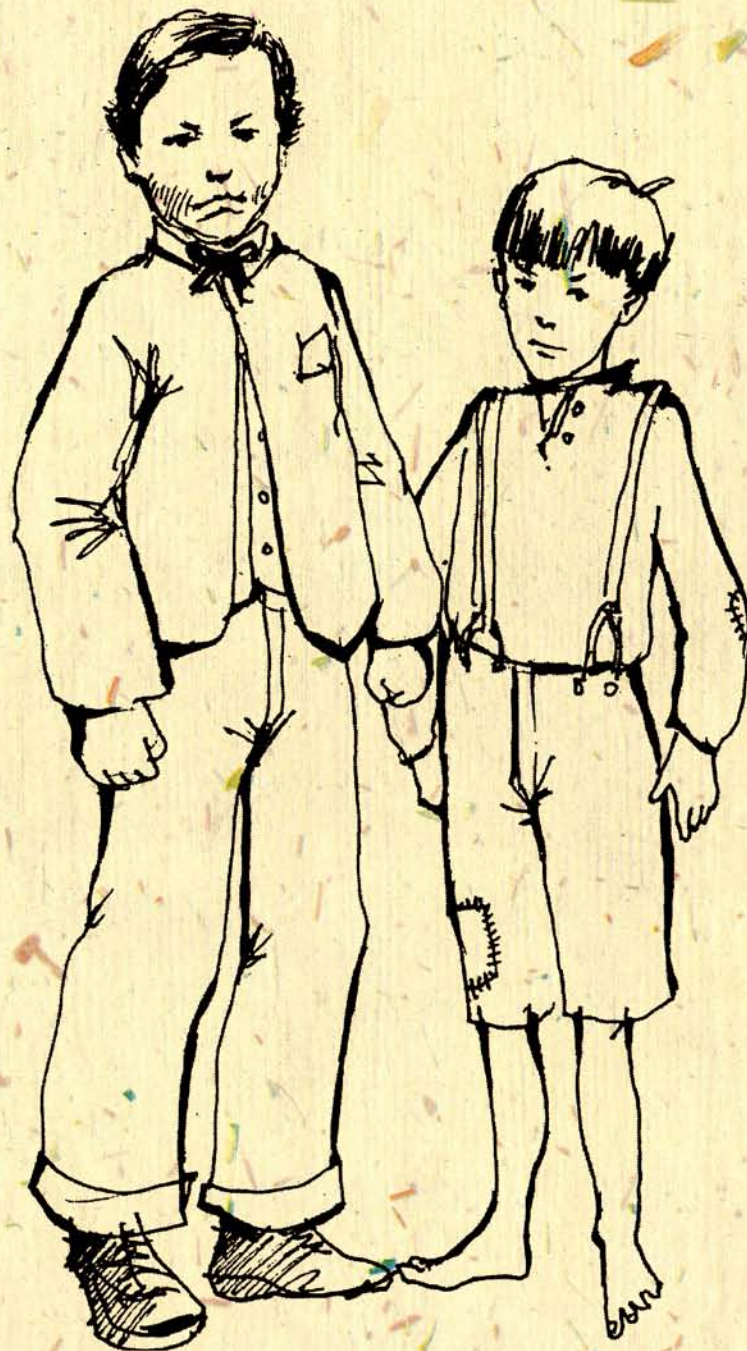


James' Diary

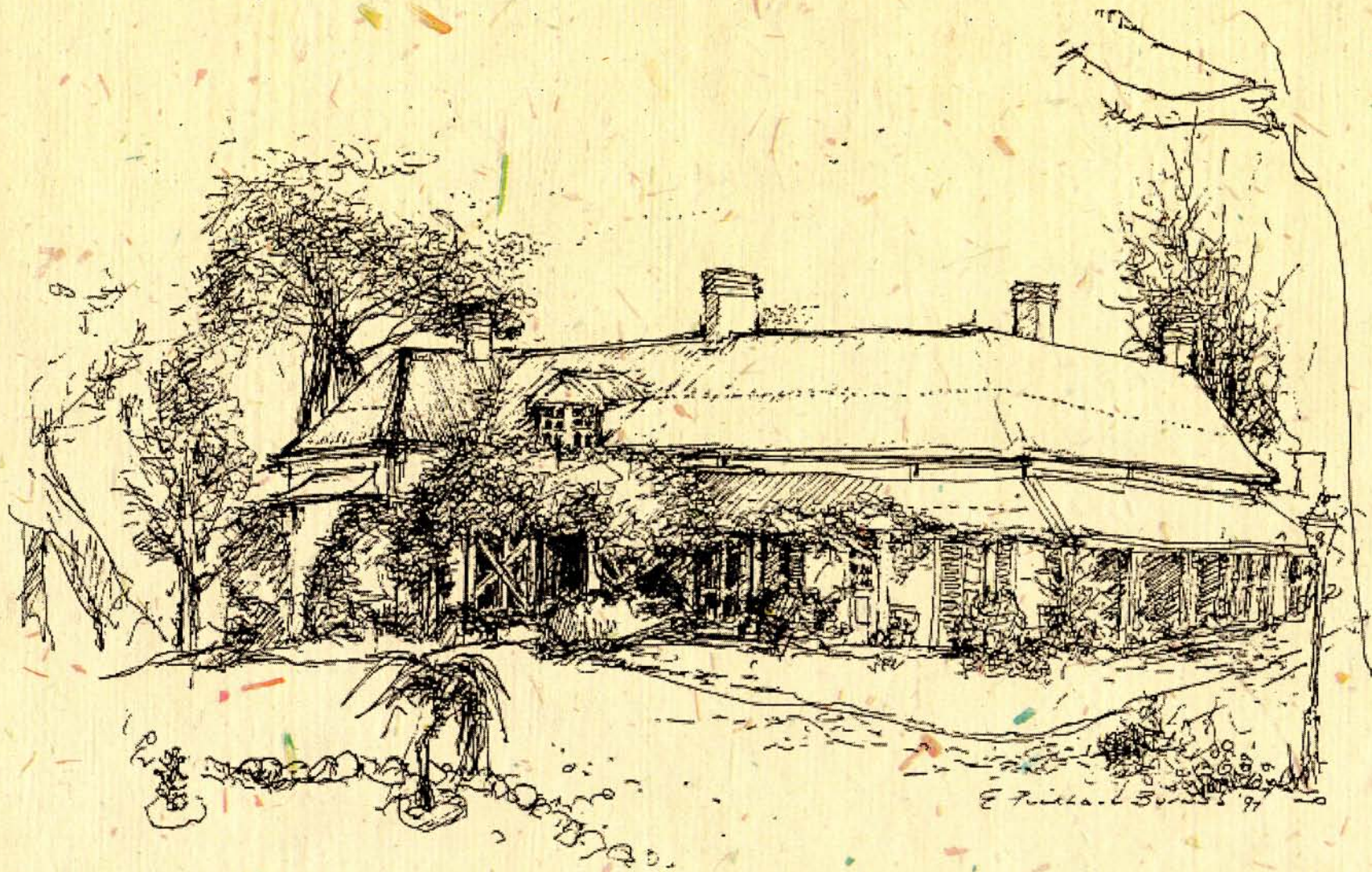
Lanyon 1859

Written by Lisa DeSantis

Illustrated by Elizabeth Pickhaver Burness



James and his friend Thomas



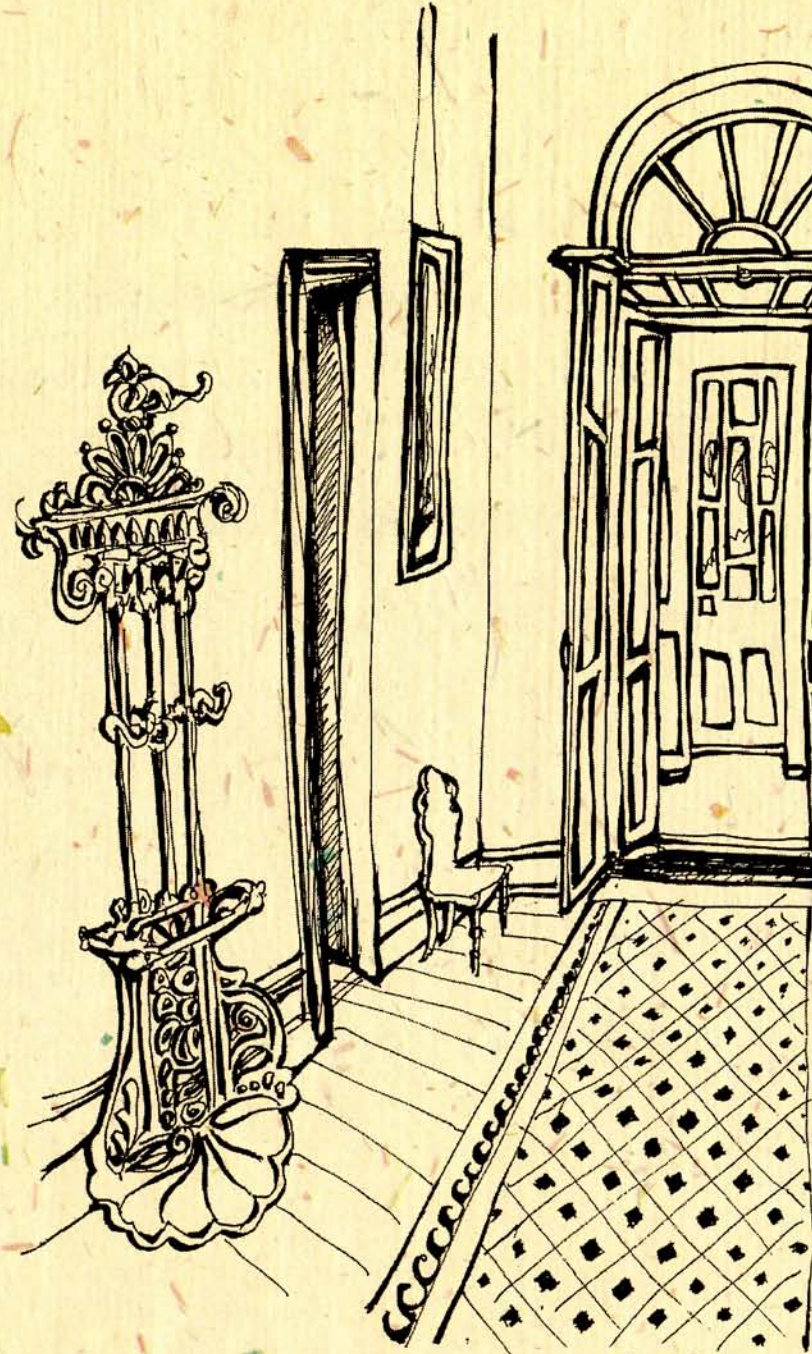
Today, my secret friend Thomas came to see me. I am not really meant to play with him but my Mother and Father were out all day so I showed him all around our house. It is a lot bigger than his house.

We had to be very quiet when we were exploring the house. We did not want the servants to find out that Thomas was here. We were just like little creeping mice.



Thomas is much too short to reach the door knocker. So am I. Only adults use it.

Our entrance hall is very tidy. It is the first room that visitors see when they come to our house. Usually visitors put their coats and umbrellas on the coat rack. It is cold and lumpy. Our entrance hall has lots of shapes in it.

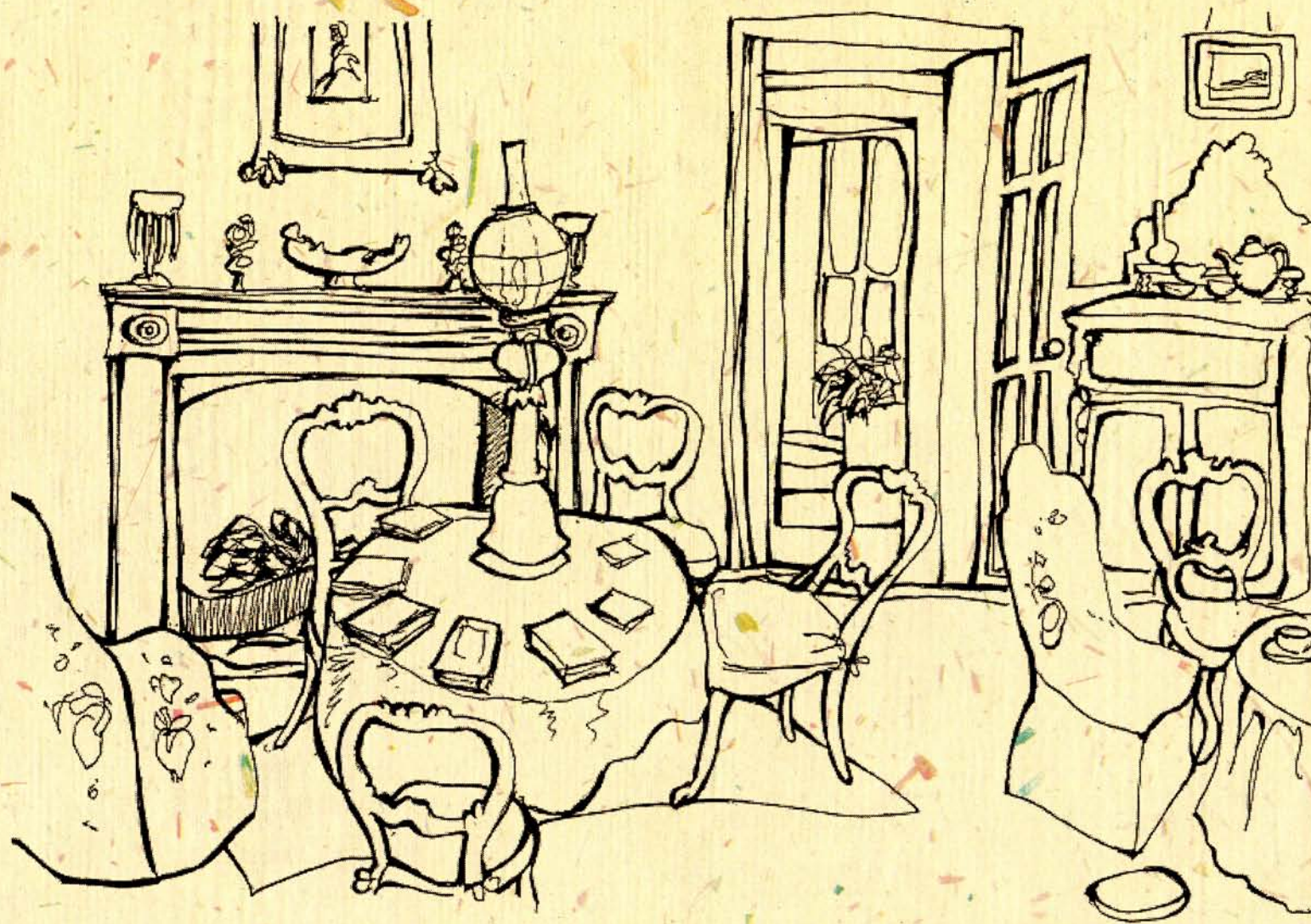


There is a
grandfather
clock in our
hall.

Thomas is
shorter than
me, but he
is still much
taller than
the keyhole
in the clock.

The clock
makes a
loud ticking
sound that
comes from
inside.





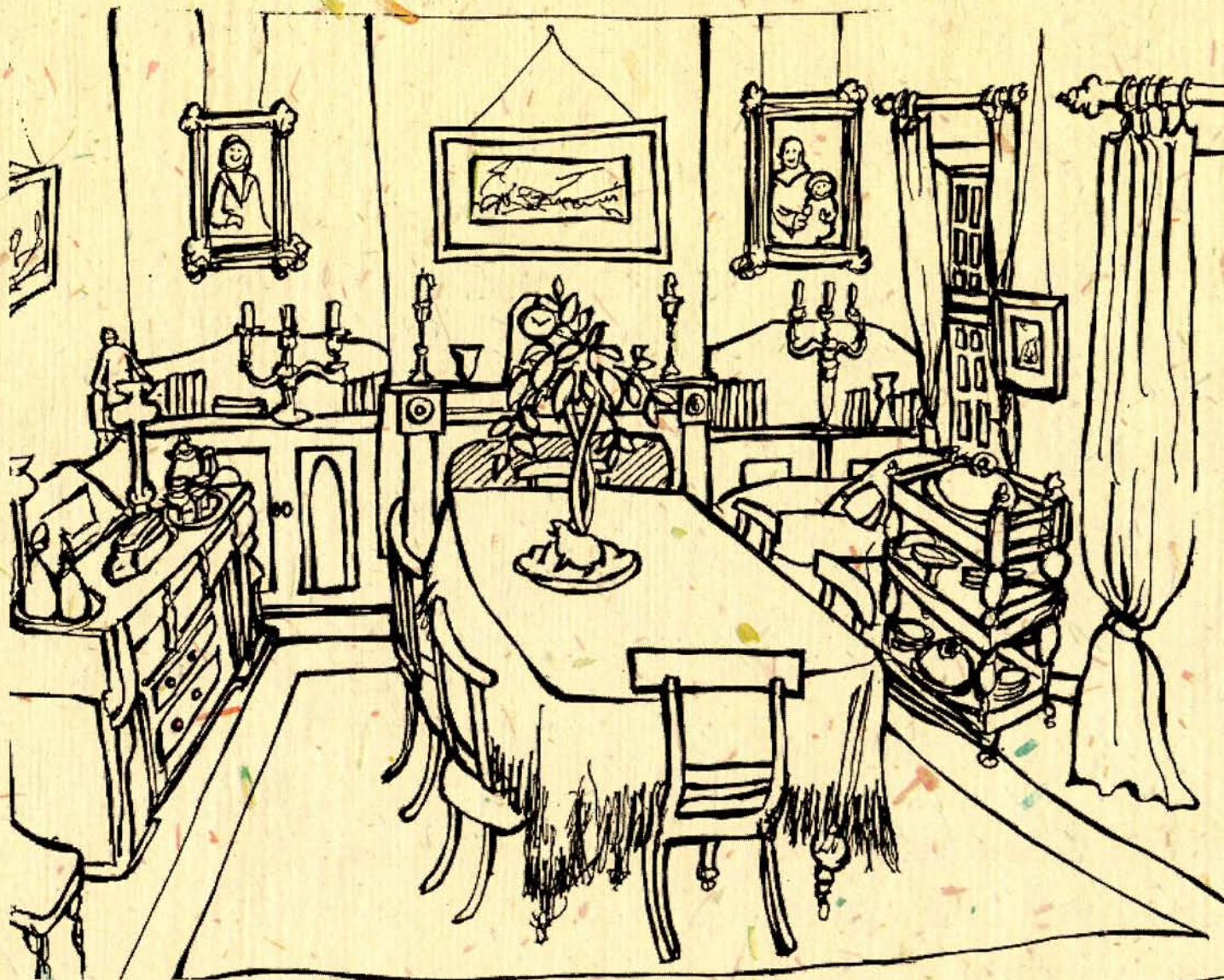
Thomas thought our drawing room was very full. It has a piano, a table for reading and playing chess, a table where my Mother and her friends have tea and lots of chairs.



Thomas has a collection of smooth river rocks that he found at the river near our house.



My Mother has a beautiful shell collection. I am not allowed to touch it. I have a shell collection too, but it is much smaller.

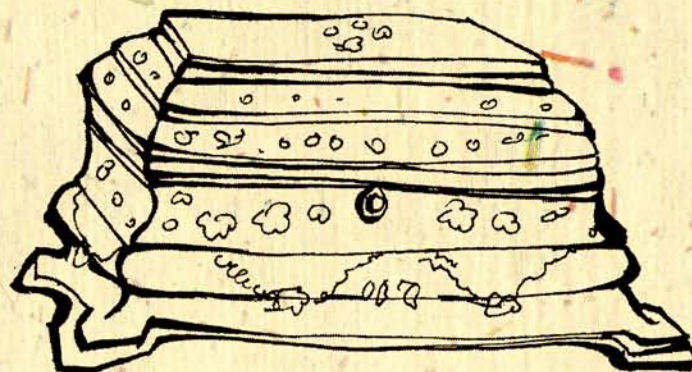


Thomas said his dining room is much smaller than ours. Sometimes when I sit at our big table I feel very small, but I still sit up straight. Sometimes our food is a bit cold when it gets to our table.

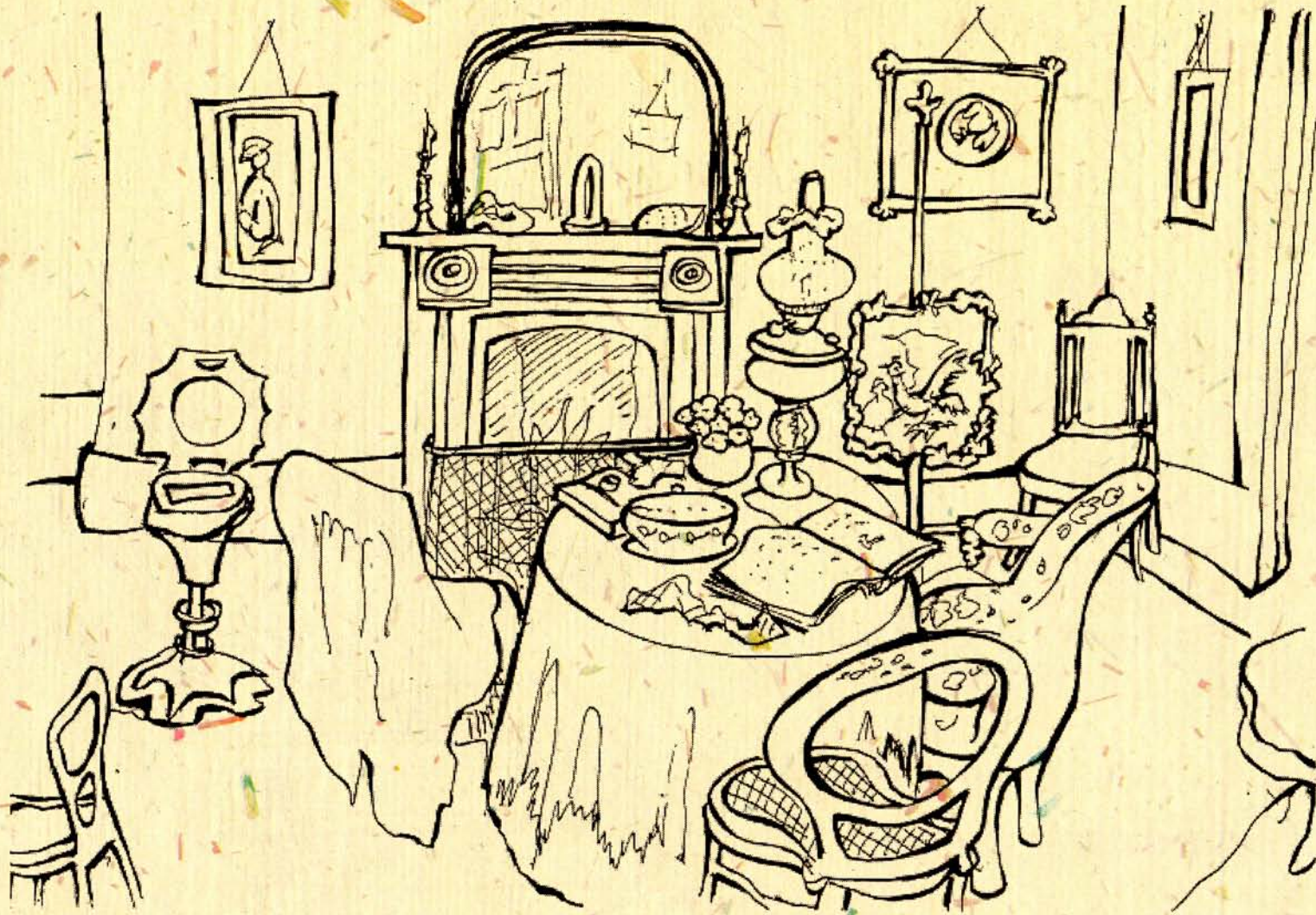


I showed Thomas all the shiny things in our dining room.

Thomas saw the tea caddy.
It is always locked and only
my Mother has the key.



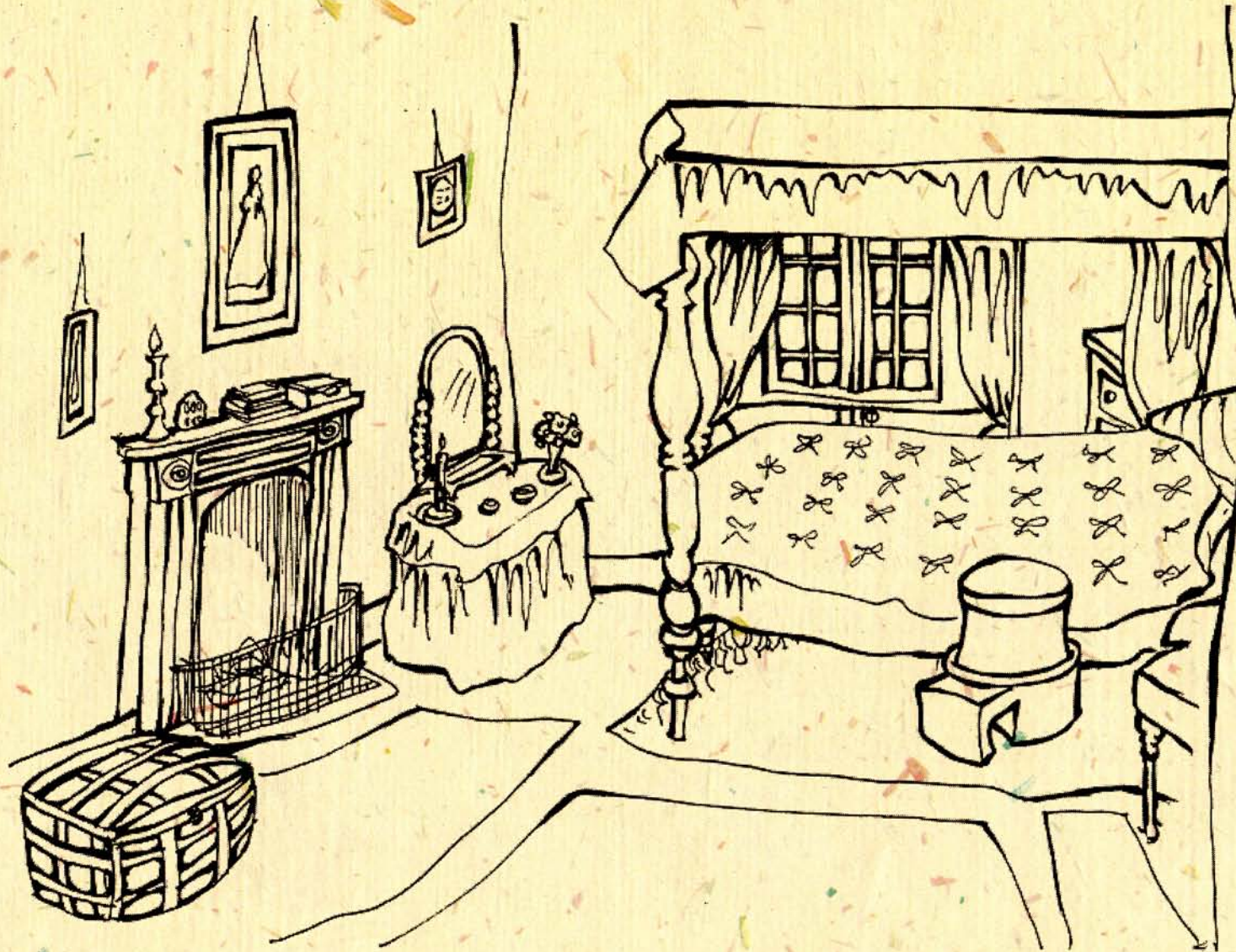
We could smell the tea inside.



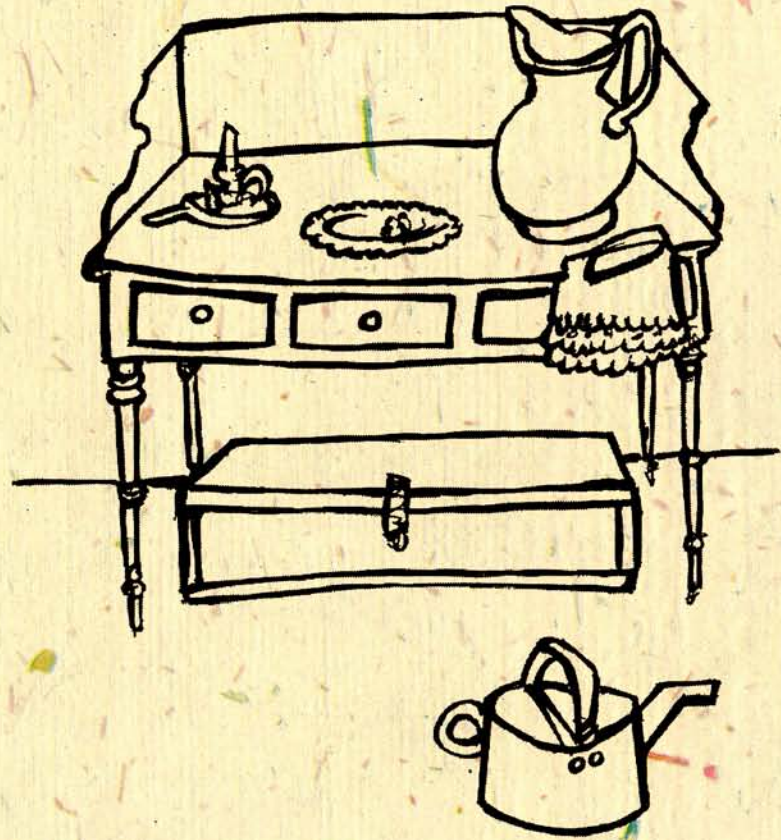
Thomas noticed that our parlour was crowded and cosy. I sit here with my Mother and brothers and sisters. My sisters sew, knit or cross stitch in the parlour.

Thomas asked what the screen was for. I told him that it was a pole screen and showed him how my Mother used it to protect her face from the fire.





In the bedroom the bed takes up most of the room. It is much taller than me. It has soft parts and hard parts. The feather mattress is especially soft.



Thomas saw a beautiful jug on the washstand and the shiny hot water can.

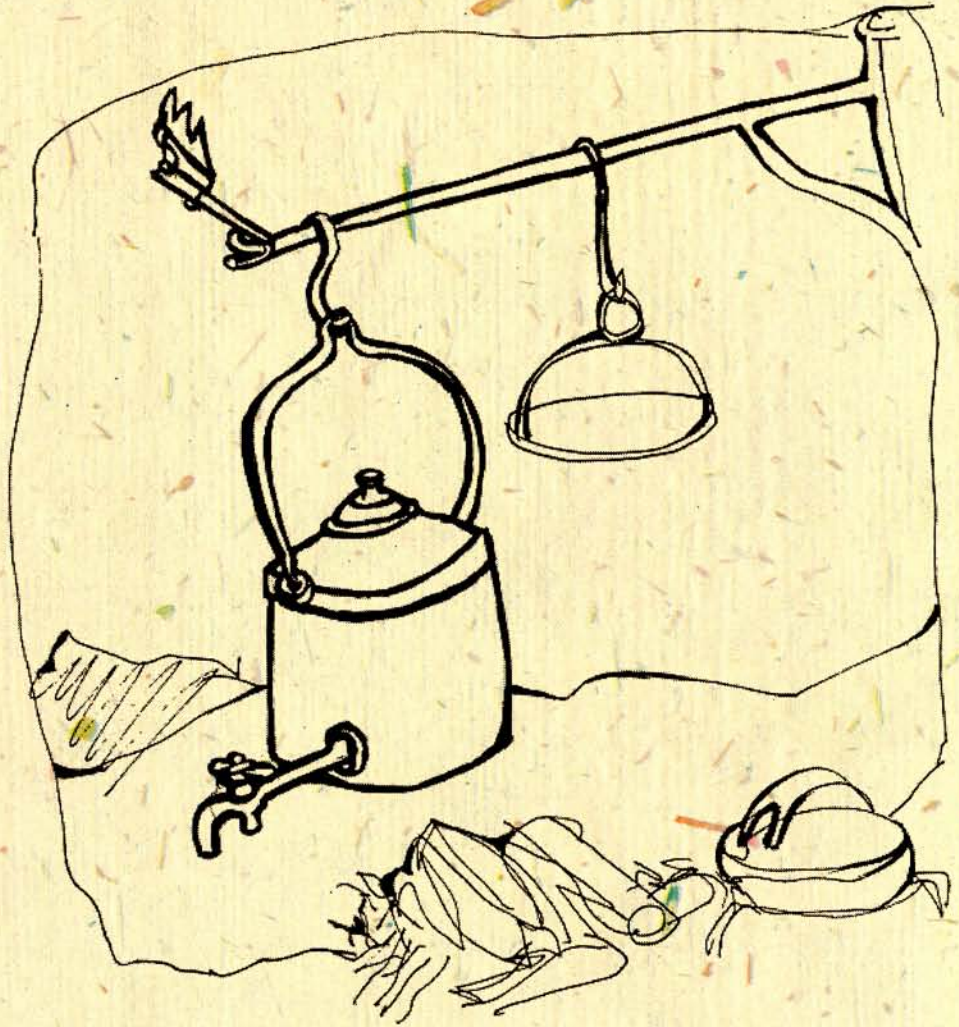


Our kitchen has a fireplace.
Thomas thinks that it looks a
bit like his kitchen.

The cook heats the water over the fire in the water fountain.

Whenever I go to the kitchen our cook has a special surprise for me. It was most unexpected today!

Our cook sleeps in the room next to the kitchen. The next room along is where all the food is kept. Thomas tried to open the door, but it was locked. I tried too but we couldn't get in.





Thomas waved goodbye. His Mother was expecting him. Perhaps it will be me who visits Thomas' house next time.

DID YOU KNOW that this book is one of a series?

The series looks at the lives of small children at three different times in Canberra's history. Each child has a different story to tell, but each reveals the daily life of the time in an exciting and appealing manner. Each book is supported by a hands-on education program that is especially developed for Year K-2 students.

James' Diary at Lanyon homestead: 1860s

Encourage your students to experience what life was like for a child from a previous century. Eight-year-old James Cunningham moved into the brand new Lanyon homestead with his eight brothers and sisters in 1859. In this action-packed, hands-on program, students experience the realities of life in a local farming community in the 1860s.

A Curley Tale at Mugga-Mugga cottage: 1915

When the three girls at Mugga-Mugga cottage learn that they are to receive a visit from their seven-year-old cousin Daisy, they plan an extravagant welcome celebration to make sure she will feel at home in the middle of the country. Join Sylvia Curley as she welcomes Daisy to her home-from-home.

Dawn's Surprise at Calthorpes' House: 1930s

In this program, your students will experience the life of a local child from the more recent past. Dawn and Del Calthorpe moved into their new house in Mugga Way with their parents in 1927. This program delves into the real life of small child growing up in the newly emerging national capital in the 1930s.



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James' Diary is an exciting discovery tour of Lanyon Homestead for Years K-2.

Contact the Historic Places Bookings Officer for details:

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Phone: 6235 5677