

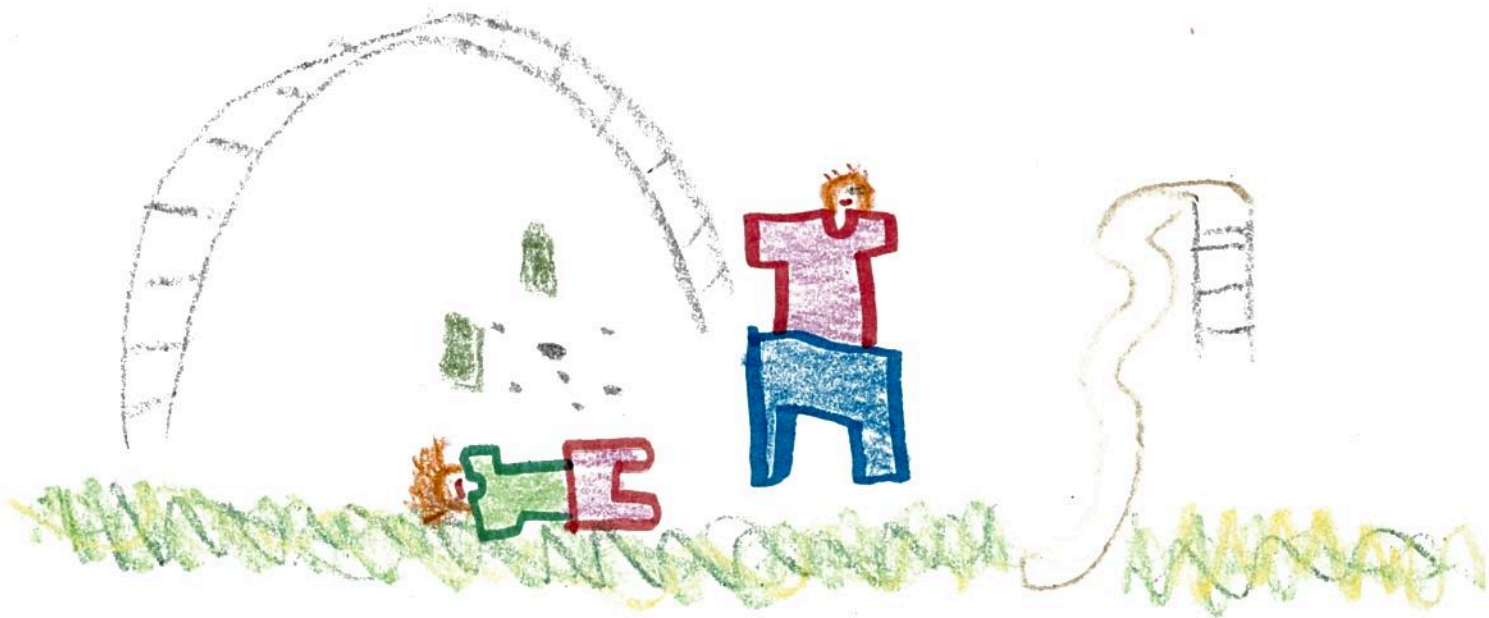
PORTAL

TO

PEACE

BY MATHIAS

Twelve year old Jake pushes nine year old Jeff. When Jeff falls, his lunch money spills out of his pockets and Jake kicks Jeff out of the way and takes the money. It was just another day for Jake---the school bully. Jeff gets up and sneers, "You might have my money but you don't have my friendship. In fact, you have no one's friendship!"



The bell rings and Jake runs to be first in line but he trips over a twig and falls onto a small disc. When Jake picks up the disc, he accidentally triggers it and a small portal appears. Before Jake realizes what's happening, the portal sucks him in.



When Jake arrives at the other end of the portal, he doesn't know where he is. He hears a man talking. He turns around and is standing in the middle of a crowd of people in India. The man in front looks small but everyone is listening and cheering for him. Jake asks someone next to him, "Who is that guy?" The man replies, "How can you not know? That is Mahatma Gandhi, our leader. Three hours pass and everyone leaves the campaign. Jake stays. He walks up to Gandhi and asks for advice on how to be loved and powerful at the same time.



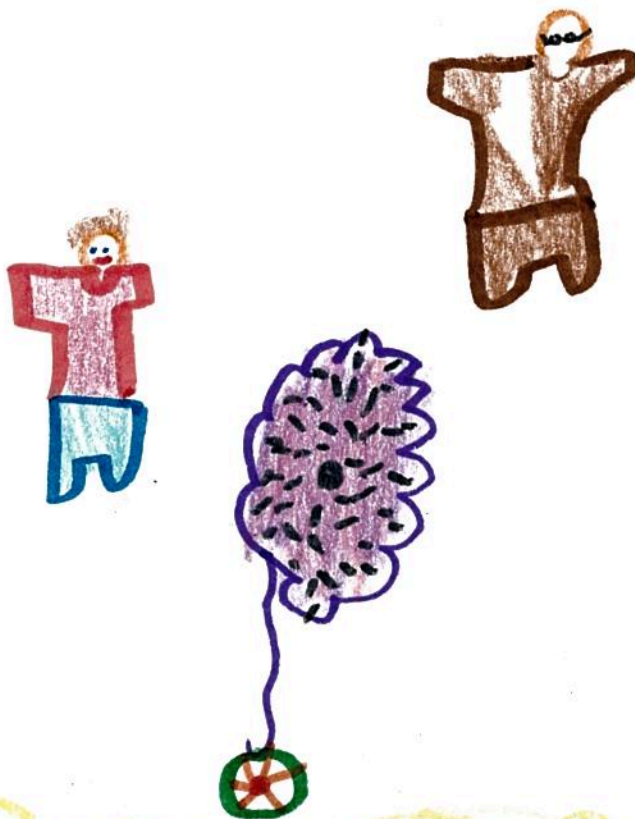
Ghandi says "Power based on love is better than power from fear of punishment."

Jake says, "But people will only do what I say if they are scared of me."

"No," Ghandi says, "You are mistaken. Violence is never the answer."

Jake asks, "But what if someone is mean to me? "Should I get payback?"

Just as Jake says this, the disc he is still holding starts to vibrate and pull him into the portal, but Ghandi shouts "An eye for an eye only makes the whole world blind!" It is the last thing Jake hears as he gets sucked in.





When Jake gets back, he is kind to everyone and people are confused. Jake spots Jeff and when he gets close, Jeff gets up and starts to run away. Jake shouts, "Stop!" Jeff stops and reluctantly returns to his seat, shivering. Jake gives Jeff his money back and apologizes and asks if they can be friends. Jeff says yes.

Jake teaches his school about peace and why it is important to the world, but people still wonder what happened on that day.

