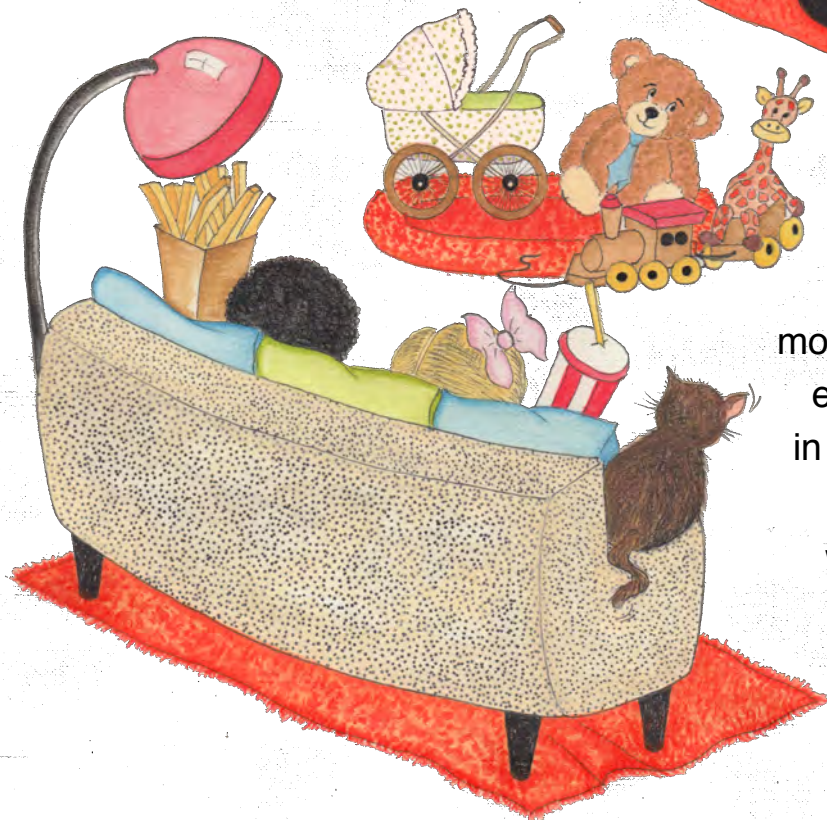
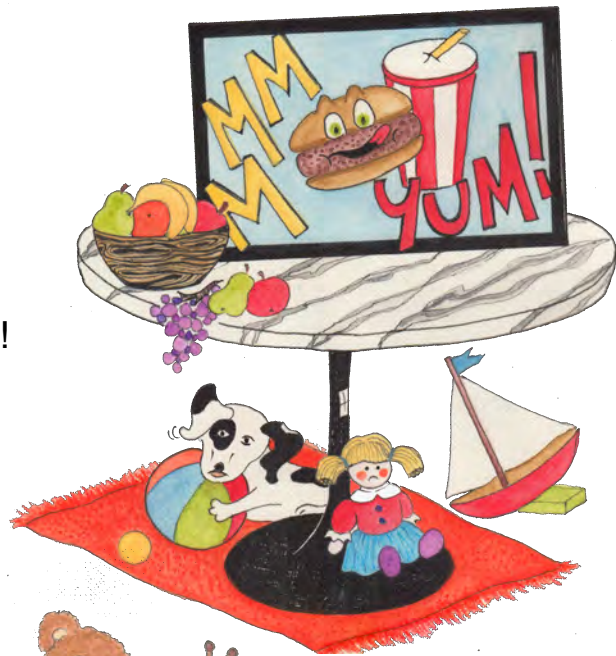


*R*ecently, there was a time
when burgers, hot dogs, sodas,
donuts and fries were the kids'
best, best friends.

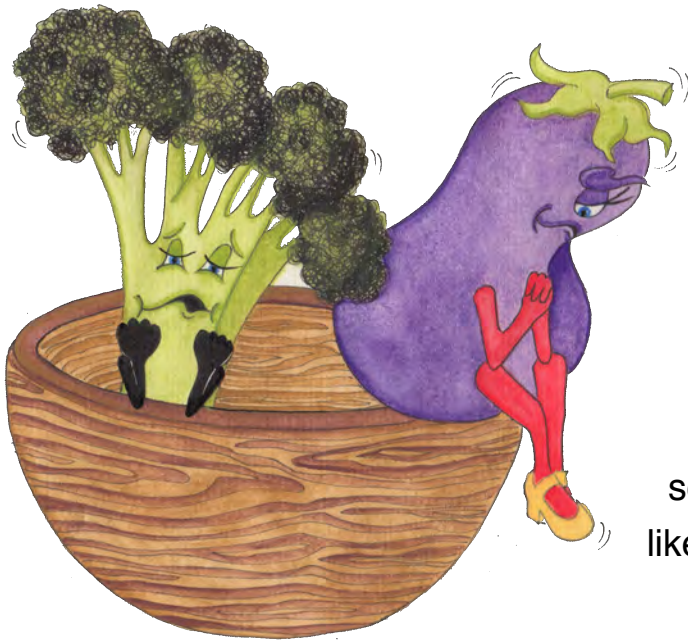
Fast Food they were called,
and kids were crazy about them!
They took them everywhere:
to school, to the playground
and to playdates,



more and more *frequently*
ending up on a couch
in front of TV with them,
where the kids
were reminded over
and over again
“Fast Food is
DE-LI-CIOUS!”

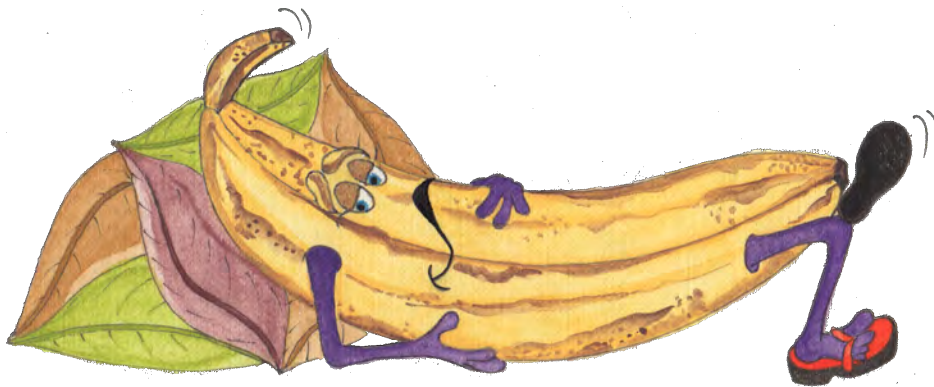
Recently: Not long ago

frequently: often, many times



Meanwhile, in awe of these best, best friends, the kids had stopped paying attention to some important old friends like the fruits and vegetables.

They were forgotten.
There was no word on TV about the fact that fruits and veggies are great.
There was NO reminder of how delicious they are and good for the kids!
The Fruits and veggies were very *saddened* by the fact that the kids would not let them into their games and lives anymore!



Meanwhile: At the same time

in awe: amazed by, impressed by

saddened: made very sad

They even dressed themselves up with the extra delicious help of cheeses and nuts to attract the kids' attention, *to no avail!* "What are we do do?" The fruits and veggies kept asking each other *longingly*.



to no avail: with no success

longingly: with great desire (to please)



One day a clever apple, the *wisest* of the fruits, had an idea.

“What if we run a relay with the fast food to show the kids who is REALLY fast?”

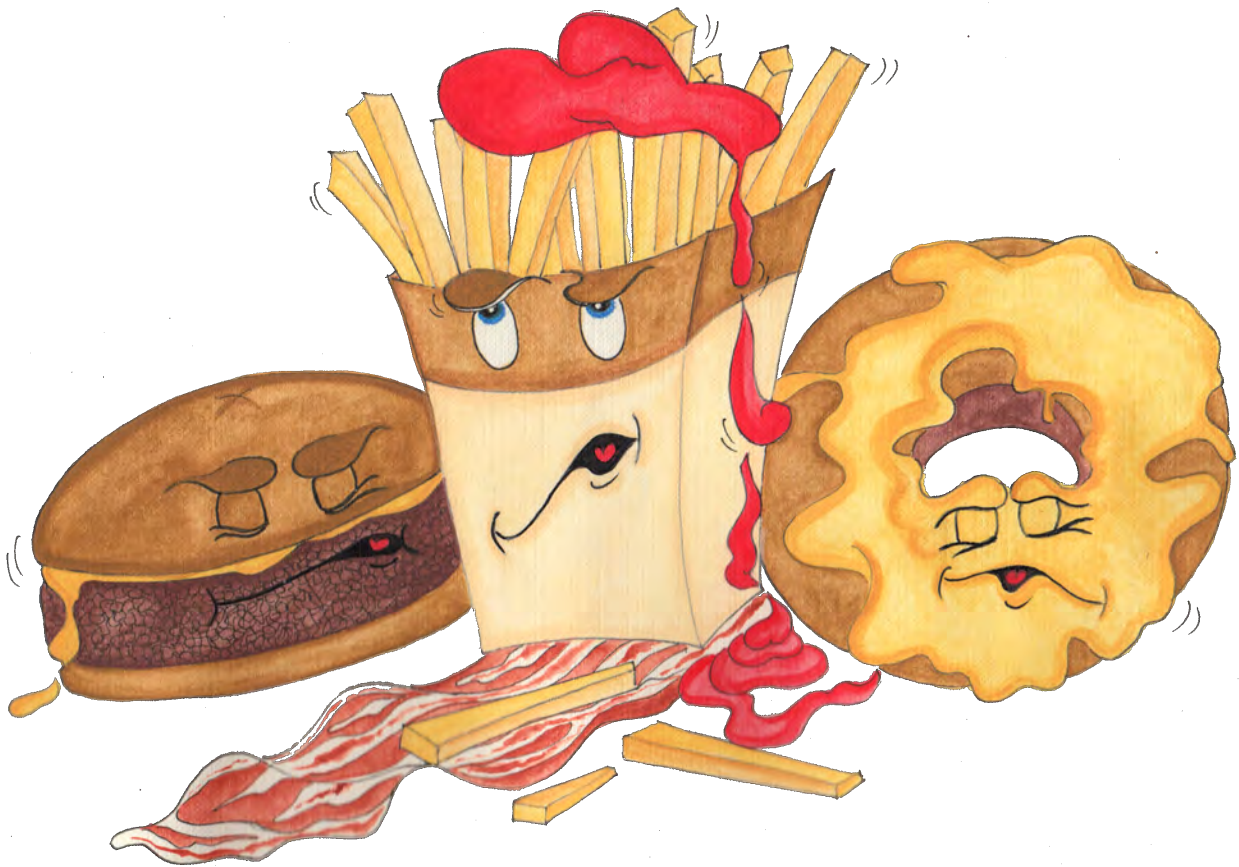
The fruits and veggies loved the clever apple’s *brilliant* idea!

“YEAH!” “LET’S DO IT!” they cheered.

wisest: smartest

brilliant: very smart

The fast food, pretty full of themselves, didn't see any *harm* in the challenge. "Come on, aren't WE the Fast Food?", they told themselves with a *smirk* and rolling eyes.



harm: danger, loss

smirk: grin

The race started.

Fred, the bossy carton of fries, sprinted and took the lead over Amelia, the wise apple, who was advancing at a *steady*, balanced pace.



Fred looked *sarcastically* back at Amelia and laughed out loud *hooting and hollering*, “HA! HA! We are winning already!”

steady: regular

sarcastically: with derision, making fun of

hooting and hollering: laughing aloud and yelling