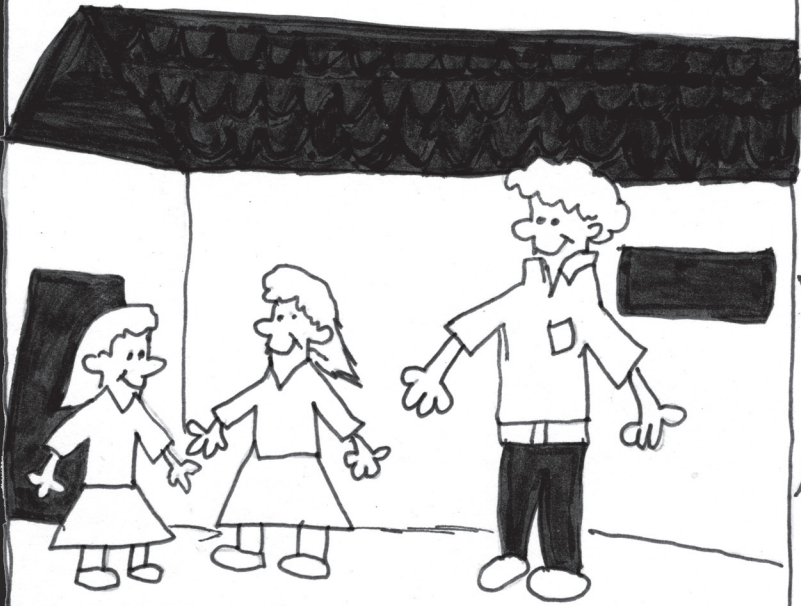


MY: MY ODYSSEY

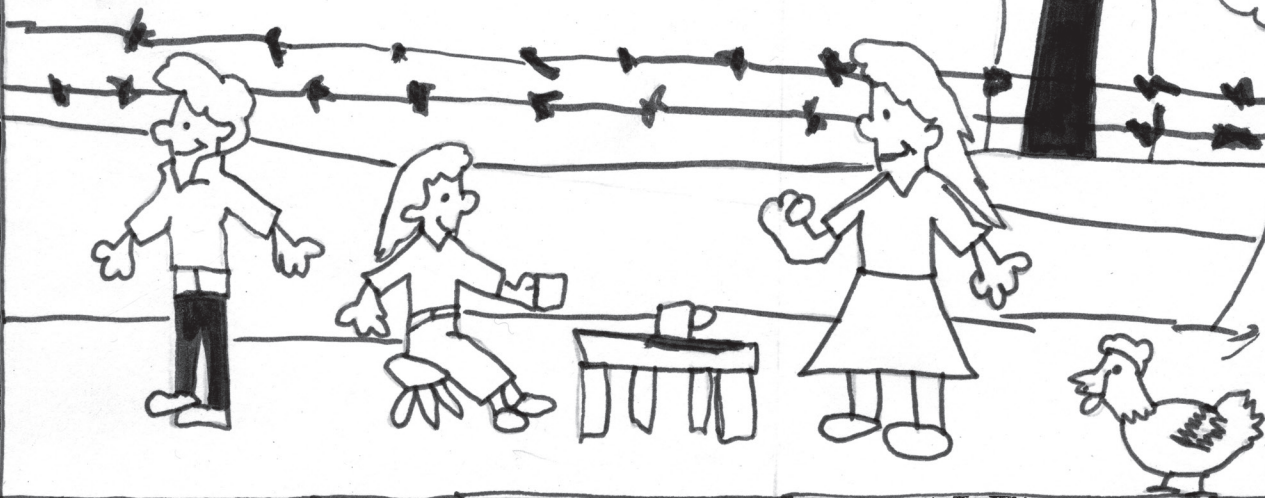
BY: MARIA URBINA



Hi! My name is maria u. I was born in El Salvador. I grew up with my grandma brothers and sister.

When I was young used to **Sell** ahvacate and tamales to help my family with the bills.

But sometimes I would play Barbies with my sister and cousins.





one day my mom decided to bring us to Oakland C.A. The coyote talked to us about it.

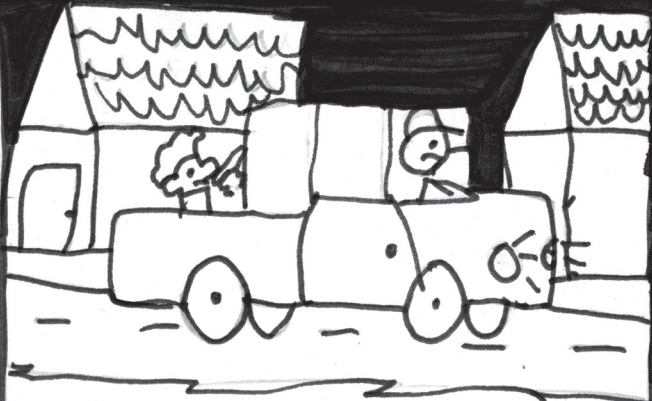
We were sad because we wouldn't see my grandma and sister any more. they decided not to come to the U.S.A.

we started to pack our bags with clothes because the coyote would take us next morning at 2:00am



in the morning, the coyote took us, we were crying but at the same time we were happy to see our mother after a long time.



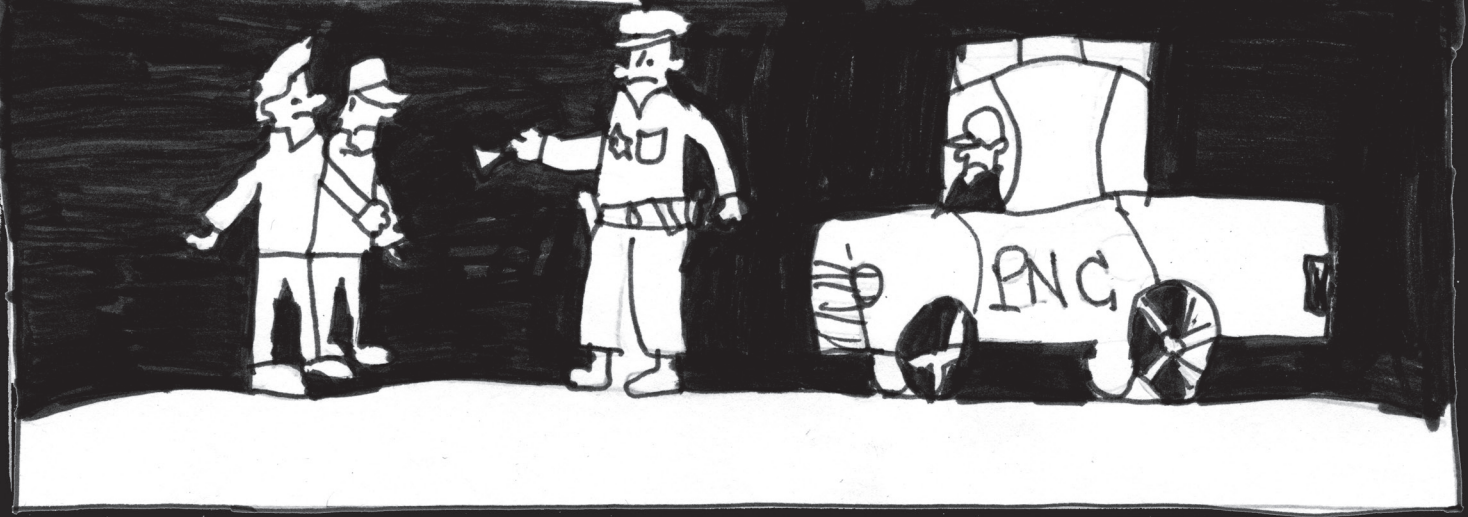


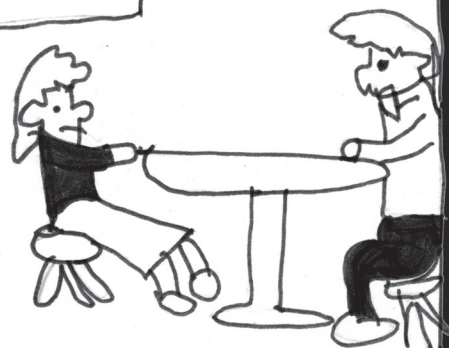
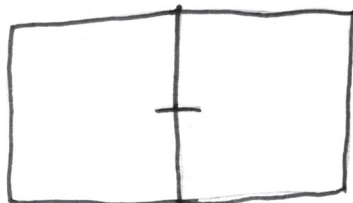
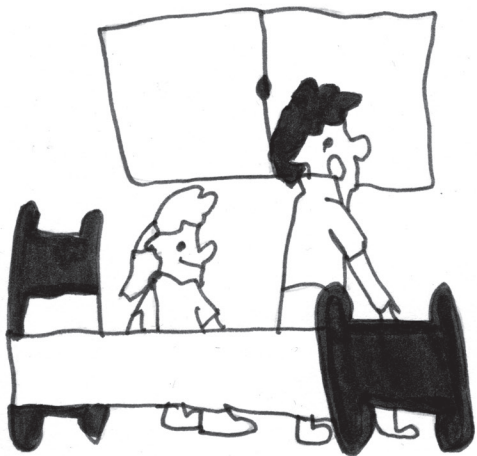
then the coyote took my brother and me, to the border of Guatemala in the early morning

When I got to Guatemala the police arrested me and asked me many questions. But they let me go after the coyote paid them money that my mom sent.



When we got to the border, the coyote separated us. my brother rode a bike in to Guatemala and I walked.

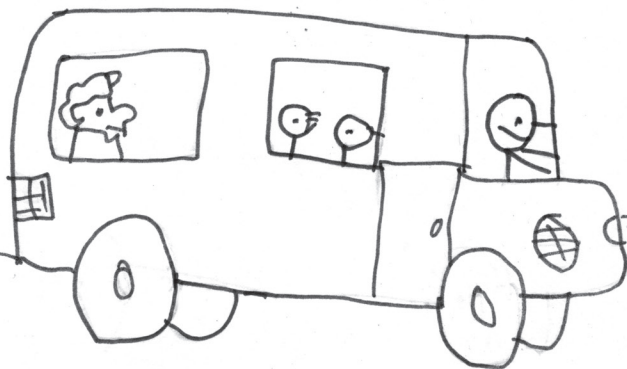
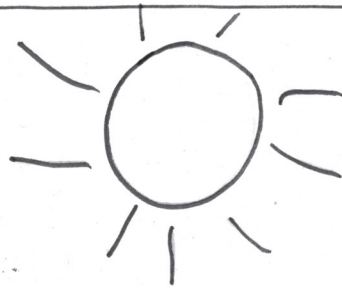




Then I joined my brother at a hotel. We waited like 6 hours for my mother brother to arrive.

The next morning, we rose at 6:30 am to get on a bus that would take us to the Mexican border.

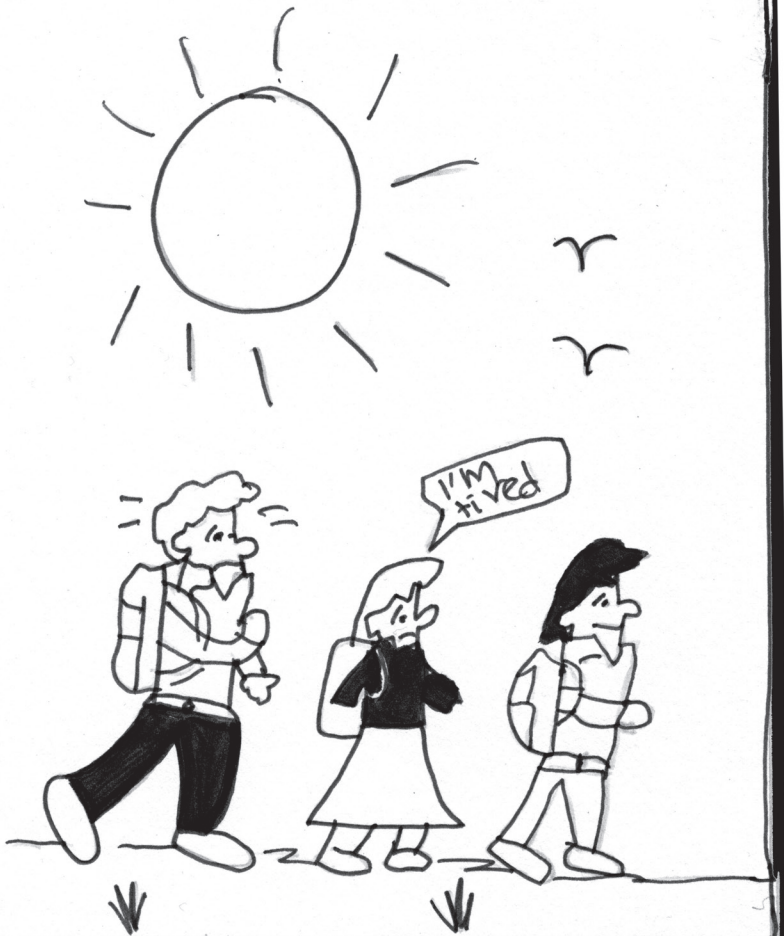
We rode the bus for 14 hours. We were so tired, sad and happy.



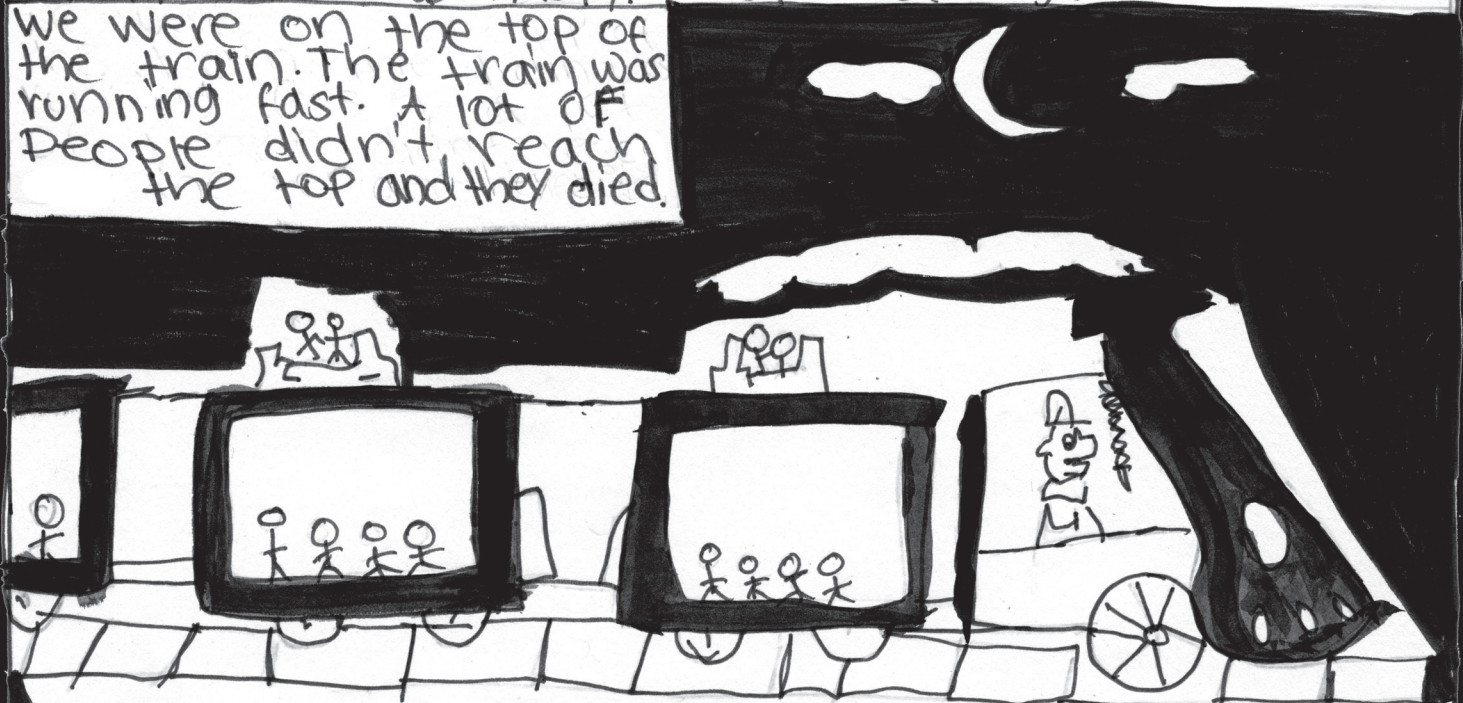


After that we came to a river. To cross in to Mexico we had to take a boat. The river was big and the water was nasty.

We were on the top of the train. The train was running fast. A lot of people didn't reach the top and they died.



After that, we walked for a long time. We rode a train. We were on the train for 3 days without eating.



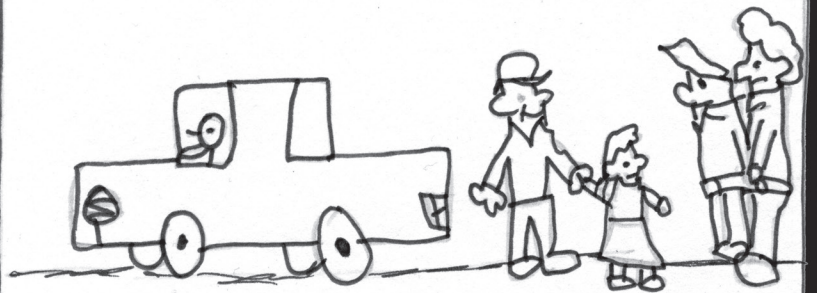
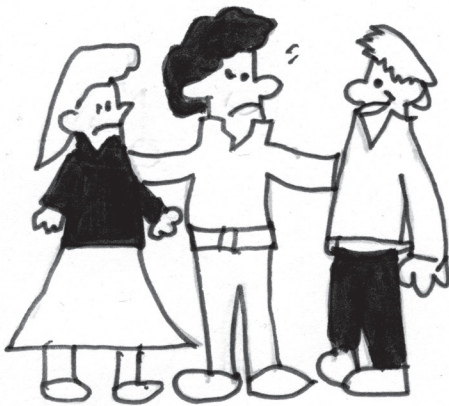


Immigration saw us and we ran away but they followed us.

The coyote and I hid underground for 2 hours. The immigration police had dogs and guns and they were shooting at us. we were worried.

My brothers ran and they crossed a river where a lot of people died. My brothers lost our backpack because the immigration police shot at them.

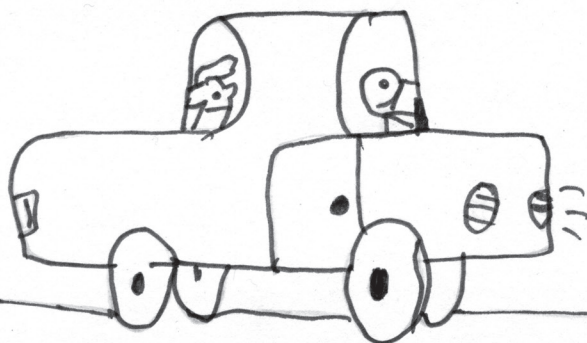




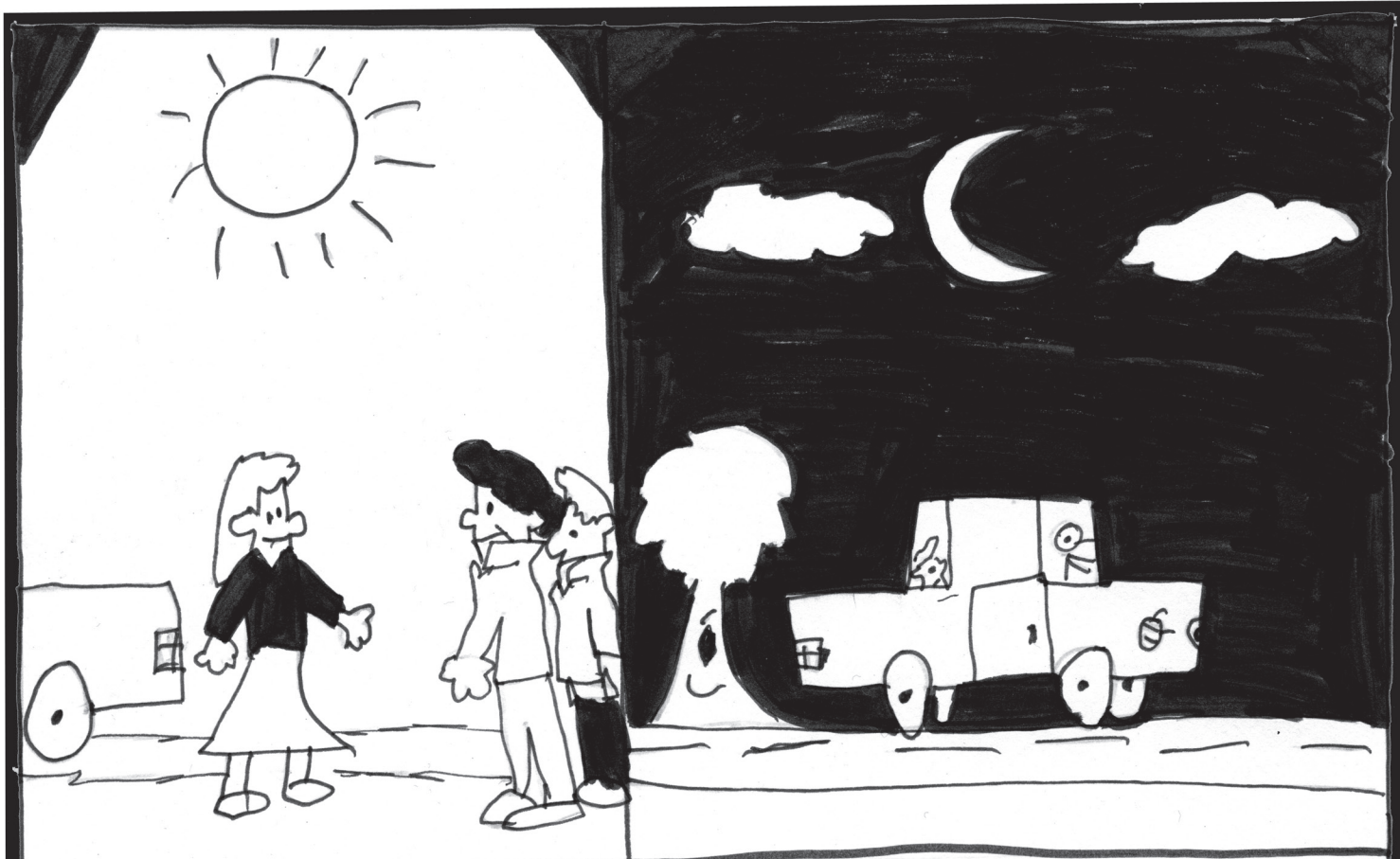
Then finally I got where my brothers were, an immigration house, we were dirty, worned and sad.

Then the coyote separated us. My brothers walked in the desert for 12 days and I drove to the line.

When finally I got to Texas, I was sad because we didn't know nothing about my brothers.



Welcome
To
Houston



After a long time my brothers got to Houston too, then after two days my mom paid money to some people to take us to Oakland.

The people drove us from Houston to Oakland. We were excited because we were going to see our mother for the first time in 9 years.

Finally we saw her... we were so happy. That was the most special moment of my life.

