

**BETHESDA ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

**LITERARY MAGAZINE**

**SPRING 2019**





Thank you to all of our contributing  
writers!

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## Horse Ride in Laramie

Mayuko Mori, Grade 3

Walking, trotting, galloping on a horse  
Big tall friendly creatures  
Walking into Mother Nature  
Up the mountains along the cliffs  
Antelope leaping through the rain  
Three red foxes running to their dens  
A welcoming dog  
Coming back to the starry sky



## What is Red?

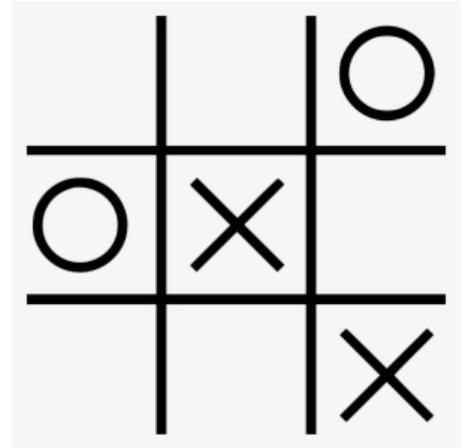
By Anonymous

Red is the strawberries in my mouth  
Red is the stop sign going south  
Red is the blood in my body  
Red is the taste in my jolly  
Red is the ketchup on my food  
Red is the madness in my mood  
Red is the firetruck to see who is hurt  
Red is the seeds lying in the dirt  
Red is the frosting on a cake  
Red is your heart about to break

## Tic Tac Toe

By Anneka Hoek, Grade 4

We were playing Tic Tac Toe  
He was X and I was O.  
Then Opa\* came in very keen.  
But started to play very mean.  
Opa put two X's in  
And ended with the final win.  
I didn't pout, I didn't cry.  
All I did was say good-bye!



\*Opa means Grandpa in Dutch

## Sports Rules!!!

By Aarav Mistry, Grade 2

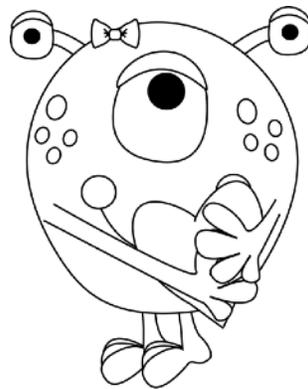


So many sports to choose from  
Pacing your running and playing hard  
Or lacrosse, football, baseball soccer and  
Racket tennis  
To be happy  
So many sports to choose from

# Monsters, Monsters

By Alexander Schreiber, Kindergarten

Monsters go to bed,  
Monsters say good night,  
Monsters get in your head,  
Monsters do not bite,  
Monsters like roads,  
Monsters eat your toes,  
Monsters smell your nose,  
Be brave so they don't get more than those.



# Haiku Poetry

By Jacob Blitstein, Grade 2

Birthday

Having fun playing

Having parties at places

Eating cake today

# Spring

By Sinadi Rathnaweera, Grade 5

Flowers are blooming  
Springtime is here  
Winter has past  
And summer is near  
Birds are singing  
Children play  
There is warm weather  
Every day  
Black Eyed Susans,  
Daffodils,  
Roses, Daisies,  
All on green hills  
The sun is shining  
Leaves are green  
All bright colors  
Are what you see



## Spring is Here

By Serena Lee, Kindergarten

Spring is here.  
Spring is love.  
Flowers are in bloom and birds are out.  
The Sun is out and warm weather is here.  
Spring is beautiful and it is nice and it is wonderful.  
Most clouds in spring are white.

# Spring

By Tammy Beynenson, Grade 3

Spring

Spring is the time the flowers are in bloom

Spring is the time of the refreshing rain

Spring is the time for going on walks

Spring is the time to have fun!

Fun!

Fun!

Fun!

Spring is the time for making tree houses and friends

Spring is the time for selling lemonade

Spring is the time for sales

Sales!

Sales!

Sales!

Spring is the time for doing good

Spring is the time for baby animals

Spring is the time to play with friends

Friends!

Friends!

Friends!

But...Spring has a dark side, too

Spring has thunder, too...

But it is still Spring





# Atlantis and the Big Bad Shark

By Adan C Zeppieri, Grade 3



Once upon a time on the top of Mount Olympus, there lived a God named Poseidon. He was the God of water. There was also a God named Zeus. He was the God of the sky. Poseidon and Zeus were archenemies because Zeus always bossed poor Poseidon around. One day Poseidon was angry with Zeus because Zeus said, "Atlantis cannot be built. Besides you're not fit to be leader, you're just a pathetic little God!" Then Poseidon said, "I don't care what you say. You can rule Olympus, but I need a place of my own!" Then Poseidon stomped off and told Hercules to start building Atlantis so the fish people could move in. After all the fish people moved in, the public was gossiping about Zeus, setting loose an evil shark that wanted to eat everyone. One day, there was a little, old fish lady named Mrs. R. Little did she know she was about to be in a pickle. The Big Bad Shark came up to the house and said, "Little fish, little fish let me in." But, Mrs. R said, "Not by the water in my soggy, soggy skin!" Then the Big Bad Shark said, "Then I'll chomp and all chomp and all chomp your house down." Then Mrs. R called Blubb Blubb 1, Agent Clark fish PD and fish Deputy Perry. But they were just too late. Now the Big Bad Shark was out on the lam.

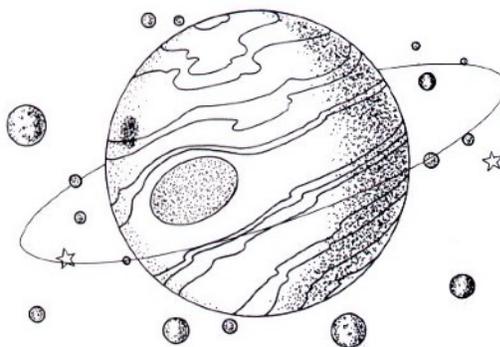
There was another old lady named Mrs. Oyster who was about to be in not so hot water. Then the Big Bad Shark came up and said, "Little fish, little fish let me in!" And Mrs. Oyster said, "Not by the water in my soggy soggy skin!". And the Big Bad Shark said, "Then I'll chomp and I'll chomp your house down!" Mrs. Oyster thought that was an empty threat, but boy she was wrong! Now Mrs. Oyster was homeless! The Big Bad Shark went to another house, home to Mr. Moyster. The Big Bad Shark came up and said, "Little fish, Little fish let me in!" And Mr. Moyster said, "Not by the water in my soggy, soggy skin!" "Then I'll chomp and I'll chomp and I'll chomp your house down!" Wait, what's this? He can't bite it. Then agent Clark fish PD and fish Deputy Perry caught the Big Bad Shark. However, there is still one problem: Mrs. R and Mrs. Oyster were homeless. But Mr. Moyster would soon change that. He said, "You are welcome to stay with me and live with me if you want," and Mrs. R and Mrs. Oyster said, "YES!!"

Meanwhile, Poseidon felt guilty about stomping off, so he went to the top of Mount Olympus and said to Zeus, "I'm sorry for stomping off." And Zeus said, "I'm sorry for calling you those mean things." They all lived happily ever after, and the fish people of Atlantis live in perfect harmony and happiness!

# The World

By Callea M. Ohtsuka, Grade 1

Have you ever been around the whole world? If you haven't you will learn about some facts about the world. First, I'm going to tell you about how many continents there are and then I'm going to tell you how many states there are in the United States. Then I'm going to tell you how many countries there are in the world and how many people there are in the whole entire world. There are seven continents in the world. There are 50 states in the US. There are 195 countries in the world. There are 7.7 billion people in 2019. We have seven continents and they are North America, South America, Africa, Australia, Antarctica, Asia & Europe. Some of the countries are... Peru in South America, Japan in Asia, China in Asia, too, Sweden in Europe. The most common languages in the world are Chinese, Spanish & English.



# Jupiter

By Abdul Jalloh, Grade 2

Have you ever walked on Jupiter? That's a doubt it because it's pure gas. Jupiter has a lot of names like Gas Giant. Actually, Jupiter was an ancient Greek God. Probably Galileo named it after him. Jupiter's surface is strong with MASSIVE HURRICANE LIKE STORM, LIGHTNING, TORNADOS. They take place IN A BIG RED SPOT OF OBLIVION. Did you know that there are four Galileo moons? They are Io, Erupa, Gandme, and Calisto. Io is far away from Erupa and there are two further away moons: Calisto and Gandme. Io is so close to the planet that the pull of Jupiter's gravity is constantly disturbing Io's surface with VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS. There are not only four moons. There are about 67. That's all you need to know about Jupiter!

# My Weekend

By Alaz Aruoba, Grade 2

On the weekend of March 10th, my friends came over for a taco party, but first we did much more before we made tacos. My friend's names were Evy, Liam, John, Drew and my little brother Aral. We first went outside to play a game. The game was I was down in the yard and my friends were on the patio throwing balls and I had to catch them and throw it back up to the patio. After that, I went up to the patio and we had chips while watching my neighbor Jenna's dog (his name was Tucky). After, we all went down to the yard and climbed a tree hovering over our neighbor's cars. It was hard for Drew and Liam so we decided to find a way to make it easier. We grabbed some wood and tried it out. It did NOT work! Drew decided to get a jump rope and tied it to the tree to climb the jump rope. This time it worked! After finding the idea and using it, we had dinner. (tacos). After dinner, we went back to the yard. Aral kept on throwing balls over to the other side of our yard, which was our neighbor's house. I went up the tree to see if I could see the balls. I saw the balls. I was about to get off when I slipped and got a scrape on my knee and funny bone A.K.A elbow. After Layla found some chalk and used it to decorate the tree. We wrote clubhouse with orange chalk beside the tree. Later Liam and Evy left. So Drew and I went inside and played with scooters. My brother was riding a Little Things car. One minute later Drew left, too. After she left, I cleaned up and went to bed. That was my weekend.



# Daring Dolphins

By Aanya Garg, Grade 2

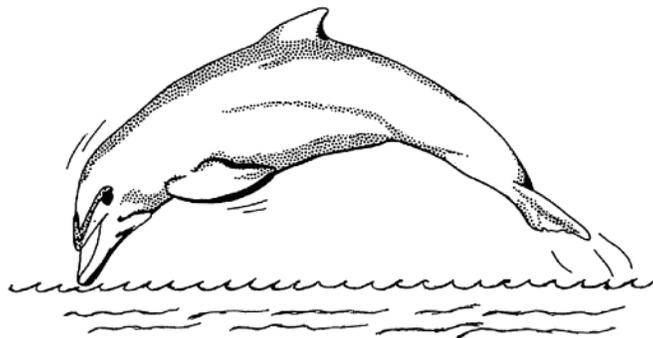
Don't you just love dolphins?!? They are all blue, shiny and smooth. YAY-YAY-YAY for dolphins!! I think dolphins are the best sea animal because they are so nice and cute! One reason I like dolphins is their clicking sounds; they are cute and useful. For example when a dolphin gets lost, they can find their back home from their clicking noises/sounds; cool, right?

I also like them because they are friendly and do not bite to be mean. For example, I went to explore with a dolphins. They did not bite; they were sweet! They are like a cute, fluffy bunny. Their teeth are not sharp and they can be shy if they meet someone for the first time.

My last reason I like dolphins is because they are so graceful when they jump and twirl. For example, I saw one flip in mid air while I was on a sailboat. They dance, twirl and dance in the beautiful sea and ocean. They are the best flippers, I think! Dolphins are the most graceful thing ever!!

Dolphins are the best sea animal. They are better than sea turtles, clams, whales, sharks, eels and other fish because dolphins are not too big and not too small. Their little pups are the cutest thing ever. They are like cute little puppies!!! They are free to swim around everywhere!!!

Some people agree with me because they are cute and like to jump out of the water. Others disagree with me because they like sharks and they are cool because they can catch things in their jaws! But I still think dolphins are the best sea animal because they are amazing! In addition, they are so shiny you should totally go try looking at a dolphin. I give dolphins 12 shining stars!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



# The Perfect Day

## By Abby Sharpe, Grade 4

Emerald blinked as bright sunlight fell across her face. She looked at the clock. It was 8:00 a.m. She yawned, got up, and stretched. Emerald got out of bed, pulling on her bathrobe and slippers. She shuffled downstairs, pulled a cookbook off the shelf, and started flipping through it. "Waffles...no... pancakes... nope...ah! French toast! Perfect," she said. She started pulling measuring cups out of drawers and ingredients off the shelves. Looking at the cookbook, she started mixing things together. She could just taste the whipped cream...

Ding!

"They're done!", Emerald exclaimed. She pulled them out of the oven, set down a plate, drizzled toppings over it, and shoved it into her mouth without waiting for it to cool. Mmmmmm, she thought. After eating, she tramped up the stairs. Emerald pulled out a mint-green sleeveless shirt, white shorts, and flip-flops. She put them on, brushed her teeth, ran downstairs, grabbed her purse, and walked outside. "Ahhh," she sighed. Emerald started down the hill, where a colorful sight awaited her. The Annual Art Festival was today! She'd completely forgotten. Walking into town, she spotted her best friend Allison Black. "Allison!" she called. "Oh! Emerald! I didn't see you," Allison said, running up to her. "Why don't we walk around? I've been wanting to check out the pet stand. They have some awesome cats."

"Okay," Emerald replied. "Let's go!" They walked down to the shack, where a crowd of people was forming. Pushing their way through the crowd, they saw the most adorable cat on display. It was a pitch-black cat with a puff of white fur on its chest. "Awww!" they said together. Just then, Allison moved away.

"Allison?" Emerald said. "Where'd you go?"

"Right here!" she called. Emerald found her by the clerk.

"What did you do?" Emerald asked.

"This," Allison said. The store clerk pulled the cat out of the display box, put it inside a box along with a few necessities, and handed it to Allison, who handed it to Emerald.

"F-for me?" Emerald asked in surprise.

"Yep. He's all yours." Allison replied with a smile. "So what are you going to name him?"

"Erm...I don't know yet. Hey, let's go to the drawing station!" Emerald said. They walked towards it, people staring at them with envy all the while. Emerald and Allison sat down at the drawing station, grabbing paper and pencils.

"What are you going to draw? I'm gonna draw an emerald," said Allison.

"I'm going to draw...a rose," replied Emerald, pencil tip already on the paper. After about fifteen minutes, their drawings were done. They started home.

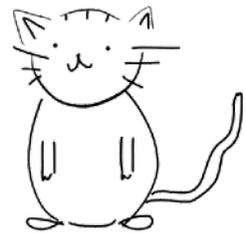
"Hey--I just realized! We haven't had lunch!" Allison suddenly exclaimed. "We can't miss the mashed potatoes!" She dragged Emerald off to the lunch counter. After a hearty lunch consisting of lamb and mashed potatoes, they finally headed home.

"Bye!" said Allison.

"Bye!" said Emerald.

She went inside her house. Putting away her purse and setting up the cat's things. "Ya know, I think I'm gonna name you...Charlie." After dinner, Emerald climbed up the stairs, brushed her teeth, pulled on her pajamas, and climbed into bed. "What a great day, Charlie...ZZZZZZ," Emerald snored.

In the morning, Emma woke up remembering a great dream she'd had the night before. "My name was Emerald!" she exclaimed. "But...it was only a dream." she had just gotten out of bed when she heard a small meep. Emma looked down. A small black cat with a white tuft on chest purring before her. "Charlie?" Emma said, shocked. "Charlie?...But...y-you were in my dream! I didn't have you before! H-how--how did you get here?" Wow, she thought. It must be magic! Charlie smiled. (Can cats even smile?)



## **The Day I Went to Universal Studios**

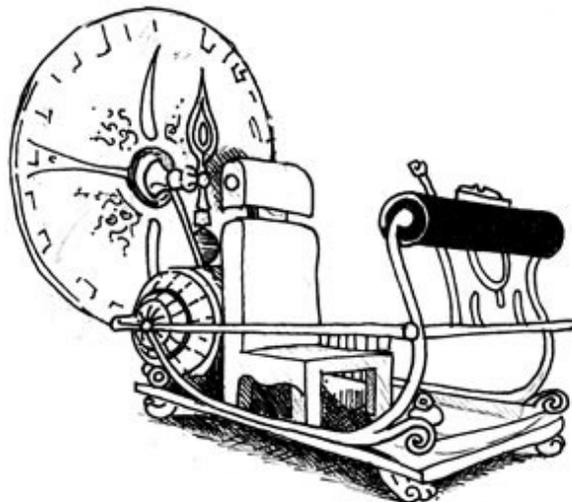
**By Filip Brajkovic, Grade 2**

One day on Spring Break I went Universal Studios in Florida. When I got there, I was so psyched! I got to in a super fun hotel! It had a super big pool and it had a water slide. I got to go on so many great rides it was so much fun! It took me 17 hours to get through one park. I went on a really spooky and fast roller coaster! Then the rides got so much better. They were so cool! Those were moments! After, we ate pizza, ice cream and a hotdog and I got a picture with Sponge Bob Square Pants and Patrick Mr. Minion. I had the best TV.

# The Story of the Boy Who Traveled Time

By Alice J. Connor, Grade 2

Once, there was a boy named Calvin. He was in second grade in a small school. Was he pleased with his life? No! He had a mean teacher called Mr. Carmon. He was a smug teacher. He drank soda all day. Every day. He stole report cards. Calvin wanted a better life. So, he ran away. That's right. "I have to leave this life behind. It's in the past." Then it hit him. "I'll travel to the future tonight!" said Calvin. He went to an abandon parts dealership business that had broken down. He got a hammer from a tool shed. Calvin packed what he needed. For a brief second, Calvin felt sad. Did he really want to do this? Yes. "Calvin!" he shouted, "you've already said good bye!" He entered the time machine. "A thousand years into the past." Calvin firmly stated. "I want to live in a lawless time." The machine sputtered, and in a swoosh, poof. The machine was gone. Calvin landed. He found a cave and began making a fire. Days later, Calvin missed his friends-Larry, Ted and even Susie. "What have I done?" he asked in a low voice. Back in 2019, his friends were afraid to ask. "Where has Calvin gone?!" cried Larry, Ted and Susie. Calvin ran to the time machine. He leaped in the seat, fired up the boosters and got the blazing suns outta there! "Oops," said Calvin. "I put in 1,000,000 years in instead of 1,000 years!" In a flash, Calvin found himself in a silvery dome. He decided to go back to his time: 999,000 years in the past. When Calvin got to class that day, even Mr. Carmon hugged him. Moral of the story: Friends and family are the most important things to have.



# The Seven Little Sea Animals

By Amelia Schreiber, Grade 3

A little while ago, there lived a group of little sea animals. There was one of each kind of animal in this little group of seven. They met each other when they were all swimming past a shipwreck. They only all stopped to talk a little bit, but soon they were in a giant conversation. They talked so much that they all became extremely good friends and decided to stay together for a few nights before they continued on their merry way. Since they were near a shipwreck, they decided to stay in it for those few nights which turned into days which turned into a couple years which turned into many decades of living together. In this group, there was a starfish, a dolphin, a crab, a jellyfish, a seahorse, a sea turtle, and a fish. They were a happy little group. The only thing they feared was the Big Bad Great White Shark.

The shark was starving one day and he decided to go after the seven little sea animals. He swam to the usual place they were, the sunken shipwreck. When he got there, the seven sea animals were playing Keep The Seashell Up. He decided to attack, but luckily, the dolphin saw him and said, "The Big Bad Great White Shark is here!" So all the sea animals quickly swam into the sunken shipwreck and quickly shut the rotting door. The shark said, "Little sea animals, I need to rest and I am tired of catching animals. I am also on a diet so be the kind little critters you are and let me come in."

The sea critters discussed this and they came up with a plan. They would say, "You can come in," swim out the back door, and hide in the seaweed, kelp, and coral.

The shark said, "Have you decided yet?"

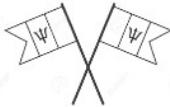
"Yes we have," chorused the little sea animals. They swam close to the back door and said, "Come in, come in!" So, the shark busted open the door and the sea animals swam, and hid in the seaweed, kelp, and coral. The shark sniffed the water and smelled the animals. But, he could not figure out where they were. Of course, he was a careless, lazy shark, so he didn't check the reef well. Then, he decided to go back to the shipwreck to rest. The sea star, seahorse, dolphin, fish, sea turtle, jellyfish, and crab silently made their way out of the plants and started to look for a new home. Since they couldn't find a home, they wished on the seashell for a house for seven. The shell gave them an underwater mansion and the critters quickly piled in and locked the door.

The shark happened to be swimming by the very next day when he smelled the seven sea critters. He said, "Little Sea Animals, I need to rest and I am tired

of catching food for my meals. Be the kind critters you are and let me come in.”

Since the critters had been through this before, they knew what to say so they said. “Come in, come in!” But this time the critters did not move. When the shark came in, the seahorse told the jellyfish to sting the shark which when she did, it paralyzed him. Then the seven crowded around the shell and wished for him to be banished from the ocean forever.

The shell did just that and the shark ended up in an aquarium while the sea animals lived happily ever after. What do you think they would use their last wish for?



## Winter Break Trip

By Armaan Hossain, Grade 2

The day I had to go to Barbados was really tiring because I had to get up super early to go to the airport. When we got on the plane, it was dark and I couldn't look out the window so I looked at the flight status and watched some movies. When we got there, we had to take another flight and this time it was bright so I looked out the window. When we landed in Barbados, our hotel was great and it was called Southern Palms Beach Club and that was where I saw my aunt and uncle and we went to the pool, but I didn't swim. We had to go out every night for dinner but it was fine. One day, it was unexpected but really funny. First my dad and I went to the beach and I still didn't swim. It was a very sunny day and my dad went in the water. He saw a long flat rock with seaweed in the back of it and he thought it was a stingray. So he screamed "AHH!!" "It's a stingray! Help!" Then he realized it was just a rock with seaweed in the back of it. I was embarrassed so I ran back to my Aunt and my Mom. My Dad was embarrassed, too, so he ran away with me. The next day I was sad to go back home but also happy that I would see my home again. We said goodbye to the very nice and kind people we met there. I was most sad to leave my Aunt and Uncle who I may not see for a full year. I was happy to come home again where I feel the best.

# **Dogs!!!!**

**By Brooke Trabert, Grade 2**

## **WHAT THEY EAT**

Do you know what dogs eat? Dogs eat kibble. Kibble is a dog food. When dogs are little they eat different kinds of dog food and when they turn one they use another kind. Also if your dog is being good you can put a little bite of human food in their bowl. You NEVER want to feed your dog from the kitchen table because then at dinner your dog might sit and wait for you to give him or her food and then your dog will get annoying and if you to get a drink your dog might JUMP on the table and eat your food. You don't want to be that person to pick up the poop because it would be disgusting. Here are some of the foods your dog can have: peanut butter, turkey, and noodles. DO NOT GIVE YOUR DOG CHOCOLATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If you give your dog too much then your dog can get very sick.

## **TOYS!!!!!!!!!!**

Dogs play with toys like chew toys! Sometimes if your dog is being good, you can give your dog a treat or two. Also, dogs have bones there are peanut butter ones but not jelly. There are balls that make a sound when you throw it so the dog can hear it and bring it back. Otherwise, you would have walk all the way there and back.

## **HOW MANY PAW PADS**

Does your dog like to run? Did you know that your dog has 5 paw pads in the front? Guess how many they have in the back?.....They have 4 paw pads in the back!!!!!!!!!!!!!! They help dogs run faster. If you want to take your dog for a walk you can, but make sure you don't step on your dog's paw pads because it will hurt a lot like if you were barefoot and someone stepped on you.

## **HOW MANY BONES**

Do you want to know how many bones dogs have in their body? Well then, you are reading the right book! Dogs have 319 bones in their body. They help dogs move around and also play. If dogs had no bones in their body they would not be playing right now.

(Continued)

## **CRUNCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Is your dog biting you and you don't know why it hurts so bad? I think I can help you with that. Keep on reading this book and I will answer your questions. Dogs have 42 teeth in their mouths. When they are babies they give nips. In addition, they have stronger teeth and it could hurt you a lot more than if your dog is older than four years old. If you want to try to find someone that could help you with that, try PetSmart.



## **The Three Little Warthogs and the Big Bad Lion** **By Theodore Grandvoinet Moschovakis, Grade 3**

Once upon a time there lived three little warthogs that had been sent off into the savannah by their mother to make their own homes. The first warthog really took it easy and picked some tall grass that he wove together to make his house. The second little warthog was a little bit smarter and made his house out of big thick leaves. Now, the third one was the smartest one of them and made a treehouse. Soon after the first one made his house and he was sitting down to eat, the big bad lion came to his door!

The big bad lion said, "Little warthog, little warthog let me in!"

But the little warthog said, "Not by the tips of my tusky tusk tusks!"

Then the big bad lion said, "Then I'll tear and I'll tear and I'll tear your house down!" and so, he did. Luckily the first little warthog ran away to his brother's house just in time! Now, as we all know, his brother had made his house out of big thick leaves.

When the Big bad lion came to the second house and said, "Little warthogs, little warthogs let me in!"

They said, "Not by the tips of our tusky tusk tusks!"

The lion said, "Then I'll tear and I'll tear and I'll tear your house down!"  
And so, he did!

Luckily, the two little pigs had time to run to their brother's house, climb up the rope ladder, and pull it up before the lion got there! And luckily for them, the lion never learned to climb trees and they lived happily ever after!

# Amazing Cheetahs!

By Amina Gantulga, Grade 2

Did you know cheetahs can run 60 miles per hour? You should read this book if you want to learn about this amazing animal! Cheetahs are warm-blooded mammals. That means they should stay warm. In this book, you will learn about fascinating cheetahs!

## Habitats for cheetahs

Cheetahs live in the African savanna, but very little live in Asia because they are being pushed to existence. Cheetahs are warm-blooded animals so they need to stay very warm. If cheetahs lived in Antarctica, they would die very fast because it would be very cold.

## Woosh! Running fast

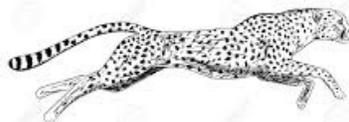
Cheetahs can run 60 miles per hour! 60 miles per hour is as fast as a car on a highway! Cheetahs run to get away from predators like lions, leopards, hyenas, wild dogs, and so much more! Cheetahs also run to get food for themselves and for the cheetahs cubs. The mom will hunt bison and antelopes for her cubs with her speed.

## Cubs!

A cheetah mom will protect her cubs from lions and leopards harming her cubs. When a cheetah cub is a year and a half old, the mom leaves her cubs alone. The cubs stay together for a few more years. Then the females leave but the males may stay and work in a pack to hunt food.

## Conclusion

Cheetahs are one of the most endangered animals cats in Africa. They are hunted for their beautiful fur. Cheetahs are one of my favorite animals because I love how fast they run and the black fur around their eyes. I have one tip for you: do anything to save the cheetahs!



# Little Black

By Haru Sugiyama, Grade 2

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Little Black. She got that name because she had very black hair. One day her mother said, "Go deliver this pho to Grandma in the other side of the sapa because she is sick. Also, watch out for the *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis*."

Little Black said, "Ok," and she left. After Little Black walked one mile, she met *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis*.

*Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* asked, "Where are you going?"

Little Black answered, "I am going to my grandma's house to deliver pho."

*Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* said, "Why don't you take the shortcut and I take the long way?"

Little Black said, "Ok." Little Black did not realize that the *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* was lying, so Little Black did what she was told by the *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis*. *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* ate the grandma and *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* went to Grandma's bed then pulled bed cover. The *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* got there first and Little Black got there second. Little Black opened the door and went to grandma's bedroom and said, "Grandma, what long tail you have!"

*Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* said, "Better to grab things with."

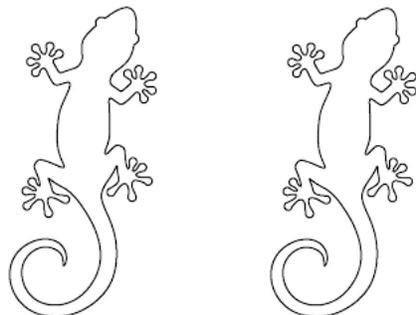
Little Black said, "Grandma, what beautiful stripe you have!"

*Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* said, "Better to hide with "

Little Black said, "What long fingers you have, Grandma! "

*Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* said, "**Better to grab you and eat you with!**" *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* tried to eat her but she escaped. Then *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* spit Grandma out.

Then Grandma said, "It's **NOT** nice to eat people!" *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* promised to never eat people again and Little Black became friends with *Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis*.



## **In New York**

**By Jacob Farley, Grade 2**

When I got to New York, I went to my cousins' house. The second I stepped into the door my cousins came running to give me a hug. When they stopped, I put my suitcase in me and my cousin's room and we went to bed. In the morning, we ate breakfast and watched TV. Then we went to the park with my mom we played soccer; me and my cousin won. Then we went to a bagel place and I ordered a pizza bagel. Then we went to a museum then we had dinner. Then I went to bed.

In the morning, we had breakfast and my cousins went to school and then we came to school because my cousin's class had a writing party. There was food and it was really fun. Then my cousin went home with us and we played in our room. Then we picked my other cousin up from school and went home to have dinner. Then we went to bed.

In the morning, everyone woke up and we had breakfast and we took my cousins to school and went home to have have lunch. Then we picked up my cousins from school and went home. Then we played a game and had dinner. Then we went to bed and in the morning, we went back to Maryland.



## **Kayaking**

**By Hugo Saura, Grade 2**

Last summer, I went kayaking with my dad. My dad rented a kayak and pushed it in the water. We had a guide who showed us a lot of shipwrecks and even told us their history! We even saw an old lighthouse. When we got back, my dad said I was the only one who didn't get wet!

# Point Nemo

By Cole Kahan, Grade 2

## What and Where

Did you know the nickname for Point Nemo is The Point of Inaccessibility? Well you will learn far beyond that in this book! It's all about Point Nemo! For those of you who have never heard of Point Nemo, it is literally in the middle of nowhere! Point Nemo is a small, uninhabited island. It is further from land than any other place. It is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

## Closest Places

Did you know the closest point from Point Nemo is Motu Nui of the Easter Islands? Now you are going to ask me, "What is the closest place to Point Nemo in any direction?" Well the answer is the International Space Station. The International Space Station is a space shuttle that has been flying 258 miles away for about 50 years! Note that Motu Nui is more than 1000 miles away! It's as crazy as it seems!

## The BIG Theory

In 1926, "The Call of Cthulu" movie was released. A monster in the movie had his layer EXTREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEMLY close to Point Nemo. But this is 1926 so Point Nemo will not be discovered for another fifty years! In 1997, NOAA hydrophones picked up an unusual sound just north of Antarctica and it was louder than any animal at the time! "The BLOOP."

## The BIG Theory/Fun Facts/The Book

The noise was just less than 1,240 miles east of Point Nemo. It sounded like a water volcano. Methane release scientists thought it was some undiscovered creature. The noise ended up being a gigantic iceberg that collapsed due to global warming. Point Nemo is also named after the captain in the book 20,000 Leagues under the Sea by Jules Verne. His name was Captain Nemo! Point Nemo was discovered in 1992 by Hrvoje Lukalela but he never visited the island.

## Conclusion

Point Nemo is a small, uninhabited island. And it is further from land than any other place. Nobody has ever set foot on Point Nemo. For more information, check an article on Google! Search P-O-I-N-T space N-E-M-O. You learned all about Point Nemo!

# Page and Paws

By Noa Makleff, Grade 2



**Wosh!** One windy day in New Jersey, downtown Maple Street, Page was walking her dog. She was also hungry. “**Ruff!**” said Page’s dog, Paws.

“Oh! You must want doggie ice cream! I wonder if Kacey my sister wants something? I will just get something in case for her,” Page said. “Wow!” she thought as she crossed the street. “There are a lot of people out today. I think that’s because it’s a really nice day outside. But the wind!” She always thought that her view from her window was as pretty as flowers!

“Kringle, kringle,” the sign on the bakery blew off. It said, “No dogs allowed!” Then Page walked in and immediately felt rope burn on the palm of her hand. The dog ate all the sweets and ran away!

“Pp-paws!!” Page sank to the ground. She did not know what to do. She felt her eyes get heavy. Page ran across the room through the hallway and out the door as if there was a storm coming. Page felt so depressed. She saw an officer across from her then she walked up to him.

“Excuse me,” she said in a shaky voice.

“What do you need?” said the officer.

“I’m looking for my dog Paws, he ran away.”

“Okay I will send a signal out on the walkie talkie,” said the officer.

“Thanks,” she said as she walked away.

Then she thought of a place where she always hid when she was playing something and she always went there for alone time. That dark alleyway. The voices inside her head got quieter and quieter she didn't know if it was the voices inside her head or not? Then it was silent, pitch dark and also scary. She scrambled back to the light city, then she decided to go to the beach and continue tomorrow.

Then she heard a “ruff!” She recognized that bark.

“Paws!” she shouted, “Paws!”

“Ruff!” The bark got louder and louder. She ran toward the sound then she realized it was Paws! Paws jumped up on her. Then Page noticed all the puppies born. They all were white.

“Paws,” she said, “It's almost din-din time. We should start heading home,” So they did. When they got home Page walked in the house. There were moving boxes everywhere. Anyway, she sat down and told her mom what happened.

“Well, you learned your lesson. Next time you should tie Paws to a pole.”

Page said, “I have a question why are there moving boxes everywhere?”

“Sit down, we need to talk!” her mom said...



## Searching For Sam

By Drew Silverman, Grade 2

On a cold day in Antarctica, Gabby was with her little brother Sam. Their mom was at the grocery store and Gabby was babysitting Sam! She was very ecstatic! So right after their mom had left they started to play in Sam's playroom but suddenly they heard a loud **BOOMING** noise! "It's ok," said Gabby. It turns out that books fell from the bookshelf. So Gabby decided that they should go outside to take a deep breath but first they had to put their heavy coats on and put their mittens on because they live in Antarctica and hope that Sam would stop crying!

They had an ice skating rink in their backyard and they had a skiing hill upon their house. Their favorite part was the ice skating rink. So they went to go get some ice skates to go ice skating but suddenly there was a problem when they slid onto the ice. Gabby tripped and fell on her bottom! As soon as she fell, she felt Sam slip out of Gabby's arms and she screamed, **NOOOOOOOOO!**

She was devastated! Can you imagine what it would feel like to lose your baby brother?

She tried to stand up and she did but she fell right back into a giant pile of snow that covered her head. I almost got up she thought. Gabby froze for a minute. Then, Gabby pushed and shoved her way out and ran off. She felt very confident. So now that she got up she set off to the snowboarding park to see if Sam was there because it was his favorite place to sled and snowboard but he was not there. She thought that was surprising because it was his favorite. Her cheeks started to get red in fear! But she saw little footprints of the shoes that Sam was wearing! So Sam was **DEFINITELY** here!

Gabby was shivering in fright. It was a nightmare! It was past 3pm and it was as cold as an ice cube! Next, she checked the snow trees because it is his favorite place to climb trees. Surprisingly, he wasn't there. "Oh no!", Gabby cried. She checked for the last time in the snowboarding park and guess what? She barely made it. But she **FOUND** him!!! Gabby sprinted up to Sam in joy! "Oh Sam, you're too young for this now. Never do that again!" "Good gaa!" said Sam. Gabby picked up Sam and they slowly walked back home to go ice skating. As they walked, Gabby held Sam tight and said, "I am glad you are safe Sam." As she and Sam walked into the house, they saw moving boxes and their mom just got home and she screamed "KIDS!" "Mom! Why are you home?" asked Gabby. "What are all the boxes for?"

"Sit down we need to talk..."

# The Window Gathering

By Abigail Diamant, Grade 5

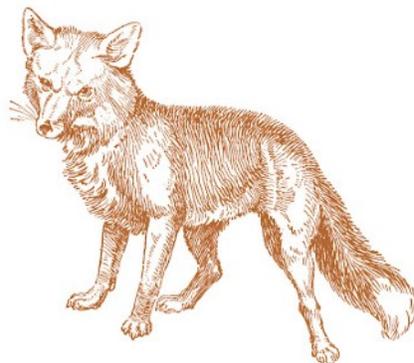
Snow fell softly on the ground in a small suburban town located in New Jersey. It was the dead of night, but six-year-old James remained awake. He hated school and figured that if he wished all night, tomorrow would surely be a snow day. James wasn't the only one awake. His two siblings were as well.

Eight-year-old Lily and two-year-old Nina were at the downstairs window gazing at the snow. Lily was holding Nina. James silently joined them. It was so quiet, yet the wind was so strong, that all they could hear was the wind whooshing through the trees. The moon shined so strongly that it brightly illuminated the snow. Although the children didn't look at each other, their presences were all sensed.

Nanny Jeane must have also sensed their presence because she walked down the hall from her bedroom and joined them at the window. When she saw they were there, she wasn't the slightest bit mad. She also came and looked out the window. When she sighed, it was so cold that the window froze up, and Nanny Jeane was able to draw pictures in the glass. The downstairs window was now full.

That was when Lily gasped. Nina clutched her older sister tighter. Lily had seen a red animal limping across the snow. A fox! James could identify its paw prints quite easily. Lily started to cry, not because she was scared, but because she felt sorry for the poor, injured, cold animal with no one to help it. Nina, overwhelmed by Lily's emotion, buried her face in Lily's neck. James felt the pain of the fox in his heart, but only let a tear trickle down his cheek. The fox slowly limped to a nearby tree on the lawn of the children's house, tripping on hidden tree roots all the way, and curled up in a ball. Nanny Jeane nudged them.

"Look," she said, pointing at the still somehow surviving animal. "See how it's all curled up beneath the tree? Note how it's alive, despite what it's going through. Why, that is something we can all learn from the red fox."



# Soccer Friend

## By Anna Foist, Grade 3

One day, specifically the first soccer game of the season, my team was playing our arch nemesis the state champions: Gold Fever. Every time we play them we lose and one of the girls on their team screams, "Oh looks like we got the gold fever and you got the loser fever," and then would high five her teammates.

Anyway, I - Brooke Johnson - was going over to my best friends'-Olivia or Liv Smith's- house to do our ritual we do before every soccer game: do 30 jumping jacks, 10 pushups, and some other exercises, and drink one glass of water. Then something weird happened.

Liv said, "I'm better than you."

"What," I said confused.

"At soccer. I'm better than you," she said.

Before I could answer or even say another word, she walked off. I don't know where she was going but she walked off. So I went back to my house. When it was time to get in the car and go to the game, I was still so confused with Liv.

I started to warm up. I normally would do partner passing with Liv but she was doing it with Angila. She hated Angila or at least I thought she hated Angila. "Five minutes till game time," my coach said. We all lined up and the ref called all our names but when it was my turn to go down the line and high five my teammates Liv put her hands down so I couldn't high five her and then she stuck her tongue out at me.

The game started and the ball went back and forth between both sides. After about 10 minutes, a girl on the other team faked out our goalie and took a shot and made a goal. Then she shouted "Losers." It was half time now and the score was 1-0 the bad guys. "The only reason we got scored on was because I was forward and can't go back on defense," Liv said. My coach talked about passing wide and crossing it when we were near the goal and surprisingly nothing about what Liv had said.

They did the kick off and Liv stole the ball and passed it to Claire who was left mid and then Claire passed it back to Liv. Right before a defender stole the ball from Liv I yelled, "PASS!" Then Liv chased after it and managed to get it back without anyone's help. She turned and took a shot and made it. Everyone was screaming and yelling and high fiving and jumping on Liv. We were tied 1-1. The rest of the game went on and both teams had scored 1 more goal. Guess who

scored our goal: Liv. The game surprisingly went into penalty kicks, and me and Liv both had to take a shot. I went up to take my shot I kicked it straight to the goalie and she caught it. No one made a shot for the other team. But up last for our team was Liv. Shot to the upper left corner and made it. The whole team went wild. We had just won our first game against Golden Fever! We clapped hands and then celebrated some more. And we were walking to our parents when Liv said, "Told you so! I am better at soccer than you and you know it." Then ran off.

At school, Liv didn't talk to me. Which I didn't mind because I didn't want to talk to her. We played soccer games without doing our ritual and didn't say a word besides pass or shoot. Until our last game of the season we were playing Gold Fever. Since we played them our first game, we play them again at the end of the season.

Within the first minute or so, I scored a goal. Everyone congratulated me except for Liv. The game went on, I scored two more goals, and they had scored one. By the last five minutes of the game, the Gold Fever had kind of given up. At one point I said to myself that either they had gotten so much worse our we had gotten so much better. Tweet tweet tweeeet the ref blew the game whistle and every one grabbed high and me fived me just like they had done to Liv the first game. I was so happy until I saw Liv.

I walked over to her and said, "I'm sorry for whatever I did."

"You are? I mean, you didn't do anything," Liv said.

"Friends," I said.

"Yeah," she said.

I learned one very important thing this season: Treat people how you want to be treated no matter how mean they are to you. You be kind and spread it around!



# The Big Game

By Benjamin Trackman, Grade 4

Erick stepped onto the field. His team, the Beakersville Bulldogs, were playing the Asterville Anacondas. The Anacondas had beaten the Bulldogs 3-2 the last time the two teams had played. Erick heard some fans shouting, "Go Bulldogs!" and others shouted, "Let's go Anacondas!" Erick got excited as he always did before a game. In fact, he was thrilled. I have to prove myself to my parents today, Erick thought. I want to get their "good jobs" and "you're awesomes." The ref's whistle started the game and Erick, as a midfielder, went after it.

\* \* \*

Five minutes later, the Anacondas went deep into Bulldog territory on a long run. They threaded in a cross, and shot a shot that was just out of the Bulldogs' goalie's reach. Just like that, the Bulldogs were down 1-0. It was looking just like the beginnings of the Bulldogs' past matches with the Anacondas. On the following kickoff, the ball found its way to Erick. Erick started down the field, the ball at his feet. However, before he had gone far he flew forward, biting the dirt. Tweet! It was a foul. Then it happened. "Rooty isn't tough! Rooty isn't tough!" The Anaconda fans started teasing Erick. Horrible. Horrible. The Anaconda fans knew his dreadful nickname? That couldn't be good. He took a deep breath, getting himself back into focus.

\* \* \*

Tweet! The ref's whistle started the second half. Erick received a pass and ran down the field, running between defenders like a mouse darting between cats. Finally, he reached the goalie box. He brought back his foot and let the ball fly toward the goal. His shot missed the goal by about the length of your finger. "Darn it!" Erick thought as his face turned red. Not again! Erick groaned inwardly because the crowd was taunting him again. "Rooty can't score a goal! Rooty can't score a goal!" How he wanted to punch the Anaconda fans in their faces to shut them up but he knew he couldn't. Too much trouble. Also, his team would hate him for it, not like they didn't already. For him missing the shot that is. The game was still at 1-0 to the Anacondas with 10 minutes remaining in the game. Although the crowd still taunted Erick, among the crowd that didn't taunt him was his brother, Howard. Erick knew that Howard was good in the sights of their parents but still, it was weird. His brother Howard was 7 years old and thought he was all that. Since they were brothers and had no other siblings, they had a sort of brother rivalry going on. Howard was still 3 years younger than him and always would be. Erick was glad about that.

Five minutes left and Erick had the ball, seeming to glide down the field. He shook off defenders as if they were ants clinging to him. Once again, he reached the goalie box. Score, score, score. That was all Erick meant to do. He just had to execute what he meant to do and perfectly. Not one mess up. Score. This time he made no mistake. The goalie had no chance. The ball rolled into the goal. Erick ran down back the field, his arms out in celebration. His teammates gave him high-fives and jumped on his back. Game on. The score was at a 1-1 deadlock. Then something amazing happened. "Big Rooty can actually score you know!" a voice rang out. His brother! Erick couldn't believe it. His brother could stand up for him like that! That was amazing!

Two minutes left. So little time but on the other hand, so much time because anything could happen in two minutes. The ball found its way to Erick. Another chance for the Bulldogs to score! Erick thought. He ripped a pass upfield to one of his teammates. That teammate lofted a kick into the penalty box. Everyone, even the goalie crowded around, fighting for the ball. Erick thought, "Go into the goal!" In the confusion, the ball rolled into the goal, just as the clock ticked down 3.2.1. The Bulldogs had won 2-1! Erick stepped off the field. "Great game Erick," came a voice. His family! Howard and all. Erick was starting to blush. "Thank you." was all he managed to get out. "Thank you."



# Soccer Star

By Mia Arnold, Grade 3

Ring, ring. My alarm clock sounded.

I was so nervous I could not get out of bed. Today was my -- Olivia Johnson -- and my team's biggest soccer game of the year. We were playing against our biggest rival: the Red Devils. The Washington Wolves, my team, hadn't been beaten all year, but the Red Devils hadn't been beaten either.

I hadn't slept a wink all last night, but I wasn't even tired today. My best friend, Charlotte Lee, lived next door. Charlotte was also on the Washington Wolves. Charlotte was jumping up and down and calling for me to get up. I thought to myself: "Olivia you have to be strong," but of course I was strong. I had three older brothers Max, Jackson, and Adam, who were all soccer stars, I couldn't beat them.

Everyone would be there. Charlotte was still calling, so I finally got up. "Olivia aren't you excited? We are playing our biggest rivals!" said Charlotte. I knew I was brave like Charlotte, but Charlotte was so much better at soccer than I am. I said back to her, "Charlotte, I am just nervous, but I know how much you love soccer. "You are better than me at soccer." Charlotte replied back, "We are both even. Bye. I have to go now. My mom is calling me to get ready." "Bye," I said.

Right now, we live in Washington D.C., a huge place, but we have to drive to Richmond, Virginia to get to the soccer field. I get into my clothes, and eat breakfast. I wonder why my brothers are downstairs so early. Just as I thought, my wish is granted. My mom comes downstairs and says, "Your brothers are going to watch you." I panic now. I have to try even harder, but I stay calm. Out of all of my brothers, I like Adam the best. He is so nice to me.

Jackson and Max on the other hand pick on me all the time. I poured my cereal. I started to eat, but then I found a spider in my cereal. I screamed. "Aghhhhhhhhh!" Jackson and Max started laughing. I realized it was just a prank. "Mom, Jackson and Max put a plastic spider in my cereal," I screamed. "Jackson, Max say sorry to your sister," mom said. They said "sorry" in a sarcastic way. My mom said, "Olivia get ready for your game."

"Ok," I said. I got all of my stuff ready, then me, Adam, Jackson, Max, my mom and my dad drove to Richmond. Sadly my dog, Gracie, couldn't come. When I got there, my coach was waiting for my team and me.

My coach, Mr. Morgan, took attendance. Everyone was there. We saw the Red Devils looking and pointing at us and laughing while doing their warm up

across the field. Then, Mr. Morgan told us to warm up too.

When we were done warming up, coach assigned us positions, I was playing midfield. Heading out on the field, I had butterflies in my stomach. The ref asked both goalies if they were ready. They said, "Yes." Then he blew the whistle.

We started playing pretty quick, but it was so confusing. The ball kept going back and forth. Eventually, Maggie the star player on the Red Devils scored a goal. 1-0 for the first half. Everyone was so mad, except for the Red Devils of course. They were all cheering and chanting, "LOSERS!" at us. Our coach kept telling us, "Don't give up!" and said, "It's ok if you don't win but you have to try."

Then we got back on the field. This time I was Forward and Charlotte was midfield. We got the ball then, we passed to each other. Charlotte scored .YAY! We all shout, "1-1." We keep playing until the game is over, but the game can't end in a tie.

So now, we were doing penalty kicks. I was so scared. First the other team went. They scored. Then, we went. We also scored. It went back and forth and back and forth. Whenever the Red Devils scored, we scored and whenever they didn't score we didn't score. Then, it was up to me vs. the best player on the Red Devils: Maggie.

Maggie was shooting against Riley. Maggie took a shot. Riley caught it! Everyone cheered on the Washington Wolves, except me. I had butterflies, even before she took the shot. Now it was up to me to score.

I took a deep breath and headed on the field. I put the ball down, then took a shot. I didn't stop to look at everyone who was watching me. I slowly opened my eyes. I MADE THE SHOT! I was so happy. Everyone was cheering for me. Finally, we got our medals for FIRST PLACE. We headed home. But before I left Charlotte whispered to me, "I knew you could do it!"



# Charlie and the Syrup Touch

By Emma Mihalchik, Grade 4

"Charlie! It's time to go to the doctors!" yelled my mom. Hi, my name is Charlie. I'm nine years old and in 4th grade. I have a doctor's appointment because I eat excessively much syrup. I eat so much, that it makes me too full to eat any other meals for the day. At the doctor, they gave me pills to take so I would have less of an urge to eat syrup. They told me to take the pills in the afternoon, and not to eat any syrup after I take them.

When I got home, I took my pills like the doctor had said. Then, I went for my usual walk. This time, I noticed that the new syrup shop was open so I went in. There were stacks and stacks of syrup on the walls, maple syrup candy, syrup flavored candy canes, syrup EVERYTHING!!! It was my dream come true! I went up to the counter feeling the change jingling in my pocket. The cashier gave me a smile, almost like he knew me. I looked around one last time to make sure I didn't miss anything..... and then I saw it, a perfect little bottle of syrup it was called The Syrup Touch.

I pointed to the bottle of syrup, the cashier got it down and he said, "Be careful what you wish for" I didn't understand why he said that, so I just ignored him. I drank the little bottle of syrup right in front of the store because I wouldn't be allowed to at home. I began to feel thirsty, and I remembered that I brought a water bottle with me in my backpack I sat down in the warm grass digging through my backpack. Finally, I found it! I felt the cool, crisp water touch my lips but then it turned into a sticky and sweet liquid, it was syrup! I drank the whole thing, water never tasted so good. I ran home pet my dog Rocky, went to the fruit bowl and ate everything in it. I ran up to my room, found a pencil and chewed on it like I usually do when I'm excited or stressed out. Yum! It turned into a delicious pencil shaped maple syrup candy. I cracked a piece off of it for my sister, ran back down the stairs and handed it to her. "Where did you get this?" she asked. I told her how I went to the syrup shop and bought the syrup, and when I drank the syrup outside of the store and how, after that, my water turned into syrup when I drank it. This was all so exciting!!! She couldn't believe it so I showed her how I could turn water into syrup just by it touching my lips. I also told her not to tell Mom and Dad. It was time for dinner and my parents were surprised how much and how fast I ate my food. When I was done, I ran up the creaky stairs, almost excited to brush my teeth. Oh, and did it taste so good. I slipped into my P.J.s and walked over to my sister's room. She was already tucked in under the covers so I kissed the top of her head, but then I realized that she tasted sweet. I opened my eyes

to find a life size lump of maple syrup candy where my sister used to be. I tiptoed down the stairs leaving the note I had written on the kitchen table. Which said:

**I am going for a walk because it was a nice night.**

### **Love, Charlie**

Mom and Dad were already in their room so I could easily get to the front door. I felt the cool breeze touch my blazing cheeks. I started running, running to the syrup shop. When I got there I could feel sweat running down my neck. I walked into the store and ran to the counter. The man who had sold me the syrup was there. I told him everything like how great it was until I turned my sister into syrup. He gave me a choice to keep the syrup touch and leave my sister like that or have no more syrup touch and my sister turns back. I came to the decision to turn my sister back. He gave me a weird looking salad and said if I ate it, it would turn everything I made into syrup back. The salad didn't taste like syrup like I was expecting it to. "Thank you!" I shouted as I left the store. I ran home as fast as my legs could take me. I jolted into the house and up the stairs ignoring my parents scolding. I walked into my sister's room.

"Charlie!" she shouted, I hugged her as tight as I could. I couldn't bare to let go ever again.



## **The Secret Room**

**By Celia Markowitz, Grade 3**

Once I went to my neighbor's house and he said it is time to show you the secret hang out room and he brought me to his sister's closet. I was confused but then he opened the closet and I saw a door to a secret room. Inside it was our new hide out.. So then that was the best spot until his sister figured things out. She figured out our spot and said get out forever until she went to college. We snuck in and had a lot of fun. Then she got out of college and got her own house. Therefore, it is now our meeting room.

# The Jumping Snails

By Esther Mayer and Marisa Cheplo, Grade 5

"Lily, how did you kick the ball this far?" Kate asked.

"Well, I got distracted by a bird flying around," replied Lily. Three friends, Lily, Kate, and Isabelle had been walking around in the forest looking for the soccer ball Lily had kicked down the hill.

"Where's the ball?" asked Isabelle her dark blue eyes wide with worry, "it should be here somewhere." They went farther and farther into the forest, keeping their eyes peeled for any sign of the ball. When they finally found the ball, they were lost. They were starting to walk back when they heard a strange sound, followed by a gust of wind.

"Did everybody hear that thumping noise?" Isabelle said a little more worried than before. She twirled a strand of her light brown hair around her fingers.

"Yup," Kate and Lily replied.

"OK guys, just keep your eyes on the path," Lily whispered. Kate's black eyes darted around nervously, looking for any sign of something that could harm them. Suddenly, the girls heard the strange thumping noise again, and just as before a gust of wind followed. No one said anything about it and they continued to walk keeping their eyes on the path. As they saw the end of the forest, their worries disappeared. But they decided to wait to see whom or what was making that strange thumping sound. They waited their a few minutes not wanting to scare away the strange creature.

As they heard the thumping sound again Isabelle, having seen enough, whispered, "Let's catch whatever was making the horrible thumps and wind." So the girls went off the path in search for the creature. Soon they came to what looked like a gigantic nature village. Since it was nighttime, the creatures who lived in it were all in gigantic houses or apartments made completely out of rocks. Kate ran to hide behind a tree for a better look of the village, her black wavy hair flying behind her as she ran. The others followed, as quietly as they could. The trio crept through the village looking for any building that had lights on. Finally, they saw a house with a light on. They had to climb on each other's shoulders to reach the doorbell. After they pushed it, the door opened.

"Hello!" said a voice way up high, "Welcome to the land of the jumping snails!"

"Who... are... you?!" Isabelle peeped wide-eyed.

"My name is Bella, Bella the jumping snail," the creature said. Bella was a gigantic snail. "Sorry, did I wake you with my thumps and my wind? I couldn't fall asleep, and jumping tires me out so I can fall asleep." Bella had a light brown

tummy, and a brown back. Her shell was silver and she was wearing a pink bow on her head. The girls looked at each other for a long time, until Lily finally stepped forward extending her hand for Bella to shake it.

"Pleased to meet you," Lily said, feeling a little bit scared. Bella looked at Lily's hand, wondering what to do with it.

"Do you need anything?" Bella asked.

Then Lily realized snails probably didn't shake hands. "Right," whispered Lily, blushing a little bit.

"No," Kate said, "But thanks. We just wanted to know what the thumping was."

"Sorry about that," said Bella.

"It's OK," Isabelle said, so quietly they could barely hear, "We came just to see what the noise was."

"It's fine by us," Lily said shrugging, "Let's go."

So the friends walked down the path leading back to the human city. Suddenly, Kate thought of something. "It's still not dark and we've been in the forest for hours."

"I know why," said Bella, "we learned this at school. No time passes in the human world when humans are in this magical forest." Kate, Lily, and Isabelle's eyes grew wide.

"Excuse me?" said Lily, absolutely flabbergasted, "Did you just say what I think you said?" Bella nodded, smiling.

"I think I'm gonna faint!" Isabelle said putting a hand on her forehead.

"Before we leave, quick question, do you know the way out of this forest?"

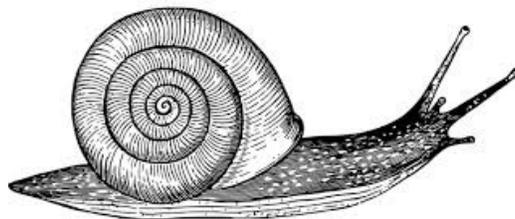
Bella nodded, "I'll show you the way."

Kate, Isabelle, and Lily grinned and thanked Bella. The new friends walked through the forest led by Bella. They walked for a long time until they finally saw the end of the forest. The friends poked their heads out of the forest. What they saw was breathtaking, everyone on the field was frozen. "Wow," they all said.

"Well goodbye, and thanks for helping us find our way out of the forest," Isabelle said.

"Bye!" Bella said, "Until next time!"

Kate, Lily, and Isabelle waved goodbye to Bella and watched her disappear into the forest.





## The Color Changing Bunny

By Dahlia Pellegrom, Grade 2

Hoppy is a bunny rabbit. He loves to play soccer and he's really good at it. Hoppy can do a lot of tricks. He also likes ice cream A LOT! He has a best friend named WOOF!

Woof is a puppy dog. Woof LOVES donuts. He's not color changing. But Hoppy is. Hoppy can change into blue, pink & purple. He was originally light brown.

One day, Hoppy found Woof sad. Hoppy tried to cheer Woof up by saying "Look, I'm purple today!" But it didn't work.

"Wow!" She must be really sad today!" thought Hoppy. "I must try to cheer her up." But Hoppy didn't know how to. "I must call for help."

So Hoppy started looking for help. Then, he got too tired. Zzzzzzzz! Yawn!

Then he got distracted and started to paint. Finally, because he had paint all over himself, he said, "I need to take a bath!"

So he did.

Last, he said, "I'm supposed to be looking for help." Actually I'm just going to try to cheer him up myself." Finally, an idea popped into his his head. "I know!" he said.

He brought ice cream over. He knew that Woof LOVED ice cream as much as he did so he got 2 larges. And guess what, it worked!!!

Woof sang her happy song!

THE END!!!



## Tape vs. Scissors

By Luca Borrelli, Kindergarten

Tape met scissors. They wanted to fight. They fought. Who would win? Scissors was winning. Scissors cut the tape. Snip, snip. Scissors was about to win until...tape taped him onto the wall! Luckily, he had siblings. The little scissors cut the tape off. Big scissors got out. He sniped and sniped. Tape lost. He cried. Scissors won a trophy. He shared it with his brother since he helped him win the fight.



## The Adventurous Animals

By Vanessa Feifer, Grade 2



Once upon a time, there were 2 dogs, 3 turtles, 4 cats, 5 doves, and 1 owl, which all got their names based on the things that they liked. They all lived together in a little cozy and comfortable cottage. They lived in a cottage because last year, they had had no shelter and were very scared at night, until one day, when they all had set out (again!) looking for a little shelter or looking for a scrap that they could add to the pile that they would use to make a shelter, they found a little wooden cottage. A woodcutter had built it but left because he had found it was too small for his wife, children, and him to live in. But too small for a human is perfect sized for a group of animals, the animals all had thought.

Last week, the owl and one of the doves had been out on a midnight flight when the owl (whose name was Sparky) spotted (with his night vision) a wealthy looking man whom Sparky thought looked kind of familiar, so he guided a very confused dove down to investigate. (The dove was confused because he didn't have night vision like Sparky did.) The familiar man had a kind face and looked like he would adore any company (especially animals) because he lived alone and looked like he often was quite lonely. He was a man with plenty of money, so much that he wanted to follow the owl and the dove home to see if any other animals lived with them and if so, would he be able to feed them? But that's just impossible, he thought. The bigger ones would eat the littler ones for breakfast, immediately, and then they'd still be hungry because little ones don't make very good snacks, let alone breakfast, lunch, and dinner so in the end there would be no animals left at all, he had thought.

So, by giving the birds little scraps that he had found in his pocket to eat as treats, he was able to get them to bring him back to where they lived. When he arrived there, he was very surprised to see that they had led him to a little cozy cottage. The animals who had all been watching from a window all burst out the door and scattered while the dove did not know what to do! He was thoroughly confused so he decided to take a nap because he was the laziest dove of them all. The dogs, Lucky and Lily, ran around the familiar man because they, too, sensed that there was something familiar about him and that two of the animals needed to investigate him. So they took charge. The turtles, Santa 1, Santa 2 and Santa 3 were slowly moving toward the familiar man and feeling embarrassed that they couldn't catch up. The cats, Peppermint, Sour Patch and Lollipop batted little skinny tree branches that were dangling in front of their faces because they were feeling excited, shy, and playful. The other 4 doves (They had no names because they

always found a way to complain about everything!) flew around the dove that had taken the midnight flight with Sparky (which only made him more confused than ever) feeling very excited for the very first time in their lives. Gradually, everyone (including the familiar man) remembered who the other was. The familiar man was the PET SMART owner that had a very kind heart for animals and would sacrifice his life for them! He had set Sparky, Lucky, Lily, Santa 3, Santa 1, Santa 2, Lollypop, Peppermint, Sour Patch, and the 5 doves free from the store secretly because they loved the owner but they hated the store.

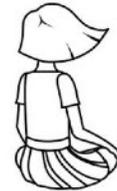
The animals moved in with the retired PET SMART owner and because he had studied animals for his whole life, he knew exactly what was right for them and what wasn't. They all lived a long, happy, and comfortable life.

**The End (for now)**



## **The 'Perfect' Pair**

**By Victoria Dean, Grade 3**



I could start this story with a once upon a time, but I will not, because this story is true, well at least some of it is true. This story is about two friends, my friends and it seems they were never meant to meet, but they did. One of them had dirty blond hair that was always in a hairstyle, unless it was school picture day. She had dull blue eyes and lots of freckles spread across her nose and cheeks, her name was Katy. The second friend had beautiful, long hair and vibrant green eyes, her name was Christine. Now, you might think that Christine and Katy look the same, but they act very differently. Christine was totally crazy, but funny and lovable. Katy was nice and fun and she was great at comebacks. So as you can see, Christine and Katy act very different. Katy and Christine were great friends, to me and to each other. Even though it sounds like Katy and Christine are good friends, but we don't live in a perfect world and Katy and Christine live on this world sooooo, they get into A LOT of arguments. I remember one time Christine and Katy were asking to borrow my sharpener, so I said yes and it turned out that when I turned their way they were at my desk, arguing about whose pencil was whose. I know you're probably rolling your eyes right now and believe me, I did. You would not believe all the tension I've been through with Christine and Katy's unbelievable arguments. It's actually harder than you think to pick a side to go on in an argument sooooo, yeah tension. Besides all their arguments they are really good friends.

# Connor and the Big Tsunami

By Jun Oshirabe, Grade 4

It was a good day in Sendai, Japan. He was just visiting his grandma in Sendai. He was born in New York City, New York in a car. Last year, he got a new baby brother.

It was the middle of March, almost his birthday. He was going to turn 7. He loved his birthday only for one reason. Presents was the answer to that. He loved getting new toys, especially the ones he wanted the most. They were outside cleaning the street because today was garbage day. In Japan, we clean the street (only the space that your house is on). "Connor let's go inside!" called Connor's grandma. He went inside. They had yogurt and milk for breakfast. "CLING!! CLING!! CLING!! CLING!!" went the garbage truck. They went to give the garbage to the garbage man. They went into the house to grab their bags to go shopping.

He loved to go to Takashimaya, a department store in Japan. He loves the rides on the roof. There are train rides, but they only shift. A small train ran through the roof of Takashimaya. Suddenly, there was a call from the cleaning company. They come every Tuesday morning and today was Friday. They have called saying that their van had broken down. They said their clothes were finished, so they asked if they could come to their shop to get their clothes.

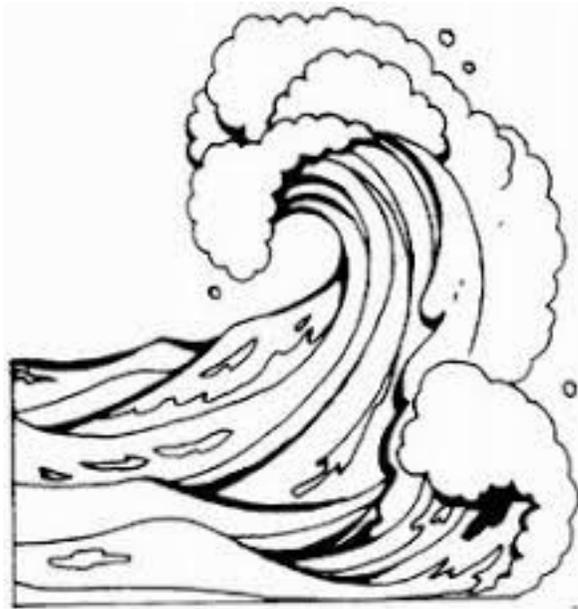
Today was Saturday. They had breakfast and then headed to the cleaning shop. Just then, there was a shake. A big shake. They heard someone shout, "地震だ!" (Translates to EARTHQUAKE!!!) They hurried into the police station to get shelter. The police officer let some more people in. They found a spot to keep them safe, like under a desk. After the shaking stopped, from their spot they saw a black car run fast by them. The person was driving to the cleaning store. He sped into the driveway. He crept into the side of the store, then went in from the back door. They heard a scream. They told the officer that a robber broke into the cleaning store. They told him that he broke in from the back door. He rushed to his bicycle. He rode straight to the cleaning store. Five seconds later, they heard the police officer say hands up. In about 2 more seconds, other police officers came so they can help the police officer they talked to. Then, there was a fire truck cleaning store. Five seconds later, they heard the police officer say hands up. In about 2 more seconds, other police officers came so they can help the police office they talked to. Then there was a fire truck.

The microphone said, "津波です。すぐ避難してください。" This translates to, "There is a tsunami. Please evacuate."

Connor and his grandma were led to a police truck to be driven to higher ground. They drove above speed limit as well as all the other cars because they were all trying to escape. They drove to higher ground until they seemed like miles/kilometers away from the water. They got off and watched the water swallow Connor's grandma's apartment building. Connor's grandma sniffed. Tears filled her eyes as the tsunami flooded her apartment.

The waters have now calmed and most of the city was destroyed. The water was now being drawn back into the sea. They wanted to check on Connor's sister and mom so they called them. Connor's sister answered. Her mother has been trapped because her shirt was stuck to melted metal on the street so she ran with the phone to elevation level. When the water went back into the sea, she went back to check on her mom. But, it turns out she was swallowed by the sea because the melted metal was gone.

Right after they hung up from his sister, there was another call coming from the phone from the station. They discovered it was Connor's mother. They immediately called Connor's sister. They heard a cry of joy over the phone. They got on the police truck once again to drive back to the police station. They went to the station and met with Connor's mom and sister. His sister's name is Emma. They were all happy except for one thing: they still didn't have a new house. They got a mansion donated by the Japanese police department because they helped capture a crook in the middle of an earthquake. (Which was when the van and the cleaning shop robbery happened...) And so they were very thankful and lived happily ever after.



# The Little West Girl

By Kayla Self, Grade 5

Once upon a time, there lived a girl whose wish was to win the cowgirl competition. Every day she practiced, she wanted to win and that was her motivation. Later all she could think about was the challenge. She thought of the thrill she would have if she won. That night she dreamt that she won the competition, and was the best cowgirl. She was woken by the cry of a bunny, within seconds she was out and ready to help the poor thing. Coat on, she attempted to find the bunny. A couple of moments later she had the bunny in hand taking him inside, she thought of her other tests, animal healing and horse riding. Maybe she could use this bunny for the competition! She took the bunny into her room and went downstairs to get some carrots, when she got back, she gave a carrot to the bunny. Five seconds later, a full bunny and a carrot stem were in front of her.

"Where is your family?" she asked, the bunny started crying again. "Oh no don't cry!!" she told it. "I will take care of you!" The rabbit looked at her like she was thanking her, "You're welcome," she answered, "Now I need to practice, bye!" The small animal jumped up happily. "She is really smart," she whispered to herself as she walked out.

The next day she left to go to the store, as she walked out she saw a horse, it looked lost. She went up to the horse who was startled to see her. She patted the horse and said, "You can come home with me!" It jumped up. "I will name you Bella," she said happily. She hopped on Bella and started home. Later Bella was home and in the horse pen. She hopped off. "See you later, ok?" she said happily.

The next day she went for a ride on Bella and she was going to practice for the competition. All she could think about during the journey was how thrilled she would be if she got in and won the competition, talking to her animal pal she said, "It would be awesome to win!" she went on, "And this year I just know we will win! Well, we have to get home soon. It's almost time for dinner." "How am I so lucky? I might actually win!!" she said to herself a lot on the walk back. "Well, tomorrow's the big day Bella!" she said, "Do you think you are ready for your part?" Bella licked her; she laughed. "Want to practice a little, Bella?" Bella jumped up and ran around in circles "I should name that bunny Lily! That's what I will do Bella!" Later they were getting ready to leave, "It's time," she said. "My mom left before she named me. Myra will do for now," she said. "Get out here Lily we need to talk!! Lily hopped out and sat right in front of her. "Ok Lily, I'm sorry that I couldn't heal you before but today you can get healed by me!" Myra said happily. Lily put her

tiny paws out and put them together for her happy owner "Now let's go!" They got in the car.

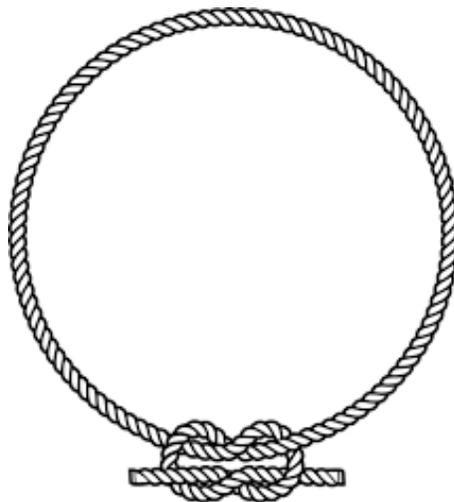
They got there quickly. "I never imagined how this place looked," Myra said. "Oh right, we have to go get ready for the show. Well, I guess I should practice my lasso skills." A few seconds later, she was out using the lasso. About an hour later, the place was packed and Myra was struggling to get in her place for the competition. "Excuse me," Myra said pushing against the screaming crowd. Finally, she got to her station with Bella and Lily waiting for her all dressed up.

Then an announcement came on, "Performers get into your places!" About 5 minutes later, another announcement came on, "Lily Wanston, your turn first," it said.

"I'm last," she said to herself sadly.

After a while, they said "Myra Mang please come up." She went on the stage and stood in front of 100 people "Lasso first!" the announcement said cheerfully. She twirled until the announcement said, "Horse riding!" Then Bella jumped from behind the stage and Myra hopped on her. They ran and ran. Then the announcement said, "Lastly, Animal Healing!" Right then Lily hopped out, one foot hurt and after a bit of work, Lily was healed and ready to go. The crowd roared as Myra bowed to the audience, and then she went backstage. "We have a chance at winning!" Myra cheerfully said to her animal friends.

Later the judges had decided, "The winner is... Myra Mang!" "Thank you," Myra said, as she left with her trophy. Myra thought, "I knew we could do it."



# The Three Little Dogs

By Keira Krantz, Grade 3

Once upon a time, there lived three little dogs named Claire, Bronwyn, and Grace, and an evil lion named Bob who was hungry and wanted to eat them.

The three little dogs had to build their own houses when they were very, very young. Claire's house was made of very light stick and she thought it would be very hard to break. Bronwyn's was made of wood, and Grace's house was made of steel and was very strong. They all lived in the deep dark forest where nobody would enter except the most terrifying animals.

One day, Bob the lion set a plan to eat the three little dogs so he would finally not be hungry. That day he went to Claire's house and said, "Let me in or I will come in myself!" However, Claire said, "No, you will never come in!" Then Bob broke Claire's house and Claire ran into Bronwyn's house as fast as she could. Then Bob said, "Let me in or I will come in myself!" But they said, "No, you will never come in! Then they hid behind Bronwyn's chair and Bob broke Bronwyn's house. Bob said, "Come out wherever you are, you can't hide but you can run." Then he walked over to the chair, snatched Claire, and brought her to his lair.

One hour later, Bronwyn and Grace got worried, and then Grace got a phone call from Bob that said, "Hello Grace, if you want your sister back you will have to give me all your money or else your sister will be thrown into a pit of lions!!" Before Grace could even say a word, Bob hung up.

Then Grace told Bronwyn what happened and came up with a plan for Bronwyn to stay at the house and Grace would get Claire. Then Grace grabbed a bag and put trash in the bag. But it didn't smell like trash, it smelled like gold. Then she left.

She knocked on Bob's lair and Bob said, "You may come in, but only if you have the money." She said, "Yes, I have the money." Then she walked in. She looked around and said, "Wow, this is amazing." Then Bob walked her to where Claire was and Grace gave Bob the bag and took Claire back to the house in the speed of a flash. They ran in the door then slammed the door and locked it. Then Bob said, "Let me in or I will come in myself!" However, they didn't answer. Then he tried to break Grace's house but he couldn't. But still kept trying. Until he gave up in the end of December when he was at age 96.



# The Three Little Dogs

## By Lucas Yelovich, Grade 3

Once upon a time, there were three dogs in the meadows of an open field in their mother's house. They were happy and ate soup. But then time passed and the dog's mother told them that they were too old to live with her. Then Mother told the dogs to build their own houses sturdy and strong and stay away from the gray wolf that lurks in the woods. After Mother told the dogs, she kissed the dogs on their foreheads then the three dogs left.

The first dog was walking in a village and passed a man with a wheelbarrow with hay. The dog asked if he could use the hay to make a sturdy house. The man was nice and gave the dog the hay to make a house. Time passed the first dog made a small house of hay that he happily lived in. But the dog was so relaxed that he forgot about the gray wolf. So later that day the gray wolf asked if he could come in. The dog asked, "Who is it?" The gray wolf replied with a little voice, "I'm just a little girl trying to sell cookies." The dog didn't know that the gray wolf was the little girl. The dog opened the door saw the gray wolf and the gray wolf ate him in one bite.

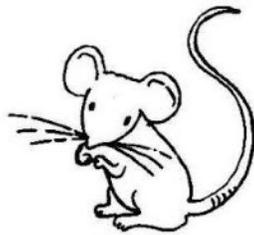
The gray wolf was still hungry so he went to the second dog.

Earlier that day, the second dog was walking around the forest and passed a man holding lots of sticks. The dog went back and asked the man if he can use the sticks to make a house. The man thought it was ridiculous, but he was nice and gave the dog the sticks. The man left to be seen cutting down trees. After he came from the forest, he started making his small lovely house of sticks in the meadows. Later that day, the gray wolf came into meadow to see a little house of sticks. The wolf walked to the small house of sticks, he peeked through the cracks of the placed sticks he saw the second dog. The gray wolf knocked on the door and said with a little voice, "Can I come to sell some cookies? I'm a girl scout trying to sell cookies." So the dog opened the door and saw the gray wolf and the gray wolf ate him in one bite. The gray wolf was still hungry so he went to the third dog's house.

Earlier that day, the third dog went passed a factory making bricks. The dog past a man with a wagon of bricks. The dog went back and asked if he could use the bricks to make a strong and sturdy house. The man said he could have the bricks. Then the dog left and walked into a meadow and started making his house.

Unlike the other houses, his house was extremely large. After the dog finished his house, he wanted to sit down on his chair but the wolf knocked on the door. He knocked three times the dog asked who is it. The gray wolf said looking through the window, "I'm a little boy raising money for charity." So the dog looked through the window and saw the gray wolf he said it's in the roses so the gray wolf went to the roses and got pricked. The gray wolf got mad and he said, "Let's go to pick apples at, let's say 10 a.m."

So the next day, the dog came at 9 a.m. to pick apples and left at 9:45 a.m. The gray wolf came, he saw footsteps of the dog, and all the apples were picked. The gray wolf got mad and went to the dog's house to see he was eating caramel apples. Then the gray wolf got so mad and went on top of the house's roof and went through the chimney. What the gray wolf didn't know is that there was a lit fireplace. The gray wolf came down and died and the dog boiled him and had a feast. The dog lived happily ever after.



## **The Mouse in the Classroom**

**By Meghan Andrews, Grade 2**

One day, when school had started one of my classmates was throwing away a paper towel and then he saw something moving behind the trashcan. At first, he thought it was a giant ant but it wasn't an ant. It was a small mouse, all my other classmates were scared, and some of them were so scared they sat on their desks and screamed. We were in the middle of reading rotations so Ms. Zanchuck went to the trash can, saw the mouse behind the recycling can, and banged the recycling can on the wall. The mouse went out of the classroom but when Ms. Zanchuck closed the door, the mouse came back inside the classroom! Ms. Zanchuck told Ms. Coyle and then when Ms. Coyle came she used a bucket and shovel and tried to catch the mouse, but it did not work. So, we went to Ms. Kupersmith's classroom and watched a video about Matter, and when it was finished we went to recess and that was the last time we saw the mouse.

# The Cinder Boy

## By Layla Winston, Grade 3

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Henry. He lived with his mother in a clean and pretty mansion. The boy's mother never got married. After a couple of years when Henry grew up, his mother decided to get married to a man and he had five sons.

The five stepbrothers were so mean Henry called them his evil stepbrothers. Henry went in his room crying because he hated his evil stepbrothers and his evil dad. Suddenly, the ground started to shake and it was an earthquake! Unfortunately, the mother died. Then Henry was stuck with his evil stepbrothers and his evil dad.

One day while the boys were home, the doorbell rang. The mail carrier was at the door and had letters for the sons. The invitation said that they were invited to a pool party.

"I am so excited for the pool party," Henry said.

The evil brothers were laughing "ha ha ha ha ha. You going to a pool party? Never."

"But I really want to go."

"You can only go if you do your chores and make your bathing suit in time."

"But I can't do my chores and make my bathing suit in time. That will take forever."

"Well then, I guess you won't be going then," said the evil dad. So the five evil stepbrothers and the evil dad went off to the pool party.

"Ugh I really wanted to go to the pool party."

"I can help you," said a voice.

"Who are you?" said Henry.

"I am your magical fairy godfather."

"Well how are you going to help me?"

"I will make you a nice bathing suit, I will make you a nice bathing suit, and I will make you a nice bathing suit." Right before Henry could answer the magical fairy godfather took his wand and POOF! The boy had a bright and shiny bathing suit and he was ready to go to the pool party. "Wait before you go, remember your bathing suit will turn into rags again at midnight so make sure you come back in time." midnight so make sure you come back in time."

"Ok," said Henry, so he went off.

Henry finally arrived at the pool party. He was amazed at all the party guests! He spotted a very pretty girl across the pool. The very pretty girl tripped into the

pool, "Oh no! I have to save her." Henry took his floaty and threw it into the pool and the girl landed on it and did not get wet. Henry was so amazed that he did that. He looked at the clock Henry jumped! "Oh no, it's midnight! I have to go."

"Wait, I didn't get your name," said the girl.

However, the girl had an idea to find out who Henry was. She was going to go to house-to-house to see whose body will fit on the floaty. The girl went to one house no one fit. She went to another house no one fit. She went to the last house on the street. It was the evil step brother's and evil dad's house. The first brother did not fit, the second brother did not fit, the third brother did not fit, the fourth brother did not fit, and the fifth brother did not fit.

The girl said, "Is there anyone else here?"

The evil dad said, "No there is no one else here."

Then there was a "creak"-that sound was Henry and the girl said, "There is someone else here." The girl told the boy to come over and lay on the floaty so he did and he was the one who fit on the floaty! Henry was still upset living with his evil step brother's and evil dad so Henry asked the girl to marry him and she said,

"Yes." So the girl and Henry lived happily ever after, and Henry was known as the Cinder boy.



## **Snow Day**

**By Henry Hasselwander, Grade 2**

Once when I woke up there were 8 inches of snow on the ground! I woke up my dad for breakfast. At 9:00 a.m. I went outside. Our small snow fort had heaps of snow on it. My sister and I worked on our snow slide. After that, my sister's friend came over. My sister and her friend went to her friend's house. While they were gone, my mom and me made a huge lump of snow and then hollowed it out to make another snow fort. Then I went inside and watched auto racing on the T.V. Next, my sister and friends came over and worked on the smaller snow fort. I stayed inside. Then we went sledding on a hill. It didn't work. We tried another hill and it barely worked. We had to make a track in order to go sledding.

# Tough Luck!

By Charlize Lenchak and Dylan Zimmerman, Grade 5

"Let's go mom! I don't want to be late for ballet," I called at the front door.

"Coming sweetie!" Mom called back. I waited about five minutes and sure enough, my mom came downstairs. We left and made it right on time.

When the class finished, my mom and I went to Starbucks and I got a delicious, extra large, vanilla bean Frappuccino! My mom got plain decaf coffee. Once we got our drinks, we headed home.

Once we got home, I got ready for my playdate with my best friend, Ellie! When she came over, we started our playdate by having the most delicious lunch! It was macaroni and cheese, chicken nuggets, and chocolate milk! Then, we went up to my room to watch a movie. My mom then came up to my room and asked if we wanted to go to the mall with her. Of course, we said, "YES!"

When we got to the mall, we immediately ran into GAP to look at the chic clothing. Mom told us that she would be in Sears if we needed her. Then, she gave us each 25 dollars to spend. We got some really cute matching jumpsuits! We met my mom by the pretzel shop and got some bites! Ellie ended up spending the night at our house. For dinner, we had pizza, green beans, and broccoli!

In the morning, Ellie's mom came by to pick her up. Ballet class was going to start soon. Today, I was going to be trying out for the Nutcracker! I couldn't wait! Two hours passed of ballet class and I got the lead roll... I was going to be playing Clara! Ellie was going to be playing the mouse king!

Weeks and weeks of practice went by quickly. Next weekend, was going to be the big performance! I felt like I was going to vomit! Mrs. Lovelace, our ballet teacher, even got a TV studio to come and film the performance. We were then going to be on Wake Up USA the next morning. The most nerve racking thing was that Mrs. Lovelace organized for Ellie, Annabelle, and me to get interviewed and talk about our experiences as a dancer. Annabelle was my friend who was playing the sugar plum fairy.

That week passed by quickly. It was Friday, the day before the big performance. Ellie, Annabelle, and I were warming up by the bars, when a guy named Peter Fitzgerald walked in the room and was heading directly for me.

"My name is Peter Fitzgerald. I am the co-host alongside the one and only Rebbecka Robinson on Wake Up USA!" Mr. Fitzgerald said proudly.

"Oh! I am Charlotte Wegman. I think my friends Ellie Weiss, Annabelle Sanchez, and I will be on your show the day after the performance," I said.

"Yes. If you don't mind I will just be looking around," Mr. Fitzgerald said.

"Of course you can!" I responded. I went over to Annabelle and Ellie and

started whispering about Mr. Fitzgerald.

"Ok everyone! Get into position! We are going to practice The Nutcracker, Gabe, lifting up Clara, Charlotte, in the big dance with the sugar plum fairy." Mrs. Lovelace exclaimed.

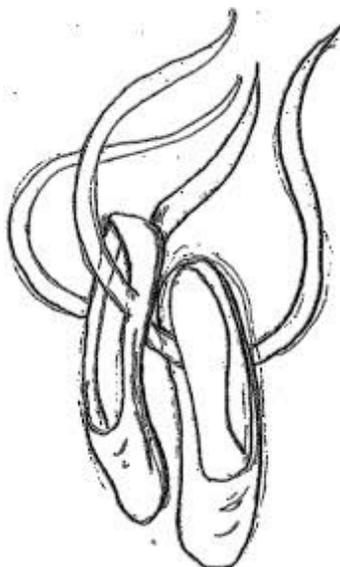
We got into position. I started to run towards Gabe's arms but, as soon as he picked me up, he dropped me. I landed straight on my right foot. I started to scream! I knew the feeling... I had broken my leg! Gabe started blushing and ran right out of the room. He didn't come back so they had to recast the role. My mom took me to the hospital, where I got my cast and crutches. They recasted my role and my friend Lilian got the part.

It was now the big performance. The person on the loud speaker announced that Lilian Schmidt got my role. To "honor" me, Ellie, Annabelle, and Lilian played a couple videos of me dancing. The performance went by so quickly but, it was still great. I just wish I was in it. After the performance when everyone was starting to leave the theater, a woman named Veronica Belioso walked up to Ellie, Annabelle, Lilian, and me. She handed me a letter and waited for a response. I read the letter. It was asking if Ellie, Annabelle, Lilian, and I would like to attend the School Of Performing Arts. We all yelled yes and ran out of the theater.

The next morning, we got ready for the interview. We got in the car and drove off. We walked in the theater wearing our matching jumpsuits and heard a guy chanting, "5,4,3,2,1." We walked on stage immediately.

"And we're back!" Mr. Fitzgerald yelled.

Everyone started cheering!



# The Best Thing in the World

By Senesha de Silva, Grade 3

One lovely morning, Mother Nature was talking to Maya, the neighboring girl. On the neighboring tree, there was squirrel and he was listening to their conversation. He got distracted by a butterfly and tried to chase it but then fell out of the tree. When he climbed back up, he heard Maya say something about the best thing in the world. He thought to himself, "Hmmm.....the best thing in the world huh? It must be a whole yard full of nuts!!!! I must go and find this treasury!" He climbed out of the tree and began his journey of finding this. He was running so fast that he did not notice pig until he called out, "Hey squirrel! What are you doing!" the squirrel stopped and said, "I'm going to find the best thing in the world! Want to join me?" the pig replied, "Yes, yes I also want to find the best thing in the world!" Then the squirrel, the pig, and their friends the fox, the parrot and the cat all went to find the best things in the world, which is their favorite foods. They went through the whole town until they went back to Maya's house by then mother nature was gone to run some errands so she would not be back for a long time. So the animals got a chance to ask Maya what is the best thing in the world is. And you know what it was? It was to appreciate what you have and not to brag about something you have you really like and to not demand to your parent/guardian to get you something you want it was to acknowledge and appreciate that you have the best things in life food, water and a good home to live in. The animals were young and did not realize that this was reality and they grew up to spread the word and then everyone was wise.

## Getting Ginny

By Charlotte Danzis, Grade 2



I was riding my bike. There was a pet fair. I was buying my sisters shoes. We went to look at the pets. We went to the dogs first. My sister then me held a dog. Suddenly, I saw the cutest kitten ever. We went to the car, thought about it, and went back about a half an hour later. Then we got her. We took her home. My sister and I went to get kitty litter, cat food, and toys for her. So, we went back to the car. When we got home, we put her in the office so she could not get my dog. And the rest is history.

# How the Universe Came to Be

By Eamon O'Leary, Grade 4

In the beginning, there was only Light and Darkness. They lived in together in the middle of nothing and had five children called Fire, Water, Wind, Earth and Life who were known as the elements.

The children each ruled part of the nothingness alongside their parents but soon grew lonely, as there was no one to talk to. Fire, Wind, Earth and Water all wanted to be with Life, but since they weren't allowed out of the area they ruled, they all couldn't be with Life at once. They had a council to try to reach a decision where their areas met.

Fire suggested, "Maybe we could take turns."

Air said, "We don't have any way to make sure that the turns are fair."

Earth suggested that he could let Life decide but the others agreed that it wouldn't be very fair.

Water said, "Life might change his mind."

Air said, "Maybe we could have a competition to decide."

Sadly, the others agreed that wasn't a good idea. Water said that they could let Light and Darkness decide but the idea was quickly dismissed because they all knew that they would not allow it. They couldn't reach a conclusion they all liked because they all wanted to live with Life.

Finally, Earth had an idea they all liked: they would split themselves and work together to make a place where they all could be with Life.

They all agreed and split themselves immediately. It didn't work as well as they planned and they split into too many pieces, which ended up forming all the planets, moons, and stars. Luckily, most of them did form together and they were all able to be with Life.

When Light and Darkness found out, they were devastated.. They cried, "What shall we do? Our children are gone forever and we can't both visit them together for we are too large." Eventually they decided they could take turns visiting their children though neither were happy about it.

Today, Light's tears are known as stars and light some of the darkness making it so all their children can see them when they visit on earth.



# The Big Blue Sky

## By Lynn Fukao, Grade 2

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Mary Lou. She lived in a little cabin, up on a mountain. She had only had one friend and that was the sky, the big blue sky. She always talked to it, no matter what. One day, Mary Lou went outside to lie down on the soft grass. She told the sky, "Good morning Sky. Oh, how I wish I was able to go to school!"

Then the sky said, "It is okay, Mary Lou. Remember all your wishes come true."

Mary Lou smiled a tiny smile. "Sky, can you PLEASE teach me math, reading, science, or writing!?!?" Mary Lou asked.

"Sorry, but I have to do my job, and be the sky!" said the sky.

Then mother called, "Mary Lou, come back to the cabin. Your lunch is getting cold!" So Mary Lou went back to the little cabin.

While going home she told the sky, "Goodbye Sky. See you later!" Then Mary Lou went to eat her lunch. As usual, she had peas and meat. She was tired after she had lunch. She could plop on the floor without anyone pushing her. "Ugh! I really wish I could go to school," she thought. "Mother!" she called. "Can I go back outside?" asked Mary Lou.

Mother said, "No!" Mary Lou was sad. She looked outside at the big blue sky. She said to the sky, "Sorry I can't come out like I said I would."

"It is okay, Mary Lou. It is not your fault. I think your Mother wants you to stay in for a while. Since you always come out here. Let's just have some quiet time," said the sky.

"Sky, I am sorry to ask this again but, could you teach me anything?" asked Mary Lou. "Mary Lou we already talked about this and I did say 'no' so you will know what I will say this time," said the sky.

"I don't know. Maybe yes?" said Mary Lou.

"No! My answer is no!" said the sky.

"Oh well..." thought Mary Lou. While she was talking to the sky, a lot of time passed by. It was already night!

Mother said, "Mary Lou it is your bedtime! Stop talking to the sky!"

"Fine!" said Mary Lou. Then she went to bed, closed her eyes and slept. The sky was dark, as Mary Lou slept, the sky slept. In the morning, she woke up and said to the sky, "Good morning, Sky. Did you sleep well? I did."

"Well, Mary Lou, remember. I do not sleep. I am just a plain sky," said the sky.

"Mother! Can I eat outside on the meadow?" asked Mary Lou.

"Okay." Mother said. Mary Lou got her breakfast and went outside.

"Sky, I really want you to educate me. But, you will say 'no'. Will you at least help me make a friend?" said Mary Lou.

"Mary Lou, you already have a friend. That friend is not me. Not a person. But, it is all around you." said the sky.

"Who is my friend?" asked Mary Lou.

"If you want to find out go out into the woods," answered the sky.

"Okay. I will go right now!" said Mary Lou.

"As you wish. But, I will not help you." said the sky.

Mary Lou went into the woods. It was okay at first, but it got more and more scary! It got darker and darker. "Oh no! I might be lost!" said Mary Lou. "Sky! Please help me!!!" cried Mary Lou. She waited. The sky did not answer. Mary Lou was lonely and scared. She tried to go back the way she came but, she just could not. She tried and tried but, nothing worked. At some point she thought she should give up but, there was something shining. "What was it?" Mary Lou thought. She went over to the shine. There was a ball with the name, Emily Lou. She had heard that name before! It was her Mother's.



\*\*\*\*\*Advisory: This story may be upsetting for young children\*\*\*\*\*



## A Flying Curse

By Anya Pola Imerlishvili, Grade 4

ying people, there was a girl who lived in the northern part of a forest with a widow, her mother. The girl's name was Darbey Calderone. She had pure red hair and freckles. Her mother had brown hair, eyes, and rags. Darbey was always reading books her father used to read. Until one day, she got an idea from a book of spells. The idea of flying, which is pure magic. She started reading a lot of books about flying when she remembered that magic always comes with a price. The price was to kill the person you love the most. The problem was that she loves only one person. Her mother, Zilda.

One day, Zilda caught Darbey reading instead of sweeping. The moment after Darbey ran away, Zilda took a peek at the book. On the front of the page it said, "Remember magic always comes with a price. This price is to kill the person you love most." Zilda's heart sank. She was wondering while she wept at night, "Am I the person Darbey loves most?" This echoed in her mind three days straight until one day Darbey announced, "Today I am going to the sorcerer who lives deep in the woods."

"Why would you do such a thing?! Killing your own mother?" Zilda screamed across the whole cottage.

"Mother, I would never kill you! You are the only person I love," Darbey said calmly.

"But aren't you trying to do the magic of flying? Isn't it why are you going to the sorcerer?" Zilda asked in a quiet, but shocked voice.

"I am going to tell him that killing someone is wrong. And to kill someone, especially you, would never cross my mind. I mean, I was thinking of flying, but not until I saw the price." Darbey said proudly. Zilda was trying to resist her tears, but she had to let them go. She was so proud of her daughter choosing to do the right thing. She was exactly like her father, smart, brave, and kind.

"Wait. Before you go, I have to give you something," Zilda said happily. She handed Darbey a burgundy handkerchief.

"What is this?" Darbey said interested.

"This is a handkerchief for and only for the brave. It was your father's. He said to me that when you are on your way to make things right, I should give it to you," Zilda cried again, "but I should have given it to you a long, long, time ago."

"Thank you, mother," Darbey said happily, "I will cherish it with all my heart. Now I must leave." Darbey opened the door and stepped out to the smell of sapped

trees, holding a map in her hand that she ripped out from the book of spells. She started heading south, towards the sorcerer's cave. His name was Malithice Griffiri. He was the most powerful sorcerer in all the realm. When she finally got to the cave, she called his name three times.

"Malithice Griffiri, Malithice Griffiri, Malithice Griffiri" Darbey said loudly and clearly. A shadow appeared on the cave's wall. When Darbey got a look at Malithice Griffiri, he was covered with shiny spots and green skin.

"What do you want, dearie?" he said in a grating voice.

"Oh! And you know that magic always comes with a price!" he reminded her.

"Yes, I am well aware of that," Darbey responded.

"So, what can I do for you, dearie?" Malithice asked again.

"You know how you have to kill the person you love most to get to experience the magic of flying?" she asked with a gulp.

"Yes, yes, yes, what do you want to do about it?" Malithice said annoyed.

"I think that it is terrible to kill someone," Darbey continued despite the interruption.

"Dearie, I do not care what you think." he said annoyed.

"Well, I was thinking that maybe you could put an infinite curse on all realms so no one should be able to fly," she blurted.

"That is too powerful to make. I am sorry dearie, but I can't do this," he said thinking that she would run away.

"No, it is possible. You even said it yourself, in your spell book. I will get all the ingredients. A heart of your truest enemy, the heart of a deer and a rabbit. I will come here with all the ingredients for the spell by sundown tomorrow." Darbey was speaking quickly. She knew that taking people's hearts was wrong, so she decided that she would take the heart of two deer instead of one enemy and one deer, and a heart of a rabbit.

Before the sunset, Darbey had a basket full of ingredients for the spell in one hand, and a map in the other hand. When she got to Malithice's cave, she called his name three times and waited. A shadow appeared on the wall.

"Do you have the ingredients, dearie?" Malithice asked.

"Yes, all in this basket." Darbey said nervously.

"Then let's begin!" Malithice said while dumping the ingredients in the cauldron. He added a green liquid and some type of enchanted ingredient that was hard to see. Darbey started to pray.

"With the magic of an innocent deer, a heart of some hatred and a heart of a rabbit, LET THE CURSE SPREAD! To all who won't ever try to fly and to all who have! Amelinty jalecintaleba crintable FOREVER!" The spell was done in a snap! Darbey started to cry, so she wiped her eyes with the bravery cloth.

# A Day in a Life of a Surfer Boy

By Luka Saracevic, Grade 5

I'm Tony Gold and I love surfing. I'm a kid, but some people, like The Kids' News, say I'm a professional. Me? I'm not convinced, although I have done a lot of surfing in my life. My dad says that I have done over 1,000 hours of surfing!

Well enough about my fame, let me talk about my everyday life. My life is just like any other 13-year old's life: I hang with my friends, go to sleepovers, and do homework. Well, except that I live in a mansion and I go to a private school for water sports. At my school, we do regular stuff like reading and math, except all my classes have something to do with water. For example, in science we create wet suits that dry off very fast and in P.E. we practice swimming and water sports.

Now that you are caught up with my personal life, let me tell you what I'm doing right now. I'm in California attending qualifying rounds of surfing.

"Tony Gold, please come up," the announcer's loud, powerful voice says.

"Time to shred!" I say mumbling to myself as I go to the water.

The waves are big and unpredictable today. Not many contestants have successfully surfed the waves and the ones who did have gotten very low scores by the judges. That's good for me as I just have to beat 4.73 (out of 10) to win. I'm trembling as I go into the water. "You can do this Tony, go shred!" I tell myself. I go in the water and wait for my wave. "Gotcha!" I say as I catch my wave.

I'm on my wave and shaking uncontrollably as I stand up. "Yes!" I say as I balance myself on my board. I feel in the game, so I do a floater, an Alley-Oop, then a tube ride just for fun.

You must be wondering why I'm shaking? Well, it's because I'm surfing for \$750,000 of take-home money. Also, I will get \$250,000 to give away to a charity of my choice which is Skin Cancer Research. I chose this charity because my mom had Skin Cancer when she was a kid. Fortunately, she is much better now.

I stop doing tricks as I approach the shore. I work on trying to be stable. Just as I think I got it, a wind chop hits me hard! I lose the control and fall on my board. I try to hold onto my balance but the water is too shallow. I hit my hands on the shore, lose my grip and hit my head hard on rocks. I pass out!

"Ow! What just happened?" I say as my head was spinning. I see paramedics, my parents, and a crowd staring down on me. "You just lost your consciousness," the paramedic says. She starts to wiggle my arm.

"Ow!" I say painfully.

"Does this hurt?" the paramedic asks.

"Yes, and it hurts a lot!" I say.

"Well, in the best case, you bruised your arm, and in the worst case, you broke your arm," a paramedic says. I doze off again.

Next thing I know, I'm on a stretcher in an ambulance. I feel a little better but still dizzy. Just as I start to enjoy the ambulance ride, the ambulance stops and I'm rushed into the emergency room. "What happened to me?" I ask.

"You broke your arm," the doctor says as they lift me off the stretcher. I doze off again.

I woke up in a fancy hotel room. I see my mom sitting on a chair close by, half a-sleep. "Mom?" I say quietly. She doesn't budge. "Mom?!" I say a little louder.

She pops awake and says, "Oh Dear, are you all right? I've been so worried."

"Yeah, I'm fine," I say trying not to sound hurt.

She looks down at her watch and says, "Oh my, it's almost time for the surfing result report on TV." She says, "Do you want me to help you move to the living room to watch the results?"

"Yes, that would be nice," I say trying, unsuccessfully, to move myself. Soon I'm seated on the couch with the TV in front of me. With only 4.73 to beat, I must have achieved something!

TV announcer starts telling the scores: "Tony Gold - first place!" My mom jumped off her seat while I dozed off again with a smile. Celebration will have to wait.





## **Malia vs. Wither**

**By Mara Graham, Grade 3**

Once upon a time, there lived a smart, kind, beautiful, and polite girl. The girl's name was Malia. The villagers loved her and she helped them a lot. Malia had two evil step-cousins and one evil stepmother named Wither. They forced the poor girl to do all their chores. On top of that, she got teased constantly by her family. She was very sad and wanted nothing more than a free life without her family. She lived in a Victorian mansion overlooking a magical forest with talking animals. In the forest, there was a glade with a sparkly, rainbow lake called Magic Lake. Unicorns were rumored to live there. Malia cooked, cleaned, and washed while her family lived the life. What Malia did not know (and she knew a lot) was that Wither was a dark witch.

One day, Malia went to her dark, lonely attic room after a particularly bad day consisting of more than the usual teasing and exhausting chores. She looked out the only window in her room, which was overlooking the glade. She said, "I wish I had a better life." An unseen and mysterious voice replied, "Dark Magic Coming." Malia was spooked, but in a week's time, she forgot about the warning.

Malia noticed that Wither had a new brooch, with a large diamond in the middle and opals on the outside. Malia never had anything as nice as that and wanted to try it on. So she made a plan that when Wither was out, she would look for the brooch. An hour later, Wither went to hang out with some of her friends. Malia took the chance. She snuck up to Wither's room, making sure the cousins were napping. She went in and saw Wither's prized jewelry box in the closet. She went over and opened the box. But finding the brooch in all those jewels was like finding a needle in a haystack. She sifted through piles and piles of jewelry. A half hour later, she finally found the brooch and put it on. Malia found that the brooch was addictive, and snuck it under the straw mattress of her cot.

A year later, Wither decides to get rid of Malia once and for all. She thinks, "Oh! If I use magic, nobody would have to know! I'll just tell the villagers that she moved." Therefore, she made up her mind, "I will kill Malia!" An hour later, after consuming her most powerful strength-gaining potions and elixirs, she went to task Malia with a fake chore. Malia remembers the mysterious warning from the unseen voice and is alert. She doesn't know the chore is fake, though. So she goes down to the first floor with a bucket of water, a sponge, a mop, and the brooch in her pocket.

Wither gets right to the point and blasts a starter magic ball. Malia is surprised, but ducks out of the way at the last moment. Malia said, "You can't scare

me!" "Don't worry, you won't be able to be scared when I am done with you!" taunts Wither. Malia sings a song under her breath to calm herself down. To Malia and Wither's surprise, musical notes appear from the brooch. The notes were hard as crystal and as sharp as a diamond. Malia and Wither get back to the fight, this time Malia attacking, too.

After a half hour of fighting, Wither gets injured by a particularly sharp eighth note. Wither has enough strength to cast a sleep spell on Malia. The spell is called Sleep Spell: For the Good and Just. Malia remembers the warning, "Dark Magic Coming," and is extremely alert. But Malia sadly gets hit and falls asleep. For some reason, Wither's body and magic is slowly fading away. She yells to Malia, "I will hate you forever!" and Wither's body fades away faster.

Close by, in the glade, a strong, smart, and sweet unicorn named Pearl is drinking from Magic Lake, the glade pond. Pearl hears the commotion and rushes into the house. The cousins came down, and they fainted from the shock. Pearl quickly locks them in the closet. Pearl heads over to the fight and sees Malia in the deep sleep. She touches her horn to Malia's heart, and Malia wakes up. Pearl becomes Malia's pet. She never forgot how Pearl saved her life. The villagers still loved her and asked her for favors. Pearl and Malia lived happily ever after.

## The Boy In the Gold Pants

By Eva Chambers, Grade 3



Once upon a time, there was a boy who wore gold pants. The boy in gold pants lived in a house. The boy needed to pack lunch for soccer practice.

Uh, oh there was a big black spider in his bedroom in the corner. The boy said, "Go away! Go away!"

In a tree, outside his window sat a little black squirrel watching them quietly.

"I will spin, and spin, and spin you into my web," said the big black spider.

"What a scary body you have!" said the boy in gold pants.

"The better to see you with," said the black spider. The black spider jumped to catch the boy in his web. But the little black squirrel that had been watching crawled into the room. Just as the black spider was about to spin the boy into his web, the black squirrel poured water into the spider web and the boy jumped away.

"Thank you. You saved me just in time," said the boy. The black spider was washed away by the water.

The boy finally went to pack his lunch for soccer. He packed cheese toast, peanut butter and a juice box. The boy was not scared about spiders anymore. After that morning, he left apples for the little black squirrel and helped him.

# The Journeys of Jeffrey and Louis

By Max Esfahani, Grade 4

There was once a make-believe stick man called Jeffrey. The kid that drew Jeffrey was named Louis. Louis was a little seven year old who loved to draw things. Jeffrey the stick man, usually.

One day, Louis got out of bed and drew Jeffrey the stick man. Today Louis drew Jeffrey with a very nice three-piece suit on. This was Louis' best drawing of Jeffrey! But then Louis thought to himself and imagined, what would happen if Jeffrey came to life. Then Louis hoped and prayed for Jeffrey to come to life. Nothing happened for two minutes, but then persistent Louis kept on hoping and then the stick man Jeffrey came to life. Pow! Pow! Pow!

Louis was nervous. How did a make-believe stick man come to real life? Then Louis stepped back for a moment. He studied the super thin stick man head to toe.

He was super tall. The size of a center in basketball. I said hi very sheepishly to Jeffrey the stick man. He said hi back. I couldn't believe it. I never ever saw a make-believe stick man come to real life and talk! "I'm the person who draws you," I say to Jeffrey.

"Wow! Thank you." Jeffrey said astonished. "Also, thank you for being the one who made me come to the greatest world of all time. Before I lived in the world of Yeisvan. The world of paper."

"Do you want to go to the movies?" said Louis.

"Sure. I would love to!" Jeffrey, the stick man, said with enthusiasm and enjoyment.

"Ok, then. What movie do you want to go see I want to see?" Louis asked.

"Ralph Breaks The Internet!" So then they went to Arclight Cinemas in Montgomery Mall, all psyched and wiggling in their seats in their Toyota Element. At the movie theater, Louis and Jeffrey got their tickets. The tickets that they got were in the front row. After that, they walked to Cinema 4, which is the cinema that the new movie was in. While they were walking to the cinema, tons of people were looking at Jeffrey the stick man weirdly. Next, they quickly rushed to the cinema so they didn't get any more weird looks. They were again bored and silent.

Then, Louis came up with another fun idea. He wanted to go to a basketball game. They wanted to go to the game where the Washington Wizards play the Atlanta Hawks. They went on Ticketmaster to get the tickets and they got them.

If you get a VIP seat, you get to meet the players and you even and you even get free food. They were off to the arena. At the game, they couldn't find their seats. The security guards didn't let them go if they didn't know where their seats were.

This could be trouble. And I mean a lot of trouble! They wasted all their money on just one two-hour basketball game! Then they saw a worker. He could tell them where their seats were.

"Where are seats 1 and 2 that are on the floor?" Louis asked hiding Jeffrey.

"You just have to walk to your right and then stop and go to your left when you see a big red and yellow popcorn machine," said the worker.

"Thanks!" said Louis.

They walked to their right and they finally saw the red and yellow popcorn machine. Next, they walked to their left and they were finally there. At their seats. They were so close to the players. Jeffrey said "Hi" to John Wall and he heard him but John thought Louis was talking.

"Can I get your autograph?" Louis asked John carrying on what he thought Jeffrey would say.

"Sure! Let's do this!" said John. John then gave them his autograph. He wrote it on a John Wall jersey that Louis was wearing. They were so excited and now ready to see the game. Then the game started.

In the game, John Wall and Bradley Beal scored a total of 230 points! That is a basketball record! It was such a good game to go to. The Wizards beat the Hawks by 185 points. After the game, John Wall and Bradley Beal came to Louis and Jeffrey hiding behind him. "That win was dedicated to you, Louis!" they said together in a happy voice. Next, they even got Bradley Beal's autograph.

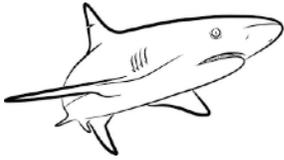
They then came back to Montgomery Lane where Louis lives. When they got to his home Jeffrey and Louis decided that Jeffrey should go back to his home and that he could come back to Earth the next day.

"Bye-bye," Louis said.

"Bye," the stickman said back. Then the stickman walked right back into the paper that he came out of.



**\*\*\*\*\*Advisory: This story may be upsetting for young children\*\*\*\*\***



## Shark

By Maya Shweiki, Grade 5

It was the summer of 1998 and my mom took me to the beach for the first time. We woke up extra early that morning to pack and get ready for the week ahead of us. We got into the car in a jolt and rode 3 ½ hours to our destination, Volusia, Florida. I looked out the window at the ocean and at once I knew this was going to be a week to remember. I opened the door, ran to the beach, slid off my sandals, and let my feet drag in the warm sand. I slipped off my dress, revealing my bathing suit, and went plunging into the ocean, feeling a cold shock go up my spine.

The feeling of the ocean water was amazing. I looked at my mom and saw her big smile while she was watching me splash and do somersaults in the water. That's when I saw something that would change my life forever. It was a shadow in the water, around 20 feet long, circling around me. I looked at my mom who was staring at the shadow with scared eyes. That's when I knew it was a shark. I tried to stay calm but I couldn't. I knew if I moved, peed, or bleed the shark would get ready to attack.

"Help," I yelled but my Mom could do nothing because if she went into the water she could get bitten or killed from the massive beast. Two minutes passed which felt like hours, and the shark was still surrounding me and that's when I made a choice that could cost my life. I decided to make a swim for it. I was 6 yards away from shore and I knew I couldn't out run the shark, but it was my only choice. My legs were aching from treading the water and my eyes were burning from the salt that kept splashing into my face. I ducked my head under the cold, salty water and started swimming back to shore.

"Ahhha!" I screeched but no one could hear me. I was being dragged deeper and deeper into the ocean because the shark got me by the leg and I could see bright red blood surrounding me. I scratched at the nose and eyes just like my mom told me to do a while ago. Finally, the shark's mouth opened just enough for me to wiggle out. I swam up and gasped for air. I kicked and swam in pain trying my best to get to shore ever so often looking back to see if the mighty beast was by my side. Finally, I made it back to shore were I was greeted by my mom and paramedics. I lost a lot of blood and passed out on the beach. I woke up in a hospital bed with my mom by my side. I looked down to see the stump of where my leg was supposed to be and began to cry. The doctor came in and told me I was

lucky to be alive because the beast that took off my leg was a great white, one of the deadliest animals that live in the ocean.

Great white sharks are deadly, But they are in danger and we need to find a way to help them. My name is Julia Green and I am a survivor.



## **The Dragon Tale**

**By Zine Rehamnia, Grade 3**

Once upon a time, there was a strong brave water dragon with shiny golden armor that was as bright as the sun. He lived in a cave made of gold in shiny forest. One day when the water dragon was going out hunting for a furry black bear. A mean fire dragon with light gray armor attacked the water dragon with the golden shiny armor "aw aw aw" said the water dragon

So they got into a big fight, they were fighting for weeks and weeks. Finally the water dragon shot a giant water ball at the fire dragon. The fire dragon was weak and ran away but that was not all. Next year, the fire dragon came again and spied for weeks on the water dragon. Then one day he decided to pop out and a giant fire came in the water dragon's cave. Then the water dragon's cave was destroyed. The fire dragon saw how upset the water dragon was and started to feel bad. Then he went up to the water dragon and said, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I just wanted to play with you!"

"You just had to ask me and I would have said yes!" said the water dragon.

Then the fire dragon in a soft deep voice asked, "Can I please be your friend and we play together?"

In a happy excited voice, the water dragon said, "Of course!" Then the dragons played together all night long. They were best friends forever after that day and never fought again. The fire dragon helped the water dragon build a new home and they lived happily ever after.

# The Whale's Tale

By Ethan Cantor, Ned Flugge, Liam Jackson, Sam Cohen, Grade 2

A whale told a tale of a bail for a snail in a pail named Gail who went to Yale going to jail and he hoped he didn't fail driving on the rail on the Crescent Trail with a lamp to read his mail while whipping a flail and hammering a nail to make a sale out of stale kale while drinking Ginger ale out of a pail and at the sale.

We made some money and bought a bunny and he was very funny so he named him Honey and the day was sunny so they gave him a gummy and he rubbed his tummy.

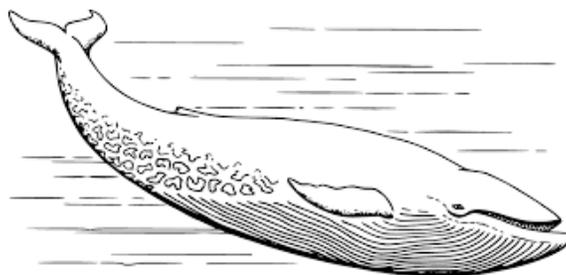
Then he went to a school with a pool but he couldn't remember every rule so he had to drool on Mr. Dule's jewel then he turned into a ghoul.

So he had to buy a kite in the night for a flight and he got in a fight in light there was no delight then he got a bite from a mite so he got very bad sight so he flew the kite which was not in sight cause it was flying at a very high height in the night with no bright light.

**Warning!** Tongue twister ahead.

My new gym teacher Mr. Neggs likes to peg eggs through through legs. Mr. Neggs pegs eggs through Tegg's legs Tegg begs Mr. Neggs to stop pegging eggs through Tegg's legs. Mr. Neggs still pegs eggs through Tegg's legs. Tegg pegs eggs through Mr. Negg's legs. Mr. Neggs begs Tegg to not peg eggs through his legs. Tegg says to Mr. Neggs, "Don't peg eggs through other people's legs." And not Greg's legs because he has peg legs and he doesn't want egg, peg legs. A cat named Bat ate a rat on a mat and sat on a nat's bat that had a pat.

And that's the end!



# Medusa

By Mira Arnold, Grade 5

Once upon a time, lived the all mighty Zeus, king of the gods, but he was lonely. Yes.... yes, I know, he is king of the gods, how could he be lonely? Well, he was a very greedy and selfish god.

Zeus ordered everyone around, making them do all his chores, like clean his room and wash his clothes. He especially ordered around Hermes, messenger of the gods. Hermes had tiny wings, a blue body and a small staff to help him walk. Hermes was meant to warn the gods of danger or something bad happening on Earth, but Zeus did not use him that way. He used Hermes to bring him food or clean the dishes.

One day, the king of the gods said, "Hermes, I want you to go and find the prettiest woman of them all and I don't care if she wants to come with you or not!"

"Yes, sir," Hermes said in a hushed voice. Then he flew down to earth in search of a girl who fit Zeus's description.

He searched far and wide, but no girl seemed pretty enough. He went and sat on a rock nearby and thought about what he should do. Then a beautiful woman walked by. "Now who might you be!?" he asked her.

"I am Aphrodite, princess of the kingdom of Cyrene," she said.

"Well, your highness, you are coming with me!" Hermes responded in a demanding voice.

"Wait, what?" she said in a frightened, but interested voice.

"You are going to meet the all mighty Zeus!" Hermes quickly swept her off her feet and flew to Olympus, where the gods live. "I found her, Zeus, I found the perfect person!" Hermes said in an excited voice.

Aphrodite learned to love the selfish king, and she became the goddess of beauty. Soon she was pregnant with twins. The twins were born, given the names Athena and Helen. Athena was older. They never really got along. They fought over little things like pencils and markers. Well, a few years had passed and they both became gods. Athena was the goddess of water and Helen was the goddess of fire. Athena was much prettier than Helen. Some people even thought that she was the definition of beauty. It all fell apart one day when the family got together for a nice dinner. Zeus was sitting at the table while Aphrodite was making dinner. "Mom, who is prettier, me or Helen?" Athena asked in a loud and intimidating voice.

"I will not answer that question," Aphrodite said in a soft voice.

"If you won't answer it, then I will. I am much prettier than Helen!" demanded Athena.

Helen's face turned red with anger. She was really mad now. She raised her arms and fire shot out from her hands. The room went black except the one candle, which was always lit and sat on the table.

Zeus rose from his chair in the darkness, grabbed the candle, and asked, "Is everybody okay?" He saw Aphrodite on the floor and rushed towards her and kneeled on the floor, "Are you okay?"

"Yes, just fine. Where are Athena and Helen?" the worried mother asked. Zeus rose from the floor.

"I think I found them," he said. Aphrodite quickly turned around, and saw Athena and Helen blasting each other with their powers. They both rushed outside to where Athena and Helen were fighting. Zeus and Aphrodite tried to get their attention, but they were not listening.

To distract Helen, Athena kept saying in a laughing voice, "I am such a better fighter than you. You can't even control your own powers!" Now Athena was being really mean. Helen got so mad that fire rose up all around and her eyes turned black. Nobody could see anything because of all the smoke. When the smoke started to clear, you could see the the tiny outline of the twins. Zeus went to make sure Helen was okay and Aphrodite went to check on Athena. From the smoke rose this hideous beast with snakes on her head instead of hair and super sharp teeth.

"Athena is that you?" Aphrodite asked.

"I will not be called such a hideous name. I want to be respected! You should call me Medusa!" Athena said. "And from now on, if you shall look into my eyes you will turn to stone!" she said in a cracking voice. Aphrodite quickly averted her eyes, fearful that she might turn to stone. "I don't have time for you silly gods. I have better things to do!" shouted Medusa. And just like that, the hideous monster was off.

And the three remaining lived happily ever after, well sort of.....



# Why the Fox Has Pointy Ears

## By Stella Schreiber, Grade 5



One day, many years ago, on the first day of January, an angry wolf was sulking around in the place he used to call home. His name was Wolftrap. He was sad because some careless hunters had come and destroyed his home and killed his brother. He was thinking of a plan for how he would get revenge on the chief of the village the hunters came from.

Meanwhile, back at Chief Trident's village, the people were all happy because they had enough food and wolf hide (skin and fur) to last the entire winter. They had no idea that Wolftrap had gathered tons of wolves and planned to attack that night. The villagers were planning a party for that night as well.

Wolftrap thought and thought about his evil plan all day with a smirk on his face. He loved the idea of getting back at the villagers. He remembered that he did not know the direction to the village. The only thing that they knew was that it was close by. Wolftrap and his best friend, Paul, were sniffing the ground trying to figure out where the village was. Their curved ears could barely hear anything. A few minutes later, Wolftrap heard a very faint ringing noise coming from behind them. He gathered up the wolves and told them to follow him towards the noise.

In Chief Trident's village, all the people had come out of their cabins and stood in a circle around the fire. They started to bang their drums and ring their bells at the Chief's cue. The children began to sing while the adults danced. Afterwards, the Chief clapped his hands and blankets of wolf skins were placed on the ground while logs were rolled near the campfire. Villagers started to bring out lots of huge pots. These pots were placed one by one on the campfire. Then, the people sat on the logs and waited.

The chief ate the first bite, and then everyone else started to eat, too, starting with babies and grandparents, followed by moms and children, and then the dads. Meanwhile, the wolves reached the village and decided that they were going to jump the wooden fence. They all jumped and barely made it over. Wolftrap screamed as his ears scraped the rough edges of the fence. He also barely made it over. On the other side, there was an unpleasant surprise for him and his wolf team. They all fell into a pot of boiling water. Their ears were blackened and pointy. That is how we know wolves' ears today. The villagers had a great time at the party despite the horrific sight of the wolves, and they all lived happily ever after. All the wolves learned a very important lesson about revenge; it never pays off.

# Jill's Computer

## By Tomas Sabella-Capitano, Grade 5

Jill HowitFitzer was in the middle of her 1976-1984 Apple computer catalog. She loved it so much. When I say that she was in the middle of it, I mean she was imagining that she was so tiny and in the middle of the page looking for all the computer pictures, she could find. Her tiny self was running from one page to the next. She read through the Apple I, the Apple II, the Lisa (First Apple computer with a GUI, but it was \$9,995 and failed quickly), and stopped at the Macintosh. It was amazing! GUI, affordable cost, it even spoke!

Jill thought, "I could make something like that!" She pulled out her iPad and started to make a list. She imagined her tiny self making a list of the following materials: "Processor, Memory drive, Graphics processing unit, Storage, Power supply, Case, uh, motherboard. Wait...uh...oh! Cooling fan!"

After consulting her list of pieces, she started looking for them on BitChips.com. She told her dad about making a computer and asked if she could buy the supplies. Her dad agreed because the cost was low and he always wanted her to make a computer. So Jill's dad gave her his credit card and drove her to the BitChips computer shop.

She looked through the window like a sassy girl in a mall. "Hey geek!" Jill turned to see McKenzie Filler, president of the RAP girl group at a school, behind her. "Did you find your true twin in life?" She laughed and walked away. Jill's dad asked, "Who's that?" "Nobody," said Jill.

Jill found all the pieces she needed and went to the checkout. She scanned her dad's credit card, brought the materials (in a giant bag) to the car. Just before she got in the backseat, she saw McKenzie looking at a dress through a store window.

The ride home was exciting. Jill couldn't help but started bouncing up and down in her car seat.

At home, she started to make the computer. It was tough, but, 5 weeks later, she completed it. The next day, at her school, she talked to her friends about it and then they started drawing computers in their sketchbooks. Then, at recess, the cutest (and president of the) RAP (Rich, Attractive, Popular) girl, McKenzie Filler, came over and said, "Hey girls, whatcha drawing?" She snatched the sketchbook. "Cute computers."

As she gave back the sketchbook, her friends pulled her away, saying, "Come on, McKenzie! We don't have time for this!" As she was pulled away, she dropped her sketchbook. Jill opened it and saw so many drawings of dresses.

As she gave back the sketchbook, her friends pulled her away, saying, "Come on, McKenzie! We don't have time for this!" As she was pulled away, she dropped her sketchbook. Jill opened it and saw so many drawings of dresses.

That evening, her mom called to her, "Jill! You have a friend over!"

"Okay, mom, send her up." When Jill got back to her room, her computer was smashed. She ran downstairs and saw McKenzie getting ready to leave. "McKenzie! What did you do with my computer?!"

"Looking for my sketchbook. Do you have it?!"

"I left it at school. You dropped it." Jill's mom got so angry she called the school, McKenzie's parents, and until her parents got there, she wouldn't let her out of a chair.

The next day at school, McKenzie and Jill were called to the principal's office. At the same time. They talked with the principal, and McKenzie thought she was dead. But Jill did not want her to be punished. She insisted on just keeping her watched. Jill then said to McKenzie, "I saw you looking at the dress through the store window. I also saw your drawings of dresses. How would you feel if I laughed at you for drawing and looking at dresses?"

"Pretty bad."

"That's how I feel. Let's just be friends." McKenzie was so happy, she gave back the pieces she secretly stole.

One month later, everyone was assembled in the gigantic gym, and Jill had her version of the Macintosh. Principal Tomy Sabella-Capuano and Superintendent Parkes were presenting. "We are gathered here today to celebrate the completion of Jill HowitFitzer's new computer, which she built in honor of the Macintosh in 1984. Give it up for Jill HowitFitzer!"

"Thank you, Principal S-C. First of all, thanks for coming, Superintendent Parkes! Now, we should also celebrate the opening of my club, The MegaBytes! And our new recruit, McKenzie Filler!" Another grand round of applause. McKenzie came up to the stage. "McKenzie has agreed to put the final piece into the computer." McKenzie picked a screwdriver and the final piece. She put in the piece and screwed it into place, thinking, "This is actually kinda fun."

After school, McKenzie and Jill had fun playing with their new computer, now named the EnziePower McK. Every time they said it, they laughed. They were best friends forever.



# Fairy Tale

By Leela Marston, Grade 3

Once upon a time there was a brave and curious girl named Alex who lived on a farm. Many years ago, an evil ogre had killed her mother and father and stolen their treasure. She lived with her grandmother and three hamsters. Because the ogre had stolen their money, they were very poor and just scraped by selling the flowers Alex picked. One day, her grandmother asked her to sell their only hen for a few gold coins. As Alex walked down the dirt road going to the market, she saw a peddler's cart off to the side of the road.

The peddler asked, "Where are you going, girl?"

"I am off to the market to sell this fine hen," replied Alex.

"Sell it?" said he. "Why not trade it?"

"I don't suppose why not," said Alex, and traded the hen for five copper coins. She skipped home and showed her grandmother.

"Copper!" her grandmother exclaimed. "I said gold, not copper!" and threw the lumps out the window.

Suddenly, the ground shook and an amber beam of light shot out of a cloud. It wrapped around Alex and hoisted her up.

Alex saw a fairy hovering above her. The fairy said, "I have long waited for you. A prophecy said the Angel of Light would summon you to defeat the evil ogre that has plagued this Kingdom for years."

"But how do I defeat the ogre?" asked Alex.

"Blow this horn three times within earshot of the ogre and the ogre will be banished to the Cursed Realm," said the fairy, tossing a horn towards Alex. She caught it and slipped on the strap.

"I will be off," said Alex. "But which way?"

"Go east until the sun sets, and you will be at the ogre's castle," said she. So Alex went east. It was weird, walking on clouds. Her feet would sink into the clouds and stop, up to her ankles, or up to her knees. Alex walked on until sunset, and there, looming in front of her was a castle fit for a giant.

"How do I get inside without being seen?" Alex wondered. She saw a small space between the door and ground.

"I know! I'll go through there!" she said, and squeezed in. The room was apparently the dining room for the middle of the room had a massive table with six chairs. The room itself could fit ten thousand people.

Suddenly, she heard giant footsteps booming behind her. She leaped behind a chair leg. A really big (and I mean really big) ogre stomped into the room.

"Fee fi fo fan, I smell the blood of an English woman!" thundered the ogre. He started looking into every nook and cranny the room had.

"I have to get away somehow!" thought Alex. Just as she slipped out behind the chair leg, the ogre spotted her! She bolted and got the horn. Alex got to two shrill, horrific notes before the ogre swiped at her and knocked the horn out of her hands! Luckily, she had forgotten to take the strap off, so the horn stayed within reach.

"Fee fi fo fan, I still smell the blood of an English woman!" said he. Alex tried again, but the ogre knocked the horn from her hands. Alex tried one last time, and succeeded! The ogre disappeared in a cloud of oily black smoke. She cheered and jumped up and down. She looked around the room, trying to find any of her parent's things the ogre had stolen. Several pots of gold were leaning on the far wall. Alex ran over and tried to lift one. It was too heavy.

"I wonder if the horn can transport things?" Alex thought. She grabbed the horn and wished to transport the gold back to her home while blowing the horn. It worked!

Suddenly, she heard a "Meow!". A cat the size of a horse was imprisoned inside a cage behind her. Alex opened the cage door and, using the strap from the horn, created a harness. She climbed onto the cat's back and snapped the reins. The cat shot towards the back of the room and out through a cat flap Alex hadn't noticed. Alex rode west until the fairy came into view.

"Good," said the fairy. "You will now be transported- with the cat- back home."

The Cloud Kingdom faded away and the farm appeared. Her grandmother was standing outside, a bewildered look on her face, staring at the gold.

"Grandma!" Alex shouted. Her grandmother looked up, and when she saw Alex, she shouted with joy and ran to them. Alex slid off the cat's back and embraced her grandma.

"What should we spend the gold on?" asked she. Alex grinned.

"Several more hamsters." she answered.

**The End**

