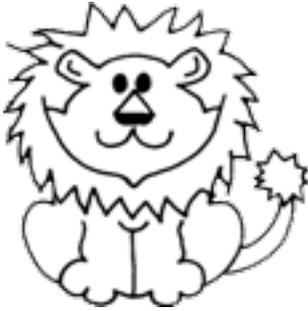


A LION'S LIFE



Volume 9, Issue 2
February 15, 2017

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Fifth grade students counting money collected during the Penny Wars in December.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

By Caroline F.

Battle of the Books is a competition that encourages kids to read and allows them to share their knowledge about their books in the form of a quiz game.

Fifth and sixth graders at Spring Avenue form teams of four and read a combination of books from the Bluestem and Caudill award nominee lists. There are four lists of books, each list containing two books. Each member of a team reads one list.

At the Battle, each team will answer questions about the books they read, such as the title, author, and plot of each book. The questions will be asked and answered on the computer, through a quiz website called Kahoot. The contestants will not be timed, but if there is a tie, there will be a lightning round.

The three winning teams from each school will advance to the District Battle. There they will compete with the winning teams from the other schools in the District.

The school Battle of the Books took place on February 9th at



approximately 9:35 a.m.

The Spring Avenue teams include Super Books, Beast Boys, Royal Readers, Book Bros, Gato-Read, Rainbow Smarties, Pineapple Friends, Dogsters, Book Ballerinas, The Masterminds, The Ballers, Novel Nerds, Read Dogs, Book Nerds, Book Busters, and Born 2 Read.

After over 70 questions were asked, there was a four way tie for first place between the Super Books, the Book Nerds, the Book Ballerinas, and Gato-Read. All the teams did a great job, and each team answered over 60 questions correctly!

The following morning, the four teams had a tie breaker round where Ms. Marek asked more questions. After 60 more questions were answered correctly, it was decided that all four winning teams would be going to the District Battle.

Congratulations readers!

SPORTS PAGE



4 ICONIC SHOES

By: Emmett D., Patrick E., and Aidan C.



Adidas Superstar: This shoe was released in 1969 and was the first low top basketball shoe with a leather upper. The shoe caught NBA and NCAA players attention most notably Basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar. Run D.M.C a music group wore them without laces on stage and on the streets.



Air Jordan 1: This basketball shoe was released in 1985 as Michael Jordan's signature shoe. These were endorsed and created for the Chicago Bulls Michael Jordan.



Converse All Star: Chuck Taylor created the Converse All Stars in 1917. Converse is a subsidiary of Nike Inc. The most common version is made out of cotton canvas.



Reebok pumps: These were released in 1989. When you pump the tongue of the shoe it makes the ankle of the shoe stronger to prevent breaking an ankle. Also many famous basketball players wore this shoe. The creator of this iconic shoe is Paul Litchfield.

NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL

By Adam K.

Although they didn't make the College Football Championship, Notre Dame still has one of the best college football teams. Many of their players have gone on to the NFL. One of their best players to go to the NFL was Joe Montana, he also was the best Quarterback that ever played on their team.

The Golden Dome

is Notre Dame's Football stadium. A Domer is what they call HUGE Notre Dame fans. They created that nickname from the name of the stadium The Golden Dome. The Golden Dome has been around since 1930 and can seat up to 80,000 fans. Notre Dame campus is located in the state of Indiana.

If you like college football you may know

that Notre Dame is called the Fighting Irish. How did they get this name? They got the name from many students playing sports being Irish and them putting up a great fight in all games they play.

Over time Notre Dame has won 12 NCAA championships.

Overall the Notre Dame



football program has had amazing teams and players and you really should consider watching some of their games.

SPORTS PAGE



SUPER BOWL 51

By: Emmett D., Patrick E., and Aidan C.

The Super Bowl is when two teams, one from the AFC (American Football Conference) and one from the NFC (National Football Conference) play each other for the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

This year the Super Bowl was in Houston at the NRG Stadium. The New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons played in Super Bowl 51. The New England

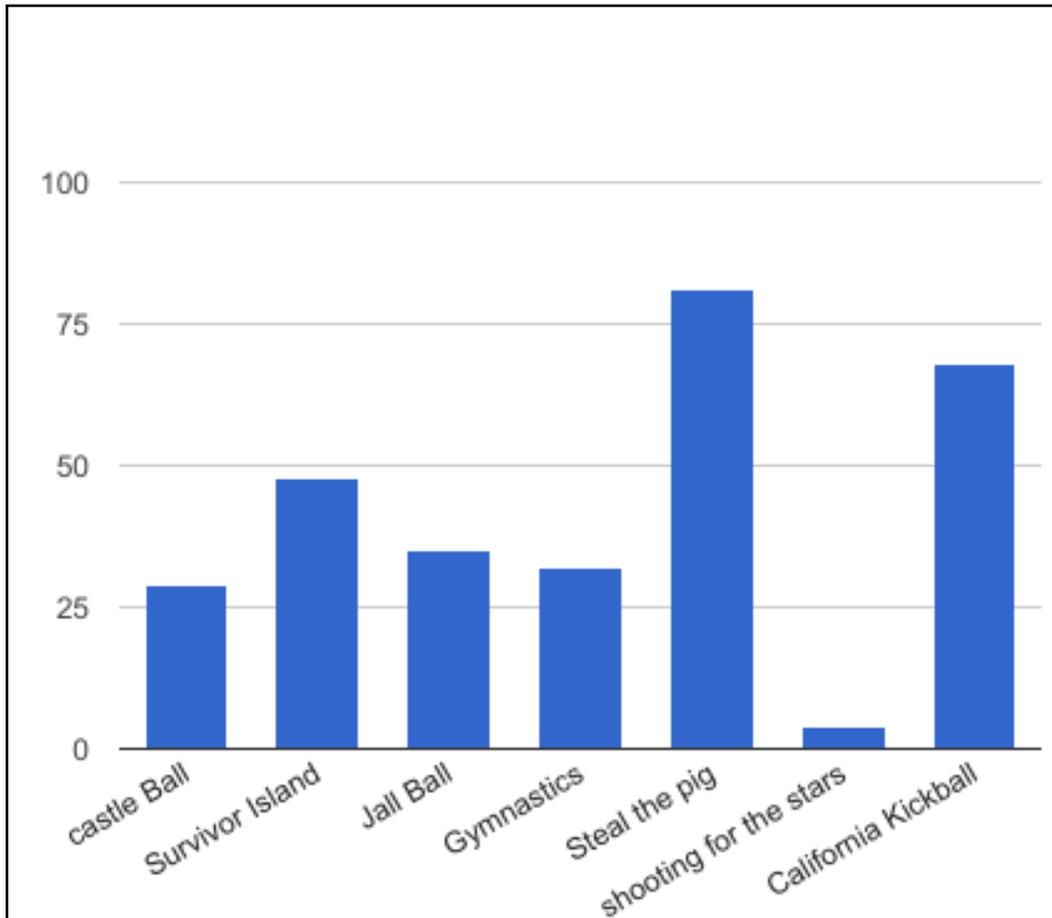


Patriots won Super Bowl 51. It was an epic comeback the Patriots were down at half 3-28 at half. It was also a devastating one for the Atlanta Falcon Fans. Tom Brady and Coach Bill Belichick have five Super Bowl wins together.

The game went into overtime and the Patriots won the coin flip, and not long after they scored the game winning touchdown in the sudden death style overtime.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PE GAME?

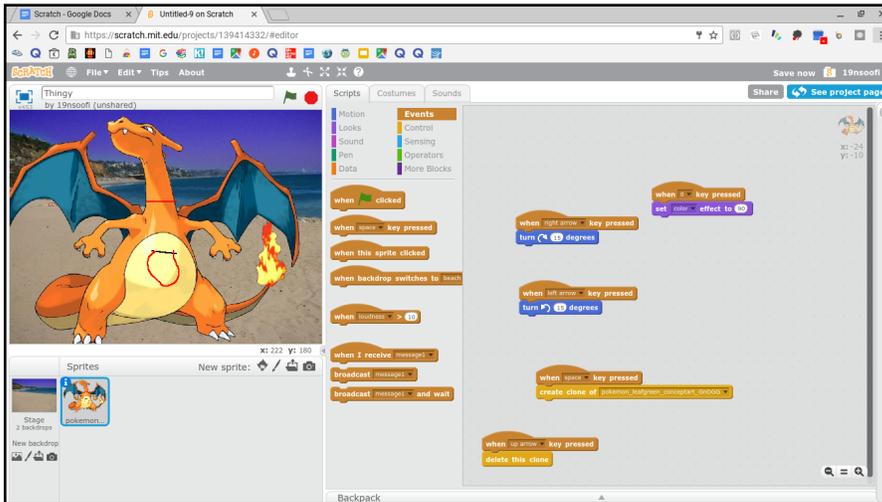
By Devin W., Luka L., and Matthew M.



The final results show that Steal the Pig won with a score of 81.

But California Kickball came in second with a score of 68 and sadly Shooting for the Stars lost with a score of 4.

We collected these results from the Spring Ave students.



SCRATCH

By Niko S. and Carter H.

Scratch is a programming website where you can see other people's work, and make your own. The style of coding is blocks, so you don't have to type everything.

You can pick an avatar to use in your code, or import one. Once you have the avatar, there is a variety of different codes for you to choose.

For example, if you choose "When press space bar" and "Move 10 steps" and connect them, press the flag in the top, and press the space bar, the avatar will move 10 steps.

When you play other people's games, you can press inside at the top right hand corner, and drag the code to your backpack. It is at the bottom, so you can use it in your own games.

Then, if you have an account, you can release it into the world for others to play! In the amazing world of scratch you should create an account. This will save your work so you can work on it later.

You can also play scratch games other people made. if you want to find a specific game, there is a search bar in the top corner so you can find games.

Go check it out on Scratch.com!

CHARITY

By Kate B.

Do you like the feeling you get when helping others? There are many benefits to giving back to the community and to people around the world! A lot of people think that giving to a charity is only a very small amount of help. But the truth is it matters that you try and if you get a dollar or two you still can make a difference.



Dr. Loretta Scott said "We can't help everyone but, everyone can help someone." Making something to donate is also a great way to help charity. There are many things that you can do that are very simple and easy. Helping others out not only makes you feel good, but also the other person. Look forward to more topics about how we can help others out in future newspapers.

Check out past issues in the *A Lion's Life* Archive on the Spring Ave website.



GET A DOG!

By Jackson K.

Do you want a pet that would play with you all day? Well get a dog! Even though a dog would be hard to take care of, and could cost some money, a dog will be a great pet. The day you get your dog you will consider him or her your best friend. A dog is a very playful pet and totally the opposite of cats.

On the other hand, cats sleep all day. Even though cats are easier to take care of, why would you want to pay all that money for a pet and not do anything with it at all? Now going back to pros about dogs.

There are so many facts about dogs, but this is the most important: Dogs are so... CUTE! They are also great protectors. Did you know that your dog is almost as smart as you? Dogs have a sense of time and know how long you're gone for! Did you also know that dog's whiskers help them see in the dark? Your dogs are provided with information about the size, shape, and speed of things nearby. Another fact is that your dog's sense of smell is 1,000 to 1 million times better than yours.

Now are you persuaded? If yes, then what are you waiting for? Go get a dog! There are many local shelters where great dogs are waiting to be adopted.

If you can't get a dog, then I feel really bad that you will be attached to a pet that can't get out of bed. Yeah, you know what I'm talking about. A cat.



THE N.A.S.A. WEBSITE (NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION)

By Annie P.



NASA is a U.S. space exploration facility. The link above brings you to their webpage where you can learn about when

their next space missions are, and even see pictures from space!

I was recently exploring their website when I found a tab at that said "Journey to Mars" and it brought me to a part of their website with articles about NASA getting so close to getting a human to Mars. I also looked under Missions and clicked on "Launches and Landings" and it took me to a page with all the launch and landing times of their rockets. Feel free to explore!

ELIZABETH

RESTAURANT DESCRIPTION AND REVIEW

By Caroline F.

This is an absolutely amazing restaurant located at 4835 N Western Ave in Chicago. It's menu is delicious and unique, and the staff is kind and cheerful. Iliana Regan is the owner as well as one of the chefs of the restaurant that she named after her sister. I went on a night when they were serving a benefit menu for a farm, so the food was mostly plant based, but nevertheless delicious.

My favorite part of my dinner was the dessert. I had a pudding that was thick, creamy, and had the most unique flavor I have ever tasted. Next, I had very delicious donuts, with a sweet glaze, but tart dough that created an amazing combination in flavor. Last, I had my favorite dish, a carrot cake. It was so amazing that I can't even tell you how good it was. It was baked in a pie pan, but was very much a cake. Its frosting was rich and creamy and absolutely amazing.



WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE HOT AIR BALLOONING?

By Ian P. and Niklas P.

As some of you know our family, the Polonowski's, go hot air ballooning. Though we do not own one, our grandpa does. We are going to tell you about what it is like to go hot air ballooning, by giving you the daily schedule.

First we start by waking up around 5:30-6:00. Yes we are very tired but we still move along quickly. We have to dress appropriately because it is really cold in the morning. But in the day it gets really hot.

Once we are all ready we head out to our car. Where are we heading you might ask? We are going to the balloon field. Now the balloon field is not some front yard. No. It's about 365 acres. When we get there we park and walk to a tent where all the pilots (people who fly the hot air balloons) and crew (people that help with the hot air balloon) all meet up and have breakfast.

After a quick and good breakfast. We head out to the field. Since the field is so big, we have an assigned spot for our grandpa's hot air balloon. When we get to our assigned spot the dawn patrol is going up.

The dawn patrol is a wave of about 15-20 balloons that go up early in the morning. So early that it is still dark out. When the dawn patrol is up, then the next wave of balloons start inflating. There are usually four waves of balloons including the dawn patrol. We are usually in the first or second wave. To inflate the balloon we have to have two people on the mouth(the

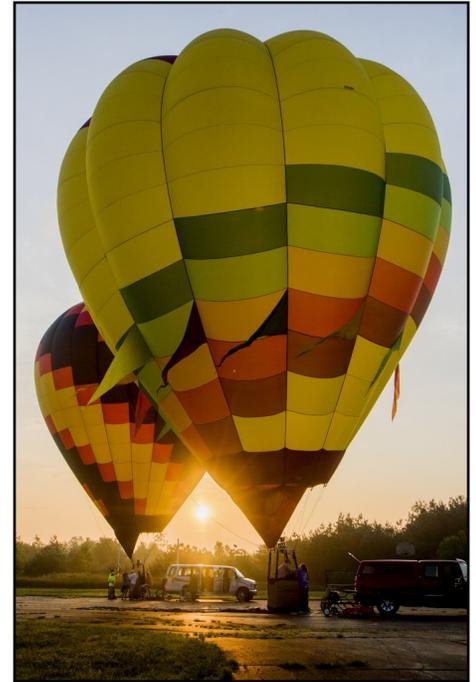
bottom of the balloon) holding it open. When they are holding it open then we start a fan and the fan blows air into the balloon.

Once the balloon is all aired up, then we have one of the pilots, our grandpa or our dad, heat it up. They get in the basket and burn fire into the balloon. Yay! The balloon is up! Now we hold down the balloon so it does not fly off. We have to get a thumbs up from one of the zebras(the people who manage what we are doing) so we can take off.

When we get the thumbs up we watch Double Yellow (that's the name of our balloon) go into the balloon filled air. Now the crew has to pack up everything and put it in the car. Then we go chase the balloon. The crew is all the people that help go chase the balloon so we can help it when it lands. The balloon could be up in the air from around 15 minutes to an hour. Well honestly they could be up in the air for as long as they have fuel.

So when they are up in the air the crew has to look through trees and for buildings while they are driving. It's pretty hard. We communicate with Double Yellow through walkie-talkies. When the balloon lands we are almost always there to catch them. Not literally but when they hit the ground they will go right back up if someone does not hold on to the basket. So when we catch them we usually hold them for a little bit until all the crew has showed up.

When we are ready we have somebody pull the balloon down.



The pilot lets the air out while a person pulls it down with a rope. After the balloon is on the ground we push all the remaining air out. Then we pack that huge five story building balloon in one bag. No it's not a little bag but it is still pretty small to have a whole balloon in this bag. So it takes the whole team of people helping with Double Yellow.

When we are done with that job we make sure all the air is out one more time then pack it up into the back of my grandpa's truck along with the basket. We are finally done and take a little rest. We grab waters and talk about how the flight went and other cool stories about ballooning. That is the day of the ballooning. Well there is a little more to it but we kind of said most of it. We hope you learned a little more about what ballooning is like and what the day is like for us.



WILDERNESS SURVIVAL



By Emily S.

So you think you have what it takes to survive in the wilderness, alone? I bet if you tried... well... terrible things would happen. Just in case you're ever lost in the woods or run away to take refuge there (keep in mind, this is a last resort for everything), this is a guide to surviving in the wild.

You should always enter the wild as a last resort, and always with utmost caution. These are absolute must-bring items you will need for your survival.

Survival Kit

- ❑ Rope
- ❑ Whistle
- ❑ Matches
- ❑ Medium/Large Garbage Bag
- ❑ Duct Tape
- ❑ Pencil And Very Small Notebook
- ❑ Cloth Colored Brightly
- ❑ Knife
- ❑ Tinder
- ❑ Bug Spray/Animal Repellent

If you fail to bring any of these it will slightly reduce your chance of survival, though you would likely survive without duct tape or a whistle if you have no predators around.

Since there will be multiple issues of this, first thing's first - the beginning. Whether you are intentionally running to the woods (don't try this at home!) or find yourself there, you must have a plan on how to get through the first day.

Before you do anything, contemplate what you're going to do in order to be rescued. You could try to find civilization or simply make a smoke signal.

After you've decided on your plan (which could be written in that handy notebook of yours), you need to find water. If you're lucky enough to find a small river or even a rather large series of puddles, mark that place somehow. You could use a stick splattered with berry colors (make sure they're safe!) or a tiny strip of colorful cloth.

Make sure to drink the water after you find out that it's free of algae or infection. Now comes the major part - confirming your stay.

You will need to make any shelter you can using sticks and possibly fabric. It should be a decent distance away from your water source, but your water source must always be within your sight. Try to avoid tall grasses, which usually contain insects, where you're placing your shelter.

Now comes the fun part. There are many different types of shelters, but they all follow two requirements - staying angled and small. Based on common shelters from my research, I'll be showing you how to make a simple and sturdy shelter.

The round lodge (another way of saying a teepee made entirely of sticks) is a popular

shelter of unfortunate people who are lost in the woods. Usually they are very large, but this requires time and effort. You are a kid. Your only concerns are food, water, shelter, and survival, not making a fancy fort to have tea in!

First, gather at least ten or twenty midsize, sturdy sticks. Make sure to wash them off in your water source to get rid of any possible insects or mold on them. If there are any sharp stumps sticking out from a branch, either file them down on a tree or a hard surface or try to pry them off.

Next, you need to gather the sticks in a neat line on the ground. Firmly place a stick into the ground and make sure it has no or little movement when you wiggle it. This will be the middle and supporting base of your shelter. It should be free of mold and insects in every way possible.

Then, lean most of your other sticks in a circular wall against the base. If they aren't supported by the base or each other, use either duct tape you might have or a few strips of loose tree wood to tie them. After all this, you should have at least three extra sticks to spare and a cone-shaped wall of sticks. Their tips should be angled towards the tip of the base, similar to a teepee.

After a while of manipulating the stick, remove a few from the wall to make an



Continued on next page



WILDERNESS SURVIVAL CONTINUED



By Emily S.

opening you should be able to crawl through. If your shoulders are broad you may need to make a bigger shelter. Just for extra caution, place a few of your extra sticks (you may have to get shorter ones) horizontally between the walls so the "door" is lower. This will provide extra protection from predators and potential threats, as they may not be able to enter or see your enclosure.

As night wrestles the blue sky away, it is required for you to know how to start a fire. You will need three types of wood. Tinder is any wood fibrous, light, and would likely easily burn. Dying vegetation, if big enough, can be used to substitute it. Kindling is stable wood that is the thickness of your arm, or just a thick bunch of tiny sticks a little larger than toothpicks. You will need a large quantity of this. Fuel is wood much larger than the largest kindling that is only

added after the fire is lit. It serves as fuel to keep the fire burning.

You should dump these all in a careful circle, commonly outlined by stones/raised above ground to keep from a forest fire. Rub the kindling and thicker tinder together for a while to make a fire.

The fire should always be extinguished, either with your breaths or water, when you're done using it. If you absolutely have to use it, just keep in mind that it will attract moths and predators. Roll over on your side, your face the opposite direction of the fire, when it is still burning and you

plan on sleeping.

But how will you survive without food? That, my friend, is a question for the next article. Stay tuned and remember this in case this unfortunate fate falls upon you.



HOW WE SEE THINGS

By Jack S.

The lens allows light to come into the eye. It makes the picture you want to see more clear. The rays come in upside down through the lens.

The pupil is the center of the iris. The pupil gets bigger or smaller depending on the lighting. The pupil also determines how much light is let into your eye.

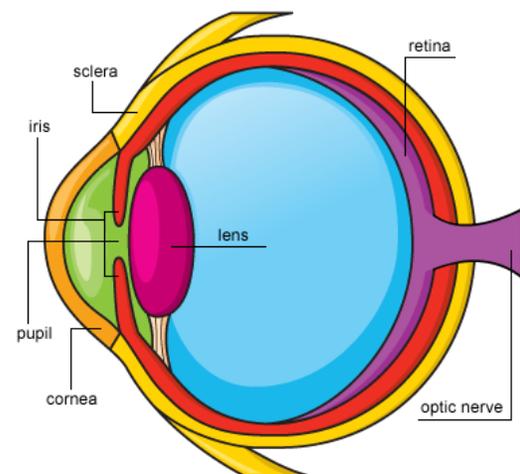
The retina is at the back of your eye. Images appear upside down on the retina. The retina sends a message of the image to the brain. The message the retina sends goes along the optic nerve to the brain.

The optic nerve has more than one million nerve fibers. If you did not have an optic nerve, you would not be able to transfer any visual information.

The cornea is the transparent front part of the human eye that covers the iris, pupil, and anterior chamber. The cornea, with the anterior chamber and the lens, refracts the light. The limbus is the border of the cornea and the sclera. The limbus is a common site for the occurrence of the cornea.

A LOOK AT THE HUMAN EYE

DIAGRAM OF THE EYE





VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

NILL AND DILL GAME CORNER



By: Landon N. and Aidan D.

Fun Fact: Tacocat spelled backwards is tacocat.

Landon: Hi there, this is a boring introduction, welcome to our segment of the paper!

Aidan : HELLO! I'm Aidan Dill in this section of lillie's bag. I understand why nebbly hates the bag.

Landon: NO AIDAN! NO! Today we are not reviewing Pokemon Moon, we are reviewing the most evil game of all, Super Mario Run, which is not a rip-off of Sonic Dash AT ALL!

Aidan : I- wait what?

Landon: Yeah, Sonic Dash is the same thing, but 3D and with way more.

Aidan: Do its owners put it up in stores with release dates but no game and then make it free but after 3 levels it cost 10 DOLLARS! OH AND DID I FORGET THEY OVER ADVERTISE TO. THIS. DAY!!!!!!

Landon: Nope, when you buy Sonic Dash you get the full version, and they update to make it better, for free! But, back to Super Mario Run.

Aidan: *INTENSE HATRED INTENSIFIES*

Landon: Even though Nintendo is in Evil Businessman Mode right now, the level design is at least decent.

Aidan: True, true. I can say that much is true. It's challenging but "meh" levels of fun.

Jimmy: Hi, I'm here, look at me!

Landon: Well, this game is so boring, we can't even find enough to say! This game is a dead end, so don't play it!
Nill Rating: 0/10 I don't care for this game.

Dill Rating: 2/10 Decent levels, But otherwise horrible

Jimmy Rating: 8.7654/10 I love this game! Everything is great! Except, they should add birds.

Aidan: Well that's all for today!

BYE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

10 FACTS ABOUT YOU

By Seth H.

1. You are reading this.
2. You can't say M or P without touching your lips together.
3. You just tried it.
4. You almost laughed (so close).
5. You feel like reading all of these facts.
6. You're still reading this.
7. You forgot about why you are reading this.
8. You think this is going too far.
9. You regret reading this.
10. You're mad you wasted your time reading this.



VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

TOP 7 BEST MARIO CHARACTERS



#7: Wario

Wario has to be the greediest guy in Mario Bros. He loves to steal money for himself.

For some reason, he loves eating garlic by itself. It's really weird. Wario is a very powerful character to use in Mario Super Sluggers. He has a few games, but they aren't very popular and he doesn't have enough games to make it higher on this list. He wears a giant mustache with a hat with a big W on it. He wears purple jeans with yellow buttons on it. Some games that he is featured in is Super Smash Bros Wii U and Mario Super Sluggers.

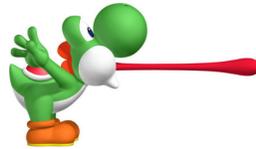


#6: Fire, Boomerang, Hammer, and Ice Bros.

These cool looking guys may be annoying, but they are very creative. Hammer Bros throw hammers, Ice Bros throw ice balls, Fire Bros throw fireballs, and Boomerang Bros throw, well, boomerangs. They appear in almost every Mario Bros. game. If you get hit by anything they throw, you will either shrink to small

By: **Jude S. and Carson (Cayson) T.**

Mario, lose your power-ups, or die. They have scaly, smooth, and cool shells.



#5: Yoshi

This dinosaur looking animal is a one-way ticket to fun city. You can ride on his back while he gobbles up fruit and his enemies. Mario treats Yoshi badly because he hits him in the back of the neck so he can stick his super long tongue out. THAT'S ANIMAL ABUSE!! If Yoshi gets hit by an enemy, he will shake you off and panic. This way, you can troll people. In Super Mario Galaxy, Yoshi can eat a pepper and run super fast. He can also eat this blue fruit and float into the air for a limited amount of time.



#4: Rosalina

Rosalina is really cool. She appears in many Mario games, such as Super Mario Galaxy and Super Mario 3D World. She is one of the only characters who wears a crown. In Super Mario 3D World, she can do a spin attack without a powerup. She takes care of the Lumas, which are little stars with human characteristics. She

doesn't do much in anything, but what she does is really awesome.



#3 Donkey Kong

This beast is strong and by extension, the MOST MEAN GUY IN THE GAME. Even more mean than Bowser! He appears in a ton of games, such as Super Smash Bros., Mario Super Sluggers, Nintendo Land, and all of the Mario Party games. He has a few games of his own, such as Donkey Kong Country, Donkey Kong Country Returns, Donkey Kong Tropical Freeze, and the very classic game, Donkey Kong. He is a gorilla with a tie with a big DK on it. He has a family of 12. MIND BLOWING.



#2 Toad

This guy comes in any Mario game you could think of. He comes in different colors. We call the Toads different names. For example, we call Yellow Toad "Cheesy Toad," Blue Toad is "Blueberry Muffin Toad," Pink Toad is "Princess Toad," and Green Toad is "Cabbage Toad." Toad is "Panic

Continued on next page

VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

TOP 7 BEST MARIO CHARACTERS, CONTINUED

By: Jude S. and Carson (Cayson) T.

Toad." One Toad, Captain Toad, has his own game, Captain Toad Treasure Tracker.



#1 BOWSER

RROOAARR!! Dang, is this guy a MONSTER!! He is extremely rude, and has been trying to kidnap Peach for good

for 25 years. Mario has beat Bowser... for 25 years. This is another guy that appears in EVERY SINGLE MARIO GAME. LITERALLY. He is very powerful in games that involve fighting. In platform Mario games, he doesn't do much.

In other Mario games, he does a lot. He is one of the overpowered characters in Super Smash Bros.

STAR WARS THEORIES

By: Michael B.

Hey, guys many people have been guessing/thinking about the new Star Wars movie and what will happen. So, I have a couple of theories to help you figure it out what will happen.

- Snoke is either Mace Windu or a force ghost of Palpatine.
- Rey is maybe a Skywalker, Solo, Kenobi or granddaughter of Palpatine.
- Finn is force-sensitive.
- Clones are probably going to be the new First Order.

TOP 10 MOST ENDANGERED ANIMALS

By Lily L. and Lindsey W.



1. Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

A North American bird so endangered it may actually be extinct. The Ivory-Billed

Woodpecker is the 4th or 5th largest Woodpecker in the world. It was previously considered to be extinct but recent evidence provides some hope that the species may still cling on in remote areas of Cuba and Arkansas in the U.S. Their weight can be 16-20oz.



2. Amur Leopard

The world's rarest cat. The Amur Leopard is

considered to be one of the most critically endangered big cats in the world, with just 35 remaining in the wild, all in the Russian Far East. A male Amur Leopard can weigh about 110 pounds and a female one can weigh about 55-94 pounds.



3. Javan Rhino

The only remaining

Javan Rhinos live in Ujung Kulon National located in Java,



Indonesia. Javan Rhinos are about 6 feet high (1.8 meters), 12 feet long (3.7 meters), and weigh 3,500 pounds (1,587 Kilograms). Its natural habitat is dense rain forest.



4. Northern Sportive Lemur

These animals

spend the daylight hours sleeping in holes in trees up to 8 meters from the ground, although they have also been recorded as low as one meter. They have been reported as falling prey to Sanzinia madagascariensis, one of the 3 species of native boa, which takes lemurs from their sleeping holes. They can grow to a height of 53 centimeters.



5. Western Lowland Gorilla

Despite these displays and the animal's

obvious physical power gorillas are generally calm and non

Continued on next page



TOP 10 MOST ENDANGERED ANIMALS, CONTINUED

By Lily L. and Lindsey W.

aggressive unless they are disturbed. In the thick forest of Central and West Africa, troops find plentiful find vegetarian food for their diet. They eat roots, shoots, fruit, wild celery, tree bark, and pulp.



6. Saola Asian Unicorn

One of the rarest mammals in the world has been spotted in an epic "rediscovery" that offers new hope for conservationists. A saola- a cousin to cattle that look like antelope but is known as the Asian Unicorn- was

spotted on film in Vietnam, according to the World Wildlife Fund.



7. Leatherback Sea Turtle

An adult Leatherback Sea Turtle is generally longer than an average-size man is tall. Unlike other species of sea turtles which have hard shells, the

Leatherbacks shell is leathery but it feels almost rubbery. The shell is speckled with white and yellow spots.



8. Bengal Tiger

The tiger is the largest cat species, most recognizable for their pattern of dark vertical stripes on reddish-orange fur

with a lighter underside. The species is classified in the genus Panthera with the lion, leopard, and snow leopard.



9. Giant Chinese Salamander

The Giant Chinese Salamander is the largest salamander and and largest amphibian in the world, reaching the length of

180 centimeters, although it rarely reaches that size today. It is fully aquatic and is endemic to rocky mountain streams and lakes in China.



10. Little Dodo Bird

The Little Dodo Bird is just 12 inches in length, the Manumea is, in fact, a relative of the famous "big" dodo bird, which

lived on the island of Mauritius until it was hunted to extinction some 400 years ago.

UPCOMING MOVIE RELEASE

By Gabby L.



Beauty & the Beast (March 17, 2017)-

This is a Disney remake of the 1991 animated version of Beauty and the Beast.

This movie cast is:

Emma Watson as Belle

Dan Stevens as Beast

Luke Evans as Gaston

Kevin Kline as Maurice

Josh Gad as Le Fou

Ewan McGregor as Lumière

Stanley Tucci as Cadenza

Ian McKellen as Cogsworth

Emma Thompson as Mrs. Potts

Audra McDonald as Garderobe

Gugu Mbatha-Raw as Plumette

Nathan Mack as Chip

Adrian Schiller as Monsieur D'Arque

Hattie Morahan as Agathe



DO YOUR PART

By Sammy K.

Let's face it. Animal numbers in the ocean are rapidly declining and it's almost all completely related to human causes.

Overfishing, global warming, pollution, even a drop of sunscreen getting into the water can annihilate all of delicate corals in an area about the size of an Olympic swimming pool (Oceans: The Definitive Guide). But, one of the most endangered species in the world is the Hawksbill sea turtle. It is critically endangered. Don't worry though, there is still much we can do to protect these spectacular turtles.

One of the greatest threats to the Hawksbill is itself. Its shell is very valuable in certain places like Europe and Asia. Their shells were used to make rare and expensive jewelry. Although this type of

jewelry has been banned in most of the world, illegal trade continues without the knowledge of the authorities, which continues to harm these sea turtles. If you ever buy jewelry internationally just make sure that it isn't from the shell of a Hawksbill sea turtle. Not only is this bad for the turtles but it is also illegal, and can get you into trouble too.

Another problem is that Hawksbill sea turtles lay eggs on the shore, and one in up to 10,000 eggs will survive into adult sea turtles (Sea Turtle Conservancy). In many countries these eggs are eaten by people, decreasing the chances of the Hawksbill species' survival. Make sure never to eat one of these eggs.

Fishing is a problem too. Excess fishing line is dangerous to all marine animals and



can give them lacerations, reduce mobility, and even kill them (PETA.org). Always throw away your leftover fishing line.

Lastly, one thing that will be very hard to change is that people litter. People always have littered and always will. People will throw a wrapper on the ground not realizing its effects. It is estimated that more than 100 million marine animals are killed each year due to plastic debris in the ocean (National Wildlife Federation, Sea Turtle Conservancy). So next time you throw

something on the ground, think about its effects. Even a bottle thrown on the ground in LaGrange can find its way into the ocean and can do some serious damage.

This is bad and something needs to be done. And YOU can do something about it. All you have to do is be mindful of the four things I taught you, and you will be doing your part. There is still hope for these spectacular creatures. You just have to care.



AWESOME DOLPHINS

By Simone B.

Did you know that the Orcas are the largest members of the dolphin family? I think that dolphins are intelligent, smart creatures. In this report you will learn the physical features, life cycle, habitat, adaptations and fun facts about dolphins!!!

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The dolphins are a sight to see!! Their flipper bones look like long fingers. When one of them is sick or can't swim, the pods take turns getting it out of the water for air. A lot of dolphins have very smooth skin.

I learned that dolphin teams are called pods. Dolphin's flippers and dorsal fins help it stay balanced. They are amazing!

HABITAT

Do you know where dolphins live? Well you are going to find out! River dolphins live in rivers!

Most dolphins live in the ocean. They live mostly in warm and tropical water in both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. When winter comes they move to warmer parts of the ocean.

LIFE CYCLE

These are the steps of the dolphins life cycle! First they are born. Then the calves (baby dolphins) drink milk from their mom until they are two years old. Then, they become adults. After all of that they reproduce (have babies). Dolphin babies are cute!

ADAPTATIONS

The dolphins have cool adaptations! They have little small teeth to help them eat fish. They also have a circular, long snout/mouth to get fish out of holes. Dolphins migrate during winter to warmer seas then when

it is summer they migrate back the way they came. Spinner dolphins have a white stripe on them. Their adaptations are effective.

FUN FACTS

Here are some awesome facts about dolphins. LET'S GO!!

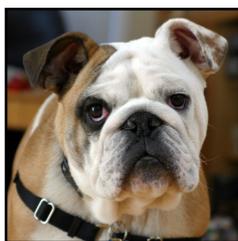
They are really smart, if a person is drowning they can swim the person back to shore. Really smart, right?

Some dolphins are good jumpers and swimmers.

Dolphins are awesome creatures.

CUTE!

By Charlotte S.



Bulldog

Bulldogs were originally bred to fight bulls, but now they are domestic and friendly.



Sugar Glider

Sugar gliders are nocturnal, and can be domestic. If you get one for a pet you should carry it in your pocket so it can get used to you.



Teacup Pomeranian

They are basically miniature Pomeranians, bred to be small.

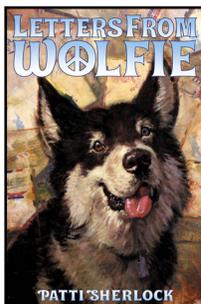


ARE YOU FIT TO READ LETTERS FROM WOLFIE? QUIZ

By Ashlyn G.

Summary:

This book is about a kid named Mark Cantrell. He sent his dog, Wolfie, to the military. He did this to make himself feel proud, instead of feeling jealous of his older brother, Danny. Danny sends him a letter to stop the plan to donate Wolfie, but is it too late? Will he get Wolfie back?



1. After reading the summary, are you interested?

- A. "...he sent his dog..." "Dog..." Dog! Nah! Me: So you don't like dogs?
- B. DOG!!!! YES!
- C. S... Sent?? *bursts into tears*

2. Do you like dogs?

- A. Umm, no.
- B. YESSSSS!!!
- C. Yes!

3. How would you feel if Wolfie never came back?

- A. Ha! Like I would care!
- B. Not like I would cry... *cough* I lied, I would a bit *cough*
- C. He... HE DIES?! *drowns self in tears*

4. Last question! Do you think the U.S. should have gone to war in 1969?

- A. *snorts* Sure! Whatever!
- B. Well, I mean, I guess...
- C. No!



By Jillian W.

Do you ever feel stressed out? Do you ever have friend troubles? Do you feel like your head is going to explode? My name is Jillian and I'm here to help.

If you are ever having any trouble at all, you can write a letter to me for advice. All you need to do is write a letter and sign it with a code name. This way your identity is kept a secret. There will be a box by the biography section in the library. This is where you will give me your letters. Next to the box, there will be envelopes to seal your letters. Whenever the next newspapers come out, your letters will be answered.

If you think you will ever find out who I am, you are wrong. You get to keep yourself a secret, so I can too. I can't wait to help you!

ANSWERS:

Mostly A: You are fit to read this book, but I do not know if you WANT to...

Mostly B: You are very fit to read this! You are mature, but you have normal emotions!

Mostly C: You cried twice in this quiz with four questions... No way!

CREATIVE WRITING

ADVENTURES OF ELVENDALE, PART 2

By Emma H.

When the elves are at the spa....

"Ahh. This feels so good!" Said Azari.

"This perfume smells very pleasant! You want to try some, Emily?" Asked Naida.

Naida looked out the window.

"Oh! I forgot to show you this new addition to my spa!" She said.

"Wow, SO pretty!!" Said all the elves and Emily.

"See? There is a big warm lake, faded mountains in the view, cherry blossom trees, big kind of pretty boulders, and sweet sounding waterfalls." Explained Naida.

"Hey I just got an idea! Let's take Emily on a pegasus ride all around Elvendale!!" said Aira.

Aira and Naida clipped up the pegasus to the reins and took off with everyone else.

They flew so high. They passed over

Lava Falls where all the things that include lava are.

"There is Lava Falls, Emily with Zonya



the fire dragon, but you never ever want to go behind that waterfall because the Shadow Fountain is there and possesses you. There is my bakery too!" Explained Azari.

Then they passed over Cloud City where Gust the air dragon lives and several buildings.

"That is Cloud City where my birdhouse is and Gust lives, oh and Gust is the air dragon. I also have a sewing shop there. I don't have many things in Cloud City. But there are some skyscrapers

where my other Cloud City elves live to help with my sewing when I am gone. I also store food for Gust and some extra clothing

materials."

Then the elves passed over a big, REALLY BIG cave by a lake.

"Oh that is the Water Cave Lake where I live," said Naida.

"There's my spa, Marina the water dragon, my ship, the egg hatchery/nursery, Yeah! That is Water Cave Lake!"

"Cool!" Commented Emily.

"Oh! There is the Forest! Where I live," Said Ferran. "There is the Water Grass Hotel, the Leaf Library, The Starlight Inn, Thorne,

the earth dragon, and... Yep that is all!"

"Hey what is that in the distance?" Asked Emily.

"Oh that is the Sky Castle where the Elvendale Ruler is, Skyra. AKA the Guardian Of The Portal." Said Azari.

That was the adventure all around Elvendale. Then, the elves and Emily got back to the spa for the special treatment.

After, they all flew to the bakery in Lava Falls, each elf and Emily riding their dragons. (Emily has the Queen Dragon Elandra.)

"What is that black castle over there?" asked Emily.

"Oh. You NEVER want to go there! That is Ragana's palace. She is the evil elf that wants Elandra." said Azari.

Stay tuned for the next story where Emily meets the dragons!!!!!!

CREATIVE WRITING

ELVENDALE QUIZ

By Emma H.

What is your favorite color?

- A. Purple
- B. Blue
- C. Red-Orange
- D. Green or brown
- E. Gold

2. What food do you love?

- A. Cookies
- B. Ice Cream
- C. Cake
- D. None of these
- E. All of these

3. What is your favorite holiday?

- A. Valentine's Day
- B. Easter
- C. Your Birthday day
- D. None of these
- E. All of these

4. What pet do you like?

- A. Birds such as an owl
- B. Dolphins
- C. Foxes
- D. Elephants
- E. All or none of these

5. How many pets do you have?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 1
- D. 4+
- E. 0

ALONE TOGETHER, PART I

By Ashlyn G.

I woke up to the sound of rocks. I quickly opened my eyes to see my denmates getting up, confused as I was. The ground shook and a pup whined in fright.

"What's happening?" I asked the wolf standing next to me - of course it was Silver, my arch enemy that other wolves claim is my sister.

"I don't know, Grey." Fright shimmered in her deep blue eyes. Her gray pelt was ruffled in shock as she ran out of the cave.



Panic was pulsing all around the cave as I followed her out of our den. While Silver pelted toward Courage, the tribe Alpha, I ran outside of the huge cave that we call a camp. Rocks were tumbling down the steep slopes of the mountain - big and small.

As I weaved my way around the boulders, my paw slipped to the edge as it was cracking off, leading me to fall to my doom...

To be continued...

Mostly As: you are Aira. You are sweet and kind and love things like birds that can fly.
 Mostly Bs: You are Naida. You love ocean animals and like to relax.
 Mostly Cs: you are Azari and are very energetic and like to cook!
 Mostly Ds: you are Ferran and likes to go out and explore!!!
 Mostly Es: You are Skyra! You don't really like all animals but LOVE holidays and sweet foods.

Answers

CREATIVE WRITING

SAD SONG COMPILATION

Arranged by Aidan N.



*Dès le premier jour,
Ton parfum m'enivra
mon amour,
C'est dans ces instants
J'aimerai être comme
soie par moment,*

*Mais depuis ce jour, je n'ai qu'un seul
et unique regret*

All around me are familiar faces
Worn out places, worn out faces
Bright and early for their daily races
Going nowhere, going nowhere
Their tears are filling up their
glasses

No expression, no expression
Hide my head I want to drown my
sorrow

No tomorrow, no tomorrow
In restless dreams I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone
'Neath the halo of a street lamp
I turned my collar to the cold and
damp

When my eyes were stabbed by the
flash of a neon light
That split the night
And touched the sound of silence

(Oh, oh, The gnashing teeth and
criminal tongues conspire against
the odds)

But they haven't seen the best of us
yet

Oh (This is the beat of my heart)
The fear of falling apart

When people run in circles it's a
very very
mad world mad world

Summer has come and passed
The innocent can never last
Wake me up when September ends
Seven years has gone so fast
Wake me up when September ends

And in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more
People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening
People writing songs that voices
never share
And no one dared
Disturb the sound of silence



Fools, said I, you do
not know

Silence like a cancer
grows

(This is the beat of
my heart, this is the
beat of my heart)

Oh memories!
Where'd you go?
You were all I've ever known!
How I miss yesterday!
And how I'd let it fade away?
Where'd you go?

(Oh oh oh oh
Oh oh oh oh
Oh oh oh oh)

Where's your gavel? Your jury?
What's my offense this time?
You're not a judge but if you're
gonna judge me
Well sentence me to another life. (I
learned to live...)

Half alive
And now you want me one more
time
Who do you think you are?
Runnin' 'round leaving scars
Collecting your jar of hearts
Tearing love apart
You're gonna catch a cold
From the ice inside your soul
Don't come back for me
Don't come back at all
Who do you think you are?
Who do you think you are?
Who do you think
You are...?

Songs used (Chronological order):

Nearly Witches (Ever We Since We
Met...)
Mad World
Sound of Silence
This Is Gospel
Mad World (2)
Wake Me Up when December Ends
Sound of Silence (2)
This Is Gospel (2)
Memories
Ignorance
Jar of Hearts



All rights to
respective
composers and
musicians.

CREATIVE WRITING

LIGHT

By London SM



The day was damp and cold, and as usual, filled with sorrow. The city was called Sorrow!!! Nobody knew why. Maybe because there was no cheer and no joy.

There was only one with hope and love in their heart. She had a small little house illuminated with light, even though she was in the worst situation. She lived all by herself.

In her little house she had a big room with bright sheets with singing stars, walls as bright as the sun, lights that reminded her of a warm hug tightened just right. Her room was so, so bright and filled with joy and laughter.

She was ten. She had long, blonde, almost white, fluffy hair with a yellow strip that flowed in the wind like dancing butterflies. She had rosy cheeks, bright green eyes as green as the grass use to be and soft pink lips like the flowers outside.

Her name is Annalina which matches her because it means light.

One day she was in her tiny house when there was a knock at the door. She never got visitors! She ran to the door as her face illuminated with light and hope that it was her loving parents, but it was not.

It was a boy and two girls who looked her age or older.

"Hello, what's your name? I'm Annalina." she said, her face dropping as the joy drained out of it.

"I'm All. This is Luna and Eleanor. We were looking for you." the boy said.

All had soft hazel eyes, light brown hair like fresh dirt with a green stripe, rosy cheeks and a necklace covered by his beaten up shirt.

Luna had dark brown hair with a purple stripe, dark blue eyes like the ocean depths, rough skin as if she was in an avalanche, but looked kind hearted. She too had a necklace covered by ripped clothes.

Eleanor, on the other hand, had orange hair with a thin red stripe that smelled like it was just washed, soft skin as if she was never been outside, small orange freckles that you could barely see, red lipstick that made Annalina

wonder the reason, a fancy shirt with crowns on it and a skirt made with lace and silk. She too had a necklace that was in the open.

Annalina looked at the strange bunch of kids and wondered what they were doing, but either way she was glad to see them. She was glad too see anyone for that matter.

There was a long awkward silence. Then Eleanor signaled for them to huddle. They whispered but Annalina could make parts of their conversation out.

"So THIS is the girl I risked my luscious hair for?! We should... NO...I think...come on...should we... of course we should... her parents were the leaders of the examination..."

"What examination?" Annalina said trying to piece together their conversation.

"Told you she could hear!" Luna said fiercely.

She glared at Eleanor in a mean way.

"That does not matter. We were going to tell her anyway, so buzz off!" Eleanor said snootily.

"Your parents were the best explores in the world. Our parents and your parents teamed up to bring happiness back!"

TO BE CONTINUED...

CREATIVE WRITING

DIARY OF SHIRLEY (MY DOG)

By Simone B.

JANUARY 3

Today was fun! My mom and grandma were playing with me. We were playing with my favorite indoor foam soccer ball. I love EATING it so I block the ball with my teeth instead of me feet. I eat so much foam that it gets stuck to my fur and makes me look like Santa.



FEBRUARY 17

SNOW DAY!!! I LOVE SNOW!! I am so happy that I don't have to wear snow pants like my mom because I can run right outside and nosedive into the first pile of snow. It's so light and fluffy that I can flip it with my nose and catch it in my mouth. YUM! Although my favorite thing to do is magically turn white snow into yellow snow.

MARCH 12

My mom says I have a problem. Apparently it isn't normal to dig socks out of my mom's laundry and randomly carry them around the house to new

locations. I am spreading the delightful smell of stinky socks into every room. I don't think that is a problem. In fact, they are so lucky to have me around.

APRIL 19

Right now...mmm...I am...mmm...distracted.. mmm...by a dental stick mmm... They should be called yummy sticks. My mom says they are suppose to clean my teeth. If that is true, I should brush my teeth at least 20 times a day.

JUNE 6

We took a road trip to Michigan. My favorite spot in the car is squeezing myself in the back window to soak up the sun. To pass the time I count how many cars are interrupting my nap. 1, 2, 3, wait what number am I at? Finally, we arrive at my cousin's' house! Bella McSmella and Maggie are happy I am here. We waste no time greeting each other with a few butt sniffs and barks. Let a weekend of chasing and

tackling begin. Visiting family is the best!

JULY 23

The world is my TV. I spent my day in my favorite spot, curled on top of the couch in front of my window. I watched the world go by, took a nap, watched the world some more, took a nap, barked at a few squirrels, took a nap, barked at the mailman, took a nap, watched the world some more....Now that I think of it, I had an exhausting day.

AUGUST 25

I enjoy my morning strolls. Today I tried to play tag with a bunny called SnowBall, the white tailed bunny. I try to tell my mom that we are friends, but she is always yelling at me to "leave it" so I never get to actually catch her. Score: Snowball 1000 / Shirley 0.

OCTOBER 31

Another Halloween, another day of humiliation - my people

dressed me up as a caterpillar this year. Just because I like to eat things like caterpillars doesn't mean I want to LOOK like one. To make it worse, they didn't share any of that delicious looking candy with me. Next year I'm going to make my own costume - I'm going to be a Poop Emoji!

NOVEMBER 1

This morning I was feeling very generous so I gave my mom a tongue facial (one of my specialties). It includes a full face cleaning, slobber over her glasses until she can't see, and as an extra special treat, I even cleaned out the inside of her nose. That part is nice for both of us because I love the taste of buggers.



DECEMBER 15

Today is my birthday! Bring on the bones!

DECEMBER 31

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I just know this is the year that I will finally catch that pesky squirrel.

CREATIVE WRITING

KITTEN ESCAPE

WE'RE LOST INSIDE A VIDEO GAME

By Emma H.

One day Sarah, Renee and Elena were getting home from high school and all wanted to start their new game, Kitten Escape

"Hey sisters you wanna play some Kitten Escape?" asked Elena.

"Sure!" said Sarah and Renee.

Then they all started playing.

While they were playing, a tornado siren started going off.

"We need to HIDE!" they all said.

They brought the game into the basement.

Sound of game: Meow, Meow, Meow

"OH! Look! A crown thingy!" said Renee.

"Wha.... What's happening?" asked Elena.

"I don't know" said Sarah.

Then a white portal appeared and sucked them all into the game! When all of a

sudden they all screamed at the same time.

"YOU'RE A CAT!!!" They yelled to each other.

"Are we inside Kitten Escape?" asked Sarah.

"Yes!" said Renee "I am happy, scared and excited all at the same time about this."

There was a white glowing gem in the forest. It was to get the snow power and the white cat!

They ventured deep into the forest.....

"Look! A gem thingy!" said Renee.

"I want to touch it." said Sarah.

"Let's do it!" they all said.

Suddenly they all turned white and had winter clothes on.

"Luckily I have a packet with us that says all about the other cats!" said Renee happily.

"So what does it say about this weird stuff we magically got put on us?" asked Elena.

Renee replied, "It says we have transformed into Winter Cats! These kittens' gemstones are found throughout a deep, dark

forest. The Winter Cats' power is snowball cannon. A soft white cannon appears on it's back only when threatened."

Suddenly then it said all of us needed to pick a kitten name.

"How about we do our birthstone?" suggested Sarah.

"OK. My birthstone is an Opal." said Renee.

"Mine is Turquoise." said Sarah.

"And mine is Peridot." said Elena.

"OK we have picked our names. Let's type them in with the keyboards it gave us!" they all said.

Then a green crystal appeared right in front of them. The kittens thought that it would give them a new power like the white crystal, so they touched it. Then they were dogs. Then back to kittens. They were green! Now they have the animal power!

Then when they turned around, there were some sand dunes. Then Opal saw a faint tan-colored crystal on the dune. It felt like AGES to climb the dune, but it only took 40 minutes. Finally, they touched the crystal and turned tan and got the sand power!

After they got the sand power, the cats looked down. They were on top of a tree!



Continued on next page

CREATIVE WRITING

KITTEN ESCAPE, CONTINUED

WE'RE LOST INSIDE A VIDEO GAME

By Emma H.

They jumped down to see that they were in another forest! Then Peridot rose to her paws and thought she saw a glowing light in a squirrel's tree. Turquoise scampered to the tree and shoved herself in the hole. She brought out the camo crystal in her mouth. The cats all touched the crystal and then they could not see each other because they got the camo power!

Then they turned to tan and were sand kittens again.

TEN HUMAN DAYS LATER/ 1 KITTEN ESCAPE WEEK...

"Wow, we have been looking for DAYS!"

said Turquoise.

All three cats have been getting gems and more gems to get all the cats but one, the Obsidian kitten: The Obsidian Cat can walk on any terrain, lava, water, clouds, etc "Vision Kitten!" said Peridot. "Ok I see the portal through that barb wire."

The kittens each turned into the ghost cat. Ghost kittens can go through things. So every cat walked through the wire and jumped into the portal.



"Hey the guidebook says that this dimension should have the OBSIDIAN GEM!!!!!!!!!!!" exclaimed Opal happily.

They looked EVERY- WHERE. Finally the cats found it and they all touched it and turned into the Obsidian Cat!

"Look! Since we have all the cats now, do you think that's the portal outside of the game?" asked Peridot.

They all jumped inside but it was the Boss Battle. The Boss Battle was extremely hard. The

kittens fought hard. The boss was so hard that they only had 1 alive kitten that was worn out at the end. Finally in about 2 hours of fighting, they won.

Suddenly, a white portal appeared with a picture of their home in it. The three cats jumped through and returned to their normal human selves.

"YAY!" they all said.

"But I really miss the game." said Renee.

"Me too." agreed Elena.

"Same" said Sarah.

And they all lived happily ever after.

THE STORY OF THE MAJESTIC LAVA HOUND

By Aidan D.

(This Article Is Based of the game "Clash Royale", I recommend playing it.)

Once upon a time literally 5 seconds ago, a Lava Pup was born. This little creature will soon be able to join the battle in the arena. The arena is a place where mystical (and adorable) creatures fight TO THE DEATH! But first, he must grow up. Which will probably only take 10 seconds. Ok now he is a majestic Lava Hound! But first to get to the arena, he must get to the specific arena to battle in. But he is in luck because he was born near his arena, P.E.K.K.A.'s Playhouse. After a short fly across a volcano, he reaches the arena and heads into the chest room, where he learns what card he is. There's different level of cards, the harder it is to find him. He is surprised when he becomes the rarest of cards, a legendary card! He jumps into his shiny, blue chest and sits there, waiting to be shipped off to get an owner! !The End!

CREATIVE WRITING

THE SUN TRIAL VOLUME 2

By Emily S.

Casey could no longer think. As he walked away from the court with no idea what to do, he just realized the world he had left behind. His mother was probably sobbing violently in her room, his father was probably putting up signs to search for him, and his sister...



The last thing Casey had said to his sister was, "You should write about ruining lives. You rock at it." Now he severely regretted it. Would she even miss him, or think about him?

Casey realized he wasn't moving, so he unraveled his map and scanned it carefully. Expansia was bigger than he realized. There was more land than ocean, and most of the land was divided by rivers. There was one place dotted with skillfully drawn trees labeled, "Enchanted Thickets" that had a small clearing called "Unicorn Pass." Casey smiled, knowing his sister would squeal if she went there.

Snapping back to

the present, Casey dug into his pouch to find a golden compass inside it. Grateful for something to help him read, he held his compass in his right hand as he studied the map in his left.

Lord Giza, the eerie elf who had sent him to find an object called the sun stone, had told him to find it in one of the seven solar towers. But Casey had thoroughly observed the map, and there was no sign of a castle called that.

What if the solar towers weren't towers at all? What if they held a deeper meaning, and Giza had sent Casey chasing riddles?

All of the sudden, Casey regretted reading so much fantasy. What he was about to overcome was likely going to be a lot of riddles and mistakes... if he even lasted long enough.

A quiet beating sound pumped from behind Casey. He whipped around to find a dull grey bird about the size of a dove fluttering to a stop behind him,

hovering in the air as if waiting.

"I don't have food or anything," Casey mumbled, suddenly feeling embarrassed. Talking to a bird? He had his survival to deal with.

The bird's feathers suddenly changed gold, raining down hair by hair. Its beady eyes shimmered with life, which knocked Casey back a step.

And, without warning, the bird spoke.

"I'm here by the orders of Lord Giza to alert everyone of your progress," it tweeted flatly in an even-pitched, though slightly high male voice.

What did Casey expect? This was Expansia. If there were unicorns, why not talking, color-changing birds?

"So that's what he meant by knowing if I failed..." he muttered. "What's your name?"

"Lord Giza said we can't ask."

"I'm still figuring out where the towers

are, so we have time," Casey retorted.

"Don't say it's my fault if he punishes you," the bird sighed. "I am Maroudenaire Kenfarasia Savyre of the... shall I say my position?"

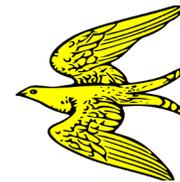
"I think you're right about the time," Casey grumbled.

"Now, be a kind boy and don't tell me your name," the bird - was it Mamario Dnaoem? - demanded. "I know."

Casey ignored the bird's rants of gibberish and traced the perimeter of the map. At the top was a vast mountain range, topped with a wavy illustration of two suns.

Suddenly, he saw it. In the heart of a mountain was a small opening, in which a tiny castle with seven towers was.

"Give me your nickname, and I'm going to the seven towers," ordered Casey, his map tucked away and his compass clutched in his hand.



Continued on next page

CREATIVE WRITING

THE SUN TRIAL VOLUME 2, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

"Most call me Neutron because I can give off light," the bird replied hastily.

Casey spun so he faced north and trotted straight forward through the endless grassland. He glared at Neutron, who was already soaring beside him.

"I thought you were just checking in, not coming with!" he hissed.

"Sorry," Neutron chirped. "I... I was ordered to..."

Before Neutron

was able to finish, Casey was already at a run. He strained as far as he could to see the horizon, in hopes of seeing the mountain.

A few hours later, Casey and Neutron had passed the endless meadows and had now entered a marsh Neutron told him was the Sinking Wetlands. They settled for a rather comfy nest of vines in a tree that Neutron helped shape.

Frowning, Casey stuffed his map and compass into his pouch before sinking his nails into a piece of bark

sticking out, using it to haul him to a higher branch. He continued thrusting himself from branch to branch, thankful Neutron was asleep in the makeshift bed, until he reached the canopy.

Casey managed to stand atop a rather sturdy foothold. The two suns were setting on either side of the horizon, both shining their blinding light onto a dark surface.

As the suns sank and the shadows began to form, an astounding

view of the mountains the Solar Tower was built in took shape. Casey squinted to see a tiny gold fleck, which the suns seemed to shine right at.

Turning away, Casey hung his pouch on a branch and drove his sword into a thick branch. Feeling much lighter, Casey settled into the bed, as far away from Neutron as possible. The bird's obnoxious snores left him to try to outline two moons through the dim canopy until he finally drifted off, lulled by rushing water.



THE LOST GIRL

by Simone B.

One day a girl named Opal was going on her morning walk. She had been walking through the woods for a half an hour when she noticed that she was LOST. She started to try to find her way back, but as she slowly began to panic and quicken her pace, she tripped and triggered an opening to a magical portal.

She was immediately sucked into

a bright light and began to fall towards a dark hole. When she landed she saw a beautiful young woman. The woman had a purple streak in her hair and looked nice, but on the inside she was pure EVIL!!

As Opal tried to make sense of where she was, another beautiful woman with a blue streak in her hair approached and said firmly "Sister, leave that girl alone!" Opal asked in a

scared voice, "Who are you?"

The girl with blue in her hair introduced herself as Crystal. She explained that her sister, Midnight, was evil and wanted to turn Opal and her home all EVIL.

Crystal quickly used her powers to form a few diamonds and crystals. She threw the cluster of gems at her sister.

Midnight didn't

have enough time to react, so she got hit in the head and fainted.

As Crystal was defending her, Opal remembered something. She got sent out in the woods to find her mom's lost crystal earrings. Looking at Midnight and watching Crystal's magic, she wondered if they took her mom's earrings. "Is it possible?" Opal thought.

To be continued...

CREATIVE WRITING



MR. TACO AND THE MAGICAL QUEST

A TWISTED TALE *Sleeping Ugly*

By Annie P. and Camille W.

Once upon a time in a far off land our characters are traveling and they were - I'll just let them say it.

"I'm HUNGRY!!!!!!!" Mr. O.J. Burger yelled.

"I'm not hungry." Gary implied, earning him glares from everybody.

"We're going to fairy tale diner. NOW!" Mr. Taco demanded.

At Fairy Tale Diner

"Wow, there are people from all the fairy tales here!" exclaimed Mr. O.J. Burger.

"I guess this is why they call it Fairy-Taleopolis." inferred Gary.

"Don't you dare get all smart on us narrator!" Mr. O.J. Burger

Just then there was a knock at the door.

"WHAT?????????"

Yelled the store manager.

The door swung open to show a late teenage girl with a pink dress.

"I'm the daughter of the late sleeping beauty, Clara. I want a job here. NOW!" The girl yelled.

"Calm down, the interview starts now." the manager said sitting down at one of the booths and motioned for her to sit down with him.

When the girl sat down she started sinking into the booth and immediately fell asleep.

"Wake up!" The manager shook her awake, "You got the job. It starts now and don't fall asleep on the job!"

"Whhaaaaaattttt?" She groaned and immediately fell asleep.

The manager walked over to the trio,

"I'll give you a lifetime supply of pancakes if you find her the love of her life and get her out of here!"

"Pancakes? YEAH!" Mr. O.J. Burger and Mr. Taco said.

So they walked out the door ready for a BIG adventure and saw a guy who looked about the same age as Clara.

"Um, hey! Would you be open to like having a girlfriend that falls into a deep sleep like every two minutes? If so you're in luck!" Mr Taco asked.

"Oh yeah sure! I'm Peeta Mellark by the way. Take me to this girl!"

So they walked the two feet back, and Peeta walked up to Clara and shook her awake.

Clara looked up and screamed, "STRANGER DANGER!"

STRANGER DANGER! SOMEONE HELP THIS MAN IS KIDNAPPING ME!!"

Clara's Father stormed in, "CLARA! NO SCREAMING!"

"Yes dad." Clara said with a shaky voice.

"From now on, you will go on journeys with these three young undead, food, men.

"What?!" Mr. Taco, Mr. O.J. Burger said in unison, "Do we have to??"

"Yes, you must. Clara, you will only see me on February 29 each year. Wait, every four years. Goodbye Clara!"

"Say, What?!?!?" said Gary the Ghost.

The End
(For Now)

CREATIVE WRITING

THE DIMINISHING SUN, VOLUME 2

By Emily S.

As you know, in the previous article the Western Pride was traveling to find better land, as drought and famine had overcome their former territory.

When the pride found a place to rest in a dried gorge, Kenyon overheard from his king that he would be sent to find his own pride. This is what happened next.

Kenyon was frozen in place. Hodari's words pounded in his ears like elephants drumming a tree, robbing it of its branches.

Fortunately, Kippa gave a playful shove and motioned towards a small pile of bones. Curious, the two approached it in hopes of a new toy.

Kenyon sniffed the bones, his tail arched over his head. These bones had once belonged to a wildebeest.

"Cubs, this way!" one of the lionesses, Haraka, called.

Kippa dragged a bone out of the pile, and

Kenyon did the same. The two dashed after the Western Pride, halting when they reached a crevice in the gorge wall.

"I've been told about this before," declared Hodari, pacing. "This can be entered, but a riddle must be solved to gain access to it."

"I've heard of it as well," Moranna added, "but before I came in as a rogue my pride told me this is a lair of the snakes and cannot be entered."

Kippa yelped at the mention of snakes, cowering behind Kenyon.

A long pause allowed Kenyon to gnaw at his bone. He watched Hodari take a deep breath and recite.

"Oh guardians of the shallows, oh keepers of the narrowest, will you lift your heads to me? I seek what has once been found and wish to restore what once was wide."

Kenyon couldn't help pressing himself against his mother's leg as about seven pythons,

perfectly camouflaged, turned their heads to Hodari.

And, to the pride's amazement, they recited in unified, hypnotizing hisses.

"Oh roamer of the grasslands, oh seeker of the narrowest, will you dip your head to us? We shall give you what once was found and let you restore what was once wide."

Hodari dropped down low and bowed. The lionesses mirrored his actions, but Kenyon hesitated before bowing.

"And what issss it we have here? A lion dissssobeying our code?" a python hissed, its mesmerizing amber eyes boring into Kenyon.

"Forgive him; he is young. Bow down," explained Hodari.

Kenyon bowed, but he himself knew even the king was scared.

"What are your purposssssssssss?" a python, the highest one,

demanded.

"We wish to shelter here, as our territory is dying from an unknown cause," Haraka said calmly. "Please let us through. We will not disturb your fellows."

"Ssssilence! Only the king sssspeakssss!" the snakes chided in unison.

Hodari hesitated, but then repeated Haraka word for word.

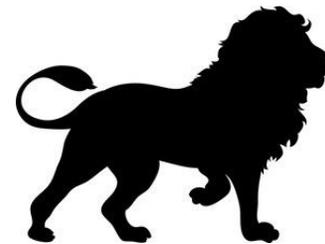
The snakes exchanged sly glances and whispered to each other. After a moment, they all turned their gazes to the pride.

"Only with ssssomething in return," the bottom snake smirked. "Or you can alwayssss ssssolve our riddle."

Kenyon stepped forward.

"Kenyon, no!" Nyikari, his mother, cried.

"You can take me, I won't mind as long as you give me food," the cub replied, ignoring Nyikari.



CREATIVE WRITING

THE DIMINISHING SUN, VOLUME 2, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

The pythons rasped out a coughing sound, which Kenyon assumed was laughter.

"That issss beyond our preferences... now for the riddle. What liessss between sssavannah and mountain, home to the dark barkerssss?"

The lions exchanged glances. They twitched and lashed their tails, communicating with tail signals used by ancient lions during hunting patrols.

Finally, Hodari spoke.

"The Outlands."

Kenyon's heart shot up to his throat. He shook violently, awaiting an answer.

The snakes rolled their eyes and recoiled, revealing a cozy cave inside the gorge wall. The lions rose and trotted inside. Kenyon waited to enter until the snakes had exited to guard another

crevice on the opposite side of the gorge.

The cave was large enough to fit four elephants! Kenyon and Kippa began wrestling playfully, pinning

each other to the wall occasionally. Most of the lionesses were lounging about, their stomachs growling, while a few of them were sent to hunt.

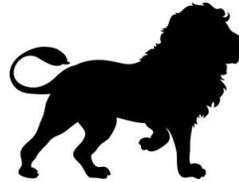
Suddenly, Kenyon remembered Hodari

would be banishing him soon. He felt the world slow around him, and all he saw was a muzzle coming towards him... lifting him... and throwing him into a pile of bones.

But it wasn't Hodari. It was a clan of hungry hyenas, licking their chops before lunging for their next meal.

Before the world went dark, all Kenyon heard was a young cry of despair.

"Nooooooooooooo!"



MR. P. BUNNY AND THE PENGUIN OF DOOM

By Landon N.

One day, a penguin ate some radiation. It became a nuclear penguin, and broke out of the zoo. Meanwhile, Mr. P. Bunny was reading a newspaper article about some penguin that ate radiation and broke out of a zoo. He wondered what evil penguin would do that, when a fat green penguin burst into his house.

"Boo" said the penguin.

Mr. P. Bunny then asked the penguin if he saw a nuclear penguin

anywhere, in which the penguin replied 'no'. Then, a purple dog came in, he was named Bob, and if you ever read these articles you might have seen him named "Jack," but he changed his name recently.

Bob then told Mr. P. Bunny that there was a nuclear penguin wandering the streets. The green penguin got scared and ran away, fearing this nuclear penguin. But then... the nuclear penguin attacked!! The penguin

had 50 rows of teeth, and all of them poisonous. The penguin started biting Bob, and Bob tried to light-leap away but failed and was slightly faded. The penguin then started melting everything around it with its radiation powers. But just then, SWAT broke in and contained the penguin.

THE END

But then the end wasn't the end as the penguin broke free again, and ate more radiation. It became a mega penguin, bigger than the Empire

State Building! Mr. P. Bunny knew only he could stop it, 'cause he was the main character and stuff. He lunged at the penguin, but was kicked all the way to Asia.

So, he took a nice vacation there and came back to fight the penguin. He picked up the faded Bob and threw him at the penguin, and because of the power of dogs, the penguin transformed into a normal penguin.

THE REAL END

CREATIVE WRITING

THE FORGOTTEN

By Charlie R.

If you're reading this you are very lucky to find this story. So here it is.

So we landed and I didn't have a single memory where we were. The pilot told us to get off so me and Jedm got off. I asked him questions but he didn't answer.

All he said was, "follow me," like he didn't understand English or something.

A couple minutes later we were in a shelter. I had burn marks all over my arms and legs.

"Please answer us!" Said Jedm.

"Fine. The world ended and you two plus me are trying to survive." Said the Pilot.

I listened and walked around, until some type of creature-thing came out from behind a rock. I was scared so I ran back to the shelter where Jedm and the Pilot were.

I told them, "There's a big creature behind a rock!!" I wanted

to run out there so badly. "Calm down, let me see." Said the Pilot all happy and confident.



I waited with Jedm and, after 10 minutes I realized he was never coming back.

So we went outside and walked by to see if he was ok, and he was split into two! "Dude!!!" Yelled Jedm. We ran as fast we could as far out as we can very much later.

Chapter 1. The Beginning

We ran as fast we could and soon we were worn out so we took a break for a good 10 seconds. After that we ran some more.

Soon I ran so fast I didn't know where I were at, so we both stopped. There was a lot of burned grass and half burned trees where a forest used to be.

Jedm and I walked and saw things like, burned leaves, burned twigs and rotted plants.

Everything was burned and rotted out.

We walked so long that I saw the most beautiful thing a big, bright, orange, tree.

"That's beautiful." Jedm said.

"Yeah, wanna still walk?" I replied back.

"Sure." He said back.

We still walked until a sign said, "This is the end for the walk."

Then in a red material, "GET OUT."

I was scared on who or what wrote that with red so I ran out of there.

"Dude, why'd you run?" Jedm said.

I told him what the sign said and we should go NOW. I saw no houses or buildings left standing. All them were burned down.

I walked some more and saw a half burned house that somehow had an open door. So Jedm and I

walked in and saw perfect furniture, perfect tables not burned, and a perfect looking inside. It was like it only burned the outside of the house.

Chapter 2. Walks and Secrets

We were happy we found some type of shelter but no food or water. We got settled in and found some weapons around the house that we could use for hunting and a bucket for water.

We were so delighted that this house had everything we needed. Later I went to bed and had a good dreams until I was woken up by Jedm snoring. I don't even know why Jedm snores so loud! But I ended up falling asleep somehow.

I woke up feeling great! I still wanted to get around here more so I woke up Jedm and we walked around. I saw things burned down, houses, shops, toys half burned off, and other things.



Continued on next page

CREATIVE WRITING

THE FORGOTTEN, CONTINUED

By Charlie R.

"This is just sad."

Jedm said.

"Yeah, I dunno still what made everything burn." I said back.

"I wondered that too." Jedm answered back.

"I think there's a part somewhere where it's not burned but I don't know." I said.

We still walked but I only thought that because when we went in that tree that wasn't burned I felt that if we walked VERY far out we might find a way out of here.

Chapter 3. Noises and Voices...

"I still can't see anything not burned" said Jedm. "Wait, what are you thinking?"

"I don't know, I had an idea but not 100% sure." I said back.

"Well, I can't find anything not- WAIT!!! What's that!" Jedm screamed.

What he was looking at was a big temple area that was colored gold and looked very ancient (it was a little burned so my theory still sat.)

The inside was very big. We went inside and saw weird things written in weird writing that looked like the language only used triangles or something.

"What is this?"
Asked Jedm.

"I don't know, it might be some type of writing." I said back.

I was looking around and heard noises outside of the temple, "swoosh, swoosh. HELP, HELP, HELP!!!! Grrr, grrr, grrr."

Were the noises outside? When I heard the yelling noises I thought it was Jedm screaming but he was next to me so I didn't know.

"Who's in there? Please help!" a voice from outside pleaded.

I didn't know who it was so I just kept walking around.

"Please help! They're after me! Please help I don't know what to-."

The voice stopped and I heard, "Grrr, grrr. Swoosh."

Again. I told Jedm and that we should leave soon. Later, we walked out and I saw the guy yelling on the ground split into two!

"RUN!" I yelled out. We ran out of there in a second!

"Charlie..... I'm here....." I kept hearing in my head.

"Keep running....." I heard again and again in my head.

"Dude, did you hear the voices in your head?"
Asked Jedm.

"Yeah. Why are there voices there?" I answered back.

I just ignored them and kept walking. We walked until the dark sky came, and we tried to find shelter.

"I doubt there will be any." Said Jedm.

Chapter 4. No Name Needed.....

We walked for hours on end. Found nothing. Looked around for one more hour and found a little dark house by a dark hill.

"This looks a little sketchy" Jedm told me.

"Come on! It's not like it's a book or a story or something like that!" I told him.

He told me that I was breaking the 4th wall or something.

"Fine we'll go in."
Jedem said.

So we walked inside and saw someone in there.

"Come, come, come, you're trapped in here now. There's no way out."
Said the person.

The person looked very old and wrinkly.

"Told you. Sketchy."
Jedm whispered to me.

"Relax. I'll handle this." I whispered back.

To Be Continued...



CREATIVE WRITING

SPICY LIFE, PART 2: YOUR WISH HAS BEEN GRANTED

By Ava W.

Ashley was confused on her new senses and how to use them. All she smelled was garbage, garbage, garbage and some more garbage.

Now she can hear things from a mile away like an owl or a garbage truck. She was losing her mind...

"Who are you and why are you in my territory?"

Ashley whipped around to see a muddy dog covered with dirt prowling in the alley behind her.

Another dog with slick black fur snapped at the road dog.

"Back off you road dog! Don't make me go in there!" The road dog whimpered and ran into the darkness of the city.

"Who are you?" Ashley said "And why did you save me?"

The black dog replied with a simple answer, "My name is Moon, and I am the protector, not the attacker."

She signaled Ashley to walk with her to her pack's alley.

"So, what's your name?" Moon asked, "My name is Ashley and I'm trying to find a dog named Spice." Ashley said

Moon replied "Oh that



Spice, he has become very popular in the city newspaper."

Once Ashley and Moon got to the city dog center a beige dog with a German accent welcomed them.

"Zwelcome home Moun! Ah I zee you brrought frriend! Now what a beautiful coat zyou has! Zwhat is zyour name?" the German dog said.

"My name is Ashley and I've come to look for Spice, another beige dog but with splashes of white."

"Nice to meet you Zashly! I'm Felgma! Zo, zyou are looking forrz Spice eh? Zwell I've heard about him, he is most populous in city znews."

Ashley walked along the side of the alley and felt pebbles underneath her paws-

"YOWCH!"

Ashley screamed in pain. She looked at her paw to see a pebble stuck in her paw pad.

Ashley continued to walk and saw three dogs studying rocks. Ashley couldn't bare to just stand there and watch. She walked over and asked what they were doing.

"What are you guys doing?" Ashley asked.

"We are separating the good building rocks from the bad, why do you ask?" one said

"I was just wondering if I could have one of the sparkly ones." Ashley asked

"Here kid" They all tossed Ashley a sparkly rock.

Ashley nodded and kept walking until she smelled something spicy like... Jalapenos! Ashley ran back to Moon and Felgma.

"Moon! Felgma I found a clue! This might lead us to Spice!"

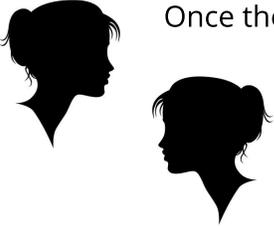
*Preview to the Spicy Life Final!
Finding Spice Finally!*

I can find my precious spice! I can do this! I will find her and she will find me!

CREATIVE WRITING

EGYPTIAN OPPOSITES

By: Lily L., Simone B., London S.M



Once there were two Egyptian Sisters. Around their necks they wore a charm, one

is a sun and the other one is a moon. Their amulets were made from opal and topaz. The youngest one's name is Layla, she has dark blue eyes that are like the sky after a storm endless and beautiful, with the palest skin paler than a vampire's, the darkest black hair, as black as the night sky, and the

reddest lips, as red as blood.

The older of the two's name is Laney. She has long blond hair that flows in the wind like golden butterflies. She has bright green eyes that can light up the darkest night. Her complexion is as bright as the sun but as soft as a baby's bottom.

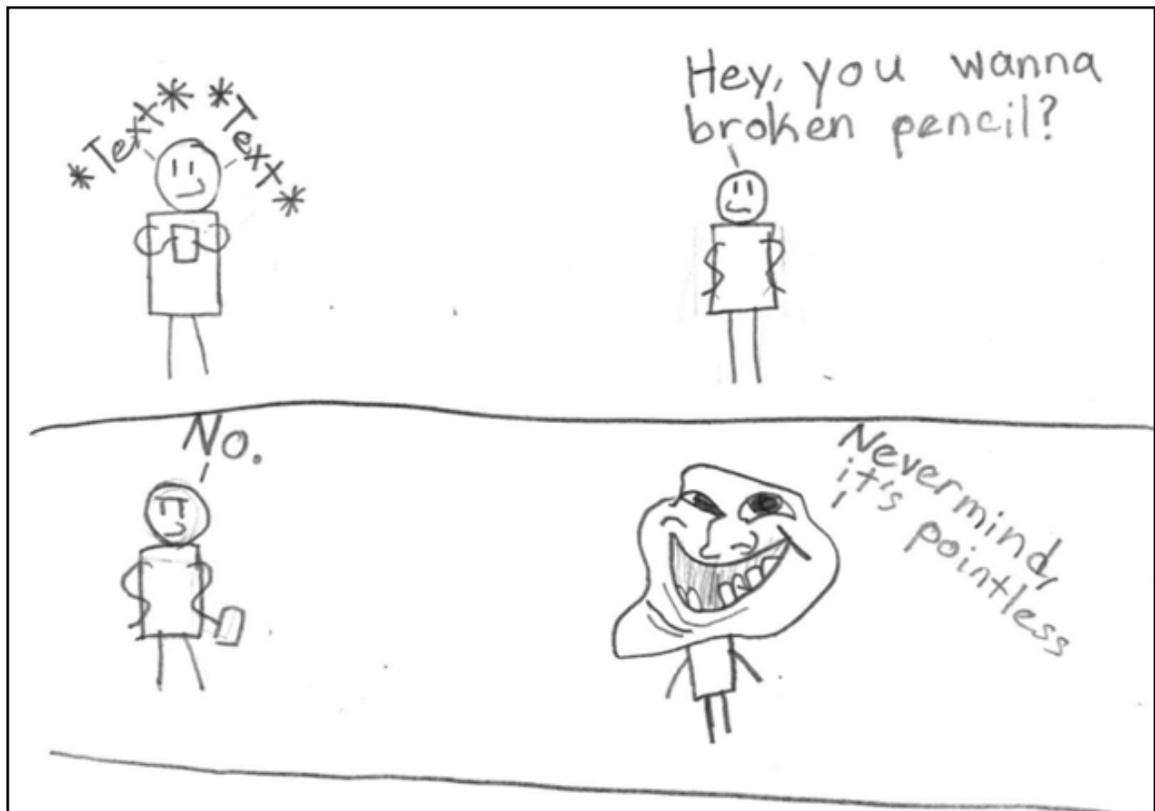
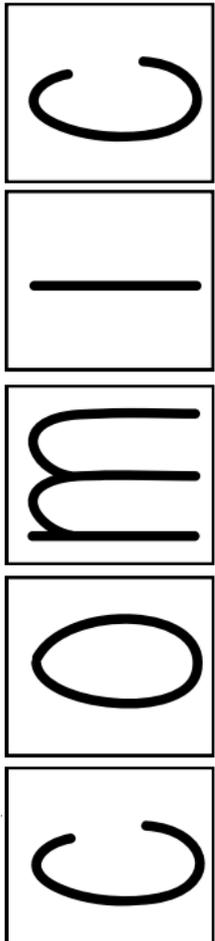
One night the twins were fast asleep. The parents were glad they were asleep for it was time to give them away. They knew they were going to miss them, but also knew this was their only chance to

be safe and someday reunite and save their land.

The father took Layla to Hades deep in the Underworld. Her name matched where she went because her name means night.

The mother took Laney to Aphrodite the Goddess of Love. She knew she would be taken care of there.

Even though they were apart they were connected by the heart. Someday they would return and they would fight the darkest of evil.



Credits:

Drawer: Seth H.

Story Writer: NA+newm

CREATIVE WRITING

JOSH'S GOOD GRADES

By Simone B.

Josh is a special boy. He is special because he was a very nice, determined, and intelligent boy.

The art teacher, Mrs. Robin, thought he was a great artist. When he did his self portrait it was like a rainbow shooting into your eyes. It stood out from all of the other ones because it had unique shapes, radiant bright colors, and showed a different perspective. He got an A+ for art on his report card.

His music teacher thought he was a brilliant musician. One, for taking the hard part on his recorder and mastering it very quickly. Two, for helping other people on their recorders when they struggled. Three, for listening to the pitches of recorders on recordings and matching them. When he got his report card, he got another A+.

His next class was how to be a librarian. He is very good at that. He usually gets an A+ on being a librarian. His librarian teacher said he does well because he loves to read, he can

follow direction by putting the books back in the right place, and he is caring when he helps kids find books that are just right for them.



Josh's last favorite class is biology. He liked it though most kids didn't. Josh would get an A in it. The thing he liked about biology is that it meant the study of life. He liked to dissect plants and see what was inside of them. He once dissected a flower and saw there were eggs inside of the ovary and pollen inside the stamen. He liked the colorful petals and other cool things that he hadn't known about before.

Josh's good grades helped give him confidence and appreciation for learning and trying new things. This eventually helped him achieve his dream of becoming an artist.

His education was the inspiration behind his artistic styles. He would be appreciated for his abstract musical paintings, but his large, vibrant, realistic plant sculptures are what made him famous.



WHICH REALISTIC FICTION BOOK WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ?

By Caroline F.

1. Which animal do you like best?

- a. Giraffe
- b. Dog
- c. Goldfish
- d. Bird

2. What's your favorite hobby?

- a. Playing basketball
- b. Collecting things
- c. Playing quiz games
- d. Listening to music

3. Which setting do you prefer for a book?

- a. A normal American suburb
- b. A rural area near a town
- c. A small house close to the character's school
- d. A big city

4. How would you describe yourself truthfully?

- a. Tough
- b. Loving
- c. Smart
- d. Lonely

5. Which main problem do you like to read about?

- a. Main character's guardian is injured, resulting in a big change
- b. Main character loses a pet, resulting in a new discovery
- c. Main character is disabled, but extremely smart, resulting in acknowledgement
- d. Main character has to move, resulting in homesickness

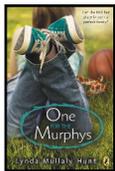
Answers on last page.

C O M M I C



BOOK QUIZ RESULTS

If you chose mostly:



A's: You should read One for the Murphys

Carley struggles with being open to love after she suffers a betrayal that forces her to move in with a foster family.



B's: You should read Rain Reign

Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet.



C's: You should read Out of My Mind

A story of heartache and triumph about a girl with a brilliant mind that no one knows about, because she has cerebral palsy and cannot speak or write.



D's: You should read Counting Thyme

Thyme Owens moves across the country with her family so her younger brother can take part in a promising cancer drug trial, and though all she wants is for him to get better, adjusting to life in Manhattan is anything but easy.

CALENDAR

February 16 - 3rd Grade Ellis Island Experience

February 20 - President's Day, No School

February 21 - McDonald's Fundraiser

February 23 - Math and Science Night,
7:00-8:30 pm

March 1 - Half Day Dismissal

March 7 - Band Concert, 7:00 pm

March 9 - Kindergarten Registration Night,
6:30 pm

March 15 - PTO Meeting, Fun Lunch

March 17 - District Battle of the Books

March 27-31 - Spring Break

NEWSPAPER CLUB

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| Kenny B. | Everett K. | Charlotte S. |
| Simone B. | Jackie K. | London SM |
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| Aidan C. | Adam K. | Emily S. |
| Roland C. | Lily L. | Jack S. |
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| Caroline F. | Matthew M. | Alyssa W. |
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