

WALT

**Write a diary entry
from the
perspective of a
zoo animal.**

**Do zoos still
have a place in
our world
today?**

WINNER OF THE KATE GREENAWAY MEDAL

ZOO



ANTHONY BROWNE

My Family



Me.



My brother.



Dad.



Mum.

Last Sunday we all went to the zoo.
Me and my brother were really excited.



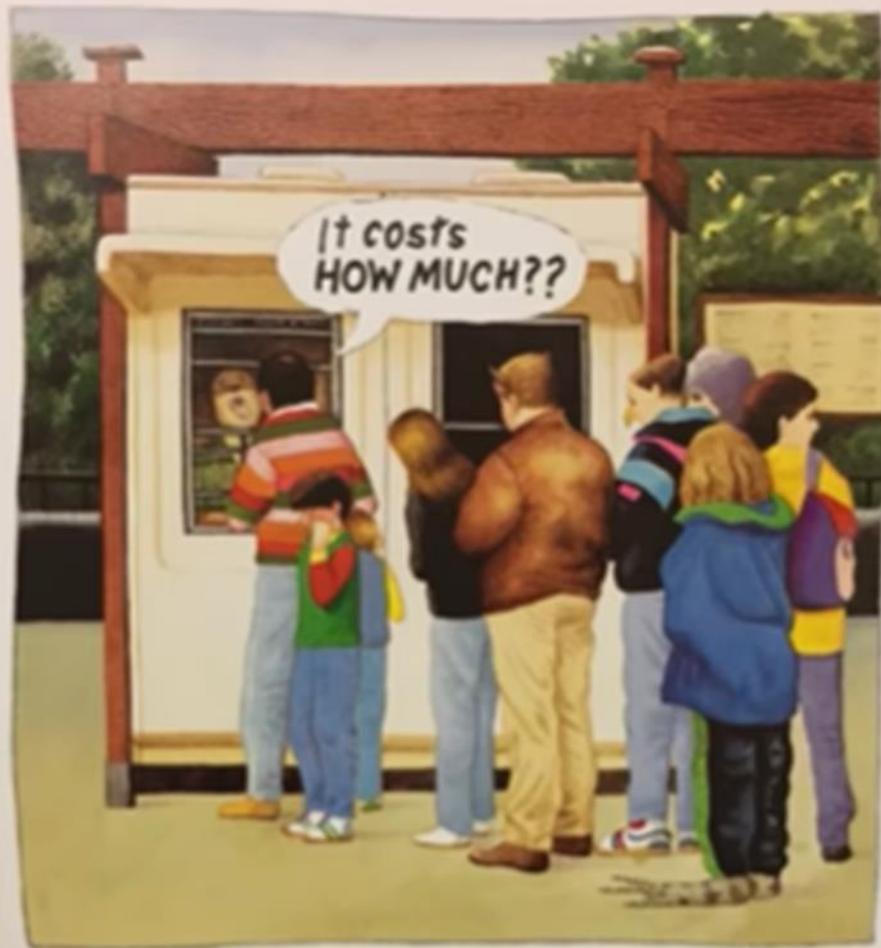
But there were masses of cars on the road, and it took ages to get there. After a while Harry and I got really bored. So we had a fight. Harry started crying and Dad told me off. It's not fair, he never tells Harry off, it's always *my* fault.

"What kind of jam do you get stuck in?" asked Dad.

"Don't know," said Harry.

"A traffic jam!" roared Dad.

Everyone laughed except Mum and Harry and me.



When we finally got there Dad *had* to have a row with the man in the ticket booth. He tried to say that Harry was only four, and should get in half-price. (He's five-and-a-half actually.)

"Daylight robbery!" Dad snarled. Sometimes he can be really embarrassing.



We hadn't got a map of the zoo so we just wandered round. Me and my brother wanted to see the gorillas and monkeys, but we had to see all these boring animals first. We went into the elephant house which was really smelly. The elephant just stood in a corner stuffing its face.





Mum had brought some chocolate and Harry and I were starving. "Can we have it now?" I asked.

"No, not yet," said Dad.

"Why not?" whined Harry.

"Because," said Dad.

"Because what?" I asked.

"Because I say so," said Dad.

It seemed he was in one of his moods.

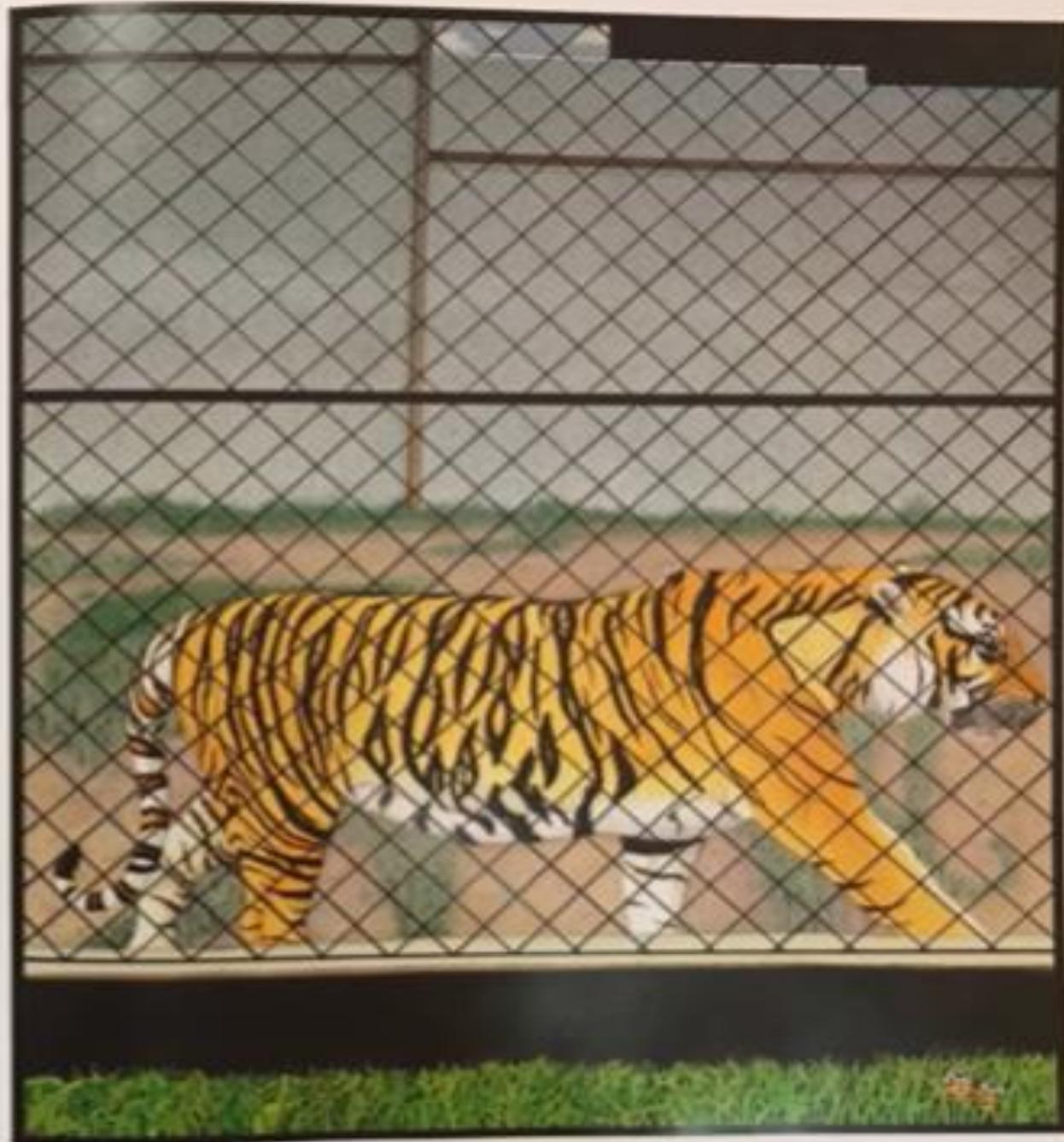




Then we saw the tigers. One of them was just walking along a wall of the cage, then turning round and walking all of the way back. Then it would start again.

"Poor thing," said Mum.

"You wouldn't say that if it was chasing after you," snorted Dad. "Look at those nasty teeth!"

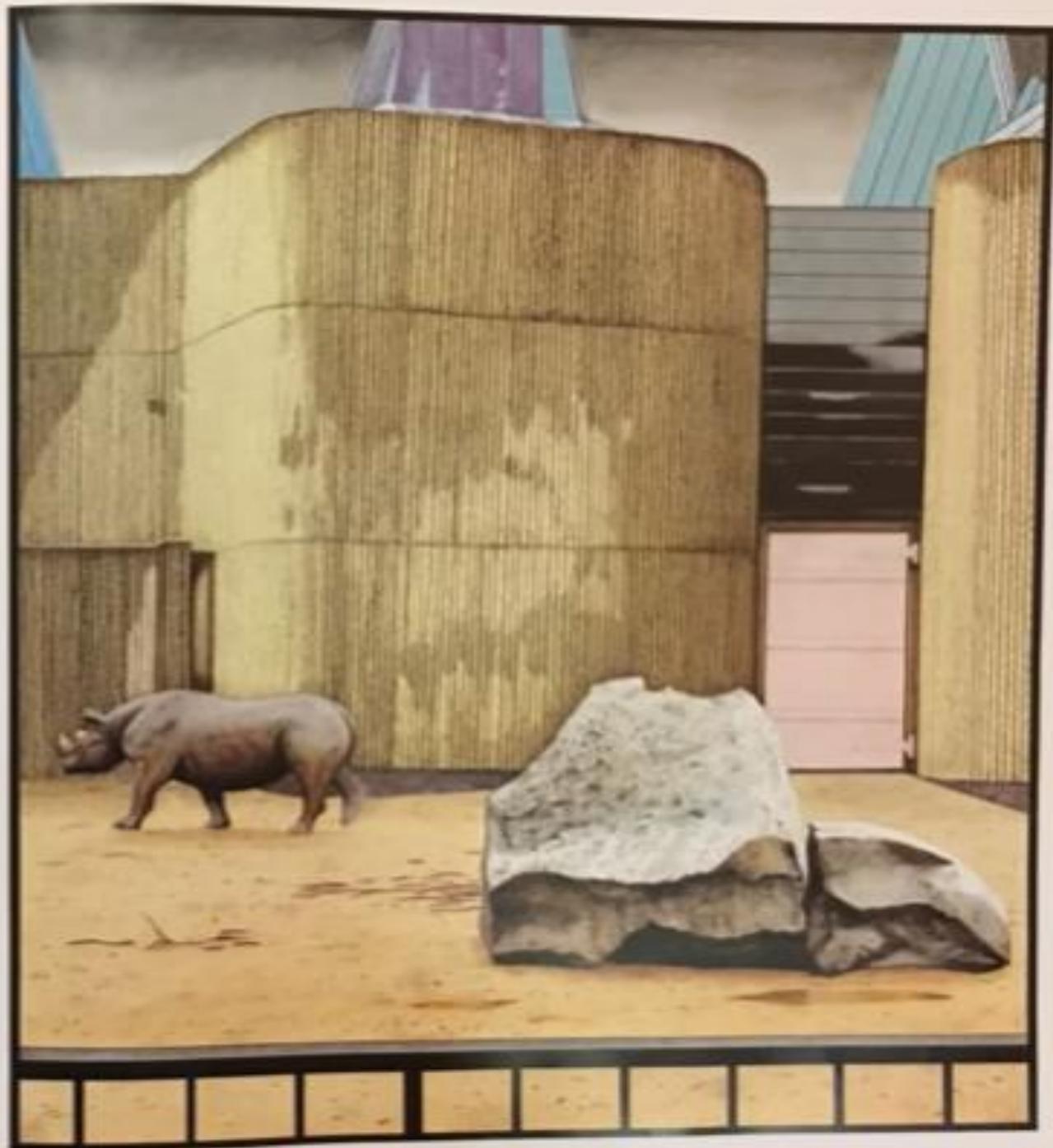




Harry and I were getting really hungry.
"Can't we have lunch now?" I asked.

"But we've only just got here," said Mum.

It seemed like we'd been there for hours.
My brother thumped me, so I kicked him
and we wrestled for a bit, then Dad told
me off.





We looked at the penguins next. I usually find penguins funny when I see them on the telly, but all I could think of was food.

"What animal can you eat at the zoo?" asked Dad.

"Don't know," I groaned.

"A hot dog!" howled Dad. He was holding his stomach and laughing so much that tears were rolling down his face.

"Come on, boys," said Mum, "let's get something to eat."





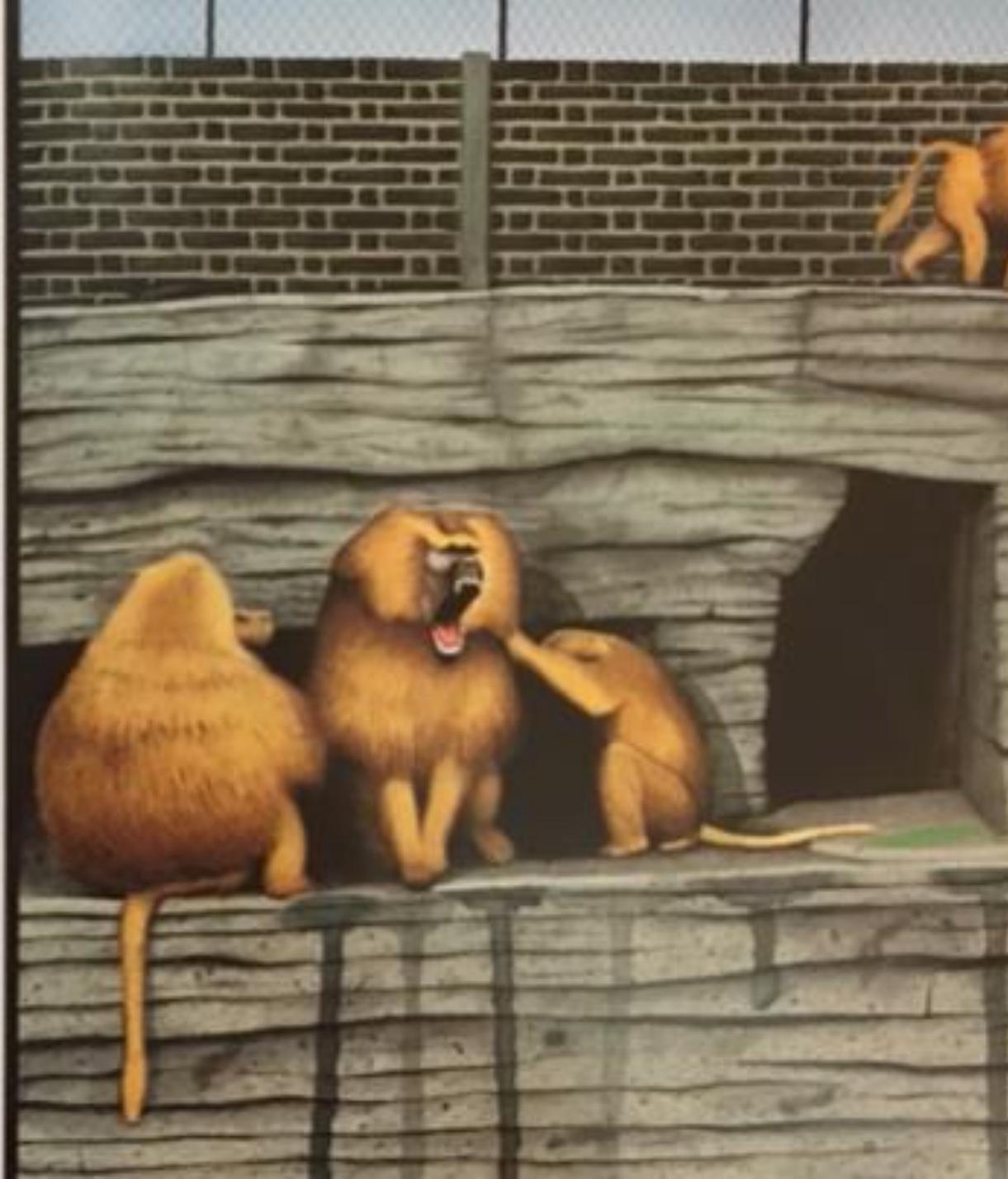
The café was great. I had burger and chips and beans and loads of tomato ketchup, and a chocolate ice-cream with raspberry sauce. It was brilliant.

After that we went into the gift shop to spend our pocket money. We each bought a funny monkey hat. "Which one is the monkey?" jeered you-know-who. Then we had to go and see the polar bear. It looked really stupid, just walking up and down, up and down.



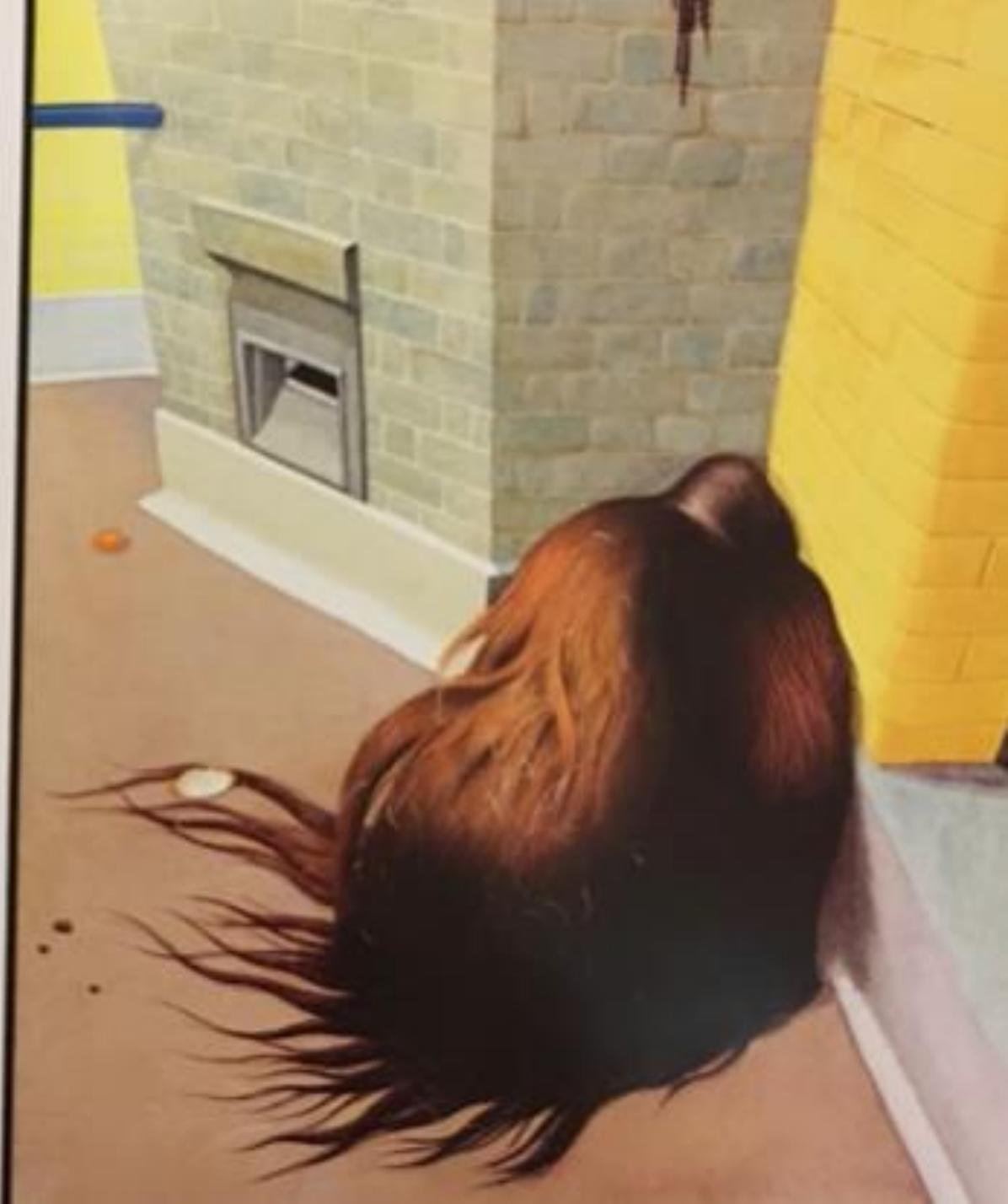


Next we saw the baboons, and they were a bit more interesting. Two of them had a fight. "They remind me of someone," said Mum. "I can't think who."





The orang-utan crouched in a corner and didn't move. We tried shouting at it and banging on the glass, but it just ignored us. Miserable thing.



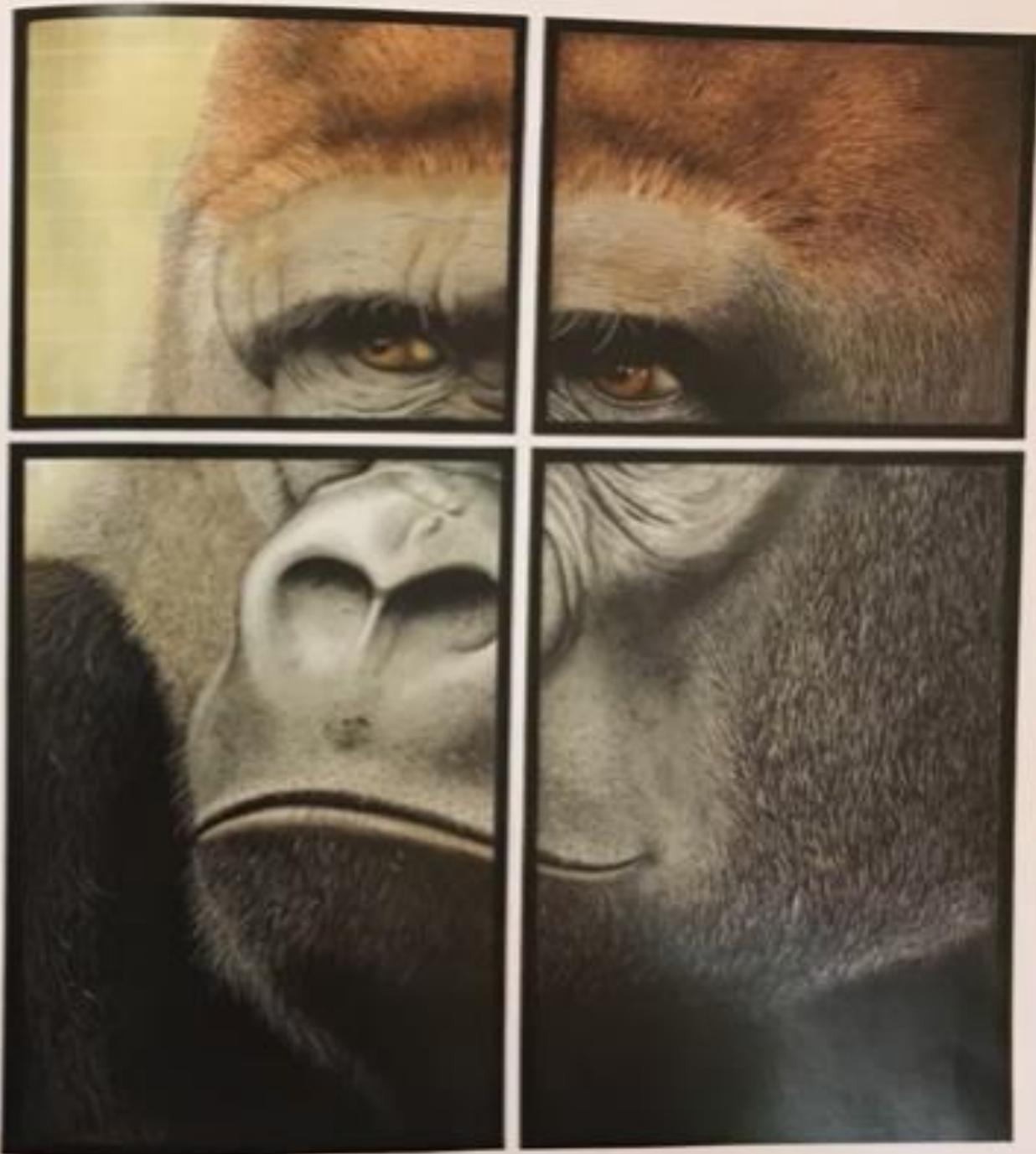


Finally we found the gorillas, they were quite good. Of course Dad had to do his King Kong impersonation, but luckily we were the only ones there.

Then it was time to go home. In the car Mum asked us what was the best bit of the day. I said the burger and chips and beans, and Harry said the monkey hats.

Dad said the best bit was going home, and asked her what was for dinner.

"I don't think the zoo really is for animals," said Mum. "I think it's for people."



That night I had a very strange dream.



Do you think animals have dreams?



Your task



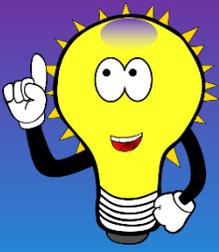
Write a diary entry as an animal from this story.



Think about what would happen during a day in the life of your chosen animal...



Some ideas for your writing...



- Where do they live? What is their enclosure like?
 - Do they live with other animals or alone?
- What do they eat? Do they like the food they get given?
 - What do they do all day?
 - Do they enjoy seeing the zoo visitors?
 - Do they like the zoo keepers?
- You'll need to know some "real life" facts about your chosen animal to make sure diary sounds believable.
- You'll also need to consider whether your animal likes living at the zoo (captivity) or would they prefer to live in the wild?

WAGOLL



Dear Diary,

It's day thirty-six and what can I say? Life here isn't getting any better for me. I suppose you could call me the new guy, and let's just say the others aren't too happy about me being here. I'm a silverback, originally from Central Africa, yet somehow I've ended up in this lonely, miserable jail. It's a long story.

Don't get me wrong, sometimes life isn't so bad here. I mean the food is delicious, and I don't have to go out searching for it myself. Everyday my mouth waters when they deliver the succulent, emerald leaves, juicy stems, sweet fruit, and beautiful bamboo. Oh..and the ants. They're the best! I've noticed the ants are popular, so you've got to get there fast! My belly balloons after feeding time.

Before long, lunch was soon ruined. Hesitantly, I looked down from my tree-top house, I noticed a group of humans, swarming around our enclosure like bees around a honey put. They seemed to be holding some sort of bright light flashing monster. They all have them, and if that wasn't bad enough there's always one doing his King Kong impersonation. It makes me so angry when I see what they do. They shout and then they scream. Some even bang on the glass....bang...BANG...BANG! I can't take it anymore. I want to go home.

You choose your chilli challenge! This is your WILF...



- ✓ Use real life factual information to make my diary believable.
- ✓ Include some feelings and emotions from the animal's point of view.
- ✓ Written in the past tense.
- ✓ Use some personal pronouns (I, my, we, me).



- ✓ Use real life facts about my animal to make my diary believable.
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- ✓ Begin to use paragraphs to organise my writing.
- ✓ Include time connectives.



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- ✓ Include time connectives.
- ✓ Include adventurous language choices, like similes and metaphors.