

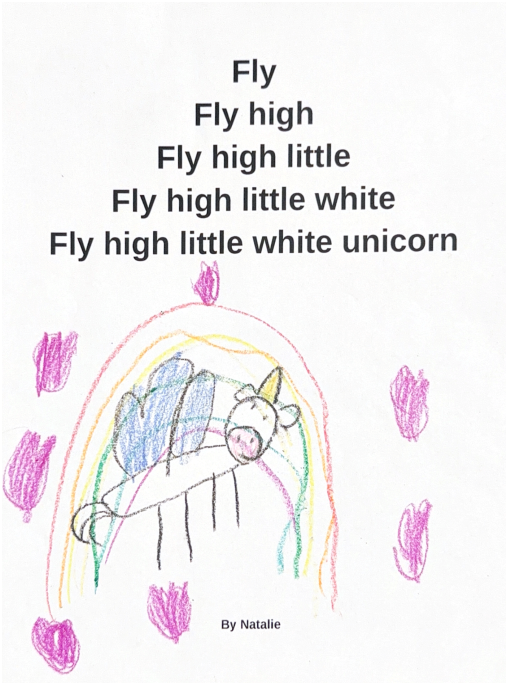
Northwood School

2025-26

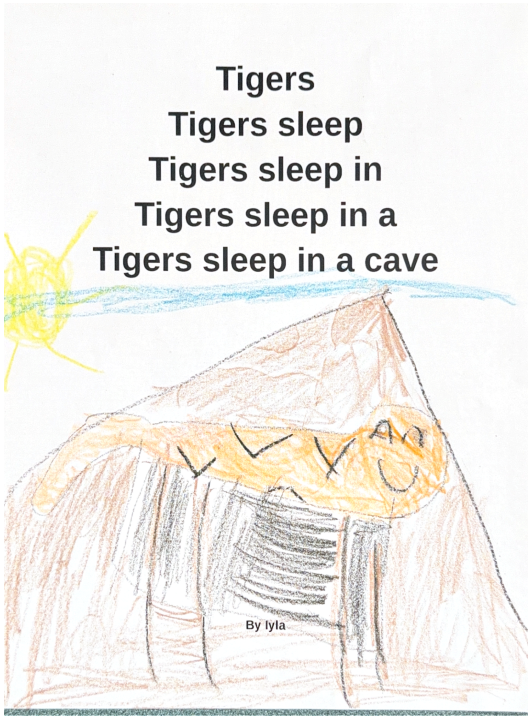
Literary Magazine

Cover art by Emma S., Grade 4

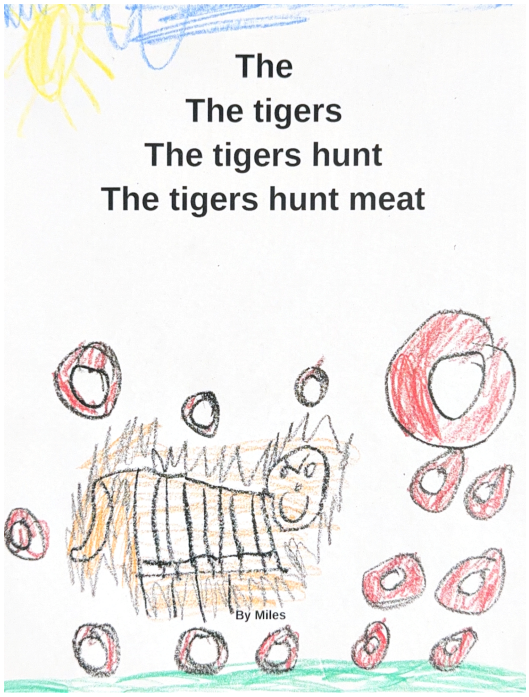
Fly High
By Natalie C., Grade K



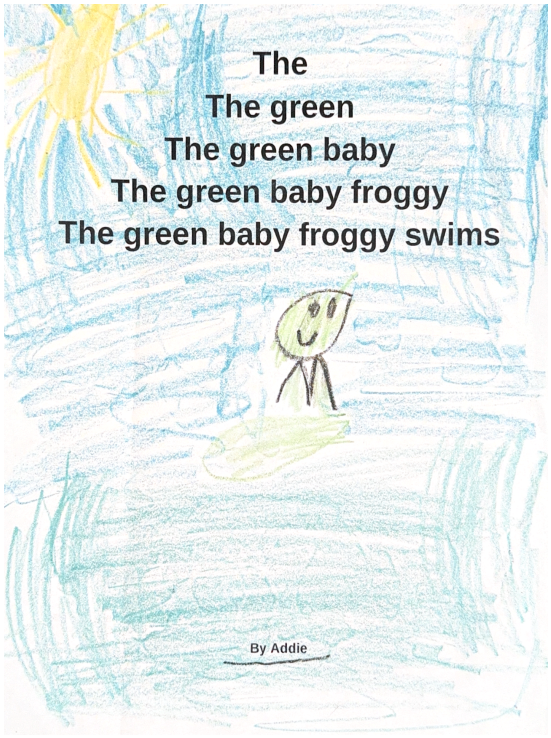
Tigers
By Iyla R., Grade K



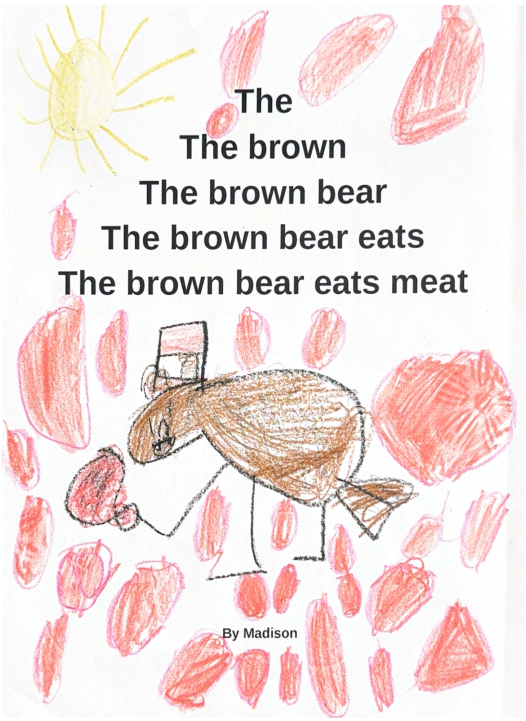
Tigers
By Miles O., Grade K



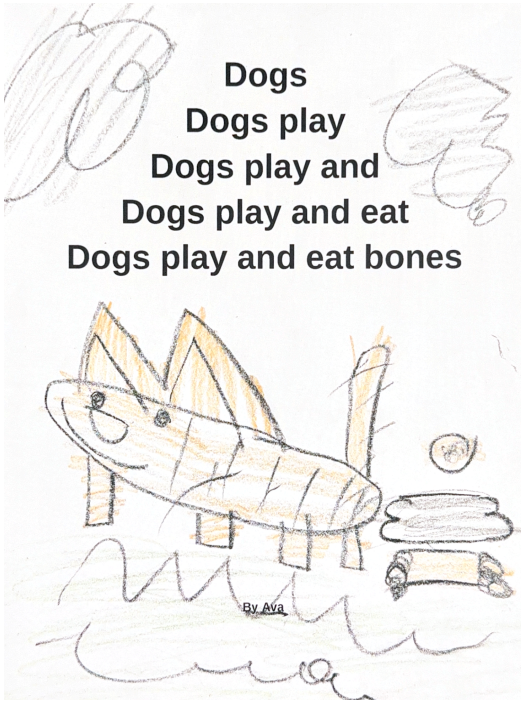
The Green Baby
by Addie M., Grade K



The Brown Bear
By Madison C., Grade K



Dogs
By Ava H., Grade K



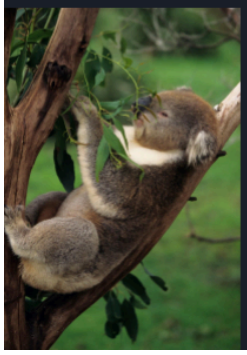
Koalas by James F., Grade 2

Habitats and Homes

The habitat of koalas is in Eucalyptus Trees. Eucalyptus Trees are a type of gum tree. They live on mountains on the Eastern Australian coast. They live in the forests of Queensland, New south wales, and Victoria. They have several home trees of their territory. They live in South Eastern and North Eastern Australia.



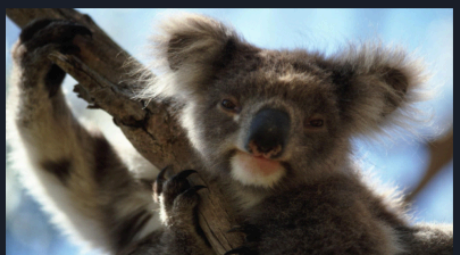
Food and Water



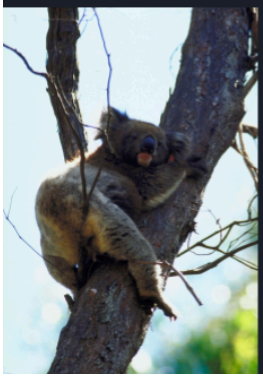
Koalas eat very few different types of food. Koalas are herbivores. Koalas mainly eat Eucalyptus Leaves. They don't drink very often, but they get their water from leaves. They can eat up to 200-500 grams of leaves every day. Like all mammals, baby koalas drink milk from their mothers. Koalas only eat a few kinds of leaves. They eat Tallowwood, Ribbon gum and Red river gum. The swamp in Queensland called Mahogany is a very important food source to koalas. Koalas are picky eaters.

Characteristics

Koalas are interesting animals. Koalas are about 2-3 feet high. Koalas weigh to about 20 pounds. They can move by crawling and climbing. Koalas can move up to 30 km/h! They are silver-gray to chocolate brown. Koalas 2.8 feet long! They have 2 thumbs and 4 fingers! Koalas are mammals. Koalas average lifespan is 20 years. Koalas smell like mint flavored cough drops because of the food they eat.



Adaptations



These are the adaptations of koalas. There fur protects them from the heat, cold, and rain. They have really strong legs for climbing because their food is in trees, but it's also useful to escape from predators that can not climb. Koalas make deep ‘belching’ sounds and other sounds like shrieking and bellowing. Koalas have a good sense of smell to smell food from far away.

Emus by Emma L., Grade 2

Habitats and Homes

Emus habitat is Australia. A habitat of a emu is a savannah forest,grass land,near a lake,sand plains. Fun fact emus move north in the summer and south in the winter.



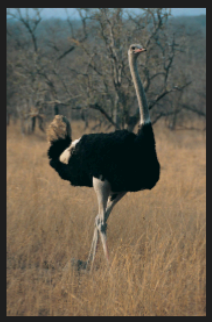
Food and Water

Emus eat lots of foods.Emus eat foods like plants and seeds.They also eat small animals and fruits.emus get water from streams and rivers and water holes.They eat ants ladybugs and grasshoppers.Emus eat flowers,rocks and animal droppings.Emus are omnivores.This is what emus eat and drink.



Characteristics

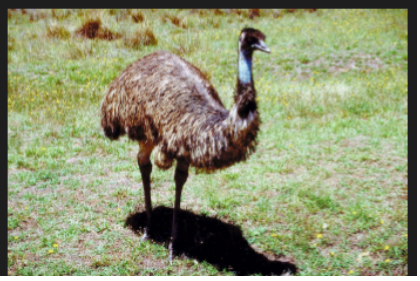
Emus are interesting animals.The height of a emu is five to six and a half feet.They weigh up to 90 to 130 pounds. The coloring of a emu is brownish gray. Emus movement is walk and run.Emus speed is 31 miles per hour.



Survival

Emus have lots of adaptations. Emus hunt their prey. Emus scream to scare their predators. Emus have really strong feet. Emus have a sharp beak.Emus blend in because of their feathers.

Emus can run from danger.



Dingoes by Brendan H., Grade 2

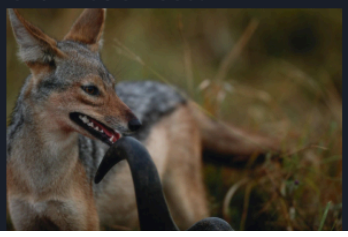
Habitats and Homes

The habitat of a dingoes in Australia. Dingoes live in dens a hollow tree or in a cave. Dingoes also live in grasslands and forests. Dingoes mostly live in western Australia and indo regions also of Australia.



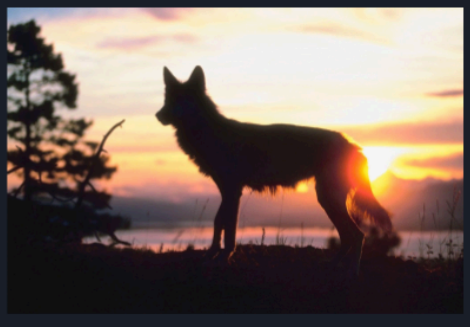
Food and Water

Dingoes eat a lot of different foods. Dingoes are omnivorous. Which means they eat animals and plants. Dingoes eat foods like dead marine life dried up on the beach. They eat red kangaroos and drink water. they drink water from lakes,waterholes and rivers. Dingoes mostly bite from the their preys throat. They also eat food like feral cats,emus, koalas, wallabies and rodents. Dingoes eat so many different kinds of food. Dingoes are so cool.



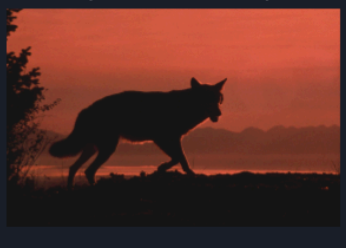
Characteristics

Dingoes are very interesting animals. They can run up to 30-40mph. They weigh 29-53 pounds that's how much a female weighs a male is bigger. Dingoes are tan and golden and they are 1.7–2.0 feet tall. There lifespan is 3-5 years old.



SURVIVAL

Today we are going to talk about Dingoes and how they survive. Dingoes have great hearing they have great hearing to hear sounds. They also are camouflage they do it to blend in with the bushes and the grass. Dingoes also have sharp vision to spot prey. They also have great sense of smell to smell when predators are trying to hunt them. They also are really fast to get away from predators.



The Forest Animals

By Juliana S. and Rosalyn M., Grade 5

Once upon a time, Bobert and Juli went into the magic realm and became Roscoe and Onyx.They thought to themselves, "Where are we?" Onyx looked around, his paws tripping over some rough tree bark. They continued walking through the forest, and heard a *very, very, VERY* loud noise. Onyx and Roscoe turned around because the noise they heard was coming from behind them, and they saw a… Dire wolf with purple ears?? "AHHH!!!" They all screamed in sync.

"Who are you?!" Meep and Onyx said. Roscoe was about to say their name until they were interrupted by screaming.

"HEY, STOP COPYING ME!!" said Meep.

"NO YOU!!" said Onyx.

"UGH!" Roscoe said, "You guys need to hush your fuss and calm down!" Meep and Onyx went silent. "I am Roscoe, that is Onyx. Who are you?"

"I'm Meep," said Meep. Onyx growled and climbed up a nearby tree. "I'm the *best* animal in town!" said Meep, smirking. Meep and Onyx fought…with claws, not words, and Meep lost, feeling embarrassed.

"Hush you two! Stop fighting. I'm hungry so you better stop fighting or I'll eat you both! I kind of wish I already had!" said Roscoe, making it a jok,e but being true to the statement.

Onyx cut a few apples off the tree with her claws. "Don't eat me, eat the apples or her, either one I don't care what you pick." Onyx said with a smug smirk on her face.

"Follow me, I know a good spot for hunting." Roscoe said, frowning. "I know this will be a long day.." they whispered under their breath.

"What?" Onyx and Meep said in sync.

Chapter 2: The Fight

Onyx had berries on his face because he rarely ate meat. But Meep was in a tree trying to catch squirrels. Roscoe laid down his front paws resting in front of him with his back paws scrunched up under his stomach. He had rested his head on his front paws.

"Oi, Meep wanna fight!" Onyx said with a challenging tone in his voice, threatening Meep.

"Hah. You couldn't even hurt a fly!" Meep burst out laughing. "Try me."

Meep leaped off a tree branch and lunged at Onyx. Onyx held Meep above her and growled, pushing her off him. "Nice try, ya idiot" he said. Then suddenly, they heard a scream.

Chapter 3: The Scream

So they all heard a scream, after scream, after SCREAM. Then they saw a flying kitty-Dragon being chased by a giant bee, wait no, WASP. The kitty-dragon flew down and said, "Help me! Help me!" she said. Bee stung her multiple times in the arm.

Bee turned back normal and said, " That's what you get for stepping on my friend, Fang!"

"Fang?" said Roscoe.

"Yes! And she stepped on Wasp!" said Bee.

A FEW HOURS LATER THEY MADE FORCED PEACE.

Bee was pollinating flowers while Onyx was staring. "Oi, what are you doing?"

"Making honey" Bee said back.

"Do I look like I care? I was talking to Roscoe, not you . . . Anyway . . . ROSCOE . . . what are you doing?" Onyx said with a rough tone in his voice. Roscoe was climbing a tree, then proceeded to tumble down to the ground…! He cannot multitask.

"I WISH I COULD TELL YOU BUT SHALL JUST GO TO SLEEP FOR A LONG TIME, I GUESS…"

Chapter 4: ?????

Onyx's back arched as he looked at Roscoe's limp body. She looked towards Bee, "Anyway . . ." Onyx leaped down from the rock he was on and asked "why are you making honey, Bee?"

"Because it brings earth and life!" Said Bee."and it keeps you alive"

"Know-it-all!" Onyx said aggressively.

"Shut up, you guys aren't built different!" said Roscoe, looking at them with fiery eyes.

"Why should I listen to you, three head?!" exclaimed Onyx. (Roscoe is a Cerberus, meaning a three-headed dog) .

"Because you won't be able to fight again"

Onyx backed down and walked away. "THIS ISN'T OVER, STINGER!" Onyx screamed.

Suddenly, Onyx fell into a small pond. "AHH" said Onyx, jumping out of the water.

"What happened?" said Meep.

"I felt something!!!"

"Felt what?" Meep looking at Onyx, confused.

"Slimy, long tail, medium sized, and blue green and yellow…maybe some pink" Onyx said.

"Huh, that's weird . . ." Roscoe said quietly

Chapter 5: "Slimy, Long tail, medium sized, blue green and yellow… and maybe some pink"

Suddenly . . . a Dragon, who looked like an axolotl . . . rose from the water. "OH GOD!" said Bee.

"What's wrong?" said the Axolotl Dragon.

"Who are you?!.. . . . no, what are you?" said Bee, moving forwards, as Onyx went into his so-called "fighting stance."

" . . . Onyx . . . what is that?" said Roscoe, utterly confused.

"My fighting stance. . . . ? What- what did you think i was doing?"

"Being a dork."

"I--A DORK?! I HOPE THE DRAGON THING EATS YOU!!!!"

"It won't eat me, you dork."

"NOT. A . DORK!!"

"Uh huh . . . sure . . . " Roscoe said, turning away from him, looking at the monster.

The "monster" looked tired, bored, and hungry. "Hello . . .?" the monster said again.

“Who are you?” Fang said with uncertainty.

“The reason this conversation just got interesting . . . anyway . . . I'm Bubbles…who are you guys??”

“That's Bee, Fang, Meep, and Roscoe! And I'm Onyx!” Obviously Onyx said that, while pointing his snout at each animal while saying their names.

“Huh . . .” Bubbles said. “Well . . . I need to blow this place up so . . .” Bubbles suddenly placed (and throws) TNT around the forest and turned invisible.

“WAIT WHA-” Onyx yelled before the TNT exploded “あなたは残酷だ! (“You're cruel!” In Japanese, Onyx has wings in one of his forms, andnine tails in another, and the nine-tailed fox is related to Japan somehow ...YEAH! BACK TO DA STORY!!)

The animals got blown back with sand on their paws, and legs. “SERIOUSLY!?! YOU'RE WORTH LESS THAN A NICKEL AND A DIME!!” Meep said, growling.

“Be grateful that you're still alive. It would be such a tragedy if you weren't . . .” Bubbles said.

An Alien's Story

by Langston M., Grade 4

Part 1: The Island

"**Tugatci**" (tu- ga- che), that is alien talk for hello. I am an alien. My name is Turbo. So, it was the year 5027. I was floating in my ufo, when there was an alarm that went off; It said that I was about to run out of **nuclear energy**! (fuel) I was screaming so loud, but my ufo was bulletproof and soundproof. I went crazy, and there was so much pressure I passed out. I was not in control anymore.

My ship was going down so fast that my seat almost unbuckled on its own! As my ship was going down I was trying to press the parachute button. I also noticed that the planet I was about to fall on was Demeter`s Island! That is a planet that got abandoned two thousand years ago!

I was able to touch the parachute button ten seconds before impact. I had just saved my ship and me from the crash. I tried to get out but my door was jammed. I finally was able to get out but that`s when I started to get hungry. Thankfully, there was a lot of fruit on this island.

I started walking around looking for fruit (by the way I am a vegetarian) and found the legendary great fruit fields. In the fields there was endless fruit that could last a lifetime! I was gobbling down food while I watched TV because the transmitter on my device wasn't working, but my internet was fine(we don't even use internet :)).

Part 2: Exploring

After I finished eating, my quest began. I had to find a source of nuclear energy and a piece that popped off my ship after impact. Luckily I have a set of tools in my ship, but not extra pieces to my ship.

Now I started walking. After a long walk, it got dark, I mean really really dark like, not like a normal night. I checked the time… 5pm! I looked at the sun with special glasses, “Oh, it is a **solar eclipse**.” “Wait, a **solar eclipse**!!” Those are really rare, like once in a lifetime situation, unless you’re an alien who live to about 2,000 years old. (I’m only 45) the eclipse was really beautiful.

Focus, I thought. Take a deep breath and keep going, just like you're supposed to. “Alright it's time to go explore more and more,” I said to myself and went on.

As I walked around trying to find my parts I saw a big footprint and heard a wolf. I heard stories about a mutant wolf that lives on this planet. I started to get nervous and freak out.

The sound got closer and closer and I looked up and saw the solar eclipse but it was a **blood moon solar eclipse**!!! I took a picture and set a reminder to show my family and friends when I get home. (That is something our devices do to set specific location reminders)

I started looking around again and I noticed a big **cloud** with a **castle** on it. (wouldn’t that be cool, a **sky palace**?) Then I noticed not just a castle, but a **whole village**. (getting even cooler) then I remembered I had a jetpack. (bet you didn’t expect that. No, don't say you did, I know you didn’t.) I went back to my ship to get my jetpack. I got back and found my jetpack. I pressed the on button but…nothing. As I walked back to the cloud… “**woah**!!!” I said. I saw a **laser** on the cloud. “How did that get there?” I asked myself. Then, it became dark again. The next thing I knew, the laser started shooting out nuclear energy. (bet you didn’t expect that) I grabbed a bucket from my ship so I could fill my ship’s battery and my jetpack.

Part 3: The Village

After I filled the bucket it became light again and the laser stopped shooting. Then I filled my jetpack and went up to the cloud. I brought some swords and stuff just in case I have to defend myself.

Now it got scary. The clouds became dark red; there was lightning everywhere; the castle had a lightning rod there that made the lightning strike a specific place. The lightning stopped, the clouds were normal again but something was not right. **The castle was split in half**!!! (wow even more exciting, eh?) There was a giant that stepped out of the crack. “Ahh!!!”, I screamed.

I had just enough nuclear energy to get back down. Now I had to wait until it was night time again so I could fill the bucket. It was finally night and of course, the laser was shooting more energy. I went to the laser with the bucket and filled it up again.

I ran back to my ship but the door was jammed again. I was able to open the door. I filled up my ship and thought about the planet and the journeys I've had. Then I heard a howling sound again. It got louder and louder. Then I saw it; it was my lost wolf.

“How did you get here Moon?” (That’s my wolf’s name, Moon) I used my translator to see what he said.

“Ruff ruff ruff,” he said. (He means he came here to stay safe)

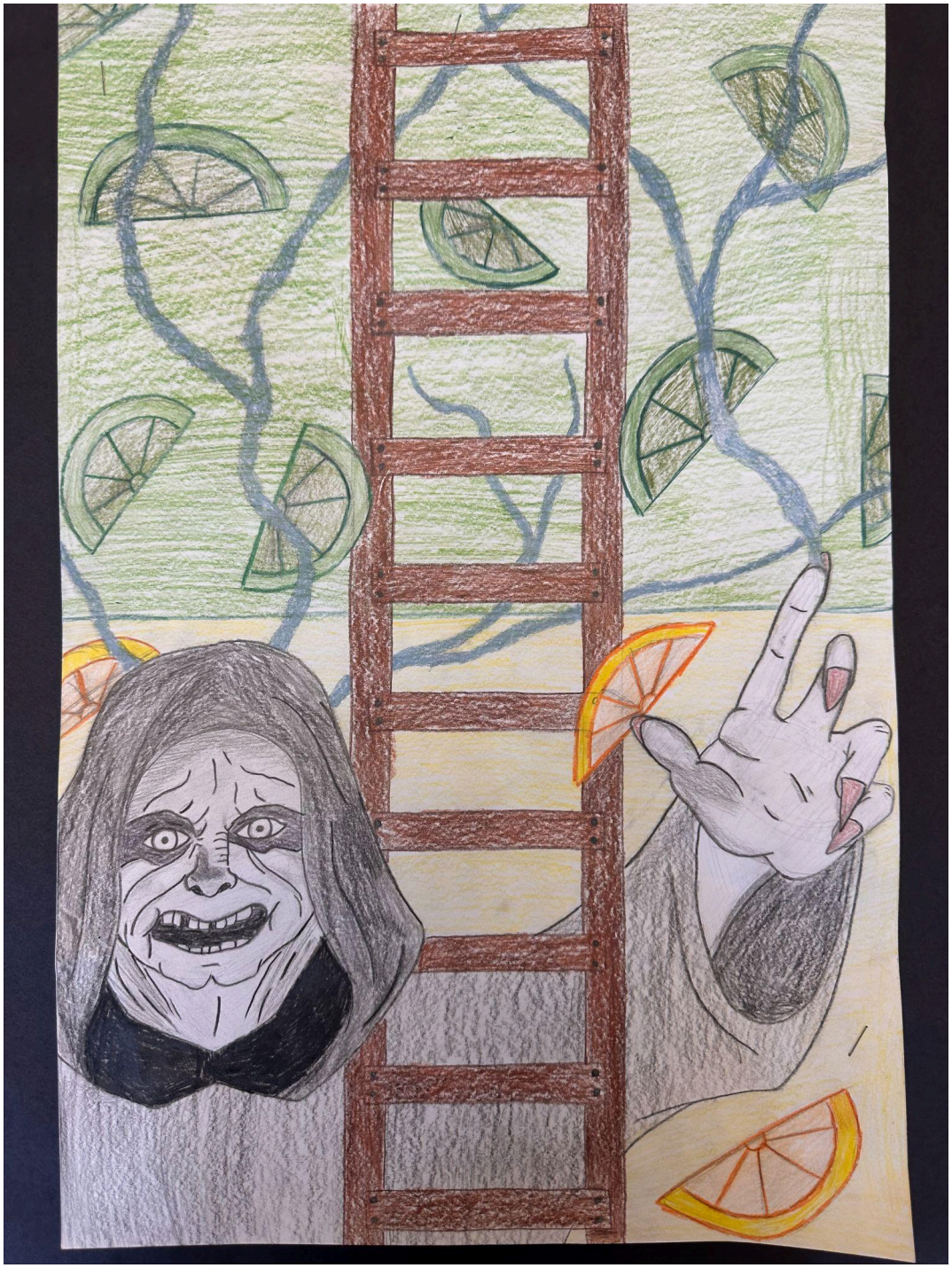
Now I have to build a cage to load him on the ship. I walked around and found some metal pieces to build with. I got out my toolbox and got to work. In 5 hours I **finally** finished. I loaded him on and took off.

When we got home I showed my family all the stuff on my adventure and we had a welcome home party for me and Moon. We got tons of presents from our birthdays and Christmas. **The end**. (or is it?) **Get ready for the second book!** :)

Once upon a bad dream

by Heaven O., Grade 7

Over the very tall and high hills you can find a house the size of the white house but no one will see it with bare eyes. When you can see it you know you have gone too far and you need to back up. The house is a sign of a landmarker of the farthest place you could travel on planet earth. But if you do end up in this place you have walked too far and your phone will die and you will have no access to anybody out of this landmarker. But if you want to leave you will have to turn and don't look back. This could push you farther back and you could just be running in one place for eternity. But if you do look back, say the words written on the walls of the house but don't get too close. And you will wake up from your sleep. It was all a dream. This place does not exist in the real world, just in your dreams. If you see this house do not tell anyone that you saw it in your dreams.



Art by Mabel W., Grade 8

Two Voices,One Journey

By Lionel Y., Grade 5

Nya:

I wake each day before the light,
To walk the path I know by sight
The air is dry, the land is bare,
But I still go, my load to bear.
The pond is far, the water bad
But it's the only source we've had.
I walk for those who need me most,
no matter what the tiring cost.

Salva:

I walk as well, but lost and scared,
No home, no family,unprepared.
The war has taken all I knew,
Now every step feels hard to do.
The nights are cold, the days are long,
But deep inside, I must stay strong.
A voice within me softly pleads,
"Keep going forward, don't concede."

Nya:

The sun beats down upon my skin,
Each trip feels like I cannot win,
Yet still I rise and face the day
because my family needs this way.

Salva:

I cross the desert, filled with fear,
But hope is something near.
Though I am weak and feel alone
I dream some day I'll find a home.\

Both:

Different paths yet, still same,
We walk through hardship, pain, and flame.
Through every mile,
Through every tear,we learn that hope is near.
And one day, the ground will give clean water
So we live no more endless painful miles…just
Strength, and hope, and future smiles.

And finally… we meet past endless miles.|

I Love the Lorax

The Hamburger Dog's Version

By Gretchen S., Grade 6

We hamburger dogs all live, but it's no secret where we all want to live… the Lorax's palace! Unfortunately, it's not just us that want to live there, we have to fight the Soccer Mice for every square inch of space. After lots of thought and many attempts of negotiation, it's time for us to begin taking what is rightfully ours!

As the advisor in training, it is my duty to help my master in the wondrous task of assisting King Bob, ruler of the Hamburger Dogs.

"Bartholomew," my master cals. "It's time to wake up."

I jump out of bed.

"Coming," I reply as I hurry to assist him. As the advisors. we must go see Lewis, the general and captain of our forces. We have to get ready for another great day of helping our king. On our way I see my friend Callie. I wish I could stop to talk to her, but unfortunately when I'm on duty I have to stay focused. I can't be distracted if I want to keep my job--even if it requires many hours of sitting silently and attentively.

"Greetings, my lord," calls Louis. As the general, it is his job to speak first. All of the army sat back on their haunches in a bow.

"Permission to speak?" Louis asks, and our great king nods.

"After a long discussion we have decided the best way to win the fight is to send our four strongest fighters into a crater." As he says this, they step forward. "Once the fight begins and the mice are distracted, the rest of us will charge in from all sides. We'll have them surrounded and, voila, we win, foolproof plan."

"You have good ideas. Now, Barkworth, please hurry and call my scribe," Bob directs.

"Yes my lord," my master responds. "Now, Bartholomew please assist our king in any way he needs. I'll be back shortly."

"Yes sir," I respond stiffly. The plan is foolproof--right? Goodness, who am I to doubt the strongest army in the world, nobody doubts them. Well, at least when you never see or hang out with them. Take my friend Callie, for example. She's still bubbly and fun like when we went to school together, and I love to hang out with her. But her boyfriend Tanner was the kindest kid in our school, and now all he thinks about is war and beating the soccer mice, and sometimes Callie but that's besides the point. He's changed a lot, and I don't think it's for the better.

"Barthomew stop daydreaming! We'll address this later!" my master screams. I snap back into reality and try not to fall over. We'll address this later, a code for a what I did wrong essay. I have to complete these locked in the tower dungeon. You may be wondering why we want to live in the Lorax's palace if we already live in a tower. This is because the Lorax's palace is a lot cooler than Rapunzel's tower.

"This is an interesting plan and I'll ponder the idea and let you know quickly," Bob says.

“Why thank you, Sir,” replies Louis.

“But, in all honesty boy, I don’t know if I should approve the plan,” retorts Bob, “Let me talk to my advisors.”

“Why of course sir take as long as you need--” Louis stops because of the mad glare our king was giving him. Bob turned to us.

“I think the plan is solid. With enough training we should be set to win,” I murmur. “How much time do we have?”

“You must not speak before me, have you not heard this!?" Barkworth said “But, I agree with you that the plan seems solid and this next week should be enough time to prepare-if we plan carefully.”

King Bob just nods.

“Plan approved and meeting adjourned!” On the way out I see King Bob, struggling to carry his things down the steps.

“Are you okay, my King?” I inquire.

“Why, thank you for asking. Can you help me carry this?” Bob responds.

“Of course,” I reply.

Training for battle… Since our army was small. I must go into battle. The plan is to have Callie, Rex, Theodore, and Tanner in the best shape possible. They are our best fighters. Callie is an accurate archer. Rex is our captain of defense. Theodore is our captain of offense. Tanner weightlifts every chance he gets. As the advisor in training, my day is now split in half. In the mornings, I attend to the king and help my master out. In the afternoons, I train for battle with the nineteen other soldiers. On day five we match up our strongest fighters with the strongest mice. It is decided that it will be Callie versus Lloyd, Tanner against Cameron, Rex will face off against Grace, and Theodore will battle against the dreaded Elmo. Our army is ready early.

For the possible last time we say goodbye to our families. We gather in a circle and try to be cheerful, but the silence and mood hang in the air like an overcast day. My thoughts are going a million miles a minute through my head. *We're getting ready for our fight. We must win. Otherwise we can't live in the Lorax's palace. Everybody wants to live there. It'll be a hard fight., but I know that hamburger dogs can beat soccer mice. Because please mice win over dogs! Whoever heard of such a thing? Well we’ll win and that's what's going to happen.* I calm down-it’s almost time to go into battle. We go to bed early so we can wake up at four in the morning and beat the mice to the battlefield.

This morning we prepare and send Callie, Tanner, Theodore, and Rex to their places. The rest of us hurriedly surround the crater and prepare our weapons.

“Now, before we start, does everyone have their lucky hamburger and weapons?” calls Louis

“Yes, sir! General Sir!” we all chorus. At about six thirty am the soccer mice finally show up with their tiny toothpick spears and soccer jerseys. Now, it is time for the battle to begin. The mice charge in and the first cannon shot kills Rex, the next shot hits Tanner square in the chest.

“TANNER!!!” Callie screams as she flips him over and sees that he is gone. Big tears start falling from her eyes. I feel horrible, terrible, like garbage. I wish I could run in and hug her or call out to her to let her know that I’m here for her. Alas, that would let the conniving mice know our position. I feel like we’re losing…Theodore and Callie are back to back fighting for their lives--literally. Finally the slow mice are in the position we need them in.

“Ready, everyone?” Louis whispers as quietly as possible because the mice have very good hearing. I try to nod but am so nervous that instead I turn my head and barf. I quickly wipe my mouth-it is time to go into battle.

“Five…four…three…” Louis starts.

BAM! Someone drops an exploding hamburger and our cover is blown. I run to Callie’s side. Together, she, Theodore and I try to fight back. All of a sudden it’s a lot quieter than before. Everyone looks around and realizes that almost everyone has died-fifty dogs and mice have turned into fifteen! What have we done? I wish I could give up, but I must honor everyone that has died. Maybe bring their families some peace of mind. Our small crowd assembles, and I gaze from one face to the next. Barksworth, Callie, Theodore, myself, and the king--hiding behind the four of us.

“I don’t want to die,” I say slowly, each word tastes sharp and acidic on my tongue.

“Well, if you die you don’t have to write an essay for me!” Barksworth says, trying to make light of the moment. We all turn and glare at him.

“Not the time,” Callie murmurs as she shoots me an apologetic glance.

“I hate to say it but I think we have to surrender. We can always sneak in anyways,” Theodore says ruefully, scratching his paws in the dirt.

“Son, I think you’re right.” replies a tongue-tied Barksworth.

I see the King's hand shaking as he holds out a white handkerchief. “Here,” he says.

“Thank you,” I say as Barksworth takes the handkerchief. In the blink of an eye the littlest mouse is on top of Barksworth. He quickly waves the white handkerchief of surrender, and all the little mice cheer and hug and cheer some more.

While the mice are moving in, we decide to go sneak into the palace and take over. On our way we stop to see the Onceler. O’Hare answers the door and he is crawling and acting like a baby. We all exchange glances like “He’s our Mayor!?”

“Coming, coming.” calls the Onceler, when he gets to the door he pushes the lunatic mayor out of the way.

“We just wanted to stop by and let you know that we beat the soccer mice in the war,” says Bob. We try to interrupt him but he just glares at us. He’s an okay king but won’t let anyone see when his pride is wounded. The Onceler is overjoyed and gives us a giant steak so big it takes two people to carry it. “You can thank me later.” mutters Bob.

“Or I can thank you now,” I say. “Thank you!”

“Break it up, we have castles to take over,” Barksworth says.

“You morons ready or what?” Theodore says, bumping me on the head

“Hey!” I say in mock disdain.

“Come on guys it’s not much farther to the castle now,” Callie says excitedly.

“Since having a plan didn’t work out so well last time, how about no plan this time?" I ask.

“I’m in!” says Theodore.

“What is it with you kids and stupid ideas?” Barksworth mutters.

“That means you’re in--right???” Callie says.

“Yeah. That,” he replies, his voice dripping with disdain.

“Hey King, any powerful words, a motivating speech perhaps?” Theodore inquires.

“Okay well, I think you all are terribly annoying and way too loud. But you’re alive against all odds, have stayed very loyal subjects, and I hope you don’t die--I think? Well anyways, big motivating words. Wow--you all applaud my awesome speech.” King Bob frowns, even the birds fall silent. “I said you all applaud at my speech.”

“Alright, are we ready to go sneak in?” says Barksworth.

“But my applause. My mummy always claps for me,” Bob says almost in tears.

“Then I suggest you go find your mummy,” Theodore says.

“What was that for!” Bob whisper-yells.

One big fight later, we arrive at the palace doors.

“Oh my don’t ya’ll look spiffy! I hope you have a great time,” says an overexcited guard. “By the way my name's JJ.”

“Thank you,” replies Callie in the sweetest voice she can muster after today’s events.

“You wouldn’t happen to be Hamburger Dogs right?” says JJ, making eye contact with all of us.

“No, of course not. I love your tie, by the way." I say.

“Oh thanks! I got it from…” We walk away before JJ can finish his sentence.

“Gosh hamsters are so energetic." Callie says.

“Tell me about it,” Theodore replies grinning.

“Hush,” Barksworth says very sternly.

We all hurry to the west wing and get into position.

“Are you guys ready to take over half a palace?” asks Theodore.

“You bet!” I reply.

“Oh goodness,” Callie says, smiling at the both of us. We all quickly make up good excuses to get people to evacuate. Within five minutes we are the only ones still in the west wing.

We smile at each other knowing that we beat the mice this time. I start talking, “We got this! Nobody can stop us!”

Callie continues, “Let’s do it!”

“We’re downright the best!” Theodore adds, smirking. We all burst into laughter--

“Thud. Thud. Thud.” The sound cuts off our laughter.

“Is that like a giant ninja with a seventy-five foot katana?” Theodore asks, dumbfounded.

“Probably.” I mutter.

“Just when I thought this day couldn’t get any more interesting,” King Bob chuckles. We all ignore him.

“We have to get out of here,” Callie says, shaking.

“You’re right,” I say, “but if I die…”

“Oh don’t say that,” she replies with tears running down her face.

“I was going to say that if something does happen to me I don’t have to write an essay,” I grin.

“Why’s it only funny when he says it?” Barksworth asks.

“Time and place my friend, time and place,” Theodore chuckles. “Now, I do believe that we have a task at hand.” We step out of the west wing to see animals running around and screaming their heads off.

“Mommy help!” calls a young fox.

“I can't, I'm carrying my favorite child.” the worried mother replies.

“You like her better than me! That’s not fair.” he calls back, but his mother is already gone. We all ran outside to see a ninja stomping towards us.

“I cut the castle in half. WOW! All the midgets think I’m really scary, they run from me,” says the ninja, his name is Ken, I guess. Theodore bursts out laughing, but stops when he sees Callie and I glaring at him.

“Rawr!” yells the ninja as he brings the sword down, attempting to cut the palace clean in half. Not everyone gets far enough, and many animals are squashed by debris.

“Help!” I hear a familiar voice scream, I whip around and see that Callie has her paw stuck in a pothole.

“Coming,” I scream over everyone else.

“It’s okay!” Theodore says out of breath when we arrive at her side.

“There,” I say after we get Callie unstuck. We ran into a meadow of truffula trees trying to take cover. Once we find a hidden spot we all sit together, I notice my breathing is faster than a mouse's lifespan.

Five minutes later we hear a sickening smack, and a tree starts to fall--right onto King Bob.

“NOOOOOOOOOO!” he screeches as tears pour down his face. We all look away as the tree squashes him.

The Lorax emerges from the stump and says, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better. It's not.”[1]

We hear another tree fall and the Lorax goes crazy. “You shall pay for cutting down my trees!” he yells as he chases us into the sunset.

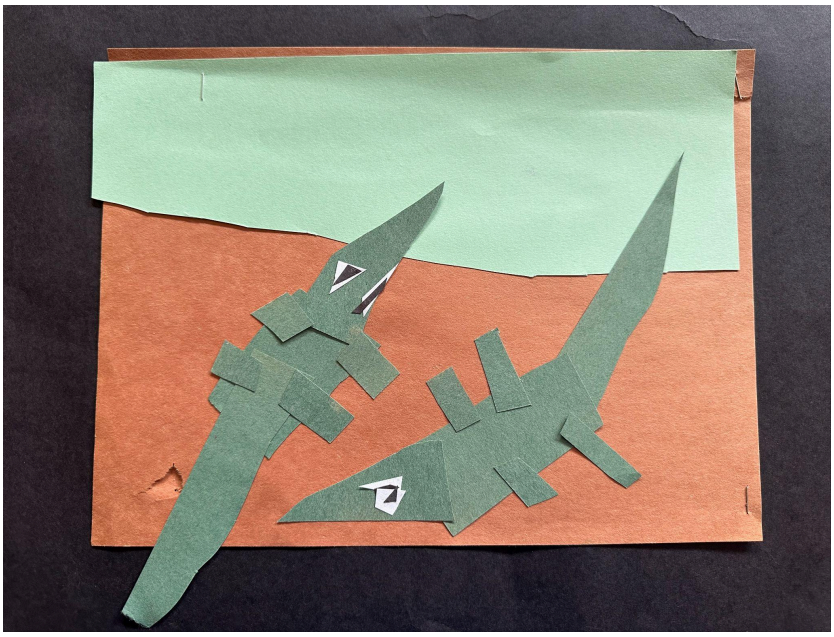
A clipping from the latest newspaper:

The story you’ve all been waiting for is finally here!
Brought to you by McNeal Publish and Co
Reported by Ms. Barbra Williams

Theodore, Callie, Barksworth, and Bartholomew were never seen again--until yesterday. Their bodies were found and it was evident that they had been dead a while. The bodies were strewn all over the floor-right next to the soccer mice. I suppose they all ended up in the Lorax's palace. Even if they were dead.

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1 Dr. Seuss, The Lorax, Random House publications, original publishing in 1971.



Art by Daniel Z., Grade 1

Forest Children
by Redmond H., Grade 5

Reaching for my mother was about the most I could do. My brother Luke was doing the same. “Please don’t leave us, please.” But they didn’t listen. My parents sprinted off, only looking back once.

But that was six years ago, and we rarely think of that now. My brother Luke and I are independent. Our main focus has been staying alive. No orphanage has ever accepted us. Our lives were filled with danger, not knowing where we’re going or where we are. All we knew was that people don’t accept people like us and they never will.

The only person I know is Luke. The only person he knows is me. We wandered around, hoping desperately for a place to sleep. I haven’t gotten any sleep in many moons. Luke had wide circles under his eyes, his bare feet caked in mud, his face and hands covered in cuts and bruises. Luke had it worse than me, being only six when our parents disappeared. Sometimes we’d come across hunters with their guns. We stayed clear of them, thinking they might mistake us for bears or deer.

“Mary, look over there!” I turned my eyes to where his finger was pointing. In the distance was what looked like a small hut in the middle of a clearing. We sprinted towards the hut, hoping maybe someone would be there. When we reached the hut we knocked on the door, praying someone would open the door.

It took a second but the door slowly opened. “Hello,” said the tall figure in the doorway.

“Hello," we said back.

“You’re forest children, Ja?”

We nodded, not daring to talk back. Luke was the first to speak up, “Where are we?” he asked.

“You’re in the Black Forest of Germany.”

Luke stared wide-eyed. “When our parents abandoned us, we lived in Luxembourg.”

The man laughed, “You must have wandered a very long way, children.” We nodded. “Well come on in.”

We slowly walked past a small faded sign on the house that read, “Home for Lost Children.” Two other young girls stood. They shook our hands and told us their names were Elsa and Gerda. The second we walked in there, I knew that this was the place for us.

Lost in the Jungle

by River G., Grade 6

It is a beautiful day in the Amazon Rainforest. There is not a cloud in the sky, and the sun is beating down hard. Sealy the seal is on her raft in the Amazon Rainforest trying to find her friend Mango. Until… Sealy falls off her raft from a HUGE wave.

“AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH, HELP ME!” screams Sealy.

Meanwhile Mango, the capybara, is sipping her delicious coconut Pina Colada and she hears her friend Sealy drowning in the warm water of the Amazon. She leaps majestically in the river and saves Sealy while getting a perfect score from the judges.

“Thank you. I owe you a Pina Colada. Nice leap, too,” says Sealy as she's coughing on some water.

“No prob, and thank you. You scared me,” Mango says. Mango brings Sealy to her home, and an unwanted guest is there, Pink Dolphineta, or P.D., the evil dolphineta.

“Well, well, well, look at this. A capybara helping a seal in the Amazon Rainforest.”

“She was hurt,” says Mango.

“She is weak! She can swim and you saved her. You should’ve let her die!”

“NEVER. We are friends.”

P.D. grabs Sealy and throws her against the wall. Mango is outraged with P.D. But Pink Dolphineta flops away before more damage is done.

“NGNGH...” groans Sealy in immense pain.

“Let me carry you on my back to the Magic Tree. It'll heal you.”

“Su-sure.”

Mango puts Sealy on her back and sprints to the Magic Tree. Meanwhile Sealy is being healed by the Magic *Tree*, Mango hears a rustling noise in the bushes. She goes to see what it is and its P... Mango yells to Sealy.

“ITS P.D. RUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUN.”

But Sealy doesn't run…she wants revenge…she wants to fight. So Sealy grabs a stick and sprints for P.D. She hits P.D. right in the binklesnort then again in the flinkleflorp. Pink Dolphineta is furious and hits MANGO in the limplelorp. While they're all fighting a mysterious creature appears. An Agouti… A guinea pig-looking rat that can run as fast as an NHL player can skate and has no mercy for anything. They all stop fighting when they hear the sound of fast little legs running around.

“IT'S AN AGOUTI!” yells Sealy.

“RUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUN!” yells Mango.

As a whole army of agoutis devours P.D., the Agouti find a new target and are on the run to catch Sealy and Mango. While they’re running, Sealy trips on a mangrove root

and falls, but Mango doesn't notice and keeps running away from the agoutis. Sealy is doing everything in her power to get up and save herself from them. Sealy always gets back up but not now. Right now she can't.

Mango finally realizes that Sealy isn't there and starts to look for her everywhere. But she's miles away from Sealy, and will have to backtrack to find her.



No Smoking!

By Quinncy M., Grade 4

It's so sad that so many people have died because of smoking and using tobacco products. I think that smoking or even the use of tobacco products should be made illegal or even banned in all of New Hampshire. I think that you should think that too. Here are three reasons why you should not smoke or use tobacco products ever in your life.

If you start smoking then you could get lung cancer and you don't want that. According to the World Heatlh Organization, the smoke in your lungs could kill you or give you cancer (it can be very dangerous).

Next, second hand smoking is very deadly. It can actually kill you faster than actual smoking can. So Dr.Sarah said that about 41,000 people died from second hand smoking.

Lastly, cigarettes are deadly. You might think they are not but they actually are. According to tobacco control cigarettes are the deadliest objects in the world.

Smoking is really bad for you. In this world; it is really different with all of this smoking. So this is why I will never smoke and this time you should not smoke either.

Cinnamon Rolls and Axolotls

By Kaylee H., Grade 4

"What's this baby axolotl doing on my dining room table?" Cinnamon Roll exclaimed. The calico cat was in her 3-story house on Ferry Road, in Wilmington, Delaware. She didn't know much about axolotls, but she knew they lived underwater. She had to get this one home quickly.

Cinnamon Roll knew the baby wouldn't know its address, but she could find their house with their name. She said to the baby, "Hi! You can call me Cini Mini!"

"I is Cookie," the baby said.

Cini Mini used her iPhone to see where Cookie lived. She got 1956 Lakeview Road as the address. Cini Mini grabbed the baby and went to the door. When she tried to open it, she realized that it was still locked from last night, because she always locked the door at night so no one snuck in. She got her keys, and was about to unlock the door when Cookie said, "Me hungry!"

"What do you want?" Cini Mini asked impatiently.

"Gilled chess please," Cookie said, unaware that there was a problem. Cini Mini quickly cooked a grilled cheese sandwich for Cookie. The baby axolotl chomped it down, then said, "Go see Mama?" Cini Mini realized Cookie was pale. Suddenly, the axolotl passed out. Cini Mini got a bucket of water, sprinkled some salt in it, and gently placed Cookie in it and raced out the door. Then, she crashed into something red and furry. They all fell to the ground in a wet, fluffy heap.

"Oh I'm so sorry hi I'm Ruby I'm a red panda it was kind of your fault so why am I apologizing are you going somewhere maybe I could come wait is that an axolotl?" Ruby said in one breath. She had moved in a few days ago.

"Umm... yes-no! Why is it your business?" stammered Cini Mini.

"Because you spilled salt water all over me, and axolotls can't breathe in that!" yelled Ruby.

"Oh," said Cini Mini, "That's why Cookie hasn't started breathing again."

"Cookie?" said Ruby, quieter this time. "I know where she lives."

Ruby ran into her house, rinsed the bucket, filled it up with water, and gently placed Cookie in it. Cini Mini and Ruby jumped in their car with Cookie waking up in her freshwater bucket. They drove as fast as they could without speeding. Soon, they got to Lakeview Road. They stopped short. The road was almost completely underwater.

"What happened here?" wondered Cini Mini.

"This is where most of the town's underwater animals live," explained Ruby. She stopped the car, grabbed Cookie, and got out. Cini Mini followed her. They swam through the water, going up to take quick breaths of air until they reached a house labeled 1956 Lakeview Road. They knocked on the door.

Cookie, who was almost completely back to normal now, said, "Home!"

A female axolotl opened the door. "Oh, thank you for bringing Cookie home!" she said gratefully. "A burglar stole her last night and I was worried she would die without water." Cookie's mom let them in to her house and told them to take a seat. Then she told them to wait there while she grabbed something. She came back with a long, skinny box. Cini Mini grabbed it and looked inside. A tail was in there!

"You didn't have to give up your tail forever," said Cini Mini, shocked.

"Oh, axolotls can regrow their limbs," explained Cookie's mom. Cini Mini was grateful for the gift, but she knew she had to get home. She thanked Cookie's mom one last time, and went home. She would cherish the tail forever as a sign of friendship, but also a reminder that good things come to those who are good.

The Glowing Light

By Taylor J., Grade 6

Have you ever had something strange happen to you? Not ordinary, strange! Well I'm about to tell you a story about two boys who had an unusual thing happen.

This story starts when Moe was closing the store and he saw a blue glowing light and the dogs started barking. “What's that?” whispered Moe. He walked over, then opened the door very slowly. And then……there was nothing?! Moe was so confused as to why it was not glowing anymore. Or why it was glowing in the first place. But he decided to go home. All night he was wondering what happened. When he got to work the next day, Noah immediately realized something was wrong with Moe.

“Alright, what's wrong?” Noah said worriedly.

“NOTHINGS WRONG!!!” Moe suspiciously said.

“There's something wrong, you look tired and you're not as talkative.”

“You won’t believe me,” Moe mumbled.

“I will,” Noah replied.

“Ok,” he takes a breath. “So last night when I was closing the store I saw a blue light coming through the storage room. I went to see what it was but when I opened the door it was gone!” Moe explained.

Why does he do this? He always does this. I hate that I thought that there was something wrong! Does he know how crazy that sounds? Noah thought.

”That's crazy,” Noah said.

“YOU SAID YOU WOULD BELIEVE ME,” Moe said agitatedly.

“I thought it was going to be something simple like you forgot something or like a bad grade. This has to be a joke, I thought there was ACTUALLY something wrong,” Noah said.

“But this is a problem……what if…if……it’s ALIENS?!!”

“Aliens are not real,” Noah answered.

“Please believe me, that's all I'm asking,” Moe said.

“If you're so sure, show me then when you close the store but if there's nothing there you have to buy me headphones,”

“Ok, deal,” Moe replied, even though he was not sure it will still be there.

“Show me this red glowing light,” Noah said, almost laughing.

“Its not red, it's blue, but follow me,” Moe corrected. They walked over to the storage room.

“So where's the light?” Noah questioned.

“It should be here, it was here yesterday,” Moe said.

Noah told him, “You were just probably dreaming,”

“It was too realistic. Plus last night I was dreaming about baseball, but that's not important . . .” Before Moe could finish his sentences, the dogs started barking and birds were chirping.

“Whats HAPPENING.!!” Noah cautiously said.

“This is like what happened yesterday when the dogs were barking!!!” Then, they saw the blue light coming from the storage room.

They opened the door. There was a huge blue portal!!

“You were right,” Noah admitted, terrified at what he was looking at.

“Should we go in?” Moe gulped.

“NO, we don’t know what will happen or where we will go,” But then they get pulled in!!!!! The inside was purplish blue with the rumble of thunder.

“AHHHHHHHH!” screamed Moe and Noah.

“Whats happening!” screamed Moe.

“WE ARE GOING TO DIE? WE ARE GOING TO DIE!?!” Noah yelled.

“STOP SAYING THAT! You're stressing me out!!! WE ARE NOT GOING TO DIE!!!” Moe screamed. Noah closed his eyes. Then they fell and landed in the middle of a field.

“Um Noah, where are we?!” Noah opened his eyes slowly.

“I think we just teleported, but where???” The place looked colorful. It had so many trees and there was no one in sight. It smelled like swamp, but there was something different about the smell.

“We should go and figure out how to get home,” Noah said.

Moe said, “Yeah I agree, but we should explore.”

“No, we have to get home, there's no time for exploring,” Noah demanded.

“Fine,” Moe replied.

“Lets look for someone to help us,” Noah said.

“And where we are,” Moe added.

“Let's just start walking and see if we can find a town,” Noah said.

They started walking. Hours went by and still nothing. “My legs hurt, can we have a break?” Moe complained.

“No, my legs hurt too but it will be longer if we stop, PLUS,” Noah raised his voice. “We got TELEPORTED here, our legs hurting is the least of our worries!!!” Noah hollered. But a few seconds later they saw a town. They were so happy. The town had so many houses and lots of plants and had ponds everywhere they looked.

“Look,” said Moe, pointing at a sign. “It says, “Welcome to Marble Light Village.” Under the name it said, Population of dogs 200, Population of fish 67, Population of monkeys 73. “What is that supposed to mean?”

“Do you think I know? Let's just go into the village,” Noah said. They walked into the village. They saw no one. So they kept going.

“Wow, there are so many ponds,” Noah said. Then they saw a bunch of dogs and monkeys.

“Why are there dogs and monkeys in front of us?” Moe exclaimed.

“Do you think we are in a zoo--no it can't be. Zoos don’t have dogs,” Noah whispered. But suddenly one of the dogs screamed.

“Get them!!!”

“THE’RE HUMANS, CHARRRRRRRCH,” All of the animals started to chase them.

"RUN!” Moe screamed to Noah. And they started running. “Did that dog just talk!!????” They turned the corner.

“I think we lost them," Noah said, out of breath.

“How did they talk!!!”

“SHHHH do you want to get caught by t-t-the talking animals,” Noah anxiously said. Then a fish squirted water at them.

“Ahhhh,” Moe slipped in the pond. The fishes started to yell and bite. Noah did not know what to do so he put his hand in to try to grab Moe, but the fish bit him. “Ow,” he squeaked. Then a PERSON with a hood and dirty clothing hit all the fish with a bat. “Owwww meany,” the fishes screamed. The person in a hood grabbed Moe out of the water.

“T-Thank you,” Moe muttered.

“Who are you, are you human??” Noah questioned.

“Come with me,” they said, ignoring his questions. They followed the hooded person.

“Do you know why those fishes attacked me?”

The hooded person replied with, “Those fishes are silver tails. Well that's what I call them at least. They attack whatever or whoever comes into their environment,”

“Oh,” Moe commented. The rest of the time was silent. They finally got to where the hooded person wanted to go.

“We're here, go in,” the person said. The three of them went in.

“Is this where you live?” Noah nervously asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

“What's your name if you don’t mind me asking?” Moe asked.

“Oh yeah, we didn't get a proper chance to meet. My name is Lily.” She took off her hood. She had long ginger hair and green eyes. “What are your names and ages if you don't mind?” Lily asked.

“Um I’m Moe, and I am 15, and this is my best friend,”

“I'm Noah and I'm 16,” Noah saw how much older Lily looked, so he asked her age.

“Oh I'm 19,” she answered. “Nice to meet you Moe and Noah,”

But soon after a dog came in and said “More humans,”

“Ahh,” Moe and Noah both screamed.

“Calm down, he's good,” Lily quickly said. “His name is Arthur and this is his house. He's been letting me stay here,”

“Hello,” Arthur said. “Lily, how did they get here?” he whispered to Lily.

“Yeah, I need to ask them.” she whispered back . “So how did you guys get here?”

Noah took his eyes off of Arthur then said. “I will tell you everything, so first Moe and I work at a pet shop in New York. Moe told me he saw a light from the storage room. I didn't believe him until that night when there was a portal and then we got here, do you know how or where we are?”

“Yes, the same thing happened to me five years ago. I was working at a pet shop at the time and the same thing happened to me. This whole world is where ANIMALS TALK and that storage closet is a portal, Arthur and I study it and we come to the conclusion every 5 to 10 years it will open. We weren't sure of this but when I saw you I knew we were right ."

“Wait, you never found a way home?” Noah exclaimed .

“Sadly, no.”

After a moment of silence, Arthur said, “I actually came in here to tell you I found a way for you to get home.”

“Wait really, you finally did it,” Lily said.

“Please what is it? I want to go home,” Moe said.

“Yeah,” Noah added.

“Ok, you need Silver Tales, the fish scales, only one, next you need dog hair, and five bananas, Last put all of that on fire it should make your portal home, it took me five years but I studied hard and figured it out,”

“Thank you so much, Arthur,” Lily expressed.

“Let's start now,” Noah said.

“Ok,” Moe and Lily said. “First we need dog hair.” They took one of Arthur's and left..

“Put one of these on,” Lily demanded. It's a black hoodie. “Let's get the fish scales,” They went to the pond. Lily says “Noah grab the fish, I will get the scale,”

“What about me,”Moe said.

“Uhh you will make sure no one comes,”Lily said.

“Ok.”

So Noah grabbed the fish. The fish was really slimy and slippery. And Lily got the scale. “That was easy,” Noah said.

“Now we need to do two more things,” Lily added. “We have to go where the monkeys live, which is the jungle over there," Lily pointed. They ran to the jungle. They saw so many birds and monkeys and understaood everything they said.

“Look over there--banana trees,” Moe pointed out. The monkeys heard Moe, and looked in their direction.

One monkey said, “Who dares to interrupt my feast!!!!”

“That’s the monkey king,” Lily whispered. The monkey king was larger than other monkeys; he had a huge crown. All of them pointed to Moe, Noah and Lily.

“Get them out of here!!!” the monkey king shouted. Noah and Lily started to run. Moe climbed a tree, took the feast of bananasm and threw it super far. “My bananas, get them back!!!!!” The monkeys ran, and the king monkey demanded for him to ride on their backs. Moe got off of the tree. They ran to get five bananas and left.

They got to a field and started a fire. Moe put the bananas in, Noah put the scale in, and lastly Lily put the dog hair in.

“Now what?” Moe said.

“We wait,” Lily answered. Then the ground shook, lightning struck all the

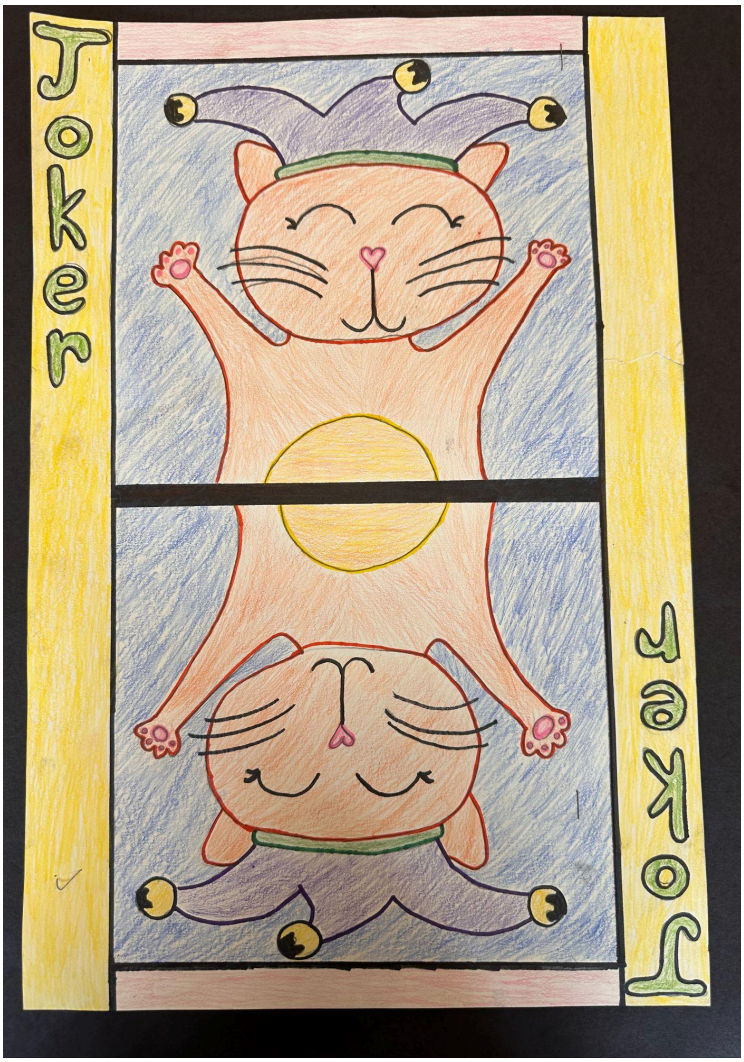
trees, it started to rain, a heavy wind came, then a blueish purple portal appeared. “Are you guys ready? ”

“Yes,” Noah answered.

“More than ever,” Moe said.

”Let's go in,” Lily said. They jumped into the portal.

THE END...



Art by Scarlett F., Grade 5

Jangles the Jester

by Mabel W., Grade 8



Inspired by Jan Matejko's 'Stańczyk'

Jangles is a jester who no longer jingles
He's broken, forgotten, left out of the mingles.
He used to make tricks, he dazzled the court
Until his droll antics began to fall short.

They called him a con, his life was a lie
So he sat in the corner and proceeded to cry.
"Your jokes are not funny, your bells are annoying!"
These words and more came; brutal, destroying.

Jester left his court in search of a purpose
But he was rejected by all, even the circus.
His tears piled up along with his fails
No longer did he sing, only a wail.

The laughter, it haunts him, those cackles of mirth
Each step drags the shackles that chain him to the earth.
He's hopeless, he's helpless, his employment is past
Jangles the jester lays his bells down at last.

But his story's not over, his path is not done
In fact, the tale of Jangles has only begun.
For that rejection had kindled a fire
And the jester's ambitions burned all the more brighter.

He went back to school, hitting the books
He ignored the laughter, the taunts, and the looks,
He studied and practiced and mastered his skill
'Till he put down the texts and prepared to build

With his knowledge of life, his wisdom galore
Thousands of kings lined up at his door
"Your words are enlightening, your presence, a treasure!"
They came with problems, seeking aid for endeavors.

But Jangles just smiled and turned them away
For he no longer needed their approval or say
He dedicated his life to studies and teaching
And traveled the world, singing, dancing, and preaching.

He taught those who listened, from all walks of life
He told them his stories, without malice or rife
These seeds of knowledge he sowed unto all
His bridges of insight saved countless from their falls.

For Jangles is a jester who no longer jingles
He has no need for parties, is past his days of mingles
Now he closes his eyes with a full heart and sound head
Jangles has filled his days with living instead.

Video Game World

By Michael K. and Alex D., Grade 5

Chapter 1: The Addiction

In 2022, there was a boy named Carter who was really athletic. But he wanted nothing to do with sports. All he ever wanted to do was sit down and play his video games. He didn't have a lot of friends at school because all his classmates loved sports. Only a few of them liked video games, but they didn't play often because they still like sports more. He invited one of his friends over, and his friend wanted to play sports, but he didn't want to, he just wanted to play video games. Then his friend got frustrated and left because he wanted to play sports and not video games.

Carter got sad because Allin left, but then he just got back onto his video games and forgot he was even there. After a few hours of playing video games, his dad shouted "It's almost time for bed, go take a shower!. He pretended to take a shower, but he was really playing on his phone and made his hair wet. He got so into his game that he wasn't paying any attention to the time, and his dad came in because he was in there for one hour and caught him on his phone. After he was caught, he was in trouble for lying and got his games token away for a week.

On Friday a nerdy kid named Carl came to school. He may have been really nerdy, but he *loved* video games. Carter made good friends with him the first time they talked, and after school Carter went to Carl's house and they played video games.

Chapter 2: Carl's House

The house was like a mansion; it had everything, including an enormous backyard. They went into the house and rushed straight to Carl's room to play FC 25. After a few hours of playing, Carter's parents started getting worried and called the school to see where he went and found out he went to Carl's house. Right when his parents got into the parking lot . . .

Chapter 3: FC 25

. . . all of the lights in the gaming room started to flicker and the PC turned off, then slowly a small black hole sucked them into a video game world. It was FC 25, and he was on the team Liverpool. He had to play soccer, but he hadn't played since he was 8, and now he is 12. He had to play a full season of soccer. He was worried and he had to go to practice to see how good he was at goalie and offense. He wasn't good at either but he still had to practice one so he chose offense to get goals.

Meanwhile, his parents were searching through Carl's house, but they couldn't find him or Carl. After the practice, Carl and Carter were way better at soccer. They got better at shooting and passing together. They had a few more practices and they both got better. Carter wanted to try goalie, while Carl would shoot these soccer balls on him. He was really good, and he became an all-around player even when he was in defense. He went against the best player on the team, but after a long one-hour battle, it came down to penalty kicks, so they had to both be goalie and shoot on each other. It was tied but then Carter did all he could to just get one more goal. He kicked the, it went in, everybody went wild, and his coach was surprised.

Chapter 4: The Game

He went into the locker room and barely could breathe. "Alright guys, that was our warm up. Now it's time for the game" Coach Alex said.

"Wha-a-at, I thought it was just practices and not games," Carter stuttered, then went out the door onto the field and saw it really was a game. He heard the crowd roaring and his mind went blank. Surprisingly, he was a starter at center. The ref gave the ball to Carter and he tried to pass it to his teammate, but the opposing team immediately stole the ball and split the defense, then scored the game's first goal.

The coach told him to go in goal. The next shot from the opposing team came and he saved it. He put it on the ground, then started dribbling the ball up the field, juked the opposing team, then got to the goal and took a shot. The crowd started cheering loudly. The team saved it, and they got an empty net.

Coach Alex asked him to come here. "What the heck was that, you are completely out of your mind! Get off the field now--you're done!" His team lost the game 1 to 0. Coach Alex was furious. Carter and Carl sat the next two games, and the team was down by seven goals. In the third game, Coach Alex took their starting keeper out and put Carter in. The first shot came when Carter madea diving save, then his team rushed the ball up the field. His team shot and they scored.

Little by little, his team made a comeback. He had to save this next shot if he wanted to save his team. The shot came quickly. The shooter shot it right into Carter's chest, and he quickly passed the ball to Carl. Carl ran the ball to the goal and shot it as hard as he could. It went in! The crowd roared and cheered. Coach Alex made Carter starting keeper and Carl starting center. After the game, Carter and Carl had a training session with the shooting coach. They went through some drills and got better at shooting. They thanked the coach, then went to their next game against the best team in the world, Arsenal. They were scared but weren't about to give up, so they decided to practice before the game.

Chapter 5: The Best Game Ever

Arsenal scored the first goal on Liverpool, then they scored a goal on Arsenal. The game was close-- 1-1 in the first half. Everybody was in disbelief and shock when they were still tied in the second half. Soon the game went into overtime. Liverpool got the ball, went up to shoot, and hit the crossbar. Then Arsenal got the ball back, went up, and missed, it's now a goal kick. The goalie kicked the ball, it soareddown to half, but then Arsenal fouled Carter and the game stopped. It seemed like Carter got real hurt so he went off the field.

Two minutes later, Liverpool shot a PK. Since he was fouled in the box, Liverpool focused, but then Carter came running down the field to take the kick. Carter got ready, stayed focused and faked the shot! The goalie was now on the ground, so Carter took an amazing crossbar down. Everything went silent, then everybody cheered loudly.

They were super happy that the game was over because they were losing their breath. The game was 9 hours long, the longest game in history. Once they got into the locker room, Coach Alex said “Great game today, guys! Carter and Carl, you guys are now star players. You two were the reason we won nice goals.”

“Thank you, Coach Alex,” Carter and Carl said at the same time.

“Next week is the championship, guys, so get ready,” Coach Alex said.

Chapter 6: The Practice

Coach Alex inspired Carter and Carl to practice, so they did together. They practiced passing. Carter passed first, then Carl would pass it back, then Carter would run and take a shot on Carl, then they would switch positions. Then their next drill would be to practice defense, so Carter defended first. Once Carl got past Carter, he then passed back to Carter, then Carter took a shot. They practiced taking pks because they knew they would get fouled. After that they practiced with their teammates. They practiced the same three drills because it covered everything they needed to do with the championship inching closer and closer every day.

They began to worry, what if we don’t win? Carl said, “Guys, it will be OK, we will win. We will beat Arsenal one last time to get that trophy.” It was one day before the game and everybody was scared so they didn’t practice.

Chapter 7: The Championship

It was time for the first game. Everybody was scared. What if Liverpool got out instantly? But Carl's speech made everybody not fear. They went out onto the field. Since they were the away team, they started with the ball, Carl in center, and Carter

right wing. Carl passed Carter, the ball soared way past the net .and a fan caught the ball.

It was a goal kick for the other team. Their goalie kicked the ball our team fouled. “It’s a free kick yellow card” the Ref said. Carter didn’t like the Refs call, but he kept playing. Carter stole the ball and scored a banger. Carl went into his favorite position as goalkeeper. He saved a shot, then drop kicked the ball as hard as he could, and SCORED!

The crowd went wild and roared loud. Carter got the ball and scored again. Then Carl juked everybody as GK scored. Carl scored and they scored a few more times. They won 8-0, then 9-0, then 2-1, then 10-0, then 100-0.

In the last game Carter was in GK, and they scored. It was now down to penalty kicks. He shot and made it! They won, they actually won the trophy! There were two--one for Carter and one for Carl.

Then a weird portal opened up and it brought them back home. Carter and Carl finally saw their parents after a long while.

The End