

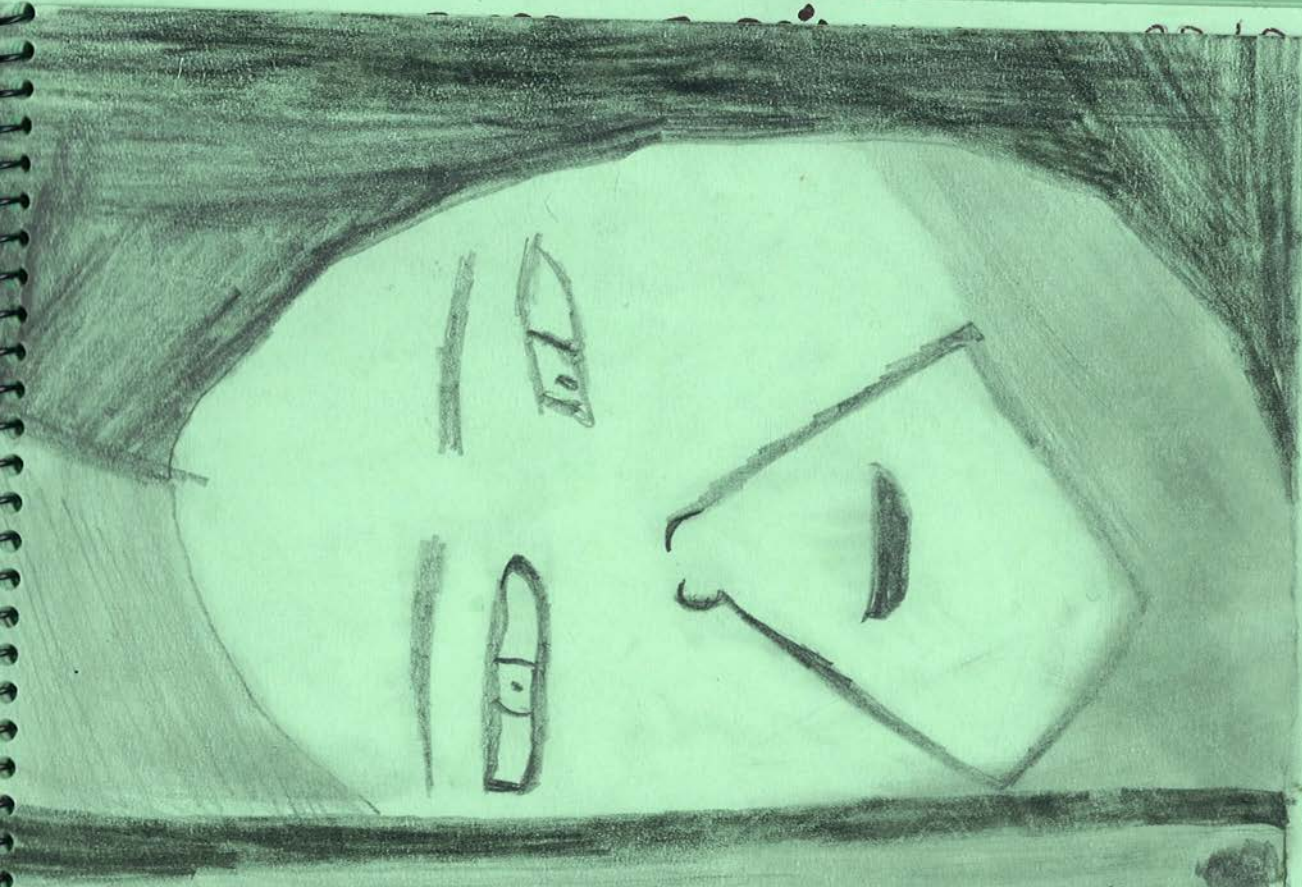


THE FACES OF BÉLMEZ

This book was made in February, 2019
by the students of 1st year of ESO
in Andrés de Vandelvira School (Baeza, Spain),
instructed by their art teacher Teresa Cencillo.

It was first presented during the Erasmus + Mobility
in Lithuania (17th-23rd March 2019) for the project

Once upon a Time via ICT



**LAS CARAS DE
BELMEZ**

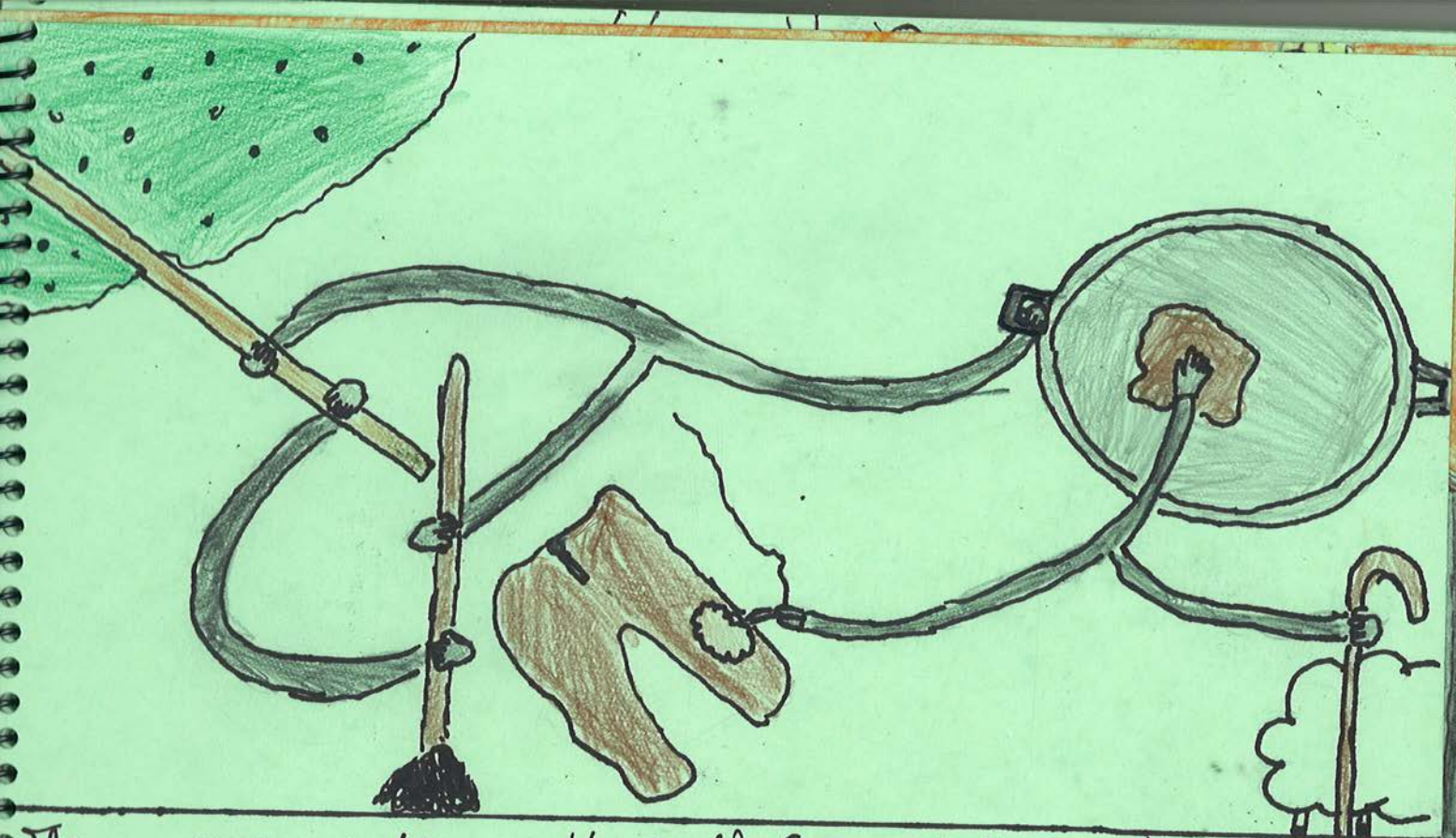
THE FACES OF BÉLMEZ

023/8/1971



It was the 23rd of August, 1971 in a little town of the Province of Jaén, located in the heart of Mágina Mountain and surrounded by olive, almond and pine trees. It was a very hot day.

the silence of the streets was only interrupted by the games of children and the bubbling of water in the park. As it is common in those remote isolated villages, the days passed calmly.

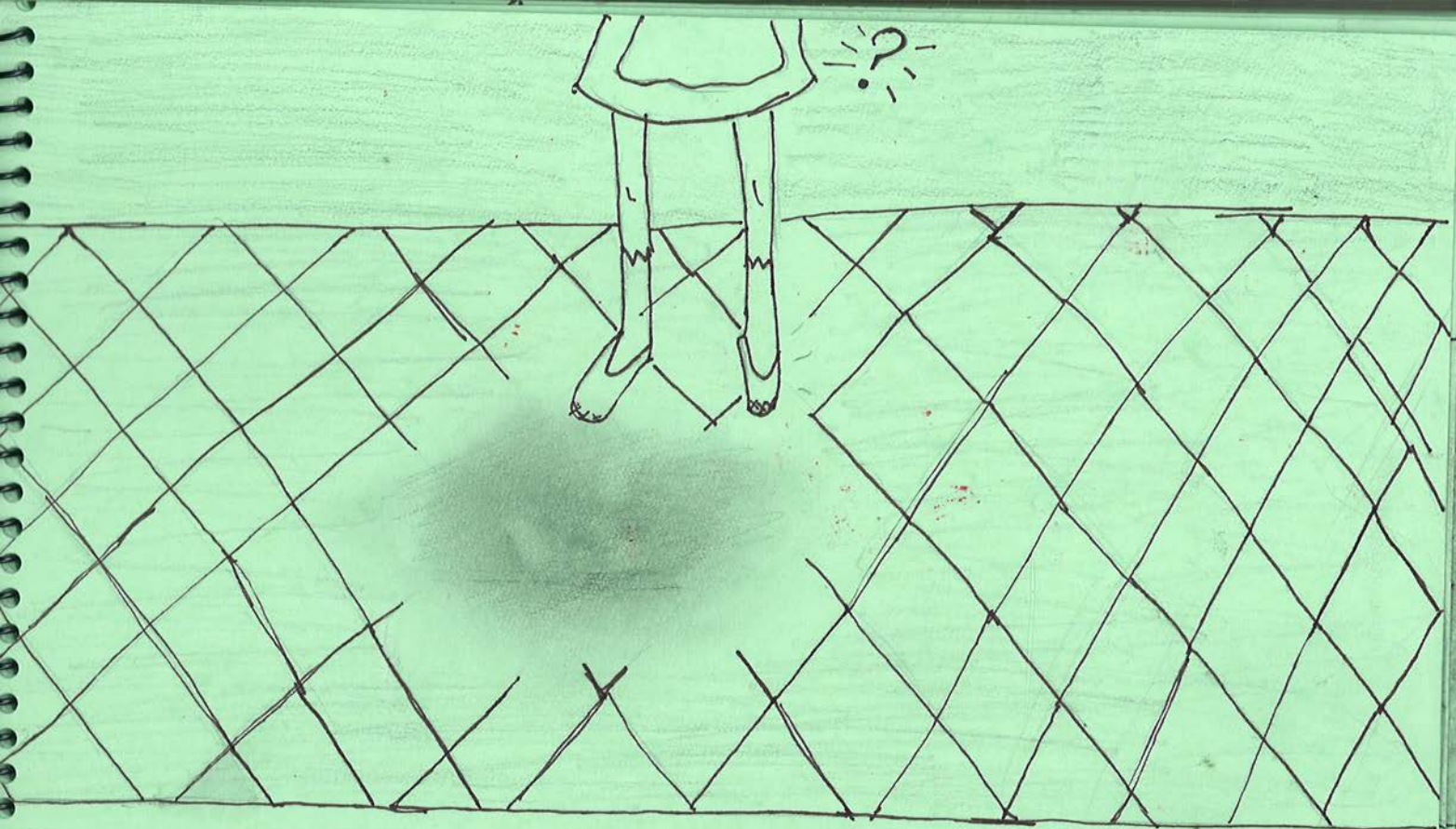


The men were working in the fields. Some of them took care of their trees, while others looked out their flocks of sheep and goats. In the houses the women were doing their chores.



in number 5, Real street, one of those women, called maria Gomez Cámara, was preparing lunch over the hot coals of her fireplace. She was waiting for her son, who usually came

back home at midday for his meal. That particular
day Maria wasn't feeling very well.
"I feel as if I had a flu."

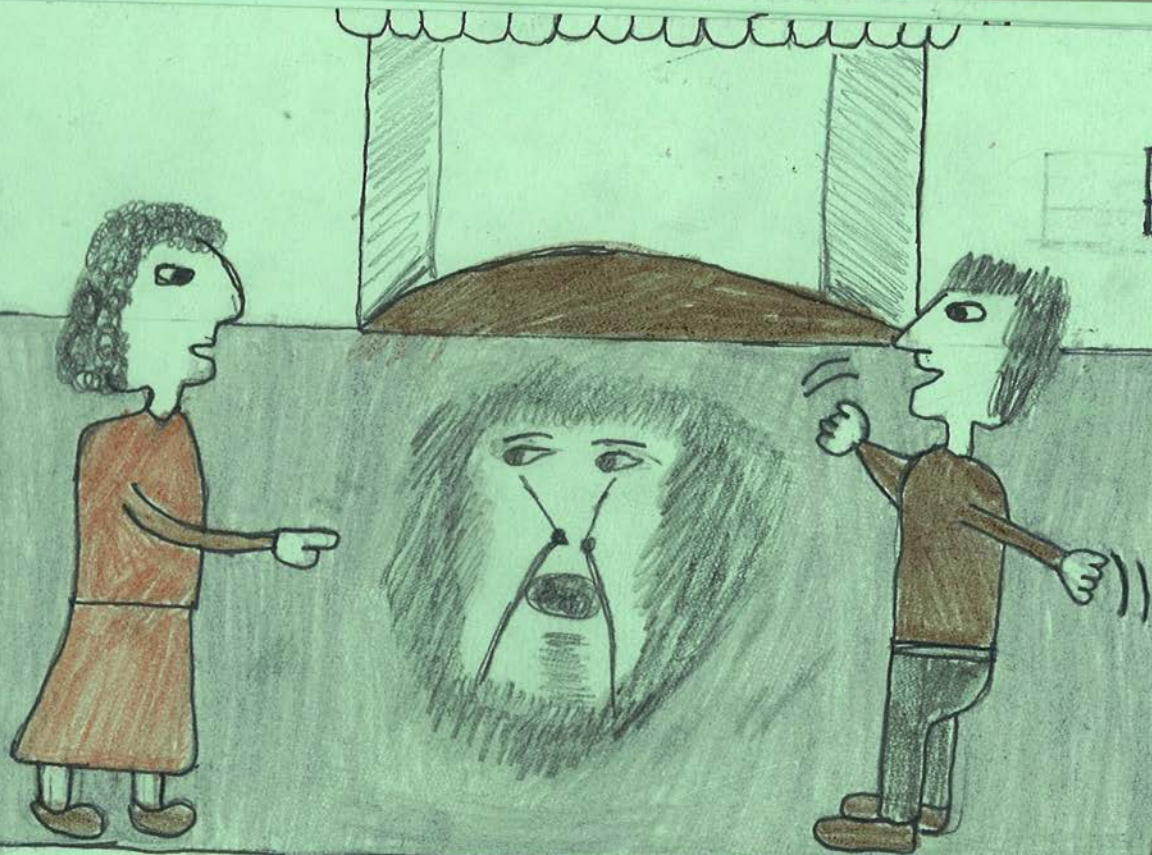


As she was stirring the soup with a big spoon, she noticed a dark stain
on the floor, just in front of the fireplace. But, what a strange thing!

What is this? This stain has never been there.

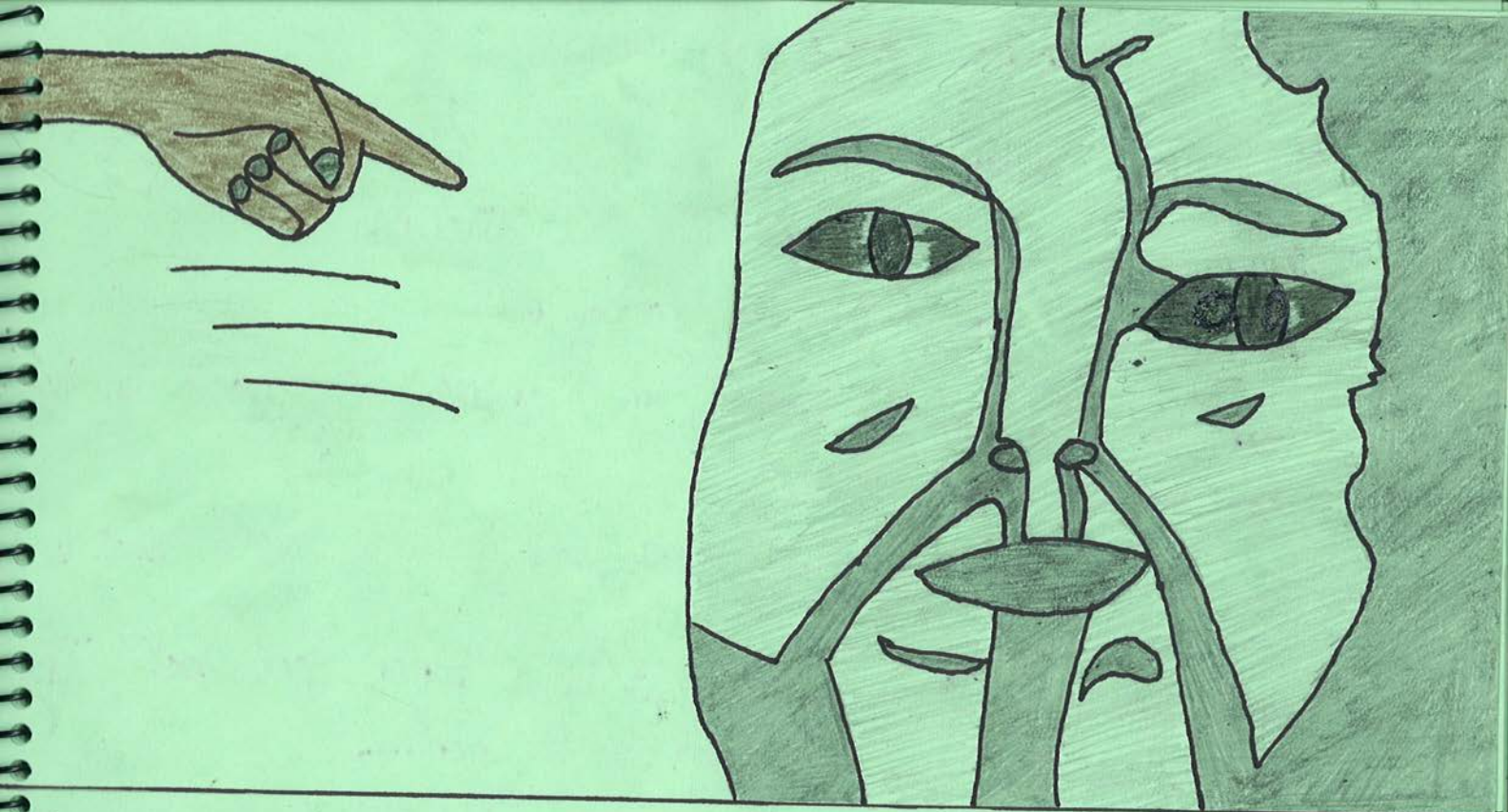
Attentive, discover that the stain looks like a human face.

Maria De la Rosa Maria



I can't believe it! It looks like a man's face. I can see the lines of the eyes And the mouth too. Oh my 5 8 / 1411 1 10 2

I have to calm down. Maybe it is a hallucination due to my fever. I have to forget about this matter. I will talk to Miguel when he comes home."



Miguel, who had spent the morning with his flock in the mountain, arrived one hour later. He was very tired, but his mother came to

him with a worried glance in her eyes.

"My dear, follow me"

She took his hand and led him into the kitchen.

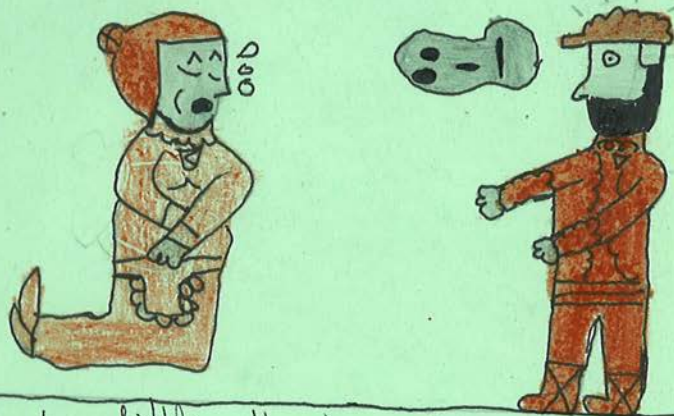
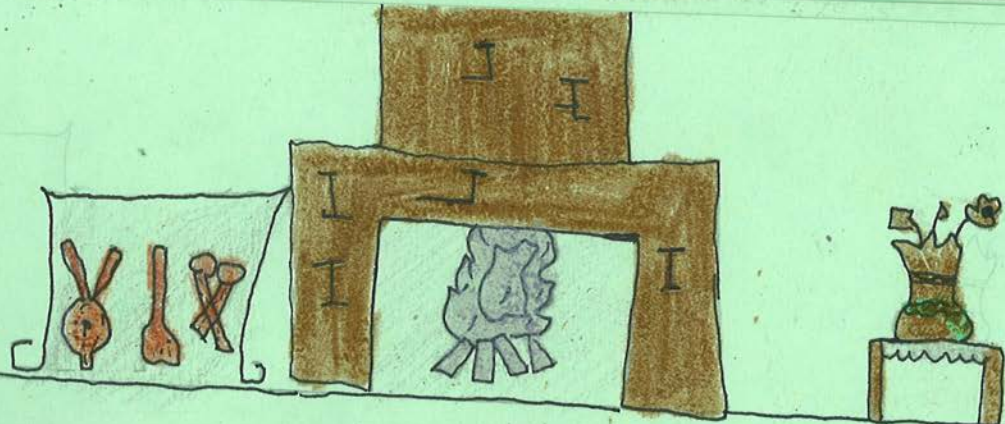
"What happens, mum? You are scaring me"

"Look that stain on the floor. I am frightened. It appeared an hour ago just as I was cooking"

"Let me see. You are right. That wasn't there before. What is it?"

"Can't you see? It is a face. It is a human face. Look! There you can see the eyes, and there is the mouth..."

"Oh dear. I can't believe it. You are right. It is the face of a man with all his features"



Little by little, the stain became more precise and Maria and her son could even see that it was the face of a man with wide eyes and a big moustache.

This issue is scaring me, Miguel. I feel bad. Tell me it is not a joke. Have you drawn that face on the floor? Did you do it as a trick?

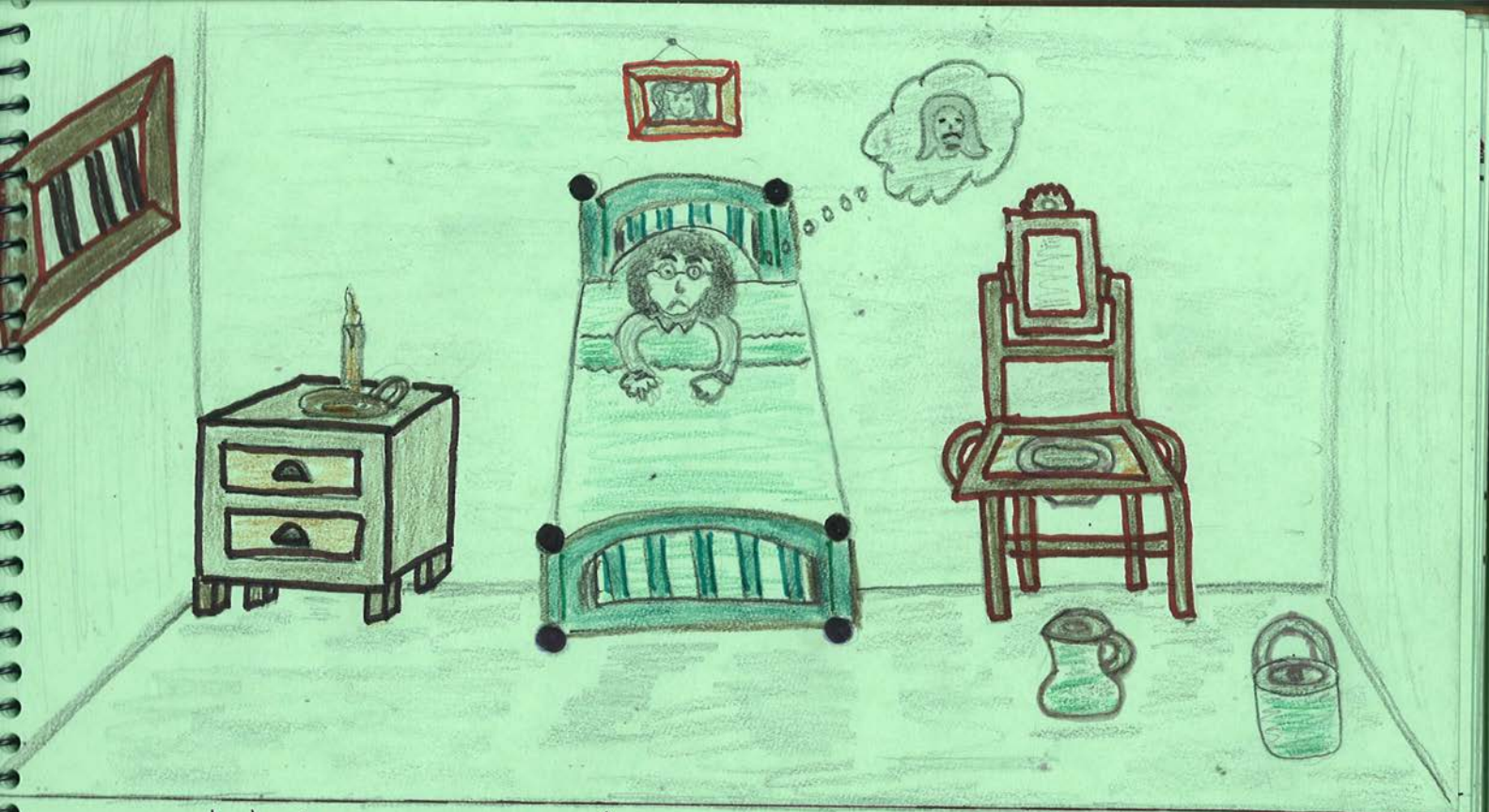
"No way, mum. How on Earth do you think I could ever do it? I have no time for games
I am no kid

"What can we do? This is really terrifying

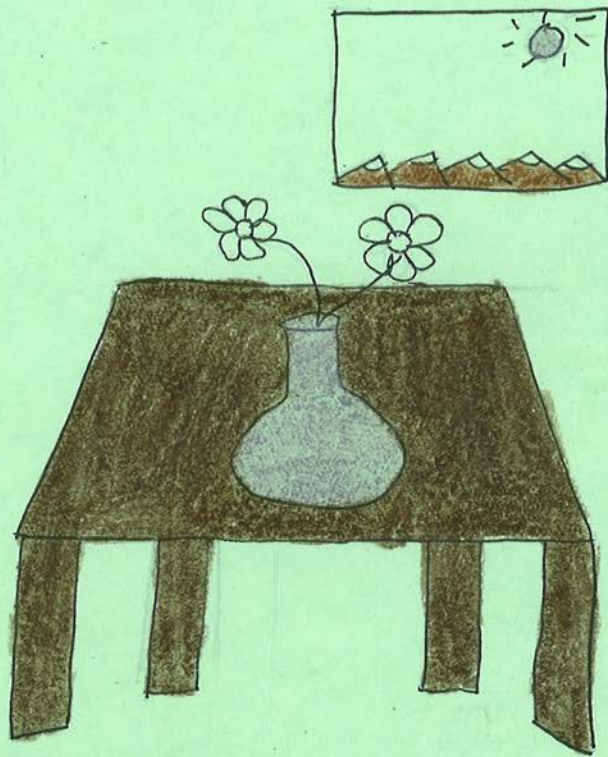
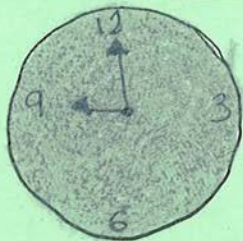
"Let's wait till tomorrow. If the face remains there, we will think about what to do

Alexandro Cervera Cejudo

10A



They didn't have much sleep that night. María, still in the bed, hoped the image would disappear during the night.



When she woke up the next morning, she ran to the kitchen and, in a state of shock, discovered that the face of that strange man with a moustache could still be seen on the floor.



Her son had already left home for work, so Maria called her neighbours.
Neighbours! Friends! Neighbours! Come please come. My house is haunted!!!!

The few neighbours that lived in that area came as soon as they heard Maria.

"What is it, Maria? What's the problem?"

Come and look. Come into my kitchen and you will see.

There is a most strange face on the floor."

"A face on the floor?"

"Yesterday I saw it and I thought it was a dream, a nightmare. But it is still there now. Come and see!"



As it usually happens in small villages, the news spread like gunpowder. All the inhabitants wanted to see this strange phenomenon. Maria's house was always full of people. The news spread all around the region and curious people started to come to Belemez to look at the amazing images.

Sana Khanbouch Ezzini.



Dieguel listened to his mother's pleading and he decided to go further. Therefore, he prepared different tools and at last he

the kitchen floor in order to erase the face. Once it was chipped all over, he put a layer of cement on top of it.

"Mum, this matter is finished. We are free from that horrible face"

Nazaret - Méndez Murillo 10A



Their surprise was huge when, after three days, the face appeared again, right in the same place



Their surprise was huge when, after three days, the face appeared again, right in the same place.



"This can't be true, mum. I can't believe it. There is a layer of cement on top."

I told you it would not be easy. There is something horrible about that face.

It must be an evil thing. I am scared."



Maria was right. She could breathe something supernatural in that kitchen. During the following days, more faces

appeared on the floor, and they started to spread.
all over.



What can we do, Miguel? We have to move to a different house. Let's go. Let's get out of this house.

We are living in a haunted place!"

carmen Pérez Cruz 1^oC

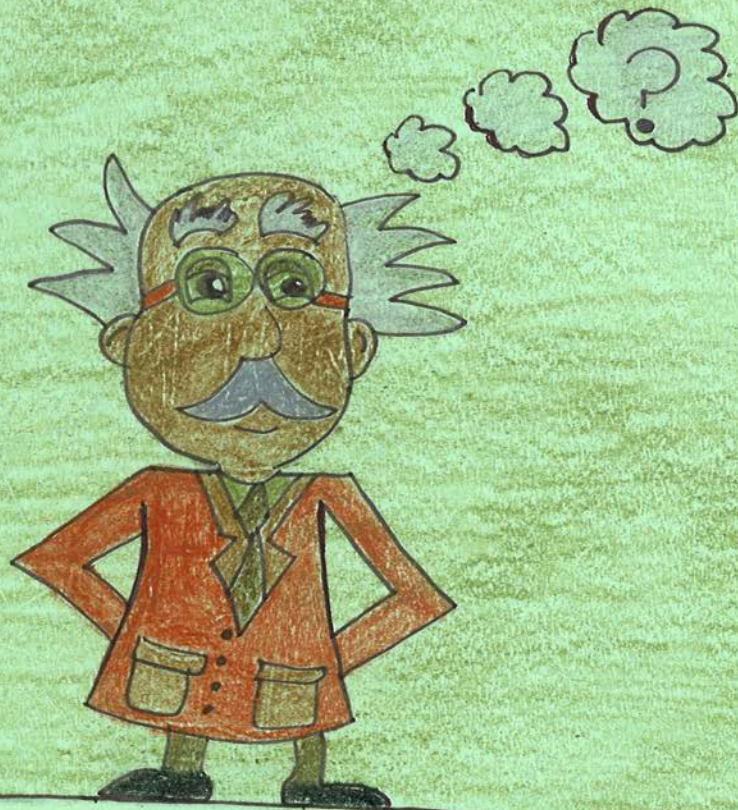


The situation became worse and worse. The faces appeared and disappeared. They moved or transformed into different faces in a continuous way. The faces had already become something so usual in that house that the family finally got used to them.

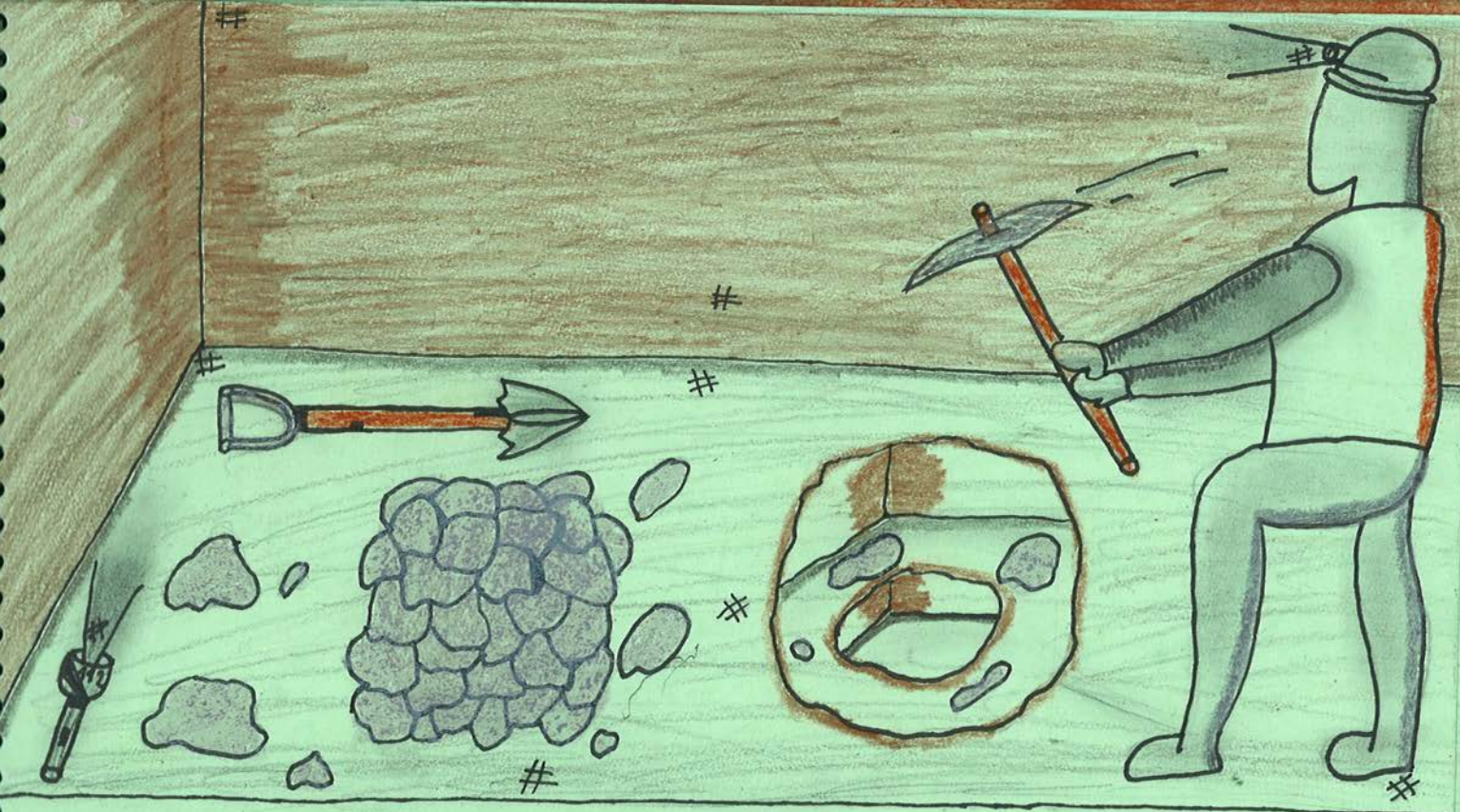
Laura Cabrera Sanchez



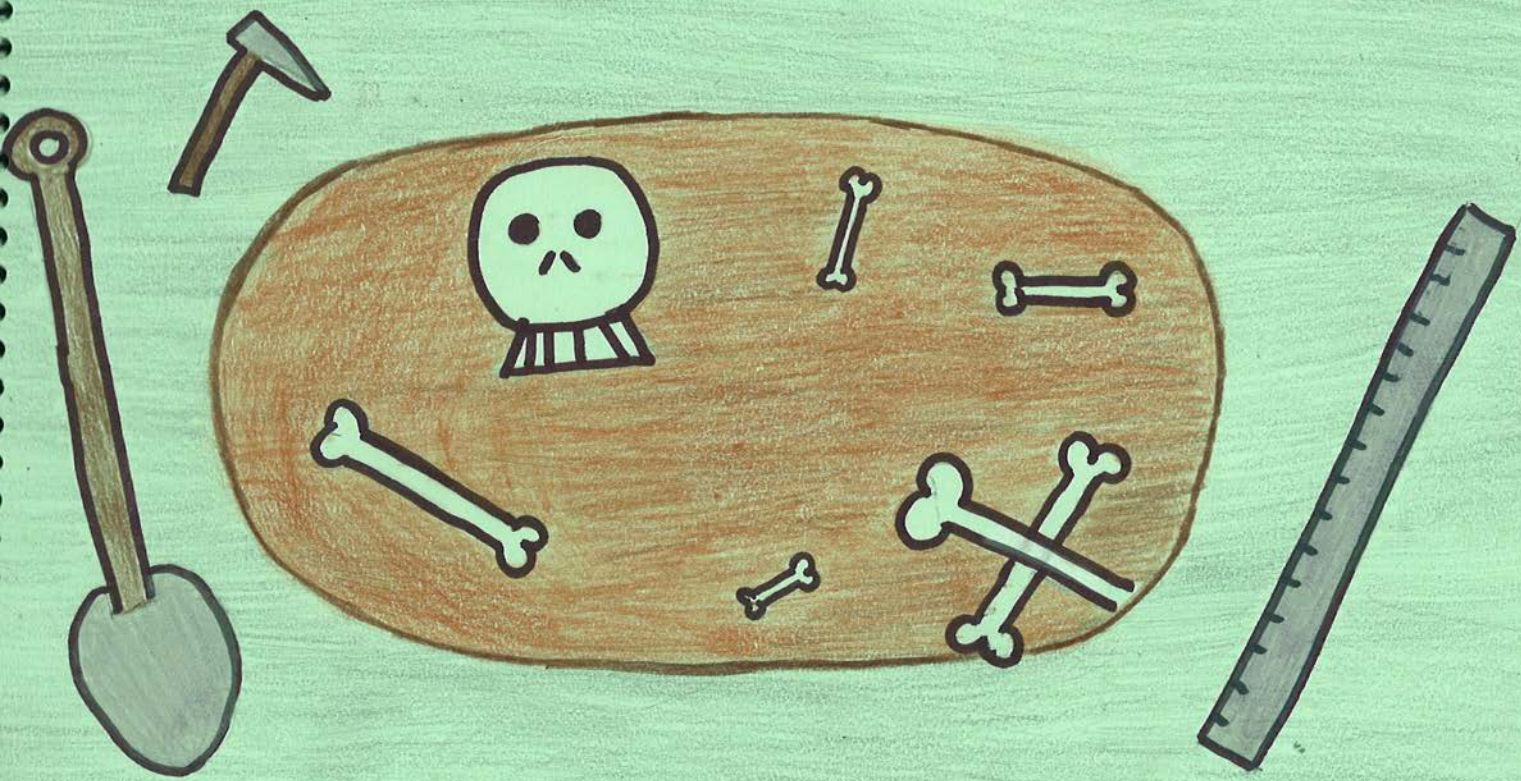
The popularity of the faces of Bélmez grew so much that experts in psychology from all over the world came to study the phenomenon. None of them found a logical explanation for it.



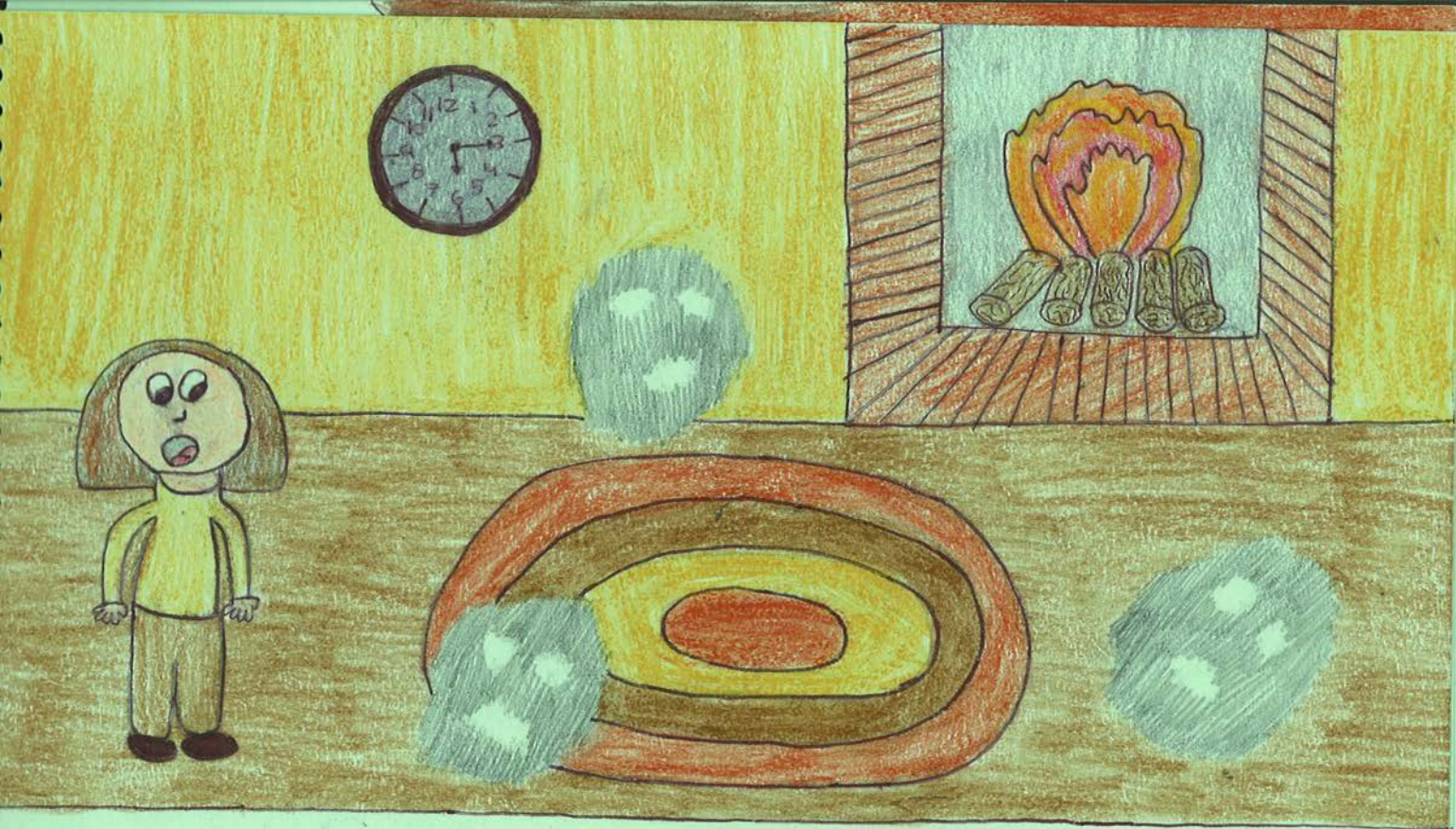
For some of them, these faces were simple images that appeared on floors and walls in a strange way; for others, they were the result of unconscious desires of human beings; finally, other believed that they were physical evidence of people who had died and asked for a favour.



• With time these experts decided to dig under Maria's Kitchen floor.



To their surprise, they found a huge number of human bones and historians discovered that in that same place there had been a cemetery in the 12th century.



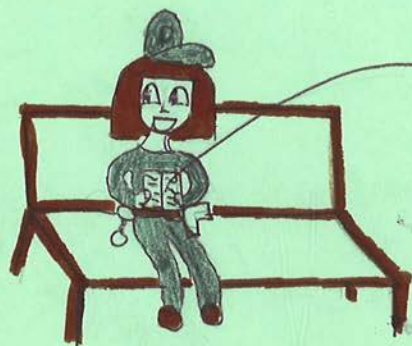
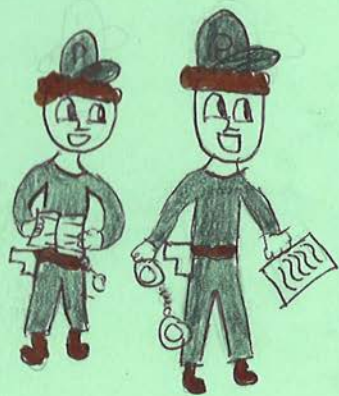
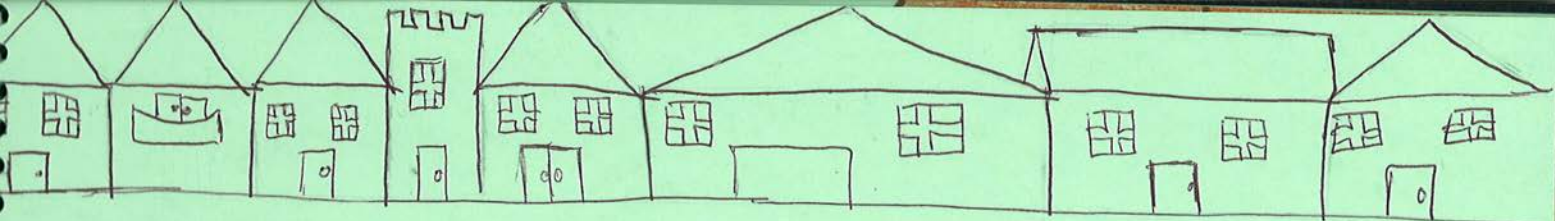
In conclusion, people started to believe that those people who had been buried there needed to communicate with the outside world and their spirits were responsible of drawing those faces on the floor.



In that period Spain was a poor country and people were narrow-minded and very religious, so an occurrence like that

wasn't well received. Because of that the authorities tried to conceal the issue. Different newspaper of the age published story, and spoke of it as a fraud.

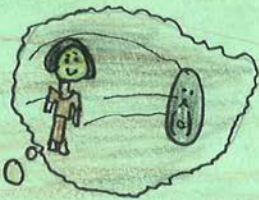
Victor Simón Dragomirov Dragomov 1^oA



because of that the authorities tried to conceal the issue. Different newspapers of the age published the story and spoke of it as a fraud. Police officers came to Belmez to try and silence this issue, but the faces were

always there and it seemed as if they had their
own life.

Nora Mariam Saab Méndez, 10C



The mystery has continued so far. In 2004 Maria died. After her death, there were some years when the faces weakened and almost

Vanished. people commented that Maria's own energy was

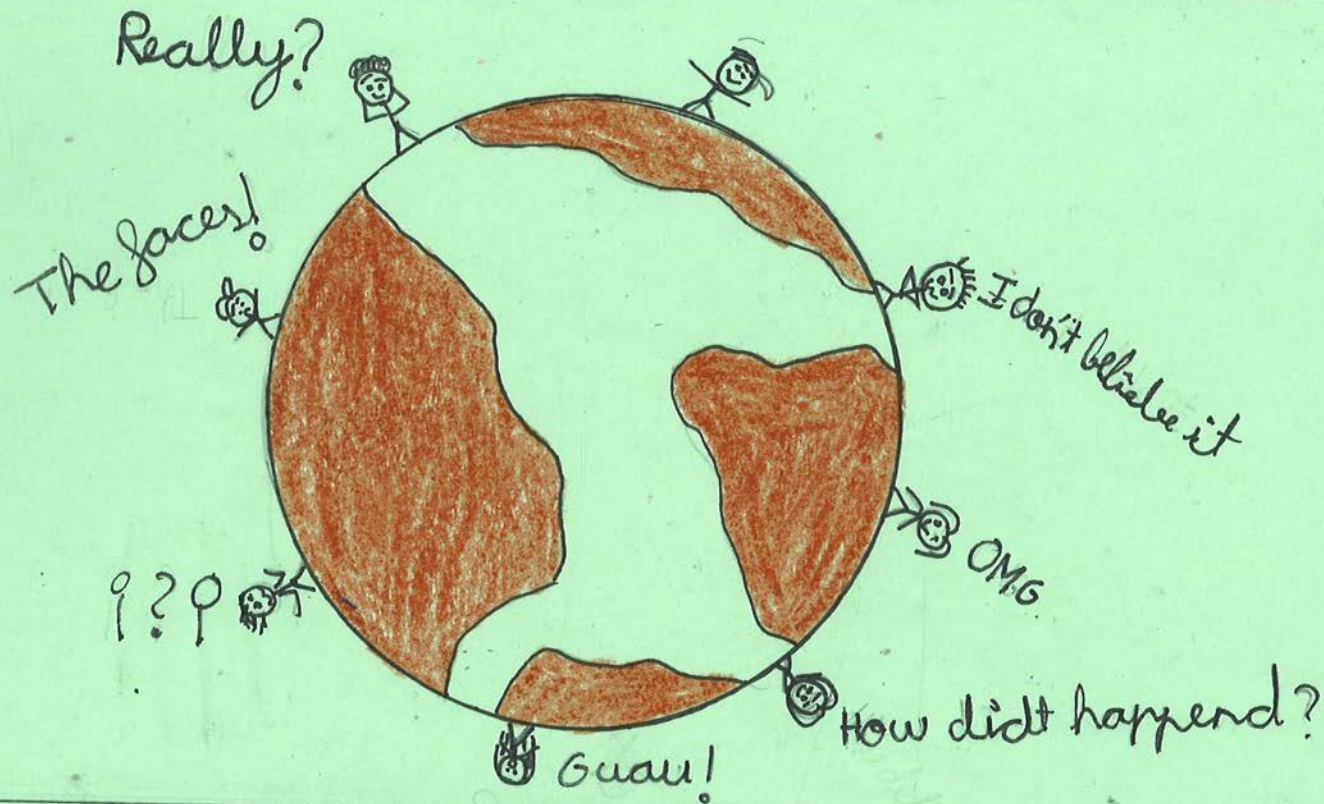
the source of those images



The truth is that many of these faces can still be seen at number 5, Maria Gómez Street. The Council changed the name of the

street as remembrance of Maria

Brahim El Orche 1° B



As she and her faces have taken the name of his small two of Mágica mauntain all over the world. Nobody knows how long the faces of Bélmer will remain in this humfle house

Nobody knows if one day they will disappear the
same way they came. Thanks to them, Margina
mountain can now be called Magic mountain



Ximena Rodríguez Tobaruela 1º A