

18.06 Proverbs of Solomon (Proverbs 1–31)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *proverb*: a sentence of wisdom or a short, powerful saying
- *psalm*: a song of praise to God

Scripture: (ESV)

(Found throughout the lesson)

Introduction/Review:

Solomon had built the beautiful Temple for God. He had prayed that God would forgive His people if they did what? [Repented.] God had answered Solomon, saying, “If my people shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14). Furthermore, God promised Solomon, “If you obey me as your father David did, you will always have a son or grandson to reign on the throne. But if you turn away from me, I’ll take the people out of here and destroy the temple” (2 Chronicles 7:17–20).

People all over the world respected Solomon for his wisdom and came to visit him. The Bible tells about a queen who came to visit him. What was her name? [The Queen of Sheba.] She learned many things from Solomon.

Story:

Today we can learn many things from Solomon too. How do you suppose we can do that? We can read the Bible books he wrote—Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. These books are not much like the psalms that David wrote. In the book of Psalms, David directed all his words to God; in the book of Proverbs, Solomon gave advice to people. The word *proverb* means a sentence of wisdom or a short, powerful saying.

Proverbs in general

According to 1 Kings 4:31 and 32, Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs. He wrote about being lazy, about lying, about using our tongues correctly, about lessons from the animals, about money, about sin, about friends, about anger—and much more—all in a special kind of poetry that doesn’t rhyme but repeats ideas in different words. The main subject, however, is wisdom.

Our Bibles have 31 chapters of proverbs. That’s the same number as days in a month. Many Christians read one chapter of Proverbs every day; they read through the whole book once every month. That’s twelve times a year! My mother did this for many years. Every month she would write down a new subject—the tongue, money, instruction, the fool—and the Proverbs Scripture reference.

Specific subjects

Today we will talk about just a few proverbs, and I will tell you a present-day story, not a Bible story, to illustrate the Bible proverb.

Laziness

Let's see if you can tell what this proverb is about. "The sluggard [lazy person] buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth" (Proverbs 26:15). What kind of person is in this proverb? [Lazy.]

Here is another proverb that tells a lazy person to study something. What should he study? Listen. "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest" (Proverbs 6:6–8).

What animals should be a lesson to a lazy man? [The ants.]

Anger

Now I will read two verses from Proverbs and see if you can tell what they are about. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit [himself] than he that takes a city" (Proverbs 16:32). "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared" (Proverbs 22:24, 25).

What were these proverbs about? [Anger.] What do they tell us about anger? [To be patient and not angry is better than to be a mighty soldier. Also, it is unwise to hang around an angry person.]

Here is a proverb to help others not to get angry: "A gentle answer turns away wrath [anger], but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).

Lying

One more proverb: "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22). Here is a story, not in the Bible, that deals with both anger and lying. [Tell "The Doll That Grew," found below with visuals to follow.]

Can you see how wise Solomon was? He was the wisest man who ever lived. But someone is wiser than he. Who is that? Jesus. Let us learn to trust Him.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
Jesus is Wisdom itself. He knows everything—He is omniscient.
Jesus told parables while He lived on earth. Parables are stories that one could say are long proverbs.

Activities:

- Play dough: lazy boy or girl lying down; an angry mouth or face
- Snack: Ants on celery. Cut celery stalks into 4-inch pieces. Fill the "ditch" of the celery with peanut butter. Place 5 or 6 raisins in a row on the peanut butter.
- Show the almost-three-minute video on Proverbs found at [Intro to the Book of Proverbs | Proverbs for Kids #1 - Bing video](#).
- Show the short video about ants found at [Bible Fact: Hard work of ants already written before science findings - Bing video](#).
- Read Proverbs 2:1–5. Have students make motions to demonstrate the words. For example, *receive* in verse one can be shown by palms up that close as they are drawn to the body.

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

- Review questions: (Game: Print and cut out the proverbs found below. The person who answers a question correctly will draw a proverb from a container and read it.)
 1. Who wrote most of the book of Proverbs? [Solomon.]
 2. How many proverbs did Solomon write? [Three thousand.]
 3. How many chapters are there in the book of Proverbs? [Thirty-one.]
 4. What is the main subject covered in the book of Proverbs? [Wisdom.]

Memory Verse[s]: (KJV) A song sheet by Earl Martin for this verse may be found at [STB05SM \(mysteryministries.net\)](http://STB05SM(mysteryministries.net)), #11.

- Proverbs 3:5, 6—Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

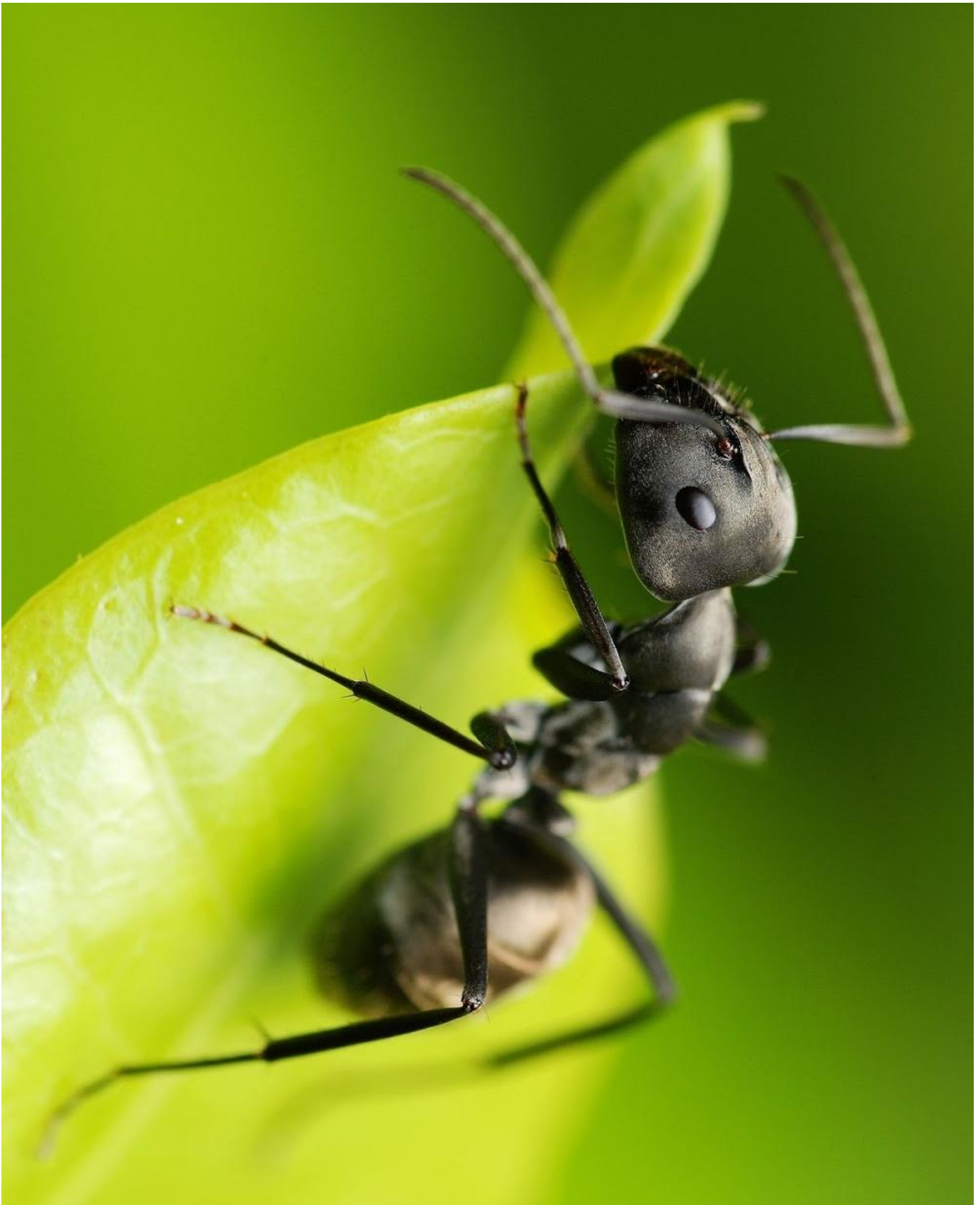
Handwork:

- An ant made from an egg carton. Supplies: egg cartons (each student gets a 3-egg section); black paint (teacher might want to paint the 3-section units before class); black pipe cleaners; 2 moveable eyes. See this craft at Teach Love Grow: A Week- Ant Craft and Snack. Attach a printed strip of Proverbs 6:6–8 about ants found below.

proverb

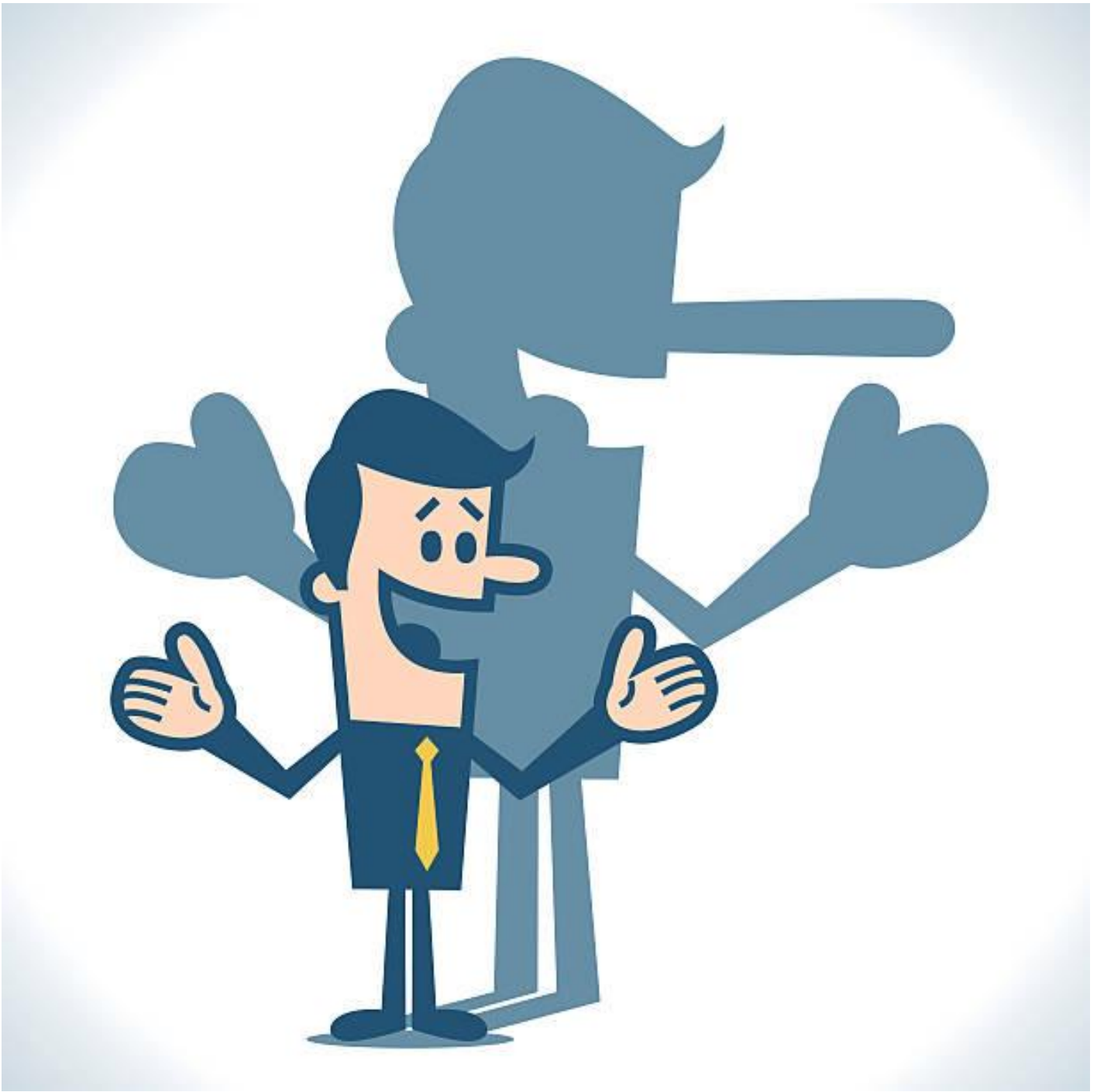
psalm





[Black_Ant_4.jpg \(1600×1000\) \(bp.blogspot.com\)](#)





[smiling-businessman-with-shadow-of-his-long-nose-vector-id597944204 \(612×612\) \(istockphoto.com\)](#)

THE DOLL THAT GREW (Copied)

Margaret J. Tuininga

Hope had a very strange little doll. It was a doll that looked very much like a gingerbread boy—and it was stuffed with hard, dry kernels of corn. You see, Hope lived quite a long time ago. When she coaxed her mother for a doll, her mother had to sit down and make one for her, for there were no stores nearby where she might buy one.

Although it was not a beautiful doll like the ones girls have today, still Hope loved it very dearly and played house with her and took her out for walks just like little girls do with their dollies now.

One day Hope and her brother Jimmy had a bad quarrel. Jimmy had been carving out a pretty little ship and was carefully cutting out one of the masts when Hope bumped into him, knocking the little ship to the floor. Several pieces were broken off, and Jimmy in anger cried, “Can’t you watch where you’re going? Look what you did!”

“I don’t care if I did!” answered Hope. Of course, she did care and wondered, “Whatever made me say that?”

“I’ll fix her—the mean thing—I will!” thought Jimmy. Just then he noticed her little doll lying on a chair. Picking it up, he hurried out another door and made his way to the tool shed where he got a shovel. Then he ran quickly around to the garden. Way at the end of it where there was soft ground and nothing seemed to be planted, he dug a hole and buried the doll!

“There—that’s the end of that! That’ll pay her back for breaking my things,” said Jimmy to himself. “And nobody will ever know what happened to that doll!”

But Jimmy forgot about God! God has said, “He that covers his sins shall not prosper” (Proverbs 28:13) and again, “Be sure your sins will find you out!” (Numbers 32:23).

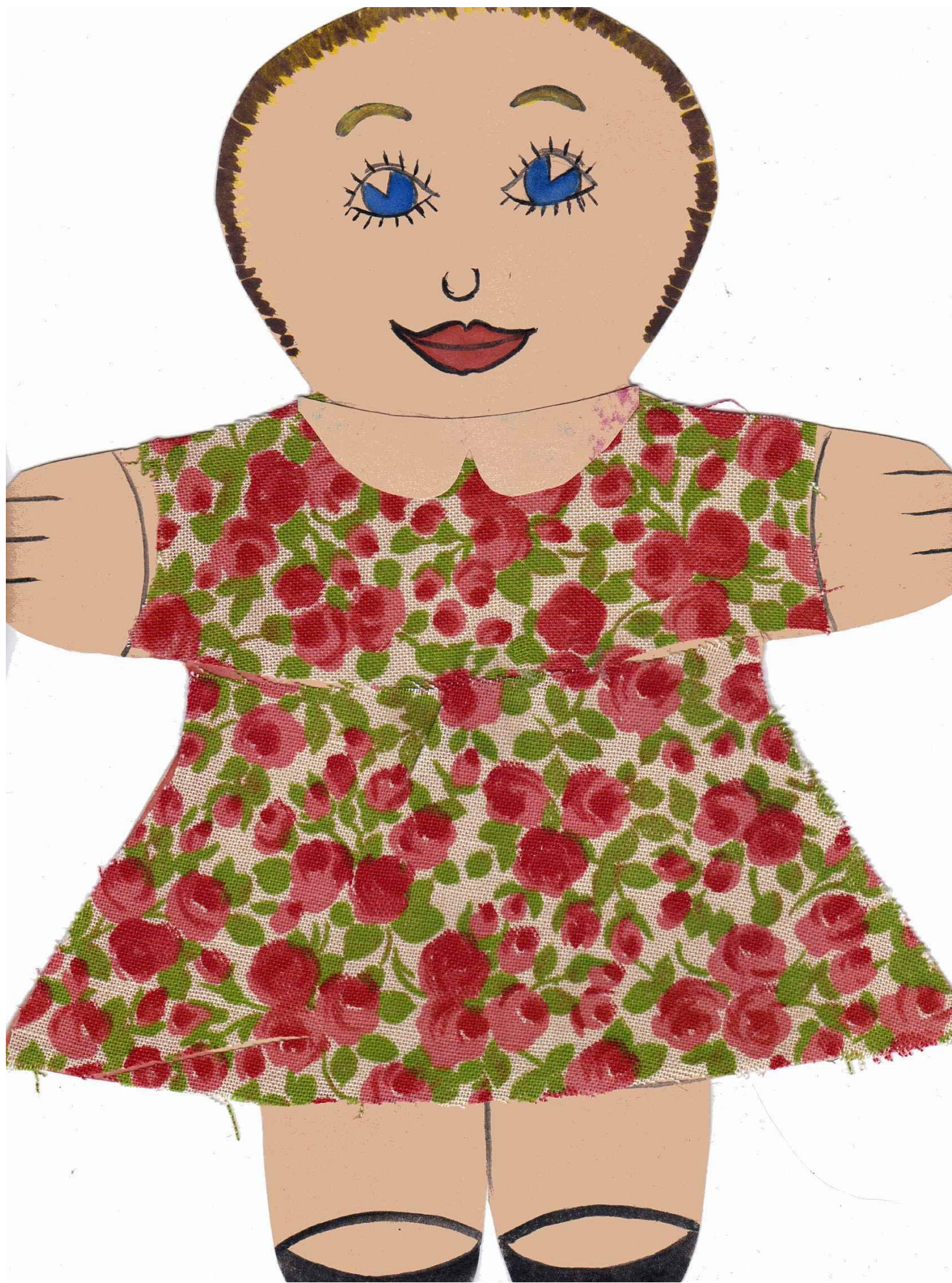
Many days went by, and Hope cried many tears. But no one could find the little doll. It seemed to be a mystery that could not be solved. The doll had just vanished!

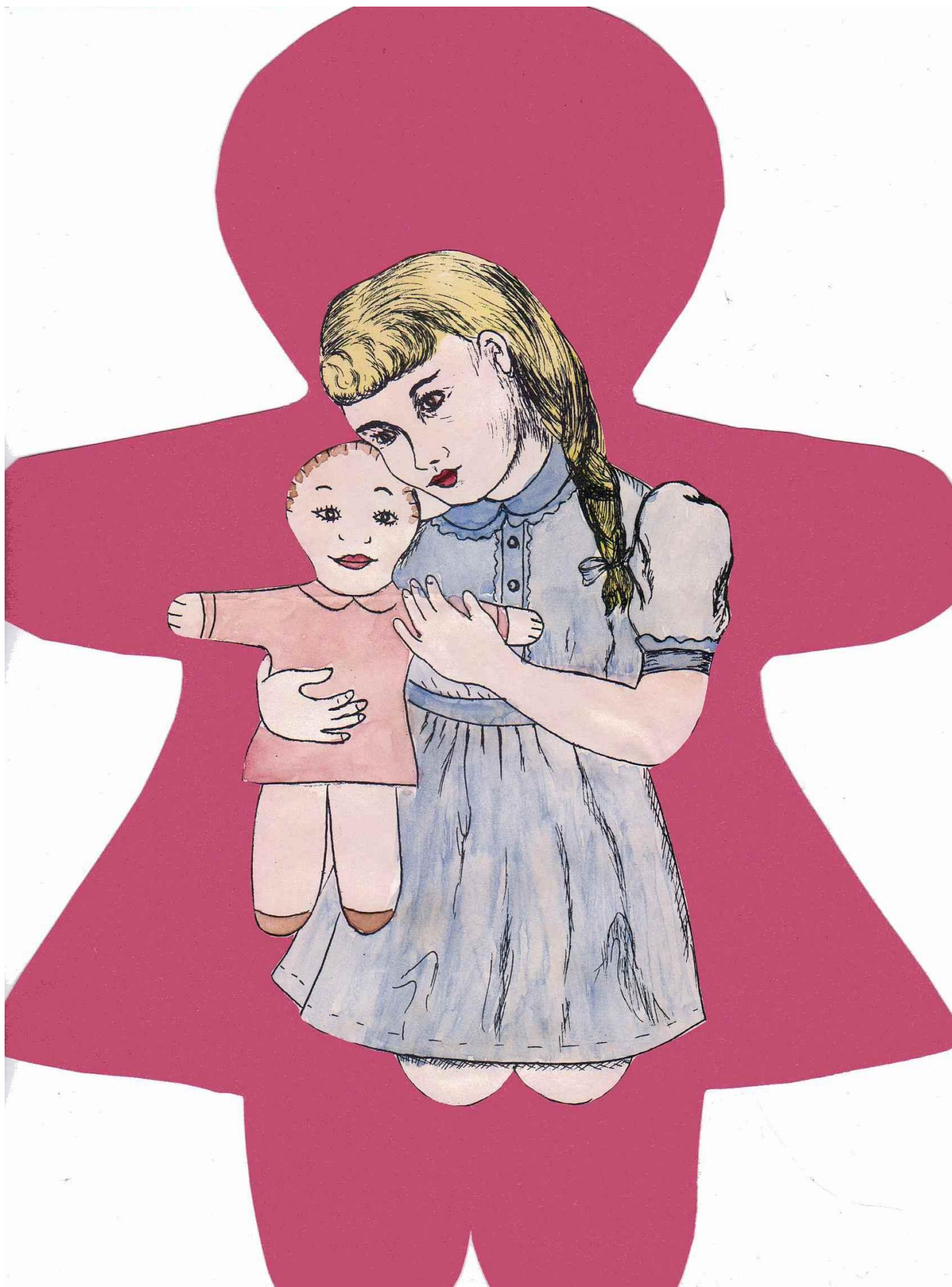
Jimmy was not as happy as he had thought he would be either. Instead, he began to feel he had done a pretty mean thing. Once he even thought of digging the doll up again. But when thought of the hard time he would have trying to explain how it happened to be so dirty, he decided to leave it where it was.

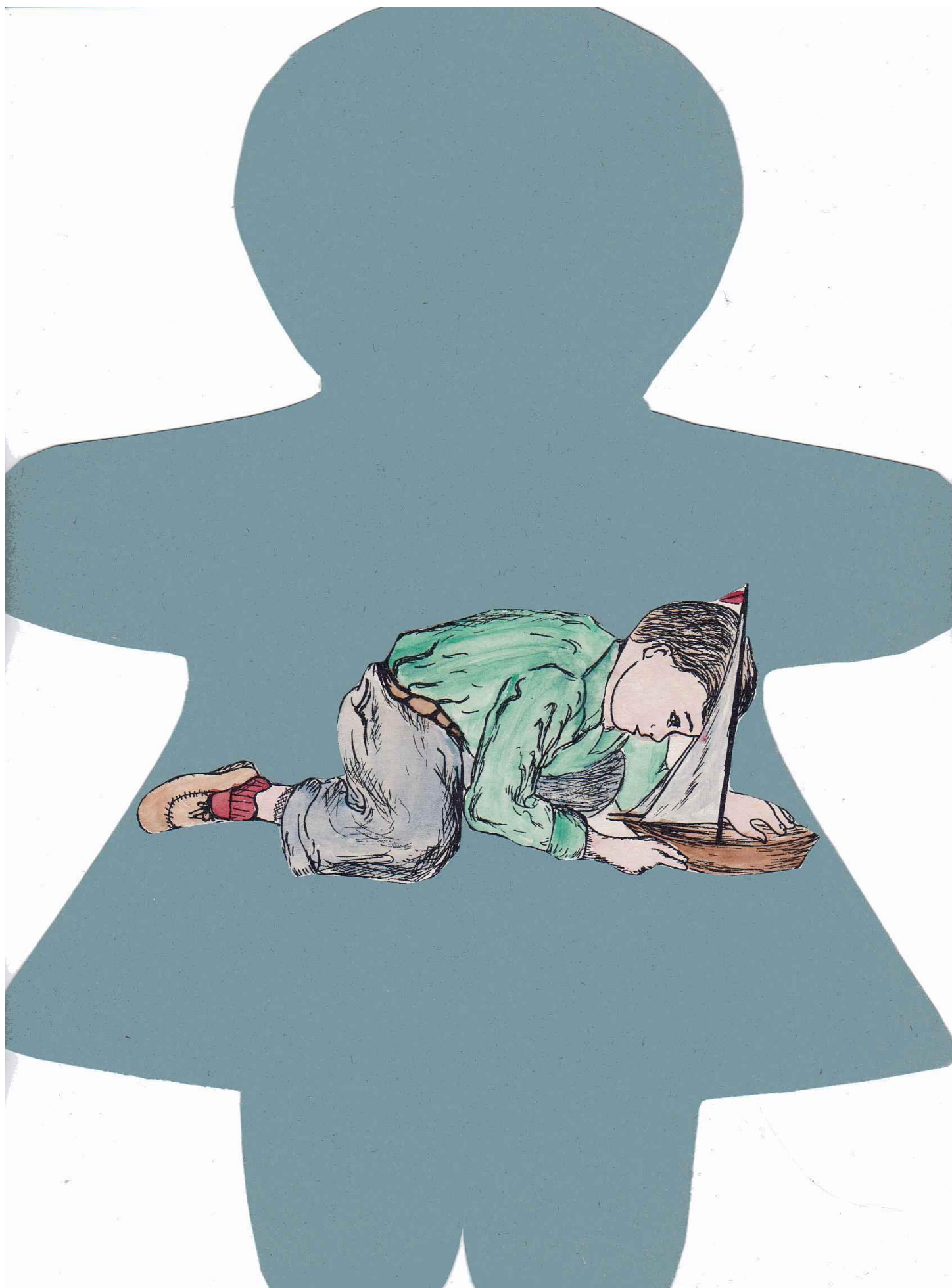
A few days after a rainy spell, Mother was out in the garden gathering some vegetables when she noticed a spot of fresh green at the foot of the garden. “That’s strange,” she thought. “Nothing is planted down there.”

So she went closer to see. And there, just in the shape of a little doll, were green blades of corn growing! The hidden sin [of anger and lying] was uncovered, just as God’s Word says it will be.

Sin hidden in the heart will just as surely be uncovered one day too. And oh! — what a sad day it will be for all who have not trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Why not right today, repent of your sin and believe on Jesus “in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:14).

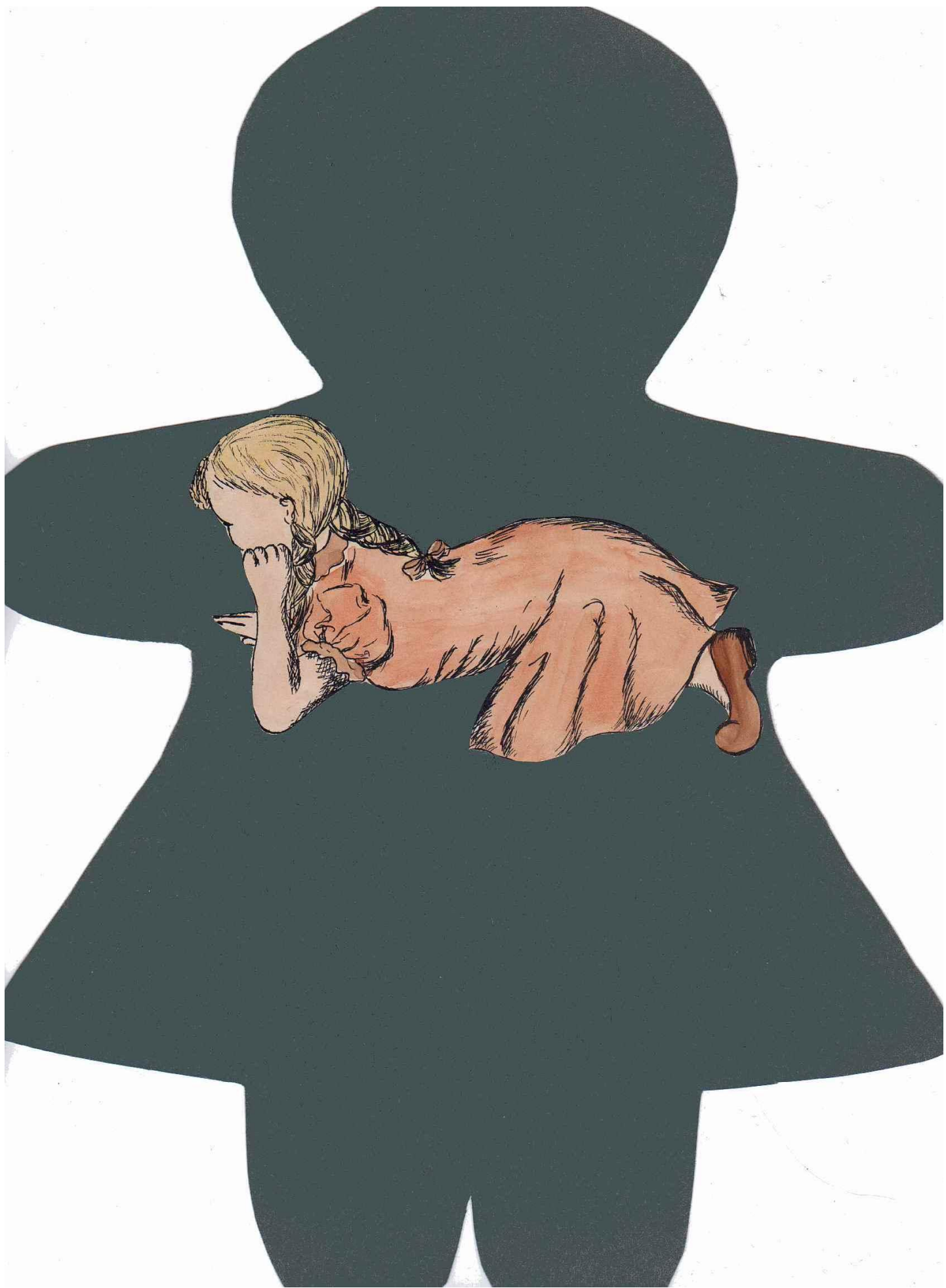


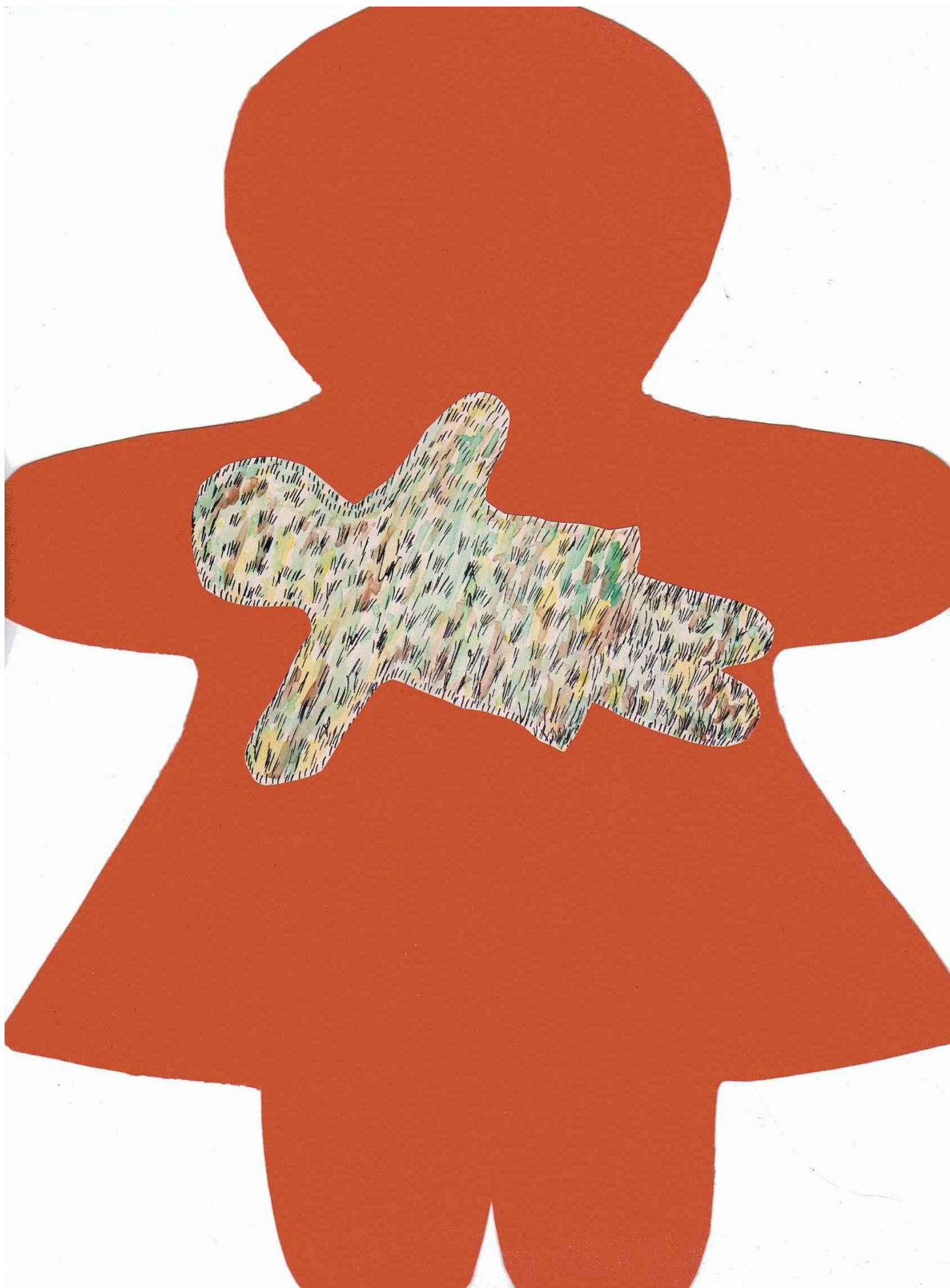












Proverbs 20:11—Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.

Proverbs 1:7—The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 3:9—Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce.

Proverbs 3:30—Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm.

(The following verses are for the handwork.)

Proverbs 6:6–8—Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

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