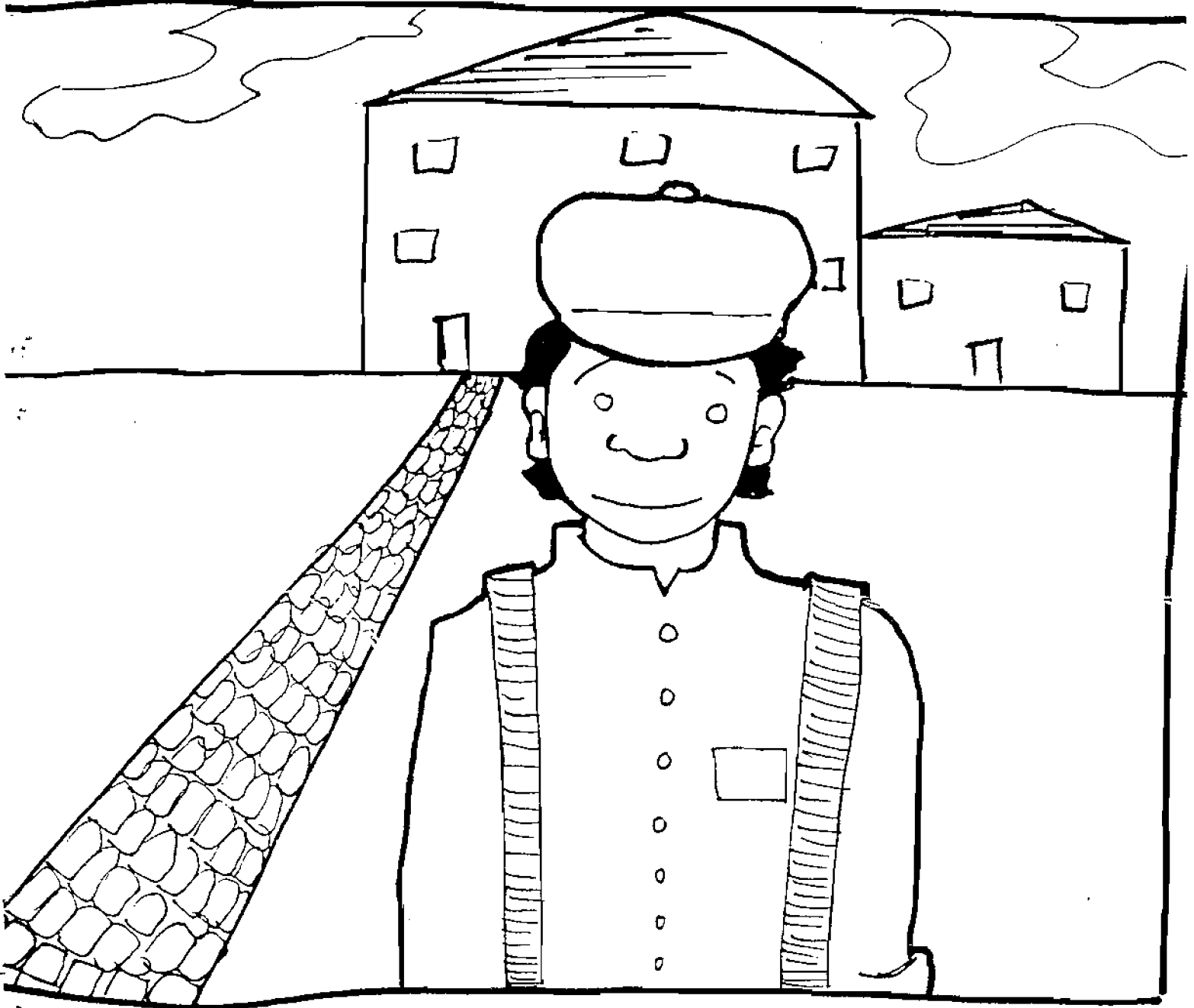


Felix Adler as a Young Boy

A Story and Activity Book



JM



Felix Adler was six years old.

He lived in New York City with his family.

His father was Samuel.

His mother was Henrietta.

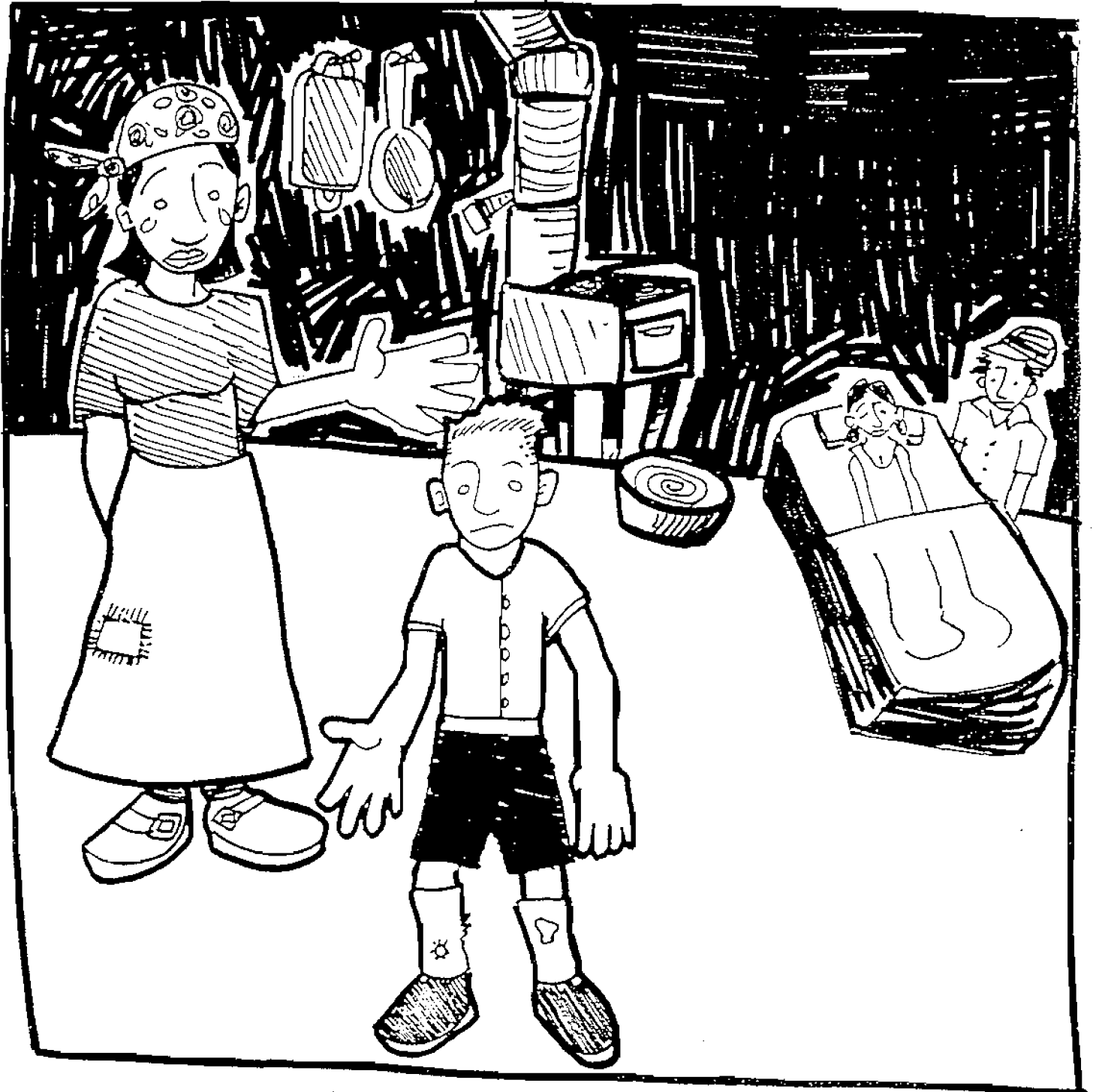
His big brother was Isaac.

And his baby sister was Sarah.

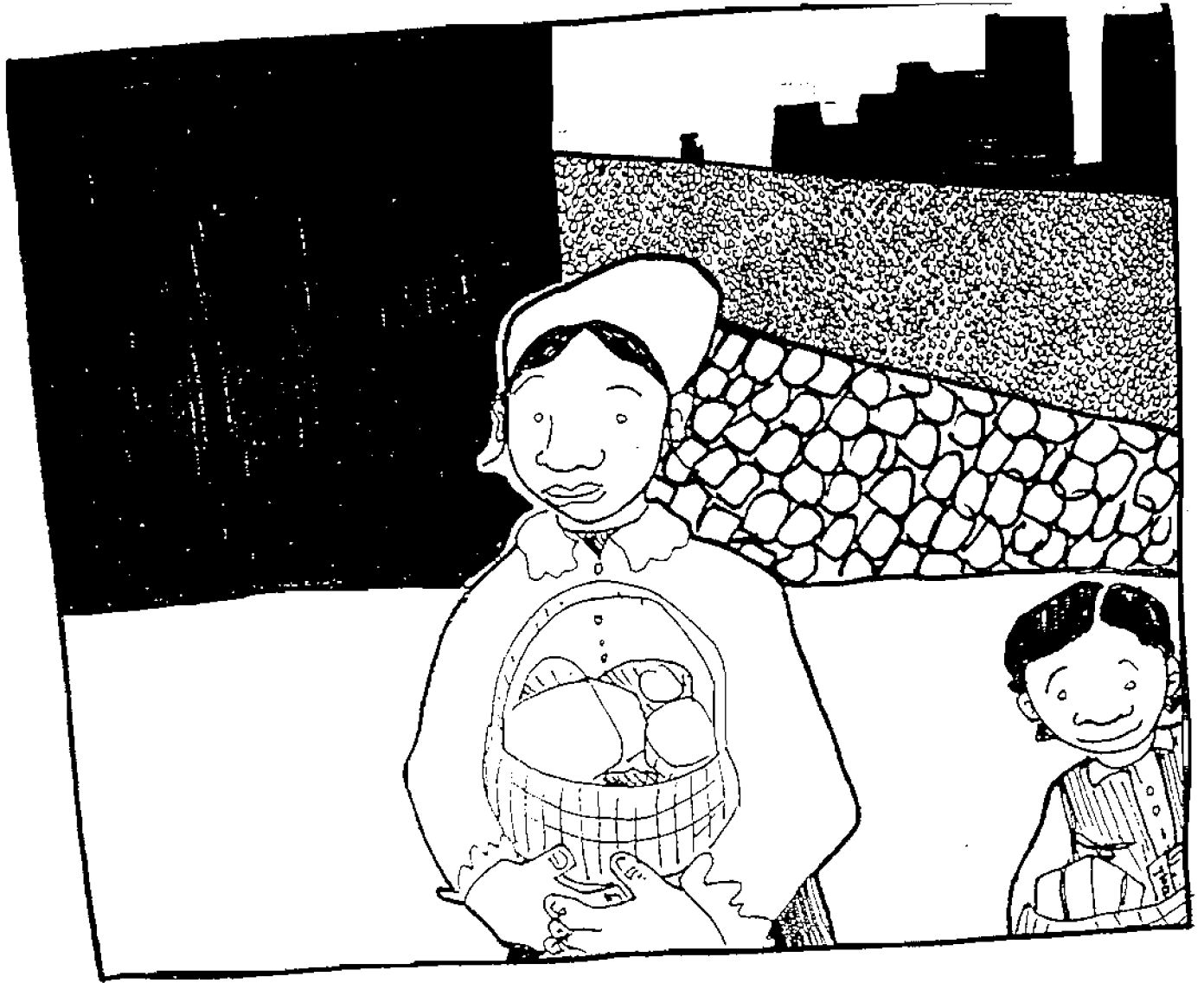
Mrs. Adler loved her children very much. She wanted them to be good and kind.

Every week Felix's mother visited poor people. The people lived in the slums of New York. She took Felix with her.

Felix saw sick people. He saw poor families crowded into tiny apartments with no windows. He saw that people were sick, tired, and sad.



JM



Felix and his mother brought food and medicine to poor and sick people. Mrs. Adler talked to the mothers and fathers. She wanted them to know that someone cared about them and their children.

JM



Felix talked with the children. They were very shy.

Felix asked, "Mother, why do these children look so thin and pale. Why do they look so sad?"

Mrs. Adler said, "These children have to work long days in the factory."

Felix asked, "Don't they go to school? Don't they get to play in the park? Where are their toys? Where are their books?"

Mrs. Adler answered, "They cannot go to school. They cannot play in the park. They must work in the factories all day."

"They do not have books and toys. They are too poor."

"Don't they have money from their work to buy toys and books?" asked Felix.

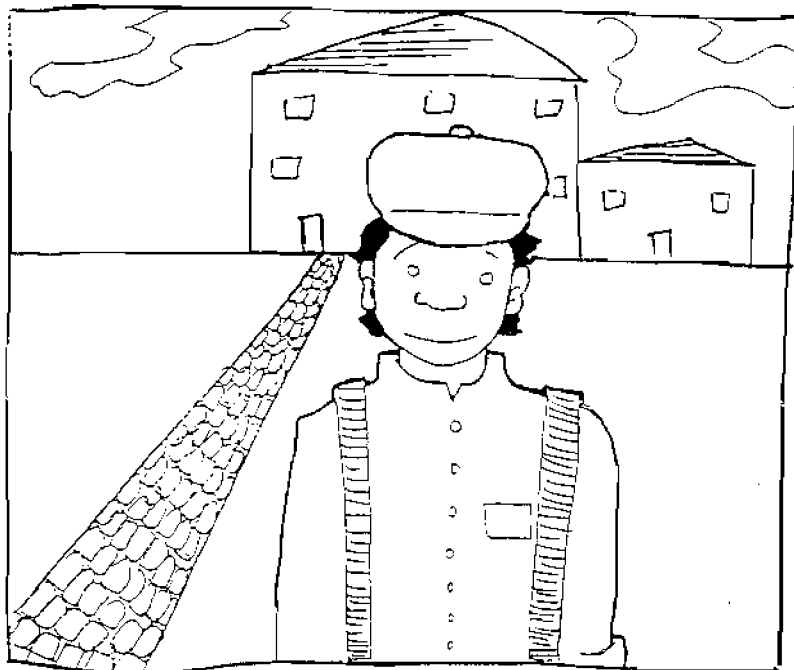


JM

"No, all of their money goes to buy food for the family and rent for the apartment. There is no money left for toys and books."

Felix said to his mother, "I think this is wrong. It is not fair. All children should be able to go to school. All children should be able to play in the park. Children should not have to work in factories."

When I grow up, I am going to make sure that children don't have to work in factories any more."



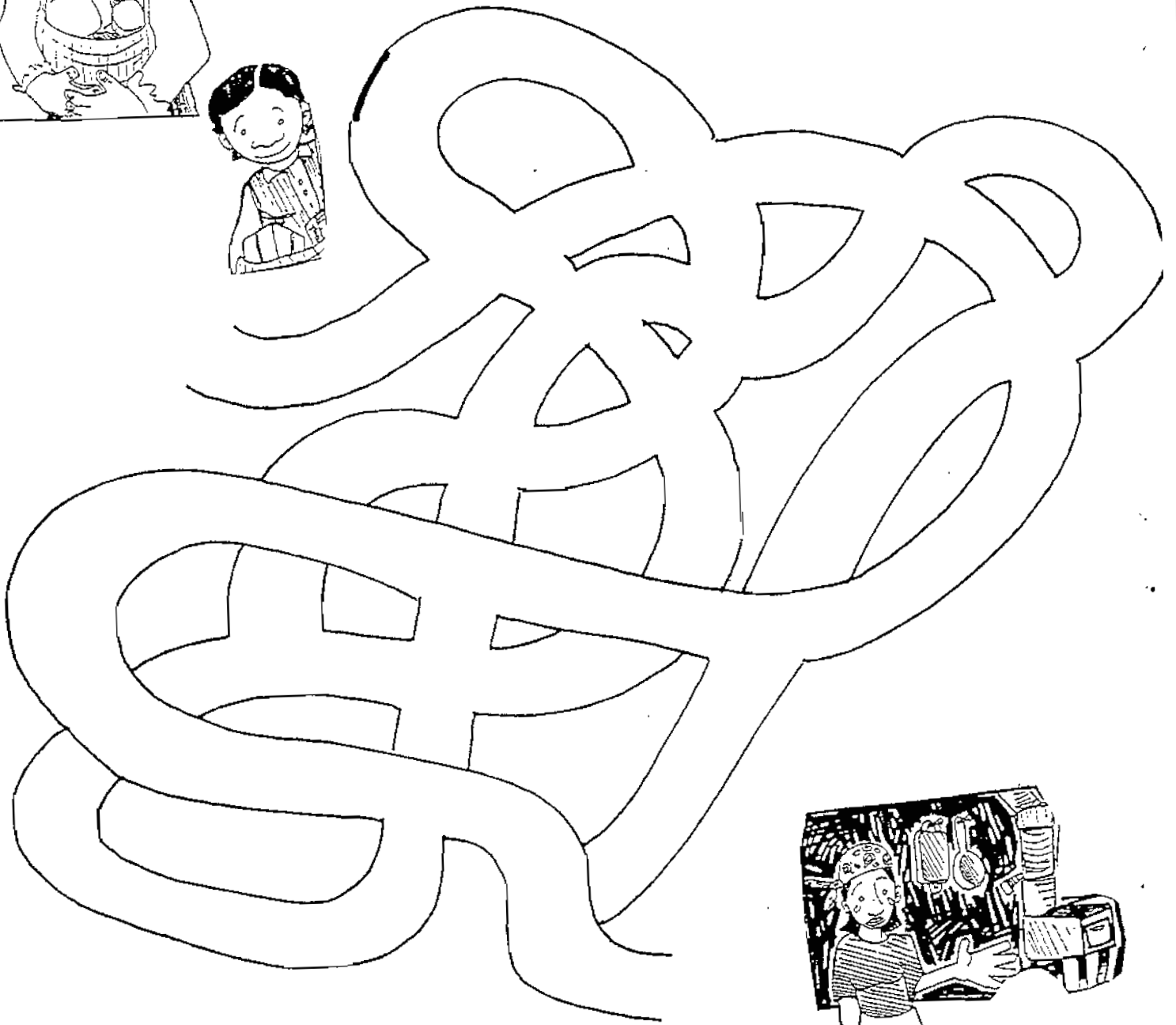
JM

Who is in Your Family?

Draw or write about your family.

What kinds of things do you do
with your family?

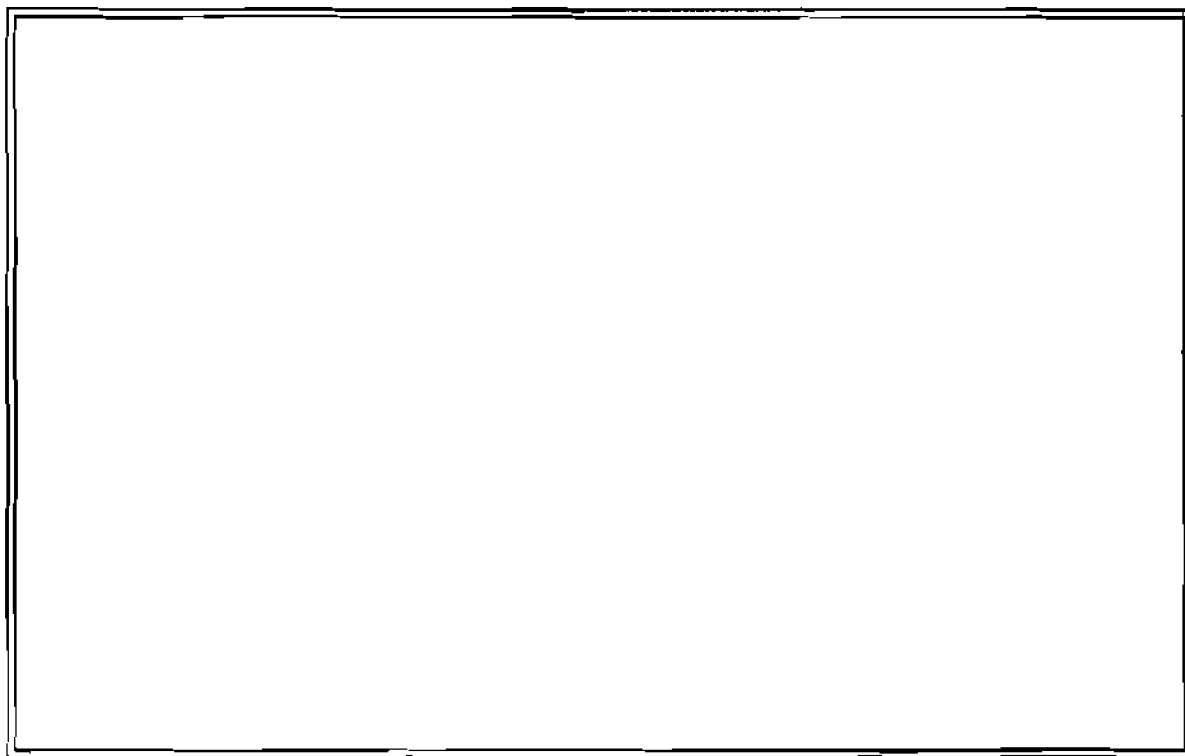
Help Felix and his mother deliver
food.



How do you think
Felix felt after he
delivered the food?

Think of a time you did something
nice.

Draw a picture or write about it
here.

A large, empty rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for a drawing or written response.

How do you think you learned to do
nice things?



List 5 things children need to be
happy.

1. _____

2. _____

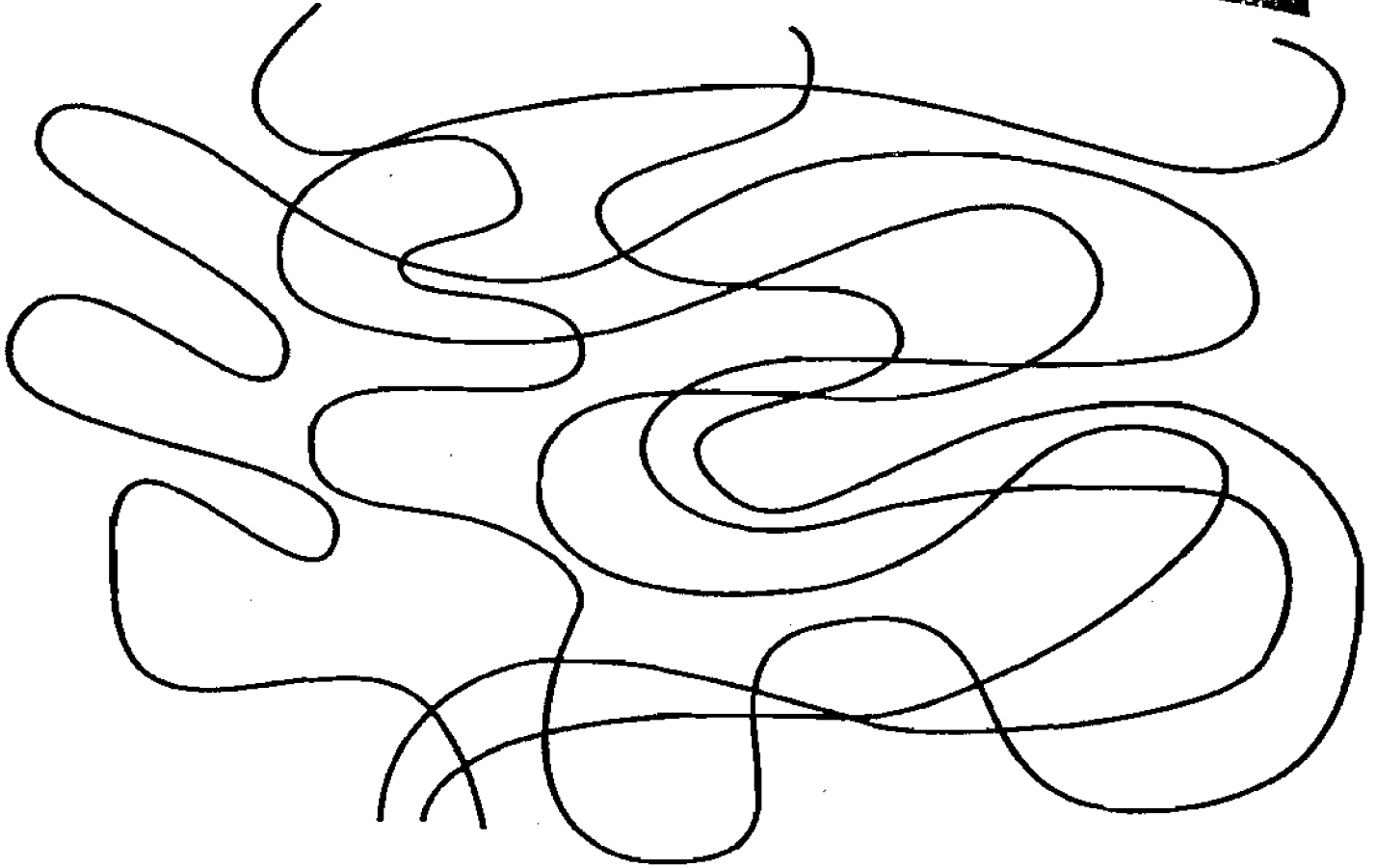
3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



Felix and Isaac want
to deliver some medicine.
Help them find the
right path.



What are some ways you help?

At home -

With friends -

In school -

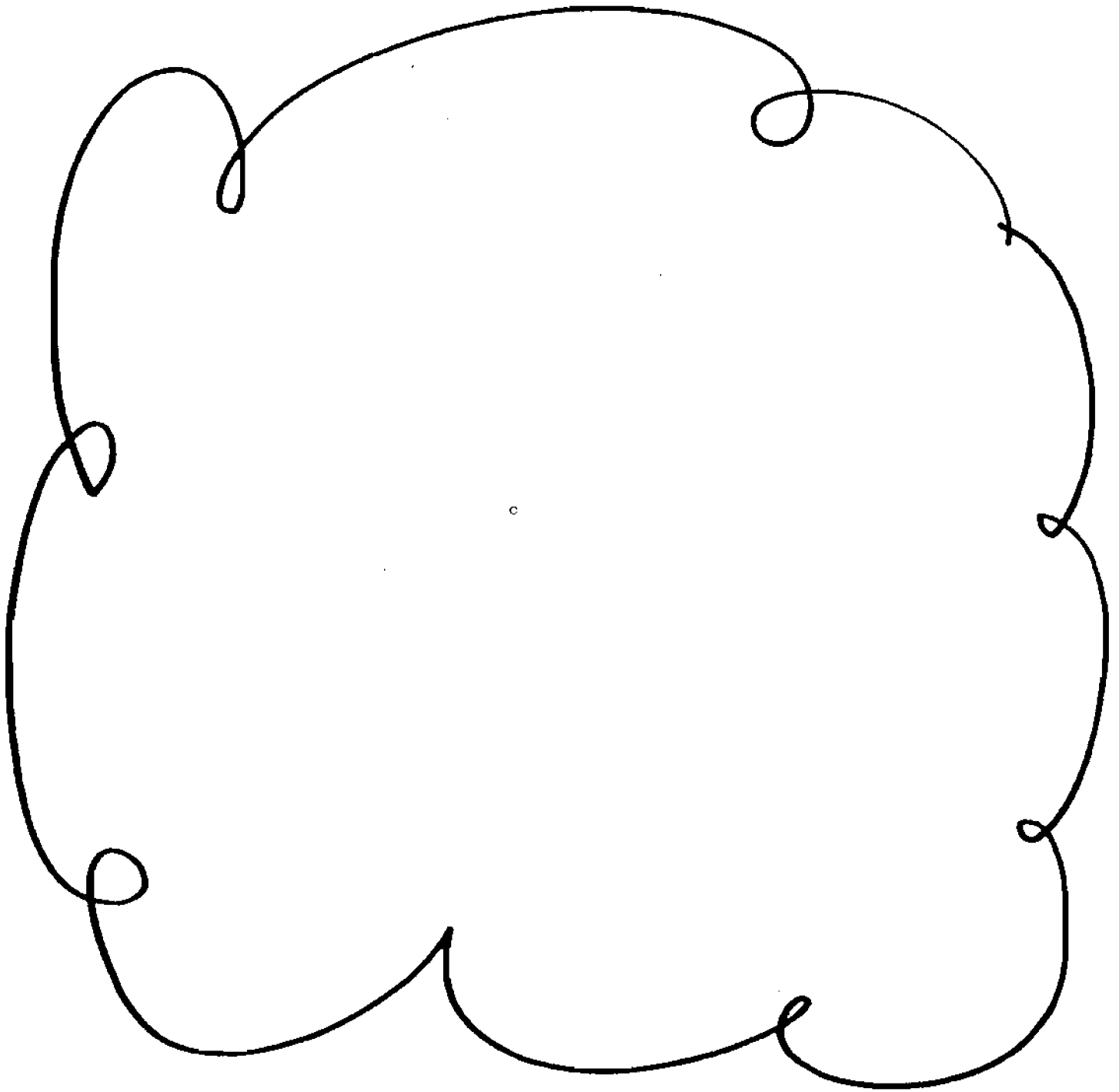
At the Ethical Society -



Felix thought about how he would like things to be.

Felix had a dream

Have you ever had a dream?
Draw it on the next page.



Where did your dream come from?

A Note to Parents and Teachers

When Felix Adler grew up, he was true to his word. He started the Ethical Culture Society in New York City. One of the first things the Society did was to pay a visiting nurse to go into the slums to bring medicine and health care to poor people who would otherwise have none. Next, the Society started a free kindergarten for children from the slums. In the school they were provided education, nourishing food, clean clothes, and an assurance that they were special and important.

During 1884, Adler spoke vehemently against the conditions in the tenements in New York City. His sentiments and those of others aroused public sentiment to the issue. "New York State responded to rising feeling by setting up the Tenement House Commission, of which Felix Adler was a member. He inspired many others to work for reform in the slums such as Jacob Riis who wrote *How the Other Half Lives* (1890) and *The Children of the Poor* (1893).

In 1885, the Tenement House Building Company was organized by members of the Ethical Culture Society and others to build "model tenements" that were clean and economical with more space, windows and sanitary facilities.

Later on, Felix Adler worked for the abolition of child labor on the Child Labor Commission which finally passed the laws which outlawed the exploitation of children in factories and sweat shops. All children were given the right to attend public schools.

It is hoped that this story and the activities in this book will help you and your children explore the meaning of families in our lives and how we become responsible citizens of the world.

This Book Belongs to:

Name _____

Age _____

City _____

Where you go to Sunday School:

Illustrated by Jeremy McConnell

Ethical Humanist Heroes
Supplementary coloring books
To TAPESTRY curriculum
By
American Ethical Union
Religious Education Committee
2003