

# MORE THAN TEACHING THROUGH A SCREEN

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Zurich, 2020

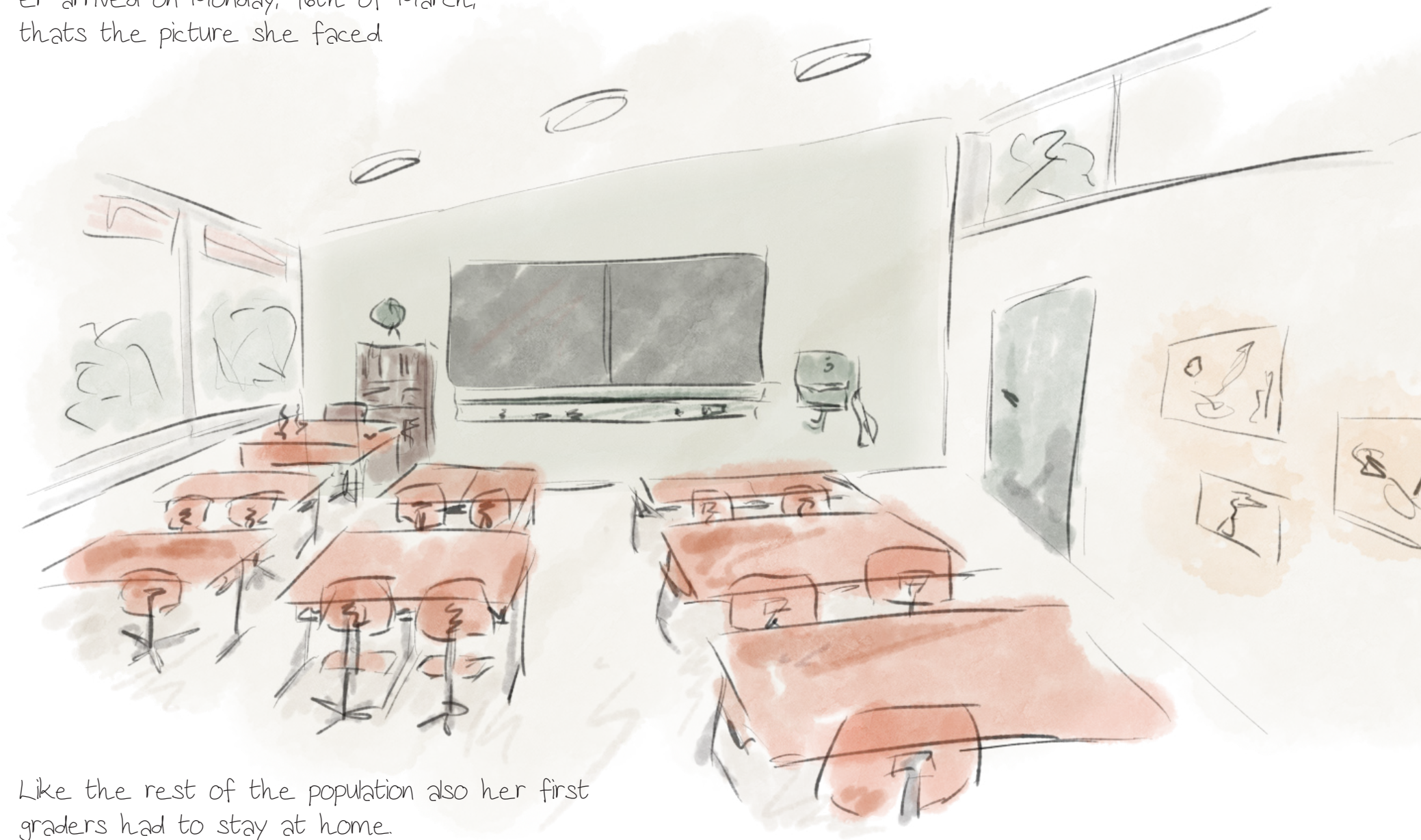


When thinking of school, that's what comes to mind to most people. A classroom full of life and laughter.

Beautiful right?



Well, when the primary school teacher arrived on Monday, 16th of March, that's the picture she faced.

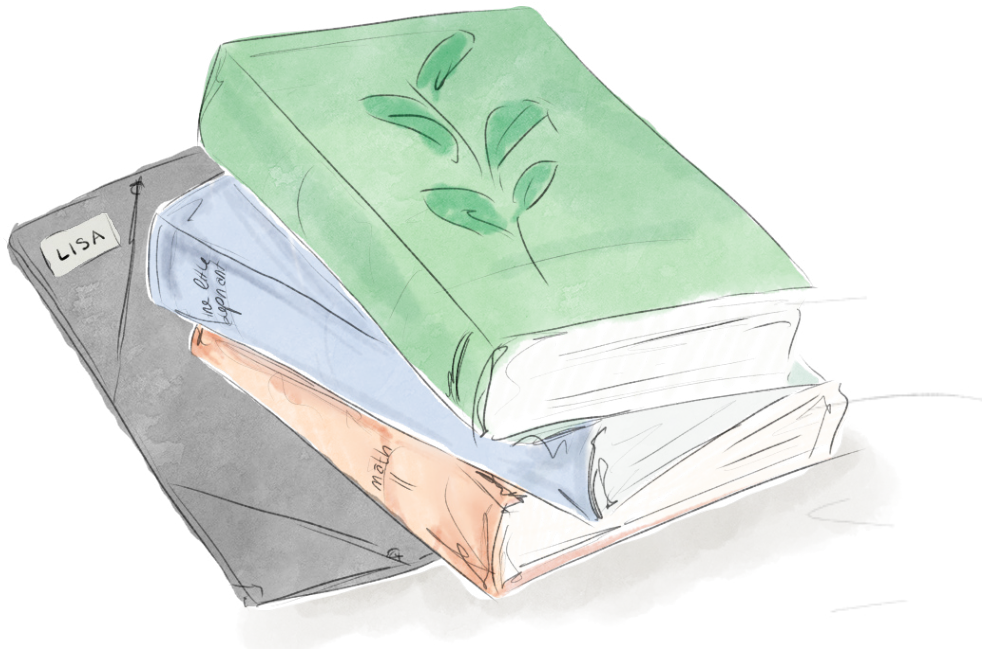


Like the rest of the population also her first graders had to stay at home.



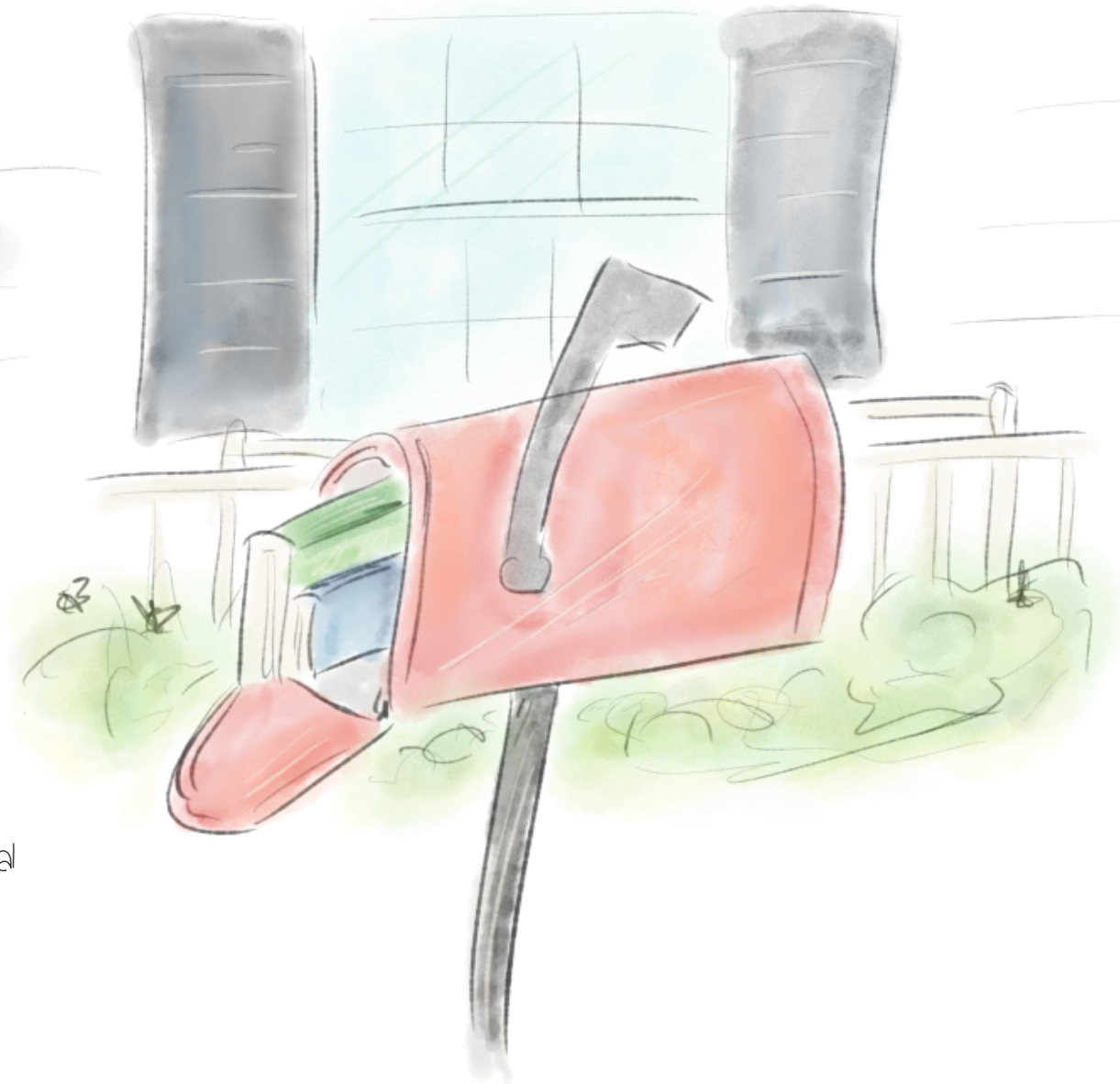


When the lockdown started  
and the school closed down,  
the kids weren't even al-  
lowed to enter the school  
yard anymore. Only teachers.



So, instead of welcoming her kids this Monday, the teacher had to prepare stacks of books, worksheets and daily study plans for each pupil .

And instead of teaching them about farm animals or how to add two plus three, she sat in her car and delivered all the material to her pupils homes.







Needless to say, nobody was prepared for this situation. Even the teacher found herself in home office without an office. So she improvised one.

Placing an old ironing board in the tv room, she was ready for her first ever zoom meeting.

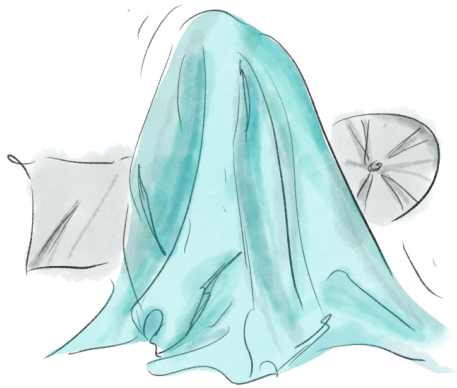
Since her first graders were too little to own their own computers and smart phones, she wasn't able to continue upfront teaching through zoom. However, she started having videocalls with each pupil once a week, to discuss their progress and problems. With devices of their parents of course.



After a while the teacher organized regular zoom meetings with her whole class. At after-work hours - to make sure, everybody could participate with a parents device.



What was weird at first, soon became normality. Moreover, the kids were always looking forward to seeing their classmates in the screen, since they didn't have any contact anymore at all.



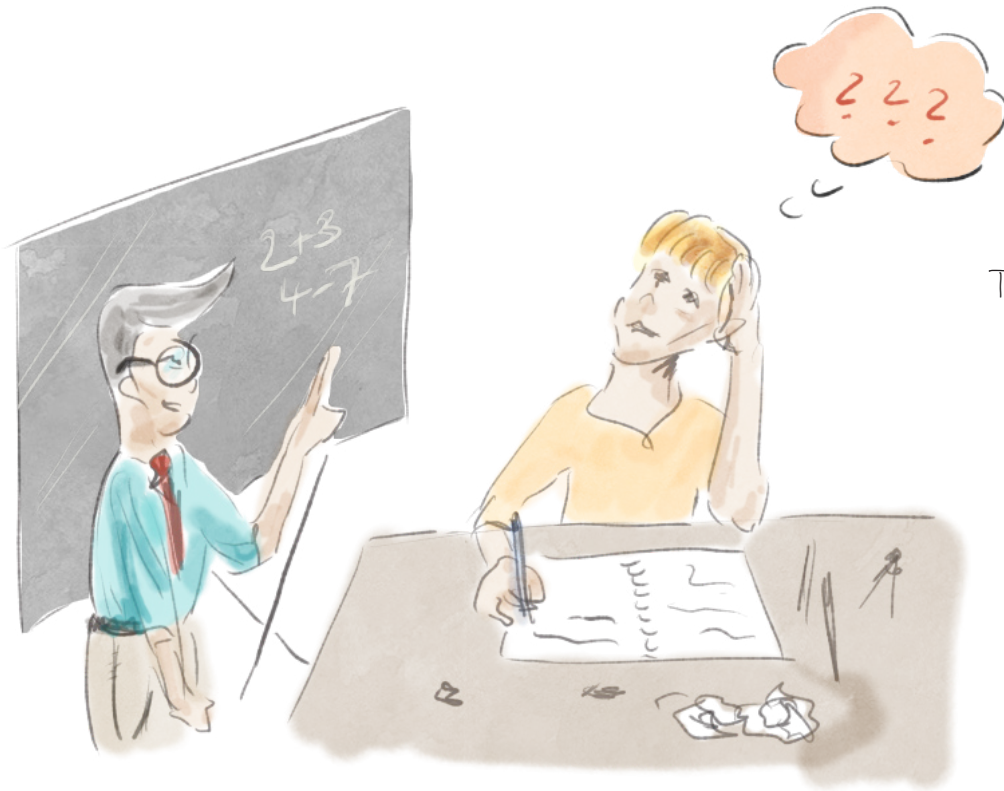
Even the ones, that would hide under their blankets at first (because they were too uncomfortable to show), got used to this new situation and started enjoying their class meetings.







In order to give her students more and deeper inputs into some topics, she began to record her own tutorials.



Her pupils then reacted by recording videos of their own and sent them to her in return.

They performed sketches with their siblings,

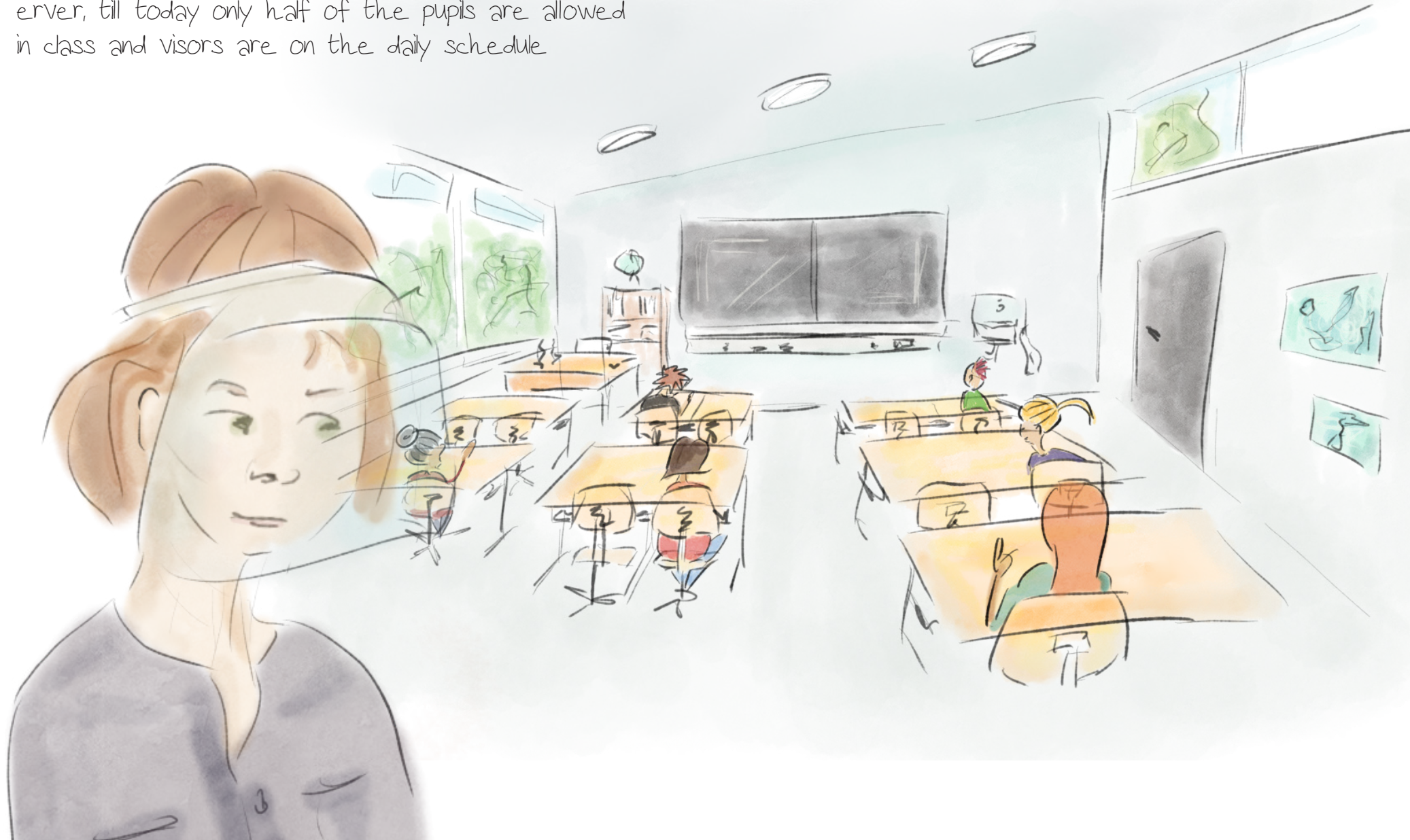
or sang a song together with the whole family!

Like that, the teacher learnt a lot about her pupils private lifes and family circumstances.





After 8 weeks of being locked down at home, primary school reopened. The kids were happy to see each other again. The teacher too. However, till today only half of the pupils are allowed in class and visors are on the daily schedule.







The rules might still be a little different from normal, but everyday life is slowly coming back. And many people could learn a lesson from the teacher and how she handled this situation. Because even without seeing her class in person, she made school a lot more personal.