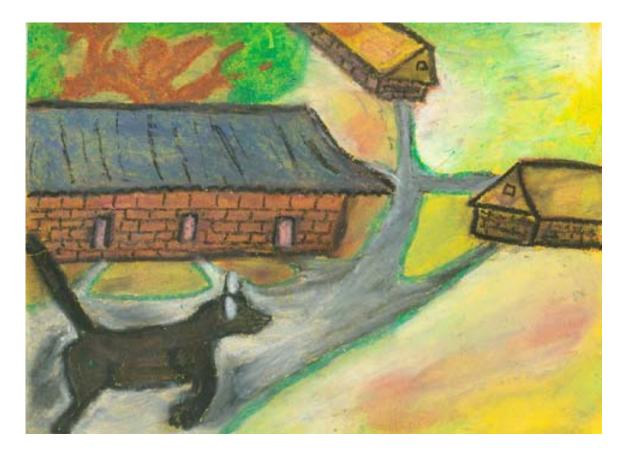
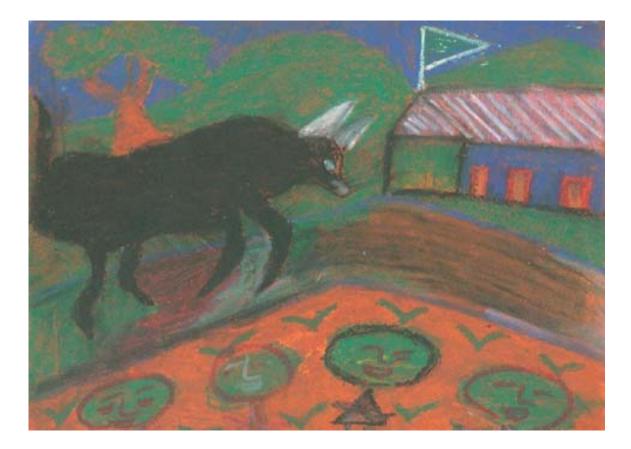
Maru



Written by: Joe Ehram, Pihdelis Helgerberger, Lepty Herry, Elihner Irasdos, Welner Lukner, Newton Robert, Ioanis Rosario, Yosko Seiola, and Laura Shed



On the island of Pohnpei, there was a stray dog named Maru. Maru was a black dog with white ears. One day she walked by a building. It was a school.



Maru was curious. She went inside the school. It looked like fun to be in school. She wanted to be just like the other students. She wanted to play, study, and make friends.



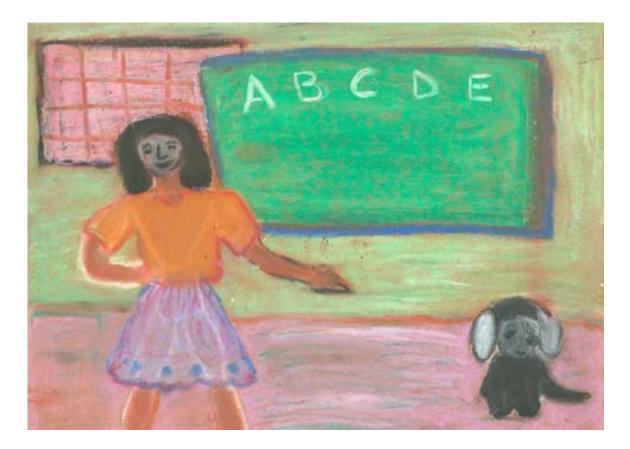
At recess, Maru played soccer with the students. One of the students kicked the ball to her. Maru opened her mouth wide and the ball rolled in. All of a sudden, there was a loud "pop" and the ball went flat. That was the only ball at the school!



The students became angry because they could not play with the ball. A boy scolded Maru for ruining the ball. Maru returned to the classroom, feeling sad.



In the classroom, the teacher had written the alphabet on the board. She stood at the front and asked the students to read the alphabet. Maru tried to read with the students but the only sound that came out of his mouth was "woof woof."



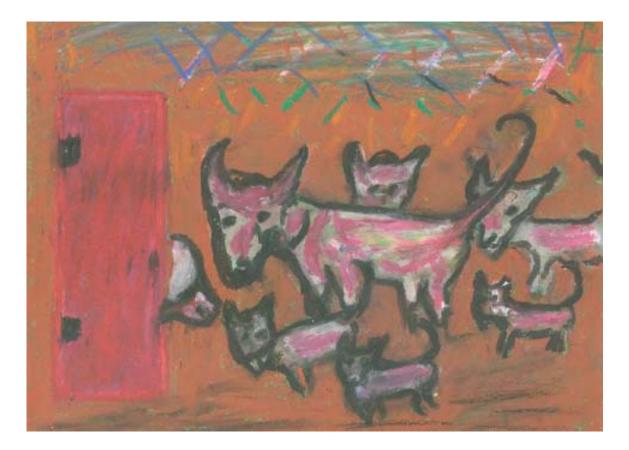
The teacher scolded Maru for barking in class. Maru went to the back of the classroom, feeling sad.



Later, the Principal was walking around the school visiting classrooms. As he entered the 1st grade classroom, Maru ran over and barked at him. She wanted to protect the students, like a hen guarding her chicks.



The Principal went to the front of the classroom and scolded the students for letting Maru in. Maru went to the back of the classroom, feeling sad.



Outside, some hungry red dogs approached the classroom to steal the students' lunches.



Maru barked loudly and stopped them. They ran away.



All the students thanked Maru. She saved their lunches. She could stay in the classroom and be a student. Maru barked and jumped for joy because she was so happy! This book is part of a series of Pacific language early readers developed by Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL).

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