

BILLY

the

BALLOON

Betty Baker Spahr



to Deb, Kath and Tucker  
who were not yet born or  
even thought of when  
Billy was already quite  
a big balloon -

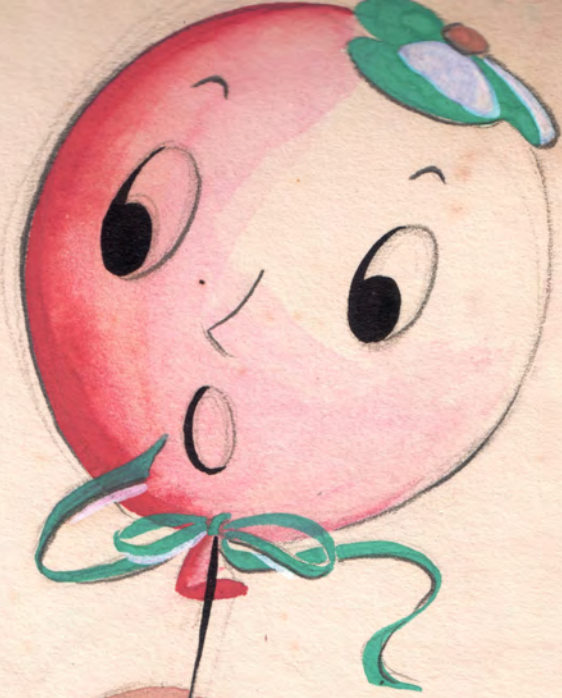


Billy came from a long  
line of circus balloons.

Right from the beginning  
he was the most up and  
coming of the bunch.

Nobody could hold him  
down - - -







except Donald.

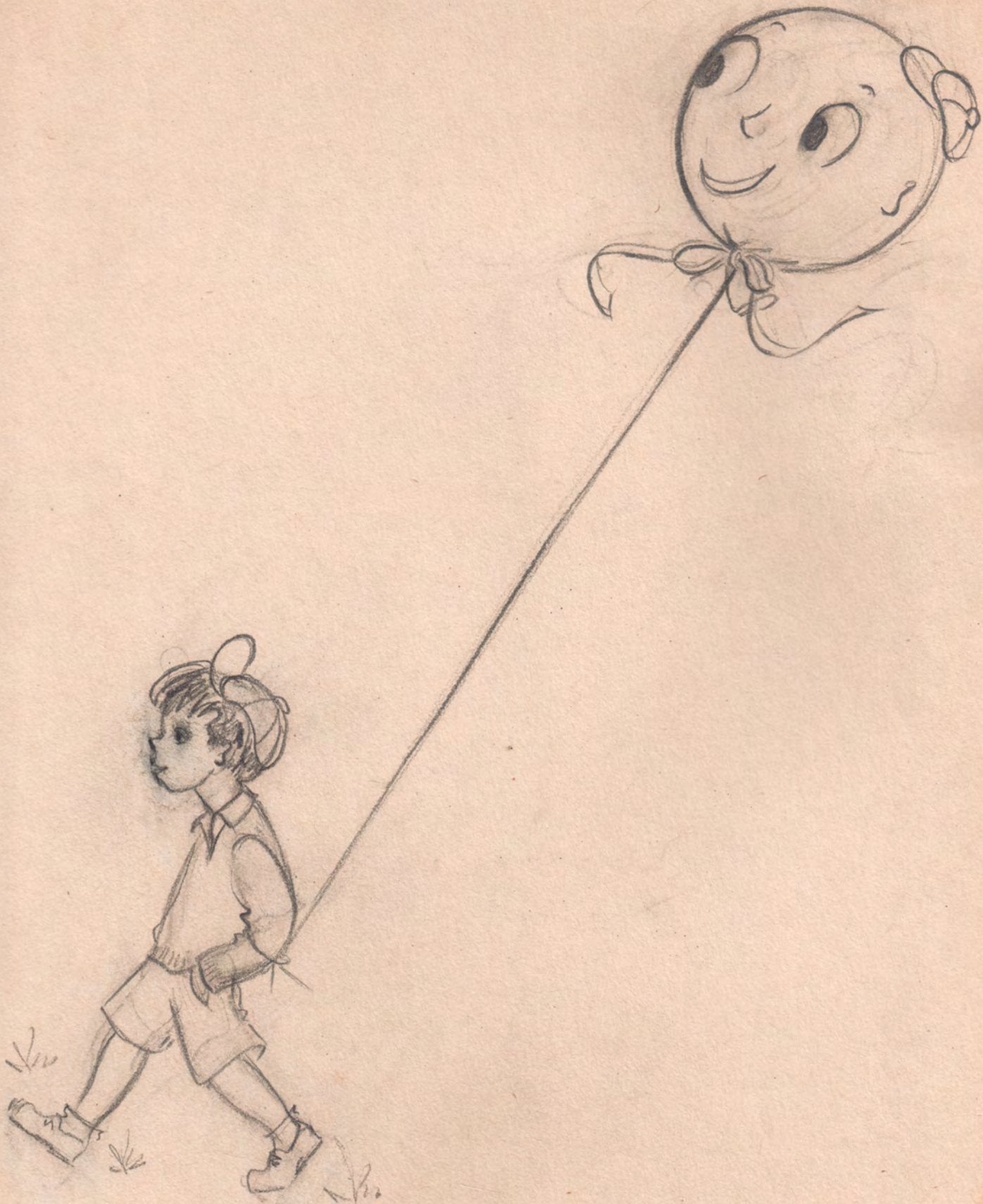






They were very attached  
to each other.

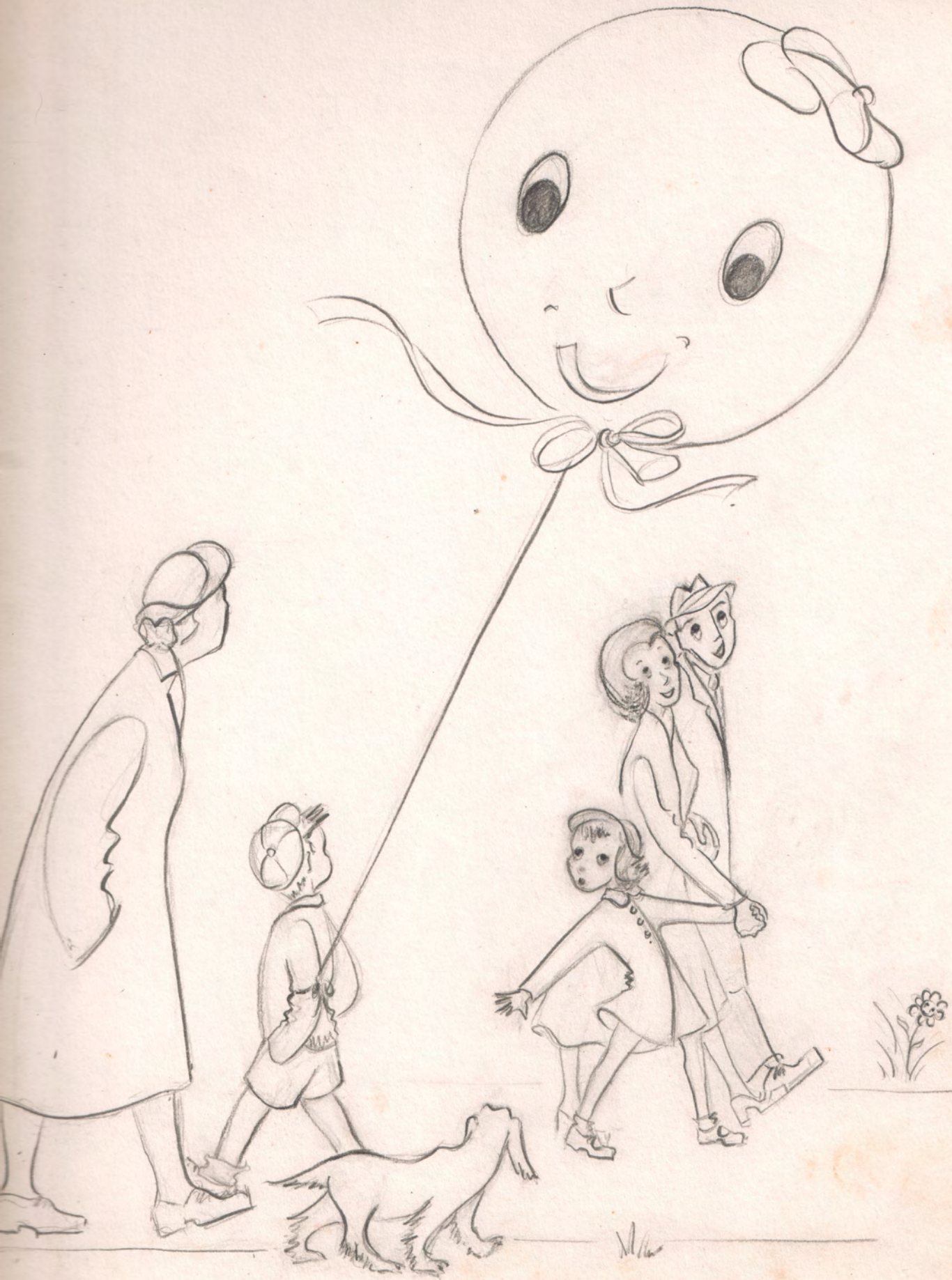






Everybody looked up  
to Billy, he was so  
big and important.

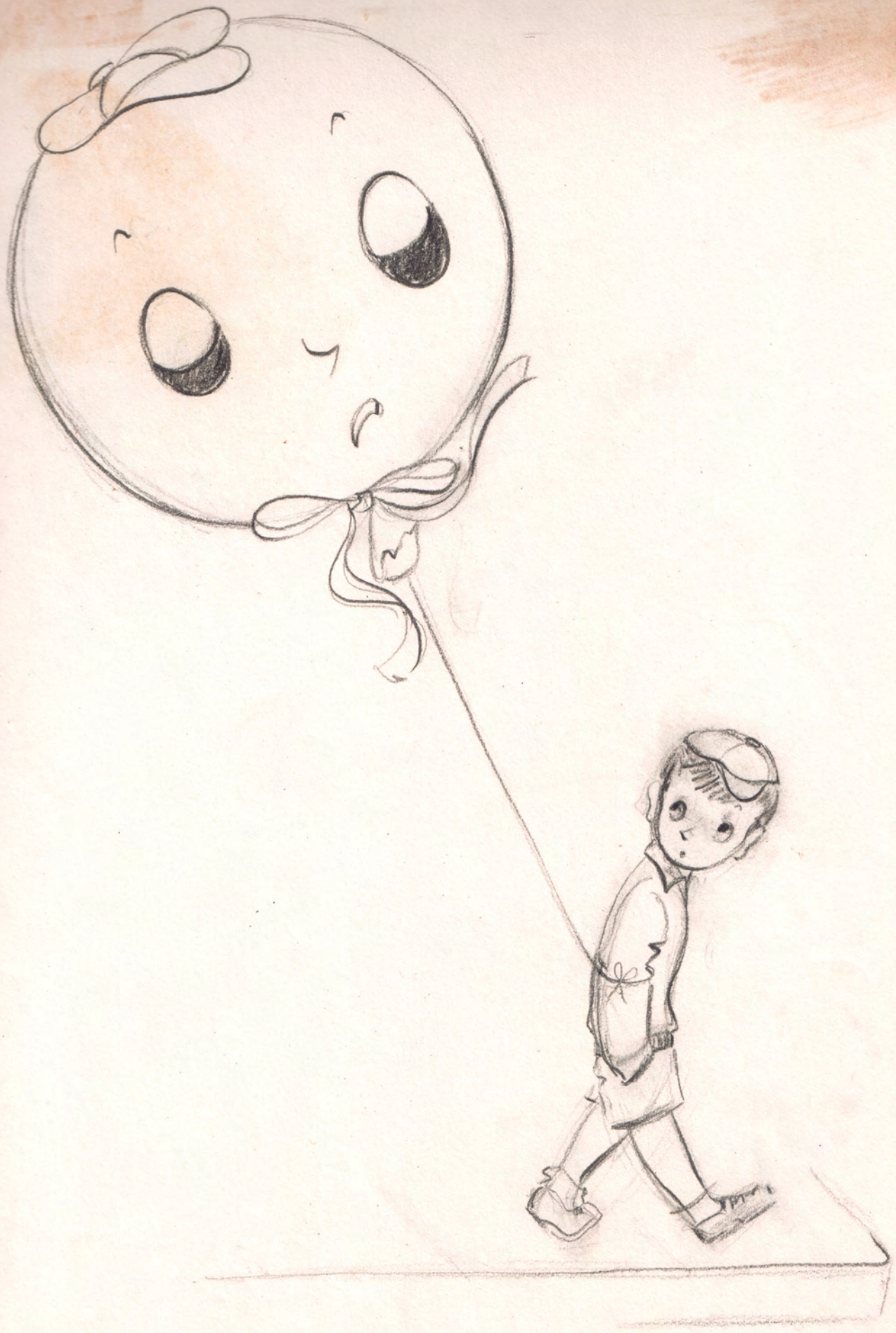






Every day he felt bigger  
and more important  
until ---

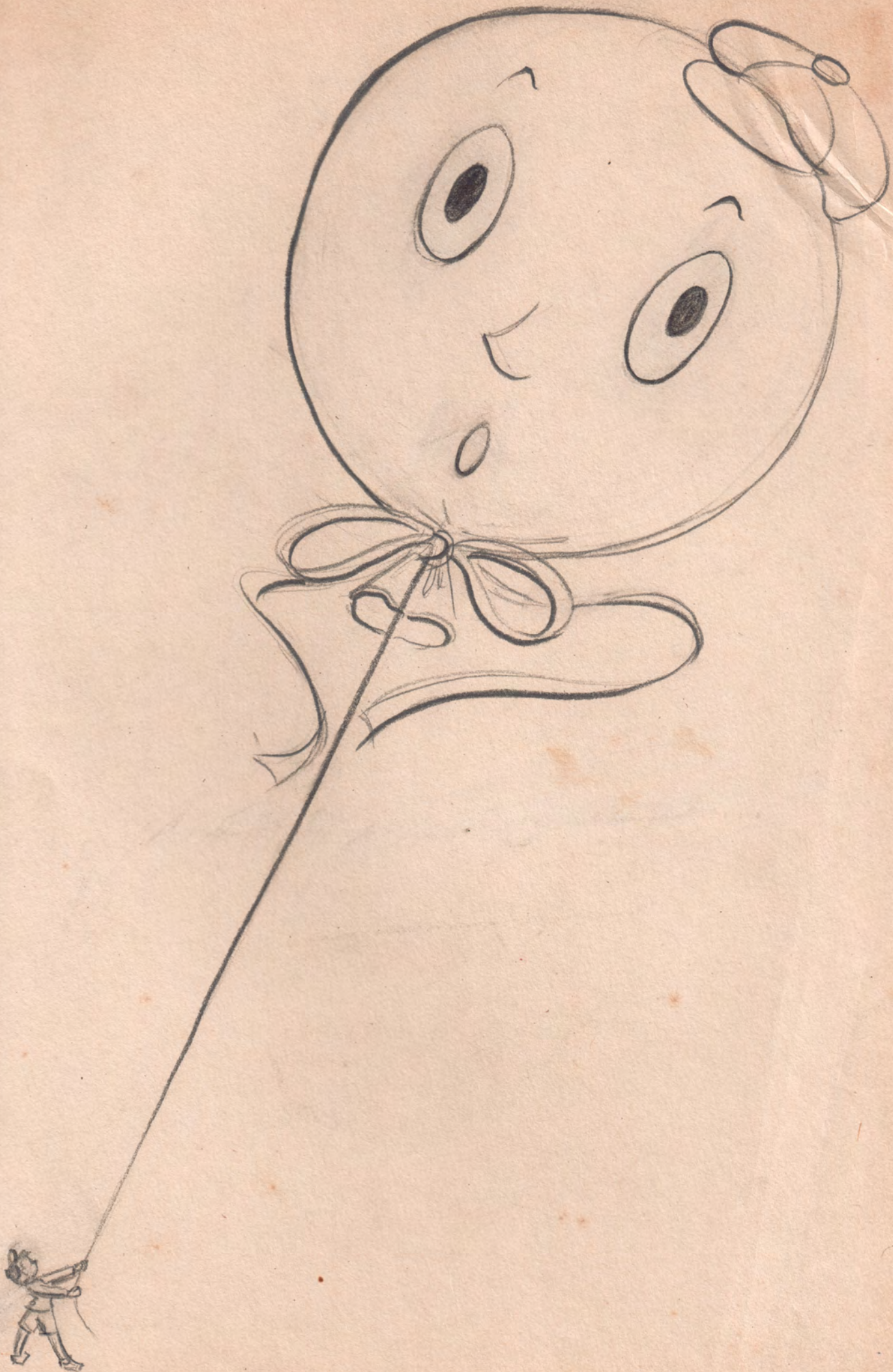






one day he had an idea!







and off he went on his own.

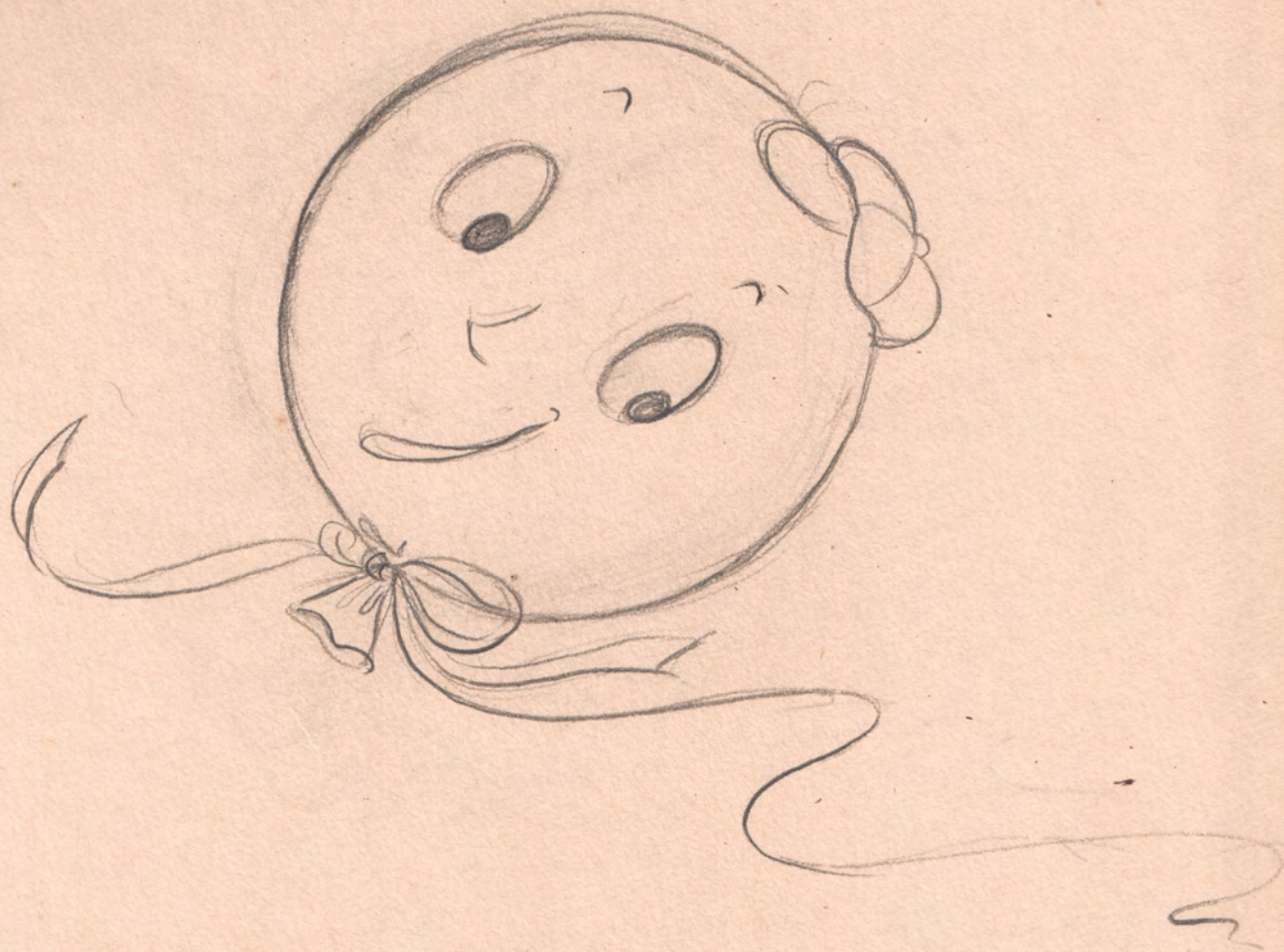






My! it was fun looking down  
on EVERYTHING --- not  
only people, but houses and  
trees and even birds!

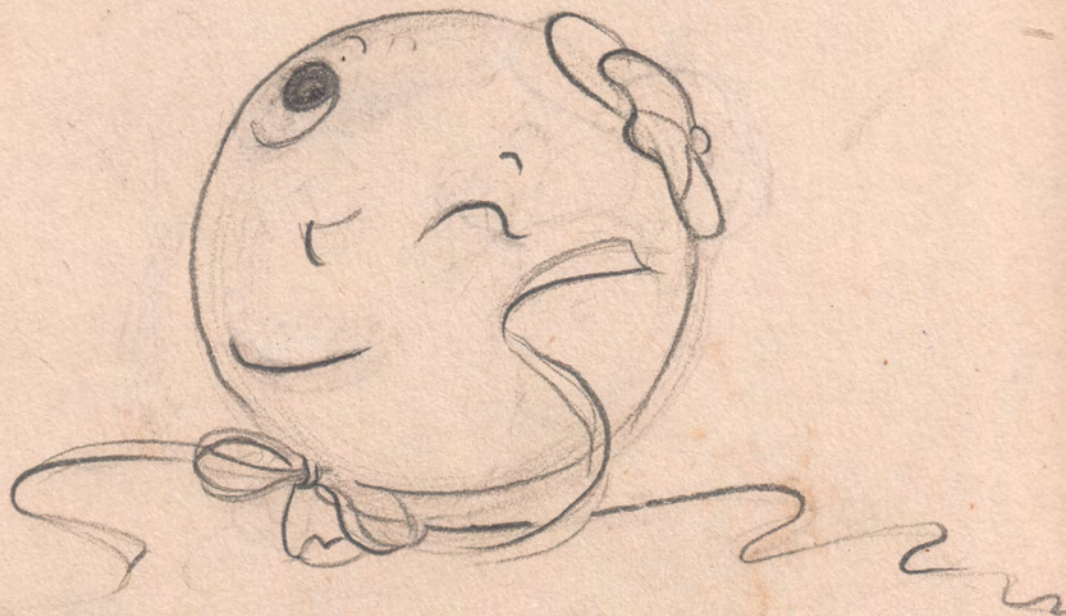
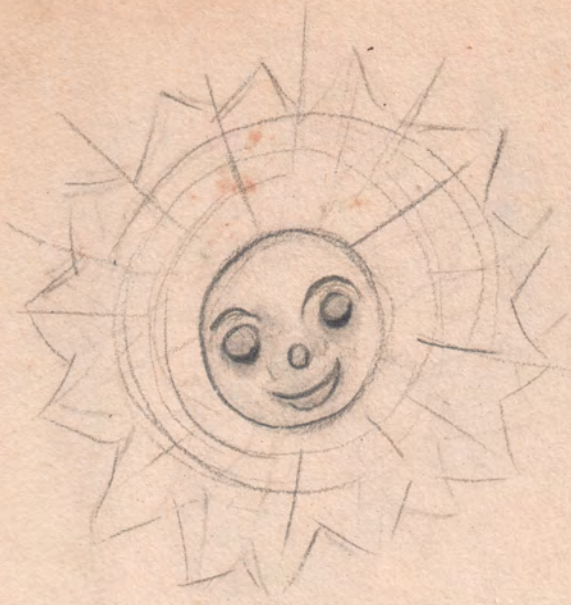






"Soon I'll be looking down  
on you, too," thought Billy  
as he winked at the sun.

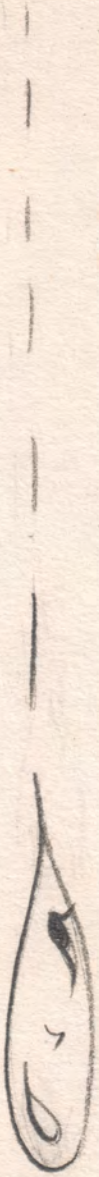
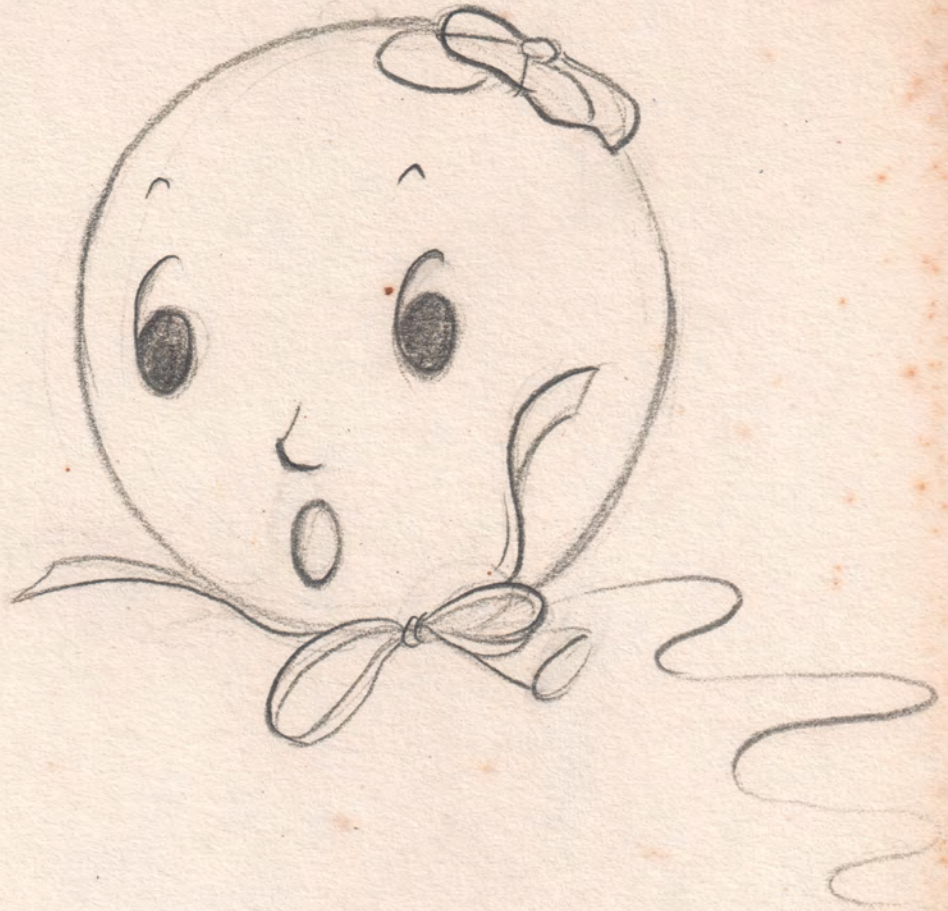






"A flower is waiting for  
me," sang a raindrop  
as he passed Billy by.

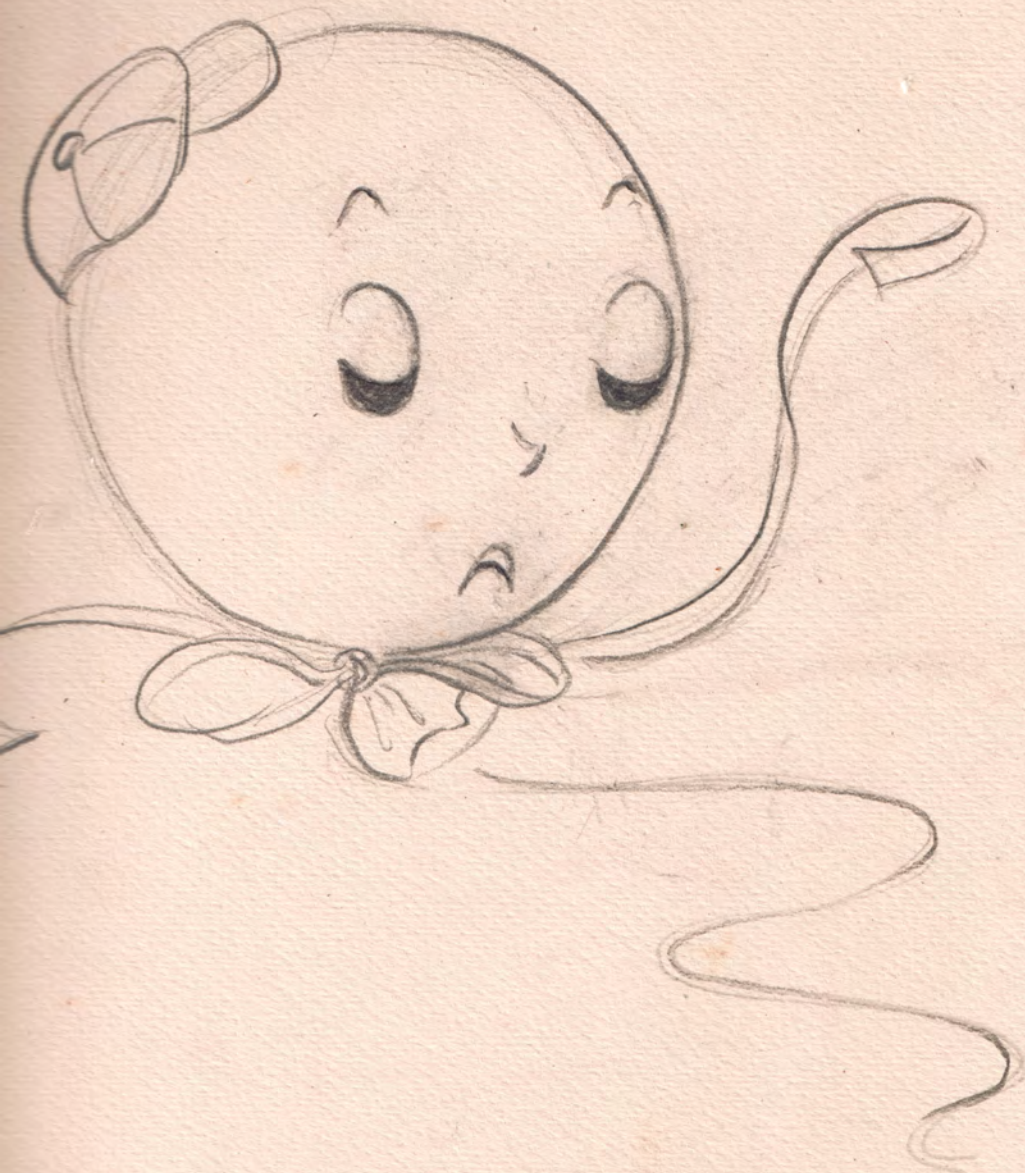






"He won't get very far that way," Billy thought, watching him go.



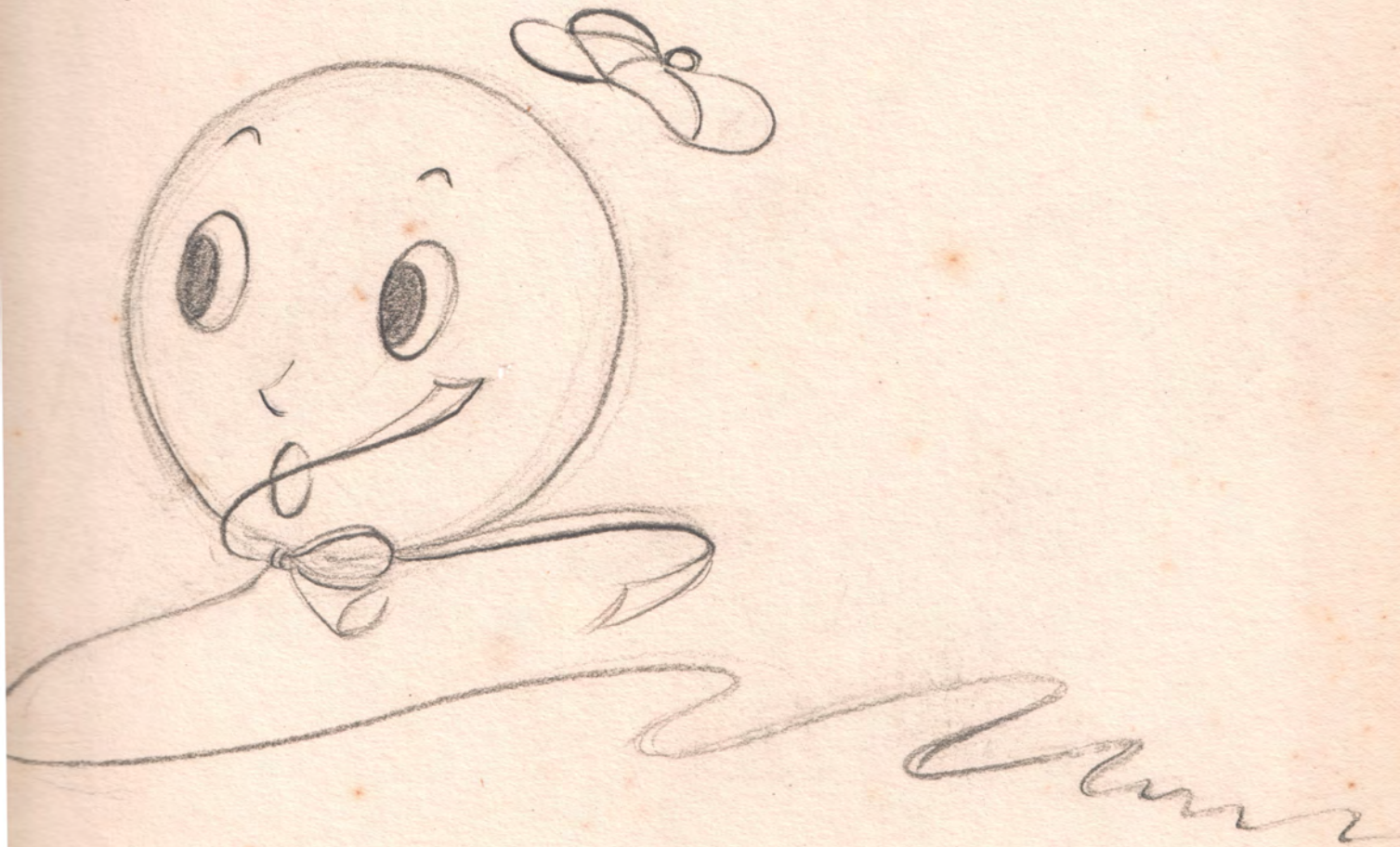








Eric wanted Billy out of the eagle-lanes





and told him so.

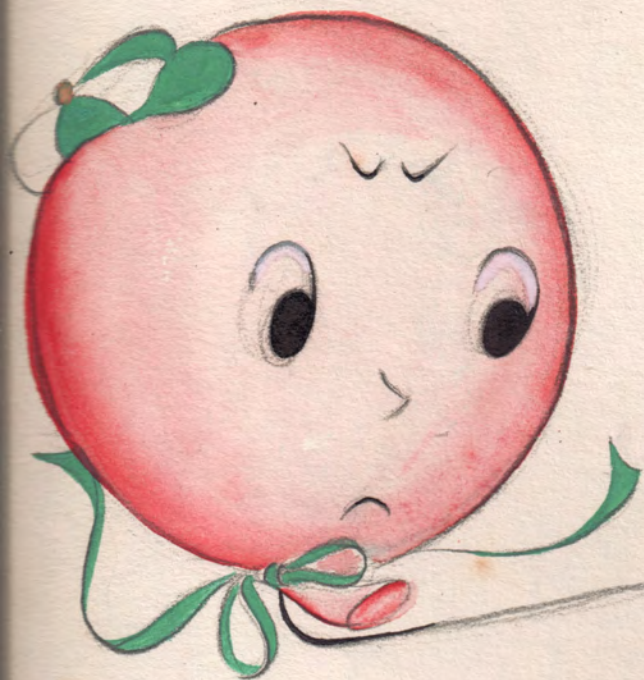






Billy couldn't help thinking  
that eagle wasn't a bit  
like Donald.







The more he thought  
about Donald, the  
sadder he got.

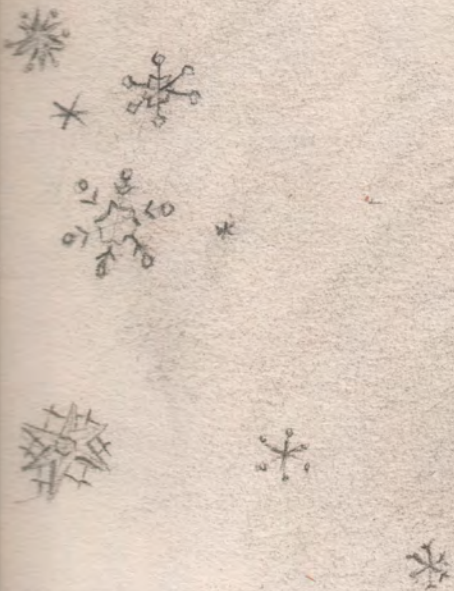






"But --- I thought I  
was higher than  
anything," said Billy  
as some snowflakes  
came near.







"You've a long way to go," they answered as they drifted away.







"What's happening!"  
cried Billy, almost  
disappearing.

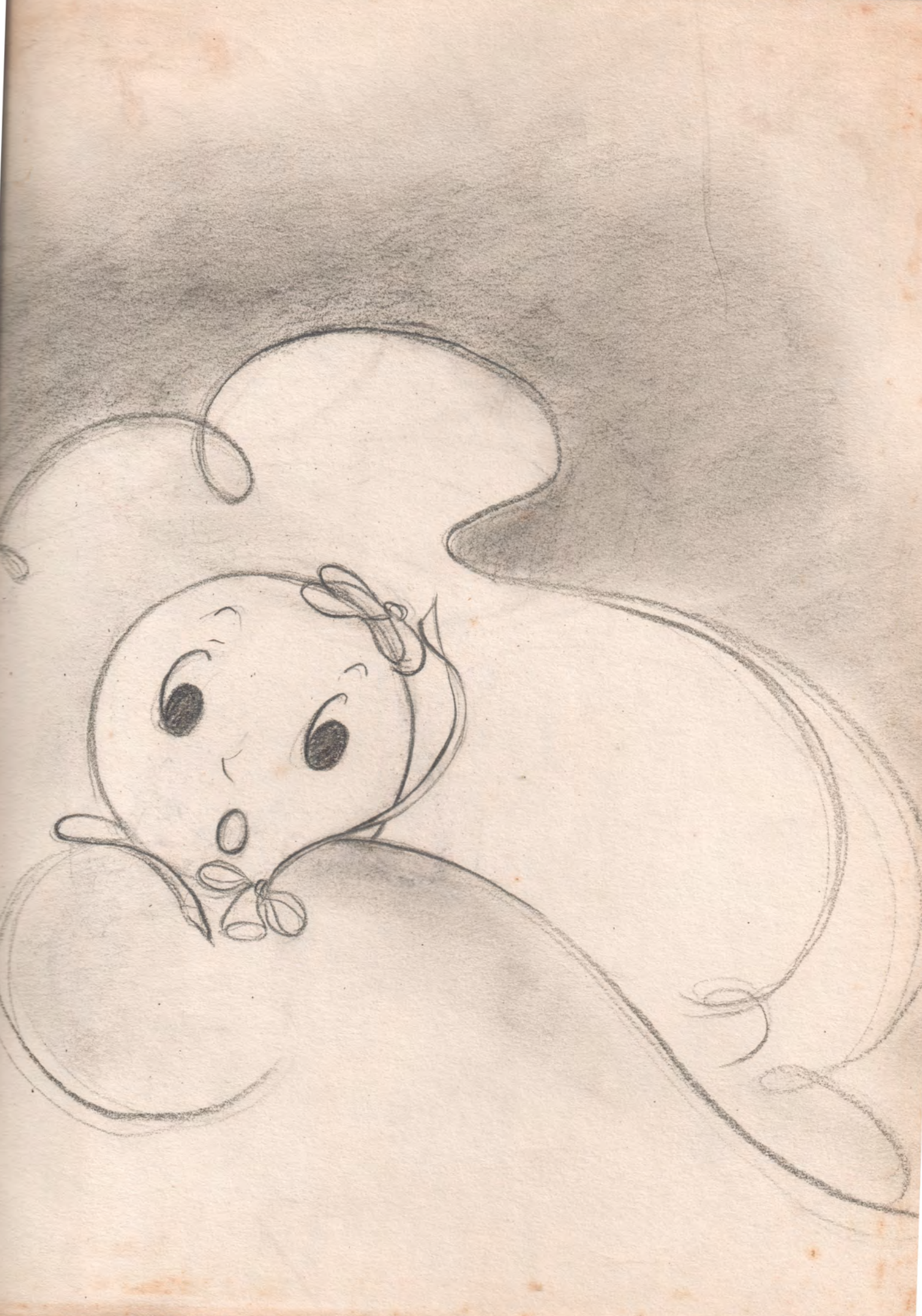






"Well! I'm caught in a  
cloud!" he gasped in  
surprise.



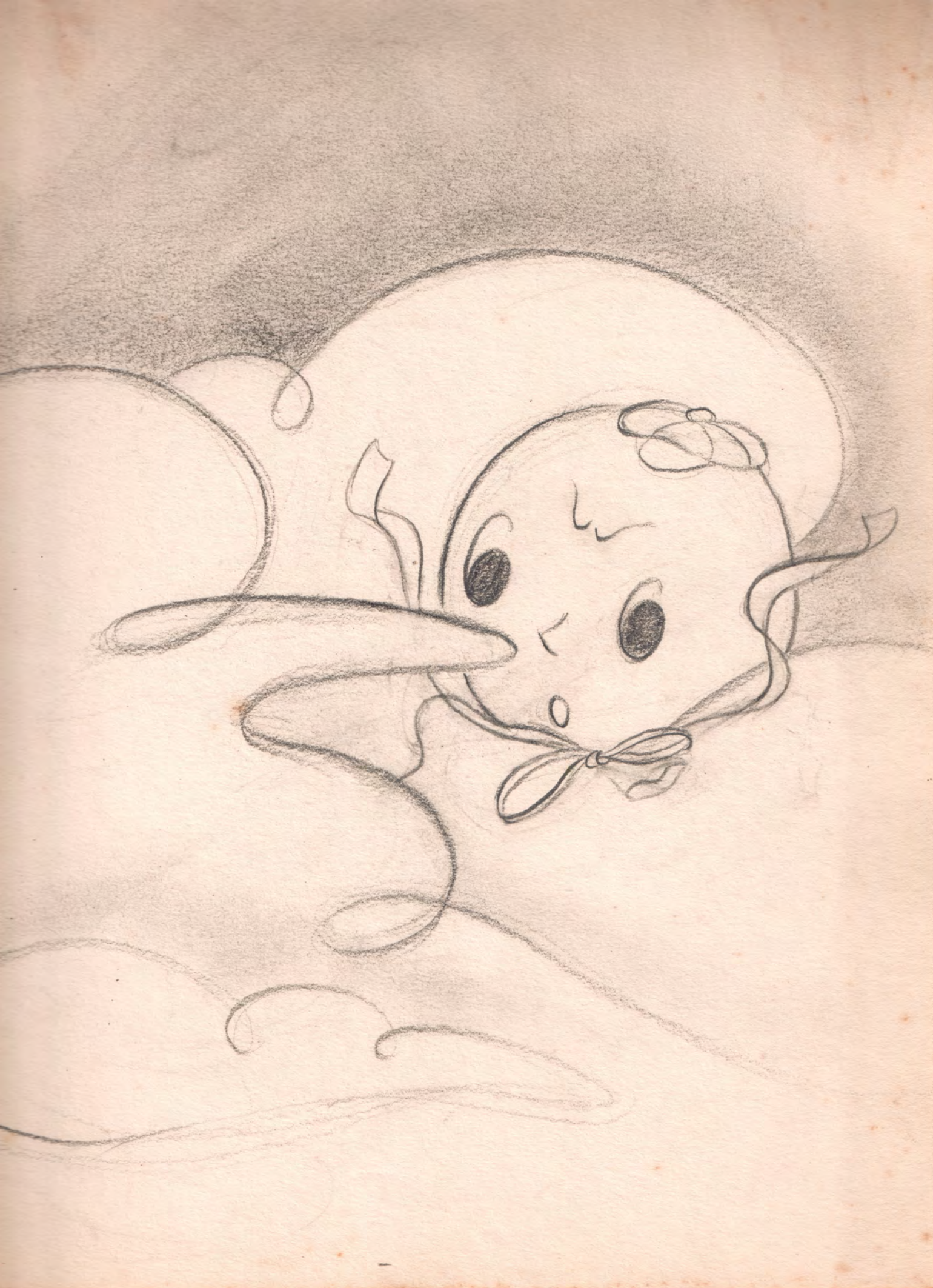




"You need to get down  
to earth," growled a  
gloomy cloud voice.

But not wanting to be  
a fly-by-night, Billy  
decided to







wait until morning.

And when he woke







he was back, right where  
he belonged.



