When the World Ran Out Of Violets

written and illustrated by Jane Park
Once upon a time, a long time ago, Mother Nature ran out of her special purple dye.
She got it from some very rare snail slime. Every spring she used this unique snail slime to dye all the violets in the world.
One year, after an unusually long winter, the mulberry leaves, which are the snails' favorite food, didn't grow back before the snails woke up. So the snails left to find food for themselves.
Mother Nature was ready to dye that year's violets, but she couldn't find her special snails anywhere! She didn't have any dye left because she used every last drop the year before.
As a result, Mother Nature could not make any new violets that spring.
People searched the ends of the earth for the missing violets, but they found none. They loved seeing them every year and thought they were so beautiful.
Finally, in the backyard of Lane and Michael Swiss, the last violet was found. It must have survived through the long winter.
Everyone was so happy they did a happy dance. People came to their house to see the violet, and they even put them on TV.
Jane and Michael watered it, pulled the weeds around it, and made sure it stayed healthy. Everyone loved the violet so much!
One afternoon, some kids were playing soccer nearby, and accidentally kicked the ball into Lane and Michael's yard. The ball ran over the violet and the violet died.
Everyone was so sad that they cried.
Meanwhile, the weather got warmer and the mulberry leaves started to grow big and tasty. Soon the snails came back.
Mother Nature made more of her special purple dye. She made tens of thousands of violets and covered the world in them.
Everyone was so happy that they celebrated and feasted for twelve days. They lived happily ever after.

THE END