

School District of Newberry County

2018-2019

WRITING ANTHOLOGY

Falling in Love with Literacy!



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NEWBERRY COUNTY READING COUNCIL

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Newberry County District Writing Anthology

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Boundary Street Elementary

Fun at the Park

By: Jaycob Osorio-Aguilar

Mrs. Griffin – Kindergarten

I go to the park. I play with my brother on the swings. We have fun.

Mom

By: Ka'Marri Sims

Ms. Kunkle - Kindergarten

My mom likes to go to the movies. She likes to buy me toys. I love my mom

Fall

By: Paola Carranza-Espina

Mrs. Springer – Kindergarten

It is fall. I see trees. The trees are beautiful.

The Tennis Player

By: Hudson DeWitt

Mrs. Counts – Primary Montessori

Once upon a time I saw a really good tennis player. He won a medal. People clapped when they saw him. His name was Martin. He was really good.

The Playground

By: Calvin Dunbar

Ms. Sampson – Primary Montessori

I am at the playground. I got on the slide. Then I got on the swing. Then I went back home.

How to Build a Snowman

By: Laskyejah Epps Yarborough

Ms. Doolittle – First Grade

First, you roll a big ball of snow and put it on the bottom. Next, you build a medium snowball and put it in the middle. Then, you build a small snowball and put it on the top. Last, you decorate the snowman with eyes, a nose and a mouth.

Boundary Street Elementary

Dumplings Battle

By: Jose Vazquez Gonzalez

Mrs. Fogarile – First Grade

I was making a recipe. Guess what it is? Dumplings! They were so good. I want to make more dumplings. I looked at the recipe book again. Dumplings are so good. I was making more dumplings and then my sister came in and saw me making dumplings. Then I said what are you doing here Jazmin? She said I need you. Then we started a battle to see who could bring the dumplings to the water the fastest. My sister almost beat me! At last I got her in the battle.

Dad and I

By: Braedyn Bookman

Mrs. Freeman – First Grade

Dad and I went fishing and I got a big fish and dad did too. My dad and I went to the cooler and I got a soda and my dad got a water. When we got done we went back to fish. I caught a big fish. I felt mad because I do not like to eat big fish. My dad got another little fish. Then we went home.

The True Story of Going to the Park

By: Tyveounia Sims

Mrs. Lavezza – First Grade

Me and my mom went to the park. I went on the slide and I got on the swing. After the park me and my mom went to McDonald's. We ordered a plain burger and fries and two sweet teas. After McDonald's we went home. Then we went to sleep and snoozed away.

Rosa Parks

By: Azariah Domminick

Mrs. Davenport – Second Grade

She was born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913. Rosa Parks and Rosa Louise McCauley were her names. She grew up in Alabama. Rosa was an African American. The south was a difficult place for African Americans to live. The bus driver told Rosa to get up. Rosa was tired of being treated unfairly. She said, "No!"

Boundary Street Elementary

Our Snowy Day

By: Treyon Jackson

Ms. Robinson – Second Grade

One snowy winter three kids went to the park bundled up with two pairs of socks, jackets, hats, and jeans! When they got to the park they were thinking about getting on the swings but it was...

FROZEN, so they built a snowman! They didn't have stuff to decorate with so the little brother used his hat, mittens, and his buttons he saved in his coat pocket. Then the snowman was complete. The big brother said, "There's one more thing." His brothers said, "What?" He said, "a stick nose!" "There's not a lot of trees around unless you run over there." "OK," said the big brother. Then he zoomed to the tree and grabbed a stick off the tree and zoomed back to his brothers. "Got it?" "Yes, I got it!" Then the big brother stuck the stick nose where it belonged in the snowman. The middle brother said, "Finally it's done. Ready to go back home?" "Sure," the little one said.

Snowman is Lonely

By: Lawson Bannister

Mrs. Wilkerson – Second Grade

Jack and his sister Grace built a giant snowman. They gathered coal, a scarf, a carrot and some sticks for the snowman. Then Jack and Grace's mom called, "Time to come inside for some hot coco and cookies!" But the snowman wanted to play with the children. Plus, HE WAS FREEZING! He liked cookies too! Later that afternoon, the children came out to have a snowball fight because Jack took his sister's toys and hid them under his bed! That night Jack woke up when he heard a sound that sounded like his snowman was moving. Then he woke up his sister. She got right up and they both put on three snowsuits, seven stockings, and ten mittens and went outside. It was ten below zero that night so it was just too cold to stay outside. They went inside to their rooms. Then Grace came into Jack's room because she had a plan. The next day Jack and Grace asked their mom if she could take them shopping. They went to the snow store. They bought a hat, a sweater, and some more mittens. Then they went home and put them on the snowman. The snowman was very happy because he was warm! Jack and Grace gave him a cookie too! The next day they played, played and played in the snow. The children made a snowlady. Snowman was very happy! They all had a big snowball fight together!

The Basketball Game

By: Sofia Rendon

Mrs. Richter – Lower Elementary Montessori

Yesterday my brother had a basketball game at the Y.M.C.A. The name of his team is the Raptors and they wear black shirts. His team won the game. He made one shot and it was a three pointer. The final score was 44-17. We were happy that they won. That was the second game he won. I had fun cheering for my brother!

Boundary Street Elementary

My Dog

By: Jennifer McDonald

Mrs. Richter – Lower Elementary Montessori

I have a dog named Angel. She is a grey Schnauzer with brown eyes. She has a pink collar. She does not like to take showers and she doesn't like to snuggle. She loves to chase squirrels in the backyard. When we are away from the house, she loves to go to my mom's closet and sleep the whole time. She also likes it when I put blankets on her so she does not get cold. She loves to go on car rides and eat treats. I like it when she eats off my hand. She loves my room and she even tucks me into bed at night. Then she likes to sleep on my bed, blankets, pillows and rug. She is cute and is always playful and likes to lick me in the face. She is always ready to sleep, which is her favorite thing to do. I love my Angel.

Cousins

By: Calvin Triplett

Mrs. Richter – Lower Elementary Montessori

A.J. and I played with each other in Washington at my Grandma's house. We had a snowball fight. He hit me in the stomach. I hit him in the face. After that I went to go sledding with him. Then we went back to Grandma's house. We went inside and drank hot cocoa and watched movies. We watched How the Grinch Stole Christmas and The Amazing World of Gumball. I always enjoy spending time with A.J.

S'mores by the Campfire

By: NaiQuan Bush

Ms. Agapion – Third Grade

Have you ever made s'mores by a warm campfire? I remember the first time I camped out. It was a dark night and we had our big camping bags with us. Coach said "we have reached our destination!" So we set up our campsite. We built a warm fire and coach pulled out everything to make s'mores. We started roasting our marshmallows and began putting together the chocolate and crackers. I can still taste how good they were. They were better than forty-five hot wings! After we got done roasting our marshmallows we laid out our sleeping bags. We kept the fire going all night to keep us warm and cozy. Then we got in our sleeping bags and fell right asleep. We were so tired! That was the best sleep I ever got. I can't wait to go camping again!

Boundary Street Elementary

Getting a New Dog **By: Asharia Bouknight** **Mrs. Livingston – Third Grade**

Do you have a dog? I do and it is really cute. Maybe this story will make you want a dog. Enjoy! One day, I was at my Grandma's house and she said, "I have a surprise for you." When she told me that I was scared because I did not know what the surprise would be. Anyway, she said, "You can't get it until this afternoon." Next, we went to the waterpark and I got into the pool where it was 10 feet to 11 feet deep. I did not even drown. After an hour or two... it was time. It was time to see what the surprise was. Suddenly, my heart started going faster and faster and sweat started dripping from my head. Then when she opened the door... I saw a poodle. It was so cute and so fluffy. I told my Grandma "Thanks." She said, "You are welcome." I was so happy to be the proud owner of a new dog.

Something is Missing **By: ZaLan Elkins** **Ms. Nobles – Third Grade**

Have you ever lost something important? My mom has, let me tell you what happened. One day my family and I took my mom out to eat for her birthday. We were taking her to Fatz. While in the car, she asked "Where are we going and why do I have to wear this blindfold?" I answered "It's a surprise, but here is a hint. It starts with an F and ends with a S." When we arrived she took off the blindfold and said "We're at Fatz? Oh, my goodness, thank you!"

We walked into the restaurant, sat down, and ordered. Before eating, my mom took off her favorite black cardigan. When we finished eating, we said thank you and got in the car to drive home.

After arriving home, my mom said "Oh no! My sweater!" She had left it at Fatz. So, what did we do? We all raced back to Fatz to pick up my mom's sweater. She was relieved it was still there. Finally, we arrived back home and enjoyed hanging out together.

Chickens **By: William Pena Lopez** **Ms. Sas – Third Grade**

Do you know about chickens? Well if you don't you're in luck because today I'm going to tell you three facts about chickens.

First, you need to know the parts of their body. Chickens have claws and beaks, not mouths. Chickens also have wings but they can't fly. They also have two legs.

Second, you should know what they do. Chickens sometimes hang on branches with their claws and they lay eggs. When baby chickens hatch the mom teaches them how to hunt for food and keeps the babies warm.

Finally, you will learn what chickens eat. Chickens eat corn and love to eat insects. Chickens also like to eat chicken food and sometimes eat spiders.

Now you know three facts about chickens so you can tell your parents or friends all about them.

Boundary Street Elementary

Class Pet

By: Jenny Sales Sales

Mrs. Bramlett – Fourth Grade

Here are three reason why we should never own a classroom pet. These three reasons tell us why we shouldn't have a classroom pet in our classroom. No classroom or any other school should ever own a classroom pet too.

First, some of the students will get scared or nervous to touch, hold, and maybe they will drop it. It could get hurt and maybe die or we didn't feed it enough food. That's the first reason why we should never have a classroom pet.

The second reason why we should not own a classroom pet is it can be distracting to us when we are working, reading and even when we have a test. It can make loud noises and it will distract all of us. That is the second reason we shouldn't have a classroom pet.

The third reason that we shouldn't have a classroom pet is that maybe if it went to the restroom when we are doing our work, then the room will smell. Next everybody would make comments and they wouldn't be focused on their work or reading. And then they would talk about it. That's the third reason why we shouldn't have a classroom pet.

As you can see, these three reasons tell us why we shouldn't own a classroom pet. We can get scared or nervous, get distracted, and the classroom pet will smell. All of that will cause everybody to make too many comments and not focus on their work, reading or test.

Students Should Have More Time to Play at Recess

By: Maria Maldonado

Ms. Gilbert – Fourth Grade

Without a doubt, students should have more time to play at recess. Kids need more time to play so they can meet new friends and play longer.

First, we should have more time for recess because then we could have more time to play with our friends. For example, you could play tag, kickball, or something else you all like to play. Kids need more time to play with each other.

Second, we should have more time for recess because then we could make other friends. For example, we could make new friends with people we have never met or played with before. It is a good thing to make new friends.

Finally, we should have more time for recess because you can have more time to play things we like to play. For example, if you were playing tag, you would have more time to play tag or whatever you were playing with your friends.

Clearly, there are many reasons why students should have more time to play at recess.

Boundary Street Elementary

Lost at the Beach

By: Jacob Bouknight

Mrs. Parker – Upper Elementary Montessori

On a sunny Wednesday, we went on an outing to the beach. When we got there, Ava and I immediately ran to the sand and started making sandcastles and digging holes. After a little while, we ate a picnic lunch down by the pier. However, when we got back, our stuff was gone. It was missing!

I didn't know what to do. Ava was crying so I knew that I had to do something and fast! Then I told Ava that if she helped me, we might could find it. I had a dreadful feeling and knew that it might be in the sea. So Ava and I went looking for our stuff in the water. Ava looked in the shallow while I looked in the deep. We actually spotted our shovel and bucket and were able to grab them. Then Ava and I went around asking if anyone has seen our stuff.

One lady said she did see some pairs of goggles down by the picnic area. Ava and I went to the picnic area and looked. We looked everywhere and Ava finally found them.....under a man's bottom. Before asking him to get up, we laughed for a full 5 minutes. So once we got them, I remembered that before we lost our stuff we were headed back to the sand to dig. We were thinking about digging a hole deeper than anyone has ever dug before. Next stop, China! Ava and I had a great time at beach!

A Time I was Scared

By: Azia Neal

Mrs. Anderson – Fifth Grade

The summer before my fourth grade year my mom and I went on a tour of the haunted jail in Charleston. It was the most terrifying experience ever. We found our tour guide and were entering the building. I could feel something wasn't right. A few minutes after we were in the jail we started to hear strange noises that echoed throughout the entire structure. Everyone in the group got very quiet. We all sort of paused for a minute and then we continued our tour. After a little more walking we reached the maximum security unit. To me this was the best part because the story we heard was that hundreds of people died in this unit and I was anxious to hear about this section of the jail. This unit seemed like a place that would scar you for life if you were ever put in there. We were almost done touring this part of the unit when out of NO WHERE there was a huge C R A S H that came from the direction of the hallway. We all scattered like baby roaches! The tour guide got us back together and checked to see if we were all alright. We were fine, but there was a red haired woman that was part of the tour group who couldn't take the craziness. When the crash came from the hallway she fainted out of pure fear. I can remember looking at her terrified. I was so afraid that she wasn't going to be alright. The tour guide checked her pulse to make sure that she had one and then proceeded to call the paramedics. We were all evacuated out of that room shortly after. We stood in the hallway for about twenty more minutes until we could continue our tour. After visiting a few more rooms our tour was finally over. After this adventure, I had nightmares for two weeks. I told myself I would never go in a haunted house or jail again!

Boundary Street Elementary

The Werewolf That Everyone Knew

By: Gavin Morris

Mrs. Parker – Upper Elementary Montessori

Hey! My name is Jake Howard and I need to tell you about one night that changed my life forever, the night that I figured out who I really was. It all started when my dad decided to move to the swamp. I hated the idea of having to leave all my friends. The thing was, it wasn't just an "idea." He actually followed through and did it! So that's how I ended up here at Hot Water Swamp living with my little sister, Kim. I'm 11 and she's only 9, but unlike most little sisters, she's actually cool as in not very aggravating.

So, on to the story...It all started soon after we moved to the swamp. My dad decided his new profession would be raising chickens in our own backyard. It was my job to feed them, but I put it off until it was 8:30 pm to actually complete my chore, but when I got out near their pen, one of them was dead! I was shocked. I quickly fed the other chickens and got the remaining ones back into their coop as quickly as possible.

In the morning, I woke up to my little sister shaking me. "Wake up! It's 9:00," she exclaimed.

"It is?" I asked with a look of worry.

"Come on, Jake. I don't want to feed those ridiculous chickens."

"I'll take care of it, Kim," I said as I lazily rose from the bed.

I walked out to feed our chickens. I stopped in my tracks when I saw that two were mauled and laying in the dirt! I rushed back to the house to tell Dad what I'd seen and how concerned I was. He came out to inspect and decided that it looked like it must have been a wolf that had attacked them.

"There are wolves around here?" I asked.

"Of course," he said casually as we walked back to the house. He didn't seem worried but I sure was.

The next night was the one when it happened. I went out to feed the chickens at my usual time. I heard something howling and without even thinking, I howled back. I froze in my tracks. I swallowed hard as I looked up at the full moon. That's when I realized it. I had done it. It was me. I was actually a werewolf.

An Afternoon with my Friend

By: Amber Coats

Mr. McMillan – Fourth/Fifth Grade

I would spend the afternoon with Lilly. She is my bff. I play with her. She is funny. She likes me. She plays with me. She comes to my home. We ride our bikes. We play with my dog. We play with my toys. We go walking. We play at my home. We do math to together at my home. We go play with my mom, and we go play at my pond. We go to get our nails done, and play with Legos. We eat Chees-its. We go get shoes. We get duck boots. We go swimming, and we can go to her dad's house. We go to the zoo, too. This is why I would spend the afternoon with Lilly.

Boundary Street Elementary

Halloween Night

By: Brayden Hutchinson
Mrs. Anderson – Fifth Grade

It was a dark and eerie Halloween Night when I arrived at a big black house. I walked up to the driveway, and nothing looked scary at first except a huge spider! All of a sudden a man jumped up at me. That's not the scary part though. The scary part is that I thought he was a mannequin because he had sat there so very still for so long. After I pooped my pants in fright, I ran back to my mom and she was able to calm me down so that I was able to walk back and get my trick-or-treat candy. I ran back to her as fast as I could. The next year we drove by the exact same house and I recognized it immediately. It was as scary as I remembered and this year they had added a haunted house. I went through it expecting to pee my pants. There were mannequins on the sides, but what scared me the most was a man in an ape costume that fell down from the ceiling. I thought it couldn't get any scarier (but, boy, was I wrong!) It got a lot creepier as I walked on through. At the very end a woman covered in blood swung an axe covered in green goop at me. Luckily, it didn't hit me and it was just green foam. It scared me so badly that I never go trick-or-treating in that neighborhood and neither should you!

Corn Maze Fun

By: TeAsia Saddler
Mrs. Anderson – Fifth Grade

In the fall of 2017 my brother Jay, his girlfriend Jennie, her brother Mickey, and I all went to this deserted corn maze at eight o'clock sharp. It was around 7:30 when Jennie and Jay blew the horn signaling us to come on! I grabbed my jacket and ran out the door. Since the corn maze was like nine minutes away from where we lived it didn't take us long to get to our destination. Before we even reached the corn maze I fell asleep. When I woke up, we were already there. Mickey woke me up because Jennie and Jay were already millions of miles inside the wide corn maze when the police pulled up. They demanded to know why we were there and why our parents were nowhere to be seen. A wave of fear washed over me as we explained what we were doing. The police officers shrugged and then Jennie and Jay came running out of the corn maze only to be struck with fear at the sight of the police officers. We were all given a ticket for trespassing and we were sent on our way. Before we got in the car I overheard the police officers calling for backup to make sure we wouldn't come back. I got in the car and Mickey fired it up with no hesitation. He then dropped Jay and me off at our house. I could hear Mickey yelling at Jennie for leaving us all alone. Mom met us at the door with a phone in her hand. She pulled both of us inside, sat us on the couch, and forced us to tell her everything. She even called Mickey and Jennie's mom to discuss the situation. After she got off of the phone she gave us both the meanest look! She sent us straight to bed and said she would decide on our exact punishment in the morning. I spent a loooong night wondering what in the world our punishment could be.....

Gallman Elementary School

My Snowman
By London Baxter
Mrs. Lown - Kindergarten

My snowman can talk. She can play with me. We can ride in my jeep.

Martin Luther King Jr.
By: Serenity Martin
Mrs. Stroud - Kindergarten

His birthday is in January. He wanted for us to be equal. He wanted peace and he wanted love. He wanted there to be no fighting. He wanted us to sit wherever we wanted to on the bus. He wanted us to be nice to one another. He helped give us freedom.

My Snowman
By: Aubrey Henderson
Mrs. Sweetenburg - Kindergarten

I can see my snowman. My snowman's name is Frosty. She loves to play with me. We love to play snow fight. We have fun.

Christmas Eve
By: Reagan Chisholm
Mrs. Garner – First Grade

On Christmas Eve we went to the movies. We saw the Grinch. We had popcorn and soda for my drink. It had Donald Duck on it. My candy was Hershey's. Everyone else had popcorn. At the end he was nice. Then, I went to my grandma's house. I listened to the Grinch.

Sea Turtles
By: Gabriel Maple
Mrs. Yarborough – First Grade

Sea turtles lay eggs at night when everyone is asleep. They cover them with sand. When the eggs hatch they follow the moon. But if they see too much light they don't know their way. When they follow the wrong light they will die. Some baby sea turtles don't survive. They get eaten by sharks and big fish. That is what I know about sea turtles.

Gallman Elementary School

Snoopy Land

By: Korbyn Singley

Mrs. Moore – First Grade

I went to Snoopy Land in Virginia. I rode in a car with my cousins. While I was in the car, I watched Captain Underpants and fell asleep. It took a long time to get there. When I got to Virginia, I went into Snoopy Land. I rode in the bumper cars that went around and around. My Grandma and I got on a train that went in circles. My grandma got scared. Then we got in cars that we had to steer on a track. We rode on the Snoopy Land Ferris wheel. Last we went in a haunted house and saw two skeleton people and they were so scary. Then we went home. It was an amazing day!

Percy Saves the Day

By: Jeremiah Johnson

Mrs. Shealy – Second Grade

Percy saves the day by pulling Thomas out from the mud. Thomas got stuck in the black mud. I liked the DVD because Percy was a good friend to Thomas.

Christmas Eve

By: Mariella Hipolito

Pam Davis – Second Grade

On Christmas Eve it was fun. My sister and I stayed up to see Santa. We were at home. I went into the living room. I saw Santa and I heard jingles from the roof. I saw presents. I peeked in one present. I got a LOL and LOL lip stick. My sister got JoJo stuff. Then I saw a red and white suit and I knew now it was Santa. I woke up my mom and dad. My mom and dad said “Go back to sleep.” I went to my room but I will always remember this Christmas.

Dogs

By: Paola Reyes-Leyva

Ms. Rutherford – Second Grade

What is a dog? Do they talk? No! But they bark a lot. Dogs are mammals just like people. Some dogs have fur but not all dogs do. Dogs have four legs, two eyes, a tail, and a nose. Some people have dogs for pets. They need love. If you don't give them love, they may be sad. Dogs also have teeth that are very sharp. It hurts when they bite! Dogs live better outside because they have space to run. Dogs can be different sizes – big or small. Would you like a dog for a pet? Woof, woof!

Gallman Elementary School

The Magic Hat

By: Karina Davila

Mrs. Banks - Lower Elementary Montessori

One day I found a magic hat. It had a star on it, a purple top, and a blue bottom that you can hold on to. It was just lying beside the road. Before I went to get it, I watched out for cars. When I got it, I wished for something. The thing I wished for was a rainbow bed and it was granted! It looked so pretty. After that I asked for another wish. This wish was for a unicorn! Poof! There was a real, live unicorn right in front of me! I love that magic hat!

Fairy Hills

By: Kylie Valdes

Ms. McCutchen – Third Grade

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Ash. She was going to have lunch. For her lunch, she was going to have a picnic with her family. On the way to meet her family she got lost in the forest. She was in the center of the forest. She remembered something from a long time ago that her grandmother had said to her. She said, "My favorite place to go is to Fairy Hills." Ash headed to Fairy Hills. There was mom, dad, sister and grandma. There was one problem. Her 15-year-old brother was gone. She asked her mom, "Where is Justin?" Her mom said, "He went to look for you."

Ash said, "He should have waited for me because I'm smart. I wasn't going to get lost." Mom said, "Well he is 15. He'll be able to find his way back to the picnic."

Ash said, "Well he better get back soon or we'll be gone on our walk around Fairy Hills."

Grandma said, "He'll be fine. He will find us."

Ash's little sister Maggie was getting worried about her big brother Justin. Ash was too. They were getting worried, until they heard something. It was a bark. It was Justin and their dog Ginger. Ginger was a little dog that was ginger colored. That is why they named her Ginger. Justin had gone home to get Ginger. She helped him find our family and the picnic at Fairy Hills.

After returning from Fairy Hills the family went home. It was already night, but it was a very pretty night. One thing was gone though - Ginger! Everyone screamed. We looked outside. It looked like Justin and Ginger, but Ginger came from under the bed. Everyone froze. It was silent. You could hear a leaf drop! Then "BAM"! The shadow of Justin and Ginger were gone. They kept reappearing closer and closer until they got to the doorway.

Ashley then realized she was at school. The weird thing is there were no teachers-only students sitting and not moving not all. Ash went back home. Everyone was wondering why Ash was home so early. She said no one was at school, only students. Suddenly, Ash realized why everything was so strange-she had been dreaming and it was Halloween!

Gallman Elementary School

Our Day at the Zoo **By Zaelynn Cannon** **Mrs. Ammons – Third Grade**

Going to the zoo was a day I will always remember. I didn't know how much fun we were going to have! When I first walked in, I felt that this day was going to get much better.

It was last summer when we went to the Riverbanks Zoo. My mom, my cousin Ashley, and I went together. First, we went to a stand where a woman was holding a cockroach. I looked at it and my mom said for me to touch it. As first, I was scared and was like, "No way!", but I decided it wouldn't hurt to touch a bug full of germs, so I just touched it and then I washed my hands.

Next, I decided I wanted to see some more things, so we went to the reptile house and fish room. There were huge snakes and huge fish! It was really hot in parts of the reptile house, because sometimes snakes live in hot areas and it gets really steamy. We walked around some more, then it was time to go home.

We played music in the car that I didn't really like. My cousin and I talked a little about if she was exited or not. She said, "I guess. I don't know." We were on the road for about 20 or 30 minutes before we were finally home and I was so glad.

I had a lot of fun on our trip, but my favorite part was when I touched that bug! I loved it because that bug had a bumpy shell and it was so cool. I love the zoo and I can't wait to go back again someday.

Where is Rover? **By: America Torres** **Mrs. O'Dell – Third Grade**

On April 9, 2017 I woke up to feed my puppy, Rover, at 8 o'clock in the morning when I saw he was not in his dog bed. I went to my mom's room and told her the puppy was not in his bed. She said "I'm coming". Then my brother, my mom, and sister went outside to look for him.

Then I remembered the hole under the house. I hear a bark under the house. I put my ear on the house and I hear some more barking. I saw a loose brick. My brother kicked it and it broke. I looked in and I saw him. He was stuck under the house. We tried to get in, but we couldn't fit.

So we called my dad and told him. We tried some more things to get him out. Later on my dad came. He went to his car trunk and got a rope. He kept on trying to get the rope around the puppy's neck and finally got him out. We went inside and gave him water in his bowl and food. He was so hot! We also gave him a bath. He was wagging his tail so much. I couldn't even wash him.

I hope that never happens again. We all thanked our dad for getting him out. I will remind my dad to fix the hole under the house. The next day we all woke up. We went outside and we fixed the hole under the house.

Gallman Elementary School

Terrible News

By: Katileena Griggs

Ms. Ringer – Fourth Grade

“This is terrible,” Isabella says while looking at the test paper. “My mom said if I don’t get over an eighty I won’t be able to direct the new play here at school this year.” Isabella repeats and repeats on her whole way back home on the bus what her mom said. Isabella’s best friend Emma said, “Are you ok, Isabella?”

“NO!” yells Isabella.

“You don’t have to yell,” Emma says while trying to calm down Isabella.

“Ok, I’ll calm down,” says Isabella in calmer voice.

“Now, what’s wrong Isabella?” asks Emma. “I’m nervous” says Isabella. “You’re nervous about what?” Emma asks in a curious voice. “I’m nervous about telling my mom about my test grade.”

“What do you mean? You probably have one of the best test grades in the whole class room. Let me see it.”

“Ok,” Isabella says.

“Oh my, that’s an eighty-five!” says Emma. “Wait! What? How? It was a sixty at first. I may have looked at the wrong one!” Isabella says really happy.

“Never mind this was dated back in 2017,” Emma says. “Oh, I didn’t know. Here’s the other one,” Isabella said with a grin on her face. “Oh my! You really got a sixty. That’s one of the worst grades in the class. I know I’m your best friend, but just, wow,” Emma says, speechless.

“Well I’m just really, really nervous about it because I might not be able to direct the play. So I don’t know what to say,” Isabella said with tears in her eyes. “Don’t cry, Isabella. Just make it sound like it’s coming from your heart when you talk with your mom,” Emma said while trying to cheer Isabella up.

“Goodbye, Emma,” Isabella said while getting off the bus.

“Mom?” Isabella said while going in the house. “Yes, Honey?” Mom said back. “We have to talk” Isabella said. “About what?” “Look at my test paper,” Isabella said while giving her mom her test paper. “Isabella, why did you not get a good grade?” Mom asked in a disappointed voice.

“Because I didn’t study,” Isabella said.

“So about the thing we have to talk about.”

“Yes?” mom said.

“Can you wait until next week before you can say I can’t direct the play?”

“Sure, Honey,” Mom said while Isabella dropped her jaw thinking, “What just happened?!” Isabella pulled her jaw back up saying, “Thank you,” still thinking, “Wow!” as she goes up stairs.

When Isabella goes back upstairs, BOOM! POW! Her little brother Neless crashed into her.

“Neless! You’ve got to stop running in the house or you’ll get hurt again!” Isabella said while heading to her room. “Let me go and call Emma to see if she would like to come and eat dinner with us,” Isabella whispered underneath her breath.

RING! RING! Before Isabella could even put back down the phone, Emma answers. “Hey!” Isabella said to Emma. “Hey!” Emma said back to Isabella. After ten minutes of talking, Emma said yes to dinner.

Two hours later, DING DONG goes the doorbell. “Coming!” Isabella said while going down the stairs. “Who is it?” Isabella said while obviously knowing who it is. “Emma!” yells Neless.

Gallman Elementary School

“Come in!” said Isabella. “Hey. What’s your mom cooking for dinner?” Emma asked with a sad face. “Spaghetti and meat balls and plus, what’s the matter with you?” Isabella asks, concerned about her. “I’ll tell you after we eat,” Emma says, still with that sad look on her face. “Ok,” Isabella says still thinking, “What’s the matter with her?”

“Kids,” Mom said as we walked to the kitchen table. “Dinner is served,” Mom says with her funny voice.

Thirty minutes later when Emma and Isabella were done eating, Isabella asks Emma, “So, what’s wrong?”

“Ok. Whatever I’m about to tell you, you must promise you will always remember me,” Emma says.

“Ok,” Isabella says a little freaked out.

“I’m moving schools,” Emma says when everything begins to go silent. Isabella starts to cry with tears.

“What’s wrong Isabella?” Mom asks.

“I just told Isabella that I’m moving,” Emma says.

“If you’re moving, I’m not going to not direct the play this year because I’m going to be too sad to do it” Isabella says wiping tears off of her face.

“I’m sure you’ll make some more friends,” Mom says.

“But I won’t make another friend like her! She’s my best friend!”

Ten minutes later, “Bye, Emma,” Isabella says without any more tears.

“Bye,” Emma says back.

Strange Games

By: Lisandro Ponce Espinoza

Ms. Ringer – Fourth Grade

It was a hot day. I called my friends to see if they wanted to play some games on my Xbox1. They said yes, then they got here! We started to play some games until we got bored. Then my friend had an old game, more like a board game. It looked cool and scary at the same time. The friend who had it was Josh. Me and my other friend are not like Josh. I didn’t know much about him because we’d only known each other for a year. But now, we are friends. Josh asked if I was ready. I said, “Yes.” Josh was the one who got the game and he got to pick the location.

He picked the grave yard. Alan was scared. I said to him, “Why are you scared?” He said that one of his brothers had disappeared in the grave yard. They said that he haunts it now. Alan was scared. Then I said to Josh, “When are we going?” He said, “We are going at 3:00am.” “NO!” said Alan. Sometime after that, we went to bed and never talked about it again.

Gallman Elementary School

Robot Invasion
By: Ryan Davis
Ms. Ringer – Fourth Grade

“Woo!” I shouted as I did a 360 spin with my toy robot.

“Wait, what? It died! How?!” I cried. “Hey, the news is on.”

“This just in, robots are taking over!” The news reporter yelled.

“I saw a crow this morning, I knew it was a bad sign!”

He yelled, “Lock your doors! Grab a weapon! Don’t die!” (T.V. turns off)

“Hey! Wait, I didn’t do that...” I said as I looked into a pair of glowing red eyes.

“Hey! It’s me... AHHHHHHH!!!” I yelled as another robot yanked me up and slung me across the room. I landed on the floor, aching in pain. “Ow...” I said as I got up and made a mad dash to my room and locked the door as well as boarded it up.

“Whew. That was a close call. Wait, what’s that smell? (Gasp!) Oh no!” Then I quickly ran to my window and saw fire, smoke, and... ROBOTS! “Wait.” I thought. “Am I the last one left?”

Suddenly, not one, not two, but three people climbed into my window and said, “Don’t worry, we’re friends.” CRACK! I heard the floor giving way beneath my feet and as I fell, I knew one thing: This was the end. But still I managed to choke out one final word. “NOOOO!!!”

I braced myself for the splitting pain, but I didn’t feel it. Instead I felt a hand holding on to me. “Huh?” I wondered. “Like we said, we’re friendly.” That’s all I remember before help arrived and rescued us.

“Huh? W-where am I? I said. “We put you here to tell us what happened.” Said ????. “Where are the others?” I asked. “What others? You were alone!” Said ????. “No! You are lying! AGGGGHHHH!!!” I screamed as a jolt of pain spread through my whole body. I looked around but all I saw was inky darkness and a bright light from a window. “Listen, try to remember.”

BOOM!! I saw the wall collapse.

“AHHHHH!! Robots!! EVACUATE!!!” Just then, I passed out. “Huh? Where am I?” I said. “Hey! There he is!” Men shouted. Before I knew it, I was running. “Whoa!” I yelled as I tripped, and the Earth swallowed me whole.

“Uh! Whew! Just a dream.” Even though it was a dream, I would never be the same again.

Gallman Elementary School

Helping my Mom

By: Darrius Brown

Mrs. Summer – Upper Elementary Montessori

This summer, I helped my mom clean the dog's cage and him, too. When I was bored, my mom asked me to clean the dog's cage. First, we got bugs, dirt, and other things out. Then we cleaned his pillows.

After that, we gave Greyson a bath, and he splashed me. When we were done, we let him outside. I went to watch TV. He started scratching the door. I let him in and gave him two treats. He ate one and left the other. I gave him water and went to watch TV again. After a while, he jumped on me. He just laid there.

My mom was happy I helped her. I had fun cleaning the dog and his cage. I was glad I got to help my mom.

Lending a Hand

By: Brady Chapman

Mrs. Summer – Upper Elementary Montessori

At Christmas one year, I was able to donate clothes to a family in need. It made me feel happy to be able to help.

First, my mom said there was a family who needed clothes. My mom and I went to my room upstairs, and we tried on my clothes. All of the clothes that were too small or too big for me, we gave to them. My mom took the clothes to them and they were very excited to have them.

Next, they took the clothes and tried them on. Most of the clothes fit. They were happy that most of the clothes fit. All of the clothes that did not fit, they gave back to us.

Last, I was very happy to be able to help this family. They were thankful and very excited to have clothes. I was so glad that 95% of the clothes fit them.

I was very glad to be able to help this family in need. I look forward to doing it again for another family one day.

Gallman Elementary School

Three Little Chickens **By: Karolina Anais Cornejo** **Ms. Senn – Fifth Grade**

Once there were three little chickens, and they moved to Antarctica. It was a very cold and frigid place for three little chickens like them, but they liked adventure. When they arrived in Antarctica, they got to work. The first chicken built his house out of snow so he does not have to spend any of his money. He wanted to use all of his money at the sauna. The two other chickens said he was going to regret it, but he did not care.

The second chicken built his house out of wood; the cheapest thing that you could build your house with. He planned to use the rest of his money at the sauna. The third chicken did not think that was a good idea. The second chicken said “If you’re going to judge my house then at least build your own house!

Then the third chicken went to the store to get supplies to build his house. He built his house with bricks. Bricks were very expensive, but he did not care. He wanted to stay warm this winter. The two other chickens said, “If you used all your money, then how will you go to the sauna?” He replied, “I will not go to the sauna. I will stay warm at my house!” After he said that, the other two chickens left to go to their houses.

Later that week, the first two chickens went to the sauna, but when they arrived, they discovered they had run out of money! Therefore, they hurried home as fast as their little legs could run to find their homes destroyed by great winds. They thought about building another house. Then they realized they had run out of money because they spent it all at the sauna. So they ran even faster to their brother’s house.

When they got to their brother’s house, he let them in immediately. They told him the whole story over hot coco. The next couple of months they lived with their brother and saved money. After a few months, they ended up saving enough to build their own cozy house. They were as happy as three little chickens could be in Antarctica.

Gallman Elementary School

Good Morning!

By: Ramona Rose Olvera

Ms. Senn – Fifth Grade

GOOD MORNING!

“Honey, wake up. It’s the first day of 5th grade, you don’t want to be late,” my mom said with excitement. I replied, “I’m up mom, you know I’m always up before my siblings.” That so was true because one time I woke up when they woke up, and it was total chaos.

“Wait, what?” “I always thought you woke when your sisters woke up,” said Markayla with confusion. “Yeah I thought that too,” Sha’Hura said as she butted into our conversation.

“No, no, no, I used to do that. Now I do not. Got it?” “Got it!” they both said.

“Okay back to the story. Oh right.” Mom said as she remembered.

Then... “line up everybody!” screamed Mrs. Brown. “Oh looks like we have to go and you have to tell the rest tomorrow,” said Markayla. “Well bye,” I said

THEY WOKE

“Okay, do I need to refresh your memory or not?” I asked. “No,” they both said. “Okay where was I?” Markayla replied. “Oh you were at ...” “No Markayla, I was talking to myself.” “Oh sorry,” she said.

“Okay back to the story.” Then my sisters woke up. You should have heard how loud it was. They were as loud as a heard of rhinos. “Wow!” said Markayla. “Yeah wow!” said Sha’Hura.

Okay back to the story. After all that was finished, everyone was fed, dressed, hair done, and teeth brushed. We were ready to go to school.

NEW TEACHERS

Next thing I did was I yelled to my mom, “It’s time to go to school!” She yelled back, “Okay, I’ll get the car started!” After my mom got everybody into the car, we drove to school. On the way to school I saw the sun rising, and it was as pretty as a tiger in the sun. Then I saw it.

“You saw what?” Sha’Hura and Markayla asked. “I saw the school,” I said.

After my mom said good bye to all of us, we walked in the school. I tried to find my homeroom teacher, and then I saw her. She had blonde hair like a lemon, and she looked new to the school. I had never seen her at the school before. She said, “Well good morning. My name is Mrs. Steurrys. What is your name?” “Ramona,” I said. “Okay, well let me show you your seat,” Mrs. Steurrys replied. Thump, thump, thump. Okay here it is. “Thanks, I’ll unpack.” I said. She walked back out into the hall to greet the other students.

HOME ROOM

After everybody was in the room, Mrs. Steurrys introduced herself to the class. After that, she went over the rules and expectations. Then I saw that there were three new students named Georgia, Seven, and Zakyia. After she was done with the rules and expectations, we still had a little time left, so we played a game where one person has to say the first letter of their name. Then the other students had to guess their name. I was the first one to go. “R.” I said. A classmate named Shi Diamond guessed my name. “Good job, Shi Diamond,” said Mrs. Steurrys.

Gallman Elementary School

After everybody did their name, which was easy to guess, we packed up and went to second block, which was math.

SECOND BLOCK

Mrs. Brown was my second block teacher. She was strict but nice. She said, "Unpack and sit down where your name is." After we all unpacked, she went over the expectations (there were a lot) and rules. One was that, if you do not help yourself, how am I going to help you. Another one was, I'm going to give you "cheat sheets" in the next few weeks, and you better not lose them because these "cheat sheets" will help you all the way through college. Then I looked at the clock. Yes, only one minute till recess. Next, she said, Red table get your book bags ... yellow ...purple ...green...blue."

RECESS

"Hey Ramona. Hey Amara. Hey Kimora. Hey, did you see the basketball court?" I asked. "Yeah we saw it," said Amara. "Well what to do you want to do?" Kimora asked. "Maybe we could go say hi to everyone and see how much they have changed," said Amara. "Yeah maybe we could see how much your boyfriend changed. Who knows, maybe he actually likes you," said Kimora. "Quit it, it was just a suggestion," Amara said. "Why don't we play basketball okay? Line up!" screamed Mrs. Brown. "Bye bye, see you later."

ENRICHMENT

The Enrichment teacher began by saying, "Hello my name is Mrs. Senn, and today we are going to be talking about behavior expectations and where you will sit in my class." Everybody said, "Okay." By the time everybody chose a seat, it was time for lunch.

LUNCH

For lunch, the choices were either yogurt meal or a chicken sandwich. I picked the yogurt meal. I sat beside my friends Markayla and Sha'Hura. I ate my fries first, then my yogurt. Next, I ate my muffin, and lastly my cheese. Then Mrs. Senn said we could whisper to our neighbors. So, I whispered to Sha'Hura because she was finished eating. "So, what do you think about the new basketball court?" I asked. She said, "I like it." Next thing I knew we were lining up to go dump our trays and leave to go to third block.

THIRD BLOCK

When we got back to class, Mrs. Senn went over our Related Arts schedule. She said with a voice like honey, "Monday is Music, Tuesday P.E, Wednesday Library/Guidance, Thursday Computer, and lastly Friday Art." Mrs. Senn continued, "Now please select a book and read at your table or desk." Finally, after thirty-five minutes of reading independently, we packed up and went to related arts class, which was Music.

"Wait, what? I don't get it," Markayla said in confusion. "You don't get what?" I asked her. Markayla replied, "That you're wearing long sleeves and shorts!" I said, "Can I just finish the story?" "Yes," she said.

Gallman Elementary School

MUSIC

“Hello class, my name is Mrs. Haney for those of you that are new to Gallman, and to the ones who don’t remember,” said the music teacher. She showed us some pictures of her cats. “If you do not already know, I love Disney.” Mrs. Haney explained. We saw at least twenty-five pictures of Disney. Then it was time to leave. We went back to the classroom, got our book bags, and went to our dismissal area. The first day of fifth grade was a success. I was a car rider, so I went the car rider room, which was Mrs. Summer’s room. When my number came up on the smart board, I left.

“Done!” “Wow, I loved your story, Ramona!” said Sha’Hura. “Yeah,” said Markayla. I replied, “Thanks guys.”

The Lost Dog

By: Melanie Espinoza Crisanto

Ms. Senn – Fifth Grade

The leaves crunched, “Crunch!” While Mia and I walked into the woods. “What are we even doing here?” Mia asked. “I told you already, we’re looking for YOUR dog!” I said back shocked. “I guess I forgot. Ha ha ha!” she giggled.

We kept walking calling Mia’s dog. “Here Buddy!” Mia yelled. “We should hurry. The sun is going down,” I told Mia. “Yea,” she said back. Later that day, we decided to go home and look tomorrow. The next morning, we got up bright and early to go look for Mia’s dog.

“Hopefully we’ll find him today,” Mia said sadly. “Yea,” I agreed. When we walked into the woods we started shouting and ended up separating. A couple minutes later we heard a bark! “That must be him!” Mia said. We ran in the direction of the bark.

All of a sudden Mia stopped and said, “Did you hear that?” she asked. “Hear what?” I asked. “I thought I heard something,” she said. We started hearing footsteps when... Mia’s dog jumped on her and started to lick her. “I am so happy to see you!” Mia said full of joy.

Little Mountain Elementary School

How to Make a Snowman
By: Avery Westphal
Mrs. Abraham - Kindergarten

1. Put a big snowball at the bottom.
2. Put on a smaller snowball.
3. Put on a head and then decorate it.

Mimi's House
By: Wyatt Koon
Ms. Chapman - Kindergarten

Hooray I am at Mimi's house. My daddy is coming to pick me up. I went home.

How to Make a Bowl of Cereal
By: Roseanna Spires
Mrs. Dickert - Kindergarten

First, get a bowl and a spoon, and milk and cereal. Next, get the cereal and put it in the bowl. Put the milk in the bowl. Last, you can eat it.

Aquarium Animals
By: Bella Sabbagha
Mrs. Cromer - First Grade

One day, I was with Mama and Daddy in Charleston. I saw an aquarium. I wanted to go see the animals. We went inside. A girl and a boy who worked there took our picture. We could see our picture at the end of the day. I was excited to see the animals. There was an area you could go through where you didn't have to walk. The floor actually moved! There was tunnel with sharks, and fish, and a turtle. There was a ton of tanks in the tunnel. It was dark! A great white! It was behind me! It didn't scare me. I also saw Megalodon jaws. I took my picture with them. I touched a jellyfish. It was gooey, really gooey! The best part was when Daddy took a picture of of me with the great white coming toward me! It was really, really creepy!

Little Mountain Elementary School

All About Parrots **By: Kenzie Kimmy** **Ms. Folk - First Grade**

Parrots live in the rainforest and the zoo. They eat fruit, nuts, flowers, insects, and seeds. Parrots are colorful birds and they have four toes on each foot. There are more than 350 kinds of parrots. Parrots live up to 80 years.

At Recess **By: Lilly Branch** **Mrs. Fulmer – First Grade**

One day we went outside to play on the playground for recess. It was sunny and kind of cold. I played with Jasmine and Jada. We played tag on the black top. Jasmine was it and Jada got tagged first. I got tagged last because I ran the opposite way.

Then we played hide-and-seek. I counted first while Jasmine and Jada hid. Jasmine hid in the slide and I found her first and then Jada. Jada was hiding in the tube. We played again and Jada counted while me and Jasmine hid. I hid behind the bushes and Jasmine hid behind the slide. Jada found me first.

I had fun, but it started to rain. So, we had to go inside and play GoNoodle. The coaches picked the GoNoodle, it was NTV. We danced and then we picked another song. We all had fun.

Dolphins **By: Lei Derrick** **Ms. Dominick - Second Grade**

Guess Who

I have a nose like a bottle. I live in the sea. I live up to 20 to 40 years old. I am a carnivore and I am smooth like a baby (ba-by). I live in the ocean too. I'm a dolphin.

Habitat/Home

Dolphins live in the ocean and rivers too. They don't live in lakes. Dolphins live in groups and together. Dolphins live in shallow waters.

Food/Prey

Dolphins use echolocation to find food. Dolphins eat these fish called krill. Dolphins have little teeth to chew foods that they eat.

Interesting Facts

Bottle nose dolphins grow up to be 8 feet and (2.4m) long. Bottle nose dolphins can hold their breath up to 7 minutes. Dolphins can't go to sleep fully because they need to breathe.

Little Mountain Elementary School

Sharks

By: Ryan Martin

Mrs. Fisher - Second Grade

Guess Who?

I have over 5,000 teeth. I have no home. There can be more than 400 different types of me. I can be big or small. Who am I? A shark.

Habitat/Home

Sharks have no home so they are always on the move to find food. One type of shark has a home. This shark's name is the Blacktip Reef Shark. Its home is the Coral Reef.

Food/Prey

A Tiger Shark can catch almost any animal in the sea. They also eat almost anything! Sharks eat fish, turtles and sometimes people.

Interesting Facts

Did you know that sharks don't have bones and the biggest sharks don't hurt people! A shark's skeleton is made out of a tough material called cartilage.

All About Tigers

By: Ella Harris

Ms. Suber - Second Grade

Guess Who

What has stripes? What has an orange tint to it? What is a carnivore but is not a lion? What lives in the forest? What has sharp teeth? It's a tiger, that's who.

Habitat

Tigers live in the forest. They spend a lot of time in water. They live in hot places like Indonesia. They also live in cold places like Russia. Tigers that live in cold places are bigger than other tigers. They also have thicker fur to keep them warm.

Food/Prey

Tigers are carnivores. They are always on the lookout for prey such as deer, buffalo, or wild pig. That could be their meal.

Interesting Facts

Tigers are heavier than most grown up humans. Tigers' canine teeth are longer than your fingers. Tigers' roar can be heard two miles away and (3km) away.

Little Mountain Elementary School

All About Pandas

By: Ashby Frier

Mrs. Wicker – Second Grade

Guess Who

I am big. I am black and white. I love bamboo. I am a Panda.

Habitat/Home

Pandas live in China. Pandas have lived in the mountains of China for millions of years. Pandas used to live in more places, but today there are less.

Food/Prey

Pandas eat bamboo. Bamboo is a grass that looks like wood. It grows in China but only in some places. They eat bamboo all day long. They fall asleep when they are tired.

Interesting Facts

Pandas live in China. They LOVE bamboo. They eat bamboo for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Fort Reading

By: Ella Herr

Mrs. Allison - Third Grade

It was a sunny afternoon, but in my mind it was a thunderstorm. Because today was one of those days that happen once almost every week. Can you guess what it was? It was room time, and believe me I hated room cleaning! H-A-T-E-D, absolutely hated it!! Then the pitiful, horrible, deadly words came out of my mommy's mouth, "Ella go clean your room!" "Do I have to?" I asked. "Yes!" she said. "Fine!" I shouted. I know kids don't say this a lot and probably shouldn't but I was depressed and that was the plain truth on this pitiful, unfortunate day!

Eventually I calmed down. I tried to make cleaning this despicable mess up fun, but at the time that seemed impossible. But as I cleaned, a light bulb clicked on in my brain almost like I could hear it! Click, click, can you guess what it was? It was to build a reading fort. The way I thought of that was my reading teacher, Mrs. Livingston said, "Build a reading nook just right for you."

So off I went to ask my mommy if we could build one. "Mommy?" I said. "Can I build a reading nook?" "Yes!" she said. I even have some pretty curtains to go with them! So off we went. Then my mommy handed me two sheets and told me to hold them so I did. Eventually my reading nook was complete. I like how the white lacy curtains go good with my room. At last I was happy on this bad day! I also felt good inside that I was building a reading life.

Little Mountain Elementary School

The Scooter

By: Cullen Wicker

Mrs. Hayes - Third Grade

One beautiful morning I woke up and scaled down the ladder of my bunk bed. It started out as a casual morning. I played with my puppy, played some FortNite, and had some delicious waffles for breakfast. I must have had like five of them. After that, I just sort of got bored. Nothing extraordinary was happening, so then I thought, "Wait...What am I doing? I got an electric scooter for pete's sake!"

I started riding my scooter on my driveway and when I got about halfway down my concrete driveway, "Skirrrddd!" I fell off my scooter.

The next thing I knew, I was on the ground gushing in pain! I walked up my driveway in pain. When I got inside, my mom rushed in a hurry to me and put some soothing lotion on my road rash. Then she carried me back to my room. About an hour later, my aching pain finally went away.

Still, to this day, I haven't been on my scooter and it will stay like that forever.

Moving

By: Alex Marion

Mrs. Livingston - Third Grade

Have you ever had to move to a new house in a different area? "Waaaaaaaah!!!! I don't want to leave!" My brother Harry cried. He was mostly mad because he didn't want to leave Hazel Nut Jr. because he would miss her. She is a small dog with hazel nut colored fur and brown eyes. "RooRooRooRoo!" That was Rascal whining. Wait there's a moving van. Rascal is a tall dog with yellow fur and blue eyes.

The moving van was as big as an elephant. The dogs went wild, the horses ran to the barn, the pigs scampered in circles like a dog chasing its tail and the donkey kicked the gold fence. Mr. Green, one of our neighbors came to see what was happening. Tripp came with his pistol. Tripp was a policeman once and he has twenty guns. We told the neighbors that we were moving. So we put our bags in the car and the car sounded like a lion's roar. Then Rascal snuck into the car!

It was two hours until we got to Columbia. We had lunch and Marley, my best friend was there. Both of us were moving to Little Mountain. Then Winston came to Vitos. They said they were moving to Prosperity. Then Rascal jumped on Marley and licked her face. Her muddy paws left a stain.

We met Mrs. Mack and looked around the school. "I love my school," I said. Then we went to the house in Little Mountain. "This is the best house ever!" I was so happy I was about to explode!

Little Mountain Elementary School

The Kubota

By: JT Keisler

Mrs. Owens – Third Grade

“Bye Mom and Dad!” I said as they drove off. My grandfather and I got the Kubota keys and jumped on the tractor we got from Wilson Kubota. We cranked the tractor and drove it down to the lake.

Next, we turned the seat around to the back of the back hoe. We were down by the lake. The lake level was down, so we started to dig out that lake. We dug for a good few hours and then we swapped off. I ran inside and got a drink for me and my grandfather. Then I got back on the hoe and kept digging.

Just a few hours later, it started to rain. My grandfather said, “We need to stop because it is raining.” So we drove the backhoe back up to the house and parked it. We went inside the house. Finally, my mom and dad came back from Wal-Mart and we were just sitting inside watching TV in the living room. My parents said, “What have y’all been doing?” We said, “Go look at the lake.” Before they left to go to Wal-Mart that morning, there had been a big pile of mud. My grandfather and I had dug all of it out! My parents were so surprised that their mouths dropped open!

This is one of my special memories I have about me and my grandfather. In 2017, he passed away in Georgia from pancreatic cancer. I sure do miss him.

Cruising

By: Jesse O’Shield

Mrs. Anderson - Fourth Grade

Going on a cruise is the most fun you could ever have. There are many things you can do. The arcade is one of the really fun things you can do on a cruise. Another thing you can do is feast on terrific food twenty-four hours a day. When you arrive at your destination, you can get off the ship and enjoy your stay on the cruise.

In the arcade there are millions of games you can play anytime you want. They have games like Zombie Survival and Injustice. Some of the games give you prizes when you win. Being a gamer is not always about playing a game. You can also make friends in the arcade. These new friends can enjoy battling each other. These are just some of the possibilities for fun in the arcade.

Whenever you feel the slightest bit hungry, you can go to the buffet and dig into 5-star food at any time of day. Whether you want tacos or stuffed chicken breast, the possibilities are endless. You can create your own ice cream sundae or have a simple ice cream cone. The choice is yours. You can wet your whistle with just about any drink imaginable.

When you get off the ship you will be very excited to be off the ship. Knowing you will be able to sink your toes in the sand. You can go swimming off the beach. Meeting new people is going to be fun. These are just some reasons that getting off the boat is fun.

All of these reasons that going on a cruise is the most fun you can have.

Little Mountain Elementary School

Drawing is a Good Hobby

By: Cris Gonzalez Estevez

Teacher: Mrs. Starnes- Fourth Grade

I have found that drawing is the best hobby for me. I believe this because you can draw many sorts of things, you can use all types of colors, and most of all, you can draw anytime, anywhere, and even if you're on vacation. All of these reasons support why drawing is a good hobby for me.

My first reason why drawing is a good hobby is because you can draw many sorts of things. For example, you can draw dogs, houses, cars, people, animals, and birds. In addition, you can go many different places. So, you can draw things about it. Also, you can watch TV and draw the different places you're learning about.

Another reason that drawing is a good hobby is that you can use all types of colors. For instance, you can draw colors of the rainbow like red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Furthermore, you can use different types of materials in the same shade of colors, such as markers, colored pencils, and crayons.

My final reason for believing that drawing is a good hobby is that you can draw anytime, anywhere, and even if you're on vacation. One example that shows this is, you can draw at the doctor's office or the dentist's office waiting for your appointment. My next example is, when you go to recess and you bring a piece of paper, you can draw things like the playground. My last example is, when you're on vacation in the car, and you look out the window, you have the chance to draw from what you pass based on what you see.

In conclusion, I realize that drawing is a good hobby. It is my most favorite thing to do. Drawing is one of the many art forms you could try. Even if it takes a while, your final creation ends up being spectacular. For you, drawing can be a new world on a piece of paper!

Little Mountain Elementary School

A Change for the Cafeteria

By: Cody Alewine

Ms. Tolbert- Fourth Grade

Walking into the cafeteria at my school, you would see people sitting at particular seats at long red tables. Looking at this, you might wonder if students didn't have to sit in these assigned seats. To me, we should not be in assigned seats because sitting where students want to sit would give them more of a chance to be responsible, it also would help us stop bullying by using the 7 Habits, and it would help us to become better friends. All of these reasons make me feel that we shouldn't be separated by assigned seats.

My first reason why we should not have assigned seats is because we should have more responsibilities. For example, I would never sit beside someone that would cause trouble. In addition, I think that we would know who and who not to sit beside because whoever has to go to a different table has gotten in trouble. In the end, the students would be happier because their friendship would be stronger.

Another reason we should not have assigned seats is because we do not need to be bullied at lunch. When we sat in assigned seats for instance, I saw that someone was getting bullied. Furthermore, because people get bullied at lunch, people are going to get sick either physically from crying or emotionally from worry. Third, if we fix this then we can decrease the percentage of fights/bulling.

My final reason for believing that we should not have assigned seats is that we need to get to know others. One example is that I remember that I wanted to sit beside a new student and assigned seats would not allow it. If we do not stop this, the percentage of possible friendships could go down. Finally, if we stop this, we can stop some bullies.

In conclusion, we can take action and stop bullies to make a positive difference. This would help us be a better Leader in Me school not just in the classroom, but also at lunch. This is all why we should not have assigned seats, and also a way to set an example of responsibility for all fellow students at L.M.E.

Little Mountain Elementary School

Christmas

By: Alli Morris

Mrs. Willingham- Fourth Grade

Christmas is the best holiday in the world. I love Christmas because it is the time of the year that my whole family gets together to have a bunch of Christmas fun. I absolutely love to decorate and bake cookies with my mom. I also like to look for my elf. This is why Christmas is the best holiday.

When our family gets together for Christmas we have a lot of fun. Every year we go to Saluda Shoals to see the beautiful Christmas lights. I love spending time with my Aunt Dovie and my cousin Gunnar. We enjoy riding the snow tubes. I also ran the Sleigh Bell Trot this year. The lights were prettier this year than last.

We always decorate our Christmas tree around Thanksgiving. I love putting all the ornaments on our tree. We also decorate our mantle and stairway. My favorite decoration is our Nativity on our table. My mom and I bake a lot of Christmas goodies. Sugar cookies are the most fun to make and decorate. This really makes Christmas special to me.

My elf's name is Elfie. He sometimes makes messes at our house. Once he even broke my mom's favorite ornament. A few years ago, he threw dog food and marshmallows all over the kitchen floor. My mom was not happy!

Christmas to me is a magical time. We have so much fun as a family, making memories together. I love giving gifts and getting them. Merry Christmas everyone!

Little Mountain Elementary School

The Jefferson Memorial By: Maloree Grimsley Mrs. Bedenbaugh- Fifth Grade

Although the construction of the Jefferson Memorial faced many challenges, it is now ranked fourth in America's most favorite landmarks. The Jefferson Memorial is such a fascinating place because of the significance of who and what it represents, the interesting story behind its construction, and its incredible physical features.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt admired Thomas Jefferson so much that he proposed a memorial be built in honor of him. Eventually, other government leaders and even Congress started supporting this idea. Franklin D Roosevelt laid the cornerstone and dedicated the memorial for Thomas Jefferson, our third president, in 1934 on what would have been Jefferson's 200th birthday.

The construction of the monument began in December 1938 and wasn't completed until 1947. The land that the monument sits on was created by a landfill. It was also once the site of Washington's most popular beach. The building of the memorial took such a long time because of World War II creating shortages of many of the supplies needed to complete the project. Many people helped to build the memorial, including Rudolph Evans, Daniel P. Higgins, Otto R. Eggers, and John Russel Pope, who died in the midst of the project.

The monument contains 26 pillars, weighs five tons or 10,000 pounds, and is 19 feet tall. The domes were made to resemble the ones used to build his home. The monument had a lot of angles. At first, the statue was made out of plaster. The statue was painted to resemble bronze. After WWII, once they had the supplies, they remade the dome out of real bronze.

In conclusion, it is easy to see why about two million people visit the Jefferson Memorial each year. The significance of the memorial, the history behind its construction, and its striking physical features make it a place everyone should visit at least once in their lifetime.

Little Mountain Elementary School

Vietnam Veterans Memorial **By: Tanner Shell** **Mrs. Bedenbaugh- Fifth Grade**

Out of all of the amazing landmarks in Washington D.C., the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is by far one of the most spectacular. The fascinating story of its construction, its astonishing physical features, and the importance of who and what it memorializes make it a location that should be on everyone's destination list.

The Vietnam War ended in 1975, but they waited four years to start building a memorial. There was a competition to see who could come up with the best design for the memorial. Maya Lin was a twenty-one-year-old college student, and her design won. It cost four million dollars to build this memorial. The granite they used to build the wall came from India. Glass workers carved more than 58,000 names of the men and women who were in the Vietnam War into the granite. Soldiers who died in the war had a diamond placed next to their names, and soldiers that were still missing had a cross carved next to their names.

There are three monuments that make up the Vietnam Veterans Memorial: The Wall, The Three Servicemen statue, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial statue. The Wall is made up of two massive, black, granite walls that come together to form an angle. The sides on the walls are tapered to give the appearance of a wound that is healing. The Wall was built in 1982. The Three Servicemen statue was added in 1984. This bronze statue faces The Wall and shows three soldiers walking out of the jungle. The Vietnam Women's Memorial is also a bronze statue and was added in 1993. It is a statue of the nurses, and there are eight trees nearby, representing the eight nurses that died in Vietnam.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial memorializes the men and women who fought in the war and died or were missing. Jan Scruggs was the person who came up with the idea for a memorial. He was a soldier in the war for one year, and he was worried about his friends who also served in the war. Many Americans were against the war, so he thought a memorial might be a way to heal the anger and honor the veterans. There were veterans from all 50 states who came and dug into the ground at the ground breaking ceremony.

In conclusion, it is easy to see why the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most popular places in the United States. There are so many interesting facts and information about the history of this landmark. All in all, the structure is completely incredible and meaningful, and it still stands today to remind us of one of America's best presidents.

Little Mountain Elementary School

Thomas Jefferson Memorial

By: Alana Stockman

Mrs. Hentz- Fifth Grade

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial was built to honor Thomas Jefferson and his great accomplishments. The memorial is very special. I like this memorial very much.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial is located in Washington, DC. The memorial sits on the south side of the Tidal Basin. Before the memorial was built, and the idea came up of building it, people protested against where it would be placed because some of the cherry trees would have to be cut down. After it was finished though, more were planted than were cut down.

The actual building part of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial has 54 columns and is made of Georgia White marble and Tennessee Pink marble. John Russel Pope designed it and he put Jefferson's own design preferences into the building. In the corner stone there are copies of The Declaration of Independence in which Thomas Jefferson wrote. Inside there is a tall 19-foot bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson standing humbly. The Thomas Jefferson Memorial was dedicated on April 13, 1943. This date would have been his 200th birthday.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial was built to honor the great things he did. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, or FDR, proposed the Thomas Jefferson Memorial because he was a role model to him. He also did so many things such as: he was at one time the Governor of Virginia, Vice President, the 3rd President of the USA, and the founder of the University of Virginia. One other very important thing he was known for was writing the Declaration of Independence.

As you can now see, The Thomas Jefferson Memorial is a tribute to his great works. From my writing I hope you learned where, how, and why the Jefferson Memorial was built.

Little Mountain Elementary School

The World War II Memorial

By: Maddy Stribble

Mrs. Hentz- Fifth Grade

The World War II Memorial memorizes a whole generation of Americans who escaped the Depression and picked up a victory in World War II. Construction of the memorial began on August 27, 2001. It was opened to the public in April of 2004.

Architect Friedrich St. Florian was chosen to design this memorial. Some materials used for this project were stone, oak, and wheat. The stone was used to make fifty-six seventeen foot tall pillars that represent each state. There are two forty-three foot tall pillars as well with the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean on them. The wheat and oak were used to make the wreaths called the Arsenal of Democracy around each stone pillar.

There is a Freedom Wall with 4,000 gold stars on it. Each one represents 100 lives lost. There is a quote from John Keegan that reads, "It killed 50 million human beings, and left hundreds of millions of people wounded in mind and body". Also, the wreaths around each pillar symbolize our nation's agricultural and industrial strength.

The memorial was built to remember the 16 million people who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and the 400,000 that were killed. In front of the Freedom Wall is the famous quote, "Here we mark the price of freedom". Also, there are only 48 stone pillars that represent the states (Alaska and Hawaii became states in 1959). The other pillars have territories such as The District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, The Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Overall, the WWII Memorial is a very interesting place to visit. With the stone pillars and the Freedom Wall, it's amazing how brave and strong each and every American in WWII was. We can never, ever repay everything they gave up. In conclusion, the WWII Memorial should definitely be on the top of your vacation list.

Newberry Elementary School

Beach Trip

By: Demarcus Pitts

Mrs. Chilton - Kindergarten

Me and my sister we used to go to the beach. We had fun. They had the pool and the ocean. We stayed in a hotel. We went down to the ocean. I had my shorts on. We sat in the water and floated back to the sand. We went back to the hotel. We went to the aquarium and saw fish and sharks and a mermaid. Then we had to go see the frogs. When they took our picture we had to smile. It was a great trip.

The Best Birthday Ever

By: Tariyah Baxter

Teacher Jade Corley - Kindergarten

One day it was my birthday. I had balloons and ice cream. It was the best birthday ever.

The Beach

By: James Gilliam

Mr. Ralston - Kindergarten

This is my family. We went to the beach. I went in the water and I built a sand dungeon.

Raccoons

By: McLane Banks

Mrs. Brittany Dorroh – Primary Montessori

Raccoons can hibernate in the winter. Raccoons can eat berries. Raccoons have sharp claws. Raccoons have a mask on their face. Raccoons are mean. Raccoons are mammals because they are warm blooded. Raccoons are interesting animals!

Ouch!

By: Braylon Whitner

Mrs. Graham – First Grade

On Saturday, my Nana and me were about to go to Wendy's. A tree branch fell on my head. Ouch! Next, my head was bleeding! Then, Grandma put a rag on my head to feel better. Last, we went back in the house. That was a hard day!

Newberry Elementary School

How to Make a Sandwich **By: Nicole Lebron-Lopez** **Mrs. Meetze – First Grade**

This is how to make a sandwich. First, get two bread slices. Next, get cheese and put it on the bread. Then, get ham and put it on the bread. Last, top your sandwich. Don't forget to eat it!

My Christmas Gift **By: Verwin Maxell Sanchez** **Ms. Bowers – First Grade**

Have you ever been on the nice list? Well, I have because I was a good and smart boy last year. I asked Santa for a special gift. Christmas Day came and I was so excited. First, Dad said, "I see a gift beside the tree." I said, "Oh my goodness maybe it's the gift that I always wanted!" Next, I ripped all of the wrapping paper off. I saw a box, but I still did not know what was inside. Then, I opened the box and it was a Nintendo Switch! I said, "Hip hip hooray!" because I was so happy that I had gotten the gift I wanted. Last, my brother and I logged on and made our characters for my new game. My Nintendo Switch was the best Christmas gift ever!

When I Made Cornbread **By: Imoni Long** **Ms. Sprott – Second Grade**

One day was my favorite day ever. I got to make some cornbread and that was fantastic. When I started to make the cornbread I was at home with my mom. We were in the kitchen and the kitchen was smelling good. When I started to cook the cornbread I got the ingredients. My mommy was cooking some other food while I was making the cornbread. So let me tell people how to make it. First you need a cornbread box. Then you need to get a bowl. Then when you get a bowl, get the cornbread box and pour the cornbread in the bowl and put one egg in. Then you can mix. When you are done mixing, put it in the oven to bake. Put it in for 120 degrees and then you can take it out and eat it! So when all the food got done we ate all of the food. The end.

Newberry Elementary School

The Best Day of My Life **By: Jordan Boateng** **Ms. Bumgardner – Second Grade**

Hi, I am Jordan. The best day of my life is when I get to spend time with my family. They are so loving to me and my sis. My sis is sometimes nice to me, but not a lot. On the other hand, my mom is the best. She does everything for us. She even took us to Carowinds, Baltimore, and Wisconsin. She is the best mom anybody could have. “Want to go to Frankie’s Fun Park?” Mom said. We were excited.

Dogs **By: Shermyia Long** **Mrs. Scurry - 2nd Grade**

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1. What They Eat
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3. Where They Live
4. Exercise
5. Different Types

What They Eat

They eat dog bones. They eat treats. They eat left overs.

How It Sleeps

They sleep on their sides and their tummies, or their back.

Where They Live

They live in a pen outside and in the house.

Exercise

They can walk and run around the block.

Different Types

There are different types of dogs, like Weenie dogs, Pugs, Peekaboo’s and lap Chihuahuas.

Newberry Elementary School

A New Class Pet

By: Aunesty Bookman

Mrs. Evans – Lower Elementary Montessori

The time has come for us to get a new class pet. I think we should get a kitten. There are many reasons why having a class pet is a good idea. One reason that it is a good idea is because it will teach us responsibility. We will have to feed it and if it doesn't get fed, it may die! We will have to clean his or her litter box, too. Kittens use the litter box to go to the bathroom. If you don't clean it out, it will stink. At least the kitten will give itself a bath!

Another reason we need a class pet is we can learn about the kitten's body parts. The kitten can also teach us about mammals. Having a live kitten in our class will give us good, live experience learning about mammals.

Kittens are loving. They crawl in your lap and they purr. They also sleep with you and cuddle, too. The kitten can watch us do our lessons and lay on our work rugs. She can wait at the door until we get here in the mornings and then meow at us. Having a class pet will be amazing. We can learn a lot of new stuff from it. It will be so spoiled by so many people.

New Classroom Pet

By: Anabell Juarez Benitez

Mrs. Evans – Lower Elementary Montessori

In my opinion, it would be amazing to have a guinea pig for a classroom pet. I think having a guinea pig for a class pet is going to be amazing because guinea pigs are fun. Everyone will like to hold him and take care of him.

Having a guinea pig teaches children responsibility. We will have to feed the guinea pig and if we don't, it may die. We have to clean up the mess the guinea pig leaves or the guinea pig might get sick. The guinea pig is messy, but we must do it and clean the mess up. Also, the guinea pig needs love and attention so we have to make time to give attention to the guinea pig.

My final reason for having a guinea pig as a class pet is it can teach us about the guinea pig's parts. The class can learn about what the guinea pig eats and how it feels. We can watch the way it plays too. Having a pet guinea pig is hard work, but it provides new ways to learn. Also, I think guinea pigs look so cute! That is why it would be amazing to have a guinea pig for classroom pet.

Newberry Elementary School

My Trip to Carowinds **By Emanuel Guzman Antonio** **Mrs. Dean – Third Grade**

Have you even been so high in the air you felt like you were freefalling? That happened to me the day I rode a roller coaster for the first time at Carowinds. One day when me and my family were watching television, a commercial for a vacation came on. My mom came up with an idea. She said, “Let’s hit the road! We’re going to Carowinds.” Before I knew it, we were on our way. Everyone was so excited. My sister screamed, “YAY!!!” We packed up and we were off. After riding in the car for about two hours, we arrived. I couldn’t believe my eyes. There were rides, big and small, high and low, everywhere. I could hear screams coming from every direction. We couldn’t wait to get in line to begin our adventure. The first ride we got on was called the Scorpion. It wasn’t scary, but it was fun. Then, I was ready to get on the roller coasters to see what all the yelling was about. We saw the Fury, the Vortex, but we got on the Phoenix. That was the best ride ever. We started slow and then it dropped. My stomach dropped, too. I screamed so hard. It was the best ride ever. After the rides, we ate and we had to leave. It was time to go home. I hope I can go back to Carowinds again. I’ll be crossing my fingers until the next time.

New School **By: Annalyse Kielb** **Ms. Folk – Third Grade**

Have you ever felt so nervous, but so happy at the exact same time? I felt this way one time when my mom and grandma took me to NES!

At first, my mom had to sign me in. To me it felt like it was taking a loooooonnnng time! I gruffed and groaned as I heard my mom talking to the lady that morning. It was pretty boring! I tried to do everything I could so I would not get bored waiting, but it did not work. Then, someone knocked on the door. It was another lady! Her name was Ms. Sprott, and she was my new teacher. “Hello,” she said as she was waving her hand. My eyes were gazing right past her when I first saw her. I spoke back, and we left for the day. A few days later, my grandma drove me back to my new school. I was pretty excited because I was going to meet new people and possibly meet my new B.F.F.! When I got there, I got out of the car and waved goodbye with a smile all over my face. I went inside. It looked really nice in there! I walked up the stairwell, and finally reached the second floor. “This was it!” I said to myself as I reached the top step. Finally, I got to my classroom. “Everyone...this is Annalyse,” said Ms. Sprott. Everyone ran up to me and started to ask questions. “Whoa, Whoa,” I said holding my hands up for them to back up a bit. Then, they all sat down. I saw a girl sitting by herself. Her name was Forever, and I thought she wore pretty clothes. She was one of my first friends in the class! I was surprised to see a lot of kids, but I knew that soon I would be friends with each of them.

If you want my advice, I think it’s a good thing to go to a new school because you get to meet a lot of new friends!

Newberry Elementary School

When My Mom Went Missing **Taraji Glymph** **Ms. Thornsberry - Third Grade**

Has your mom ever gone missing? My mom did one day. I was in the house when my mom went out of the door and I didn't know. I needed to tell her something. I said, "MA". She didn't answer me and then I said it again. I knew that something was not right. I looked all over the house and then I told my big sister. "Where did Ma go?" I asked her. She said, "I don't know." I went outside. Her truck was gone. Then I went back into the house. A couple of minutes later I heard something. I went outside and saw my mom. Then my mom got out of the truck. I said, "Ma, where were you?" She said she was at my Grandma's house. After that we went into the house and watched T.V.

When I Saw InquisitorMaster at Walmart **By: Ashley Sanchez-Delvalle** **Mrs. Lena Bolt – Fourth Grade**

InquisitorMaster vlogs in her room with her plush, Mr. Paws. She has a cat named, Ray. She loves wearing onesies. Her real name is not InquisitorMaster. Her real name is Alex. She has orange hair. She loves creepy stuff. Now, I will tell you when I saw Alex at Walmart.

I was drawing in my room. Then my mom came in. "Hurry up and get ready," she said. "For what?" I replied. "For Walmart. I just need to buy a few things," she answered. I said, "Ok". I just needed my shoes. I put my shoes on and I jumped in the car. We went to Walmart. When we got there, I got out of the car and walked to the entrance. My mom got a cart then, we went in the store. I saw InquisitorMaster taking photos with people. I ran in the line and waited. It was my turn I grabbed my tablet and Alex and I took a picture. I told her, "Thank you". She said, "No problem". Then I went to find my mom. I found her where the fruit is. "Where were you? Someday you're going to get lost," she said. "No, I'm not," I said.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! I woke up. I looked around. I was thinking, "was this all a dream? NOOO!" I shouted. I looked in my tablet. It had the photo. "Thank God it's still here!" I couldn't believe I really did go see Alex at Walmart. That was the most amazing day of my life!!

Newberry Elementary School

Wade in the Water Performance

By: Kamora Good

Ms. Lazar – Fourth Grade

“Come on we can do it!” said Kamora. The music started to play. Hope and Kamora started dancing. “Ladies, you have been practicing so hard, do you think you need a break?” “No ma’am. I’m so excited,” said Hope. They see and hear the drums, piano, and maracas, while they were dancing. After a while, Kamora and Hope finished the dance. Suddenly, they started to hear a sound go CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! “What’s that sound?” asked Kamora and Hope. As Kamora and Hope were trying to realize what the sound was and where it was coming from, they didn’t know that it was the song playing.

“GIRLS!” yelled Mrs. Session. “Dance!” “The song is on!” “Oh! Oh! said Kamora and Hope in shock. They started dancing. Just then, Hope started to panic and she said, “Oh, what am I going to do? I’m going to mess the dance up!” “What if I forget the dance?” She was having a panic attack. Hope was so scared and nervous. “Calm down. You’ll do fine.” “Fine is not good enough.” As time passed by, Kamora was trying all day to calm Hope down. Luckily, Hope finally went back to calm mode.

The next day was another day closer to show time. It was 2 days until it was time to perform. They walked down stairs to Mrs. Session room, KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! “Coming”, someone yelled. When they walked inside the room, they walked into a surprise. It was all a part of Kamora’s and Mrs. Session’s plan. If Hope could do it in front of kindergarten, then she could do it in front of different people at the show. Hope was pretty nervous but the music started and Hope started to dance. “Way to go Hope!” the kindergartners yelled. Hope did it. She danced in front of people without having a panic attack.

There it was. Today was the day of the performance. Mrs. Session announced Kamora and Hope’s names to come on stage. “You ok?” “Yeah!” Then let’s do this. CLAP, CLAP, CLAP, CLAP. The people clapped as they walked on stage. CLICK, CLICK, CLICK The music started playing and Kamora and Hope started to dance.

They danced perfect. The song was over and Kamora and Hope went off stage. What a crazy adventure. I know both Kamora and Hope learned two important things:

1. DON’T GIVE UP!
2. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF BECAUSE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

Newberry Elementary School

Kimberly and a Genie?

By: Caycin Burrell

Mrs. Pearman – Fourth Grade

Hola, my name is Kimberly. Kimmy for short. I love to speak Spanish! I have brown eyes, blond hair, and cherry cheeks. Today, I have Spanish class. It's really good, but on the other hand the teacher is really strict! No joke! You speak one word and you do one hundred push-ups! And the bad part is if you don't get done with the push-ups you have to go to detention for an hour and a half! His name is Mr. Dunlap. The kids aren't even rude. The teacher (Mr. Dunlap) is the rude one. I also go to math class, science class, ELA class, and related arts.

I just now started math class. "Good morning students." My math teacher, Mrs. Clara said. "Good morning." The students said. "Today we will be learning big multiplication like seventy-three times twenty-two!" The students got quiet. All you could hear were the crickets chirping for a minute or two. "Hooray!" I said. Everyone stared at me and I stared back. The math teacher, Mrs. Clara, said "Now we will..." The bell rang. "We better get through EVERYTHING tomorrow. You hear me!?" The kids just walked out, but not me. Mrs. Clara said, "Thank you for listening and not going out." She gave me a bag of Takis. "Now you may get up and go, Kimmy." I went, and while I was going I said, "Thank you!" I was off.

Now I have to go to science class. Science class is the BEST class ever! You get to do chemistry, mix up all kinds of colors (potions) like pink, blue, red, orange, yellow, and a lot of other colors. My science teacher's name is Ms. Smith. She's really nice. And of course everybody huddled around me because I had Takis. I started to get smashed and smashed and scrunched and crunched. "GET AWAY!!!!" Everyone backed away. I started to growl, "Garr ruff ruff hiss raw raw!" Everyone backed away and one girl, Abbie knocked a desk over because she wasn't paying attention to where she was going. "BAMM!" She fell. "Ha Ha Ha Ha!" Everyone laughed, but not me. I headed toward her and said, "Are you okay?" She looked up and said, "What happened? Am I dreaming?" She opened her eyes as wide as a quarter and saw everyone laughing at her. "Why is everyone laughing? Are they laughing at me?" Her eyes started to water (cry) and I looked straight into her eyes. "Unfortunately, they are laughing at you. Anyway, please don't make any comments, okay?" She looked at me in a confusing way, "Why are y'all laughing at me!?" I smacked my hand on my face, "Slap!!!" When I did it, it felt like I had to change. "What do I do now?" I stared at her, "Why are you asking me little freak?" She looked at me and started to cry. "Yeah, cry like a little baby."

Somebody went and told the teacher and the teacher told the principal. I had to go to the principal. The principal said, "You, missy, have disappointed me and you're suspended for one week." I didn't really care. I walked out and I tripped over a lamp. I picked it up and rubbed the lamp. You will never guess what came out. A GENIE!!! The genie had black hair, blue eyes, and she was gorgeous! "Hi my name is Jasmine and I am your genie. Follow me!" We got to where we were going, and I looked at the sign it said super lab. I was confused but I didn't care. She took me in. "Hello!" Some doctor said. "What is this place, never mind, I'm leaving." I said. "No you are not, miss sassy!"

He pushed me back into some chair and put me to sleep and put superpowers into my body. I woke up, I went out and left. The week went by. I went back to school and I was a little angel again. I was really good again. The End!

Newberry Elementary School

Never Test Human Medicine on Animals

By: Le'Nota Dunbar

Mrs. Irvin – Fourth Grade

Do you think people should be able to test human medicine on animals? Well, I think they should not, because animals can die from being experimented on. Some animals can become weak and all of a sudden just stop breathing and moving. Animals can also catch viruses and pass it on to you and me.

It is just like if a cat catches a virus and they sneeze on you, you can get sick and then pass it on to others, just like that. Animals are nature, NOT experiments or things you can use to test medicine. Animals can get seriously hurt a lot! They can get very violent if they do get hurt. That is why I think human medicine should not be tested on animals.

My Mom

By: Tiyanah Ingram

Mr. Hopkins – Fifth Grade

My mom is the best mom ever. Do you know why? My mom takes care of me, she takes me places and she is the only parent in my life, along with my step dad.

My mom takes care of me. My mom, she gives everything I need to eat. She buys me pretty clothes and shoes. When it is time to start back to school, she takes me shopping. I also get to go shopping for pretty dresses for my graduation.

My mom has always been in my life. My father has never been in my life. So, I have a mom and a step dad who love me very much.

My mom takes me places. My mom takes me to Dave and Buster's. She takes me to Frankie's Fun Park. Also, she takes me and my twin brother out to eat for our birthday. That's why my mom is the best, best, best, best, best mom ever!

So, as you can see, I have the best mom ever!! She shows me how much she loves me by taking care of me and always being there for me.

Newberry Elementary School

The Accident

By: Dantrell Cannon

Mrs. Mohler - Fifth Grade

I was wobbling from side to side. I just knew I was going to fall. My heart was pounding out of my chest. I said a prayer that I wouldn't fall off of my bike. But, unfortunately, that didn't work.

I just couldn't catch myself and landed on the road. I am really hurt, and I need to go to the emergency room. I can feel my leg throbbing and see the blood. I'm scared to look because I may get sick. My mom rushes to take me to the emergency room. I can hear the wheels squeal as she goes around curves.

I cry in the emergency room and my mom prayed and prayed. Then I knew that she loved me. The last thing I remember is looking at the light. When I woke, I had stitches. My mom helped me to the car and I knew then that I would be ok.

Hospital Horror

By: Alyssa DuBose

Mrs. Mohler - Fifth Grade

My blood was rushing through my body. I was screaming in pain. My mom frantically took me to the Hospital. Scary thoughts were in and out my head. I started to panic! Tears rushing down my face, I looked at my mom, "Please hurry!"

I'm crying hysterically, while my mom checks me in. I don't know what's going to happen next. The doctors come into the ER. She feels around my stomach and asks if it hurts. I say yes repeatedly. She goes away for a concerning amount of time. My mom and I are very worried. New doctors come in and stick a needle in my arm. They injected what looked like liquid medicine in my arm. After they injected medicine in my arm, I had to drink a whole bottle of medicated Gatorade to do the scan I had to do in the next hour. It was like that hour never ended. My dad is on the phone with my mom and I. He is also upset and is worrying about me. My doctor comes and puts me in a wheelchair and takes me to do a C.T. scan on my stomach. I'm frightened about what's going to show up on the scan. It takes them a while to figure out what is going on in my stomach. I knew this was going to be the scariest night of my life. My stomach was doing back flips and my head was pounding.

They came back and told me I had to go to a specialist to figure out the problem that is going on in my stomach. My mom and I ended up leaving at 4:00 in the morning, and we went home. We were so exhausted that we ate and went to bed. That was definitely a night to remember.

Newberry Elementary School

My Winter Break
By: Karen Villatoro
Mr. Cannon – Fifth Grade

“Hurry up Karen”! “We need to start decorating for Christmas before your cousins and aunts come over”. “Okay I shouted back”. I am going to tell you about Christmas day, Christmas gifts, New Year’s Day and eve, and my vacations.

I was so happy that Christmas was here!!!!!!! I was so excited to start my day and enjoy spending time with my family and friends. My aunts and my mom were cooking. While my cousins and I were playing dare games, my cousin Sofia dared me to go downstairs and go take the dog out so I could get in trouble with my cousin Marlin, but I didn’t do it. After we played games all of my family got in a circle and we all had to say what we liked and what we wanted to be when we all grew up. After that, my uncle put a whole bunch of little papers with numbers on them. He put them in a bucket. Then he called our names and we had to get one paper out the first time. I got one it had a number 100. Then my uncle gave me the \$100 dollar bill. When we were all done we all counted our money. I had \$300 dollars. I was so happy.

After we all played and laughed, the best part of Christmas had arrived opening gifts. I was so excited. My first gift was a puppy but I could only keep it for one week because my mom said that we already had a dog. His name is Shorty. We named him like that because he is short. Then rest of my gifts were a slime kit, nail kit (which I don’t even use), diary, and some big clothing.

It was New Year’s Day I was so excited to meet more family. The first thing we did was go to the store. And my mom and my aunt Anilda were trying to find out what to cook. My aunt said that she was going to make flan and a cake. My mom said that she was going to make the tamales only for the grown-ups because kids don’t really like them. They had to order pizza for the kids. After we ate, it was 11:50 pm. It was almost 2019, so my aunt and uncle had like ten minutes to go and get fireworks. The fireworks were kind of close to her house so it wasn’t going to take long. When they got back it was 11:55, 5 minutes until a new year. When it was 12:00, we started shooting the fireworks and we all shouted, “HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!” I was so happy that 2019 was here.

My vacation was awesome. It was skydiving!!!!!! It was great. First we had to find out how we were going to fit in the car. There were 8 kids. Not all of my family went because it was like \$1000 dollars to go. My mom let me go, so after we all got in the car we got gas. We were in the car for 5 hours. When we arrived we saw a whole lot of gear. We had to put on special pants and jackets and a helmet. We also had to have backpack with a parachute. After being in the airplane for 35 minutes we were about to jump out of the airplane. The man said, “Ready!! JUMP!” I was actually doing it. After we landed we went home.

This is all the fun things I did during my winter break. I am glad you took your time and read my story. I am glad that 2019 is here.

Newberry Elementary School

The Beach

By: Zion Eigner

Mrs. Greene – Fifth Grade

So, do you like family vacations? My WHOLE family goes to the beach in the month of July. We go there to spend time with each other and to celebrate my cousin's birthday and my grandad's birthday.

We left on the ninth and celebrate my cousin's birthday on the tenth. We stayed there for a week. We got there on a Sunday and leave on a Sunday.

SPLASH!!!!!! It was pool time! We went to the pool and swam the first day we were there. My cousin and I made a crazy video of us jumping in the pool. Wooohooo, we had fun!!

After swimming, we went to our room to take a shower. Then, we put on our clothes, ate a little snack and watched television. We needed to rest after all the excitement of swimming.

After that, we went to Broadway on the Beach. If you don't know what that is, it is like a family kingdom. It just has a lot of stores, places to eat and places to walk. It has something to offer everybody in the family.

Next, we played on rides and got snow cones. The last thing we did was go eat at Ruby Tuesday's. It was so good! Chomp, Chomp, I ate it all up.

Now you can see why I look forward to our beach trip every summer. It is a week of family fun!!

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

My Trip to Dave and Busters
By: Adam Boozer
Mrs. Bedenbaugh - Kindergarten

Over the weekend I went to Dave and Busters! Have you ever been to Dave and Busters?

I played lots of games and I ate lunch. After lunch I played more games.

It was lots of **FUN!** I want to go again!

Last Night
By: Andie Millstead
Mrs. Branaham - Kindergarten

Last night my grandmamma came to my house. My brother got a PS4 for Christmas so we played it.

Then my granddaddy came over to my house. He brought pizza to eat.

Then my mom and daddy came back home. Then we went to bed.

The Unicorn
By: Arley Odom
Mrs. Carter - Kindergarten

The unicorn is flying.

The unicorn likes to fly high.

The unicorn is having a baby.

The unicorn will be born on my birthday.

The unicorn can't walk.

The mama unicorn takes care of the baby unicorn.

The baby unicorn is so cute.

I love unicorns!

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

When I Was Scared to Jump off the Diving Board

By: Brooklyn Lewis

Mrs. Arcerio - First Grade

First, I went to my pool. Then, I went on my diving board and I was scared, but Cheyenne helped me jump off!

Next, we jumped in the pool and we had so much fun! Then we went shopping at Wal-Mart.

Last, I swam until it was time for supper. I ate broccoli, green beans, and hot dogs. I was so excited!

The Best Day Ever

By: Alex Bunce

Mrs. Bedenbaugh - First Grade

The best day ever was on December 23. I was my birthday! I was having a nerf party! First, we hid the nerf guns.

Next, we got started. We shot each other. It hurt! My dad gave me my present. It was called the Infinus Nerf Gun!

I got to use it. It was so much fun! Then I opened my presents, and it started to rain. We went under the tent and we played. It was the best day ever!!!

At the Mountains

By: Dillon Wicker

Mrs. Mill - First Grade

One day I was at the Smoky Mountains. I went to a scary place and it was called Ripley's.

Next, we went in and we saw some monsters. There was a vampire and a scary dragon.

Third we saw some more but they were even scarier! My sister and I screamed, "Aaaaa!" Then we all went back home. Ripley's was scary but it was so much fun!

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

The Waites' Christmas Traditions

By: Whitley Waites

Mrs. Stuck - Second Grade

Table of Contents:

Chapter 1: Decorating

Chapter 2: Elves

Chapter 3: Baking

Chapter 4: Shopping

Chapter 5: Christmas with Family

Introduction:

This book is about the Waites' Christmas traditions. I hope you like it. We will learn about them step by step.

Chapter 1: Decorating

To begin with we go upstairs into the attic. We grab the tree and the ornaments. We put the tree down stairs standing up. Then we put the ornaments on the tree. Then we go back upstairs to get the other decorations. We put the decorations up. That is all we do to decorate.

Chapter 2: Elves

Now that we are done with the decorations our elves visit! It is named Addline. We only have one elf, and she does funny things too! Once she sat upside down and she fell and hit her head. She can do nice things too. This morning she sat in Raelyn's new car.

Chapter 3: Baking

The next thing is baking. We love baking. We bake in the kitchen all the time. We bake cookies, cupcakes, and lemon cake. We love all this. Our Mimi and our cousin help.

Sugar Cookies

You will need plain cookies and sugar. You will need to bake for 8 or 9 minutes. Then you have great cookies! Yum, yum!

Lemon Cookies

You need cookie dough and some lemons. You stir it up and then you put it in the oven. When you open the oven door there are your good lemonade cookies. Yum, yum! Very good!

Chapter 4: Shopping

The fourth thing is shopping. Mom and I go shopping for presents. When we pick out the presents we go home and wrap the presents. Now the present is ready to be opened.

Chapter 5: Christmas with Family!

Last is Christmas with family. We love it so much. We eat a lot of pie, we eat rice and chicken. On my dad's side is Bailey, Barret, and Tyler. On my mom's side is Hazel, Violet, Ruby and Banks.

Conclusion:

I hope you love this book. The Waites' family Christmas is very fun! What are your Christmas traditions?

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

What to Do on Christmas Morning

By: Thomas Boozer

Mrs. Stuck - Second Grade

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Waking Up

Chapter 3: Getting Dressed

Chapter 4: Making Breakfast

Chapter 5: Opening Presents

Chapter 6: Singing Carols

Chapter 8: Conclusion

Chapter 1: Introduction:

Do you like Christmas morning? If you do, I think that's **GREAT!** If you don't know what to do on Christmas morning, I'll teach you.

Chapter 2: Waking Up

First, when you hear your alarm clock go off, turn on the lights. Also, crawl out of bed and stretch.

Chapter 3: Getting Dressed

Second you need to get dressed. Put on your favorite robe. Tie it together. Open the door and go downstairs.

Chapter 4: Making Breakfast

Next, you need to make breakfast. Get cereal out of the pantry. Get some toaster waffles out of the freezer too. Put the toaster waffles in the toaster and push the lever down. Pour the cereal into bowls for your family. Get the eggnog out of the refrigerator and pour it into the cups. Yell, "Breakfast is ready!" and serve breakfast.

Chapter 5: Opening Presents

Next, you can open your presents. Open the presents in your stocking first. Then look for presents under the tree. Open only the ones that have your name on it.

Chapter 6: Singing Carols

Finally, it's time to go caroling. Grab your boots, coat, gloves, and don't forget your songbook. Hope you have fun caroling!

Chapter 7: Conclusion

Now you know what to do on Christmas morning! Have fun!

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

Black Widows

**By: John Edward Frampton
Mrs. Whitesides - Second Grade**

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a Black Widow?

Chapter 3: What They Eat

Chapter 4: How Long Do They Live?

Chapter 5: Where They Live

Chapter 6: What Attacks Black Widows?

Chapter 7: Conclusion

Chapter 1: Introduction

Do you know about black widow spiders? Well I'm going to teach you about black widow spiders. They are the coolest spiders in the world. Have you ever seen a black widow? Well I have in South Carolina!

Chapter 2: What is a Black Widow?

First, I am going to teach you about black widow spiders. They are arachnids and they have eight eyes and eight legs. Black widow spiders are not the biggest spiders in the world. Tarantulas are. Black widows are really dangerous. They use their fangs to kill insects. If they bite you with their fangs you will have to go to the hospital and you will get really sick. Some people have black widows for pets!

Colors

There are brown and black widows. The brown widow and the black widow are the same except they are different colors.

Fangs

Black widows use their fangs to stop the insect from moving. They have poison in their fangs.

Poison

Black widow's poison is more deadly than a rattle snake's poison.

Chapter 3: What They Eat

Next, I am going to teach you about what they eat. They eat insects. They use their silk webs to trap insects. Then they use their fangs to kill insects. Sometimes black widows eat other spiders. Black widows bite people with their fangs sometimes.

Chapter 4: How Long Do They Live?

Also, some black widows live for only a couple of days. Sometimes baby black widows eat each other. The female eats the male after mating. The male lives for 7 months. The female lives for 18 months.

Chapter 5: Where They Live

Now let's discuss where they live. Black widows live near hoses, sheds, and outdoor toilets. Females live where it is dark. Sometimes they jump out of their webs to bite you if you are aggravating it. They live in South Carolina.

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

Chapter 6: What Attacks Them?

Last, wasp sting them. They take them to their nests. So the babies will eat it. Sometimes they use their front legs to scare them away.

Chapter 7: Conclusion

Did you like learning about black widows? Do you like black widows? They are cool animals!

More Equipment

By: Levi Harr

Mrs. Brown - Third Grade

Do you believe we need more equipment? In my opinion we should have more equipment.

First of all, we need more stuff to play with. For instance, all of it is old. If it is all old, it is not worth using.

Secondly, we should have more people playing instead of just sitting around. For example, people wouldn't be bored at recess. Recess is something fun. People should be playing!

One last reason is more equipment equals more exercising. For example, if we had more sports equipment we would have more students exercising. We should have more people exercising instead of being lazy.

Some people may say we don't need more equipment, but I believe we do. We do because if we did it would be the best thing in the world!

In conclusion, PGE needs more equipment!

My First Day in Mexico

By: Virginia Shepherd

Mrs. Simpson - Third Grade

"Yes" I said as we arrived at the house in Mexico. "This is going to be so much fun!" I holler. Nini, Pope, mama, daddy, Eliza Jane, Jose, my cousins and me all went.

We went inside the house and it was so cool! My two sisters and I got the biggest room! There was a TV, 2 beds, fridge, and a lot of cabinets.

First we got in our bathing suits and swam in the pool. We played lots of games!

I saw the fountains, I smelled the stinky salt water, I hear the seagulls in the sky, and I feel tired, but I am absolutely happy.

Next, we noticed a concrete table in the pool. There were two little seats in front of it and there was a big curved seat too. We all sat down and ate a delicious lunch.

Then, a couple of hours later we had a big birthday for my sister! We got giant lollipops! "This is so much fun!" I exclaimed. "I love Mexico!" I said. Maybe tomorrow will be even greater. If you go you will see what I mean.

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

Hitting a Triple **By: Jaycob Odom** **Ms. Tarver - Third Grade**

It was Sunday, September 23, 2018. It was 9:45 in the morning, and the sun was shining. I'm standing in the on deck circle timing the pitcher. I was watching him wind up and throw the ball. It was a walk. I was stepping in the batter's box. The pitcher made his wind up and ping it was a foul ball. Then, I stepped out of the box, took a deep breath, and took a half swing. Next, I stepped back in the box and he wound up and threw the ball. I was loading up and **BAM!** I was half-way to second. The ball hit the fence and I was so happy I was smiling in joy. I saw the ball coming in and I slid in safely. I stood up and I was so happy. I was smiling and my teammates were yelling for me in the dugout. Then, I was on third base. Next, I was watching and it was Luke's turn. He got a triple and I scored. This story is important to me because it was a very happy day. I even hit a double in the next game.

Cupcakes **By: Jenna Senn** **Mrs. Cooper - Fourth Grade**

In my opinion cupcakes are the best. For many reasons such as, having many flavors, having chunks of candy in the batter, and having so many icing choices.

First of all, there are many different amazing flavors. For example, you have red velvet, strawberry, chocolate, and vanilla. There are so many more flavors, but those are just a few of the basic kinds. If you have never tried a cupcake you should try one of these flavors first.

Secondly, I love cupcakes because you can add different items into the batter and when you take a bite the flavor will burst out into your mouth. I love to have nerds in my cupcakes!

Lastly, I love cupcakes because anything can be your icing. Like buttercream for example is amazing to use as icing. My favorite icing is still the original strawberry icing.

In conclusion, cupcakes are the best because of these three amazing things: flavors, candy, and icing!

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

The Best Cat Ever! **By: Banks Fellers** **Mrs. Russell - Fourth Grade**

Felix is the best cat ever because he is very gentle, loves to go to sleep with me, and loves to play.

First, Felix is the best cat ever because he is very gentle. For example, some people came over to get the kittens and he plopped down next to them and they started to pet him. Another time, he went running over to them and he was rubbing up against him. It was very nice.

Next, Felix is the best cat ever because he goes to bed with me. For instance, one night I was looking for him to come lay down with me, but I could not find him. He was waiting on me in my bed. Then he got up to get some water and food and he came back to me. But sometimes he sleeps with mom and dad and sometimes he sleeps with Elyse.

Last Felix is the best cat ever because he loves to play. For example, Elyse was crocheting and Felix started to play with the yarn. It was very funny. Once Felix was playing with the red dot and he jumped up on a wall to try to get it.

In conclusion, Felix is my cat and he would never run away and I would never give him away. He is my baby and he acts like a baby. Felix came to us in a tree. We all love him.

The Best Pet **By: Brice Ruff** **Mrs. Waites - Fourth Grade**

My dog is by far the best pet in the world. She is the best because she does not bite unless she does not know you, she does not dig up any flowers we have, and because she does not bark unless we are in trouble.

My dog is by far the best pet in the world because she does not bite unless she does not know you. For example, an unknown person came to our house one day and she bit him, and we have not seen him since. (Except in his truck riding by our house.)

My dog is by far the best pet in the world because she does not dig up any flowers that we have in the garden. For instance, she does not dig them up because she likes to smell them instead of dig them.

My dog is by far the best pet in the world because she does not bark unless we are in trouble. For example, I fell one time and I was hurt really bad and I could not get up. She barked and barked until somebody heard her and they helped me get up.

As you can tell, my dog really is the best pet in the world! I have really enjoy having a dog, the best pet in the world, at my house outside in her dog house.

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

Leonardo Da Vinci
By: Tessa Taylor
Ms. Edwards - Fifth Grade

Leonardo Da Vinci is interesting to me for several reasons. I focused on his early life, his accomplishments, and his drawing journal.

Early Life

Leonardo Da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452. He was born in Italy. Leonardo was an **apprentice** when he was fourteen years old, he worked alongside Verrocchio (Ver-oc-e-oh). Leonardo's father was very wealthy and had a number of wives says www.ducksteers.com.

Accomplishments

Leonardo Da Vinci was the artist of the Mona Lisa, The Last Supper, and the Victorian Man. Leonardo was never sure what to paint nor draw. During the years of 1482-1499, he completed 6 paintings. Also while those years passed, his famous painting, "The Last Supper" was completed. In addition, during the year 1503 Leonardo completed one of the world's most treasured paintings, "The Mona Lisa." His painting "The Last Supper" has a very important meaning to it. The meaning to the painting is Jesus having a meal with a dramatic dinner incorporated. All of this information is from www.scdiscus.com.

Leonardo's Drawing Journal

I found out that his **journals** are filled with over 13,000 **observations** of the world. It must have taken a long time to have drawn all those wonderful pictures. Leonardo would sketch pictures of what he was studying. He studied art, inventions, and science. Leonardo would also study birds' wings and he would draw flying machines to create in the future. I think this shows that Leonardo was far ahead of his time.

In conclusion, Leonardo Da Vinci's life is an interesting topic to read about. He had a great childhood, many accomplishments, and never stopped working on a painting. I think Leonardo Da Vinci is well worth reading about.

Glossary

apprentice – a person who is learning a trade from a skilled employer, having freedom to work for a fixed period at low wages

journals – a newspaper or magazine that deals with a particular subject or professional activity

observations – the action or process of observing something or someone carefully or in order to gain information

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

Misty Copeland
By: Kursten Long
Mrs. Thompson - Fifth Grade

Misty Copeland is a famous ballerina who was born to shine. I focused on her early life, accomplishments, and her life today.

Early Life

Misty was born in Kansas City on September 10, 1982. She had 5 brothers who aggravated her a lot. In Encyclopedia Britannica it says that Misty had never tried dancing until she was picked to be on her Middle School Drill Team, and that's where her ballet career began. Her coach realized how talented she was and recommended a ballet class to her. After Misty started ballet, her family was moving and her mother wanted Misty to quit ballet. Misty's ballet teacher did not want her to quit ballet, so she offered to let Misty stay with her in order to continue her ballet career. Her mother agreed to let Misty stay with her ballet coach, Bradley. For most ballerinas, after training, it takes 2 years to get on point, but it only took Misty 3 months. While she was staying with Bradley, she attended a ballet summer program. Later, Misty's mom wanted her to come home to take ballet, but Bradley wanted Misty to continue traveling with her. Her mom **insisted** that Misty return home.

Accomplishments

Soon, Misty continued to take classes with Bradley. When she was 15, she won the ballet category at the LA Music Center Spotlight Awards. Kids Infobits says that in the year 2,000 American Ballet Theatre or ABT, asked Misty to join them, it was Misty's dream. She was ABT's first African American female soloist to dance ballet. Misty was the second soloist for the ABT. In 2012, Misty Copeland got her first lead role with the ABT dancing in Firebird. In 2014, she played Clara in the Nutcracker. In 2015, Misty Copeland was named June's Principal Dance of the ABT. Later, she performed in many other famous ballets such as, Swan Lake and Romeo and Juliet.

Life Today

Misty **co-wrote** a children's book about ballet. She titled it Firebird after her first leading role. On Misty Copeland's website it states that today she plays the ballerina princess in the new movie The Nutcracker and the Four Realms. In the book "Misty Copeland, Ballerina," it said that Misty was also the first African American woman to be given the title of top dancer in the Ballet Company History.

In conclusion, Misty Copeland is a **fascinating** ballerina. She sure had a busy childhood, huge accomplishments, and still has a wonderful life today. Misty Copeland has an interesting story and it is worth reading about. My dream is to grow up and be a famous ballerina just like Misty Copeland.

Glossary

co-wrote – write something with another person

fascinating – extremely interesting

insisted – demand something forcefully, not accepting refusal

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School

Sara Winchester
By: Katie Gallman
Mr. Winningham's Fifth Grade

Sarah Winchester was interesting to me because she had such a big home and interesting life.

Early Life

To start I would like to give credit to Biography.com. Sarah Winchester was born in Connecticut in 1829. Sarah and William Wirt Winchester got married in 1862. Sarah Winchester married into a very wealthy family.

Later On in Life

After the death of Sarah's husband, William Wirt Winchester, Sarah inherited the money William Winchester made from making and selling Winchester Guns. After Sarah's husband died, Sarah felt lonely and frightened. Sara asked a medium if spirits were following her who got shot and killed by Winchester Guns. The medium told her that they were.

Construction

Sarah built a home with stairs that led to nowhere, doors that led to walls, and Sarah had secret passageways throughout the home. Sara's house included 4 stories, 40 bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, 6 kitchens, and 40 stairways. The home included 2,000 doors, 10,000 windows, 17 chimneys, and 52 skylights. Sarah even included a lock box in the wall. While construction was going on Sarah stayed in a large boat house. The large boat home was supposed to keep Sarah away from evil spirits, according to biography.com.

The Number 13

Sarah Winchester loved the number 13 so much, she had 13 bathrooms, stairways with 13 steps, rooms with 13 windows, rooms with 13 coat hangers, and down her driveway she had 13 palm trees in a row.

Escaping Evil Spirits

Sarah Winchester had secret passageways throughout the home, so if evil spirits were to find her she would be able to escape. Every night Sarah slept in a different bed to keep the evil spirits from finding her. In my opinion, I don't believe in evil spirits.

In conclusion, Sarah Winchester's life was very interesting in my opinion. Sarah had an interesting life full of tragedy. As well, she had a fascinating home, and many superstitions. In my opinion, I would love to visit her home in California one day.

Glossary

construction (con-struc-tion) – the building of something, typically big

medium (me-di-um) – a person with psychic abilities

tragedy (trag-e-dy) – an event causing great suffering, destruction, and distress, such as a serious accident, crime, or natural disaster

wealthy (wealth-y) – having a great deal of money, resources, or assets; rich

Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School

Fishing

By: Ames LeCompte

Mrs. Harmon - Kindergarten

One day my dad and I went to the river and fished. We ate in the boat. We didn't catch any fish.

My Hover Board

By: Alayla Jackson

Mrs. Titus - Kindergarten

I like to play with my hover board. It was fun to ride!

Snow

By: Brynn Davis

Mrs. Waites - Kindergarten

I like the snow.
The sky is gray.
Snow is white.
Snow is cold.
Snow is pretty.

The Best Day Ever

By: Evelyn Mitchell

Ms. Bowers – First Grade

One day we got to wear pajamas to school. I wore my Shopkin pajamas. We watched "Santa Paws" in the classroom. We also had a winter break party. We had ice cream and a mini cupcake and Cheetos. It was fun. It was one of the best days ever!

The Best Day Ever

By: Maddie Templin

Mrs. Horne – First Grade

When my first tooth came out, it was the best day ever. When I got home my mom gave me a journal to write about losing my tooth. I was happy and glad. When I woke up, I looked under my pillow... and \$10! It was the best day ever! I was so, so happy too. Mom, Dad, and Jojo were happy. My teacher was happy too!

Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School

The Best Day Ever **By: Bryce Willingham** **Mrs. Parnell – First Grade**

The best day ever was The Teddy Bears' Picnic. We brought our own teddy bears to school. There was a bear cave in the hallway. We had a picnic lunch outside. We had a sub sandwich and a chocolate teddy bear. We got Gummy Bears and Skittles. We went to different classes for activities and we brought our teddy bears to different classes. Our classroom was decorated with tablecloths on our own tables. It was the best day ever!

My Life **By: Brady Sease** **Mrs. Farmer – Second Grade**

I used to be a foster child, but now I am adopted. I feel a story coming on... Before I was a foster child, I did not get fed because my parents did not have any money. They did not take care of me. Before I was a foster child, I felt sad and very hungry. Then I went into D.S.S. I went into foster care system. They found me a home. It was a perfect family for me. I was adopted. I feel happy now because my new mom and dad takes care of me. My new mom and dad love me and I love them!

How to Train a Dog **By: Hunter Bragg** **Ms. Howe – Second Grade**

Training a dog is hard work. You may be asking if it is actually worth your time. YES! It is worth it...totally worth it!

What You Need

First, you need a treat. Second, you need space to train your dog. Third, you need a dog to train. Next, think of commands to control your dog. In the beginning, you may also want to have a leash. As you get better at training your dog, you won't need it. The leash will be helpful at first.

Where To Train the Dog

The amount of space you need is at least 34 feet all around. To play fetch, you might want a bigger space so that the dog can run.

What To Wear

You should wear jeans to train your dog in case the dog tries to bite or scratch you. Long sleeves are good because of fleas and lice. (Both humans and dogs can get them)

How To Train

Choose the trick you want to teach the dog first. For example, use "sit". Hold a treat and tell the dog to sit. If the dog listens, give him the treat. If he doesn't, use your hand to push him lightly down to a sitting position. Then, have him stand up. Keep trying again and again until he does it on his own. After he is good at one trick, start teaching him a new one.

It is hard work learning to train your dog, but you can make it through!

Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School

Carowinds

By: Gabe Glymph

Mrs. Jan Hyman – Second Grade

The best day of my life was when I went to Carowinds! Carowinds is two hours away. It felt like we got there quickly. We met Grampy there. Grampy is my grandfather. Do you want to know the craziest thing that happened? My mom and dad rode The Fury. It's the tallest roller coaster there. When you get to the top it just goes straight down. There is like a bridge to the entrance and The Fury goes under the bridge. I think that is cool. My mom and dad liked riding it. My favorite roller coaster was The Cobra. I liked how it took you up a hill and then it dropped and went through a barrel and a loop. Finally, we went up another hill and then went through the whole thing backwards. We rode some more rides like spinning cars and other rides that were on tracks. Then we went back home and on the way I played Minecraft. It did not seem like it took us long to get home. It was the best day ever!

More Recess, Please

By: Gavin Mitchell

Ms. Carnes - Third Grade

We have to have more recess time at PRE! Kids will learn good sportsmanship, students will not be as hyper, and kids will be healthier.

The first reason is kids will learn good sportsmanship. Boys could play a soccer game and when recess is over, kids will line up and say "good game."

The next reason is students will not be as hyper. Extra recess will make students more tired because they will play longer and harder. This will get all this extra energy out and help them pay more attention in class.

The last reason is that kids will be healthier because of all of the extra physical activity. Since they will have the activity, it will encourage students to go to bed earlier and get more rest.

These are the reasons kids at PRE need more recess!

The Aquarium

By: Téa Reid

Mrs. Cates – Third Grade

It all started when my brother and I got home Friday night from Grammy's. Mom and Dad said that we had a surprise on Saturday. It was finally Saturday morning. We called Grammy to tell her goodbye. She knew what the surprise was. She said, "Could I come?" We said, "Of course." We went to pick her up and saw our cousins. We figured out that they were coming with us too.

We got to our hotel and got our card to get into our room. Grammy got the party room! We got an amazing view! My baby brother says "oohh" when he really likes something. He said, "oohh", so our view was very cool.

The surprise was right beside us! It was the aquarium! We had so much fun. Our cousins and Grammy also had fun! I loved that trip!

Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri
By: Landon Compton
Miss Gruber – Fourth Grade

On November 15, 2017 my family and I took a trip to St. Louis, Missouri. It was a warm and sunny day with no clouds in the sky. We rode around and looked at the city. There were tall sky scrapers and a state house that looked tiny compared to the sky scrapers. Then after riding in the car, we found a parking spot and parked. We got out the car and saw the arch! It is known as the “Gateway to the West” because that’s where most pioneers began their journeys from. I asked my mom “Where are we going to get the tickets from?” My mom answered, “There will be a ticket booth up here.” We got the tickets and went down some stairs and saw a vending machine. I had exactly what I wanted – Doritos! They were as good as a piece of cake! Then we went and got in line for the arch.

After a while we finally heard the trolley coming down to pick us up. The trolley was really small and we had to squeeze in it. When we were going up you could see the wires and cables that were taking us up. When we got to the top I wanted to run and see the Mississippi River, but I couldn’t because it would make the arch shake!

You could see for miles and miles each direction. I saw the St. Louis Cardinals baseball field. I also saw where the St. Louis Rams used to play, and the state house. Then we took some pictures and it was time to go down. When we walked back to the trolley, the arch started to shake! It felt weird. We squeezed back inside the trolley and went back down the arch.

When we got to the bottom we took a family picture. The light on the camera was so bright it almost blinded me! We walked back to the car and drove off. When we got home I told my mom that I wanted to go back one day!

The Stolen Point
By: Ethan Hunter
Ms. Wheeler – Third Grade

One day my mom woke me up. “Get up, you have a game today!” So, I got dressed. We got in the car and went to the ball field. I started warming up. My coach told me we were batting first and that I was hitting first. I got in the batter’s box and the pitcher pitched the ball; “ball!” The pitcher got the ball back. I got ready in the box. He threw the ball; “ball!” Two balls. I stepped out of the box. Then I stepped back in and he threw the ball; “ball!” I got ready one last time; “ball!” I went to first base and the pitcher got the ball back. He threw the ball and the catcher missed it. I stole second; “safe!” The pitcher got the ball back and got set. He threw the ball and the catcher missed it. I stole third; “safe!” I got up. The pitcher got the ball back. I started bouncing at third. The pitcher got set. He threw the ball; “strike!” The pitcher got the ball back. He got set and he threw the ball. The catcher missed it and I went home! The catcher tossed the ball to the pitcher but the pitcher missed the ball; “safe!” I scored the winning run. We won 16 to 6. I felt proud of myself.

Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School

Dogs Make the Best Pets **By: Casady Babb** **Ms. Hendrix – Fourth Grade**

In my opinion dogs make the best pets because it's so much fun playing with them, they love you no matter what, and it's so cute when they wait for you to come home.

Dogs make the best pets because it's so much fun playing with them. One time I had a dog named Lilly. When I would take her out for a walk, she would always pull on the leash. It was so much fun. Sometimes she would bite me a little, but it would not hurt because she was just a puppy. She would jump on me, too. Maybe if you get a dog they will do the same and you will have just as much fun.

Another reason why dogs make the best pets is because they love you no matter what. If you have ever had a dog like me and have had it for a long time since it was a puppy, when it grows up it will know who you are. Once I got a dog when he was a puppy. When I took him home he was scared and did not want to come out from behind the couch. A couple months later, he was excited to come out and play with us. He got used to us and loves us so much now.

The last reason why dogs make the best pets is because they are so cute when they wait at the door for you. When I had an indoor dog, he would always wait at the door for me to come home. When I would open the door, he would jump at me and I knew that he was happy. I don't really know why they do this, but I think they do it because they have not seen you in a while. Have you ever had a dog do that to you?

In my opinion dogs make the best pets because it's so much fun playing with them, they love you no matter what, and it is so cute when they wait for you to come home. Do you think that dogs make the best pets?

We Should Have School Uniforms! **By: Gavin Thornhill** **Miss Lane – Fourth Grade**

I think it would be a fantastic thing for PRE to have school uniforms. These are my 3 reasons why.

One reason why we should have school uniforms is because you would have an outfit already ready for you every day of the week. The school uniform doesn't have to look bad. If you like it, it would be fun to wear every day to school.

Another reason why we should have school uniforms is because all you need are 5 complete school uniforms and you are set for the whole school year. That saves your parents money because they are not having to buy 3,000 outfits for you to wear to school EVERY YEAR.

Finally, if you and your friends like to match, you can match every single day of the school year. That's 180 days of matching!!! Sounds like a dream!!!!

So, in conclusion, these are my reasons why we should have school uniforms.

Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School

Introducing the Manatee By: Lawson Lawrence Ms. Duncan – Fifth Grade

Introduction

Wow! An **aggregation** of manatees just swam by! When learning about manatees, it's very important to know their appearance, habitat, and diet.

Appearance

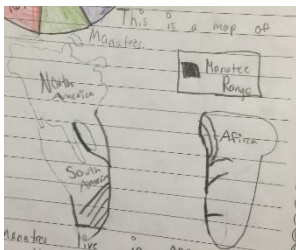
To begin with, manatees are grey and brown with smooth, soft skin. An adult manatee is 10ft (3 meters) tall. Manatees weigh 800 to 1,200 pounds (363-544kg). A manatee swims 3-5 miles per hour (5-8 kilo) and can go up to 20mph (32kph) Manatees migrate in November, during winter. A manatee is a mammal so it is warm blooded.

Did You Know?

Manatees are bigger than buses.

Habitat

In more detail, manatees love slow rivers, bays, and estuaries. Florida manatees' climate is 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit). They live on the Gulf Coast to get warm. Most manatees live at Congo River in Africa. Many manatees live in Africa, South America, and North America.



Diet

Manatees are **herbivores** that love sea grass. Manatees eat sea grass, algae, and flowers. A manatee's predators are sharks and humans. According to the book Return of Manatees it states, "Manatees, as you can see, love sea grass." Manatees can grow around 30 or more teeth during their lifetime. Manatees sometimes eat more than 100 pounds (45.4kg) of food a day. Manatees look fat but they're really not. Manatees spend 10-12 hours a day sleeping and 8 hours a day eating.

Did You Know?

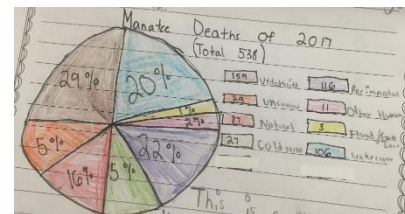
Manatees only eat plants.

Did You Know?

A manatee's teeth can get dull and worn.

Conclusion

Clearly, manatees are very unique animals. Although their appearance, habitat, and diet have some weird traits, they're unique in their own ways. In my opinion, manatees are loving animals. What is your favorite animal?



Glossary

Aggregation: a group of manatees

Estuaries: where a lake meets a swamp

Herbivores: animals that eat plants

Mammal: warm blooded animals

Migrate: move to warmer area

Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School

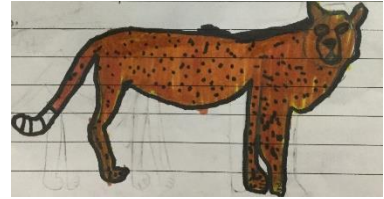
Introducing the Cheetah By: Montieth Brown Mrs. Duncan – Fifth Grade

Introduction

Zoom! Look at that cheetah go. Did you know cheetahs are the world's fastest land cat? Let me... Argh! Whoa, that cheetah just got that wild beast! As you see, cheetahs are dangerous and so to stay safe you need to learn about their appearance, habitat, diet and some fun facts about cheetahs!

Appearance

Have you ever seen a cheetah? First of all, cheetahs are 3.5 to 4.5 feet long. Cheetah coats are brownish gold with a white underside. Cheetahs have black spots all over their body, except for their tails which have four to six rings on it. An adult cheetah's weight is about seventy-five to one hundred forty-five pounds.

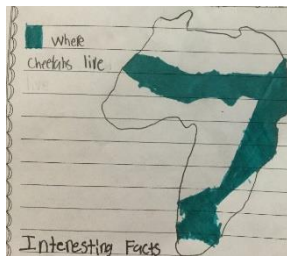


Habitat and Diet

Cheetahs live in Eastern and South Western Africa. Cheetahs like to live in grasslands. Cheetahs eat sea otters, gazelles, porcupines, warthog, ostriches, wild beasts, and zebras. Meanwhile, if cheetahs don't have anything to eat for several days, they will eat each other.

Did You Know?

Cheetahs are both prey and predators.



Interesting Facts

Cheetahs can run up to 70 mph. Lions are five times heavier than cheetahs. Cheetahs' brother or sister are "puma".

Conclusion

All in all, as you can see, a cheetah is a strong, fast, and interesting animal. Their appearance, habitat, diet, and interesting facts make them a great beast. Do you like cheetahs? What is your favorite animal?

Glossary

Africa-a country where people and animals live

Appearance- the way someone or something looks

Coats- an animals covering of fur or hair

Diet- the kinds of food that a person, animal, or community habitually eats.

Habitat- the natural home or environment of an animal

Predators- an animal that naturally prey on other animals

Prey- animals that are hunted and killed by another thing for food

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Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School

Introducing the Wild Horse

By: Lyla Kendrick

Mrs. Duncan – Fifth Grade

Introduction

Wow! A pretty, wild horse just galloped past me and almost knocked me down. It's funny how horses and zebras are almost alike and if you compared them you would not find a lot of differences. Therefore, it is so important to know a horse's appearance, habitat, and diet.



Appearance

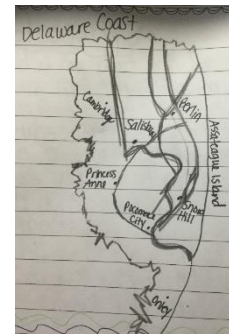
Horses have fur, not scales or skin. Their colors are dun (buckskin) beige, with a black mane and tail. They are also 9 ft. tall. Wow! Their species is Eqnns Ferns (Wild horses) or Eqnns Cahallus (domesticated horses).

Habitat/ Diet

Wild horses can be found in Assateague Islands. Wild horses can also be found in coastal areas, deserts, forests, mountains, wetlands, and Western grasslands. They will eat berries, fruit, leaves, twig, and tree bark.

Comparing Horses to Zebras

Wild horses run up to 48.2 km (30 mph), while zebras run up to 54.7km. A horse's maximum speed is 40 miles per hour. Wild horses eat barley, sugar, pulp, and chaff (chopped-up hay). In comparison, zebras eat a variety of grasses, as well as shrubs, herbs, twigs, leaves, and tree bark. Horses weigh 1,000 pounds. Wow!



Conclusion

There are so many interesting things about horses. Even though their appearance, habitat, and diet would almost be the same as zebras, horses are unique animals. Have you ever ridden a horse?

Glossary

Herbs: Any plant with leaves, seeds, or flowers used for flavoring, food, medicine, or perfume.

Shrubs: A woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems arising at or near the ground

Pulp: a soft, wet, shapeless mass of material

Barley: a hardy cereal that has coarse bristles extending from the ears, brewing, and it is stock feed

Eqnns: a genus mammal in the family of Equidae

Domesticated horses: An animal that is tamed or kept as a pet or on a farm.

Reuben Elementary School

Winter

By: Xander Seegers

Mrs. Lominick – Pre-Kindergarten

Santa comes around in the winter time to put presents under the tree. In winter you can have snowball fights. Snow falls down from the sky. You need to wear mittens and clothes outside because it is cold.

Pizza Hut

By: Sami Kaur

Ms. Whitlock - Kindergarten

All my family went to eat.
We went to Pizza Hut. I ate cheese pizza.
My mom said we can go to Pizza Hut again.

The Best Day Ever

By: Andy Walton

Ms. Eargle - First grade

On Sunday, I went to church. It was the best time I ever had in my life. First I went to Sunday School. We read the Bible. Next we sang songs. My favorite is Go Tell It on the Mountain. Last we did crafts. Then we went upstairs. I love my church.

When My Dog Was Shot

By: Rickey Davis

Mr. Bell - Second grade

Has anyone ever killed your dog? They did mine. Let me tell you all about it.
First, somebody shot my dog, Tony. It was an icy Wednesday morning. I was napping. I went to go run outside.
Next, I spotted blood. Soon I discovered Tony's body. He had been shot with a gun.
We adored him so much
I called Dad. Then, we were angry and upset.
He would attack anyone he does not know. He was a good dog. He would always chill out.
Last, we felt angry, upset and scared. I could not believe my eyes. Me and Dad dug a hole. Dad said, "It will be OK." We put him in the hole.
I miss him.
I remember this because this was a very, very upsetting moment. We all were angry, upset and scared.
I just wanted to scream.

Reuben Elementary School

My First Day of School

By: Adalynn Jimenez

Mrs. Petersen – Second grade

First, me and my mom pulled up at Reuben Elementary School. I was so nervous because I did not know anyone. My teacher Mrs. Griffin told me to go to centers. That's when I met Gracie. I went to the center and there was a girl there. I said, "Hi!" She said "Hi!" Next, I helped her out. When I met her again we were talking like crazy. That day we played on the swings. We played with the blocks. We were best friends. We stayed best friends in kindergarten the whole year. We stayed best friends in first grade the whole year. Now, we are still best friends in 2nd grade.

The First Stages of a Cat's Life

By: Abby Beni

Mrs. Chapman – Third grade

Do you know about the first stages of a cat's life? I do and I can tell you all about it. The cat changes over four weeks. First, the mama cats give birth to her babies. When they are born, they have no hair and they can't open their eyes. When they are a week old, they start to grow their hair and begin to open their eyes. They still have to get milk from their mama. Next, they are two weeks old, and they become fluffy kittens. They can even open their eyes more. Now they are called kittens. After that, the kittens begin to become more playful. This is around three weeks. They no longer need milk from their mama. They start to eat some hard food. Finally, the kitten is one month old! They eat a lot of hard food such as cat food. They can play outside! Now you know all about the first stages of a cat's life. Tell everyone about it!

The Alligator and the Three Horses

By: Serenity Pratt-Hall

Ms. Malone - Fourth Grade

Once upon a time, there lived three horses in a green and grassy meadow. One day the meadow began to look brown and filled with dead plants, so they decided to go across the bridge to a nice, healthy meadow on the other side.

First, they sent the youngest horse to go and check out the nice and healthy meadow. However, little did they know that living under the bridge, there was a humongous, vicious, cruel alligator who could not stand for anyone to walk on the bridge. Once the young colt was halfway across, the alligator jumped out of the water and said, "Who dares to cross my bridge?" The alligator was very furious and angry at the young colt.

Reuben Elementary School

The Amazing Adventure
By: Mariana Lusk Bishop
Ms. Malone – Fifth Grade

My family and I went rock climbing. It was a HUGE wall. When we got there, I scurried in and grabbed a safety rope. I climbed it in under two minutes, and as I said earlier, the wall was huge. I beat the man who helps prepare you for climbing the rock wall in ONE WHOLE SECOND. Just one!

After rock climbing, we went and got ice cream. The whole time on the way there, my brother was singing, “I scream. You scream. We all scream for ice cream. Double scoop chocolate with milk chocolate pleeease. Dun. Dun.”

When we were finally at the ice cream shop, he stopped singing. He ordered a double scoop chocolate with milk chocolate bar in it, and I ordered plain chocolate mixed with vanilla – my favorite.

When we finished our ice cream, we went to a waterfall with tons of rocks around it. I asked my parents, “Can I climb it?” I paused and remembered when I was 7 my older brother climbed it and made it to the top of the mountain – the peak. “James did it,” I added.

My dad gave me the evil eye and stared at my mom. “Yes,” she said. “Be careful. We’re going to walk the trail and we’ll meet you at the top.”

I smiled from ear to ear and said, “Thank you!” So I started climbing the small mountain and was soon at the top in what seemed like no time at all. When I got to the top, my family was eating lunch without me, and it was my favorite lunch – SALAD! I sat down with them and started eating.

After lunch, we all walked down the mountain on the trail. We climbed into our car and went home. That whole day was really one amazing adventure.

Mid-Carolina Middle School

When Karen Comes
By: Ava Pullen
Mrs. Frampton – Sixth Grade

“Look at the field one last time,” said Mama, “cause it’s the last time you’ll ever see it.”

My mama and I live in a little log cabin in the middle of nowhere. We are always moving from place to place, and my mama will not tell me why. I’ve never had a daddy. I know I had one once because my mama tells me the story of how they met; she said it felt like they were connected. Every time she tells me a story about my daddy, I always ask, “If I had a daddy when I was little, why don’t I have one now?” But, mama never answers the real question. She just says, “All things happen for a reason, sweetie,” and disregards my question.

I hate moving from place to place because I will fall in love with the place we are living, then we have to leave again. My momma always tells me to look one last time at where we were living because we would never see it again. The little log cabin we live in is my absolute favorite place though because it has a really big field I can run and play in. The cabin is warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It is so hard to let go of that place because I feel like we were meant to be there.

I really want to know why we have to move from place to place, so one night I gather my courage and ask her.

“Why do we have to move around everywhere?” Mama said, “You know all things happen...”

“NO!” I cut her off, “you say that every time I ask you and I want a real answer. NOW!!!”

Mama responded with “I can’t possibly tell you.”

“WHY! You never tell me anything and I can’t take it anymore. You are going to tell me or I’ll leave you and be gone by morning!”

“FINE, FINE,” Mama said, with a sigh. “You’re not my real daughter.”

“What??” I said in shock. “What do you mean?”

“I took you from your parents and kept you, and just so you know, if you run I will find you so don’t even try.” I did not listen to her and ran out the door over the hill in the field and ran until I could not even walk. There was so much pain in my chest like knives, but it did not compare to the pain in my heart. “She’s not my mom, she’s not my mom.” The thought kept running through my head. I just couldn’t wrap my mind around it all. Everything I knew and had grown up with was shattered. I knew I had to keep running no matter how much it hurt because if I stopped she would catch me.

I ran until I found an abandoned shed. I decided I would spend the night there. I found an old worn out mattress and laid down. I laid there and stared at the ceiling, thoughts continuously running through my head. It was cold during the night, but I eventually fell asleep.

Mid-Carolina Middle School

In the morning, I woke up and felt warm and comfortable. I looked around and noticed I was back in the log cabin. I tried to get up, but I could not move my arms or my legs. I was tied to the bed. Then I saw her: my mama.

"I told you I would find you," she said. "You should have just stayed."

"Stay with you? You're crazy!! What do I even call you?" I exclaimed.

"You can call me Karen," she said.

"I will get out, and you will never be able to find me," I said with rage.

"Well, didn't you think that last time, too?" Karen said with a smirk.

"This time I mean it," I responded with force.

After a few hours, Karen fell asleep. It was after dark, and Karen seemed to be in a deep sleep. I wiggled and squirmed, but I could not break free from the ropes. I looked over at the bedside table and saw a piece of broken glass from a broken picture. It was just in my reach so I grabbed it and cut myself free. I silently got up and ran. I ran as fast as I could.

I ran past the hill in the field, past the shed I had sought refuge in, and ran until I saw a house. I knocked on the door; no one answered. I ran to the next house and got the same response. I had almost given up, but suddenly I came up to a big white house.

I knocked on the door and a lady answered. I screamed, "Help, help! A person is coming for me!" The lady let me in and said, "Calm down and tell me what happened."

I began to explain. "When I was little, I was taken from my parents and was kept by this woman named Karen. She told me she was my mama and I just found out she is not so I ran away and came to this house. You're the first person who answered."

"Wait. You were taken as a child?" she said

"Yes, why?" I asked.

"Because my little girl was taken when she was little, too. Is your name Arin?" she said.

"Yes. Why?"

"My little girl's name was Arin, too," she said.

"Does that mean you're my mom?" I said

"Yes, I believe so. I've missed you so much Arin. I never thought I would see you again."

We both stood up and hugged each other. My nightmare was finally over. Now I live with my mom and we haven't seen or heard from Karen again.

Months passed, and I thought that she was gone forever and my nightmare was over, but today I received a letter from Karen. It said, "I will always find you." We will never know when Karen will come again, to take me away from my true mother.

Mid-Carolina Middle School

World War II Hope
By: Hannah Quattlebaum
Ms. Richardson – Sixth Grade

November 20, 1941

Annie had just gotten home from school when she heard her dad eating in the living room. Most kids would have gone to see him, but not Annie. She knew that he was listening to the radio, listening about war. Instead she walked out the back door into the sweltering Florida heat to find her brother Jack.

“Hey, Sis! How’s school now that World War II is popular?” Jack asked with a sly look on his face.

“Ugh! Can you please stop talking about war! I can deal with it at school, but not here too!” Annie stomped in the house and slammed the door, leaving frazzled Jack behind. Annie felt a small tug of guilt as she moved down the hallway. Jack couldn’t help talking about war. He is in the army; it’s all he can think about. Every day more news about war popped up everywhere, and it was making Annie sick. It was in newspapers, on posters, in rallies, one little girl even wrote “Pray for Paris” on the sidewalk.

Annie tried to push these thoughts out of her mind as she trudged into her room and collapsed onto her bed. She slowly fell asleep, not knowing that her problems were just getting started.

3 Hours Later

Annie woke up to the warm smell of roast beef filling the room. Mom must be home. Annie jumped out of bed, slid down the hallway, and jumped into her chair just as her mom came out of the kitchen.

“Someone had a nice nap,” her mom said as she spooned steaming portions onto their plates. “So...Jack, you said you had something to tell the family,” Mom said as she sat down.

Jack swallowed hard, set down his fork, and spoke, “Mom, Dad, Sis...I have finished my training and have been stationed.”

The room got real quiet; Annie felt sick.

“Oh! Well, that’s great, Jack. When and where is it?” Mom asked stunned.

Jack cleared his throat, “Well I’m stationed at Pearl Harbor...and I’m leaving...tomorrow.”

Dad’s eyes got real big, Mom dropped her utensils, and Annie choked on a carrot.

“Tomorrow!” Mom yelled, “Why didn’t you tell us!” Jack opened his mouth to speak, but was cut off by Annie.

“I’m your sister. We’re your family, and you tell us now!” Hot tears rolled down Annie’s face as she yelled, “You know I hate war, and yet you’re going knowing I’ll worry!” Annie ran away from the table and into her room, slamming her door.

Jack left the next morning to many hugs and tears. The moment his car was out of sight Annie ran inside to write her first letter. Over the next week, Annie calmed down knowing that Jack was in no harm’s way. That all ended that Sunday, the day the bomb dropped.

Mid-Carolina Middle School

It was 8:00, and Annie was getting ready for church when she heard someone beating on the door. It was Mrs. Green. "Come over to the radio, there's something you need to hear," she told Dad.

They all hurried across the street and into her house. Before Annie stepped inside, she noticed that the world seemed dark and dreary. She quickly pushed this out of her mind, trying to think happy thoughts. Mom was the first one in the living room. The second she heard the radio she dropped to the floor. Then Dad came falling right beside her.

Annie was mortified to hear what was on. She knew from the screams and yells that blared through the speakers that it was war. Annie looked over at her neighbors who were transfixed on the radio, some with tears running down their faces, some simply in a daze. Slowly, she closed her eyes, walked into the living room, and turned towards the radio. The second she opened them, tears gushed down her face. No, she thought, this can't be happening. She couldn't bear listening, so she ran back outside. She wished more than anything that she was back at home with Jack, safe and sound. She crouched down on the steps and curled into a ball. Annie felt herself slowly getting dizzy and dizzy until the only thing she could hear was the announcer say that at 7:48 a.m., Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor.

Days passed without any news. There was word of survivors, but no one knew who. Annie never left the house; she barely left her room. Annie tried to resist, but sadness and worry overwhelmed her. Everywhere she looked there was war, on the radio, outside, in her parents' eyes. It was taking over. Finally, after five days of stress, tears and worrying, they finally got a letter of hope. That morning a letter from Jack arrived. The second it reached her hands, Annie ripped it open. Jack had gotten seriously injured but was not dead. He was flying with other survivors to a hospital in Orlando where they would heal his injuries.

After about a week, Annie's family were finally able to see him. Annie begged for them to take her, but her parents knew how she would react seeing him and decided to leave her. So there she was, waiting. She paced. She sang, read, and meditated. She did everything to get her mind off Jack.

By the time she had made her third batch of cookies, she heard a knock on the door. She didn't quite know if she was supposed to open it, seeing that she was never really home alone. She went to the door anyway.

"Who is it?" she called. No answer. She looked through the peep hole and saw the top of a man's head. That made her uneasy, so she grabbed an umbrella and swung open the door. Then she dropped it. "Jack!"

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Life x1

By: Ryan Crooks

Mrs. Fogle – Sixth Grade

Jim Jackson Jr. was an average boy. He loved to play basketball, baseball, and play Super Mario Bros on his NES. Christmas time was near, so Jim wrote his letter to Santa. He asked for a baseball bat, a puppy, and a new jacket.

However, what Jim wanted the most was Ice Climber- a game all his friends had. As Jim lay down in his bed, he dreamed of what he would get.

Jim woke up the next morning and dashed down the stairs. He sprinted over to the green plastic tree and tore open his presents: a pine baseball bat, a slick black leather jacket, and finally, the game he wanted!

He turned on his TV immediately. He blew on the grey cartridge and popped it into the NES. He picked up the controller, and pressed start. He started to feel woozy. The pixelated screen became larger and larger. Jim felt cold. He had a large blue coat on and an enormous hammer in his hands. He looked up only to see a large red pterodactyl fly by. Then he realized...

"Oh no!" Jim screamed. He was sucked into the game. Jim knew what he needed to do. He jumped up and broke a block of ice with his hammer and set off on his journey.

Jim jumped through the gap he made and froze in fear. Coming his way was a white, yeti-looking monster, pushing a piece of ice as he charged forward. Jim panicked and tried to run, but he was too slow.

"Ow!", Jim yelled. He looked up and saw one of those three faces at the top of the screen were missing. "That must be my life count," Jim thought. He trudged on.

Jim reached the sixth layer as he saw a smaller pterodactyl in the air. Jim thought quickly and tried his hammer. "Whoosh" went the hammer as he missed the flying creature. The dinosaur swooped down in a red blur and whacked Jim. He got up and started on his journey once more but then stopped in his tracks. He had one life left.

"What am I going to do?" Jim thought. "I'll just have to be more precise with my aim. Wait, I can see the end of the level!" he said to himself. However, there was a problem. On the layer above him, another white monster was awaiting him. Jim courageously jumped up and gave his hammer a swing. "Thud," it went.

"I did it!" Jim yelled triumphantly. He hopped up to the bonus and collected all the purple eggplants. He grabbed the feet of the big red dinosaur and flew off back into reality.

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The Pros and Cons of Chewing Gum in Schools

By: Frank Elsenheimer

Mrs. Schumpert – Seventh Grade

POP! Your chewing gum explodes everywhere in your face. As funny as it is, your teacher sternly tells you to go to the restroom and wash your face. Believe it or not, versions of chewing gum by Mayans and Aztecs have been around for more than six thousand years (Lombardo, 2018.) Since gum has been around for so long, many advantages as well as disadvantages about gum being chewed in schools have been discovered.

To start off with, a couple of pros about gum being chewed in schools have been discussed in some articles. First, gum has been identified by researchers as cheap. Crystal Lombardo (2018) states, “Some chewing gums are priced as low as five cents a stick. The average person chews about one hundred and seventy sticks of gum per year which means less than ten dollars is spent per person.” This information confirms that gum is very cheap and affordable for students to buy. Besides being inexpensive, gum also has been found to help students focus in classes. These couple of pros or advantages for chewing gum in schools have been considered by school officials when they are trying to decide whether to allow students the privilege of chewing gum in school.

Also, there are a couple of cons or disadvantages of chewing gum in schools that school officials have reviewed too. For example, there are some gums with tooth decay prevention, but most chewing gums cause tooth decay. Lombardo (2018) states that, “Many chewing gums contain high levels of sugar. Repetitively chewing sugared gum encourages bacterial growth in and around teeth and gums.” It is evident that too much sugared gum is not good for anyone, and schools try to promote good health or wellness. Likewise, chewing gum that is swallowed takes quite a while to digest and may lead to constipation if there are large amounts of swallowed gum in one’s stomach. Because of these couple of cons, schools must carefully decide if they want to allow chewing gum in their schools.

As a result of these couple of pros and cons of chewing gum in schools, researchers are still studying and identifying the effects of chewing gum in schools. These couple of pros such as the cheapness of gum and gum helping students to focus are brought up against a couple of cons such as the effects that gum can have on students’ wellness. To conclude, there will always be a con for every pro and a pro for every con.

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A Letter from World War II
By: Josie Shepherd
Mrs. Templin – Seventh Grade

X or Erik Brandt
132 Pine Street
Seattle, Washington

Tamara
The Hospital
November 24, 1943

Dear Tamara,

Thank you for everything that you did for me. When the Russians brought me to your hospital, you took care of me. When you found out I was German, you did not reveal the secret that I had kept for so long. Tamara, I love you with all my heart because of everything you did. You never gave up on me. I know I seemed like a lost cause sometimes, but you kept on helping me. Your childhood was terrible. Your father was put in a death squad, you don't know where your mother is, and your brother was killed in the war. No matter what happened, though, you continued to take care of soldiers' day after day. The day the Germans invaded the hospital, and we rode off on the bus, your personality really stood out to me. When we ran off into the woods, I saw that you were more determined than ever. When Sergio stated that he wanted to go to America, your face lit up with possibility. As soon as I saw your reaction, I knew that making it to America was possible. I had faith in all of us. You were motivated to get to America and freedom. I admire you for that. You changed my world by showing, that if you persevere, you can get through anything.

When I was chosen to fight in the war, I was terrified. I couldn't stop thinking about what would happen if I died. When the bullet went through my cheek, and I saw the Russians coming towards me, I knew my life was over. When they brought me to the hospital, I couldn't stop thinking about having to go back out to war. I thought about how I would never see my family again. After I met you, all of that changed. Instead of thinking about the negative, and what could and had happened, I started thinking about the positive. I began telling myself that I might see my family again and that I would survive this war as well as Tamara.

When I first came to the hospital, I was selfish. I felt sorry for myself. I pushed everybody away, including you. Then I realized that looking at the positive made my life so much happier. YOU helped me realize that, and I want to thank you for making my life happier. I remember when we were still in the hospital and the nurses would turn the radio on. The spokesperson would announce who was winning different battles. I never knew if I should be excited or upset when the Germans lost. I was torn between the two enemies. When you told me you hated both the communists (the Russians) and the Germans, I realized I didn't have to take a side either.

You stayed with me through thick and thin. Our lives have changed since the war started. You went from a happy childhood, to working in a hospital full of soldiers, to running for your life. I left a caring family to stand on enemy lines. After meeting you, I had to protect both my life and

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yours. I went from selfish and close-minded to being generous and daring. You went from scared and quiet to being determined and more out-spoken. Through it all, we stuck together.

I wrote this letter to show my gratitude for your actions and to show you that nothing can separate us, no matter what happens. Thank you so much for taking care of me when I needed help. Thank you for still loving me when I pushed everybody away. Thank you for believing in me when everybody, including myself, lost all faith in me. Tamara you are the most special person in my whole world.

Sincerely,
X

The Doll **By: Ruben Rojas-Lara** **Mrs. Johnson – Seventh Grade**

Once there were two girls walking out of school. On the other side of the street they saw there was a doll. All black and dirty with mud, one eyelid missing, and only one foot. Well, they decided to go to the other side of the street and one of the girls picked it up. Then she said, "I am going to keep it and dress her as a princess." She took it to her house. A couple of weeks later when the girl was dressing for a party, she placed the doll in the middle of her shelf. When the girl turned around, the doll wasn't there! She was scared, so she took the doll outside. She went into the woods and dug a hole, and then put the doll in it. She went back to her house crying because she really loved the doll.

The doll got out, ran back to the house, and began knocking on the door. Well, the girl did not open the door so the doll went back to the street. Only this time another girl saw the doll. The doll had blond hair, a pink dress and shoes, and blue eyes. The girl picked up the doll and took it to her house. A couple of weeks later the girl took the doll to a birthday party. Everything went well. A few weeks after that the girl was going to a cupcake party. She had put the doll in the middle of her bed while she was getting dressed. The girl turned around and the doll was not there. It was on the floor. All of the sudden the doll jumped on her. They were fighting each other. She threw the doll on the floor and kicked it in the fireplace. One eyeball blew up and the other rolled to the girl's shoes. She kicked the eye all the way to the woods, and then let it roll into the river. She went back home happy it was over.

Then, there was another doll. It picked the eye up and said, "You killed my sister!" To be continued.....

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The Pros and Cons of Using Cell Phones in School

By: Matalyn Bouknight

Mrs. Schumpert – Seventh Grade

Ring, Ring! Should cell phones be used in schools during the day by students? How can phones help and hinder education in schools? Why would teachers allow their students to use cell phones in their classrooms? “Cell phones allow students access to instant research when they need to quickly learn something new (Lombardo, 2018). If a student is curious about a specific subject, they can use their phone quickly to learn more about it. “Yes and no,” there are advantages and disadvantages in using cell phones in school as discovered by researchers.

With the rise of technology, there are many pros and cons for using cell phones in school. One advantage of using cell phones in school is that they can help kids look up important topics, and cell phones have many different tools like the calculator which can be used in math and science classes. By allowing students to use their cell phones in classes, schools would not have to buy as many computers/ laptops, IPADS, and calculators. Another pro Lombardo (2018) reports is “Listening to music while engaged in school work can enhance a student’s focus.” Even I can connect to this because when I listen to music while I am doing my schoolwork, it helps me to focus and clearly think. Despite these pros, cell phones been used in schools do have their cons too. On the contrary to the pros, there are many disadvantages as well to using cell phones in class. One con is cell phones could be a distraction. Lombardo (2018) states, “Apart from disturbances or distractions that cell phones may cause in the classroom, critics point out that the text messaging and visual recording features included on many cell phones could be used to cheat on exam.” This proves that cell phones could be used in many wrong ways like cheating on a test and many more unapproved ways. To summarize Lombardo’s article, she also points out that kids could use their phones to look up inappropriate things and take photos of their peers and selfies of themselves when they are not supposed to. These are just a few of the cons that were found to be true of most children while using cell phones in the school.

In conclusion, there will always be pros and cons for using cell phones in the school just like there will always be bad and good in the world. For instance, a pro of using cell phones in the classroom is that schools would not have to buy as much technology for students’ use while a con would be that cell phones could cause distractions such as cheating, and students losing focus by being off task and doing unapproved things with their cell phones in the classroom. “Yes and no”, there are advantages disadvantages of using cell phones in school.

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Mom

By: Sarah Hentz

Mr. Arkin – Eighth Grade

Today in class I was told to write to the person who has influenced me the most. I started to panic because I had no idea who has had the greatest influence on me; but as I really thought about it the person who has influenced me the most is always with me. Mom, you have influenced me in so many ways. You have shown me how to live life to the fullest because sometimes things get in your way that you never plan on happening. For instance, we never knew you would end up with breast cancer.

The day was a normal as normal could be. I first knew something wasn't right when I checked my phone after cheer and I saw a text from my brother saying "I love you, everything will be okay." At this time, I was in the car with my sister and she didn't even have to tell me anything, I was already in tears. My sister decided to call my brother and during the time they were talking my whole world stopped because I immediately thought, "Oh my God, what if she dies?" My mind flashed to all the times I was disrespectful and rude. How many times I never said I love you back to her as I was walking out the door, knowing that mom would always be there when I came home. But as this happened, I started thinking "What if she's not going to be there anymore?" I imagined coming home and no one was there to ask me how my day was or to tell me everything will be okay. It all just rushed through my head making me want to change everything instantly.

I know that one day everyone grows up and leaves their parents. But that time is not now. I'm not ready to be without my parents, let alone my mom. I still have so much to learn and without her I don't know what I would do. So, mom I write this to you to show you how you've influenced me to never give up because I know if you can get through this, so can I. You have shown me to never take anything in life for granted because life can change in an instant. You have shown me how to be strong and handle that change.

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Trapped

By: Nadia Bookman

Mrs. Dippel – Eighth Grade

I will always remember that day, the day that is the reason my life will forever be mortified. I felt alone, trapped, reaching for breathes of fresh air, yet to only be silenced by my fear. It started out as an average and calm Saturday night. Perfect for star glazing and cheese puffs. My favorite cousin, Alaija, and I sat on the smooth, soft couch as the aroma of Saturday night chicken, baked to the crisp, filled the air.

“Dinners ready,” shouted Grandma from the top of her lungs. We rushed to the table because our stomach was filled with emptiness. Grandma placed the plates down and forgetting to bless the food, we dug in like pigs eating stew. It was delicious.

The silence at the table was broke when Grandma asked, “So are you ladies going to church with me tomorrow”. Alaija and I starred at each other for a moment. Hoping to sit around all day, our plans had been damaged. The room was so quiet; you could hear a wrapper fall. After a moment of silence, we returned to the conversation, agreeing on an answer.

“Sure, why not”, we asked in sync like two mocking jays.

“Great, be ready by 10:00, we leave at 10:05, no later”, said Grandma.

“Yes ma’am,” Alaija exclaimed back. I will never understand how something as simple as going to church could go so horribly wrong.

It was a beautiful, sunny Sunday morning. You could hear the delightful birds chirping from outside the sealed-tight window. As my cousin and I were awoken by the brighten lights of the yellow sun shining in our faces, we were shocked to realize for the first time in ages, we were going to be on time to something. As we walked to the kitchen, still in our nighttime sleep, we were surprised to see breakfast on the table, ready to settle our stomachs. Our grandparents hardly cooked breakfast, and we were shocked to see this sight. After that delectable feast, we hurried to change in our striking Sunday outfits, only to jump right back under the comfy sheets. Nearly scaring our souls out of our bodies, here comes grandma, angry and in distress.

“Get up ladies, it’s time to leave,” she yelled at what seemed to be at the top of her lungs. Searching frantically for our lovely church shoes, we found them and ran out the door as if we were being chased by a pack of lions. Upset by our horrible time management, she zoomed down the road, going at what seemed faster than a rocket taking off into space to reach the early morning Sunday service. We arrived at the astonishing, freshly built church. We hopped out of the car, and rushed up the church stairs. We made it just in time for the service to start.

Before we leaped through the brown castle doors separating the church lobby and the sanctuary, we were, once again, scared to death by our grandmother’s voice. She was yelling at us to come back. Apparently, ‘jumping for joy’ on church grounds was prohibited. After this little talk, where she spoke to us quietly and we were letting every word go in one ear and out the other, we walked calmly into church.

“Watch your step and behave,” Grandma whispered. Sitting down in one of those church booths made me go into a daze, as if I was seeing things. I felt like I was sinking into the long chair and as something was pushing my eyelids down. Suddenly, everything around me went pitch black. I was in this state for, at the most, 5 minutes. Then shocked by the sounds of drums, a piano, and people clapping for the Holy Spirit, I awoke. Astonished but still wanting to be engaged, I stood up with everyone else and joined in.

By the end of the service, everyone was invited to the back of the church for snacks and juices. Alaija and I thought it would a swell idea to sit and eat in the playroom (a room where the

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kids 1-8 go enjoy toys and playing during service). This bright idea changed into the worst moments in my life. It came faster than a pen dropping from a short stool.

"Come on, let's go," shouted Alaija.

"Shh, we're going to get caught you keep taking so loudly," I responded.

"Have some fun, cut loose," Alaija said.

"Church is the last place you should be cutting loose," I commented with an attitude. I rolled my brown eyes as she ran up the stairs, somehow, managing not to drop my crumb of food.

"You're going to fall," I announced with a grimace. Alaija always make sure everyone knew what she was doing, and on that day I wished someone really had.

We finally made it on the playroom entrance, I began to feel butterflies in my stomach. Not the butterflies when your crush walks by, or the first day of school jitters. It was the butterflies when you felt something terrible was about to happen. It was very idiotic of me to ignore that feeling.

We entered the room as if everyone was watching us, but the room was empty and filled with depression, which is extremely bad for a church playroom. We sat down at a tiny table where our knees were in front of our faces. It was us a good minute until we finished our eating. I knew we took a long time to finish, but when we walked out of the room, I didn't expect to see the lights turned off. To this knowledge, I flicked on my flashlight on my iPod, and speedily we ran down the stairs. The church sanctuary was dark. Everything was silent. I turned back to Alaija to see a tear pressed against her face. She was in just as much shock as I was.

Confused and in denial about this whole situation, we stupidly banged continuously on the doors, screaming "Help, Help" at the top of our lungs. No response. We searched like never before, looking for anyone or anything around the church to help us get out. No hope. We finally faced the facts, we were locked in the church. Stuck until someone realize we were missing.

"What are we going to do?" questioned Alaija. I could hear the fear in her voice, she was frightened. I ran to the pastor's office, grabbed the nearest blanket, ran back to the sanctuary and wrapped ourselves in the soft, comfortable, warmth blanket.

"We'll be fine," I said back, even though I was feeling the same emotions she was.

"Why hasn't anyone come for us," Alaija asked. Her grammar and speech made her sound like she was 2 rather than 8.

"Let's get some rest, it may still be morning, but it's been a long one". When I said that, it seemed to make her relax and ease her body. Within seconds, she had fell into a deep slumber.

My phone was on 6%. I had my charger at home and no matter where I went, there was no signal. I finally sat back down and covered my face with my palms. I accepted the fact, after what seemed like hours, that we were trapped. Practically forgotten by all our love ones. It hurt extremely to feel that we were left. I felt scared and alone. I could feel something breathing on the back on the back of my neck, but I was too afraid to turn my head. I stood still or a second. At these moments, I knew fear had taken over my body. I walked back to my cousin, lay down in the opposite direction as her, and closed my eyelids. My thoughts ran everywhere. The only thing I knew left to do was to pray. So that's what I did and fell asleep.

When I woke up and opened my eyes, I saw whiteness, as if I was leaving this earth. Turns out, that whiteness was a flashlight. The police were checking my eyes to make sure I was okay, I assumed. Apparently, these hours were actually 45 minutes. According to officers, our grandma and our aunt had some miscommunication. Our aunt thought our grandma was supposed to bring Alaija and me to her house, while grandma figures the church. Either way, they were both yelled at by grandpa.

This experience was something that will forever be a part of me. The thoughts, the fear, and every other emotion I felt. One life moment I will never forget.

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To Convict or Not to Convict **By: Taylor Derrick** **Mrs. Frampton – Eighth Grade**

ATTENTION! ORDER IN THE COURT! Ladies and gentlemen of the court, I am here today as the defense attorney in this case. I believe that my client, the murderer in this case, had no idea what he was doing when he killed this man. He is in fact legally insane, and I am here to tell you why he should be sent to a mental institution instead of being sent to jail.

First, let's start off with what it means to be legally insane. When someone, like my client, can't distinguish fantasy from reality, can't tell right from wrong, or can't control their behavior, they are considered legally insane. Now, let's start with the first reason why I believe my client is legally insane. He kept trying to convince us, as the readers, that he wasn't crazy. Normally, when people keep trying to convince you of something others believe they are, chances are, they really are what they say they aren't. The text states, "But why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses—not destroyed—not dulled them." This shows how my client was trying to convince us that he wasn't crazy, even though he was clearly crazy. Now, on to our next reason.

Second, my client killed a man because of his eye. How many people (that are sane) can say that they would kill a man because his eye was creeping them out and making them crazy? The text states, "I think it was his eye! Yes, it was this! One of his eyes resembled that of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so, by degrees—very gradually—I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever." This shows how the man's motive for this murder was the man's eye. Let's continue.

Lastly, my client cut up the corpse and hid the body in the floor boards and then led the police straight to the body. I mean, this is pretty insane if you think about it. The text states, "First of all I dismembered the corpse. I cut off the head and the arms and the legs. I then took up three planks from the flooring of the chamber and deposited all between the scantlings." This shows how my client cut up the corpse and put it in the floor. The text also states, "In the enthusiasm of my confidence, I brought chairs into the room, and desired them here to rest from their fatigues, while I myself, in the wild audacity of my perfect triumph, placed my own seat upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim." This shows how the police were led straight to the resting place of the corpse by my client. Most sane murderers would try to hide the fact that they killed a man. My client did otherwise. He led the police straight to the body. This is, in fact, showing legal insanity.

To conclude this court hearing, my client is legally insane. He was continuously trying to convince us that he wasn't crazy: he killed a man due to his eye, and he cut up the corpse and hid the body in the floor boards and then led the police straight to the body. This shows legal insanity because he never thought twice about killing a man. I hope you, as the judge and the jury, will consider my request and send my client to a mental institution instead of jail. Thank you for your time.

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The Girl in the Mirror!

By: Lydia Madison

Mrs. Johnson – Eighth Grade

I've always seen her standing there behind me. Her long blond hair stretched down to her thigh and her dress was black with white lace. Her eyes were a light blue, those fit for a beauty. My parents never believed me when I told them I could see a girl in the mirror, and when I turned around nothing was there but the door that led back into my room. "Oh my," they'd say, "what an imagination." As I look back on it, I can't blame them for thinking such thoughts. I was only five, and young ones hold their reputation well for telling tales. It's been nine years and I finally realized that I have no reason to fear this girl. She's always stood there doing nothing but looking at me. However, what scared me was the fact that I wouldn't just see her in my bathroom mirror, but in any reflection anywhere. A school mirror, a pool, and even the reflection of a shiny gold coin, she was there.

I arise, the smell of bacon fills the air. It's a wonderful smell, and as I sniff at it, I wonder 'do ghosts have feelings?' I pushed the thought aside and decided if I was going to start the day right, I was going to look ready. I picked my hand up and could feel that my hair probably looked wavier than Einstein's. I got up and walked to the bathroom. My vision still wasn't clear; eye boogers I assumed. Now I could see a tad bit better, which meant I'd have to face the looks of my hair. Black flowy hairs stuck up to the sky. I looked like a cartoon character that had seen a ghost. Speaking of... I turned and looked in the reflection to see the girl that stood there for the last few years of my life. Suddenly I felt the courage to ask a question I've been wanting to ask for years. "So," I say, "do you ever smile, or do anything besides watching me?" She turned her head a little, but her expression didn't change. "Okay," I mummer, "why are you here?" Quicker than I could blink, the lights started flickering on and off. "Ha ha," I scarcely laugh, "very funny, now please stop." but she continues to make them flicker. When I stare at her closely I realize that every time the lights came back on she was a step closer. "STOP," I yell, and in answer, a high pitch scream fills the bathroom. I, without thinking, cover my ears and try to shake the noise away. It stays and gets louder, and the lights flicker faster. When I turn back to the mirror to see her, she's gone but my mirror was oozing blood from the top. In horror I watched it trickle to the bottom. As soon as the whole mirror was covered, I saw the smeared words being finger painted onto the mirror, followed by the screaming. I knew I wouldn't last. Through the flickers I read 'It was me, but now it's your turn.' A blood chilling feeling went through me. "All I asked was one question," I screamed, trying to overpower my voice to be louder than hers!

Suddenly it stopped. The blood stopped dripping and the lights stayed on and the screaming was gone, but ringing still remained in my ears. I looked in the mirror, its light tint of pink was the remnants of blood, but didn't stop me from seeing her there with a wide smile spread cheek to cheek. I then knew why she never smiled before. She had sharp teeth that were covered in black goo. I could only stand and watch as the blackness drooled down her chin. To my shock, a tap arrived at my shoulder. I could feel my skin prickle with fear as I slowly, slowly turned.

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There she was, solid as a human, but I knew she was not one. She quickly grabbed my shoulders with both hands. A sharp pain caused the tears that poured down my face as her nails dug into my skin. I struggled and tugged until I saw it. Her crystal blue eyes met my gaze and I felt as if she was staring deep into my soul, into a part of me that even I didn't know was there. "Please," I moaned. She lifted a hand and showed it to me, for a moment I felt relief, until she moved it up and clasped to my neck, and now the other hand was there. Tighter, tighter, she squeezed my neck to its core. My vision was blurry and I breathed in for air but nothing came and as all around me seemed to grow darker I heard a shrill and crackly voice whisper, "Now it's your turn."

A ringing noise filled my head and I felt as if I was falling...down, down, down. Chills ran up and down my body, I was cold and felt lifeless.

My eyes slowly cracked open, I felt as if it all had just been a dream. Or a nightmare. I opened my eyes the rest of the way, and I was in my room on the floor. "How'd I get here?" I wondered to myself. Then I noticed, my bed was gone and another bed was placed at a separate corner of the room. Also, new posters and pictures hung around the walls. Then I could hear humming, so I turned to the bathroom and saw a girl with smooth black hair, wearing a lovely gown sitting in my bathroom. As she was applying what looked like lip gloss, I approached her. I went to open my mouth and say hello, but I couldn't. My lips were stuck together. I now ran to her and tried to get her attention. She paid me no mind, until she turned. She looked in the reflection of the mirror at me. I saw fear in her eyes. Her lip quivered a bit, as I stood there frozen staring back at her. She turned around and looked above me, beside me and she looked as if she could see through me. She turned back to the mirror. Finally, she spoke, "Are you going to hurt me?" I walked forward slightly and saw myself, I was pale as the moon and my clothing had the slightest drop of blood on it. I then understood... I was the new girl in the mirror

Newberry Middle School

Eleven

By: Kaden Greene

Mrs. Boyd – Sixth Grade

While getting older you sometimes feel the same. You just feel like you don't need to have birthdays. That's what the story "Eleven" talks about.

Birthdays are usually occasions for joy, celebrated with presents and cake and acts of love. Each birthday marks the arrival of a new year in a person's life. With the arrival of that special day, a person is an entire year older. In Sandra Cisneros' short story "Eleven", Rachel's eleventh birthday is not a happy day, which gives her reason to think about what it means to turn eleven. In the first paragraph of the story, Rachel reflects that "when you're eleven, you're also ten, and nine, and eight, and seven, and six, and five, and four, and three, and two, and one". She compares all those years within a person to an onion, the rings inside a tree trunk, and wooden dolls that fit inside each other. Rachel's variety of reactions to the fact that her teacher wrongly accuses her of being the owner of an ugly, red sweater demonstrate the multiple years existing within her eleven-year-old self.

When Mrs. Price first tells Rachel the sweater is hers, Rachel reacts with maturity beyond her years. She fights the younger ages trying to emerge by telling herself, "...today I am eleven, eleven. Mama is making a cake for me tonight, and when Papa comes home everybody will sing Happy birthday, happy birthday to you". She is fighting childish reactions with an adult-like strategy of emotionally removing herself from a negative situation by focusing on positive thoughts. She can put up with the sweater because something wonderful awaits her at home.

With the ugly red sweater still on her desk, Rachel has difficulty continuing the more mature strategy of compartmentalization. She creates her own reality, imagining that she will throw the red sweater "over the schoolyard fence, or leave it hanging on a parking meter, or bunch it up into a little ball and toss it in the alley". She is doing all she can to avoid an unpleasant situation, and avoidance is generally thought to be an immature response to a problem. When Mrs. Price makes Rachel wear the sweater, all attempts at maturity are lost. Rachel thinks, "I'm eleven and it's my birthday today and I'm crying like I'm three in front of everybody . . . spit coming out of my mouth because I can't stop the little animal noises from coming out of me". Clearly, she recognizes that even though she is eleven, she's responding like a three-year old.

At the end of the story, Rachel says "I'm eleven today. I'm eleven, ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, and one". She seems to have resigned herself to the reality of the experience, for she knows that we all carry with us the years that came before, sometimes reverting to the child within us.

Newberry Middle School

Asylum

By: Kadence Crumpton
Ms. Driggers – Sixth Grade

Imagine yourself being trapped in asylum even though you're not crazy. Well, that's exactly what happened to Will. Just think about his situation, frantically wanting to find his way out, scared of all the things that could happen, hundreds of miles away from home in the middle of nowhere. That's where he was. No way to call, nothing to eat or drink, only 13 years old, scared he's going to die or even freeze because he only has on a thin black T shirt and some jogging pants. Not even a flashlight, only depending on the moonlight.

The worst part being that the asylum is it is abandoned, and he is completely alone. The quiet of his surroundings made the thoughts in his head seem like screams. He was hearing banging noises from far off, but wasn't exactly sure where the noises were coming from. He wanted to see what and where the noises were coming from, but still terrified of what could happen. He didn't follow the noise exactly, but went looking for anything to put on, so he wasn't cold.

As he ravished the halls and old rooms, he didn't find anything to cover up with but did find that he was closer to the noise as if he was right next to it. The closer the noises got, the more they sounded like voices. He started thinking that he wasn't alone. The voices sounded like giggles, he wanted to see what and where they were doing and most certainty wanted to know why they were there. He went down a flight of old cement stairs and peeped around the corner and saw a group of boys sitting down in a circle with a few candles and some flashlights. He wasn't sure what they were doing but he wanted to do it too.

He crept closer to them still making sure that he wasn't visible or at least hidden. Then all of a sudden he could have sworn he heard someone call his name from the hall behind him, but he just thought that a boy in the group was named Will or was there?

Will felt this pain in his chest every time he would take a step away but, as soon as he stepped out of the room he collapsed. He woke up freezing then, realized that he wasn't in the same room. He was laid on a counter top. He saw backpacks and other bags sitting down on the floor next to him, but no one else was with him. At this point he still was a little dizzy but, he scanned the area around him to make sure the boys were still near. He looked through the bags as quickly and quietly as he could. Since he didn't know where things were in the bags, it was hard to find the things he was looking for (food, water, and some type of sleeved shirt). He heard footsteps coming closer. He paused for a minute, staring directly at them, thinking he recognized one of them. The boy he recognized looked like one of his old friends back in Indiana. He wanted to ask but was too scared to.

As one of the boys walked to him and asked, "Are you ok?" "Yeah," he replied Will. "I have no way to call home and no food, water, jacket or anything." Will asked him for his name but got interrupted by the boy saying, "Do you want my spare jacket?" "Yes," replied Will.

A few moments later..... "Boom" "boom" gunshots were fired. All the boys fell to the ground terrified. TO BE CONTINUED.....

Newberry Middle School

The Worst Day Ever

By: Osmar Gonzalez Jeronimo

Ms. McCullough – Seventh Grade

I wanted to have a good day, and I woke up happy. Then, I felt something was wrong, and soon the worst day ever happened to me.

BEEB! BEEB! In the morning, my alarm was so loud I turned it off like a sloth getting a fruit. I was still tired, waking up that fast, so I took a cold shower, put on something to wear, had no breakfast, and rushed out the door. When I got outside, my bus had already left. That's when I knew the worst day was happening to me. I had to tell my mom to give me a ride. She blew up like a volcano. She dropped me off at school and the worst day continued in school, too.

Next, I got inside. I was hungry, but came late for school so, there was no breakfast. I arrived to class and everybody looked at me like I was a criminal. I sat down in my seat, got unpacked, and suddenly class was over and of course there was homework. Great. Then, I went to my next class. I was as sleepy as a bear in hibernation, but I hadn't studied for a quiz we had, so I failed. I was sad and angry about it. But, it was lunch and I like lunch. Unfortunately, I had the worst hamburger. It was like a stinky sock.

Finally, school was over. I was excited for that. It had been a bad day for me, or should I say the worst day. I was too super tired, like the laziest sloth ever, to do anything. I got to my house, ate my dinner, and I didn't have the strength to do my homework. So, I didn't do it. My parents found out what I got on the quiz (Thanks. Parent Portal.), and they were furious. They grounded me, so no video games or phone for getting a bad grade. I tried to explain, but it didn't matter. I went to bed and the day was finally over.

And that's how a bad day tried to take me down, but I stayed strong and made it (at least through one).

Newberry Middle School

The Time I Set My Trash Can on Fire!

By: Angel Cook

Ms. Ayres – Eighth Grade

Have you ever done anything you've regretted, but also were proud of at the same time? I remember the time I made a huge mistake and set my trash can on fire. I never thought I could do such a thing, but I also put the fire out all by myself. I could've that night, but thank God me nor my mom died. In the end, I knew that this all happened for a reason, but this mistake was never going to happen again.

I was sitting down watching my favorite show," SpongeBob SquarePants." The whole house was filled with the incense smell. My mom always told me, "When you get tired of the smell just blow it out and put it away". When she said "put it away" I never knew where to put it away because she always did it, but she was sleeping so I didn't want to wake her up. So, I blew out the incense and threw it in the trash can, not remembering that paper and fire don't mix. After that I just went back to watching my show.

Now, I'm just watching tv and then this weird smell started to catch on to my nose. I thought it was just somebody burning wood outside, so I didn't really pay it any attention. Then I see like this orange reddish color coming from the kitchen. I looked fast and saw the trash can filled with fire. I didn't panic or anything the first thought that came to my mind was to put the fire out as quickly as possible before my mom woke up. I grabbed a bucket and started filling it up with water and throwing it on the fire to put it out it. Finally, the fire is out but, the house is full of smoke.

Now, I'm opening as many windows as I possibly can. Then, I hear my mom say, "Angel!!!!" I run as fast as I could to her room and say, "Yes?" as if the trash can weren't just on fire. She begins to ask, "what is that smell?"

I say, "What smell?" she gets up and goes to the kitchen and then look at me and I'm just looking completely confused now like I don't know what just happened at all. So, then she asks me again, "what's that smell Angel?" so I explain to her what happened and why I didn't tell her immediately. So, she called my dad.

Then, my dad shows up! As you can probably infer he was highly upset. He looked at me with a look he never gave me before. I felt guilty and I wished that I never set the trash can on fire. I looked at them both and said, "I'm really sorry and I'll never do it again. They told me that they forgive me. I was so relieved I thought I was going to get grounded. On the bright side, I knew that I pretty much saved my life and my mom's life and I couldn't be prouder of myself.

In conclusion, in the end of it, I learned to never try and do things on my own if I don't know how to do. I also learned that telling the truth helps way more than lying. I wonder what would have happened if I didn't put the fire out. Also, I wonder what would have happened if I would've lied to my mom. I don't think I would be such a happy person. I'll never forget the night I set my trash can on fire.

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The Benefits of Social Media

By: Dantzler Long

Mr. Winch – Ninth Grade

Imagine scrolling through your feed on Facebook and finding a profile of a person you have never met before. They share many interesting hobbies with you, and you decide to get to know them. They live thousands of miles away from you, yet you feel so close to them. This could be the start of your best friendships. Social media has a positive impact on the quality of our friendships. Platforms like Facebook or Instagram can be a good place to make friends because you can communicate with people that are far away. Social media can also allow you to meet new people with similar interests and could potentially save time.

To begin with, social media has a positive impact on our ability to make friends by being able to talk to people that live far away from you. You can keep in touch with them easier and could possibly talk more through social media than in real life. No matter where they are, the connection will still be there, and the feelings won't change. The text, "Are Social Media Friends your Real Friends?" states, "When two people communicate through a digital medium, that's still human interaction and human communication." This relates to my argument because we connect, empathize, and react in the same ways, whether we are looking through a screen or not.

Additionally, social media is good with friendships because it allows you to meet new people with similar interests. A lot of your best relationships and friendships originate online. You could meet someone that likes the same things you do and decide to get to know them more. In the article "Are Social Media Friends your Real Friends?" it says, "Any kind of human communication is about two consciousnesses connecting in some way- sharing ideas, concepts, stories, emotions and information." This shows that you can find a lot of people that have the same interests as you without necessarily meeting them face to face.

One last reason as to why social media is a great place to originate friendships is because it saves time. Rather than calling or having to go talk in person, it is faster and more efficient to just send a 'snap' or 'DM'. As stated in the article, "Millennials choose to send a DM in Twitter or message in WhatsApp, rather than pick up the phone to talk." If so many people think it's quicker, then it must be true. We don't care about our friends any less if we talk to them through direct messages.

Many people believe that using social media platforms are not helpful in making close friends because it causes individuals to "lose their social skills." While this may be true, social media does anything but that. It helps you meet new people, which then can lead into some amazing friendships. Thus, *improving* social skills rather than causing people to lose them. Think of most dating apps. People all over the world find their "perfect match" with someone they barely even know. You must have good social skills in order to meet someone, or else you wouldn't have found them. If the idea of social media decreasing your social skills is true, this wouldn't be possible.

As you can see, social media is indeed a great place to make friends. You can communicate with people that live far away, meet people with similar interests, and save time. Next time you are scrolling through your feed on your favorite apps, remember, your next best friend can be just a click away.

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The Things I Can't Carry
By: Jessica Franklin
Ms. Camp – Tenth Grade

Inspired by *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brein

Carrying a lot of weight,
Makes me seem strong,
If you think this is true,
You are dreadfully wrong.

Emotional burdens
are heavier you see,
I'm losing my mind,
I can barely breathe.

I'm scared and alone;
I don't want to be here.
Home seems so far,
but, perhaps it is near.

The weight is too heavy;
It's pulling me down.
I can't carry it anymore;
I fall to the ground.

I'll lay here forever
while my body carries on,
Lost with no direction;
I'm mentally gone.

The war will end
for me and for you,
But, emotion will follow
And the memories too.

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Argumentative Essay By: Matthew Boland Mrs. Cannon – Eleventh Grade

Over the course of history there have been many famous philosophers that helped shape the way we think and how we act to this day. One of these was the Roman poet Horace, who was relatively well known for the quote “Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant,” which describes the idea that hardships bring out unforeseen talents. This is well supported by professional athletes returning from injuries and being better than they were before, as well as in *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, with the main character going through intense hardships to learn about all of history. These both depict situations that wouldn’t normally have shown these talents without the adversity that is put upon the people involved in them.

First, adversity can take many forms and affect many different aspects of life, even affecting those in current events. One such situation of adversity is seen with professional basketball player Derrick Rose, who holds the record for the youngest regular season MVP but was riddled with knee injuries and has recently had a breakout season. Rose suffered from an ACL tear during the 2012 postseason, only to return in 2013 and get injured again with a torn meniscus, only to tear it again during the 2015 season. He returned to the court again for a few years and tore his left meniscus in 2017. Throughout this, he switched between four different teams, ending on the Minnesota Timberwolves. After debating retirement and being seriously discouraged, he has had a breakout season this year off the bench the Timberwolves including setting a career high at fifty points earlier this season. He is also in contention for the sixth man of the year award, given to the best bench player of the season. This may be universalized that often people can go through intense injuries and down times in their life, but through this they learn more about themselves, and it can also cause them to develop different things about themselves that may have not appeared had this not happened, for the example given Derrick Rose developed the ability to play the game safely and use jump shots to his advantage when he hadn’t before.

Also, there have been many examples in popular literature about the main characters overcoming obstacles and learning some talents they may have not had before, such as in *The Giver*. This is shown throughout the story with the main character, Jonas, is tasked with being given all of the memories of the world’s past, and through this he must experience anything from colors, to music, to war and death. This is a taxing time for Jonas, and he is forced to experience deep loss, through all of this he learns independence and gains the ability to think for himself. This shows how if it had not been for his assignment as the new Giver and the pain and suffering he had to experience, he would have not have been able to develop the curiosity and ability to see and know all of the things he learns throughout the story. Consequently, this can be seen in everyday life because as we progress through it we learn new things and have new experiences that can create new talents we may have not had without the adversity you faced.

Although this may be true, some people believe that adversity is not needed to bring out talents because of all the successful people today who have been given everything in life. While this may be a common situation, all people go through some form of adversity throughout their

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life that has taught or brought out talents that were not there before. One example of the adversity coming even to those who are given everything would be Lonzo Ball, a young professional basketball player who had his college paid for by his parents. He is currently being considered a failure by many fans of the NBA, which in itself is the adversity he is facing currently. This, along with his transition to being professional, which is causing issues currently. With the adversity he is facing, it would appear he has developed a talent to ignore any negativity as he is performing rather well as a developing player in the league, even if the statistics may not appear it to be so.

To summarize, adversity has the capability to bring out talents that never would have been made apparent with prosperous circumstances. This is shown in real life through the recovery of Derrick Rose as well as in literature with *The Giver*. It is known in common everyday life that as people get older and have new experiences, they learn new things, and these experiences are the definition of adversity humans live by and support to this day.

Newberry High School

How Structural Story Choices Lead to Surprising Climaxes

By: Ava Perkins

Ms. Hartness - Ninth Grade

Authors of many literary works have utilized different structural choices to create numerous effects within their stories. The choices they make create effects like mystery, tension, and surprise. Southern gothic authors like Kate Chopin make structural choices to shape her story to surprise her readers. Chopin uses a classic plot structure within “The Story of an Hour” to reach a surprising climax through a buildup of tension.

“The Story of an Hour” establishes a buildup of tension within the exposition and rising action. In the exposition, Mrs. Mallard is told her husband has died from a tragic railroad disaster. She begins to weep “with sudden, wild abandonment in her sister’s arms.” She then runs to her room to be alone. This causes her friends and family to worry about her and her health as it is known that she has heart trouble and no one how this emotional strain will affect her. The tension caused by her actions causes the reader to empathize with her. As the story begins to transition to the rising action there is a tone shift from melancholy and grief-ridden to hopeful and freeing. Chopin illustrates a change in tone with a vivid description of the setting outside Mrs. Mallard’s bedroom window. Mrs. Mallard sees the “tops of trees that were all aquiver with new spring life” and the “patches of blue sky showing here and there through the clouds”. The imagery illustrates a bright and happy day though the overhanging thought of death brings a more somber tone, creating a juxtaposition between the setting and the exposition's subject. Chopin’s use of this juxtaposition establishes foreshadowing and conflicting tones. She uses the setting to represent the emotion beginning to overcome Mrs. Mallard: “There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully...she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, the color that filled the air”. Though Mrs. Mallard is unsure of what she is feeling, Chopin has hinted that the feeling overcoming Mrs. Mallard is joy and hope. This change in tone hints at deeper emotions within Mrs. Mallard creates a buildup of tension which leads to the surprising climax.

Mrs. Mallard is recognizing the feeling of hope for a new beginning overcoming her. “She said it over and over under her breath: free, free, free!” She sees her husband’s death as a chance for a new beginning and she does not wonder if what she feels from her realization is “monstrous joy”. Mrs. Mallard comments that “she knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death”. She knows she would grieve for her husband when she sees him resting in his final place. While she will grieve, she sees that “there would be no powerful will bending hers,” and she is joyful to know she is in complete control of her life. She is finally allowed to live her life for herself. Her realization of freedom creates dramatic tension and causes the reader to empathize with her and encourage her newfound freedom. It causes the reader to want to see her thrive and live her life.

The rising action begins to lead into the climax and more tension builds as Mrs. Mallard truly comes to terms with what her husband’s death means for her. It is a chance for a new beginning for her. Mrs. Mallard said, “Her fancy was running riot along those days ahead of her” She was looking forward to living her life in the days to come. Her life was hers to live. “She

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breathed a quick prayer that life might be long. It was only yesterday she had thought with a shudder that life might be long.” For a while, Mrs. Mallard felt trapped within someone else’s “powerful will”. She shuddered at the thought that she would have to live her life like that for years to come. Now she finally believes she has been freed and cannot wait to live her life. Chopin’s word choice in this section of the rising action helped to set a hopeful mood, causing the reader to sympathize with Mrs. Mallard. All of the tension built up from the description of Mrs. Mallard’s realization of the freedom she has been presented with and the eventual happiness from said realization, has caused the reader to have sympathy for her.

The tension built up from the series of events in the rising action have led up to the climax. Mrs. Mallard feels free and confident now as she leaves her room and carries herself “unwittingly like a goddess of Victory”. She walks down the stairs with her sister and then the front door opens. Mrs. Mallard’s husband walks in as he had been nowhere near the accident and was unaware one had occurred. “When the doctors came, they said she had died of heart disease—of joy that kills”. Mrs. Mallard dies the moment she sees her husband. The doctors say she died from heart disease and from what they assumed was the joy of seeing her husband alive. In actuality, she died from the shock of seeing her husband alive and from feeling her newfound freedom and independence being crushed. She would no longer have the freedom from her husband and marriage if her husband was alive. She had been so happy and eager for her new start that realizing it would all be taken away, caused her weak heart to stop and killed her.

The buildup of tension leads to the surprising climax of Mrs. Mallard’s husband being alive and Mrs. Mallard dying because he was alive. She had believed she was free and was ready to live her life for herself just to have it all snatched away in a matter of moments. The reader had just begun to truly empathize with her from all the tension caused by her thoughts and hopes of freedom and happiness. The reader wanted her to success and live her own life after hearing Chopin’s description of the oppression Mrs. Mallard had felt. Chopin then shocked and surprised her readers with an unexpected death of the main character.

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The Corruption of Power **By: Sydney Glasgow** **Ms. Hartness – Tenth Grade**

"Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely" (John Dalberg-Acton). When power is given to any human being, they gain the ability to control the environment around them. Most people will do good with this power and make the best of it. Other people will abuse the power and go on what is described as a "power trip". This problem is found when it comes to leaders that are in political power. An example of someone who displayed these actions is Rafael Trujillo who was the dictator of the Dominican Republic. Trujillo abused his position by trying to control the people he ruled over and by inserting fear and anxiety into the people of the Dominican Republic. He ultimately let the power corrupt his dictatorship which is one of many reasons it was so ruthless.

One way that power can corrupt is by control. Control is the power to influence or direct people's behavior or the course of events. When power is given to a leader, they gain a tremendous amount of control of the things that others can do but with control comes the mental aspect of losing important emotions such as empathy. "...the more power an office holds, the more ruthless - that is lacking in empathy - are the people who are attracted to it"(Wilson). One of the most valuable emotions that humans have is empathy which is that ability to understand and share the feelings of another. When a leader can no longer emit empathy, it changes their actions towards other and what they can do. Trujillo is an example of how sometimes too much control can change a person's actions towards others. He used his advantage of control to try and make others like him. "Eager to show how "liked" he was...Trujillo organized so-called "civic reviews" where hired henchmen shouted praise for his government,"(Kubic). By doing this, Trujillo shows not just his power but also, his selfishness. A leader should not do things that just benefit them and their image. It shows arrogance and too much pride.

Power can also corrupt by using fear to scare others. Fear is a negative emotional state triggered by the presence of a stimulus that has the potential to cause harm. When a leader does something to scare their people, it creates a channel for fear to occupy. "Fear is a chain reaction that starts with a stressful stimulus..."(Layton). One way that Trujillo did this was the assassination attempt on former Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt. Trujillo did not like him because he accused El Jefe of the OSA that he had sponsored several attempts to overthrow Betancourt. With this newfound hatred, Trujillo had ammo and a reason to silence the complaints. "The bomb went off on June 24, 1960...Betancourt was seriously burned..."(Kubic). With this attack on someone who was just Trujillo's enemy, the people of the Dominican Republic feared him because of what Trujillo could possibly do to them. Since the people already had the fear of him, next came the anxiety that something bad could happen to them. Anxiety is defined as a negative emotional state which the threat is not present but anticipated. Trujillo had a history of doing things to scare people like the alleged murder of Jesus Galindez, the murder of the Mirabal sister, and also the assassination attempt of Romulo Betancourt. Since things like those had happened, the people of the Dominican Republic were afraid of what Trujillo could do to them which caused them to be anxious.

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Power is a very important tool that can change a person's surroundings very quickly. With the right mindset, power can be used to do good things but with the wrong one, it can cause corruption. Political leaders sometimes use this power to do wrong by being too controlling. They also misuse this power by inserting fear and anxiety to the people they rule over. Power has the ability to corrupt a society because of the perks that go along with it.

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Dumb as a Stump: A Michael Baker Explication

By: Michael Baker

Ms. Hartness - Twelfth Grade

“Sweater Weather: A Love Song to Language” is a poem by Sharon Bryan in which she expresses the overwhelming joy that she, as a poet, gets from expressing her ideas through language. This poem is a love song and a love a poem so it is equal-parts lyric poem-as a song, and ode-as an ode to language.

Bryan creates an emphasis throughout the poem on the importance of language through the use of catchy popular sayings and phrases. Using phrases that most people know and can collectively understand is the poet’s way of expressing language’s inherent ability to connect people. Reading this poem in a group or class allows people to talk about the phrases they recognize and help people understand that they’re not so different from one another. Bryan wanted us to realize that we often take language for granted; we use it to shame people and discriminate when really we should understand that language is a tool that brings people together. Without language there would be no collaboration, we would be set back thousands of years technologically and expressions of anything along the lines of love or friendship would be out of the equation. Language helps get someone’s point across and Bryan shows readers that sayings and phrases are often the perfect way to get a point across while also connecting with others who understand what you mean through the use of that phrase. The title of this explication is an example of a way to get your point across through the use of a catchy, roll-off-the-tongue, attention grabbing phrase. Dumb as a stump is a phrase I used to describe how I felt when I first looked at this poem and had no idea what I was looking at. The soft rhyme between “Dumb” and “Stump” should immediately grab your attention and acknowledging that you have heard the phrase before should keep you engaged. If I had changed the phrase to “Dumb as Dirt” then the same things could be said but you would notice the hard sound created by the consonance between “Dumb” and “Dirt,” instead of a soft rhyme. The uses of these two devices are emphasized heavily throughout Bryan’s poem.

Sharon Bryan riddles rhyme and consonance throughout this poem as a way to create a rhythm as the poem is read and create an interesting pacing that keeps the reader interested. Hard rhyme is used heavily throughout the poem and examples such as “much” and “Dutch” or “willy-nilly” speed up the poem because the reader is subconsciously trying to reach the next rhyme and get that gratification of hearing the sounds combine so eloquently. This is why when reading the poem readers tend to speed up as they progress. Soft rhymes such as “up” and “snuff” or “dumb cluck” create a freedom of flow throughout the passage. In context of those examples the “uh” sound allows the reader to spit out word after word and phrase after phrase without getting stuck on words that don’t seem like they fit. Soft rhymes in this poem create a medium in which the phrases flow from one to the other. The use of consonance throughout this poem engages the reader by creating a back-and-forth, sing-songy tone as you read that also enhances the flow and speeds up the rhythm. When you read phrases like “peas in a pod” and “pleased as punch” The hard consonant sound created by the beginning p’s creates a cause and effect, give and take way of reading and again the reader wants the gratification of finishing the

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saying and hearing that extra sound to match the first and complete the phrase. You can't have the "peas" without the "pod" rearing up the end of the phrase; speeding up the tempo and making the reader read faster.

Sharon Bryan creates a rewarding read that teaches readers a lot about language but also a lot about people by simply listing off catchy phrases in the poem, "Sweater Weather: A Love Song to Language." This is no simple list though; it is a song, lyric poem, and ode to language all in one and accomplishes all the goals it sets out to reach. Readers are given a lesson on language and how to use it to effectively get your point across, a lesson on music and how to create rhythm through words, and a lesson on humanity and how we are all connected. Using language to appreciate language is an inspirational idea and almost ironic in the most positive way expressible. It could be compared to showing you love someone by giving them a shirt with their face on it or having one of their possessions monogrammed with their initials; you are using who they are to express your love and appreciation for them. Language is a vessel through which express ourselves, show affection, and live our lives and without it, holy moly we would be a bunch of dumb clucks who need to buck-up and pay the piper.

Whitmire Community School

My Trip to the Pet Store
By: Sienna Epps
Mrs. Bruyere - Kindergarten

I went to the pet store to buy a pet.
I saw a parrot. I saw a dog.
I saw a rabbit. I saw a snake.
I bought the dog.

The Zoo
By: Macy Elder
Mrs. Farmer - Kindergarten

We played on the playground.
We are in the classroom with animals.
We see giraffes.
We ate lunch.

Let's Make a Snowman
By Aleigha Lindsay
Mrs. Baker - First Grade

One time I built a snowman with my Grandma Judy. First, I rolled three snowballs and packed them. One was big, one was medium, and one was little. Next, Grandma and I stacked all three snowballs together. Last, Grandma and I decorated the snowman with a hat, scarf, carrot, and some rocks. I love making snowmen.

The Best Christmas
By Kaleb Willingham
Mrs. Wicker - First Grade

One Christmas Eve, Ryan, Ally and I got ready to go sleep. We spent the night at my Granny's house. Santa came to visit us there. I heard Santa's bells jingle. I whispered, "I hear Santa." The next morning it was Christmas day. There were so many presents when I got downstairs. I said, "Yeah boy!" Then, I opened my bike. Last, I tried to ride my bike. I couldn't ride it because I was only four years old. It was the best Christmas!

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Halloween Night **By: Emilee Champion** **Mrs. DeVore - Second Grade**

Not too long ago, I went trick-or-treating with Bentley, my mom, my dad and MaMaw. I got a lot of candy. I even got candy that I never heard of like a Jolly Rancher Stix. I ate almost all of my candy already, though. And all of it was so, so, so, so, so good. I am going to finish all of my candy today, and it will be so, so good. And when I was trick-or-treating people were kind of scared of me because I was a HACKER! One boy ran away and said "A HACKER save me!" It was a great Halloween!

How to Show Rabbits **By: Paisley West** **Mrs. Hall - Second Grade**

If you get a rabbit, you can show it in 4-H. This is how you show it. First, you carry it up to the judge and face it right. You open the rabbit's eye and say: I don't see any wall eye or cloudiness in the left eye. Then do the same for the right eye after you turn him around. Turn him back around and show the ears and say: I don't see any mites, lice, cuts, or tears in the left ear. Do the same for the other ear. Then flip him over and say for the nose: He doesn't have the sniffles and there is no sign of discharge. You open his mouth and say for the teeth: There is no mouth cushion or missing teeth. You check his stomach for bumps and say, "There are none." Check the front and back legs to see if they are straight. Also check to see if they have all their toenails, except for the front legs. The front legs have a hock and at the back there is a dew claw. You check the sex to see if it is a buck or a doe. You turn him back over, then turn the tail to see if there are any broken bones. Next you blow on the fur to see if there are mites or lice on him. Then you step back and ask the judges "Do you have any questions?" Then you are done! You can get money and ribbons!

Our First Game **By: Savannah Summer** **Mrs. Montgomery - Third Grade**

Wooooo! The crowd was going wild. We were winning. We were cheering as loud as we could. Our feet were hurting from cheering so hard, but then it was time for the half time dance. We went out on the field with big smiles on our faces and our poms poms swinging. As soon as we got out there, I was shaking. I was trying hard to stand still. Then, the music started and we were all ready. As we started dancing everyone's jaw dropped. Suddenly, we forgot a part so we had to mix some different moves into our dance. It all worked out for the best, thank goodness, or we would have been toast. I will never forget cheering at our first game.

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A Shopping Day with Mom

By: Kinsley Hood

Mrs. Cromer - Third Grade

One day, Mom and I went shopping. When we got to PetSmart, we went straight in. We wanted a crate for Max, our dog. We saw one, but it cost an arm and a leg! We went to pay for the items that we got there. Finally, Mom saw a crate that was on sale, so we got it. We left PetSmart. I said, "I can't wait to put Max in the crate." Then Mom said, "You're not putting him in the crate. We're training him with the crate." I said, "Ohhh, but when we go to Na's house we will." Mom said, "Maybe". I said, "Really Mama?" She said, "Really!" Mom said, "I need to wash it first." I said, "OK." After that, I started playing with my toys. Then I saw trees, restaurants, and stores. We went to one of my mom's makeup stores, Ulta. The makeup we bought cost an arm and a leg! Later on, we went to the mall. We didn't get many items there, so it didn't cost that much money.

We finally went home. We got everything out of the car. Then, we got the crate out of the car. Mom got the hose, and we washed the crate. We let it dry outside. I said, "Mom, is it dry yet?" She said, "Wait a couple more minutes." I said, "Ok". A couple minutes later I said, "Is it dry yet?" She said, "Go feel it and see." I went and felt it, but it was still dripping water. Five more minutes later it was dry. My dad took it inside. I threw Max's toys in it. He went in the crate fast, so I couldn't close the crate. I tried again. Finally, I got him, and it was funny. "Ha Ha! Yes! I got him!" I said. He started barking, so I let him out. He ran like a cheetah out of the crate. It was funny. "HA HA, Max!" I said. Finally, it was time to go the Na and Pa's to eat. The fun day with Mom was over.

Which Are Better Dogs or Cats?

By: Brantlee Roche

Mrs. Hayes - Fourth Grade

Which are better, dogs or cats? In my opinion, I think dogs are better pets.

First, a dog can sense emotions, so if you are sad, your dogs will come up to cuddle with you because he/she could sense you were sad.

Next, dogs are very good to play with. For example, let's say you just got home from school and it's Friday. You have no homework, so you text your friend to see if they want to hang out. Your friend says they have softball practice and can't hang with you. You have an idea, you are going to play with your dog, Molly. You go outside to play with Molly. After a while of playing, you realize you totally forgot about being sad over your friend.

Then, your family likes to go for walks every night and you get tired. You can take your dog with you when you go on your nightly walks. Your dog makes you less bored on those walks.

Lastly, you had a bad day at school and you got picked on. You told them to stop and then he/she slaps you and you have to go to the nurse. You get home and you do your homework. Then, you tried to text your friends, but they didn't answer so you decided to play with your dog. When you played with your dog, you forgot about your horrible day.

These are the reasons that I think dogs are better pets than cats.

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The Dream

By: Rhett Gilliam

Sabrina Martin - Fourth Grade

Brett Conner always had a dream to be the best football player ever when he was five years old. He always wanted to play football.

Now Brett Conner is 17 years old. He is in high school but he can't play because he doesn't have enough money to go. His parents saved enough money for him to play high school football! His first time trying out he makes the team. He plays running back. Next week is his football game against the Woodpeckers. So they practice before the game 5 times.

He woke up and was ready for the big day - the Pirates against the Woodpeckers. He took a big breath in and out, in and out. His game started in 4 hours. Since he was poor, he couldn't ride to the game, so he had to call one of his teammates to pick him up. He got in the car. "Click!" He put on his seatbelt. His teammate's mom said, "It will take about one hour until we will get there." Brett fell asleep.

"We're here," said the teammate's mom. Brett woke up. He stretched. "Uhhhh," said Brett. 30 minutes until their game started. They were warming up.

Four minutes until the ballgame started, Brett felt something in his stomach. It was like something that wouldn't go away. So he went to the bathroom but nothing happened. He asked a teammate. He said, "It is butterflies in your stomach. So when you feel scared or nervous you feel that way."

"Oh," said Brett. The buzzer went off. It was time for the kickoff. The whistle blew. "Boom!" The ball went flying in the air. Brett caught the ball. Then he ran and ran. He saw somebody. He side stepped him. He was at the 40, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10. "Touchdown!" the announcer said. The crowd went wild. "WOOOOOOOOO!"

The field goal was good. Seven to nothing Pirates were winning. The team hit Brett on the back of the helmet also saying "Good job Brett." Brett felt good inside. He couldn't wait to get back on the field. "Boom," the ball went flying into the air. The Woodpeckers caught the ball and ran to the 38 yard line. They got 4 first downs and a field goal. Seven to three the Pirates are winning. "Boom," the Pirates got the ball. Brett caught the ball and ran to the 43 yard line. That was a good start for the offense. The first play Brett was going to get the ball. He made a five yard gain.

It was the second quarter now. They were on the 23 yard line. Brett was getting the ball. "Hut," the ball was handed off to Brett. Brett broke tackles and he was headed for the end zone. "Touchdown," the announcers said. The field goal was good. Now the score was fourteen to three the Pirates were still winning. "Boom," the ball went flying into the air. The Woodpeckers caught the ball and ran it to the 42 yard line.

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The Woodpeckers finally scored. Their field goal was good. Now the score was fourteen to ten. The Pirates were still winning. "Boom," the ball went flying in the air. Brett caught the ball and ran and ran. "Boom," he trucked a guy over. He was heading straight for the end zone. He got tackled at the 5-yard line. Burrrrr!!!! The buzzer went off. It was the end of the third quarter. That meant it was the fourth quarter. Brett was getting tired but his coach said, "You go harder in the fourth quarter than you would go in the first quarter." Brett held on to that thought so he went so much harder that he got so angry when he ran the ball. Brett got so angry he made a 40 yard rush.

The Woodpeckers got the ball back. The score stayed the same fourteen to ten. The Woodpeckers made a big rush. Seventy yards. There was 4 minutes left. "Touchdown," the announcers said. Now it was fourteen to seventeen. "Boom," the ball went flying into the air. Brett caught the ball and ran it to the 46 yard line. Brett wanted the ball so bad but they kept passing it until they got to the 15 yard line. "Hut," Brett got the ball. He ran to the 11 yard line. Brett knew he was not going to get the ball again. They line up. It was a pass play but then they changed the play it was a run play. Brett knew he could do it. "Touchdown Pirates," the announcer said. The crowd went wild. Now it was twenty-one to seventeen. There was only thirty seconds to go. Brett felt so good inside to go, his team slapping him on the back of the helmet. "Boom," the ball went flying into the air. 29, 28, 27, 26 The Woodpeckers caught the ball and ran it to the 39 yard line. They threw the ball but it was not caught. They ran it to the 52 yard line. 17, 16, 15, 14. "Timeout," said the coach.

"Hut," said the quarterback. They ran a hail mary. They got to the 1 yard line. The Pirates coach got very mad. "Touchdown," The announcer said. Now the score was twenty-four to twenty-one. The Woodpeckers were winning. Brett got butterflies in his stomach. "Boom," the ball went flying into the air, the pirates got the ball. Brett caught the ball and ran and ran the 40, 30, 20, 10. "Touchdown," the announcers said. There was one second to go. "Boom," the ball went flying into the air. The Woodpeckers caught the ball. "Burrrr," the buzzer went off. But they still got to finish that play. They made it to the 1 yard line. The game was over. Twenty-seven to twenty-four. The Pirates had won the ball game.

The coach gave out a trophy for the player of the week and Brett got that trophy. "WOoooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!"

"Go Brett," the team said. When Brett went home his parents were so happy that they cried tears of joy.

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In the Woods!
By: Essence Epps
Sarah Lee - Fifth Grade

"Nana!" I say running into the kitchen, "can McKenzie come over?" "Yea, did you call her Mom?" "No, can you?" "Ok Essence," she says in an aggravated tone.

A few minutes later, her mom arrives in a tan car. I walked to the door and waved to let her know to drive off. Once McKenzie came in, we played with my dolls. After playing for a while, my brother walks in and rudely messes with us.

"Y'all wanna go outside?" he said. "Yea!" we say. We put on our shoes and head outside. "Y'all want to go in the woods?"

We hesitate, but agree to go. On the way, my brother and I started telling McKenzie about what we found. A few days ago, we were outside with my Nana while she was working in the yard and we found two ways to get to this spot in the woods. One way would take longer, but we would find new things and it was very safe. The second one was shorter, but there were loads of sticky briars. Anyway, me and my brother found a spot where a log had fallen over onto a creek. We played around but we didn't go across.

McKenzie wanted to see the fallen log, so we took McKenzie into the woods. I told her about things in the woods that we had found before. There were broken bottles, cans, and even a creepy doll head with a missing eye. But, we kept walking and also finding. We finally got to the creek (after one million years of walking). Isaiah and McKenzie got across and left me behind.

"Come on Essence!" They screamed.

I was trying to act like I wasn't scared, but I was as scared as an old person meeting death. But, they finally got me across, but did I walk? NO! I was too scared I would break both my legs and arms. If you still don't get the idea, there WAS NO WATER, just a ditch!! So yea, I was frightened. After playing for a while, we got tired and we were on our way back when.....

"RUFF, RUFF" A pack of dogs growled.

"RUN!!!" Isaiah yells.

Oh boy! When we heard that we took off as if we were in a horror scene. We ran to our back porch to make sure the dogs were not behind us anymore. And that's not all, oh my gosh, McKenzie was complaining about how she thought we were going to die. Yeah, it was frightening, but I was just glad she was ok. Because if she wasn't, then I would have lost my best friend and wouldn't have anything to do on the weekends. Yes, I still love dogs, but never again will I go in those woods.

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Camp Lavita

By: Trystan Samples

Sarah Lee - Fifth Grade

The night before I went to camp, I got on the couch and slowly went to sleep. I kept waking up. I don't know why, but I was really thirsty, so I got something to drink. After about 4 times of getting up, the 5th time I woke up to my mama putting my stuff in the car. So, all I had to do was get ready to go. When everything was good, we hit the road and we went to Waffle House, and it was awesome!

We got done eating and went to my church because it was a church camp. Then, I got on the bus at my church and FINALLY, hit the road to CAMP. When we got to camp, I grabbed my stuff and a lady handed me a map with the boxed in number 14. So, my cousin and I went to cabin 14. When we got there we were told to unpack and take a 30 minute nap. After our nap, we went to lunch. It was a great tasty meal that tasted like home cooking! We went to a meeting about rules and what-not. I felt like I was watching the 6:00 news. Two hours of that went by, then I started to feel a little home sick, so I asked if I could call home, but as you imagined, they would not let me, so I just went on with the day. We went to a building inside that had a pool. We got our bathing suits on. It was fun once we got in the pool, but when we got out the fun was over.

We went to supper and had baked beans and chicken. It was OK. Then, it was time to settle down, so we went to a church service that lasted an hour. Later, we went to our cabin and my homesickness came back. Everything was so boring and I missed my family. I asked if I could call home, but they said no, again, so that's when I flipped! I cried and cried. Sam, our leader, told me I would get a prize if I stopped crying. When I stopped, I got a stuffed animal that looked like the one I sleep with every night, so it cheered me up!

Authors notes: This ruined my whole week! Never let stuff like this ruin your fun!!!

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A Hero

By: Emma Moore

Mrs. Cody – Seventh Grade

A hero, to me, is someone to whom you look as a role model and admire them for their qualities. Someone in my life who fits such description would be my dad, whose personality traits have greatly affected who I am as a person. I admire my dad for many reasons, such as how strong of an individual he is. He is selfless, positive, and his hard work ethic continues to remind me of the importance of putting forth effort into all that I do. I hope to someday have the same effect he has on so many people he meets.

First, I find his selflessness to be a desirable quality he presents to others through his friendly demeanor. My dad provides to others more than to himself. He owns a small business and has struggled not to compromise the prices for the sake of the customer, despite it causing financial struggles. He now sticks with the prices he sets, and from this he has taught me that it is important to help people, but also to stick to what you say and do not be a pushover. I believe he did this so that he could help as many people as possible, and he didn't want to say he couldn't fix the vehicle. His altruistic character is also seen when, instead of declining, he will drive all night to pick up someone's car that was crashed or broken down. When he receives a call, he leaves to pick the car up, gets it to his shop, and works to repair it. Despite the exhaustion he faces over the next few days due to lack of sleep, he manages to keep that bright, positive attitude he seems to carry with him. My father is also always willing to lend an ear and listen to the conflicts of others. He listens first, and then provides help or advice the best he can.

As mentioned previously, that warm, bright presence my dad holds and seems to spread to those around him is there because of his positive mindset. Personally, I have the tendency to dwell on negativity, whereas my dad focuses on the positives in life. Because of this, he continues to teach me that to be happy you must let go and be positive. He always tells me to not be so negative all the time, that life is a lot better spent not worrying over every little thing that happens. He talks to people with ease, never hesitating to greet the people he sees in public, even if he does not know them. "Just by smiling at someone you could make their day," he reminds me.

Third, I greatly value his hard work ethic that seems to drive him, *motivate* him, to simply live. He works every day of the week, except Sunday. He very much prioritizes Sunday as a day of church and rest. He works to provide for us, his family. It inspires me that he manages his shop on his own because it shows he is self-reliant. I asked him once if he preferred working for the shop, or if having a boss was more of his drift, to which he simply replied, "I like being my own boss." He works hard not only in his business, but also to raise myself and my brother so that we are one day good people that aspire to have a fulfilling job where we will not have to scrounge for our money. He is constantly reminding me to put as much effort into all that I do.

In conclusion, the hero in my life that continues to teach and inspire me is my dad. He is a strong individual who is self-reliant and hardworking. My father keeps a positive mindset despite all he has endured and puts others before himself. A hero, to me, is someone you look up to with admiration. The person who fits that description for me would be my dad.

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Football Argument **By: Austin Satterwhite** **Mrs. Cody – Sixth Grade**

Think about not having college football to watch on TV, or not going to the big game on Friday. Now does that not ruin the fun and having good times? If there is no more football for kids, communities would be devastated. The major issue today is whether kids should be allowed to play football. Kids should!

Think about kids whose parents or themselves cannot pay for college. Kids can earn scholarships from playing football. Instead of young people and their parents having to work so hard, playing football could be a good help.

Football is a good way to learn teamwork and discipline. If a player does something wrong, the coach can make him run or do exercises. Since football is played with a team, it is a good way to learn teamwork by making plays together and getting the ball down the field.

Some kids don't get enough exercise at home, but football can really be hard work. Training for football like weightlifting or running can really help you become faster and stronger. This can help you succeed in not only football, but other life activities.

Tens and thousands of kids get concussions each year. Pop Warner has limited the amount of tackling that can be put into practice. Football is becoming safer and safer every year.

As you can see, there are many reasons children need football. The next time you watch a football game, think to yourself, "Do I want this to end?"

Whitmire Community School

New Year's Resolution

By: Taylor Mayers

Mrs. Brown 9th Grade

Many teens do not keep their New Year's resolution as planned. In fact, many teens don't take the time to do anything to make their lives better from one year to the next. Throughout 2019, however, most of my classmates and I plan on changing our grades, health, and relationships to make everything better.

The first improvement I plan to make is my grades. I plan to make at least an 80 in all subjects. I could stay after school more often to get help on some of my work, or either catch up on the work that I'm missing. Studying more at home and while at school is also going to be a top priority. I plan on also working hard because that can help me improve my grades this year. Another thing I plan to do is never give up but always try my hardest even if I don't succeed at first. I am also going to start to listen more in class to get better grades than I do now. This is how I'm going to pull my grades up and succeed in the 9th grade.

In 2019 I am also going to improve my health. First, I will eat healthy to help me. Exercising more often can also benefit me. I can think positively to help with my mental health. In addition, I can watch my weight. I can also drink more water because "Water is one of the body's most essential nutrients. People may survive six weeks without any food, but they couldn't live more than a week or so without water"(Wolfram). If I stick to this plan, I know I will be fit for my goal.

Another goal I have is to improve my relationship with my boyfriend. I have five steps to accomplish this. Initially, I can improve our time together by going to his house a lot more often. We can go on dates more to spend extra time. I can even make him breakfast and take it to him. To make him feel appreciated, I can have deep conversations with him and make him feel comfortable. Because every little thing matters, I can write him notes or just call him to let him know I love him. I really expect my relationship to be so much better if I can stick to my goal.

As you can see, things are going to be different for me by the end of 2019. This means that you will see me studying more often, eating better foods, and showing more love and kindness. I know it might not be easy, but my grades, health, and relationships are worth the effort.

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The Salem Sociopath and Her Motivating Factors

By: Keri Lawson

Mrs. Brock - 10th Grade

How fair is the current justice system in America? Sometimes it is not exactly fair, and sometimes the wrong people are prosecuted. Although this may happen, more often than not, society brings to light what it deems as unjust and then works to get wrongs righted. However, imagine if a person were in a position of unjust prosecution, and no one was there to help that person receive justice. Everyone is against her, and she is not only faced with incarceration, but also faced with death. Sounds scary, right? Well this is the sort of justice system that existed at the time of the infamous 1692 Salem Witch Trials. Nineteen innocent people were hanged as a byproduct of several young girls' false testimonies. This historical event sets the background for Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*. Miller wrote this play in 1952, during what he felt was a time where history seemed to repeat itself. He wrote this play not only to entertain and provide information about the trials, but also to open the eyes of Americans during the period known as the Red Scare. This was a time of hysteria over supposed Communists infiltrating America. Many innocent people were arrested and sent to prison because of false accusations, which Miller saw was much like the Salem Witch Trials. He wanted to show how blind the people were at the time of the Red Scare through his dynamic characters in *The Crucible*. During both of these time periods, people were motivated by many different emotions, the most prominent of these being greed, jealousy, and fear. Abigail Williams was one of the characters where these motivating emotions were the most evident.

In *The Crucible*, Abigail Williams is one of the main characters, despite being an antagonist. She plays the largest role in the chaotic events that ensue in Salem. She is manipulative and causes the deaths of all the innocent people that were killed at the time of the witch trials. One of the important factors that fuels her logic and actions is greed. One of the main ways that Abigail displays her greed is by wanting John Proctor all to herself. A married man with two children, John, has an affair with Abigail. John was horrified by what he had done and realized that he had messed up. He confessed to his wife, Elizabeth, and tried to fix his relationship with her so that he could be a good husband and father once again. Despite his affair with Abigail, he retained no feelings for her. Abby, however, developed strong feelings for John to the point where she was obsessed with the idea of them being together, even though it was impossible. She became convinced that he loved her back and repeatedly tried to get him to admit it. He told her repeatedly that he had no feelings for her whatsoever and wanted nothing to do with her. She kept persisting and did not care who got hurt along the way. She made a scene as a product of her greed, and her actions seemed to mirror her sense of entitlement. It seemed like she thought she deserved John, despite him addressing the mistake for what it was and telling her he wanted to be with his wife, not Abby. Her entitlement goes hand-in-hand with her greed, and this is shown in the beginning of the play when she has a heated conversation/argument with John. She says, "Oh, I marvel how such/a strong man may let such a sickly wife be..." (146, I, 456-457). Quick to defend his wife, John shouts back, "You'll speak/nothing of Elizabeth!" (146, I, 458-459). This conversational exchange shows that Abigail is so greedy for John's undivided affection and attention that she has resorted to petty name-calling directed at his wife.

Secondly, Abigail's greed goes hand-in-hand with the next contributing factor, which is her jealousy—especially towards Elizabeth. She wants to be in Elizabeth's place and even wants her out of the picture completely. She is not only jealous of Elizabeth's life, but also of the authority and respect Elizabeth has. Therefore, in her mind, in order for her to have John, she has to do whatever she

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needs to, even if that means having her killed. Towards the beginning of the play, one can see right away how manipulative and conniving Abigail is, but one does not fully grasp the lengths Abigail is willing to go to in order to get her way. Her disregard for others comes as a product of her jealousy. As the story progresses, John's constant rejection of Abigail fuels her rage even more, and as her rage grows, so does her jealousy. When Abigail makes up the plan regarding the witchcraft, she figures out how well it works for her. Once she realizes that she can use her newfound power among the townspeople to her advantage, naturally she tries to eliminate Elizabeth. In her mind, this is the only way she can get back at John and end up being with him. Abigail's jealousy is shown when she says to John, "She is blackening my name in the village! She is telling lies about me! She is a cold, sniveling woman and you bend to her!" (146, I, 460). This shows that Abigail is using the excuse that Elizabeth is hurting Abigail's reputation to mask the feelings of jealousy she has towards Elizabeth. She is using excuses. John retaliates by saying, "Do you look for a whippin'?" (146, I, 463). This exchange shows John using her younger age against her as a way to assert his power and authority over her.

Lastly, perhaps Abigail's most impactful motive is her fear. She has quite a skill of using other people's fears against them, but she also has some herself. The reason she manipulates others' fears is to mask her own. Her fear is what sent the entire town of Salem into a downward spiral in the beginning. The whole story starts when her uncle, Reverend Parris, catches Abby and some of the other girls dancing around in the forest, trying to experiment with witchcraft. She is afraid of gaining a bad reputation among the townspeople and being shunned because of what she has done. Her fear is also exhibited in ways due to her fear of losing John and her fear of being caught in her lies. For example, when Abigail says, "You loved me, John Proctor, and whatever/sin it is, you love me yet!... John, pity me, pity me!" (146, I, 471-473). One can hear the desperate tone Abigail is using is showing her fear of John not reciprocating her feelings. Another example is when she says to the other girls, "Now look you. All of you. We danced. And/Tituba conjured Ruth Putnam's dead sisters. And that is all" (144, I, 353-355). This shows Abby lying as a product of her fear of the consequences that might happen if the townspeople discover the truth. Her fear also causes her to accuse Mary Warren. Later in the play, after the damage is done, everyone starts to slowly realize that everything was a big lie. Backed into a corner, Abby's fear leads her to the decision to run away.

Abigail Williams is a complex character with several different motivating factors. Miller's play gives excellent examples of how people can be affected by things around them and how they can use their analytical abilities to adapt to their environments in either negative or positive ways. In Abby's case, she made several bad decisions and used her intelligence and manipulation in negative ways. Through the events of Abigail's life, several things influenced and motivated her. However, the most prominent factors were greed, jealousy, and fear. From an outsider's viewpoint, some of Abigail's actions may seem justifiable, but overall, she blew everything way out of proportion and had nineteen people killed due to her bad decisions. As horrible as the consequences of these choices were, similar consequences existence across the expanse of time. History, unfortunately repeats itself. The characters in this drama suffered as a resulted of rash and selfish decisions creating detrimental consequences. One day perhaps the world will learn from the past rather than repeat it. Until then, one has literature depicting what happens when negative things occur and different individuals use motivating factors in manipulative ways.

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***Beowulf* as an Anglo-Saxon Epic**

By: Amaya Patterson

Mrs. Brock - 11th Grade

The ideal epic is a tale of grandeur and wonder. The ideal epic hero is one whom embodies the heroic traits and values of the time. In the epic *Beowulf*, Anglo-Saxon values, such as bravery, loyalty, and leadership exemplify why the main character Beowulf is a hero. With elements such as syntax, diction, form, and other literary devices, so commonly found in Anglo-Saxon tales and formal elements such as kennings and alliteration, *Beowulf* is quality epic poetry.

One is introduced to the main character Beowulf and almost immediately informed of his bravery. In the epic *Beowulf*, Beowulf himself proclaims that he would not “let his sword go where my feet were afraid to” (lines 191-193), meaning that fighting with a sword would make him seem cowardice. Beowulf exhibits his loyalty to his people and sense of leadership by dying in battle in an effort to save his people. Leonard Neidorf elaborates on the need for a leader to display such loyalty to their people, especially at the time. “English leaders felt a need for increased loyalty, and it seems likely that *Beowulf*, a poem in which loyal behavior is both illustrated and explicitly endorsed, was copied out to promote the desired behavior” (Neidorf 123). The Anglo-Saxon people needed a hero who was loyal, and in *Beowulf*, they got just that.

Within the epic *Beowulf*, there are many literary elements that a scholar could associate with epic poetry. The beautiful use of characterization used to describe the hero Beowulf personifies the stylistic elements of the time in literature, such as epic poetry. Beowulf is described as a “Follower and strongest of the Geats- greater/And stronger than anyone anywhere in this world “(lines 110-111). The poem showcases other literary devices, such as diction and syntax, commonly found at the time. They are used beautifully, especially syntax, while describing the battle of Beowulf and Grendel’s mother. Evelyn Reynolds describes, “A reexamination of *Beowulf*’s formal elements in light of the way they position the poem’s audience, particularly in relation to action and time, presents an opportunity to rethink our understanding of the poem’s aesthetics” (Reynolds 44). The hero described the sea he swam through in a race in the epic *Beowulf*, “I swam/In the blackness of night, hunting monsters/Out of the ocean, and killing them one/By one...” (lines 176-180), using a notable example of imagery. Yet another defining feature found in the epic *Beowulf* is form. The opening monologue of the poem:

Hear me! We've heard of Danish heroes,
Ancient kings and the glory they cut
For themselves, swinging mighty swords!
How Shild made slaves of soldiers from every
Land, crowds of captives he'd beaten
Into terror; he'd traveled to Denmark alone,
An abandoned child, but changed his own fate,
Lived to be rich and much honored. He ruled
Lands on all sides: wherever the sea
Would take them his soldiers sailed, returned
With tribute and obedience. There was a brave
King! And he gave them more than his glory,
Conceived a son for the Danes, a new leader
Allowed them by the grace of God. They had lived,
Before his coming, kingless and miserable;

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Now the Lord of all life, Ruler
Of glory, blessed them with a prince, Beowulf
Whose power and fame soon spread through the world. (1-18)

Epic elements such as kennings are used to advance the poem and give the reader a feeling of being a part of the story as previously described. Geoffrey R. Russom details this statement when he writes, “Old English poets composed ‘now word by word with deliberation and at leisure but rapidly in the presence of a live audience...’” (Russom, 371). Other epic elements including alliteration can be found, such as the initial *s* sound here, “Slashing and stabbing with the sharpest of points” (line 405). This is an excellent example and expected standard of the writing technique of the time.

The epic *Beowulf* remains one of the most striking examples of heroic epic poetry. By being a model of the Anglo-Saxon hero, it can be broken down into three main elements: values, literary elements, and tradition epic elements. These elements can be broken down furthermore into their respective facets. The use of these characteristics aid in understanding the work of art that is the epic *Beowulf*, and in addition, aid in understanding all Anglo-Saxon literature.

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Dawn of a Day

By: James “JC” Long

Ms. Brown - 12th Grade

A Dawn of a new day
The wind wisps as the trees sway
An aroma of grass attacks the soul
As the birds chirp a song well-known
When night fades the stars take flight
For a bold, warm, and comforting light
The sun is out for all creation to see
And gently beckons us all from sleep
A brand new chance; a clean slate
No time can compete with the birth of the day

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Concrete Poem
By: Barrett Martin
Mrs. Brown – Tenth Grade

They wear
their itty
bitty dresses
and tiny
little shoes,
as they
parade to
the Sunday
School room.

They open their Bibles, with smiling faces, as we read the stories that will take them places.
I watch in joy, their wide eyes, as I tell them about baby Jesus' first cries. We talk, we laugh,
we read, we sing, praises of God and the good that He brings. I do my best to fill their minds

with the truth,
from stories
of Moses,
Esther, and Ruth.

Oh how much
we gained
from the
temporary
loss. What a
privilege it is,
to lead these
kids to the cross!