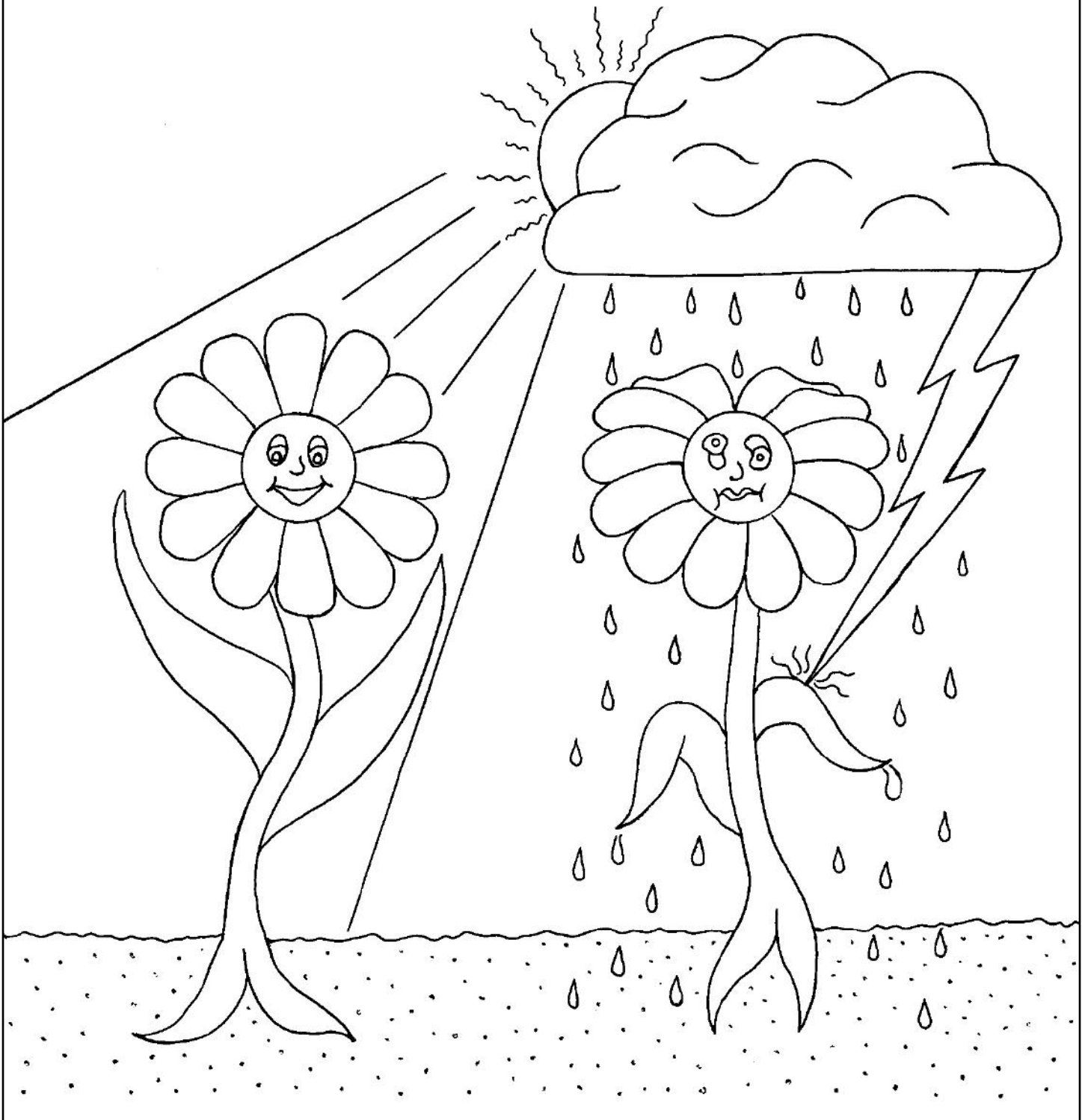
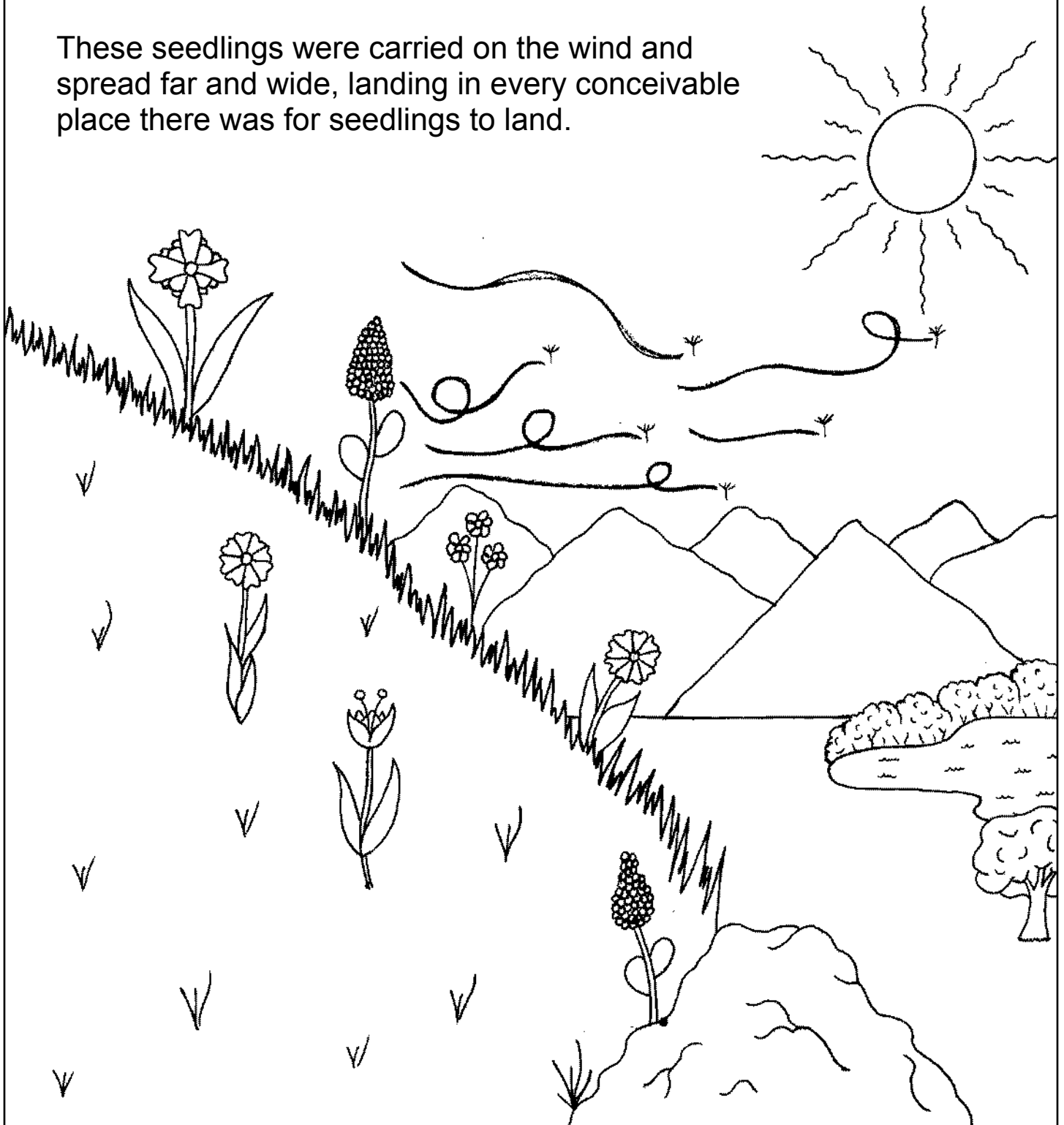


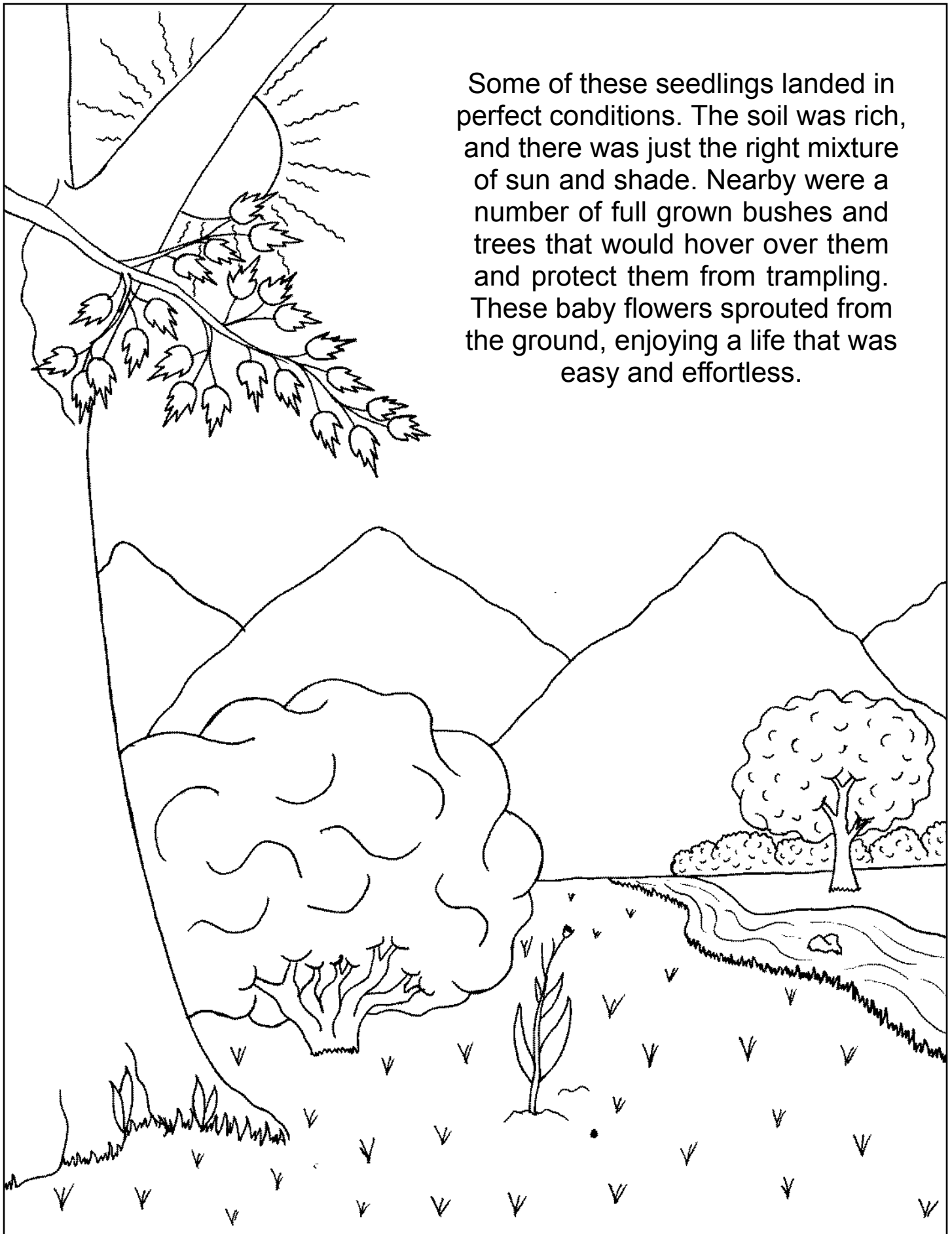
# Trampled Flowers



Once upon a time, on a high ridge in a lovely mountain valley, there was a patch of particularly beautiful flowers growing in a field of grass. As summer turned to fall all the flowers went to seed. They opened their pores and released future baby flowers out into the world.

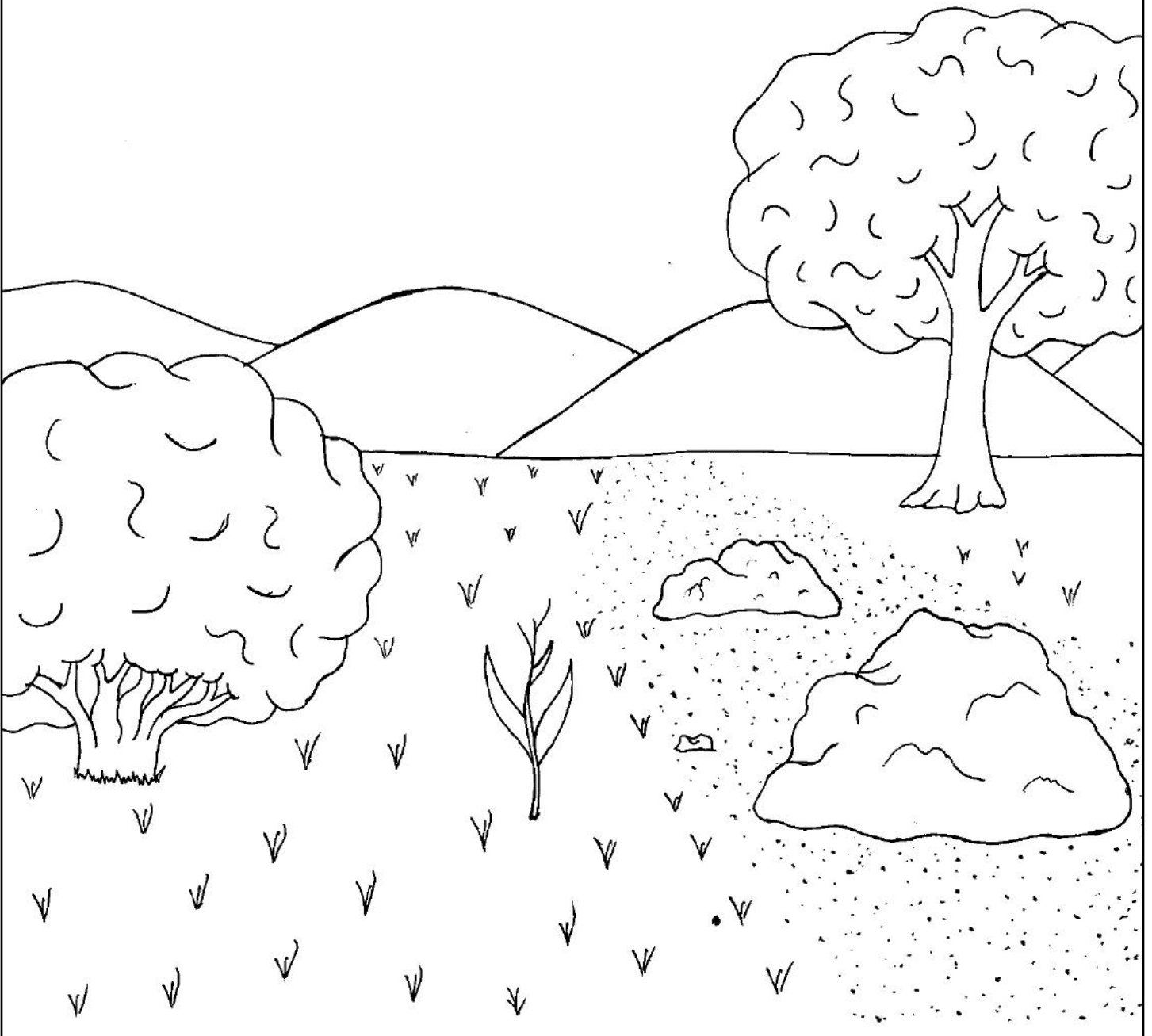
These seedlings were carried on the wind and spread far and wide, landing in every conceivable place there was for seedlings to land.





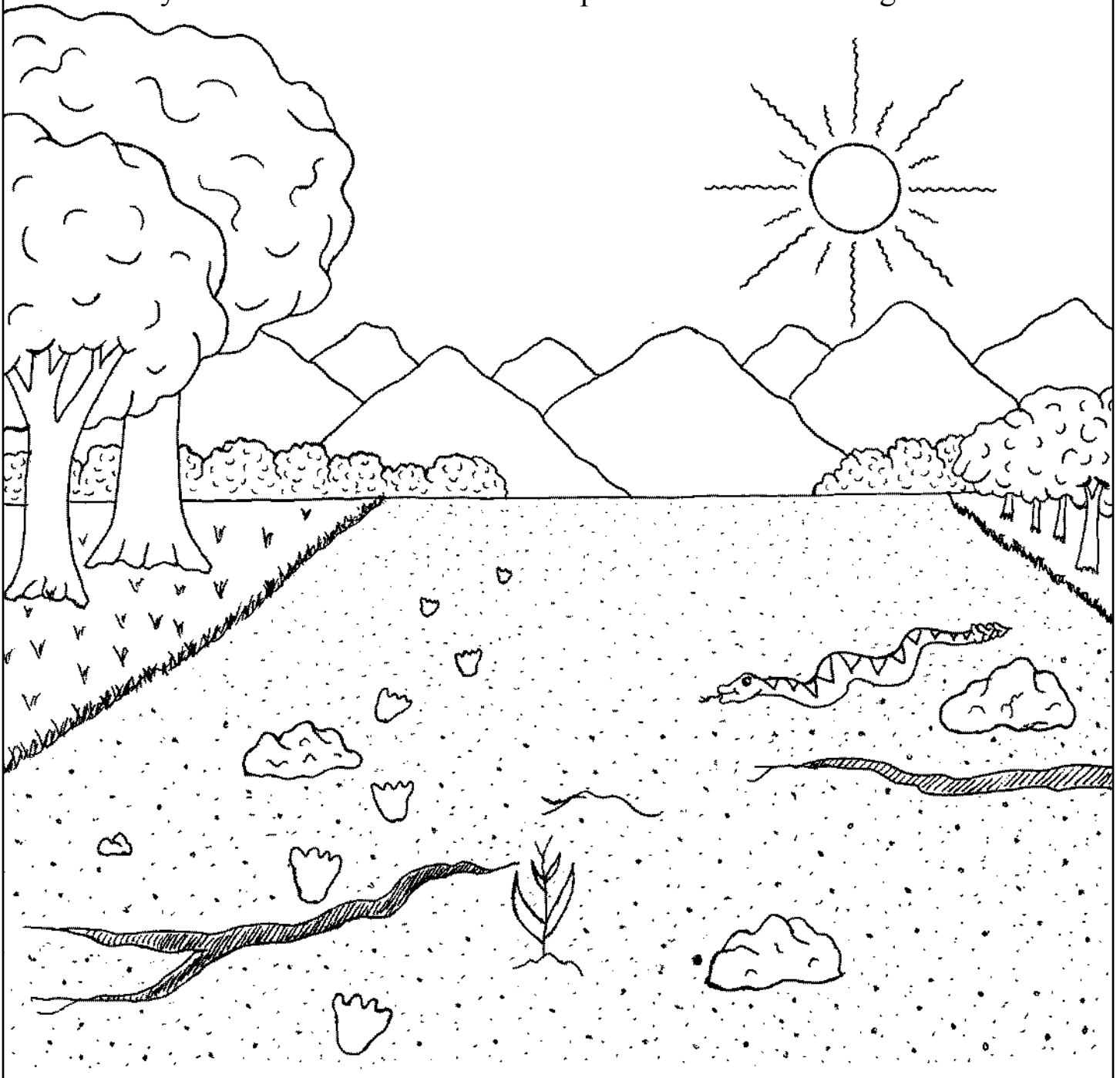
Some of these seedlings landed in perfect conditions. The soil was rich, and there was just the right mixture of sun and shade. Nearby were a number of full grown bushes and trees that would hover over them and protect them from trampling. These baby flowers sprouted from the ground, enjoying a life that was easy and effortless.

Other seedlings landed in spots that weren't as ideal, but still pretty nice. There were a few more challenges, but they had all the things they needed to grow, and they, too, grew up without much struggle.



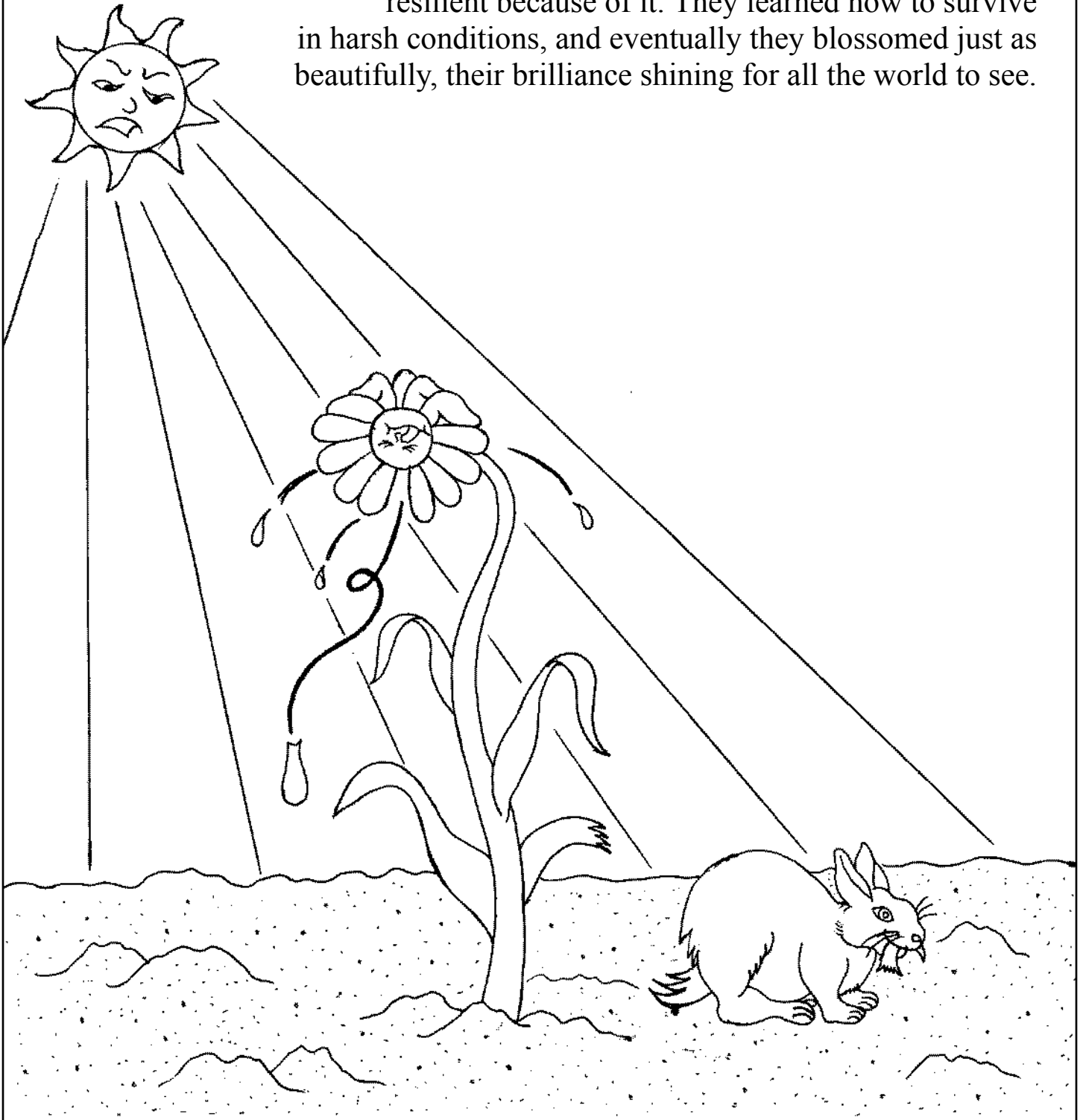
Yet some of the flower seedlings landed in spots that weren't so nice. There wasn't much water. The soil was rocky, and the ground was sun-baked and hard. They had to set their roots in the middle of a game trail that offered neither shade nor protection.

As a result these baby flowers got stepped on and trampled by other creatures, and it was a constant struggle to try and get the nutrients they needed. This wasn't because these flowers were any less beautiful or worthy than the others. It wasn't their fault the winds happened to carry them here. It was just pure chance that they are the ones who landed in a spot that made for a tougher life.



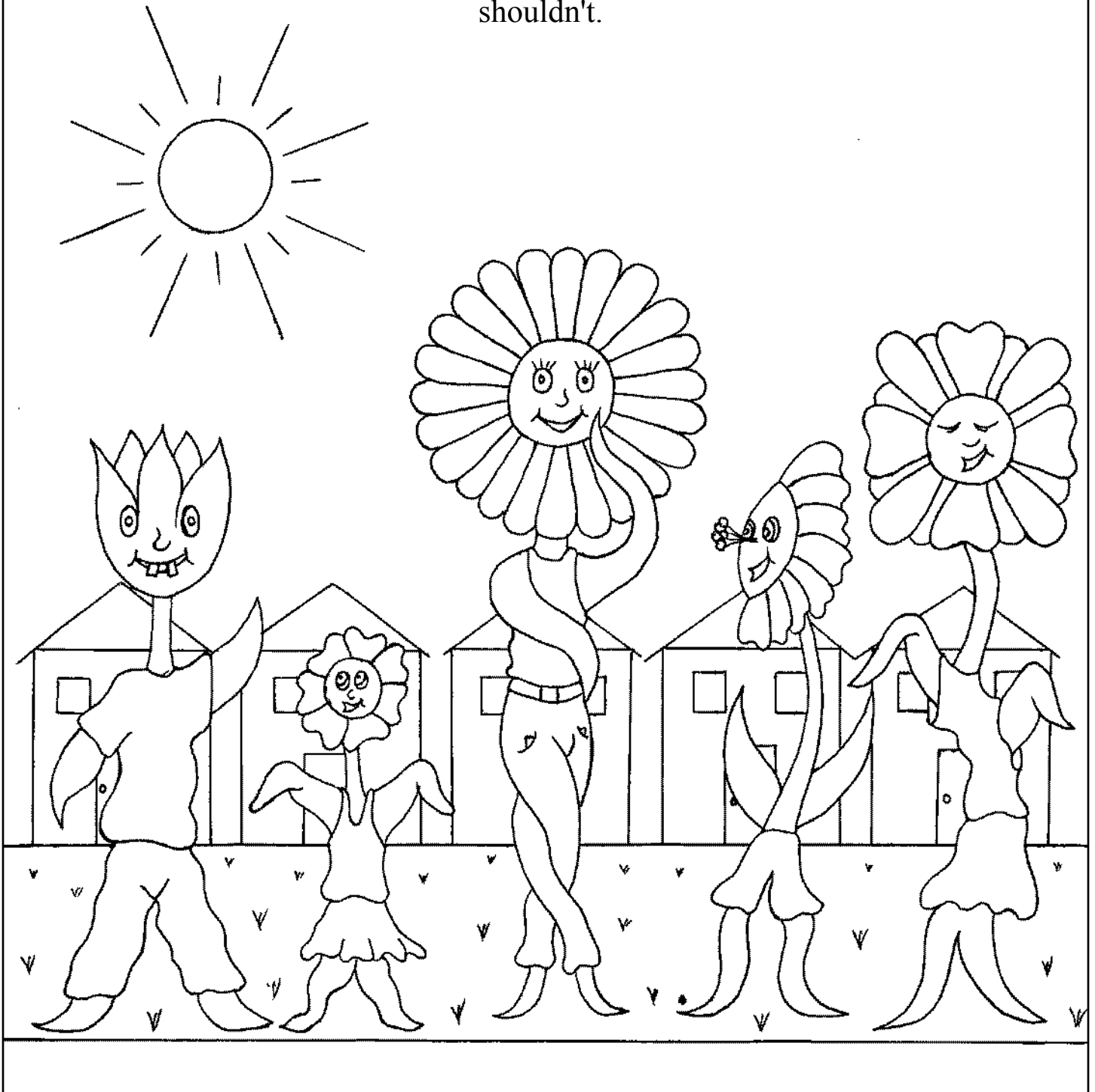
These flowers had to endure hardships more extreme than all the others. They had to learn how to survive in difficult conditions. It was a constant struggle trying to get the nutrients they needed, and their leaves and stems grew hardened by all the bruising and baking they experienced.

Yet the ones who pushed through this adversity grew stronger and more resilient because of it. They learned how to survive in harsh conditions, and eventually they blossomed just as beautifully, their brilliance shining for all the world to see.

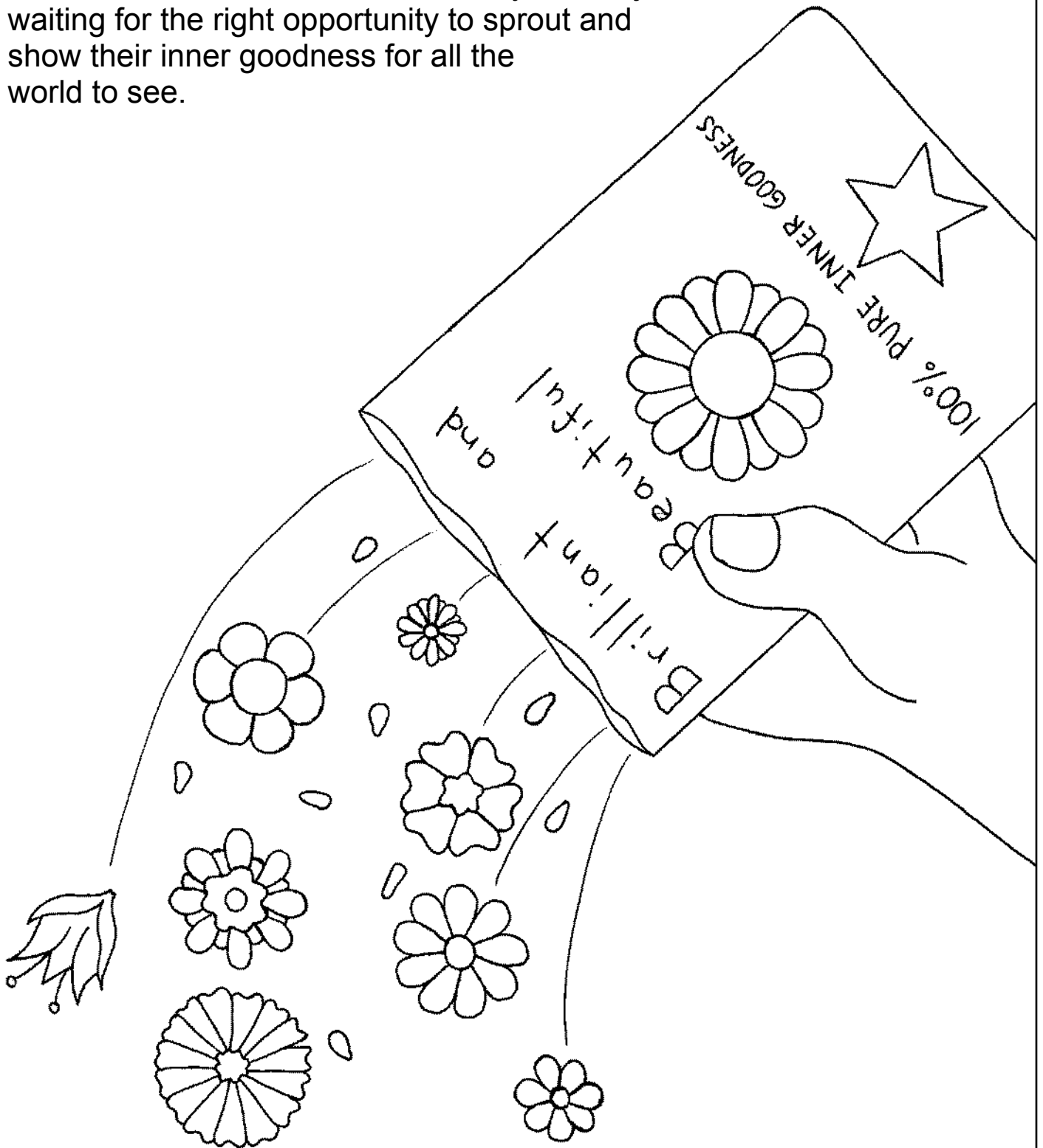


Children, too, are a lot like these flower seeds spread on the wind. Some are born into wonderful homes, with two loving parents who cherish them completely. They are surrounded by adults who know just how to treat a child.

Others, unfortunately, aren't so lucky. They are born into families that are struggling. They have parents who are under too much stress or who never learned how to properly treat a child. These parents lose their temper, neglect their children, hit them when they're angry, and do other things they shouldn't.



This doesn't happen because some kids are good and others are bad. Those children who experience these things are just as good, just as adorable, and just as worthy of love and affection as any others. Each one harbors the same brilliant beauty inside, just waiting for the right opportunity to sprout and show their inner goodness for all the world to see.





Don't ever confuse the spot you landed in for the wonderful beauty that makes up the core of who you are. Stay strong, remain kind, and remember that every hardship endured only makes you stronger. Be sure to bloom big and beautiful, and let your brilliance shine!





# Trampled Flowers Worksheet

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1) If you were in this story, what type of flower would you be?

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2) What special traits make you beautiful and brilliant?

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3) Find an adult who cares about you to describe your inner beauty and write it down here:

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