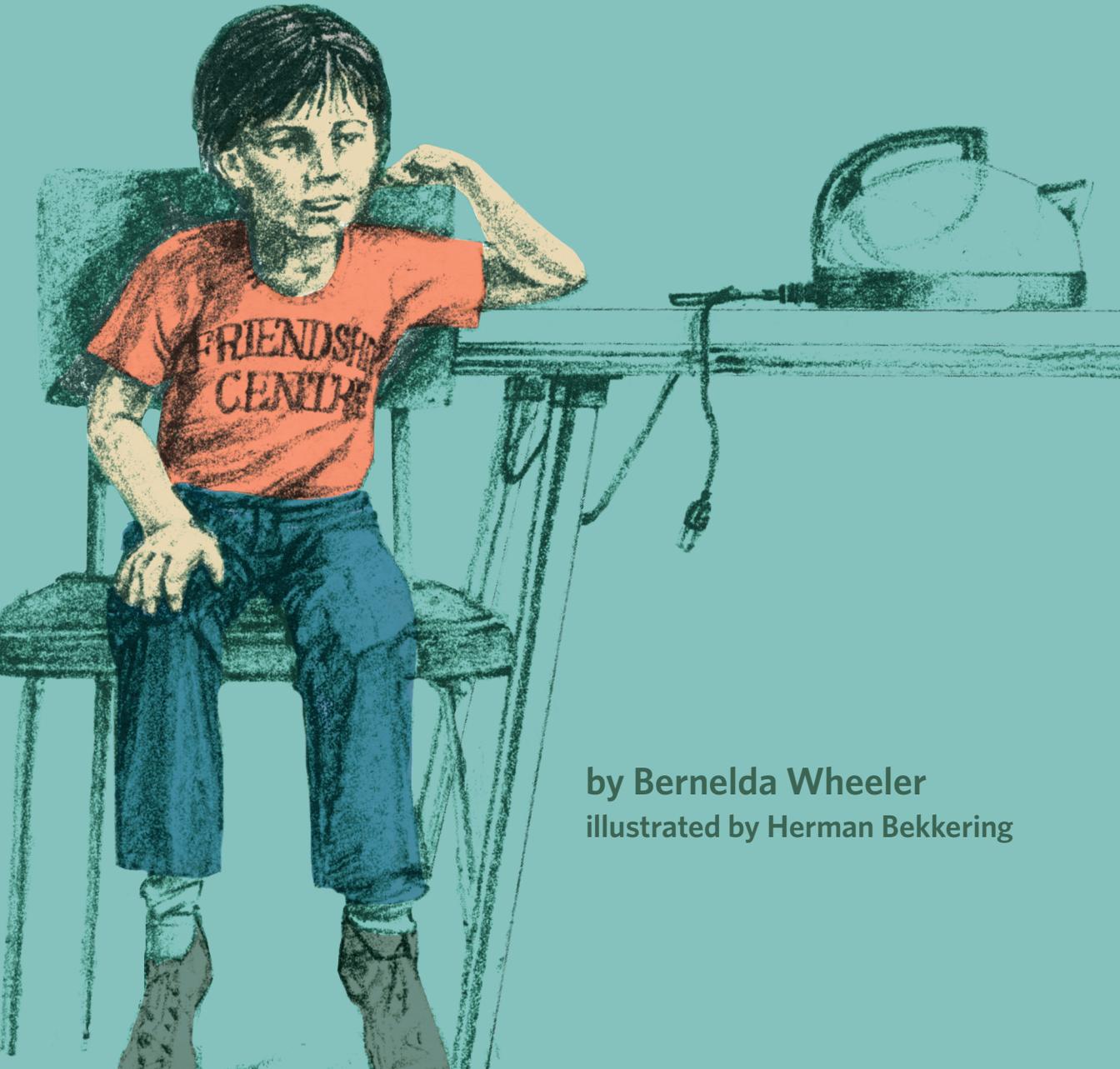


# I Can't Have Bannock but the Beaver Has a Dam



by Bernelda Wheeler

illustrated by Herman Bekkering

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by Bernelda Wheeler  
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Treaty 1 Territory and homeland of the Métis Nation

*For Noni, Jordan, Theresa, Cameron,  
and Kaya, and to all those who follow.*

“Mom, can I have some bannock?”





“I can’t make bannock,”

“Why not?”

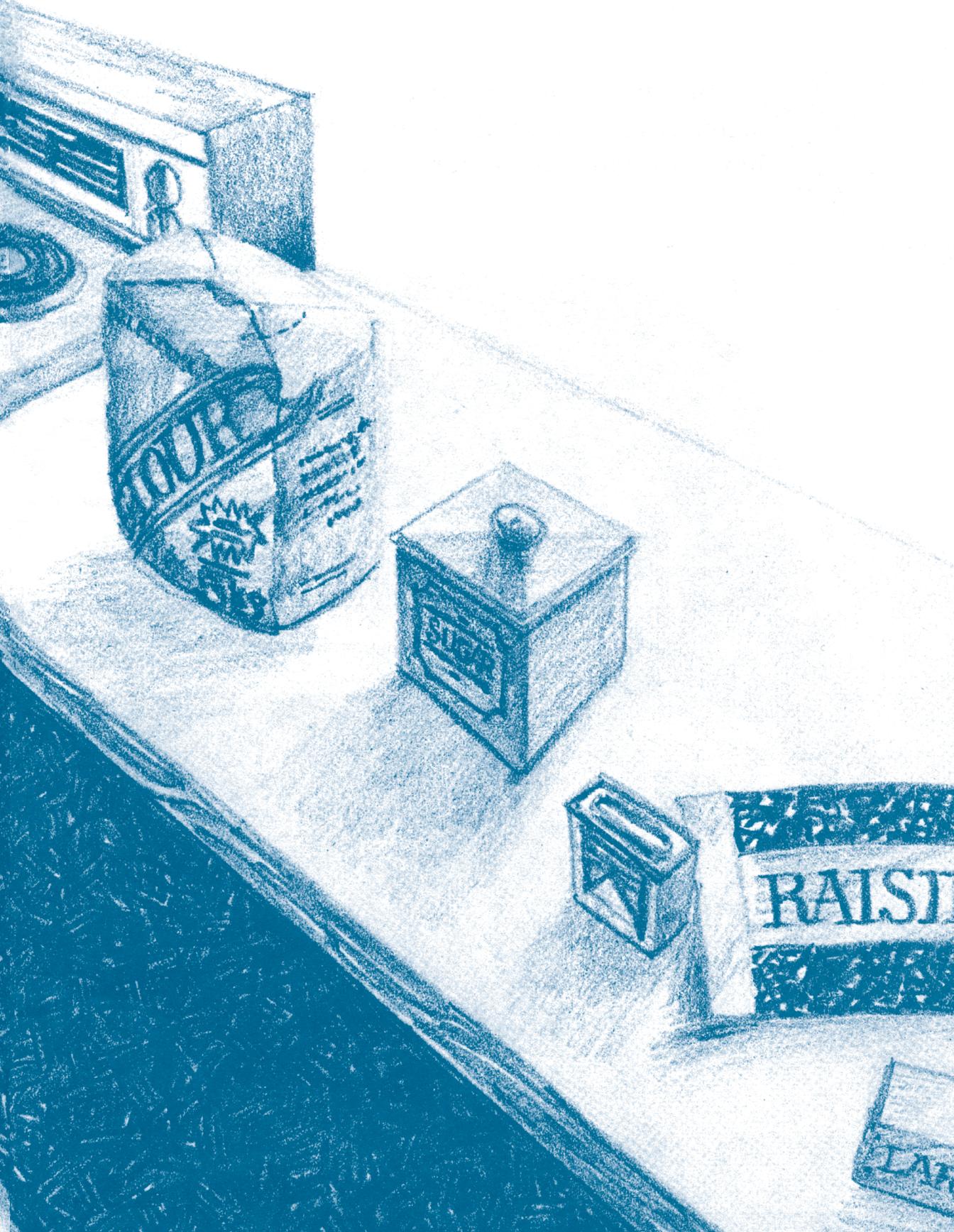
“The oven won’t get hot,  
so I can’t make bannock.”



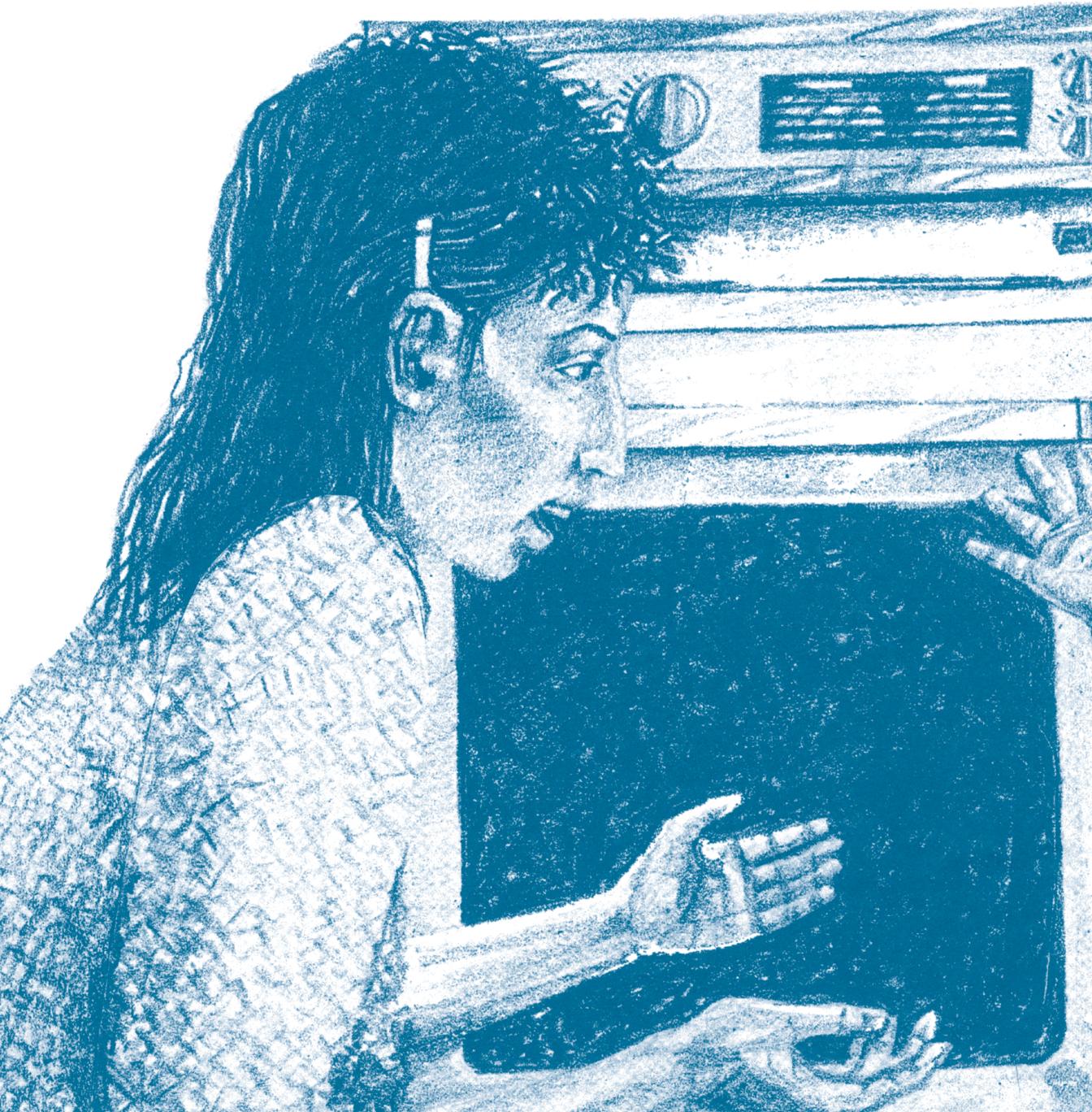


“Why won’t the oven get hot?”





“Because the electricity is off.  
Without electricity, the oven won’t  
get hot, so I can’t make bannock.”



“Why is the electricity off?”



“Because the power lines are down. Without power lines the electricity is off. Without the electricity, the oven won’t get hot and I can’t make bannock.”





“Why did the power lines fall down?”



A boy patiently listens to his mother's reasons for not making bannock—all the result of a beaver's need to make a dam.

*Includes a bannock recipe!*



**BERNELDA WHEELER** (1937–2005) was an author, poet, journalist, actor, broadcaster and social activist, perhaps best known for her work on CBC Radio's "Our Native Land." For her pioneering work in media and literary circles, she was awarded the Order of Canada (1991) and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Anskohk Aboriginal Literacy Festival (2005). Her children's books explore the importance of relationships to the land, as well as traditional Indigenous knowledge passed from generation to generation.