

GRADES K-5 PROSE/POETRY

**Young
Southern
Student Writers
2021**

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

Finally, thank you to Alex Dowda, Kylie Mason, Keaton Quatro, and Maggie Thoni, four outstanding UTC undergraduate English majors. Alex, Kylie, Keaton, and Maggie worked tirelessly to facilitate judging, compile winning submissions, and create this year's digital booklet. They have spent countless hours managing the contest and have done so with patience, grace, and maturity. I am grateful for their hard work and commitment to this project.

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

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

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Kindergarten Prose



2021 Winners

Kindergarten Prose

If I were a snowman, I would stay at the beach. I would play in the water and sand. At night I would walk around and look at the waves and moon.

Amelia Quinn, Kindergarten

Grace Academy

Mrs. Long

Remy

One day I was thinking about my cat, Remy.

Then I got scared because I could not find her.

Finally my daddy helped me look.

I found her!

Annabeth Kite, Kindergarten

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Tracy Schuster

Kindergarten Prose

“Llama is Lost...”

Once there was a llama, and it’s name was Fluffy. And it got lost one snowy, white Christmas Day, and was separated from its family. Then one very special Christmas Eve, he found his family even though he didn’t think he would on his journey. He found his family at his favorite place, which everyone knows a llama’s favorite place is the grocery store (because of all the food!).

The End

Caroline Edwards, Kindergarten

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs Aslinger

Kindergarten Prose

I went to the beach with my friend. My friend's dad even caught a crab! We played in the sand and then we caught a jellyfish. We tried to pick them up and flip them with a shovel. There are good restaurants at the beach. There was one with a playground. It took a long time to get home because it was not in Tennessee.

Connor Bolen, Kindergarten

Grace Baptist Academy

Mrs. Stephanie Monteleone

My Grandparents' House

Playing with riding toys

Watching my pet turtle

Building cities with legos

Celebrating birthdays and Christmas

Spending time with my grandparents is so fun

Eating cinnamon rolls

Playing with my sister and brother

Going on adventures in the woods

Climbing in the treehouse

I love my Grand and Poppy

Dylan Garmon, Kindergarten

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Stephanie Chapman

Kindergarten Prose

Puggy The Beetle and Ellie

One time, we had a camp fire at my Uncle Bo's farm with my family. As I was sitting there, I saw this little black thing on a log close to the fire moving! I picked it up, looked at it and noticed it was a beetle! I held it and it did not even pinch me! Then, I put it on my head, my shirt and even scared my sister with it! I saw how sweet the beetle was, and now it is my friend. I named her Puggy! I brought her to Nana's house and made a bed for her but I decided it was best to turn her loose in my Nana's flower garden. I went home, but I miss Puggy. My Nana sent me a video of Puggy with her new friend...a lizard!

Ellington Fox, Kindergarten

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Trogdon

Kindergarten Prose

Squirtle and Friend

A turtle got lost in a forest and he was scared and hungry. He was scared because he was all alone and it was night time in the forest. A boy named Nathan was playing out late and was rushing home for dinner. Nathan saw the turtle and didn't want to help. But then he saw that the turtle was scared, so Nathan helped the turtle. They both walked home. Nathan gave the turtle food and water, and let the turtle stay at his house forever. Nathan named the turtle, Squirtle. They became best friends!

Nathan Tran, Kindergarten

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Downs

First Grade Prose



2021 Winners

The Pigeon Needs to Clean up the Mess

“Hi, my name is Fred. I don’t know if you noticed, but the pigeon needs to pick up a mess.”
“Hi, I am the Pigeon and I won’t pick up that mess. I will pick it up if you give me nine dollars.” Fred says, “I will give you nine dollars AFTER you clean up the mess.” Pigeon says, “Okay, Now I need a tub to help me clean up.” Pigeon is in the tub. “Uh Oh! I tooted! Oh my Gosh, What is that?” says the Pigeon. Pigeon sees a portal. He hops in the portal. Pigeon goes to the Unknown Universe. Pigeon says, “Oh my gosh! I think that is a hoglin! Oh no! It is looking at me! HELP! HELP! HELP!” Pigeon runs from the hoglin. Pigeon sees something else. “Oh no! That is a piglin! HELP! It is aiming its crossbow at me. Oh no! It is shooting at me! HELP!! HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” Pigeon runs back through the portal. Hopefully the monsters are gone. Pigeon looks in the mirror and he has three heads!...THE END Hopefully coming next year.....The Pigeon Needs to go to the Bathroom.

Eleanor Bertrand, First Grade

School: St. Nicholas School

Stephanie Marshall

Lemurs

Gray, black

Climbing, eating, playing

Fruit, tree, nests, bugs

Jumping, sleeping, swinging

Curious, sharp, teeth

Finn Morgan, First Grade

St. Peter's Episcopal school

Mrs. Sell

Christmas at my House

First, we get out of bed. Next, we celebrate Christmas. Last, we open presents.

Knox Fisher, First Grade

Grace Baptist Academy

Miss Pollock

The Pigeon Washes His Hands

One day there was a pigeon. His name was Snookems. He never washed his hands. But one day he went to school. His teacher knew Snookems wasn't washing his hands. She said, "Snookems, you have to wash your hands." Snookems said, "I do not see any germs." "Well", said the teacher, "You never know if you have germs on your hands." Snookems said, "I guess you are right." So that was Snookems' last day not washing his hands. The next day Snookems when to school. His teacher watched Snookems washing his hands all day.
THE END

Ziah Miller, First Grade

St. Nicholas School

Stephanie Marshall

Second Grade Prose



2021 Winners

Lightning Wolf

One day many, many years ago there was a young boy named Jackson. He was walking through one of the most dangerous parts of the woods. Suddenly, he saw the biggest egg he had ever seen in his life! He took one close look at the egg. He sat down on a rock. He had to make a decision, should he take the egg home or leave the egg in the woods? He had made a decision, he stood up off the rock, He was going to take the egg home. He ran home. He remembered he used to have a bunny. He had left the cage for the bunny under his bed. He went in his room and got the cage. He ran back to the woods with the cage in his hand. When he got to the woods he carefully put the huge egg in the cage. The egg fit perfectly. He walked home carefully. He made sure the egg would not crack or roll in the cage. When he got home, he put the cage behind his bed. He made sure nobody saw the egg. He sat on his bed all day with his eyes locked on the egg. That night he laid down in bed. He was worried that someone would see it. So he got up and looked around for something to go on top of the cage so no one could see it. He looked in his drawers and found a blanket. He put the blanket on top of the cage. He laid back down and fell fast asleep. When he woke up he remembered that it was Monday and he had to go to school. He totally forgot about the egg. When he got to school, math class had just started. Right when he sat down to do a worksheet, he remembered about the egg! He asked to go to the restroom. His teacher said, "Yes." He ran to the restroom. He slid out of the window in the restroom! He ran home as fast as he could. When he got home, he took the blanket off of the cage and the egg was cracking! He knew if the egg was that size, something huge would come out. So he took the egg out of the cage. He walked outside and he put the egg on the ground, and it had hatched! A big baby wolf came out! He knew wolves don't come out of eggs. That's when he knew something was wrong. He thought the wolf was hungry. First he gave him meat, but he didn't like it. He tried raspberries and he loved them. That night, he let the wolf run in his backyard. He goes to bed and he wakes up in the middle of the night. He hears thunder and lightning! He walks outside and the wolf is controlling the thunder and lightning! He walks up to the wolf and the wolf stops. The thunder and lightning suddenly stops too. He never thought that every time he heard thunder and lightning that was a wolf, deep in the woods controlling it.

Charley Ankar, Second Grade

St. Nicholas School

Katie McCorkle

Ahsoka's Great Adventure

Ahsoka Tano was in the Jedi temple when she started to feel cold. She knew what it was, it was her old master Anakin, but not as she knew him, it was a different Anakin. It was...Darth Vader!

She stood up and headed toward her friend's ship, the Ghost. When she got to the Ghost, she felt cold again. Kanan and Ezra also felt cold. Ahsoka turned around and she started to walk forward. Ezra started to follow but Ahsoka said "I have to do this alone."

She headed toward the never ending desert of Tatooine. When she got to the home of Obi Wan Kenobi, she knocked on the door, but it wasn't Obi Wan who opened the door. It was...Darth Vader!

They started to fight, but then Ahsoka noticed something. Darth Vader was holding a tote bag. "What is that," Ahsoka asked. "Nothing," Darth Vader said. "What is in it?" Ahsoka asked. "Nothing," Darth Vader said again.

Afterwards, Ahsoka asked Darth Vader what was in the totebag again. She opened the tote bag to see the cutest thing ever. It was...Grogu!

"Hey, give that back!" Darth Vader said.

"Why?" Ahsoka asked. "Because I have to deliver it to someone," Darth Vader said.

"Who, who, who?" Ahsoka asked.

After Ahsoka asked who again, Darth Vader finally said, "Darth Barbarous,"

"I'm actually a good friend of Darth Barbarous," Ahsoka replied. "I can help you," Ahsoka said.

"Thank you," Darth Vader replied. After he said that, Ahsoka passed out!

Then Darth Vader noticed something. Ahsoka was wearing a necklace. Darth Vader took the necklace off of Ahsoka's neck and opened the heart on the necklace. Inside, there was a picture of Ahsoka and Padme, a picture of Ahsoka and Anakin, and a little paper that said, "The two people that I love the most, are the people who helped me when times were tough."

After Darth Vader read the note, a lot of memories came rushing back. Memories of Snips and Anakin, Padme and Anakin, Padme at their wedding, Snips and Anakin in the Clone Wars, Ahsoka, Padme and Anakin fighting a clone.

Then Ahsoka woke up and saw Ezra, Kanan, Hera, Sabine, Zeb, and Chopper the Droid running toward her. She stood up and started toward her friends.

Darth Vader stood up and started to follow Ahsoka. He wanted to know why Ahsoka was walking away. Then R2D2, BB8, and C3PO stopped Darth Vader. C3PO said, "She has to do this alone." Then Leia and Luke appeared and Leia said, "Look and see in the distance. The little rebel cell." Then Luke walked up and slapped Darth Vader and then Darth Vader said, "Luke you are grounded." Then Grogu ran toward Ahsoka because he saw Maul running toward Ahsoka.

Then everybody ran after Grogu, but when they got there they were too late! Then there was a big explosion and they saw the body of Kanan dead on the ground. They saw the ghost flying away to Lothal.

The end

Ellie Yakimowich, Second Grade

St. Nicholas School

Katie McCorkle

Bad Kitty Away Days

Goodbye, Kitty. I am off to work. SLAM!

3 hours later.... I am back, Kitty. Kitty, it is time for you to go to school. Kitty, let's go pack your bag. Ok. Now that we've packed your bag you can go to school. Goodbye, Kitty. Hmm... what should I do while Kitty is gone? Maybe I should take a walk. Ok. Now what? Oh, hi Kitty! What did you do at school? Oh, you want a drink? I know, not too cold and not too hot. Ok, now can you tell me what you did at school? Kitty! Please stop putting tacks on the teacher's chair, and please stop cheating off your friend's paper. Oh look! I got mail. Oh, and it's for you! It says something about a bonfire, and it's only for cats. If you are going, you have to back your camping bag. Ok, Puppy tell Kitty goodbye.

5 days later...Puppy has been a handful. Now let's go tell your teacher that you are putting tacks on her chair. It is ok said the teacher. I will forgive you.

The End

Lily DePrimo, Second Grade

Grace Baptist Academy

Carrie Knecht

Second Grade Prose

I like the dog. You are from fire. The dog saves the man. The dog saves me.

Marilyn Bailey, Second Grade

Grace Baptist Academy

Mrs. Hillary Waters

Koalas

He could be fuzzy. If he behaves well he might give you a winky. They are so stinky. He looked kind of wuzzy.

Nora Waters, Second Grade

Grace Baptist Academy

Mrs. Hillary Waters

The Brown Bullet

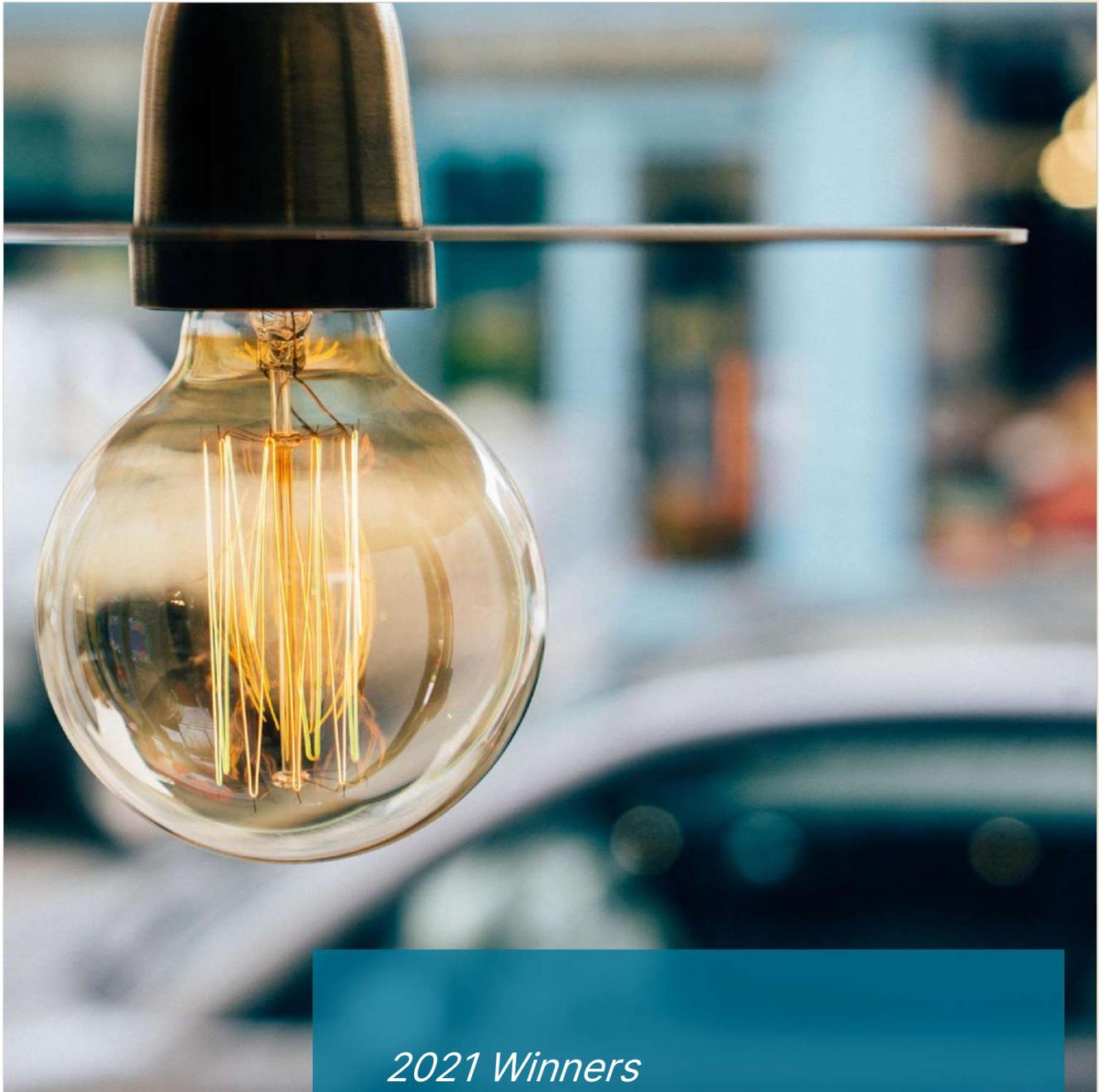
I was getting out of the car from school, and I heard scratching sounds at my door. When it opened, I saw a brown bullet come out the door. It was my dog, and she ran right out the garage. When I saw her come out the door, I said, “What was that? Wrigley? What is she doing out here?” I ran out the garage and all over the neighborhood. When I was chasing her, I said, “Who let her out, and what if she got out by herself?” When I caught her and got home, I said to my mom and aunt, “Who let Wrigley out?” They said, “We didn’t let her out.” I was frightened.

Parker Thompson, Second Grade

St. Peter’s Episcopal School

Susan Bell

Third Grade Prose



2021 Winners

Shadow, the Turtle, Finds a Family

It was a regular afternoon in the fall, Shadow was hiding in the dirt. A little boy, walking with his family after dinner, saw what he thought was a turtle in the dirt. She was not in a creek, she was not next to a pond, she was in the middle of a new home construction site. The little boy walked up to investigate further, and it was a turtle. He looked at his dad and said to his dad with delight, "Dad, it's a turtle!" The little boy's dad came over to take a look. Sure enough, it was a turtle, but it was very dirty. The little boy's sister came running over to see what was going on...it was a turtle. That was the end of the walk. Dad carried the turtle home.

The kids knew the turtle needed a name. There were lots of suggestions, but the kids settled on Shadow. The little boy took the turtle to visit the neighbors, starting with his best friend. Next, the boys took Shadow to visit the sweet widow two doors down. She loved it! She wanted to know all about Shadow. That made the boys want to visit another neighbor who happened to be a veterinarian.

The veterinarian knew a lot about the turtle, he said it was a Yellow Belly Slider. He told the boys that the turtle likes to eat worms, tadpoles, and frozen lettuce. The babysitter researched this turtle and found out it was a girl, because of the markings on the belly. Shadow was the perfect name for the boy's new family member.

Shadow needed her own habitat to live with her new family. The boy and his family went to find the perfect habitat for Shadow. Shadow now lives in the boy's room in a forty-gallon tank and has food she likes. Her favorite things to do are swim, dig in the dirt and climb up on the loft. The loft is at the top of her tank and is warmed by special lamps. She also gets her protein up there. It is the perfect sunbathing deck for Shadow.

Shadow brings so much happiness to the little boy and his family. Everyone who sees shadow is just mesmerized by her swimming. She loves to hide when people come in the room. The little boy always knows how to talk to her and make her come out of hiding. Not only does Shadow find a family, but she also finds a whole neighborhood. The End!

Aiden M. Burnett, Third Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Miller

The Drive

I hopped in the car not knowing why. It was past my bedtime. “Where are we going Mom, it’s 9:00. That’s past my bedtime. You know that, right?” For a few seconds there was silence. As if Mom was keeping a secret from me. The car pulled out of the garage. The garage closed with a faint squeak. We took off down the road. I turned around and saw a miniature maple dog kennel! “What’s this, Mom?” I asked. “Oh, umm, we are, no, umm, we’re umm, we’re going to give this to your aunt. Yeah, we’re giving it to your aunt,” my mom said in a shaky voice. “OK,” I replied.

I heard a baby mouse scrambling down the road. I also heard my mom mumble, “We’re giving this to your aunt. That’s the best you can think of?” I wasn’t so sure I believed that aunt story. “Mom. Mom!” I yelled. “Why are we giving the kennel to my aunt? She doesn’t even have a dog. Mom, Mom!” I raised my voice at her, and she was silent. “Argh!” I finally gave up. I put on my headphones and turned on my iPad. I heard another baby mouse scrambling, but this time down the highway. I also heard a motorcycle go vroom vroom vroom vroom.

One hour later, the sky turned to a dark black. It looked like a piece of dark chocolate. Yum! By now, it was probably midnight. SPLISH! SPLASH! PANG! WHOOSH! It started to rain. Wait, no, hail! The wind picked up as the wet car pulled into the long, great smelling Starbucks drive thru. “Hello, may I take your order please?” “Yes, I’d like some coffee please.” “And a hot chocolate,” I yelled from the back of the black car. “Your order will be ready in just a minute. Thank you for choosing Starbucks.”

It felt like the first time Mom talked in ages. “Mom, are we there yet?” I yelled. “Mom, are we there yet?” “No! We are still four hours away,” my mom whispered. She was definitely keeping a secret from me. But what? “Mom,” I said in a sweet voice, “are we really giving the kennel to my aunt?” I blinked twice, three times. It’s no use. She wasn’t going to tell me anything. Argh! “Are we there yet?” “No, you asked me that ten minutes ago. Now try to get some sleep, ok?” “Ok,” I mumbled with a big yawn.

When I woke up, we were at my aunt’s house! I heard a bark. “What is that?” I turned around and saw my aunt STANDING NEXT TO MY BRAND NEW PUPPY!! I felt like popcorn in the microwave popping! “WHAT SHOULD WE NAME HER?” I asked in a joyful voice. My mom responded, “Her name is Josey!” “That does not feel right,” I said. “Maybe, Jasmine?” “Fantastic!”

“Oh, Mom?” I asked. “Yes?” “Can I go get the ants out of my pants?” “Of course, you can, Sweetie.” “Yay!”

Anna Grace Hitchcock, Third Grade

The Bright School

Mrs. Cindy Womack

Arrival

It all started when I was playing a game and I heard a STOMP! I freaked out and I went upstairs to see what had happened. It was just my brother Stone. I sprinted to go see what Mom was doing and I saw her staring at the cutest puppies on the computer ever. I felt like I was gonna die. They were adorable. I didn't stop staring at them for 10 minutes. I had to tell my brothers Stone and Roger. "You will never believe what happened. Mom bought the puppy!" I was screaming with excitement!

But then it happened. The worst thing happened. It was already taken. My tears felt like fire and boiling water. I finally got it together and I stared at some more puppies. I found another adorable one. I tried to get that one too and that one was already taken too. It was horrible. I tried not to cry, but it still came out. My eyes started to water and I started to cry.

I cried for about 2 minutes then I wandered upstairs for the last time and checked out one more puppy. This one was so so adorable. I couldn't stand it. Then I begged mom for it, and Mom finally said, "I can't take it anymore." Then she bought it and I was so so excited!

So I made a calendar and it would be exactly 30 days before we would get the puppy. I tried to keep up but I couldn't. 30 days later my Mom went to go get the puppy. When I came back from baseball, the puppy had arrived! I called her Zuzu.

We had an amazing time together. I played with Zuzu for over 3 hours. I picked her up and I tried to teach her how to fetch, but I failed. I taught her not to chew on my shirt. Well, sort of. You see sort of, but not for very long. Well she chews on my shirt every now and then but we will teach her. I think it might be a little hard but mostly easy. I love Zuzu. She is adorable. She is a toy poodle, the second smallest dog in the world. I am so excited to have Zuzu. We are going to be such good friends.

Calvin Caputo, Third Grade

The Bright School

Mrs. Hardy's Class

How did Cats Start Eating Rats?

A Myth about the Chinese Zodiac

A long, long time ago, the rat and the cat were friends. One day, the Emperor of the God chose twelve animals, as representatives for the Chinese Zodiac.

The Emperor of the God decided to create a race among all animals. Those fortunate animals that won would be acknowledged as the twelve places of the zodiac.

The cat liked to sleep. So, the cat told the rat to wake him up the day of the race. However, the rat didn't wake him up. Therefore, the cat lost the race.

Since that time, the cat has been very angry at the rat, so he chases the rat all the time. That is why to this day, cats chase rats.

Chuming Gui, Third Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Mrs. Leary

Doughnut Fun

Vroom, shm, clm! Mom turned the car off. We were there, Tasty Doughnuts! Serena and I were sharing a party. Everybody arrived like 5 minutes after I got there. Once everyone was there we went to the kitchen and made donuts!! First, five people made donuts and then they decorated them. I first made dough for the doughnuts. You roll the dough and then they have a tool that has donut shaped holes. I cut them with the weird tool but then I was spreading flour for another round and spilled flour on my arms and face. Poof! Everyone laughed. It was really funny. Then, everyone did it too.

Then my group went to decorate doughnuts. I dipped two in vanilla, two in chocolate, and two in strawberry. One had five marshmallows and another had two gummy worms, and some were plain. We were done. We ate a doughnut cake (a cake of doughnuts). It said "Happy Birthday Emma and Serena!" I got a E and an A. That was the best birthday party ever! I jumped with joy, like I said BBPE (Best Birthday Party Ever).

Emma Haluska, Third Grade

St. Nicholas School

Lynda Pritchett

A Visit to Desert Land

One rainy, foggy day, there were three kids, Mitchell, Jeff, and Steph, driving around town in a golf cart. They were going around a tight, slippery curve when they hit a speed bump, and the car flew sideways. They fell into a blue portal.

After some time, they felt their bodies tumble onto dry dirt. They looked up and saw tall cactuses and tumbleweeds. In some of the bushes and on some dead trees, they saw blue pods that glowed like lanterns. It looked like small animals lived inside these lanterns. Jeff said, "This must be a magical desert." Mitchell and Steph agreed that something really weird was happening.

In one hour, they were very tired from hiking around and exploring the dry lands. They were all thirsty. Steph said, "I learned that cactuses store water inside their bodies, so let's go break one open." Minutes later, they found a really fat one that looked juicy. They hit it to get the water out to drink.

When they hit it, they heard, "Ow! Ow! Ow!" It turned around, and the cactus had a face! It had big eyes and a wide smile. The cactus said, "Hey, watch it!"

Jeff said, "Sorry, in our world, no cactuses talk or have a face."

The cactus introduced himself: his name was Spike Prickly Thorne. He told them that they were in a different world called Desert Land. And then Spike said, "Okay, let's go find some refreshments for you people."

So, later that day, Spike guided them to a dark cavern with a cold stream flowing through it. Spike leaned over and picked up a hollow piece of wood. Now they had something to collect water with. Soon, with Spike's help, they had made a fire to boil the water to make it safe to drink. Around the campfire, the three kids and Spike started talking about how they could get home.

First, Spike asked, "How did you get into this desert world?" They said they fell through a big blue hole.

"We fell into this desert world with all these glowing blue lanterns hanging among the dead trees and tumbleweeds."

"Good you mentioned that," replied Spike, "because those blue lanterns are the very things that got you into this desert wonderland." He continued, "The lanterns are actually called orbs. I don't know a lot about them, but there are cactuses in my village who do." Spike said, "I have to go home for dinner anyway. You guys look pretty hungry. My home is just farther down the river through this cavern. You guys want to join me?"

So, Jeff, Mitchell, Steph, and Spike followed the river along the rocky cavern. Swimming in the cool water were lots of colorful glowing fish in different shades and colors. The fish were very long and skinny. They swam in swirls in the current.

When they walked through the whole cavern, they saw a little but very cool village. There were little huts with hay roofs built in the tall trees with swinging bridges between them. Spike said, "There is my house." His house was a pretty small and humble house with a tall pointed roof. The kids went in and Spike introduced them to an elderly man who was his grandfather. Spike and the kids started the conversation about how the kids may get back to the human world.

They learned from his grandfather that the orbs come in each color of the rainbow. Orbs glow because they are filled with water, he said. When you put in the glowing fish from the cavern to match the orb color, the orbs glow in a particular color.

Spike's grandfather explained that that is how they maintain energy and work. He even explained that when you collect glowing orbs into a circle, they work together as portals to different worlds based on their color.

Steph asked, "Which color do we need to get back to the human world?"

"You don't just need one color. You need every single color," he answered. "You need to make a rainbow portal."

Spike's grandfather took them to one of the strange creatures who make orbs, so the kids made the rainbow orbs they needed. Then, they went back to the cavern and collected a few buckets of water and filled each orb. Next, they fished out each color of glowing fish with a curved stick with a tumbleweed string tied to the bottom. They used a worm on one of Spike's thorns to finish the rod. They carefully put each fish into the right color orb.

When they stepped back, the orbs spun around fast in a circle. There was a whirring sound and a loud explosion. Each one hit into the others and made a circle portal floating in the air. The kids were pushed back several steps by the force of the portal.

Everyone smiled, even Spike. "I'll miss you," he said. Mitchell, Steph, and Jeff said goodbye and added, "be back soon!" They jumped into the portal and landed on the wet street of the human world. All was well. The end.

Flint Lindner, Third Grade

Thrasher Elementary School

Michelle Mann

Maria's First Snow

It was getting colder as Maria had opened her window in the car to feel the outside air. She was moving from the sunny beaches of Florida to frigid Canada and she was both sad and excited. She was sad to leave the warm weather and her friends, but she was excited because she had never seen snow before. When she finally arrived in Canada, she was expecting snow but there was none to be seen. "I really wanted to see snow," Maria said, trying to mask her disappointment. "It will snow soon enough," her mom replied. "Let's call the moving company and tell them we are here," her mom said.

After being in Canada for two weeks, Maria had still not seen any snow. She was going to start school the next day and she was very anxious about new teachers, new friends, and a whole new school. As she walked into her new school, she saw another girl sitting alone in the classroom. Maria decided to sit next to the girl and talk to her. Maria said, "Hi my name is Maria and I just moved here from Florida." The other girl replied shyly, "Hey Maria, my name is Molly, and I am new here too. We moved from Mississippi." Soon they were discussing their lives before moving to Canada and were talking as if they had been friends their whole lives. Molly asked "Maria have you ever seen snow before? I have not!" Maria says, "No I have not either and I am so excited about moving to a place where it snows!" That afternoon the girls decided to go over to Maria's house to play after school. After a while of talking about snow again, Maria said, "I have an idea, let's make snowflakes out of construction paper. Soon Maria's house was a winter wonderland with snowflakes hanging all over the walls, ceiling, and windows. It was beautiful.

As they were admiring their work, Molly looked out the window and she saw big flakes of snow, REAL snow. Maria saw Molly looking out the window, so she also went to look at what Molly was seeing. After screaming with delight, they grabbed their jackets and raced outside. It was so fun! After a while, it was time for Molly to go home. Maria went back inside her house and thought about what an exciting day it had been. She made a new friend and it had finally snowed.

Izzy Chapman, Third Grade

Thrasher Elementary

Alden Hawkins

Getting the Pups

We were riding in the car, and I asked my mom “Where are we going?”

“You'll see, but if we are lucky, we might bring home two adorable animals,” said my mom. From that information, I thought we were going to get a hamster or something like that.

Then, my dad said, “We are almost there!” The next thing I knew, we were at Petco, the greatest place in pet history!

“Deciding”

When we walked into the store I was in awe, seeing all of these cute little puppy faces! I almost couldn't move. I was frozen!

The first dog we were introduced to was a type of black and brown dog. We almost got him, but there was something missing. My mind was saying yes, a million times yes, but my heart was saying, there's something missing with that dog and I just didn't feel right. So, we moved on, but we still kept him in the back of our minds.

The second dog we were introduced to was a nice and calm black lab. She was an adult, and I think she didn't have a name. So, I made one up. I'm pretty sure she was expecting, so I would be really happy if we got her because we would get more dogs without paying extra money. It would be awesome! She was also really soft, nice, and very well trained. We thought she was the one... until we looked on the other side of the dog area...

We saw three little Chihuahuas! One was full Chihuahua, and the other two were mutts. Two of their names were Papa and Poco. I can't really remember the third one. Papa is black and brown, Poco is black and white. We held them both for a little bit. We were only thinking about getting Papa, but then we saw Papa and Poco cuddling and playing together. They were inseparable, so we thought about getting Poco too, and we did! I might have just made the best decision of my life doing that!

“Naming Them”

We got in the car and I said, “What are we going name them? I don't like the names they have.”

“That is a great question,” my dad said. They all started saying names that were just funny jokes, and I was the only one taking this seriously. It was not super fun, but the names made me laugh like crazy! Everyone finally started to get serious. I wanted to name Poco, Oreo because he is black and white, but my dad said, “No.” When we got home, we started thinking of some good names for them.

“Finding Their Actual Names”

When we got inside, we fed the dogs and started thinking of names again.

My dad said, “For Papa, we could name him Walt and for Poco, we could name him Bruce.” So that's what we decided on.

A couple of days before we had to sign the official paperwork for them, Molly said, “What if we name Bruce, Rosco?”

“Yeah, let's do that,” my dad said. So, we went on with their names Rosco and Walt.

A few days later before the people came to see the official work and to give them their shots, I asked my parents, “Can we name Walt, Walter? I think it's a better name.” My parents thought about it for a while, and then my mom came and told me.

“We are going to sign the paperwork as Walter and not Walt.” I was so excited.

“Good because they are going to be here in about 5 minutes.” Give the dogs a quick bath before they get here,” my mom said. “Ok,” I said.

I went downstairs and my mom was signing the forms. I heard the woman say, “Ok, now that the forms are all filled out and these dogs are yours, I need to give them their shots really quick. I need to take them with me, and they will be back shortly,” said the lady.

“Up Until Now”

A few months later, my sister was wondering when their birthday was.

She asked my parents and they said, “That’s a really good question.”

“Ok, let's see here. Molly, will you hand me my phone? I need to do the math,” my dad said.

Molly handed my dad his phone and after a couple times calculating, he said, “The dogs’ birthdays are July 15, 2018.

“WOW they are only a few months old,” I said.

When they were turning 1, my sister baked a birthday cake for the dogs, and we got these really cute bone shaped waffles that dogs can eat! We got the dogs cute little toddler birthday hats because their head is the size of a newborn baby head. It was awesome! We also wrapped little bones for them, and they just tore up the wrapping paper and started to chew on those bones immediately. It was so cute! They loved their presents so much, considering it was just a bunch of treats and dog toys. I mean it would be a crime for a dog to not like treats, bones, and toys! When the party was over and it was bedtime, the dogs wouldn’t sleep, so we had to put them in their own room. It was the last thing we wanted to do.

Third Grade Prose

The next day, it's a really hot day out, and we decided to go on the boat with the dogs. We got them mini life jackets. We thought they would love the lake, but they were scared the whole time. When we tried to put the life jackets on them, Walter's was way too big and Rosco's was really small on him. With the lifejackets not fitting well, they start to tilt sideways when they swam. They hated being in the water so much. They always swam towards my mom every time. The boat is something that the dogs could care less about and don't really want to see it again.

On their second birthday, WE MISSED IT! We were with our grandparents ON THEIR BIRTHDAY! They were just sitting around with no birthday party. I felt REALLY bad for them, and I wanted to be with them for their birthday. I'll make sure not to miss their third birthday! This story leads up to today, and they couldn't be happier. My family and I love our dogs so much and can't wait to live the rest of their life with them.

Jane Haynes, Third Grade

St. Peter's School

Mrs. Copeland

The Tale of Two Snow Foxes

Long, long ago, there were two female foxes, and their names were Clare and Lily. Clare and Lily lived in an icy, snow-covered forest in the Arctic. The forest where they lived had animals like polar bears, wolves, and other snow animals. Lily and Clare decided to go on an adventure to get white fur, to camouflage better in the snow, because all the other snow animals had white fur, except them.

Before they could get out of their den, a blizzard blew into their warm home. They had to wait for two hours, so they packed up for their adventure. Once the blizzard stopped, they started their adventure to find the Arctic Ocean. Along the way they meet a wolf. Clare and Lily asked the wolf, “We are traveling to the Arctic Ocean. Are we going the right way?” The wolf replied, “Yes, but be careful of thin ice.” They kept walking. Suddenly, Lily fell through a hole in the ice. “Help, help,” cried Lily. The wolf heard Lily scream for help and ran to pull her out of the icy water with his mouth and set Lily on the ice. The wolf decided to walk with Lily and Clare on their adventure to find the Arctic Ocean.

Clare commented to the wolf, “We never got to know your name.” The wolf replied, “Sorry, my name is Hunter.” “That is a very nice name,” replied Clare and Lily. “Thank you,” responded the wolf. So they kept walking and walking, and finally they found the waters of the Arctic Ocean.

“I think I see a polar bear,” said Lily. They quickly walked towards the polar bear. Lily and Clare said, “Hello to the polar bear. The polar bear turned to the two foxes and the wolf stated, “Hello, how can I help you?” Lily asked the polar bear, “How did you get your white fur?” “Why do you ask?” replied the polar bear. “We are on an adventure to get white fur. “How wonderful,” responded the bear. “I got my white fur from an owl.” “Which owl?” they asked.

The polar bear explained, “He lives on an island in a very old tree.” “How do we get there?” asked Hunter. The polar bear told them to follow her to the shore. Once they reached the shore, they saw a boat next to the water. The adventurers got in the boat and sailed towards the island the polar spoke of. Soon the boat got to the island, and they got out onto the sandy shore.

Third Grade Prose

“Over there,” shouted Hunter. “I see the tree too!” yelled Lily. So, they ran over to the old tree and screamed, “Hello, is anyone here?” Then, an old owl came out of the twisted tree and said, “Yes.” Lily replied to the owl, “Hello, can you give us white fur?” The owl responded, “I can not give you white fur, you will have to go find it.” “Find it? You can’t find white fur,” said Clare. Then, the owl told them a legend of berries that will turn fur white. So, they looked day and night and went to every island in sight. Finally, they saw an island they had not searched so, they went to the island. The tired group of adventurers walked and walked. At last, in the distance, they saw the plant that the owl had described. They went closer to the plant and saw the berries just as the owl had described. Clare and Lily both took a berry and ate it. Then Lily felt a tingle, then Clare felt the tingling and their fur slowly turned white. Since that time, foxes have become camouflaged and are now called “snow foxes,” because they blend in with their snowy environment.

Kesli Smith, Third Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Mrs. Leary

How the Hummingbird Became so Fast

A Pourquoi Tale

You know the Hummingbird, right? Well, it wasn't always fast. It used to be slow. Do you want to read the story? Well, get ready.

Once there was Hummingbird. Hummingbird was a beautiful blue, the color like the sea. He really wanted to be fast. He asked some of his friends, Robin, Woodpecker, Blue Jay, and Eagle.

First, he asked Robin, who was a gorgeous red to see if she could help him be fast. Robin said, "Sorry Hummingbird I wish I could help you be fast but I am not so fast."

Then Hummingbird went to Woodpecker to ask to help him be fast. Woodpecker, who was a lovely brown with red feathers on the top of his head, replied, "Sorry, Hummingbird, I can't help you. I wish I could help you be fast."

After Woodpecker, Hummingbird went to Blue Jay to help him be fast. Blue Jay was a cool blue, like the dusk evening sky. Blue Jay said, "Sorry, Hummingbird, "I can't help you be fast. But I think I know someone who can. Go to Eagle and tell him your problem."

When Blue Jay told Hummingbird to go to Eagle, Hummingbird eventually found Eagle to ask him to help him become fast. Eagle was brown and white with a black beak. Hummingbird asked Eagle, "Can you help me be fast?" Eagle replied, "Sure, I can help you be fast, Hummingbird." When Eagle said those words, Eagle began chasing Hummingbird. Eagle pursued Hummingbird for a very long time.

Hummingbird's wings became stronger and stronger. He could fly so quickly, that his wings could flap more than 80 times a second.

Hummingbird replied, "Thank you Eagle." Finally, Hummingbird went back home, fast and happy. That is the reason that hummingbirds can hover, maneuver, and fly so quickly due to Hummingbirds' dream of wanting to fly quickly.

Nicko Amunategui, Third Grade

Nolan Elementary

Mrs. Leary

Third Grade Prose

Kathy woke up. “Yay!” It was Christmas eve but she remembered her house caught on fire. She was staying with her grandparents who were not “holiday people.” They didn’t even have a tree! The living room was blank. Her brother walked in. “Grams said I should NOT hang up a stocking”, he said angrily. “They don’t believe in Santa” Kathy said. Her Dad went to find a secret tree, he needed somewhere to show his Christmas spirit. Kathy and her family were not allowed to say Christmas, so they just said “the tree”. When her Dad finally came home, he had a sad look on his face to match the clouds. “Sorry kids no tree this year, Grams caught me”. “it’s ok Dad”, Kathy said, as a cloud passed by the sun, covering us in a cold shadow. Then her dad told her about a tree so tall, it was taller than him! It was far back in the woods, and he remembered where it was from his childhood. Secretly, Kathy and her family went into the woods and found the tree. They hung lights and ornaments on it, and Kathy wrote a note to Santa. It said “Dear Santa, DON’T GO INSIDE. You’ll find our tree deep in the woods, and leave Mom, Dad, and Teddy’s presents but for me instead of the presents I asked for... they would be nice... but I want a better place to sleep where I can celebrate Christmas. Love, Kathy”. The next morning, she found a coupon for a hotel and all the presents she asked for.

Noelle Coleman, Third Grade

Thrasher Elementary

Lauren Smalley

When I went to Harry Potter World

There was a smell of butter beer. It was time. We went to a famous restaurant in Harry Potter World. It was packed and there was a long time until we would get in. Me, my mom, and my sister were going to ride while my brother and dad held our place in line. We rode an awesome ride! It had all the main characters in Harry Potter . We got on this ride and it felt like we were flying! It was so fun!!!!

After that we had to go back and see if we had a place to sit. When we got back, there was a table for us. I ordered a really good meal, when I walked in it sounded like a Cling! Clang! Crash! Bang! Bang! Clash! Swoosh! All the pots fell over and made a really loud noise!!! Well after we ate we ordered butter beer but it felt like 3 hours before we got it. We did not know what was going on!!! Have you ever been in a restaurant where you accidentally ordered double the order? Well, we did! We got a lot of food! Yep! The waiter said, "I am so sorry! We had a misunderstanding." We said "It's okay" but my dad was very hungry so luckily he ate the extras. Lucky for us, my Dad is always hungry.

Well, we went on a different ride. But, my Dad did not because he rode another ride before and got really nauseous so he did not want to do it so my Mom came. She went with us on a roller coaster. It went super fast, so fast it was about one second. My brother rode it about 50 times.

Me, my sister, and my mom rode anyway. We still had out butterbeer. They said we could not bring it. My shoulders dropped and my mom's shoulders dropped but we finished them and threw the cups away, but that is a different story . Anyways, we went on the ride and it was awesome. The ride ended when Ron and Harry quidditch and it was so fun. And that is the story of my trip to Harry Potter World.

Paige Minor, Third Grade

St. Nicholas School

Lynda Pritchett

Great Dream

“And all of the little girl’s dreams came true. The End.” Mom said. “Now good night.” “Good night, Mom” said Beth. Beth’s mother kissed her on the head and shut the door.

That night, Beth had a great dream. It was her birthday, and her mom came into her room and told her that there was a surprise waiting for her. She covered her eyes as her mom led her into the back yard. “You can open your eyes now,” said Mom. Beth opened her eyes to find a stable! She ran inside the stable and saw a beautiful brown horse with black, silky hair. She ran to the horse and began petting it. Her mom was so happy to see Beth so excited, and Beth ran to her mom and hugged her as tight as she could. “It’s time to ride your new horse, but first, you have to name it.” Mom said. Beth named the horse Brownie. A little while later, she rode Brownie in a few circles around the meadow beside her neighborhood. She never remembered feeling this happy...

Then she woke up. She tried to go back to sleep to get back to her great dream, but it was time for school. So she got dressed and went to the bathroom to brush her hair and her teeth, and her mother called her down for breakfast. She went downstairs and saw a bowl of Froot Loops and began to eat. Her brother came racing down the stairs, gulped down his cereal as fast as he could, and said to Beth, “Hurry up! You’re going to be late! The bus is almost here!” So she raced to grab her backpack. Her mother kissed them both and sent them out the door where the bus was waiting. Her friend Molly had saved her a bus seat. “You will never believe the dream I had last night!” said Beth. She told Molly all about the dream as they rode to school.

That night, as Beth was getting ready for bed, her mother said to her, “You need to get your rest tonight. Tomorrow is a big day.” Beth remembered that tomorrow was her birthday! She remembered her dream, and even though she was excited about her birthday, she knew she wouldn’t get the horse she dreamed about.

When she woke up the next morning and got ready for the big day, she went downstairs. Her mother told her she had a surprise for her. “Close your eyes,” said Mom as she led her outside. “Ok, now open your eyes,” she said to Beth. Beth opened her eyes to see a stable! She said to herself, “This can’t be really happening!” She smiled at her mom and ran to the stable. Inside the stable she saw a pretty brown horse with black hair and a bow on its tail. She ran to the horse and began to pet it. Her mom told Beth that she could take it for a ride as soon as she named it. Beth smiled and knew exactly what she would name this horse. She named it Brownie. As she took Brownie to ride in the meadow beside her neighborhood, she thought, “This is a dream come true!”

The End.

Vivienne Belva, Third Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Colter

Jellyfish

One sunny afternoon, I shouted, “Bye everyone! See you Tuesday!”

When I got in my car we drove straight to Florida and got there way past my bedtime. I dashed to my bedroom. It had a beautiful view of the beach, like you were looking down on heaven from the tallest skyscraper. I heard the waves crashing below and it made me very sleepy, reminding me of my baby sister's sound machine.

The next morning we all woke up early and walked to the beach. When we arrived, we saw people catching jellyfish. My big brother Marshall and I sprinted over there with our fishing nets. “Holy guacamole!” Marshall shouted. He was even more excited than I was. We ran into the water. “Got one!” I shouted.

“I got one too!” Alice cried.

“Alice, that jelly can sting!” I shouted, after seeing that it was not one of the clear-colored jellies that we were hunting.

“What? No it won't sting!” Alice replied as she touched the jellyfish... and got STUNG! Alice whined.

“Told ya,” I mumbled.

Alice went back to the house for medicine and was better soon. She then caught even more jellyfish than I did (once she knew not to touch the wrong ones).

Wyatt Sommer, Third Grade

The Bright School

Miss McGuire

Fourth Grade Prose



2021 Winners

The Best Birthday Present Ever

It was Mama Bear's birthday. Because of that, Baby Bear got up extra early. He wanted to get her the best birthday present. He remembered her saying, "I wish I could have a break from cooking."

"I could cook her breakfast!" Baby Bear thought. "But what could I cook for her? Hmm...I'll ask Grandpa."

Baby Bear found Grandpa reading a book outside. The book was called *Catching Fish*. Baby Bear jumped into his lap and exclaimed, "Hello, Grandpa! How are you today?"

"Goodness, Baby Bear, why are you up so early this morning? And to answer your question, I am good!"

"Good!" squeaked Baby Bear. "The reason I am up this early is because I want to get Mama something for her birthday. I was thinking and remembered Mama saying, 'I wish I could have a break from cooking.' Then I thought that I could cook her breakfast. But what would I cook her, Grandpa?"

Grandpa replied, "I've been reading a book about catching fish. You could catch her a salmon."

"Great idea! But how do you catch salmon?" asked Baby Bear.

Getting up from his chair, Grandpa said, "Follow me."

After a little while of walking, they stopped. "Why are we at a waterfall right now?"

"Salmon have to travel upstream to lay their eggs in a certain place. But going to that place is not easy for them. One of the challenges salmon face is jumping over waterfalls. Salmon jump very high in order to hurdle over the waterfall. We will stand at the top of the waterfall. They will land in your mouth."

Soon Baby Bear got into the water and three minutes later he yelled, "I caught one!"

"Great job! That salmon is massive!" The fish wiggled for safety. Baby Bear held on tighter. The fish calmed down. Since one salmon wouldn't be enough for a family, Grandpa Bear caught extra fish, but Baby Bear's fish was for Mama. "Let's take him home now. Your mama will be worried about you."

"Okay, Grandpa!" responded his grandson.

Fourth Grade Prose

They got home fifteen minutes later. Baby Bear ran into his mama's arms.

"Happy Birthday, Mama! I love you so much!" He and grandpa proudly presented the fish.

"Grandpa helped me catch you a birthday fish! I am going to cook it for your birthday!"

Mama was delighted, "I love you so much, Baby Bear."

One hour later Papa Bear, Mama Bear, Grandma Bear, Grandpa Bear, and Baby Bear all shared the salmon. They were all so happy, but Baby Bear was the happiest because he had given the best birthday present ever.

Amelia King, Fourth Grade

Homeschool

Natalie King

Kind Man and the Snow

Long, long ago, in the time when wolves were dogs, there lived a Kind Man who devoted his life to kindness and love. He spent all his money on the poor. He became so poor himself, that he had to live in the cheapest place in Africa. This man lived on the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, It was so high that the land there was close to the sun and very hot and dry. No one wanted to live there because there was too much Sun. Kind Man was very lonely because he lived in such a hot place that no one wanted to visit.

The God of happiness, Furaha, was watching over him, however. This God rewarded all the people who helped others. Furaha wanted to do something to help Kind Man because he had spent every last penny on the poor and needy.

The only Soul that lived on the peak Mount Kilimanjaro was Kind Man and an old crow. Every morning the crow would cry a sad sad song. Kind Man always awoke to the crow's sad, sad song, and it reminded him of how poor He was and how he used to be wealthy but giving away to the poor spent all of the money. As the God watched over the man he sighed a deep sigh. "I will make this man happy again," the God said with great pride. "He will no longer be lonely and poor, for I have a treat for him," the God said again.

As the morning light set the young man's little house, The man awoke to not a sad cry of a crow but to a Heartwarming song. For there was no Burning Hot temperatures.. there were just white, cold flakes on the ground. The very top of the mountain was as white as it can be. The God watched over the man he saw the people were looking at the mountain. He wondered what they would do.

The next morning as the man woke to another Happy song from the crow. He saw that more people were there on his mountaintop. They had come to see what the white was, and they played and stayed all day, feeling joyful, and including Kind Man in their fun. Kind Man was overwhelmed with happiness and love. He now was no longer lonely. The snow stayed, and lots of people moved to live on the mountain. Visitors always came up to enjoy the snow and frost, and Kind Man made many friends. He was never lonely again. And that is why there is always snow on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Audrey Tym, Fourth Grade

St.Peter's school

Jennifer von Klar

My Adoption Story

Let me tell you about a day that changed my life forever. It was about a year ago. I was laying on my mom and dad's bed watching Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets. I was to the part where the giant snake starts chasing Harry potter. But anyway back to the story It was July 18th at about 9:15 pm when we got a call. It was Eli's Birth Mother saying Eli was born! I was so excited I rolled around in circles until I almost fell off the bed. Then I went back to watching the movie.

Meanwhile my mom and dad were packing my stuff because I would have a sleepover with my grandma and grandad. But they were also packing their stuff because they would drive all the way to Michigan and stay in a hotel overnight then they would meet Eli the next morning. But anyway the credits of the movie had just started and my Grandma and Grandad arrived so I turned off the TV and snatched my monkey themed suitcase then I hugged my mom and dad and walked out the front door and I hopped into my Grandma and Grandad's car then we were there and it was 10:45 so I ended up getting to stay up until 11:30 pm!

But anyway, in the morning we had cinnamon rolls for breakfast and then we went up-stairs and did crafts for two and a half hours then sometime around 11:30 am, my mom sent my Grandma a text. It was a picture of Eli. He was so cute! I studied the picture for a while. He was so small. He looked like he was only 18 inches tall. Then we had dinner and each day after that was pretty much the same for a week.

Then after that week the pictures didn't come nearly as often for 3 or 4 days because Eli just slept 24/7. So after that 3 to 4 days we finally got a text saying my mom and dad were 40 minutes from home! Instantly we started packing my stuff. It took about 10 minutes. Then we hopped into the car and headed to my house but, due to traffic it took 29 minutes so luckily only had to wait 1 minute. But it felt like an hour. So when they finally arrived I ran to the door and unlocked it. Then sprinted outside and saw my mom unlatching an infant carrier from the car! But I couldn't see anything in it.

Then my mom said "say hi to your new brother Eli!" as she lowered the car seat so I could see him. He was so cute and so small. His face looked like a little bull dog face all scrunched up and then just when I was about to touch his hand My mom Raised up the infant career and took him inside then asked me to spread out a blanket on the floor so she could lay Eli on it. So, I did and then my mom laid Eli on the blanket and put some toys around him. But he just swung his arms around wildly because he didn't have great control of his muscles yet so I picked up one of his toys and hooked it on his finger. Just to be nice. But he just swung his arms around more. Then the toy slipped off his finger and hit me in the nose. It hurt alot it felt like someone chucked a stone at me. But I didn't care because I knew it wasn't his fault he's only a week and a half old. So I leaned over to put the toy back on his finger but before I could Eli hit me with his empty hand and his slobbery finger poked my eye. But I still didn't care because that's just how it would be for a while.

Fourth Grade Prose

But just 2 months later he was rolling. Then 3 months after that he was crawling and then 5 months later, I was in P.E. and my mom ran into the gym and requested to talk to me then she walked over and told me Eli's adoption certificate just arrived in the mail! Eli's adoption is now official! I thought to myself excitedly and Then just 4 months after that day he was running around the house and getting himself into a lot of trouble and now he is 15 months old and LOVES chocolate so that's the story of how I got my baby brother, Eli.

Braden Hutcherson, Fourth Grade

The Bright School

Ms. Dickson

Fourth Grade Prose

One day in the country there was a boy named Gabe, and he had a dog named Jamie. Jamie was a golden retriever who was found as a puppy in the coal mine next to the railroads. When Gabe and Jamie were walking home they heard some coyotes howling so they headed home. In the morning the rooster crowed so Gabe woke up and fed the pigs then he ate breakfast with Jamie. Afterwards they played fetch in the field until they lost the ball. When they lost the ball it was dinner time so they ran home. When they got to the house the food was not ready yet so they went back out to play by the railroads but when they were playing Jamie got lost. Gabe was so sad. "Jamie Jamie!" Gabe yelled he called 911 and told his mom. The police looked in the woods and in the coal mine. Gabe looked in the field with his mom. But then Gabe got down on his knees to pray and realized he wasn't saved. While he was praying he asked Jesus into his heart and got saved. After he was saved he kept looking. His mom started yelling for Gabe so he came. It was Jamie laying down chewing on his ball! "Jamie!" Gabe got down and hugged him saying, "Let's go home", so they did. While he was laying in bed Gabe said, "I love you, Jamie, good night."

The End

Charlie Leach, Fourth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Keum Glass

The Magical Painted Showlady

There was a girl named Veronica who was amazed by the Circus and wanted to be a performer in one when she grew up. One day, her mom called to her, “Honey, you ready to meet the greatest Showman in Paris?!”

“I’m ready!” shouted Veronica as they headed to meet the Showman.

“Sir!” yelled Veronica, “I’m a huge fan! I want to be a Showlady just like you! Can you give me some tips?”

The Showman bent down and put his hand on her shoulder and said, “I keep my tricks a secret.” As he walked behind the curtains Veronica ran to ask something else.

“Sir...”

“Haha! A ShowLADY! Never going to happen! The last Showlady was a failure!”

Veronica ran away weeping. “Honey, what’s wrong?” The showman had broken her heart.

“He doesn’t believe in me.”

“Honey, whatever he said is wrong. Don’t believe him. Believe in yourself.” Veronica looked up at her mother, smiled, and wiped her tears away.

The next day was school so Veronica woke up early and got dressed.

“Students, it’s time for Math. Get your books and work on page 232.”

“Ugh!” Veronica sighed. When she finished, she decided to work on her blueprint for her Circus.

“Whatcha working on Veronica?” asked Henry curiously.

“Nothing,” groaned Veronica.

Henry snatched the blueprint from her desk. “A Circus Showlady! You really think you can do that?”

Everyone laughed. Veronica put her hands over her head.

“Detention for you, Henry! No harassing people!”

When school ended Henry ripped Veronica’s blueprint into tiny pieces. “I never want to go back to school again,” thought Veronica. “No one believes in me. Only I think I can do it...”

Fourth Grade Prose

6 years later, “Another year of high school,” sighed Veronica. She felt confident this year would be different.

“Hey, everyone, it’s Showlady!” said the same old mean Henry.

Lots of kids laughed. “Why don’t you just give up?” yelled Henry.

“I should just study. You won’t be bullied if you never chase your dream,” sighed Veronica as she went to her computer and searched things to study. “Teaching might be good. I love History.”

Several weeks later, it was time for Winter break. Everyone was excited to have time off.

“School is out!” yelled Veronica as she ran down the hall.

As soon as she got home her mom asked, “Honey, will you go clean up the greenhouse? I want to make everything look nice.”

“Sure!” Veronica ran to get her coat and then out to the greenhouse behind her house.

“Ewww, it’s disgusting in here,” said Veronica. There were cobwebs, roaches, and spiders everywhere, and a radio. She turned it on.

“Hello everyone, it’s your local news. Today, there is a Showlady doing tricks around Paris.” As the announcement ended, the radio started flying! Then POP, out came a ghost.

“Who are you?” asked a startled Veronica.

“I’m Sienna! And you?”

“I’m Veronica.”

“Welp, I’m going to need you to go. This is my office,” said Sienna.

“Your office? This is a greenhouse, and by the looks of it, you’re dead.”

“What year is it?” asked a confused Sienna.

“2021” mumbled Veronica.

“2021?! Last thing I knew it was 1945!”

“Welp, I’m going to need you to leave,” said Veronica as she continued to clean up.

“I’m not leaving, you’re leaving!” yelled Sienna.

“Why would I leave? This is my house!” Veronica replied.

“Well, this was my office first and I’m going to bring back my Circus!” said Sienna proudly.

“How? You’re a ghost.”

“I just need to find a human that will let me come into their body,” said Sienna as she began to fly away.

“Wait!” cried Veronica, “I’ve been wishing to be a Showlady for a long time. Can you help me?”

“Are you sure about this?” asked Sienna.

“I’m sure,” said Veronica boldly.

“Welp, here we go!” Sienna swirled around Veronica and air surrounded her like she was in a tornado. Paint brushes came and splattered paint all over her outfit. SNAP! Sienna was inside Veronica’s body. “Wow, I feel so magical!”, said Veronica.

“Now I can talk and work through you, so no one knows it’s me.”

“Now we need to get into the Circus,” said Sienna seriously.

“Why don’t we look for auditions?”

“OK! Let’s start looking for posters!” said Sienna.

“Or we could look it up on my laptop,” said Veronica.

“What’s a laptop?”

“I’ll just have to show you,” said Veronica.

After hours of looking with no luck, Sienna shrieked. “I found something! It says, ‘Needing a new Showman in Paris. Auditions in Central Park’.”

“We live next to Central Park. Let’s go!” Veronica ran out of her home.

“We’re here for the audition,” Veronica said to the judge.

“OK. Go on stage,” commanded the judge.

“Leave the tricks to me.” Sienna whispered. Immediately a fire ring came up and a lion appeared and jumped through it safely. Then, ladies on horses started performing tricks.

“Wow, this is amazing work you are doing, Sienna!”

“Since I’m a ghost, I can do anything.”

The judges were so impressed, they immediately hired the Showlady “duo” and signed them up for their first show a few short weeks from that day. Veronica and Sienna got right to work practicing their routine.

Fourth Grade Prose

On the day of the show, Veronica was very nervous. “I’m so shaky! I’ve never done this before. What if they don’t like me?”

“You’ll be fine. Just know I’m out there with you,” Sienna reassured her.

The curtains raised...”Hello everyone! I’m the Magical Painted Showlady! I am going to amaze you with my performance!”

As the show began, everyone in the audience was on the edge of their seats. Veronica performed many fantastic acts. Tight rope, strongest man lifts, lion jumping, and ladies on horses were just a few of the things she did. By the end, she was a star. She ended up performing all over the world. She proved everyone, especially Henry, wrong. Showladies are amazingly real!

Copelyn Levitt, Fourth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Glass

The Dragon's Gem

Kaitlen liked to go outside. She went to the forest every day. She lived in a village in a small hut with her mom, dad, and brother. One day she went outside into the forest and found a cave. In the cave she found a dragon! Kaitlen was so scared but the dragon seemed weak, so she decided to get closer. Do not be scared I will not hurt you said the dragon. You see I must have a gem to live. A hunter stole it from me! Do you think you could get it back for me said the dragon? Yes, I can said Kaitlen. Can you tell me where it is? The dragon replied it is in the tallest tower of the castle.

Kaitlen left and started her journey. She remembered she didn't know where the castle was. Just then a beautiful firebird flew down. Are you lost asked the bird? Kaitlen said I am looking for the castle can you help me? Yes, said the firebird as they took off walking and flying.

When they arrived at the castle the firebird said his goodbyes and left. Kaitlen made her way up to the tallest tower of the castle avoiding all the guards and maids. She snuck up to the very tallest tower and grabbed the gem! She quickly ran out of the tower, through the castle, out of town, back to the forest and into the dragon's cave. The dragon was so very thankful and immediately jumped up and started to fly. He was happy again and so thankful for his new friend.

The End

Ella Hickman, Fourth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Voss

Why Rainbows Are Colorful

A long time ago there was a zebra. The zebra had three brothers. One of them was different. He often ran away to explore the world. He was always having fun, but one day he got lost. His three brothers had to save him! His brothers did not know he was gone, but his dad knew. So his dad went to look for him instead. Zebra's dad found him in the far off meadow, looking at something. It was a rainbow, but the rainbow did not have any colors like we see today. It was broken into pieces and the pieces were all lost because of a big storm. Zebra wanted to fix the rainbow, so he got all the Zebra Brothers to go out to look for the missing pieces. The first brother found a piece in the lake. It was blue. The second zebra found a piece in a tree. It was green. The third one found a piece of rainbow next to a beehive. That one was yellow. All of the pieces they found were all different colors, but they fit the rainbow just right. When all the pieces were back together, the Zebras couldn't believe how beautiful and colorful it now was. And that's why rainbows have colors.

Eva Quarfordt, Fourth Grade

St. Peter's School

Jennifer von Klar

Max's Journey

There was a dog named Max. Max was a happy and playful dog. He was bought by the Docks family. The mom's name was Amy and the dad's name was Dave. Amy and Dave had two kids named Michael and Dennis. The Docks and Max lived in Tampa, Florida. Dennis loved dogs! He got Max for his 11th birthday.

Max most enjoyed tug-of-war and hide-and-seek games. Max also loved going on trips and going to the dog park. One day while playing outside with Max, Dennis saw a dog catcher staring at Max. Max saw the dog catcher too and started barking and growling. Dennis told his mom about this and she did not like it at all. She went to talk to the dog catcher but he was gone. Dennis was scared by it all. That night they saw the dog catcher again. It was 11:00 pm. Dennis' mom went to talk to the dog catcher but he drove away. The next morning Dennis and Max went out to play and the dog catcher was there again. He got out and grabbed Max by the leg. Dennis ran in and told his mom. They were both so sad. The memories of Max playing and barking comforted them.

When Dennis woke up the next morning, he didn't have Max to play with or even lay with. They went to many dog pounds but could not find Max. Dennis loved Max with all his heart and Max loved Dennis too. It took Dennis forever to stop being down all the time. He missed two and a half weeks of school. Dennis had a big book of memories with Max. It was 33 pages long!

Dennis went back to school finally. His teacher and friends felt bad for him but were happy to have him back in class. After his first day back at school, Dennis and his mom went to another dog pound and found Max! Dennis saw Max and quickly went from picturing memories of Max and being sad to being very happy. Dennis ran to the cage Max was in and picked him up. Dennis was happy and so was Max! It was a dream come true! Dennis played with Max and laid with Max and once again woke up to Max's playing and barking.

If you're wondering why the dog catcher wanted Max so badly, it was because Max was a German Shepherd and Blue Tick Beagle mix. He was very tall and cute. He was the best dog ever! I am so glad Dennis never backed down and never gave up hope!

Isaac Walthour, Fourth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Voss

The Haunted House

Jason, Mason and Will were having a pretty boring fall break. They couldn't find anything to do so they decided they wanted to go to a haunted house. They walked around town all day and finally found a really spooky looking house. They decided to go back that night and explore it.

When the boys got to the house that night they were a little nervous. They went up the sidewalk and started to open the front door but as soon as they touched the handle it opened all by itself. Mason said, "It was probably just the wind that opened it!" They were pretty creeped out but they decided to go in anyway. While walking down the hall, they saw really creepy pictures that looked like they were moving. Will said that he thought the eyes in the pictures were following him.

They kept going down the hallway until they came to a big bedroom. Inside was a really creepy looking doll. No one wanted anything to do with that so they went to the next room down the hall. It looked like a boy's bedroom. "I wonder if there are any scary things in here?" said Jason just as the toy Iron Man started shooting tiny repulsor rays at them and Captain America threw his tiny shield. "I wanted to go to a haunted house not Toy Story" said Jason rolling his eyes.

The boys started walking down the hall looking for something spooky. As they were walking, they passed a knight in a suit of armor. They were admiring his armor when suddenly he raised his sword. "Get out of my house!" he yelled. The boys took off running down the hall but they didn't see the trap door that was covered by the rug. They fell down the trap door and landed in the basement. Luckily, they landed on the rug and weren't hurt. It just hurt their pride a little bit. They all got up a little embarrassed that they didn't see the trap and started looking for a way out.

The basement was dark and scary. There were lots of spiders and Mason thought he saw a hand in a jar but it was just pickles. They all started thinking this was a bad idea. They looked everywhere but couldn't find a way out. Then Jason said "be quiet, do you hear that?" Thump, thump, thump. It sounded like the knight in armor was coming after them. Then they heard the door slowly creak open. It was the knight and he wasn't happy. "Get out of my house!" he yelled.

The boys ran as fast as they could right into a wall that spun around and all of a sudden they were in a big room filled with books. "This must be a hidden library," said Jason. "Maybe there is a book on how to get out," said Will. They started looking for books about escaping bad situations but all they found was Cooking Supper for Dummy's. "His wife must have been a bad cook," said Jason. "Well, we need to come up with a plan," said Will.

Fourth Grade Prose

Jason came up with the best idea on how to trap the knight. “We need two big magnets,” he said. Everyone looked around for some magnets. Mason found two huge magnets in a drawer in the library. “Ok,” said Jason. “Let’s hang them on the ceiling above the bookcase and when he comes in it will pull him up to the ceiling!” Will and Mason thought that was a great idea so they all got to work putting magnets on the ceiling. Since the ceiling wasn’t magnetic, they had to use duct tape. “Hopefully, that’s some really strong duct tape,” said Jason.

All of a sudden they heard thump, thump, thump. The knight was coming closer. The bookcase started to spin around and suddenly there was the knight! He raised his sword and swoosh! It got sucked straight up by the magnet. The knight looked under the knight’s helmet was nothing but a skull! They all started screaming! Before the knight could do anything else his whole body started getting sucked up to the ceiling. “Nooooooooo,” he cried! “You have used science against me!”

The boys thought it would be kind of risky to get the skeleton knight down and give him a proper burial so they just left him on the ceiling. “That was intense,” said Mason. “Yeah it was,” said Will. “I wonder if he would care if we played with the Avengers toys,” said Jason. They all decided they would come back the next day.

The End

Jason Newby, Fourth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Ms. Melanie McKee

The Night Rocks Come to Life

Chapter One

One night in October the moon was bright and full. Two rocks stirred as the light from the moon woke them up. The rocks slowly opened their eyes, their eyes glowed white and then returned to normal. The rock on the right is Roller, he's a small mossy boulder. The rock on the left is Roxy, she's a good sized boulder about ten feet tall. Roxy's eyes slowly opened and closed as Roller said, "Good morning Roxy did you sleep well?" "Good morning Roller." Roxy yawned. She was very tired, Roller on the other hand was wide awake and ready to run five miles.

Roxy yawned again as Roller grew two little legs. "Are you ready to roll?" Roller exclaimed. "Huh." Roxy replied. "You get it, we're rocks. We roll." Roller explained. "Sadly, yes." Roxy mumbled. Roxy closed her eyes as she grew little legs too.

After that it was quiet for three minutes. That was a new quiet record for Roller. It's never quiet when you're with Roller.

First off, Roxy and Roller looked for the abandoned trail in the nearby forest. That trail would lead them into the Wizard World. The Wizard world is a dangerous place, but it's the only place that has a portal to the City of Bright Lights. The City of Bright Lights is what rocks call Hollywood. But before you even get to the Wizard World you have to walk through an eerie forest.

Roxy and Roller shivered as they crept through the misty air. Then, Roller tripped! He fell with a loud boom! "Shh!" Roxy shushed. "We have to be quiet!" she complained in a quiet voice. "Ok, but I was expecting you to say something more like, are you ok?" Roller suggested. "Fine, are you ok?" Roxy muttered. "I'm great thanks for asking." Roller beamed.

I'm sorry I forgot to tell you, but Roxy and Roller want to go to The City of Bright Lights because they want to see the sign with giant white letters. They also want to see the lights that brighten up the city. Now back to the story!

The two rocks were Quiet, but of course Roller was talking, he was just whispering instead. Then, all of a sudden Roller raised his voice and yelled, "We're Here!" "What?" Roxy asked. "We're here! The portal is right in front of us!" Roller explained. "There's nothing here!" Roxy shouted. "Oh right, I forgot to tell you the portal is invisible." Roller stated. "Uhg!" Roxy continued, "Why didn't you start with that!?" There was no answer. Roller took a step forward and just vanished, as if he had disappeared into thin air. Roxy followed him out of the eerie wood and into the even eerier Wizard World.

Lauren Reisman, Fourth Grade

The Bright School

Ms. Dickson

Is Turkey Really that Good?

It is Thanksgiving. Imagine you are a turkey, and you do not want to get eaten. Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving, yummy turkey, but not if you ARE a turkey! As a human, you may think turkey is good, but if you are a turkey—no way!

I know humans like to eat turkey on Thanksgiving, so I must hide. If I am seen, I must run. Turkeys may be good to eat, but you cannot eat me if you cannot catch me!

While I have your attention, think ham. Ham is tastier than turkey. It is sweeter and juicier. Maybe it is healthier, just maybe? I am trying here. Some people like to kill turkeys themselves. That takes time and a lot of effort. You can just go buy a ham. You do not have to wait to kill a turkey. Humans like immediate gratification, right?

What do you say now, turkey or ham?

Noah Wulf, Fourth Grade

Soddy Elementary School

Mrs. Tonia Mercer

Sharonejo33@gmail.com

Backwards

One day I was walking backwards and tripped. I fell and hit my head on a rock. My whole life flashed before my eyes.

When I woke up, I was in the hospital. I asked my mom why I was here. She said, "Jonathan, you fell and hit your head then passed out. We brought you here to get stitches."

I sat there in the hospital. I looked around the room and I saw a calendar. It said it was the last day of May!

"Mom," I asked, "How long was I asleep?" She said, "Only one hour, why?"

"What day is it?" I asked. "May 31st," Mom said. Wow! What happened? I thought today was May 1st.

"I got you pudding," Mom said excitedly. "I'm not hungry," I said thinking about what day it is. "What's wrong?" Mom asked. "You love pudding." I thought about what Mom asked. I didn't know what to say, so I said nothing. My mom asked me again, but I still said nothing. "Jonathan!" she said in a scared voice. I looked at her and said, "What?" "Jonathan, you worried me!" she said angrily.

I got my stitches out and went back to school a few days later. I didn't want to be late, so I went ahead and went to my first class.

"Hi, John! You were gone for a pretty long while," Sam said. "Yeah, stitches hurt," I said thinking of stitches. "Stitches, I thought you said you were sick?" Sam asked confused. "Sick?" I asked. "What day is it?" Sam said, "May 19th. Are you OK?" Oh no! What is happening? Today is supposed to be the 13th. "Sam, what was twelve days ago?" I asked. "May 13th," Sam said. "I've got to go to class and you should too."

After school I waited for my dad. When we got home, I was so tired I just grabbed one taco and went to my room. As soon as I finished my taco, I fell asleep. I had a dream. In my dream it told me to look in the bottom drawer under the striped shirt. Then I woke up. When I looked under the shirt, I found a note. On the note it explained what was happening. It said that I was living May backwards! It also said that I have to see why you can't live your life backwards.

Fourth Grade Prose

I went downstairs and felt sick. My head started hurting. My body ached and my legs felt like jelly. “Mom!” I shouted. “Please come here!”

“I’m sick and have to stay home,” I texted to Sam. “Yeah, you’ve been sick,” Sam texted. Oh right, I forgot. “What else happened on your date with Eve?” Sam texted. Date? With Eve? Eve Thomas? Wow!

After a few days of being sick I went to school feeling great. I was asked out by Eve! It wasn’t as fun because I asked Sam what I already told him about it. That’s it. That’s the answer!

“I know why life is boring if you live life backwards. It ruins the surprises of life!” I shouted.

A light beamed and everything went dark. I woke up and I was in the hospital again. “Mom, what day is it?” I asked anxiously. “May 1st,” Mom said. “Yes!” I shouted.

Sophie I. Smith, Fourth Grade

Grace Baptist Academy

Mrs. Gill

The Cat That Loved Popcorn

Once, there was a boy named Joe. He had a cat that was attracted to popcorn. Whenever Joe's family watched a movie their cat would jump up and try to eat some of the popcorn and sometimes, she got some of the popcorn. So that is how popcorn got her unique name, Popcorny.

Some time later Popcorny started to meow at the freezer, so Joe opened the freezer and Popcorny jumped in looking for popcorn. A couple minutes later the same thing happened but this time it was with the pantry and still, no popcorn was found. It was all used up at the family movie night last night. Popcorny was so mad that she went on a destruction rampage down the town. Popcorny was looking for the movie theater because she had thought: "movie theaters usually have popcorn don't they?" but on the way she ran into Joe, Joe had been looking all around town for Popcorny. As soon as Popcorny saw Joe she ran into a bush that was close by but she wasn't fast enough Joe came over and attempted to pull Popcorny out of the bush but she started taking off to the movie theater. Popcorny had finally made it to the movie theater and she was super happy once she jumped over the counter, tackled the popcorn manager and busted the popcorn machine open. Popcorny felt like the luckiest cat to ever eat popcorn (and to roam the earth) so Popcorny got to eat all the popcorn, and Joe finally got to get Popcorny home with some popcorn flavored cat food. So they all went home and had some food. And they lived a normal life till' the end of time, exactly 27 yrs, 3 months, 2 weeks, 6 days, 9 minutes, 53 seconds, and 18 milliseconds.

Thad Smith, Fourth Grade

The Bright School

Ms. Dickson

Fifth Grade Prose



2021 Winners

Street Lights

Levi was a typical 6th grader that seemed normal, but everyone noticed something peculiar about him. His family sometimes would find him in the basement talking to a shadow on the wall, When they asked him who he was talking to he would answer, “the man who follows me home.”

After school, Levi would always walk home alone, with no friends. Everyone saw him as a freak because he would murmur to himself loudly, and he would sometimes jump up suddenly and scream, or repeatedly yell, “Stop!” One cool Wednesday afternoon when he was walking home from school he looked back to see only himself on that street. He kept on walking and he started to walk faster. He looked back again and saw the man that would follow him everywhere. The man had an unnatural smile with a torn black & white striped suit that looked like it hadn’t been taken off in several days. The man had a sad grayness to his face, like he just woke up from a restless slumber. With mad wide bloodshot eyes the man stared at Levi. Levi looked forward again, ignoring the man's antics. His speed walk slowly turned to a run. Levi ran down the street all the way to his house not looking back, his eyes wide and gasping for air, he pushed his front door open and ran up the stairs to his room.

Levi entered his room and dove under the covers, loudly yelling “Stop it!!!” The man appeared in the door to Levi’s room. Levi’s mom ran into his room saying, “Honey what happened, Are you Ok!?” Levi said, “Mom do you not see him! He always follows me everywhere and watches me!” Levi’s mother looked perplexed, Levi just stared at the man that his mother couldn’t see. She slowly got up and left the room. Levi asked the man, “What do you want?” The man never spoke, just stared.

Levi tried to go to sleep without eating dinner that night, but it seemed impossible to get even thirty minutes of rest. Levi finally drifted off an hour or two later. Levi had a very strange dream that night, he was walking home from school and instead of the afternoon it looked like it was midnight. The streets were lit up with streetlights. In Levi's dream every street light was bright and lit except for one. Everywhere outside of the brightness of the streetlights looked like a deep black void. Suddenly the last street light came on. Within its shine was that same man that would stare at him day and night. Levi woke up with a small yelp, and looked outside. “It was just a dream,” he thought to himself.

The next morning was Saturday, and Levi couldn't get any rest last night because of that dream. His family was supposed to go to the lake, but since Levi didn't get any rest so he slept on the car ride. In the afternoon while on the boat it was Levi's turn on the tube. He swam 20 feet out to the inflatable tube. After about 30 minutes of tubing, Levi finally got thrown off. His family went off a bit and started to circle around. Levi started back too but he saw something in the water. It had looked like a log but strangely it had pieces of cloth on the strange figure. Levi went to investigate the thing. When he got close enough he flipped the thing over and saw something horrific. It was the same man who watched him. He gazed at the man, and the man turned his face and smiled that same strange smile. Levi started to turn around but something grabbed him from under the water. Levi was being flipped and jerked from side to side! Levi was gasping for air and trying to swim back up for air, but it seemed no matter how hard he tried the thing would pull him deeper and deeper. Suddenly Levi felt a jolt of pain in his leg. Levi tried to scream for help but that just made him more desperate. The thing finally let him go and Levi finally came to the surface of the water. Coughing horribly he climbed on to the boat, and his parents were wondering what happened, Nothing Levi told them would make them believe in that strange man. When his parents decided to go home Levi noticed a strange mark that was bleeding, that he didn't notice before from the adrenaline. Instead of fish tooth markings, the bite looked human which horrified Levi the most.

When Levi went to bed he had another dream. Levi was outside of his house in the light of the street lights. When he started walking around to see if there was anyone there all the streetlights went out black. Levi was standing there just looking around to see the same thing, darkness. Then the only source of light was when the same streetlight that was out in his other dream came to life. In that light was the man. The man pointed to him and his smile slowly turned into a frown. Against his will, Levi started walking to the man. Levi tried to run away, but his movements were out of his control. When he was just a foot from the man, the man grabbed Levi and picked him up. The man dug his teeth into each arm. Levi cried out but realized he had no sound. The man grabbed Levi by his feet and dragged him out to the void. Levi hit and kicked, but nothing affected the man. When they were just outside of all light the man stopped and looked at Levi, the man smiled. Levi could see the flesh in between his teeth. Then the man kept on dragging Levi into the empty void. Levi tried to scream again but still no sound came out. Then Levi was dragged into the darkness, gone forever.

Battle Holliday, Fifth Grade

Thrasher Elementary School

Karen Simpson

The Spirit of the Tiger

My name is Mia, and my mom passed away when my little sister, Savanna, was born. I can only remember a couple of things about her: 1) My mom loved tigers; they were her favorite animal. 2) My mom had a star tattoo on her back. 3) Her name was Ariel.

My sister asks me to tell her about our mom. I always tell her these three things. I feel bad for my Dad. He did alot for us. I woke up the next morning to my sister jumping on my bed yelling, "It's your birthday Mia!"

I ran down stairs with Savanna and we screamed at the top of our lungs. It was the dog of my dreams, a corgi!

Dad told us, "This is one of the surprises for Mia." Savanna and I looked at each other excited. I was thinking of names then it came to me,

We should name her Bernie."

My Dad nodded and my sister did too.

"There is another surprise." said Dad.

Savanna was jumping up and down,

"I am excited to say that we are going on a cruise on the amazon river. We will stop in the jungle at a village and stay for a couple of days."

I screamed so loud it woke the neighborhood up.

"Can Bernie come with us?"

He checked the website and it said that pets were allowed so Bernie could come with us. I ran upstairs and started packing. We would be there for 2 weeks.

I was thinking about Mom. It was her dream to go on this trip. She always said that she would see a tiger. I decided that I was going to bring her journal. It would be like she was there

A couple of days later we were on our way to the boat. Bernie looked up and barked, that's when I saw there was a tiger. "Dad, do you see that tiger? "Why is it on the boat?" Dad looked at me confused, "There is no tiger, are you feeling ok?" I told him yes. I looked at Bernie and said, "Did you see the tiger?" At that moment it felt like she spoke almost as if she said yes. I was so shocked I did not tell anyone, not even my sister. We set our stuff down in the room and started to look around. It was so amazing the boat had a pool, restaurant, a huge slide that went from the top of the boat to the pool. It was so cool.

My sister and I looked at the slide then at each other. We ran to get our bathing suits on. When we got to the top of the latter there was a lifeguard. He sent people down the slide one by one. When it was my turn I looked at the lifeguard and he finally said go. I launched myself down the slide.

Fifth Grade Prose

A week later we were about to be dropped off at the village, and I had not seen the tiger at all that week, but whenever she and Bernie were together alone they would talk about what the tiger meant or why it was there. Mia had a feeling that it had something to do with her mom because the tiger had a star on its back. My mom had a star tattoo on her back too! We were walking to the village. It was the most beautiful place in the world. I had never seen anything like it “ This must be why they call it one of a kind” Dad said “ I agree” Savanna said. Now let's go take a look around. Bernie and I started to look around. That's when I had just barely spotted her. She looked at me and I looked at her. I stood there for a while looking at her star and her beautiful white fur. It was almost like silk.

Bernadette Alexander, Fifth Grade

Nolan Elementary

Heather .Murphy

A couple of years ago I learned not to take loved ones for granted. Spend time with the ones you love before it is too late.

“Hey girls, it’s time to go,” Dad called to us from the bottom of the stairs.

“Ok, coming,” we called back.

We hopped in the car and started driving toward Tullahoma. We were on our way to see my GG. My GG was very old, 98 in fact. She lived in a nursing home there. The drive was about an hour and a half. On the way down there, we watched a movie. We arrived at the nursing home about noon. We started walking up the sidewalk to the front door. My dad hit a button to buzz us in. Every time it happens it frightens me to where it makes me jump.

A voice came on and said, “Hello, who are you here to see?”

Dad answered, “Helen.”

They let us in. We walked in and the smell of p-b-j and a stench of old people suddenly hit me. The nurses informed us that GG was in the cafeteria. We turned the corner. I saw her with her head down on the table.

“Dad is she...dead?” I asked nervously.

“No, just sleeping,” he replied.

Thank God, I thought to myself. I didn’t know what I would have done if she was dead. I let out a sigh of relief. As we got closer, I could hear her snoring loudly. My dad gently nudged her. She jumped up almost out of her wheelchair.

She yelled, “Who are you?”

“I’m Harriet’s son, and these are your great granddaughters,” he exclaimed.

She eventually remembered, and we asked how she was doing. We told her all about school and sports.

I suddenly remembered when we visited her the year before. She kept reading my sister, Caroline, and my shirts. “Beaver Creek” and “Just Do It.” Then 5 minutes later again, “Beaver Creek” and “Just Do It”. “Beaver Creek and “Just Do It” Every time she said “Just Do It”, she made a face like she was utterly confused and being challenged. That was the last time I ever wore a shirt with words on it when I visited her.

We sat down and started a conversation about the summer. A couple of weeks earlier she had fallen and hurt ankle at the nursing home. She was ok, but the medics put her in a wheelchair. My dad had told me that when her husband died the authorities thought she had killed him, but she didn’t. A while later, she had fallen and hurt her head, so the medics said that she should go to a nursing home, but my GG was very independent so she did not like that idea very much. Later she accepted the offer.

Fifth Grade Prose

After we finished talking and started getting ready to leave, the rest of my family came in and sat down at the table right behind us. She didn't hear them. When she turned around, she let out the biggest gasp I have ever heard. She even might have even peed her pants if you ask me.

A couple of minutes after she gathered her thoughts, she zoomed faster than I could walk back to her room.

A couple years later my dad broke the news.

“Hey girls will you come downstairs, “he called from the bottom of the stairs. We hurried down the stairs thinking it was something urgent. We sat down at the table. I looked up to see a serious look on his face.

He finally spoke. “GG...she passed in her sleep last night.”

An uncomfortable silence filled the room. My heart dropped. I was heartbroken. My dad reassured us that if she was aware of where she was, she would be unhappy.

After all that happened, I learned that I would never be able to replace her. Spend time with the ones you love before that time is taken from you.

Ever since she passed, I have felt a connection with her, I can feel her with me every step of the day. She is like my guardian angel watching over me. Over time I have wished I had more time to get to know her better and that these memories are precious. I miss her smile to this day.

Catherine Curtis, Fifth Grade

The Bright School

Mrs. Ann O'Brien

The Oregon Trail Diary of Charleigh Kate Marie Barton 1840

Day 1

May 1, 1840

Dear Grandma Rose,

As you know, we are leaving Independence, Missouri. We are headed to Oregon. We are leaving because there is better farmland to grow crops. Can you believe we have to travel 2170 miles to get there? We are praying that we will get a whole bunch of customers at our ol' market stand. We also pray that ol' Bessie and her calf will get along quite well. We are bringing Ma, Pa, Emma, Isaac, Brody, and Evan with us. We pray Aunt Kate and Uncle Joe take care of you just fine. I'm feelin' real sick at my stomach right now. I'm afraid of leaving Independence. I'm just real worried that we won't have enough supplies for our trip. I've heard of Grizzly Bears on that trail. I'm just afraid that somethin' might happen to one of us.

Your Granddaughter,

Charleigh Kate

Day 60

June 30, 1840

Dear Grandma Rose,

Something had come to our wagon circle. Mr. Jenkins reported of hearing a creature during the night. He said it sounded like "AAAAAOUUU". "The creature looked like a man when it howled then after it looked like some wild animal. Do you think that man turned into that creature? There is a full moon, maybe he only turns into that creature on a full moon. " Mr. Jenkins?" I asked. "Yes," he replied. "Do you think that that creature you saw was a man and then he turned into whatever that thing was?" I asked in terror. "No, that was a red wolf. Turns out red wolves are very common in this area. Red wolves also don't want anything to do with us, So no need to worry" Pa replied. "Where did you find that ?" Isaac asked. " In this book called Oregon Travel Guide." We all had quite a scare when Mr. Jenkins came back with that report. Especially when he had that look on his face.

Your Granddaughter,

Charleigh Kate Marie Barton

August 17,1840

Dear Grandma Rose,

I have to run as fast as I can to the last camp site. Every step of the way I have to think if I don't make it there fast enough then my brother will die. I yelled for a nurse who was on one of the wagons in Oregon too. I asked if she would help my brother who had gotten cholera and needed a cure fast. We ran to the wagon. She said she needed cleaned water for him to drink from. Ma ran to the wagon and rummaged through the wagon till she found the only canteen we had left from Fort Laramie because the boys had drank all of them.

Evan was only sick because he was too lazy to look for another cantine so he drank from the pond. But nonetheless he was sick and could die. After the nurse gave him cleaned water she said "Cholera was a disease that you can only get from dirty water. The only cure is clean water. If he drinks from a lake or pond without filtered water in an hour he could die." One Day after the nurse came Evan was better. We had to find her and give her a thank you. Since she saved Evan he was the one who was going to find her. An hour later he came back and said he had invited her to our wagon. We had a new member of the wagon train, The Brimingshams.

Your Grandaughter,

Charleigh Kate Marie Barton

Day 124

September 8,1840

Dear Grandma Rose,

We made it to Oregon finally. Poor poor Mr. Briminingham died from the common cold. So sad how no one knew the cure. But Ms. Brimingham said she got a book so o one else died on her watch ever again. She said the cure for the common cold was a full night's sleep. So sad how he only got 2 hours every night. Those poor oxen mostly died from overworking. I am so sad that we can not see you for a while. Pa said that in one whole year you will be here, but I am not too sure of that. I am so excited that I made it to Oregon. I can't even imagine what it would be like if any one of us died. But this is not the time to think of the past, this is a time to rest and be happy. I am afraid those Indian might come to find us because we didn't give them the real trade. I am planning to open up a little market to sell my handmade clothes and some of the boys' carrots and turnips. Im thinking we could call it the "Barton Folk Food and Clothes Line". I'm going to try to get at least 50 cents because food costs unbelievable prices now the Beef potato slaw is 50 cents. Who would have thought Organ prices were as much as a house from our town? Not me that's for sure. Pa said he was planin on havin one of his ol' pals from back home to help you get here next year.

Your Grandaughter,

Charleigh Kate Marie Barton

Charleigh Barton, Fifth Grade

St. Peters School

Jennifer von Klar

Tina's feet slapped quickly on the wet morning sand. Golf Trace was three miles away from SeaSide, Florida. Normally Tina would take her bike to the SeaSide Neighborhood School, but it was rainy. She was almost late for school. Ever since Tina's cousin had moved to Cleveland, Ohio, she'd been kind of sulkey. She had finally gotten to school. As soon as she opened the door, she heard the tardy bell ring. Tina sighed. Late again, Tina thought. Tina ran to her classroom even though she was late and running was breaking the rules. Tina walked into her class.

Before Tina knew it the school day was over. She leaned on the flagpole in the courtyard and took out her phone. Without thinking, Tina quickly texted her mom. Going out with my friends. Be back before dinner, the text read. Tina bolted down Quincy Avenue onto County Road 30A. Then she took a sharp turn on Savannah Street. Tina rang the doorbell of a house that had a sign that read SEASIDE GYMNASTICS. Tina knew that every Friday after school Megan, who preferred to go by Meg, trained there. There was an old croaky voice that said "We are open," and Tina walked in.

Meg was in a handstand on top of the bars when Tina walked in. Meg flung herself into a split before she landed on the ground in front of Tina. "Hey Megalodon," Tina said. "Hi, Tiny," Meg replied. Tina was the tallest in the group and the nickname Tiny was just a joke between Tina and Meg. "Come on, Tina, the rest of the group is upstairs," Meg said. As Tina and Meg walked up the stairs Meg took out the tight ponytail that her hair was always in. She also swept her out-of-place bangs to the side, where she liked them. The two girls walked into Meg's bedroom. Bess was practicing her stances for Taekwondo with her earbuds in. Lilliana was reading Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Suki, Lilliana's lazy Persian cat, was sleeping on the windowsill. The rest of Tina's day passed by very quickly. Tina ran home as quickly as she could. She would get grounded if she was home late.

Tina barged into her house. "Sarah, I'm Home!" Tina yelled up to her big sister. "Mom!" Tina said as she walked into the kitchen. Her Mom wasn't there. Then she noticed the door to the backyard was open. "Mom?" Tina said. "I'm over here," Tina's mom replied. Tina noticed an open window on the second floor. "Where's Sarah?" Tina asked. "She's gone," Tina's mom replied as concern came into her eyes. "Did she run away?" Tina asked. "No. All I saw was this open window," Tina's Mom answered. "I'm so sorry that all this happened at once, Tina. I'm sad to say your dad is going on a business trip. I'm sorry," her mom added.

The next day was bright and sunny and school went by in a wink. This time, without hesitation, Tina walked right to Meg's house. Sure enough, Meg was there, but this time she was on the high beam working on her front walkovers. Just as Meg dismounted the beam Tina got an urgent call from her Mom. "Tina, Dear. I fell down the stairs an hour ago. I went to the E.R. to look at my wrist. The doctors said it was a fracture. You'll have to stay with Meg and Grampa. Bye, dear." Tina felt her stomach turn as she put her phone down. "Your mom called earlier today. We're having a sleepover! Maybe I should text Lilliana and Bess to see if they want to join us!" Meg said excitedly.

An hour later Tina, Lilliana, Bess and Meg were on the couch watching The Mandalorian. Just as their show finished, Meg said, “Do you guys want to go to the gym?” All the girls reluctantly said yes. Meg led the group of girls down into the basement. The girls quickly ran to their favorite parts of the gym.

Lilliana did a cartwheel on a dusty mat in the corner. She heard a strange creak under the mat after she landed. She called Bess, Meg and Tina over to help her investigate. “Is this mat covering something?” Lilliana asked. “We found this mat down here after we moved. Grandpa said I could keep it. I’ve kept it here where I found it,” Meg said. “Can we lift it up?” Lilliana asked. “Sure,” Meg answered. The girls lifted the mat up with ease. Underneath was a small loose floorboard with a tiny compartment under it. Bess bravely pried off the floorboard. In the compartment was a small key. “Hmmm,” Meg mumbled. Then, her eyes suddenly lit up. “I know what the key unlocks! Follow me to the bathroom,” Meg said brightly. The girls raced to the bathroom. Meg leaped onto the counter and practically shoved the key into the rather big medicine cabinet mirror keyhole. It took a few tries to open it, but when the girls did, it didn’t look like a cabinet. Instead of shelves, there was a spiral staircase that went down.

One by one, Tina, Meg, Lilliana and Bess carefully walked down the staircase. When they all reached the bottom they saw a long dark hallway. They slowly walked down the hallway. When the girls reached the end they saw a heavy door. The door slid open easily. They entered a room that looked like a fancy hotel lobby.

“Where are we?” Lilliana asked. “This is the Blind Files. We are a secret society made up of girls under eighteen,” A voice said. “Sarah!” Tina shouted. “Would you like to join the society?” Sarah asked. “Yes!” The girls replied. “Let’s go home.” Sarah said. Tina called her Mom. “We’re coming home,” Tina said. “Did you find Sarah?” “Yes.” “Tell me about it.” “It’s a long story...”

Ellery Hamill, Fifth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Melissa Wilson

The Covid Zombie Outbreak

It was a normal day at school. We were just learning about decimals in math. The bell rang and it was time for lunch. Our whole class came down into the lunchroom and we saw everyone acting very strange. Bob went up to some of the classmates and they piled on top of him. As soon as they got off Bob he was a zombie. It was Covid season and everyone that was not wearing a mask was infected and turned into zombies. We all ran back to the classroom. Some of the other classmates were trying to escape but the doors were locked. Since we were inside Mrs. McDonald's class we had a window that went out onto the roof. All of the people that came to Mrs. McDonald's classroom escaped.

When we got out we saw that everyone outside of the school was infected. Kelton had an idea of trying to find a spy base to try and find a cure to this outbreak. Logan and Gavin said that we should find a Police Station. Oliver said that we should try and save up our money and buy tickets to go to New York. Christian said that was a terrible idea because New York is one of the most populated places. Maddox said that we should go to his house where he has some bb guns and fake guns. Samantha said I have been to your house before and your father has a gun safe and he gave me the key. I told everyone we would go to their places to find everything that we needed to survive this Covid zombie outbreak.

When we were going to Maddox's house everyone told Christian to wear his mask, but he didn't and he got infected. We ran and ran and ran to Maddox's house. We gathered all the loot and went out and protected ourselves. After we went to all the other places we were decked out. We went and hid inside of a Military bunker. Then we realized we didn't have any rations. Me,

Oliver, Kelton and Logan went to the supermarket and stole all the food. We came back to the bunker and divided all the food. After a few weeks we ran out of all the food. We all wondered who ate all the food. Behind the ration box was a hole in the wall with a family of rats living inside. We all went out and we search for a supermarket and got all of our favorite foods.

We all came back and noticed one person was missing. It was Maddox. He didn't show up, but he left a note that said he went out to find a hospital to see if he had Covid because he had shortness of breath. We all went out to find him at the hospital. When we got there everyone was coming out of the hospital and it was blowing up. We went to go talk to Maddox, but he was a zombie. We went back to the bunker and a few of my friends were mourning because Maddox blew up the only hospital near us. When we got back to the bunker we saw a scientist inside of our bunker. He said he came from Washington DC to Tennessee to make the cure for Covid 19. He only needed one more ingredient. He needed a zombie's eye.

Fifth Grade Prose

He said to find one in the hospital, but Logan told him that Maddox blew up the only hospital near us. The scientist said he had car, but we don't know how to drive. He said he also brought bikes. We all went out to go find another hospital to get a zombie's eye. It took us a few hours, but we finally made it back to the bunker with the zombie eye. He made the cure and needed some kind of device to spread it across the US. He said he had the machine with him, but needed a high vantage point to use it. We told him to use the tip of the Silverdale tower at our school as a vantage point. He drove us there in his car. He went up to the tower and set up the machine. He injected the serum into the machine and sprayed it all over the US. Everyone was saved! No one knew that a group of eleven year old kids saved the world.

Gunnar Gibson, Fifth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Miss Bailee McDonald

I'll Always Be Your Friend

Some people think that if someone has been mean in the past you should hold grudges forever, but they're wrong. Meet Empress, a young coyote pup, and Akira, a young wolf pup. A lot of people think wolves and coyotes are always going to be sworn enemies. But Empress and Akira will prove them wrong.

One night around midnight in the woods, Empress went searching for food. She hears a noise from the bushes. "Hello, is anyone there?" She said, as a figure came closer. "Yes, I'm here." Akira said as she revealed herself. "You're a wolf!" shouted Empress in shock. "Yeah what's the problem?" Akira asked. "Uh, it's nothing, I just have to go." Said Empress, in a rush. Akira went to her cave and went to bed. The next night Akira went to the same place at the same time, hoping to see Empress again. Luckily she saw her. "Hey," Akira shouted. "Oh, you're that wolf girl I met, right?" Empress asked. "Yes I am, and can you answer some questions for me?" Asked Akira. "Sure", answered Empress. "Okay, first question, what's your name?" Akira asked. "My name is Empress", she said. "Okay, next question", said Akira. "When we first met, why did you run away?" "I really want to be your friend but my parents won't let me be friends with wolves", said Empress sadly. "I really would like for you to be my best friend", said Empress. "Well maybe we can be best friends," Akira said happily. "How", asked Empress. "We can try to spend most of our time together having fun", suggested Akira. "Of course", said Empress excitedly.

Once Empress and Akira decided to be best friends, they saw each other every day. They loved to play by the waterfall and hunt for small things like rabbits and sometimes mice and berries, since they were still little pups.

One evening, they sat on the rocks near the waterfall to watch the sunset. "Hey Akira, why am I your best friend?" Empress asked curiously. "Well you're always there for me and you're kind and honest". Akira replied. "Will we always be friends?" asked Empress. "Until the end", Akira said happily. "We should make up a quote for our friendship", Empress suggested. "Like what", asked Akira. How about "where the sun shines, we shine together", asked Empress. "I love it", cried Akira. "Wait, but why that quote?" asked Akira. "Well, were always together and we love to watch the sunset", said Empress. "Oh, that's neat". Akira said with a smile.

After that amazing day the girls went to bed, and despite their differences, they still remain the best of friends! THE END.

Joyana Summerrow, Fifth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Renae Marcus

Billy Bonka and the Slime Factory

Josephine was a young girl with a love for slime. She especially loved butter slime. But, she did not get to have any because her family did not have much money. She lived in a tiny house with her parents and both sets of grandparents.

“Josie,” mom yelled.

“What mom?” asked Josephine.

“Help me start dinner. Your father is late to come home.”

Josephine started making the spaghetti. She wondered why her family had to have such a hard life. The door slammed open and the cold, blinding wind let itself in the house as her Dad walked in.

“Honey, where have you been?” Josie’s mom asked.

“I got let go at work,” said her dad.

Josephine did not know what to say. Her family was already struggling before this news. She remembered the old days when it was just her, her mom and her dad. They lived in a bigger house with a big backyard that had a pool. But then when pops got sick, they had to put all their money into saving him, and it worked. Now they were struggling to buy food.

The next day Josephine woke up to her mom making breakfast.

“Darling, will you go find a paper, so we have something to read,” Grammy asked.

“Yes,” said Josephine.

Josephine ran out the door into the cold. She walked to the square skimming the stones looking for change. She found one quarter on the ground. She picked it up and entered the toy store on the square. She walked into the slime section and saw a sign that said BILLY BONKA’S SLIME CONTEST. She kept reading. “Each slime might have a ticket inside. If you get one of the five rare golden tickets, you can exchange it for a tour of the slime factory.” Josephine was so excited, and her quarter was just enough to get one slime.

“Kid. What are you doing here with no parents,” the cashier yelled.

“I’m just buying something,” said Josephine kindly.

“Like you have any money, wearing clothes like that,” he said under his breath.

“Just let me buy this slime, I have enough money,” she pleaded.

The cashier took the money and gave her the slime. She wandered the square again looking until she found a used newspaper to take home. She felt angry that the cashier had talked to her like that.

As she walked in the house, Gigi, her other grandma asked, "where have you been?"

"I was getting a newspaper and some slime," she said, scared of what her relatives might say.

"Where did you get the money?" Grampy asked. He was her other grandpa.

"I found it on the ground in the square," she replied.

"Why my Josie?" Pops asked.

"Because Billy Bonka, the best slime maker of all time is having a contest!" she shouted, full of joy.

"How do you enter?" Gigi inquired.

Josephine told them about the contest and then she and Pops decided to go ahead and open the slime to see if she had gotten a golden ticket.

"Do you want to open it Pops?" she asked.

"Nah, you open it, I know how much you want to," Pops told her.

Josephine peeled the side and there was a crispy, golden ticket. On the ticket were the words, "You and one guardian may go on a tour in Billy Bonka's slime factory and receive a 10,000 prize."

Josephine jumped in the air. It was the best day of her life.

Over the next few days, all of the winners were announced. The others were Veronica Salty, Albert Gulp, Violetta Burke, and Mikey Television.

"Well, who are you going to take," her mom asked.

"I don't know, what about Pops?"

"Pops hasn't gotten out of bed in ten years," said Grampy.

"Well, who says I can't?" Pops asked.

"Dad, come on now, you can't," said Josephine's mom.

"I can! My Josie wants me and it's about time to get out of this bed," he said as excited as he could be.

Josephine could not believe it. She was going to Billy Bonka's slime factory with Pops. She was the happiest she had been in years.

Fifth Grade Prose

A few days passed and it was the big day. Josephine got ready. She put on her best outfit and spent 2 hours fixing her hair the best way she could. She ran down the stairs and realized it was time to help Pops get out of bed for the first time in forever.

“Pops! Wake up,” Josephine shouted.

“Yes.” He responded.

Her mom walked over and took one arm and Josephine took the other. Pops stood up and started to walk very easily. He had been practicing for the big day.

“Great job Dad!” Josephine’s mom congratulated him.

Then they were off to the slime factory for the best day ever.

Lela Kate Sorrow, Fifth Grade

The Bright School

Ann O’Brien

Santa's Toy Dilemma

It was the night before Christmas and there was snow covering the ground of the North Pole. If someone was to peak inside one of Santa's workshops, he would see several elves busy at work. The elves had a fun, but long month making toys for all the good boys and girls. Currently, the elves were taking a break before they loaded up the toys inside Santa's sleigh. They headed to the giant toy storage room and realized someone had stolen all of the toys! Suddenly, the elves went into panic mode!

They rushed to Santa and told him, "Christmas is ruined!" Santa said, "What do you mean Christmas is ruined? All of the toys are ready, the sleigh is shined up and Mrs. Claus has my suit pressed and ready to go!" The elves sadly broke the news to Santa that all of the toys were missing. Someone had stolen all of the toys! Santa immediately called the Snowman Police and asked them to meet him in the security office.

The Snowman Police put on their black shades, black scarfs, and black top hats. If you can't tell, the Snowman Police like their black accessories. Santa and the Snowman Police went inside the office and watched the security footage. To their dismay, the Grinch had stolen all of the toys! Santa put the Snowman Police to work to find the Grinch and locate the Christmas toys.

Even with the Snowman Police busy looking for the toys, Santa was still left with a huge dilemma. He was expected to deliver all of the toys tonight. The thought of little boys and girls waking up on Christmas morning with nothing from Santa under the tree made Santa very sad. What could he do? How could he fix this? Santa continued to ponder and suddenly, a light bulb went off in his head! He remembered having a shed full of spare toys from years past. Hopefully, with a little magic, the elves could get all of the toys ready!

Santa dug out his naughty and nice list. The scroll was quite heavy because so many boys and girls made the nice list. Santa started calling out each child's name and toy request. The elves began helping, repairing and creating! The magic of the elves was flowing! They started sorting the toys into piles. Hoverboards, Barbies, and basketballs were popular toys this year and they began piling up fast! Santa's red bags were so full of toys, they looked as if they could explode at any minute! The glistening, red sleigh was ready for departure and the elves began to load it with toys.

Fifth Grade Prose

Now, the reindeer, sleigh, and toys were ready. Santa was inside suiting up in his famous red coat, pants, hat, and boots. Once he was dressed, Mrs. Claus walked him to the sleigh and sent him off on his fun journey! While Santa was flying all over the world, the Snowman Police were still on the hunt for the Grinch! It didn't take them long to catch the Grinch because he was such a careless character. You should have seen the look on his face, locked up in the Ice Jail. No hot cocoa for him! Santa was so happy when he returned because the Snowman Police informed him the Grinch had been caught and the toys were found. Santa and Mrs. Claus hosted a celebration party to thank the elves and Snowman Police for all of their hard work. Lots of cookies, candy canes, and hot chocolate were had by all!

Lynleigh Massengill, Fifth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Miss Bailee McDonald

Nina hugged her backpack to her chest as she peered out the open car window. She looked up at the tall trees and sparkling lakes of the inviting Gatlinburg mountains. Molly and Betsy were Nina's cousins and very close friends. She could not wait to go to her family's favorite cabin. She had been reading, and more and more wanted adventure. Every character seemed to have one.

Soon they arrived and Nina happily scrambled out of the car and rushed to meet Mollie and Betsy. "Molly, Betsy!" Nina exclaimed. "Nina!" Molly and Betsy cried as they embraced in a loving hug. Hand in hand, Nina, Mollie, and Betsy ran inside the cabin, taking in the familiar smell. Then they went up to their bedroom. It had two large beds, one on the right and one on the left, covered with crimson thick wool blankets "It's so good to be back," said Betsy. "We missed you," added Mollie. "Me too," said Nina. "Mollie, Betsy, do you ever feel like everyone has had some sort of adventure and you just long for something different to happen?" "Well I guess I do. But I don't want to worry our parents. It does sound really exciting though," replied Mollie. "I do agree that sometimes I get bored, but don't worry we can have adventure," noted Betsy. "You're right," Nina said, "I'm so happy to have wonderful cousins like you."

Then Nina had a great idea. "Hey you know that closet we always see near the little couch? It is filled with toiletries for the guests, but behind them, it's just filled with box after box. The Shalkers owned this family cabin but rent it openly to people. There are probably many things to discover here." "Nina, that is a perfect idea. I never would have thought of that," Mollie and Betsy cried. "I wonder what we'll find!"

The next day they scurried into the closet. They pushed aside the shampoo bottles, soap, and toilet paper. Look at this Nina carefully and tenderly pulled out an old box labeled special box Mollie and Betsy peered from behind."Oh my"the girls exclaimed!These must be a "Janes specialist belongings"we should be very careful with These said Betsy as she pulled out a beautiful china doll her hair was a lite gold brown and her eyes where a twinkling green she had a pink silk and lace dress and a pocketbook tucked in her leather shoe."Wow," said the girls all at once. She is the prettiest doll I have ever seen.It was Nina's turn to take something out of Jane's collection of marvelous treasures. She reached in the box and pulled out a beautiful velvet box "Ohhh Nina, open it up," Molly and Betsy cried. "It's so beautiful. It's sure to be something absolutely special," said Mollie. "Yes" Nina agreed. She carefully opened the small case. Inside was the prettiest necklace they had ever seen. It was a gold heart with a bright pink jewel in the middle. "Oh my, that is so pretty," said Mollie. "That's the prettiest thing I've ever seen," exclaimed Betsy. Nina just sat there, stunned.

With trembling fingers Nina carefully pushed open the locket. To the girls' amazement, Nina had vanished. "Oh my!" Said Mollie and Betsy. They knew what they had to do. They grabbed their backpacks and clutched the locket which had slipped from her hands to the floor. They looked around and they saw Nina and the girls hugged each other tightly. "I wonder where we are," said Nina as the girls looked up. They were in a busy little town where there was a bakery, grocery store and a supply store. The girls pushed through the crowd until they came to a little wood. As they ventured deeper into the wood Nina whispered "do you think there are any bears here?" "I don't know," Mollie said, "there could be anything in this wood." "Look," said Betsy, "There's a glade by the stream and an old dining car!" The girls rushed to the dining car. Betsy continued, "with a little paint and some polishing this would be a good home."

At that very minute the girls forgot about home, in a daze of imagination for the little car. The girls removed the drinking tube from Betsy's hydro backpack and connected it to a spring. They cleaned out an old sink in the one room dining car and put the tube in the sink. The girls smiled at each other as they each had a new idea for their own little home.

Later that day the girls explored the town. They put blankets on the bunks they had fixed up in the dining car. They made a fire with a lighter and sticks and went for an icy swim in the creek. They had hot dogs for dinner and sewed before dark. When the stars came out, the girls lit up the room with lanterns and buried in blankets, and topped the night off with an exciting story from Nina.

The next morning, Betsy and Mollie made a fire and put a pan over it which they had got at the grocery. When the water boiled Nina dumped in oatmeal. "Hey, I have an idea," said Nina, "let's go pick berries for our oatmeal." So they set off. The girls hiked about a mile and soon found delicious berries. The girls laughed while they picked the berries. "You know," said Nina, "it seems we forgot about home and how to get back in all the fun we had yesterday." Nina looked behind her. "A bear! Run!" shrieked Nina. "Nina, your locket!" shouted Mollie. Nina opened it. In a moment, they were all back in the closet in the cabin. The adventure was over, but the girls held a memory that would never fade away.

Nina Kirby, Fifth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mrs. Melissa Wilson

The Cracket

By Olivia Dockery

Samantha was going on a camping trip with her Girl Scout troop. Her best friend, Kathryn, was going along with her. They had planned for weeks.

Finally, the day came. They loaded up on the camp bus, and sang camp songs with the rest of the troop. Miss Lenn, their counselor, would not tell them which campground they would set up in. But no matter what, they were excited.

“I can’t wait to tell scary stories by the campfire!” Kathryn said.

“I don’t know if that’s smart. I get scared really easily,” said Cici, a girl sitting behind them.

“Don’t worry, Cici. There’s nothing to be afraid of,” Samantha told her.

“Okay... maybe you’re right. But I do get homesick pretty easily,” Cici stated, clutching her back pack.

“We’ll have so much fun, you’ll forget all about it!” Kathryn reassured her. Cici’s face loosened up.

Samantha and Kathryn continued to talk about their plans for the trip. Finally the bus stopped, and Miss Lenn stood up. “Okay, girls! We’re here.” A wave of excitement blew through the bus. “Settle down, settle down! I think you’ve waited long enough. The place we will set up camp is... Cracker Forest!”

Suddenly, everyone stopped talking. They all looked at each other. “C-Cracker Forest?” Cici muttered.

At their school, Sofie Mazara told them all rumors about Cracker Forest. Sofie had said the name came from the Cracket, an evil monster that roamed the woods. Samantha suddenly felt like she didn’t want to go. But she reminded herself that Sofie exaggerated a lot and told rumors that she made up. But that didn’t stop all the girls at their school to gather around Sofie and gasp at every sentence. Cici was very nervous.

They trudged off the bus. It was mid-summer, but there wasn’t even a single green leaf or flower in Cracker Forest. The girls looked at every inch of the forest. They shivered at every snap of a branch. And they clinged on to their neighbor’s hand at every crunch of a leaf.

Miss Lenn led the troop. She found a small patch of dry grass in the middle of the forest. “Okay, guys! Let’s set up camp here.” Miss Lenn yelled.

As quiet as mice, they carefully set up their tents. The troop rolled out their sleeping bags. Miss Lenn got her own tent. Cici insisted she sleep in the middle of the troops’ tent. It was getting darker.

Miss Lenn started the fire. They had been in the woods for hours, but not one Cracket was seen. The girls were having more fun. They forgot about the Cracket. They sang songs by the campfire and roasted hotdogs. Even nervous Cici was happy.

Soon it was night fall, and they all cuddled in their sleeping bags. Samantha couldn't wait to see the expression on Sofie's face when she heard that the Cracket wasn't real. She couldn't wait for Sofie to get proven wrong. There was absolutely nothing to be afraid of.

But not thirty minutes into her sleep, Samantha heard an ear-piercing roar. She wasn't the only one. Every girl sprung up.

"What the heck was that?!" Kathryn asked.

"T-the Cracket!" Cici said, bursting into tears.

"No! Impossible!" Samantha said, doubting herself. Maybe Sofie was ri-

Just then, another roar scared them.

"What are we going to do?" asked Marcy, another girl from the troop.

Just to make sure this was real, Samantha hesitantly stuck the lantern by the side of the tent. The shadow of a large figure with spikes two feet long on its back, and a head that looked like a deer skull. Samantha clapped her hand on her mouth and teared up. It... it was happening to her. Sofie was right. Where was Miss Lenn? Would the Cracket hurt them? Would they have to wait for morning?

Suddenly, Samantha felt the urge to go out of the tent to look for Miss Lenn. She opened the tent flap.

"Samantha! What are you doing?!" Kathryn whispered, clinging on to Cici. "Something brave, I guess," Samantha said.

For some reason, she wasn't scared. She was brave, confident, and a leader. She bolted inside Miss Lenn's tent. But Miss Lenn was not there. Samantha stood there, slacked jawed. The beast has taken Miss Lenn! She thought. She stood up straight, and walked outside the tent just as the Cracket let out another screech.

"Hey!" Samantha yelled banging a stick on the ground. The Cracket looked over. "Boo! Roar! Get outta here!" Samantha said, lifting her jacket above her head. Her dad taught her that if she ever saw a bear, to do this. The Cracket was close enough, right?

The Cracket's big paw went up to his face. And then, pulled his face off! But, even more shocking... "MISS LENN?!" Samantha yelled.

"You guessed it!" Said Miss Lenn, standing up and brushing dirt off.

"Y-you're the Cracket?" Samantha asked.

Miss Lenn laughed. “No! Truth is, there never was a Cracket!”

The troop was peering out of the tent, giggling over the costume Miss Lenn was wearing.

“Then.... why?” Samantha asked.

“I couldn’t figure out how to get a complicated situation for you guys. I could not figure out how to get you the bravery badge. When I heard about the Cracket legend, I knew just what to do! You showed bravery I can’t even imagine. You win the bravery badge!” Miss Lenn explained.

Samantha beamed. All the girls came out of the tent to congratulate Samantha. Miss Lenn was still holding the Cracket costume-head.

“But... how did you make that scary roar?” Cici asked.

Miss Lenn held up a small silver box with a red button. She clicked the button. “R-R-ROARRRR!!” The box sounded. The girls jumped back and laughed.

The next morning, Kathryn whispered something in Samantha’s ear. “Remind me not to go on anymore camping trips with Miss Lenn.”

Olivia Dockery, Fifth Grade

Nolan Elementary

Mrs. Roden/Kennedy

The Phantom Friend

This is a story about a ten year old girl named Lily Elizabeth. Lily was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and moved to Ooltewah, Tennessee. She has long, brown hair and she usually wears dresses with t-shirt tops. And although Lily is very kind, she has very little friends. So her only friends Alex-a boy, and Emma her best friend invite her to go camping in Emma's backyard forest with them. The sound of a warm, crackling fire during the winter sounded like a plan to Lily! Good thing her mother allowed Lily to go camping.

In the afternoon at five o' clock p.m, Lily's mom drove her to Emma's house in their blue van. When Lily arrived, Lily and her two friends played on Emma's trampoline till seven o' clock. After that, they were exhausted. So Emma's dad made a nice warm fire in the fireplace, and put the lid on with the metal stick. At eight o' clock p.m, they made s'mores at the fire. Alex laid down his s'more on his plate- which was on a log, for just one second. After he got back from getting a drink, his s'more looked like it was getting taken by a shadow like dragon hand with three claws. Alex was terrified! He told Emma and Lily, they thought it was a joke, of course. But when Lily was about to take a bite of her s'more, a small purple void that looks like a portal opens up, and a shadow like arm pops out! Instead of the arm grabbing the s'more Lily was holding, the arm grabs Lily and the s'more....unlucky if you ask me. Lily gets pulled into the portal, and ends up in a different realm. What's going on?! Where am I? Oh my gosh is that a... PHANTOM?! Lily thought to herself. She was quite confused to see a small phantom munching on her s'more she made. But was a bit afraid as well, but the phantom shouted in fear right when he saw the little girl- Lily! Lily looked at the phantom, which was a bit shorter than her. As Lily was looking side to side for the phantom, not taking a step, she noticed that it hid behind a purple leafed tree. The phantom explained to Lily that he had never seen a human before. So, they both knew they were afraid of each other. It was quite comforting to know that phantoms were afraid of humans. But as soon as she thought of that, Lily's arm slowly started to become shadow-like. Almost like she was slowly turning into a phantom. Lily started to panic. The phantom explained that if she fully turned into a phantom, she would be trapped in the Phantom Realm forever. The phantom also explained how there are different personalities of Phantoms, so he said to not make contact with the negative phantoms. Suddenly, the phantom said that he could help her get out of his realm, into hers. Lily was confused. Lily said how the phantom could just make a portal for her, and she could just jump in back to her realm. But the phantom said that she would still be transforming into a phantom, even if she was in her realm. So, Lily understood a bit more. The phantom also explained how there are different personalities of Phantoms, so he said to not make contact with the negative phantoms. Little did Lily know, the Phantom that was helping her didn't have a special personality. Phantoms get their special personality and trait by doing something continuously, or special. First, they had to collect special ingredients to make a "human" potion for Lily to drink from preventing her from becoming a Phantom. Both of them had to go through Phantom Forest and all of the tangled vines to get an ingredient called a "Shine Vine".

And the phantom cut one thick segment of Shine Vine, and put it in a small jar. Both of Lily's hands and arms were now like the phantom's. Lily knew that she was slowly but surely turning into a phantom. Next, they traveled to a different realm, and go into The Crystal Cave. They get a blue, shining crystal piece, and put it in another small jar. After they got out of the dark cave, covered in glowing crystals so they could see in the dark, Lily's legs looked like a shadowy void. Finally, the final ingredient was gathered by the phantom and Lily. To make the potion work only for Lily, they put in her favorite food. A French Fry from Chick-fil-a. And Lily put the French fry in the final small jar. The phantom made a portal to the The Phantom realm, and both of them quickly went into the portal. As soon as Lily and the phantom ran to the phantoms house, he mixed up the Shine Vine, the blue, shining crystal, and the French fry all in one glass bowl. And then, the potion was made! The phantom put the potion in a small cup, and Lily drank the potion. Lily was back to normal!

During their journey, they made a pretty good friendship.. and all of a sudden, the phantom was now Lily's friend! The phantom also turned into...the Friendly Phantom.

He now had the most special personality- special to him because the phantom knew he would miss her. Lily said to the phantom that he was her Phantom Friend, and even if she couldn't see him all the time, Lily could see him in her heart. Lily gets into the portal to her realm, and finds her friends. Her friends said it was apparently the next day, and they were also freaking out on where Lily was. Lily told them the whole story to them. But most importantly, she included that she made a new friend. Someone not like her, but different. When Lily's mom drove her home, she learned something new. Always make good friends, everyone is different. No one is the same as you. Not everybody had brown hair. And not everybody has little, or a lot of friends. It is good to have people care for you, and have fun with you.

Mia Tran, Fifth Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Miss Bailee McDonald

Deep Dive

When I was six years old during camp, the counselors brought the other campers and me inside of a huge building. They then brought us to a huge indoor pool. It was 6ft on one end and 15ft on the other.

I took a seat on the side of the pool, dangling my legs in the cool water. I thought to myself, that looks a lot deeper than 15ft. How long would I have to hold my breath to get to the bottom?

Then, happily splashing, over swam my friend Nick. "I dare you to touch the bottom." said Nick.

"Well, I dare you to!" I replied.

"Well, I dared you first!" Nick exclaimed.

I thought to myself, I had promised myself never to do a dare again, but I would be teased if I didn't do it.

"Fine." I said.

I slowly edged my body into the pool. It was freezing! I decided not to touch the bottom after that.

The next day my friend dropped a \$1 coin at the 15ft mark. "If you can get it you can keep it!" he explained.

I thought back to the last time I was at the concession stand. I thought about all the snacks it had: Gatorade, Powerade, chips, Cheerios, chocolate, Airheads.

"How much for an airhead?" I had asked.

"A dollar." said the concession stand worker.

I had looked into my pocket. Two cents is all I had. If only I had a dollar, I thought. I immediately dove into the pool. As I swam down, I looked up. The surface seemed 100 miles away. I reached the bottom, cold, terrified, and frightened. I looked for the coin, but I could not find it! I pushed back to the surface with little air left.

Once I had made it to the top and had gotten a huge gulp of air, I dove back down again. This time I saw the coin and grabbed it. I held on to it tightly as I swam for the surface. But, when I was about a foot away from the top, I dropped it. I dove down to grab it before it went too far. I swam back up again with the coin and broke through the surface with it. I nearly passed out from exhaustion. There my friend stood open mouthed, too stunned to speak.

“How did you do that?!” he said.

Instead of telling him, I walked away, knowing I would never do that again.

Stone Caputo, Fifth Grade

The Bright School

Ann O’Brien

Kindergarten Poetry



2021 Winners

Playing

One day I was playing on the little playground.

Then I went on the swing.

Last I climbed to the top of the tower.

I slipped and grabbed onto it.

Then I climbed back up.

Dylan Martin, Kindergarten

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Tracy Schuster

First Grade Poetry



2021 Winners

Venus

Solid and hot

Spinning, shining, turning

Second from the Sun.

Our pretty neighbor

Alaina Reynolds, 1st Grade

Thrasher Elementary

Michelle Bailey

“What the Sun Sees”

It is morning.

The sun is round and low.

The sun sees waking up children.

The noon sun is shining and glowing yellow.

The sun sees children eating lunch.

It's sunset.

Bright orange sun is setting.

Children eating dinner talk about their day.

Another busy day ends.

Blake McCarthy, 1st Grade

Thrasher Elementary

Andria Hicks

“Snow is Fun”

White fluffy

Snow piled up

People Throwing Snowballs

Hard Ice

Pears and Pineapples smell

Happy

Digging like a gofer

The snow melted, then more came down

More snow falling

A snowflake

Hayes Young, 1st Grade

Thrasher Elementary

Emily Wheeler

Moon

Bumpy, gray, and high

It waxes and wanes

Large and sometimes small,

Far away in space,

The moon.

Lleyton Branam, 1st Grade

Thrasher Elementary

Michelle Bailey

“The Snowy Dinosaur”

White Snow

The crunching of all the snow

The frost cold

The Snowflakes

Warm inside

A snowball fight

Eating pancakes

Flying dinosaurs in the snow

I am an army guy

Mills Whatley, 1st Grade

Thrasher Elementary

Emily Wheeler

“What the Sun Sees”

It is the dim early morning.

The dim fiery sun is half way over the horizon.

The sun sees a colorful bird singing.

It is the hot noon.

The bright and yellow sun is high in the sky.

The sun sees kids playing outside.

It is the dim colorful sunset.

The dim and red sun is low in the sky.

The sun sees people eating dinner.

The sun sets and night begins.

Vivian Wyatt, 1st Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Andria Hicks

Second Grade Poetry



2021 Winners

Frost

Frozen water vapor

Resting on everything

Out of the clouds

Sparkling in the sunlight

Tiny ice crystals.

Barret West, 2nd grade

Nolan Elementary School

Grace Cleary

“Blue”

Blue Ocean

Noisy like birds

Sounds like waves crashing onto land

Water splashing in the air like fish

Dolphins jumping like tigers

Sharks sticking their fins up like hair

Crabs scratching people like nails

The sun shining on them like lights

Clouds puffing up like blowfish

Sunshine coming near like the northern lights

Sand blowing away like paper

Trees swirling around like ballerinas

Birds flying so high like kites

Shells sharp like sticks

Water swirling around like the wind

Sand going in your eyes like tears

Fish jumping up and down like waves

The sunset is like colors popping up everywhere

Wales jumping like fish

Bugs flying over the sea like dolphins

Coral swishing all over like fish

Ellie Moughrabi, 2nd Grade

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Bell

Snow

Soft light

No noise

On the ground

White and wet

Jack Ford, 2nd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Grace Cleary

“Flurry”

Falling from the sky.

Landing on the ground.

Under the snow, the creek is frozen.

Running to catch snowflakes.

Ready to make a snowball.

Yay, I love snow!

Owen Laskowski, 2nd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Kristin Sharp

Frosty

F eeling cold

R oads slippery

O utside it's white

S now falls

T oday is a snow day

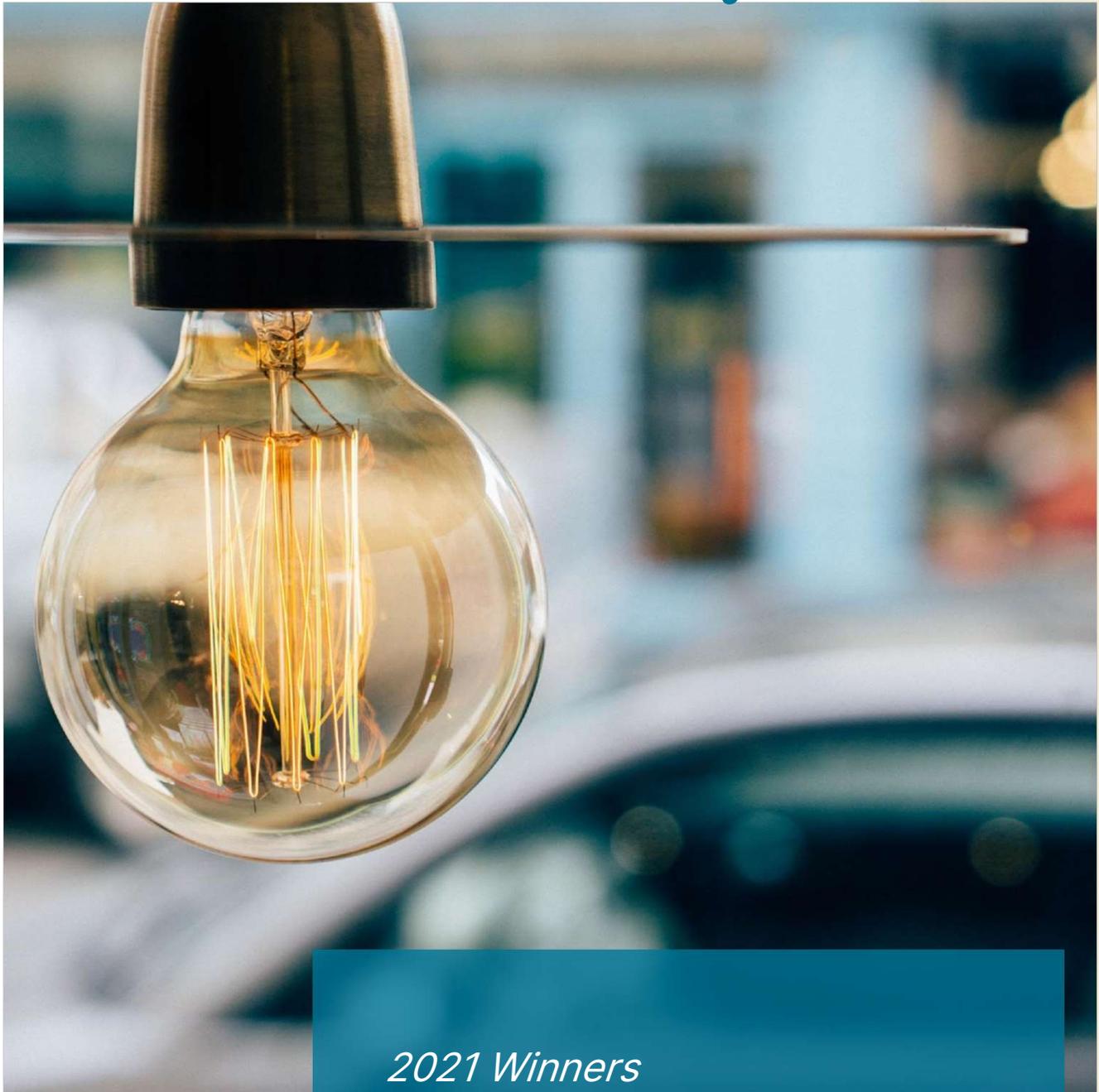
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Sully White, 2nd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Kimberly Lockery

Third Grade Poetry



2021 Winners

Third Grade

“Life”

Look at her lipstick.

It’s super realistic.

But, it’s not real.

Andrew Dotson, 3rd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Becky Leary

“Deer Hunting in the Stand”

Quietly waiting for the animal in my stand

Headache from being dehydrated

Saving water for the end

A deer pops

on the edge of the woods.

I was so alarmed,

I almost fainted.

I raised my gun,

I loaded my rifle.

I pulled the hammer back carefully,

to make sure not to pull the trigger.

I got so excited,

I forgot to put my ear plugs in.

Third Grade

The shot went off,
It hit in the spine.

My ears were ringing,
My fingers were numb.

We quickly ran to the deer,
flailing
Grandpa took care of the rest.

We drove off as the sun was rising.

Archer West, 3rd Grade

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Copeland

“Annoyed”

Your Little Brother

Following you around, nonstop!

People asking you questions

Over and over and over.

People throwing around your

STUFF.

Your mind over loaded,

Too much pressure so many questions

One there and one there

You can't take it.

As annoying as sitting and doing nothing,

Or like a pebble in your shoe,

Or like gum in your hair.

Like mosquitoes swarming around

And ready to bite

Or like climbing your favorite tree

And Getting a splinter.

Bo Valentine, 3rd Grade

The Bright School

Scarlet Hardy

“Green”

Grass is green.

Christmas all around.

Limes in my lemonade.

Greens on my plate.

Green jello in my mouth.

Money in the bank.

St. Patrick’s Day fun.

My mom’s green eyes.

Eli Paxton, 3rd Grade

Hilger Higher Learning

Shelley George

“Excluded”

Excluded is when someone
doesn't include you in something.
Like a volcano about to erupt in you.
Hiding in your tears.
Your best friend
doesn't want to be friends.
Where a storm comes
and takes you away.

Excluded is terrible
in many, many ways.
It makes you feel the way
when your granddad passed away.

It's terrible.

It's terrible.

Harper Barto, 3rd Grade

The Bright School

Cindy Womack

“Pyramid Pyramid”

Big and tall

In a desert

In Egypt.

Another pyramid

Is called the Giza.

Also known as the Khufu

In the city of Giza,

West of the Nile River.

Grey, white, and brown

and about

13 kilometers

Southwest of the

City of Cairo.

Kalob Millwood, 3rd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Becky Leary

Sniffing Guinea Pig

The guinea pig sniffs what he wants to eat

The guinea pig sniffs what he want to drink

The guinea pig goes into his hide-y-home to play with his ball

Kyle Adams, 3rd Grade

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Angie Miller

Why can't I like a bird fly?

Why can't I like a fish swim?

In the sky or in the sea, oh why are there no fins or wings on me?

Oh why? Oh why? Oh why?

Why can't I like a Cheetah run?

Why can't I like a monkey climb?

On the track or in the trees, oh why are there no tails or fast legs on me?

Oh why? Oh why? Oh why?

Even without these things I'm special because I'm me, plus I have a mouth
that sings!

So all of the animals must be thinking, Oh why? Oh why? Oh why?

Lucy Hallman, 3rd Grade

Thrasher Elementary School

Michelle Mann

“Surprised”

Getting a new puppy.

When it's your birthday and people get you

What you never imagined.

When you get a new phone.

When you go to a restaurant that you love.

When you get a new video game,

And maybe there's a new friend in the

Neighborhood to play with.

Getting to hold a baby

For the first time.

Getting an A+ on a hard math test.

When your friend gets a friendship necklace

For both you and her.

Nayana Vardhana, 3rd Grade

The Bright School

Maggie McGuire

“Poison Dart Frog”

A poison dart frog had no spots.
It lived in a bog,
With lots of logs,
He got a snake bite,
And he had no sight,
And this was all at night,
What would he do when he had no sight?
The bite gave poison dots,
That turned into spots,
He got his sight back,
The next night.

Patrick McGehee, 3rd Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Becky Leary

“Traps for Santa”

It was Christmas day, my family went away;

They set traps for the little dirty rats;

When Santa came, he got the blame-

Of the traps for the little dirty rats.

Samuel Pillai, 3rd Grade

Thrasher Elementary School

Alden Hawkins

Fourth Grade Poetry



2021 Winners

“BOSNIA!”

Bosnia has good food nows

That's a GREAT deal!

There loads of dogs now that

Rhymes with god so

Mosks in downtown that will

Turn my frown upside down

So many old houses built in

The ground

That's what I call HOME

Alisa Beganovic, 4th Grade

Bess T. Shepherd Elementary

Kristi Sahn

“Penguin Haiku”

Museum penguin

Shiny, black and white with tails--

Fat old man in tux.

Amelia King, 4th Grade

Homeschool

Natalie King

“Twas the Year 2020”

Twas the year 2020 where anything can go wrong
Not a human was peeking when corona came along
With everyone dreaming of vaccines in their heads
Prayin’ for a cure in the hospital beds

Oh no its voracious viruses comin’ down by the plenty
Cause in the sleigh was satan in the form of 2020
On Murder Hornets, On forest fires, on COVID-19!
On the election, On homeschool, And the long quarantine!

“Oh help me, Oh help me I can’t smell I can’t taste!”

“Oh who will help me in this horrible haste!”

Well look around you the heroes are in your community
With all of their help we could build our immunity.
They’re the hospital staff, doctors, and nurses.
Like super heroes fighting these horrible curses.

And with the monster, 2020 all done

We can thank the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff for a good 2021

Callen Huang, 4th Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Roden

Fourth Grade

He is blue
blue is the sea
in which things swim
that will surprise you,
he is very old in his depth
it houses darkness,
mystery
also beauty,
he occupies most of the world
perhaps, in him
yellow and blue are reflected.

Evelyn Cazares, 4th Grade

Bess T. Shepherd Elementary

Kristi Sahm

"Ghosts"

floating flying swaying
moving right through the walls
like a silent shadow
groaning, moaning and oohing
scary, spooky
floating flying swaying
(but they're not real)

ghosts

Hank Mansell, 4th Grade

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Jennifer von Klar

“What Happens at Twilight”

Birds calmly fly,

Just like a lullaby.

Short but stout singing

Silently, swiftly moving in the twilight.

Moving merrily moose

Trot on the trail.

That sure is the highlight

Of what happens at twilight.

Of course other things happen:

The owls hoot-hoot

And a little chat-chat

And the flapping of wings

On a little little bat.

Ian Davidson, 4th Grade

Hilger Higher Learning

Shelley George

“Donuts, Donuts, Donuts”

Big donuts,

Sticky donuts,

Cinnamon and Apple donuts

Squishy, red Jelly donuts- those are just a few!

Cake donuts,

Frosted donuts,

Tiny, round Munchkin donuts

Crunchy, brown Oreo donuts

Glazed donuts too.

Marble donuts,

Custard donuts,

Don't forget Dunkin donuts!

Last of all, best of all,

I like strawberry donuts!

Keaton Coverly, 4th Grade

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Jennifer von Klar

To be found
By one lucky person
The sand dunes stay strong
For future hurricanes
Palm trees give shade
And sharks scare people off
Shovels dig in the sand
Sand castles form
Umbrellas fly away
Seaweed wraps around your ankles
And frightens you
The salty air feels good on your skin
The sun goes down
And the moon takes its place
And the waves
Break down
As the sea comes calmer
And the people scatter away
In the moonlight.

Lila Taslimi, 4th Grade

The Bright School

Amanda Dickson

DIFFERENT

I don't understand, whats wrong with me

Why do people stare at me?

I'm so scared, I'm so alone

What is this feeling? Anxiety groans

Why is my

Life so dark and blank?

Why does everybody look the same?

I feel dead, is it all in my head?

Mamma tells me, "i'm not alone"

But i tremble, in my lone

I lock myself, in my room

To drown myself, in my gloom

I yell for my life, I'm sure it's clear.

I am different

But have no fear!

I'm not scared

I'm not alone

I might get bullied, but i don't care

Im strong

I can fight

Fourth Grade

I believe in myself
They don't understand what's wrong with my health...
Im bullied, and hurt, inside and out
At Least i have family,
Who know me well
They understand my problems
My pain
My life
I might be different..but i don't really care
My life is different
And I love it that way.

Phoenix Beasley, 4th Grade

The Bright School

Amanda Dickson

I feeled in the bag it feeled fluffy soft and had a cold nose.

Each breath had warm soft air that hit my cold hands

while I was standing in the snow I left it up the fluffy

Ball. It stretched and yawned. Its claws were long.

The fur was golden and the fluff ball jump in the snow

And it shivered with cold.

Waylyn Pullen, 4th Grade

The Bright School

Amanda Dickson

Fourth Grade

“Penguins”

As I hear

That Waddle

I feel happy

‘Cause I’m

Talking about

Penguins

Tonight

I feel that

Cold air on my face

But I’m warm

‘Cause I’m talking

About Penguins

I might be alone

But I am

Together because I am

Talking about

penguins

William Arnold, 4th Grade

The Bright School

Amanda Dickson

Fifth Grade Poetry



2021 Winners

“The Great Depression”

The great depression was a time of sadness and probation

Hundreds of people thought this was madness

No alcohol this is craziness they shouted

This was a time of sadness

Thousands were unemployed and the stock market crashed

Prices went high and wages died low

Food was so much and money so low

This was a time of sadness

Illegally selling alcohol was most of some people's incomes

Most had an automobile but not enough money to buy gas

Which means that they had to walk to work as slow as a sloth

This was a time of sadness

Lots of new inventions were made but with no money no one could buy them

Inventors went broke and had to trade there products for food

Millions starved to death and many were fired

This was a time of sadness

Alex Roberts, 5th Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Roden

Fifth Grade

“Spirit”

The hunt

the trek

the search is on

to find the one

who bugles on

tail of beaver

wing of grouse

scale of trout

sweat of man

coat of the mountain king

solid hollow

snowy mountain

frozen lake

hemlock wood

soothing current

Joyful Spirit

My Home

Benjamin Sapp, 5th Grade

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Jennifer von Klar

“Wind Is There”

Wind is there, it's there, don't you see
Oh, never mind it disappeared from me
It's there again going a fine pace
Probably planning to blow in my face
Wind is there, it's always there
For it tickles my toes
And combs my hair
Wind is the one who pulls up the waves
Wind is the one who whispers in caves
Wind is always there close to me and you
For I hear it and feel it passing through
Wind like a friend
lifts me up when I fall
There till the end
Sometimes I don't notice at all

Elouise Cloutier, 5th Grade

Hilger Higher Learning

Shelley George

Fifth Grade

The grass is green, the sky is blue
The hills are beautiful, the village too
I look up at the night so wide, and think of those that have died
I realize I must die too, but until then, I'm here with you.

Grayson Rock, 5th Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Heather Murphy

“Waterfalls”

Most tiptoe across the riverbed,
leaping gracefully over the cliffs.

Some skip across the rocks and sing.

Others pound each other, making a loud ring.

Another one just flows, going where the others go.

But my favorite of all is the one that makes the new streams, exploring the beautiful
woods, following its own dreams.

Leni Himrod, 5th Grade

St. Peter's Episcopal School

Jennifer von Klar

“Fears”

I’m Carlos DeSandos Marian Floesco

And I am scared of

Only one thing.

Okay, maybe two,

Or three, or also four

And maybe many more.

Okay, here goes:

Bombs and planes

And cars and trains

And big, fat, old tics.

Lions and tigers and

Bears, oh my!

I’m also claustrophobic.

Rats, Sharpies,
Cats, and harpies
Yup, they all scare me.
Hams and spouses
Yams and mouses.
Eek, get away from thee!

Yes, I'm Carlos DeSandos Marian Floesco
And I am,
I finally admit,
A scaredy cat
And a big hit with the ladies

Meg Finger, 5th Grade
The Bright School
Ann O'Brien

“When I go a-walking”

When the sun dawns,

And I go a-walking,

I think of times

From long-long ago.

Times of wonder,

Times of strife,

Times I will never forget,

My whole life.

And when I think these happy thoughts,

I wonder about the world outside,

What is it like there?

How cold is it there?

And when I think about these thoughts,

I think of the things I miss in life,

Like my Family, my Friends,

And all of the things that meant so much to me.

And when I think about the things I miss,
I think of things I'm grateful for,
And that makes me think of times from long-long ago.

Times of wonder,
Times of strife,
Times I will never forget,
My whole life.

Naomi Antanaitis, 5th Grade

Homeschool

Juli Antanaitis

Funky feet, funky

Sweaty feet running

Hideous feet limping quietly, hideous

Baby feet stomping in puddles

Toeless feet lost in the war

Enormous feet leaping for the dunk

Crippled feet stubbing painfully

So many feet

Hideous

Funky

Foul

Quinn Davenport, 5th Grade

The Bright School

Ann O'Brien

“Fear”

Facing the truth

Loving someone, but you can't

A dark black closet of disappointment

Falling into a frenzy of questions

“Will they accept me?”

“What will happen if they don't?”

“Will they be disappointed?”

This is something I often ask myself

But why

I feel one way

“But will they think I'm crazy because of that?”

I love the way I love

And I am lost in my own thoughts

My own love

My own disappointment

Even though I love I also lose

Even though I rarely smile

I can fake my feelings till my heart breaks

And this always results in...

Fears

Sissy Oehmig, 5th Grade

The Bright School

Ann O'Brien

“The Box”

The Box may not look like a lot
but it can be many things.

The box could be an ox eating some crops ,
a fox swimming in the dark with a shark,

On a boat on the way to the docks,
you unlock a box to find socks,
Put on a play about an arctic fox.

But most importantly the box can be anything
The box is imagination.

Sophie Stroer, 5th Grade

Nolan Elementary School

Roden