



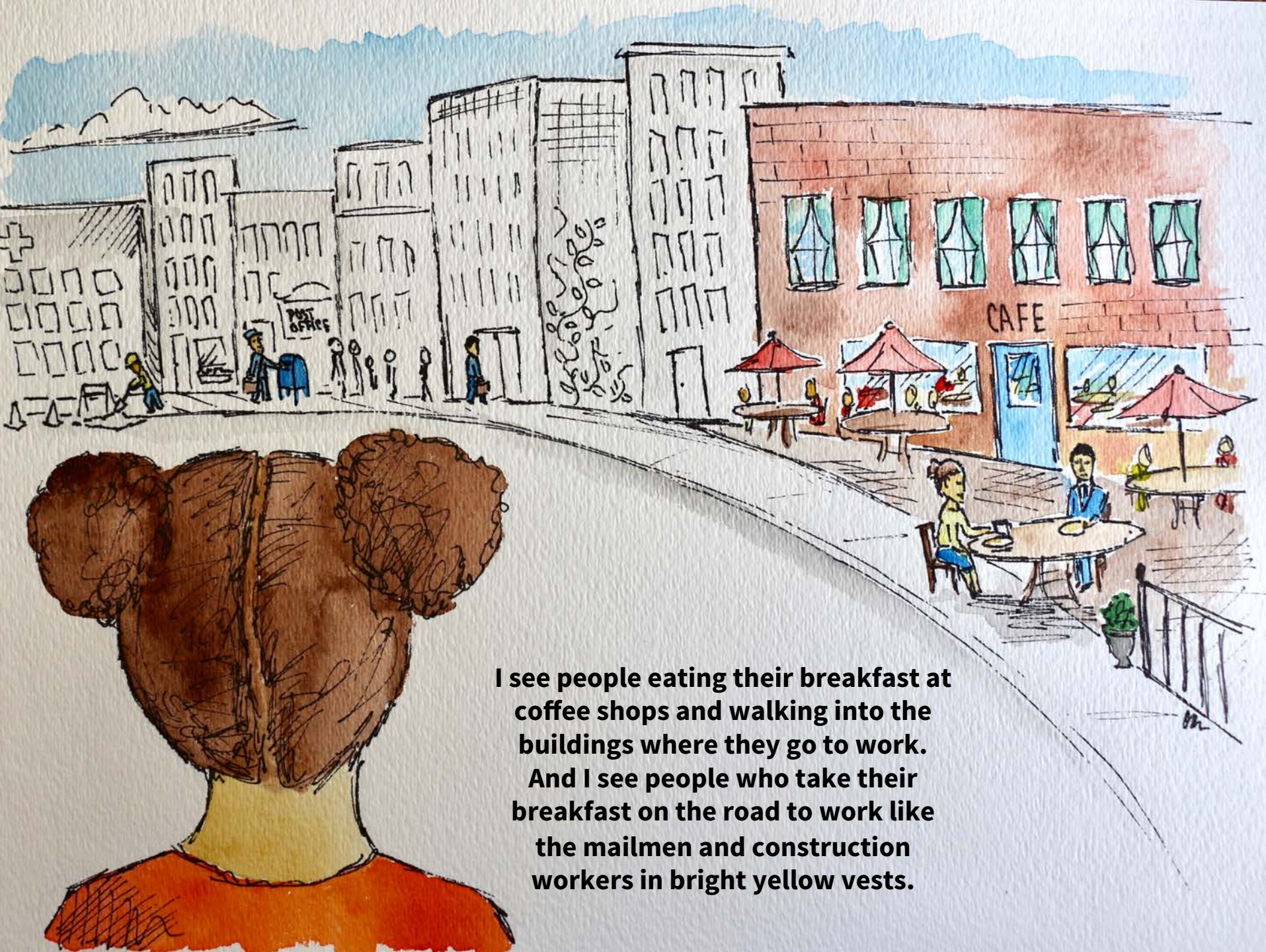
Hi! My name is Anya. This is me and the people, animals and nature around me make up my community.



I live in a house in a big city. There are a lot of cars, tall buildings and shops all around me.



Every day, my dad and I walk to and from school together and I pretend that I am an explorer, studying what I see along the way.



**I see people eating their breakfast at
coffee shops and walking into the
buildings where they go to work.
And I see people who take their
breakfast on the road to work like
the mailmen and construction
workers in bright yellow vests.**



This is the library where I go to borrow books. It's really quiet so sometimes I like to sit in there when the city gets too loud.



Sometimes on the way home, my dad and I stop for a snack at the grocery store where we see lots of people shopping for their dinners. I also like to count all the animals I see.

Some of the animals are domestic. Domestic animals need humans to be healthy and can become a part of people's family like dogs or cats. Usually I see them out on peoples' porches or backyards.



My friend Angel just adopted a dog from the animal shelter that is a few blocks away from our school! He said his family wanted to give a rescued animal a second chance.



But there are also a lot of animals in my community that have their own homes out in the wild. I always see birds and squirrels in the trees, and bugs in the planters. Sometimes, on weekends, we go on hikes in the mountains and I've seen grasshoppers and worms and lots of lizards. But my parents say it is best if we just look at those ones instead of petting them, and make sure we never leave any garbage in their outdoor homes.



Sometimes, if people touch wild animals too much, or wreck their homes in the wild, they become endangered and have to be taken care of in places like zoos. We have one of those downtown that I've been to on a field trip with my class.

Oh! And last week I saw a raccoon on my way home from the dentist with my mom!





Not all my friends live here in my community. Some of them live far away. Rebecca lives on a farm. She can't see any buildings from her house but she can see other things that I can't see like cows and horses. My friend Carlos who lives in the mountains can see the ocean from his bedroom!



Did you know that there are so many types of homes? My friend Angel lives in a tall house, Daniel lives in an apartment, and my friend Jordan lives in a home that has wheels!



Do you ever wonder where wild animals go to sleep? There is a big park downtown with a lot of nature like trees, grass and a lake right in the middle.

If I were a wild animal, I think I would like to sleep there.





I wish I could sleep in a tree with all the birds, or fly around above the city way up high so I could see what a bird sees. Everything must look so much different from way up there! I would be able to see where everything is and where my house is in it all. I would make a big nest full of things that I found in my community, and each thing would remind me of a place. Hey, I think I'll draw a map of everything around me, that way I can see it all!