

Stories of Sleepytown:

Monty's Tree

Written and
Illustrated by
Jennifer Vento





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By Jennifer Vento



It was autumn in Sleepytown
and the leaves were beginning to change color on the trees.

Monty Moose was sitting in his backyard
when he looked at the ground just in time to see
a leaf fall from his family's maple tree.





Monty walked over to the leaf and picked it up.

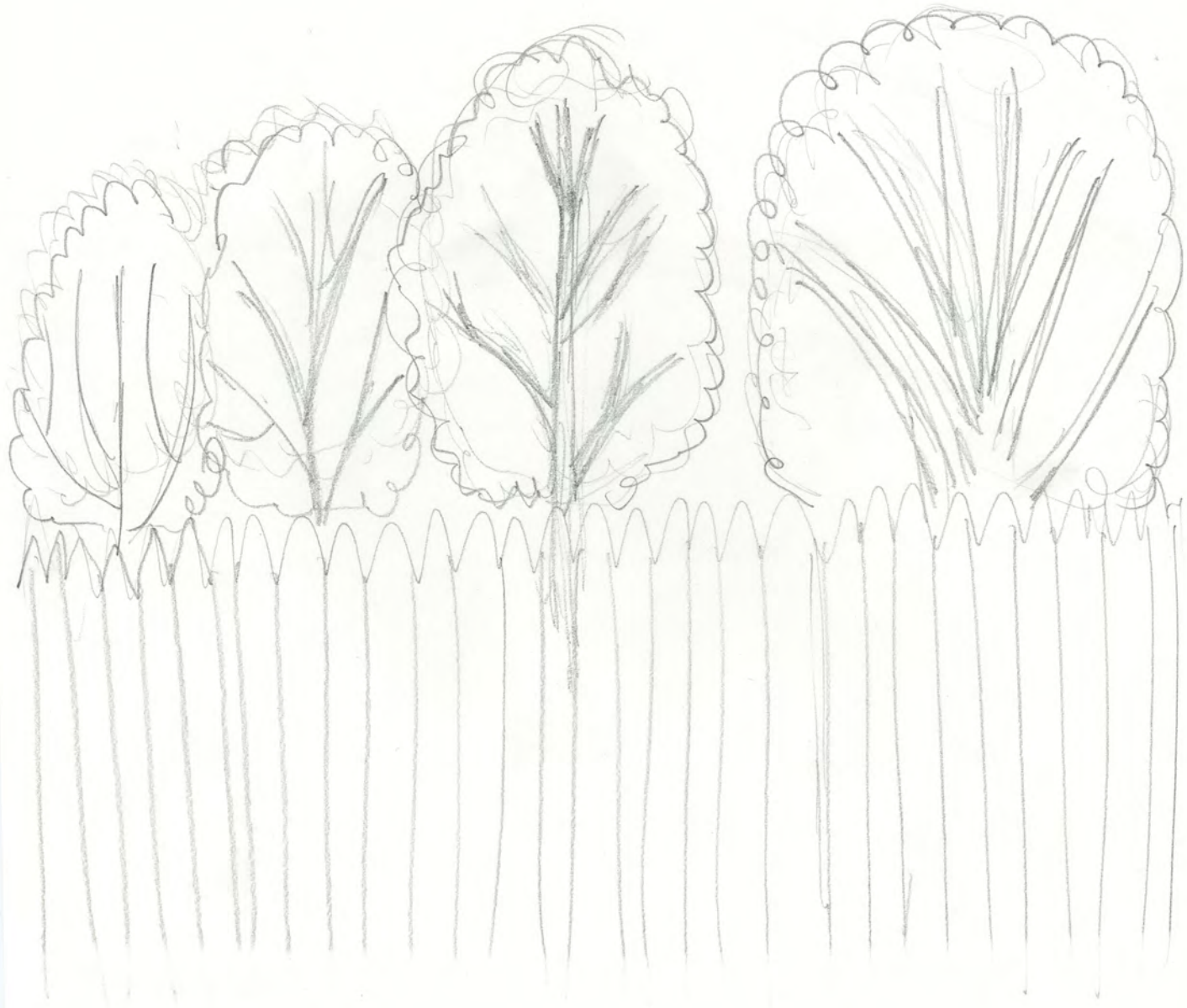




As he stood there, another leaf fell...
and then another... and then another...



Monty turned and ran inside his house.

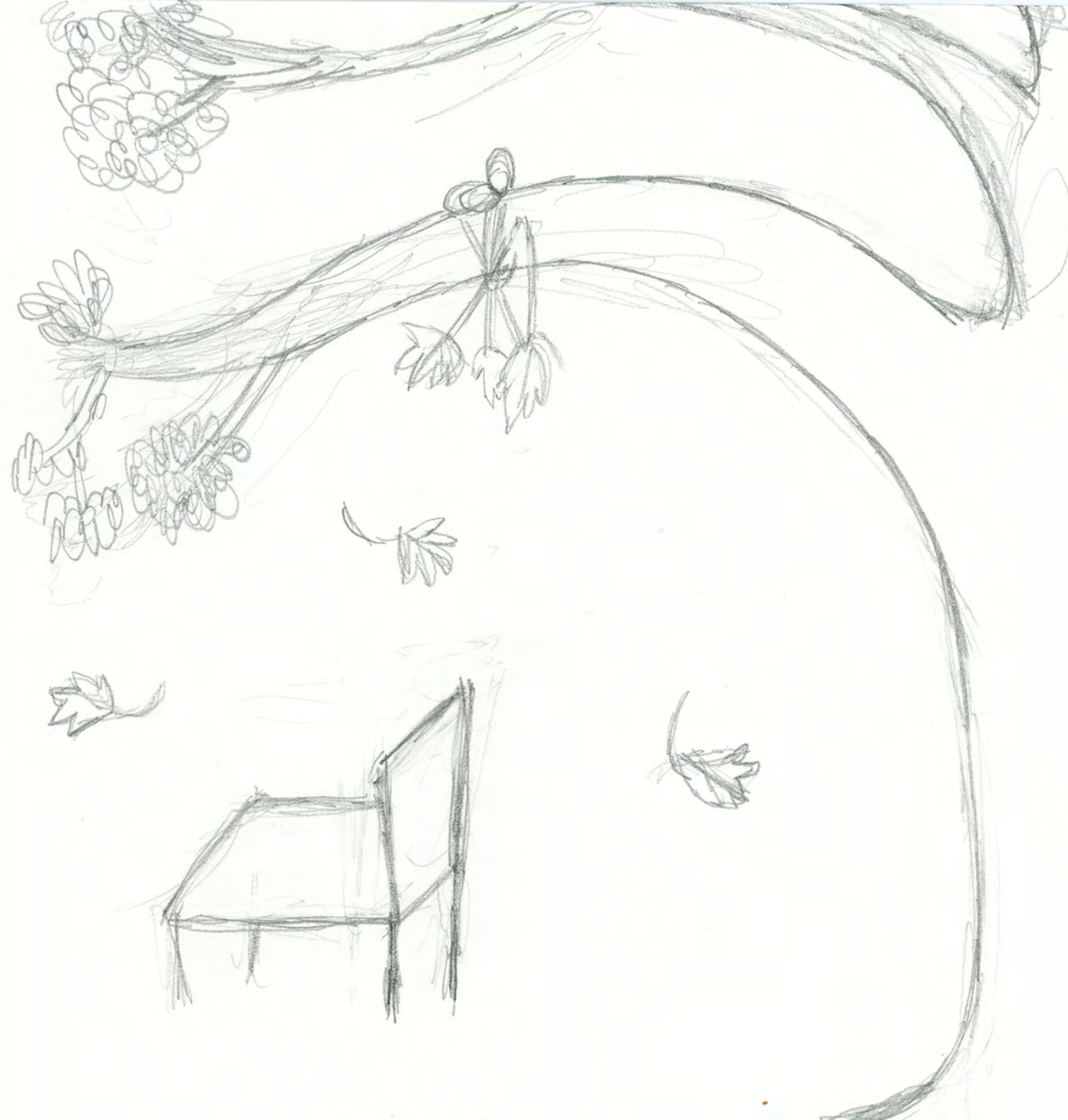


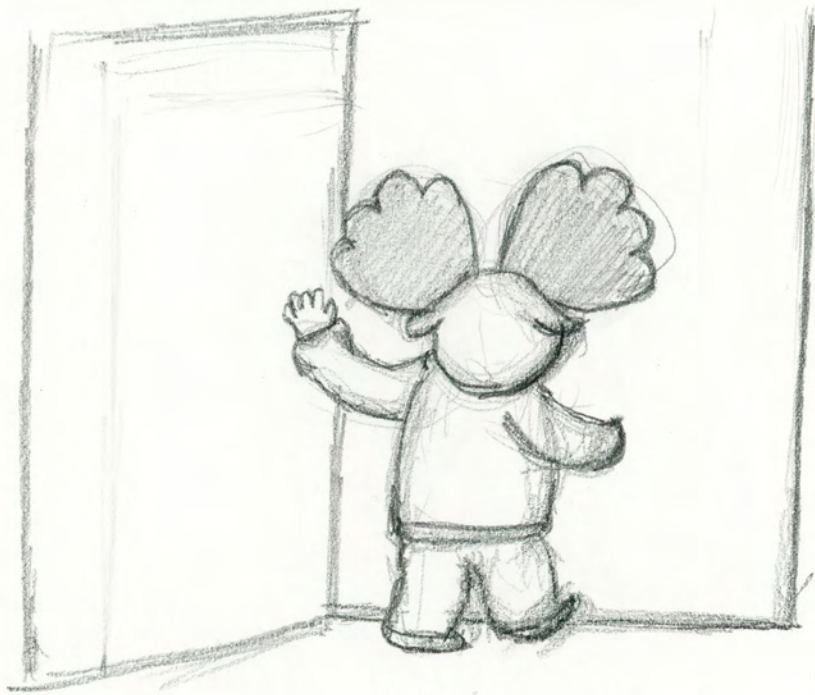
Returning with some string, he went over to the tree and tied the fallen leaves to a branch.





The wind began to *blow*.





Monty went back inside



He picked up the fallen leaves



and came back with some tape.



and began to stick them to branches.

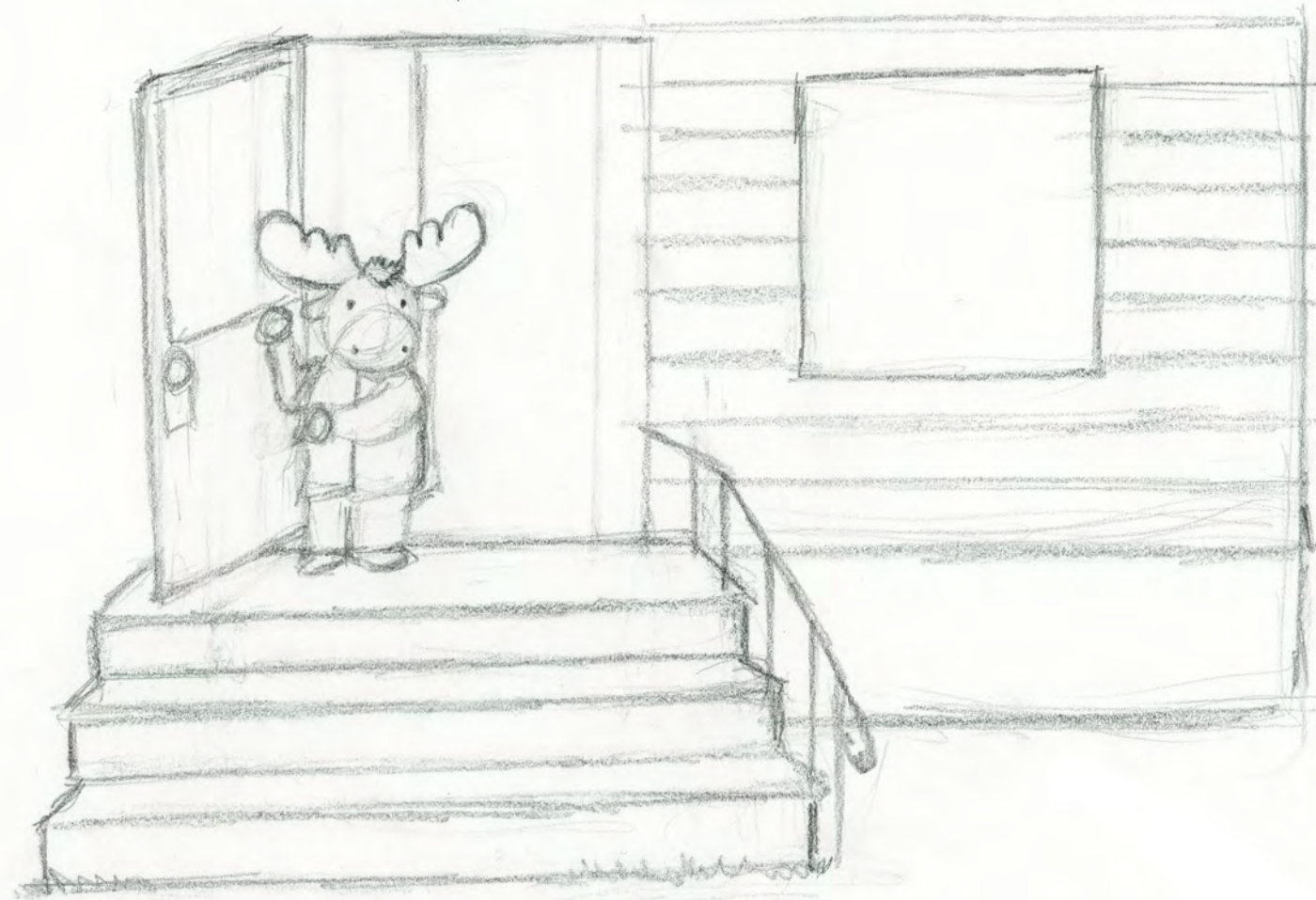
The wind began to *blow*.



Monty went back inside and returned with a bottle of glue.

Then he stuck the leaves back on to the branches.





Monty's third oldest brother, Milton, came outside.
"Hey Monty, what are you doing?"



Monty exclaimed, "I am helping the tree keep its leaves
so that it doesn't get cold when winter comes!"



As he pointed to his work, the wind began to *blow*.



"Oh no!" exclaimed Monty. "I need to help our tree!"



Milton stopped Monty.



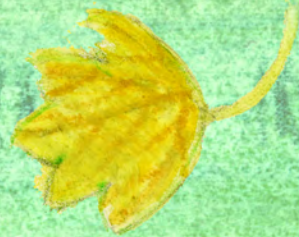
"That is a really great thing that you did," he told his little brother.



"But trees are supposed to lose their leaves in the winter.
It keeps the leaves from **freezing**."



Monty thought for a moment.
"So, the tree won't get hurt
from the cold?" he asked.



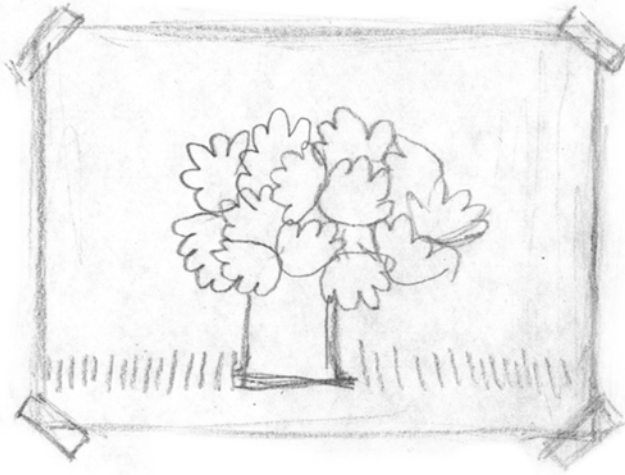
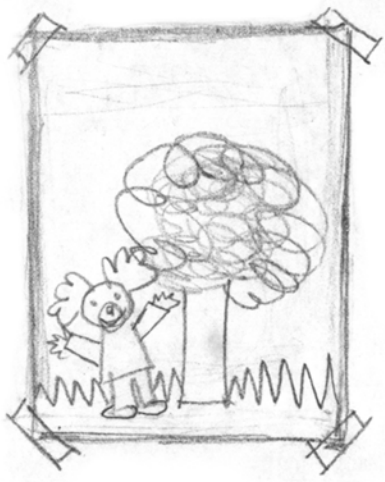
"No," replied Milton. "And even better,
the leaves will come back in the spring."



"They will?"



"Yes," replied Milton.
"There won't be any leaves for a few months, but then one day,
there will be buds. And before you know it, the leaves will be back."



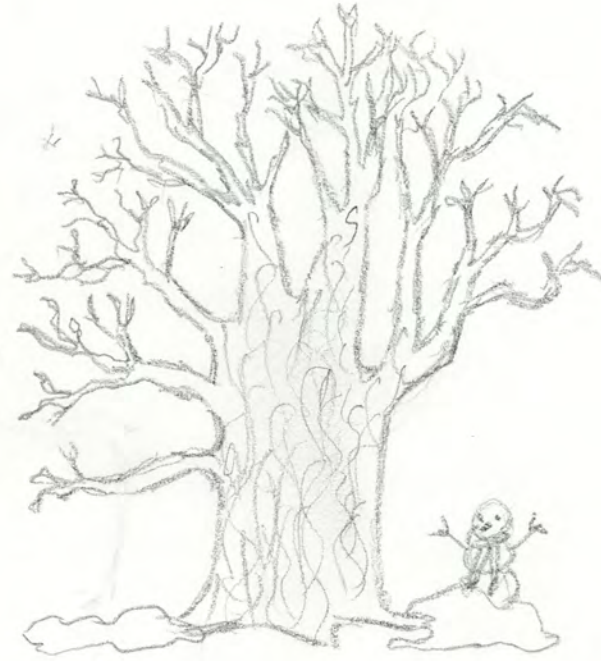
Monty watched the maple tree every day,



counting
the leaves
as they fell.



Winter came and went.



And one day, as if overnight,
there were tiny green buds on the tree branches.



The leaves had come back.



Dedication