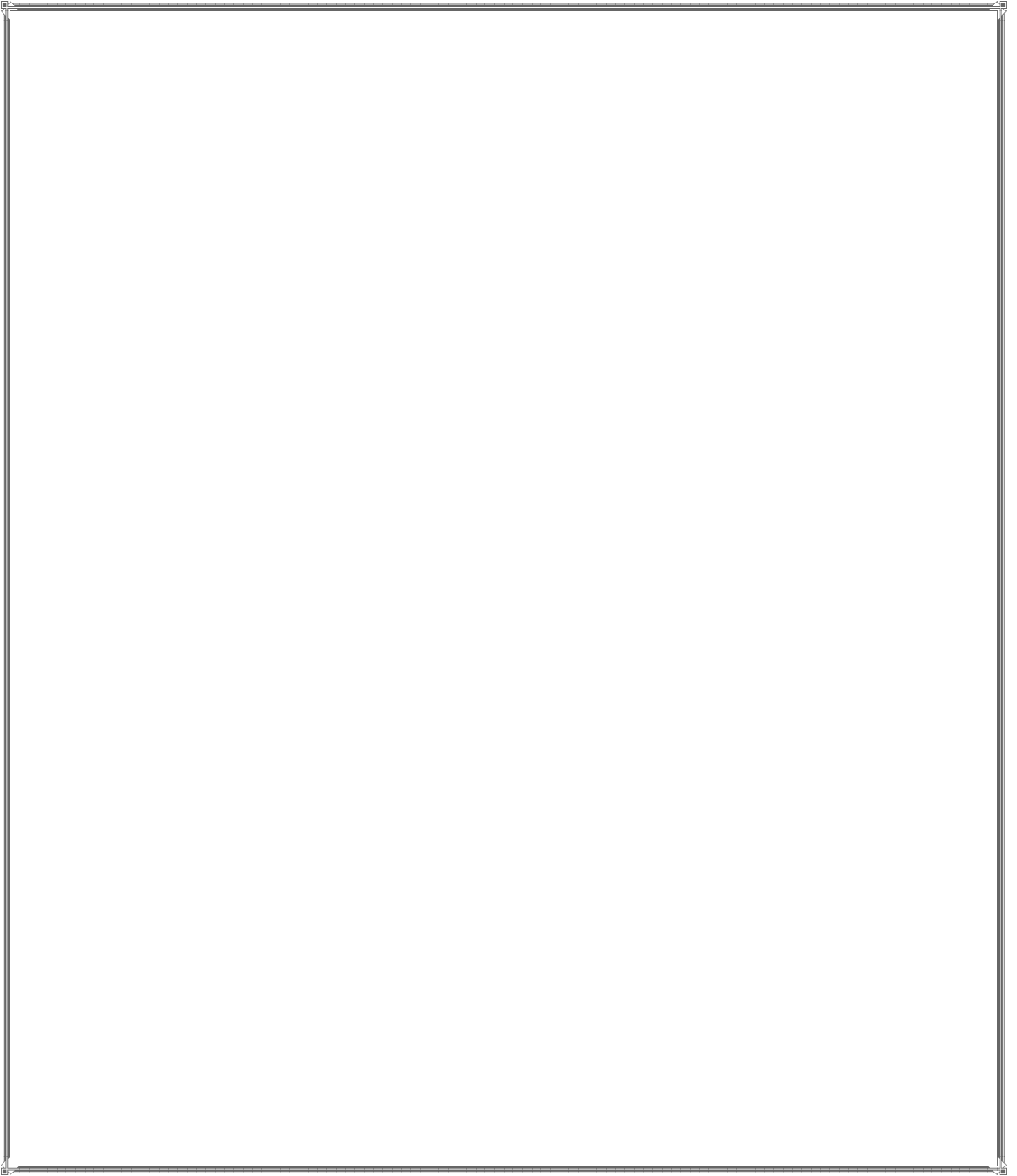


Draw what *A* sees when she looks out her window in August

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3. Where in the community is her house? Describe the location and appearance of the house so that someone far away may close their eyes and imagine it.

4. A's house is crowded because many relatives live there. Her mother and father do not. They drowned when A was 4 years old. List who A lives with and how they are related to her.

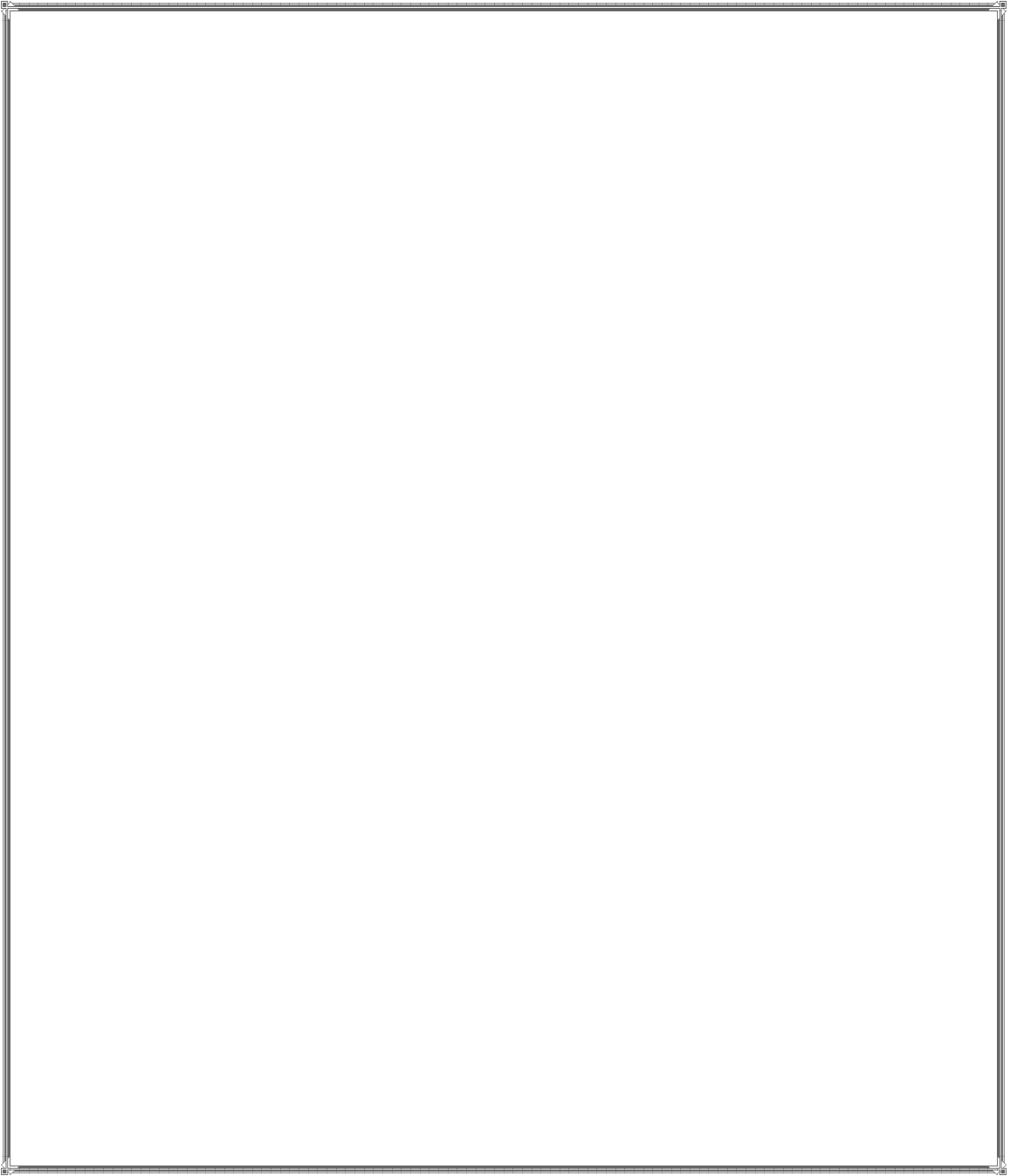


Draw A's family

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5. Who is A's favourite person in her home? Why?

6. Describe A's favourite person. How tall is he/she? How old? What does he/she usually wear? What does A's favourite person mainly do? (carve, cook, drive?)



Draw A's favourite person

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7. A has to share a room, but, she has one shelf that is her own. On this shelf she has placed her most precious things. List her precious things and describe ONE of her most loved objects.

8. Sometimes at night A can't sleep. She listens to the noises of the house and sounds from outside. Do any of these sounds frighten her? Do any of the sounds comfort her? Describe some sounds that she hears and say whether or not they comfort or frighten.



Draw A's most precious things on the top shelf

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9. Everyone in A's house is very busy and seems to have little time for her, but, every once in a while, there is a family celebration when there is time to sit and tell stories. Imagine a happy time in A's house. What are they celebrating? Upon what foods are they feasting? Tell one story that A might hear at a feast.

10. There is one young person in A's home, an older boy, who picks on her. What is his name? Why does he pick on A? How is he related to the main person (mother or father figure?) in the home?

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11. When A grows up, what does she want to be? Why?

12. Describe a dream that A frequently has.

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13. Sometimes A is startled that a smell reminds her of something, but, she can't remember of what the smell reminds her. Describe a smell that A might experience in August. (Cooking? Nature?)

14. Every now and then, A remembers a small fragment or detail about her parents. Make a list of fragments—images—ideas—sounds—that A remembers about her parents.

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15. What were the first names of A's parents? What was their last name or surname?

Sheet Two - A Heads to Mallikjuag

It is a sunny Saturday in August. Everyone is ignoring A and she has been picked on again. She decides that she is going to run off to Mallikjuag, certain that no one will miss her.

1. When A wakes up, the older boy in her home is taking something from A's shelf? What has he taken? How does A react? Does A get the object back? Is it broken or safe?

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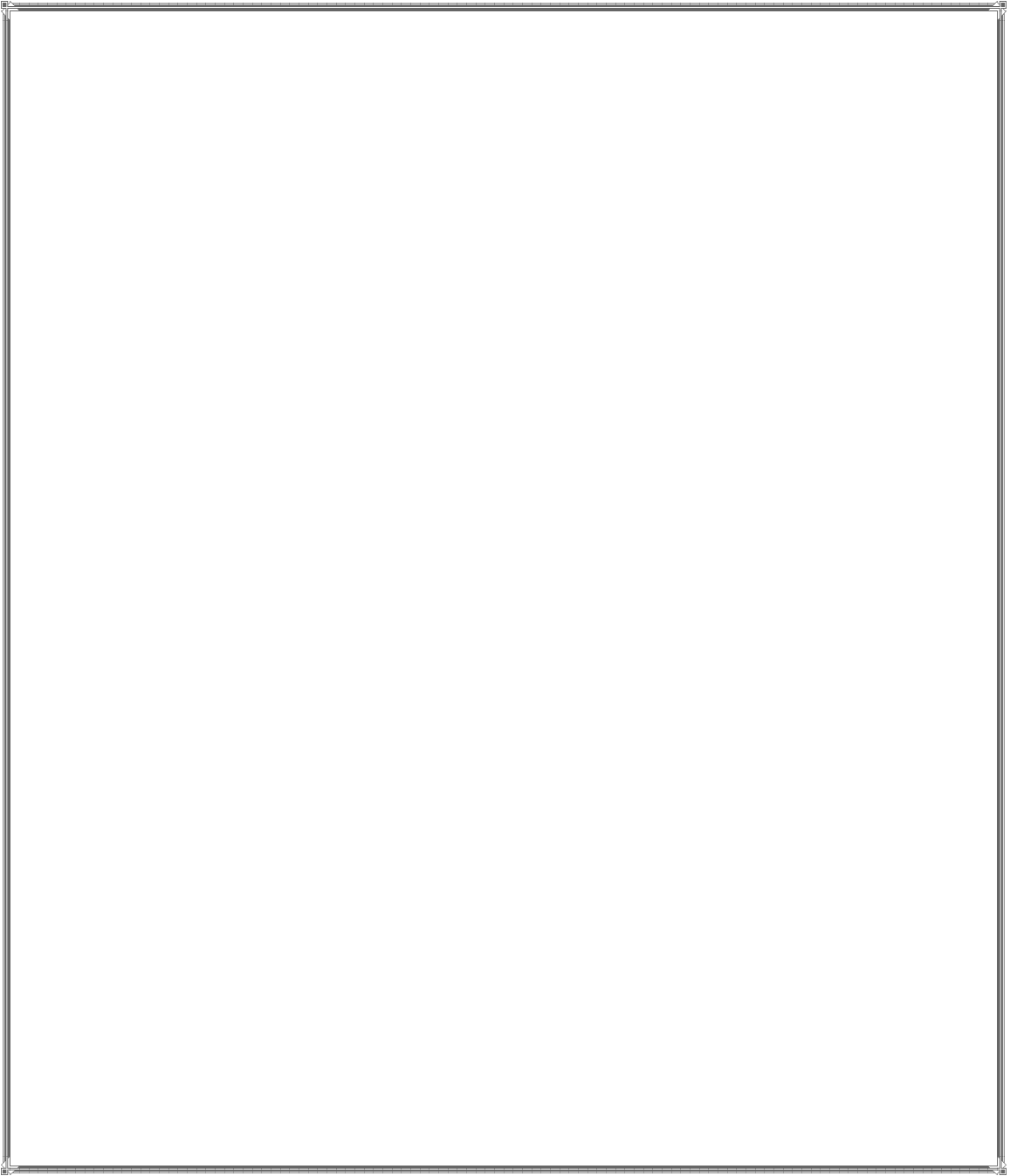
2. A wants to get away from Dorset and decides to go to Mallikjuag on her own. How far is it from A's house to Mallikjuag? List everything YOU know about this ancient place? If you don't know anything, ask a parent or elder to give you some points.

3. A knows that she has to be careful with the tide when she goes to Mallikjuag. Describe what the path to Mallikjuag looks like at low tide? What does it look like at high tide?

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4. Most everyone has left the house when A decides to gather up what she thinks she needs for her adventure. What does she take along? Food items? Clothing items? Knives? Tools?

5. What is A wearing when she leaves? Describe the kinds of clothes she has on and their colours. How does she hide all the extra things she has along? Pockets? Backpack? Other?



Draw what *A* is wearing or what she takes with her

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6. A runs into one person or animal that is suspicious about what she is planning. Who is suspicious? Why? How does A get past this animal or person?

7. As A walks through the hamlet, no one else seems to notice her. Describe the path she takes. What does she see? What would she hear? Who walks by her?

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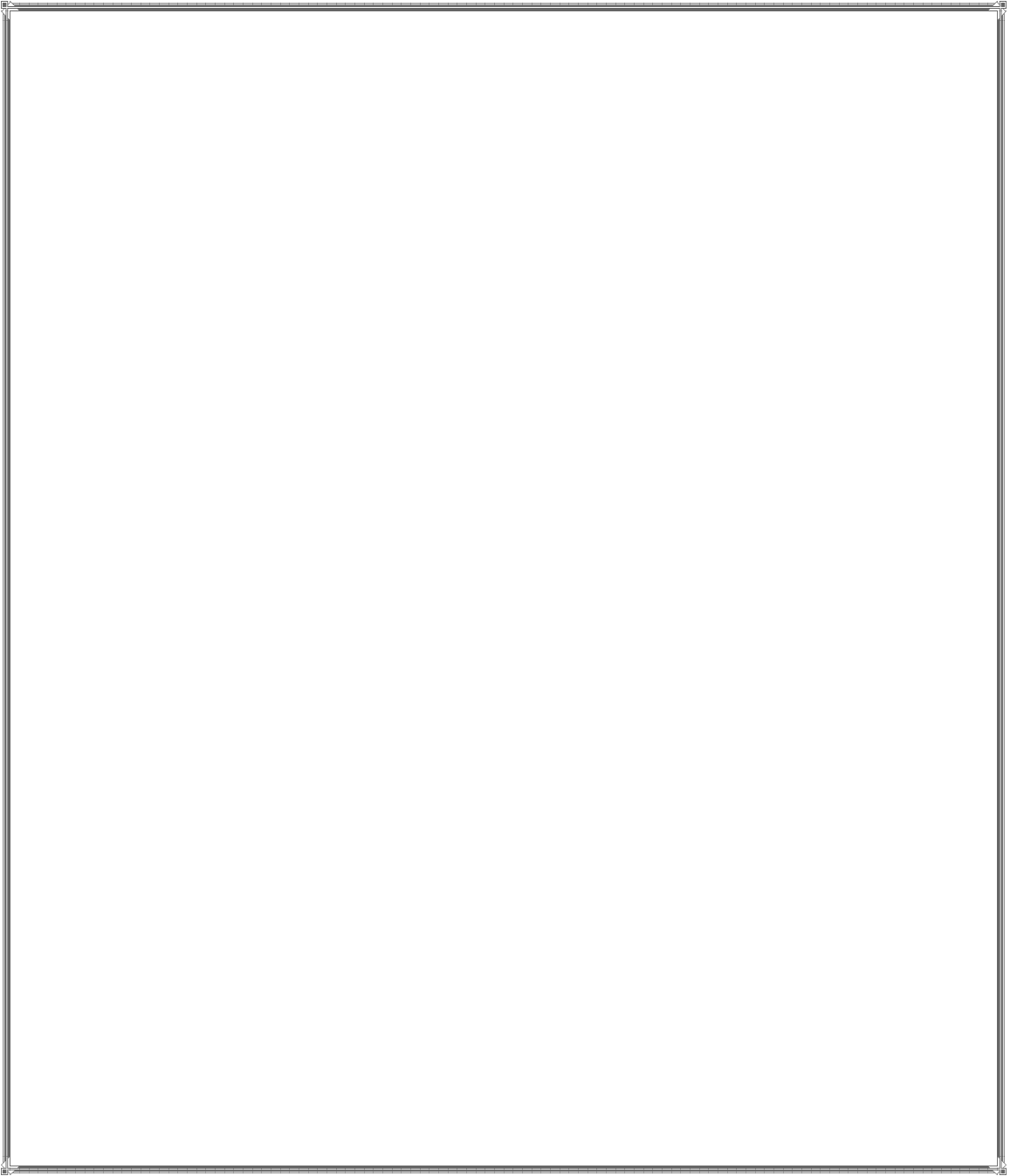
8. A decides to go through the Dorset metal garbage dump. It is a machine graveyard. A senses the stories in the objects left there. Describe one metal object/thing that seems to have a story.

9. A has to wade through some water, even at low tide. Describe where she runs into water and what stones, shells or plants she would see in the water. Remember colours, shapes, sizes, feel/texture.

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10. Finally, A is at the first place where there are some stone ruins not far from the shore. Describe what these stone ruins look like.

11. A notices all sorts of things left behind by previous visitors. List some of the things she sees.

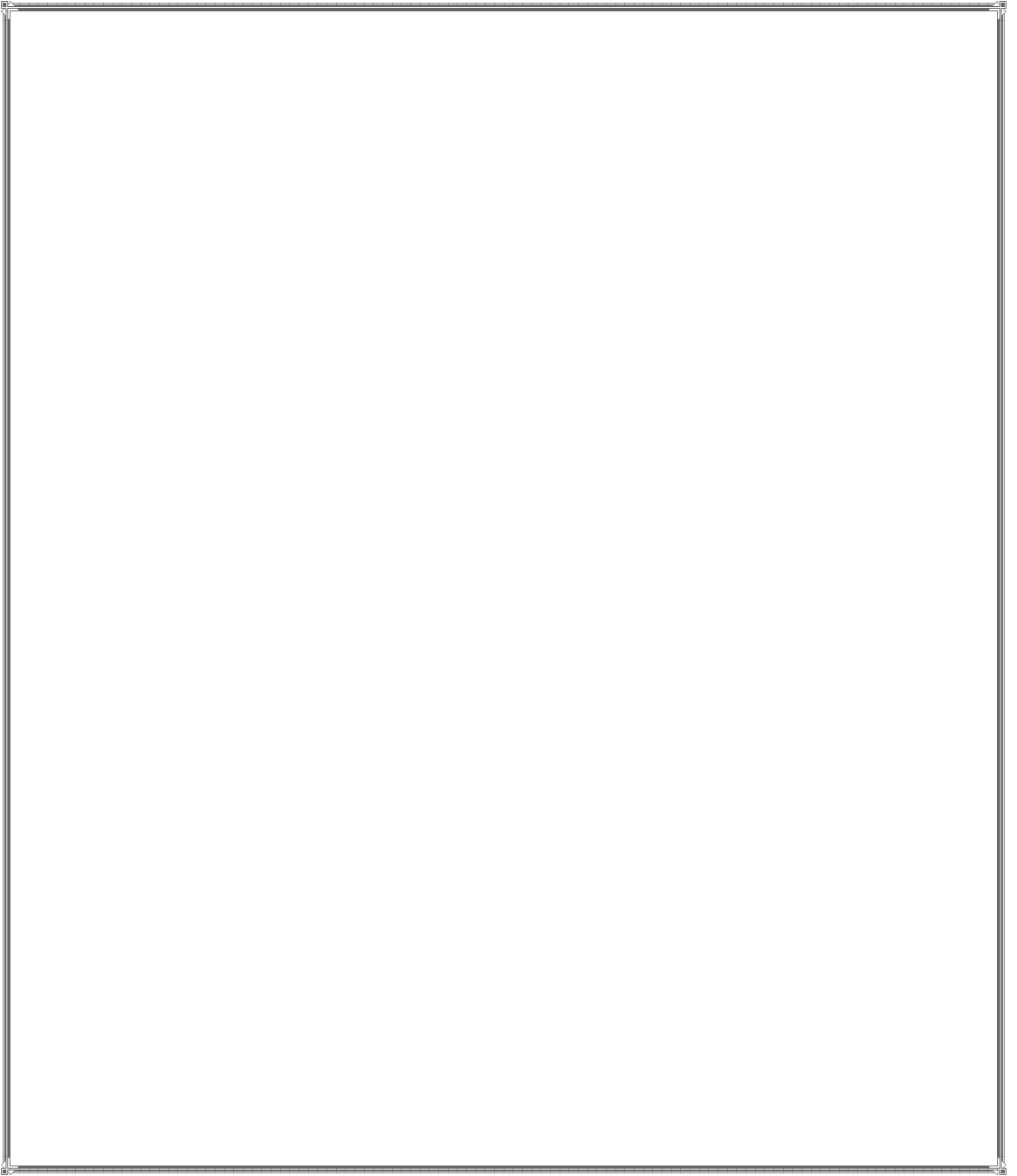


Draw Cape Dorset

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12. A looks back towards Dorset before heading up a gradual hill covered with mosses and lichens. Describe what Dorset looks like from a distance.

13. By a small inland pond, up the hill, A finds some really well-preserved ruins of the round stone houses the Thule people built. Describe what the houses look like now. What would they have looked like when the Thule people lived in them?



Draw a Thule house

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14. As A sits on a ledge in a Thule house, she sees hundreds of bones just under the water in the pond. These bones were thrown there by the Thule hunters and their families hundreds of years before. List the animal bones that would be there. What would they look like after hundreds of years?

15. A imagines the stories of these bones and tell one of them. (They might tell of hunts, or feasts or fears overcome.)

Sheet Three - A explores Mallikjuag

As A explores Mallikjuag, she forgets her own self and her problems and finds beauty and a connection to things that she would normally miss by rushing by. (Sometimes you have to go a long way out of your way to come back a short distance correctly. Edward Albee)

1. As A sits at the pond thinking about the stories of the bones, a bird's call takes her away from her imaginings. What bird does she see in the sky? What does the sky look like? (cloudless, clouds, what shade of blue?) How would you describe the call of the bird?

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2. Among the rocks, there is a rolling hill with mosses and lichens that feels like a soft carpet when you walk on it. What would have created this smooth roll of land? Try to imagine how the rocks and smooth places around Dorset got their shapes.

3. A decides to follow the roll of land over to see where it leads. The mosses and lichens are springy. All of a sudden, A sees all the bright colours of the stones, lichens, mosses and plants. They sparkle in the sunlight. What flowers does A see? (Remember it's August) What colours are the blossoms and seeds around her? What colours are there in the rocks and stones?

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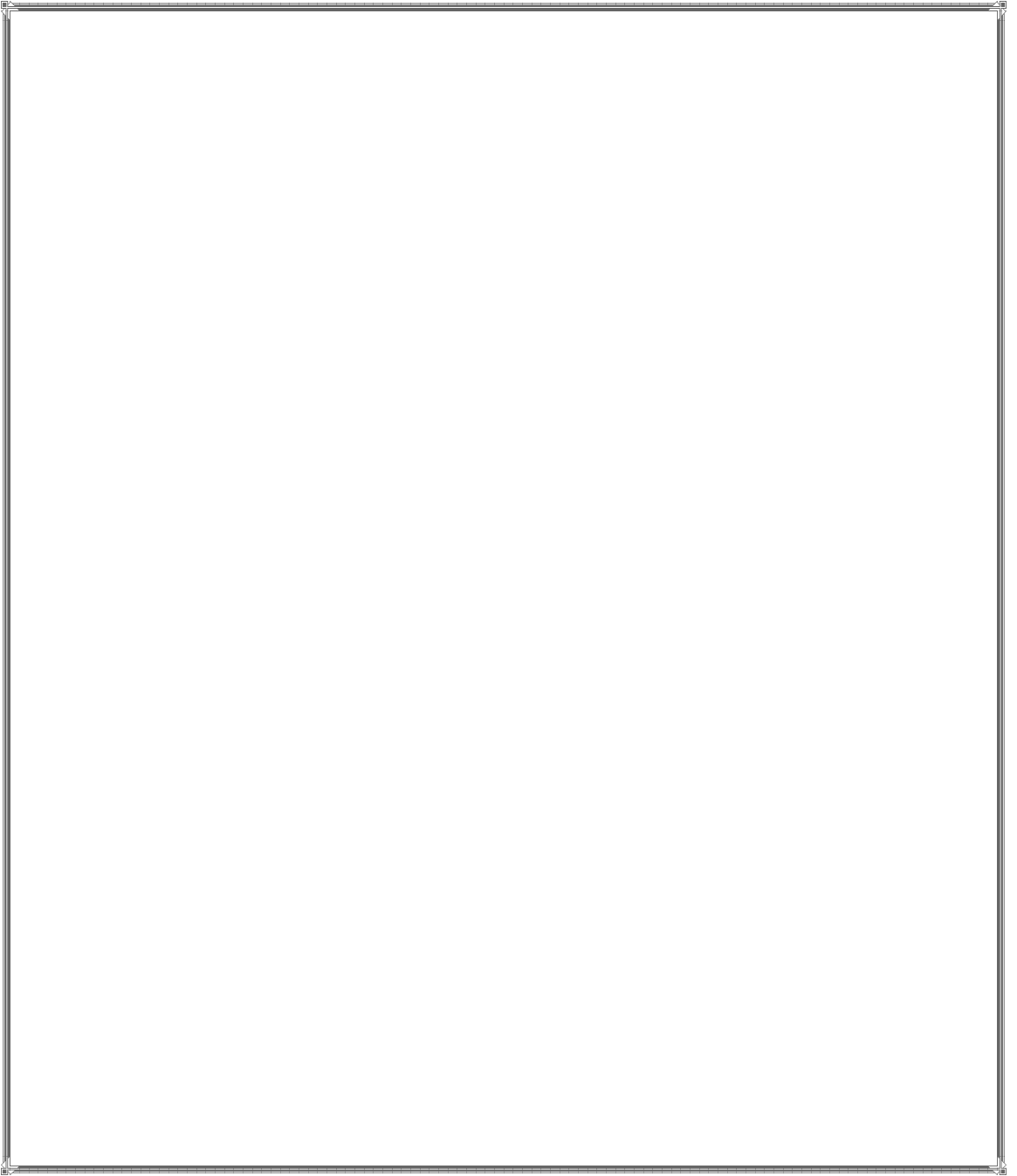
4. Many people will never see the beautiful colours of your home in the summer. List all the colours you see in Dorset and Mallikjuag in August and explain where you see these colours.

5. As A walks over the spongy land towards the water, she stops abruptly. She is shocked to see a new grave, a pile of stones with a marker. If you know the story of who is buried there and why, tell it now. If you don't know whose bones lie lonely at Mallikjuag, explain how YOU FEEL to see signs of a death there that has no story, no explanation.

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6. Death for young people happens much too frequently. What most frequently causes early deaths? Why does this marker at Mallikjuag make A think of Dorset?

7. As A turns away from the grave she spots an Inuschuk by the shore. This noble marker tells a tale of direction, but, you must be able to understand what the marker says for it to do what it was meant to do. Describe the type of Inuschuk A would see (or the real one at Mallikjuag). How were these Inuschuk markers used in olden times? If the olden people understood you need markers to find your way, what type of markers do YOU need to find your way?

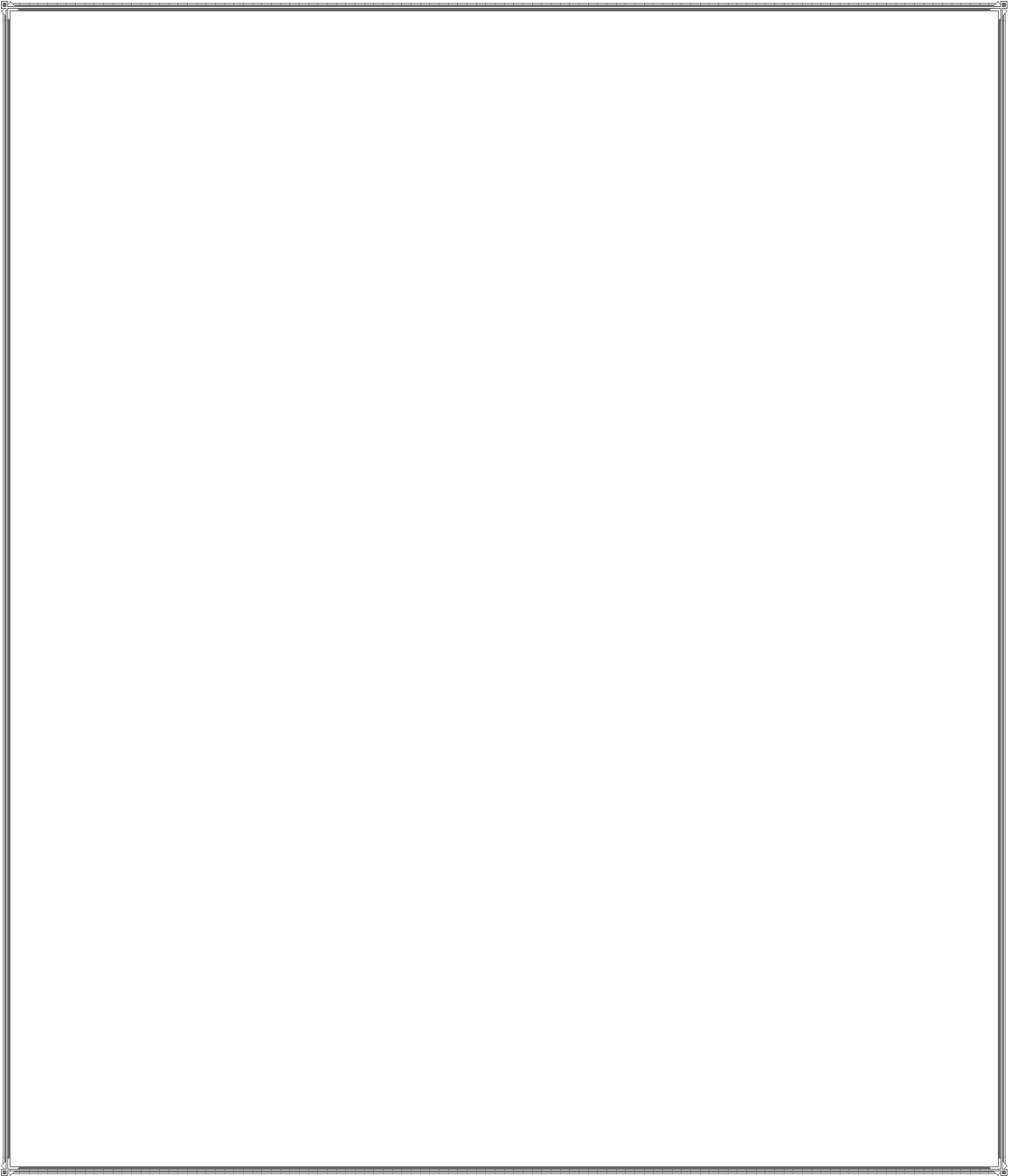


Draw Cape Dorset flowers or a grave

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8. A has had enough of puzzling out this place. She wants to return home. Although she is not totally happy in her Dorset home, she understands what is expected of her. What would A's parents expect that 8-10 year old A should do (at home, at school, for the future)?

9. A follows the path that goes over the mossy hill towards Dorset. As she does so, a plane crosses overhead and lands on the Dorset air strip. A has just stopped on the path where the pond and ancient bones are off to the side. She sees and hears the ancient past and the modern times. What does she think of both? Make a chart with two columns: PAST and PRESENT and list the thoughts that cross A's minds about the PAST and the PRESENT under the headings. (i.e. what did the people then and what do the people now depend on?)



Make a chart with two columns: PAST and PRESENT

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10. When A approaches the shore, she realizes that the tide has changed and she cannot walk back. List thoughts and feelings she would have knowing that she must stay overnight at Mallikjuag?

11. A does not panic. What does she have with her, and what has she seen to help her stay overnight?

Sheet Four - A Night to Remember

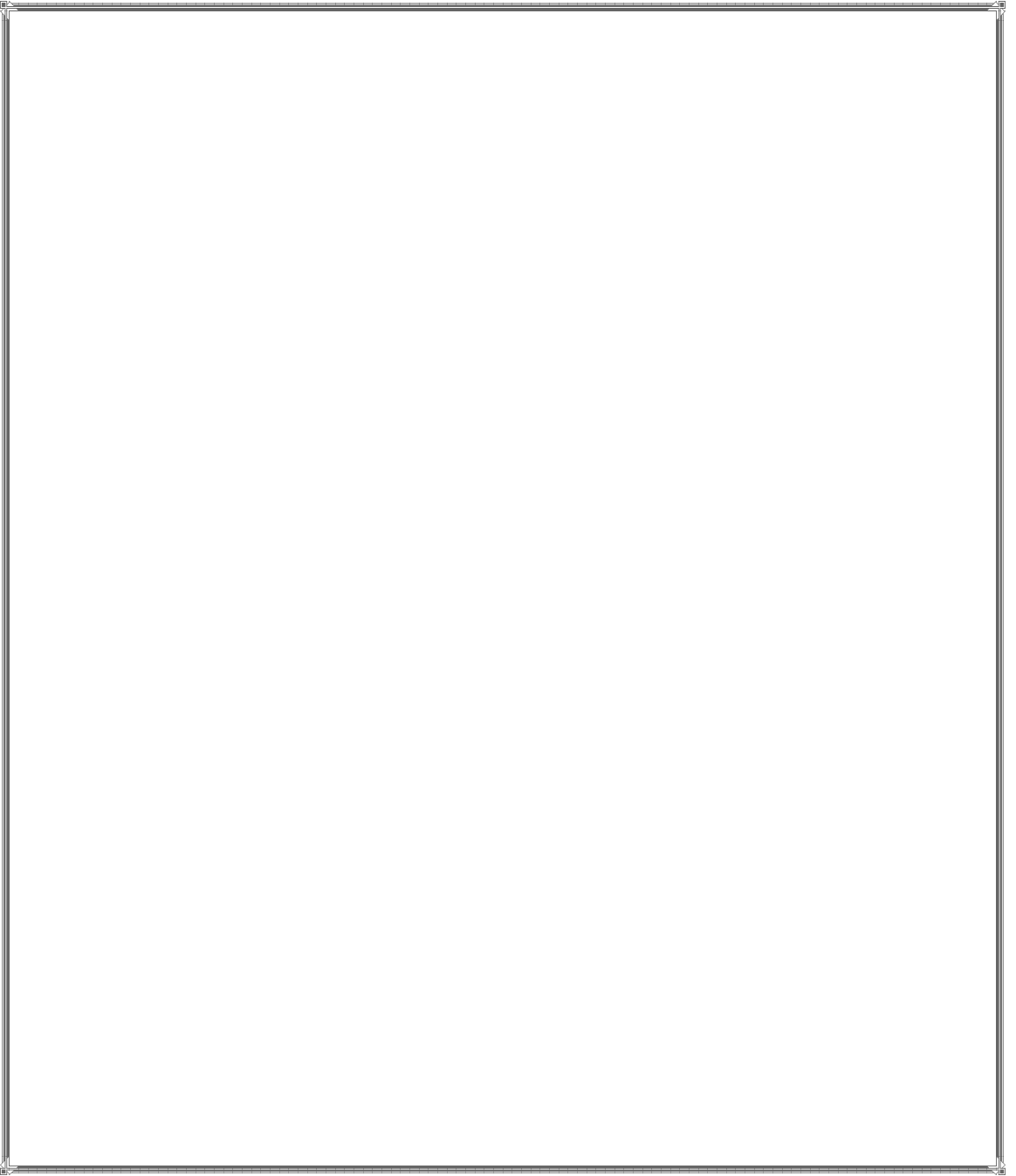
A decides to stay overnight in one of the ancient Thule round houses. The walls of one are very well preserved. There were some abandoned sheets of wood near the shore which she drags uphill to make a kind of roof that shelters her in such a way that she can still see out the flue while lying on the sleeping platform.

1. When A drags the abandoned wooden sheets from the shore, she leaves scrape marks in the mosses, the same way as the glacier left scrape marks on the rocks. It makes A ponder. How are the markings of man different than the markings of the glaciers?

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2. A is glad that she has brought along her grandmother's ulu. Where did A have it packed? For those from far away who do not know what an ulu is, describe its size, colour, weight and use. For what might A have used an ulu? Who would have taught her to use it?

3. There is grass on the sleeping platform but A decides to make it softer by cutting mosses with the ulu. Describe how A would cut the moss to get sheets of it to sleep upon?



Draw an ulu

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4. The sun is getting lower in the sky. As A sits in her little protected corner, she organizes everything she has with her to get ready for the night. How does she get ready?

5. During her preparations, A hears the lemmings that have a home in the round house next to hers. Describe the appearance of the lemmings (size, colour, sounds, living habits) Is A worried about these lemmings? Why or why not? What about the orderly life of the lemmings appeals to A?

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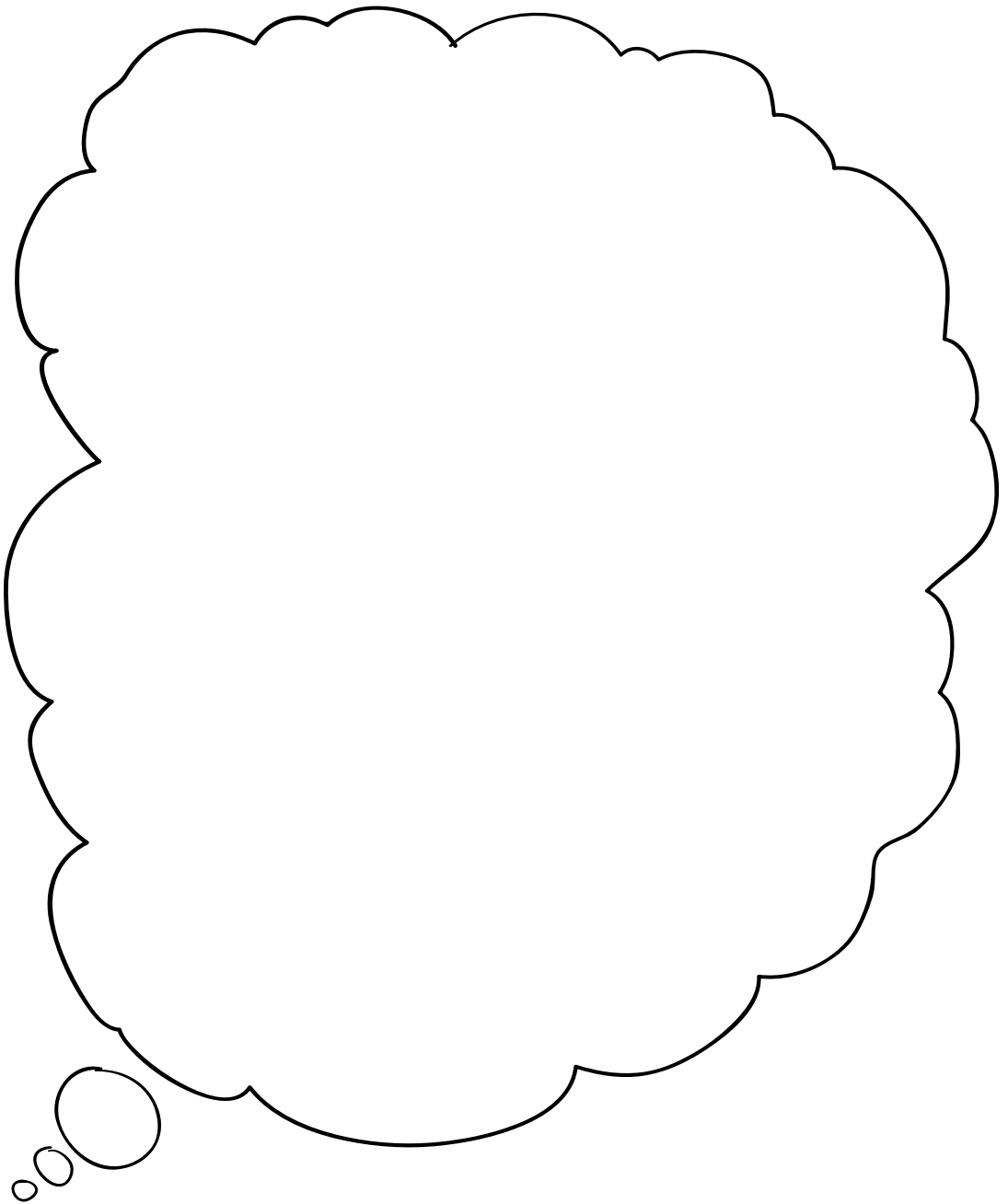
6. In one final burst of bravery, A decides she wants to go to the shore to see the sparkling lights of Dorset that are now starting to be turned on. Why might A want to see Dorset before she heads off to sleep?

7. Just as A took inventory of what she has for the night, she now lists everything she fears. Make your own list of what might frighten you. (wolves, polar bears, spirits?)

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8. It is now nearly totally dark. A is surprised how comfortable she is in her newly made home. (Why is she not cold?) For the first time she really sees the stones in the foundation made so long ago—each stone has its special place. There is a strength and comfort in how they have joined. Does A have a special place in Dorset? Is she part of a foundation?

9. A drifts off to sleep and has a dream. It is the dream of a grandmother who tickles her grand child. The child turns into a bird. Tell this story in your own words if you know it. If you do not know it, ask your parents or an elder to tell it to you.



Draw something from A's dream

My Mallikjuag Adventure

10. A wakes up at the end of the dream as the grandmother weeps, her eyes read like those of the ptarmigan. A realizes that the dream is her own wish. For what does A wish?

11. When A next falls asleep, she dreams of being a Thule child living in the round house by the pond with her parents. Describe A's dream of being a Thule child.

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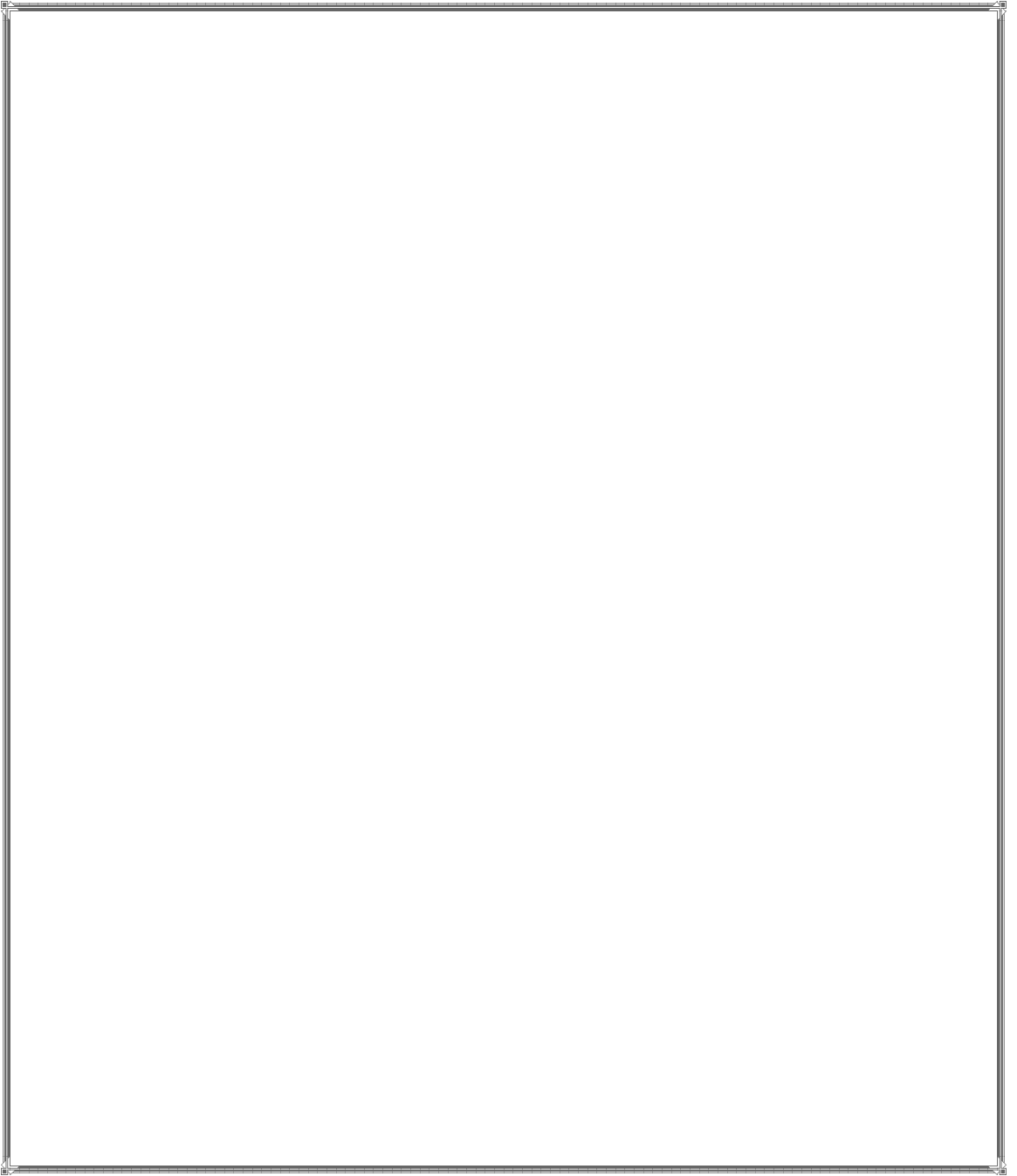
12. After a dream-filled night, the first sounds of day rouse A. Make a list of all the things that A could hear to wake her. Which sounds would comfort her? Which sounds would be frightening? A is still frightened of larger animals, but, she rushes to the shore to see if the path is clear. List the larger animals that are a danger to A.

13. The path to Dorset is clear. How does A feel about leaving Mallikjuag?

Sheet Five - The Past in the Present Sets the Future

A retrieves her belongings from the Thule house and heads home along the land causeway the tide had provided. It is early morning.

1. A is proud that she did so well on her own in Mallikjuag, but, she is afraid that she will get into lots of trouble for being away for a night. How would your parents react if you had been missing for a night? Use these thoughts to describe the ideas that might be running through A's mind as she takes the path home.



Draw *A*'s home in Cape Dorset

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2. The hamlet is mostly sleeping, but, is there any person, animal or bird that marks her passing? Is it possible to pass through Dorset totally unnoticed? Why or why not?

3. A arrives at her house but the door is locked. She knocks lightly and her sleepy grandmother opens the door. How does her grandmother react? Had she noticed A was gone? Why or why not?

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4. A tells a little about her Mallikjuag adventure, but, she does not wish to worry anyone. What parts of the Mallikjuag story would she tell?

5. A looks at her grandmother and sees that her eyes are red like the ptarmigan. What does A hope when she sees this? (Remember the old tale about why the ptarmigan has red eyes.)

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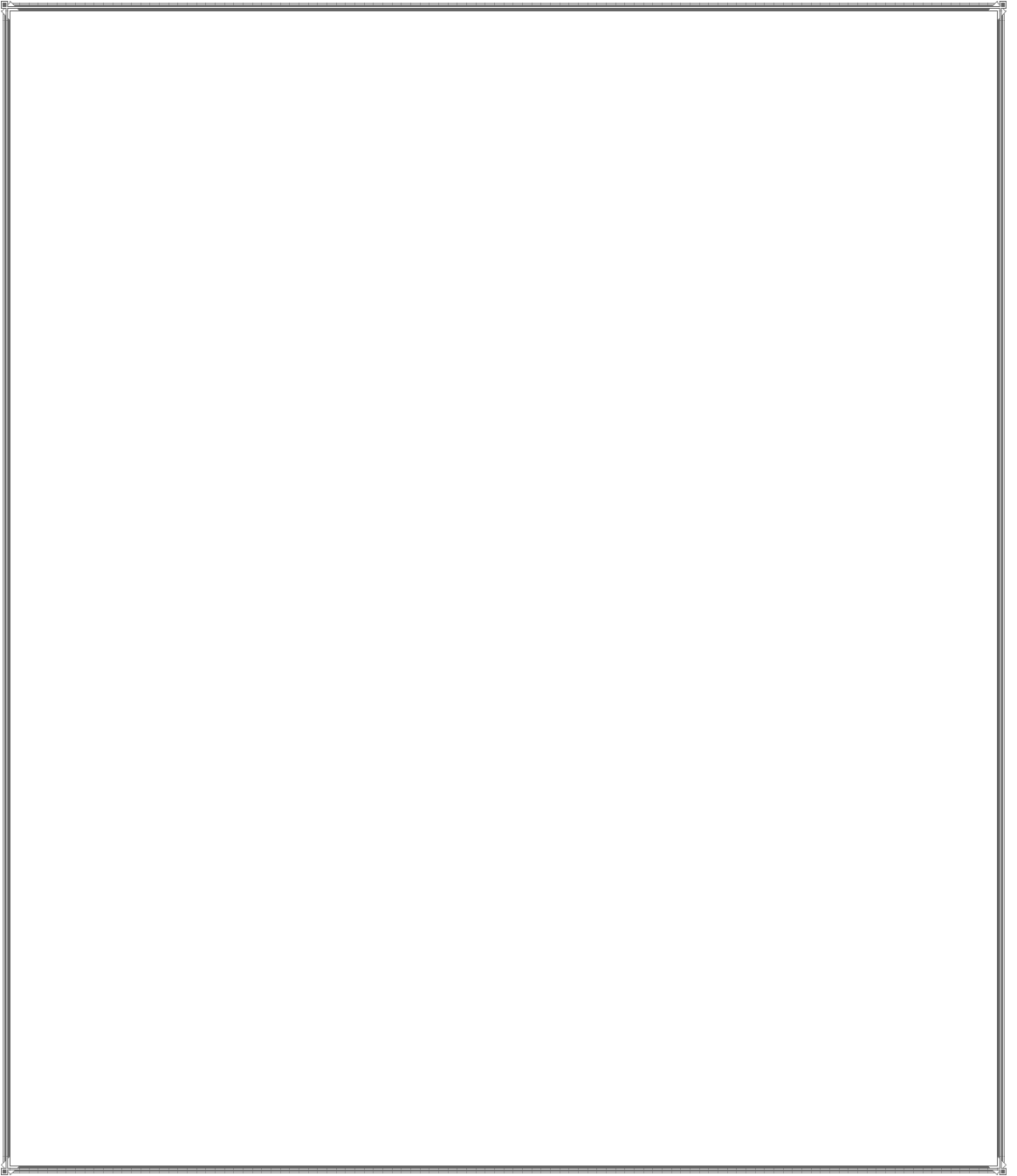
6. As A heads off to her room, she reflects on her adventure. What parts would make her proud and give her a sense of her own abilities? How has this adventure helped her to see her ability to make her own future? Why is it important to believe in yourself?

7. A looks at her shelf and she is momentarily angry because something is missing—which her older male tormentor has probably taken. She plans to get that back. But, for the meantime, she places something from Mallikjuag on the shelf in the new open space. What has she brought back from Mallikjuag, why and what does it mean for her future?

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8. A is young but she feels the sadness of those in Dorset who despair about their futures. She does not despair. How has the Mallikjuag experience helped her?

9. A does feel a need to help others, but, she is unclear about how she might help. How could a strong person like A help those in her community who feel hopeless (when she does not)?



Draw an Inuschuk by the shore