

**Bethesda Elementary School**  
**LITERARY MAGAZINE**  
**Spring 2021**



**Illustration by Mia Arnold, Grade 5**



# **BETHESDA ELEMENTARY**

Thank you to all of our contributing writers!

The views expressed by the authors of the works included in this publication do not necessarily express the views of Bethesda Elementary School or its teachers, staff, or students.

# Table of Contents

## POETRY

Untitled (Brooke Trabert)	p. 4
A Bridge's Feelings (Jacob Farley)	p. 4
The Beach (Federica Albanese)	p. 5
Cicadas (Luca Borrelli)	p. 6
Untitled (Margaux Colburn)	p. 7
Racism (Elena Smith)	p. 8
A Lesson From the Dolphins (Amelia Schreiber)	p. 9
Hope (Aarav Mistry)	p. 10

## PROSE

The Dog And The Snake (Nathan Kauffman)	p. 11
How Is Corn Produced? (Alli Kirshner)	p. 13
All About Owls (Justin Bloom)	p. 14
Hydroelectricity (Cole Kahan)	p. 15
Steve's Bad Day (Everett Rizas)	p. 16
New Life (Lindsay Gallagher)	p. 17
Journal of a Small Kid (Caden Thomas)	p. 20
The Lovely Day With my Mom (Reena T. Veshi)	p. 22
DaWaW Academy (Lyla Harry)	p. 23
The Shadow Spy: The Store Owner and the Robber (Sydney and Macey Hess)	p. 24
Lakala's Story of Evil (Keira Krantz)	p. 25
Mr. Truth's Psychological Report (Liam Dalzell)	p. 30

The Story Journal: The Black Lake (Levi Gopstein)	p. 31
My Little Brother (Emmanuel Garcia)	p. 32
P.P. Loses Dumpy (Ellie Barash)	p. 32
The Peregrine Falcon (Aanya Garg)	p. 33
The Orangutan Boy (James Bailey)	p. 34
A Mistake to Remember (Victoria Ellie Dean)	p. 36
Greek mythology rulers from Ouranos to Zeus (Baptiste Wendling)	p. 39
The New Friends (Benjamin Diamant)	p. 40
A Big Mess in Space (Pierre Wendling)	p. 43
Bill's Fruit Stand (Atticus Powell)	p. 44
Galacorn - the Galaxy Unicorn (Victoria Z. Braun)	p. 46
Wolf Souls (May Torii)	p. 47
Sideline Foul (Ellie) Redmann	p. 50

# Untitled

By Brooke Trabert, Grade 4

Sometimes you're mean,  
Sometimes you're rude,  
Sometimes you have a really bad tude  
Stay 6 feet, that's your treat  
Wear a mask, it's not to hard of a task  
Stay outside, do not hide  
Get fresh air, that's all I care  
I am going back to school on April 12,  
I just want to scream and yell  
Don't be scared, don't be afraid,  
When this is over we shall parade!



## A Bridge's Feelings

By Jacob Farley, Grade 4

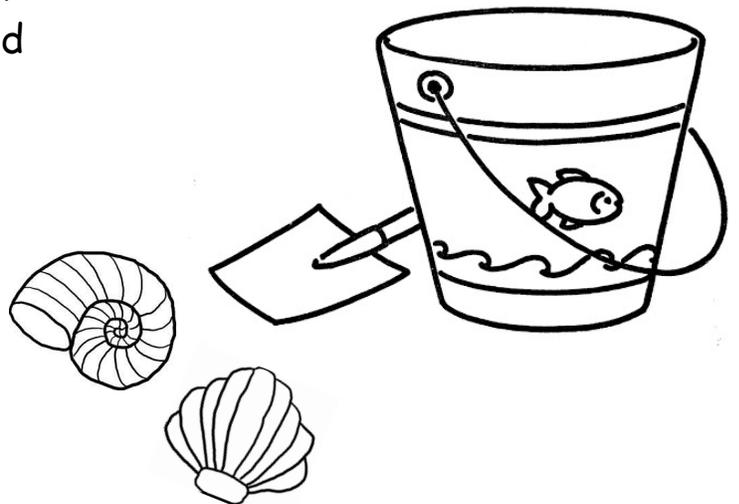
Bricks covered with flowers  
River flowing  
Ivy creeping up the railing  
Don't disturb the calm  
Green grass surrounding the meadow  
Enjoy the scenery



# The Beach

By Federica Albanese, Grade 4

The beach, what a magical place to be!  
The waves from the sea play  
soothing music for my ears  
The sand under my feet  
is golden powder that coats my skin  
with sparkly glitters  
The sea is a blue field  
where to lay and relax  
I can hear the birds  
singing a festive tune  
I see the sand gliding with the birds  
and drawing fancy swirls in the sky  
The smells of sea salt and seaweed  
gently tickle my nose  
A soft breeze caresses my body  
I adore the beach  
It is my favorite place to be!



# Cicadas

By Luca Borrelli, Grade 2

Edible

Nice

Refreshing on your skin

Cicadas are cool.

Sticky

Crystal-like wings

Hooks on their arms

Cicadas are scientific.

You can hold them on a stick while you are sprinting.

They'll never fall off if they like you.

Cicadas are awesome



---

## Untitled

By Margaux Colburn, Grade 5

I don't want to go, I don't want to leave home.  
What did I do, to have to go through this?  
I don't need new teeth, I already have some!

Oh, please! I don't want to go to the dentist  
I don't want to go, I don't want to leave home.  
I don't want fake teeth, especially not braces!

I promise if I won't go, I will eat what you wish,  
Salad, squash, and even asparagus!  
Tomatoes, Brussel sprouts, and maybe even FISH!

But please, please, please, can I go tomorrow?  
I promise if I won't go, I will eat what you wish  
Yes? You said yes? You are really wonderful!

---



# Racism

By Elena Smith, Grade 5

Racism is not the way to define the good and the bad;

Racism is tearing our country apart,  
it's the opposite of who and what we want to be!

We shouldn't just look at a person's skin color,  
to define their human rights and personality.

We should all support each other like family.

I hope when I grow up racism won't be a problem in our world.

I know that people believe that our country is a place for hope;

And we should stand up to that name, to prove them right.

I hope that people would go into the shoes of others,  
who have experienced racism.

We as a nation should stand up and stop racism.

But we should never do it with violence.

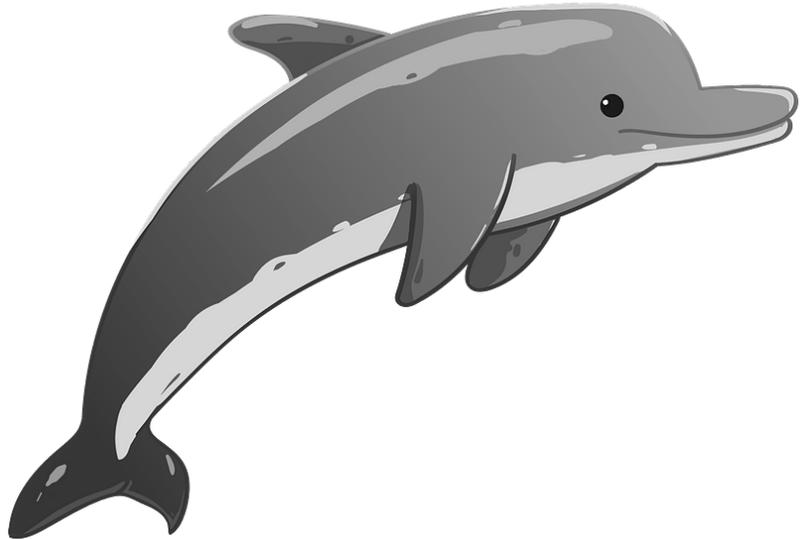
Violence can harm others and it is not the right way to protest,  
against racism even though it is still taking a long time.

I believe that we can all do our part and value each other,  
and not the color of our skin

# A Lesson From the Dolphins

By Amelia Schreiber, Grade 5

Dolphins  
Splish splash jumping about  
Playing all day  
Gracefully gliding  
Noble and keen  
Shooting along the coast  
Crystal clear water  
Life saving beauties  
Tursipos



BUT,  
climate change, storms, freshwater runoff  
Damaging dolphins skin,  
Losing essential ions and proteins,  
Freshwater flowing through their bodies causing internal swelling,  
Humans are damaging the planet.  
Hurting the animals that live there.

Earth day is EVERY day we are on planet Earth  
Stop wasting so much food, producing so much garbage, and harming the planet.  
Do simple things like walking or biking to your destinations or taking public transit, reusing,  
reducing, recycling and using energy wisely.  
Help stop climate change.  
Help save the planet.

# Hope

By Aarav Mistry, Grade 4

Stay strong through troubling times

Look at the good around you

Think of times when you helped

Think of hope

Look at the world around you

Think about how everyone helps

That is hope

Feel the hope swirling in your heart

Feel your energy pump

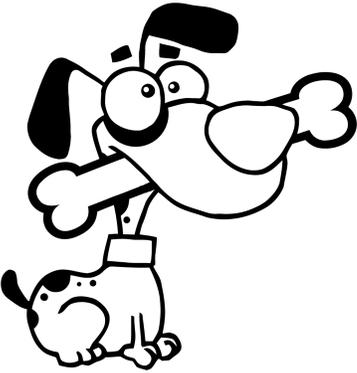
All while you think of hope



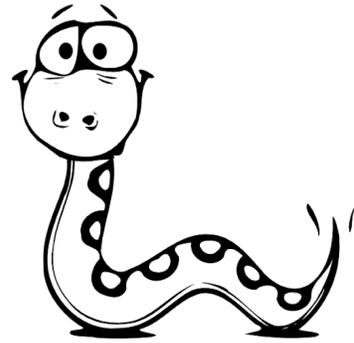
# The Dog And The Snake

A Fable

By Nathan Kauffman, Grade 3



There were two best friends. A dog and a snake. The dog was honest and the snake was dishonest. They lived in a town in Texas.



One summer day, dog and snake went to the bank to steal money because they were broke. They did not have any money because they did not like to work. When they went to rob the bank, they got caught by the monkey police officer. He arrested them and brought them to the courthouse. At the courthouse they had to meet with the judge. Dog and snake were a little scared. The judge said, "You two should be ashamed of yourselves." Then dog said, "We both stole the money." But then snake said, "No, I did not steal any money. I broke into a house and stole a cheap watch." Snake was lying because he wanted to keep the money. Then when dog was getting dragged away to be locked up he started to say snake was lying. He was getting dragged away to be locked up because everybody thought dog was lying and snake was telling the truth. But snake was lying and dog was telling the truth. But dog did not get a chance to finish saying the word lying. As dog was getting dragged to his jail cell, he saw all of the other animal thieves.

Once they locked dog's jail cell, dog realized one of the worst thieves in town EVIL COW lived in the same cell. Dog asked EVIL COW, "Do you want to play cards?" EVIL COW said, "It depends. Do you?" Dog said, "Let's play!" They played cards for 30 minutes. Then they

went to bed. Back to snake. Snake was never sent to jail because he framed the dog even though they were best friends. Snake preferred money over friendship. When the judgment was over snake pretended to leave but secretly came back to the courthouse and jail building. Once he was inside he quietly stole the money again but this time from Guard who was sleeping. Guard had taken the money from dog when dog was getting arrested. Guard was planning to return the money to the bank the next day.

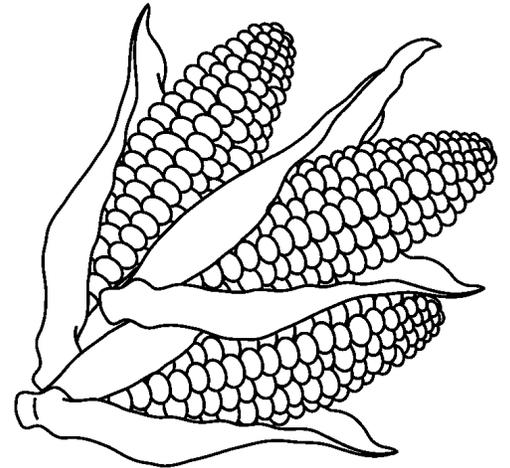
In the morning, Guard woke up and jumped out of his chair. He yelled, "Where is the money?!" Guard got up and walked through the hallway to look for clues. While he was searching for clues he found a note that said, "Reminder I, snake, will go to the breakfast shop at 9:00 in the morning tomorrow." Back to guard. Guard knew snake wrote that note last night. Guard looked at his watch and it was 8:55 so he rushed to the breakfast shop to beat snake there. Once guard was there he rushed in but snake was not there yet. This was good because guard wanted to beat snake there so he could arrest snake right when he walked in. 5 minutes later snake arrived and guard arrested him. Once guard got a hold of snake he realized snake was lying about stealing the watch. He actually did not steal the watch but did steal the money with dog. Snake lied twice. Snake was then punished with a \$1,000 fine for lying to the judge and the whole town.

---

# How Is Corn Produced?

By Alli Kirshner, Grade 5

Have you ever wondered how your favorite food, corn, is produced? Producing corn is complicated business, you need to know about many facts from crop rotation to shareholders.



Have you ever wondered how, where, and what you do with corn? How do you grow corn you might ask, first you need to know about crop rotation. Crop rotation is when you, for example 'plant soybeans one year and corn the next' as it says in 'A Short History of a Special Plant.' You would plant soybeans because they add the nutrients back into the soil that the corn plant took out. Then comes where corn is grown, most corn is grown in the Corn Belt because it is in the Midwest. Most of the corn is grown in the Midwest because it has 'hot summers and regular rainfall that corn needs to grow 3 meters (10 feet) tall.' Lastly, there is what you do with corn. You can first of all eat the corn on the cob, freeze the corn, can it or make it into ethanol. Or it can be 'processed and sold for human consumption in the form of corn flour, cornmeal, grits, corn tortillas, or corn syrup.' says Carla Corriols in 'The Science of Growing Food'."

Do you know how farmers sell their crops to people that are not in a grocery store? Well read more to find out. First of all, what you need to know is that that produce is called a C.S.A. C.S.A stands for Community Supported Agriculture. What is a C.S.A you might ask? Well it is a box of fresh food that you get every week or month that will support your local farmers. Then you might want to know what the people are called that buy the C.S.A's fresh fruit and vegetable boxes. They are called shareholders or

a stockholder because they are "any person, company, or institution that owns at least one share of a company's stock" as it says on Investopedia.com.

Now you know about how, where, and what you do with corn, and about C.S.A's. You should go and buy a C.S.A box, there is probably a C.S.A around your house that you could buy!

## **All About Owls**

**By Justin Bloom, Grade 4**

Owls are very unique and pretty birds. Owls' feathers are brown, gray, white and black. A lot of owls that are brown and white live all around the world. Owls live in many different places and they can be found in the Pacific Ocean, North America, South America, Europe and Asia. Owls can be big or small, from six inches to 28 inches. An owl's wingspan can spread from one to six and a half feet!



Owls eat a lot of food. They eat frogs, mice, small birds and a lot of other small animals. Some owls swallow all of their food whole! They hunt prey with their sharp talons, and they eat with their beaks. Owls are nocturnal; they hunt at night for food. Owls mostly live alone, but during nesting season they are in packs.

Owls are very cool birds. They can turn their heads all the way around! Also, some female owls are bigger than male owls. In conclusion, owls are very cool and interesting birds!

# Hydroelectricity

By Cole Kahan, Grade 4



## THE HISTORY OF HYDROELECTRICITY

Hydro-power has been used for more than 2,000 years. Ancient Greeks used flowing water to turn paddle wheels that were used to grind wheat into flour. During the 1700's the wheels they used became more sophisticated and therefore they gave off more power. The world's first hydroelectric power plant was created in London in 1878 to power a lamp. Four years after that another plant opened up in Wisconsin and only powered two buildings. Another four years later there were around 45 hydro power plants in North America. Now when we switch to today, hydro power is the most popular type of renewable energy in the world. The largest plants can power 20,000 homes and buildings.



## THE FUTURE OF HYDROELECTRICITY

The future for hydroelectricity is growing brighter and larger every day just as in 1,460 days hydro power went from powering one solitary light bulb to powering two buildings. The U.S. department of energy wants to double their hydro electric power usage to 14% (Currently the power usage is standing at 7%) by 2030. One thing to think about is that multiple governments are thinking of building in the Amazon Rainforest which means tearing down a good portion of it. But the thing is that since the Amazon Rainforest makes 1/5 of the world's energy that could literally lead to some people short of breath simply because there is not enough air.

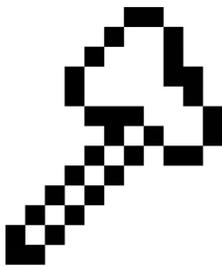
## WHERE IS HYDROELECTRICITY USED TODAY

Since hydro power is the world's most used energy source it has power used in 150+ countries. The country with the most hydro power usage is China with over one trillion one hundred million kWh\*. That's four times more than the country in second which is Canada with three hundred seventy



seven billion kWh. The U.S. is not a big user of hydroelectric power with two hundred forty nine billion kWh. Because you need to be near sources of water that are fast moving. The most famous hydro power plant in the U.S. is the Hoover Dam. \*kWh stands for kilowatt hours

Hydro electricity has a very interesting timeline and future as the most used renewable energy source on the planet and it was very fun to write this report on all three of these topics. I look forward to submitting next year.



## **Steve's Bad Day**

### ***A Minecraft Story***

**By Everett Rizas, Grade 2**

Steve was building his house. He was about to finish when heard "hahahahaha." When he looked he didn't see anything then he saw a portal. He wanted to go in but he was scared. So he got his diamond sword and armor and went in. The floor was filled with bedrock. There were a bunch of vines and mossy cobblestone. Then he saw a place blocked off by fences. He broke them with his ax. He saw a bunch of spider webs. Herobrine came out. "Aaa!" said Steve. He whacked Herobrine but Herobrine teleported behind Steve and hit him. Steve tried to run back to the portal but he got trapped in spider webs. Herobrine kept on hitting Steve. When Steve got out, he ran back to the portal but he didn't see it. He was trapped. Then Herobrine tried to hit Steve again but Steve gave his armor and sword to Herobrine. Then, Herobrine made Steve go back into the overworld. Steve was so mad that he burned his house and destroyed the trees and spawned a bunch of endermen everywhere and hit all the animals and blew up the overworld. Steve was very unhappy. What a bad day!

## New life

By Lindsay Gallagher, Grade 5

Quinn was moving out of her hometown in Ohio all the way to the beaches of New Jersey! She was sad to leave her friends but she knew she had to. She's moving tomorrow! Quinn had short redd-ish blonde hair, hazel eyes, and glasses. It was summer time and she would be in middle school



in a few weeks. She was moving into her Grandparents' old house (which was right on the beach and huge). Her Grandma and Grandpa had recently passed and she was an only child living with her mom and dad.

All of these thoughts were stopping Quinn from falling asleep. Finally she did, and the next morning woke up to the sound of the moving truck pulling up. In a panic, she tried to find something that she could put on that wasn't PJ's. She had no luck. Everything was packed!

"Looks I'll have to wear my pajamas," she thought to herself. She went downstairs to see men coming out of the truck.

"Mom! I thought you said that they were coming later," Quinn told her.

"Yes yes I know, but Quinny please go outside or somewhere where you won't be in the way."

"Okay, but don't call me Quinny!" she put in. Now the workers were at the front door and Quinn ran upstairs.

It felt like hours (probably because it was) until the men left. Quinn, her mom, and dad packed up the car and took off for New Jersey.

Quinn took a nap in the car. When she woke up, she asked, "Where are we?"

"We're in New Jersey, Honey. We will be at the house soon," her dad replied.  
"OK," Quinn groaned.

The car ride was so long and boring. "I am going to lose my mind!" Quinn screamed in her head. Soon her mother said "We're here, Quinn." When she saw the houses she was amazed. They were huge compared to her old house in Ohio.

"These houses are huge!" Quinn sputtered. "Are they mansions?"

"No sweetheart. You see that gray and navy blue one? That's our new house. When we get inside do you want to look around?"

Quinn couldn't answer. She just sat there in awe. "Ok," she said after a minute of staring.

They pulled up into the driveway and hopped out. They started to unload the car and bring the luggage inside. The house was like 3 1/2 stories tall. There was the basement, there was the floor level, there was the 2nd floor, and the last level was like a large attic where you could put a bed and a desk. She started to explore the "house" a little, then the moving trucks pulled up and her mom came up the stairs.

"Quinny, I know that you want to look around the house but I think that you should go to the beach to stay out of the way. Okay?"

"Fine. I'll go, but please don't call me Quinny."

"All right." After Her mom said that she went down stairs to help her husband.

When Quinn was at the beach she longed to go in the water but she didn't have a swimsuit so she went over to some girls sitting in the sand.

"Hi, I'm Quinn. My family just moved into the house on Crestview Lane."

"Hello. I'm Savannah." the girl said, greeting Quinn. She looked tanned, she had light blonde hair, and forest green eyes. "This is Raven."

Raven waved. She had brown eyes, darker brown skin, and Jet black hair. "To the left of Raven is Jane, to the left of her is Violet, and the girl to the left of her is Avery." Savannah finished.

Jane had hot pink hair, pale blue eyes, and she had her hair in a pony and was wearing a baseball cap, Violet had wavy brown hair and brown eyes, and Avery had orange hair and sea green eyes. When everyone had been introduced and they talked all afternoon. Soon they became friends.

"Bye guys," Quinn said. "I gotta go."

"Bye!" They all called as they each went back to their houses.

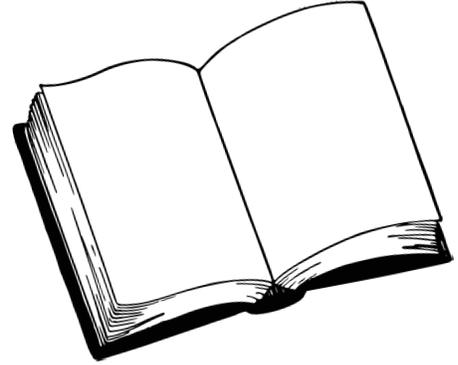
When Quinn got back her parents gave her a tour of the house, showing Quinn which room was which. Her mom had made dinner and Quinn was starving! She and her parents ate dinner in the new dining room and Quinn started to think that her new life wasn't so bad after all. She liked her new house, she made friends, and she was with her family.

All of a sudden Quinn woke up from her dream. Her dad called, "Honey! Wake up! We are moving to New Jersey!"

**THE END!**

# Journal of a Small Kid

By Caden Thomas, Grade 2



Hello, my name is Sam and my friend's name is Thomas. I am small. Since school is over we are going to visit Thomas' family for the summer. My brother Diego is coming too.

We woke up at 5:15 in the morning and we went out on the road at 6:00. After driving for a while, we ran out of gas and I had to walk on the side of the road to get more. When I got back with the gas, they were reading books.

That night we went to bed at 12:00 a.m., I was so tired that night. We woke up at 12:00 p.m. and we drove until 1:00 a.m. and went to bed in the car. We finally got to Thomas' house at 2:00 p.m. Then he introduced me to his sister, Elizabeth, who was 10 years old. Then he introduced me to his mom and dad. I said "hello" and then I went inside and it was so nice.

The room I was staying in was the best out of the whole house. That night we played Monopoly and I won by 900 Monopoly dollars. Then we played Go Fish and Elizabeth won five times in a row.

Thomas' parents said that we were going to the San Diego Zoo bright and early in the morning. That morning I ate an egg sandwich for breakfast in the car.

When we got to the zoo, we went straight to see the gorillas. When we got to the gorilla, he was super angry. He used his strong arms to break the cage. We turned to go but he ran right towards us. We ran towards a ranger and told him our situation and he thought we were lying. Then he saw the gorilla himself and he called all of the rangers on his walkie-talkie, but those rangers thought he was joking. Finally, the other

rangers came and tried to trap the gorilla with nets, but the gorilla dodged them. Now the gorilla seemed to grow ten times bigger because of its huge arms. Now he was smashing everything he saw like trash cans and people. We slipped away right before the gorilla smashed us! We ran and got in our car.

When we got to their house, we packed our things and went off to Hollywood. Something weird happened the second we arrived. We were surrounded by lights and cameras, then someone yelled, "LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!". That's when I remembered we were in a movie called "Journal of a Small Kid." Because we were the stars, we were going to live like kings and queens for the rest of the summer. But it felt too short, so without going into details, just know that this summer was the craziest and best of them all. Well, I will say, I want this to happen again soon!



# The Lovely Day With My Mom

By Reena T. Veshi, Grade 3

On Sunday April 11, I went to a restaurant with my mom. It was our time to hangout called Barrel & Crow in Bethesda. I had a salmon burger and then my mom got some duck. Then we went to the Montgomery mall with my mom. It was a blast. I loved it. We first went into Macys and it was so cool but there was nothing there that I was interested in. So we went to the bath and body wash store. We bought a mini hand sanitizer and we got those cups to put the hand sanitizer in. So we got a pineapple cup for Sofia, a Kitty cat unicorn for Layla, and a Turtle cup for me. I like how mine smelled. It smelled like SUNSHINE MIMOSA. I like the day but also we went to go to this store in the mall named Nordstrom where my mom and I saw a bunch of earrings. I got golden earrings which have stars on them. The lady who was helping my mom was at the register. I liked them because the rest looked like they were for wearing to a party. We went upstairs to a clothes section and my mom bought a few joggers for herself. They looked nice on her. So we then went to another store and we went and we saw my Aunt and my Uncle and my grandma so we then I saw Noah and Alina ( my two baby cousins ). I noticed that Noah was on my uncle's phone too busy to see me and say hi and was watching baby videos. We left and then had some Starbucks. I had a vanilla frappuccino and my mom had an espresso. Before we left, we got to go to see Claires but we didn't get anything. That's how I got a lovely day with my mom!!!



# DaWaW Academy

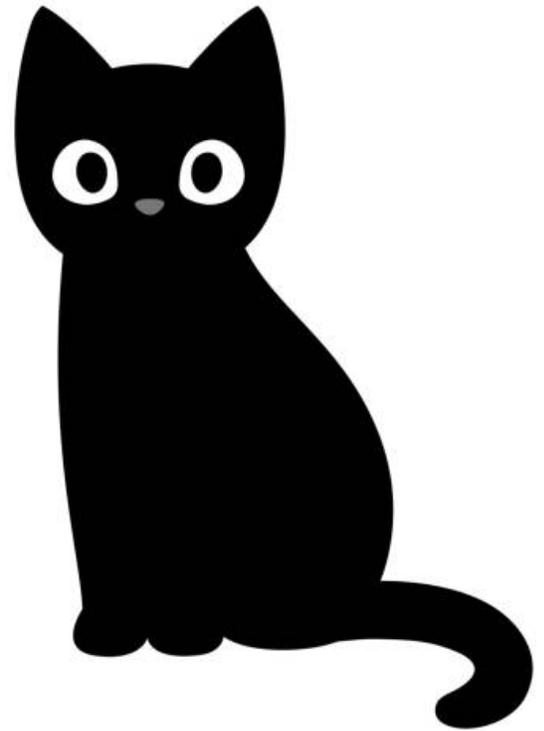
By Lyla Harry, Grade 4

This is the story of when the Jade Coven saved the DaWaW school of magic, the most amazing school where they train the next generation of magical children. It is a secret place that is hidden from the rest of the world, but rumors of its existence still whisper in the streets....

"Boarding school?" Lesedi moaned, stroking her black cat's fur. "What's so special about boarding school? And why do I have to go?"

Her mother replied mysteriously, "You'll see. Now go pack. Sahir is already done."

Lesedi groaned, and slowly went up the stairway. She strolled into her room, walked over to her dresser and pulled open her clothing drawer. She grabbed her remaining clothes and stuffed them into her half packed suitcase. "Done." she sighed.



---

**Welcome Students!**

**Please Report to the courtyard for school supplies.**

---

The courtyard was filled with students walking across stone pathways, all wearing shades of pink or black. A woman wearing pale

pink strolled up to Lesedi and plopped a neon pink uniform into her arms. Another woman wearing fuschia rushed to her, and dropped magenta textbooks and a watermelon pink wand onto the top of the pile then rushed away just as quickly. Lesedi blinked, then turned to her brother, who was being swarmed with men wearing shades of black; grays, midnights, and more.

A woman in pink and a man in black delivered one final piece of paper onto each of their stacks, then rushed away. The two siblings turned to each other, then looked down at their papers. Lesedi's read:

---

**Jade Coven Common Room**  
**Dorm Number: 1**

---

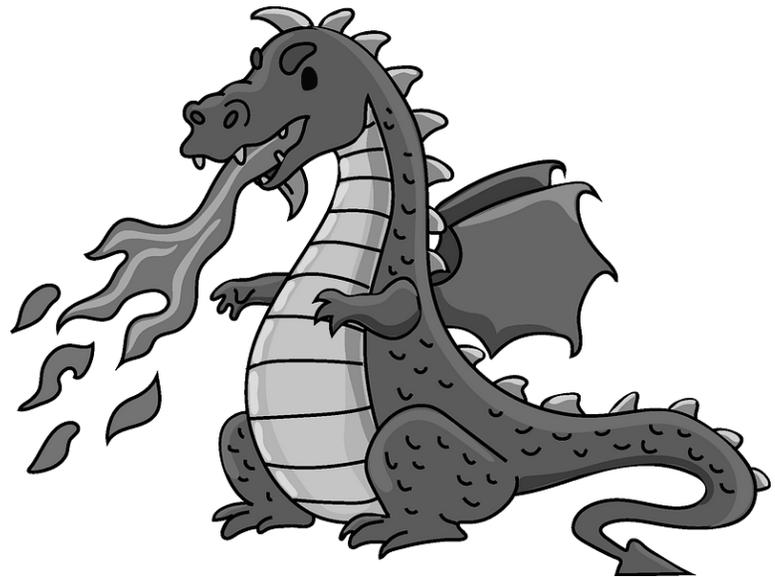
"I guess that's us?" Lesedi said. Sahir looked up at her, "Yes." he said. Lesedi smiled, then grabbed the backpack they gave her and stuffed her books and uniform into it. She smiled again and started down the path.



Lesedi rushed through the halls, excited to see her room. She stopped at a door labeled "1". She opened the door to a wonderland of beds and colors. One girl sitting on the top bed of a bunk bed in the corner had silky black hair and wore a rose pink dress with a belt made of roses. A bird tweeted on the windowsill next to her, the girl nodding with each tweet. Another girl with flaming red hair and

a bright hot pink dress was sitting on the bottom bunk of another bed, flickering a flame above her finger with each snap. A final girl with golden hair in a pastel pink dress was making a glass of water float in the air. Amazed and intrigued, Lesedi walked into the room, went into the bathroom, and put on her surprisingly cute neon pink uniform. She wondered why she was sent to a magic school? She clearly didn't fit in, though she wished she did. Just as she finished dressing, she heard a bell ring.

She rushed to find her class. Confused, she went into a room to ask for directions, but no one was there. As she glanced around, she saw a pale pink folder on the floor. Her eyes widened as she opened it. It contained a secret evil plan to take over the school! She



gasped, and rushed back to her common room. Luckily all the witches, wizards, and dragons of her coven were there. She held up the folder to them. "Look! We have to stop them!", she cried. The dragons in the corner bristled, and two students hopped on their backs. A dragon called Bolt walked over to Lesedi. Nervous but determined, she jumped on and they all rushed out to find help atop a dragon's back.

The dragons flew them to the teacher's tower. They did not need to say anything, they just held up the folder and watched the teacher's eyes widened. The teachers rushed out and the students followed. They soared to the courtyard, where the night coven was casting a spell to take over the school. The teachers landed, "Stop!

Wands in the air!" a witch teacher said. A young witch scoffed and glowered at the Jade coven then shot a stun spell straight at Lesedi. Lesedi yelled, and instinctively held out her hand...

A force field beamed in front of her. Lesedi gasped! The jade coven students stepped forward and blasted stun spells, standing side by side with the teachers, until all of the night coven was frozen. They had stopped the evil takeover! The teachers and students put their wands down. A wizard teacher turned to the jade coven. "Thank you." He said. The dragon he was on also nodded. He continued, "You saved the school!" All the teachers clapped. "You're welcome." Lesedi responded, silently thinking, "This boarding school is way different than what I expected. It may be cool after all."

## **The Shadow Spy: The Store Owner and the Robber** **Book One**

**By Sydney and Macey Hess, Grades 2, K**

Joe was a grocery store owner. Joe invited a few people to come to his store. But he did not know that one of the people was a robber - a very clever robber. Dun Dun Dunnnnn! Joe unlocked the door to the store. The robber said he had to go to the bathroom, but he actually robbed the store while Joe was giving a tour of the store. The robber ran to flee, but Abby Cauldron (better known as the Shadow Spy) captured him and returned the money to its rightful owner. The robber was put in jail and everyone lived happily ever after. The End!



# Lakala's Story Of Evil

By Keira Krantz, Grade 5

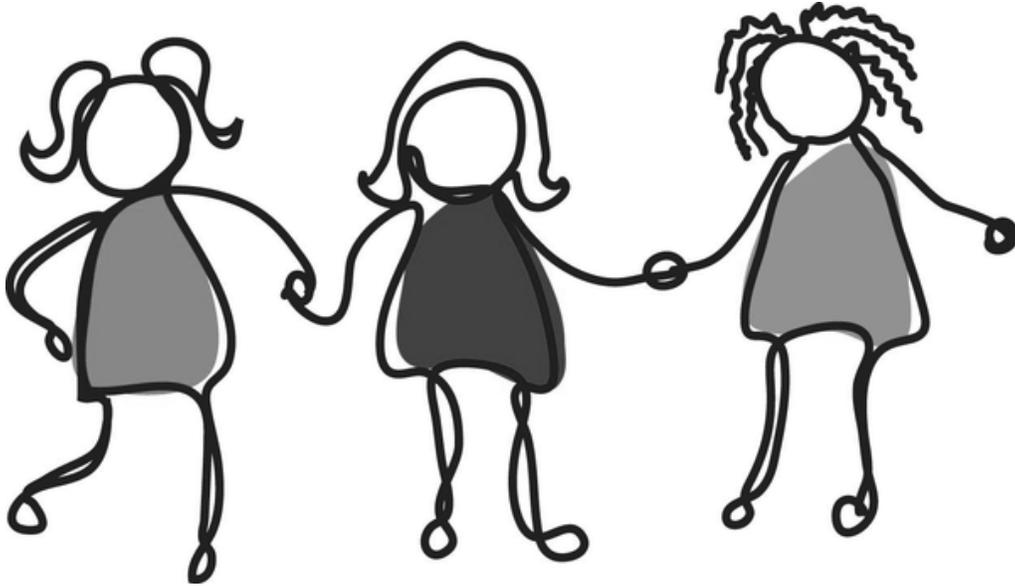
Once upon a time there lived a girl named Lakala. She magically became half dog. She lived on the tippy, tippy top of Mount Everest in an orphanage with an evil orphan owner. The owner tried to put potions on Lakala, but she would run away or bite her with her sharp teeth. Sometimes Lakala would try to get away from the orphanage but all the doors were locked. Lakala did not like to keep her dog powers a secret from people who came to the orphanage, but she could only let the owner know about her dog powers.

A couple years later, four people walked into the orphanage, there were two kids and two adults. The adults talked to the orphan owner and said, "I'll give you ten million dollars for that girl over there." She was so amazed that they would give that much and said, "You can have her," but she didn't say that she had dog powers. They took Lakala to get packed up and said "We are going back to Ohio where we live." Then they all went to the nearest airport and got on a plane to Ohio. When they got there she was so scared she went upstairs to find her room to cry.

When she got upstairs she went into her new room and saw that there were three beds, first she thought the beds were all for her but she knew she couldn't just have three beds for herself because that would be odd, then she thought about those two other girls and she noticed that she would now be sharing a room with two other girls. Then she heard a knock and asked, "Who is it?"

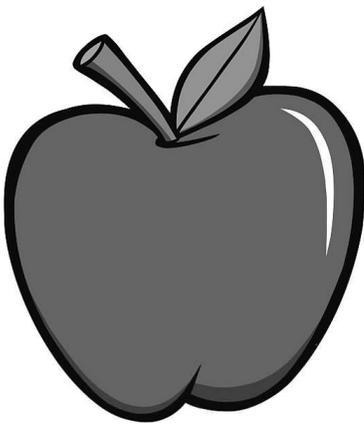
They replied, "It is the girls you met at the orphanage, remember us? Our names are Mimpy and Limpy." Lakala let them in and they talked a lot together, Lakala got to know them a lot and now they are best friends. Later they went downstairs and Lakala's dad said, "We're cooking lasagna,

hope you like it." Once they were all finished Lakala, Mimpy, and Limpy all raced each other upstairs in their rooms and quickly jumped on their beds and got in bed and fell asleep because they were so tired.



One year later, Lakala, Mimpy, and Limpy all went to an amusement park, there were a bunch of people there. At one of the roller coasters there was no line so they went up to it, Mimpy was too scared to go on the coaster so she stayed back and Limpy and Lakala paid ten tickets each and got on the coaster and buckled up and it started moving. When it was going up on the slope the cart rattled, it almost made the cart go off the track. Lakala and Limpy hugged each other and screamed their lungs out to stop the cart, it wouldn't stop. When they got off they ran to Mimpy to grasp her because they were scared to death, they ran to their parents and begged them to start driving and get out of there. When they got to their house they ran to their rooms and shut the doors close and landed on their beds tired, a few minutes later their parents walked in. They gave them all drinks, they said "You should have some after that pretty long day." They took the drinks and looked at it for a moment. Lakala thought they looked weird and thought it was evil magic so she slapped the drinks out of her sister's hands and said "They tried to make

us evil!" They all ran downstairs as quick as they could so their parents couldn't try and make them evil again. When they were all together by themselves they decided to come up with a plan to make their parents become apples as payback, all night they worked on making two potions, when they put the ingredients in they had to paint it again so they wouldn't think it looked odd. The next morning they went upstairs to their parents' room and said "Here is breakfast in bed for the very best parents in the world." They didn't actually mean that though. They gave



their parents the drinks and they actually drank it, a few seconds later they turned into apples. Lakala, Mimpy, and Limpy took all their money and they all became queens in different countries and lived happily ever after.



THE END

---

## Mr. Truth's Psychological Report

By Liam Dalzell, Grade 5

I can infer that Esperanza is angry in paragraph 13 because the text says that she pounded the dough a little too hard. This tells me she is feeling aggression toward food, a common side effect of anger. Later on she yells at the dough, this suggests she has started to go down the path of Koo Koo Craziness, a serious and real mental disease.



Sadly, that is only the first stage of Koo Koo Craziness. Soon she'll be running around uncontrollably yelling "I'll git ya! Ya hear me cheese! I'll git ya!" And it only gets worse from there. After the yelling she'll start wearing pants on her head and bouncing around like a frog and ribbiting like one too. Then comes the final stage, she will act normal in the day, but at night she will go to the grocery store and wreak havoc in the produce section!

---

# The Story Journal: The Black Lake

By Levi Gopstein, Grade 4

Creatures of the black lake. {based on the books of Harry Potter}

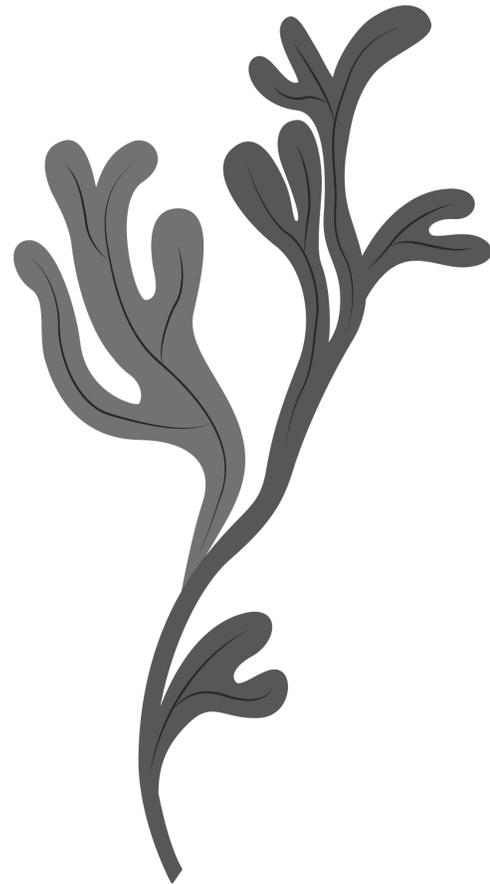
Creatures that live here range from grindylows to the giant squid, merpeople to fish. I will tell you about all of these creatures [except fish, you know what they are].

First up, the merpeople. You should not expect them to look like mermaids and mermen. They ACTUALLY look like this: they have pale greenish skin, long purple hair, and yellow eyes with slits for pupils, and they do have fish tails, but very dark green ones. They wear necklaces of sharp rocks.

The image is almost complete: but you need to know what they wore them. He-merpeople are just like I described, with spears, but without shirts.

She-merpeople are just like I described, WITH shirts, made of reeds and NO spears. Fun Fact: they sometimes have grindylows as pets. Next up, Grindylows.

They are poisonous green, have one eye [I think] and horns. They also have bony little arms, but I'm not sure about legs or feet. Grindylows are one of the more mysterious creatures that live in the black lake. They like living in the weeds down at the very bottom of the lake, which is very, very deep. Finally, we have the giant squid. It is just like any other squid, except it is huge, and of course, being a giant squid, it lives way deep down, but sometimes comes to the surface. It appears in the goblet of fire, during the second task of the triwizard tournament, and is a very deep red color. That is all for now!



## **My Little Brother**

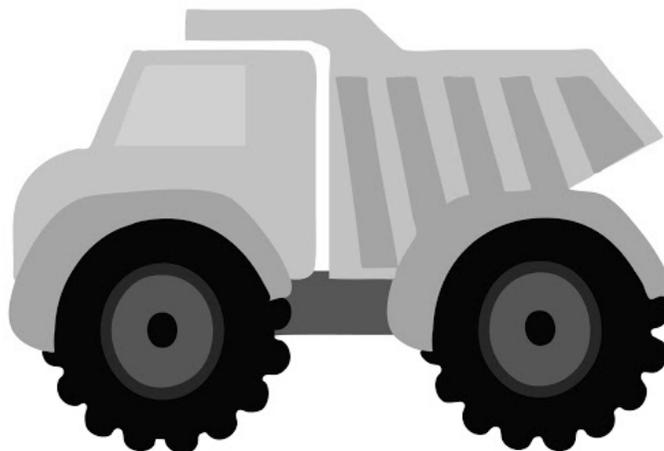
**By Emmanuel Garcia, Grade 1**

My book is about my little brother. I will tell you facts about him and what he likes. If you have a little brother, read him the book. My brother's name is Gael. He is two years old. He can not talk. My little brother likes me and my mom. He likes tickles and chases. He likes bananas. He likes to hide in the closet. He likes giraffes and elephants. I love my brother so much. He is so cute and adorable.

## **P.P. Loses Dumpy**

**By Ellie Barash, Grade 1**

P.P. the fairy was playing with her toy dump truck she named Dumpy. She was flying pretending that Dumpy had wings. But she dropped Dumpy! She tried to find Dumpy but she couldn't find Dumpy! (Under the ocean) Ow! said Troop the octopus. Where! Did! This! Come! From! P.P. looked into the water. Dumpy! She yelled. Oh this! Here! You! Go! Yea! Yelled P.P. The! End!



# The Peregrine Falcon

By Aanya Garg, Grade 4

The Peregrine Falcon is as big as a raven and is a gray-ish bird with a black streak on each of its cheeks. The Peregrine Falcon can top 200 miles an hour while diving for prey and is the fastest animal in the world.

Like most birds of prey, female Peregrine Falcons are slightly larger than males. Peregrine Falcons have blue-gray wings. They have black bars on their backs and pale underbellies. They have white faces with a black stripe on each cheek and large, dark eyes. A Peregrine Falcon can grow up to about a raven's size which is 19 inches at most.

Peregrine Falcons build their nests on rocky cliffs. Some live in cities and nest on roofs of gutters of very tall buildings such as skyscrapers. Peregrine Falcons are among the world's most common birds of prey and live on all continents except Antarctica. They prefer wide-open spaces, and thrive near coasts where shorebirds are common, but they can be found everywhere from tundras to deserts. A falcon nest is called a scrape.

A Peregrine Falcon's typical prey include shorebirds, ducks, grebes, gulls, pigeons, and songbirds. They also eat bats and they occasionally steal prey including fish and rodents. A Peregrine Falcon will fly above its prey, then fold its wings and dive or stoop at the other bird and strike it with a half-closed foot. It then retrieves the stunned or dead bird in midair.

To sum it all up, all birds are super cool and amazing but the Peregrine Falcon has an awesome ability to fly fast. The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest diving bird in the entire world. The Peregrine Falcon is a super bird with incredible talent!

# The Orangutan Boy

## By James Bailey, Grade 2

Once upon a time a woman named Mia was going to have a baby. Along the way the cells started changing from human to orangutan. The doctor (whose name was Tom) predicted that the baby that came out would be an orangutan. Two months later, an orangutan did come out. "Wow! You were right!" Mia said to Tom (aka Dr. Palmer). Mia's husband, Alfred, did a lot of research on orangutans. Here's what he found out: They eat mommy milk as a baby, and as they get older they start eating fruit, ants, and tree bark. He also learned that they are endangered. They live in both Borneo and Sumatra, places where it is raining most of the time because they are rainforests. In Borneo their only predator is the clouded leopard, but in Sumatra they have to be careful of tigers and crocodiles.

After learning so much about orangutans, he shared that information with Mia and Tom. By then the baby was off in another room having tests done on him. Just then Tom said, "Maybe it's time to name him?" Mia and Alfred agreed, and they decided to name him Max. When Max came back, Mia said, "Should we feed Max yet?"

"I do think he is hungry, but will Mia's milk work?" Tom asked.

Alfred agreed, "You're right, but humans and orangutans are both primates. Plus, Max grew up in Mia's belly."

"You have a point," Tom said.

"I think we should try it," Mia said.

Then she cuddled the baby and he began to nurse. The men looked on as the new mother smiled contentedly. After a few moments of drinking, the baby was asleep and Alfred gently transferred Max to his little crib.

While Max was sleeping, Alfred said to Tom, "I read how active orangutan babies are. I'm worried that he will make quite the mess."

Tom replied, "He will, but luckily I have an idea."

"What?" Alfred asked.

"You take him to the zoo and ask if you can keep him there if you care for him."

By then Max was awake. He whined, and all three of them turned to face him.

"What was that?" Tom asked.

"I think he liked your idea," Mia responded.

Then something amazing happened, Max actually nodded.

"Then let's do it!" Alfred said.

And that was what happened. Everything worked out really well for the family and they were very happy. After fifteen years, Max was an adult orangutan. Mia and Alfred were able to retire from their work caring for their child at his zoo home, but they still come to visit him twice a month.



## A Mistake to Remember

By Victoria Ellie Dean, Grade 5

I woke up this morning to chaos. I rubbed my eyes and heard my dad's feet thumping all over the house. I looked out my window to the snowy horizon in the distance. I shivered, thinking about how cold it was going to be today. Eventually, my dad's traveling feet made it to my room. He ran in and forced a smile.

"Get dressed sweetie," he said. There were bags under my dad's eyes, indicating he hadn't had his coffee. I was about to ask why he was running all over the place like a maniac, but then I remembered. Aunt Carol was coming today. The reason my dad went through all this was because Aunt Carol, even though she won't admit it, can't stand it when things are out of shape. So my dad had dusted every piece of furniture in our house, bought the food Aunt Carol liked, and rented fancy clothes for once. An hour later, I was dressed and ready. Aunt Carol then arrived in her private jet all the way from Miami, Florida to Boston, Massachusetts. She came through the door, looked around our house, seemed to approve, and then broke into a smile.

"JUNE!!!" Aunt Carol screamed at the top of her lungs. Aunt Carol wrapped me in a bear hug, and I was squeezed to a point I could barely rasp out, "Hi Aunt Carol." Aunt Carol finally let me go and didn't even give my dad as little as a look. "How excited are you to go swimming!" She said. "Imagine all the fun we'll have walking in the warm sun, buying you new clothes, and relaxing in the pool." Me and dad shared a look. Both of us tried to talk but kept getting cut off by Aunt Carol. Finally, I screamed, "Aunt Carol!!!" "It's not warm in Boston!" Aunt Carol replied,



"But you're in Texas honey, Boston, Texas." I slapped my hand to my forehead.

"We're in Boston, Massachusetts," my dad explained. A deep frown spread across Aunt Carol's face and she said, "But I only brought clothes for warm weather." My dad sighed.

"Then you're going to have to stay inside," he said. Aunt Carol glared at dad, as if it was his fault she had made a mistake. "Well, then what am I supposed to do," she complained. I thought for a moment then said, "Mom took all of her Winter clothes when she went to Antarctica for work, you'll probably refuse to wear dad's boy clothes, and mine don't fit you,".

Aunt Carol's frown deepened.

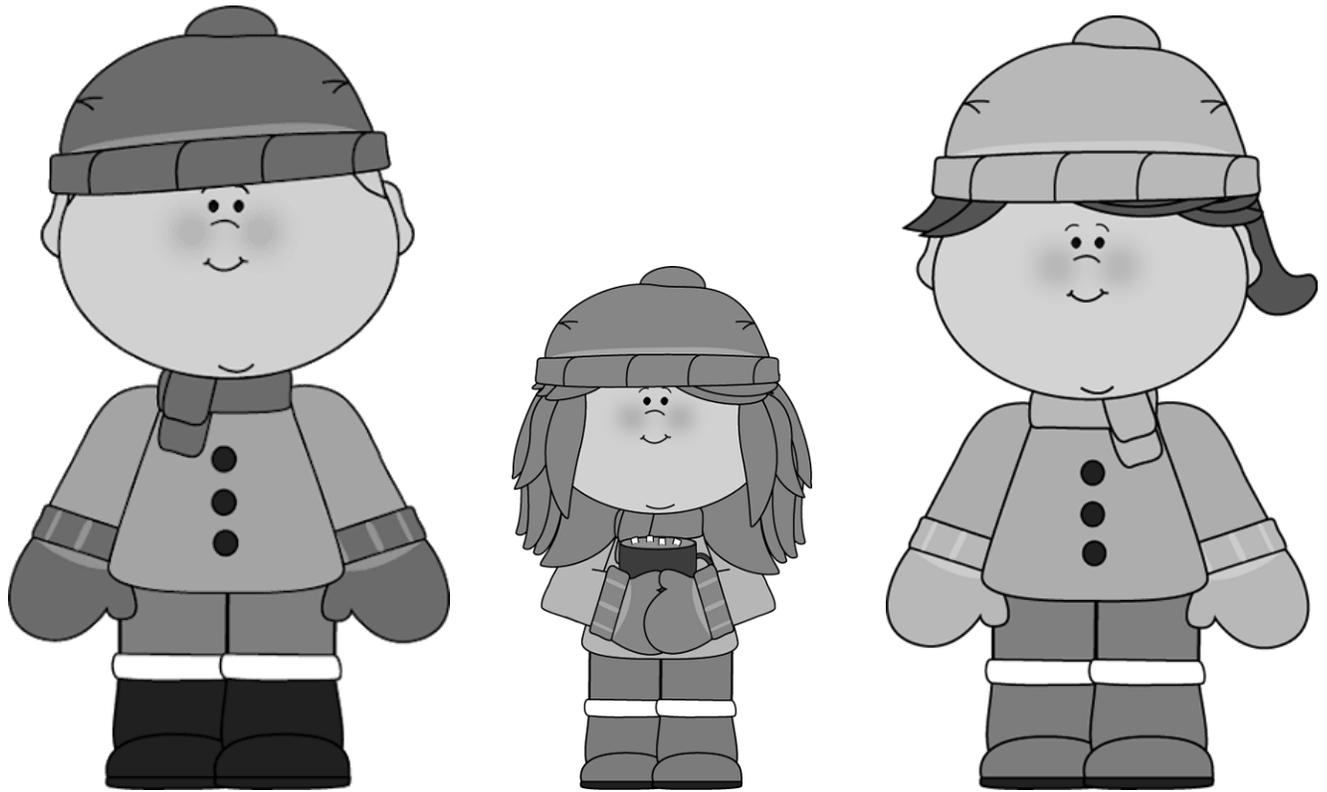
\*\*\*That night, Aunt Carol dragged herself into her room and let out an over dramatic sigh that mom could probably hear all the way in Antarctica. I rolled my eyes and lazily trudged into my room too. \*\*\*

I woke up to the sound of feet thumping all over the house for the second time. I smoothed out my frizzy dark hair that matched my dark skin; the same as my dad's. I narrowed the green eyes I got from my mom to try to see clearly. Afterwards, I realized that the footsteps were coming from the TV. Aunt Carol was flipping through channels, a bored look on her face. Suddenly, her face lit up as if I had turned a switch. I looked at what Aunt Carol was watching and discovered it was a commercial for a new store. A store that was selling Winter clothes! Aunt Carol ran into my dad's room, nearly threw him out of bed, then screamed excitedly, "GO GET ME NEW CLOTHES!!!!!"

"Ahhhh," he moaned. He finally got dressed and so did I. Aunt Carol gave us an idea of what she wanted the clothes to look like and basically kicked us out of our own house.

I wanted to tell her that the store probably didn't have clothes as fancy as the ones she wanted, but I kept my mouth shut. We came back with clothes that were surprisingly formal, and I hoped they were enough for Aunt Carol. When we came back with the clothes Aunt Carol

squealed with delight. "They're beautiful!" She gasped. "We tried our best," dad replied. Aunt Carol smiled at dad for what I assumed was the first time in her life. Aunt Carol then shifted her smile to me, wrapped an arm around me then said, "Anyone up for a snowball fight?"



# Greek mythology rulers from Ouranos to Zeus

By Baptiste Wendling, Grade 4

I love Greek Mythology. Some of you do not know what Greek mythology is, which means that I need to explain what it is. I will talk about the rulers of the world in Greek mythology.

First, there was nothing except a god called Chaos. Chaos did not want to be alone, so Chaos created a few more gods though I will talk only about two of them: Gaia and Ouranos. Gaia was the goddess of the Earth and Ouranos of the sky. One day they met each other and fell in love. They had kids, lots of them. They had six boys, six girls, three cyclopes, and three giants bearing 100 arms each. Now Ouranos got meaner and meaner (he behaved like the master of the world), so Gaia got angrier and angrier. So one day, she asked her son Cronos to kill Ouranos. Cronos said yes. He managed to trick Ouranos into coming to a party, but when he sat down on the sofa, Cronos' chip chopped him into 1,000 pieces.



After this very nice feat, Cronos ruled the world, had children with his sister Rhea and ate them. Well, that was what happened with Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Pluto, and Poseidon. Only one child did not finish in Dad's belly - the lucky Zeus. How did he manage that? His mom Rhea did not like to get her children eaten. She decided to trick Cronos (lots of tricksters in Greek mythology!) into swallowing a rock rather than the baby. Zeus was raised on a mountain and was very happy. When he was older, the big business started to happen. He saved his siblings by making Cronos drink a potion that made him



spit out his siblings. Then he freed the cyclopes and the well-armed giants from their cage in Tartarus. They made weapons for the males, though the females did not have anything. A war lasted very long however, in the end, the Gods won. Finally, everybody lived in peace. There were twelve Olympian gods, Zeus, Poseidon, Hephaistos, Ares, Hermes, Dionysus (the boys), Demeter, Athena, Artemis, Aphrodite, Hera, and Hestia (the girls). Pluto is not on this list because he does not live on Mount Olympus. Pluto lives in his palace underground.

---

## **The New Friends**

**By Benjamin Diamant, Grade 1**

One day, Beety Sheep walked out of her house when she realized it was spring. She also saw a lion. She said, "Hi."

The Lion said, "Hello, I'm the Lion, Biddely bol!" Now Beety Sheep did not know what to say. That night, Beety snuggled up eating mash marshmallows. Suddenly, Lion bashed into the door.

"Hey!" said Beety sheep. "You broke my door!"

"Sorry," the Lion said. It's made of hay. I just want to be friends.

"Well if you want to be friends, ya don't have to bash into my door," said Beety.

"I know,'" said the Lion in a small voice.

"That's okay,'" said beety. "I can make a new door."

"You make doors?'" said Lion.

"Yes I do,'" said Beety, "but it's hard work."

"Then can I help?" said Lion. Beety thought for a moment.

"Yes," she said.

"Yes!'" said Lion. "Let's do this." After they made it, they stared at the door.

"It's a Beety, I mean beauty," said Lion. "It's better than the last one."

"I know," said Beety and then they went home.

The next day Beety Sheep saw that it was still spring. Then she saw Lion. She said, "Hi."

The Lion said, "Hello, I'm the Lion, Biddely bo." "

"You told me yesterday," said Beety.

"I know," said Lion. "It's just the way I talk."

"That's the way you talk?" said Beety.

"Of course," said Lion.

"Well my cousin is coming today," said Beety

"Oooh!" said Lion. "Cool." Just then, her cousin arrived.

"Hello, Boty!" said Beety.

"Beety!!" said Boty.

"This is Lion," said Beety as she helped Boty unpack.

The Lion said, "Hello, I'm the Lion, Biddely bo!" This time, Boty did not know what to say.

"Psst, Beety," Boty said. "Does he always talk like this?"

"Uh-huh," said Beety. "According to him, yes."

"Oh," said Boty. "That's interesting."

"I know, but it's true," said Beety. That night, both sheep snuggled up eating more mash marshmallows.

"You're so lucky you have the mash type," said Boty. "I wish I did."

"Well good for you," giggled Beety. "You're moving here." They both heard a noise: Dingaling!

"Was that an alarm?" asked Boty.

"No," said Beety, "It's probably just the bells." Knock knock. Both sheep heard a knock.

"I'll get it," said Beety. It was Lion! Wearing a bell!



"Why are you ringing a bell?" asked Boty. Lion held up a shirt. It said 'Sheep Rock'.

"Sheep rock?" said Beety.

"Yup," said Lion. "Anyway, Hello! I'm the Lion! Biddely Bo!"

"Ya don't have to say that in the middle of our conversation," said Boty.

"I know," said Lion.

"It's just the way he talks," whispered Beety sharply.

"Sheesh," said Boty, "I never know what's going on."

"Wait, So was the Dingaling! just your bell?" asked Boty.

"Yippee-i-o-too!" said Lion, still holding up the tee-shirt.

"Well, you didn't have to bring that," said Boty.

"He's just being nice," said Beety.

"Double sheesh," said Boty. "Well sorry then. I didn't mean to be rude."

"I. For. Give. You!!" said Lion. "Let's party! Yippee-i-o-doo!"

But all Boty said was, "Ok."

"What's wrong?" said Beety.

"I just need stress time, ok?"

"Ok! As long as I get to have my happy time!" Lion exclaimed. Boty rolled his eyes. Then, he grinned from ear to ear. It is more to life than seriousness, he thought. There's a lot more than that. Boty learned an important lesson. Then, he joined the fun and lived happily ever after. **THE END.**

"What?!?" said Boty. "This can't be the end!"

"Right!" said Lion.

"What are we gonna do?" said Beety.

"Maybe there's another book," said Boty.

"I didn't snore!" said Lion - zzzzzzzzzzzzz

They were asleep.

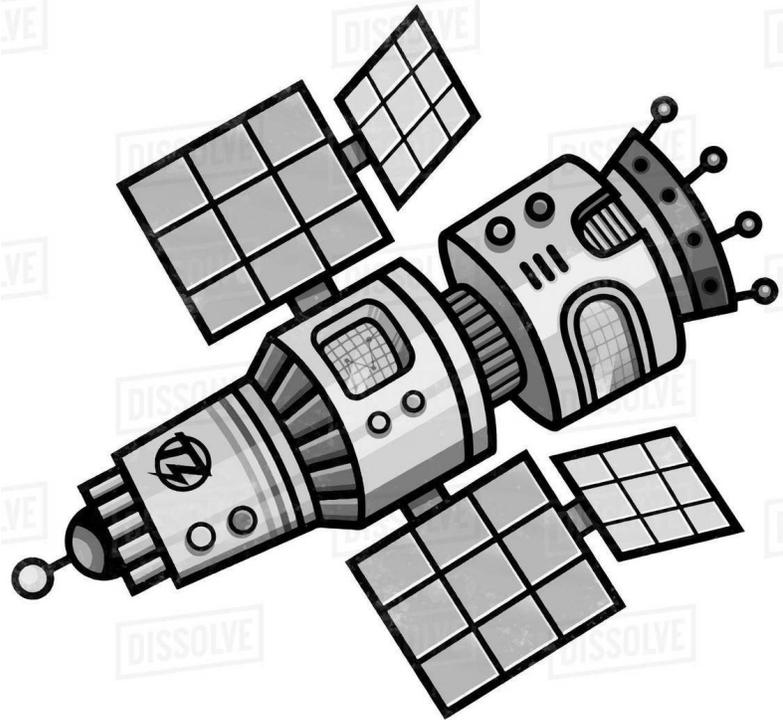
**THE END.**

# A Big Mess in Space

By Pierre Wendling, Grade 5

Hello, I'm George, I am 11, I was born in 2209, and I live in "Advance" the new space station. Today I will give you a tour of my favorite spots in my space house. Here is the arrival pod where all astronauts arrive. There is a special machine here which makes it safe for people to enter. Next, there is the cafeteria where you can eat anything you want thanks to Tasteomatic 2000 while seeing the stars from the window.

One day, there was a huge problem. At first, everything seemed as usual. I woke up, got dressed then went down to get breakfast. I ordered some cereal and some bread with butter and jam from the Tasteomatic. But it started to shoot bacon everywhere, soon bacon covered the floor. I tried to turn it off, but it was impossible to get near. So I decided to close the doors and run away. Of course, this was NOT a good solution. Soon the food burst through the doors and started swallowing the whole place. After two minutes, everybody was stuck in the control room. Luckily, the captain was able to find the button to stop the Tasteomatic. Then we completely lost power. Fortunately, we still had the emergency telephones, so we were able to call for help. It felt like we waited for ages, but finally, the rescue shuttle came. Though it took a long time, we were able to move back into the spaceship. And we also got a new lunch machine. See you next time!



# Bill's Fruit Stand

By Atticus Powell, Grade 1

Once there was a boy named Bill. Bill lived with his mother. They were poor, but they made a little bit of money by selling their chicken's eggs. But one day the chickens stopped laying eggs. Bill's mother said to Bill, "You go to the market and sell our chickens for \$10 each. Bill said, "Okay."

While Bill was going to the market he ran into a magic money man. The magic money man said, "If you give me your chickens I will give you a lot of money for them. Bill said, "Okay." While Bill was going home he counted his money. He had so much money! Bill thought about what he would do with all the money he had made.

When he got home he asked his mom what he should do with the money. His mom said, "I will think about it and it is your bedtime." Bill had not noticed the time. He was so happy he had completely forgotten to check the time.

In Bill's dreams he had become very good at planting stuff like tomatoes, potatoes and herbs. He awoke the next day feeling very, very happy. And after a good meal of pancakes and a lot of fruit he asked his mom what he should do. She replied, "Can you go to town and see what we can buy with the money we have made from the chickens? Oh, and here is some money you can use for your lunch, and come home at 5:00 or 5:30. Got it?" "Yes," said Bill.

Bill had found lots of stores that they could buy. So he made a list of stores they could buy: 1. Jack's pizza parlor. 2. Barman's Barber Shop. 3. Mack's Dry Goods. Then he went to get ice cream and a salad. Then Bill set off again to look for some more stores. By the end of the

day his list now looked like this: 1. Jack's Pizza Parlor. 2. Barman's Barber Shop. 3. Mack's Dry Goods. 4. Pam's Pancakes. 5. Sam's Salon. 6. Frank's Fruit.

When Bill got home he had dinner and showed his mom the list and went to bed. In the morning his mom said, "We are going to buy Frank's fruit. Can you go and ask the owner how much it would cost to rent the area?"

The owner said that it cost \$90 to rent it and Bill had \$100 with him from selling the chickens! So Bill ran home to tell his mom and his mom said "This is great!" So then Bill ran back to the store and said, "I will buy it." So Bill rented the store. The next day they planted a lot of very yummy-looking fruit trees. Soon they had lots of delicious fruit to sell in their new store. They also shared lots of their fruit with people who did not have money to buy the fruit in their new store.



# Galacorn - the Galaxy Unicorn

By Victoria Z. Braun, Grade 1

One time in outer space there was a galaxy unicorn named Galacorn. She had a golden horn that could shoot portals to anywhere in the universe. That was her superpower. Galacorn lived in the most beautiful galaxy ever. In her galaxy there were stars that were blue, purple, pink, and white. There was also sparkling dust that was floating in the air. Galacorn was the prettiest and most magical unicorn in Galo village.



One day a new unicorn moved to Galo village. Her name was Rosecorn and she was evil. She used her magic to petrify everyone except Galacorn, who was escaping by shooting portals to other places. During one of Rosecorn's chases, Galacorn made a portal to Evil star and left it open on purpose. Rosecorn really wanted to catch Galacorn and she eagerly followed Galacorn through the portal to Evil star.

As soon as Rosecorn reached Evil star, Galacorn jumped back through the open portal to Galo village and immediately closed it once she got back home. This way Galacorn tricked Rosecorn into going to Evil star where all the bad creatures and evil unicorns lived. Rosecorn had no way to escape from Evil star and harm the unicorns living in Galo village. Surprisingly, as Rosecorn got to Evil star her power faded away and everyone in Galo village was free again and no longer petrified!

All the unicorns in Galo village were grateful to Galacorn for saving their lives and for bringing peace back to their village. Since that day, Galacorn became a hero and no evil creature ever came to Galo village again.

# Wolf Souls

By May Torii, Grade 5

Reina was 17 and never slept well. Every night, she fell asleep, only to wake up in the middle of the night. Part of the reason was because of the noises. Every full moon, even though the forest was burned down before Reina was even born, there were eerie, beautiful howls coming from the burnt forest. But it wasn't possible. All the wolves either left or were burned... Right?

This night, though, Reina couldn't stand it. She put on her black-and-green cloak, pinned her ginger hair into a bun, and prayed that no one would see Reina's unusual green eyes. She crept out of bed and out into the forest using a little secret hole that she dug out to escape whenever she wanted, and she raced into the forest.

"Who is this?" A woman's voice came from behind her. Reina whirled around to see a woman with raven-black, tousled hair and the most piercing silver eyes Reina had ever seen. She had a tunic and pants made out of animal furs, probably made before the forest was burned down. The woman looked a few years older than Reina, maybe somewhere around 23. "Well?" The woman pressed. "I-I'm Reina," Reina whispered. "And you're here because..?"



"I'm here because I heard wolf howling. I hear wolves howling every night."  
Reina wrapped her cloak closer around her body.

The woman's eyes widened. "You can't be a wolf soul, can you?" She strode towards Reina and looked the younger girl over. "Are you seeing things? Your eyes are like a wolf's. Hmm."

"Get away from me!" Reina reeled away from the woman. "I'm a normal human!"

"No, you're not." The woman insisted.

"Who even are you? What are you? What's your name?" Reina demanded.

"My name is Lynthe." Lynthe closed her eyes and raised her hand. Silver mist swirled around Lynthe's arm and suddenly, translucent wolf-like shapes appeared behind Lynthe.

Reina stumbled back, but not out of fear. She was honestly kind of awed, as if there were a pull towards those wolves...

And something wet touched the back of Reina's hand. She turned to see a ginger wolf. The wolf's pelt, just like the other's, was wispy and her paws and tail trailed off into the air. Most interesting, the wolf had unusual green eyes. Just like Reina's.

"Looks like Jade found her human soul," Lynthe said from behind Reina. "Not that she has much choice. You two are one."

"Jade," Reina said. "You're...beautiful."

"Yes, and she's also dead. All of them are." Lynthe clenched her fists. "Them humans burned the forest. You can't tell anyone," Lynthe said suddenly, her intimidating silver eyes staring into Reina's. Reina nodded, her hand brushing through Jade's soft pelt. "I need to get back," Reina murmured. "It was nice meeting you, Lynthe."

"You, too."

Reina woke up on her bed.

Her mother, Lark, was there in her room, too. "Are you okay? You were slumped up on the floor near your bed."

That couldn't have been a dream. Reina thought. I could have easily forgotten my trip back and fell asleep.

"I was probably just sleepwalking again," Reina said quickly.

"Are you sure?" Mother frowned.

"Y-yeah, I had this really cool dream where I went into the burnt forest a-and met a woman wh-who was a 'wolf soul' and sh-she could summon w-wolf spirits, it was really cool," Reina said, trying to lie.

Mother looked out the window. "You have an imagination, Reina."

Her lie backfired, however, when Lark found Lynthe in the burned forest.

"WHAT?!" Lynthe balled her fists. "WHAT ELSE?!"

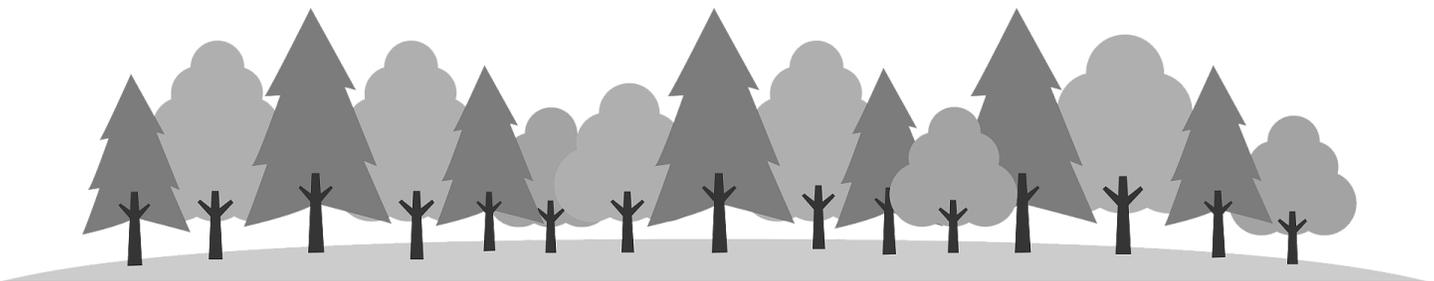
Reina and Lynthe were in their usual meeting place, a calm, sheltered clearing in the middle of the burnt forest.

"The town mayor said they're going to hunt for you," Reina said. "I don't know how Mom guessed! I'm always telling her about weird dreams I've had!" Reina sat down on a tree stump and buried her head in her hands. "I'm sorry, Lynthe."

"It's fine," Lynthe said unexpectedly. "Who cares, anyways? We can beat them, me and the wolves. And with you," Lynthe added, looking Reina over, "there's an even better chance we can win this fight."

Reina blinked tears out of her eyes and nodded.

"So what do you say?" Lynthe smiled at Reina and reached a hand out. "Fancy taking back our forest with me?"



## Sideline Foul

By Ellie Redmann, Grade 5

*Thump Thump Thump.* I ran for a water break and looked over my shoulder for my friend, Mya. I was surprised. The new girl on the team, Ashley pushed Mya to the ground. I looked to my coach but she was busy teaching other girls a new move. I didn't want to bother her so I decided to head back on the field.

A few minutes later we were working on long balls, seeing if we could get the ball to the other side of the field. Coach said she needed to talk to some girls privately so she called our team captions over. Once our coach was out of earshot, Ashley flicked her long hair over her shoulder and called Mya a baby and some girls laughed. Mya tripped over the ball and more people laughed. Coach came back and asked if everything was okay. Ashley answered first.

"Yes Coach," she said with a big grin and then glared at Mya who now had tears in her eyes.

Later that night I asked Mya what was up with her and Ashley. She looked away blinking hard and told me.

"She just walked up to me one day and said she was going to make my life horrible in any way she could then she walked away."

"Oh" I said, feeling bad. " I will make sure..."

"Girls," my mom interrupted, "time for dinner."

"Come on," I said. We headed downstairs for my favorite dinner, lasagna, but I didn't feel much like eating.

During our game that weekend I noticed that Ashley did not do or say anything to Mya. I was happy about that but also suspicious. At the end of the first half things changed, right before Mya was in a perfect position to get a goal Ashley stole it from her and got a goal herself. Mya ran off the field



looking mad and gulped down water. I walked over to Ashley and asked why she stole the ball from Mya.

"I didn't," she said. "She gave it to me."

"No she didn't."

A few girls gathered around me and were saying things like "yha" and nodding their heads. I almost smiled but stopped when Ashley pulled out candy from her bag and girls went to her side instead. I was so mad at everyone - they wanted candy? I could bring them candy.

As the game went on we heard a lot of yelling, most of it sounded like compliments but there was someone yelling things like: "Come on you can do better than that," and "You should have gotten that goal" also "pressure pressure." Suddenly, the ball was at my feet and I looked around for a pass. No one was open. I dribbled up the field and someone tripped me. Everyone was quiet now, my leg stung from where I had landed on the ground. We got a free kick and Ashley took it. On the sidelines someone was still yelling. "Come on, get this goal." Ashley was mad, everyone could tell. She ran up, shot and... missed.

"Tweet," the game was over. The shot Ashley missed cost us the game. "Ashley," our coach said "That should have been an easy goal, was something bothering you?" Ashley sniffled like she was about to cry and said, "Yes coach. People are being rude on the team and it got me mad that is why I missed."

"No," I yelled and that got everyone's attention. "That's not true. Ashley has been bullying Mya. Last practice I saw her push Mya over and call her a baby."

"Mya is this true?" Coach asked.

"Yes," Mya said in a small voice.

"Girls, can I talk to you for a moment?" Coach said.



We headed to the other side of the field and Coach asked Ashley if it was true and she surprised me... she confessed.

"Ok," Coach said "Mya if anything happens again please tell me and we can make some changes. But for now Ashley, this is a warning, Ok. Now what really was bothering you with that shot?"

"My Dad," she finally said. "He has been yelling at me from the sidelines trying to make me do stuff and it is distracting and I get mad. Lately I have been shutting myself in my room. My mom tries to talk to him but it doesn't help, sorry for taking my anger out on you Mya."

"It's ok, I understand, my dad used to do the same thing. Maybe I could talk to him to try and make it better?"

"Ok," Ashley said with a small smile.

Driving home in the car I smiled to myself happy that things were fixed.

"What?" my dad asked.

"Nothing," I said. "Nothing."



**Illustration by Leah Eyoseyas, Grade 5**