

CityKidzWorld

Volume 5, Issue 16

**3 New
Writing
Contests
Inside**

Short Stories!

Mysteries!

Essays!

Poetry!

**Vocabulary
Writing Contest
Winner!**



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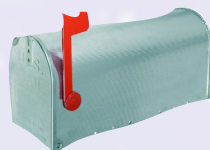
Dear Community,

City Kidz World magazine is now in its 5th year of publishing. The magazine has gone from a few pages of contests, games, and stories, to a 56-page literary publication written by the young writing community of New Jersey. We are glad to see our vision come to fruition. It was the dream of a handful of teachers involved at the beginning of the founding of the magazine to engage the young writing community in a creative endeavor that will last for life. We wanted to transcend the idea of writing only to fulfill the requirements of school. We know that writing is a lifelong sport. Writers need to have confidence in their abilities to express themselves in writing, whether for a graded paper or for their own person journals. We want to thank the community for engaging.

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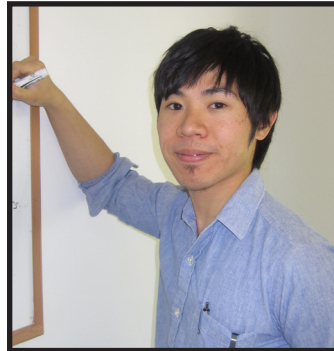
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Meet our Language Arts Specialists

Creative Writing Muses



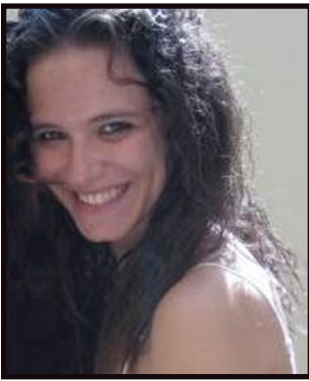
Director, Melissa Edwards, has been teaching English for 22 years. She has experience teaching K-12 and college. She is certified to teach language arts, English, reading, and journalism and she has been teaching English on the college-level for 9 years. She loves teaching in the studio and also teaching her own two elementary school-age sons.



Daniel is the white board wizard. He can persuade even the most reluctant writers to get their thoughts out. He has a degree in English from Rutgers University.



Laura is new to the studio this year. She teaches elementary and middle school home-based classes, and loves having her students use sensory perception with their writing. She is currently a substitute teacher for three different school districts.



Look out for Heather and her huge water bottles! As the Punctuation Princess, Heather will use her colorful pens to whip your grammar into shape.



Laurel is a fantastic teacher with several years of experience. She encourages children to be creative, while helping them master spelling, punctuation and vocabulary. Laurel teaches in homes and in the studio.



Chis York is the Creativity King. He enjoys being animated when brainstorming ideas with students. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Early Childhood Education at Rutgers University and will begin student teaching in the fall.



Jess has taught freshman composition and fiction at the University of Washington, and she has taught writing at an arts camp. She also taught at a camp for gifted middle school students.

The creative writing muses work with students every week on grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, writing and confidence!

The Awesome Days of Stacey Hopkins

By Mirnalini Boopalam

Day 1 (last day of school)

YAY! School was finally over! Stella (twin sister) and I (Stacey) were planning our summer ahead. Before our annoying little siblings could come to interview us, we tried to sneak up into our room, but we were busted! The little sibs conduct a short and weird interview with us and this is how it went:

Kate and Kyle (little sibs): How was school little people?

Stella: We are not little people, we are 9 years old (well, 10 in a month and a half). You are little people; you guys are only 6 years old (well 7 in two months and a half).

Kate: Hey! Who are you calling little people!

Kyle: WE ARE NOT LITTLE PEOPLE and that's that!

Me (Stacey): Ok, you don't have to get so mad at us. Now let's get away from each other for some time...

And that was the end of an awkward conversation...

Now back to the topic ... we went up to our room after the awkward conversation. Over in our room, we started planning our coming up summer and there is one thing we will do for sure: Have an end-of-the-year party with our neighbors.

Then another interruption came, which was good news: To celebrate the end of a perfect school year with perfect grades Mom and Dad said we were going to Fun Buys! It is one of my favorite stores ever!

But the bad news is: We are going to Fun Buys tomorrow! Ughhhhh!

Who we're going with: Alex - age 13, Anthony- age 12, Kyle- age 6, Kate- age 6, Stella- age 9 and Stacey (me)- age 9

Why does everything have to be postponed? It is so annoying to be having to wait!

Well, I have to go eat my dinner now so this is your reporter Stacey Hopkins signing off...

Day 2

Yesterday, while eating dinner, I asked if we were going anywhere for summer break and this is what they said. We

are going to Paris, France, around the mid August! I am so excited!

My best friend Julia called and said that somewhere at the end of July she is going to Italy. I wish I could go to Italy and France.

Anyways, we are going to fun Buys today! This is my wish list:

- Glitter Pens (Obviously blue)
- Swimsuit
- Tag-off organizer (mom and dad say that I need one)
- Art Kit
- New Backpack
- Drawing Book

That is pretty much of my wish list so far, but it will get longer when I go to Fun Buys. I have \$125.75. Stella has \$117.24. Anthony has \$128.00. Alex has \$113.92. Kyle has \$42.00. Lastly Kate has \$41.90.

I also I heard that there was a swimming contest held next week, so I am definitely signing up.

My friend, Noelle taught me how to do flips, headstands, cannonballs, and cartwheels in the water. I am definitely showing off on that!

Dad says that we are going to Fun Buys in 15 minutes so I better get all my money from my piggy bank to my little blue purse.



Mirnalini Boopalam is a 5th grader with significant promise as a writer!

Awesome con't on Page 5



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Weekends Available!

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Awesome con't from Page 4

I feel bad for Kate and Kyle that they have the least money, well Kate has the least, but it is only \$0.10 away from Kyle's money. Also me and Stella told Mom and Dad about the end-of-the-year party and they said it was a great idea.

I have to say that I thought that summer wouldn't turn out so good, but it is coming out really good so far!

Going to go to Fun Buys so bye-bye...

Day 3

Fun Buys was awesome! I got everything I wanted plus some other really cool things and now I still have \$75 left!

This morning when I came down to breakfast (which was pancakes) Mom and Dad said that we are going to have a new neighbor and they heard that it was a girl and a boy and the girl is 9 just like me and Stella! They also said that they are moving in tomorrow!

Maybe Stella and I will invite her to the end-of-the-year party.

Also I am going to the pool swimming pool today! I tried to get Stella, Anthony, Alex, Kate, and Kyle to get into the swimming contest, but only Anthony, Kate and I are going to do it.

The rest said that there was no way they were going to do it.

Here is my plan today:

- 1) Swimming Pool
- 2) Go home, change clothes and do sewing
- 3) Lunch
- 4) Playground
- 5) Watch T.V. and eat dinner at home

That's pretty much my plan so far, but it can change...

This is way off topic, but I miss my second best friend, Tina.

She is right now in South America to just have a tour.

P.S. This is also off topic, but I love my diary because you can let everything free and it will always agree on what you write.

Also it keeps its lips sealed. (Even though I don't think diaries have lips).

P.P.S. I am so excited about the new neighbor!

P.P.P.S. The time is now 9:34a.m.

I don't want to stop writing in my diary, but I have to stop. I have to go so TOODLES!

Day 4

The new neighbor arrived! Our family is going to help them so that will bring a better relationship with us and them. I am so excited!

Now we are walking to their house and I can't stop skipping because I am so excited!

Alex is ringing the door bell now...

They opened it! The whole family looked really nice. They invited us inside to help them.

The girl is sitting across me in the sofa. I am going to say hi now.

I said it and she said, "Hi want to help me set up my room?" I said, "Sure, come on."

She is pretty nice and now we are in her room.

She some cool stuff. But when I touched it, she acted pretty mean. She said, "Stop touching it little brat!"

She was so mean and I am totally telling Julia. (Best friend)

So then I just went back and watched T.V with Stella and Kate.

Finally we went back home!

Me and Stella asked Mom and Dad if we could have the party tomorrow and they said yes!

We went upstairs and started getting ready for the party. We got some board games from the basement and some ideas of games like a treasure hunt and a tug-a-war contest.

Then after we got the games, we called some people to come to the party. We both are so not inviting the new girl. By the way, her name is Annabelle.

These are the people we invited:

-Julia and Jason (best friend and younger brother)

-Sam (Kyle's best friend)

-William, John, Mike and Matt (Anthony and Alex's friend)

-Jessica (Kate's best friend)

There are more people, but these are just the main people.

Tomorrow is the big day...

Day 5

Today! Today! TODAY! It is the end-of-the-year party. I am so jumpy that I can't sit!

We all are setting up the party outside and Mom and Dad are setting it up inside for the parents.

When we were putting the games out, Julia's family arrived. Julia and Jason helped us it was quicker. Now we are just making signs for each section of the party.

The time now is 1:02 p.m. and the party starts at 1:30 p.m. Just 28 minutes till the party starts!

We have tug-a-war, treasure hunt, lemon and spoon, and hide-n-seek. We are going to let the guests pick the other games.

Um, I think I might need to go because of two things:

1) People are starting to come.

2) Anthony spilled the lemonade! Oh no!

Better go!

City Kidz World Creative Writing Studio

"We're in this to Make Writers!"

American?

By Krishna Eleti

“Krishnnnnnaaaaaaaaaa get out of bed and come over here,” my mom hollered at me. I suddenly wake up, still sleepy; I go back to bed. I was about to close my eyes and then, “Vedanthhhhhh WAKE UP!” my mom screams again. I slowly get up off my bed and start walking toward the door of my bedroom. I open it and start dragging myself to the living room; there I see my dad sleeping on the couch. I remember that last night he came from America. I got really excited; I wanted to go and hug him and ask him about America. I decided not to wake him up because he probably had jetlag, since the time in India is much different than the time in America. Also, he probably was tired from the long trip. I went to go take a shower and brush my teeth. After I came back, I saw him drinking his morning tea on the balcony. I went up to him and started firing questions at him like, “How was it?”, “Did you have fun?”, “Did you make any new friends?” then I realized he was still tired. As I was walking away from him, I noticed a scar on his face and remembered the car accident we had a couple months ago. My dad’s friend was driving half asleep so he hit a cow with the car and we crashed a couple hundred feet away from the road.

“I remember that last night he came from America. I got really excited; I wanted to go and hug him and ask him about America.”

Then in the night I went on the computer and typed in “America” in Google. I got some pretty cool results. I went to images and I saw these really tall buildings. They were called skyscrapers. The tallest one was the Empire State building. It was more than a thousand feet high. Then there was picture of this park. It was huge. There was a little lake in the park. There were swings, slides, and kids running after each other. Everyone was having fun. Then my mom found me on the computer and ushered me to my room and told me to sleep, since it was getting pretty late. That night, before I went to sleep, I thought about America all those tall sky scrapers and the huge park. I suddenly woke up from a dream. I see the sun from my bedroom window. I groan because the sun was shining right on top of my eyes. I get up and walk over to the window and close the blinds. Right then my mom walks through the door and starts making my bed and was like

“Nooooooooooooooooooooo.”

Then I thought, oh well, I can talk to my dad now about how his trip was. I go outside and see him where he was yesterday in the balcony.

“Hey, dad how was your trip?” I asked.

“Not bad, it was fun,” he replied.

“Did you make any new friends?”

“Yes, they were the neighbors and my new colleagues are fun,” he exclaimed.

“How was your house?”

“It was an apartment like two bedroom and a huge living room,” he answered.

I kept on asking him other questions about his job, colleagues and his daily routine. After

he finished answering most of my questions, he went over to his suitcase and pulled out a white package and he handed it to me, while he kept on looking for something else. I opened the package and inside was a shiny little device with a black cover on it said IPOD on it. I didn’t know what it was so I didn’t care about it. Then my dad pulled out a pack of pictures and then I got really excited. He hands the pack over. I slowly examined each picture. I see his neighbors. They were a young couple with a little kid. I saw my dad’s colleagues. They were near a big, blackish and grayish building. Then I realized that was the Empire State building and I asked my dad where he took all those pictures.

That day, in the evening, my dad went out somewhere. I was waiting for him to come back. I had even more questions about America; I was just sitting impatiently on the couch. Then the doorbell rings I open the door and find my dad at the doorstep with a big smile on his face.

“What happened?” I asked.

“I’ll tell you. Sit down,” he replied.

“Come on! Tell me,” I exclaimed.

“We are moving to AMERICA!” he shouted.

I was so very happy. My mom was very happy too. Then I thought about all of my friends and my teachers. I realized going to America is a once in a lifetime opportunity and “you only live once” so I thought to myself that this would be a great change in my life and I agreed to go. My dad told me we would get on the flight in two weeks. That was the last thing I heard from him before I started freaking out.



Krishna Eleti is a thoughtful 8th grader with fantastic experiences about which to write. He practices his writing regularly.

Stormy Night Story

By Hafsa Rahaman

It was a stormy night. As lightning struck though the sky, Alexa and Marisa woke up. Alexa and Marisa looked out the window of their room. They were on a cruise with their parents to London. The girls decided to go on deck to view the storm, but then a big gust of wind pushed Alexa and Marisa off the boat. They were pushed to a big island.

The island was scary and lonely. Alexa and Marisa were both getting sleepy, so they decided to sleep.

Later...

They woke up and started to talk. Marisa got all panicky and worried. She kept saying that they were going to die. Alexa tried to calm her down. Alexa said they needed to start building a fort that would protect them a little. Marisa wanted to cry, but she was too embarrassed because she was older. In those few days, they were building and thinking of ways to protect themselves. Marisa calmed down a little. Alexa knew her parents Eliza and Josh were out looking for them. Alexa was looking for food and found coconuts.

A few weeks later...

Alexa and Marisa got used to the island. Marisa did not explore the whole island yet. Alexa had already explored the entire island. All they had eaten were coconuts and leaves, but they still have not eaten much. It was 12:05 p.m. and they could not go to sleep. Around 12:30 p.m. they both fell asleep. While they were sleeping, a sandstorm had built up. The next morning Alexa woke up and screamed. She did not see Marisa anywhere. Marisa was not in sight. Alexa started to get hungry, but she did not stop looking for Marisa. Alexa still could not find her. Since Alexa was younger and shorter, she could not reach the coconuts. Alexa got tired so she took a break. All Alexa wanted to do was sleep. Alexa could not stop, so she kept walking. While she was walking, she got a little cold. She ran back to their sleeping spot and got a sweater to keep her warm. As Alexa was putting her sweater on she heard a weird noise. When she turned around she saw two people. They looked like they were about 30. Alexa did not recognize them. Alexa looked a little closer and they started to think they were her parents. The two adults both said, "Oh Alexa!"

"We finally found you!"

The woman said, "Where is Marisa?"

"I don't know!" Alexa screamed.

Alexa and her parents, Eliza and Josh, looked for Marisa. They crossed half of the island.

"Maybe Marisa disappeared," Alexa said. Her parents did not believe it. They stopped for a moment. They all saw a crow that led them to the very end of the island. Suddenly, a rush of fear came to them. They did not see Marisa, but they saw a little girl who was about 5



Hafsa is a prolific, 5th grade creative writer. Her writing becomes better each day.



sitting alone. The little girl saw them and said, "Hi."

They said hi back. They asked for her name.

She said, "My name is Nellie Davis."

She also said she and her parents lived here. Her parents passed away when she was only 4. They felt bad for Nellie.

"Do you want to come with us?" Eliza and Josh asked.

"You want to take me with you guys?" Nellie asked.

"Sure," Josh said. Nellie made up her mind and said yes.

Nellie stood up and pointed forward. Alexa turned around

and saw Marisa. Their parents saw her too. They ran up to

her and hugged her. They decided it was time they go back

home on the boat and pack up their stuff. Eliza and Josh

had a big surprise. They were moving to this island. Nellie,

Alexa, and Marisa jumped up and down. They were happy

to stay. Marisa asked who the girl was. Eliza explained about

Nellie. They all became one big and very happy family!

A GIRL WHO GETS TOO MUCH HOMEWORK!

By Sriya Kandula

It was a hot, spring morning when 10-year-old Chloe realized that it was her first day of 5th grade. Chloe was a nice, cute girl who got a nice teacher every year so Chloe was hoping to get a nice teacher this year too. Chloe was in such a hurry that she didn't notice that it was only 6:00 a.m. She brushed her teeth in 5 seconds and got dressed in a minute. After that, she went downstairs for breakfast. Where was her mom? She looked at the clock. It was 6:01 a.m. She ran to her mom's room. NO WONDER HER MOM WAS SOUND asleep. "ZZZ."

Chloe checked in her brother's room because her big, annoying 13-year-old brother Marc, with brown hair, wakes up early. Yes! Her brother was awake. They played for one hour and then woke up their mom. Chloe's mom, who had brown hair with red highlighted bangs, was nice. After they ate breakfast, they went to the bus stop. Her bus came five minutes later! After some time, they got to school. When Chloe entered the classroom, she saw the ugliest teacher in the world. Her teacher had gray, tied up hair. She also had

the biggest, black mole in the world on the side of her eye. Chloe hoped she was nice. She went to her teacher and said, "I am Chloe and I am in your class."

"Ok now go and find your seat," said Mrs. Uglyois. Oh come on now. I got an ugly teacher that looks like she is 500 years old, Chloe said to herself. She crossed her fingers and prayed to God please make my teacher nice. But 5 days after, it was the same old meanness. She just can't stand to do too much homework! She also can't stand to see the ugliness, but mostly the homework was too much and it caused her to stay up to 2:00 a.m. with 500 papers. The next day she told the teacher to give less homework. The teacher agreed and said ok. SO then Cloe learned a lesson. If she had anything to tell a teacher, she should do it.



Sriya is becoming a great writer. Each week she works hard at her writing.

An Old Robber And A Cop!

By Shourya Kandula

Once upon a time there was a smart, old man. He was a robber. Most of the times he stole money. He also stole gold, necklaces and rings from the bank. He could only break into the bank easily because he is so strong and smart.

Years ago there was a tiger. The tiger and the robber always played together in the cave. The tiger was very, very, nice. They both were very old. The tiger was 60 years old and the robber was 70 years old. The tiger was like the robber. The tiger was mean to everyone and the best lions. They met in a cave. The robber and the tiger met by playing together and talking to each other. The robber put his treasure in the cave. One day the robber ran to a hotel because everyone was really mad that their money was gone. He stayed for six years. He gave the hotel card to the owner because wanted to go to the swimming pool to get better. He wanted to go to the caves for getting gold so he wore any wig for his hair and a different costume so a cop would not realize that he was a robber. When he came back, the cop

saw him and did realize that he was a robber. Then the cop caught the robber and took him to jail. So the robber lived sadly ever after.



Shourya is a sensational 2nd grader who is writing more each week. His ideas are great!

Loads of Stormy Fun

By Laya Venkatesan

My eyes were glued to the horrid sight of the rain and lightning. Thunder boomed, ripping the sky open. Our house trembled in dismay.

"It looks like the hurricane is going to hit soon," my mom warned, feeding my sister some oatmeal squares.

I sighed, vigilantly keeping an eye on our yard, hoping no trees would fall. Flashlights were scattered around the house, in case we lost power.

"Mommy, I want to play with my sister," my baby sister pointed to me, putting on an innocent smile.

I knew she would say that, but she couldn't deceive me again. My penetrating eyes could see through her unctuous disguise.

"Well, I guess you're going to be playing with your sister today," my mom smiled.

I was completely speechless. There was no way I could fabricate excuses to get out of playing with my sister this time.

"Are you sure? I mean, I could make sure no trees fall," I persuaded, forcing a smile.

My mom put on a disapproving look and my sister shot pleading glances. I was reticent, but the guilt had already vanquished my unwillingness.

"Fine," I muttered.

Suddenly, the sound of thunder boomed through my eyes.

My sister screamed and clung to my legs. She has a penchant to yell at the top of her lungs when she is scared.

I yanked her hands off me, and dragged her upstairs.

"So, umm... what do you want to do?"

I asked my sister, suddenly feeling overcome with lassitude. I rubbed my eyes wearily, and waited impatiently for her response.

"Television," she replied in resignation. She plopped herself on the couch and I sat next to her. I switched on the television, and turned the channel to Mickey Mouse for my sister. She was entranced in her entertainment, not taking her eyes off the television.

"Laya, come down right now," my mom said in a stringent tone.

I reluctantly dragged my feet down the stairs.

"Yes," I almost knew what she was going to say next.

"Why are you putting on the television for your sister?" she questioned.

I had a bewildered look planted on my face, not sure what to say.

"Ummm... because she wanted it?" I replied.

"You very well know that once Svara is engrossed in television, she'll never stop," my mom explained.

I bit my lip. "Oops, don't worry. I'll do something else with

her," I hurried back upstairs.

"Svara change of plans. How about we play... ummm...hide-and-go-seek?" I suggested.

"No," she stubbornly disagreed.

I sighed, and turned off the television quickly, like ripping off a bandage.

Svara exploded into tears, and kept on crying.

I tried consoling her, "It's okay. We could play hide and seek. I'll count first."

Her crying was finally alleviated by my placating.

"1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10! Ready or not? Here I come!" I opened my eyes and started to search around the house.

I immediately spotted two glistening shoes popping out of the bottom of the curtain.

"Too easy," I thought.

I opened the curtains, but in astonishment, there were only two shoes. Svara wasn't there. I couldn't believe a baby bamboozled me, but I didn't stop searching.

Half an hour went by, but I still couldn't find Svara.

"Svara! I give up! You could come out now!" I shouted.

There was no answer. I started to get worried and frightened. I knew I had to tell mom.

I hesitantly began walking toward my mom.

"Uhhhh...mom? I kind of lost Svara," I started shaking.

"LOST HER? What are you talking about?" my mom questioned.

I took a deep breath and swallowed the lump in my throat.

"Well, we were playing hide and seek. I counted first, and I couldn't find her anywhere. I searched everywhere, but she's not here!" I explained thoroughly.

"I----," my mom was interrupted by a giggle. The giggle kept on getting louder and louder. It led us to the kitchen cabinet.

When I opened it, I saw Svara crouched up inside the cabinet.

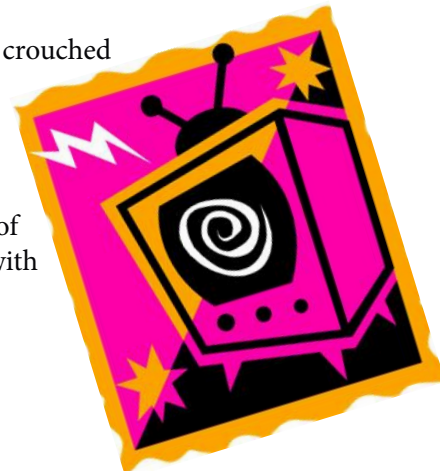
"Boo," she chuckled.

My mom and I started laughing too.

Even though this was the day of the storm, I had loads of fun with my sister.



Laya is a talented 7th grader who knows how to use vocabulary.



Rav and Neha's Adventure on Volcano Island

By Rav Kaur

"Yay! School's out for the summer!" Rav and Neha shouted. Rav and Neha were BFFs since third grade.

"Whew, next year it's bye bye elementary school and hello middle!" Neha exclaimed. Neha had shoulder length brown hair, which criss-crossed in layers. Her bangs, cut short of her right eye, fell against her forehead. She had brown eyes. Neha was wearing a hot pink t-shirt with a denim jacket and a denim miniskirt with violet leggings because those are her favorite colors. Rav, on the other hand, had dark brown hair that fell to her waist in curls. Her bangs fell over half of her right eye and joined the rest of her hair. She also had brown eyes. Rav was wearing a neon blue t-shirt with a denim jacket and a denim miniskirt with mint-green leggings.

"Hey, Rav, why not go to the park and do our homework?" Neha asked.

"Sure, call your mom," Rav replied. Rav took out her phone and called her mom. After a while, both moms said yes. They walked to the park that was on the ocean side. While doing their algebra, a strong wind picked up. Suddenly, the sky turned an ugly shade of gray. It started to rain like anything. The sea came out of nowhere and engulfed them in waves. They were really far out at sea when they spotted a boat and swam with strong, steady strokes towards it and climbed on. It was a fairly large boat. It had a little kitchen stuffed with food, a queen-sized bed, and a small bathroom. It looked as if the boat was ready for take off, but had got wrestled away from the dock.

"Oh no! Well, good thing we've got some food! I hope someone finds us!" Rav said, and with that, they went to sleep as there was nothing else to do really. When they woke, the boat was washed ashore on an island.

"Hey, Rav, I know this sounds crazy, but let's go see if there's someone here to help us!" Neha said excitedly. They packed up and started trekking through the woods. Soon they reached a river that had a little bridge. They climbed over it, wondering if there were people here. They passed through the forest, (barely because there were so many weird types of monkeys hanging around) and reached a small village, which had huts for houses. Neha peeked inside.

"Rav, it looks as if everyone left in a hurry, so I think we should leave too. I have a weird feeling about this place," Neha said, shivering. Suddenly, all the birds stopped singing. All the monkeys started swinging from the trees and running away. A giant blast shook the ground enough for the girls to fall. They looked up at the mountain, which seemed to be a volcano, and saw the burning rocks tumbling towards them. Neha

got to her feet and helped Rav up.

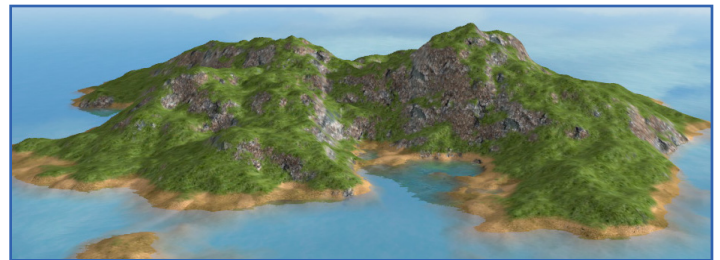
"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahh-hhhhhh!!" They screamed, taking off for their boat. After running through the forest, they reached the river, which wasn't really a river anymore. Instead of being filled with water, it was filled with lava and the bridge was just big flat rocks floating in the lava. "Come on! Watch me," Rav said, climbing on a rock and floating to the other side of the lava river. Neha did the same. They reached their boat just in time and started the engine.

"WOAH! That was CLOSE!" Neha said.

"Don't tell me about it," Rav groaned. In a day, they reached back. Everyone was so glad they were there. Scientists heard about the island they found it and went to see it. All was well.



Rav Kaur is an excellent writer and she is working on making her ideas come to life.



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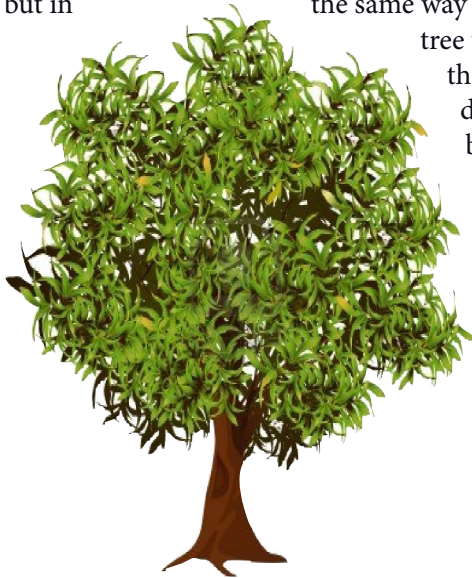
Mango Tree

By Siva Kuppa

Leaves swaying, cool breeze blowing and even the endless supply of oxygen are ways to describe the majestic trees. I really like every single tree, but my favorite tree was a relatively miniscule compared to the other trees in the surroundings. This tree was stuffed with leaves. It was a peculiar mango tree so that means if you were to stand near this tree you would smell the sweet smell of mangos. This tree is a tiny tree. It is like a child living in a house of adults. Even so, this is my favorite tree in the whole world. In a way, this is like an iPhone 4s. It is very small, but it still has a lot to discover and play with. This tree is very peaceful and is filled with mangos. It is very easy to climb.

First of all, this tree is a very peaceful. Usually when I am upset, I climb up this tree and suddenly and magically my negative emotions fade away. This tree is serene in every way. This tree looks calm, smells amazing and it feels very smooth in compared to the other trees. I feel almost as if I could just sleep in this tree. Sadly, I can't because if I did then I would simply fall and there would be another trip to the hospital. If you had ever climbed to the top of this tree, you would know that this tree has a great view. It is not that far away from my house so I could easily see my mom and dad. This tree is very peaceful.

Secondly, if you know me you would know that I absolutely love climbing trees. It is my passion, next to video games. This tree is not so difficult to climb, but in the same way it is not so easy. If



tree was so easy to climb then it would be very difficult to climb, but would still be able to conquer it.

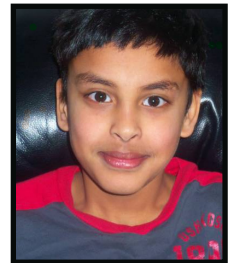
As I said before, this tree is not so easy to climb. For some reason, I don't enjoy

climbing such easy trees. I somehow find that ruins the thrill. This tree is just right for me to climb. Finding this tree was like a dream come true. After I climb to the top of this tree, then I just sit down and relax. After all the hard work of climbing this tree I crave the time to just sit down and enjoy the view. Everytime I climb this tree, I feel really happy and I feel as if made an achievement.

Lastly, this tree provides me many resources. By the way, who doesn't like mangoes? To me they are like healthy candy. Candy is very sweet just like mangoes, but mangoes are healthier. When I see a mango, I don't just see a mango. I see sweet, orange delicacy. I just love eating mangoes. Every time I climb this tree, I pick out a mango and take it back home where I then ask my mom to cut the mango and then I eat it or I sometimes just eat the mango right on the spot. I only do this during the season when mangoes grow, of course. This tree is so useful that usually at times of festival my mom asks me to pick a mango, which will ultimately be offered to God. Mangoes and mango leaves have a great aroma in my opinion. This is also one of the reasons why I love mangoes. I really love mangoes and this tree provides an abundant supply.

In conclusion, I love this tree. This tree is very peaceful, it is fun to climb and it even has mangoes, which are my favorite. I like this tree so that I even called it Orange (don't judge me). This is a tree I really like and I will never forget.

Siva is a hardworking 7th grader who is working on expressing his ideas through writing.



DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
WORK TO
CITY KIDZ WORLD
MAGAZINE SPRING ISSUE!

March 15!

editor@citykidzworld.com

Snow White's Halloween

By Prisha Kumar

It was a beautiful fall morning and Snow White was decorating for the Halloween party.

There was so much to do. The decorations were bat wings, ghosts, light-up witches, skeletons, spooky pictures, Titanic pictures, light-up apples, and storm lights. The dwarves helped her in carving beautiful jack o'lantern. Then she was ready to cook. The foods she made were ... candy for trick-treaters,

baked pies for dwarves, bread, and cookies. She also bought lollipops from the town store. After she set out the food, she set out the drinks. The drinks were mixed fruit punch. The dwarves were making costumes in the cave out of diamonds.



When they came home, Snow White was making stew for the Halloween. After a while, Snow White was done making stew. She saw the dwarves wearing their diamond cowboy costume. They had a wonderful spooky party, and everyone said Boo...!



Prisha Kumar is a hardworking and talented 2nd grader. Her imagination is growing.



ART WORK BY PRISHA KUMAR



Deadline to submit work to
City Kidz World magazine
Spring issue!

March 15!
editor@citykidzworld.com

CONTEST ALERT!
Can you design a gnome outfit?
Draw your gnome with a great outfit
and write a 200 word story about
your gnome!

Send to

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Grade: 1st to 3rd
Deadline: March 1



The Dognappers

By Farhan Mohammad

One hot day in California, the detectives, who solved mysteries, happened to be listening to the radio and they heard about the dognapping. Jack, Stephen, Hill, Ben and Winger (Winger is a falcon) were interested in the mystery of the dog kidnapper. They decided to solve the mystery.

"Let's go outside," said Hill.

"Good idea," said Ben.

They got outside in a jiffy.

"What now?" Jack said.

Ben screamed out loud, "Hide!" and everybody hid so fast. Then Hill heard footsteps.

"Thump, thump, thump," he closed his eyes. Then he heard a voice.

"Good hiding spot," said Ben.

"So what do you mean?" said Hill.

"Well, I didn't mean to do that."

"So that was fake?"

"Yup," Stephen approached. "Another dognapped at 1:00."

-- the dectectives heard this on the radio again.

"Quick hide," Stephen said then Jack heard it.

"Ahhhhh."

Jack quickly got out of his hiding place, but before he got out, he felt a tug on his back and then he saw it.

"The Dog Kidnapper!" he screamed.

"Ahhhhh dognapper!" Stephen, Hill, Ben and Winger rushed over.

"What happened?" they all asked.

"The ddddooog kidnapper," said Jack.

"Okay, we are going to see the clues from the Napper (Napper is the nick name for the kidnapper). "First things first," said

Ben,

"What did he look like?"



"Well," said Jack.

"He had two big teeth and he has a coat and he likes trees."

"Wait, pause and say that again."

"Why? He just say it," said Ben under his breath.

"He likes trees," said Jack.

"That's it," said Ben.

"Time to start a trap," Jack and Ben

said at the same time. The plan was

that Jack will go in the scary woods

and the Napper would get him. Ben

will be behind the tree to catch

Napper. They followed the plan and

it worked. Ben said "Who is the Nap-

per?" He lifted the mask"

But nothing," he said to himself.

He lifted the mask again.

Ben said, "Guys come here. There is something fishy."

Ben, Winger, Stephen and Jack rushed over.

"What happened?" they asked.

"Look at it," said Ben.

"Hmmm," said Jack.

"Wait a minute," said Stephen. I hear somebody controlling something."

They quietly tiptoed to where the guy was controlling and he said,

"Get out of here!" said the guy controlling the dognapper.

Hill said, "We don't want to hurt you; we want to know where the buttons are and the signs of the controller."

Ben looks and finds the buttons and he immediately called

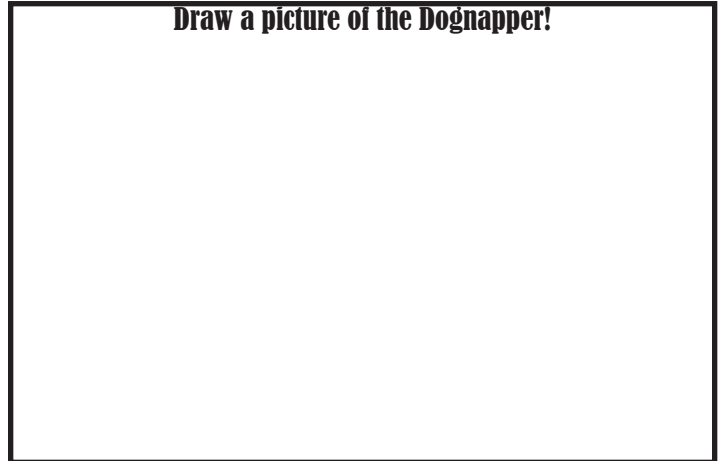
the police. The police arrested hi and put him in jail and

thereafter, everybody had peaceful time.



*Farhan is a great
2nd grade author.
This is his second
story.*

Draw a picture of the Dognapper!



Six Flags!

By Maleeha Irfan

I was sitting beside my brother and looking out my car's (Toyota) window. The beautiful green grass and trees showed up.

"Uh, when are we going to be at Six Flags?" I moaned and groaned, asking my dad. It felt like I was in the car for six hours, but I knew we were only here for about twenty minutes.

"Maleeha, you know it's going to take us at least an hour to get there," my dad said, interrupting my angry thoughts. Thereafter, I calmed down and kept on looking at the angelic, green grass and trees out of the clear crystal window. After looking outside for twenty five minutes, we finally got to Six Flags!

"Finally"! I kept on saying again and again thanking god. We got our tickets, ran to the entrance, and gave it to the guy who was collecting them. Then we walked around for five minutes. I looked at the gorgeous scenery around me. There were rides at one side and there was the most appealing sight like a scene from a movie with nature all around the background.

"Well Maleeha, you're going to have to go on Kingda Ka," My dad said chuckling, once we were going towards the rides.

"No I'm not daddy!" I said, with my teeth clenched together. It looked like we were going to have a fight (which meant my dad would force me to go on the ride and I would try my best to get myself out of this mess), but I knew if we really did, MY DAD WOULD WIN! He won every fight we had in the past. I didn't know what to do since when I looked at Kingda Ka I got shivers, which was a BAD sight.

"Maleeha, if you go on it then I will buy you an enormous chocolate sundae," my mom coaxed, as if her plan would work. I already had water in my mouth. I knew I LOVED CHOCOLATE SUNDAES SO MUCH! They were like my favorite desert. I took a deep breath, inhaling and exhaling. I didn't know how I would survive even sitting on the seat of Kingda Ka. I was so into my thoughts that I didn't even know I was in line already.

"What?" I asked myself when I finally realized. How am I already in line? I thought. I looked around and saw my parents behind me and my siblings behind them. My mom winked at me. Wow! I was so into my thoughts that I didn't even notice I got dragged to the line by my parents, I thought. I kept on thinking endless thoughts about what other reasons there could be, how I ended up in this line, but before I knew I was on the ride!

After five minutes, the ride started and it went so high up that I felt like I was ready to fall off. Also, it went so fast that some guy's hat flew off. My hands were sweaty, since I was so nervous. Once it reached the top, everyone who was



down on the ground looked like a midget no matter how tall they were. The ride went so fast down that before I could even see, the ride was finished.

"Kingda Ka felt like thirty seconds, not even," I exclaimed to myself, while I was getting off the ride.

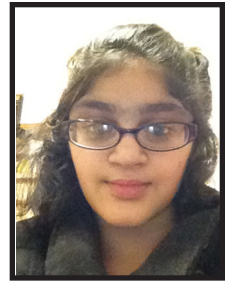
"Wow!" I thought. That wasn't that scary after all. Then I saw my parents on the ride, and it was about to start. I wished them good luck and watched them scream as they rose up. Then, when I finally got tired of watching them, I sat down waiting for them to come and tell about the fun time they had on Kingda Ka.

When they finally got off the ride, I was surprised since my parents whispered to each other and didn't say a word out loud. I had no clue what they said, since they talked so softly.

I walked and walked until they told me to sit down, so I sat down on one of the green benches. "Maleeha, since you were brave enough to go on Kingda Ka, we wanted to reward you by buying that chocolate sundae that we promised you earlier. My dad said smiling with dimples next to his smile. I was so delighted that I jumped up and down chanting I'm going to get a chocolate, I'm going to get a chocolate sundae!

My mom and dad went over to Ben and Jerry's, the store that sold sundaes and looked around to see which sundae was the best! While they were doing that, my brother and my sister murmured to each other. I thought it was something bad, since they always say something bad about me, but I was astonished to find out that they both were actually going to buy me anything I wanted. From that point, I started thinking and thinking about what they should get me. Then I remembered I wanted Uggs and a coach wristlet. So I told them and they said they would buy it for me tomorrow. I was enthusiastic about the next day!

Shortly after my excitement, my parent's brought the chocolate sundae and I took one bite. Right from there, I started appreciating my parents more. Then we rode more rides, and after ten hours of fun, we went to the car. I still had my sundae! It was gigantic and it looked like chocolate ice-cream (but it really was a sundae) with Hershey and M&M over it. Also, there was some whipped cream. I was full and exhausted, but I knew that this would be my last day of junk food so I forced myself to eat the rest, but before I knew it, I was already asleep and couldn't finish the rest.



Maleeha is a studious 5th grader with many stories to tell.



By Laya Venkatesan and Aishwarya Mukundan

THE MESSAGE

“Marissa and Jessica, WAKE UP! You don’t want to be late for the first day of middle school,” their mom warned from below.

“Coming,” they whined in a synchronized tone.

Eleven year old Marissa Edelman groaned and tucked her black, wavy hair behind her ear.

Her non-identical twin sister, Jessica Edelman, frowned.

“Oh great,” she sarcastically remarked.

She pushed her straight, black hair away from her eyes and sighed.

They both got up lethargically and walked to the bathroom to get changed.

Marissa came out with a lime-green shirt with blue pants. On the contrary, Jessica wore a pink shirt with denim jeans.

They slowly walked downstairs for breakfast.

“Hey girls! Ready to go to your first day of school?” Mom said in a peppy way, doing a little wiggle along with it.

“Mom...” they began.

“Just never do that again,” Jessica pleaded.

“Especially not in public,” Marissa added.

Their mom shook her head in disbelief.

“Hey, I was just trying to muster up some zealously inside of you guys,” she said sheepishly and frowned.

“Oh yeah, by the way, I forgot to tell-“

“Oh god,” Marissa said, resting her head on her hand and gazed up at the ceiling.

“What’s next?” Jessica moaned.

“Oh, it’s nothing much! I just wanted you to go and get the mail. I think there was a letter for you two!” Mom chuckled as she carefully put the plates with flamboyant designs away.

“A LETTER!” Marissa exclaimed with a shocked look.

“FOR US?” Jessica continued while her eyebrows rose to the ceiling and her jaw dropped to the floor.

Their mom scrunched her eyebrows, “Ummmm... yeah,” their mom spoke reluctantly, “You seem jumpy.”

“We haven’t gotten a letter in a long time,” Jessica smiled, as they both slipped off their chairs and dashed to the mailbox to get their mysterious letter.

The mailbox creaked open as the girls snatched out

their letter.

It read...

Jessica & Marissa,

This is very important and top secret. I need you to go find a special jem for me. You should look for it at Greenwood Middle School. I will tell you how much I know... It’s a really stinky room where a man stays. There are bugs and beetles; that’s all I can say.

~ Dr. Mincha Chow JM

“Dr. Mincha, what?” Jessica asked.

“The last time I heard, chow was some kind of food,” Marissa remarked.

“Anyway, what’s that symbol all about?” Jessica asked pointing at the mark next to his name.

“I’m not quite sure,” Marissa shrugged.

“So, are we doing this thing, or not?” Jessica questioned.

“I don’t know. It all sounds pretty big to me, but it seems cool. Let’s do it!” Marissa exclaimed.

Jessica looked at Marissa with a puzzled look and then started to explain, “Listen Marissa, you can’t just say yes to something immediately,” Jessica explained.

Marissa had a bewildered look. “What do you mean?” she said tilting her head.

“Okay,” Jessica began slowly, “If somebody asked you to jump off a cliff, would you do it?” Jessica asked.

“I don’t know... maybe,” Marissa giggled.

“Oh gosh,” Jessica facetiously groaned, “Never mind. It’s just that I have a bad feeling about this. We don’t even know this guy,” she pointed out.

Marissa put on a puppy dogface as she curled her bottom lip and widened her eyes.

“Come on Jessica; if we find it for him, he might give some sort of reward. Please, please, please! Can we do it just this once?” Marissa begged.

Jessica had a doubtful look and took another glance at the letter, “Maybe I’ll think about it,” Jessica opened their house door.

The girls quickly threw their backpack on their shoulders and headed for the bus stop.

Jem con’t on page 15

Jem *con't* from page 15

THE RIDE

“Ummm...Jessica, we are on the right bus, right?” Marissa ensured as she slowly stepped onto the noisy bus. “I’m pretty sure we are,” Jessica nodded her head slightly.

As they sat down on the empty two-seater, they noticed big differences between this bus and their old bus.

Marissa starting talking to a random person, as Jessica turned to talk to a blonde-haired girl, a seat away.

“So, what’s your name?” the blonde-haired girl asked, forcing a smile.

“Jessica, and that’s my sister Marissa,” she introduced pointing at Marissa.

“Are you serious? No way!” The blonde-haired girl gasped.

“Ummm... is there something wrong with our names?” Jessica scrunched her eyebrows.

“Oh... ummm...it’s just that...uhhh...my cousin’s...dogs...uhhh...have the same name. Anyway, are you new? I can help you find your way throughout the school,” she offered.

“No. It’s okay. We can figure it out,” Jessica’s gaze took her to the blonde-haired girl’s ring. She squinted her eyes and thought the design looked quite familiar.

“What are you looking at?” the blonde-haired girl impudently commented.

Jessica started to sweat a little, not knowing what to say, “Ummm...I was just looking at your...beautiful nail polish,” Jessica stuttered, knowing it wasn’t a good defense judging by the sloppy scribbles on her nails.

Jessica turned away before the girl could say anything else, as the bus entered Greenwood Middle School.

THE DECISION

“Marissa?” Jessica tapped her on her shoulder, as Marissa started opening her locker.

“Yes?” Marissa asked.

“I was thinking about the letter, and decided that we could do this adventure,” Jessica sighed.

“OH MY GO-” Marissa managed to burst out before Jessica covered her mouth.

“Shut up! People might hear you!” Jessica said in a cautious tone.

Marissa rolled her eyes, “Geez! How will anybody hear me in this crowd?”

“Well, not everyone is talking as loud as you,” Jessi-

ca pointed out, as they both collected their books from their locker.

Marissa and Jessica hurried along to their first class, anxiously biting their lip.

BUS GIRL

“How you turn an improper fraction to a mixed number is...” the teacher incessantly spoke as her monotonous voice grumbled under her breath.

On the corner of Marissa’s eye, she spotted a girl, staring at them. Her eyes narrowed, as she stood taller in her seat to catch a better image of the girl, who she noticed had blonde hair.

Marissa leaned over her desk and tapped Jessica on the shoulder.

“What?” Jessica whispered in an exasperated tone.

Marissa led her eyes to the girl, as Jessica followed them dubiously.

On the corner of Jessica’s eyes, she caught a quick glance of the girl’s face before the blonde-haired girl scurried off. Jessica quickly jerked her head back as she tried to process the sight of the girl. Her mind immediately went back to their conversation on the bus.

“Who is that?” Marissa asked in curiosity.

“I don’t know,” Jessica quickly murmured as her mind kept flashing the conversation on the bus.

Class finally ended as they gathered all of their books and hurried off to their next class.

Jessica and Marissa ended up finding themselves staring at the clock through their first three classes until lunch.

They sat at an empty table and started munching on their sandwiches.

“Mmmmm,” Jessica munched her sandwich in delight.

“Mom might be embarrassing, but she *shure doesh* make good *shandwichesh!*” Jessica told, while she talked with her mouth full.

“You got that right!” Marissa winked with a smile, “Oh yeah, by the way, during math class...who was that girl who we saw?”

“I actually have no idea,” Jessica lied.

“Stop it! I know you’re hiding something. Just spit it out!” Marissa demanded in a stern voice.

“Okay, fine. So, the girl who we saw, staring at us

Jem *con't* on page 17



Jem *con't* from page 16

in the window was the girl who I was talking to on the bus. When I told her my name, she was like 'Are you serious? No way', also on her--- you know what, I'll tell you later. I think we should get going on figuring out where the jem can be and what the clue even means," Jessica began.

"Fine! But, you better tell me!" Marissa acquiesced with a sigh.

"Ok, but first show me the letter, and let's figure out where the jewel is," Jessica firmly instructed.

Without another word, Marissa quickly got out the letter, and both of their eyes lead to the part about the riddle.

They stared at the riddle and thought of every single possibility.

Finally, "THE JANITOR'S CLOSET!" they both exclaimed in unison. They made sure they weren't too boisterous so other people didn't hear them.

Both of the girls discreetly tiptoed out of the lunchroom.

"Where are you guys going?" the blonde-haired girl brusquely interrupted.

"The...ummm..." Marissa started, cueing to Jessica to finish the sentence.

"Bathroom! We're going to the bathroom," Jessica told, hoping their sentence didn't sound too peculiar.

The blonde-haired girl's penetrating eyes still seemed glued to them, "Well, I have to go too!" she shot back with a haughty smile.

Jessica abruptly swung her head around, facing Marissa with a bead of sweat running down her forehead.

"Ummm... well...uhhh....I guess," Jessica stammered.

The three girls headed down the hallway.

Marissa and Jessica exchanged looks in agreement, and whipped around in the other direction, heading toward the Janitor's Closet.

"I bet the bus girl is now looking for us in the bathroom," the girls chuckled, imagining the expression on the girl's face. They closely read each sign, finally finding the one that read JANITOR'S CLOSET.

Just as they were about to enter, Marissa caught a quick glimpse of the Bus Girl.

"Jessica! Jessica!" she whispered urgently.

"What! We are in the middle of entering the---," Jessica argued before she faced the bus girl.

"You were in the middle of entering what?" the bus girl inquired.

"The bathroom, of course," Marissa answered, trying her best to be casual.

"The bathroom is that way!" The Bus Girl sassed,

pointing in the opposite direction.

"Ohh...well....you know...how... umm... we were new!" Jessica quickly finished.

"But it says JANITOR'S CLOSET in bold letters. In fact, it's right above your head," she sneered, while Marissa and Jessica slowly looked up.

"Uhhhh... we did not-," Marissa bit her lip in anxiety.

"... exactly see the sign," Jessica thought on the spot.

"Anyway..." Marissa tried to change the subject.

"We better get going now!" Jessica finally ended their incessant conversation.

They both hurried off toward their lockers.

Marissa and Jessica vigorously opened their lockers because of all the anger surging to the top of their head caused by the bus girl.

The bus girl peered at them very closely, but averted her head in the other direction before Marissa and Jessica could see her.

"I have literature next; what about you?" Jessica asked.

"Same," Marissa and Jessica darted to their next class before they were late.

Throughout their next three classes, the bus girl always stared at them, and her eyes never relinquished Jessica and Marissa's.

BUS CHASE

"DIIIIINNNNNGGG!" the sound of the bell pierced through their eardrums.

"Okay, class is dismissed. Don't forget to hand in your essays tomorrow," the teacher's low voice seemed to resonate across the classroom.

The students dashed out of the classroom like a bunch of horses being released from their stable.

Marissa and Jessica rushed outside toward their bus, afraid of getting run over by the crowd.

The bus girl's eyes skeptically peered at them, as if she was an investigator scrutinizing a crime.

"Okay, our plan has officially been ruined. When are we ever going to have a chance to get the jem?" Marissa cried. Jessica sighed, "We won't have any other time to get it. So, I think it's best if we sneak out and go tonight!" Jessica firmly informed.

Jem *con't* on page 18



Jem *con't* from page 17

Marissa grimaced, "That's totally ridiculous! First of all, we have to plan all of this out. Second of all, we have to at least make a map. Third of all, mom is going to freak out when she finds out where we have gone!"

Jessica grew impatient, "Listen... can't we just get this thing over with? We can make a map and do whatever, but we are going tonight!"

"We could tell mom we're going somewhere other than the school, but we can think of that later. You know how clueless mom is," Jessica joked around.

Marissa chuckled, "Fine. I guess we could do that."

"Oh look! Nancy is half-waving, half-looking... concerned?" Jessica smiled, waving back at her.

"Jessica... isn't she on our bus?" Marissa gasped.

"Yeah, I know. What's the big deal?" Jessica typically shrugged cueing.

"Jessica! Our bus is leaving!" Marissa shrieked.

Without another word, they sprinted after their bus, screaming and gesturing at their bus driver to stop for them.

"Hey! Wait up!" they called breathlessly as their backpacks hopped up and down.

"We are on your bus!"

"Eh?" the bus driver squinted at the girls, who were hollering and waving their hands.

The bus driver sighed, half-asleep, and pulled up at the curb.

"Thanks for stopping!" the girls were panting hard as they shoved their way through the seats.

"Whenever we are even this close to missing the bus... we are definitely calling mom!" Marissa plopped down on the not-so-comfy seat.

"You don't have to tell me twice!" Jessica giggled.

THE PLAN

As the girls pushed the door to their house sluggishly, they crept past their mother, who was busily dancing to the Wii game, *Just Dance*.

Jessica nudged Marissa, and led her eyes toward their mom, who began doing the chicken dance.

The girls looked at their mom, giving her back an "are-you-kidding-me" look and began up the stairs to their room.

"Let's forget about mom and her... ummm... well... "dance moves", and let's get to work on the jem!" Marissa's anger arose, as she slapped Jessica back into reality.

"Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Calm down! We'll get to work now," Jessica tamed Marissa.

"Sorr. I just want to get this thing over with,"

Marissa apologized, as they both started sketching out the school.

"We know the entrance is here, the lunchroom is here, the lounge is here, the Janitor's closet is here, the classes are here, and the bathroom is here... done!" Marissa and Jessica scribbled across the paper, pointing to various points over the sheet.

As Marissa glanced at the map for reassurance, she yelped, "Jessica! Remember that they lock the doors? How are we going to get in now?"

"Calm down... I know how to pick locks," Jessica assured her.

"Thank goodness! Now we should go tell mom we are going to the 'library,'" they both smirked with delight and headed out of their room.

"Hi mom!" the girls waved, smiling.

"Waz up homies?" their mom exclaimed, trying to act cool.

The girls stopped in their tracks and raised their eyebrows to their mom.

"Seriously?" they both questioned.

"I know; you must be proud to have a mom as cool as me!" their mom misunderstood their reply.

"Right," Jessica went along.

"Anyway... mom, can we go to the ummm... library for a couple of uhhhh... hours... because we need to er..." Marissa said feeling red in the face not knowing what to say. She nudged Jessica for a little help.

"Ummmm... we need to... uhhh... finish our... ummm... research project," Jessica made up, as she trembled in fear.

Their mom had a suspicious look, which made the girls feel guilty, "You ummm... can... go... to... uhhhh... the... ummm... library!" their mom teased, mimicking their voice.

A wave of relief splashed through the girls, as they headed out the front door to the school.

IN THE CLOSET

"Whoa, looks like it's getting pretty dark. Let's hurry up!" Jessica conscientiously remarked.

Marissa glanced at her illuminating watch that read 6:45 p.m.

"Yeah, you're right. Let's move quicker, so mom won't suspect anything."

Jem *con't* on page 19

Jem *con't* from page 18

They hurried along the dark, narrow path and suddenly froze.

Marissa nudged Jessica, "I think somebo--"

"Yeah, I know... I think somebody is following us too," Jessica completed the sentence, as they both felt a shiver run down their spine.

"Do you think we... ummm... should continue to go?" Marissa ambivalently assured in a shaky voice, looking around.

"We are definitely going after what we have been through. But who do you think will be following us this late?" Jessica asked curiously.

"Dunno," Marissa shrugged.

Jessica shook her head disapprovingly and beckoned for them to keep moving.

Who's following us? The same question rippled through their mind.

The wind rushed by them, which made their hair cascade over their shoulders.

They both heard footsteps coming closer and closer.

"Ummm... Marissa... I think we better run to the school," Jessica suggested.

They both raced across the field to the entrance of Greenwood Middle School.

"Oh my gosh! Jessica! Did you remember the safety pin, so we could get in the school?" Marissa's teeth started chattering as the wind howled.

"Nope!" Jessica tried to cover her smile.

Marissa jaw dropped, "WHAT?!" her scream echoed.

"I got a bobby pin... not a safety pin!" Jessica chortled as she stuck the pin through the keyhole.

"You've got to be kidding me."

Marissa raised her eyebrows as they stepped into the dark hallways of the school.

"I love to scare you like that!" Jessica sighed as they furtively crept passed many lockers to get to Janitor's closet.

"Here it is... the Janitor's closet," Marissa heaved a big sigh and pushed open the door without saying anything else.

Jessica clicked on her flashlight and waved it around the room.

"This is ridiculous! Where is the jem supposed to be? Under the mops?" Marissa rolled her eyes.

"The janitor would be a millionaire by now if it was under the mops!" Jessica commented back.

Marissa grinned as she leaned against the nearby wall.

"MARISSA! WATCH OUT!" Jessica warned as the wall collapsed.

Marissa tumbled backward, but regained her balance.

"Are you okay?" Jessica asked with concern.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. I am fine, but look! There is a cave! It might lead us to the jem!" Marissa exclaimed.

"Oh my gosh! You are right! But, look; there's a button!" Jessica pointed at the one hour time limit, which beeped noisily.

"We better hurry."

The two girls rushed into the cave, with Jessica waving her flashlight in every direction and Marissa constantly looking at her watch.

THE DEAD END

The girls sprinted through the convoluted path as if it were a labyrinth.

"When is this going to end?" they moaned as the both kept running and knew their map was dispensable.

After going through a few more twists and turns, they finally reached a dead end.

"YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!" Jessica hollered.

"Calm down Jessica. There must be some other way," Marissa tried to foster Jessica.

"THAT'S IT! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER! WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE FOR NOTHING!" Jessica clenched her fists, whacking the flashlight against the wall.

"Jessica, you could've broken the flashlight!" Marissa angrily pointed out.

"Sorry," Jessica muttered, feeling cathartic.

"Wait, Jessica; look behind you," Marissa said with a hint of astonishment, looking at the gaping hole right in front of their eyes.

"Well, what are we waiting for? We only have 45 minutes left, so let's have a move on!" Jessica smiled, leaning over to pick up the scraped flashlight.

WHICH JEM?

Walking cautiously, the girls finally reached the end of one path, and started at three passageways.

"Which one do we go to?" Marissa asked, staring at the blue, green, and red glints from each path.

Jessica shrugged her shoulders. "Let's try the red one," she randomly chose.

Jem *con't* on page 20



Jem *con't* from page 19

Marissa nodded, as they slowly descended down the red path. They both headed closer and closer to the glimmer ahead of them. Their eyes were mesmerized by the slight shine, and it seemed as if they were hypnotized. When they were two feet away from the beautiful object, they exclaimed, "We finally found it!" and they reached out for the jem.

"WHAT!" their hand went right through the jem. "It's a projection!" Marissa gasped. "Oh great! What do we do now?" Jessica complained with a big sigh. "I don't know, but we wouldn't be here in the first place if you hadn't chosen the red light," Marissa scoffed. "Oh please, you were the one who got us into this mess by insisting we have this adventure!" Jessica bickered. "Yeah, but you agreed. Now because of you, we won't have time to go through another path!" Marissa argued through gritted teeth. "But you were the one who opened the cave, which led us to this big fiasco!" Jessica tone increased. "THAT'S IT! THIS IS MY LAST STRAW!" Marissa kicked the stool, where the projection of the jem hovered over. "Whoa Marissa! The symbol on the dirt!" Jessica pointed to a symbol with a J and M on it. "What is it?" Marissa asked in curiosity. "Okay, so the bus girl was wearing a ring with the same symbol, and it was in the letter too! Remember?" Jessica tried to bring back her memory. "Oh yeah! So, maybe the jem is dug up here or something. Let's start digging here," Marissa started to dig on top of the symbol, as Jessica shoveled her hands along with her. After about ten minutes of strenuous digging, they saw a sharp, red light glistening on top of the hole they had made. They dug extra harder until...

"Look! The jewel!" Jessica grinned, wiping all the dirt on her pants. "Wait a minute; there are two jems. Which one should we take?" Marissa had a bewildered look planted on her face, as she accumulated both of the jewels. "I'm not quite sure. Maybe they both have different powers!" Jessica remarked. "Well, hello, hello, hello! What a surprise we have in front of our eyes. Right Victoria?" a man in long, black robes with a sharp accent and a cunning smile asked. "The bus girl?" Marissa and Jessica blurted out in astonishment.

"Excuse me? But I have an actual name you know. It's Victoria. And that's my friend's father, Mincha Chow," the girl snapped.

"Gosh," Marissa muttered under her breath. "Ok. So now, let's get on with it. Give us the jem, so we can rule the world our way by destroying homes and making people our servants!" Victoria daydreamed. "You just blurted out our scheme to the number one people on our list we should NOT tell," Mincha Chow angrily shouted through his gritted teeth. "I told you we should have never even done this jem thing!" Marissa and Jessica picked up an argument as Mincha Chow and Victoria started arguing as well. In the middle of Marissa and Jessica's argument, Marissa whispered, "This is ridiculous! Just listen to me. As we were talking to Mincha Chow and Victoria, I began to feel both of the jems very closely. One of them was plastic, and one of them was real." She explained pointing to each of the jems. "I see where you are going with this. We are going to give the fake one to them and keep the real one," Jessica murmured back. "Exactly!" Marissa smiled. "Hey! Villains! Are you done with your cat fight?" Jessica and Marissa smirked. "Oh, shut up!" Victoria put her hands to her hips. "Well, I guess you don't want the jem!" Jessica bribed showing the jewel in Victoria's face. "Oh, Victoria can get a little too over board sometimes." Mincha Chow frowned at Victoria and looked back at Marissa and Jessica. He gave a big, smile, showing all of his sharp, yellow teeth and continued, "Anyway, I can get rid of the jem for you," he stuck his hand out slowly with a haughty smile. "My pleasure," Marissa and Jessica tried not to laugh as they gave him the fake jem. Mincha Chow snatched it out of Marissa's hand and cackled loudly with Victoria. "Wait... can you tell us why you chose us to find the jem, and not somebody else?" Jessica asked curiously. "Well, your ancestors long ago found this jem. They discovered its powers and found it very sacred. They figured out, it gave you at the maximum, ten wishes. But, before they died, they wanted to hide it and make sure somebody else found it. Now, that symbol has the first letter of your first name..." he pointed to Jessica, "and the first letter of your first name..." he pointed to Marissa, "they are carved because your ancestors knew you would be able to find. They wished for only you to find them. So, if I even tried to look for it, I

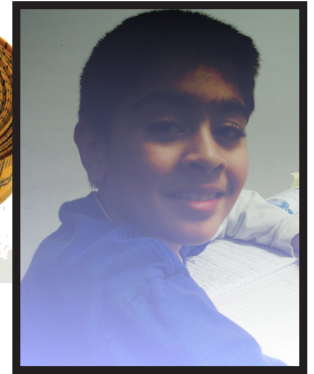
Jem *con't* on page 21



Favorite Place: Six Flags!

By Shrey Jain

My favorite amusement park is Six Flags. I like Six Flags because I can finally go on all the rides. There is one ride that is the tallest ride on earth. It is the fastest ride in North America and now I can ride it. I went on a ride that is half the size of the tallest ride. There are some big rides that people I know can't ride. That means I am lucky to be so tall that I can go on rides that have loops, flips, hills, and big dive downs. Most of the roller coasters I go on are dangerous. I need to be 54 inches to go on the big rides and I am 55 inches. This is why Six Flags is my favorite amusement park.



Jem *con't* from page 21

would never be able to find it. You would be able to find it easily, and then I can get it from you.”

“How did you know it was in this school and it was in a stinky room?” questioned Marissa.

“Ahhhh... Good question. I figured this out because of Victoria. She is very sneaky you know. One day, when your front door was open during some kind of outdoor party, Victoria snuck in, went into your mother's private computer, and found the clue your ancestors wrote for you long ago. The clue was passed down from generation to generation, but your mother did not know what the clue was for. She just kept it there because she knew it was passed down for generations.”

“Ohhhhhh. That clears everything up!” Marissa and Jessica sucked in all the information they just learned.

“Thanks for the jem! We will now rule the world with servants at our feet, bringing in many of my pleasures! While you, twits, have to work day and night with no pay!” Mincha Chow pictured.

Jessica and Marissa giggled, “ Well, good luck with that!” they skedaddled out the cave, as Jessica waved her flashlight and Marissa checked her watch.

When the girls were two feet away from the exit, they heard the monotonous voice scream extra louder, “ Five...four” Marissa ducked under the wall as it slowly moved down every second.

“Three...” Jessica slid under the wall.

“Two...” Jessica and Marissa chuckled as Mincha Chow and Victoria screamed, “ NOOOOOOOOOOO!!! THE JEM IS FAKE!”

“One.” The cave slammed shut as the girls dashed out of the school triumphantly holding the jem, high up in the air.

WAIT...

As they started running down the sidewalk, Marissa suddenly stopped, “Jessica! There is something very important we forgot to think about!” Marissa urgently whispered. Jessica's shoes skidded to a sudden stop, “ What?” she asked starting to panic a little.

“What are we going to say when the reporters ask the scariest part and the best part of our adventure?” Marissa asked starting to smile a bit.

“Fun... cave. Scary... we're going to have to deal with mom!” Jessica and Marissa guffawed as they continued walking back home.



Laya and Aishwarya are great friends and it took them months to collaborate on this story and finally submit it. Congratulations Laya and Aishwarya!

The Mission

By Rahul Ubriani

The cameras are flashing. Tape surrounds the scene. A tape figure of a man is on the ground. The police are everywhere. Whoops, looks like I am too far ahead in the story. Let's start the story again.

One day Lanfred was walking along the street. He sees something shiny on the road. He looks both ways three times and goes on the road. Sure enough, with his luck, a car zooms out of the corner and slams into him.

BAM!

When he wakes up, he finds himself on a manhole cover, which is tilting dangerously. He tries to ease himself up, but no. With his luck, he falls inside the manhole. He screams like a girl as he falls. He blacks out when he hits the bottom. When he next wakes up, he is in another civilization. Giant, green tubes span the area. Sleek, black and blue phones like an iPhone litter the ground. When he picks up one, it says, "Welcome to the EPP!"

"EPP," Lanfred repeats. "Why could that mean?"

As if on cue, life-sized penguins burst out of tubes and surround him with what looks like a ring of penguins and furballs. Just then a furball sets itself on fire. It was alive!

"Not yet, Flame," says a penguin whose nametag said Dot. "We'll ask the Director what to do with him."

They take him to a room with only a chair turned away from him, a desk with a logo on it, and a black television screen.

"Who is he?" asks a voice that seemed to come from the chair.

"We're not sure," replies another penguin whose nametag read Rookie. "We just found him in the VR room."

"Ah, but I know who he is. I know all about you, Lanfred," says a voice behind the chair as it was turning around. In the chair was another penguin wearing a suit, a fedora hat, and black glasses. In his hand was a phone like the ones on the ground before.

"I have followed your progress ever since you set foot on the street. You made sure that our trap would work," said the Director.

"What trap? Who are you penguins!" exclaims Lanfred.

"Lanfred, this is the Elite Penguin Force," says the Director.

"We try to stop an evil polar bear called Herbert. He wants to take over the world by increasing global warming and causing the world to go into chaos."

"We've chosen you to stop him," says Dot. "Only a secret agent could withstand an attack from Herbert."

"What attack? Wait-you don't mean the car?" asks Lanfred.

"Yes," says the Director. "We laid machinery at different points to lure him into a trap."

"We want you to infiltrate his base and..." continues the Director.

"Extinguish the flame?" interrupts Lanfred.

"Precisely," agrees the Director with a glum look on his face. Lanfred looked around. Every penguin present was looking sad. He realized something. They didn't want to destroy Herbert, but it was a necessity.

"May I have a snipe to help me?" asks Lanfred.

"No I'm afraid you have to be as quiet as possible because to invade his base, you need to get past his sound and laser detectors first," says the Director.

"Actually boss, we could just use the spy phones; they helped us last time," interrupts Dot.

"Brilliant idea Dot!" exclaimed the Director. "That will take us right past the security!"

Just then, another penguin bursts into the room and says, "Herbert is on the move to his base!"

"Then you must leave immediately," hurries the Director.

"This is your best chance. Good luck. Dot, to the VR Room.

Dot grabs Lanfred's arm and she pulls him back to the room in which they found him. She picks up one of the phones on the ground, presses a few buttons, and hands it to him.

"This will take you 0.253419687 miles away from Herbert's base. You need to go on your own from here. Good luck," she says.

Lanfred's sight changes from Dot to the bottom of a well.

"What?! Hello," he yells.

"Well, well, well, who do we have here?" says a deep, soft voice. Lanfred turns around and finds himself facing an ice-cream barrel. "Up here, you fool," says the voice. Lanfred looks up and finds himself facing a polar bear.

I knew one of you Elite Penguin Fools would teleport here, so I extended my base around the point," the polar bear taunts.

"Get me out of here," Lanfred screams, throwing his shoe.

"Yeah right," says Herbert. Just then, a rumbling noise starts near Lanfred.

The polar bear looks around and says, "Great you hit the self-destruct button. I don't know why I put that there anyways. It was a hunch. A bad hunch, by the looks of it. Too bad you won't live any longer," Herbert evilly laughs as he flies away in a jetpack.

The building explodes. Lanfred's last sensations then are flying through the air, ice cream on his face. He tastes the ice-cream and exclaims, "Chocolate! Yum!" Then he blacks

Mission *con't on page 23*

Lunch

By Hamid Waraich

Ambuling into the enormous air conditioned room, I detoured and lined up behind the lengthy pizza line with several people abiding to devour into a flavorful pizza. I linger in the line for what feels like a billion hours.

Finally, I grab a plate and scoop up a huge slice of cheesy scrumptious pizza. I also pick up some mouthwatering fries. Waiting to checkout, I glance at the Snapple thinking I should get a can and finally choose to grab one. Getting one midway, someone taps me as I turn to look. My best friend asks me where to sit since some girls stole our table we usually to sit at.

I answer by saying anywhere. I pay for my delectable lunch, and walk over to the sauce area. Pressing the button the ketchup spills out, as I put the lip smacking sauce in a mini paper bowl. Spotting my friends, I sprint toward them quickly and take a seat to dig into my appetizing lunch. I quickly ate my ambrosial lunch. After that, I ambulate out of the cafeteria.

I sprint down the hallway to my locker and get ready for the next class of torture. I think, at least I have that delectable lunch to fuel me up. It was the best and most scrumptious lunch ever I recall. I can't wait until the next big thing- getting out of school.



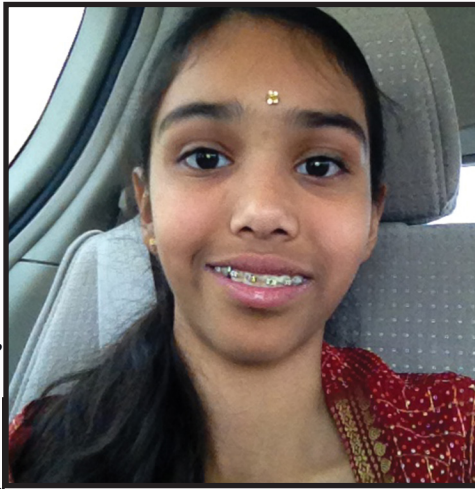
Hamid is a marvelous 7th grader with a great way of writing stories.

Winter

By Diya Arya

Winter

*The most beautiful time of year,
Snow flakes, all different sizes,
Christmas with gifts and fun,
Families together during the holidays,
Snowmen that children make,
No school during the holidays,
Beautiful white layers of snow,
It is the season for giving and sharing
Helping the needy,
All these things only come in winter,
Winter.*



Diya is a wonderful writer and has great poetry to share with the world.



Mission *con't from page 22*

out.
The cameras are flashing. Tape surrounds the scene. A tape figure of a man is on the ground. The police are everywhere. An innocent life is lost. Herbert has escaped. The Earth is still in danger and needed help. It needed a special kind of hero to protect her. All is lost. Or so it seems...

To be continued in the spring issue...

Vocabulary Contest Winner!



By Dhruva Nistane

Winter

A slight breeze flowed that day. A ray of sunshine could be seen. It was chilly in a nice way. It was a perfect day for winter.

As I cautiously ascended from the cozy car, a cold gust of wind blew into my face, grasping, refusing to let go. All the warmth in my body swiftly began to abate, despite my jacket. The coolness on my skin felt surprisingly nice. I waddled towards the snow, my hands full with skis; I wouldn't succumb to my brother, who had nothing in his hands.

"Brrrrrr," I announced with my teeth chattering. My face was red from the cold. I checked in and after stretching, hopped onto the ski loft. Tick, tick. The ski lift began to fly upwards. I felt at ease. Like I ruled everything below. As I continued my flight towards the sky, the ground began to fade and until everything looked like an ant. The sheer height began to daunt me. I made sure I didn't look down again.

After what seemed like eons, I stepped off the lift. I was ready to feel the adrenaline rush. I started to panic. What if I got injured by a tree? I pushed these nudging thoughts away. I pushed off with an ostentatious leap, like I saw skiers do. I crumpled down and hit the ground like a piece of space junk. I had jumped in a 180 degree flop. My ego was surely injured. I brushed the snow off my pants and stood up. I snapped my right ski back on. I felt like an alien. In fact I wanted to be an alien to hide from all the eyes - to fly off in the sky.

I pushed off on the baby white snow, a little less "showy" this time. Unfortunately my danger lied in a bump that stood in front of me. I took a deep breath and jumped. Mistake. Thud...Boom...Crash...you can guess. My skis floated down the slope, into the horizon. I sprinted after it hoping I was invisible, though I knew I wasn't. My knees buckled and I scrutinized a deep gash as large as the Empire State Building. Just kidding - that was very pretentious. How much better my luck can get, I thought facetiously. I accumulated my courage, which did have a deep gash and bolted towards my skis, which had now gone pretty far down. I began to feel the bitter cold creep deep into my body, and it wasn't because of the cold, though I was kind of freezing!

I began to wish I was in an opulent hotel, where the heater would soothe my spazzing body. My mundane imagination is inexcusable, I know, I could have said a campfire. Wait, back to the story.

My skis were racing down the descend. People laugh. Inside I cried. I was embarrassed, though I acted very nonchalant. When I picked up my naughty skis, relief rushed through my body. I felt okay when I snapped them back on.

I was flying downhill. I felt like the king of the world. I looked up. Trees loomed above me. My mind went blank. I forgot how to turn. They came closer every second, suddenly I veered left. Phew! But that wasn't the end of my troubles, a tree forked two paths. Thud. I tasted bitter tree bark. Yuck! Despite my quite diligent effort, I was failing. I lay down until a man helped me to my feet. Winter is helping each other up and giving a hand to each other.

Then it hit me, I was a follower. I was trying to be Lyndsey Vonn. I forgetting to be me!

I was wary of the fact that nothing had been working out, but that would just make me try harder. It was really nice third time skiing. I have to be optimistic and start out slow.

"Start out slow," I whispered to myself, "let's go." I gave a baby push and let out a deep breath. I zig zagged, leaving trail marks in the snow. I felt as though I was as good as anyone else. This one was the most venerable yet!

"Woo hoo!" I cried, not caring what people thought. I felt free. Oblivious to the others around me. I felt...me! I renovated my dignity/ego to 100%.

The snow softened as the end of the hill came. I screeched to a stop, making snow spray into the air. Boy was I hungry. I guess even professional skiers need a break. But why not try another run? Just one more. On the black diamond: The most dangerous, most vicious, most steep and narrow - most flabbergasting slope! The evanescent doubt came gushing back like a river, a wild river.

"I can do this," I chanted like a persistent mantra. I was frugal of time and without realizing what I had done, jumped on to the lift. There was no line. I glimpsed bits and pieces and nooks and crannies of the black diamond. It stared back at me. Teasing. Tantalizing. Taunting. I glared back laughing. Winter is about not giving up. About being determined and full of dignity. Inside I surly wasn't that. I looked up and abruptly the end came, my face froze in the snow. Definitely not a good start! I looked up. Two hills converged where I lay. Uh Oh! Both were black diamonds. There was no turning back now. The aberrations of my humorous feelings were pathetic. Laugh and let go, I remembered. How

Winter *con't on page 25*

How I Learned To Ice Skate



By Ayush

What am I going to do? My friend had invited me to an Ice Skating birthday party, but the problem was... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ICE SKATE!

"We're here," My mom called from the driver's seat. I nervously got out of the car and walked into the building. My knees were wobbling at every step. Fortunately, I had a few minutes until I had to ice skate.

When we got to the party room, I wished the birthday boy a happy 5th birthday. There were many kids at the party and I only knew three kids. Their names were: Arnav, Eashna, and Sia. Arnav and I tried to get a puck out of an air hockey table without paying a dollar, and after that we all devoured a delicious ice cream cake.

"Okay everyone," The birthday boy's mom said, "Get ready to ice skate!"

"YAY!" everyone yelled.

"Noooo," I whispered. I had dreaded this moment, but I knew it would come.

I limply put on my ice skates, and joined my friends in the rim around the ice-skating rink. Eashna, smoothly stepped onto the ice and began to ice-skate. Sia eagerly stepped onto the rink and went after Eashna. Next followed Arnav. He stepped onto the rink, wobbled a bit, but recovered quickly. The time had come. It was my turn. I took a deep breath and reluctantly stepped onto the ice. I closed my eyes and waited for something horrible to happen. Nothing happened.

I opened my eyes.

"This is not too bad," I said to myself. I had spoken too soon. I tried to take a step. Bad choice. As soon as I took a step, my other foot flew into the air. I felt a burst of adrenaline course through my body. I bent my knees and elbows, and miraculously landed on my feet. I opened my eyes, expecting to find myself on the ice. I didn't dare to move again. I figured I looked pretty stupid just standing there, but what else could I

do? A few very embarrassing seconds later I heard someone yell, "LOOK OUT!" I got so surprised that my left foot flew into the air, and at that exact moment I felt someone slam into me. The next thing I knew, I was flying through the air.

"AHHHHHHHHH!" Everything seemed to be happening in slow motion. I saw my three friends staring at me with their mouths open in awe.

THUMP!

ZING!

CRASH!

Were the sounds that followed as my body made contact with the ice.

I opened my eyes. I saw my three friends staring at me.

"OH," I groaned. I wanted to scream and cry, but I couldn't. My voice was stuck in my throat. I couldn't feel my arms or my legs. My back was throbbing with pain. My head felt as if it had burst in two. My eyes were so blurry I could barely see. "Are you okay?" Arnav asked with concern.

"You're kidding, look at the state of him," Sia said.

"UHHHH," was all I could say. They lifted me to my feet. I looked back at the place that I had fallen. There was an Ayush shaped imprint in the ice. "That was a hard fall," said Eashna. "Yeh, THINK," I said brusquely. "So... er... do you... um... mmm... like, know how to ice skate?" Arnav asked. I wanted to say, "Yes" or "No, Duh," but I couldn't, cause I REALLY didn't know how to ice skate.

"N...No," I stammered. "OK! Then," said Arnav clapping his hands. "We'll teach you."

"Wha-what," I yelled. "That's a great idea," said Eash-



Ayush can write!

Skate *con't on page 26*

Winter *con't from page 24*

can I do this? I could survey the parking lot from the top. The slope started high and unexpectedly fell down almost vertically.

"Okay, let's go," I spoke giggling at my "spiritualitiness." How I love winter. Even hearing it gives me a nudge. I pondered on with a tactful plan: let it ride! How adolescent.

I took off without a second thought.

"Ahhhhhh!" I yelled. Of the few people that were there stared at me like I was the Joker. This was extenuating what was sure to happen. Top speed. Black diamond. I bet you can guess.

I do love winter. The coolness on my skin. Silence in the air. Drawing on the fog sitting on the window. Having a blast skiing, snowboarding, and sledding. Best of all, hoarding the fireplace with my family. Having snowball fights with friends and siblings. Winter tells you never to give up, no matter how cold, how arctic the situation may seem. To give each other a hand in the cold. I love sitting with my family when the weather gets horribly cold.

P.S. Next time you ambush your distressing sibling, make sure you hide!

The Race to the Center of the Earth

By Neesh Parikh

One day there was a hero named Metal Man. He had two sidekicks, a dragon, and a spy. One day Metal Man found something beeping and he went slowly toward it. He picked up this tracker. He saw a picture of a life cup on it. The life cup read, "Located to the center of the earth. The life cup is a life that makes you get unlimited lives." Then Metal Man and the dragon and the spy started going to the space shuttle airport. They found the space shuttle they wanted. When they were going, they bumped into this pirate. Metal Man said, "Can you please move? I need to get to the center of the earth to get a life cup." The pirate was a really bad person. He had a hook on his hand. Then the pirate smacked Metal Man in the face. Then Metal Man punched the pirate in the face. The pirate called the bad guys and the monsters. He said, "Get them." The bad guys were very strong and the monsters were kind of dumb. The spy said let's run. We are going to miss our flight. Then Metal Man and the spy and the dragon jumped on the space shuttle and opened the door and got in the shuttle. When they were about to reach space, the gas ran out.

They started falling. They crashed in Hollywood. Everybody was safe. But the whole space shuttle was broken. Then everybody went to the store and ate. Spy said to the Metal Man and the dragon, "We should fix the space shuttle so we can go to the center of the earth and get the life cup. Metal Man said, "NO!" Then the dragon said we should go to New York so we could beat the bad guys, the monsters, and the pirate. Ten days later they fixed the shuttle. They called everybody and they got in the shuttle and they were in the sky to go to the center of the earth. When they were in the sky, they found the bad guys in the sky. Metal Man opened the door and jumped out of the space shuttle and jumped on the bad guy's space shuttle. He opened the bad guy's door and punched all the

monsters in the face. The bad guys opened the door and pushed him out of the space shuttle. Metal Man landed in New York. Then the spy said get in. He went on his space shuttle and started going. Then the pilot called Metal Man and said, "Look we are in space." There is the life cup.

The bad guys and the pirate and the monsters were behind Metal Man. The Dragon told Metal Man they are behind us. Metal Man said, "Breath Fire at them." Dragon got off the shuttle and breathed fire at them. The bad guys used their emergency shooter and then the dragon fell down to the center of the earth. He called Metal Man. Metal Man went down and got his metal gun out and shot the bad guys' engine. The bad guys started going down. When they came out, Metal Man punched the pirate in the face. Now they all fought and metal Man punched all the monsters. Then the bad guys punched the dragon in the face. Then Metal Man punched the bad guys in the face. Metal Man took his blaster and shot one of the monsters and it died. The dragon burst fire at the bad guys. They stayed alive. The bad guys got really mad at the dragon. They jumped on the dragon and stabbed it in the leg. Then the dragon got hurt, but smacked him with his paw. Then one of the bad guys punched Metal Man in the leg. He slipped and fell and fell and went to Mars.

To be Continued in the spring issue!



Ice Skate *con't from page 25*

na, ignoring the bewildered look on my face. Then they picked me up and started to slowly push me. My teeth were chattering. I didn't know whether it was because I was cold or that I was scared to death. I tasted bitterness in my mouth and sweating cold sweat. My fists were clenched so hard, it almost drew blood. A million thoughts were racing across my mind. I wanted to give up, but couldn't. Reason 1: I had no way of getting to the exit of the ice skating rink without knowing how to ice skate! Reason 2: I would get embarrassed in front of my friends. Suddenly I realized Arnav had stopped pushing me. It was Eashna and Sia nudging me on. I heard Arnav giggle and then I felt him ram into me with full force. At that moment I felt angry - angry that he pushed me. I took such a sharp turn. My fingers brushed the ice. I was going so fast, I could hear winds whistling through my ears. I could taste bitter anger in my mouth. When I looked back at my three friends, I saw them all staring at me wide-eyed. Then it hit me. I couldn't believe it. I didn't realize it. I was so distracted by being angry at Arnav, I hadn't realized that I had just learned how to ice skate! I skidded to a stop, spraying my three friends with ice. Their mouths were still wide open, as I thanked each one of them for the help. "Humm...where was I?" I said sarcastically. "Oh Yeah, I remembered," I said, pushing Arnav with all my strength before he could react. He fell back on his hiney. After that, Arnav and I started the game of pushing each other down.

Of course I wasn't skating with as much skill or speed as I did when Arnav made me angry, but that day I learned a very important lesson. Never, Give up.

The Poacher's Mistake

By Everett Edwards Murray

Once there was a poacher named Timothy. He had three brothers. Their names were Wonson, Adom, Stower. All three were hunters. One day Timothy, Wonson, Adom, and Stower went to Africa. They went to Africa because Africa's jungle had more animals than the USA. At night, when the wolves were hunting, they went to the jungle. Right in the front of the jungle there was a gate. On the gate, there was a sign that said, "No Hunting".

Timothy said, "I do not care. I'm here for hunting and that's my job."

Timothy said to his brothers. "Let's make a plan. We will capture nine or 10 animals, but we will not kill them. We must keep them so we can use them to hunt other animals."

After that, they ran into the jungle. It got dark. Timothy said, "We must build shelter with sticks and twigs." Stower climbed up a tree and saw a crow. The crow's name was Groble. Stower grabbed the crow. Then he brought it back to Timothy. Timothy was happy to see an animal that could help them with their hunting.

Timothy said, "Very well, now bring me some sticks!" Stower, Adom, and Wonson went out to find some sticks. When they came back, they made a large cabin. Timothy and his brother went to sleep. The next morning, Timothy woke up and saw two pigs. The cabin smelled bad. Timothy said, "More animals! Serves me right."

Timothy jumped at the pigs. The pigs just stepped to the right. Timothy landed right on his face. Timothy took his gun and raised it and on pig named Renr.

Renr said, "Bang!"

They both fell down and started playing dead. Timothy jumped on the pigs. This time he did not miss.

The pig said, "Ummm."

Of course Timothy could not understand what the animals were saying. The other pig's name was Roar. He was a brown pig that was only 11 inches. Renr was a brown pig, just slightly smarter than Roar. Timothy's three brothers woke up. Stower noticed he was still holding on to the crow. Timothy said, "Let's go into the jungle! We must find more than three animals. Timothy and his brothers put all three animals in separate boxes, and then ran out of the cabin.

When Timothy and his brothers reached the dark part of the big jungle, they found a big pile of sticks. Under it was a red quite, long snake. The snake had no name, but was very sly. Timothy said, "Get back!" Timothy jumped back. He knew he could not capture an animal that long. Timothy threw a knife at a snake. He missed. Just when that happened, Wonson pulled out a net. Timothy was about to pull out his gun, but Wonson captured the snake.

Timothy said, "This must be the strongest animal we got so far." Adom felt something shaking.

He said, "A large animal is coming this way."

Just then, a buffalo came charging through the bushes. It almost ran Wonson over. Timothy said to his brothers, "Wonson, chase the buffalo, Stower, get the net, Adam, stay here."

In a flash, they caught the buffalo. The buffalo was still charging. The buffalo almost broke the net.

The buffalo's name was Soruve. Timothy could tell all five animals were hungry because they were all moving around. Timothy asked Adom if he packed anything in his backpack. Adom said he packed bacon, lettuce, and a bottle of water, but it was all in the cabin.

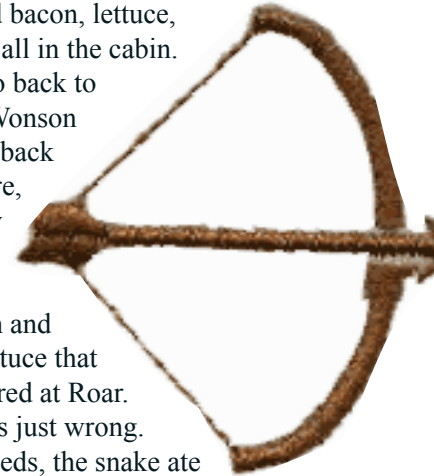
Timothy said that they had to go back to the cabin to feed the animals. Wonson grabbed all three boxes and ran back to the cabin. When they got there, Adom took the bacon and threw it on the floor. Timothy let the pigs out of the box.

Roar grabbed the bacon and started eating it. Renr ate the lettuce that Timothy gave to them. Renr stared at Roar. Finally, Renr, said, "Dude, that's just wrong. That's just wrong. Groble ate seeds, the snake ate dead mice, and the buffalo ate wheat. Suddenly, there was a big sound. It sounded like a lion. Timothy said, "A lion! This is a good time to run!" Timothy, Wonson, Stower, and Adam took out their guns and ran out. Wonson noticed the pigs escaping. He ran back, put them in the box, and then continued with the others. They went deeper and deeper in the jungle. They reached the part of the jungle that was as dark as the night sky. On a large rock, there was a huge lion and lioness. Timothy raised his gun. Just then, a monkey named Santor knocked the gun of Timothy's hand. Timothy was mad. Santor climbed up a tree and climbed a vine that was on the tree. Santor swung from tree to tree. Santor swung into action when he saw that Timothy was reaching for his gun. Santor smacked Timothy right across this face. Wonson and Stower were trying to catch the monkey. Adom was watching the lions. Timothy reached for the machine gun.

As soon as he touched it, it went wild. Santor also



Everett is a 4th grader who is working on his writing each day.



Poacher *con't on page 28*

Not Your Ordinary Rehearsal

By Anshika Khare

When people see a bright light fall from the sky, they would run. Well in my case that was not an option.

It was an ordinary Tuesday. The sun was out, shining bright over Mystic Falls. A crisp July breeze blew through Hannah's hair as she made her way out of her dad's black Lexus. "Bye Daddy, see you later," she said as she started toward the football field. After walking over the deserted football field, she headed toward the glass door of the theater

"Hey Sandra," she exclaimed

"Hi Hannah," Sandra replied

"Okay if everyone has signed in, let's begin," Mrs. Johnson announced.

Hannah was a part of the district's annual play. Ever year they put on a play to raise money for cancer research. For a generation her family had been a part of it.

"From the top," Mrs. Johnson commanded.

Everyone scrambled to their spots. After half-an-hour, they decided to have a snack break. Hannah, Sandra and a couple other friends gathered together and ate their snacks. When they were back at rehearsal, Sandra heard a noise "Cre-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-ak, cre-e-e-e-ak," it sputtered.

Mrs. Johnson told the whole cast it was probably a creaky floorboard. Little did she know that a catastrophe was going to strike.

Towards the middle of the practice, they were practicing the love scene from Romeo and Juliet as Matt, who was Romeo, started speaking, someone screamed, "Lookout! The light is

about to fall."

Everyone started to run, but Hannah was stuck on the fake balcony. She thought of jumping, but she was way too high. She screamed, "HELP!"

No one could help because they were all too busy running away from the one ton headlight that light swung on a thin rope back and forth. Hannah ducked, trying to protect her head.

"Hannah do not move. We are bringing the ladder so you can climb off," Mrs. Johnson shouted.

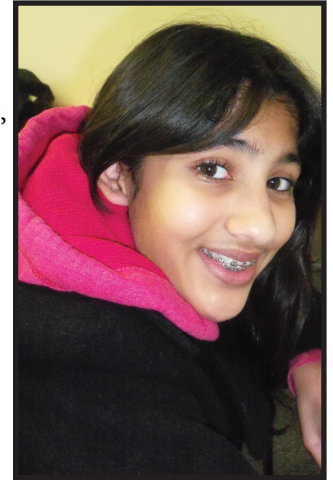
Once the ladder was secured in place, someone threw up a helmet. She quickly rushed down, making sure she didn't trip and fall. Mrs. Johnson called the janitor to get the light down and make sure all the other lights fastened.

"Hannah! Thank God you're okay. I was so worried," Sandra cried, as she made her way toward Hannah.

"I'm fine. Give me a second. I have to call my parents," Hannah explained.

After calling her parents, Mrs. Johnson announced rehearsal to be over for the day.

"Phew. I can't wait till next rehearsal," Hannah said happily as she left the theater.



Anshika is a smart 8th grader with a wonderful imagination.

Poacher *con't* from page 27

went wild. The lion turned his head and saw the gun. He jumped off the large rock and it looked like the lion was going to attack Timothy. The lioness ran behind the rock. Timothy was trapped. Adom, Wonson and Stower were running all over the place. Timothy ordered that his brothers and he should get back to the cabin. They ran, ran, and ran until they got to the cabin. They jumped into the cabin. They closed the door and sat right behind it. Meanwhile, at the rock, Santor and the lion and the lioness came out from behind the rock and the monkey jumped on the lion's back. The lion's name was Noil and the lioness' name was Sara. Santor said, "I want to meet other monkeys like me, not sit hear watching the queen." Noil answered, "Then we all should go find more animals to make a kingdom of animals. Noil, Sara, and Santor went to all parts of the jungle. Noil was known as King Noil. Then they got to a place where there were lots of trees and grass. There was nothing there, but a hamster named Guby. Guby was very fast hamster, and a very shy hamster. When Guby saw Noil, he climbed up in a very tall tree. Oh man, I ran out of paper, so I guess it is the end..

The Story of Retalia

By Abhiyudh Rajput

Chapter 1: Introduction

Five villages: Aztec, Maya, Inca, Pitta, and Sparkles are all on a gigantic plot of land. They all depend on each other and need each other. One village chief rules each village. All the villages have the same rules. You have to do things for your chief, and protect your chief. If you follow those rules, you are free to do anything you wanted, as long as you don't hurt your fellow villagers. In this jungle there are many dangers the villagers face. Creepers are one type of creature. These annoying hazards explode whenever they see the face of a human. Another type of creature that also rules the land is the skeleton. A skeleton chases you and shoots arrows and bones at humans. They are especially dangerous at night when they can sneakily attack you. Another frightening creature is an enderman. These enderman punch you in the head, knocking you out cold. These creatures are always found in jungles mines, but somehow get out of the mines and attack us. The last creature that rules over the lush greenery is the zombies. These green and blue monsters punch you off cliffs to your death. All these creatures come from one place: Creptopia. All the villages deal with these nuisances and also have some of their own problems too. One problem churning in between the villages was a very big problem that would affect every village in the jungle. The village chiefs or rulers, as they were known, all wanted supreme rule. They were all thinking of a fair way to crown one chief king of Retalia. (All the five villages were known as Retalia.) Then one day Sky, Captain Sparkles, Antvenom, Toby, and Machinima had an idea. They thought that all the chiefs and their chosen assistants could fight in a very large battlefield and try to survive for a month. The person who survives, becomes king. They all agreed to that idea and gave each other one month to prepare the resources to survive.

Chapter 2: The Brink of War

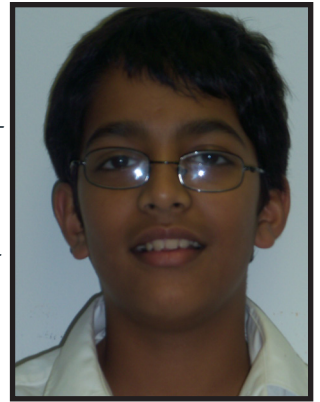
All the villages were very busy mining material and crafting resources all day long. They stopped their daily jobs and trade to work for this war. Shortages of food and water helped power the depression the perpetration was creating. All the villages were working and thinking the best for their chief. Sparkles was the only village that did not have confidence in their ruler, Captain Sparkles. Captain Sparkles wasn't aggressive like his brother, Chief Antvenom. Instead, he is very scholarly and educated. He was never trained for war. He was very lucky that his village had the best material for weapons, like emerald swords, emerald guns, emerald bullets, and titanium armor. All this weaponry made him more aggressive. The villages were very confident in the fresh food the village of Sparkles had. They had Sparkle's fresh fruits and vegetables to eat so food wasn't a worry when trade stopped. Soon the citizens of Sparkles became more confident in their leader. Pitta and Aztec, on the other hand, were poor and didn't have the

proper metal and resources for weapons. The only food they had to eat was left over pork chops. Rulers of Pitta and Aztec, Sky and Toby, were bandits. They became rulers by bribing the villagers. They used leather suits for armor and bows for weapons. This fact gave the other villages the edge. But the Pittans and Aztecs did not lose hope in their villages. They already knew the secrets of the Sparkles village. Inca and Maya were oddball villages. With the proper material, but not the best material, Inca and Maya were right in between the poor and the rich. They were also in the middle for food types. They didn't have fresh fruits, but they had lots of grape wineries to supply rotten and fresh food. In the weaponry section, they had iron and diamond weapons, but no emerald and zante weapons like Sparkles and no leather suits, and bows and arrows like Pittan and Aztec. They were the middle class. They have sighs of relief and faces of horror. Chief Antvenom is the brother of Captain Sparkles. Antvenom is very aggressive and awesome athletically. While the villages were preparing for the battle, lots of mobs from Creptopia came.

Once, during the preparation, a young Pittan boy was attacked by a skeleton in his bedroom. When he was hit by a bow, a creeper came at him and exploded. A few seconds later an enderman came and hit him in the head. Many more cases like this made the hardest time period in Retalia even harder.

Chapter 3: Let the Battle Begin

The Battle was about to start and Retalia was about to be left without a person in charge. The chiefs put Caleb, Captain Sparkles assistant, in charge of Retalia, temporarily. Soon the chiefs and their assistants went on a train and went to the battle field. The battlefield is 700 square miles of forest, lakes, fields, jungles and mountains. The players were each dropped off on each corner of the field and each side of the field. All the spectators came from around the world to see this. Cheers and shouts came from everywhere. The battle warriors were at the start of the battle. All the 10 participants were on the five corners of the battlefield. "On your mark, get set, fight," the referee yelled. "But first you have to follow these three rules, survive, win, and no crossing the borders. Now you may begin." All the warriors ran straight to the center. Captain Sparkles was left out the group. Captain Sparkles ran after his son Luke and



This is Abhiyudh's second fantastic story for the magazine. He is getting better each year.

Retalia *con't on page 30*

Retalia *con't* from page 29

called him over for a talk.

"We have to make a plan," Captain Sparkles scolded.

"Why don't you go that way and I go this way so we gain more coverage and can get more people?"

"Yes dad," Luke replied.

Then both of them ran off and away.

Meanwhile, Antvenom and his assistant, Jennifer, both ran into the field. Jennifer was Luke's sister at birth, but was brought over to Antvenom because Captain Sparkles couldn't handle two kids. Antvenom was Captain Sparkles brother through all these years. The two ran in different directions, but never discussed anything. Two days passed and after a few days, you know what's going to happen. Luke ran into Jennifer. Jennifer swung her sword and tried reflecting bullets off of her chest plate. While she did that, Luke just stood there. Jennifer soon knew that Luke's titanium chest plate reflected off everything. The two stood there looking at each other, growling like lions near a freshly killed buffalo.

"Better luck next time," Luke scowled. Jennifer just growled back. They went past each other.

As Luke ran and went across the outback, he saw an object poking out of thorn bush. It was a weapon with the P sign. Luke immediately shot the bush. Then Sky suddenly came up and tried shooting back, but the pellet reflected of his chest and into Sky's stomach. Now Sky was undone. Sid is the only way for Pittan to get to the top and become the ruler of Retalia. Meanwhile Machinima was in a forest. He was exploring the Edwards rain forest. He saw lots of lush wildlife and trees. But the ugly thing he saw was Sid and Toby. He neutralized the two while he looked the other way. Both the leaders lay quiet. Machinima cheered in victory until Captain Sparkles came and neutralized him. The trio were all staring into space. Captain Sparkles laughed his victory laugh. As he laughed, Toby's assistant, Ed, came and was silenced by Captain Sparkles. The quadruplets just lied there knowing that they would never win. Now only Captain Sparkles and Antvenom were left.

Chapter 4 The Real Battle Begins

Luke was trekking across the landscape searching for someone to get. He was running for days and he found no one. A few days later he found Jennifer living on the ground moaning like a ghost.

"Luke can you help me? I want to be on your team. I'll help you find Antvenom and get him. Please brother," Jennifer groaned. Luke accepted her offer and went on.

"Now sister, you have to follow these rules and wear the Sparkle's armor. You have to try to start rationing your food and store your energy," Luke scolded. Jennifer was "attentively" listening. It was part of her master plan. An evil laugh went through Jennifer as her plan when to work. The two siblings were together for a very long time. Days passed and Luke still didn't find out her plan. It went so far. A few weeks later, Luke and Jennifer met up with Captain Sparkles. Luke told his master about what he did and his progress.

"Luke why did you let that dunderhead Jennifer come on our team? You know she's going to backfire and betray us at the end," Captain Sparkles yelled furiously. Jennifer was terrified listening to this. Luke tried talking him down and telling him how this could work. Soon Captain Sparkles listened and the group continued. Jennifer gave a sigh of relief now that she couldn't be caught.

Chapter 5 The End of it All

The Captain Sparkles team was now three people. All the three could now overpower Antvenom. The group was walking into a towering castle. Huge shadows were being cast and cobwebs were everywhere. The 13,000 square foot castle was where Antvenom was hiding. Jennifer was telling Luke everything and now, as Jennifer was telling them the info, Luke and Captain Sparkles went into the basement. The trio walked for hours until they found a man with a red cape and orange tunic. It was Antvenom. Captain Sparkles swung out his sword and whipped it crazily. Clash! Clang! The two brothers were fighting out the revenge for what happened between them in their childhood.

"You will pay for what you did to my SAT score," Captain Sparkles scowled. Antvenom had nothing to say. As the two were fighting, Jennifer aimed an emerald bullet at Captain Sparkles. The emerald bullet hit the titanium helmet of Captain Sparkles and reflected off her. Jennifer just laid there. Her evil sprits went away and her body was sent to war stricken Retalia. She went away in a matter of minutes her body went up into heaven. The soldier's mouths dropped and their eyes watched the sight. A few minutes later, Luke went up into heaven. Captain Sparkles and Antvenom were now side by side.

"Prepare to be neutralized four eyes," Antvenom yelled.

"Not if you do first," Captain Sparkles scowled back with confidence. Captain Sparkles closed his eyes and did what he had to do. Antvenom was neutralized. Captain Sparkles was now the king of Retalia.

To be continued in the spring issue...

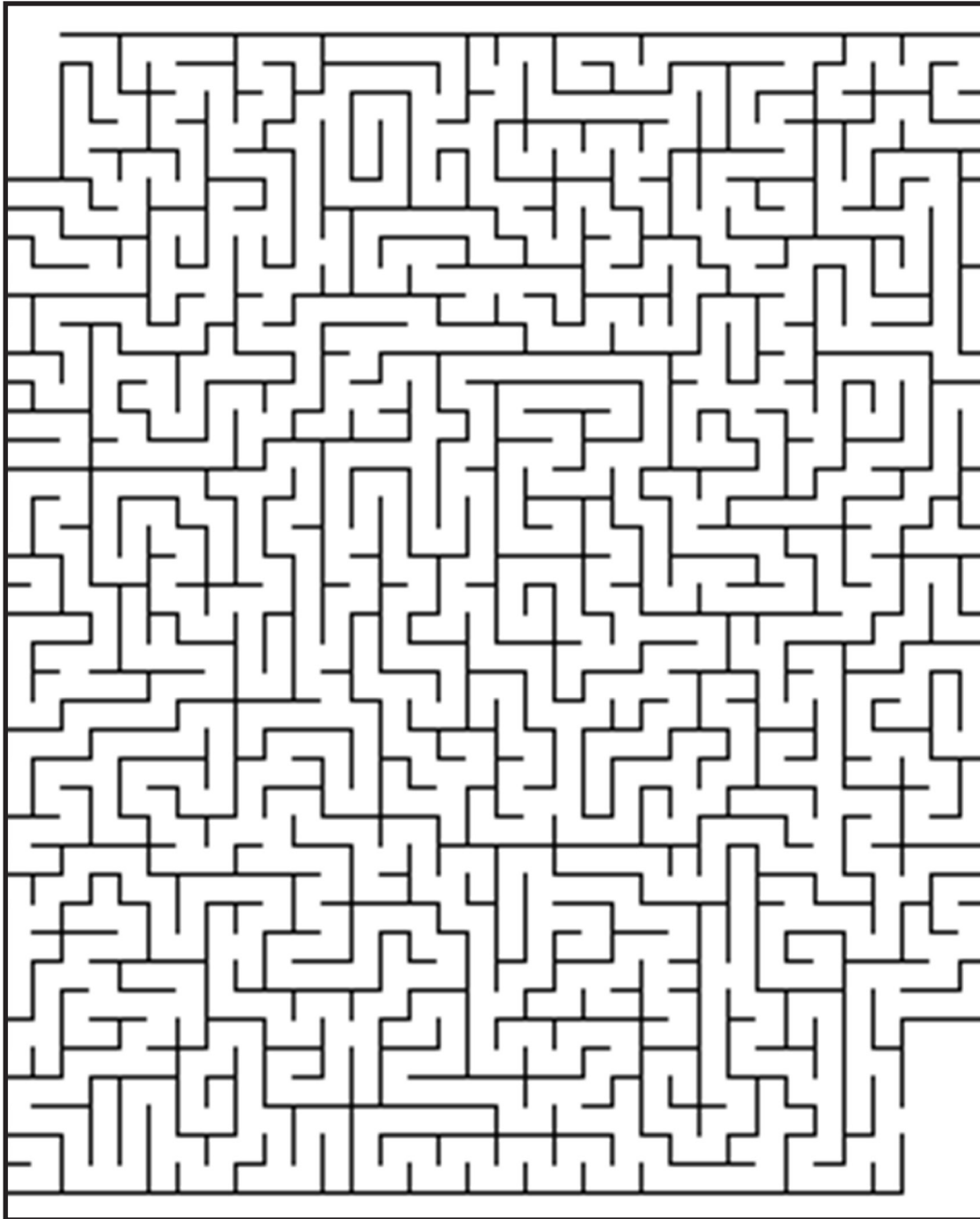
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**Spring issue
deadline:
March 15**

Mind Games



Warning! Only read this if you are with a big sister or brother! Very Scary!

Horror on Halloween!

By Jay Limbachia

It was Halloween eve, and my parents were getting ready to go to sleep. "Goodnight, don't open the door for anyone," said my mom. The answer was obvious.

"No one is going to open the door or even come at midnight!" I said rather angrily. My mom always wants to be protective. When they went to sleep, I put *Scream 4* in the DVD player. I put it on in 3D.

"OOOOHHHHH Yeahhhh!" I said. I pulled back the recliner, put on my 3D glasses and watched the movie. The lights were all off and it was "party time." Well, sort of. It was pitch black outside. The fog was already rising from the ground. In the movie, *Scream* was after a girl. He started to harass her. He called the girl millions of times, and then killed her. The movie was rated R, so I was getting a little scared. Then, I smelled something funny in the air. The smell was like a rotten cheese with mold hanging on it. My nose smelt something bitter and bloody. It was going into my lungs, and burning them! I felt a little sting that hurt. Then it started to hurt a lot, but I ignored the pain and went back to watching the movie. *Scream* left the house, leaving no evidence at all for the police. My teeth kept getting sharper as I bit my tongue from getting scared. I tried biting my tongue again, but it didn't feel as sharp. The air still stunk from that bad smell. I then remembered that there was an air freshener in the laundry room, so I got up and went to go get it. The air freshener smelled like blueberries and syrup. As I plugged the air freshener into the wall, I noticed the bitter smell started to affect my teeth. They got bigger and a little sharper. The air freshener was soothing, so I sat next to it.

Suddenly, there was a shadow at my window. I went to go see what the shadowy figure was. The only light I could see was the street light. Not all of it though because of all the fog. I looked closer and saw a big, fat, hairy guy. His round, black eyes were staring at me. Even though the big, fat, hairy, ugly, round guy was creepy, I ignored him anyway. The couch was waiting for me, and I couldn't resist sitting on my baby. Later, the phone started to ring, and I answered it; since I was the only one awake. It was my neighbor and he wanted to watch the movie with me. I walked upstairs and asked my parents if he could come over. My mom said only for a little while.

"Man, I detest my mom!" I said. I went back to watching the movie. Not long after, I heard a very high-pitched scream in the front of my driveway. My family

didn't hear anything. When my mom turned on the alarm, the color was red. Then, when I turned it off, it was green. I ran outside and saw my neighbor being attacked by a werewolf! The werewolf saw me and came running at me. My neighbor ran inside my house. As the werewolf came running at me, I ran at him. When he was 4 feet away from me, I jumped up in the air. My teeth got sharper, my eyes turned red, and I could run super-fast. I became a vampire in mid-air!

I hit the floor, and jetted at him. He jumped on me and I started to bite him in a way that would suck blood. His claws were in my skin, gashing it apart. I was infuriated now. My teeth were swinging back and forth, ripping his skin, with revenge. Then, I let go and the fowl beast plummeted to the floor. My willingness was craving for me to test my velocity by running to the woods and back. I was back before a camera could flash its light. My heart wasn't even propelling from running that much.

"I can't believe I'm a vampire!" I thought. I calmed down, became a human again, and walked inside. Later on, I realized the smell was vampire breath. It had to be because in the kitchen there was broken glass and sheetrock on the floor. When I was watching *Scream 4*, I heard a cracking noise that came from the ceiling. There was also a hole in the ceiling, so that pretty much explained the sheetrock.

"THIS WAS AWESOME!" I screamed, in an enthusiastic way.

My neighbor and I sat on the couch and watched the movie. He started to ask me questions about the attack and what I did. I told him everything, second by second. He gasped and I demanded he wouldn't tell anyone and he will forget this ever happened. Then, just to scare him, I said he's next on my list if he says this to anyone. He nodded his head, with his eyes bulging out of his head.

"Good boy," I said. Then, when we were watching



Jay is a great writer who is good at writing scary stories.

Horror *con't on page 34*

Daisy

By Namitha Seth

Daisy was walking home from school. The day was gloomy and foggy. Daisy could barely see a foot in front of her. Daisy had short, black hair that bobbed up and down when she walked. Daisy was a very angry girl. She got angry over very small things without meaning to. Today, Daisy had gotten into a fight over a basketball game with one of her best friends. Daisy was very nice, but always had to be right. When you live at an orphanage, anger issues are the least of your worries.

Daisy heard car tires screech from what seemed like a few feet away. Daisy was prepared for this. The organization had told her that they were coming for her. Daisy had special talents, which the organization needed. Two men came out and led her to their car where she sat inside. The car took off while no one said a word. The drive was a 2 hour drive. Daisy wanted to ask everyone her questions, but she understood that she wouldn't be able to speak right now. Daisy knew that she was supposed to be kidnapped and no one would realize she was missing because she was an orphan. She didn't know how she became an orphan. She had never asked anyone and no one had ever told her.

They got to an abandoned house, which the townspeople thought was haunted because a girl had died in that very same building. Daisy got the shivers just thinking about it. One of the men, who was a body guard, told her how she was going to change the world. They also told her about how her special talents were going to make her a leader. Daisy was taken to a dark room with a bed and a lamp. The darkness gave her the creeps. She thought she saw a silhouette of a girl on her bed, but when she blinked, it went away.

"This is where you'll be staying for a few days," the bodyguard said. Daisy walked into the room and looked around. It was very bare, but it was better than the orphanage. In the orphanage, you would be sharing a room like this with five other girls. The bodyguard slipped a note to Daisy and told her that it was from the director. Daisy read it silently- all it really said was that if she did what they wanted, then they would do what she wanted to. It said to meet the director tomorrow morning and they would work out their agreements. Daisy paced up and down the room as she thought of what she'd say to the director. He sounded scary, but Daisy was never scared. If you're scared, you lose the fight – she learned that at the orphanage.

The bodyguard opened the door and brought in a plate of steaming food. The food looked great; you usually never get any great food at the orphanage. It's usually just leftovers from the manager of the orphanage. Daisy gobbled up the food. She ate every last bite, including the seeds in the

apple. After Daisy had gone to bed, something else was going on in the director's office.

"The girl must not find out about this," the director said with distaste for the girl. She said this to the assistant director who also hated the girl.

"Let's hope the sleeping pills disguised as apple seeds worked," the assistant director said. Daisy would soon meet them, but it would not be pleasant.

The next day Daisy got up really late (due to the sleeping pills) and she was horrified. She ran out of the room and downstairs right into the director's office. The director was a tall woman who was wearing a tie and suit. She had long flowing hair that was all put in a ponytail. She would have been very pretty if not for her eyes. It was deadly and it resembled a snake. The director did not look like a woman who enjoyed jokes. The director started to speak in a very serious voice.

"First you will help us create a machine," the director said.

"What will the machine do?" Daisy asked nervously. "Shush child," the director said impatiently. Even though Daisy wasn't very good at solving problems, she knew that this machine was very important. "This machine will make people come here and they will do whatever we tell them to do."

Daisy knew this was bad, but important – if she messed this up, she would never get what she wanted.

"We have almost finished the machine, but it is not working. No one good at mechanics will help us – so that is why you're here." Daisy gulped. They knew what her talent was and they were going to make her do it for the bad of the world. Suddenly, she didn't want to do this anymore, but it was too late now. Her talent was that she could fix any mechanical device with just a touch of her fingers.

"We want you to finish our machine and you may rule with us." The director, who had shown no expressions before, was now trying to hide a thin smile. Daisy was very nervous.

"Come with me," she said. Daisy was led in to a big room. It



Namitha is a pretty great writer!

Daisy *con't* on page 34

Alien vs. People Invasion

By Aayush Srivastava

While I was coming home from USA Mall, I was exhausted. I bought food from McDonalds, clothes from Macy's, and videogames from Game Stop. When I reached home, I heard an enormous sound. I went quick as a cheetah outside and looked up at the light blue sky. I saw a humongous ship. The ship was covered with red, yellow, and black stripes. It came down right near me slowly. I felt really scared as if I was jumping off a high mountain. When the ship came down, the aliens were holding black swords. "Dee-tee-too," they exclaimed.

I went home and got a sword and fought with the aliens for two hours. While I was fighting, I felt angry as if somebody stole by basketball because they invaded our area.

I used all my energy to fight the evil aliens. Finally, the battle was over and I was as happy as a humming bird singing. The aliens put their hands up because I won and then they went back to Mars. After a few days, I saw an alien invasion coming from Jupiter and I hoped the aliens will be nice as human beings. In 2030, a new invention was created to defeat aliens when they came to invade us.

The invention's name was "Alien Drafter 2053.9999!" Therefore, I used this invention to defeat the aliens.



Aayush is a fantastic writer with great ideas about aliens.

Daisy *con't from page 33*

was lined up with computers throughout the room. In the middle of the room there was a big machine that looked like a huge gun. "We have made the machine. We have tested it, but it doesn't work. We think something is getting stuck in the engine, all you have to do is give it one touch and you'll get what you have wanted for your whole life," the director was smiling.

"Okay," Daisy said in a small voice with a nervous chuckle. She went over to the machine and rested her hand on it. Daisy felt a shock of electricity. It felt like she had been struck by lightning. Usually, it felt like a static shock, but this was different. It was a big machine, just a little taller than her; the machine made a little jerk and the gun part started to glow. The director clapped her hands and smile – but even that was a cruel smile.

"We have to see if this machine works or not," the director said and started turning the gun to make it face Daisy.

"Now we shall rule the world," the director yelled like an evil maniac. "It's also the end of you!" Daisy was trapped. The director was closing in on her. Daisy tried to run, but there was nowhere else to go. The gun was pointed to Daisy and the director had tricked her. She should have known that they wouldn't want her, Daisy thought to herself sadly. Suddenly, Daisy heard a voice. It was coming from above her. It was the ghost, the dead girl. She was smiling. The shocked director dropped the gun.

"Follow me," the ghost yelled. Daisy just did what the ghost told her to do. The director backed away from the gun, while the ghost picked it up and pointed it at the director. She mind controlled her to get out of here and never come back. The director obediently followed the directions. Daisy ran through the doors and the ghost lifted her up and dropped her off at the front of the orphanage building. The ghost left with a blink of her eyes and Daisy wished she had thanked her. Daisy didn't have time to process anything that happened, but she didn't care. She was just happy that she was alive and not working for those evil people. Daisy did not care that she was still an orphan. She had still helped save many people's lives by stopping the director and that was what was important.

Horror *con't from page 32*

the movie, he scooted over. His teeth were chattering like a skeleton that rose from his tombstone in the middle of winter. I just ignored him and went back to watching the movie. Eventually, he ran home crying all about vampires. Well, I probably scarred him for life.

"I can't believe I'm a vampire!" I thought. I calmed down, became a human again, and walked inside. Later on, I realized the smell was vampire breath. It had to be because in the kitchen there was broken glass and sheetrock on the floor. When I was watching Scream 4, I heard a cracking noise that came from the ceiling. There was also a hole in the ceiling, so that pretty much explained the sheetrock.

Poetry

By Sara Waraich

*The chilly wind whips through me like a sharp cut.
Chills instantly seep through my flesh.*

*I stare in wonder.
I stare in shock.
I chock back my mixed emotions. The world's turned upside down.*

*All of the richest of green grass's faded,
faded into crystal white.
Reminding me of memories of grandpa's hair,
hair that was once handsome black,
now dead white.*

*I stare this time,
With excitement
And surprise.
Trudging over I stare in awe,
at the fluffy blanket twinkling.
"Oh god!"*

*The wind roars with envy.
Envyng that snow gets more attention than him.
I wrap my arms around my freezing body,
and gaze at the beautiful snow,
as shivers, run down my spine.*

*I can't help but feel love,
for the beautiful scene.
My frozen heart melts,*

Melts like warm chocolate.

*All the beauty and cold,
shuts my brain.
I can't see a thing,
Nothing at all.
Except white.
White everywhere.*

*Slowly, slowly, slowly,
my eagerness to touch the heavenly blanket,
escapes through me
and overtakes my body.
My legs make their first move.*

*Cautiously I sit,
my eyes pop open,
my butt turns numb.
My body stops functioning,
except for one organ.
One organ only,
the love for the beauty of the setting that passes through
my heart.*

*"Sara," I hear my mother calling,
Calling from somewhere,
somewhere in the distance.
Am I dreaming?*



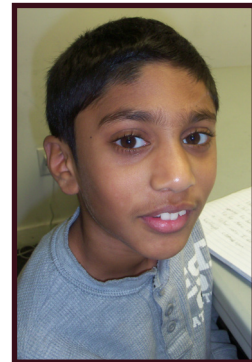
Sarah is a gifted writer with a great future ahead of her.

ADITYA'S QUOTES

By Aditya Mitti

"The one that works together, wins alone."

"Earth will respect the people who respect Earth."



Myth Writing Contest!

Write a spring myth of 200 to 500 words.

Grades: 3rd to 5th

Deadline: March 1

Send to editor@citykidzworld.com

The Beach Experience

By Mira Shenoy

After a long boring drive, we finally got there. The best place ever, the beach! Who can resist the cool breeze, the rhythm of the water and the unique smells? The first thing my family and I did was walk to the beach. It was a long walk and the smell of fish lingered in the air. When I set foot on the beach the sand was hot and it got into my light pink and black flip-flops. We found a nice spot and raced into the water. It was special to have my family in the water having the same amount of fun as I. The water was cold at first, but the more you are in the water, the more comfortable you feel. We sat in the water. Then my sister and I built sand castles and played in the sand. It felt cool. My mom and dad rested on the beach and listened to the waves.

After about an hour or so we went to the boardwalk, which was like an amusement park, with roller coasters, bumper cars, train rides, mini-rides and tickets. Before we bought tickets to start, we played boardwalk games like balloon darts, horseshoes and fishing for magnetic fish. Balloon darts are different colors of balloons and darts. Horse shoes are horse shoes and you have to throw them on glass bottles. Fishing for magnetic fish is where you have a fishing pole and magnetic fish. They would have S, M or L on its stomach. This stands for small, medium and large. The people at the beach who work on the boardwalk have a system. They have

groups of prizes at each station. At the end of the boardwalk games, I got an orange clownfish that looked like Nemo and a blow up dolphin that was pink.

Sometime later, we started to feel terribly hungry. So we went into a bakery, which had many sweet treats. My sister and I were allowed to pick one treat each. It was such a hard decision. I was stumped, but finally after a while, I looked at something that caught my attention. I chose a pretzel stick with chocolate and M & Ms. My sister chose strawberries covered with chocolate. Then we started heading toward the rides: the bumper cars. I didn't really like the bumper cars that much. Then we went on this small red train that took us around the boardwalk games area twice in a circle. We then went on the carousel. It was the one with ponies. Next, my sister went on this alligator ride, where you sit on an alligator statue in the water and you go around and around in a small circle and there is a little bell to ring. She also went on a sail boat ride that did the same thing. Finally, when the day was coming to an end, we walked back to the parking lot. I got into our van and snuggled up with the orange Nemo fish and relaxed for the hour ride back home.

Mira is a talented storyteller with many more great stories to write!

The Chase of the Evil Wizard

By Sruthi K.

Groan! Crash! A strange noise came from a golden box on Mrs. Johnson's desk. There was something mysterious -very mysterious inside the box. I smelled a mystery. I stared at the box for a moment; I almost thought I saw glittering diamonds coming out of it. Stop letting your imagination control you Sruthi! I silently scolded myself.

Later that day, I decided to peek in the box at recess. When it was recess time, I snuck inside the classroom. Luckily, nobody was there.

Quietly and carefully I tiptoed toward the box. Then, I carefully opened the lid. To my surprise, a blue figure, dressed in a black cape and formal dress, emerged from the box.

I gasped. "I will not hurt you," said the genie gently. Assured by his gentle words, I spoke to him "What are you doing



here?" I asked him. He told me his sad story. He told me that an evil wizard was chasing him so that he could drain out all of the genie's power. The genie escaped inside Mrs. Johnson's music box. "Do you want to help me fight the wizard?", the genie asked hopefully. "Sure!" I exclaimed excitedly, "Let's go!"

The genie held my hand and uttered a spell. In an instant we were in a different world: the world of fantasy. I looked around for a moment. I was dazzled by the sunlight. It was like an enchanted land. Nearby, stood a majestic palace. There was a huge garden blooming with the most gorgeous flowers. The grass field was fresh under my feet, and the air smelled of pine cones. I was in no rush to leave, but the genie was. He held my hand tight and we both jumped on the count of three. I felt as light as a feather and the palace was tiny. We were in the sky! "You can fly now," the genie explained, "Follow me. We are going to



What an imaginative story! Great job Sruthi!

Wizard *con't on page 37*



Bull's Eye: A Game

By Manas Bommakanti

Instructions: You have to get a soft thing like a couch. You have to hit the tennis ball at the soft thing VERY HARD! If it goes on the soft thing STAYING THERE, then it's out of the park. Out of the park equals 7 points. Also, homerun equals 7 points. Outside when you are playing on the sidewalk the side paths are the points.

This is how you get outs: If you hit the tennis ball on the bottom on the soft thing, if the ball goes over the soft thing, or if it goes on the side of the soft thing.

You Need:

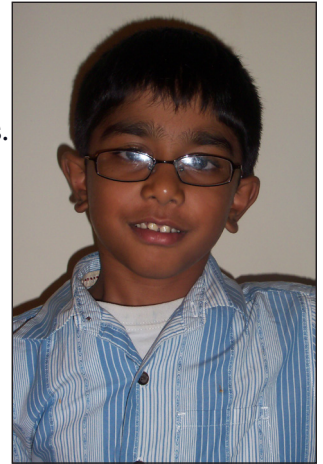
Bulls Eye: If the ball bounces 5 times on the soft thing or if it goes more than 15 paths, that is a Bulls Eye.

A Bulls Eye equals 15 Tennis Ball points!

Soft Thing

2-10 players

Note: *The soft thing must be big.*



Manas is great at making up games and creating how-to instructions! Get ready to play!

Wizard *con't* from page 36

the wizard's house." As we flew, the wind brushed against my face and I soon lost sight of the palace.

Soon, we arrived in a place dark and gloomy.

"Here we are," the genie announced in a whisper. As we landed, I looked around. The place was misty and cold. Skeletons lay everywhere and the ground was dirty. It looked nothing like the genie's palace, but even worse, in the middle of it all, stood an ugly looking wizard snickering to himself as he mixed an evil potion in a big black cauldron. Soon we will be the ones snickering, I thought to myself angrily. I thought we waited for a million hours before the wizard fell asleep. Slowly, I scampered as quietly as a mouse to the potion. The genie followed. Together, we pushed the cauldron over. The entire potion poured on to the wizard. Instantly he woke up. He first looked at us and then at himself.

"No"! he shrieked, "Nooooooooooooooooo!" But it was too late to save himself. He began shrinking and fast. Soon he was as small as a fly. I watched everything with awe and the genie had a broad smile on his face.

"He is too small to do any harm," the genie said enthusiastically.

"Now let's go home," I said, still dazed by what just happened. Once again, we flew to the genie's house. Once we got there, I asked the genie if I could go back to school. The genie nodded his head sadly and uttered a spell.

In an instant I was back in my classroom. It was still 12:35 p.m., recess time. It didn't take me long to realize that no time had passed since I had left. I went outside and enjoyed the rest of my recess!

P.S., Dear Readers, A few weeks later I received a note on my desk. It said, "Meet me tomorrow at recess in the classroom.

From: Genie"

Spend your summer writing this year!

Go to www.citykidzworld.com for more information!

Time Machine

By Rahil Shah

Whoosh! The sleek glass doors of Dr. Evil's time machine opened. As soon as the scientist stepped out 1000 years into the future, he knew that something was wrong. Instead of technology everywhere like computers and flying cars, there were forests and wildlife in every direction.

Dr. Evil grew up in the Soviet Union. Sputnik had launched and the US-Soviet Arms Race was going on. After observing what brilliant things man could do, he was inspired to become a scientist. Following many years of trying to invent a time machine, he finally succeeded and created the x-387 prototype, which allowed him to travel through different dimensions.

In the blink of an eye, Dr. Evil's "magnificent" x-387 shut its door! The scientist tried to press all the combinations of buttons that he could think of, but nothing worked!

"Oh no," he thought, as he knew for sure that he was stuck in the future and in a different dimension.

Dr. Evil's surroundings were as green as a cucumber. There were evergreen trees and crabgrass everywhere. Since the future was not a "techno-world" with technology and flying cars, the evil genius started to wonder what would happen to him.

Time was moving by like a train that doesn't wait for its passengers. Dr. Evil's stomach started to hurt from hunger, and he was also feeling very thirsty and tired. It was time for him to form a plan: build shelter, make provisions, and find food. The scientist started to excavate for materials, and then out of nowhere a colossal bluish figure appeared!

"Hello there! I'm the Bluish Figure. It seems like you have been transported here by a metallic device. Here we don't have much to do. Instead we eat all the metallic junk we can find and fend ourselves from enemies."

"Watch out!" cried the Bluish Figure as a totaled car soared past.

"You see, in the Land of Mystery, there are pieces of sweet metallic junk floating around. When you spot one, just grab it from mid-air and plop the rough piece down your throat."

"That's why there is no technology here in the future," Dr. Evil thought.

"Wait a second; that was a car, and now there's a computer overhead!" Dr. Evil recalled.

"What's a car and computer?" The Bluish Figure stammered.

"You don't know? Well I'm Dr. Evil from the past. That "metallic device" is called a time machine and used to

transport people through time. When I arrived here, the machine malfunctioned, leaving me stuck here in the future."

"Oh wow, I know how to fix your piece of metallic junk - if you want," Bluish Figure recalled.

"That would be great, but how can you fix it?" Dr. Evil sighed.

"Let me show you!" Bluish Figure declared.

The next moment, before Dr. Evil could do anything, the bluish-figure grabbed the time machine and with a screech, he shoved the piece of metal down his throat, followed by a pungent burp.

"Noooooo!" Dr. Evil cried, "How could you possibly do something as evil as that?"

"Just one second my friend," the Bluish Figure assured.

Plop! The time machine rolled out through his back.

"It's the same as it was before," Dr. Evil said.

"Nope, it isn't the same. Look, the door opens and the machine can turn on," Bluish Figure announced while starting the time machine.

"Unbelievable! What could you have possibly done to fix a broken piece of metallic garbage?" Dr. Evil exclaimed.

"Well...that doesn't quite matter. For all we care, your so-called time machine is fixed!" Bluish Figure stuttered.

"So I guess this means I'm going to leave now," the scientist figured.

"Not so fast Mr. Know-It-All! You see, this world is failing. That is why I must come along with you in your journey."

"Why in the world would I take you? The scientist shouted. "Fine, you can come," he mumbled when he saw the smile fall off the Bluish Figure's face.

With Dr. Evil and the Bluish Figure secured inside, the stabilized time machine sped off through a wormhole into the past, finally landing with a thud outside the laboratory. The two acquaintances walked into the building and sat down.

"So...now you can explore a different realm than what you're used to," Dr. Evil laughed. "But don't go and eat everything you see!"

The Bluish Figure walked out into the open world and disappeared across the horizon within the blink of an eye.



Rahil has been working on his writing this year. Excellent job Rahil!

*6 I'm Not Really Sure *9*

By Anushri

I'm Nikki. I am 10 years old, and I am studying in fifth grade at Green Brook school. It was my fourth year at this school. I could walk around the whole school with my eyes shut.

I walked to my new teacher's classroom, Ms. Nancy, the nicest teacher in school. I opened the door. "Hi," said Ms Nancy, in a loud jolly voice. "Oh Hi," I said. I found my desk and plopped my purple backpack down. We all introduced ourselves to each other. As recess started, I saw the worried look on Francis's face. I curiously followed Francis as she walked to the swings. Then Michal, the meanest in fifth grade, walked up to her. I watched from behind the bushes. "Did you tell anyone?" he yelled madly at Francis.

"I...didn't... tell... any...body," stammered Francis. Michal put his face so close to Francis's face. He put his thin, brown fingers in Francis's brown braided hair. He took a tug. I knew how she felt. Francis squinted her eyes in pain. Francis couldn't handle it and neither could I, but I didn't want to get hurt myself so I remained silent. Soon I couldn't bear watching her suffer. I got out from behind the bushes. I walked up to Michal. I gently pulled his hand off of Francis hair. Michal turned his angry face toward me.

"STOP," I said trying to be calm. He glared at me. I glared back at him. This went on forever until Francis decided to fight too.

"Can you at least try to be nice for a change?" asked Francis. "Yeah," I said, walking toward Francis. I didn't even know Francis. Michal glared at us and walked away. "FINE," he said behind his back. I turned to Francis. She turned to me. "Hi," she said, kicking the wood chips. "Hi," I said. Francis stared at me in a friendly way. "What?" I asked.

"Thanks," she said. She held out her hand, "Friends?" she asked. "Friends," I agreed. We shook hands.

A few weeks later... "The talent show,...the talent show"... "the talent show," was all I heard. "What is the talent show anyway?" I asked Francis as we sat at table nine. "It is when you show everyone your talent," said Francis. I already knew that part. Then Francis asked me a very tough question. She asked me if I wanted to enter the talent show. I really didn't know the answer to that question. "Okay," I finally said. Francis grabbed me by the hand we rushed to Ms. Roney's room. We grabbed the clipboard and wrote our names and signed up as a band, but we didn't have a band name yet. We just wrote, "I'm not really sure," as our band name. We wanted to fill it in later.

Francis and I started practicing a few songs. We argued over what song to sing, but finally we settled on Dynamite. Other

friends who saw us practice loved our show.

The bell rung a few times for recess. I ran outside to play. Francis challenged me to a monkey bar race. I had to agree. I loved monkey bars. We both jumped on the twin monkey bars in the park. "Ready Set GO," I screamed. I got my grip and swung quickly from bar to bar. Suddenly my grip loosened. I tried to hold on, but I slipped. My leg hurt badly. Hot tears filled my eyes.

"Nikki are you all right? Do you want to go to the nurse?" asked Francis.

The school nurse called my parents and the doctor's office. At the doctor's office, I saw a nurse come out with a wheelchair. She wheeled me over to the X-Ray room. After a few minutes I was taken into the doctor's office.

"Pick any color," said the doctor. I was wondering why, but then I said, "Pink."

He took a pink colored tape and wrapped it around my leg. He handed me a pair of medium crutches.

"There you go, Nikki. Two weeks rest," he said smiling. I hopped all the way to the car thinking about the talent show. I wasn't a master at hopping, but I knew someone who was last year...Joy.

The next day during recess I hopped over to Joy.

"Joy, can you teach me how to handle these crutches?"

"Sure," answered Joy.

"If you promise to include me in your band."

I was thrilled to hear that because I needed someone to help us in the band.

I was watching Francis and Joy practice the song.

"I need someone to do the singing for me," I told them.

"They won't let me come onstage with crutches."

They were all very sad when I said that.

"I know the right person ...Zoey," Francis said excitedly.

"She has been singing since she was three," said Joy.

After one week, it was the big day. The Talent Show started. I sat down with the audience when Francis, Joy and Zoey came out on stage. They did a great job. Everyone applauded a great performance by our band. There were many other bands that participated that day and all of them were good.

We were all waiting for the results. The judges got on the stage. "And the winner is...I'm not really sure yet band," they announced and laughed. I couldn't even jump for joy.

Francis, Joy and Zoey came running to me. They helped me onto the stage. I felt like I was walking on the red carpet... even though I was hopping on one leg. The judge handed us all a big bouquet of flowers and congratulated us.

This is how I met my three best friends!

How Dogs Grew Fur!

By Saba Kolsawala

Once upon a time, there was a nice scientist named Nina. She wanted to adopt three dogs, so that she could do an experiment on them. She went to the Adopting-Center that she owns and asked her friend for a German shepherd, a Boxer and a Retriever. Suddenly, a tall, strong, hairless boxer named Jaguar ran out into the waiting room, followed by a tall, fast, hairless German-shepherd and a strong, fast, tall hairless Retriever named Joey. She put them on leashes, took them to the car and they drove home together. When they entered Nina's house, they ran up the stairs quietly because her grandma was snoring on the couch. She ran to her full bathroom, and put the dogs in the Jacuzzi. She pulled up the faucet and turned on the water and picked up the dog shampoo from the cabinet. She put some dog shampoo in her hands and rubbed the dogs nice and clean so she could get the germs away. After a few minutes, she washed it off. She walked down the stairs with the dogs let them eat and play for five minutes. Then, she put them on the leash and took them for a nice ride in her minivan. They were headed straight for the help lab to perform the big experiment. When they arrived, Nina put on her experimental goggles to mix a special type of solution with water. She poured the drink into

a glass bowl and made the dogs drink it. The Boxer took three sips; the other two finished it all in one big gulp. At first, you could hear the dogs' bellies grumbling. Then, Nina saw bright, yellow long hair coming out of the Golden Retriever. Then, the Boxer grew smaller hair that was black. Finally, Nina noticed that the German shepherd was also growing long spiky black-brown hair! She couldn't believe her eyes. She rubbed once and she rubbed twice. She was the first person to make dogs grow fur! She became famous and so did the dogs. She told her other friends to give all dogs her special medicine.

AND THAT'S HOW DOGS GREW FUR!



Saba is a great 3rd grade writer. She wrote this over the summer.



Santa Clause: True or False

By Nehal Thakkar

Is Santa true or fake? Who is the one you think gives you the presents under the lighted Christmas tree? The one who either spends the money or makes others work for him. Not to judge other's opinions, but who is always there knowing what you want. The one that is always there. Santa isn't there all the time so how does he know what you want? Many people believe in different ideas, but when you look at the overall truth you see who really cares so much for you to get you a present. I may think Santa is fake, but my neighbor might think he is real so I can't stop her from thinking that, but when you figure out you will really see who care for you most.

If Santa is real, how does he know what to get you if you don't write a letter? He can't have elves watching you all the time. I know one creature that always knows what to get you. Your parents. They spend a lot of money for you. Some people do believe in Santa, but think, how does he know without a letter, what to get you?

What side are you on? Fake or true. Just think about everything you know and make your decision. Make sure it makes sense!

If you do believe in Santa, go to Santa Clause: Weight.
Santa Clause: Weight

Have you ever fed Santa Clause milk and cookies? Do wonder what it does to him? Well...it makes him fat. His weight increases and soon it will make him not able to come down your chimney and hand you presents. You would not like that right? All he ever does is make children happy, but because of his weight, it will make him sad that he can't.



When you place the cookies, hoping it will make him happy that he has food to eat, do you wonder that he is being forced to eat it to make you happy? All the children in the world are making Santa Clause fat. Everyone should be ashamed of themselves. Though we may think it is good, we never thought of in a negative way. How do you know Santa likes cookies? Maybe he is forced to eat them and become fat. Look at it in both the negative way and positive way and then decide whether to put out cookies and milk for Santa Clause.



Devil

By Shikta Mukherjee

“Mane!” my mother called from the village field. “Yes mother,” I yelled. She told me to carry the rice home before 9 p.m. I started home and asked my new friend, May, why everyone was so scared. I was new in town. This place was very weird. He told me about the evil devil who always came out at midnight and sat on a cursed tree. I told him, “I don’t care,” May said. “He can take your soul!”

“Race you there!” I said. Our flip flops hit the ground as we ran. The devil heard us and was coming.

When we got home, we played tic-tack-toe and drank hot soup. We were so distracted that we forgot about the ridiculous devil story. My mom came back and shut the window and door. May needed to go, but it was late so he stayed back with us. I had to get to the bottom of this funny business about the devil. I got my pitch fork and wanted to start on it as soon as possible.

The next morning we woke up and saw a trail of mysterious foot prints. There were two big toes. Each foot print was sunk into the soil. We ate oatmeal and fruits for breakfast and darted outside to the village school hut. On the way I asked May if he wanted to come with me to hunt for the devil.

He said, “NO! HE WILL TAKE MY SWEET SOUL!”

We were at the school and ready to go in. I said bye to May and went to my class.

“RRING...!” the school bell rang. It was the end of the school day. May and I started for our homes. First I dropped him home and then I set off to look for the devil. This was hard. The devil was tricky. While I was looking for the devil, at home, my mom was getting worried.

“Where is she!” she yelled. But she didn’t want to risk her life for me, so she stayed at home. Then the devil caught my eyes.

He was red in color and had big horns, but I was not scared. He said with a puzzled face, “Why aren’t you scared?”

‘Because you’re not scary,’ I said.

“Is it true?” he asked himself. Then he got a great idea. “Come with me to a very special place,” he said. I did, not know where he was taking me. Perhaps he was going to put me in the kingdom cave. It was getting dangerous.

I was put on his rusty back and carried to the kingdom cave. The kingdom cave is known as the most dangerous place in our village. Once we reached the kingdom cave, he pushed me onto a big, old cruise ship. The cruise ship was really creepy. Monsters were marching, goblins were creeping, and witches were flying. It wasn’t scary, but I was still cautious. A few of them tried eating me, but I was too fast for them. Then that weird devil appeared again. He chanted, “Row rom row.” I was really confused. Then cruise ship reached a point where the river transformed into lava. Suddenly a hairy, slimy, soft creature hit my eyes. It was a strange new monster, which was like all the other monsters combined together. He picked me up and held me by the legs. He was about to drown me in hot lava.

“Let me go,” I screamed. And that was when everyone shouted.

“YOU ARE ON THE VILLAGE’S PRANK SHOW!”



Shikta is a great writer.
This story is awesome.

Allegory Writing Contest!

Have you ever heard of an Allegory?

It is: *The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form.*

Write an allegory of 900 words or less!

Grades - 6th to 12th

Deadline: March 1

Hint! The Wizard of Oz is a famous, well-known allegory!

Send to editor@citykidzworld.com

www.citykidzworld.com



Crystal Castle

By Param Kothari

“Cool!” said Max. Max was walking home from school, when he saw a really, cool video game. It was called “Crystal Castle.” It said, there were 5 million copies sold! He really wanted to get it. He went home as fast as a rocket. He got to his house. He searched around the house for money. He found a ten dollar bill in his piggy bank. He went back to the store. It was \$9.99. Max just made it! He went in the store and got the last copy of Crystal Castle. He went home and started to play it. As soon as he turned the T.V. on, his T.V. was struck by lightning. His T.V. split open. Max couldn’t understand what was happening. Soon the crack started to suck things. Max tried to run away, but he couldn’t. He was slowly getting closer to the black hole. Soon he got sucked in it. He was trapped in a video game called Crystal Castle.

When Max got up, he saw lot of kids. He saw that he was laying on a squishy platform. Max thought to himself, “Where am I?”

It looked like he was in a very big room. Max got up. Suddenly, a kid fell out of the sky. He landed on top of Max. The kid said, “Sorry.”

Max said, “It’s okay. Do you know where we are?”

The kid said, “No.”

Max said, “What is your name?”

The kid said, “Matt.”

Matt said, “What is your name?”

Max said, “Max.”

They became good friends and they walked off the platform. After about 5 minutes, a big hologram came up. There was a person on the screen. Max thought that he knew him. He did. He was the maker of the game. Dr. Carlos had a monocle on his left eye. He had a beard and had a white lab coat. Dr. Carlos began talking, “MY NAME IS DR. CARLOS. YOU ARE STUCK IN MY GAME. YOU CAN ONLY GET OUT IF YOU DEFEAT THE GAME AND ME. YOU NEED TO COLLECT CRYSTALS TO GET OUT OR UPGRADE YOUR WEAPON AND THE GAME WILL GIVE YOU YOUR WEAPON AUTOMATICALLY. I WILL OPEN THE GATES. NOW GET OUT OF HERE!”

Everyone went through the doors (5,000,000 kids).

“Hey Max, do you want to work together?” asked Matt.

“Sure,” answered Max. Max and Matt ran through the gates. On the other side of the gates, it was completely different.

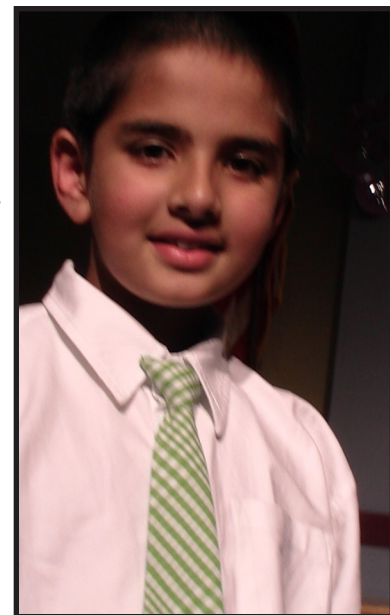
There was lava shooting out of the volcano. There were also dinosaurs. They went to a nearby tree. They were in the Jurassic time period. Max and Matt made a plan. Matt saw

a crystal. He got it. Max said, “Great job.” Max thought if he could get on a tree then he could see the whole area. When Max got on top of the tree, he saw a rope. He told Matt to come up the tree. Matt saw the rope and he had an idea. We can catch a dinosaur! They were going to catch a Pteranodon. Matt threw the rope at the dinosaur. He missed by a mile. He tried again. He missed again, but he got closer than the other time. “It looks easy, but it is so hard to use a lasso,” said Matt. He tried one last time and he got the Pteranodon by the neck.

“Hold on Max,” said Matt. The Pteranodon took Max and Matt off the tree and into the sky. They took hold of the Pteranodon. Matt and Max decided to find more crystals. After finding about 50 more crystals in bushes and trees, Max and Matt saw a kid being attacked by a Albertosaurus. (the cousin of the T.Rex) Max and Matt decided to help the kid. Matt led the flying dinosaur (Pteranodon) to the Albertosaurus. Max and Matt found out that the Pteranodon shot out lightning bolts and fire. The Albertosaurus got scared and ran into the forest. The kid said, “My name is Cody. Thanks for saving my life.”

“No problem,” said Max.

“Can I join your team?” asked Cody. “Sure,” said Matt. Cody also climbed on to the Pteranodon. Cody told Max and Matt how to get to the Level 2(L2) gate. The Pteranodon took them to the L2 gate then they let the Pteranodon go. Cody said the gate was inside the volcano. Max and Matt trusted Cody. They went to the top of the mountain. They saw stairs going to the base of the volcano. They went to the bottom of the volcano. They saw that there was a very big portal to L2. They went through it not knowing what would happen.



Param is an excellent writer! This is his second year writing great stories. This is the best one so far!

Crystal con't on page 43

Crystal *con't* from page 42

On the other side of the gates, they could only see water. Max, Matt and Cody were standing on a very little island. Max noticed that everyone was in scuba gear. They had their own weapons. Max had a harpoon. Matt got two water rifles (unlimited shots) and Cody got two ninja stars (the ninja stars are weapons that come back to you when you fire them). Then the kids decided to go inside the water.

“Wow,” said Matt, “It is very beautiful.” They went on the ocean floor to find other crystals. After they each found 10 crystals, they saw three sharks were charging at them. They turned around just in time to see the sharks and destroyed them. Every shark you destroy you get three crystals. They swam around the reef. There was no sign of the portal to L3. All of a sudden, Matt and Max got struck by lightning. A robotic jellyfish attacked both of them. They both lost 10% of their life power. Before the jellyfish could attack more, Cody used his two ninja stars and sliced the jellyfish in half. “This sea is dangerous,” said Matt. Everyone was tired, so they sat on a round rock. After five seconds, Max, Matt and Cody all heard a big noise. At first, they all thought that there was going to be an earthquake, but then they found out that the rock that they were sitting on was moving. They got off the rock. A very big, blue-ringed octopus came out from the rock. The blue-ringed octopus can spit poisonous venom. If you touch the venom, you would only have minutes to survive. The octopus had 10 tentacles. Max and Matt were scared of the octopus because they knew the octopus was actually a blue-ringed octopus. But Cody had no idea that it was a blue-ringed octopus, so he said, “Give me your best shot!” The octopus used his tentacles and smacked Cody to the ground. He had only, 50% of his life. Matt told Cody all about the blue-ringed octopus. Matt told them all about the plan. The plan was to surround the octopus then cover all the spaces where the octopus’s venom can shoot out, then attack the octopus in its weak spot. Then the octopus will die. The kids went out of their hiding places and surrounded the octopus. They put seaweed into the places where the venom came out and they did it while the octopus wasn’t looking. Soon all the places where the deadly venom could come out got covered by seaweed. (The places where the venom comes out is on the tentacles and on its bottom) Now the kids had a perfect time to destroy the octopus. Matt shot all the octopus’s tentacles off. Max shot his harpoon into the octopus’s head. Cody threw his two ninja stars at the octopus’s chest. The octopus screamed so loudly that the ground began to shake. Soon a crack was showing on the ground. The kids went behind a rock. After the ground stopped shaking, Matt

looked up and said, “Hey look at this.”

Max and Cody looked up. The portal to L3 was right in front of them. Matt and Cody went through the portal. Max saw something on the ground. He picked it up. He didn’t know what to do with it so he just put it in his pocket. “It is better to have something than to have nothing,” said Matt.

This was their last world before fighting Dr. Carlos. They went through the portal.

When they got to the other side, they saw many trees. They also got full health. Max got nunchucks. Matt got two fire swords and Cody got a chainsaw. Max told Matt and Cody, “We are in a jungle. Anything can happen.” A second later a snake came slithering toward them. Then five more snakes came. Soon they were surrounded by snakes. Max found out that the snakes weren’t actual snakes. Max remembered that he had an object in his pocket. He decided that maybe the object could hurt them. He pulled out the object from his pocket. He put the object in front of a snake. The object had a screen on top of it. It said, “This is the deadliest snake in the whole game. It is called the Slonotron. It shoots acid from its mouth. It is ten times more deadly than an Indian Cobra. They are made out of metal. They can kill a human in half a second.” Max and his friends were in big trouble. Cody tried to cut one of the Slonotron in half with his chainsaw. It didn’t make a difference. Matt used his sword to hit a snake (The Slonotron). Before he could hit a snake, another snake spit acid on the sword that Matt was using to hit the snake. The kids had nothing to do but to close their eyes. All of a sudden, a three-headed tiger came. The tiger was destroying the snakes. The snakes got distracted by the tiger. Max, Matt and Cody quietly walked away. As soon as the snakes and the tiger couldn’t see them, Max, Matt and Cody bolted as fast as lightning. After two minutes of running, Max saw a cliff. They were running straight for the cliff. Max tried to stop his feet, it stopped, but the force was too much. He had just made it. Matt smashed Max on the back. Now Max was on the edge of falling down. He was on his tippy-toes. Cody smashed Matt and he smash Max. Max lost his balance. He went a little back, then he went straight forward down the cliff. Matt and Cody saw Max falling down into the darkness. They felt sorry for Max. Matt and Cody remembered all three hours they had together, before Cody and Matt could turn around, they saw Max right in front of them. He was holding on to a Pteranodon. Matt surprisingly said, “How did you survive?”

Crystal *con't* on page 44



Crystal *con't* from page 43

Max said, "I fell down and I luckily landed in a nest. It was a Pterandon's nest." It was the same Pteranodon that helped them on L1." They climbed on the Pteranodon. They went high above the trees. They saw a portal in the sky. It was the portal to Mr. Carlos's lair. It wasn't over yet and a black hole appeared behind them.

"Oh no," said Matt. "We won't make it alive."

They were going closer and closer to the black hole.

"Go faster, go," yelled Matt. The Pteranodon was so tired, but the Pterandon was still flying. They were about five feet away from the black hole, when suddenly something astonishing happened. The dragon they were sitting on evolved into a rainbow dragon (That is the highest evolved rank). A rainbow dragon can go as fast as the speed of light. It has all the powers of all the dragons combined. The rainbow dragon zoomed to the gate. It went through the gates to the other side.

On the other side, they saw Mr. Carlos's castle. They went through the front entrance. When they opened the doors, they saw all the bad guys in the game that you could think of. There were the Slonotron, a T-rex, 3-headed tiger, a octopus, land sharks, etcetera. They also saw Mr. Carlos. He said, "You are really lucky that you came this far, but now you are going to die."

"Don't count on it," yelled Cody. Mr. Carlos yelled, "Destroy them Slonotron. Five Slonotron came charging at them. The dragon turned the Slonotron into ice. The Slonotron broke automatically. Mr. Carlos then made all his animals attack Matt, Max, and Cody. They had an Ultimate Battle. The kids made a plan. The plan was to go to the controls that Dr. Carlos had and destroy them. Max and Matt went for the controls. Cody had to cover both of them. They got in their positions. Max and Matt were on the sides of the rooms and Cody was on the roof. Cody signaled when to attack. "3,2,1," he whispered. "ATTACK," he yelled. They all same out of their hiding places and attacked all the villains. They all expired. They came out of their hiding places. They all went straight for the controllers. Max smashed his nunchucks into the screen of the controllers. Matt stabbed both his swords into the keyboard of the controller. Cody took the controllers from Dr. Carlos and chopped them in half. All of a sudden every thing became blurry. They could hear a voice saying "NO." Then Max was on his couch. He got up and said, "I had just defeated Dr. Carlos with two friends. I saved the world from being stuck in the video game. Max thought, "Now I will name Dr. Carlos, Dr. Car-lose!" Max laughed.

Weather Poem

By Jaagi Kuruvella

*Winter has snow,
Fall has leaves,
And all of them are loose and
ready to fall,
Ice is turning to water, as slowly
as possible,
Ice is going to melt one by one,
slowly every piece - until it is
done.*



Jaagi is great writer who is working on getting her wonderful ideas on paper.

A Few Days Before Christmas

By Palash Kothari

Few days before Christmas, I woke up. I went down stairs. I drank milk. I packed up.

When I was running to go to the school bus, I tripped. I fell on my knees. I really got hurt on my right knee.

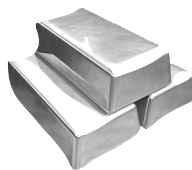
Finally I got in the bus and I got to the school. I went in the classroom. The teacher told me to unpack and go to the nurse. I unpacked my backpack and went to the nurse. She was in her office and she gave me cream on my right knee. I started feeling better.

Soon it will be Christmas! Me and my family put up the Christmas tree and I wrote a letter to Santa. Soon we will receive gifts!

Palash is a great 1st grader with fantastic, small moment storytelling ability.



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Money in School

By Neil Jhawar

What would happen if kids and teenagers were given money in school by their teachers for the right answer to a question? How would it impact the students? In my opinion this will impact the students negatively for three reasons. They would become greedy, disregard chores at home, and they would want a reward for everything in the future.

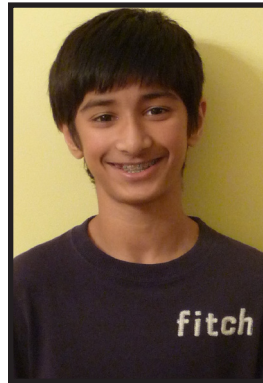
Greed is bound to happen if kids and teenagers receive money in school. Teachers think that by involving money, they will receive more participation from their students. But what they do not know is that students will lose their interest for learning and will instead participate just for the sake of money. They will not care to use the same knowledge later in life. When one is willing to learn, it should come from within, not forced by greed.

Sense of responsibilities and duties such as chores and jobs will be neglected if students are rewarded money in school. Students will earn enough money so that they will not have to do any more work outside of school. Therefore, they will not be supporting their parents, but instead will create more work. This applies with teenagers who have jobs. When they receive cash from school, they will not feel the need to attend to their jobs and care less about working. As a result, they will not learn enough techniques to be applied in the future. Diligence and responsibility is essential to be successful

in life.

Lastly, students will gain expectancy for rewards in the future. They will become upset when facing situations in which they are not rewarded for their work. And when there is no reward, there is no interest for effort. Students need to learn to handle these kinds of events later in life. To prevent a future mishap, when a reward is not given, students should not be able to get money, as it could be harmful to them.

You have just witnessed the effects of rewarding students in school with money. They will turn selfish, carefree, and will be expecting rewards for achievements later in life. Kids and teenagers need to understand that school is a place of learning opportunities. Turning it into a place of bribery will not help the children move forward later on in life. Now it is your choice to choose whether you want the ideal picture of education to be replaced by the influence of greed, or for the children of today to work hard, live an enjoyable life, and reach success in the long run.



Neil is a fabulous middle school writer. His essays make excellent, strong points.

6 Sandy-day to Sunday

By Anirudh Jasti

It all started when it was Monday night. It was dark as Pluto's palace and a really powerful thunderstorm called "Sandy" was about to begin with the terrible sounds of wind. BOOM! The next minute, there was a big power cut and it was really, really hard to find people, find out who was saying something, and do chores. In the morning it was a lot easier to do stuff, but during the night, it was a lot harder to do stuff. During the Sandy power cut-out, we got so tired of surviving without any power that we went to Virginia. It took six hours to get to Virginia and we went from New Jersey to Delaware to Maryland and then Virginia. By the time we got there, it was a very, very dark night. Our room number was 412 and when we got there, I suddenly realized something. IT LOOKED LIKE 512! Five one two was my last room number from the last time I went to Virginia during spring break. We had a sound sleep then we woke up. You know what? There was something called "Concierge Lounge" to eat our breakfast. It was on the seventh floor, while we were on fourth floor. We got ready and went to the seventh floor via elevator. While having breakfast, we tested the T.V. and looked for

"Cartoon Network" and we found it. What a blast. We kept it on while we ate our breakfast. Last time we went to the pool more, but now we did not even go to the pool at all. The reason is we did not get my swimming shorts. My brother is doing his math work, but I rarely do my work. I LOVE THIS PART. Every time we go for lunch or dinner, we just simply go out to a random restaurant. It seemed pretty strange that we did that, but that's how our "VIRGINIA" vacation went. We watched movies, went shopping and man that was a painful day because I got hurt while I was running. Other than that, the trip was awesome and we came back on Sunday. So if you went to Virginia, you know what I mean. This is such a bargain and has a horrible starting.

Anirudh is a great 2nd grade author. He writes stories, poems, essay, and he illustrates too!



Amazon Adventure

By Ayush Patel

One cool morning Jack Heffley was boarding the plane to go to the Amazon jungle. He was going to there to explore for the summer. When he boarded the plane, he went straight to seat 4A. After he sat down, he turned his phone off and turned on his TV. Then the plane started to move. Boom! Bum! Boom! Bum! Jack held on to the sides of the seat and closed his eyes and listened to the TV. First they were talking about the life jackets and safety. After life jackets, they started talking about emergency exit doors. Then then plane went up, up and up and in no time they were in the air. The Captain announced that they were going to Florida and required the passengers to change the plane going further. When they landed in Florida, Jack raced out of the plane and started to rush down the hallway toward the next plane. He ran on to the plane and went straight to his seat. In twenty minutes, the plane took off and after a long time they landed in Rio.

From Rio, he travelled to the Amazon jungle. The next day he decided to go for a long walk in the jungle. While walking, he heard a noise. He took another step. That's when it hit him that he was surrounded by wild animals. He was really scared. Jaguar, tigers and other animals saw him and started growling. They started coming close to Jack. Jack felt a chill on his spine. He ran, trying to get away from the animals, but they were getting closer and closer. Jack was scared more than ever. He started running. He ran so fast he felt like he was faster than a cheetah. He kept running until a cave came into his sight. When he ran into a cave, he saw fire. The fire was surrounded by humans. "Villagers," Jack gasped. Villagers saw Jack and they just stared. Just then they heard loud rumbling. When they peeked outside, they saw lots of animals. Big herds of animals were lurking around them like they were about to attack. Jack and Villagers ran and ran until there was an opening. They ran outside and looked backed. There was no sight of any animals so they decided to settle down. After they caught their breath, Jack asked all the Villagers their names. "Mario," the old guys said. "Luigi," "Jacob," "Aaron," and "Ricky," the others said, one after other. "Jack," he said introducing himself. Jack also asked what they do. Mario said he made the houses. Jacob made the silverware out of wood. Ricky made the games from leaves and sticks. Aaron and Luigi made food. The sun was setting and night was knocking on the door. They were hearing wild animals growling in the dark

woods. They decided to find a safe place and spend a night there. They were really tired and hungry. Luigi said tonight he can make something out of their packed food. After going through Jack and the Villager's backpacks, he said he can make rice and soup. Jack also had chips and salsa he had packed for his journey. "Yummy," Jack said with a drool of hunger all over his face. While they were eating, they heard Smack! Slap! Smack!



*Ayush has great stories to write!
Keep reading his work!*

Slap! Jack saw alligators, crocks and other animals through fire light. They then heard a big road in the back. When they peeked, they saw a big tiger and other big cats appeared out of thin air. They also heard Ark! Ark! Hundreds of reptiles, insects and mammals came from nowhere. It was like all the animals communicated to each other and came all together. Jack and Villagers froze. The Villagers slowly sneaked out and started running, but Jack completely froze. Ricky said, "Are you out of your mind?" Jack thought for a second and decided to walk up to the animals. He didn't know what he was doing, but he just told the animals, "Would you please stop bothering me?" All the animals looked into his eyes and stared. They didn't see any harm in his eyes. Slowly all the animal started disappearing in the dark woods. As time passed, Jack and the Villagers kept seeing the animals on a daily basis. The more they met, the more they became friendly. Slowly the animals started helping Jack and the Villagers with different work. They became so close, they started understanding each other. It's like they were communicating with each other. Weeks passed and their bonding became very strong. On one, hot and humid day, he got a surprise call. Jack picked up phone and said, "Hello." "Happy Birthday, Jackie my boy. You are 25 exactly today," his Mom and Dad yelled so loud his ears almost popped off his head. "Thanks," said Jack. "I will give it to Jean," said his Mom. Jean said Happy Birthday and then asked him how his trip

Amazon *con't on page 47*

Amazon *con't from page 46*

was going. He said its been great. I have made so many friends and I am coming home in one week. I will be home by next Monday.

Jack then told the idea of him going back to the Villagers and animals. They were all very upset about Jack leaving. Jack himself was upset too. That night, Jack couldn't sleep and thought all night. In the morning, when he woke up, he was bit tired, but looked fresh and happy. The Villagers and animals were surprised and curious and asked why Jack seemed so happy. Jack said I have a solution to keep us all together forever. Jack said, "Why don't you all come with me to my town?" The Villagers and animal were shocked. They asked, "How can that be possible? We all like living in the forest."

Jack said, "Well we have a big forest behind my house. You can all live there." They all liked the idea and agreed to go with him.

They all got excited and got to work. The Villagers would help Jack pack his bags, while the animals huddled together

and decided who would go and stay. The next day, Jack went to the ranger's office and got permission to take animals to his town. Then on Monday, they all went to airport in cars and trucks. All the animals were put in cargo planes and Jack and Villagers boarded a regular plane. After a long journey, they all got home. Jack's parents were shocked and surprised to know that Jack would bring animals and the Villagers with him. Jack introduced all the Villagers and animals to his parents. They said hello to Mario, Aaron, Luigi, Ricky and Jacobo. The next day, they all got to work setting animals free in the forest and building cabins for the Villagers. Villagers got woods and Jack got all the tools and by evening they finished building cabins for all the Villagers. Slowly the Villagers and animals got settled in their new environment and location. Jack was happy that all the friends he made in his trips were with him. The Villagers and animals were also happy that they all lived together happily.

By Kunal Shukla

Disney World

We were going to Disney world. I was so I excited I could cry!

My mom said, "Pack Kunal's bag," to my brother.

My brother said, " You are right in front of me."

"Ok ok!"

"Stop fighting," said my dad.

"Ok!" we said.

"Your cousins are coming," said my dad.

My brother said, "Yes!"

I had to go to the bathroom. I went up and ran to the bathroom. After that, I was dancing in excitement. My dad started taking a video.

"What are you doing? Get out of my FACE!"

The next day... we were rushing. After that we went in the big, blue car and picked up our cousin. Twenty-five hours later, we were almost there.

"WE'RE HERE!"

"Yes!" We went to the parking lot and got out of the car. My mom carried me. We rented a house that had a swimming pool. We went to the house and slept. The next day, we went to the Disney World Magic Kingdom. We saw Prince Charming, the Beast, Belle , Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, witches, Princess Peach, and Zelda. Once we went out, we saw fireworks. We went back to the house and fell asleep. The next morning, we woke up and went to a dolphin's show. It was cool! It was awesome! We went to Minnie's shop to look around. In the shop, we met Mickey, Minnie,

Goofy, Chip n' Dale, Donald Duck, Daisy, Pluto. After that, we went home and slept.

The next day we went to the zoo and watched the Lion King. I WAS CRYING!

" Waaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhh!"

"Shush!" said dad.

He got me a toy! At home we went in the swimming pool. A splash came.

"Owwwwwwww!" Who did that? I was laughing so much! We got out of the swimming pool. We took a bath. We went to sleep. The next day we went to Burger

King! We entered. We ordered a veggie burger and a kid's meal. As we went back to the house, I fell asleep. The next day we went to Wendy's for breakfast. Yum! We ordered pancakes. It was our last day. We met Shrek, Donkey, Fiona, King, Queen, Tinker bell and we made lots of noise. Lastly, we went home.



Kunal is an up and coming young writer! He is an awesome second grader.



The Jersey Devil

By Gopi Krishna Rayini

Many people believe that the Jersey Devil doesn't exist, but some are convinced that the Jersey Devil is as real as any other animal. Even psychics can't find the truth about the Jersey Devil.

There are many accounts and sightings of the Jersey Devil. Once, a woman named Martha and her son Ryan, went outside into their backyard to turn off the Christmas lights on the pole. When she bent down to unplug the wire, she noticed Ryan staring into a tree absolutely frozen. She knew why, after looking at the tree. They just saw the Jersey Devil! Martha had to save her son, so she rushed her son inside the house just before the Jersey Devil let out a blood-curdling roar.

Another report of the Jersey Devil was one with two young men who went camping in the woods on the moun-

tains. It was said that one of the campers was never found. All that was found of him was a jacket and shoes torn apart. The other man did return, but what he said about the incident was incomprehensible. The police couldn't get information of what happened to the other guy. After a couple of days, that person died of a heart attack because he couldn't stand to know the truth. The last word he spoke were, "The Jersey Devil... my best friend... attack...!"

Even today, the answers to the question: *Does the Jersey Devil exist* remains a mystery. Some psychics explored cases involving the Jersey Devil, but they don't know if it exists. After a lot of stories and supposed pictures of the Jersey Devil, many people swear that he exists. Hence, I always stand my ground. It's something of a real beast.

Gopi is imaginative and creative!

My First Day Of Second Grade

By Janvi Jadhav

Hi my name is Janvi. I am eight years old. I like to share small moment stories.

I had a wonderful and fantastic first grade! Also I had a good friends and an awesome teacher. My favorite thing to do in first grade was rocket math and writing letters! My first grade class and I were very nervous on the last day of first grade.

We always wanted the same teacher and the same bunch of friends, but it was far from possible. I was curious to know about my second grade teacher. One fine day, while enjoying my summer vacation in India, my mom got an email regarding my second grade teacher. Her name was Miss Melissa Johnsen. I was wondering if she was going to be just like my first grade teacher. My heart was pumping and there were so many questions in my mind.

Finally, the first day of my second grade was here. I was trying to get my brain ready. It almost did, but POOF! It went away and I was nervous again. After a little struggle I finally found my classroom. My teacher was standing near the door to greet us. The moment I went in, she gave me a big hug! VOILA! She had a big cute smile on her face. She was nice and kind and helped me to find my desk. I also saw my best friend Nisha in front of me. Oh my God! It was my dream come true! I was not scared or nervous anymore. My teacher was really very nice. I thank God for an excellent teacher and an awesome class. I love my SCHOOL!

About the Author:

Hi my name is Janvi. I love to eat pizza and noodles! I am in second grade! I love writing small moment stories! I dedicate this moment to my family. I love my family.

Janvi



Janvi is an awesome writer who is writing marvelous stories.

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Sammy the Epic

By Navya Gutti

Sammy was a ruler from the King Turtle Palace. Sammy liked to collect treasure. Sammy had a palace made of his discarded treasure. He moved swiftly through the water and his scales shined brightly in the moonlight.

One day Sammy was floating down to the reef. But suddenly, a ghost crab came scooting across the reef towards Sammy and "SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!" The ghost crab was clamping and clicking his claws like an angry stapler. The ghost crab was hungry and he wanted to eat poor little Sammy. "Ssss, Ssss, Ssss!" Sammy was dragging his little short legs through the deep, rocky ocean. Sammy was scared to death. It was if someone was going to smash him with a cinder block. Sammy had many adventures throughout his life as a sea turtle, but he never had one that would kill him. "Ding! Ding! Ding!" Sammy got an idea! The ghostly crab chased Sammy all the way to Sammy's house, where Sammy thought he would be safe.

Sammy was next to a home made of many helpful treasures that careless people threw into the wonderful and fascinating sea. Sammy had a fishing line, worm cans, food cans, hooks, scrap paper and many fish nets. He was wise, even though he was young. Sammy started to feel embarrassed that his royal subjects were looking at him being chased by a ghost in his own kingdom! Sammy thought about setting up a trap, but he changed his mind. Sammy ran into his kingdom and grabbed his steel sword. The ghost crab was waiting outside his door. Suddenly Sammy slammed open the door and looked into ghost crab's eyes.

A crowd drew. This was the time Sammy had to be brave and fight furiously for his kingdom. Sammy attacked the ghost crab with his steel sword, but the ghost crab blocked it with its mighty claws. Sammy tumbled backwards. They both had a fierce and feisty battle. Sammy headed towards the ghost crab. The ghost crab screamed and shook like an earthquake. Just to get the ghost crab angry, Sammy started to tease the ghost crab. "Ha ha! You're stupid! Ha ha! You're a stupid head!" It would be easier to fight the ghost when he wasn't focusing properly. Sammy stared at him and just shook his head. "Not a very clever way to respond. Now, shall we finish this off?" he asked with a bow.

The ghost crab bowed back as he gritted his teeth, "I, William Anderson Castle, will accept this duel."

Sammy opened his mouth and paused for a long time. Sammy stuttered... "I, I, I, can't." The crowd gasped with their hands glued to their mouth. "I am Sammy Jones Skuller,"

Sammy said quickly. The ghost crab looked at Sammy. Tears started to form into Sammy's and the ghost crab's eyes.

Sammy and William walked in circles staring into each other's eyes.

"I should have known Sammy. I'm sorry. After I became a ghost, I couldn't remember anything about my past life. I remember everything now."

Sammy dropped his head down. Sammy and William were friends since their dads met in royal court. Sammy was an outcast to everyone back then, even his parents, but William was the only one that stood by Sammy. William was like a big brother to him until the day he disappeared.

Sammy sat on a giant rock. William sat on another rock next to him. They both sat quietly until Sammy jerked up and asked, "Why did you leave me William? When I was a kid I was no one, but you inspired me to do things no one could, and now I'm king. You were there for everyone and then you were gone."

William sighed, "The truth is I was kidnapped by some bad crabs. If I didn't give up my rights as king, they would make me disappear. They beat me up, broke my shell, and I became a ghost. Their plans failed so you don't have to worry about them now. They're gone and now you're the king."

Sammy and William were crying as they tried to wipe all of their tears. Sammy looked at William; he drew his sword and stabbed the ground. They both laid their hands on the handle of the sword softly. Sammy bowed to William and put his head down, "I am sorry William for attacking you." William put his claw on Sammy's shoulder, and said, "I know who you are now. You had your rights to defend yourself as the king." Sammy smiled as he said, "I ask your permission. William, please do not think of me as a king when you see me. You were the rightful king, even if I am king now." William closed his eyes and nodded his head.

The waves in the ocean started to move rapidly in the deep. It was like a tornado in the sea. William was raised higher into the water. A big hole swirled around William's head. Ghosts were pulling William into the hole. "Now that everyone knows, I can finally move on Sammy. I must go," William shouted. The hole closed with a huge wave of air, pushing Sammy and the other sea creatures far away from where they were standing. Sammy made the two rocks a memorial so that years later other sea creatures could learn the history of their ancestors. But maybe the ones that became "old folks" from Sammy's time could live long enough to tell the story.

Navya is a talented writer whose writing gets better every day.

An Adventure

By Zaal Belihomji

“Sam let’s have an adventure,” Tim whispered.

Tim always likes to go on adventures. Sam would hate to go on adventures a lot, but since Tim is the younger one, Sam needs to stick with Tim’s plans. Sam woke up from his sleep and got his book. Tim and Sam got out of the house and went outside. Sam is 15 years old and Tim is 6 years old. Tim saw trees and a cave. Sam did not want to do this. Instead he would watch TV. Once the two brothers went in the cave, they saw two trees covering an unknown world. They opened the trees up. They saw a big surprise?

They saw a Jurassic world. Their faces were surprised. They saw some dinosaurs and tons of reptiles. Tim ran all the way to the trees that looked so rare. Sam looked at the dinosaurs running across the fields. Sam and Tim heard some footsteps that were really loud. When they looked back, it was a huge T Rex! They ran as fast as they could to get away from the T Rex. But the T Rex took such long steps and when the T Rex took long steps, the ground was shaking.

Sam and Tim were about to fall down since the T Rex took

such long strides. They found a cave that had some food.

They went in the cave. When they went in the cave they saw some person making a shelter.

“Who are you?” Sam said.

“My name is Max and I have been here for 3 years,” Max said.

“You have a nice house for living in a place that is filled with a bunch of dinosaurs,” Tim said.

It was getting late at night. Max, Tim and Same heard a roar. Max, Tim and Sam saw the T Rex. The T Rex smashed their home.

Max said to run so the two brothers ran out of the house.

Tim saw the cave where they got into the world. Sam and Max saw the cave too and they ran as fast as they could to the cave. Max, Tim and Sam made it. The two brothers first said bye to Max. They traveled back to their own home and when they got back, they went back into their own house.

When the two brothers walked in, they saw their mom looking happy. The two brothers promised that they would not tell the adventure to their mom. They always would keep a promise to themselves.

The Ship Falls in the Sea

An art collaboration between Ellison Murray, 6, and Kirstie Diongzon (summer 2012 illustration intern).



Ellison is in 1st grade and he loves artwork.

Story and coloring by Ellison Edwards Murray. Sketch by Kirstie Diongzon.

The ship is in the sea. One day the ship fell down in the sea and then the new ship came. Then everyone climbed in the new ship. Everybody got to the place they wanted to go.

Futuristic Tale

By Himaja Reddy

The day was full of artificial light. It was 9 a.m. Right now and Jillian was doing what she would do every day at 9 a.m.. She was sitting on her secret tire swing in her bedroom and thinking - thinking about how the world had changed from the time she was in 6th grade and who knows how old she was now. Of course that didn't matter because nowadays everyone she knew didn't care how old they were because all of them knew that they were going to live forever. Jillian wished that it would return to normal again, and normal was not the typical normal that the children during that century would think of as normal . . .

She meant 2012, normal.

She remembered that day very clearly. It was a Tuesday. She and her friends were getting ready to run into gym class.

"Let's go! We do not want to be late for the 3rd time in a row," Nayana yelled from across the cafeteria.

"Coming," Jillian replied and scurried across the wall of trash cans to end up bumping into Nayana.

"Oof," Jillian groaned, as she struggled to get herself back on her feet and get everything she had dropped on the floor.

"Let's go Nayana," Jillian whispered as she walked towards the door.

"Nayana?" Jillian called again, but a little louder this time, thinking she that had not heard her, still no answer.

"Nayana," Jillian yelled as she turned around and started to look for her, panic rushed into her body and never left. Jillian searched everywhere possible, up down to the side and around, but all that she found was the bracelet that she had given her for her birthday, just yesterday, in the corner of the room. That day she had ended up absent for the entire gym class, but it was worth it because it was for somebody much more than a friend.

Jillian did not know how the rest of the day went because she couldn't concentrate on anything but to where Nayana had disappeared. Jillian thought and thought about where Nayana was, but it seemed as if she had disappeared into thin air, which did not seem possible - at least back then it didn't. Weeks and weeks had zoomed by, but still no sign of where she was until...

It was a very dark and rainy day. Jillian was running to school because she had missed the bus and she did not want to disturb her mother's work just because she was too lazy to get up this morning when the alarm rang. Suddenly, a huge neon green circle opened up in front of her. She tried to get beyond that point, but it was as if her only choice was

to go into whatever thing this was. When Jillian turned around and started to run to the opposite side, after a few yards, she crashed into this invisible shield that did not let her go back. Then she tried the other two sides, but it was the same problem. She had one thought. Is this the place that Nayana had disappeared to? If yes, was she really going to give up her future for someone who

she met in 2nd grade? After a lot of contemplating, the final answer was YES - she was going to give up anything and everything for someone she met in her 2nd grade class because she was much more than a person that she had known since 2nd grade. After a few deep breaths, she was ready to do something that would change her life forever, even though she had no idea what she would be doing.

The Portal seemed to be some kind of magnet because once Jillian got really close to it, it sucked her right into it. It didn't take long till she got spit out. Outside the Portal everything looked exactly alike, except for one thing, everything was different, but her! The models of the houses and the houses itself were different. That was not all that was different; there was no sun. It just seemed as if it was a robot was shining. This could not be the past because there was no way there were robots and houses that could be themselves in the past. Could this really be the future?

Jillian couldn't remember what time it was, but she knew it had been a long time since she had entered into this new world because now there was no robot in the sky that was shining, but there was a robot looking creature that looked like the moon. Why is everything in robot form, Jillian thought as she roamed the roads? All she could do now is find out if this was where Nayana had disappeared to. Suddenly, a cold metal arm took hold of her and dragged her to this warm, cozy looking house. That's when the mystery really begins.

"Good Evening Jillian," A oddly, familiar voice



Himaja has brilliant ideas about the future.

Futuristic con't on page 52

Futuristic con't from page 51

echoed through her mind as this person spoke. I am your great-great-great-great-great-great future mother. I am the one with custody of you and so here is your home now and forever. The thought of WOW spun into her mind the second Jillian opened her eyes. The house looked like it had been made by a king and a 100 more kings combined!

"Do you like your new home?" Jillian's great-great-great-great-great-great future mother asked.

"Can I call you something other than great-great-great-great-great-great future mother?" Jillian asked, wanting to change the topic because she had a feeling her appearance in this world had something to do with Nayana disappearing.

"Fine you can, but just beware. Never talk to your mother again!"

"So now you're Mom?" Jillian rudely interrupted.

"YES! What do you not understand," mother sighed as she blew out her sigh of disappointment.

"By the way, are you missing anything or SOMEONE?" Mom said with a little smirk on her face.

"Actually Yes! I do not know where a friend is," she replied, a little suspiciously because no one had ever asked her such question before.

"Nayana, is that her name?" mother asked, as if she already knew the answer.

"Yes it is. How do you know her? Where is she? Do you know how I can I see her? I need to see her RIGHT NOW," The words blurted out of Jillian's mouth.

"Wait! I know where she is, but you may not. She is here, but you can't see her yet because she is still getting ready for her ceremony," Mother said with pride.

"Wait! Ceremony? Why is she getting ready? Is she ok? What have you done with her? Is she ok?" These questions were almost impossible to stop and kept on going and going until...

You will see and then the mother disappeared and the robots entered into the room. Who knows what would have happened next.

Jillian seemed to have awakened from a painful nightmare. She expected to be back to normal when she opened eyes. When she opened her eyes, it was far worse than just a nightmare. Nayana was on a stage that Jillian had not seemed to have noticed before; she was smiling and all glimmered up.

"Please welcome our new queen NAYANA," the announcer's voice echoed into her brain, but the words did not seem to go tighter and make sense until a few minutes later when she noticed a replica of Nayana sneaking down the stairs and Jillian knew exactly what was going on. Now it was not only Nayana's job to save her. Everything was going well until Jillian started to run and accidentally bumped into MOTHER!

Jillian still to this day did not know very clearly what happened next, but right now Jillian and Nayana are living very happily in a little building next to a sign that was labeled Jail.

When I was a Gingerbread Cookie

By Mitalee

One freezing, sunny morning, I found my bed in the North Pole. When I got out of my bed, my feet were freezing like ice. I walked, with my bare feet, up a gumdrop hill on a marshmallow path. I came to a castle made out of candy canes. I could smell the smell of gingerbread cookies baking in an oven. I went and knocked on the door. I noticed my hand – I was a gingerbread cookie! Then an elf let me in and he led me in to Mrs. Clause. She took me and put me on a chopping board! She cut the straight part of the candy cane and put the curly part on me as my smile. She took some gum drops and used them as my eyes and my buttons. She used one marshmallow as my nose. Then she used some frosting as extra decorations. She put me in the oven to cook. It felt like I was touching hot lava and not getting burnt. Then she took me out of the

oven and put me on a special plate with Rudolph on it. She took the plate to Santa. He took one bite and then gobbled me up. Finally, I woke up.

"Fffeeeuuff!" I said, waking up from my bad dream! Wiping sweat off my forehead, I just went back to sleep because it was midnight and the moon was shining bright.

Mitalee is a bright student with a great gingerbread story to tell!



End of the world

By Tanvi

It is the end of the world

“It is the end of the world,” I groaned desperately. It was a phrase that I kept repeating over that last few minutes. This was the same town I had lived in for six, whole years. It seemed different. I gazed out of my window and observed the thin blanket of frost covering the ground. A small shiver went up my spine. I took a deep breath in and blew it out on the icy, cold window. A small cloud of fog appeared on the window. I quickly drew a picture in it. It was a picture of the world exploding into pieces. I put my head back on the bus seat, satisfied with my work.

I fought with myself over the urge to fake a sickness and go home. I knew it was not possible and not an option. I had to give a social studies presentation in school today. I had spent months preparing and I was a “nerd” on Greek mythology. I was a nervous wreck.

The bus came to a stop and I reluctantly flung my backpack over my shoulders. I stepped outside my bus and inhaled. I shuddered. The air had an astringent flavor to it and the clouds looked malicious. Usually the sun is peeking out at this time, playing hide and seek with the clouds, but now the sky was achromatic, like it was a parallel dimension.

I readjusted the position of my backpack and started walking. With each step, my feet felt heavier and looked like they were getting bigger. I rubbed my eyes and thought, I am just imagining. My feet stopped abruptly and I stood there like I was expecting something to happen. “Wake up, sleepy head,” Neha, my best friend, teased and gave me a push. I stumbled forward, startled. She swaggered next to me with her unforgettable lopsided grin, while her dark, black pigtails bounced up and down. I frowned at my best friend’s attempt to cheer me up.

“It’s not gonna’ work,” I sighed, “I am just too stupid and brainless. It is the end of the world. I am gonna’ die.”

“Hey, we all already know that,” she chuckles giving me a push, “let’s see... you’re going to explode with embarrassment or aliens are going to come and kidnap you. I pushed her back as a small smile crept onto my lips. Her innate ability to talk always made me smile.

“See, we are making progress; you’re smiling,” she added. I gave her another hard push.

She stumbled backward. “Hey, oh my god! Sorry,” I sputtered as I put my hand out to pull her up.

“Tricked ya,” she said, smirking, jumping back up. I groaned and started walking, aware that she was only two steps behind me.

She held onto my backpack and walked right beside me until we reached the school building. I felt her grip tighten on my backpack. She turned me around.

“Nothing is going to happen. It is just a speech. It is not the

end of the world,” she soothed. “Besides, everyone knows you will do worse than me so what is there to worry about?” she continued joking. I rolled my eyes and walked the opposite direction. It is nothing new. I have given presentations since kindergarten, I thought, except this time I have to present in front of 100 people. I bit my lip and told myself to keep walking. I stepped into the building, dramatically, like it was the last step I was ever going to take. I immediately regretted doing that. If I was going to remember anything the hallways would not be on my list.

Everything was normal here, as normal as it gets in middle school.

As I walked, the strong aroma of perfume filled my nose. Blech, I thought, disgusted by the fact people wear so much perfume. I continued walking, dodging the chewed on pencils scattered on the floor, rotten food unwillingly tossed, and the atrocious 7th and 8th graders fooling around.

I finally reached my locker. I blankly turned the number dial on my locker. 23, 72, 6 I chanted in my head. It clicked and my locker opened. I stuffed my backpack inside and slammed it shut. The bells pealed through the clatter and the children shuffled back to class. I walked to the classroom, where the presentations would take place, with someone I hardly knew. They kept blabbing in my ear monotonously and making constant remarks about how boring the presentations would be. My stomach did a gymnastics routine. Boring? Oh god, I hope no one thinks I am boring, I thought nervously. We took our seats quietly in the classroom and waited until the first speaker came on stage. She was short with frizzy, yellow tangled curls tied into a side ponytail. Her scarf dangled at her side as she strolled casually to the front of the room. She came up to the stage confidently and spoke fluently. Oh, she so good I thought. I am going to look like a fool. A few more people went, but I hardly paid any attention. I was too busy frantically reviewing my notecards. The seconds passed by as if they were molasses.

Finally, my name was called. I was the last one. My flabbergasted expression must have looked ridiculous because a few students giggled. I shuffled up to the front of the room. A cold sweat slithered down my forehead. I bit my lower lip with my teeth as my toes did the tango, fighting uncontrollably. How did I get here? Why do I have to do this? I thought. I tried to



Tanvi is a great storyteller with fantastic language up her sleeves.

World *con't* on page 54

The Day It Happened

By Ria Limbachia

One day, at dance class, my dance teacher told us we needed to rehearse for the dance competition. I was so excited at the dance rehearsal because I could not wait for the dance competition. While we were rehearsing, I slipped and fell. When I fell, I got hurt and needed to go to the hospital.

My mom said, "We are going to CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)." Now I was freaking out because I was so scared. Even though my mom told me that I was going to be fine, I freaked out even more. I asked the doctor, "Will I be okay?"

She said, "Of course you will be ok."

Then the doctor told me the worst thing I heard in my life. They told me I needed to get SURGERY!

I was very scared and I did not know what was going to happen during the surgery. My mom tried to calm me down, but she couldn't, so she took me home.

The next morning I told my dance teacher that I was getting surgery. When I was done telling my teacher, she told my dance group. When my mom came to pick me up, she told me I needed to get my surgery that day. My dance teacher wished me good luck before I left. She hoped I would be okay. When we were driving to CHOP I was asking myself, "Will I be okay? Would my friends laugh at me? Would I be able to dance again?" I love to dance and I always wanted to become a dancer.

World con't from page 53

stroll up to the stage confidently, but instead I looked like I was spazzing out. I shuffled my index cards and one of them dropped. Someone laughed. I bent down in a crane-like way to pick it up. A small tear ran down my cheek. My thick eyebrows furrowed and my mouth pulled into an unconfident line. I rose shakily to my feet as my heart pounded furiously against my chest. Fighting back tears, I plastered an embarrassed sort of smile on my face.

I focused my eyes on Neha in the audience. She was smiling with big thumbs up. I can do this, I chanted. I took a deep breath and started. "Greece. What a wonderful place, even in the ancient times. Poseidon, Athena..." I started imitating the certain gods. Several people laughed. My cheeks turned a bright shade of pink. I continued, speaking eloquently. The words flowed out of my mouth like a river - awing the audience. The audience was respectful and interacted enthusiastically.

"That's why Greece is such an amazing place, not only in modern day, but even in ancient times," I concluded. Relief swept over me and I was swelling with pride. My anxiety and bubbles of excitement were rising as if they were a foamy

We got in the car to go to the hospital. The one hour ride in the car seemed very scary and long.

When I got to the hospital, the doctor told me I needed to change into hospital pajamas. After I changed my clothes, they put me in a room. The doctor gave me "giggle juice". Giggle juice is a medicine to calm me down so I would not be afraid. The giggle juice tasted horrible. It tasted like metal. I started to feel sleepy and then I do not remember what happened next.

I started to wake up and I was having chills. My mom was next to me and she asked me, "How are you feeling?"

I replied, "I guess I am feeling fine. When am I having the surgery?" My mom said, "Honey you already had surgery when you were sleeping." I was shocked and confused and did not know what was going on. My mom then explained to me that the giggle juice had put me to sleep and that I had anesthesia. The surgery was then performed while I was asleep and I did not feel any pain because of the medicine. I was excited that the surgery was finally over. My mom and the doctor told me that I will recover completely and that I will be able to dance again. I learned that having surgery is not so bad after all.



Ria is becoming a fantastic writer.

bubble bath left on too long. I tiptoed back to my seat quietly. Mrs. Ruina, my language teacher, stood up. Her unzipped jacket bunching up at her sides and her long, curly hair slithering behind her.

"This concludes our presentations, thank you," Ms. Ruina concluded.

I stood up in relief and walked around looking for Neha as a crowd gathered to give me compliments. I received many accolades, but I had to go find Neha. I struggled to get through a maelstrom of well-wishers when I finally spotted a familiar face running toward me with a green, bright shirt and pigtails, to give me a hug.

"Oh my god, good job!" Neha squealed. Then she straightened out her shirt and said in a sophisticated voice, "But I was much better." We laughed and we strolled back to our classrooms together. I smiled as she incessantly talked on the way to my classroom.

She dropped me off in my classroom and I sat down leisurely at my desk. I gazed outside the window at the perfect December snow and sighed.

"Maybe it's not the end of the world," I thought to myself.

Popular Plaza Museum

By Aarushi Srivastava

March 16, 1998

It was the 21st century and the world was changing day to day. Located near the Aztec Sea was a small island named "Aztecopolis." Aztecopolis was the richest and most prosperous island on the Earth. In Aztecopolis, there were tons of billionaires and their lives were filled with luxury. The co-founders of the company, Apple, Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Joseph, also lived there.

March 17, 1998

The day was done and it was a stormy night in Aztecopolis. Almost every single citizen of Aztecopolis was sleep. At the end of today, Mr. Joseph and Mr. Jeffrey sold twelve iPhone 5's and thirty iPads. In the suburbs of Lake Higer, there was a museum called "Popular Plaza Museum." After doing a lot of research, many officials and reporters consider this museum to currently be the richest museum on Earth. From precious stones, jewelry, and other ethnic things, this museum was filled with many amazing things. In history, this museum was never robbed, but one day something surprising happened.

May 18, 1998

"Ding-dong!" The grand cathedral bell rang as the heavy 8:00 P.M. traffic worsened minute by minute. On the other side of town, a black SUV careened the museum area twice. Suddenly it came in great speed and parked in front of the museums. Five healthy men wearing Hollister sweat-shirts came out of the SUV. It felt a juggernaut group of men. Mr. Thompson, one of the guards, cocked an eyebrow to the guards to get their weapons ready and positions. "Why are you guys here?" Questioned one guard, as he zipped his Nautica jacket. No one spoke, but Mother Nature made it drizzle and soon the rain got worse. Mr. Thompson, a coy guard, literally fell to the ground as his eyes saw one person sitting in the SUV and polishing his shiny, golden sword. He fell to the ground, while others laughed as the winds took off in great speed. "Quiet and everyone stop this buffoonery. Why are you men here? Do you want to meet with Professor Jamal?" Mr. Baker, short for Mr. Aker, asked as he pointed his finger at them. Just minutes later, a big, monstrous sound occurred in the rear distance. Mr. Aker directed Mr. Thompson to tie up all the men with the ropes and keep an eye on them as he went to investigate what happened. All the five men gave a mysterious smile. The sky was getting covered in black ashes as the wind breathed heavily. Taking a step closer to the museum, Mr. Aker's heart broke. The Zetecs (always were heinous to us had destroyed our lock. Thus, those five men were part of that group, which had kindled a fire that burned and opened our golden lock. The thieves stole a precious

stone that had the value of \$12,000!

"We are doomed!" Mr. Aker sighed as he put his hand on his head.

"How could the Zetecs come and steal our stuff?" He screamed and yelled. Meanwhile, the Zetecs drove away. Before anything could worsen, including Mother Nature, all the guards decided that they would go to a local diner to discuss the aftermath of the attack done by the Zetecs. This diner only opened in the night.

"Mr. Aker, I know how you feel. I really don't care if Professor Jamal fires us. I really don't like this job." One guard said as he sipped his coffee. They all discussed and planned what to say to Professor Jamal. "Professor Jamal treated us like his parents and really trusted us." Mr. Thompson said as he finished paying the check. At the end, they took a subway to return home. They all felt sad and blue and couldn't sleep that stormy night.

May 19, 1998

It was a very scorching hot morning in Aztecopolis and today all the guards were going to meet Professor Jamal at the town square. Walking with Mr. Aker were a few other guards.

"Hello Professor Jamal! Good morning," They all said in sadly.

"Please, please...take a seat! I heard about what happened last night and I want you to know it was on TV. When I heard this news, I fell to death. I was sad and could not do anything this morning." Professor Jamal explained as cleared his throat.

"To add on to what you were saying Professor Jamal, we all felt really bad and literally are heartbroken," Mr. Thompson conveyed to Professor Jamal.

"I have made a very bold decision that is we are not going to go to Zetecs and steal the precious stone from them. It will be really silly. I know it is a major loss of \$ 12,000, but we should not be like babies and fight for small things. We will cover the loss!" Professor Jamal announced as he dismissed the meeting.

Epilogue

To this day, Zetecs and Aztecopolis became enemies and they never helped each other. Thus, in the late 1999's there was a war between these countries and Aztecopolis won! These countries never became friends again, but even today Popular Plaza Museum is still the richest museum on the Earth with better security.



Aarushi is a hardworking writer who is getting better each day.

Writing Rock Stars!

Winter 2013

