

Moving Upstream:

Naming and Addressing the Impacts of Racism on Health

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Levels of racism

- Institutionalized
- Personally-mediated
- Internalized

Institutionalized racism

- Differential access to the goods, services, and opportunities of society, by “race”
- Examples
 - Housing, education, employment, income
 - Medical facilities
 - Clean environment
 - Information, resources, voice
- Explains the association between SES and “race”

Personally-mediated racism

- Differential assumptions about the abilities, motives, and intents of others, by “race”
- Prejudice and discrimination
- Examples
 - Police brutality
 - Physician disrespect
 - Shopkeeper vigilance
 - Waiter indifference
 - Teacher devaluation

Internalized racism

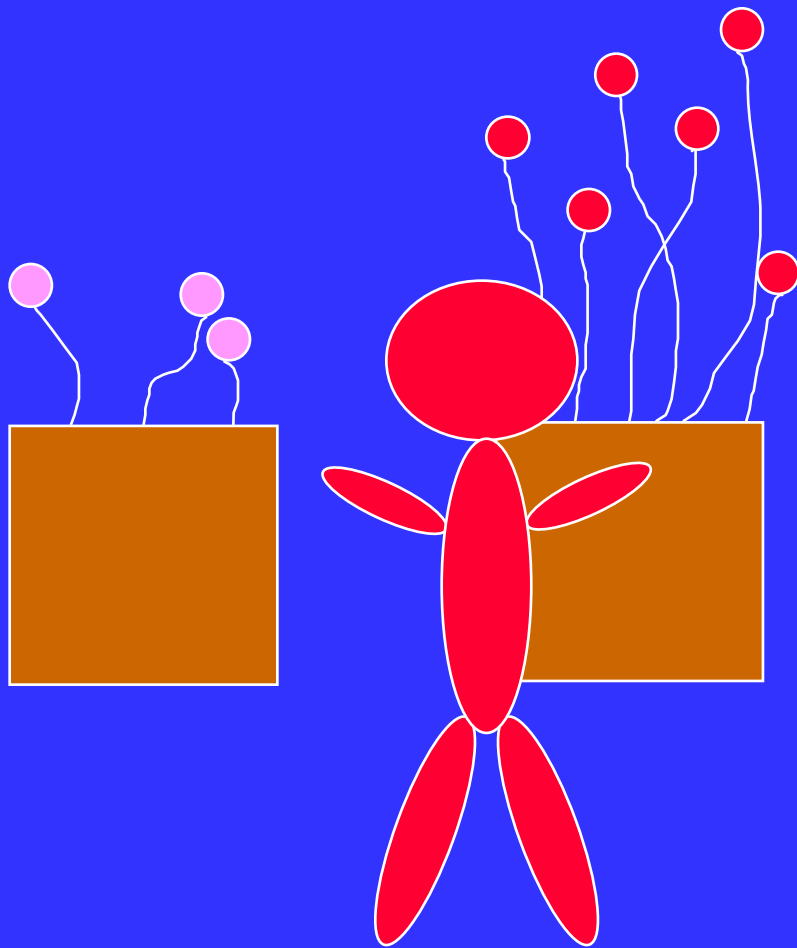
- Acceptance by the stigmatized “races” of negative messages about our own abilities and intrinsic worth
- Examples
 - Self-devaluation
 - White man’s ice is colder
 - Resignation, helplessness, hopelessness
- Accepting limitations to our full humanity



Levels of Racism:

A Gardener's Tale

Who is the gardener?

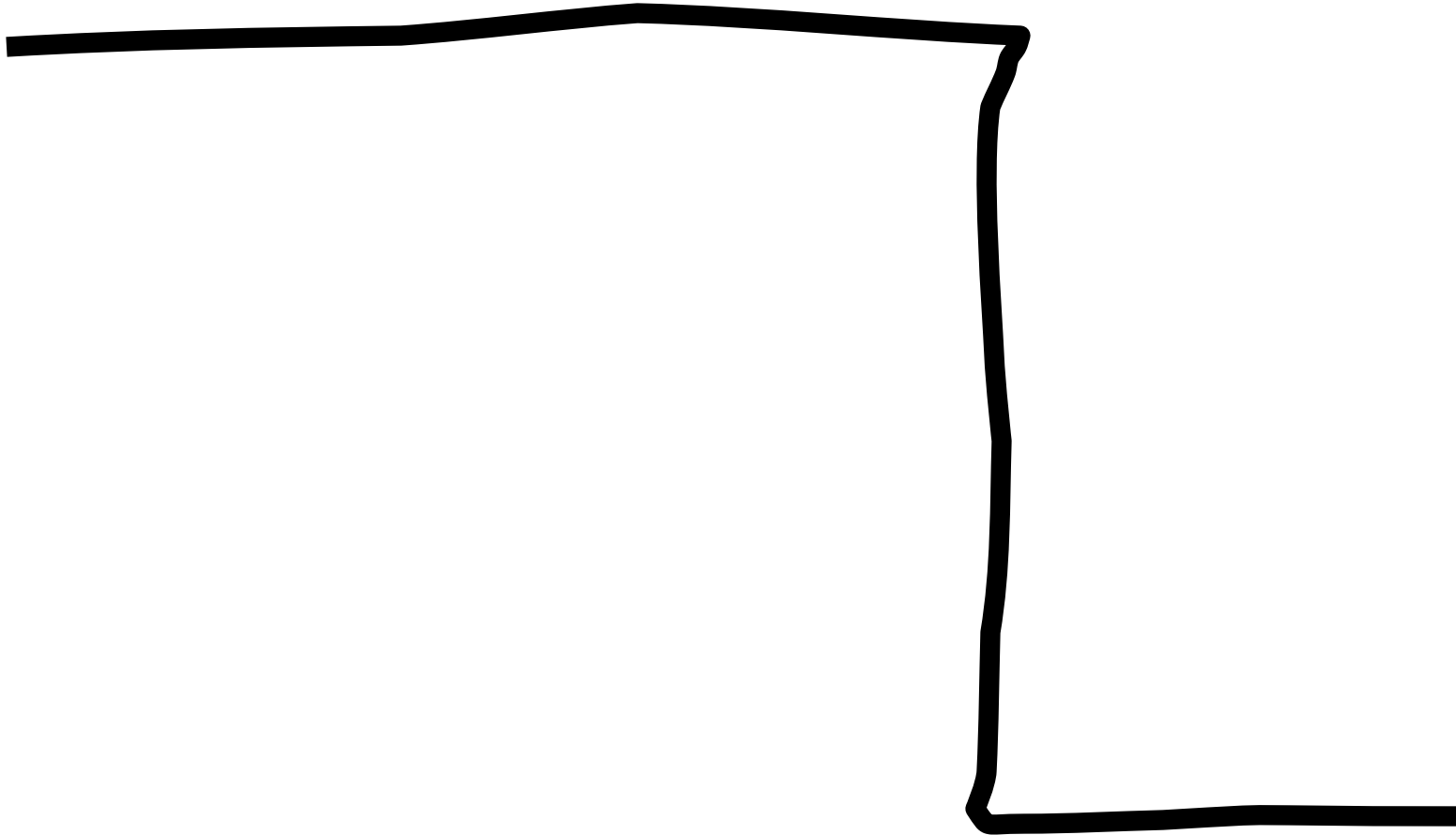


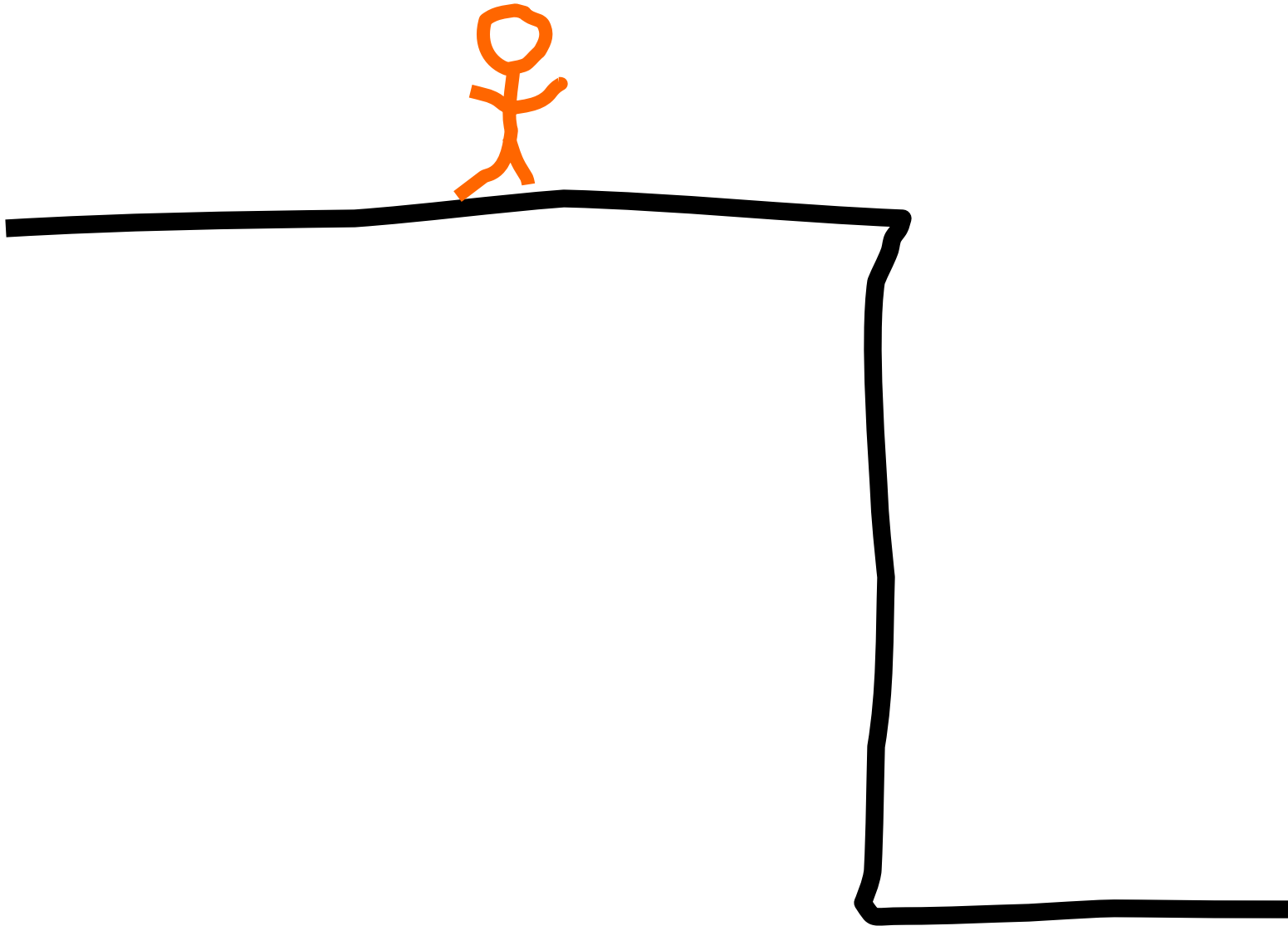
- Power to decide
- Power to act
- Control of resources

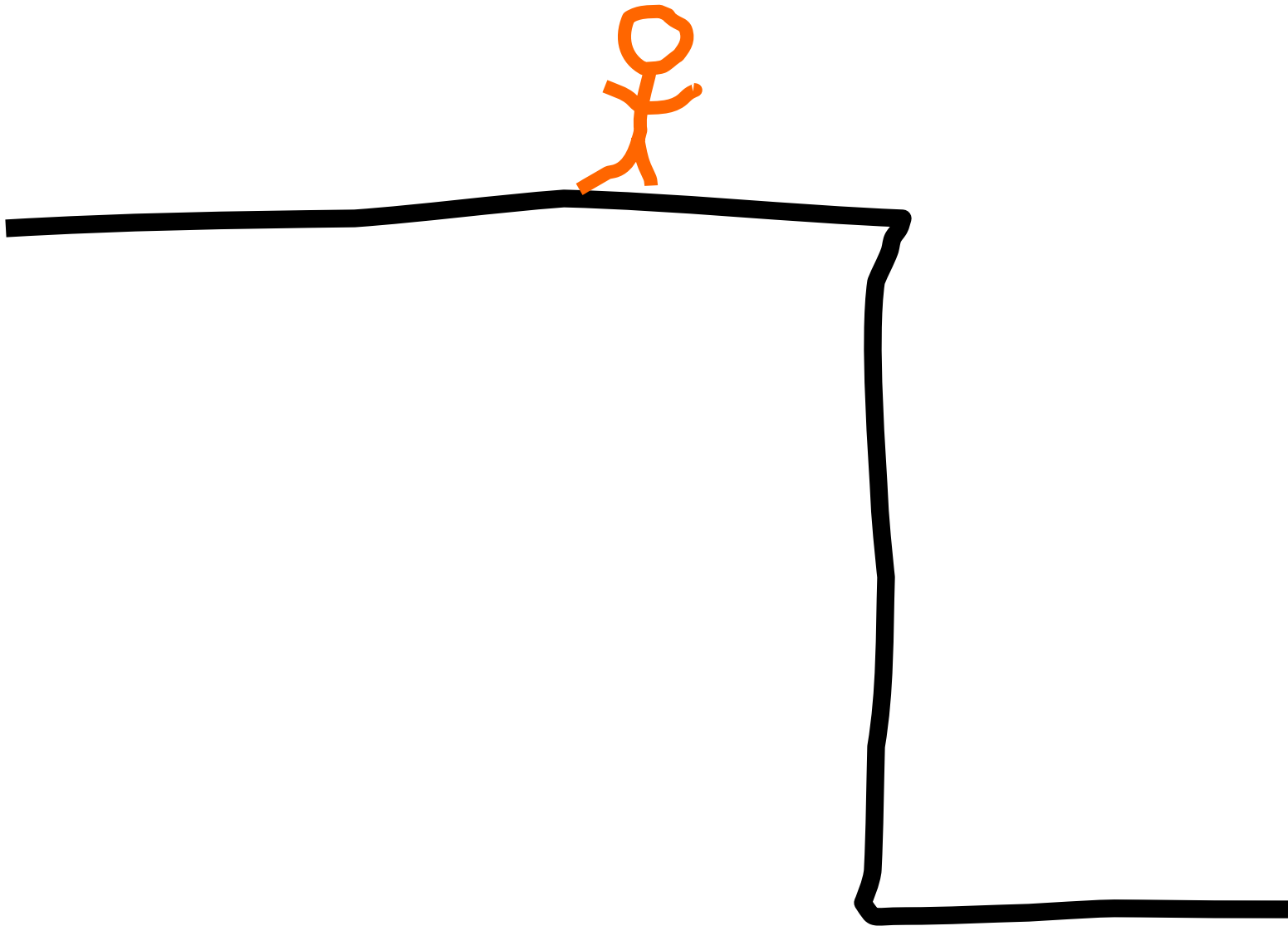
Dangerous when

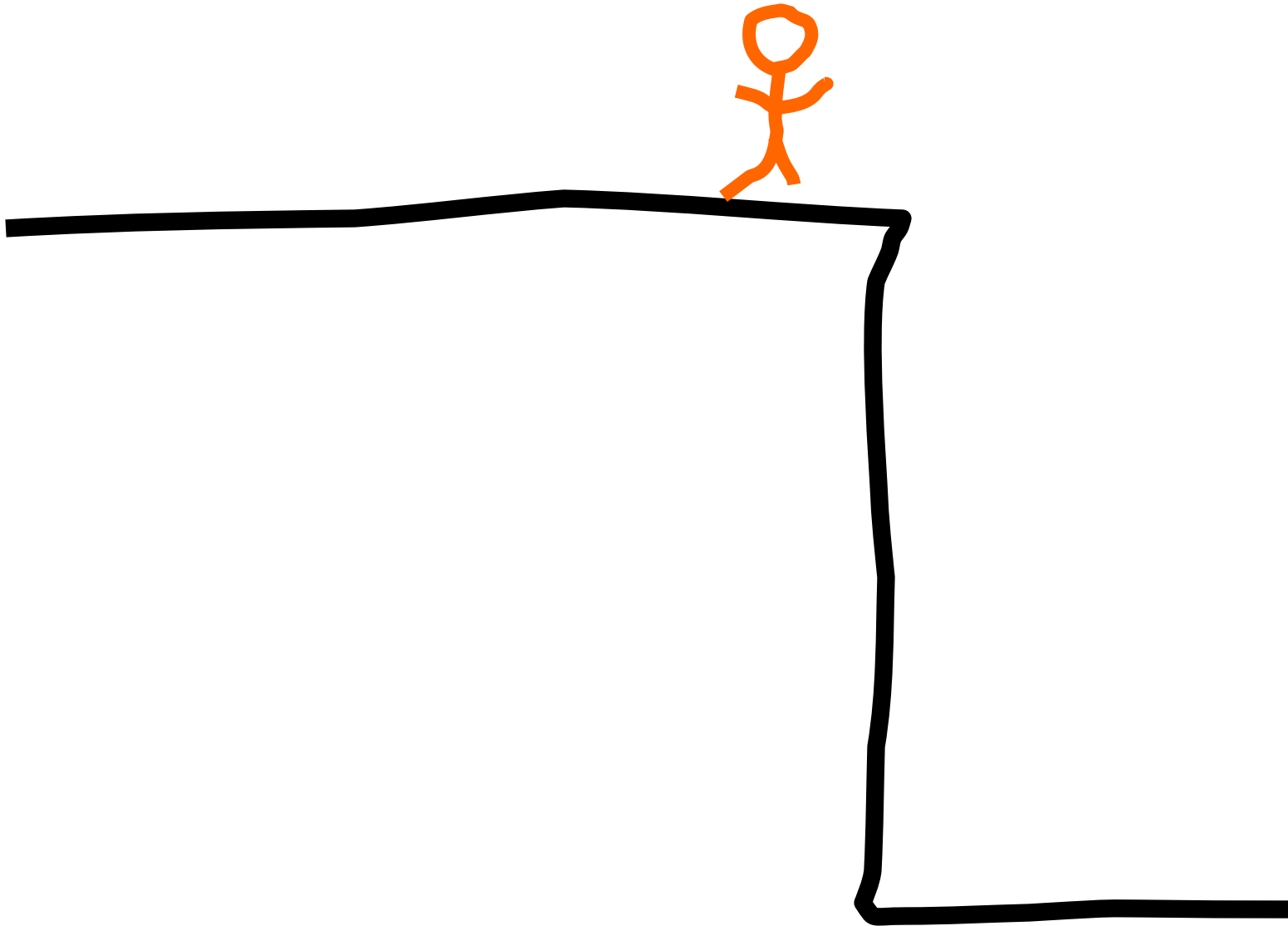
- Allied with one group
- Not concerned with equity

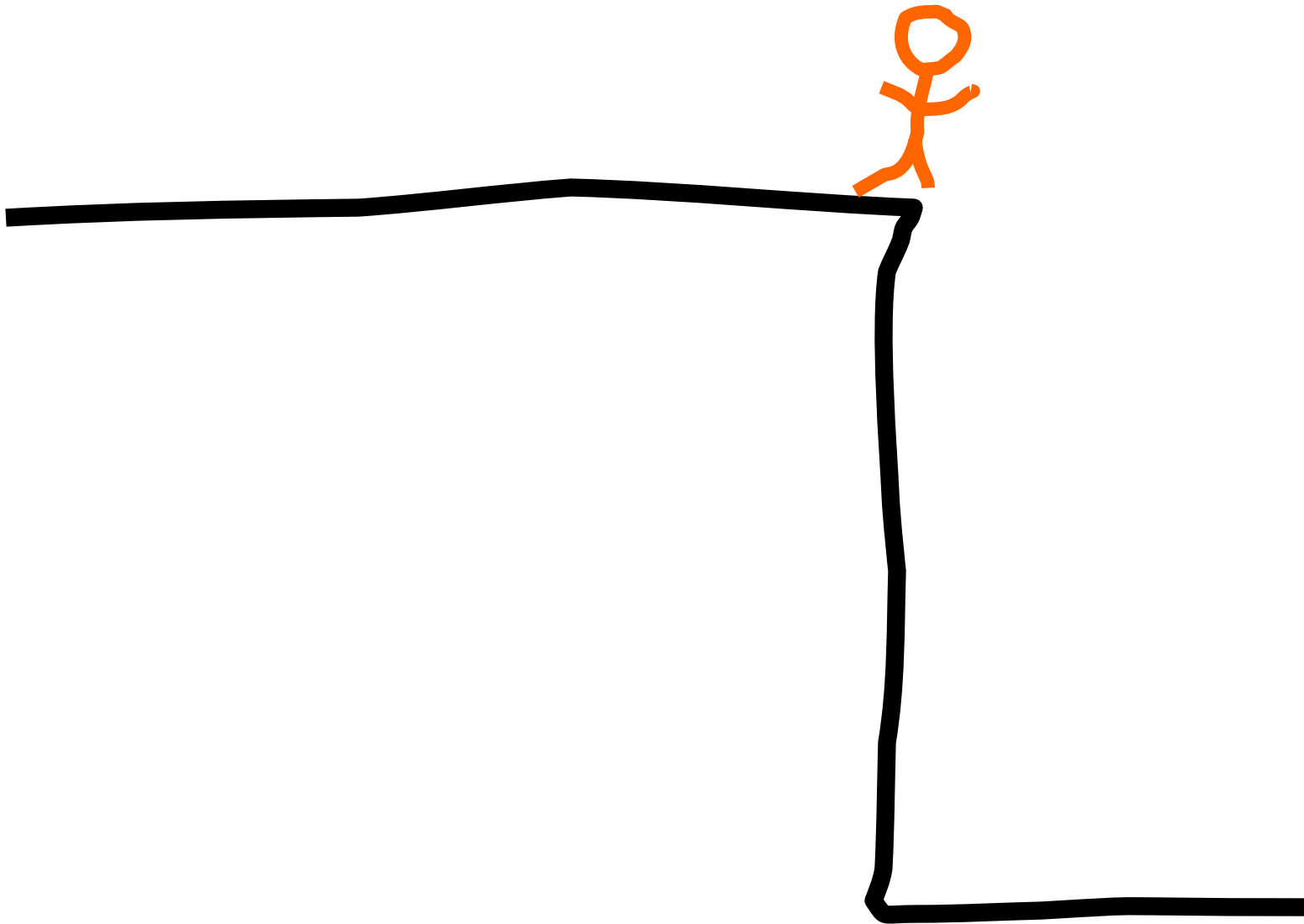
Levels of health intervention

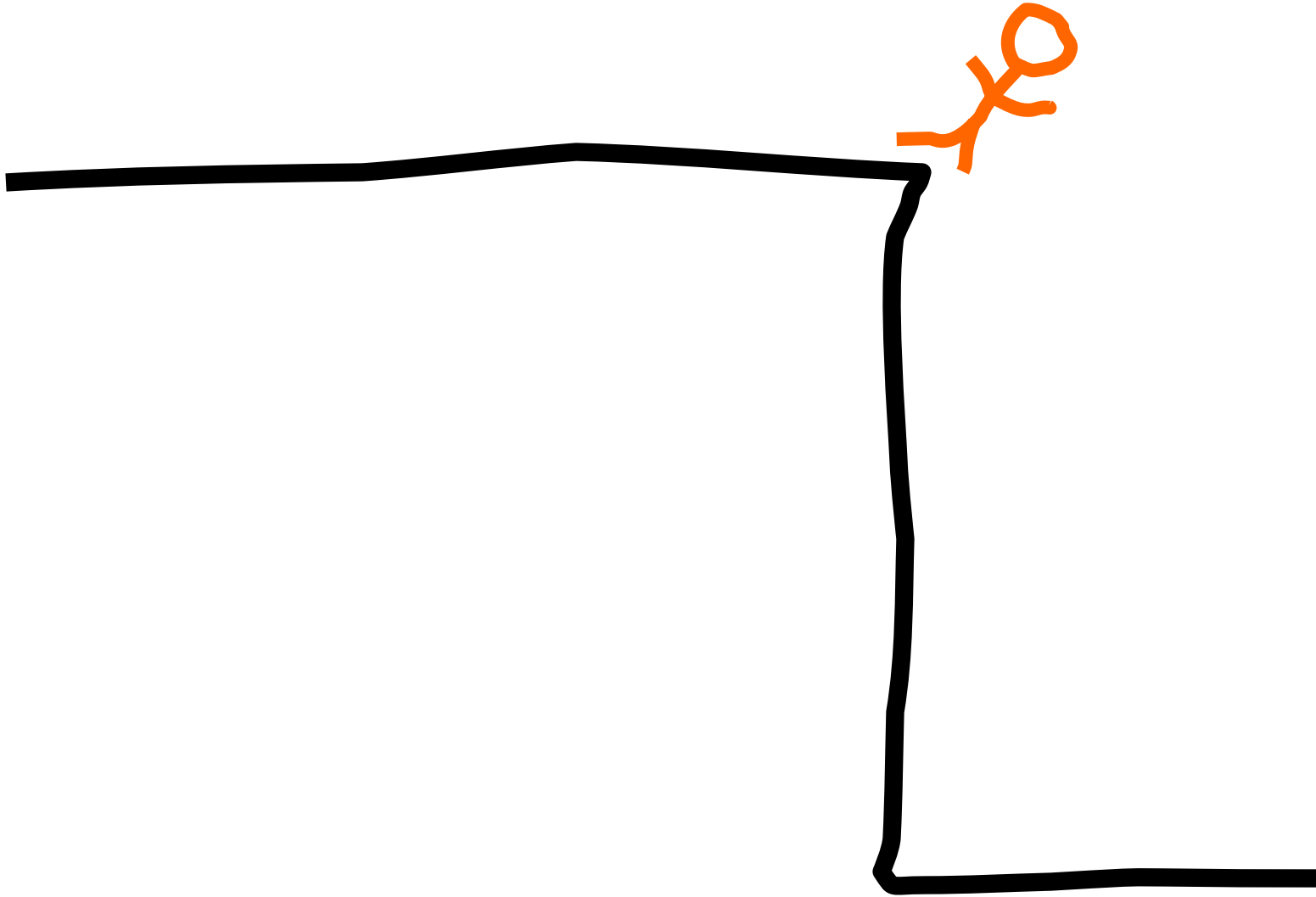


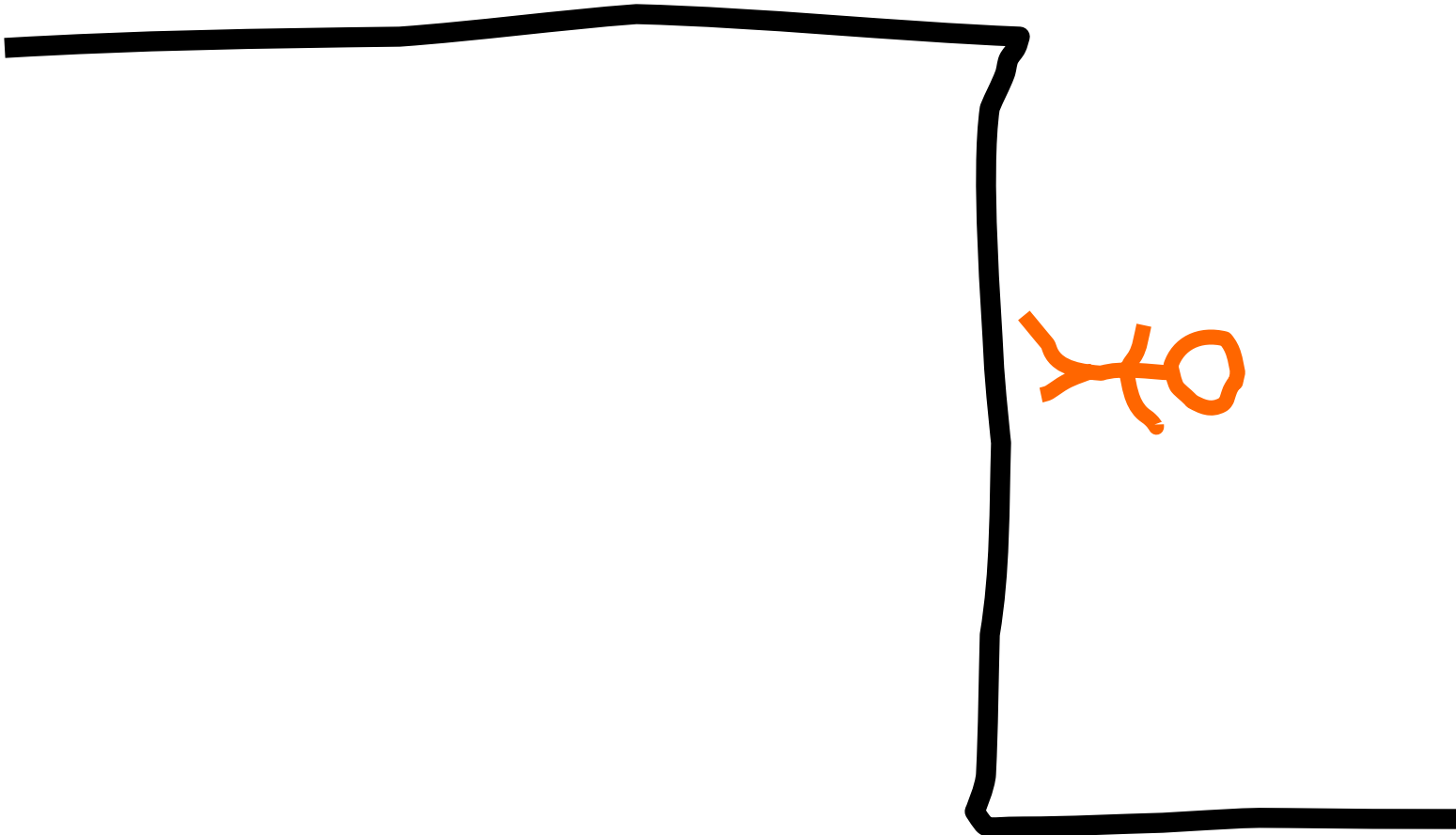


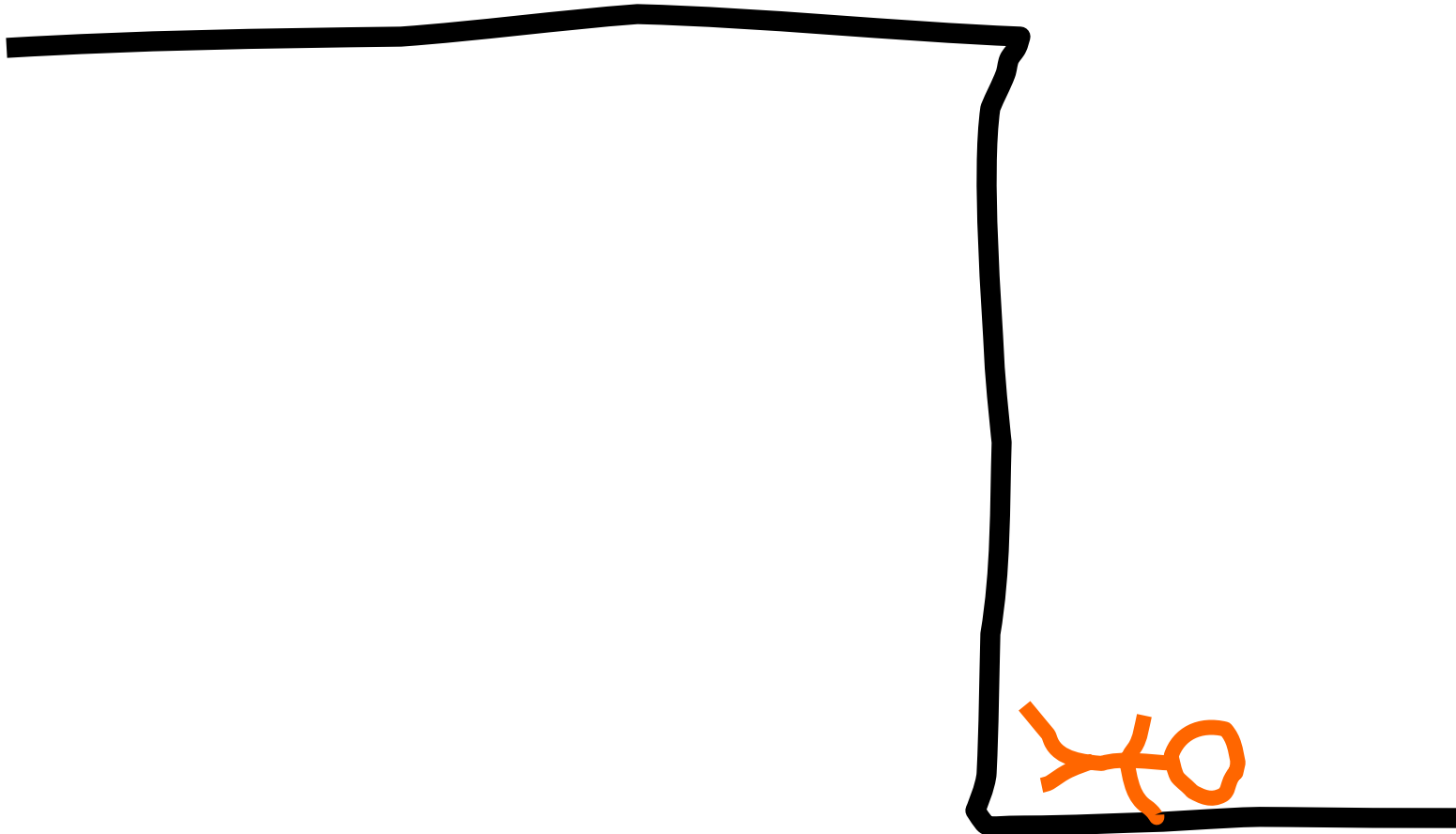


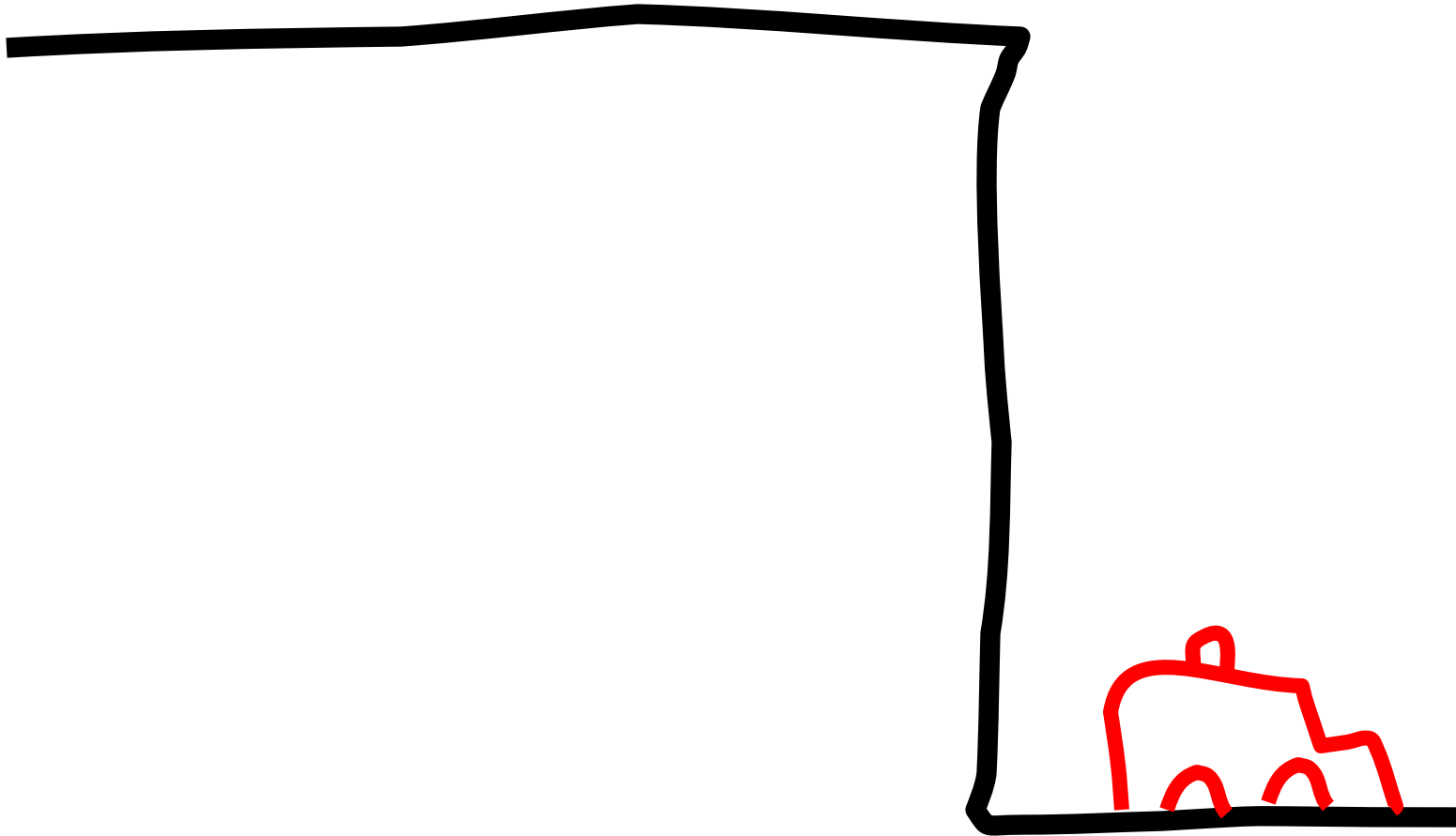


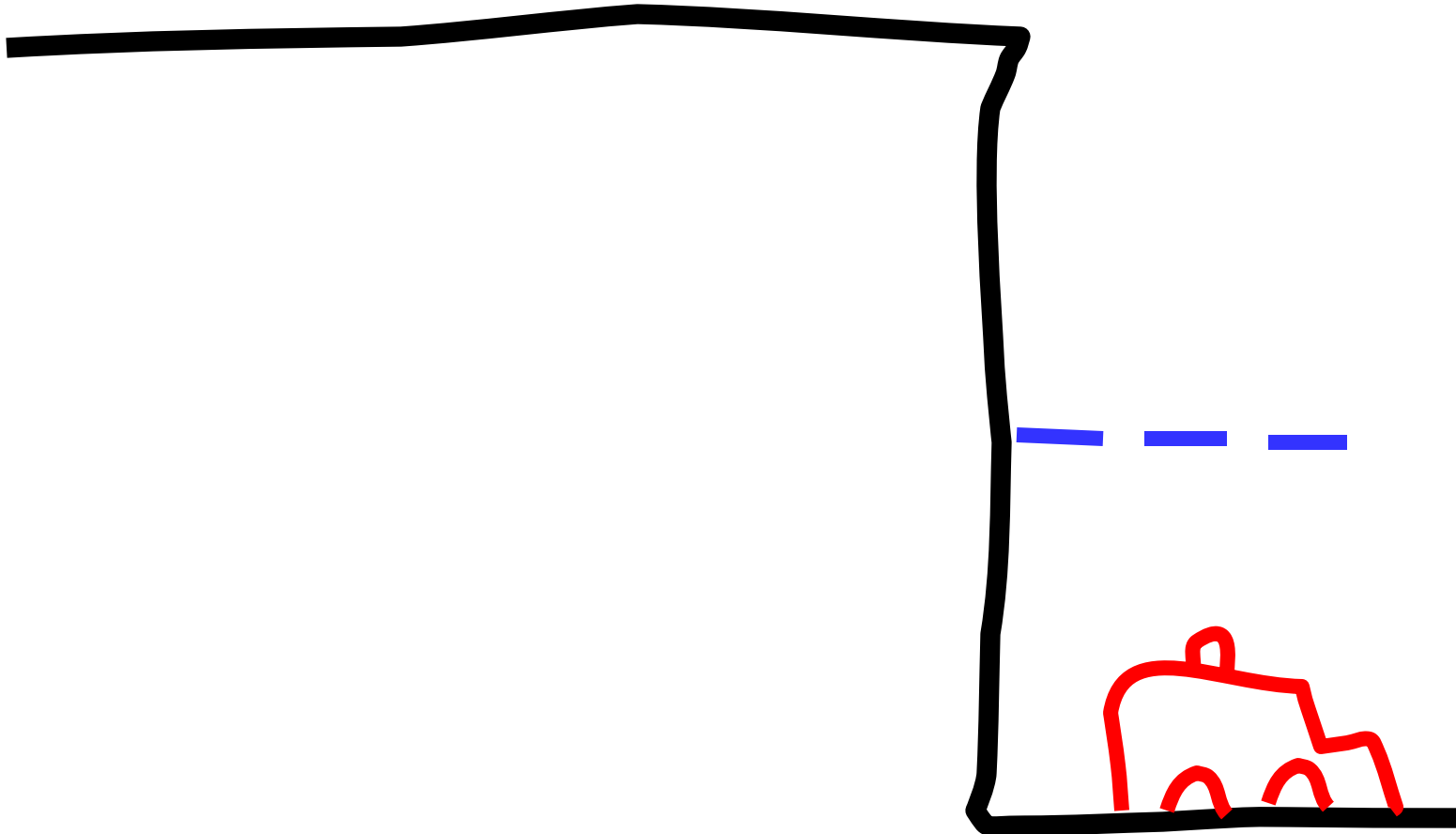


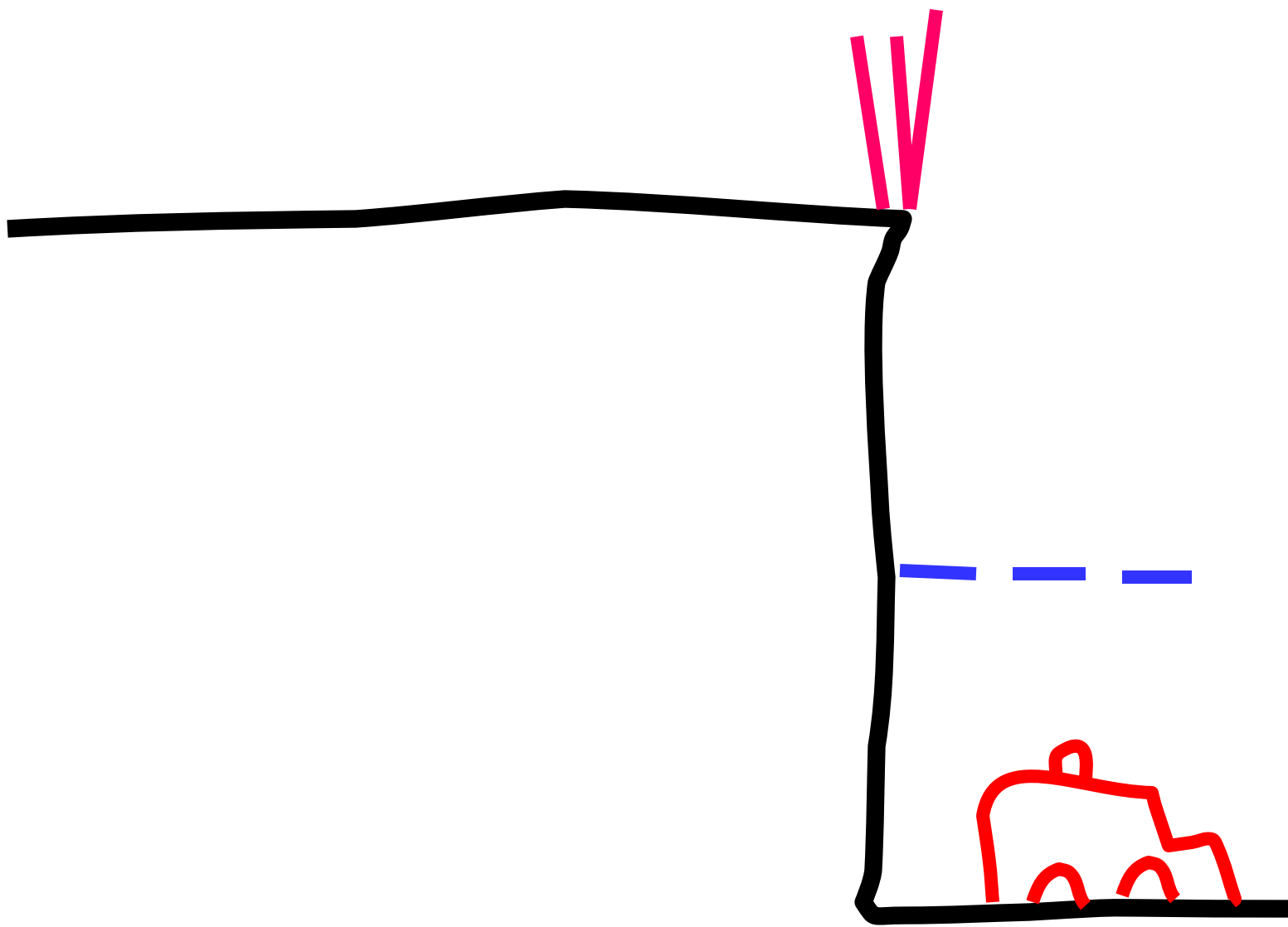


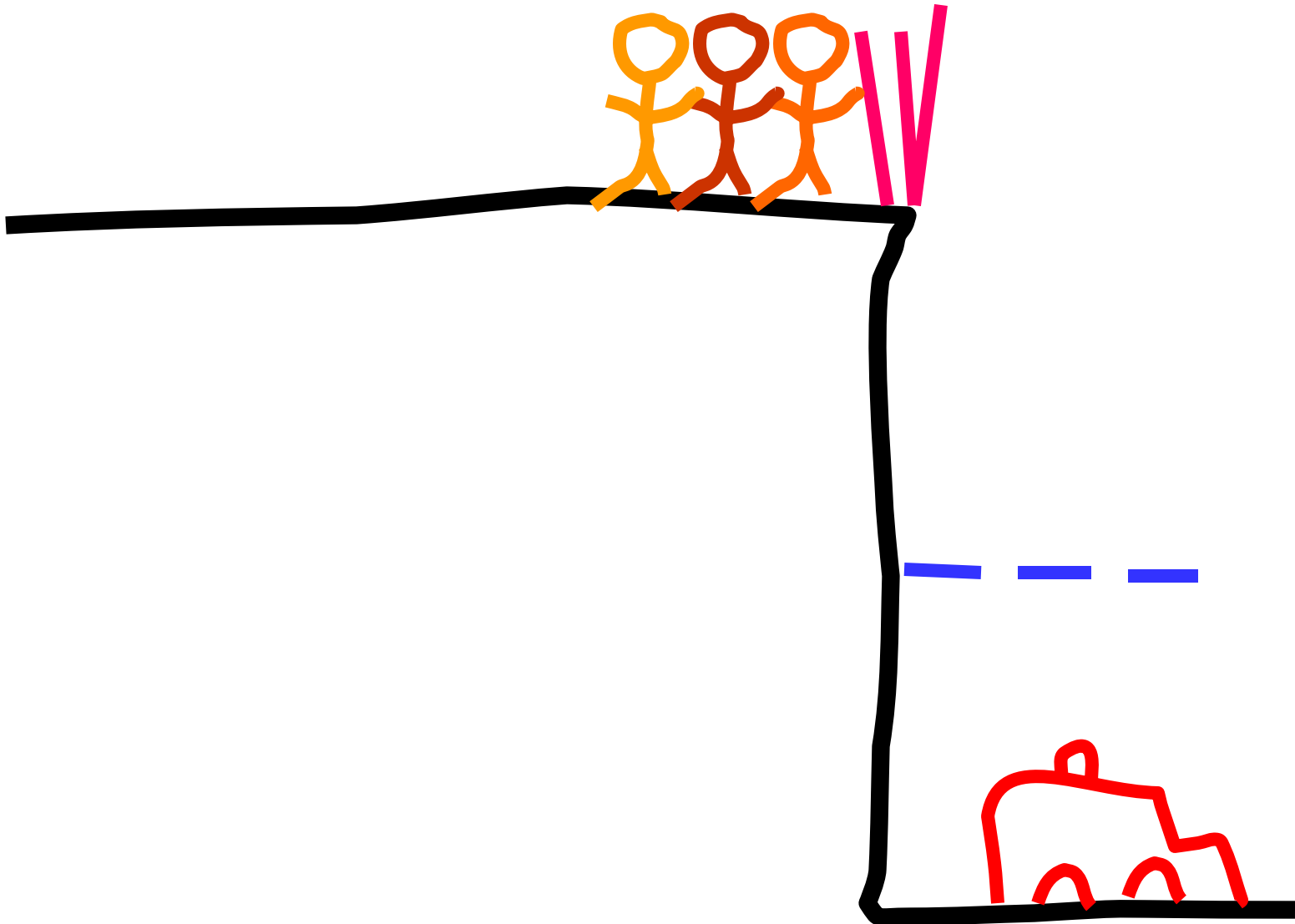


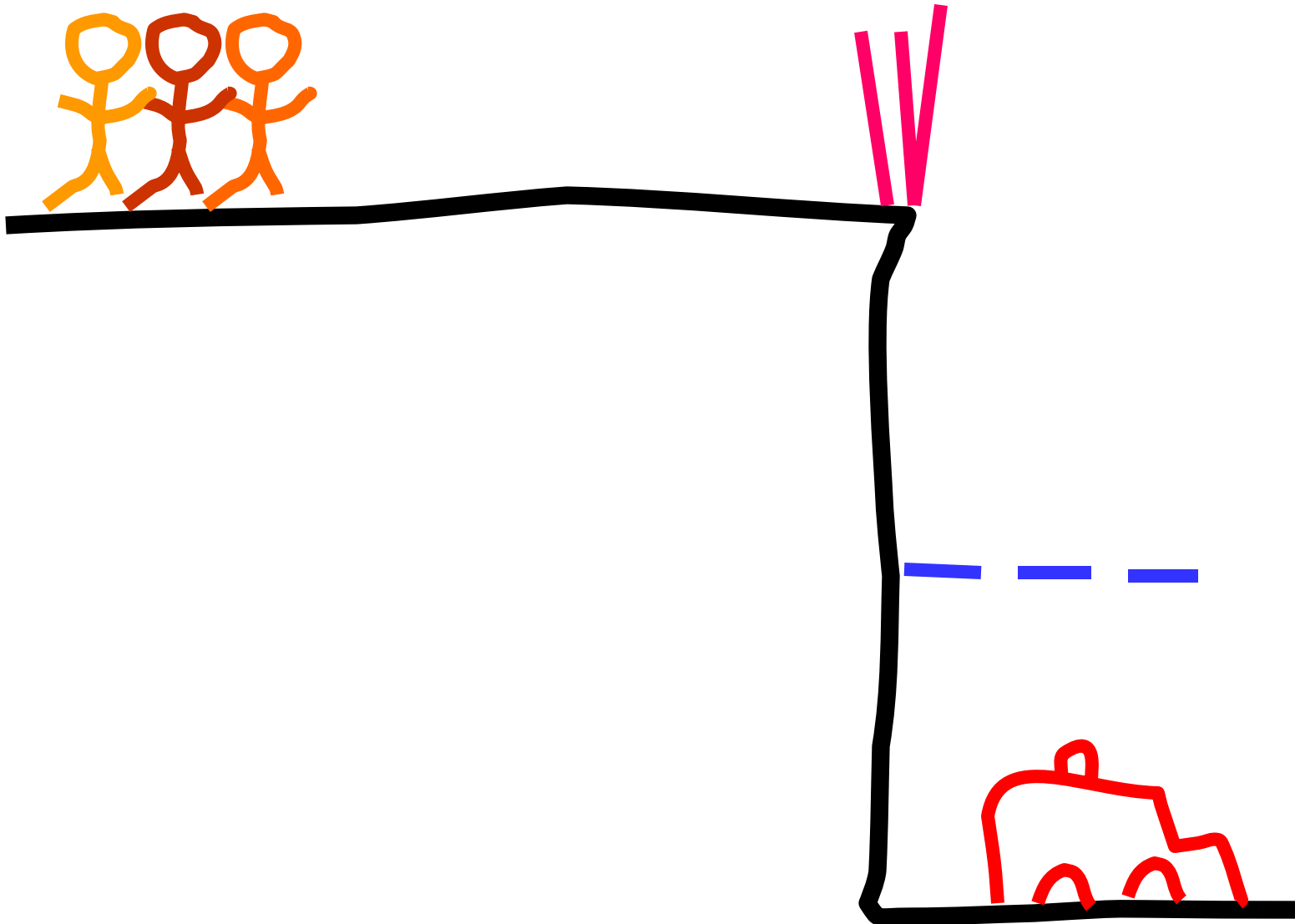


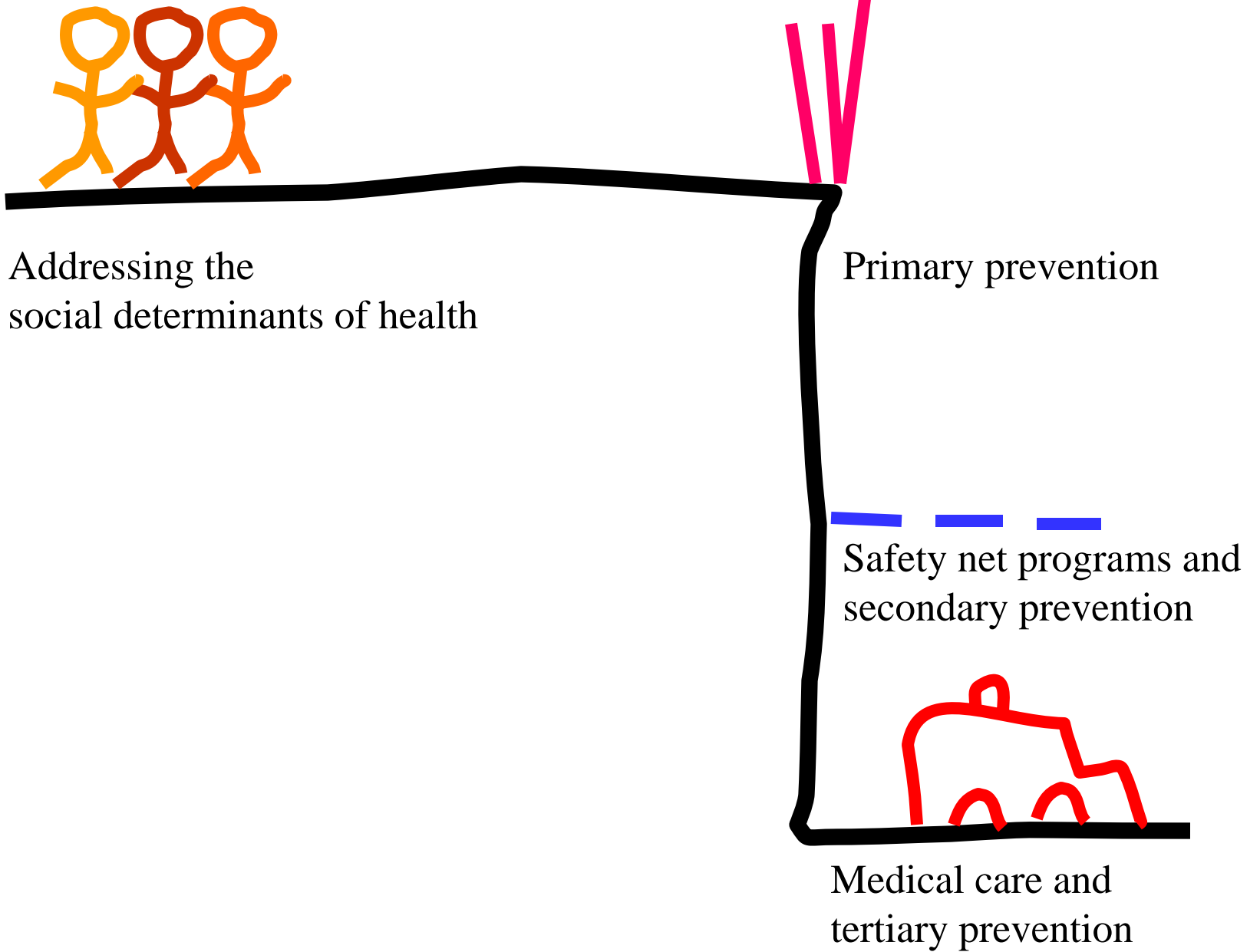






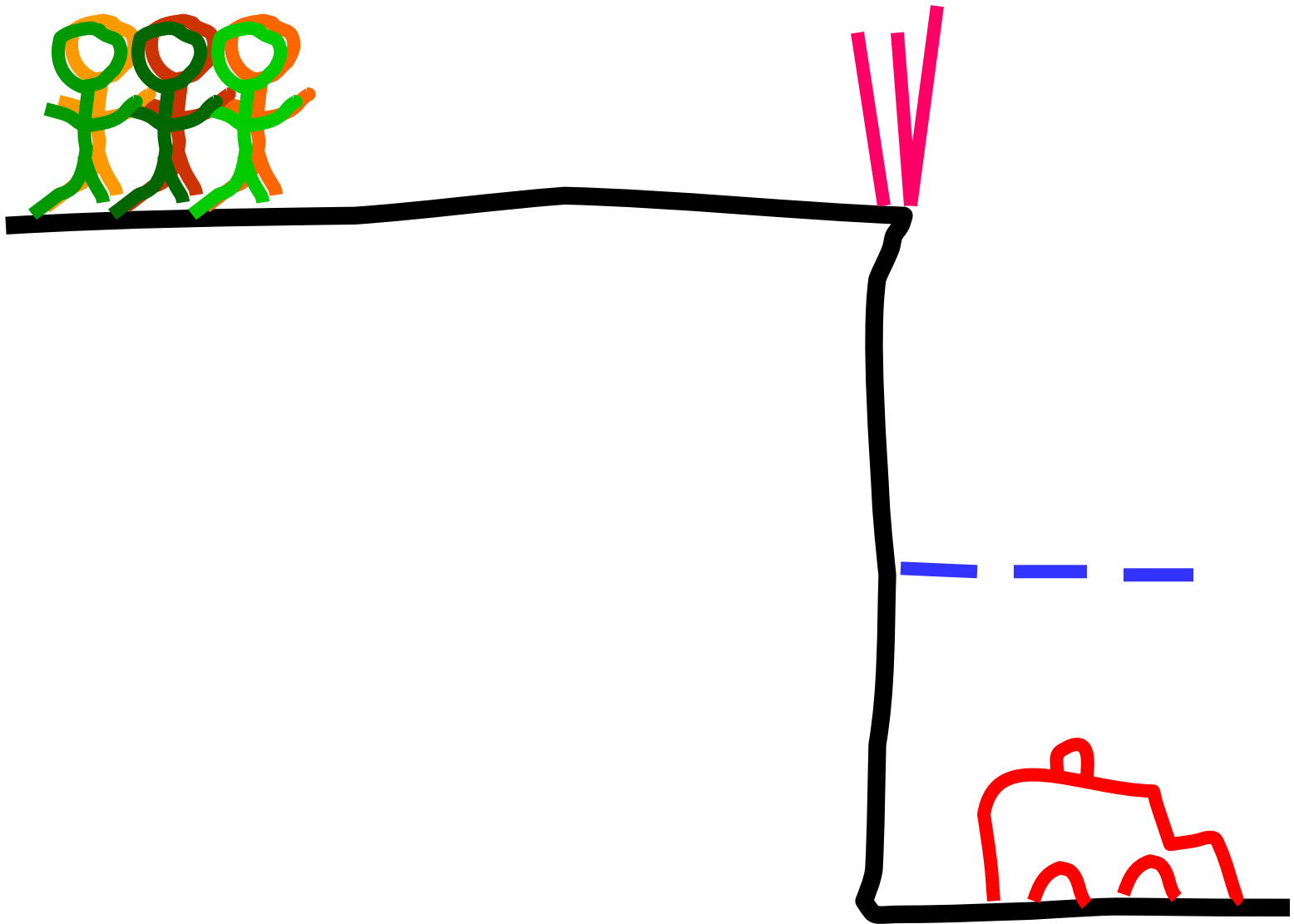


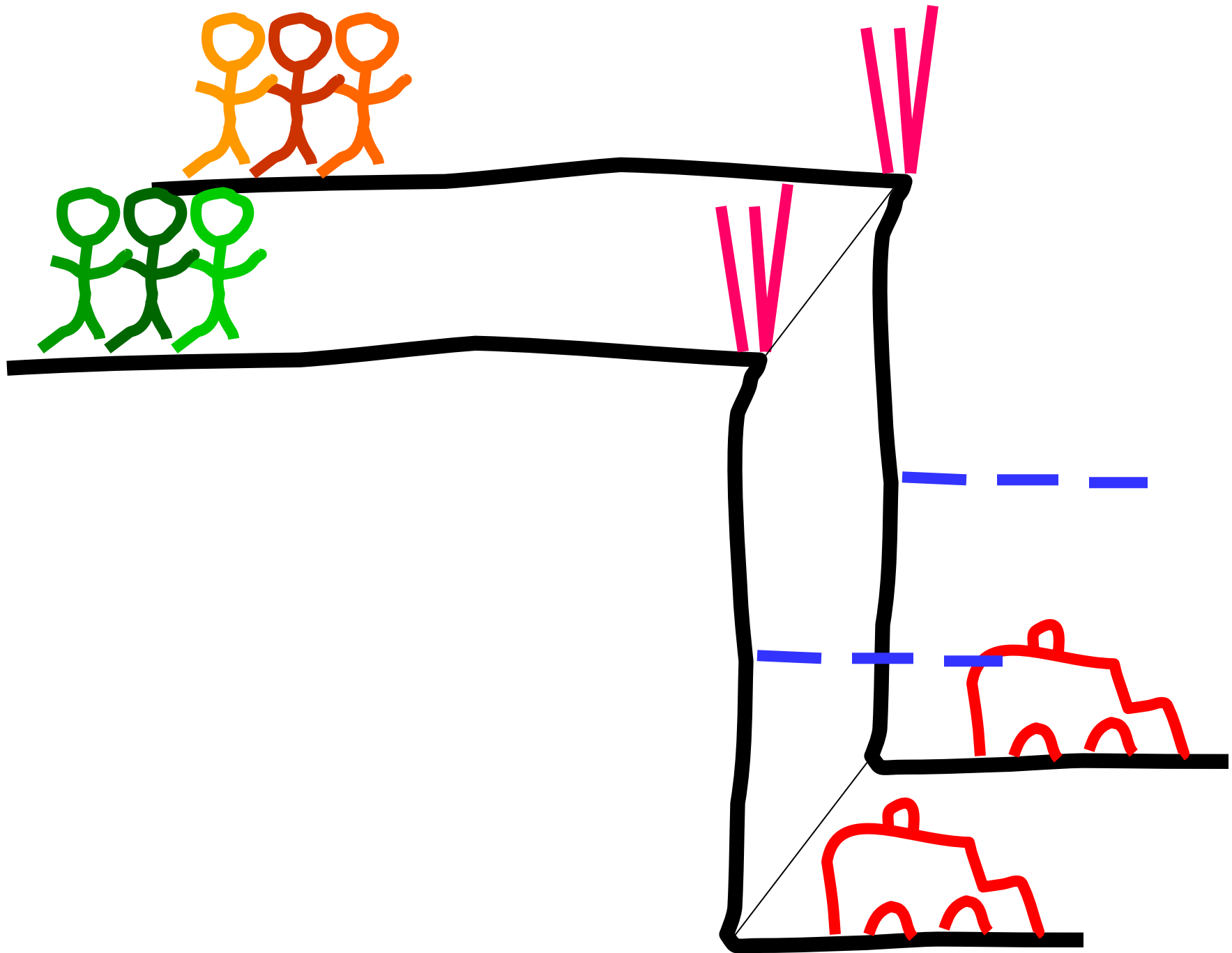


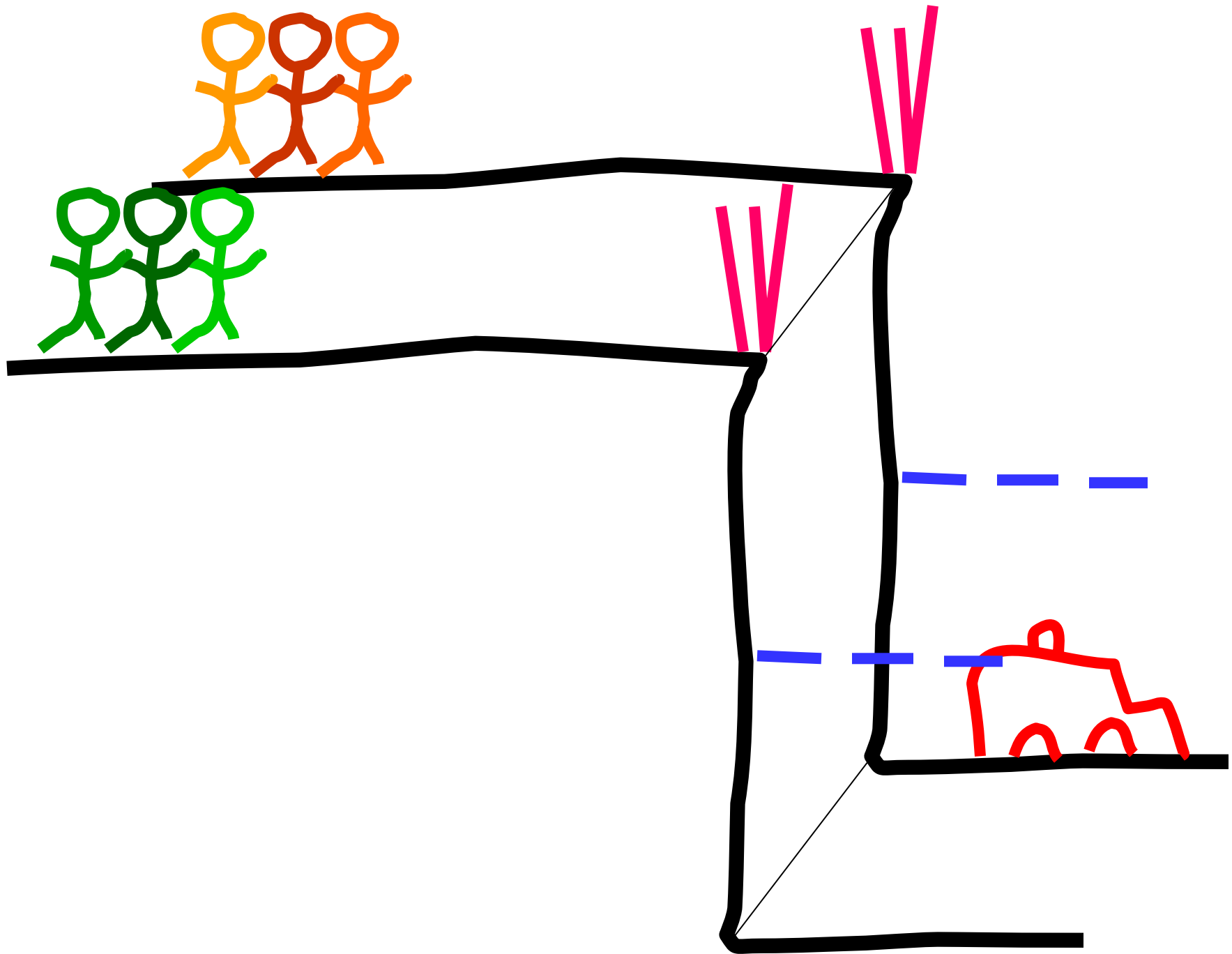


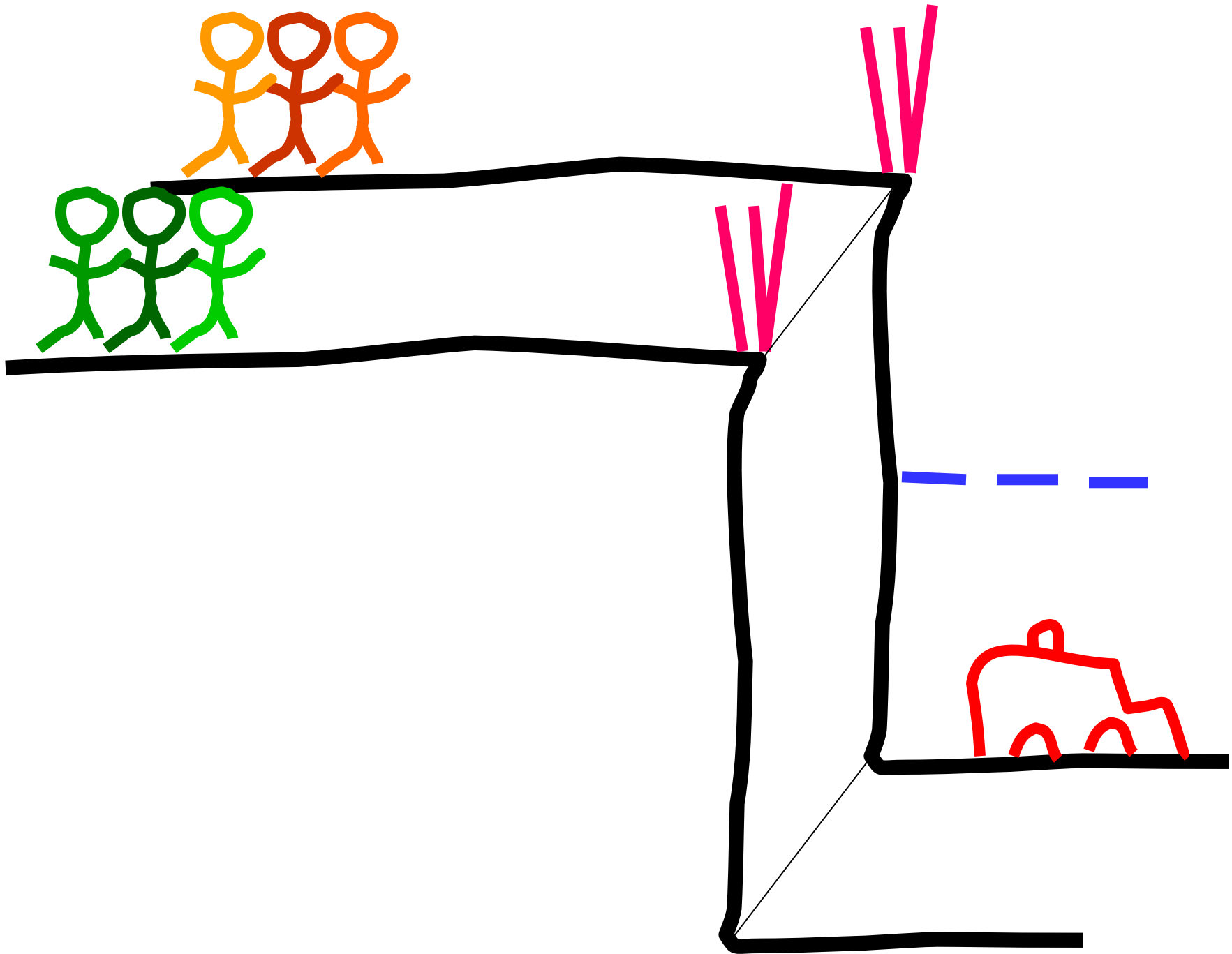
But how do disparities arise?

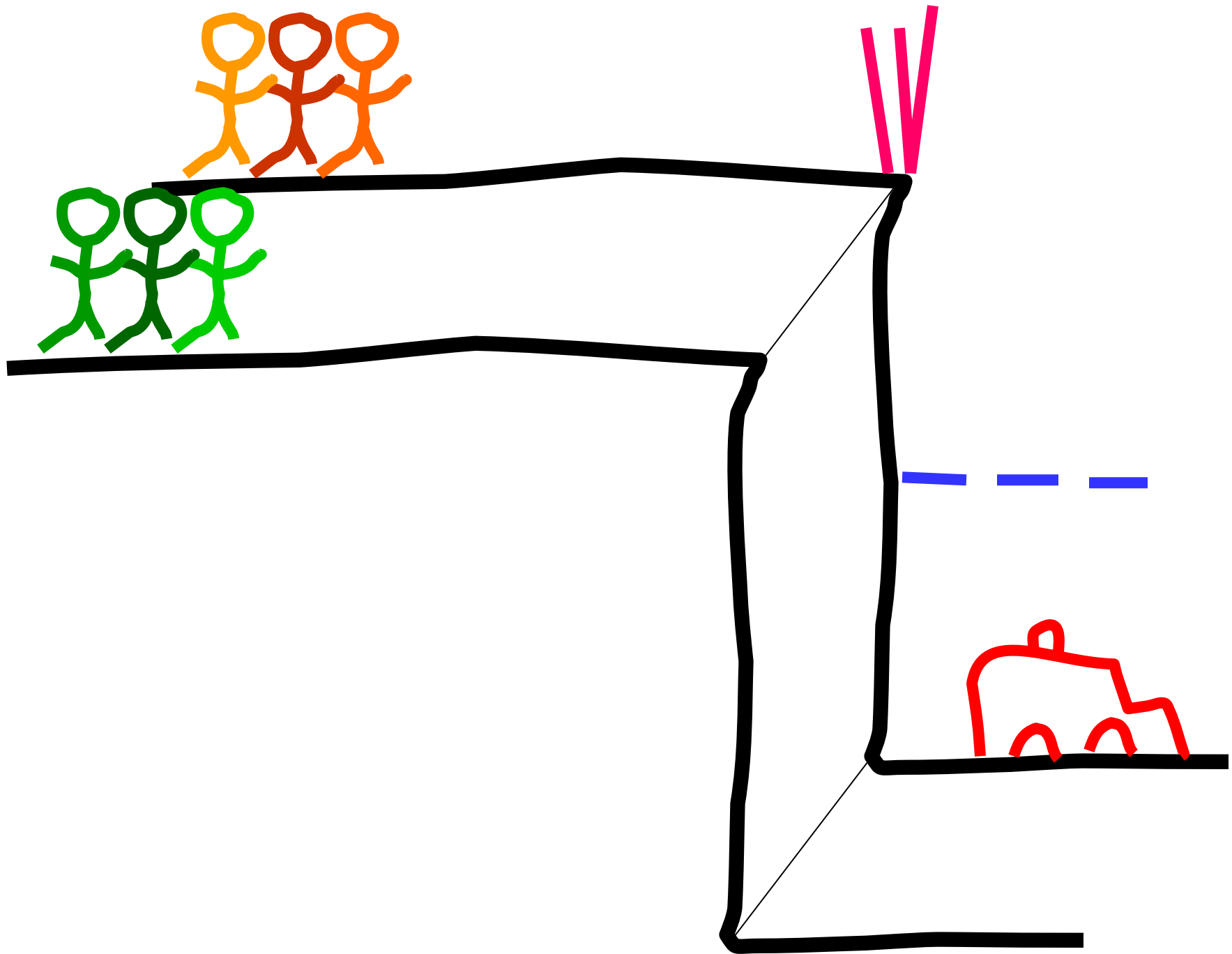
- Differences in the quality of care received within the health care system
- Differences in access to health care, including preventive and curative services
- Differences in life opportunities, exposures, and stresses that result in differences in underlying health status

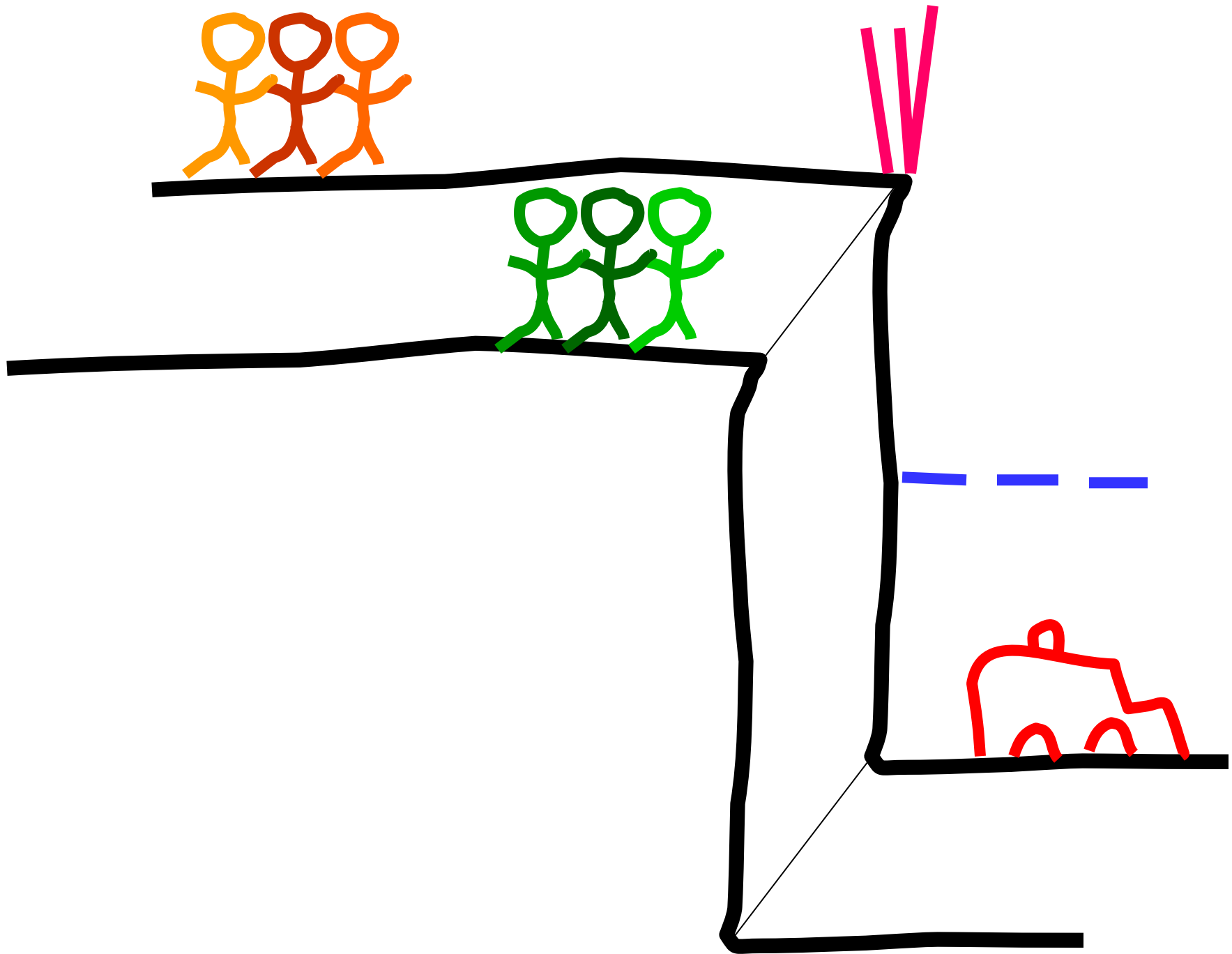


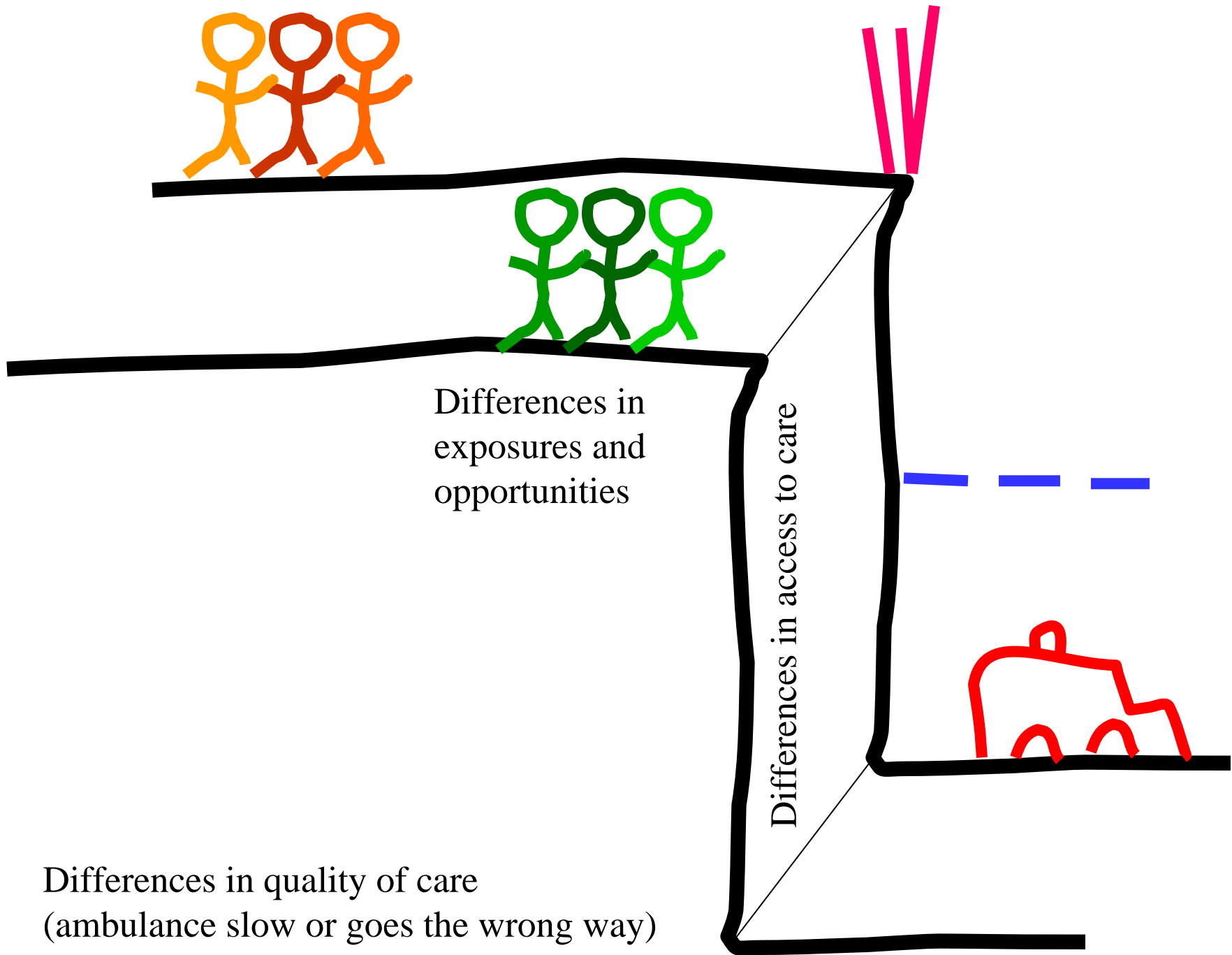


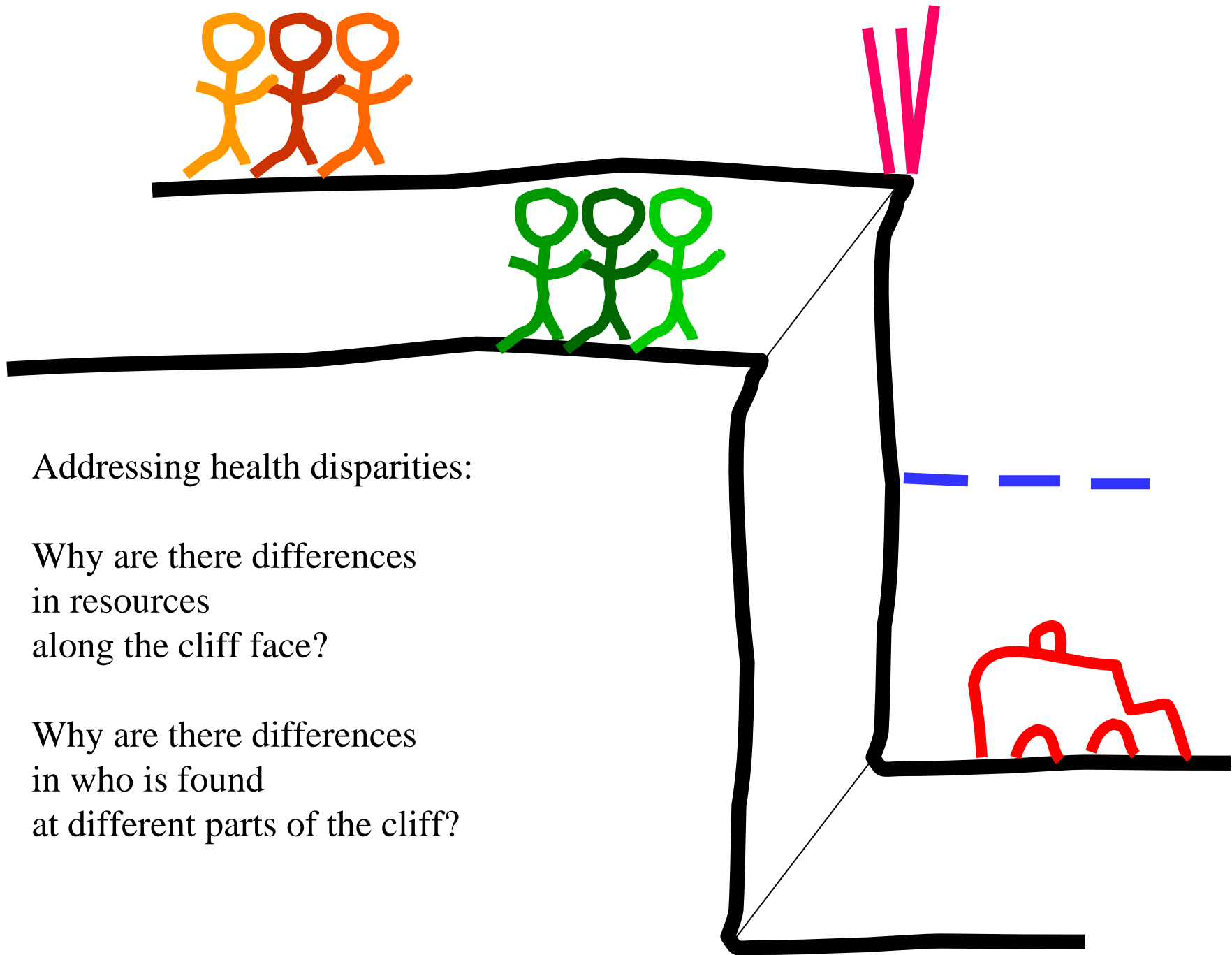












Our tasks

- Put racism on the agenda
 - Name racism as a force determining the distribution of other social determinants of health
 - Routinely monitor for differential exposures, opportunities, and outcomes by “race”

Our tasks

- Ask, "How is racism operating here?"
 - Identify mechanisms in structures, policies, practices, and norms
 - Attend to both what exists and what is lacking

Our tasks

- Organize and strategize to act
 - Join in grassroots organizing around the conditions of people's lives
 - Identify the structural factors creating and perpetuating those conditions
 - Link with similar efforts across the country and around the world

Policy ideas

- Education
 - Re-examine funding of public schools based on local property taxes
 - Articulate 100% high school graduation as a public health goal
- Justice
 - Create pathways from prison to work
 - Re-enfranchise former felons



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