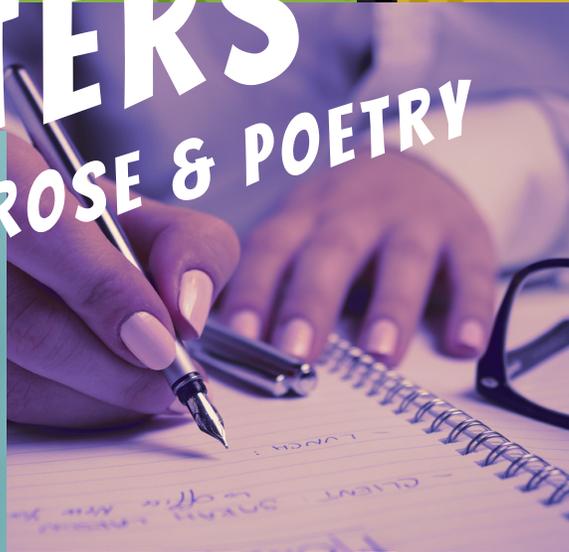
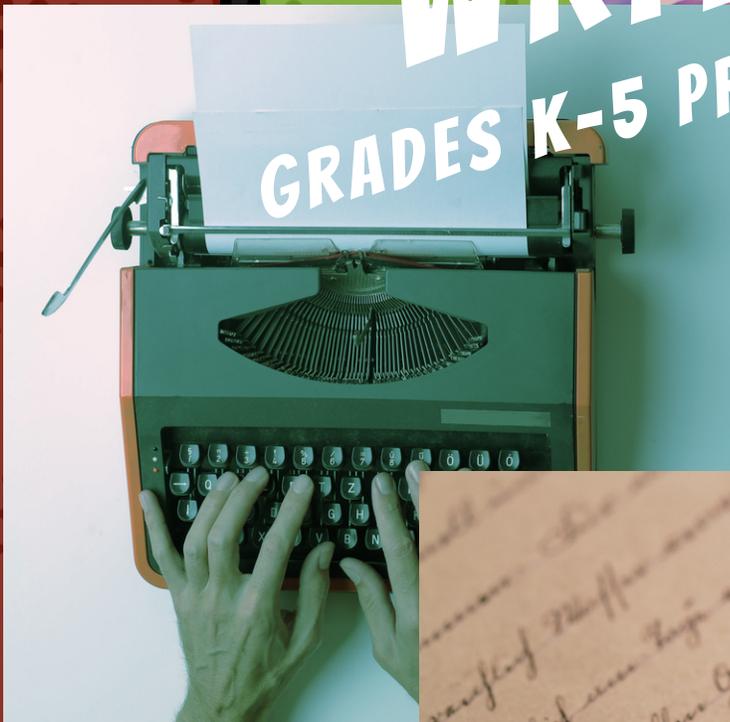


S P R I N G 2 0 2 4

YOUNG SOUTHERN STUDENT WRITERS

GRADES K-5 PROSE & POETRY



EDITED BY: LUIS A., UTC SENIOR

CREATED BY THE UTC ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH SOLIT

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INTRODUCTION

IT IS AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO BE PART OF THE SOLIT CONTEST. THIS ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CREATIVE WRITING IN HAMILTON COUNTY IS MY FAVORITE PART OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR. IT IS A JOY TO SEE SO MANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER, PROMOTING LITERACY AND THE CREATIVE ENERGY OF EMERGING WRITERS. THE SUBMISSIONS THAT FOLLOW DEMONSTRATE EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG WRITING WHILE ALSO PROVIDING GLIMPSES INTO THE WILD IMAGINATION OF YOUNG MINDS. THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S WRITERS AND THEIR TEACHERS. YOU'VE GIVEN US MUCH TO THINK ABOUT, ENJOY, AND APPRECIATE.

MANY THANKS TO CHELSEA RISLEY, SOLIT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHOSE GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF OUR AREA'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG WRITERS IS INTEGRAL TO THE CONTEST'S SUCCESS. THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SOLIT AND THE UTC ENGLISH DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVELY PROMOTES AND CELEBRATES THE REGION'S LITERARY ARTS. I LOOK FORWARD TO AN EXCITING FUTURE AS WE GROW THIS CONTEST AND ELEVATE EVEN MORE YOUNG WRITERS!

I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE REGION'S DEDICATED K-12 TEACHERS WHO WORK TIRELESSLY TO INSTILL THE VALUE OF LITERATURE AND CREATIVE WRITING IN YOUNG HEARTS AND MINDS. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THEIR EFFORTS AS THEY TEACH STUDENTS TO ENJOY THE ART AND CRAFT OF WRITING. WITHOUT ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE GRADE, AND HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHERS, WE WOULD NOT HAVE SUCH FINE WORK TO CELEBRATE.

AS WE ACKNOWLEDGE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE, LET'S ALSO THANK THE GROWNUPS IN



THEIR LIVES WHO INSTILLED A LOVE OF LITERACY BY LISTENING TO BREATHLESS ACCOUNTS OF ADVENTURES, MADE COUNTLESS TRIPS TO THE LIBRARY, OR READ A FAVORITE BEDTIME STORY "JUST ONE MORE TIME."

THANKS ARE ALSO DUE TO THIS YEAR'S CONTEST JUDGES. EACH SUBMISSION IS CAREFULLY 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.

THANK YOU TO LUIS ALEJANDRO, AN OUTSTANDING UTC UNDERGRADUATE ENGLISH MAJOR, WHO SERVED AS THIS YEAR'S MANAGING EDITOR. LUIS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO FACILITATE JUDGING, COMPILE WINNING SUBMISSIONS, AND CREATE THIS YEAR'S DIGITAL BOOKLET. HE HAS SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS MANAGING THE CONTEST AND HAS DONE SO WITH PATIENCE, GRACE, AND MATURITY. LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THANK YOU TO DR. JESSICA MCCARTHY, THE CONTEST'S FACULTY EDITOR, WHOSE WIZARDRY WITH EXCEL SPREADSHEETS KEPT THIS CONTEST ORGANIZED AND ON TRACK.

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**



KINDERGARTEN PROSE

Kindergarten Prose - Untitled

If I were a snowman, I would make a snow angel. I would make another snowman. I would also throw a snowball.

Paris Powell
Grace Baptist Academy



KINDERGARTEN POETRY

One Frozen Flake

Snowflakes

Boots in the snow

Nothing

Snow

Nothing

Ketner Jayne

Thrasher Elementary School

A Snowball Fight

Snowflakes

The wind

Snow

The coldness

Icicles

Fletcher Yost

Thrasher Elementary School

Too Cold

Snow

My footsteps cracking on snow

Snow

Snow

Snow

Adler Manning

Thrasher Elementary School

Fun and Cold

Snow on the ground

Snow falling and trees blowing

Nothing

Snow falling on me

Snow

Elliott Grizzle

Thrasher Elementary School

Winter

Snowy Owls

Snowy Fox

White Owls

Cold

Milk

Evander Wilson

Thrasher Elementary School

Winter

Snow

Playing

Peppermint

Snow

Hot Cocoa

James White

Thrasher Elementary School

It's Special

beautiful snow and nature

nature

nature

air

my mouth

Scarlett Miceli

Thrasher Elementary School

It's Liquid

snowflakes

snowy owls

nothing

cold

snow

Emily McKenna

Thrasher Elementary School

Winter

I see a snowman.

I hear football on TV.

I smell mac and cheese.

I feel tired.

I taste soup.

It's Winter.

Levi Ward

Thrasher Elementary School

Winter

I see a snowfort.
I hear crunching.
I smell hot cocoa.
I feel slippers.
I taste hot cocoa.
It's Winter.

Margaret Smith
Thrasher Elementary School



FIRST GRADE PROSE

To Touch A Cloud

One day I was walking in my woods when...

I heard a sound that was like this uaarrmmmm!! And then 30 seconds later I heard a sound go like this boom!!! It sounded like it came from the North. I saw smoke in the sky and it looked like whatever it was had landed in our tree house. I ran to the tree house and found Luke from Starwars. I said: hello and then he said I need parts to my X-Wing. I said I want to touch a cloud.

So if I give you parts will you lift me up and touch a cloud in your X-Wing? and then he said yes.

So I found parts that had fallen off of his X-Wing. I went to our garage and got tools to fix it. Luke said thank you now I can lift you up to a cloud. So I touched a cloud.

Jasper Adcox

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School



FIRST GRADE POETRY

The Important Thing About Moms

The important thing about moms is they love you.

Moms take care of us.

Moms read books to you.

Moms help clean clothes.

But the most important thing about moms is they love you.

Student's Name: Ari Kelleher

School: St. Nicholas School

The Important Thing About Bobcats

The important thing about bobcats is they are kind.

Bobcats are big.

Bobcats are fuzzy.

Bobcats are cute.

But the most important thing about bobcats is they are kind.

Student's Name: Declan Rhodes

School: St. Nicholas School

Annie - My Dog

Annie is my Golden Doodle Dog
She is part poodle and sleeps like a log

She likes to fetch and likes to catch balls
Even though she falls!

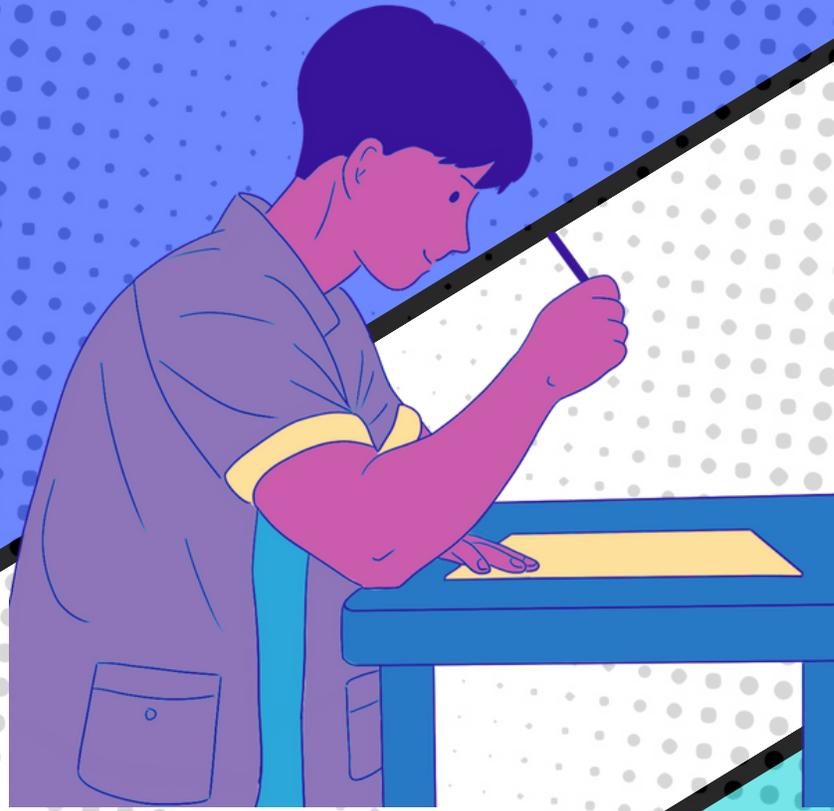
She is a very fun dog
And it's funny that she sleeps like a log!

She is very fun to play with but she does bite
And her teeth are very white.

Annie is a crazy, crazy puppy
She is very sloppy when it comes to eating suppy.

Annie is my favorite dog I've ever had.
She makes me feel so glad.

Amelia Smalley
Thrasher Elementary School



SECOND GRADE PROSE

Knoxosaurus

Once upon a time, there was a person named Knoxen. He loved space so much that he saved up to fly there. He got a rocket and flew to space. BUT when he got there, his rocket blew up! There was another problem. He turned into a dinosaur.

All of the creatures in space called him Knoxosaurus. Knoxen told them, "I need to get home!" They helped him build a rocket for his trip back to earth. Knoxen decided to stay a while longer, though. He enjoyed getting to know the space creatures.

Knoxen boarded his new rocket and headed home. This one blew up, too, and Knoxen was so close to home! He fell and died. Emergency technicians were close, ran to Knoxen, and brought him back to life! A second great thing that happened was Knoxen was a person again.

After all of that excitement, he ran home and went to bed. That was exhausting.

Knoxen Arocha
Soddy Elementary School

My Family

One day, a baby fox was walking around and said, “Mom, can I go play?” She said, “Yes.” So the baby fox went far and started to play. When she was finished playing, she noticed she was lost because she did not know her way back. The baby fox cried, “Mom, are you there, hello, anyone?” She did not hear anything, so she just kept looking for her mom.

(Four years later) The fox, not a baby anymore, met another fox. She said, “My name is Emma. What’s yours?” He said, “John.” “I am lost and looking for my mom. Will you help me?” John said he would. They looked on a farm and found her dead. Emma screamed, “NOOO! MOM!”

John told Emma it would be okay. Will you... you...marry me? That way you will never be alone again. Emma happily said, “YES, YES!”

Malaya Lowrance
Soddy Elementary School

A Haunted Book

Once upon a time... there was a haunted book. A little boy owned it. At night the book got up to haunt the night, but the little boy didn't notice. One day the book and his evil friends spied on the little boy. At their hideout, the sewer, they talked about their plan. Then one day they were ready. They tried, but the little boy knew all along that the book and his friends were haunted. So the book and his friends, and the boy went to the book's hideout, the sewer. They needed to make a plan to be kind to each other, and be friends. So they went to a bubble, when they came out again they were friends. Presto! They went into the magic bubble. The bubble took a picture of them and realized what was their problem and fixed it. Presto! Just like that! And the next day they were BFFs forever. The End (and the beginning...)

Student's Name: Veera Ghodasra

School: St. Nicholas School

Chapter 1

On planet P.C. 9,190 the aliens were getting ready for the big blast off! In space the aliens stumbled upon a new planet and decided to land. They saw some distant mountains but they landed on the bone white plains! They began walking towards the mountain, or were the mountains walking towards them? Meanwhile... the aliens decided to name the planet 1,319. They began to set up camp. The aliens began to start sizing up the wood for the expandable tents. They felt an earthquake. They looked up and saw giant distant aliens coming! They took the canons (well... they didn't exactly look like canons) they looked more like guns with an axle. They started firing at the giant aliens and the giant aliens roared "STOP!!!"

Chapter 2: The Great Fight

The giant aliens tool out giant knives the size of glaciers! The giant aliens threw the knives like spears. The Aliens scrambled for the spaceship, but one of the knives blocked them from the spaceship. They were concerned. Meanwhile... back on the planet 9,190 the aliens were getting worried.

To be continued...

Student's Name: Rivers McCallie

School: St. Nicholas School

The Golden Grapes

Once upon a time there was a girl named Alexandra. She saw her friends Leah, Luna and Vivian sitting on the grass looking sad. Alexandra asked what was wrong? Leah replied, “My Sister is sick.”

Luna replied, “My brother broke his arm.”

Vivian replied, “My Dad hurt his knee.”

Alexandra said, “I know what to do.” She decided to treat them like royalty. She brought her friends to a fancy restaurant. Alexandra brought fancy meals for her friend. They felt better, but they still felt a little sad. After dinner, they all went to Alexandra’s house and they played “Queens” in the backyard.

While they were playing, Leah said, “I’m still a little sad about my sister.”

Vivian and Luna said, “I’m still sad about my dad and brother.”

Then a Fairy Godmother appeared and said, “Don’t be sad my children, for I have good news.” In the palace, far away, there is a garden. In that garden there is a grapevine. On that grapevine are gold grapes. Bring me 5 golden grapes, and I will be able to make a potion that can heal your families.

Vivian said, “I’m hoping you don’t want it very fast because we won’t be able to get over those mountains and back in one day.

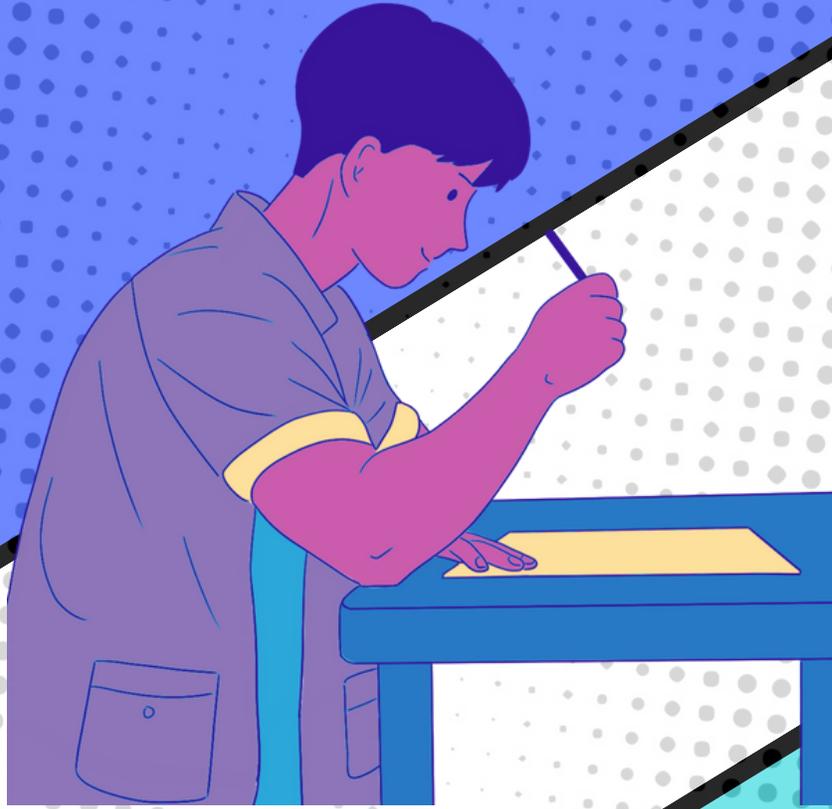
The Fairy Godmother said, “You won’t have to walk the whole way. I will make a flying unicorn to help you.” In a swish of her wand, in a flash of light a unicorn appeared with a horn so bright. The Fairy Godmother said, “Now get on this wonderful creator and fly away for the palace.”

They got to the garden and the girls looked for the key. Luna looked over the fence, but could not find the key. Alexandra looked around a tree. Leah looked by the rosebed and found the key. Leah opened the gate and they all went in. In the middle of the garden they found the grape vine with the golden grapes. They plucked 5 grapes and got back on the unicorn and flew to the Fairy Godmother.

When they arrived back they gave the grapes to the Fairy Godmother. She took out her magical wand and made a potion. Then she gave a cup of potion to Vivian, Leah, and Luna. Leah gave it to her sister. Luna gave it to her brother. Vivian gave it to her dad. They all felt better right away and they all lived happily ever after.

Elaina Woodall

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School



SECOND GRADE POETRY

Charizard

Fire winged dragon,
Fast, can fly, breathe fire.
Cool, powerful.
Fire dragon.

Henry Taylor

Thrasher Elementary School

French Fries

Salty, crunchy.

Satisfying, filling, warming.

Good with burgers,

Fried potatoes.

Sophie Garrison

Thrasher Elementary School

Ocean

Calming and peaceful and wet

Splashing and swishing splash

Clear and pretty

Sea

Jane McCarthy

Thrasher Elementary School

New Year

Nice memories

Everyone does a countdown

We play games

Year

Everyone has fun

Amazing year

Recall

Camilla Mora

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School



THIRD GRADE PROSE

All About Hernando De Soto

Did you know that Hernando De Soto was buried in the Mississippi River? Hernando De Soto was a famous European explorer. I will tell you about Hernando De Soto's route and contributions.

To begin, Hernando De Soto sailed west, from Spain across the Atlantic Ocean and landed on the coast of Florida. Then, he explored the southeast and even Tennessee! Doing this he became the first European to see and cross the Mississippi River.

When he was a teenager he became a conquistador and conquered land for Spain. Also, he was searching for gold and even captured some Native Americans along the way. Last but not least, Hernando De Soto got a fever and died but he told many American tribes he was a god because of this his men sank his body in the Mississippi River so they could not find him. He also had a crew of 600 men plus horses, pigs, and weapons. Now you see why Hernando De Soto was an outstanding European explorer and how he had a lot of perseverance.

Student's Name: Aubrey Schubert

School or Homeschool Program: Nolan Elementary

Ferdinand Magellan's Story

Did you know who was the first explorer to circumnavigate the world? Ferdinand Magellan was an important early European explorer. I am going to tell you all about his route and contributions. Ferdinand Magellan's route started in Spain, and traveled to South America then traveled through the strait of Magellan and across the Pacific Ocean. Every time they saw a river they went in. They were looking for a short cut to the other side of South America, so that's why they went in and out of the river. But then they finally found a shortcut through South America then Magellan named it the strait of Magellan. Now you know what the strait of Magellan is. Ferdinand Magellan was the first explorer to circumnavigate the world. Ferdinand Magellan named the Pacific Ocean because he thought it was peaceful. Many crew members died of starvation on an island in Asia. Magellan's crew had to eat rats , saw dust , ox hides and leather. The voyage lasted 3 years ! This story was about Ferdinand Magellan and how he is important to history.

Student's Name: Nathan Bulyalert

School or Homeschool Program: Nolan Elementary

THE ARKENSTONE

Long ago, there was a god named Randolph. He was the creator of the Arkenstone. Soon after the stone was created, Randolph realized that it was too powerful. He made a chamber where the stone would lie forever, ... unless some brave warrior made it to the chamber and defeated Randolph. If that was so, then the Arkenstone would belong to the warrior... but if Randolph won, then he would be free from guarding the stone, and the warrior would be cursed to guard the stone until the end of time! So that is the legend of the Arkenstone, but no one has dared to try to get it, but maybe ... you?

Student's Name: Archer Hale

School or Homeschool Program: Nolan Elementary

A Day in Death Valley

I would like to go to Death Valley. I am going to tell you why

My first reason

My first reason is Death Valley has some beautiful sights like Jackrabbits, Turkey Vultures, Desert Bighorn Sheep, Sidewinder Rattlesnakes, and breathtaking mountain peaks shining in the sun. It is called The Colorful Mountain Peaks of Artist's Palette.

My Second Reason

My second reason is the sailing stones. They are so cool and if you are lucky enough you might see one. Sailing stones are stones that move on their own! This normally happens when the ground is wet or slippery the wind helps move them. Also there is a beach. This beach is called The white sand of bad water Basin beach. This beach has white sand and bad water! Just like the name says! So that means the water is dirty and you should not go swimming there.

My last reason

My last reason is that every way you look you see something amazing. For example you look backwards. You see cool dunes. You look to the left. You see snow capped mountains. Then you pass a field of wildflowers. You are thinking that this is the coolest place on earth! You decide to climb down a canyon to the bottom of Death Valley. After a long time you get to a place with white dirt on the ground. This is where there used to be a lake but because of the hot weather all of the water dried up. Now all that is left is white salty dirt. This is why I would go to Death Valley. Thank you for reading along.

Student's Name: Audrey Eady

School or Homeschool Program: Nolan Elementary

Heranando de Soto

Gold! That is what Hernando De Soto wanted. Hernando de Soto was a European explorer that wanted to get rich. He set sail from Spain and went through the Atlantic Ocean to Florida. Fun fact: Hernando De Soto was the first European to see the Mississippi River. He made a lot of money for Spain and he explored the americas. These are just some things about Hernando de Soto but there is much more.

Marielle Kirnie
Nolan Elementary School

Christopher Columbus

Do you like sailors that want a new route to *Asia*? Well, here he is; Christopher Columbus! Christopher Columbus wanted to find a faster route to Asia. He came from Spain and traveled west. When he hit land, he thought he was in India. He fought many natives. Christopher Columbus died in 1506 and never knew he had actually found a new world.

John Wagley
Nolan Elementary School

Hernando De Soto

Hernando de Soto was born in 1500, and he died in 1542. Hernando de Soto was born into a poor family, so, of course, he wanted to gain some gold and to make a name for himself, so he did. In 1539 Hernando set sail for La Florida (modern day Florida). They landed in Cuba, took a rest, then set sail again, and soon found themselves in La Florida. They traveled through the Southeastern part of the USA. Hernando encountered many battles with the Native Americans, one of which cutting down Hernando himself. The crew decided to sink his body in the Mississippi River. Hernando de Soto encountered many things, he was the first European to see the Mississippi River, though he did not get the riches he wanted, he certainly got a name for himself.

June MacKay

Nolan Elementary School

Amerigo Vespucci

Have you ever wondered why America was named after Amerigo Vespucci? Amerigo Vespucci started his voyage in Cadiz, Spain on March 10th, 1497.

Amerigo Vespucci had some struggles on his voyage, one of them was that his fleet broke up and the Portuguese commander's ship disappeared. One of Amerigo Vespucci's contributions was that he was the first person to identify the New World as a continent, and not Asia. That is how America was named after Amerigo Vespucci.

Irelynn Hawkins
Nolan Elementary School

Good Sport on the Court

Once there was a kid who loved to play basketball. He liked to win and be the very best at his sport. His name was Caden. His best friends' names were Bob and Jim. One day at practice, the team was working on their slam dunks. When it was Caden's turn for a slam dunk, he went up to make the dunk and when he came down he landed the wrong way. Practice ended for him right then. His coach called his parents to come get him and take him to the doctor. His ankle was purple and swollen within seconds of the accident.

When Caden got to the Emergency Room, they took some x-rays. The x-rays showed that his ankle was broken. The doctor told Caden he would have to wear a hard cast for 2 weeks and then a soft cast for 3 more weeks after that. Caden was very upset that his basketball season was over and was not looking forward to telling his coach and teammates this news. At that time, Caden was the leading scorer on the team. He was the team captain.

After Caden and his parents left the Emergency Room, Caden used his mom's phone to call his coach and tell him he could not play basketball the rest of the season. When Caden told his coach the news, his coach was very sad. The next practice Caden went to tell his teammates the bad news. They were very sad. That practice the coach had a surprise for Caden. He told Caden that since he was hurt and willing to still come to practices even though he couldn't play and support his team, he wanted Caden to sit on the bench with his teammates during games and help him coach. Caden was happy that he could still be a part of the team and his teammates loved that Caden would still be there to cheer them on.

The next practice the coach let Caden use one of his whistles to run drills. Caden really liked being able to help and his teammates liked having him there. Caden cheered his teammates on during drills. Even though Caden was sad from having a broken foot, he was still able to be a part of the team.

The rest of the season, Caden sat next to the coaches chair and cheered on his team. Bob led the team in scoring most games from then on. He really stepped up when Caden got hurt and couldn't play anymore. The team ended up winning the rest of their games that season and most of the games were not even close in score. In the last game of the season, the championship game, someone from the other team knocked Bob over trying to get the ball out of his hands. The referee called a foul on the player that knocked Bob over so Bob got to shoot two free throws. The score was tied. The first shot Bob missed. The second shot he made. His team went crazy and the crowd went wild. The team won the championship game even though their best player, Caden, was hurt.

That season Caden learned a lot about being a good teammate. Even though he was the best basketball player on the team, his attitude was not always the best on the court. That season Caden learned how to be a better team player even if it meant he was a part of the team from the sideline.

William Widener
Silverdale Baptist Academy

The Man and The Legend of The Forgotten Land

One day there was a man. This was not just any man. This was a man that had a story—a magical one. It all started last week on Thursday. There was so much traffic while trying to get places. But only one person stuck in traffic was trying to get a book. That person was the man. His name is Mr. McGredgory, Jeff McGredgory that is. Jeff could not get a book because the library was closed. So Jeff had to think. Then he had an idea! He said, “I’ll wait till morning and surely the library will be open then.”

Jeff waited and waited until he became impatient. So he thought some more. Then he had it—the perfect idea! So he put this idea into action and decided to sneak into the library. He went to the library late at night and found a window in the back that had a ladder next to it that someone had forgotten to put away. Amazingly, the window was cracked just enough for Jeff’s fingers to slide underneath and lift. So he climbed on through.

Once inside, Jeff saw a book that was open. He picked up the book and began to read it. The book was titled, “The Forgotten Land.” The first page he began to read was about a wizard. The wizard’s name was Huggabis and Huggabis was trapped in a dragon’s castle. The dragon’s name was Narbria and Narbria ruled the land with her minions. Narbria’s minions had mosquito-like bodies and pig-like faces. They were called pisquitos. These pisquitos had a curse placed on them by Narbria that caused them to listen and obey her every command.

As Jeff continued to read, he came upon a chapter in the book titled, “Help Me.” As Jeff saw these words, he grew scared. But he couldn’t look away. He knew these words meant something bad was about to happen to the wizard. He turned the page and thought it might have been his imagination but he saw a picture in the book begin to move. He looked harder at the picture and it moved again. All of the sudden, the library he had been standing in was gone and so was the book. Jeff looked into the distance and saw a castle. It looked like the castle from the book! Jeff did not know where else to go and began to walk towards the castle. Jeff arrived at the castle and was greeted by two pisquitos. They were ugly. He was taken in by them to see the dragon, Narbria. Narbria was asleep, though, so the pisquitos made him stay there. Too afraid to move, Jeff stayed beside Narbria as she slept while the pisquitos left to get a spray bottle to wake her up.

It was not too long after this that Jeff began to hear wailing. He looked around and saw no one but Narbria who was still fast asleep. Jeff decided to make a run for it and began to dash up the castle stairs. To his surprise, he found Huggabis shackled on the roof of the castle. Jeff tried getting him out of the shackles he was in with everything he had in his pockets: a toothpick, a paperclip, a pretzel, a piece of string and a stick. None of these items, unfortunately, worked. Huggabis said, “These are cursed shackles that make me non-magical. They are made from a metal that is immune to wizardry.” Huggabis let Jeff know that the key they needed was under the dragon.

Jeff ran back down the castle stairs to where Narbria was still sleeping. Jeff knew he had to think quickly before the pisquitos arrived with their spray bottle, so he threw his stick onto the dragon’s pile of treasure to wake her up and distract her. As she moved, he quickly ran in and grabbed the key and then sped back up the castle stairs. Narbria, obviously angry about what Jeff just took, charged through the roof! Before she was able to stop them, Jeff got Huggabis out of the shackles and grabbed his staff and tossed it to him. As soon as the staff was back in Huggabis’s hands, Huggabis said a few magic words and POOF! All of a sudden they were teleported far from the castle and found themselves safely in Huggabis’s house. Huggabis thanked Jeff for saving him from Narbria and sent Jeff back to his world. Jeff found himself back in the library and decided to stay and read the rest of the book.

Isaac Hinson
Silverdale Baptist Academy

Ferdinand Magellan

Extra! Extra! Read all about Ferdinand Magellan!

The route of Ferdinand Magellan was very dangerous, but his contribution is sailing all around the globe. Ferdinand Magellan almost made it all around the world, but was killed in a battle. 18 out of 270 made it back to Spain. Some challenges he faced are in the next sentence. Some men got scurvy, which is a disease that makes your gums bleed and your teeth fall out, many people died, a native tribe turned on Magellan's crew, and lastly they ran out of fresh provisions in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Ferdinand Magellan is remembered for sailing all around the world, but never made it. It was the rest of his crew that actually made it on the perilous journey of Ferdinand Magellan.

Student's Name: Maggie Watkins

School or Home School Program: Nolan Elementary School

Ferdinand Magellan

How did Ferdinand Magellan's crew make it around the world?

Ferdinand Magellan left Spain and set on his course around the world. He did this so he can prove the world isn't flat and to get to the Spice Islands. First, he went down the coast of South America. He also crossed and named the Pacific Ocean "The Calm Sea". It took him 99 days to find land, and while they were sailing they had to eat sawdust, rats, and dirty water. Then Ferdinand Magellan found the island of Guam. Then, the chief of the Guan people became a christian, and became allies with Ferdinand and his crew. Then, the chief of the Guan people asked Ferdinand to kill a person named Lapu-lapu and his tribe. Ferdinand said himself and his crew would easily out-number them, but he was wrong. So they set course for the Spice Islands (where Lapu-lapu and his tribe were). Then the battle started. Ferdinand and his crew were easily out-numbered. (Ferdinand was wrong). The battle went on and and on, it was called the the Mactan battle. Then, while Ferdinand was fighting disaster struck, Ferdinand was killed. After Ferdiniand's death, his crew went back to the Guan people, but the Guan people attacked them. After that they only had enough people to ride two ships. So they burned the Trinidad. Then they went on the Indian Ocean and went through the bottom of Africa, and then back to Europe. With that being said, Magellan made it all around the world, and proved the world wasn't flat. He also found and named the Pacific Ocean and found another way to get to the Spice Islands. From him we can learn that we can be an explorer too.

Student's Name:Betsy Jackson

School or Home School Program: Nolan Elementary School

Hernando de Soto

Land ahoy! Today you will learn about Hernando de Soto, and his amazing journey through the Americas. Hernando De Soto's crew sailed the Atlantic ocean and landed in what is now called Tampa Bay. His crew went through the southeast looking for gold. They ended up by the Mississippi River. The explorers lied to the natives. Magellan told them he was a god. After a bit of time Hernando De Soto died of a fever. His crew tossed his body in the water, so the people did not know they had lied. Before he died, he also explored North Carolina , Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas. Also we should remember him because he was the first European explorer to see the Mississippi river. He also explored 9 other southern states.

Student's Name: Miles Bishop

School or Home School Program: Nolan Elementary School

Solving Problems

I can solve problems without being rude by treating others like how I would like to be treated. I could be courteous to the people around me. If I get in a fight with my friend about picking something out, we can compromise. I can be polite and kind and it out if someone's feeling sad or listen to them. If know I did something wrong, I can say sorry and let them think for a bit. I can also speak kindly to them so they know I'm being sincere.

If my brother annoys me, I can walk away and close my eyes and breathe instead of taking it out on him. If I was playing a video game and my friend is left out I can share my controller and include my friend. I can be responsible and help my mom out more. If my friend is sad and they don't want to be bothered, I can walk away. In a game, I can make a truce with my friends so we don't get in a fight. My brother and I can set boundaries in a kind way so we get in less fights. I can be respectful to friends and family.

I can help others out like holding the door and carrying things. I can help my friends out by letting them use my stuff like pencils and crayons. I can help others out by sharing, being patient, and waiting for them. If my friends are sad I can cheer them up. I can help my family by being polite. I can include my friends in a game I am playing. I can say "thank you" or say "I appreciate your help" if someone helps me out. I can stand up for my friends if they are being bullied. For example, I can say "stop" or get a teacher. I can give someone a card saying I appreciate them. I can be nice to those around me.

Eleanor Zimmerman

Thrasher Elementary School

Home Sweet Home

Hi, my name is Goldie. I am a breed of dog called Golden Retriever. I first got adopted when I was very young. Her name is Emily, and she is sooo nice! One day, she left to go in a huge yellow car that was called a bus. I tried to chase it but I was too late. I whined and whined until I heard a door slam. I ran so fast I knocked over my doggy bed! It happened every day until I heard a conversation that school was over! I ran over to Emily and licked her all over. I knew this was my home sweet home.

Charlotte Remillard
Thrasher Elementary School

3rd Grade Prose - Untitled

One summer day my sister and I decided to have a water balloon fight, so my Dad made the balloons.

“3, 2, 1, Go!” and then “Splash!”

She hit me right in the face. Next, I hit her. Then I went to the trampoline where she couldn't get me but the water went through the net of the trampoline.

After that, I threw it over the net and hit her right in the head. Then, I noticed I ran out of water balloons, so I went to the cooler but there was no more.

I was very sad that we had to go in and stop the water balloon fight but suddenly I saw one more water balloon that didn't pop on the ground. I was so happy but my sister beat me to it and hit me.

“Dang it!” I yelled. I was so sad and we had to pick up all the little bits of the water balloons. There were blue, pink, orange, purple, red bits scattered in the yard like confetti. I was so mad that she beat me at the fight. Well, we still had fun even though she beat me.

Charlie Card

The Bright School

3rd Grade Prose - Untitled

One time my Mom and I left a big bag of kettle corn in the car. My dog Nighttime was in the car, too. It all started when my Mom and I went into Whole Foods.

After we left, my dog opened the kettle corn bag, “Pop, pop, pop,” it went.

Before long, my mom and I came back to the car. I smelled sugar when I opened the door and heard a crunching sound. That’s when I saw him head first in the bag of kettle corn in the front seat.

I wondered, how did he open the bag? It was closed. His teeth aren’t even that sharp anymore.

My Mom gasped, “Ahhhhh!”

I thought it was funny, “Ha ha, hee hee. Snort,” I said.

When I was laughing, it made her laugh. My Mom laughed, “Ha ha ha!”

When we went into the house, Nighttime went in the crate. While it was his fault he was in the crate, I still felt bad for him.

Zoe Pearson

The Bright School

The Not-So-Happy New Years!

One day, my mom told us we were invited to our friend's lake house. All of us were filled with joy, so we went upstairs and packed; then, set off on the road.

We looked around for a moment. Then, we saw our friends. So, we sprinted inside to put on our swimsuits.

It was all going great until about 11:30 p.m. I went upstairs to put on my pj's. It was then when I saw their dog and thought it would be a good idea to get in his face when he was eating. So, I did. "CHOMP!" he bit my lip in half! As the blood trickled down my chin, I turned around and screamed. "Aahh!" Everybody's attention turned to me. Everyone was trying to help.

All the blood in my mouth tasted like 1,000 pennies. I ran around as everybody sprinted from drawer to cabinet looking for something that may help. Finally, someone exclaimed, "Take her to the hospital."

My dad gave me a popsicle. My mom took me to the hospital. As soon as I licked that popsicle, I was fine.

When we got there, my doctor put numbing cream on my mouth and slowly stitched my upper lip. When he finished he gave me a Christmas coloring book and an elf stuffed animal because it was near Christmas. I did so well he questioned, "Have you done this before?"

I replied, "No."

Afterwards, we went back to the lake house. The rest of our trip we had lots of fun. But to this day, whenever I see a dog I say in my head, "Don't get in its face!"

Lucy Webb

The Bright School

Zuzu

One day I was coming home from baseball when I remembered our new dog was getting picked up and coming home! I tried riding my bike as fast as I could. I thought I had rockets in my feet. My house is about a mile away from the baseball field. I watched the trees fly by as I pedaled faster and faster.

As soon as I got to my house, I laid down my bike and ran over to pet my new dog. She was a Toy Poodle from somewhere in Georgia. While I had a baseball game, my mom and brother, Stone, had gone to get her.

Two days before, my family was sitting on the couch in the living room thinking of names for our new dog. Calvin, my brother closest in age to me, suggested Zuzu. My mom searched the meaning of the name on her phone. She said it means “sweet” in Yiddish. Everyone agreed that it would be a good name.

As I approached my new dog, the neighborhood kids and my brothers surrounded her. Zuzu was very scared. She was huddled next to my mom. I felt her fur. It was dirty. Then, Zuzu had to use the bathroom. Well, you know what happened next. Everybody laughed. That is how I got my dog!

Roger Caputo
The Bright School

My First Day

I was already nervous and excited the day before school started. Only two days earlier I arrived from Germany. In the car, I felt weird, as if there were 1,000 butterflies in my belly.

I was happy that my Mom and my Dad came to my classroom with me. The door opened and I was so excited. Mrs. Womack smiled and showed me to my desk. I sat down, still 1,000 butterflies.

Now, my new classmates came and all smiled and waved...50 butterflies. Lunchtime and at the end of school, only 1 butterfly stayed.

Ella SEXTL
The Bright School

Joe's Big Move To New York

Joe was moving to New York. He had been living on a farm, and he was nervous about all the changes in his life that were about to take place. He was excited to move to the big city. The morning they were to leave, Joe ate breakfast and got in his dad's truck, and they were on their way. They drove for many hours, and when they finally arrived, Joe's dad got them a hotel room. After they checked in, they ordered a pizza and ate all of it. After that, Joe got into his pajamas, and they went to sleep. The next day, they went to check to see if their apartment in the city was ready to move into. Joe was excited to have a new room looking down on a busy city. After that, they went to check in at his new school. Everyone there was really kind. Joe made a new friend named George at recess. They played on the swings together and George showed Joe all around and introduced him to all his friends. After school, Joe couldn't wait to get home and tell his dad about his day. Even though he missed all the animals on the farm and friends from his old town, New York turned out to be a great move and he was happy to have a new experience. Joe found out that there was nothing to be nervous or afraid of after all, and that new challenges and changes in life can turn out to be fun!

Jackson Morris
Silverdale Baptist Academy

3rd Grade Prose - Untitled

I was a skateboard in the grass doing nothing and a dog bit me. It hurt very badly so I went to my owner and he found a chunk bit out of me. So he went to the skateboard place. He found a cool skateboard so he bought it and put me in the trashcan. So I got out of the trashcan and I skated to the skateboard place and found a new friend to skate with. We had a lot of fun to get there. We became best friends. We went to a place where skateboards were not allowed. Plus we got kicked out of the place. We snuck into the place anyway by climbing to the roof and going down a rope. Inside we danced and got to eat cake before they saw us. My friend said he saw my friend so we hid. The place was angry that we ate the cake but we were laughing because it was so good and we had a fun day.

Andrew Sroczynski
Silverdale Baptist Academy

3rd Grade Prose - Untitled

It was a hot summer day and the sun was out! Grey let his dog out, but the gate was open! The dog ran for the gate and so did Grey, but it was too late. The dog bolted out of the gate like it was chasing a cat. Now the dog was gone. He was nowhere to be seen! He told his dad and they got in the car. They rolled the windows down and they called his name. His name was Posley. They searched for a long time. They went to his favorite spot, the neighbor's house. He was there eating cat food. They took him home and now Grey makes sure to always shut the gate.

Grant Swindall
Silverdale Baptist Academy

Feeling at Home

Once upon a time on the planet of Gumball, there lived a gingerbread family, the Bakewells, who were friends with the gummy bears. Both the gingerbread and gummy bear communities were friends with Prince Caramel and Princess Peppermint. The Bakewells' cousins GingerSnap, Lollipop, and Horatio visited for Christmas, which was everyone's favorite time of year. They loved the planet of Gumball so much that they wanted to stay, but they didn't have a home.

Prince Caramel and Princess Peppermint decided to help their friends, the Bakewells, by designing a new gingerbread house for Ginger Snap, Lollipop, and Horatio. They had no one to build it, so the Prince and Princess asked the gummy bears if they would help with the house because they knew they were great builders. The gummy bears gladly said yes. They began gathering caramel, gooey marshmallows, gingerbread roofing, gum drops, icing, sprinkles, and peppermints to begin building the gingerbread house.

The gingerbread and gummy bear communities came together to help finish the new gingerbread house. Once the house was finished, they celebrated with a welcoming party for Ginger Snap, Lollipop, and Horatio in the candy forest. There was every kind of sweet you could think of, including a very rare candy that was hard to find, Heath bars! The gummy bears loved Heath bars and ate them all the time. Prince Caramel and Princess Peppermint said that everyone could eat as much candy as they wanted, whenever they wanted! Everyone had so much fun at the party and was excited to officially welcome the Bakewells to Planet Gumball.

Macie Ashworth

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Mr. Hammy

I ran to my room, and I was playing. My grandma was gone at the time. Then I looked out of the window and saw she came home.

There was a white box in the car. I opened it. It was a grey and black hamster! My grandma said, "I bought it from Petco." I was SUPER excited!

We went inside and set up his cage. We got his food and water.

It took me about two days, but I finally named him Mr. Hammy. The hamster's favorite snack was pumpkin seeds. Every day I would say goodbye to him before school. His birthday was October 20th.

In the end, he sadly died a few weeks ago. I was very sad. My grandma said she will be getting us a white hamster.

Emma Chen
St. Nicholas School

The Scariest Dentist Trip

Have you ever been to the dentist? I normally like the dentist. But this time I did not want to be there.

I was going to get two teeth pulled. I went in scared, but the waiting room was so impressive that I completely forgot about my teeth. There were games like Mario Cart, Rocket League, and Lego. I played Mario Cart because all the other games needed updates. I got a little bored because I stayed in first place the whole time.

Then the dentist called me to come to the back. The dentist was nice. I sat in the chair. I was scared but they put on Bluey and that helped me feel a little better. They started with numbing my mouth. Then, they started pulling my teeth, but I was fine. I was happy to get it over with.

I walked back to my mom with special paper in my mouth. We went home. My mom let me play video games for the rest of the day.

My visit to the dentist was not as bad as I thought it would be. I even went to Wendy's later and got chicken nuggets and French fries.

Thomas Dougherty
St. Nicholas School

Swimming with Friends

Splash! One cloudy day I decided to go to my grandparents house to go swimming. “Can Cullen and Eloise come too?” I asked. “Sure,” my mom said. ”I’ll check with their grandma.” “Ok” I said with a firm voice.”Guess what!” My mom yelled. “What!” I said back. ”They’re coming!” my mom said happily. “Yay!” I yelled.

While we were waiting for my friends to arrive their grandmother got her finger stuck under their garage door “Ouch.” She complained. My parents dashed down to their house to save her! When they got back I asked “Is she ok?” My parents responded “Yeah, she’s fine!” “Finally we can go swim.” I told Cullen and Eloise.

We ran down the stairs to the pool. “Cannonball!” I yelled. Bend, Jump, Splash! “Let’s play tag. Pate’s it first!” my friend Eloise said with excitement! I swam as fast as I could but I just couldn’t catch them. I started to sneak up on Eloise underwater and dive! ”I got you!” I yelled. Cullen’s jaw dropped. ”Surprise!” Eloise yelled as she tagged Cullen. Plip Plop! Rain started to come down like a tsunami. “Time to leave!” Their grandmother yelled. ”Today was a great day” I thought to myself!

Student Name: Pate Vinson

School: The Bright School



THIRD GRADE POETRY

Caution: Beavers at Play

Beavers

Adorable, fluffy

Chomping, chewing, jumping

Too cute to die

Little lumberjacks

Student's Name: Aubrey Schubert

School or Homeschool Program: Nolan Elementary

A Waddling Wonder

Penguins!!!!

Hilarious, belly-slides

Waddling, sliding, swimming

Non-flying birds, only belly!!!

Penguins

Student's Name: Bryce Ayers

School or Homeschool Program: Nolan Elementary

Teachers
Smart, intelligent
Grading, walking, writing
Make me feel SMART!
Educators

Piper Archinal
Nolan Elementary School

Dragon
Rare, scaly
Flying, slashing, breathing
Makes me feel brave.
Reptile

Jake Isaacson
Nolan Elementary School

Tornadoes
Windswept, Destructive
Raging, Chilling, Twisting
Hot and Cold Air
Cyclone

Student's Name: Zane Ryder

School or Home School Program: Nolan Elementary School

Am Poem

I am as Quick as a angry snake
Slow as a sleepy snail
Small as baby sloth
Large grizzly bear
Sad as a forlorn fish
Happy as a excited dog
Nice as a blue dolphin
Mean as a elephant
Cold as a baby snow leopard
Hot as a pretty leopard
Weak as a skinny human
Strong as lazy hippo
Loud as a scared meerkat
Quiet as small mouse
Tough as a angry lion
Gentle as a thin feather
Brave as a hunting dog
Shy as a scared kitten
Wild as a busy bee
Lazy as a tired sloth
I Am

Student's Name: Anna Kate Zurawick

School or Home School Program: Nolan Elementary School

Friends to the End

I see you, you see me think about the friends we can be
Now shy
Feeling shy and you don't know why
I shine so the chance is mine
Even when they don't want to be friends
That doesn't mean the journey ends
there are many people on Earth
And you will never know what they are worth

Olivia Cameron

The Bright School

Peaceful

peaceful
Like a warm
Kind of
Feeling

Like a
Cozy and warm
Blanket to put over
You

Like a sunny autumn day
Where the leaves
Look beautiful
Up on the branches
Even there colors are peaceful

Take a walk outside
On a beautiful spring
Day

See where it takes
You
Know it's you and
Nature

Molly Gray
The Bright School

Joyful

Joyful

Ice cream on a hot day

Joyful

Going out to play

Joyful

Laying with your dog

Joyful

Getting an A+ on a test

Joyful

Going on a roller coaster and feeling the wind blow in your face

Joyful

Lying down in a field of flowers

Joyful

You and your friends laugh all night long

Joyful

Kismet Edmondson

The Bright School

Fear

You forget everything
All you know is fear
Maybe a tear
You're so scared
Fear is shared
Through the body
Inside and out
Fear is everywhere

Judson Hill
The Bright School

Puppies
Cute, friendly
Playing, sleeping, cuddling
Make me feel comfortable
Pets

**Hazel Molenhouse
Nolan Elementary School**

Horses
Fun, fast
Running, galloping, trotting
I love riding horses.
Mares

Alice Widner
Nolan Elementary School

The Vols University

The Vols University
Has had an
Enormous
Variety
Of students that
Lead our state.
Soon, they will grow
Up to be leaders
Not just around us but
In our city.
Vast amounts of people like
Examining the Vols sports
Right here in this state,
See pre-adults growing
In the University
To become leaders
You can see.

Student's Name: Ben Perrel

School: Ooltewah Elementary School

The Creature of the West

The creature of the west
The creature of the west
It is larger than a dragon
Faster than a cheetah
Its story is a frightening tale
One day it came
From the west
And ate all the cows
To east he went, he went
His Horns, His Claws
He Terrified the people
Then a knight, so he said
He fought the beast, and won
And then the beast went back west

Student's Name: Nick Steinhart

School: Westview Elementary

Hopeful

If hopeful were color,
it would be as pink as a flamingo.

If hopeful were a taste,
it would be just like a cookie.

If hopeful were a smell,
it would be as amazing as a pizza.

If hopeful were a sound,
it would be as calm as a spa.

Student Name: Harper Furrow

School: The Bright School



FOURTH GRADE PROSE

The Tylerverses: Book 1

I am not neurotypical. I am a stressed, ADHD, 13-year-old kid struggling in middle school. My name is Tyler Fisherman. This is the once-in-a-lifetime adventure I had in the Fall of 2023.

It all started on September 21, 2023. I was sitting in math. I had always been an inventor so I was thinking of a new invention. As I was zoning out, Mr. Carver, the math teacher, noticed I wasn't paying any attention.

"What's 1+1?", Mr. Carver asked me. I heard that he had asked me something, but I couldn't hear him, so I looked at the board.

"7x8?" I said to myself. "This is 3rd grade math" . . . "56!" I said confidently.

The whole class laughed at me. "1+1?" said another kid. "Do you need a baby bottle?" said another one. I was embarrassed. Luckily the bell rang and I could go home.

My friends Brad and Derek came over and I told them about the incident. I wish I could go back in time to stop it from happening. "I have an idea!" I exclaimed. "What if I build a time machine?!"

"OK," said Brad, "but where would we get the parts?"

"I don't know." I said. We looked everywhere but we couldn't find anything. I was looking in the garage for some parts until I stumbled upon a tarp. Coming from the Tarp was a noise. I opened the Tarp. Under the Tarp was what looked like an empty void.

"Guys!" I pleaded. "Come here!"

"What is that?", asked Brad, as if he wanted to touch it. "Is it like a portal?", Derek asked. I had no idea what it was, but I was going to touch it.

I reached out and it sucked me in like a blackhole. Luckily, I grabbed my friends' hands at the last second, so it sucked me in as well as my friends. This part was hard to explain what happened, but it was sounds of rushing winds and loud feedback from a microphone. It looked like rainbow strobe lights.

The portal was coming to an end, and it felt like I had been concussed. My ears were ringing, and my head was throbbing. I felt like I had to throw up.

I looked at my friends. It looked as if they felt the same way. I looked around to see where we were. We were in a room with a dim light, and a countertop. I tried to stand up, but I fell right back down.

Someone was walking in, or something. It felt nice to feel a breeze after the door swung open. Luckily, we were in a corner so they couldn't see us. I tried to wake up my friends, but Derek just groaned and told me "5 more minutes". After a while, they finally got up. I hadn't told Brad or Derek that there was someone in the room and that they were behind me, so we weren't careful not to make a noise. Derek had sneezed. The person walked over to the boxes and caught us.

"Hey", he said, "Who are you?" We were all terrified. He had eight eyes! "Hey! Hey! It's alright", he said. "Just calm down. Are you human?", he asked

"Yes?" we replied.

"What are you doing here?", he asked.

"Well, we came here to build a time machine and fix my past. Wait! How do we get back?!" I said. He lead us to a room with a bunch of machines. There were a lot of machines but there was one I had my eye on, the Portal. He told us to go touch it and we should get back to Earth.

"Hey!", I said right before I touched the portal. "What's your name?"

"Nico.", he said.

"I'll remember you.", I said, right before I touched the portal. The portal felt the same way exiting as entering, and I ended up home.

Wyatt Moyes

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Ducks?

One normal Saturday afternoon, Jazzy and Payton were playing a board game called Duck Abduction. Surprisingly Payton was in the lead, because usually Jazzy is in the lead. A couple of minutes later, Payton said “I forgot to grab a duck.” “No, you didn’t,” said Jazzy with a confused look on her face. “Yes, I did forget to grab one., said Payton. Payton reached to grab one. Right when she put her hand in Jazzy put her hand in too.

They started to argue. Then suddenly, a bright light appeared. Next thing they knew, they were somewhere else. It looked like they were in outer space! Jazzy was screaming for about half a minute. She saw floating ducks everywhere she looked. Jazzy looked at Payton and said, “Am I dreaming?” Jazzy exclaimed. “Ouch!” “Why did you pinch me?” “You asked me if you were dreaming, so I pinched you.” Jazzy rolled her eyes at Payton. Then they got back to the fact that they were in space with floating ducks.

They looked around and saw a duck smiling at them. It looked like it wanted them to come toward it. So, they slowly floated to it. Jazzy said “Hello? Hi! Ahh.” They screamed very loudly. “Who-who are you?” The duck said, “I am your guide.” They both asked “for what?” The duck replied, “to help you get out of here.” “Well guide how do we start?” The guide said “Do you see that giant river? You must pass that. Next, you must complete the course. Then last you must complete a really hard quiz.” Payton said” Oh boy, let's get started."

“Wait! What happens when you die or lose?” The guide answered” Oh, the other teammate must get enough coins to bring you back.” Jazzy walked up to the river.” Let’s do this” she said. Payton asked if there were any floats. Jazzy said “Wow! That's a really big float!” Payton pulled it over and told her to hop on. They slowly drifted down the river.

All of a sudden, a big bump shook the boat. “What was that?” they both exclaimed. Neither of them knew what the bump was. Jazzy said, “that was not normal.” “You might want to look behind you “, said a frightened Payton. “Ahhh! It’s a giant duck.” they both said. “And it looks hungry! Hurry let’s paddle faster.!” “Quack Quack” said the giant duck as it tipped over the boat. “Hurry! We need to swim away quickly. We must get to that island.” said Jazzy. They swam as fast as they could. “We made it!” said Jazzy.

They were exhausted. They could barely breathe.”Uhh Jazzy do you think we have to walk down the side of the river?” asked Payton. “I mean the duck ate the float., so yeah.”

“Ugh,” said Payton. “First, we get sucked into a game. Now we have a chance we might die,” said Payton angrily. “If only you let me get my little duck!” Payton said even more angrily than she already was then before. “I’m, I’m sor- stop I’m going on my own.”

“What? No,” said Jazzy. “You can’t do that,” said Jazzy. “But I am. Goodbye.”

So, Jazzy continued with Payton in front of her.

It got cooler and lonelier.

“Oh, who am I kidding. I need to find her,” said Jazzy.

Jazzy ran as fast as she could.

“Payton,” she screamed. “Payton, I’m here, Payton. I’m sorry! No, I’m sorry. I should not have yelled at your like that.”

So, they continued on past the lake.

“Jazzy, look! Is that the course?”

“It is,” Jazzy exclaimed.

Payton stepped o the first block. The blocks were slightly separated from each other.

“Come on, Jazzy.”

They skipped along the block.

“That was simple,” Payton said. “Look! More blocks,” said Payton.

They both jumped on a block.

“Uh! The block is starting to fall,” said Jazzy.

They both hurried across. All the blocks were gone.

“That was a close one. What’s next,” asked Payton? “The quiz, I think.”

They both stepped up on the platform. A bunch of words started appearing on the board.

“How many nick names do ducks have?”

“One? Jazzy said.

“You are correct! Phew What was your duck guide’s name?”

“Oh, I know!” said Payton. “I think it was Quackers.”

“Ding, ding.”

“Yes, good job, Payton. Did we pass?”

The gate slowly opened.

“I think we did,” Payton said.

They walked through the gate and then it appeared that they were walking downstairs in Jazzy's house.

"We did it," Payton said happily.

They went into the living room and the game was gone, so they went outside and rode their bikes like any other day. until...

To be continued.....

Elyn Parham
Silverdale Baptist Academy

The Great Adventures of the Snake Brothers- The Mountain Mission

Two weeks after the snakes had gone to the volcano which they named Mount Snakesuvius they were home in their living room sitting together. “I’m bored” Snako complained again for the fifth time that minute. “Let’s go on another adventure!” Snakey suggested. Snaka soon replied “Where would we go? Not a volcano again!” “Well, the TV said that a train is going across Canada, and it is coming past the nearby train station!” Snakeo exclaimed. “That sounds like a great adventure! We better hurry if we don’t want to miss it!” Snakey pointed out.

The brothers quickly got ready and together they rushed to the train station. When they arrived, they found out the train was leaving in only three minutes! So, they were very quick to find and get to the right train, so quick in fact they passed by it and had to turn around one time. Finally, they found the train and were able to get onboard right before it left! “We made it!” Snaka cheered right when the last brother Snako made it on for he was in the back of their line.

And so, the adventure began! After they had been riding on the train for a little while they saw two bears, a mama and a baby. The mama bear led her baby over to a tree. Then another baby bear peaked out and helped the first one to follow the mama bear since the first baby couldn’t climb well by himself. They were enjoying watching the little bear family when suddenly the conductor interrupted and announced the next stop would be a large snowy mountain. He also told everyone this mountain had never been climbed before and the snake brothers knew this would be their next adventure.

Once they arrived around 11am they went and got a cabin at the foot of the mountain. Now they were ready to start climbing the mountain. One and a half hours of climbing later and they saw a mountain goat. “Baaaaa!” the goat called with its front hooves on a rock and its back hooves on a rock slightly lower than the one its front hooves were on. “And a baaaa to you too!” Snako said happily. Then the goat ran far away from where it was on the rocks. Suddenly, the snake brothers heard a strange sound off in the distance like rumbling. “Are you hungry?” joked Snaka. No, it was the sound of an avalanche and snow was running down the slope above them. “Oh no!” cried Snakeo. Then Snakey realized something and told the other snakes “It’s a pattern!” The avalanche had a pattern

and every few seconds the snow would stop and then go again. “Three...two...one, go!” Snakey shouted, then they ran toward the first rock. Then a few seconds later, they went again just avoiding the snow. Then after a long time they made it to a spot they couldn’t get over. “What are we going to do now?” asked Snaka. Then they heard what sounded like a helicopter in the distance. “Camden!” all the snakes cheered as they saw him approaching in a helicopter. Camden was their best friend, and he was only 10 years old. The snakes always told him about their great adventures so he must have heard about the avalanche and came to check on the snake brothers. The helicopter landed and Camden emerged and asked while smiling, “Need a lift?” All the snakes got in and they flew to the top of the mountain. They got out and looked around at the beautiful mountain and decided to name it Mount Adventure! They may not have climbed all the way to the top, but they sure did have an adventure. Then Camden flew them all back home and the brothers told him all about the start of the adventure and all that had happened before he came. Once they all were home, they decided they weren’t bored anymore for now but once they were they would all go on another great adventure and have a great time!

Camden Lee
Silverdale Baptist Academy

The “All Knowing” Girl

Hello, my name is Flow and this is how I was named the “know it all girl.”

It all started in the school library. I was searching for a great book minding my own business when all of a sudden a lion knocked me over. At first I thought it was a dream, but then I knew it wasn't. I knew this because I was bleeding. If it was a dream, I would have noticed and would have woken up. I looked around to see if anyone else had seen it too. No one was in the library, not even the librarian . “That's weird”. I looked up at the clock and to my surprise it was midnight! I must have passed out. Wait, if I passed out then how did no one notice me on the floor? Then I saw it, a blue glowing book, all of my other thoughts left my mind. I walked cautiously towards the book, I picked up the book and opened it.

An enormous lion jumped out and said “Hello Flow.” I just stood there amazed and terrified staring at the lion. The lion started to talk again “don't worry I'm not going to hurt you.” I continued to stand there in amazement. “Hello, earth to Flow” said the lion.

“Well I better be going now then ” said the lion. “Wait, how do you know my name?” said Flow. “Well look who finally talked. I'm the “know it all” lion and you opened my book and released me and now you have to make a decision”. They stood there in silence for a little bit. “Aren't you going to ask what the decision is?” said the lion. “No I was just going to wait till you told me, ” said Flow. "Ok then the decisions are, you will become the most popular girl in the world , and lose all your friends you already have or become the smartest girl in the world and lose nothing but your future of a normal life”. “One if I choose to be popular why would I lose my friends if I'm the most popular kid, and two why can't the smartest girl in the world be named the all knowing girl or something like that” said Flow.

“Just choose one already”! Said the lion “ok ok I'll choose one, ummm ” said Flow. Rumble rumble crash! A piece of the ceiling had fallen on us. When I woke up people were around me . I didn't see the lion anywhere. And then I felt a tingle in my bones. I saw a blue light—but nobody was surrounding me anymore. I touched the bright blue light. All of the sudden the blue light turns into the lion again but this time the lion does not talk, it just puts its hand on my head. I feel great power enter my mind. Suddenly the lion said something “I am fading away into the book so I gave you my powers please use them wisely”. “I will, I promise,” said Flow.

All of a sudden my eyes started to glow, a surge went through my body. What just happened I thought to myself. I remembered that there were people around me. Did they see that, no they couldn't have. They would have come over here and said something, right? Then someone said something, what just happened and why were your eyes glowing? “You know what, let's get this over with. There was a magical lion that died and it gave me its powers of knowing everything in the universe and I think the glowing eyes had something to do with it” said Flow. Zzz I knew exactly what that was. It was me going viral.

Annabel Neal
St Nicholas School

The Tube of Teleportation

“Tag! You’re it!” Yelled Gunnar “Aww, darn it! Ya got me Gunnar!” Yelled Tony as he walked away to catch his breath. Tony is a husky boy with light brown hair, a few strands in the front that would turn blonde in the summer. He has dark brown, almost black eyes, and a love for sports and geography {and a thick southern accent}.

Gunnar, meanwhile, has dirty blonde hair with bangs hanging down to his eyes. Gunnar has mesmerizing blue eyes, as bright as blueberries, and has a love of fishing. “Gunnar, come hang out in the tube with me.” Said Tony out of breath. Gunnar crawled into the tube and sat down beside Tony. “Maple, let’s go get in the tube!” yelled Athena. Athena and Maple entered the tube and sat down. “Hey guys.” said Maple. “Hey.” said Tony and Gunnar in unison.

Maple has dark hair, dark eyes, and loves syrup. {She’s a little sassy too!} Athena is a blonde haired girl with piercing green eyes, and a strange obsession with Greek gods. “Where are you going over summer break?” asked Athena. “ I’m going to the Parthenon to see the statue of the Greek goddess Athena! My namesake!” She boasted. “You know that statue was stolen right?” said Tony, confused. “I’m going to Rome to see the Colosseum!” said Maple excitedly. ‘WOOSH’

“Where are we? Tony do you know?” asked Gunnar. “The Colosseum. Italian flag, Old architecture with places to hide. There’s no way we ain’t in the Colosseum.” said Tony. “Guys we are surrounded by security! What do we do!?!” yelled Athena. “I want to go home and play Fortnite!” Said Gunnar in fear. “This ain’t the time Gunnar!” Tony yelled. “Athena, ya ain’t got any greek myra’s to help me, sorry I mean us, or whatever ya call it, do ya?” “First of all, it is called a myth, and second of all, not unless you’ve got silk, hot glue, and metal.” said Athena “Well that was helpful!” Gunnar exclaimed sarcastically. “Guys, the bell rang, we have to go to math!” said Finn. “Oh!” they all said in unison and ran off to class.

Hayden Elliott

St. Nicholas School

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

“YES!,” Finally I made it, yelled Leo “ It has been a decade. the egg will be a Te-rex I hope...” I heard beakers and bottles fall on me and my coworkers rushed over to see a dinosaur was loose. We stopped, everything stopped. Next thing I knew a dinosaur was in the air with his mouth open. I scream! I woke up my egg was a little shattered it was translucent I saw shadows walking by I sat there getting more and more claustrophobic then I heard an enormous crack in my sell then a hand reached in and I nipped it and I heard a large shriek then they snatched me up and put a thing on my mouth it took five times! He is in a white cloak and blue gloves. He picked me up and threw me into a cage. Every day they abuse me and feed me expired rotten food

Then on the 3rd day, I noticed something strange. What I noticed was that all of them were abused. The room I am in is bright, the lights are glaring and everything is white so people in white coats and blue gloves can see if they spill anything. The space I am in is tight. There are no windows, and a cold tile floor under me, and bars all around. When I stand up, my head is close to hitting the ceiling, and my tail is the wall. Along the walls, I see empty spaces like mine but nothing in it. On the 4th day, the empty cages were not empty. I am confused because they were empty a day ago. The things were different colors like maroon or jade or aqua but they got abused like me. I felt bad for them. One day I got terrified because they were so hostile to me and the others. We were so timid we did not want to be struck. Soon it was feeding time and we were fed spoiled food. Every day the food gets poorer tasting I can feel myself getting more scrawny. I broke out of my cage. I heard beakers and bottles fall and they crashed onto the ground with a big crash. All the workers rushed over to see the ruckus. I can hear their heart beating all 200 eyes staring at me. I go for the guy with the name tag Leo on it. He screams as I pounce on him with my mouth open...

Ava Taslimi

The Bright School

Mysterious Woman

“No! She will not go to that college!” my mom yelled across the kitchen. My mom and dad are fighting. Over college. Pretty silly, right? But it’s not really a surprise. I mean, yes it’s for college, but no because they always fight. It’s super annoying! I need to study, and they keep blabbering! And the fact I’m in my room upstairs, my door closed, and I can hear them loud and clear!

“She will go to the California Coast!” my mom continued.

“You mean Sunny Beach College?” my dad taunted, putting his hands on his hips.

“Nope.”

“I know you did!”

“How ‘bout this? Since we fight too often, let's just divorce?” Mom suggested. My eyes grew wide and tears started to form. Divorce? Over some college I go to in 7 years?!

I infer the fight is over because I hear doors slam and a knock on my door.

“Come in,” I sigh as Dad walks in.

“Hi, darlin’. I have some new-”

“I know! I don’t want to talk about it!” I interrupted. I felt something run down the side of my cheek.

“Okay. Fair enough. Remember tomorrow is Labor Day so you have no school. Bedtime is 11:00.”

* * *

Dad walked into my room the next morning.

“Where is mom?” I ask, my voice is drowsy, but you can still hear concern.

“I don’t know,” he responds, but it doesn’t sound like he cares.

“Why are you here? It’s Labor Day!” I grumble.

“Oh. Uh...right,” he quickly closes the door.

* * *

Ding dong! Our door rings. I can hear Dad's drumming feet skip to the door.

"My girlfriend!" he squeals. Oh. Come on. His girlfriend? A week ago, he went on a date with her. I hated it. She got so caught up in Dad, that she didn't ask for my name!

I quickly get dressed and brush my hair. I open the door and walk out to see what? His eyes were twinkling on his girlfriend!

"Hi, Leo. Brooklyn is looking nice." I'm shocked. How does she know my name?!

"D-dad?" I stammer. All he does is stand there, his eyes still gleaming on the still-new-to-me woman.

"Oh. Uh... come in," Man, they get caught up in the moment together!

"Dad! May I talk to you?" then I quickly add under my breath, "Alone?"

"Go find yourself a spot on the couch, Maddie," he told her, but I think a bit too softly and kindly.

"What is up with Maddie? How does she know my name?!" I blurted out.

"What do you mean? Nothing is wrong with her!" Dad lashed, anger flaring in his eyes. I felt ashamed.

* * *

After a few hours of TV upstairs, dinner was being made. It didn't smell like Dad's cooking, so it might be his girlfriend's. I'm not eating this stranger's food!

As I creep down the stairs in my dark navy sweatshirt shirt and black pants, I feel like I can hear spy music ringing in my ears. All the lights are dimmed, so I can stay in the shadows to spy. My first spy mission! I muuuust know if she'll poison the food. You never know with a stranger like her!

As I make my way downstairs, my music disappears into thin air. I hear Maddie murmur some words of a song that somehow seems familiar to me. I stop in horror— that's my mother's favorite song!

I try to lift my feet because they feel like stone. I felt my mouth dry up. My heart was racing like a cheetah. I somehow cage my flaring anger.

That song is from the North! She doesn't look like she's from the northern atmosphere. I mean, red hair, boots, and a vest! Even a Texas accent.

After feeling a massive shock wave, I tremble down the stairs to resume my mission. When I reached the bottom, I heard Maddie whisper, “What a beautiful song she told me!”

After a few moments behind the chair, I was busted.

“Get out from behind that chair! Did you think I didn’t notice you?” Maddie burst out. After that I realized the truth: she knows everything about me! Where I am, my name, you name it!

To forget what just happened, I go up to my room to study science. I look in my closet to find nothing but clothes. No bag. Realization slowly crept into my brain.

“Oh, come on! I just had to leave it downstairs?” I yell, but not loud enough for people outside my room to hear.

I look down the stairs. Nobody is down there. I took the perfect chance to get my bag by the couch. I scurry down the steps and arrive at my bag. I quickly opened it up. I search for it, my eyes zooming from one place to another. A shadow loomed over me.

“Looking for this?” I hear a chuckle and realize it was Maddie. Suddenly something gets thrown over me. It’s hard, and I hear the thud when it hits my head.

Catherine Craig
The Bright Schoo

The House On Maple Street

One day a man named Charles Grayson walked to a house on Maple Street. He wanted to publish his book so he called a publisher. When they met, the publisher asked if Charles was ready to publish, the author said yes. The publisher said he would read it and give him a call. That night the publisher read the book and thought it was pretty good. He called the author but he didn't answer. The publisher thought it must be bad Wifi so he kept trying. When the author didn't answer the publisher remembered the author's address was a few blocks away.

The next day he told his friend what happened. Later the friend decided to report it to the police, but he needed more information so he decided to go to the publisher's house. When he got there he rang the doorbell, he waited for a few seconds and then realized his friend wasn't going to answer, strange he thought, his friend always answered. He then looked into the yard and saw his friend's car. Strange he thought again, if his car was still here and he wasn't home that meant he was on a walk and his friend always called before a walk. Then he checked his phone for missed calls, nothing, he knew his friend was missing.

"Sir my friend is missing". Said John.

"He must be on vacation". Said Bill, who was in WW2. "What job does he have?"

"He's a publisher," answered John.

"Come on, let's go to his house and look around."

When they got there, John said, "Sooo...what are you doing here? I thought you resigned from the Army Rangers."

"No." replied Bill, "because of the riots. Someone got hurt so me and my squad are here to stop them. The leader goes by Grayson. We are hunting him down. He's started kidnapping and also started a few shootouts."

They opened the door to the house. The lights were off and no one was there.

"Hello?" called Bill, "Anyone home?"

"Guess not." Concluded John.

"We should probably head back," said Bill. "My Boss will want me to report." They drove back to John's house.

"Bye John," said Bill when they got back. "Alright Bill, see ya'," John said as he walked up the steps to his house. Bill drove back to the station and made his way to his Boss's office.

“Sir, I need an investigation on a house. This publisher went missing and we can search his house to find out how. His friend can help us too.”

“We aren’t here for that. We are here because of the riots,” his Boss replied. “Fine.” They sent a group of policemen but they didn't find anything, and wouldn't for another seven years...

* * *

The door flew open and hit the wall with a loud bang and men held up their guns. Alex let out a gasp and pointed to the rug, there a body lay motionless. Bill stared in horror.

“Is it him? Is it the publisher?” Theo asked.

“I’ll get John. He’ll know. Said Alex.

Alex left and minutes passed. Finally, Alex appeared with John next to him.

“That’s him.” John said with his head low.

“Alright, let’s meet back here in ten minutes,” said Alex.

“Fine,” said Bill and Theo. As they split up Bill wondered, what if the killer picked them off one by one? After ten minutes he went back and they weren't there. He searched, but found no one. He looked at the yard and the car was still there, where are they wondered Bill. He decided to report this to his Boss. Bill drove back to the station, walked into the building and walked down the hallway to his Boss’s office. Right as he was about to open the door he hesitated. How would his Boss react? He opened the door.

“Hello Bill.” said his Boss

“Hello Boss,” answered Bill. “Sir, the others are missing.”

“What do you mean?” asked his Boss.

“They disappeared. Alex said to meet back at the door but they never came back, I se—” but his Boss cut him off.

“Did you look for them?” Bill’s Boss was on the brink of complete rage.

“For ‘bout five minutes,” answered Bill. All of a sudden his Boss picked up his phone and started dialing.

“Hello, sir. I need an investigation on the mystery. I want ‘bout twenty-five men ASAP.”

“Who ya callin’?” asked Bill. His Boss put his hand over the phone so they wouldn’t hear him.

“The FBI.” answered his Boss

* * *

The FBI was now involved. They opened the door and Jimmy shot his gun.

“Is that a tunnel?” asked Jimmy pointing to a hole with a ladder running down. Strange Bill thought, there was a rug there last time.

“Yes,” answered Bill. “Let's go down.”

As they went down the ladder candles were burning in a small room. Bill's eyes fell on some skeletons, Bill shivered, what if this is the killer's secret hideout? What if the skeletons were the policemen? He noticed a giant yellow door with a large nuclear sign on it that said Doomsday Bunker.

“Guys, I'm going to check the Bunker,” said Bill.

“Ok,” replied John. Bill held up his gun. He opened the door. Just as he closed it there was a rumbling and it got bigger and louder. Bill heard screaming and opened the door and flames were everywhere. Searing pain shot through Bill's legs and when he looked down he was on fire! I'm going to die, Bill thought, this is it. He made his way out of the house. He looked up and saw a room light on and a shadowy figure appeared. Then the house shot up and mist was everywhere. In the mist was the bodies of all the dead people that died in this mystery. Bill knew in his heart that the FBI was somewhere in there. He knew it was up to him...

Andrew Craig
The Bright School

Savanna's Adventure

Once upon a time there were two sisters, Savanna and Brooke. They lived on a farm in Orlando, Florida. Savanna liked horseback riding and always has. Brooke liked making pottery and most of her day was spent inside while Savanna was completely different.

One day when Savanna got home she was excited about getting her homework done. She ate her vegetables happily and was done in no time. After dinner, Brooke asked her if something good was happening at school. Savanna screamed and said, "I am trying out for the horseback riding team! I was not going to tell you or mom and dad until tomorrow, but since you asked, I could not hold it in."

The next day, Savanna went outside early before school to practice on Buttercup (one of their horses.) She practiced hurdles and going up on hind legs. She was good. She practiced until her sister Brooke came and said it was time for school. Savanna came inside and told her dad all about tryouts and how she would be home late that night. Her dad wondered why she had not told them sooner, but he was not mad.

Soon she was at school and realized that she was on a horse and in the horse barn. They did hurdles and went up on hind legs (her specialty). Then her coach said they were going to do races and Savanna got butterflies in her stomach. She did not like racing side by side with other horses. Soon, while she was overthinking it all, her coach said it was her turn. She was scared but she knew she had to do it to make the team. She stepped up to the starting line and took off. She was in the lead but they were close. Before you could say, "jackrabbit", she had won! Everyone was cheering for her including her coach. When she got home, she could barely contain her excitement. She was happy all afternoon.

The next morning, she could not contain her excitement, today was the day that they would find out who would make the horseback riding team. She was so nervous, but mostly excited. She could barely get through history (her last subject of the day). As soon as they got out of class, she checked her phone. She made it!!! Just then, she saw her mom's car outside the door. She ran outside, jumped in the car and almost broke her mom's ear drums. "I made the team!" she shouted. Then she started talking really fast. Her mom told her to slow down, but of course she did not, as usual.

When they got home, Brooke was at her pottery wheel and her dad was watching the news, but it was a whole different story when Savanna ran in. Brooke's pottery wheel stopped and the news on the television was nothing compared to Savanna's news. "I made the horseback riding team!" she exclaimed. Everyone was silent and then dad said, "Congratulations Sweetheart!" "Wow," said Brooke, "that's amazing. We are all very proud of you, but we will all be even more proud if you clean your desk in your room from your studying last night." She cleaned her desktop and then fell fast asleep on her bed and dreamt that she was a famous horseback rider. Sure enough when she was older, she was one of the best!

Janie Thompson
Silverdale Baptist Academy

The First Day Of School

One bright sunny morning, Samuel woke up from an amazing dream about his awesome family. It was almost time for school and he was really excited about his first day. He couldn't wait to see all of his friends but he couldn't help but be a little worried, too. He was scared that one of his best friends had decided to be homeschooled for the year. What would he do without Benji in his class?

When they pulled up to the school, there were lots of nice new faces. He searched for his best buddy. He asked his other friends where he was. Nobody knew where Benji was. It was a huge problem, at least for Samuel. Who was he going to sit by at lunch? Who was going to play with him at recess?

He apparently had the best teacher in the school, Mrs. Voss. He also met another boy named Crew. Crew was shy, too. They quickly became friends and that helped the fact that Benji, Samuel's best buddy ever, was still missing.

Crew and Samuel made a plan to search for Benji. They decided to split up. Samuel started his search in the lost and found. There was not much to search through because it was the first day of school. Just a couple of water bottles with no lids and sweatshirts that smelled like his grandmother's old blankets.

Crew went up to the playground. The kindergarten class was there. They were having a blast and Crew decided to join. He completely forgot what he was looking for until a teacher came over and told him to leave. Crew was so upset and wished he could stay. On his way back to class, out of the corner of his eye, he saw a little red headed kid. He remembered, he was looking for a red headed boy named Benji. He asked the little boy what his name was. He replied, "My name is Connor."

The two detectives met up in the carline. With no luck of finding Benji, Samuel thanked his new friend for helping him as he heard his name over the speaker that his car was there to get him.

On the way home Samuel's mom stopped at Orange Leaf to get some frozen yogurt. This was a special treat. It was supposed to be a fun celebration of the first day of school. But, he wasn't even able to eat the frozen treat because he missed his buddy, Benji. Orange Leaf always reminds him of Benji. The first time he came over to play at his house, his mom took the boys to Orange Leaf.

When Samuel got home he heard a little ring sound in the corner of the kitchen. He remembered he stashed his ipad under a cushion. He opened his ipad to see a bunch of text messages from his best buddy, Benji. He was thrilled! The mystery is solved, Benji had the stomach bug. Phew! He will see him tomorrow at school.

Sam Jenne
Silverdale Baptist Academy

Los Angeles on History Road

Once in Los Angeles on History Road, down Second Samuel Street, two houses talked in delight. One house had old red paint with orange shingles and his name is Sam. The other house had white paint with black shingles and delicately placed gray shutters. His name is Luke. They are best friends.

They sang the same songs. They saw the same sights. They feared the same fears. They slept the same nights. They loved the same way.

One night Luke had a nightmare. Sam's yard was a construction site. He was a dump. The walls were down and scraps were everywhere. It must have been the wrecking ball. It was true. Sam was gone forever.

Luke had a thought. It must have been a renovation. Walls have been built. The painters have been painting. Concrete has been laid. Sam turned out to be bigger and stronger than Luke.

Now Sam was just like Luke. The painters painted a metallic gray for the exterior color. He had black shingles. He also had navy shutters. They are best friends again.

They still sang the same songs. Saw the same sights. Feared the same fears. They slept the same nights. They still loved the same way.

Jack Hales

Silverdale Baptist Academy

In Home Earthquakes

Once there was a family from Mississippi named The Blackburns. The father's name was John and the mother's name was Elizabeth. John and Elizabeth had ten children. Their names were Faith (16), John Jr. (14), the triplets, Peter, Thomas, and Matthew (13), Paul (10), Mike (9), Charlie (5), Benny (2), and Emily (8 months). They also had a dog named Beans and he could understand everything they said.

One day while John was at work, the older children were at school, and Emily and Benny were taking a nap, Elizabeth was cleaning up the kitchen. While doing the dishes, all of a sudden there was a great shaking! "Earthquake!" shouted Elizabeth! She ran upstairs, grabbed the two babies and ran outside to Beans! "Beans, didn't you feel the earthquake?" Beans just sat and stared because he had not felt it. Elizabeth looked around outside, everything was perfect and untouched. Later when John and the children came home, Elizabeth told John what had happened. "There hasn't been an earthquake in this town in over 25 years!" said John. Then Elizabeth said, "Well, there was one today! Back me up, Beans!"

BANG! Another earthquake had started! The whole family ran outside including Beans this time. Just like before nothing outside was wrong. When they went back into the house, there were pots and pans and broken glass and pictures all over the floor. "Oh my! That was awful!" said Faith. The Blackburns decided they would give these "In-House earthquakes" a month and if they still continued to happen, they agreed they would move.

A month later, they were moving from Mississippi to Alabama! The move was rough with a dog, two adults, ten children and everyone's belongings. The new house was bigger than their old house. Everyone got their own room instead of all the children trying to share three. There were eight bathrooms but at their old house there had only been two! The best part of the Blackburns' new house was that it was disaster free... or so they thought.

Paul was very proud of himself because he had found a big creek in the backyard where he and his siblings could swim, fish, and hunt for crawfish. One lazy Saturday morning, the children were sleeping in and John and Elizabeth were reading the morning paper. All at once, the first earthquake in the Blackburn's new house had started! Everyone ran out of the house and those who couldn't run were carried.

“No, no, no, not again!”, cried Elizabeth. Faith called all the neighbors to see if they had felt it too, but no one did. The Blackburns refused to just pack up and leave. They loved their new found city in Alabama! Later that night, at dinner, Paul casually mentioned a lake he had found at the end of the creek, perfect for a houseboat! That night, Paul had a dream about his whole family living on the lake. Once he realized the dream could come true, he jumped out of bed and ran downstairs to tell his parents it was time for their last move! His parents thought it was a perfect idea so they told the rest of the family, as they woke up that morning. Everyone was so excited because not only would they be living close to their new house, but they would also be living at one of their favorite places on earth, the lake! Beans was the happiest of all, they couldn’t keep him out of the lake!

The End.

Aniston Lewis
Silverdale Baptist Academy

The Fox And The Bird

Once upon a time, there was a fox and a bird. The fox was very stubborn and arrogant and the bird was very diligent and clever. One day the fox was very hungry and was looking in the forest for something to eat. Suddenly he saw a bird flying around happily.

The fox started chasing the bird but the bird was too fast and the fox could not get it. The bird started teasing the fox and he got mad. At that time the fox's friend was walking by and offered to help. The fox declined his request and chased the bird until night time and he had to go home hungry. "Don't be afraid to ask for help."

Andrew Donahoe
Chattanooga Christian School

The Magical Mystery

Once upon a time, how all stories start right? Well this one has a twist. “JAMES, DINNER!!!” James was a normal boy or so he thought. There was a twist that nobody knew, not even James himself until dinner that very day.

James was a 13 year old boy with a love for science. James went down to dinner excited to tell his mother about how his science presentation at school had gone really well and he had gotten an A. He sat down at the table and waited for his mother to bring out dinner. His mother came out carrying mashed potatoes and beef. He knew something was wrong.

She only cooks it when something is wrong because it’s not easy to cook. She sat down and served him a large portion of food. He noticed that her makeup was smeared and she was eating in a hurry. Suddenly without warning his mother fainted and something, a ghost-like thing, floated away from her body.

The body of his mother started changing into what looked like a large, very large giantess. James stared at the ghost-like thing as it began to talk. “James, listen I am your mother. This giantess trapped my spirit in her body to become your mother and kill you before you fulfill the prophecy. Go to the attic and you will find instructions for your quest. GO!!!” And with that the spirit of his mother was gone.

James still had so many questions to ask, but he ran up to the attic hoping to get his questions answered there. Once he was in the attic he looked around for the instructions. A faint glow was coming into the room. James looked around for the source of the light and saw it was coming from a chest in the back of the room. He opened the chest and saw a swirling portal. He touched it and it pulled him into the portal.

Too be continued....

Student's Name: Sara Stephenson

School or Home School Program: Normal Park Museum Magnet

Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork

Once upon a time there was a Toad and a Salamander. The Toad lived on lily pads, and the Salamander lived upon the rocks. They would often see each other. They always argued with one another, everybody in the forest was tired of it. The Salamander's lake which he lived in was very beautiful, and he knew it. Salamander was very prideful and mean, he would always brag about his lake. One day the Toad went up to the Salamander's house and said, "You think you're so amazing? Well you're not." The Salamander replied, "You are just jealous!" "There's only one way to settle this, let's race!" said the Toad.

The toad and the Salamander decided to have a race to settle their differences. "On your mark, get set, go!" yelled the announcer. They took off, the Salamander was in the lead, then the Toad was in the lead! Then Salamander was in the lead, the Toad was still going, just way behind. Then, the Salamander comes running back, "go, go, go," he shouts! "There is this weird looking black stuff in the water." "Nice try but you're not gonna get past me," said the Toad! Then the toad saw that the Salamander was telling the truth and he jumped out of the lake and the Salamander said, "What is that?" "Pollution," Toad said. "What should we do?" asked Salamander. "I will fix it!" replied the Toad. "No way!" the Salamander said, "I will fix it!" This arguing kept going on. Then a Fox came up to them and said, "have you known about this pollution?" "No," they said. "Are you sure?" said the Fox. "Sigh, we did know about it," replied the Toad and the Salamander. "Here is how we will fix it. We will gather the animals of the forest." Salamander, you get all of the buckets, and Toad, you get the animals," directed the Fox. The Toad and the Salamander set off. "Everybody grab a barrel and fill it with the pollution that is in the water Go, go, go!" yelled the fox. The Salamander and the Toad, and the Fox, and all the other animals of the forest worked together to clean the lake. Soon the lake was back to normal and they lived happily ever after. The lesson of this story is that teamwork makes the dreamwork.

Student's Name: Adelaide Baker

School: Chattanooga Christian School

The Horrible Winter

Once upon a time on a snowy mountain there was a rabbit named Chunky and a crow named Topher. It was almost winter time, and they didn't have enough food. “ We're going to starve. “We should have gotten the food two weeks ago!” screamed Chunky. That night they couldn't sleep. They were so worried that they wouldn't have enough food. The next day, they were going out to find food. A few hours had gone by, and all they found was snow. Then they came across an owl. It was having a snack in its nest. “What are you doing in the cold?” the owl asked. “We are in search of food.” Topher crowed. For a few seconds, the owl just stared. Finally the owl started laughing. Then said, “You're never going to find food now!” The owl screeched. They felt hopeless until they came across an apple tree! They started celebrating until they saw the bear. They tried to sneak past it, but Chunky stepped on a twig! It snapped. The bear chased them. It soon caught up with them and swallowed them in one big gulp. The lesson is to be prepared ahead of time.

Abby Ethridge

Chattanooga Christian School

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

My “Silverback” is my Mom. She shares many similarities with Ivan from the text, “The One and Only Ivan.” First of all, my mom is loving similar to how Ivan was loving to his friends Bob, Ruby, and Stella. For example, my mom says to me when I get home, “What was one thing you liked at school?” She makes me feel at ease and that comforts me. Ivan is loving by telling Ruby stories about his past and by keeping a promise to Stella. Additionally, my mom is brave. My mom says it’s a piece of cake by giving birth to me. Ivan was brave by going in the cage. Also, he was brave when he went to the zoo. Finally, my mom is respectful by listening to me and she is a master at giving me advice. Ivan was respectful by listening to Ruby and by listening to Stella. As you can see, this is how my mom is similar to Ivan and why she is my silverback. She completes me.

Landon Allen

Nolan Elementary School

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

My silverback is my dad. My dad shares many similarities with Ivan from the text “The One and Only Ivan.” First of all, my dad is very active, similar to how Ivan was active in the book. For example, in the book Ivan liked to draw like my dad. My dad draws with me at bedtime and in the morning. Additionally, my dad is loving. When I could not see because my eye was swollen shut, my dad stayed with me for two days in the ER. Ivan is loving, too, like my dad because Ivan was nice to Ruby by reading or uttering a book to her. Finally, my dad is brave like Ivan was in the book. My dad is brave because he got hit in the face with a soft ball in old men's softball. He was brave because he made it look like it was a piece of cake. In the book, Ivan was brave, too. He was taken away from his family and put in a domain. As you can see, my dad is very similar to Ivan and that is why he is my silverback. My dad completes are family.

Kai Ashton

Nolan Elementary School

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

My protector is my dad. His name is Eric Nelson. He shares many similarities with Ivan from the text “The One and Only Ivan. First, my dad is a very friendly person, just like Ivan was to Ruby. Ivan stayed up all night to help Ruby feel at ease. When I’m feeling down, my dad always cheers me up. Next, my dad is very funny, because he likes to mess with me. Ivan is very funny with Kiyani at the zoo. Finally, my dad is nice. He welcomes, or hails new people at his work. Ivan was nice to Ruby when she first got there to make her feel welcome. So you see, this is how my dad shares personality traits with Ivan from the text” The One and Only Ivan.”

Sawyer Nelson

Nolan Elementary School

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

The one I love is my silverback. She is my Mom. She shares many similarities with the one and only Ivan. First of all, my Mom is supportive, just like Ivan is with Ruby, Stella, and Bob. My Mom loves how I play with my sisters and brother. She is supportive of how I take care of them. Also, my Mom is an artist, just like Ivan. She paints flowers with her fingers, just like Ivan painted a banana with his fingers. Additionally, my Mom faces challenges like Ivan. When people get mad at her, she has to protect me and my sisters. Similar to Ivan, he hated when his friends were scared or sad. He protected his friends. Nearly there! My Mom is just like Ivan in the way she helps others. My Mom cares for me and my sisters like how Ivan helps when his friends are uncomfortable or scared. And that's why my Mom is very similar to the One and Only Ivan. She is my silverback.

Chase Sewell
Nolan Elementary School

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

My silverback is my sister. She shares many similarities with Ivan from the text *The One and Only Ivan*. First of all, my sister is very caring just like Ivan when he tried to get Ruby out of the mall. My sister cares for us when our parents are not home. Secondly, they are both friendly. One time Ivan was friendly when he showed his art to Julia for free. My sister acts like a friend when we are sad. Last but not least, they are both trustworthy. A reason Ivan is trustworthy is you can trust him to get you out of a tough situation. My sister is someone you can trust because you can trust her to benefit you. That is how my sister is similar to Ivan in many ways. She makes our family complete and makes it all look like a piece of cake.

Bennett Salsman
Nolan Elementary School

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

My “silverback” is my Mom. She shares many similarities with Ivan from “The One and Only Ivan”. First of all, my Mom is very compassionate to the people she loves like Ivan was with Stella, Ruby, and Bob. She would be dismayed if someone she loves got hurt. Ivan was compassionate to keep his friends safe. My Mom is similar to him because she is compassionate about the people she loves. To me, being compassionate is being caring, loving, and taking time to listen to others. Additionally, my Mom is trustworthy like Ivan. For example, when Ivan told Stella he would get Ruby to a zoo, he did. My Mom is trustworthy as well. She tries her best to live up to her promises that she makes with her loved ones. Finally, my Mom is capable, similar to Ivan. Ivan made a big art piece that covered an entire billboard. My Mom is capable because she is a doctor, mom, cook, and gardener most of the time. She takes care of me and my brothers everyday. She makes raising us look like a piece of cake. Our family couldn’t be complete without her. We are all at ease when my Mom is here. That is why my Mom is my “silverback”.

Alma Sapp
Nolan Elementary School

The Mighty Minnow

Once upon a time there was a lonely little minnow. He was swimming about when suddenly, ‘whooooooosh’ someone was there. Then out of nowhere a huge gray shark started chasing him, but a turtle saw. The turtle swam as fast as he could, and bannnnngggg! It worked, The shark stopped chasing the minnow, but went for the turtle! The minnow swam as fast as he could, he did not know what had happened. When he got home, he got all his friends and family and set off. The turtle was so scared he almost forgot how to swim, when suddenly a huge gray object started swimming towards the shark. It was the minnow’s friends. The minnows started to swim around in circles, then they caught the shark in a net. The turtle and the minnow met; it turns out their names were Canta and Lope. “Noooo how did you do that, you're so small” the shark yelled. “Even if you’re small you can do big things” said the minnow.

Luke Wescher
Chattanooga Christian School

My Greatest Accomplishment

Honor, courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self control, courage, community, strength, humility, and knowledge. When I first recited those eleven words in June 2020, I did not know what most of the words meant. I also could not have predicted the importance each would play in the path to my greatest accomplishment; becoming a first degree black belt in taekwondo.

At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, I was looking for something that was both challenging and social. My dad and I were driving down a familiar street to our house and we saw a sign for taekwondo classes. My dad asked if I wanted to try it since it was one of the few things still open. I had never considered taking taekwondo but I always enjoy trying new things and I was craving interaction with peers.

When I think about the tenets of taekwondo, perseverance was the toughest for me. The road to earning a black belt is long, especially to a six-year-old. Before getting a black belt, I had to earn fifteen other belts in hour-long testing sessions every two months. During testing, we had to show mastery of three skills; one step, form, and sparring.

First, one step is an attack move that we would demonstrate on a partner without touching them. Starting with red belt, I had to create one move to show how I would respond to a threatening person. I also had to learn how to defend myself when a partner was practicing on me. It took a few months to get used to defending myself, but this skill was most important in my hardest challenge- sparring. Unlike during our one step, in sparring we were actually hitting and kicking each other. Each match would last up to two minutes. The hardest sparring round I had was when I was testing for my probationary black belt. I had to spar against a boy who was half a foot taller than me. Everything was going well at first but then he kicked me in the ribs. Ouch! He then hit me in the stomach, in the ribs and back in the stomach. Ouch, ouch, ouch! I knew if I wanted to get my black belt I would need to just fight through the pain. That is just what I did. Finally, for every belt testing we had to learn a new form. In my black belt testing, there were forty-two steps I had to master.

In conclusion, I received my black belt after two and a half years of hard work and perseverance. I learned through the blood, sweat, and tears (literally!), that I could accomplish any great challenge in life. This process also taught

me that if I start something, it is important to finish, no matter how long it takes. Now, when I think about the eleven tenets of taekwondo, I not only understand what each means but also the impact each has and will have on my life.

Lexi Andrews
Nolan Elementary School

The Little Lost Elf

Once upon a time, in December, a girl named Laura was waiting for her elf friend, Butters, to come to her new house. She looked everywhere but couldn't find him. Laura was sad because Christmas was getting close, and Butters was not there.

Remembering Butters came to her old blue house last year, Laura wrote a letter to Santa, telling him they had moved. She gave Santa her new address and asked him to send Butters to her new home. Laura mailed the letter and hoped it would reach the North Pole in time.

But on December 10th, there was still no sign of Butters. Laura felt really sad. The next day, when she walked into the kitchen, she found Butters sitting on the table. Laura was so happy, and tears of joy rolled down her cheeks. Now they could celebrate Christmas together.

Butters explained in a letter that he went to Laura's old blue house first. It was empty, and he felt really sad, thinking Laura had forgotten about him. Luckily, Santa sent him the new address, and he rushed to get to Laura's new house before she woke up.

Laura and Butters were excited to be together again, and they had a happy and united Christmas.

Isabella Hennings

Thrasher Elementary school

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

Peeking through my coffin, my curiosity turned to horror. I was being carried by archeologists. Sorry, let's go back to the beginning, I am a Mummy. Let's get back to the story. The next thing I knew, I was in a museum. I must have slept for a long time. I tried to push my coffin open. I tried to push it again and realized I cracked it. Finally, it opened. The museum looks deserted. Oh no, I see somebody and he's screaming at me to get back in my coffin, so I ran out of the museum.

Lucas Bynum

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

4th Grade Prose - Untitled

I could feel another set of eyes watching me. Mary Elizabeth Jane was a scullery maid. Mary had a black dress, bonnet, a bun and Mary Jane shoes. She was cleaning up in the museum. It was a nice museum in Salem. It was a little after midnight, so there was no one there, or so she thought. She was just dusting the vases when all of a sudden Mary heard a cackle, got a drafty feeling, and heard some soft wind sounds. Mary turned her back and ignored it. Mary decides to look out the window, and sees a small park. She also saw some graves. One of the graves says, "May that evil witch never hunt anyone again." Mary goes back to dusting. when all of a sudden the doors locked and the windows too. A witch flew in, and Mary screamed at the top of her lungs. The witch had a green body, hair like a black broom, a dress, warts, and hat. Mary runs to the window and tries to pry the window, so the witch casts a spell on Mary that jerks her back. Mary splashes water on the witch to try and melt her, but as Mary does it she thinks, " Holy guac that was dumb." Mary made the witch fill up with so much hatred that the witch cast a spell on her that stitched her mouth shut. Mary pointed to a painting to get the witch to look away. Mary darted for the stairwell and headed for the window at the top of the building and jumped. Mary made it out alive, but the witch haunts her to this day. The worst part is she will never speak the tale, and the witch could come for you next!

Sarah Brame

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

BATS

Whosh! Whoosh! Wait, what is that? Wait, it's a bat! You don't have to be scared of bats because they are wonderful. The texts, "Benefits of Bats", and "The Mysterious World of Bats," explain that bats are more helpful than people think. Bats are important. Bats keep insect populations in check, inspire technology, pollinate flowers, and help with seed distribution.

Bats are beneficial to humans and animals all around the world. To begin, bats keep insect populations in check. According to Angela Yorgey, "Microbats can eat up to 1,000 mosquitos in one hour." Because bats consume so many insects, they save farmers "3.7 billion dollars in pesticide costs each year," as explained in "Benefits of Bats." Secondly, bats inspire amazing technology. Bats have inspired engineers to make bat-like wings for wingsuits and drones so they fly better. Bats also use echolocation, which has "inspired us to make technological advances in engineering," ("Benefits of Bats.") In addition, bats also pollinate flowers all over the world. For example, they pollinate tropical flowers, mangoes, avocados, bananas and other fruits. As a result, this helps bees. If bees were left to pollinate all of the flowers in the world, they would get tired. Lastly, there are also some fruit-eating bats on some Pacific islands. When bats eat fruits they drop the seeds. This is called seed distribution. If a bat drops a sunflower seed, a sunflower will grow. Bats help both plants and animals. The benefits of bats in an ecosystem are numerous.

In conclusion, the ecosystem needs bats. Plants need bats for pollination and seed dispersal. Many animals eat bats and humans benefit, too. Now, are you still afraid of bats?

Kate Welder

Nolan Elementary School

Bats

Imagine you were an insect. Then you might want to hide, because believe it or not, bats can eat 1,000 insects in an hour. Ahh! But we shouldn't be as scared as those bugs, because bats are actually really beneficial. The texts "The Benefits of Bats (B.B.)" and "The Mysterious World of Bats (M.W.B)" describe the importance of bats. Some of these benefits are how they provide nutrients in their guano *and* as being prey, how they help with the insect population, pollinate flowers, and even inspire technology!

First of all, bats are actually good neighbors if you shared a cave with them. This is because their guano (poop) has nutrients in it that helps cave organisms! Bats also provide nutrients to other creatures because they have numerous predators such as hawks, owls, weasels, ringtail cats, racoons, and even more! Without bats the entire food chain would fall apart.

Another reason that bats are so beneficial is because they keep the insect population under control. For example, they can eat up to 1,000 insects in an hour. This is very helpful to farmers because the text "B.B." states that "When bats are around to eat insects, there are fewer insect pests causing damage to crops" and "3.7 billion dollars are saved each year" which is valuable because pesticides are bad for the environment. Without bats, there'd be bugs *everywhere*!

In addition, bats pollinate flowers. This is beneficial to people because they pollinate plants such as the blue agave which is commonly used to sweeten foods. They also help with seed dispersal. Seed dispersal means that when they eat seed-containing fruits they carry seeds to other areas which helps plants grow.

Lastly, bats inspire inventions. Creations with batlike features such as flexible wings, a smaller size, and even echolocation are often of better quality. Do you have a technology with batlike features?

In conclusion, the ecosystem relies upon bats. They provide nutrients, control the insect population, help plants reproduce, support cavelife, and give engineers great ideas. So give bat's a chance, because they really are very beneficial.

Waverly Smith

Nolan Elementary School

Bats

What would you do if one day you woke up and EEEK! A bat on your bed! This is how most people react, but bats aren't to be afraid of! The texts, "Benefits of Bats," by the National Park Service and "The Mysterious World of Bats," by Angela Yorgey tell how bats are beneficial to the environment. Bats are important because they help farmers, spread seeds, and control animal populations.

First of all, bats can eat thousands of mosquitoes every hour according to "The Mysterious World of Bats." If there were no bats, mosquitoes might be swarming you by the time you step outside! Also, bats help farmers save money on pesticides by, yet again, eating insects. If not, farms would lose money buying pesticides. The text stated, bats save farmers "3.7 billion dollars of pesticide costs each year in the US." To add on, bats have an important role in the food chain by eating insects and other animals such as owls eat them. Hawks, owls, and racoons eat bats, just to name a few predators of bats. And not to exclude, bats eat fruit and poop out or drop the seeds everywhere so more plants can grow. They also pollinate plants which also helps more plants grow. As you can see, bats are beneficial to humans and other animals in the ecosystem.

In conclusion, nature depends on bats for survival. Bats are very helpful because they help farmers save money, spread seeds everywhere, and are important in food webs. So next time you see a bat, don't be afraid, just remember to thank them.

Ethan Anderson

Nolan Elementary School



FOURTH GRADE POETRY

My Loyal Friend

Inspired by The Red Wheelbarrow by William Carlos Williams

So much depends upon
Her sweet puppy eyes
And beautiful golden fur
Cuddling on my lap.

Kathryn Filar
Nolan Elementary School

Snowflakes

I go down my route
Collecting water vapor
Then I dance on over

Giuliana Miller
Nolan Elementary School

Snowflakes

Glistens in moon light

The snow is white and fluffy

Snowflakes are unique

Eleanor Gunter

Nolan Elementary School

My Way Down

I jump out my cloud

Ghostly color as I fall

Pound ground with a plump

Sam Sykes

Nolan Elementary School

Snowflakes

We fall gracefully

We are symmetrical shapes

We change a few times

Sara Aboulfaida

Nolan Elementary School

Symmetrical Me

I cross and zig-zag

I dance and twirl in the sky

Symmetrical me

Vivian Wyatt

Nolan Elementary School

A Day in the life of Frankie

I have a younger sister,
she is as lovely as can be

She is furry, soft, and kind
And so very special to me

Frankie sleeps close to my parents
where she feels safe and sound

She snores as loud as her human dad
You can hear it all over town

She loves to run, play ball, and chase
And now you must hear Miss Frankie's case

She can fit through the smallest crack of the door
And she surely will not give you a bore

Frankie runs as fast as a squirrel
And when she's running her tail curls in a swirl

Eating, Frankie loves and adores
Sleeping, she lays all over the floors

Now my time has come to an end
Did my poem make you smile - that's what I intend

Just Look

You can find poetry in everyday life
It sits in your memory,
what people say on the bus,
or on the evening news,
from all of your funny friends
from your perfect parents
and even your toughest teachers.
Most importantly...
from right inside
your hiding heart.

Jaxon Rupramka
St. Nicholas School

A bright light in the night sky
Sly moths soaring towards it
Slow
I saw the moths and I slowly
Let them show me a show
In the snow
"Bravo! Bravo!"
I said with one try
To the sly
Moth who bowed
And said, "Goodbye."

Lennox Marler
Normal Park Museum Magnet School

Carve your name
Into the stars.
Come in sizes
big and small.
Nothing in this world
can replace the stars.
Big balls of
Fire and ice.
Making the night
feel like day.
Stars are our
King.
Making art work
At night.

Royce Felts
Bright School School

Come With Me to My Imagination

See dragons & Minecraft, spells & high tech cities

Feel adventurous as you walk through castles & wild plains

Hear battles raging & sirens blaring as you escape from bases

Smell delicious foods from far away lands & mysterious potions

Taste the taste of victory as you win battles against foes.

Logan Winter

Bright School School

“The Assumed Truth Of The Future”

Life,
What's the point?
Why do we,
As fellow humans,
Fight
Or war
As we are all headed
To the same fate.
In the end
All earthly actions
Except that of the spirit
Are gone as
Are our mortal forms
And on to
The Never Ending Time.
How you spend that time,
Is only affected by
Your spiritual actions.

James Exum
Bright School School

STEM

The four big C's

No one can compete with these
Use Science and tech to keep you in check
And engineering and math
Will keep you on the right path
Study STEM and
You can keep up with them

There are four concepts called the big four C's in stem

Just listen to these

Creativity can make an activity
Critical thinking can help just use a little over thinking
Communication is important for your education
Collaboration can help if you're in a tough situation

Fishing with magnets is a project of your own design

You use creativity with fishing line

Then go to the pond

Fish for the electromagnetic bond

Catapults is the next project in mind

I would use critical thinking to build my design

We could use rethinking if it doesn't work and we would redefine

I would problem solve the structure so it doesn't rupture

We will find new ways to improve with communication

It helps to collect more information

In stem there is always a lot to do
Such as scrap bots
Collaboration would make it better
Because making scrap bots you are a collector
Complete it faster and become a master

The four big C's
No one can compete with these
Use Science and tech to keep you in check
And engineering and math
Will keep you on the right path
Study STEM and
You can keep up with them

Student's Name: Eleck Rowe
School: Ooltewah Elementary School

Giant of the Sea

The Giant of the Sea dives deep into your core.
She protects you from fear, sadness and much more.
She pushes you up for a gulp of happy air.
She protects your heart from storms that rage within.

Student's Name: Annora Giannella

School: Wauhatchie Forest School

Fall

Color falling down down
Leaves dyed in every color
Piles in every yard

**Thompson Oakley
Thrasher Elementary School**

Ice Cream

It melts off my cone
I go and buy another
It falls off again.

Annabelle Garrison
Thrasher Elementary School

Walking through the meadow on a sunny autumn day
Watching the children go outside to play

The wind is blowing,
And the birds are chirping.

How lucky it is for me to be here,
On this sunny autumn day!

Marion Spiller
Thrasher Elementary School

Trees

Bumpy, bark, branches

Colorful leaves, lumpy oak

Green, yellow, rugged

Blake McCarthy

Thrasher Elementary School

Slug

Ooey goo bug slick

Toxic slime mystic hazard

Gooley gross insect

Jacob Greene

Thrasher Elementary School

Disasters

falling off a cliff
getting hypothermia
burning in a fire

Sam Dunkin
Thrasher Elementary School

My Teacher Says...

My teacher says, "Hold still!" and "Be quiet."

But I can't be still or quiet

'cause I'm a Kid.

My mom likes to say, "Eat your veggies."

But I can't eat my veggies

'cause I'm a Kid.

BUT my dad says, "Go get dirty! Go play! You don't have to eat your veggies."

Okay! I can do that

'cause I'm a Kid.

Katherine Wesson

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

Grandparents

So much depends
Upon

Two grandparents

sitting upon a
couch

Covered in blankets

Next to me hug hug hugging

Oren Noblit
Nolan Elementary School

Tell me a story
Said the forks child
About the spoon
So calm and mild
About a chip
Who has a very
short life
About the wildest of all
The knife
About the chopstick
So tame and weepy
Something nice
To make me
sleepy!

Cole Rusaw
Nolan Elementary School

“A Spooky Story”

Tell me a story

Says the Sorcerer’s child

About a beautiful Princess,

Dressed in a lovely gown of white,

with a heart that’s wild.

But why such a horrid story, why?

I want a Spooky Story,

One to widen my eyes!

A story of a charming Unicorn,

With mane soft as a feather, and a gold swirled horn.

One of a clever Fairy-

EW!!! A *Fairy*?

Yes, father, a Fairy!

One that flutters her swift wings, and hums a sweet song.

A story of a mystical Mermaid,

With a shimmering tail, and the voice of a morning bird.

But why such a terrible story, why?

Well, I want to stay awake ALL night!

Waverly Smith

Nolan Elementary School



FIFTH GRADE PROSE

The Cat Chase

It was a Summer evening, just like another night, and it smelled like roses. When Rose and her mom were at home. They were planning to eat dinner at 5:00 and then watch a movie at 5:30. They had no idea what was ahead of them. Their home was a really big cabin with three bedrooms, three bathrooms, and a pool. They also had an arena for training horses and riding for fun. There was a barn with twelve stalls with a horse in each stall.

Rose went over to the hamster cage and addressed her pet. “Well, what should we do now?, Lucky “ asked Rose. Lucky just sat there and squeaked to Rose.

“I don’t know what we should do since the boys are on a fishing trip,” added Jenifer, Rose’s mom. “They are probably having the time of their lives.” Rose responded.

“HmMMMMMMMM?” Rose thought. “Oooooooo, I know what we should do! We could go on a trail ride!” said Rose with her blue eyes sparkling.

“That’s a great idea Rose,” exclaimed her mom. “Okay, but first, we need to go feed the horses and the barn cats, okay.”

“Alright.” Rose said excitedly. Rose went over to the barn to feed the horses and the barn cats. She was also going to get her new kitten she had gotten earlier that morning. “You guys are hungry, huh.” Rose exclaimed to the cats. “I just ate a little while ago, we also watched a movie.” “Do you guys like watching movies too?” Rose asked the horses and cats. All they did was meow and winnie. When she was finished feeding her side of the barn with some of the horses and cats, she went to find her new little baby kitten to take her inside. “Poppy, where are you?” She peeped out, a little worried.

Her mom came in and said, “I fed the other horses, and cats so we can go on a trail ride.”

“Mom, Rose said nervously, “I don’t know where Poppy is.” Rose was imagining that her cat was really far away and then the water works started business. “My cat is out in the woods all alone in the dark!” Rose choked out, with tears streaming down her cheeks.. “What are we going to do if we find her and she is, you know, passed on.” Rose managed to get out with more tears pouring down her face and falling on the floor.

“Breathe, throw your hair into a messy ponytail, and we’ll go saddle the horses up and look for Poppy.” said her mom. After that, Rose put her blond, long hair into a high ponytail. Her mom left to go tack-up the horses. “What if we don’t find my little kitten, when it’s getting dark.” Rose thought nervously to herself. She

saw her mom bring the horses over. Even the horses sensed that Rose was nervous ,and that she wanted to find Poppy.

“You ok”? Rose’s mom asked.

“I don’t know Mom, do you think that we will find Poppy, even though it's getting dark out,and what if coyotes find her?”she said trembling. “Go grab a couple of flashlights and our pistoles, please”. Said Jen. So Rose sprinted to the cabin and grabbed what they needed. They got on the horses and started their search for their lost little kitten, and they galloped to go find Poppy. Meanwhile, the boys were having the time of their lives. They had caught twenty fish in one hour.

“Rose, it's gonna be okay, because we will find her, okay?” said her mom comfortingly.

OWWWW went the coyotes. Meow, Rose heard the coyotes and then she heard her cat. “Mom.” Rose said trembling. “I think I just found her.” DUN- DUN- DUUUUUUN...

Rose pulled out her pistol because she saw the coyotes and she went from terrified to really mad! They were closing in. Get away from her, NOW”! Rose shouted at the coyotes, but all they did was growl and got closer to her baby cat. “If you harm her, I’ll shoot you in a heartbeat.” Rose boomed at the coyotes almost unable to see because she was so mad, and with a lot of anger coming out with it. Poppy’s heart beat went very fast and she started to shake.Poppy was petrified. She walked closer and started firing in the air. The coyotes started to back away. “Now!” Rose yelled at the coyotes. They ran away and her baby kitten was safe. “Come here Poppy.”Rose said, panting. Poppy ran to Rose and she jumped in her arms. “I’m so glad to have you back, Poppy.” Rose exclaimed! She got onto her horse and the two women rode home. Jenifer, had to hold the reins so Rose could hold Poppy, because she was so scared that Poppy might jump out of her arms, and run away, while she was steering the horse. They had gotten home and Rose stayed up with her baby all night long. “Home sweet home.” “Well,” Rose said, “I hope we will never have to do that again.” Rose said laughing. Poppy purred in her arms and fell asleep. I bet you know what is ahead. You are probably thinking that Poppy grew up on that farm. Well, she doesn’t.

Piper Myers

Signal Mountain Christian School

5th Grade Prose - Untitled

Today I met a spider who taught me a very important life lesson. So let me tell you about it! .

I was walking in the woods collecting mushrooms, trinkets, and more. But then I heard a rustling noise in the leaves. Was it a snake? Was it a frog? Was it a Raccoon?! It was even worse...It was a spider!

It popped up from the leaves. I jumped onto a tree branch and screamed. I was HORRIFIED of spiders.

I exclaimed "Get away you horrid spider!!! Can't you see I'm trying to collect my trinkets in peace?!" The spider looked confused.

"What do you mean? I'm just trying to find a place to put my web. I'm not planning to hurt you." The spider said.

"Yea but.. You have weird legs, and you have venom, and your webs, UGH your webs! They always get on me and you can barely see them so they surprise me!!"

The spider looked up at me. "Well little girl there is more to me than you think. I will admit some spiders are poisonous, but not every spider is. And for you talking bad about my webs, I sure know I make more beautiful webs than you ever can! The webs we spiders make are one of the most beautiful art pieces in the world! So really us spiders aren't as scary as you seem."

I realized that what I was saying was wrong. I got out of the tree and stood tall over the spider. "Thank you for telling me this. I am sorry that I was mistaking you to be a beast." I said.

"Hey... Would you like one of my mushrooms to stay on?"

"That would be lovely." I took out a mushroom from my green messenger bag, placed it into the ground, and put the spider on top of it. We said our goodbyes and I continued walking in the woods.

That day I learned to never judge what you don't know much about.

Annie Soloff

Nolan Elementary School

5th Grade Prose - Untitled

One lovely afternoon in the forest near the Tennessee river Mama called me saying, “Maya come here quickly.” in a calm and quiet voice

“Yes Mama.” I said rushing down the stairs.

“Your Grandmother hurt her leg last night going down the stairs and I would like you to bring her some of my baked goods. For it is only a 20 minute walk.”

“Ok Mama I shall leave now so Grandma doesn’t have to wait,” I said, pulling on my dirty shoes. Little did I know that an unexpected animal would teach me a lesson.

The lush bright green grass was perfectly outlined by the sun as it twinkled in its glow. I was so distracted that I stopped in my tracks almost falling over to see the most horrid site of all.

A black disgusting spider with its creepy legs and eyes!

“You ugly spider that makes my eyes burn, you are in my path. I shall chop your web down! If it weren’t for your toxic bite you would already be out of my sight. Wait until my mother hears about your disgusting web that is in my path!”

The spider's eyes started to wet but I was too raged to notice.

“I.. I’m sorry for the inconvenience of my web, but it is my home, a place to sleep and eat. You are scaring me with your anger and threats for I am just a little spider. I am also a smart spider. If my web is droopy then it will rain, if it is tight then it will be clear sky that day like today.”

I was surprised by this because he was a scary spider and I am Just a little girl. Or maybe he was just as scared as I was. The spider began to speak again before I could say anything else.

“I am not the scary one for you are much bigger than me and I am trying to rest. What would you do if I was much bigger than you and I started threatening you. I do not think that you like it very much.”

My eyes filled with amazement as I realized that this is no ugly web. It is a work of craftsmanship weaved delicately for each perfect strand on the web that glowed in the sun with dew drops hanging on to the web like a sloth on a tree slowly making its way to the next branch careful not to fall.

“Wow! Mr. Spider, you were right all along. Spiders are amazing creatures big or small. I will never doubt a spider again. For these are amazing animals. Can we be friends, Mr. Spider?”

“Of course we can!” Said the spider with joy.

“Ok then,” I said, “I will talk to you on the way back from my trip. Goodbye for now Mr. Spider.”

“Farewell I shall see you again soon.”

The trees glowed on my walk to my grandmother's house shining in the beauty of its leaves.

That is my story of when I first encountered the smart and kind spider who's web is beautiful just in a different type of way. Now I am much kinder to spiders and will never doubt them again. I must go now to see Mr. Spider now ,for he is a kind soul.

Maya Brewer

Nolan Elementary School

The Formal Bird

Penguins are one of the most well known animals in the world because of their fancy appearance. Penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere with polar bears and sea lions. Most of the time penguins are wrongly colored with them being black and not navy blue. The fastest type of penguin is the Gentoo Penguins, they can go up to 36 km per hour or 22.369 mph when swimming. Penguins eat a shrimp-like creature called a krill. Penguins are very interesting because there are fossils of penguins that are 62 million years old.

Penguins primarily live in the Southern Hemisphere. Some penguins live on the Antarctic coasts and Subantarctic islands. Penguins are born on fast ice platforms of frozen ocean. They spend the rest of their life around the Antarctic ice. Penguins live in cold places but very few breeds live in warmer places.

Penguins are one of the animals that are wrongly colored. Penguins get their black color from a biological pigment known as microstructures. The baby penguins are gray when they are born. when they become an adult the color on their fur changes from gray to black. There is a very rare color of penguin called the yellow eyed penguin that makes the penguin look yellow, among a colony of 120,000 king penguins there is only one like this there.

The fastest diving bird in the word is the Gentoo penguins, that can swim up to 22 miles per hour. They can dive as deep as 655 feet in the ocean. Gentoo penguins are protected by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959. Gentoo penguins live up to 20 years, they live longer than any other type of penguin. Gentoo penguins have orange beaks and white parts above their eyes.

Penguins eat a shrimp-like animal called Krill, fish ,jellyfish and squids. Bigger penguins like the Emperor penguin eat larger types of food. Smaller penguins like the Chinstraps, Adelies, and the Rockhopper penguins eat smaller foods. Like us penguins eat different things. Penguins' favorite things to eat are shrimp or squids, jelly fish or krill.

The oldest penguin fossil of a species was the Wamanu penguins. They were double the size of a normal penguin. In New Zealand giant fossils of old penguins were found there. These fossils show that penguins survived many many years ago. With these fossils we know that penguins have been around for a long time and help us understand more about them.

Penguins are one of the most well known animals because of their

tuxedo-like appearance. They are some of the most interesting animals in the world.

Scarlett Jacobson
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The Summer That Didn't Go As Planned

When I was six years old, I broke my ankle. I bet you're wondering how? Well, I'll tell you how!

About four years ago it was my birthday and I was jumping on my friend's trampoline. All my friends and a lot of my family were there! I was going to do a seat drop, but my foot went down instead of my booty and my foot turned.

I started to cry so loud! All my friends were still there playing and my mom, Nana, and I went home. I told my sister Ellie to stay, she deserved to play, but she felt so bad for me. So about thirty minutes later, she came back for me. I took some Motrin, but a few minutes later I had to go to the bathroom. My dad said try and walk and see if you can. Well, I bet you know how that turned out. As soon as my feet hit the ground and I stood up, I fell a little and started to cry.

So, my mom knew what we were doing the next day. The next day we went to the doctor hoping my ankle was not broken because we were going on a trip in three days! About thirty minutes of hoping and praying, which felt like HOURS, we found out my ankle WAS broken. I was so sad, but luckily my mom told the doctor we were going on a trip soon. So, the doctor put me in a boot instead of a cast!

I begged my mom to still let me go on the trip. At first, she said maybe. But I kept on begging and she said okay. I was so excited! I also begged my mom not to let me ride a scooter, she said lets go to the scooter store and see how we like it, and surprising to me she said I did not have to use one, I was glad!

After that, my mom said we could have whatever I wanted for lunch. But I wanted something quick and easy. So, I chose Chick-fil-a. When I got home my dad, sister, and nana were waiting for me. They all felt bad for me and was hugging me! I sort of liked the attention but not the boot. We had to say goodbye to my nana because she had to leave.

About three days later it was time to head to Mexico! I was so excited I forgot all about my boot! Finally, we got to Mexico! I said home sweet home for the next 14 days! I did ALOT in Mexico with my boot! I ziplined, went down the water slides, played in the pool and much more! And when we got back from Mexico, I still had a lot more time with my boot.

Well about 4-5 weeks later it was time to take my boot off! Or so I thought. The next morning, I got up so excited but at the end

of my checkup, the doctors said I did not have to wear my boot anymore, but I had to wear a brace. I was bummed.

I kept wanting to take the brace off but I couldn't. About 11 days later, it was my last day having my brace! My mom sent me to my Gram and Grandpa's house and about 7 hours later my mom and dad came and they had a new car! It was super cool and the next day I got to take my boot off! And even though I didn't like my boot, I had a lot of fun those six weeks in my boot!

Emersen Fox
Silverdale Baptist Academy

Best Friends

There once was a dog named Rusty. He was amazing! He could do everything that you could imagine. But before we get into all that, I need to tell you where his story first began. Rusty's first few months after he was born had been pretty rough. He lived where it was very cold and with a bunch of other puppies. No one really cared for them, bathed them, and definitely didn't love on them. He was just a small scared dog in a small world.

His adventure started with him his brothers being loaded up in a car in Michigan and someone driving them all the way to Tennessee! He ended up at a rescue facility and they cleaned him up and told him he was ready to be adopted...whatever that meant! One day, he was suddenly awoken when a person picked him up, carried him outside and put him into another car! The lady and the people that he was with now seemed a lot different than any other human he had been with. They held him, petted him and told him he was going home. When they finally stopped, they got him out of the car and told him that they had someone for him to meet inside. He started walking into the house and was very scared. He had no idea what to expect. But then he saw him, a boy. Instantly, he knew that this boy would change his whole life. He sensed that this boy was a friend and a dog lover. He never wanted to be away from the boy again! He ran and jumped into the boy's arms. It was love at first sight! He even let him give him kisses all over his face! Holy moly! He even tasted like a cheeseburger!

Soon the boy started calling him Rusty, Good Boy, and NO a lot....but he soon realized that Rusty was his new name. Luke named him that because it means "little red one" and Rusty was little and had dark red hair. Rusty also soon learned the boy's name was Luke. He knew that because whenever someone said "Luke," his heart felt all warm and fuzzy and he had to go find the boy wherever he was.

Over the next few weeks they played everyday and became the absolute best of friends. However, Luke soon began to realize something was wrong. Rusty just had not been himself lately. He wasn't playing much and didn't want to eat. Rusty just felt sick to his tummy all the time and so tired! Of course, Luke had already scheduled a veterinary appointment for him. He knew that the circumstances Rusty had been in weren't good and that he didn't have the necessary care he needed for his whole life. Rusty was only about six months old but puppies need shots and other medicine. Luke was shocked to

find out that Rusty had a severe medical condition; and if he had waited much longer to treat it, he might have lost him! The veterinarian and Luke immediately started him on medicine and a treatment plan. Luke was very grateful that he had rescued Rusty and was able to give him the love and care he needed.

Within a few weeks Rusty had made a full recovery! So thankful that he had Rusty, Luke was inspired to come up with a plan to start an animal rescue with his parents when he got older. Luke and Rusty wanted to help as many animals as they could to find homes. But for now...on to their next adventure together!

Luke Hughes
Silverdale Baptist Academy

5th Grade Prose - Untitled

Step, step. A girl with green hair named Izumi slowly walks down a big path in a dark cold forest. Stepping on branches and leaves, she was wandering around with a cold face looking down, not paying attention to her surroundings. Accidentally, she bumped into a tree. A chill ran down her spine as she tried to find a way back home. It was way past midnight and her parents were probably worried about her. Izumi starts walking around trying to find a way back, going deeper into the dark cold forest. Everything looked like the same tree, with eaves. Going deeper into the forest, feeling defeated knowing she wouldn't find her way back home, Izumi accepted that she was in this misery and had to survive in the wild until fate showed up. Izumi wandered around the forest as it was getting dark, accidentally bumping into something again feeling a bit annoyed but this time it wasn't a tree of some sort.

Izumi looked up at what she bumped into. It was a young girl around 16. She looked cheerful and had bright purple hair and eyes. The girl reached a hand to Izumi hoping Izumi would take it, Lunar Sleevesweret revealed a bit and I admired the colorful pattern on her sleeve as the purple-haired girl introduced, "I'm Lunar". Immediately taking her hand and getting up, Izumi replied, "Izumi..". Lunar smiled wanting to get to know each other better but with a monotone voice, I said.

"Do you know where the city Guardian is?"

"Of course I do, it is the most popular city around though it may take time to get there may I ask why?" she replied in a cheerful mood.

"Well, I lived there and got lost in this forest. I wanted to know, where am I?" answering her question.

"You're in the forest of Sokaiya, the most calming night of the forest," Lunar replied.

Looking around now, I know I'm in the Sokaiya forest and probably won't have much danger around admiring the silent night without even a sound of animals moving or growling. Even though the night is peaceful, the main problem is not solved. I needed to find my family and being in the Sokaiya forest didn't help since I've traveled far from my home place and might take days to return. Izumi bowed and thanked Lunar for the information as she stared at me in confusion not knowing the meaning of the bow. I noticed she didn't get it and I got embarrassed doing something useless so I just corrected myself, "Thank you."

I was walking down the forest wondering if I was getting

closer to the city of Guardian. I was tired and my face showed that I had dark circles around my eyes for not sleeping for a few days but no matter what I had to find my family the only thing was on my mind. I decided to grab some needs so I could survive since I knew I would be here for a few days or weeks. As time passed wandering around the place the sun started to set as I was struggling to make the tent. It kept falling apart but I was getting used to it and understanding what I was doing wrong making it better. It would still fall apart but I was so close I couldn't just give up. I heard a howl, not just any howl, a loud howl made by wild dogs.

As the noise got closer izumi pulled out her weapon and ran away trying to be quiet with my steps. This was supposed to be the Sokiaya forest so I didn't think this was normal meaning I was closer to the Guardian. This was all getting familiar to me but then wolves were fast so I grabbed a tree branch, swung me quickly behind a bush, and hid there. I waited there quietly, careful not to make a noise. The wolves sniffed the area and left. I sighed in relief now they were gone. I checked the coast to see if they were hiding or if they left. After checking I got out of the bush and slowly walked my way back in the direction that I thought was the way back. Slowly walking a loud cheer in the distance was heard. I quickly ran in the direction of the noise.

A strong wind was blowing and a light shined. I opened my eyes slowly to the beautiful sight of the city of Guardians. The soft cold wind blew in patterns I could enjoy again. Now that I'm in the city it made finding my family a lot easier. The cars fastly drive around a flock of birds flying in the air as they sing a beautiful harmony. Following the cold breeze of wind, I see a little girl with black hair younger than 8 with a ponytail hair in a blue hair tie cuddling a plushie of a bunny watching a tree. Admiring her trying to see if I recognize her. It was Izumi's little sister! Izumi's eyes glowed as she ran up to her in joy. I squeezed her tightly glad that she was ok with a soft voice. I looked at her and said, "I missed you so much.". Izumi's little sister hugged Izumi back tightly after noticing who Izumi was, she quickly grabbed my hand and dragged me to our family house to report the news. We had a big reunion as we celebrated my appearance.

Celebrating as I explained how I got here as I exclaimed, "I followed the wind.". Everyone got confused but they just kept going with the party. Izumi closed her eyes, feeling the soft winds blow in a pattern.

I could feel them saying something peaceful. The harmony blows without a sound but a dance of patterns to express the calm. I was glad it was over and was ready for anything in the future.

Student's Name: Annie Chen

School: Nolan Elementary School

5th Grade Prose - Untitled

I will never forget that day when I encountered an exquisite little girl with bright blue eyes, blond hair, and pink sparkly tennis shoes. It was a delightful day at Wembley Park with the flowers blooming and the birds chirping. I was working on my web when I saw her coming right towards me.

A lecherous looking fly was right there about to fly into my newly built web when the little girl came along and scared the fly away.

I yelled “HEY! That was my fly, why did you scare it away!?” Of course I wasn’t expecting a remark from the girl.

But then she abruptly leaped into the air and said emphatically”YOU CAN TALK?!”

Then I said “YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ME?!”

So, of course, out of pure reaction I was ready to bite her. She was very scared and screamed out for help, but then after a moment I calmed her down by telling her I wasn’t going to hurt her and she was safe. Then she started observing my gorgeous web I had just finished.

“Quite the engineer you are. How do you make your web and silk?” She asked.

“Well little girl if you must know my web design is quite famous you know. I start on the outside and make a circle then repeat that as many times as you need until you reach the middle. The silk I can’t tell you about it's a family secret.”

“Thank you Mr.Spider I learned a lot, and now I know so much. Who knew I could learn so much from spiders?”

“Your welcome little girl that means a lot. I hope you have a lovely day.”

Then she went skipping off. That was the time I encountered a lovely little girl strolling through the woods.

Student's Name: Noah Ennen

School: Nolan Elementary

Dreamers

Once upon a time a girl named May started being rude to everyone. Her mom got mad and made her sleep in the attic. In the attic, she saw a bin that said Dreamers. She opened the bin and there was a mirror in it. She took it out and looked in it and it took her to a different world called Dreamers World.

She met three people called Dream Workers. The main ones were Zip, Zap and Bop. They told her she was going to have bad dreams if she was rude. She asked them if there was anything she could do. They asked her if she could change and she said, “yes, of course.” Zip and Zap didn’t believe her but Bop did.

They came together and made challenges to see if Bop was right that she could change with a little help or if Zip and Zap were right that she couldn’t change. The first challenge was a test to see if she could keep her anger under control and not say mean things while they tried to make her mad. They chewed with their mouths open and they breathed loudly but it didn’t work. Zip and Zap came up with another challenge. Bop thought it was not necessary. The second challenge was to take care of a little kid to show she would not be rude to little kids. May got so mad at the kid she started being rude so she did not pass.

The third challenge was talking to people without getting mad. One person was just trying to pick a fight with her but she kept her anger in. The people got worse and by the time they got to the third person there was smoke coming out of her ears and her face was red. She started being rude again and did not pass. Zip and Zap were right but Bop still thought she could change because when she lost she didn’t get mad.

Bop was right. She didn’t need help because she had already changed. Zip, Zap and Bop let her have good dreams because they thought she had changed. They let her go home but Zip, Zap and Bop started crying because they didn’t want her to go. They came together and decided that she would make a great Dream Worker. She would come back every summer and work there. She said goodbye and then went through the mirror.

She couldn’t wait to tell her mom. When she told her mom, her mom told her that she was just dreaming but May knew it wasn’t just a dream. Every summer May would go back and work there and her mom would never know.

Bailey Cothorn

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Return to Winter Wonderland

A year or two ago Emily, Kate, and Blix had a life changing experience, they went to Winter Wonderland. They met new friends and had a great time there.

Emily, Kate, and Blix knew it was time to return to Winter Wonderland. They had set a time, year, day, and place to meet up with one of their best friends from Winter Wonderland, Chip the rabbit. They were heading to their meeting place now.

“Wow!” said Emily “I can’t believe after all this time we’re finally going back to Winter Wonderland!”

“Me either,” said Blix, the only boy except for their dad in the family.

“I can’t believe I was trying to get us to leave,” said Kate “We all had a great time there.”

“Oh, look there’s Chip!” exclaimed Emily “Just the same as last time. The same warm smile, the same ears, and the same lovingness.”

“Hi you three!” said Chip “It’s been so long, I’ve missed you!”

“Chip!” said the three children. They all ran and hugged him.

“Aww thanks you guys. Now let’s get going! There’s someone I want you to meet.” Said Chip.

“Who is it?” asked Emily.

“It’s a surprise!” said Chip “You’ll have to wait and see. I think you’ll like her!”

“Yay!” exclaimed Emily.

“Well then shall we?” asked Chip.

“Yes!” yelled all three of the children.

With a clap of thunder and a flash of lightning, they were back in Winter Wonderland. Still the same as always, full of life, animals, the chirping of birds, the bright and beautiful sun, and the sound of rushing water.

“I forgot how beautiful it was here.” said Kate spinning around with birds flying around her welcoming her back.

“Yeah.” Sighed Emily and Blix.

“It’s good to be back.” said Emily.

“Remember how I said there was someone I wanted you to meet?” said Chip “Well here she is, Cindy, my sister!”

Cindy was a beautiful white bunny with a pink flower behind her ear.

“Hello.” said Cindy “I’m Chip’s sister.”

“Hi” said the triplets. “Nice to meet you!”

“My name is Emily!” said Emily.

“Hi.” Said Blix, “I’m Blix.”

“Hello!” said Kate “My name is Kate! I’m the oldest of us three triplets. Blix is the middle child and Emily is the youngest.”

“Wow!” said Cindy.

“Yeah.” said the triplets.

“Well,” said Chip “There’s one more thing. Cindy are you ready to show them Summer Town?”

“Wait. Before we go, Evil Queen doesn’t hang out there does she?” said Emily

Evil Queen had captured them and made them work for her against their will. They had to scrub the floors, and all sorts of things.

“No, thankfully she doesn’t.” said Chip.

“Ok, good.” said Emily.

“Well let’s get going!” said Cindy.

Once again with a flash of lightning, and a clap of thunder, they were there, Summer Town. It was so beautiful. Birds chirping, the smell of salt water, the sun, the warmth, all the animals, and the sound of the ocean.

“This place is beautiful!” said Kate.

“Come this way I want to show you all something.” said Chip, “We found this cave a few days ago when we were here exploring, and we decided to show you when you came.”

The cave had shells and coral engraved in the walls. It was a little odd for it to be there, but it was beautiful anyway. The cave echoed when anyone spoke. There was one suspicious thing about it though. There was a long narrow hallway and the kids were very curious to see where it went. They all went down one by one. Cindy and Chip decided to follow. Then suddenly someone grabbed Blix’s arm and pulled him into the shadows. Emily, Kate, Cindy, and Chip knew that they had to save him, but how? Once again, they slowly crept one by one down into the cave. Then suddenly someone grabbed Kate too! Now the three remaining, with Emily in the lead, had to go on. Then Emily, Cindy, and Chip got taken. None of them knew where they were, all they knew was that it was cold, dark, and wet.

“Emily, Blix, Chip, Cindy are you there?” echoed Kate’s voice through the cave.

“Yes.” they all answered.

“I’m scared.” shivered Emily.

“Me too.” said Kate “Do you think we’ll get out?”

“NO.” boomed a voice through the cave. The children shivered with fear, it was Evil Queen!

“Oh no! We’re done for!” hollered Kate.

“Yes, you most certainly are.” said Evil Queen.

Then suddenly there was light, and you could see the Evil Queen’s pale face in the shadows.

“Welcome back kids, and you little rabbit. You’ve brought a friend too I see!” said Evil Queen.

“What are you going to do with us?” asked Blix.

“I don’t know yet but even if I did, I wouldn’t tell you.” said Evil Queen

“Oh no.” worried Kate. She didn’t want to get hypnotized again like last time.

“I’m going to put you two rabbits in my dungeon, but I have special plans for you three.” said Evil Queen “Guards! Take the rabbits to the dungeon. I’ll take these kids to the special dungeon.”

The guards came and took Cindy and Chip away. Now it was just the three of them and Evil Queen.

“Well, the special dungeon.” laughed Evil Queen “Here it is. Unescapable.”

The special dungeon had poisonous spiky jail bars. The kids had no chance of escaping now. How would they get out and back home? Then suddenly Chip and Cindy appeared in the cage.

“We can get you out.” said Chip.

“How?” said Emily.

“Teleport!” said Cindy.

“Oh,” said Emily.

Once again with a clap of thunder and a flash of lightning they were back home.

“Well,” said Kate “see you next time.”

“See you next time.” said Chip.

With a pop Cindy and Chip were gone.

The kids went back to normal life dreaming about what their visit would be like next time.

Skylar Shook

Silverdale Baptist Academy

Spelling Bee

It was here, the day I had been dreading for a week. The petrifying spelling bee. This is the kind of challenge where you mess up and , ding, you're out. What I call an instant death composition. Everyone talks about butterflies in their stomach but that's not what existed in me, these were hornets. Making an angry buzzing sound and swinging their stingers this way and that so it was impossible to focus. All day I paced and studied, thought and practiced. It seemed to wiz by. And wow, was it all ready lunch time? I gulped down my food thinking about the thrills to come. I wondered if this time I would be the winner or get a word I didn't study and regret it for another year. As lunch came to a close a voice rang out,

“Five minute warning.” It was time. It was then when all my worries became so great it felt as if a lion was shouting in my ear and the world was spinning like a tornado. Me and my friends cleaned off our plates and started the long walk up to the chapel. All of the upper primary walked up chittering like excited birds and frantically studying. Knowing what was about to take place in the chapel all my body wanted to do was run pel mel in the other direction but I didn't. I kept the I'm fine, all is well, perfectly calm here, smile on and kept walking. The doors to the chapel swung open to admit us to something scarier than a haunted house. My imagination instantly conjured a crazed laugh to go with the dark setting which was not helping with my nerves at all. Thanks brain, you make the situation so much better with your delightful comparisons. The chapel was currently dim with a blinding spotlight on a large black stage and a microphone. We lined up in rows on the rough carpet and the talking decreased to a low hum.

“The spelling bee is about to begin, there are a few things I want to say,” said Mrs. Colvan. She talked for what felt like an eternity till it finally began. The first row rose and took their place on stage. I knew it would not be long before it was my turn and I would have to rip off the band aid and heave myself up there.

It was almost my time to get in front of the judges and use my brain. It was so close I could almost feel the hard stage and the spotlight shining in my terrified eyes. My friend Ellie moved off the stage in triumph of spelling her word correctly and I knew it was my turn. *I am all right, not about to die, annika is fine, totally not screaming inside*, my brain tries to reassure me. I shakily stepped forward. Though my bones felt like they were buzzing with nervous energy saying each letter felt like lifting a

hundred pound weight. By the end of the word a voice in my head whimpered about how it wanted to crawl under a rock and lie there for a while until the spelling bee was over. I pushed it down and slowly lifted my head just enough to see the judges. They gave a slight, wonderful, nod! Walking off the stage a grin as big as the whole world broke across my face and almost cried of joy because I spelled some stupid word like sun. Spelling one word, no matter what it was, gave me the confidence to rangle the ferocious beast inside my head that we call fear. I relished sitting down and letting my heart rate calm down. Time and time again I paraded off the stage and sat down with the other contestants left, which was dwindling rapidly. As round 10 came around there were only three eager to win kids left and amazingly, including me. We went through at least 5 other rounds with no mess ups and I knew I at least could not go on much longer. Then the word gastritis came up and it was another student named Nyla's turn. I was glad I was not in her spot.

“Gastritis G-A-S-T-R-I-D-U-S, gastritis.” The little bell dinged and Nyla sadly walked off the stage to sit down. The pressure now was like being in a pressure cooker. I was so close, I had to win. *What a nice thought, being done with this thing.* I spelled one more word correctly and went to stand behind Hawkins, the other kid who made it this far. His word was Desecration. Hawkins slowly uttered,

“Desecration, D-E-S-I-C-R-A-T-I-O-N desecration.” Again the bell rang. This time I didn't need to hear it to know he was out. As soon as he said, “D-E-S-I,” I knew he was out. Shock ran through me as if I had been electrified by lightning. I still had to spell two more words, but then I would win. I spelled the first word correctly! Score one. “Your final word is bionic,” proclaimed Mrs. Stephens. “Bionic B-I-O-N-I-C, bionic,” I said with no confidence. They nodded! I just won the spelling bee for real, no jokes! I had to think about it for a sec. Never mind no more thinking I just wanted to be happy and let someone else talk. My talking was not going to work for a while and it felt like everything I said came out wobbly. What I really wanted deep inside under the shock was to lie down on something soft and put the world on pause for a little bit. Then do a bit of yelling and then I would be fine. But right now that was not an option. For now I had to keep going like a normal human being and keep the part of my brain where I was still screaming quiet until this crazy, exciting, amazing, and exhausting day was over.

Student's Name: Annika Anderson

School: St. Nicholas School

Trauma
|Ellie's Personal Narrative|

6:00 A.M. April 12th, 2020.

“Easter!” I scream as I run down the stairs.

“And your maw maw’s birthday,” said my mother handing me my Easter basket.

“Right, that too,” I said, tearing apart my Easter basket to find a toy cow that moos when you squeeze it. “Thank you” I say to my parents whilst laughing my head off at my new toy. My parents started talking about the severe thunderstorm watch they had seen on the television but I couldn't care less, I was too busy eating chocolate and being six.

11:39 P.M. April 12, 2020

My father woke up suddenly and on the television there was a tornado warning for a county near us. He immediately started to get dressed and put his shoes on. He woke up my mother and told her about the tornado warning and my mother picked me up and carried me down the stairs to the bathroom. A few minutes later I awoke and subconsciously knew that something was wrong and that that something was a tornado.

11:52 P.M. April 12, 2020

The tornado hit. Sounds of glass breaking and shingles hitting the outside walls filled my ears. After the banging ended I looked up and saw nothing but pitch black darkness. A wave of emotions ran through me but I couldn't figure out what I was feeling. I couldn't figure out if I was feeling sad, mad, scared or confused. My father got up to go get our shoes so we could leave the bathroom. He was gone for a little over twenty minutes and my mother and I were scared that something bad had happened to him. We had no way of contacting him to see if he was ok. Finally, after about thirty minutes, he came back with our shoes. We exited the bathroom to see glass all over the floor and the television knocked over by a piece of the roof. The back door had fallen down on our fish tank. My mother started to sweep up the glass on the floor into a pile while I sat on a chair in the kitchen so I wouldn't get little itty bitty glass shards in my little feet.

7:20 A.M. April 13, 2020

Seven and a half hours after the tornado we had cleaned up what we could of the debris. All of our pets were safe and unharmed and so were we. We had found that my bedroom was intact so we stayed in there for the night. After a long time of waiting I finally got to go outside. As I saw the destroyed houses and fallen power lines in my neighborhood I realized what I had been feeling before, trauma.

Student's name: Ellie Yakimowich

School: St Nicholas School

Never Own a Chameleon

“Getting a pet was the worst idea mom had in mind. Three years ago, back when I lived in Chicago, Illinois, Mom took my sister and I to Petco to get a pet. Believe it or not, I've been asking for a pet for years, so this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to finally get the pet I desired. And I got it, sort of. I wanted a reptile, like a snake or an iguana, but the only reptile there was was a chameleon. And I kept him to this day.” I said.

A slow clapping arose from my brother and sister. Anyway, today's the day everyone in 5th grade has to do a speech on their most valuable item they own. My siblings were acting like the audience and my classmates. Simon, my younger brother, came up with a speech of his own.” Legos,” he began, “are the worst thing I can own. They break my nails when prying them apart, and kill my feet when Mom plays my favorite song.” he said looking at us like it made sense. My sister and I stare at each other, then look over at Simon. “As in I step on them.” he explained. “Come on Sophia.” I said to my younger sister. “Let's see what you've come up . . .” A quiet alarm went off from in my room. My experiment was almost done. I escaped to my room, turned off the miniature oven and put my substance filled container in ice to cool off. According to the instructions, I have to keep it in there for three whole minutes. I went to my shelf to get my stopwatch, and since my chameleon was in his cage I have to be careful not to tip it over. But as I reached over to grab my watch, my sister barged in with a loud shriek making me kick my pet's glass container. He was free! when she saw how angry I was, she started screaming. After seven whole minutes of non-stop screaming, the chameleon scattered across my floor and up Sophia's leg. Her scream got louder and more high pitched. The higher he climbed the more pitches she unlocked. He went into her shirt and started biting. The first bite was fierce, but eventually he ran out of teeth. I feel bad for him but that's what he gets for being a young chameleon. Once he was done teething, he dragged himself to her neck. But before he could pierce his toothless gums into her vocal cords, she grabbed him tight and threw him in a random direction, which happened to be near my chemicals, near my experiments. And both fell on him. I glared at my sister. “At least he's off me now.” she said. I look at my pet. He looks fine. I blinked. He blinked. I coughed. He managed a cough. All normal things they do. Well, as I thought.

Soon, fall turned to winter. I'd done my speech, but I didn't win the competition. Bailey did. It was one day till my birthday. Ever since the incident, I replaced

my pet's container with plastic instead of the glass container the Petco employee gave me. According to the weather, it will snow for 2 days, so I stayed at home the entire day watching TV, and playing on the iPad we have. Mom, dad, and I were talking about how my birthday would play out at Defy, Sophia was playing in her room, and Simon was walking past my room to get to his. While he walked by my room, he saw my chameleon playing on my computer, then he peeked in my room again and saw that it was back in its cage, and it spoke too. " This is the worst game in the history of games. " Simon peeked more into my room. " You've played more than one game? " he asked. My chameleon snuck a look at my brother and spoke with his mouth half open. " Booooo-ooo. " he said, like an old granny."It's December. " Simon said in a flat tone. Simon soon took a few deep breaths, and slowly walked in and my pet stared at him while casually eating his crickets. As they were staring at each other, Simon nearly tripped on my skateboard, but sadly it hit my desk, which hit my marbles, that tipped over my water, that fell on my computer. Up until that point, it started to sound like a tea kettle. Sadly, it exploded, and one piece of it fell on the very cricket my pet was shoving into his mouth. He ate it. Then swallowed it. And was electrocuted by it. It was complete silence and the animal practically danced from the effect of the electricity. Me and my parents were doing our thing, Sophia was doing her thing, but Simon was just standing there, waiting. Waiting for what? For him to stop eating his crickets? For him to stop being electrified by the remaining parts of my only computer? Eventually, me and my parents were done discussing how things would go on my birthday. So I decided to play Minecraft on my computer to pass the time. As soon as Simon heard my footsteps, he came up with a brilliant idea . He drew, colored, and cut out a life-size computer and chameleon, then he hid my pet in my closet and covered it with all of my dirty clothes so he wouldn't be heard. I was inches from my room. He knew I'd find out about it eventually.

To Be Continued...

E.J. Evans

Silverdale Baptist Academy

The True Love

One day, my friend and I were playing in our cage at PetSmart. In the middle of the day, a girl walked in with her mother and brother. The girl wanted to buy a hamster with her birthday money. She walked up to the cage and said, "I want to buy a hamster." The salesman said, "OK! Which one do you want?" She stood there for a second and looked in the cage. Then, the salesman said, "We are going to get more at the end of the week." The girl said, "I don't wanna wait." She stood there for another second then she said, "I want that one." And pointed to me. My friend and I said goodbye and I never saw him again. But that was the way it went. I was in the tank with others, but they got sold. Now, it was my turn! I know my friend is going to be okay, he's going to get more friends soon. So, the salesman got me ready and I went home with the girl. She named me Banana. Her name is Rebecca Joy. She has a friend named Emma that got a hamster. I did not know anything about the hamster, but Rebecca Joy said Emma's hamster wanted a mate for life.

On the other side, I felt the same way. I wanted a mate too, but how could I find one? As time went by, I had no mate, but a lot of stories to tell. Like one day, Rebecca Joy had a long wrapping paper tube that she let me crawl through. It was really fun for me. I was a little tired since it was during the day and I'm nocturnal.

Then, a different day it was almost bedtime for her, so I was mostly awake. She let me crawl on her while she was watching a show. I got in her shirt and couldn't hold it any longer. I peed all over her! She was a little upset, but she forgave me. Another day, Rebecca Joy's mom was cleaning my cage and trying to do it without taking me out of my cage. Then there it was. A big, huge, ginormous green glove. It was coming to get me! Well, it was coming to get my bedding to replace it with fresh bedding, but it was coming to get me! So, I did the only thing that was logical, I ATTACKED IT! The green glove was not so happy, but it left me alone. I felt courageous!

A month later, Rebecca Joy made an outside cage for me. Which was really a cardboard box with no lid. I enjoyed the day walking around when a huge, massive dog came over me. I could tell it wanted to eat me! It had huge jaws. Its head came down, its mouth wide open. I thought this was the end. Then I saw a hand reach down and grab me. It was Rebecca Joy's dad. I was screaming, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, Keith!" He brought me to Rebecca and she started yelling at her brother Jack. Jack was supposed to be watching me, but I was OK.

One week later she was holding me in her room and I wanted to explore, so I crawled up her shoulder and jumped off and landed inside her shoe that was next to her. She thought I broke my legs, but I didn't.

One month later, we were in the front yard and she was taking pictures of me in the flower bed when a hawk in the sky was circling me. Rebecca picked me up and took me inside. So, I had a lot of adventures. But I never met the perfect mate, although I heard of her.

Her name was Rosie. Rosie Miller. She was Emma 's hamster. What a beautiful name for a SOW (female hamster). I heard that she was brown and white and she had the prettiest eyes. I never got to meet her, but if I did, she would be the one. But one day, I was in my cage and then I saw a beautiful hamster with wings and a bright light. The next thing I knew, I was in hamster heaven, standing next to hamster Jesus. A few months later Rosie came in and I asked her how she made it here. As we walked off into the sunset, she said, "well, I got a whole lot to tell you."

The End!

Author's Note: This a fiction/non-fiction story about Rebecca Joy's hamster, Banana. And Rebecca's friend, Emma, and her hamster, Rosie. We don't know if they knew our names or if they knew the time or what they were thinking or if there even is a hamster Heaven, but in the end my hamster died and so did Emma's hamster. We wanted our hamsters to meet, but our parents wouldn't let us introduce them. But in the end, we could imagine that they could be the perfect ones for each other. Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Joy Hales
Silverdale Baptist Academy

Space Mystery

James, Charlie and Ava are orphans. They all lost their parents in different ways. Now they must live in a junk yard. It is the season of winter. It is also getting colder and colder. All they have is a thin jacket for all seasons. They began thinking. James said, “what if we had a fire to keep us warm?” Ava replied, “yeah, but what could we use to make a fire? We only have metals and plastics. We can’t use those.” “Ahh,” thought Charlie. “Y’all know science, right?” “Only a little bit, because I only went to school for two months,” replied Ava. “Well stars are far away suns, so they are very hot.” “Oh, so you are thinking we could use that to make a fire?” Thought James. “Oh, that makes sense. But how can we get to space without a spaceship?” Ava wondered. James thought for a second. The other day he saw junk yard workers. They were trying to smash a trampoline, but it just JUMPED into the beautiful blue sky, and came back down to the ground. “Ava, throw that can by your feet onto the trampoline,” barked James.

The children thought for days and days, it even became months. They all threw heavier and heavier materials on the trampoline to see how high it goes depending on the weight of each item. It finally became time to get their materials and get things packed up for the exciting trip they are about to take.

The children took with them a ladder, old run-down wooden boxes, and a glass jar. If you think about it, that is not a lot at all, but the children knew it would be useful.

They jumped on the trampoline and went flying into the beautiful blue sky with all the materials they thought might be very useful to try to capture a star.

The children have finally landed on the moon. The children took a ladder and went as high as they could. However, the ladder was too old from sitting in the junk yard all year and the children collapsed on the moon. Next, they tried the boxes, which were also old and run down. The children took wooden boxes and stacked them on top of each other, but they just tumbled down.

James said, “what if we used teamwork to get a star?” Ava chuckled, “yeah but who is lighter?” It didn’t matter who was lighter. It just mattered if they could get that star. All three kids were stacked on top of each other and were finally tall enough. Ava had the old glass jar, so she had to be at the top of everybody. Ava finally got the star in the jar after several times of trying. They all laid down on the grey moon to chill. Ava was explaining, “we need to get back to earth, because this star is very hot. James and Charlie

agreed, so they all grabbed their things and jumped into the portal not far beneath them.

Suddenly, they were right where they had been in the junk yard earlier. They grabbed the old run-down boxes that they used as a material while they were in space. They took the boxes and put them into little pieces, though that was very easy. Then they threw the star onto the boxes, and it made a big BOOM sound. It looked like fireworks and the children had to back up because it was so hot.

The children didn't know it, but there was another poor woman with a bottle of water in her hand behind a big pile of things that needed to be smashed in the junk yard. When that poor woman heard the noise, she got closer and closer to the children. Ava heard a CRACK and was very curious of what it could be. Ava saw the woman and immediately said "MOM!" The woman backed up with a water bottle in her hand. Though the woman was so dirty, Ava was sure it was her mom. The boys had no idea what was happening, because they were playing tag. The woman threw the water bottle at Ava's feet. Ava put the water on her face. Immediately the woman knew it was her daughter. She ran up to Ava and said, "oh honey I've missed you so much! I am so happy to see you again! I love you so much!" The woman was so relieved. The boys saw what they were doing and ran up to join the happiness. Then they all sat by the fire and told funny stories.

The End

Charlotte Eaves

Silverdale Baptist Academy

The Time Tree

Andrew was a normal boy, for the most part. He liked playing sports. He especially liked golf. It helped him take his mind off stuff. This afternoon, he was playing outside with his dog Bernie when he saw this light. Now, Andrew liked to explore. So, he followed it and he walked for some time. Then the light stopped at a huge tree. Andrew ran his fingers across the bark and it took some time because of the size of the tree. It felt like any other bark. But Andrew noticed that there was a huge hole in this tree. So, Andrew went inside the hole and something happened that Andrew did not expect. Everything went black!

When Andrew woke up, everything seemed strange. He heard men shouting and he was moving. Then, Andrew noticed that he was in an old wagon and it was packed with stuff. Andrew did not know where he was so, he decided to find out. He got out of this wagon and saw men and woman and noticed that he was out in the wilderness. Andrew also noticed that one of these men was shouting above everyone else. Once he saw this man's face, he felt like he had seen it before. Then a booming voice behind him said, "Well, look who woke up!"

"Woke up?" Andrew asked.

"Yeah, we need a good salt collector," said the big guy.

"Salt?" Andrew questioned again. Before he knew it, he had a shovel in hand and was scooping up rocks and putting them into a hot stove.

During his lunch break, Andrew learned a lot. He was back in 1773 and he was with Daniel Boone and there were dangerous Indians trying to capture them. Now, Andrew was a smart boy. If people were trying to capture them, you probably should not have all this smoke going up in the air. At that moment, he knew he needed to get to Daniel Boone. So, he sprinted to tell Daniel Boone about the smoke. When he found him, he told him everything.

Boone said that he knew the smoke would give away their location, but you could not make salt without it. Then, Andrew heard people yelling and he saw Indians running out of the bushes. When he ran into a big, burly Indian, he hit him with a club.

When Andrew woke up, he saw men in redcoats and what looked to be settlers. Then he saw it, the light!! He started running and when he got there, he dove into the hole. Andrew woke up to Bernie licking his face. And written on the tree was...

“Until next time.”

Luke Rogers
Silverdale Baptist Academy

A True Warrior

Flowerpaw was sitting on a log, overlooking Windclan. Moonstrike, her mentor and the medicine cat of Windclan, came up to her.

“Hello, Flowerpaw.” she mewed. “Can you please go get some marigold and dock?”

“Of course.” Flowerpaw answered. She padded off towards an area by the stream. *Moonstrike told me that marigold grows over here*, she thought. Sure enough, a patch of marigold flowers were on the grassy bank. Flowerpaw gently picked a few, and went to find dock. She came across a small bunch. As Flowerpaw started to bring the plants back to Moonstrike, she heard a twig snap. Flowerpaw felt the fur on her neck bristle as she turned around. There stood a cat she had never seen before, a tortoise-shell she-cat with blue eyes. Flowerpaw took a step back.

“Who-who are you?” she asked cautiously. The newcomer smiled.

“I’m Silverpaw.” Silverpaw mewed in a soft, yet confident voice. “What about you?”

“I’m Flowerpaw.” Flowerpaw answered. Silverpaw nodded.

“Pretty name. Anyway, I have to go.” she said, padding away. Silverpaw looked over her shoulder, and Flowerpaw thought she heard Silverpaw say

“Meet me here this sun-down.”

“Wait...” Flowerpaw called, but Silverpaw was already gone. Flowerpaw sighed. She walked over to the medicine den, where Moonsight was sorting a pile of herbs.

“Thank you, Flowerpaw. You can put those over there.” Moonsight told Flowerpaw, nodding towards the wall. Flowerpaw barely heard her, and absent-mindedly put the plants in a pile by the wall.

“Flowerpaw, are you alright?” Moonsight asked. Snapping out of her daze, Flowerpaw nodded.

“Can you teach me more about herbs?” she asked.

“Sure. So, this one is rosemary,” Moonsight said, pointing to a long green herb with little, needle-like leaves. “Smell it, Flowerpaw. It’s very fragrant.” Flowerpaw leaned forward and smelled the rosemary.

“It definitely is.” she agreed. Moonsight smiled, and she told Flowerpaw about many more herbs and their uses. Later that night when the sky was pink with sunset, Flowerpaw went back to the area where she met Silverpaw to see if she was there. Sure enough, there was the tortoise-shell cat, waiting for her.

“Hello, Flowerpaw.” she mewed. Flowerpaw waved her paw in greeting.

“Hi again, Silverpaw.” she said. Silverpaw gently plucked a lilac from the ground.

“Newleaf is my favorite season, all the flowers bloom.” she said in her soft voice. Flowerpaw nodded.

“It’s my favorite, too.” Then she remembered why she was there. “Silverpaw, why did you call me here?”

“Simple. I’m a rogue.”

“WHAT????!!” Flowerpaw yelled. Silverpaw nodded.

“I got banished for a moon when I was still an apprentice, and I never came back. So, I’m still an apprentice. Yesterday was the day when I was supposed to become a warrior.” she said the last part with a twinge of anger and regret. Flowerpaw thought for a moment.

“Windclan takes in outsiders, you know.” she said. Silverpaw’s head snapped straight up.

“Do you really think they’d take in *me*?” she asked.

“Of course!” Flowerpaw said. “And at the next warrior ceremony you can finally become a warrior! And I will too!”

“Can I sleep in your den?” Silverpaw asked. Flowerpaw nodded.

“Sure. Come on, my mother will be worried about me.” she said, going to her den.

When Silverpaw and Flowerpaw got there, Snowstar, Flowerpaw’s mother and the leader of Windclan, was incredulous.

“Who is that?” she growled.

“Mother, this is Silverpaw. She was banished from her camp, although she didn’t do anything bad. She’s staying with us, whether you like it or not.” Flowerpaw told Snowstar.

“Fine.” Snowstar said icily, leaving the den to go get prey from the freshkill pile.

“I can’t *believe* you said that to your mother!” Silverpaw told Flowerpaw. Flowerpaw shrugged.

“Mother is often bossy. I just learned to stand up to her.” she said. At that moment, Snowstar came back with two rabbits. She dropped one in front of Flowerpaw and Silverpaw.

“Here.” Snowstar said, shooting a look at Silverpaw. Silverpaw, who was pretending not to notice, smiled at her.

“Thank you.” Silverpaw said. Snowstar’s expression turned a little less sour at that.

The next day when Flowerpaw was about to go to the medicine den, she felt a paw on her shoulder and turned to see Silverpaw.

“Can I come with you?” Silverpaw asked.

“Sure!” Flowerpaw replied, padding away to the medicine den.

“Hello, Flowerpaw.” Moonsight mewed “Who is your friend here?”

“This is Silverpaw.” Flowerpaw responded. Moonsight nodded. The cats sorted herbs for a bit, then Ashrain came in. He had a large cut.

“Ashrain, what happened?” Moonsight gasped.

“I...fell out of a tree.” Ashrain replied sheepishly. Silverpaw grabbed rosemary, smashed it into a paste with a rock, and put it on Ashrain’s cut. Moonsight looked at her in awe.

“Where did you learn to do that?” she asked.

“I was a medicine apprentice.” Silverpaw answered. Moonsight nodded.

“Good.” The rest of the moon went by quickly. Flowerpaw and Silverpaw helped Moonsight with medicine cat duties. Finally, it was the day of the gathering. Snowstar looked at everyone.

“Shadowclan, Windclan, Riverclan, Skyclan.” she announced. “I ask you all to not speak until I finish.” Snowstar said. “Flowerpaw, come forward. Flowerpaw, do you promise to keep the warrior code in your heart and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?”

“I do.”

“Then by the power of Starclan, I give your warrior name. Flowerpaw, you will now be known as Flowerstrike.” Snowstar announced. Flowerstrike beamed.

“1 moon ago, Windclan took in an outsider. Many of us did not trust her at first. I admit I was one of them, and I am very sorry. She is a true warrior. Silverpaw, please come forward,” Snowstar said. Silverpaw came up. Snowstar repeated the ritual.

“Silverpaw, by the powers of Starclan, you will now be known as Silverdawn.” she said, followed by cheers.

“Flowerstrike! Silverdawn!” from the Clans. Flowerstrike felt a surge of pride, and as she looked at Silverdawn, Flowerstrike knew that her friend did, too.

Rebecca Davis

Thrasher Elementary School

“DEPORTATION ACT FROM MARTA’S POV”

It all started when I heard the screaming stop. As a striker, I was confused as to why it had stopped. I looked around expecting to see other strikers but instead I saw strikers running and trying to hide. A sudden fear entered my nervous system when I saw a bus pulling up on the dirt road.

I heard a striker yell, ”La Migra! Immigration!” I ran to hide as I saw other strikers getting put on buses. I found a hiding spot behind some crates and boxes. I felt my heart pounding, and was hoping they couldn't hear my heart racing rapidly.

I peeked out from the crates and saw what looked like hundreds of strikers running, some of them getting caught in the process. I hoped that I wouldn't be found as I have to take care of my mother. I saw a woman get shoved on a bus with a child. A sadness filled my body.

I saw through a crack in a crate that some of the buses were driving away. I put my finger to my lip trying to keep quiet. I saw someone coming and was hoping it wasn't immigration, when the box in front of me moved. It was Esperanza. I moved my finger off my lip to say, “Please, Esperanza. Don’t tell. I can’t get caught. I must take care of my mother.” Then she turned around and headed back to where the shed workers were. She came back with a bundle of asparagus, some burlap sacks, and a dirty apron.

Then she said, " La Migra is still out front." she said in a hushed voice, ”they will probably leave in an hour when the shed closes.” She handed me the apron and asparagus. Then she told me, “when you leave, put on the apron and carry the asparagus so you’ll look like a worker just in case anyone tries to stop you.”

I gratefully told her, “Gracias, I am so sorry I misjudged you.”

”Shhh.” she said. Then she repositioned the crate and draped the burlap sacks across them. Then I heard the last bus drive away and at that moment I knew I was safe.

Student Name: Mia Bales

Wallace A. Smith Elementary

Tomato War

Six years ago, I was in pre-K, happy as can be, but one day everything changed. It seemed like a normal day, but the air smelled of a messy spaghetti dinner. Something was going to happen. Everyone knew it. Although at the same time, no one would admit it. The day went by oddly fast, until recess started.

I was walking around the swings, bored out of my wits. I wanted something to happen. I had always wanted to do something like this. I wanted to stand up and do something. I just never had the guts to do it. Then I saw it. There it was, in Mrs. Lynn's Garden. A beautiful ruby of mass destruction and stains was sitting there. Nothing was stopping anyone from just picking it up. It was a cherry tomato. I had heard of these; they were ripe and in season. They were bright red color and looked throwable. My little fingers could not resist picking it up. Before I knew it, I was holding it. The power to ruin a nice, new tailored white polo was in the palm of my chubby hand. So, like any impetuous little child who does not think before any of his actions. I threw it.

It went flying through the air striking James in the chest. Then in what seemed like only 2 seconds, everyone was fighting. Wherever you looked there was someone throwing a tomato. There were kids on the ground begging for mercy as they were being pelted left and right with tomatoes. In the midst of the chaotic battle, you could make out the shape of a little girl running and yelling in the red stained air. You could tell she was on a mission. You could see the sheer determination in her eyes. She was going to stop this. She was going to be the one to relieve everyone of the madness. She was Aolani. When everyone seemed doomed to stains, she came. Everyone stopped to watch her. Eyes were boggled as they watched the one that would stop the madness, because she was going to tell and it worked.

Before we knew it recess was over. The war had stopped. Now that I'm older and wiser I can say I learned two things: one, never underestimate a spaghetti dinner, and two, be wise with your decisions. So that concludes the tragic tale of the Tomato War... Or does it?

Well to my little brain "yes" it was over. Though that was not the correct answer.

The next day....

Although the war was "done", it truly was not. The next day we were back. Our hands longed to feel the cool feeling of a ripe cherry tomato in the palm of

their hand. They longed for the feeling of the adrenaline pumping through veins, and the rush of fear. Running, praying that if they got hit their parents would not hesitate to rain their wrath down upon them. For some twisted reason they wanted it. No, they did not want it, they needed it, and they were going to get it.

So, they started the long-fought battle once more, they truly wanted it. At first it was small, but then it grew consuming the playground. The girls hid and avoided the tomato-throwing boys. The girls did not want to get involved, but that made the boys want to hit them more. The one who stopped it last time had set down her cape. Chaos spread through the playground nothing could escape its cold grasp.

I was running, trying to escape the reach of stains. Coleman was ready to throw. He was aiming, preparing to strike me down. So, he did. The red bomb of stains and anger was flying through the air like a bullet. Visions of angry parents went flashing through my head. Then it hit. Never had I imagined anything such as the angry parents looking down at me in disappointment. I was doomed, and so was everyone else. Doomed to stains. But it was not over. No, it kept on going. Nothing could stop it.

Of course, after recess the teachers asked me what happened.

“Why is there a stain on your shirt?” questioned Ms. Emily.

“I got hit by a tomato,” I sniffed out.

“How?” persisted Ms. Emily.

“Well, I was running around,” I started, “then Coleman threw a tomato at me.”

“Why did this happen? I thought we stopped you kids from throwing tomatoes yesterday.”

“Well..... I guess it did not work.”

“Well then, it better work tomorrow.” ordered Ms. Emily.

-The Next Day-

That morning I was warned by my parents not to get in trouble with tomatoes.

“Do not touch or throw a tomato. Or else, there will be consequences.” warned my mom.

“Okay Momma,” I started, “I know.”

“I know you know, so don’t get in trouble.”

“I did not get in trouble.” I corrected.

“I know. But still.”

“Okay, Momma.” I reassured.

So off I went to school. The whole way I was silent and when I got to school, I knew my mom was still worried.

Everyone was silent before once, planning how they would strike. Yes, they were still at it. They tested their luck and they wanted to test it again, they were double dipping. In the spaghetti sauce that is. They wanted to rewrite what happened yesterday, they wanted to restart everything. And this time they were going to do it right. They saw the vision of the red stained air children running over an ocean of chaos throwing and showing no mercy to anyone with a shirt on. No one knew why they wanted it, but they did.

It was recess once more, and the air smelled of stains and chaos. Once more. Everyone knew it, but no one wanted to say it. The truth was no one really wanted this, but there was something in the back of their heads’ telling them to do it. Their little kid brains could not realize what they were doing, but they were doing it. The first throw was like an envelope to seal their consequences. The tomato rolled off the person’s fingers. The red ball of chaos flew through the sky like the sun going over the Earth. It landed directly on the shirt of someone. Then it started. All hope of avoiding consequences were gone. Boys were running, never thinking about their parents' anger. Girls were hiding praying no one would find them and hit them. No one was safe from the chaos because it was everywhere. The raging inferno was almost unstoppable. It had consumed everything, but someone was going to stop it... Mrs. Emily! So, she ended recess.

Now I have a true-life lesson at the end of this tale. I just want everyone to know you should judge your actions better. This story was a prime example that there can be consequences if you do not. This finally concludes the epic story of the Tomato War.

Connor Cyrus
The Bright School

B-E-E

It was Wednesday morning. *Today's the spelling bee!* I'd been waiting for this day ever since I lost last year. Victory was so close. As I brushed my teeth in the mirror, I imagined that beautiful gold medal around my neck. That golden bee would be mine.

D-E-N-D-R-O-C-H-R-O-N-O-L-O-G-Y. I could hear my mom yelling to finish getting ready.

“Okay, I’m coming!” L-E-K-S. I ran to the garage. B-O-B-A. We were at the bus stop. I was on fire. M-O-I-R-A. On the bus, the letters flew from my brain to my lips. P-A-L-O-M-I-N-O...F-R-I-J-O-L-E-S... K-O-I... S-C-A-N-D-I-U-M...W-O-K... S-H-O-A-L.

The bus stopped in front of the concourse. I was prepared. The bell rang. I picked up my backpack and headed to the fifth grade hall.

“Everyone ready for the spelling bee?” Ms. Hyer led us to the auditorium.

You can do this! You've studied and practiced then studied and practiced more. You got this!

Then, butterflies in my stomach fluttered like jet planes. My palms were cold with sweat. As we sat down, I could hear the buzzing of my classmates. The fifth-grade spellers sat down and waited for the fourth graders to arrive. Ms. Reasor told us about how the spelling bee would work and trying your best. We received our stickers with our number on it and sat down in the auditorium.

I survived the practice round. Then, the official Bee started. 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2... 1. I heard Effie Trinket’s voice, and *may the odds be ever in your favor*.

“Brave,” Ms. Hyer said. I took a deep breath.

“Could I have the definition, please?”

“Having or showing mental or moral strength to face danger, fear, or difficulty.”

“Brave. B-R-A-V-E. Brave.”

The judges nodded their heads. Relieved, I quickly scampered to the back of the line.

The spellers would spell the word, and wait for the nod of triumph, or the shake of defeat. Suddenly, it was my turn, *again*.

“Crown,” Ms. Hyer said into the microphone. Easy! I had learnt this word years ago, but I was so nervous, I needed a minute to relax. I asked for the definition.

“A wreath, band, or circular ornament for the head.”

“Crown. C-R-O-W-N. Crown.” They nodded. I sighed with relief.

Round after round, nods and shakes. Only ten spelling warriors were left standing. The words were getting harder and harder. E-L-L-I-P-S-I-S. Nod, triumph. B-I-L-J. Shake, defeat. After spelling a few more words, I realized that we were only on page three out of four on the list. How many more rounds? How many more words? Were we going to be here all day? As I walked back to my seat, I asked Ms. O'Brien, "What happens if we get to the end of the list?"

She replied, "That rarely happens, but one year we had to get out the dictionary."

Oh no. I thought. Words we haven't studied???

A hush fell over the room. We were all too nervous. I suddenly realized my throat was dry, parched. Strangely, my palms were soaking.

G-R-E-B-E. Nod. C-O-L-I-U-S. Shake. P-R-O-P-E-T-I-O-U-S. Shake. F-A-L-L-O-W. Nod.

Finally, there were only four warriors left. We didn't talk at *all* anymore. Gladiators standing in the Spelling Colosseum ready to spell to the death... okay, maybe not to the death.

Then, there were three. H-O-B-B-I-T. Nod. V-E-R-V-E. Nod. N-O-P-A-L-E-S. Nod. F-E-N-Z. Shake.

Nod. Shake. Nod. Only two standing now.

Nod. Shake. Only one standing.

After twenty-eight rounds, two hours and thirty minutes, one warrior remained. Ms. Hyer walked to the judges, and music played as they talked. I saw the judges point to their binders. Could it be a new word list???

Ms. Hyer cleared her throat. Then, she signaled to me to come up to the microphone. "Stella..." *What's the word?* I thought, more anxious than ever.

"In order to win the spelling bee..." *tell me the word!*

"You must spell the following word correctly..." *GIVE ME THE WORD!!!!*

"Your word is..." *AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!!*

"Photosynthesis."

I knew this word! I studied it! I couldn't miss this word.

"Could I have the definition, please?"

"Synthesis of chemical compounds with the aid of radiant energy and especially light."

I took a deep breath. I pictured the word "PHOTOSYNTHESIS" in my head in big, black, bold letters.

"Photosynthesis. P-H-O-T-O-S-Y-N-T-H-E-S-I-S. Photosynthesis."

I crossed my fingers, toes, and eyes, hoping it was correct.

Ms. Hyer leaned into the microphone.

“Congratulations Stella! You have won the Bright School spelling bee!”

Victory! Victory was mine!

I skipped up to the stage smiling like a Cheshire cat. As I held the golden prize in my hands, I knew my hard work had paid off.

Stella Reyes

The Bright School

5th Grade Prose - Untitled

I always loved escape rooms, especially the thrill of unlocking the next door, and getting closer and closer to the end. I loved beating the timer and feeling that flow of self-accomplishment. However, sometimes you just never know what to expect.

Once at a birthday party-sleepover we were heading to an eerie escape room door. Our guide explained to us, “The whole task was to free the soul of the graveyard keeper who had mysteriously been killed,” or something like that. We all shivered. He opened the door, and my heart sank fast in one quick heartbeat. It was pitch black, and we were only given three lanterns. I got chills and my stomach kept twisting and twisting until it was finally in a knot. I was absolutely terrified of the dark. I couldn't turn back now; the other group had already started their escape room. We were escorted through the hallway and into the room.

The last two words I heard before our door closed were “Good Luck.”

The door closed and we plunged into darkness. Silent screams filled the room. It felt warm, since all these people were breathing so heavily.

Someone shouted, “Hey! I think I see something!”

We turned on one lantern, then another, and then another. Some of us gasped. Soft fake spiderwebs covered the walls. Some of us were disgusted. We hated spiders, but that wasn't what we were looking at. We saw a bright reflection blinding us and old time-y kind of bells, the kind you have to pull down ropes to ring. We figured out that it was some kind of riddle, and we found a sheet of laminated paper with some keys of bells on it. We had to unlock a code. We told the person who wanted to ring the bells which notes to ring, and he did. As we jerked, we heard screeching and groaning. We pointed our lanterns in that direction. We saw a tiny gate open after someone had tried to open it, the bells seem to have unlocked it.

We walked through the door, some of us flinched. We thought for sure we would be jump scared. We didn't, but now we saw fake rubber hands on the floor; some Spirit Halloween props I guessed. We also found another fake arm on the ground. Some of the boys decided to be funny, tease all the girls, and chase them around with that thing. I was still scared, but I had to focus. We looked around the room and tried to open a few things, and I found that one big box was locked.

We also noticed a big banner with all thirteen Zodiac signs on it.

Another riddle? We also found little light switches with thirteen signs on them. We looked around the room for all the different Zodiac signs. We only found three and had to figure out in which order we had to flip the light switches, an original. Someone found out the code, but I can't remember very clearly. We got a key somehow, and unlocked the big brown, wooden box. We opened it. Some of us were freaked out after seeing the big, strange thing in the box.

It was a torso, a man's torso! It had ripped clothing just like the arm. Some of us started suspecting something, I did too. I knew they were right. It made sense.

I thought, "Well, now everything our guide said makes sense. At least now I know what the challenge is. I know what to expect."

But what came next proved our suspicions. We saw a big head in a bird cage. This was creepy times two! We all tried to mess around with the cage, trying to get every bit and piece of the body. That was how we had to free a soul. We had to make a full body!

Somehow, we managed to unlock a door and slowly walked in. We shielded our eyes one by one each light turned on, the first row, then the second, then the third. It looked kind of like a creepy witch's hut with jars labeled "Spiders" or "Eyeballs" and other stuff. We also saw the most exciting thing yet, the outline of a body. Now some people might have thought this was kind of weird, but this meant that we just had to build the body next. Although it was on a wall, we were lucky because there were wooden pillars to hang the body parts on. We spread out and looked through everything in the room for a key to the bird's cage. Someone found it. We unlocked the cage, but we still needed another arm and two legs.

Eventually, we found all of the parts, but it took a little bit longer than we had hoped. We quickly pieced together all the body parts and a deep, manly voice played. "I am free, thank you, now exit before it's too late."

It might have been nothing like that at all, but the point was now we could get out of our escape room. We ran out of that room, out of the witch's hut, out of the graveyard, and back into the first room through the gate. The escape door wouldn't unlock!

We waited until someone figured out how to get out. No one did. So, as a team, we had to put our heads together and think. Someone decided that since we basically got into the next room by ringing the bells, we had to do the same thing to get out. Someone had kept the paper in their pocket. We yelled the code, eager to get out. We rang the right bell code, nothing happened.

We decided we must have done it wrong and

and tried again, nothing happened. We remembered something our guide had told us. “You need to unlock the code on the door to get out.”

The bells!... We had to ring had numbers! We tapped the code into the door, and the unlock signal turned green! We slammed open the door, ran out and stepped into the lobby with the furry couch and props for photos. The workers were there to congratulate us and take pictures. They wrote how much time we had left on a little whiteboard... 3:03, three minutes and three seconds left! It took about two minutes or so for the other group to get out. They had thirty seconds before time was up, but they finished. After that we went back to the birthday girl’s house. We were all still on the topic of that day even when we were going to bed. I learned that day, sometimes you have to put your fears behind you and focus on what's important.

Leighton Miller
The Bright School

Chaos and Recovery

Wanda's house was the setting of some of my happiest memories. I loved everything about the cozy home, from the backyard to the scent of the lemon candle on the coffee table. My family loved and respected her too.

I guess I'll begin here. Aunt Wanda and I were like close friends. We'd go to ice cream shops, parks, museums, everything you can think of. My uncle was the love of her life. She had been with him since high school – he had also been the one to ask if I wanted something, like a snack or a fun trip, which was where Camp Mays began.

Camp Mays was a 'camp' between me, Wanda, and Jody. We had a mental list of fun activities for everyday and hour. We'd go on hikes, make smores, do scavenger hunts, learn, quite literally everything. It really is a lovely memory! They lived in Maryville, though, so I was only able to go in the summer. It was so fun when I got there, even if I still had to finish my summer math book.

But there was one thing I didn't know.

Jody had a brain tumor, and the reason he wasn't home most of the time was because he was at the hospital. This might not have been related, but once, we had to drive Jody to the doctors. Wanda and I waited for about 1 or 2 hours. I had no idea what was going on. I just assumed it wasn't anything important.

One day, I got a phone call from my dad. He explained Jody's condition, and told me that if he was lucky, he had two days left. I believed Jody would fight, like people did on TV, so I wasn't as concerned as I should've been. I went to sleep a few hours later. The very next day, bad news came. Jody had passed away early that morning. We were just about to drive to a house where Lacy, my sister, had to go and house sit. I cried the whole way there. The lump in my throat seemed like it would never go away. It never really did; I still feel it when I think of Jody. I cried for many nights knowing I would never see him again. I didn't even get to say goodbye. I couldn't stop my tears even if I tried. It was one of the worst days of my life. I had multiple dreams and nightmares, and every time I did, I woke up crying. I'd keep crying for about 45 minutes. I was only able to spend 7 years with him, not even. I should've loved him more and seen him more and hugged him more, but I was too selfish to care.

I had it pretty bad, but Wanda had it far worse. She sold her home and began living with us. It seemed normal at first. She would still take me to the park

and Baskin Robbin's, she'd make us a big breakfast every morning, all that good stuff. For example, on my 8th birthday, she made me a plate of blueberries placed to display the number 8, strawberries, and of course some Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal.

One day, on our way to the playground, I noticed something wrong with Wanda. She seemed like she was about to cry. I was concerned, but I wanted to be polite and not mention it. We took a walk and played a bit in the playground area, but Wanda's melancholy face kept on creeping back to interrupt my thoughts. She was quiet the whole time except for a few words. I was a bit chatty, but she never responded unless she had to.

It seemed only a couple days until it happened again. This time, I quietly asked her about it.

'What's the matter?' I questioned.

'I just...' Wanda began in a breaking voice, 'I just miss Jody. Don't worry about it.'

This happened repeatedly. After 1 or 2 years of living with Wanda, my dad began dating a woman named Eve.

We moved out.

'I will never see Wanda again,' my mind told me. 'Ever.'

Sometimes I wonder where I would be if that whole thing hadn't happened. If dad hadn't dated. If Wanda never sold her home, and if Jody had never died, but that probably wouldn't be possible.

I still do think today. But wait, why would the story end? Isn't there an upside? The title isn't just a fraud, right? Well, there was an upside. Wanda still lives with my sister, Macy, and she's fine with it. The crying situations still happen, but not as often. I don't think about it that much, but when I do, it doesn't really hurt as much as it did back then.

I don't get to see her anymore, but I'm still healthy mentally and physically. I stay positive when I can, and when I can't, I simply embrace it until I am well. Right now, my mom is my best friend, and she helps me when times get rough, when the nightmares come back, when I start crying after thinking about him, the guilt, the blame, and the horrible, salty tears.

It is okay to not be okay. Instead of trying to forget something, let it heal and keep it at the back of your mind until you're ready to share, then forget. Obviously, there were many lessons, but the most important is that family is family, and every member of your family should be loved in the time you still have with them.

Olivia Mahaffey
The Bright School

A Fishing Trip to Remember

I was peacefully casting my fishing rod from a boat on the lake. The lake was quiet and calm. The water appeared like glass. Not a ripple tore through the steady water. Dense forest covered the hills and cliffs. Massive pine and oak trees skimmed the sky. Ospreys and eagles swooping down to catch fish. Little did I know this fishing trip would change my way of looking at fishing.

A tug from my rod came, and I was tense and became a little cautious. I wasn't quite ready but then the strongest tug came, it bent my rod down all the way, it slapped the tip of my rod onto the water. Then my brain switched gears, from patient and bored to anxious and cautious. I jerked the rod attempting to set the hook, but I missed it. I didn't realize this. I kept reeling instead of taking time to do it again. Because of this it had a cost. I wasn't patient enough to do it again.

I felt the line tinkle against the reel. I worried the line would snap, then without thinking I grabbed the line. Knowing it's a dangerous thing to do, I did it anyway. At the same time, the line snapped like a dry twig against a swinging ax. I reeled up the remains of the line, it flew in the breeze. The lure was gone. I gave the rod to the fishing guide.

He said, "Wow, that was a big one."

"Yeah, it was." I replied. I thought, how could I let it get away? I was careless.

Later, the fishing guide gave me my rod and baited it with a steel lure. I dropped it down like a submarine diving below the waves. I felt the bottom of the lake and reeled three times to get off of it. I jerked my rod trying to make my lure imitate an injured fish in distress. I could only hope now. I waited and waited and waited for it but it didn't want to bite again.

In an instant when I least expected it. The tip of my rod bowed down into the water. The lake monster struck again. I said

"There he is." I said when the fish started to pull down.

I set the hook this time making sure I did. I reeled and was determined to get this fish. Finally, I saw a flash of its face, whiskers. It was a catfish of some sort. I reeled and reeled and every time I saw a flash of its skin. I could see the fish I had been fighting.

At last, I pulled it up and it was thrashing everywhere, its massive tail slapping on the side of the boat like a wooden club.

"YES, FINALLY." I shouted out for everyone to hear in the valley.

The guide weighed my prized fish, “43 pounds he shouted back.” I let it go and it disappeared in the lake, like a white fox in a blizzard. I sat back and the guide started the engine. We started with a jerk, and we sped away with our wake trailing us.

I thought about the fish on our way back to our car. I thought I now have another memory to remember now. My dad handed me a picture of the fish.

“It looks bigger in the picture.” I yelled back. The motor was very loud, so I had to yell.

“Yeah, isn’t it?” he yelled back. “Now you can tell everyone back at the house.” I handed him back the picture of me holding the fish.

We got to the dock, and I helped tie some knots.

“Well, that was cool,” the guide said. I agreed.

“It really was.” Afterward we thanked him and drove home. The whole way I was wondering what my sisters would be like to hear a fishing tale like what happened today.

The day ended with me and my family having dinner and I the fisherman telling them all about my wondrous day on the lake.

“It wasn’t that big!” my sister said sassily.

“You weren’t even there,” “The biggest fish you have ever caught was probably a minnow.” I said back. I saw fish I have never caught before let alone seen. It truly was a fishing trip to remember.

James Anderson
The Bright School

Larry the Pumpkin

There was once a pumpkin, but not just any normal pumpkin - this pumpkin had a name and his name was Larry, Larry the pumpkin. Larry lived on Rock Top Farms which used to be a beautiful place before his brother left, now it's a gloomy place where no one can even fake to be happy. They gave up when they saw the new cow meat factory next door and no one came, not even farmer Max who owns the place.

Larry was very old and run down so he sat on a hill next to the cow dung. It's a good thing pumpkins don't have noses because that would be another thing for beautiful Francesca, who lived in the picky pumpkin patch nearby, to make fun of, not like she needed more. You see Larry was a very ugly pumpkin, his skin was a nasty shade of orange, he had bumps all over, he was big and round at the bottom but tall and skinny at the top which made him look less like a pumpkin but more of a well, a huge blob. Francesca made it hard to forget.

Not like Larry cared, in fact he felt nothing now that his brother left. The one and only thing that he was concerned about was his brother but now that he was gone what was there to care about? Larry hated that feeling so he decided to go looking for his brother. He was sick of living at the farm alone.

Now that Larry was finally ready for his adventure he had to make a plan. First, he would roll across the crazy cow crossing. Then tumble through kind carrots avenue, roll through the picky pumpkin path, and finally cross the road to the farmers house where his brother was being held captive.

When Larry entered the crazy cow crossing he got lost and saw a cow so he asked the cow for directions but instead of telling him he sang a song.

“Fat little pumpkin look in my eyes

Then realize

You're really thick

You look like a nose being picked!”

Larry walked past the mean cow, finally found his way out, and moved on to kind carrot avenue. He could use some kindness.

As he walked through kind carrot avenue he started to cry, pumpkin guts spilled from his eyes making him grow thinner and thinner, he was rather big but he ate his feelings, he couldn't help it. “What if his brother agreed with the cow?” he thought.

Before he could ridicule himself more a carrot popped out of the ground.

“Why are you crying?” the carrot asked in a voice like the summer wind.

“I’m ugly and no one will ever love me, not even my brother!” Larry said, crying even more.

The carrot frowned, “Pumpkin you are fine just the way you are, it's the heart that counts, remember that.” Then the carrot sank back in the ground sending Larry a kind smile before Larry could reply.

Larry had no time to think about what the carrot said because he was going through the picky pumpkin path and to his horror there were pumpkins everywhere that made Larry feel like trash. They were all laughing at him.

“Look at that thing, his skin is as bumpy as marbles in a bag!” one said glaring at Larry.

“His skin is the color of throw up!” another cried out disgusted and sticking out its tongue. This must have become a game because they all shouted out the meanest things they could think of.

“You will never be good enough!” Francesca yelled at Larry. This insult made Larry break into a roll faster than a rocket, away from the pumpkins and across the road crying more and more.

He was now on the porch of farmer Max's house and what he saw terrified him there on the porch was his brother with kids carving pictures into him. Larry’s brother was gone, but as he looked closer his brother wasn’t perfect like the other pumpkins but even uglier than Larry! This made Larry feel good knowing that he wasn’t the only ugly thing on the farm.

He remembered when he and his brother rolled down a hill laughing, getting bumps along the way and telling jokes under the sun until they turned more brown than orange. Larry and his brother having fun was the reason they were so ugly and Larry wouldn't have traded it for the world.

The other pumpkins weren’t ugly, because they had no life! Larry loved his brother and his brother loved Larry. Then he remembered the kind carrots words, “You are fine just the way you are.” The tears flowed from Larry like water breaking from a dam washing over dry land. Larry was now the skinniest thing on the farm. One more tear would mean death but he couldn’t help it. A tear the size of a raindrop fell down his bumpy, burnt orange face. It was not a tear of sadness but a tear of

pure joy. He died the happiest pumpkin ever knowing everyone is special himself, you, me, and even Francesca.

Student's Name: Audrey Clark

School: Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences



FIFTH GRADE POETRY

The dew is new in the early spring morning where the birds sing of the glory of this peaceful and quiet morning.

Flowers peek through the leaves with quiet anticipation murmuring of the rich damp soil.

The sunlit field is alight with the rainbow of delicate blossoms waiting for their true selves to emerge and bathe the world in beauty.

Grasshoppers chirp that spring has come and it is time to reach for the sun and grow up and up and up.

The sun winks cheerfully urging the plant life to reach their leaves to the heavens and soak in the light and warmth of its beams.

The plants accept with gleeful sprouts and the buds blossom and the fruit grows sweet and plump.

Sunflower stalks grow tall as trees and the quiet spring sun shines bright to say hello to a new dawn.

The big forest is proud of the seedlings who call this grove their home and have shown the magnificence of nature.

The big old pine accepts all and asks no questions to those who take shelter in the greenery and perch on his branches.

Soft winds whip the stalks this way and that and the gracious sky welcomes all who would like to spread their wings and fly.

Student's Name: Annika Anderson

School: St. Nicholas School

Autumn Leaves and Dancing trees
I would like to write a poem about autumn
that has in it nothing fancy.
But it seems impossible...
Whatever I look at,
Seems to be tinted in starlust.
The intricate designs on a maple leaf,
look like a maze of wrinkled covers.
So I look elsewhere.
An imperial tree looms above me,
Blotting out the sun like nature's solar eclipse.
Shreds of apricot-colored leaves
Confetti the thick skin of the Earth.
A banana-yellow spider skitters across my knee,
Pumping its legs to the sound of the tango.
Beneath the surface,
Tadpoles whisper to the reflections above them,
lonely.
The heartbeat of the earth is an eruption
of shimmering crystals.
Amid the piercing brambles,
Heart-shaped leaves call out to each other.
Overhead, lime-green leaves jerk,
creating shadow puppets.
A porcelain dandy lion stirs its pinprick seeds throughout the forest.
It wanted to write a poem about fall,
but it is impossible.
Because everything around me,
is a miracle,
still unfolding.

**Name: Amelie Wolbers,
Thrasher Elementary School**

The Creek

When I was younger,
Mainly during Covid and even longer before,
My brother, our neighborhood friends, and I
Would work at the creek in our neighborhood
Which is behind a line of trees,
Across the road from my house,
Near the neighborhood pool,
Though it is around a four-minute bike ride.
Many days during the summer,
We would go down to the creek,
And we would look for mud and clay,
Sand and rocks.

But the best part is,
You never know what the creek will look like.
Sometimes it's high,
And the main islands get disconnected.
When you look over the side of the bridge,
You can still see the highest island,
Reaching a foot taller than most.
When the water is low, or normal,
The islands turn back into their original shape.

The main island is where you come down the slope,
And there are cool features.
A tire stuck in the rocks, covered with mud and leaves
Which has been there my whole life.
In the open, clear water,
With nothing blocking the way of the slow river,
There's a huge tree log sticking out of it.
The water makes pretty noises,
Hitting rocks on the bottom.

My brother and his friends
Named the different areas and islands.
There's also a dumping station,
And different paths across from the water,
While the trees block the sun to create shade,
But still light comes through and shines down.

I recently rode down there with my brother,
And I remembered all the things that have happened there.
I've always loved everything about the creek
And all the memories it holds that I'll never forget.

Ryan Mahone
The Bright School

Runny Eggs

When I run,
I feel
Like a fluffy, springy, scrambled egg.
Others roll on
Like heavy, hard-boiled eggs.
Some get tired
And lie down,
Becoming crispy, over-done fried eggs.
A few give up
And fall down,
Turning into messy, damaged cracked eggs,
With runny yolks.

Stella Reyes
The Bright School

Every time I've been with my mom
We were probably
At a gas station
Then in a car
Then at a house
Or a farm
Laughing
With family
Watching TV
Eating dinner
Or dessert!
We were probably
On the couch
Looking at our phones
Or each other's
Talking
More realistically, texting
Even though we were right next to each other
We were probably
At the convenience store
Choosing my candy
She just gets tea
Looking up and down the aisle
Searching the ice cream cooler
We were probably
Lazy in bed
With snacks
Watching our show
Hugging
Joking
Maybe our little

'I love you'

'I love you more'

'I love you most'

'I love you more than most'

'Promise?'

'Promise.'

(I always win!)

Olivia Mahaffey
The Bright School

“Thanksgiving Dinner”

“Get the turkey, get the turkey!”
shouts Yaya as we walk in the door.

“Okay, Okay!!” shouts papa
minutes more.

We sit down,
have a prayer,
eat the turkey,
and talk later!

Student Name: Allison Wall
Wallace A. Smith Elementary

Nothing

No one is there

Open minded

Terrifyingly quiet

Hidden in thin air

Invisible to the world

No color

Gone

Student's Name: Zoe Mathai

School: Westview Elementary School

The Floof

A mysterious puff on my head
That gets smooshed when I go to bed
A treasure cove of many secrets

It can be long or short,
Wide or thin,
It will fit in any shape you put it in!

Just don't put it under a hat
Or else it will be quite flat

My mysterious puff that I love
That gets smooshed when I go to bed

Student's Name: Sylvia Presbury
School: Ooltewah Elementary School

Two teams of warriors, their hearts full of wins.

The ball is snapped, the quarterback drops back,
A sea of defenders, he must attack.

The linemen clash, their bodies collide,
A fierce struggle, with no place to hide.

The running back takes the handoff, he's off to the races,
Dodging and weaving, in all of his paces.

The crowd roars, as the end zone nears,
A touchdown! A victory! The joy and the cheers.

But the game is not over, there's much left to play,
The opposing team fights back, in their way.

The defense steps up, they're ready to fight,
To stop the offense, with all of their might.

The quarterback drops back, he throws down the field,
The receiver is open, he's ready to yield.

The ball is caught, and the crowd goes wild,
Another victory, for the team that's styled.

But the game is not just about winning or losing,
It's about teamwork and all of the choosing.

To work together, to achieve a goal,
To give it your all, body and soul.

So let us remember, as we watch the game,
The players on the field, and their quest for fame.

For they are the warriors, who battle for our pride,
And give us a reason, to cheer and to stride.

Student's Name: Reeves Hooper

School: Nolan Elementary School



CONGRATS, WINNERS.

**REMEMBER... IN TIMES OF LIT,
CALL SOLIT!!!**