

Harvard Divinity School
Steven Salido Fisher
Library Thesis Submission
May 14th, 2021

Preface

For me this thesis was an usual step into my love of picture books. In this thesis was my desire to give aesthetic form to ideas that enable others to know their inner life while also contributing some beauty to the page. I also wanted a story that explored complex topics like anger or what it means to reconcile. Other times I wanted this story to be a reminder that it's good to be alive. What came together was a story I called, "The Giving Boy" in respectful tribute to the classic "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. My sources of inspiration, however, were quite different. The work of artists and photographers like Francisco Zuniga, Nacho Lopez, and Elinor Carucci informed the gestures and styles of this story, and time at the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University also deeply shaped the kind of story I wanted to create. Finally, my own grandmothers, Ana Carlotta Salido-Graue and Maria Luisa Alba-Fisher, who each died this year of the COVID-19 global pandemic, brought additional spirit and love to this creative process.

This contribution to the library of Harvard University is a glimpse into that creative process; the sketches, drafts, and developing ideas of my thesis unfold in the pages below. In other words, I am submitting something incomplete. Due to the volume of the library's collection and the digital storage of this deeply specific document, I don't expect anyone to actually review this document at the library in the years to come, and in some ways, this contribution is a purely symbolic gesture from my program to celebrate my work. At the same time, however, I take delight knowing that something as incomplete and unpolished as this thesis will find a home at this university's esteemed collection. I confess I secretly hope that someone finds it, and finds company in the struggle to create something new and personal, amid all this is already perfected, polished, and complete here at Harvard University.

With gratitude and love to all
who supported me these past
three years,

Steven Salido Fisher
Master of Divinity 2021
Harvard Divinity School

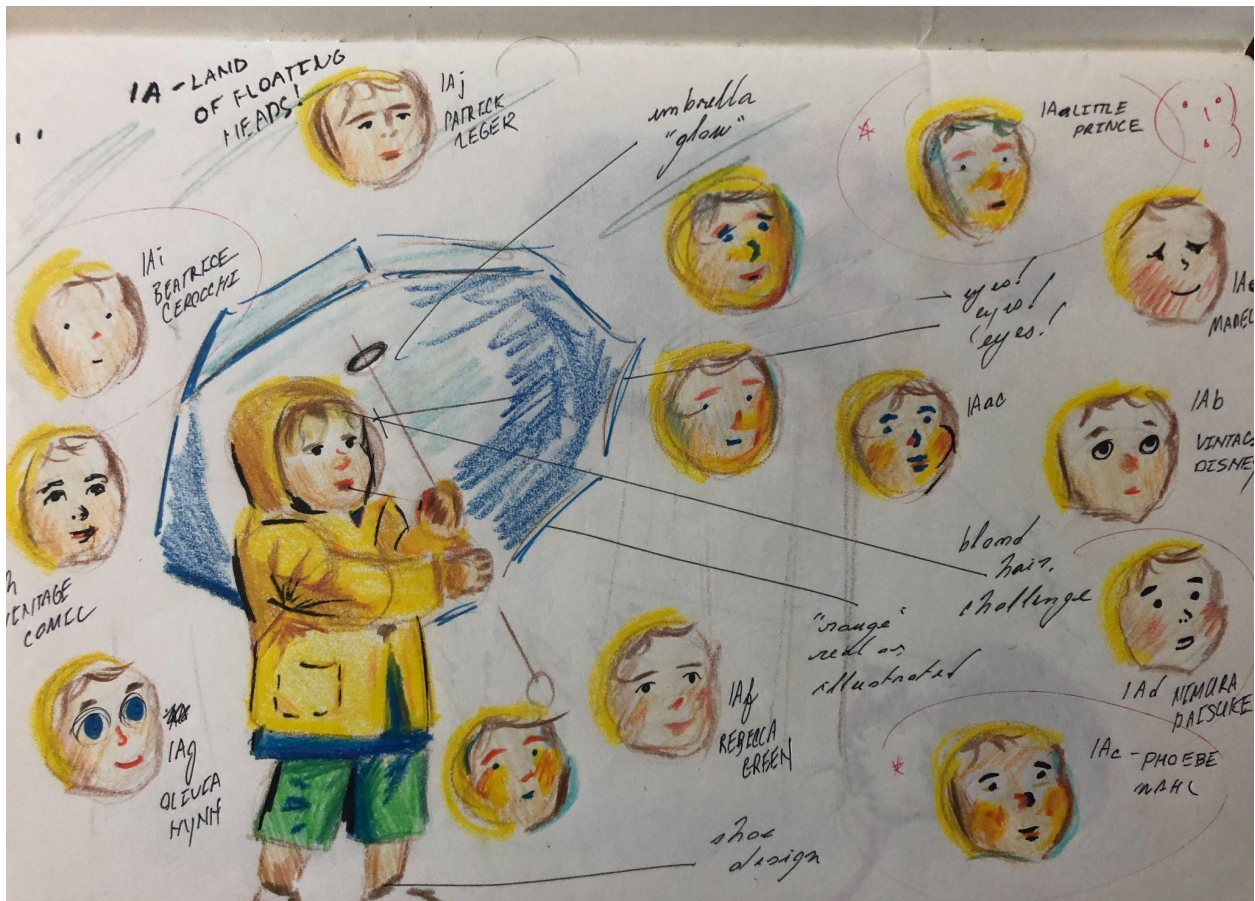


Figure 1. 2018 drafts to discern my illustrative style during the course "Introduction to Ministry."



Figure 2. 2018 draft to further capture my illustrative style during the course "Introduction to Ministry."

3) WAITING BOARD

ANGLE
OFF

* EXPRESSION
+
WEIGHT
GOOD

STUDIED
REFERENCE

POSTURE
TWICE



9) WAITING
IMPATIENCE



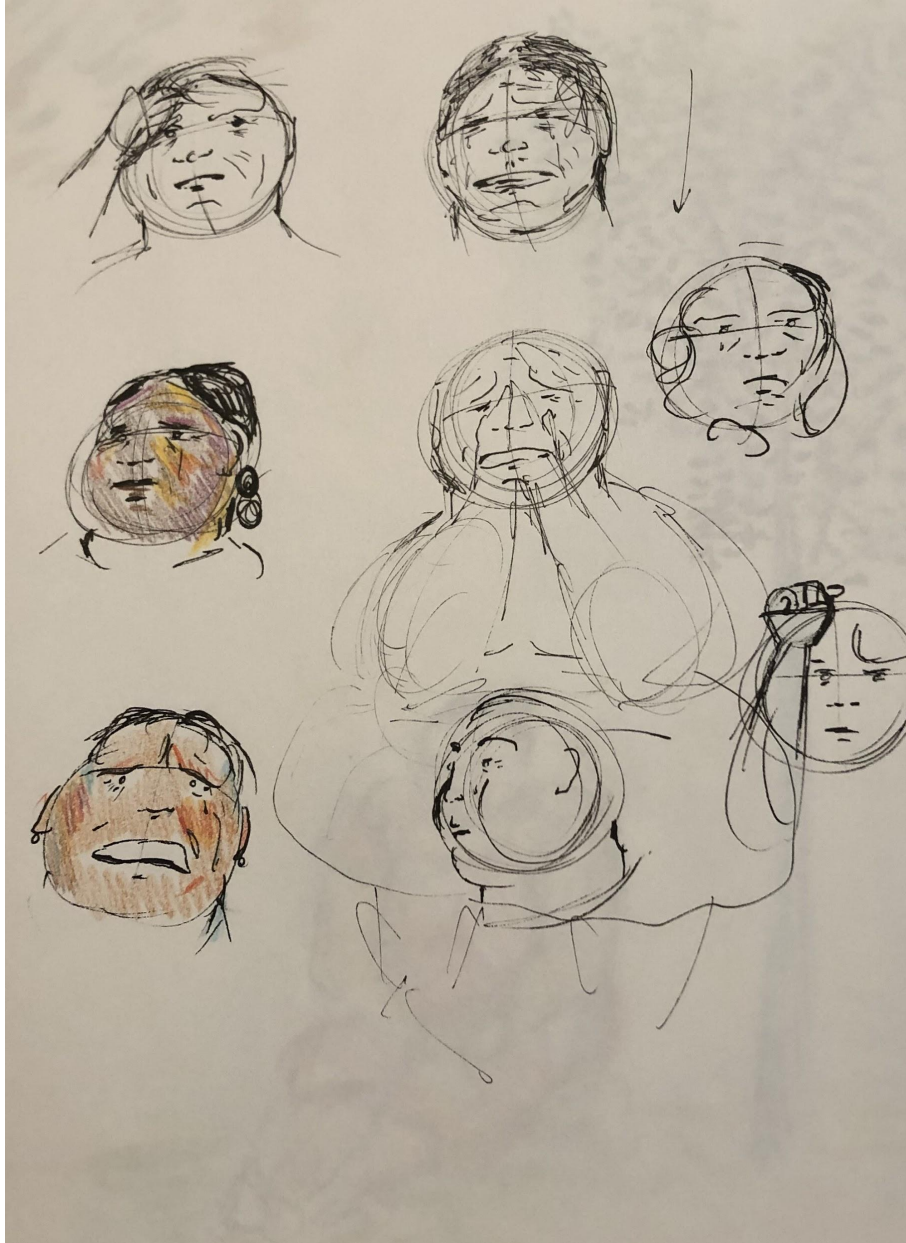


Figure 3. Impressions of sadness and heartbreak I attempted to refine during my own heartbreak in 2020.



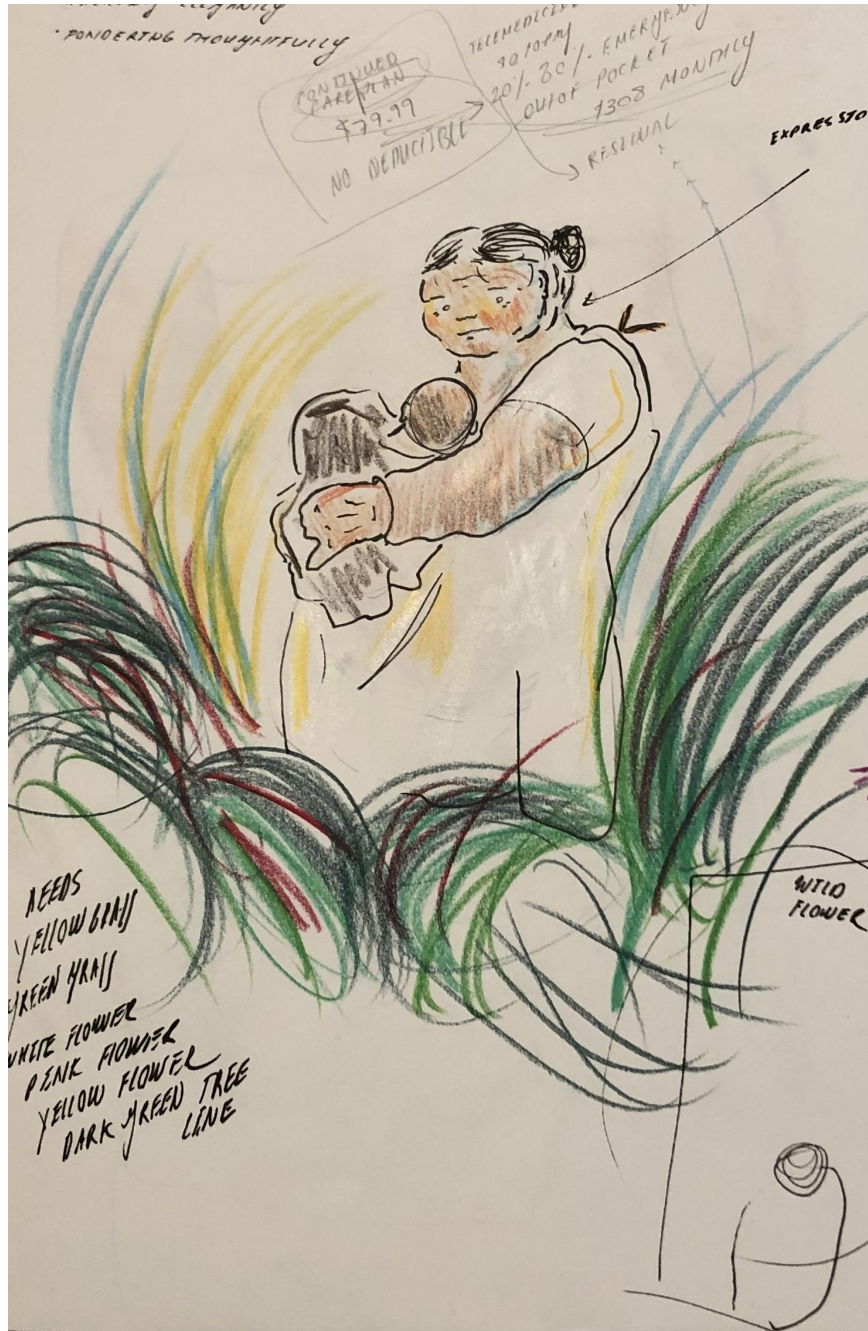


Figure 4. Study of the character "Abuela" cradling her infant grandson in a meadow.





Figure 4. Abuela is angry.

• Page 1
 ○ Text: "Draft Title" by Steven Salido Fisher
 ○ Visual: TBD

MOTION: DETERMINED
 • Page 2
 ○ Text: Publication information and dedication.
 ○ Visual: TBD

MOTION: TENDER, CRYING
 • Page 3
 ○ Text: None
 ○ Visual: Abuela is approaching the forest.

• Page 4
 ○ Text: Abuela, do you remember how the sun drenched your face when I slept in the shadow of your body? Do you remember the moss-tattooed bark?
 ○ Visual: Abuela holding infant m'ijo. They are beside a gargantuan, detailed tree; its roots are massive; its canopy crowds the tops of the page.

MOTION: GIDDY, FEARFUL
 • Page 5
 ○ Text: Abuela, you taught me that love is taking care of the beings who can't talk like us and treating them as if they could (Landinsky).
 ■ to button up my coat or else I'd get a cold
 ○ Visual: Abuela is playing with m'ijo when he is a toddler. M'ijo is hiding himself on one side of the tree, his small hands covering his eyes but exposing a visible smile. Abuela is peering around the tree as if she had said "peek-a-boo!" a moment ago.

MOTION: GYFUL, QUANTUMOUS
 CHILD
 • Page 6
 ○ Text: Abuela, you helped me see that our home is the world and you and I are a part of the heartbeat of the universe.
 ■ that everything has a name
 ○ Visual:

MOTION: SAD, TEEN, HEARTBROKEN
 • Page 7
 ○ Text: Abuela, I remember the time you listened to my sadness and rocked my loneliness. I remember the day you told me, "If you need me to hold your hand m'ijo, I'm here."
 ■ forget
 ○ Visual: Abuela consoling teenage m'ijo.

DEFENSIVE, SELF-CRITICAL
 Another page here? "I stopped believing you."

MOTION: ANGRY, VIOLENT
 • Page 8
 ○ Text: I ignored you when you told me I could be anything I wanted. I ignored you so fiercely that even my heart felt like an angry fist—as if trying to quiet the beating.
 ■ How did I get here?
 ■ It's hard to remember

DO I STILL WANT TO DO...

Figure 5. Notes and draft for the text of "The Giving Boy."

FLY

FLY

HOPEFUL

UNFILED

RATEFUL

GRIEVING

- Will tomorrow have a sunrise.
- Play with this in illustration

○ **Visual:** Adult m'ijo has cut down the tree. We see wood splattered on his side of the spread; the rings of the collapsed trunk are highly visible.

● **Page 9**

- **Text:** none
- **Visual:** Visual: the stump sits in a landscape of snow alone.

● **Page 10**

- **Text:** none
- **Visual:** The adult m'hijo sits on top of the stump alone. Abuela is absent. We only see m'ijo from his back, accentuating his loneliness.

● **Page 11**

- **Text:** none
 - for everything that had fallen.
 - rest on the ground
- **Visual:** Abuela finds the adult m'ijo as she returns to the page. His head turns slightly only beginning to notice her arrival.

● **Page 12**

- **Text:** none
- **Visual:** M'ijo and Abuela embrace.

● **Page 13**

- **Text:** Abuela, I know the way by heart even though your mind has now forgotten.
- **Visual:** M'ijo pushing Abuela in wheelchair toward stump.

● **Page 14**

- **Text:** Abuela, you are a memory of a smile and of a tear, of what might've still been, of what has become.
- **Visual:** M'ijo (now Abuelo) mourning Abuela at the stump.

● **Page 15**

- **Text:**
 - To give
 - roots
 - the time is always right
- **Visual:** M'ijo's grandchildren enter page.

● **Page 16**

● **Page 17**

• WATCH ENDLESS POE
 • WATCH SPERITEN
 • ZUNITHA - DEZNER
 ABUELA

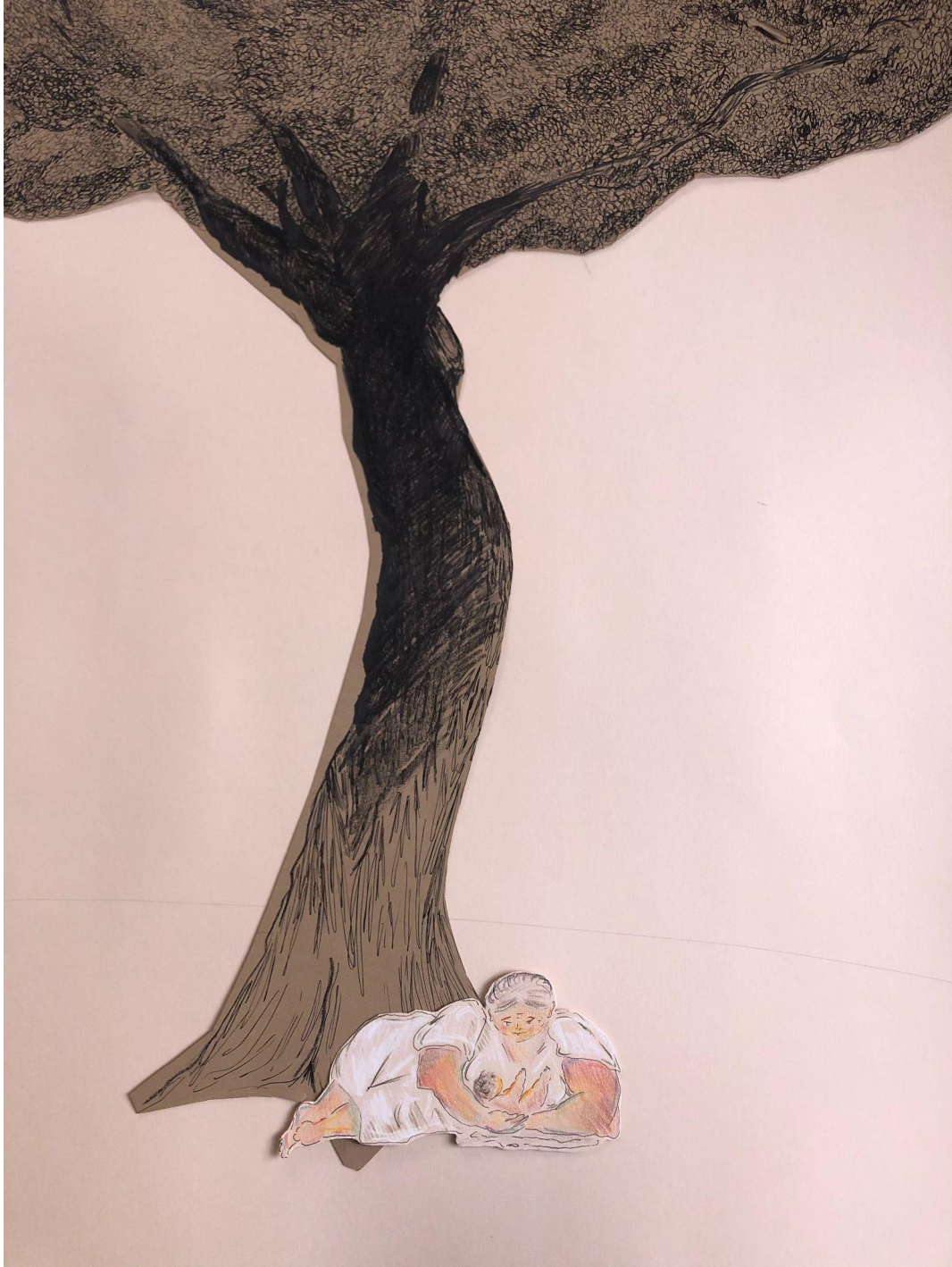


Figure 6. Thesis submission draft of Abuela holding her infant grandson at the roots of a great tree.

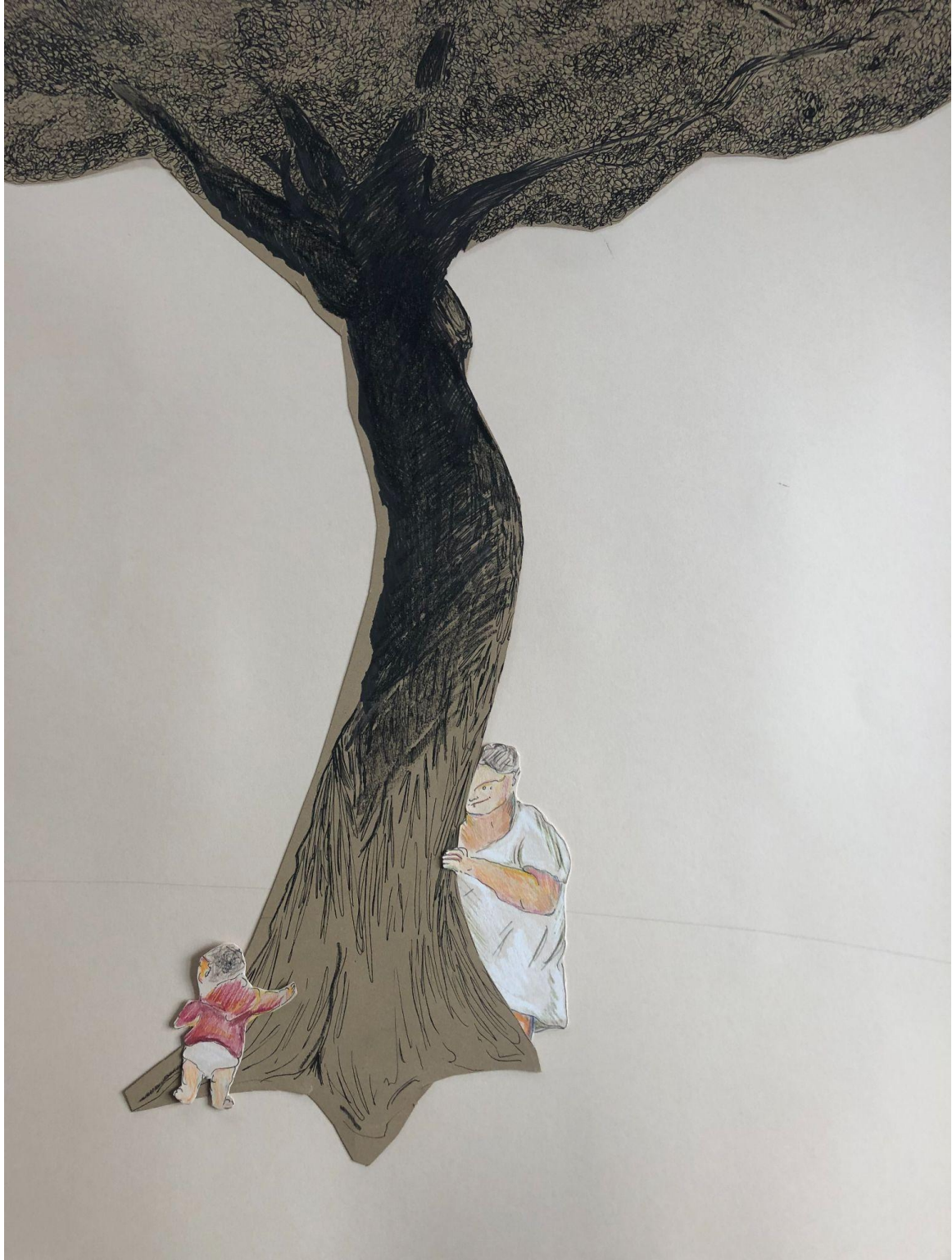


Figure 7. Abuela plays with her toddler-aged grandson.



Figure 8. Abuela finds her beloved killed by her adult grandson.

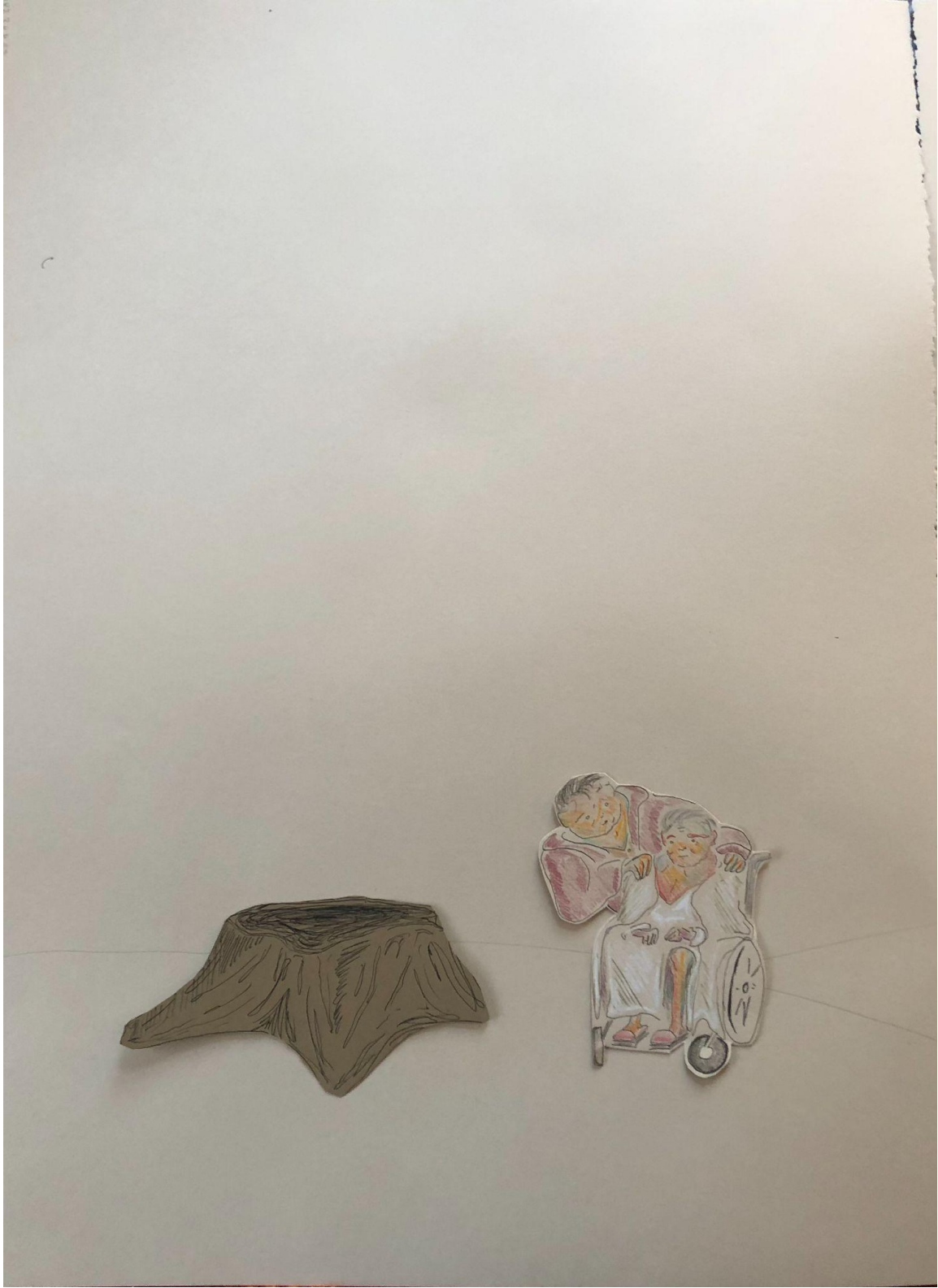
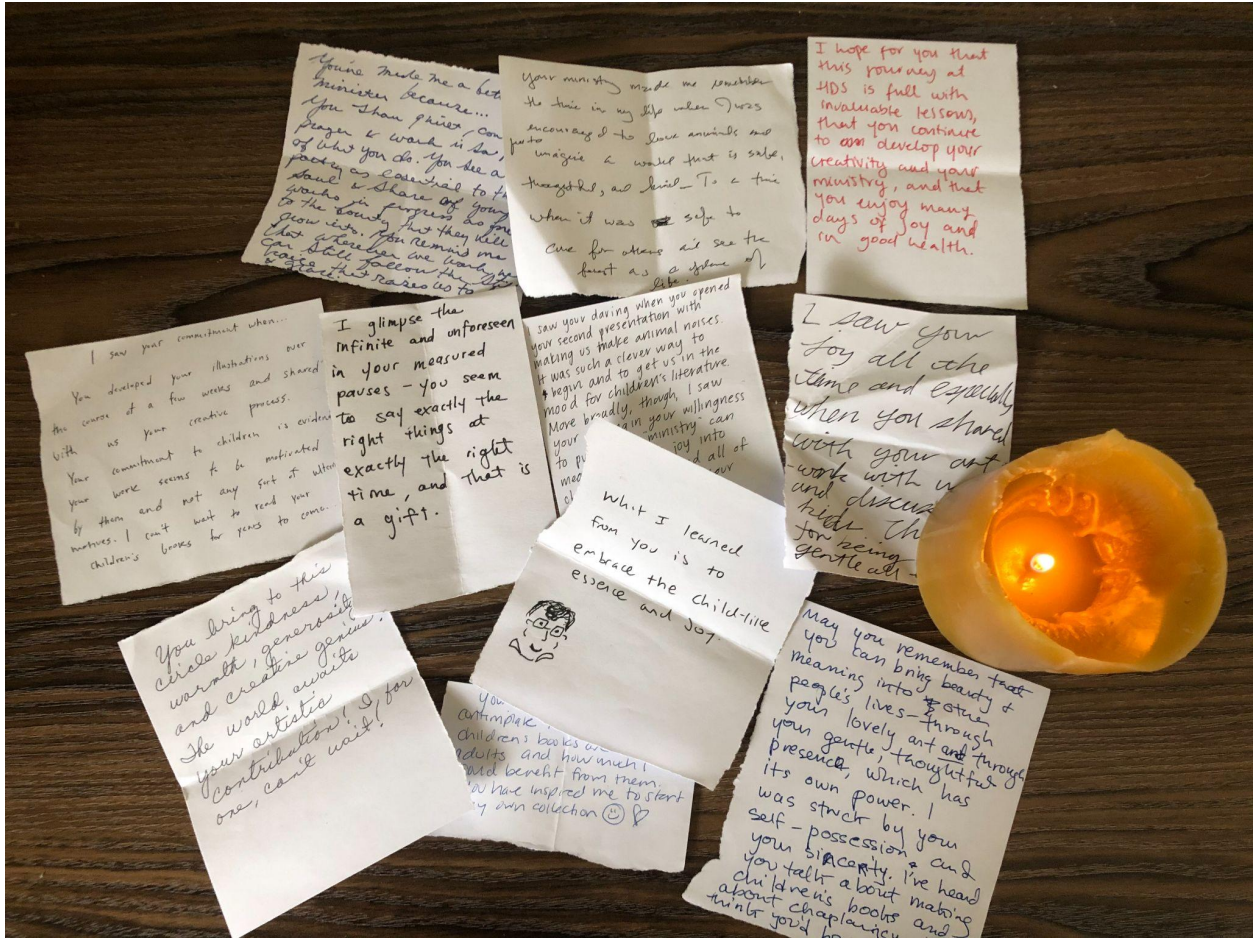


Figure 9. Abuela and grandson, much older, bravely reunite at the site of much shared love and pain.



You've made me a better
minister because...
You show patience, con-
fidence & work in the
of what you do. You see a
potential as essential to the
work & share of going
to the board, but they will
grow into. You remind me
that together we have
can still follow the
pace that raises us to

Your ministry made me remember
the true in my life when I was
encouraged to love animals and
to imagine a world that is safe,
thoughtful, and kind. To a true
when it was self to
care for others as see the
heart as a place of

I hope for you that
this journey at
HDS is full with
invaluable lessons,
that you continue
to develop your
creativity and your
ministry, and that
you enjoy many
days of joy and
in good health.

I saw your commitment when...
You developed your illustrations over
the course of a few weeks and shared
with us your creative process.
Your commitment to children is evident
your work seems to be motivated
by them and not any sort of other
motives. I can't wait to read your
children's books for years to come.

I glimpse the
infinite and unforeseen
in your measured
pauses - you seem
to say exactly the
right things at
exactly the right
time, and that is
a gift.

Saw your daring when you opened
your second presentation with
making us make animal noises.
It was such a clever way to
begin and to get us in the
mood for children's literature.
Move broadly, though I saw
in your willingness
ministry can
say into
and all of
our

I saw your
joy all the
time and especially
when you shared
with your art
- work with us
and discuss
it. The
you seem
gentle and

What I learned
from you is to
embrace the child-like
essence and joy.



You bring to this
circle kindness,
warmth, generosity,
and creative genius.
The world awaits
your artistic
contributions! I, for
one, can't wait!

You
admire
children's books and
adults and how much
I and benefit from them
you have inspired me to start
my own collection 😊

May you remember that
you can bring beauty &
meaning into other
people's lives through
your lovely art and through
your gentle, thoughtful
presence, which has
its own power. I
was struck by your
self-possession and
your sincerity and
you talk about making
children's books and
about chaplains and
think you'll

