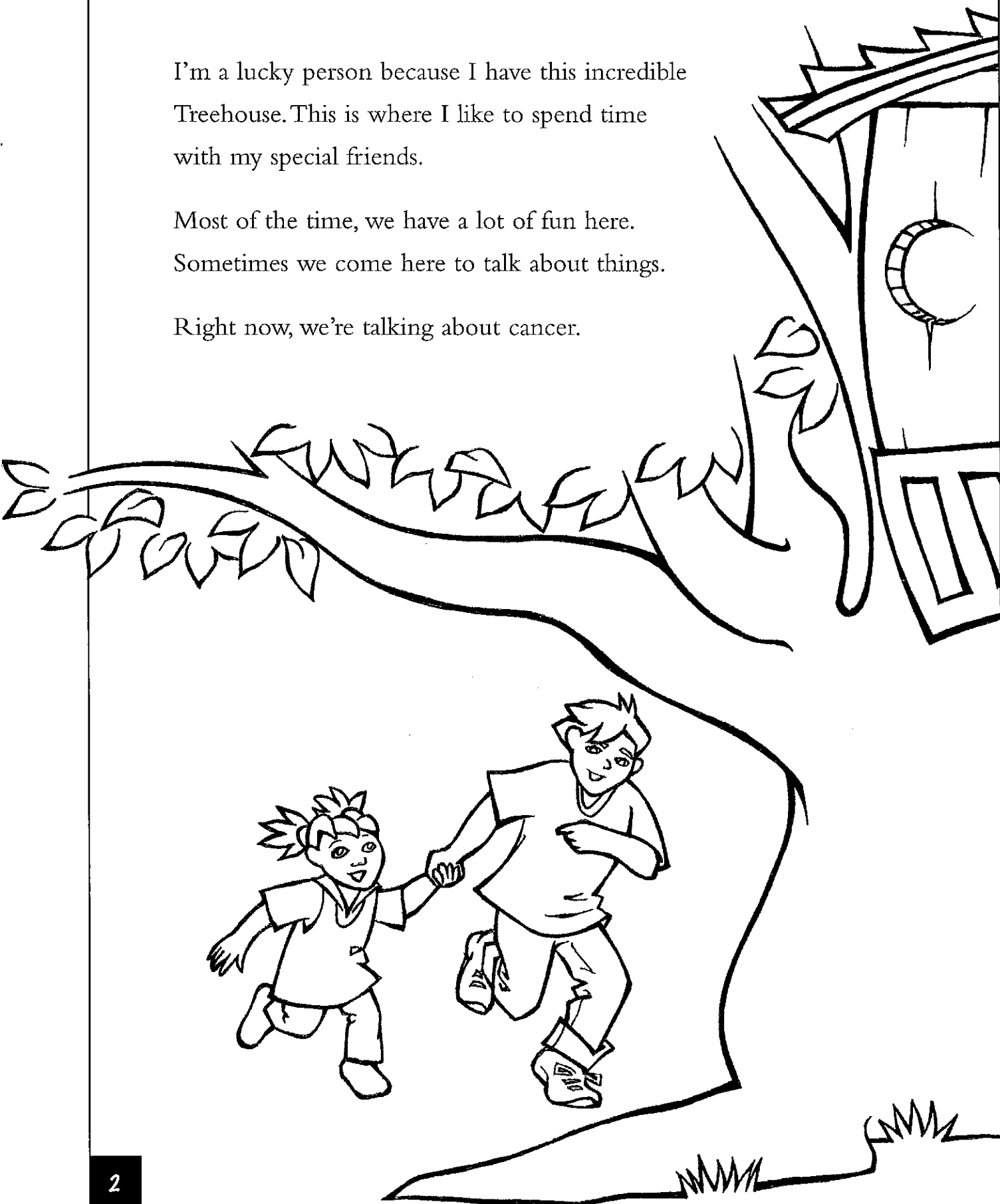
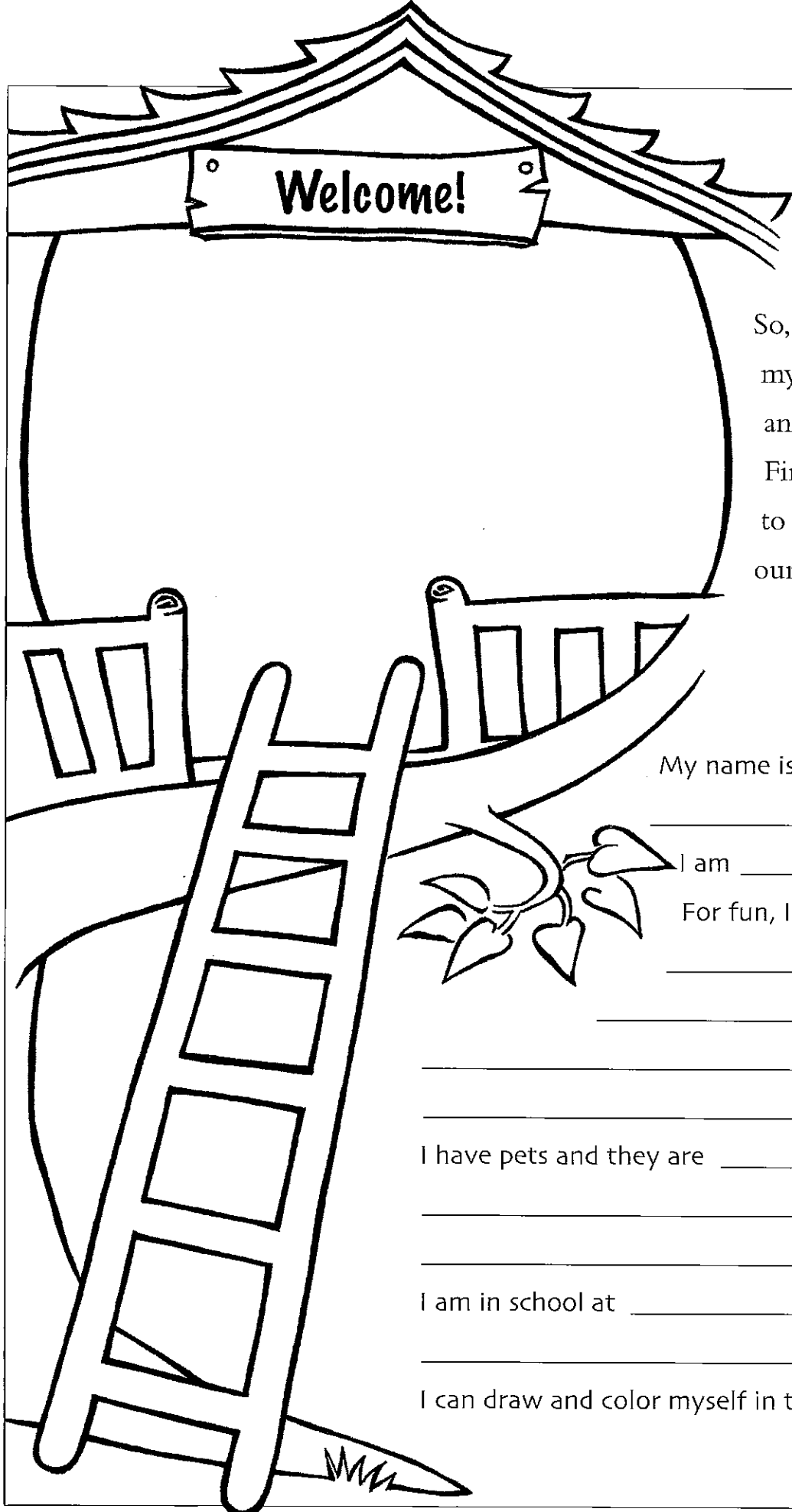


I'm a lucky person because I have this incredible Treehouse. This is where I like to spend time with my special friends.

Most of the time, we have a lot of fun here. Sometimes we come here to talk about things.

Right now, we're talking about cancer.





Welcome!

So, welcome to my Treehouse and my friends! First, we need to introduce ourselves.

My name is _____

I am _____ years old.

For fun, I like to _____

I have pets and they are _____

I am in school at _____

I can draw and color myself in the Treehouse!

We also talk about our families and what it's like to have cancer.

The people in my family are _____

I'm learning about cancer, because the person in my family
who has cancer is _____

The kind of cancer my _____

has is _____

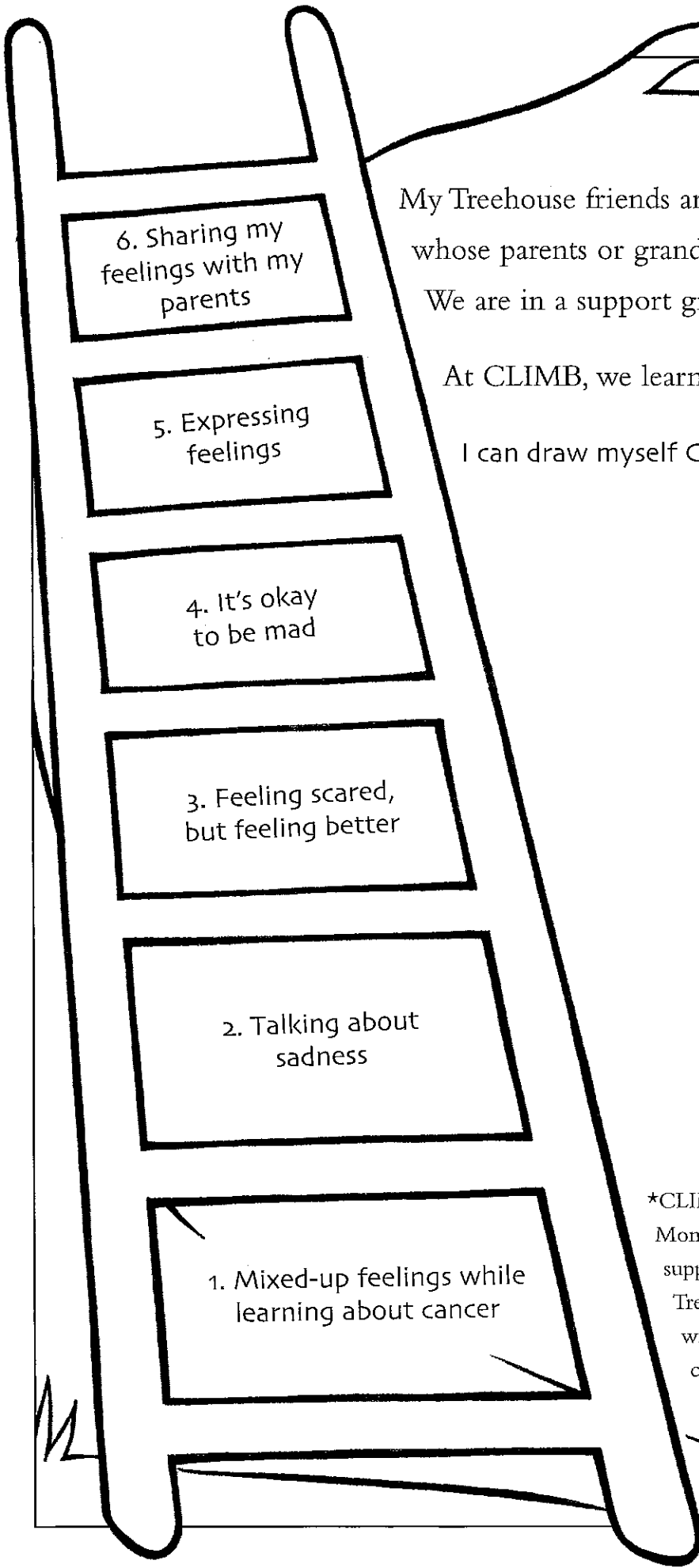
I can draw or paste a picture of my family here!



My Treehouse friends are kids like me
whose parents or grandparents have cancer.
We are in a support group called CLIMB.*

At CLIMB, we learn about cancer, step by step.

I can draw myself CLIMBing up!



6. Sharing my feelings with my parents

5. Expressing feelings

4. It's okay to be mad

3. Feeling scared, but feeling better

2. Talking about sadness

1. Mixed-up feelings while learning about cancer

*CLIMB (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) is an emotional support program of The Children's Treehouse Foundation for children whose parents or grandparents have cancer.

At CLIMB, we meet nice nurses, social workers,
and others who help us understand cancer.

Cancer is when cells start to multiply
much faster than they are supposed to
and sometimes move to places that are
really not their home.

It's sort of like when weeds begin to show
up in a lawn or garden and then begin to
spread quickly.

Here's what I think cancer looks like:





**STOP
CANCER!**

Well, with all these cells making more of themselves so quickly, it can make a person pretty tired or sick.

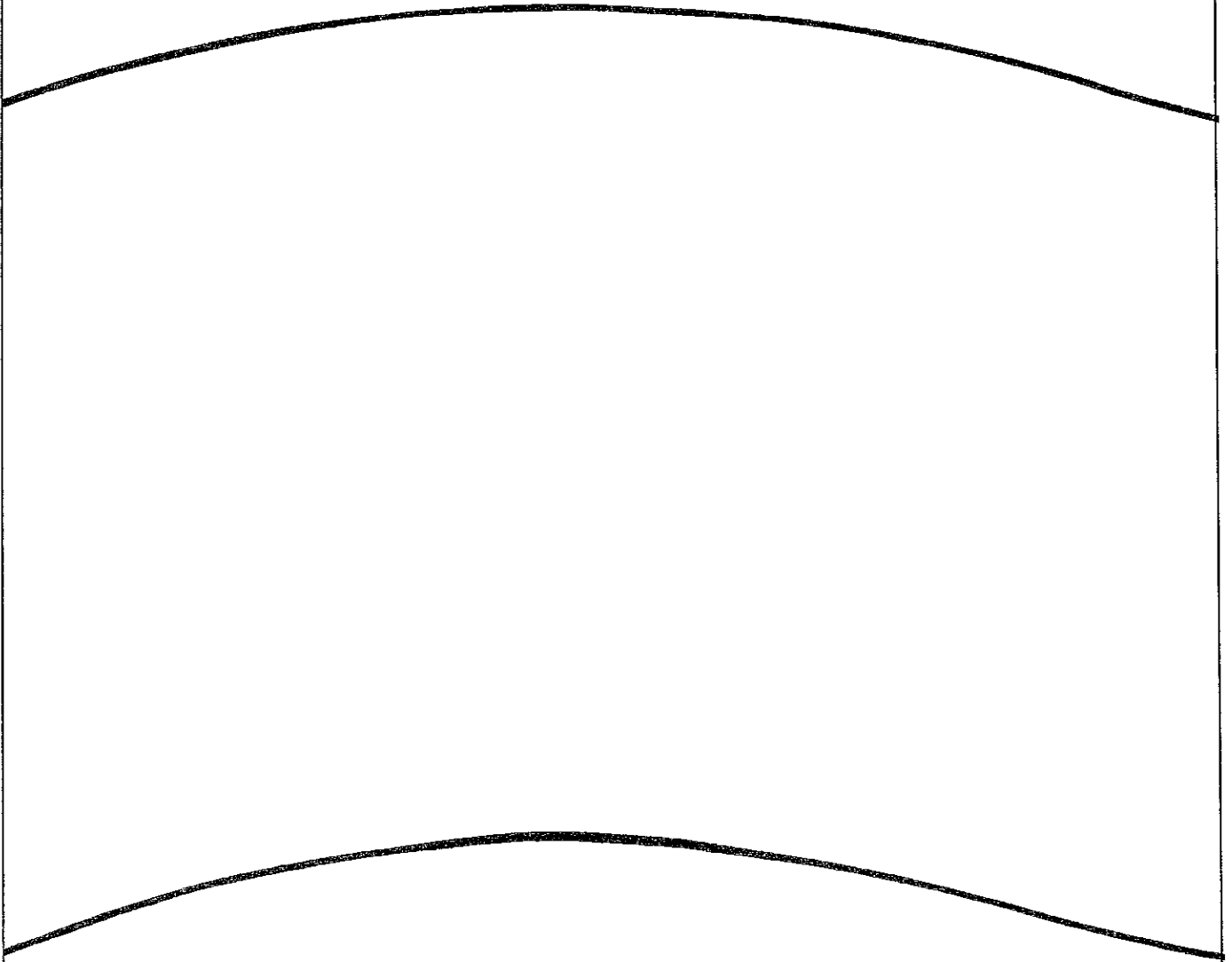
But there is some good news. We learn you don't "catch" cancer like you can catch a cold. It's as if there were a fence around a garden. And just as there are ways to stop weeds in a garden, there are ways to stop cancer.

I can make up a slogan or write a poem or draw
a poster to help stop cancer!

We also learn that many people are helping to stop the cancer, such as doctors and nurses.

Doctors use different ways to try to stop the cancer. One way is called chemotherapy, or “chemo” for short. It uses really strong medicines that are delivered through a tube.

I can imagine and draw the chemo stopping cancer!



Another way doctors try to stop cancer is by using radiation. This is an invisible light beam that stops the cancer cells from growing.

It doesn't hurt. But chemo and radiation can make a person very tired.

I can imagine and draw radiation zapping cancer!

Because the medicines used to stop cancer are so strong, people sometimes get side effects. Side effects are changes in how a person looks or feels.

Being tired is a side effect. Another side effect is that those people getting chemo sometimes lose their hair. When the chemo is over, the hair grows back, sort of like leaves growing back on a tree in the spring.

Until then, some people like to wear wigs for a while. So, your mom or dad will look different without hair, but what is good is that the medicine is working.



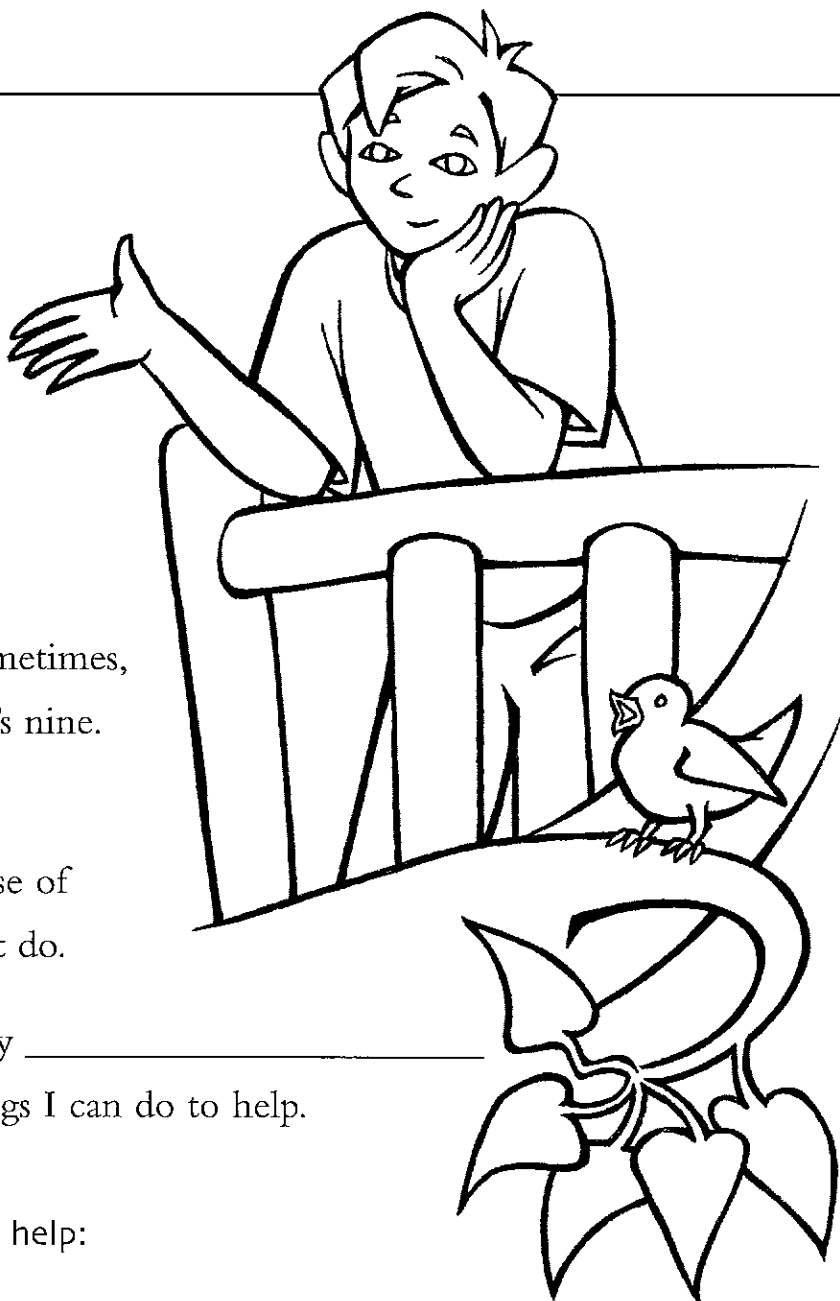
Now I've learned a lot about cancer. And one of the most important things I know is that the cancer isn't my fault or anyone else's fault.

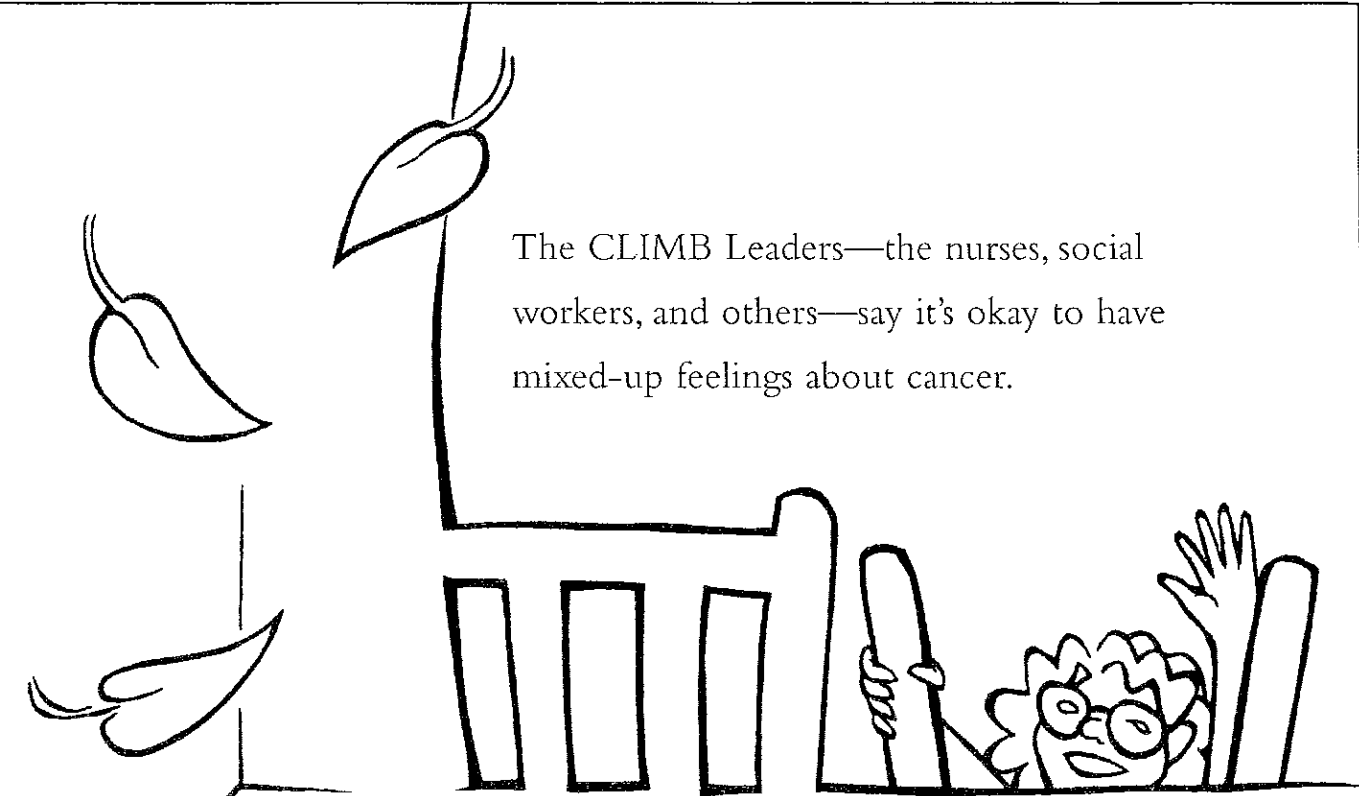
My friend Jack says, "Sometimes, cancer just happens." He's nine. He's really smart.

So I know it's not because of something I did or didn't do.

I also know that since my _____ got cancer, there are things I can do to help.

Here are some ways I can help:





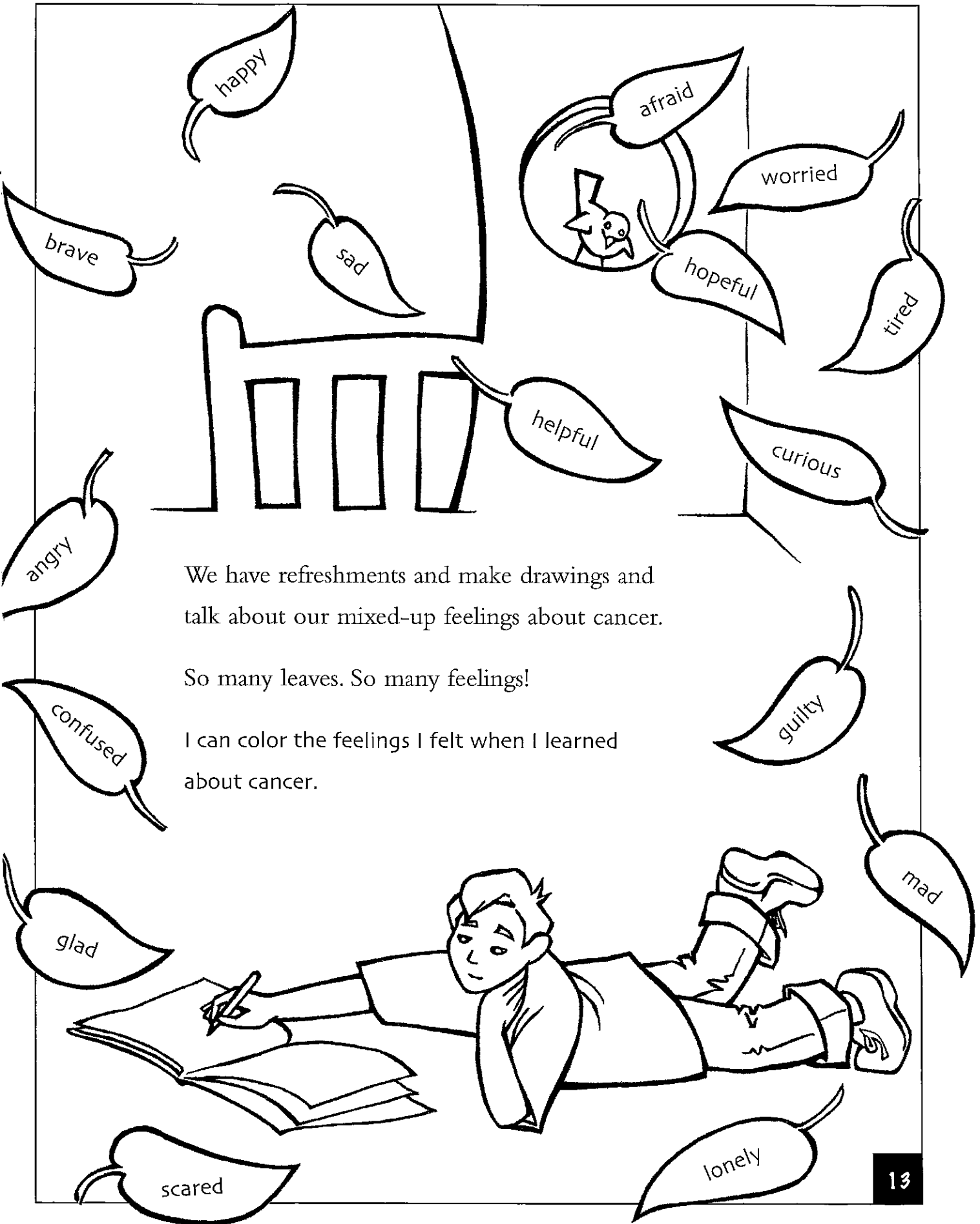
The CLIMB Leaders—the nurses, social workers, and others—say it’s okay to have mixed-up feelings about cancer.

But they say it is helpful to talk about our feelings with our friends and family and other adults.

Here are some people I like to talk with about my feelings in my Treehouse:

And that’s why I also like to meet with my friends at the CLIMB support group.

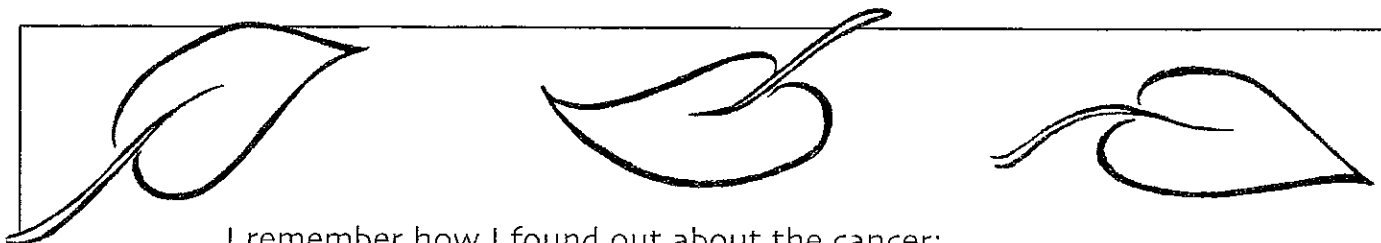




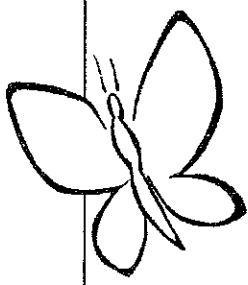
We have refreshments and make drawings and talk about our mixed-up feelings about cancer.

So many leaves. So many feelings!

I can color the feelings I felt when I learned about cancer.



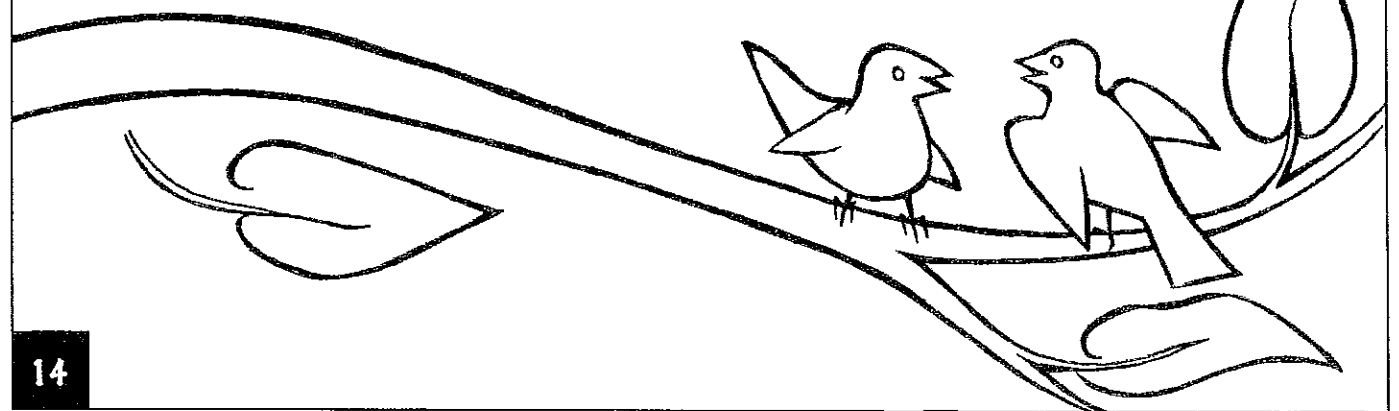
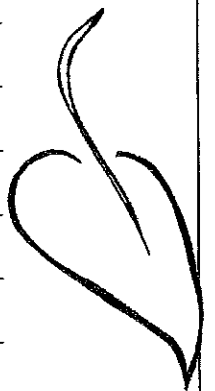
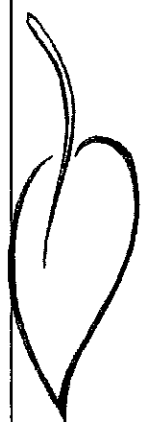
I remember how I found out about the cancer:



And I remember how I felt at that time: _____

And when I felt that way, I wanted to: _____

Now that I know more, here's how I feel: _____



I can cut this page out,
turn it around, and make
a Feelings Mask!

First, I can COLOR a
face to show how I
feel about cancer.

Then, I can COLOR
the face on the other
side to show an
OPPOSITE feeling.

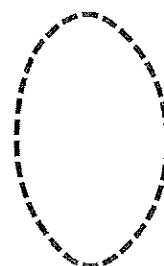
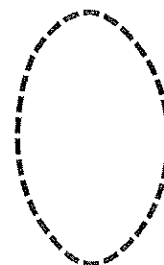
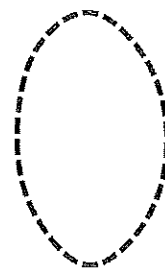
Then, I can CUT on the
bold dashed line and make
eyeholes too!

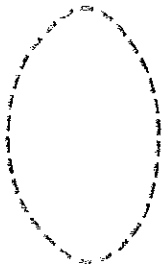
I can FOLD it in half on the
dotted line.

I can TAPE or GLUE it
together with a popsicle
stick for a handle.

My mask has two
sides for two very
different feelings!

Now, I can TELL A
STORY or MAKE A PLAY
to show the mixed-up
feelings of cancer!





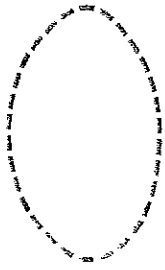
TAPE OR GLUE popsicle stick here.



FOLD in half here with mask faces outside and stick inside.



TAPE OR GLUE the sides of the mask together.

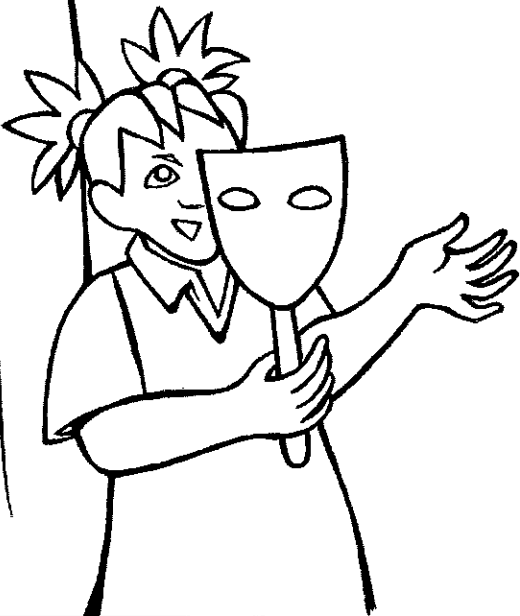


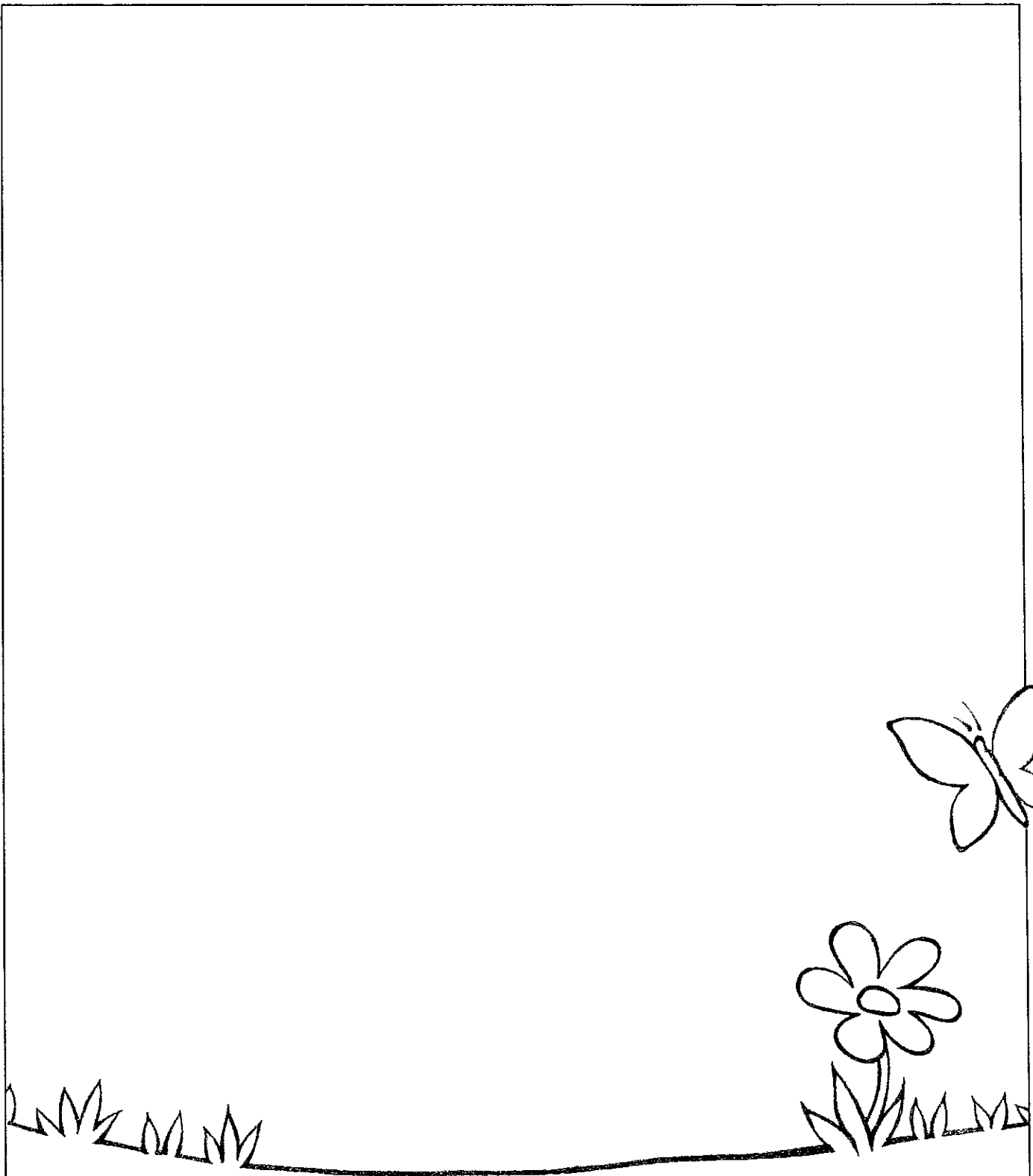
With my Treehouse friends,
I can talk about how I feel and
draw masks to show my feelings.

That helps me know how to talk with my parents
about cancer. And I can tell them how I feel, too.

One thing I want them to know is _____

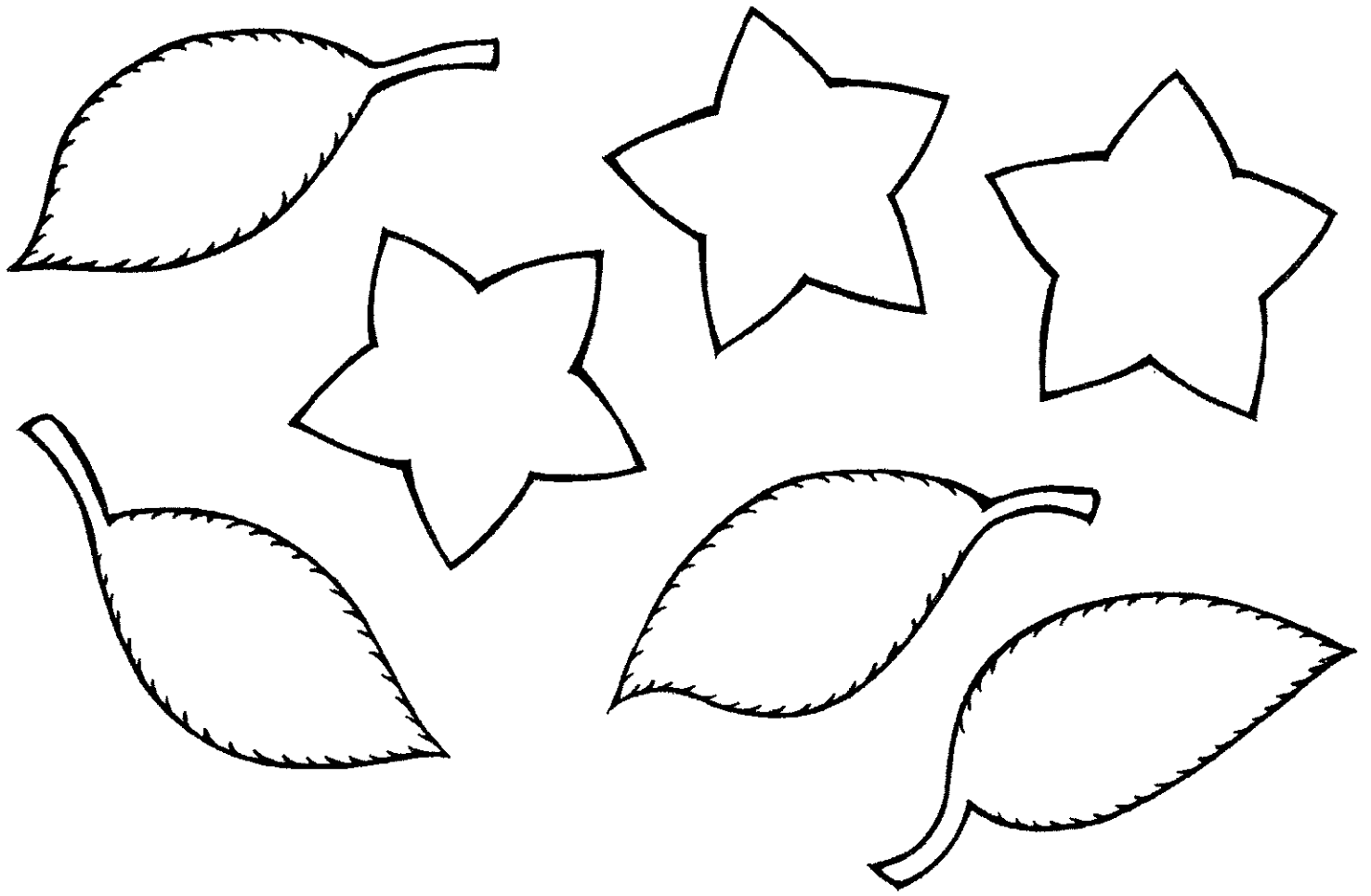
I also want to tell them what helps me when I get
upset about the cancer: _____





I can trace my _____'s hand to make a tree!

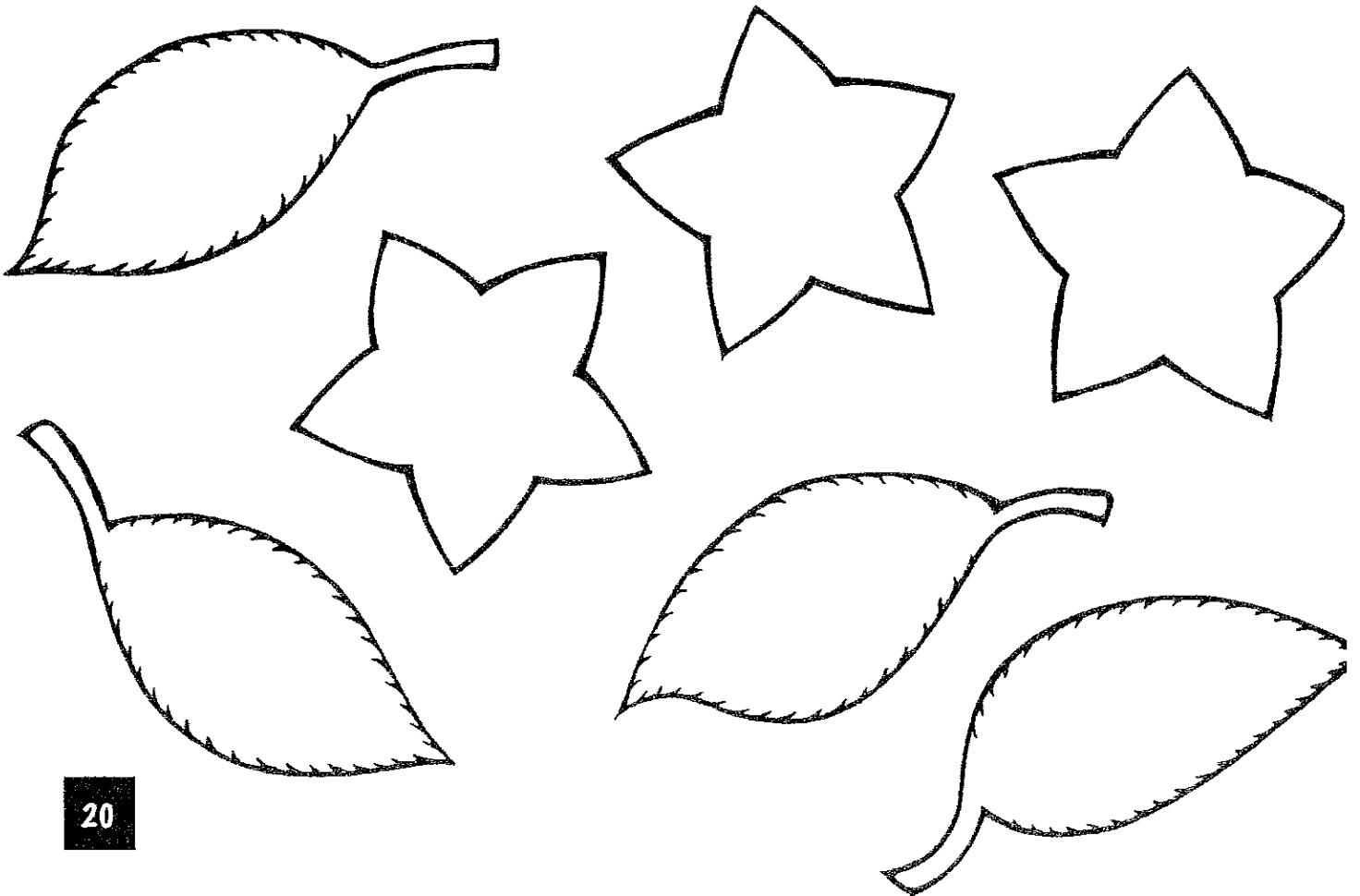
Let's write something we hope for on each finger-branch.



We can color leaves for feelings and stars for wishes. I can help my _____ write his or her feelings on each leaf and wishes on each star! Before we cut them out to paste on the tree, let's turn the page and make one for me!

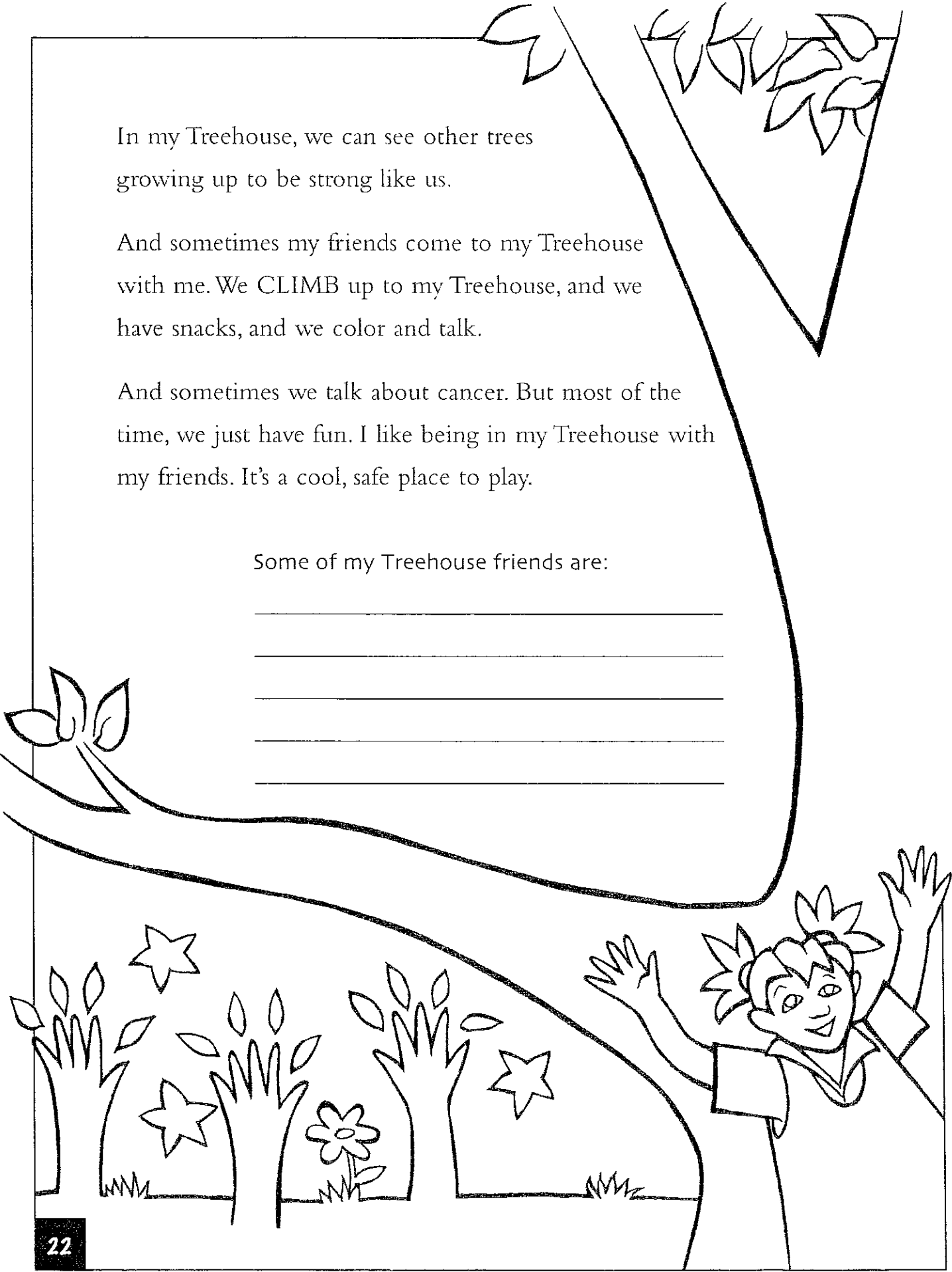
Now we can color leaves for MY feelings and stars for
MY wishes too!

My _____ can help me write
MY feelings on each leaf and MY wishes on each star!





Now my _____ can trace
MY hand to make a tree! We can write something we hope
for ME on each finger-branch. Then we can cut out all our
leaf-feelings and star-wishes and paste them on our trees.




In my Treehouse, we can see other trees growing up to be strong like us.


And sometimes my friends come to my Treehouse with me. We CLIMB up to my Treehouse, and we have snacks, and we color and talk.

And sometimes we talk about cancer. But most of the time, we just have fun. I like being in my Treehouse with my friends. It's a cool, safe place to play.

Some of my Treehouse friends are:



I'm really lucky to have these Treehouse friends!



I can draw my very own
Treehouse and color or
paste pictures of my friends
and me in my special
Treehouse!