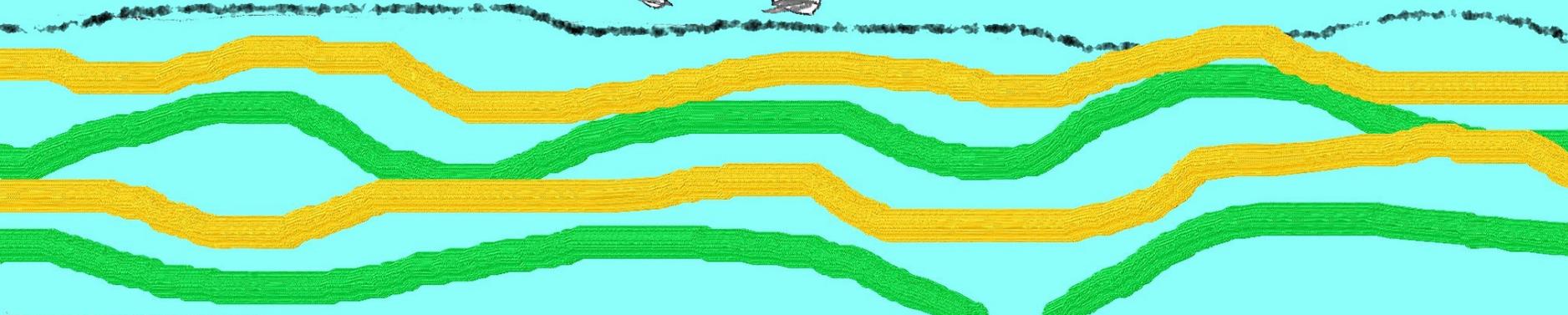


WHEN I MEET A DRAGON

Written By Santhini Govindan

Illustrated By Apsara Jayadev





People say that dragons
don't really exist;
But I don't believe that –
they may be living in the
midst,
Of a dense, dark forest, in
a faraway land,



Or hidden in a distant desert, filled with sand.



Perhaps they've crept into caves on
mountains steep,
And settled down to have a long,
undisturbed sleep.
So, I think it's possible that one day, I just
might meet,
A real live dragon, coming
down my street.



When that happens, I want to be quite
prepared,
I don't want to be dumbfounded, startled,
or scared.
I don't want to gulp, or choke, or stammer;
I don't want to mumble, stutter, or falter.

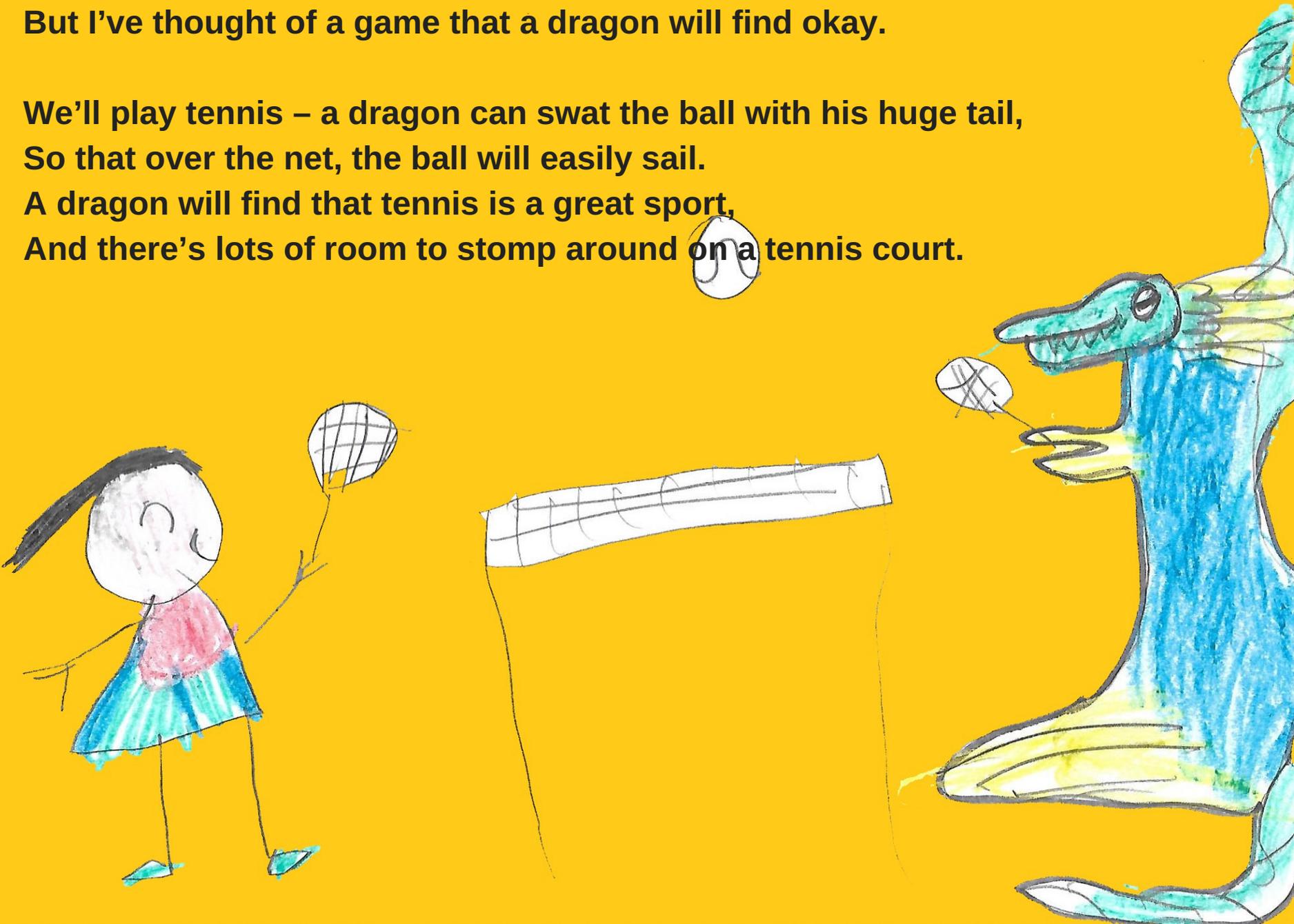
So, that's why I've started practicing what I'm going to say,
When I meet a dragon striding down my street one day.
First, I'll politely extend my hand to show that I'm a friend,
For a dragon is not someone you want to offend!

I'll smile at the dragon, and find out his name;
Then I'll ask him if he'd like to join me in a game.
We can't go roller skating of course, because,
No roller skates will fit his dragon claws.



We can't go cycling either, 'cos I think a dragon can't sit,
On a bicycle seat – he'll be much too large to fit.
I don't know if dragons can hop, so hopscotch we can't play,
But I've thought of a game that a dragon will find okay.

We'll play tennis – a dragon can swat the ball with his huge tail,
So that over the net, the ball will easily sail.
A dragon will find that tennis is a great sport,
And there's lots of room to stomp around on a tennis court.





**I'll ask my new dragon friend to spread his wings, and take flight,
While I sit on his back, holding onto his spikes tight.
As I zoom through space on a dragon's back, I might even venture,
To journey to the Moon – that will be such an adventure!**

**And of course, I'll ask my dragon friend if he,
Can breathe fire from his throat - just for me to see.
But before he opens his jaws, I'll hurry out of the dragon's way-
It's best to watch a dragon breathing fire from far away!**



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