

woke with a start. The sound was a little muffled by the walls around me. I heard the words "trip" and "book" and then it stopped.

The next morning I woke up excited to go to grandma's house. On the way I summoned up enough courage to ask what trip we were going on. My parents yelled that we weren't going on a trip and I should stay out of peoples business. That made me feel really bad so I just kept quiet the rest of the way to grandma's house.

I was welcomed warmly by my grandma the moment I stepped through the door. The day passed by uneventfully but it was fun, like the usual time at grandma's house.

The next day I was woken by my Mom shrieking at me to get up. All too soon I was on the school bus. When the principal saw me she grimaced but said "hi" anyway. The same with my teacher. It felt like an eternity but finally lunch began.

I found Jonathan Williams, a boy I liked to bully, and pinched him. He cried out in pain and tried to run away, but I grabbed him by the arm and pulled him out of sight of the supervisor. That's when I emptied his pockets of all the lunch money he had, then the bell rang. "You got off well today", I snarled and walked away.

As the weeks went by I couldn't help but notice that there was always a group of people on the school field huddled together, most of them wearing pink shirts. Every day they seemed to get more restless and finally during lunch break one day when I pulled Jonathon out of the sight of supervisors, the whole gang of pink shirts was there looking at me with resentful eyes. They pulled Jonathon from my grip and made a wall in front of me that separated me from Jonathon.

"Give him to me", I said in a low and dangerous voice. I expected them to make a path for me.

But they just shook their heads and in equally dangerous but louder voices they shouted, "Go away!".

When I said "no," they said, "Then we will have to force you."

I don't remember much after that but they just advanced and pushed me over. My head hit a wall and everything went black. I found myself in a hospital with my tearful parents (though my Dad was trying hard to look tough without success).

"We're so sorry," they sobbed in unison. Well not quite in unison because they were breathing so raggedly one after the other. "It's all our fault," they wheezed, "if we hadn't been so mean to you, you would never be in this state." Then I dozed off.

I was roused by my nurse, a strict woman with rectangular spectacles and a hairy chin. She was the kind of person I used to mock but she said one of the most important things I've ever been told, "it is easy to tear people apart but the real challenge is building people up." Finally after three days in the hospital they let me go but told me to be careful and not to get exposed to too many lights because I had a nasty concussion.

As we were driving back home Mom said, "Oh, I forgot to tell you, all those days that you went to Grandma's house, we were planning a vacation to Mexico so we can heal as a family. We leave tomorrow!"

That night I couldn't sleep but soon did after my Mom comforted me a little. We woke up early in the morning to catch our flight to Mexico. I was tired but my nerves got the better of me and soon I was hopping up and down in excitement.

At the airport I explored every toy shop possible. I even got to play in the arcade. It was the first time in my life that time actually went by quickly. Before I knew it we were gliding over lakes and across cities all the way to Mexico City. Finally, after a very long flight we arrived. We rented a car and drove to our hotel. So much for staying away from bright lights. I suddenly really wished Jonathan were here. This was a place that we would really get along.

Chloe sat in her bed peering out her bedroom window, watching the heavy rainfall before her eyes.

Her hazel brown hair flowed past her shoulders and down her back. She turned her gaze from the window to the clock on her dresser.

It was 7:46 in the morning.

She decided to get up and eat.

Chloe stepped out onto the front porch to get last night's newspaper.

She flipped through the papers looking for something exciting to read about.

She had almost gone through the whole paper when she reached the obituaries.

She skimmed down the page when the fourth one in the second row almost made her have a heart attack.

The obituary read: It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Chloe Grace Andrew, who was only 12 years old.

Chloe counted to 10 and took some deep breaths. This couldn't be happening. Chloe wracked her brain searching for an answer. After a few moments she got a pleasing one.

Of course: It was her 15 year old brother Josh. Josh's friend Adam delivers newspapers.

Josh must have gotten the paper from Adam and then added a fake obituary. Now all Chloe had to do was show her parents the fake obituary and Josh would never hear the end of it.

Chloe heard faint footsteps coming from her parents' bedroom. She immediately recognized them as her mom's.

Great! Chloe thought she could show the paper to her mom and everything would be okay.

"Morning mom," Chloe whisper yelled.

Her mom didn't answer.

She turned around to face the hallway but saw nobody. She was sure though that she had just heard footsteps coming from her parents room.

Chloe was starting to get freaked out: An obituary claiming she was dead and footsteps but no person.

Suddenly Chloe heard more footsteps but they were different; she knew them as her 6 year old brother Jake's.

The footsteps grew louder as a small figure came out from behind the door.

The figure that Chloe recognized as her little brother walked right past her, which was almost impossible to do because Chloe was standing in a very noticeable spot.

There had to be a reasonable explanation for all of this right? Chloe tried to find an answer for everything that had happened. But her brain remained empty.

How can you explain your brother not seeing you when you're right there, hearing but not seeing your mom and worst of all, a real obituary stating real facts?

This was crazy, there was no way it was really happening.

It finally hit her. This had to be some sort of epic April Fool's joke that her whole family had pitched in on.

There were just a few problems with that. For starters her parents didn't even know what a prank was!

Seriously, one time Josh had used the word prank in a sentence and their dad had said "Josh, is prank one of your so called 'word inventions'?"

The other problem with it was that the last time Chloe checked it was the middle of June, not April 1st. So it obviously couldn't be an April Fool's joke.

Chloe was still in the middle of thinking about how this was one of Josh's pranks when she remembered that it couldn't have been Josh. Josh was away on a three day camping trip for school.

At first her mind was cleared thinking about Josh jumping around as he got bit by mosquitoes. But then something blocked that thought. Wait a second. If Josh was one hour away in a bug infested cabin then that means someone else wrote the obituary. She made a mental list of the possible suspects. Jake couldn't have done it because the obituary was definitely computer typed and he does not know how to type on a computer. He also doesn't know what an obituary is.

Her parents were also off board for the same reason. They didn't do a group prank, they don't know what it is. The only other person living with them was her grandma who definitely did not pull the prank because of neverending reasons.

That means that no one in her household wrote the obituary. So who did then?

Who could it have been? Most of the people who knew where she lived were in her family. Most of them also lived in a different province and she never visited them so that gets all family members off the hook.

The only other people who knew where she lived were her friends Mabel, Bailey, and Addison. But they were the most loyal, kind, and respectful people Chloe knew. So there was no way either of them wrote the obituary. The only other person who knew their address (at least as far as she knew) was not a person at all, it was Chloe's school.

Chloe was in grade 6 at Highland Elementary and of course her school had that information on file, so they had to have it. Chloe was stumped. All of the people who had access to her address would never do this, and the person who did this would need to know what house to put the fake obituary newspaper in. Unless they photocopied it and put the fake obituary into all the newspapers! But that would mean that everyone in her city (or maybe just her neighbourhood) now thinks that she is dead! Chloe's heartbeat was faster than ever and her breath was heavier than a brick. What she didn't notice was that she was... BAM Chloe hit her head on a railing and fell down the stairs. When she opened her eyes she was not at the bottom of the stairs but in her own bed. Wait a second. Was this just a dream?

Once Chloe recovered from the shock she went out to the kitchen for real this time. On her way there she heard footsteps coming from her parents room but when she looked there was no one there...

Dream

Dream a dream throughout the night,

Toss aside your worries and fears.

Close your eyes as you sleep,

Start a story called a dream.

When you wake your dream is vivid,

Vivid enough to make you think you lived it.

- Dream

Safe as Houses (sequel)

By: Samanah Ross-Shanko

School: R.L.Clemitson

Grade: Five

1

We both walked over to the front window and looked out. There isn't much of the bridge to see, only the tip of the railings were sticking out!

David turned the TV on, "This is the Toronto news report, homes of Toronto are starting to flood, families are abandoning their homes. The weather is now heading to..." Then the power went out again. "David, David where are you? Come on it is not funny."

"BOO!" David jumped out.

"David," I said trying not to yell.

"I think it is time for bed," I whispered, trying not to wake Susy.

David started to whine, "But why?"

He started to walk up the stairs then turned around and said, "I don't like you. I want mom and dad."

"I know this is hard on both of us, but I think..." Then I felt a drop of water on my head. I looked up and felt it again. "It is leaking, there is a leak in the house."

David looked at me and asked, "are we safe?"

"As safe as houses." *Well, for tonight I thought.*

Safe as Houses (sequel)

By: Samanah Ross-Shanko

School: R.L.Clemitson

Grade: Five

2

“ I will be sleeping on the couch down by the fireplace, if you or Susy need anything just come down and get me. Good night.” My eyes started to close then everything went dark.

I woke during the night and I wanted to know the time, so I got up and started to walk to the kitchen to look at the clock. Then I noticed that something didn't feel right. My knees were wet, the house was flooded! I slowly started to get through the water to go wake the kids. “Get up, come on wake up NOW!”

“What now?” David complained.

“The house has flooded!” I exclaimed.

Susy quickly sat up and she looked petrified. “I can't swim!”

“Where's a ladder?” I yelled.

“Why should I tell you?” David questioned.

“David it is not the time to be all sassy... TELL ME!”

Susy just quickly said, “In the kitchen.”

I ran down the stairs and slushed through the water. It seemed so far away. I was almost there and then I saw a big figure floating around. It looked like Daisy, their dog! I ran to Daisy and picked her up. “Daisy, Daisy?” She was dead.

“ Is everything fine down there?” David called.

Safe as Houses (sequel)

By: Samanah Ross-Shanko

School: R.L.Clemitson

Grade: Five

3

I didn't want to lie but I didn't want them to be sad. So I called back and said, "Yeah, yeah all good, just grabbing the ladder."

When I finally got it, I started to make my way back up stairs. I unfolded the ladder and put it out the window. "Susy you go first since you can't swim, crawl up the ladder onto the roof." David went next and then me. This has been one soggy journey.

To be continued...

The Wolf

Ann was walking through a cold dark forest, holding her torch up high, so she could find her way home. She was fully aware that a one hundred foot beast that resembled a wolf was right next to her. As Ann kept on walking, the wolf started to speak,

“Are you not aware that I’m right next to you?” The wolf asked puzzled.

“I’m aware and very frightened of you.” Said Ann.

“Well why are you walking with me if you’re afraid?” The wolf asked.

“If I ran away you would have chased me, but if I had walked with you like I’m doing now I would have made a friend, and most people would have chosen the first route I decided not to choose.” Ann said. The wolf stopped and Ann stopped too.

“We are friends?” The wolf asked,

“If you want us to be.” Ann said simply. Ann started walking again and the wolf trotted behind her.

“How do you make friends?” The wolf asked,

“To make friends, you don’t chase them away and they should not be afraid and give you a chance.” Ann replied.

“Who taught you this?”

“My mother, she is very clever.” Ann said.

“Where are you going?” The wolf asked thoughtfully,

“I’m going to deliver milk and eggs to my grandmother.” Ann said.

The Wolf

“Would you like to ride on my back? It will get you there much faster.” The wolf asked politely,

“Why I would love to,” Ann answered.

“Is this what friends do?” The wolf asked Ann before she climbed on his back,

“Yes, friends help each other. Now let's get a move on.” Ann climbed onto the wolf's soft furry back and they rode through the forest. As they were riding through the forest the wolf said,

“I'm glad I made such a kind friend,”

“Yeah me too.”

The Witch
Katelyn Diane Schaffer
Grade:5
Arthur Stevenson Elementary

Once upon a time where the ground was never green and where it was always stormy, there was a little brown house, and a girl named Lilly lived in the house. Lilly was the most beautiful girl you would ever see. There was a twist to her... she had a secret. Do you want to know what that secret was? She had MAGIC!! Lilly was a witch! Lilly had no friends and no family that she knows of anyways. She had nothing. She did have a cat that could never die. The cat's name was Jackson, but Jackson disappeared. Lilly had never been to the sunny side of town because she was scared of what they would think of her and what would they do to her. As the days went by Lilly became more curious. Then one day she decided that she would go to the sunny side of town when it was night fall. As she was getting ready to go, suddenly she heard a knock. Lilly never had visitors. When she came downstairs and answered the door It was a CAT?!?! "Uh hi kitty... what can I get you" Lilly asked?

"UM how about you get me some catnip and go to the town like right now" the cat answered!!

"YOU CAN TALK"!? Lilly exclaimed!!!

"UH YA but you need to get to town. People will love you. Plus it's amazing!" the cat yelled at Lilly.

"Ok,ok,I guess I'll go but I was going to wait until night---- as Lilly tried to finish what she was trying to say the strange cat interrupted.

"OK great meet ya there!". Lilly packed her magic bag and headed off to town. It took her an hour to get there! As she arrived she saw a huge banner saying "Welcome Lilly!"

The Witch
Katelyn Diane Schaffer
Grade:5
Arthur Stevenson Elementary

As Lilly walked into town she saw the mysterious cat. They just stood there and stared at each other as she watched cat slowly turned into a boy! Lilly gasped and ran over to him.

“How do you know where I live and how---- As Lilly tried to ask, the cat aka boy interrupted.

“Listen the reason I know all of those things are... wait where's your cat?”

“Well honestly I don't know” Lilly answered. Suddenly it clicked! The mystery cat aka boy was Jackson!!

“Wait a minute... you're Jackson... you're my cat...”. Lilly was stunned.

“Ya thats how I know all of those things, although can I still be your cat?” Jackson asked.

“Of course you can but you have to tell me when you're going to change, ok?” asked Lilly.

”Ok sounds awesome!” All was well after that day and Jackson did not have to hide anymore.

It was March 17th, 1978. It was a sunny day and all my siblings were playing outside. I was in the lab reading up on a few things, when a shelf broke and I caught this old looking book. The fabric on the book had tears and scratches all over it. I thought, "what should I do with my remarkable discovery?". I realized the book had a lock on it. Once I examined the lock, the keyhole looked just like my diary key. I pulled out my key and gently put it in the lock and twisted it. The rusty lock opened and dropped on the ground. "What should I do?" I murmured.

I ran to the study and put the book under the magnifying glass. It said "Property of Reginald Boddy"; the man that built this mansion. I opened the book and it said there is a secret passage that led to a library that held a huge fortune. I thought "should I tell mom and dad?". I will get some sleep and investigate tonight. Later that night I crept out of bed and sat by the fire in the lounge. "There's nothing in here" I sighed. My sister Violet walked in and asked "what are you doing?". "Oh a nothing", I said as I slid the book behind me. She came and sat down on the sofa with her warm glass of milk. "Why are up so late?" she asked. "I couldn't sleep so I thought sitting by the fire may soothe me asleep. You could lie and I tell mom and dad, or you could tell me about that journal that you're hiding". "How do you know about that?" I asked. "I've been spying on you for the whole day" she said. "Please don't tell mom and dad!" I asked. "Just tell what's in that book and I won't tell mom and dad", said Violet. "Fine" I said, "I don't know much, but I do that there's a map that leads to a secret passage that leads to a library that holds a huge fortune" that's all I know. "Well I should go to bed" I said. "goodnight "

said Violet. The next day I woke up at the crack of dawn and dashed to the library to do some studying up on the book. At 9:00 that day my sister came in and said, “last night you dropped this piece of paper”. But not knowing that she had made a paper hat out of it, “why would you do that?” I yelled. “you never noticed so I thought that it was ok”. But then I realized that the hat made up a map when it was folded up. I ran and grabbed it and put it on the desk. It says that there is a hidden lever in the lounge that will open a passage. Violet and I ran to the lounge to see if we could find anything. I went to the bookshelves and Violet went to the fireplace. She picked up this faberge egg, and all of a sudden the room started to shake, and tremble. Then the fireplace opened a passage to a hidden staircase, it was dark and gloomy. We need a light, something that will light up that tunnel so we can see. Right when I said that Violet was standing there with a candlestick. Well here we go. The cobwebs and gloomy darkness had its frightening moments, till we started to see something black. It was a coded door. The book says the code is 6705. Violet twisted the combination lock and it swung open to a bunch of bookshelves. Violet lit the other candles, and the room started to lighten up. The books had webs hanging from them, and the book were torn. I started to read the book again, it says nothing about where the fortune is hidden. “Maybe the fortune wasn’t meant to be found” said Violet. But all of a sudden the place started to shake, the books were flying off the shelves and the walls were cracking and falling apart. Then the shelves opened to a huge safe. I read the code to Violet, 9102. The safe opened with a

loud screech and it opened to a pile of riches. "How do we get the safe up stairs?" asked Violet. We raced upstairs to my parents. "What's the rush?" they asked. It's a long story ok, just follow us. We ran down the stair to the safe, how did you find this. It was in this book I found, it's Reginald Boddy's fortune that he left when he died. "How do we get this upstairs " asked Violet. Lets just get the safe brought upstairs, then we can put our riches in this one. We walked upstairs and got the butlers to move the safe to the hall. But then I realized that we don't need this money. We don't need more money, I went to my parents and said "let's donate this money to charity". That's a great idea, let's call charity right now. So charity came picked up the check, and we all had a great sleep for a great day tomorrow

Thrown Out

Richard R. C. Sharp
Grade 5
Summit Elementary School

The country of Cytrin was always one with a bad history. No one obeyed the law; every three days, riots formed for some ridiculous reason.

Several suicides and shootings were discovered every week, but of course the people were completely oblivious. Until finally... the assassination of president Peter Atlas; that was the one thing that raised eyebrows.

After the assassination took place, there was a coup and the assassin became the dictator. President Atlas had been the most powerful person, so the assassin had simply taken all of the president's power for his own gain. The assassin was named Nickolias Mircéa. Nickolias released a powerful military group called the Force of Mercy. Everything was overthrown, all of the most magnificent creations on the planet crumbled as civilization itself did.

Everyone was escorted away from their families and into a large desert with a small forest along the edge of it. These places were known as the ZFDs (Zones of Forced Death). A concrete wall divided the ZFDs from the city to keep people out... they were never to be released.

Nickolais's men had massive fortified turrets overlooking the wall; citizens were pumped with fifty caliber bullets for approaching the wall.

Nickolais never did anything to help his country, he just sat in his luxurious palace counting dollars, while his wife would take charge of the city. Until, of course, a group would break out of their ZFD...

The Changelings

The Changelings are a group of people who can transform into animals. They're safe now, somewhere in the Hidden Woods, but there was a time when they had a nemesis...

Lyria was happy and safe in the Hidden Woods, but she longed to explore. She wanted to be free from her constraint. She wanted to run like her changeling animal, the cheetah.

"Lyria! Time for supper!" her mom called.

"Mom, can I invite Tarik and Mae to go to the first prey ceremony with us?" Lyria asked.

The first prey ceremony was when Changelings that were six-years-old went out to the Grand Circle and ate the freshest prey in the moonlights rays.

"Of course, hun!" her mom called from the kitchen. Lyria ran out and sprinted to her friend Tarik's house first. His changeling was a narwhal, and he was always splashing around in the Cool Deep. Lyria waved and called him. He changed back and ran towards her.

"Hey Lyria! What's up?" he said as he shook the remaining water off.

"Do you want to go to the first prey ceremony with Mae and I?" she asked. She stepped away from the water.

"Sure!" he exclaimed.

The Changelings

“See you then!” she scampered to Mae’s house to ask her. Mae’s animal was a tiger, but she couldn’t change very well. Lyria could see Mae practicing changing. She stopped running and tapped Mae on the shoulder.

“Ceremony... me... Tarik... come?” she gasped. Thankfully, Mae understood.

“Of course, but I need to ask.” she ran inside while Lyria caught her breath. Mae ran out of the house and said, “I can go!”

At the first prey ceremony, Lyria wiggled in her seat. She heard, “Lyr-” Annara was cut off when a jaguar and a wolf leaped out and started to attack people. Lyria’s mother started to drag her away, but Lyria tore herself from her mother’s grip.

“No! I have to help! I need to save Annara!” she cried, and changed into her cheetah, and her mom changed into a bear. They charged in, and Lyria leaped at the jaguar. They rolled, and Lyria threw her into the thorn bushes. Surprised animals leaped away from the fallen jaguar. It was Renee, her old teacher. Lyria gasped, now changed back, and fell to her knees. Renee looked sorry and was muttering softly. The wolf also changed, and it was Lyria’s dad. She saw her mom in tears, and crawled over in shock. They just sat there, whispering soft things and crying. Finally, Lyria stood up, her face pale and her knees shaking. Her friends rushed over to offer comfort.

The Changelings

“Take them away! TAKE THEM AWAY!!!” She collapsed and started bawling. After the failed prey ceremony, Lyria, Tarik, and Mae went for a swim in the Cool Deep. But when they got there, they saw other boys swimming. Others they didn’t know. Lyria, Tarik, and Mae leapt out.

“Hey! Who are you?” the intruders demanded.

“What are you doing here?” Tarik said. One of the boys strode up.

“We are the Outbackers, a group of fierce animals that are not to be messed with! Oh, and this is Outbacker territory,” he said breezily. Tarik looked shocked. Lily, a friend of Lyria’s, whose animal was a hawk, strode up.

“I’ll get Annara.” Then, she changed and flew off. All the Outbackers looked nervous. A shy boy meekly stepped forward.

“Um, who’s Annara?” the boy asked.

Tarik regained his confidence back and replied, “Annara is our *very* fierce leader, and she doesn’t like it when people intrude on her territory. Oh, and by the way, this is our territory.” He looked pleased with his comeback. More Outbackers showed up, snarling and growling.

Annara came, transformed into a human, and said, “Where is your leader? I must speak to them.” Murmurs spread through the crowd. They parted, and a man made his way through. He appeared in his mid-forties, and he looked like he hadn’t slept in a week.

“I am Crag, the leader of the Outbackers. It seems some of your people have intruded on *our* land,” he snapped at her.

The Changelings

Annara was shocked. “They did nothing of the sort! This is our territory!” she fumed at him.

“Oh, but *they* told me this land was ours,” he said with a sly smirk. Two figures slunk up. It was Lyria’s dad and Renee. Everyone gasped.

“I’m so sorry...” her dad said when he saw her.

“Well, this means war.” Crag said simply. “We will come at dawn, so prepare.”

And with that, the Outbackers left.

Just before dawn, Lyria, Tarik and Mae were all secured in the cellar of Lyria’s house. They had blankets, food, water and a few comfort items. When the battle started, they could hear the commotion outside, and they were terrified. They would hear shrieking or a shout of rage. On the dawn of the third day, Lyria woke up and listened for the sound of battle and heard nothing. She quickly woke her friends, and they lifted the cellar door.

“Woah,” said Tarik. Around them were wounded people and animals whimpering. They saw their parents talking to Annara and ran over.

“Hello children,” Annara said weakly. Her leg was obviously broken, and her eye was swollen.

“Oh Annara!” Mae said.

“I’m all right!” Annara laughed. “I believe we won. Last night half retreated, so there were fewer to fight.” She gazed at the battlefield around them. “The Outbackers moved away from here.”

The Changelings

They saw the doctors tending to the wounded. Lyria knew many were lost , but was comforted they could stay in the Hidden Woods.

ROSESPRING FOREST

Hi, my name is Adelia and I am ten years old. I live in Australia with a older brother and a younger sister. My brother is seventeen. His name is Clark. My younger sister is five and her name is Liberty. My mom's name is Suzie. Her job is being a nurse. My dad's name is Mark. His job is a gym teacher.

One late afternoon my family and I made a decision to go on a bike ride. We biked 14.2 km then took a break. Our family is very athletic. We sat down on a brown, old log to rest and drink some refreshing water. We were so tired and exhausted that we didn't see the humongous storm coming right in front of us. We just sat on that old log until Clark mentioned that there was the biggest storm coming over our heads. My mom looked on her phone and then came a big gasp. She said that this will be the biggest storm to ever cross Australia. Of course our family knew what to do. We hopped on our bikes and raced for home. Guess what? We didn't make it home. We got on our bikes three seconds before the thunder and lightning happened! We were biking in the thunder, rain, lightning and hail.

We made our way to a cabin and no one was there. Not one living thing. We all thought what an odd day! We all took one step into the cabin then... **BOOM!** We fell thirty two stories then landed on a soft ground. It felt like we were on a marshmallow We opened our eyes and suddenly we were in a weird place. We had no clue where we were, what to do, or how to leave this bizarre place. Let me explain the setting we found ourselves in. We were in a place with elves, giants, minions, tiny people and more. The sky was rainbow, the clouds were purple and looked like cotton candy. The grass was gold and silver, and was fluffy like a pillow. This was the weirdest thing that has ever happened to me in my

life. There was also weird looking blobs with smiley faces. They were called Squishy Blubber Winckels. We made some shelter with bright gold leaves and dark pink wood. We tried to go to bed, because we thought when we wake up we will be back home in our comforting house. We also thought this will all be a dream. We were wrong! It was real and there was absolutely no escape. It was REALLY difficult for us to fall asleep since it was in the middle of the day. There were also noises everywhere. For example, there were cars driving by, minions fighting over bananas, and giants running everywhere. IT WAS CHAOTIC! We could not fall asleep. We all decided to go out and ask everybody to be quiet!!! We did that and every giant said, "Fine, mini humans!" While every tiny person said, "Okay giant rude people." The minions just called us bananas! The elves said, "Oh, okayyy" and the Squishy Blubber Winckels said this while yelling, "Fine, but it will be hard, considering we are LOUD!" We crawled back in our fort and fell asleep. It was challenging, but it happened.

Seven hours later, we all woke up in shock hearing loud stomps and banana screamers everywhere. We had no clue where we were until Liberty explained that we were in a weird fairyland place with elves and weird creatures. We all remembered. We went out of our fort and asked people where we were. We asked some people and they all said this forest is called Rosespring. The funny thing was there were no roses in sight.

We traveled to a quieter place in Rosespring. It was a dark forest. This forest had a border, but behind the border was... nothing. It was a black, shadowy, and spooky. We ignored the border and continued to search through our brains to find a way to escape this weird fairyland place. We all had great ideas, so we mixed all our ideas together. We decided that our first plan was to know more about

this strange place, and to figure out what was behind that border. So we gathered the whole family together and then went our separate ways because we knew that we would cover more area and gather information faster. We all brought notepads and a pen then went searching for information. It took all of us a long time to find information, because the people who we asked to be quiet would not talk to us! We talked to other people-- I mean creatures and they answered our questions. It took about seven hours of the day to get enough information. We decided that when we were done everything that we would meet beside the border in the dark forest.

When we meet there, we all had quite a bit of data. It was enough to make a good enough plan and escape this mysterious place. We decided to sneak past the dark border and see if they key to our escape is in this barrier. Clark asked some elves and Squishy Blubber Winckels how we leave this place, but they all said the same, "No one has escaped in one million years except Wondurf."

TO BE CONTINUED...

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT IN ROSEPRING FOREST?

Land of Fantasy

Prologue

I could hear their voices. They were coming closer. I grabbed on to Aaron even tighter. We made absolutely no sound as they spoke to each other.

“Where did those little brats go!?” said a very hoarse voice.

Another voice replied sounding like the waves of an ocean “I do not know dear brother.”

Me and Aaron held our breaths as they drew closer. This was it we would either run or have to fight.

Chapter 1

First day of school

The first thing I woke up to that morning was my mom yelling from downstairs, “Grace Polenthia come downstairs! I made breakfast. You also have your first day of school so hurry!”

I yawned, stretched, and rubbed my eyes before stepping out of bed. I quickly got dressed before running downstairs into the kitchen.

“Hello sweetie. How was your sleep?” my mom asked as I sat down for breakfast.

“Um.... OK I guess,” I replied yawning once more. My mom gave me a suspicious look but thankfully left me alone to eat my breakfast.

After I was done eating, I ran upstairs to brush my teeth and hair. I looked in the mirror. I saw I had sadly developed a zit. “Come on. It’s the first day of school for pete’s sake!” I decided to shrug it off because I wasn’t one of those girls who would fuss over something like a little pimple. Anyway enough about that I thought to myself as I grabbed my lunch and headed into mom’s car.

Of course my mom loves old country music, so when we rolled up to the school and I opened the car door, *everyone* could hear it. I blinked as a group of senior jocks passed me laughing, and pointed to my mother’s car as she drove away with the music blasting. I sighed, ignoring them and walked into the school.

The first person I saw was my bestie, Hope, who hugged me and asked me about my summer.

I shrugged and said nothing.

“Oh c’mon, Grace, tell me *please!*” she begged.

“Excuse me, sir, but it was my fault that she was late. I was trying to speak with her in the hallway before class,” said Aaron.

I glanced at him confused but all he did was smile at me and wink as he looked back at the teacher.

“Well I guess I’ll let it pass for both of you but only because it’s the first day of school,” said the teacher (whose name was Mr. Zalimier) narrowing his eyes.

I quickly sat down and gave a grateful smile to Aaron.

It was definitely an awkward experience, but I only saw Aaron in Math and that was it...so I pulled through OK. Hope was looking at me all day. Probably because I was acting weird after my clumsy experience with Aaron.

After our last class (which was Physical Education whoopce) me and Hope walked over to Tim Hortons which was close to the school.

That’s when I saw it, the first monster in seven years.

I Heart Art

One of the things I heart is art! I love art because when I'm drawing or painting I can just zone out the rest of the world and think about what I'm doing right now. I may not be the best artist ever but I like to doodle.If people don't like my art then there just haters and I don't care what anybody thinks. I can just draw what I feel I and i can get discouraged. When my mom sighs me up art classes I'm always so excited and when I get there my mind is exhilarated with ideas. Art is one of the only things where people can say I'm bad at it but I love it so those haters can say what they what because art is my passion.

Birthdays

Everybody loves their birthday and my favorite part is the cake. As my large corner piece is placed in front of me I grab a small spoon so the cake will last longer. I scoop a small piece onto my spoon. The spoon is right up to my mouth it looks so tasty but I hesitate to take a bit of the delicious birthday cake. So I do what people do when babies won't eat. The cake tastes so delicious. As my taste buds pop with flavor. That's why I love birthdays.

The Fairy Disaster

by Mya Strutz

Gr.5

Westmount Elementary

One crispy fall day a little fairy named Rainbowdust was sitting in her mushroom house. She had rainbow hair, pixie dust wings and, a bright pink dress. Her friend Rosie Rosebud was at her house getting ready for the Fairy Ball. When her friend Raindrop came rushing in she said, "Someone's taking away our powers to fly!"

Rainbowdust dropped the lemon pops on the floor and said, "Oh no, just before the Fairy Ball. What about the flying race?" Raindrop asked, "It's time to start making a trap to catch the thief."

So the three friends worked hard all morning. They set the trap outside where the robbery was happening. They waited for a couple minutes and they caught something. They went over and opened the net and it was Rainbowdust's fairy cat. The three friends were disappointed, but the dance must go on and they had to find the thief. Rainbowdust said, "We will try again tomorrow."

The dance was so much fun, but they had to cancel the dance before it ended because too many fairies couldn't fly.

The next morning Rainbowdust woke up. She was going to take her cat and fly over to Rosie Rosebud. She got up and tried to fly but she fell to the ground. She quickly got up and phoned Rosie Rosebud. When Rosie Rosebud answered, Rainbowdust said, "It happened to me! I can't fly come over."

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A few minutes later Rosie Rosebud came over and said, "Whoever takes away your powers, does it when you are asleep." A couple minutes later the phone rang, it was Raindrop she said, "I can't fly anymore!"

The three friends all huddled up to talk in their secret tree house, Raindrop's backyard up a sunflower. They were trying to figure out a way to stop whoever was taking away the fairies' power to fly.

In the next couple of days lots of fairies lost the power to fly. Also, during those days the friends worked on a plan to catch whoever was taking the powers away.

So one night the three friends got everyone in Fairy Hollow and explained the plan to all of the fairies. A lot of people liked the plan. There were some questions but it was pretty clear what everyone had to do. So they all waited until the following night. That is because whoever takes the fairies power away, does it when the the fairies are sleeping.

It was that time. Everyone was in their position. Rosie Rosebud was laying in her bed, everyone else was waiting around, hiding. Then, out of nowhere, a black shadow came into the house. As soon as the shadow came into the bedroom everyone knew who it was. It was Mr. Black Licorice, an evil wizard from the village. He owned the potions shop. He was a horrible man.

When Mr. Black Licorice tried to take away Rosie Rosebud's power to fly, everyone did what they were supposed to do. Before Mr. Black Licorice realized what was happening, he was dangling high up in a net. When everyone was gathered underneath Mr. Black Licorice, they asked him why he was taking away their power to fly . He said, "I have

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enough power from all you fairies to allow me to fly up into space." All the fairies asked, "Why would you want to go up to space?"

Mr. Black Licorice answered, "It has been a life time dream of mine. Everyone here thinks I am a big, bad wizard. Honestly I don't feel like I belong here."

"Oh, Mr. Black Licorice why didn't you say so. You could have attended our fairy ball," shouted all the fairies.

"Why thank you young ladies" Mr. Licorice said. "It all started when my house was painted all black by some fairies. It didn't make me feel good so I became a evil wizard."

Rainbowdust said, "That's not a reason to become mean."

The next day the three friends were outside of Mr. Licorice's house. When Mr. Licorice got up, he went outside to see the three friends standing there in front of his bright yellow house. He was shocked! The only thing that came out of his mouth was, "Nobody has ever done such a nice thing for me."

Mr. Licorice went to work feeling happy and special. It definitely showed in his work. He was singing, laughing, and smiling.

When he got home, all of the fairies in Fairy Hollow where waiting outside. They said, "We are glad you are smiling and having fun. We would like for you to be in charge of the Annual Fairy Ball. But, first you have to give the fairies' their power to fly."

That night all the fairies gathered around and Mr. Black Licorice gave their powers back. Now everyone could fly again. That night they also awarded Mr. Black Licorice the official title of Fairy Ball Planner. He thought that was a big honour.

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Gr.5
Westmount Elementary

From that day forward Mr. Black Licorice danced, played, and had fun like everyone else in Fairy Hollow.

Monsters

'RRRRRUUUUUNNNNNNNN!!!!!!' "THEY'RE COMING!!!" Jace yelled.

"Bro, calm down." Ky said.

"What happened Ky?"

"I don't know Melissa. Hey Tallon, come here."

"Yeah, Ky whats up? (yawn)"

"I don't know, dude something happened to Jace." said Ky.

"I think he had another crazy monster dream." said Ky

"Oh-no!!" Melissa screamed "Where is he?!?! He's GONE!!!"

After a long, hard 3 hours of looking through the house, in the yard, in other people's yards and down the street, they finally found Jace on the other side of town.

"Hello, what are you doing here?" asked Jace softly.

"No what are YOU doing here?!!" asked Ky.

"Ed."

"Who's Ed?" Ky asked.

"This giant robot." said Jace " I am his friend."

"Say 'hi' Ed." Jace blurted.

"WGFCH56." said Ed.

"UUHHH, that means hi" Jace corrected.

"UUH, ok hi, Ed."

Landon Taylor, Grade 5, Logan Lake, "Monsters"

"FRFRVYJUOKGYTSRTDFYJY&GCXSV" said Ed.

"UMM, thanks, I guess I am ok." Tallon said wondrously "How are you Ed?"

"GYDHSDGSTRJPKIOGYDEDC." said Ed

"Ok cool dude." Ky said

"So what now?" asked Melissa. When suddenly, **BOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!!!!**

"What was that????!!!!" asked Ky.

"ZARK!!!!" yelled Jace.

"ZARK?????" questioned Tallon.

"He is the shapeshifting, teleporting, telekinetic evil dude of all the monsters!!!" shouted

Jace.

"Oh." said Ky.

Just then a HUGE beam of light appeared in the middle of the street.

"TDJGVGROJUSRGYFRCGH." Ed said backing away.

"NO Ed!!! You can't leave now." Jace said annoyed.

"GDSHOGTSDCGFXHHFS RDFVHFFXFVB. " lied Ed.

"No you don't feel sick, Ed, you're a ROBOT!!!" argued Jace.

"FTDDEAG HBGWS DFGTY HBVCDSW SEDFG HJNB HDG!!!!!!!!!" yelled Ed.

"Yes, you can fight and no, you aren't getting any oil until you fight!!" explained Jace.

"RFYERG." cried Ed

"You better be sorry." Jace said sternly.

BOOOOOOOM!!!!!!

"What do we do Jace??" asked Ky worried.

"Zark is destroying the city!!!" yelled Ky.

"Ed needs reinforcements!!!" shouted Jace.

"COME ON DRAC!!" said an unfamiliar voice.

"Carl and Drac!!!" Jace yelled.

"TTGCD RCF HYJHGXCFCG WETHFRDXCV BJUYTD CVBNJUJYHB

VGFDSDFGVBHYGHBNB VGFCDFGH."

yelled Ed happily.

"Quick Carl, Drac, distract Zark while Ed flies up and powers Zark down!!"

"WHAT DO WE DO TO DISTRACT ZARK.....???"

"UUUUUMMMMM I don't know, think of something" Jace said.

"HEY STINK BRAIN!!!!!" Carl yelled. "DOWN HERE!!!!!"

"Good job Carl." answered Jace.

"Ed get over here." Jace called.

"TGGFDFGG JYFR."

"Yes let's go, but wait, how are we going to get up there?" asked Jace when suddenly, a HUGE jetpack came out of Ed's back.

"Alright then, let's go."

As Jace floated in the air and flew off with Ed to go shut Zark off.

Landon Taylor, Grade 5, Logan Lake, "Monsters"

"That's soooo cool I wish I could fly or even see the monsters." said Ky sadly, when all of a sudden, Ky floated into the air and could see everything.

"I can fly!!" yelled Ky excitedly.

"Is that Zark? He is ugly! Wait, I can see the monsters, YAAAAA!!!" screamed Ky.

"Keep it up guys we are almost there." Jace shouted at Carl and Drac

"Carl, we need to go to Zark's head to distract him."

suggested Drac.

"DRAAAAAC NOOOOO HE WILL KILL YOU !!!!!!!!!!"

Shouted Carl.

"We know, but it will distract him."

"TRY AND LIVE!"

"ME have been."

"Ok, go." grumbled Carl.

Drac flew up and started to fly around Zark's head, and with one mighty chomp of Zark's jaw, Drac was falling to the ground.

"NOOOO!!!!!" cried Carl just as Zark fell to the ground too.

"We did it!!!" everyone yelled as Ed and Carl slowly walked down the street

"Where is Drac?" asked Ky

Landon Taylor, Grade 5, Logan Lake, "Monsters"

"HE IS DEAD." mumbled Carl sadly.

"AW MAN, he was the coolest monster here, no offence guys."

"I'm not dead yet!!!" said a very familiar voice, and with that, Zark shot up in the air and off to the stars.

"Something tells me he will be back." worried Tallon.

The Aether Shards

Kale Williams

Grade 5

Westmount Elementary

“Dude where are you!?” Star said worried. “I’ve been here for two hours!!”

“Don't worry, i'm just in The Eternal Caverns.” Twig said calmly. “THE ETERNAL CAVERNS?!? THAT'S A DEATH TRAP!” Star belowed. As he finished his sentence, the ground shook. Suddenly, an ear piercing shriek flew across the air. “What was that?” Twig said worried. “NOW LOOK WHAT YOU’VE DONE. YOU AWAKENED A NIGHTMARE!” Star said angrily. “Wait... what’s a nightmare?” Twig said as he stopped in place. “Oh goodness... is it what i think it is?” “IF YOU THINK IT IS A FLESH EATING BEAST, YOUR RIGHT.” Star said furiously. A loud banging sound came from the cave, louder and louder until the nightmare was in sight. It’s razor sharp teeth and it’s horns make it even bigger and meaner. “DUDE GET OUT OF THERE!” “Already on it!” Twig said as he dashed out of the cave with the nightmare right behind him. “RUN!!!” Both of them yelled. The chase began.

CHAPTER TWO

Twig realized that the nightmare is a lot faster than them. “We’re gonna have to fight!” Star said as he sprung in the air. “Ok Star. I haven’t fought in a long time Star” Twig said nervously. “I hope I can remember my spells.” “Oh don’t worry, you’ll remember. See?” As stars eyes turn into a never ending space of stars, he casts a spell of death. The beam of his spell hit the nightmare, killing it instantly. “EEEEEEEEEE!!!” The nightmare shrieked, as it turned to dust. “Well that was easy.” Twig said confused. “I guess we go home.” Star said. “Wait!” Twig yelled. “What?” Star said surprised. As Twig pulled out one of the Aether Shards, Star gasped. “HOW DID YOU FIND THAT!?!” Star yelled. “I found it in the cave! Cool right?” Twig said

The Aether Shards

Kale Williams

Grade 5

Westmount Elementary

proudly. "IT'S NOT COOL, IT'S AWESOME!!!" Star said in excitement. They finally found one of the Aether Shards.

CHAPTER THREE

"How did you find it?" Star asked. "It was pretty obvious. It was in the only shrine in the entire cavern." Twig said. "Wow, i thought it would be hard to find it. But good job anyway!" Star said patting Twig's head. "Oh, get over here!" Star said, as he playfully noogies Twig's head. "Hey! Stop that!" Twig said annoyed. "Ok... but how are we going to find the next shard?" Asked Star. "I have no idea. But i found this." Twig showed Star a map he found in the cave and Star inspected it. "Yikes, we have to climb Fangdrop Mountain. It says that we have to find the shard deep in a under snow cavern." "That's going to be hard." Said Twig nervously. "Says the person that went into Enternal Caverns alone." Said Star impatiently. "Anyways, let's find the next shard." Said Star proudly.

CHAPTER FOUR

"The map says that we go straight to the giant mountain in the distance." Star said confused. "Now where is-" "Found it!" said Twig, Star got so startled by twig he dropped the map. "No no NO!!!" Said twig as star chased after the map. "You'll never catch it!" Yelled Twig. "DARN IT!" Said Star angrily. "Well i guess we have to find them without a map." Said Star. "We can do it!"

[IN THE END, STAR AND TWIG OBTAINED ALL THE AETHER SHARDS, OPENED THE AETHER PORTAL, AND LIVED THE BEST LIFE EVER IN THE AETHER. THE END!]

Over the Bridge

A long time ago...

A foal was born into a caring family of humans. For 3 years the foal was happy and she got to race. When she was 4 the house and the barn burned down. The people died and for several years the horse was left behind.....

Found

"Ha, ha, beat him again," I said in my mind, when I finished at the end of my pasture. Sixth time I've beaten the mailman this week. It's been forever since I was racing with a human on my back. Though I was still fit enough to be ridden. If I wanted to I could run away but ever since I was a filly, this place has been my home and I wanted to stay home. I see people all the time but not once has anybody stopped to give me treats. But on September 19th that all changed. A girl with the softest hands climbed the fence which made me scared because no one had done that for several years. I ran up and down the pasture bucking. She jumped down on my side of the fence and handed me a treat, it was long and orange. I sniffed it, it was a CARROT! At this point I took it without question. The sugary treat crunched in my mouth, the juice dribbling down my throat. *"Hmm..."* I said looking for some more. "That's all I have," she replied. I made sure she didn't before I looked her up and down thinking *"I wish she could do this everyday."* As if she read my mind she said "I could someday," she took a pause and said "I'm Alice by the way." My mouth was hanging open. *"What was my name?"* I thought. I knew it started with a W. *"Wit, no. War, no,"* I thought hard, *"Win?"*

Winne? Winner? WINNER! My name is Winner!" I thought excitedly "Nice to meet you, Winner," Alice said. I stared at her, and thought "*Can Alice read minds?*" "Well sort of," Alice responded. My eyes got wide. "*She could! Maybe we could have conversations together,*" I thought more and more excitedly. "We could if you wanted to," she said quietly. "Wow!" I thought, "*I could communicate with a human. I could do this with every human.*" Said in my mind. "Well," said Alice, "It's kind of only me that can do it." "Oh well," I said, "*It's not like my other family would have cared.*" "Who's your other family?" Alice asked. "*They died 3 years ago when everything burned to ash.*" I said sadly. "What made everything catch on fire?" she pressed. "*All I know was that somebody threw a grey stick, and then...*" I paused trying to remember, "*The house lit up with everybody inside, I heard screams and then the barn caught fire. And now...*" I paused again trying to keep from crying, "*Everyone from my family is dead.*" I finish as tears rushed to my eyes. I balled and balled my eyes out. "Do you mean a cigarette bud?" asked Alice with curious eyes. "*I don't care what you call it, but it killed my family,*" I said bitterly. Trying to change the subject Alice asked, "What did you do when your family was still around?" "*I raced,*" I responded quietly. "Well did you win any races?" she pressed. "*I made it to championships,*" I mumbled. "CHAMPIONSHIPS!" cried Alice. "Well than let's race," she said flippantly...

Practice Makes Perfect

"3...2...1... GO!" yelled Alice as we were let out of the gate to my pasture. It took me about 4 minutes to finish the course. Of course it took me longer than usual because for I haven't been ridden for 3 years and I haven't tried to win anything for a long time

either. I heard Alice say "Wow! I haven't ridden something like that in forever!" "Good or bad," I thought. "Great," she responded enthusiastically. "I could go faster if you're ready for it," I called over my shoulder. "Well let's set up a good course then," she said excitedly. Two hours later we finished up our race track. It wasn't perfect but it would do. The following two days were practice and school and training for Alice. She chose not to ride with a saddle to practice her balance. It was hard because I had to run 6 laps a day. When Alice was there she made me run another 3 laps with her on my back. My best was 1:00 minute. I had to beat it. I asked Alice why she chose me and not another horse. "Well," she responded, "because you were lonely and I know how that feels. Plus you're my favorite horse in the world!" TRAIN, WORK, EAT! That's all what happened for the next three months.

The Race

Alice and I formed a really close bond. About a week after Alice's birthday her mom sent an e-mail wondering if we could compete in the up coming race. That morning, Alice came running up to me saying we got invited to the race. Well guess what happened next... "3... 2... 1... GO!" screamed Alice from my back. I finished our course in 16 seconds. "How was that?" I asked Alice as we finished. "More amazing then the amazing," she exclaimed. "We're for sure gonna win that race," Alice said confidently. "Well now lets practice on the big field," I responded happily.

A little while later we found our way over to the real race track. It was big and scary. I couldn't believe what I saw. Perfectly trimmed grass with the white fences so bright it was almost blinding. Alice kicked me forward, making our way to the starting gate.

When I got settled in the gate the announcer started talking which threw me off guard.

"Easy girl its alright," Alice said to me.

Winning it all!

We were let out of the gates at the sound of the horn. I bolted down the first strip not knowing there were going to be jumps! I could feel Alice getting tense when she saw the first jump. I tried to remember what my first owner had taught me. Too late, we were in the lead when the first jump arrived. I did what was natural or so I thought... Thought stopping was the, nope I soared over it, landed and kept running. I did so over every jump. The last jump was me and Alice and another rider and horse. I felt tension and excitement coursing through Alice, I even got a little bit anxious. "UP"! yelled Alice as we jumped it. I landed kind of funny but I kept on running. Finally I crossed the finish line. "WAHOO!" Alice said with sheer joy.

The Lagoon Monster
by Ava Zirnhelt
Grade 5
Westmount Elementary

"Hear this," called Ron. "It says the lagoon monster struck again at the lake."

It was a beautiful day at Lake Wagney and the sun was shining through the cabin window. Kailey, her best friends Ron and Nancy and her younger brother Marty, were at the cabin they rented for the weekend. The gang was all hoping to have some peace and quiet.

Kailey peered over Ron's shoulder and read, "The Lagoon Monster Strikes Again at Lake Wagney! Officer Green reports that the monster terrorized people at the lake late last night. Officer Green is urging all residents and visitors to leave Lake Wagney immediately."

"A lagoon monster?" Ron questioned. "This sounds like a mystery to me. I say we go investigate!"

"I'm in. We should go check it out," Kailey said excitedly.

"Yeah," agreed Nancy. "I could use some excitement."

"Wah!" cried Marty. "I don't want to."

"What's the matter?" asked Kailey. "I thought you came here to have some fun in the sun!"

"I did, but I am scared of monsters!" Marty replied with alarm in his voice.

"Well, it looks like we're here to investigate the lagoon monster now, Marty. Don't be scared. Stick with us and you will be okay," said Ron.

The gang went down to the beach where the lagoon monster was last seen by Officer Green. After searching for clues for over an hour, it looked as though there wasn't any trace of a monster. Until ...

"Look, tracks! Let's follow them," said Kailey.

"Oh K-Kailey. I don't kn-know about th-this?" stammered Marty.

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by Ava Zirnhelt
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"Come on Marty, don't be a scaredy cat!" said Ron. "We'll be fine. Let's follow them so we can see the *lagoon monster* and prove he's not real."

Reluctantly, Marty nodded his head and followed his sister Kailey, Ron and Nancy further down the beach, away from their cabin. As the gang walked across the sandy beach they came across a cave.

"Kailey! Nancy! Look, a cave!" shouted Ron in excitement. "I bet it leads to the *lagoon monster*. Let's go in! Follow me!"

The Hidden Door

"I don't like it here! It's creepy and so dark," cried Nancy.

A piercing scream echoed through the cave walls.

"Nancy? Where are you?" whispered Kailey. "I think this was a mistake, Ron. Let's head back," Kailey announced.

"Okay," agreed Ron. As they turned around they saw a dark figure at the entrance of the cave. As the dark figure emerged, they saw a man in an officer's uniform.

"I am Officer Green," replied the dark figure. "I came to investigate the sighting of the Lagoon Monster."

"Mr.Green, we need to find our friend Nancy because she has vanished and we think the lagoon monster took her!" pleaded Kailey.

"Why don't I take Marty back to the police station and you two can go find her," said Mr.Green.

"Okay. Let's go Ron," called Kailey. "Hey look, more tracks. Let's follow them! There's a cabin up ahead. Let's investigate," shouted Ron.

The Lagoon Monster
by Ava Zirnhelt
Grade 5
Westmount Elementary

"It looks creepy. I think we should go. Besides, we should check on Marty," whispered Kailey.

"Well, I'm going in. What could happen?" asked Ron.

"Let's knock." Kailey said nervously.

As Kailey knocked on the old, wooden door, the sound of a loud creak rumbled from below her feet. Ron and Kailey exchanged worried glances as the floor beneath suddenly opened up, swallowing them whole.

"Let's see what's up ahead. This doesn't look pretty," gulped Kailey.

The downstairs of the cabin was quite messy because of all the booby traps. A faint cry for help was heard in the distance and the lagoon monster was creeping around upstairs.

"Oh, oh. Look what's up ahead Ron. We have to be careful," Kailey whispered.

"Kailey, I've always been clumsy," Ron whispered. "I, whoops. Heehee. Guess you should carry on without me," said Ron as he hung upside down in a trap.

"No!" yelled Kailey in a quiet voice. Kailey snuck around the downstairs until she found something to cut Ron loose. Once they got going they came across the laser beams. The laser beams would fire every 10 seconds after being set off.

"Ron, look out. There's a tripwire right there!" whispered Kailey.

"Were?" asked Ron. "Oops. I think I found it."

"Well, now we have to hurry," called Kailey as she hurried along.

As they dodged lasers they realized that there was no way out. The wall ended and somebody, or *something*, closed the door behind them. Kailey saw a vent up ahead. If only they could get through.

The Lagoon Monster
by Ava Zirnhelt
Grade 5
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"Ron, see that vent over there? I'm going to cut through." Kailey told Ron.

"Yea right. I can handle this one," bragged Ron. "Agh! Ow." yelled Ron.

Bam! Kailey opened the vent and climbed through. Ron crawled in after her and just in time, too! Ron's back was getting boiled. Once they were in the vent they saw Nancy tied to a chair with the lagoon monster guarding her. The plan was to build a trap in a different room and lead the monster to the trap. While Ron trapped the monster, Kailey would go untie Nancy.

As the plan unfolded, someone slipped into the room unnoticed. Ron got the monster, Kailey untied Nancy and they went to help Ron. *Thump!* Instead of the lagoon monster, they caught someone else. The real monster was getting away! Kailey ran after it and stopped it just in time! Kailey took the mask off and discovered it was ... Mr. Green!

"It wasn't just me. It was the man in the net, too. His name is Hank," whined Mr. Green.

Nancy quickly phoned the police. They arrived soon after and told the kids that the men were trying to keep the land for themselves. The police thanked the kids for their help and headed for town.

"Wow you guys were great!" called Marty from behind a police officer.

The three friends packed up and headed back home. They would wait for their next adventure.

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Grade 5
Westmount Elementary