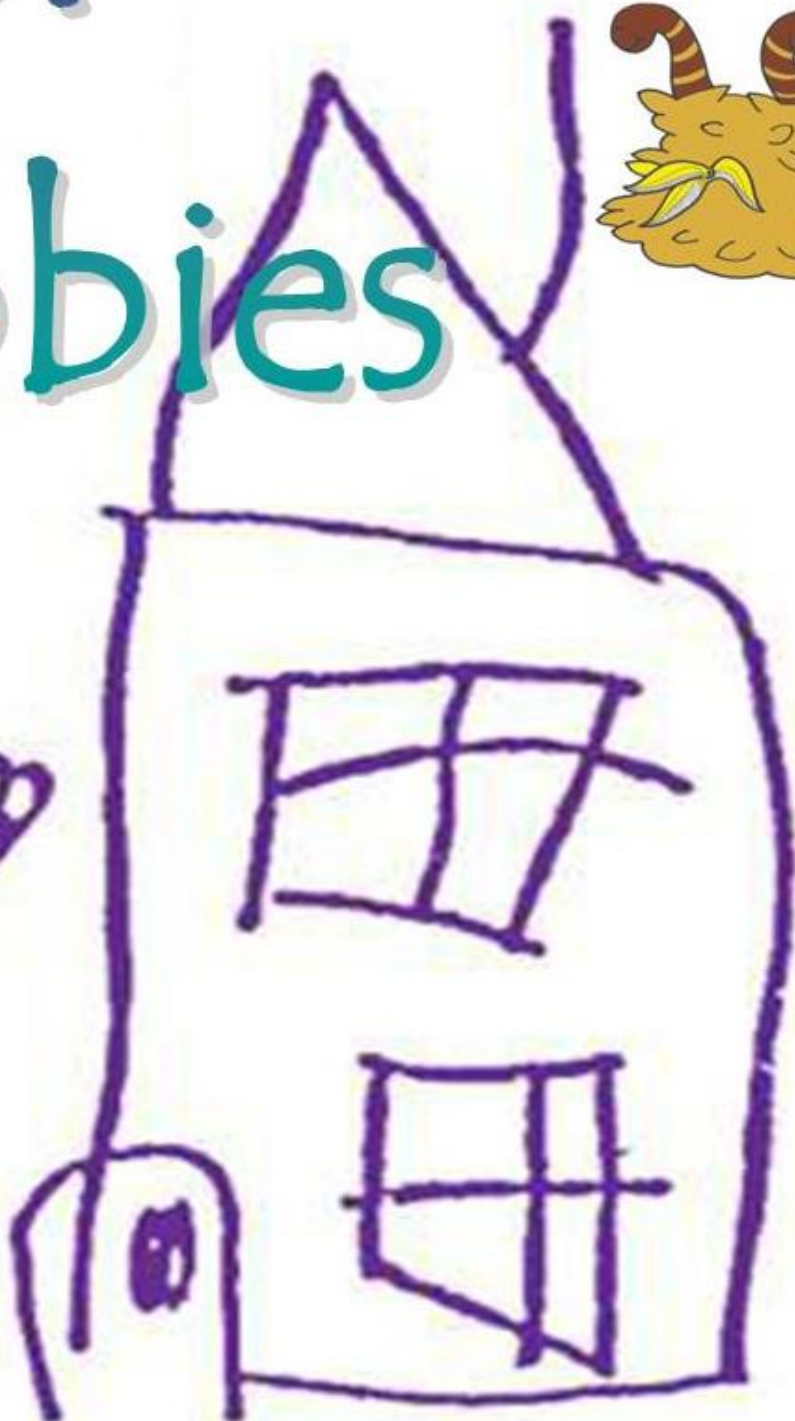




Cool

Cubbies



A Cool Cubby is the short and easy name for a sustainable cubby house. By adding sustainable living components (i.e. rainwater tank, solar panel, veggie garden, native plants, worm farm and weather station) to cubby houses of Community Preschools, they will become 'Cool Cubbies' and demonstrate wise management and use of our key resources, e.g. water, energy, waste and biodiversity.

This project is organised through a collaboration of Rous County Council, Richmond Landcare, Evans River K-12 School Green Team and supported by the Northern Rivers Environmental Trust.

You can find Cool Cubbies in seven Early Childhood Services in the Lismore, Ballina and Richmond Valley council areas. These are the preschools of: Evans Head, East Lismore, Wollongbar, Lennox Head, Alstonville Baptist, Ballina Fox Street and Lismore Parish.

Written by: Barbara Jensen

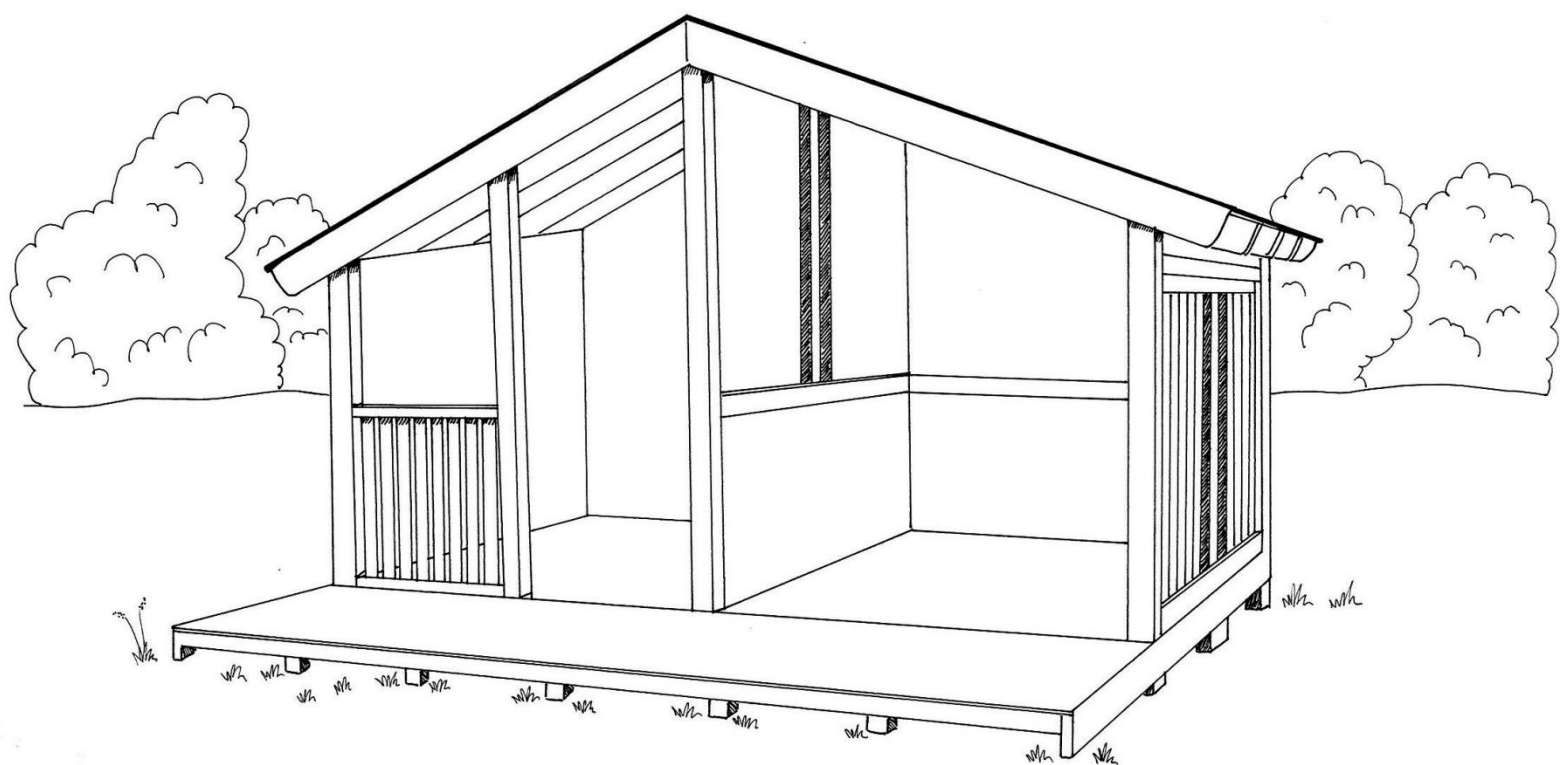
Artist: Johanna Kempff

Book designer: Anne Storer



Today at Preschool, Scarlett, Coco, Darcy, Lachlan, Sophie, Lilly and Taj were playing in the cubby house.

“Our cubby is special!” said Scarlett, “it can be a spaceship, office, hospital, fire station and many other things. Today, our cubby is our house”.



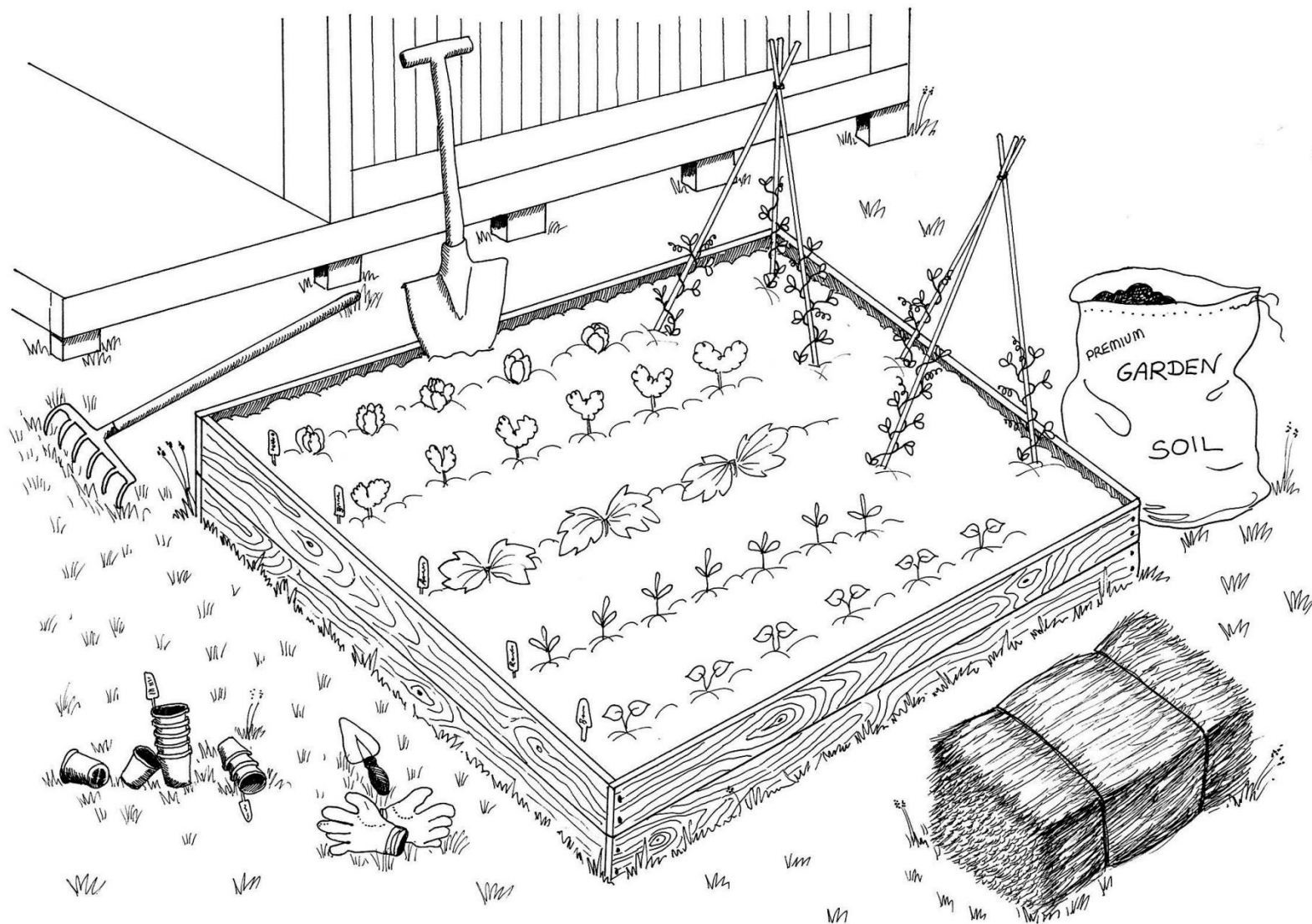
“What a great house,” said Janelle, the teacher. “But you know, I think there is something missing. Where do you grow the food?”

“Of course,” said Scarlett, “we need a veggie garden.”



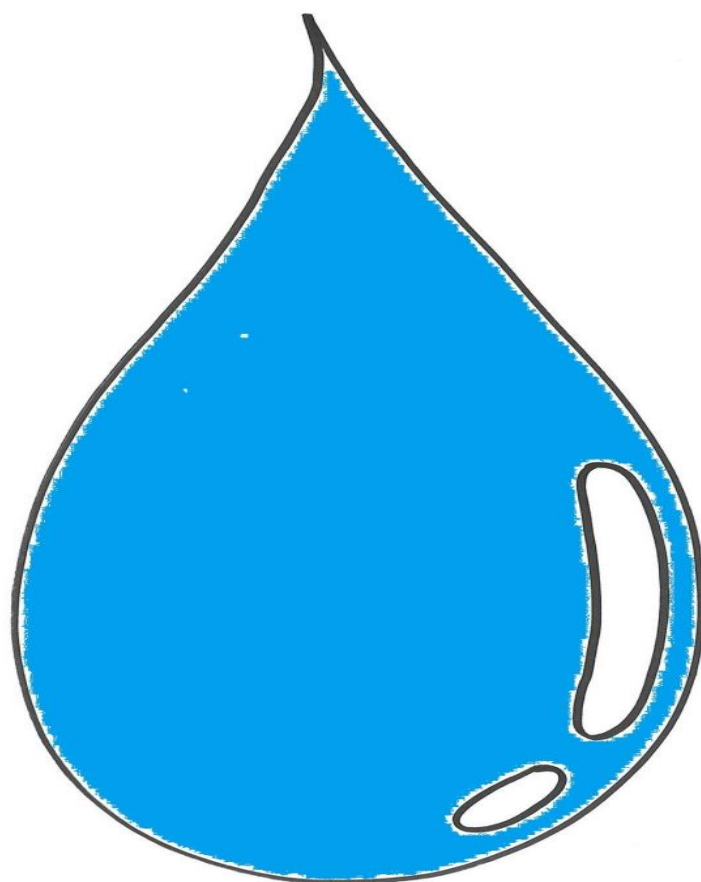
Together they organised the garden bed,
soil, mulch and seedlings.

“Cool,” said Scarlett.



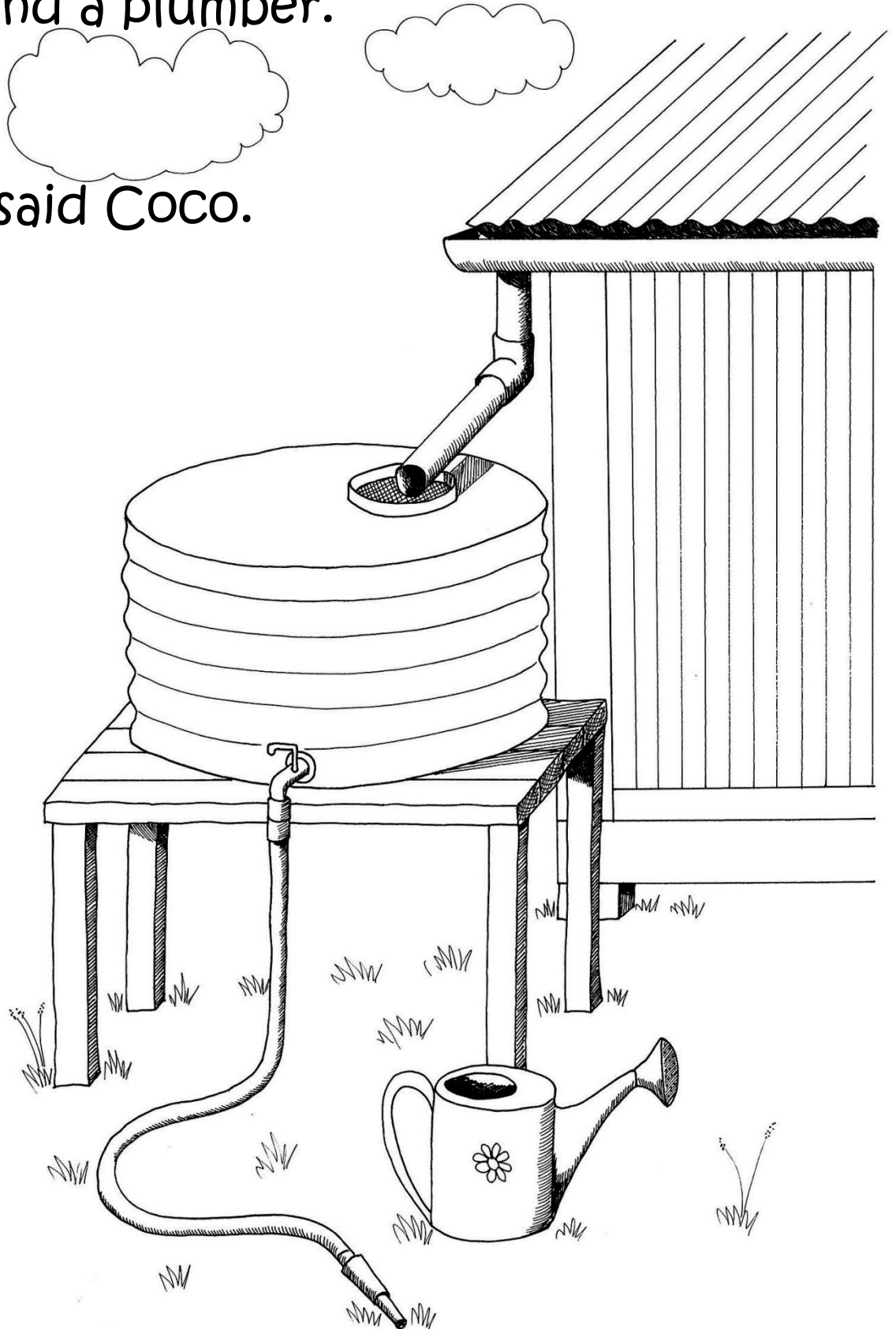
“What a great house,” said Janelle. “But you know, I think there is something missing. How will you water the veggies?”

“Of course,” said Coco, “we need a rainwater tank.”



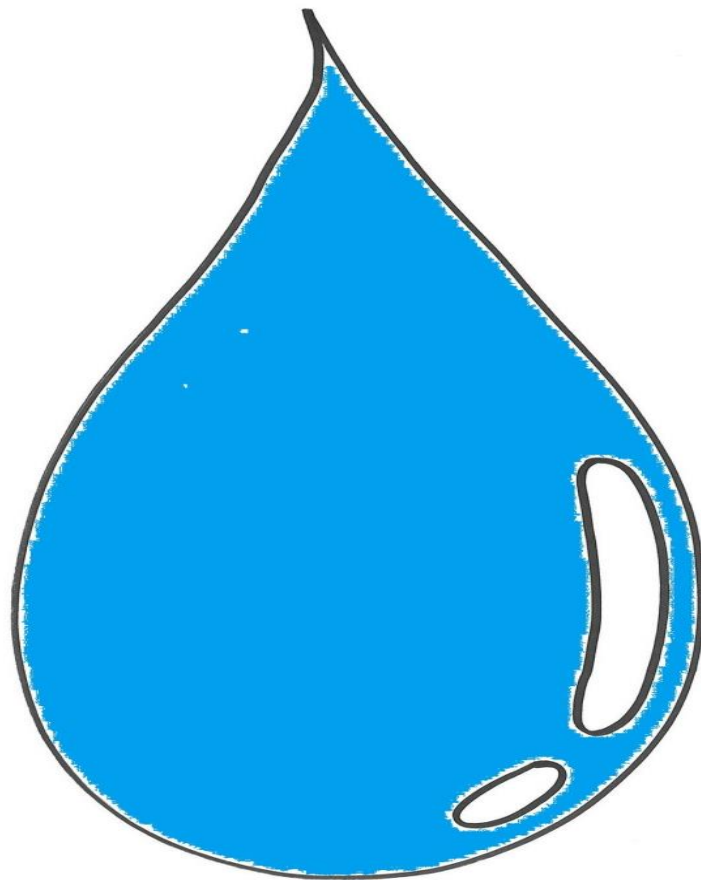
Together they organised a tank, tank stand, downpipe, guttering, tap, hose, hose nozzle and a plumber.

“Cool,” said Coco.



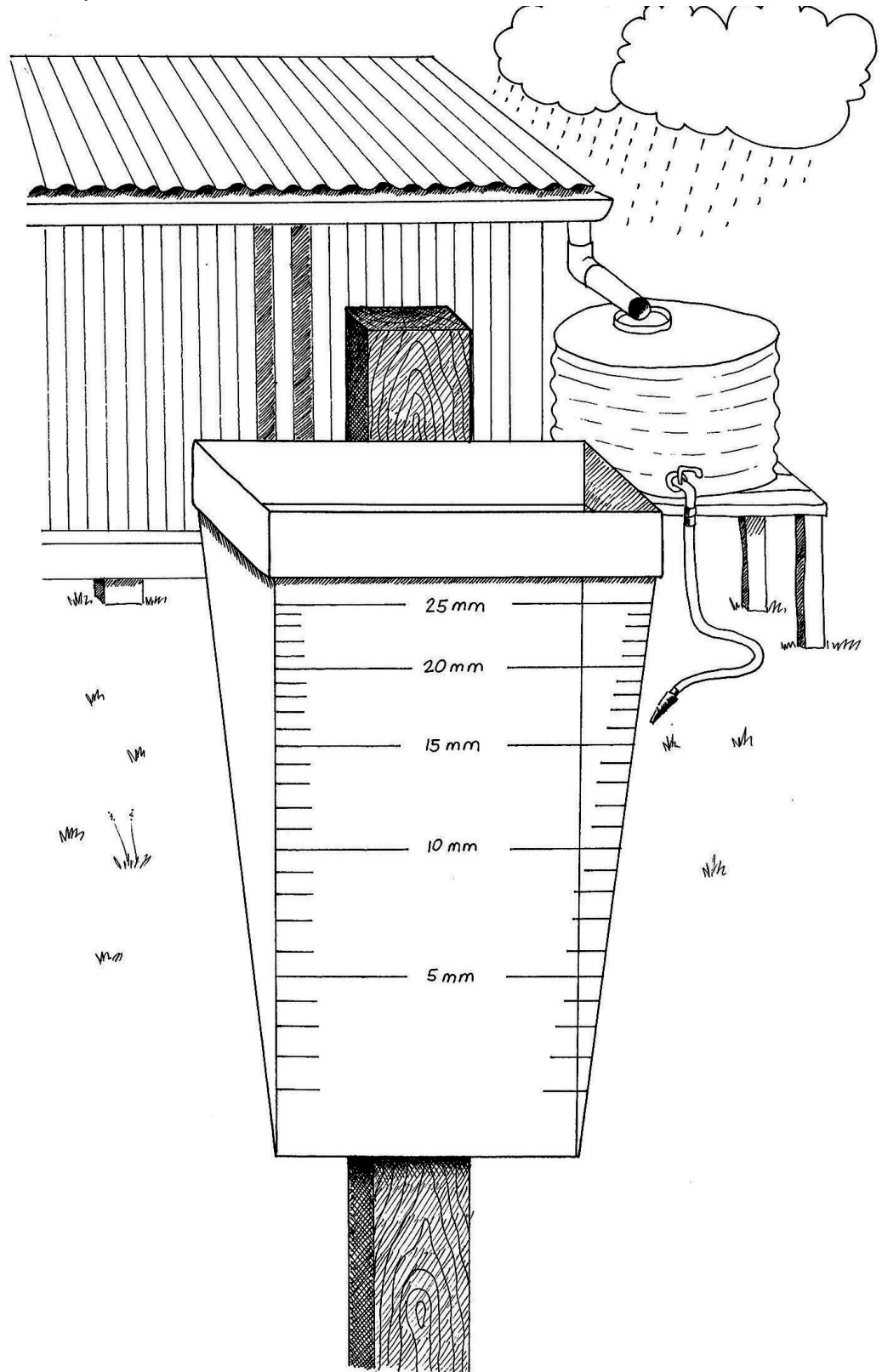
“What a great house,” said Janelle. “But you know, I think there is something missing. How do you know how much rain fell in the tank?”

“Of course,” said Darcy, “we need a rain gauge.”



Together they organised a pole and gauge.

“Cool,” said Darcy.



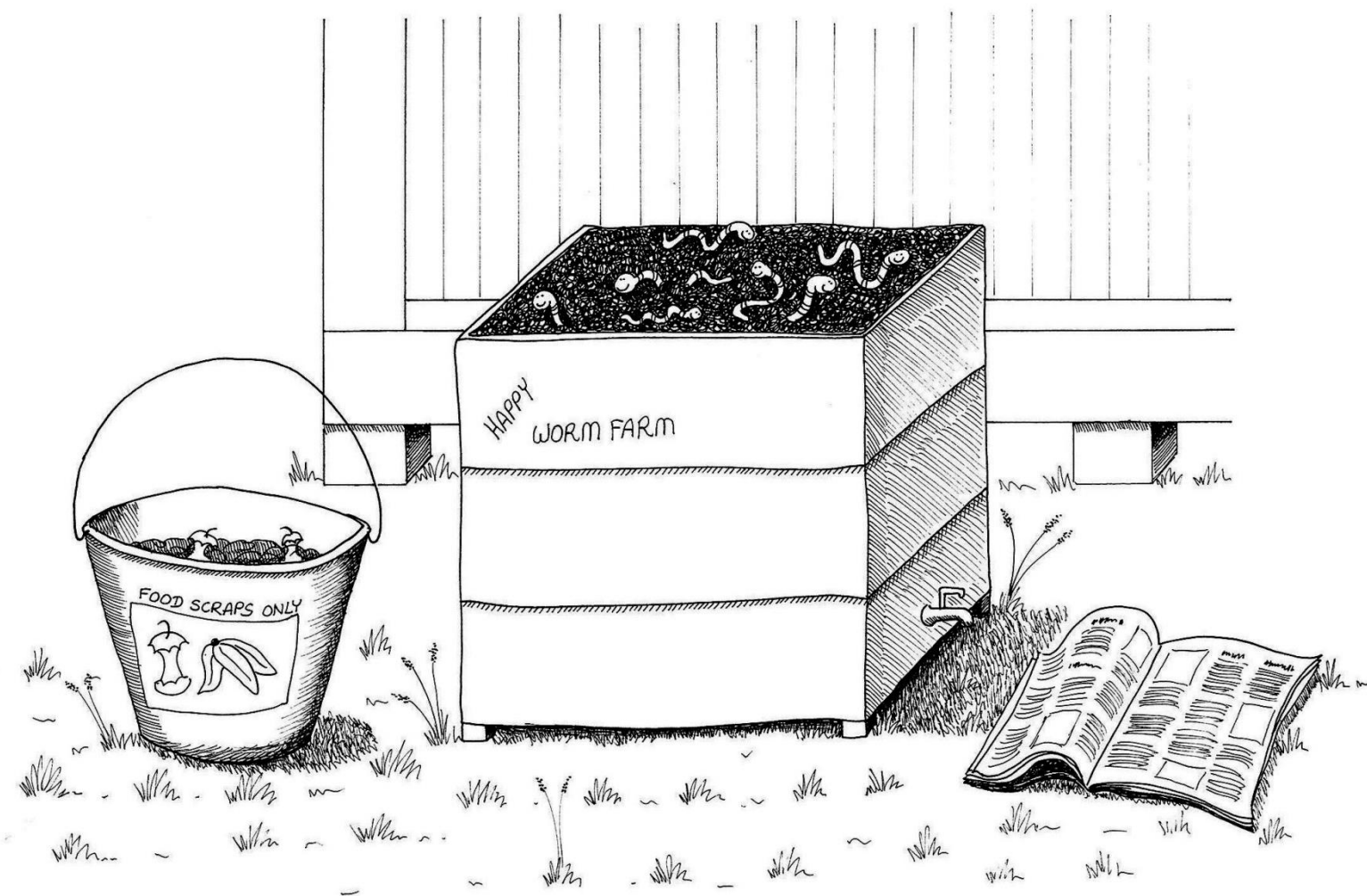
“What a great house,” said Janelle. “But you know, I think there is something missing. How will you keep the soil healthy?”

“Of course,” said Lachlan, “we need a worm farm.”



Together they organised a worm farm, newspaper and a bucket for food scraps.

“Cool,” said Lachlan.



“What a great house,” said Janelle. “But you know, I think there is something missing. Where can the native birds, butterflies and insects find food or shelter?”

“Of course,” said Sophie, “we need local native plants.”



Together they organised native plants,
mulch and a LandCare helper.

“Cool,” said Sophie.



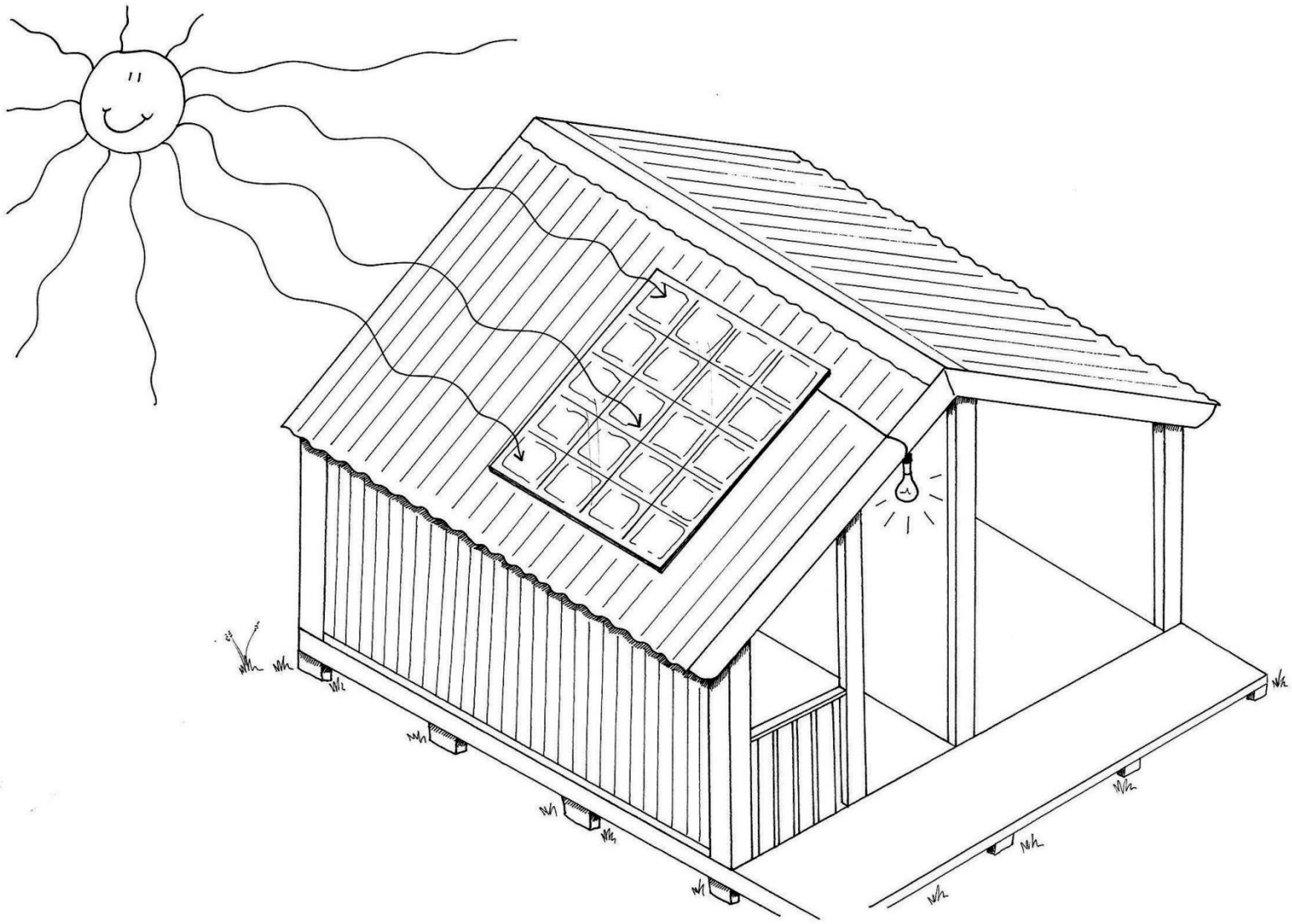


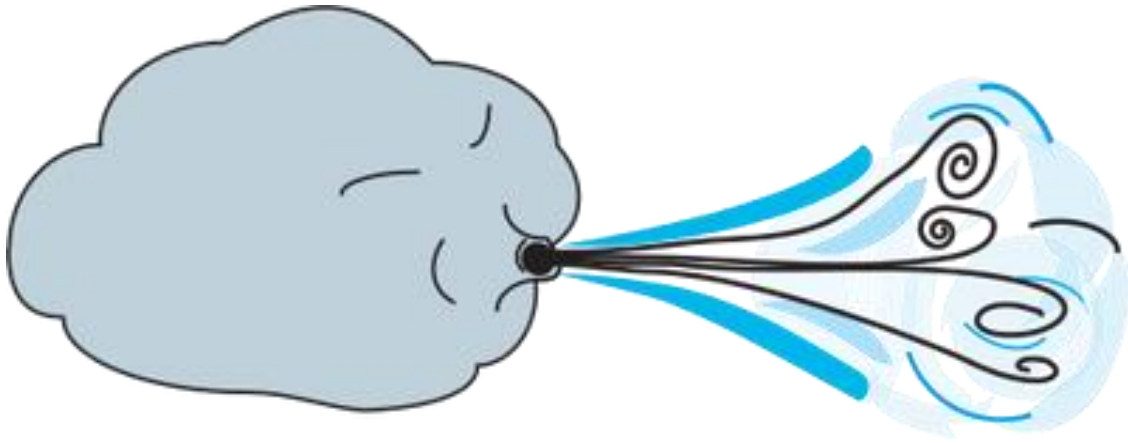
“What a great house,” said Janelle. “But you know, I think there is something missing. How will you power lights for the house?”

“Of course,” said Lilly, “we need a solar panel to collect the sun’s energy.”

Together they organised a panel, light bulb and an electrician.

“Cool,” said Lilly.



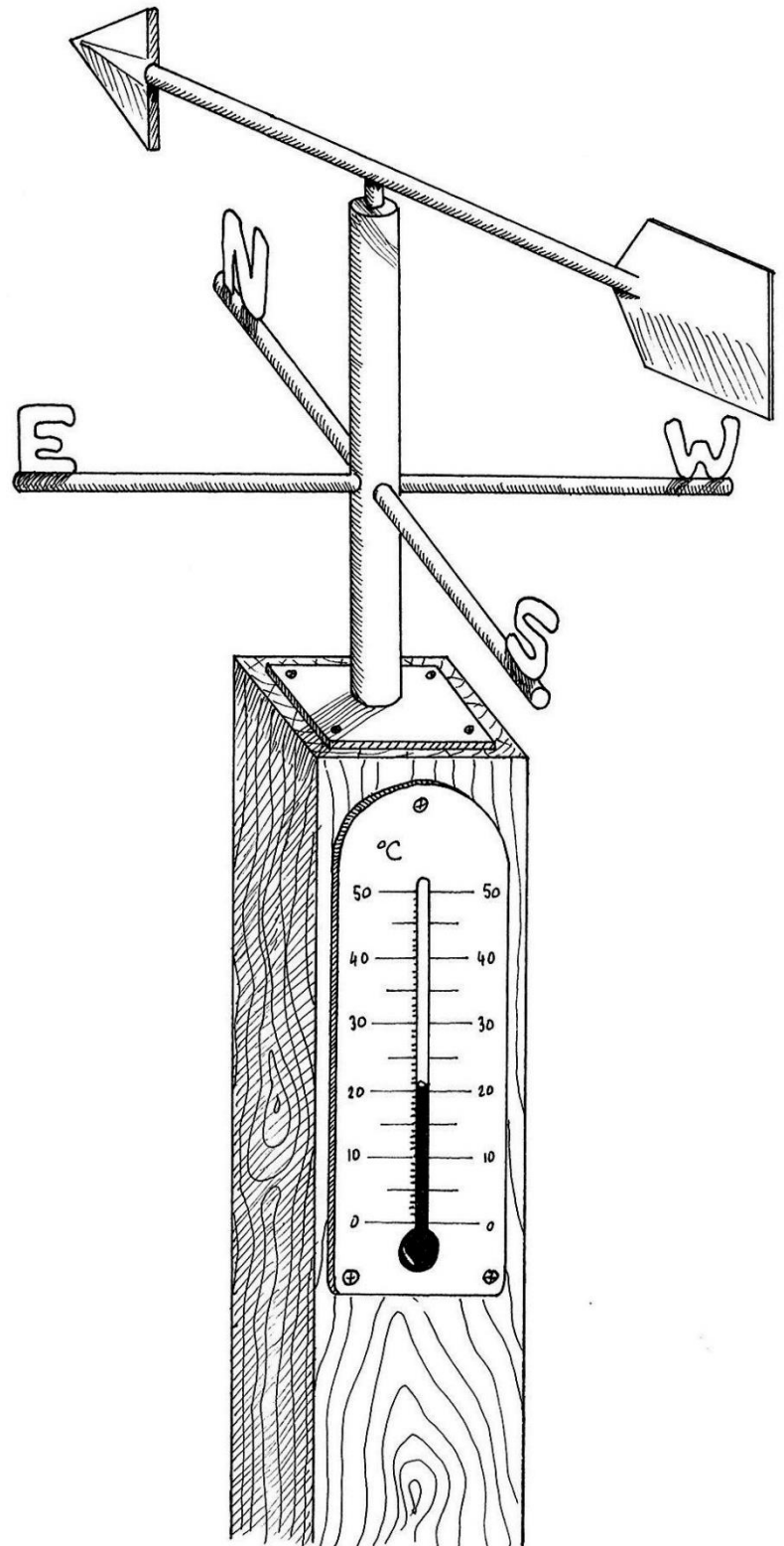


“What a great house,” said Janelle. “But you know, I think there is something missing. How do you know about the wind direction and the temperature?”

“Of course,” said Taj, “we need a weather station.”

Together they organised a pole, wind vane and thermometer.

“Cool,” said Taj.





“Now it is a special house,” said Janelle.

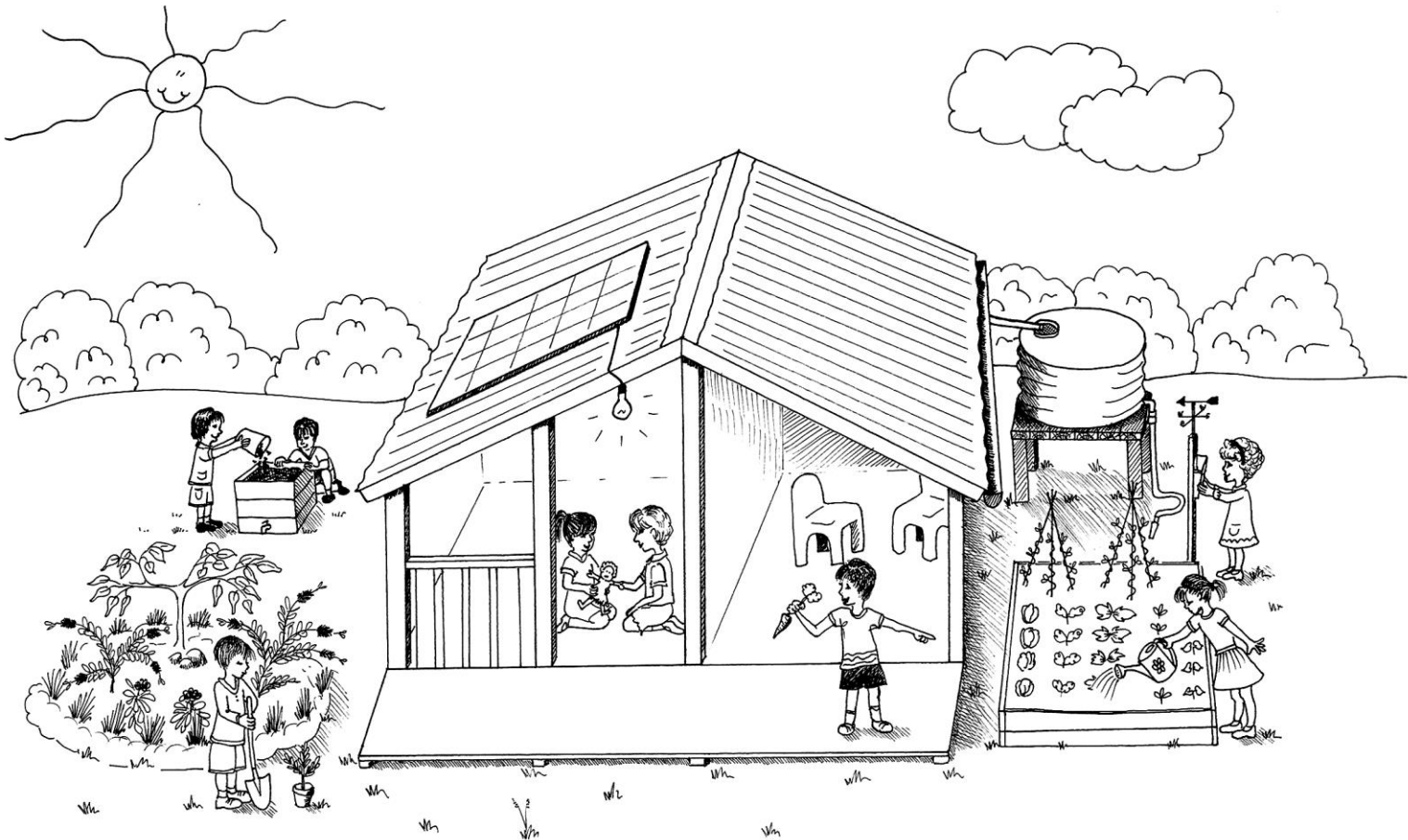
“It has a veggie garden, rainwater tank, rain gauge, worm farm, native plants, solar powered lights and a weather station.”

“But you know, I still think there is something missing. What is it called?”



Amazingly, almost at the same moment,
Scarlett, Coco, Darcy, Lachlan, Sophie,
Lilly and Taj all had exactly the same idea.

“It’s our Cool Cubby,” they said.



And so, it was!



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