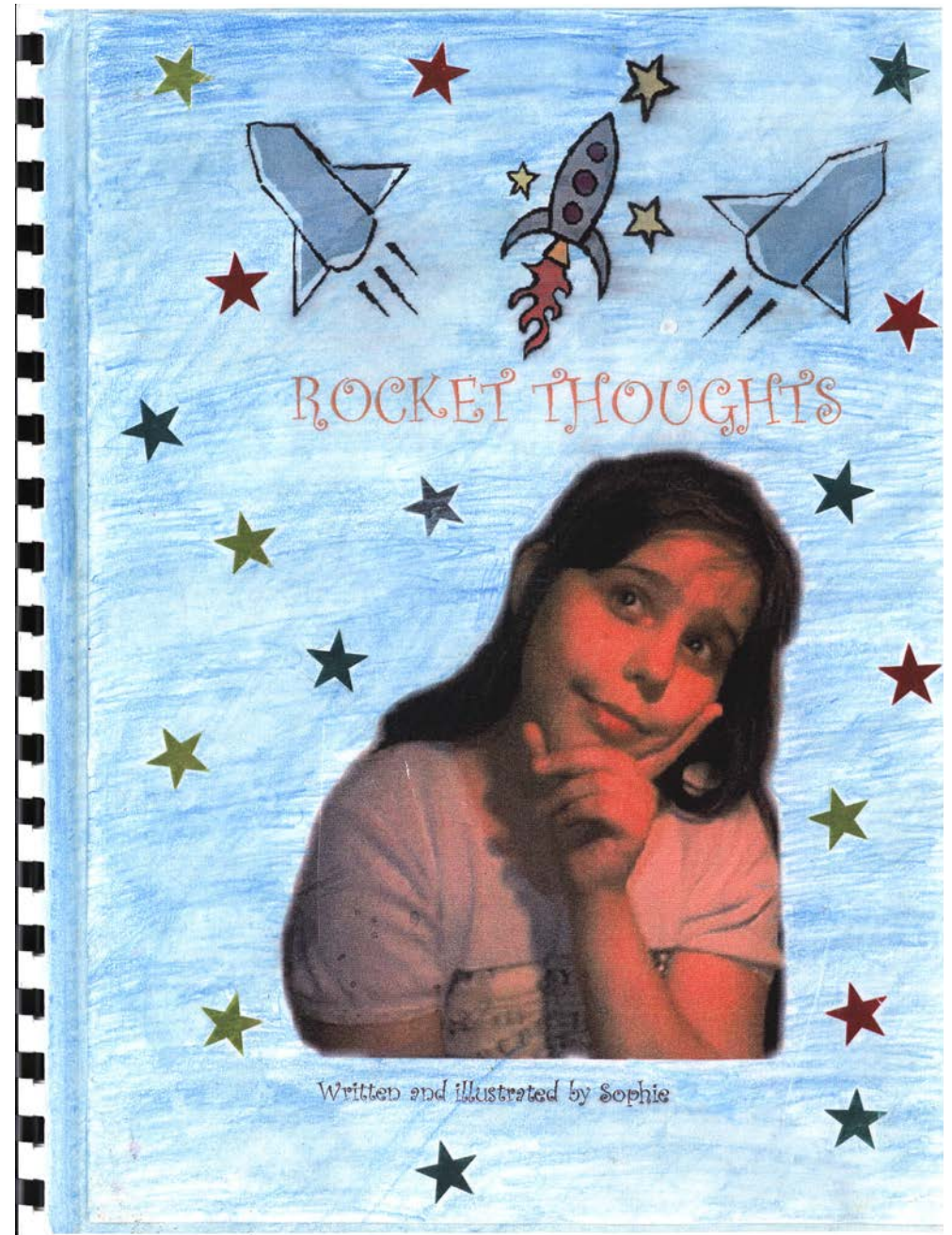




Sophie's picture book, front cover.



Rocket Thoughts

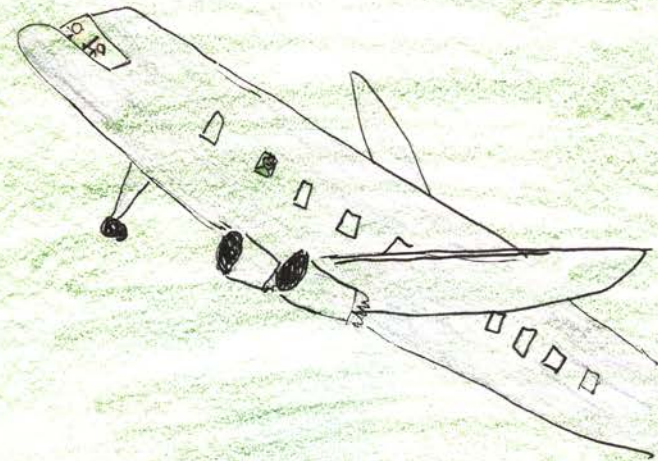
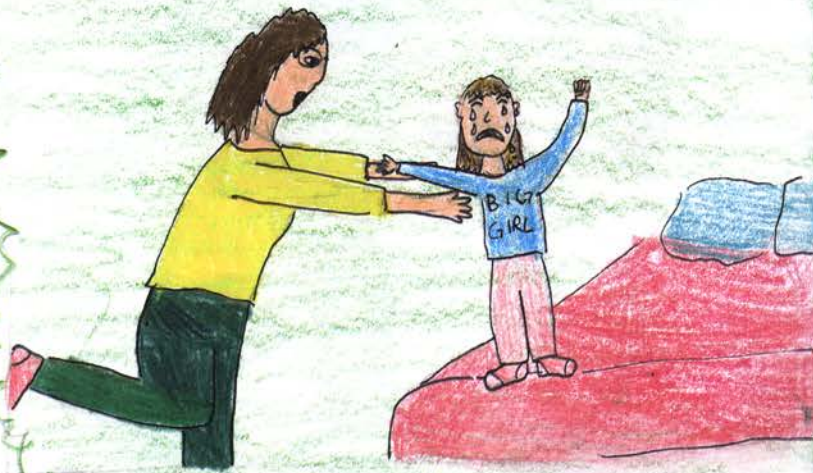
By Sophie

This book is dedicated to Mom and Dad,
without you guys, Rocket Thoughts
wouldn't exist! (come to think of it, neither
would I!)

Ever since she can remember, Sophie's parents have been going out at night. Sometimes out to dinner, sometimes out to the movies, or sometimes out to the theater. Sometimes even staying overnight. And ever since she can remember, whenever they did, she missed them, and worried about them.



One of those very nights when she was four or five, Sophie's dad was going away on a three day business trip to Washington, D.C., and she was crying. Her mom was doing everything she could.



She tried distracting her with one of Sophie's favorite stuffed animals, Eddy, and her Tinker Toys...



She tried cooking Sophie a big, steamy
pot of spaghetti, and dumping a truckful of
sauce on it, just like Sophie liked it...

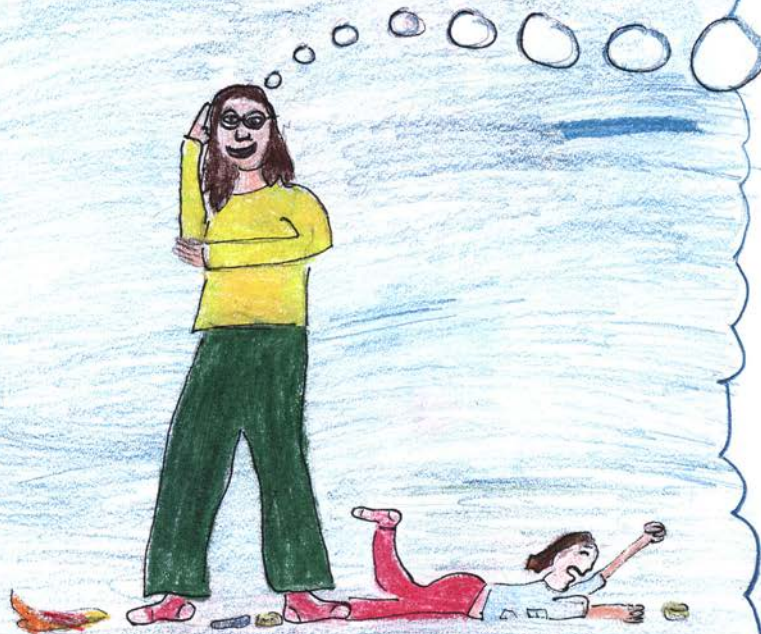


She even tried turning off Sesame Street
and singing Sophie to sleep with Sophie's
favorite song, "Chim, Chimney" from the movie,
Mary Poppins...



She cried even louder.

Finally, Sophie's brilliant mother thought of the one thing that would make the waterworks stop: she called them, Rocket Thoughts.



ROCKET
THOUGHTS

She showed Sophie how to write one, (even though she couldn't write yet). She told Sophie to take her index finger, slowly put it to her head, and pretend her finger was the pen and her forehead was the paper. She told Sophie to write whatever message she wished to send her dad.

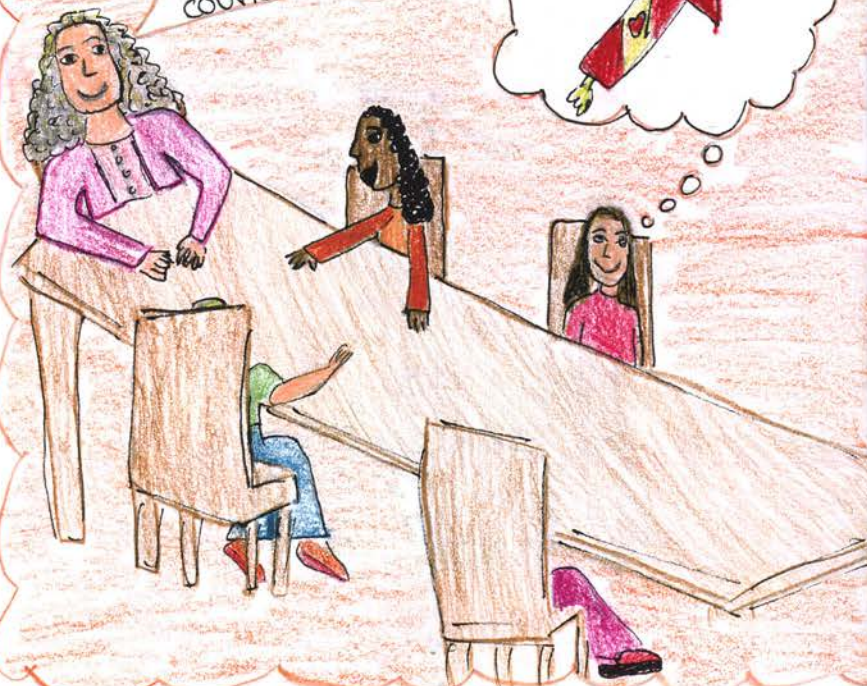


She showed Sophie how to send one.
How to roll, twist, and curl the thought
up in her mind, and send it off like a
rocket to her dad or where ever she
had set the destination.



Sophie soon grew to love sending Rocket Thoughts. She also grew into a six year old, who sent Rocket Thoughts because she got elected student council representative.

Welcome to
the first
annual student
council meeting.



1. ummm
2. ummm
3. ummm
4. ummm
5. ummm
6. ummm
7. because



And a seven year old
who sent Rocket Thoughts
when she spelled "because"
right on her spelling test.

And an eight, nine, ten year old, who sent Rocket Thoughts to her mom when her dad taught her how to ride a bike. She sent Rocket Thoughts to her dad when she hit the high note at the school concert and he couldn't be there. She sent Rocket Thoughts to both of them when she went away to sleep away camp and felt terribly homesick.



And finally an eleven year old. Who sent Rocket Thoughts to them to wish them good luck on a show, or for no reason at all.



Now at eleven and one-half, Sophie
has started babysitting for a five
year old who is apparently very close
to his parents. He cries every time
they step out of the house!



One time, it was getting bad. Sophie
was doing everything she could...



She tried distracting him with
his Legos and his favorite stuffed
animal, Bunn-Bunn...



He cried louder.



She tried slicing some apple and
smearing it with peanut butter just
the way he liked it...

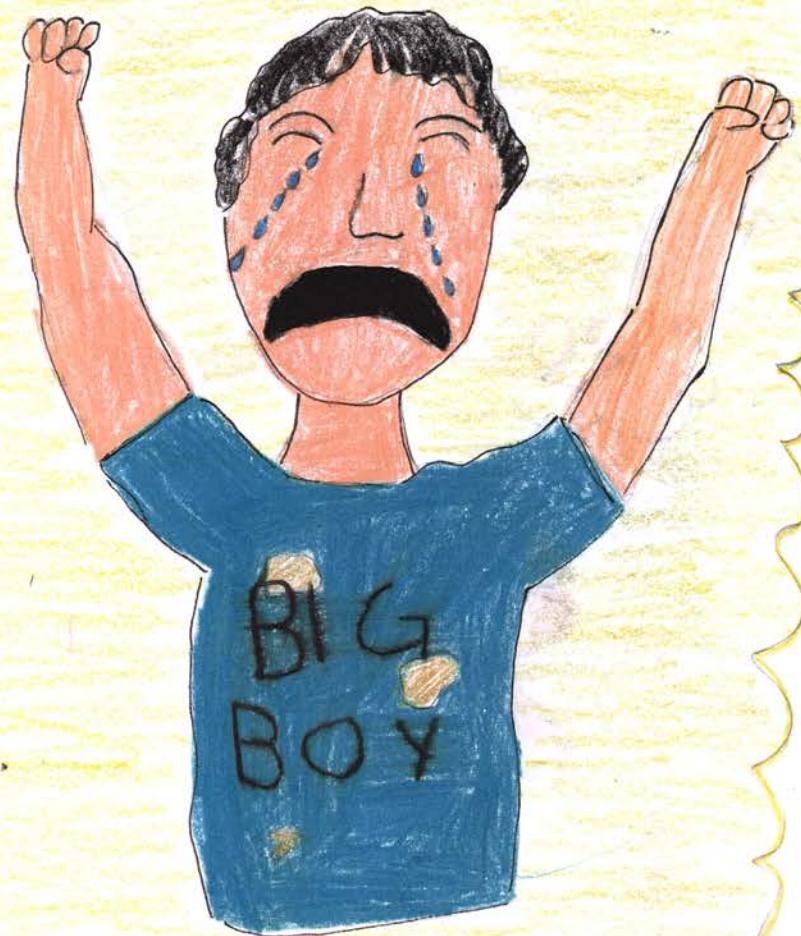


He cried louder.



She even tried turning off the
Tele-Tubbies and playing his
favorite book on tape...

He cried even louder.



Finally, Sophie thought of the one thing that would make him stop sobbing. The one thing that would help him feel close to his parents as it had for her. The one thing that she knew only she could pass on. She called them...

ROCKET THOUGHTS!



Rocket Thoughts.

Rocket Thoughts

Sophie Jane

When mom and dad are far away,
my heart feels lonely
and empty.
But even though
I miss them
terribly,
I know just what to do:
I can think
What I would say to them
if they were here.
Then I can take that thought
and keep it in my mind.

When mom and dad are far away,
my body feels sad
and hopeless.
And even though I worry about them
horribly,
I know just what to do.
I can take that thought
roll it
twist it
curl it up in my mind
and send it off like a rocket.

When mom and dad are far away
my soul feels hollow
and hurt.
But even though I want them
enormously,
I know just what to do.
I can take my thoughts,
roll them
twist them
curl them up
and send them off like rockets.
And I will feel close to my parents once again
with Rocket Thoughts.

~Reviews~

"This tale will blast you away into outer-space"

-Beii

"You'll love this funny tale of a girl, her mother, and a brilliant invention."

-Elly

"One creative story about a girl who instead of calmly telling her parents she missed them, cried for hours. Until her mother thought of an idea. A brilliant one!" - Maia Montesdeoca

"an unforgettable tale of a young girl's memory that will surely stay with you for a long time".

-Julian

"Amazing writing and artwork to match!" - Hadley and Sydney

"An unforgettable story that takes off and lands on the same runway." - Ali and Colby