

# - THE - Mystery of Merino's Wool

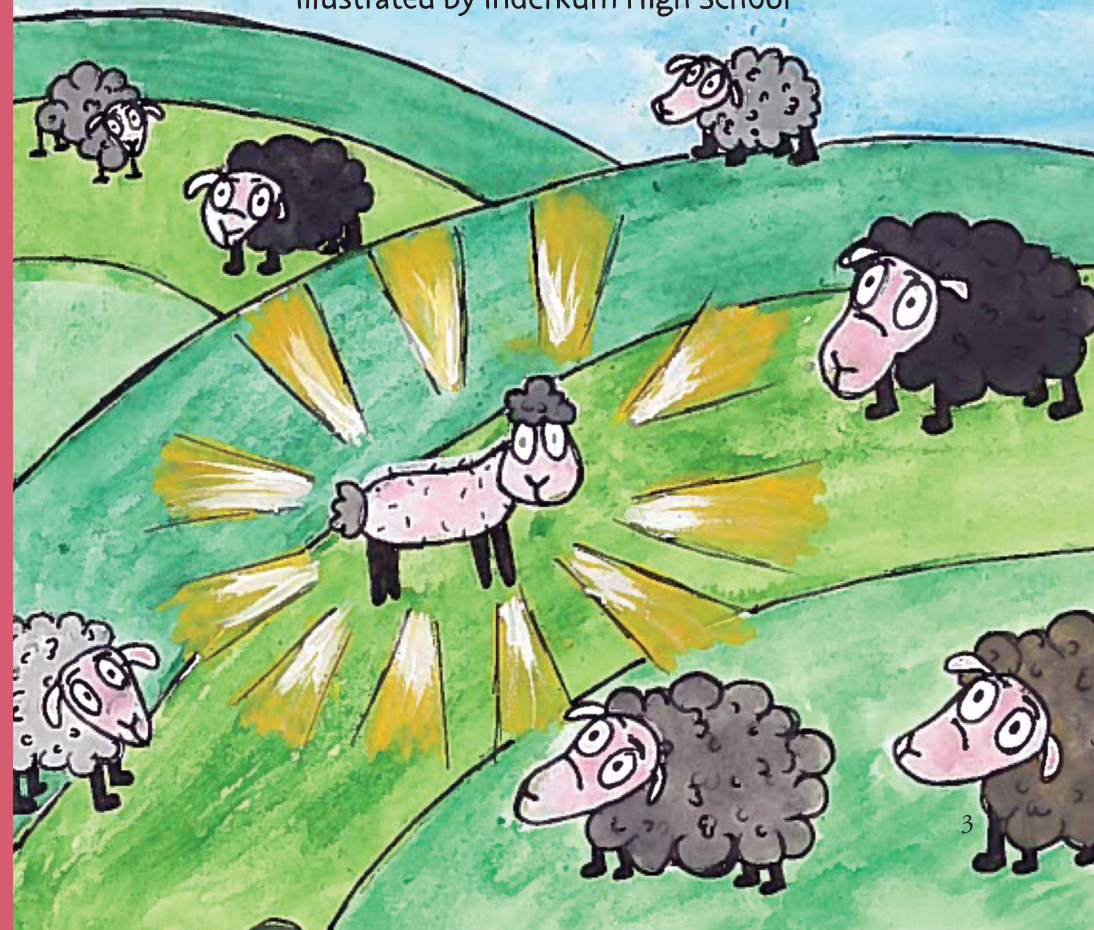
**By Ellie Stover**

- 3rd grade -

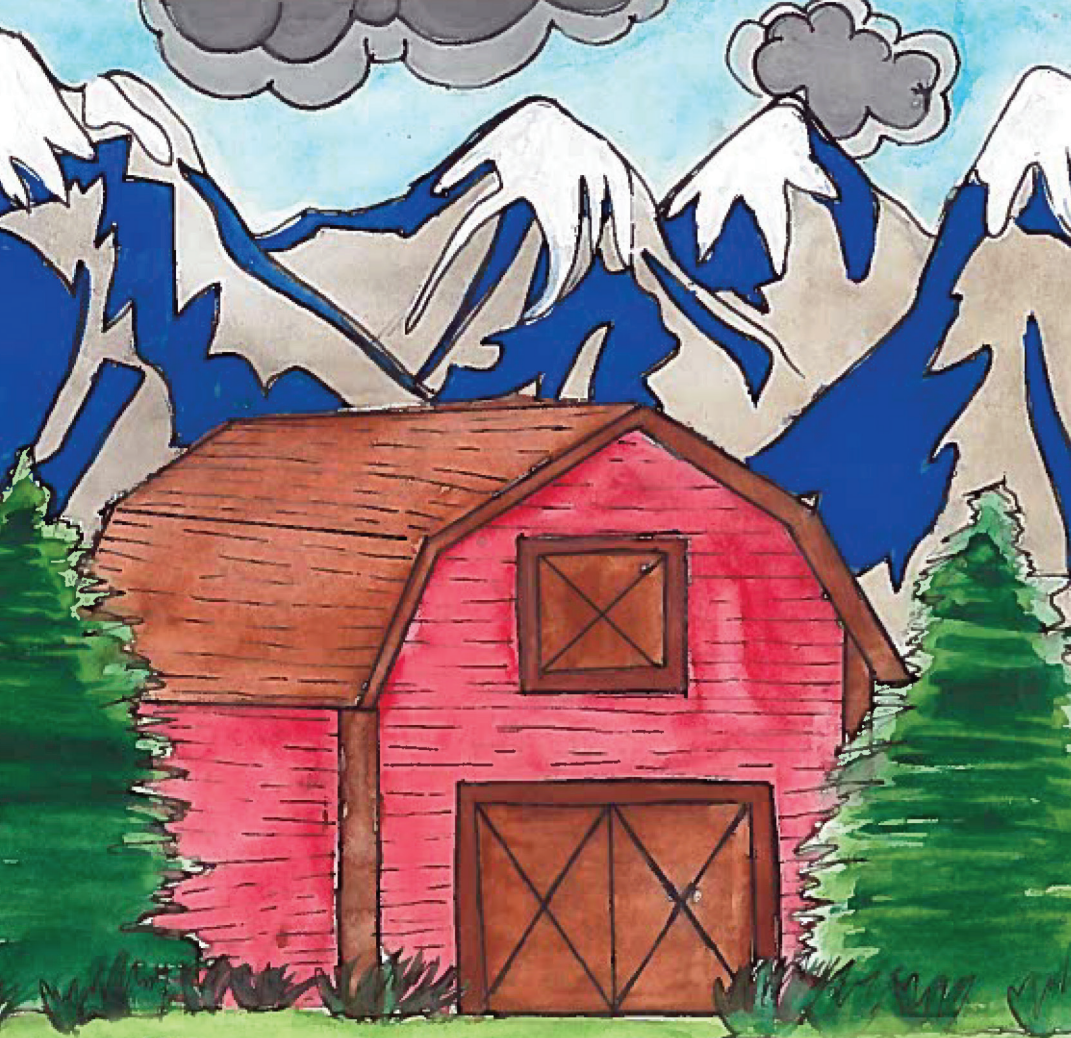
Plaza School

Jennifer Limberg, Teacher  
Glenn County

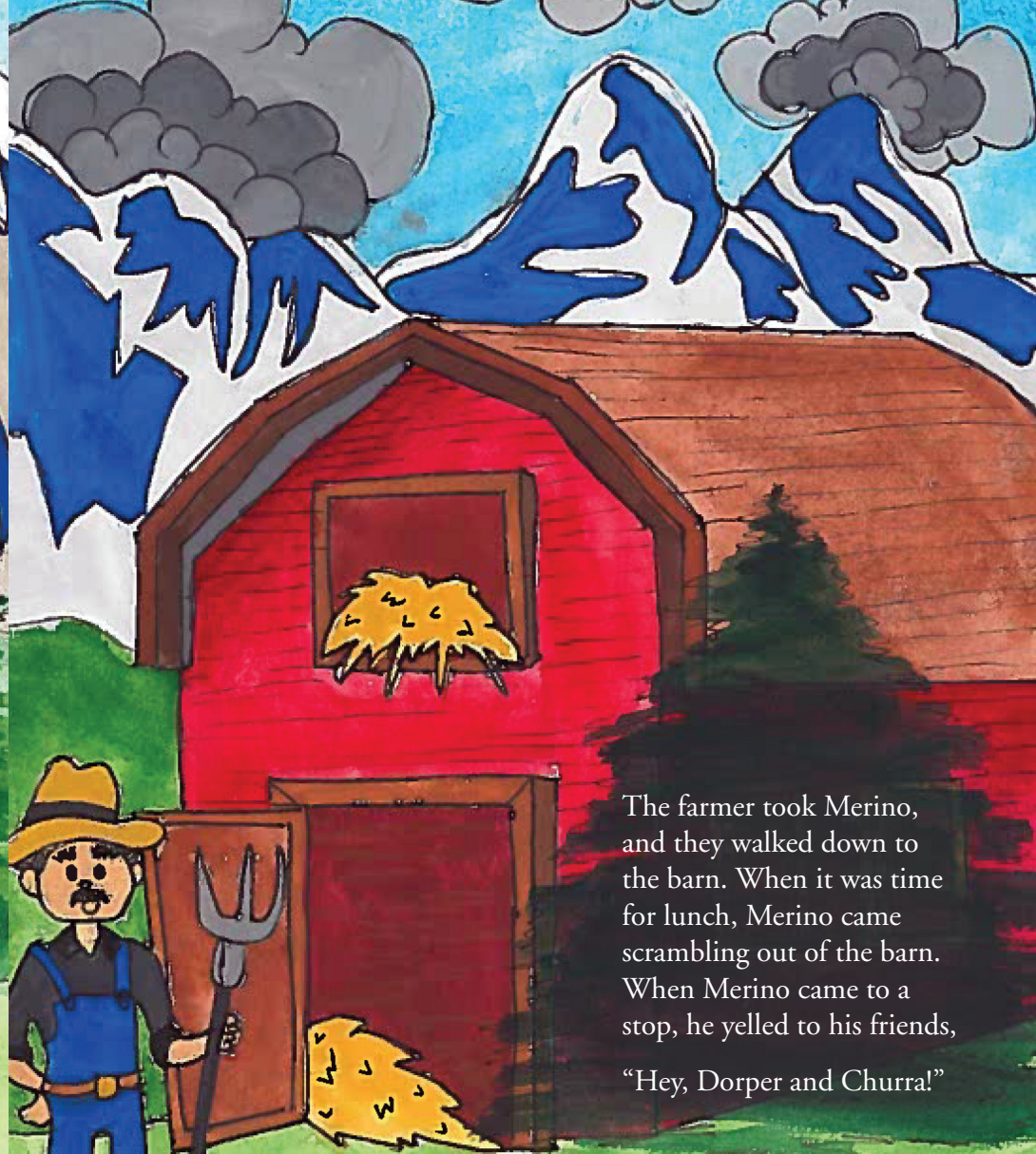
Illustrated by Inderkum High School







One fine summer day, three sheep were playing in the barnyard. Their names were Merino, Dorper, and Churra. Merino liked to run fast. Dorper liked to watch her baby, Charlie, run and Churra liked to study pieces of grass. Dorper was watching her baby when she saw the farmer put Merino on a leash. Dorper was worried so she called her baby close to her.



The farmer took Merino, and they walked down to the barn. When it was time for lunch, Merino came scrambling out of the barn. When Merino came to a stop, he yelled to his friends, "Hey, Dorper and Churra!"

They looked at him closely before Dorper asked, "Who are you?"

"Me?" replied Merino. "I am your friend, Merino. You know me!"

"We do?" asked Dorper and Churra, confusedly.

"What happened to you?" asked Dorper.







"Nothing," said Merino.

"Oh, something happened to you," stated Churra.

Merino looked down at himself and said, "OMG, I'm naked!"

"There are over one billion sheep in the world, and you are not the only one to get sheared," said Churra.

"Sheared! I didn't want to be sheared!" cried Merino.

"Hey, this is a mystery to find Merino's wool the farmer sheared off of him!" yelled Charlie, Dorper's baby lamb. Merino and Churra nodded excitedly.

Merino shouted, "I know where to look first!"

"Where?" asked Dorper and Churra.

"The barn! That's where I went first," said Merino.

"Then let's go! What are we waiting for?" Dorper shouted as she was racing toward the barn.





The farmer saw them running and called, "Get into the barnyard!"

Dorper, Merino and Churra had to listen to the farmer, so they turned around and went back to the barnyard.

"We need a way into the barn," stuttered Charlie frantically. "Yeah, I think I know a way in," Churra wailed.

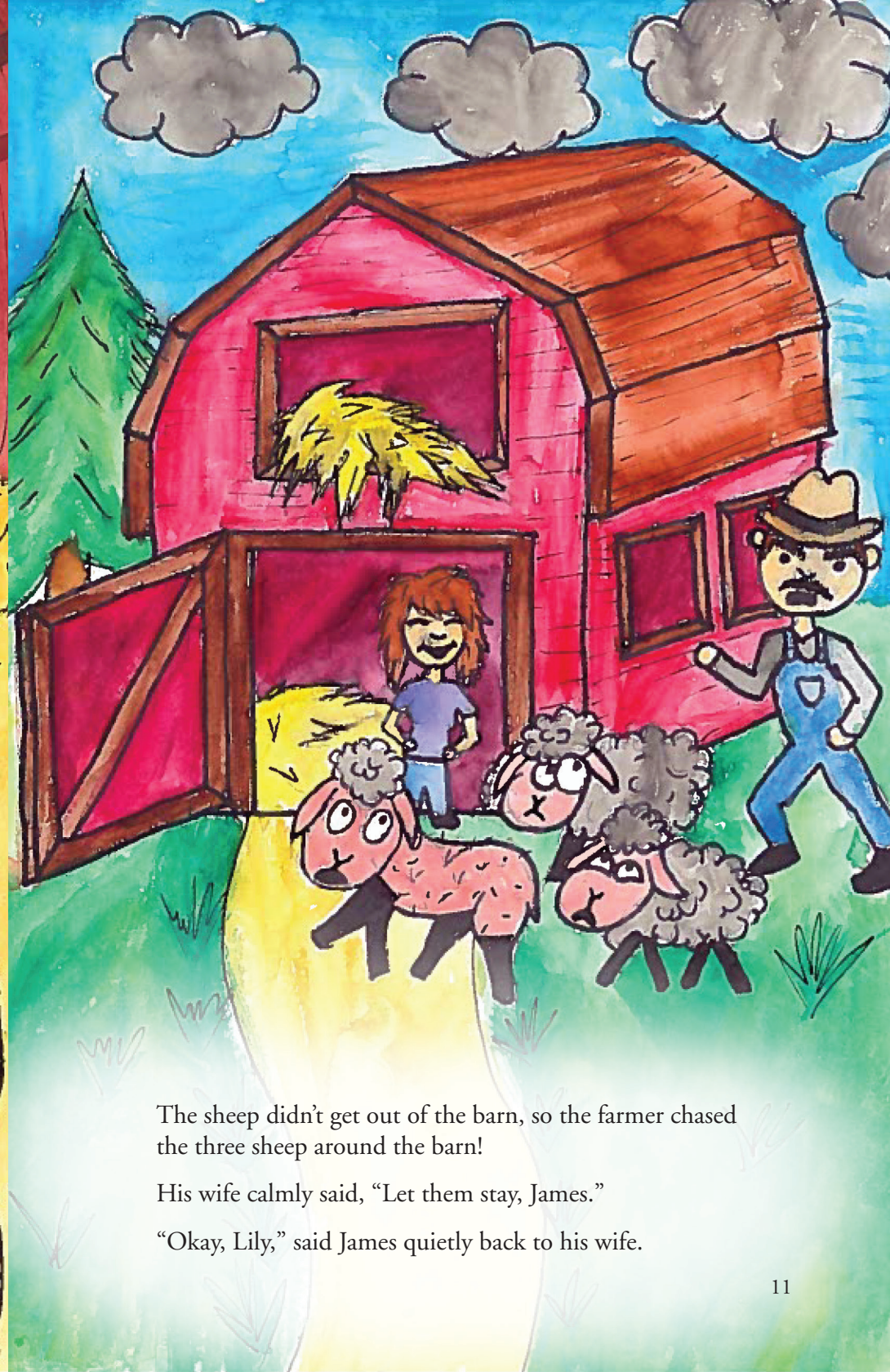
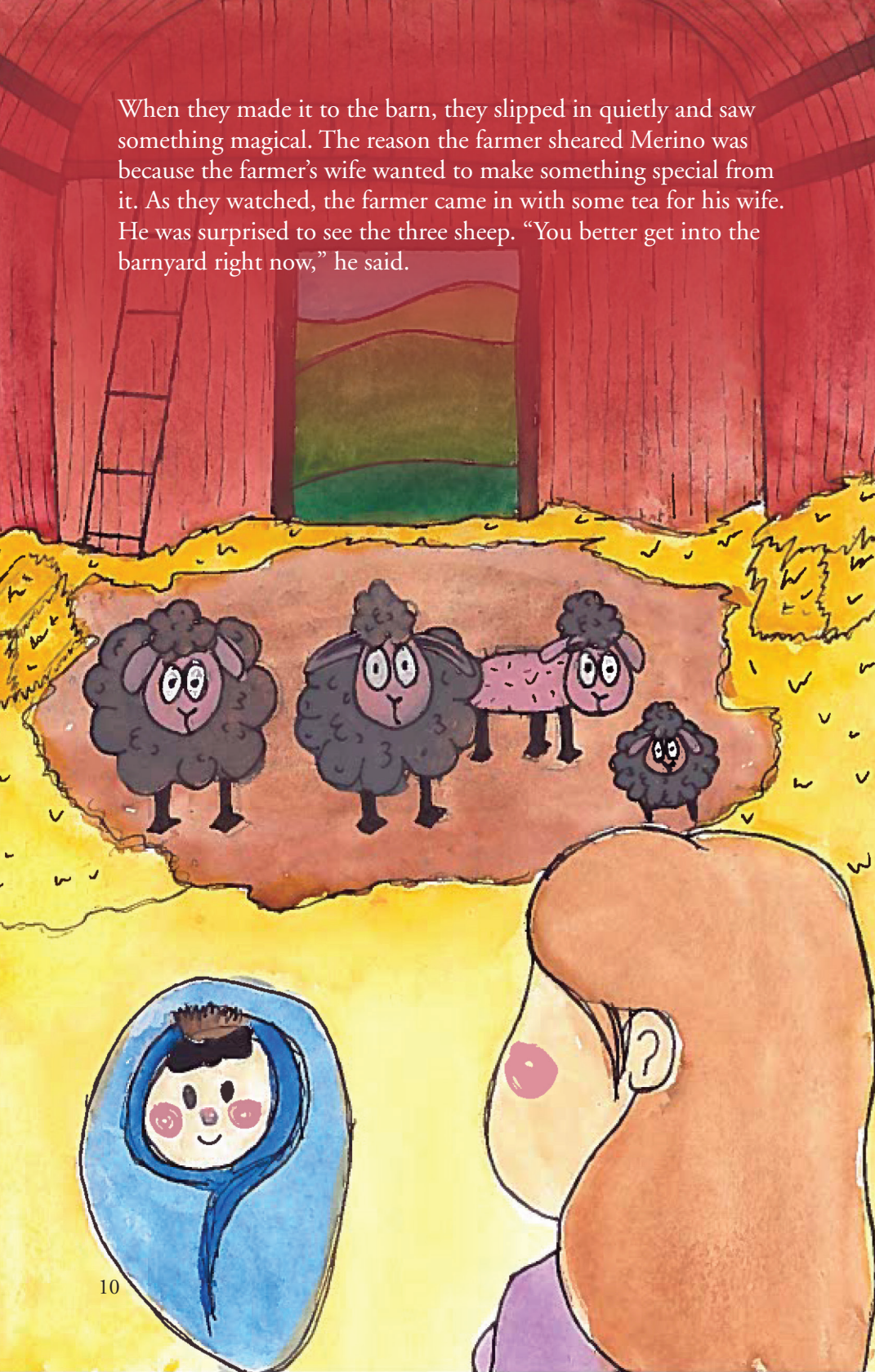
"Really?" replied Merino.

"Yeah, I really know a way in! Let's go, buddies!" Churra said as he led the way back to the barn.

"Follow me, my fellow sheep friends."



When they made it to the barn, they slipped in quietly and saw something magical. The reason the farmer sheared Merino was because the farmer's wife wanted to make something special from it. As they watched, the farmer came in with some tea for his wife. He was surprised to see the three sheep. "You better get into the barnyard right now," he said.



The sheep didn't get out of the barn, so the farmer chased the three sheep around the barn!

His wife calmly said, "Let them stay, James."

"Okay, Lily," said James quietly back to his wife.





Lily offered the sheep a handful of hay to bring them closer to her and the baby. Lily showed them the adorable little baby girl that was swaddled in a blanket that Lily had crocheted using Merino's wool. She whispered into Merino's ear softly, "Your wool is the finest and softest wool we have ever been lucky enough to have on our farm. Our baby is so happy and warm. Thank you!"

From then on, the farmer sheared Merino every spring so the new baby girl could have a sweatshirt, mittens, and blanket for every winter. Merino was very happy he could help his beautiful family.





## About the Author:



**Ellie Stover, age 8**

Third grader Ellie Stover decided to write her story, *The Mystery of Merino's Wool*, because she loves animals. She specifically chose sheep and wool because she loves how their wool is very fluffy, soft, and useful. Ellie's teacher gave her examples of past regional winning stories. That helped her get started on her own story. She chose the name Merino because it was interesting that it was the real name of a sheep breed. Her aunt has sheep, and she thought about them while writing her story. Ellie is already thinking about her next story about her aunt's llama that had a baby recently.

Ellie likes school and enjoys writing stories. She planned her story all in her head, then wrote her story and revised it with the help of her teacher. Her favorite part was being able to write about animals. She hopes readers will think it's funny and will learn that sheep are useful. She learned that writing is fun and that there are more than a billion sheep in the world. Ellie is most looking forward to going to the Capitol and signing autographs. She's looking forward to meeting our legislators and seeing her story's illustrations.

## About the Illustrators:



**Hannah Butler, Nadia Spencer, Sarah Baron**

**Inderkum High School  
Rachel Rodriguez, Art Teacher**

*The Mystery of Merino's Wool* was illustrated by three students in Inderkum High School's art department. Hannah was the lead on the project and Nadia and Sarah supported her with the illustrations. Hannah started by researching sheep breeds so that she would have accurate representations for the illustrations. She then consulted with the other students and her teacher to prepare the sketches. They used watercolor for the illustrations. The students really enjoyed the challenge of this specific project.