

# New York City

## Shoshana's Reflection Book





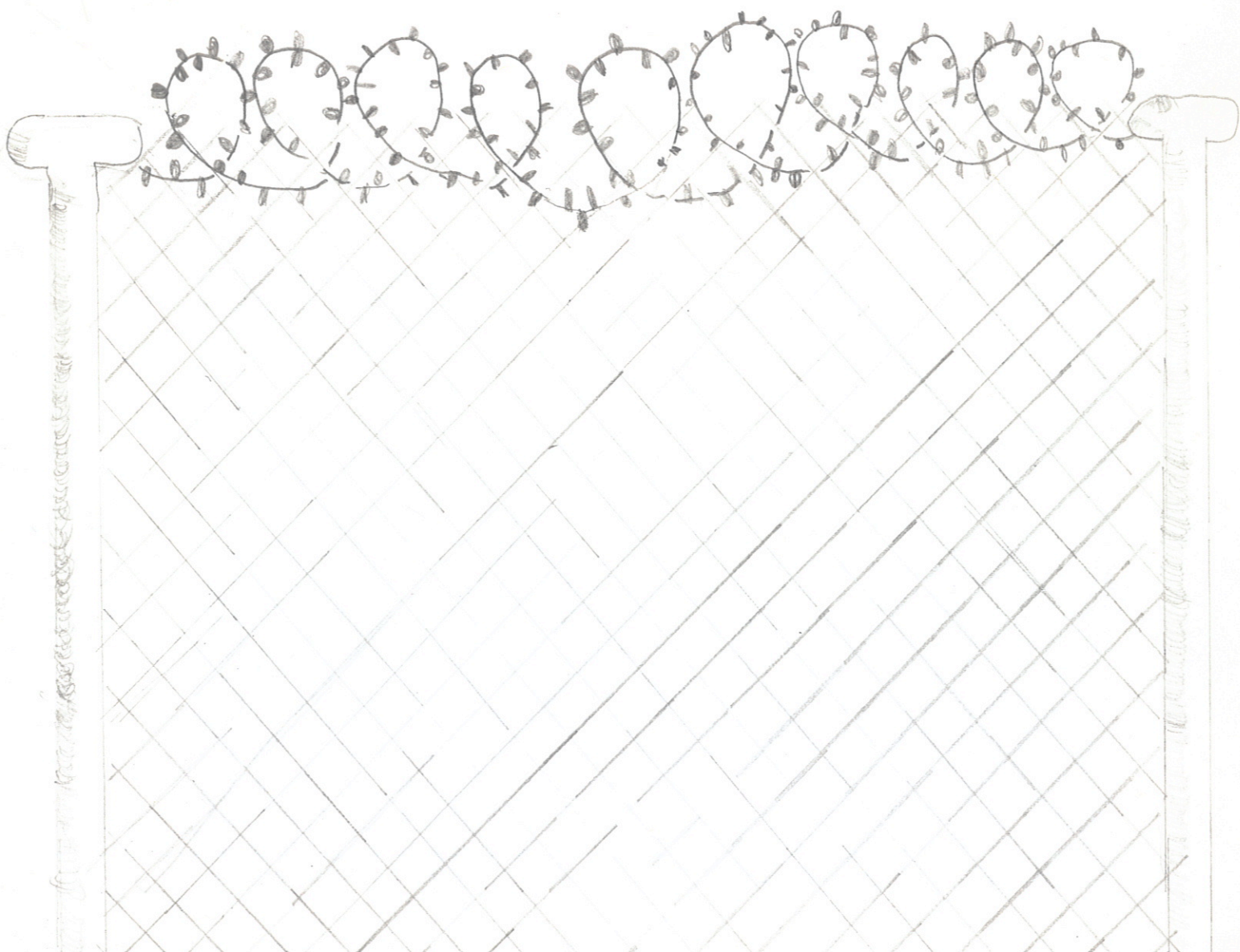
# WELCOME!

TO OUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD





It's Thursday morning. We are driving through Harlem. Litter everywhere! Lots of graffiti on walls, cars, trucks, and just about anywhere you look. Some of the graffiti, like the pictures and murals on the sides of buildings, and the fancy lettering styles were really cool, but when you looked at scribbles or bad words written in illegible script it was disturbing to know that people could be so destructive. Barbed wire covers the top of most fences and there are bars on windows. From the tinted windows of the bus, we see people of all different sizes, ages, and races walking on the sidewalks and lingering in front of buildings. Poor and homeless people dot the streets, standing at bus stops and sitting on park benches. When you see someone leaning over a garbage can, rummaging around for food to eat or bottles to cash in, it makes you realize how much we take for granted the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the warm heated homes we live in.





Looking down on the city of New York from the observation deck of the Empire State building: Whoa, what a view!!! It's windy, cold, scary, and fun up here. When I look down I can see lots of yellow taxi cabs driving along the streets. The Chrysler building off in the distance, catches my eye by shining bright and standing tall. The used-to-be Pan Am building, but now the Met Life Insurance Company building, looks really cool because of its weird shape. It has lots of different sides, I don't know how many, but certainly much more than four. Some pigeons peck at little crumbs that tourists have thrown at them. When we reached the lobby, everybody around me in the elevator breathed a sigh of relief, happy to be on the ground floor safe and sound.





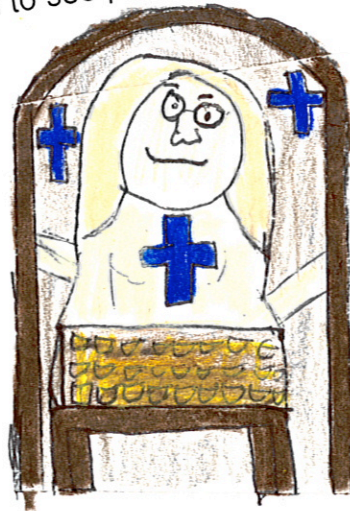




The New York City Public Library had stone steps wider than I had ever seen before. Two big stone lions at either end of the steps welcomed us. Inside the library, I stopped to take a deep breath. "Funky, castle-like, big!" These words came to mind when I walked in. The ceiling is carved in great detail. There is a big sunflower and lots of other designs. When I walked up the stairs to the first floor, I counted 43 marble stairs, then a landing, then another 30 stairs. Then we reached a room with marble floors. Big paintings were on either side of me. One showed Moses receiving the Ten Commandments. There was another one of a mother and son reading a book under a tree. On the way out, I asked a special patrolman named Louie if he was in the movie Ghost Busters, since the New York City Public Library was in one of the Ghost Busters movies. He was. He said that he got to meet all the movie stars.



Inside St. Patrick's Cathedral, it was warm and cozy. The ceilings were vaulted. There were pointed arches. Statues of Jesus, Mary, and other holy people stood in the many alters that lined the isles. Some people are lighting candles. Others are praying and sitting quietly in the pews around me. When I walked around, I got a freaky, kind of spooky feeling. The lights were dim. Some homeless people were sitting and sleeping in some of the pews. It's sad to see people who don't have warm beds and food to go home to.



St. Thomas' Church was lit in a very strange way. When I walked in I could see a white stone wall in the back of the church. The wall was covered in carvings of people who I don't know. Organ music echoed in the background. St. Thomas' is a lot smaller than St. Patrick's Cathedral. It had less pews and fewer candles. Its vaulted ceilings seemed to be made out of wood, not stone like St. Patrick's.





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On the Promenade leading to Rockefeller Center there was a chocolate shop called Teuscher Chocolatier. Chocolates there cost \$46 a pound and they didn't even look that good. In the middle of Rockefeller Center, there was a big ice skating rink. Off one side of the rink there was a big gold-colored statue of angels playing horns. Behind the statue there was a building that looked like a mini version of the Empire State Building. There were stores and flags on flagpoles all around the rink.



Trump Tower: Lots of pinkish, orange marble. When I rode up on the escalator, I started to feel a bit queasy, because it was very high up. There was an inside wall of water falling against one side of the building. I guess you could call it a waterfall. It was about five stories high. The building was really neat! Its exterior was stepped, and on each step there was a tree. The skylights inside the building let you see sides of other buildings. There were lots of fancy stores inside the Trump Tower. We looked at clothing stores and there was one shop that sold truffles for \$35 an ounce. My mom says that truffles are like mushrooms and people search for them in the woods using pigs that ruffle the ground.

We made a special stop at Saks Department Store, where we visited the hat department and tried on a lot of very expensive hats-- big hats, small hats, short hats, tall hats, hats with veils, and hats with tails, and even hats with big bows. My favorite hat was a little red one with cranberries. It looked like the kind of hat that Mary Poppins would wear. Most of the hats cost about \$200 each. When we walked around the store, we had to be careful of the ladies standing in the middle of the aisles ready to spray us with their bottles of perfume.



In Tiffany's the guards looked very uptight. The Tiffany diamond measured at least one inch by one inch. It had a yellowish color. There was lots of expensive jewelry inside glass cases. Rubies, sapphires, gold, silver, something precious, you name it, they probably had it. I didn't think that Tiffany's was all that it is cranked up to be. It's only one big room with glass cases full of jewelry and lots of people standing around behind the counters staring at you in funny ways making you feel like you're not rich enough to shop there.



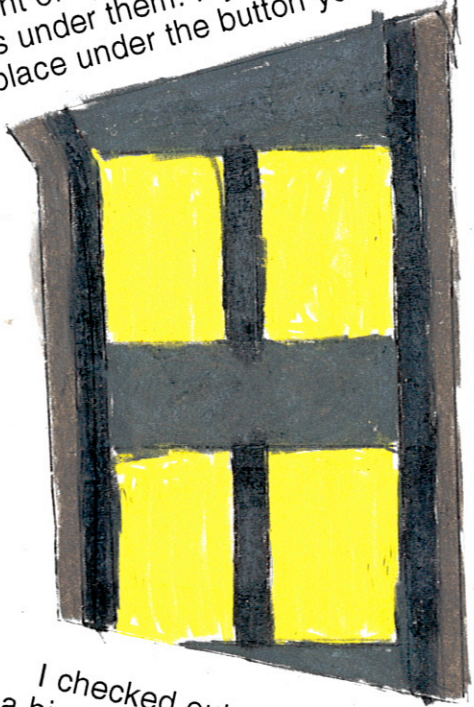


The Museum of Modern Art looks like it is from the Bauhaus era. At the top of the square building there is a cement-type overhang with a row of circular holes in it, kind of like someone came with a hole puncher and had fun. The building is a tannish, cream color. To me that color scheme fits perfectly with the Bauhaus era, but since I don't like Bauhaus-style buildings (they're too plain), I didn't like the Museum of Modern Art. I did like the Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. We passed it while we were driving in the bus. The Guggenheim looks like a little white foldable camping cup.

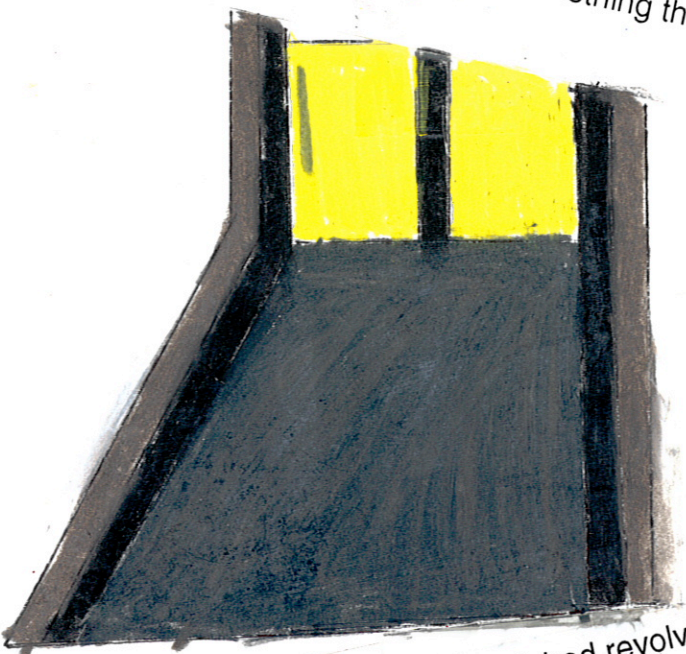




F.A.O Schwartz is huge. There is a little display in front that keeps chanting, "Welcome to My World of Toys." After a while it became really annoying. The toy displays are spectacular. All the stuffed animals were super expensive. The toy elevator shaped like a robot, there is a big stuffed bear, sitting in a car with a little square in front of it. On the square are lots of red buttons, sitting in a car with a little departments under them. If you press a button the bear will start talking and tell you where the place under the button you pressed is located.



I checked out a building that we nicknamed the Number 9 building because it had a big number 9 in front of it. The building was just a tall glass tower with a serif at the bottom. If you stood at the bottom of this building and looked up, it seemed like the structure was leaning over on you. It was a cool effect. In front of this building there was a huge black sculpture of something that I can't name, but it seemed to have horns.

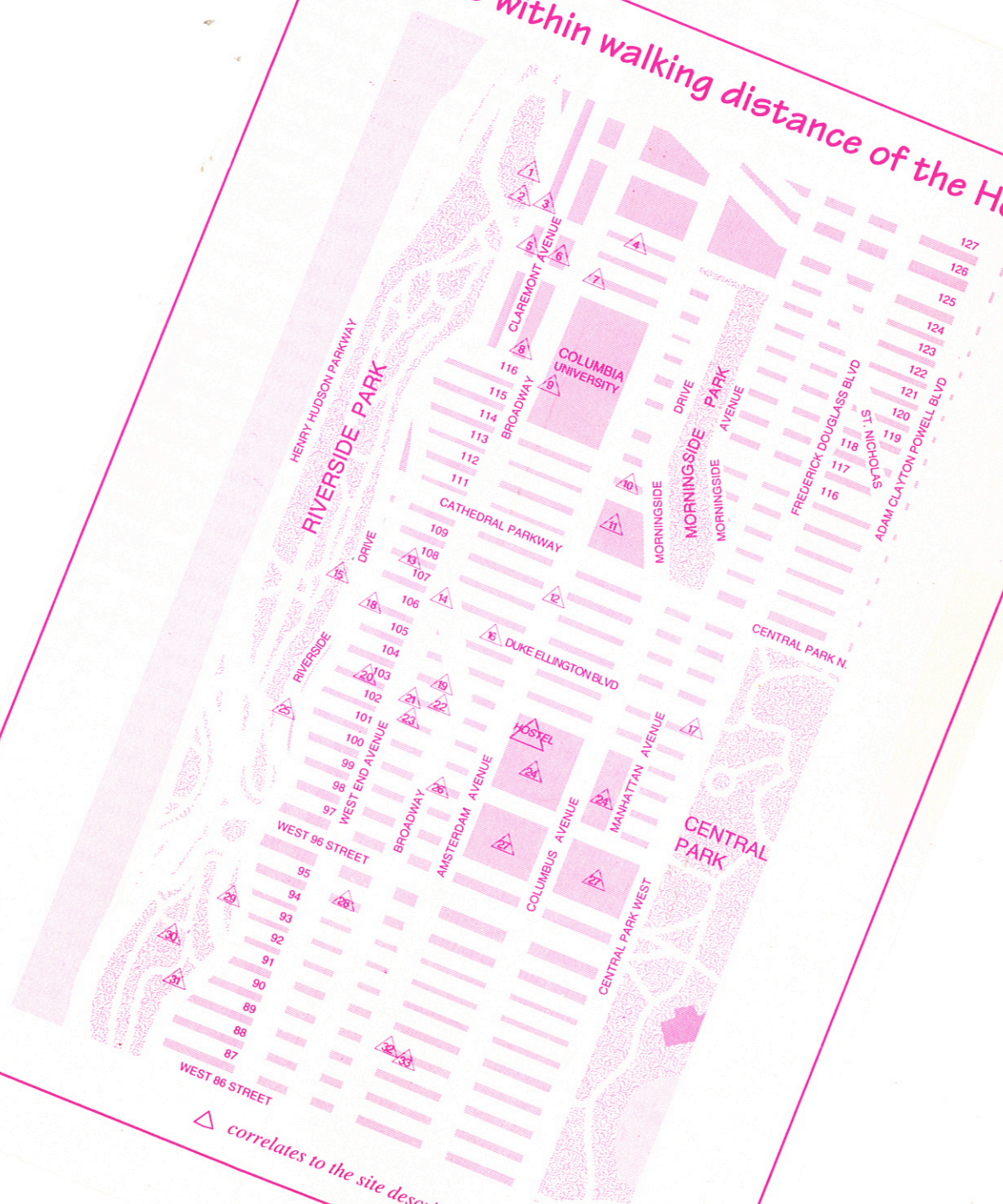


Most of the big buildings in New York had revolving doors to traffic a lot of



At the Youth Hostel, the rooms we stayed in were very comfortable. I pictured cement barracks. The rooms were nothing even close to what I pictured. I'm glad. The floors were carpeted. The bunk beds were wooden instead of metal like I thought. The lock on the door used a credit card instead of a regular key. You would take the card and insert it in a slot in the door. If a green light showed, then the door unlocked. The hostel bathroom had 3 showers, 4 toilet stalls, and a row of four sinks. Our bed sheets were really neat. They were like a sleeping bag with a little slot at the top for your pillow.

### Sights within walking distance of the Hostel



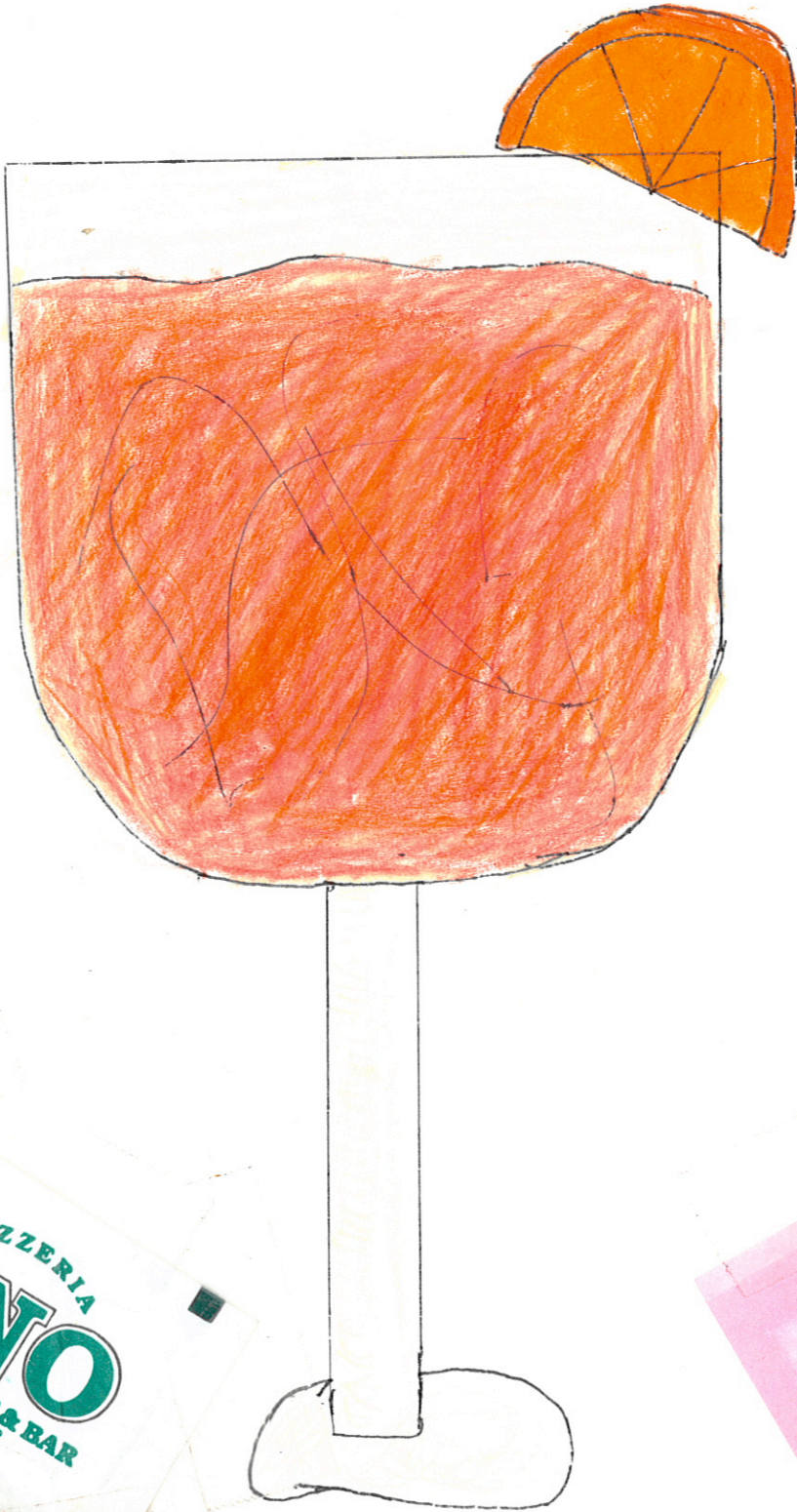
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For dinner on Thursday night we walked to a restaurant called Pizzeria Uno. We ate many slices of pizza, drank Coke, and chatted (not that quietly I might add). During the meal, Josh bought everybody Strawberry daiquiris. Emily W., Katie M., Jya, Kaitlin, Jessica O., and I all sat at the same table, so we shared one. It was really good. It tasted like a Slushy, but different in a better way.





At Cooper Union we went into a computer lab. There, a man showed us some neat animation on a big computer called a super computer. In the program, there were many multi-colored balls floating around. If you clicked on the red ball, it took you to a cluttered room. You were like a fairy flying around the room. If you clicked on an object, you would see a sort of skit. The movie was 3-D and it looked almost like a real cartoon.





When we first drove up to the World Trade Center everybody was oohing and aching. I don't blame them. The World Trade Center is taller than the Empire State Building. When we were buying tickets to ride the elevator to the top, I asked two of the receptionists if they were there when the place was bombed. They both weren't, but if they were, would they even want to talk to some kid who they thought would probably annoy them and interfere with their jobs? The elevators on the way up were huge. The view from what I think was close to the top of the building was spectacular. The Empire State Building looked really puny because it was so far away. I took Lots of pictures of the Statue of Liberty. The statue looked like a little action figure from where I was. Up close, I'm sure it's a lot bigger.









