

- Spring 2023 -

YOUNG SOUTHERN STUDENT WRITERS



Grades K-5

Prose & Poetry

Edited by Kat Finney, UTC Senior

Table of Contents

Kindergarten Prose	4	Vaughn Crawford	42
Gabriella Aguilar-Francisco	4	Tate Devlin Brown	43
Gwen Lewis	5	Katherine Allison	45
1st Grade Prose	6	Maddie Harris	46
Hunter Rosengren	6	Skylar Shook	47
Bird Porta	7	Owen Harness	49
Amy Paasonen	8	Buddy Himrod	50
Veera Ghodasra	10	Parker Thompson	52
2nd Grade Prose	11	Konnor Hickman	54
Alexandra Johnston	11	Abigail Ann Zachariah	55
Corbin Newsome	12	Lily Adeline Crowder	56
Jonathan Greever	13	Henry Shepperd	58
Milton Olson	15	Rett Wolford	59
3rd Grade Prose	16	Kraigyn McCord	61
Kinsey Mae Bridges	16	Khloe Macias	62
Marlowe McCoy	17	Sage Kirksey	63
Daniel Kirkpatrick	18	Charlotte Martin	65
Charlotte Bailey	19	Caroline Hammond	66
Bennett Salsman	20	Audrey Rose Clark	67
Arya Clinebell	21	Elijah Danko	68
Evi Jaynes	22	Kael Bryant	69
Scarlette Preslar	25	Makiya Dotson	70
Jacob Beasley	26	Henry Darras	71
Ezra Cox	27	Adelaide Ryan	72
Harper Loney	28	5th Grade Prose	73
Lucy Cunningham	29	Parker Johnson	73
Andrew Craig	30	Aurora Gee	74
Lucas Knowles	31	Ella Splawn	76
Emilia Day	32	Vivienne Belva	78
Aubree Wilson	33	Sidda McCoy	79
Jahziel Barton	34	Hunter Card	81
Callie Leach	35	Luke Pierce	83
Madelyn Arthur	36	Quinn Hensley	84
Aniston Lewis	37	Casbie Kintz	86
Camden Lee	39	Levi Lamb	87
Layla Oliver	40	Aggie Howard	88
Hudson Richardson	41	Blas Ortega Maclean	90
4th Grade Prose	42	Mamie Treadwell	91

Table of Contents

Madison Mackenzie Wolford	93	Charlotte Thurman	133
Franky Cambell	95	Jocelyn Shaffer	134
Callie Turner	97	Evi Jaynes	135
Serena Shridharani	98	4th Grade Poetry	136
Ella Masterson	99	Alejandro Garcia	136
Ayden Rogers	100	Evangelia Maounis	137
Tucker Schaad	101	Katherine Allison	138
Emma Swindall	103	Audrey Reynolds	139
Mason Tew	104	Kaylee Jellison	140
AdaReece Weathersby	105	Becanni Lohmann	141
Elijah Witten	106	Louis Chemin	142
Harris McCormack	107	Molly Thiele	143
Kindergarten Poetry	108	Millie Jackson	144
Lina Barisik	108	Addie Pugh	145
Ella Sunshine Silverman	109	Stella Reyes	146
Mason Wall	110	Olivia Mahaffey	147
Hadley Burgess	111	Truman Jonson	148
Xyla Blizzard	112	Aria Clark	149
2nd Grade Poetry	113	Samuel Moffit	150
Bianca Ramos	113	Morgan O'Malley	151
Cadence Rhoda	114	Holden Powell	152
Jonathan Greever	115	Nevaeh Pearson	153
Adair Lin	116	Kynley Jenkins	154
Lucy Eustice	117	Brynn Smoot	155
Brandon Hidalgo Palacios	118	Spencer Walker	156
3rd Grade Poetry	119	Maggie Morgan	157
Sydney Henderson	119	5th Grade Poetry	158
Lucy Cunningham	120	Hannah Bohman	158
Bowen Smith	121	Violet Bowen	159
Sam Dunkin	122	Gavin Praytor	160
Olive Roach	123	Zoan Von Schultz	161
Josiah Mondy	124	Mamie Treadwell	162
Trillium Lundy	125	Harlan Soss	163
Mary Frances Smith	126	Jack Sikes	164
Ethan Anderson	127	Matilda Malone Calderone	165
Camden Lee	128	Brody Barton	166
Reid Knappier	129	Cadence Daniels	167
Isabella Paque	130	Harper Kee	168
Chase Sewell	131	Kyle Cantrell	169
Annora Giannella	132	Megan Garcia	170

Introduction From Our Chair

It is a real pleasure and privilege to be a part of the Young Southern Student Writers contest, an annual celebration of the literary arts in our community. 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 with here is done with an eye towards promoting literacy and the creative energy of emerging writers. The submissions that follow demonstrate 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 Katrina Clark and the Southern Lit Alliance for their 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 their 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 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 my colleagues 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 Kat Finney, an outstanding UTC undergraduate English major. Kat worked tirelessly to facilitate judging, compile winning submissions, and create this year's digital booklet. She has spent countless hours managing the contest and has done so with patience, grace, and maturity. I am grateful for her 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

Kindergarten Prose

Untitled

Love Monster went to Hawaii one day on the air plane.

They lifted off and then there was a storm and then they crashed.

They crashed in water and they made it into a submarine.

They got back to land and they landed in the water of Florida and they lived there for years until they were grandpas.

He saw his grandkids in Florida and they did a puzzle.

And they slept and they woke up and they ate breakfast.

They went to the beach and had fun.

Gabriella Aguilar-Francisco
Kindergarten
Spring Creek Elementary
Joy Harvey

Kindergarten Prose

The Bars on the Playground

I can go to the tallest bar and do a flip around it. I start with my hands on the bar. Then, I hang down from the bar with my legs. Next, my hands go back to the bar. I pull up, get to the top and do a flip.

Gwen Lewis

Kindergarten

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Tracy Schuster

1st Grade Prose

How to Catch Santa

First, you put a plate of 3 cookies out. Tie a string around on one of the cookies. Put a tiny camera on the roof.

Next, put white wires.

Then put a letter that says dear Santa I want an electric 4 wheeler.

Then, put a steaming glass of milk.

Last, you put one wire next to the cookies.

Finally, he trips on the wire and you catch Santa.

Hunter Rosengren
1st Grade
Nolan Elementary
Marah Smith

1st Grade Prose

How to Draw a Guinea Pig

First you draw an oval for the guinea pig.

Next you draw some ears for the guinea pig.

Then draw a mouth with some whiskers for the guinea pig.

Last you draw some eyes and feet for the guinea pig. And you add a few more details. If you want just like me!

Bird Porta
1st Grade
Nolan Elementary
Marah Smith

1st Grade Prose

Untitled

Once there was a mermaid. The mermaid's name was Ella. She loved to swim. She also had some friend's. They also had some names.

The names are Alice, Nora, Mary and Ireine. One day Ella went to go play with her friends. As she was playing with her friend they heard a loud noises! They heard a loud noise. They followed the noise then....when they got closer the thing was a whale! So they brought the whale into the cave.

But when they got the whale into the save... they heard a big thoom! Then is became very dark! And none of them new what to do. Then Mary got a idea. This is what Mary said," Let's all push that big rock out of the way! And every body else agreed! Even Ella agreed! Well, not Nora.

Nora just waited and did her own things. Mary, Ella, Alice and Ireine were all pushing the big rock out of the way. Finally, the girls got the rock out of the way. Nora just stood in the cave. Then she got punched out by the whale. Then the whale went back into the cav. Nora was going in to into the cave against but when she almost there in the cave. She got pushed out by the whale again! Then the whale rushed out of the cave. Then Nora went home 2 hours later Mary, Alice, Iriene and Ella go the big rock out of the way. They all went home to rest. The next day was a school day. Iriene was sick so ...she did not come to school. The next day Tom was sick. Tom is Mary's boyfriend in class. And Ella had a cat. The cats name is Lilly. The cats name is Lilly. Lilly loves to play with Ella. That day was Saturday. On Sunday Ella brought a note pad to church. She also brought her purse. And on Monday Ella went to school and she was learning about shapes. On Tuesday she was learning about doubles. And on Wednesday she

learning about shapes. On Tuesday she was learning about doubles. And on Wednesday she was learning about tools! On Thursday she moved to a new school. She met a new friend named Willy. The two friends had so much fun together. They played legos, school, they put on a puppet show. Willy was an eagle.

On Friday Ella polished her nail's red, purple, blue and pink. She loved her nails so much that she would not stop looking at them! They were also glittery. On Saturday, she put on a lemonade stand. And on Sunday was her birth-day! On her birth-day, she get's to put on her purple dress. She loves her purple dress. She went to a book store and got a bad kitty book. The title said: Bad Kitty goes to the vet. Monday morning, she got to play with her friend and toys.

On Tuesday, Ella got a new pet! She got a mouse. She named the mouse Nick. Nick was a friendly mouse. And Ella got a new name! Her new name was Elly. Elly had to go to the animal shelter because of Lilly the cat. On Wednesday, Ella played with her old friend: kalley. Kalley made a odd position and made Elly drink it and when she got a sip of it, she was no longer a mermaid. She was a person! her cat Lilly was also there. So was Nick. the mouse. Elly appeared on a path. Elly found some stuff on the path. She found a hair brush, an ax, a shovel and more. Elly cut wood for a door, and mined a room. She got wool for a bed, wood for making chairs and table's, foods to make paint and much more! She also made some new friends Their names were Sally, Samm, Luckus and Kall. Elly invited her friends to her little house every Friday. On Sundays, They would go to play in the sand and in the water. Elly loved her new life on land. She has so much fun swimming, playing and working. Well...She does miss her mom and dad. Elly still loves her new life on dry land. That night, Elly saw the blood

1st Grade Prose

moon! It was so cool. Her life was so gorgeous. Elly was learning how to be posh. She saw some tiny birds singing on her window. She loved the noise they made. She even made a book about nature! It was super, duper cool! Elly was so excited for her 4th adventure! When Elly grew up, She wrote books and poems.

Amy Paasonen

1st Grade

North Hamilton County Elementary

Susan McGrath

1st Grade Prose

The Little Gummy

Once upon a time a little gummy was in Gummy World. Gummy World is a gummy place where gummies live. The little gummy found a new friend! His friend's name was Cutie. Cutie was cute. The little gummy was cute too! They played together for the whole day. Until another gummy can to the gummies and said, "Hi!" Then Cutie and the new gummy got married. The little gummy was sad, but they became friends again. They had a playdate. They ate marshmallows and played games. They slept in a tent. They lived happily ever after! THE END

Veera Ghodasra
1st Grade
St. Nicholas School
Stephanie Marshall

2nd Grade Prose

The Zaraffe

Once upon a time there was a zaraffe. A zaraffe is a zebra and a giraffe combined together. It is very odd. I used to have one a long time ago. When he was a baby, he was so cute. I loved him with all my heart. I thought that he was a girl. We took him to the vet to see if he was a girl or a boy. My day was so made because he made messes everywhere. He acted wild sometimes, like being everywhere at the same time. He ran around the house a lot knocking things over and breaking expensive things.

Sometimes in the mornings he would get out of the house through his big door, he would break through the fence. When he got out of the house. He was really wild then. He would dig holes in other people's yards looking for food. His favorite thing to do was to get into other people's garden. He loved to eat their vegetables like lettuce, carrots, and radishes. He would even eat dead weeds. Most of the time before daylight we would find him with his tummy full in someone's garden still digging holes and wrecking gardens.

We would take him home and not give him any dinner because he was so bad that he didn't deserve dinner. It was his punishment. We soon realized that because he was a boy he would act wild sometimes. My brother is a lot like that too. I started to call him on his day. We named him Bob the builder, because he was tall. He got his height from the part that was a giraffe and his stripes from his zebra side. Because of his height he often reminded us of a crane and cranes build things. And I always liked the name Bob.

We finally had no choice but to send him to zaraffe school. There are only 2 zaraffe schools in the world. It is because they are very rare animals. The first two months were the hardest.

He began to get a little bit better. After two more months later she began to follow the rules and he could come home. I miss him sooo soo much.

When it was time to bring him home, we were met with a big surprise. Bob had gotten married in zaraffe school and he had 3 zaraffe babies. Their names were Bernice, Betsie, and Bob jr. They moved to Palm Beach, Florida. They were wild diggers too. So, Bob and his wife Cheryl sent their school children to zaraffe school too. The children came home three months later and they were much better. Their families grew and later got married and had their own families. They stopped being a digging family. They are now great zaraffe who follow the rules.

Alexandra Johnston
2nd Grade
Chattanooga Christian School
Azelia Sims

2nd Grade Prose

Soccer

There are goals, goals, and even more goals. It feels like there are so many goals. There are goals after goals, and it feels so intense.

Corbin Newsome

2nd Grade

Normal Park Museum Magnet

Emily Parsons

2nd Grade Prose

Our Trip to Myrtle Beach

It was a misty and cold morning. The car pulled out of the driveway with a "Vroom" We all had high hopes and knew by the end of the day we would be in Myrtle Beach.

Last year, I went to Myrtle Beach. We go to Myrtle Beach in North Carolina every year in October and every year my grandparents go almost 3 weeks before us. My uncle typically comes as well and it's always fun to see him because he lives in Atlanta and we almost never get to. He is a computer programmer and he works for a bank so he knows a lot about coding.

We started the trip when we left for the airport. We live in Soddy-Daisy so of course, just getting to the airport takes us near an hour. Then we have to wander around the airport for nearly 30 minutes looking for our gate like a worm worming around a worm tunnel.

We had eaten breakfast at McDonald's on our way to the airport. Most of the time, if we go on a vacation or any trip in the car that takes an hour or more, we go to McDonald's. We got a McGriddle which is a biscuit with pancakes instead of buns, so we were definitely full at this time. We don't get to eat there very often so that was a special treat. The problem was that I am not very good with eating in the car so my stomach got upset pretty quickly. It took almost the entire drive to the airport to finish it.

Even once we find our gate, we have to wait a pretty long time for our flight to leave. Once in fact our plane did leave, the flight was still long and harsh. There were no bathrooms and the turbulence seemed to never end. Every time you dozed off a little bit, within a minute, a wild bump of air would tilt the wings crazily and my

mom and I would be up before you could say turbulence. The one good thing was there were free snacks and let me just tell you they have at least \$500 worth of cookies on those planes. The flight seemed to never end but eventually, it was over and we walked out in Atlanta. I told my mom that we didn't need to but she insisted that we hold hands because "Atlanta is so busy and crowded". We roamed around for a bit dodging through the crowds when they came until we eventually got to some pizza place where we could have some lunch. "What do you want?" My mom asked loudly, trying to make it so I could hear her over the shouting of the other customers. It was a place that wasn't in Chattanooga or I had at least never been to. It was impossible to choose what you wanted because the maximum was a four meat and there were nearly 50 different kinds. (Yeeeeaaaah, I like meat.)

We were both pretty exhausted so we were very glad when we got to the waiting area and got to play some games and get some rest while we waited for our flight to leave. I don't know why it takes so long for a plane to figure out how to fly but it does so we were in that little waiting room for what felt like forever. I invented a game where one person makes up a name and the other has to reorganize the letters to make a word that could describe that person. For instance, my mom may have chosen a name like Gill and I could have used ill to describe Gill. Does that make sense? We played for an eternity but in the end, they announced that our flight number was leaving (this of course filled us with Glee and happiness) and we walked down the long and skinny Isle until we got on the plane. The lady who stood right in the doorway gave us a couple of Clorox wipes and we walked down to the back of the plane where our seats were. We sat there for a few minutes and we finally saw the world drop down below us, heard the

2nd Grade Prose

engines start, and we felt the plane thrust off into the air one last time.

I somehow didn't fall asleep at all. I basically played on my iPad the entire time. The problem was I had already been on my iPad a lot in the waiting room so it only lasted about an hour and the plane ride was almost an hour and 30 minutes. The result was having 30 minutes of nothing to do at 10:15 p.m. which isn't that fun for a kid in this generation. I don't know about you, but I need a lot of entertainment. I get bored very quickly so this was like a living nightmare. Also, there were a bunch of peanuts so I was pretty sure any escaped circus elephants in the area would be chasing the plane and that didn't really help. There also happened to be a baby that was crying for part of the ride so sleeping wasn't an option.

After the most horrible experience of my life :) It was finally over. The plane slowed to a steady halt and luckily, we had survived the elephants on their mad rampage for peanuts. We walked down another aisle quite like the one from when we left Atlanta. The cool air of Myrtle Beach airport felt fine on our skins. It's always really fun to get off the final plane because it's so beautiful and nice in that airport. We walked around for a few minutes, every so often hearing a flight called on the intercom. There were people everywhere trying to catch their flights but it wasn't half as bad as the horrors of Atlanta. Finally, we walked around a corner and arrived into a large room with counters on one side. There were multiple conveyor belts with luggage bags swirling around on them. We had to walk around the room and wait for our suitcase for ages. The cadet blue carpet covered the floor and extended all the way to the wall on either side. Eventually, it came! We lifted our suitcase up and dropped it down on its wheels. We tugged it back across the room to a big doorway and we walked into the main

entrance area. There were two massive escalators. One going up from the entrance to where we were, and one going down from where we were to the entrance. Plants lined the walls covering little parts of the windows. Then we spotted my grandparents waving at us and smiling.

I ran down to them as fast as humanly possible. I didn't even care that I was running down the up escalator. My mom went pretty fast as well but she took her time and went down the correct escalator. I also went about a million times faster than her. We were both immediately embraced with open arms.

“Oh we're so glad to see you!” my grandmother cried.

“We're glad you made it!” my grandfather shouted just a little bit softer than her.

We were glad to see them too. We all held hands and slowly walked out the automatic doors.

“Whoosh!” they opened. “Beep- beep- beep” they slowly closed behind us.

It was Pitch Black outside. like a black hole had consumed any remainder of sunlight that was ever there. The clouds blocked out all of the stars in the sky. The only way we could see at all was from the faint glow of the moon and the flicker of the street lights that lined the parking lot. It was so dark that we could barely see to get to the truck. Once we did find our way to the truck, we were so tired, and the time was so late, I fell asleep instantly.

Jonathan Greever
2nd Grade
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Susan Bell

2nd Grade Prose

Untitled

I'm thankful for my family, my home, the sun, my toothbrush, church, my friends, school, flowers, Saturn, Halloween, food, shoes, trees, and my dog. I picked my home because if I didn't have it it would rain on me. I picked school because I would not learn.

Milton Olson

2nd Grade

St. Nicholas School

Katie McCorkle

3rd Grade Prose

Little Bit

When my mom and dad were first married my dad bought a puppy for my mom. He was a little white fluff ball and so tiny he could fit in my mom's hand. My dad named him Little Bit.

Right after they got Little Bit they went home to Alabama. Little Bit went everywhere they went. They were at a pool party and Little Bit fell into the pool. My Papa D saw Little Bit fall in and jumped in with all his clothes on and got him out.

My Nana loved Little Bit so much. She would come all the time and take Little Bit on walks.

One time they were walking and far from the house and a rain cloud came up and they got soaking wet. Nana and Little Bit walked back in the house soaking wet, Little Bit loved it until Momma had to give him a bath. Little Bit hated baths.

My mom and dad had Little Bit for eight years before I was born. Little Bit was just like a kid to them. He would go everywhere they went. When he couldn't go like on a cruise ship Little Bit stayed with My Nana Jean and Paw Paw Gilbert, Little Bit loved staying with them. He would get more treats than ever, and he got a break from me. My dad would let him sit in his lap when they would go on rides. When my mom would cook supper she would cook special treats for Little Bit, when he would have to take medicine, she would mix it with chicken or hamburger meat so he wouldn't know there was any medicine.

When I was born Little Bit didn't know what to think. He would come by and sniff me every once in a while, but really just stayed away from me. It took a long time for Little Bit to get used to me, when I started to walk and drop

food everywhere Little Bit slowly started to become my friend. When we would go on walks with Little Bit, he would get a treat and I was in charge of treats. I would get the treat and run all around the house. Little Bit would chase me and jump all over me until I gave him his treat. He loved getting treats and I loved playing with him.

My favorite memory with Little Bit was my 8th birthday. Me, Nana, Mom and Dad went to the beach with Little Bit. He was really old and didn't want to go to the beach during the day but at night when it was not as hot, we would go on walks up and down the beach and all kinds of adventures. Little Bit loved going on vacation and getting to eat all kinds of different food and treats.

Not long after my eighth birthday Little Bit passed away. Even as I write this almost two years later, I'm crying just thinking about it. We still talk about Little Bit and all the great times we had with him. He taught me so much like how to be a good friend and how to share. As tiny as Little Bit was, he was a huge part of my family, and we will never forget him.

Kinsey Mae Bridges
3rd Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Colter

3rd Grade Prose

Twin Towers

We had just moved to New York and me and my dog were so happy. Before all of this, we lived in Cleveland, TN but now we live in New York and I regret that we moved because I was gone from all my friends.

A few days after we moved, me and my family were shopping when we saw a plane flying low in the sky and looking suspicious. It even looked like it was trying to hit the twin towers. My sister and I were frightened when we heard a BOOM and then suddenly everyone was screaming. Even my dog was barking. I peeked out the store's window just in time to see one of the twin towers lose half of their building. I wondered if the people in that tower were okay? It made me realize how much I didn't want to die.

My parents took us to a safe place, but the power went off and everything was just pitch black. I hoped the police were coming, but when I looked out of the window to see, I saw another plane hit the second tower and I realized that this was no mistake. Those planes meant to hit the twin towers.

My dog, Roy, sat on my lap as we hid and waited for help. We heard someone say that the White House had been hit too. I thought to myself, "What is happening??" Eventually, some police found us hiding and said, "COME WITH US! The building is going to collapse!" Those policemen took us to an ice cream shop where other people were. The store was pitch black but there were blankets for us. A while later, we heard the other two buildings collapse. Lots of people were outside screaming, but I could not even cry out like the others. Everyone went outside where the ambulances, police, and firefighters were and everything was covered in dust. Around us,

there were paper scraps, burned up walls, and broken glass. All I had was my family, the clothes I was wearing and my shoes. It reminded me of what I'd heard about the Holocaust. Roy looked at me in a way he never had before.

After the towers collapsed, firefighters were everywhere looking for people who had been inside during the collapse. A policeman asked me if I'd seen anyone, but I shook my head no. My parents spent time helping both the firefighters and the ambulance workers, meanwhile, Roy and I stayed next to my sister.

After my parents finished helping find people they said, "We should move back." I was so happy, but how would we go back? Our car was destroyed in the attacks and the airport was ruined because one of the towers collapsed on it. Then I remembered that we still had Dad's truck.

We went back to our house and packed up as much as we could and returned home to Cleveland, TN, a place without twin towers and without planes that wanted to fly into them.

Marlowe McCoy
3rd Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Colter

3rd Grade Prose

Dear Diary,

I woke up in the morning. Columbus had arrived with three huge ships. When everyone had woken up we were greeting the strange people. They came on ships bigger than we had ever seen before. We showed another island near where they had landed. He thought he was in Asia! Columbus called our island San Salvador. After a little while he left his crew and the Santa Maria. He told his crew to build a fort out of the wood. I volunteered to visit his home. When I got there, he gave me gold and parrots. Everyone looked at me like I wasn't important. Columbus had a feast and got gifts. When we went back he brought many people. I thought something was up. He tried to make our people his slaves. Lots of people got sick and some even died. I yelled and said, "Stop!" but he did not answer back...

Daniel Kirkpatrick
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Jessica Matukewicz

3rd Grade Prose

Arctic Terns

Arctic terns have amazing migrations around the world. One reason that Arctic terns are amazing is that you might think that they are big birds but they are small. Being small as a lime can be helpful for flying. Also, Arctic terns can fly all across the world. They can go all the way to the Arctic Ocean and then to Antarctica. The terns cross the Atlantic Ocean. Lastly, during the long journey the terns encounter foxes, gulls and other big birds. That is why the Arctic terns migration is special.

Charlotte Bailey
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Jessica Matukewicz

3rd Grade Prose

Arctic Terns Migration

Arctic terns do excellent and amazing flights because...firstly, every single year they complete the longest migration of any animal on earth all the way from the Arctic to Antarctica. Another reason is it's not a peaceful flight. They encounter predators such as gulls. The finishing touch, they do this migration twice a year and leave little ones behind to protect them. Smart thinking. These are the reasons Arctic terns are amazing and have amazing migrations!! Have a good day!

Bennett Salsman
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Jessica Matukewicz

3rd Grade Prose

Surprise Baby

I was slouching and fanning myself with my hands in the car on the way back from school when suddenly, my dad spoke from the front seat, “We have got a special early birthday present for you!”

My back was straight by now, “What is it?” I asked excitedly. “I can’t tell you.” my dad answered. I stopped fanning my face with my hands. I couldn’t wait to get home!

Later when I got home, I flung the front door open. “What is it mamma, what’s the surprise?” I shouted. “Come to the kitchen table.” she replied.

As I walked in the kitchen I saw a fancy gift bag on the table! My dad walked in the kitchen and sat down. I tore the tissue paper off and out of the bag. “A t-shirt?” I asked. Next mamma responded with “Unfold it and read it.” I gasped once I had unfolded it and read it. Mamma had a big smile on her face, “A baby?” I squealed. “Is it a boy or a girl?” I demanded. “Look at the color of the shirt!” answered Mamma.

“Oh, it’s a girl!” I cried. I started to cry. “But, she’ll take all my stuffies!” I wailed. “No she won’t, she’ll stop once we tell her to.” Dad spoke softly. Once I calmed down, we called all of the family and told them too! Then I started to cry all over again.

Next, I ran upstairs and jumped on my bed and silent tears rolled down my face. I hugged my stuffie, Fluffy. I had locked the door so Mamma or Dad could not come in. Soon I heard a rap on the door. “Come in.” I whispered tearfully. “I can’t.” Dad’s joyful voice came from the other side.

Then I unlocked the door and Dad saw my face.

He saw my tears. I sniffled, he gave me a big hug and gave me a piggy-back ride downstairs.

Last, we had dinner. I was still close to tears but we went upstairs. Mamma and Dad whispered good-night from somewhere up above. “Good-night.” I murmured back and fell asleep with a smile on my face as they left the room knowing it will all be ok.

Arya Clinebell
3rd Grade
The Bright School
Maggie McGuire

3rd Grade Prose

The Beetle

Nobody in Freedom Village expected the new princess to grow up to be as cruel as she was, Sundrop ignored her schoolmates and ordered her mother, Queen Valerie, around. Her father tried to keep her under control, but she grew more and more harsh every day. On several occasions she would pitch a fit for a particular dress, or a shiny tiara, or new shoes, and, not surprisingly, she would get it.

Suddenly, on Sundrop's twelfth birthday, she found her father lying in bed alone. She took no notice of the way he lay down so still, straightened her hair, and walked to her room to sleep. The next morning, she awoke to find the King, still lying in bed, and the blankets around him didn't move around at all. She finally realized that the King was dead.

As soon as her mother found out about the death of her husband, she grew quite ill of sorrow and pity for the King. Even before her heart drained of all its power, she crowned Sundrop Queen of Freedom Village. Instead of calming down, like Valerie had hoped, Sundrop took advantage of the throne and used it to order the citizens around, to make them harvest their best and ripest crops for her and her alone. Most of all, she made everyone, even her mother, bow low to their new queen. Valerie tried to talk some sense into her daughter, but a week after she gave Sundrop the crown, her heart went cold and her eyes dimmed, and her soul passed to the sky.

Queen Sundrop became lonelier than ever. Her goal not to show the inward pain strengthened by a hundred percent and the bubbling feeling was overtaken by anger, proving that she had no mercy for anyone. Once her servant, Cleo Mays, said, "You seem lonely today, Majesty." Sundrop's stomach fell off a cliff onto a

stalagmite. "No!" she roared harshly. Cleo backed away. Not even that brainy servant could see the little bubbly mist of panic beneath all those millions of layers of fury that had been built up over fifteen years of cruelty. "Does she know?" whispered the terrified part of Sundrop's brain. She said something entirely different than what her mind urged her to say, which was Guess what? I'm lonely. Can I leave now? "Now, go clean the kitchens until everything is spotless, and don't you dare get help!" she hissed nastily. "Y-yes, Your Majesty," said Cleo Mays nervously.

Sundrop smirked and strutted to her chambers. That fake smile crumbled off her face like an old rotting log as soon as she climbed on the bed. She threw herself onto the pillow, waiting for Cleo to come storming in. Suddenly, she felt a burning sensation in her left arm. "Open your eyes, whispered a new voice. "Look at your arm." Sundrop automatically looked down at her left arm...and screamed. She screamed so loudly she rattled the bed and shook her body. The arm was shiny and black. Most horrifying of all...grotesque. Queen Sundrop draped a shawl over her arm and looked herself over in the mirror. There was no change except for the transformation of her arm. She covered her hand in gauze and stomped out of her chambers. Cleo Mays was crouched in the kitchen, cleaning gum from beneath the dining room table. Sundrop smiled. "Not enjoying yourself, are you?" she asked grimly. Cleo rose and held her head in her hands, shaking her head slightly. "No!" roared the queen. "Don't stop!" She forced Cleo down with her hand.

Suddenly, pain spiraled all the way up her human arm. She fell back and screamed like a banshee at the feeling. "Foolish," spit the voice in her head. Her normal arm swung crazily around, then transformed into a beetle's arm. A plume of thick gray smoke rose up from the

3rd Grade Prose

ground. Before Cleo Mays could scream for help, Queen Sundrop ran down the hallway. The shawl spun off her originally transformed arm, revealing the shiny beetle skin.

Cleo screamed loudly as Sundrop took off for her chambers. The queen felt herself growing small. Her legs transformed into beetle legs and things sprouted from her hips. Something sprouted and bloomed on her back, something hard and shiny, and neon teal. Before she knew what was happening, she was about the size of a small rock. The carpet tickled six tiny feet as she scuttled to her chambers. The young queen tried to lift herself up onto the bed, but she was just too small to reach the top. She did not have enough momentum to propel herself up, especially with legs the size of hairs. Sundrop jumped on top of the pet bed and from there tried to leap onto the bed. The results were a scratched shell and a cut face. Sundrop, the beetle, shook her head and then realized that there was a low windowsill that she could jump onto. She had to leave. It was just too dangerous here. “Yes,” whispered the voice in her head. “Yes, go outside.” There was only one problem. She has never been in the wild without her family. And especially not as a beetle. Luckily there was a whole kingdom before she reached the woods.

It turned out that avoiding people’s unwieldy feet was harder than it looked. She kept almost getting squished. For about the tenth time a foot came down, almost squishing her before she even saw the shadow of the foot and she had to jump out of the way of the shoe that could have ended her life.

The next day Sundrop made it to the woods just outside of town. It took a while, but by dawn, Sundrop had made it to the border of the kingdom and slipped into the underbrush. Soon, she soon found a rotting log with a small

knothole that she could barely squeeze into. Unfortunately, in the enclosed space, her feeling of claustrophobia just made the angry voice break past the wall she had been keeping it behind. “Just face it. You might have to die to nature, instead of peacefully as a human in your soft, ever-perfect bed.”

“Please, no,” thought Sundrop. “I just want to be a girl! “

“I will only turn you into a girl when you are not a snotty, spoiled brat. So I guess you will always be a beetle!”

“I will not!” thought Sundrop! “I will start being good right now!”

“If I turn you into a girl now you will be squished by this small space and die. But I am a small girl and have always fit between the half-open gold doors!” But that half-open space was much larger than this knothole you are in right now! Then I will get out of this knothole!”

Sundrop scrambled up out of the knothole... only to come face to face with a scaly, diamond-shaped, hissing, angry head attached to a long, huge string of scales. The snake flicked its tongue out, smelled prey, coiled back, and sprung forward, revealing a tiny poisonous barb on the end of its rattling tail. Sundrop nearly fell down right there on the spot, quaking and screaming inwardly. Since the knothole was just the right size for the snake, it sprang into the hole right after Sundrop did. She yelped and began to think frantically about what she’d do. Trapped in the hole with a rattlesnake, running out of time to survive, Sundrop backed into the far wall. “Run! Get out!” she screamed inwardly. Only the snake’s head could fit in the knot hole, so she was trapped. Trapped. When the snake realized,

3rd Grade Prose

it couldn't get to its prey it began to back out of the hole. As soon as there was exactly one square inch of space between the snake and the hole, she scrambled out of the hole.

She scuttled all the way back to the kingdom, and when the snake realized where Sundrop was, she was an extraordinary length away. When she reached the palace, the voice gave pity to her and turned her back into a human, and she became a humble, sweet queen. She let the villagers harvest their crops peacefully and did not force anyone to bow down to her. She was no longer selfish and snobby, but sweet and peaceful.

Finally, she was safe.

Finally, she was free.

Finally, she had learned her lesson.

Evi Jaynes

3rd Grade

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Susan Bell

3rd Grade Prose

Taino Boy Perspective

October 12, 1492

A loud crack of thunder woke me from my sleep. I had dreamed of mysterious creatures with edged fangs swimming in the bay.

As soon as I woke up, I went to the edge of the water. But this time, my dream was real. Three large vessels that carried feather-like creatures were sailing towards our island. Eventually, they came out of their canoes and swam to shore. They weren't feathered creatures, but people.

I ran to our chief as fast as I could. I begged him to listen to me. He said that I was just a boy. He walked away to the bay, and I followed him.

When we got to the shore, the strangers looked like they had never seen the sun. They had skin the color of a shaved down coconut. They did not look like humans. So I went out from behind the bushes and pinched one of the men's hands. It felt like real skin.

Our Guanahani tribe welcomed the strangers, and we traded gifts. They never touched our skin, only our gold. One of the men picked up a gold coin and grinned. I did not trust these people.

I jumped up crying and ran to my hammock as fast as I could. I put the beads the strangers had given me into my zumi's hands, and I prayed that I wanted something to happen to me, since I was so desperate to warn my tribe.

After I prayed, I went to bed and hoped for the best.

October 13, 1492

I was taken to a canoe with the strangers. Some of the young men of my tribe stayed

calm, and I waited. They brought us to an island and left. I swam away from the island and swam for many nights.

December 28, 1493

Sadly, I could not find my home. Therefore, I swam to the closest island and lived with other tribes. I always wondered each and every day and night about what happened to my tribe.

Inspired by the book *Encounter* by Jane Yolen

Scarlett Preslar

3rd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Becky Leary

3rd Grade Prose

Taino Boy Entry

Inspired by the book *Encounter* by Jane Yolen

October 12, 1492

Jacob Beasley
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary
Becky Leary

I woke up. It was storming so bad as if it was a loud clap of thunder. I had a horrible dream that vessels like fowl were here. When I went outside, I was shocked by what I saw. Coming out of the boats were strange birds. Or, at least they appeared to be birds. They looked suspicious. We gave them things like spears that they could fish with for food, but they just traded us with beads and bells. I kept on telling my Taino chief, "Please, don't welcome them." Although he already had, since it is our custom. My tribe will probably regret not listening to me. I ran quickly to the trees where my hammock was. After I ate, I prayed to my zumis. "Please make the strangers go away." My zumis just stared. I gave the smooth balls that a stranger gave to my idol. I prayed that if they were evil, let something happen to me to show my tribe the strangers' desires.

October 13, 1492

The next morning, the strangers returned to their canoes. They took five of our people including me. I thought they would do something to me. When it was night, the canoes went farther and farther and farther from our land. I said to myself what else is there to do? The next morning I saw another island. I dropped into the water, and I went down, down, and down. The water was freezing. I could hardly stand it. Eventually, I swam to a strange island. Many days I walked. I followed the sun. Many years have passed. I knew in my heart that the strangers were going to steal something, and they did. It was our land and our language. Unfortunately, our children are now theirs.

3rd Grade Prose

Taino Boy Entry

Oct. 12, 1492

Dear Tribe,

I am having a hard time being a Taino boy. I was awakened by a huge clap of thunder, but my dream was a warning about serpents.

I tried to warn the chief, “but I was nothing but a child,” he said. No one listened to me, so I went down to the ocean. When I was sitting on the shore, I saw something extraordinary. I saw something that floated on water. The mysterious object got closer and closer, and then it stopped. Tiny versions of the object came to shore. When it came to shore, a gang of men jumped out. The men were pale and they wore colorful clothes. I tried to tell the chief “Do not welcome them,” but he did not listen to me. I was just a child.

Later, my Guanahani tribe gave the strangers survival kits, and they gave us beads and bells. For a while I forgot my dream. I was not afraid.

Then we had a feasting fire, and we had a huge feast. Suddenly, I remembered my dream. Their leader had a serpent's smile. Again, I yelled, “Do not trust them.!” However, our chief had already given the trust to their leader.

I ran in the bushes to my zemis, praying for the strangers to go back to the skies above. Izzy, my iguana came running out of the bushes, and she looked panicked. It felt like she was trying to tell me something. Suddenly, I saw their leader pick up our gold, he wanted it.

October 13, 1492

The strangers took some of my tribe, even me. I was scared, but I kept my mouth shut, since I was really terrified.. I jumped off the vessel into

the water, and the strangers took the other members of my tribe away.

October 14, 1548

I am now wrapped in a stranger's cloak on an island, missing my family, my friends and my Guanahani tribe, and island. What happened to my tribe can occur with your land as well. Listen and believe me now. I am not a young lad any longer.

Inspired by the book *Encounter* by Jane Yolen

Ezra Cox
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Becky Leary

3rd Grade Prose

Untitled

The glow from the campfire cast an eerie shadow on the walls of our tent. We huddled in the darkness and waited for the legend of bigfoot in a daze until my eyes turned blue to get a clue to where the bigfoot could live . He led trails of foot prints to where he could be. 10 years later they finally found him, they snapped a picture, bigfoot was on the news everywhere. 30 years later they caught him in a 40 foot cage. The people who caught him were millionaires, then Bigfoot was in a very famous fishing store. Everybody took photos until later that night when someone stole Bigfoot everybody was so devastated. Then someone found him then it disappeared. Will the mystery be solved or not?

Harper Loney
3rd Grade
Middle Valley Elementary
Mandy Campbell

3rd Grade Prose

The Ferris Wheel

On summer break our family went to Gatlinburg. My friend Addy joined us. We met up at the cabins and as soon as we were ready, we went to the main street in Gatlinburg. We could smell cupcakes from a mile away. I felt like I was in Candyland.

Addy and I went on ten rides before the Ferris wheel. The line was so long so my dad got out of the line to get us a funnel cake, because we were all very hungry. As soon as Addy and my family got on the Ferris wheel the announcer told us “We will be going around five times.” The Ferris wheel started with a Beep. Then we started to eat the funnel cake.

A few minutes into the ride I heard a pop. I didn't tell anyone about the noise but then the lights darkened, and the ride stopped. My dad pressed an emergency button. “A slide!” Addy shouted. A tiny slide came out from the Ferris wheel because of the emergency stop. We were about five feet from the ground. My dad went down the slide first so he could catch us when we came down. Addy and I slid next. Last my mom and little brother who was four slid down together. A worker gave us ten dollars and one hundred tickets for the arcade.

When we went back to the car, I found it hard to breathe. I was so tense and tired from the emergency experience and having to walk so far. I took a deep breath. That was a Ferris Wheel ride that I will never forget.

Lucy Cunningham
3rd Grade
The Bright School
Cindy Womack

3rd Grade Prose

Tubing in a Storm

It was time. Me, my brother, and my friend were about to go tubing. We all got on the tube. Then it happened. The tube jerked forward. My friend screamed, "Pull up!!!" But I didn't hear him; it was too late. Then we smashed into a wave. Instead of going over we went into it and didn't come out.

I thought time itself had stopped. I lost grip of the handle. When my chin was barely above the water. I was hanging off the side now. The last thing I saw was my friend. Then, all of a sudden he was gone. He had fallen off. I opened my mouth to scream but water started filling my mouth.

Then I was underwater and then fell off. Once I got above the surface I coughed out water and saw my friend behind. We saw lightning and swam frantically back to the tube and started tubing again.

Andrew Craig
3rd Grade
The Bright School
Allison Sakich

3rd Grade Prose

The Cowboy's Horse

Once there was a cowboy. He had a horse. The cowboy's name was Henry and the horse's name was Brown. They loved going on adventures but they were planning on going on their biggest one.

The adventure was climbing the world's biggest mountain. They started at 8 A.M. First, they went through a desert and then at 12 P.M. They were at the end of the mountain.

That is when they started. It was cold and steep but they pushed through and it was night. They stopped to camp. It was a cold night but they still pushed through it. Before they knew it, it was morning. They continued on their climbing. It was hard. They were sore, but they still pushed through it. They were at the top. They were excited, bursting with joy and they put a flag on top.

Lucas Knowles

3rd Grade

Thrasher Elementary School

Lauren Smalley

3rd Grade Prose

The Pink Cow

Once there was a pink cow named Strawberry. All the other cows hated her. She would always get bullied because she looked different.

“Haha, hi miss Princess! Haha!”

“I don’t like princesses!”

So one night when all the cows went to bed, she snuck to the barn and grabbed paint and painted herself to look just like the others. Morning came, and it was milking day. All the cows lined up. Strawberry fit right in. She looked just like them. Once it was Strawberry's turn she gave pink milk! Everyone was amazed, and what did she do? She made her own business, saved up enough money to go to Japan, made more money there, and became rich. And that is why Japan has strawberry milk.

Emilia Day

3rd Grade

Thrasher Elementary School

Susannah Jacobs

3rd Grade Prose

The Banana Tree

A long long time ago, there were two bunnies Benjamin, and Peter. These bunnies loved bananas. They looked and looked, but they could not find any after a long day of searching, high and low “LOOK!” shouted Peter, I found a banana tree. “YAY!” shouted Benjamin. They raced to the tree, and ate so many bananas making them feel funny, moments later they hear their mom yelling “dinner time” so they hopped back home. When they arrived their dinner was cold, concentrating very carefully lasers shot from their eyes, heating their dinner could it be? Super powers? The bunnies knew they needed to find out what else they could do, for now it was time for bed.

The next day the bunnies woke up, had their breakfast, and rushed out the door much faster than normal speed “WOAH!” they both shouted. “We must have super speed” said Benjamin. “How could we have gotten super powers?” Peter replied “THE BANANA TREE!” Benjamin yelled. They both looked at each other, and burst out laughing. Moments later they hear a kitten, stuck in a tree. They both go to help, Peter runs and jumps, learning he can jump much higher than normal, he grabs the kitten, and soars out of the tree, learning another new power. Peter, and Benjamin can fly.

The rest of the afternoon, they spent running super-fast, hopping extremely high, and flying from tree to tree. Peter, and Benjamin were now super bunnies who can help other animals who need them.

Aubree Wilson
3rd Grade
Middle Valley Elementary School
Marcella Hakun

3rd Grade Prose

I Saw Santa

One night when I was getting ready for bed, I saw something in the sky. It looked like it might be a shooting star or maybe it was a big swarm of butterflies. I didn't know, so I went to bed. I hoped it was Santa. I heard a noise coming out of the chimney. So, I thought it was Santa. I got out of bed. I checked the Christmas tree. I looked...my eyes were wide open! I saw Santa! I was so glad that he came to my house. He was eating the cookies and he delivered the presents. Then, he disappeared. I went back to bed to get some rest.

Jahziel Barton

3rd Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Angie Miller

3rd Grade Prose

The Ten Colored Monkey

One day there was a ten colored monkey He was red, yellow, pink, purple, blue, orange, green, gold, silver and, mint green. Did I mention he has cool glasses? He has red, white and blue ones. He was the coolest monkey around. He also has a Tesla that's so cool. One day the monkey was riding his Tesla. A gorilla popped up and started attacking the village, so it was up to the monkey. He got out of his Tesla and started attacking and punched and punched at the gorilla. So the gorilla was about to punch him, and he said help! Help! The gorilla tried to punch a superhero and flew and caught his punch. So then the superhero caught him and punched him, and the superhero won! Everyone was happy. Phew, that was close, the monkey said.

The end.

Callie Leach

3rd Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Robin Williams

3rd Grade Prose

The Magical Butterfly

I went to the playground and played with my friends. Then I saw a butterfly. It looked magical.

The butterfly sparkled in pretty rainbow colors. Then suddenly, the butterfly landed on me. I began to fly in the sky. I flew to Canada and then to New York. New York had lots of people and tall buildings. As I was flying across Mississippi I saw a big and scary tornado. It came close to me and lifted me up to space. Space was filled with lots of pretty stars and planets. As I was flying back to Chattanooga, I could see my house with my animals playing in the yard. Then I flew back to school and landed in the playground. Everything was just how I left it. It was like I hadn't even been gone.

Madelyn Arthur
3rd Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Amber Weaver

3rd Grade Prose

What Does The Note Mean

In 1926, there lived a family of four, named The Benjamin Family. Helen, the mother, Philip, the father, John, the son, and Emmaline, the daughter. One day, Emmaline stormed off into the attic, because she was mad at John, where she stayed for five whole days. She finally came out one rainy Monday afternoon. Two years later, the family was planting crops and unexpectedly, a tornado hit. The Benjamins passed away, but their house still stood, where it remained unoccupied and untouched for several years. Ten years later, a family, The Hepburns, moved into Benjamin's old house. The Hepburn Family was made up of four people just like the Benjamin family. The mother and father, Beatrix and Fredrick, and their children, Amelia and Peter. Amelia was curious and wanted to explore their new home, so she went into the attic, where she discovered a handwritten note. The note said: "John has n interest in poetry, so why shall he burn it up?" Suddenly, Amelia remembered that she had seen a burnt poetry journal in the fireplace. It was getting close to bedtime, so she put the note in her pocket. She lay in bed for hours thinking about the note she had found in the attic, and what it might have meant. At midnight she decided to get out of bed. Her brother and parents were sound asleep. She went to the fireplace and retrieved the poetry journal. The handwriting inside the journal looked surprisingly similar to the note she had found in the attic, but it was hard to read because of smudges in the ink. Then, she flipped to the front cover of the book and saw the name, Emmaline. She thought that name sounded familiar, but where had she heard it? Amelia returned to the attic and found a picture laying on the floor. The picture was of a family in front of a house that appeared to be the exact house she was standing in. She flipped it over, and saw the names Helen,

Philip, John and Emmaline. Amelia walked back to her bedroom and looked at the clock on the wall. It was 5:09am so she got back into bed, hoping to get some sleep. The next morning at breakfast Amelia asked her mother and father who was the Benjamin Family? Her parents had no idea what she was talking about. Later, the Hepburns went to the farmers market. Afterwards, she and her brother played outside. Amelia had forgotten all about the note and the book. Later, because she was so tired, she decided to take a nap. While she was sleeping, she had a dream about the poetry journal and the note. Later that night, around 9:30pm, she returned to the attic and found the note, picture, and the book. She examined them for a long time and then had an idea. Her idea was to gather as much information about The Benjamin Family as she could. She remained in the attic for almost two hours, looking for clues. She found a small leather bracelet with the letter E on it that she thought must have belonged to Emmaline. Amelia thought that maybe Emmaline had wrote something about her bracelet in the journal... and she did! Amelia found a small piece of poetry that Emmaline had wrote. The poem was called The Small Leather Bracelet. The poem said: My leather bracelet so small so sweet smells like candy a very good treat! The next day, Amelia snuck up to the attic to continue her investigation. Beatrix heard sounds coming from the attic, so she went upstairs to look around. She was surprised when she saw Amelia, and she watched her for a few minutes. In a very firm voice she said, "AMELIA HEPBURN WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" Amelia had to think fast! She said she was looking for a feather to put in her hair tomorrow. Her mother went along with it and said she could not go into the attic at night anymore. This was a problem.

The next morning she went to the attic to

3rd Grade Prose

gather the note, picture and book and put them in her room. She would keep them there for now. That afternoon she went outside with Peter to jump rope. While she was jumping rope she had an idea. "PETER! PETER!", she cried. "What is it Amelia?", he asked. "I have an idea! Just don't tell mother." She brought Peter into the attic to form a plan. Thirty minutes later, they had a plan! Every night they would go into the attic together and grab as many clues as they could, and then they would go to Amelia's room to compare clues. The only problem was how would they get past their mother? Amelia had another idea that they would tie a rope to the attic door knob and pull on the rope to open it. If their mother came out they would go back to their bedrooms and pretend they were asleep. Later that night they pulled the rope and nobody came out, so they went into the attic and grabbed some things before returning to Amelia's room. After looking over the clues they had collected, they figured it out! John stole Emmeline's poetry journal, and put it in the fire, causing Emmaline to lock herself in the attic for 5 days, where she wrote the note and hid it!

The End

Aniston Lewis
3rd Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Amber Weaver

3rd Grade Prose

The Great Adventures of the Snake Brothers- The Volcano Trip

One day Snakey said, "Let's go on an adventure!" All of the brothers loved that idea because they were also the best of friends. Snako said "How about we go to a volcano first?" They thought that was a great idea for their first adventure. "How about we take a boat?" suggested Snaka. "Yes! Boats are so much fun!" Snakeo agreed. So, they all got on the Snake boat, and they started out on their adventure. On the way, they saw 4 dolphins. "Hi dolphins!" Snako said. The dolphins made a funny sound in response. "Those dolphins look like they are going on an adventure too!" Snakey pointed out. The dolphins jumped in and out of the water and their splashes got the snakes wet. Then the brothers waved goodbye to the dolphins and continued their journey.

Then Snakey spotted land in the distance. They directed their boat towards it, and they made it to the island. On the island was a very big volcano. The earth around them started to shake! Snaka said, "Oh no! The volcano is going to erupt!" Then the volcano went BOOM! Lava flew all over the sky. Snakeo said, "Run! The lava is coming!" But before they could get back in the boat, the lava destroyed the whole thing! They all started to panic and then Snaka found a palm tree. It was lying on the ground and the lava had not gotten to it yet. "Let's use this palm tree to make a raft." Snaka suggested. Then Snakey said "We need to hurry; the lava is coming!" When the raft was finished, the lava stopped, and it all just disappeared. "What?!" Snako said. "I have no idea what happened, but I am glad we can now explore this island." said Snakeo.

So, they explored the island, and they even had a little hike all the way to the top of the volcano. Then they looked down inside the

volcano and there was still lava bubbling inside. All of a sudden, the volcano shook again. "Get to the raft now!" Snaka said. The volcano went BOOM again! Then they all got in the raft and sailed away safely. They agreed to wait a few weeks before taking another adventure together.

Camden Lee
3rd Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Angie Miller

3rd Grade Prose

The Tale Of Rosa And Pineapple

Once upon a time there was a unicorn named Rosa and she was soft pink with a gold and rose gold swirled horn and tail. She was very lonely but every unicorn said no to being her friend. Then one day she ran into a panda named Pineapple and she looked like a pineapple with blue eyes. Then they got to know stuff about each other and played soccer, catch, tag, and more! Then became best friends forever and ever!

Layla Oliver

3rd Grade

Middle Valley Elementary School

Alexandra Logan

3rd Grade Prose

Untitled

Once upon a time in Good town, a poison dart frog named Patrick was looking to cause some trouble. But he was way too small. Patrick was as small as your pinky nail. So he could not cause any trouble. So he sneaked in but he still did not know how to use his poison. So he left and asked the elder poison dart frog named Avery. She helped Patrick and he still could not figure it out. So one day, Patrick ate an ant the elder frog gave him. He turned bright red with a hint of orange. But Patrick still needed the elder frog to help him control his poison. One day he learned how to use his poison, so went back to see the town being chased by predators. So he saved the town with his poison. After saving the town, he got a medal of a frog using its poison.

Hudson Richardson

3rd Grade

Middle Valley Elementary School

Alexandra Logan

4th Grade Prose

The Meerkat Mayhem

“Woosh”

Once on a Wednesday night at the Kalahari Desert of South Africa, Billy the Meerkat was hunting for some food to bring back to their home, about one mile away.

“Keeeeeearrrrr,” a hawk sounded. Billy thought it was some wind, so he carried on with his day.

Suddenly a hawk swept in and captured Billy. “AHHHHH!” screamed Billy so terrified his entire body started to turn red.

Meanwhile the other meerkats began to get worried and decided to start looking for Billy. A couple minutes later, the other meerkats found a piece of Billy's hair along with the food he's been collecting. “We have to do something so that none of us get eaten too,” said Billy's sister Leah, covered in tears.

“What if we puffed up our fur so we looked intimidating to the other predators?” said Qwandel, the biggest meerkat.

The meerkats decided to try it and it was working, but not good enough. They were still getting eaten by hawks and other predators.

Then Taqauvian had the idea to make burrows to run into when a predator comes.

They decided to try Taqauvian's idea and made the burrows. It was working pretty well, but once again it still wasn't good enough.

“We could make a code call like a scream whenever a predator comes!” exclaimed Bartholomy.

They decided to try it, so they started taking

turns being on watch duty and It worked perfectly. The meerkats stopped getting eaten and when a predator came they would scurry into their burrows.

Two weeks later as if nothing could get any better, Billy the meerkat came back after finally escaping the hawk.

They were so excited that they started singing, “We're the best in the whole desert.....AHHHH HAWK!!!” they screamed as they sprinted inside their burrows once again.

Vaughn Crawford
4th Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Prose

The Mountain Lions

Chirp, Chirp! Ratty the Rattlesnake and his family were out hunting on a normal Saturday morning. The forest they were hunting in was beautiful with a lush green canopy and the sound of rushing water. What the family didn't realize was that there were some snowy mountains at the edge of the forest home to many mountain lions almost invisible to the naked eye. It sounds again closer this time Chirp, Chirp, Chirp! Ratty spotted the bird, it was a blue jay.

"I'm going in for the kill," said Ratty, an interesting colored rattlesnake tan with titanium white stripes. Ratty sneaks up behind the bird and CHOMP! The venom filled teeth sink into the helpless prey, and he swallows it whole as it yells SQUACK SQUACK!

"Well done son," says Randy (Ratty's father). Randy is a Vanta Black Rattlesnake.

SNAP, Crunch! Ratty hears twigs snapping around them at every angle.

"What was that?" Ratty's whole family said in sync.

Suddenly from out of nowhere, a herd of mountain lions appeared all around them! "RUUUUUUUNNNN!!!!!!!" exclaimed Ratty's family! But it was too late. They were surrounded!

"There is no way out but to fight!" disclosed Ruby Ratty's mom to their family.

First, Ratty and his family tried to scare the Mountain Lions off by using their tails. Rattle, Rattle! HISSSSSSSS, HISSSSS! None of them worked, the mountain lions just got confused by their actions so they kept doing it. Rattle,

Rattle. Hissssss, Hissssss. Unfortunately, the mountain lions didn't run away; they just moved in closer still confused and dazed by their actions.

Next, they tried confusing them even more so they could slither away without them noticing. So Ratty moved in and started slithering around in circles, Then he tried to bite the mountain lion's thick leg; it jumped back and dodged the razor sharp teeth.

Randy and Ruby took advantage of the gap in the formation and slithered out of the circle! They slithered around in circles distracting the mountain lions and CHOMP! Ratty bit one of the mountain lions in the leg as it was distracted. Randy and Ruby slithered off shouting, "We can't help you from here anymore you were born for this, use your skills and meet us at the burrow when you are done! You got this!" and then they slithered off into the distance. Ratty, who was distracted by his parents, got clawed and blood flew and Ratty screamed in pain. He was ripped back to the present.

All of a sudden, Ratty was provoked by pride and rage. Ratty flung himself at a mountain lion and bit it right in the face. SPLAT-blood flew everywhere! The other mountain lions were shocked and two of them scurried away! Ratty knew his job wasn't done yet though. He hacked with his teeth and one after another mountain lions fell and then there was one left who scampered into the distance. Ratty escaped.

4th Grade Prose

Finally, Ratty reunited with his parents and from that experience he learned to always be aware of his surroundings or he might have an experience like that again. And as Ratty the says, "I will never forget that day for the rest of my life as the lion's blood burns infinitely on my tongue."

Tate Devlin Brown

4th Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Prose

Snowy the Little Snow Leopard

Crunch, crunch! Snowy the Snow Leopard listens to the sound of her feet crunching in the snow as Snowy walks along the Himalayan Mountains. The little Snow Leopard was looking for a nice yummy blue sheep to eat. She walked slowly trying to catch a blue sheep. She heard her feet crunching in the snow. A Snow Shoe hare sniffed a twig then picked it up before running off.

Snowy spotted a blue sheep. Her tummy was growling “growl, growl!” She slowly went toward it. She pounced on it and killed it. She started eating it, and she enjoyed it! Just a little bit down the mountain there was a hunter looking for something to kill for dinner that night. The hunter spotted Snowy and thought she would make a great meal. The hunter headed over to Snowy. The little Snow Leopard looked up anxiously.

“What was that?” Snowy thought to herself, scared.

Snowy was used to the snow crunching under her feet but not other animals. She hoped it wasn't a predator like a human.

A little while later the human coughed a little. “Cough, cough!”

Snowy stopped eating her blue sheep. A cough could only mean one thing. It meant that there was a human around. The little Snow Leopard needed to protect herself, or that scoundrel human would kill her.

Quickly she went into a pile of snow and hid. Her white fur helped her to blend in. She was great at camouflaging. She was like a stick bug on the ground so she was sure the hunter wouldn't see her. The hunter peered in the

distance, but he couldn't find Snowy.

“Hey-where did that Snow Leopard go?” he asked.

Snowy smiled with ease. The hunter noticed a billy goat in the distance and he galloped towards it instead.

Finally, Snowy was safe! She got out of the snow really slowly to make sure the hunter wasn't still there. She finally finished eating her blue sheep. My life lesson is to be careful when you go out into the wild to avoid predators. When you are cautious in the wild it helps you find food instead of being food.

Katherine Allison
4th Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Prose

Belle the Deer

Swoosh! “There goes another tumbleweed across the hot savanna,” Belle thought. Belle always thought it was lonely around the savanna, even though there were millions of deer in Belle's herd. Belle thought it would be... kinda nice to have a friend, a coyote, a bear, a squirrel, even a lion! She didn't care, she just wanted a friend. Her dad (the leader of the herd) had always said, “Belle you DON'T need a friend- especially if it's a predator!” Belle was never happy when her parents said that! So, Belle went up to them and said, “I'm leaving!” “They didn't understand, they didn't care. They just thought it was a phase.

Unexpectedly, Belle was off into what she thought was a drab savanna. She was walking and starving for days, until finally... a friend! Belle was going to achieve her goal after all! She ran as fast as a cheetah!

“Hi, I'm Belle!!” she remarked.

“Um I didn't really ask, and you know I'm a lion, right?” yelled the mean old lion.

“We could be great friends!” exclaimed Belle.

“Yeah, dream on kid!” he said.

“Well that was harsh,” Belle mumbled under her breath.

The lion charged at Belle and she started to charge at him and gave him a bruise...it wasn't pretty.

Belle chased the lion around and around until Belle ran out of breath, so she went to a cave and stayed there for a night. The next morning, all she heard was...crunch, crunch. It was a

“Belle!?”asked the deer.

“Um hello?” asked Belle.

“It's me Dawn!!” said the deer.

“Oh hi!!”exclaimed Belle.

“You need to get back home NOW! Everyone is so worried about you, so they sent me to find you.”

“Oh ok, let's go back now,” suggested Belle.

All in all, Belle and Dawn went home and Belle now has a friend who more than likely saved her life from the lion.. Belle also knows never ever to run off again.

Maddie Harris
4th Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Prose

Winter Wonderland

Once there were triples named Blix, Emily, and Kate. They were walking through town when Boom...there was a clap of thunder and they noticed a flash of lighting. Then everything vanished. All of the shops, the houses, and all of the trees. Then they found themselves somewhere new, somewhere beautiful.

“Well,” said Kate “we better find our way home before our parents call out a search party”.

“I don’t know about a search party.” Said Blix

“Well, I think this place is beautiful.” Added Emily

“Well it is.” agreed Kate “But we really need to get home.”

“Ok.” said Emily “But can we at least explore first?”

“Ugh. Fine.” said Kate “But make it quick. We really need to get home.” “Yay!” shouted Emily

“Don’t yell so loud.” said Blix

“Sorry.” said Emily

“Ok let’s stop talking and explore.” said Kate

As they explored one of the bunnies in the forest came up to them and said... “Hello there I’m Chip. Are you new to Winter Wonderland?”

“What’s Winter Wonderland?” asked Kate very confused how she got there. “Why you’re in it right now.” said Chip

“Is this a different world?” asked Blix

“Why yes of course.” said Chip

“How do we get back to the other world?” asked Kate still very confused. “Um oh I have to go. Have fun!” said Chip

“Wait!” said Emily

“Oh no.” said Chip “You’ve done it now.”

Then. Boom!

“Again!” said Blix

Then flash.

“Where this time?” said Kate

“Well” said Chip “The moon of course.”

“The moon!?” yelled Kate very puzzled

“Yes, that’s where the Evil Queen lives.” Said Chip

“The Evil Queen!” yelled all three of the children

Then they were all on the moon. The Evil Queen spotted them and captured them all. Thankfully Chip managed to get away. As soon as the three children got there the Evil Queen hypnotized them all and then she said, “You will obey me if you want to go back to Winter Wonderland.”

So, they didn’t really have much of a choice because they were hypnotized. Then Blix was following the Queen’s orders and taking out the trash when Chip jumped out and said, “I will save you.”

Although he was hypnotized, he was glad to see Chip.

Meanwhile the girls were serving the Evil Queen fruit. Then Chip burst through the door. “Stop

4th Grade Prose

Evil Queen!" said Chip

"Oh. Hello again rabbit." Said the Evil Queen

Then Emily burst out "Oh Chip!"

"Stop talking my servant." said the Evil Queen

"My name is not servant it's Emily."

"I said quiet!"

"No no." said Emily right before she could no longer speak.

"What have you done to my sister!" yelled Blix

"Well, I've silenced her so she can no longer speak." said Evil Queen "Oh and call me Queen."

"Ok" said Kate

"Ok!?" said Emily and Blix

"Is that rabbit still here?"

"Yes" said Kate

"Well." said the Evil Queen "Throw him into the dungeon!"

"No please no!" said Chip

"Ok now that the rabbit's gone, you, boy!"

"It's Blix."

"Yes. Ok. Scrub my floors."

"Never." declared Blix

"Now!" yelled the Queen

Meanwhile Chip was busy fighting off the guards saying stuff like, "No no don't take me.", or "No please I'll wash your dishes. Scrub your floors!" But still they never let him go. Chip finally managed to reach the key and, pop! He got out. Chip found a secret exit and escaped.

"Scrub harder boy." Said the Evil Queen

This time Chip snuck in the castle and rescued all three children.

"Now." said Chip "Say 'wait' again Emily."

"Why me? Why not Kate?"

"Just say it." pleaded Chip

"Ok. Wait"

"Were in Winter Wonderland." Said Chip

"Ok. Well, I've explored. Let's go home now." said Emily

"Wait." said Kate "What if we made a home for ourselves here?"

"Great idea." said Emily and Blix

And they all lived happily in Winter Wonderland.

Skylar Shook

4th Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Angela Denton

4th Grade Prose

The Hunter and the Deer

One time in the spring there was a deer named Aspen who lived with his family in a magical forest. One evening they were sitting down by a shiny clear river eating dinner when all of the sudden they heard a loud bang! Aspen went to check it out but suddenly heard it again. The noise scared him so he ran off and got lost. His parents were worried sick!

As Aspen was walking alone in the forest, he found what was making the noise. "It was a hunter named Ferdinand," he said shakily. Aspen tried to find his way home but could not remember the way. Then he remembered there was a flower that always pointed north where his house was.

On his way to find that flower, he ran into Ferdinand the hunter. Aspen quickly ran and hid behind a bush, "Phew that was close!" Ferdinand came back and saw Aspen's antlers above the bush. He began shooting at Aspen, barely missing him. Aspen started zigzagging through trees dodging bullets.

As he was running, he ran into his brother Christopher, who had been searching for him. "Come with me I know where to hide," said Christopher. Then he led Aspen into the crystal caves. Aspen said, "Thank you for saving my life." Christopher replied, "You're welcome. We can hide here until Ferdinand passes. Then we can both head back home together."

As Aspen was waiting with his brother, he felt thankful that his brother came looking for him. The two brothers waited in the cave all night long. In the morning, the birds were chirping, waking Aspen. "Christopher get up," Aspen said yawning. "Do you think it's safe to go home?" "I think it is but we have to be cautious," Christopher replied.

So they left the cave quietly and ready for anything. As they were walking by the shiny river Aspen said, "I remember this, we're close to home." The two brothers took off towards home! Their parents see them and they freeze. Their mom starts crying happy tears. Once again, the family was reunited! Aspen realized the forest could be a dangerous place, but for now, he was safe with his family!

Owen Harness
4th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Angela Denton

4th Grade Prose

The Wingsnake

Once there was a road near a giant field called Turkey Foot Road. All of the people who lived on Turkey Foot (except my mom) believed that the field was magic, and had formed a link to an unstable, partially collapsed, dragon-filled skyscraper. Of course, the tower wasn't completely in our universe, because it was invisible and untouchable. But, going near it could confuse you. This legend became more popular when an old man walked there, tripped on a rock, and said a blue building that was tall and broken had appeared out of nowhere. No one actually believed him, but he swore he saw dragon-like snakes with wings flying around. The people on Turkey Foot believed in the other world, but not what the old man said.

I am Fred Pen. OK, I don't know why my last name is Pen, but the C.S. in C.S. Lewis stood for "Clive Staples". Literally.

Me and my dad, My dad, John, and I are the only people who believe the old man who tripped. We have always lived together without my mom, Susan, until he decided we should live with her. So, we drove to Turkey Foot Road, where my mom lives,(my mom lives there) a place about 50,000 miles away from our house in Fruita, Colorado. Turkey Foot Road is in Tennessee! When we moved, I was very bored, I played with a blob of silly putty. When we were about 5ft. away from Turkey Foot, my silly putty quickly flew into its case! I felt the putty, even though it wasn't there! Then, I saw a dark gray rock, but it was bulleting around in random spots of my vision. Then I started confusing myself. I thought, maybe I'm not in Tennessee anymore, maybe my dad's name is ... I didn't finish that thought because a "BOOM!" and a scream woke me up from my mind-undoing. The "BOOM!" was the car crashing and the scream was my dad, who I couldn't see. A

rock had destroyed the electric sliding door. "Dad?" I asked. No response. I crawled through the broken windshield because the car was flipped. I didn't care that the glass poked me a tiny bit. "Dad!" I yelled. He was nowhere, but a big deck was sitting on the ground, split in half and overturned. I got up and decided to check out this weird deck in the middle of the moon.

Wait. This place looked like the moon but I was in that field with the portal. I should've made the connection in the first place. The field had teleported me! That's when I saw the dragon-like snakes with wings (wingsnakes? Yeah, that sounds right.) flying around.

Okay, fine, checking out the deck was not needed, but when I did, a small, curious wingsnake cautiously crawled out of its hiding place under the crumbly, moldy, backyard deck, drawn by the noise of the crash. I slowly approached it. Then, a blue and orange line smashed me and I somehow found myself in a tornado. Wind and color were flying around, and the orange line (a wingsnake) had curled around me, so I saw a few blue spikes on it and feathery, white wings. The tornado was shooting out of the ground, and light started spewing everywhere. The ground cracked, then it crumbled apart as the wingsnake and I shot into a destroyed car with my dad. The car levitated, then flew into my mom's garage, quickly landing on the ground with a creak and a crunch.

Susan ran out of her house and yelled, "Get out o-" but then her mouth fell so wide even I could've fit in there. I mean, she saw a flying snake, me, and my unconscious dad, so I could understand. Right then and there I decided to name my new pet wingsnake Bobby. Bobby flew out, and I hoped he didn't make a tornado. He didn't, but he yelled "Skreeeeeeee!" Then flew into Susan's house. "That was insane!" said

4th Grade Prose

said Susan, but Bobby flew back and dropped a cookie on the ground, then started tornadoing again. I groaned, because my pet was disappearing into a storm cloud, which was starting to funnel into a tornado.

“AHHHHHHHHH!!!!” screamed my mom and dad in unison. The very tornado was splitting into light, consuming a tree, about 10 square feet of dirt, and my dad’s unoccupied car (we all got out). The tornado disappeared, so I could see Bobby clinging onto his cookie. “John, let’s get inside before this thing kills us. You too, Fred.” said my mom.

“No! He’s my pet, and I already named him Bobby!” I said.

“Are you crazy, Fred? This is not a pet!” my mom replied.

“How about this?” my dad started. “We’ll let you have the snake for three days and if it doesn’t destroy a lot of things, you can keep it. Deal?” he asked.

“Deal.” I responded.

The next three days flew past, and Bobby bent a ton of paperclips (fine, only 25). On the 4th day, Bobby was using a hammer to make a plate 500 shards of whatever it was made of.

“Skreee!” he yelled happily.

“Oh no!” yelled my mom.

“It’s just a plate, mom.” I said.

“Yes, but that... thing destroyed it!” my mom retorted.

“Relax, Susan. Those plates are \$3 at Target, and this is the 4th day of Bobby being here, not

the 3rd. Plus, I like this wingsnake. Go buy a new plate, Fred and I will feed Bobby a cookie.”

And that’s how I got a pet wingsnake.

Buddy Himrod
4th Grade
St. Peter’s Episcopal School
Jennifer von Klar

4th Grade Prose

Da Big Boys

Toast was a pig. He was looking for sand dollars at the beach. He was trying to get enough money for a cabin. Toast was so hot that he was quickly lifting one paw at a time. He then started to run to the ocean. He jumped in and swam around. After he was finally cool, Toastcool Toast ran out of the ocean because he saw a frog. Toast ran to meet the frog. Toast said, "I'm Toast. What's your name?"

The frog replied "Cheese".

Together Toast and Cheese looked for sand dollars. They found 43 and exchanged them for \$50. Again Toast and Cheese looked for sand dollars for about 45 minutes. They found another 126 and traded them in for \$200. Toast remembered that he already had \$102.

They added up all the money and had \$376! They needed 24 more dollars to buy the cabin. They were about to continue, but they saw a llama wearing sunglasses. They ran to the llama and asked his name. The llama replied, "Fudge." Toast said "I'm Toast and the frog's name is Cheese."

Toast and Cheese told Fudge all about what they were trying to do and how. They all looked for sand dollars but found zero. They started walking and saw a hole. They went to the hole and saw a crab in the hole. In the hole they also saw a lot of sand dollars.

The crab said, "what do you want?"

They asked if they could have some sand dollars and the crab asked, "How many?"

Toast said, "just 30."

"Maybe," said the crab.

Toast asked, "What do we have to do?"

"Bring me two fish."

"Is that it?" Toast asked.

"Yes," the crab said.

"OK, we're going to get your fish."

They all went to the ocean. While they were gathering the fish, they ate some too. When they were walking back to the crab, Toastcrab Toast fell into a deep hole, humid and dark, with freezing cold water in it. The water was quickly filling in the hole. Toast was thinking how he could get out and was worried it would take too long to get out.

While he was thinking, Cheese and Fudge were getting a rope. As soon as they got back, they threw the rope in the hole to get the scared pig. Toast felt a splash from the water and felt the rope. Toast tugged on the rope and started to hang on the rope. It took about five minutes to climb and finally reach the wet sand.

They ran straight to the crab. When they got to the crab, they gave him the fish and the crab gave them the sand dollars. They now had enough to buy the cabin. They did not want to live here at this mini beach anymore. They were thinking of where to go.

"New York" Cheese asked?

"No too busy," Toast and Fudge said together.

"Las Vegas," Fudge asked?

"That sounds nice," Toast said.

"Sure," Cheese said.

4th Grade Prose

“Let’s go to the airport,” Toast replied.
They started to walk. Luckily the airport was just two minutes away.

Four minutes later, they somehow got past security. They took the train to gate C2. After a quick five minutes later, they boarded their flight to Vegas. The friends learned it took six hours.

Five hours later, they were down 200 bucks and bought a hotel room. They went straight to room 502 on the fifth floor. They met their goal and finally got to chill out.

Parker Thompson
4th Grade
St. Peter’s Episcopal School
Jennifer von Klar

4th Grade Prose

Jimmy

Once there was a boy named Jimmy. Jimmy loved Christmas very much. He was so excited to celebrate with his family. The only problem was that it was only the 1st of December which meant Christmas was twenty-five days away. He was not happy about that at all. That was too far away, and he did not want to wait. So, Jimmy made a wish that it would be Christmas that day.

Jimmy waited all day long, but the wish still had not come true. He thought to himself that, perhaps, it would happen overnight while he slept. He was hopeful that he would go to sleep that night and the next day he would wake up and it would be Christmas Day. He thought about it all evening long. He tried to pass the time away by playing video games and watching television in his room until he got tired and fell asleep.

Jimmy woke up suddenly and though it was the morning. Jimmy got up and ran downstairs. But there were no presents under the Christmas tree. He felt very sad. Then he realized that it was still dark outside, so he looked at the clock to check the time. It was only 11:32 PM! That gave him hope that the wish could still come true. He went back up the stairs to his bedroom, turned on his television until he fell back asleep.

When Jimmy woke up again, he was not sure what time it was so he ran back down stairs to find that there were still no presents under the Christmas tree. Seeing that it was still dark outside and checking the clock again, he realized it was only 12:36 AM. There was still hope! He thought the wish could still come true. He went back up the stairs to his bedroom, again. He turned on his television until he fell back asleep, again.

When Jimmy awoke, he looked out the window to see that the sun had come up. It was definitely morning now and he thought to himself, "This is it. This is the moment of truth." He heard people laughing and talking as he walked down the hall. Then, as he walked down the stairs, he saw his whole family and lots and lots of presents all around the tree. They all said "Merry Christmas, Jimmy!"

Jimmy smiled and thought to himself, "It really worked! My wish actually came true!" He was so happy and spent the whole day celebrating with his family. He never wanted the day to end. Then he thought to himself, "Perhaps that should be my next wish!"

Konnor Hickman
4th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Abby Webb

4th Grade Prose

My Imaginary Dog

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Kyle. Kyle was moving to California, he originally lived in Utah, but his dad got a new job down in Los Angeles.

Last day at Utah school they called his name on the intercom, so he packed up his things, he gave hugs to the whole fourth grade, even the teachers. He went down the stairs and into his mom's car. As they drove home, he looked out the window and saw the beautiful sunset, all the different colors. His eyes started to get heavier and heavier and fell asleep.

The next day he woke up, he wasn't in his mom's car, he was in his new house. He finally got up and went to the kitchen. His mom had pancakes ready with syrup and butter. He went out to the balcony where his parents were drinking coffee and sat down. Kyle was worried about not having any friends at his new school, but his parents reassured him that he would make new friends. He left and started putting all empty moving boxes outside his door. He pulled all his toys out and started playing with them. He spread all his toys all over the room. Suddenly he saw an oddly bright light coming from his closet, so he opened it and saw a puppy. He tried not to scream, but he was so happy. He ran downstairs to where his parents were sitting and asked them if they bought him a puppy. "We didn't buy you a puppy," his mom said, "but that is a good idea." "Yeah, I was just joking," Kyle said quickly, he did want his parents to think something was happening. He went back upstairs and looked in the closet, his dog was still there, he hugged the little puppy.

He closed his eyes, and he was in space. He looked around and saw the little puppy named her Lulu. He was in a space suit and Lulu had a space helmet. They were going over to Saturn,

they played together on the ring. Then they went up higher and sat on the stars. Then he could hear his mom calling for him to eat dinner. He couldn't find an exit from space, so he hugged the puppy close to him. Then, after Kyle was back in his room again, he went downstairs so he could eat dinner. Then when he sat down to eat, his mom asked him "I called you three times, why didn't you answer?" his mom asked, puzzled. "Oh mom, I just, uh, couldn't hear you. He said nervously. His mom said that next time he needed to answer her first. Then he went to his room and played with the dog.

After a few years, he turned twelve. One day when he came back from school, he looked in his closet, he couldn't find his dog so he told his mom about the dog and went back to bed. His mom and dad sat in their room thinking about getting a dog for Kyle. The next morning after Kyle went to school, his parents got a dog for him as a surprise. Once he got home from school, his eyes couldn't even believe what he saw in his room waiting for him. His parents told him that they realized Kyle was playing with an imaginary dog and how much he needed one. Kyle was shocked and excitedly played with the dog every day.

THE END

Abigail Ann Zachariah
4th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Abigail Webb

4th Grade Prose

Brains

Chapter One: The Warning Destiny

As the fur on the poofy Persian feline clung to her hand, Destiny pet him.

She yawned and continued to sketch the moth she had seen on her field trip about a week ago. It was long with curvy antennae.

Destiny enjoyed the alone time. "Darcy can't even leave me alone for a second," She muttered.

With her swirly watercolors, she matched the bright colors to the real insect.

A faint knock came from Destiny's bedroom door. "Darcy- I don't have time for-" The door creaked open. Two emerald eyes poked out. Then a soft and delicate voice said, "May I come in?" After a moment, she recognized the bright voice. "Well, okay, Lolly."

Lolly opened the door fully and plopped on Destiny's bed.

Destiny opened her floral curtains to let in the bright 12:00 sun.

Lolly held the cat closely, the Persian shifting nonstop.

Destiny's laptop buzzed. Lolly ran over and grabbed it, placing it on Destiny's desk. The screen went black. "Emergency Broadcasting!" The computer said, in a robotic man's voice. "A couple is convinced they saw a zombie in an Atlanta graveyard!" Lolly and Destiny exchanged glances. "It's just like the movies!" Said a female figure this time, clearly recorded. The president appeared on her screen. "Stay in your homes!" He said, with a fearful expression.

The laptop went back to the homescreen.

Creampuff hissed.

Destiny scoffed. "As if that was believable." She commented. "I dunno, Des. I think it's true." Lolly shivered. Destiny gave her a look of doubt. Calm down, Destiny thought to herself.

"Nah. Probably nothing to report. Not much happens in Atlanta, anyway." She said, slowly.

"Hey! Maybe I can show you the moth I drew," She said, changing the subject. Destiny had to admit, she didn't know if she believed herself.

Chapter Two: The Graves Of The Undead Lolly

Lolly wasn't feeling happy. Nor sad. Scared. Very very scared, She thought.

Lolly shivered in fear.

It wasn't her fault the world turned against her and started an (alleged) ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE.

Destiny wanted to go on a walk with Lolly; although, Lolly had a feeling it wasn't that simple.

Destiny's neighborhood passed the oldest graveyard in Atlanta, (and most likely to be the home of zombies). Knowing Destiny, she would 100% take her to the graveyard.

As she walked to Destiny's little house, she hummed the theme song to that one television show that was always on at Destiny's. Well, actually Destiny's youngest sister, Diana, was always watching it. *Pepper pig or something*, She thought.

She walked up to her front porch and rang the doorbell. "**DINGGGG DONGGG!**" Lolly covered

4th Grade Prose

her ears. “Ouch..” Said Destiny’s voice, “My eardrums probably just popped.”

She opened the door with a smile.

“We’re gonna see what’s up with that graveyard.” She said, with a fierce smile, for once not angry. “But but!” “C’mon!” She grabbed Lolly’s hand, pulling her there. She looked at the arched sign above them. “Baker Graveyard.” Lolly said, panting.

She ran inside.

“WAIT WAIT!” Lolly yelled, running after her. “NO!” Lolly yelled, unaware of what would happen.

The ground felt hard, stiff, as if it was made of stone.

Every step made Lolly more anxious, like a horror movie, and the music lowered and you're just waiting for the jump scare. A horror movie turned real.

Destiny kept her head high, suddenly stopping at real stone. Destiny blew the dust off an old gravestone, coughing. “Beth Anne Rogers, 1913-1945. I told you this was for show. Anyways, let's get going.”

She walked toward the exit. Two arms placed lightly on Lolly’s shoulders.

“Destiny..”

An odor of decaying life filled the air.

“Rrrrgh..”

“DESTINY!”

Destiny turned around in horror.

Lolly turned, and pulled off her boot. The creature loomed over her. Its flesh was torn, and the parts that remained were a pale green. Its eyes were no more.

Lolly could even see through her long bangs what this was.

She couldn’t keep it in. Suddenly, she blurted,

“ZOMBIE!”

Lily Adeline Crowder
4th Grade
The Bright School
Amanda Dickson

4th Grade Prose

Axolotls love french fries

Hey reader! Did you know that axolotls love french fries? They love 1 ton of bloodworm fries. they love small cold fries.

Why do axolotls love fries? Maybe it's the softness.

Maybe it's the taste.

Maybe it's a secret...

Either way if you want to make friends with axolotls, fries are the key. BUT WAIT! As much as axolotls love fries they hate ketchup a lot more. They hate smooth ketchup.

They hate chunky ketchup. If there's any ketchup at all they can't stand it. they will smash it and throw it out the window raging. They just hate it badly. they especially hate it when you don't shake the bottle.

Why do axolotls hate ketchup? Well just one drop can make an axolotl go crazy. Just one spec of vinegar can make any axolotl very sick. if you want to make fries for an axolotl keep the fries ketchup-free. Hey Axolotl, how do you feel about ketchup?

Axolotls love parties; they like costume parties, vacation parties, big parties with games, even little tiny parties with charades. The only thing they like more than parties is bob's fries. Hey Axolotl, how do you feel about tonight?

Just remember axolotls hate ketchup before they get here GET RID OF THE KETCHUP! In fact, ship it to china. So they never knew it was there.

These axolotls love your party! They love the decor and the music but They love the fries

even more . CONGRATULATIONS!

Good thing you got rid of all that kect-wait what's that

Didn't you read the fine print!?!?!?!?

Axolotls listen to me, don't eat those fries that red stuff is ketchup! I know you love fries, but you're not gonna like those fries. DON'T LET THEM EAT THOSE FRIES

Num

Num

Num

Too late...

and it happened they were zooming everywhere, holes in the walls. Explosions and small fires were everywhere, so were the bottles.

Why would axolotls help you rebuild your place? Maybe they feel bad for wrecking it.

Maybe there are good Samaritans.

Maybe they are in for the fries.

After all, axolotls love french fries.

The End

Henry Shepperd
4th Grade
The Bright School
Amanda Dickson

4th Grade Prose

Untitled

INTRODUCTION.

Far far away in a place called Ickabog there is a little car stop out on the marsh. The marsh is foggy and cold. The little car stop lights are like stars in deep space.

The car stop's owner is a humble guy named Leon. They are almost bankrupt because no one ever comes out to the marsh because it's so foggy and it's really easy to get lost.

THE CAR.

One gloomy night Leon and his friends were talking about the problem when they heard a weird noise out of the fog

"A car.," Leon said quietly. "A CAR!" Leon screams with excitement at the car stop. He runs inside his heart pounding with every step. He gets the gas tank and runs outside with the gas ready to see the car.

THE FRIGHT.

The car pulls in slowly. The headlights are like the sun coming
To the stars creating a new system.

"Oh what a beautiful red car" Leon Says.

"No, it's blue" says Creg.

"Are you to blind, it's black" Says David.

"Ha you idiots it's white." Says Sam.

"Let's ask," Says Leon.

"Whatever" Says Sam.

"Please roll down your window." Leon says to the car. No reply. Leon Nocks on the window. The window rolls down. The car is dark inside.

"What color..." Leon freezes with terror. He turns around. His face is as pale as snow.

"What?" Says Sam. Leon swallows ,hard

"There's no driver." Leon says as if his voice is being stolen by Ursula the sea witch.

"Ha, move out of the way Le..."

"S-s-see!" Says Leon.

"Glup, t-the Car is as dark As the marsh. They all look at the car and they all think, What do we do?"

IT GETS WEIRDER.

They shift their eyes away from the car and to each other.

"This is weird." Says David.

"I know it." Says Leon.

"Where did the car come from?" Says Creg

"Where was this ghostly car made anyway?" Says Sam.

Ghost? Leon thinks to himself. "Ghost." Leon says aloud.

"What?" Says Creg

"Ghost!" Leon says "The car is not real!" Leon screams with terror.

"Well then if this is not real ,PROVE IT!" Exclaimed Sam.

4th Grade Prose

“I will,” Leon says with confidence. “I will prove it.”

“How?” Says Sam. “How will you prove it?” Says Sam. Leon lets out a sigh.

“I-i.”

“Yes.”

“I will get run over.

GONE.

Leon’s heart is racing as he lays on the road. His back starts to ache as he lays on the ruff rocks and concrete. Suddenly the car lights flicker on as the engine starts up. All of Leon’s friends are in the car and one friend is driving the car. The car slowly creeps toward Leon. The tires rolling like a bowling ball in action.

“Here goes nothing.” Leon says with low confidence. The tires get closer and closer to Leon Leon scrunches his feet in and squeezes his eyes shut. Nothing... Leon opens his eyes and the car is not there.

“Huh,” Leon says. Suddenly a booming voice came out of the marsh. The voice said.

“Your friends are gone.”

Leon walked out screaming into the marsh never to be seen again.

Rett Wolfford
4th Grade
The Bright School
Amanda Dickson

4th Grade Prose

V = Volleyball

“Today is the day of the game.” And if you are wondering what I’m saying, this is how it started...

I was talking to my dad about trying out for the volleyball team at my school. He said it would be okay, but I have to try my hardest and listen to the coaches. He said that’s how I get on the team. I told him thanks for the advice, but the problem is I get worried, and shy. He said not to be afraid. So the next day at school I was ready to try out. The tryout went great and the coach did a couple of drills. We played sharks and minnows. It was fun! I met two girls. Their names were Brynn and Reagan. They were really funny. They were super kind as well.

Well today is the day I find out if I made the team. I wandered down the halls looking for a roster about volleyball, to see who made the team. Then I found a huge crowd around a poster. The poster was about volleyball tryouts. I took a sneak peak, and guess what? I made the team! I was happy and excited to get home to tell my dad and mom about the big news! When I got home I found my mom and dad and I told them I made the team. They were so happy that we went out to dinner. Then we went to the Academy store to get some knee pads and we got white ones. Ok. Now it's been a couple of games and we won all of them which is pretty impressive. Now we’re in the game before... THE TOURNAMENT!

If you want to be in the tournament, you must win this game before the tournament. While I was warming up I noticed something suspicious. On the other team it looked like a full grown adult pro volleyball player. I told my coach and he said he would talk to the referee. The referee said that the other coach on the other team said, “She had a tumor and was just

a really good volleyball player.” Guess what? They won and we were all so bummed out.

The next day I found out on the news that the girl with the tumor was actually a pro volleyball player that was paid to play on their team! So now we get to play a different team in a different game! That means... we get to play again! And, the next game we won! We all went to Starbucks to get drinks and celebrate! It was super fun! So now we’re moving to the tournament! The next day at school we became really popular, which is maybe good. Actually it’s super COOL! My dad says sometimes it’s a bad thing, but I just ignored him. Maybe I should have listened to my dad because now everybody is asking me what to do when we play. And it’s so ANNOYING!

Well we’re on our way to the volleyball court. All our hearts were beating like crazy. It was my turn to serve. I threw the ball and missed. I got mad and put my game face on. I threw the ball again. Brynn set it and Reagan spiked it. The crowd was silent as the ball went through the air. The girl on the team was ready to bump it. She missed and the ball made a big THUD on the ground. The crowd went WILD! We were all so happy that we won. That’s when I realized to stay more focused and not to get worried.

Kraigyn McCord

4th Grade

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

Aimee Passavant

4th Grade Prose

Fish

My sister and I love pets. My sister loves dogs too! My favorite type of dog is Pugs. Arianna likes all dogs. We just love dogs though. My best friend Julianne has a pug named Rosie. Rosie is so cute! Rosie is my favorite pet in the Walker family. I woke up and so did my sister. Then we ate breakfast and brushed our teeth. "Hey Khloe want to play a game I learned at school?" asked Ari.

"It depends what kind of game it is?" I asked back.

"It's a sort of outside game," said Ari.

"Okay sure!," I said. We went outside and in the garage, and I found fish food for some reason.

"Okay Khloe this game is about jump rope." Said Arianna. Then we saw our grandmother's van pull in. I thought back to the fish food I found. I went to go feed my dog Otis. After that I went to grandma.

"Hey grandma, what's the fish food for in the garage?" I asked

"I don't know. Do you want a fish, so we can use it?" Asked grandma.

"Yes please!" I exclaimed. I ran to Ari. "Hey Arianna, guess what?" I asked.

"What is It now?" said Ari, annoyed.

"We can get a fish!," I said.

"You're kidding right?" said Ari.

"No, come on!" I said. I grabbed Ari's hand and ran to my grandma's van. Then we drove to PetCo and went inside. I looked around for the

fish. I found them! "Guys I found the fish section, "I said pointing at the fish section. Then I ran there. I looked around. I liked the goldfish there. "I like the goldfish!" I said.

"Okay." said my grandma. Ari was still picking, so I decided to look at fishbowls. Air finally finished and we went home. Air got a big white fish named it Bailey. I got 3 goldfish named Gerby, Bob, and Polls.

I went ahead and fed them. I went to bed because it was getting pretty late. The next day I ran to feed the fish, but I WAS TRAUMATIZED! "Ahh!," I screamed. "Gerby's GONE!!!" I felt sad. "I think Bailey ate him!" I said.

"Oh no how did that happen?!", asked Ari.

"Can you buy me a new one?" I asked my grandma.

"Okay." said my grandma. We bought another goldfish and a divider. The next day I woke up and went downstairs. "Now Bailey ate Bob," I said, trying to keep calm.

"Hey, maybe it's a bad idea to have fish. They die too easily," said Ari.

"You're right, let's not get any more fish after they die," I said.

"Yeah," said Ari. I learned to not get fish. Fish is NO! Get dogs.

Khloe Macias

4th Grade

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

Aimee Passavant

4th Grade Prose

The Pet Store

“Where are we going again?” Miles asked. “Well we're going to the pet store” I said. The drive was five minutes from home. Miles, Natilie, Kate, and I all hopped in the car ready to go!

We went into the store and started looking, looking, and looking at all of the pets and products the pet store had to offer. We started searching, searching and searching. Then, Natilie found it. The perfect leopard gecko. It was pink with blue eyelids, and a black dot on its tail. “He is the perfect leopard gecko mom. “Can we get it, can we get it?” Asked Natilie. “Yeah Mom, can we please get it?” Miles agreed. “Fine, fine, fine!” But YOU are going to feed and take care of all of the responsibilities that they'll require.” “Oops I spoiled the surprise” Kate said.

“Mom, what is the surprise?” We asked at the same time. “Since I already spoiled the surprise I guess it is okay.” Mom said. “Today we are going to get a few more pets.” Our mouths were dangling five inches! We were shocked and surprised. “Wait a minute, wait a minute. Is Dad okay with this?” Sage asked “Yeah he is.” Kate said.

Now the family was looking for another crazy cat. They already had one cat named Juris, Jur Jur form short. This time, Sage found it. Black and white tabby kitten TWINS named Twix and Hersey were up for adoption. “Oh mom, we have to get them both.” Sage pleaded. Mom agreed AGAIN but under the circumstances that they will be cared for my us, not her.

Now the family had two cats and a leopard gecko in their hands and they were filled with happiness and joy and now they were looking for a few new fish. After searching for a long time Miles found the fish. One was blue, two were purple, one green, one orange and a

catfish.

We all agreed that the blue one should be Bluey, the two purple ones are be Troli and Sour Patch because they were Sage and Miles' favorite candy. We named the green one Marshmallow after the big marshmallow in the Ghostbuster movie. We agreed that the orange fish should be named Smokey after the Tennessee Vols (Go Big Orange). Last but not least we named our new catfish Katniss after a character in the Hunger Games. “Mom this is so fun.” Sage said serenely and satisfactorily.

Now the family buggy was filled, actually two buggies were filled. “OK this is the last animal. Can you guess it?” My mom said excitedly. “I do not know. What is it ?” We said, confused. “Let me show you.” Mom said. We were walking down the aisle to the back where they groom dogs. “Mom, I am confused. We do not have a dog to pick up.” Sage said. The others nodded in agreement. Their dog died of old age when they were young. “Oh yes we do Sage.” Mom said excitedly.

When they went into the room of the groomer's place at pet smart. “Mom, we have never been here before, so why are we here now.” Miles asked suspiciously. Mom was grinning ear to ear. So we had to trust mom so we were about to go in but then. “Oh sorry, but I am the only one who can go in there. Sorry.” Mom said. So Natalie Miles and I had to sit in the room and wait and wait and wait. It felt like 30 minutes. Then Mom finally came out with nothing except for a clipboard with a piece of paper in it and a pen. “Are you ready yet?”

“AHHHHHHH!” Miles screamed. “Oh my gosh.” Natalie said. We saw the most adorable dog ever. “It is a puppy.” Sage said. “This Puppy is a cocker spaniel and a poodle. Her mom was a cocker spaniel and her dad was a poodle.

4th Grade Prose

“Mom, I can not believe you did this.” Natalie said happily. So now the excited and shocked family was walking to the front of the store. They all hopped in to their car. “Mom, are you sure that Dad is okay with this?” Natalie said suspiciously. “Yeah he loves this idea.” Mom said. “What should we name our new puppy? Remember it has to be a Disney name.” “ I think it should be The Clawer.” Miles said. “Too violent and also that is not a Disney name.” Mom said. “I think it should be Hermione.” Sage said happily. “Sage that is a good name but remember it is Disney not Harry Potter.” Mom said. “Hmm how about Lady?” Natalie asked. Mom said. “That is a Disney name but not good enough.”

“Hey, how about Coco, it is a Disney name.” Sage said. “Is that good enough?” Mom started looking around the car saying “Hmm hmm hmm hmm hmm. Okay Coco it is.” Sage picked up Coco and holded her in my arms. “Your new name is Coco. I hope you like it and it is the perfect name ever. Especially for you.” Now the family was driving home. Towards the sunset happily.

Now they were home and Dad was walking in the door when he saw us playing with the animal. This is what he said “AH. KATE WHY ARE THERE ANIMALS IN MY LIVING ROOM?” He screamed confused. “Bryce, these are our new animals. Mom said with a big smile on face and we started putting them right in front of his face. Then Dad fell down to the floor and when he woke up Coco was standing on him licking his face.

Sage Kirksey
4th Grade
St. Nicholas School
Amy Johnson

4th Grade Prose

The Adventure at the Zoo

There once was a girl named Mary. Mary was eight years old and in the third grade. She had two siblings, Caroline and Daniel. Her older sister was the beautiful Caroline. Daniel is her little brother and a little crazy sometimes, but very sweet. Beth is Mary's mom and is so funny! She is always silly and makes the best jokes! Mary's dad is John and he is so kind. This is the Smith Family!

One day, Mary woke up and her dad had already left for work. It was Saturday, which meant no school, so her mom decided to make the day fun and said they could all go to the zoo. After hearing this news, Mary was so excited to go to the zoo that she totally skipped breakfast. After they left, Mary was starving so her mom stopped by a gas station to get a small bowl of cereal and a bottle of water. It was a long drive, so hopefully, this would help her make it until lunch! Mary didn't think about how long the drive was to the zoo. She was ready to see the animals and found herself being impatient!

After a few hours had passed, there were finally there! Mary jumped out of the car and screamed, "I am so excited!!!!". Her mom looked at her and said, "Yes, we can all see that, Mary!" and they all laughed. Mary continued, "I can't wait to see the turtles, pigs, the petting zoo, the birds, the penguins, oh and the tigers, lions, and bears!!!" Everyone could see her excitement and it made them excited too. As they walked into the gate, it was almost like Mary had too much sugar (and when I say too much sugar, I mean too much sugar)! They checked in and were ready to see all the animals. First, they came to the reptiles where they saw lizards and snakes. Remember when I said Daniel was a little crazy, well he also loves snakes. He decided to tap and hit the glass and

a snake got out! Everyone ran screaming and a very loud alarm sounded! Luckily, the snake was caught quickly!

After that crazy situation was under control, they came across zebras, elephants, lions, and giraffes. They were even lucky enough to feed the giraffes! The elephants were huge and the lion's roar was so deep, we could feel it in our feet. Thankfully, there was no commotion in the Safari area, so they were off to the ocean area. They got to walk through a glass room full of sharks and a huge aquarium full of beautiful fish and sea turtles! Sadly, this was the last stop on their zoo adventure.

Dinner was their final stop on their drive home. They stopped at their favorite restaurant, Mama's Kitchen, and ate meatloaf, corn, and mashed potatoes. They were now ready to settle in for the long drive home. This was the adventure at the zoo with Mary and her family!

Charlotte Martin
4th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Lisa Voss

4th Grade Prose

When the Dad Came Home

It is the time of World War II. Kelly is ten and her brother Bill is fifteen. One morning, Kelly woke up. The second her eyes opened, she burst into tears because on the door was a long note from her dad and it said, "I got called into duty early and I did not want to wake you." That means she will not see her dad for years and she is really going to miss him. Every day it felt like a piece of her heart had gone missing and that she could not be happy again. And even though she was sad, deep down she knew that the right thing to do was to not lose hope. But still, every day was sadder than you can imagine. Her brother Bill would always spend time with his dad. In fact, it was his favorite thing to do out of anything.

Kelly started to notice that every day there would be more and more loud bombings and air raids. After a while, they started to get used to it. But what she was not used to was that school was getting canceled a lot! It was kind of nice but she missed her teacher and all of her nice friends and she really missed the cute class pet named Champ, who was a hamster. He would run around the cage, it was funny. Sometimes the teacher Ms. Barnett would let chumps go in his hamster ball and run around the halls of the school. Ms. Barnett was the best teacher ever. Eight months after Kelly's dad left Kelly's mom got ill. She could barely breathe and kept coughing non-stop. There was only one other person to take care of them now. The nanny. Her mom was sick for months and months and she was not getting better. While her mom was ill, Kelly and Bill just sat at home. Kelly was scared they would be sent to the countryside for evacuations. One morning she heard a knock at the door and her heart started to beat loudly. She was scared it was the people coming to pick her up from the countryside. She slowly opened the creaking

door. There stood a man in a thick camo outfit.

"Dad?" she said.

"Come here Kelly," said her dad and he gave her a big warm hug.

Just then, Bill walked down the stairs. When he saw his dad, he started running and gave his dad a big hug.

"Where is your mom?" said the dad.

"She is ill," said Kelly.

Her dad rushed upstairs. For the next few days, dad stayed with her mom until she got better. Every night, Bill, Kelly, Dad, and the Nanny were all praying for their mom. One morning, Kelly woke up, but it was not quiet like normal. She heard someone in the kitchen doing the dishes, it was mom. She did not look ill anymore. Now the family was almost back to normal. Every day Kelly's heart felt good and warm, and even through those rough times, she did not lose hope.

Caroline Hammond
4th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Lisa Voss

4th Grade Prose

Untitled

Have you ever felt left out, or like you didn't fit in? Well I do, and one day someone helped me see that I am special just the way I am.

One day, I was watching Mr. Rogers on the couch. I like Mr. Rogers because he makes me feel good about myself. Knock, knock knock! "Jack, open the door for me. Are you feeling like playing football today?" said my best friend Conner from school. I ran to the TV to turn it off.

"No, I'm watching Stranger Things. Maybe tomorrow?" I lied as I opened the door for Conner.

"Why are you watching Stranger Things so much lately!?" Conner said, feeling like he had been replaced with a TV show.

"It's a good show? Fine, I'm not actually allowed to watch it! "I said, fighting back the tears in my eyes.

"Why did you say that ? Do you not like me anymore?" Connor said, also fighting back tears.

"No, I like you, it's just I want to be special like you and the other kids!" I said, now rivers flowing down my face. But as soon as I said that, my stomach felt like there were rocks moving around in it. And then suddenly, out of nowhere, I disappeared into thin air. As I disappeared, puppets and sweaters swirled around me. Then, I fell onto the ground with a thud. I looked around, and then I saw a sign that said 'Mr. Rogers' Studio, Land of Make-Believe'. 'I must be seeing things', I thought to myself, then I heard a familiar voice.

"Are you OK?" the voice said. I looked up to see

who it was. I must have bonked your head or something, because in front of me was Mr. Rogers. 'I've called you here today because I want to talk to you on my show. He helped me up and took me to his studio.

"So Jack, do you think you're special?" Mr. Rogers said as the show started.

"Well not really, I'm just a normal boy. "I replied.

"But you are not just a normal boy. No one is like you and that is what makes you special," he said with a smile. His words were so thoughtful and kind that it made me think that I was special. Right at that second, you saw the puppets and sweaters again. This time, I landed on the couch.

"JACK! Look at the TV!" Conner said with a gasp. On the TV was me talking to Mr. Rogers! I smiled because kids all around the world hear and will know that they are special too.

Audrey Rose Clark

4th Grade

Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences

Carla Clark

4th Grade Prose

THE MOUSE THAT GAINED THE MAGIC PEN

It all started with a magical pen... One day in a big brick house there lived a mouse, a boy, and a man. The mouse loved the boy and the boy loved the mouse. But the man hated the mouse! Every day when the mouse came out of its hole to get cheese on the carpet, the man would be outside the hole waiting with a fly swatter! Although it was a fly swatter it would get the job done!

The boy knew the man hated the mouse so the boy gave the mouse a magic pen! The mouse loved it but he didn't know what it did so he drew a piece of cheese on paper.... Boom! A piece of cheese appeared! Then the mouse knew the pen could make anything come true just by drawing it!

The mouse had an awesome idea! He would draw a mouse trap and then place it outside the hole in the wall where the mean man stands there to catch him! So he did and the man fell with a scream. The mouse then took the cheese and went back in the hole. But now that he tricked the man with a mouse trap what would he do now? The man reached in the hole and grabbed the mouse so the mouse bit him! Yes it's not the most sanitary thing but the man let go!

The mouse thought and thought in a little chair he suddenly looked at his broom and thought of something! It was the best plan he's had in a while. He then pulled the string that keeps the broom together. "I'm breaking my broom for a mean man," the mouse said. "The mean man deserves it anyway" he thought. "I'll just buy another broom," he said. "They're not that valuable right?" Wait, let the mouse check. \$6.00 just for a broom?! He thought. He looked around for a minute "I got it!" he said with a yell. "I'll use a vacuum that I have in my

closet!" So he continued taking off the string from the broom...

Once the mouse got the string off the broom he then tied it to the front door of the big brick house and moved a barrel in front of the door that was on the porch. The man wanted to get the mouse out once and for all after what the mouse had done so he opened the door to get the vacuum out of the shed to suck the mouse up.

The man then tripped and landed in the barrel! He rolled off the porch and into the dumpster. The man even had bad enough luck that the garbage truck came. It then poured the man into the back of the garbage truck and rolled off. The mouse finally got rid of the man and he and the boy lived happily ever after. And one thing don't be mean to animals especially mice or you'll end up like the mean man who is gone or is he maybe the mean man returns who knows?

THE END WITH A HAPPY MOUSE.

Elijah Danko
4th Grade
Chattanooga School for the Arts and Science
Carla Clark

4th Grade Prose

Untitled

Have you ever thought about homeless people and how they live? They live on the street. Imagine what it would be like if you lived on the streets. It would be hard because you wouldn't have shelter and it would be hard to find food and water. What you could do to help is donating to the homeless, you could also look up Help Right Here, and the website is about more things you can do.

People are being kicked out of places they live and forced to sleep on the streets. They are forcing kids to sleep on the streets. Places they live are really bad and they have no bed. One place is called the Budgetel and there were over 60 children living there. The person that owned the building just sold it when over 100 people lived in it. So they were all forced to live on the streets. It is a hard life to live but you are so grateful for what you can get.

How we can help is volunteering with Help Right Here. I did it and it was so sad to see how many people were out there. We handed stuff out like hot hands, socks, gloves, and hats. We made bags of all of those things in them and we made over 70 bags and we still didn't have enough bags for everyone.

The homeless are starting to make camps where they can live. It isn't the best thing but it is where they live. People aren't treating people right. We have started to not think about others because we don't know what other people are going through. There are organizations that help homeless people get jobs and earn money so they can eat. You can research these organizations online by googling "help for homeless in Chattanooga".

What you could do to help is donating to the homeless, you could also look up Help Right

Here, and the websites about more things you can do to help. Helping the homeless is important because they are people in the world. So they are just as important as you are so why not help them.

Kael Bryant
4th Grade
Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences
Carla Clark

4th Grade Prose

Untitled

It was a warm summer evening, and I was sleeping in my bed. My mom called, "Dinnertime, honey!" I called back to her, "Coming mom!" Before I went downstairs, I took a quick glance outside. I was stunned to see a snowman! A SNOWMAN ! In the middle of summer! I opened the window to see that it was already gone. "I must have been seeing things," I thought to myself. I raced downstairs to see that mom had made my favorite, alfredo! I quickly got a bowl and started scooping it in as fast as lightning. "Slow down honey, you don't want to bite off more than you can chew!" Mom said.

When I finally finished, I sat down in front of the TV, because we were going to have a movie night. I looked outside of the window again, and I saw the snowman! This time he was on the porch. I called my parents over, but he was already gone! I opened the door and walked out onto the porch.

I walked into a puddle of water, and my new socks got all dirty! I ran inside and closed the door. I took off my socks and put them in the washing machine, but then I quickly ran back to my bowl of alfredo. I started to eat it, but I saw the snowman AGAIN! And this time it was in the house! I was so scared. It started walking to my bedroom, so I ran upstairs to see that it had melted all on my bed.

I turned around to go downstairs, but I saw the snowman at the door. I ran towards it and gave it a big hug. The snowman had a big smile on his face, and hugged me back. He melted away again, but this time all of the puddles had turned into sunflower seeds. "bye, Mr. Snowman, I'll miss you!" I said. I ran downstairs to tell my parents what happened, but they didn't believe me. "What a wild imagination you

have, sweetie." I didn't care what they said, I knew it was real.

Makiya Dotson
4th Grade
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

4th Grade Prose

Curtis The Coral Snake

Hiss! Grrr! In a scorching hot desert, a coral snake, Curtis, heard his friends Greg the Gila Monster and Connor the Coyote calling for him. He slowly slithered over to them with his brightly striped, three foot long body. Once he got over to his friends, he told them that he was hunting for a skink, a type of lizard that he loved, so they had to be extremely quiet.

Greg said, "Oh, who cares?"

"I do," said Curtis. "Now stop being so pessimistic."

Abruptly, they heard a loud "Kee-eeee-arr!" They all heard Harry the hawk firing down from above.

"Run!" Both Greg and Connor screeched as they hid from the flying outcast that was fast as a cheetah.

"Oh, I'm not running until I get my lunch," Curtis muttered to himself.

"Hello, Curtis..." Harry uttered in a hoarse voice. "Looking exquisite today."

Pop! Pop! Pop! Curtis threatened him by expelling air. Curtis kept warning Harry, but he wouldn't listen.

"What are you trying to do to me?" Harry questioned. "You cannot hurt me!" He chuckled a little.

"Look at me!" Curtis shouted. "You will not escape!"

"Why don't you vise verse that a little, huh?" Harry whispered to himself and jeered.

Hissss!

Curtis ended up trying to bolt Harry with his venom, but he missed.

"Aaaagggghh!" Harry screamed as he flew away.

Finally, everyone cheered. Curtis found his skink in the crowd, and learned to not get too competitive.

Henry Darras

4th Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Prose

Maria the Monarch Butterfly

Bzz, Bzz went a bee down in the valley at the same time Violet exclaimed, “What a beautiful day.”

“Oh, how I hate her!” I mutter. I mean it was raining. I could barely see her orange and black wings. Viceroy and Monarch butterflies absolutely despise each other.

Next, I went to look for some flowers to get nectar to eat when I heard a noise and turned, and saw black headed grosbeak! After that, I started flying away as fast as a cheetah. I knew its intention was to eat me!

Suddenly, I started slowing down. I couldn’t persist at a fast speed. Without warning, the black headed grosbeak got me, but dropped because of my nasty poison.

Out of the blue, Violet came out of nowhere!

“What are you doing?” I shouted.

“Saving you,” she yelled back.

The black headed grosbeak was really mad, but he was tired. Then we made him chase us around and around.

“I think we lost him,” Violet exclaimed. I could see some wet feathers in the distance.

“Woohoo!” I yelled.

Finally, Violet said, “Maybe we should go home.”

“Yeah,” I called back. So, we flew to her house. At her door Violet called, “See you tomorrow!”

“See you,” I called back. It was a good day I

thought to myself as I flew back home. Maybe Viceroy aren’t so bad after all.

Adelaide Ryan

4th Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Allison J. Brown

5th Grade Prose

Untitled

As I awoke over the smoky battlefield, I saw many people laying dead among the cannons. Blood was staining the ground red. This was only twelve days in. The next battle was coming for us, we called it Doomsburg. Many were dead but we still had a few alive. The air was thick and hard to breathe. IT was dark and the ground was rugged. There were shots coming from everywhere, bullets were flying everywhere. Men all around me were falling down. I was still standing because I had the Lord with me. Cannons were going off. You could see the lights flicker as the cannonballs ignited. Dirt flew up as the cannons missed. Ahhh, I've been hit. I look down thinking that it was over remembering that I had my bible. The bullet was lodged in the bible and it had not hit me. That is when I knew that everything was going to be ok. Even if I died I knew I would be with Jesus forever because I was truly saved.

Parker Johnson

5th Grade

Middle Valley Elementary School

Bernice Perry

5th Grade Prose

Australian Dreams

I stared out at the rolling savannah beneath me. Driving up the steep side of Uluru was not okay with me. The possibilities of dying were endless... I stroked the furry side of my emotional support animal, Milo. The dachshund snuggled back, like he knew my aversion to heights and small spaces. I petted him more, taking deep breaths. For a moment, I felt like it was just me in the car. Just me and Milo...

“Scoot over, Ivy” My best friend, Skylar Ross, told me, trying to move Milo onto my lap.

I picked him up and set him in his travel bag. “Happy?” I asked her.

“Yes, it's fine now, thanks.” she said, trying to re-apply her eye shadow.

Again, I tried to focus on something, anything would have been fine with me, if I could see it clearly. I impulsively leaned down to pet Milo, but to my surprise, he wasn't in his bag. I frantically started to look for him, trying not to think about all the awful things that could have happened to him. I looked all around the back seats.

I closed my eyes, trying to focus on the good things in my life, like Milo... this was not working. I thought for a good long minute about where he could have gone. I considered all the facts of where he could have possibly made his way to with his tiny legs. Suddenly, there was a hard tap on my shoulder. My eyes popped open. Colten, who was sitting in the front seat, held Milo outstretched to me.

“This your rascal?” he asked, giving me a smile. I was so happy to see him that I nearly fell out of my seat. (Milo, not Colten) I grabbed him from Colten, who looked startled for only a moment.

“I'll take that as a yes.” He said.

We slowed to a stop.

“Alright kids,” Said Mr. Ulrich, our group's chaperone. “We made it.”

We all climbed out of the car, and I left Milo in his travel bag, zipping it this time. Stepping out, I realized that Uluru wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. I took a few deep breaths, just to silence the idea that we were almost 3,000 feet in the sky! I clutched the black camera bag close to me, reflecting on what it had taken for me to get here. I took a final breath in. It tasted like dirt and dust and rock, everything that it should have. Slowly, I knelt down and opened the camera bag. The comfortable weight of the heir loomed camera held steady in my hand, the way I had done it many times before. Carefully I walked the farthest I could to the edge, looking out at the flat plains of the outback. I leisurely held the camera up to my eye, surveying the now enhanced landscape. I paused at a nearby tree, seemingly barren of life. Then, out of nowhere, a large kangaroo came hopping along. Swiftly I snapped a picture. *Perfect...* I took another step forward. My want to take another perfect picture deafened the shouts of my friends and teachers. Before I knew it, I had walked off the edge of the cliff. I felt solid ground beneath me, but when I turned around to show Skylar my great piece of artwork, my viewpoint dropped. I fell. Screaming like an infant. Completely scared out of my mind. I fell. Plummeting through the sky. Everything blurred past me as I fell, then the world cracked beneath me, letting me plummet through the pitch black. As I continued to fall through the darkness, raging patterns erupted through the inky black, at the same time, my greatest fears came and pounced at me. I tried to scream, but I was held back.

5th Grade Prose

...

I sat straight up. Blankets fell to the floor. I looked around hurriedly at my bedroom, looking for signs that I was not where I thought I was. But, everything looked normal. Blue walls, dimmed by the closed blinds, both the doors to the hall and closet shut. I turned to the alarm by my bed. 5:43.

I laid back down on the bed with a soft thump. I tossed and turned endlessly, trying to go back to sleep. Sadly, it was not easy to obtain. But I finally gave way to the fact that I was never going to get back. I glared sadly back at the clock. 6:07. Only three minutes till my alarm went off, might as well get up now. I leisurely slid out of bed, like a slug. I had already been awake for more than fifteen minutes, but that didn't mean that I wanted to be awake. I looked up at the calendar. My eyes widened. Today was the day of the field trip. I quickly got everything ready. Maybe today wouldn't be so bad after all.

Aurora Gee
5th Grade
Apison Elementary School
Mary Ellen Markel

5th Grade Prose

The Wise Mystical Tree

Deep in the forest, past the Cherryland kingdom, hides a very smart, Wise Mystical Tree. The all knowing beautiful tree. Well, nobody knew about the tree, except a girl named Gianna. Gianna was a girl who lived in Cherryland. Her family were royals so she was the princess. But she would never be queen of Cherryland because she had two brothers. Gianna was lonely because she had no friends and only had school lessons from her cousin. Every day she would walk to the forest after her lessons. She loved to explore and run around everywhere but she had to be home before dark when the poisonous dart fairies and trolls came out of hiding.

One cold fall day, Gianna decided she would go to the forest at night so she could look at the stars and constellations. She waited till the sun set so she could get her sketchbook and shoes to go outside. No one was allowed out of the kingdom at night. Each poison dart fairy carried a bow and arrow along with them – they actually meant no harm, it's just they confuse humans for trolls. The trolls enjoyed stealing and all trolls carried either swords or a bow and arrow like the fairies. As soon as her parents and brothers went to their rooms she decided to make her escape. She grabbed her shoes and coat. It was dark, so she grabbed one of the castle's lanterns. She snuck out the gate and into the dark deep forest.

Gianna felt nervous as she got into the thick trees. She could get in trouble or captured by the fairies or trolls. She followed a path she had made during the day. She saw a flicker, a sign there was a fairy nearby, so she had to tiptoe. She had gotten past the fairy when she heard a troll snicker that startled her and she started running away from the trail.

She was scared because now she had lost her way off the path. It was getting darker. Somewhere she heard humming. Following the sound of the song lead to an empty clearing with a single tree in the center. It was a large tree. The tree was humming. The tree sat straight up out of the ground, it was big and looked bristly with some branches chopped off. Clearly this humming tree had history.

The tree suddenly stopped humming and started speaking. “Young one, it is a surprise seeing you here”. Gianna responded slowly, “I was looking for a spot to look at the stars and constellations but I got lost” “Gianna, I am the Wise Mystical Tree. I am all knowing my child. Ask me anything” She thought for a moment, then asked politely “What's my future gonna be?”

The Wise Mystical tree answered “ It seems like you'll be Queen of Cherryland, but it will not be easy.” Gianna tried to ask more questions.

The tree cut her off “The sun is rising. I must go now” Gianna answered “Oh no. I need to get back before I'm in big trouble.” Gianna ran quickly, finding her way back to the path. She opened the kingdom gates quickly and ran towards the castle. She climbed up the brick carefully and made it through the window. The next day Gianna skipped her lessons to visit the castle library. Buried under piles of maps and scrolls she found a book on the history of Cherryland. She learned that The Wise Mystical Tree was once the center of the kingdom. It kept peace among the humans, trolls, and fairies until the humans became greedy and tried to hack the tree into pieces. The Wise Mystical Tree fought back by growing the deep dark forest around it. The humans thought the tree was lost forever but really it was being protected by the fairies and trolls. Many generations later, the Wise Mystical Tree

5th Grade Prose

had been forgotten.

Gianna knew what she had to do to become Queen.

Ella Splawn

5th Grade

Thrasher Elementary School

Tracy Crosby

5th Grade Prose

The Mythical Horse

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Vivienne. She had long blonde hair, blue eyes, and freckles on her face. Vivienne and her best friends Zooley and Milanna were walking by the woods when a bright light caught their eyes. They looked to see what it was, and they saw the light take the shape of a horse. Of course, when Vivienne saw the horse, she had to go see what it was. As she went to investigate, Zooley and Milanna followed close behind. When they got close to the horse, Milanna accidentally stepped on a twig and scared the mythical horse away. Frustrated, the three friends headed home.

The next day after school, Zooley and Milanna saw Vivienne putting the tack on her horse. Vivienne's horse was named Pepper and had a soft long dark brown mane and a light brown coat. Zooley said, "Where are you going?" Vivienne answered, "I'm going to find the horse we saw yesterday that was glowing." Zooley and Milanna decided to get their horses and follow behind. Vivienne took off at a quick pace, and Zooley and Milanna could not keep up. When Zooley and Milanna finally got to the woods, they could not find Vivienne anywhere. They decided to yell for her, but they got no response. They didn't know what to do until they saw the bright light again. They decided to follow it and saw that it led them to Vivienne before it vanished. They were both so relieved to find that she was ok. However, they now realized they were all lost deep in the dark woods.

They began to panic until they saw a bright light appear and take the shape of the mythical horse. They decided to follow it once again. They followed for a while, and then the horse came to a halt. Right away, they realized that they were at the edge of the woods where they

had gone in. Vivienne hopped off her own horse and slowly approached the brightly shining horse. Zooley and Milanna stayed quiet, as they wanted to see what would happen. Vivienne said, "Thank you for leading us home!" She got close enough to reach out her hand and gently pet the horse on the nose. The mythical horse reached its head out as Vivienne's hand slowly touched its nose and bowed its head. Then, it galloped away, disappearing into the woods.

As the three friends were heading home, Vivienne said, "Our parents definitely won't believe this!" Zooley and Milanna laughed as they agreed. Just as Vivienne expected, none of their parents believed them, but that was ok. As she drifted off to sleep that night, she wondered what adventure she might have next.

Vivienne Belva
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Christina Steffey

5th Grade Prose

Milo & Olivia

It was a late summer evening when Milo was playing outside. Suddenly, something caught his eye and his first instinct was to follow it. What he discovered was a meteor and one that was making an ear-splitting noise. The sight of the meteor was so bright that it hurt Milo to look at it.

He moved closer meaning to touch it, but before he could, he heard his mom yelling, "Dinner!" So Milo ran inside for dinner and soon forgot about the meteor. A couple of weeks later, Milo started class at his new school. In homeroom, the teacher did some icebreakers and Milo told his class that his family had moved into the Inn on twenty-eighth street. Everyone looked at Milo weird, but he didn't know why.

During lunch, a girl named Olivia came up to Milo and asked him, "Have you seen anything weird at the Inn?"

The question made Milo remember the meteor for the first time since the night he first saw it.

"No, why?" Milo replied, not mentioning the meteor.

"Well you know it's haunted, right? Olivia said. "A little girl named Maddie went missing there 28 years ago and they never found her. Same for a little boy named Otis 50 years ago and supposedly, they've haunted the Inn ever since."

"Well why don't you come over after school and have a tour," Milo replied. "There was this one weird thing that happened a few weeks ago."

And so, later that afternoon, Olivia came over

to Milo's house and he took her to the meteor, which they both touched as soon as they saw it. But when they touched it, ZAP, they both fell to their feet feeling like a jolt of energy had run through them.

When they stood up, they realized they were somewhere different from before, like a parallel universe. Everything felt the same, but different and somehow older. Standing there with them now was a girl that they learned was named Maddie, which Milo and Olivia both thought was ironic given that the name of the girl who had disappeared was also Maddie.

Olivia wondered if she was dreaming and wondered if this Maddie was the same girl that had gone missing and assumed to be dead.

Together, the kids walked and explored this new world, but once it began to get late, Milo asked if they could go to Maddie's house, which they did. When they arrived at the house, they discovered it was the Inn on 28th Street, and Milo's mother wasn't there, but the meteor was. Milo explained that they should touch the meteor to go back to their universe. Before Olivia or Milo realized, Maddie ran to the meteor and touched it, zapping her through to the real universe.

But when Milo and Olivia touched the meteor, nothing happened. They tried again and again, but there was no zapping feeling this time.

"When someone leaves, that means someone has to stay," a voice behind them said.

Milo and Olivia turned to see a little boy watching them. "You're stuck here with me now," the boy said. "Until we can trap someone else."

Milo and Olivia began crying.

5th Grade Prose

“It’s not so bad though. I’m Otis, by the way.”

Sidda McCoy

Fifth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Christina Steffey

5th Grade Prose

The Ocelot

The Ocelot thought when he bought his flower pot why did the cashier say

Hey you forgot the top of the pan you bought man!

But The Ocelot didn't even buy a pan why did this man say he did

The Ocelot questioned and wondered why

The Ocelot returned to ask the man who said that The Ocelot bought the pan

Sorry for leaving said the ocelot I was caught in a rush

but I didn't buy a pan

The man said ha got you now whos the tricky one!

The ocelot groaned.

Hunter Card

5th Grade

St. Nicholas School

Alice Clark

5th Grade Prose

The Broken Guitar

“Not again!” Dad bursted. “Another pancake fell on the counter!” He added on. I heard the screeching downstairs in the kitchen as I read my book in my bedroom. “Luke, come downstairs, breakfast is ready!” I darted down the staircase ready to tell Mom all about my fantastic book I have been reading. It’s a cool story about a boy who plays baseball, and he becomes a legend. Mom got pretty interested and told me there is a possibility that there could be similar novels in the attic. It was “No School” Saturday so I stayed home and focused on the televisual TV. When the time came I slouched to my room and initiated my book. I lied for hours until I finally concluded my miraculous novel. My mind flashed back and I commemorated that Mom said there may be similar books in the attic. So I creeped into the dark room and slowly opened the mysterious creaking attic door. I walked in just to notice how dusty it was. It wasn’t only that, though, there were wood planks on the ground and several torn up shelves. Mom guessed right, for there were similar books in a big brown cardboard box. I picked two or three books from the basic box and carelessly left. But all of the care directed straight to me when I sighted a broken guitar in the corner of the wooden room. I walked right to it cluelessly, because I surely never have seen it all my life. I carefully picked the smooth wooden thing up off the ground. I realized that it was dented and had snapped strings. I took a deep breath and gave it a strum, but nothing happened.

The next rooster crow was Sunday, but occasionally we don’t go to Church until eleven-thirty, so I needed entertainment. So regrettingly, I made a powerful decision. I decided to tell my parents about the strange guitar. I went down to the elegant living room, where my parents lay drinking coffee and

working on the computer. I shouldn't have interrupted but I just had to show my parents this never seen before guitar. They were curious about it, and they said they did not remember putting anything like that there before. In fact, they said they have at notime seen anything like it all their long adult lives. After Church I went to my (perfect in every way) bedroom. I picked up the broken guitar, and for zero logic I started to play the “unmusical” instrument. I gave it some soundless strokes but nothing happened...until I heard a noise from the shadows. I looked everywhere around me, but I didn't see anything near me that could have made that sound. It took me a moment to realize that it was what was in hand all along. “How is this possible!” I thought to myself. “It couldn’t be!” After an amount of playing, the noise came back again. It is true, it was the guitar! The next few minutes I actually got the hang of it. I even discovered a hidden talent. I'm a rockstar when it comes to the guitar. I went to show my parents and they were speechless. “LUKE, HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS!” they said without believing. I'm not going to tell you all they said because it was a long conversation, but it was just incredible to sit through. I told them to try the guitar but it just wouldn't work when they played the magical machine. I didn't understand at all, how come it works for me, but does not work for them. The same thing happened the next day when I brought the questionable guitar to school and played it all recess, but I let my friends play the broken instrument but it wouldn't work for them. My mind was going crazy!! But it all made since when I took the bus home. When I stepped into the house I went straight to my room and started playing. While playing, a little note slipped out of the sound hole and fell on the ground. I was so worried I thought about just leaving it on the ground and walking away. But I stayed strong and picked it up anyway.

5th Grade Prose

Shaking, I slowly opened it and began reading. TO WHOEVER HAS FOUND THIS LETTER, YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY THIS MAGICAL GUITAR, AND ONLY YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY THE INSTRUMENT. WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF MY GUITAR? I finally understood, and was determined to do what I had been told.

I started to write my own songs, and I began practicing the broken guitar every day. The principal made me form a school band, and I got to sing. My guitar was one hundred percent the greatest guitar in existence. Even though obviously no one could play the broken thing but me, everyone still loved my incredible guitar. Every once in a while I made hot albums and great songs. And it was all because of the guitar, a broken guitar, a magical guitar. And because of that magical guitar, I became a legend.

Luke Pierce
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Caroline Marks

5th Grade Prose

Lost In the Woods

There was once a dog named Jasper. He was a beautiful yellow lab and was very smart, but he also had a weak spot. That weak spot was squirrels. It all began at a beautiful farm on which Jasper lived. There were so many animals; sheep, pigs, goats, horses, cows, and even more, and Jasper loved all of it. His favorite part of the farm was Jack and Caroline. Jack and Caroline always played with Jasper and loved to go on adventures with him. They would do everything with him, but Jasper's favorite thing to do was play chase. Jasper would play chase with anything, but most of all he liked chasing squirrels and cows around the farm. There were so many squirrels to chase and he chased them all and he did the same with cows.

One day while Jack and Caroline were inside eating dinner, Jasper was outside looking for something to do. He found a squirrel and he thought it was the perfect thing to do. Zoom, he was off! The squirrel was fast but Jasper wasn't going to give up. He ran, ran, and ran some more and zigged and zagged through the woods. Then he stopped. He recognized the place, but not very well. He remembered Jack and playing chase in this area. Then he saw the sun setting and started to think he should find his way back home or stay the night. After a couple minutes of sitting in the dark, he decided to find a spot to lie down. He found a spot under a big Oak tree and fell asleep. Meanwhile, Jack and Caroline just finished dinner and went outside to call for Jasper. They shouted and shouted for him but he didn't come. They took some flashlights and started to look for him. While looking, they took a break on a wooden swing in the field. The next day Caroline woke up early to see her horse standing in front of her. She loved on him for a second and then awakened Jack. She reminded

Jack of Jasper and they jumped to their feet to find Jasper. They looked everywhere. They looked in the barn, the house, the riding ring, all the fields, and even the pens where the pigs and goats lived. "It's over, he's gone", Caroline started to say but Jack cut her off by saying, "It's not over. I know Jasper and he would never leave on purpose. He was probably just chasing a squirrel. He is strong and will find his way back home, but we are not going to stop looking for him." "I think I know where to look next." said Jack. Jack knew where to look, but Jasper was also going to try to find his way home.

While Jack and Caroline started traveling, Jasper also started traveling. Jack recognized the place; he remembered the tree that fell down and the pine tree that he sat under sometimes to do his homework. He also remembered the big dirt pile and how could he have forgotten the big, big Oak tree. Jasper was already off and wondering which way towards home. Jasper heard something in the distance, it sounded like Jack and Caroline. Immediately, Jasper knew something was wrong. He leapt over logs and ran through water, and then he saw what was wrong. He ran to Jack and Caroline and started to bark; his bark was so strong that all the wolves crowding around them started to flee. Jack and Caroline bent down and hugged Jasper and they started their trip home.

"What were you guys thinking going out into the woods all by yourselves?!", their mom screamed at them. "We were just trying to find Jasper," said Jack. "I get that Jasper is special to you guys but you have to ask someone to come with you next time", said their dad. "Ok, now can we get to the punishing part?", said Caroline. "Yes, of course. You guys have no screens for two weeks and you can't have any friends over for one week, and now I am going

5th Grade Prose

to ask that you guys go to your rooms.”, her mother responded. “Ok”, they both said to their parents. As they walked away, they both whispered to each other “All of that was worth it for Jasper.”

Quinn Hensley

5th Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Caroline Marks

5th Grade Prose

Bella and Alfie

As I feed my gerbil, Bella and bearded dragon, Alfie I wonder, do they just watch out their cages all day or is their day more complex? Do they have an eating contest? Play eye spy? Does Bella help spot Alfie's crickets for hunting? Staring contests perhaps? "Hmm" I say as I shrug my shoulders and head out for school.

"What do you want to do today?" Alfie asks a sleepy eyed Bella. "I'm thinking water drinking contest followed by chewing on all of our stuff, next let's destroy the rest of the cage by running as fast as we can, make our Christmas lists.....then let's find the seven sunflower seeds in our dishes but scatter all of them just for fun!" Then.....Alfie and his permanent scowl orders "Stop, stop, stop! First of all I don't have those things in my cage, second I don't have teeth and hate running, lastly none of those things are appealing and bearded dragons can't do the same things rodents can." "Eeek! Don't call me a rodent! You keep interrupting me, I haven't gotten to the best part yet." Bella says. "I keep interrupting you because you take too long and if I listened to the whole thing I would be stuck here all day." Alfie answered. "Like you have anything better to do, you're stuck in your cage." Bella replied. "Is that supposed to be an insult? I love my cage, it's my home!" "You're so simple you like you cage, I have tasted freedom!" Bella says standing to full height on her back legs for show. A shocked Alfie questions "When did you taste freedom?" "Well," Began Bella "One glorious night when the child was not in her bed I made a break for it, chipping away the plastic tube till it fell to the ground victoriously. I scurried away enjoying every part of the house for the day until I got to the guest room where the child found me. I let her scoop me up because I was hungry but then she put me back in here and

closed my exit with a rubbery substance. I haven't made any headway on it since but I refuse to give up." "Wow," said Alfie "I am surprised you would want to leave the comforts of the cage." "It's all because I am not a simpleton." Bella smirked. "Say, that gives me an idea about what we can do today." Alfie gave his scowl, the only look he had "What?" "I'll teach you to break out!" Said Bella nibbling greedily on her bars. "My cage is glass and I don't want to get out." Said Alfie. "Traitor!" screamed Bella but it was barely understandable through her chewing.

After school is over I bound up the stairs to my room. Bella is chewing on her bars while Alfie is staring at her. "Hi" I greet them as I walk into the room. "Ahhhhh child! Must hide!" Bella screams in Bella speak as she runs away and shakes under her cotton. "Hello." Said Alfie in Alfie speak. "What in the world have you guys been doing all day? I guess we can only wonder." I say.

Casbie Kintz
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Suzy Rogers

5th Grade Prose

The Great Experience

One hot summer day, Bobby was shooting basketball with his friends at the park. Bobby was a normal kid that loved sports, but the thing he lived for was hunting. Bobby was 13 years old and lived in the heart of Austin, Texas. When he got home that day, he found out that his dad had planned a trip for them. He was really excited because it was a hunting trip to Alaska! They will be leaving in a few weeks and have to be prepared. The two weeks flew by quickly and it was the next day when they were to leave. Bobby's dad woke him up at dawn. There was a small private jet that was waiting for them outside. When they flew over the Pacific Ocean, Bobby was amazed! The water was so blue and so pretty! Bobby could not blink because he didn't want to miss a thing. When they arrived in Alaska, they drove to a small cabin that they were going to stay in. The cabin was very nice and clean. While they were in Alaska, they were hunting moose. The next morning came and they got their gear ready and started hiking. Moose can be very dangerous because they will charge at you. After about a mile of walking, they stopped and got into a boat. While in the boat, Bobby saw some fish in the water. He saw the most beautiful fish that he had ever seen before. The fish was green with a red stripe going down its body and some black dots. While in the boat, the saw some moose in the distance but they were too far away. When Bobby got back to the cabin, he wondered if he would actually get a moose. The thought of that wouldn't get out of his mind. The next morning came and they headed out to hunt. After walking a while, they got hungry and decided to stop and eat a snack. While eating, they spotted a big moose on the side of the mountain. They packed up their stuff quickly and hiked up the mountain. They got very close to the moose. Luckily, moose can't see very well. Bobby took a deep

breath and aimed at the moose and fired! The moose dropped to the ground. Bobby and his dad jumped up and hugged each other. Bobby's dad said since they got a moose, they have to leave the next day. They woke up early the next morning and went to board the small private jet that was waiting for them. The first thing that Bobby did when he got home was he went to the park and told all his friends about his hunting trip!

Levi Lamb
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Suzy Rogers

5th Grade Prose

Is She Still Alive?

My footsteps echoed loudly through the room my family calls the “Man Cave.” I spotted a shadow in one of the seats at the table.

“Why can’t she go to the vet?” the voice of the silhouette groaned; the sound bouncing off the walls until it landed in my ear.

Another, older voice replied, “The one on the mountain is closed, and the one off the mountain doesn’t take ‘exotic’ pets.”

I recognized both voices. It was my sister, Harriet, my mom, and of course, my guinea pig, Lila.

“But Lila isn’t exotic!” Harriet complained as I got closer.

“What’s happening?” I wondered as I entered the dining room, listening closely to my mom's explanation. As she explained, my confusion disappeared, being replaced by a frown on my face as I took my place at the dinner table.

As I ate, family members came and went. Nobody expected to come back to the dinner table that night. Then, suddenly, Harriet picked Lila up and transported her to the couch. I knew it was getting worse. Harriet's eyes filling up with sorrow shifted from a random spot in the kitchen to Lila, who struggled to move, inching around in her small space like she was a worm. I finished my dinner and threw away my trash, making sure I had time to sit with them.

“Is she okay?” I asked fearfully. My stomach flipped. Harriet didn’t answer, fearful of what might happen.

Mom answered for her. “She’s sick, and we can’t visit the vet.” Mom’s eyes closed in grief. My eyes filled with tears, but I drained them

with hope. I stroked Lila’s soft fur until everyone else came. We all took a spot on the couch or in our seats. I watched as Lila struggled to move until she couldn’t. Her breaths were small and quick. Her nose sounded as if it was clogged up, but it wasn’t. My hope fell as my tears came flooding in again. I held my breath, restraining myself from crying. Harriet couldn’t keep herself from breaking down anymore. Lila slowed and slowed until I saw no more movement. My fearful eyes shifted to my mother. My mouth opened, intending to say something.

“Is she still alive?” I whispered, a bit of hope remaining.

“No.” my mother shook her head.

My tears broke out of my eyes. I couldn’t hold it back anymore. I didn’t know one word could do so much damage. Tears wet my face, and it felt like my crying could fill the room. The sadness weighed on my heart. My stomach emptied of air as I cried.

I ran back to my room, sobbing. Jumping onto my bed, I buried my face in my pillow. Gasping for air, I slowly stopped my whimpers. For the rest of the night, my face was red and my eyes were full of sadness. I walked down the hallway, repeating the moment over and over again in my mind. Step by step, down the hallway I went, my mind filled with bad thoughts. Seeing my mom, walking down the hallway as well, made me feel a bit better.

“Oh honey, I’m sorry.” my mom said softly. The words shot through my heart. My eyes became wet again. I stretched my arms out and gave her a big, comforting hug. As I let her continue walking, my eyes became heavy not just with sadness, but with sleepiness.

5th Grade Prose

"Good night." I said to mom sluggishly as I left the hallway, into my bedroom. Resting my head on my pillow, I drifted off to sleep, unaware of anything else in the conscious world.

Months later, the sound of clicking fills the room. Typing my story, my fingers fly across the keyboard, the memories flowing in my brain. I knew what the name of the story should be. After remembering the incident and typing it down, the true meaning came to me. From this life experience, I learned how to deal with death and that death comes naturally. So, after listening to something I witnessed, just remember that your deceased loved one has headed towards happiness.

Aggie Howard
5th Grade
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

5th Grade Prose

My First Day in America with Snow

I woke up at 6:40 in the morning. to see that my sister was really happy.

I asked her, “Why are you so happy?”

Alba answered, “There is snow all over the backyard!”

I forgot I heard on the radio that it was going to snow on Saturday!

I went upstairs and put on my gloves, my scarf and my favorite jacket. But when I returned downstairs Alba wasn't in the kitchen. The backyard door was open. I took a small step to the garden when suddenly I fell to the ground. Thankfully, it was covered with snow. On my second step a snowball passed me by, but the second one didn't miss the target...My face.

Alba got up from her hiding spot. Suddenly the backyard turned into a battlefield. There were snowballs flying all over the garden until Mom , and Dad woke up.

We ran inside. Too much fighting made us feel hungry. Mexi, my dog, started to run everywhere. She was at maxspeed until she went outside. Mexi is not a fan of snow. She hates snow when Mexi come inside. Mom was happy that there was snow all over the garden and Dad had a really big smile on his serious face.

“Alba, Blas, do you like the snow?” Said Dad.

We answered, “!Yes!” ;and headed into the kitchen to have breakfast.

Mom took two cups from the drawer. She poured two big chocolate balls in each cup,and then the milk. After they were full of milk , mom

put the two cups in the microwave for exactly one minute. I was able to smell the sweet taste of the hot chocolate coming out of the microwave. The marshmallows felt like squishies in my mouth. It was as sweet as sugar. It was glorious. It was hot chocolate. I wondered if there is anything better than hot chocolate with marshmallows? Well, maybe just one thing, waffles with Dulce de Leche- (Argentinian caramel). After my belly was full, I headed out to the backyard. I always wanted to make a snow castle like in the American movies. Alba and I always dream about what it would be like to touch snow or to make a snowball fight. But no matter what, we always wanted to make a snow castle in real life. We worked hard, but the castle couldn't stand. So, we worked harder. We did layers of snow on top of each other. It took us hours before it was done.

After we were done with the snow castle we decorated it with sticks , stones, leaves and flags. It looked like a really bad ice cream cake. That day I made my dream came true. I built a snow castle in America. In Argentina, I live in Buenos Aires , and there isn't snow. Every Christmas, Alba and I watch winter movies where people play with snow and build a snow castle. We always wondered how the snow felt and what it was like to touch snow. That day we found out.

Based on a true story by Blas Ortega Mac Lean An Argentinian writer.

Blas Ortega Maclean
5th Grade
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

5th Grade Prose

My Leap of Faith

“Try everything” I thought to myself as I climbed the steps for ‘The Leap of Faith’. That's what they call the daredevil slide in Atlantis, Bahamas. When I first arrived in the Bahamas, it was at the top of my to-do list, but when I saw it in person, I lost some of my certainty. I needed to find the courage to climb those six flights of stairs, sit on top of the slide, and plummet down into the depths of the shark tank. I was determined not to go home without trying it at least once.

It was the second day of our trip, and I had just arrived at the waterpark. The Leap of Faith wasn't open yet, so I killed some time by looking through the huge glass window that enclosed all of the massive sharks.

“Whoa!” I said to myself, amazed.

I watched as they swam all around in the tank in front of me.

Suddenly, I remembered a time about four years ago. My brother and I were sitting at our kitchen table, listening intently to stories about my parents' exciting trip out of the country.

“We went to Atlantis, Bahamas,” my mom told us.

The way she described it, it sounded like paradise with a cherry on top. I was on the edge of my seat.

“My favorite part was the waterslides.” my dad added.

“What were they like?” I asked

My dad responded, “Two of them go right through a shark tank!!”

My mom grabbed her phone and looked up a picture of the slide my dad was talking about.

As I stared at the picture, immediately I thought; I've GOT to do that!!

“So when are we going to go?” I asked.

My parents shared a glance, not wanting to disappoint me. “Someday...” they said, uncertain.

“But, what day?” I pressed.

I didn't get a response. We cleared the table, and I went to bed, wondering when I was going to sit on the top of that slide.

The memory drifted away, and now here I was, back to reality, staring at the shark tank that held a slide I'd been waiting four years to ride. I watched as the giant marine creatures swam all around, their bodies looming over the slides. Then I saw it. The trail of white bubbles flying behind a person going at lightning speed. It was on the far side of the tank, which meant the Leap of Faith was open, and that was the first ride of the day. I darted past the window and dashed to the stairs so fast I was practically dragging my big brother with me. In my haste to get to the slide, I almost knocked a little kid over, and almost busted my head open, slipping on the trail of water left by people from the pool.

“Stop it, Mamie!” my brother shouted. So I did, not wanting to make my brother mad.

“I thought it just opened!” I said. “People must have been hopping in line all morning!!”

My brother sighed, “I guess we just have to wait,” he said, exasperated.

5th Grade Prose

An hour went by. "SO MUCH TIME!" I said, dramatically putting my hand on my forehead, and falling over. "You'd think that this slide would go fast, considering it went straight down and rushed through the shark tank, bringing it to a total of about 5.7 ish seconds." I muttered.

"Yeah," my brother chimed in agreement.

We continued talking about other slides, and what we were going to do later that afternoon. After a while, the slide came into view. I looked over the pair of shoulders in front of me. I glanced at the slide just in time to see the slide instructor say "3,2.....1!! GO!!!" I saw the child take a deep breath, and she launched herself off the edge of the slide. A second later, I heard her scream. The scream faded, and drifted into silence. That was when the nerves got to me. I watched as another person went, and another, and another, and pretty soon, it was my brother's turn.

It felt like he went faster than the others. I got mad at him for making my turn come sooner than I wanted it to. By now, I was freaking out. *What if it's too steep? What if the sharks think I'm a snack? What if I don't make it? What if...* All of the what if's really got to my head, so I just had to ignore them. I slowly sat down on the top of the slide. Every second felt like a minute. *Everyones waiting for you. Frank made it, so will you.*

I tried to control my nerves. I remembered what my summer camp had taught me the week I was there, and what my mom had taught me a few years earlier. "Live life to the fullest" These words kept playing in my mind. Living life to the fullest means doing everything you can while you're on earth.

I can do this. I thought to myself. I gripped the

edges of the slide as hard as I could, and without thinking, I pushed off. The drop happened so fast, I didn't have time to scream. I opened my eyes, to discover I was about to go through the shark tank. I quickly shut my eyes and held my breath, forming my mouth into a bubble. Before I knew it, I was in water. After a second, I found myself being shot out of the tube. Before I knew it, I was in water. Then, I opened my eyes. I survived!

My brother walked up to me and asked, "Was it fun?"

I replied with a "YESSSSSSSSSS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Again, again." I pleaded.

We spent the rest of the morning on that slide.

That day, I learned how to try everything that I can, how to relax and have fun, and most importantly, I learned to believe in myself.

Mamie Treadwell
5th Grade
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

5th Grade Prose

Shrek Tale...A Book

Creak...Creak...Creak! I heard on the floor downstairs from my room. I went to see what it was, and the front door was cracked open. I went outside to see what was going on. It was pitch black and I could barely see. Yet somehow I could faintly make out a black figure on my doorstep. I got it inside and realized it was a book. I took the book back up to my room and made space to set it on my vanity. Then went back to sleep wondering what it was. I woke up the next morning and called my friends, John and Anjali. I told them about the book, and they said they were on their way.

“Jessica we’re here!” they called from the kitchen.

“Coming!” I yelled. I grabbed the book and bolted down the stairs. “Hey guys. You want some ice cream? I made it just yesterday,” I said proudly.

When we finished eating our ice cream I grabbed the book, and we hiked out to the waterfall down a trail on my street. We opened the book, and all of the sudden the autumn leaves created a leafy tornado around us!

“Ahhh!” we screamed while we got tugged in by big crusty reeds.

“Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!” As it dropped us into the book, I could feel the humid air rushing all around me. “Oomf! That did not feel very good,” I said as I untangled myself from the reeds. I had dirt all over my tee shirt and shorts.

“Ahh! We are on the edge of a swamp!” screeched Anjali.

When she stood up, she looked terrified.

“Wait a second, John. John, where are you? This isn’t funny!” Anjali and I called as we choked on the musty air.

“Agh, hack, plek!” coughed as John attempted to crawl out of the water.

“Oh my gosh John! Are you okay?” I called as I rushed to the side of the swamp to help drag him out of the water.

“I think so,” he choked. “Ahh!”

“What is it John?” Anjali asked.

“Look up,” he instructed.

The sky looked like the pages of the book we had opened.

“Uhh, guys I think we’re inside of the book!” said Anjali nervously.

“It’s getting dark. We should find somewhere to stay for the night,” I told them.

“Let’s check the woods.” added Anjali. We hurdled through the reeds, and out into the forest.

“Stop,” I called from the front. They weren't ready to stop and fell on top of me. We found a huge old tree house with grayish wood and a big roof. We climbed the ladder and crumbled in a heap on the creaking floor.

It looked quite old, but it would have to do. We crawled over to some old beds in a corner. Then we knew we wouldn’t be able to move a muscle until morning.

5th Grade Prose

We woke to my phone alarm I had set. We were blinded by the sun. Then I saw a big green head peeking through the big door.

“Ahhh!” we all screamed.

“Wait hold on a second, that's Shrek!” I explained.

“How does that change anything?” Anjali yelled while she clinged to my arm with fright. He was bending over to see us through the door. He was much taller than the tree house. He punched his huge fist through the wall and grabbed John with his huge green fist.

“Ahhhhh!” John screamed.

“John!” Anjali squealed with tears starting to run down her cheeks. Her head was swiveling side to side.

“WAH HAH HAH!!!” Shrek sent an evil laugh through the forest, shaking the trees. Shrek busted the roof off of the tree house. Anjali screamed her loudest scream,

”AHHHH!”

“Noooo!” I screeched, and I tried my hardest to hang on to her as Shrek dragged her up and away. It wasn't enough. I dropped back down to the swaying tree house floor. Shrek kept crushing things until I was hanging from a tree branch. My long braid flowing as I held on with all my might, but that wasn't enough either. I fell, and then Shrek grabbed me just before I hit the ground. He swung me into his pocket where I found John and Anjali. Shrek marched back to the swamp. He flung us into the sky.

We fell back into the real world, and dove into the pond with the book in hand. We took it to

the bottom and buried it. Just before we buried it, I had realized that in big gold letters it read Shrek.

In red dripping letters it said, Beware. I felt pretty dumb for not turning over the book earlier. Then I would have saved us from Shrek. We hiked home and never saw the book again. That night I woke to the sound of creaking downstairs. When I tiptoed nervously down the stairs to see what it was, I was relieved to find out...

It was just my dad going to his room to sleep.

Madison Mackenzie Wolford
St. Peter's Episcopal School
5th Grade
Jennifer von Klar

5th Grade Prose

The Island

Tik tik tik bang! The last thing I saw was a white cold flame. I felt a chill go down my back. It is freezing. I hear the ear piercing screams of my family and friends. Everyone is panicking and my family is screaming my name, Taylor! Taylor! I have a strange feeling. It is snowing when just a minute ago it was sunny. I think I just blacked out.

100 Years Later

It is coming back to me in little bits. I remember seeing a white creature carrying me away. I don't know but I woke up with my roommate, Miranda. "I see but can you describe it more?" I see pity in his eyes. No, I told you that is all I remember! "Are you sure?" Look, I told you I do not remember! I am sorry I just do not. "Ok, we are going to take you in for some more testing." I slide back into my uncomfortable cot and try to drift off.

100 Years Earlier

I am coming back now. I see this pale human putting a hot towel on my head. I scream but she covers my mouth so it is not loud. She is talking to me but I can't understand it well. She has a thick German accent. I calm down and she explains how their people sent a cold bomb on my country. It's all frozen. She saved me because she saw something in me. She saw humility unlike most of my kind. It turns out she is the queen of the country. "We have been at war for ten hundred years, but I didn't know they were people?" She showed me where I could sleep. It was not that nice but she had to hide me so I could not complain. I went quickly to bed.

100 Years Later

I wake up in the morning, feeling weak. I eat the terrible hospital food and they tell me I am going to be released. It is not that exciting but at least I get to see Miranda and tell her how they think a soul from the great war entered my body. I start to pack but I really have no items. I get outside and call an uber and go home. On the way there I think about how far behind I am in my college course.

100 Years Earlier

I wake up and there is soup on the table by my bed. I sit in the old cedar chair and look at it. It is brothy and full of onions. I eat it anyway. It is not that bad. I get changed out of my nightgown and do a crossword. I get bored so I go upstairs completely forgetting the situation. I walk right into a war meeting I freeze and they look at me, and say commander Elliott your late they all frown. I walk in and say sorry my alarm didn't go off. I feel sweat dripping down my back hoping the real Commander Elliott does not show up.

100 Years Later

I find myself at home, Miranda is beaming with happiness! "Taylor, you are home. What do you want to do on your first day back?" I tell her I want to get some real food. We go to Chick fil a. It is yummy. I can not remember the last time I ate ok food. I was in the hospital for a month. I get home and start catching up on schoolwork I have no clue what i'm looking At. Miranda is taking the same course so she helps. I cannot wait to sleep in my soft pillowy bed tonight is all I can think about when Miranda is trying to help with my school work. It is nice to be back.

100 Years Later

I wake up and feel cold. Miranda is next to me in the hospital. They said I had been in a coma for

5th Grade Prose

2 days. I had a cold stroke in my sleep. I realize there was someone in me, but I do not think I will hear from her again though. I will never know what happened to her. I hope she is ok, wherever she is now. All I know is that I will forever remember the period of my life where I got to see her story.

Franky Cambell

5th Grade

Chattanooga Christian School

Holly Coulter

5th Grade Prose

Fruit Cat Island

Luna, the blackberry cat, was at her house eating blackberries when she heard... “Ahhhhh!” the cat citizens screamed that the queen, a dragon fruit cat, was missing. Luna knew something was wrong, so she invited her hyper friend Nixie, the strawberry cat. Soon, Nixie came over with Max, the blueberry cat. Luna told them that they had to come up with a plan, so they all went outside. “Hey guys, look, the fruit on the fruit tree is falling off!” exclaimed Nixie. The fruit on that tree was controlled by the queen. If something happens to her, the island will be in danger! “Yes! I love adventures,” Max screamed. The fruit cats finally realized that they were the ones who had to save the queen cat.

First, the cats went over the fruit tree hill and out of the Blackberry Cave. Then, they ventured off the island with their banana boat for a few hours, then they got really tired and fell asleep. In the morning, they woke up. “What is that?!” Max said scaredly. There was fish eating their banana boat. “Row the boat!” Luna screamed.

Then, they found themselves drifting at vegetable dog island. There in front of them was a vegetable dog. “Ahhh!” Nixie screamed. “Shhhhh,” Max whispered. The vegetable dog turned around, but the fruit cats hid in a bush. So the cats went away from the dog into the woods. “Oooooow.” a wolf howled. “Did you hear that?” Max said to Luna. “Yes,” said Luna scaredly. They heard a carrot wolf. “Hi my name is Lizzie! Do you want to play?” the carrot wolf excitedly said. The wolf was not scared or did not want to hurt the cats; she wanted to be friends with them. “No,” said Luna. The cats were not there to play, they were there to save the queen. “Ok,” the wolf said sadly. “We will just be on our way,” Luna told the wolf.

After that, the cats found the queen cat in a cage! “Help!” The queen said in her sophisticated voice. Then, a vegetable dog came and stopped them in their tracks. “If you can get past me, then I will let you have the queen,” the vegetable dog said. “Run!” Luna shouted. The fruit cats hid from the vegetable dog. “We need a plan,” Luna concluded. Luna told the other two cats their job. Nixie was the distraction, Max had his trip wire and Luna would put the net on him. “Can't catch me!” Nixie screamed at the dog. Thud. The vegetable dog tripped while he was chasing Nixie. Swoosh! Luna threw the net on the dog and got him all tangled up. “We did it!” exclaimed Max. “Oh, thank you my cats,” the queen excitedly said.

Later, all four of the cats got to the shore and found a cucumber boat. “Do we really have to ride in a cucumber?” Nixie asked. “Yes, that's all we have,” Luna told her. All the cats got in the boat and went to the island. “Look, it's the queen! She's back!” a random cat said. “Yes I'm here, ” the queen told the cat citizens. The queen told the cats all about how she was at the shore when a vegetable dog came and caught her. Then, the queen told who came and saved her, the three cats. That day, all the cats on the island celebrated how those three cats saved the queen, and it will be celebrated every year on that day, and one day Luna will be the queen.

Callie Turner
5th Grade
Chattanooga Christian School
Kara Kruchinski

5th Grade Prose

Halloween

On a dark and stormy Halloween night I was in my Halloween costume. I was a bear. The costume was so warm, fluffy, and soft. I had these slippers for my feet, gloves for my paws, and I was wearing a onesie for the bear's body. I loved it! My friend Onkiy was a goat. His horns were all wonky so they kept falling off. We went trick or treating and we saw Witches, Clowns, Vampires, and Zombie costumes. After seeing a few more costumes we got bored, so we went to my friend's house. We ate candy for a while. My friend said that next door was a REAL witch! We weren't very smart so we decided to go. I knocked on the door and...TRICK OR TREAT we got loads of candy. We got chocolate, lollipops, and king sized candy bars. and on the other side of the witch's house we saw A big wide portal swirling with different colors hypnotizes us. We started walking toward the hole then we stepped into the hole. When we came to the end of the hole we were in... MY TEACHER'S HOUSE!!!! When we went inside the house Mrs. Clark (our teacher) was so confused. She had a funny look on her face. It was like she couldn't believe what she was seeing. It was because we were at her house and also wearing our Halloween costumes. Then the worst thing happened. It was a nightmare Thomas (Mrs. Clark's little baby) had turned evil! He had red eyes like a devil and he started to bite his mother but the biting only lasted thirty seconds. After 2 more minutes of craziness he changed back and he started to play with his harmonica that he got for christmas. The weird thing is Mrs. Clark was just standing there. She wasn't even blinking. Then we realized she turned to plastic manikin . We just decided to leave and we went back through the portal. Instead of going back to our neighborhood we ended up at my friend Avi's house. When we went inside her house she greeted me like she always does. She says " Hey bestie!" so that's

how I knew she was normal. All of a sudden she started getting smaller and smaller. Then she started to have feathers, then a beak. Then she was a duck. Then she started biting me. It hurt really bad! Out of nowhere this potion appeared. It said " To undo this spell just tell where you need to go to get this shell." I said the beach. Then Avi turned back to a human. After that we went back through the portal. We finally got back to the neighborhood. Then we decided to go to my house and eat candy. The next morning I woke up and got ready for school. I got a text from Avi. It said " Help! I am stuck on the toilet. I am laying eggs!" I just decided to ignore her. When we got there we waited in our classroom. Then I remembered Mrs. Clark was still a plastic manikin! So I told my class the story and that Mrs. Clark was still a plastic manikin. They believed me. Then we partied all day and had recess all day! At the end of the day a teacher came in and said that we were all in trouble. She said she was going to call our parents!

Serena Shridharani
5th Grade
St. Nicholas School
Alice Clark

5th Grade Prose

Everett's Stuffed Adventure

The Masterson home was always quiet when there were only two kids, Emry and Ella. Then Everett was born! As Everett got older he became more of a daredevil. He started cannonballing into the pool when he was less than a year old. When he was two he tried to jump into the Christmas tree. Everyday he would come home from school with so many scrapes and bruises. This kid was not afraid of anything! When anyone would talk about Everett they would always say he is “full speed ahead.”

One of Everett's favorite things were the holidays. Even though he was only two and did not understand the meaning of Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving or Easter he still knew they were fun. When Everett did anything he went all out. He was so funny and loved to play with friends and entertain guests. All that to say Everett stayed in the middle of everything. On Halloween you better believe he was the one eating all of the candy he could fit into his mouth. He was a daredevil but how does that come into this story? Well, one Halloween night Everett was eating all of his Halloween candy. The night was going really good. Everett had dressed up as Spider-man and ran as fast as he could around the neighborhood. When he got home he was really tired. Everett had to go to school the next day. He always slept with lots and lots of stuffed animals. His favorite was Buzz Lightyear. Another favorite was his stuffed monkey. After Everett's mom put him to bed that night he heard his stuffed animals having a conversation. They said “should we wake him up?” Everett thought it was his mom and dad talking. When he got up to turn on the lights he realized it was his stuffed animals and they were both in shock! Everett's favorite stuffed animal said “hi” to him and asked if he wanted

to go on an adventure. Of course Everett said “yes.” Everett and the rest of his toys went into his closet and ended up in the living room. His toys said “this is from before you were born.” “What” said Everett? Everett saw his sister Ella going to get a cup of water. He tried to run to her but when he did it was like a forcefield. Everett did not know what to do. His toys told him he was not born yet so he could not interact with his family. Everett did not like that and he kept trying to hug Ella but it did not work. Everett looked in his playroom but all of his toys were gone. He looked in his room but it was now just a guest bedroom. Everett did not like anything about this adventure. He told his toy he wanted to leave and go back. His toys smiled and said “ok.” He closed his eyes really tight and when he opened them everything was like it had been. He laid down to go back to sleep and decided never to eat a lot of Halloween candy ever again.

Ella Masterson
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Wilson

5th Grade Prose

The Mystery of the Missing Red Canoe

It was spring trout season in Rogersville, a small quiet Alaskan town, which was known for its gigantic salmon, brook trout fishing and its abundant wildlife population. There were two brothers named Fisher and Finn McKinley who lived in a log cabin on their remote farm on top of Rogers Stone Mountain. They owned Fisher and Finn Bait and Tackle shop near the Pine Tree Falls River. The two brothers made their living by fly fishing for trout and salmon on the river during the spring and summer months. They loved their job until one day a lot of their stuff started to go missing, including their fishing rods, tackle boxes, and their old red canoe. The brothers were really upset that the old red canoe had been taken by the crook. This was the only canoe they had to charter their fly fishing adventures with. Without the canoe, business was getting slow, and the brothers were worried they would go out of business. They guided fishing adventures for salmon and brook trout using the red canoe. Fisher and Finn did not know what was happening, so they called the Rogersville County Sheriff to see if he knew what was going on. Sheriff Hunter said that he suspected that there was a robber in town who was going on a crime spree. So, the two brothers said to the Sheriff "Let's team up and stop this crook." Sheriff Hunter said "Ok, we will meet first thing in the morning." Fisher, Finn, and Sheriff Hunter set off on their mission to put a stop to this crook's evil doings. The two brothers and the sheriff borrowed a boat from the marina and went up stream looking for the missing belongings. Deep in the woods they found a plane crash, so they went to investigate the crash. When they got to the plane, they found a fire burning but did not find anyone nearby, so they kept searching. They got back in the boat and went up the river. On the side of the bank, they saw a scraggly and wounded man who had

survived the plane crash. Sheriff Hunter stopped and asked the man a few questions and found out that his name is Clark Cross, the pilot of the crashed plane. He had crashed his plane fifteen days ago and had no food or no supplies. They also found a lot of the missing items near the plane crash. It seemed like Clark was trying to survive alone in the woods after the crash. Which is why he was taking peoples things. Clark stole an axe, a bow, and arrows, so that he could defend himself from the wild animals. He also stole the fishing gear so that he could catch fish to eat to survive. Sheriff Hunter called the hospital and got Clark the medical attention that he direly needed. After Clark was treated at the hospital for his wounds, he was arrested and taken to jail for stealing the belongings of the town's people. He went to court and the judge told him that for his punishment he was ordered to clean up the town and work at the marina to pay his debt to Rogersville. Clark was sorry and apologized for stealing the people's things. Clark was a retired fighter pilot for the U.S. Air Force and was a nice person who had made some bad choices such as stealing. He worked around the town and did odd jobs for the town's people and made enough money to buy a small cabin north of Rogers Stone Mountain. Fisher and Finn gave Clark a second chance and hired him to be the manager of boat sales at their bait and tackle store. Finn and Fisher returned the missing items to the town's people, and they were also able to find their missing red canoe. This was a huge blessing for Finn and Fisher since it was the busiest fishing time of the year during the trout and salmon migration.

Ayden Rogers
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Wilson

5th Grade Prose

The Magic Show

One day in the 1800s in Missouri, a boy named Sam had a school talent show. Rebecca and Jay, his parents told him to do a magic show. Sam liked that idea so he planned one. When it was time for the talent show, he was ready.

The first magic trick was he read the audiences minds. He said a card and it was the right one. Next he cut an assistant in half, but she was still alive. Last he reached to pull a bunny out of a hat, but instead an arm pulled him through the hat. The audience thought that it was a part of the magic show, so they applauded. Sam's parents started to freak out. They recognized the arm, it was Sam's great grandpa's arm, who was a magician, but had been dead for years. Sam looked at the man, and said "who are you"? The man said "I am your great grandpa". Then Sam said, "then how come I have never seen you before"? His great grandpa told him he had died before Sam was ever born.

Sam's great grandpa took him to a secret room with a lot of dead strangers in there. They were all famous dead magicians. They asked Sam to be apart of a magic contest. Sam did so well he won first place. Before Sam left, he took a picture with his great grandpa.

Suddenly, Sam heard someone calling his name over and over telling him to wake up. It was all just a dream. He woke up and looked around his room and saw the picture he had taken with his great grandpa. Sam knew that this was much more than a dream.

Tucker Schaad
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Wilson

5th Grade Prose

The Key

Elise and Elijah each had their own special personality. Elise was very energetic, exciting, and an all around fun person to hang-out with. While Elijah was a quiet, sensible, logical person. Despite their differences, they were best friends. It just so happens they were twins, but they chose to be friends. They loved walking the trails in the woods together.

One Saturday morning, they were walking along a new trail and came to a place they didn't quite recognize. As they walked further the grass started getting greener and the trees started becoming a pinkish-purple color. They decided to turn around but as they walked back, there was some force acting against them so that they couldn't go back the other way. As they started to walk further into this place, a figure descended down, as if she had just come out of the trees, in a shimmery gold light. As the light died down, the figure became more clear. She had light brown hair pulled back into a bun and a warm, welcoming face. She had beautiful blue eyes and a loving smile." Hello, hello children, and welcome to the wonderful world of Enchantment!" She said, "You must go to the great oak tree to find the key to go back to your world." Then Elise asked, "What's 'The Key'?" Then the mysterious woman answered, "Oh my darling The Key isn't a thing, it's a feeling. I promise, you'll know when you have The Key." As the mysterious woman disappeared back into the trees, they left to go find the tree.

They soon arrived at the Great Oak Tree. It was tall, and majestic. It had a dark brown stump that got lighter the farther it grew. The leaves were a very shiny, silvery color that reflected the sun. They walked around the tree inspecting it and found a large whole. They took a peek inside. "Look!" said Elijah. "It seems to go on forever!", commented Elise. "Is that where

The Key is?" questioned Elijah." There's only one way to find out." said Elise as she started into the tree. TOnce inside, she was sort of floating down, not exactly a fall, but not flying either. She was just kind of there. Then, with one big leap, Elijah dove in head first and like Elise, was just there. Soon, Elise landed softly on the bottom followed by Elijah (with a back flip and some boasting).

They started to explore. It no longer felt like they were in a tree trunk, but in a palace or a castle. There were a lot of rooms and a long, velvet carpet throughout the palace. They went down a long hallway and Elijah went into the first room and Elise entered a room about three doors down from Elijah. In the room Elise was in, there was a long table that could seat about a thousand people. Elise left it. She knew The Key wasn't in there." Elise, Elise come here, quick!", screamed Elijah from the other room. "What is it!?", asked Elise. She ran into the room Elijah had entered, but he wasn't there. "Where are you?" Elise said in a panicky voice. Inside the room there was a small, narrow hallway with two doors on the left and three on the right. She checked the first door on the left. It was nothing much, just some junk. Then she checked the first door to the right and there was Elijah. "Elijah, you scared me to death! I thought something was wrong!", scolded Elise while giving Elijah a big hug. When Elise looked up there were piles of diamonds and jewels. Riches beyond your wildest of dreams! They started towards it but didn't seem to be getting any closer, then Elise said "It's no use, it's not real." "Let's go",replied Elijah. They turned around and headed for the door.

Once they were back in the hallway they decided to figure out what was in the other rooms. They entered the second door on the right. Inside there was a large wardrobe."Wow!", exclaimed Elise."Oh gosh",

5th Grade Prose

complained Elijah. Elise began trying on the clothes inside. First she grabbed a purple dress, then picked up a black shirt with ruffled sleeves and threw a red, velvet robe on. "Come on, we have to go." said Elijah "Ok", she groaned, taking off the robe.

They decided to skip the next two rooms and see what was behind the last door. They went in and saw a beautiful woman sitting on a throne. She said "Come children tell me what you seek" in a gentle, welcoming voice. "We seek the Key we need to go home" answered Elijah "Oh children how brave you are" she laughed. Then Elise and Elijah started to feel different, in a good way. They felt happy and joyous. It was the key!

Children come, touch my hand and I will send you home. The twins ran to touch the woman's hand. Everything started spinning and a very bright light was all they could see. Then the light was gone. They were home! They were on their front porch. They opened the door and there stood their mom, cooking dinner. "Where have you kids been?" The duo shared a mysterious glance and grinned. "Just walking", Elise replied. "Waking the trail in the woods"

Emma Swindall
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Wilson

5th Grade Prose

Touchdown

It was Timmy's birthday party at D1 and we were playing football. There was my team Jimmy, Witten, Jeff, Sam, Scott, Conner, and Rick's team. We were receiving the ball and Jeff called, "I got it" He yelled it loud while he caught the ball and ran. The other team was Timmy, Leo, Micky, Donnie, Ralph, Jet, and Spike ran after Jeff. Leo got to Jeff but only after he got pretty far. The team was really happy.

Then Jeff the quarterback and me the wide receiver did not know that I was getting baited so Jeff passed the ball to Scott. Scott caught it and ran down for a touchdown! Jeff was now switching quarterback with Sam and pass it to the corner. We scored another touchdown!! Now its Timmy's teams turn to receive the ball. They caught the ball and ran but we got them down.

Then Timmy was quarterback and threw a fake and ran with the football for a touchdown for their team. After that Sam got the ball and passed to Mason and he caught it. Then Sam passed it again and Mason dived for the ball and caught it for a touchdown! The whole team was excited I caught the football!

Mason Tew
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Wilson

5th Grade Prose

Untitled

Hi, I am Fay. I'm a fairy. I'm going to tell you the craziest story of my life, and how I got to Elquarlory land: I felt a wind go through me as I was walking into my mom's office, which she told me to never enter. She told me that since I was a child, but that day while mom was at work I felt like going in. Once I did I was in Elquarlory land. It was a very dazzling place. Still, I had no idea where I was or how I got there. Then, I realized I had fairy wings! After that, out of no where, a gnome said "Hi!" Like I had been standing there for five hours and not 5 seconds. I said, "hello?" Because I had no idea how to react.

"Are you new here?" He asked.

"Well, I came here like 20 seconds ago..."

"Oh, then you are. Follow me."

I asked him a lot of questions which he seemed annoyed by, but he answered them. He told me his name was Antonio and I was in a magical land called Elquarlory. Then, we took a sharp turn to a place called Santa's Workshop. It was snowing there however, it wasn't cold. He told me to wait so I did. About five minutes of waiting an elf named Peppermint ran to me. She was very thrilled about everything. I made a joke to myself that she ate too many of Santa's cookies. Peppermint said to me, in her hyper voice, that there were four parts of Elquarlory land. There was the garden, Santa's Workshop, Animal Kingdom, and Lightening Forest. But first, I had to go to the Queen and she will decide which part I belong in. After walking for about twenty minutes, we got to the Animal Kingdom. There, a safari guide and next to her, an elephant with gold and hot pink jewelry on greeted me. Peppermint left. The safari's name was Catherine and the elephant's

name was Elanor. Catherine told me to aboard Elanor.

Once I got on her, it was a real tour of the Animal Kingdom. Everything was brimming yet beautiful. After about an hour, Catherine wrapped up to a conclusion and led me to a gate. Then I saw the Queen! She was so beautiful. Very kindly, she walked me to a room with 10 other boys and girls, we sat down to have a cup of tea and cookies. We each told our journeys to the Queen. Next, she announced that I was in Lightning Forest. So, of course, I flew there and once I got there I saw my mom and she was so surprised!

To be continued.....

AdaReece Weathersby
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Wilson

5th Grade Prose

Bob and Joe the Macaroni Cheese Mice

Once upon a time there were two macaroni and cheese mice named Bob and Joe. They lived inside a crack of a wall in a house. A couple lives in the house too. One day the couple went to the pet store and adopted a cat. When they came home the cat was humongous to Joe and Bob! The cat tries to eat the macaroni mice three times. The first time was when the cat came at them when they were trying to get some food off of the floor from bread crumbs, but the mice saw the cat before he attacked, so they got back to their crack safely. The second time, they were playing outside their crack. They were playing some games like cheese ball, cheese touch and so much more, but the cat woke up from his nap and sees them and goes for Bob and Joe! Bob and Joe react quickly and they run back to their crack in the wall and are safe, but the cat bangs its head on the wall because the macaroni mice got in before the cat could catch them. The third time it was a close call as Joe and Bob were so scared when the cat's head popped out of the side of the wall with red eyes looking at them as the mice ran a foot race, but Joe made it to the crack but Bob tripped on a splinter in the wood. Joe went to save Bob but they both got eaten by the cat.

The End.

Elijah Witten
5th Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Melissa Wilson

5th Grade Prose

Untitled

My owner thought that taking a beautiful hike up the mountain would help me exercise. Well maybe she thought wrong or I was dreaming. I'm a German shepherd, and my owner is what you call a hu-man. I live on signal mountain in chattanooga. In this story I almost die from walking, AND we never get to the place we wanted to go to.

It all started one morning when I was sitting in my dog bed when my owner walked in, "Guess what we're doing today buddy, we're going on a hike!" Now if you were a dog this would be very exciting news. "Oh boy," I bark, "I love hikes!" I start bouncing up and down like a kangaroo, trying to contain my excitement. "We're going on a fifteen mile hike to the lake to go for a swim, and then we will have a picnic under the tree. I have packed lots of treats for you and me, and plenty of water for you and me."

My human had a map in hand. He looked at the map confidently. "Only a 2 mile journey," he said. We started our hike at the bottom of a rocky slope. Lucky for us, there was a mulchy trail on the side to take through the forest.

It had been 2 hours since we started our hike and my legs were really tired. "Don't worry buddy, my handy dandy map will help us get to the lake," he said. "I hope."

About another hour later, my legs were sore. "Uh oh," he says, "What?" I whimper, "This map is not working, we were supposed to go to the lake a while ago. This trail is SO much steeper than I thought. I suppose we will head back home now. I should have looked at a 3D map!" By now my legs were about to fall off, but I was happy to hear that we were going home.

That is the story of how my owner messed up

on our hiking trip. I hope this story encourages you to use 3D maps when you go on a hike. Next time you go on a hike PLEASE do not make your dog walk up such a steep hill and use a 3D map!

Harris McCormack
5th Grade
Nolan Elementary
Alice Whitmire-Ducote

Kindergarten Poetry

Winter Is

Cold

Hot chocolate

Snow

Presents

Pie

Cooking

Winter is here.

Lina Barisik

Kindergarten

Thrasher Elementary

Megan Methvin

Kindergarten Poetry

Winter Is...

Seeing the Snow
Feeling Cold Snow
Water
Kids Laughing
The Snow on Me
Hot Cocoa
Winter is here.

Ella Sunshine Silverman
Kindergarten
Thrasher Elementary School
Emily Wingo

Kindergarten Poetry

Winter Is...

Seeing White

Feeling Snow

Hearing Fire Crackling

Tasting Hot Chocolate

Smelling Christmas Dinner

Winter is here.

Mason Wall

Kindergarten

Thrasher Elementary School

Emily Wingo

Kindergarten Poetry

The Snowy Day

Big mountains of Snow
Zero birds singing
Cold wind
Snow

Hadley Burgess
Kindergarten
Thrasher Elementary School
Emily Wheeler

Kindergarten Poetry

The Snowy Day

Snow
Nothing
Winter
Coldness
Snow

Xyla Blizzard
Kindergarten
Thrasher Elementary School
Emily Wheeler

2nd Grade Poetry

Funny Monkey

The monkey was swinging on the tree.
The monkey saw me.
Then the monkey fell.
The monkey hurt his tail.
Then the monkey got scared.
I helped the monkey because I cared.

Bianca Ramos

2nd Grade

Rivermont Elementary School

Kaylin Daughtery

2nd Grade Poetry

Kitty Cat

A cat, a cat is the best to rest.
A cat, a cat is so cute and fluffy.
The feline runs fast, so fast.
A kitty cat is so small with its whiskers,
awwwww!
I love cats with their fluffy tails.
Cute cat, cute cat.
So cute

Cadence Rhoda
2nd Grade
Rivermont Elementary
Kaylin Daughtery

2nd Grade Poetry

Green is...

Like grass that covers the ground
Everywhere at once,
Yet it makes no sound
It makes all things happy
Happy with ease
Green like the trees,
Like leaves on the breeze
Inside it, there is always something new to be
found
Green is like nature that covers the ground

Jonathan Greever
2nd Grade
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Susan Bell

2nd Grade Poetry

The Place

As dark as a hole, As light as the stars,
So Colorful Planets, That can Rotate and Spin,
ROTATE
AND
SPIN
Soooo wonderful
So silent
So Bright, So wonderful
So Dark So Great
Spinning, Spinning, So Awesome
I JUST LOVE THIS PLACE!

Adair Lin
2nd Grade
Rivermont Elementary School
Auston Piercey

2nd Grade Poetry

The Bea Life

She is full of color
Blue eyes
She walks like a cat
Eats like a horse
And is whiny like a sheep
Funny, silly, happy like a pig or dog
Looks like a mouse
She plays like a worm.
Has yellow hair like a giraffe.
She eats everything.
She loves everything.
She
Is my EVERYTHING.

Lucy Eustice
2nd Grade
Rivermont Elementary School
Auston Piercey

2nd Grade Poetry

Banana Man's Powers

Banana Man woke up with super powers.
He flew flew flew and do do doooo!
He ran off the building and flew!

He is yellow.
He is strong.
He is BANANA MAN.

He is brave.
He is fast.
He can jump.
He can kick.
He is SUPER Banana Man!

Brandon Hidalgo Palacios
2nd Grade
Rivermont Elementary School
Auston Piercy

3rd Grade Poetry

SAD

Blue like the rain falling outside
and in my eyes
drip!! drip!!
gloomy
clouds cover the sun eyes start to water pours
down outside and in my eyes
sky is dark gray
and gloomy
broken down
like a rusted old
broken down truck on the side of the road.

Sydney Henderson
3rd Grade
The Bright School
Maggie McGuire

3rd Grade Poetry

Sad

Feeling trapped in a cage with many thoughts
Thinking "Is it my fault?"
Wanting to cry

Saying sorry a million times
Playing alone for hours
People not listening to me
My heart getting tortured

Growing up by yourself
Crying hard like a storm
Saying goodbye with no answer

Lucy Cunningham
3rd Grade
The Bright School
Cindy L. Womack

3rd Grade Poetry

A family poem

A Christmas spirit is all you need
Try caroling, that will help indeed
Drink some hot cocoa, see some lights
That will make your Christmas merry and
bright.
Take a picture with Santa, that will make you
smile
Be a friend to someone, go the extra mile

Bowen Smith
3rd Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Robin Williams

3rd Grade Poetry

Percussion

Strike the marimba
Flick sticks at the drum

Beat is tempo
Percussion on the top.

Sam Dunkin
3rd Grade
Thrasher Elementary School
Lauren Smalley

3rd Grade Poetry

Worms

Sticky, muddy, wet
Slimy, wiggling underground
Helps the soil and earth.

Olive Roach
3rd Grade
Thrasher Elementary School
Lauren Smalley

3rd Grade Poetry

The Glass Frog

Don't look beneath me
It's a little creepy

Eggs are orbeez
Love the stormies

It's glassy
(A little sassy)

Kid's transparent
Hard to be a parent!

Josiah Mondy
3rd Grade
Thrasher Elementary School
Susannah Jacobs

3rd Grade Poetry

The Feeling of Loneliness

Sad, lonely, no one.
Heart broken, all departed.
Apart, no one here.

Trillium Lundy

3rd Grade

Thrasher Elementary School

Susannah Jacobs

3rd Grade Poetry

Fear to Brave

I am scared
that no one likes
me.

I feel like I do not belong anywhere
but no one cares.

Then, I think about joyful things
that make me feel hopeful.
Kind, helpful, and brave.

I feel a warm fuzzy
feeling inside. I feel bold
like gold.

I feel calm,
deep down inside.

Mary Frances Smith
3rd Grade
The Bright School
Allison Sakich

3rd Grade Poetry

I am as...

Quick as a sports car
Slow as a camel
Small as a rabbit
Large as an elephant
Sad as myself
Happy as my dog
Nice as a sheep
Mean as a wildebeast
Cold as a polar bear
Hot as a cactus
Weak as a baby turtle
Strong as a gorilla
Loud as a lion
Quiet as an ant
Tough as a tiger
Gentle as a deer
Brave as a warrior
Shy as a lamb
Tame as a dog
Wild as a wolf
Lazy as a sloth
Busy as the president

Ethan Anderson
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Jessica Matukewicz

3rd Grade Poetry

Adventure

An adventure is a mission that friends go on
together
To go on an adventure, you need a reason to
explore
There are lots of challenges on the way
But friends will be with you for sure!

Camden Lee
3rd Grade
Silverdale Baptist Academy
Angie Miller

3rd Grade Poetry

Biography Poem

My name is Reid.
I am kind, fast and smart.
My parents are named Nathan and Carrie.
I love eating, playing, resting and learning.
I am scared of wolves, spiders, wasps and
hornets.
I need a second hamster.
I give away candy.
I would like to see the pyramids.
I live in Signal mountain.
My last name is Knappier.

Reid Knappier
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Ashley Narramore

3rd Grade Poetry

Bio Poem

First name: ... Isabella.

Four adjectives: ... kind,funny,fast,and loveful.

Daughter... of Leonila.

Who loves... dogs,family,friends,books,math.

Who fears... The ocean,dead bugs.

Who needs...money for food and clothing.

Who gives... hugs and kisses.

Who would like...to see my dog that we sold.

Resident of...Tennessee.

Last name Paque.

Isabella Paque

3rd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Ashley Narramore

3rd Grade Poetry

I Am . . .

I am in 3rd Grade.

I wonder if math is hard.
I hear students laughing.
I see buses outside.
I want a longer recess.
I think I have a lot of friends.

I am in 3rd Grade.

I pretend with my sisters.
I feel happy.
I touch my toes.
I worry about my sisters.
I hope I win my game.

I am in 3rd Grade.

I understand math.
I say, "It's going to be a great day."
I dream I could be strong..
I try to be good.
I will be good.

I am in 3rd Grade

Chase Sewell
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Becky Leary

3rd Grade Poetry

I Am . . .

I am in 3rd Grade.

I wonder where I'll go in life.
I hear birds in the hollow trees.
I see the hearts that people have for me.
I want to see the world that is waiting out there
for me. I think no matter where I go, friends will
follow me.

I am in 3rd Grade.

I pretend that cats can fly.
I feel that my family is always there.
I touch my heart, and it feels good.
I worry that my friends are breaking up.
I hope that friendship is big.

I am in 3rd Grade.

I understand the song to be free.
I say, "I love the world and its ways."
I dream that a rainbow is there.
I try new things.
I will never give up.

I am in 3rd Grade

Annora Giannella
3rd Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Becky Leary

3rd Grade Poetry

I Am . . .

I am in 3rd Grade.

I wonder how old Nolan Elementary is? I hear
other kids around me.

I see a lot of books.

I want a water slide from here to my house. I
think dragons are real.

I am in 3rd Grade

I pretend I was riding a dragon.

I feel happy.

I touch flowers.

I worry about nothing.

I hope I get an A+ on my next spelling test.

I am in 3rd Grade

I understand my friends.

I say that I love school.

I dream that I'm on a dragon.

I try to kick a ball over the fence. I will have fun
in school.

I am in 3rd Grade

Charlotte Thurman

3rd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Becky Leary

3rd Grade Poetry

Chickens

Chickens are so funny,
(But they cost a lot of money).
About twenty dollars or so.
When you chase 'em, and
When you race 'em,
Chickens really go, go, go.
They love their food;
It perks their mood --
Hunger makes them mean.
That free-range life,
It's full of strife
But chickens reign supreme!

Jocelyn Shaffer
3rd Grade
Hilger Higher Learning
Shelley George

3rd Grade Poetry

Wishes

A hundred wishes
None come true
Good and bad
All the way through
And then some come true

Nightfall
The light turns on
And off again
And I wish for more
Snowfall
It goes cold
And hot again
Due to those wishes

Wonder, power,
Sunset, rain
Wishes, glory
Ask to be sane

Thunder
It goes stormy
And sunny again
And I wish for more
Sunrise

The sun goes from the east to west
Due to those wishes

Evi Jaynes
3rd Grade
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Susan Bell

4th Grade Poetry

Alejandro

Kind, generous, loyal
Wishes to be an engineer
Dreams of getting good grades
Wants to make more friends
Who wonders how he'll do on the Spelling Bee
Who fears the dark
Who is afraid of spiders
Who likes reading books and riding his bike
Who loves food
Who loves soccer, lacrosse, swimming
Who loves his family dearly
Who plans to serve the military
Who plans to keep going to school
Who plans to go around the world
Who—most of all—will keep being kind.

Alejandro Garcia
4th Grade
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Jennifer von Klar

4th Grade Poetry

Greece

Sunglasses and beaches
Bathing suits and treats
Hot and sunny
Walking through the white streets
Swimming and dancing
Spreading peace
Spending time with family
This makes Greece

Evangelia Maounis
4th Grade
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Jennifer von Klar

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

So much depends
upon
A little tiny
kitten
Laying on the
couch
All comfy and
cozy.

Katherine Allison
4th Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

Determined

Observant

Genius (sometimes)

Special

Audrey Reynolds

4th Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

You are
Original
Unique
Rare
Super intelligent
Elegant
Loving
Fair

Kaylee Jellison
4th Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

So much depends
upon
A little dog
running
Covered in mud
all
Alone in the
woods.

Becanni Lohmann
4th Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

A revolution for a new nation
Migrating to the Americas for a home
Extra taxes to be paid
Resisting British rule
Improving wants for freedom
Crossing the line for war
A new nation's birth

Louis Chemin
4th Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

So much depends upon
my big brown dog.
When I'm sad he makes me laugh.
When we go on all the adventures
sleeping under the stars
we will always be with each other.
With his floppy tongue
In the wind it reminds me of all
the good days we had.
When we are together we make the best
memories.

Molly Thiele
4th Grade
Nolan Elementary School
Allison J. Brown

4th Grade Poetry

Us

It is Hard,
To get through your day,
But in the end the stars will shine,
And nothing can stop that.

Do you focus on hate,
Or do you let it wait?
Watch the Wild Geese high in the sky.

Do you see them?
We should be like the Wild Geese,
And soar above the clouds,
Where stars will always be shining,
Forever.

Inspired by “Wild Geese” by Mary Oliver,
And other various poems.

Millie Jackson
4th Grade
Rivermont Elementary School
Shaina Clendenin

4th Grade Poetry

Horses

Thundering hooves coming this way
Shining coat in the sun he lays

Galloping through pastures of flowers
Jumping high the crowd cheers

Racing through the wild of the night
Like lightning from the moonlight
A horse what a rare majestic sight

The fields are peaceful and so am I.

Addie Pugh

4th Grade

Rivermont Elementary School

Shaina Clendenin

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

“Please don’t leave me,”
I whispered
To my grandma
Holding her hands.
“Don’t leave me.”
She took my hand
And placed a locket in it.
“To remember me,”
She said in a hoarse voice.
“You can’t leave me.”
“DON’T LEAVE ME!”
I screamed, my eyes filling with tears.
Suddenly
She started
Closing her eyes.
Her hand
Dropped.
“NO!” I shrieked, holding her close to me.

Stella Reyes
4th Grade
The Bright School
Amanda Dickson

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

There's probably no man that's better than my dad.

He's handsome, intelligent, kind, and he has great leadership.

What would you expect from a police officer though?

In my opinion, he is the best officer out there.

When I'm sick, he makes sure no one else gets sick but still makes sure I'm okay.

He is funny and he talks to me every time school is over, but every day the first question is "what did you do at school?"

He never takes nothing as an answer.

My dad is smart as ever, because in school he participated as a member of the science club.

They would compete against other schools' science clubs, it was a lot of fun.

He can remember some of the questions from 30 YEARS ago.

He used to work for the fire department, but because some of his friends were police officers, he went ahead and joined them in being a police officer.

Now my dad works the night shift for his job and usually gets 5 hours of sleep on average days.

Because he is a police officer, he knows how to resist caving in. He never does.

Even if I just want a pencil.

I take that as a good thing about him.

He inspires me, and right now I want to be a nurse for the military one day.

He is the best dad, especially during holidays.

He would sort out costumes for halloween, help decorate for Christmas, and even worry about new years.

One new year, he texted ALL the group chats "Happy new years!"

He helps me with school projects, like the ones on valentines day.

Every valentines day, a school project would come up to give a treat box or bag to everyone

in the class.

I remember he was all about it.

We went to stores and we gathered wrapping paper.

We got just about all the treats in the world.

In all, I think my dad is the best dad.

Olivia Mahaffey

4th Grade

The Bright School

Amanda Dickson

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

Truman Jonson
4th Grade
The Bright School
Amanda Dickson

The garden
was
bright as
A
Green plastic
Flip flops.
The grass
And trees
were all
dewy.
The hose
was
rubbery
And moldy.
With dead
flies
and water.
the rocks
were
gravely.

My heart was
beating
With joy
and delight
I even loved
the gross stuff.
The curly tree was
Attracted to hundreds
Of ladybugs
Which killed
All the
aphids
the spiders
and lizards were all
Hiding under
are creaky
porch
the flower bed
was smelling like
Lavender

4th Grade Poetry

My Heart

The sunshine
In my
Grateful heart.
Is not kept
So far
Apart
From the
Peaceful love
like a dove.
That flies
into this heart
And will never be
Apart.

Aria Clark
4th Grade
Middle Valley Elementary School
Meredith Osterhaus

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

Moon
Big Bright
Shining Moving Orbiting
Space Craters Hot Huge
Helping Lighting Burning
Center Mysterious
Sun

Samuel Moffit
4th Grade
Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences
Carla Clark

4th Grade Poetry

Untitled

I have four friends that you must meet!
Each of them, very special and unique.
They're always by my side but come and go as
they please.

Brrrrr...This is my friend Winter.
She glides gracefully across the ice of the
frozen lakes.
Her hair, white as snow.
Her eyes, an icy blue.
Her scent, a warm vanilla sugar.
Her dress, silver as ice,
And whoosh! There she goes...
Drip, drip, drip... This is my friend Spring.
She loves the sound of rain and splashing in
muddy puddles.
She lets her hair blow with the breeze.
Her eyes, green as grass.
Her scent, sweet as a flower.
Her shirt, blue as a pond
And whoosh! There she goes...
Splish, splash... This is my friend Summer.
She spends her days riding the waves and
watching the birds go by.
Her hair, golden as the sun.
Her eyes, blue as the ocean.
Her scent, fresh as a pineapple.
Her skirt, colorful as the flowers,
And whoosh! There she goes...

Rustle, rustle...This is my friend Fall.
She reads books beneath the colorful leaves.
Her hair, red as fire.
Her eyes, brown as acorns.
Her scent, as delicious as cinnamon.
Her pants, brown as the oak trees,
And whoosh! There she goes...
Now, you have met my four special friends.
They seem to pass by so fast,
But they're always by my side each season of
my life.

Morgan O'Malley
4th Grade
Middle Valley Elementary School
Kaitlyn Campbell

4th Grade Poetry

Jaguar

Black as the night sky
Eyes as blue as the ocean
Hunts at the darkest hours

Eats little armored ones
Deer tortoises fish

What is it
it's a jaguar
Black as night
Eyes as blue as the ocean

Holden Powell
4th Grade
Middle Valley Elementary School
Kaitlyn Campbell

4th Grade Poetry

How Dreams Become Fantasies

There once was a girl
her mom was baking
she was taking to long
She wondered what she was making.

She fell asleep
So nice and peaceful
It was like she was on a treadmill
Oh how meaningful!

She dreamed of fairies and pixies
They were all around
but when she looked up
The whole world was upside down!

Her mom woke her up
From out of her sleep
she went to the kitchen
and said "Oh what a dream"

She ate what she made
and went back to bed
she laid on her pillow
And rested her head.

She thought it was weird
to have such a silly dream
but she had no worries
and went back to sleep.

Nevaeh Pearson
4th Grade
East Ridge Elementary School
Derek Beaty

4th Grade Poetry

Luna

Luna is crazy but also lazy
Luna likes to play race with lace
Luna is sweet and deserves a treat
Luna is funny and acts like honey
When I get home, she licks my face
Until I play race
When we eat dinner, she whimpers
Lace and Trace are Luna's friends
They always dig in their toy bin.

Luna loves me, and I love her.

Kynley Jenkins
4th Grade
Soddy Elementary School
Tonia Mercer

4th Grade Poetry

Lily The Horse

Lily Lily standing tall in her stall
chomping hay as slow as a tortoise
As I walk in her stall I like to call her
In the morning I like to call her
Hey there Lily

I put her bridle on and lead her out
as we walk I say you come to
I hop on Lily as we trot through the field
who could see us speeding by
Like a comet in the sky

When we get back I will groom
her and I will feed her
I get a red bucket of grain
as I stroke a curry comb through her short fur
She quickly devoured her food

I love Lily the horse
I said I love that horse
I said I love that horse
Like a rabbit loves to run
I like to call her in the morning
I like to call her hay there Lily

At the end of the day
I don't want to but I have to go home
as I whisper to the horses
I'll see you tomorrow for breakfast
but at the end I always go home

Brynn Smoot
4th Grade
Wallace A. Smith Elementary
Jillian Green

4th Grade Poetry

Family

I love my
family but they're
Confusing and annoying
I love my
Family but still
Why does so
Much depend upon
My family

But what is
Family I know
That I love
My family but
What is family
Well it doesn't
Have to be
human
It can say
Bark, squeak and
Even hiss as
long
As you love
Like family it
Doesn't matter if
So much depends
Upon it or
Not you just
Have to love
It

I love my
Family but they
Can be annoying
Like baby's they
Love to cry
All day and
Nite and no
mater
What they want
Be satisfied and
They scream and
They make a
Big mess

I love my
Family but
They can be
Confusing like my
Mom she buys
A bunch of
Shoes but never
Wares them and
My parent's freakout
When I turn
On the car
Light why does
So much depend
Upon a light

Even if their
Annoying or confusing
They are loving
So that's why
So much depends
Upon a family
Also we're all
Annoying and confusing
Also they are
Either trying to
Keep you safe
Or it's time
To do something or
Another good reason
Also it doesn't
Matter if they're
Black, white, tan,
Pale, or any
Race they all
Love their family
Also their pet

Spencer Walker
4th Grade
Wallace A. Smith Elementary
Jillian Green

4th Grade Poetry

BLUE

Never ending always changing sky
Blue markers of every shade
Long flowing wavy blue-green sea
My beautiful light cerulean bedroom walls
The delightful scent of delicate azure petals
Frosty cold bright blue ice
Dazzling swirls of blue on a canvas
Warm fuzzy indigo coat of fluff

Maggie Morgan
4th Grade
Hilger Higher Learning
Shelley George

5th Grade Poetry

When the Stars Align

I hold my breath
I feel a lot pain
I hope I never feel it again

I hear them talk about me
I can hear them from a mile away
God I hope and pray

Maybe one day I'll be out of here
I may hear all the memories I only feared
When the stars align
Oh wouldn't that be fine
When the stars align

Tears run from my eyes
My heart is racing faster than ever before
Why am I always ignored

When I hear my name
or when the lord used in vain
I'll pray to the lord and use my brain

Maybe one day I'll be out of here
I may hear all the memories I only feared
When the stars align
Oh wouldn't that be fine
When the stars align

My heart is sore
But yet it still beats
From my head to my feet

I feel better now
Now that I can explain
I'm going to pray with all my pain

Maybe one day I'll be out of here
I may hear all the memories I only feared
When the stars align
Oh wouldn't that be fine
When the stars align

Hannah Bohman
5th Grade
Thrasher Elementary School
Karen Simpson

5th Grade Poetry

Fall Crunch

From the moment you step on the trail
To the moment you step off
You'll feel the magic sinking in
You'll never want to stop.
I cross all three bridges
And then I take a stop
I take a look around me
Sitting on the rocks.
Then I continue to walk
In the fall all I hear is
CRUNCH, CRUNCH, CRUNCH!
The noises that I hear
Is music to my ears.
When the trail comes to a end
I do it all again
A million ways in and out.
I love listening to the beautiful sounds
I love to look at things all around.
Then the loop curls around we're at the end
again
The beautiful noises end again
The sights start to fade
But that will never stop me
From coming back next fall to hear,
CRUNCH,CRUNCH,CRUNCH!

Violet Bowen
5th Grade
Thrasher Elementary
Tracy Crosby

5th Grade Poetry

Houston, The Eagle has landed

When I hear the word
"Houston," tense and prepared for the force to
come.
I hear a great rumble as the engines begin to
roar.
I look out my window at the beautiful blue sky.
Who knew, in just a few seconds it would be the
darkest sky,
but of course I had seen in my whole life.
When we rise from the ground knowing that
there is nothing I could do,
he listened to the people, miles down, his only
concern
to make sure I came back alive.
I hear the words "stage burn three in five ...
now."
And we're propelled at the speed of a bullet
while
we are heading to the moon to make history.

Gavin Praytor
5th Grade
St. Peters Episcopal School
Sra. Ale Gonzalez

5th Grade Poetry

Naruto Uzumaki

Swift and speedy
Willing and strong
Having the taste to get better
Hoping to be the best
Cares for other people
Unleashing the Kyubi.
Kyubi was a monster
That one time destroyed
The Konah village
The beast the lurks inside
He lets it show in the final battle
Between Haku and him

Zoan Von Schultz
5th Grade
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

5th Grade Poetry

Tacos

Taking the spotlight from all other foods
Amazing for lunch, dinner, and even dessert
“Choco tacos” the dessert tacos with a sugar
shell, filled with ice cream, and dipped in a
layer of milk chocolate
Obviously delicious despite the desirably
different shape
Satisfaction every time I eat savory, sweet, or
salty tacos

Mamie Treadwell
5th Grade
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

5th Grade Poetry

Prosciutto

Pleasing taste for any occasion
Ruler of all meats
Obviously a good snack
Savory flavors in every bite
Continuing to get better and better
In my fridge waiting to be eaten
Utterly amazing
Tasting delectable every time
Tempting and tantalizing
Obviously the best!

Harlan Soss
5th Grade
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

5th Grade Poetry

A Poem

Duck under the chair
Run
Through the house
Stop by the couch.
Swiftly ducking dodging jumping
Slits for eyes and fur like the night
All mice are scared because they can not
Run
From this heavenly warrior
Claws like swords

Jack Sikes
5th Grade
Rivermont Elementary School
Emily Phillips

5th Grade Poetry

Hello Spring

Spring is here
Flowers are blooming
Bumblebees buzzing everywhere
And that sweet bird song filling the air

I will miss light snows
And cozy days at home
But I know I will regret
Spring when mosquitoes come!

I can't wait to go
Splashing in creeks
And going on hikes
So long winter jacket
Spring here I come!

Matilda Malone Calderone
5th Grade
Rivermont Elementary School
Emily Phillips

5th Grade Poetry

Recipe Poem

Hot dogs and hamburgers
Pickles and cheese
Tasty orange juice
Opening the door is a breeze
Chilling for grilling
I'll grab a snack later.
"No mold! No mold, please!"
This makes a refrigerator.

Brody Barton
5th Grade
St. Peter's Episcopal School
Jennifer von Klar

5th Grade Poetry

Winter Thoughts

Why is it, when I sit in the snow
I think of things that never crossed my mind.
Happy and sad thoughts, some high, some low.
These things I think of, both envious and
grateful
Give me a quiet, peaceful time, to get my
thoughts together
As I swallow down hot chocolate, my hands
cold, my head full.

I wonder why this winter day
My head is spinning to and fro
And my thoughts are in such disarray.
I wonder why the snow falls down
As light and silent as a feather
As it forms a blanket on the ground
And on the tree, a crown.

These winter thoughts that float around
My head with undying passion
That come and go one at a time
As if marching in army fashion.
Some thoughts I have I share with those
I love and cherish dearly,
But some I keep in my head
Just so I don't make any new foes.

I wonder why this winter day
My thoughts spin and spin
Around my mind, they prance and run
And dig their way into my mind within.

Cadence Daniels
5th Grade
Middle Valley Elementary School
Bernice Perry

5th Grade Poetry

Animals

Animals walk, animals talk. Animals climb and
fly high.

Animals are awesome! Animals can do anything
if they try.

Harper Kee

5th Grade

Middle Valley Elementary School

Bernice Perry

5th Grade Poetry

Room For Improvement

My closet is a portal
It sucks up all the room

And when I come back out again
I'm in a different room

My trashy, tacky, trumpery room
I wouldn't want it to be on zoom

Dirty, dusty, dark, and damp
Miss matched shoes, broken toys
Popsicle sticks and smelly boys

Clothes that pile up so high
I don't know if I could say goodbye

With a flick and a flutter
It's all back anew
Time to clean my room, Boohoo

Kyle Cantrell
5th Grade
Hilger Higher Learning
Shelley George

5th Grade Poetry

Chickens

Golden silky soft feathers
Red, brown, and black feathers floating in the
air

Blue and green shelter like a warm and cozy
house
Little brown nest filled with golden straw

Blue, brown, glimmering white colored eggs
Fragile like a thin sheet of glass
As glossy as a brushed head

Flying feathers running to food
Bright orange beaks pecking the ground
Little feet kicking the ground for bright yellow
kernels of corn

Chicks chirping loudly
eyes like eagles that glisten like needles

It's a pretty little chicken you see

Megan Garcia
5th Grade
Hilger Higher Learning
Shelley George

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