

**THIRD COAST CAMP FOR
YOUNG WRITERS AT
WESTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS**

**CAMP
THIRD
COAST
BOOK OF
STORIES**

SUMMER 2020

**ELEMENTARY CABIN
EDITED BY MRS. ROBERTS**

Third Coast Writing Project
at
Western Michigan University
presents work for

**CAMP THIRD COAST-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CABIN
SUMMER 2020**

Authors (in order of appearance):

**Max
Roman
Sylvia
Emerson
Etta
Olive
Soleil
Cadee
Madison
Marta**

**Mallory
Gertrude
Jeevan
Owen
Miles
Grace
Michael
Eden
Sophia
Claire**

**Ashley
Stephen
Journey
Kadence
Aidan
Ramona
Natalie
Emily
Jeydon
Mrs. Roberts**

Editor's Note:

Welcome to the CAMP THIRD COAST-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CABIN collection of writing from the 2020 Third Coast Writing Project's Camp for Young Writers at Western Michigan University! As the editor of this anthology, it was my pleasure to work alongside, teach, and have fun on this writing journey with such creative authors. I am able to see the application of mini-lessons and individual conference sessions evidenced in their pieces. Please note that not all campers were able to finish a piece for anthology submission this summer. I hope the young writers in this virtual session can take the strategies learned and continue on with their stories throughout the summer!

Mrs. Dionna Roberts

Backyard Adventure

Written by Max

The thick and muddy woods rested aside the gateway to my yellow patched, grassy backyard. My legs trembled as I stood aside, daring to explore, but obstacles awaited: There were splotches of mud, gusts of wind whipping against my face, vines dangling from the treetops, and obnoxious animals like the one and only groundhog who annoys my neighbors and especially me. I call that menacing fuzzball Eddie. But my curiosity gave me no choice but to explore the wild.

“Eddie.” I whispered as I crept towards his burrow. I thought to myself, where’d that little guy go? Moments later I heard the sound of crinkling leaves and I knew that could mean only one thing: Eddie wants me off his territory.

Still standing silently, I considered my options. I didn’t want this dirty groundhog to chase me, but I was curious to explore. Suddenly, Eddie peeked his head out and glared at me. My heart was racing. We stared eye to eye. He marched closer and that was my signal to make a run for it.

I sprinted back to the grassy grove. My heart was pounding and I struggled to catch my breath. But then it hit me: Why did I decide to run from a tiny one-pound animal? I felt like such a coward. I took a deep breath and decided Eddie does not own the forest! It is mine to explore, too, and I will not let anything get in my way!

Now, my decision was made. I paused at the entrance leading to the woods and began tiptoeing further into the wild. There were many beautiful sights. Blue jays were flapping their wings and a round of robins were communicating in a soothing way. I thought my hike in the

woods would be very calm and peaceful until something incredibly unexpected happened. Or rather, someone.

Betty.

It turns out, Eddie had a friend. A very large, intimidating friend. With large, padded feet. An enormous, sagging belly. And dark, menacing eyes.

Betty stared at me and I froze. My feet were lead and I couldn't move.

She seemed to sense that I was frightened and I saw a slick smile starting to form on her lips.

She motioned to Eddie and who hopped on her back. Together, they were as tall as a skyscraper. And that skyscraper began aggressively waddling towards me.

My heart began racing and my mind told me one thing: RETREAT OUT OF THE FOREST! NOW!

I began sprinting back to the grassy grove but only a few meters away, I tripped on a hardly noticeable stick, and I was sure I would never make it back to the yellow patches of grass again. I glanced back and Eddie and Betty were gaining on me. I tried to step but my legs felt shattered. I began crawling as fast as I could.

After what seemed like centuries, I finally arrived back at the grassy grove. I tried desperately to catch my breath and after a few minutes, I looked back towards the woods. And there at the edge were Eddie and Betty standing their ground daring me to make a move.



I would not challenge them. Not today. They could have their woods. I'll be just fine on my grassy grove.

A Letter From Sleeping Bear Dunes

Written by Roman

Dear Diary,

June 26, 2018

There I was standing at the top of Sleeping Bear Dunes. I could feel my heart beating *thump-thump, thump-thump*. Four hundred and fifty feet down to the shore. I see the blue water and hear the waves hitting the sand.

I see a sign at the start of the dune:



Do you think I followed the rules posted? **No Way!** Well, except for the no throwing rocks.

My dad and I started running down the sandy dune. I could feel the sand spray up behind me. My mom stood on the top with her hands on her hips, and her eyebrows pointed down. She was mad I didn't follow the rules.

When we reached the bottom of the dune, I turned and looked up. We had to go back up this steep dune. My dad started climbing first. With every step, flies were biting his legs. My dad looked at me and said, "we didn't prepare for the flies. We have to climb faster!". I started climbing behind my dad. My dad looked at me and said, "Are you ready to do this?", I started climbing as fast as I could. It took me half an hour to get to the top. Finally, I felt proud, tired, and sweaty. We did it, we made it to the top! Mom was still quiet the whole way back to the lake house we rented.

I can't wait to see what other exciting things we do tomorrow!

~Roman

Diary of a Butterfly: My Brother Bugs me!

Written by Sylvia

April 23, 2021, Tuesday 9:52 am

Dear Diary,

"Hey give back my caterpillar doll," I said to my brother, Soaren.

"Try and make me." he says back.

He's such a pest! And just because he's 5 years older than me! My name is Flitter Wingston. I'm 7 years old and live in a hollow log with my mom and my dad and (unfortunately) my 12-year-old brother, Soaren.

"If you two don't stop fighting you're going to be late for your first day of school," said Mom.

"Yep," said Dad.

Oh no, Diary! That CAN'T happen on my first day of second grade at Colorwing Elementary! Especially since my best friend Flutter said that she would fly to school with me! Bye!

April 24, 2021, Wednesday 8:49 am

The first day of school was terrible, just terrible. Even though Soaren and I were in different classes, we had lunch together. Soaren kept burping and shoving food into his mouth and saying "My sister is over there and she's following in my footsteps". I wanted to DIE! Flutter tried to cheer me up. When I got home I made a sign that said "DANGER! KEEP OUT! SMELL AT YOUR OWN RISK!" And stuck it on Soaren's

bedroom door. When he found out he locked me in my room but it was still funny! After I put up the sign I went to Flutter's. There we made pollencorn, watched our all-time favorite movie "The Swallowtails", and told creepy ghost stories about the old abandoned log by her aunt's house. We were right in the middle of our favorite one when *Soaren* burst through the door and started teasing us! He went away when Flutter yelled at him, though. (I finally got a *Soaren* free night too!)

April 25, 2021, Thursday 10:25 am

Dear Diary,

Once Flutter and I got up the next morning, we had the idea for a nectar stand! So I grabbed the ingredients and Flutter made a sign and we borrowed her parents' old lemonade stand. So we went into business! Flutter's little sister Coco helped out so we could do it even LONGER! We got so many customers! But just when business was booming we got an unexpected visit from... SOAREN!

April 26, 2021, Friday 12:05

Dear Diary,

There were no more customers. Soaren told them there were fruit flies in the nectar and they all left. Me, Flutter, and Coco were SO disappointed.

"Why does Soaren have to ruin everything!" I asked.

"Because he's annoying" said Coco by a way of explanation.

Suddenly we heard Soaren's voice yell "**OK, WHO STUCK A BEWARE SIGN ON MY BEDROOM DOOR!**" I giggled. Then Soaren yelled "**FLITTER!**"

The Secret Garden

Written by Emerson

One evening, I was pulling weeds around the gazebo in my fairy garden. My fairy garden has an old gazebo with vines growing on to the side with beautiful pink, yellow and red flowers. My fairy garden also has a birdbath where beautiful birds with sleek blue feathers rest. I even have miniature gardening tools for the "fairies." Last, but certainly not least, is a beautiful place for a fairy to rest after a day of gardening, a tea party setup complete with wooden chairs and a table with cookies and hot chocolate. But, looking over to pull the weeds in that area I get a glimpse of sparkles and there is no one around. Could there be real fairies living right in my backyard?

As I looked over there to try to figure out if my hypothesis was true I heard a soft song and then I saw a fairy. "My name is Lily," she said. She is kind, gentle, and loving. She is always smiling and her hands are small and soft. She is always flying around and helping forest animals in need. As she flies around she sings a magical song that helps the forest grow. If she finds a forest animal in need she talks to it in her gentle voice.

I was talking to her and all of a sudden my feet were surrounded by sparkles and soon enough my entire body was covered in sparkles. Had I shrunk? It looked like I was in my fairy garden! I asked Lily "Why am I here?" She tells me I am here on some kind of quest. I am supposed to take back the magic ruby from some sort of goblin queen, but only a special chosen person can. Apparently, that person is supposed to be me and now that I'm here I have magical powers... or so Lily says.

After a while, I figured out that my magic power is nature. I can talk to animals and grow anything, anywhere, at any time. Lily tells me that I will have to follow the line of trees and it will lead me to different animals that will help me along the way. She points to the left and sure enough, there are a ton of trees in a row along a narrow path heading north. "It's getting late," Lilly said. "You should leave in the morning."

(*)

The sun rose and I wasn't prepared for what the day would bring. I set off on my journey, down the narrow path to save my fairy garden. I had walked down the path for what seemed like forever and then I heard rustling in the bushes. A cute little fawn jumped out and then fell. I helped him up and I realized he had a bear trap caught on his leg. I took it off and then wrapped some tall grass and a twig around it. Then the little guy started crying "I WANT MY MOMMY," I understood him!! Ohh ya I can talk to animals now. Whoa, that scared me. Okay now I have to go get that ruby and then I can go home. On I went and that deer kept following me, and the further I went the more I realized this fawn was following me because he would help me somehow, and then I could grant him any wish he wanted. We walked some more and a giant black bear jumped onto the path and said "Hey I was trying to nap here," "We are so sorry Mrs..?" "Honeymarron," said Honeymarron. So she was one of the woodland creatures that was supposed to help me so I could grant them one wish.

The other creature we ran into was a beaver whose home had been destroyed many times. All of a sudden it got dark and really foggy. We were in the goblin queen territory, bats and goblins were everywhere, but we kept walking. Pretty soon there was a really pointy,

stone in the clearing. "That must be the goblin queen's castle," said Larry the beaver. Sure enough goblin guards surrounded an ugly looking witch type thing. " Look," said Buster the fawn. " The ruby is on the rock staff next to her.

We had a plan: Honeymarron and Buster would distract the goblin guards while me and Larry would sneak and take the staff. The plan went terribly wrong, Buster fell and when Larry tried to take the staff it set off an alarm. For such a beat-up place they have great security. Anyway, we were caught and for goblins, they are pretty strong so now we are in a cage in the cold basement with **NO WAY OUT!!!**

To be continued...

The Best Sleepover Ever

Written By Etta Poer

I am a dreamer. A believer. I always have been, and I always will be.

But if someone told me that 2 *Magix girls were to appear in my bedroom closet, they would have to pinch me 10 times before I believed them.

*I had no idea what that meant at the time, so I guess you should know. Magix beings are people who are capable of magic. They have special powers.



"Ding-Dong!" Rang the doorbell. "I'll get it!" I yelled, like a million dollars was waiting at my back door. If I was being honest, a million dollars sort of WAS waiting at my back door. It was my best friend, Viola. She is worth a million dollars to me. We are practically sisters.

We look pretty different though. I am tall with pale skin, waist-long honey brown hair and grey-blue eyes. Vi is as tall as my nose. She has dark brown hair that is up to her neck, skin a little darker than mine, and pretty brown eyes.

She was sleeping over and I was really, really excited! "I brought you a little gift," she told me. "I hope you like it." "She didn't have to bring a gift". I thought, and I told her so. Anyways, she said "Open it!" and I did. It was little paper dolls of us, plus a pretty pink and black rock and a geode, which she had cracked herself.

Once she had put her overnight bag in my room and my papa and Vi's mama and finished talking, we scrambled into the living room to play with dolls.

"Dinner's ready!" shouted my papa, "It's mac and cheese!" We all dropped our toys and went running for the kitchen, including my little brother, Brogan.

We ate dinner, then my little brother went upstairs so me and Vi could relax alone in my bedroom.

Once we had gotten into our pajamas and read to one another, we got into bed, and just as we closed our eyes we heard two small thuds and a quiet "Where are we?" We knew immediately to just start screaming for my parents because we thought they were robbers. That is what we *should* have done anyway.

Instead, we got out of bed and quietly tiptoed over to the closet, where the noises came from. "On the count of three we open the door" I told Vi. "One. Two. Three!" We opened the door.

My closet is just big enough to call a walk-in closet, so you could tell that it was in shambles. Half of my clothes were burnt, and the other half frozen. There were dents in the wall, and there were some patches of ice on the floor. And in the middle of it all were two girls.

They both looked almost identical- a little bit shorter than me, but taller than Vi. They had honey brown hair like me, except much longer, and one of the girls' tips were turquoise, the other one's tips were purple. Both of them were strewn across the floor, and they looked like a combination of sad and mad- both wearing nightgowns.

I started whisper-yelling at them immediately (I did NOT want to wake my parents). "I have a million questions for you whoever you are! Let's start with who are you, where are you from, and HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET HERE?!?" One of the girls looked worried, the other one, mad. The mad one said, "Please calm down we aren't robbers." Me and Vi sighed.

"My name is Mabel and this is my twin sister Iris." said the worried one, the tips of her hair were purple. "We come from the kingdom of Gemsbrooke, and we mean no harm," said Iris, with the turquoise tips. "What's all *that* about?" I said, motioning around the closet. And by kingdom, do you mean royalty?" Vi nodded, eager to hear. "That?... *that* was a little accident. We are truly sorry, and we will explain as soon as we get out of here." Confused, I muttered: "What do you mean, get ou-"



TO BE CONTINUED...

Little Baby Dinosaurs

Written by Olive

Crack, Crack, Push, Hooray! They are out! The new baby dinosaurs have been born in our backyard. I didn't know until my dad had to get one out of the garage.

My dad walked into the garage like normal but something was different. A baby dinosaur had snuck in! He put on a big heavy leather glove and cautiously picked up the dinosaur dad slowly crept into the light and that is when he noticed it was not a baby dinosaur at all it was a baby blue jay from the nest we were watching for a long time. We named the blue jay Evelyn. She flew into the house and then my dad picked her up again. He put her over by the air conditioner and she eventually hopped away. He did all of this while the mother was swooping at him over his head. When he came inside after that experience, we started looking for the blue jays.

Another time we encountered them was when I and my mom saw them for the first time. It was all by our neighbor's house on a rock wall. We named this baby bird Greta. She was smart and stayed away from us but we could see her really easily. Greta was hopping around. It was so cute! My mom took pictures of Greta. But, while we were doing this the mother bird, which we now call Anna, was looking out for her children. My mom said she couldn't see the bird but she saw its shadow swooping overhead like in a scary movie. My brother went out to see Greta, he put on a helmet because he didn't want to get dive-bombed.

One time we saw both birds at once outside the window. Greta was on the railing and Evelyn was in the tree. They were both so close to us, but we had a window between us. At first, I thought they were dead. Then I noticed they were asleep. They had their small beaks tucked

under their wings. Anna was watching from above. She thought we were outside even though we were inside. Gretta woke up and started moving around, then we went away.

I once saw them flying around along with Anna and the dad, Bob. We have not really seen Bob but that's okay. I am not exactly sure where they are now because they can fly all over! I just can't keep track of them anymore.

A Woodpecker's Tale

Written by Soleil

I was flying joyfully and then I flew into a garage and the doors shut and I was trapped. I bonked into the wall plenty of times. I fell to the ground and I spread my wings and I flew around the garage looking for a weak spot.

I saw tools and a big base. I heard groundhogs whistling, birds singing. It was scratchy and hard. It smelled like dust and it tasted like dust.

Then a small, fat groundhog came in and said, "You stuck?" And I said, "Yeah." And the groundhog said, "Live in a log. There are a lot of logs, they all have bugs." I said, "Thanks," and asked the groundhog, "What is your name?"

"Wilbur," said the groundhog. "What's yours?"

"I'm Hector."

"Cool," said the groundhog.

Wilbur said goodbye and left.

I blinked my bright eyes, feeling joyful. "I like my new friend," I said. "I hope Wilbur comes back." And then I found a big log and I pecked and pecked with my long beak. I'm so good at pecking wood because I'm a Woodpecker. Finally I made a hole that I could fit in and found some bugs and ate them. I laid down in a comfortable spot of my new home and fell asleep.

The next morning I woke to the sound of the groundhog rustling and I said, "Hi!" in a kind voice. And he said, "Hi!" And then he asked, "Do you want to play?" I said, "Sure." We ran around and tagged each other for three hours. We laughed and sat down. And then I said, "I'm tired," and we took a nap together.

When I woke up it was six o'clock in the morning. I woke up Willbur and flew to the window and shouted, "it's snowing!" And Willbur said, "Why are you so excited you can't play in it!" I said, "Just wait." I saw the man go into the garage every year and get sleds so I knew I could get out when he came in the garage.

Three hours passed and then a tall man with brown, curly hair swung open the garage door. I felt excited because I was going to be free. The man got some sleds and I dashed out the door. I went by the garage and found my nest at the tippy top of the tallest tree in the yard.

Me and Wilbur stayed friends. We loved to play tag, hide and seek, and some ball tag with some balls we found. I gave Willbur some worms that I caught and he didn't like them. He puked and Willbur and I laughed. One year later, I had three baby birds. Willbur had five baby groundhogs. Our babies became friends and we would always hang out with each other and Willbur would ride on me while I flew to the beach.

Poppy's Story

Written by Cadee

Let me Introduce Myself

Every morning, or everyday I sleep, and sleep in. Then Cadee comes to wake me up. She brings me down the stairs and outside to go to the bathroom. I make a circle around the yard in the dew covered grass. I sniff to find the spot right for bathroom time, I run to find my toy-- a yellow rope. I grab it and run, then chew, then run, and sleep. Is it yellow? I don't really know because I'm Poppy the dog, and as a dog... I am PROUDLY...COLORBLIND.



The Tug of War

Tug! Turn! Twist! The yellow toy rope talked. Oh, it's just me, Poppy the dog. I'm playing tug of war with my owner, Cadee! Back to the match. Tug! I twist and turn. I'm winning! That's soon to turn. Cadee pulls. I pull too. But, I pull too hard and fall back because Cadee got the toy. As I fall, I hit the fence and stop. The fence! Wait...It's gone! Only a purple swirl stands in its place. To my surprise, I lost focus on my feet. They fall and...I'm sucked in! Cadee has to follow I think to myself. Then I hear a

splloosh. It was Cadee coming to get me out. But, next we know we are at her friend's house. Cadee's friends Natalie and Kiya are on the porch. Cadee goes to tell them what had happened. When she finishes there is a short silence then Natalie and Kiya say at the same time , "Let's go!" Haha! We laugh together. Then we leave through the portal and come out in a strange land with bunnies with deer antlers and deer with bunny ears. This land was mostly blue and green. We run to explore and have lots of fun. But, then we hear the familiar call of our parents, "Dinner time". We rush home, say goodbye, and eat.

The End

Um...it's Poppy again. I don't remember what we did for fun there, but we had it. The real end. By Poppy (who had Cadee write this)



Robert

Written by Madison

A doll I know has been alive for 111 years. It's name is Robert. He looks very old because he was made in 1906. He was made by a rich family maid. Robert was made out of straw and had a sailor hat and shirt. He always talked to the family's child. He would always scream or cry.

The family fired the maid. Robert was named after the little boy's name. When he got older his parents died and decided to sell the house. Robert was in a coffin by a corner of a room. When a family moved there, they had two daughters. One likes dolls. The other likes video games and outside. The little girl found the coffin at the corner of the room. The coffin was dark. It had spider webs on top of it. She opened it and found Robert. At the back of the coffin, it has a note that says, "Please do not open it or you are going to be cursed." Robert did not want to play with her. He was always whispering to her about scary stuff and she would run out the room to get away from Robert." Your family died and you are adopted." The girl would say, "No I'm not." He would also say, "You are going to get into a car accident soon."

The parents had enough of Robert so they sold him to a museum. He stays at the fort east Martello museum in Key West Florida. You have to ask him nicely to take a picture. Robert was always in a chair and mad at the people who just took a picture without asking. He would whisper at them and make them get in a car accident or break bones and worse.



The prologue from the story

Lost In The Woods

Written by Marta

Deep down, tucked away in a wild forest, stood a lost little girl. "Hello, can anyone hear me? My name is Alex and I'm lost in the woods!!! Help!" Ugh it's no use. I am too deep in the woods for anyone to hear me. "Might as well look for shelter since it's getting dark.", Alex thought.

An owl hooted from a tree and stars started to illuminate the dark vast sky. Soon the girl reached a dark and gloomy cave and she started to question whether or not to go inside. She was about to turn away when it started pouring rain, so Alex had no choice but run into the cave.

As she walked around in the cold, gloomy cave, she noticed that there was an annoying stench coming from the back of the cave. But as long as she stayed near the front of the cave she didn't really care. Since she entered the cave she watched the lightning paint the sky. A crackle pierced the clouds and was followed by a loud boom of thunder that shook the cave's cool, stony floor. As Alex looked back the way she'd come she noticed that the path she took was very narrow and had tree roots sticking up from the ground leading to very thick and tall trees. Ivy and bushes lined on the sides of the path like a wall. The path was very muddy but would dry and be back to normal soon. If she wasn't in these peculiar circumstances, she would actually be enjoying the scenery.

While she was in the cave she wondered about the thing her friend Bianca said. According to Bianca, every year people who go to Camp Cardinal one or two go missing and nobody sees them again. The more she thought about it the closer she arrived at a chilling conclusion. She was in fact the kid that went missing for the 2020 year. "Yikes" Alex mumbled. She didn't want to believe it. But it was true, she might never get home and that made Alex more determined to find her way back than ever.

As the storm simmered down to a mist, Alex went out of the cave, gathered some wood and brought it back to dry out so she could start a fire. About an hour later the wood was dry enough and she started the fire. As she sat on the cold, clammy floor and felt the fire burn her fingers and toes. She started to waver her way to sleep mode. She tossed and turned all night having nightmares of not surviving. Sweat poured down her forehead and dripped onto her nose. When she awoke again it was still dark but something was different. She felt like she was being watched. And it wasn't the little rabbit that watched her while sitting by the fire, it was something else much bigger and much scarier.

As she looked near the back of the cave, she saw a black panther with yellow eyes looking straight at her. The panther walked toward Alex until she stopped about six feet away. The panther let out a soft but

menacing growl getting louder each second. Alex screamed as the panther was getting ready to pounce.

"ELIZAH!" another panther appeared

"Don't eat the poor girl."

"I was just aiming for the rabbit, Masey. I'm starving!"

"We all are. Now, we are truly deeply sorry about the scare and didn't want to give you harm now tell us what is your name"

"My name is Alex and I was at Camp Cardinal when I got lost on a hike. Who are you and how can you talk? "

"Ahh you see, we are the guardians of our magical world. We collect the people who get lost and bring them to it."

"Are they aloud to come back"

"Of Course don't be silly. But are there any more questions?"

"Well, what is the world called?"

"Well I will say it the proper way. Welcome to Misle Islands!!!"

To be continued...

Friends

Written by Mallory

Sophia and her friends Leah and Rebeacca sat in the lunchroom together at the table. They were eating spaghetti and drinking chocolate, when all a sudden the really popular girl named Jayda showed up. Leah and Rebecca got up from their seat and said, "Bye" and left Sophia all alone. Sophia sat lonely against the wall and then decided to go outside to play by herself.

When Sophia got outside she noticed a kid she'd never seen before sitting all alone on the swings. She walked over and asked her name. "My name is Mia." "Nice, to meet you, My name is Sophia." Do you want to be friends?", Sophia asked. Mia said, "Sure"

Sophia and Mia decided to go play on the slides together. Jayda, Leah, and Rebecca saw Sophia playing with her new friend Mia.

The End



The Adventures of Mr. Fox

Written by Gertrude

Chapter 1: Mr.Fox

The sun came up, the moon disappeared and then the light blanket of the morning sky appeared. I ran back to my house ready for a long slumber. My house is tucked away from any people who might happen to walk by and spot my thick orange coat of fur. Thick oak trees block any sunlight from coming inside so I can sleep for a long time. Sticks, rocks and leaves hold together my little house. No other animal can come inside my home, It's just for me.

Before I can fall asleep I always hear little kids running around from across the street. I never want to be near a tiny human child. They are so loud and wild! Not to mention their little sticky hands. I got one of my big Shakespeare books off of my bookshelf. I happened to grab Romeo and Juliet. It was covered with a lot of dust so I blew it off. Dust flew everywhere but I didn't care. Whenever I am excited I talk in a southern accent, and I sure did right then. I sat down on my couch and started to read.

After I read some of the story I talked to myself in the beautiful way Shakesper writes. I stood on the couch and said "Didst mine own heart loveth till anon? This booketh is the greatest I has't seen!" Suddenly, I heard somebody walking by. So I jumped off the couch and ran to my tie collection under my bed. But one of the tiny children is coming close to my den, I see a hand poke under the sticks. Then a tiny little head... The child screams. Then I scream.

Chapter 2: Emma the kid

Me and My best friend Olivia are running around playing with our dolls. But then suddenly I see a fox running to what I assume is their den. I

dropped my doll into the tall grass and then just stared at this beautiful orange fox running to his home. Olivia sets her doll down carefully and looks over to what I am staring at. She mistakes it for a dog which she is extremely scared of. Olivia runs into her house frightened that the fox will come near her. But I stay outside because I am very interested in this creature I have never encountered before.

I slowly walk across the street. When I got to the other house the fox was inside it's den so I decided to have a peek. I mean what could a fox do to a four year old? I poked my hand under the sticks that create a house then I poked my head under. I screamed once I saw the fox. His ears were straight up probably so he could be aware of any sound. Then the fox screamed back. The fox squirmed under the rim of his den and ran away. I screamed I won't do any harm. But he just kept running. He was so fast that I bet he was on the track team when he was a little fox. His formal tie was flapping against him in the wind. The tie goes very well with his handsome orange fur. While he was running a rat scurried passed him but instead of eating the rat he screamed in horror. Even though he just experienced his biggest fear he kept on sneakily running away.

Chapter 3: Mr.Fox

This little girl was chasing me for no reason. But I was still scared... I mean I hate humans! I ran and ran and ran. But I went so deep in the forest that I found my secret garden full of. Ummm well red beets. The little girl caught and plopped down by me under a big oak tree. I just sat down and ate some bitter beets from the garden in silence. Finally the little girl broke the silence and said "Can I be your friend?" My voice is usually very calm and soft but I can raise my voice very easily. So I raised my voice and said no then grumped away.

Five years later...

Chapter 4: Rewind of the last 5 years from Emma

Me and the fox became best friends ever since then. I am glad he is my friend! Every day we go to his secret beet garden to eat beets and make salad for his new wife. One day we sat down under the big oak tree that we sat under 5 years ago. We talked and talked and talked. Until I asked him if he would like to listen to some music. He said "Sure." so I took out my music player from the pocket of my overalls. I tried to turn on some classical music but it just loaded and loaded and loaded. Mr.Fox started twirling his tie with impatience.

After that day we figured out that we both loved classical music and both hated pop music. So every Sunday before church I come over to his house and we listen to classical music. Apparently he has a big collection of classical music cds. The first time I went to do that I realized that I had never been in his house before so he gave me a little tour of his home.

There is a tiny kitchen with dead rabbits hanging from the ceiling. When you go to the right there is a small room in the room there is a tiny fireplace, a couch, a giant book shelf, two beds and a TV playing Harry Potter movies. There is a place in the wall that no sticks cover, it's a square shape. I'm guessing it's a window. I stick my head out the window. There is a strong breeze that sounds like I am standing at the beach with the waves crashing. Mr.Fox asked me if I would like some lemonade. I said "yes thank you". After he makes it we sit on the couch and play a game of uno. The breeze slowed down into a nice wave of air. It felt so calm and pleasant. The cotton couch touches me in the right way soft and clean. The couch would only fit a four year old or a fox. Suddenly, I smell chocolate drifting into the air. It smells so good, tasty and rich in flavor. I walked to the kitchen where there was a plate full of brownies. I popped one into my mouth.

To be continued...



The Best Party For Binny

Written by Jeevan

Chapter 1: The Guest

There was a little dino called Binny. It was his birthday. He was going to be 3. He has his best friend, Sam . Binny's mom said that he was too young to have a party but she said, "You can invite one friend to come to your party."

I picked my best friend Sam. I asked my Mom, "Mom, can Sam come to my party." She said, "Ok, Sam can come to the party."
"Yes!" I said a little loud in the room.

Chapter 2: The meat pie and the bad news

Binny was shocked to see that his party was canceled because of the Dino-19. The Dino-19 is a big virus and his Mom said that his birthday party can't be with his friends.

Hey readers, do you want to see my birthday meat pie? It is on a picture. Ok, only look if you want or if not you can go to the next chapter. Thanks.



How do you like my meat pie? It's good we'll see you in the next chapter.

Chapter 3: The Rules for Dino-19

Well, readers I must tell you. You know that the Dino-19 has taken over . There is no story really, but let's start here and I will tell you the Dino-19 rules.

- #1 Stay a tail-length away from other Dinos
- #2 Wear a Dino mask when going outside
- #3 Wash your hands after you went to the store
- #4 Take a bath after you went to the store
- #5 No party with anyone other than your Mom,Dad,if you have a sister, or a brother. Not even your grandparents if you live with then that's ok.
- #6 Don't take a trip to another place.

I know that you hate reading the rules,but it is for your own good. Ok? Thanks for listening. The next Chapter is going to start now.

Chapter 4: Six year later

Six years later, the Dino-19 is finally over. Hip hip hurray! I am 9 years old now and I can finally have a party with my friends. Isn't that cool? Now we can go back to the story and not the boring rules of the Dino-19 and now I have to set up my party.

30 minutes later...

I finished my party set up. I forgot to tell about my big sister Emily. She is so annoying. My family members are Dad, Mom, and Emily.

My grandpa and grandma live in India. And my family and I live in the U.S.A. I know that you are going to quit reading this book because you probably don't like history. Anyway, stay tuned for the next chapter.

To be continued...

Untitled

Written by Owen

I never thought it would happen, but of course every night I would sit down in front of the T.V with my parents and watch the unclean action in the movies. When I would go to bed those nights I would have a nightmare, One that soon came true.

On one fun filled morning I sat down on my creaky bus going on my way to middle school. As I felt the bus stop in panic as if it was a race car taking a sharp turn, I felt someone nudge into my small crowded seat. I looked over my shoulder and saw a familiar face, It was my energetic friend Jeremy. He sat down and dropped his bags on the floor, they looked as if they weighed 1000 lbs. I greeted him with, " Hello! ", And he replied with, " Hey, Parker! " I felt pretty nervous talking to Jeremy again, I hadn't seen him in over two months. " Long Time no see,Huh? " I said well trying to keep a grin. " Ya, it's been a while! " He replied. We stopped at the middle school, student's took off from the bus as I saw a few recognized faces walking off the bus. A few people from elementary school like Susan, Rick, Noah, And Balake. I walked out of the bus and looked around the new world. The school building was humongous and covered with bricks and concrete. We all walked toward the school and opened the shiny glass door. It was beautiful, I walked toward my locker and put in the code. I opened it up and was disgusted by how much gum and flunked papers were stuck to the door and shelves, so I carefully placed my books and papers on the top shelf. I walked to class with Jeremy and Balake, I opened the door and sat in my seats. As we started english with our teacher Mrs. Tarent.

We started our assignments, as we were almost finished the principal called on the speakers for our teacher, Mrs. Tarent. As she replied with, " Be right back! " As she walked out of the room and

slammed the wooden door shut. Soon after she left the lights went out and a strange human like figure appeared out the window, a snarling noise echoed through the classroom as the figure moved a step closer and then ran off. We all ran in panic, scared, and confused of what the person was. Mrs. Tarent walked in the door and announced, " We will have to work in the dark until the technician fixes the lights. " Susan yelled out telling Mrs. Tarent about the strange person out the window and the growling noise as it moved closer and closer, but of course she didn't believe us and said, " It was probably just the technician looking for the energy box, now sit down and stay calm." As soon as she said that she turned on her radio and a breaking news report came on the machine, It was announcing, ' Human figures being reported and seen throughout the city.' She turned the radio off and Balake mumbled, " That outside, was definitely not human."

Mrs. Tarent told us to hide in the supply closet as she went to find help. We split up and headed toward the supply closet, we rushed in the door and locked it shut, we all picked up bats and crowbars to protect ourselves. Hours passed as we grew hungry and tired, we heard a hard knock on the door and soon the person was trying to pry it open. Jeremy walked toward the door and wielded his bat up into the air hanging on his shoulder as he peeked out the door sighed then opened it quickly, an officer stood at the door in a heroic pose explaining, " I heard some students needed a hand at the school." Multiple snarling and growling noises echoed loud through the school as the officer yelled out, " It's a horde! Follow me! " We rushed up the stairs and stood as the door was locked, Noah yelled out, " No time for keys, Break it open! " We all slammed at the door as it fell down and we rushed up to the roof. We climbed down the escape ladder and saw a pit of a substance that was made by the zombies and would burn you ALIVE. We jumped on the cars that leaded us toward the exit as I saw Jeremy getting pulled down by a zombie, I ran back and fisted his hand pulling him up and up, he gripped back onto the car and skipped across them as I jumped over the fence,

as Rick noticed," Where's Jeremy? " I looked behind me, seeing the zombies feasting on Jeremy-- slowly transforming-- Undead. I teared up as we ran away toward safety, the officer said the military set up a safezone toward the end of the city, we ran for hours and hours as I looked at so many people I had lost, all of my friends and family. We saw a horde of zombies ahead of us and would have to get through them, we all ran toward the horde with our bats winding up ready to strike. We fought our hardest and saved ourselves. We kept walking toward the end of the city and stopped in the abandoned gas station to heal and make a plan. We decided to stay low and keep heading toward the safezone. We waited until dusk to start out again.

We all woke up the next morning heading back toward the safezone. We finally arrived but were in trouble, The principal and Mrs. Tarent had become zombies and we're now back for revenge. We got ready as we fought the two school runners until they blacked out. We stayed in the safezone for a few days until Rick noticed a chopper in the sky. We all yelled and screamed for it to come down and save us, it landed in the middle of the safezone as me and the survivors hopped into the helicopter. We flew off, and as we were riding I said," I guess we aren't middle schoolers anymore. "

Years passed as we grew to senior high age. The remaining scientists sent us out for blood samples to develop a cure for the Z virus. We came back with over twenty samples and had the antidote ready in no time. The scientists had cured over three billion people around the world including my family, and Jeremy. The world grew back again recovering from its attack. I attended school again training to be an officer like my savior. Because you never know when it could strike again.

-THE END-

Godzilla

Written by Miles

Every day in New York people mostly spend their time at the beach and just enjoy themselves. If you like stories when everybody, not just 1 person but everybody lives happily ever after, this isn't the story for you... ok? And please don't start with once upon a time, that stinks. Once in New York everybodys enjoying themselves at the beach and having kids throwing sand in the adults face, then all the sudden Godzilla pops out of the water and wrecks things.



Kids call the police, then the police call the army, and then the army calls the FBI. They all shot all of their ammo with all their might but Godzilla's rough skin was too rough. It took no damage on the beast. The beast had almost finished destroying most of the city when a young science kid

who never got attention made a laser gun that can destroy any mutant or human. He climbed up a mountain and saw the Godzilla he aimed and then shot. BAM! Went the gun. After he shot it he fainted and didn't see what happened after that. After an hour he woke up and the cops told him he shot the gun at the right time cause it almost ate off your head and the head bone was at your head. A little later he was on the news and he got rich and everybody remembered his bravery of his encounter with the Godzilla.

-THE END-

Hawaiian Vacation

Written by Grace

I was sitting on the airplane so excited to finally be going to Hawaii. When I got there, I saw the beautiful blue water, sea creatures like fish and dolphins, and a large hotel! Me and my family went to check in to the hotel. I wanted to see what my room looked like. It was very nice!



I checked out the view from the window. I heard lots of people talking down at the beach. I heard the water crashing and hitting the sand. I wanted to go down and take a swim! I put on my rainbow, flowered swimsuit, grabbed some sunscreen, towel, and my flip flops.

When I got down to the water, I put out a chair and a towel and then I waited for my family to come. When they got down by the ocean with me we all went through the hot sand and went through the waves of the water and we started to play in the water. and I splashed water in my brother's face. It was fun to splash it on his face.

When my family and I were in the ocean we swam with the dolphins. doing that was fun too!



Then after a long time in the water me and my family went back to the hotel to get dried. Then we went out for dinner. after dinner we rested and watched a movie. After the movie it's twelve o'clock at night and we fell asleep with great dreams to come to. We will have a great time in Hawaii.

-The end-

Fruit Friends

Written by Michael

It was a hot day at recess at Fruit Tree Elementary. It was time for us to head in for lunch. Who am I? I'm Peach. Just as we were lining up, my friends Apple and Cherry started pushing to get to the front of the line.

"I'm gonna be first," shouted Cherry.

"No, I'm gonna be first!" screamed Apple.

"Actually no one is gonna be first." I said.

Then all of a sudden cherry got even more red than usual and his eyebrows grew and pointed down on his forehead. "NO! I'm gonna be first or I am gonna slice you into apple slices!"

Cherry sliced apple into apple slices.

Mr. Banana the principal said to call the hospital for Apple. Cherry's mouth opened wide after he sliced Apple into slices. Apple was in the hospital for 3 months then he came back home.

Then they became friends again.

-The End-

Candyland

Written by Eden

This is a story of Candyland. There were two kids named Benny and Rose. In Benny's house there was a blue light in his closet. Same for Rose. So Rose went into her closet. When they walked in their closet, it had a portal. In the portal there was the woods.

They went into the portal they hadn't known each other. Rose said, "Hi my name is Rose." Benny said, "Hi my name is Bennie." And then there was a big shadow that was overhead. Benny looked up in the sky. He saw a BIG dragon! "Look up.", he said with a scared voice. Rose said "Run!" So they ran. They ran so fast that they ran into a house.

Benny said, "This house is made out of candy!" Rose licked it and she said, "Yay it is candy!" So they went into the house. Nobody was in the house. They looked around and everything was made of candy. They lived there for a couple days. One day Rose realized that there was a pink force field around them. She went outside and went to the neighbor's house and knocked on the door.

The door opened and there was a big cookie in the door and Rose said hi, my name is Rose. The big cookie said, "Hi, my name is Ms. Gingerbread." Then Rose and Miss Gingerbread talked for a little bit. Bennie woke up and decided to go to the next door neighbor's house. When he arrived at the neighbor's house, he knocked on the door and somebody opened it. He heard somebody say, "HOWDY!" That same voice said, "HI PARTNER!" Benny said, "Hi, what's your name?" The neighbor said, "My name is Mr. Jolly. I'm a rancher." Benny said, my name is Benny. The two talked for a little bit, then Benny went back

home and Rose was there eating candy. Benny took some off the counter and ate it too because it was Jello. His favorite.

The next day they visited every house in the town. They went back home, got into their beds, and took a 3 hour nap. That night they stayed up late. Somebody knocked on their door, it was Nancy. Rose greeted her, and Benny said hello. Nancy came by to say hi to everyone because she was the candy police. Nancy was surprised to see them because she had never seen two humans before. Benny and Rose missed their families. They asked everybody how to get back home, but nobody knew how.

The next day, Rose and Benny took all their stuff and went back into the woods. They were hoping the dragon wasn't there. Good for them, the dragon was not there anymore. They couldn't find the portal from where they came so they looked at other places.

Two days later, Rose went to a really big house. She knocked on the door and she saw a shadow. She went closer to the door and she saw a short man. The man said "Where the sun is the longest, that is where the portal is." Rose said "Thank you so much! Bye!" She closed the door. She told Benny what happened, he was happy. Benny wrote this down. The next day they got all their stuff and went to the sunniest place. They went on the biggest mountain and the mountain was the sunniest place. It took a long time to get on the mountain top.

It is in the afternoon, they are walking on the bridge and all of a sudden, it is starting to crumble and fall. Bennie slipped and fell. Rose got his hand and pulled him up. They kept going and got to the top of the mountain. The portal was there. Rose said "Look!" They went into the portal, they made it back to their own homes.

Benny Realized that it was the same time as when they went into the portal. He called Rose and told her that it was the same time. Rose told her parents everything, of course they didn't believe her. Same for Benny.

My Trip to Arizona

Written by Sophia

Last summer my mother and I traveled to Arizona. My mother explained that Arizona is like a desert. The temperature can get up to 110 or more during the summer. For our trip we packed water, snacks, and summer shorts and tops. When we were driving we saw large windmills, hundreds of cows, petrified forest and boulders.

We arrived at the Air B N' B, unpacked the car, and took our belongings into the house. After we arrived we unpacked our clothes, food, and electronics. We decided to take a tour of the Air BNB. At the front entrance there was dust covering the garage. It looked like no one had been there in a very long time. There were moths flying around the porchlight. The bulb kept dimming like it couldn't shine much brighter.

After entering the door, there was a small table, futon, and leg massage. In the living room area there was a lounge chair, bed, tv and a door that led to the patio and pool. When we entered the bathroom it was clean, fresh and fruity. The pool is very large and deep and unsuitable for swimming. After our tour of the air bnb our tummies were growling. We decided to go for a drive for dinner and we decided to eat soup.

While driving we saw a church that was offering a sign up for bible school vacation. It was a good deal so we went inside to sign up. There were pictures on the walls left and right. I think all of the pictures were good pictures. We both inquired at the desk and signed up for the bible vacation school and we are now diving to the air bnb's. it's beginning to be fun in Arizona. Ahh we are here at air bnb's I'm ready to sleep in the comfy bed. (the next day) (yawn) I have to go to the church today! So we got in the car to drive to the church for the church bible vacation school.

A Lone Stray

Written by Claire

I was eating pancakes in the morning, as we usually do on a lazy Sunday like this, when all of a sudden, out of the blue, very calmly, my Dad says, "Oh, by the way, there's a stray dog outside." "WHAT?!?" I exclaimed. At first I thought it was just one of my dad's tricks, but then a sharp howl that could be heard from miles away started up.

I went outside, still in syrup covered pajamas, when I met my dog Daisy. She was clearly terrified, curled up in a ball, with bloodshot eyes. I slowly walked up to her, when she made a sound I can never forget. It sounded like a scared puppy, mixed with an overprotective mother growl. I got startled, and I took the tiniest step back.

I ran to the door, with the wind blowing in my ears. When I got inside I ran to my rather disgusting room. I hid under my covers.

It was around noon, and my awesome grandparents were here! I walked around to the trash cans, closing my eyes, expecting a vicious dog, but instead I saw that she moved to the other side, aka the shady side with all of our trees in our yard. I slowly walked towards her, wincing, and holding out my hand. She sniffs it, and lets me pet her. I walk away, happy to know she likes me, when I hear soft clicking on the pavement next to me. I look and see it's her! Daisy was walking next to me, with a goofy smile plastered across her face.

Three, two, one, go! I yell, running as fast as I can across the yard. I was racing against Daisy, who was as fast as lightning. She kept beating me in running races! A dog was beating me! This was the best summer ever. Then, out of nowhere, my parents decided it would be best to put her in a ten week prison training class for her, so one of my mom's good

friends took Daisy to the program. I felt like I was shattered into a million pieces. Days dragged on, but every week her prison trainers sent us weekly report cards on her. It made me smile, thinking of her cute, goofy smile.

Snake

Written by Ashley

Ssssss....First, I slithered through the gate and into the backyard. I looked around and I saw a shed, a garden, and there was a bad smell in the corner. There were three dead rabbits from the last people who used to live here. Then I said, "I will never go to that corner ever again." So while I was looking around, a girl named Ashley came out with her dog so that he could use the bathroom. Ashley ran to the door but forgot her dog. She was so scared, but got brave and went after her dog. I thought she was a hero.

Pug in Paris

Written by Ashley

Ahhh, I am so excited! It's a new day and I hope someone comes to get me. I've always wanted a family and I've been waiting for the perfect one. Hmm...that is weird. I thought I heard the human owners of the shop say something. I did! There is a new family in Paris.

From through the window I kept looking at them and they finally saw me. I am a black pug. I have a tiny body, but sometimes I can look chunky with how I stand. My store family tells me my posture is wrong and makes me look chunky when I'm really not. I wear a sparkly collar with my name on it. My name is Queen. I have been living at Get Pets Pet Store for two years. That is a really long time for a dog.

The day that I met my family, I was just getting ready for a bath and to get my hair done, when they spotted me. Then the smallest one said, "Can we get one?" Her family said yes. They had come from far away to get me. I was so happy. I had been there in that pet store for a long time. But, I was happy to go to a rental home because they were here

for vacation. When we got there, they were hungry so we all went out to eat. Some things they ate were baguettes and other fancy foods. Then we went back to the rental home and got some sleep because we were going to do something fun in the morning. I was so happy but tired, so I went to sleep.

A New Series

Written by Stephen

Sniff! Smell that fresh Minecraft air. Now to get some logs. Four logs equals a crafting table. We'll wait for nightfall to kill some spiders for some strings. We need strings to build weapons.

Three Minecraft hours later...

So it's night time right now. Oh my God. I forgot we have to make a weapon to kill all the spiders. A wooden sword to help kill the spiders. All of a sudden, a spider named Clayton appeared. It is a friendly spider and whenever other spiders are around it kills the spiders. The bad spiders drop strings and potions of poison.

It's morning now. Now let's craft a fishing pole. Okay, let's go fishing so I can get a pet cat.

Three Minecraft hours later...

I got 65 fish and two name tags. Let's go find a jungle biome. Oh my God this ocelot is eating so much fish. I'm Down to one fish. If this doesn't work I am just going to be mad! Yes, it's my pet cat. Okay let's put this name tag on the cat and name it.....Mia. Mia's super power is whenever there is a creeper, she makes it go away.

All of the sudden it is nighttime. Okay let's go find some skeletons. All of a sudden a nice skeleton named Amy appeared out of nowhere. Her super powers are whenever there is another skeleton, Amy kills them. The skeletons get killed and arrows of invisibility and a potion of blase power regeneration.

I have about 65 bones. Let's go find a wolf. Oh my God, just like the cat this wolf is just eating all the bones. I have about one bone left, this better work. Yes it works! Now let's name the dog..... Ziggy. Ziggy's superpower is whenever a monster attacks me, Ziggy fights them with me.

So I made a farm. It has about five cows, five pigs, five chickens, one rare mushroom animal, 5 donkeys and one horse. The horse has 2 chests and some diamond armor. The horse's name is Stacey Good. My house is next to a village. The village name is Stephenville. No no not that iron golem is going to kill me! Okay so I killed the Iron Golem. I made a new one for the village. I made a new one. I put 4 irons so I made it in to a T. After that, I put the pumpkin head on top so the Iron Golem so it protects my village. For my trip to the Nether I got a chainmail site because I traded one from a villager. I also got some obsidian blocks so I can go to the Nether. I forgot to tell you my name is... No no I'm going to the nether!

-Until book 2...-

Kentucky

Written by Journey

Me and my family were going on a trip to Kentucky. I was so excited. My mom and dad didn't tell me we were going until literally the morning before. I woke up around 9:30 and packed my suitcase. Then we put everything in the car. My mom drove half the way and my dad drove the other.

Kentucky is big and fun. We stayed in a big room. With big, big beds. Even the breakfast area was big. When I went to get some breakfast. I had one of those huge circle waffles it had, maple syrup, whipped cream and sprinkles. I also had apple juice and some blueberries.

After breakfast, dad needed a nap, but after he woke up we got ready for swimming. We put on our swimsuits and grabbed our towels. Then we headed down to the hotel pool. The pool area was full of people and the water was really, really cold. We swam for about an hour. Then when the pool cleared out, we played marco polo. I felt really energized! After that we returned to our room. We put our pjs and went to bed. The next day we got our clothes on. Then we went to the candy store. There were so many different candies. There were suckers and jellybeans and so much more. It was so hard to choose which candy I wanted. But I finally decided on what I wanted. I chose a cotton candy sucker. I took the first lick and I loved it. It tasted like pure cotton candy. It didn't take long for me to finish it. Then we went back to our room for the night.

The next day we went to the aquarium and saw so many kinds of fish. My brother even touched a small shark. Then we went to the shark bridge. It's a bridge that is over water with sharks in it. Me, my brother and dad walked on the bridge. It was exciting for us. After we walked over the bridge I got a small pink seahorse painted on my face. Then we all packed up and left Kentucky.

Experiment: Transportation

Written by Kadence

One morning in a top secret lab, two scientists-James Madison and his assistant Fred Akren, made a chemical that transports things. But they didn't know what it could transport. They decided to do four experiments to find out. Their first one was on animals. This is where their adventure began.

In the forest, they looked for animals. After a few minutes, Fred spotted something.

"Look James," he shouted, "a deer!"

"Nice work Fred!", he exclaimed in his raspy voice.

"I'll be right over."

Once he was there, they set the chemical on the deer's back and tested it. "Transport!", James shouted but nothing happened. "Maybe if we test it on a smaller animal, it'll work.", Fred suggested. "That's a good idea.", James replied. "Let's go catch that squirrel." So they went to catch a squirrel that was standing on its hind legs. But as soon as they started running at the squirrel, it turned around and attacked them, scratching their faces and ripping their clothes. Finally Fred emerged from the tussle, face bleeding and clothes ripped, but with the squirrel tightly in his arms. Once again they tested the chemical. But the squirrel stayed right where it was. "How about we test the chemical on people?", James inquired. "That's an even better idea", Fred replied. "Chicago here we come!"

In Chicago, which was crowded and humid, they found a boy named Caleb Green who was willing to test their chemical. "You're just going to put your hand on this bottle of blue liquid while Fred here yells

transport. Okay?“, James explained. “You don't have to talk to me like I’m three. I’m in the 5:30 Scholars, which is a math group. And science is partly math because you add ingredients to make chemicals.” Caleb informed James. “Sorry for underestimating you.”, James said. “Fred, start the process”. “Alright, Boss”, Fred replied. “Caleb, put your hand on the chemical.” Caleb did as he said. “Alright, ready, transport!“, Fred shouted. But nothing happened. “Since that didn't work, let's try pouring it on your arm.”, James suggested. “Good idea Boss”, Fred answered. Caleb was already holding out his arm. They poured a little bit of the bubbly blue liquid on to his arm and tested it. Once again nothing happened. “Sorry your chemical didn't work”, Caleb said, “but have a good rest of your day”. He then ran off to join his friends.

“Alright then, let's test the chemical on food. I'm starving”, Fred said. “You’re always starving”, James replied. “That's why you put on 47 pounds this summer. But we do need to keep testing it. So to McDonald’s we go!” At McDonald's they ordered 2 Big Mac’s and 2 large fries. “Okay, let’s test”, James said, holding up their bag of food. “Transport, 376 Lantern Drive!“, boomed James. But nothing happened. “Let me try”, Fred said. “Transport, 376 Lantern Drive!“, he exclaimed in his excited voice. But still nothing happened. “Wait a minute”, said James, “What if we make a helmet with the chemical in it? That way people can think about where they want to transport to.” “That's a good idea”, Fred said. “I’ll get the portable lab.” Together the two men worked on the helmet until it was perfect. Finally they headed back to Caleb's house for one last test.

When they got to Caleb’s house, there was a crowd of people, including his sister, Jael Green. They were celebrating her 5:30 Scholars Doubling Tournament win. “Caaaaleeb”, James called, “we need you for one last experiment.” Caleb came running over immediately. “What is it Mr. James?”, he asked. “We need you to think about a place you want to go, and then put his helmet on while I yell transport in front of

that crowd", James directed. "Okay" Caleb agreed, "and I want to go to Kalamazoo to see my cousin Kadence". "Alright that'll work", James replied. "To the stage we go!" So Caleb put on the helmet and they walked to the stage. Once he had everyone's attention", Fred spoke. "Behold," he announced, " 7 year old Caleb Green will transport to Kalamazoo with one word from my boss, James Madison". Everyone stopped what they were doing and stared at Caleb, eager to see something great. "James", Fred said, "take it away!" "Alright folks", James shouted, "are you ready?" The people cheered in approval. "3,2,1, Transport!!!" Then the helmet disappeared! The crowd roared with laughter. "Well, Boss", said Fred, "at least we transported something today".

The Carp At Asylum

Written by Aidan

Asylum is big and it has a lake and a river. It has a pine tree forest and lots of hills. It also has a grassy part, sort of like a prairie with lots of land snakes. The river was crystal clear and the lake was murky. I've seen other water dwelling animals like water snakes, frogs, minnows, and other fish. But back to the carp. Little fish were swimming around the carp, which is weird because carp eat other fish. Why was a carp in a 6ft river?

I decided to find out. I took out my net and pushed him twice. The first time he didn't do anything. The second time, he turned and shot towards me. I screamed, "Hey Wyatt! Get out of the water!"

Mini-Golf

Written by Ramona

Do you like outdoor games and having tons of fun? If you do then mini golf is the right thing to do!

I walk on to the mini golf course and the first thing I see is the bright green fake grass, the big number one, the tiny hill, and the hole waiting for me to hit my ball into it. One time I walked up to the big number one, swung back my golf club, hit the ball, and it went straight into the hole on my first try! That is called a hole in one. Boink! goes the ball as I watch it roll down into the hole making another weird noise. As I walk through the course I can hear other people chatting and smell the strong scent of sunscreen on my skin. I start to get really sweaty because it is hot out but I keep going as the holes get trickier and more exciting!

Tuxedo Pickle

Written by Natalie

Tuxedo Pickle is white and black
If there's a mouse, he's ready to attack
If you put one on him he will fling off a hat
He is named Loki and he is a cat
He is very handsome
But he doesn't have an opposable thumb
I think my work is done
Unless I decide to write another one

Letters

Written by Emily

Dear Dad,

SPLASH! AHHHHH! Was what I said when I went deep down into that water slide this is how. It was a nice hot summer day when mom took Megen and me to the nearest water park. When I first walked in there was the biggest water slide I have ever seen and before I knew it Megen grabbed my hand and was racing to go to the big water slide. As soon as I got my breath I told Megen that she was crazy there is no way that I will go on the water slide beast. But mom and Megen were saying that I can do it and that gave me the confidence to go on the big water slide and I had the best time. I wish you were there. Love you always.

Love Emma.

Dear Emma,

That sounds like so much fun. I wish I could have been there for you but that will all change. I will now come home for now so this is my list of stuff that we are going to do when I come home with you and mom. First, I will hug you so tight that your eyes will come out, Second we will go to the water park that you told me about so we can all go on the water slide together, Third I will cook your favorite meal homemade pizza, and fourth all of us will sit on the couch and fall asleep while watching a movie.

Can't wait to see you budd. Love you.

Love, Dad.

Dear Reader,

If you want to know what happened to Adam and Emma when Adam got home they did all the things they wanted to do and Adam got into a routine and they lived happily ever after.

Love, Narrator

Splash Down: The Return of the Agency

Written by Jeydon

Location: Season 3 Map

When: Day 59

There is a bounty set for Midas, Deadpool, Skye, and Brutus. The assassins who have set out on this mission are Fade, Kit, Meowcels, Jules, and Ocean who are stationed at Base Authority.

The enemy's base is at the agency. Enemies are stationed. It's time to attack. Kit screams, "Is it safe to go?" Jules shouts back, "Don't know. Don't care! GO! Now!" The sounds of ammo fill the air.

Boooooooooooooooooom

pow

Pew-peww-ppepepw-pepe-pew

"Oh my god! Midas got eaten by a shark!" they all yelled.

"Go, go, go, go! Victory is ours!"

Now where are the 1200 v-bucks for all of us?

A Groove for Gideon

Written by: Mrs. Dionna Roberts

The thick, green overgrown trees kept my home tucked and hidden away in the wooded area that sat behind the small gray house. Vines twisted and weaved themselves around and through the wired fence that created a laced curtain for me to peek through. They don't even know that I'm here. I typically venture off to explore their backyard in the early morning when the grass is still wet with dew, well before the sun is fully awake. There's an opening, just wide enough for my furry blob for a body to wiggle through, that leads me from my world into theirs.

My burrow is my world. It may not be great to others, but it's absolutely perfect for me. It's a modest construction, [*con·struct·ion: from the root word "struct" which means to build*], if I must say so myself. If you aren't paying much attention, you could potentially miss my front door--which is cleverly concealed by a mound of soft, fresh earth. It's located about 3 feet underground and about 15 feet wide in The Roberts' backyard. I moved in about a year ago, but just in the last months this place is finally feeling like HOME.

After reading way too many articles in Home and Garden magazine, I decided that my long dark hallways were really uninviting and in need of some serious remodeling and decorating. My neighbors over at the Decomposition Depot suggested I check out the liquidation sale going on at Art Sand Furniture. I'm so glad that I did. I was able to strike a deal on a few clay chairs and a beautiful decorative moss rug. My nesting chamber is located at the south end of my burrow. This is where I sleep and where my beloved library of books can be found. The warm glow of the firefly lamps creates the coziest nook for reading, my poetry collection. I have recently been researching recipes for new vegan dishes

to cook up. It was once a dream of mine to be a gourmet chef. Ahh..as Langston Hughes reminds me, I must *hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly*. Well, who wants to willingly be a broken-winged bird? Not me! Actually one might say my dream is finally coming true. I have been asked to host this month's book club for the Eastwood Literacy Creature's Council, here in my burrow, and provide a 5-course meal. For the guests The roots that grow underground around here will never, never do for the cuisines I want to create. Gideon the Gourmet Chef. That has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? These grubs have lacked flavor for months. The soil is so bitter lately. In the morning, I will journey off in search of the finest ingredients.

The warmth of the morning sun softly baked the roof of my burrow and I awoke refreshed and optimistic about the day ahead. I was on a mission and needed music to set the tone.

"Antlexa, play the hip-hop classic, "I Go to Work" by Kool Moe Dee."

"You've got it Gideon. Playing "I Go to Work", by Kool Moe Dee."

The beat drops and I begin brewing my antiinflammatory [*anti: root word meaning against*] basil tea and grab the black beetle jelly from the shelf for my termite toast. As I enjoyed my breakfast, I made a meticulous list of ingredients that I needed to forage from the Roberts' Backyard. Their yard is the closest yard with the greatest variety of greens, fruits, and proteins:

List

- sweet grass
- grapevine leaves
- organic garden snails
- locally sourced slugs
- wild strawberries

With my list in hand, I almost rushed out without my glasses. I can't see

a thing without those!

I traveled with urgency up the tunnel, popping my head out of the opening to take a look around. A groundhog can never be too careful around here. Look left. Right. Perfect. No humans in sight. The air was clouded with conversations of the neighborhood birds. They keep us all informed of what's going on. Word through the trees is that the Oak Tree Squirrels just welcomed four babies into the family. Perhaps I'll stop by to extend a congratulations after my foraging. I worked my way through the hole in the wire fence and started to gather my ingredients. The grapevine hung over the top of the fence, so I picked a hefty bunch of those leaves first. After that with my sharp claws, I dug out a few patches of sweet grass from the perimeter. The wild strawberries were next. They typically grow in the shaded areas of the yard so I knew I had to get closer to the house.

I got down low and shuffled over toward the house, when all of a sudden, I heard the click of a brass lock, followed by the creak of the side door of the house opening. I tried to be *real cool* like Gwendolyn Brooks talks about, but instead of cool, I was straight frozen stiff.

"Dooley, get back here!" the girl shouted as her tiny dog raced toward me barking a mile per second. I thought to myself, "Aww..he's kind of cute.." until he got closer. The anger in his round, brown eyes and the snarl that spread across his mouth were my signals to RUN FOR IT!, except my flat feet were rooted to the ground. As the distance between me and the tiny dog grew less and less, I thought that maybe this life, this *dream of mine was clearly about to be deferred and well on its way to drying up like a raisin in the sun*, when suddenly the tiny fellow screeched to a halt. He stopped, tilted his head, and began to circle me while sniffing my scent uncontrollably. I closed my eyes to steady my breath. His sniffing became a rhythm, a steady cadence, a beatbox to my ears. I felt a familiar verse from Langston Hughes rising up from my

chest that abruptly stumbled from my mouth.

*I-I stay cool, and dig all jive.
Th-That's the way I stay alive.
My-my motto, as I live and learn
Is d-dig and be dug
In return*

-L.Hughes

After I finished my verse, I slowly and with caution, opened my beady eyes. Through my wired glasses, to my surprise the tiny dog's eyes were kind and the snarl on his mouth had melted. I guess music really does soothe the savage beast. He stood on his hind legs and applauded, jumped up, and gave my nose a warm, wet lick. He bounded back into the house as quickly as he came. I exhaled and proceeded to gather the rest of my ingredients.

Wild strawberries: check ✓

Garden snails: check ✓

Slugs: double check. ✓✓

I left the Roberts' Backyard with everything I needed for my gourmet feast, plus a bonus ingredient: CONFIDENCE, ya know, just for a little extra flavor.