

## Animal Land

### *L*

I am 11 years old and in sixth grade. When I first heard about doing this I was excited. I was excited about making this. I love doing art. I get to draw and make stuff and paint. I like to make things, because I am focused and I get my energy out. I get out my feelings, most importantly. I was happy and nervous when I was doing this art and making my shoe. I didn't want to mess up. When I mess up in school, I feel like I am not doing it right. I feel bad on the inside. I also feel like I mess up outside of school. I sometimes do things wrong, like not riding the horse correctly. And sometimes I mess up in school with my anger. I get out of control sometimes. I am not sure where this comes from, but it has been around a long time. I think it has been around since I could remember. I can remember having anger inside of me way before I lived here. I don't live here anymore, but I remember feeling this way for a long time.

I chose to talk about my mom in my art, because she has always been there for me. I don't want to talk about my siblings. I was the only one who had to come here. They stayed home and went to school. I don't want to talk about why I had to come here. It had nothing to do with my anger. I have a lot of trust



FIGURE 9.1 The fence



FIGURE 9.2

I do not trust people. I trust horses

issues. I am not sure why. Maybe it has to do with people saying things and then they don't do it.

My art is not just about horses. I used horses for my art, because they are my favorite animal and they calm me down. I love that horses are nice. They are my friends. I talk to them and play with them. I talk to them about my feelings. The horses don't tell anybody. I can trust them. They come by me when I am talking to them. No matter what I say to them, they treat me nice. I used horses to make sure you know animals are so much nicer than people sometimes, well, most of the time. They like me. I can't make mistakes with them. They like me for who I am. I am nervous to talk to adults, because, well, I don't want to talk about it. I am not ready. But I made a fence in my art to tell you I am not ready. I am not ready to let people in, but it's not like I don't want to tell you. I am not ready yet. I need to learn to trust. This will take time.

I hoped people would want to buy my art so it would go to a charity for animals. I wanted the money to go an animal shelter. I think it is awesome