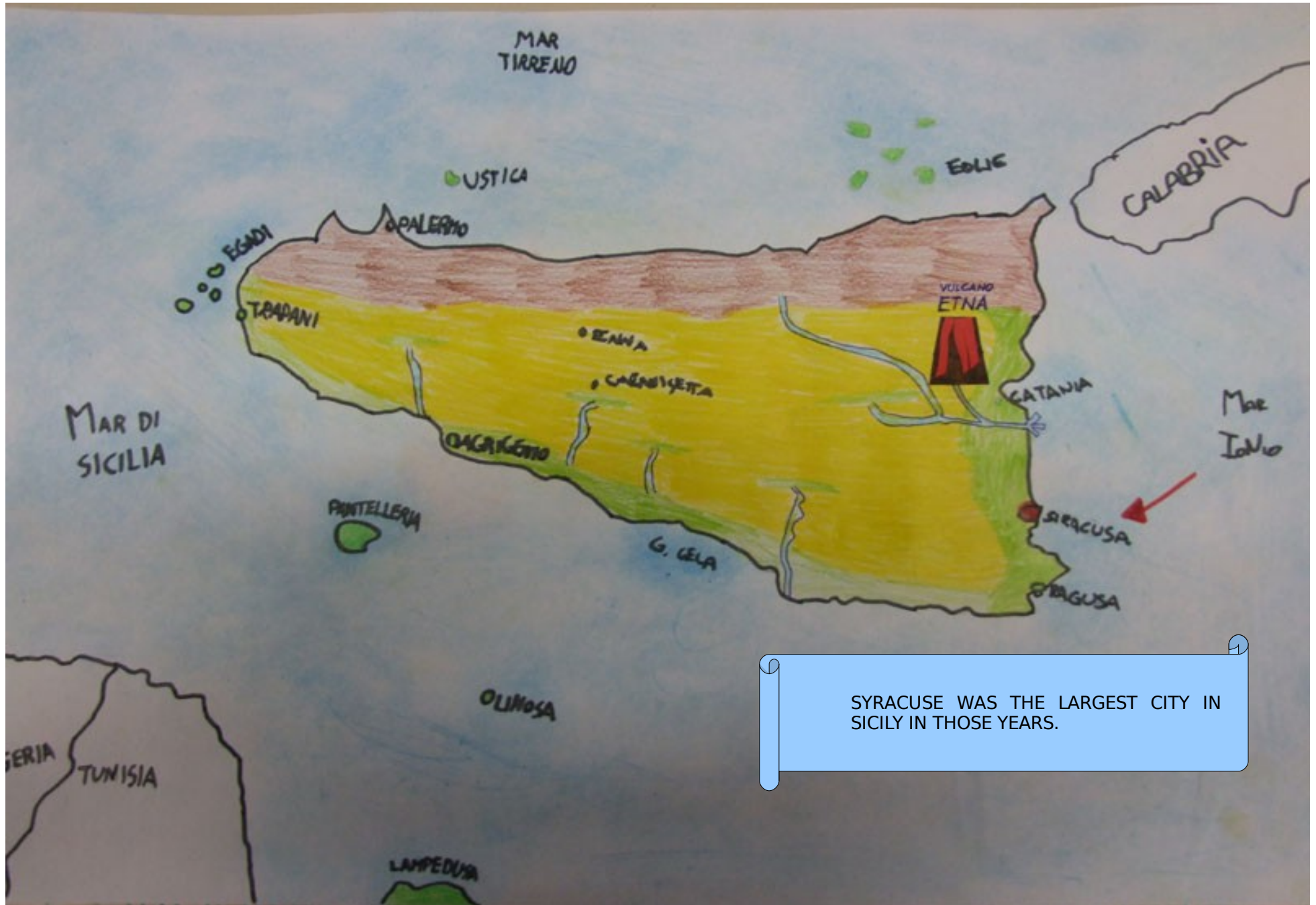


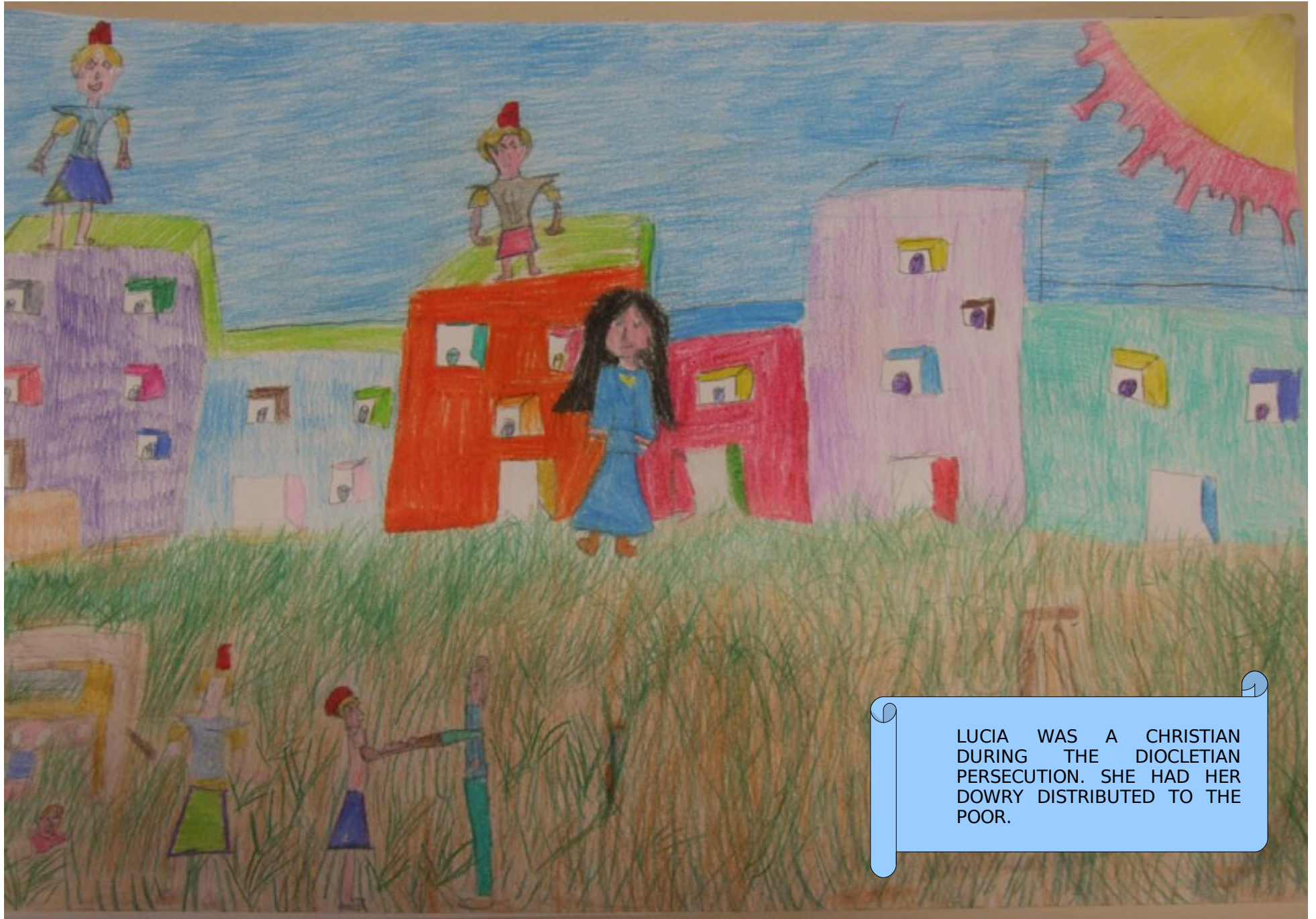


LUCIA WAS A YOUNG BEAUTIFUL SICILIAN GIRL, WITH A NAME DERIVED FROM LUX, LUCIS, "LIGHT", WHO LIVED AROUND THE THIRD OR FOURTH CENTURY.

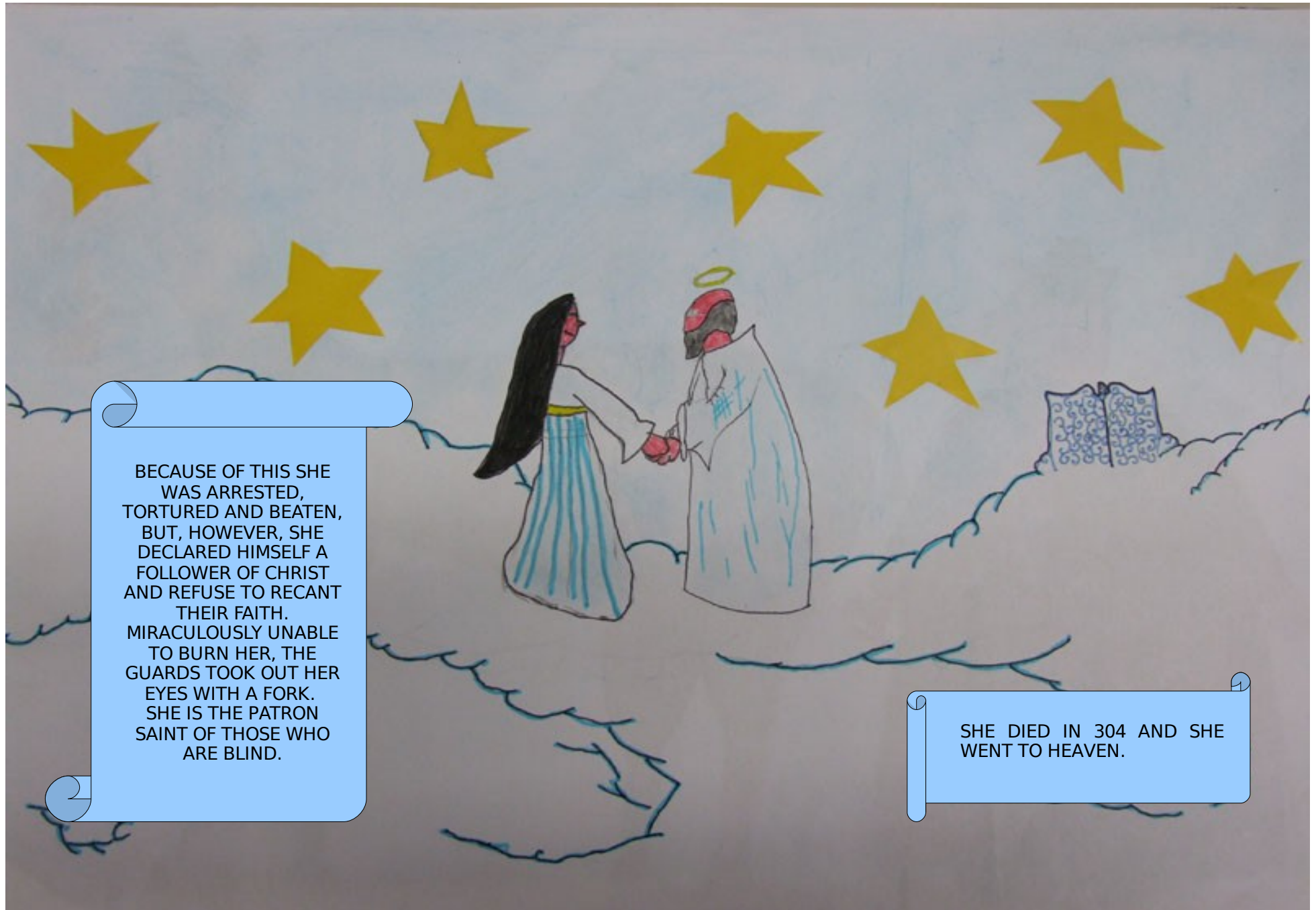
SHE WAS BORN IN SIRACUSA (283-304), DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY NOBLE.



SYRACUSE WAS THE LARGEST CITY IN SICILY IN THOSE YEARS.

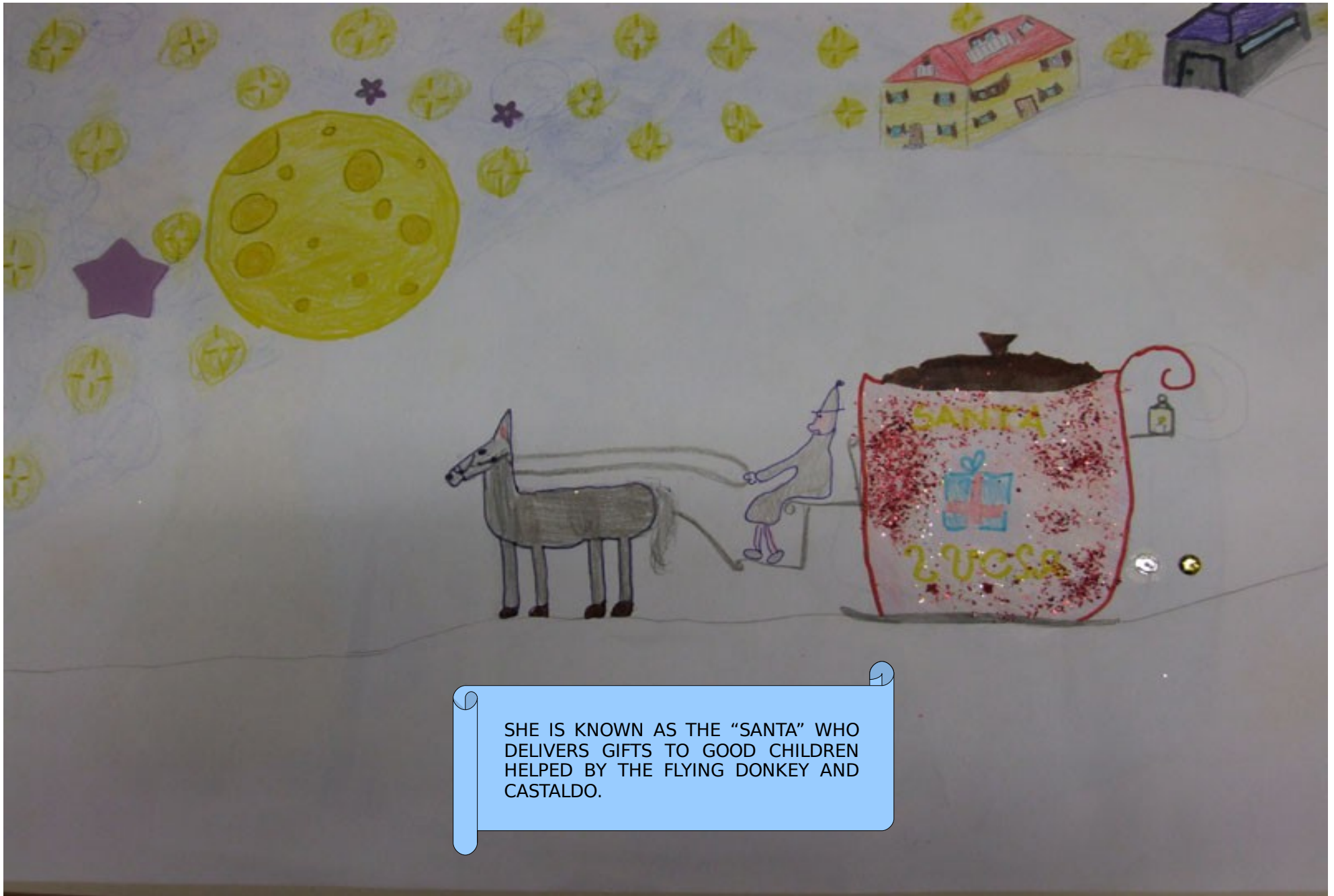


LUCIA WAS A CHRISTIAN DURING THE DIOCLETIAN PERSECUTION. SHE HAD HER DOWRY DISTRIBUTED TO THE POOR.

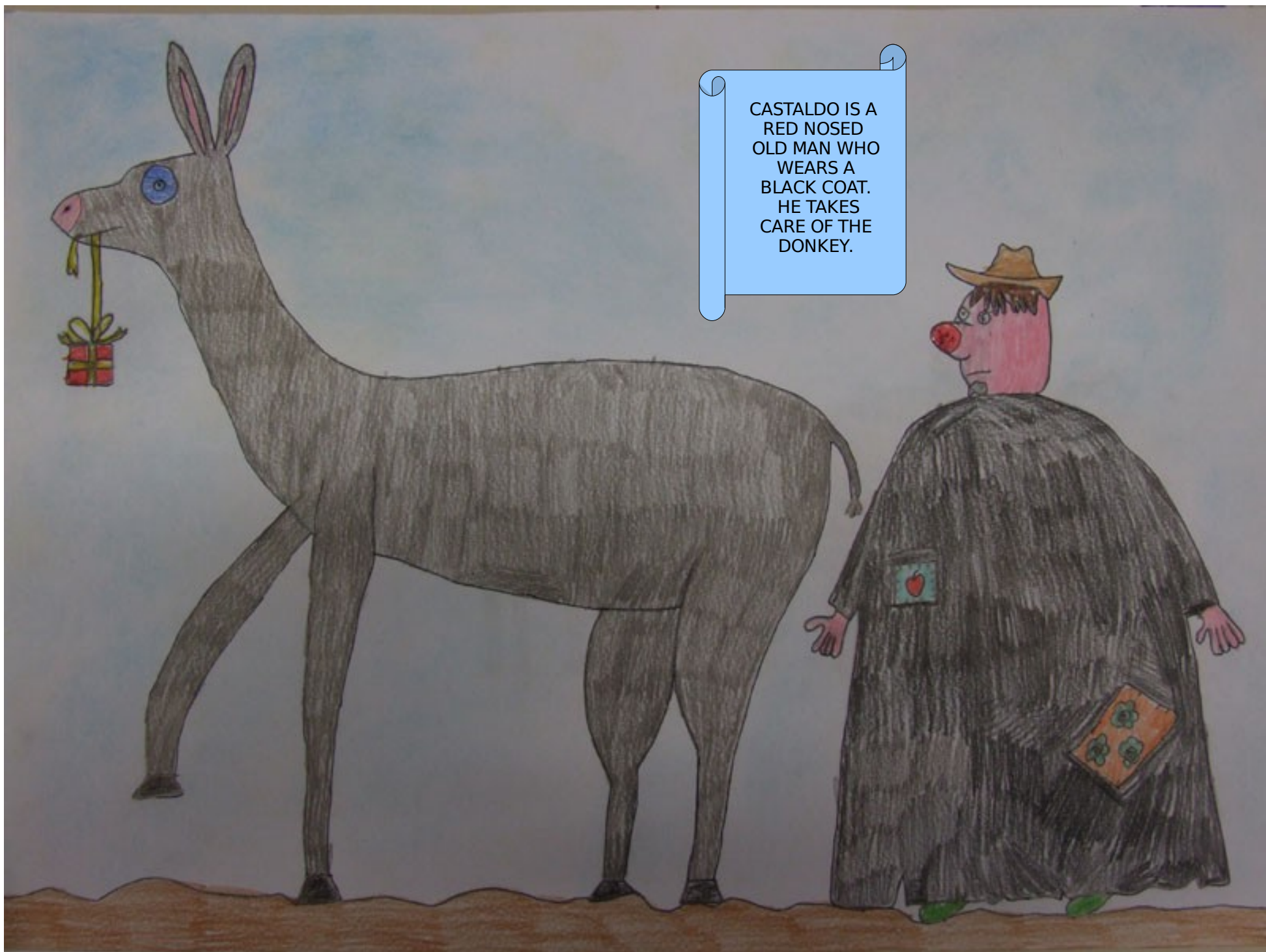


BECAUSE OF THIS SHE WAS ARRESTED, TORTURED AND BEATEN, BUT, HOWEVER, SHE DECLARED HIMSELF A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST AND REFUSE TO RECANT THEIR FAITH. MIRACULOUSLY UNABLE TO BURN HER, THE GUARDS TOOK OUT HER EYES WITH A FORK. SHE IS THE PATRON SAINT OF THOSE WHO ARE BLIND.

SHE DIED IN 304 AND SHE WENT TO HEAVEN.



SHE IS KNOWN AS THE "SANTA" WHO DELIVERS GIFTS TO GOOD CHILDREN HELPED BY THE FLYING DONKEY AND CASTALDO.



CASTALDO IS A
RED NOSED
OLD MAN WHO
WEARS A
BLACK COAT.
HE TAKES
CARE OF THE
DONKEY.

ST. LUCIA IS THE PATRON SAINT OF THE CITY OF SYRACUSE (SICILY), WHERE SHE WAS BORN. THE MAIN CELEBRATION OCCURS ON 13th DECEMBER AND IN MAY. ST. LUCIA IS ALSO POPULAR AMONG CHILDREN IN SOME REGIONS OF NORTH - EASTERN ITALY, NAMELY TRENTO, EASTERN LOMBARDIA (BERGAMO, BRESCIA, CREMONA AND MANTOVA), SOME PARTS OF VENETO (VERONA), SOME PARTS OF EMILIA ROMAGNA (PIACENZA, PARMA AND REGGIO EMILIA), ALL FRIULI AND IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

