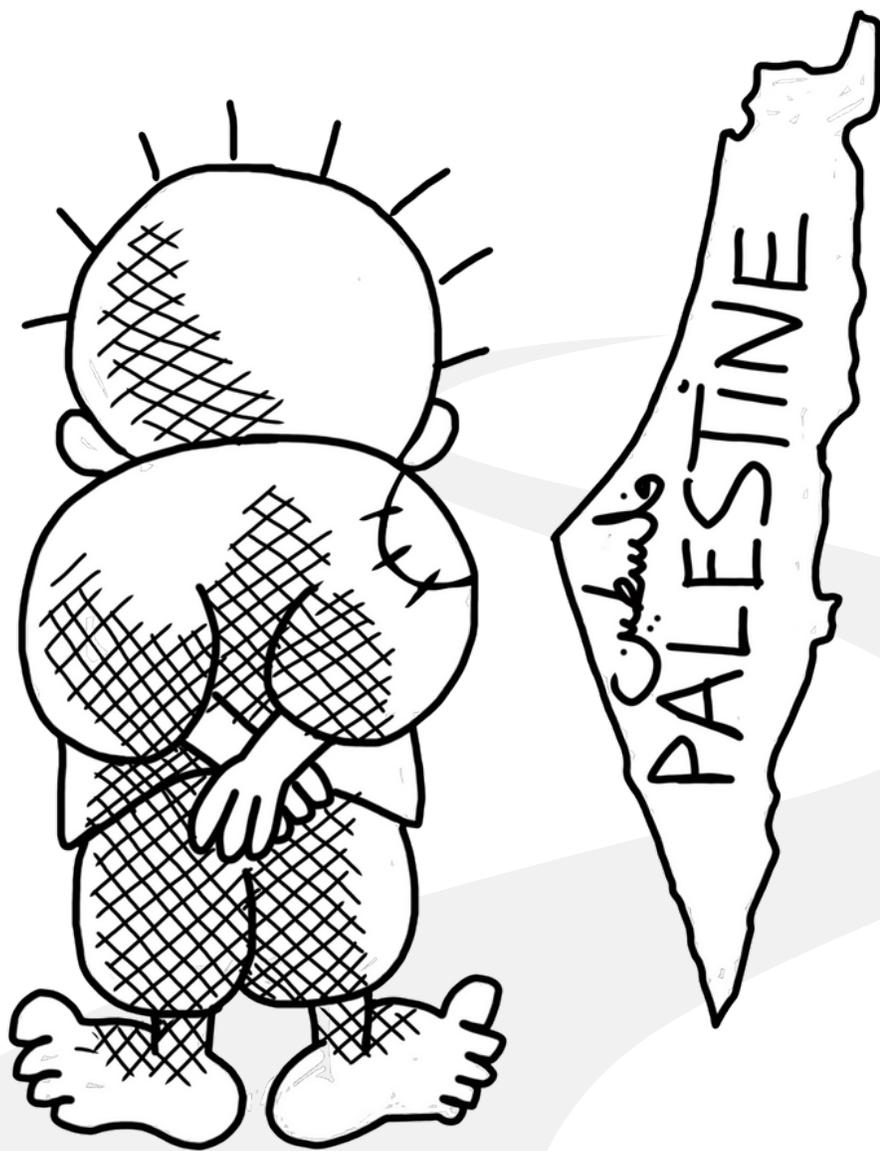


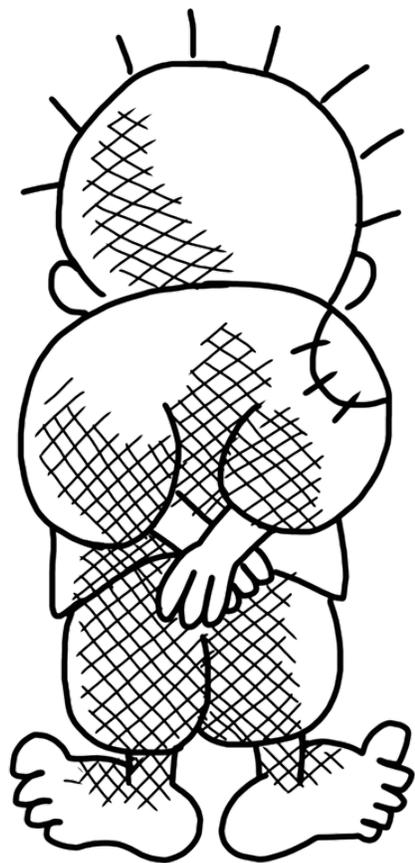
HANDALA'S RETURN

A CHILDREN'S STORY AND WORKBOOK

CREATED BY THE PALESTINIAN FEMINIST COLLECTIVE



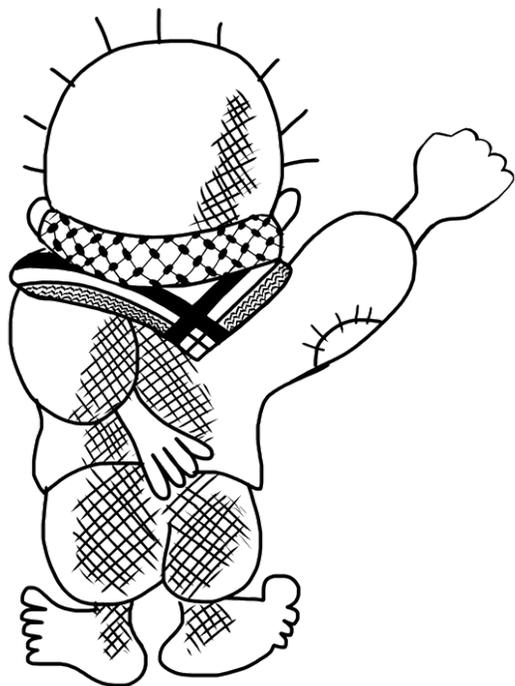
ART BY C. GAZALEH

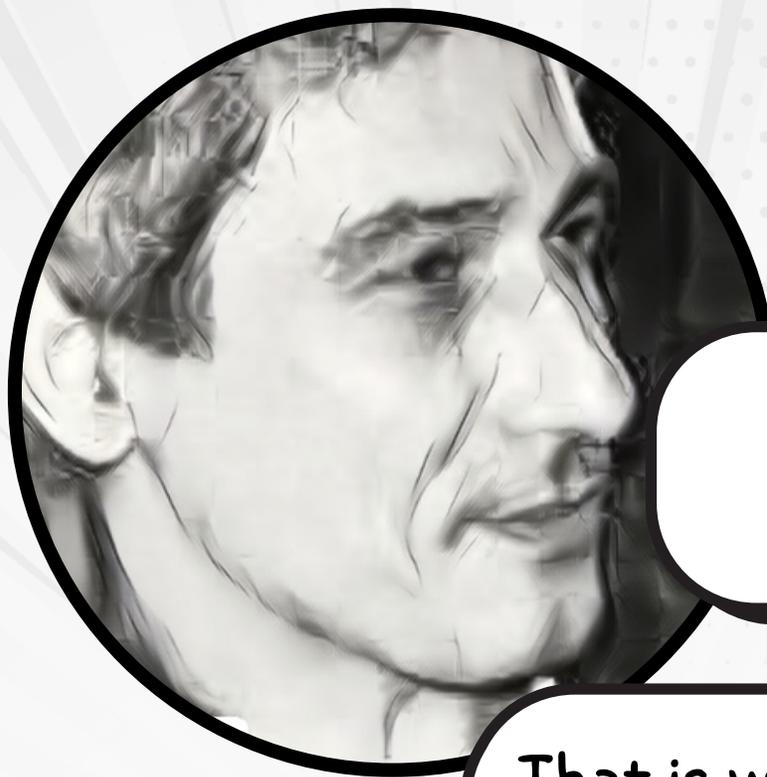


Hello!!

**My name is
Handala**

**I am a famous
Palestinian cartoon!!**

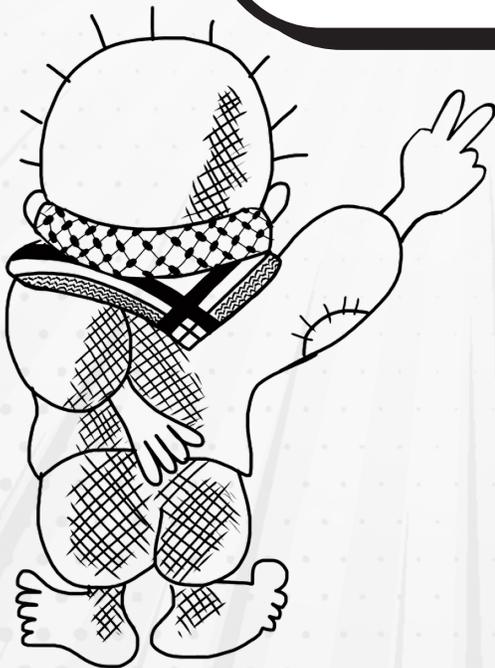




My birthday is
July 13, 1969.

That is when the Palestinian
artist, Naji al-Ali created me!

He drew me and published my
image in the newspaper.



We are both proud to be
Palestinian.

Trace Handala's Name

Handala

Handala

Handala

Handala

Handala

Trace Handala's name in Arabic

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حنظلة حنظلة

حنظلة حنظلة

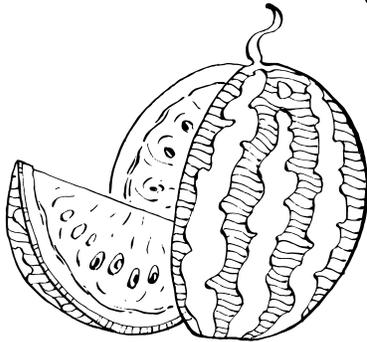
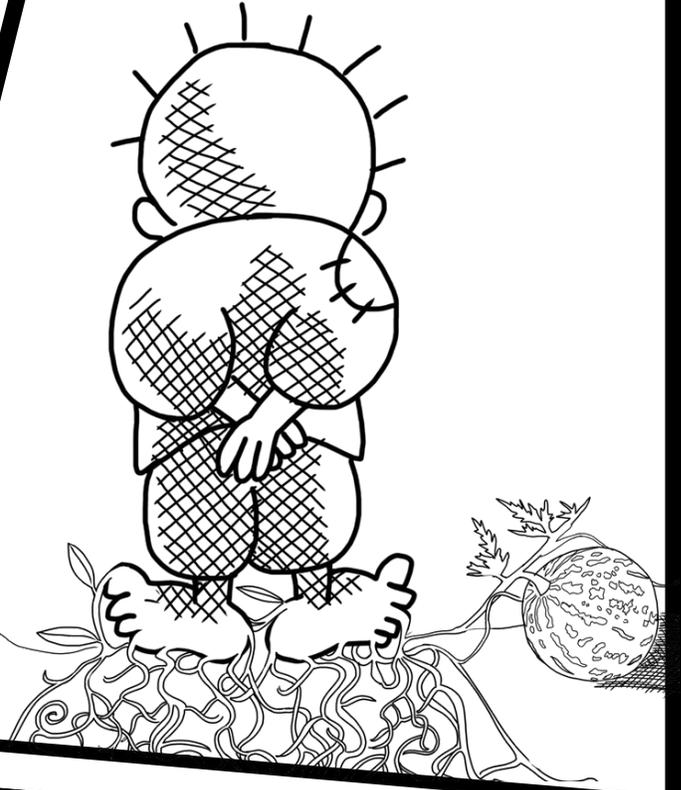
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In Arabic we write from right to left

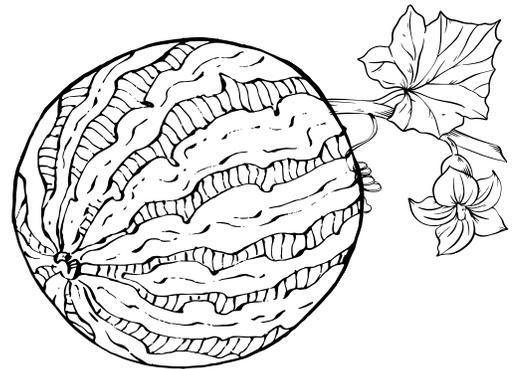


My name,
Handala, comes
from the
Arabic word
"handal."

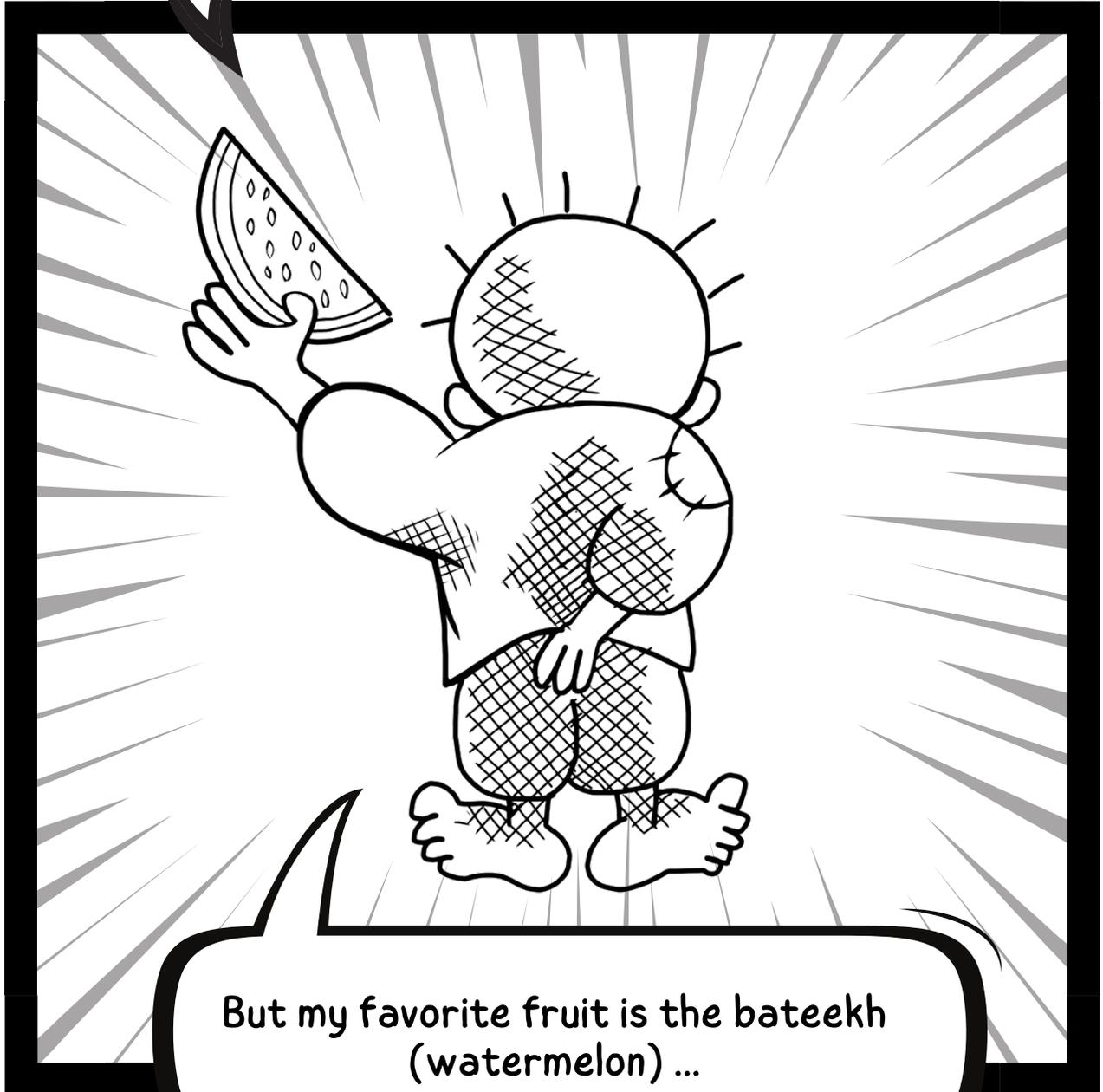


Handal is Palestinian
plant that produces
a very bitter fruit.

The handal plant has deep
roots. Even if you cut them,
they grow back.

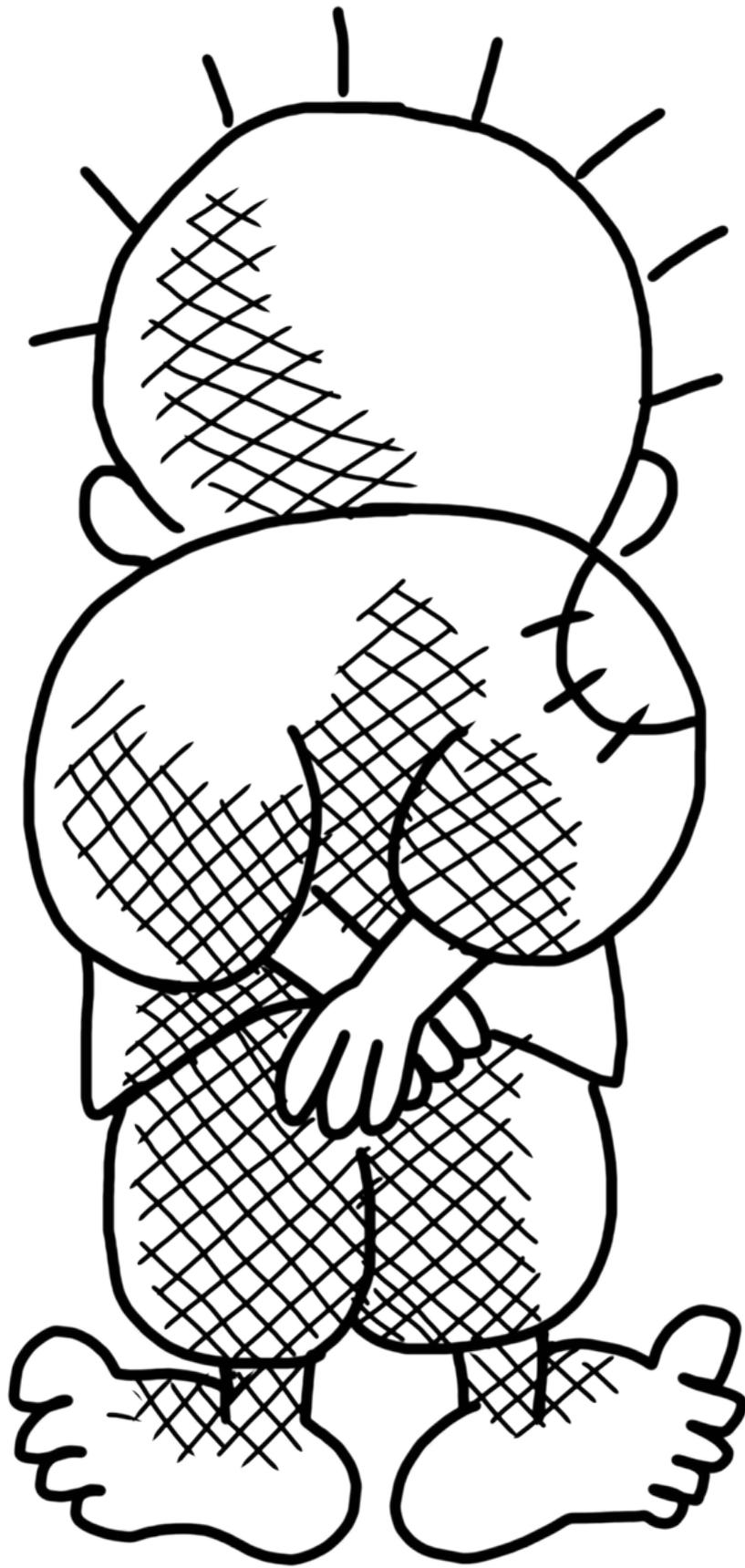


Its deep roots show the strong connection that we have to our land.



But my favorite fruit is the bateekh (watermelon) ...

because it's the colors of the Palestinian flag: red, black, green and white! What's your favorite fruit?



Color Handala with the Colors of the



Palestinian Flag

Now I am going to tell you
the story of my life.

While it's a sad story and sometimes a
little scary, it is also full of courage
home, community, and hope.

My story represents the experience
of many Palestinians too!



When I was only 10 years old, I had to flee my home in Palestine.

A group of bullies called Zionists wanted our land so they stole it by force and hurt many people.

My Mama and I cried a lot. Palestinians call this experience the Nakba.



At first, we lived in tents, like the ones you use when you go camping. We thought we would only be there for a few days.

But days became years and our tents became concrete buildings. We call them Refugee Camps.

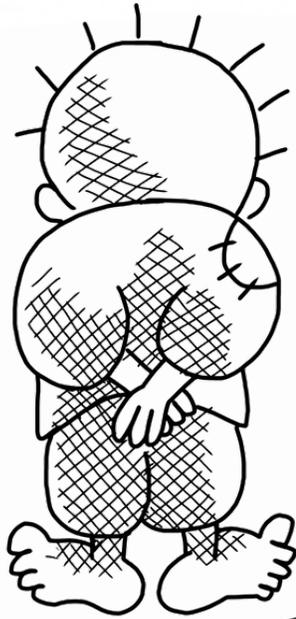


I live in Ain al-Helweh Refugee Camp in Lebanon.

ZIONISTS HAVE NEVER LET US GO
BACK TO PALESTINE, EVEN THOUGH
WE STILL HAVE THE KEY TO OUR HOME.



Draw a picture of your
family's house and key.
Ask your parents for help if needed.



Naji drew me
without shoes,
with torn clothing
and messy hair.

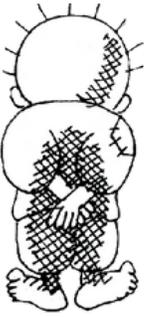
That is
because life for me
and other Palestinian refugees has been
really tough.

I still love the camp
because all the
people I love
are
there.

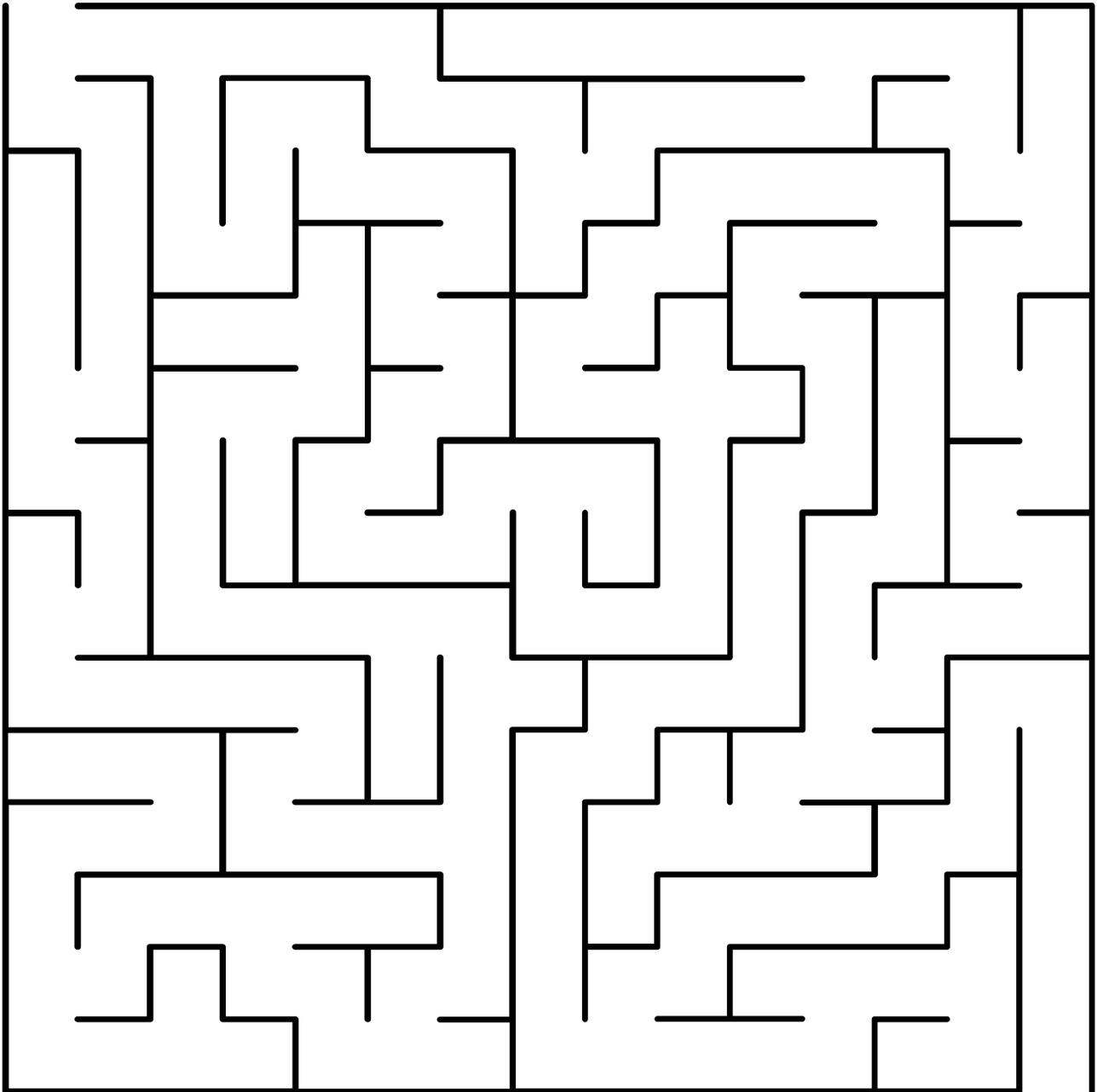
But I
really
want to
return to my
home in Palestine.

WILL YOU HELP ME RETURN?

Handala's Return!



Handala has his family's old house key. Now, he needs your help to get back home to Palestine! Trace a way home for Handala.



**NAJI DREW ME SO YOU CAN'T SEE MY FACE.
CAN YOU GUESS WHY?**

**A. He didn't
know how to
draw a face**

**B. He ran out of
time to draw me**

**C. He wanted me
to be mysterious**

**D. He wanted me to
turn my back against
all the world leaders
who didn't help me**

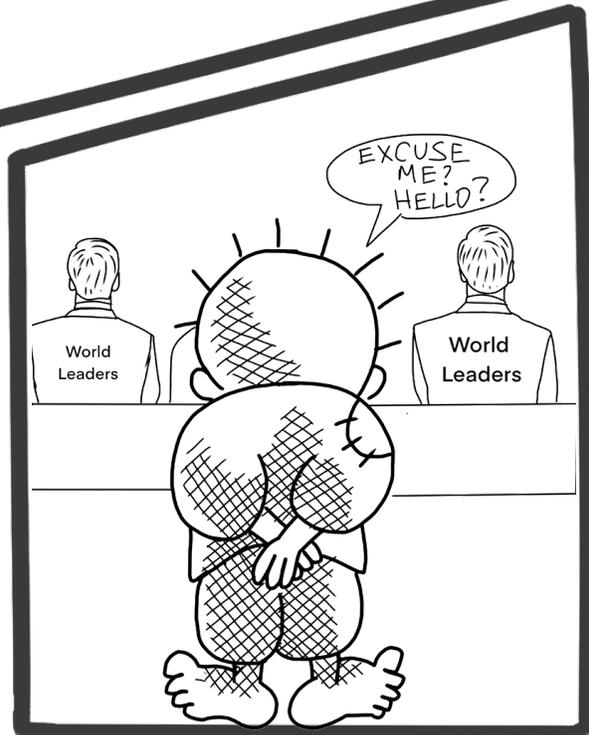
The Answer is D!

Naji drew me with my back turned to the world to show how world leaders ignored the Nakba

... and turned their backs on the Palestinians.

I will keep my back turned until I return to a free Palestine.

But I will never turn my back on you!



I HOPE YOU WON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME.



Terrible
things keep
happening
today in
Palestine.

Children like me keep having their homes
taken by the Zionist bullies. They are
always scaring them and arresting them.

My friends and I call
this an Ongoing Nakba.
We want this to stop
happening, so we
always shout out...



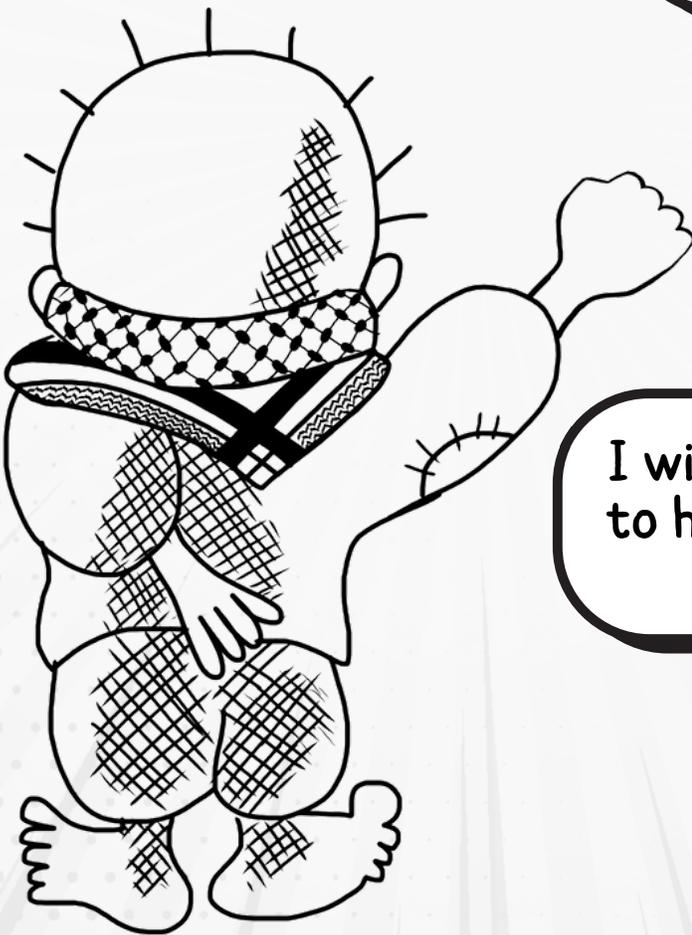
Even though I have a hard and sad life, I am also courageous.

I will never be silent when unfair things happen.

I will always speak up and fight for what's right and fair.

I will never forget that I am Palestinian or give up on my right to return!

I will always try to find a way to help other Palestinians and Free Palestine.



Help Handala Free Palestine

Think of things you can do to support Handala and his friends free Palestine. Fill in the blanks and feel free to ask your family members for assistance

- I will write a letter to _____.
- I will draw a picture and send it to

- I will raise funds for the children of Palestine by:

- I will chant this at a Palestine protest:

- I will tell _____ about Handala and his struggle!



"Handala and the Poppy" by Laila Shawa

This is me looking at a poppy flower. For Palestinians, poppies are a symbol of hope.

I am hopeful for freedom and return.
I never let anyone tell me something is impossible!

I always hold onto HOPE!



SYMBOLS OF PALESTINE



There are many other Palestinian symbols like me . A few of them are in the word puzzle below! Can You find them?

WORD SEARCH



PALESTINE

WATERMELON

FLYING DOVE

OLD KEY

OLIVE BRANCH

POPPY

ALQUDS

I CAN'T WAIT TO GO HOME TO A FREE PALESTINE.

**I'M EXCITED TO
PLAY IN THE
OLIVE AND
ORANGE
ORCHARDS.**



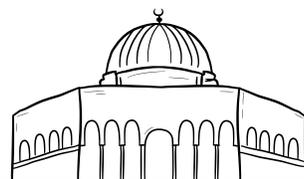
**I WANT TO HUG MY TETA
(GRANDMA) AND PLANT HERBS
WITH MY SIDO (GRANDPA) AGAIN.**



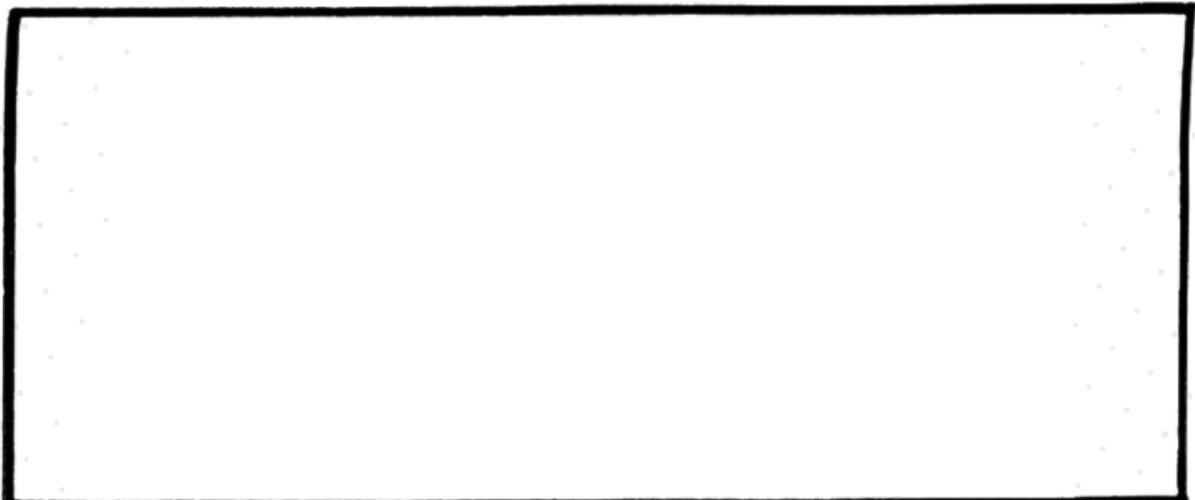
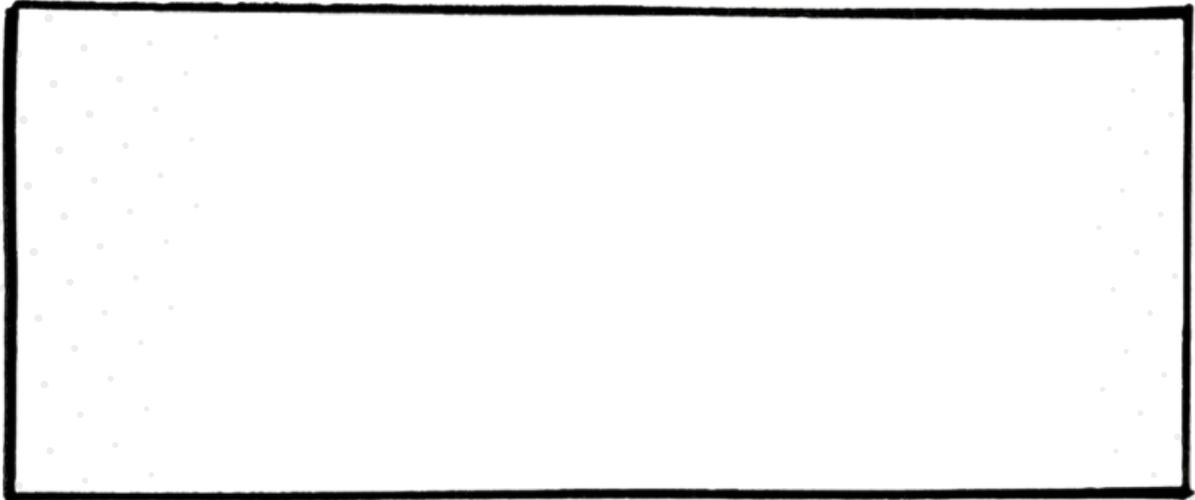
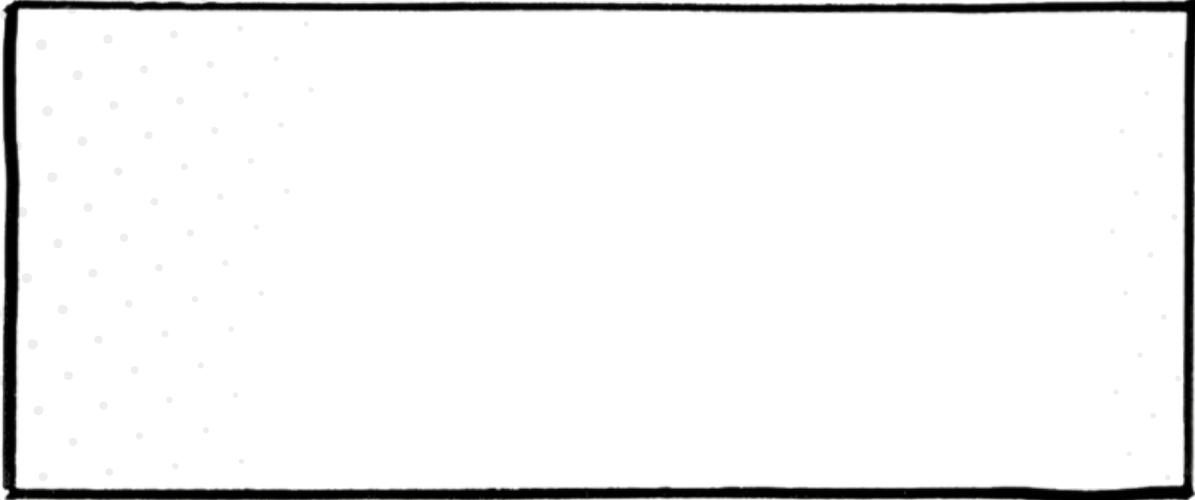
**I LOOK FORWARD TO
SINGING SONGS AND
FLYING KITES WITH
MY NEIGHBORHOOD
FRIENDS.**



**I CAN'T WAIT FOR SUMMER
TO SWIM AT THE BEACHES
OF YAFA AND PLAY
SOCCER IN AL-QUDS.**

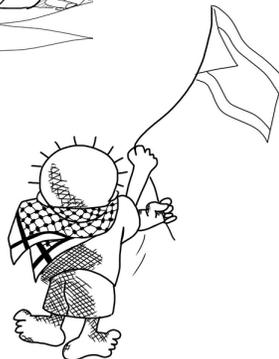
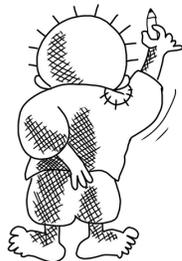
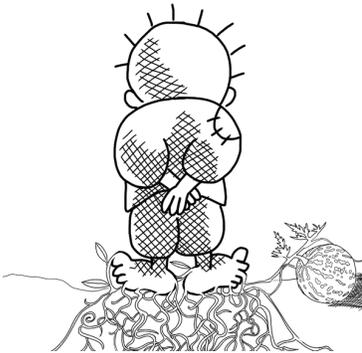
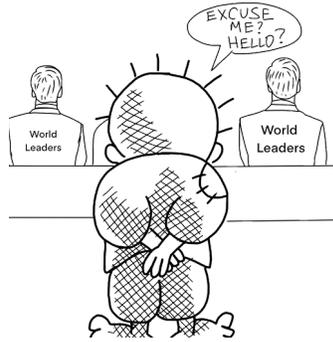
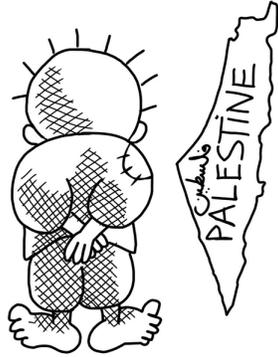


DRAW A SHORT COMIC OF WHAT
HANDALA WILL DO IN PALESTINE WHEN
HE RETURNS AND IT IS FREE

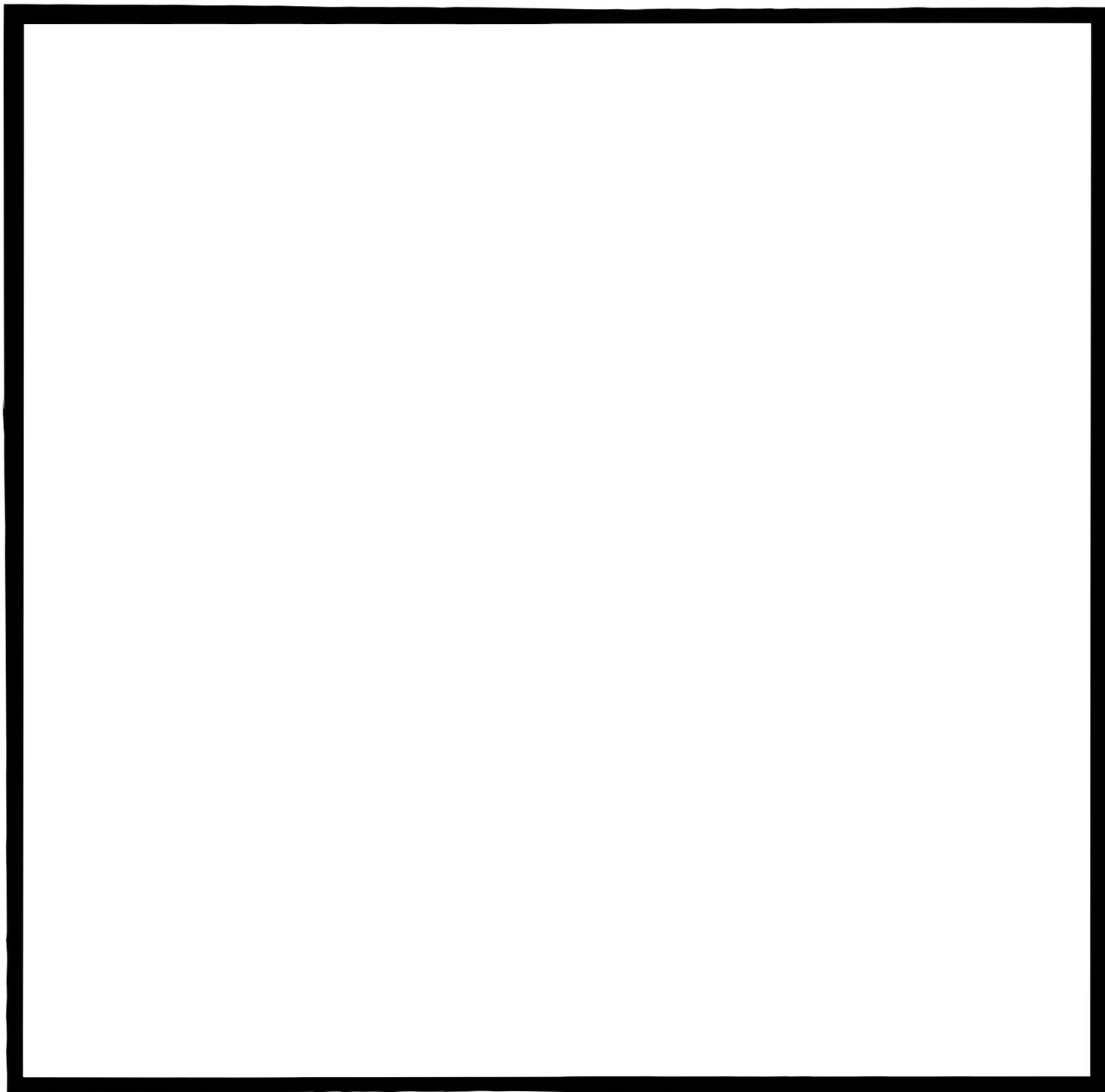


Make a collage of
Handala by cutting
out the pictures of
him on the next
page and pasting
them on page 26!





**PASTE IMAGES OF HANDALA BELOW TO
MAKE A COLLAGE**



This story and workbook was created as part of the Palestinian Feminist Collective's 2023 **Feminist Futures** Calendar and Program.

It is dedicated to Palestinian children everywhere.



Our featured artist for July 2023 is **Laila Shawa** with a piece titled, "**Handala and the Poppy.**"

Laila passed away just days after granting the PFC permission to use her illustration in our 2023 Calendar. The PFC extends our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. This booklet honors the lives and legacies of Naji al-Ali and Laila Shawa.

To learn more about the PFC and our work visit us at **palestinianfeministcollective.org**