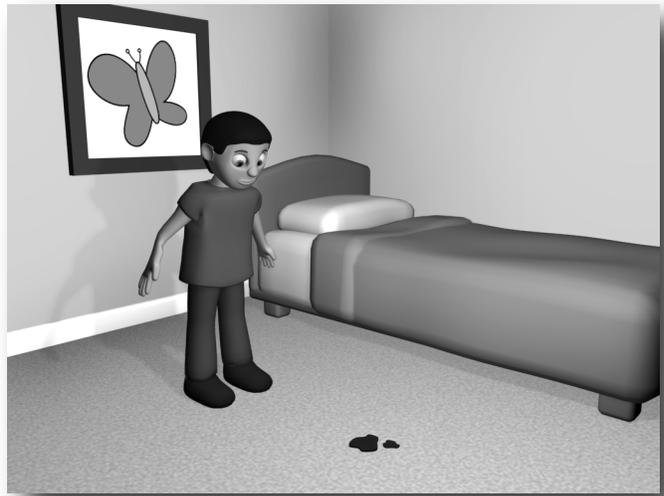


The Gift

Ed waited and waited. He was waiting for a chance to sneak into Jill's room. Finally his older sister left her room to get a snack.

At her desk he found the tape, a pair of scissors, and her big bucket of markers. He was going to make her the prettiest birthday present ever.

Ed hung his head and sighed as he walked past the big stain on Jill's carpet from yesterday. He was very careful not to move anything except for the supplies he was borrowing. Jill was very particular about keeping her room clean. Everything was kept in its proper place unless it was being used.



Just as Ed was about to make a break down the hall to his room, Jill came around the corner.

“What were you doing in my room!” yelled Jill.

“I just wanted to borrow some things to make a picture,” cried Ed.

“I told you that you aren't allowed in my room anymore. If you need to borrow anything, you have to ask. Maybe I'll let you borrow it, and maybe I won't,” scolded Jill. Then she went into her room.