

SPRING 2022

Young Southern Student Writers



Grades K-5 Prose & Poetry

CREATED BY THE UTC ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTHERN LIT ALLIANCE

INTRODUCTION

It is a constant pleasure and privilege to be a part of the Young Southern Student Writers contest, an annual celebration of the literary arts. From interacting with our region's outstanding teachers and facilitating judging at UT-Chattanooga to assembling this collection of winning submissions, the contest is one of my favorite parts of the academic year! The work we do here is done with an eye towards promoting literacy and the creative energy of emerging writers. The submissions that follow demonstrate exceptionally strong writing while also providing a glimpse into the wild imagination of young minds. Thank you to this year's writers and their teachers. You've given me much to think about, enjoy, and appreciate.

Thank you to Lynda Levan, the Executive Director of the Southern Lit Alliance, for her generosity and support of our area's outstanding young writers. The Southern Lit Alliance and the UTC English Department combine to promote and celebrate the region's literary arts. I am thankful for her collaboration in this contest.

I also want to thank the region's dedicated K-12 teachers who work tirelessly to instill the value of literature and creative writing in young hearts and minds. I am grateful for their efforts as they teach their students to enjoy the art and craft of writing. Without our elementary, middle grades, and high school English/Language Arts teachers along with parents and guardians, we would not have such fine work to celebrate here!

Thanks are also due to this year's contest judges. Every submission is read by a faculty member from the UTC English Department. Our faculty volunteer to serve in this capacity with pleasure. In fact, it is not uncommon to hear faculty sharing submissions that are especially funny, creative, or inspiring. It is another way we contribute to this wonderful city and region.

Finally, thank you to Sarah Cornett and Savannah Neely, two outstanding UTC undergraduate English majors. Sarah and Savannah worked tirelessly to facilitate judging, compile winning submissions, and create this year's digital booklet. They have spent countless hours managing the contest and have done so with patience, grace, and maturity. I am grateful for their hard work and commitment to this project.

Now, without further ado, I hope you'll read and enjoy!

Andrew D. McCarthy
UC Foundation Associate Professor
University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
Chair, Young Southern Student Writers Contest

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Kindergarten

Prose



El cangrejito

¡Mira es un cangrejito!

Después tomamos una foto.

Después yo voy a las olas.

Al final, lo dejé ir.

Genevieve Salinas
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Patricia Creel

First Grade Prose



The Pig That Did Not Like Color

There was a big brown pig named Willie. He lived on a farm. He loved the color black, not brown. That is why he does not like mud. He loved to wear clothes that were black. He only ate things that were black. One day there was a lot of colorful wind. Then WOOSH! The wind made Willie's clothes colorful. Poor Willie! Poor Poor Willie! He decided to wash his clothes. When he got his clothes out of the washer, they were still colorful. He decided that color wasn't that bad. He looked pretty good in his new clothes. He also decided to try foods that were different colors. He liked the new foods.

Ansley Ozbek
St. Nicholas School
Stephanie Marshall

Untitled

John Fishy mouth was happily swimming fastly until ... “Karplunk” a rock hit him, but a worm was on the rock. He ate it then went to sleep and dreamed of the Nazi invasion, but fish edition. And the fish won the war! Then he woke up and a bear was standing over him, but, he ran away. And John lived happily ever after.

Bennett Barton
St. Peter’s Episcopal School
Angie Sell

The Day Lily Got Pushed

Once upon a time a little girl named Lily was walking to school. When she got to school there were three new boys she had never seen before. When it was playtime, she wanted to meet them but when she tried to talk to them they pushed her. She was sad. The next day the boys came up to her and said they were sorry. She told them that her name was Lily. They all decided to play on the monkey bars. She showed them how to do a flip. They taught her how to hang upside down. Now they were friends. They played every day on the playground. She was never pushed again.

Siana Tejani
St. Nicholas School
Stephanie Marshall

Second Grade Prose



Evi

My hair is as straight as a busy road totted with cars.

My head is as oval as an egg covered in very small cracks.

My eyes are as hazel as a dull, cloudy, and foggy day.

My nose is as cute as a button covered in bright polka dots.

My mouth is as dry as sand that is far away from the ocean.

My torso is as beige as a fresh peach.

My arms are wiggly like cooked, yummy noodles.

My fingers are long like sticks from a tall tree.

My legs are as strong as stiff, study, long wooden poles.

My feet are as fast as a bunny with strong, quick back paws.

Evi Jaynes

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Susan Bell

My Home

On a farm lived fifty chickapigs. Four of them I will talk about. So get ready to read!

One day, on a farm, there lived a mom. She was 27 years old. There were three kid chickapigs. One was named Chickybock. He is five years old. There was also a ten year old chickapig and he was named Piggy. The third chickapig's name was Snorty and he is a one year old. They were doing stuff on the farm (but they didn't actually know each other.) One day, Chickybock said, "I'm bored. I'm going to make some friends." He found six teenager chickapigs playing ball. Chickybock said, "Can I play with you?"

They said, "Scram, tiny!"

Chickybock said, "Ok." So he left. Then he saw a one year old chickapig. Chickybock said, "Want to play? What is your name?"

The chickapig said, "My name is Snorty."

Chickybock said, "My name is Chickybock. It is nice to meet you."

Snorty said, "Cool. What do you want to play?"

Chickybock said, "First, let's find one more chickapick. A chickapig who is smart."

Snorty said, "Ok."

"Let's go!" So they wandered for ten or twenty minutes and found a chickapig fidgeting with Tech.

They said, "Do you want to play with us? What is your name?"

Chickapig said, "My name is Piggy." he said while still fidgeting with Tech.

Snorty and Chickybock said, "Do you want to be friends?" Piggy said, "Sure!" Snorty said, "Want to sail the seas?" Piggy and Chickybock said, "Sure!"

"Let's go." they all exclaimed. "Let us go make a ship to sail with."

"Wait," Chickybock said. I need permission from my mom. "Ok Snorty and Piggy. Let's go find your mom."

So they found Chickybock's mom. Chickybock said, "Mom can I go sail the seas?" Chickybock's mom said, as long as you come back before next year. That's in about 3 months."

So Piggy, Snorty and Chickybock left to go sail the seas and go find an ocean.

They walked for about three days and they at what they could find. They also made sure that the food they found wasn't poisonous by testing it first on different animals like monkeys. They had to carry the boat and they said, "How about we build another boat when we get to the beach? Then we could just leave this one behind."

I bet this boat would make a good home for the monkeys to play in," Chickybock said.

So they leave the boat and off they go. 20 minutes later...

They find a beach! They all cried, "A beach! Let's get our tools and build a boat!" So they cut down wood and at first they used sticks (which was pretty hard) so then they made axes and they had brought nails and hammers. One they were done building the boat they found some sheep and trimmed their wool and made a flag. Once they were done, they started to sail the seas!

They packed food with them so they wouldn't die on the boat. They had phones in this dimension, so they checked the weather. It said clear for at least the rest of the week. So, they sailed for at least three days and finally found land. They were wandering around and met a dragon. The dragon was looking lonely. They asked, "What's wrong?"

"There's a music competition going on and I have no one to play with. I need a band."

The chickapig said, "Can we help you with it?"
The dragon said, "Sure! I know how to play guitar."
Piggy said, "I can play drums!"
And Snorty said, "I can play the keyboard."
The dragon said, "I can sing."
The dragon said, "Well, sure

Helen Bertrand
St. Nicholas School
Katie McCorkle

The Lonely Dragon

Once upon a time, long, long ago there was a lonely dragon who lived on a mountain alone. One morning he woke up to a schrich, scratching sound at his door. It suddenly stopped and he went to the door to look outside and there was nothing. What was that sound wondered the dragon. The same thing happened three more nights in a row, but on the fourth night, he saw who it was! It was a cat! The cat was black and white. The dragon was so happy to have some company that he decided to keep the cat. Every morning now, the dragon wakes up with a smile on his face and April the cat sitting on his lap. April and the dragon do everything together. They ride bikes together, eat breakfast together, get dressed together, eat lunch together, and eat dinner together. They basically did everything together and were inseparable ever since the dragon met April the cat. The End!

Sara Stephenson
Normal Park Museum Magnet
Emily Parsons

HISTORIA: Mi primer día de escuela

¿Alguna vez has estado asustado y feliz al mismo tiempo? Yo sí. Sucedió en mi primer día de escuela.

Al principio cuando iba en el carro a la escuela con mi papá yo estaba un poco asustado porque no quería ir a la escuela porque no conocía a las personas allí, pero también me sentía feliz porque yo iba a aprender más cosas.

Después cuando llegué a la escuela me puse un poco más feliz y ya no estaba tan asustado porque cuando llegué al salón vi que la maestra era buena y amable. Luego fui al recreo y conocí a unos chicos que se llamaban Avi y Thomas y jugué basketball con ellos y anoté 64 canastas. Yo estaba muy feliz jugando con mis nuevos amigos. Por la tarde, llegué a casa y le dije a mis papás que la escuela fue muy divertida, cenamos espagueti que estaba muy rico. Luego me puse pijamas para ir a dormir.

A la mañana siguiente, era el primer día de escuela de mi hermana pequeña. Ella estaba muy triste porque no quería ir a la escuela, ella quería estar en casa. Papá dijo que era el segundo día de escuela para mí. Cuando llegue a la escuela fui a mi salón e hice escritura, luego comí mi merienda y yo sabía que el resto de mi día iba a ser bueno. Después fui a casa a dormir, tuve un sueño divertido y fue excelente.

Al siguiente día fui a la escuela con mi papá y mi hermana. Papá dijo que íbamos a jugar bolos después de la escuela. Cuando fui a la escuela mi hermana no lloró esta vez y yo estaba feliz por eso. Yo fui a mi salón e hice escritura otra vez. A mi realmente me encanta hacer taller de escritura porque necesitas escribir y a mi me encanta escribir. Yo escribí una historia y creía que era larga pero la verdad resultó ser más corta. Luego tenía merienda y para merienda tenía una barra de cereal CLIF BAR.

Al final fui a casa y la cena fue muy rica. Para mi hermana no fue muy rica porque casi no comió. Entonces fui a dormir y no tenía sueño pero si dormí bien. Al siguiente día yo no fui a la escuela porque era sábado y los sábados yo no voy a la escuela pero cuando regrese a la escuela otra vez yo sabré que ese día será divertido. Y si será muy divertido porque siempre que regreso a la escuela yo estoy feliz y ahora a mi me encanta la escuela y yo siempre quiero regresar. El fin.

Wynne Childress
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Angela Molina-Ferguson

Third Grade Prose



An Odd Bond

Once a little penguin was swimming calmly in the Atlantic Ocean. Suddenly, catastrophe struck. A nearby boat was leaking oil. The clear, blue, water turned sticky, toxic, and black. The penguin didn't realize what was happening, so he kept swimming. The oil burned his eyes and clumped to his black and white feathers. Will anybody help in time?

Help is on the Way

Luckily, an old man, named João, was there to help. He scrubbed the oil from the penguin's feathers. Although the penguin was weak. João caringly fed fish to the penguin. After a while, the penguin started to heal. It was time to say, "Goodbye," to each other.

Goodbye so Soon?

João took the penguin on a boat to an island, dropped him off and said, "Goodbye." João didn't want to leave him, but that's how he thought he would be happy being free. But, the penguin came back. Apparently, the penguin was not happy alone on the island. He wanted to stay with João. During his time there, the penguin loved having João give him showers. João's two-year-old grandson visited him. He tried to say, "penguin," in Portuguese, but he said, "Dindim." That became the penguin's name. Dindim slept in the yard. He was free to come and go, and one day he did leave.

Five Months a Year

A few months later, Dindim was back again. Now, he stays with João five months a year. He Dindim leaves in November and returns in June to migrate to warmer waters with his flock. At that time, Magellanic penguins are making nests and raising chicks. João waits on Brazil's shore for Dindim to return. He comes again every year. That is how a penguin and an old man became true and unusual friends.

Aria Luttrell
Nolan Elementary
Becky Leary

The Land of Reading Town

Once upon a time there was a little girl who loved to read but she didn't take very good care of her books. She would color in them, leave them outside in the rain and rip some of the pages. Each night when she went to bed her books would come to life. They went on many adventure while she was sleeping. The books went to their very own land called Reading Town. All the characters in the books would complain about how the girl mistreated them. They tried to come up with a plan to make the girl treat her books better. They only had a short time each night because they had to be back before she woke up each morning. Every day when the girl would wake up something would go missing. The books decided that each day she mistreated her books the next morning they would take something from her. At first it was just a Barbie, then an American Girl doll. The girl noticed her things missing but didn't seem to care. She kept on mistreating her books and each morning something new was missing. One morning she woke up on the floor because her bed was missing. Next it was her bath tub missing. But she still did not seem to care and she slept on the floor and bathed in the sink and she still mistreated her books. The books didn't know what to do because their plan wasn't working. They came up with another plan to make her books invisible so she couldn't find them to read them or mistreat them. This plan worked because she was so upset because she missed her books. So the books started to reappear one by one. It took a long time but she finally got her books back and she was so happy that she never mistreated them again.

Bailey Cothorn
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Mrs.Shannon Blakemore

Big Cerulean Riding Spike

Once upon a time there was a big blue alligator with cerulean spikes. Because of his spikes and size, everyone called him, Big Cerulean Riding Spike. One day, Big Cerulean Riding Spike's mom said, "Your dad's brother is sick. Deliver this potion to him." He argued, "What? Why me? You know he hates me! He will attack me without you around!"

"Nonsense," his mom replied. "He has been nice to you before." "Only once," he muttered. But even though his uncle would probably kill him, Big Cerulean Riding Spike ventured into the evil part of the swampland where the giant red eyed moles were rumored to live. (This makes sense because his uncle lived in a giant mole hole, but Big Cerulean Riding Spike didn't like to think about this because it made the journey scarier.) He knew the evil parts were dangerous. His parents were convinced that evil moles and deadly nightshades were nice and harmless, but they were obviously evil and demonic.

Big Cerulean Riding Spike was walking in the swamp until he encountered a tiny snake. He almost stepped on it. "Hi! What are you doing? I've never seen you here before. Literally, please tell me what you were doing. No one ever comes here." Sang the snake. "I'm just delivering these healing things to my evil uncle who will prob-" muttered Big Cerulean Riding Spike. "-ably gonna be super nice to you and say thank you and then hug you and do good stuff, right?" interrupted the tiny snake. Big Cerulean Riding Spike rolled his eyes and yelled, "He's gonna kill me!" The snake replied, "Oh, murder is against the law, so he definitely won't. He does seem sus, so I will follow you and help you. Do you want these flowers for your super nice uncle?" Big Cerulean Riding Spike just walked off and said nothing. The tiny snake followed him, but stayed out of sight. When Big Cerulean Riding Spike finally got there, he gave the bottle to his uncle who asked, "What lies have you been told? I am not sick at all! I'm in the exact right condition to eat you up!" Although his uncle was small, he ate big. The snake saw the whole thing. He went down and asked, "Are you allergic to flowers?" "Yes, of course." Big Uncle answered, "Well, too bad. I think you'll lose a meal," said the snake. The evil uncle didn't know what this meant, but the snake tossed so many flowers at him that he warded in anger and shot a deadly barrage of sneezes right at the flower shield that the tiny good snake created. The last sneeze was so hard, it spewed out everything he ate including Big Cerulean Riding Spike. "Thank you!" said Big Cerulean Riding Spike.

My uncle might manage to regain power by drinking that potion, so we should run home. When he got home Big Cerulean Riding Spike told his mother that he delivered the potion to his uncle and made friends with a tiny good snake.

Buddy Himrod
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Susan Bell

Softball Hit!

I was going up to bat. The pitcher threw the ball to me and it hit me right in the hip bone! The whole crowd reacted, “Ooo!” They knew it had hurt me. A tear went down my face. I tried to walk to dad because he was the first base coach. I felt like falling down. It was so blurry I could hardly see to walk. Tears fell all the way down to my cleats washing them clean.

Then, my coach ran out to me and whispered, “If you want to cry, you can cry. At least you are going to get to walk to first base.” He walked beside me and said, “Try to jog.” I did not respond. I wiped up my tears when I got to first base. The next batter went up to bat. She hit. I ran to second. I didn’t want to let the team down. So, while everyone was missing the ball I ran to third base and then went home. I scored a point for the Wolf Pack. Everyone in the stands was surprised and cheered loudly. After the game as we were walking out my brother Cooper was explaining to me and was talking all about how not to get hurt by the softball. Finally, my grandmother joined in and said, “Cooper Stop! She just got hit by one!” Then my brother said, “Well just next time when she does maybe she will be ready!” But that day I thought that I would hit the ball but the ball hit me!

Caroline Webb
The Bright School
Cindy Womack

World Wide News

The Oil Spill

One day a penguin was swimming happily in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Brazil. It was hunting for a meal. Suddenly, a disaster happened. Soon, black, sticky, oil filled the beautiful clear, blue, waters filling it with deadly toxic oil from a ship. It burned the penguin's eyes. He could not see.

The Oil Disaster Continues

The sticky, black, oil covered the penguin's feathers until only black could be seen. The penguin was unaware that oil was leaking from a ship. Now it was spreading quickly through the ocean. The oil is deadly to penguins. If a penguin swallowed even just a little bit of the toxic substance, it could die. The poor injured penguin washed up on the shore all alone and hurt. The oil clumped the penguin's feathers together, so it made it hard for him to waddle and swim. The penguin was barely alive. Would anybody save him in time?

A Bright Side For The Penguin

The penguin was in luck. Help was close. A man named João found the penguin and took him home. He carefully cleaned the oil off the penguin. The penguin was tired and weak. It could barely eat. But João hand fed him. The penguin, João cared for, was a Magellanic penguin. Some penguins live in cold places. But Magellanic penguins live in warm places. Usually Magellanic penguins don't let people pet them. However, this penguin let João hold him. The penguin started to trust João. Thanks to João, the penguin got stronger, stronger, and stronger. Soon, he could walk, eat, waddle, and swim again. João knew the penguin belonged with his flock. The man thought the penguin was well enough to go back to the sea. He knew it was time to say, "Goodbye."

Heavy Heart

João took the penguin on a boat ride to a nearby island. When they got to the island, with a heavy heart, João released the penguin. João thought the penguin would never come back. He cared about the penguin and wanted it to be happy. Setting the penguin free was a good idea. A few hours later, João got a surprise...he heard the penguin's call in his backyard. João ran outside. He couldn't believe it. The penguin was back from the island. Now, the penguin was calling for João. The penguin was not ready to leave his human friend yet.

The Penguin Got A Name

João's two-year-old grandson was so excited to see the penguin. João's grandson tried to say, "pinguim," which is penguin in Portuguese. That is the language they speak in Brazil. But, he said, "Dindim," instead. That is how the penguin got his name.

Staying with João

Dindim stayed with João for almost a year. He was very happy and allowed João to pet and hold him. He liked when João gave him showers. Dindim would sleep in the backyard. He was free to come and go. One day he left. Now, the penguin stays with João from June to November

every year to migrate to warmer water with his flock. What an inspiring story of a grandpa's and penguin's special bond with one another.

Emory Baker
Nolan Elementary
Becky Leary

Going Ziplining

One time, I went ziplining. First, I had to get on all the gear. Then I had to go on this little zipline. It was so small. Okay, now let's get to the fun part. Then I climbed up this tiny little tower. I was so scared. Then they put me on the line and pushed me off. It was so fun. Then on the next one I saw a caterpillar on the tree. Suddenly, wooosh, off I go again! The next one was called Washington Monument. It was called that because it was so high. On the highest one they told me to scream. "I screamed the loudest, I think," I noted. On the last one it was fast. I could barely see. Once I was done, I took off my gear and left. "There were so many ziplines I can't even name them all," I spoke.

Evie Ranalli
Bright School
Claire Millsaps

The Worst 8 Hours

“I can’t believe tomorrow we are going to the BEACH!!!” I said to my brother.

“I know, I know!” he said with a bit of excitement in his voice.

“Pack your bags, kids.” said Dad.

I packed a toothbrush, toothpaste, my best stuffed animal, books, clothes, and candy for the road. We ate pasta for dinner. I was a little nervous and excited. “I’m gonna pack my tablet and charger, okay?” “Ok.” Dad said.

Our cat followed me saying “meeoow.” I think he was saying, “Don’t leave me,” but the day was here. We poured into the car. “Let the fun begin!” said dad. I was so excited! I watched out of the window for 15 minutes. It was soooooo boring. “Can we get on our tablets now?” my brother and I said. “Not yet.” Mom said. We went further down the road for about an hour...

... “You can get on now,” Mom and Dad said together. “We are on the interstate now.” We immediately got on our tablets. I played Minecraft. I made a zoo! I put in ocelots and horses! It was the best!

“Time to stretch our legs.” The gravel to the gas station was like a roller coaster! We went inside. I saw pop-its! “Use the bathroom and get a snack while I communicate with a clerk.” told Mom. I got a pack of Starburst.

After four more hours of snacking, playing car games and video games, and of course sleeping, we pulled into the driveway of the condo. We immediately went to the beach. I love the ocean air and the awesome breeze. I mean, who does not like those two things?

Well, the worst 8 hours were worth it!

Evvie Smith
The Bright School
Cindy Womack

My Journey

Hi! I'm Graycen Cronk and I had Cancer. I was diagnosed with Leukemia, when I was two and a half years old. Leukemia is a blood cancer, which means that the cancer cells took over my blood and bone marrow and made me very sick.

I was born in Elkhorn, Nebraska, and that is where I lived when I was diagnosed. Lots of people ask how my mom and dad knew to take me to the doctor and what symptoms I had. My symptoms started a few months before I was diagnosed. I had really bad ear infections that would go away for a few days with medicine and then come right back. Then, I started having arm pain near my shoulder. I didn't want to move my arm to do things like eat, because it hurt so much.

My mom took me to the doctor, but she couldn't find anything wrong. Then I started getting all these bruises on my legs that wouldn't go away, and I was waking up a lot at night. My mom and I were so tired all the time. That's when my mom finally took me to the doctor and she poked my finger to check my blood.

The doctor sent me straight to the hospital from her office, because my blood didn't look right to her, and she wanted a special doctor, called an oncologist (someone who specializes in treating cancer) to look at it. That's when my mom and dad were told that I definitely had leukemia.

I don't remember much about those days in the hospital, but my mom has pictures that she shows me sometimes. She says that I was in the hospital for 30 days while the doctor started me on chemotherapy (really powerful medicines to fight my cancer) and steroids (to help my immune system fight off the powerful drugs.) They made me really hungry and angry all the time.

While I was at the hospital, I got this very special stuffed animal from my brother, Devin. He is 17 years old now, but he was only 11 when I was diagnosed. I had to have surgery to put in what is called a port, so that I wasn't always having needles in my arms when the nurses needed to take my blood or give me medicine. My port was placed under the skin on my chest and any time I had to get chemo or have my blood drawn, the nurses would poke my port with a needle that was about an inch long. It didn't usually hurt, because my mom would put this cream on my port and cover it with press and seal (the same stuff that she uses to cover dishes to put in the fridge!). It would numb that area and I would hardly feel the poke. One of the medicines I remember the doctors giving me through my port was "white medicine." White medicine put me to sleep for my procedures. I had to have a lot of procedures to put in medicines that are very painful without being put to sleep. My port was taken out on January 19, 2018, four months after I stopped my treatment for cancer.

Some types of cancers don't really have a cure, but luckily leukemia has a very good cure rate. I have done really well since I stopped my cancer treatments. but last week I thought I might have cancer again, and that was very scary. I had been sick and complaining about having pains in my arms and legs. My mom was really worried, so she took me to my oncologist at Erlanger to

have my blood checked. My numbers were a little low, and the doctor, my mom, and dad decided to have my blood checked again in two days to see if it was any better. That day, instead of poking my finger, I had to have a thing in my arm called an IV. Before that day, I hadn't had an IV in four years. So, my anxiety came up quickly!

My therapist taught me this breathing tip, and it helps a lot! But I couldn't do it, because I couldn't move my arm when they were putting in the IV. So, my dad did it with me but with his fingers. My mom was holding my hand (while I had my favorite stuffed animal from my brother in my armpit.) I closed my eyes and thought good things, and I was in a happy place. Then they stuck it in my arm. My blood filled up half of two vials, and then it was over. I had to keep the IV in my arm for a while and it was really uncomfortable.

My numbers were low still, and I was devastated. I had to get what is called a bone marrow biopsy to make sure there wasn't any cancer in my bone marrow (that's what's inside my bones). The doctor used my IV to give me this really cold medicine before giving me some white medicine to put me to sleep. I was panicking, but my parents were with me until I was fully asleep. When I woke up, my food was there, and the doctor said there was no cancer! It took me two to three days to recover. and I am here now writing about my story/journey of cancer. I am so thankful that I am a survivor.

Graycen Cronk
Nolan Elementary
Becky Leary

The Huge Yellow Slide

One hot sunny morning in Canada, I woke up and jumped out of bed and changed into my clothes. Then I went downstairs for breakfast. I thought to myself '*what is for breakfast?*' Pancakes! "Finally!" I exclaimed, "a yummy breakfast."

I saw my Grandma standing next to the pancakes and she asked "Do you want some pancakes?" I exclaimed "Yes!" I gobbled them up in the matter of minutes.

Later at lunch time my Bookie said "Let's go to the pool!" We both yelled "Yes!" We changed into our swimming suits and jumped into the car. Then we drove to the pool.

Once we got there we walked to the pool and jumped right in!! The pool felt soothing and cold. Maybe a little too cold. Next I saw a HUGE YELLOW SLIDE! I walked over to the slide and there was no one in line! I jumped up the stairs. The lifeguard said, "You can go." I sat down and swoosh... I zoomed down the slide. I thought the slide was broken I was going so fast! I yelled to my parents "You guys should try this!" Then I yelled, "Wee!" I heard the water splashing onto my face. I could see the whole pool I was so high up!

Once I got down the slide, I saw a lazy river so I grabbed a pool noodle and walked over to my parents. "I see a lazy river!" I exclaimed. They hopped out of the pool and jumped into the lazy river. The lazy river was so warm I almost fell asleep. Once I got out of the lazy river, I walked over to the lap lane of the pool. I thought to myself, '*What time is it?*' I asked my parents. They whispered, "4:25." "No way it's almost dinner time!" Then they exclaimed, "Yeah, it's almost dinner time and we have to go soon."

The day was long but it only felt like one hour to me. I asked, "Can we go home?" They said, "Yes." So we got out of the pool and walked over to the car and drove home.

Grant Perry
Bright School
Maggie McGuire

“Why Do Seals Clap”

Long ago in 1942, there were 3 seals named Flappy, Fyord, and Ice. Flappy and Fyord are twins and Ice is their best, best friend in the entire world.

This year, Flappy was planning to enter the big musical festival that is held only once a year, and Flappy was finally old enough! He wanted Fyord to enter as well. But Fyord had one problem: He was horrible at following directions.

Ice wanted to help with Fyord’s problem. But Fyord, being Fyord, never, ever listened. Fjord finally got the courage to go into the contest with his brother. He didn’t know what to do for the musical. Then an idea popped into his head: I will clap! He stepped up onto the stage. He started clapping and bellowing. Once it was over, he had won! They said he created a new sport for seals: CLAPPING!

Henry Darras
Nolan Elementary
Jessica Matukewicz

THE FACE FALL

I was in Gatlinburg. 'I am so happy!' I said. I went on a ski lift with my dad up to the top of a hill.

Meanwhile, I was skiing down the hill. and fell on my face!! Someone almost skied on top of me! I was just about to get up when I saw my dad all the way at the bottom of the hill.

I was skiing down to him and it happened again. You know it! I fell on my face again! Yep, it happened and kept happening. Although it was not cold, I had gear on. It was so fun!!

Finally, I was at the bottom of the hill. It was a blast!!!I loved it. Next time I will try not to fall on my face again.

Julia Weaver
St. Nicholas School
Lynda Pritchett

Un Verano Interesante

El verano pasado fue muy interesante con mi familia porque fuimos a una playa diferente que se llama la playa de Destin en Florida. Yo llegué a la playa en carro porque solo era un viaje de siete horas. Yo fui a la playa porque el año pasado había un huracán entonces por eso fuimos el verano pasado. Yo fui a la playa con mi familia. Nadamos, jugamos y comimos mucho. Fue muy divertido. Fuimos a la playa de Destin en Florida.

Era una playa nueva y había un hueco gigantesco. Estaba al lado del mar en la arena al lado de las escaleras. Entonces cubrimos esto porque alguien se podía romper un hueso. También una tortuga podía romperse un hueso y una tortuga podía poner sus huevos allí. Mi hermana dijo, "Debemos cubrir este hueco." Mi mamá dijo lo mismo. Empezamos a cubrirlo con mucha arena y caracoles. Trabajamos como veinte minutos hasta que cubrimos el hueco. Caminamos por la playa y la playa era tan hermosa que podíamos ver cuando el sol empezaba a bajar. El cielo tenía muchos colores de azul y blanco, el sol brillaba y se sentía calor pero con la brisa del viento en nuestra cara. También fuimos a nadar en la piscina. Para el desayuno comimos donas y panqueques deliciosos. Los panqueques olían deliciosos y las donas eran dulces y esponjosas. Me gustaron mucho. Los panqueques eran como muñecos de jengibre bien grandes y las donas eran como anillos de diferentes colores y sabores.

La casa que rentamos era muy linda y teníamos un carro de golf para ir a la playa y la piscina. Había una cama de dos camas, una litera, en mi cuarto. Me gustaba dormir en la parte de arriba. Las personas que estaban allí antes se olvidaron de llevarse sus tablas de surfear y nosotros las pudimos usar.

Cuando llegamos a la playa fuimos a un restaurante que se llama Duos y comimos un pollo tan delicioso. Había muchas personas en el restaurante. Todos hablaban, comían y se divertían mucho. La comida era tan deliciosa como los panqueques y las donas que comimos para el desayuno.

Luego fuimos a la casa para cambiarnos y ponernos nuestros trajes de baño para ir y nadar en la piscina. Después de nadar un poquito queríamos ir a la playa con el carro de golf. Sentíamos el aire fresco. Sentíamos la arena suave. Sentíamos que el agua del mar estaba fría y muy fresca.

Yo escuchaba las olas del mar y escuchaba a los pájaros cantando. Yo atrapé a un caracol pequeño pero lo dejé volver al mar. Yo podía ver unos corales de muchos colores en el fondo del mar. Toqué a la arena caliente, brillante y como pedacitos de cristal de color café. Mi hermana, mi papá, mi mamá y yo hicimos un castillo de arena. Hice una piscina de arena que tenía agua dentro. Mi hermana estaba muy feliz.

Un día en la playa había lluvia todo alrededor de nosotros y después de la playa fuimos a la casa. Comimos perros calientes. Luego queríamos ir a la piscina. Entonces nos pusimos el traje de baño y fuimos a la piscina para nadar otra vez.

Después fuimos a la casa y nos preparamos para bañarnos y limpiar todo el cuerpo

porque teníamos arena en nuestros cuerpos. Luego fuimos a ponernos nuestras pijamas para ir a dormir porque eran las nueve de la noche. Al otro día nos levantamos y comimos cereal, panqueques y donas. Eran deliciosos.

Nos pusimos nuestros trajes de baño para ir a la playa y cuando llegamos el agua era tan clara y exótica que se podía ver a los peces de diferentes colores y formas nadando. Cuando llegamos había como cien iguanas. Yo jugué al tiburón con mi hermanita y nosotras brincamos sobre nuestro papá.

Después de dos semanas, empacamos todo, pusimos las cosas en el carro y nos fuimos a casa. El viaje en carro duró siete horas pero fue divertido porque podía ver películas en el carro. Extraño la playa de Destin y quiero regresar un día. Vimos una película de Niña Americana en el carro. Finalmente, llegamos a casa por la noche a eso de las nueve. Desempacamos y buscamos a nuestro gato que estaba con nuestro vecino. Nuestro viaje a la playa fue muy divertido y queremos regresar pronto.

Kylee Kemmet
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Dr. Maria Carlone

My First Race

It was my first race. I stepped into booth two. The official told us about the track and told us the rules.

They said, "Go!" We started. I passed about one million people that were WALKING. Then when I got halfway, I started to walk. I let out a big "PEH!" Then I picked up my feet and started to run.

A few moments later I was in the home stretch. I ran as fast as I could. I heard people cheering my name! Then, in about two seconds I was handed a card that had the number 108 on it.

"Yes!" I exclaimed. I have never been so happy in my life.

Logan Barrett
St. Nicholas School
Lynda Pritchett

A Dog's Story

Chapter 1

Now most people say a dog is man's best friend, but they never mean it. Oh, excuse me, my name is Jack and I am a dog, but most people refer to me as a puppy. I think I am a dog, but I usually get called a puppy. I get fed three times a day and some days four, if I am extra hungry, but mostly three. My owner's name is Nathan. He is nine years old. He likes to read and do sports. He is tall, I think, for a nine-year-old. He treats me kindly. I love him and he loves me. He or his mom, Mary, usually waters me. Now it is time for my daily walk. See you later.

Chapter 2

Now we had already walked about four miles already but suddenly I saw a mouse! Now a mouse is something you don't see every day. So, I couldn't resist, I had to chase it. I ran after it! I was so close but then something terrible happened! The leash broke. I finally realized it broke when I was a quarter mile away and Nathan was no where in sight and I was scared.

Chapter 3

Ohh that mouse, I have to find him! I looked everywhere and I finally saw a tail. I pulled it and out came the mouse. He said, "Don't eat me. I will get you to your house."

"How can you do that?"

"I know the way."

"What? No way!"

"Yes, I do," said the mouse. "In fact, I know the whole city."

"Okay," I said, so we were off. We started going right through a lot of bushes. I was starving, I thought, does this guy ever eat? I was so homesick, but knowing this mouse, he wouldn't stop until he was starving. A couple hours passed and finally he said, "Okay, we can stop here for the night."

"What are we going to eat?"

"You're used to being home, aren't you?"

Chapter 4

"YES, I am and I am ready to be home! When am I going to be home? What do you eat?"

"I find stuff. Now go to sleep."

"I have to eat something before I go to sleep."

"It is too dark to look for something. Now go to sleep."

It was the morning when I woke up from the smell. It smelled delicious. Then I realized it was trash. I saw the mouse. He said we were only 10 minutes away! We started running. It had been about 5 minutes. Then the mouse said, "Stop." I stopped and he pointed left and I saw the house!! I ran so fast I fell on the wet grass. That wouldn't stop me? I saw Nathan. He hugged me so hard I got squished. Then I looked back, but I didn't see the mouse. He had left. I wanted to say thank you. So, I went inside. I was so happy to be home. The End.

Luke Rogers
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Colter

What Will Happen to the House?

“Alexa, What is the weather going to be today?” Mom asked her device.

“Today, there is a chance for a tornado,” Alexa said.

So mom told Clay, “Let’s go to school.” Clay and Mom left the house and went to the car in the driveway. As they drove down the road, Clay said, “Mom, I think I hear the sirens for a tornado.” Clay was very scared.

“I think I hear them too,” said Mom.

“There is the library. Let’s go there,” said Mom.

“But what about the house?” asked Clay.

“Well, if it gets destroyed, then we will find a new house,” answered Mom. “Now let’s go into the library.”

As they went in, the librarian said, “This way to the tornado shelter.” But, Clay didn’t go.

“Clay, where are you going?” asked Mom.

“I am going to save the house!” said Clay. “I will be back.”

“If you do not come back, you are grounded for a year,” said Mom.

Clay hopped into the car, found the keys, and drove home to save the house. He found a ladder in the backyard. So, he grabbed it and climbed up the house to save it. Clay made it to the top of the house and said to the rain and lightning, “Stop! Do not hurt my house!”

The rain and lightning asked, “Why should I listen to you?”

“Because I told you to,” answered Clay.

“No!” said the rain and the lightning. The lightning struck him. Clay fell off the roof.

He got up and climbed back to the top of the roof. The rain and lightning had stopped. He had saved the house and he was fine too.

Clay did not have to go to the hospital. His mom ran back to the house after the storm was over. She saw Clay on the roof. She told him he was grounded for a year. But, she decided to let him get out of his room because he did save the house, and she was grateful for that.

Maci Wilson
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Mrs. Shannon Blakemore

A Fish named Blue.

Once upon a time there was a fish named Blue. He was a very sad fish who thought he was very boring simply because he was all White. All of his friends were such pretty colors, but Blue was just all White. He thought he was so boring and dull. Then, one day when it was time for school his mom called for him to catch the bus. "But Mom, I cannot, will not go to school!" "But why not?" said Mom "Are you not feeling well?" she asked. "Well Mom said Blue, I do not want to go to school because I am boring!" Mom gasped and said, "No you are not boring, why would you ever think that?" Blue replied, "Yes I am boring, I, I, I (as Blue stumbled over his words) All my friends are beautiful colors of the rainbow I am just plain White!" "Like Bob, he is Red and Frankie is all colors of the rainbow, and Nick is Purple, and everyone loves all those colors, and I'm just plain White, I do not like being unique." Well, Blue said Mom, you should never stop being unique. Your color contains all the colors of the spectrum and is a perfect balance of all of the colors. So be proud of who you are. Now off to school before you miss the Bus. Have a good day Blue, I love you.

On the Bus were his friends Nick, Frankie, and Bob. "Hey Blue said Frankie, what's wrong you seem down today." "I don't want to go to school today." said Blue. "Why not?", asked Frankie." "All of you guys are pretty colors and I am just boring white." said Blue. No, you are not boring at all Blue." said Frankie, Bob, and Nick too. Walking into school, they saw the mean Bully John, and all the other fish swam away fast and hid in fear. Bob yelled "save yourself Blue!" But Blue wasn't going to put up with the bully anymore. "Hey you must be Blue?" said the Bully John laughing his mean bully laugh. "Why are you laughing?" asked Blue." Because you are all White and look different." said the Bully John. From a distance you could hear Frankie yell, "Leave Blue alone!" Blue knew that John was the meanest kid in school and wanted to make him stop. So he came up with an idea, he said "Hey John if you are so cool then go into the forbidden enchanted water well with me and let's see who comes out first. I mean if you are scared, then...." John the Bully interrupted, "No way it's scary in there!" "Blue was not scared, he swam right in. The Bully John swam off and promised not to bully anyone ever again. Frankie and all of Blue's friends watched in hopes for Blue to come out. After some time in the well, When Blue swam out he didn't look the same. Blue was YELLOW and beautiful all over! Frankie, Bob and Nick all cheered Blue on and suddenly he felt Happy. On the Bus ride home all the kids were cheering BLUE, BLUE, BLUE! He was so proud. When he got home his mom asked what happened to him "BLUE you are YELLOW!" "I went into the enchanted water well to save my friends and I from John the Bully and I came out Yellow, now I am even more unique," said Blue. Mom replied, "Why in the water, would you do that Blue, will it rub off?" "No I like being yellow, all the kids cheered for me and now I feel pretty and not boring anymore!" "I love you no matter what color you are Blue." said Mom "I'm just glad you are ok!" Blue replied, I learned today that being unique is a great thing. Today was a good day, said Blue.

Madelyn Duncan
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Angie Miller

“Why Monkeys Eat Bananas”

1,000,000,000 years ago in a rainforest there were two twin monkeys Jeff and Max. Their tails were super short. They ate blueberries but their tails just wouldn't grow. Their mom and dad signed them up for a monkey talent show. In their dreams, they dreamed about all the monkeys laughing on the stage. And after the talent show at school all their friends would be laughing. The next morning, they were on a hunt to find a tasty fruit that would make their tails grow. They found a red berry that didn't taste good. Then they found purple fruit, but it was too small. But then they found it! It was a beautiful yellow fruit. It tasted so good that they called it bananas. They told their friends to try it. And they liked it so much that they picked 10,000 for the supermarket. Jeff and Max filled their house with bananas. They ate 100 a day and their tails grew in a flash. Before they knew it, it was talent show day. Their tails were long, strong, and ready for the talent show. It was their turn so they got on the monkey bars and started swinging with their long tails. While they were doing tricks, they both said, “It's all because of the bananas!”

Matthew Coker
Nolan Elementary
Jessica Matukewicz

Untitled

Did you know Ferdinand Magellan was the first explorer to go all the way around the world? Magellan faced a lot of challenges during this voyage around the world. When Magellan and his crew were on the boat, they ran out of supplies and were forced to eat rats. People got a sickness scurvy. One ship wrecked on their trip and another decided to go back to Spain, instead of finishing the journey. On their way, they saw an island and went to the island to try and get more supplies. The people on the island gave Magellan and his crew supplies and asked them for a favor. They asked Magellan to fight another group of islanders. Magellan agreed. During the fight, Magellan died. It took them three years to make it around the world. Even though it was Magellan's voyage, he didn't actually make it back to Spain. These were only a few of the challenges that Magellan and his crew had to face.

Rachel Ekong
Nolan Elementary
Ashley Narramore

“Why Do Polar Bears Have White Fur?”

10 years ago, in 2010, in the forests of Australia a little brown bear got separated from its family, and her name was Lucy. Lucy really wanted to get home because it was getting dark and she was very hungry. So, she kept walking. After a while, she remembered the strategies that her mom and dad had taught her. “After I eat my dinner, I will find a nice, cozy spot right next to a fresh water fall so there will be enough water if I get thirsty at night or in the morning.”

In the morning, she got up early and set off. Before she knew it, there were big blocks of white stuff. It was ice! So she jumped on and they led her to a big white piece of land. It was Antarctica. So she leaped and landed right on the piece of land. She kept walking. She didn't know where she was but she still did. Soon she spotted a creature. It was a penguin! She had never seen one but she was smart. She ran up to the penguin and introduced herself. She asked what his name was. It was Zac! Zac was friendly and he asked, “What are you doing here all by yourself?” Lucy said, “I got separated from my family and I need help! Will you help me?” Zac said, “Of course!” After a couple of weeks Zac and Lucy became friends. They played in the snow together, they rolled in the snow together, and they even ate some snow together. One morning when Zac woke up he noticed Lucy's fur was white. He woke Lucy up and told her that instant. For a couple of days she was worried. After that she was fine with the idea of it. Some years later she heard her parents' voice. She was happy, but then she got a funny feeling and she felt sad about leaving her friend Zac. So she asked if they could stay and her parents were very nice and decided to let her, and they wanted to stay too. Now they all live in Antarctica and this is how polar bears have white fur.

Tate Hungenberg
Nolan Elementary
Jessica Matukewicz

The Comfort of Delilah

Delilah is my dog and I think she is the best dog ever! I believe that she will always be the best dog I have ever owned no matter how many dogs I have in the future. Delilah is a brindle boxer and she is almost seven years old. A boxer is the type of dog she is, but not an actual dog that can box. A dog that could actually punch and kick would just be silly, and a little creepy! That would also be bad because if your dog did not like you then they could beat you up! My boxer would never do that. Here are a couple reason why I think my dog Delilah is the best.

First, Delilah is always there for me. When I am sad or upset she is always comforting. Sometimes I have to get onto her for being bad and she does not get mad at me. She is still there when I need her, even if she just got in trouble. Even though she is a dog, she is like my best friend. I feel like she understands me more than anyone does and ever will. It may sound silly, but everyone needs someone to understand them at all times. When I am feeling lonely I know I can always talk to Delilah. I know she tries her best to understand and comfort me. I talk to her about a lot of different things. She loves and comforts everyone in our family. If you ever met her then you would love her just like everyone else does.

Second, Delilah is sweet and cute. When she does something bad everyone knows she did not mean it because she never means to be bad. Ever! She is so happy all the time. She does the cutest little thing when we get home. She wags her nub and it is so cute. She has a nub because her tail was cut off when she was a baby. She will also arch her back and that is how we know she is excited. She does that a lot but mostly when we get home.

If you ever have a dog as great as Delilah then you should love it as much as you possibly can. She is the best dog ever and is part of our family.

Trinity Pilinko
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Robin Williams

Fourth Grade Prose



Untitled

In Florida there are five girls who went to the same school, lived in the same neighborhood, but had different hobbies. So their names were Crystal, the tomboy, who loved sports more than makeup. Drew was much different than Crystal, Drew was a dancer. She was very good at dancing. Also, there was Mallory. She was very pepped up all of the time because she was a cheerleader. Alice, another girl, part of the group, was very quiet. She had a good voice and she could play a lot of songs on the piano. Ashley was the leader of the group because she was smart, artistic, fun, awesome, and that's why she was the head of the group. Now that you know "the stars" of the story, we can go on.

It all started in third period on a Friday. The girls were going to have a sleepover...but this happened. The teacher started to look at her phone and opened her mouth she looked very surprised. "What do you think is wrong" asked Alice to Ashley very curiously.

"I don't exactly know" answered Ashley.

"I think my mom will know because she's a news freak!" Added Crystal. Mallory, Alice, and Drew all laughed, because they knew it was true.

Screeeeeeeeeeeeeeech [An announcement was going to be made.] "Ok, girls and boys, I know this is going to be weird, but aliens have come from another planet and invading North America. Your parents are picking you up. Please don't ask me or the other teachers questions. Your parents will tell you." And of course it made everyone want more information about the aliens.

"What do think will happen?" Asked Drew in a very scared, sad, not knowing what to do voice.

"Nobody knows!" cried Crystal onto Alice's shoulder and fake crying

"Ok I need you to get all of the stuff out of your locker this may be the last time you're here!" yelled a teacher from down the hall. The girls didn't talk after that it started to get serious. After everyone got their stuff, parents came to get the children. No one could ride together except siblings. When all the girls got in their car, their parents all said something like this, "we'll talk about it when we're home." All the car rides were silent. After all the terrible twenty minute rides, they were finally home.

Of the five girls, Crystals family was the first ones home, because her parents are the first people to everywhere, at anytime, on anyway. They were always free because they worked from home. So this is why I'm telling you what they said. Of course the other parents said something like this too: "Crystal, we got emails today that Aliens are coming to attack. So, we need to move to Europe."

"But where in Europe?!" Crystal cried.

"France," answered her parents in a low, sad, and heartbroken voice.

“Are the other girls living there too?” Asked Crystal, waiting for a yes, but a “No.” Came out.

Crystal didn't say a word. Alice cried at the table. Ashley ran up to her room to lay on the bed. Mallory went up to cry and Drew argued to her parents. I think the girls were more worried about losing each other than about the invasion. The next day they had to pack up their stuff asap. No goodbyes.

Mallory just had to go to Brazil.
Ashley just had to go to Africa.
Drew just had to go to Russia.
Alice just had to go to Greenland.

Airports flooded. Aliens attacked. Sadness came and it felt as if it were the death of life. After the horrible move to the other continents the girls were now in their new homes. The girls made schedules to call and talk about their new lives. Their calls were like, “bleep..blop...Eleanor Roosevelt...ke ke ke ke tocan..cop...hard dancing...sssssss..k. bye!”

Three years had passed and the girls were freshman. They had all learned new languages. The girls had been separated for a long time now, but this is how the story heals up. There was a scientist named Bob Frank. He made a spray that could make aliens not like our North America. Crystals mom was the first to find out. When the other girls found out, their hearts left with joy! They were jumping around their houses like wild monkeys! It took a long time for Bob Frank to make so much of that healing poison for aliens to go away. He probably had to make 585,864,971,203,198,261.5 gallons of it, but IT WORKED! The girls got home. Alice was the first one home, and she ran screaming to the fountain where the girls had met. She ran screaming “THANK YOU BOB FRANK! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!!!” The girls were all together again in Florida. In the same neighborhood. Home for the holidays.

THE END.

AdaReece Weathersby
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melanie McKee

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT

I yawned, “Mom, Dad , little bro, it’s ...CHRISTMAS!”

Mom replied from the other room, “I know sweetie!”

“Huh?.....OHHHH YEAH!!!” My little brother said. That’s right, I have a little brother named Keith. He’s a cute little rule breaker! I looked out the window, tempted to open it. Outside the window stood the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree in all its glory.

“Wow!” I said.

“Lissy!!” said Keith. I walked down the stairs fully to see the surprise of my life!! Keith was holding a baby kitten! How great! I never thought I would get a cat for Christmas!

“Mom” I said.

“Yes sweets?” Mom replied.

“Can we name the kitten Mya?” I asked.

“Aww, sure sweetie!” Mom replied. I smiled. A few minutes later I took Mya out on a walk. Suddenly I saw a dark shadow. It seemed like a human. Then I felt a tug on my sleeve.

“Mom!” I screamed. “I can’t find Mya!”

I worried that Mya might have run away, on Christmas!

“Already?” Mom asked.

“Maybe behind the street wall?” she suggested.

Keith came running out. “Where’s Mya?” He questioned.

“Cannot find her.” Said Mom. Mom, Keith, and I were about to look behind the street wall when Dad came out.

“Darling, what’s wrong?” Dad questioned.

“We can’t find Mya.” replied Mom. The whole family looked around the street wall corner. There stood the dark shadow of Mya as a human!

“Wha!?!?” I said in shock.

CHAPTER:2(The Witch)

“Who even are you?” Keith said.

“I am Mya, dear.” said the witch.

“Wait...but that’s what we named you!” I said.

“Are you a genie then?” Said Keith.

I could tell he was really wishing she was a genie.

“Oh, no, no, no, dear.” She said.

“Then what are you even?” I blurted.

“Dear, I’m a heck of a witch!” She smirked in an evil sort of way.

She started walking towards the back door of our house, but when she got to the door she vanished! It was just so magical.

“What in the world did we just see....?!” Mom and Dad blurted out together.

“I don’t know...” said Keith.

We all headed back inside. One hour later we went to the Rockefeller Center. But then, very faintly I actually fainted.“M-mo-?” I was out.

CHAPTER:3 (The Blackout)

“Huh?” I said getting up. An ice pack fell off my head and onto the floor.

“Honey, you passed out when we were ice skating.” Mom said.

Dad nodded.

“Oh.” I said.

Keith poked his head out from behind Mom and Dad. He frowned deeply. And now that I think about it he was probably really scared. I had a faint vision of me falling. I had bumped into a local, then slipped and fell, everyone skating stared at me like I was so precious. I had my jacket below my shoulders and a competitive smirk on my face when I was racing Keith. My mom had rolled her eyes just then because of my jacket below my shoulders, but quickly changed to an, “Oh my goodness my baby is hurt!” kind of look.

When we got home Mya was all cuddled up on the couch. Wait! Mya? My witch kitty? But she’s a cat again! Well, that changed. Mya in human/witch version purred up into her big shadow and plopped down again on the couch right where she was. But then I woke up! Again, you might ask? No! It was all a dream, but it was still Christmas, and I was still in New York City! I rushed down the stairs, but wait... Keith was holding Mya!?

“Mya!!!!” I yelled.

She’s here right now and not a witch!

“Let’s take her on a walk!” Said Keith.

“But then I’ll slip against a local again!” I blurted out.

“Huh?” Said Keith

CHAPTER:4 (Snuggles With Kitties)

I ran down the rest of the steps to see the whole room full of presents!

“My laptop!” I said, overflowing with excitement.

Two years later:

“Wow, I can’t believe I’m already fifteen!” I said.

“I know Ally!” Said Keith.

By the way, Keith is eleven now! Keith rushed into his room to call his friend. I was snuggled up on the couch with Mya, and I was looking online for Christmas presents for Keith, Mom, and Dad.

“This is perfect!” I said.

I had found the most perfect, comfortable, family pack of sweaters! I grabbed Mya and squeezed her.

“Did you know that I had a dream about you being a witch two years ago?!”

Mya looked at me with squinty eyes and started to purr.

Goodbye, thank you for joining me on this wonderful journey!

THANK YOU UTC!

Ada Hughes

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

Aimee Passavant

Untitled

Once there was a three year old girl. She had green eyes and really blond hair and her name was Ainslee Bancroft. Ainslee had two brothers named Caden and Briar. Her family lived on a farm. Caden was the oldest child in the family. He had brown hair, green eyes, and he was ten years old. Briar looked a lot like Caden but Briar was nine years old and had blue eyes. Lee and Chelsea were their parents' names . Chelsea was a teacher and Lee was a vet. One day Lee and Chelsea decided that they needed a puppy to keep their black lab named Chipper company while they were away from the farm. The next day Lee and Chelsea got Caden, Briar and Ainslee a puppy. They named the puppy Floyd. Floyd was a crazy and sweet puppy. He gave Ainslee so many slobbery kisses.

Every day Floyd got bigger and bigger. He was a beautiful Blue Heeler mixed with a Border Collie so he loved to play and herd animals. One day the family was sitting on the front porch. It was a sunny day with the birds chirping. Briar was playing with Floyd and Floyd accidentally bit Briar's nose. It did not hurt Briar because he was always really tough. Lee locked Floyd up in the garage for about an hour for punishment so that he would learn not to bite at people. An hour went by and Floyd was dying to get out and go play with Chipper. Finally Lee let him out of the garage. He was so happy to go play with his buddy again. Floyd ran around the farm chasing squirrels and doing his own thing.

Ainslee, Briar and Caden went outside to play with Floyd. When the kids went outside they looked around the farm to see where Floyd had gone while he was chasing squirrels. The kids looked and looked. Floyd was GONE! Everybody started calling his name and searching everywhere to see if they could find Floyd. Finally they got a call from one of their friends saying my neighbor has Floyd and that Floyd has been flirting with their neighbor's dog Rose." He said that they needed to go get Floyd right now ".They all hopped in the car and went there as fast as possible. They got Floyd and took him straight home. Once they got home they let Floyd and Chipper play together inside for a little bit. They were so happy that Floyd was back home and that he was safe.

The next day Floyd went missing again. He was back at Rose and Tim's house again and this time they tried to trap him. Tim and Rose caught Floyd they took him to his friend's house that was across the Tennessee River and far past that to his friend's house named Johnny. They kept Floyd and didn't take very good care of him. The next day Floyd was missing again!

Johny called Timmy and Rose and said "The dog is missing! Is he at your house?" Jimmy and Rose looked out the window and there Floyd was back flirting with his girlfriend. Jimmy and Rose couldn't believe that Floyd had made it across the Tennessee River and to their house. Floyd ran about 73 miles! At this point Jimmy and Rose had no clue what to do? Jimmy put Floyd on fox news and Lee saw him and said, "Wow!!! There is Floyd"!! Lee called Jimmy and Lee went to go pick him up right away. Lee got there and said to Jimmy and Rose I am so sorry for all the trouble that Floyd has caused you. Lee took him home and the Bancroft family was all back together and happy again, especially Chipper! The Bancroft family made sure that he never left home again! THE END!

Ainslee Bancroft
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Bailee McDonald

Frost and Flame

When the sun rose, the forest of Emmearea started to shake once again. Out of a nearby volcano, a giant flame wolf elemental rose. On a frosty mountain on the other side of the forest came a giant ice wolf elemental. They ran at each other and started fighting! Down in the forest, the animals were running to hide as a large owl called the alarm from a tree, "The Titans are fighting again!" he screeched.

As the chaos unfolded above, a small wolf pup named Shadow was hiding in a damp log in the underbrush of the forest. He decided to try to get back to his small den. On the way he found a baby owlbear playing with the firefly pixies. "Don't you know it's bad to play with pixies?" asked Shadow.

Just then the owlbear swatted one of the pixies and they all started to swarm the owlbear. Shadow jumped out with his mouth open and chomped all the pixies out of the sky. When the pixies hit their wings on the earth, they charred and fell as small piles of ash and dust.

"What's your name?" Shadow asked. The owlbear stared back silently. "Oh, right," said Shadow, "You cannot talk. I'll call you Screech." Screech chirped and seemed happy. "I'm heading back to my den. You can come if you want." Screech chirped in response, so Shadow headed back with no idea what catastrophic thing he would meet when he got back.

Winged Wolves

When they got back to the den, there was a huge wolf next to the den. "Hello there," he growled. "Hi" squeaked out Shadow. "If you don't want your heads bitten off by the flame wolf, you better come with me," demanded the winged wolf, Talon. "Wait, do you work with the flame wolf?" asked Shadow. "No, but he is about to smash the forest." They all began to run.

After they had gotten to safety, Shadow asked, "Why are you helping us?"

"I like a good adventure," Talon replied, "so I make the most of it. You have been chosen to end the fighting of the Titans."

The next day passed by quite drearily with lots of rain, which meant the ice wolf had won that battle. However, the fire wolf was not dead because Titans can't truly die. They would continue to battle leaving the world in chaos and all creatures living in fear.

When the weather cleared, Talon took Shadow and Screech to a small cave and left them to hunt for food. While Talon was gone, Shadow and Screech explored the cave. Deep in the cave they found strange pictures carved onto the walls, along with some writing, which roughly translated into: *only a wolf's true form can stop the fighting of the Titans*. "What does a wolf's true form mean?" wondered Shadow. "This must be the key to stop the eternal fighting." They found a cozy patch of moss and settled in for the night.

Monsters

After many days of studying the cave writing, they knew what they had to do. As they were about to embark upon this perilous journey, they had gathered everything they needed. Talon advised, "Trust the journey."

They had not traveled long before they ran into a truly terrifying dragon. It charged them, almost knocking them over! After a long fight, they beat the dragon and continued onward. Before long, they ran into more monsters. "This is going to take a while," said Shadow and they started fighting. With each victory, Shadow and Screech collected weapons, armor, and other supplies. Their power and confidence grew.

After grinding up the monsters, they came upon a mini-boss wolf and fought it. They got amazing loot from it and went to find more. After beating four more mini-bosses, they heard a strange noise off in the distance. More powerful than ever, they traveled toward the noise only to find a giant boss!

Almost There

When they finally reached the noise, they found a huge cosmo dog, which was the boss Galactose! They fought until it was almost defeated. They convinced Galactose to join them and it eagerly agreed. Then they set out to return back to the cave.

After leaving Galactose at the cave, they went to the south-east on a mission to find Shadow's "true form" so the fighting would stop forever. They traveled a long while before reaching the ice. Once they saw the large mountain, Shadow knew where they had to go. At the top was a rocky cliff with a snow fox waiting. After telling the fox why they were there, the fox gave Shadow a glowing blue ice orb. The fox then vanished.

As they headed back to the cave, Screech found a burnt stick that was good for drawing. Galactose must have left it. Screech drew an ancient rune summoning circle. The ancient rune symbol in the circle was strange, and started glowing green when Shadow stepped inside. Screech put the blue glowing ice orb in Shadow's mouth. Then Shadow turned into a spirit wolf and howled. They then headed out to stop the Titans' fighting...

Army in Progress

As Shadow and Screech headed toward the forest of Emmearea, more wolves joined the force. Apparently, wolves other than Shadow had reached their true form in various ways, three others in fact. They all headed toward the Titans in hope of converging their powers and stopping the fight. When they made it to the forest of Emmearea, they soon heard the sound of the ice wolf and fire wolf fighting. Once they reached the two fighting Titans and the spirit wolves knew instantly what to do. Surrounding the battle field, the true form wolves all opened their mouths and shot blue green blasts at the Titans, making them explode into red and blue dust. Finally, the journey was complete and the forest of Emmearea was at peace.

Avian Lane

Nolan Elementary

Wendi Orenstein

The Secret Book Cave

Chapter One: Finding Out the Details

Ella and her friends were just about to finish their work before they left to go home for the day. Ella is new to the school. She has only been there for three days, and she is getting weird vibes. She told her friends about it, and they said that's normal. Ella believed them and went home. When she got home, she told herself it is not normal. "It's weird," she said to herself again. "There's something going on at that school—something no one knows about."

She Facetimed her best BEST friend Gracie and told her how she felt. Her best friend said, "Ok, let's go step by step. Ok, do you remember when I told you the story about my grandpa, but I didn't have time to finish?"

Ella said, "Yeah."

Gracie said, "Ok, I'm going to finish it. I said it would get really juicy. Well, that's about to happen. Ok, so you may not believe this but waaaaaay back then there used to be magic— not the card trick and stuff—I mean real magic like with a staff. So my grampa was the leader of magic, and he was only sixteen! Anyway, he made the school that we go to, and he made it weird and magical. So that's probably why you're feeling weird vibes," Gracie said.

"Is there more to the story I should know about, or I want to hear?" asked Emma.

"Actually, there is. My grandpa said if I ever need something like a girls cave or something else for privacy, I got it," stated Gracie. "Whatever that means."

"Ella questioned, "Is there a way you can ask him what it means?"

Gracie said, "There is, but it will take a loooong time because of his hearing."

Ella said, "Ok, well, that will be plan B."

Gracie said, "Plan B, there are plans now, omg?!" They both laughed.

Ella said, "It's late. We will talk more tomorrow."

Chapter 2: Stuff Starts Happening

When Ella fell asleep, she kept moving back and forth, because she was having a dream. She did and did not want to see the dream, the dream she knew was going to change her life.

The next morning, Ella showed up at school feeling very very tired just like she was in her dream. After school, she went to her bed trying to have that dream again because she didn't get to finish it.

Before she went to sleep, she called Gracie to have her ask her grandpa why this was happening. Luckily Gracie was at her grandpa's house, so Gracie asked her grandpa why Ella was having these weird dreams about the school and getting weird vibes from it?

He said, "If you want to keep experiencing this, then keep believing. If you can't stop believing, then it is real."

Ella said, "What does that mean?"

He said, "You'll find out." So, Ella went back to sleep because when she finished talking to him it was dark. Ella went to sleep, and she dreamed that Gracie and she were going into a book of secrets, and it became a Secret Book Cave. Instead of rocks for the cave, it was paper with secrets on it.

When she woke up and went to school, she told Gracie what she saw. Gracie said, "If you are going to keep lying and trying to scare me, I will not be your friend anymore."

Ella said, "No, no I am not doing that. I have actually had that dream. Please believe me, please!"

Gracie said, "I will try. You are my bff so whatever happens, we are in this together."

Ella said, "I knew you would believe me! So, they finished the day, and Ella had homework. She had a textbook for homework, and it changed a little. Instead of it saying "Math," it said "Believe in Magic." Ella started getting scared, but then when she opened it, it was just math facts. She closed it, and it said "Math." She got it out of her mind, did the homework, and went straight to bed.

Ella had math homework again, and the textbook did the same thing. When she opened it, it was different? She saw these spells that were by Gracie's grandpa. She was about to read one when.....she got sucked into the book and opened up in a cave. The cave was not normal, instead of rocks for the walls, it was pieces of paper that had secret spells that were dangerous. She screamed, "I want to get out of here!" When she said that, she got taken back to her room and she just said to herself, "Ella it is ok. Just do your homework and forget about everything you just saw."

The next day she told Gracie that, and if we have more math homework tonight, I will ask my mom if I can come over to study. Then, you can show me.

Ella said, "Ok, sounds good. When she got home, Gracie's mom said yes, so when Gracie came over, she saw that the book's name changed and...they both got sucked in the cave.

Gracie said, "Wait, I recognize these spells. I hear my grandpa say these when he's in his room. Wait, what is this?"

Ella said, "I don't know, but I'm thinking of calling it "The Secret Book Cave."

Gracie said, "I like that name."

Ella said, "Well, let's go back and do our homework and then tomorrow I will study these."

Gracie said, "Sounds good." The next day she practiced the spells, and days passed.

Now she was very, very, very strong. One day there were bad guys destroying the city, and Ella used her super strong magic to defeat them. Ella promised the city and herself that whatever happens, she will always protect the city from danger. Ella knew this was only the beginning of a weird and magical life.

Baylee Chambers
Soddy Elementary School
Mrs. Tonia Mercer

Hope

Hi, I'm Hope Johnson. I used to be a normal girl who went to Feathersburg Middle School, but now I'm on a giant island in the middle of nowhere. So here's my story. One day on an early morning I woke up feeling very oddly stiff. Once I had gotten myself together I realized I was sleeping on a stone! I got up and started looking around. After a while, I realized that the rock I was sleeping on was what seemed to be a bottle of some sort. But the biggest mystery about this was that the bottle had no logo. I was confused, I didn't know where I was or how I had gotten there, so I decided to wander around a bit.

I jumped with joy because I saw small houses scattered over a valley. I brought the mysterious bottle in hopes of finding someone who knew what it was. The village wasn't close to where I woke up. I had to travel at least a couple of miles. Once I had finally reached the village, my eyes widened with fear! These villagers were unique, like really unique. For example, a giant ball covered in eyes. I was scared out of my mind, until one of them walked up to me and said, "Can I help you?"

I thought for a moment and then said, "Yes I'm new here. Would you mind showing me around?" He answered with, "No, I wouldn't mind," and motioned for me to follow him. He showed me around but one thing in particular caught my eyes: a potion shop. (This caught my eyes because I saw a variety of bottles similar to the one I had.) Next the man led me to the inn he worked at. He showed me a room that I could stay in for the night. I couldn't sleep because all the questions filled my mind and kept me awake. Finally it was day break. I thanked the man and left. I set off for the potion shop. My legs strained, the buildings were spread far apart yet so many people crowded around. As I neared the potion shop I saw two people who seemed to be humans. I walked over, they greeted me and I told them what my mission was. They jumped with excitement. Turns out they got stranded here too. Their names were Abby and Noah Salor. We walked to the potion shop together and once we got there we asked if the witch who sold the potions knew what my bottle was.

"Yes, it's the rare Humania potion." The witch replied.

"Hmm, what does it do?" Abby asked.

The witch answered with, "It teleports you to the human realm."

"How can we get some?" Noah asked.

"Fifty clams per bottle." She replied.

I said, "Ok, sounds good!" even though I had no clue how to get clams or even if they were hard to get.

Abby and Noah told me that we needed jobs to get clams. We had gotten our jobs: Noah had chosen lumberjack, Abby a maid, but worst of all the last job available was bounty hunting. So, I'm a bounty hunter. The good thing was after one bounty I'd have just enough clams to get two of the potions (Abby and Noah could pay for the last one). A big problem about this was that apparently the easiest bounty to fight was a giant demon king named Egon. Although it would be hard, the people who put up the bounty provided gear for the fight. I will spare you the details of the fight so this story won't be too long. After the fight I got my reward, met up with the others and we traveled to the potion shop. We were about to pay for the potions when somebody (I didn't see his face because he wore a helmet) walked up and said,

"The king demands all of the Humania potions you have..." He continued in a whisper, "For the project."

The witch gasped and agreed, but before she could give him the potions Noah pushed the man away and shouted, “Hands off, those are ours!” (Noah really wanted to get home).

“Not anymore, the king wants them.” So the man took the potions and we were stuck, but the witch told us of some special ingredients that we could get for the witch so she could make us our own Humania potions. So we set off to find those ingredients.

To be continued...

Brock Vandegriff
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melanie McKee

The Strange Rocket

This is a story that starts in Texas. Once there was a nine-year-old boy named Henry. He had a dog named Levi. He and Levi were best friends. They did everything together.

One afternoon, Henry was looking out the window and saw a strange rocket in the sky. It was black and as big as a Christmas tree. The rocket crashed in Henry's backyard! Henry and Levi ran outside to see it. On the ground, there were papers with maps and pictures. Henry saw a picture of a cave that was on his uncle's property. Henry had visited his uncle with his parents. They went on lots of hikes and saw the cave, but they did not go inside. The paper had his uncle's initials on it and said, "please come visit me".

Henry tried to call his uncle, but no one answered the phone. He told his parents everything that happened. They traveled to Henry's uncle's home in Alaska. They brought Levi to help find Henry's uncle. When Henry and his parents got to his uncle's house, he was not at home. Levi helped track Henry's uncle to the cave on his property.

The cave opening was covered by lots of small rocks. Henry and his parents moved the rocks out of the way. They yelled for his uncle and he yelled back. Levi ran into the cave and Henry followed. They found Henry's uncle in a lab workshop with tools, metal, and a model rocket. He was tired, dehydrated, and hungry. He said he had been trapped in the cave for five days. Henry and his parents gave him food and water they brought with them. They told him that his rocket landed in their backyard and asked him what happened. The uncle told them that he had been building the rocket over the last year trying to launch it into space to reach aliens. He wanted the aliens to visit him. Henry's uncle wanted to send the aliens maps and pictures to help them find him. The uncle wanted to learn about space from the aliens. When he launched the rocket outside of the cave, the rocks came tumbling down the mountain. The uncle ran back into the cave and was trapped by the rocks. The uncle said he was so happy the rocket landed in Texas at his family's house. He said he wanted to build another rocket to send to space with Henry's help. Henry was so excited to help save his uncle and to help him with his new rocket!

Charlie Cline
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Bailee McDonald

Elks

Elks are a species of deer. They are big animals. They are brown in color, and the male elks have a rack of antlers. They live in somewhat cold places, like the Rocky Mountains and the tundra. If a predator approaches, like a brown bear or a coyote pack, the elk has to be ready to defend itself. Elks use their sharp hooves to stomp on predators. Male elks use their big antlers to ram into the predators.

Elks use their sharp hooves to stomp on a predator. When the elk stomps on the predator, the predator gets knocked down by the elk's strong hooves. That gives the elk time to get away. The pain will make the predator go look for food elsewhere.

Male elks use their big antlers to ram through a predator. When the elk rams into a predator, the predator can be maimed or even killed. That gives the male elk time to get away from danger and live the rest of its elk life.

Elks have some dangerous defense mechanisms. They can make a predator want to leave it along with a kick from its hooves or a jab with its antlers. Predators should be aware of elks at all times.

Cooper Smith
Soddy Elementary School
Mrs. Tonia Mercer

“Colorado”
A nontraditional essay

Colorado is a beautiful place. It has a beautiful National park, Colorado is full of adventures, It has a ton of wildlife.

Colorado has a beautiful national park because...

Huge boulders
Giant
Freezing cold
Waterfalls.
The view
The view.
Magic
Not just any magic
Magic you'll never see again
A small layer of dew and mist covering the ground
Sparkling in your eyes
Distracting you from the jagged
Rocks and rapids below
I will never forget it as long as I live

Colorado is full of adventures because...

Endless mountains
 Endless skiing
 Endless hikes
 Endless woods
 Endless places
 Endless animals
 Endless adventures
 ENDLESS FUN

Colorado has tons of wildlife because...

Fish

 Early
 The air is like a coat of water
 Slamming you in the head every step you take

 Taking your breath away
 Below rapids with fish
 Gush and splash turning
 You throw your line out

While the current hustles it downstream .

Elk

Elk
Elk
The sound
A horrific
Bone trembling
Screech of a bugle
Majestic
Beautiful
Beasts
Of the wild
Controlling Watching
Your every move.

Colorado is a great place to travel and live because ...

Colorado
It has everything
Every step you take
Something to do
Some road to drive on
Some view you just have to see
Some animal to look for
Colorado
I'll never forget it .

Cooper Webb
Bright School
Amanda Dickson

Overcoming My Fear

Have you ever had to overcome a fear? I know I have. I was in Atlanta, Georgia. It was my first gymnastics meet. I had done a practice meet at the gym where I train, but the judges were just coaches that work there. The meet in Atlanta was called Paws for a Cause and I was terribly anxious. I was anxious because I was afraid I would not perform well, people would laugh and my teammates would feel let down. I was most afraid of disappointing my coach, Miss Alyssa. I had never done my routines in front of real judges before and this was very intimidating.

When I walked in the building where the meet was held, I was wowed. The building was gigantic. There were hundreds of people sitting in seats waiting to watch. I found my coach and we waited for all my other teammates because I was the first one there. When my teammates arrived, we ran and stretched. We got a water break and then headed to our first event. At the meet, the first event we were doing was the balance beam. I warmed up my skills and practiced my choreography but I was still very frightened. I took a deep breath to calm down but it didn't really help. While I was waiting for my turn, I got more anxious every time one of my teammates showed her routine. As soon as I knew it, it was my turn. I saluted the judges and got on the beam. My heart was beating very fast and my legs were shaking. I fell off the beam while I was doing my skills but I got back on and kept trying. When I fell, I had the feeling that I wouldn't do as good as my other teammates. I fell again and my confidence sank even lower. I got back up again and finished my routine. When I saw my score, I was very disappointed but after that I felt a little less nervous. The worst had happened and I had still completed my routine. No one laughed. My teammates were very supportive and said, "You'll get it next time." Miss Alyssa was very supportive too and said, "It's okay, you just need to practice more." My parents were proud of me anyway. I still had all the other events to look forward to that day. I finished strong and came home with 4 medals, including a first place finish on the uneven bars.

Even though I had fear going into the competition and didn't do well on the beam, I worked hard and tried my best on the other events. I learned that no one's perfect and a bad score isn't the end of the world. I had a lot of fun and that's all that matters. It was a great experience and I was much less nervous at my other meets after Paws for a Cause.

Emmy Pittman
Nolan Elementary
Wendi Orenstein

Mission Eaesel

“And we will call it...Eaesel!” Commander Shigeru exclaimed. The crowd cheered and clapped. Many people from Japan, and other states, came to the Japanese space station to hear about the news. The station had discovered a planet far away which seemed to have life in it.

They were going to send 6 astronauts to go over there, but it would take about 5 years to go there, and come back. This means that it would take 14 years for the crew to return to earth. The astronauts were: Ms. Makamo San, Mr. Tomioka San, Mr. Shoyo San, Ms. Hanako San, Ms. Kanae San, and Mr. Iguro San. They were all professionals. They had been on many missions, but this one would be their most dangerous, and it could be their last one. Mr. Shigeru, the Commander of the space station, said, “We are sending our best astronauts to go to Eaesel, and bring us more information!”

Later that night, all the astronauts met at Hanako’s house. “So the commander will be training us tomorrow. Shoyo said. “Yes.” Makamo replied. “We should make our wills, just in case.” she started to say. “Don’t say that!” Tomioka exclaimed. “We won’t die!”

The next morning, all the astronauts came to the space station and trained. They made an artificial rocket and practiced in it. After 4 months of training, the crew was ready. They met their new commander the day before they went to space. His name was Sabito San. He would tell them what to do in space. Sabito was like a gentle giant. He looked as if he was 6’2”. He was very intelligent and kind.

The next day, they went on the real ship that was being prepared when they were training. “Bye earth.” Iguro whispered. And off they went into the blackness and the stars.

3 years later.

“Iguro?” Makamo called. “Where are you?” “BOO!” Iguro exclaimed and jumped out from behind the wall. “Iguro!” Makamo yelled angrily. Iguro started to laugh while Makamo hit him. It had been 2 years since the crew was on earth. Everything was going great, Makamo and Iguro were now dating, and they were in contact with Sabito. Tomioka and Kanae came into the room. After Makamo had calmed down, she and Kanae went into their dormitory. They chatted for a while until Hanako came into the room. “Guys!” she exclaimed. We spotted something on the radar. They all rushed to the room, and found Tomioka, Shoyo, and Iguro there. “I-I think we found Eaesel. Iguro said. “What?!” Kanae shouted. “That can’t be possible, it’s only been 2 years!” “Yea this doesn’t make sense.” Makamo said. The ship started to rock. “Ahaaaaaaa!” they all screamed.

The ship landed on something solid. The crew was pretty bruised from the rocking of the ship. “Are we on the planet?” Hanako whispered. “I think so,” Shoyo replied. They put on their space helmets, and stepped out of the ship. Underneath their feet was sand. “Woah,” Iguro said.

Suddenly, the ground started to rumble. Some sort of stampede was coming towards them, an alien stampede. The crew didn’t run because they were too mesmerized by the aliens. The aliens were small as children, yet they carried the crew to some sort of palace. “Hagah lemu!” one of the aliens exclaimed.

They went inside the palace and on the throne, was the most beautiful woman they had ever seen. Beside her was a small child, as small as the aliens. The queen spoke in an unknown language to the aliens, and they placed the crew down. “I am Aoi,” the queen spoke in English,

with a voice as soft as cotton. "This is my son, Rui," she said and pointed to the boy. "I know you humans have known about our planet, and we're sending you to research on the planet.

The reason you have come here earlier than expected was because, when your ship entered my gravity, I pulled you here." "B-but why?" Hanako asked in a shivery voice. "Because..." she started to say but then covered her son's ears. "I'm dying, and the only way to save me is a special ingredient from earth. But the timeline before I die is 3 years. I want you all to go back to earth and come back to save me." "Only on one condition," Tomioka said. "What?" she said. "We get to tell our kind about you and this planet. "Promise," Aoi said. The alien said something in gibberish. "Since you've been on a long journey, we will let you stay at the palace for a few weeks before you start your journey again. The crew happily accepted to stay. "Follow me!" Rui exclaimed. They followed him to a huge room. Inside were 6 beautiful beds. The crew stayed there, and they treated them like family. Rui was like a little brother to them, and the queen was like an elder sister.

They ate delicious noodles with spice and sweet. After a few weeks, the crew was ready to go back to earth. They had already gotten the information they needed. Right when they were getting on the ship, Aoi's servant rushed to them. "Za Queen haz fainted!!" she yelled. The crew followed the alien back to the palace. They saw the unconscious queen. They all ran to her. "Aoi?" Hanako called. "Aoi!" Tomioka checked her pulse. "She's still alive!" He exclaimed. But it was too late. Hanako, Kanae and Makamo sobbed.

Iguro got up and yelled in frustration. "Ma?" A little voice whispered. Rui ran to his unconscious mother. Aoi faintly opened her eyes. "Rui-I love you." She whispered. Those were the last words Aoi said. "Ma!!" Rui shouted. "Ma!!"

After a few months the crew went back to earth and took Rui. The crew didn't tell humans about the planet. Rui was now living with them, but never forgot his mother. This was the last mission the crew went on.

Hansini Puttagunta
St. Nicholas School
Kiersten Wilkins

My Eyes

My eyes are my favorite thing about me. One reason my eyes are my favorite thing is they help me see my family. If I could not see my family I don't know what I would do. Another reason is they help me read and write. I need to know how to read and write for school. I can see the beautiful blue ocean and green trees and rivers in Tennessee. One of my favorite things my eyes help me do is play soccer. Soccer is one of my favorite things to do. The last reason my eyes are my favorite thing about me is they help me read the recipes when I bake with my dad. I love to bake with my dad!! My favorite thing we have made is snickerdoodle cookies. My eyes are the best part of me.

Harper Kimling
Nolan Elementary
Wendi Orenstein

Bob the Snake

This is an interactive read. There are two paths Bob the snake takes to catch his prey. Read on.

Bob the snake is slithering on the jungle floor searching for some prey. Bob just found his prey, a wild boar. Bob is sneaking up on the boar. Bob gets close then bites his prey. The prey thumps to the ground, and then Bob constricts his prey until it cannot move around. Before long, the boar does not have any breath left in its body.

Bob the snake is slithering on the jungle floor searching for some prey. Bob just found his prey, a wild boar. Bob is sneaking up on the boar. Bob gets close then a twig snaps, and the boar gets away. Bob tries to catch up to the boar, but Bob could not. Bob says, "For now, my tummy will hurt until I catch another."

Jackson Spain
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

Eliot the Newspaper Boy

Eliot was a ten-year-old boy who had many people who loved to see him come by on his old red bike. Eliot delivered newspapers to everyone in his neighborhood, and he got paid three dollars weekly! Oh, how everyone loved to see him with a big smile on his face, such a great boy.

Eliot also came by every Sunday to drop off newspapers, but one Sunday Eliot's neighbors noticed he stopped. Eliot decided for the three years that he had been saving his cash, that he would buy everyone a little Christmas present. "Oh, thank you Eliot," said Ms, Parker.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," is all Eliot heard that day. Eliot gave a gift to everyone knowing he would have to move. Eliot made everyone's day that early Sunday morning. Eliot left town, with a big smile on his face.

Kaylei Burt
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

How the Hummingbird Got its Feathers

Once a very long time ago, hummingbirds had plain feathers that were just brown and boring. So, a hummingbird asked a bluebird if he could have some feathers. The bluebird was nice and let the hummingbird have some feathers. The hummingbird went home.

The next day the same hummingbird ran into a robin. She was red and very kind. So the robin said, "I am so sorry that I ran into you. I wasn't paying attention. Would you like some of my feathers?" she asked. "Yes please," replied the hummingbird. So, the robin gave some red feathers to the hummingbird.

The next Morning, the hummingbird got more feathers from a goldfinch. Now the hummingbird looked as beautiful as ever, but he wanted one more color on him, green. He needed green, but he couldn't think of any bird that had green feathers. Then, the idea struck him, "a peacock!" he stated. So, he rushed to the zoo, and he found a peacock. It was colorful, so he asked if he could have some feathers. So the peacock let the hummingbird have some feathers.

The hummingbird thanked the peacock and went home. But, the peacock wasn't happy about losing a lot of his stunning feathers. So, the peacock planned and plotted. The peacock decided that he was going to sneak into the hummingbird's house and steal back his green feathers while the hummingbird was sleeping. Soon it was night, and the hummingbird was asleep, as well as the peacock.

Quickly and quietly the peacock crept into the hummingbird's room and found his feathers sitting on a table with other feathers. They were yellow, red, and blue. So, the peacock thought that if he took all of the feathers, he would look as beautiful as ever, and everybody would look up to him because of his stunning plumage. So, the peacock took all of the feathers, and as soon as he stepped outside, it was morning.

The hummingbird was awake, and saw the stunning multi-feathered peacock and was devastated, because he had worked so hard to collect all of the different colored feathers the peacock displayed, who quickly jumped into the bushes, so the hummingbird wouldn't see him. Unfortunately, it was too late, so the peacock went out of the bushes and went home. He thought and thought about what he had done. Suddenly he felt bad, guilty, and mad that he had stolen the hummingbird's feathers.

A few hours later, the peacock decided to go to the hummingbird and apologize, which he did. He also returned the feathers that the hummingbird had collected. The hummingbird accepted the colorful feathers, the peacock's apology, and they became friends. The hummingbird worked at placing the colorful feathers on his dull, brown body, and he became a very colorful hummingbird. Since that day, hummingbirds display vibrant colors.

Lola Wagley
Nolan Elementary
Jennifer Cisto

Zombies!

Chapter 1

I hate cars. I really can't wait until people can teleport. Every time I get in the car, I get carsick. Long rides in the car are the worst. So, you can guess that I did not want to drive from Florida to Tennessee in the car. It is a 7 hour car ride. But hey, it was a new chance to explore. Thankfully, we only have 30 minutes left. I set down my 1,400 page book about zombies and started thinking. I started with questions. Would I still be in 7th grade at my new school and be the smartest kid in my grade? Or would I still be in 5th grade like I should be. You see I had skipped 2 grades because I aced every test and quiz.

I looked over at Tria, my twin who was fast asleep. I smiled. It was rare to find a serious kid like Tria asleep in the car. But before I could stop myself, I was asleep too.

Chapter 2

I woke up in a totally new house. *I guess this is our new house.* My mom was right beside me. "You've been asleep for 3 hours. By the way, this house has lots of land around it. Why don't you go explore it? You always love to do that." I really do want to. But a voice in your head tells you not to. You ignore that thought. "Tria just woke up too." I sprinted out the door to explore the property. Later, I would find that that was the wrong decision.

Chapter 3

I was outside until dark. When I finally walked back to the house, I helped myself to a plate full of pizza, and mac- and cheese. The new house was very big and cool, but there was still a tingly feeling in my head. A thought, and a feeling also. Something like a sixth sense. There was something wrong. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I saw something moving behind me. I whipped my head around, with the pizza still in my mouth. Nothing. My heart was pounding so loudly that I could hear it. That was when I learned the truth. The house was haunted. The wind howled in the window. As I looked through it, that was when I saw them. A big group of people. No, there was no way. These weren't humans, these were the zombies.

Chapter 4

I tried to warn Tria, but all that I could get out was, "Zombies... threat... unsafe... outside" I felt horrible. I really did not want to barf up all of that yummy pizza. I tried not to scare her. They had a very close relationship. They were even twins.

As Tria listened to Rob talk about the zombies, a small thought came to her head. He always loved to joke around. This was all just a joke. She would go outside tonight and show him that he was just lying.

Suddenly, I woke up. I peered over to the grandfather clock. Twelve o'clock on the dot. I looked out the window. Then I saw the dark figures again. I sprinted to Tria's bedroom. She was not there.

Rob sprinted out the door , slammed it behind him and started running. I dodged thorn bushes, jumped over a large puddle, then skidded to a stop. It had not rained last night. The puddle was blood. "Tria!!!" I shouted. My voice echoed in the dark woods .No answer. I thought my heart might burst open because my heart was beating so hard. I started running again. I jumped over another dead body then I stopped again when I got to a big underground tunnel. I followed it underground. Then I got to a big room at the end of the tunnel. Then I heard the voices. "Kill her before the boy comes. Just turn her into a zombie. That will scare the boy!" "Great idea!" The other zombie explained.

It was too late. Tria was a zombie.It went out of my hiding place and into the room. Before I could stop it, Time seemed to slow down.The room was full of horrible, nasty, zombies.They were nothing like in the movies. They had 4 legs, three arms and purple, clammy skin.I heard Tria scream blue murder. The glowing fire underneath them made them even more creepy.Rows of poison were lined on the shelves. I wanted to run, but my feet felt like magnets on the ground. The zombies quickly saw me.They ran toward me, their nasty breath filling up my mouth and immediately making me gag. Then there was a blinding flash and a deafening *BANG. What was that?* I asked myself. Then all of the zombies except Tria were gone. *That must have been me.* Then suddenly, my legs could finally move. I moved toward the jars of poison, Right as I grabbed the jar, Tria charged toward me. I chucked the bottle at her as hard as I could. Then Tria's body rammed into mine and the world turned black.

I woke up in bed with Tria bent over beside me. "He's awake!!" she shouted. It was then when I realized that this was not the room in the haunted house. I also noticed that Tria was not a zombie. *How could that be true? I threw a bottle of poison at her.* "Are you OK? All I remember was going outside and seeing zombies and then... I don't remember what happened. Then I woke up and I was in a tunnel and you were unconscious." She said, " I threw a bottle of poison at you. How are you still alive?" I asked her. "It was a healing jar, not a poison jar. You saved me!! Also, mom said that you should get packing." "For what ?" I asked her. "For wizard school!!"

To be continued ...

Lily Pickett
The Bright School
Amanda Dickson

Miracle on the Course

“Good job Buttercup. We rode all the way from the barn to Alpine Ridge”, said May. Buttercup, the horse, whinnied in agreement. “That fall breeze is so amazing.” May said. “Now that we are at the barn, let’s get you into your stall”, sighed May. Here comes Billy, head of the barn called Billy’s stables, walking up behind May. “Oh wow! Billy you scared me”, said May trying to catch her breath. “Why aren’t you at church?” asked Billy. “Well, I haven’t gone to church since my Dad, you know, passed”, said May with small sparkling tears running down her face. Then an awkward silence came to the room. May, trying to lighten up the room said, “Well I gotta run! See you at the horse show this weekend!”. Then May’s mom pulled up saying, “Oh Hi Billy! So how is the barn doing?” Billy sighed and said “We have to sell the barn. We cannot afford it anymore.” “Oh I am so so sorry for you..” May’s mom said as the car door was shutting. Then a moment of silence came into the car. “I really wish you would come to church with us May”, grunted her mom. “You know I do not do that stuff anymore mom”, said May. “So are you ready for your competition coming up soon?” May’s mom asked anxiously, hoping that the tense moment was behind them. “Yes!” exclaimed May.

That next morning May’s alarm went off crazy. May, trying to turn it off, tumbled right out of bed falling face first on the floor. Everyday after school May would go to the barn to ride, take care of Buttercup, and feed horses. She needed a little extra cash which is why she would feed horses. So she rode to school on her bike with her light blue backpack with her name on it. May loved school. Her favorite part was her teacher, Mrs. Voss! Mrs. Voss always knew how to cheer her up when she was sad. May learned soon.” That night Lucy took a photo of her and May in the hospital and posted it. It said they needed money for May’s surgery and that it was a miracle she lived. Lucy spent the night in May’s hospital so much while she was at school. May’s friend Lucy taught her how to whistle in first grade. They are both in Mrs. Voss’s class. Mrs. Voss taught 4th grade. Lucy and May are best friends. Lucy goes to May’s barn too! After school May said to Lucy, “Let;s do to the barn and get ready for the show this weekend.” May and Lucy go to the barn. “Hey Lucy, let’s go on the cross country course since Billy is not here,” said May. “But May, you know that we are not allowed on the cross country course without him being here.” said Lucy feeling very strongly about this. “Lucy, do you really think I will fall off?”, asked May. “Well...no. Oh okay, let;s do it!” shouted Lucy. Then May pointed to the “C” course. The “C” course is far too difficult for May. Lucy, looking surprised, said, “May you cannot go on the “C” course”! May, hopping on Buttercup yelled, “Billy said I could do it!”. He really did not. May felt very bad that she had lied to her best friend but still went on. A little nervous, she approached the first jump flying high into the air in a perfect two point position. She landed perfectly! Lucy trembled in fear because if May fell she could die. Next thing she knew May was landing her third jump. May looking at the fourth jump was very unsteady. May had never jumped that high. May was flying and it seemed like nothing mattered in the world and it was just her and her horse. Something happened that she just snapped out of it and her right foot came out of the stirrup. Next thing she knew, she was on the ground and being dragged by Buttercup. Then everything went black. Lucy went running out and crying, “May! May!” Are you okay?” May did not answer. Lucy ran for her bag to get her phone and did the only thing she knew to do...call 911. Then soon after she heard the sirens and May could see a blur of Lucy crying. Next May heard the beeping of a heart monitor. May also heard Lucy waiting in a chair and her mom talking to the doctor. Both of

them were crying. Then for the first time in three days, May was awake and even talking! May asked, "What happened?" Lucy and May's mom were crying even more but this time they were tears of joy. May's mom and Lucy came running and hugging May so much. The doctor answered May's question and said, "You were in a coma. It's really a miracle that you lived." In that moment May realized that God saved her life. May knew that God is her Savior. Even though she was mad at God, He saved her. Then the doctor said, "You have to have surgery room that night. The next morning Lucy got her phone to see how many people answered her post. May asked her to turn on the TV so Lucy did. Then Lucy could not believe how many people responded to her post. Lucy and May saw that the photo was on the news! Millions and millions of people started to send money to them for the surgery! Lucy screamed, "So many people have sent money that we have forty thousand dollars!" said Lucy, May replied, "That is over the amount we need. Wait wait...hold the phone! With the rest we can save Billy's stables!" God made this miracle happen, and He makes others happen.

Mary Margaret Gillis
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Lisa Voss

Ella and the Three Keys Book One

One day a little girl named Ella was sitting at home petting her cat Coco. She was in front of the Christmas tree looking at her grandmother's ornaments. This one ornament was so special to her because she never got to experience what most kids her age had gotten. All she wanted was to have the comfort of a grandparent. She looked down at Coco and said, "10 days left until Christmas--that's it!" You see, Ella was very shy to most people, but to her cat and family, she was very very brave. It was 9:00 pm so at her bed time she heard her dad say, "Ella, time for bed." So she got Coco and went up to her room.

She got up to her room and fell asleep. She woke up and saw it was only 11:00 pm, so she woke up Coco to go get water. She went to the kitchen and got a cup to fill with water. She also got a bowl for milk, obviously for Coco. She was walking to the stairs. As soon as she put her foot on the first step, she heard a sharp cracking sound by the Christmas tree. She went to investigate.

She looked in horror when she saw that her grandmother's ornament was shattered. She hugged her cat in fear as a misty being appeared. The spirit told her what she had done and how she could fix it. You must go into the forest and find three keys: the key of kindness, generosity, and trust.

Ella agreed to take on this challenge, so she grabbed her backpack as she headed outside to the forest. The spirit stopped her. "No this way," and she turned around to see him pointing at the shattered ornament. "What the crap!" she screamed as she got sucked into the ornament. She held Coco as she fell. Suddenly, she saw a big lake. She landed face first in the cold ice water. It was the middle of winter.

"How rude," Ella said. Coco was hunched over coldly. The spirit laughed very rudely. She grabbed some clothes and a blanket out of her backpack. She went behind a tree and changed. As she changed, Coco wandered into the woods. She wandered around and started to look for Coco. She found Coco, because she put out a sharp hissing noise. She also found the first key, the kindness key, in a bush by an old water spout, so she ran home. It was perfect timing too. She went up to her room, changed into pajamas, stuck the key in her drawer, put her backpack away in the drawer, and headed to bed. An hour later, her mom woke her up for santa pictures. Ella put her Christmas dress on and her Santa headband. They went and got in the car. After Santa pictures, she sat by the Christmas tree with Coco. "Only 9 days until Christmas!" she exclaimed while talking to Coco.

Maddie Carden
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

Untitled

One morning during our trip to the mountains, I woke to excitement in the air. “What are we doing today?” I asked my parents. The most amazing thing came out of my mother’s mouth: “We are going to go explore down in the Crystal Cave!” I felt a surge of excitement and began jumping up and down. I had never explored a cave before!

Crystal Cave was deep beneath Big Fish Mountain. The entrance to the cave was dark and cavernous, and I felt an icy breeze from inside. In the first chamber, there were lots of little twinkling crystals from wall to wall, and top to bottom. It was beautiful, and I wanted to stay and look more, but our guide just kept leading us down a long, rocky passageway. As we walked deeper into the cave, the tunnel began to get smaller, and smaller, and Mom started looking nervous. I think she was getting a little worried about running out of air. Then I caught a glimpse of a light on the path near my feet. I reached to touch it. The glimmer was an enormous crystal, right there on the floor of the cave! The crystal was smooth, deep purple, and dirty, but when I brushed the dirt off it, it was amazingly shiny! I called out to my parents excitedly. Mom and Dad were amazed when they saw how big it was. Even our tour guide seemed awed. He told us that I had uncovered the most valuable crystal in the cave! We couldn’t believe it.

In the middle of our excitement, we suddenly heard flapping noises overhead. At first, I thought it was a helicopter, but that didn’t make sense. Then, I heard squeaking noises and looked up. That’s when I realized it was BATS!! Thousands of little brown bats were fluttering past us, everywhere! My mom immediately began screaming because she is afraid of bats. She started running back the way we had come as fast as she could. I tried not to laugh, but it was no use. I laughed and laughed, all while running behind her out of the cave.

When we finally got out of the long, twisty cave, my poor mom sat down, panting. My dad told her to take some deep breaths. Inhale-exhale. After a while, I think she felt a little better. I told her that I was sorry that I laughed at her, and she forgave me. Then we remembered the crystal! I still had it in my hand. It was a happy ending to my day in the Crystal Cave.

Madelaine Ellis
St. Peter’s School
Jennifer von Klar

Luna's Birthday

It was Luna's birthday. She was so happy she could blow up! Luna's birthday was a pond party. She went to get her friends and the big floats.

Luna and her friends got in the pond. When everyone got hungry, she asked what they would like to eat. Her mom said, "We will eat barks and bugs, your favorite foods!" Luna and her friends were getting bored, so they ate.

Luna's friends were Spark, Moon, and Paw. She called them to eat, and they all ran to the table. Luna got the biggest slice. Luna stated, "You all eat like pigs." Luna was about to do the same thing, but she remembered she was nine moons old.

They watched Luna open presents. There were five. The first one was a bone. After all of the presents were opened, Luna had a bone, rock, flower, plant, and pillow. It was a good birthday.

Nevaeh Thompson
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

Hedgehog

Did you know the hedgehog can run at speeds of twelve mph? That is fast for running away from humans, dogs, or cats. The hedgehog mostly lives in forests and back yards. It is tan and has lots of spikes coming out of its back.

The hedgehog's main defense mechanism is having large spikes on its back. If a predator approaches a hedgehog, the hedgehog will stun the predator by shooting its spikes. The predator will definitely go looking for food somewhere else.

Another defense mechanism of the hedgehog is its speed. Running at twelve mph is pretty fast. Many predators cannot keep up.

The hedgehog has some amazing things it can do to protect itself. Shooting spikes and running fast are really cool defense mechanisms. What are your defense mechanisms?

Ridge Humphrey
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

The Dolphin

The dolphin can be light or dark grey. Its skin is very smooth. Dolphins can swim thirty-seven mph! The dolphin lives in warm harbors and bays. It eats fish. Dolphins are mammals and they can weigh 200 kg-300 kg (44lbs-660lbs)! Dolphins also have many predators such as sharks, orca-killer whales, and humans. Dolphins use their incredible speed as one of many defense mechanisms. On top of that, dolphins even use communication.

When dolphins use their speed to protect themselves, they will zoom through the water. The dolphin's speed makes it hard for people to catch the dolphin, then kill it. Sharks are really fast also but not fast enough. Sharks can only swim thirty-one mph. The dolphin easily outswims the shark.

Dolphins can also use communication when a killer whale comes around at thirty-five mph. The dolphin will use its communication to ask a pod of dolphins for help. This is another helpful defense mechanism.

Dolphins are very special and different animals. They have very cool defense mechanisms, which they use to protect themselves from predators. Speed and communicating with other dolphins are just two of them.

Savannah Ingle
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

The Clock Maker

Once upon a time there lived a clock maker and his wife. Their names were Matt and Smith Clock. Matt and Smith lived in a small house in a deep scary forest. Matt's biggest dream was to make a clock that would take you back in time, but the only problem was the wolves in the forest. The wolves would come and take the dream clock pieces that he was working on. One day, they were waiting in the forest for Matt and Smith to come out. When Matt and Smith came to look for the wolves, the wolves went to go get the time clock, but the door was locked. The law of the forest was that you can not lock your door. So, the wolves could put them in jail. When Matt and Smith came back, they got arrested and got put in jail for a day. The only reason that Matt locked the door was because his time clock was finished. The clock only took you to different places not back in time, so they went back to the house to try to fix it. When they went back to the house the wolves picked up their scent. They had to work fast. Matt had a plan; he gave some money to Smith and said, "go get a full-grown guard dog and come back. When you come back, chain him up at the front door and then come back inside so the wolves do not see you." So, she did. When she came back, she said, "we need a name for the dog, 'Beast'" she said. Matt did not want to name the dog, but he did. They got a collar for Beast, and they chained him to the front door to guard the door in case the wolves found them. The pack of wolves did find them, but Matt hid the clock with all of his normal clocks, so the wolves did not find it. At the last second, the wolves came in, and the leader said, "where is the time clock?" Then Matt said, "we got rid of it". The wolves got mad. The leader said, "destroy everything!". Then Beast came running in. Beast tackled the wolves but one of the wolves grabbed the time clock. Matt goes to track the wolves and they lead him to their den. Matt grab's Beast to track the wolf's scent. When Matt gets there, he sees that they were trying to help fix the time clock with all of the pieces of the clocks that they took. They were going to give the time clock to him as a gift. They were going to make it so that you could go places and go back in time. When the clock was done, they gave it to him on his birthday and from that day, Matt and the wolves worked as partners. The End.

Sierra Grace Boland
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Mandy Masterson

Deer

Most deer are brown. Female deer do not have antlers, and they are called does. Of course, male deer have antlers and are called bucks. They also live in a lot of different places, like wetlands and the woods. The deer's predators are foxes, bears, cats, jaguars, lions, and coyotes. Their defense mechanisms are using their antlers and or hooves to defend themselves and running away.

Predators, including humans, do not need to get too close to deer because they can cause some damage if threatened. They might kick or stab with their antlers. Whitetail deer protect themselves by being able to run thirty miles per hour. Adult males weigh up to 300 pounds, and females weigh up to 125 pounds. Deer have a maximum life span of twenty years, but few deer live past ten years old.

Deer can jump very high and far, and they are very good swimmers. When fighting, they stand up on their hind legs and slash out at each other with both feet. Their sharp hooves are wicked weapons, too.

Deer are beautiful creatures. They will protect themselves when approached by predators by running away or fighting. I just wish they would stay out of the road so they would not get hit by vehicles. Watch out for deer crossing!

Peyton Shipley
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

The Kid that Learned His Lesson

“Hey buddy, ready to go to tryouts?” said Coby’s dad.

“Yep!” yelled Coby from his bedroom. Coby and his dad got into the car and drove to the ballfield. “Well, this must be the place,” said Coby’s dad. “Hey, Coby, why don’t you go out there and field some ground balls like the other kids while I go talk to the coaches.” Coby takes off running to the infield and joins the other kids. Coby’s dad walked over to the coaches and introduced himself, “Hello, I’m Jim nice to meet you.”

“Nice to meet you Jim, I’m James the head coach of the Owls.”

Coach James called everyone to the pitcher’s mound to explain what they will be looking for. They worked on hitting, fielding, base running, and pitching. Coby was somewhat confident he was going to make the team. As Jim and Coby walked to the car to leave, the coach called out “You’ll find out if your son made the team or not hopefully tomorrow.”

As they were driving home, Coby’s mom called, “Hey how did tryouts go?”

Coby said, “I thought they went amazing.”

When they got home it was late and Coby was tired from tryouts so he went to bed. The next morning, Jim got a phone call from Coach James welcoming Coby to the Owls. Coby was thrilled. He was also excited to find out that his first game was tomorrow. “Wake up dad, wake up dad! We need to go in twenty minutes!” said Coby. As they ate breakfast Coby found out they were playing a bad team that Coby had crushed before. When they got there he was ready to crush them, but his team lost 12-3. Coby’s team also went on a 7 game losing streak. Coby was not used to losing and wanted to join a new team. His parents tried talking him out of it because they did not want their son to be the kind of kid who abandoned his team just to win. But they could not talk him out of it. So he joined a new team that was ranked #2 in the league, the Elites. His new team went on a 7 game winning streak, but he hardly saw any playing time. Later in the season the Elites faced the Owls. Coby just knew his team would demolish his old team. Coby was shocked when it came down to the final inning. Tied 9-9 his old team hit a walk off double to win. Now his old team, the Owls, had a guaranteed spot in the playoffs. Coby asked his parents if he could rejoin the Owls.

His parents replied, “No, you are just wanting to rejoin them to win and what does that teach you? Nothing. It is not always about the score of the game. It is about not abandoning you teammates that depend on you. It is about leading your teammates and giving 110% no matter what. Even if it’s on the bench.”

Coby thought about what they said. He replied, “I understand and I was wrong.”

Coby’s team made it to the championship and guess who met them there...? His old team, the Owls. After the coaches shook hands, the umpire yelled, “Play ball!” The Elites took the field and the Owls scored two runs on a single and two doubles. The score remained 2-0 until the bottom of the fourth inning. The Elites hit a homerun but then stranded the bases loaded to end the fourth inning. They went into the fifth and final inning with a score 2-1, the Owls were up, but they failed to score...keeping it a one run deficit for the Elites. The Owls had their best pitcher on the mound. The first batter grounded out. The second batter struck out. Two outs.

The third batter hit a double. After not playing at all, the Elite's coach gave Coby a chance to be the hero and put him in as the DH. As Coby walked out, he looked at his mom and dad in the bleachers, his coaches, and his teammates. He looked at the pitcher and then the ball. Strike one. Here's the pitch. Strike two. Coby called for time and stepped out of the box and took a few good swings and got back in the box. Here came the pitch. Coby swung with all his might but the ball curved and just missed his bat. Strike 3. Owls win!

Coby walked back to the dugout with his head hung while his old teammate's dog piled the pitcher. Coby thought about what his parents had told him. He thought to himself that he deserved this. In the end, he was happy for the Owls and walked out to congratulate them on their championship win.

Will Spickard
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Mrs. Voss

Fifth Grade

Prose



Being Lazy Has Consequences

“Work faster! These crops must be picked by noon!” the chief reminded the people angrily. It was a hot summer day in the Mayan city of Tikal. Men and women, big and small, were bent down in the fields, their backs aching, struggling to do their work properly. The people were working as hard as they could to provide food for their family. Lethargic began working as fast as she could, she glanced up the hill and saw the king’s daughters sleeping peacefully on their brightly decorated patio. Lethargic frowned jealously at the thought of the rich girls not working while she had to.

Lethargic had been five years old when she started working in the fields. That’s until she nearly broke her back in two, climbing up a tree to pick the lemons. The doctor said if it was any worse she would have died. She was allowed many months to heal. She loved lying around the house, staring at the ceiling. Once she was healed, her father told her it was time to go back to work. “No father, may I please not go back to work? I’m so sore!” “No child, you must work to get food for the family,” he said sternly. Once she went back to work, Lethargic pretended she was weak, stumbling while she walked, and made it look like she did not have the strength to carry baskets of crops.

Lethargic had an idea. She was going to break her arm on purpose to get more time off work. In order to do that, she grabbed the biggest rock she could find, and slammed it down against her arm. She dropped down to the ground, with pain and shock stabbing her. The workers carried her to her house where she rested. “Yes! Six more months off work,” she whispered to herself. She kept breaking her bones, because the ruler couldn’t make her work with a broken bone. The people began wondering how Lethargic had broken her arm and her back. Another good thing from breaking her arm, was that she met her best friend, Tikal. When he was of age, Tikal entered Pok-ta-pok, a religious ball game of the Mayan people. Lethargic told him not to, because he could be killed, but he did not listen because it was a childhood dream of his.

On the game day, Lethargic did not bother to go because after so long with no work, she had forgotten how to walk! Itzama was the most important god who rewarded hard workers. Lethargic annoyed him from the beginning, but it was not in his power to punish a child. Today was the day Itzama was going to punish Lethargic. Itzama had a quick meeting with the Council of Punishment, and they determined that the punishment was okay.

The crowd cheered loudly at the Pok-ta-pok game. Tikal and his team got into position, and as soon as the shell was blown, disaster struck. BOOM! The crowd went silent. The other team had won. Tikal would be used as a human sacrifice. Lethargic’s mother ran to her house where, as usual, Lethargic was sleeping.

“Lethargic, Lethargic, wake up!” she screamed. Lethargic shot up. “What, what?” she asked, confused. “It’s Tikal, he lost!” It was her punishment, Tikal losing. She burst into tears. “I’m too late,” she whined.

After Tikal's death, Lethargic was determined to become fit once again. She still had some physical damage from always being injured, but Lethargic had learned her lesson: being lazy has consequences. Many years later, Lethargic had a son whom she named Tikal. She taught him well, and her son became the most hardworking person in the village.

Anna Blaire Barton
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Jennifer von Klar

Untitled

SWISH! A spider monkey swings from vine to vine. CAW CAW! A flock of scarlet macaws soars through the blue sky. Rainforests are major ecosystems and without them, many animal species would suffer. Sadly, many of them are being destroyed for timber and to make room for crops. Luckily, there are a few ways that you can help save them.

One way to help save rainforests is by eliminating deforestation from your diet. Many foods we love to eat are grown on deforested land. The article "Ten Things You Can do to Save the Rainforest" states, "For example, beef, soybean, and palm oil are main drivers of deforestation in the Amazon basin." so this explains that if we stop eating these foods we can help lower contribution to companies that sell and grow these on deforested land.

Another way we can help rainforests is by donating money to help stop deforestation. Thousands of acres of rainforest are being destroyed every day, so if we could help prevent this we could save both the rainforest and the animals that live inside it. The article "Young Activists Raise Money to Save Rainforests" says, "With other kids, the group organized a local run for the Rainforest that raised more than \$700. The money helped Rainforest Trust save more than 1,000 acres of rainforest land." This shows us that doing fundraisers and donating money, really can make a difference in saving the rainforest.

One more way we can help the rainforest is by not purchasing certain types of animals. The article "Preserving the Rainforest" states, "Many animals from the rainforests are brought to our country illegally. Parrots and iguanas, for example, are often imported illegally." so this tells us that if we stop purchasing these animals, along with many other illegally imported animals, we can help by not encouraging people to import more.

In conclusion, we can help protect the rainforests in many different ways, and these are just a few of the ways we can help. So, how will you choose to help the rainforests. It's our world, and it's worth protecting.

Avery Simmons
Nolan Elementary
Leslie MacPike

A Man's Best Friend

Eyeing him for the first time was the best time of my life. He was chocolate colored and had big blue puppy eyes. Of course, he looked like chocolate since he was a Chocolate Lab, but most of all he reminded me of a teddy bear for how sweet and cuddly he looked. I wanted to give him all the love and affection I had. I decided to name him Teddy.

"Me and Teddy are going to be best friends till we die! He's the one!" I said proudly.

"I agree, Adam, he's a keeper," said Dad.

I bet Dad wants to train him to be a hunting dog. That's probably the reason we're getting a dog.

Going home to the farm with him I snuggled him and never wanted to let him go.

"Adam, you're gonna have to let him go," said Mom.

"Never!" I yelled.

"You need to let him get used to the farm," said Dad.

"Fine." I mumbled.

Once I let him go, he ran crazy fast. "Teddy!" I screamed. He kept running as I yelled, until he got tired. I picked him up and laughed as he was panting. Thankfully I got a collar on Teddy. I used our leftover food to teach him the basics- sit, lay, and shake. Now he was doing what I taught him on demand for Momma's great cooking. The days I wasn't busy with chores I got to show my pals my dog. They loved to play and run in the fields with him. After the day he would lay in bed with me and sleep till I finally woke him up with my kisses. Sadly, sometimes I never get to play with him depending on my chores. Chores got harder since Mom gave birth to Iris, my baby sister. Teddy sometimes sniffs Iris and she starts crying. My parents say she is scared of Teddy, but she probably cries just because she's a baby. My family has always been poor until my dad got the offer to be Sheriff, but we've been eating fine since Dad got that job. Sadly his new job isn't all good.

One day out of the blue my dad seemed depressed. He wasn't eating or smiling and he wasn't playing with Teddy anymore. He also could care less about Mom or Iris. Today I felt like talking to him.

"Dad, can you please tell me what's wrong?" I asked anxiously.

"I guess..." sighed Dad. "My best friend since the womb died" said Dad depressingly.

"Huh, how?"

"Sadly, a criminal who has been wanted for years robbed and killed him," said Dad.

"We can't give up like this. We must avenge him!" I yelled with revenge in my eyes. Teddy looked up at me concerned. Dad looked up proud as ever.

"Let's go!" said Dad.

As I went down to the police station with my dad and Teddy, I suggested we make Teddy a Police Dog. Dad felt anxious for the dog's safety but agreed. Once we got there everybody was getting ready to track a criminal.

"What are y'all doing?" demanded Dad.

"We're getting ready to attack Big Ben," said a Policeman.

"No one needs to get hurt like my friend Fred," said Dad.

"Buckle up gentlemen!" yelled Chief.

During the mission two people died and the criminal got away.

"Ahh!" the Policeman screamed, "if only we had a police dog to sniff him out and help," sighed Chief.

“You can use Teddy. He’s smart, reliable, and noble...and I’ll be with him,” I bragged.

“WHAT?!” he screamed. “You sure about that, Sheriff?”

“Yes.”

“I don’t have to do anything important. I just have to help Teddy.”

“Fine,” said Dad and Chief.

We took Teddy around to see if he could smell out the criminal. Teddy found the criminal’s base and we got good information on where he’s gonna rob next. “Seems like he’s robbing the train tomorrow,” said Chief.

When I woke up the next day, I was nervous for our safety and if we were gonna catch Big Ben. My family and I prayed at breakfast for God to watch over us. As soon as we got ready to go in the train we said “good luck” and “goodbye” to each other in case we never see each other again. Once on the train I was a spy for the Police.

“I see him!” We told people to duck behind their chairs so they wouldn’t get shot. Bang! Bang! Guns shot back and forth while I held Teddy in fear, then Teddy started running. He ran right at the bad guy and knocked him over, but while trying to grab his gun, Bang! “TEDDY!” I yelled, tears coming down my face as my dad shot the criminal. I noticed his side bleeding and his face seemed like he was in a lot of pain. “Teddy, don’t leave me now! I finally found someone who I can love forever.”

Now I know what it feels like to lose your best friend.

“Adam, all dogs die,” said Dad trying to make me feel better.

“We’ll get a new dog. Besides, we had him for a year,” said Mom patting my back.

“He’s more than a dog, he’s my friend!” I bawled.

After that day I haven’t seen Teddy since they took him to see a Veterinarian in the city, but the city is an hour away so I can’t walk there.

Today I turned 13. My parents walked in with a quilt covering something. I took it off and immediately started crying. “Teddy! You’re alive and you’re home!” I shouted.

“Luckily the man shot his side and only damaged a few parts in his body. That’s why he hasn’t been here for 2 months because he was healing,” said Dad.

Ever since then, Teddy and I have been on an adventure with the Policemen and we have been very successful. Teddy has become “Man’s Best Friend” in my heart.

Copelyn Levitt

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Caroline Marks

The Monkey and The Hunter

Have you heard the legend of the monkey's paw? If not, then I will tell you. The monkey's paw will grant you five wishes. Well, not all monkey paws, only a certain type of monkey called the albino monkey. There was only one albino monkey in China and every hunter wanted to get his paw. The monkey knew this, for he wasn't a dumb monkey but rather very smart. So he built his hut up above all the bamboo trees. A certain hunter wanted the paw the most. He was the best hunter in all of China. He wanted to use the monkey's paw to become the best hunter in all the world. The monkey knew this hunter well. The hunter had tried to capture the monkey for over three years. The monkey was tired of all of this and planned to go to America where he would be protected by the government. So the monkey went to a shop and stole a ticket. The hunter spotted him and shot him with a tranquilizer gun! The hunter brought the monkey to his house to cut off his paw. When the monkey woke up the hunter was getting his knife ready to cut off his paws. When the hunter opened the cage the monkey ran out and went to the docks. The monkey almost missed his ship, but got there just in time. So the monkey was going to America. He woke up to the sound of horns blowing above him. He got to the top of the mast and jumped to land. Just as his feet touched the ground a tranquilizer dart flew through the air and hit him in the neck.

Elijah Hinkle
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Caroline Marks

Andrew's Adventure on Squid Island

'Rrrrrrrr' (crackle) (crackle) "This," (crackle) "Is your pilot speaking..." (crackle) (crackle) "The plane is crashing!" (crackle) ... 'wsh, wsh, caw, caw' "Huh? Where am I? Why is everything black? Who am I? Wait, ... I'm Andrew," Andrew announced to no one in particular. Then he walked down the beach. There was a sign. Andrew then read from the sign, "Ahead is the The Vast Ocean Named Ink. Where you are standing is Black Beach. OK, so I'm on Black Beach. Wait, what if this island is dangerous?" Andrew thought. Andrew got to picking up large logs. "What? How is there a forest on a remote island? I want to explore it!" Andrew exclaimed.

Andrew went into the forest. "These trees are gigantic! I don't think I've ever seen trees so huge!" Andrew exclaimed. "I just wish I wasn't lost." Andrew was still so amazed, so he unknowingly turned right. "Rrrrrrrr" "This is your pilot speaking... we're gonna' crash!" This is Andrew's first memory. After a bit, he accidentally turned right again. Suddenly, he arrived at the beach again. "Huh?" Andrew was confused. "Maybe this forest is like a squid's tentacles, therefore I shall call it the Tentacle Forest." Andrew then turned around and went back into the forest. Five minutes later... Andrew arrived at a river full of squid. Then Andrew said, "Aw, man! This is gonna' be impossible to cross!" Just after he said it, he saw a door in the water. He dove in, and opened the door. "It's so dark in here," Andrew said. While his eyes adjusted, he saw matches and torches on the wall. Andrew lit the torches with the matches. He walked down the tunnel for a bit, and he caught a glimpse of something moving. "Hey, is anyone there!" he called down the tunnel. "Yeah!" called a voice. Soon Andrew saw another man.

"Hello," said the man, "I'm Bill." "Nice to meet you Bill, I'm Andrew." "Nice to meet you as well," said Bill. Then, suddenly another of Andrew's memories come back. He sees people, walking, running, biking, but the faces are blurred. Then, it stops. "What happened?" Andrew said as he got up off the ground. "It looked like you were having a nightmare and fell to the ground," explained Bill. "Oh," Andrew said. "Hey Bill, is there any way to get off of this island?" Bill answers, "Not that I know of, but Mr. Elder, the leader of The Village on the Eye, might know." "Excellent!" Andrew says. "How do I get there?" "Take my elevator, I made it myself," Bill replies. "Awesome," said Andrew as he left. He hears Bill say something to him, but Andrew doesn't quite make it out. Andrew takes the elevator up to the surface, and it's the middle of the night. 'Wssssshhhhh tkk.' An arrow whizzed past Andrew's ear, just barely missing him. "What the... just then another arrow whizzed by, so Andrew ran. Andrew ran, and ran, and ran until he hit something. "Oof," just then, did Andrew know what he was running from. "Aaahhh!" Terror rushes over Andrew as he sees the armored, and definitely alive, skeleton. This must have been what Bill was talking about. Just then he sees the pool water. He pushes the skeleton into the water and it, somehow, drowns. Andrew picks up the bow and arrows that the skeleton dropped, and uses them to protect himself. Not long after, the sun rises, the remaining skeletons turn to piles of bone, which dissolve into the ground, which grow more grass. "This island sure is strange," Andrew says.

After a minute of watching what looks to be a cow, he has another memory. Andrew now sees a restaurant, serving delicious food, but the faces are still blurred. Then, the memory stops. Andrew starts to walk. Not long after, he finds the very village he was looking for. "Hello, can

you point me in the direction of Mr. Elder?” Andrew asks a random man. “Well, you’re talking to him,” he replied. Then, Andrew said, “Can you tell me how to” ... and there is another memory. Andrew sees a neighborhood with lots of people, doing lots of things. It suddenly stops. “Now, as I was saying, can you tell me how to get off of this island?” “Well, rumor has it that the peak of The Mountain on the Other Eye has a way off this island,” said Mr. Elder. “That’s excellent!” Andrew exclaimed. “Can you show me the way?” “Of course I can! I am the one who defeated the skeletons for the people,” Mr. Elder said. “You need to rest up first, oh by the way, what’s your name?” “Andrew,” Andrew replied. “Oh and Mr. Elder, what is that river in the forest called?” “It’s known as The Squid River.” says Mr. Elder, as he shows Andrew a room. Suddenly, Andrew collapses. This time the memory is of school. He sees children playing, and teachers teaching, but this time, the faces aren’t blurred. He sees himself on the playground. Andrew remembers everything. “I must get to that mountain now,” Andrew told Mr. Elder. “I would take you right now, but the journey is very long. I will take you at nightfall,” said Mr. Elder. “That’s fine,” said Andrew. Twenty minutes later... Andrew and Mr. Elder set out to the Mountain on the Other Eye. Very soon they find a skeleton. “AAAHHH!” shrieked Mr. Elder as he ran behind Andrew. “You coward,” Andrew said while using his bow. “You have nothing to fear.” They hiked, they fought, hiked some more, and fought some more, until they arrived at they’re destination. “Finally,” Andrew said, and suddenly the Mountain on the Other Eye revealed an elevator. “Sweet,” said Andrew. Then they took the elevator. When they reach the top, they find a man.

“Hello,” said the man “Where do you want to go?” “Lookout Mountain, Georgia.” Andrew replied. ‘Tkk, tkk, tkk, crrrrpsh’ “I shall not let you go there until you call 21 people up here to say goodbye,” said the man. Andrew said, “I want everyone from The Village on the Eye, and Bill from the mines. Suddenly, everyone Andrew wanted was here! “Thank you so much everyone. Goodbye! I’ll be back soon!” “Now I shall let you go through the portal,” said the man. Now, after everything that had happened, Andrew left Squid Island.

Graham Tomas
Chattanooga Christian School
Lisa Tallent

The Journey

“Are we almost there?” asked Georgia.

“We are 5 minutes away.” said Georgia’s dad. Georgia was so excited to see her new house. She then saw it. She was the first one to get out of the car and unpack. She was so excited. After Georgia and her family were unpacked and settled in, Georgia and her sister Madison had to go to school. So they went to Lakestone Academy. Georgia loved her new school and her new house. Georgia made lots of friends and was a straight A student. One day Georgia’s dad got a new job being a pastor at Lakestone which was also a church. Georgia loved everything but thought something didn’t seem right. It took her a few weeks but she figured it out. She wanted to become a missionary. But she thought she was too young but God was calling her.

“You want to be a missionary!” Said Madison when Georgia told her.

“Yes, God is calling me.” Georgia replied.

“But you are too young.” Answered Madison.

“No, well God would provide for me.” Said Georgia.

“When would you go, and where would you go?” Questioned Madison.

“I don’t know yet.” Georgia said back.

“But you’re only 15 years old!” Said Madison.

“I know, I just need to do it now, or soon.” Georgia replied. Georgia thought this was something she needed to do, she just didn’t know how. But the next day Georgia told her parents about this. They thought she was crazy. But one day God spoke to Georgia’s dad. So Georgia’s dad and mom thought and thought, it took a year but God convinced them. They told Georgia she could go as long as she stayed in the country. But Georgia did not want this, she wanted to go to Africa. Her parents said no though. But God convinced them again. So it took another year, but they said Georgia could go to Africa.

“Thank you mom and dad for letting me go!” Georgia said excitedly when her parents said she could go to Africa. Georgia was done with school even though she was only seventeen years old. She was going to be a missionary to Africa instead of going to college. Georgia was so excited she could hardly wait. But it was finally time for Georgia to go. She was all packed up and about to leave. Georgia was really excited but also nervous and scared. She knew though, that God would protect her and provide for her.

“Bye, we love you.” Said Georgia’s mom and dad.

“Bye,” Said Madison.

“Bye, I love y’all.” Said Georgia as she left. She was finally going, she was very scared. She took a taxi to a boat dock and then got on a boat that was headed to Africa. She soon made it to Africa safely. She didn’t know what to do. But God told her to build a house. So she got materials and built a house. Then she went on a walk and went far away from her house. Then she found a tribe named Trikamue. They got mad and burnt her house down when she told them about the gospel. So Georgia didn’t have a home, but she didn’t care because she found her own food and shelter. She met another tribe which was the Chankue tribe. They helped her know their language. Georgia told the gospel to that tribe, and all of them became Christians! She found a lot of other tribes and some of them became Christians. Two years past and Georgia told a lot of tribes about the gospel. One day Georgia got malaria! She found a tribe though and they tried to heal her but they made it worse! It took a whole year for her to recover! She was now twenty years old and she told more and more tribes about the gospel. One tribe tried to attack her and

she hid in a field of tall grass. But then she heard a growl not knowing what it was she ran as fast as she could and did not look back. She was safe now. The next day she found another tribe and she preached to them and more people became believer. So far 37 people had become Christians. But Georgia missed her family. The only thing was she didn't have any money. So she snuck on a boat that was headed to America. The boat ride was hard because she had to hide the whole time. It took two months but she got to America. She then had to walk the rest of the way because she didn't have any money. She was in Alabama and needed to get to Tennessee. She didn't know where her house was but she somehow made it to her house. But it took her 12 months to get to her house. When she made it, she figured out her sister moved to Ohio and her mom and dad were very old and died the day after Georgia got there. Georgia was very sad. She went back to Africa on a boat that she had to sneak on. She was a missionary to Africa the rest of her life. Georgia was a good person and because of her 62 people became Christians.

Kendyl Creekmore
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Mrs. Melissa Wilson

The Story Of Elliot Gold

There once was a kid named Elliot Gold who was born in a hospital, just like everyone else. But, the night he was born he was abandoned by his own family, they put him on a doorstep in a little town, leaving a note on a notepad that said, "Erlanger East Hospital" and his name scribbled across the front. The owners of the house he was left at, found him and called him their own, their names were Donnie and Lu. They took good care of Elliot, until he ran away from home with one thought in his mind. He wanted to find his birth parents, so he made it his life goal. First, he had to find out where they lived. He racked his brain trying to think of anything that could possibly give him a clue as to where they lived. Then it hit him, he pulled out a little note from his pocket, with his name and his birth hospital. It was the only thing he had left of his parents so he always kept it with him.

Immediately, he called the hospital and asked about births that took place on December 2nd, 2006 (his birthday). The hospital unfortunately told him that they couldn't give out information about old patients, but he told them his story and they gave in. "Kelley Gold and Mark Gold," they said. He couldn't believe it, "Kelley and Mark," he said out loud, and kept repeating it in his head. As well as the names of his parents, they also gave him his parents last known address, 4576 Oil Lane - Chattanooga, TN. So, he set off on what could either be a disaster or an incredible adventure.

Thankfully, they lived in the same state as him, so he didn't have to travel too far. But, farther than was possible on foot. He had many people that he knew from over the years, being the likable guy that he was. He remembered that his friend's dad owned a hot air balloon company. So, late at night his friend snuck him onto the hot air balloon, and off he went. He floated through the night sky passing all of the sparkling diamonds that seemed to be inches away from his face. By the time he reached where he thought was his parents house, the sun was starting to rise. He pulled out a pair of high magnification binoculars and found the numbers 4576. Once he found the numbers he grabbed the parachute that was on the floor of the hot air balloon, fastened it on, and lept. He glided through the air using the handles to move towards Oil Lane. The wind blew through his hair and he felt amazing.

When he landed, he rushed to the house, running with all his might. He got to the door and paused. What was he going to say? What were they going to say? Millions of questions were running through his head, but he decided to just go for it and knock. Knock knock. He waited outside the door for someone to answer, but then he heard footsteps. A beautiful woman that looked just like him answered the door and said, "Elliot?" and he said "Mom?" Then, he jumped into her arms and said, "I finally found you!" Then she said, "I know that I left you all those years ago, but you are more than welcome here now." "I love you, Elliot," she said. "I love you mom," Elliot said.

Landen Ayers
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Mrs. Christina Steffey

My Old Cat

Splat! The egg cracked on the ground and almost immediately started bubbling and cooking. My team groaned. It was a hot summer day. It was also my friend's birthday party.

“Okay Sally's team won!” shouted Reiter's dad. Even though I didn't want it to be, the egg race was over, which meant that the party was over, closer to something I didn't want to face.

Kids began to shout and run to the gaga ball pit, I walked slowly up following them. I looked up the hill and saw my dad's black car pull up, I felt the smooth handle of the car door as I slowly opened it, and got in. Sure enough, Tim Tim, my cat, sat and waited in his box. I sat and stroked his soft, fluffy fur. I felt the engine rumble as the car began to move.

In no time, I felt wet, salty tears dripping down my cheeks, in my mind I was practically screaming, *stop tears, stop!* Tim Tim closed his eyes and began to purr as I moved my hand slowly down his back over and over again. I knew I would always remember the feeling of his soft, smooth, luxurious, fur. It seemed like only a moment later when we pulled up in the vet's parking lot. I walked slowly, practically attached to my dad, who held Tim Tim's box. Each step felt more and more painful as the vet's door came closer and closer, as we opened the door a loud jingle startled me as we walked in, butterflies multiplied in my stomach, I took a deep breath and made my way to a chair.

I slowly sat down in the itchy rough chair with my brother and parents, and soon memories came flooding back. I was back in my 3rd grade self, sitting in bed the day before benchmarks, staring at the wall thinking over and over again. What is going to happen, what is going to happen, what is going to happen. Then, Tim jumped onto my bed and gave a questioning purr, stroked him and asked

“What is going to happen?” He continued to purr and curled up in the crook of my knee, I smiled at him and soon fell asleep. When the memory faded away tears welled up in my eyes, and slowly slid down my cheeks. I closed my eyes.

After all the horror, we had a nice burial for Tim. We took turns putting handfuls of dirt on Tim's grave till it was full. Then we each placed a flower onto his grave and said nice things about him, my brother even made a wooden cross for him. That day was very hard for me, but I learned to hold on to these memories and never forget them. I learned how to say goodbye, and to face my fears.

Lila Montgomery
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

Quarantine A true story by (Ni)yam

Once upon a time, on March 13, 2020 (which is funny because it was Friday the 13th), we went to school and in chapel, Mr. Fallo announced we would be doing online school for 2 weeks because of a sickness. We brought home our math books and notebooks and chromebooks and we had a Google Classroom for every class. When we went home, my brother, sister and I set up all of our school stuff in the dining room. Next Monday we started Virtual School but it was hard because all of my siblings were in the same room. I moved to my room during lunch and my sister moved to the kitchen.

The next day we did Virtual School again and surprisingly it worked really well. We did work by ourselves and showed it on Zoom calls so I got all of my work done at 7:00 in the morning before any calls so I got lots of free time. We did a lot of fun things like camping inside of our house and having a slam dunk contest. The 2 weeks became 3 and then 4 and then the rest of the school year. One good thing that came out of the Quarantine was the fact that I got to work on my basketball skills a lot and I got so much better.

That summer, me and my siblings called my cousins a lot and we did an online summer camp like Olympics camp, where we picked countries and played games. We played trashketball, archery with ping pong balls, bowling and penalty kick soccer. Pillow fort camp where we build pillow forts and try to hide in them. Spy camp where we have to try to get by “security cameras” and get to the finishing point without being seen by the iPads set up. My strategy was to dodge the cameras and get to the light switch and turn the lights off. Minecraft camp where we built buildings and destroyed dragons in... you guessed it, Minecraft. Music camp where we played instruments and put on a concert at the end. Magic camp where we learned magic tricks and tried to fool each other. Art camp where we drew 3d hands and made paintings. Theater camp where we put on plays for our parents. Food camp where we made all sorts of foods like scrambled eggs and quesadillas. And Sports camp where we played and practiced basketball, golf, football and soccer. I led basketball and taught my cousins how to shoot, dribble, and more.

The next year we came back to school and had to wear masks but at least we weren't virtual. We somehow survived a whole year without anyone in my family getting it. The next summer however, my aunt got it even though she tested negative before we went to the beach and her husband and daughter and my mom got it too. She quarantined in her room and thankfully nobody else got it. I was so happy.

Niyam Tejani
St. Nicholas School
Alice Clark

Don't Rush Your Life

The morning started out just like any other. My annoying alarm was there as a reminder of just how early I must awake for school. The coolness of the hardwood floor on my feet reminds me of just how warm and cozy I had been under my soft bed covers. My dad announcing that it was time to awake was a reminder that sneaking back to bed wasn't going to happen. Oh, how I wish that I was out of school, and all grown up.

I got ready in a hurry, grabbed a quick bite to eat, snagged my books and ran to the car. My dad continued his normal path to school while I sat in the back seat reading and preparing for my spelling test. Then it hit me like a ton of bricks. Whenever I graduate from school, I will never have to take another boring test, nor will I have to study for them either. I found myself growing more and more excited at these thoughts. As I stepped out of the car my dad reminded me to enjoy my day and to not rush my life.

As I entered the classroom all seemed normal. The same faces, the same room, and Mrs. Marcus telling us to please take out our notebooks and calendars so that we could get started. As I was writing my mind started wondering back to that place of being grown and out of school. Oh, how I could make all my own rules and just have fun all the time. Suddenly, my daydream was interrupted when Mrs. Marcus called on me to answer a problem. As I looked around the room all looked the same, but something didn't feel right.

As the bell rang for my next class, I really started to feel different. The idea of being older and done with school really started to consume my mind as each minute of the day passed. Even the kids in my class were looking older and acting more mature. Did I miss something? Am I dreaming because this is weird. All I could remember is dad saying do not rush your life. But, as third period rolled around, I started to feel as though everyone was becoming different.

As I scanned each person, I could tell that these kids were no longer 5th graders even though I recognized their names and faces. They were taller and seemed a lot more intelligent. I must wake up from this horrible dream. I am starting to think that I don't want to rush my life anymore. As I look around the classroom my head starts to spin, and I can no longer keep it together. My whole world goes black, and I pass out cold on the classroom floor.

I slowly come to and notice that I am in a strange place. The floor is hard, and the lights focused on me are hot and bright. I hear someone announce that Piper will now deliver her Senior speech which is required at my school to graduate. What? How can this be? I really did wish my life away. I can never get those years back. They went by so fast that I don't remember all of the things that I did and accomplished. Just as these thoughts swirled around my head it was like a fog lifted and I could hear a voice echo in the distance. At that moment I passed out again. But this time when I came to it was my dad staring at me in the car. Well? Are you going to get out for school he asked. It had all been a dream. Oh, thank goodness I learned my lesson early. In closing, I suggest you learn from me and don't rush your life.

Piper Wilson
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Renaë Marcus

Runner Through Life

The sky was a sullen gray. The clouds weren't much better. Thousands of people flooded the area. Everywhere I looked, people, people, people. Everything was a blur.

I sucked in my breath as a thundering pain met me.

I peered down at my wound, wrapped tightly with bandages. My mind was racing, wondering how this was going to end.

I kept a positive attitude, no matter what. While ignoring the fact that I had a big disadvantage, my hurt ankle.

The stakes were high. I had to come in the top 30 out of 100 plus girls all over the tri-state county, or that would be the end of the road.

A loud voice boomed, "10 minutes until the girls' elementary race"! My heart was beating. I could see the starting spots beginning to fill. Dad ran in front to save me a spot. *Here I go*, I thought as I trudged forward. My eyes were set on the starting line, my destination. Finally, the long, grassy, course loomed before me. I looked up and down, side to side. Before I knew it ... "Bwatt"!

We jumped forward and attacked, as if we were a horde of rabid dogs. We dashed through the low, straw-like ground. We bounded up the ridge, I was off to a great start, but then ...
a pain, far like any other struck me. It was like a burden lagging on me. I tried pushing through, but I started falling back, farther away.

I couldn't believe it. I was so frustrated with myself. It was only the beginning, and my body was already forcing me back. I was determined and nothing would stop me now. Not even that horrible pain.

Soon I turned a bend. As I dashed away, in the corner of my eye, I saw him, my dad cheering me on.

I bounded up on a huge slope. The trees swept from my eyes, so swiftly and majestically. In a flash, the landscape---the painting around me started to disappear. I narrowed into a small gap in the wood.

Suddenly, all voices, life, and humans vanished, as if all life had left. The only noise was the crunching of rocks underneath our feet.

Now I took a turn onto different terrains. Muddy ground hit my feet. The ground was pure brown and without notification a girl stepped into the black or brown hole which I should say "a giant muddy puddle", she came out with only one shoe. What a terrifying sight!

Then, before me lay the most, horrible, long, grassy straightaway. I kept on going straight, right in the same place. I kept on going and going, it was as if I was never getting anywhere.

Finally, I was starting to forget about the terrible pain in my little foot. At that moment, I realized that life had different plans for me.

I took a turn, then another. I found myself right up, next to the trees. Branches covered with heavy leaves acted like a shelter, keeping me away from the world. In that very moment, a deep, sharp, pang hit me. It was the type that made you bite your lip, trying not to scream. I had to let off a bit due to the never-ending pain. I was determined to get a good running time though. “*At least do your best*”, I told myself. I had to go to the states. I was determined to. “*It’s okay*”, I can do this. I will not give up”, I told myself.

Soon I started a little rhythm that beat in my head, “*Stupid, wounded, foot. Stupid, wounded, foot. Stupid, wounded, foot*”. It was on constant replay, never stopping.

I ran through another gap and transported out of the woods and onto a gravel, concrete, road. Then, I shifted grounds again. I found myself surrounded by tons of people. Crowds yelling and cheering. Thousands of competitive, crazed adults yelled. “*Crazy people*”, I thought.

I kept on running forward, through the field. A constant movement I was. Never-ending.

I found another curve and followed the path. I dashed up, through the bumps, ridges, humps. Last turn. Last bend. The end was visible. I was there. Little by little, my lips spread into a large smile. Suddenly, I went into a full sprint. Toward the clock I went. Toward the end. I was like a torpedo shooting through life.

At that moment thousands of images and thoughts rushed through my brain. I saw myself screaming of joy with a medal around my neck. I saw me blazing through the yellow-green grass. I saw myself crossing the wide black finish line. I saw myself jumping up and down.

Then my mind came back to reality. My body slowed down, and I had realized that I had crossed the line. I was there. I made it.

Right when I finished, a gust of pain rushed through my body. My foot was throbbing. Every time it hit the ground I wanted to yell out. I pinched myself and this stifled the screams. Soon, a bitter taste met my mouth. *Is this how it feels to die?*

Soon a large clump started to form, like a pile of ants. “Unattached elementary girl qualifiers!” yelled the announcer. “Tina Goodwell, Mia Lain, ...”, listed the announcer. A deadly pause loomed in the air. Absolute silence.

“*Please, oh please, call my name*”, I pleaded.

Slowly, she opened her mouth and said,” Pe...

I know what you're thinking. What happened? Was her name called? I know your heart is racing. I know you're groaning in disappointment. I mean of course I know, I'm a fortune teller. However, this isn't the point. Yes, this day was life changing, but not just because of the race, but because I learned a lesson that I will never forget. Even when the going gets tough, as long as you believe, you can achieve anything.

Pei-Ying Olsen
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

Kelly stared at the window, concentrating on the fat drops of water swimming down the glass. Sam, Kelly's brother, switched his gaze between Kelly and the glowing TV screen right in front of him. They were both wondering the same thing, how is their new school going to be. It was Sunday, their last day before they experienced their new school. David, their older brother, already went to the school they were going to go to.

The next day, when Kelly and Sam woke up they saw their lunches packed and their brother David scrambling out the front door. David was 15 so he was in 10th grade. Kelly and Sam were both in 6th grade. Kelly wondered why David left so early, there was another hour until school started. She asked Mother. Mother said "High school started an hour earlier than Middle school." Their new school was called "The Boston School of Academics," but people just called it BSA. Then Suddenly Barker (their dog) jumped up like a kangaroo and started ferociously barking at the door. Sam frantically tried to calm him. Maybe he just misses David, Kelly suggested. Maybe Sam said, but he never had acted like this even when David left before.

Then Kelly remembered again that she had around 45 minutes until she went to her new school. Kelly despised meeting new people but the primary reason she was bitter was because her best friend Maddy didn't go to the same school as her any more. They have been friends since kindergarten. Kelly was so depressed she asked if she could take a walk. Her mother agreed with the condition that Kelly had to be back in 10 minutes. But as soon as Kelly opened the door, Barker jumped out the door. He ran all the way until he reached David. But instead of stopping when he reached David, Barker jumped up and ripped open David's Backpack. Then a paper glided out.

Kelly and Sam sprinted as fast as they could towards David. Once they reached and verified that David was ok Kelly picked up the piece of paper. As she read the paper her eyes widened.

These are the answers to your math test Kelly told David. Why are they in my bag David asked? He looked confused and worried. Did you steal them, Kelly asked. No David said, looking even more worried. Kelly believed David, for he had never lied before. Maybe Mr. Henderson put the answers to the Math test in your bag, instead of your homework, Sam suggested. Maybe Kelly said, but all three of them knew that Mr. Henderson wouldn't make that mistake.

At school Kelly found her locker and hung up her bag. She realized math was first on her schedule. As she was about to enter the classroom she peeked at the side of the hallway that the high school lockers sat in. She saw someone peeking into David's bag. Kelly tried to see who was peeking, but when she took a step closer, the person scrambled away. Kelly thought that person must of had something to do with the math test answers showing up in David's bag. Then she heard a sound Buzzzzzzzzz, it was the third bell, she was late to class.

After class Kelly told Sam what she saw. Sam gasped and looked back to see David locker, it was perfectly normal. But as soon as they tried to continue the conversation a person appeared. "Hi" said the tall, freckly teenager. "Hi" said Sam wearily. I'm Kelvin said the teenager. "I heard that the answers to your brother's math test showed up in his bag," Kelvin said suspiciously. Kelly

felt a chill running through her back; they both had a feeling Kelvin had something to do with this.

The next day Kelvin kept trying to talk to Kelly and Sam, he kept bugging them with questions. During her first class Kelly heard that David would be suspended. Right that second Kelly raced out of class to Mr. Henderson's office. Please don't suspend David, Kelly begged. He didn't take it. Mr. Henderson spun around and stared at Kelly for a moment. How do I know David didn't do it? Mr. Henderson asked in a low voice. Well, prove it to you, give me until the end of tomorrow. Fine Mr. Henderson said. Then Kelly went back to her classroom.

After class Kelly told Sam what was happening. Sam suggested Kelvin as their first suspect. We'll spy on him, Kelly responded. The rest of the day they failed to find anything suspicious about Kelvin. We'll try again later, Sam said with disappointment.

The next day after Kelly's first class, Kelly saw someone peeking in David's bag.

Once she took another step, the person ran away again but this time something fell out of his pocket. When Kelly picked it up she realised it was a pencil. It was Kelvin's. Kelly showed Sam. We need to show Mr. Henderson Sam said with joy. They quickly scrambled to Mr. Henderson's office. Once they showed him. He asked if they saw him for sure. They both nodded in unison.

A few minutes later Kelvin and David both came to Mr. Henderson's office. Come in, said Mr. Henderson to Kelvin and David. "Wait outside," he told Kelly and Sam. Kelly and Sam sat on two chairs just outside Mr. Henderson's office. They were pondering over what Mr. Henderson was saying. Do you think David will still be in trouble Kelly asked? No, said Sam trying to sound confident.

Half an hour later Mr. Henderson, Kelvin, and David walked outside the door. David had a big grin on his face. It turns out that Kelvin accidentally put the answers to the test in David's bag instead of his. He tried to find the answers in David's bag when he tried to peek in. That moment Kelly realised two things. You can lie but it won't hold forever and Kelvin chews his pencil.

Praketh Bathi
St. Nicholas School
Alice Clark

Colored Women Can't Join Army

One day there were these 3 girls and their names are Tianna, Jade and Katie. Their dream was to join the Army but now these girls are in college and they already know what they want to do in life. So, they all decided that they were going to serve our country. So, they told their parents and their parents didn't believe that they could ever do it. Actually, none of their family believed in them. But one day they went to this center where you sign up to join the Army. They tried to sign up but the workers wouldn't let them because there were no colored people allowed in the Army. All Tianna, Jade and Katie wanted to do was change the way the world sees things. They tried and tried to find a way into the Army but nothing was working so they all went home. So, they went to the center the next day and they got kicked out and the workers who worked there had called the police and made-up reasons about the girls. The police took them to jail for no reason. Tianna, Jade and Katie went to jail because of all those lies those workers made-up. They get out of jail after 2 years. Tianna, Jade and Katie all move on with their lives; they get different houses and go their separate ways. After 10 years go by, they met up again because the center was down 3 nurses and they called Tianna, Jade and Katie and they asked them if they wanted to take the spots and they said no because of the ways they treated them in the past and they didn't even want to be a nurse. They all had kids and Jade's husband was a part of the Army so she was living a happy life. Then it made Jade think if God wanted us to help our country, he would have done something a long-time ago.

Sky Marshall
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Renaë Marcus

Origami Island

Eric Stevens was an ordinary kid, with an ordinary life, who was expecting to have an ordinary day. “Hurry up Eric! We're gonna be late!” called Eric's much older brother, Isaac, from the van waiting outside. Eric should have come out of his room half an hour earlier, but his door was still shut tight. “Hang on!” Eric responded. He was still in bed reading book five of his favorite book series, The Chickens of Pow book. “It's 7:40! What's taking so long?!” the voice of Eric's dad yelled. He kept reading, and then what his dad said registered. School started at 8:00. He popped out of bed, grabbed his backpack and bolted for the front door. He was racing to the carport when he realized he didn't have his homework. Eric ran back inside and pulled the essay off his desk. He literally dove into the hallway. Literally. I honestly don't know why. Maybe he thought it would be fun, but it wasn't. It was one of the dumbest things he had ever done. He rammed into his parents door, which sat parallel to his, so hard that if he had hit the wall next to it, which couldn't bend as much as the door, he probably would have died. Instead, he crumpled to the floor, and his world went black.

He had very faint memories of the period of time when he was unconscious, not images though, words. Words stitched together, making sentences. “Is he dead?” “What are you doing?” “Where are you taking him?” He also heard a noise. A scream. Though his mind could not understand any of the sounds he was in the state he was in, there was one more thing. All of it came out of the mouth of his brother, Isaac. Then, all at once, Eric understood all of this. Eric awoke. He opened his eyes just a little, and he saw a blurry figure. He somehow knew that it was Isaac's face. He opened his eyes all the way, expecting to see somewhere he knew, but didn't. Instead of his room, the hall, or the hospital he saw trees. Trees, water and grass. But something was off about them. Everything, except Isaac, looked almost like it was made of paper.

He sat up and discovered an overwhelming pain on the top of his head. He slowly lowered himself back down to the grass, which felt almost papery, and spoke. “Where...are we?” Isaac opened his mouth to say something, then jerked his head towards something out of Eric's view. “Thank goodness, Joe. You had me worried,” said Isaac, relieved. Then he looked back at Eric. He held out his hand. “Do you think you can get up?” he questioned. He grabbed his hand and pulled himself to his feet. He got that same sharp pain in his head, but then it dissipated. “To answer your question,” started Isaac, “I have no idea where we are, except for the fact that this whole place, which I have discovered is an island, is completely made out of paper.” “It wasn't just you who discovered that! I helped too!” exclaimed a voice from behind Eric. He turned around and saw someone he had seen before, one of Isaac's friends. “Hey Eric! I doubt you remember me, but I'm Isaac's friend, Joe. I'm gonna try and help you guys, and myself, get off this...this place.” “Thanks, but where is, as you called it, “This place?”” asked Eric. “Well, I don't exactly know, but I know how we got here, kind of,” started Isaac. “Mom and Dad had to leave, because you were taking so long, and they asked me to take you to school instead. I walked inside and you were, like, all knocked out and stuff. So I drove you over to the E.R, and Joe was visiting his sick uncle. Mom and Dad came, and me and Joe ran down to hang around and stuff in the lobby. We started an epic player V.S player battle in Minecraft, but the dude at the front desk asked, ‘What are you two doing?’ We explained and then he said that he could hook us up to a TV if we followed him. So we did, ‘cause who doesn't wanna play on a TV? Anyway, he took us behind his desk and into a room, and there was a HUGE television in there. He told us to wait a second, and then he walked out the door, but we heard a *click* and knew

he had locked the door. Then some weird mist stuff poured out of the overhead emergency fire sprinkler. I started feeling woozy, and then I, like, fell asleep or something.” “You passed out,” interrupted Joe. “Right, I passed out, and when I woke up, I was here, and so was Joe. We started exploring and when we came back you were lying right in the spot where you woke up. That’s it.” Eric looked around for a second, and then asked, “So, how do we get off?”

Eric, Isaac and Joe sat around a fire, made from some paper they had ripped off a tree and rubbed together really fast and hard. The three had made a camp consisting of a crude tent and a firepit embedded in the ground. It was the same day as when Eric had awoken, only now it was night. They had discovered that, strangely enough, the whole island was actually entirely made of paper, but the ground underneath the grass did not burn. They had decided to explore the following morning, to try to find a way off the desolate island.. “Look, a deer!” exclaimed Isaac, pointing into the woods. Eric squinted and saw it. The beautiful, brown creature eating a paper variant of grass. Eric scanned the ground, but then noticed that Joe already had one of the things that he was looking for, a rock, or, a rock made of paper. Joe, tongue slightly sticking out the side of his mouth, drew back his arm and thrust, propelling the rock forward at incredible speed. The rock hit the deer near the center of its body. It got a faraway look in it’s eye, and then fell over, dead. All three of them gave a loud “Whoop!” then hurried over to collect their prize. They dragged the dead creature back to their camp, and grabbed the sharpest thing they could find, another rock. Eric had the honor of ripping it open by jabbing hard at the area under its ribcage. He bore into it, ripping out as much meat as he could. “Wait!” bellowed Isaac, “Don’t eat it. Let’s all eat at the same time.” “But...but I’m hungry!” retorted Eric, anger and hunger together adding to his bad mood. “Just wait. Let’s all toast to our good fortune.” responded Isaac. Eric glared at Isaac, then slowly set the stuff down. Isaac ripped some off, but Joe stayed back. “Shouldn’t we, you know, cook it first?” asked Joe. “Oh... yeah,” said Isaac. He dropped it in the fire, and it burned to ashes. “Oh, if that’s what happens...Eric, go grab some sticks! We’ll roast it on a spit!” Eric nodded and ran into the woods in search of a pointy stick. He found one and bent over to pick it up, when he heard a noise, from behind the tree he was getting the stick from. It was a growl. Eric slowly backed away from the tree, squinting through the darkness to see if anything was there. There wasn’t. It must have just been his imagination. He walked back over to the tree and picked up the stick. He started walking back to camp, when he was knocked over by something behind him! *I can’t see anything, I’m face down with my neck exposed and I’m totally defenseless. I am so dead!* Eric thought. Then he remembered the sharp stick in his hand. He jabbed at the area above his back, heard a literal howl of pain and felt the weight on his back disappear. He looked around for his attacker, but couldn’t see anything. But he knew it was still alive and there. He heard breathing. Eric charged back towards the firelight he knew to be coming from base. “What on EARTH took you so long!?” asked Joe ferociously. “Something...something attacked me and I think it’s following me.” said Eric, with gasps and wheezes in between each word. “Well then let’s get out of here!” exclaimed Isaac. Eric dipped his stick into the fire, creating a torch. “Well, I might be wrong. I stabbed it with this” bragged Eric, gesturing to his stick, “so it might be dead.” They decided to wait until they were sure that it was following them to run. Nothing happened for a few minutes, but then Eric heard a familiar noise. The growl. The creature stepped into the firelight and they all saw that it was a puma, but it was almost transparent, but that wasn’t the weirdest thing. It was completely red. It growled again, then lunged. They ran. They ran as fast as they could, straight toward the field where Eric had awakened. They ran through it and into the woods on the far side. They ran through the

forest, darting between trees and hopping over rocks. Then the trio came upon a rocky plain, completely made of papery rock and almost completely smooth. “This place feels, I dunno, it just feels wrong,” Joe said, still running. They kept going, but Joe was right. Something was off, but Eric couldn’t figure out what. Then it hit him. The ground was trembling more with each step, and the sound of foot hitting ground sounded hollower. He kept going however, all of them did. The creature was still hot on their tail, they could hear its feet, and its breathing. But then both of those sounds ended, turning into a terrified screech. Eric looked back over his shoulder, and saw that the thing was gone. “Guys! Slow down. The thing is gone.” They stopped, and looked back. It was gone, and where it had been was a gaping hole. “Where did it go?” Joe asked. “Down there, duh!” said Isaac, pointing to the hole. “Where did the hole come from?” Joe and Eric asked in unison. Isaac shrugged, then recommended “We should go check it out.” The three, Isaac in lead, cautiously walked over to the small hole. They couldn’t see the bottom, it was just darkness. “Guys...” started Joe, obviously wanting to say something. Eric and Isaac kept staring down. “Guys!” They still just stared. “GUYS!” “What?!” yelled Eric defensively. “Listen” Joe said, slowly. They did, and heard a sound. A sound that they had both heard only when they didn’t like their report card or didn’t like a drawing they had made. The sound of ripping paper. Slowly, they all three looked down and saw a small crack, slowly getting larger. They looked at each other, and Isaac shouted “RUN!” They ran, but they were too slow. The rip started getting larger faster and faster until it stretched out far in front of them. The ground below them disappeared, and Eric, Isaac and Joe were plunged into the seemingly endless darkness below.

Eric woke up, in his room, with Isaac in the bed beside him. “Eric! Oh thank goodness it was just a dream!” exclaimed Isaac. “What was just a dream?” asked Eric, hoping he wasn’t going to say what he, deep inside, knew he was going to. “Well, we were on this island with one of my friends who you probably don’t remember,-” “Joe,” finished Eric. “How did you...?” Isaac stuttered out. “I had the same dream” Isaac just stared at him, dumbstruck. “That’s very strange!” said Isaac, trying to sound happy. Eric hopped out of bed, and noticed three things. One, his head was very sore. Two, his legs were also very sore, like they had been overused and three, he had a sharp pain in his back. He disregarded these as mere sleeping cramps. He stretched, and Isaac walked over to their closet to grab his clothes. Isaac opened the closet, then slammed it shut and gave Eric a ferocious look. “Eric...” “What?” “Come over here.” Eric did, and he stood right next to Isaac. Isaac opened the closet door, revealing something that they had both hoped never to see again. A limp, completely red semi-transparent body of a cougar. They both stared at it for a moment or two, then closed the closet door, gasping, then walked away. They walked away, so they didn’t notice what happened next. The creature twitched.

Shepard Slaten
Chattanooga Christian School
Diane Walker

MY SYDNEY

My family and I were all outside enjoying the spring sun. My brother was playing basketball. My mom and dad were on the porch talking, and I was on the hammock listening to some music. All of a sudden, my mother asked, "Tyce, why don't you check on Sydney?"

"Sure, of course," I answered, swinging out of the hammock.

Sydney was our 18-year-old golden retriever who had become deaf and blind. First, I headed towards the bushes along the house. She wasn't in her usual spot. Next, I jogged over to the creek that runs on the side of my house. She wasn't there either. After a couple minutes of not finding her, I started worrying. Suddenly, I heard a "RUFF RUFF" and a "squeal". I was so happy I heard her, but she was whining. I knew something was wrong. I followed her whining and barking. I couldn't believe where I found her...in a creek!! I screamed so loud my brother and my parents heard. They came and couldn't believe that their dog was bleeding on the forehead in the creek!! I immediately ran down to get her. She was very wet and dirty. I tried to pick her up. When she was up in my arms, I handed her to my father. My father then ran up to the bottom of the house, meanwhile my mom ran inside to get a towel for her to lay on top of. She came blasting through the door down the stairs. My mom put the towel down. My dad put Sydney down on the towel. After that my brother went to the backyard to get the hose to clean her off. When I looked at my mom she was tearing up. My dad and I were scared and sad. Finally, when my brother came, he handed the hose to my dad to wash Sydney. My mom was so emotional she had to go inside. When we finished washing her, my father, my brother, and I brought Sydney into the house. After 4 hours of loving on Sydney, my mother finally called the animal hospital and announced to us that Sydney would need to have surgery in one hour. My brother immediately asked if he could go then my mom said he could, meanwhile I got really scared and my hands started to sweat the whole hour. I was just praying that she would do fine in the surgery.

My dad put Sydney in the car with my brother. My mom then got in the driver seat and started the car. My dad and I both said bye until my mom left the driveway. We sadly went back inside the house worried longer than I thought. It took about 6 hours when they finally came back. Sydney had a minor tube around her forehead circulating water around her brain. When I first spotted Sydney, I realized her down because, my mother told me to watch Sydney, but I didn't. I felt so bad. I realized I should listen to important details, and not take hearts and life for granted. So that day on I gave as much love as possible to Sydney before bedtime.

In the morning, I could watch football with my family. I went downstairs and started watching football. I heard footsteps of my brother, parents, and Sydney!! I was so happy to see them. I then let Sydney out to go potty and watched more TV. When my mother asked me to check on Sydney, I ignored her and said, "She's fine". Later I finally went outside and saw Sydney splashing in the pool. She couldn't get out!!

I screamed for my mother, "Sydney's in the pool!!" We ran to the pool, and before I knew it, my mom jumped in, and pulled her out of the water. She was soaked. We took her in and wiped her off. She looked better. I felt so bad about her that I gave as much love as I could.

Later that day, I realized my mom was sad. I asked her, "What's wrong mom, I know that look". I waited until she finally said we were going to put Sydney down. A shock went through my chest, and my heart missed a beat.

“WHAT!!” I screamed in my head so loudly I shook. I really couldn't believe it, “Really”? I asked.

She nodded “hmmmmum.”

“No this is really not happening. I love her”. I thought. That day I promised myself to give her love, but I didn't. I had so much fun with my friend, Neel, I forgot we were going to put Sydney down.

When it was time to get ready to go. I thought, “I really need to love her, I forgot to do it earlier!!!” I got ready and jumped in the car with Sydney and hugged her as much as I could to the dog hospital.

We finally got out of the warm car and met my grandmother. Next, we all headed towards a tree to meet a dog nurse, who put dogs down. Everybody sat on a picnic blanket with Sydney. The first thing the nurse said was “Hello everybody do you want Sydney, I believe, to take her first shot?”

Before any of us could speak up my dad said, “What does it do”?

The nurse answered, “It puts her to sleep.”

We all agreed and nodded. We petted her all as much as we could until she put the shot in and ejected it. We all started to tear up until she started snoring.

The nurse asked again, “Would you like to put the real shot in?”

We all nodded again to her. Two minutes later she came out with the shot, and got it ready.

When she was done, she said, “Everybody say your goodbye.”

We all said goodbye. Then she put the shot in and...ejected it. She left, and we cried for three minutes until she had to take her away. The last part of her body I ever saw was her tail.

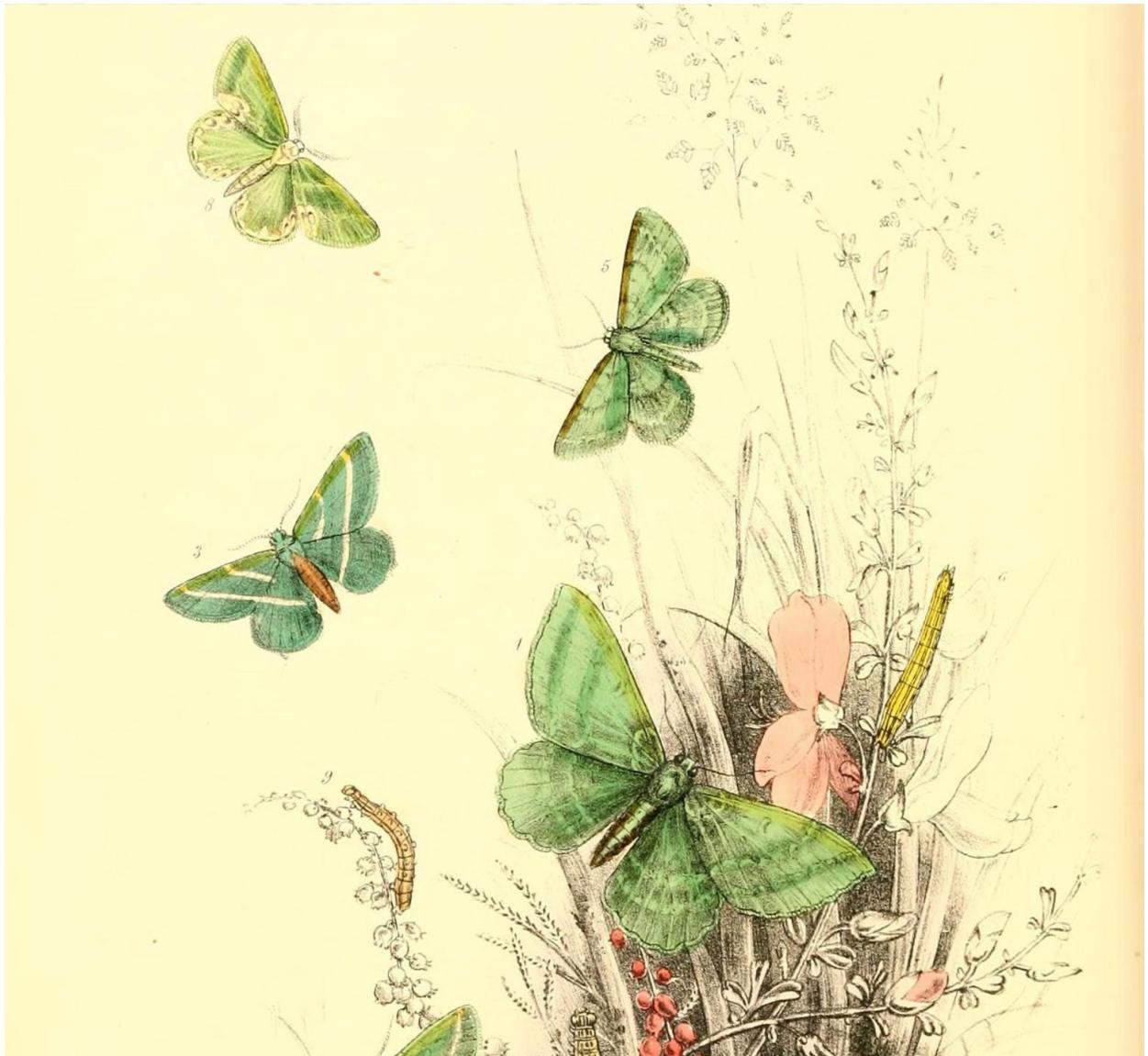
Tyce Veltenaar
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

Koger's Donkey

Once upon a time, there was an adult name Koger. He was walking one day, and he found a donkey all alone in the wilderness. So Koger was feeling sad so he adopted the donkey. Two years after the donkey was getting taught how to work on the farm, something terrible was happening and people were stealing crops from their farm. This kept on happening over and over until Koger was done, he was furious he came at them with a pitchfork, but they knew so they hid while he was looking around then barn, they got behind him and put rope all over him so he wouldn't be able to move. They picked him up and ran away with him, but the donkey saw it all happened he didn't know what to do so he just chased them. After a couple of minutes, he lost them, but he saw footprints, so he followed. The footprints came to an end, but he saw an underground base it was cracked so he slid into the hole. It was very dusty and smelly when he was walking the sun glazed threw so he could see over the dust he saw Koger he was tied, and he untied Koger and they both got out safely. When they were walking back Koger was twitching, and the Donkey asked what they did to you and he replied they poisoned me. Donkey couldn't believe it so he got Koger on his back and he started running to the hospital and when they got the doctor, he said he would die. Before Koger died he gave the farm to donkey and said when you die give it to some one you trust then seconds later Koger perished. Donkey was very Depressed. Donkey had a wife and had 3 babies, the oldest one was name after Koger, the middle child's name was tommy, and the youngest child's name was Anthony. When they grew up, they helped him with the farm, and it reminded him of when he used to work on the farm for Koger. After all those years donkey will never forget Koger and what he did for him.

Tallen Hobbs
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Mrs. Christina Steffey

Kindergarten Poetry



The Snowy Day

I see a snowman.

I hear wind.

I taste snow.

I smell hot chocolate.

I feel cold.

Coleman Davis

Thrasher Kindergarten

Elizabeth Holmes

The Key

My dad was mowing over some grass. When I came back out, I found a key. Ellie and I tried it.
What was it made for?

Eme Evans
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Tracy Schuster

The Hot Day

I see grass.
I hear kids screaming.
I taste Pop Tarts.
I smell cheese burgers.
I feel happy.

Everett Daugherty
Thrasher Elementary
Megan Methvin

Walk in the Snow

Winter snow
Snowflakes dropping
Eating snowflakes
Hot chocolate
Christmas snow

Hal Collins
Thrasher Elementary
Emily Wheeler

The Birthday

It was my sister's birthday. She was turning one. We bought a cake. She squished her fingers into the cake. She flung her hands all over the place!

Hilary Hampstead
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Tracy Schuster

The Snowy Winter Day

Snow

Snowflakes falling

Snow cream

Hot chocolate cooking

Happy

Jane McCarthy

Thrasher Elementary

Emily Wheeler

The Snow Day

I see snow in the woods.
I hear excitement.
I taste ice sickles.
I smell cold air.
I feel happy.

Jackson Hurst
Thrasher Elementary
Megan Methvin

Woods

I go out into the dark woods
I look at the full moon
I listen for a hoot

I wait and I wait
Until I hear it
I see a shadow flying ahead
I walk closer and closer

I see a great horned owl
It's swoops down with sharp talons
Catches a little gray mouse

The hunter flies back to its nest
With a prey in his curved beak
To feed his hungry little owlets

I feel the cold chill on my neck
I wrap my scarf tighter
I walk through the deep snow
Looking back at the great horned owl
Disappear into the dark woods.

Thinking about my adventure
I walk back to my home

Jonathan Abraham
Homeschool
Betty Abraham

Mi mamá

Me gusta mi mamá.
Mi mamá es bonita.
Mi mamá es alta.
Mi mamá es fuerte.
Mi mamá es Buena.

J. P. Howard
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Patricia Creel

Crunching in the Snow

Giant hills of snow

Feet crunching

Tasty snow

Fresh wind

Cold snow

Kees Wolbers

Thrasher Elementary

Emily Wheeler

Beautiful Snowy Day

Beautiful Snowflakes
Feet Crunching in Snow
Snow
Hot chocolate
Happy

Mary Yun
Thrasher Elementary
Emily Wheeler

The Sunny Day

I see the sun.
I hear people playing sports outside.
I taste ice cream.
I smell flowers growing.
I feel sweaty.

Niels Dysinger
Thrasher Kindergarten
Elizabeth Holmes

First Grade Poetry



Mila

black soft
eating playing seeing
green eyes sharp claws
Mila

Dylan Martin
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Angie Sell

Untitled

El dinosaurio grandísimo

El dinosaurio grandísimo tenía

un sombrero rosadito y el

derme en su casita rosatita

con un osito rojito.

El no para de rimar en su camita

No es muy suavesita y no

Para de rimar o pintar y

no para de buscar su tesorito

Viola Wiberley

St. Peter's Episcopal School Spanish Immersion

Ana Garcia

Second Grade Poetry



POEMA: Patito

El patito es amarillo y no de color ladrillo.

El patito nada, vuela y no ladra.

El patito puede vivir en una granja, campo o en un lago.

Su pico es naranja y su pico también es largo.

Unas veces pueden ser mascotas

entonces pueden vivir en casa y no se ponen botas.

Un patito grazna, duerme y nace de un huevo,

Y se pega a su mamá como un velcro.

Escrito por Sara Garcia.:) :) :) :) :) :) :) :)

Yo escribí este poema porque pienso que los patos son tiernos y por eso son mi animal favorito.

Sara García
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Angela Molina-Ferguson

Tristyn

My toes are as small as little ants looking for food.
My head is as round as a colorful marble.
My fingers are long like yellow bananas.

My ears can hear as good as a detective on a case.
My nose is shaped like a triangle button on a shirt.
My body is as thin as a chocolate bar right out of the wrapper.
My eyebrows are as brown as wood on a tree.
My arms are tan like a warm chocolate chip muffin.
My lips are pink like pigs on the farm.
My eyes are blue like the ocean water.
My hair is as soft as a small white feather on a bird.
My legs are as long as a white, bendy iPad charger.
My feet are as small as a chapter book with 200 pages.

My neck is as short as a baby's arm.

Tristyn Thomas
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Susan Bell

Third Grade Poetry



I Am Poem

I am Anne.
I wonder why space goes on forever?
I hear a waterfall.
I see a beautiful lagoon.
I want a friendly fluffy lazy cat purr.
I am Anne.
I pretend to be an Alicorn sometimes.
I feel sensitive and shy like a koala.
I touch the waterfall.
I worry about my friends getting hurt.
I cry about losing my favorite cat Mica.
I am Anne.
I understand how to pay attention.
I say that Alicorns are real even if they're not on earth.
I dream about a peaceful lagoon where I can talk to animals.
I try to be kind.
I hope for an enjoyable life.
I am Anne.

Anne Hamilton
Nolan Elementary
Ashley Narramore

Cave

A cloaked old wizard
A dead vulture's bones
A dwarf in plate armor
What I found in caves
A guy is cloned in a cave
He's mailed to my front door
most everyday

Wanna get some broken old guy's leg?
Wanna get some exploding pinto beans?
They're all in caves.
Did you know there are pinto beans?
Did you know there is a clone machine?
Did you know I saw twenty big feet all in a weird cave?

There's a huge chicken and a cat hybrid also scoripedes
All under the mountains
I am the kind who steals from the cave trolls
With one minute before it's buried

WHOA!

I got the treasure!
Jewels keep piling in my house
From Ole Peanut Cavern
Hail the kings of destruction
Oh no! A wizard is coming!

Wanna steal a Kleenex used by a clone of yourself?
Wanna steal a whole entire snow machine?
Wanna steal an exploding piece of cherry pie?
Oh yeah, I found 'em in a cave!

Buddy Himrod
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Susan Bell

Our Horse Scout

Long flowing mane
Twitching ears
Shimmering large brown eyes
Silky smooth horsehair
Chestnut colored tail
White blaze
Funny big teeth
Clicking hooves
Bumpy fast gate
Soft soothing neigh

Cadence Erhard
Hilger Higher Learning
Shelley George

A Weird Beard

I woke up next to my shelf and I looked in the mirror at myself
And what I saw shook me to the bones.
An enormous beard that I had grown
I yanked and tugged but for what I had known it was as stiff as a rug at the end of the night
in my mind was a bright light
I thought when I wake up my beard would be gone
and so, all of my problems could just say, "so long."
So, when I woke up right next to my shelf and I looked in the mirror at myself
and what I saw shook me with glee,
Yippee, my enormous weird beard had finally been set free.

Cruz Wilke
Nolan Elementary
Becky Leary

“One Day”

One day in a small little town
There was a chef so famous, he wore a crown.
He always sings songs while he bakes
Pastries, cookies, doughnuts and cakes.
He sings his songs proud.
He sings his songs loud.
He sings for his friends
While he stirs and he blends

But each night a visitor comes near
When you look close, it's a baby deer.
The deer loves to hear the song
And he usually is sure to sing along.

The chef always gave him corn and bread
Before he went back to the woods for bed.
He decided to name him Tory
And the deer became a part of his story.

Charlotte Martin
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Robin Williams

“Leaf Haiku”

Making food for plants
Falling far down in fall time
Crunching in autumn

Isaac DeMuth
Nolan Elementary
Jessica Matukewicz

LA NATURALEZA

La naturaleza florece como una flor,
es blanca como la nieve y brilla como el sol.
La naturaleza es muy dulce como la miel
pero amarga como un limón.
La naturaleza es comida y albergue.
Sin la naturaleza no estaremos aquí.
El agua alivia la sed,
los árboles nos ayudan a respirar,
el suelo nos ayuda a cultivar plantas,
la luz nos da vitaminas y felicidad.
La destrucción de la naturaleza
es la muerte.

Mientras calentamos nuestra tierra,
el aire va a girar,
el agua subirá.
Si no la ayudamos,
el sistema se arruinará
Los animales merecen algo mejor,
los insectos merecen algo mejor,
debemos mejorarnos.

Isla Phillips
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Dr. Maria Carlone

Fall is...

Good families carving pumpkins together

Small bats flying over my house like tiny air planes

Fat turkeys ready to be caught on Thanksgiving

Candy looking as great as it tastes

Leaves falling from the sky like skydivers

Farmer's crops ready to be harvested for eating

Jessie Long
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Susan Bell

I am Poem

I am Juniper.
I wonder what 4th grade will be like?
I hear water trickling.
I see a waterfall.
I want to go to Alaska.
I am Juniper.
I pretend to have a wolf that's as sweet as candy.
I feel as happy as a dog that got a treat.
I touch the frigid water.
I worry about making people mad at me.
I cry when I get hurt.
I am Juniper.
I understand how to be kind.
I say I can be better.
I dream about puppies.
I try to be helpful.
I hope for a nice life.
I am Juniper.

Juniper Snyder
Nolan Elementary
Ashley Narramore

May May

Confident, Joyful, Loving

Who enjoys Christmas, food, drinks, mountains, roller coasters

Who feels nice and happy to be in the world

Who wonders who invented TV and what was the first animal

Who fears plane crashes and car crashes

Who cares about family, school, animals, and friends

Who is able to play sports well and be aware

Who dreams of having a snowball fight and living in a mansion

May May Trainor
Bright School
Maggie McGuire

Yellow

Yellow is the feeling of happiness.

Yellow is the feeling of joy.

Yellow is the feeling of comfort.

Yellow is the sun that shines for you when you need it.

Yellow is the tart lemon you bite into and cry.

Yellow is the cracked egg in your frying pan.

Yellow is the sunflowers you smell every morning. Yellow is the sweet banana you bite in when you wake up every morning.

Yellow is a balloon that will pop for others but will not pop for you.

Yellow is a newborn duckling that just hatched.

Yellow is the sweet taste of marmalade on your hot piece of toast.

Yellow is the safety tape that saves you from danger.

Yellow is the annoying sound of the bus passing
by you.

Yellow is the yellow light that will make you slow down.

Yellow is the beeping taxi on the street.

Yellow is what you want it to be,

Yellow can be the beginning of a friendship.

Mila Caminez

Nolan Elementary

Becky Leary

My Dog, Fido

My dog, Fido, ate my homework.

I could tell my teacher that it got eaten by my dog.

Or, I could tell her that it was eaten by a humongous crocodile.

Or, it was abducted by an alien spacecraft.

I guess, I could be honest, I guess.

Even if it means that I miss recess.

Parker Holliday

Nolan Elementary

Becky Leary

Ryan

Kind, creative, smart

Who enjoys painting, playing piano, writing music, and taking professional portraits of random things at the dinner table

Who is able to see things in a way others don't and can paint what she sees

Who feels tired in the morning and excited in the morning on fun days

Who wonders what happens on other planets

Who fears yogurt and that the world will end soon

Who cares about her family and everyone she knows

Who dreams of becoming an artist.

Ryan K. Mahone

Bright School

Claire Millsaps

Sad

Sad as
the
puddle
you are
in
like you did
something wrong
or
you failed a test

like the world
disappeared
like your pet
died

As sad as you losing your home

As sad as you being alone

As sad as a gray cloud

There is sadness in the air.

Sam Caplenor
The Bright School
Cindy Womack

I Am Poem

I am as funny as a stand-up comedian.
I wonder if I'm like a bear.
I hear wind. Whoosh.
I see a trash can that winked at me.
I want ice cream.
I am very funny. Hahaha.
I pretend to be my friend.
I feel strong.
I touch a trash can.
I worry about my friend.
I cry when I die.
I am smart like Albert Einstein.
I understand nothing.
I say I can be Billy the fashion designer.
I dream about pickles.
I try to be nothing.
I hope I can get a girlfriend.
I am havoc.

Stallings Elder
Nolan Elementary
Ashley Narramore

Fourth Grade Poetry



Stuck in a Snowglobe on a Tampa Vacation

What town is this, I think I know
I thought it was in Tampa though,
Why is there a snowman here,
I thought there was an ocean near?

All the people think it's weird
To see me dressed like this while I'm here
All I can hear is people jeer
So please come help me get out of here!!

Christmas Eve is almost here
Hear those sleigh bells ring-a-ding-ding
A treat for children far and near
It only comes once a year.

My only wish is to hear
A swish above where I sleep
reindeer hooves creep
on the roof which means
SANTA IS HERE!!
SANTA IS HERE!!

Ally Melhorn
Nolan Elementary
Wendi Orenstein

Nothing

Waiting for thoughts
rummaging through
the back of my head
having nothing to write about
stopping in my tracks
my brain
turned off
my mind
turned to dust
I don't know what
to write after
'Nothing.'

Anna Kopet
The Bright School
Amanda Dickson

The Leaves

The cold air breeze glazes
upon the trees

The sky is blue and
all the leaves are
falling

Just as I walk by
the trees

I feel the breeze

Inspired By
Valerie Worth

Briella Yasm
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

Oak Tree

Under an oak tree,
Listening to the birds,
Read a book,
Sigh, yawn:
Climb the oak tree,
Watch neighbors go by
What was that?
Oh, just a squirrel;
Climb down the oak tree,
Swing time!
Swish, swish, swish;
It is dark
Up the tree,
Lie in the wonderland,
Looking at the stars.

Belou Anderson
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

The Best Part of Me

My feet
My feet hold up my body
when I feel quite soggy.
I love my wiggly toes,
I wiggle them and jiggle them.
I can walk and run with my feet,
and then I eventually leap.
I like to paint my toenails,
but if they smear
I might scream and bust your ear.
However,
I still love me and my feet.

Chloe Schubert
Nolan Elementary
Jennifer Cisto

That Great Kite

Buck was in great luck.

He found a kite in great flight,

In the middle of the great light.

The kite went for miles,

As it smiles,

In the great sunlight.

It was pink,

And almost felt like it winked...at me.

As I'm eating my pear,

Sitting in my chair.

On the seashores,

As the ocean roars.

When the ocean comes to meet...my feet,

I think about that great kite,

In the middle of the sunlight.

Colly Dorizas

Hilger Higher Learning

Shelley George

Los tiburones

Los tiburones son matones
Pero ellos tienen corazones
Llenos de dolores
Porque los llaman matones.

Solo porque pueden hacerte morir
Eso no significa que no pueden sentir
Nosotros comemos carne
y ellos también.

Ezekiel Cristler House
St.Peter's Episcopal School
Sra. Vanessa Alvarado

"I am a house"

I am a house
Old and sturdy
I live on a hill
With a nest for a birdy
I am a house
That is dusty
I'm definitely not fuzzy
I am a house
Big and grey
I have books to
read and stay
I am a house
Shaped like a square
I have friends
but some of them are a bear
I am a house
That is sunny
When I am sad I get all downy
I am a house
Creative and cool
When I am mad I don't go to school
I am a house
Named bob
It seems funny but it is not
I am a house
That tells jokes
Some of the kids laugh
Some of them don't
I am a house
On the grass
The ants bite me and it
Makes me scratch
I am a house
With a spark
I turn on all the lights when
It is dark

Lillian Ermenc
St. Nicholas School
Kiersten Wilkins

Lemonade

Love that lemonade
Like a cat likes to nap
I said I love that lemonade
Like a cat likes to nap
Love to call for it in the afternoon
Love to call,
“Can I have some yummy lemonade?”

Inspired by Walter Dean Myers

Luke McLain
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

Cheer

I don't use silly pom poms.
I don't go to football games.
I stay in the gym and work, work, work.
The sweat drip, drip, drips off of my forehead.
I don't use silly pom poms.
I don't go to football games.

Maddie Carden
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

Rain

falling, dripping, flowing
down from the sky
like drumming fingers on a table
blowing, sprinkling, flying
sheets of water are drifting in the wind
wet and happy
falling, dripping, flowing
rain

Madison Wolford
Jennifer von Klar
St.Peters School

I Wish I Were

I wish I were an astronaut.

I'd go to Mars, drive Martian cars, and eat Mars bars.

It might be hard to drive cars because the dirt might be soft.

That is my day on Mars, and I am so tired.

When I get back, I'll put on my hat

I will sit in the sun.

That's it I'm DONE!

Matti Bean
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Bailee McDonald

Trapped

So much depends
upon

a simple cup of
cocoa

bursting with
steam

marshmallows swimming
inside

While I am trapped in a
snowglobe

In the coldness of the
night.

Inspired by William Carlos Williams

Montgomery Martin
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

Untitled

I wonder how bright the moon is tonight.
All that is left is the sweet sound of bugs
That chirp, chirp softly in the underbrush.

I see the last sight of the sun over the trees
Descending into the ravine of green
Letting it's shine go to sleep.

So now it is dark, the chirping of bugs has stopped.
Let's lay down in bed and rest our heads.
And say good night.

Mason Mastropietro
Nolan Elementary
Alice Whitmire

Untitled

Poems are hard to write
Am I right
They never end
So I can't let them bend
I will lock them in a cave
Until they behave

I hope you enjoyed my poem

Preston Freeman
The Bright School
Amanda Dickson

FIRE!

Blazing red, yellow
and orange

As hot as the
sun

Making a crackle crackle
crackle

Powered by
wood

Surrounded by
rocks

Just don't burn
yourself

OUCH! HOT! HOT!

Tahoe Eckdahl
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

Fifth Grade Poetry



FALL

Such beautiful and bright colors surround
Shades of yellow, orange, and red all around

With a touch of evergreen that pokes through
The sunshine glistened on the trees as the chilly wind blew

Hungry squirrels frolic throughout
Searching for acorns as they scamper to hideout

The deer appear in the late hours of dawn
And from the woods comes a faded gray fawn

Up in the azure some geese fly
In V formation high in the sky

A brisk gust brushes through the trees
Then everything is still until the next breeze.

Benjamin Abraham
Homeschool
Betty Abraham

Words

They come out
like shooting stars
Sometimes without thinking
And some words you hesitate to say
It's like the whole world is just spinning
And sometimes they come out clean, spotless
Like when you are doing a presentation, sometimes they are clean
Other times you fall, trip and stumble over your words like your trying
To climb Mount Everest where its cold and hard and you fall and trip and stumble over and
over,
Over everything

But I am glad I can speak, some people can't, some people wish, some people hope
Some dream
That they can go, speak, they can say what they want to say,
But they can't

That's why I am thankful to speak
Even though
Even though half of the time I wish I could just
Shut up

But I can't
And I'm not mad about it
Not at all

Cate Hemphill
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

Graduation

Excitement

wondering and imagining
like a shooting star soaring in the sky
standing on the stage with my classmates
ready, willing
I look at my family smiling at me
full of wonder and hope
speaking, listening, and singing,
remembering...already missing
hugging and jumping
Graduation Day.

Eva Quarfordt
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Jennifer von Klar

Trees are Terrific... In Cities and Towns

No air,
Yes despair.
I need my trees.
Have breath,
Not yet.
I need my trees.
I died,
Know why.
I need my trees.
The earth empty,
No people.
We need our trees.

Grace Haddock
Nolan Elementary
Phoebe Mount

My Garden Friend

I look in the garden and what do I see?
A furry, brown creature looking back at me.

I go outside and where did it go?
It hopped straight into a hole.

I hide behind a tree and peek to see,
Two little brown eyes looking for me.

It hops into the carrot rows,
And twitches its nose.

It nibbles on kale,
And moves its stubby, cotton tail.

When a squirrel nears,
It flops its ears.

They may have bad habits,
But I love rabbits!

Isabella Villalba
Hilger Higher Learning
Shelley George

Dolphins

Gliding, Swimming, Playing
Jumping in and out of the glistening ocean
Like a graceful swan
Hardworking, Singing, Jumping
Protecting their little ones in the big ocean
Exciting, Extraordinary
Gliding, Swimming, Playing,
Dolphins

Kaylee Beth Smith
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Jennifer von Klar

Untitled

I see the white capped ocean crashing
onto the grainy, tight packed sand.

I see the boats zipping across the shimmery,
blue ocean water.

I smell the salty pungent stench of
the gigantic, never-ending ocean.

I hear the seagulls squawking, as they glide inches away from
the turquoise waters scanning the surface to
catch dinner.

I feel the warm, soft sand in between my toes as I parade through the beach, gazing out
Getting lost in the horizon.

I taste the freshly caught fish prepared with butter, garlic, and lemon.
It melts in my mouth and makes me long for the
California Coast.

Marissa Haney
Bright School
Ann O'Brien

Fishing

Sitting on that grass. Just waiting.

Until it bends. Where fish jump. Then water splashes. Rod bends.

Line goes out.

Then it all starts.

Just reel, then it comes, then it all starts. Then it is right there.

Micah Smith

Hilger Higher Learning

Shelley George

Untitled

CHOP! THWACK! The rainforest is getting chopped down. But should we be worried? Some people say no, we need homes and paper and farms! But do we really need to put farms in the middle of the rainforests? We could just put them in open fields. And we could recycle all the paper that we already have. Also there are more building materials than wood! I think we should save the rainforests.

The rainforests deserve to stay. The rainforests gives us lots of oxygen. Less trees means more carbon dioxide and less oxygen. Also, lots of animals live there so if we chop down the rainforest, there will be no more of those animals. The trees supports those animals.

The reason the rainforest is being chopped down, is for money. But, if there was no rainforest, there would be no more money to make. 9 countries depend on the rainforest. And they are ALL still developing! All the money they would have at first would soon die down and there would be no more money to make.

The rainforest gives us a lot of our everyday resources and cancer treatments. If we cut down lots of trees we may not have some of our resources or even medicine! 70% of our cancer treatments would be gone! Also TONS of great fruit would be gone as well. Also, CHOCOLATE WOULD BE GONE. The rainforest supports cocoa beans. And for all you coffee drinkers, well not anymore because the rainforest supports that too. So, we really need to save the rainforest.

Lots of things would change if we cut down the rainforest. Our weather patterns would change! Also the ocean would be affected. Things like bleached coral and LOTS of dead fish. No more lovely scuba trips to see coral and fish, because there wouldn't be any more, it would ALL be bleached!

We should really save the rainforest. It's important to lots of things in the world, even the weather patterns! We should save and conserve the rainforest.

Morgan Slattery
Nolan Elementary
Phoebe Mount

I Wonder

I wonder
If the wind
Is a special
Type
Of music
That
Trees
Flowers
Leaves
Dance to

I wonder
If the oldest
Trees
Are all-knowing
Act
As oracles
Consultants
Leaders
Of the forest

I wonder
If the night sky
Sends
Shooting stars
As messages
To remind us
We
Belong
We
Are not alone
We
Are loved

Nissa Ruth
Saint Nicholas School
Alice Clark

The Magic of the Unknown

When you see a dark forest,
Do you enter? Or bail out?
When you visit a new place,
Do you feel scared? Worried?
When see something new,
Do you back away, and ignore it?
When you come across the unknown darkness,
Do you explore, or give up and forget it was there?
This is the magic of the unknown.
You never know what you will find.
Whether it is a consequence, or something that will give you courage
to venture forward into the dark.

Phoenix Beasley
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

Fall

The air is crisp
Light footsteps of a squirrel
Can barely be heard
Through the crunchy leaves,
With deer, all in a herd.

The foliage is very appalling
Needless to say, fall is here
And it is calling

The wind is quiet, as it whistles
Gleaming emerald pine trees
Dogs run past them, brushing their spiky bristles
In the swift air;
Taking in the warm apple cider
Enjoying
The enchanting season of fall.

Violet Bruce
Nolan Elementary
Leslie MacPike



