

# City Kidz World

Volume 6: Issue 20 Spring/Summer Issue

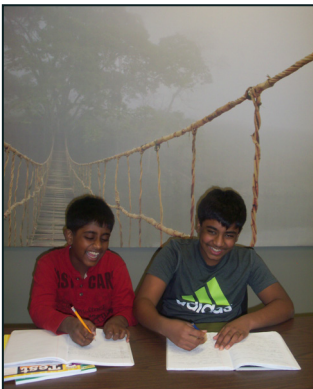
## Read Laya's Cautionary Tale!

Inside  
Games  
Stories  
Poems  
Art  
Work

New  
Writing  
Contests Inside

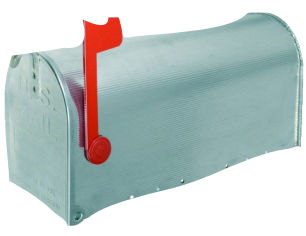


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<b>Ani and Raghuram Jasti are brothers who have participated in City Kidz World magazine for several years.</b>	
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Submit stories , pictures and material to City Kidz World magazine @ editor@citykidzworld.com.



**Dear Readers,**  
 City Kidz World magazine wishes to engage the youth community in a creative experience. I hope that you will read this magazine and be encouraged to pick up a pen and write a story or draw a picture. Enjoy this reading experience.

**Thank you,**  
**The Editor, City Kidz World magazine**

**Publisher:** E2Services  
**CFO:** Dean Murray  
**Editor-in-chief :** Melissa Edwards  
**Assistant Editor:** Daniel Dominguez  
**Copy Editor:** Amri Clowers  
**Photographer:** Martin Alonso

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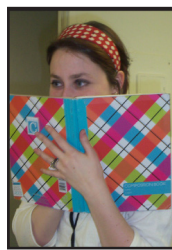
# The Best Writing Coaches in New Jersey

Site Director  
Math and English Teacher



Daniel Dominguez is a veteran CKW teacher. He can persuade even the most reluctant writers to get their thoughts out. He has a degree in English. Daniel is also the Site Director for CKW.

Administrative and Technology manager  
Language Arts/All Levels



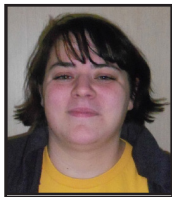
Julia Kravchin is a gifted teacher who is patient, intelligent, and always ready to help! She has multiple talents with an education from Rutgers that includes literature and art. She also has experience in teaching ESL.

Senior Teacher/Language Arts/All Levels



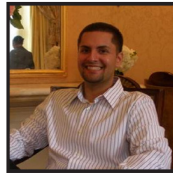
Laurel White is a fantastic teacher with several years of experience. She encourages children to be creative, while helping them master spelling, punctuation and vocabulary. Laurel teaches in homes and in the studio. She loves teaching our youngest students.

Math and English Teacher



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. She is great at teaching math and English.

Language Arts/All Levels



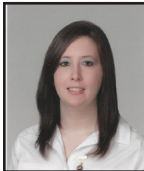
Rafael Manzaneres is a brilliant academician with fantastic ideas. He is an expert at teaching critical thinking. He is working on his master's degree in education.

Language Arts Teacher



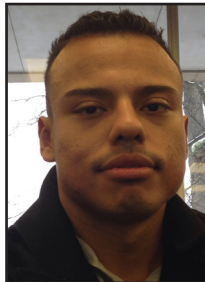
Roman Alexander holds two bachelors' degrees from Rutgers University, one in history and the second in criminal justice, as well as a master's degree in history from the University of Oregon. Historical writing and research are passions and he aspires to one-day work in academia.

Language Arts Teacher



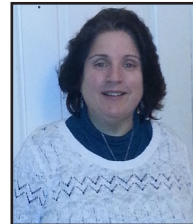
Regina is a two time graduate of The College of New Jersey with a Bachelor of Arts in English Secondary Education and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her past teaching experiences have been on both the middle school and high school levels.

Language Arts/All Levels



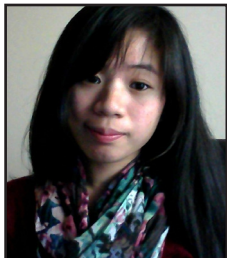
Martin Alonso is a distinguished teacher who finds creative ways to engage his students. He is an honors student at a local college, studying for his degree in English, and writing. He is also a skilled photographer and videographer.

Language Arts/All Levels



Lois Mandell is a teacher at City Kidz World Writing Studio, a home instructor, and a student in the Teacher of Students with Disabilities graduate program at Rider University. Currently teaching for nine years, she loves watching her students grasp a new idea and excel in their learning.

Math/Science/Language Arts -All Levels



Krizia Dominguez specializes in math and science. She is currently studying Biology at Rutgers University and hopes to study veterinary medicine in the future. In her free time, she enjoys playing the piano and walking her miniature Schnauzer, Stella.

Special Thanks to Former CKW



writing teacher: Shannon Davis. Thank you for encouraging your students in London to submit work.

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**AWESOME INTERN** - language arts/illustration



**Andrew Wang**

Andrew is a South Brunswick High School alumnus and is currently studying Psychology at Rutgers University. He contributed a few of the illustrations presented in the magazine. Andrew is a self-taught artist and draws much of his style from Japanese animation.

Career Opportunities: City Kidz World hires teachers and interns to help us do our wonderful work. Contact [info@citykidzworld.com](mailto:info@citykidzworld.com) for more information.

# Words from the Founder and Editor-in-Chief

## The Reason we Do It...

Why create the Writing Studio and the City Kidz World literary magazine in 2008? When I first decided to develop a literary program for children and shared the idea with like-minded individuals, they said, "That is a wonderful idea...but, how can you make money from something like that? You are providing a free magazine and you are charging reasonable prices for helping children develop a comprehensive language arts foundation...and you don't seem to be putting your name on it or trying to promote yourself..." However, no matter how impractical, this mission of building a creative writing community for writing and language arts, which includes publishing children's stories, remains my passion. I love providing this service to the community!

Five years after starting the Writing Studio and the City Kidz World magazine, the Writing Studio students number in the hundreds and we have published and distributed 19 literary magazines. We distribute the magazine to all of the classrooms of participating children and all of the local libraries and family centers. We have a growing staff of writing coaches and we are building relationships with educators across the state and the country. We provide opportunities for interns and we conduct assemblies and short writing lessons in schools across the state. We also conduct talks for parent groups and provide advice about how students may become better writers - starting at home.

## For the Glory!

I once read a book in which the main character identified three key reasons why any person does anything. Those reasons are either for power, for money or merely for the glory. My role in City Kidz World, as the founder and head writing coach has been quite low key and sans compensation for several years, therefore I am not gaining personal power or enriching myself. The money that comes into City Kidz World is used to compensate the best language arts enrichments coaches in New Jersey, improve the studio, and publish a great full-color literary magazine by and for children. The only reward left is glory. Indeed, it is glorious to work with children on their reading and writing during the most formative reading and writing years of their lives. My personal reward as the founder and head of the Writing Studio and the magazine is to help children build a solid foundation and to give them a voice through their own magazine. As I now tell all of the writing coaches at City Kidz World before they teach their first lesson, "Here at City Kidz World, we do it for the Glory!"

I hope you enjoy our magazine. Every page represents the hard work and creativity of a young writer! We are so proud of all of them!

**-Dr. Melissa Edwards, Ed.D, Founder, City Kidz World literary magazine**

### Dr. Melissa Edwards, Ed.D



**Founder** - Dr. Melissa Edwards, Ed.D, founded City Kidz World magazine and Writing Studio in 2008 with the belief that sustained writing and feedback on writing produces the best outcome for students. She came up with this idea based on her research about emerging and developing writers and 20 years of teaching language arts and English at multiple levels: early childhood, adult, k-12, and higher education. Also, Dr. Edwards has discovered that students respond to both external and internal motivations when it comes to writing. Prompts that get students started, feedback on completed writing prompts, and the completion of the final draft, will help students improve as writers; Providing students with opportunities to be published, creates that extra push for writing students to work on honing their crafts! There are limited opportunities for children to see their polished and perfected writing in print in this digital age and so Dr. Edwards is committed to providing this printed literary forum for children, which can be found in libraries, schools, bookstores, and recreational facilities in New Jersey and in other states.

Dr. Edwards is a full-time English and journalism professor at a local community college and a facilitator for English and communications courses at a reputable online university. Dr. Edwards writes creatively and for professional purposes - publishing stories and articles in other publications when she is not teaching students of all ages for CKW. Melissa Edwards has a doctorate in education.

## Questions for the Editor

Dear Editor,  
I have many mistakes in my writing. I am not sure how to be a better writer. What should I do?

Signed,  
Too many mistakes to be a writer

Dear Too many,  
Many people make mistakes when they are becoming writers. One of the important steps in writing is proofreading. Develop a habit of proofreading all of your work, and you will be much happier with your writing. Good luck!

Signed,  
The Editor

Have something to ask the Editor?

Send in Questions for the Editor. We will help you with all of your writing questions and problems!

[editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)



# Art Work by Anni

## Reflection

By Anni Jasti

*Anni Jasti is a fine artist and writer! He has been in many issues of CKW.*



**Do you love art? Submit your artwork**  
@ [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com) (We accept work all year!)

# THE RAINBOW



By Divyashree Balaraman

*Illustrated by Divyashree Balaraman*

One fine morning, Isabela and I were walking to lakeshore store. Then I saw a rainbow in the sky. I felt very lucky to see it! I loved it. I was delighted to see the rainbow. The colors of the rainbow are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

See here, Isabela!

“A beautiful rainbow there!”

She was very happy and said, “I love it too!”

We went inside the store, played games and did crafts. Then we went home, had snack and played more games. After a nap in the afternoon, when we saw out of the window, the sun shines and the rainbow was not there! It was a fun day ...



*Divyashree is a brilliant kindergartener who has been working on her writing for months! It shows! She also believes in creating her own illustrations!*

Submit stories and pictures to  
City Kidz World magazine at  
[editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com).



# Small Stories

## Small Moment Contest Winner!

By Anjali Harish – Age 6

Anjali Harish

It was almost Valentine's Day. I wanted to take candy to school and give it out. We wanted to make brownie cupcakes, but we could not find the mix. So, we made regular cupcakes instead.

We put chocolate chips and heart chocolates on top. I also got to help with the icing. The day came and I gave all the cupcakes out. I gave one to my teacher and she said a cupcake monster came out and made her eat it.

I even gave one to the principal of my school. I got home and ate the last cupcake. It was yummy!



*This is a super cute moment!*

## The Little Alien

By Dhruv

Once upon a time there was an alien named Mornie Green. He was on a planet running very fast. The planet was called Morie. One day, a little alien got trapped and Mornie Green saved him.



*Dhruv is an inspired 4-year-old who decided to write a story.*

## Little Blue

By Shreya Veeravalli

My favorite toy is a penguin. Her name is Little Blue. She is white and black in color and she has green ear muffs and a green and pink scarf with green, white and red dots. She has an orange nose and orange feet. She is fluffy and soft; she is also very cute and pretty. When I sleep with her, I hug her so tight.

I got her on my 8th birthday. Her birthday is on January 4th. I had a big birthday party that day. After the birthday party, I got to open my presents and that's how I met Little Blue.



*I love this story. This is a great description.*

## Swimming

By Katya

Once upon a time there was a girl who loved to swim so the girl swam in summer and spring. Then it was winter and she couldn't go swimming. She wondered what she was going to do without being able to go swim. Then she got an idea. She remembered that sometimes she colored in the summer. She loved coloring when it was summer. Again she got an idea. Since she could not swim at all in the winter, when it was winter, she could color and when it was summer, she would go to swimming. She colored all day until it was night on that first winter day.

Then she went to bed and dreamed about fairies, princess and a lot of things for girls. She lived happily ever after.



*Katya has cool stories. We enjoy them. You will too!*

**Calling All 1st and 2nd graders!  
We want your small moment!  
Send in your great stories to**

[editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

# The Ants



By Palash Shah

A boy and a girl go on a picnic on a sunny day. They eat food and the boy gets sunburned. They look for the sunscreen. They saw ants carrying it. They look and look, but they could not find where the ants had taken the sunscreen. There were about 100,000 red ants! There was a range of ants. They could not find the sunscreen. They saw a hole. They got a branch, and reached inside the hole. There was a bunch of ants chewing it. The girl reached her hand into the hole and something started chewing it.

She said, "Owwwwww! There's something in there."

Then they dug with a shovel. They saw a range of ants, and then they both said, "Run!"

The ants attacked. The boy and girl stopped and stepped on the ants. They were dead. They stepped on the queen ant. They were not bothered by the ants again.



*Palash has written a great picnic story.*

# My Ticket to Florida!

By Saimanasa Kilaru

If I had a ticket, I would go to Florida. I would go to Florida because that was the place where I was born. One day, a little fairy named Rosa gave me a magic ticket. It could take me wherever I wanted to go. If I was going with someone, I would go with my mom and my dad. They would take care of me. If they couldn't come, I would be scared. If they could come, I wouldn't be scared. I would bring my dolls. I would also bring my toothpaste and toothbrush. I would bring my clothes. I would bring healthy snacks.

If I had a ticket I would go to Florida. I got the ticket from a fairy.

*Saimanasa put a lot of effort into this short story. Enjoy.*



# The Flower Garden

By Kavya

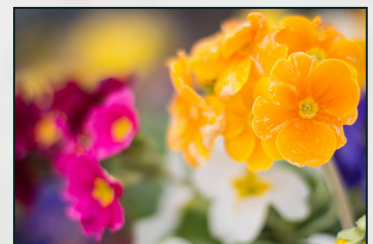
Once upon a time there was a flowery garden. The flowery garden was next to a house with someone living in it. The guy who lived in the house was named Jod. His real name was Haroo. He had a lost toy and whenever his favorite thing was lost, he cried until he found it. Haroo had a magic mirror. He stopped crying just when he remembered the magic mirror. But the mirror was the toy that was lost. Just then, he thought to deliver a telescope. When he got the telescope he looked in it and saw that a person took it away. It was his dad. He was a big thief. He was also big thief when he was six years old. Just then saw grandpa grab the mirror and break it. Because whenever he touched something he liked to break it, even when he was seven years old. Then Haroo went downstairs. When he got out of the house

his dad and his grandpa saw him and said sorry. Haroo said its ok because he had an idea. He went straight to his house and delivered another magic mirror. When he got his magic mirror, he was so happy that he jumped all around his house and lived happily ever after.



*Kavya is an up and coming writer. This is her first published story. She did a nice job.*

Photo By Martin Alonso





# Red Boy



Illustration by Andrew Wang

*Jayadeep is a hardworking 1st grader. This is a meaningful story! When he puts his mind to it he is a CREATIVE writer!*

By Jayadeep Mendi

Once upon a time there was a red boy. He liked his color. However, his dad said this color was bad. Even though the boy liked his color, he still went to the color shop because his dad did not like his color. The color shop made him green. When he came back, he went to sleep with his new green skin. When he woke up, he saw his red skin had already come back. He was happy to have a red skin.

**Lesson:**

You have to like your skin. Do not let other people changed your skin.

## Lesson Story Contest Alert!

**Write a story with a moral or a lesson!**

**Categories**

- Ages - 4 to 5
- Ages - 6 to 8
- Ages - 9 to 12
- Ages - 13 -17

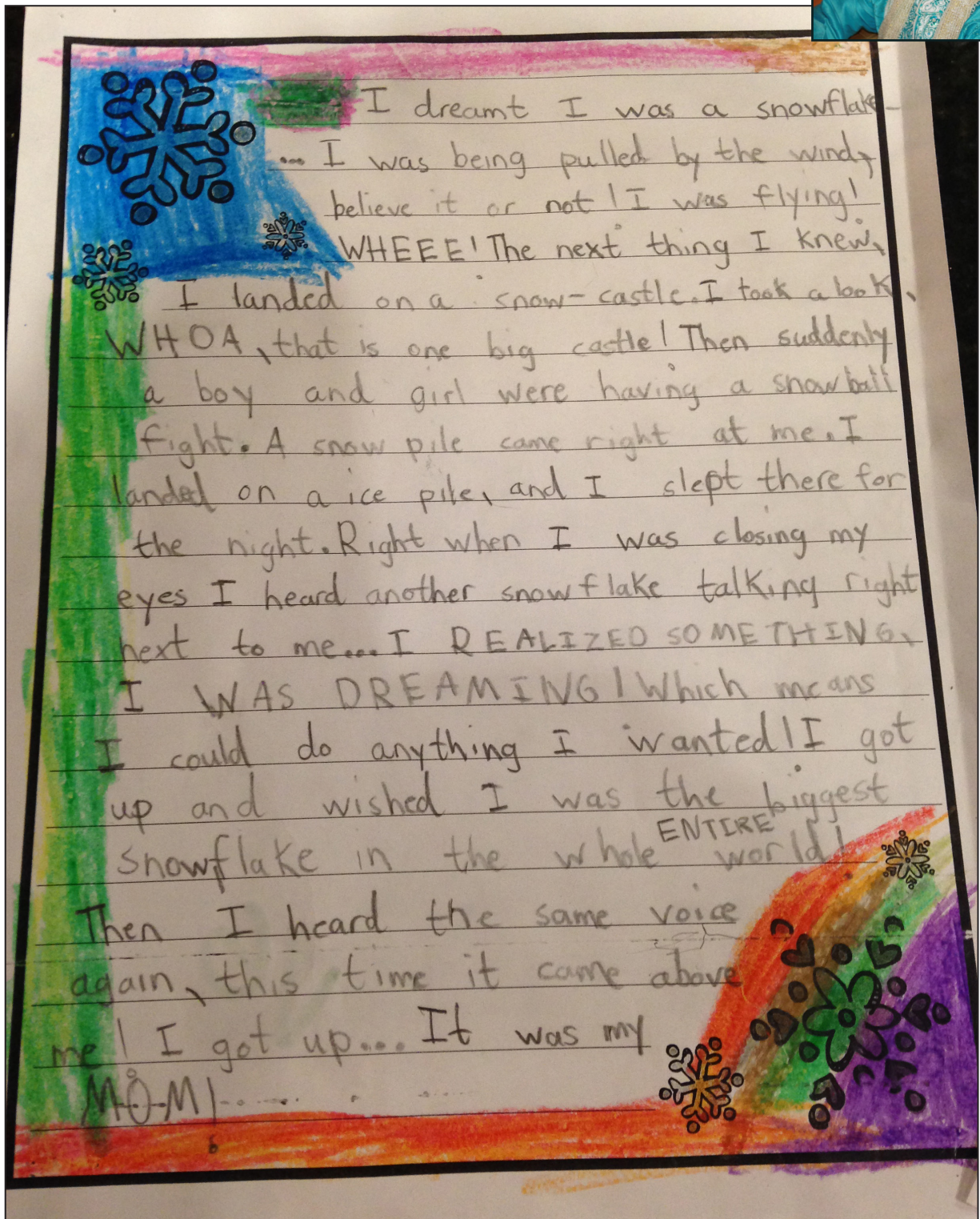
Send to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

**Deadline July 28, 2014**

# Snow Flake

By Arun

Arun created a great story by hand!



# Hayley and Aurora!

By Ankitha Radhakrishnan

One day, as Hayley was strolling in Arendale's biggest most beautiful park, she heard a voice calling her. It was kind of scary, so she ran straight home!

That night, she went back to the park and it was beautiful. It was Aurora! It was white, purple and some blue! You could see the stars behind it. There was a mountain in the distance named, "Where the Light Touches the Earth!"

Hayley saw the portal, which was a pond. It was a portal with white flowers around it for a wall.

She jumped inside and was instantly transported to the mountain. She heard the same voice call out to her earlier that day. It quietly but gently asked, "Now, fall off the mountain. Nothing will happen to you. I promise." Hayley trusted her and did as the Aurora said. When she fell, she noticed that the Aurora was actually somebody familiar. But who? Ever since her friend named Hannah disappeared mysteriously one day, she never trusted anymore. But she sounded like Hannah.

When she finally opened her eyes, she was standing on the aurora and part of it was shaped like... Hannah! The aurora explained that she was actually Hannah! "Hayley I am going to tell you what happened to me. One day I was walking in the park. The evil queen Norway cursed me because I took a rose by mistake and it broke. That's my story."

Hayley's mouth hung all the way down.

"You need to change me back into a person Hayley," Hannah said in a faded away voice.

"But...", Hayley said, but it was too late. Hannah was gone. She jumped back into the other portal, which was a

pond also except that it took her home instead.

Hayley was back at home. That night she went to sleep, thinking about what Hannah meant about turn me back in to human. The next day she headed to the park as usual. She thought about how she would reverse the curse. Then it hit her.

She would make a potion and give it to the queen when she picks a rose!

Hayley went back to the spot where she met Hannah. She broke a rose. Then whirlwinds and thunder started all around her. In a flash of light, the evil queen of Norway appeared before her.

"I, the queen of Norway, ask, why have you broken my beautiful rose?"

"I am so sorry, Queen, but would you like to try some of this delicious sherbet I made?" replied Hayley.

"Hmmm...it is tempting. I shall try it," said the queen.

Then, as quick as lightning, the queen turned into the aurora and Hannah turned back into a human!

"No what have you done to me?" shouted the queen. From that day on Hayley was crowned the new queen of Norway and Arendale.

She was also a hero because she stopped the evil queen from giving curses for picking the rose. The queen was also never heard from again!



*Ankitha has written a beautiful story. This is a nice read! Enjoy.*

*"We're in this to Make Writers!"*

Writing Classes Available All-year long

**City Kidz World Creative Writing Studio**

[www.citykidzworld.com](http://www.citykidzworld.com)

[info@citykidzworld.com](mailto:info@citykidzworld.com)

732-514-7373



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# Give A Chance

By Sneha Mulpuri

One hot, summer day Mike was eating ice cream. He ate strawberry ice cream. He said, "Yum yum."

His mom was waiting in the car for Mike to finish eating his ice cream. After he finished eating, he got into the car and put his seatbelt on. "Rrrrrrrr," the car sounded.

He was listening to the music, but his mom interrupted and said "Hey Mike, your teacher just sent me a text." Mike said, "Mom what did she send you?"



Photo By Martin Alonso

His mom read, "Dear Mrs. Ornard, your child has slightly derelict studies since the past two weeks." Mike was sweating and his eyes were contorted. They were popping out.

After reaching home, Mike's mom grounded Mike for four days. Mike was a bad student, his grades were F or C-. Mike begged his mom not to tell this to Mr. Ornard. But the answer was no. Mike could not do anything about it.

At 7:50 p.m. Mr. Ornard came! Mike smiled at him in an artificial way. Mrs. Ornard started to tell Mr. Ornard about Mike, but she felt pity on her son. So she did not do it. Mike calmed down.

"Ooof" he said. When his dad went to the basement to exercise, Mike said, "Thank you mom." His mom said you are welcome son.

Mike's mom said, listen son, I only did this for your own good and I hope you study well from now onwards. Mike promised that he would never get bad grades again. He never made the mistake again.

Mike learned that there are two things that are important: his family and his studies or job.



*Sneha worked hard the entire school year to learn to write a great story. This is fantastic. Enjoy.*

*"We're in this to Make Writers!"*

**Writing Classes Available All-year long**

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# Mystery

By Hithu Oleti

"Aaaaah," screamed Caroline when she woke up. Caroline had blonde hair with ocean-blue eyes. Cindy, her best friend, woke up with a start. Cindy had short, blonde hair with green eyes. Everyone in the plane, which was going to Hawaii from New York, stared at the two girls with strange looks on their faces, murmuring to one another. "Caroline what's wrong?"

Slowly, Caroline said, "Kr-risty is no-more!"

Kristy was another of Caroline and Cindy's friend.

"What is going on around here?" asked a man who had yellow hair, blue evil eyes, and a scruffy beard. His name was Bob.

"Skyhost Bob," said Caroline, reading of from his badge.

"Our friend has been done away with and we have no idea what to do!" Cindy cried, tears sprang on her cheeks. Caroline put a comforting hand on her friend.

Then a person rose up from his seat and went to the two girls.

"Hi girls, I'm Detective Larry," said the man. He had black neatly cropped hair with brown eyes and a curvy mustache.

"Girls, I will search for more clues."

"OK," said Cindy and Caroline. The girls waited patiently for Detective Larry to give them clues, but they couldn't just leave a deceased person on a seat because the it would have started to cause a smell. They had to do something. They tried to cover deceases with a blanket, but the plane still had a bad odor. They asked all the people in the plane to cover their nose when they passed Kristy. But they forgot to do it.

Finally, they asked all the sky hosts to spray air freshener, while Kristy was covered. And it worked! Detective Larry came with some good news. He found a sock saying 'Anderson'. The next day, when the girls woke up, they immediately went to Detective Larry. There he was making his list of suspects.

"Girls thank goodness you're up. I have a couple of suspects here," he said. The girls were paying close attention.

"The first suspect is Skyhost Bob."

The girls gasped, but then slightly agreed with Detective Larry. So he put a star next to his name.

"The next suspect can be anyone who has the initials B.A."

"But it could be anyone," Cindy cried.

"Yeah, we would have to shout out who has the initials B.A.," Caroline said in dismay.

Skyhost Bob was listening to their conversation. For some reason he turned pale and ran to his office.

"Detective Larry, I just saw Skyhost Bob with a pale face," said Caroline.

"Well that's another clue," said Detective Larry.

"We are sure it's him, but what if there is a team and he's part of it. Wouldn't it make it hard to see who really did away with Kristy?" asked Cindy with a confused look on her face.

"Yes, but on the plane, no one looks more evil than Bob. That's how we know it could be him. Now you girls sit back at your seats while I work," Detective Larry said. So the girls left.

Later that evening, Caroline's cell phone rang. It was her dad. So she answered.

"Hello," she asked.

"Hi sweetie, how is your flight?" Caroline could not tell her dad that Kristy had passed away or he would tell her parents.

"Just fine Daddy,"

"All right, I'll call you later, bye,"

"Bye," said Caroline quickly declining the call.

Then Caroline went to Detective Larry.

"Hey, Detective Larry. I found out how I can fool Skyhost Bob into telling us that he killed Kristy," and she quickly filled him in.

"That's a perfect idea Caroline. Good luck," said Detective Larry.

The next morning Skyhost Bob got a call.

"Unknown number," he read, but he answered it anyway.

"Hello," gruffed Skyhost Bob.

"Hey Bob, it's me - your dad. What's up?"

It really wasn't Bob's dad. It was Caroline pretending to be his dad.

"Oh nothing. What are you doing?"

"Nothing much. Hey listen did you do away with anyone I should know about?" Caroline asked.

"Yes, two nights back I did away with a young teen named Kristy," Skyhost Bob said with satisfaction.

"Caught!" thought Caroline.

"Congrats come out to the passenger part of the plane and I will give a special reward to you," said Caroline. Bob rushed out of his office to the passenger part of the plane. Instead of his dad holding a present, there stood Caroline, Cindy, and Detective Larry.



*Hithu really worked on this mystery. It is interesting. Enjoy!*

**Mystery** *con't on page 15*



# Parallel Universe

By Shaurya Srivastava

**M**y dad and mom have bought something called the Parylizar. My dad said it can take you to a parallel universe. I didn't believe it. The next night I woke up in the middle of it and took the Parylizar. I pressed this little button and then the world started spinning. After a few minutes I got back to my senses and walked. I went upstairs and saw my mom talking with this guy named Atuf and my dad was breast feeding my younger sister, Radhika. I was weirded out. I went back to sleep thinking I was still out of shape from the spin. The next day I woke up and went to school. My math teacher gave us our chapter 11 math test results. I took mine and got a B+. I walked home with a frown. I showed the test paper to my mom, and she was happy! she actually gave me a pat on the back. I went upstairs and I saw my other test grades, I usually used to get Cs, Ds and even one F. My sister was smart. She was actually crawling and said, " $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{3}{3} = 1$ " she was only eight months old!! Then came a thought to me. Mom is like dad, dad is like mom, Radhika is like me and I am like Radhika. The Parylizar

took me to a parallel universe! I was shocked. My mom left for work at Microsoft. I had to stay home because I wanted to. My dad started cleaning the house and he was going all over the place. One time he nearly vacuumed me! Then he fed Radhika. This time I hadn't spun around so this was real.

Then my dad called all my friends' mom's for a get together. They talked like crazy. Finally, the day had ended. I sat on this thing that felt hard. I turned around and saw what it was. It was the Parylizar. I had pressed the button and the world started spinning. I woke up with my senses back on the same place.

I asked my dad, "So what did you do today?"

My dad replied, "I went to the office."

I was happy and now my mom was breastfeeding my sister and I got an A+ on my test and my sister has no idea what  $\frac{1}{3}$  is so I guess I am back in my world!



*Shaurya is doing a fantastic job on his writing these days. This story is entertaining.*

## Homework Monster

By Om Thakkar

Once there was species of monster named Homework who terrorized people all over the galaxy. This species originated from the planet School and then found Earth with all its unsuspecting victims. They look like giant 20 foot grapes with legs. They are made of notebooks and they are covered with pencils. They take many forms. Sometimes they come in the form of Math and sometimes they come as English, but they are all equally terrible. There are many of them, but usually they only attack one at a time. They can come up very suddenly.

Their favorite types of victims are people between the ages 10 to 12 years old, but no one is truly safe until after they graduate college. It terrorizes them by yelling at them to do their homework.

Con and Om are one of many hunters who risk their lives to contain the beast. They once lost their best friend John to the beast. They want revenge.

If you want to contain the beast you need these things. One, you need a video game controller (best to use an Xbox controller) also you need to be under 5'7. You need to be this short because this monster is 20 feet tall. Under 5'8 is its blind spot. To tame the beast you need to sneak around the monster to the back left corner. Then you touch it with the controller. It will fall apart into just normal pencils and papers. But beware there will be many homework monsters left!

However, one of its greatest allies sometimes live in your very own homes. They are your moms.

*Submit stories and pictures to  
City Kidz World magazine at  
[editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)*



# Snowbound – A Very Special Christmas

By Aditi

It was Christmas Eve in 2010. I was expecting presents and hoping for my aunt, uncle and my cousin Neha to come over for the winter break. I rushed to the window to check the weather outside.

“Mom, I see flurries outside,” I shouted.

“Good thing your aunt’s flight is early. They will be home before the weather gets bad,” mom replied.

“Ding Dong,” rang the bell. It was my dad, along with my aunt, uncle and cousin. I got my cousin settled in my room while the parents brought the luggage in.

I showed my cousin around the house and helped her unpack her clothes and books. We both stacked the books on the bookshelf. We carefully stacked the clothes in the closet. We peeked out the window to see what was happening outside. Everything was covered with snow. The icicles looked like sharp pieces of glass. The wind blew very hard and we could hear “swish, swish”.

A few minutes later I asked my cousin if she wanted to bake Christmas cookies. She replied yes. We went to the kitchen and got the mix and all the other ingredients.

“Could I crack the egg?” she asked.

“No Neha. I’m not going to crack the egg even if I’m older than you.”

I called my aunt and my mom to come over and help us. They baked the cookies while my cousin and I played. After they were done baking and frosting the cookies, we licked the frosting.

“Yum,” we both said. After we finished eating the cookies, we decorated the tree.

“Girls - lunch time,” called my mom.

“Ugh,” we both said.

We skipped to the kitchen. Then we had a race – whoever skips the fastest gets to put up the first Christmas ornament. Of course I won. So I put up the first

ornament. After we were finished, we made Christmas cards with my aunt, even though we knew about Santa.

We started playing my favorite game – Wii sports. We played tennis. I won twice and she started crying, so I played the worst I could for her.

“Girls it is time for dinner,”

called my aunt. We went to the kitchen to eat dinner. By the time we were finished, the dads chose an Indian movie. By the time it was over it was 12:08 a.m.

“Go to sleep girls,” said the parents. Before I slept, I peeked outside the window and saw the snow. It was snowing heavily and my backyard was like a snow covered valley. I could not see even a single person outside. It was a very pretty sight to watch the snow come down heavily.

It was Christmas morning. We woke up the next day and went downstairs to see our presents. We were excited to see the presents and started unpacking them. We made a big mess with wrapping paper. My aunt said, “clean up girls.”

We went out and made a Snowman. We ran and fell on the snow to make a snow angel. The parents had a snowball fight. When we came back in we made New Year cards with my aunt. We also called our friends and family to wish them Merry Christmas.

Even though we were snow bound, we had fun in many ways. Spending time with my aunt, uncle and cousin made it the best Christmas. We had fun and I hope we get to do this again someday soon, with or without snow!



*Aditi has written a very special story for you. Enjoy!*

---

## Mystery con't from page 13

"Because she was so touchy. I got so annoyed I thought would put a stop to it, so I got rid of her,"

"But it doesn't mean that you can just get rid of her. She is nice sometimes too," said Caroline with a serious look on her face.

"Larry, you have known me for years, please don't call the cops on me!" begged Bob with a look that makes him a total baby.

"Sorry Bob, but I have to do it in the name of the law," said Detective Larry. Caroline started dialing 9-1-1 on her cell-phone.

"You will pay for this," shouted Skyhost Bob as he ran to hide somewhere.

"We can't thank you enough Detective Larry," said Cindy smiling her old smile. "Anytime girls," he said.

Caroline reached for her purse.

"You don't have to pay me for now," he said smiling. The plane landed and everyone got off. The girls tried to forget about Kristy', but they never forgot about Detective Larry. Never.

# Daniel's First Ice Hockey Goal

By Harveer Kamboj

"Tererrrr," went the alarm. It was 7:00 in the morning. Daniel had to get ready for his ice hockey game. Daniel went downstairs to eat his breakfast. When he was done with his breakfast, he went upstairs in a flash to get ready...

When he reached the hockey rink, his coach was telling some tips to his team.

His coach said to Daniel, "You are the best defense man on the team. Play your best because it is the championship game."

Daniel was ready for the tough game. The game started... Daniel's team was losing by one goal. Every time Daniel came with puck and tries to score, he failed.

He said to himself, "I will try to go forward with the puck, and try to score a goal for the final time."

The coach sends Daniel out on the rink.

He came up with the puck and dodged all the players except one. Daniel knew that he would not score, but he shot the puck with all his might.

"Tnnnnnnn..." From out of nowhere, the puck hit the post and it went in the goal.

It was Daniel's first goal. He jumped and raised his stick in the air. He was very surprised. Everybody on his team jumped and tumbled on Daniel...

Later on, Daniel was scoring many goals after many games. He became the captain on the team. His team won

gold medals every single championship game.

**Later...**

When he was in high school, he got invited to the NHL league. He was selected to be on the New Jersey Devils team.

Daniel never forgotten the first goal he scored.

The lesson he learned was if you put your mind in anything you are doing, anything is possible.



*Harveer is a serious writer. His stories are getting better every issue.*



Photo by Martin Alonso

Write a "Favorite Sport" Story!

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# A Day on the Farm

By Tanvi Samayam

One sunny day a rich farmer was feeding his beautiful horse hay. The horse's name was Cloud. It was a white Mustang. Then he went to feed his German shepherd, named Pointy. Next the rich farmer went to milk his strong cow named Blaze. But when



Photo By Martin Alonso

he tried to milk Blaze, nothing came out. He went to water the vegetable plants while he waited for Blaze to make some warm milk. Then he went to take a nap. After he had an hour of sleep, he went to check on the strong cow. He

tried again, but Blaze hadn't made any warm milk yet. Then he went away again and he took Pointy for a walk. He went walking for a half an hour and came back. He went to Blaze and tried again. But it had not worked. She had still not made milk. He went for a ride on his horse, Cloud. He went for an hour and then came back. Then he tried to milk Blaze again, but it didn't come out. He went to his big house and told his wife about it. His wife was a good vet. So she went outside to see what happened. She checked on the strong cow and she said that Blaze couldn't make milk anymore because she stopped eating the grass that was on the farm. So she told the rich farmer that he had to sell Blaze. The next sunny day he traded it for a cow that made sweet milk. The farmer named the new strong and brown cow Brownie.

*Tanvi is becoming a great writer. Read this fantastic story.*



## Sera, the Fish Bowl, and Six Flags

By Ellison Murray

Once upon a time there was a man. The man's name was Martin. Martin had a daughter. Martin's daughter's name was Sera.

Sera was a very nice girl. Sera combed her hair every day.

One day it was Christmas. Sera got a fish and a Six Flags ticket. So, just one day later, they went to Six Flags. They went on a ride where there were ducks that you needed to hit with tennis balls.

Martin said, "Sera when you win, you get a fishy bowl." Sera tried it two times and then the owner said one more turn.

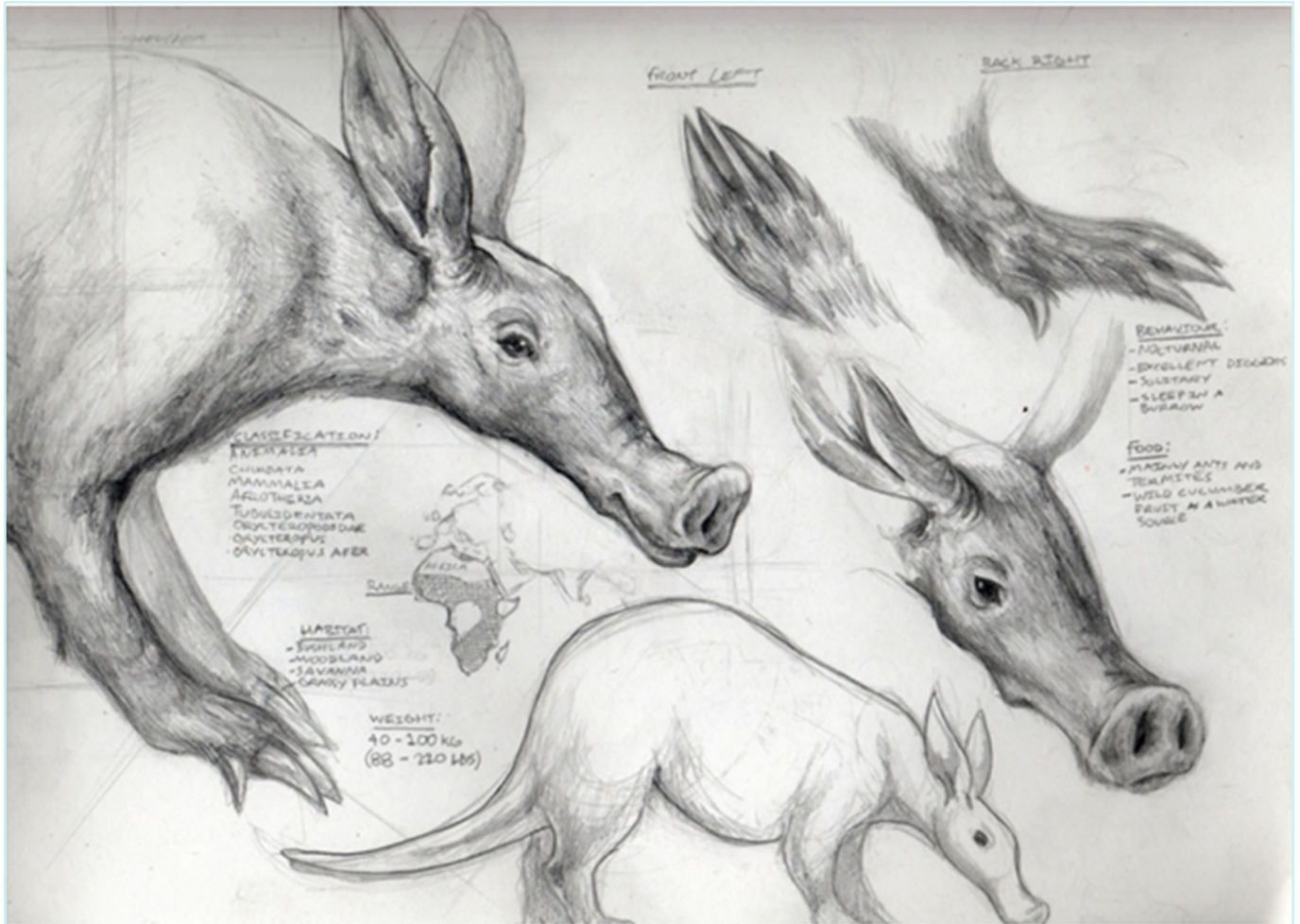


*Ellison loves to write about interesting topics. He has a fish and a fish bowl!*

The third time Sera hit the duck. Sera got the prize, which was a fishy bowl.

When Sera went home, she dumped the fish in the bowl.

# Aardvark



As I read through the dictionary, I came across the word “aardvark”. I became fascinated because of the word, and researched about it. The result of the research is this report. You will learn what aardvarks look like, what they eat, and where they live. Also, you will learn about how they protect themselves. Keep on reading to find interesting facts about aardvarks.

Aardvarks are nocturnal animals; they are awake at night and sleep during the day. The aardvark is also known as the “earth pig”! Aardvarks have long ears. They can hear everything. Aardvarks have a long, sticky tongue and they have bristles around the small mouth. Lastly, the aardvarks have four legs with strong, hoof-like claws. Aardvarks are about five to six feet long.

Do you know what aardvarks eat? Aardvarks like to eat ants and termites. They use their sharp spoon-shaped claws to break into the termite mound. Then send their long sticky tongue through the hole to get the termites. Aardvarks have their own diet.

Aardvarks live in one place. Do you know where? Aardvarks

live in Africa below the Sahara desert. They are found in open woodlands, scrubs, and grasslands. In these areas they dig burrows to hide in and dig long holes underground where they sleep. These burrows are 10-12 feet long.

Do you know the aardvarks’ enemies? Aardvarks have four enemies. They are often preyed upon by hyenas, leopards, lions, and pythons. The aardvark defends itself by using its long tail or its sharp claws to attack the predator. Aardvarks will always attempt to dig a burrow to get away.

The aardvark can eat up to 50,000 insects each night. These creatures are expert diggers. The aardvark swallows its food instead of chewing the food.

Aardvarks are unique animals, and are like pigs except they are earth pigs. I hope you learned as many facts about aardvarks as I did.



Jayashree has provided a great nonfiction essay.

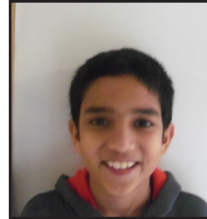
# In Every School there is a Door

By Aadesh

In every school there is a door with spirits and ghost and there's one man who is brave enough to enter it. His name is Aadesh Anand. He is an undercover spy working for the government. One day, Aadesh overheard his friends, Adhi and Niharr, talking about a door they wanted to enter. They said the door was grey and old and whenever you walk by it, it makes a sound like, "Ooh and Boo."

After school, Aadesh got a message from the government that said he had to go through a door in his school. There was no way to get through the door, so he had to get in the air vent located on the 86th floor. Aadesh got all the gear from the government in a snap. At night, Aadesh climbed to 86th floor and then . . . one of the gloves lost its power and Aadesh fell to

the 36th floor. Then Aadesh saw a self-launching grappling hook and reached to the air vent. Aadesh couldn't get in the air vent, so he ran, jumped and flipped and then got in. There was another air vent he had to get through, but before that, Aadesh saw a hole that would suck the ghosts back into the spirit world. Aadesh broke through the air vent and sucked the ghosts back into the spirit world. After a while, Aadesh got an award from the government. Aadesh won spy of the year. He lived happily ever after.



*Aadesh is a creative and has written a mystery for you to enjoy.*

## Things Couldn't Get Worst

By Jayant Bhasin

It was here, finally! It was as sweet as the treats that were just waiting to be given to me. Something every child in the world had been waiting for since last year. Have you guessed it?

Yes, it was HALLOWEEN! Just the thought of all that fun and candy made me curl up with joy.

I practically flew out of my bed and slipped into my costume. I had been working on it all year. It was really cool. I had been going as a zombie for the past 5 years, but today, I was "Jack the Ripper", the notorious criminal. I dipped my knife into my vat of fake blood, and splattered some on my face. I practiced my walk for the parade and tried out my growling voice. I decided I was going to say stuff like "Expect me when you least expect it," and "Make sure you lock your windows at midnight." during the parade. Ok, I wasn't going to threaten people like that, but you get the idea.

I quickly ate my cereal and sauntered over to school. (Do you think it takes some of the "cool" away from your costume if you wear a jacket over it?) At the front entrance of my school, stood my short, stout, and very annoying principal, Principal Prissy.

"Hey, kid what you are doing?" she said, looking very much like a bulldog about to pounce, which is ironic considering she owns fourteen cats.

"Walking," I retorted, "That isn't against school rules, is it?"

"Don't you try to act smart with me kid. I meant your costume. You know the one you're wearing right now. Didn't I send out a notice last week saying I passed a new rule? Your costume can not encourage violence. You cannot bring a weapon prop, nor can your costume stereotype. Now get out of it."

"What! I don't have anything to wear."

"Well, wear this," she said holding up a Barbie costume.

"I can't wear this. What about all of my street cred? Gone!"

"Would you rather not wear anything at all?"

"Fine," I moaned.

After that little bit of trouble with the principal, I was seriously hoping for a better party.

Walking into my classroom, obviously expectant for a good reason to celebrate, I walked down the room and sat at my desk.

For a few moments, everybody was staring at me. I noticed tears streaming down their cheeks and their faces turning red. They couldn't hold it. Everybody burst into laughter, including my teacher. At lunch nobody paid me any attention unless you counted people laughing at me and the popular kids bullying me.

"Just make it stop!" I moaned. Finally we settled in our seats and waited while our teacher put up the decorations for the party.

Finally, it started. First we played the games. I was hoping for prison ball, or at least silent ball. Instead, we played stupid five-year old games like pin the eye on the jack-o-lantern and Simon Says. By now, I was on the verge of crying. If this was all this bad, then the food had to be good. However, considering my luck, we would have rice krispies only, which was only slightly better than what we did eat. Do you think sautéed vegetables and 1 honey blob is a good Halloween meal? No?



*Jayant tells a fun and clever story. You will enjoy it!*

Things Couldn't get Worst *con't* on page 22

# Pragna's Lost Necklace!

By Lakshmi Kottapalli

There was a girl named Pragna. She was 11 and a half years old. As she grew bigger, her responsibilities also grew. The biggest responsibility she got from her mom was to take care of a necklace. At first, Pragna thought it was as easy as drawing scribble-scrabbles, but Pragna's mom told her about the importance of the necklace.

The most important thing about the necklace was that it was in her family for about 90 years! The next day, Pragna wore that glimmering necklace to school. Her mom told her she couldn't bounce, run or jump in gym class. Everyone who saw the valuable necklace had a beam of sunlight shining through their eyes. Almost everyone in the school was paying most of their attention to Pragna. Pragna's friends, Talia, Rebecca and Augusta, were asking her questions all day.

When school was over, Pragna's mom told her that her and all her friends were going to the 4th annual beach dance party! The next day, they all went to the beach dance party. The moment they entered, they all jumped into the tickly and yellow sand.

They were the second people to get there, the first person was Hailey. She was the best dancer at the beach party. Soon, as more people came, everybody was talking about this year's prize.

The beach employees announced that this year's prize was a necklace. Rebecca told Pragna that it looked just like the one her mother had given her. Then Pragna looked for her necklace, but it wasn't there! They all zoomed to the employees and told them that it was her necklace but no one believed her. The employees told them that in order to get the necklace, they had to dance for it. The girls had no idea what to do. Augusta told them that it means that the best dancer could keep it.

Pragna didn't know how to dance, but she told them she would win it for her mom anyway. She kept on tripping because her body was out of balance. The rest of the girls told her that she couldn't do it herself. Pragna thought about it, and then they all started dancing together.

The judges had said the winners were PRAGNA, REBECCA, AUGUSTA AND TALIA!!! They were so happy, but Hailey was so upset. Pragna and the girls asked Hailey why she wanted the necklace so badly. Hailey said it was because she had no friends and if she had won the necklace she could make friends. Pragna and the rest of the girls thought about it, and then they finally made the decision and said they could all be friends now. So they all learned that everyone needs friends to help out in a difficult times.



Photo by Mason Dian

*This is a classic tale.  
Enjoy reading it just  
as I did.*



# Travel to Mars!

By Mihir Chinta

“FOOSH.”

“Today is the day! I’m becoming an astronaut- Pardon me I almost forgot to introduce myself. My name is Astro.”

“Ok where was I oh yeah! I’m becoming an Astronaut and today is the day! I can’t wait till I go in a spaceship and go to a planet!”

“DING! DONG!”

“It’s the doorbell; who could it be?”

“Um hi are you Astro?”

“Yes?”

“Oh yeah um let’s see... Aha! This is for you its mail from NASA thank you!”

“OH MY GOD! It’s from NASA, but why did they mail me?” One minute later: AWESOME! I’m the next person to go into space, but first I have to go there for training.”

## One Hour Later

“I’m here at NASA headquarters, and ready for training.”

“At last you’re here. My name is Honsie and we have an assignment for you Astro. We want you to go to MARS and get some rocks from there so we can examine them and store them in the museum, so are up for it?”

“Um... Well, ok, yes!”

“Then let’s start training! First thing is first you have to learn how to fly in space.”

Three hours later you mastered to fly in space.

“I’m wiped out.”

“You still have to accomplish using your suit.”

“Ok I have to finish this. OKAY I’M IN!”

“Good job! Now lets go to the space suits and GET PRACTICING!”

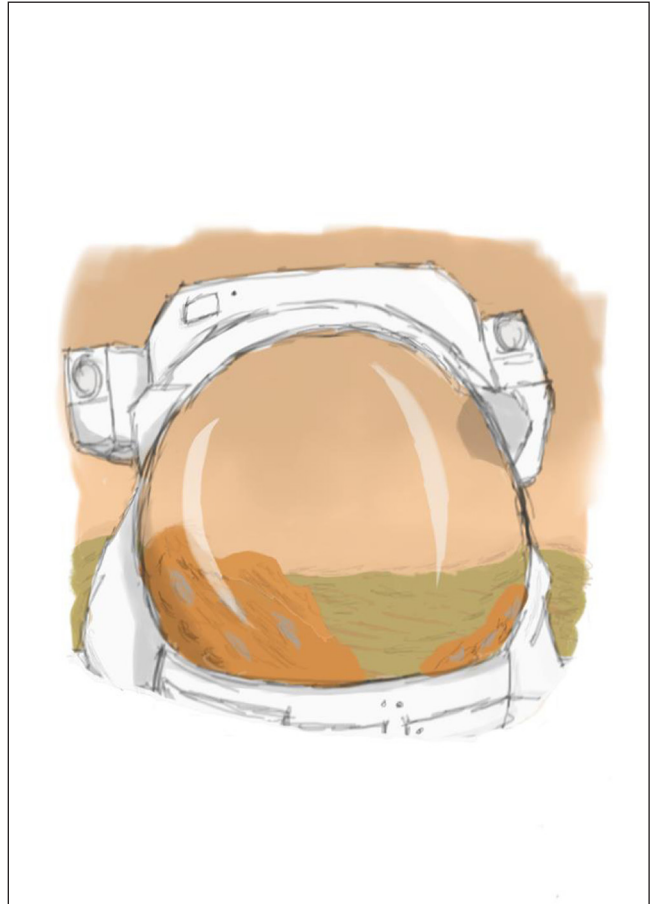


Illustration By Andrew Wang



*This story is great. I enjoyed every word. He’s talented.*

## One hour later.

“GOOD JOB! You mastered how to use the space suit. Now listen, tomorrow is the day you go to space and get rocks from Mars. You must make sure you have a good sleep, because you have to get up early in the morning and get ready to blast off!”

## One Night After

“Rise and shine! It’s time for you to get into the space

ship. And this is going to be your teammate his name is Alo.”

Wait a second your first name is Alo and your last name is Part?”

“Yes that’s me you have a problem?”

“That means I am your brother. Wait a second your name has to be Astro Part if you’re my brother.”

“Yes that’s my name! BROTHER! What a coincidence it’s my brother! We are going into space together.” 10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1 BLAST OFF! “AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA! We’re going into space!”

## One Hour Later

“I’m flying it must be the gravity in space. Ok Alo gets prepared for landing on Mars.”

“Roger that Astro.”

**Mars** con’t on page 22

## Mars *con't from page 21*

"FWOOSH! Awesome safe landing. Ok get out Mars rover from spaceship!"

"Roger that Astro."

"OK since we have the Mars rover let's explore the planet! You can drive the rover Alo."

Ok Astro."

"VROOM! VROOM! Alo don't go that fast! PONG! AAAAA!" Alo I told you not to go that fast. Oh man, look what you did we're lost in the middle of space. What do we do now? We can call Earth? No, but our phones got damaged. There is only one place to go to in the middle of space we have to go on SUN! Ok Alo put your freeze jacket on were going on the sun. Roger that "flop" "jackets or on know lets fly to the sun then we bounce of Sun and land on Mars."

"Ok good job safe landing on Mars, now for the trick."

"Use your gloves and jump of Sun"

"Ok astro I got it."

"Pound."

"We're safe on Mars now let's explore."

"Hey look what I found. That's weird. There's footprints on Mars!"

"Let's go check out this place."

"AAAAAA I found a Martian!"

"We have to get out of this place it's so CREEPY!"

## Things Couldn't Get Worst *con't from page 19*

Well, that's exactly what we had. That was the breaking point. I snapped. I picked up my bag and ran out of school screaming "Whyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy!"

"One minute, we still have to get rocks from this planet."

"Ok but you better do this fast before it's too late!"

"CRING. got some rocks now get into the spaceship and on the power for blast off!"

Seven minutes later.

"10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1."

"BLAST OFF."

Seven hours later.

"SAFE LANDING."

"Good job we made it to Earth."

"Yup we still have to give the rocks to- POG. Astro get up!"

"Wait a second sister? I mean panie! I was sleeping?"

"Duh you were sleeping for 5 hours."

"That means my amazing adventure is not true?"

"Um whatever your dream is it's not true!"

"So that means I didn't go to Mars."

"Hmm huh."

"SLIP."

"Hey it's a piece of mail and it said it is for you Astro!" "Me?"

"Yes you."

"Do you see anybody else named Astro?"

"Just open the mail Astro."

"RIP."

"I can't believe this it's a mail from NASA!"

"It says I'm the next one in space!"

AND THE END!



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# Larrissa Shortcut

By Sainthavi Sivakumar

“Why are you late for school?” asked Larrissa’s teacher. Larrissa said, “There was a wall of flowers.”

The teacher said, “If you do this one more time you will get in trouble.”

The next day Larrissa was late for school, “Why are you late?” “Because the ducks were surrounding me, “If you do this one more time you are going to the principal!”

Larrissa made a shortcut hoping it would save her time. Larrissa went out in her backward and swam through the pond. Her clothes got all wet.

“EEKK!” she screamed.

“Now I can’t change or go back.” She swam across the pond. Good thing she learned swimming a long time ago because it was such a long distance.

After she came out of the water, Larrissa quickly dried herself. Larrissa ran past a volcano she saw in the distance, hoping it wouldn’t erupt. It rumbled like a car going over a bumpy road. She went up the volcano. When she came down hot lava came her way.

“AAHH!” she screamed.

She ran quickly like a cheetah. She made it past the volcano. Good thing!

Larrissa ran to the forest, but the monkeys, birds, sheep, ostriches and other animals were on her. She climbed the tallest tree and heard the school bell ring. She got up and started running towards school.

Larrissa reached town safely. She ran through the long school hallways and scurried in her seat. That’s when the late bell rang “DING, DING, DING.” She learned a valuable lesson. Don’t be late for school.



*Sainthavi has been writing a lot lately. Enjoy this nice story.*

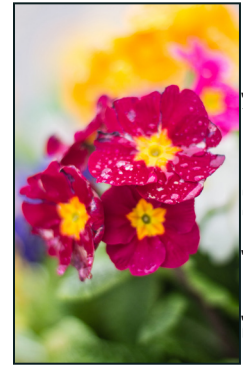


Photo by Martin Alonso

## Enjoy the Sand Hills Preschool art show



Art from the Sand Hills Preschool Art Show February 2014

# New Year's Resolution

By Likhitha Kandukuri

Have you ever written a New Year's resolution? Most New Year's resolutions are similar. They can be divided into three types. The three different types are being healthy, to be more respectful, and to concentrate more. One type of New Year's resolution is to be healthy. Three examples of being healthy are to eat fruits and vegetables, not to eat junk food, and to exercise more. Do you play a sport? If you do, that's great! Playing a sport is good. You should also have healthy habits. You should not avoid them. An example of a healthy habit is to wash your hands. You need to make sure you don't get germs. You might be laughing, but you shouldn't be. Most people make these changes because they want to feel better. Another type of New Year's resolution is to be more respectful. Three examples of being more respectful is to respect the environment by recycling things and not littering, respecting others by speaking nicely and being polite to them, and even respecting yourself by doing ap-

propriate stuff.

A third type of New Year's resolution is to concentrate on your work. It's good to concentrate because you do more work when you don't get disturbed. Three examples of concentrating are, if you are at school and you concentrate you will get more work done. If you are doing homework, and you suddenly hear a noise from your siblings or mom, don't care, just care about your work and concentrate on it. If a parent was doing something, and you disturb them, you are breaking their concentration. You should not disturb them.

In conclusion, lots of people make similar types of New Year resolutions. Most New Year's resolutions are to be healthy, to be more respectful and to concentrate.



*Likhitha put a lot of thought into the new year! Did you? Read her ideas.*

# Is Social Media Good or Bad?

By Tithi Panchal

Social media has been around for a period of time and has succeeded in making a dent in peoples' lives. Facebook, Twitter, and Skype allow communication over long distances and are convenient. However, there are two sides to this argument that show both the pros and cons.

There are a number of good points about social media. People have the ability to speak to each other without using the phone. You can still talk with others even if you are too sick to meet. Lastly, it provides instant communication in the event of an emergency.

Conversely, there are a number of bad points about social media. People have an over dependence on technology, via social media. What you post stays in cyberspace permanently. Finally, it gives strangers a window into your life.

As I stated,

there are some good points about social media and some bad ones. Social media sites are great for staying in touch with people. Yet, too much information on cyberspace can be potentially harmful. People should be aware of the power of social media, and be careful how you use it.

*Tithi is a great thinker. Find out if Social Media is good or bad!*





# Valentine Gifts

By Harshi Oleti

“Yawn,” groaned Roderick. Suddenly a Valentine’s gift from his mom made him remember something he forgot. He suddenly gasped with horror. “I forgot the Valentine gifts!” As you know, Roderick forgot the Valentine gifts! Now back to the story.

“How do I get the Valentine Day gifts with my parents downstairs?”

Then Roderick remembered that he had rope and a window. He grabbed the rope and ran to the window. He opened the window, put the rope on the window sill, and put his feet on the wall outside of the house, which was under the window, closed the window on the rope, and climbed down the rope.

Roderick ran to the flower boutique for his mom, but

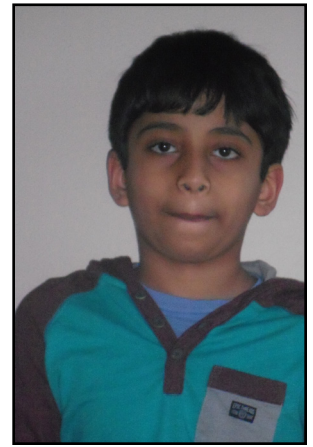
there was a big fat “closed” sign. He ran to the “I Love You” mug store for his dad, but there was a big fat “sold out” sign. Roderick fainted with angry disgust.

Wake up lad! Wake up! said the cashier at the I Love You mug store. Roderick got up with a start.

“What is wrong?” asked the cashier.

“I’m trying to get gifts to my parents for today’s holiday.

“Kids just get them homemade gifts,” said the cashier. Roderick realized that homemade gifts are better than store-bought gifts. He walked back and made nice gifts for his mom and dad and his parents loved their beautiful Valentines Day gifts.



*Harshi is becoming a great writer. I love this story.*

# Me As A Raindrop

By Anika Sheth

One day my friend and I woke up and yawned. The smell of mouth watering heart-shaped chocolate waffles led us to the table. We swallowed our plate of eight heart shaped waffles. We got up to go play, but mom told us that we have to walk the dogs. As we stepped out, it started to rain. Suddenly we saw a faint glow. We ran to the glow. When we got there we could not believe our eyes! There standing in front of us was a little man. It was a Leprechaun! In a silvery voice he said, “I am Leppy the Leprechaun!”

Suddenly he pulled a bottle from behind him and then he gave us two wine corks which had holes in them for drinking. We popped the bottle cap open and he

said, “Wait, you have to catch ten rain drops, shake it, then drink it. After that word he was gone. We caught five rain drops each. Then we shook it. Suddenly it turned purple. We poured a few drops into the wine corks. When we took the first few sips we felt weird. We slowly drifted off to sleep. I wanted to go home so I reached for my dog leash but I could not feel the leash. I opened my eyes. To my surprise I was a raindrop! My best friend noticed that too. Suddenly we started to move with soft, white fluffy clouds. I floated as I was jumping off a diving board. It was a beautiful feeling to ride on this majestic cloud. Splat! Splat! As I was dropping down I saw little children enjoying the rain. We came down and we were ourselves again!



*Anika has written a descriptive, fun story. Enjoy.*

# The Runaway Hamster!

By Farhan Mohammad



Photo by Martin Alonso

“There - locked and tight,” Flash said as he locked his pet hamster cage. His best friend Max was at his house for a sleepover. Max inspected the hamster cage one more time and he whispered to Flash, “The hamster cage is not locked.” Flash ignored Max’s comment and asked his mom, “When is dinner?” His mom replied, “Actually it is ready now!” Flash’s mom cooked chicken nuggets and some beans. She also baked chocolate chip crispy cookies. Then after dinner Flash and Max went upstairs to sleep.

In the middle of the dark night Flash heard something.

“Twitch Twitch.”

Flash then told Max to wake up. Flash and Max ran to the hamster cage. Flash could not believe his eyes Fudge (The hamster) ran away! He had to find it because that was his own money. Also if his mom and dad knew he would be grounded for two months. So he asked Max, “Can you help me find it?”

Max replied, “Sure.”

Flash And Max searched and searched for Fudge, but they could not find it.

“I give up,” Flash moaned.

“Wait I hear something,” Max said.

Flash and Max walked toward the noise. Flash could not believe his eyes. The hamster was in the toilet. Flash almost screamed, but Max calmed him down.

Then he dared Flash to take Fudge out of the toilet.

Flash said, “Fine.”

He took Fudge out of the toilet.

Right after Flash took Fudge out of the toilet, Fudge managed to get out of Flash’s palm. Fudge ran downstairs. Flash ran super fast and was about to catch him when he went in a closet. Max knew that if he opened the door, super fast Fudge would escape. Max opened the door very slowly and finally caught Fudge. Flash thanked Max so much and wondered if he would get in trouble. What do you think?



*Farhan is a gifted writer! This is a funny, great story. Enjoy!*

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# Ready For Summer

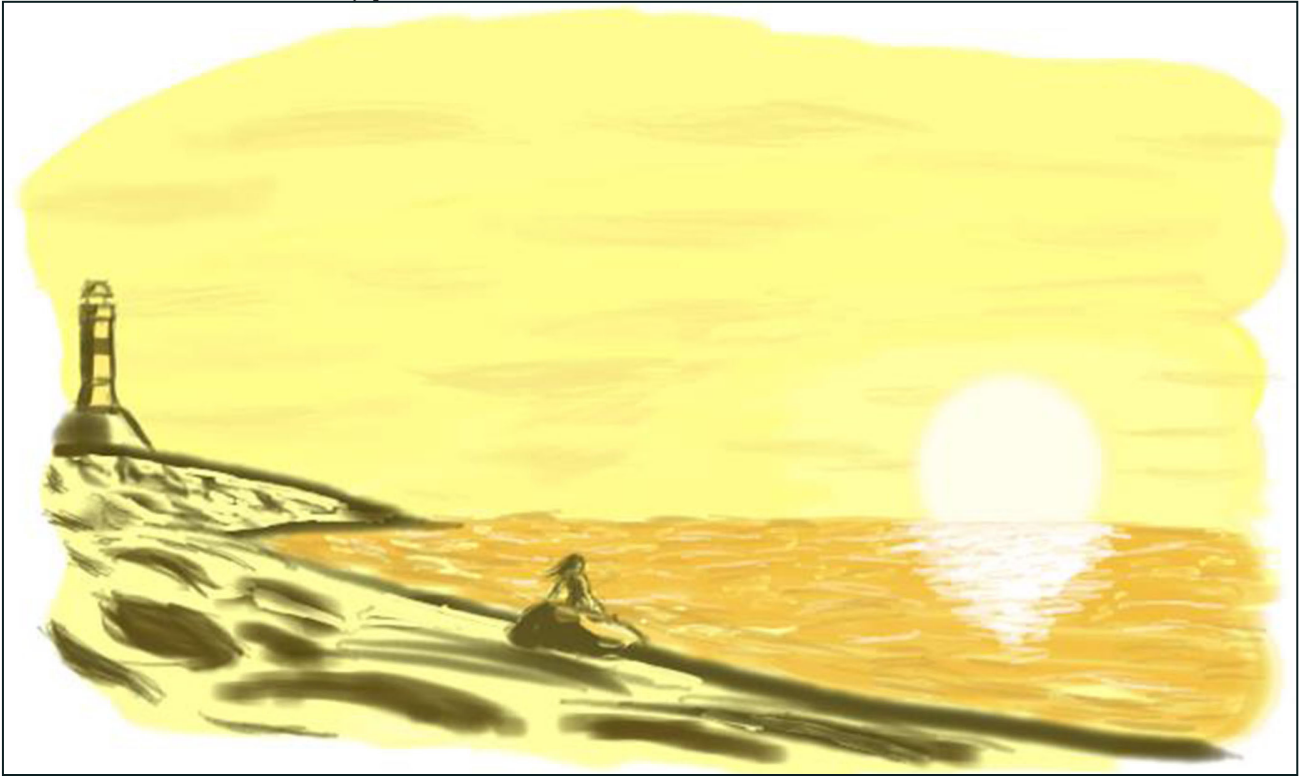


Illustration By Andrew Wang

## CONTEST WINNER

By Katelyn O'Rourke

**E**very summer, I look forward to going to the beach. I love to go boogie boarding with my twin brother, Drew; we ride the waves together. When we boogie board, we wait for the big waves. When the big wave comes, we grab our boards, push, and then we go all the way back to shore. Sometimes one of us might fall off our boogie boards and we end up on our tummy.

Our Aunt Deb Deb and Uncle Gary have a beach house. They always invite us to stay. We have been going to their beach house since we were babies. When we were little, we used to play with their dog, Otto, at the beach house. What I love most about going to their beach house is going fishing with Uncle Gary. Once I almost caught a fish. I kept pulling and pulling but I couldn't get it out. I also love eating at Mud City where I can have crab legs. Aunt Debbie and I always go for ice cream. My favorite place to get ice cream is Skipper Dipper.

Sometimes we go with our cousins to the beach. We have

a lot of cousins. We have so much fun playing on the beach with them. One time, our cousins buried my brother and I in the sand. We always bury our parents feet in the sand.

My dad and I dug a hole very deep and water started coming in. Mom and I always go to look for seashells. We like to find the big ones so we can paint them. Once they are painted, we give them to people.

What I like most about summer and the beach is spending time with my family.



*Congratulations Katelyn! You did a great job winning this writing contest!*



# Camping Disaster



By Jiya Joshi

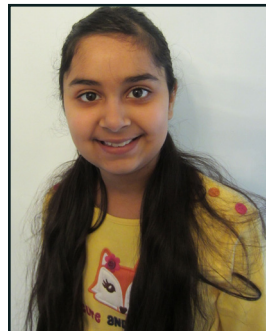
*Illustration By Andrew Wang*

I was in the lush, green forest sound asleep when the noise of singing birds woke me up. My Girl Scout troop was on a camping trip.

My hard working troop leader was boiling cold water so we could attempt to make a hearty breakfast. After all my sleepy friends woke up, we made the worst breakfast ever. It was smooth caramel with thick honey, mixed with croutons. As soon as I put the spoon in my mouth, I had to spit it out.

Sadly, the food landed on a big, fat, dark green frog's head. The breakfast was a total disaster, but the good thing was the troop leader took us to the convenient Mc-

Donald that was located a mile away. Later, we went out in the beautiful woods to identify exotic bugs so we could get another badge. I could hear so many satisfied birds singing. Then I felt a raindrop on my head. Suddenly it started raining hard. It started raining so hard that we had to go back to the camp site. We are hoping to visit the forest again in the future.



*Jiya is a talented writer! She writes extremely well.*

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City Kidz World magazine at  
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# ALEXA'S WORST

By Riya Manchanda

One morning at Alexa's house, her teacher called and told Alexa that tomorrow Alexa can be the teacher for the day. Alexa was galloping all around her house, while eating mash potatoes. Her parents were trying to stop her by chasing her. After her parents calmed her down, they asked Alexa, "Why are you so happy?" Alexa told them that her teacher told her that she could be the teacher for the day tomorrow.

During the night, Alexa studied and studied about what she had to teach the kids. Her mom came in her room and said, "I have never seen you study this much in your life." Alexa said, "Tomorrow is my big day so I should study a lot today. I can't wait to teach all the kids. It is just so exciting. I will be a great and nice teacher."

The next day she ran out of her room and got dressed as fast as a cheetah racing with a car. She went to school.

Once she got there, she went through the classroom doors and said, "Good morning class!" while carrying her books.

She met everybody but the last girl, who was chewing

gum. She quickly spit her gum in front of the teacher for the day. The teacher of the day got so mad that she became furious.

The girl with attitude, Alisa, was the troublemaker. Alisa was the worst child in the world.

Alexa told Alisa, "Get over here." Alisa causes trouble for the class every single day.

Alexa went home with her face all red. Her mom asked her what happened. Alexa told her mom that this troublemaker named Alisa caused the trouble for the day and she drove her crazy. Alexa ran in her room and called her teacher.

Alexa asked her if she could come back.

"I just want to be a regular student," said Alexa.

Once the teacher said OK, that frown face turned into a big, bright smile.



*This is Riya's 2nd time being published! Awesome job!*

## The Snow Day

One cold winter day, me and my brother were getting ready to go outside to play. After we got ready we went outside. When we went outside the snow was like a foot deep. First we went to the front yard. We really did not do much in the front yard. So we went to the back yard where the fun starts. When we got to the back yard we started to run to the hill that was in the back yard. The hill we ran to was covered in snow. My brother put down the sled and then we sat on the sled. I asked my brother to push a little. Then we started to move a little. I asked my brother to push more but we only moved a little. So I got up and I looked to see what the problem was. Then I

saw that the snow was too deep. So we needed to make a trail. I told my brother that we needed to make a trail. So we made one. After we made a trail we got our sled and tried to go on the trail we made. It worked! I and my brother went on our sled one at a time. Also we went at the same time because our sled can hold two people only. Then after some time we had to go home.



*This story will remind you of our "great" NJ winter! Enjoy!*

## Contest Alert!

### Categories

Ages - 4 to 5

Ages - 6 to 8

Ages - 9 to 12

Ages - 13 -17

Send to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

### Weather Story.

Write a story about your favorite weather day!

**Deadline: July 28**

# The Diamond of Dark

By Meghan



As the crystal only grew darker, life outside the cave grew no better. Soon, what everyone had dreaded would return. Though it might seem confusing, the Dark Lord, also called Tom, is the one everyone dreaded, and even more confusing is the reason he is able to return.

It is all possible because of the Crystal of Light. The Crystal of Light is a large, red, heart-shaped diamond. While it is the only thing that can stop the Dark Lord, a dark, powerful wizard, there is one way he can overcome this crystal. You see, the Crystal of Light has a powerful magic in it - love, but there is a small portion of it that is dark, and shaped like a lightning bolt. It contains nothing but fear. If the Dark Lord somehow makes the small portion spread, the Crystal of Light will become the Diamond of Dark, allowing the Dark Lord to rise once more, as he did 12 years ago.

On a cool summer's day, the Dark Lord started to weaken the crystal with small spells and the more it weakened, the more "alive" he became. If someone didn't try to stop him soon, there would be no stopping him at all. So Saniya started two days after the Dark Lord rose by transporting herself to the cave. Though he had expected someone to come, Tom didn't take any precautions; for he was too busy weakening the crystal.

So, Saniya was able to emerge from the shadowy walls easily. First, she simply used a camouflaging spell so

he wouldn't see her. Then she used a protecting spell on the heart, which would protect it only for a few minutes, since the Dark Lord's spells were too strong.

Finally she came up with a plan. Since killing a snake was easier than killing Tom in his human form, and he always starts as a snake, she would kill him in his snake form. So, just as he was weakening the crystal, she would weaken him.

She started by stunning him, but he realized it right away and bellowed, "I know you are in here, come out and show yourself! You can't hide for long!"

So, Saniya undid her charm and immediately cursed Tom. He cursed back, but Saniya made a shield charm and was not hurt. After many more hours of shooting spells at each other, the crystal only got darker, and Saniya knew there was only one way for her to stop this battle. She had a bottle with deadly poison inside of it, which could kill anyone. She stumbled back and pretended that his last curse had hit her and put her under his control.

She said, "Here is a potion that will make you twice as strong as you already are. I was wrong and I want to help you."

Handing him the potion, she hoped that, though it was not her original plan, it would work. Tom reluctantly took the potion and drank it. Suddenly he burst into flames. Tom was finally killed and the Crystal was safe, but no one doubted that he would return.

*Meghan is a great creative writer. This story is fun to read.*



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# Winner

## The Mutation Device

By Nikhil Chandrasekar

In the galaxy of Gravis Mavis, aliens from planet Dwool were planning to invade Earth with the mutating, alive Generator X. Anything that touched it or touched something that had Generator X DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) would turn into a mutant!

So, a hungry rat that lived near Generator X, went hunting and touched Generator X and it became a 30-yard tall rat in a nano-second! When it got home, it turned its family into mutants. Soon, all the animals became mutants, just like that! After animals, the plants became mutants. Then, buildings. Every single building in the world! All the humans became homeless. They had to run day after day with no escape. "Ahhh!" a man yelled. He was mutated! Day after day, innocent people were mutated except for a group of scientists. They were the ones destined to save the world! Their names were Chris, Sam, Jack, and Samuel. Samuel is the leader of the group of scientists.

They traveled the globe, looking for chemicals to stop the mutants. After a year of doing this, they found a piece of paper and it read, "Dear people of Earth. To save your kind, you need to go to the Arctic, Antarctica, the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, and to the middle of the world. You must find the four Garnet crystals and combine them to make the Ultra Garnet and shine it into any mutant's eyes. It will break the evil eye inside the eye. The evil eye injects a poison into the brain, into the central nervous system, and bloodstream. Then, that mutant will become what it was before. The evil eye is so complex, that even us, the Growledas, the second smartest society of organisms, can't learn everything about it."

"Chris, go to the Arctic, Sam, go to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, Jack, go to the center of the world, and I'll go to Antarctica," Samuel said. So they set off.

Chris used his teleporter to teleport himself to the Arctic. He searched day and night, trying to find the Garnet and avoid the mutants. Finally, he found the Garnet in a pile of snow. It was as red as blood and as beautiful as the Greek goddess Aphrodite.

"I've found it!" Chris exclaimed. So, he took the crystal and headed toward their meeting place in Southbound, Maine, America in their underground lair, protected from most of the mutants.

Meanwhile, Sam was scuba diving at the bottom of the Pacific; mutants were everywhere. "Mommy," he whimpered when he came face to face with a mutated Whale shark. While he was swimming for his life, he spotted the beautiful Garnet. Sam managed to dodge the Whale shark, snatch the Garnet, and reach the surface.

"I've got it!" he exclaimed. He then was headed to their base.

Around the same time, Jack used a teleporter to reach the center of the world. As soon as he entered, he saw the

Garnet. It was 19,000 degrees Fahrenheit. It was enough to melt a human. Thanks to his anti-heat suit, he could survive. He ran to grab it without being seen by the mutants at the center of the world. As soon as he grabbed the Garnet, he teleported himself to the base.

"I've got it!" he exclaimed.

Samuel took the hardest task. He went and found the Garnet in a cave. As soon as he entered, spears tipped with the rare poison, Motis Nootis, from the endangered Matis Watos frog, came out of nowhere and started attacking him! Luckily, he dodged and snatched the Garnet. When they all reached the base, they had all the crystals they needed to make the magnificent Ultra Garnet. The Ultra Garnet was two feet tall, two feet wide, six inches thick, and weighed ten pounds. With the Ultra Garnet, the scientists could free everyone who was mutated!

So, they teleported themselves to the town square, where all the mutants meet at night. The scientists shone the Ultra Garnet into their eyes, and before you knew it, most of the mutants were free. When the other mutants saw the freed people, they attacked ferociously. Sadly, Sam and Jack were tuned into mutants. It was horrible. They put up a good fight, but the mutant Washington monument took Jack and the Statue of Liberty took Sam. After all the mutants were free, they turned to their friends and freed them. It was a good fight. The mutated scientists used everything from enemies to allies as weapons. Luckily, Chris was able to throw Samuel into the air and make the mutant scientists look into the Garnet. But, Samuel almost refused because of fear. He yelled at Chris constantly about how crazy he was acting and when Samuel was off guard, Chris threw him. Right after that, the Ultra Garnet and Generator X exploded! It was a flash of red, blue, and green, which was seen and heard around the world. After that, the scientists went to fix the destruction that they and the mutants had caused.

"My favorite lab coat is ruined," complained the scientists at the same time. And before you knew it, they started laughing their heads off.

One hundred years later: The world is recovered from its damage but Generator Y falls to Earth. Generator Y is a stronger form of Generator X. It causes far more damage. Uh-oh. Here we go again.



*Summer Writing Contest*

*Nikhil is the winner of the contest and a regular contributor. He is awesome.*



# BEAUTY PAGEANT

By Sarayu Kodali

“Yeah tomorrow is the beauty pageant! I’m so excited!” It was the night before the beauty pageant. I was really excited because I had the world’s best dress and I would look amazing. I was sure I would win. All of my friends said I would win too. I was really tired, so I slept.

In the morning, I woke up and I felt something scratchy under my nose. I went and looked under my fancy mirror. I had a moustache! I had a shaver so I was not worried. But when I shaved it, it kept growing back! I tried that ten times to make it come off! Now I was really worried. I wore all of my fancy clothes for the Pageant, but the moustache ruined it all.

Then I said to myself, “Well, it was worth it. My whole entire life is ruined.”

So I started to get in my limo with my hands on my mouth so nobody can see the moustache. I was waiting backstage for them to call my name.

A few minutes later they called my name. I was really scared, but I went on stage.

The judges said, “Please take your hand off your mouth.” I had to do it because if you don’t listen to the judges, you

get disqualified. Then I showed them the moustache. The crowd and the judges gasped. They were all talking. I start to cry then I wiped my tears and the judges looked at me. Then, they said who won first prize. I was really scared. It was me! I felt really happy.

But then, I started wondering, “How did I win?”

After I wondered, I went back to my house. And there I saw, Santa at my Christmas tree.

He said, “You went through this for nothing. Couldn’t you just call me? Well I like what you did. You are a star.” I felt really happy again. Then he just disappeared. That night was the best night of my life. Then suddenly I woke up. It was just a dream!

Then I said to myself, “Uh oh.”

I felt under my nose and realized I really did have a moustache!



*You will enjoy this! It is descriptive!*

## If I were President

By Ayush Prakash

Ayush Prakash for president- wouldn't that be great! If I were the president of the United States, I would work on three main topics: help poverty, make a better environment and come up with good places for people to live. These are the topics I would really work on.

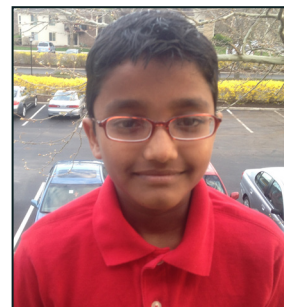
The first thing I would do is erase poverty. I would try to help poverty by building a house bigger than the Capitol Building. It would be called THE SAVE POVERTY HOTEL. It would simply resemble a realistic hotel. The hotel would have a teardrop shape, so a mini park can fit into the middle. It would be 8 stories high and each floor would have 10 to 15 apartments. Each apartment would retain basic furniture and we would provide all day food from morning to night. Once the people have a job and some money, they would have the opportunity to move away. Once they move, they would get 3-4 years to pay the hotel back.

The second thing would be to make a better environment. I would plant more trees and have a club that people could

join to clean the environment. I would make a machine that would take the hydrogen out of the air and change it to oxygen. The machine would produce oxygen and there would be no global warming on earth.

The last thing I would do is to create better housing for people. There would be no more unsafe housing. We would remodel the house and make a better one.

These are my main reasons why I should be president. I believe these plans will work because we need good leadership for the people. Do you know money is just getting moved around from one person to another? What really doesn't get moved around is resource recycling and reuse, which is critical for our world. Poverty must be decreased and housing needs to be improved. This is why my plans will work. VOTE FOR ME!



*This is Ayush's second great story!*





# My Absolutely Perfect Day!

By Tithi Panchal

One day, I was wearing a beautiful pink and white shirt with sparkles on it. It was my birthday! I was taking pictures in the snow in my new shirt. I got my backpack and my jacket and got ready to go to school. When I got to school, my friends hurried over to hug me like a pack of peacocks. They wished me “Happy Birthday” and sang “Happy Birthday” to me. It was the BEST!

When I went to my social studies class, everyone sang, “Happy Birthday” to me. I got my Ancient India test back, and guess what? I earned a 100%! Next, when I went to gym class, everyone sang “Happy Birthday” in the girls’ locker room.

After that, I went to my next class called Read180. I knew I was late so I tried to hurry. As soon as I came in, everyone sang “Happy Birthday” in Italian to me. Then I went to my favorite period ever... LUNCH! I bought lunch that day: mac n’ cheese, a bottle of fruit

punch, and then the best part of all, cake! The cafeteria employees made cake so I was lucky! At the cafeteria, my name came on a slide show on a television screen. It said, “Happy Birthday Tithi From: Mahi, Poojha, Neha, Kauvya, Lily, Bianca, Emaury, Zariyah, Julia, Melinda, and others.” I was so happy! My next class was Spanish. Everyone sang “Happy Birthday” in Spanish to me. When I came home, I finished all my homework. Then my mom got my cake for me. It was chocolate with cherries and tasted yummy!

Finally, I got my present. It is a beautiful bracelet that said, “If Daughters Were Flowers I Would Pick You.” It was BEAUTIFUL! We went out to a restaurant and it was the Best Birthday Ever!



## Sleep

By Sarayu Kodali

It was a nice, spring day. Everyone at school was settling in for 1st period. I went to sleep at 12:00 a.m. last night and I had to wake up at 5:30 a.m. this morning. I was so sleepy that I almost fell into a deep sleep on the bus!

For me, 1st period was science. I was so bored of science that I didn’t even listen to Mr. Woodberg. [My science teacher.] I was so sleepy in class that I slept in class for 1 minute, but then my friend, Rose, woke me up. When Mr. Woodberg was explaining the science fair, I was so sleepy, I just fell into a deep sleep. Nobody had any idea that I was sleeping. Even the teacher! I felt like a ghost to them.

By the time 1st period was finished, I was still in a deep sleep. School finishes at 2:00 p.m. I was so sleepy that I slept till 6:00pm. I woke up. It was dark. I wondered to myself, why is it so dark in here? I tried nodding my head a few times, but it was still dark! I put my glasses on and looked clearly. It was night! I thought this was a dream but it wasn’t! I grabbed my backpack and phone and headed outside. I was yelling, “Anybody? Anybody here?” But there was nobody. Since it was a big school, I thought I could walk around it and find somebody like the janitor. But there was no one.

I grabbed my phone, went outside and went to my contact book. When I was about to call my mom, I remembered. My mom would only let me come inside the house before 4 p.m. and right now it was 7:30 p.m. I called my brothers and told them to make a robot of me so my mom wouldn’t know that I was still stuck in school. They said ok. Then they made a robot of me. I walked miles home because school was so far from my house.

By the time I reached home, I needed to get inside the house. I did not know what to do. Suddenly, I got an idea. Since I was a great trampoline jumper, I got my trampoline from the backyard and jumped into my room. I broke the robot and directly went to bed because it was bedtime.



*Sarayu has written an entertaining short story. Enjoy!*

*Submit stories and pictures to City Kidz World magazine at [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com).*





Photo By Martin Alonso

# Should School Days Be Longer?

By Tithi Panchal

The Governor of NJ is thinking of making school days longer. Some people are for it and some are not. I have reasons for both positions that are valid and with merit, arguing both sides of the case.

The reason why the school day should be longer is because students can ask for additional help while doing homework. Parents can relax more often with this assistance. Teachers can get to know their students a little bit more, especially what they need help in. Students can have more fun with their friends. There would be more pep rallies and other extra curricular activities. Students can learn more and get smarter, learning subjects like higher-level math and language arts.

The reasons why the school day shouldn't be lon-

ger is because teachers would have to work more. Teachers would not have a lot of time with their families, and students wouldn't have a lot of time to spend with their parents. Administrators would have to pay more for the buses. As property taxes are used to pay for schools, a longer school day might mean extra taxes.

There are some good points on why schools should and shouldn't have longer days. Some people support it, while other people are against it. There are those people, however, who don't have an opinion either way. Everyone thinks differently, and may take one side or another but, this proposal should be thought out and planned before any action is taken.



*Tithi has an opinion with great support. Do you agree? Read and find out.*

# Would you like to have Extra School?

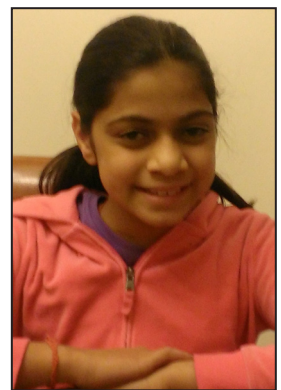
By Sriya Josyula

Well if you ask me, I would definitely say no. First, I would say no to extra school because it would ruin summer vacation plans. The other reason is that kids would not get to go outside because they have to do extra homework and study.

Firstly, I think kids should care that their summer vacation plans are ruined because of extra school. Then kids like me, who like to take pictures of sceneries or monuments at the place they are going to for vacation, would not get a chance to do it. You would not get a chance to have as much fun in the summer before because most families travel during the middle of June to end of July. That will affect the family's trip because of their children's extra school.

Next, I think kids should not sit inside when the weath-

er is beautiful doing homework because they would not get a chance to get fresh air. They also would not be able to play outside like a normal kid would do on a hot, sunny day. Instead they will have to do homework or study for the end of year tests. I hope you are convinced that we should not have extra school because the school days will ruin our summer vacation plans and we would not get a chance to play outside on a hot, sunny summer day. That is why I think we should have no extra school during summer.



*Sriya has solid ideas about school. Read this and learn!*



# A King's Victory

By Saisiddharth Mariappan

The room was almost completely silent. The only occasional noise was the kids placing their colored pieces on the old wooden boards. Have you guessed what the other kids and I were doing? If you haven't, I'll tell you: we were playing chess. Chess is one of my favorite sports to play because it requires patience and focus. (And yes, I said chess is one of my favorite sports because it is recognized as a sport by the International Olympic Committee.)

Anyway, I sat on a plastic chair at a table that looked like it had been polished earlier. The dim-lit room was parked at the edge of the library, right where the computer and the graphic novels were. There were eleven people in the room other than me. I was playing against a boy named Rithik, who was about my age. He wore a heavy-duty red jacket and NIKE Lebrons.

"Gotcha," he said as he proudly placed his white queen across from my black king.

I couldn't attack it because it was guarded



Photos by Mason Dian

by his bishop. "Uh oh," I thought. My king couldn't move anywhere because the other squares were guarded closely by his pieces. I actually thought Rithik might win until I scanned the board and saw that my knight could easily take his queen.

"Back at you," I said and took his queen. Of course, he took my knight with his

bishop, but he realized too late that I was aiming for a pawn promotion. (A pawn promotion is when a pawn reaches the final row on the opposing side. The pawn can be exchanged for a piece you previously lost.) I brought back my rook for a simple checkmate. (A checkmate is when you have trapped your opponents king where he cannot move anywhere without being taken. And in chess, you're supposed to protect your king!)

"Darn," Rithik said as he punched the table, knocking of the rook that checkmated him.

"Great job," I told him as we started to clean up. If looks could kill, his look would have shot daggers at me. I thought that Rithik was going to yell at me when he just muttered "thanks" and left, leaving me to clean up.

When I was about to put the last game piece away, the king, I thought I saw it smiling at me and murmuring, "I'm proud of you." But I'm positive that was just my imagination.

"That was fun," I said and left the room slowly. I looked back one more time, trying to digest what had just happened. I had won a great victory. I had won my first match of chess against another kid who I barely knew.



*If you love chess, you will love this clever, descriptive story.*

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# International Space Station

By Sachchit Madhyastha

It was a Saturday morning when Nadeem Ali, Jason Robertson, Farjaad Rahmen, and Justin Broody went on to the Soyuz-15AM. They were going to the International Space Station from January 2023 to February 2024. The space station was the biggest spacecraft ever built.

When 30 minutes went by, they reached the space station and then the world cheered for the launch.

## 7 months later...

Nadeem was checking the computer to see whether an asteroid, meteorite or a comet would hit the space station. Unfortunately, it said the asteroid "Juno" would destroy the space station in one hour. And there were 6 months of their mission left. Nadeem told the trackers that the asteroid will hit the space station in one hour. Nadeem told his crew to go to the Soyuz 15AM.

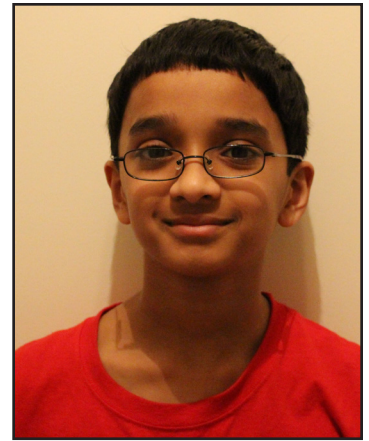
Farjaad said, "Why should we go to the Soyuz-15AM?" Nadeem said, "We have to go now because an asteroid is going to hit the space station."

Soon the four members left the International Space Station and went back to Earth. One hour later, the asteroid "Juno" hit and destroyed the space station and the debris spread into space. In 2 minutes, "Juno" hit the moon and made a massive and huge crater.

When the manned moon mission in 2036 occurred, the same four astronauts went to the moon. Farjaad, Na-

deem, Jason and Justin collected some debris and went back to Earth. They each gave the debris to the scientists. The scientists were concerned that it might be a UFO. After researching it for some time, they perceived it was the International Space Station debris. Soon, people were sad that there was no space station. Later, in 2040, America decided to make the space station "James". When it was complete, the same four astronauts were the first on the newest space station. It was four times the size of the International Space Station. Now James space station was the biggest spacecraft ever built. The second is the International Space Station. It was one of the happiest days to make a new and big space station.

**Epilogue:** The people always remember the day when the International Space Station was destroyed by the asteroid "Juno" and crashed onto the moon.



*Sachchit did a fantastic job on this space story. I enjoyed reading this!*

## World Story

Write a short story about a day in the life of a student who lives outside of the United States.

**Ages: 11 to 17**

**Word Count: 400 to 500**

**Submit to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)**

# Painting Disaster

By Aayush Kishore

"Ta!Da!" exclaimed Fred, as his amazed parents gazed at the magnificent painting he had been working on for the past two months.

The painting had a sunset with beautiful mountains in the background. It was painted on thick watercolor, Fred's mom's paper. Fred's mom raced to get the camera in a jiffy and was back in a blink of an eye.

Then the clicking began. Fred usually hated taking pictures because his mom always went mad (which she did this time also). But this time he thought he and his masterpiece really deserved it. By the time she was done taking pictures, the gallery could only hold three more photos.

Fred reached proudly and carelessly for the painting so that he could submit it to the art contest. Fred should have enjoyed the last moments of seeing his painting because he was in for a big strike of horror. This one move would change his future in the contest. Fred bumped his right elbow on the orange paint can.

Then it all happened at once. The orange color spread across the painting. It rushed down either sides of the countertop. It splashed all over the polished hardwood floor just mopped by Fred's mom a while ago.

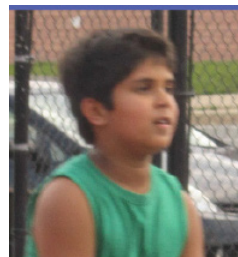
All his hard work was down the drain. Now he could never win the art contest and get the big awesome skateboard with the super sharp wheels like blades, which could be used to turn sharp corners in the blink of an eye, plus jump up curbs in less than two seconds.

Then, as quickly as the victory had stayed with



Photo by Martin Alonso

Fred, it vanished. He felt like there was a vacuum sucking out all the happiness out of him. Nothing could cheer him up. Though he did learn one big thing that day: always be careful rather than careless. Especially things that need to be treated with extra good care such as a painting.



*Aayush has so many stories to tell. You will love them. This one is good!*

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# Appreciation

By Ananya Gulati

**T**here are many ways to show appreciation. You should show it to friends, teachers, and family. Appreciation to others shows how kind and generous you are. Sharing with others, helping others, and giving to others indicates you are respectful to them. If you show appreciation to people you know, they will display it to you.

One way you can exhibit appreciation is to share with people. You can lend materials to them when they don't have it. You can share toys and books with friends. If you lend and share, they will do it for you when you need a material or want to borrow a book.

As people say, "Sharing is caring!"

Helping someone is another way to show appreciation. If someone needs help with a math problem, you can be helpful and assist them. Also, if someone needs help carrying stuff, you can be considerate and lend a hand. It shows how benevolent you can be.

The final way to show appreciation is to give. Donating is

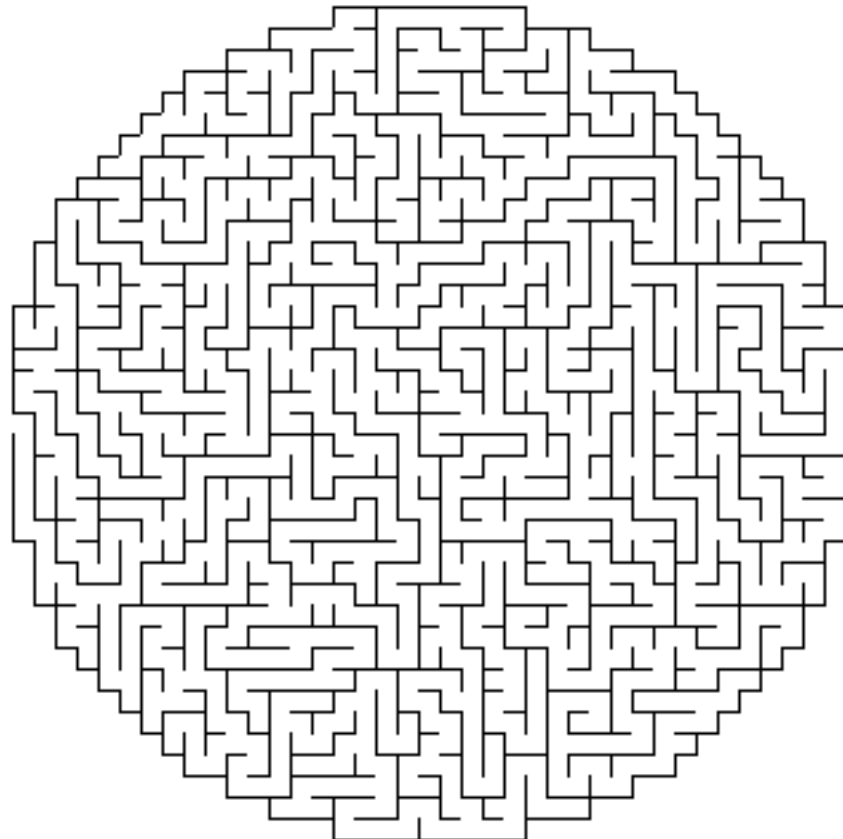
an example of giving. Gifting to a parent, friend, or teacher is also appreciative. Receivers are always pleased to get a gift. They like handmade gifts or cards, too. It shows even more care and appreciation. If you give a gift to a person, that person will give you a wonderful gift, too.

In conclusion, appreciation can be expressed in a lot of ways. To share, to give, and to help are just some of them! People will feel gratefully recognized and respected if you appreciate them. To show gratitude is a characteristic that is favorable by friends, teachers, and even family! Everyone should have this characteristic because it is important!



*Ananya writes beautifully. You will see when you read this intriguing essay about appreciation.*

## Maze



# The Futuristic Space Adventure

By Rohan Saha

**D**uring the year 6893, there was a curious boy named Jim. Here is his wonderful and adventurous story!

Hi, I'm Jim! Come with me on this adventure! I was fixing the solar panels in front of our house. At that moment I noticed it, it was approximately 10 feet high and 17 feet long. It just magically appeared there! It was never there. It was a huge spaceship! I ran over to it and checked it out. There was a pilot seat, and a door that lead to the back. I told my dad that I was off to Camp Invention. Then, I got my armor and sat in the spaceship. I went through the door, and found tons of food and an assortment of some kind of weapons. Then, I pressed the red button and sat down. After that, I DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I fainted and felt split apart. Then, after what seemed like a lot of time, I woke up. I was in space! I zoomed past stars and planets. I felt as hungry as a bear in hibernation for a billion years! I drank water and chicken. I suddenly saw a blue and green planet in front of me! I pressed the red button again, and the spaceship slowed down. There was a button named landing, so I pressed it. I quickly landed on what looked like a forest full of awkward trees. They were bent, and some of them were brown.

"Something happened here." I thought.

I took a weapon. It looked like some kind of zapper. After that, I ran ahead to look for an adventure. There were thorns, bushes, thick trees, and much, much more. Finally, I saw houses that were made of dark wood. I saw the most horrific thing in the world. There was a king who was being very cruel to his fellow citizens. He made them feed him, make him whatever he wanted, and he punished anyone severely if they objected to his rules. I decided to

challenge him to a duel, like they did in the old days.

"King, I challenge you to a duel. Winner takes the throne, and the loser.....dies," I explained.

"Ok, whatever," he replied.

Both of us stretched a little before the duel. Then, I took out my "zapper", and he took out a "wand". One minute later, he pointed his wand at me and said a few words. I zapped him at the same time, too. A second later, there was a "BOOM!"

Right after the boom, I fell and fainted. Suddenly, I woke up! It felt like I fainted for a second, but when

I checked my surroundings, the malicious king and I were in bed on a "ship". It was all blue and silver. I checked to see if the king was breathing, but he wasn't.

"YES, YES, YES, YES!! I WON!" screamed.

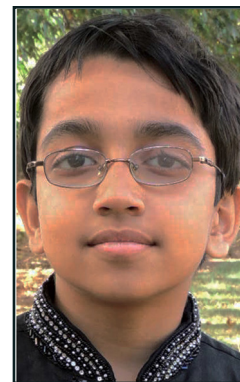
Right then, and there, a man came in and said, "Hello, I am Dan. After you both battled, Sega, our home was destroyed. We got on the mysterious spaceship that crashed on Sega a thousand years ago. We did take your ship, but a wing got damaged when we took it in. The good thing is that evil king is no more! You will be leading us somewhere we can stay, ok?"

"Ummmm...ok, but take me to the pilot seat," I answered. "All right! Thank You, your majesty!" he exclaimed.

After, I lead them to planet Earth. I made them a house, with the help of my community.

"Their generation will definitely last forever!" I thought when we were done.

All of us lived happily for the rest of our lives.



*Rohan Saha has written two stories for the magazine. This is another great story.*

## Vocabulary Challenge

Write a Sentence using the Following Theme and Words:

Theme: Space Travel

Ages - 11-17

July 28, 2014

eloquent  
infamy  
callous  
brusque  
amiable  
haughty  
impeccable



39

# Friendship Trouble

By Aayush Kishore

Fred grabbed a piece of lined paper beside his four-poster bed and got to work. When he was done it looked like this:

*Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wells, 8/4/13*

*George has always been my best friend. If George could stay here in Michigan it would be great.*

"You are going to Texas?" asked Fred in disbelief. George sighed.

"I have to," he groaned. The sun shone right through the treehouse they had built last summer. It was a clear, cloud-free Sunday afternoon. The birds all chirped happily in their nests in the trees next to them. It seemed as though the birds were spending their Sunday afternoon even happier than them.

"My parents have already started looking for how much the prices of the houses in Texas are," said George breaking the silence as he watched Fred's mouth hang open in shock.

"What are we going to do?" asked Fred.

"You are my best friend. If you go to Texas I won't ever get to see you again!"

The treehouse fell silent.

"What if we begged your dad?" asked Fred.

Finally, after ten minutes, "You know it sometimes does work!" Fred pointed out.

"I guess sometimes parents just can't stand kids when they plead! Especially when you put on a puppy face. Last year when I wanted this really cool video game for Christmas I, begged my parents 24-7 and on Christmas, it right under our Christmas tree."

George knew that his parents weren't the kind that gave in easily, but he did not have any other ideas so he reluctantly biked over to his house with Fred.

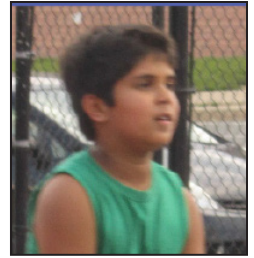
When the door flung open, Fred greeted Mrs. Wells, George's mom, and told her that George was his best

friend and that if he went to Texas he wouldn't be able to ever see him again. Like George had in mind, Mrs. Wells had simply said no without being persuaded at all because George's dad was getting a better job in Texas. Fred though, was disappointed, was still determined to have George stay in Michigan.

Fred raced home at top speed. What was he going to do? George's parents had already started looking for prices of houses in Texas. Fred thought fast. Then it hit him. In school he was working on persuasive letters. And on his last eight homeworks, where you had to write a persuasive letter, he had got an A+. If he could persuade the whole neighborhood to give more candy on Halloween why not persuade George's parents?

*I hate to disturb your planning for everything you've been doing to move to Texas, but George it is just too much to lose. I have been friends with George ever since preschool. It would be such a shame to break up our friendship now. Please let George stay here at Michigan.*

*Yours sincerely, Fred*



*Aayush is a regular contributor. He does an awesome job with these stories.*



Photo By Mason Dian

Fred raced down the steps and down the hallway. He ran over to George's house to slide in the letter, but stopped dead in his tracks when he saw a note attached to the scarlet door. It was written in George's untidy scrawl:

Me and my parents went to the airport. I am really sorry that I had to leave Michigan. I left you my favorite baseball cards on the doorstep.

Below Fred were the cards. Fred picked them up and ran home miserably.

So on August 8, 2013, Fred lost his best friend, but also realized

that he should always let go of the past. Fred still dreads this day and is always miserable as it brings back the terrible memory of his dear friend.



# *If You Could Be Invisible...*

By Ansh Panchal

**I**t was a crazy day that happened on January 30th 2014. It was a day...

One fine day (well not, there was a lot of snow out side), I was coming home from a study nightmare at school when, "Ow!" I shouted. "What was that?" I looked in the snow. I found a bottle lying on the ground. I picked it up. Inside was rock that looked like food. I just shrugged and threw it behind me. As I was walking, this time I tripped and fell in the snow.

"Now what was that?" I asked.

I got up and looked at the place where I tripped. It was the same exact bottle!

"But how?" I asked.

I had thrown it behind me!

"This is impossible!" I exclaimed.

I picked up the bottle, and then I ran to where I had thrown it. It wasn't there!

Next, I felt something rough. I looked on the back of the bottle. I saw words written on a label. I saw the letters forming words.

"Eat Me," the label said.

"If I throw this bottle again, I thought, then I would trip on it again."

So, I put the bottle in my pocket and started walking home. When I reached home, I was shocked to see the time was 4:35! I was outside for a long time because I usually come home at 3:35, but now it's 4:35! After I had unpacked, and had snack and did all of my homework, I went to the last room, further down the hallway. When I came in, POOF! A gust of smoke hit on my face. When the snow cleared out, I saw Tithi! "I am ze vizard of ze all vizards," she said.

"Vel,l" I said in the weird language.

"Can you stop ze talking like zat?"

"No zerie," Tithi replied. "I just like to talk like the Z.V.Wizard."

"Who is the Z.V.Wizard and how do you know that?" I asked.

"Well," said Tithi, "That's a long story."

"I have time", I said.

"What?" asked Tithi.

"Oh," I said. "I have a lot of time. Hey where's Mom?" *Ansh has wonderful story ideas. Read this story and you will see.*

"She has some work so she said I have to take care of you," she said.

"Now can you tell Ze vizarding story?" I asked.

"Okay," said Tithi.

"It all started yesterday, It was a cold dark night, the time read 2:15 a.m.. I heard a sound, a very strange sound. I followed towards it when, I fell in a hole. Suddenly –"

"Yes," I replied.

"Wait, first I'll ask you something, have you ever fallen but, slowly," Tithi asked.

"Well, no," I replied.

"I know," said Tithi, "but I was falling so slow that I could patiently drink milk while I was falling. Just then I fell to the ground, to my surprise I was standing in front of our home, except bigger! Then I read the sign, "Whoever enters Wizardland, they will get their own home and will be a wizard."

"Oh," I said. "So that's how you're a wizard."

"Hey, why didn't you eat the BCAFxEDHGOPHANTXYTAZVI tablet?" Tithi asked.

"The what, what, what?" I said with my tongue in knots.

"Oh, that's the biological, caring, achieved, first, x, caring, device, helps, go, over, patient, humid, aggressive is cancelled out, no, tattling, x, y, tazering, a, z, vitamin, invisible tablet. For short it is BCAFxEDHGOPHANTXY-TAZVI tablet.

**It Could be Invisible** *con't on page 42*



## **It Could be Invisible** *con't from page 41*

“Oh,” I said.

“Come on, eat it,” Tithi protested. Then she took out a stick and pointed at the bottle. “Elttob elttob, og ni hsnA’s htuom!”

The bottle came out of my pocket! It opened and started to jump on the bed. Next two of the tablets went straight in my mouth! I tried to cough them out, but it was no use. The tablets must have reached my stomach and now they will spread a virus all over my body! “Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh-hhhhhhhh!” I shouted very loudly.

“Relax,” said Tithi. “It won’t send a virus all over your body.”

“What! Impossible!” I thought, “She just read my mind.”

“Yes, I did read your mind,” Tithi said.

“I feel I’m going to faint,” I said whirling my head around.

“Here let me get water for you,” Tithi said. So, in a blink of an eye there was a huge bucket full of water over my head! SPLASH! The water fell straight on me! “Ahhhh-hhh!!!!!!” I shouted again. I was soaked head to toe in water.

“Are you feeling better?” Tithi asked.

“I am so not okay,” I said. “You made me soak to death and now you made the clean, dry carpet too wet, dirty and mud.”

“Sorry,” Tithi apologized.

The next day, I woke up. I felt weird, very weird. I couldn’t see my hands even if it was on my eyes! Then I knew it, I’m invisible! I got out of bed and looked out the window. I saw someone trying to steal another person’s wallet!

“Uh, oh,” I said to myself. “He’s up to no good.”

I ran outside and came over to the man. Then I thought, “I’m invisible so I can just punish that man for stealing!” Just as the thief was putting his hand in the man’s pocket, I slapped his hand sooooooohoo hard that the thief shouted, “Ouch!”

The person that the man was trying to steal his wallet heart that right behind him.

“What happened!” he asked turning around. He saw the thief.

“You were trying to steal my wallet!” He checked his pocket. “It’s still here Phew!” Then he called the police. After the police took the thief away, the man inquired, “Who saved my wallet?”

“I did,” I said.

“Where are you?” he asked.

“I’m invisible, so you can’t see me,” I replied.

“Oh,” said the man. “Thank you very much for the help.”

“My pleasure,” I said.

“Here,” said the man. “Here’s a “Thank You gift for you.” He held out money. I counted it. To my surprise it was \$10,000!

“No Thank you,” I said, “I don’t want \$10,000.”

“Take it,” the man said. “It’s a Thank you gift.”

“No thank you,” I said and returned the money and walked home.

“Wow,” I said. “Being invisible can help people a lot.” I patted my back. I was proud of being a big help.

“Good job Ansh,” I said. “Good job!”

---

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# The Quest for Pegasus's Bridle

By Amitha Venkatesh

A battle this big had never occurred in Olympus before. This battle was brutal and totally unexpected! The best warriors took their places on the battlefield. Jupiter had his lightning and thunderbolts in his hand. On his left hand was his son, Hercules, mighty and ready. To his right hand, his daughter Diana was strong and prepared with her bow. Next to her was Diana's twin brother, Apollo, with his spear. Behind them was Mercury with his sandals and helmet and lastly, Vulcan with his armory of weapons. All were prepared to fight.

They huddled closer as Jupiter began his speech, "My children, we are in our darkest hour! Medusa, her sister, Stheno, a hermaphroditic creature named Agdistis, the sea monster, Cetus, my brother Hades, and Mania, the goddess of the Underworld have plotted together to steal Pegasus's bridle. We all know that Pegasus's bridle is the greatest treasure in Olympus! It can control the stallion itself! They have tried and succeeded!"

The tension grew and spread fast!

"But they have not totally succeeded yet! If we stop them, not only Pegasus will be saved, but Olympus will be saved too!"

Jupiter raised his hand and the lightning and thunder bolts echoed throughout Olympus. The light was blinding! "Will you join me? Will you help me rise against these invaders and take the bridle back from them?" The warriors yelled their battle cry and raised their hands to Jupiter.

"For Olympus!" Jupiter howled as he led the warriors to battle.

\* \* \*

In Mount Helicon, the enemies met and planned out their battle against Jupiter and his warriors.

"Everyone, listen!" Hades called.

"My brother and countless warriors are soon going to be here in our borders! They desire my nephew's (Pegasus) bridle back which we possess now! We can defeat them easily; for we have the great stallion under our control!" he announced as his eyes trailed to Pegasus.

"Help me! Together we all can rule Olympus and take Jupiter out of his place!"

"I will be honored to help, Hades!" Mania stepped up. Medusa, Stheno, Agdistis, and Cetus joined in and they were all prepared!

\* \* \*

"Back in Mount Olympus, as they traveled, Hercules asked Jupiter, "Father, with Pegasus under control of uncle, Hades and the others, the great stallion will be a force for them. In other words, he'll be ... well, bad! The only way we can stop him is to hurt him or maybe," he paused, "kill him!"

"Absolutely not, my son! I understand that they're all very powerful. Your aunt, Medusa can turn someone into a



**PHOTO ART**

stone by just looking at someone! But Pegasus is your cousin. A good friend of yours! We shall not harm him in any way!

"Then what's our plan? We're almost near the Muses. We'll be reaching Helicon within minutes!" Diana pointed out.

Jupiter stopped and called everyone again. "We're going to come up with a plan. Medusa is a fierce woman! She can turn us into stone just with a quick glance! Even I can't escape with her look! As I told Hercules, we must not harm Pegasus. It's the others we must fight. Mercury, when we're almost at Helicon, you must give me your sandals and take cover. Your sandals are your weapon. I will fly to Medusa and defeat her. While I do that, Hercules, you must face Medusa's sister, Stheno. It's a very difficult task, so I'm trusting you for your strength! Stheno is a strong lady with venomous snakes in her hair!"

"GROSS," everyone replied.

"It's very disgusting but she's very strong! You must defeat her!" Jupiter ordered. If I finish Medusa first, I'll help you against Stheno and vice-versa. Diana and Apollo, you must work together to defeat the sea monster, Cetus. That too is remarkably strong!"

"We will, father," they obeyed.

"Mercury, once I defeat Medusa, I'll return your san-

**The Quest for Pegasus's Bridle** *con't on page 44*

## The Quest for Pegasus's Bridle *con't from page 43*

dals, and you and Mars must defeat the goddess of the Underworld, Mania. She is not as difficult as Stheno or Cetus, but she is strong too!" Finally he walked to Vulcan. "Vulcan, with your armory full of weapons, you shall defeat Agdistis!"

"As you wish," he replied. Jupiter found a big shelter inside four bushes. "Come now. We'll eat ambrosia and move on!"

\*

With Pegasus under Hades's control, Helicon was in havoc! Buildings were destroyed, the scars of Olympus were getting worse and worse!

When Hades and the others got back to their home, they thought of a plan while eating ambrosia squares. "So, what do you think, Mania," Hades asked as he munched.

"Well, we can just defeat the people who are at our level. Hades, you're the leader of us, and Jupiter is the leader of that group. Maybe you both should verse each other, and so on."

"Okay, any others," Hades announced. Nobody moved or budged.

"Well my plan is to stick together. I have a feeling that Jupiter has a plan to have them separate and take us like how you said, Mania. I'll ride on Pegasus," Hades suggested. "We must go now and start a surprise attack. They're at Muses right now, and it would be a good time right now before they cross into our territory and find out the havoc we've done in our city!"

They all thought about it and agreed. They were all ready for battle!

\*

As Jupiter and the others finished their ambrosia, they could feel their strength increasing, as a brutal blow swung at Jupiter! Jupiter fell back and got a lightning bolt ready as he turned around. He gasped. It was Pegasus. That brutal blow was his wing! Jupiter almost let the bolt go just as Hades and the others appeared from Pegasus's back! Hades got on Pegasus, as the others clung to him. It was as if they were stuck with hot glue. Mercury quickly ripped off his sandals as Jupiter swung them on, but Hades was too fast! Just as they got ready they were getting covered with brutal blows and lethal impacts from the stallion's hooves. They couldn't get a chance against the powerful group. The only choice was to surrender. "Brother! Is this you, who's attacking me? We used to be so close when we were young," Jupiter pleaded.

"Quit the infant tales. That's all gone now, Jupiter.

Pegasus, take on all of them!" Hades roared.

"WAIT! We surrender," the words slid out of Jupiter's mouth.

"What's that you said?" Hades irritated Jupiter.

"Please! I surrender," Jupiter repeated.

There was long hesitation. Suddenly, Pegasus flew away without Hades even knowing it.

"Father, why'd you do that," Apollo asked shocked when they were far gone.

"We needed a better plan. We now know Hades's plan, and we need to think ahead now," Jupiter replied as he gave everyone the last of the ambrosia squares.

"I have an idea! It's similar to Hades's plan but a little different. Mercury is the fastest one out of all of us. I saw the bridle in Hades's hand. Mercury will use his fast skills to snatch the bridle out. Vulcan, you must go with Mercury for cover. The rest of us will have to stick together, to defeat everyone," Hercules suggested.

"What a clever plan, Hercules," Jupiter commented.

"Wait, I want to add to that. If Hades falls, then so will everyone else! So once Mercury gets the bridle, Pegasus will be in control of us. So, he should run here, knocking down Hades. While the others' attention are locked onto Hades, that's when we strike," Apollo added.

"Great idea, let's do a surprise attack like they did," Diana suggested as they moved on.

As the others were headed back to Helicon, Mercury went with the fastest speed ever. It was like a blur! Soon without Hades even realizing it, the bridle was out of his hands. Pegasus returned to his normal state, and ran almost as fast as Mercury. Hades fell hard onto the ground. Apollo was right, the others were onto Hades examining him for wounds. That's when they struck all of them. Jupiter's bolt penetrated through Medusa, Hercules's weapons studded Stheno, Diana and Apollo had slashed Cetus, and Mars and Vulcan had got Mania and put the vulnerable lady in front of Medusa. Instantly, she turned into stone!

"You think we'd surrender right away, Hades?" Jupiter teased.

"Jupiter, now I surrender," Hades lied, thinking Jupiter would let go of him.

"You may definitely surrender, once you all go to prison in my palace," Jupiter replied. After that moment, Pegasus was always with Jupiter!

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# THE JUNK FOOD WARS

By Saisiddharth Mariappan

“Hi! My name is Greasy, lord of junk food, and I’m declaring war on planet Healthy. Surrender or be erased!” When I heard that announcement at the Grain Office, I thought that one of my students was playing a prank. But it turns out that none of them made that announcement. Oh, I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Puzzle, the pasta piece. I’m the principal of Grain Elementary. In the first war, my great-great-great-great-grandpa Oscar the Orange-Orange fought Greasy and beat up the junk. Can we beat Greasy again?

It’s fruit day today. Just this morning, half the residents of Protein Ville disappeared. And at the office, we got more ‘friendly’ messages from Greasy, who called “geeks”, “oldies with glasses”, and a lot of other stuff. I’m seriously thinking about washing Greasy family’s mouths with soap.

It’s finally wheat day! Today, general Brownwheat said that we’re going to fight back. So today, a quarter of Fruit Ville burned to ashes. But we destroyed one of their five ships and a legion of French fries. I’ll bet five bucks they’ll attack in the night.

It’s Veggie Day. I’m here to tell you good news and

bad news. Last night they burned down half of Wheat Ville. A bunch of others and I survived, but some weren’t as fortunate. I’ve got a few nasty bruises and a cut across my cheek, but otherwise I’ll be fine. The good news is that three of the Burgerstar ships were destroyed, along with almost all the troops and Greasy’s brother, Smeary. Greasy retreated with the survivors back to planet Unhealthy, so I guess we won.

Things have gone back to normal at surprising speed. Wheat Ville is being rebuilt, and so are the other cities. The junk foods and Greasy haven’t been seen ever since. I hope that life continues like this. Us Wheats, Fruits and Veggies hope that there will never be another Junk Food War, (it’ll probably happen) but planet Healthy will be ready if it happens (it does). Read Junk Food Wars 3 to learn more about my adventures! This is Puzzle the pasta piece signing off. Hasta Luego and all, friends!



*Saisiddharth has now been in two issues! These stories are great. Keep them coming.*

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“We’re in this to make writers!”



# Poetry

## Seasons

By Sumanth Chiluvuri

*Sumanth is developing into a great poet. Enjoy this short, weather poem.*



The science to winter and spring is quite unknown. Scientists are still trying to figure out why the weather changes from season to season. Do you know what is even more mysterious?(Here it goes) What are seasons and what is Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall? These are times that nature makes. Winter is cold and summer is warm. No one knows why.

---

## Rain

By Amitha Venkatesh

Rain is a pain  
For kids who play outside  
It gets cold and wet,  
And cars slip and collide

But for plants, it's a need  
It needs rain to live  
So that it grows big and tall  
Then fruits and veggies it can  
give

We all need plants  
For our food comes from it  
It is very important  
We need it bit to bit

But behind all this  
Is the pouring rain  
We must respect it  
There's a lot we gain

Like water to drink  
Roses for beauty  
Grains to eat  
It always does its duty

**Poetry  
Contest Winner!**



# My Awesome Two Weekends

By Neelansh Keshari

I enjoy playing with my old pals Aseem and Pranav. I played a Minecraft PC game on the computer. I watched a Minecraft movie on Netflix, Youtube and music videos on my Windows 8 computer.

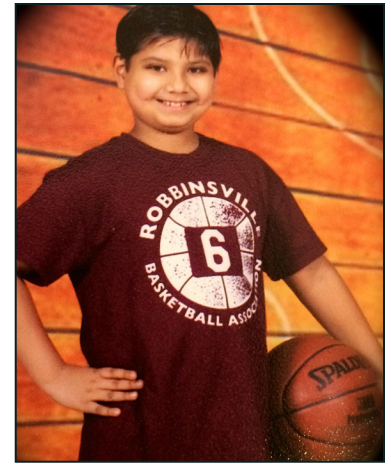
Minecraft is a game where you go and mine and while mining, you can craft stuff like clay blocks, swords, pick axes etc. Pranav introduced me to playing and watching Minecraft. Aseem and I followed him into the same game. I have been playing Minecraft for one and a half years now.

I called Aseem and Pranav for a playdate at my house for the past two weekends. I wanted to play the Minecraft videogame with Pranav, but I accidentally called Aseem. Still, it was an awesome two weekends. I was playing with him on the Windows 8 computer and I loved it. This Minecraft PC version was the one I wanted and it is an awesome game to play.

I watched a Minecraft movie on Sunday when

Pranav came to my house. The movie was amazingly, “awesomely”, “epically” thrilling. It was moved from a Saturday to a Sunday because Aseem and I were playing a Minecraft game on that day. The movie was in two parts; one was on one Sunday and the other part was on the following Sunday with Pranav and myself.

I had a great two weeks. On Saturday I had a Minecraft game with Aseem and on Sunday I had a Minecraft movie with Pranav. That concludes my fabulous and outstanding essay.



*Neelansh has written a great story. Enjoy this story. I certainly did!*

## The Best Day Ever

(Stuffed Animal, Thunder’s Point Of View)

By Tithi Panchal

“Goodbye Doppy, Aliva, Chicky, Stella, Blue, and Thunder! I am going to my recital! It is going to be about three or four hours long, okay? Good. Bye,” Tithi told us before going to her dance recital. We knew the recital was going to be amazing even though we were not going.

“Mom, I am so excited! You are going to dance too! Dad and Ansh are .....,” she said as her voice faded.

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

“Guys I think they are gone,” Blue said.

“Wait I will go and fly there just to make sure,” I responded. “It’s all clear! Come out to talk about what we are going to do today.”

My friends came into the living room while I turned on all the lights so everyone could see. Then we had a meet-

ing about what we were planning to do today. We all got to vote on what we wanted to do. I was so excited!

First we made S’mores. I LOVE S’mores! They are my favorite! It was really tangy and sticky. We were all sticky and yummy. Next, we decided to take a bath. Then we watched movies for the rest of the time. Suddenly, I looked at the clock. Five minutes until Tithi comes back!

“Guys, quickly turn off the T.V. and get back in the room. Tithi is almost home and going to come back,” I said. We all hurried back into our places.

“I am back,” Tithi said. WE WERE SAVED!



*Tithi was on a writing marathon! You will find many of her stories in this issue.*

## Small Moment Contest!

Submit a small moment! 200 to 300 words Deadline- July 28, 2014

Ages: 5 to 8

Submit to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

# Valentine's Day in School

By Laasyasri Vaddepalli

“Dear parents, be sure to make your child bring Valentine cards the whole class!” says the letter from school. Do you think it is fair to have to give Valentine cards? Well I don't! It isn't fair for little children to be required to give Valentine cards to everybody in their class.

Students in school shouldn't be forced to do anything in school. They never are forced to do things, but they are being forced in this situation. There was one time when my friend was upset because he hated Valentine's Day and didn't want to bring in the cards. America is a free country, so it isn't right to force children do things whether in school or out of school.

Valentine's Day is meant for giving cards and sharing feelings with the ones you love and with your friends. For Valentine's Day, students should only be required to give cards to their classmates if they are willing to. Many students have some foes in class so they won't be willing to give out cards to them. For example, my friend's family respects Valentine's Day and they liked it so much that they threw a party for their friends and gave

them Valentine cards and shared their feelings. Still, they had to invite everyone felt uncomfortable inviting unfriendly people to their party and giving them valentines.

There are also many families that don't celebrate Valentine's Day. Just like my friend's family. It isn't fair for families like that to participate in holidays they don't celebrate. They wouldn't feel comfortable doing it either. People should respect other cultures willingly, but not forced to celebrate them.

Many people have the same opinion and thoughts as me. I know how they feel. So, if any parents support what I am saying, then take the situation into your hands. Go to the principal and explain the problems many people are facing. Trust me, if you do this, then many will be happy. The students willing to give out cards to their class will be able to. It will be a happy ending!



## State of Emergency

By Laasyasri Vaddepalli

You are happily watching TV with your family. Suddenly the channel changes and the Governor shows up on TV. The Governor warns you that a State of Emergency is coming up. What are you going to do? When you find out there is going to be a State of Emergency, you should know what to do.

Before the storm begins, you should get a good supply of food because you won't be able to go to the store during the storm. You should also fill up the tubs and buckets in your house with tap water because you might not have access to water during the storm. Also, you might lose power so you might want to get a generator or at least some flashlights. If you have a garage, you should keep your vehicles inside for safe keeping.

During the storm, you should stay indoors at all times. Cover your windows so that they don't shatter and use a little supply of food and water so you don't run out. These are only some of the safety precautions you should take.

You should stay in rooms where there aren't any windows. This is really important to stay safe. You must seal the door and all windows properly. Lastly, you need to keep track of the news so you know what's going on. If you don't have power or internet, then follow up on the radio.

In conclusion, to keep your family and yourself safe, you should follow these instructions. If you decide not to follow this, then at least flee to another state until the storm is over. Maybe you should go to a friend's house, but I suggest you follow the advice to prepare in your own home so that you do not have to travel during a State of Emergency.



*Laasyasri is regular contributor and this story is awesome.*



# The Traitor

By Vishal

In a land far away lived a person named Sumanth. Soon, Sumanth will figure out that his friend will betray him and make him into a green dollar bill.

“Ring,” the school bell goes as everyone gets out of school and goes home. But there is one person who doesn’t go home. His name is Superb Sumanth. Sumanth always gets good grades and is very nice to everyone. His best friend’s name is Vishal and he loves to play basketball and tennis. Sumanth always goes through the forests after school. Today he is going to find out something about his friend that will change his life for a long period of time.

“Agh,” Sumanth said as he stomped through the pleasant, peaceful forest. He went 5 feet into the forest and he already got about 100 splinters.

“OOOH,” something whispered behind him. He turned around and saw his friend Vishal. Vishal had a green bottle in his hand.

“What are you doing here?” Sumanth exclaimed!

“I came to make you drink this,” and he poured the green bottle of liquid in to Sumanth’s mouth.

Suddenly sumanth exploded into water leaving no sign he was alive. But when Vishal looked down. He saw that Sumanth was a new dollar bill.

Vishal took the dollar bill and gave it to his friend for a candy bar. This is how Sumanth’s journey begins.

After giving his friend the dollar, his friend gave it to his dad. His dad gave as part of the monthly loan of their house. Then after giving it to the house owner, the dollar bill (Sumanth) flew away and landed on an island. On the island some random gangsters picked up the dollar and gave it to their boss. Their boss traded it with a kid for a pack of chips. That kid was Vishal who eventually, put Sumanth back to normal.

“What just happened,” Sumanth exclaimed. Vishal just shook his head and led Sumanth back home.

That is what happened to Sumanth after his evil friend betrayed him and turned him into a dollar bill.



*Vishal is a great writer. You will enjoy this funny story.*

# The Angry Blizzard

By Sumanth Chiluvuri

Woosh!(the sound of hail and ice)This is what the storm alerts that have been on for days are trying to tell us.This storm is really going to affect our area people.It’ll start at 6.00AM -12.00PM Wednesday-Thursday.

“Grab everything you need and stay inside.”

First of all, you will have to stay inside. Second, you will have to get everything you need, and third, be alert of the conditions.

Always stay inside and don’t even step outside.This storm is very dangerous. It can badly injure or hurt someone or something alive. It might crack your windows maybe so stay alert. Hail,snow,ice,rain is mixed in with this storm so it is deadly. Make sure to stay inside people!

Do you have everything you need, is what you need to ask yourself? Get all the food you need and make sure you get water because you need it to survive. Get all the supplies you need like a phone,watchlight,iPad or any other device that can give light or communicate wireless-

ly. Always remember to get ready for a storm.

The most important part is to always beware of what weather conditions there are or how dangerous they are. The storm we have right now is hitting really hard with hail and ice. I am worried about

what some people are saying, such as like Chris Christie. He is saying that this is one of the most deadliest storms that ever hit New Jersey. If you don’t be careful with these kind of weather storms, you’ll just fly away with.

This is why you should always read the alerts and stay on track whether storms are coming or not. Maybe the storm you’re going to get is super deadly or your storm can be a tornado, hurricane, strong blizzard, tsunami or a volcano. All of these are natural disasters. So beware or you’ll be flying with the wind.



*Sumanth has a quirky writing style. You will enjoy his wit.*

# FAN Fiction

## Annual High School Writing Contest Submission

By Yvette Bedeau

I was working in the bakery shop across from where this cyborg girl worked. Her name was Cinder. People in this market disliked her because she had a metal arm and leg. Also, other girls despised her because she was a mechanic. She always smelled like dirt and she had grease stains all over her clothes. Her hair was usually in a messy ponytail that had a bunch of knots in it. Particularly, I don't really care about how she looks. I don't judge people on how they appear. I judge them by their personality. I would like to be her friend or someone close to her if my mother didn't despise her.

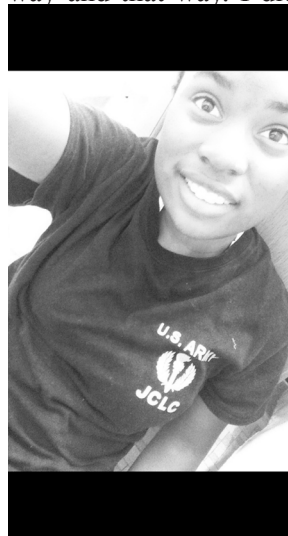
Anyways, I went back to work. All day I take the bread in and out of the hot burning ovens. I hate working on hot, humid days like these. I sweat bullets and my mother yells at me, telling me not to get the sweat on the bread. It's not my fault that it is so hot. I absolutely hate when she yells at me. It makes me want to curl up in a ball and cry. She humiliates me in front of so many people. I hate it. I wish I could just run away and never return. But, if I even step one foot out of the shop, my mother would come barging at me and start shouting at me even more than she already does.

While I was waiting for more bread to come, I took a glance at where Cinder was working. My jaw dropped all the way to the floor. I couldn't believe my eyes. I saw that the Emperor's son, Kai, was standing there talking to Cinder. I couldn't believe that. No one ever thought that such a high-class person would talk to a person like Cinder. They looked at Cinder like she was a disgrace to everyone and everything. I think she noticed because she

looked nervous and there probably was a hint of fear. I couldn't imagine what I would do if I was in a situation like that. I'm guessing that Kai was asking her for assistance on his android. Just by the looks of it, his android was refusing to turn on.

"AAAHHHH!"

I heard that scream and knew that it was my mother. I ran so fast that I was by her side in a half second. I saw that she was lying on the floor. A medical android came and took a blood sample. I didn't understand why the medical android was doing that. Then it hit me. My mother had the plague. My heart stopped. I couldn't think of anything to do. When the medical android said that it was the plague, everyone started scrambling, running this way and that way. I didn't know what to do. I want to



stay by my mother's side, but the medical android was pulling me away with such force. I cried as I watched my mother being carried away on a stretcher. I probably will never see her again and I never got to say good-bye.

*Yvette loves to read and write. This is a great take-off story.*

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# Cautionary Tale

By Laya Venkatesan

*Introduction: This tale takes place in a futuristic setting, to highlight the main messages and themes that are meant to be amplified. The story includes vocabulary that is meant to sound like the setting is in the future.*

“Mom! An InstaPackage came!” Abby spoke through her AM-PLIphone. Kate ran around in NurseCare; she was only 8, while Mark was in his room doing his homework; he on the other hand was 13. Abby was stuck in the middle, being 10. They all went to Greenwood, a private school from grades K-8. Abby watched the box slide through the door swiftly and quickly. Her curiosity tempted her to open it, but she restricted herself from doing so until her mom accepted.

“Don’t open it yet! Who is it from?” her mom, Kim, replied back into her speaker, answering Abby’s thoughts.

Abby’s eyes scanned the box, landing on the bold and imprinted letters, Milena Panova, “It’s from Grandma!”

Abby could hear Mom’s sigh from the crackling on her speaker. She saw Mom make her way into the family room, staring at the package; almost penetrating her eyes through it.

“Kids!” Mom had her multi-speaker on now, “Come to the family room. Grandma sent us something,” she instructed breathlessly. Her eyes sagged down, but yet she seemed to have her head held high and shook away her torpor and lethargy. After waiting for Kate and Mark for a while, she yelled, “Come NOW!” Although their mom usually had a pliable nature, some things put her temper over the top.

The childrens’ groans were loud and in unison; it was clear that they wanted it to be audible. Kate and Mark dragged themselves into the family room, flopping across the floor. Their dad, Chris, trailed behind them.

Kim pressed the button somewhat reluctantly, as the package shot open. All Russian pastries were tied together. They were in an ostentatious display; each sweet lined up neatly and nicely.

“Wow! That’s so sweet of Grandma,” Kate snorted to herself, as Abby and Mark shook their head in disbelief. Kate reached for one of the sweets instinctively.

But before Kate could even touch one, her Mom pushed her hand away and gave her a warning look, “We won’t do anything with these until dinner tomorrow.”

Kate sighed and took one more look at the sweets, in an effort to be abstemious, “Fine.”

The curtains shook and the windows creaked, leaving an ominous effect, “It was probably just the wind,” their dad assured, trying more to convince himself than the others.

Abby slowly made her way to her room, as the rest of the family carried on with what they were doing. She sank on her bed, sighing, not knowing what to do out of boredom. Her phone started flashing rainbow colors; Abby peeked at her

phone and saw that it was from Kelsey, one of her friends. She clicked on the big, bright red button, watching an amplification visual of Kelsey pop out.

“Hi!” Kelsey waved excitedly. She was grinning widely, rocking back and forth on her bed.

“Hi,” Abby made an attempt to sound happy half-heartedly.

“What’s the matter? Oh, are you sad because school is tomorrow,” Kelsey nodded sympathetically.

“What? School is already tomorrow!” Abby gasped, checking her phone to read the big letters, Sunday, November 20th, 2301.

“Yeah, sadly. Well, did you do anything fun over the weekend? My cousins came over!” Kelsey exclaimed.

“Well, just now, my grandma sent us some goodies from Russia. I can’t wait until dinner tomorrow!” Abby seemed a little more excited.

“Yeah, ha-ha. Just waiting to pounce and strike on those poor little guys,” Kelsey played along.

Suddenly, little crackling noises came on the phone. Kelsey’s eyebrows furrowed with curiosity, staring at Abby.

“There must just be bad reception,” Abby cleared the confusion, “Okay, so, I’ll talk to you later. Bye,” she waved.

“Bye!” Kelsey smiled.

Abby pressed the red button again, ending the call. She heard a slight knock on the door, “Come in!” she yelled.

“Hi Abby,” her mom walked in, “Is your school bag packed yet?” she asked.

“Yeah, I think RoboHelper already packed it for me,” Abby replied.

“All right then, good night,” Abby’s mom said, closing the door slowly.

Abby released a big breath, falling onto her pillow. Her heavy eyelids closed in on her and the morning awaited her.

\*\*\*

“Good morning!” Mark woke up to the sound of perky Kate.

“Ugh, why’d you have to wake me up?” Mark



*Laya is an accomplished writer who has written myths, essays, and short stories.*

*Enjoy this new masterpiece.*

**Cautionary Tale** *con't on page 54*



# Vocabulary Contest Winner

# Museum Break-in

By Dhruva Nistane

This man wasn't usually ebullient, and same thing today. He was very gregarious and I guess that's what gave him away. If I knew what was on his mind, I would have stopped him, but I didn't and there is no point dwelling over the past. That day, I was sitting in my respective position as a security guard for the Smithsonian at D.C. People usually deride me for having such temporary jobs. This was my fifth, but trouble couldn't help but follow me! I knew I was guarding one of the most sacrosanct museums and I had to keep a look out on my night shift. (Sometimes, I just fall asleep.)

I jolted awake abruptly as I heard a boisterous noise come a couple exhibits away. I wiped the grogginess away from my eyes and pushed away the buttress that propped me up at an angle. I gingerly ventured into the museum in order to preclude any harm to the artifacts. As I came closer, I saw a shadow move across the room. Reluctantly, I followed. Though there was a tenuous link between a shadow and there being a person because of all the inanimate objects, I still decided to pursue. I came across... nothing. Nothing out of the ordinary, but I was known for my obdurate determination.

"Hello. Anyone out there," I softly whispered into the air. I heard nothing back. Another noise. This time I was quick to follow.

What I came across was astounding.

I saw a maelstrom lay spinning; white froth spun around the edges. It grew bigger at every spin and it started to have shattered glass and chunks of artifacts rolling around! Now I was caught up in a maelstrom of emotions. My

life had reached its nadir at this point and time. A man appeared out of the top of the swirling whirlpool. I had seen this man numerous times before, taking measurements of the rooms and taking pictures of exhibits. I had thought he was just another avid researcher,

but now I knew different. But it was too late. I knew I would soon be in the hands of my capricious manager if I even survived this! The whirlpool and the man, after giving me a crooked smile, faded. And I was left all alone in the wake of destruction..

To no avail, I retold the events that had occurred over and over. I unctuously tried to praise the manager, but even that did not result in anything. They told me I had gone crazy. They told me my story was fallacious and that no one would buy it. I abjured my errors when I gave back all the money I owed through several more jobs and a couple loans, but it still haunts me. Now that I'm broke, there's no problem in me chasing down that man, I have nothing to lose. I just can't shake off the image of his face in my mind.



*Dhruva has won the vocabulary contest twice. He is gifted. Enjoy reading this story and borrow his dictionary!*

## Mystery Writer Contest!

July 28, 2014

Write a mystery!

Word Count: between 300 and 800 words

Ages: 6-8

Ages: 9 -10

Ages: 11-13

Ages: 14- 17



# “Hola Amigo”

By Pranu Gadhoke

“Cancun International Airport welcomes you.” I had finally landed in Cancun with my family and my best friend Aryan Chakrabarti’s family. I was as excited as a monkey winning a lottery on bananas.

2 days later...

I had finally woken up and I was ready to have the best day in Blue Bay Resort. First, I went downstairs to the breakfast. I saw the beautiful, blue sky, the sun rays hitting my eyes, and the warm air of Mexico. After my delicious breakfast of melted butter on toast, orange juice, and an omelette, I was ready to start my perfect day.

My goal for the day was to face my two fears. My fears were going snorkeling and going parasailing in the middle of the ocean.

First, I was going to go snorkeling. Going deep inside of the water always scared me because I would probably sink. I was feeling as scared as a deer in headlights. I didn’t want to chicken out so I kept my word and listened to the instructor. He told us some key signs like “Ok”.

I put the gear on, but Aryan had gone snorkeling before and he said it was the best underwater experience in his entire life. I took his word and went in the boat with him.

Finally, the instructor said to jump. I thought he had lost

his mind, but Aryan jumped and so I did, too. Nothing happened and I was up so I put my head down and it was like a different world down there. When it was time to come out, I came out, and I gave myself a check for snorkeling, and now it was parasailing.

I had always hated heights, but I know if I did snorkeling, I could go parasailing. The jetski took Aryan and I to the middle of the ocean to where the boat was. When we reached there, I jumped on the boat. The instructor put gear on Aryan and I. My heart was beating as fast as a cheetah. What I felt like doing inside was jumping into the water so I wouldn’t have to go parasailing. Should I tell everyone I cannot do this? If I do, will Aryan think I am a coward? No, I came here to do this so I kept my word and did what I had to do. After what felt like an eternity, I was above the Gulf of Mexico. I finally started to like it and I felt like the king of the world. I had faced all my fears!

Whoosh! The instructor took the rope and made our feet touch the water.

After, I reached shore, I thought that today was the best day of my life!



*Parnu does a great job with short stories.*



## Photography Contest!

**Submit your best artistic photo!**

**All ages:!**

Submit to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

**Deadline: July 28, 2014**



## Cautionary Tale *con't from page 51*

“Ugh, why’d you have to wake me up?” Mark whined, as his bed escalated, sliding him gently onto the floor.

“Sorry, I thought you were already awake. And Mom told me to come and wake you up since it’s time for breakfast,” Kate explained, walking to the breakfast table.

The morning routine went by fairly quickly, and soon, Mark, Abby, and Kate were headed toward the AutoBus. Kate pushed the street button, and an AutoBus came zooming their way. They all jumped on and the bus dashed to their school.

“Hi!” Mark greeted his friend, Tom, once he got off the bus.

“Hey Mark!” Tom replied just as enthusiastically.

Both of them headed to their first class following their daily schedule. At last, it was lunch.

Mark and Tom headed to the table with all their friends waiting for them impatiently. They sat down, eager to eat their lunch.

“I have this really cool sandwich. It has everything in it!” Tom exclaimed, showing his sandwich full of all vegetables and cheeses.

Mark took it more as a challenge than a statement, “Well, I have the best treat waiting for me at home from my grandma,” he commented.

“That’s cool!” Tom smiled.

Mark caught something in the corner of his eye near the window on the door. He saw something or someone shaking and moving around.

“Are you okay? What are you looking at?” Tom asked, concerned, following Mark’s gaze to the window with nothing there.

“Yeah, I’m fine,” Mark shook his head back into reality, “I think I’m just seeing weird things since I’m tired,” he reassured.

Lunch ended quickly, and before Mark knew it, he was already on the bus with his sisters, heading back home.

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“Today’s been a nice day,” Kate shared, sighing.

“Yeah, I guess so,” Abby agreed, leaning on her seat.

“Come on, this is our stop,” Mark beckoned, leading them out the bus.

The bushes shook and ruffled unnaturally as if covert spies were undercover.

“Did you see that?” Kate said in a panicked voice.

“What?” Abby and Mark asked in unison, stopping in their tracks.

“There was something in the bushes!” Kate stared at the bushes, breathing heavily.

Abby and Mark rolled their eyes, “There’s nothing in the—,” before they could finish their sentence, three, tall men jumped out of the bushes, grabbing the children.

“HELP!” they cried. They exchanged frightened looks, clueless of what to do. The men threw them into their car, hand-

cuffed and mouths tied. Abby struggled to speak, shaking her head violently to rip the cloth that was wrapped around her mouth, while Kate tried helplessly to rip her handcuffs off. Mark groaned in resignation, knowing that whatever he did wouldn’t help. Their debility was no match for the strong, brawny men. They heard muffled voices in the front that sounded harsh and timorous.

Suddenly, the car pulled up to a curb, as the men grabbed the children and dragged them toward Greenwood County Jail.

The children stared at the sign in confusion and disbelief. As soon as they got inside, the men released the handcuffs and the cloth.

“We didn’t do anything wrong! Why are we in jail?” Kate screamed.

“You are here because of underage threats of weaponry usage,” one tall man replied with a serious and stern look on his face.

“WHAT!” Abby yelled, “We didn’t threaten to use any weapons,” she complained.

“We will discuss this in your jail cell. Get ready for an interrogation,” the man warned.

“Can we at least call our parents?” Mark asked pleadingly.

“They’re here as well,” the man lead them through a narrow hallway, and pushed them into a cell where their parents were. They looked just as confused as the kids were, but they looked like they were trying to exhibit decorum and keep poised.

“We’ll be back in 5 minutes,” the men said, walking back toward the entrance.

“Why are we here?” Mark, Abby, and Kate all asked, hoping that their parents would have some kind of explanation.

“We don’t know. They were saying something about the use of weapons, but there’s no need to worry; we’ll clear this whole thing out,” their mom’s convincing tone seemed to put them at ease.

“Ridiculous, isn’t it? The government is getting crazier and crazier. Lately, they’ve been having everyone under surveillance. That’s the only way they could have come up with such a silly accusation. We came to America thinking we’d have the right to prosperity and privacy. But here we are, IN JAIL!” their dad lamented.

“How did you guys get here?” Mark asked.

Kim and Chris started talking, “We were commuting from home today, since we didn’t want to go to work, and we figured we’d just take one of the pastries Grandma packed, and once we reached for the package, those men grabbed us, dumped them in their car, and here we are in jail. What about you?”

“They kidnapped us,” Kate giggled. Abby rolled her eyes, “They did the same same thing to us, but it was when we were walking home from school.”

## Cautionary Tale *con't on page 55*



## Cautionary Tale *con't from page 54*

"We're here for the interrogation," 2 men with refined suits and notepads came into the cell, taking their seats. There voices were abrasive and rough, giving them an intimidating image.

"What have you been planning and plotting? Who else is in this conspiracy?" one man inquired.

"We haven't been planning anything. There's nothing going on," their mom ensured.

"We've been hearing your conversations about a package sent from your grandmother with 'goodies' and 'treats'. And that you're waiting to get your hands on them to pounce and strike on someone at dinner today. So speak up and confess, or you'll be here for a long time," the other man cautioned.

"What, no you-----," before Mark could finish, the other interrogator already cut in.

"We have narrowed this illegal activity to one of the following---you are either harboring noxious chemicals from foreign countries, or smuggling weapons. Tell us which one it is,"

"Our grandmother sent us Russian treats and our mom said we'll only be able to eat them at dinner today. You took everything in the wrong context," Abby explained, while the rest of her family nodded.

The two men squinted their eyes, as if to almost try and see through them to find any hidden lies. They exchanged glances as if saying, "This explanation is plausible, but has to be reassured." They got up and exited the cell, "Hang on; we'll send people to check your house and see what was in the package you received. You need to stay here," the men walked out of the jail cell heading toward the police.

"Unbelievable," their dad shook his head in astonishment. Their mom nodded in agreement and rested her head on her hand, showing her blatant frustration.

A few minutes later, a police man entered he jail cell, "You guys are free to leave and receive our utmost absolution. Sorry for the misunderstanding," he opened the gates, releasing them from the cell.

**Man is born free, but always in chains."** -Rousseau

### Quote Contest!

Write a story based on the quote below!  
"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."

- Albert Einstein

All ages:!

300 to 700 words

Deadline: July 28, 2014

Submit to editor@citykidzworld.com



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