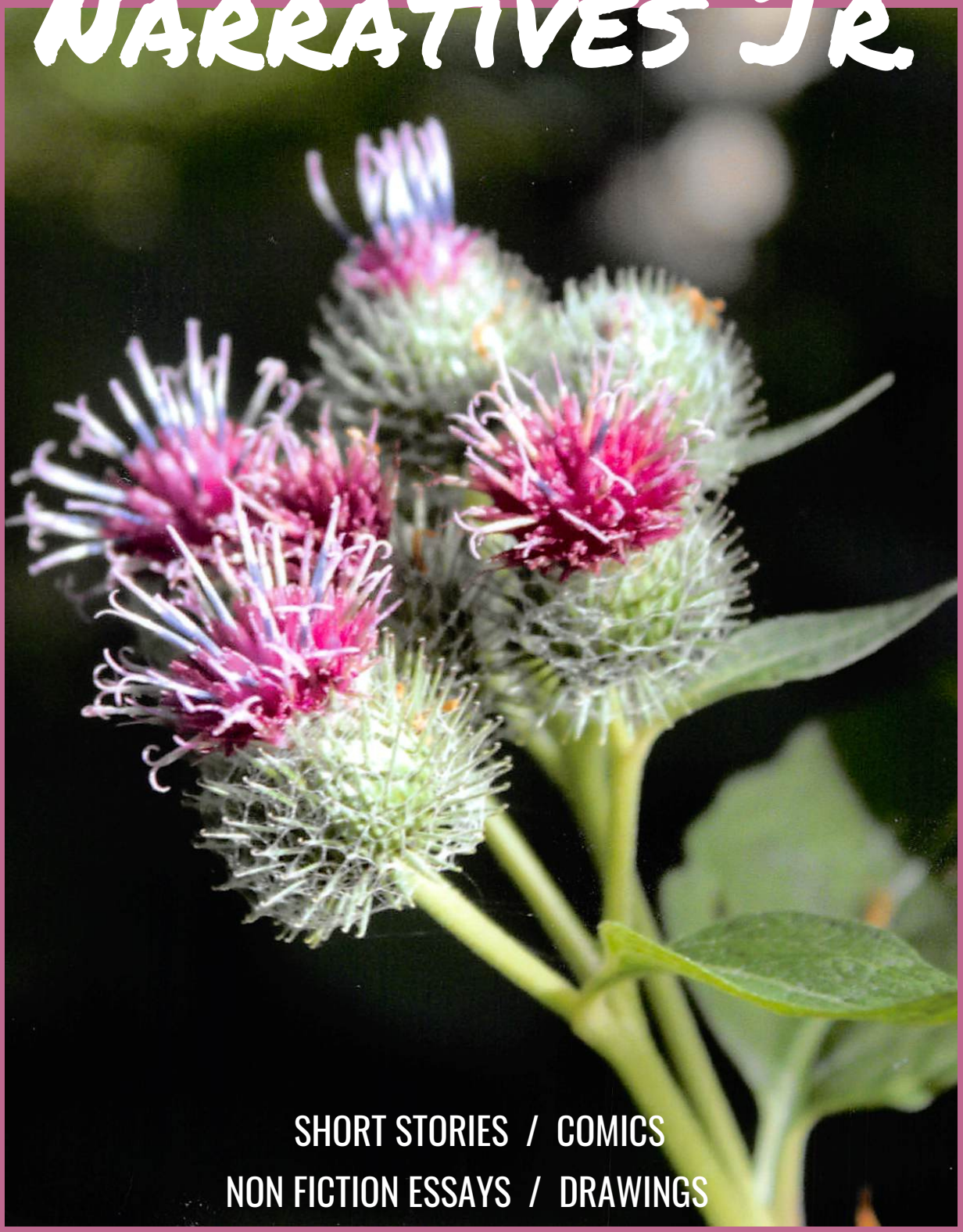
VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1

JUNE 2021 | FREE

Northern Narratives Jr.



SHORT STORIES / COMICS

NON FICTION ESSAYS / DRAWINGS

POETRY / PHOTOGRAPHS

GRADES K - 6

Fargo Public Library

Welcome to Northern Narratives Jr.

Children's Literary Magazine

Hello! Welcome to Northern Narratives Jr., the Fargo Public Library's first ever kids-only, literary magazine. In these pages you will find over 50 entries submitted by school-age children from the FM Community. This anthology features poems, non fiction essays, short stories, drawings, photographs, and comics submitted in the spring of 2021.

All pieces were written and created by children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Transcription of each piece was taken directly from the original work, so any creative spelling, grammar, or formatting is considered intentional by the artist. All submissions were included in the magazine, provided they met the guidelines.

Each category had first and second place winners as judged by the Fargo Public Library Children's Services Staff. Winners received a certificate and a gift card to further explore their creativity. Winners are indicated by an asterisk.*

Library staff commend each artist and writer who submitted work. It takes courage to put your work out in public -- all of the participants should be proud. We were blown away at the imagination, expressiveness, and well-crafted work that we reviewed. It's our hope that all of the artists and writers will continue to write, draw, and create in the future.

Special thanks goes to Cynthia Mason, Cindy Liudahl, Lauren Johnson, Sarah Nelson, Melisa Duncan, Cheryl Lackman, and Sunny Branick for their assistance and guidance.

Winners

Poetry

The Worst Poem in the World/Noah Prososki

Plain Beetles at Day/Helena Collins

Photography

Hitchhiker/Talulah Sully

Forever Rain/Emmerie Hanson

Comics

Worms and Summer/Noah Prososki

Gem Jam Bakery - The Great Cake Caper/Amelia Pikalek

Non Fiction Essays

Driving Age/Chinmay Gopi

Pill bugs/Grace Prososki

Drawings

Tree of Creatures/Thomas Benton

Rolling Cones/Sawyer Anderson

Short Stories

Apple and Banana/McKenzie Westby

The Good Bob/Brody Barbot

Contributors

Drawings

Tree of Creatures/Thomas Benton*

Rolling Cones/Sawyer Anderson*

Kidnapped/Anna Averett

Map of Europe/Jett Blankenship

Animals/Judah Carr

two worlds/Sam Dehmer

Untitled/Calm Enz

Dragosler/Grant Flaten

Zoo Animals/Chaitanya Gopi

Cat Drawing/Rylee Jones

shimmering bubbles/Isabelle Lockhart

BTS Style/Rebekah Moran

Duck Family/Dev Neelamegam

Flower Power/Gianna Prososki

Cherry Cupcake/Grace Prososki

King of the Mountain/Otis Sully

Rusty K Ranch/Anna Thomas

Home on the range/Sara Thomas

Campground/Lydia Wichmann

Short Stories

Apple and Banana/McKenzie Westby*

The Good Bob/Brody Barbot*

You Go Your Way, I'll Go Mine/Madison Ballinger

Desperation/Elliot Culkins

Doors and Walls/Isabella Donnelly

The turtle and the four babies/Chaitanya Gopi

Lost Dreams/Emmerie Hanson

Rilea and the War of Lies/Kendal Hauck

The Yellow Lab Hunter/Carter Knudson

Sirens/Annika Lonn

John the Great Saves the Earth/Dev Neelamegam

Cydney and Syris... And The Big Mistakes/

Maddie Olson & Rachel Gill

Chocolate Cows/Gianna Prososki

The Elephant and the Girl/Grace Prososki

the Ice cream truck/Noah Prososki

The Dangerous Cave/Aleah Rode

A Strange Day in the Country/Skyla Schaan

Kia/Olivia Shorma

The $4.99 Dollar Bill/Ranbeer Singh Wadhwa

Slacking off isn't real/Myra Wiosna

Contributors

Non Fiction Essays

Driving Age/Chinmay Gopi*

Pill bugs/Grace Prososki*

Starfish/Noah Prososki

Comics

Worms and Summer/Noah Prososki*

Gem Jam Bakery - The Great Cake

Caper/Amelia Pikalek*

Changing Times/Chinmay Gopi

Photographs

Hitchhiker/Talulah Sully*

Forever Rain/Emmerie Hanson*

Poetry

The Worst Poem in the World/Noah Prososki*

Plain Beetles at Day/Helena Collins*

in the deep blue sea/Tegan Brandon

Fox in a Box/Abigail Carr

the stream/Claire Froslie

Humans/Chinmay Gopi

Sounds in the forest/Libby Haugen

Truck Haiku/Carson Knudson

Spring/Gianna Prososki

Colors/Grace Prososki

Fall Foliage/Talulah Sully

The Worst Poem in the World

I'm trying to write a poem
And it's really really bad,
I'm trying to write a poem
And it's making me quite mad

I'm trying to write a poem
I think it poisoned me,
I'm trying to write a poem
And I'm just about to scream

I'm trying to write a poem
I'm just about to cry,
I'm trying to write a poem
I think I'm gonna die

I'm trying to write a poem
It's not really quite that hard,
I'm trying to write a poem
When I grow up I'll be a bard

Noah Prososki/Grade 5*

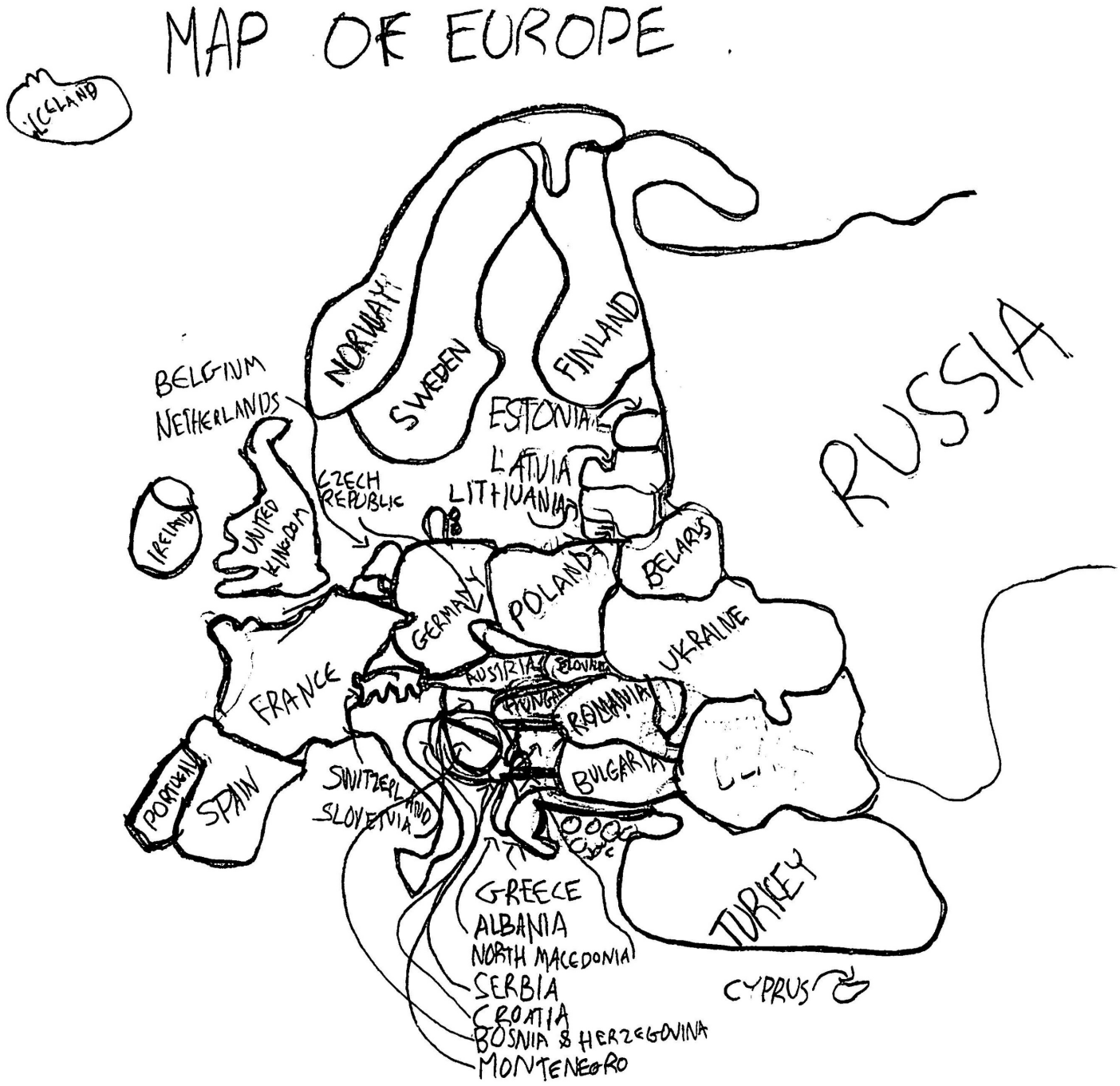
The Yellow Lab Hunter

Dogs and boys are best friends. They do everything together. Carter is an 8 year old little boy and Hunter the dog has been with him his whole life. Carter pets Hunter everyday. He cares for him and gives him food and water. Hunters also likes treats and walks to the park. Hunter protects Carter and his family. When people come near the house, Hunter lets out warning barks. He is well trained.

Hunter is a good friend. He lays with his boy Carter and is good at snuggling. Carter and Hunter play outside and go on trips together. Carter can't imagine not having his best friend Hunter. Everybody should get a dog if they don't have one.

Carter Knudson/Grade 2

Map of Europe



Jett Blankenship/Grade 5

In the Deep Blue Sea

In the deep blue sea
creatures swim with glee
Swirling and twirling as fast as can be
From minnows to sharks
they all live in the deep blue sea
From the shallows and reefs
To the deep deep dark of the sea
Everywhere there is beauty
In the deep blue sea

Tegan Brandon/Grade 5

The Dangerous Cave

Once there was two kids. One was a girl named Haley and the other was a boy named Tik. They were brother and sister going camping with their family. The camping trip was in Alaska. They thought it was really boring.

Haley said, "Let's go for a walk."

"I guess," said Tik.

So they began to walk through the woods. It was taking a really really long time, just as they were about to turn back, they came across a cave. But that cave was not just any cave... it had a sleeping, farting bear inside. They woke the bear by accident and the bear began to fart. It stunk so bad they ran out of the cave because the smell was so bad.

After they were done running, they came across a magical forest. Just then, a group of girls came by. The leader, Addie said "why are you here? We have never seen a girl or boy before."

Haley said" Now we shall begin a friendship."

"That sounds lovely." Said Addie. Haley and Tik went back to the campsite.

That night, Haley shared their experience by the campfire. Everyone laughed and did not believe them, but they knew it was true. Just as they were about to walk into the tent, they saw the farting bear wink at them.

The End.

Aleah Rode/Grade 3

Apple and Banana

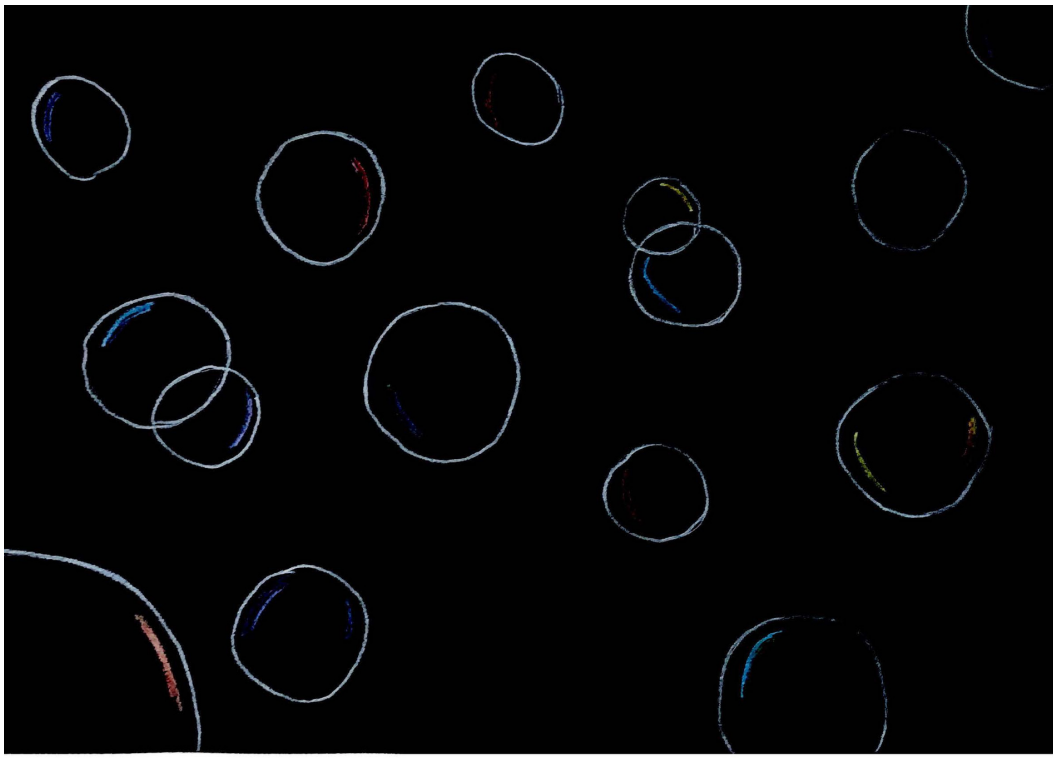
Once upon a time, there was a very kind banana. He was a little mushy and dented, and that is all people saw him as. Banana did not have any friends, but he wanted some so very much. One day he ran into Apple in the hallway on the way to science class. Instead of raging anger that he expected to see from Apple, Apple kindly said, "Oh my goodness! I'm so sorry". Banana was shocked to see such kindness from Apple. So Banana said, "It's ok. Wait... you're not mad at me?". "Of course not! I thought you would have been mad at me!" Said Apple. Shortly after that, Banana noticed that Apple had a few rotten spots on his side and was also a little bit dented. So Banana asked Apple, "Do you have any friends?" Apple replied very sadly, "No. I wish. Everyone takes one good look at me and then decides im not good enough for them." "That is the exact same way for me!" Said Banana. "So do you want to be friends then?" "Sure!" They both were extremely happy to finally have a friend of their own. Together they decided that they would not care what people think of them anymore. Soon enough, they became best friends and lived happily ever after. The End.

McKenzie Westby/Grade 5*

Zoo Animals

Chaitanya Gopi/Grade 1

Shimmering Bubbles



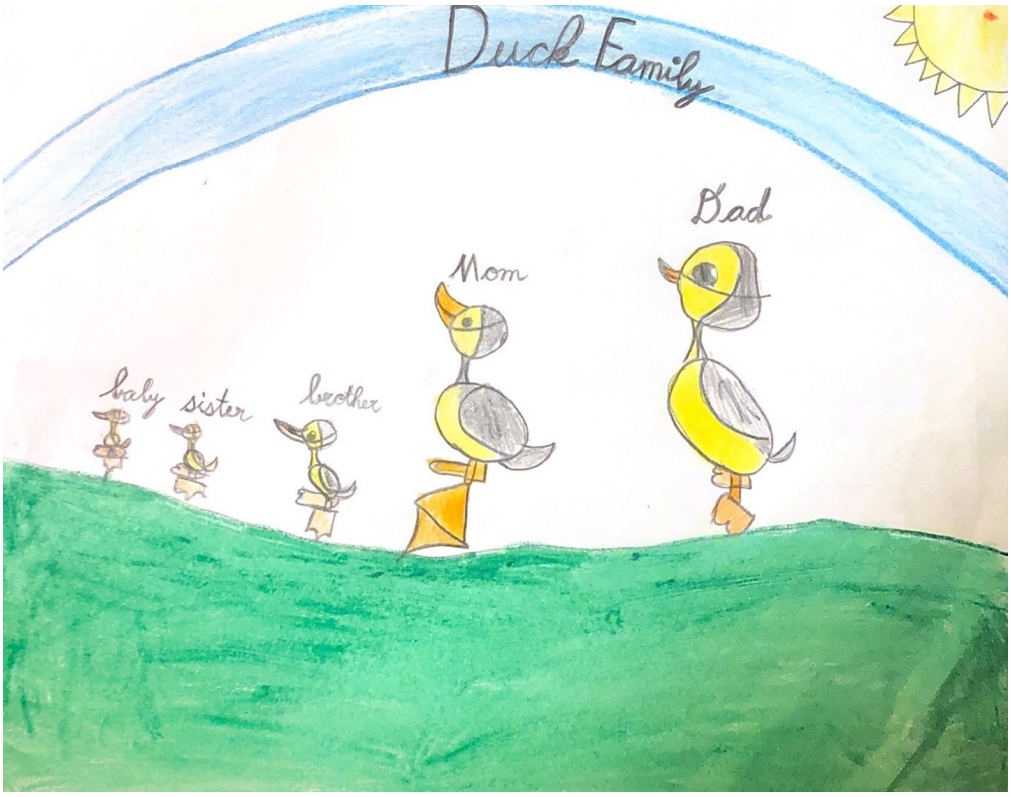
Isabelle Lockhart/Grade 5

Spring

Spring is warm,
spring is cool,
spring is fun when you're in the pool.
Spring is fun when you ride you're bike,
Its so fun when the weather's just right. Popsicle sticks are juicy in the spring, but it's just fun dreaming just about spring.

Gianna Prososki/Grade 2

Duck Family



Dev Neelamegam/Grade 2

John the Great Saves the Earth

Once upon a time, there was a boy named John. He was 8 years old. He went to Fargo Elementary School. He got A+ in all his papers. Next day, the students had a camp at Birchwood forest but suddenly a storm came and a flash of lightning hit close to John's parents!!! John's parents got lost. He didn't know what to do so he kept walking North. He walked 100 miles and reached Canada. He kept walking and suddenly someone pushed him into a rocket. He went to Saturn. He found out he was in a NASA ship and there was astronaut gears and translators in the ship. John put them on and went outside to the one and only Saturn.

He saw aliens, ice-rings on Saturn. He saw the King alien and he also saw a note in the machine that says "Ali shana stina ame earth" then John took the translator and it meant "Destroy Earth". But it also said "Atoat neino sac aoo". It meant "Place three keys to stop destroying Earth". So John disguised like a Saturn alien and while he was walking past the King, he grabbed the first key. He managed to find the other keys by getting close to the queen and prince alien. John placed all the keys in the machine and the machine stopped working. John saved the Earth. As a reward he got his parents back.

The End

Moral: If you do good, good will come to you.

Dev Neelamegam/Grade 2

Chocolate Cows

Farmers raise cows for their milk. One cow can give up to 4 gallons per day. The farmer milks the cow two times a day. The farmer scoops the milk into the tank. The pink tank keeps the milk cold. If the farmer wants chocolate milk he keeps some for himself and he puts chocolate in it. The truck brings the milk to the dairy and they make chocolate yogurt! Chocolate makes cows better!

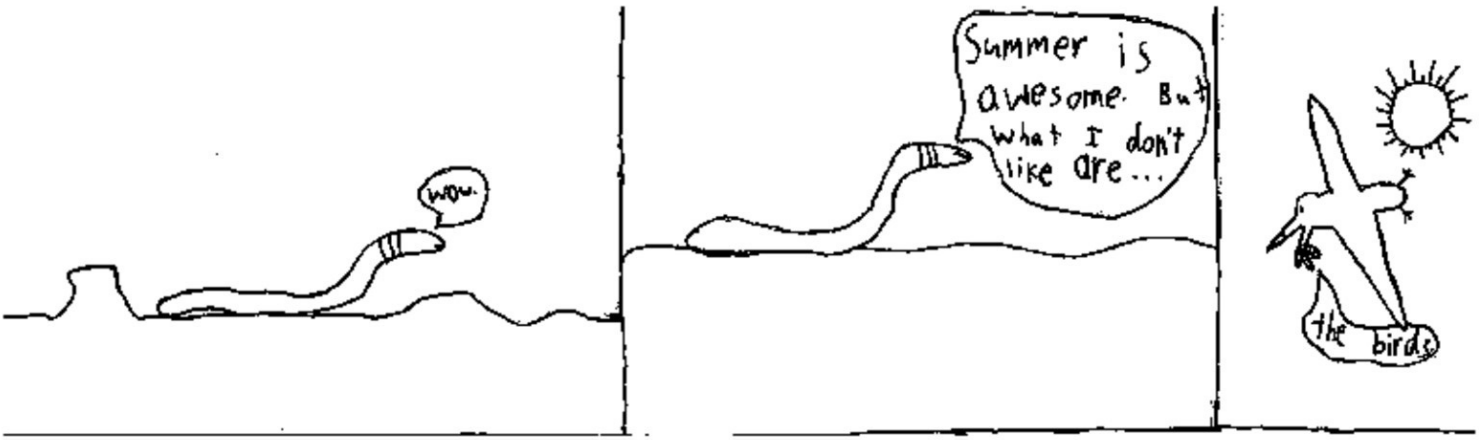
Gianna Prososki/Grade 2

The Stream

Shallow water trickles down a small, sparkling stream. The crisp water is fresh and sweet and supports the forest. Small foxes come to rest, sparrows coo with pleasure when they drink from this enchanted stream. The lush grass seems to glow with dew. The majestic stag calls it his home. The sun dances with warm shine on it, creating shimmering shadows where the willow trees lie. Magic seems to surround this woodland.

Claire Froslie/Grade 5

Worms and Summer



Noah Prososki/Grade 5*

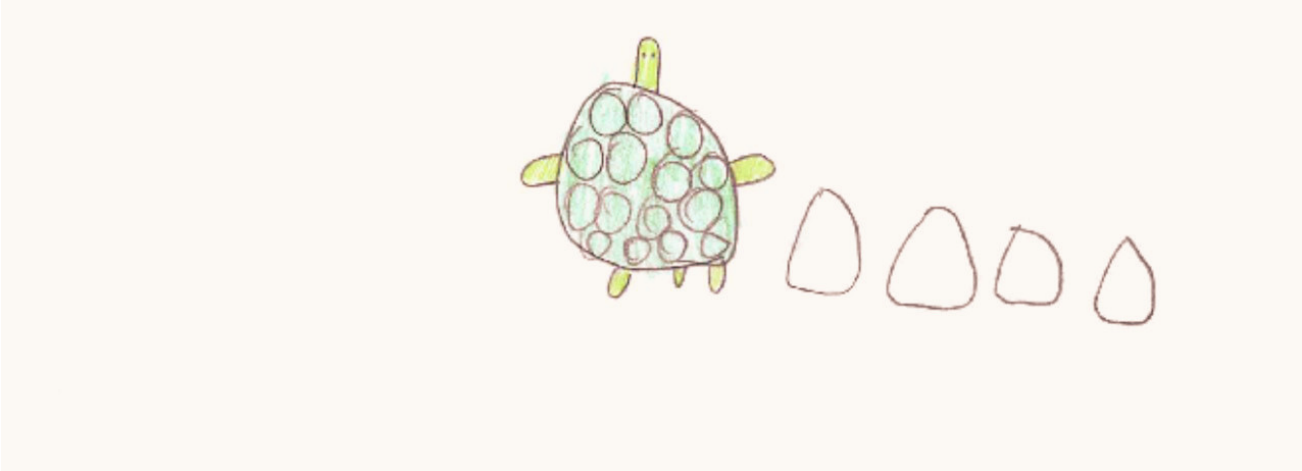
Fall Foliage

A single leaf is a ballerina
Pa de chat jump to the ground
Lands as light as a feather
Crinkle, crackle
The crunch of the leaves
Beneath the soles of my feet
The tree grieves

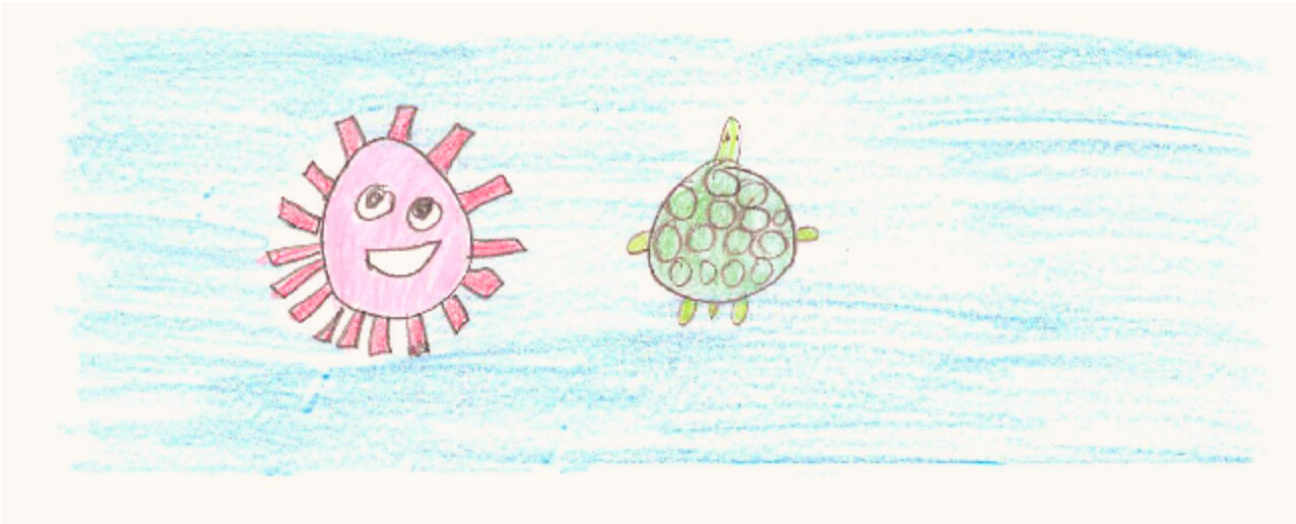
Talulah Sully/Grade 4

The Turtle and the Four Babies

Once there was a turtle. It lived in the ocean. One day it felt very weird. Then it was going on the land. She had never done that before. Then she dug a hole and sat there for weeks. It saw something roundish, whiteish thing it was four eggs.

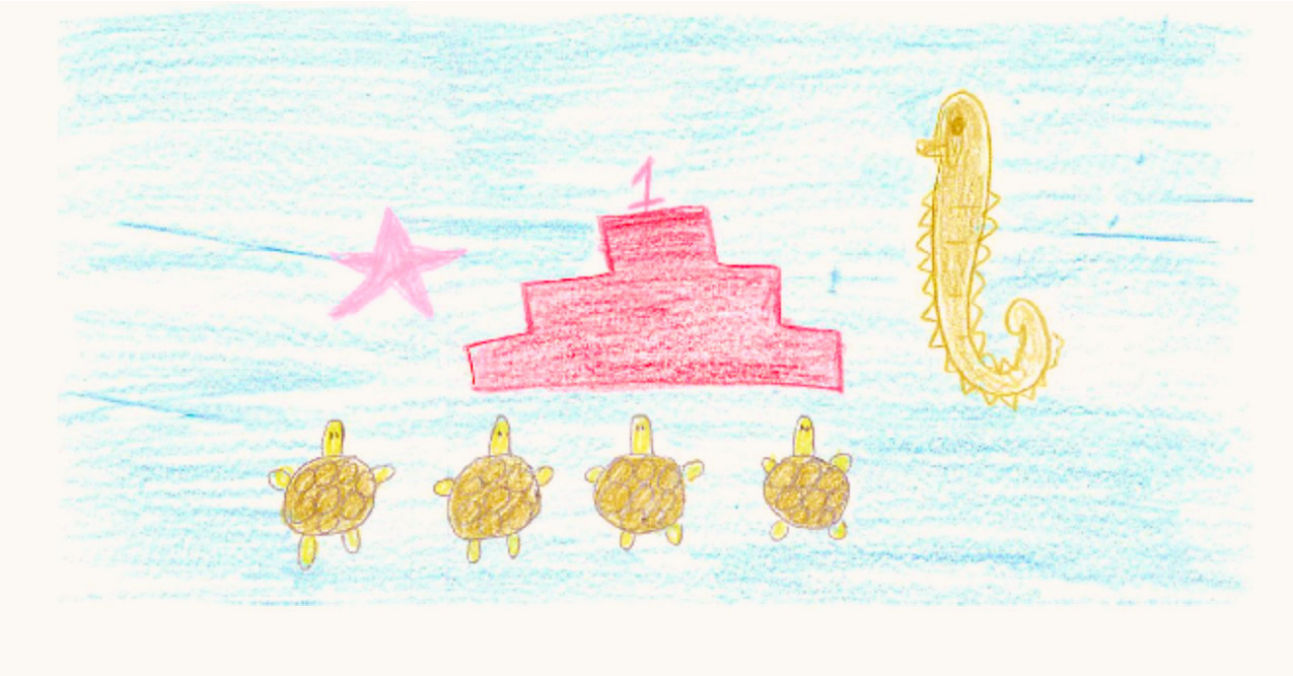


There was a baby turtle and another and another and another. The turtle was thrilled. She finally had someone to be with. The turtles crawled to the ocean. The mother followed. Then the mother choked on a giant puffer fish. The baby turtles were crying and tryed to save the mother. Finally the mother was alive.



The Turtle and the Four Babies

After weeks they were turning 1 years old. All the ocean animals were ivited to the party. The dolphins came because they have good memory. Sea horse, whales and starfish came to the party. But not the puffer fish. The turtles had a good time at the party. The End!



Chaitanya Gopi/Grade 1

Untitled

Calm Enz/Grade 5

Tree of Creatures

Thomas Benton/Grade 5*

Desperation

The Falcon chick (the second chick in the nest) opened his eyes to loud sounds and bright colors. He heard the wind in the trees and the sound of other birds then he thought " I'm sooooo hungry"she squawked to her mom calling for food. Her mother complied by launching off the nest with the speed of a fighter jet. After about thirty minutes of flying she spotted a meal fit for kings floating on a pond she saw a duck so fat that she could barely carry it, after circling for a few minutes she finally made her move she swooped with blinding speed and snatched the fat duck from the pond, after bringing it back to the nest she gently dropped it in the nest and tore into edible pieces for the chicks satisfied by their meal they stopped squawking and content fell fast asleep. They abruptly woke to the sound of scuffling and squawking they stood and peered out of their nest they saw white and brown feathers littered the ground and they saw their mother and father with their throats ripped out lying on a rock thick red blood coated the ground around them, they lay dead the chicks stared both with a expression of utter shock on their faces... The chicks knew this was the result of a Gyrfalcon attack, they knew because of the white and brown feather strewn across the ground. Although this was very unusual because Gyrfalcons stayed in their territory instead of intruding in other falcons territory, that was dangerous. Despite the Peregrine falcons blinding speed if a Gyrfalcon hit a sneak attack there was no escape it was certain death. With their mother and father gone they had a very slim chance of survival, who would teach them how to hunt and fly? and how would they survive in the meantime?. They did not know. However the chicks knew there was only one chance of survival, they needed to find someone to teach them how to fly and hunt so they set off towards the North. In the wild alone or a pair of chicks were extremely vulnerable any competent predator could kill them in a blink of an eye. After wandering for what the chicks thought must have been a day they spotted a stream, this was essential for their survival for the stream gave a source for food and water. The chicks were hungry after their journey so they tried to catch salmon from the river, after trying unsuccessfully for a while finally the chicks caught three fish. The chicks divvied up the salmon and quickly ate the fish, the younger chick was famished and after trekking through the wilderness he was parched so he took a drink from the river, it was cool and refreshing so naturally having a full stomach he found a tree to rest for the night but after lying awake for a couple hours the younger chick could not fall asleep but his brother was fast asleep so the younger chick decided to lay in the huge oak and in every waking moment the images of his parents limp dead bodies on the rocks flashed in his mind until suddenly he heard wings beating, the chick thought this was a figment of his imagination until he heard voices apparently two birds were talking just a few feet from the trees that the chicks slept in, he laid still as the oak that he rested in and listened. The birds spoke to each other in deep gravelly voices the first bird was a great deal louder than the second bird the first bird said, did you get them both the second responded yes but the chicks escaped no matter replied the first bird we got the threats we move on to the next target soon we take control. The chick leaned through the hole in the oak and risked a glance at the birds they were both Gyrfalcons the chick held back a gasp these must have been the birds who had assassinated his parents, he wanted to attack them but there was no outcome were he would survive a fight with two grown and what looked like trained to kill Gyrfalcons because after all he was just a chick.

Elliot Culkins/Grade 5

Cydney and Syris... and The Big Mistakes

One fall evening, there was a girl named Cydney who had just moved into a new house. Accompanied by her black, fluffy cat, Syris. It was a big, beautiful, modern mansion... It was flawless! But empty. So, one day, Cydney went out, and left Syris at home.
When she came back Syris was FURIOUS.
She had TWO DOGS. One small, one big, and ANOTHER CAT with her.
The big dog was Scar, he was a mean German Shepherd. The small dog was Peanut, a cute little Labrador Retriever. The small grey kitten was Calye, a cat full of spirit.
Cydney sat down. "I'm sorry, Syris, if you're not happy with this. I just felt like this house needed some *happiness*. It seemed SO quiet, you have to understand that..." she paused. "Don't you?"
Syris purred. Cydney's face lit up. "Yes! I knew you guys would be a great team, I'm so hap-" However, Syris didn't hear the rest of the conversation. "*We will NOT be a good team. How could Cydney do this?!*" Syris thought. Then, one afternoon Cydney called out "Guys, come here! Who wants to go do a... road trip?" Peanut and Calye were *overjoyed*... Well, Scar and Syris were pretty mad. "On this road trip we will be spending BONDING TIME together!" Cydney said happily "*WA-WA-WHAT? NO! B-B-BONDING TIME?*" Syris thought furiously. But since Cydney couldn't understand her, they went anyway, despite Syris's opinion. They got into the packed mini-van and drove away. The drive for Scar and Syris was *awful*. Peanut and Calye kept yelling and barking how "FUN" this would be. FOUR HOURS later, they arrived at Camp Waffles. The night was fine for Syris; there were fireflies buzzing in every direction, and Cydney sang a beautiful song before bed... but it would've been a log better if- "PEANUT AND CALYE WOULD STOP TALKING!" Syris yelled. "IT'S LIKE FOUR IN THE MORNING." Peanut looked up, cutting Calye off, right in the middle of her sentence. "I just don't want to do tha-" Calye explained. Syris's face suddenly grew suspicious, Calye's turned worried. "What are you hiding" Syris questioned "Uhhmm.." Calye said, increasing Syris's suspicion. Syris yelled, "WHAT ARE YOU HIDING, YOU LITTLE FURBALLS?!" Peanut watching the whole thing, got angry, built up his courage, and yelled at the top of his lungs, "STOP! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!" Syris was surprised. Peanut continued, "YOU NEVER LEAVE US ALONE." He was sniffling at the point. "You always get in our way, never letting us have fun. To add on to that: you despise dogs and bully me." Syris was astonished. "Sorry. I didn't know." Syris said stiffly. "Well now you know." Peanut said angrily.
The next morning, after a well-needed breakfast of warm scrambled eggs, and hot pancakes with sizzling butter on top, Cydney started to pack up their things. "Okay.." Cydney sighed, heaving the last bit of luggage into the trunk. "Let's go.. HEY! What're- OH MY GOSH!" Cydney had spotted two little blurs running up a hiking trail, she quickly recognized them as Peanut and Calye. "GET BACK HERE!" she yelled, while panicking, although her voice had a note of anger. Cydney grabbed her purse and started to run after them, Syris lagged behind and thought bitterly, "*Why should we go after those annoying little furballs? Peanut was so mean to me yesterday!*"

Cydney and Syris...
and The Big Mistakes

Nevertheless, Syris kept going, but stopped once more at the sign at the beginning of the trail. It read, "Extravagant Diamond Glistens: Hiking Trail of the Century. Tourist Attraction at Silver Road Cave." But, this sign was odd: "Tourist Attraction at Silver Road Cave" was crossed out with a red marker, and above it read, "UNAUTHORIZED; SHUT DOWN." Syris shrugged, but a *strange* urge made her want to see this mysterious cave, and she started running. She ran, and ran, and she didn't stop when she saw Cydney, Peanut, and Calye. She caught a glimpse of them though: Cydney was holding Peanut and Calye, looking angry, but her face changed when she saw Syris. "SYRIS! There you ar- Syris, NO! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN- COME BACK!" However, she didn't have to tell Syris twice.
She bumped into something: ROCK! She looked up and backed away from where she was standing. She was at the food of a cave. But, there was something odd about this cave, too. Right above the opening, something was carved into it.

"Σπάνια Κατοικίδια ζώα Εταιρεία"

There was something more mysterious about this. Syris *knew* what this meant. It meant- "Rare Pets Corporation. Fascinating." said a man. Syris jumped, he was standing in front of the cave.. Syris hadn't noticed him before, he was standing next to another man as well. Cydney, Calye, and Peanut all appeared next to Syris, Cydney looking very tired. "What're you doing up here?" she panted. She noticed the men. "Uhmm.. hi? Is this Sil-" "Yes. This is Silver Road Cave. Come inside." Cydney looked startled. "But isn't this place shut d-" The second man held up his hand. "For you, we make an exception." They beckoned them inside, reluctantly, Syris's group all followed. Before they knew it, they were climbing into an uncomfortably small car, the "tour guides" at the front. Distant loud music started playing, the cave walls were lit with eerie lanterns, and the small car inched forward. Instantly, Syris was being lifted out of her seat (which was apart from her peer's spot). Suddenly, she was lying somewhere rough. She blinked her eyes open...she was in a CAGE! *"Κοράτ."* said a deep voice.

Maddie Olson & Rachel Gill/Grade 4

Fox in a Box

A fox is in a box,
wearing really funny socks.
The socks are furry,
and helps the fox scurry.
But the fox cannot scurry,
because he is stuck in muck,
inside the box.
Can you unlock the box,
and let out the fuzzy fox?
Then he would be a fox wearing socks,
outside of a box.

Abigail Carr/Grade 3

Animals

Judah Carr/Grade K

Driving Age

Did you know that nine teens ages 16-19 are killed in car crashes every day? There are three main reasons for this, but teen driving can also be a good thing, too.

Teens can sometimes be reckless. This is the first reason. Another reason is that teens are more likely to consume alcohol and then drive, which can lead to serious crashes, and even death. The third and final reason is that most teens think of driving as a fun and freeing task, whereas adults think it more as a task, and adults also usually think about the consequences of reckless driving. Teens usually act before it's too late.

Teen driving can be a good thing because teens can become more independent. It can also promote increased responsibility and can increase time to gain experience and learn to drive safely.

So in conclusion, teenage driving can be helpful, but there are some consequences to reckless driving. Just remember to be safe on the road!

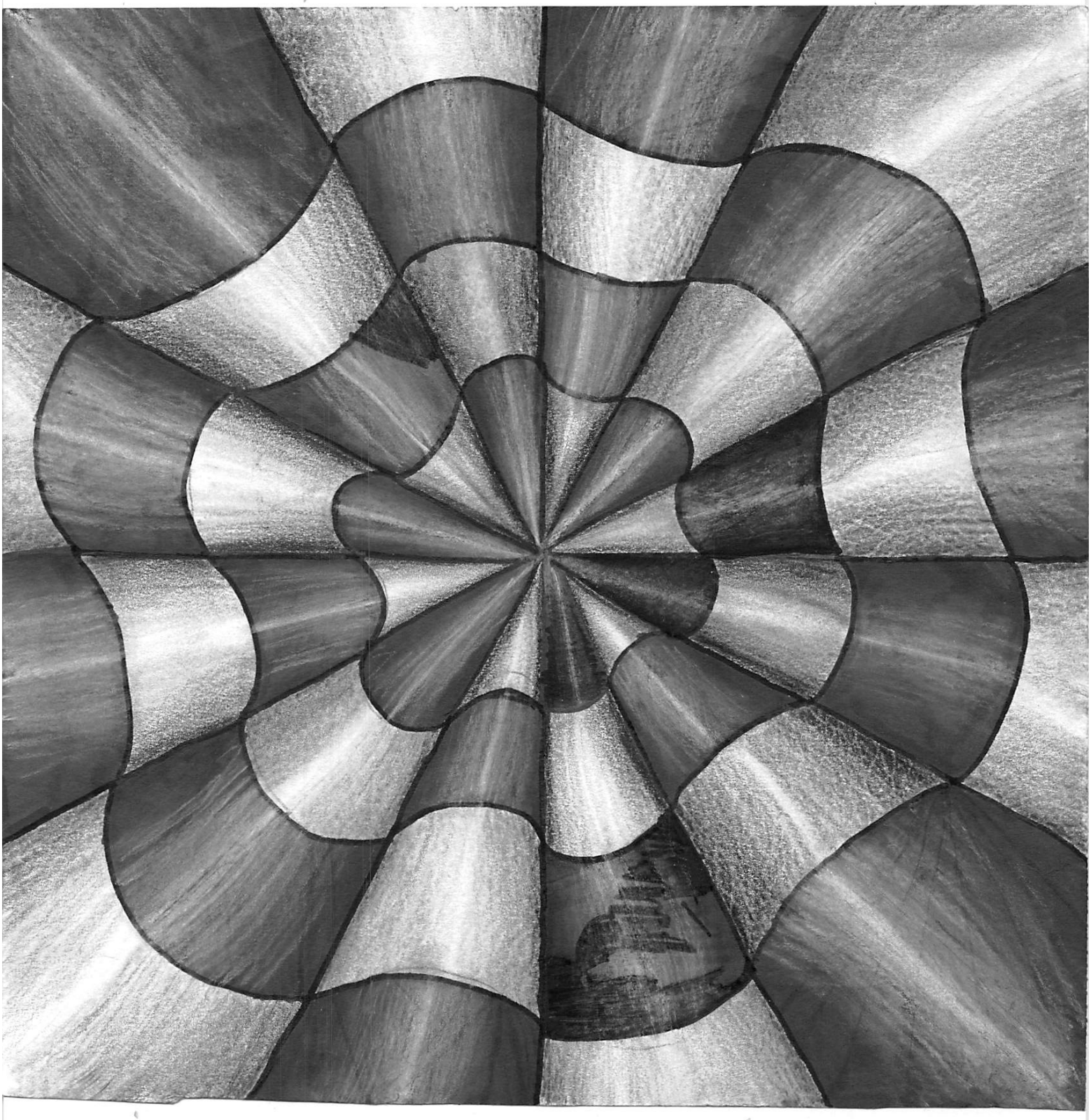
Chinmay Gopi/Grade 6*

The Elephant and The Girl

I was on my way to the zoo *this is so exciting* It wasn't just a trip to the zoo it was a once in a lifetime, fun time, to go to the biggest zoo in the country that had a elephant (my favorite animal) this could be the best day of my life! Once I got there I rushed through the crowd to see the elephant. Finely I made it to the front of the exhibit. It looked very strong with a long trunk that could easily smash something and a face ferocious but gentle. At that moment I knew I had to get a ride, so when the ride's had begun guess who was first in line? Not me. I looked hopelessly at the fifteen kids in front of me *when will my turn ever come* I thought then I decided to calculate it out *ok fifteen kids in front of me and it takes about 3-5 minutes per kid that means four time fifteen so that would be... a hour*! I looked at the long line ahead of me with disbelief is it worth it to stand in this line for an hour? For me it was. After an hour of standing it was my turn I slowly mounted the animal and started riding it around the ring (with some help of course) it was one of the best things I ever did. When I finished I almost couldn't get of of it but when I was done I went straight to watch the other people ride after about twenty minutes a zookeeper asked me if I wanted to help the other people ride I was so happy I entered the elephant exhibit and asked what I could do he said I could hold the lead rope and lead the elephant around the ring I did that until it was time to go. Once I got to the car I got in and told my parents what I go to do and thanked them for bringing me to the zoo when I got home I got ready for bed, went into my bed, and started thinking about my best day ever!

Grace Prososki/Grade 4

Rolling Cones



Sawyer Anderson/Grade 6*

The Ice Cream Truck

It was 3:00 and I was playing football with my friends at the park. "I'm bored" my best friend Jimmy said. "Me too." I replied. "How about soccer?" Mike asked. 'Nah," John said, "Baseball is way more fun." "Can we just do something?" Mike's sister Grace, complained. Just then we heard some bells chiming and music playing. "Hey," Jimmy said, "That sounds like the ice cream truck!" "Come on, guys," Mike said, let's go get some ice cream!" They started running towards it on the other side of the street. "Coming?" Jimmy asked me. "Does anyone have money?" I asked. "No." was their reply. "Then I'm going to get the club money." I said. "Okay, we'll tell him it will be a couple of minutes," Jimmy said, "see you in a bit!" "See ya!" I shouted over my shoulder as I ran home. My house was ten blocks away from the park, so I ran full speed towards it. I could go 2 blocks per minute, so in five minutes I was home. I panted and fell down. I crawled to our clubhouse, which was a big shed in my backyard. I went into the clubhouse and opened the money box. There was nothing inside. *Oh yeah. We brought the money to Mike's house last week*. I stood up and ran inside my house. I grabbed my canteen and took a big gulp. My mom was in the kitchen, making supper. "Mom!" I said, "Can me and the club borrow some money?" "Sure." my mom said, "My purse is hanging on a hook by the front door." "Thanks!" I said, and I grabbed the purse. As I bolted out the door my Mom said, "Honey, there's one more thing, the-" but I didn't catch the rest of it because I had already slammed the door shut. The way back to the park took longer. As I ran up to the park I could tell that the others were stalling for time. "One more minute," The ice cream man said, impatiently, "Or I'll have to leave. The boss is going to get mad at me if I don't go, and we've been waiting for at least fifteen minutes." "There he is!" Jimmy yipped. "Okay" I said, "we'll all have a Neapolitan." "That will be twelve fifty." the ice cream man said, matter-of-factly. I dug my hand into the purse and pulled out a wallet I opened the wallet, and inside was nothing but a few pennies. *So that's what mom was trying to say. Drat.* "Sorry," the ice cream man said, "No money, no ice cream." with that, he started down the road. Just then a black SUV pulled up. The window rolled down to reveal my mom! She threw a wallet to me. "Run!" she shouted! I ran, my friends hooting and hollering behind me. We would get ice cream after all.

Noah Prososki/Grade 5

You Go Your Way, I'll Go Mine

"Guess what, Gracie?" My best friend Jessica Blooms asked me, twirling her hair around her fingers. A huge smile was spread across her face. I was excited to hear her news. I always was, about everything. If she was excited, I was excited. If she was sad, I was sad. I guess they call that empathy. And I guess you could say empathy just comes with living together for 9 years. "What?!" I asked, curiously and excitedly. "I... am getting adopted! Seriously, if everything goes according to plan and law, I am getting adopted by a family in Austin!" I wanted to be a good sport. I really did! But we've been best friends for practically our entire lives. How can I be *happy* when my best friend is moving to AUSTIN!? I shook my head. "Why?" I asked. She looked as if it were obvious. "Well, because they *want* me," She said. "No, I mean why are you so *excited* about it?"

"Because it's a family, come on, just understand."

"But why do *you* want it, Jess? We have been together since like, forever. It's great."

"We're going to have to split up at *some time*!"

"Well why can't it be later?"

"Could you for once just be *happy* for me?!" Ooh, ouch. "Uh, I have been happy for you in everything you've done! Because that's what people who *aren't* traitors do! I guess you might not know that, since you haven't had experience! Remember our secret handshake from when we were 4? I think the twirl at the end broke your *brain*!" If she hurts me, all I can do is hurt her back. That's what *I've* experienced here at the orphanage. I cannot believe her, anyway. She *wants* to be away from me. You would know, if you would have heard what she said after that. "You know what, I don't care what you say, Gracie. I have my own opinion. I've experienced not being a traitor, because I'm not one. And you know what else I'm about to experience? A real *life*. A *real* one. And I bet you won't ever have that feeling, because why would anyone adopt *you*?"

She stormed out of the room. Tears of anger rolled down my face. They actually might have been tears of sadness. Why would she say that to me? As I turned around the opposite corner then the one Jessica ran out of, I saw my roommate Cassie. Right there. *Staring* at me. You wondering why I called her my roommate? Here's why: our administrator, Jacky, divided all of us up into groups of 2. Each of the groups got a room. My partner/group is Cassie. "Do you want to play a game?" It's something Cassie often asked me. I usually say no. That's what I said tonight after dinner. I just went up to our room and went to bed early instead. Even though it was only 7:00pm, I needed clear thinking time and space. Why did she say that? I thought through many possibilities but stopped when I got to the weirdest one. Was I... envious? Was I jealous of her? Were those... tears of *jealousy*? I sprung up. I realized something! *Why would she say that to me?* Even though I questioned it from when she said it up until only a minute ago, now I am sure of the answer. Because *I* said something like that to *her*. Well, no. I actually said something *worse* than that. And the only way to fix it is to do the hardest thing for anyone to do. I need to *apologize*. Followed by asking for *forgiveness*. But first, I need sleep.

The next morning when I hear the breakfast bell it's only 7:57am. I need to get up though, there's bacon! You know what else that repetitive bell tells me, other than breakfast? It says it's a new day, with new possibilities. Like, maybe, just *maybe* getting back my best friend. Just maybe. So I spring up out of bed at 8:02am and go to the kitchen. My long red-brown hair was braided last night, so I don't have to worry about my hair. I usually do, though, because it's 2 feet long! Anyway, there were pancakes and I wanted them. So I *maybe* sort of shoved Kate out of my way? Maybe? I couldn't find Jessica anywhere, so

You Go Your Way, I'll Go Mine

I sat next to Alexis instead. Kate and Alexis are like physical sisters to me. We all love each other but we fight about ridiculous things. Alexis was telling me about an amazing story she read while we all ate our breakfast. It was amazing until she brought up chapter 10. She said it was her favorite. I disagreed and I have to admit, I really wanted to fight about it. But I saw Jessica and wrapped up the conversation with Lex. "Wow, that sounds like a really interested story Lexie," I said and literally dumped my pancakes in the trash. That should be illegal, in my opinion. If it were against the law, then a lot less food would be wasted. "Jess, I'm sorry," I panted because the table she was placing her plate at was far from the trash can, and I ran. "I was jealous, and I shouldn't've been. One thing I bet all of us very different girls here at the orphanage can agree on is that we want a place to call home, people to call family. I guess my envy got in the way of both of our happiness, especially our happiness together. Austin's not far from here, and I promise I'll come visit. I guess when you have kids, you can tell them about your split life. 'Oh, I was adopted by your Grandma and Grandpa after 9 long years when I was 12 years old' if you wanted to include me in your sharing to your family, I'd like that."
"I will."
"Thanks. When I'm 22, I'm going to adopt a kid. My best friend knows how great the feeling is, so I do, too. I am going to do it for the child, and she or he will feel great."
"I'm going to do that, too," She said and we hugged and she cried and cried. "I'll miss you."
"You too."
"Friends forever?"
"Friends forever!"

Madison Ballinger/Grade 4

Kidnapped

Anna Averett/Grade 5

Humans

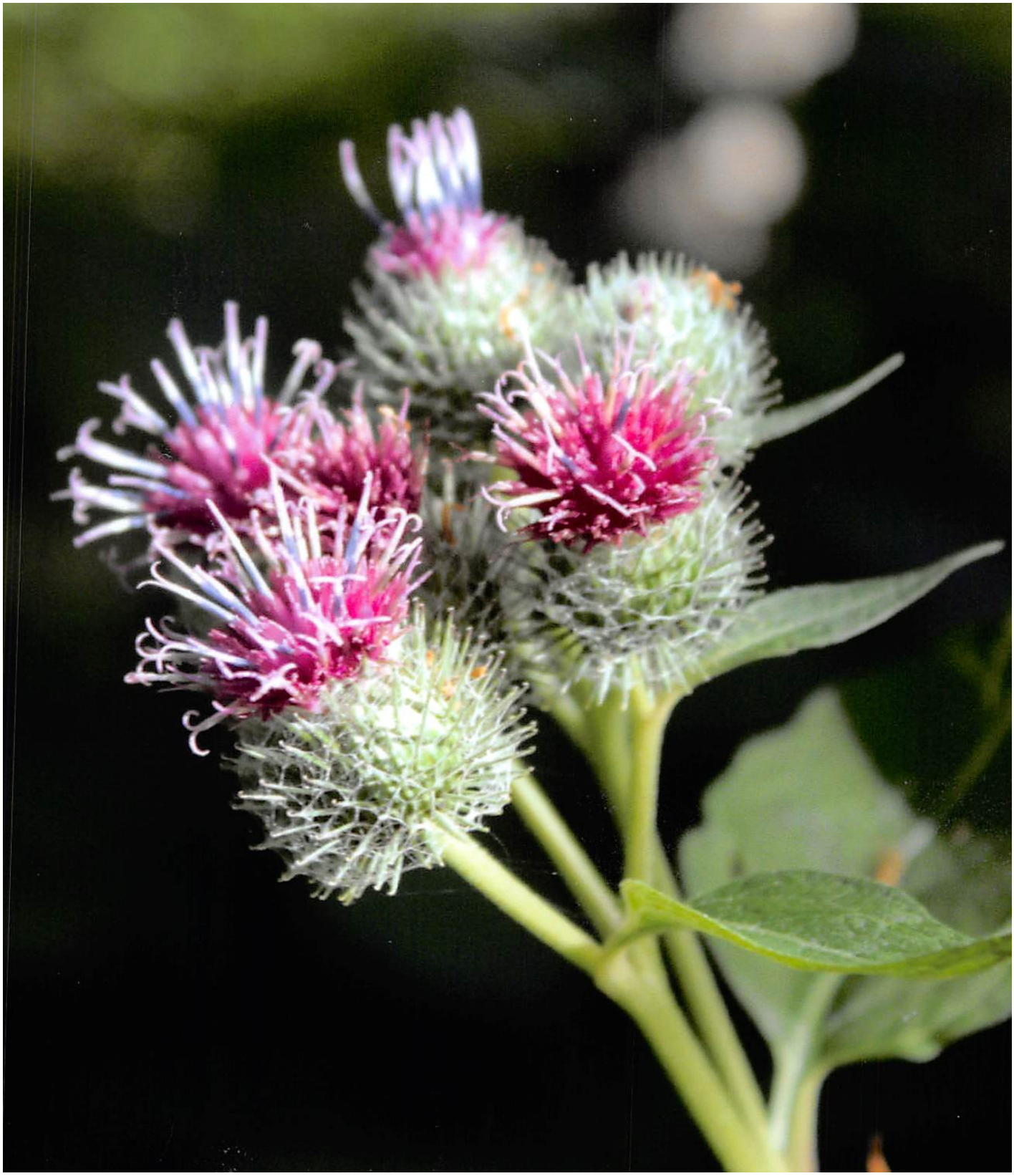
Humans, big and small
Humans, short and tall
Some kind, some mean
Some like white, and some like green
It is something that we should embrace
That we are all different
And that's not a disgrace

Let's all come together and be one
Instead of showing hate and anger
And missing out on all of the fun
Let's forget our differences
And think about how we're the same
Instead of leaving our differences to the blame

So come, join me
In this long trek, at the end of which we can be free
From all criticisms and displays of hate
And so that we can wipe clean our slate
And have a fresh new start
It will be great

Chinmay Gopi/Grade 6

Hitchhiker



Talulah Sully/Grade 4*

Kia

It's 12:30 in the afternoon and my mom is taking my sisters and I to Disney Land for a 2-week summer vacation. While us girls, are gone my dad is going to stay home with my brothers, Luke (13), Sage (7), and Leo (4). I'm not sure what they will be doing, but knowing dad they will do something that mom would never let them do, like wear roller blades in the house, eat pizza for breakfast, drink pop and eat candy. You see my mom is a healthy eater. So, even though we're going to Disneyland, we will still be eating healthy. I really don't mind. I've never really had anything unhealthy. So, you know, it's just easy for me to say no to pizza, pop, and candy. For my brothers and my dad, it's like trying to tell a toddler who's holding a ball not to throw it into the street. "Kia, please hurry! We are not going to be able to get food before we leave, if you don't hurry!" my mom yelled. As she gently shoved my sisters, Lea (15), Mia (9), and Adriana (7) out the front door. "Coming!" I called. As I shoved the rest of my things into my bag. Anyways, as I zipped my suitcase shut and ran past the living room, I hear my dad say, "Always remember, you're as sweet as strawberry!" That was his unique way of saying I love you and your special gift is making people happy just like sweet and juicy strawberries. As I hop into the car, Adriana says. "We've been waiting for like 50 years!"

"Adriana stop exaggerating. We've only been waiting for... " Mia starts to say then stops to glance down at her watch. "We've only been waiting for 2 minutes." Mia just learned how to read a clock so, now she is obsessed with watches. "Woah! Kia what did you pack!" Lea asked as she glanced down at my suitcase. It was practically about to explode! "I packed everything I thought I'd need." I respond. "Like what?" She asks. "Like sunscreen, shorts, T-shirts, a first aid kit, shampoo..." I start to say but then Mom interrupts me, "Kia, it's good that you packed all that stuff, but did you stop to think that you might have packed a little too much?" "Yes, and I thought well since we were going so far from home, I thought I would need all of this stuff." I say turning to look out the window. The truth is that I've never been outside Charleston, that's the town I live in. So, I was really nervous.

"We're here!" exclaimed Mia and Adriana as we pull up in front of the airport. "Yay." I say without enthusiasm. "We're here all right. I'm so excited!" exclaims Lea as she climbed out of the car. "Lea, Mia, and Adriana you stay here with our bags while Kia and I go and park the car." Mom said as everyone climes out of the car. "Okay." We all reply. "All righty then let's unload the car first." Lea said. We all laugh.

After we unloaded the car Lea, Mia, and Adriana stood inside the airport while Mom and I went to park the car. "Kia, I've noticed that you are kind of uneasy about this trip." Mom askes, as we start to pull away from the curb. "Well, kind of, I kind of have the butterflies in my stomach. And I'm just really scared that I'll get separated from you, Lea, Mia, and Adriana. I just don't know what to do if I do end of getting separated from you guys." I told mom. By now we had parked the car and were climbing out. "Well, I don't think you will get separated from us at the airports. Do you?" Mom askes. "No, I don't think I'll get separated from you guys at the airports. I'm just worried about getting separated from you at Disney Land." I tell her. "Why don't we come up with a plan when we get to our hotel later tonight. Okay?" Mom askes. "Okay. Thanks' Mom." I said. "Any time Kia."

Kia

Mom says, "Any time." By now we have reached the front doors of airport. "Hey! Give that back!" Is the first thing that mom and I hear as we step into the airport. It sounds like Mia. I look at mom the look on her face says, oh no. We haven't even left town and there is a problem. Lea spots Mom and I and then starts to explain was happening, but then kept getting interrupted by Mia and Adriana. Apparently, Adriana was trying to help Mia get her watch unstuck from her suitcase but then instead of helping she just took Mia's watch off her wrist and then was teasing her with it. "Okay, everyone just calm down. Adriana give Mia her watch back and say sorry." Mom says. "Sorry Mia. Will you forgive me?" says Adriana as she hands Mia her watch back. "I forgive you Adriana. But please don't steal my watch again." Mia says as she puts her watch back on. "All right now that that's all settled, let's go check in." Mom says. "Yes, lets." Lea said.

After we check in, Adriana says she needs to go to the restroom, so mom tells Lea to take her, while the rest of us go and get some food. "Kia can you please sit with our bags while Mia and I go and get some food?" Mom askes. "Um... I don't know... I kind of wanted to... you know... um come with you." I sputtered. "Kia." Mia wines at me. I take a deep breath then say with as much enthusiasm as I can, "Sure, mom I'll stay here with our bags while you and Mia get something to eat. "Thank Kia." Mom says with a smile. I smile back. "Lea and Adriana should be back soon, unless Lea got dragged into a shop by Adriana." Mom adds. Mia and I laugh. Just then Mia's stomach growls. "We'd better get some food." Mom said. "Agreed." Mia and I say.

"Attention travelers, flight 6b has been cancelled. I repeat flight 6b has been cancelled." Said a voice over the intercom. "Ah man, now we'll never be able to go on our trip." Mom says in disappointment. I guess she was really looking forward to this trip. "Why can't we go on our trip?" Adriana askes as she and Lea walk up from behind mom. "Well honey, if we don't leave for our trip on this plane we will have to stay home. Since the plane is cancelled, we can't go." Mom explains. "Why Mom." Askes Mia. "Because that was the only flight that we could take to the John Wayne Airport for 2 weeks by then we won't be able to go." Explains Mom. "Ahhhhhh!?" Wines Mia. "Guess we will just have to set up another time to go on a girl's trip. Since school is starting soon my guess is that we won't be able to go till next summer." Mom said.

"Okay." I say, I'm so disappointed about not being able to go on this trip. Even if I was scared about getting separated, I was still looking forward to it. Spending a few weeks with just my mom and sisters would be super fun. I usually don't get to spend much time with them. Their usually busy with, Soccer (Lea and Adriana), and Swimming (Mia), so I'm usually stuck with going to either their games and practices or I'm stuck with babysitting Leo or going to Luke and Sage's activities. Anyways, as all of us drag out bags dock to the car, Lea says, "Hey, since we can't go on a trip why don't we go and get some ice cream?" "Yeah! That's a great idea!" I exclaim. "Yeah, can we Mom please." Askes Mia. Then all four of us girls were all going please. "Well, I guess since you girls have been so go about not being able to go on the trip, I suppose we can get Ice cream..." I could sense a but coming. "but... " Yep, I was right. "but we need to get our bags in to the car first." Mom said. "Okay." We all said. We quickly loaded our bags into the car then hopped in and drove to get ice cream. The End.

Olivia Shorma/Grade 6

Plain Beetles at Day

Plain beetles at day,
But glowing spirits at night,
You spy it in the sky,
Airborne and free,
Flying out of reach,
You strain to grab it,
But out of your hands it comes flying,
Hence starting your hunt once again,
Fireflies,
So graceful,
Bright and shiny angels,
Join me, tonight, and catch fireflies

Helena Collins/Grade 5*

Cherry Cupcake

Grace Prososki/Grade 4

King of the Mountain

Otis Sully/Grade 3

Truck Haiku

My shiny red truck.
The sun reflects off the hood.
The motor is loud.

Carson Knudson/Grade 3

Changing Times

Chinmay Gopi/Grade 6

Rusty K Ranch

Anna Thomas/Grade 5

Pill bugs

Pill bugs are common backyard animals. They are called pill bugs they look like old-fashion pills. The sow bug is a close relative. Sow bugs are similar but can not roll. They are crustaceans like crabs. Pill bugs breath through their gills instead of lungs. The gills are located on the underside. That is why they live in damp places such as mud.

Grace Prososki/Grade 4*

The $4.99 Dollar Bill

Once upon a time, a child went to a bookshop to purchase a book. The book he wanted was $4.99 but he had a five dollars bill. Then he wondered why wasn't there a $4.99 dollar bill?

When he got home with the book he wanted, he asked his mom why wasn't there a $4.99 bill? His mom said, "good question I never thought of that before".

The child's mom asked his dad that why wasn't there a $4.99 bill? His dad asked the Mayer that why wasn't there a $4.99 bill? And the Mayer asked the President that why wasn't there a $4.99 dollar bill?

Then the President invited the child to the White house. Until then the $4.99 ss bill and the child story got famous. When he arrived at the White house the president welcomed him, and he even took a photo of him so he could put it on the $4.99 bill. Additionally, he also got to stay at the white house for a week.

The next day the president got calls from the Mayer that many other people have thought of new bills such as $4.98, $56.84 and a lot of more. After getting lots of request for many different currencies, the president called a conference. After that announcement the Whitehouse was filled with people.

In the conference, the president gave a speech that he couldn't make every single bill because he had to make more than a million bills. So, he stopped making $4.99 bills because then it would be unfair for the other people. And also, he told everyone that he would allow people to vote on the views of a greater number of bills.

The president told all the people to leave. Some people were sad and angry because they thought that they had to come so far to the Whitehouse and just leave. But when the president saw people angry and sad, he decided to throw a party.

When the party started, the reporters begin reporting on live television. People around the country, watching the party got amazed and even more people came to the white house. In the party the president told everyone that they can efficiently use coins such as quarters, nickels, pennies and dimes instead of other proposed bills.

After the president's decision everyone got satisfaction and thanked the president. The boy also got his questions answered and was happy with president's advice. The boy gave a tight hug to the president as an expression of gratitude. When the party was over everyone left happily.

Ranbeer Singh Wadhwa/Grade 2

Sirens

Sirens

Once there was a girl named Serena. Serena is human. One night, she snuck out. She ate lots of sea food. After that her stomach started to tingle. So she went up to the ocean. She stuck her feet in the water and she suddenly transformed into a mermaid!

Her friend Liv, rushed to her. Liv told Serena that she is a mermaid to! Liv jumped into the water and grew a tail. Serena just wanted her tail gone. Apparently, Liv knew a spell to change her back.

The spell worked. After that, Serena realized, she gave up the chance of a lifetime. Months later... Serena turned herself back into a mermaid!

She told Liv. And Liv was totally thrilled! So, the two girls, found out they only turn into mermaids when they get hit with sea water. And finally, the girls had fun splishing and splashing around in the ocean.

The End.

Glossary

- Thrilled - to be happy or excited
- Potion - something magical
- Mermaid - mythical sea creature

Thanks for reading!

Annika Lonn/Grade 4

Dragosler

Grant Flaten/Grade 5

Starfish

Starfish are in all the world's oceans. Over 2,000 kinds of starfish are alive now. Starfish eat oysters and clams. Most have five arms but some have ten, twenty, or even forty! When a starfish loses its arm it grows a new one! Some can even grow a new body from an arm! Starfish have important organs instead of a body. They are not fish, so scientists encourage people to call them sea stars.

Noah Prososki/Grade 5

The Good Bob

The Good Bob was not good, he was mean. He was so mean, he would hurt people. When Bob went to school, he was even meaner. He called people names and hurt their feelings, even his best friends.

One day at recess, Bob was being mean to kids, when he heard a loud BOOM! Everyone stopped what they were doing, and turned to see real life dinosaurs.

Just then, someone screamed "RUN!" And everyone scattered. When they looked back they saw a t-rex, a pterodactyl, and a triceratops.

No one knows how the dinosaurs survived 65 million years without being discovered. Bob was scared, so he ran to the Mr. Holt, the science teacher to ask for help.

"Mr Holt, there are dinosaurs outside! How do you think they got here?" Bob asked.

Mr. Holt was silly, and said "I made a time machine to go back 65 million years, and I brought back dinosaurs. I didn't think they would ruin everything."

"Why did you make time machine to get dinosaurs?" Bob asked.

Mr. Holt replied, "because dinosaurs are my favorite animal, and I thought they were cool, but I see now it wasn't a smart decision."

The dinosaurs were destroying the school, Bob and Mr. Holt knew the dinosaurs needed to be captured and returned to 65 million years ago. But they couldn't do it themselves, they needed help. Bob knew he needed his friends Alex and Steve, but because he wasn't very nice to them, he wasn't sure they would help.

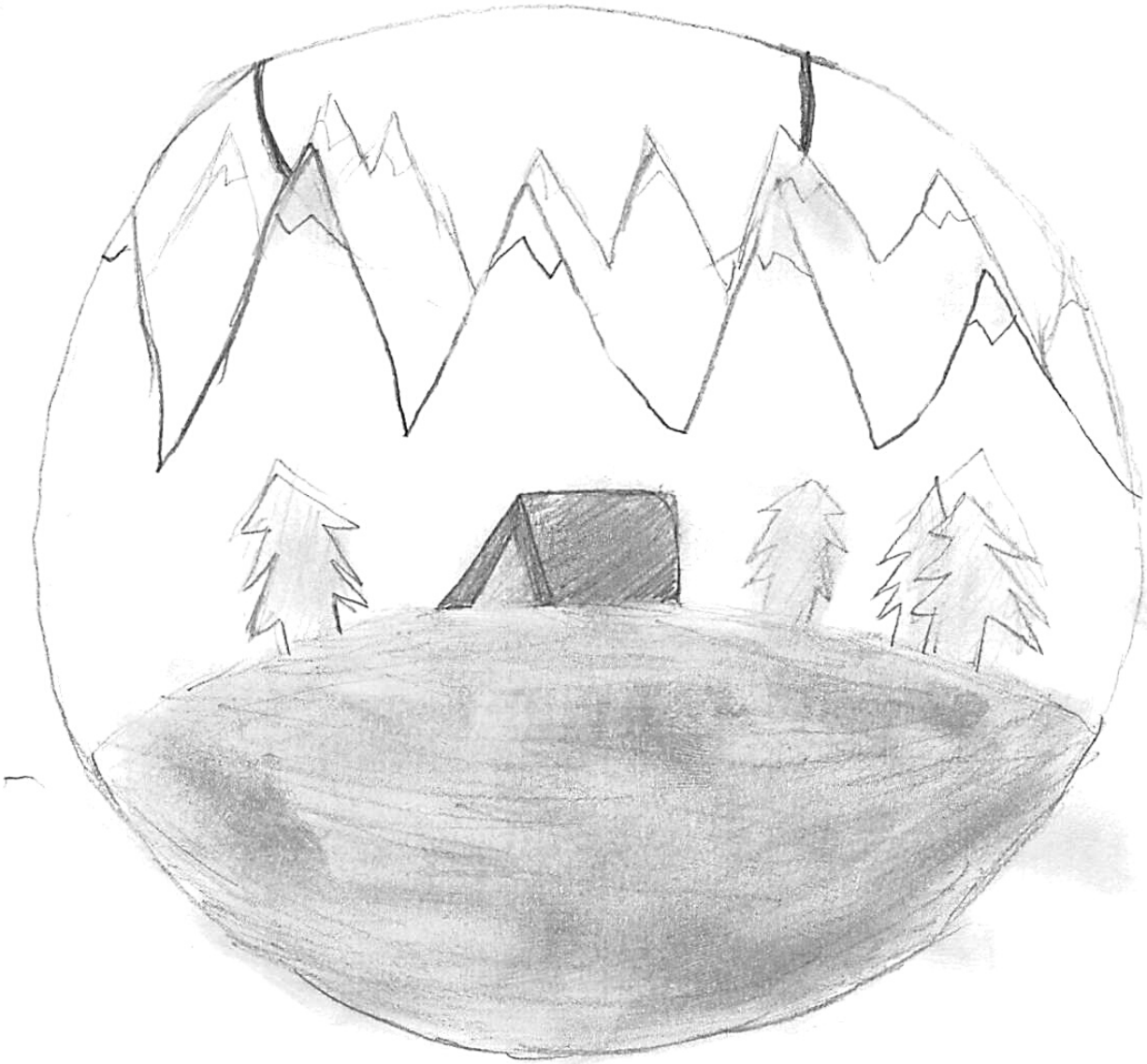
Bob finally found his friends, and apologized for being mean, and calling them names. He promised he would be nice from now on. Alex and Steve forgave Bob, and agreed to help capture the dinos.

The boys created a trap and captured the dinosaurs, while Mr. Holt got the time machine. Mr. Holt was sad to send the dinosaurs back, but knew it was the right thing to do.

The next day, Bob wasn't mean to anyone. He learned his lesson that you should be nice to people and not hurt their feelings. Mr. Holt also learned a lesson, don't bring back dinosaurs.

Brody Barbot/Grade 2*

Campground



Lydia Wichmann/Grade 5

Home on the Range

Sara Thomas/Grade 5

Colors

Purple is your best friend's hat,
Red is the color of a mat.
Blue is up in the sky,
White is white I don't know why.
Gold is the color of lamps that can be sold,
Green is the color of mold.
Gray is the bore of the day,
Orange is a beaming ray,
Pink is a sparkling shirt,
Black is the color of dirt.

Grace Prososki/Grade 4

A strange Day in the Country

It was a desolate winter day. I was hoping I would not have to do my chores today Unfortunately I did. Little did I know that was a blessing. After a dinner of sandwiches and a cookie, I bundled up and went outside. It was so windy out you could hardly hear. I was almost to the barn when I heard a cry that broke over the wind. I thought it was just the wind. When I heard it again, I knew it wasn't the wind. I started in the direction of the noise. I almost trod on the snowy white puppy on the ground. She couldn't have been more than a month old. The puppy was almost dead. I wrapped her up in my jacket and took her to the house. When I got there, I asked Mama what I should do. She seemed taken aback by the fact that I had a puppy. After she got over the shock, she said to keep her warm. I took her up to my room and, after a few minutes, the puppy, whom I had decided to call Snowflake, was fast asleep in a pile of blankets on the floor. I sat there thinking, *what am I going to do*? After a bit I went downstairs and told Pappy that I had found a dog. He was also taken aback by the news. Then papa came in from getting the water. Papa was not happy that I went and found a puppy and did not consult with him. I decided to go up and check on Snowflake.

I heated up some milk to take up with me. Once I got up there, I decided that at suppertime I would bring up some pieces of meat. I stroked Snowflake for a few minutes, then I heard Mama calling. I went downstairs and Papa said I would have to finish my chores. I told Mama to make sure nothing happens to Snowflake. I got all bundled up and walked to the barn. I hurried through my chores and practically ran back inside. I threw of my stuff and Mama had to tell me to pick up my clothes. After I picked up my clothes, I creeped slowly up the stairs as not to wake Snowflake. Once I got to my room, I realized that my attempts at stealth did not prevail. I went over and lay on my bed for a bit. After about twenty minutes or so, Mama called for supper. We were having chicken and dumplings. I asked Mama if there was any leftover chicken. She said that there was. I hurried through my meal and asked Mama if I could be excused. She said yes. I dumped my plate and grabbed some chicken and turned to go upstairs. When I turned, I saw and unexpected thing. Snowflake was trying to come down the stairs! I put down the chicken and hurried to scoop her up.

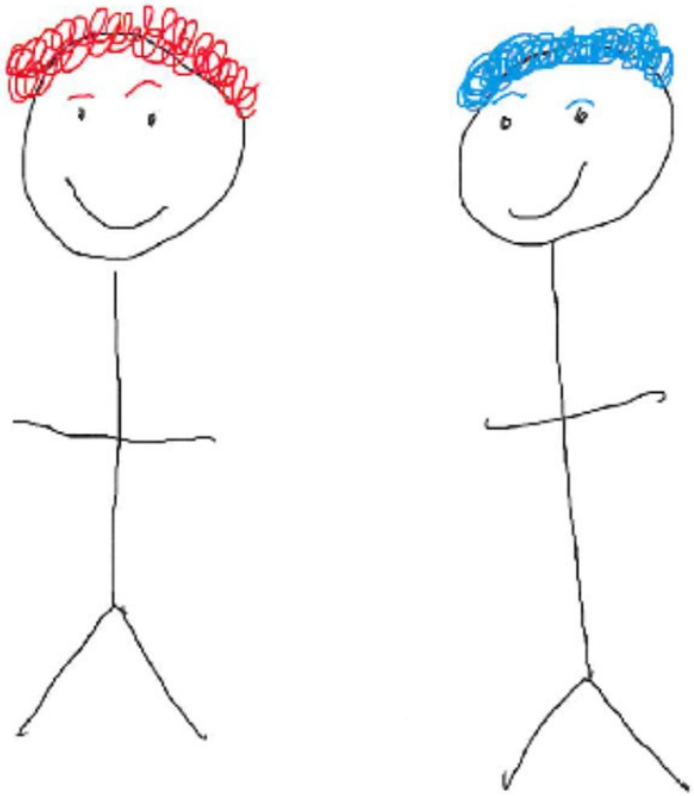
We went up to my room and I gave Snowflake some chicken. After that I took her outside so she could relieve herself. Mama said it was time to bathe. I got my nightshirt and went downstairs. It took a while to heat up the water. Once it was all heated up, I bathed. After I was all dried off, I went upstairs. Snowflake was fast asleep on her pile of blankets. I put my clothes in the hamper and went downstairs. Down there I read some of my book. After about half an hour, Mama said it was time to go to bed. I reluctantly trudge upstairs. As I lay in bed, I think *what a strange day it's been today*.

Skyla Schaan/Grade 5

Forever Rain

Emmerie Hanson/Grade 5*

Doors and Walls



Beware! Jenna won't let you get away with no scare...

Beep! Beep! Beep! Yelled Jenna's obnoxious alarm clock at 6 o'clock in the morning. She groaned, but remembered today was pj-day at school, got up and brushed her hair, not having to get dressed because she already had her pj's on.

"Good-morning," her sister, Maya called.

"Hey! I'm so excited for pj-day." Jenna said.

"Same!"

Walking down the stairs, she found toast made for her with two glasses of orange juice ready for her and her sister. In front of her plate was a sticky-note signed with their mother's name,

Good-morning! I had to go to work today early in the morning. I made you two breakfast and will pick you two up from school. Have a great rest of your day! :)

Love, mom"

*

When it was time for the two to go, they rode on their bikes, racing each other.

"I'm gonna beat ya!" Jenna yelled.

"No, I am!"

Doors and Walls

Maya won, since she was the sportier one, and parked her bike in the bike rack while Jenna was still biking towards her.

After first period, the two met in the hallway and decided to pull a little prank on Miss. Norman. She was the grouchiest teacher of all and everyone hated her.

They would put a whoopee cushion on her chair next period, since they both had class with Miss. Norman together.

*

The prank definitely worked, but it didn't result in the best possible way.

"Why did you get me into this mess?" Jenna whispered to Maya while they were in Mrs. Oscar's - the principle's - office.

"What!? I didn't get you into any mess. *You* brought *me* into this mess!" Maya disagrees.

"That's enough fighting. You two will get detention tomorrow after school." Mrs. Oscar announced to the two, and their parents.

Their parents were very ashamed of them and sent them to their rooms when they were home.

*

Later that night in her room, Maya saw two clowns - one red-haired and one blue-haired - on her door. She was terrified of clowns. The two clowns appeared to be fighting, until the red-haired one looked right at her. The blue-haired clown followed. Each of them gave her a creepy smile. Then, they vanished off the door.

She was so scared, she ran to her parents' room, but they didn't believe her and told her to go upstairs to her room.

She was furious, but did as they told her.

As she finally got comfortable in bed, facing the was, she saw an empty circus on her wall. It had all its lights off. Her and Jenna were the only ones there. It was like a maze inside; they just couldn't find their way out! Suddenly, she heard Jenna laughing and slamming a door. Then the whole circus was pitch-black. She then, didn't see anything else on her wall.

After she gained the courage to turn the light on in her room, she saw a projector and Jenna right next to her, on the ground!

"Hi," Jenna squeaked.

"Mom! Dad!" Maya called to her parents.

*

"Well, I only did it to get payback for having Maya give me detention!" Jenna answered to her parents.

"No! You gave me detention!" Maya told her.

"Stop it! You two are grounded! It was both of your guys' fault you got detention." Their mother piped in.

In the end, they both had detention the next day. They learned their lesson to know how to take full responsibility of something.

Isabella Donnelly/Grade 6

Gem Jam Bakery - The Great Cake Caper

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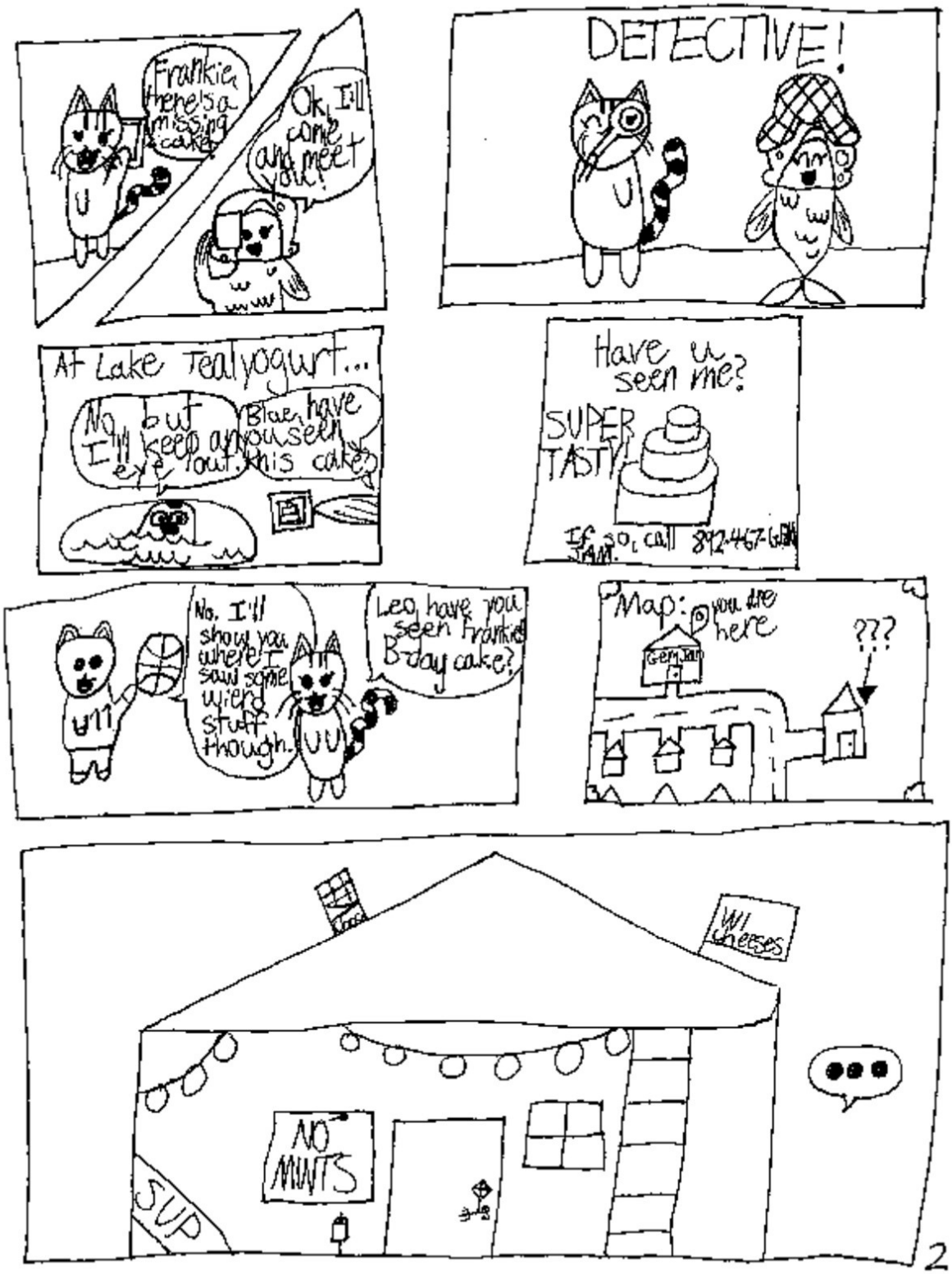

Gem Jam Bakery – The Great Cake Caper

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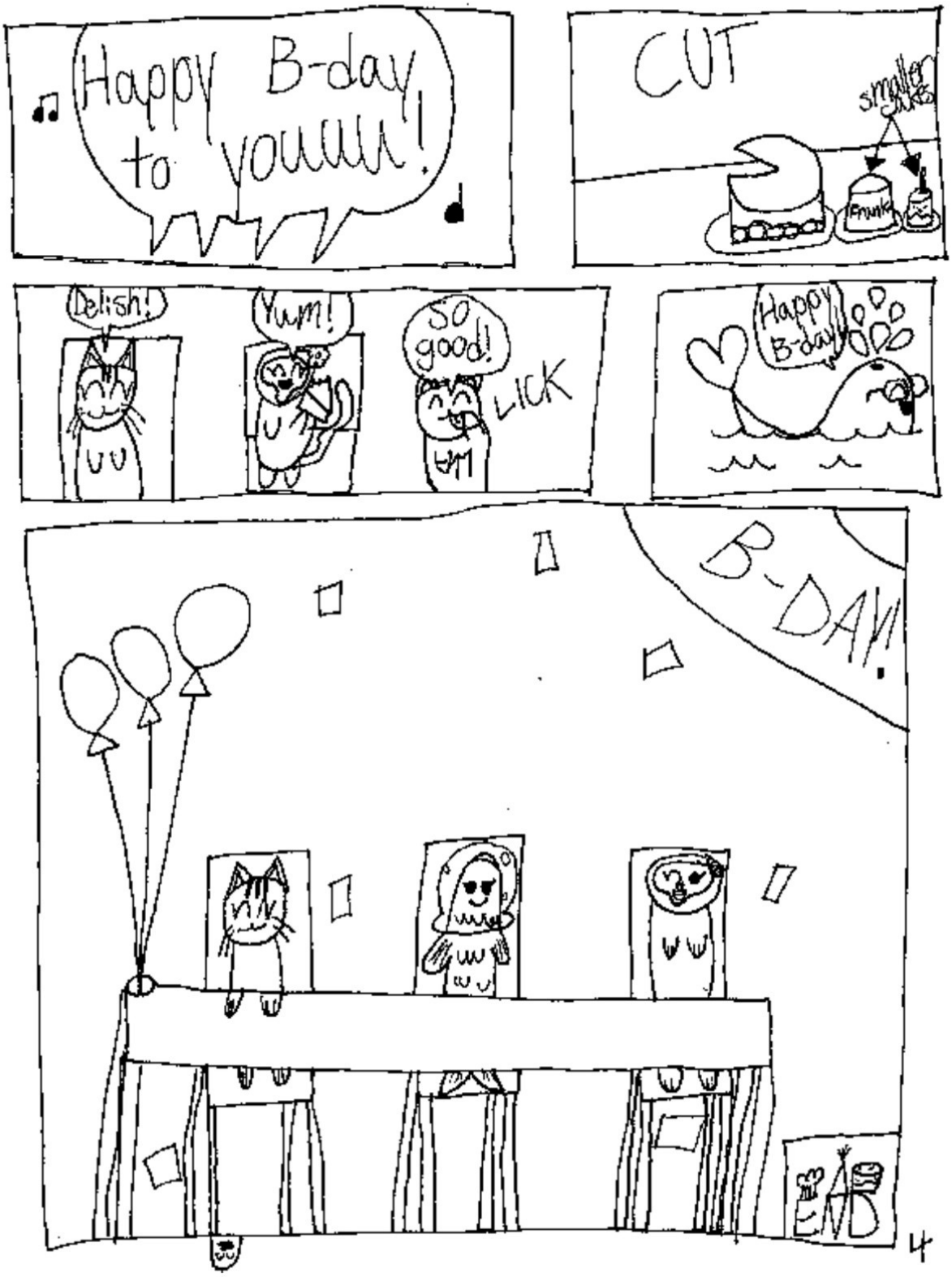


Amelia Pikalek/Grade 3*

Slacking Off Isn't Real

As the sun awoke to a tired Hamton street the alarm of the Leeway twins beeped, it was not very often for the alarm clock to go off because of the fact that every day for the past five years, Haley had punched it right before going back to sleep. On the other hand Sarah the youngest of the two by a minute hopped out of bed with excitement ,Todays the first day of school! She skuaked. But this year was different the Leeway twins got accepted into Ms. Butterscotch's school for gifted children. Sarah hopped to Haley's bed and skuaked ,Get up! Get up! Get up! well shaking her ,Fiiiiiiine! Haley moned.

By the time Haley had even started to get out of bed Sarah had gotten completely dressed with her lucky cat sweater on top and some mix match socks on the bottom. When Haley saw that Sarah had beaten her downstairs she ran as fast as she could to the closet and put on some random clothes which may or may not be clean and some mitch match socks which happened to be the pairs to the socks Sarah was wearing. Strait after getting dressed Haley raced down the stairs but mid way through her sprinting became a barrel roll down the stairs.

Sarah, who was currently sitting at the kitchen table waiting for breakfast snorted as Haley rolled down the staircase. Snorting was Sarahs way of laughing secretly, because if her dad or at least the one that was making breakfast heard her he would probably say something like: Sarah! Don't make fun of your sister! Her other dad (who also snorted) and her had a little excuse and this little excuse was that Mr. Nordimer their next door neighbor had a very loud pig that snorted a lot when it went on walks.

Sarah remembered that ironically Mr. Nordimer hated pigs and anything "gross" that could ruin his "posh" look. He also did not realy like Haley in general because she laughed super hard well having a mouthful of orange juice and all of it came out of her nostrils and landed on Mr. Nordimers fancy suit. She also remembered snorting when that happened and getting away with it.

By the time Sarah realized she had gotten lost in her thoughts it was already eight fifteen (the bus came at eight thirty) and Haley was dizzily sitting at the kitchen table with a big purple bruise on her head. One of their dads gave them both gigantic blueberry muffins that were so big they almost felt like they could burst at any moment with out warning. Sarah and Haley would have to eat the gigantic blueberry muffins on the bus to the new school which annoyed Haley because the muffins would just crumble into pieces the moment she stepped on the bus and Sarah didn't like eating after brushing her teeth. Sarah commented that the bruise on Haley's head looked like the blueberries on the gigantic muffins, Sarah quickly regretted that decision as Haley chucked a paper ball at her, the paper seemed to give Sarah a million papercuts as it hit her in the face, for that reason and that reason only she became quite curious about the paper so she unraveled the quite crumpled piece of paper.

As Sarah unraveled the piece of paper it almost glowed as much as Sarah's smile which was the biggest toothy grin Haley had ever seen, that piece of paper happened to be the acceptance letter to Ms. Butterscotch's school for gifted children.

Slacking Off Isn't Real

Sarah and Haley read the letter aloud in unison: *Dear Mr and Mr.Leeway your daughters, Sarah and Haley Leeway have been accepted into my school for their exceptional work in school they also hold many unique talents which is exactly what we look for in new students. I hope that your daughters join us the upcoming school year, I look forward to meeting them. Sincerely, Ms.Butterscotch.*

Sarah's toothy grin stayed strong throughout reading the letter but Haley's expression quickly became a giant frown, both of them already knew that they were going to a new school before they found the letter but it still felt gut wrenching for Haley just to get finalized information. Sarah looked at the clock again and saw that it was eight twenty which meant that they really had to get going if they didn't want to miss the bus.

Sarah and Haley rushed to the bath room to brush their teeth and hair Haley was in the lead on the race to the bath room with Sarah leading behind, Haley got to the bath room first and proceeded to "brush" her teeth which was basically just swishing tooth past around in her mouth. In second grade Haley had made an entire writing project about how brushing your teeth is the same as swishing tooth paste in your mouth the teacher ended up giving her a B because she had covered all the bases but apparently lacked a good topic. Sarah quickly caught up to Haley and commented that swishing tooth paste around in your mouth was not a thorough enough way to "brush" your teeth but laid off making her use a tooth brush because of what happened earlier.

After the two finished "brushing" their teeth they both ran to the kitchen on their way to the front door to grab the gigantic blueberry muffins and then they both ran to the front door to put shoes on and grab their backpacks after doing that they both ran outside and the bus literally appeared out of thin air. Both the Leeway twins gasped in unison and wearily stepped onto the bus neither of them even touched their muffins because they were both flabbergasted. The Leeway twins stared at each other and then stared at the window of the bus as they both didn't know what awaited them.

Myra Wiosna/Grade 5

Lost Dreams

Do you ever wonder why you dream and how? My world is full of dreams and I know why. My world is very chaotic. My dreams come true. But this one was more than a dream. This one was a nightmare. This dream was terrifying. This dream she came back. My best friend disappeared 3 years ago. This dream she was warning me. She said not to go to the forest of dreams. She had made a deal 3 years ago that she would say in the forest forever and she would get her dream life. But they broke that deal. Now she's trapped and needs my help. When I woke up I realized what if my dreams came true everytime... That means this has a more than fifty present chance that this dream would come true. The next day I decided to sneak out at the time I wake up but at pm. I woke up at 11:58 pm and got dressed and opened my window. When I got outside I felt a cold breeze brush against my face. I started walking to the forest. When I was already 4.5 miles into the forest I saw a small cottage with brick walls and a fire that looked like it was just put out. I went inside and started hearing screams that sounded so much like my best friend. I started crying so hard and then 10 minutes later I was able to get up. I walked up the stairs and followed the sound of the cries. I saw her in a dog-like crate. I got the key and let her out. She asked how I knew she was there. I just told her it was not important and she nodded her head and we got out of the house. To this day we are still friends and she still has no memory of this ever happening and I like it that way.

Emmerie Hanson/Grade 5

Cat Drawing

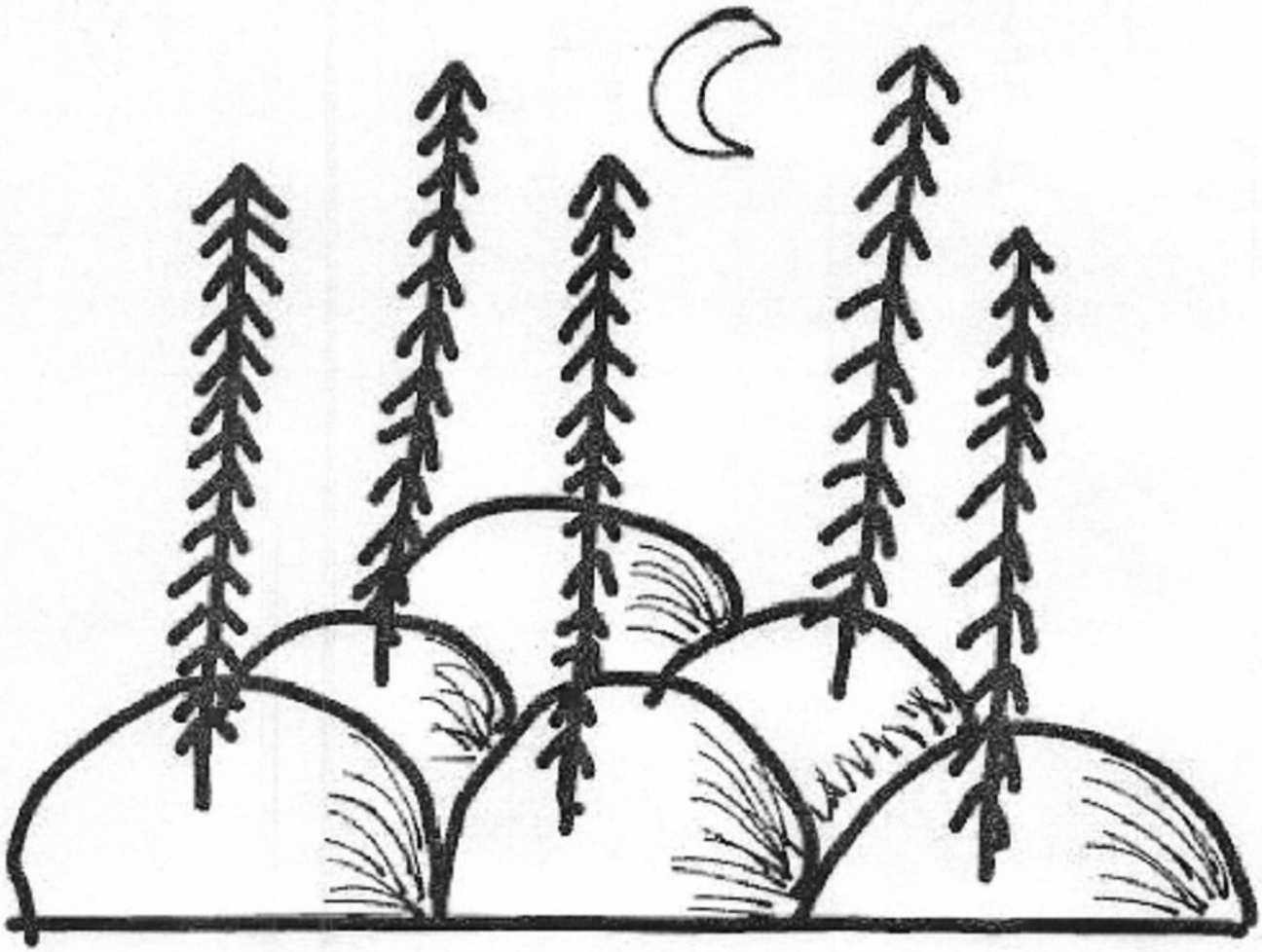
Rylee Jones/Grade 5

BTS Style

Rebekah Moran/Grade 5

Sounds in the Forest

The trees sit with silence the river
rushes with rage the grass
russells from the smooth wind the
birds chirp with joy the small
rabbits hop along an old brick
path



Libby Haugen/Grade 5

Flower Power

Gianna Prososki/Grade 2

Rilea and the War of Lies

"Rilea! Listen to me!" Mother shouted. She stormed down the stairs and placed a firm grip onto Rilea's wrist. "You cannot go! I forbid it!"

"No! Thousands of people are dying. No longer will I stand by and do nothing!" Rilea yanked her arm free, focusing her energy to teleporting away. As her surroundings blurred together, Rilea could not help but remember years ago as Father stood over her and Mother, protecting them from the soldiers. *Doesn't she remember what the war took from us*?

Rilea reappeared in a humid forest. A lean girl ran forward, nearly tackling Rilea to the ground. Behind her there stood a group of curious people.

"Rilea! Are you okay? Did your mom agree to let you come?" Zaynah's word came out in a rush.

"I am fine. Mother," Rilea paused, "Mother said no. But I *am* still coming."

"Are you sure?"

Rilea stopped short of nodding. After all the war had taken from her, after everything Mother failed to do... "Positive."

The group set out the following morning, traveling through the lush trees to the expansive fields surrounding the Enoar Kingdom. Rilea imagined what it was like before the war as they journeyed. She had not yet been born, and her mother would have only been in her early twenties when the Lytrim Kingdom assassinated the Enoaran princess, Laurinda. As a result, the Enoar Kingdom tried to kill the Lytrim royal family as revenge. Then came the war. And death. *Father*... Her thoughts trailed off.

By sunset everyone was exhausted. However, while the others went to sleep, Zaynah, Rilea, and two others prepared to sneak into the Enoar Kingdom's castle. When inside they would plant the first seed for a trap to trick the kings into signing a treaty. Zaynah had pointed out many things that could go wrong, which made Rilea wonder if she even liked the idea.

The group snuck through vacant streets until they found a wall leading up the castle, stopping at a balcony. Rilea clambered up first, tossing down a rope through the shadows for the others to follow. Through the nighttime haze she could hardly make out the castle as she pulled the rope up. Zaynah and a male accompanying them, Orson, walked up to the guards protecting the door. The guards shouted at the duo, standing in defensive positions. Zaynah and Orson continued. Suddenly, both of them ripped out a jar of Sleep Powder and dumped it onto the guards. Rilea blinked, opening her eyes to snoring guards.

The team continued down the winding halls of the castle, scrambling up and down carpets. Rilea directed her gaze to the portraits. Each one was a painting of a member of the royal family, with a name written neatly into the corner of every frame. Rilea suddenly slammed into the fourth member of the group, Kera.

"Rilea," Zaynah whispered as Rilea approached her, "Isn't that your mom?" Rilea glanced up. The painting was of a woman with stringy brown hair and piercing green eyes. *It might be someone who looks similar*, Rilea reminded herself. However, the more she stared at the picture the more like her mother it looked. The boney face, the judging stare. Rilea sidled closer, staring at the name.

Princess Laurinda, Age 21. Gifting Day.

Rilea and the War of Lies

If Mother was the assassinated princess... If Mother was Princess Lauridna, did that mean she had run away? Had she simply been too scared to come back? Or had Mother staged the war as a setup so she could escape? Either way, Mother had still caused the war. She had the choice to return home, the choice that would have saved Father, but ignored it. Rage bubbled inside Rilea, blinding her senses. All of the sudden, she felt a shove on her shoulder and her feet were moving. The scene began to come into focus. Rilea noticed Orson running ahead of her and Zaynah speeding a little farther back. *Where was Kera?* Rilea peered back, only to find a team of guards pursuing them. As much as Rilea wanted to stop and look for Kera, she kept a steady pace.

CLANK! CLANK!

The running had exhausted Rila, but the guards were gaining on the trio. Without a second thought, Rilea reached out her hands to grasp Zaynah and Orson, concentrating on using the little energy she had left to teleport away. Rilea, Orson, and Zaynah appeared near the camp where they had been preparing for the last six months. Rilea took in a clear sight of the makeshift tents and towering trees before she collapsed into sleep.

She awoke in a cozy leaf bed. Rilea opened and closed her eyes, carefully letting them adjust to the faint sunlight. She sat up, Her hair was wild and her clothing was muddy. But there was something she needed to do. Rilea stood up, nearly hitting her head on the low roofing of the tent. She walked out into the sunlight, almost bumping into a weary Zaynah.

Her eyes were heavy with exhaustion as she asked, "Are you alright?"

"I am fine, thank you for asking," Rilea replied.

She sighed. "What are you planning?" Zaynah was agitated. "You're never this nice, even when you get a good night's rest."

"You can come along," offered Rilea. *If I tell you you would try to stop me.*

"That still doesn't tell me what you're doing," Zaynah pointed out. Rilea held out her hand in response. With another sigh, Zaynah took it.

The duo found themselves in a damp area near a gushing stream. Zaynah said something, but Rilea could not hear over the rush of water. Rilea released Zaynah's hand as they walked up to a small cottage hidden behind vegetation. Rilea began pounding on the door. She felt like she had just seen the woman who answered, with her boney face and brown hair twirled into a neat bun. Again, she could see Zaynah's lips moving. This time she swore she heard Zaynah ask, "What are you doing?"

She reached out and brushed Laurinda's arm, beginning to focus energy into teleporting to the castle. At the last moment she felt a swift hand latch onto her wrist. *Zaynah*. Panicked, Rilea forced her energy around Zaynah, making sure she did not get lost in the movement. They reappeared in front of two majestic doors and Rilea felt her mother begin to tremble.

Good. This is what you deserve, you liar.

She scanned the quiet hall anxiously, her eyes landing on a wary Zaynah. Rila took a deep breath, burying her fear. She opened the doors. Beyond them an incredibly large room was revealed. At the far end, perched on a throne, was the king of Enoar. He looked startled , and his

Rilea and The War of Lies

mouth began to open, then snap shut when Rilea pushed Mother forward. She began to shake even harder. For a moment, Rilea began to feel guilty.

She let Father die, she started a war, Rilea reminded herself, *I will feel no pity for this monster.*

"This," she paused to look at Laurinda, "Is the Princess Laurinda. I discovered her cowering in an old cottage." With all she needed to say Rilea stumbled back, shooting a final glare at her shivering mother. *You could have saved him! You have magic, I know now. He did not have to die,* she thought, as though Lauridna could read her mind. She reached out to Zaynah, channeling her energy into teleporting both of them away.

"What is wrong with you!?" Zaynah exploded like a silenced volcano finally aloud to speak. Rilea blinked, taking in the new scenery. She was back in front of her old home, Mother's cottage. "You left your mom, your own mother, at the mercy of the king! You know the punishment for the treason she commited!" She did. If Laurinda was not killed, she would be likely locked up in jail for her lifetime. Punishment for the treason she had committed.

"She was a horrible mother." Rilea's voice came back. *Worse than horrible. I did this for Father.*

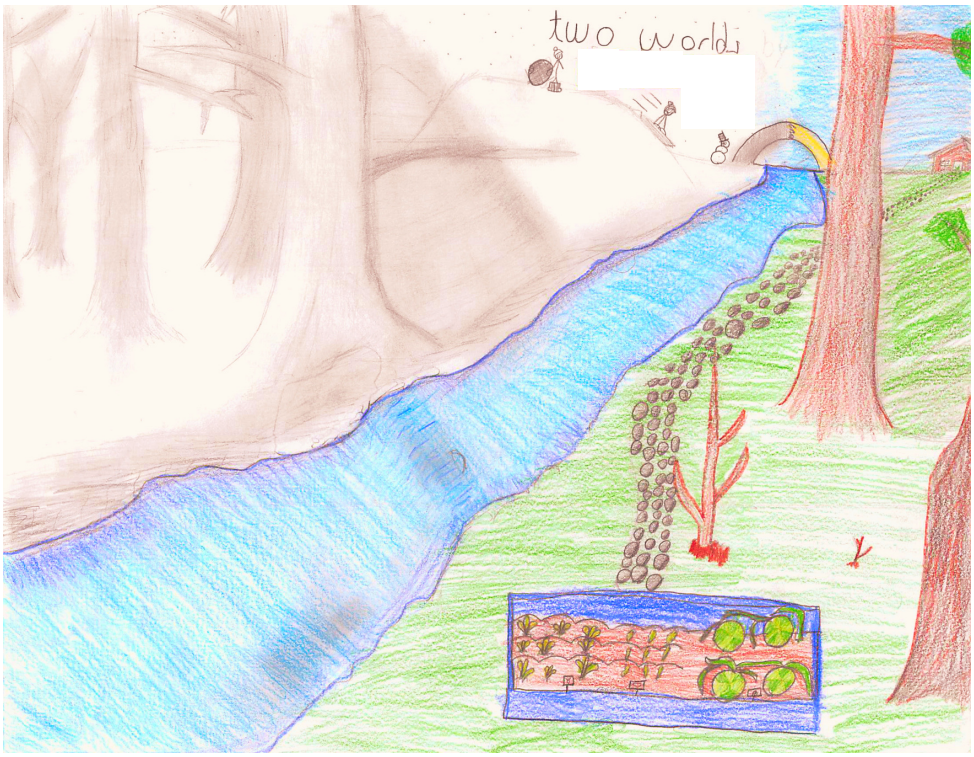
"She was still *your* mother! And now she's as good as dead!" Rilea opened her mouth to reply but Zaynah did not give her the chance. "I can't believe you!" She began to stomp away.

"Where are you going?" Rilea called after her. She took a hesitant step forward.

Zaynah whirled around. "Leaving! I don't want to see you *ever* again! You may as well be the executioner!" She turned her back, storming off into distant wildflowers.

Kendal Hauck/Grade 6

Two Worlds



Sam Dehmer/Grade 5

Thomas Benton/Grade 5*