

Adventure at Gavin Lake  
Robin Kennedy  
Grade 6  
Desert Sands Community School

Hello. My name is Annie and I'm thirteen years old. I live with my Auntie, my younger sister Hailey, two bulldogs named Piper and Winnie, and a bunny named Willow.

Today is an overnight feild trip to Gavin Lake with two other classes from different schools. I go to Ashcroft Elementry School with my best friends who are all going on the trip. I'm so excited!

I'm on my way to the school and I just made it on to the bus before it left. I am sitting next to Emily. Amber and Jade are on the seat beside us and Maya is sleeping on the seat behind me. I'm playing truth or dare with Emily, Amber, Jade, Jake, Khoen, Owen and Tyler. The game is now over because everyone got bored and we were at Gavin lake. It is so beautiful.

So I found the girl's cabin for our class and I'm sharing a bunk with Emily,.I get the top bunk and Emily gets the bottom bunk. There are two small rooms with two bunk beds in each room and one big room with one bunk bed and three small beds. Amber and Maya are on the other bunk. Jade wanted to sleep in the same room as the adults, the big room.

In the morning we wake up at six o'clock and get ready for breakfast in the dining hall. I'm alredy ready, and it was so cold walking to the bathrooms, but i made it!

Then the bell rang for breakfast and my team, team D, got into a line up and we got to go in first! For breakfast I got pancakes, fruit and orange juice. I'm back in my cabin and I'm just waiting to go on my first activity, which is the Discovery Trail.

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We are all lined up walking down a trail and I stop to tie my shoe. When I look up my group is gone! There are two possible trails they could have gone on. I am freaking out! I don't know what to do or where to go. Hopefully someone comes here soon because I'm getting really scared and I'm worried I might pass out.

To make things even worse, it is now raining and my sweater is soaked. I think it has been an hour and a half and no one has been by here yet. I can't feel my toes, fingers and face i am so cold and damp. I'm also now guessing that it has been around three hours, and now I can't feel my feet, hands or head.

I think I finally hear voices! I am so happy! The voices are getting closer. Finally I see a group so I yell "help!" Thankfully, they hear me and bring me to the dining hall to get warmed up by the fireplace. Soon I feel much better.

I had dinner, got ready for bed and went to sleep. In the morning I got up at six o'clock, got dressed, brushed my hair, brushed my teeth, got my shoes on and wait for breakfast. I got cereal, eggs, bacon and water. It was delicious.

After breakfast I went to the cabin and packed my stuff into my suitcase and left it beside my bed. Before we left Gavin Lake, we took a few photos, we took a cabin photo, a class photo and a group photo. We went back on the bus and played truth or dare again all the way home. The trip to Gavin Lake was so memorable!

Kynan Koffi  
Grade: 6  
Arthur Hatton Elementary

### **The Spirit Bear**

I felt the cool breeze roll across my face. The sound of birds chirping beautiful songs resonated in my head and suddenly I tripped on a branch landing flat on my face.

As I got up I heard my sister Jenny shout, "Max, are you ok?"

Mom didn't notice me wipe out, but I knew I couldn't blame her. She has been rather distant ever since dad had to go back to the oil rigs. He had only been home for 2 days when he got the call to return to site. I miss him so much, I just can't express it, but now is not the time for grieving.

"Yes, I'm ok Jenny," I said politely. She nodded and went back to helping mom set up camp. It was a long time before everything was set up and ready. My mother asked me if I could go and collect some sticks for the fire. Unaware of what was awaiting me out there, I agreed.

I was deep in the forest before I had my arms full of twigs and branches for the fire. A shock tore through my left leg as I tripped on another tree root and landed on my face. I was going to pick up the sticks but paralyzing fear shot through my body as I saw a spirit bear in front of me. It looked quite young but at that moment I couldn't think about anything. The fear stopped my brain from thinking clearly.

After a second that seemed to last forever, my ability to think clearly returned and I thought about one terrifying thing. If the cub is here, then where's the mother? I ran, and I ran, and I ran, until I got back to our camp.

When I woke up the next morning I saw something strange, very strange. At the center of the campfire, I saw a mountain of sticks far more than the ones I had left behind night before. I was ecstatic and couldn't wait to show my mother and Jenny. I woke my mom and Jenny but they already knew about the sticks. They said they found them scattered around in a bear shape. That almost made me faint as the events of last night replayed in my mind. But what scared me, even more, were the words Jenny said, "This may sound strange, but out of the corner of my eye, I swear I saw a polar bear. But how could there be polar bears here?"

My morning went from awesome to the end of the world scary. Remember I'm only 13, so yeah, seeing a bear in front of my face I think is pretty traumatic. I know what you're thinking, things aren't that bad. Trust me it's bad, really bad.

Late in the afternoon, Mom took us fishing at the nearby lake. I'd never gone fishing before and I was super excited. I soon realized, we weren't alone. The cub from last night was fishing just meters away from us. I immediately begged my mom to take us back to camp and thank goodness she did. But again, I wondered where's the cub's

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mom? The bad part was we ended up with no fish at all so we kind of had to deal with raw zucchini. Part of me wished we could go home.

We woke up early the next morning to find fish EVERYWHERE scattered around in a bear shape just like the sticks. Then out of the corner of my eye, I saw it. The bear cub.

Instead of running away I followed it until I reached its den. I carefully snuck into the den and what I saw made my heart skip a beat. The bear cub snuggling up against a sick mama bear. I was not crying, I swear I wasn't. Ok maybe I was but still, she looked like she had the flu? Or rabies? I had no idea at all then the cub saw me.

In a flash, I turned and ran. The cub was right behind me until I entered our camp. I made it back to the fish filled campsite and yelled for my family to help me. Then my mom's and sister's heads popped out of our tent. "Help, there is a sick bear! Please help it!" I shouted.

My mom grabbed her medical bag from the back of her truck. I led my mom to the den while my sister went back to sleep. My mom saw the momma bear and gasped, "You poor thing!"

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The bear cub got ready to pounce when he saw me. I was terrified but I had to help. I drew the cub out of the den while my mother assessed the mother bear and then injected her with antibiotics. Mom just happens to be a veterinarian and is amazing with animals. "There," she said, "now be easy on yourself it will take a couple hours to take effect but you will be fine," Mom assured her.

Outside of the den, I was running for my life from the cub. My mom said, "Let's get back to the camp NOW!!"

Overall it was an eventful trip, but I swore on my way home in the car I saw the cub. I quickly took out my phone and took a picture of the bear. It turned out perfectly. You know, I think I will name him Kermode. It's a great name. One day I will come back to the den and visit Kermode again. Kermode and Max- sounds good...

Someday, someday very very soon...

The Magical Wood  
Rylee Lake  
Grade 6  
Arthur Hatton Elementary School

## The Magical Wood

A willow once grew in the woods. When this willow was a young sapling something happened to it that gave it the power of life, movement and feeling, and it grew up having emotions like every one of us have.

One day a middle aged lumberjack came up to the tree with an axe. He saw that the tree had many knots but it was large. Right away he wasn't quite sure what it could be used for but he knew it had a use. Without thinking twice, he dragged the axe with his sore back and took a swing at the tree. Suddenly he heard a loud, almost strident scream.

Slowly he saw the tree come to life. Its bark moved and radiant hazel eyes appeared. A part of the bark started to move and groan. "Please," groused the tree, "I do not want to die." The lumberjack saw the tree hesitate for a second. "I will grant you a wish if you do not cut me down."

The lumberjack agreed as he stared at the tree in awe. "I wouldn't want to cut down a screaming tree anyway," he proclaimed, "I would only like enough wood to last my family the winter," the lumberjack said to the suspension of nature.

"Go to your home, for wood is now there", the tree said as the lumberjack started walking back to his cottage.

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On his way the lumberjack thought up a devious idea. Every day he would send one of his sons to go and cut the tree slightly with an axe, they would get a wish and eventually, when the whole family had been granted their wishes they would cut down the tree. With the wishes and the wood from the tree they should be content for the rest of their lives

The next day the lumberjack sent his eldest son to the tree. The young man walked up to the old willow, raised his axe and struck the tree. There was an raucous scream, louder than before, during which the eldest son covered his ears. Softly the tree spoke, begging " I will grant you a wish if you don't cut me down."

In reply the eldest son murmured, " I wouldn't want to damage my ears by continuing," while he smirked in his mind. His father had told him to ask for a food source, so he then asked, "I would like 12 head of cattle."

The tree then replied, "Go to your home, the cattle are there."

Now most people would be content with wood and rations but the lumberjack wanted more. The next day the lumberjack sent his middle child to visit the tree. As the son approached the tree, he had an idea. Instead of giving his greedy father what he wanted he would instead make a wish for himself and simply say the wish hadn't worked.



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So he swung at the existing groove in the tree. This time the willow was in so much pain it just let out a miserable groan. With its hazel eyes showing, it stared at the young man. "Please, don't do it again," plead the willow.

"I need this wood, what can you give me that's better?" queried the middle son.

"I can give you a wish" the tree said with whimper. "A wish is better than a piece of wood," the middle son replied to the tree. "I wish for a never-ending bag of gold coins".

Below the tree appeared a bag that could fit in the palm of his hand, picking up the bag he peered into it, seeing only a single coin. He removed it and without a sound a new one instantly appeared in its place, like he'd never touched it. The middle son hid the magical bag in his jacket and walked back to the cottage.

When his father asked where the wish was, he simply said it hadn't worked. The lumberjack couldn't believe his ears, he had told his son to ask for a good crop ready for harvest, but nothing came. He couldn't imagine that his son had lied, so he assumed the willow's magic was running out.

The lumberjack waited a few days before sending his youngest son out to cut the tree. Hoping the willow's magic would recharge, he told his youngest son to wish for a stream with plentiful fish.

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The youngest son, barely strong enough to raise the axe, then struck the willow. He didn't put much power in though because he had to make a wish before cutting the tree down.

The tree moved. "Please", groaned the tree. "If you do not cut me down I will grant you a wish."

The youngest son quickly spoke, "I would like a stream, plentiful with fish." Mere seconds later the stream appeared.

However, the boy didn't leave, but raising his axe, he swung again and hit the tree continuously only stopping once the willow started to fall. As it tumbled to the ground, it mysteriously disappeared.

All wishes that had once been granted also disappeared: All the lumber for the winter, the 12 head of cattle, the magical bag of gold, and the stream which had only recently appeared.

Everything returned to how it was, in the time before the magical willow. But now the family had learned a valuable lesson; that greed will get you less in life. They also learned that possessions don't even come close to being as important as family. From that point forth they lived by those morals for the rest of their days.

Once upon a time it was the middle of... *I have no idea and there was a dog, that's me. I am a dog who has never had a place to live and never had a family.* I was very hungry. One day I was walking along the highway and a thing stopped beside me. I was grabbed and put into the thing. I felt lost in the thing. I got to a house, then two people gave me and brought me into the house. The house was nice and the two people said, "Food first or bath first?" It took about a minute before they couldn't stand my smell so they said, "Food first and fast." So one of them looked into a white thing that was cold inside. One of them grabbed me a chicken and I ate like my life depended on it, (*I mean like it doesn't hehe*). Right after that I was picked up and brought to this white tub-like object filled with water. I was scrubbed so much. When I was done in the tub I was dried and I walked downstairs to the main room, *I think*. The two people introduced themselves to me. The man said, "My name is Mike." Then the girl said, "My name is Molly." And they both said, "We will name you... Doug". I felt sooooo happy.

It was morning and I woke up on a very comfy thing then Mike came into the room and said, "Like my couch?" *I guess it's called a couch.* I got off the couch and Mike let me out into the backyard and said, "Don't run away." I went outside and did my business. I was on my way back inside when I heard something say, "Hey you." I went to the backyard fence and... and... woosh a gray and black fluff ball flew out of a tree and hit the ground. That scared me so much; I freaked out. It said, "Hi my name is Raccoon. I am a racoon. Can you get me some nuts?" I grabbed the nut beside me then tossed it to him, and tossed it too hard. I accidentally hit him in the face. "Are you ok!?" He looked like he was ok, then he said, "Thanks... allofasudden my head hurts." To make it up to him, I announced "Hey I have a bucket of nuts if you want them?" Raccoon said, "Yes I do!" so I went to the door. Molly was cooking breakfast and she opened the door for me. I went to the counter where the nuts were. I put my two front paws on top of the counter, and I begged to Molly. She gave me a piece of bacon from the pan. *That wasn't very useful.* I looked at the tub of nuts. Molly said, "Do you want some nuts?" She put the tub of nuts on the floor and took of the lid off. I pushed the tub with my nose to the door. Molly let me out with the nuts, then Raccoon ate half of the nuts and took some for later. Raccoon said, "We are good friends" and I'm puzzled.

Racoon made a mad dash to the woods. Now I'm even more puzzled. So I took the nuts back inside. Molly saw how many nuts were gone then said, "Boy you were hungry." Now I'm even more puzzled and I think that she is too. Then I walked into the *cooking room* and Mike said, "Welcome to the kitchen; feel free to investigate the room" "*I guess it's not called a cooking room, it's a kitchen, apparently.*" I walked to the white metal object that is cold inside. Mike said, "Do you want something out of the fridge?" *Well I hadn't had anything for breakfast so* "Woof" Mike said, "Ok." Mike grabbed a leftover steak from the fridge, unwrapped it, and put it in the microwave. *I know it's called a microwave because it says on the side of it.* "*I think the food is done. Yep, it beeped.*" Mike grabbed it out of the microwave and gave it to me. I ate it so fast. "*I'm not hungry anymore.*" I went into the living room - *it's called a living room because I live in this room.* I grabbed a remote, jumped on the couch and pressed a red button. And... and... poof!!!! The black thing changed different colors! Molly came into the room and saw the TV turned on then she saw that I had the remote. She said, "Mike and I are going to the store. You keep watching the TV and don't get in trouble, okay? Bye Doug!" On the TV I saw a homeless man. *Wait!! That homeless man is my best friend!! Well, besides Mike and Molly.*

I have always wanted to see what lies in my closet. My parents always told me that something terrible lurked within , but I never believed them. I had a crazy plan to wake up at midnight and steal the keys to the closet, open it, and reveal what was inside.

I found the keys hidden in my mom's pocket and sure enough, the closet door opened. When I looked inside though, there was another door and I felt betrayed. I tried the same key but realized that the door was an illusion and I walked through. The second I walked through, I blacked out.

I reawakened in a completely new place. I didn't understand what had happened. Was I dreaming? Was this reality? Was I just seeing things? I doubted I would ever know where I was until I saw a man nearing me. I thought he was trouble but he told me where I was. "Boston Lamberton," he said, "you apparently don't know of this place." "How do you know my name?" I asked him. The man explained that this place is a maze and to return to my old life, I would need to find a way to escape. I knew it was going to be tough since there was limited food in the maze and others trying to escape. All I knew was that the others in the maze would not hesitate to try and kill me for my food.

The man left me and told me to be on my way, so I started moving. I searched for a couple hours before finding any food, but was glad to find it. I hadn't eaten for an entire day and was feeling a bit peckish, so I ate some of the food. For the next few days, I wandered around aimlessly looking for the exit and searching for food. All of a sudden, I heard screaming that sounded extremely close so I increased my pace to a

sprint. I didn't want to know what the screaming was, but I knew. It was someone being attacked for their food! Suddenly, the sound of running feet caught my attention. It sounded very close to me.

It was Will, my best friend. "How did you get here?" I asked. "I came through your closet portal to try and find you." Will said. "I have a GPS marking the exit which shows the whole maze layout."

For the next couple of days, we spent most of our time running towards the exit. We gathered enough food along the way to keep our energy up. As we neared the exit, we realized that the air smelled disgusting, like people were constantly smoking. It turned out to be Will's fart. Or was it mine? I almost fainted but I just decided to hold my breath.

"I see the exit to the maze!" I shouted excitedly. We sprinted towards the exit only to find a very tall wall blocking it. "Climb on my back Will, we can get over that wall!" I yelled. Two men heard our excitement and came to see what we were doing. The two men had grappling hooks with them which they said they'd let us use if we helped them get over the wall as well. We found a stone high above the wall, and attached the grappling hooks on. One by one we scaled the wall and made our way to the exit, and as promised by the man, we were returned to our former lives.

"Why the heck did you open the closet!" my mom shouted. "I was tired of not knowing what lurked within." I said calmly. My mom said that she'd been there and was worried I'd starve, so she made an enormous turkey dinner celebrating me coming back. It was the greatest day of my life.

## Spoons

Diedra Lamptey

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

"Uh guys, where's Hero?" Sabrina asked.

"I don't know where he is, but he when to go get food for us." Nick answered.

"Where did he go?" Sabrina responded.

"He went to the nearest McDonald's and he took the car," Nick signed. Sabrina was annoyed that he took the car with him, she really needed to get bandaids for her leg. Plus they ran out of first aid stuff at the base.

"Guys my leg hurts," Sabrina complained.

"Well, let's go get your bandaids then we can go get Hero," Beth ordered.

The gang started to walk away from the dark alleyway and saw a strange figure in the distance, they looked tall and skinny, they looked like they hadn't eaten for weeks.

"Guys, there's a person in the distance. Maybe they can help us." Beth claimed.

The gang nodded and slowly started walking toward the figure until the figure started to turn around and face them. All of them were petrified as the tall figure started walking towards them, but suddenly they blacked out.

"Where are we?" Nick mumbled.

"I have no clue.." Sabrina groaned.

They got up and realized they were in an empty room. The air smelt interesting. It smelt like old rusted metal...like a spoon.

"It smells like metal, I think there may be spoons in this area," Beth gulped.

"Like that's gonna happen, Beth, you're just terrified," Sabrina laughed.

In the blink of an eye a crowd of spoons appeared from a huge gate on the wall.



**Spoons**  
Diedra Lamptey  
Grade 6  
Westmount Elementary

Sabrina was running down the road as fast as she could, away from the spoons. But, these weren't normal spoons that you use to eat food with. These spoons were alive and could eat you alive. Before Sabrina knew it, she tripped on a rock and fell on the cold hard ground.

"Dang it!" she hollered. She fell to the ground and tried to get up, but was too injured to get up and run.

"Welp, I'm dead," Sabrina thought.

In a blink of an eye Beth appeared out of nowhere and helped Sabrina get up from the ground.

"Are you alright, Sabrina?" she questioned.

"Yeah I'm fine," Sabrina lied. She couldn't walk that well after she tumbled to the ground. Both of them fled to the base that they made in a shady alleyway.

"Howdy guys, did you see any spoons while you were out?" Nick was worried.

"Yeah I got into some trouble with some of the spoons," Sabrina replied. "I almost got eaten by the spoons and I got injured by them," Sabrina continued.

"Hey Nick, how did spoons invade in the first place?" Beth interrupted.

"I don't really know where they came from," Nick answered. It was silent for awhile until Sabrina realized it was pouring rain from the gloomy, dead sky. She remembered when she used to play outside when the sky was clear. She also liked the sound of rain.

"Oh great! It's raining now," Beth complained.

"It's just rain, Beth. It's not like the rain is gonna hurt you," Nick addressed.

## Spoons

Diedra Lamptey

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

"Just great, what are we gonna do now," Nick signed.

"I have an idea. How about we get our weapons and f-f-fi-g-h-t!" Sabrina stuttered.

"The problem is we don't have our weapons," Beth panicked.

"Well, let's just RUN!" Sabrina shouted.

The gang started to bolt away from the spoons and saw a maze on the other side of the room. They decided to enter it, but they reached a dead end.

"Guys we're trapped!" Nick blurted out.

Everyone was shaking as the spoons crept closer to them. The gang was breathing heavily as they were scared for their lives. Their hearts skipped a beat and they were all paralyzed like they had been shocked by lighting from a raging thunderstorm.

All hope was lost until their saviour, who loves McDonalds, appeared, Hero! He pulled out a knife and killed all the spoons.

After the massacre Hero looked at the shocked gang.

"You alright guys?" Hero questioned. They were too shocked to speak.

"Yep, we're alright." Sabrina finally replied.

After that dramatizing moment they started finding their way through the confusing maze. The maze was like an irritating puzzle. It was like trying to put two puzzle pieces that don't fit together. They got lost a lot throughout this nightmare, but they think they started getting closer to the end.

"Guys, I think we're close," Beth said excitedly.

## Spoons

Diedra Lamptey

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Westmount Elementary

Sabrina didn't really pay attention to what Beth said, she was more curious about what this place was and why they were here.

"Hey Hero, do you know why we are here?" she questioned.

"Well, people were telling me about a tall skinny man that has been taking people to this place and feeding them to the spoons," Hero started laughing.

"First off, why are you laughing? What if we get eaten by the spoons?" Nick's voice echoed through the maze.

"Guys, be quiet. We don't need more spoons to try and eat us," Beth mumbled.

The group kept going and saw the exit in the distance and they started to cheer. They sprinted to the exit, full of hope. Before they could make it, a man appeared.

They stopped in their tracks and froze.

"Hello brave heros. My name is Dr. Rug," the man announced.

"Hey man, can we go n-n-now?" Nick stuttered.

"Nope, I'm gonna feed you to the spoons, if you don't mind." Dr. Rug said happily.

"Like that's gonna happen!" Hero chuckled.

The gang started to scatter around the maze, while Hero distracted Dr. Rug. Sabrina found a stick on the ground and picked it up. She ran towards Dr. Rug and whacked him with it. They finally made it out of the lab and went outside.

"Well, I guess we need to find a new place to survive," Beth signed.

"Ok, but I have one question," Sabrina responded. They all look at Sabrina slightly confused.

**Spoons**

Diedra Lamptey

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

"WE'RE ON AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!" she screamed.

## The Great Bear Escape

By: Ruby Liddy, St. Anns, grade six

"Holly", said Ollie eagerly, "can we go to the forest now to pick my favorite berries?" "Okay, I guess you haven't been out for a while because of your paw," replied Holly. When they got to the forest, they saw Ollie's friends Cody and his sister Katy. They were walking through the forest getting berries when Holly tripped and cut her paw on a rusty tin can. Holly said she was fine, but she was limping. When they were on their way home, it started to snow. "Oh no!" cried Ollie. "This means berry picking season is done!" But it also means that once the pond freezes over we can go ice skating!" Holly said excitedly.

A few days later, Ollie and Holly went for a walk and saw that there was snow on the ground, and the pond was frozen over. "Yay!" Holly exclaimed. "How about we go skating tomorrow, and you can ask Cody and Katy if they want to come with us." When they got there, they noticed that there were five hunters on the other side of the pond (or so they thought, but they were actually conservation officers) . "Run!" yelled Holly and Katy in unison. Finally, they found a safe place, behind a big tree, and they knew they needed

## The Great Bear Escape

By: Ruby Liddy, St. Annes, Grade six

to make a plan. They all went fleeing in different directions so the hunters wouldn't know which way to go. When Holly went to run, she realized there were two hunters left; she was out numbered! All five hunters surrounded her, and a few hours later, she was on a truck, trapped in a cage with the rest of her friends. "What are we going to do?" wailed Ollie. "Are we going to be trapped in here forever?" "No we won't," said Holly. "They didn't lock the cage properly." After they unlocked the cage, they waited for the truck to stop at a light, and they were off. They ran across the road, avoiding getting hit by cars. "Where's Ollie?" Cody asked. "He must still be in the cage. "I'll go and get him before the truck gets too far," Holly said.

When the truck stopped, she went inside the cage to wake up Ollie, but then the hunters locked them both in the cage! "Oh no!" Holly said nervously. "What are we going to do?" A long hour later the truck stopped in a motel parking lot. "We'll just get a place to stay for tonight and get back on the road early in the morning," said one of the hunters. In the morning, one of the nicer hunters, Bob, fed Holly and Ollie some breakfast. The truck took off down the

## The Great Bear Escape

By: Ruby Liddy, st. Anns, grade six

The officers kept coming back every day. They knew that they had to leave otherwise they might get caught again. The next day, late at night, they began their journey through the cold, dark forest. After a few days of walking, they saw the officer's truck in a parking lot. "With our luck, they'll catch us again!" exclaimed Cody. "Relax." I know what to do," explained Holly. Even though they didn't like Holly's plan, they knew they had to go through with it.

Reluctantly they jumped into the officer's truck and hid under a tarp. They didn't know where the truck would take them, but they hoped it would get them close to where their old cave was. When it was late at night and the truck stopped, they decided to jump out and walk the rest of the way because they didn't want to push their luck.

About three days later, they found their cave. They were all very relieved to be home. The snow was almost all gone (which Ollie was very happy about). They got settled back into their cave, made a lot of delicious pies, and went on many other adventures.

# Just A Regular Girl

By:Mya Loring

Grade 6 Arthur Stevenson Elementary

Ava, was just a regular girl. She enjoyed watching the raindrops fall from the sky. Her thoughts turned to her best friend Rose. Ava smiled, grabbed a light jacket and her shoes and went outside to play in the rain. Ava has had a passion for playing in the rain since she was young. She usually had Rose with her. Tonight, as she played, she remembered Rose, and their passion for playing in the outdoors together. She missed her best friend Rose, and hated that she was no longer here to relive their special moments. Once outside Ava took a deep breath and faced the sky, letting the raindrops gently fall on her sad face. Flashbacks of Rose ran through her mind as the rain fell upon her. Something felt different about this moment. The memories were so clear and so alive. Ava was almost afraid to open her eyes. She continued to enjoy a memory of one of their outdoor exploring adventures, when a rumbling thunder startled her and forced her eyes to open.

Ava was frightened. Something felt different. Her visions with her eyes closed, had the memories of her and Rose in this exact place, doing this exact thing. Something was different for sure. She looked back at the tree in the park across the street. The tree that Rose had played on with her before she suddenly left. Wait, there was someone or something there. As Ava walked towards the tree, the storm began to clear and the sun made its way through the dark storm clouds. Ava's mind was filled with the memories of the



# Just A Regular Girl

By:Mya Loring

Grade 6 Arthur Stevenson Elementary

day they played in that tree, sharing their most sacred secrets and creating a bond that would last a lifetime. Tears filled her eyes. She looked up at the big willow tree and said outloud "I miss you Rose, I wish you could be here now to play with me."

"But I am, the tree replied." but it wasn't the tree that replied. It was Rose. She was here!!

Ava did not know whether to scream in fear, or cry happy tears!! This is impossible!! "Are you just going to stand there, Ava,?" Ava continued to stare. She was frozen, she wanted to talk but she couldn't. "Ava, don't be afraid, it's me Rose." "But.....how..?", Ava replied. "Nevermind how Ava, lets enjoy this time while we have it." Rose began to walk towards Ava. As she got closer she opened her arms for a hug. Ava just stood there, still shocked of the whole situation. Very slowly, Ava opened her arms and let Rose in. Tears began to fall quickly down Ava's face.

Rose and Ava climbed the tree to their thinking branch. Rose explained how some people are special, and have the ability to connect with people who have passed on. Ava shook her head, "But I am just a regular girl!". "Oh no Ava, you are a very special girl, your memories of us were so strong it connected me to you." I won't be able to do this all the time, but at those moments when you think of me and need me, I will be here. Sometimes you won't see me, but I will always be here."

Ava was so comforted by this, that a huge smile spread across her face. I will never forget you Rose, not ever. Me neither Ava, just always remember how special you are.

# Just A Regular Girl

By: Mya Loring

Grade 6 Arthur Stevenson Elementary

As they slid down the tree, Ava began to walk and talk filling in all that's happened since Rose was away, but when she turned to look at Rose, she was gone.

"Rose, Rose where are you?" ....No reply. The clouds rolled in again and trickles of rain started dropping on her face again, just as it was before Ava saw Rose. Thunder struck and startled Ava. At the same moment, Ava heard her mom calling. "Ava, get in here and out of those clothes, you are soaking wet!"

What just happened, thought Ava, was I dreaming? Was that real? What did Rose mean when she called me special. Ava wanted to talk to her mom about it. Her mother noticed something wasn't right, and began asking why she was playing at the tree alone. "Alone?" said Ava. "Yes alone Ava, you sat on the branch and seemed to be talking to yourself."

Ava did not feel comfortable telling her mother. It was obvious that no one could see Rose but me. Could it be like Rose said? That whenever I needed her she would be there? Ava tried to figure out if all that happened was real or just a dream. She finally decided that it didn't matter. If it did actually happen then she actually WAS special, and that made Ava feel wonderful.

Ava wondered if she should talk to her mom about what happened. She decided not to but it was very difficult to keep it inside. She decided that tomorrow at school she would tell her close friends. With her heart happy and excitement running through her, Ava went to sleep.

# Just A Regular Girl

By:Mya Loring

Grade 6 Arthur Stevenson Elementary

The next day, Ava was up early, dressed and ready for school in record time. She couldn't wait to tell her friends what had happened the night before. She kissed her mom goodbye and stepped on the bus. As the bus began to roll away, it headed towards the park and that same Willow Tree. Ava smiled, but then....wait, Rose!!! She was there standing at the bus stop. Ava looked right at her as Rose brought her pointer finger to her lips and shook her head back and forth. Rose was telling her to "hush". Ava stared intensely, she yelled at the bus driver to stop and pick her up. All the kids and the bus driver had no clue what she was talking about. They said no one was there. Ava finally figured out what Rose was doing. She didn't want Ava to tell anyone about our special meeting last night.

Ava hid behind her books the whole ride to school. The kids on the bus made fun of her and asked if she could see ghosts. At first, Ava was really upset, but she suddenly thought to herself, I'm not weird, I am special, and no matter what any of the other kids think I know that my special gift would keep me and Rose together forever. Ava smiled and held her head high. She was no longer "Just a Regular Girl."

# Girl Power

Jayse Matonovich

Grade 6

Aberdeen Elementary

Do you believe that women can do great things in the world or even go beyond that? I certainly do! I believe that women can do things just as good as men do or even go higher than that and the expectations. I really truly believe that. The world has given many reasons why women are not as good as men like equal pay, opportunities for women versus men because of their gender and equality in politics.

First, when it comes to "money" the terrible part is when women have the same job as men and they both do the exact same jobs but the women are paid less than the men are. Did you know that every \$1.00 men make women get 73.5 cents? Isn't that awful! The worst part is coloured women are even paid less! At this time, it is believed that by 2133 women will get paid the exact same as men do. Why does it need to take that long? The only job that women are paid more than men is modelling. The only reason why women are paid more is their looks and their body. Isn't that horrible! Women are judged by their looks and their body. If you noticed men are paid way more than the smart jobs because people think women can't handle the jobs! We need to work together to change this. Equal pay needs to be the priority right now.

Secondly, men have more opportunities than women do. People say men are tougher and stronger than women and women are more sensitive and emotional than men. There are not a lot of women that work in physical labour and women usually stay home and take care of the family. Some other opportunities that women get less of is sports. Have you ever noticed that when it comes to sports women always get fewer opportunities than men like in professional sports? In the 2014 soccer world cup, the first 16 men's teams were knocked out in the first round and the men received 8 million

## Girl Power

dollars. The U.S.A men placed 11<sup>th</sup> and received 9 million dollars. The winning team for men was Germany and the Germany team received 35 million dollars compared to the U.S.A. women finals that received 2 million dollars. The worst part is that the men who got knocked out in the first round and received 8 million dollars and got more than the women in the finals. The men got 8 million and the women got 2 million dollars. That is a 6 million dollar difference. Why is that? This is ridiculous. Women deserve way more than that! I can't even imagine what the women got who got knocked out in the first round got! We need to change and help the world make a better place by treating women equally and having the same opportunities as men do. Let's do this!

Lastly, is about politics. Have you ever noticed that in politics that there is way more men than women. For instance, in federal government almost every person is a man. Women make great decisions in the world and I don't understand why men are always picked? These are some of the ratio's in all governments. In Municipal government the ratio is 17:19. Women have 17 and men have 19. That is really close for municipal government in Kamloops. In Provincial government the ratio is 90:238 for men, that is a pretty big difference in British Columbia. That is a huge gap but if you look at the federal government the gap is even bigger in Canada! In Federal government the ratio is 298:964. This is horrible! All of the ratio's should be similar to the Kamloops municipal government. These numbers need to change right now. Girl power needs to be stronger in the world! If you watched the 2017 American election, Hillary Clinton against Donald Trump! Hillary Clinton was so close to being the first women president ever but unfortunately, Donald Trump won. For British Columbia the Premier is Christy Clark!

# Girl Power

Jayse Matonovich

Grade 6

Aberdeen Elementary

Premier Christy Clark is the second women premier in British Columbia but she is the first women to carry an election in her own right! We have never had an American President or female Prime Minister and we will work together to make it happen soon! I hope you realized how big of the difference the ratio's are for women and men and I hope you want to increase women in politics!

There are many reasons the world has shared why women are not as good as men such as equal pay, opportunities for women and equality in politics. Women continue to fight the equal pay and they are getting closer. Women are also fighting equality in sports and more women are starting do physical labour. Women need to believe that they can do things and go far beyond men. Women need to break the glass ceiling. What that means, for instance women can see through the glass ceiling but women can't shatter the glass ceiling. Women know what they can do but they have bot done it yet! Women have been fighting for so long to have equal rights and we are getting closer every year, every month, every week, every minute to every second. We just need to think of it as every single step we take is every single day in our life that we keep fighting hard! To all women out there, let's break the glass ceiling and go above and beyond!

## The Scotland Heroes

Gabby Maurer

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

2011, Dundee, Scotland.....

Screams were filling the roads, pieces of the Bank of Scotland were falling, some on fire, some already burnt out. "Ah Hahahahaha!" screamed the robber with anger and insanity in his voice.

"We blew that bank to bits and took every last cent with us," bragged the other robber, "Let's go home boys."

Somewhere else in Dundee, Scotland....

*Skreeeee!* "Oh please stop I beg of you, please," pleaded Jimmy on his knees.

"Bob, stop that horrid sound." grumbled Scott, snatching Bob's bagpipes and tossing them aside. "Guys let's face it we aren't making any money. I mean ever since Harold retired, we kinda suck," Scott continued. Harold was a ninety year old man who only joined the band because his wife wanted him out of the house.

"Scott's right," cried Jimmy with his head down. Jimmy loved this band more than anything.

## The Scotland Heroes

Gabby Maurer

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

"Well, maybe we could find something fun that would also get us money," Bob said while walking over to comfort Jimmy. '*Ding dong!*' "Ahh...the doorbell." said Scott, walking over to answer it. "Hellllloo..." Scott was cut off at the sight of Harold.

"Hi guys. Long time no see huh?" Harold said, walking into the living room throwing something down on the table.

"Umm..." Scott walked over and joined the guys in amazement.

"I heard that you guys were in financial trouble. So... a robbery," Harold whispered. Confused, Scott asked, "Umm...you want us to...rob a bank?"

"No! No! Goodness no. Here look at this." Harold directed their attention to the poster.

"Wanted for robbery Jeffrey Hoitsmen. Reward \$2000 dollars!" exclaimed all of them in unison.

"So.. what, you think we could catch this guy?" Bob questioned with hope in his eyes.

"Well, maybe, but you're going to need some help," Harold said staring at Scott. Scott stared back not breaking the tension. Finally, Scott turned to the rest of the guys and they all shared a look, a look of questioning "so where do we start" asked Scott "Well I was thinking we could start with a guy named Richard Dollison. He was on trial for treason back when he was still in that horrid group. But, luckily he quit. He now lives in Gornsville, on CherryWood road and I thought maybe he would be willing to tell us some stuff about Jefferey.



## The Scotland Heroes

Gabby Maurer

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

Gornsville, Scotland 10:30 pm

"Honey I told you to put the butter away when you're done with it,," Richard exclaimed *Ding Dong* Richard mumbled and grumbled while walking over to answer the door

"Hi there, I'm Harold and these are my friends Scott, Bob and Jimmy and we're here to talk to you about a certain Mister Hoitsmen. Have you ever heard of him,," asked Harold.

"No, I have not, sorry,," barked Richard as he attempted to slam the door multiple times, but Harold always stopped him. They argued back and forth, back and forth. "I'll tell you once and for all. Now you listen closely, alright! I...have...not...heard...of...a...man...named Jeffrey Hoitsmen, ok?" lied Richard. Then once again he tried to slam the door, but Harold slipped through.

" Yes you have. In fact, you were his partner. Now will you kindly advise us as to where Jeffrey Hoitsman and his gang hangs out,," raged Harold.

"Fine! He and his group hang out at the Ardossian Castle which is about 2 miles from here,," Richard informed Harold.

"Thank you. Now my friends and I will leave you alone. Goodbye now,," said Harold opening the door to face his friends. He announced, "We've got a place"

"Now all we have to do is go there and confront him,," added Scott with hidden glee on his face.

## The Scotland Heroes

Gabby Maurer

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

Ardossian Castle 12:30 pm

"Well h-here we are. Anyone else kinda sc-cared because we kinda came here at like, the middle of the night," stuttered Jimmy.

"No, This is something we have to do, alright?" advised Scott as the group walked into the castle.

It seemed like something out of a horror movie. Like, The Ring, or Paranormal Activity. The place was super dusty, you could barely see the floor, or anything else. Anyway, the group walked into the castle that was known for being haunted by a man named William Wallace. As soon as they walked in, Scott took a deep breath and immediately coughed out the dust that had filled his lungs.

"Gosh, someone should really sweep in here," coughed Jimmy.

"Are you saying you don't like the work I've put into this secret hiding place?" said Jeffrey Hoistmen emerging from the shadows of the balcony ledge he was on.

"Jeffrey Hoitsmen, you stole \$16000 and you think you can get away with it?" exclaimed Scott.

"Well ,ya, that's kinda the point," shrugged Jeffrey.

" We're here to arrest you, Jeffrey Hoitsmen!" interrupted Harold.

## The Scotland Heroes

Gabby Maurer

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

"Oh no," Jeffrey gasped sarcastically. "I suppose I'll just surrender, since you are here to arrest me! You think you can just barge in here, insult my secret hiding place and insist you're here to arrest me?" barked Jeffrey.

"Yep, that's why we're here," agreed Bob.

"Oh my gosh, you imbecile," said Jeffrey with his head in his hand.

"Wha.. I'm not a.." sputtered Bob.

"Hey man, you can't just...". Suddenly Scott was interrupted by a loud *BANG!* They all looked back to see what had happened and there was Harold standing there holding a shotgun. "Whoopsies, sorry about my butterfingers" laughed Harold.

"How did we not see that gun," said Bob under his breath, still in shock from the loud noise. They all looked back and there was Jeffrey Hoitsmen laying dead on the ground.

Shortly after the dramatic event, they turned in the body of Jeffrey Hoitsmen, still getting their reward of \$2000.

## Bellerose Manor

Some people live in a big house in the city; some people hardly even have a home. I have a house though I don't live in the city.

My name is Melody Sparks, and I'm twelve years old. I have two younger siblings named Rose and Ethan. I live on a small island called Hornby. I've been here ever since I was a baby, and my mom and dad have been here long before I was born. We often go to Kamloops to see some of our family that live there plus my mom, Alissa, might still want to live somewhere that's not nine to twelve hours from her family.

On the other hand my dad, Bill, thinks that due to the fact that we're not really connected to the internet, we might thrive because we aren't all caught up with "useless gossip" as he would say. Although, sometimes I do wonder what it would be like to live in a big, loud city with lights, restaurants, stores and all those people. There aren't many people here, which makes it pretty quiet, even though our dog, Fonce, is always barking for no reason. Fonce has beautiful black fur that shimmers in the sunlight.

Two years after I was born, Rose came along. Three years after that Ethan arrived. I enjoy being the big sister, since I get to teach them how to do things, yet I'm not their parent.

Even though they're pretty odd sometimes, I do love them. Rose is always talking about how she sees a little girl named Malory wearing a black dress. She also claims Malory has bright blue eyes and short, straight brown hair. When she first told me this, I thought she was a friend from school. But when she told me more, I realized she wasn't. I'm pretty sure she's an imaginary friend, but I'm not quite convinced yet. When she talks about this girl her eyes light up. It's a little weird.

"We need to take Fonce on a walk," Rose tells me as I come in the room.

"Ok, I'll get the leash."

"Can we walk her down to the Bellerose house?"

"Sure, I think that will be far enough."

When we are walking her, Fonce is acting kind of strangely. I say this because she isn't wanting to play fetch, she isn't running, and when we get closer to the Bellerose house, she seems extremely hesitant to go further.

At first I think she's sick, but when we get just a few meters closer to the house, Fonce starts to growl aggressively toward the house. We immediately turn back. It looks like she wants to attack someone or something.

"That was really strange," I say after a few moments of silence.

"Don't you know why she was barking?" Rose asks.

"No, do you?"

"I thought it was obvious."

"You should tell me. What if she's sick or something?"

"Sorry, I can't tell you. I promised Malory I wouldn't tell anyone."

"You promised Malory? She doesn't even exist," I argue.

"She does exist. You've just never seen her," Rose says.

"Let's just go home, okay?"

Rose doesn't say anything to me until dinner.

I keep thinking of how Fonce was growling at that house and Rose knows why but won't tell me because she promised Malory. Malory isn't real, she has to be an imaginary friend, right?

The next day, I decide that I wanted to walk to the Bellerose house and check it out.

About where Fonce started to become leery, I feel an icy cold breeze waft through my body that lasts way longer than I expected it to.

I'm standing in front of the the house and I could swear I hear glass breaking, right before I see... *her*.

Malory stays there for three seconds then slowly disappears. Her hair is now tangled and her eyes are pure black. I never thought she was real. I thought she was an imaginary friend. There's only one explanation, she must be a ghost. I always knew Rose had a dark side, but I never thought she could see spirits.

I stand there paralyzed with fear. When I could finally move again, I bolt down the street to my house, and even though I can move, I'm speechless.

"What's up?" Mom asks.

I don't say anything at first.

"What?" I say after a few seconds.

"Is everything okay?" Mom asks again.

"Yeah, why wouldn't it?"

"It looks like you've seen a ghost."

"You know I don't believe in ghosts."

This whole time Rose has been staring at me with those soulful eyes of hers. I wonder if I should tell her I saw Malory? What if I never even saw her, what if I was hallucinating? I need to see her again, then I'll know for sure.

"I'm going to go for a walk, I'll be back in fifteen minutes," I say the next morning after breakfast.

"Can I come?" Rose asks.

"Um, okay," I say, not sure if it was a good decision. "Where do you want to go?"

"Let's go to the Bellerose house," Rose suggests.

"Yeah, that's where I was going anyway."

When we're a few meters away from the Bellerose house, Rose stops in her tracks and holds herself in front of me so I can't go any further.

"What is it?" I ask.

"We have to go back, it's not safe here," Rose says, fear in her voice.

"Is something wrong?" I ask, even though I know the answer.

"We need to go now."

At this point Rose is really scaring me.

"It isn't safe here. Let's go."

"You can go, but I'm staying. I need to see her again."

"You've seen her? You've seen Malory?" Rose looks surprised.



*Autumn*

Autumn, when the crisp breeze kisses your cheeks;  
Autumn, how the children laugh and play;  
Autumn, tastes that bring families joy;  
Autumn, almost time for the one-horse open sleigh.

Autumn, with sweets that children go door to door for;  
Autumn, colourful leaves blowing 'round;  
Autumn, when we pay respect to the fallen;  
Autumn, you leave us spellbound.

*Wizardry*

Gather 'round children;  
I have a story to tell;  
This is a time when people fell.

The witches and wizards;  
Took over this place;  
And trust me, children, it was not a disgrace.

Merlin, their leader;  
The brave and the bright;  
I wish you could see him, it was such a sight.

But anyway, I would like to tell you;  
That at first we were frantic;  
Didn't know what to do.

Then Merlin came forth;  
Telling them not to be scared;  
And then, the battle damage was repaired.

So in the government, schools, and pools;  
Was where the Wizards lived alongside us;  
Some, I guarantee, despite their talents, even drove a bus!

There, my children;  
That is the story;  
About magical folk, in all their glory.

This is a story that proves;  
For small and tall, for all of you;  
That anyone can be a wizard, you too!

Alex middleton

## Around The World

1

Grade 6

Aberdeen elementary

Words 179

### Ocean

The ocean splashes against my feet  
The waves creating music only I can here  
Speaking to me, and only me  
It tells me  
Come in  
Come in  
So in I went  
The seaweed tickling my toes.  
The silent murmur of the water  
Deeper  
Deeper  
And I went deeper  
The cold water running through my veins  
And it told me  
Get out  
Get out  
But, I stayed  
there was water coming to me  
Engulfing me in its current  
Then, it went black

### beach

sand burning against my skin  
people celebrating a life of a  
new child or, a death of an old  
soul. They spend every living  
moment here, they can tell one  
grain of sand from another  
because this is their home

### forest

the wind softly runs through  
the trees. snow crunching under  
my weight, the cold nipping at  
my nose silence leaving me with  
only my thoughts of peace,  
my feeling of calmness  
only my expression of serenity  
my only worry of where to go next

## The Yellow Envelope

Five months have past since Danica's disappearance, no one has found her, and there are no leads as to where she could've gone. But one early morning before I was heading for school, I heard a bang on my door, then a sound of a snake. I headed over to the door and I saw a yellow envelope. Who would slip this under my door? I picked it up, I tore it open and I read:

"I know Danica, I know where she is, but you don't."

-Your Nightmare

I looked all over the envelope and of course, no name. I really do miss Danica, but I never really talked to her, since we're in different classes. I tossed the yellow envelope in the garbage and went to school like nothing happened. I got to my locker and got out my books, I walked to Mrs. Rose's class and went to my desk but in my desk there was another yellow envelope waiting for me.

"Who is this? And what does this person want with me?" I asked. I ripped it open and it said:

"I saw you throw it away! Why?"

-Your Nightmare

"What's that?" A voice said behind me. I crumpled up the envelope and shoved it back in my desk.

"Oh hey Jess, What do you want now?" I asked.

"Oh, nothing, I just wanted to talk to you. Haha, just kidding, I was dared to talk to you." Jess answered

"Okay Class." Mrs Rose said. Once I finally got home, I dropped my backpack on the

The Yellow Envelope

couch and tried to fall asleep. Eventually, my mom came home and woke me up.

"Jamie you sleep too much!" Mom said with some attitude

"I should sleep I have to go to school for 6 hours" I answered

"I have to work for 8 hours and still have to do your laundry and make dinner." She replied

"Oh right, sorry." I answered

"I have to pick up your brother from the library." Mom sighed.

"All right I will be right here on the couch" I said. Mom shuts the door then I hear an ear piercing scream. I jump up and yell:

"Mom? Are you screaming? Mom?!" I look out the window and see mom's car but I don't see her in the car.

"Where is she?" I asked myself. I run and try to phone the cops but then I hear crunching sounds in the back yard, I look out the kitchen window and I see nothing, then all of a sudden the phone rings.

"Wow what's going on?" I said to myself. I go over to the phone and look and I see a blocked number I pick up the phone

"H-hello?" \*Gulp\* "who is this?" I asked slowly

"If you want to find Dancia and your mother you will do as I say" He answered, well I at least know it's a man now!

"Okay?" He said.

"Yes." I sighed.

### The Yellow Envelope

"Good you will not tell anyone who you were talking to. Got it?" he told me

"Sure" I said but before I could finish he hung up on me. The next day came around but last night I could barely sleep knowing that person has my mother. Then all of a sudden the phone rings again. I pick it up.

"Hello?" I asked curiously.

"What's wrong with you girl?" May said. May is my best friend, we met in kindergarten it was the best day ever.

"What do you need?" I asked impatiently

"Well then, what are you doing tomorrow night? Ok nothing good we're going to a party i'll pick you up at 6 it starts at 6:30". May said I didn't even get to say no before she hung up.

"Great, now I have another thing to worry about" I said to myself

"Wait did Max come back from the library?" I run up the stairs yelling

"Max! Are you up there? Maxie! Hello Max?"

"What do you want?" Max said with sigh.

"Uh, how did you get home? Did mom pick you up? What time?" I asked him.

"Um no mom didn't pick me up. A friend drove me home around 9:30 last night. I wanted to ask you, where is mom?" Max said

"Oh okay. Uh Max I don't really know." I lied then I hear that snake noise again

"What was that?" Max asked

"I I will go check." I said but I knew what it was, I look look down at the door and see a yellow envelope

The Yellow Envelope

"Great" I said

"What!" Max said

"Um nothing" I said back to him. I run to the door and rip open the letter I looked at it and then I read:

"You will go to school like nothing happened and you will not tell your brother.

Alright? Good."

-Your Nightmare

As I was walking to school I noticed a black van with tinted windows. I started to walk faster, the faster I walked the faster the van would move. I finally I start running towards the school I almost saw the person's face but when I got onto school grounds the van makes a sharp right turn down an alleyway. I took a really deep breath and the let it out. I see May over by the corner of the school so I walk as fast as I can towards May, but as I was walking over there I realized I can't tell her anything, so I slow down.

"Hey." May said

"Hey. How are you?" I asked.

"Good, but why are you making small talk?" She asked "What's our first class do you know?"

"No I was not making small talk, and we have Mr. Johnson's class." I said. After school I start walking home but then I hear a familiar scream down that alley the van went into, I start to jog down there as I was getting closer to the scream, all of a sudden everything went black.

## Her Head Start

After a long day of shopping for clothes, books, binders, pens, pencils and even snow suits, my older sister Alissia, my mom and I decided to go home. I have got to be honest, everyone who has an older sibling always says that they're annoying. Well, I want to be like her when I get older. She is so pretty and smart. We are fairly close but we mostly crack jokes and tell stories not much of reality fits in. I don't listen to her when she talks real because it's boring. However, she always says, "Don't talk to bullies, no matter how much you know."

"Okay" is all I say with no care at all.

"Tomorrow is your first day of middle school. Be ready." When I got up to my room I got ready for bed as fast as possible. As I slowly drifted to sleep, I thought of my future in middle school. When I woke up I quickly got ready. I felt nervous and excited! Alissia and I got on the bus but I sat with Clara, my best friend. When we arrived, I felt sick.

"Do you want me to walk you to home room?" Alissia asked

"Yes, that would be nice," I said with a soft smile. As we walked to my home room, we passed a few bullies with deep dark smiles with bold words that makes you shiver even if you're not the being bullied.

"You will be just fine, don't be a show off", she said giggling.

"Hey," I said, lightly slapping her arm. I gave her a hug and left. I took my seat close to the back. As I got organized, a girl comes and pushed all of my

work on the floor. As I fell to pick all of my work, she sat where I was. I didn't want any trouble so I took a seat in the front. When the teacher walked in she said. "Hello my name is Mrs. Mark, let's start the attendance. Stacey Alk ,"

"Here" I said as I raised my hand.

"Is your sister Alissia?"

"Yes," I announced, as fast as possible. After home room, I left into the hallways and I noticed that my shoes were untied so I went to the side and tied my shoe. That same girl passed me and kicked my textbook over and I lost it.

"Do you have a problem?" I yelled. She smiled and kept walking. I think she is as cruel as Dracula. I tried to stay out of trouble at lunch, I took a seat in the cafeteria. I looked over at the endless line of kids. The mean girl Kassy stormed right in the front of the line and everyone cowered back. I stared at everyone. The mean girl walked by my table and randomly spilled all of her yogurt on my shirt. Her friend video taped it and posted it on snapchat. After lunch, I didn't feel well so I called home almost a half hour before school ended. When my mom picked me up, I changed and zoomed to my room trying not to cry. My sister walked in my room not even knocking on the door she showed me the video of the yogurt spill then she hugged me. There was a long silence until I spoke.

"I didn't do anything. She just started to pick on me, like she was practicing on me."

"Kassy Willen, ya, you're not the only one right now being picked on."

"Really? Well please don't tell Mom or Dad yet."

"Fine, but keep me in touch with all of this," Alissia said with a bold tone. Alissia left my room. It's like she has a head start on all of this. That whole week, I was bullied by Kassy. She even became friends with Clara so she could say I had no friends. I was worried that one girl



could ruin my reputation. I told Alissia everything so we decided to talk to her. On the weekend, Alissia and I thought of what we could say to her. We came to school Monday and we both knew that she would say something very very rude. She was waiting for me. I was waiting for the opportunity to pull her aside to talk. At break, the students had snacks and got on with their day, but not me. I tapped the girl on her shoulder and here's what she yelled, "What are you doing here and what do you want?"

"To talk with you." I replied.

"Fine, but make it quick." Kassy snapped.

"Did I do something wrong because you are driving me crazy and I won't take it anymore. Why are you bullying me!"

"Um, my family, they're putting all of their problems on me. It's really hard at home." She mumbled with a dreaded look.

"Oh, that must make you feel terrible. But you don't need to hurt others because you're mad." I explained with a soft and gentle voice.

"I know, but I sometimes can't help it, it comes right out of me!" Kassy commented.

"Well, can you at least stop picking on me?"

"Stacey, I'm sorry!" She explained with a soft voice and tears in her eyes.

I gave her some space and patted her on her shoulder with a smile, then left the room. For the rest of the day I felt so much better. I finally concentrated in class.

Kassy came up to me and showed respect. She is not a bad kid at all. Later, I realized it was Alissia that helped me with this. I can trust her. I gave her a huge hug that night at home. This was all because my sister had a head start.

### The Bully

"Honey, come downstairs for breakfast please," Mom yelled.

"Coming Mom, what's for breakfast?" Aiden called. "Waffles, your favourite," said Mom.

"Thanks Mom!" Aiden replied.

"You're welcome sweetie, eat them fast, it's almost time for school." Mom warned.

"Ok Mom, can I have a ride?" Aiden asked.

"Not today, the car is still broken." said Mom.

"Ok" Aiden said".

"If those bullies are still picking on you, tell me." Mom asked.

"I will, bye Mom, I'm leaving now." said Aiden.

"See you after school honey." Mom said.

"Ok love you, bye Mom." said Aiden as he left and started to walk to school. Halfway to school he ran into the bullies. "Hey nerd." said the tallest guy.

"Leave me alone, you jerks!" said Aiden.

"What did you just say?!" the tallest guy exclaimed.

"I said just leave me alone and stop picking on me." Aiden said defensively.

"And if I don't Nerd, what are you gonna do?" the tallest bully said. Aiden didn't reply but then jerked his body around and started to sprint away "Get back here Nerd! I swear when I get my hands on you you're dead!" the bully yelled.

Josh Monds, Grade 6, Logan Lake, "The Bully"

"Help, help, help, I'm being chased, help!!" Aiden screamed. He hoped someone would hear his cries. He kept yelling for help but in doing so, he ran out of breath.

"Get back here Nerd!" the tallest bully said.

As Aiden came to a stop, he cried. "Please don't hurt me!" Aiden said sobbing.

"I promise I'll make it quick." said the bully as he punched Aiden in the gut and then the nose. As that happened, Aiden's best friend Nathan turned onto the street where Aiden was getting beat up.

"Leave him alone!" Nathan yelled.

The bullies all turned to Nathan at once.

"Or what?" said the bullies as the tallest bully kicked Aiden in the gut.

"Hit him again and you're a dead man Luke." said Nathan

"How do you know my name?" Luke questioned.

"That doesn't matter, leave him alone now!" Nathan commanded.

"Make me, loser!" said Luke.

"Wrong answer!" said Nathan as he ran at Luke and his goons. Luke threw the first punch but Luke didn't know that Nathan took taekwondo and blocked the punch then struck Luke in the gut with one strong punch and elbowed him in the mouth. He fell to the ground like a rock.

"Aiden, are you ok?" Nathan asked as Luke and his goons ran away.

"Ya I'm fine, just a few bruises and a bleeding lip." Aiden replied.

Josh Monds, Grade 6, Logan Lake, "The Bully"

"Get up Aiden, we're going to be late for school." Nathan said throwing his hand at Aiden to help him up.

"Thanks, I would be dead if it weren't for you" Aiden thanked.

"Your welcome." Nathan replied.

"Lets go bro, before we're late." Aiden said".

"Ya lets." Nathan replied.

As they got to school the bell rang. Good thing we got here in time!

Mpop! The cork shoots out of the stem of the unlabelled bottle, accompanied by a spray of champagne. The crowd watches in earnest as the burly man who opened the bottle pours a stream of pale golden liquid into a thin, elegantly carved flute glass. He passes it to the man on his left, who passes it to the woman on *his* left, and so on, until the flute of champagne reaches an elegantly dressed woman sitting on a carved wooden throne. There is a hushed silence as she takes the flute in one small, perfectly formed hand, her immaculately groomed fingernails glowing in the pale light that is cast by the golden lanterns surrounding the throne. As she raises the glass to her dark berry coloured lips, men on either side of her strike large gongs. The sound fills the air, swelling and then fading to a gentle hum. As the last note dies away, the glass slips from her long, thin fingers, shattering against crimson carpeted floor and splashing the remaining champagne across it. As the pieces settle, the singing begins, gentle at first but growing louder and louder until it reaches a grand fortissimo. I turn to my partner. We seem to be the only ones in the crowd not joining in on the singing, and I can't wait for it to stop, as the fact that we don't know the words is a dead giveaway. We aren't Adantian. And when you are an enemy spy gathering information on Adantia's biggest celebration, that's pretty bad. As soon as the singing ends, (it seems to drag on forever) uniformed men and women flood out from the surrounding buildings, holding trays with flutes of a clear beverage. Mossberry tonic, the Adantian's signature drink. It's extremely delicious, and addictive. Once you get a whiff of the stuff it's impossible not to drink it. And if a non Adantian drinks it, their irises turn purple. We have to stay as far as possible from the servers so as to not give up our game. Me and Lexi stroll through the crowd, Lexi scrolling notes in a small book as we walk. Suddenly, there's a server right in front of us. And his tray holds two glasses of

Mossberry tonic. "Good evening, ladies" he says, and before we can do anything, we're holding the two remaining Mossberry tonics. I force my hand to drop the glass before I catch it's strong scent, but it's too late. My hand raises the flute to my lips, instead of letting it go. I fight it in vain for a moment, knowing that this is the worst thing that can happen, before giving in to the temptation. A side-long glance at Lexi confirms that she too, couldn't resist the alluring smell, and is drinking the annoyingly delightfully-tasting beverage. As soon as I drink the last drop, I feel instantly horrible. The mission has been ruined. I can tell that Lexi feels the same way, because I hear her glass shatter forcefully on the paving tiles. "We really need to get out of here, before they notice." I whisper to Lexi. She doesn't answer, except to spin and walk a little too quickly toward the large iron gates at the entrance to Adantia. I place a hand on the shoulder, to remind her to slow down, to blend. The party is still in full swing, so no one notices the two teenage girls slipping through the gates. As soon as we're outside the warm hubbub of Adantia, Lexi grabs my hand and we run full tilt toward the comforting darkness of the forest on the opposite side of the dirt road. It takes us no time at all to reach the secluded clearing where we stashed our horses and gear. Lexi and I tack up our horses, and I nibble anxiously on a piece of bread as she fishes around in saddle bag for a gas lamp. We ride as quietly as possible while still at the trot, any slower and it would take the whole night. We round the final bend, and the light emanating from the lamps by the gates of Therian reveals the grim expression on Lexi's face. The gate man lets us in, and after depositing our horses at the stable, we head straight to our shared house. We will be summoned before the king at dawn.

Morning is sunny, but cold, and Lexi and I are alerted by a young boy that the King will be

ready for our full report on last night in one hour, after breakfast. Neither me nor Lexi feel like eating, as I'm already full of nerves, and I'm sure that Lexi feels the same way. Exactly one hour later, Lexi and I, both dressed in our best clothes, walk to the palace like a man to his execution. I know that something is wrong when the doorman takes one look at us and gasps. But he opens the door and we walk forward before the king. Two clumsy curtsies later we are looking into the eyes of a very angry King Halment. "Lexi" he chastises, glaring at her with a ferocity that would make the bravest warriors cower, and children run screaming. "Jaxi" he turns his lethal stare on me. I swallow nervously. "Your eyes are purple!" he bellows. "And purple eyes can only mean one thing! You were drinking Mossberry tonic, you traitors! Care to explain yourselves?" he snarls. Lexi, who is older than me and more brave, answers. "We had to-" she is cut off by another shout from King Halment. "I will not have traitors in Therian! There is no room for you! Go!" "But, sir, Therian is our home! Please sir, no!" I cry. He grins viscously. "Not any more. Guards, banish them!" "Noooooooooooo!" I scream, a vain attempt to save myself and my sister.

To be continued...

### Michael And The Weeping Giant

Once upon a time there was a twelve year old boy named Michael. He lived in a small village with his parents.

One day, as he was out collecting firewood, he saw the most surprising thing he had ever seen, an enormous rut right through the path. He turned to follow the path home but stopped.

Although he knew he had to get home, he turned and set the wood down. He followed the rut until it ended, and a new one started! After following the trail of ruts for a while, he noticed that the ruts had started to shrink down, and soon they were the size of a small child's feet. He followed them into a small clearing where a young girl sat alone. She was wearing a blue dress with a dark blue ribbon tied at the waist in a giant bow. She was very small with long red hair and big blue eyes with tears welling up in them.

"Hello." said Michael, walking up to her slowly. The girl looked at him like he was planning to hurt her.

"I'm not going to hurt you," he said "I want to help you".

She seemed to relax at that and stuck her hand out for him to shake.

"My name is Laura," she said.

"Michael!" he introduced, putting his hand in hers. "What are you doing out in the woods by yourself? Were you following the rut trail too?"

Laura looked at her feet. "Actually, I made those ruts".

Michael looked at her. "Your feet are way too small to have made those ruts," he said, shaking his head. Laura smiled at him and started to grow! Michael watched in



disbelief as she grew and grew and grew, until she was as tall as a pine tree! "Wow," Michael said in awe, "that's awesome!"

Laura shrank down to her normal size. "My mom and dad thought so too," Laura said, "they thought it was amazing and said it was my special ability."

Laura burst into tears again and sat down on a rock. Michael wanted to help her in any way possible. "If they liked it, what's so sad about it?" he asked, handing her his hanky. Laura took it and blew her nose.

"Thank you," she said, "a long time ago, my parents and I lived in an apple orchard. I could get at all the apples on an average apple tree," she sobbed, "but one night, I went into their room to hide from a storm, and they were gone, they had disappeared! So my uncle moved in. He's mean and hates kids and nature. He chopped all the trees down and was really mean to me so I ran away."

Laura took a deep breath and seemed to feel better. "Laura, maybe you should come to my house," Michael said, "my mom always knows what to do."

Laura looked like she wasn't sure whether or not to say yes. Finally, she agreed to do so.

"Alright," said Michael "follow me." and he started to walk. Without warning, Laura grew two feet taller than the pine trees around them.

"Michael," she said, "why don't we take an easier way?" Michael turned to see a giant hand reaching for him. Laura picked him up and placed him on her shoulder.

"We have to pick up my firewood," Michael called, "I set it down by the path."

Laura smiled, bent down, and, grabbing a fallen pine tree, snapped it in two! She kept breaking it until they were the size of normal firewood, then put it in her pocket! "Thanks Laura," he said, trying not to fall off her shoulder .

Soon they were right outside the border of Michael's village. She put Michael on the ground and shrank down to her normal size. They picked up all the wood Laura had broken, then walked all the way to his house. When they got there, Michael's mother was waiting for them.

As usual she was wearing an apron that was covered in flour and dough because of their bakery. "Hi Mom," he said, "I brought my new friend Laura, and she needs your help."

Laura told her everything. Shortly after, Michael's father came in from the bakery. When she finished, Michael's father got to his feet, stroking his beard. "Poor little girl," Michael's mother said, "no child should ever go through that sort of thing."

They sat there in silence for five minutes. "Hey Mom," said Michael, breaking the silence, "she could stay with us." His parents looked at each other, not sure how to respond to that idea.

"She can carry an entire tree in her pocket!" he said "We won't have to gather wood so often, and if she got really big she could cool off eleven pies at once!"

They looked at each other, then at the little girl and knew the answer.

"Yes," said Michael's dad to Laura, "you may stay, but you must follow these rules: First you must do your chores. Second, you must not grow in the house, and third if you would like to, you may call us Mom and Dad."

Laura was speechless for a moment, then leapt up and hugged them. Michael had a new little sister and Laura had a new big brother.

"By the way," said Michael "can you open pickle jars too?"

## The Red Ruby

### Prologue

The man eyed the ruby in glee. Soon it would be his. After he got David out of the way. He was the only thing standing between him and the rich life he always wanted.

He had been planning for 6 months now on how to get that ruby. And he was ready. In exactly two weeks it would be his.

Jason tumbled out of bed as the alarm clock beeped. He looked at the calendar. There were two weeks until his 16th birthday. His father called saying breakfast was ready. He stumbled down the stairs, eager to sink his teeth into the soft texture of his father's famous pancakes. He reached the bottom of the stairs and walked into the kitchen. His father stood there tending the stove in a nice suit and a name tag on it that read "David". Their family was quite fortunate after his father found a jackpot streak of red rubies in the mine he worked at.

It was a Sunday, the day before school. Today he got to watch a baseball game with his best friend Tom.

Jason's dad checked his Rolex watch. "Oops! Little late. Gotta move," he said.

"Okay. Tom is coming to pick me up at 10, so don't worry about giving me a ride."

Jason replied.

"Okay. Bye." Jason's dad said.

It was 9:37 AM. He had roughly a half hour to burn time until Tom got here. He plopped down on the couch to watch some tv. He saw something on the news about his dad's ruby, but he got bored of watching that so he changed the channel. He lost track of time but soon heard a honk outside the window. That must be Tom. He ran to the front door grabbing his wallet and jacket on the way out. He hopped in the car and they sped off to the Jays game.

It was a sunny day, and the Stadium was packed. After an hour of waiting for tickets they finally reached their seats. The game had started. The next half hour was a blur of ball and bat. At the bottom of the ninth inning there was a loud crack and the ball flew up into the gaping crowd.. Fans cheered. One of the two 3s on the clock turned into a 4. The game was over -we had won. After the game Tom drove Jason home and they said their goodbyes.

Jason opened the door to his house only to find a broken vase and his father lying unconscious with a nasty wound on his forehead. A man stood in the shadows next to his father's body looking at Jason awkwardly. Jason was too stunned to do anything. The man dashed past Jason and out the door. Jason could do nothing but stare at the man as the black figure hopped into a black Honda truck with a license plate that started with the numbers 1 and 4 and drove off. Jason recovered from the shock and rushed to his dad. Holding him in his arms,he quickly called for help from his mobile phone. The doctors quickly determined out that Jason's dad was in a coma.

Days passed but to no luck did Jason's dad wake up.It was the day before Jason's birthday. And his dad's heartbeat was getting slower. Jason didn't know much

on that day but he did know one thing, he needed to find that man. The police were filing an investigation but it would be weeks until they started.

The only thing Jason knew about the man was the kind of car he drove. And that he wore a black suit. Jason took the bus home that day but it wasn't really home with all the crime scene flags around it. He had to look for clues. The smashed vase still lay on the floor in pieces. Wait. Assuming the man wasn't wearing gloves, his fingerprints would be on that vase. Jason had learned in school that highlighters were UV sensitive. And his dad kept a UV light in his desk to examine UV sensitive rocks.

"Mmm!" Jason thought aloud. Before he knew it he had the UV flashlight and the highlighter in his hand. He carefully drew a few strips of yellow ink on a piece of the vase. Then he shone the UV flashlight over it. By some luck he saw the fingerprint of the man on the vase. He thought -if I could just get this to the police they could identify the man and the police could make an arrest. So he called the police and asked if they could identify the man. They said yes, but it would take time.

"How much time?" Jason asked.

"Two days," the receiver replied.

Jason searched some more and spotted something black under the table. It was the man's phone. It rang! Jason jumped back not sure what to do. Eventually, his curiosity got the better of him and he picked it up. A gruff voice said, "Tomorrow night at the museum. Now that David's out of our way nothing will stop us from taking that ruby." Jason was shocked. They were going to steal his dad's ruby tomorrow night. I can't tell anybody or word of this will get out and more people will be hurt trying to stop them.

I'm going to have to go myself, Jason thought.

It was Jason's birthday the day of the planned theft. He had packed a bag of supplies. He was going to wait in the bathroom until the museum closed and then expose the thieves by pulling the fire alarm and barricading the doors so they could not get out.

Time passed but he heard a bang at the front door and then it swung open. Two men came through, one of which was the man who put Jason's dad in a coma. There was no time to waste. They were already moving in on the ruby. He yanked the fire alarm. The loud BRINGGGGG of the bell rang piercing the silence of the night. Jason ran to the door and put whatever contents he could find in front of the door. Chairs. Desks. Tables. He could hear them banging on the door but to no avail did they get through. Sirens were wailing in the distance. He had done it. Now he had to run.

Jason woke up after a good night's sleep. The phone rung beside his bed. He answered. It was the hospital. His dad had woken from the coma. He couldn't believe it. He jumped in the air to celebrate. Then he put the phone to his ear. "When do I get to see him?" he asked. Tue-... she was cut off by the sound off gunshots...

The men were coming.

## The Plague of All Plagues

Frank Padar

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

As Franklin walked down the street the smell of car exhaust filled his nostrils. When he passed the convenience store he saw his friend Kevin in the window buying what looked to be some Skittles. As Franklin walked in the store he attempted to scare Kevin from behind. But Kevin turned around as Franklin was at the entrance and missed the opportunity.

"Hey Franklin! What's up dude!" Kevin exclaimed.

"Hi Kev! How you doin?" Franklin said with energy.

"Want to go for a walk and then come back to my place after?" asked Kevin with excitement.

"Sure, that sounds good," Franklin said. "Let me ask my Mom and Dad first."

"Ok, I'll wait for you outside," said Kevin.

Franklin, with his brown hair and green eyes, and Kevin, with his black hair and brown eyes loved spending time together. They also loved playing on their high school football team which was one of the best in their school district. Franklin was very adventurous and was very similar in that way to Kevin.

"They said yes!" Franklin yelled across his front lawn to Kevin.

"Ok, let's go," said Kevin in an excited voice.

During the walk the two saw this very strange man who was both acting weird and looked very sick.

"Let's get outta here," said Franklin in a scared voice.

"Sounds good dude," Kevin said in a similar voice.

## The Plague of All Plagues

Frank Padar

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

After they got home they wanted to get that strange man out of their mind before Franklin went home, so they watched some TV.

Then out of nowhere the news comes on and said, "We interrupt this program to tell you that there is a virus that is changing people and making them act strange. But the people who are infected won't hurt you, if you don't hurt them. If you ingest any of their DNA you will be infected. We are calling these people "the infected!" Then the TV shut off.

"Kevin?" Franklin said with obvious fear in his voice. "That sounds just like the man we saw on the walk. I'm gonna tell my mom and dad that I'm gonna stay at your place."

"Ok," said Kevin.

Just then Kevin's bedroom door broke down and an infected was in the doorway! Kevin pushed the infected down leaving the boys enough time to leave Kevin's room. He couldn't find his parents so he and Franklin ran out the back door into the dark streets of Anaheim.

As they walked down the streets they saw two people about their age and Franklin shouted, "Hey!" The two others came over and introduced themselves.

"I'm Matt and this is Patrick."

"Hi," Franklin and Kevin both said, not knowing what else to say.

"Matt's 15 and I'm 14," said Patrick.

"Oh cool," said Franklin. "So are we." Franklin was always excited about coincidences.



## The Plague of All Plagues

Frank Padar

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

Then out of the bushes about 40 infecteds started chasing the four. Although the news reporter said the infected wouldn't hurt you if you didn't hurt them, the four were still terrified and had to get away.

After running for about three minutes the four saw a light blue car. They were all too young to drive, but it was their only option.

Once in the car, Franklin saw that the fuel gage was near empty. "Kevin we're almost out of gas."

"Ok that is not good," said Kevin with worry in his voice.

"What's wrong?" said Patrick with a small amount of fear in his voice.

"We're almost out of gas," said Kevin.

"Oh we are so dead!" said Matt in a scared voice. Matt was always the one guy who worried about everything and always looked at the worst possible thing that could happen.

The car did run out of gas, but luckily all the infecteds were gone.

"I hope they are all gone," said Matt in his usual scared voice.

As the four got out of the car they heard some commotion on the other side of the alley they were in.

"Let's get out of here," said Franklin in a voice similar to Matt's.

"What we gonna do now Frank?" asked Kevin.

"Well, why don't we go back to the convenience store and see if we can find some food, or something."

## The Plague of All Plagues

Frank Padar

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

“Good idea!” said Patrick excitedly.

As they walked to the store they saw another car, but it was unfortunately out of fuel, too. Kevin tried to open the door and said, with a hint of anger in his voice, “It’s locked!”

Matt found a huge rock on the ground. “Here, use this Kevin.”

“Thanks,” said Kevin with smile. The glass door shattered into a million bits.

“I ain’t done nothing like that before,” said Kevin with some shock in his voice.

The four entered the store and saw that there were only four bags of Old Dutch Chips.

“Nice, we’ve got just enough chips for us all!” said Patrick excitedly. Patrick always looked at the positive side of everything and was pretty much the opposite of Matt. But, they were still friends. They had first met three years ago while playing baseball together. The way Franklin and Kevin met was through playing high school football.

As the four left the store they finished their chips and tossed them into a garbage can. Out of nowhere an infected came around the corner and out of panic Franklin punched the infected and it coughed in his mouth.

“Oh no! I’m infected!” shouted Franklin with tears in his eyes. But wait! Franklin did not change.

“Frank, you’re not changing.”

“Wait, maybe I’m the cure! We’ve gotta get to the labs where they are trying to find a cure!”

“Great idea man!” said Matt. “Come on guys, together we can do anything!”

## **The Plague of All Plagues**

Frank Padar

Grade 6

Westmount Elementary

The four arrived at the lab and went to the person at the front desk. "We think we found the cure!" said the four boys.

The doctors tested Franklin's blood and they had done it! They had found an antidote!

## Consequences

by Tea Parlette

Westmount Elementary

Grade 6

She gazed out the window at the thick and gloomy woods wondering what lay beyond its dark boundaries. The girl was suddenly startled by a voice behind her. "Alayna!" Called the voice. "You know you're not allowed in those woods. You don't know what's in there, it could be dangerous." Alayna looked at the woman. "I know mom," she complained.

Alayna walked into the kitchen and flopped herself onto a chair with a big sigh.

"Oh don't be so dramatic," remarked her mother. She sat down in a chair across from Alayna.

"What's so bad about that forest anyways?" questioned Alayna.

Her mother sighed, "It's.. your father."

"What? What about dad? What happened?" asked Alayna.

"He went into those woods once to get firewood and never returned," answered her mother. Alayna paused with a surprised expression on her face.

"Well, I think it's time for bed now sweetheart," muttered her mom.

Alayna stood up. "I agree," she said with a sigh.

They walked upstairs and entered Alayna's room. Alayna got into bed and her mother turned off the lights. "Goodnight sweetheart," she said. "Night mom," replied Alayna. Her mom walked out of the room and closed the door.

Alayna couldn't sleep knowing her father could be out there somewhere. She leapt out of bed and headed to the front door. She put on a pair of runners and a warm jacket and crept out the door. She was tense at first, but then got used to the darkness. She finally reached

## Consequences

by Tea Parlette

Westmount Elementary

Grade 6

the forest edge and hesitated. She walked into the thick forest and trenched her way into a clearing. There was something about this clearing that made it seem different from any other. She knelt in the grass and picked a cyan, blue flower from the ground. As she held it, it seemed to glow. But this power wasn't good. In fact, it may have been considered evil.

The flower began to whisper, "Get out, or face the consequences." Alayna dropped the flower as fear rushed throughout her body and into her mind. The flower glowed even brighter, temporarily blinding Alayna and its whispers turned into quiet talking. The flower repeated itself once more, "Get out, or face the consequences." She crawled backward in a hurry and was then stopped by an unidentified obstacle. She quickly jumped up and whipped herself around only to see a large, demonic figure standing tall above her. The creature grabbed her jacket and lifted her up into the air.

"Put me down!" she yelled. The creature stared at her, it's eyes as red as blood. As it stared at her, she felt tired and weak. Her eyelids grew heavier and heavier until she found herself in a deep sleep.

When she awoke, she was in a dark place. She felt the ground around her, it was damp. She struggled to stand up but when she did, she found herself in a very tight space. She reached above her and found a string hanging down. She pulled the string and a light turned on. She looked around and saw a strange yet, familiar figure. She looked closer at the figure. "Mom?" Alayna said surprisingly.

"Why so surprised to see me dear?" asked her mother. She walked closer to Alayna and looked her in the eye. "I thought I told you not to go into these woods?" said her mother.

## Consequences

by Tea Parlette

Westmount Elementary

Grade 6

"Uh- I- you-," Alayna stammered.

"Hush my love," said her mother, while running her fingers through Alayna's hair. "You're safe with me darling," she said quietly.

"Mom, you seem to be acting... different," Alayna said suspiciously. She pushed her mother away slightly. "You know, I'm 12 years old. I don't need to be treated like a child anymore."

"I know, I know. I just, don't want you to grow up," replied her mother. She grabbed Alayna by the arm tightly, "Come with me. We need to go to a safer place."

"But wait! Where are we going?" her mother didn't answer, only walk faster. "Ouch! Mom, let go! You're hurting me!" Alayna grabbed her mother's hand and pulled it off of her arm. She walked backward and looked at her mother. "You are NOT my mom! Leave me alone you beast!" A smile spread across the beast's face. It starting shaping into something else. It was finally fully shaped and it snarled at Alayna.

"A.. shapeshifter?" Alayna said to herself. The beast came closer to her, dragging it's feet in the dirt and leaves. Suddenly, it snatched her by the arm and ran as fast as it could. It ran and ran until they reached a tiny little hill. The beast put Alayna on the little hill.

"Why did you take me here?" she asked. The beast didn't reply. She asked again, "Why did you take me here?" Still no answer. The beast then grabbed a rock and hit Alayna over the head. Her vision got blurry, and then everything was black.

## Consequences

by Tea Parlette

Westmount Elementary

Grade 6

Alayna woke up and saw a white light. She walked toward the light and saw a gate. She opened the gate and saw a bench that was golden with white sparkles. She walked over to it and sat down.

"Where am I?" she wondered. Suddenly, a voice spoke out from behind her. She turned around and saw no one. Alayna shouted at the voice, "Where are you? Show yourself!" The voice said nothing. Although, she could have sworn that she knew that voice. She got up from the bench and walked toward where she heard the voice. "Are you there?" she asked.

"Yes, I'm here," replied the voice. Alayna asked once again,

"Where are you?" After about 15 seconds of total silence, the voice said something.

"You cannot see me, Alayna," said the voice.

"What do you mean, and how do you know my name?" asked Alayna. Then the voice shouted, "WAKE UP!" Alayna was in her own mind. But how, you ask? Alayna, was already dead.

My name is Kelsey Johnson. I am a city girl, but in my heart I have always thought I wanted to be a country girl. Little did I know that my life was about to change.

One week earlier:

One evening, when Mom and Dad got home, they said they had some important news they needed to tell me. As we sat down to dinner, they told me.

“Okay kids don’t freak out but your Mom and I have been thinking about this for a long time, and now we need to tell you...so....” Dad looks over at Mom.

“So... what?” I ask.

“Honey, why don’t you tell them,” Dad said.

“Okay then... We are MOVING!” Mom clapped her hands and jumped in excitement.

“What were moving? Where?” I look between my parent’s excited faces.

“Well you know how you always wanted to be a country girl and have a horse?” asked.

“Yes.”

“Well we’re moving on to a ranch,”

“WAIT! WHAT?”

“You heard us, a ranch! We are going to get a couple of horses and a puppy, and since we knew you would be really sad to leave all your friends, you get to name him.”

“Are you excited Kels?”

“Yes,” I reply hesitantly, “but what about my friends and my school?”



"Oh we have already done the the school stuff, but the awesome thing is we knew you would be down so we got the puppy already!"

"Where is he?"

"Right over here!" Dad said walking down the hall and opening the bathroom door. Just then, I saw a baby german shepard puppy come rushing out towards me. He was so tiny, but he still knocked me over as he jumped up and licked my face.

"Ohhhh he so cute!"

"So do you know what you're going to name him?"

"No, not yet?" I laugh through some tears. It was to hard to think of a name for him when I just found out that we're moving.

"So mom when are we supposed to be out of the house?"

"Well we have to start packing tomorrow because we have to be out in three days."

"WHAT?"

"Sorry, but we have to be out by then," Dad touched my cheek.

\*\*\*

We packed and moved in a flash I said my goodbye's and now we are off to our new home. The drive from the city into the country took about an hour. As I looked out my window I could see the change of scenery in the landscape; from the tall buildings to the beautiful rolling hills, it was so different from the city full of the noise and pollution. I don't think this will be that hard to get use to.

"Here we are are new home," Mom said stepping out of the car.

Surprisingly it was big and very nice.

"When was it built?" I ask as I walk around waiting for Dad to unlock the home.

"Last year. It's really new!"

After a couple of days I got used to it and started to settle in. It really was a beautiful new home. I talked to my friends on the phone everyday, I think that helped. Then I thought of the perfect name for my new puppy; it was going to be Scout. I put the collar with his name on it and put it around his neck.

The next day, when I took Scout for a walk, I decided to explore the barn some more. I looked inside and was totally surprised; there were a couple of horse. They must just have been delivered. One in each stall. On the front of the stall doors were the horses names, Scarlett and Sky.

\*\*\*

It was now the weekend, and Molly was coming for a sleepover.

"What's the big surprise?" Molly asked me excitedly.

"You want to go for a ride?"

"What!" Then she saw the horses in the stalls. "Oh my, are allowed?" She asked excitedly.

"Ya! My parents said we each get a horse!"

"Nice!"

We saddled up and went for a ride.

"Which path do we take Kels?"

"Well I've walked around here a bit with Scout, so I know my way around."

"Okay, as long as we don't get lost."

We took the path that I took the last time I went out.

"Why don't we stop by the river!"

"What? The river goes through your property, but do horse like water?"

"Well, when I did horseback riding lesson and the summer camps they said that horse love water."

We played in the river for a little while, but just as we got out we heard a strange noise.

"What was the Kels?"

"I...."

"You what?" she pulled on my arm and asked.

"I...I've never heard that sound before."

"Look over there. It looks a fat cat, but it has a white stripe down it's back. Oh on it's a...."

"Skunk," we both yell together.

A skunk had just bobbed out onto the path in front of us.

"What are we going to do, Moll?" I ask.

"It's your property think of a plan," she replies.

"Okay," I say.

"So do you have a plan?" She asks.

"Yes, I have a plan."

"Is it a good one?"

As I walk up I see a few girls talking. I was so nervous. Was it my clothes, my hair, what was it they were talking about, I wonder. I smile at the class and a few people smile back. Not too bad.

We start with some math, and it felt like it was hours of math so when it was finally recess I was happy to get out. Some kids from my class came up to me.

"Hi, I'm Hannah and this is Vanessa. You're Kelsey the new girl, right?"

"Ya... it's nice to meet you," I say still a little nervous.

"Do you want to hang out with us?"

"Sure! I'd love to. I was wondering, who are those girls, the one's who were talking as I walked up to the front of the class?"

"Oh those are the popular girls, Victoria, Jessica and Piper. Who were the popular girls at you're old school?"

"Me, my best friend Molly and my other best friend Sophia. But I think that was because we hung out with everyone, and we didn't gossip about people."

The rest of the day flew by fast. I already had met some great new friends and on my way to make more as the year goes on.

The year seems to be flying by so quickly. Sadly, I have barely seen Molly, but Hannah, Vanessa and I are now best friends.

"Hey Kelsey, Vanessa it's the last week of school. Do you guys want to go see a movie after school on friday?" asks Hannah.

\*\*\*

We get to the movies. It was getting pretty full, so we quickly grab some seats so we could all sit together, but just then some sits down beside me and immediately I recognised her. It was MOLLY!

“Molly! Oh my goodness what a surprise! Oh it’s so good to see you. Let me introduce you to my friends,” I turn towards my new friends. “This is Hannah and Vanessa. They are great.”

“Hi, it’s nice to meet you,” Molly says. “Kelsey has already told me so much about you on the phone.”

“Same,” Vanessa replies to Molly, then we all laugh, “Well not over the phone, I mean. It’s nice to meet you too.”

“Hey, why we all have a sleepover tonight,” I say, happy all my friends both, new and old are finally together. This is going to be the best summer ever!

Magical Moments 1

Rebecca Rozek  
St. Anns Academy  
Grade 6  
April 5th, 2017

Vacations are fun, right? At least that's what I keep telling myself. My family is going on a vacation to the amazon rainforest, it's four weeks long. FOUR WHOLE WEEKS! My dad John is a botanist ; a scientist who studies plants, so this is technically a work trip for him. There will be no cellphone service or internet connection. My mom Amy says it will be good for me and my older brother Noah to "detach" ourselves from our electronic devices; but I totally disagree. I'm trying to be open minded about this, maybe this will be fun.

I am sitting in the airport waiting to board my eleven hour flight. Soon my plane arrives and we all board. For the first bit of the flight I read and do homework. Since my flight is mainly through the night I sleep the last half. I wake up to my brother shaking me and telling me we're here.

After we leave the plane and collect our luggage we walk outside and wait for our ride. Since we couldn't get a direct flight to the camp that we are staying at we flew as far as we could, then will be driven the rest of the way. After a while a shiny black jeep with purple seats pulls up and a man wearing camouflage clothes and a wide brimmed hat walks out with a sign saying John, Amy, Noah, and Abbey Carson. The man's name is Mason; he has worked with my dad online for a couple of weeks planning this trip; he is also a botanist. We all pile into his shiny black jeep and drive away.

Rebecca Rozek  
St. Anns Academy  
Grade 6  
April 5th, 2017

The drive is absolutely stunning with the enormous green trees, vibrantly colored flowers and large majestic birds flying around us the whole way. Every so often you can spot an animal staring at you from the trees. There are jaguars in the bushes with eyes that seem to see right into my soul and monkeys hanging above us swinging from tree to tree racing the car. Arriving at the camp Mason's son Connor greets us with a warm smile and shows us to our tents.

After we settle in my dad and Mason go out searching for a rare type of lily. Conner offers to take me on a walk around the area. He leads me into the rainforest down a long and wide dirt path. We see many varieties of flowers and leaves, it is quite magnificent. Suddenly he takes a sharp right turn onto a very narrow path. Since the path is very narrow the tree tops hang over leaving no room for light. The path is very gloomy, mystical, and mysterious. Eventually we come to a stop and Connor turns around and says, "I've never shown anyone this place before, not even my dad; you're the first." he blushes when he says this. "You have to swear you will never tell anyone what you see." "I promise." I reply back nervously... I wonder what the place is like?

Is it magical, or scary, or maybe a tree fort? Conner steps aside to reveal a gate; a solid gate almost like a door except that there is a fence attached to both side. It looks old and a bit rustic, but it's oddly beautiful. It is blue in color with gold designs; which are fading. Making it look ancient and important.

Rebecca Rozek  
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April 5th, 2017

Conner pulls out a key from his pocket and inserts it into a keyhole in the middle of the gate. I enter and immediately am speechless... everywhere I look there is something new. The plants are all different shades of green and have a shimmery coating of water on them that never seems to fall away. It feels as though I'm frozen in time.

The flowers come in every shade, color, shape, and size imaginable. They sway as if there is a slight breeze directed to each flower alone, but nowhere else. Everywhere I look there is a different animal. Some have horns, some have wings, some sparkle, some glow, and some even talk. The grass is as soft as a cloud, I could sleep on it! Last of all there's this haze is the air. A mix between a sparkle and a shine; it completes the whole magical feel. "What is this place?" I stammer. "My grandpa showed this to me before he died." "He used to take me here every day and read to me for hours under that willow tree over there."

He points to a tree in the middle of a large clearing. It hangs down all most all the way to ground. It has this amazing glow that seems to shine for miles. I walked over to the tree, and below the leaves was a bench. It had the initials C.H and L.H carved into the oak planks. Conner came to join me under the tree, "Those are our initials, Conner Heider and my grandpa: Lucas Heider." I notice tears rolling down his face. I sit down on the bench and pull out a fairy tales book from my backpack. "My grandma gave this to me just before she passed away last year, I bring it everywhere. We could read for a bit if you'd like." "Sure" he says with a shrug, he didn't seem that enthusiastic. I start reading anyway and end up reading for the rest of the day.



Rebecca Rozek  
St. Anns Academy  
Grade 6  
April 5th, 2017

Everyday after that we return back to the tree and read a chapter of my fairy tale book. My Grandma would be so happy that I shared the book with someone. This is turning out to be an awesome vacation after all. I'm very happy I came, and hope these four weeks will be the longest four weeks of my life.

## I Wish *Melanie* Was Here

Ebony felt the thin postcard between her fingers. She read it over, unsure if her mother was speaking out of anxiety or fake affection.

“Dear, Ebony  
I hope you’re doing well with your father and his new girlfriend. I’m sorry I sent you to the country-side in such a big rush, and I’m sorry I couldn’t go with you. I worry for you, and I must know how you’re doing down there. How’s the view by the lake? I’ve heard it’s quite pretty.  
Sincerely,  
Your mother”

Ebony’s fingers pressed harder against the flimsy paper, crinkling and ripping the edges as anger overtook her. How could she apologize like it was nothing? Ebony didn’t even want to look at her father or his flashy, new girlfriend. How could she leave her all alone in the country-side with nothing but a kiss on the forehead and a postcard? How could she?

The smell of crisp, warm apples crept to Ebony, but she ignored it with a grumble of annoyance. She sat with her legs crossed, and the white, blank postcard on her lap, and the written, sketchy postcard her mother had sent her in the her hand.

“Ebony, I made apple pie!” The familiar, nagging voice of Ebony’s father’s girlfriend, Elora, rang in her ears, and Ebony quickly seized her light pencil and began to jot down on the postcard, wanting to get it done with. After finishing the rushed writing, Ebony placed the sketch pencil back down and read the card over.

Alex Rudge, Gr. 6, RLC Elementary

“I want raspberry cream pie,” Ebony stated firmly, her face blank and her tone dry. “I’m going down to the lake.” Ebony murmured under her breath, feeling Elora’s stinging, piercing gaze tracking her down as Ebony moved cautiously away from the pie.

Ebony darted out from Elora’s watchful eyes. She skirted out from the house and shut the screen door. She could see her father trudging up beside Elora and calming the fearsome woman. Ebony skipped away from the screen door joyfully.

The two had a lovely garden out front. It had divine, smooth wood bottoms for all the different plants, to hold in the deep, dark soil. They had red, juicy tomatoes, and golden, towering corn, and lots of slick, emerald-green chives. Ebony shuffled her way out of the garden, and jostled down the sand dunes and hills.

As Ebony reached over the towering hills, she began to see the glistening, deep lake in front of her. The sunset created a dazzling highlight on the royal, bubbly water that left Ebony completely starstruck when she rose to the top of the hill.

Ebony began to shakily escort herself down the hill, anxious that she may trip and fall. But as she marched down, she spotted something she didn’t really want to see. A person. A little, motioning blob of blond, fair hair and a string of a white dress that danced in the wind. Ebony felt her mind stop, and her heart beat faster. Before she could shake herself awake and scramble up back the hill, her shock overtook her and she tumbled down the grassy, bumpy hill. Everything was black and dark until her eyes

Alex Rudge, Gr. 6, RLC Elementary

fluttered open. The ride down the hill was over, and all Ebony saw was a fair-haired, sparkling-eyed, pale-skinned girl right in the center of her vision.

Ebony pushed herself up with a quick lunge of her elbows, and she began to back away slowly. She was unsure who this girl was, but she was somehow drawn to her. Her pale skin and her straw-colored, silky hair that fell ever so perfectly across her shoulders just reminded Ebony of the feeling of safety and warmth.. it was overwhelmingly strange.

“Are you alright?” The girl inquired simply. Her voice practically melted Ebony. It was soft and gentle, dripping across the girl’s tongue like honey.

“Yes, I’m fine,” Ebony muttered back in a low whisper, her voice so quiet it was practically the hum of the summer breeze.

“I’m Melanie,” The girl, Melanie, murmured back. A suiting name for the lovely specimen. It felt quite magical and surreal to Ebony. “What’s your name?”

“Ebony,” She replied. “I-” Before Ebony could finish her mumbly, restraining reply, a bell rang in the distance.

“Melanie! Melanie!” The bell continued to ring and ring as a stern, strong voice echoed alongside the tingling sound. Melanie began to dart away, but before Ebony could say anything else, everything went foggy.

Ebony’s mind blanked, her vision was hazy and slowly died down to blobs of blurry colors. *Melanie.*

I was running through the woods, wearing a silky black dress, getting chased by two packs of angry wolves. I don't remember exactly how I got here, but somehow, I did. As I ran, my dress was getting ripped and snagged on thousands of thorns, brambles and twigs. And then, of course, I stumbled into a dead end. The vicious packs cornered me against the stoney wall behind me. Just when I had thought my fate was in the wolves' dirty paws, I caught a bright light out of the corner of my eye. All of a sudden, the wolves started to whimper and then ran away with their tails between their legs.

"Hello."

I heard a mysterious voice behind me. I slowly turned around to face a young girl, around the age of sixteen, like me, holding a torch in her left hand and a dagger in the other. Her clothes were ripped and torn, and her dirty blond hair was tied back into a braid.

"What's your name?" she questioned me.

"Clara." I answered shyly.

"Amelia," she said, "but you can call me Amy for short. What are you doing out here, in this dark forest? Where did you come from? Are you homeless? Do you want to stay at my house for a few days? I can lend you some of my clothes! Do I talk too much? Do I ask too many questions?"

"Um..." I started.

"I guess that's a yes for all the questions I just asked you! Come on, I'll take you to Sunville! BTW, that's where I live!"

"O-okay," I stammered. So off we went, on a trek through what Amy called 'Fire Forest'. Soon, we approached a small village, which I guessed was Sunville. One of the things I loved about it was that the houses circled the most majestic fountain I had ever seen in my entire life!

"It's beautiful." I sighed.

"I know, right!" Amy boasted. We walked down to a small path that led to the village. We jogged over to a large black gate, and two guards stood proudly on either side of it. One of the guards, to be specific the creepy little short guy, started glaring at me like I just stole his puppy.

"Oh, I almost forgot!" Amy apologized. "This is Clara. I found her being attacked by wolves. Can she come in? Pretty please with sugar on top?" The other guard smiled, nodded politely, and opened the gate. Meanwhile, the first guard continued to glare at me. *This is getting weird*, I muttered under my breath. The tall guard kicked the short guard in the shins, probably because of all that glaring and staring. Amy showed me all around the village, and she even let me buy a souvenir! I bought a small blue gemstone, and Amy said it would bring me luck, so that's pretty great! After that, she took me on a tour of her house. She told me about her dad, and explained that he lives with her. I said I'd like to meet him, so she snatched my arm, and brought me into a small office.

"Daddio, this is Clara. Clara meet my dad. You can call him Rick."

"Hi." I mumbled shyly.

“Good afternoon!” He smiled. Then, there was about one minute of dead silence. To break the silence, Amelia asked how Rick’s reading was. This man obviously loves books because the entire wall behind him was filled with different novels.

“It’s going great. There was one prophecy that I read, and it was about a young girl, who slays Hera with...”

“Who’s Hera?” I accidentally interrupted.

“Well, Hera is an evil dragon that lives beneath Lion Mountain.” He pointed to a large, rocky mountain, then continued. “Every hour, there’s a small earthquake.” His voice was getting louder now. “And I promise you, that’s Hera. That filthy hearted dragon!”

“Calm.” Amy tried to soothe him.

“And that girl, Clara my dear, is you! You must drive Hera off, because you are the brave girl in the prophecy!” I was shocked. I tried to say that it was a misunderstanding, but all that came out was,

“Um, Uh, I-I um, well...”

“Let’s get you trained for battle. I know somebody that might be able to help you.” I swallowed hard. Rick took me to a place across the cobblestone path. He introduced me to a man named Travis. He took me to a room, where I started training. About a week later, I got the hang of it, and it was time. I armoured myself and Amy and I said our goodbyes, but before I had left, I said goodbye to Rick as well. Amy reminded me of my good luck charm. I gave her a big hug, and then left. Ten minutes later I was dropped off at the mountain. I thought I had help, but then my horse dashed faster than

an afraid cat back to the village, and so did my men. Why was everyone running away from me? I felt hot breath on my neck and turned to face the largest, most terrifying thing I had ever seen in my entire life. I began to swing my sword at Hera. I backed up into a corner. I turned to see if Amy was there to save me, but all I saw was the village in the distance. The dragon's stomach started to glow, and I thought I'd never survive.

"Clara," I heard a soft, comforting voice.

"Clara dear, wake up!"

"Wha-"

"Clara, It's me, your mom." I breathed a sigh of relief. It was all just a dream.



William Shin, Grade 6, Savona Elementary, "I'll never Forget", Poem 1

In this world I will never forget,  
This journey of life the most fulfilling yet.  
Across the known world that we share,  
Teaching about Him everywhere.  
I encouraged several nations many miles wide,  
They drank and ate until they were satisfied.  
Myself and my brother traveled from Italy to Syria,  
We shared and taught the whole criteria.  
Not everyone believed what I said,  
So they took me prisoner instead.  
They brought me by wagon and boat on the sea,  
But after the shipwreck they didn't gloat about keeping me.  
After that they released me with no others,  
But now I was able to talk with my sisters and brothers.  
Now the end of me is soon with this message in my head,  
Please continue with this journey for me instead.

William Shin, Grade 6, Savona Elementary, "In a Cave", Poem 2

In the in the caves I like to roam,  
For all the the caves are my home.  
Around each passage and around each bend,  
There is always somewhere new to descend.  
In an old chest there can be treasure,  
I can explore in any weather.  
Ravines are my favorite places I like to explore,  
Cause they go down, down, and down some more.  
There is a good reason why I'm down in this cave,  
To show my friends that I am brave.  
When I get to the bottom and find my friends,  
We will go up to the surface and around the bends.  
Until then I'll keep going down,  
Who knows, after I might get a crown.

Ayden Spear

Grade 6

Bert Edward Science and technology School

### Captured Part One

I woke with a pain in the side of my head, I squinted trying to adjust my eyes to the  
darkness.

All I remember was being pulled from the pet store and then everything went black. I go to the pet store once a week to see the cute kittens they have even if I don't have any money to buy them. I looked around trying to see my surroundings. I could feel the ground start to shake, and then I realized I was in a van and my hands were tied together with rope that made my wrists burn. My mouth was so dry. Licking my lips, I felt the van come to a stop throwing me forward and I hit my head on something hard. Groaning in pain, I saw a blinding light coming from the door causing me to close my eyes. I felt huge arms slide under my waist and under my back picking me up. Someone I didn't know was carrying me. I was too weak to even speak so I just looked up at him. He had short brown hair with bright blue eyes. He was beautiful. I groaned again in pain. My head was killing me. That's when I felt something warm run down my face. It ran down in between my eyes and I could see that it was thick and red. I have never been good with blood. Once when I was 15, I was sick, so they had to take my blood. When the needle went in and I saw my blood go through the long tube I instantly fainted. I felt a wave of nausea go through me, my eyelids were getting heavy and my vision was giving out and soon I was out like a light.

Ayden Spear

Grade 6

Bert Edward Science and technology School

“Is she going to be ok? Will she live?” I heard a husky-like voice say.

“She will be alright but she does have a concoction so let her stay in bed and rest for a while, ok Gordon.” It was more of a statement than a question I thought to myself. I slowly opened my eyes. I groaned at how bright it was in the room and quickly closed my eyes.

“Tooouoo Bright!” I managed to somewhat say. Only I sounded like a 2 year old. I heard a quiet chuckle. I groaned again at the splitting headache I had developed from being hit in the head one too many times. I brought my hand up to my face and squeezed the bridge of my nose, squeezed my eyes tight and scrunched up my face. Another light chuckle escaped the mans lips. I swear, if I had the strength I would have punched him. I opened my eyes and saw two men. One was an older looking man that had grey hair, glasses, and wrinkles on his skin. The other man was the same man that carried me. He gave me a smile as I glared at him.

“Thank you Harold-” the younger looking man said.”-I appreciate your help, you may leave now.” he said with a nod. The old man left the room and as soon as

Ayden Spear

Grade 6

Bert Edward Science and technology School

he did, I slapped the man who sat in front of me as hard as I could with the little strength I had.

"Who are you, where am I, and why did you kidnap me?!?!?" I screamed. I was so angry I could punch a wall and it wouldn't hurt. He just looked at me astonished at what I just did.

"Answer me dammit!!!!!" I screamed at the top of my lungs, which wasn't very loud because I could just barely speak. When he wasn't answering I broke down, all my frustration let out in tears. Which was odd because I wasn't usually the one to break down like this. I brought my knees up to my face and hugged them close to me. After what felt like hours, I felt a huge hand on my back and my head flicked up to face him and my gaze hit his and we stared at each other for a long time.

"My name is Gordon-" Gordon. Gordon. It was nice name, and it suited him well.

"- you are at my house..." he trailed off. I looked around the room. I was sitting on a king sized bed which looked like it was made for a king or a queen. I felt so out of place with something so beautiful, so luxurious, and then there was me, it felt like I was wrecking the whole image.

Ayden Spear

Grade 6

Bert Edward Science and technology School

"No you're not wrecking the whole image, you're completing it." He said with a shy smile. I gasped.

"Did I say that outloud?!?!?" I said in shock because I didn't think that I said that outloud. With a sly smile he said.

"No." I gasped in horror and backed up and a bit too far because I fell and hit my head hard on something and everything went black.

Thank you so much for reading Captured Part One. There is a part two.

One morning Ella was walking her dog Tessa. As they were walking, Tessa started barking, “Tessa! BE QUIET!”, Ella hissed. For a second Tessa stopped then continued, Ella focused her gaze to the sidewalk to see what Tessa was barking at, a squirrel. She continued to look at the squirrel as it approached. Then she saw that IT HAD NO HAIR?! As she jumped back Tessa pulled forward ripping the lead out of Ella’s hand as she went bounding towards the creepy squirrel.

They went into an old house. As Ella went up to the house she saw the windows were all boarded up, holes in the roof, mold on the walls and the door hanging on one hinge. Then suddenly she heard a bark then a gunshot and a whimper

“TESSA! NO!” she ran to the door and with a forceful push it swung open. There was a staircase up and two hallways on each side of her. “Which way should I go?”, she thought, staring at the dusty picture of an old skinny man with a pure black cat sleeping on his lap. She eventually decided to go left.

She went walking down this narrow hall, and looked at old antique clocks and pictures. She walked in a room that looked like a dining room decorated with a fancy wood table placed around that had with fancy chairs with padded cushions sewn on to the seats. A thick layer of dust made it hard to tell the colour. On the table there were several rusty plates with rusty cutlery on the side of each plate and a golden bowl with copper around the edges for a mantle piece. There was a boarded up window and cobwebs, on the ceiling. Ella looked in the bowl. There was a key with a note written in fancy writing. *“For those who seek what needs to be found, For a*

8 Doors, 8 Test, one girl

By: Martha Taylor

Grade:6 Raft River Elementary

*new door a new test will take place”* Hmm... for those who seek what needs to be found, could be useful Ella thought, so she put the key in her sweater pocket and went back through the hallway to the door and then went right this time. This hallway was a bit bigger, the hallway lead to a big living room filled with books of all sorts. Two old chairs and an old couch, a small coffee table that had what looked like a white lacy table cloth. The dust made it look more like a light brown colour than white. On the table there was journal. She picked it up and blew off the dust. The front of the journal read *“This Journal is property of James.P.Alexander”*

James.P.Alexander... Didn't I learn about him in history? Ella thought. “People said that he committed suicide in his house. WAIT what if his ghost is here... What if that k-killed Tessa. I'm going to continue reading I will find out how he really died” so she read on *“I built this house with my own two hands and a bit of Magic, You see I'm a wizard. This house is alive with a bit of a temperament, I must say. But over time we've become friends but I fear that my enemy, Jason Rievir, will tamper with the house and kill me for stealing the love of his life, Anna, my wife, and mother of my two children Kyle and Norma.”*

She skipped all the way to the last couple of pages *“My wife...Gone, children...Gone, all because of the house. He tampered with the house he's after me next. Beware reader, the house is evil, I repeat the house is evil, it kills loved ones and the only way to get them back is to find what the house calls the 8 doors I do not know what is in the doors but I can tell that it is not good, I'm off to seek the doors to retrieve my wife and children. I have a feeling that it's upstairs somewhere... The center of the house is upstairs so it might be...”*



“OK... so he was a... wizard he had an enemy and the house is evil, WAIT?! THE HOUSE IS EVIL! Oh chicken nuggets. Well I'm going to go upstairs.” She went back down the hall and up the stairs each step making a “SQUEAK!” The upstairs was nicer than the down stairs. Again there were two hallways,so she took the right first this time there was two doors with numbers 1 and 8 on them. “8 doors huh, well number one first”. She tried to open the door, it was locked “umm... THE KEY!” She took the key out of her pocket and stuck it in the hole and twisted it opening the door, as it swung open she was about to step in the door but there was a big BIG pit. She heard barking down in the pit “TESSA!?” “I'm doing this for you Tessa” and she jumped in the pit... she began to see the ground and closed her eyes. She stopped falling just inches away from hitting the bottom, then heard a voice, but she could not tell if it was male or female, robot or human, young or old “Well done Ella you have completed the first task”. “Who are you?” Ella asked “I am the house”. “What task did I complete?” “The task of love, risking yourself for someone you love”.“Tessa” Ella said wondering whether she would ever see her again “Go this way to continue the quest”, the house said, “or face not seeing the light of day again”. “Okay”, Ella said making her way to where the house had conjured up an arrow that was pointing to an oak door with a brass handle. Finding herself at door one with key number two at her feet shining with silver with again a note that read “*Fear is just a four letter word*”

To Be Continued...

Trinity Thomas  
Grade 6  
Desert Sands Community School  
Hungry Dinosaurs

Once upon a time there were two dinosaurs. Their names were Jack and Fred and they were just walking around. Then Jack had to go get something to eat with his family and Fred went to have a drink with his family. Jack told Fred that he would hangout with him later that day.

When they were done they met each other at a sandy area and went for a walk before bed.

In the morning Jack went to get something to eat and Fred to get a drink. They passed by each other not even noticing. Once they got home they asked their parents if they could go hang out with each other. Jack's mom said "only if you give me a hug," so he did.

Fred's mom also said "yes."

They met each other at the sandy area again and went for a walk to see other kinds of dinosaurs. They saw a T Rex, Velociraptor, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Brachiosaurus, Spinosaurus, and a Long neck. Suddenly, the ground started shaking so they ran to a friend's house. When the ground stopped shaking they all went home and hugged their parents out of relief. They stayed home because their parents didn't want them to get hurt.

The ground started shaking again so they started falling on top of each other. When the shaking stopped Fred's mom asked everyone if they were ok, but Fred's leg was hurt. So Fred had to lie down. He had to just lay there for a couple days before it healed. When it healed his mom said that he could go play with Jack because the ground had not shook while he was hurt.

Trinity Thomas  
Grade 6  
Desert Sands Community School  
Hungry Dinosaurs

While they were playing they observed something big falling flaming from the sky. So they ran to Jack's house and the meteorite hit the ground. They all went flying then Jack got up and looked around. His parents were laying there not breathing, so he became very scared. He checked around looking for his family and friends but no one was moving or breathing.

So he went to go get something to eat but all of the food had vanished, so there was nothing to eat. Once he was done looking for food he found water to drink but the water was really low. Once he was done getting a drink it was night time and he went to bed. He just laid there for a couple of days, and then he finally died of starvation.

Emily Tinney  
Grade 6  
Parkcrest Elementary  
Cursed

## Cursed

**Scene:** *A small town with very little population and broken down shops from Evelyn's rain of Terror.*

**Old Man:** "Once upon a time, a long ago there was a beautiful girl locked away in a foggy, glass coffin. She had a rose that indicated when her reign of terror had ended. But the word goes round and people say you can now find her in a cave hidden away. If you dare you can awake her with a spell."

**Liam:** "Ok what kind of a spell are we talking about?"

**Old Man** "I can not say. Young child what is your name?"

**Liam:** "I'm Liam, and I am not a child. I'm 18."

**Old Man** "Child, why would you want to know how to wake Evelyn?"

**Liam:** "Who is Evelyn? Is there something you're not telling me!"

**Old Man:** "I have said too much.... Forget I even said that. Evelyn is the girl sleeping in the coffin, and now you need to go find this witch that lives in a cottage in the woods."

**Liam:** "Wait you didn't tell me any of that stuff. Thanks anyways!"

**Old Man:** "Wait child. It is a dangerous journey. She could kill you.!"

**Liam:** "How are you so sure?"

**Old Man:** "Because I was here when she was awake and she burned the kingdom to the ground."

**Liam:** "I'm sorry I won't wake her."

Emily Tinney  
Grade 6  
Parkcrest Elementary  
Cursed

**Old Man:** " Thank you, thank you."

**Liam:** " But there's one problem. I won't wake Evelyn under one condition. You tell me everything then I won't wake her. If you say no then I will wake her and she will be my queen." ( *arms crossed*)

**Old Man:** " You ask too much! I could not tell you what you want. I would be going against all code."

**Liam:** " What code? " (*slowly lean in.*)

**Old Man:** " Have you ever wondered why I work in a needle and thread shop on the outer part of town with most of the people that witnessed Evelyn's reign are, wait that's not true they went crazy or were thrown in jail!"

**Narrator:** "Liam was speechless."

**Old Man:** "You don't know what to say now do ya? Plus if I tell you, I will be sent to prison so no I say NO!"

**Liam:** " Fine but I will have you know I will wake Evelyn and I will be king. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP."

***Scene:*** *Liam was yelling because he had started to walk away leaving the man in the background.*

**Old Man:** " What has happened to this sweet child? Good thing he doesn't know I'm the witch. I always have been and I always will be. I made Evelyn what she is, I raised her and I'm her mother!"

Emily Tinney  
Grade 6  
Parkcrest Elementary  
Cursed

**Narrator:** "The man said soon after Liam went behind a tree, what he didn't know was Liam was listening to everything."

**Scene:** *Then when the man was finished talking, he turned around and went behind the shop then started to sing.*

**Witch:** " I tricked him, yes I did, then when the time is right he will come all mad but I will be so glad, then I'll trap him in a rubber tin, YEAH."

**Scene:** *Soon after the witch stopped singing, the weather was acting strange and clouds of smoke rose above and the witch then he started to change. Grow long curled nails, blond silky hair, a red silk dress that went to her knees and lace on the back of the dress along with blood red lips, long black eyelashes, and a smile as bright as a star at night.*

**Liam:** "Ok,Ok I'm going in."

**Narrator:** "So Liam went head first into danger unaware of the smoke that was hiding the sneaky witch."

**Liam:** " Come out, come out wherever you are!"

**Witch:** " Ha. You little Imbecile. How stupid do you have to be to come crawling back to me? I'm not a sholder to cry on if you need to cry, go to your mommy."

**Liam:** " I'm not here to cry i'm here to get the truth about how to wake her."

**Scene:** *The smoke had started to clear so Liam was exposed to the witches true form.*

Emily Tinney  
Grade 6  
Parkcrest Elementary  
Cursed

**Witch:** "Well, what do you think? Are you in awe? Speak boy! Tell me why you're really back not just some lie you made up on the spot."

**Liam:** "It's not some lie, im telling the truth I swear."

**Witch:** " Well let's not get hasty now, i'll tell you the truth if you swear your allegiance to me!"

**Narrator:** "Liam didn't know what think, he was a statue, frozen in his spot."

**Witch:** " Ha, you look like you've seen a ghost, oh and it's time for me to make my rost."

***Scene:*** *Then the witch spun around, and dark black feathered wings appeared from her back, then she lifted off the ground waiting for Liam's answer .*

**Liam:** "Ok I swear."

**Which:** " Swear what?"

**Liam:** " My allegiance to you,happy."

**Witch:** " Yes vary but one small detail I don't need you. You're just dead weight pulling me down sorry, and the best part was you believed me with all that i'll spear you and tell you everything talk.Oh and look at the time I have places to be things to do."

***Scene:*** *Then in one swift movement the witch struch Liam with one of her long nails , mid chest and a drop of green liquid was absorbed in his blood.*

**Witch:** " Evelyn is mine not yours, my child, mine. Come time for a much worse *apocalypse!*"

***Scene:*** *The second after she spoke someone appeared from behind a tree.*

**Evelyn:** " Mother what should we do with him?"

Emily Tinney  
Grade 6  
Parkcrest Elementary  
Cursed

**Which:** " Nothing, now he will suffer the consequence of curiosity. Are you clear with the plan?"

**Evelyn:** " Yes start off with the smaller towns then close in on the bigger cities and soon we will be the last to walk the Earth."

***Scene:*** *Then the witch flapped her wings and Evelyn grabbed on her mother's ankles then took off leaving Liam's limp body on the ground.*



# The Girl Who Got Bullied

## Barriere Elementary By Rachel Veitch Gr.6

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Elizabeth, she always got bullied at school. The bullies would call her rude names, she did not like that. One day she pretended to be sick so she could stay home from school and she hoped by the time she came back from school everyone would forget about her. A week later when she came back what she has hoped did not happen everyone still knew her, and she got made fun of even more! Elizabeth thought to herself “ why, why are they making fun of me”. Elizabeth wondered around the school looking at the posters all around her, and she stoped, and looked at a poster that said TILT right at the top! She read it and each one of the letters mean something like T means tell them to stop, I means ignore them, L means leave, and T means tell an adult! Elizabeth went to class and it just so happens that the bullies are in the same class you wouldn't have guessed what happen. The bullies made fun of her, so Elizabeth told them to “stop”, but they didn't, Elizabeth just ignored them, but they just kept calling her names, and she just walked away. The bullies just kept following her, their was only one thing to do, and that was to tell an adult. When Mr.Fullerman walked in she told him about the two girls who have been bothering her. Mr.Fullerman told them to stop, and now they have detention after school! So Elizabeth felt bad, so she went up to the two girls, and asked for their names they answered “ my name is Alyssa, and this is Jenna”. Those are pretty names said Elizabeth, Alyssa and Jenna said sorry to Elizabeth. Elizabeth forgave them. Alyssa and Jenna told Elizabeth why they were bulling her. So Alyssa, Jenna and Elizabeth became the bestest friends, and they lived happily ever after! The End

Ethan Walsh  
Grade 6  
Arthur Hatton Elementary

## **THE YEAR SANTA SNAPPED**

It was a cold windswept eve in the Arctic, not a creature in sight for miles, the only light coming from Santa's workshop. It was 15 days before the big day. Like any other year, the elves were working hard and so was Santa.

But Santa was in big trouble this year, he could not afford all the new toys and technology the kids were demanding. Although it wasn't his fault, the board of Christmas directors were cutting his budget. He was already having family problems, like his wife was divorcing him. Santa was also getting multiple complaints filed against him by the inhabitants of the North Pole, about the noise the factory made.

It stressed him out so much that in time all he did was mutter to himself in his office. Finally...HE SNAPPED! All of a sudden he kicked down his office door and started running around the toy shop at surprising speeds (considering his weight). He pulled all the toys of their shelves and trampled them. While doing this, he spilled full cans of paint, spattering a giant frenzied rainbow over the workshop. At the end of his rampage he ripped off his coat and overalls and ran into the Arctic not to be seen again for ten years.

Santa was only ever seen as a different kind of abominable snowman. The elves tried and tried and tried again, each time failing at their goal of finding Santa. Ten years

## THE YEAR SANTA SNAPPED

Ethan Walsh

Grade: 6

Arthur Hatton Elementary

after the incident an elf found Santa on the elf radar. The elves set out onto the windswept tundra and searched for days on end until they finally found Santa! After they found him, Santa had to spend three years in a mental health institution before he could return to his job. Sadly, the damage was already done, and nobody believed in Christmas anymore.

Santa is now retired, and living on the warm beaches of the Bahamas, sipping pina coladas.

The Case Of The Missing Diamonds  
Henri Yeung  
Grade.6  
St.Anns Academy

In a marvelous city called Rock City, there was 3 kids named Tyler, Kai and Kesha. They were best friends. The 3 kids were walking Kesha's dog Kipsey. When all of a sudden 3 figures took Tyler, Kai, Kesha and Kipsey! "LET GO OF ME!" Cried Kesha but got no reply. Then she cried again, "LET GO OF ME!" Then the figure said calmly, "we will be taking you 4 to a secret base, we will tell you what's happening when we get there." "Fine!" All the kids quickly. After a long time they reached a skyscraper. The kids jaws dropped when they went inside. "This is the best." Tyler said amazed. "Now please tell us why we're here." Kesha reminded the figures beside them. "Ok, this a safe place to tell you why you 4 are here. You are here because..." The figure hesitated then continued talking "Boss wants you 4 to be spy's on a mission because there is a thief going around stealing diamonds!" The figure said then continued and said "that's when we saw you 4 on our camera in the park then came to get you, that is why you're here." The figure took a deep breath when he finished talking. "Thank you, we are glad to help." Tyler said sarcastically. "Ok time to get you information, meet the boss, get you geared, then go to find the thief." The second figure proclaimed. "Here's a file!" Cried figure 3 from the computer room.

**NAME:ADNIY RAMPTON**

**BASE: L.A ,CALIFORNIA**

**SUPERPOWER:INVISIBILITY**

**SUPERWEAPON:LASER EYES**

The Case Of The Missing Diamonds  
Henri Yeung  
Grade 6  
St.Anns Academy

“So now let’s get you guys prepared.” the boss. “Okay but what’s your name?”

“Do you go by boss or another name?” Kesha said. “Just call me boss children!” said Boss.

“Please call us Kesha, Tyler, Kai, and Kipse please.” Kai said politely. “Fine!” The Boss said impolitely. After what felt like a minute they reached a cool room. “Okay this is the newest member Dr. Anson” The boss said. “Hello kids.” Dr. Anson said. “What are they doing here Boss?” Dr. Anson said quickly after. “They are here to catch the criminal stealing all the precious diamonds!” Boss said. “Okay I will give you weapons and stuff later, right now Anson will give you some info on the burglaries. Right Anson?” Boss said. “Yeah I will!” said Dr. Anson. “Okay children here are facts about the burglary. ” Dr said. Soon a screen lit up with the info the children needed. “That’s not to bad.” Kai confirmed.

- The burglary started 4 months ago
- It was only during Sunday's at around 11:00 PM when the shops are closed
- There was no security camera that picked up anything unusual

“Okay can we get our weapons and get the mission done with Boss?” Kesha moaned. Boss said in his strict voice, “Let’s..” but couldn’t finish, figure 1 came and interrupted Boss, “Can I help the children and the dog?”

“You can, okay One!” Boss said then continued what he was talking about before, “Let’s go get the weapons and begin your mission.” They went into a room with a lot of Watches, Lipstick, Water Guns and Lip Chap?

The Case Of The Missing Diamonds  
Henri Yeung  
St.Anns Academy

“Why is there useless stuff everywhere?” Kai said confused. “This isn’t useless stuff these are weapons that look like original stuff.” Boss said. “Okay Keeha you get lip chap and lipstick, you two boys get a watch and a water gun, and One you get all of them.” “What about the dog Boss?” Keesha said while looking at Kipsey. “His power is Sonic Ruff.” Boss said with a grin. “I have a question what does this stuff do?” asked kai while looking at his watch and trying to figure out how to set the time on his watch. “Oh right, the lip chap is a mini bomb used to break through anything, the lipstick is a taser, the water gun is a poison shooter with infinite poison, the watch is a phone with a distance of how far from danger, and finally sonic ruff is a power to paralyze, puts them to sleep, and gives them nausea.” Boss said. “Okay let’s solve a crime!” Kai said with the most excitement. “First let’s go interview the people who work here, my name is max” Max said. “okay!!” Tyler cried. “Let’s go.” First they went to the boss and got some information, this what they got:

- His real name was Riley Corrigan
- He became boss 6 years ago
- He was always in his office

Then they interviewed figure one and two

- They were twins
- Their names were Karson (Figure one) and Carsen (Figure 2)

The Case of The Missing Diamonds  
Henri Yeung  
Grade 6  
St.Anns Academy

- They came here 7 months ago

Finally they interviewed the newest member Dr.Anson

- He was born in L.A
- He came here 4 months ago
- He made his own name up, which was Yinda Notpmar (YIN-DA NOT-MAR) or Anson

That was everyone there. “Okay let's go to my office to look at the information.” Max said. “OK!” So it can't be boss because he is always in his lab it can't be the twins because they always are guarding Boss safely and they also came here before the rob...”Kesha said but got cut off by Tyler. “It has to be Dr.Anson because he moved here right when the burglary started (4 months ago),he has a secret base in LA,California,USA and the villains real name is Adniy Rampton and Yinda Notpmar backwards is...”

“Adniy Rampton!” They all shouted at once. “Let's go catch him!”Kai said. They went to the place where Adniy was working, they busted him, handcuffed him then took him to the boss who was sleeping on his cozy chair. “WAKE UP, WE CAUGHT THE CRIMINAL!” Boss woke up and said, “Whoever solved the case can unmask.” Max said “It was Tyler, a smart boy, you have the honours of unmasking”

“YAY!!” Tyler said with a joyful smile. The unmasking turned out as they thought, Adniy in jail. It was time to say good bye. Everyone said bye, then the kids and the dog walked home and dozed off to sleep.