

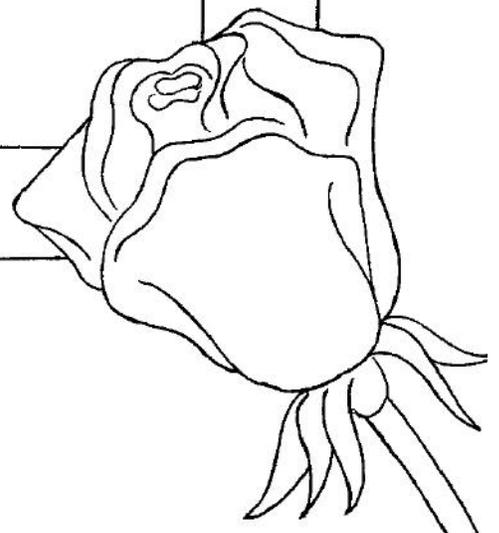
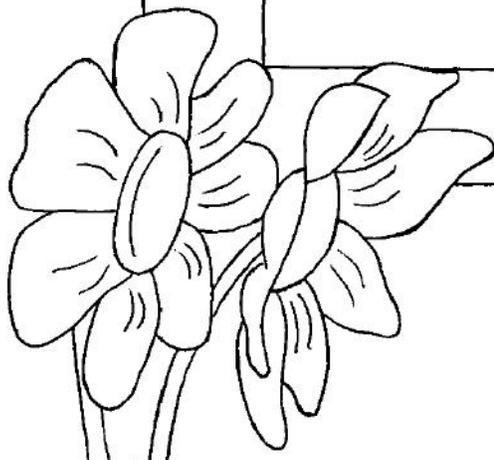
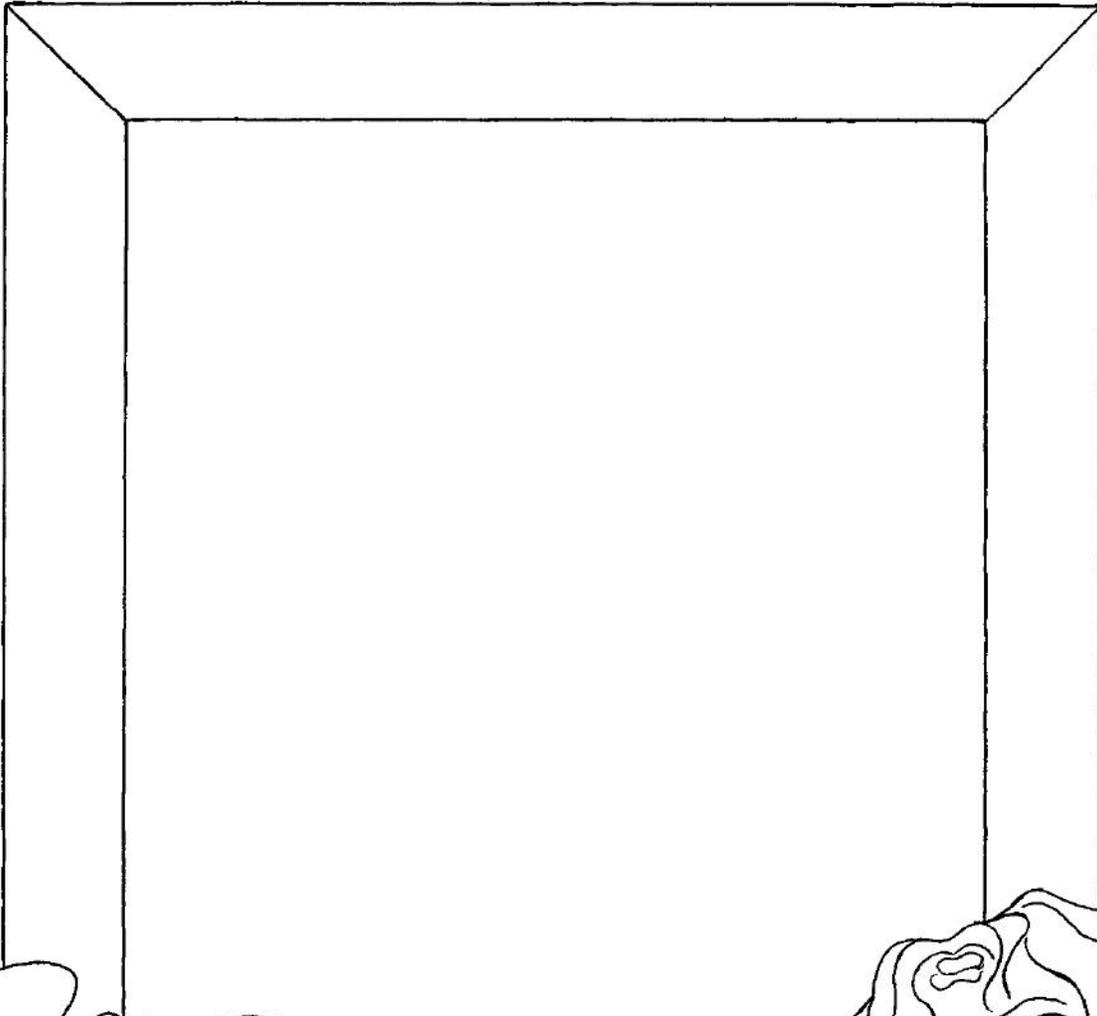
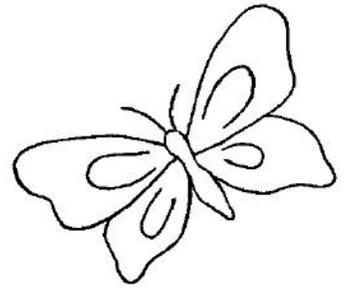
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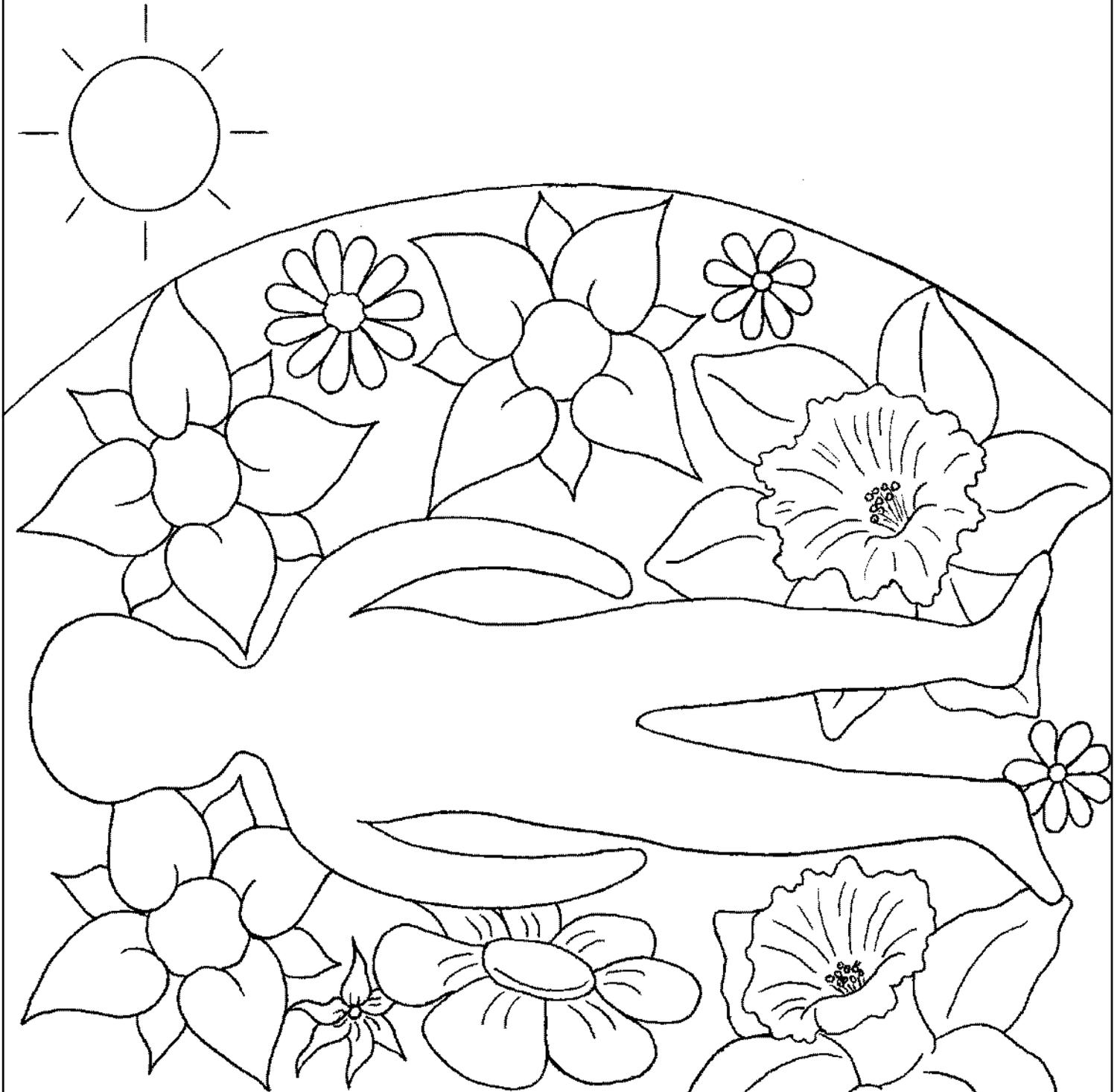
THE

FUNERAL



When somebody dies, it means their body stops working and so they can't use their body anymore. They no longer move, eat, sleep or breathe. They no longer feel any pain Their spirit has left their body.

After death, a person's flesh breaks down and starts to decompose. This is nature's way of returning them to the earth. So when people die, humans must do something with their remains, such as burying or cremating the body.



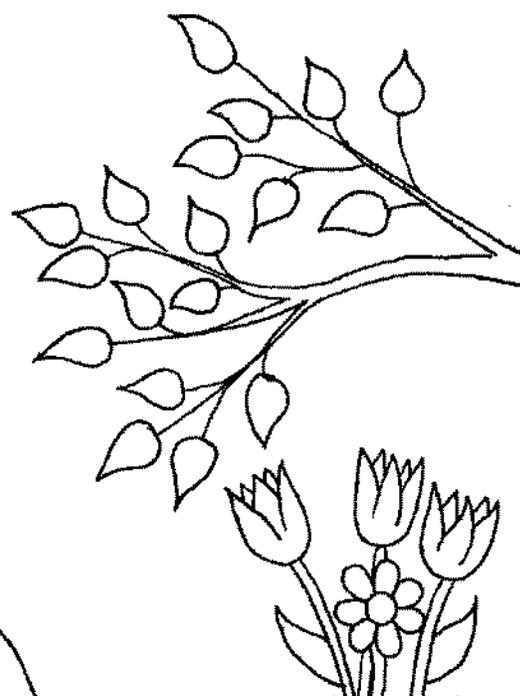
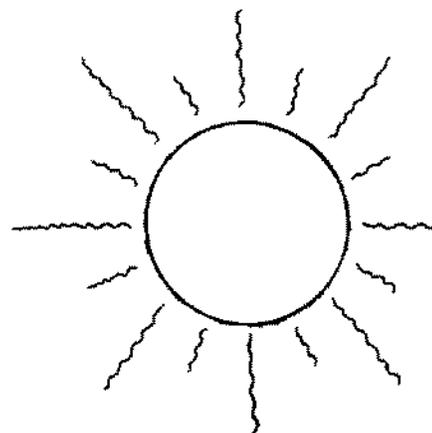
Before this happens, loved one's will conduct what is called a funeral. Funerals are a time for people to get together and mourn the loss of someone they knew. It's a way to celebrate the life of the person who died. People will get up and talk about their love for the deceased. They might share their memories of all the good times they had together.

Usually during funerals the body of the person who died is placed in a casket. An open-casket means a funeral director will dress the body up and make it look nice so that others can look at or touch the person who died. A closed-casket means the body is put in a casket with the lid closed. This often happens when somebody died from a bad accident, and so the people who run the funeral don't want friends and family to be upset by what they see. Either way, it's a chance for people to be close to the person who died one last time.



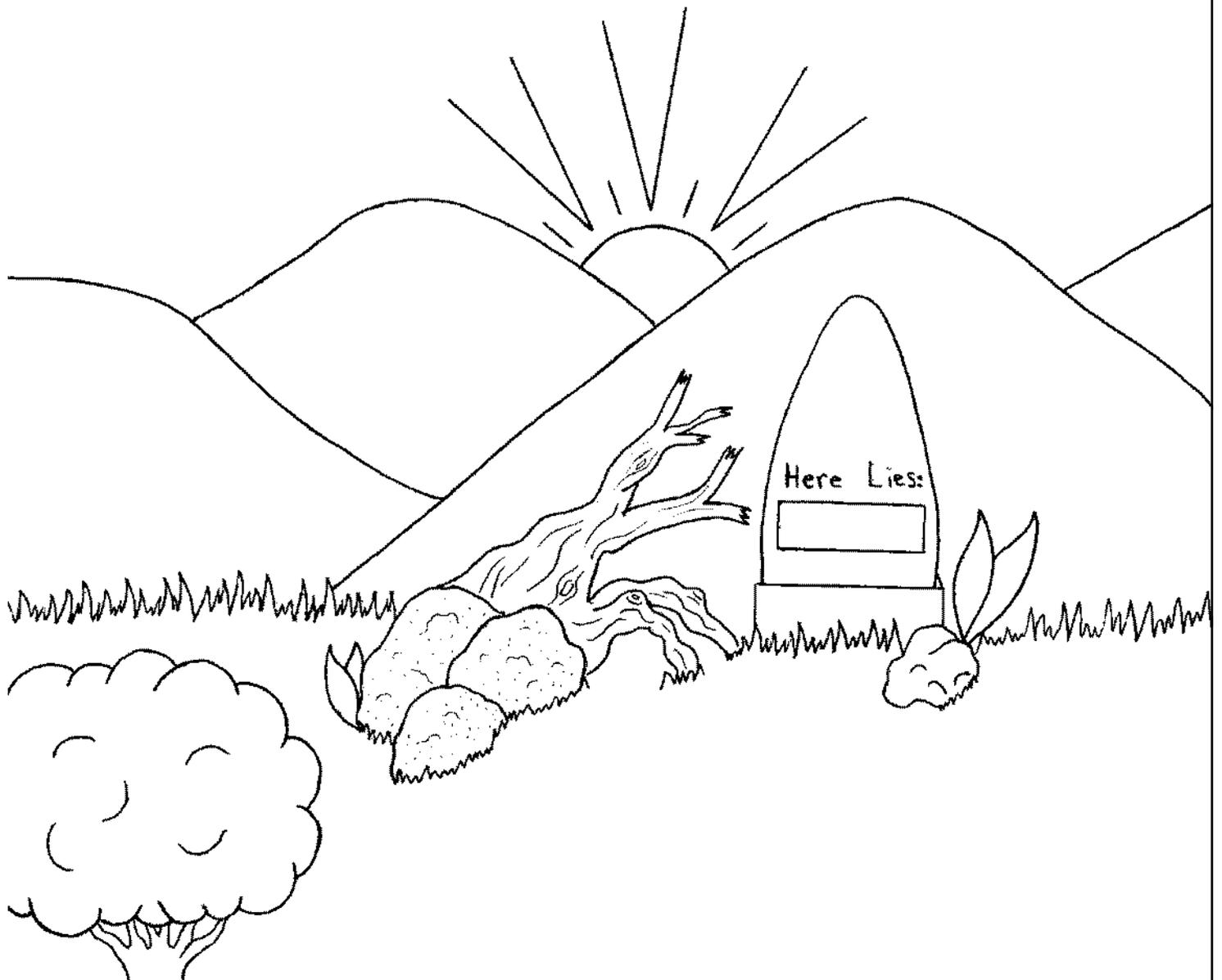
A funeral is an emotional event. It's filled with people who loved the person who died, and so naturally, they can be quite sad and upset. Some people may cry. Others may scream or wail. Some may throw themselves over the casket and act hysterical.

If this happens, you shouldn't let it frighten you. This is just the way some people express their grief and let their emotions out. You have probably done similar things in the past when you got really upset. We're not used to seeing adults act this way, and so it can seem strange. But the reason this happens is that the emotions caused by grief can be so strong that they overwhelm a person's ability to control themselves.



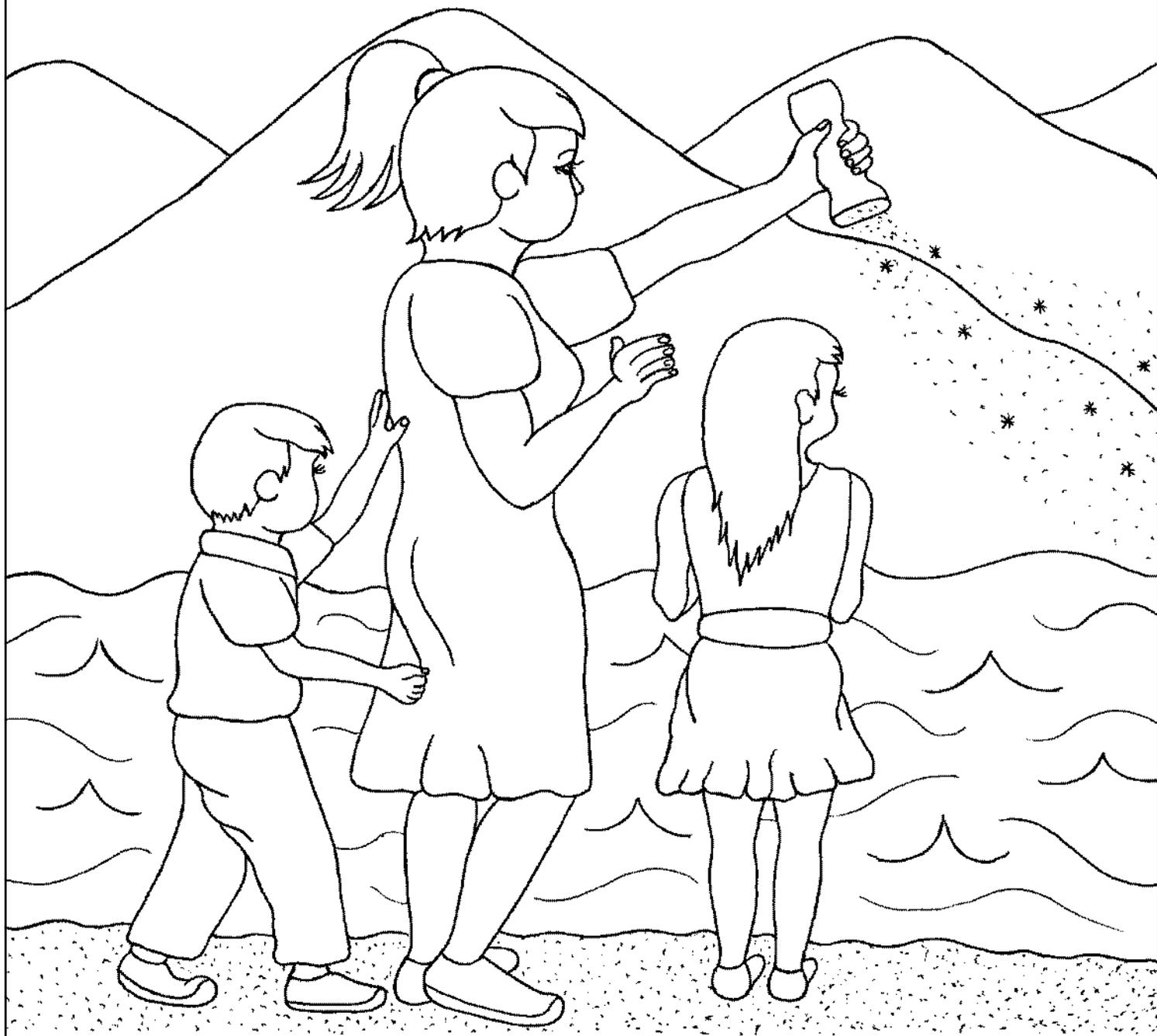
Once everyone has had a chance to give their condolences and be with the casket to say goodbye, something has to be done with the body. Most people are buried or entombed, which means they are placed inside a casket and either buried in the ground or placed in an above-ground cemetery called a mausoleum.

Some sort of marker is placed where they are buried, usually in the form of a plaque or tombstone. Their loved ones will go visit the site when they want to feel close, or when they need to be alone in a quiet and peaceful place to remember the person who died.



Other times people are cremated, which means their body is burned (or incinerated) to reduce it to ashes and dust. This doesn't hurt them, since they are no longer in their body and therefore no longer feel any pain. It's just a way to break down the body faster than would happen on its own if left up to nature.

After this the family is given back the remains. Some people keep the ashes in an urn at their home to feel a sense of connection and closeness to their loved one. Others bury the ashes or keep them in a mausoleum. Often a family will scatter the ashes over the earth in a place that their loved one was especially fond of. Many people will ask that their ashes be scattered in the ocean or buried in a place that was dear to their heart.



So now you know a little more about what takes place after a person dies. If you still have questions, please ask someone.

Funerals are an important part of grieving. They help people come to grips with their loss and start them down the road to recovery. Grieving over someone who died isn't easy. If this was someone you loved, you may have a long journey ahead of you. Just know that day by day things will slowly get better, and eventually you'll come to a place in your life when the loss no longer hurts.

