

Stone Soup

The Magazine by Young Writers & Artists



"Cycling," by Yeoh Su Wen, age 8, Malaysia

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Vines, exotic flowers, lions, monkeys—the magic book has come to life!

LOVE — A CURSED BLESSING

Akash writes a moving memoir of his family life these last few years

Also: Illustrations by Tiger Tam and Zoe Hall

Falling Trees and Riddles

By Sabrina Wong

Illustrated by Aditi Laddha

SABRINA HAD BEEN preparing for this for weeks. The small girl, with the statuesque figure and her hair pulled tightly back into a high ponytail, surrounded by a foil scrunchie, looked radiant in her amethyst team leotard. She sparkled, not so much from the glittery rhinestones sewn to her chest in a waterfall formation going off like a thousand shimmering flashbulbs with every move, but from a genuine smile that poured out, "I am happy to be here. This is *my* sport." Her cheerful face and the flame that burned brightly from the depth of her soul could light up any darkened corner. The day of the big meet had finally arrived!

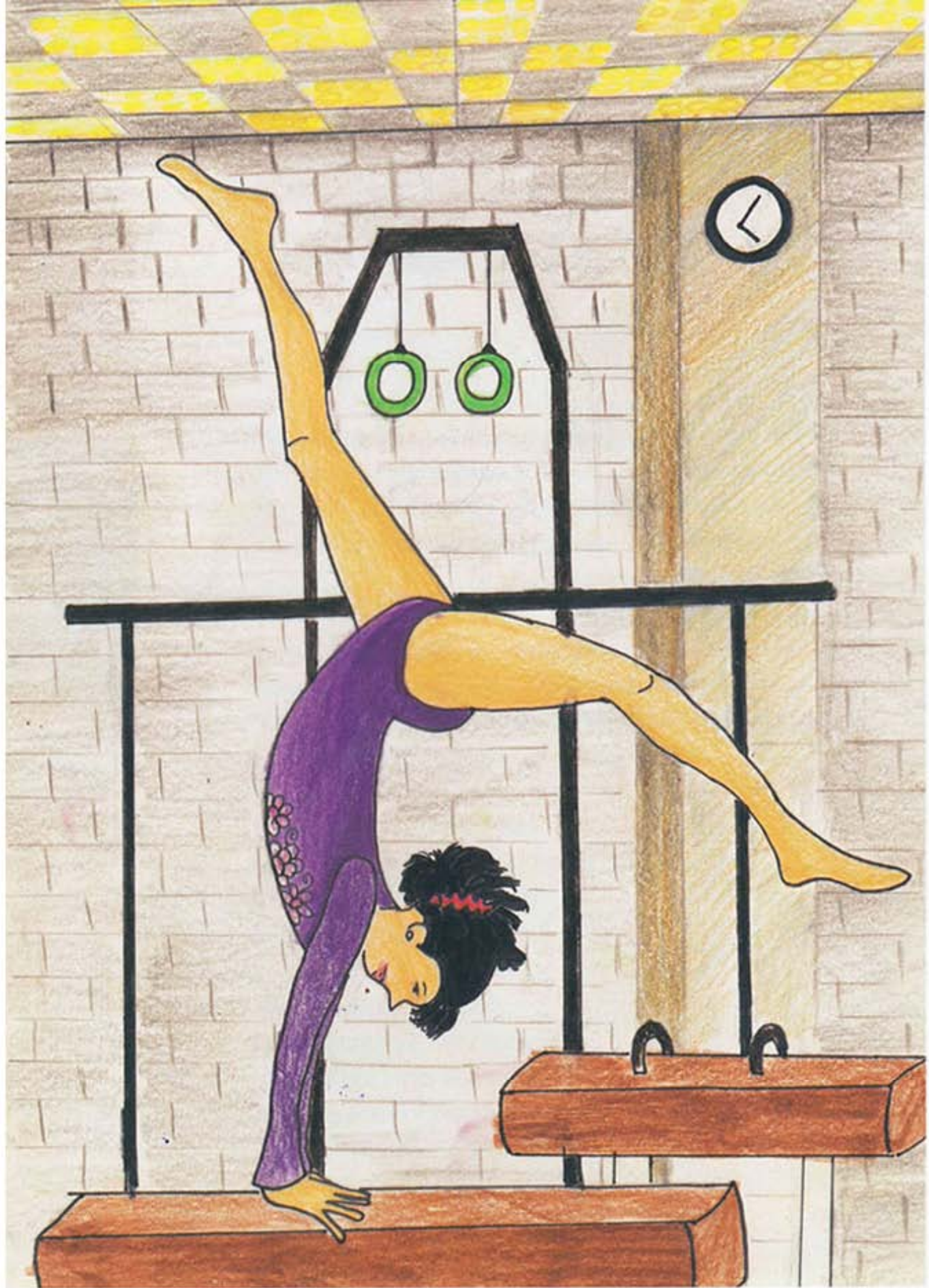
Sabrina loved gymnastics from the very first time she entered the gym as a four-year-old. Back then, she was limited to somersaults, but she couldn't wait to catch up to the bigger, stronger girls who ran in compact, power-packed tumbling passes diagonally across the mat. She loved the meets. Sure, there was a lot of pressure to do well for the team, but pressure aside, the competition made her better than she thought she could be. All the athletes were there, to show off their best skills, and all the hard work they put into the sport. Competition brought out her best. Sabrina loved all the excitement and energy too, particularly at the start of each meet, bursting at the seams with anticipation. She loved hearing the national anthem booming up from the floor and into the stands. She loved standing shoulder-to-shoulder with her teammates, and the invisible, unbreakable bond that linked them together.



Sabrina Wong, 10
Weston, Massachusetts



Aditi Laddha, 12
Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India



Reaching back, she kept her focus