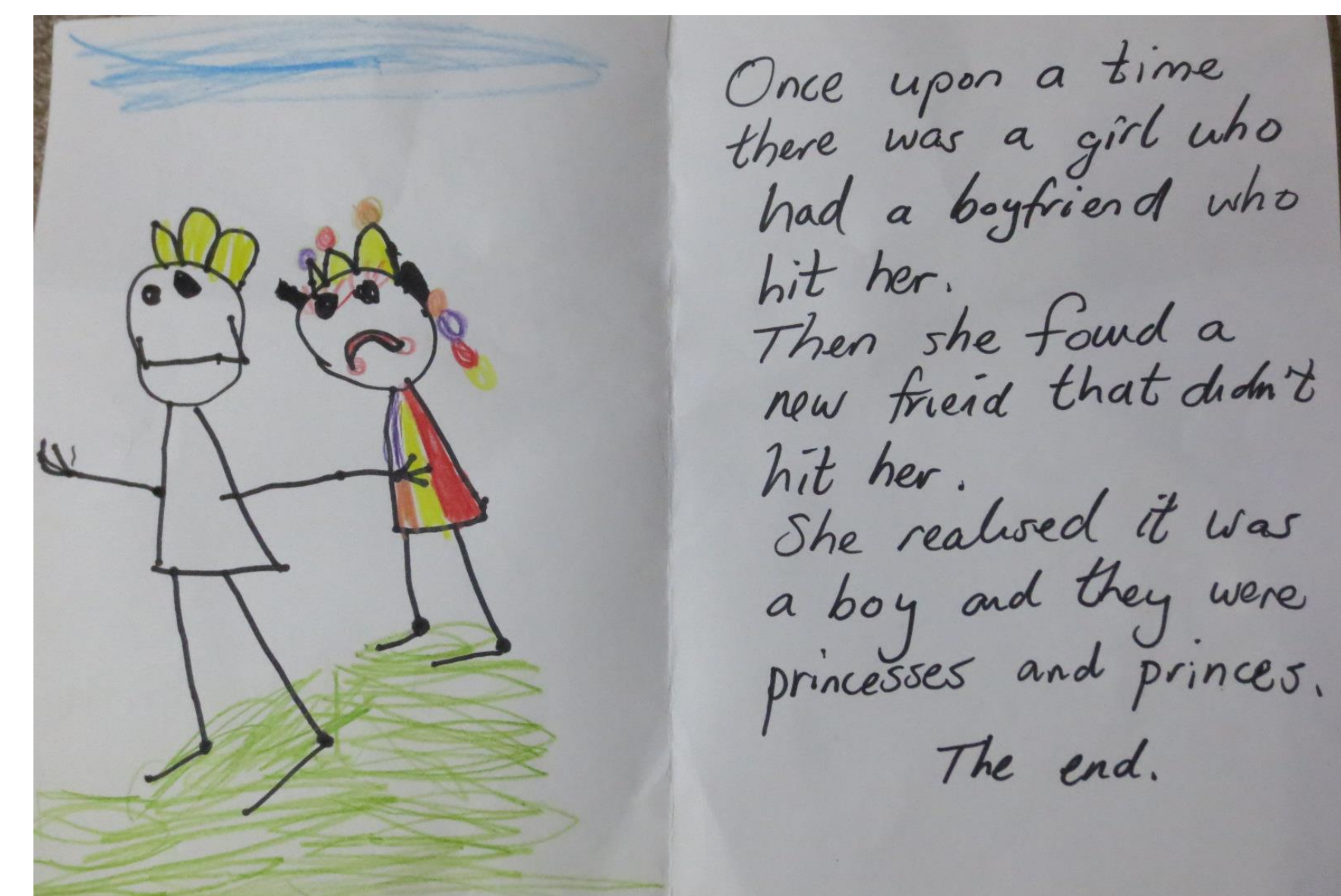




# The narrative of a young child...

## The wild side of children's stories...

*Once upon a time there was a good, good Superman. And then he saved people from the bad people.*



The unruly and wild nature of children's stories is a vital clue to one of the secret spaces of childhood – the child's inner thoughts and fantasies. Stories also reflect deeply internal ways of organizing experience. Young children construct stories as a way of wresting meaning from their daily experiences. Often their narratives contain evidence of the emotional and cognitive conundrums they are trying to solve. The form of the narratives often offers clues about the kinds of solutions they have devised. (Engel 2005)

*Once upon a time there was a girl and she came to the beach. She swam on the beach and she fell into the crocodiles mouth. The end.*

Children don't simply cross back and forth between reality and fantasy in their stories. The symbolic process of creating a narrative involves constructing spheres of reality.

Children express and consider their ideas, experiences and impulses by embodying them in stories.

*Once upon a time there was a mum and she found a baby. And then the Princess came to find her brother but he wasn't at school. The dad did come back, but the dad didn't see the children.*

*The children did come to the brother's school and picked the brother up. When they came back home the Princess "took" her butterfly home, and then they go to sleep.*

