

MOMENTS IN MINIATURE

A COLLECTION OF CCS SHORT STORIES

By Columbus City Schools' 4th and 5th Graders

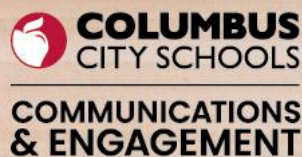
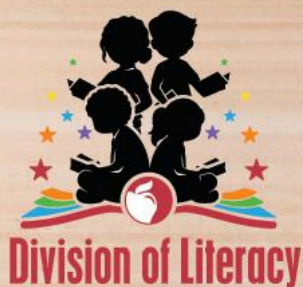


Table of Contents

4th Grade

*Denotes Grand Champion and Runner-Up

<u>21 Tornadoes</u> by Aaron Bailey, Parkmoor.....	6
<u>A Cat and Dog Save the World</u> by Khor Miller, Northgate.....	7
<u>A Drop of Water</u> by Damien Pressley, Spanish Immersion.....	11
<u>A Man Who Went to the Moon</u> by Hector Flores, Spanish Immersion.....	12
* <u>A New Middle School</u> by Sofia Cartagena Mojica, Liberty.....	13
<u>About My Country El Salvador</u> by Ashe Orellana Salvador, Spanish Immersion....	14
<u>Astro and a Sackboy Lost in Space</u> by Mason Richardson, Spanish Immersion....	15
<u>Aye Captain!!</u> by Ivy Oberting, Cedarwood.....	15
<u>Babysitting Problems</u> by Miah, Spanish Immersion.....	16
<u>Clown Show</u> by Amera Thomas, Innis.....	18
<u>Cow Makes Rain</u> by Heaven Burton, Parkmoor.....	20
<u>Creepy Guard Dog</u> by Kai Hinton, Cedarwood.....	21
<u>Dasseh's Sad Bicycle Story</u> by Dasseh Secka, Innis.....	22
<u>Deandre the Brave</u> by LaNae Johnson, Parkmoor.....	23
<u>Disney</u> by Nora Ebner, Ecole Kenwood.....	24
<u>¿Donde Estara Sili? Where is Sili?</u> by Emili Gonzalez-Pedroza, Innis.....	25
<u>Fairy Potion</u> by Zellyyah Jabbar, Parkmoor.....	25
<u>Friendship Bracelet Trade</u> by Brianna Rivera, Spanish Immersion.....	27
<u>Hair Color Caring</u> by Daisy Saldana, Spanish Immersion.....	27
<u>Hello Kitty!</u> by Chelsea Lemus, Spanish Immersion.....	29
<u>Hello Kitty and Friends</u> by Ivana Perez, Spanish Immersion.....	29
<u>Hello Kitty and Friends</u> by Isabella Garcia Palmeros, Spanish Immersion.....	30
<u>How Are Foxes Made?</u> by Nehemiah Paul, Parkmoor.....	31
<u>How Lightning Was Made</u> by Andrew Evans, Parkmoor.....	35
<u>I Found the Last Dinosaur</u> by Leiloni Jonson, Parkmoor.....	36
<u>Jeff the Dog and the Teddy Bear</u> by Pedro Valadares, Parkmoor.....	37
<u>Josephine's Imaginative Short Story</u> by Josephine, Parkmoor.....	38
<u>Kids Should Not Have Uniforms at School</u> by Cartyr Lawson, Colerain.....	39
<u>Lavender</u> by Lauralai Creagh, Indian Springs.....	40
<u>Lightning</u> by Skylar, Parkmoor.....	41
<u>Mae and Bun</u> by Tavi Patten, Colerain.....	41
<u>My Dream Bedroom</u> by Amir M'Sili, Ecole Kenwood.....	43
<u>My Friend, Katrina</u> by Johannly Sanchez, Northgate.....	44

<u>My Mom Went Missing!</u> by Kristina Bishwakarma, Parkmoor.....	47
<u>Mysterious House</u> by Cormac McCallion, Ecole Kenwood.....	48
<u>No Fish-y Story Here! Or is it?</u> by Gavin Charles Crumsey, Cedarwood.....	49
<u>No Water Garden</u> by Joel Darjee, Parkmoor.....	50
<u>Odd Squad and The New Agent</u> by Ki'Arah Claret, Innis.....	52
<u>Perla in Cameroon</u> by Perla Ndama, Innis.....	53
<u>Rabbit in the Forest</u> by Mya Janay Burgett, Spanish Immersion.....	53
<u>Red Moon</u> by Nelisha Rait, Parkmoor.....	54
<u>Sam and Sally Learn Their Lesson</u> by Braden Coleman, Parkmoor.....	55
<u>Saving the Future and the Past</u> by Maizie Ellwood, Ecole Kenwood.....	56
<u>Scary Story</u> by Killian Hayes, Colerain.....	57
<u>Shiny Nessie</u> by Saulyan Gurung, Liberty.....	58
<u>Small Bear Travels the World</u> by Jefferson Abara, Spanish Immersion.....	60
<u>Spark and Scorch in Space</u> by David Nonato, Spanish Immersion.....	61
<u>Super Frog</u> by Luis Guerrero, Colerain.....	63
<u>Super Pups</u> by Dashawn Sincere Woods, Parkmoor.....	64
<u>Talk to the Dead</u> by Elayasia Downs, Colerain.....	65
<u>The Battle of Utope City</u> by Abiel Agbor, Parkmoor.....	68
<u>The Big Day at the Beach</u> by Imapa Dunson, Parkmoor.....	70
<u>The Boy that Wished for Rain</u> by Journey Page, Parkmoor.....	71
<u>The Day It Went Wrong</u> by A Ammit, Spanish Immersion.....	73
<u>The Dog</u> by Sofia Calzado, Spanish Immersion.....	73
<u>The Dog Saved the World</u> by Herlinda B., Parkmoor.....	75
<u>The Dog Store</u> by Florence Miller, Northgate.....	76
<u>The Fight Between the Gods</u> by Mackeyla Mejia, Parkmoor.....	80
<u>The Fight for Earth</u> by Bradley Dumeny, Parkmoor.....	82
<u>The First Tornado at a Grocery Store</u> by Serenity Knight, Parkmoor.....	83
<u>The Friendly Bumble Bee</u> by Phoebe Holt, Indian Springs.....	84
<u>The Girl Who Made the Flood Come to Life</u> by Larryelle Martina, Parkmoor.....	87
<u>The Hamburger</u> by Chelsea Carballo, Spanish Immersion.....	90
<u>The Hamburger Who Grew Legs</u> by Emma Brooks, Spanish Immersion.....	90
<u>The Haunted Mansion</u> by Gemma Bleas, Colerain.....	91
<u>The Help Tornado</u> by Denim Casey, Parkmoor.....	92
<u>The Last Hope of Good</u> by Rose Parker-Martinez, Northgate.....	93
<u>The Little Burger Meats Friends</u> by Eva Diaz, Spanish Immersion.....	96
<u>The Little Girl Kate</u> by Rayshad Presyon, Broadleigh.....	97
<u>The Magic Pen</u> by Mehdi Amzal, Ecole Kenwood.....	98
<u>The Man Who Cares About People and Spreads Kindness</u> by Steven Villeda, Spanish Immersion.....	99

<u>The One Piece</u> by Kingston Smith, Parkmoor.....	100
<u>The Outbreak</u> by Teddy Aime, Parkmoor.....	101
<u>The Path You Choose to Go</u> by Leah Courtney, Parkmoor.....	103
<u>The Place Outside Space</u> by Julia Lockhart, Indian Springs.....	105
<u>The Punishment Thunderstorm</u> by Jasmine Wilson, Parkmoor.....	106
<u>The Scary House</u> by Thomas Laughlin, Colerain.....	107
<u>The Secret of the Livyatan</u> by Jordy Mypoi, Parkmoor.....	109
<u>The Storm</u> by Janelle Tucker, Parkmoor.....	111
* <u>The Sun and the Clouds</u> by Renae Hughes, Parkmoor.....	111
<u>The Thirsty Pickle</u> by Xavier Wade, Parkmoor.....	115
<u>The Weird Neighbor</u> by Simone Proulx, Ecole Kenwood.....	116
<u>There's A Storm in Downtown</u> by Imanuel, Parkmoor.....	117
<u>Thunderstorm</u> by Thomas Jones, Parkmoor.....	118
<u>Twisters of Malibu County</u> by Legend Woods, Spanish Immersion.....	119
<u>Vegetables and Fruit</u> by Xavier Romero, Spanish Immersion.....	120
<u>Water Monster</u> by Jorge, Parkmoor.....	120

5th Grade

*Denotes Grand Champion and Runner-Up

<u>A Very Gunter Christmas</u> by Wren McMaken, Clinton.....	121
<u>Anna's Magical Flute</u> by Andrew Long, Indian Springs.....	123
<u>Artist</u> by Evangeline Battle, Clinton.....	125
<u>Autumn</u> by Autumn Laury, Colerain.....	126
<u>Blueberry Pie</u> by Merina Martin, Northgate.....	130
<u>Built for Death</u> by Sheikhnoor Osman, West Broad.....	133
<u>Charley the Cat Who Saved Benjamin</u> by Meara Kuhns, Indian Springs.....	135
* <u>Cheeks the Squirrel and the Revenge of the Dragon</u> by Gabriel Rohr-Smith, Clinton.....	136
<u>Chloe and Jaelyn 1 & 2</u> by Jaelyn Manns, Indianola.....	140
<u>Dreams</u> by Theo Jones, Colerain.....	144
<u>Falling Stars</u> by Litzzy Garcia, Siebert.....	147
<u>Fire Catcher</u> by Gracelyn Wishoff, Clinton.....	152
<u>From Drawings to Real Life</u> by Nia Mitchell, Siebert.....	156
<u>Friends & Fire</u> by Damilare Adeyeye, Northgate.....	157
<u>Goldilocks' Death</u> by Josephine Mya Scott, Ecole Kenwood.....	159
<u>In French and English</u> by Lucia Agbor, Colerain.....	161
<u>Just a Little Kindness</u> by Josephine Mya Scott, Ecole Kenwood.....	163
<u>Lucid Dreams</u> by Zion Mellow, Avondale.....	164

<i>Monsters of the Galaxies: Black and White Holes</i> by Jamie Martin,	
Indianola.....	165
<i>Muna Ali: The Prodigy & Hidden World</i> by Samara Mohamed, Innis.....	166
<i>My Childhood Friend, Millie</i> by Nolan Jacob Ewing, Ecole Kenwood.....	168
<i>My Super Annoying Siblings</i> by Jadia Alexander, Parkmoor.....	169
<i>Robot Invasion</i> by Ariyanna, Broadleigh.....	169
<i>Robots in the Middle Ages</i> by Frances Clair Grover, Clinton.....	170
<i>Sara and the Sea</i> by Gary Brito, Broadleigh.....	173
<i>Space Unicorns</i> by Ahire Watkins, Parkmoor.....	175
<i>Swapped with Evil Aliens</i> by Lily Greer, Broadleigh.....	178
* <i>Swashbuckling Gorillas</i> by Margaret Schroeder, Clinton.....	182
<i>Stuck in a Snow Globe</i> by Shanti Liesner, Winterset.....	185
<i>The Adventures of John Jack Johnson</i> by Finegan Andrews, Colerain.....	185
<i>The Bird</i> by Annelise Yoder, Indianola.....	188
<i>The Boy Who Cried Volcano</i> by Michael Wick, Clinton.....	189
<i>The Comeback</i> by Briella Richesson, Colerain.....	192
<i>The Gamer Begins</i> by Dupree Preston Conner Jr., Parkmoor.....	194
<i>The History of America</i> by Kelly Shafer, Colerain.....	194
<i>The Mean Boy Who Regretted</i> by Pary Aziz, Winterset.....	195
<i>The Night Sounds</i> by Jackie Miller, Colerain.....	197
<i>The Pirate's Problem</i> by Kalani Thompson, Northgate.....	198
<i>The Rainy Ski Lift</i> by Sage Barrish, Indianola.....	201
<i>The Runaway Puppy</i> by Mia Barron-Robles, Winterset.....	202
<i>The Secret Spy Parents</i> by Aaliyah Miller, Innis.....	203
<i>The Seven Missing Stars</i> by Po Anjchehra Sou, Siebert.....	204
<i>The Story of Lewis Morr the Rabbit</i> by Ezra Sullivan, Indian Springs.....	206
<i>The Story of Neon the Nayan Cat</i> by Ellanor Galloway, Colerain.....	208
<i>The Three Little Pig Shorts</i> by Amy Montag, Windsor.....	209
<i>The Three Little Pig Shorts</i> by Noah Cole, Windsor.....	209
<i>The Three Little Pig Shorts</i> by Paris Burke, Windsor.....	210
<i>The Three Little Pig Shorts</i> by Kylee Lewis, Windsor.....	210
<i>Trying Helped Me Through A Tough Time</i> by Imogen Renee Hoke, Ecole	
Kenwood.....	211
<i>Winter Break</i> by Crosby Kernan, Indian Springs.....	212

Fourth Grade

21 Tornados

By Aaron Bailey

There was a tornado in China and how the tornado was made by trash and clouds.

The tornado grew bigger and bigger. Then, it grew arms and legs and started to walk around and everything got sucked in the tornado house.

Parks and Aaron came with Bob and me. We had to stop the tornado! But, then Bob grabbed the pole and hit it into the clouds. We both said "bye bye-bye," but then another one came. Bob and I stopped it.

We won!

We thought we won, but then the big boss came out. We ran and hid, but he kept coming. He knocked over the buildings and kept moving towards me and Bob.

We are scared for our lives, but then she came out of nowhere – a big dinosaur – and she took him out. Bob and I were confused. We tried to say thank you, but she ran away.

The next day we found her and became friends.

The next day, twenty-one tornados appeared and we thought it was the end, but she pulled out something and whistled. Twenty-five dinosaurs appeared and were fighting. We ran, but Bob stayed.

He said, "Run!"

I ran and Bob never came back. But then Bob came back with a dinosaur. It was black and white.

This is how it started me. Bob and I went to the same school called BearGrove and then there was an apocalypse. Bob and I were the only kids. We stayed with each other. We got older and we looked like Fortnite kids, but then it all went down. That's how you see.

But it was all a dream.

A Cat and Dog Save the World

By Khor Miller

Somewhere on earth is a house, with a cat in it.

The cat jumped on the shelf, like all cats do. Then, the cat saw a box. The cat jumped in the box, like all cats do. The cat sat down in the box. She stayed there until night. At night, a strange yellow beam appeared above the box. A dog appeared, the dog frightened the cat, and she jumped up on the shelf in fear.

The dog looked at the cat "Hello, regular house cat. I am a wizard dog," said the magic dog.

"Meow," said the cat.

The wizard dog animal picked up the cat and teleported to his spaceship. The dog gave the cat a spacesuit so she could breathe in space.

"I need your help in saving my galaxy," the dog said. "I chose you because you seemed strong. I could be wrong."

The dog drove the spaceship into a portal to his galaxy and put the spaceship on autopilot. The dog got a computer and went to Google Docs.

"Type a story on this computer..."

"Meow," said the cat.

The cat wrote a short story. The dog walked back to the cat and shared it with Mrs. Bantum to make sure she gets paid. The dog closes the computer and drives the spaceship again. The cat jumped on a shelf. The cat jumps in a box and goes to sleep. The dog stops the spaceship on his planet. He picks up the box and throws the cat outside.

The cat woke up as soon as the dog threw her outside. The dog stepped out of the spaceship and closed the door. "This is my home," said the dog. "We are here to save it."

The cat asked "Meow?"

"I know I said that, but I don't have to save the galaxy," said the dog.

The cat asked "Meow?"

"Mrs. Bantum made me make you write a story," the dog said.

"Meow," said the cat.

"Well, I'm different But thank you," said the dog.

The cat walked around a shop and found out everyone had left the planet completely, except the dog.

The cat asked "Meow?"

"Yes, they did leave," said the dog.

"They left me here alone," the dog muttered.

"Meow?" the cat asked.

"Maybe they wanted me to be the hero."

"Meow," said the cat.

"Why would they not want me?"

"Meow," said the cat.

The dog looked at his house.

"Just because it's far from everywhere else, doesn't mean they don't like me," said the dog.

The cat asked, "Meow?"

"No, I didn't build my house. They did," said the dog.

"Meow," said the cat.

"Well, I don't have any friends," the dog said.

The cat and the dog started their trip to the intruder's castle.

"I heard the intruder is a whale," said the dog.

"Meow," said the cat.

The dog asked, "You believe me?"

"Meow," the cat said.

"This is the first time anyone agreed with me," the dog said excitedly.
The cat and the dog stopped to take a nap.

"Meow," the cat said.

"Cats always take naps," the dog said.

The next morning, the cat woke up and scared the dog out of his sleep.

"Meow," the cat said.

"Yawn," the dog said.

"Meow," said the cat.

"We shall continue our trip," the dog said.

The cat and the dog continued walking. The cat and the dog arrived at the whale's castle. They stopped outside the gate, and knocked on the gate.

"Here we are," said the dog.

The cat asked "Meow?"

"Yes," said the dog.

The cat and the dog kicked down the gate with the dogs SUPER AWESOME POWERS. The cat and the dog walked in the gate and looked at the Whale.

"Hello small beings," said the whale.

The cat asked "Meow?"

"Yes, I am the SUPER ULTRA WHALE! And the only whale with powers," the whale said, trying to sound extremely scary. The cat and the dog laughed at the whale.

"Silence," said the whale.

"Meow," said the cat.

"I agree," said the dog.

"Time to defeat the ultra super whale," the dog said.

"You said it wrong. It's SUPER ULTRA WHALE," said the whale.

"Blah, blah, blah, whatever your name is," said the dog.

The cat and the dog ran towards the whale and created a portal.

The whale asked "What is this?"

"It's a portal to a wonderful world," the dog said.

The whale stuck his head in and saw the wonderful world.

"Now good-bye," said the dog as he kicked the whale in his rear end into the portal.

The dog and the cat celebrated. The dog closed the portal and the whale was stuck in the nice world.

"YAY!" the dog said.

The dog flew the cat back to her house on earth, she slept the entire day and a-half. The dog went back home and became famous in his hometown. And Mrs. Bantum got her money.

A Drop of Water

By Damien Pressley

Once upon a time, there was a house in the city with a boy named Mizu. (Mizu is water in Japanese.)

He was the smartest in his class, but he often got bullied by his classmates. Mizu only had two friends, Momo is one of his friends and the other is Zoro. They would comfort him and defend him.

But one day, he went with his friends to take a walk and they saw a vibrant blue-glowing light. They walked closer to the light and they saw it was a stone. Mizu touched the stone and blue stuff was all over him.

"What is this?" said Mizu.

He moved his hand and shot a blast of water. Since he had powers, his friends tried to train him to use his powers. Zoro trained his physical strength, speed, and aim. Momo meditated with Mizu for spiritual energy. When they got to school the next day, the students sat down and Momo's stomach hurt from what she ate yesterday. She tried to hold it in, but she couldn't. She did a giant, stinky fart that everyone in the

class heard. But Mizu said “It was me who farted.” Even though everyone knew Mizu didn’t fart.

Momo liked that he said that even though she farted. And the teacher, Ms. Saki told Momo to go to the bathroom. At the end of the day, Momo apologized for making him stand up to her fart. Later, they all forgot what happened, but while Zoro, Momo, and Mizu were walking they saw a wildfire. And standing in the middle of the forest was Natsu. He was one of the kids who was mean to Mizu and was burning the forest with his fire stone.

Zoro and Mizu ran towards Natsu, even though Zoro didn’t have powers, he was really good at karate from all of the training he had done in middle school. Mizu was attacking with his water powers and Zoro was dodging and kicking the whole time.

A while later, Natsu ran away. But the whole time, Momo was taking videos and pictures of the fire stone to examine it later and when they went home, Momo was creating a fire stone for Zoro and a thunder stone for herself.

At school, Momo gave the fire stone for Zoro. After school they all practiced their new powers and went to the library. They found a special book called “The Power Stone Guide.” They read inside it and it said that the stones were actually stones blessed by the power of God.

“There are many types of power stones, but the most powerful one is the Ultra Stone.”

The last thing it said was “Use the Powers for good and destroy all evil.”

After they read the book, they headed out of the library and had a race. Now since Momo had thunder powers, she won the race in less than one second. When they came back to school, they promised to protect the world from anything bad.

A Man Who Went to the Moon

By Hector Flores

Once upon a time, there was a boy who wanted to go to the moon. The boy worked hard in school. He always turned in his homework, projects, and activities. He loved school and all its fun activities.

He also liked to play the game Connect Four against his table. He lost one time, but won lots of times.

In middle school, he did his homework and was successful. After school, he went to college and was accepted to go to space.

First, he practiced by driving a space car. Then, he learned how to drive a spaceship. Lastly, he tested the space suit and it was time to go to the moon!

He went up in the spaceship to explore the moon. When he came back, he was famous and still remembered all of his hard work and studies.

***A New Middle School**

By Sofia Cartagena Mojica

"Hi my name is Alexis, and I just moved to California! I didn't want to leave Georgia because I knew a lot of people there."

Alexis practices in the mirror before she leaves her new home. She remembered her last time with Lily and Maddy saying "I'll miss you" and exchanging hugs goodbye. She knew they really cared about her so much. There was nothing that could separate them from each other.

Alexis was not ready to go to a new school, but she wanted to make new friends and wanted to belong there.

She arrived at school shy and anxious, but she knew she could be brave like a superhero. She had to be brave to make friends with strangers. When she went inside the school, she was horrified, like she was in a horror movie! Many people were staring at her and gossiping about her. She walked down the hall, past the lockers, and a boy named Eniah pushed her and her books fell! He didn't apologize or help her book them up. Alexis was so embarrassed. She wanted to run away, but she knew she was brave. There was nothing that could stop her from being brave, even if people tried to make her feel bad.

Alexis thought of her friends back in Georgia and it made her smile. She went to math class, but the students were not listening to the teacher and they were throwing papers at Alexis. She was scared because people were being so loud and sitting on

their desks when they were not supposed to. She hoped that the teacher wouldn't think that she was a rascal like the kids in there.

When the class was over, a girl named Mary came up to her. She was new too and didn't feel like she belonged there. "Hi I'm new here and I need some friends to play with!"

Alexis was surprised that someone wanted to be her friend.

"Yeah I'm new too and I do need a friend to comfort me and be brave with me," Alexis said.

Mary was very lonely since joining her new school. She was always alone at the lockers and nobody seemed to want to talk to her. She watched as the other new girl picked up her books from being knocked down and felt inspired that she ignored the bullies. So when Alexis said she needed someone to be brave with her, she was surprised, but also really nervous. She wanted to have a friend, and she wanted to be brave like Alexis.

"Yeah I will take care of you forever and ever. We're going to be best friends, even if we have to be far away from each other," Mary said.

At that moment Alexis was happy that she had a friend that seemed to really care about her.

Throughout the rest of the school year Alexis and Mary sat together at lunch, hung out after school, and had sleepovers. Alexis knew that Mary cared about her so much, just like Lily and Maddy did.

Five years later, and they're still best friends...and they always will be.

About My Country El Salvador

By Ashe Orellena Salvador

My country is a special country. I like my country because it sells pupusas and hobeata and a lot of candies, shoes, shirts, and t-shirts. Kids can play outside and

also kids are talking and selling chips and Coca-cola. They go to the store and they play soccer outside. They go to sleepovers and they go to pools to swim. They sell hot chips and Takis and they can dance like El Torito Pinto.

Astro and Sackboy Lost in Space

By Mason Richardson

Once upon a time, there was a robot named Astro and a sackboy. They were friends, but one day they got trapped in space!

On the Moon while they were trapped in space, Astro said, "Where are we Sackboy? There's a house!"

So, they went to the house, but it was full of aliens! Then, they built Sackboy a new suit that can fly.

"I see another planet," Astro said.

Astro used his Grapple Hand to get to the other planet. Sackboy flew to the other planet, but it was an asteroid. The asteroid was flying at hyperspeed and Sackboy's hand broke because he used it too many times.

He went to a robot repair place and they fixed Astro's hand. Then, they went to Mars and found Martians so they will be ready for a new adventure.

The end.

Aye Captain!!

By Ivy Oberting

A pirate crew was sailing across the sea with their two crew members, Leo and Emily, and Captain Bobart. Suddenly they saw a thick fog ahead. The fog was so thick, they couldn't see through it. Captain Bobart made the decision to keep going.

The ship started to shake and then fog cleared. Below them, they saw a water portal with clouds and purple rain. They got sucked in it, and inside was a water galaxy.

There were dark purple coral and red stars. They sailed through the water galaxy and were scared, but ready to explore. After a couple seconds sailing Emily yelled, "CITY AHEAD!"

The city had fancy buildings made out of purple gems with lizard-like aliens walking about. The aliens stared at the crew like they haven't seen anyone like them before. When they arrived in the city, the aliens were whispering to each other in their language. The crew was scared until the alien walked up to them and shook their hands. Speaking English they said, "Greetings humans, I've heard about you."

Captain Bobart shook his hand and smiled "You didn't look like me, so I thought you were scary, but I've learned that even though we are different on the outside, we can get along."

After exploring the aliens' beautiful city, they asked a few to join the crew and they said yes. Captain Bobart showed them the ship and the aliens loved it, especially the flag. As they were getting ready to go on their next adventure to find a new crew member, Captain Bobart screamed, "FULL STEAM AHEAD!"

The crew all together yelled, "AYE CAPTAIN!"

Babysitting Problems

By Miah

One day, Marcy asked Anne to babysit her little sisters.

"It can't be THAT bad!" Anne said.

"Yeah sure, just wait," Marcy said. She left with a smirk as her sisters stepped in.

"Aaw! Who might you be? Are you eating ice cream for dinner?" Her sister Lola looked at Anne with a nurturing look.

She said, "Yep." Anne tried to take it from her and once she did she saw a very not happy little sister.

"Uh... so how's your day?"

1 minute later...knock knock. Let me in!

"Why should I?" asked Mia.

"I promise I will give you whatever you want just please! Your sister is mad at me!"

"Fine."

The door opened, then closed.

"What were you thinking!" said Mia. "You could've got hurt!"

Anne looks around for a second. "So you're the big sister, huh?"

"Yep and you're the babysitter, huh?"

"Well yeah, but - off point- what's with your sister?"

"She loves candy but I have a plan! We feed her more candy to make her have a sugar rush!"

"Wait but why would we feed it to her if we wanna make her calm?"

"Sugar rush = crash."

"Ohh so we keep her till she crashes?"

"Yep!"

"Ready the candy. You go left, I go right!"

"Well THIS IS BAD!" Anne yelled over to Mia who was holding her down.

"Yep!" Mia gasped.

"She is finally asleep!"

Mia nods. "Yeah the house is a mess but I'm too tired."

"Yeah we can clean it up later," Anne said as they both fall asleep.

"Whoa this is... a mess," said Marcy.

Clown Show

By Amera Thomas

Every year these two best friends, Leah and Maya, loved going to a carnival called, Clown Show. It has games, activities, candy apples, nice sweet cheesecake with a cherry on the top, popcorn, corn dogs and last but not least, a Ferris wheel and roller coasters! There is this one roller coaster that's their favorite! It is called Shark Attack. Leah and Maya went to the roller coaster area and got in line.

Maya and Leah were so excited to get on the ride first. The workers checked their seats, so they wouldn't get hurt. Then, the ride started slowly moving and getting in place to suddenly drop! It counts down 3,2,1. Then, it zooms like a rocket ship going 500 miles per hour! Everyone was screaming! Leah was saying, "I am going to puke!"

Maya said, "It smells like rotten nasty cheese!"

Then, the ride goes to its final twirl and it stops mid-air, and then it zooms again at 1,000 miles per hour! It came to a complete stop and they all unbuckled their seatbelts and got off the ride. Everybody was saying how cool it was.

After all that fun, Maya and Leah went to get some corn dogs at the food place near the lemonade stand. After eating the corn dogs, Leah said, "Hey I'll be right back, I need to go to the restroom.... see ya!"

Maya said, "Okay!"

While Leah was washing her hands, she felt chills and something watching her. She looked in the mirror and saw a dark black figure staring into her deep soul. Leah ran out of the bathroom following the exit where it became pitch black. She felt something grabbing her and then, the next thing she knew, she passes out and woke up in another dimension. She yells, "Hello?"

Meanwhile Maya is still waiting on Leah. Maya gets hungry and eats Leah's corn dog. After that, Maya got bored and went to find Leah. She goes into the bathroom and tries to find her. She cries out, "LEAH!" She thinks to herself, "weird, where could she be?" Maya starts walking out of the bathroom, then she notices Leah's phone on the ground. It still has battery life. It is definitely her phone case, a pink background with our picture. Leah and Maya posing, Maya doing the peace sign and Leah doing the heart sign. Maya just keeps wondering and is in a state of confusion.

Maya whispers under her breath, "that's so weird, she never leaves her phone, especially on the ground!" Maya grabs Leah's phone and puts it in her pocket safe and tight. Maya continues walking until she sees a pink opening in the middle of the carnival and thinks maybe that's where Leah is.

Something draws her to the pink opening and she walks slowly into it. Once she's through the portal she realizes she's in another dimension and says, "wait a minute, maybe I should call for Leah and see if she answers?"

Maya hears a knocking while calling out for Leah. She follows the noise towards these strange woods, and sees an old crusty and dusty green house with a bunch of different bushes surrounding it. Maya opens the door and Leah is on the floor. Her hands tied together and duct tape on her mouth.

All of the sudden, out comes this crazy looking lady with yellow eyes, black mask, her hair super long with all black on.

"I knew you would come to my trap!" She laughs evilly.

Maya asks, "Who are you? What do you want from us?"

The unknown woman says, "You know, you remind me of my daughter, rude and disrespectful!"

"So, I'm going to keep you here to teach you a big lesson." She laughs evilly again.

The lady decided to take a nap and Maya and Leah decided to break free and break out. They hurry up and ran out the door. The witch began to pull them back, but, they both screamed,

"HELP...HELP!" Just then, they both woke up, darted out of their beds and realized it was just a dream. What a sigh of relief!

Cow Makes Rain

By Heaven Burton

A long time ago in 1707, a cow could not move at all because he was born like that. People in the animal village were laughing at the cow named Deer because he could not move.

"I need rain so I can move again," said the cow.

A duck and a wolf decided to help the cow find the rain. But, the duck and wolf had to find something to carry the cow. They decided to look everywhere to find something to carry the cow. So, they checked in the houses first. Then, they checked it in the garbage cans. Last, but not least, they checked in the witch's house. However, they were too scared to go in the witch's house at night, so they decided to go to the witch's house in the morning.

The next day it was sunny.

The duck said, "Come on you guys."

The duck and the wolf went inside and the cow stayed outside. When the duck and wolf went inside, the duck got scared. They both went to a big room and they found a dead baby lion and a wagon. They ran outside, put the cow in the wagon, and went to the tallest mountain in the animal village.

They found the tallest mountain and went up to the mountain. They were very tired. When they reached the top, they all said, "We made it! Hooray!" and they were breathing hard.

The cow told the duck and wolf to get milk out of me and then pour it out in the sky. So that's what they did, and then some rain started coming down from the clouds. The water got on the cow and the cow started moving again. And the cow was happy. The end.

Creepy Guard Dog

By Kai Hinton

Once upon a time, there was a family of five. There were three kids, two boys, and a girl. It was a happy family until one night, the family got a dog. It was a guard dog. Everyone thought it was a nice dog, but it wasn't. This dog was creepy at night. Something would always happen exactly at 3:34 a.m.!

One night, their daughter Ava woke up in the middle of the night and she saw the dog just staring at her. Then, the dog disappeared! Ava was so creeped out that she woke up her brothers, Jake and Alex. Jake thought Ava was just seeing things, so did Alex. The boys went back to bed. Ava couldn't go back to sleep so she woke up her parents.

Ava's parents didn't believe her, so they went back to bed. Ava stayed up until everyone else woke up the next morning. Her brothers and parents weren't thinking about what happened. Her parents got the dog out of the cage. The dog was normal again. Ava and her brothers got ready for school. Ava couldn't stop thinking about last night. Ava went to school and told her friends, but they didn't believe her either. Soon Ava thought she was dreaming.

After school, Ava looked at the dog to see what it was doing while it was alone. Ava stole her parents' cameras and put them by the dog's cage and bed. Ava did her homework and then checked the cameras. Ava soon convinced her brothers to believe her and she showed them the camera footage. They get scared and they all sleep in the guest room so when one wakes up, they all will.

It's 3:34 a.m.! The dog starts barking. Ava and her brothers wake up.

Alex says, "What's that noise?"

"I don't know," said Ava and Jake.

Jake gets a flashlight and Alex gets a shield for his siblings and himself. The dog barks ever louder to the point that their parents wake up.

The dog stops and the kids run back to the room. Their mom wakes up and Jake tries to explain what happened, but mom didn't believe him. She asked Alex and Ava if it was true they both said that it was. Mom gets scared and tells the kids to pack up

their things. The dad wakes up and says, "Why are you packing up?" Mom tells him and he starts packing up.

The dog watches them pack up feeling mad and sad. Everyone finishes packing but the dad looks at the dog and says, "Hey little one, did you eat something bad?" The dog looks up and cries. The dad secretly takes the dog with them. Everyone puts their things in the trunk. The kids get in and mom starts driving.

Ava feels happy that she isn't with the dog. Her brothers feel the same. Dad feels bad for the dog because he thought the dog ate something. Two hours later, the family gets to their new house. Everyone was excited to see the house. Ava went in first, her brothers followed.

Ava was happy, she knew all the scary things wouldn't happen again, but her dad heard her and hid the dog in his room. Mom asks the dad, "Why is there dog food in the trunk?"

He goes silent and shows everyone the dog.

Mom yells at him and says, "WHY IS HE HERE?"

Dad tells her that he felt bad for the dog and brought him along.

The kids unpacked their clothes, they had their dinner, they showered, and went to bed.

Do you think Ava, Jake and Alex will find out? Do you think the dog will be normal?

The End.

Dasseh's Sad Bicycle Story

By Dasseh Secka

It was a great day in the fall. I was walking down the street with my mom and my little sister. There were lots of cars and bikes. My little sister was on my mom's back, and my mom was on the phone with my uncle.

Suddenly, I saw my friends coming, and I asked my mom if I could join them. My mom said, "Yes," so I joined them. After that, I went back to my mom to go to the pharmacy to get some medicine.

On the way, something really dangerous happened. When I was crossing the road, a bike was coming, and I was crossing. The bike hit my forehead and split it open. My mom picked me up and put my little sister down. Thank goodness this happened next to a house. They heard my screaming and they all got out, almost the whole neighborhood came out. Some of them took me to the hospital.

When I reached the hospital, my mom called my grandma and my dad. My grandma came, but my dad couldn't come. My grandma and my mom were so worried. The doctor put stitches on my forehead. The next day I couldn't go to school, so my mom called the school and told my teachers what happened. The next day my mom went to the boy's house and told his father what happened. The father was so frustrated and mad at the boy.

After that, my mom got some food and I ate. Thank goodness a few weeks later my forehead started to get better. I started to go to school again. Thank goodness my forehead started to get better so quickly.

THE END OF MY STORY

Wait! I have something else to say.

Now, I don't even know how to ride a bike, and I will always pay attention to my surroundings.

Deandre the Brave

By LaNae Johnson

Once upon a time, there was a little boy named Deandre. He went into the woods and was a little scared because he heard a sound. It was getting louder and louder. It was two dogs barking. He did not know what to do and was shocked.

One dog was a girl and one was a boy. He was petting the dogs. After the dogs left, an old lady came looking for the dogs that Deandre saw. The old lady asked Deandre

if he had seen her dog. The dogs' names were Cookie and Ace. She said she lost them on a walk to the dog park. She slipped and they ran away from her and into the woods.

When the old lady was gone, he knew something was not good.

He went to go find the old lady and her dogs. He saw the girl dog, but the other dog was dead. At this point, the boy was scared to go find the old lady. He felt like the old lady killed the dog.

The boy went home, but the old lady was following him home. He felt like the old lady was following him home. The next day, the boy's mom was making him an egg. The boy's mom was mad that the boy was not eating the food, but the boy did not care.

He was looking out for the old lady. He did not want to tell his mom what he was doing. He did not because of how mad his mom was at him, so his mom said he is not allowed to go outside until he tells her what he was doing outside. His mom was mad, but not that mad. He went outside and did not care about what his mom said. He loves his mom, but not now, he was too busy.

Disney

By Nora Ebner

Hi I am Nora. I am so excited to be at Disney.

I am here with my family. The Disney characters I want to see are the Cheshire cat, Groot, and Minnie Mouse. I miss my dog so much! I wish she could have come!

I see Wonderland. I tell my Mom and Dad I want to go...but they say NO. So sad, so sad. I tell them I must go! Then they say ok. I am having so much fun. I see the...CHESHIRE CAT!!! Finally my Mom and Dad let me see him. I am so happy, but I have to leave. Now I am in MARVEL and I see GROOT!!!

¿Donde Estara Sili?

Where is Sili?

By Emili Gonzalez-Pedroza

Narrative originally written in Spanish and translated into English by ESL IA, Thiminia Ayala-Leon

It was a beautiful day until Celeste couldn't see her bunny, Sili. Its cage was opened! She searched the entire house, but it was worthless. She opened the door and found small bunny prints that led to the forest. Celeste shouted Sili's name over and over.

"Sili! Sili! Sili!"

Finally, Celeste heard a noise behind a tree. Celeste was very scared, but she decided to save her bunny no matter the cost. She saw that behind the tree was one of Sili's paws stuck under a branch. Quickly, Celeste removed the branch from Sili. Sili eventually recovered and lived happily ever after with her friend, Celeste.

Fairy Potion

By Zellyyah Jabbar

There once was a town that was black. The houses were black, the trees were black, even the rainbow was black.

There was a little girl walking down the street. She didn't like that there was black everywhere, but she saw this old abandoned cottage and she went inside and saw a fairy.

"Who are you?" asked the girl.

"A fairy," the fairy said.

The girl is just quiet, then the girl asked, "Do you have a potion? I see you have a lot, but do you have one to turn the whole world colorful?"

"No, but I can make one," the fairy said. "I do have one where you can only see the colors on the rainbow. It won't be black for you, but other people will only see black and not the rainbow."

"I would like everyone else to see it, not just me," the little girl said.

"Well, I only have a potion that you can see," said the fairy. "So you can take it or not because this is your only chance."

"Fine, I'll take it, but are you still going to make the other potion?" the little girl asked.

"Yes I will," said the fairy.

The little girl took the potion and left. When she got home, she drank the potion, ate dinner, and then went to bed. Later that morning, she went outside and there was a rainbow, but it wasn't black, it had colors! She went to the cottage where the fairy was.

She asked, "Is a potion done?"

"No, come back tomorrow," the fairy said. T

The girl said in sadness, "Okay."

So she went to bed. She woke up in the morning, got dressed, and headed to the cottage. When she got there, the potion was ready. Her eyes were filled with joy and a big smile was on her face. She thanked the fairy, took the potion, and left. When she left, she sprayed the potion in the air so everyone could see it. Everything was colorful and everyone was finally happy.

"Let's have a party to celebrate!" the girl said.

They had a party. The end.

Friendship Bracelet Trade

By Brianna Rivera

Hi! I am Elizabeth and I trade a lot of bracelets. I love to make bracelets and when I went to my new school, I made a friend right away, and she also likes to make bracelets. So, we made a business outside the school, and we got a lot of money.

We donated the money to the school. I did this because I wanted to help the school, so they can get stuff they need. For example, things such as water, food, and books! I do this because some kids do not have food or water, so that's why I donated to the school. We made a lot of bracelets and raised a lot of money for the school.

I also invited my new friend to a sleepover. She said it was her first sleepover ever in her life! So, I tried to make it the best sleepover ever! We watched a lot of movies. I can't remember what the names were.

The next day, we went to the park. We had ice cream, then we made 1,000 bracelets to give to the kids.

I am now 20 years old and have a job. I give bracelets to the community and more! I love to help because when I was a kid, someone helped my mom earn some money, so this is why.

I love to help anyone in need!

Hair Color Caring

By Daisy Saldana

Hi, my name is Stace and I don't like the color blue.

The first reason is because it is so popular. The second reason is that I think it is a color for boys. Now, the third reason is...my hair is the color blue!

I know! Isn't this crazy?

There is this girl named Luisa. She makes fun of my hair. One day, one of my best friends named Amy Rose, like the flower, well Rose is her last name. She invited me to her pajama party and she invited Lola, my other best friend and the mean girl. She treats Amy as her friend.

"Stace you are the worst!" said Luisa.

"Hey Luisa, don't be rude to her," said Lola.

"Ok," Luisa whispered to me, "your hair color is so, so ugly."

At 7 p.m., I went to Amy's house. It was so cool and we sat down in our bags. They were so comfy. Mine was a butterfly. Amy's was a bunny, Lola's was candy pajamas.

"Where is the food?" said Saly.

"Say! What? Wait for ten minutes at least."

"Mom, is the pizza here?" screamed Amy.

"Yes the pizza is here," said Amy's mom.

"The best thing about the pizza is...it's bunny shaped!" said Amy.

So we have pizza, ice cream, kale, hamburgers, slushies, hot chocolate, and juice. Me and Lola are going to get the stuff.

"You are a pig and so is the color of your hair. Blue is the ugliest color. That's why I hate you, pig."

Then, after that pajama party, I gave paint for hair I chose orange. I look super pretty.

The next day, "OMG you are so beautiful," said Luisa.

"Thank you," I said.

"Stacey, what happened to your hair color?" said Amy.

"I liked the color blue better," said Lola.

"Well I don't care. Luisa likes me now," said Amy.

My friends left. I did not care. The next day, some one knocked on my door. When I opened it, I cried. My friends had their hair the color blue. We smiled at each other and I learned it does not matter what color your hair is or color of skin. You are perfect as you are if you are Latino, like me. Be happy and always think positive things.

Hello Kitty!

By Chelsea Lemus

I'm going to talk about Hello Kitty. So, Hello Kitty is a small cat that can walk and do all kinds of things like sit in a chair like a human being. Hello Kitty can run and put clothes on and shower by itself like a human being, but cannot talk. It can only talk like a real cat in cat language and is really famous.

Hello Kitty is on book covers, water bottles, makeup, makeup wipes, or even on a mini book bag that you can take to school if you want to.

There is a Hello Kitty coloring book and her friends have a mini book bag that has Hello Kitty. Her friends are Kuromi, Pompompurin, and my favorite characters, Cinnamoroll and Badtz-Maru. They are so fun, but one red flag is that three of them can't talk. These three are Hello Kitty, Tuxedosam and Chococat. Those are all the friends I think, but I think she has more friends in a different world. She has clothes to wear so that they aren't naked. Well, some are, but don't worry – they are cats! Cats don't wear clothes. Some friends are babies, so they wear clothes. Book two is coming soon. Hope you like it! Love, Hello Kitty.

Hello Kitty and Friends

By Ivana Perez

Hello Kitty was a very cute cat and nobody wanted to be her friend because they thought she was weird. But, she wasn't. They thought she was weird because she was really smart and the people there didn't like smart people. If you were smart they

would call you a nerd or weird. Hello Kitty kept on going to school without any friends, the only friends she had were the teachers.

People would also call her “Teacher’s Pet.” But, she really wasn’t the teacher’s pet. She was just nice to the teachers. Hello Kitty was very good in school. She would get A+ on tests. Until one day, a new girl came to school and met with Hello Kitty. Her name was Melody. They became friends after a while. They were both nerds but they didn’t care what they called them. They started having sleepovers. They became best friends.

A year later, a new girl, Kuromi, met them at the park. They started going to the park more often until they made a friend group called “The Best Besties in the World.”

Two years later, they met Cinamaroll and became best friends with her. They would sit at lunch all together. Two years passed and they are still best friends. They kept on going to school all together and they would sit with each other at lunch. They would sit with each other in classes.

One day, they decided to have a sleepover. The time passed until it was the day for the sleepover. One-by-one, they came to Hello Kitty’s house for the sleepover. It was night time and Melody was hungry, so she went downstairs with Hello Kitty and they heard a voice but it was just Hello Kitty’s mom coming downstairs. They went back upstairs to tell scary stories. They couldn’t sleep all night so when it was daytime, they drank coffee to stay awake. One day later they all went to their house. They are still friends even though one year has already passed.

Hello Kitty and Friends

By Isabella Garcia Palmeros

Hello Kitty is a very cute cat that has so many friends. Their names are Kuromi, My Melody, Badtz-Mar, Pompompurin, Chococat, and Cinnamoroll.

Hello Kitty and her friends always go to the park to play and swing. They met more friends and they played until night time. They would all say good night to each other, then walk home.

Next morning, they got ready for school and that day Hello Kitty was missing. The rest of her friends were at school and they didn't notice until lunch time Hello Kitty was missing and wondered why she would not be there. They thought she was sick or injured, but at recess they got worried because they thought she was injured, but later the bell rang and they went back to class. The teacher noticed also that Hello Kitty wasn't there and they all left to go home.

They saw the news that Hello Kitty was gone and missing and they got a call from Hello Kitty's mom asking where Hello Kitty was. They said she was missing and mom started to cry tears. She saw the news and got worried, panicked, and went to sleep.

The next day on the news, they said they found Hello Kitty! Mom was so happy and got in the car and drove to the shelter and saw Hello Kitty and ran to her and gave her a tight hug. Her friends got the news and were happy and went to her house to play in the pool and celebrate Hello Kitty's birthday. They ate cake and went to the park and had ice cream. After it got late, they all went home.

The next day Hello Kitty and her friends had a morning meeting and Hello Kitty explained that she went missing and they are good. She's ok and came to school. They learned and went to lunch and went to recess and played. Most importantly, they were all safe and they lived happily ever after.

How Are Foxes Made?

By Nehemiah Paul

One day Charlie got ready and ate her breakfast, but before she left for school, she asked her mother, "How are foxes made and why?"

Charlie's mom chuckled and playfully rolled her eyes. She said, "Oh honey, since we have a little bit of time, I'll tell you!"

"Ok!!!!" said Charlie, as she wagged her long red tail. Her mom got an old diary and held it up. Then, she sat on the counter and patted a seat next to her. Charlie sits next to her mom and she asks, "What's that?"

Her mom chuckled again and let out a little "Shh..." before she read the diary.

"Once I was a little child I was held up by a mysterious shadow. It was a regular animal with no ears and no tail. Then, her fur started to grow a little reddish orange and then.....POOF! She had such long ears and a puffy tail. I said.....I said, "Who are you?" She said, "A goddess. You should never tell anybody about it! It's a secret."

She closes the book and looks at Charlie.

"Happy? Ok hon, head to school and have a great day. Oh! And I packed your favorite," Charlie's mom said.

"YES!!! Ok mum, see you later," Charlie says, getting on the bus.

When she got on the bus, she sat next to her friend, Sally.

"Hey Sally!" said Charlie.

Sally smiles and waves, "Hey!"

"Did you know goddesses are real?" asked Charlie. But Sally huffs, not believing her.

"Not true!" said Sally.

"It is true and I'm on a mission to find her," Charlie says, sounding brave.

"hah! Good luck with that!" Sally says, rolling her eyes.

Charlie starts to get mad and mad until a sound of lightning crashes into the sky.

"Hey hey! No need for that!!!" Sally yells in fear.

Charlie still looks mad this time and grabs a lightning bolt pointing it at her.

"One touch and you're dead, so are you gonna help me or not!" she says mad.

Sally says, "Ok, ok spare me! I'll come too!"

Charlie calms down and the lightning goes away. "Hehe! That's my bestie!" she says, running out of the school bus. "Ok let's skip school and find her!"

Sally looks unsure, but nods ok. "We will go home after this right?" Sally asks.

Charlie grabs Sally's hand. "Yes," she says, as they run to a forest.

"Ok Sally, let's see if we got everything."

"Ok," said Sally, smiling. "Medkit, check! Food, check! Bags, check! Water, check! Our bikes, check! Ok we're ready to go!"

Sally hops on her bike and rides. Charlie follows her on her bike.

"Woah! Sick," said Charlie on her bike riding faster than she ever has. Sally smiles and keeps riding on her bike.

"Finally," said Charlie, tired. "Where is she?"

Sally sat on the mud groaning, "We have been looking for hours," said Sally. "I quit. I'm going back home...."

Charlie's eyes widened. "No no no no NO! You're staying with me!" said Charlie, but Sally already went home.

Charlie's ears flatten and hmp! "Whatever," Charlie said, holding a map. "Where will I sleep though..... We forgot a tent...oh hmp no need for sleep! Sleep is for the weak!"

Then she yawns a bit, "Ok, maybe I'm weak too..." says Charlie. "Oh well."

As Charlie began walking, she was getting more tired with every step, but as soon as she was about to pass out, a royal kingdom was revealed.

"OMG!" said Charlie. "I promised mom I would find her and take some pictures. So, she took out her camera and took photos of the nice landscapes. Such beautiful trees and when she walked into the kingdom, it smelled like heaven.

"Wow," said Charlie. But then a goddess came up and picked her up.

"Uh um," said Charlie. "I didn't mean to intrude!"

"It's alright," said the goddess. "We do love guests. Now, you look tired, come with me."

She leads her to an indoor cafe filled with the smell of coffee filled with caramel.

"This smells good!" said Charlie. She runs up to the coffee, but there's another one.

"Huh?" said Charlie.

"There's iced coffee and hot coffee," said the goddess. "Pick one."

"Nope! Sorry, I have to go home, my mom is worrying about me," said Charlie.

"But - " said the queen.

"No buts, gotta go!" said Charlie, as she ran back, her foot hurting. Then suddenly BOOM! She falls into the hard floor and gets up.

"Ow..... my leg hurts.....my bike is missing, too. Will anyone save me?" she says as she sobs.

Suddenly a noise is heard.

"Huh?" said Charlie's brother.

"Big bro!" She runs up to him and hugs him. Yes, yes, now what are you doing here?"

"Mom is getting worried about..." he looks at her already asleep in the mud. "Oh, ok. Why, ok then."

He grabs his sister and drives home as quickly as possible. She woke up in new shiny clothes.

"Wow, thanks big bro! I'm gonna sleep now! Good night!"

How Lightning Was Made

By Andrew Evans

A long time ago, there was a little boy that lived in a small town named Sid. He was really smart, but he got bullied a lot for it, physically and mentally.

On his last day, he got beat up so much to the point where he was bruised and bleeding. When he got out of school, he ran home and then he saw a big and very scary dog. When he saw that dog, it gave him an idea, so he took the dog, tamed him, then built a lab in his underground bunker. He found a way to turn the dog into a Zeus Dog basically. Now he has a lightning dog that can fly! After that day, he was never bullied again.

One day, the boy and his dog flew so high they got stuck in the clouds and every time the dog got mad, lightning came down. When the boy got mad, it would rain and thunder, and that's how lightning became a thing!

Then, one day when someone found out about this tale, they spread it all over the world. Everybody loved it, but one person wanted the power of the boy and his dog, and her name was Angel. Angel kept trying to find a way to get those powers each day, but she couldn't find out how. Until one day, she found a potion of flight from an old witch cabin. She was so happy she found it, she almost passed out. Two days later, it started storming and Angel knew that this was her chance to get the powers of Sid and Diesel.

When Angel was about to drink the potion of flight, it stopped storming. She was so mad, but the funny thing is Sid and Diesel were watching Angel this whole time. Sid stopped himself from staying angry, then it stopped storming. And Angel finally gave up and went to her home and went to bed crying her eyes out.

Then the next morning she tried again, but when she almost succeeded her potion wore off and she fell out of the sky. Then Diesel used his lightning and wrapped it around Angel and saved her life. After that she stopped trying to take the powers away from Sid and Diesel because they rescued her!

And that's when they became heroes and legends. There's the story of how lightning became a thing.

I Found the Last Dinosaur

By Leiloni Jonson

Once upon a time, a girl named Lily was 19 years old with very long hair and beautiful blue eyes. She went to school to do hair, that was her dream. She decided to go to Texas for a trip. When she got there, it was hot and windy. She went to her hotel. She got an Uber to get there. When she got there, she got her key so she could get in her room. She checked her room to make sure she was safe. She got dinner at the Texas Roadhouse. It was night time and it was warm outside, so she decided to eat outside.

She got some steak and corn. She loved it and smelled like flowers to her. She ate and she started her walk to the hotel. She heard lots of music like hip hop music, jazz music, and country music. She kept getting stopped by people. She was getting mad because Lily didn't like to talk to people that much. She was almost there, but she was dizzy from everybody talking to her, so she got lost. She was not in Texas anymore! She fell asleep in the woods. The next morning came around and Lily woke up scared because she didn't know where she was at all. Her phone was dead, so she got up and started walking. She saw some trees and flowers. They smelled so good. And you will not believe what she found – a dinosaur!

She was so shocked and scared. She screamed, "Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

The dinosaur turns around. Lily said, "Please don't eat me!" and covered herself.

With a soft voice, the dinosaur says, "I'm not going to eat you. I promise. I think I am the only one that is alive. I'm 100 years old. I don't like to hurt people, I like to help them."

Lily says, "Can I trust you?"

The dinosaur said, "Yes, you can 100% trust me."

The dinosaur asked Lily, "What are you doing here?"

Lily said, "I got lost and I was trying to get to my hotel, but everybody kept talking to me, so I was super dizzy. I think I went the wrong way."

The dinosaur said, "You are not in Texas anymore, you're deeply in England."

Lily says, "How is that possible? That means I was walking for literally forever. And is there a way I can get out of here to go to an airport?"

On the way out the woods, they asked each other questions. Lily asked the dinosaur for his name and he said, "Max."

"Oh my God," Lily said. "That is my brother's name!"

The dinosaurs said, "Oh really?"

They finally made it to the end.

Lily said, "Thank you so much for all your help and you are the best dinosaur ever!"

Lily discovered that there might be other dinosaurs out there.

As you can see, that's what happened in my story about Lily. Maybe one day, I will write another story. It's really fun to make funny stories. Don't let this story happen to you.

Jeff the Dog and the Teddy Bear

By Pedro Valadares

Once upon a time Jeff was playing outside, when he saw a beaver. Then the beaver was eating and then the dog started to bark and it scared the beaver. The beaver launched at the dog and it ran for its life. Then after the dog ran from the beaver, he went and drank some water. He saw a rat and it was running after it and the rat ran to the sewers and went back to its home.

Jeff went back home very tired. He ate and slept. The next morning he woke up at 10:00 a.m. at his home and then he went outside for some fresh air. In case you are wondering, the place he lives is in Brazil. One of the most beautiful places in Brazil. Ok, back to the story, he went outside for some fresh air and saw another dog and they made good friends. He shared his toys with the other dog named, Mac, and they were best friends. They went to places together and even hunted for food.

Jeff went back home with his friend. His owner said, "Oh you made a friend."

The dog shook his head yes.

"Great! Do you guys want food?" asked the owner.

The dog nodded yes and the owner made them food to eat for dinner and they went to sleep.

Next morning, Jeff and Mac went for a walk and chased after rats. They got tired, so they went home to eat lunch.

After lunch, they went out one more time to use the restroom and after that, they went back inside, but Mac's parents were there looking for him. Jeff's mom bought Mac, now he is part of the family and happily they lived.

Josephine's Imaginative Short Story

By Josephine

There was a little girl who was nine years old named Olivia.

She asked her parents, "Can we go to the beach, mom and dad?"

"Sure," said her parents.

They get their stuff for the beach. They get in the car and drive to the beach.

Her parents say, "We're here kids, let's unpack the car and play at the beach."

When they get there, it feels very hot, so hot that it can make you sweat. Jake went to the ocean and all the family went to the ocean to play together. Then, they played with sand and made a big sand castle.

They went to eat together at a table. They ate spaghetti and meatballs for lunch. When they were done eating, they would sunbath in the sun. The family sings at the beach. They went in the ocean one more time. Then suddenly, the ocean started to go in circles and it became a tsunami.

The family was running to their car, but Ava couldn't make it and she was swept away from the tsunami. They tried to get her, but it was too late. Ava was in the middle of the ocean and she was drowning and needed to be saved.

The family called 911. They were shocked and scared that 911 wouldn't get Ava in time. They were waiting and waiting and waiting for 911 to get her out of the ocean. It's midnight and she still isn't out yet. They worried something bad might happen to Ava. Finally, the tsunami stopped, so they ran up to the ocean and saw Ava. They were so happy to see her again.

They went back home and they said, "We're never coming back to that beach ever again, okay."

The family was safe and sound. They were calm and relaxed.

"Are you okay Ava?" asked the family.

Ava says, "Yes I'm okay guys."

They all laughed together from silly jokes.

THE END!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kids Should Not Have Uniforms at School

By Cartyr Lawson

Kids at Miller Avenue School should not have uniforms at school because it would not be fair if other schools did not have to wear uniforms. Wearing uniforms can also not be fair to the kids. What if the teachers don't have to? Are the teachers going to get mad if they forget to wash their uniforms?

We are all indivisible from each other. So how come we can't choose what they want to wear if they have uniforms on? Miller School gets to choose what they want to wear at home. Why not at school? The school probably has to do something with the uniforms.

What if the school only had teachers wear uniforms? Then the kids would get to wear whatever they want. The Miller School parents would buy them the uniforms, why can't the teachers just buy them the uniforms? The teachers would want them to wear uniforms.

The school kids' parents would have spent a waste of money on uniforms. What if they were like \$30? No parent would want that! They would just waste money from the teachers and it would be the teachers' fault.

The teachers would have to pay the amount of money to all of the parents. So it could be fair like that if they agreed to it!

P.S. tax also!

That means plus...\$2.10!

So if it was \$30, it would become \$32.10! Miller School kids' parents are also being forced to get their kids their own uniforms. That does not even make sense!

All the kids at Miller Avenue School shouldn't have ever worn uniforms.

Lavender

By Lauralai Creagh

She opened the door and...wait, wait, wait! We need to start from the beginning!

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Lavender. Little did she know that she was part of something ***much much bigger***. So, Lavender is a cat along with her sister. Out of six clans Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, Sun, and Moon, they belong to the Moon clan.

As they went to college, Lavender fell in love and married Elijah, a rabbit. Her sister, Luna, married Roff, a wolf, and this was the catalyst for war.

Lavender could see the future and saw this coming. She was scared and shocked and told everyone.

BOOM! BANG! is all they heard.

Will they survive?

Lightning

By Skylar

One day there was this girl, her name was Kaylaya. She lived in a city named Health.

She needed to move because everyone had health problems.

Then Kaylaya was so sad, so she went to find medicine for the people in her city. She never stopped walking – she walked, and walked, and walked until she found a cure that can help her city. She finally found it and when she tried to go home, she couldn't. There was a big bear approaching. She didn't know what to do, but she knew what her mother taught her: never be afraid.

She kept on trying to go past the bear but she couldn't. She was afraid and nervous, but there were some fish nearby in a river. The fish helped her. The bear saw there was some fish, there was a river, and there was everything to distract the bear. The Bear went away. Next, there was a deer. She was scared. It was so scary that she almost cried. That was the first time in forever...

She went home and that is how the first lighting came.

Mae and Bun

By Tavi Patten

I always got the chills whenever I walked by the shabby house with the crooked shutters. Nobody dared to go near. So my friends dared me to go in. I knocked on the door and with a faint smell of Ms. Qwerty Thaveret's perfume, I realized I'm being kidnapped.

I tried to get out. I hear the police. Oh, it is a bad dream.

Oh no, it's 2 p.m., I am so late! I said I will help Ms. Qwerty weed at 11 a.m.

"Mae, get down here now," Mom said.

"But I am sick."

"How do you feel?" Mom asked.

"I think I will die."

"You are just hungry," Mom said. "I have pancakes."

Yum!

Ding.

Oh yeah – Ms.Qwerty!

"Sorry I was late Ms.Qwerty," I said.

"Oh you are fine dear. I have cookies at my place."

"Mom, can I go to Ms. Qwerty's place?" I ask.

"Yes, be back at 3 p.m."

"Ok!" I said.

"Hey, where are the cookies?" I asked Ms. Qwerty.

"Oh I said kill you, not cookies," said Ms. Qwerty.

"Is is this a joke?" I ask.

"No, I can't lie."

"What is that smell?"

"You'll see dear...ha ha ha ha," said Ms. Qwerty.

Where am I? I'm hungry. I will now get out. Let's see... a big white room food? Yum!
 Now I will get out. An ax I will cut out. This must be a brick wall ugh!
 A hole in the ceiling? I will build up. I am out now! Let's see... I'm in a basement.
 "Aaaahhh spider, wait you're a bunny – I will call you bun," I said. "I see stairs, come on bun. The door is locked – ugh the ax!"

Bang!

"Yes come on, bun. Oh you're fluffy and white. A door, I wonder what is in it? Oh that was the smell like my dream this morning."

"I hear you come out," said Ms. Qwerty.

"We need to hide under the couch. Come on bun! A window yes let's get out."

Bang!

"Mom, I missed you!"

"Where – what? I thought you died."

"A bunny – I love bunnies. Long story. Can we move?"

"Yes, let's never come here again," Mom said.

"You come back dear!"

"It's Ms. Qwerty!" I said. "You, you look like a monster. Let's hide in the dumpster. I hear the police."

So this is a monster? I'm sorry we will need to wipe your memories. We are fine with that.

My Dream Bedroom

By Amir M'Sili

So, once I was dreaming about my dream bedroom and I will tell you all about it in my story.

I was really sick and I had school the next day. When I woke up, my mom was calling me and I noticed there was a note in my bedroom but I didn't really care because my mom was calling me.

I went downstairs and then I ate breakfast. Right after I was done eating my breakfast, I went to go play video games like Fortnite and other games with my friends because most of my friends are almost always absent at school. Right after that, my mom gave me medicine because I was sick and I went upstairs. I was feeling worse and I went to my bedroom, turned on the TV, and watched a little bit. I noticed that the note moved and it had color around it, so I went to go check it out.

It said that they took my mom, so I went downstairs to go check on my mom but I couldn't find her. I screamed my mom's name and she still didn't answer. Then, I found a note right next to the microwave downstairs and it told me to go to the bathroom. I went to the bathroom and I found a hole in the mirror. It looked like there was dirt all over it, so I grabbed a hammer from the basement and I smashed the mirror in the bathroom. A pathway appeared underground and I found my mom chained up after walking for 20 minutes. I used my hammer to break her chains and I was trying to call my dad, but there was a power outage and dirt falling down on us.

I thought to myself, "If I don't run away, then I would be crushed by the dirt."

So, I carried my mom back but there were two pathways to go back. I had to choose a pathway because there was dirt falling. After 2 minutes of running, I found a wall. We were trapped and we couldn't run back! I found a way up top but I couldn't reach it and I had to step a bit on my mom. I wasn't tall enough to reach it so I stepped on my mom (sorry mom) and then I made it through, but I left her behind. Just then, I saw a person coming next to her...but then I woke up and that was all a dream.

My Friend, Katrina

By Johannly Sanchez

Have you ever felt ungrateful for a gift someone gave you, or felt like they could've done better? You should always be thankful to anyone who spent their own money or time with you. I learned that the hard way. The story begins in August, 2005.

It was Saturday afternoon, the sun was shining and life was good. Today was the day I would start my weekend job at my dad's restaurant. I was so pumped to finally be part of his team, until I walked through the door. My dad always bragged about all the awards his restaurant got, but this place didn't really look very award-worthy. It looked more like a cheap diner that only old folks enjoyed.

"Lynia, come over here!" I heard my dad yell from the kitchen. I quickly walked over to him so I could start my training.

After a long day of work, I was just glad to get out of there. I decided to chill out at my grandma's house. When I got there, she opened the door before I could even knock. She asked, "Lynia! How are you?"

"I'm good, Grammy," I said. "Can I come inside?"

"Of course! I wanted to talk to you anyway," Grandma said as she opened the door fully and moved out of the way.

I met her in the kitchen and sat down on a chair. "So Lynia, have you heard about the hurricane coming to New Orleans?"

"What do you mean?"

She took a deep breath before continuing, "There's a huge storm coming here, I saw it on the news this morning. You need to be careful, sweetheart."

I rolled my eyes.

"Oh come on, Grammy. I'm not afraid of a little storm."

The next day, I was sitting in my living room by the window. It's been storming all night, and I could barely sleep with all the noise. Suddenly, a sound from my phone catches my attention. It's an alert. Before I could read it, dad came into the room.

"Lynia, we need to evacuate, now!" He said. He quickly grabbed my arm and led me out of the house.

"Where are we going?" He didn't answer and just shoved me into the car. I was so confused, but I felt like it had something to do with the hurricane grammy warned me about.

"Wait, what about grammy?" I asked. "Is she okay?"

Dad didn't respond. Instead, he started to drive faster. He pulled into the parking lot of an airport, and gestured for me to go inside. He didn't wait for my response before dragging me out of the car. The fast winds blew my hat off my head and it landed somewhere in the distance. Dad and I ran into the airport to get away from the heavy rain that was soaking my clothes and hair. The airport was bustling with people, most of them were probably trying to evacuate as well. Dad still wouldn't explain what was going on, but that didn't matter now. All I could think of was my grandma.

Dad and I ended up staying with my cousins in Indiana while we waited for the hurricane to pass by. The entire two weeks we were there I couldn't sleep very well. I worried about my grandma all the time. When dad finally told me we were leaving, my emotions were a mix of excitement and nervousness. The flight home was excruciatingly long, or at least it was to me.

When we finally got off the plane, I immediately asked dad, "Can we go see Grammy? Please, dad."

It seems like he shared my worry, as he agreed very quickly and started walking me to grandma's house. As we walked down the partially flooded sidewalk, I looked around the houses that surrounded us. Most of them were in pretty bad shape, with paint chipping off the walls, fences broken and knocked down and yard flowers spilling out onto the streets. All of this made me even more worried about my Grammy. Finally, we reached her house. It wasn't as messed up as the other houses we saw, but it still wasn't in great condition. Dad went up to the door and knocked, but there was no response. He knocked again, still no response. I started to panic and assume the worst, and it seems like dad did too.

"What?" he said, "Where did she go?"

"I don't know!" I responded.

It was then I started to hear footsteps behind me. I turned around to see Grammy, standing there with us on the sidewalk.

"Were you looking for me?" she asks.

We were lucky the storm didn't hit too hard where we lived, or we might've not gotten to safety fast enough. My dad's restaurant, though, is going to need a ton of repairs, over \$1,000 in repairs. That was his pride and joy, but now it's mostly gone. That doesn't concern me much, though. I'm just glad everyone was okay.

My Mom Went Missing!

By Kristina Bishwakarma

Hi my name is Aria and this will be my crazy story. My mom was a person that loves to help people – the ones that need help. My mom would go to schools, buildings, and countries.

Life with mom was great. After dinner, we always listen to karaoke songs. It was the best, even though mom's voice sounded like a squirrel. But we have so much fun!

"Aria, you have an amazing voice!" said mom. "You really have a gift."

"I don't like singing," Aria said. "Plus, I wanted to be just like you, helping around the world and going to buildings, schools and countries."

"Who said you can't do both?" Mom asked.

Mom tried to make me a singer. One time, my mom signed me into a singing contract. I didn't really want to sing, but when I was five years old, I had to sing in front of everyone on stage! I didn't really want to sing, but seeing my mom in the front smiling at me, I just couldn't say no. I decided to sing, but I felt a little sick in my stomach, so I threw up on the piano guy.

After that, I was called "bare girl." I was a pretty good student, having all A's in all my classes.

While it was dismissal, my mom called me saying that she is going on a work trip.

"There's pizza on the table," Mom said. "Make sure to warm it up. There is money under your bed for the bus. Bye honey, love you!"

While I was walking home from school, I saw somebody that was following me, he was wearing black pants, white shirt, and black shoes. He was creepy and grumpy.

To be continued...

Mysterious House

By Cormac McCallion

Once upon a time, there was a nice house and the family owners were in the living room. It was very cozy. The dad of four children decides to tell a story, while the mom gets dinner started. He told the story of the house and its history.

It was around two hundred years ago. Its first owners were James and Sibriana. They were husband and wife and were both in their thirties. They had been married for seven years. They desperately wanted a house but couldn't afford it. After three months of searching, they reached London, England, and they came across a house that they could afford. It wasn't the nicest but it was livable. They bought the house without knowing the area. People were talking about that exact house being haunted.

Once they entered the house, it was fine. It looked like a normal house until six months later, after moving in they made some repairs.

At dawn, they heard footsteps downstairs. It was terrifying to the couple. The second they heard the sound, they went straight downstairs. To their surprise it was a big, terrified, adorable cat that had lived there for two years!

They made the rest of their repairs and lived there until the day they died.

During their time, they loved to go to an ice cream parlor across the street. They also liked to go to the park in the winter after James went to work. The children wanted to learn more, but it was time for dinner.

Timeline

- 1807 James is born
- 1811 Sibriana is born
- 1820 James finishes school

- 1823 Sibriana finishes school
- 1833 (not) creepy house is made
- 1834 Sibriana and James get married
- 1841 James and Sibriana buy the house
- 1843 tons of repairs are made
- 1855 James dies happily
- 1863 Sibriana dies happily

Glossary

Husband: means being married with someone (male)

Wife: being married with someone (female)

History: is the period of time (where in this case scenario talking about the period its been here for

Afford: can't but something

Haunted: it being scary creepy and different

Terrified: it being scary or creepy

No Fish-y Story Here! Or Is It?

By Gavin Charles Crumsey

A killer whale was swimming with its pod and got lost. Out of nowhere, a fisherman took him. He was very mad at the fisherman. They brought him to the Columbus Zoo. He was very mad at the fisherman. So he kept making sounds that meant he wanted to find his pod again.

The killer whale was put in a tank with sea water in it and he got to be with other killer whales. After that, he and his new pod wanted to leave so they kept ramming into the bar for the drain!

They broke it and the water drained out of it! Now the killer whales ended up in the sewer! They were able to swim back to the ocean and look for his old pod.

He found his old pod and his mother, so he knew he was home and he could leave his new friends.

He learned his new sounds. He learned how to hunt and catch seals. Can you believe this really happened?

I hope you liked my story.

No Water Garden

By Joel Darjee

A long time ago in 1973, a boy named Diamant lived in a garden called NO WATER GARDEN. He wanted to plant a hibiscus flower but he forgot he had no water to grow the flower. He started getting mad because he had no water to plant it.

Then, an old grandpa came to him.

"Hey why are you upset?" asked the old grandpa in a deep voice.

"I'm upset because there is no water to plant my hibiscus flower."

Then the grandpa said, "Did you know when you say rainstorm to the sky you will have a rainstorm to plant it?"

Then he said, "Rainstorm," to the sky and BOOM the rainstorm happened. He was so happy because the rainstorm made his hibiscus flower grow.

A day after the rainstorm he didn't have water again, so he tried saying rainstorm to the sky but it didn't happen. He waited a day for the old grandpa to come to his garden but he didn't come to the garden. So, he waited and waited until an old grandma came to his garden. The old grandma was staring at his garden.

Diamant said, "Hey, may I help you?"

And the old grandma said, "Yeah, I need help. What's that smell? It smells so good, it almost smells like a flower."

Diamant said, "Oh yeah, that's my hibiscus flower. Hey grandma, do you know how to tell the sky to make a rainstorm?"

Then the grandma said, "Oh yeah, I do. I learned from my husband. Do you know the old grandpa that came here?"

Then Christian said, "Oh yeah I know him. He said if I wanna make a rainstorm, say rainstorm to the sky then a rainstorm will happen."

Then the old grandma said, "Yeah, that's my husband. He taught me how to do that. He said take a deep breath and say RAINSTORM to sky and a rainstorm will come."

Then, he said "RAINSTORM" to the sky. The first try, it didn't work. The second time it didn't work.

Then he said, "Third try is a charm. He screamed 'RAINSTORM' the third time and it worked."

Diamant thanked the old grandma.

When the rainstorm happened, he was so excited to see his fourth hibiscus flower grow and when it grew more beautiful than the other flower. Diamant was shocked to see the flower that had grown more beautiful than the other ones.

Then, he wanted to plant a rose, so then he screamed "RAINSTORM" to the sky and it didn't work.

He said "rainstorm" quietly and it worked. He started jumping because it started raining and planted a rose. He was so happy.

Then a boy came to Diamant named Thomas and Thomas said, "Do you need help to plant that rose, Diamant?"

Diamant said, "Yeah, actually I do."

Thomas said, "Okay. I can help you plant the rose."

Then Diamant said "rainstorm" but randomly a thunderbolt came and struck Thomas.

Diamant got scared, so he went home then the flowers died.

Odd Squad and The New Agent

By Ki'Arah Clarett

I was walking down the street, and all of a sudden, the ground opened up! I fell in an odd room. A bunch of kids called "agents" were working on computers and building gadgets while I was lying on the floor watching them work.

Randomly, the boss named Miss O, walked in the room. I got up to speak to her, but she was already yelling at her agents to do their missions.

Then she said, "Welcome to Odd Squad! I'm your new boss, Miss O, and yes this job only has children, what's your name?" I told her my name then she said I was a new agent. She said my agent's name was Agent O'melia.

"Everyone has a name that starts with O. Even if it's not their real name," Miss O said. "I was in the squad!"

My team was the famous Olive and Otto. So exciting! Am I right? They're so nice but we haven't been on a mission YET! I met Dr. O, Oswald, Oscar, Owen, and my team, Olive and Otto! The other agents say Miss O is a mean boss sometimes. Yeah, maybe. She is mean a little bit.

Time for my first mission! We are going to stop The Shape-Shifter. She is trying to steal Miss O's suitcase! We don't know what's in it. I have to go in a pod? Yes. Yes I do. It's a tight squeeze but they said there are a bunch of pods all over the world and in the strangest places, like in a chimney or a clock. Also, the gadgets are strange, or should I say odd? Get it? Because it is Odd Squad. Oh, nevermind! Anyways, there is a gadget that turns a person to a Cheeto Puff and back to a person if they eat too many, of course.

Something they always say is, "I joined Odd Squad because watermelon doesn't belong on pizza," or something like that. We are the Odd Squad. Remember to always call Odd Squad when you need help! What are you waiting for? GO!

It's still a pretty weird life at times, but I always have a mission. Wish me good luck!

Perla in Cameroon

By Perla Ndama

When I was six years old, I was in Cameroon, and I was in school; it was great. I sat in class, and my teacher said we had a test. She said we should raise our pencils up; everyone raised their pencils up, but I didn't.

I told my teacher that I didn't have a pencil, and my teacher was so mad at me that she flogged me. I cried, and I prayed that I would make it to third grade.

The next day, I was mad at my friend because she took my pencil and never gave it back to me. My friend said, "Sorry." We became best friends forever.

Rabbit in the Forest

By Mya Janay Burgett

One time, there was a rabbit named Julie. She went to Oaktree Kids Elementary School.

One day, Julie went to the new elementary school. There was a goat named Jack that all of the girls (excluding Julie) really liked.

During math class, two girls named Belle and Elliot threw Julie's pencil out her hand and ripped her paper in half. Julie started crying, but then Jack came up to Julie.

"Are you ok?" Jack says.

All the girls gasp as they witness what they call "odd rabbit" hold hands with Jack as he helps Julie up off the ground.

"Thanks Jack," Julie says.

"You're welcome." Jack says.

The school bell rings. It's time for recess! At recess, Belle and Elliot walk up to Julie.

"Why did you steal Jack from me?" Elliot says.

"I didn't. He just wanted to help me up off the floor. He even taped my paper ba—"

"Bla, bla, bla." Belle interrupts.

"Stop!" Julie says. Julie was away, crying.

Eight years later, Julie bumps into Jack. They laughed and made a family with children. One year later Belle and Elliot were both living in the same house wearing simultaneous amounts of makeup consecutively for 3 weeks but there was a plot twist...it was all a play! A group of directors gave children a teaser of an upcoming children's book. Another plot twist: the directors were ghosts!

Red Moon

By Nelisha Rai

Bythe was outside at night, she looked up and saw the red moon. She was amazed how it looked so pretty. She called her parents to see the red moon.

Bythe said, "It's so pretty."

Her parents were talking about it in the morning.

"Yesterday, that moon was pretty," mom said. "Oh how the red moon looked yesterday!"

The next day in school, Bythe was still amazed by what she saw a few days ago. In the classroom, she talked about it with her friends and her teacher.

Her teacher was wondering why she wasn't talking because she always talks in class.

The next day, she woke up in the middle of the night. She walked outside to see the red moon again. She didn't see it, but she saw the red moon and all the planets aligned. She was even more amazed. She took her phone to take a picture and she sent it to the classroom. She also told her parents and showed her parents.

She was so amazed.

She was talking about it with her teacher. After school, she saw an old lady. The old lady told her to follow her.

"What do u need?" Bythe said.

The old lady asked her to get her food. Bythe gave her the food and the old lady gave her \$10,000 dollars. Bythe was VERY AMAZED. She was very happy.

She gave the money to homeless people because she is the sweetest angel.

Sam and Sally Learn Their Lesson

By Braden Coleman

Once, there was a boy and a girl named Sally and Sam. They were at the movies and then Sally said this movie is bad and Sam said it was too! They threw popcorn on the floor and left the movie crying, then made it flood when they walked out.

The next day, they had to go to school and when they got there, the students were being mean to them and they did not know why. Then they remembered that they were being mean to the movie! So meanwhile, after school they went to the same movie and they said sorry. They watched the whole movie. When they were about to leave, the movie said, "Wait! Thanks for watching my movie."

They said, "You're welcome."

"We liked your movie," said Sam. When they went home, they learned their lesson.

THE NEXT NIGHT.

They woke up in a candy land with a bounce house and ice cream and like anything you can imagine. Something popped out of nowhere and it said, "You can stay here for a week and to top it off, it's only the two of you."

Sally and Sam yelled, "Yay!"

They remembered the movie and Sally said to Sam, "Let's be nice for the rest of our lives!"

Sam said ok and they lived happily ever after.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY IS TO NO BE MEAN TO PEOPLE.

Saving the Future and the Past

By Maizie Ellwood

A girl woke up one day and heard a weird noise. She went down the hall and went to the attic and saw a light coming from a mirror. There was nothing behind it. So she went down for breakfast.

When she got back from school, she heard it again so she went to investigate. There was nothing, but then she got sucked into the mirror! When she woke up she was not at home. She was in the future! There were mushroom people and robots! Then a little mushroom came up to her and he said, "Hi my name is Room."

She replied, "My name is Katie."

He wanted to know if Katie was there to save them.

"Save you?" said Katie.

"Yes the magic stone is cracking so there is an asteroid coming for us," said Room.

Katie said, "I will help you."

They traveled to the snowy mountain to the candy land near Robot Lake. They were scared. They had no idea what they needed to do.

Suddenly, the robot guards started chasing them because they thought they were trespassing! Then, one of the robot guards threw a time machine piece at them! The time machine piece was a portal that transported them back in time. They ended up at Katie's house and her mother was watching the news.

News: "There is an asteroid heading for earth in 60 years and that might be the end."

"Mom," Katie said. "This is my friend Room, he is from the future."

"The future?" Katie's mom said.

"Yes, the future. Anyway, we have to go," said Katie.

They jumped into the mirror. The robot guards saw them. Then, Room said, "Katie throw the magic stone at him!"

And so she threw it as hard as she could and it knocked three of the guards down. The guards were so surprised that Katie and Room had a stone. The guards told them they had all of the other stones and if you put them together the world will be saved.

There are five magic stones, one for fire, water, robots, mushrooms, and Robot Land. A long time ago the Robot Land stone got lost.

"Katie, where did you get the Robot Land stone?"

"My father gave it to me," Katie said.

The robot guards said we should get the stones back. Quick!

Room, Katie, and the guards all traveled to the robot castle. But on their way, they saw the asteroid coming! They didn't have much time. Then, one of the stones fell off a cliff! Room went to save it while the others kept going. The guards and Katie made it to the castle.

But where was Room?

Then, at the last second he arrived! And they put the stones back together and the future and the past was saved! Katie went home to her mother and Room was a hero in his town.

Scary Story

By Killian Hayes

One Halloween night, me and my friend, Guy, were trick-or-treating. We heard strange clanking sounds from the old house next door.

"What is that sound?" Guy asked.

I went to check it out. We opened the door.

I kept hearing an eerie noise coming from an abandoned house. We went inside and there was nothing. Then I went downstairs and there was a figure in the closet. I looked in the closet.

There was a big ugly monster. I tried to run but I tripped and could not get up. Had I broken my ankle? I thought the big ugly monster was going to eat me. I was scared to death. But the big ugly monster stopped.

As I heard the big ugly monster leave the house, I thought to myself, "I got away!"

Then Milo called me and the big ugly monster heard my ringtone. I heard the big ugly monster walk up to the closet. I thought I was going to die. The big ugly monster opened the closet.

I ran out of the closet as fast as I could. The big ugly monster could not touch me. I broke through the window and got away. It was all a dream.

Shiny Nessie

By Saulyan Gurung

There was once a boy named Richard. He was rich and had a shiny fish named Nessie. He always wanted to have five fish for some reason, but his dad never let him. Richard was frustrated, but he didn't give up there. He asked his mom, but his mom also said, "No."

At this point, Richard is mad. He called his friends and said, "Hey guys, wanna hang at my house?"

"Heck yeah!" they said.

Approximately 12 minutes later, they came to Richard's house. Ding dong the bell rang. Richard came sprinting down the stairs saying, "I'll get the door!"

Richard's friends are Carl, Antony, Cris, and David. Richard dabbed Cris, Antony, Carl, and David up. All perfect dabs. After eating lunch, they went upstairs and were deciding what to play. David said, "Hey guys, wanna play Fortnite?"

Everyone disagreed. Richard says, "Wanna play Spongebob Tower Defense?" And they agreed. So, they played and played and played.

Carl says, "Oh my gosh! I got the new secret unit! Hash Slinging Slayer!"

Everyone celebrates after Carl says that. It's around 6 or 7 p.m. and they are about to have dinner. They eat pasta and Antony notices that Shiny Nessie has grown. He tells the rest of his friends and they check Shiny Nessie again. Richard says, "Antony, are you trying to get us scared, or what?"

Antony replies, "No, no! I'm not lying! He was mutating or something."

They laugh and go back upstairs. Around 8 p.m., they started falling asleep and by 8:31 p.m. they fell asleep. In the middle of the night, they heard glass breaking. Richard says, "Who's gunna check that out? Not it!"

Everyone but David says, "Not it."

David says, "Alright I'll check." David stomps downstairs like he owns the place and says, "Come out, come out, wherever you are." David screams when he sees a shiny, long-necked, black top-hat wearing mutant fish. David's screams attract the parents and his friends. The full-grown Shiny Nessie waddled out of the house and into the near-by lake and swam away. David stayed traumatized by what he saw.

Richard said to David, who couldn't hear him, "David, did you make this mess? My parents are going to be so mad! Hello?!?!"

David stays quiet. David's friends check up on him as Richard tries to clean up the mess. Richard's mom came downstairs while the dad was just in bed being a regular, everyday normal nonchalant guy. Bro was dead-asleep.

While the mom was checking up on David, Richard and his friends, except David, were trying to find Shiny Nessie. They couldn't find Shiny Nessie, but only David knew where he was. Richard's mom was so worried about David, that she almost called 911,

but Richard stopped her. After Antony snapped in David's face for a bit, David got up. Richard saw David and said, "Hip, hip, hooray!" They acted like nothing ever happened and went to sleep.

The next day, Richard's friends went back home. "Bye guys!" Richard said.

Richard was thinking about fishing, so he asked his dad. The dad said, "Sure, we can go after we clean this mess."

Richard sighed, saying, "Why after?"

Approximately four hours later, they finally finished cleaning up, so they got ready to go fishing.

"Ok, dad, I'm ready, let's go!" said Richard. They didn't go by car, but they walked to the nearby lake. The same nearby lake the shiny, long-necked, black top-hat wearing mutant fish went in. Richard noticed something wrong. The path to the lake was all messed up, just as if something were to destroy it.

"Hmm...something feels odd," Richard said. His dad thought it was just the wind since there were rough winds for a couple days. Then, Richard saw a seagull get gulped up by the shiny, long-necked, black top-hat wearing mutant fish. Richard was terrified and ran in the house. Richard was thinking at the moment, "Keep up, I'm too fast, I'm too fast. Push my foot on that pedal then I'm gone...g-g-g-g-GONE!"

The regular everyday normal nonchalant dad realized what was happening and ran to the house. The family went to sleep later that night.

Moral of the story: Don't judge a book by its cover.

Small Bear Travels the World to Eat a Hamburger

By Saulyan Gurung

Hi, my name is Max. I saw a hamburger and wanted a hamburger to eat. So, I traveled the world to eat. First, I went to Spain. It was a good hamburger, but there was too much salt. Then, I went to the USA to eat a hamburger with some fries, ketchup, and mayo. It was good. Then, I went to Alaska. It was cold, but I had a fur

coat. I went to buy a hamburger. It was so good! It had cheese and was cheap to buy. Then, I went to El Salvador. It was good.

After I had so much hamburger, I had water. Then, I had to go, so I went to New York. It was good. It had tomatoes and more stuff. Last, I went to Columbia. It was...amazing! The cheese was tasty and amazing.

Spark and Scorch in Space

By David Nonato

There was a little brown spotted hamster named Spark. He was a house hamster until some scientists took him to do experiments on him.

One day, they put Spark with a blue and red lollipop. Spark tapped his head. When suddenly they started flying and spinning. Then the spinning and flying stopped. The lollipop started talking.

He said, "Hello my name is Scorch."

Spark started talking, too! He said, "Wow!" and he started making electric zaps out of his hand.

They discovered they had powers. The scientists put them on a rocketship to Mars. Spark and Scorch were going to Mars until an asteroid hit their spaceship. The route redirected to an unknown planet. The ship crashed on this green planet. Spark and Scorch got out of the ship and saw a blue gooey creature. The blue creature started talking to them and said, "Hello, my name is Bloby and I'm a friendly alien."

Spark and Scorch also said, "Hello, our names are Spark and Scorch and we need help to get to our planet."

Bloby said, "I wish I could but our evil King Flame has taken all the stuff from all the stores on this planet."

Spark said, "What was this planet called?"

Bloby replied, "This planet is called GOO3."

"We can help you defeat King Flame," said Spark and Scorch.

Bloby said, "How?"

Spark and Scorch said, "We have powers."

"Where is he at?" Spark said.

Scorch said, "Let me at him!"

"Ok, ok," said Bloby. "Enough talking. He is located on the big throne."

"Let's go!" said Spark.

Bloby said, "First, let's go to my brother Splash's house."

They went to his house. Splash said, "Welcome Bloby."

Bloby said, "We need your help Splash, we need gadgets."

"Ok," said Splash. "Let's go to my laboratory."

Splash pushed a button and his house transformed into a big laboratory.

Scorch said, "Aren't people going to see the laboratory?"

"No, because when I pushed the button it turned on invisible mode," said Splash. "First gadget is an invisible cloak."

Spark said, "That sounds useful."

Splash said, "Next gadget is a ray blaster."

"We'll use both," said Scorch.

They were on their way to the big throne, until a guard spotted them.

Bloby said, "Use your powers!"

Spark electrocuted the guard. They put the invisible cloak on to sneak past the guards. They opened the throne room.

King Flame said, "Who dares come here!"

"Us!" yelled Spark, Scorch, and Bloby.

The battle finally started. "Guards!" yelled King Flame.

Spark protected them with an electric barrier. Scorch used a flame blast on King Flame. Scorch used a flameblast on King Flame's hair. King Flame screamed, "My hair!" King Flame ran away and left the crown.

Bloby took the crown and said, "I am the new king!"

"Hey Spark and Scorch now I can help you," said King Bloby.

They repaired the ship. Spark and Scorch went back to earth.

Super Frog

By Luis Guerrero

There was a frog. The frog was a scientist frog who researched why frogs are green. He made a serum that, according to his research, should make him blue. He tested it on himself and... it blew up! Somehow he survived but he felt stronger. The serum didn't work but now he was super strong so he had an idea to see if he could fly but he couldn't.

A few days later the bank alarm went off. Someone was robbing the bank! So when the super frog found out, he ran as fast as he could, then he started flying so he flew to the bank. When he got there he said to the police, "I can deal with this." He went into the bank vault but there was a hole in the wall where they escaped.

After the bank robbery, they made it way harder to rob the bank. But just then, the uranium factory was getting robbed so the S.W.A.T. Team went with the super frog

and when they got there, they saw the thief was a frog. It was grabbing uranium from the uranium vault. Then the frog ran again so super frog chased it but it got away.

A few months later the police called super frog saying they needed him immediately in the middle of the city. Super frog flew as fast as he could to the middle of Frog city. When super frog got there, he saw the bomb defusers and a nuke. He asked, "Is that what I think it is?"

"Yes, it is a nuke. We are trying to defuse it, but it has a phone and a note for you to answer."

The note says, "I want 1 million dollars."

"Mmmm let me think about that. Ok you can have the money."

"Sweet!"

"Now, what is your Paypal?"

"It's_evil_frog1234."

"Ok"

The super frog was going to track where the Paypal owner's phone was. He started tracking the evil frog and when he found him, he handcuffed him and the evil frog went to jail. Now that the evil frog was in jail, the city was safe and now the super frog can live a normal life.

Super Pups

By Dashawn Sincere Woods

Once upon a time, there was a dog world with a lot of dogs. In this story we're going to talk about the dogs' names. We're going to talk about saving the world. You might even hear something you see or like. I have one question: do you like dogs?

First, it is time to meet the crew. First up, you have Speedy – who is extremely fast. This dog is like the Flash 2.0, you do not want to race him. Second, you have Buffalo – extremely strong, stronger than the Hulk. Third, this dog might be tiny, but she does

not play, her name is Crystal and she controls the weather. Lastly, you have Star who is a guardian of the galaxy.

Here comes all the action. It all started when a spaceship landed. All the dogs cleared the street and went into their homes. That's when the supper pups came. Then, they battled for hours. And the humans left. The end.

Talk to the Dead

By Elayasia Downs

As a full moon loomed over the leafless branches, their spiny limbs reached out to grab us but we kept walking...

We made our way into the woods. "Elayasia," Zeke said to me.

"What?" I said calmly, holding my flashlight.

"LOOK!" Zeke said, pointing at a distant house. "We should talk to the dead," Zeke said in a cold voice.

"We're not ghostbusters," I said calmly.

"Uhh what's that?" Zeke said in a frightened tone.

"What's what?" I said back.

"It's a tall dark figure with a bat!" Zeke said.

"RUN!" I shouted, scared. We reached a distant house and knocked on the brown old tall door with no answer. "NOOO I'm not ready to die!" I shouted. Suddenly the door opened but to our surprise no one was there.

"Come on, you don't wanna die, I don't wanna die." Zeke said.

"Okay," I said. "But if I die I'm coming back just to haunt you!"

As we walked in, we saw the dark figure run by.

"Hey Zeke, do you know who we should call right now?"

"Audrey!" Zeke called out.

"I was gonna say Ghostbusters but that works too." As we called Audrey, we heard a loud bang from the basement. Audrey picked up her phone and we shouted, "Help us!"

"NOO don't take me, take Zeke he's the man" I shouted out.

"What's happening?" Audrey responded in a questionable tone.

"We're gonna die," I said as we heard footsteps from the basement.

"Nope, I am going up stairs," I said.

"No, I am going up the stairs first," said Zeke.

Then Audrey came and opened the door as she came into the house. The door shut BOOOOOOOM we all looked out the window. There was the dark figure that was chasing me and Zeke. Zeke and I glanced at each other and said, "RUN!"

We all ran up the stairs as we heard the door open. We rushed into a big bedroom and we all hid under a king size bed. We had shivers as the dark figure came into the bathroom and we slowly crawled out from under the bed, hoping not to be seen. But Zeke fell down.

"Shoot," said Audrey. "Come on, let's drag him."

"Just throw him down the stairs" I replied.

"I'm still alive you know," Zeke said back, as the dark figure came out of the bathroom and started chasing us.

"Nope, nope I'm out of here," I said. As Zeke got up, another dark figure was waiting by the front door. "Never mind" I said. As I stepped, the dark figure number one slowly grabbed a knife.

"Nope!" I called out as we jumped off the stairs and ran into the living room. "Haha!" I exclaimed, "You can't kill me in the living room."

Zeke pointed out an open window. "Let's go," Zeke whispered. "Okay Zeke," Audrey whispered back. First, Zeke went out of the window, then Audrey.

"Why am I last?" I whispered.

"Just come on, Elayasia," Zeke said.

"Okay, okay, just because I don't wanna die," I replied. As I was making my way out the window, we heard people running to the living room.

Suddenly, someone grabbed my arm. Her face was like a beat up barbie doll. She took a knife from behind her back and slashed my arm.

"AHHH" I yelled, pushing my way out of the window. I hit the ground hard. Zeke and Audrey had a frightened look on their faces as they ran to help me up.

"My arm my..." I said in pain as I got up. We saw the thing that slashed me in my arm crawling out the window.

"RUN!" we all yelled as we made our way by Zeke's house. Audrey looked back.

"She's still chasing us!" Audrey called out as we got by the street light.

"She's disappearing?" I said.

"Well, you don't see that everyday," Zeke said.

"Really? Zeke, Elayasia got her arm cut and you say well you don't see that everyday?" Audrey replied.

As we made our way into Zeke's house, surprisingly our moms were there.

"What happened to your arm?" my mom said.

"I fell and scratch my arm, yeah," I replied. "Never doing that again" I muttered as we collapsed on the couch.

"Let's have a sleepover," Audrey suggested.

"Please mom, please?" Zeke said.

"Okay," Zeke's mom said.

"I call your room, Zeke, so you sleep on the floor!" Audrey exclaimed.

"Good night!" I replied.

"Nooo not in my room!" Zeke said.

"Wait, do you want me to clean your wound?" Zeke's mom insisted.

"Sure," I said. "Thank you," I say when she got done. "I'm sleeping on the couch."

I jumped on the couch. "Night," I said, waiting for a reply. I wonder what mystery awaits us next!

The Battle of Utope City

By Abiel Agbor

Once upon a time in 1975, in Utope City, there was this evil experiment on a cat. They put a super syrup in the cat's DNA that gave it superpowers and made a beast called Alex the Lion. Alex the Lion was so dangerous that they amputated his arms, and locked him up. 50 years later he was so mad that they kept him in for 50 years that he went on rampage fighting all the guards. Finally, the police came. They investigated, and they found out about the evil experiment, and they went to court.

Meanwhile, Evil Doggy arises as the world's most wanted villain. You want to steal the moon he got it, you want to steal the world's biggest gem he got it, and the mastermind of all the heists is Evil Guy Mowbray. He is the one inventing all the gadgets he uses for his heists. At court, Alex The Lion got the best lawyer to help him with the case, and he won!

Now, Alex the lion is a free lion. He also got a 1 million dollar cash prize for winning the case. To celebrate the victory, he went to a 5-star hotel that has popular paintings. Evil Doggy knew this, and started a new heist. He wanted to steal all the popular

paintings. Evil Guy Mowbray made two new gadgets: a supercar and a super snatcher. With the speed of the supercar and the super snatcher, he quickly snatched the paintings. Alex the Lion saw this, and used his super speed to catch up with Evil Doggy, and Evil Guy Mowbray.

While all this was happening, the best reporter Alex Scott was covering all that was happening. If you are wondering why Alex Scott is the best reporter it's because she is also a cat experiment from 1975. She escaped in secret, and disguised herself as a human and used her super powers to report. While Alex the Lion was chasing Evil Doggy he said, "Why are you doing this?" Evil Doggy explained how when he was little his dad left him at a young age, and his mom was the only one to take care of him. He, and mother had a low source of income, so after school he would always help his mother with her job to make money. People did not treat him well, they called him names, and bullied him because of his looks and how much money he had.

Alex the Lion felt bad for him but he already drove away. When he went back to the hotel, Alex Scott said he was brave to try and face the world's most wanted super villain. Alex the Lion said, "It's ok. I just wanna help." And since that day, they have been best friends.

Meanwhile in the Evil Doggy Lab, Evil Doggy wanted to make a clone for himself. But when Evil Guy Mowbray made the clone, it came out as a little doggy, and it was very kind. Little Doggy called Evil Doggy papa. Evil Doggy tried so much to make him evil like him, but he was just too kind. Little Doggy wanted ice cream, so Evil Doggy took him to get some ice cream. After ice cream, Little Doggy saw an amusement park and he wanted to go there. Evil Doggy and Little Doggy had so much fun!

A few months later Evil Doggy is not evil anymore he is now Super Doggy. Little Doggy has shown him love, and changed his heart. Meanwhile Evil Guy Mowbray does not like this. He is acting like he likes it, but he doesn't. He is planning to destroy Super Doggy, Little Doggy, and Alex the Lion. Alex the Lion is now a world-wide superhero. He is now teamed up with Mr. Tech. He is the one who made all the super gadgets. While Super Doggy and Little Doggy were walking, they met Alex the Lion. Alex the Lion wanted to talk to him to change his ways, but he did not know that Super Doggy is now nice. Alex the Lion was prepared to fight, but to his surprise Super Doggy was nice. After that they became friends, but Evil Guy Mowbray came out with his giant robot. Alex the Lion, Super Doggy, and Little Doggy barely made it. They needed to plan, so they called all their friends in a little bunker. They all planned, and Mr. Tech made super suits. Alex Scott was trying to tell her secret but she got cut off.

In the final fight, they were all trying so hard, but they couldn't fight him off. Alex Scott had enough so she turned into Super Lion Alex Scott. Alex the Lion saw this, and he was surprised, but that was not the problem, he used his last strength. With the help of Super Lion Alex Scott, they gave Evil Guy Mowbray, and his giant robot one big punch, and sent them to space. Rumor has it that he is still floating in space till this day.

Super Lion Alex Scott got an award, and did not face any charges because she saved Utope City. After that, Alex the Lion said, "How did you turn into a Lion?"

She said she was in the same experiment, and Alex the Lion said "At least I'm not the only lion in town." The End.

The Big Day at the Beach

By Imaya Dunson

One sunny day, a family went on a beach trip. And when they got there, the sisters had played until they decided to have a surfing competition and they were surfing and surfing, but they went too far.

Suddenly a big swarm of sharks came for them. And that's when a big tsunami came and swooshed them back to shore. They had just realized a tsunami saved them. So the girls and the rest of the family stayed at the beach, but didn't get back in the water. They stayed and played with the sand instead.

As they were playing with sand and building sand castles, the huge swarm of sharks came onto shore and were making their way towards them. The sharks were big and scary and had enormous teeth! Everybody was freaking out and screaming and running – it was crazy. And the sharks were chasing the two girls and they started chasing the mom and the dad!!

Then finally, they all stopped running and the sharks started talking and told them they just wanted to have a race with them. Everybody was super shocked! They didn't know sharks could talk and also the sharks wanted to race with them. So, after the sharks had a little talk with everybody, they came up with an idea.

The big idea was to have everybody have a huge surfing competition! Everybody grabbed their surfboards and took off into the ocean. The two girls won and they also became best friends with the sharks. The girls were still shocked that the sharks could talk but the sharks said they had a blast and so did the girls. Everybody came to the shore and ended the night with Chipotle.

And that's how a tsunami saved two girls.

The Boy that Wished for Rain

By Journey Page

Once upon time, there was this very dull dry town called The Long Waterless Town. They had no water. This boy named Molly wished for water. One day, he was walking around town and this old lady sitting on her porch asked, "Why do you look so sad?"

Molly said, "I'm just so tired of not having rain. I wished we had some type of water."

The lady asked, "Do you want to know a secret?"

Molly replied, "Sure."

She whispered in Molly's ear. Once Molly heard what she said, he dashed into the forest, then went straight to a tree and found the biggest tree he could find. He closed his eyes and wished for water. Molly went even deeper into the forest and wanted to see if there were some leftover rivers or lakes from 60 years ago, but had no luck. So, Molly walked home and the next day when he woke up, he looked outside his bedroom window and saw his friend Jake fishing, and his teacher watering her garden! Molly thought his wish came true, but then when he went outside, there was no water. Molly said, "I might just be using my imagination."

That's when his friend Jake called. He wanted Molly to come over and sleepover for his birthday party. Molly gathered up his sleeping things and headed over to Jake's place. When Molly got there, his mom and dad were not done decorating, so Jake and Molly went into his room and played video games until the guests came. When the party was starting, Molly saw a glass of water and was in shock! This just happened earlier that day! Jake's other friends were playing with the new toys Jake got for his birthday. The next day, when they all woke up, they headed back home.

Molly made some pancakes and then later watched the news. They said that we are going to be getting water soon. Molly was so happy and called Jake right up, but he didn't answer. Molly said he will call him again later. Well, when he called Jake later, he didn't pick up so Molly just went to sleep not thinking about it.

The next day, Molly looked at his phone and Jake never called back, so he just got ready for the day and did a walk around town. Molly saw the old lady again and asked, "Do you always sit on your porch?"

"Yes, I do," she said. She asked, "Did you do what I told you?"

Molly replied, "No."

Later that day, Molly went back to the forest and was walking around. Out of nowhere a tiger started talking to Molly, telling him to follow. Molly didn't know where the tiger was going, but followed along. There was a big water monster. Molly YELLED in shock and ran home! Molly called Jake and told him what he had seen and Jake said that Molly was being dramatic and hung up.

The next day, Jake called Molly and said that the water monster he was talking about came to his uncle's house.

Molly said, "I told you. I don't know why you didn't believe me."

Jake asked, "Would you like to come to my uncle's house with me and mom?"

Molly said, "Yes, I will meet you at your house."

Once Molly got to Jake's house, they left quickly and went straight to his uncle's house. Once they got there, they went right inside and looked in the backyard. They saw the whole backyard filled with water and the water monster. They ran all around the house and then calmed down.

The Day It Went Wrong

By A Ammit

Once upon a time there was a girl that loved to cook and she entered a cooking competition. She had terrible competition with her neighbor, Ms. Sugar.

Ms. Sugar sounded sweet, but inside she was crazy mean. She was so mean that when I asked for flour to bake a cake, she yelled at me, and I'm a nice one when I want to be.

My grandma says I'm an angel, but my mom says I'm going to be on the naughty list! I know she's lying because Santa isn't real.

And so, Ms. Sugar got proven wrong because if I win the cooking competition, she will be nice to me and if I don't win, she has to tell me what to do for the rest of the week.

I cooked a beautiful pie. The ingredients I used to make it were pie crust, cherries, and whip cream.

My homemade cherry pie won the competition and Ms. Sugar was very nice for the rest of the week.

Cooking is magical, isn't it?

The Dog

By Sofia Calzado

Hi, my name is Lily and I've always wanted a pet, but I am allergic to fur, but that won't stop me from finding a pet. My mom says, "No dog for you!" But, I'm still going to ask Santa. I also really like passing through dog shelters because I love seeing pets.

My mom gave me \$100 for cleaning the house. I have to go to my stepmom's house now.

"Mom, I'm going to Stepmom's house."

"Okay," said mom.

I'm on my way but I can see the dog shelter. "Awww!"

They are so cute! Well, I do have money in my pocket and I really want one dog. Maybe I can keep it a secret. I will buy one.

"Aww, this one is so cute. I will get this one."

"You are so cute, little guy, c'mon, let's go home."

I'm at home and ready to go to bed.

"Come, little puppy. I'll hide you in my room. Ok? Stay here and go to sleep."

Argh, I feel itchy and there are spots on my arms, but I bet it's nothing. I'll sleep now.

"Oh puppy, come here, there is no way you're sleeping on the cold floor."

It's morning and I feel so itchy.

"Puppy, where are you?"

"Ruff!"

"Oh, there you are!"

"Come eat food," mom yelled.

"Ok, mom! Stay here pup."

"Good morning, mom!"

"Good morning! Here's some bacon. Wait, why are you so red? Ahhh... wha - is that a dog? Get over here Lily Madison! Where did you get that dog? You know what, let's see if the doctor can give you something so that you can still play with the dog."

"Really? Thanks mom!"

After going to the doctor's office, I got medicine and felt better. ANY time I feel bad, my puppy is always there to cheer me up. I always feel love for him and hope he feels the same about me. And, if you are still thinking about my rash, with the medicine and dog love, I'm pretty much cured. Maybe I can get more pets? And if you are interested, here is my wishlist: dogs, cats, fish, bunny, hamster, lizard, lion, shrimp, and octopus. I love animals!

The Dog Saved the World

By Herlinda B.

One day, Genesis and her mom and dad were at home with their two cats. Their cats always made a mess and always scratched Genesis.

First Event

When Genesis was at home with nobody but her two annoying cats. She got so angry because she would get scratched by her cats.

Second Event

Genesis went outside and her two cats were inside. Genesis was sitting on a chair outside, but all of a sudden, she heard a strange noise inside so she went inside. She saw a plate on the ground, but it was broken. Because her two cats accidentally threw the plate. Genesis did not know what to do; she thought she was going to get in trouble.

Third Event

She went back outside but then she saw an old woman that looked like a witch. Genesis went to talk to her crying because of her two cats. But then she got a text on her phone that said that her parents were never going to come back. The old woman asked Genesis what her mom's name and what her dad's name was, and Genesis told her, "My mom's name is Mia and my dad's name is David."

Last Event

The old woman told Genesis, "What do you want?"

Genesis said, "I don't know." Then, she remembered cats make a mess. "Can there be another animal that doesn't make a mess?"

The old woman said, "I know what you can make."

Genesis said, "Ok!"

The old woman said, "First you have to go back to your house. Then, you say 'little dog, little dog, you make the world shine bright. Make yourself come to life!'"

Genesis said, "That is what you have to say?"

The old woman said, "Yes."

Genesis said, "Ok, I hope it works." Then, she went back home. She tried it and it worked! Lots and lots of dogs were there. She was like, "OMG! so many cute dogs!"

Then her parents came in and said, "Why are there so many animals in here?"

Genesis said, "Can we keep one, please?"

Her parents said, "Yes, of course."

She was so happy and her parents Mia and David saw that the dogs were gentle. The end.

The Dog Store

By Florence Miller

Charlie asked one Monday at school, "Haven't you heard? The dog park was torn down and turned into a new parking lot!"

Maddy asked, "What do you suppose we do about it?"

"I don't know, but my dog Sammy loved that dog park!"

"Same," Violet said.

"Hey! What are you guys up to?"

"Hi Clara! We're talking about that dog park that was torn down," Maddy says.

"Maybe we should make a dog store."

"Yeah, with a place to play!"

"Let's make a plan!"

"Well...I saw an abandoned gas station not too far from here. Plus, it's in good shape," Clara said.

"Perfect," Violet said, writing it in her notebook. "We can start on Wednesday after school."

So on Wednesday afternoon, the girls got to work. Even Clara, Charlie, and Violet's older siblings came to help. Clara asked, "Does anyone have a hammer?"

"I do," Maddy says.

"Thanks," Clara says as she grabs the hammer out of Maddy's hand. "Hey Charlie, can you get rid of that sign?"

"Sure."

By nightfall they had already taken out a wall, got rid of a sign, and picked out a paint color. Saturday morning, Violet and Clara went to the store to pick out tile, cushions, decorations, wood, and baskets. Meanwhile, Charlie, Maddy, and Clara's older brother went to get dog food, dog toys, and dog beds. When they returned, they started building and painting.

Violet and Maddy started painting, while Clara and her brother built shelves and a bench with storage underneath. Charlie was trying to put the tile in, but Sammy and Violet's dog, Clover, kept getting in the way.

Charlie asked, "How's the painting going?"

"Great."

"What about you?" "Umm... not so great," Charlie said. "Well, at least the dogs are having fun," said Clara.

They were done building and putting up decorations.

"Put that pillow on the bench over there," Violet said.

"Okay," said Violet's little brother.

Maddy and Charlie were organizing the dog toys and Clara was filling the water and the dog food containers up for Sammy and Clover.

"Opening day is in five days," Violet cried. "What if we forget or don't have enough time?"

"Calm down, we'll have enough time I promise," Maddy said.

"You're probably right," Violet says, calming down.

"We should all get some sleep, we stayed up pretty late," Charlie says.

"Yeah, we should," says Clara as she yawns. "Good night."

"Oh no," Violet says when she gets up. "I forgot to tell Charlie to finish the posters for the neighborhood."

At recess she sees Charlie and runs over to her.

"Charlie, I forgot to tell you to finish the posters for the neighborhood," Violet says out of breath. "Oh, well I can work on them tonight."

"Thanks!"

"Three days until we open," Maddy says.

Maddy's older sister asks, "Clara, do you have the fence?"

"Yes," Clara replies.

"You and I need to put this fence up."

"Um okay."

"Then we need to paint it."

Maddy asked everyone, "Is anybody... afraid?"

"Uhh yes," Clara admitted. "We have a day and four hours to finish everything!"

"A little," Charlie said shyly.

"Definitely," Violet says.

"I think we can get through it," Charlie says bravely.

In the morning, they started to get everything ready for opening day. Soon they were ready, and they opened The Dog Store. Lots of people and dogs came and went, but some came and stayed to let their dogs play around while they looked around at the dog toys and leashes.

"Thanks for visiting," Maddy shouts to one of the customers.

"This is going well," Violet says.

"It is," Charlie says.

"Charlie, Violet! Someone just gave us a tip," Clara says excitedly from the cashier.

"Great!"

The next morning, they went back to the shop and there was a dog named Ginger.

"Ginger! No!" a girl screams.

Maddy asked, "What's happening?"

"A girl's dog accidentally rolled a ball into the street and is playing with it but a car might come," Charlie explains to Maddy.

"Come Ginger, come," the girl says, waving a treat in the air. "She just won't listen!"

"Violet, go get a dog treat. I have an idea."

"Here," Violet says, handing Charlie the dog treat. "Thanks."

"Here Ginger. Come." Ginger comes just in time and gobbles the treat up leaving the ball behind.

"Yay!" the girl shouts. "Ginger is safe."

"She must've liked our lemon and rosemary flavored dog treats," said Clara. The girl asked, "Can we take a few? They might come in handy."

"Sure," Clara said.

Everyone looked over and saw the dogs playing happily and they went inside, clinked glasses and drank lemonade.

"Cheers!" They all cried excitedly, happy about their new adventure.

The Fight Between the Gods

By Mackeyla Mejia

A long time ago, there was a god named Mother Nature, and another god named Persinser (a.k.a. the god of water). One day, Mother Nature was just chilling, when Persinser went up to her and said, "I am the real nature god." Mother Nature rose up from her seat and said, "I am the god of the sea, the grass, the trees, the sky, and the oxygen. Why should I believe you?"

Then, Persinser gave an uptight serious look to Mother Nature. Persinser said as seriously as possible, "Well, I keep the animals safe and clean out the trash in the ocean."

Then they both looked at each other with a mad expression, glaring at each other, their smile upside down. Persinser yelled at Mother Nature very loudly. Mother Nature was surprised and got mad. Persinser and Mother Nature got so mad they split up.

They were mad, but after a little while, they got sad and they were so disappointed in themselves. Mother Nature went to go find Persinser, but Mother Nature found another god messing around with Persinser. Mother Nature got so mad, she shouted so loud it caused an earthquake. The mean and big god got scared and ran away.

Persinser was so happy to see Mother Nature. Persinser ran to Mother Nature and said, "I'm sorry for yelling at you!"

Mother Nature said happily, "It's fine."

When they were walking to their big green hill, they saw the god bullying Persinser earlier at the hill next to them. Mother Nature said, "Hey you, why are you here?!"

In a vicious voice, the bully turns to them and says, "Minding my own business," in a rude tone. Mother Nature goes to cook on top of the hill. Persinser said, "Whatcha cookin'?"

"A potion," said Mother Nature. Persinser said "For who?"

"For the bully," Mother Nature said with a smug look on her face. Mother Nature goes outside to give the bully a drink. Mother Nature asks the bully if he wants a drink.

The bully says, "Sure?" with an insured look. She gives him the drink and he says, "I feel like I'm going to blow up like a balloon!"

"I will take the spell away from you, if you say sorry for being a bully to persinser," Mother Nature said in a serious voice.

The bully hesitated for a second, then said in a meaningful voice, "Sorry for bullying you earlier. I feel bad for bullying you. Please forgive me for what I did."

Persinser looked at him then said, "It's fine, I forgive you. Just don't do it again, alright?"

"Thank you for forgiving me, and I will not do it again!"

Mother Nature and Persinser smiled at what a big day it was today. THE END

The Fight for Earth

By Bradley Dumeny

Space

Long ago, up in outer space, the Moon and Sun were driving to the Gravitational Market and they saw Earth, and the Moon and Sun were instantly in love. At the Gravitational Market that same day the Sun and Moon saw Earth again at the memorial for Pluto not being a planet anymore and the Sun tried to make a move and he unfortunately did not get a date. But fortunately for the Moon he got a date at the Milky Way Restaurant, the most expensive restaurant in the whole Cat's Eye Universe.

Milky Way Restaurant

The Earth and the Moon are on their date, they are talking and laughing, meanwhile the Sun is at the helix nebula gym working out all of his pure rage. The Sun then gets an idea, he will get his gang Neptune, Uranus, and Saturn. Meanwhile at the Milky Way Restaurant the Earth and the Moon almost kiss, but then bam! The door swings open and the Earth and Moon see a mysterious figure. The mysterious figure walks up to the Earth and Moon and he says, "You are in great danger. The Sun is going to get his gang Neptune, Uranus, and Saturn."

The Moon is incredibly scared and the Earth is crying and getting very scared. The mysterious figure says first the Sun and his gang will start a gas leak and blow up the Milky Way Restaurant. The Moon will know when the restaurant will blow up because he will smell the gasoline and the Moon says, "Who are you?"

The mysterious figure takes off his hoodie and the mysterious figure turns out to be Sagittarius A! The Moon's best friend, the Sagittarius A says, "The Sun is ready too."

Moon's House

The Sun is burning down the Moon's house because the Sun is incredibly jealous because the Moon got a date with the Earth. The Sun will do whatever it takes to win over the Earth's love. Meanwhile at the Milky Way Restaurant, the Moon comes up with an idea. He will get a black hole to swallow up the Sun. So, the moon dropped Earth off at home. Long last, it was time to end the reign of the Sun. So the Moon was ready to fight the Sun, but the Sun cowered in great fear because the Moon was hitting the gym for the past three eons. The Sun was so frightened and had to postpone the fight.

Meteor Shower Gym

The Moon is trying to get even more shredded and the Sun completely forgot about the fight and the Sun goes home to his mansion and buys 19 boxes of fruit snacks and Takis. Meanwhile, the moon is getting so shredded he can lift Jupiter with his pinky. The Sun got so lazy, he lost all his muscles and all he wants to do is sit in front of his TV and watch movies. Eventually, the fight at long last has arrived and the Sun and the Moon meet at the Cat's Eye boxing center. Sagittarius A is the referee and the Moon punches the Sun so hard, it created the Solar Eclipse and the Moon basked in his glory. The Sun's gang is so furious that they want to beat up the Moon but just like the Sun, with one swift punch, the Sun's gang was down and the Moon was yet again victorious. Earth did not even like the Moon and she was acting all along. The Earth likes Neptune and six days later, the Moon meets Saturn and they fall in love.

THE END

The First Tornado at a Grocery Store

By Serenity Knight

A long time ago, there was a mom, dad, brothers, and sister. We were on our way to the store until my mom crashed out because my sister ate the last cookie. After we saw a tornado on the roadside, I said, "Mom you have to go to the store now, because there's a tornado right behind us."

Everybody was crying after we made it to the store. Then, it was a grandma, she whispered in my ear she said, "If you calm your mother down, the tornado will go away."

My eyes widened. We are at the store, we can buy more cookies!

Mom said, "Good thinking!"

"I'm sorry," my sister said.

"It's okay."

"I will never do it again," my sister said. "I will ask next time."

We went to the cookie aisle and I saw grandma again. She bought the last cookie box. I said please let me get it! I begged and begged. She finally said yes!

I went to check out the box cookies and they were gone. I looked everywhere! Then I saw my mom was fighting with grandma. I said, "Stop!" in a loud voice. After the light went out this time, the tornado was closer and closer. Then, the tornado alarm sounded. We had to get my mom calm. We were so scared. It was the worst nightmare ever! I gave my mom a cookie. The tornado was gone and my mom's car was gone.

We got groceries. I got my lunch for school and my mom got her lunch for work. My dad got chips and my sister and brothers got lunch. We walked home because my home was five minutes away. We got home, then we got the groceries and put them away. It was lighting. There was a bad storm coming. I'm so scared of lighting.

The Friendly Bumble Bee

By Phoebe Holt

Once upon a time, there was a little friendly bumble bee. This bumble bee lived in a big hive filled with enormous piles of honey. And even though the bee seemed to have everything he ever wanted, he was sad. You see, in the hive that the very friendly bee lived in, it was filled with many mean bees that made fun of the friendly bee and laughed at him for his fuzzy body and cute appearance.

"You're so fuzzy, I bet you could be used as a blanket," one mean bee said.

"I can't believe the queen bee hasn't kicked him out yet," one other bee said.

One day after putting up with this, the friendly bee decided to leave his home in search of a new friend.

He first flew out of his hive and flew to the forest where he found a tiny spider making his web.

"Hi, I am a friendly bumble bee. Would you like to be my friend and hang out at my hive?" the friendly bumble bee asked.

"Hello friendly bee. I would love to be your friend, but I am too busy making my web to hang out at your hive," the tiny spider said pointing to the tiny web it was making.

"That's okay," the friendly bee said, a little sad.

"But if you want you can stay here for the night," said the little spider seeing the sadness on his face.

The next day the friendly bee left the spider's home after a lonely night of wishing for a friend. Once the bumblebee was up and going, he decided to go north of the little spider's home in the forest to the field, where he found a beautiful fawn helping herself to some grass.

"Hello fawn," he started. "I am a friendly bumble bee. Would you like to be my friend and hang out at my hive?"

"Hello friendly bumble bee. I am sorry but you are too scary with your stinger to be my friend," the beautiful fawn said, wiping the grass from her mouth. And almost as soon as the bee came, he left and headed back for his home.

The bee was very sad now that two animals had not wanted to be his friend and he thought that maybe no one would want to be his friend. Just as the friendly bee was beginning to head back home, he turned back around and realized he didn't know where home was! It was now beginning to get dark and the bee couldn't see the path he was following or the trees around him.

Just then the bee saw a scary shadow that had sharp teeth and big ears.

"Hello?" said the bee frightened.

"Hello," replied the creature. "Sorry I can't see you, let me light a fire."

Just then, a beam of light appeared and in front of the bee was a little fire and a humongous black bear.

"Sorry about that," said the bear. "What were you going to say?" The friendly bee started again, "Hello black bear I am a friendly bee. Would you like to be my friend and hang out at my hive?"

"Sorry, friendly bee, but you seem to live too far away from me since there are no bee hives around here," the black bear said, pointing to all of the trees with no hives. "But I can help you find your home."

A week later, long after the bee had been dropped off at his hive from the bear, it was the first day of pollinating season. The bee had been very depressed and had no energy to do his part in pollination, but when the bee came around to start off, he noticed that one flower was different from the others and seemed very sad.

"Hello flower. Why are you upset?" said the bee. "Since the pattern on my petals are different from everyone else, no one wants to be my friend," the flower said, brushing away tears. The bee started buzzing around in circles. He was so happy. Someone in the world actually might want to be his friend!

"Why are you so happy about me being sad?" asked the confused flower.

"I'm sorry flower, it's just that I have the same exact problem!" the bee said even more excited.

"Really?" the flower said. "Do you want to be my friend!"

"Of course!" said the bee.

And they lived happily ever after.

The Girl Who Made the Flood Come to Life

By Larryelle Martina

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Ava. She was playing with her friend Lily. Lily was at Ava's house. They were playing outside and Ava's mom was baking cookies. It was very hot outside.

"Ava, it's really hot out here," said Lily.

"I know Lily, but it's fun out here and my mom is going to get us milk with our cookies, very cold milk!" said Ava.

Then, Ava's mom came outside with the cookies and milk. "Girls have your cookies and milk!" said Ava's mom.

"YAY," both of the girls say. The girls take a cookie and a glass of milk.

"Yummy!" said both the girls.

"Mom, you make the best cookies!" said Ava.

"Oh, thank you, Ava! You're so nice honey!" said Ava's mom gratefully.

"Hey, Ava wanna play tag?" said Lily, very happy.

"Ok 3-2-1, tag your it! Ahaha!" said Ava, happy and playful.

Then it was 3:00 p.m. and it was dry and hot. Ava wanted some rain or water at least. So as Lily was playing, Ava prayed and asked for some water to come down from the sky. She also thought that when it rains it's just God crying, so she asked for him to cry, and then a few hours later, it was storming. The girls were very happy the mom was worried.

Lily and Ava said, "THANK YOU JESUS" and mom prayed that it would stop. Moments later, there was a lot of water and a flood was happening. The girls were floating in the water. The mom was scared.

"Kids please come back inside, it's flooding outside!!" said Ava's mom worried and scared.

"But mom, it's so fun, it's like we're in a swimming pool, haha!" said Ava and Lily.

The mom prayed a second time she said, "God please take this flood away. I'm scared of floods."

And then a piece of the flood came out to her. "No need to be scared of us, we're just stuff that comes and goes," said the water in a tiny voice.

Lily came back inside and said, "Hi Ava's mom I have a surprise."

"O-okay what is it?" said Ava's mom in a terrified voice.

"I'm not a kid nor a human!" said Lily in a heavenly voice.

"Then what are you?!" said Ava's mom.

"I'm an angel from heaven. I died when I was four, and my mommy told me I had cancer. That's why I died, so God took me down here and said told me to protect Ava at all cost. I'll see you around Lily!" said Lily in a happy voice.

"Then how can I see you?"

"Because I also have to protect YOU. God loves you, he says you're a good mom," said Lily smiling.

"Aww...well thank you for protecting us," said Ava's mom.

"No problem. Now my job is over and I have to go and protect other kids and parents."

"Okay, bye! Wait – you have to tell Ava!"

"Okay, I will" said Lily.

"Hey, Ava I need to tell you something..."

"Okay, what is it?"

"I'm not a human," said Lily.

"What are you?"

"I'm an Angel!" said Lily.

"REALLY?" said Ava happy.

"Yes, I was dead this whole time. Do you want this flood to keep going?" said Lily with a smile.

"No, not anymore," said Ava.

"Okay, bye bye now," said Lily.

"I'll miss you Lily," said Ava in a sad voice.

"I'll miss you, too. Don't be sad!"

And with that, Lily flew back to heaven and went through the heavenly gates. It's bright in heaven.

"Hi God!" said Lily.

"Hey Lily, how'd it go with Ava?" said God with a smile happy she protected Ava at all cost.

"Oh, it was good, very good, and also, Ava doesn't want the flood anymore," said Lily.

"Okay, I'll stop it," said God with a smile. Then, the flood stopped.

"Thank you Lily!!" said Ava looking up in the sky knowing Lily asked. But, then Ava felt sad that Lily was gone because she was Ava's only friend. Ava started to cry.

"Mom, I miss her," said Ava through her cries. Ava's mom said, "Honey it's okay. I know, I know."

Then, Ava calmed down and said, "At least I have you mama." THE END!

The Hamburger

By Chelsea Carballo

Hi, I'm Hamburger. I'm a hamburger and I'm loved all over the world. I can be a cheeseburger. I want to go to the Gummy Bear Town, but I don't know where the Gummy Bear Town is.

At 6:00 a.m., I went to the shops. I bought fries. Then I left the town to go to Gummy Bear Town. I get my car. I saw Ice Cream Town. Two days later, I stopped at Pizza Town gas station. Ten days later I'm at my hotel in Pizza Town, so I sleep.

In the morning, I wake up at 6:00 a.m., and 20 days later, I am in Gummy Bear Town. I buy gummy bears. I'm going to School Lunch City, so the hamburgers will see new places. These were fun activities. I explored around different cities.

The Hamburger Who Grew Legs

By Emma Brooks

One day, there was this hamburger and he was just a normal hamburger. Well, that's what he thought, but he was more than anyone will ever know before reading this book.

The hamburger was put on a plate and he was ready, but something happened! He grew legs! His eyes grew wide open and he realized that he could run away. However, he was already on the table. The person that ordered the hamburger turned around and the hamburger made its move!

He fell on the floor and ran, but he ran into the door. He was stuck inside. His eyes started to get wet and he was crying because he thought he wasn't going to make it. Then, the door slid open and the hamburger had hope. He ran for his life and made it just in time!

He thought when he got out he would travel to a different country. So, he started walking. After a few months, he made it to a new country. Hamburger found a restaurant. He tried to get in, but he couldn't get the door open.

Somehow, it opened. Hamburger walked in and looked up. His eyes grew so wide and he didn't know what he was feeling. He was in love! He saw a cute hamburger. She looked down and saw him. She was in love too!

He walked up to her and they started talking. The girl hamburger said that she likes him and he said that he liked her too. They ended up together and traveled almost everywhere.

One day, they made it back to the boy hamburger's country and decided to stay there. They live there now, so I guess it all worked out in the end.

The Haunted Mansion

By Gemma Bleas

I knocked on the big ugly door. My legs shook and I had a lump in my throat. I almost ran away, but then the door creaked opened.

Someone grabbed me and took me into a room. I screamed so loud. I saw a ghost in the house and I heard a clicking sound in the house. I tried to escape, but someone closed the door and I fell. Then I did it again, but I fell. I escaped the house and it was so cold outside and I was shivering in the cold. I saw a monster and it was chasing me. I tripped over a bush.

The monster called the alien and they grabbed me and put me in the fridge. I was sooooo cold. The monster called the witch and the witch put a spell on me.

The alien called the spider was terrified so much the spider was biting me.

The spider called the ghost. I was sooo scared.

Then, the monster, alien, witch, and ghost killed me.

The Help Tornado

By Denim Casey

One day, two trash can people, Joel and Mason, were picking up trash. But when they were picking up trash, it was sunny so they were sweaty and hot and tired. There was so much trash because people kept littering. They went to the station to take a break and when they were taking that break, Joel and Mason were talking about how they need more people because they need so much help. They were going house-to-house to try and find people to help them work. Everybody was saying no and some people even thought it would be a good job, so when Joel and Mason heard that they got so happy, but then she said no. They were about to give up and Mason said, "I AM GOING TO QUIT IF I DON'T GET HELP."

But Joel said, "No we have to keep going."

So they kept working and they got one street done. They were so, so tired. Mason kept wanting to give up but Joel was like no because we get paid a lot. So Joel wanted to keep working but Mason was just over it. He tried to go to his manager so he could quit but Joel was not letting that happen so they got into an argument. Joel was throwing trash on Mason when they were arguing. Mason ran so fast to his manager but Joel yelled and said, "Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo come back!" Mason did not reply and kept running.

Joel was all by himself and was thinking he was going to give up. However, he kept working and then a "Karen" came up and was bullying him because he was picking up trash. SHE WAS THROWING DOG FOOD AT HIM. Joel called the police and then the police came. When the police came, Karen was lying. She said, "He hit me!"

Joel said, "No I didn't because he didn't." They knew she was lying because Joel had proof so she went to jail.

Joel had finished six blocks. He was tired but when he was walking he smelled food like a cookout, so he followed the smell. OHHH boy! It was a lot of food and when the owner saw him, the owner said, "You look tired. Come eat some food."

When he got done eating, he was back on track, but the owner was like, "Do you need a trash can helper?" He said yes and the owner said, "I want to work with you."

He was so happy that he was working with him. They were working together. The owner, let's call him the cookout guy. He was getting tired and they weren't even half way. Joel was disappointed nobody wanted to help him out. Everybody was tired. BUT HE DID NOT GIVE UP.

Later that day, Joel went to Mason's house to try to convince Mason to come back. Mason said not happening. I do not want to do that again. I almost passed out. Joel gave up but..... he went outside and when he went outside, there was a lot of noise. The ground was shaking and he didn't know what it was, so he ran back into the house. He told Mason. Mason got so scared that he didn't even know what to do and Joel was all by himself because Mason passed out. He wanted to call the hospital for Mason, but when he went outside, there was a tornado. The tornado was helping them with the trash. The tornado was sweet because it got done sweeping all the trash up and disappeared, so Joel was happy that it helped him get the trash up.

The Last Hope of Good

By Rose Parker-Martinez

It's time for school, I packed my bags and got my clothing on. "Hey mother," I said as she smiled. I hugged her then rode the bus to school. Then, I walked in and heard a voice.

"Hey Jane," Mia said. "We are still deciding who gets to win the soccer trophy," she smirked.

She thinks she should but I keep saying someone else should. She hardly even did anything for our team. "Ok I don't care," I rolled my eyes. At our latest soccer game, my team did well. So, each person in our team helped make a beautiful trophy. The most victorious person on our team gets it. We can't decide who deserves it since it was a tie between me and Mia.

I don't know why Mia cares so much. She is selfish and greedy. Maybe that's why. Not just that, but I feel that I'm battling society. They don't understand me. I also don't feel that everyone sees what I see. The only person who really knows me is a 47 year- old woman, Ms. Tarith. She helps me plant seeds when I'm lonely. My parents are struggling with financial bills. I told Ms. Tarith my worries about it and she gave me

courage and hope. She is a great woman. She told me if I get the trophy I could sell it for the money I need.

I went to my locker, then I got my stuff. I looked at Mia writing in her notebook. She looked like she was dreaming. Probably about that gold trophy with a gold soccer ball in it. I went up to her. "Mia, I have a question," I stated. She looked at herself in her locker mirror.

Then she asked, "Yes?" Her black hair glistened in the light.

"I think we could share the trophy," I looked at the ground.

"Never," she said, angry.

I just wanted to get along. I think she should. I wish society would see that we don't have to fight. We could've got along but we didn't. When I got home from school I looked at my parents. They smiled. I asked, "Can we still afford New York City?"

"We have to work to do that," my father frowned. "We are in the process of affording it," he hugged me. Then, I smiled at my mother.

The trophy is big for me, as it could bless my family. I feel my family will leave New York City. Then, they will move to Pennsylvania or Tennessee. I can't let that happen, so it's up to me to fight for the trophy. Mia doesn't need it, but I do. Anyway, the coach will announce the winners in two days. It makes me happy to know that.

The next day, I went to see Coach Glendale. I asked, "Coach Glendale, how will you decide who gets the trophy?"

"Me? I'm not deciding," she looked at me. "Since it's a tie, the students will vote," she smiled. "I was about to tell you to prepare speeches before lunch time," she grinned. "You will explain why you should be the recipient of the trophy," Coach Glendale explained.

I asked, "The trophy is that big of a deal?"

"Yes," she nodded.

"For me it is bigger than you think," I smiled. Then, I headed off. I wrote a good speech in class, trying not to get caught. Later at lunch, I finished eating and gave it.

"Hello, I'm Jane," I introduced myself. "I think I should win the trophy because I could sell it for the money my family needs," I said and continued.

The next day I got ready. My mother smiled at me and encouraged me. I have the feeling that I will win. When I got to school, Mia was giggling mischievously. Mia was talking to her friends. Later at soccer practice, Coach Glendale was holding the trophy.

"I will announce the winner," she grinned. "The winner is.....Mia Carson!" She handed the trophy to Mia.

"Oh my gosh!" Mia laughed. "I won!" She hugged her friends.

I am heartbroken.....I need that. Later, I went home. My parents were there. "Did you win?" my father smiled so happily like he just got a free mansion. "Mia got it." I cried.

I went to my bedroom with a frown. I looked out my window, there was Ms. Tarith. She was picking some berries. She looked at me, then I smiled. She was so happy. Then, she realized it was a fake smile. It looked like she asked, "What's wrong?"

I put on my cardigan and shoes then raced outside. Ms. Tarith asked, "Jane, what happened?"

"Well, I didn't get our soccer trophy at school," I frowned. "Our family needs it for the money," I said. "We were going to sell it," I looked at the grass.

"Here, take these berries!" She handed me the berry basket. She loves the weather.

"Thank you so much," I smiled. "Our crops wouldn't grow," I said.

Suddenly, she poured water on me. Then, I realized it was the rain. Then, the crops grew. Then, I asked, "Is that magic?"

She nodded. I'm shocked. I think I'm living in a fairy tale. Then, a miracle happened. She gave me money. She asked, "Is that the money you need?"

"More than enough, thank you!" I smiled with joy. Then, I hugged her.

I went inside and saw my parents.

"Ms Tarith grew our crops and gave us the money we needed!" I said. They hugged me. "Ms. Tarith, come in!" my mother shouted.

"How?" she cried out. "Just a little bit of magic and kindness," Ms. Tarith smiled.

"Have some tea!" said my father as he ran in the living room.

It is so joyful, almost a magical day. This taught me that kindness could happen anywhere at any time. Ms. Tarith is the last hope of good.

The Little Burger Meats Friends

By Eva Diaz

One day, there was an old pizza with his wife. He saw a little burger that liked to play so much but he had no friends to play with, so he was sad. His mom came and told him to not be sad because in one week he was going to go to school and will meet new friends. He got happy and jumped in bed.

Then, it was Monday. In the morning, it was time to go to school. He woke up early to go to school. He got ready for school. His mom made his favorite breakfast. His dad and mom told him to make good choices at school and be responsible, respectful, friendly, and helpful.

Then, he got out of the car and was jumping because he was happy. Outside, there was a little popcorn that liked to play so much too. Little burger said goodbye to his parents, so they said bye and then got in the car and drove home.

Little burger said, "Let's be friends," to little popcorn. He said yes. They went to class and said hi to everyone and everyone said hi to little burger and to little popcorn. They found a table to sit where there were other kids and they said hi and then little burger asked if they could be friends. They said yes, so the little soda asked the little burger what's his name? He said Kevin. Little burger asked, "What's your name?" to little soda and he said junior. It was time to learn, so they stopped talking and they focused.

Then the bell rang. It was time for lunch. They got their lunch and went in the line for lunch. After lunch, they went to recess. After recess, they went to class and got to do fun work and then it was time to go home. Little burger's parents picked him up and drove him home. They made dinner and asked him if he made good choices and if he liked school. He said, "Yes it was fun!" He met so many friends. His parents were proud of him. They went to the park and got him ice cream. The end.

The Little Girl Kate

By Rayshad Presyon

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Kate. Kate was a very clumsy girl. Her favorite thing to do was to go out and explore nature. While out exploring nature, she made a friend named Marie. She had seven siblings. She had five brothers and two sisters. She had an aunt named Lucy. Kate calls her "Aunt," Aunt Lucy. Her aunt was the only one taking care of her. This time, Kate wanted to go out and explore nature without asking her Aunt Lucy.

While out exploring she got lost. There was nobody there to help her. Her aunt was sleeping at the time when she got lost. She didn't know that she was lost in the woods. Her siblings were playing in their bedrooms. They didn't know that she was lost in the woods. Kate called out for help many times, but no one heard her asking for help. Kate tried to call her aunt on her phone. She had no signal. So, she had to survive in the wilderness.

She soon started to build a shelter. She slipped while trying to build her shelter because she was very clumsy. She built her shelter out of sticks, logs, and leaves. Soon she needed food really badly, so she started to hunt for food.

One time she tried to find her home. While doing so, she ran into her friend Marie. Marie leads Kate to her house. While at Marie's house, Kate felt comfortable and safe. Marie's mother let Kate stay there for a few days. Finally she had to leave.

When Kate left her friend's house, she was very mad. She was upset, because she didn't want to live in the wilderness anymore. She walked in the woods for hours until she saw the city. It was Kate's first time seeing the city. She was amazed at how it looked. Back home, her Aunt Lucy woke up and didn't see Kate anywhere in the

house. Aunt Lucy asked Kate's oldest brother John, "Do you know where your little sister Kate is?"

He said, "No mam. I think she is out exploring nature like she always does."

Then, Kate's aunt looked outside to see if she saw Kate, but she saw her nowhere. She yelled Kate's name plenty of times, but there was no response. Soon Kate's aunt started to panic and called the police, to help find Kate.

Kate started to roam around the city observing everything. That day she saw the city, she instantly loved it and wanted to explore more. Someone asked her, "Do you know where you are going?"

She responded, "No." She told the stranger that she got lost in the woods and the city.

The stranger got her some food to eat. After eating the food that the stranger got her, she walked off. The stranger said, "Hey, where are you going?" She responded with, "I'm leaving."

The stranger tried to chase her, but she was too fast. Soon she started to make more friends in the city. Her friend Marie looked for her. She didn't see her anywhere. Marie wanted to see Kate. She soon asked Kate's mother, but Kate's mother said the same thing, "I couldn't find her." Kate soon realized that she was far far away from home

The police were still looking for Kate. They decided to look in the city. As soon as Kate realized that she was far away from home, she got scared and worried. As soon as she was about to panic, the police were already on their way to find Kate. The police looked all around the city until they finally found her in the city. They brought her home to her family. She told her aunt that she would never go out to the woods without her permission. She played and talked with her friend Marie, and even got to play with her siblings. Kate was so happy to be home.

The Magic Pen

By Mehdi Amzal

Once I was walking down the street, and I saw this pen on the ground. I took it home.

Then, I took the pen and drew a billion dollars and when I looked away, I saw real money. I told my mom that I am going out and then I called my friend. We went to buy some food, clothes, and games. When I came back, I quietly ran to my room with

the stuff I bought and then that's when I realized how great this magical pen really was!

I thought it was so cool and I drew all the things I wanted, I even drew another magical pen. Forty-five years quickly passed away and then I drew another life and I was young again! I also drew another world. I drew that I was God. Ha ha ha! I just imagined what I could do with my power. I changed the world's ways, I even got to control the temperature. I deleted all the bad people. I even changed how the time works. I changed what the world looks like.

I turned back into myself and then I checked how much money I spent the other day. I spent 500 million dollars – holy moly! Then, I turned 32 years old and I became President. Then, the nightmare happened. I used all of my paper. When I checked my money balance, there were five dollars. It was a disaster. Then, I saw a piece of paper and I became rich again. Now it has been 63 years.

I moved on with my life, but still kept the magical pen. I decided to go to my other world. I took my friend to my other world and I upgraded that world. I added bots to my world and it was fun. I even became friends with the bots. I was so rich that I bought the galaxy and kicked out people from the galaxy. I have the best life. In time, though, the galaxy started to fall apart. It was crazy. I thought it was over for me, but with my magic pen I fixed that problem.

My magical pen fixed everything ha ha! I even got to meet my idol Ronaldo. Don't you wish you had a magic pen like me?

The Man Who Cares About People and Spreads Kindness

By Steven Villeda

One day a wealthy man gives 12 dollars to a man. The man that gets the money is named Steve. Steve was a kind man that cared about people and liked spreading kindness.

He went to get food for him with six dollars and more food for a very poor person in the streets with six dollars. First, he likes to spread kindness and how he cares is he gives what he has to make people's lives better. After a person was getting bullied, Steve helped him from the person that was bullying by saying nice words to the bully. So, then they got out of the trouble. He also likes to spread kindness and care for

people as he gets them out of trouble and cares if they are getting made fun of by people.

After that, he gave money to someone to take care of their family. Another way to spread kindness and care for each other is to give a little something to a family. So, then each gets something.

The next day, he got 100 dollars, and 20 he gave that money to 5 per family. ANother way to spread kindness and care for each other is to get some resources of money to give to the poor and poor families.

Afterwards, he wants to help people that speak Spanish because he could speak by telling them what they say in their language if you know the language.

He also helped someone with their heavy bags to bring to the car because there were a lot of bags, so he helped. The last way to help and to spread kindness is to help them carry things or even a lot and heavy things. All of this payed off because everybody liked him as a friend and trusted him for help. Everybody respected him and was kind to him. We can learn if you're kind to people because they could do things for you, help you, and be kind to you and respect you. And after it all payed off and so he became a very wealthy person and helper.

The One Piece

By Kingston Smith

Once upon a time, for the first time ever, the world's most biggest tornado arrived.

It was so big, it was destroying all land that was all devil fruit. The devil fruits are so destructive and powerful a lot of villains want them so they can be powerful. It makes the person who ate the fruit can't swim, but that is the cost of a devil fruit

This boy was different, he had no friends. He was so lonely that nobody wanted him as a friend, so he got sad and ate the wild fruit. However, he did not know what he just ate. The fruit was really powerful and people used it for no good. It was called the Wind Wind fruit.

But then he got mad really mad. He was asking if he was enough. He took a walk and something came out of the bush on the left. He jumped away from the bush. He was

confused about what was in the bush, but it didn't concern him too much because he was still sad.

He just kept walking with a big frown and he started crying because he saw people playing at the park and he wished that he could have friends. He thinks that no one likes him and he started getting really angry and wondered if anyone knew him. He said he was going to die all by himself and that he hated everyone. He wanted to be treated like others, but nobody even knew who he was. He felt that nobody cared about him, not even his parents.

He had bad memories of how all the kids at his school bullied him. It was normal for him on a daily basis and he knew he was never going to get a friend or that was what he thought. Up until then, no one even knew his name. People in the town said he is a mean and terrible person. The rumor was if you become his friend, you will die. Nobody wanted to test it out, so that's why nobody wanted to be his friend. Again he was really depressed everyday cuz nobody wanted to be his friend.

He started yelling that everyone hated him and that he will never get friends. He started using all his anger on the strongest tornado he could make, but then a 19-year-old boy named Luffy yelled, "I can be your friend and my whole crew: Zoro, Sanji, Usab, and Chopper would like to be your friend."

He said yes and then they became the best of friends. Nobody has found the devil fruit until this day. This is a top secret. Luffy and his crew keep the Devil fruits in their closets and nobody knows that's why nobody has found a devil fruit to this day.

The Outbreak

By Teddy Aime

Chapter 1: The Outbreak

I was in school and the time was 2:10 p.m. They ended school early, but I don't why. Usually school ends at 3:10 p.m. My mom picked me up and we went to the grocery store. It was chaos! People were buying stuff and almost everything was gone off the shelves. We got the groceries, then we went to pay in self check out. After that, we got in the car so fast.

We drove home and then the emergency alert system was on the TV, and it said zombies came to life by scientists. They were researching and made the zombie virus/symptoms a person has

a fever. They die, then they wake up, but their body systems stop, so their skin turns green. Then, they become aggressive to any non-infected.

My family and I go to the basement. I have been in this basement for two hours with my family. We have baseball bats. The zombies were banging on the door and we have this thing. We can go to the sewers and go down the sewers.

Chapter 2: The Escape and the Sewers

We fell down the sewers. The sewers had light. I would not like walking in the dark sewer during a zombie outbreak. My name is Mart, my mom's name is Wallflower, my dad's name is Marten, my brother's name is Bart, and my sister's name is Flower. Back to the story, we were walking and we found a ladder. We climbed up the ladder that was next to our car. We opened the hatch and jumped into the car. My mom drove and my dad was in the passenger seat. Zombies were running at us and there was this warehouse that my mom hit the gate. We got out and started fighting the zombies. We ran into the warehouse and locked the door. The next morning, we woke up at one in the morning, hopped in the car. Then my dad started the car and he drove.

Chapter 3: The Government's Help

Driving downtown Mayville felt like a war zone. Police were shooting zombies with the SWAT team. People were getting infected. People were running. It was also foggy, so you couldn't see zombies. People were getting infected easily and it was mad chaos! Scientists and guards were in hazmat suits and had vests. They were taking samples of the virus and we continued to drive downtown Mayville. We stopped at this fast food place and we ordered our food. We checked our food and in our burgers there was purple stuff. We saw a person try the food and he turned into a zombie and started chasing the car, so we pressed the pedal.

Chapter 4: Explaining the Characters

So, I'm in 4th grade. I'm nine years old and my name is Mart.

Hi, I am Mart's mom and my name is Wallflower. I work with the government.

Hi, I am Mart's dad and my name is Marten. I work with the FBI.

Hi, I am Mart's sister and I am in 6th grade.

Hi, I am Mart's brother and I am in 8th grade. I like to play bob balls. It's a fun game on Day Playdoor, a downloading app for downloading apps.

Chapter 5: Rewriting Humanity

We continued driving and we got to the base where all of this mess happened. We got out of the car, breached the gate, and went inside. We were escaping guards and scientists and we found

a keycard. We went to the rewriting universe room and pulled the lever. We were floating and I said, “Is this the afterlife?”

Chapter 6: The Alternate World Where This Never Happened

We were floating and this giant said, “You can go back, or go to a world where this never happened.” We all chose to go to the world where this never happened. Then, boom! I am in my school seat and the time is 2:10 p.m. What happened?

Probably nothing because it felt like a dream, but it felt so real. I still don't remember anything, but I just know that wasn't a dream. Finally, the school day is over. I hopped into my car and my entire family was there. We got pulled over, then we were sent to interrogation. They said, “You guys were in a zombie apocalypse.”

Then I started to remember everything that happened from beginning to the end. I kept my mouth shut. After one hour, they let us leave. They said, “If you did remember something and didn't tell us, you guys will be in trouble.”

Chapter 7: The House

We arrived in our driveway and went inside. I changed my clothes, took a shower, and went downstairs. My whole family did the same thing.

My mom cooked dinner. We ate and I watched TV. Then, I brushed my teeth and went to bed. I was not tired, but I still forgot what happened.

Chapter 8: Ikea

We went to Ikea to buy stuff. We bought a couch, chair, some things for the house, and other stuff. We went to eat and saw the government agents. We ran to our car. They started following us. We lost them and went home.

We hid and heard them talking. We hid until they left.

THE END.

The Path You Choose to Go

By Leah Courtney

It was a very dark day in Dark Cats, a land owned by an old man named Leo. This man was so mean. He seemed like a nice guy but at home he liked to hurt people.

This girl named Ava came to stop this man. Ava was from Lala Land and she was a person that liked to help. In Lala Land, it was so dark it smelled like a junkyard. She was looking for a home. Ava was a determined little girl. After she looked at Dark Cats, she was trying to help people in Dark Cats. She was tired so she fell asleep.

One day, Ava woke determined to help Dark Cats, so she went back to Lala Land. In Lala Land there was no light and water. She was so sad in Lala Land so she got to work. She walked to a cave and there was a lion there, she was scared. She thought she heard the lion. Ava screamed, "Ah! Ah! Ah!" She ran, but the lion followed. Ava was so scared but the lion was friendly, so Ava kept the lion.

Ava went to another land called Cinderella. There was water and light so she asked the woman name Alice. Alice was a 27-year-old woman. She had long light brown hair and bright red lips.

"Can I get some water?" Ava asked Alice.

Alice said, "Yes."

Ava left. She had water, she just needed light and a very good aroma because her town was so smelly. She had a plan. She planned it on a blue sheet and she had the lion's help.

One day in Lala Land, she woke up unhappy because it was so smelly she was so unhappy there, but she had water. She asked a construction crew to make a part that she would call the ocean. She went by her parents' names Diana and Liam. Ava asked her parents.

"Mom and dad," she said. "Can you come with me to Dark Cat?"

Ava's parents said, "Yes sweetie." So Ava took her mom and dad to Dark Cats to get light.

Lighting was striking so Ava thought of an idea. She would bring a bucket and catch the lighting. Ava went to Dark Cats to get the lighting. When her parents came, Ava asked Diana, her mom, to be a distraction. Diana said yes so she went to Leo. Leo is the man that owns Dark Cats. The mom was distracting Leo but Ava was getting lighting. When Ava got the light she called her mom so they could leave. When they left Leo was following them. They were scared so they found a way to disgust him.

When Ava and her mom got to Lala Land they needed one more thing: a very good and fresh aroma. So Ava and the lion went and the mom stayed. The land was owned by a 30-year-old woman. She had dark red lipstick on with a mix of black and brown hair with fine lines under her eyes. She also had a dark skin tone and she was very pretty.

"Can I get some very good aroma?" Ava asked.

The woman said, "Yes, you can."

The woman said her name is Lydia. Ava said thank you and left. Ava got home and said hi to mom.

Ava was ready to fix her land but the lighting didn't work even with water and the very good aroma. Ava was sad as a mouse.

The Place Outside Space

By Rayshad Presyon

Hi! I'm Amora. I live in a place like no other. No, not in space. Even though I look like some alien, well I guess you could call me one. But, the place that I live in must remain a secret. You know how I was talking about space, well you want to know why? Emperor Zare sends Zare troopers to ambush us. That's why we fled from space to you know – the place like no other. I really like this place. I wish we could live here happily and carefree. But we can't.

Ahh Drico, stop licking my face! Oh, I forgot to introduce you. This is my pet, Drico. He can be mischievous sometimes. Go to your bed Drico.

Back to my life, so when we go outside, we have to be heavily armed. It's not a lot of fun. Nobody has ever been here except for our ancestors, the Torcas. Just so you know, yes, I am one of the Torcas, this whole colony is. Emperor Zare has ideas of if we fled he would declare war, so it is not much longer until he finds us. BOOM! Drico, was that you? Whine...I guess it wasn't. I'll go check outside even though I'm super scared! That looks like a force field. Has Emperor Zare found us? It looks like one of his ships outside. At least we have a force field. Wait, that's a danger sign!

I think he's found us. Drico, go to the bunker, you know the drill. Food, water, and safety supplies, that's all we need. I'm sure it's just a drill though. It has been three days there and there have been more booms. I wish we could just be friends not enemies. Drico, I wish mom wasn't in the colony of fighters, I miss her. Boom! Drico stay, I'm going to look outside. The force field is gone!

Oh no! There are spaceships surrounding us. This isn't a drill. Get to the escape pods, our colony fighters will hold them off. Wait, it's blocked, go back.

"You aren't going anywhere kid! You're coming with me."

Come on Drico, do what you are told. We don't want to get in trouble with a Zare trooper.

"Go in the cell kid."

Drico come on. I'm so scared! Blarp Blarp! I know Drico, I know. Wait, I hear something. Shhh! It sounds like mom! Is she here to rescue us?

Wait, she was just with a Zare trooper! She's been captured! Wait, these doors are electric. Try and find a panel there, unplug it. Shh! Go find mom Drico, hurry. Get out mom, hurry. Free the others, quick! We're all out. Go to the back up ship, go to the emperor's enemy's planet!

We should be forever safe here. Zares can't go near flowers. We shall rebuild our homes and help the Unia colony end Emperor Zare from now on.

THE END

The Punishment Thunderstorm

By Jasmine Wilson

Once upon a time in 2004, me and my family (Mom, Trinity, Jaymes, and Zayden) drove to Target's parking lot to go shopping at Target in Columbus Ohio! I exclaimed with joy. We got there at 5:27 a.m. When we got there, it was kind of cloudy, windy, and cold, but before we started to leave to go to Target, it wasn't cloudy, windy, or cold. My family and I walked into Target. After 10-15 minutes of being in Target, we

saw a famous YouTuber called Mr. Beast. Mr. Beast was filming a video with some of his friends inside of Target.

"Something is concerning me, something doesn't feel right," I said concerned.

That's because something was very wrong! It started to rain heavily. Also it was cloudy, windy, and cold when we got there, but it wasn't just that...Mr. Beast was stealing from Target! One of the richest people. Little did we know, Mr. Beast was about to get punished! I know what you're thinking, punished by who? Punished by... the Goddess of the TARGET MANAGERS, and the Goddess of the TARGET WORKERS! Yep, the Goddess of TARGET MANAGERS, and the Goddess of the TARGET WORKERS!

The Goddess of TARGET MANAGERS and the Goddess of TARGET WORKERS was mad at Mr. Beast because he was stealing from Target, so the Goddesses decided to punish Mr. Beast with a THUNDERSTORM! This thunderstorm didn't affect Mr. Beast at all, so the Goddesses decided to strike THUNDER BOLTS to Earth! The Goddesses doing this made the power and electricity go out. And this made Mr. Beast shocked, but the Goddesses still think they need to do more! Mr. Beast talked to the Target Manager and the Target Workers, and Mr. Beast said that he bought it at another store and that he brought it still packaged, and he was going to open it there for a video. After Mr. Beast said that the sky started to clear up and it was starting to get warmer. The Target Goddesses left Mr. Beast alone.

The Target Goddess will be back at some point in time, but hopefully not soon.

Mr. Beast really needs to watch his back, and what he does. And here's a tip: just be careful in this crazy world.

The Scary House

By Thomas Laughlin

Chapter 1: The Scary House

One day, there was a family named the Nears who were going to move to a new town close to Halloween. When the Nears told their neighbors and friends, they said that weird things happen there. The day arrived and they drove to their new town. The neighborhood was named Never, and that gave them the chills like a cold day.

Chapter 2: The New House

After they looked around the neighborhood, the Nears got to their house. When the Nears opened the door, it creaked, but it was so lovely inside like a brand new home. When they got settled in, it was also one day away from Halloween.

Chapter 3: The Early Trick-Or-Treat

The son named Fred decided to go get some candy before trick-or-treating started. Fred decided to go to the old house next to them. He walked up to the house and knocked on the door. Fred yelled, "Trick-or-treat," and the door opened so he went inside.

Chapter 4: Inside the House

When Fred went inside the house, the door slammed behind him like a metal bar was slammed on the ground. Suddenly, lights came on and there were tons of spider webs and pans. It looked like the ceiling was going to fall at any moment.

Chapter 5: Exploring More in the House

Fred decided to go farther into the house and he believed that he was in the living room, so he walked in. Fred found a TV that was blank so he tried to turn it off, but it didn't work. He tried to unplug the TV and it wouldn't come out. Fred finally decided to give up and went to the door, but it wouldn't budge.

Chapter 6: The Note

Fred went back into the living room and realized that there was a note on the table. He decided to open it and it said, "I'm coming for you." He was shocked to read a note that said that! Fred got goosebumps all over his skin. He decided to set the note down and forget about it.

Chapter 7: The Drawer

Fred left the living room and found a drawer and decided to open it. The drawers were dusty and old, he found a picture that shows a medal. Fred thought that

someone was mad because the person that lives here may have won the medal and that person wanted the medal?

Chapter 8: The Keys

Fred found a pair of keys in a drawer so he went to the door and put it in the door lock, but it didn't budge, so he put them back. Fred tried to break the window but it didn't break. Fred decided to stop and think. He couldn't think of anything.

Chapter 9: The Way Out

Fred found a door. He opened it and it was completely dark so he looked for a lightswitch and found one and went downstairs. When he got to the bottom, he found another door with tons of BONES! Fred jumped up so high that he almost hit the ceiling. He went into the bone pile and found keys and got out of the house and never came back to the house ever again.

The Secret of the Livyatan

By Jordy Mypoi

In the Mariana trench, the water was rough. There were four fruit holders. First, the portal holder, second the dragon holder, third the buddha holder, and the t-rex holder. All four of these fruit holders need to awaken their powers, but also need to get past the livyatan.

Portal: Uh oh guys with these rocky waters!

T-rex: Yea wait..... w-what's that?

Just then the livyatan popped out of the water. It was 160 tall and 365 inches long.

Trex: Ohhhhrun away!

They tried to sail away but it broke their boat making it go underwater. There was no light. Just then, the livyatan was underwater with them.

Portal: aaaa!!!!

Portal used his power to create a portal to teleport all of them. Everything went dark. They all woke up on an island.

Jay (portal user): What happened?

Zay aka dragon user: I don't know. Why do you?

Portal Jay: Well sorry for trying to help.

T-rex (also known as Alex): *grones* Shut up both of you!

Buddha (also known as Alan): Guys, there is a note!

Note: Hello, when you are reading this I assume that the livyatan has knocked you out of the other world. To defeat the beast, you need a flash bang, three coconuts, and most important, teamwork. With those three things, you will defeat the sea beast.

Jay: So teamwork, flashbang, and three coconuts?

Zay: Stay away from me.

Jay: OMG! Can you not argue with me for one second?

Jay starts crashing out and Zay laughs.

Alan: STOP! LIKE DANG, YOU GUYS ARE 19! And you fight like 10-year-old girls.

Jay ignores Zay and they have the three things they need now to summon the livyatan. they must say what's on the paper.

"Livyatan summon, summon in commend we collide."

Just then, the sea beast came up and roared in the water, creating a big, big mist and it started raining and became really windy. Then, it started to attack Zay and transformed into a full dragon! T-rex transformed into a full t-rex, buddha grew 15 feet, and they started to fight. Buddha threw heavy punches, which caused the sea beast to start roaring louder. Then, the t-rex spawned meteors that were on fire, making the water so hot that it burned skin. When the livyatan shoots a beam at

them, portal Jay opens a portal that opens a portal behind the sea beast, hitting it with its own attack. Just then, the beast was defeated, sinking into the water. They all awakened their powers and got the title, Warriors of the Sea.

The Storm

By Janelle Tucker

It all started as a storm tonight. The trees were moving, and it was windy. Everybody had to stay inside. Except for this one girl who always likes to stay outside at night. It was a storm and came because the little girl disappeared at school on spring break. It was a teacher in the class. My friends, Larryelle, Janelle, Zay, and Josephine, were all in Miss Wilson's class, the room the girl disappeared from because she was literally lying, she had to apologize. The storm was happy again.

***The Sun and the Clouds**

By Renae Hughes

One day Lucas, a poor villager from a land called Eldoria, was very hungry but had no food. Lucas had heard some people talking about a nearby village, saying that their food stocks were plentiful. Lucas traveled to the village, it was very hard traveling to the village without shoes and water. Lucas went down to the nearby village and was surprised by what he saw. Lucas saw people sweating, sick, burning, and suffering. He saw people from other villages looking for food. Lucas saw a man on the side of the street and said, "Sir, why does everyone look so worn out?" The man pointed up at the sky to a bright shining sun.

He learned the reason they were suffering was because of the bright sun, it was too bright and hot to persevere. Lucas said, "There must be a way to help!"

The man said, "There is a way."

Lucas energetically said, "What is it? Please tell me so I can help everyone!"

Lucas thought for a minute when the man said, "We need something to shelter the villagers but still let in warmth and light."

He then said, "Lucas, I have a task for you, one that you will gain wealth and honor for."

"I don't need wealth nor honor, I just want to help everyone", said Lucas.

The man smiled and then said, "There are Gods so powerful they may be of help. Find a Goddess named Hera, for she is the Goddess of the sky. As Goddess of the sky she will surely know how to solve our problem."

Lucas thanked the man and set off on his journey to find Hera, Goddess of the Sky.

To get to Hera, Lucas climbed up mountains, swam through rivers, and walked on what seemed like an endless path, when he reached a kingdom full of elegance and wealth. There were many more obstacles along the way but that did not stop Lucas. He knew this mission was important and if he failed more people would suffer. When Lucas thought he would never find Hera, he heard a graceful and elegant voice humming in a garden nearby. It was Hera, after endless searching, he finally had found her!

He walked up to her and introduced himself. "I am Lucas, a villager of Eldoria."

"Pleased to meet you", replied Hera.

"I have been sent on a quest to find you."

"Why is that?" said Hera.

Lucas explained how the people of Eldoria and beyond suffered due to the bright and shining sun.

"I do not know how to be of help in your situation," Hera answered.

"There has got to be something you can do," said Lucas.

Hera thought for a few moments before saying, "I do not know how to help."

Lucas was about to walk away but before he could Hera said, "But I know someone who can help!" Lucas cheered up.

"If I may ask, who is this person that can help?" said Lucas.

"My husband Zeus," replied Hera. Lucas was surprised and a little frightened, but he knew he had to do it to save everyone.

Hera led the way to a town full of gods and goddesses. Lucas had never seen such a beautiful place before. Soon Hera and Lucas reached a castle.

"This castle is bigger than Eldoria!" Lucas exclaimed. Hera slightly giggled before walking in. Lucas followed Hera all the way to a balcony when he saw a huge muscular man there.

"Husband?" Hera called. The huge man turned around to see a small boy.

"What is a mortal doing here?" said Zeus.

"He is here to ask for help," said Hera.

"What help do you need?" he said to Lucas.

"Hello, my name is Lucas. I have been sent on a quest to find someone to help my village and others."

"It is my duty to help others," said Zeus. "What do you need help with?"

"My kingdom and others are suffering from the humid sun. Crops are dying and villagers are getting sick. We need something to shield them but still let in warmth and light," explained Lucas.

"Lucas, you have an interesting point. I shall help you mortals," said Zeus.

"Thank You!"

"No, thank you for bringing this to my attention. I just wish I had known sooner."

Zeus then floated up in the sky and spun some air together, making a concoction of air. Hera and Lucas were surprised, they had never seen anything like it before. Zeus had settled onto the ground.

"She shall be known as Nephele, and she will fix your problem," said Zeus. Just then a lady made of clouds replicated to look like Hera, appeared in the sky.

"How?" Said Lucas.

"You will soon see mortal."

Zeus then lifted Nephele into the sky, where she laid her hair over all of the kingdoms.

"It takes great bravery to do what you have done, others would have given up but you persevered. You have earned my respect," Zeus said

"You have also earned mine as well," said Hera.

Lucas grinned ear to ear. "Thank you," said Lucas.

"Your kingdom's problem has now been resolved. I shall now send you to your home," said Hera.

Lucas appeared in a forest and looked up at the sky which was now white and blue. He was proud of himself for not giving up. When he made it back to town, everyone cheered.

"How did you do it?" said a child.

"I could not have done it all without some help," he said as he glanced at the sky.

Sometimes you can still see Nephele in the sky, still shielding towns and her hair flowing in the wind.

The End.

The Thirsty Pickle

By Xavier Wade

The pickle landed in Pickle Land and it was hot outside. He found some shelter. The next part was the pickle was thirsty. The pickle's throat was dry. He needed something to drink so bad.

First, he went to bed. The next day, the pickle went outside to get something to drink.

When the pickle found a drink he was so happy, but then when he drank it, it looked like it was pickle juice but it was water the entire time.

"Yuck," the pickle said. So the pickle just goes somewhere else to find where he belongs. The pickle tries to find a village with pickles as villager's. The days keep going on until he finally finds a village with pickles.

"Yes, I finally found a village."

But the pickle did not find what he needed. The pickle looked so hard to find what he needed. The pickle went to sleep.

The next day, the whole entire world changed into cookies. The pickle did not belong here.

"What just happened?" the pickle said. He went outside and he saw everything different. He also saw something white and it was a liquid. The pickle asked what that was, they said it was milk. The pickle was not looking for that, he was looking for something else. So he goes on an adventure to find somebody who could change it into Pickle Land where he belongs. The pickle finds a mysterious person. The pickle walked up to him and asked him, "How can you change the world to where you belong?"

"I know how to change the world, there are 5 steps you have to follow."

"Ok, how can you do it?" the pickle said.

He followed the man's steps and he went to a new world, but it got worse.

"What is this place?" the pickle said.

It was a place with a flood of salt. The pickle was swimming but there was a chance for a pickle to turn into a cucumber. The pickle kept swimming but then he turned into a cucumber.

"What happened to my body!"

He tried to find a way to turn it into a pickle again. He wondered if the man could help him. The cucumber found the same person, so he helped the cucumber get to his world and change him back into a pickle.

"I can help you get back to a pickle, but I have to put you in a jar," the man said.

"Ok if it works," the cucumber said.

The man fixes the cucumbers into a pickle.

"Thank you," the pickle said.

Now they have to figure out how to go back to the world. The man did everything it takes so the pickle can go back to the world he belongs. He tried every single strategy until one of them worked.

"Yes!" the pickle said.

The pickle finally got back to the world he belonged. The pickle goes back to his village and now he is safe.

The Weird Neighbor

By Simone Proulx

It all started when my friend Florina and I were going on a field trip. When we got on the bus, she asked if she could tell me a story about the neighbor she used to have.

"Now it started at my house at five in the morning," she said.

You need to know that she was six years old when she went through this story and that she was a maniac of a toddler.

"That morning I heard a sound coming from the basement, so I woke up all my family and we all got our Nerf gun. Then we went to the basement."

"What?"

"Can you stop interrupting me?"

"Yes, I can!"

"So then we looked around but something was moving in the cabinet so we all pointed at it with our Nerf guns and said, 'Get out or we will shoot you with our Nerf guns!' So out of the closet came our neighbor with a date pie. Even though he had a pie, how the heck did he and his raw pie get in our house?"

"I don't know."

And that's how it ended.

There's A Storm in Downtown

By Imanuel

Raindrop song in the sky lightning coming down to the sky grade, it was a tsunami!

Everybody was running, but one person wasn't, and his name was Tom. He was up in the Eiffel Tower. He climbed and climbed and climbed but after he climbed, the tsunami started to go away. There's nothing but destruction. He went out to look and he found a friend.

They became friends and then it was two of them against the world. They went to stores to get food and had a good time. They lived in a treehouse and technology was still a thing, so they would play video games together. However, there's one evil guy in the town that still managed to live. He made an evil monster but then when he made the monster, he thought the monster would be his friend. Instead, it turned on him! Other monsters were out there to get other people. The two kids knew how to

fight the monster but the kids have other things to worry about. They had to get food so they had to go to the store. Microwaves wouldn't work though so they could only get snacks.

They had flashbacks of when they went to school and played with their friends. They had a good time but then the other friend said, "Amen, you don't have to worry about that stuff!"

They went on to discover another place where they can live in a big house. They had a good time at that house and it even had a robot butler. The robot butler was kind of old and didn't work, so then they went looking for stuff. They finally found something cool. They found a backyard with a pool. They went swimming in it and it was fun but they had to go to bed even though bedtime didn't exist, they still had to get a good night's rest.

Thunderstorm

By Thomas Jones

How a thunderstorm was invented. A kid named Thomas was mad and imagined a dark cloud with things coming out of it and HE JINXED IT! A dark cloud came to Cromo village and it was a thunderstorm. It was so loud, people went on lockdown because the thunderstorm was big.

Everyone was panicking and running because of the big thunderstorm and Thomas felt bad. Then the thunderstorm passed TO A CITY! All Thomas heard in the city was screaming. Then, a kid named Joel was in that city! He was Thomas' friend, so Thomas sprinted towards the city called Coco City. Thomas saw Joel and brought Joel to Cromo village. Joel was safe at Cromo village.

The end...sike!

Joel got tired on the way to Cromo village because he got struck by the thunderstorm. Now he's safe.

Twisters of Malibu County

By Legend Woods

Once there were four friends: Casey, Tilly, Kayliah, and Avah. They were having a sleepover party and at noon on Wednesday they were riding bikes and suddenly lightning struck! And the sky started to turn green. They didn't think about it because the sirens did not go off. But, 20 minutes later, THE SIRENS WENT OFF.

They all tried to bike home and then they had to cross the bridge right before they got home. They realized how much traffic was on the bridge. They had to be really careful because they were in such a rush and traffic was not moving so they went through the cars. Even though they were living a mid-life crisis, it was still really funny when Avah's bike hit a car. When they finally got home, they could not find Kayliah's mom or her dogs and cats. But, their mom and pets were already down in the basement with food, cookies, water, and of course snacks.

They heard the trash can fall over. Then they fell asleep and when they woke up they heard Kayliah's mom crying. They were all really cold and before they could even ask Kay's mom why she was crying or why it was so cold, her mom told them to look at the window and then they saw the window shattered. That is why it was so cold and then the radio said the tornado had passed and it was safe to go outside.

They all went upstairs and could not get the door open. When Kay's mom checked the cameras, they saw that they were trapped in the basement and the tornado was right over their house. The roof flew away with the tornado! They were all devastated.

The debris was right over the door. They were really locked in – just like in the movies. They were locked down there for like three days! They finally got out on day three by the fire department, police department, hospital, and a construction team. Even though they could have died, the girls were still happy that school was canceled. Be safe! :) <3 Book #2 coming soon!

Vegetables and Fruit

By Xavier Romero

Sometimes when you go to the supermarket, you find tomatoes, strawberries, and broccoli. You have to buy them to make soup or pasta. It's a lot of money and ingredients so we can cook and then eat. A lot of people use the kitchen to cook. When you cook, you might burn yourself if you're not careful.

Water Monster

By Jorge

There was a boy who was in school at 2:25 p.m. and he left at 3:15 p.m. Now he left and then he went into the woods. A couple hours later, he wanted water but he checked everywhere. He went through a path he saw this old strange guy he ran away from. He sat down and thought the old guy could help him and this time he was a waterbender so the little boy went back to the old guy and asked for help. The old guy showed him signs of water.

Then he did it, and he got water, but there was a water monster. The water monster was friendly. Then the water monster and the little boy became. They started living together. A couple days later, he was always wondering who his dad was. He thought it was the old guy or the water monster.

But he said there is no way it was a water monster. He was right, it was the old guy. And it took him a while to find his dad.

Now they are playing together. It was called a water monster and the funny thing is it actually would control the water monster. The little boy was cracking up. Then they went outside and it felt good over there because it was springtime!

Fifth Grade

A Very Gunter Christmas

By Wren McMaken

An Adventure Time Fanfic

Once upon a time, in the mighty Ice Kingdom sat a Penguin named Gunter and his master, the Ice King...

"You ready for the movie Gunter?" exclaimed Ice King.

"Wenk!" said Gunter excitedly.

The movie starts and they instantly hate it.

Three Hours Later

"That was a **terrible** movie, Gunter!" whined the Ice King.

"Wenk, wenk!" agreed Gunter.

"How about I read you my new Fionna And Cake novel?" asked the Ice King.

But before poor Gunter could respond, the Ice King had already started reading his **horrid** novel!

"Once upon a time, there was a girl named Fionna and a cat named Cake. One day while they were playing on their video game, BMO, their window flung open with an icy blast!"

"Wenk!" said Gunter, trembling from his seat under the table.

"Oh don't worry Gunter, it's not real! Although sometimes I wish it was. HINT HINT!" proclaimed the Ice king.

"Wenk, wenk, wenk!" interrupted Gunter, he did not want to hear the rest.

"Oh fine, fine Gunter. Be stubborn!" pouted the Ice King.

"WENKKKKKKK!" exclaimed Gunter.

"Fine, we can read your stupid story!" said the Ice King angrily.

Gunter's Tale

For English reasons, I will be translating some of Gunter's "wenks" into English.

"Once upon a time, there was an almighty penguin named Gunter. One day Gunter heard screaming and—" quacked Gunter.

"Gunter, these stories are supposed to be real!" Exclaimed the Ice King.

"Wenk?" said Gunter, utterly confused.

"Of course my stories are real! I know Fionna and Cake just exist in some distant alternate universe!" argued the Ice King.

"Wenk wenk wenk wenk!" Gunter argued back.

Soon enough their arguing came to an end. Although they were still mad and sitting on opposite sides of the room, in the end they both said sorry and went on with their icy day. Remember, true friends stick with you through all situations!

Translator's note: When I first started translating Gunter's "wenks" into English, I thought it would just be for one short story. But now, I know that it is my true life's passion. So far, I have published over five books on Gunter's incredible language of "Wenk, Wenk." Including, Gunter's Comebacks, The 7 Wenks of Meditation, Gunter's Pickup Lines, Wenk Rhyming Dictionary, Gunter's Skeletal Structure, A Wenk Biography, Gunter's Hypnotism Techniques, Gunter's Happy Little Accidents: A Painting Guide, and my latest book, The Language Tones of Wenk. I would highly recommend the language of, "Wenk, Wenk" for people who are trying to learn a new and exciting language. Though it can be hard at first, once you get the hang of it, it's really a beautiful and heartwarming language! After all of this, I have grown to appreciate the language of "Wenk, Wenk". Because of the enormous wealth I have acquired; my family has eaten well ever since.

Anna's Magical Flute

By Andrew Long

Once upon a time, in the woods lived an elf named Anna. The elf was alone in the forest living on plants and raw meat. The elf knew magic but could only do it with her magical flute, and she used the magical flute to defend herself as she explored the dangerous hollows of the caves in search of the magical plant so she wouldn't die of hunger.

While looking for the magical plant she found another elf, living in the cave.

"What...? Who are you and why are you here?" shyly said the elf.

"Hello my name is Anna, I'm looking for a magic plant so I don't die," said Anna.

"You-u aren't goin-n-ng to kill me-e, right?" said the shy elf.

"No I won't do that, why don't you help me find it?" said the calm Anna.

"Wel-l-l I do like finding things, but i-f you he-l-p me then you have to help me," said the shy elf.

"Ok I will, but can you first tell me your name?" said Anna.

"My na-m-e is Drake, and I need your help to find my friend Eric," said Drake.

"Of course I will help you!" said a helpful Anna. "Now let's go forth!"

So the team went on into the cave. After a few sharp turns, they found a minecart.

"Cool! Let's get on," said Anna. So they got on the minecart and zoomed forward. There were many dips, drops and stops.

"Oh No!" yelled Drake as the minecart was closing in on a jump into lava.

"Oh no what?" said a confused Anna.

"Just jump out of the cart before we get melted into candles," yelled a rather scared Drake.

They jumped out of the minecart in the nick of time and saw a towering elf.

"Took you long enough, I've been waiting for days and weeks for you Drake," said the towering elf.

"Oh so that's Eric," said a surprised Anna.

"No matter what took so long, we have to get out before the lava rises," said Drake.

Then they ran towards a doorway and got inside.

"Look! The magical plant!" yelled Anna.

She was just about to run towards it when she was stopped by a huge monster that bellowed, "WHO DARES TO STEAL THE MAGICAL PLANT?"

"Uh..." said Anna.

"YOU SHALL DIE!" yelled the monster, and then the fight began with Drake throwing some ice shards that the monster easily deflected and then grabbed Drake and put him in a cage. Then Eric tried to punch the monster but the monster grabbed him and tied him to the ceiling.

"Come on Anna you got this!" yelled Drake. Anna then played a song on her flute that turned the monster into the size of a jelly bean. She picked it up and threw it into the lava and then freed her friends after taking the magical plant.

"What a day!" Anna said as she walked up with her friends to the exit, and they never ever died from hunger again. The end.

Artist

By Evangeline Battle

Neva was talented. She knew everyone thought it (because everyone said it). Just last year, her parents had put her in two after-school art clubs and a prodigy art class. She didn't know why she smiled when the new kid, Amity, complemented her pencil sketch of a dragon.

"Wow, that's really good!" Amity chimed.

"Oh thanks—" she said happily.

"What's their name? Where are they from? Do they have any friends?" Amity cut Neva off with a heavy flow of questions about the drawing.

Neva ripped out the dragon from her sketchbook and crumpled it up. Amity was confused, but then the landscape around them changed into a dreamlike world.

Colors burst through trees and buildings. The dragon from the picture curled around distant mountains and came to a stop around the kids. *Ring Ring!* They had gotten lost in the wonder of it all, they had forgotten about recess (and the rest of lunch).

But before they went in, Amity picked up the crumpled up drawing off the ground and put it in her pocket.

Days, weeks, and then months went by. Drawings came to life and dreams came true. That was, until Neva got sick. She didn't come to school one day, but then she didn't come the next or the next. The color faded from the world they once knew. So Amity went to her house, but only her parents were there.

"Where is Neva?" she asked with worry in her voice.

"She's at the hospital," her mom responded

"Why!?" Amity persisted.

"She's sick, and we are getting some of her things to bring there," her dad responded, "oh and here you go! She said she didn't want it, like ever again," he said, handing her Neva's sketchbook.

Amity ran home, sketchbook in hand. She flipped through the pages, they were empty. She still had an idea. Amity grabbed a box and ran to the hospital. She ran up to Neva's room and opened the box. It was full of discarded drawings.

"Why did you keep these?" Neva asked weakly.

"Because they are amazing!" Amity exclaimed (a little too loudly).

"I can't draw anymore, everytime I try I just stop midway in."

"That's ok, you just need to find that magic you showed me," She responded.

"But none of it was real," Neva said glumly.

"It's only real if you believe, and I believe," Amity corrected.

"Really?"

"Yes! The only question is, do you?"

"I think I do," Neva chimed. Dragons and colors filled the otherwise dull room. Dragons lifted her up from the hospital bed. The next day she was back at school, and her sketchbook was filled to the brim with dragons and color. From then on, so was both of their lives.

Autumn

By Autumn Leary

One day, four friends and I were riding our bikes to the park. We saw a missing dog poster a few blocks down behind us. We soon saw a dog that looked quite similar. It's just like the one on the poster. I called, "Josie, come here!" And the dog ran to me. I stopped my bike and put it in my friend's basket on her bike.

My friends and I drove back down the block to see if there was a phone number. After we arrived my friend; Lisa and I hopped off of our bikes to see. There was no phone

number or address. But we did find out only the dog's collar had a phone number. I told Hollie to read out the phone number, so that I could type it out on my phone to call it.

Someone picked up, "Hello, Kristen speaking."

"Hello, My friends and I found your dog, Josie," I said.

"OH, yes, you guys saw my poster. I was so worried about her. Yes I can give my address if that's okay for you guys to drop her off at," Kristen said quickly.

"Yes," I said. "We'll be more than happy to drop her off. Just tell us the address and we'll be on our way."

"4213 E. Moore street," Kristen told us. "Okay, we are on our way. Kristen, right?"

"Yes," she said.

Hollie puts the address in her phone GPS, and all of us start driving. 60 minutes later, we arrived at Kristen's house.

"Jesus, that was a long drive. I wonder why her dog would be all the way down 20 miles?" Jaliyah said.

"FORREAL!" all the girls said in harmony.

We called the phone number.

"Hey Kristen, can you unlock the door please?"

"Hey Autumn, right? I don't see anybody outside of my house, and did you ladies make any extra stops, because where I posted the signs they shouldn't be that far away," Kristen said.

"Especially on bikes, since I walked through my neighborhood to post them."

"WHAT?" All the girls said in unison.

"Put me on the phone" Desiree said (since she's like the mom of our group).

"Hey this is Desiree, so um, what was the address you sent us?"

"Hello Desiree, I said 4213 E. Morse street."

"Okay thank you, I'll mute for a minute."

"ARE YOU GUYS KINDA DUMB? KRISTEN SAID MORSE STREET NOT MOORE STREET! WE JUST RODE OUR BIKES A WHOLE HOUR! NOW WE HAVE TO GO BACK. THIS IS WHY YOU GUYS HAVE TO LET ME APPROVE OF THE IDEAS! Y'ALL SAID WE WERE PICKING UP ONE OF OUR FRIENDS AND I DIDNT THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH! NOW HOLD UP!"

"Hey Kristen, so we got the wrong address, and since it's getting late and we'll have to drive another hour back to drop off your dog. Can we take her home, feed and clean her today and give her back tomorrow?"

"Yes, of course, you ladies seem trustworthy. Better than her just sitting on the streets!" Kristen says

As soon as we get to my house, we get the animal soap, a blow dryer, and a dog brush. We take the dog to my bathtub and turn on some luke-warm water. Lisa puts the dog in the bathtub and the dog sits.

"Good girl," Hollie says to the dog.

"Move," Jaliyah said to Lisa.

"Girl what are you talking about?" Lisa answers.

"I want to help wash the dog and you already did the first step. So move along."

"Y'all need to chill out before I have Autumn or Hollie wash the dog, because y'all are doing too much!" Desiree replies. "I'll let Autumn do it since she hasn't been yapping like you have, Jaliyah, and Lisa!"

"Thank you Desiree," I say as I gently push Lisa out the way.

15 minutes later we finished washing the dog and started towel drying her. Next, we take out my blow dryer and put on no heat. I passed the blow dryer to Hollie because she hasn't done much.

"You guys, we have to go to my basement to get my dog's old bed for Josie to sleep on tonight," I say.

"Okay," all the girls say.

We went to get the bed from the basement and we added food into the bowl for Josie and we went to my room with it.

"Good night Josie," I say followed by everyone else. Then all of us go to sleep around 3 a.m. We wake the next morning and check on Josie and add more food in her bowl.

"Y'all since it is around 10, should we go drop off Josie since she ate?" I asked.

"Yeah sure, and then we can head to the park after," Jaliyah answered. Me and all the girls get on our bikes and start driving to Kristen's house. About 15 minutes later we arrived.

"Hollie call Kristen, please."

"Hello, Kristen speaking."

"Hey Kristen we're here with Josie," Hollie said.

"Okay, I'm walking down stairs now!"

"Hi Josie!" Kristen says excitedly.

"We're so happy we could bring Josie back all nice and clean for you!" Lisa said.

"Thank you ladies. Hold up now and I'll go get a little thank you!" Kristen walks away. She comes back, "Okay ladies here's twenty dollars each for ya! I appreciate you guys so much!"

We all ride our bikes to the park and lock them.

"Do you guys wanna make a train on the slide?" I asked excitedly.

"YES!" All the girls added. 4 hours later, Desiree and I follow all the girls home because we live by each other, and we're the oldest.

"I had a nice weekend with you and the girls. It's not every weekend you just can find a dog and take it home," I laughed

We arrived at my house, "Thanks for riding me home, Desiree!"

"Of course, have a good night!"

Blueberry Pie

By Merina Martin

Boom! Ramona flinched. There had been a thunderstorm that day which, in most cases, would have been fine if they weren't home alone and had nothing to do. They, meaning the Rodriguez triplets, Ricardo (or also Ricky), River, and Ramona. Even though they were triplets, they were very different. River was known for crafting, Ricky his baking, and Ramona her athleticism. They did have one thing in common though, they all loved blueberries and especially blueberry pie. Ricky knew that they would be home alone, so, shortly after their mother left for a business trip, and their father left to go to the store, he got to baking.

River, who looked like he was crocheting the world's largest blanket, asked "Is the pie almost done?"

Ricky stood up from the comfortable couch.

"I'll go check," he said as he walked toward the kitchen.

The Rodriguez's home was welcoming. Each room contained a lot of a certain color in it, for example the living room was mainly green, the bathroom purple, the dining room yellow, the guest bedroom blue, the master bedroom red, and the kitchen orange. Ricardo looked at the timer on the oven and yelled back, "Seven and a half minutes!" Rumbling could be heard in the sky and in the triplet's stomachs.

"In any case we should do something to distract the hunger. I'm heading down stairs to play ping pong. Do you guys want to join?" Ramona asked.

"Of course!" River and Ricky exclaimed.

The family had gotten a ping pong table from a relative for the triplet's birthday one year. While most kids their age feared basements, the siblings loved theirs. It was where all the board games and puzzles were, it even had a large bookcase where the books were sorted by rainbow order, just like the house.

The three rushed down the stairs and ran towards the table.

"First to get 10 points wins!" River announced.

"You're on!" she said.

"3,2,1... Go!"

The ball bounced from side to side and just as it looked like River would win with an impressive 9 to 6, Ramona fought back and won!

"Just one more round?" River begged.

"No, but you're more than welcome to do this puzzle piece with me," Ramona replied.

Ricardo was messing with the old record player when he sniffed and said, "What's that smell?"

"Probably mold or something," Ramona responded.

"Yeah, probably..." Ricky mumbled.

The triplets were really good at puzzles too. While Ricky was organizing books, the others were trying to finish an 800 piece together.

They were somewhere near a quarter way finished when Ricky was done sorting the books and sat down to help with the puzzle.

"Huh! We can't hear the storm down here," River said while scanning the puzzle pieces carefully. Ramona listened closely and responded with, "You're right."

Mozart could be heard playing from the record player. Most of the records were classical because Ramona liked classical music and was the one who spends most of their time in the basement. Ricardo prefers K-pop and River likes rap.

"Eeny, meeny, miney, mo, catch tiger by the toe, if he hollers let him go, Eeny, meeny, miney, mo... No fair! I got a dictionary!" Ricky complained.

"At least it's better than nursery rhymes," River stated.

They had played a game where you can start at any book and play Eeny, meeny, miney, mo, and whatever book you land on you have to read. Ramona had gotten a cookbook, she wasn't particularly happy or anything but at least it was better than nursery rhymes. She wasn't big on cooking but the cookbook reminded Ramona of her aunt Lucia because she owned the family restaurant. Her aunt wasn't the type of person you forget easily, she had space buns, played the bassoon, had a pet turtle, and had ornithophobia. (A fear of birds.)

After about 15 minutes, River finished the nursery rhymes and brought out some playing cards to play solitaire.

"Guess what loquacious means?" Ricardo said.

"Does it have something to do with the ocean?" Ramona asked curiously.

"Wh-What? No, It means talkative."

Loquacious, it was a word river had only heard once before. The class was being as noisy as can be when the substitute teacher got tired of it and said, "Enough! Since you children are so loquacious, your next recess will be inside!"

He remembered thinking "What's that mean?" and "This teacher must be as old as dirt." River actually enjoyed owing recess because it gave him time to think about all kinds of things.

"Hey where's Pumpkin? I haven't seen him in a while," River asked. Pumpkin was the family cat and was known to disappear often.

"I'm not sure." said Ricky in a concerned voice.

Ding dong! The doorbell rang! "It must be dad!" they all thought in unison. They ran excitedly through the living room and straight to the door. Ramona peeked through the peephole and it was indeed their father. Ricky opened the door and father said "I come bearing groceries! How was the pie?"

It took them a minute to process what he just said. They sprinted to the kitchen and opened the oven to find a shriveled burnt pie and a blanket of smoke.

"Looks like someone left the pie in the oven too long," Dad said in a sad voice.

They opened the window to let out the smoke and they found Pumpkin outside without a drop of water on him. They stood there in disappointment deciding what to do.

"Hey at least we had fun! Plus we can just make another pie!" Ramona explained.

"You're right! I always have leftover ingredients!" The four went to the kitchen and got to work. They made a delicious blueberry pie.

Built for Death

By Sheikhnoor Osman

I was walking home from school, but on the way, I decided to go and get some snacks at the store. It was getting dark because I went to a friend's house for a bit. I was walking until suddenly I was knocked unconscious. I looked around and was surrounded by men with big suits and masks to cover their faces. They put something with wires on my head and electrocuted me. I screamed in agony as the electricity covered my body. The agents took off the wires and put a coke can in front of me. I was told to crush it, but I couldn't touch it.

I questioned them and insulted them, but they didn't react in any way. They told me to crush it with my mind.

"How?" I asked.

I had Powers? I was told to picture the can crushing, so I did. To my surprise, the can was crushed. I tried to harm the men, but I felt pain. They told me that harming them would cause harm to myself. I asked how, and apparently when I was unconscious they had placed a chip into my neck region which limited me from using my powers too much.

I realized if I wanted to escape, I had to get that chip out of my neck. I thought maybe I could get the chip out myself, but if I was seen trying, I would be shot since the guards were armed. The guards informed me that the reason this program was made is because they wanted to make a super spy in case of war because tension was high between the United States and Russia. I was laid down and put to sleep. The guards whispered information about the Russians, and suddenly I was there. They didn't know I was since I wasn't really there. I was theoretically astral projecting into another scene. I found out they also had a weapon, but it wasn't an animal or a machine, but a creature. The creature had very pale skin and was kept in a cold environment. I then proceeded to fall, and I ended up back where I was. I was asked what I saw and I gave them descriptions of the creature I just saw. They were just as surprised as I was since they didn't believe the Russians were advanced.

I decided to help these men even though they kidnapped me, but what they were doing was to save America. Their plan was to transport me to Russia somehow and face the creature head on. To do so, the chip had to be removed. I was knocked unconscious and the chip was removed from my neck. When I woke up, I was in a plane all by myself. This was before I knew it the plane was landing. I was then taken into a taxi and arrived at a laboratory. I went in but was asked why I was there. In a second, I flung a guard and instantly killed him. The loud noise alerted guards and I raised them and slammed their bodies on the floor. I took the guns and fired at the guards until I cleared out the wave.

What stood was a steel door. It took a lot of effort, but the door opened. I saw a creature that was rolled up. It had no eyes but it could sense me it was pale and when it roared rows of teeth as sharp as knives appeared. It stood up on its hind legs and it rose. I was in shock until it sprinted towards me. I quickly shot bullets at the creature. I dashed out of the room and the creature followed moving at incredible speed. I dashed into what seemed like a boiler room, and the creature squealed. The creature regained its balance and sprinted towards me. The creature's weakness was heat. I knew I had to use its weakness to my advantage. I ran in circles searching for the same boiler room until I found it. I decided to make a trap. I placed a

mannequin in the same room. The creature eventually found its way into the boiler room. It sprinted to the mannequin and tackled it. It clawed at the mannequin.

Just then, I closed the door, and I watched as the creature squealed and shook uncontrollably. I decided to attack it at its weakest. I opened the door and immediately opened fire on the creature. It stood up incredibly weakened. I dashed out of the boiler room and closed the door. The heat started to build up causing the creature to shake uncontrollably and collapse. I opened the door to get a closer look. The creature was indeed dead. I exited the boiler room to find all the dead guards, and realized could I have all along been the monster?

I walked out as if nothing happened knowing I took the lives of many people. What if it could have turned out a different way? I brushed it off and left. I found the plane. I arrived and I went in and we took off. The whole time I was wondering, could I have been the monster?

I took a deep breath and decided to just get some rest. When I woke up, it was dark outside and we were back. But the pilot must have left because I was alone in the plane. I exited the plane, and the group of men from before were there and they were heavily armed. They didn't want anything to be exposed to the media, so they decided they were going to get rid of me. I thought I'd escape, but I knew I couldn't escape. So, I accepted my fate. It was over. I was a weapon Built for Death.

Charley the Cat Who Saved Benjamin

By Meara Kuhns

I learned about my origin story from my dad's friend, Oliver, or as he's known in the village, the cat who saved christmas.

I now live in our human's – Sarah and Martin's house. This is the story of how I saved a little boy's life. I was a kitten back then and Oliver was still alive. Our human's friends had just had a human kitten and me and Oliver were invited to the party. We got to meet the human kitten and right from the start, I knew that he was special. He loved me so much that I spent most of my time at their house sleeping with him no matter how much energy I had.

He grew up with me and his first word was even my name! When he was 3, they went to the lake for 3 weeks and stayed in a cabin. Laura, Julian, and even Caroline let me go with them! Now, I don't always like water but for the human kitten who's name was Benjamin, I would jump into the ocean! The first day, I was terrified! Ben (being a baby) pushed me into the lake and for some strange reason, Nikki and Dan (Ben's parents) laughed! I didn't mind too much because like I have already said, I would jump into the ocean for Ben. I had a fun time in the water with Ben, he splashed me and so I splashed him back! After a few hours, we both got tired and so we napped for an hour or two.

The next day, I taught Ben how to cat paddle and we both showed Nikki and Dan. They were so impressed that the very next day, they took the puffy bits that were supposed to keep Ben floating, off! Ben had a lot of fun paddling with me. But because it's harder to cat paddle without puffy bits on your arms than with puffy bits on your arms, we had to take breaks often. Nikki and Dan trusted me so much that they would go inside even when we were in the water! We had so much fun at the lake and Nikki and Dan were letting Ben go into deeper and deeper water as long as someone was there to watch him.

At the beginning of the trip, he wasn't allowed to go in water higher than his waist and he wasn't even allowed to go into the water without his puffy bits on but by now, he could go into water above his head with no puffy bits! On the last day of the trip, Ben went to the deepest part of the lake. Nikki and Dan were inside. I bet you can see where this is going. Ben started drowning and crying! But then, Ben stopped crying, he hadn't died, he had just passed out. Quickly I swam to Ben and started pulling him to the shore. Don't ask me how I did it, even when I was very tired, but I did. By the time me and passed-out Ben were almost to the shore, Nikki and Dan had come out.

And so I was known as the cat who saved Benjamin from drowning.

***Cheeks the Squirrel and the Revenge of the Dragon**

By Gabriel Rohr-Smith

One day Cheeks was chilling in his tree eating some acorns and listening to Weird Al Yankovic. He was thinking, "I am living my best life."

Cheeks was about to doze off when he heard the ground rumble, but Cheeks being a squirrel, anything that walked, rumbled, so he was not particularly worried. Little did he know that rumble would change his life forever.

Three years ago, he had adventures with Mander, the kung fu sloth. They fought off the Notorious Midnight Dragon and sealed the dragon in its cave. But now, suddenly, a giant claw grabbed Cheeks and threw him up in the air.

Cheeks thought to himself, "Could that be the dragon? But that's not possible. We locked him in his cave forever."

Sadly, it was true. The dragon's low voice threatened, "You locked me in my cave and now I will have my revenge! I will target everything you hold dear, your precious acorns, AND your Weird Al Yankovic!"

Cheeks gasped. Then, the dragon chucked Cheeks into a tree, and, exhausted, Cheeks fell asleep.

When Cheeks woke up, he thought about his problem for a long time. He decided he would track down the dragon and defeat it for good. Cheeks grabbed a backpack and put inside three things: acorns, CDs of Weird Al, and a boombox.

Before he left, Cheeks reviewed the facts he knew about the dragon: it protected its tower, could fly, had claws, and its two weaknesses were Weird Al music and acorns.

Knowing this, Cheeks carefully set off along a path to find the dragon. He saw some vines hanging off a tree and had an idea. He would make a catapult and launch his boombox playing Weird Al to lure out the dragon. The vines would be crucial to his plan. Cheeks stuffed them into his backpack and continued on his way.

By this time, it was getting dark out. Cheeks needed shelter because there were many dangerous things in the forest. Then, he heard a howl in the night. Cheeks climbed up the nearest tree he could find. The howling was getting closer. Frightened, Cheeks fell asleep.

Cheeks awoke to a voice saying, "Do you think I can eat it?" Another voice answered, "Maybe. I think it's dead."

Cheeks opened his eyes to be startled by the faces of two falcons.

"Ah! It's alive!" the falcons screamed.

"Who are you?" Cheeks asked.

"We're Thunder and Lightning."

"Why were you trying to eat me?"

"To be fair," Thunder said. "We thought you were dead."

Cheeks said, "I'M NOT DEAD! I'm looking to defeat the Notorious Midnight Dragon and I need to build my catapult to defeat him."

"We want to come with you," said the falcons.

"That's fine," said Cheeks.

The trio soon came to a clearing where there was a stack of wood. Cheeks exclaimed, "Why, this is exactly what I need."

"I don't know," said Lightning. "Something about this is fishy."

"What could possibly go wrong?" said Thunder. "We just take what we need and get out of here."

So Cheeks and the falcons went to get some wood. Then they heard a click and the trio was in a net.

"We're trapped!" yelled Cheeks.

"Or are we?" said Thunder and Lightning.

Using their talons and beaks, they cut the net. Quickly, Cheeks grabbed three planks of wood and stuffed them in his backpack. Then Cheeks said, "Now we need a catapult arm. Where are we going to find one of those?"

"I know a place," said Lightning. "There's a giant park that has tons of them."

"How will we get there?" asked Cheeks.

"We could fly," said Thunder.

"What about me?" screamed Cheeks.

"Too bad for you," said Lightning.

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?" screamed Cheeks.

"I'm kidding," said Lightning. "You could ride on my back."

Cheeks climbed aboard Lightning's back and they flew through the sky, zipping through clouds and diving in circles, until they made it to the park. They landed and Cheeks took a look around.

"Wow, I've never been here," he exclaimed.

Then, he saw it: the perfect metal catapult arm – which was a spoon. Cheeks rushed over to it and put it into his bag. Then, a group of pigeons surrounded Cheeks.

"That's ours," one called. "Give it back."

"No, I need it for my catapult," said Cheeks.

He jumped over the pigeons onto Thunder's back and flew away. Flying over neighborhoods, they made it to an open clearing. Cheeks opened his backpack and assembled his catapult with the spoon, wood, and vines. Then he popped a Weird Al CD into his boombox, put it into the spoon, and released – launching the boombox high into the air.

"Who dares play this music in my territory?" a bellowing voice called.

Up in the clouds above, the trio saw the immense shape of the dragon.

"I do," shouted Cheeks. "I challenge you!"

Then, Cheeks put himself in the catapult and launched himself high into the air. Cheeks loaded himself with acorns and then began to fire.

"Aha!" bellowed the dragon. "You know my biggest weakness – acorns."

But then gravity started to kick in, and Cheeks started to fall like a meteor back toward the ground.

"Help!" screamed Cheeks. "Thunder and Lightning, save me!"

Somehow, Cheeks landed on their backs and again started to barrage the dragon with acorns. Each one struck with deafening accuracy.

"It's going to take more than that to take me down," the dragon said, summoning lightning bolts upon Cheeks and his friends.

Cheeks did not give up. He kept barraging the dragon with acorns. And then he realized he had one Weird AI CD left. He had one last chance.

He chucked the CD at the dragon, and hit the dragon smack dab in the middle of the face. The dragon exploded into pink confetti.

The lightning stopped, and Cheeks fell off Thunder and Lightning.

And as he fell, he fell asleep.

Chloe and Jaelyn 1 & 2

By Jaelyn Manns

Chapter One: The Beginning of the End..

Me and Jaelyn have been "bffs" for...I don't know how long, but from August, 20, 2023, we have been bffs. We have had our ups and downs, but we had WAY more ups than downs.

Last year, we had a sleepover and it was really fun. People know us from another book where we were bffs in that too. Just see us in two years. I wonder where we'll be then. I think we could be famous...or working on that.

I remember when it was an open house and those stairs were killing my feet and my feet were about to fall off! I took a break and I remember when we first met and I have to say, that was TRASH.

Anyways, we had A LOT to do and to talk about just because we were bffs (and still are). So, I guess we're going to write about the end of this year and the start of the next.

Well, right now, I'm just listening to my teacher, Mr. N, who's reading, and Jaelyn is in another classroom learning, but we have the Ohio State Test to see if we can go to the fifth grade and I hope I did a good job on it. It was SO long and SO quiet. We have about 28 days until we are on break and can't wait because we are going to have so much fun and we are going to document it all.

Right now, we are just chilling in the classroom and being GOOFYYYY! And anyways, we are going to text ALL weekend we are going to call and do.. Well.. stuff. Ya know, like cooking, and screaming and laughing and Jaelyn slapping her face and— just us being bffs. We MIGHT record it, and you can meet us on our social media pages, we'll put them on the back of the book.

We're back, and maybe a little late, but we're here and it's been 2 months since the last time we wrote here? Anyways, there's 5 more days left of school and it's gonna be..just fine.

Hey. It's us. CHLOE AND JAELYN. One day before we have to go. I'm gonna miss her. We're gonna be bffs forever. Today is tie dye day! My teacher is very annoying. Me and Chloe were talking and he only yelled at ME. Not Alice, though she was like across the whole classroom. It's not fair. Today was so fun, except, Jaelyn wasn't listening to me. We were making a box with a cardboard square, and she just stopped listening and did her own thing! And I didn't really get mad but I was like "Jaelyn! That's not what we're doing...uh!"

I DID apologize, but she left and ignored me to talk to the girl that we don't quite see eye-to-eye with, like, at all. We went to lunch and we got cool again. The rest of the day was pretty cool except for the end. It was sad because I might move schools, we all cried at the end. Jaelyn probably still thinks I'm moving schools, and that's why she's crying. Our friend, Maddie, said she was moving in eighth grade, and you best Believe, I CRIED. and NOW its summer break!

I just can't wait for Lleyton's and Jaelyn's birthday. That's what I've been waiting for.

Chapter Two: It All Begins..

IT'S FINALLY SUMMER! THIS SUMMER'S GOING TO BE SO FUN! And plus, there are two birthday parties we are going to, and both are pool parties, which is my birthday party, and Lleytons. Today is the day we're going to Lleytons birthday. I'm texting Chloe about it RIGHT now!

Two hours later..

Alright! It's time to go and we're on our way, and me and Jaelyn showed up at the same time. It was great, and we both walked in together. We got our wristbands and got in the pool. It was really fun. We saw all our friends, and it was really fun. We ate pizza, cupcakes, and swam! At one point, I did take in a lot of water, and drowned a little but it's okay, because it was the second most fun pool party I've ever been to.

Only 14 days until my birthday party! And Chloe and I went on an obstacle course and Chloe didn't know how to swim, so they had to save her. Right when I got done with the obstacle thing, Karter and Henley came. Karter was at a soccer game and Henley came along. You guys know they are BEST. FRIENDS. So yeah, they both showed up at the SAME time and our moms were talking, and Chloe was over there with them because they had to rescue her out of the water and stuff.

8 days later...

Hey! Today is June 7, 2024. Me, Maddie, and Jaelyn are all on the phone talking about what we're going to do. I feel like it's gonna be the most FUN pool party/sleepover EVER.

First, we are going to swim, and then eat pizza and cupcakes. Then, we are going back to Jaelyns' house and get our makeup done and then watch a movie together with her step sister, Katie. It's gonna be fire!

Well. This IS a great ending, yet it's not over. I can't quite write a lot due to the fact that the limit is 1000 words. So we'll see what happens next in Jaelyn Manns book.

For you, it may be...we'll see, but for others, it's...

To be continued...



First Draft:



Emerging Writers Competition

PART 2

Hey guys!! If you're reading this you probably (should have) read the first book! —Made by Chloe Ragland—

Together, we make a pretty cool duo. Now, we will begin.

Now, we are at the sleepover. I'm having a birthday sleepover. I invited Chloe, Maddie, and one of my other friends who were supposed to come but her mom had work so she didn't have time to drop her off.

First I saw Lleytons mom. She helped us set up the birthday party and everything. At first, it was raining and we had to wait. That was so annoying, but at least I got to play with Lleyton and his toys. And then it stopped raining and Maddie came. We played in the pool until my best friend came, Chloe. And so we all played in the water. I splashed everyone like 62.5 billion times, so like yeah. And then we got on a play course. After that, we had cupcakes. And then we played a little more.

"5 minutes and the pool is over, I repeat, 5..."

As soon as we heard that , Chloe and I FLEW over to Maddie's mom, to ask if she could stay the night because her mom was still thinking about it. (She never got to spend the night.) When the entire pool was closing, me and my little brother were still playing, and then Chloe's mom said yes, and mine did too. So then Chloe had to go back home and get clothes for the shower. Then we went to my house and set up while waiting for Chloe to come.

When she came, we waited for a while for my mom's best friend, Shianna, to come. When Shianna came, we made mocktails. Then we waited 10 minutes and she did our makeup. After that, we ate pizza and did karaoke. B I broke the microwave handle...I yanked it off and I was so shocked. I don't quite have enough time to finish, but this is the second part and my book to Chloe and Jaelyn.
By Chloe Ragland.

Thank you for reading and if you would like more, Stay tuned! Because this story is to be continued!

Dreams

By Theo Jones

One day Karl and Jonathan were sitting at a table talking.

"Hey Jonathan, do you still have the locator? We need *IT*!" said Karl.

Karl and Jonathan lost something. God knows where and they have to find *IT*, they don't know where it is, but they are determined to find *IT*.

"John lets go, we can't waste time we need to find *IT*," said Karl.

Karl calls Jonathan – John – for short. He's ok with the nickname.

"Ok let's go!" said John as he grabbed the locator and gear. Karl and Jonathan get in the car and leave, Jonathan uses the locator to track the thing they're looking for.

"Karl, why does it say it's moving?" said John.

"That means someone must have *IT*," said Karl as he drove.

Karl and Jonathan get to where the locator told them to go, and they arrive at an abandoned house.

"Karl, the locator says to go down," said Jonathan.

"But there's no basement. How do we go down?" said Karl, confused.

"Wait let's try the pull-a-book-out, a secret door opens thing," said Jonathan jokingly.

"John that would never work in real life like what the chan-," Karl leans on a wall and a secret door opens and Karl falls down the stairs. "AHH!" screamed Karl.

"Hahahahaha – Karl you good?" said Jonathan, but no one answered.

"Karl...KARL!" screamed Jonathan as he ran down the stairs.

As Jonathan got down the steps, something or someone knocked him out.

"Kar-" said Jonathan before he hit the ground." Jonathan wakes up in a bed, he has no clue where he is but he needs to find *IT*.

"Karl you here?" said Jonathan looking around.

Jonathan finds a note on the wall. Jonathan looks at the note and reads it, "Jonathan this is Karl you need to find *IT*! Don't care about me, keep your determination. Jonathan - stay determined.

"Ok Karl, I understand I will find *IT*, we need it. But I will come back for you, I swear," said Jonathan.

Jonathan walks out of the room but he can't stop thinking about Karl. YOU WON'T SAVE HIM YOU WON'T SAVE HIM. At this point Jonathan is getting mad.

"No, I will save him. I will use *IT* to find him!" said Jonathan as he's filled with determination. Jonathan puts his hood up as he walks. He gets to a long hallway where he sees Karl.

"Karl?" said Jonathan, but Karl disappeared. He was just a hallucination.

"Are you kidding me?" Jonathan looks down the hallway and sees someone.

"Oh hi..I think I know you," said Jonathan, but he doesn't respond.

"So tell me...do you think anyone can be a good person if they just try?" said Jonathan.

"Ya...but not me..." said the person.

"So who are you?" said Jonathan. "Why do you need to know?" said the person.

Jonathan takes a minute to think.

"I don't know, really," said Jonathan.

"But what I do know is that...Karl is here. I might need *IT*, but I also need to get Karl," said Jonathan as he loses hope.

"Hey man calm down, you got another page to find him," said the person.

One page later, Jonathan walks away from the person.

"Where are you Karl?" said Jonathan, knowing no one would respond to what he said.

"Do I really need *IT*? I mean it's not that special," said Jonathan.

Out of nowhere Karl walks in.

"John, where were you? I have been trying to find you," said Karl.

"KAR!L" screamed Jonathan. "Wow man, what's wrong," said Karl.

Jonathan wakes up. Yes, you read that right he woke up. It was a dream the entire time. I know, I know, it's a bad plot twist, but here's the thing... you will NEVER know what *IT* was. Only I will know because you know, I'm the one writing this right now..

Well good story, huh? THE EN- ha - did you think it was over, nah.

"Karl," said Jonathan as he woke up.

"Bro go back to bed it's like 2 a.m.," said Karl.

"Sorry if I woke you up," said Jonathan.

"It's ok bro," said Karl.

"Well, good night bro," said Jonathan.

"Good night."

Now before it ends, I will tell you what *IT* was. *IT* was...NOTHING. Yep, again you read that right - NOTHING! You got tricked into reading the entire story for NOTHING, but for real this time, THE REAL END.

Falling Stars

By Litzzy Garcia

"Sparrow, you have been chosen to save the Breeze tribe..." said a voice.

"Is this...the Star tribe?" asked Sparrow.

"Indeed I am from the Star tribe, Sparrow," replied the voice.

"A-Are you StarGazer?" she asked.

StarGazer smiled and nodded. "You must find the Waterfall of Peace and the Falling Stars tribe as well," StarGazer said. "

"THE FALLING STARS TRIBE?! THAT TRIBE HAS BEEN GONE FOR.. LIKE... FOUR MOONS!!!" screamed Sparrow.

StarGazer sighed as his daughter was complaining about finding the long-lost tribe. "WOULDN'T MY BROTHER BE BETTER FOR THIS? I'M JUST A HEALER!!!" complained Sparrow.

"SPARROW! I chose YOU not Oak. Claw, you will find that tribe or all the tribes shall die!" interrupted StarGazer.

"Fine but can I at least have a partner? This would be a job for more than one wolf anyway," asked Sparrow.

"BlizzardHeart shall accompany you then," StarGazer accepted.

"I wish you well, Sparrow," he said.

Chapter 1

"Sparrow, wake up, it's time for you to get your name!" SnowStorm said.

Sparrow woke up and stretched and went to the ceremony where OakClaw and HydroStar, the leader, waited for her.

"This young wolf has trained hard to get her full healer's name. Sparrow, do you promise to heal all wolves for the rest of your life and protect your tribe even at the cost of your own life?" HydroStar asked.

"I do, HydroStar," Sparrow replied.

"Then by the powers of the Star tribe you shall be known as SparrowWing!" HydroStar joyfully said.

"SparrowWing! SparrowWing! SparrowWing!" Cheered all the wolves.

Chapter 2: In the Forest

"BlizzardHeart, I have to tell you something..." SparrowWing said shyly.

"What's up Sparrow?" BlizzardHeart said curiously. "I got a message from the Star tribe, and I'm supposed to go with you to find the Falling Stars tribe and the Waterfall of Peace," SparrowWing said.

BlizzardHeart flattened his ears and looked shocked.

"The F-Falling Stars tribe?" he whispered.

"Yup!" SparrowWing assured.

"Waterfall of peace?" he asked.

"You got it!" SparrowWing said awkwardly.

"You and me?" he asked again.

"Yeah..." SparrowWing whispered.

"Who told you?" BlizzardHeart asked.

"My father, StarGazer," SparrowWing replied.

"StarGazer gave me a dream too!" BlizzardHeart said.

"I've got to go! I'm from the Breeze tribe and you're from the Forest tribe!" SparrowWing yelled.

"We leave at midnight and we meet up here again to plan our mission. UNDERSTOOD?" SparrowWing said.

"Yes ma'am!" BlizzardHeart said teasingly.

Chapter 3

SparrowWing waited for BlizzardHeart to show up. But suddenly, she got pinned down from behind. "GET OFF!" she screamed.

When she opened her eyes she saw BlizzardHeart laughing.

"Got you good didn't I?" he laughed.

SparrowWing, however, felt...traumatized. It reminded her of how her tribe almost died. BlizzardHeart remembered and knew he messed up. BADLY.

"SparrowWing snap out of it!" BlizzardHeart said worried.

"Huh?" she asked. "Oh, let's get planning!" she said.

"Okay you kept it a secret right?" she asked.

"Yup!" he replied.

"What do we do next?" SparrowWing asked.

"Probably find shelter," BlizzardHeart said.

As both ventured into the woods, they found a good small cave that was buried into the ground.

"This should be good for now," SparrowWing said as she made the moss beds.

"SparrowWing? Do you smell that?" BlizzardHeart asked.

Suddenly a bear roared as it tried to get in the cave.

"Go to the back, it can't reach us there!" BlizzardHeart yelled.

As SparrowWing backed up the bear almost clawed her face. SparrowWing screamed as she ran to the back of the cave. At last the bear left at night.

Chapter 4

"Let's go to their former camp to follow their scent, it might be stale but it's worth a try!" whispered SparrowWing. As they both went to the Falling Stars camp they scented a wolf nearby. They followed the wolf scent silent as the wind and found out it was a Falling Stars tribe healer!

"Hey trespassers! Get out of our territory or you'll pay the consequences!" snapped the healer.

"We're no threat, our names are BlizzardHeart and SparrowWing, and the Star tribe sent us to find your tribe and bring you guys back!" explained both. The healer gasped and told them that he had a vision that they were coming to save them and all 5 tribes.

"By the way I'm StormHeart!" the healer said.

"Welcome to the Falling Stars tribe!" he said. Both gasped in shock. Suddenly...

"StormHeart, who are these wolves?" said a deep voice.

"GrassShadow! These are the w-wolves from m-my d-dream," StormHeart said in terror.

"How do you know these are the wolves?!" snapped GrassShadow.

"Guards throw them into the prisons!" he ordered.

"Hold still you..." said a guard as they pushed them into the den.

"What? No! Please don't leave us here," begged SparrowWing.

"Throw StormHeart in there too, that traitor trying to spy on us," murmured GrassShadow.

"GrassShadow! WHAT is the meaning of THIS?" screamed a high pitched voice.

SparrowWing, BlizzardHeart, and StormHeart covered their ears.

"GoldenStar! These spies were--"

"NONSENSE, StormHeart would never betray his tribe like THAT," she yelled.

"But StormHeart, who are these wolves?" she asked calmly.

"The wolves from my dream, SparrowWing and BlizzardHeart," he replied.

"Wonderful! You shall save the tribes from SharpstoneStar and the Dead tribe!" GoldenStar said with a hint of relief.

"SharpstoneStar? Dead tribe?" asked SparrowWing.

"We will explain everything when we're safe but for now... we, just, RUN!" screamed GoldenStar as a pack of wolves ambushed them. When all were safe they explained everything to BlizzardHeart and SparrowWing.

"Quick question: where is the Waterfall of Peace?" asked SparrowWing.

"It's near the Great Clidear," replied GoldenStar.

Epilogue

"BlizzardHeart! It's--it's here! THE WATERFALL OF PEACE!!!" squealed SparrowWing.

"Survivors of the Breeze tribe, we have a new home!" HydroStar announced.

Later that night...

"You did it Sparrow, you did it," said StarGazer. "Father, I couldn't have done it without BlizzardHeart," replied SparrowWing.

"Good-bye, Sparrow," he said.

"Farewell father," SparrowWing said. They hugged in farewell.

Fire Catcher

By Gracelyn Wishloff

My hair flew wet in the air as I ran home. It was a long day of hanging at the creek with my friends and sure enough I still had to do my chores with mum.

As I sped home, I heard a familiar voice, it was Ms. Wenfred, the cranky neighbor. Of course, she wasn't cranky, just all the kids who lived on Shore Lane pretended she was an old cranky lady.

"Now you listen here Miss Addison! While you goofed off with your friends at the creek, your mama had to take your sister to music lessons, cook food, and make all the candles for the day to sell tomorrow!"

"I'm sorry Ms. Wenfred, I'll tell my mum I'm going to do twice the chores the next day."

"You sure better be! Your mama is worried sick 'bout you! Now run along and help her out," she said in her croaky voice.

I did not answer her, I just ran home as soon as possible, her voice is filled with chills.

As I got home to the sweet smell of my mum's cooking, I was lightened by her sweet soft voice, a voice that was soft daisies and chocolate.

"Addison dear, would you please set the table and tell your sister dinners ready?"

"Of course mum."

I helped set the table and went up to tell my sister dinner was ready. Once everyone sat at the table, our sister decided to tell us what she saw at music class this afternoon at sharp.

"There was another riot mom, the English and Britain be fighting again, some kids say they are burning their places down in the north."

I shivered with fear, what if they were coming after us?

Mama saw my fear and responded to it by saying, "Now there Addison, it's all fake, some kids just probably told your sister a false story."

"But mom! It's true, I saw the American and the British fighting!"

My mum gave my sister a glance and that meant it was enough.

Mum sent me and my sister to bed. I usually fall asleep fast but something was off. I know my sister very well, and she would not lie about this stuff, would she?

The night came and went, and of course, my sister had to jump on my bed to wake me up.

"WAKE UP SIS! Ugh, I hate being the older one, having to do all the work, sigh."

"You mean by work you mean torturing me?"

"Oh come on sis, it's the weekend! I'm going to my friend's house while you can, play fairies with your friends at the creek..."

"Hey! I don't play fairies, plus I don't hang out with those popular girls, sixth grade is annoying."

"Glad we can agree on that, well bye!"

I gave an awkward face, I'm good at making faces.

I was able to get to the creek to see my friends, Allie, Jay, and Kenzie.

"Hey guys! How ya doing?" I greeted in a friendly tone.

"Just fine," responded Jay.

We played around for a bit when we heard some yelling, "The British are coming, run, run!"

"Is this some prank, ha?" questioned Allie.

We were all quiet for a minute.

"Something's off, what should we do?" asked Kenzie.

"We should check it out of course, unless you guys are scared of a prank,"

"I- I'm not scared!" cried Jay, but he seemed very worried.

So we checked it out, of course pranks don't do harm, right?

If only I could be so wrong, a scorching red flame emerged from the tar ground. I stared in shock, my heart sank. Could this really be happening?

Then I realized mum and sis were still at home, without thinking I rushed all the way through the streets, all the way to the other side of town.

Then I saw it, smoke rose in front of my house.

My eyes widened, my chest grew huge. Was mum and sis still in there?

Next, I heard coughing, I looked at the front door, and sis ran out.

"Sis, are you alright? Where's mum?" I asked in a scared tone.

"I'm alright, but mums inside!" she cried.

Sweat dripped down my chest, I saw the fires continue to burn. I rushed inside.

"Mum! Are you here?"

Fog started to surround me, I couldn't breath but I continued.

Rushing past the debris, "Mum! Mum!"

Then all of a sudden I saw a deep figure.

"Mum!"

I rushed to the figure.

"A-Addison?"

"Mum!"

"What are you doing?"

"Trying to get you out of here, come on!"

We kept running and running. I saw mum run outside, I was just behind her but something happened, a thud. It was a blur but I looked up and saw something fall at me, then everything darkened, what's going on?

I gasped, I looked up and saw mum and sis.

"Are you okay?" quickly asked my sister with tears falling down her cheeks.

"Is that you mum and sis, what's going on?"

"You're alive!" They both cried.

It was a blur for me but apparently debris fell on me and I was rushed to the hospital after people found me.

They said I was going to wear a cast for a few months, I would make a full recovery but I still feel the pain.

Then the British and the Americans went to war. We won and finally got the freedom we deserved.

People to this day when I walk around the park call me a hero for saving my mum, I'll never forget that day for certain.

From Drawings to Real Life

By Nia Mitchell

In a nonexistent world, there was a girl named Elispa. Elispa was 12 and lived with her dad. Elispa has always been good at art, so much that anything she draws looks like a photo. One night, after finishing a drawing of a dog, she went to sleep, only to wake up to the same dog licking her. Confused, she turned on the light and saw that her drawing of the dog was gone and off her paper.

She then realized that anything she drew came to life. The dog started barking in excitement, which worried her because her dad may have woken up. Hiding the dog, she went back to sleep.

Planning to pretend to be sick and skip school, the next morning she wanted to test her new abilities. She drew wings on the dog, just for fun. With that, the newly excited dog flew right out the window. Chasing it, she ran down the entire block only to find out the dog went right to her school. She got distracted seeing a kid pouting over a bad grade, and decided to help him. She drew him a calculator for all subjects, so he could never get an answer wrong.

When she started to chase the dog again, she ran past a teacher's room where she spilled all her coffee and none was left. Elispa made a coffee cup that never ran out of coffee to try and help. Before catching the dog, she overheard the favorite teacher stressing about being "too nice" to the students and letting them get away with not finishing their work. She heard her say she is losing money and she might get fired. Hearing this, Elispa felt so bad that she drew her \$10,000. Seeing the money, she was very thankful to her.

After she caught the dog, and discovered all the ruckus it made, she quickly led it out of the school. Since everyone had already seen her at school, she wasn't able to fake skipping. Instead, she got a neighbor that was good at keeping secrets to watch the dog, so she could go to school. The child she helped always got good grades, but everyone else failed. The teacher drank too much coffee and got sick, and the favorite teacher retired because of the money Elispa gave her, making all the students sad. Elispa realized that when life gives you something, it doesn't mean you always use it. In the end, Elispa buried the notebook and let the dog go free in the wild. Elispa learned a valuable lesson she wouldn't forget.

Friends & Fire

By Damilare Adeyeye

RUN! FIRE! Hailey dashed out of the door, and fled outside. While Summer was helping up Zeke, whose leg was stuck under the kitchen chair. The fire was rapidly spreading throughout the level above them. Smoke was filling up the room. James collected all the valuable things in the apartment and put them in a bag, knowing that soon everything would turn into ash, including them if they didn't get out fast. Hailey sent the three other friends a text message saying, "Meet me at Jen Connell Airport, or don't."

Once they were finished, Zeke grabbed James' mom's car keys.

"Guys, LET'S GO," Zeke said. Summer replied by saying, "You're only fourteen years-old Zeke."

"So what!?" Zeke yelled.

"You can't drive - that's illegal! Are you crazy!" Summer started.

"It's not like we have anyone here to tell us that! James' mom went to work, and-" wait, MY MOM IS AT THE STORE! We need to warn her about the fire," James yelled.

"My parents just texted me and said that I should meet them at the Charlsons Airport before 7:00 p.m.," Summer said.

"I'll come with her," said James.

"NO I will," yelled Zeke.

"I can go to the airport by myself, chill out guys," said Summer, knowing that Zeke was clearly envious of James.

While running, Summer noticed that firefighters were everywhere, and everyone was screaming and crying. But wait, Summer saw a little boy roaming around the street. He was all by himself and kept bumping into things. The little boy also looked terrified, not knowing what was going on.

Then Summer ran up to him, thinking he was blind, she waved her hand in front of his face. And surprisingly he didn't respond! Summer waves again and said, "Hello?" and the little boy replied by saying, "Yes, who are you?"

"I'm Summer and my friend here is James."

"Ok Summer," the little boy said.

"My name is Alex."

"Hey kid, are you blind?" James asked.

"Yes."

"Let's take him with us!" Summer said. James picked up Alex and both them and Summer kept going to rescue James' mom.

At last, the three kids arrived at James' mom's work. They tried to get in but guards were blocking the door. Summer made a plan, she would distract the guards while James and the little boy got in. James liked the plan so he agreed to it.

"Ok so when the guards look away, I'm going to wink twice and when I do so, you guys get in."

"Seems good," James replied.

"Hey officers," Summer yelled.

"Hey girl, are you lost or something?" One of the guards said.

"No, I just want to talk," Summer said.

"Urm... ok I guess," said the other guard.

While Summer was talking, Alex and James started becoming impatient. Then finally, Summer winked twice and Alex and James walked swiftly to the door. They ran up to the third floor and went to James' mom's office. Luckily she was there. They told her to come with her and she did. Summer went to Charlsons airport. While the other three went to the Jen Connell airport. All of them safely arrived in a different state, that was luckily not on fire! They all met up and gladley Summer said, "Now that's a happy ending."

Goldilocks' Death

By Josephine Mya Scott

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Goldilocks who became friends with three bears: Baby Bear, Mommy Bear and Daddy Bear. One day, Goldilocks and her mother walked to Mr. and Mrs. Bear's house for dinner.

"They're here," Baby Bear exclaimed with excitement!

"Welcome, come in," Mommy Bear said as Goldilocks and Baby Bear wandered off to play.

In the Bear's house there was yellow wallpaper and paintings of Bears and flowers on the wall. In the dining room there was a small chair, a medium sized chair, a big chair and two chairs that looked just the right size for Goldilocks and her mother.

"For dinner, we will be having mammal soup and cooked fish," daddy bear stated.

"We are going to have berry pie for dessert," Baby Bear blurted out.

"Yay my favorite," said Goldilocks with excitement.

"You two run off and play in the garden while we finish up making dinner," Daddy Bear said as he picked up a pot and put it on the stove. The garden had beautiful

tulips and roses. The grass was bright green and there were beautiful berry bushes lining a stone pathway.

"Your garden is beautiful," said Goldilocks.

"Do you want to play in the forest? We can collect some dandelions for tea," said baby bear.

"Ok," smiled goldilocks as they ran off into the forest.

The forest had huge oak trees that towered over Goldilocks and baby bear.

"Look, I found some mushrooms."

"Nice, I found some wild onions," said Baby Bear.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!" Goldilocks high-pitched scream echoed through the forest, as she fell down a long spiral hole.

"Goldilocks, no!" Screamed Baby Bear.

"What happened, where's Goldilocks?" her mother wondered as she ran into the forest.

"Sh-she fell down a hole," baby bear cried out.

"Where's the hole?" said Goldilocks mother as Mr. and Mrs. Bear ran up behind her.

"I-I swear it was here," said Baby Bear who was still recovering from the tragic event.

"Well let's go and eat dinner. I don't think you're going to see your daughter again," Mommy Bear said, starting to cry. Dinner was very quiet that night. The bears and Goldilocks mother started planning the funeral.

"I am going to go home early," said Goldilocks mother with a little cry.

The next week the funeral took place in Hum Village at the church. It was a cold, cloudy day and it seemed like no one wanted to wake up.

"Thank you for coming to Goldilocks' funeral," said the pastor. "She will rest next to her cousin, little Red Riding Hood who got eaten by a wolf."

"Is that so?" said a man in a hood that was seated in the corner.

The man took off his cloak and it almost looked like he grew.

"Ahhhhhhh, it's a wolf," a woman screamed.

Everyone started to run out of the building as the wolf gobbled up people one by one."

"Yes, I am that wolf, the wolf that ate little Red Riding Hood and I will eat the rest of you!"

That day, the wolf did eat the rest of the people including the Bears. Goldilocks' mother managed to get out before she could get eaten. From that day on, everyone said that Goldilocks' mother would probably never recover.

They whispered, " That poor woman, no daughter, no husband..."

No one ever set foot in that church or that forest again.

In French and English

By Lucia Agbor

Sephora

MOM,MOM,MOM pouvons-nous aller chez Sephora. Lulu is my nickname. I love sephora. All I dream about is sephora. My room is a store of sephora. But, my mom doesn't agree with me. She says that it's not kid-friendly and will harm my face. But I don't think so! Almost everyone in my school loves Sephora and I love it too, but at least I agree with myself and my older sister does too. She's always on my side and I love her for that.

She always tells me to trust my dream. Our family is African American and we are not used to makeup and skincare. We barely know what it's for.

Finding Out New Things

When we came to America, I fell in love with Sephora and I read novels about it and what it was for. My oldest sister helps a lot with stuff. I don't know, but she tries to help me and I appreciate that. Then, I went to Ulta for the first time with my mom to get a facial cleanser until my mom said I could get five things. My mom said Ulta is a much better place for kids – look!

Then I saw an elf kit and bubble. It's a kid-friendly moisturizer. She said, "This is a better place for you sweetie." And that is how I learned to listen to my parents. They know more than you.

A New Start to Everything

Hé maman, je pensais créer ma propre chaîne YouTube.

"WHAT?" my mother said. "You want to start a YouTube channel?"

"Oui maman. What do you think?"

"Ok, ok, ok," said mom. "Ok, but what is your channel going to be about?"

A YouTube Channel Starting New

Mmm...what should my channel be about? I ask myself.

"Honey," mom said. "You should do little dances. You loved dancing in Africa, didn't you?"

"Yes," I said. "I did. But what if they bully me in the comments?"

"No honey, they won't. I know they will not. Instead, they'll love you."

"Ok," I said to my mom. "I trust you, so I went on and started working on my dance moves."

Just a Little Kindness

By Josephine Mya Scott

Lonely, sad, scared, and angry. My Friends guide me through hard times, they laugh with me, and they cry with me. I would be nothing without them. I remember a time when I needed a hug or a word of encouragement. A friend was there to help. My friends have always been there to help. All it took to make a friend was a little kindness.

Just take the time to pick up a pencil or notebook, it's a simple thing. Kindness is a huge part of life. I know when I have had a bad day someone lifted me up, they said something kind or they sat with me. It made me feel good, someone cared. Kindness is amazing and easy to accomplish.

Kindness is an easy and simple thing. All it takes is a little effort to pick up something, sit with someone or help them with something. I have so many friends! I wouldn't have very many if it were not for kindness. I am kind to so many people! I try to be kind to lots of people.

It's not just friends that are kind to you, it is adults. Sometimes I cry in class. My teacher always comes over to help. They sit with me and ask me what's wrong. I am kind and respectful to adults too. When a teacher or adult asks me to open something or grab scissors I do it. Kindness is a great way to bond and make new friends with people.

I remember the time in gym class my team was winning and scored another two points. The other team said we were cheating so I compromised. I gave them one of the two points. At the end of gym class my team won and the other team said we were cheating. I gave them a point! I burst into tears. My friends and teacher calmed me. Kindness is all it takes. Even in hard times.

I am always learning new ways to be kind. It does not have to be picking up a notebook or pencil, just a compliment works. Maybe even just talking to someone works. Kindness is all around us. Everyone can be kind: family, friends, teachers, and more.

Sometimes you need some space. A kind thing is just to leave someone alone. I've cried before. I wanted to be alone. My friends always come and try to make me feel better, but sometimes I just need to be alone.

All it took to make some friends was a little kindness. Kindness is an important core value to me. All you have to do is pick up a pencil or notebook, calm a friend, or help someone do their homework. All it takes is just a little kindness.

Lucid Dreams

By Zion Mellor

One night in Charlotte, NC-SC Dave McLoss went to sleep. Dave was a lucid dreamer. But when he fell asleep, he didn't know what to do because he was seeing dream hackers in his dream but he knew he was not going to let that slide, so he thought about getting a suit of glitched armor and weapons.

His Cuirass was Lazer proof and blast resistant, he had a chainsaw hand with diamond chains, and a shield that could reflect any attack and send it right back to the opponent. His helmet could throw down a suit of invisibility over his armor if he needed to hide and he had a glove that could teleport him to wherever he wanted. He had a plasma blaster, and an Excalibur (King Arthur's sword).

First, he activated his helmet and went towards them slowly and then he confronted them after he turned off his helmet. They could see him clearly and he had his chainsaw hand pointed right at one and his plasma blaster pointed towards the other. But what he didn't know was there was a third one and he got caught off-guard when the last one revealed himself. Dee did not know what to do and when he was distracted, the other two got out. They were Noisy Crickets (that is from Men in Black) and pointed them at him but then he just put his glove up and teleported away. He put on his invisibility cloak and teleported right next to one of them with the plasma gun pointed at two of them because they were right next to each other. The chainsaw hand was right at one of them so he could eliminate one of the IF NEEDED.

Then, he revealed himself and put an end to one of them. He was going to do the same to the others if they did not tell him why they were there. They said they were there to steal all the riches from his dream because that is what they live off of in real life. But after Dave ended one of the others, the last one got so scared he just said that he would leave and never mess with him again.

Monsters of the Galaxy: Black and White Holes

By Jamie Martin

Have you ever been flying around in space and seen something weird? An area that looked to be made of inky nothingness. It's a black hole! Today I will explain what it is along with the theoretical white hole.

A black hole is an area of space where the gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape.

If you entered a black hole you would be ripped limb from limb. And your matter is isolated from the rest of the universe. But there is a theory that if you enter a black hole you'd exit out a white hole but there is no evidence to back this up.

Now let's move to white holes. First of all you should know that white holes are purely theoretical. There is not a lot of proof to prove their existence but I thought I should mention them. White holes are the polar opposite of a black because they are time reversed black holes but according to Einstein's second law of physics time is symmetrical which means it only moves forwards.

It is impossible to reach its singularity because since it is constantly spitting out light and matter it will constantly push you away with the speed and force that you go so you'd need to travel at the speed of light to get in and that is why it is impossible to get into a white hole.

And that is the explanation of black and white holes.

Neutron Stars

Did you know that when a star explodes, something other than a black hole can happen? It is called a neutron star and today I will explain it.

Simply put, a neutron star occurs when a red supergiant star explodes and the core collapses and its gravity forces all the protons and electrons together to form neutrons which then form the neutron star. Because of the neutron star's incredibly strong gravity its surface is perfectly smooth and even though it is small it has three times as much mass as the sun. One teaspoon of a neutron star would weigh about ten million tons.

Did you know that a neutron star can spin as fast as blender blades and its energy pulses were originally thought to be from aliens. There is also the fact that a neutron star is actually a black hole, an extremely weak black hole it doesn't have enough mass to pull anything in but if you were to touch it you would be shredded and disintegrated immediately. And because of all the pressure inside the neutron star it is a whopping 1.8 million degrees fahrenheit. Even though a neutron star is really powerful it's only 13 miles 20 km in diameter and it's 3 times larger than the sun and it could even fit inside the border of Chicago. They can also be very old; they can live up to about a billion years. And those are some facts about neutron stars.

Superheated Quasars

Have you ever heard of a superheated quasar?... No? Would you like to learn? NO!? Well, that's too bad. Superheated quasars are the brightest, most energetic object in the universe because they are being powered by a super massive black hole with the gas around them heating up to millions of degrees as it swirls into the black hole.

Power Source

Superheated quasars are powered by a super massive black hole at the center of galaxies heating up to impossible temperatures.

Fun Facts

Superheated quasars are incredibly luminous most of the time outshining entire galaxies. Some quasars emit powerful blasts of particles extending far past its host galaxy. Quasars are among the most far away celestial bodies sometimes being millions of light years away and those are some facts about superheated quasars.

Muna Ali: The Prodigy & Hidden World

By Samara Mohamed

A rainy day at Green Bay Hospital, Illinois in 2001, a baby was born that would change the universe!

"Hi! My name's Muna Ali and this is my story."



First Draft:



Emerging Writers Competition

A few years after I was born, I wasn't making friends easily. So my parents took me to see a doctor. But the doctor said I was normal. Kids were mean but I didn't let that stop me from being a scientist.

One day there was a science fair, and I failed horribly. But I ignored all the comments.

Well...that was my childhood.

Time for the exciting part!

Ok. I am 24 right now, but when I was 23 when the most wonderful, majestic thing ever happened. I was in the lab making a cure for cancer, POOF! A portal appeared that was blue, purple, and black. I was SO shocked that I almost fainted but I still went in.

Oh boy, I don't regret it one bit! When I went into it; it was AMAZING! It was fun! One side was dark, depressing, and monicolor. While the other side was colorful, bright, and vivid.

It was confusing. Nobody was there, but there were tiny homes. When I looked a bit closer, I saw a dusty book. While I was brushing the dirt off the book, it flipped through the pages like it had a mind of its own! It started flying around and landed in my lap.

I noticed it had symbols nobody saw before. But when I tried reading it, I was able to understand every word. An evil ogre destroyed half the town. So I finally know why it is like this. But then, the hard part came, getting out of the world. I looked around, and realized I still had the beaker in my pocket that caused this whole situation. I made the portal open up again and I went home.

I knew that I couldn't tell anyone about this. I didn't know what to do. Until this day, I lived there and brought back all the creatures that lived there before. And that is the story of the prodigy and hidden world.

My Childhood Friend, Millie

By Nolan Jacob Ewing

Millie is my friend that I will never forget. From the moment I brought her home from the hospital, she welcomed me into her world and I did the same with her.

Sometimes when my mom and I got home from a drive, she would be ready to cuddle. I remember being in my baby chair or playing with my trains and she would put her head down on my thigh or my hand. It was like a stuffed bear, she was so soft. This is one of the reasons I loved her so much, because she was cuddly.

When I was six or seven, we lived in our apartment and she would be looking through my bedroom window when we got home from school. In her head I bet she was thinking, "I want to play, I want to play!!" That is exactly what I did. I bet she was so happy. My grandpa and I used to play this game that was based on the movie *Moana*. I would be on a blanket and he would pull me around the apartment like I was going beyond the reef until he would put peanut butter on my nose. Millie would come over to lick it off as the "lava monster" and sink my boat and then we would start over again.

She loved to go swimming with me, my mom, and my grandpa at the lake by his house. She loved to swim to me and basically swim everywhere she went. She loved to go to this one island every time we went swimming. It had beautiful rocks on its shores and a small tree. She LOVED that island. That is why we named the island, Milligan's Island. The majority of the people who live around the lake also agreed to name the island Milligan's island.

When we moved to a different home, she had to approve. It was Millie approved. We had a giant backyard, plus a shed so we could store stuff. As the years passed, Millie got old, and she was not eating her food like she normally would. One day, when I went to my dad's house, my mom called me like she usually does. She said that Millie died of cancer. It was probably one of the saddest deaths that ever happened to me, I had tons of nightmares about her. It was like I had depression. You can't let that bring you down though, because if you let it, you could never be happy.

That is the friend that I will never let go out of my heart.

My Super Annoying Siblings

By Jadia Alexander

I have a family of 8 kids. Their names are Jayla, Malachi, Max, Kaylee, Jennifer, Makenzie, Bri, and me (Makaya). Most of my family is calm and some of the others are SUPER annoying like Max. If I have food and I don't give him at least a portion of my meal, he is going to crash out. My other sibling is Makenzie, she is going to try her best to make me mad so I get in trouble. My calm siblings are Kaylee, Bri, Jayla, Jen (Jennifer), and Malachi. If I go on a family trip, all Kaylee will do is listen to music and sleep, same with Jennifer.

So on February 19, I went on a hike with my family but Max was trying to jump in the dirty water even though he knew he can't swim and wasn't ever able to. It took 3 hours to drive to our destination and to get back, so a total of 6 hours with NOISY kids in a car with 6 seats and wildness during the hike. No, I did not enjoy it, not even 1%.

Once I got home, I put my pajamas on, then jumped into the bed and closed my eyes and then boom! I was asleep but not for long. Of course my siblings are screaming on their games like Fortnite or Minecraft or Roblox Dress to Impress if they don't get first place at 3 IN THE MORNING.

My siblings are annoying when it comes to getting ready for school. For example, when I get my clothes laid out on my bed, of course my sister, Bri, throws my clothes off my bed and lays on MY BED. That's what sets me off. Meanwhile Kaylee will be doing her makeup and doing her nails that my dad bought for her. My dad bought 3 packs of fake nails the last 3 hours (she's the favorite as we can see). When we are about to get in the car, all of my siblings fought over who gets shotgun (front seat). My siblings are way too much, plus the car has only 6 seats. So, yeah, I can't stand it anymore. THAT'S MY LIFE, THE END 💕💕💕

Robot Invasion

By Ariyanna

Character: A cat that can talk named Sox, his owner John, and friends, Master robot, robot, Aliens, and also a Narrator. Setting: Earth.

Sox was a cat that could talk. He was with his owner John at home. Everybody used Lorry to ask everything until a Master robot had an evil idea. His idea was to take Lorry

and replace her with a robot. The robot would tell everybody to go to the park to control them and then conquer Earth. There was a problem, Sox. Sox listened to Lorry. Master robot couldn't conquer Earth so he tried to get rid of Sox.

Then a nice alien appeared from the planet Sprocket and explained what happened. They went to planet Socket that was invaded by robots. When they got there, Sox had an idea to dress like a robot to get in the place that everybody was captured inside. They saw a battery that powered all the robots, but it was guarded by a giant robot. They fought but the nice alien was about to die. Luckily, Sox found a magnet before the alien died, and used it to make the nice alien survive.

Robot Invasion Part 2

After defeating the giant robots, they tried to take out the battery. They couldn't because it was too heavy. So they needed more help. Then everybody helped and took it out and all the robots fell. The nice alien helped everybody get back to earth. What they didn't know was that it had been decades on Earth and it was the year 3030 on Earth.

Robots in the Middle Ages

By Frances Claire Grover

January 26, 3020

Hello, I am study bot 33320. Today I am going to my friend, scientist bot 44372's lab. He transmitted a message to me at approximately 6 a.m. I really needed to finish studying how to make a Jupiter robot for NASA, but his transmission seemed urgent. So, I rolled onto my teleportation pad and arrived at scientist bot 44372's lab.

"Hello, study bot 33320! How are you?" he whirred.

"I am great, scientist bot 44372! Now what is it that you wanted to show me?" I questioned.

"Oh, yes! Follow me! I may have just created the ultimate teleportation device!" he hummed as he zoomed past me. I followed him practically vibrating with anticipation. I rolled into a cavernous room and saw a large old-fashioned computer.

"So what does it do?" I asked, confused.

"You will find out when the two of us use it!" he exclaimed, revealing the surprise. As we stepped onto the keyboard, he pressed the button, obviously nervous. Suddenly, there was a flash of light, and then nothing.

Date: ?????

My sockets fizzled as my eyes opened.

"Where are we?" I demanded.

"It appears that we are in the middle ages!" he responded, excitedly.

"No internet, must switch to solar," my brain whirled. I switched to solar and took it all in.

"How do we get back?" I asked, frustrated

"Uh..." he stammered.

I slapped my head but made a plan of action. I figured that we were going to be stuck for a while so I rolled towards a house that had clothing drying on the bushes. I grabbed a tunic and put it on so we could search for help in the local town without being discovered. However, scientist bot 44372 forgot to grab a tunic and rolled into town without a disguise.

The townsfolk screamed, "AAHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!"

After the townsfolk screamed for twenty minutes, they took us to the castle so the king could decide what to do with us. They carried us into the room restrained in ropes to keep us from escaping.

"What are you and what do you want with my kingdom?" the king demanded.

"W..we just w..want t..to get h...home," scientist bot stammered. My head is really hurting now.

"Where is this ... home you speak of?" the king questioned.

"We are from the future. We want to get back to our own time but we don't have the

materials we need to make the thing that will take us back," I said before scientist bot could mess up again.

"If I may father, I would like to offer a solution," the princess murmured, cutting the king off.

"Speak of your plan, daughter!" the king boomed.

"Well you see, things that may be of aid to you have been appearing out of thin air since about two days ago, so maybe we can look at those and see if they can help you get home?" the princess proposed.

"Yes, Yes! That just might work!" both the king and scientist bot exclaimed at the same time. So, we walked out to the street where a pile of parts were waiting. There were almost all the parts we needed. There was only one more part that we needed. I thought that maybe we could build the machine without it but scientist bot said that the peace was vital. Therefore, without it we were stuck. The princess thought that the part might have landed in the woods because that is where all the other parts appeared, but it was a dead end.

"We'll never get home now!" I fumed, kicking a rock with my wheel.

"Oh my! You found the part that we needed, study bot!" exclaimed scientist bot.

"Huh?" I said. I looked down and then I saw it. The piece we needed was under the rock I kicked! Now we could start building!

"Goodbye, less advanced earthlings!" scientist bot called, turning towards the newly finished portal.

"What did you just call us???" boomed the king, stomping towards us. Both wheels and feet alike started to pick up speed as he got closer.

"Scientist bot 44372, why couldn't you have just said goodbye?" I complained.

"I am sorry! I don't know that much about the middle ages!" explained scientist bot.

"No time to regret that now, jump!" I screamed as my wheels lifted off the ground.
Whoosh!

January 26, 3020

My eyes opened to scientist bot's face staring down at me.

"Oh good you're alive!" he said, relieved.

"Did you think I was dead?" I questioned.

"No, but I guess we learned a valuable lesson today, study bot," said scientist bot.

"What, to never underestimate the humans of the past?" I asked.

"No! We learned that I need to do research on the middle ages before trying that again!" exclaimed scientist bot 44372.

"You're not seriously thinking about doing that again, are you?" I asked indignantly.

"No, of course not, don't be crazy!" scientist bot laughed nervously.

**The End
(for now)**

Sara and the Sea

By Gary Brito

Chapter I

Once upon a time there was a little blond girl named Sara. It was summer break so Sara's parents went on a vacation to the beach. Sara did not like being at the beach, because it was hot and the hot sand burned her feet. She did not like this so she complained to her parents. They told her to just brush it off. Minutes later, Sara was swimming until she saw a huge wave. Sara tried to swim away, but she was too slow so the wave swept her into the depths of the ocean. She could not swim back to the top for air. She could not breathe and she was panicking which made her body heavier. She kept panicking and panicking, which made her pass out. Hours later, she woke up in a bed made out of a coral reef. She looked around just to see that she was surrounded by walls of coral.

Chapter II

Sara looks around the walls made out of coral and suddenly sees a mermaid which looks like she worked there. Then Sara asks, "Where am I?"

The mermaid says, "You're in the depths of the sea." Then Sara's eyes widened and she looked out the window to see beautiful coral reefs and lots of fish swimming together. Sara asks the mermaid how she can breathe and the mermaid points at Sara's head and says that there is a bubble around her head which allows her to breathe.

Sara starts panicking and says, "I can't be here, I need to get back home, my parents are going to be so mad at me." The mermaid responds with, "There is nothing you can do."

Soon Sara leaves and is swimming around the depths of the sea until she sees all of the fishes around her swimming away. Then, Sara sees a big shark causing trouble and destroying coral reefs.

Chapter III

Sara saw a big terrifying shark coming towards her very fast, so she swam into a cave and she saw a big whale. The whale told her to be quiet and hide with the coral reefs. If she did that, the shark would lose track of her. She listened to the whale and hid with the coral reefs. The shark asked the wise whale, "Where did the little girl go?"

The whale responded with, "I don't know where she went."

The shark sighs and swims away. Sara then comes out of the coral reefs and thanks the whale for helping her. Sara asks the whale how he knew that the shark would lose track of her if she hid in the coral reefs, and the whale responded by saying that he had been living in that area for years. He knew all the strategies on how to survive. Sara thanks the whale again before swimming away. Sara kept swimming until she got bored so she went close to a group of sardines, and started talking to one of them for some fun.

Chapter IV

Sara was talking to a sardine because she got bored. The sardine asks Sara what she was doing in the depths of the ocean. Sara answered by saying that she got swept by a wave and into the depths of the sea. The sardine wanted to keep talking to Sara, but its group was swimming away so the sardine left Sara alone with her thoughts.

Sara started wondering why she could talk to animals and understand them. Sara thought that she had superpowers like Superman, but she could only talk to animals, nothing else. Sara then swam to the underwater city which was made out of corals. It looked beautiful. Later in the afternoon, Sara was sitting on a bench of the sea until she heard a big boom sound. She looked around and saw plenty of piranhas and sharks swarming the city and destroying everything. Sara swam to where the other sea creatures were and started helping them fend off the predators. After it was over she lived happily ever after.

Space Unicorns

By Ahire Watkins

"The first day of school," Coco said. "I can't wait to find my first unicorn today!"

Coco's friend Chocolate was already at the door with lots of snacks and yummy drinks to start off the day. They both got ready and headed to unicorn school where they found all the beautiful unicorns. There were brown unicorns, pink, blue, white, black, all the colors you could think of. Some with rainbow hair, some with green wings, there were a lot of unicorns there. Right before Coco could touch the wonderfulness in front of her, the V.I.P. unicorn teacher Mrs. Lia loudly told her, "Oh no no! We are touching them after our video." So, Coco and Chocolate sadly walked away from the cute unicorns.

Mrs. Lia then turned on a video on how space unicorns were discovered and whoever finds it first will become the unicorn queen. Coco and Chocolate were so excited to hear they can both become queens of space unicorns but they didn't know where to start looking.

"Do we go to space?" Chocolate said.

Coco was confused but still tried to think of what to say because she didn't want to do it anymore.

"Hey um...Chocolate, I don't want to do the space unicorns anymore. let's just adopt a rainbow one instead"

But by the look of Chocolate's face, she didn't want to do that.

"But we never ever get to do things like this so just for this time can we please just try?"

Coco agreed that they can keep going. So they both went home and made about 120 plans that would work perfectly to find a space unicorn.

One hour later Coco and Chocolate picked a perfect plan: they would make a rocket ship out of magical thick paper. They made the rocket ship dark purple, black, and white so that it would get the space unicorn's attention. When they got back to unicorn school the next day, there was a new student at the front desk.

"Hello are you new?" Chocolate said. "Yes, I'm new and I learned about the space unicorns already. My ship is in space right now." Coco and Chocolate were very scared that she was going to get the space unicorns first, but then Coco asked the new girl, "What's your name?"

"My name is Watkins."

Chocolate was trying to figure out what to say.

Coco and Chocolate then asked Watkins, "What colors does your rocket have?"

Watkins said, "It's red and yellow."

Coco was very relieved by what Watkins said, so Coco and Chocolate ran back to their seats and ripped pages out of their notebooks for the rocket. Later that day, Coco and Chocolate went on a walk when they saw a sign that said The Unicorn Prepare. Coco and Chocolate were very excited to see that they had an even bigger chance at being space unicorn queens so they went into the rainbow-lit room and the guard loudly said, "Welcome to the unicorn prepare!"

Coco asked, "Do you know anything about space unicorns?"

Chocolate was hoping that she would say yes so that they could get more tips.

"Of course I know what a space unicorn is, but fire unicorns are much more easy to find."

Coco was not happy about the guard telling her that fire unicorns are easier to find.

"Can we come inside now?" the guard let them in.

After the unicorn prepare, they learned how to get a space unicorn and when it was time for them to leave they were ready to finish their rocket ship. When they were done with the rocket, they sent it to space and waited hours for it to come down.

Coco and Chocolate fell asleep and woke up to a large purple light outside and there were a bunch of people outside.

"Wait, is that OUR ROCKET!"

Coco and Chocolate ran down the stairs still in their pajamas.

"You girls ready for breakfast?"

Coco and Chocolate didn't answer. They were both too curious to have breakfast, they slipped their slippers on and ran outside. The loud screeching of Watkins caught Chocolate's attention.

"Hi Watkins! What are you doing here?"

"Well I'm here to see my space unicorns."

Chocolate was confused on what she meant by 'my space unicorns' because that was her rocket.

"That's our rocket," said Chocolate.

"Wait, you mean that's not my rocket?"

"Yep, that's not your rocket."

Watkins said, "Well, I have not been really doing all the work I needed to."

"What do you mean by that watkins?"

"I have not really been making a rocket ship. I was waiting for you and Coco to get done with yours. Then when your rocket came back, I would take the space unicorns out and say that I got them, but I changed my mind."

"So you did not have a cool rocket inside outer space?" Chocolate said.

"My hands did not touch a single paper over the weekend."

Chocolate and Watkins talked about how cool they thought each other's rockets were.

"What's happening over here?" Coco said.

"Watkins never had a rocket ship. She was going to take ours, but she changed her mind and we should forgive her because I would have done that if I had no ideas for rockets."

Coco, Watkins, and Chocolate watched as the magical paper opened.

"IT'S A SPACE UNICORN!" said Coco's grandma.

Coco's eyes grew big seeing the beautiful purple skin with stars for hair.

"I can't believe that's my rocket."

Coco, Chocolate, Watkins, and all their families lived in the big castle made out of clouds and got to rule all unicorns forever. The End.

Swapped with Evil Aliens

By Lily Greer

There was once a young girl named Flora. She was having a party at her house for the weekend with her friends. Flora was getting ready with her sister. About an hour later, her friends finally made it. She was just finishing up with the stuff for the

mini party. As soon as they settle in and are comfortable, Reimie, her sister, starts the movie.

Patrick speaks: "I got a bad feeling about something. Something isn't right."

Everyone in the room stares at him.

"Hush up, I am trying to enjoy the movie here!" Reimie says.

Flora pauses the movie.

"Is it that important to the point we have to pause the whole movie?"

Patrick says no. Then Flora resumes the movie only for John, Patrick's brother, to make something very clear.

"Guys did you hear that?"

Annoyed, Flora says, "Hear what, your blabbermouth flowing in the air?"

John knows that she is joking.

He then says, "No it sounded like a black hole."

Lillith then says lightly, "You know what black holes sound like?"

John replies, "Yes."

Then everyone's head snaps at the door.

"Did you hear that?" Reimie says. Everyone says yes in fear.

Soon, enough for everyone, the world goes dark. Then they open their eyes, they all find themselves in an unusual place. There are no trees there, instead there are giant flowers.

"Where are we?" Patrick says.

"I don't know but it looks weird, and where are the trees?" John says.

An unknown voice calls out.

"The trees are in front of you, are you stupid?"

Everyone turns around, the only thing they see is a cat. It is glowing and it seems to have what looks like stars from space on its fur.

"What the Onga-Longa-Snodwick are you?!" says Patrick.

John says, "Are you pulling random words that don't exist out of the air again?" Flora then replies.

"It clearly seems like it, I mean, where do you get Songa-Ponga-Woodwick from?!" Patrick then corrects her.

"It's Onga-Longa-Snodwick!"

Flora then looked around, "I am looking for who asked."

Lillith then chimes in, "We should be asking where we are, not who asked."

Then they all carry on.

They then are walking away from the cat, trying to figure out what is going on right now.

"Hey don't you guys need to get out of here?!" the cat says.

Lillith then says, "Yes. we aren't even from here. But, what is this place called because it is absolutely beautiful!"

Everyone is in a state of shock at Lillith's sudden words. The cat then states that the planet they are on is called "Septan."

"Well my name is Milky because my parents are the galaxy and another ordinary cat."

"Well Milky, can you tell us the way out of here?" says John.

"Well, I could but I will have to bring you to my friend," she says. Everyone says "okay" and Milky brings them to a woman peacefully sleeping in the air.

"SAGE!" yells Milky. The glowing woman falls and lands on the ground.

"Milky I am going to throw you across the whole universe and back if you do that again! Now what do you want?" the magical woman says.

Milky then replies, "We need your help, these kids randomly appeared here."

The woman who's name seems to be Sage takes a look at the kids and calls an unfamiliar name.

"Tiny!"

A butterfly then appears in the room and then grows from the butterfly's look.

"Yes Ms. Sage?" she says.

Sage then says, "Take a look at these kids. Can you tell me what is going on?"

Tiny then looks at the kids. Sage then speaks. "Tiny said that you do not belong here, and that you have been swapped with Evil aliens that are formed here. A couple days later, they figured out how to get back to earth. Soon Tiny, Milky, and Sage opened a portal to dismiss those evil aliens back at home.

"Let's defeat those evil aliens!" Says Lillith. The aliens appear along with an unknown man. "You will stay here forever!" The man says. "No we will not~! We will defeat you!! Soon the whole group starts fighting.

Then John defeats an alien. Then Tiny and Sage defeat the unknown man. Then all of them are gone! Sage and Tiny along with Milky say goodbye to the kids and they are sent home.

"Let's go home!" says Reimeie. Soon they were back at home as if nothing happened. "Let's continue this movie guys!" says Flora.

Then John unpauses the movie and finishes their night. The End. For now...

Swashbuckling Gorillas

By Margaret Schroeder

The rainforest is a wondrous place with a lot of wondrous things inside of it like the animals and plants. Particularly gorillas but not just any gorillas...swashbuckling gorillas. Now once upon a time a gorilla was born. His name was Gwaco. Growing up he seemed to be a normal gorilla, clinging to his mother's chest, climbing trees, and wrestling with his siblings. But little did they know Gwaco would be anything but normal.

As Gwaco matured he became interested in odd things, at least by gorilla standards. Things like sword fighting and acrobatics. He would take sticks and pretend they were swords and practice fighting while swinging gracefully through the trees. On his 5th birthday his parents gave him a real sword. It was his favorite gift. He ran in circles waving it above his head like a kite.

As you can imagine, his parents were interested in his odd behavior. So they went to talk to him.

"Hey Gwaco, how is your day going?" asked his mother, Zara.

Gwaco replied, "It's fine but I am having trouble with one of my sword fighting tricks though."

"Oh," remarked Magnum, his dad, with eyebrows raised, "do you want to show us?"

"I guess so," Gwaco sighed. He began planting his sword into the ground, grabbing the handle and pulling his body onto the top. There he balanced and hesitated for a moment but finally continued by jumping into the air and pulling the sword out of the ground. At the last second, he fell onto his butt. He pulled himself up and began to slink back home, but his parents stopped him.

"Wait! It's okay, just try again," they encouraged. With newfound energy he came back and stuck the sword into the ground again. He performed the trick over and over, each time failing to land on his feet. His parents sat there watching their son and encouraging Gwaco on as he went. Soon enough the day was almost gone and Gwaco still had not completed his trick.

"Don't worry Son, when the time comes you will be able to do it. I promise," said his father. They all walked home side by side and lay down to sleep by his many siblings.

Gwaco rose early that morning. He walked out into the pale light of dawn, careful not to wake anyone. He snatched up the sword, which had been lying there. He walked into the clearing where he practiced. He began to work on his trick. Meanwhile back at the nest Zara awoke, surprised to find her husband asleep. She went out only to see Gwaco land on the ground, sword in hand. She walked over to him and sat down next to him.

"Hi mom," Gwaco greeted her.

Zara confessed, "Hello, your father is still asleep. It's worrying."

"It's okay," Gwaco comforted, "I promise." They sat there for a moment just looking at each other.

"Come, let's go wake up your sibling but let your father sleep," she beckoned.

Together they walked to the nest. They patted his siblings awake. They went out to search for food. Several hours later they met back at the nest where Magnum still slept.

"Check his pulse. Is he still breathing?" Zara wailed.

One of Gwaco's many siblings put a hand on his wrist and turned toward them with a solemn look on their face. Nobody said a word but they all knew. Magnum was dead. Rest aside, they needed a new silverback. And that silverback was...Gwaco. His back hair began to change, change into a silver color. Nobody noticed, though, not even Gwaco. They were all too distracted by Magnum's death. Hot tears rolled down their cheeks. Zara wrapped her arms around Magnum while the others began to groom the body. When that was done and everyone had calmed down a bit (except for Zara of course) they began to dig the grave for Magnum. It took awhile but when it was done they laid him down to rest. They retired to bed sadly.

The next day they all woke up around the same time.

One of Gwaco's siblings named Jabari called, "Hey guys, look at Gwaco's back!" Some of the others came to look.

"Whoa!" they gasped.

"What is it?!" cried Gwaco.

"I-it's silver," she stuttered.

"What do you mean it's silver," he questioned.

"I mean that you're the new silverback," Jabari replied. "We need to tell Mom." They walked back toward the nest in silence. Gwaco was stunned. He was always the one who was different from the group, how was he supposed to lead it now? They had reached the nest.

"Hey, Mom. We have something to tell you."

"Oh, what do you need to tell me?"

"Umm, I am the new silverback," mumbled Gwaco.

"Ahhhhh, I was wondering who it would be," Zara said calmly. "I think you will do a wonderful job Gwaco." He processed this. Then he went out to gather his siblings. They gathered to listen to him.

"Grab a long sturdy stick for yourself and come back here for further instruction," he commanded. The gorillas scattered, coming back within 15 minutes, each with a stick of their own.

"Good, now whittle them into swords. If you need help, ask me."

They dispersed out and within an hour they had swords of their own. That night they all went to sleep excited with the prospect of learning to sword fight. They woke up with the intent of the day's learning. Gwaco handed out the wooden swords and they trooped to the clearing. All through the day they practiced (with the occasional snack break). Each time they fell, Gwaco helped them and encouraged them no matter how many times it happened, the same way his parents had for him. They always tried again.

Now Gwaco looks back at his childhood fondly, never regretting how he stood out. If he hadn't, there would never be swashbuckling gorillas.

Stuck in a Snow Globe

By Shanti Liesner

It was a bright morning day. I was shopping for my mom and dad at Target. When I saw a beautiful snow globe but it was too expensive. I didn't know what to do, so I tried to steal the snow globe. I think someone saw me. So they put a spell on me. Now I'm trapped in the snow globe!

Now I really don't know what to do. I need to figure out how to get out of here? The store is about to close and I need to get home. I'm so scared that I'm going to be here forever! But, when I opened my eyes it looked like I was in a winter wonderland. I saw shimmering snow, a big house, and a fake elf. Somehow I smelled freshly baked cookies. I felt the fluffiest snow in the world. I went into the house when I saw the elves making cookies. They gave me a cookie and it was so good. I said, "Thanks!" and then I left.

I saw more and more people were leaving the store.

I need to think fast! I'm going to try to get someone to try to break the spell. After 20 minutes I finally got someone's attention. I was so lucky the person was a witch. They said, "I will let you out as long as you don't steal again and if you do, you will be trapped in the snow globe forever!"

I said "okay" and he got me out. I hugged him so hard and said thank you six times. I learned to never steal ever again.

The Adventures of John Jack Johnson

By Finnegan Andrews

John Jack Johnson, awoke in the middle of the night. He quickly turned on his phone and realized that it was 3 o'clock in the morning. He checked his texts, and then he texted his friend Ricky Hunter. He texted Ricky that he couldn't fall asleep, and he wanted to know if he could go over to Ricky's house for the night. Ricky responded

instantly, saying that his mother was asleep, so he should come over to John's house. John finally agreed and texted him back saying he was welcome to swing by for about an hour. Ricky stopped by and they ate some Oreos.

"Let's share some spooky stories!" Ricky suggested.

"Alright, that's fine I guess, just make it quick, I don't have long," said John.

"Okay," said Ricky. "Once, upon a time there was a boy, he was still in his youth, but he had a dream. His dream became reality. Soon there were monsters from his nightmares popping up in his life. He needed to protect mankind, so he looked for the fabled Jewel of Life. The monsters had already found the Mind, an object that looked like a small brain of a human being, but the thing was that this mind could control anyone brainwashing them into anything they wanted, but this boy could stop the monsters, but he had to stop his friend first." Ricky whispered. John said, "Oh my gosh, that's really scary,"

"I know, right?" Ricky said.

"Yeah for real." yelled John. "You gotta go back to your house Ricky, I should go to bed."

"Alright," Ricky said, as he walked out of the room, and opened the door to leave the house. John quickly fell asleep dreaming about the story that Ricky had told him. He woke up feeling nervous about his dream, but soon he realized that there were no monsters anywhere nearby after looking through the windows of his house.

John packed his bag for school since it was Friday. He said goodbye to his parents and went on his bus ready for this new school day, a little excited, though also disappointed that it wasn't the weekend yet. John said good morning to his homeroom teacher Mrs. Goodsmith. He quickly turned his homework in and sat down at his seat grabbing his reading book, since Mrs. Goodsmith also happened to be the reading teacher for 8th grade. He waved to Ricky, and his other friend Lincoln. "Hi," John said to his crush, Emily Miller, who sat two seats away from him. John was a wiz in science and reading, which he almost got all A's in.

After school John took the bus home. When he arrived at his house, he got a kiss on the cheek from his mom. Embarrassed, John said "Mom!" He went to his room to play

his favorite video game, Minecraft. Finally after playing about an hour too much of video games, he said goodnight to his parents and went to bed.

When John woke up the next morning at about 6 a.m., he heard someone knocking on the door. He got out of bed and went to the door, he looked through the window and saw something hideous. He didn't know what it was. He thought it was a monster. He didn't open the door. Scared, he decided to run down the stairs into the basement. He saw another monster and ran back up. He ran into his room, and quietly closed his door. John hid under his bed hoping that they wouldn't find him. He opened his window and jumped out into the backyard. He saw the old abandoned house in his neighborhood and decided he could hide out there. He grabbed his phone on his nightstand through the window, putting the phone in his pocket. Then he slowly crawled on the ground so that they couldn't see him, until he was halfway to the house. Finally he broke into a sprint running as fast as he could and opened the banged down door.

It made a loud squeaky noise. John looked behind him, and hoped that they didn't notice the bang. He ran down the stairs into the basement of the house. He saw Ricky.

"I should have known that you would sense where the Jewel of Life is and that it will be destroyed," spoke Ricky.

"I have no clue what you are talking about Ricky." replied John.

"I AM NOT RICKY, I am Zemorpos the third, that's how you would pronounce it in your tongue I believe." said Zemorpos.

"Um, did you get a concussion or something Ricky?" said John. "Like I SAID ALREADY, I am Zemorpos the third." Zemorpos muttered something that John thought was, "Is this species stupid or something, even the Shurgotees understood quickly."

John saw what looked to be lava parkour in front of him. He understood that Zemorpos was supposed to block him from reaching whatever was at the otherside.

"Zemorpos or whatever, this was a good chat, but I must get going," said John. John slid in between Zemorpos legs, and jumped onto the first bit of parkour.

"NO," yelled Zemorpos. "You mustn't cross."

John started jumping through the first bit of parkour, Zemorpos following close behind. John made it to the end quickly. Zemorpos was near him. John looked in front of him and saw what he knew must be the Jewel of Life. He snatched it and jumped past Zemorpos, quickly jumping towards the start. He ran out of the house, though surrounded by monsters. In his mind he realized he must say an incantation, he said "La mephorez shein contowez vesznorre. Then out of nowhere a light appeared and the monsters disappeared.

"YES finally," yelled John.

Then Ricky came, and asked, "What happened here?"

"It's a long story, Ricky," replied John smiling.

The Bird

By Annelise Yoder

Jade awoke with a drowsy feeling, like the feeling when you wake up and you realize it's Monday. She had a feeling that the day wouldn't be great. She pulled herself from her tangled bedspread and felt her bare feet touch the cold, hard, wood floor. It sent a shiver up her spine. Jade ran her thumb across her heirloom seafoam green locket with a golden engraving of a small tree on either side. She combed through her messy auburn hair with great determination, but eventually gave up. Instead, she pulled it into a red, messy braid. She put on a dark green turtleneck and brown hand-me-down corduroy jeans. She slipped on her pale yellow fuzzy slippers and shuffled down the steps to the first floor.

Her mother was at the kitchen island, curly red hair in a neat bun, and golden framed glasses on. Her face was a cool blue from her laptop's glow in the shadowed kitchen. She was typing away on the laptop keyboard, with a half-eaten piece of avocado toast laying on a plate beside her laptop on the kitchen island. The kitchen had white cabinets towering above the black marble kitchen counter.

When she was a baby, her dad left. All that was left of his family in her house was her seafoam green locket. Her grandmother on his side, had left it for her before she

passed away. She had worn it ever since her mother decided to give it to her. She always had the feeling it had special priorities that kept it protected from breaking. She had never been able to open it.

Jade grabbed her toast that her mother had made for her, said bye, and left. It was February, and slush and mud covered the sidewalk. Her walk to school was usually uneventful, but today, that was going to change. She stomped the slush away, clearing a path for her walk back home. Her mom was a bird know-it-all, so she recognized every pre-Spring. What she didn't notice was the strange trill of an unknown bird, singing high and low. The bird's trill was somewhat similar to a human's voice.

The bird was almost black, but it had a shimmer of nearly every color in the rainbow. Its eyes, almost human-like, were a deep brown. It grew closer, cautiously flapping its way toward Jade. Strangely, unlike the other city birds, it didn't seem scared by her. After it was about 6 feet away from her, she noticed it. Glistening with the melting snow, it cocked its head, changing the pale blue shimmer on its neck to a pale hot pink. She stared into its eyes, and it stared back.

"Hi," Jade said. "What kind of birdie are you? I've never seen or heard a bird like you before."

All of a sudden, the bird grabbed her locket and flapped away. She chased it, gaining on the bird just in reach. With her arm extended, she got a hold of it. She tried to pull it away, but it was too late. The bird had swept both of them away to another place.

The Boy Who Cried Volcano

By Michael Wick

August 23, a particularly sunny day, birds were chirping And people were roaming the streets like a bevy of quails. Though a rumbling could be heard, for the past few days they assumed it was developing for the mayors. Among the chaos, a boy, pushing through the crowd, stood out.

"Volcano, volcano!" He screeched, "Get in your houses!"

"Lucius, what are you doing?" An old, raspy voice said.

"Augustus, tell your kids to go as far as they can from the volcano, we can't afford anyone to get hurt." Replied Lucius. "Now go.... Run!"

"Honey," Lucius's mom appeared, "what are you doing?" she asked.

"Mom, get inside. Mount Vesuvius is going to erupt!" responded Lucius.

"You've been saying that for the past week, are you feeling ok?" asked Lucius's mom

"Yes mom. I'm fine."

"Well then keep working on painting, we need more decorations for our walls," said Lucius's mom.

"Fine."

As Lucius scuttled home, his mind was racing, he couldn't stop thinking how their neighbor, Caeso, kept saying "the apocalypse is near" and how "soon a volcano would strike." After all, she managed to predict a tree falling down on the Aemilius house, now people come to him for fortune telling.

August 24, 11:31 AM, Lucius's house.

"Mom...." Lucius yawned, "what's for breakfast?"

"Corn," she looks over her shoulder. "What's happening with you, you look tired?"

"Couldn't sleep," moaned Lucius.

"Why, what happened?" exclaimed Lucius's mom.

"Whatever that stupid rumbling is, it's getting louder, I can't focus on **ANYTHING!**" yelled Lucius.

Lucius's mom was taken aback.

"Ok, r-remember you have to stop by Mr. Publius's house to help him prepare for his birthday."

She slowly closed the door after leaving. Lucius was filled with remorse.

"W-wait...."

A moment of silence filled the room.

He had no choice but to eat the food his mother had left for him.

12:04 PM, The Quintus house, 1 hour till the eruption.

"Hey, I just thought I'd stop by before I start helping Mr. Publius birthday prep," stated Lucius.

"Long time no see," blurted Adrianus, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Quintus. "How ya' been?"

"Okay, I got into an argument with my parents."

"Why's that?" asked Adrianus.

"I don't know, I'm worried about the rumbling that's been happening for the past couple days," replied Lucius

"The rumbling?" remarked Adrianus. "Isn't the *rumbling* just construction?"

"That's what my mom says, but Caeso said he foresaw a volcano coming, and all of his predictions came true," implied Lucius.

"You're right, you know what, go ahead and tell Publius all of what you just said, ok?" said Adrianus.

"Yeah, ok," assured Lucius.

12:57 PM Mr. Publius's house, 7 Minutes before the eruption.

"Hey, Mr. Publius," Commented Lucius.

"There ya' are kiddo, I was starting to get worried!" blurted Mr. Publius.

"No, you shouldn't have. I'm fine."

"Well, what's happening with you ya' big ol' grouch?" he snickered.

"Whatever that volcano is up to, it's really annoying," replied Lucius.

"Volcano, volcano? Ha! Son, there's no volcano."

"Then what is—"

"A myth, a myth is what I say!"

"But, sir—"

"No buts, I'm older, I'm smarter, so therefore, I'm the one that gets a say in this, not you—"

BOOM.

The damage was everlasting. With lava that would kill you in under two seconds, no one ever stood a chance. Caeso was right, Pompeii wasn't safe.

The Comeback

By Briella Richesson

There is a girl named Rila. She's 11 years old in 6th grade. Her family just moved into town.

"Rila, time for school!" mom calls from the bottom of the old wood stairs.

"Coming mom."

She gets out of bed and puts on a black skirt with a pink bow on its side and a plain pink and white vest. She unlocks her door and walks downstairs. The stairs creak with every step. She walks in the living room.

"Don't forget your violin," her mom says as she's watching the news.

"I won't," she told her mom, while picking up her violin.

When she gets to school she goes to her first class, math. The math teacher looks at her and says, "Hi im mrs. Purthe your teacher. Can you tell us your name and favorite color?"

Rila looks at the class clearly shy.

"Umm...hi I'm Rila and..my favorite color is light green."

All the students are looking at her and she and feel the popular kids talking about her.

After class she goes to strings and puts her violin down. She goes to the restroom. After a few minutes, she comes out and opens her violin case. She sees it's broken and starts crying. "What happened?"

A student next to her said, "My violin is broken. You can get a school one."

Rila doesn't respond, she looks around and sees two popular girls laughing.

"What are their names?"

"The blonde one is Lise and the one taking pictures is Snowy why?"

"They broke my violin."

"How and why?"

"In math I heard them saying violins are stupid and they watched me until I went to the bathroom but don't worry I have a plan!

The next day is a concert to show off the violin. Rila came with the school violin and asked the teacher for a solo of her choice.

"Ok, fine, you can just do a song you know."

Rila smiles and goes on stage the popular kids laugh at her. She ignores them and plays a very hard song. And the girls are amazed.

The Gamer Begins

By Dupree Preston Conner Jr.

One day there was a boy named Dupree. He was great with technology and would always have the coolest gadgets like a robot butler, and a tracker for his stuff, but that is nothing compared to the coolest thing he ever made! It was a black and green suit with super speed and flight. It can be controlled by a PS5 controller like a game in real life. One day at school Dupree was in gym class, when suddenly a stretchy man came crashing through the wall demanding for Dupree! Dupree quickly ran away from the stretch monster and hid under a kitchen table and got his controller and called for his robot. Soon his robot came through the window and started fighting the stretch monster!

The monster threw tables and chairs but the robot ran back and forth at lightning speed then it jumped and started flying at the stretch monster and hit him right in the face. The monster grabbed the robot but the robot pulled out swords from his back and sliced the stretch monster's arm off. Then the robot said, "Don't mess with the gamer!"

Stretch monster refused to give up, though he lunged at the gamer, but missed landing in a small classroom. The stretch monster was so mad but decided to run away! Dupree came out from hiding and celebrated his victory with all his friends and the robot now none as the gamer.

The History of America

By Kelly Shafer

America was founded on July 4, 1776, by our founding fathers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin. After the Civil War, America became a country and George Washington was our first president and his wife Martha Washington was the first first lady.

Our country today is way better and more advanced than back then. So we came over a lot like World War I, World War II, The Vietnam War and the Cold War. America today is the most powerful country and the second largest. Our President in 2025 is Donald Trump, our 47th President of America. Woodrow Wilson was our president during World War II.

Our country fought both World War I and World War II, and won against the German Empire and Nazi Germany. Our biggest ally was the USSR or Soviet Union. Later on the Soviet Union broke apart into Russia and are no longer allies with America. Before that they sold us Alaska on March 30, 1867. Our country has many allies and is a part of NATO and a founder of it too.

America founded NATO in April 4, 1949, in Washington D.C.. The state of Washington. America has some great inventions such as the light bulb and the telephone and television, a personal computer, a traffic light, and the ferris wheel. A lot of people come here to get a better life and start a family.

The country's national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner is played before every sport and big event for games. Football and baseball is a very popular sport in America. We had some big accomplishments in America like ending segregation. Women got rights. America is a very old and historical country. I hope I answered some of your questions about American history.

The Mean Boy Who Regretted

By Pary Aziz

Once upon a time it was friday morning. Ali always ate breakfast and went to school as usual. Ali and his friends made a plan that tomorrow they will go on a picnic with their family. He was in a happy mood when he got home. He was so happy he couldn't wait to go to the dinner table to discuss with his family. On the table he told his family his plan. His Dad and Mom said what is your plan.

"Tomorrow me and my friends are going to the picnic with our family," said Ali.

"That's a great idea," said his mom.

"Unfortunately I have so much work I have to get done at my office. We can go another day," said Ali's dad.

When Ali heard his Dads words. He yelled all his anger out. He ran into his room and shut the door and cried and cried. He was staring at his window and asked himself, "Why do my parents always say no?" He saw the clouds getting dark. He fell asleep crying.

Ali had a dream about the clouds getting closer to his window. He opened his window and went on the cloud. And lifted him up to the sky. He saw there were a lot of kids playing and having fun. Ali saw a big cloud man when he saw the man he was scared. The big cloud man called him over and he said my name is Mr. Cloud. "I'm here to solve any kid's problem. I know you have a problem with parents," said Mr. Cloud.

"Yes sir," said Ali.

"Do you have any idea how much your parents work?" said Mr. Cloud.

Ali sat on a blue chair.

"Look at this screen it will show you your parents daily life," said Mr. Cloud.

Ali saw that his parents are so busy and tired to make money to live. He felt really sorry for them and how tired they are.

Ali told Mr. Cloud "Can you please send me home? If my parents realize I'm not home they will be upset."

"Ali, you will have to promise me next time you won't yell at your parents and make them sad. They sacrifice for you," said Mr. Cloud.

"Yes Mr. Cloud."

Mr. Cloud sent a cloud to Ali. The cloud took him down to his window. Ali opened his eyes and he saw it was morning. He went to the dining room and saw his parents waiting patiently. Ali went and hugged his parents.

"I'm so sorry I realized how busy and tired you guys are so I can have a good life. I want to thank you guys for everything you guys do for me," said Ali.

Ali's parents stared at each other after one night he changed. They lived happily ever after.

The Night Sounds

By Jackie Miller

Pearl was a little girl not older than 5. One day her mom and dad said "We will be gone for 5 hours, we are trusting you to stay home and do not leave the house no matter what".

Pearl said "okay." Two-hours later, Pearl heard a scary sound.

So she ran outside until she saw Miya and Max.

"Me and Max's mom and dad left, then we heard a scary sound!" said Miya.

"Me too," said Pearl.

Just then they heard it again and they ran into the forest.

"I think we are lost," said Miya.

"Wait look," said Pearl. There was a big royal house.

"But how do we get in?" Miya asked.

"I think I found it," said Pearl. And she pulled a key out of the dirt. They entered the house and there were three puzzles.

"Max you do the one on the left. Miya you do the one on the right and I do the last one", said Pearl. And they got to work after 10 minutes and they solved them all. A big door opened and they saw their moms and dads. The end.

The Pirate's Problem

By Kalani Thompson

It's night time and three pirates of a ship are sleeping. One wakes up in the middle of the night. Splash!

"AH," shouted the pirate! "What was that?" The pirate gets up without waking the other two sleeping pirates. He walks into another room and turns on the light. "Wait where is it?" The pirate shouts in confusion after he figures out he has lost something of his.

The other pirates finally wake up and eat breakfast.

"Hey Fred," said Wennie. "Where's Captain Bigfoot?" Fred sits in confusion thinking. Captain Bigfoot walks into the room.

"I CAN'T FIND IT," says Captain Bigfoot.

"Can't find what?" asks Fred.

"I'll tell you when we find it, come on help me."

The pirates go searching for whatever Captain Bigfoot won't tell them. Fred and Wennie whisper. "What do you think we're looking for?" Asks Fred. "I don't have any idea."

Captain Bigfoot stares across the ocean. "Where is it? Where is it?" Captain Bigfoot walked up to Fred and Wennie.

"Hey, I have an idea," said Captain Bigfoot.

"What's your idea Captain?" asked Wennie

"Well to find what I'm looking for we must look for something tan, green, red, yellow."

Fred thinks of what could be those colors. "WAIT! Are you looking for coral?" Captain Bigfoot shakes his head and they continue the search.

"Hmmm," Wennie thinks she sees something. "WAIT! I THINK I SEE SOMETHING!" Wennie points out into the ocean, but it's just coral which is exactly what Captain Bigfoot doesn't want. Wennie speaks to a turtle and understands its deep croaks.

"He says he saw something like that a while ago." The turtle points North.

"Off we go," says the three pirates!

They continue their journey North, and Fred and Wennie wonder what they could be looking for. Not before long they come across a shark.

"AHH,"screamed the pirates!

The shark circles around the boat and knocks into it. More sharks join in and start intimidating the pirates.

"We need a plan," suggests Fred. They all think.

"Tie a rope to me. I'll swing off and on the boat and throw some of our fish far out in the ocean and hopefully they will chase after the fish and leave us alone," says Captain Bigfoot.

"We'll run out of fish, won't we?" asks Wennie.

"We have to," says Fred. They tie up Captain Bigfoot and he starts to swing on and off the boat and throws some fish with each swing. Eventually the sharks start and swim towards the fish.

"WHOO," gasps Captain Bigfoot.

The pirates continue."We need more food now we lost it all," says Wennie. Fred spots an island and suggests they go there to rest and catch food. The pirates reach the island and start searching for food and shelter.

"You and Wennie go search for food and I'll start building a shelter, after that when we wake up in the morning we will search," says Captain Bigfoot.

"Fred, what food do you think we should get,"asks Wennie?

"Probably like some fish and some fruit, but we have to be careful cause there might be dangerous animals around," replies Fred. Fred and Wennie spot some fruit trees and head toward them.

"They're orange trees," says Wennie. The pirates grab some fruit and head off to find some other produce. Captain Bigfoot is at the shore trying to find materials to build a shelter to sleep for the night. He grabs some sticks and starts lining them to make walls. Soon after he finds leaves to use as a roof to shield from rain. He uses vines for padding to sleep on and the shelter is almost done. Fred and Wennie come back with some fish and fruit.

"Alright it's time to cook and eat," says Wennie.

"TADAH," says Captain Bigfoot.

The shelter is big enough to fit three pirates, it also has a small underground tunnel to escape anything dangerous. The pirates eat and then sleep. In the morning the pirates set sail and continue their search.

"Yawn, I'm still tired," says Fred.

The pirates notice the waves getting stronger and bigger. It might not be anything much, they thought. But as the waves grew the pirates got more fearful. Then a giant tentacle pops out of the ocean and the pirates are scared.

"IT'S A KRAKEN," screams Wennie!

The pirates watch as the kraken emerges.

"We need to get out of here," says Fred.

"Aww squiddy is that you," says Captain Bigfoot. Fred and Wennie stand in confusion as Captain Bigfoot pats each tentacle on the kraken.

"What are you doing Captain?" asks Fred.

"This is my friend squiddy we met a long time ago his family abandoned him so I took him in," replies Captain Bigfoot. The pirates spot something in the distance.

"Tan, green, red, yellow, guys I think I found the- the thing you were looking for Captain," Says Fred.

"YES we found it ,"says Captain Bigfoot!

"What is it,"asks Wennie?

"It's my old burger I bought...oh wait it's soggy lets go do something else," replies Captain Bigfoot.

Fred and Wennie think Captain Bigfoot is a strange person as they sail off into the ocean.

The Rainy Ski Lift

By Sage Barrish

Last summer I went to the Ohio State Fair with Barbara, Abigail, my sister Evelyn, Claire, Frances, my brother Charlie, and Claire's brother John. Sadly, Frances and Barbara had to leave early. Then, I saw a big dead chipmunk.

Next, Evelyn wanted Dippin' Dots. Obviously, we all agreed but we'd have to take the ski lift. It was sprinkling when we got there but we were okay. We got on and Evelyn took lots of photos. She almost dropped her phone! Claire, Evelyn and I were on one. Charlie, John and Abigail were on another.

Claire and I took our shoes off. Then, it started pouring! We watched people huddle under little roofs. The singing lemonade stand still sang, "Get your lemonade!"

When we got off, we walked straight to Dippin' Dots. I got s'mores flavor. Then it stopped raining and there was a double rainbow! After staring in awe at the double rainbow, Evelyn, Charlie, and I got in the car and drove to Claire's house to play. Frances came over too!

When we got to Claire's house, we had peanut butter popcorn. Peanut butter popcorn is REALLY YUMMY! Then, Evelyn let us stay at Claire's house for a sleepover! When we woke up, we had WAFFLES! It was so fun! After breakfast, I went home and cleaned my room. Then I looked at photos from the Ohio State Fair and wrote this book.

The Runaway Puppy

By Mia Barron-Robles

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Amanda in the 5th grade. At her school they had a “bring your pet to school” day. Amanda had a dog named Timmy who was a good dog and he loved to explore lots of places and run around. She decided to bring him to school.

Amanda and her mom couldn’t remember how many times Timmy tried to escape. He escaped so many times every day that they couldn’t keep count. Amanda’s mom was so busy that she never had time to check her emails and missed an email from the school saying that everyone bringing a pet would have to give a short introduction about the pet.

The morning before school Amanda and her mom gave the dog food, then took the dog for a walk before going to the school. When they arrived Amanda’s mom opened the door and little Timmy was so excited to see everyone waiting for the doors to open he ran out of the car. Everyone around them tried catching Timmy but he just kept hiding, and when someone got too close Timmy would just jump out and run somewhere else so they just couldn’t catch him. Everyone was calling his name, offering treats, even saying that they could go to the park, but unfortunately they could not catch the dog.

After about 15 minutes of trying to catch Timmy they came up with an idea. They would put a row of dog treats leading to the school’s front door while Amanda’s mom waited with a leash. After about three minutes of trying to get Timmy into the school they got him just close enough to the door that Amanda’s mom could get the leash on Timmy successfully.

They were all so relieved that they got the dog. The rest of the day was good since everyone had basically already met Timmy when he was outside, and Amanda didn’t have to introduce him. The End.

The Secret Spy Parents

By Aaliyah Miller

It all started two months ago. There were five children, Mary, Abby, Maya, Aiden, and Carter. They all started getting weird feelings, but they all brushed it off by planning a surprise party for Maya's thirteenth birthday. They all had their birthdays in April.

"SURPRISE!" they said while Maya walked in the room.

"Thank you so much," she says, while they attack the snacks.

A week later, Maya stops showing up for school. All the friends went by Maya's house.

They said, "Hi. Have you seen Maya around lately?"

The family responded, "You haven't heard? She got taken!"

They gasp. "What ..in...the world?!"

Mary and Abby went home. Then Mary was finding her computer her mom got for her last birthday. Then she found a note that said, "Where are you spies?" Mary and Abby got confused and just got the computer. It was the thirtieth of April. Their birthdays have passed and they are all thirteen.

One day they were walking home from school and someone in all black approached them. They ran away from it. All the kids told their parents they were getting stalked.

They said, "Really?"

"YESSS," All of them said.

The parents thought for a second, for a moment of RealizationThey looked at each other and it clicked. All the parents said, "The zem kyler, more known as the one who hunts spies?"

The kids were confused, "spies?"

Then Mary and Abby grabbed a note and showed all of them. All the kids looked at the parents.

Mary and Abby said, "So,what is this?"

The parents explained and went to look for Maya. They all got their gear on and went on the adventure. Lucky, Maya had her phone on her, and the parents tracked her phone.

The parents found her in a tunnel. Maya threw confetti in the air as the parents walked in. It was all a set-up; she was hiding there trying to make gifts for the others.

They all went home and the kids had a huge sleepover. That is the story of the secret spy parents.

The Seven Missing Stars

By Po Anjchehra Sou

Prologue: The seven stars hold lots and lots of power. They bring peace to the world. The first star is the power of speed. The second star is the power of strength. The third star is the power of courage. The fourth star is the power of luck. The fifth star is the power of light. The sixth power is the power of the darkness. The last and most important star is the power of peace.

There were 7 little animals, the first animal was a crow, her name was Shard. The second and third animals were bats. They were twins and their names were Batzzle and Tatzle. The fourth animal was an otter, his name was Bobo. The fifth animal was a white cat, her name was Hail. The sixth and seventh animals are owls, they are siblings. Also, their names are Hoots and Hooters.

They were all friends until one day, the magic around the world became weaker. Then the town bell rang. The town chef spoke, the seven stars have gone missing. We know where the stars are but it is far too dangerous for us. Who is brave enough to travel far from our little town.

Shard, Batzzle, Tatzze, Bobo, Hail, Hoots, and Hooters all loved the stars. They chose to find the stars together. The town chef was overjoyed but a little worried about them. Hear, take this world map and remember, don't forget you have your magic with you.

As they left, they ate berries when they were hungry and they had infinite water because of Hail's water magic. When they reached the first destination, a deep cave, they said, "we got this!" They were both bats so they had echolocation. They all agreed to separate so they could find the stars faster. In the cave, Batzzle and Tatzze had to get past rushing water. They were not hurt thanks to Tatzze shield magic. At the end of the cave they found the first star, the star of speed.

Meanwhile Shard is at The Mountain of The Eagles. The mountain is the most dangerous mountain. Shard flew around the mountain side and she managed to avoid the eagles. At the top of the mountain, she found the second star, the power of courage. Bobo and Hail both went to the same destination because both of the stars are there. The ocean core is a place no animal had gone before. They have heard of it but never seen it. To get in the ocean core, they have to get past the guards. The guards are sharks. Hail froze the sharks when they came close.

At last, they found the two stars. The power of luck and the power of light. Hoots and Hooters arrived at the dark forest. The dark forest is the place owls lived but they were long gone for some reason. Hoots and Hooters flew in the forest but they did not find the star. Hoots started to feel something grabbing his leg. He then realized that the plants were grabbing him and he tried warning Hooters but it was too late. They were captured by giant venus fly traps. When they thought that they were getting eaten, Batzzle and Tatzze came. Batzzle used his fire magic to burn the giant venus fly traps and free them. At last, they found the last star. The power of peace. They all reunited and journeyed back to the town. They came back to the town as heroes of the seven stars.

The Story of Lewis Morr the Rabbit

By Ezra Sullivan

One crisp November morning when the sun was just rising up, in the Canadian forest there was a rabbit. This rabbit was a charmed fellow who lived in a hole under a large pine tree. His hole was dug decades ago by his great ,great grandfather James Morr Jr. This hole was not like you might think. It was not a muddy worm infested hole but a hole with tiles lining the walls and shelves with nice plates and a clay oven.

Lewis also had two friends, Lucy Brown the black bear, a very skilled fabric worker and Harry Rite the mole who's great, great grandmother Susan Rite helped James Morr dig his hole.

Lewis only had one problem, Randy Letz. Randy was a cruel, mean, heartless, I dare say evil, hunter. Lewis and his friends all despised Randy and every day they would have to run and hide when Randy came along. Eventually Lewis became sick of it and hatched a clever plan.

On a late December afternoon The team was finishing details for the big plan to forever get rid of Randy, but first they needed to go to town for supplies. Town was a magical place with animals of all sorts of sizes from big brown bears to small field mice, there were trees carved out, and huts made of stone. The town was a buzz, there were vendors and shops galore.

"Okay, all we need is some fabric" said Lewis.

After they got what they needed they went back to their homes knowing that tomorrow they would have to drive Randy out of the woods. When Lewis woke he bounded out the door as fast as a bullet to his friends house. He got to Lucy's house so early the sun had not even risen yet Harry was already there and talking. As Harry came out of Lucy's house the bright golden sun had made everything look a brilliant yellow. Harry soon started digging, he dug, dug, dug, and he dug. Then he stopped and dug up. He quickly ran into a piece of wood he took out a small crowbar and pried it open and went inside he was extremely careful even though he knew Randy would be out chasing Lewis in the thick of the forest, meaning they would have plenty of time.

"Darn rabbit he always slips away just before I can never get him," said Randy. Harry heard Randy's voice from a different room. Harry's heart jumped to his throat. Harry had to make a split second either play it safe or get the sewing machine, and he got the sewing machine but then CRASH he just knocked down a plate.

"What was that! Who's there?"

He heard from another room. Harry ran so fast he could barely hear Randy's frustrated voice. He got to Lucy's house so quickly he thought he had run twenty meters an hour.

"Here take this" he said out of breath holding the side stitch in his chest. In five minutes Lucy had a ghost costume ready.

"But who will wear it," said all of them at once.

"I had to go inside of Randy's house," said Harry.

"Well I was just chased by Randy," said Lewis

"I will do it" said Lucy. As Lucy put on the costume her heart was beating like a drum, she reluctantly went into Harry's old hole and started to crawl. To Lucy it felt like forever until she reached the end of the tunnel. Her heart was like a worm squirming out of her throat. When Lucy came out of the floor there was a small creek.

"If that is the darn mole I will lose it!" Randy quickly got to the kitchen where Lucy was.

"WHAT THE HECK! Do you really think I'm scared of a stupid Halloween piece of junk?!"

OH NO OH NO OH NO OH OH NOOOOO! thought Lucy.

Randy then jumped right at Lucy. "COME 'ERE you stupid thing." Randy had forgotten that Lucy was a bear so Lucy grabbed him and roared so loud that you could hear her in northern Greece so Randy ran and ran never to be seen again. As the heroic trio got near the town they could hear the noise and figured a fly must have seen what happened and alerted the animals of the forest, as the sun set and the stores closed the party continued all night long.

The Story of Neon the Nayan Cat

By Ellanor Galloway

Once there was a cat with a rainbow sprinkled popart. Its name was Neon, and its kind was called Nayans. Every ten years, all the Nayans would gather around for the new Nayan cat to be crowned "Nayan Cat." To become a Nayan Cat, you would have to go through a series of obstacles. The Nayan that did the best would become Nayan Cat. Even the present Nayan Cat would compete, but like the other Nayans, the present Nayan Cat would not be able to fly.

One day, Neon was preparing for the next day, which was the ceremony for the crowning of the new Nayan Cat. Neon was excited! He has been waiting a long time for this. As the Queen of Stars looked down on Neon, she remembered when she got here, so many competing Nayans, so she made them compete every ten years or they would have to move planets!

Neon was always teased because he didn't have pink sprinkles. They even said that Neon's sprinkles were "fake" but they were real. They even said he would never be a Nayan cat. The very next day, Neon was tired of being made fun of, Neon was ready to become the Nayan Cat! As the townsfolk gathered around the legendary rock as the star Queen went in the middle of the rock and said "let the ceremony for the crowning of the new Nayan Cat begin!" Then, it began. Neon was in the lead! It was as easy as cake. Neon was brushing his opponents away left and right! Neon felt like a champion!

At last, Neon was one of the last two contestants. Neon was against one of the biggest school bullies. Neon was a little nervous, but he didn't want it to show. Neon knocked the competition out of the park! All that effort was enough to become a Nayan Cat! Neon was so happy he jumped up into space and someone saw Neon in the sky. That person took a picture of Neon and posted it on social media and called it "Nayan Cat" and It went viral! Once Neon returned to his home planet, he sat down and ate a Thanksgiving-like meal, but it wasn't Thanksgiving.

The Three Little Pig Shorts

By Amy Montag

In my opinion, the real criminals are the Pigs. You might argue with me, but the Three Little Pigs killed the Wolf! The Wolf might have stalked them, but it is more illegal to kill people/wild animals.

Pig number one argues that, "That Wolf WANTED TO EAT US!"

"But did he?" is my question.

He didn't!

Pig number three calls out, "SNARF!" It was self-defense. Self-defense is when you hurt someone for a good reason and we had a good reason.

Pig number two yells, "So what if we had a big pot of water?"

"You killed him!" I yelled out.

And all of the Pigs yelled, "He wanted to KILL US in the first place!"

"I hereby declare the three little Pigs guilty." That is my crazy story. I won!

The Three Little Pig Shorts

By Noah Cole

I believe that the criminal in this case is the Wolf.

We know the Wolf broke into the third Pig's home and tried to assault the Pigs.

He attempted murder when he tried to eat the Pigs. The court document shows that Wolf stated that they would be, "a tender, juicy meal."

So, it is my opinion that the Pigs were trying to defend themselves against him. The Wolf did die, but it was his fault because he was trying to break and enter the third Pig's home.

I rest my case! The Wolf was the cause of his own death. The Pigs are innocent because they were using self-defense.

The Three Little Pig Shorts

By Paris Burke

Hello, your honor. Today, I will be defending the Wolf with the evidence from the court document.

First, I would like to state that the Three Little Pigs and the True Story of the Three Little Pigs are completely different. The Three Little Pigs said that the Wolf was supposedly stalking them, but to be more specific, the Big Bad Wolf saw the two little Pigs while they danced and played.

They said he thought, "What a juicy, tender meal."

But the real case was that the Wolf was just trying to get some sugar. The Three Little Pigs also said that the Wolf destroyed their property again. To go into more detail, they said he huffed and puffed and blew their houses down.

While that may be true, he did huff and puff. He then actually let out a sneeze and blew the houses down. The only reason why he was at the house was for sugar.

The Three Little Pigs attempted premeditated murder. BUT, even if their story was true, it is just the Circle of Life! I rest my case.

The Three Little Pig Shorts

By Kylee Lewis

I believe that the criminal in this case is the Wolf.

We know the Wolf is the criminal because he did attempt murder. He tried to kill the three pigs. I also have evidence of the Wolf chasing the two other pigs to their houses.

The Wolf huffed and puffed and blew down the first pig's house. The Pig ran. That Pig was running for his life!

I also have video evidence of the Wolf watching (stalking) them from behind a tree and saying, "What juicy, tender meals they will make." The other Pig was in his house hiding, and the first Pig ran in and the Wolf chased him. The Wolf huffed and puffed and blew that house down. The Pigs ran to the third Pig's house. He tried to blow this house down too but he didn't move it. So, he tried to go down the chimney and fell into hot water and died.

That is self-defense! So, the Three Pigs are not guilty. Happy Ever After!

Trying Helped Me Through A Tough Time

By Imogen Renee Hoke

Every day you have a choice to be in a position, where you can sit out a new thing or try it everyday of your life. No matter what, trying is the best option.

Trying is the most important core value. Trying doesn't mean it has to be perfect, it means you give it a shot and see what happens.

No matter what, trying is the best option. Trying is not easy, trying can be hard. Like trying something new you may not like but you may love it. Trying something new can be messy and you may make mistakes. Trying is better than quitting. Quitting in my family means that you just haven't tried.

Let's talk about one of my favorite Dr. Seuss books, *Green Eggs and Ham*. This book inspired me to get out of my comfort zone and do something new. This book was more just a story about a guy who doesn't want to eat Green Eggs and Ham. It was about seeing something new and trying it. *Green Eggs and Ham* was read to me when I was 3 years old. After hearing this story, it encouraged me to do something new. When I tried it was the best feeling I ever felt.

I was in 1st grade when COVID-19 hit. This was hard. I got pulled out of an environment, which is school. It was difficult for my parents and I. Anxiety overwhelmed me at times, but luckily I had a friend Mo.

Mo is my closest friend ever and she helped me try to overcome my anxiety. It was hard on my parents. My dad was out and my mom worked from home. My mom always made time to make me and Mo a snack even if she was in a Zoom meeting. Mo and I went to Zoom class together on the same computer every day. We got sent the school food. It was not good but we had to deal with it.

When I was in 3rd grade I was always scared to ask my teacher for help because of my anxiety. I got so scared I just left stuff blank sometimes. One day, my dad said that I should ask for help. I realized that reaching out for help did not make me a baby. I got the answers I needed and now I never stop asking for help when I need it. I got time to learn what to do and then I could do it and help my peers.

Now I am in 5th grade and I always try my best and get results. Don't get me wrong, trying has its ups and downs. Now that I am in 5th grade, I still try new things. I try even though I might not get it right. I have always tried and I always will. Trying is my favorite thing to do no matter what this is a Law of Life that I live by.

Winter Break

By Crosby Kernan

December 16th 2024: My dad still leaves for weeks. He still doesn't tell me why, or where. My birthday's in a couple of days, the twenty-third, he'll probably be gone for it, too. I wrote in my diary. The next day is a school day so I have to wait for the bus with Max, my brother, before I start trekking off to my own school. School was boring today, same as always, and winter break is in a few days. That's when he will be leaving next, I'm going to follow him then by bike, or sneaking into his car, whatever it is I'm going to have to do. I wrote in my diary.

At twelve A.M. on the first day of winter break my alarm goes off, but it's useless. At 1 A.M., he hops in the car. The ride takes a while but I don't mind, it'll be worth it. Finally we stop at this huge warehouse and he gets out but I don't dare not until he's already inside.

"Oh, crud," I say, then clamp my hands over my mouth, so I can't be heard, the doors are locked. I spotted a window low enough for me to climb into. I try it and, miraculously, it's unlocked. I jumped through into an empty room. Empty, I noticed, except for a screen in the middle. As I walked around it flickered to life, and there was a figure in the middle, but it was too dark to see.

"State your name and busine-," it paused.

"What?" I said.

"Business, State your name and business immediately," it finished.

"James Miller, here to fi-, Investigate," I said not wanting to reveal my true intentions.

Without another word the T.V. turned off. I looked around for a door of sorts. Fumbling around in the darkness I found one, but right before I opened it the T.V. said, "Don't open that!"

"Why?" I ask.

"The alarm, and I'll make you a deal, I'll turn it off, IF you can find a switch for me."

"What does it do?"

"Lights, Cameras, Action."

"What?"

"It lets me access the CAMERAS in the other rooms, and turn on the LIGHTS so I can watch the ACTION."

"Fine I get I will," I say and spend the next half hour silently looking for it, when I finally flick I looked back at the door.

"Open?" I said, because I didn't fully expect it to be.

As I stepped in I saw a white and black checkered floor, the T.V. was once again in the middle. As it flickered on I realized, "This is a chess board."

"Close, Checkers," said the T.V.

"And you will be the one playing."

"Why?" I asked.

"You do want to find out what your father is doing, right?" said the T.V.

"How do you-, Yes." I decided it would be better to just let it go if he already knew.

"So I'm going to have to play this, as one of the pieces, like Harry Potter?"

"An odd comparison, but yes, you will."

"Okay," I sighed and with that the T.V. ascended into the ceiling and I started playing "E,3 to D,4," I said, then it mirrored on the other side. Odd, I thought then continued playing.

After a while of the game, I had 3 kinged pieces and they had one left. At that point I had cornered them and finally to win the game I said, "D,6 to B," and jumped the final piece. The floor below it slid off and a door clicked. I ran in and I realized something, it was another game.

"Final one," the T.V. said.

"CAPTURE THE FLAG," and with that, rose hills and trees and other obstacles, and finally two flags.

"If you are hit by another player you will be banished from this place, FOREVER." And with that it ascended, and people in full body suits with blue on them filed out of a door I hadn't noticed. After they were all out (there were red ones too), a light descended and it turned green signaling, I presumed, the start of the game.

"Alright I need two of you with me, to protect," I added, so they understood. Two nodded and followed me. At first, there were no attacks, then about a third of the way through, two red suits jumped out at me.

"RUN," I yelled, but one shook his head, he pointed at himself then the guys and then at us and the flag, I understood immediately. Me and the one guy ran, as fast as

possible forward. We endured two more attacks at the halfway point, by singular men, then three people popped out of the trees.

"RUN," I yelled again and he nodded, so we full-sprinted into the clear, as they followed us. Finally, we backed into a corner. The final guy pointed at me and the flag, then the flag and pushed me. I ran leaving him to deal with two guys, as the other one followed me. I looked back and saw them holding him by the arms carrying him to a door.

"NO!" I yelled, then realized he was alive, and I didn't know him. I ran, ducked behind a tree and caught my breath. When he came running back, I tripped him and ran to the base, where at least ten people were guarding the flag. Thinking I saw a rock, and picked it up, and threw it, they all turned and ran at once and as I grabbed the flag a back door opened and the lights brightened. As I walked through I heard footsteps,

"DAD!" I yelled when he came down.

"Does this mean you won't have to leave anymore?"

He laughed and then said, "You bet. Boss told me, but I can't tell you what I was doing, not yet," he said as we walked to the car.