

# **"The Night of the Walking Chocolate!"**

**By: William P. (5th grade)**

**Talbott STEAM Innovation School**

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It was a week before halloween. I was getting ready to go to the car, knowing that I was excited. We were heading into the car. As my little sister was being put into her cart, I was scurrying down the car to the back seat. I was so excited to go to the store because every halloween week we got to pick out our own candy to eat by ourselves without anybody taking it! My mom drove down the road. We were listening to Halloween tunes as we went to the store. I was singing along with the songs because I was in a good mood. We pulled up to the store and I quickly ran inside. I went to the candy aisle and there I saw it. The beautiful, majestic, and delicious Mr. Chocos Chocolate bar. I think I marveled at it for like five minutes before I took it and did a victory jiggle!

"Slow down next time," My mom said. "All of us don't have our costumes so we will shop at Spirit Halloween. Since you have your costume, we will drop you off at home," She added. "Okay. Can I eat my Candy bar at that time?" I asked. She sighed and said "Don't make a mess!" We then went to the costume aisle, but it was as bare as a dessert. My big brother picked out his candy. "Sour Patch Kids are the best!" He said to me, picking up a big bag of them. Suddenly it started to pour rain!

We arrived at home. "I hope I don't get my candy wet!" I thought in my head. "Jacob, lead your brother inside so he doesn't hurt himself" My mom told my big brother. He quickly opened the door and let me in. He ran back into the car. My mom rolled down her window then yelled, "Do not get the house dirty, and stay out of trouble!". I waved till they were out of sight and ran like there was no tomorrow. I went into my room. I looked around to see if anyone was looking and..."RRRRIP." I completely destroyed the chocolates rapper, and looked at it for about two minutes drooling. Now for this next part, I might sound like a crazy man, but just stay with me. I went downstairs to get some water with my chocolate. I quickly opened the dishwasher and got my favorite cup. I ran the faucet in the cold and put ice in my water. Suddenly I heard a loud... BANG! I was startled for a second but then heard something by the trash can. I slowly went towards the trash and



opened the trash can lid, but nothing was there. "Phew!" I thought to myself. I then carefully went up stairs with my water, and opened my door. What I saw was horrifying. My chocolate... was gone! I searched the floor to see if I could find anything, but the room was empty of my chocolate. Suddenly I heard a High pitched voice say "HEY!". I slowly turned to the direction of the voice and said "W..w. whos there?". I looked around my room, and saw no one. I then looked down, and saw the chocolate bar with a mouth, eyes, arms, legs, and a very mad expression on his face. I then remembered when I was little my grandpa told me "Chocolate is very bad for you!". Is this what he meant?

I was so scared my first reaction was to scream! I fell on the floor and the water splashed all over me. The little thing ran down the stairs Laughing. I quickly ran after him! He hopped so high onto the kitchen counter. He knocked all of our tableware on the floor. Most of them broke. "NOOO! MOM JUST BOUGHT THOSE!" I yelled. He kept jogging really swifty! I lunged for him but he jumped on the table. He then destroyed the biggest lego set that my dad bought. Never mind the fact that fragile bricks on a table is really dumb, I have to stop him! He jumps and does a soccer block to break out of the window! He goes into the back yard looking for an escape. I got soaking wet when I went out there! Then I almost forgot that we have 6 foot tall stone walls. "Your Trapped!" I say to him, but he runs under me back into the house!

I tried to run for him, but I tripped on a puddle of rainwater. When I got up, I went into the house in horror because everything was in shambles! The whole TV was on the floor. How could such a little thing make a humongous mess! I went into my big brother's "Sport" closet. I then heard more things cracking and breaking. I then looked to my right and saw my brother's hockey sticks and his hockey gear. I stood up and got on his gear and took his hockey stick. I opened the doors slowly and barged out of the closet ready to get the chocolate bar with force! I see him on the faucet breaking it in half. "HEY! COME AT ME!" I said loudly. He then looked at me with a furious look, and I swung the hockey stick trying to hit him. Now to be clear, I've never worked one of those hockey sticks. So to my surprise, all he had to do was step out of the way to dodge my "Attack". I hit the counter with so much force, it broke the whole thing! I slowly looked at him and ran as fast as I could.

He triumphantly stalked me up the stairs . I went straight to my room, and knew I had no escape. I fell on my floor accepting defeat while he ran into my room

prepared to attack. When he jumped on my face, I knew what I had to do. I grabbed him by his leg, opened my mouth and then he pleaded "WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOPPP!" I immediately dropped him in. I quickly chewed and then swallowed him. For a second I almost felt something move on its own, but it quickly stopped. I got rid of him. "Phew!" I said out loud. I sat on my bed and chuckled. I then heard the front door open. "WILLIAM!! WHAT IS THIS MESS??!!" I'm never eating chocolate again.



**Doom, Death, and . . . Surprise!**

It was Halloween Eve 1999, and the town of Doom and Death couldn't wait for its favorite holiday of the year: Halloween.

When the clock struck midnight October 31<sup>st</sup>, all the scary creatures who made up the town were allowed to go outside the city's boundaries for one day of the year and scare all the little children they wanted to. They were good at it. Very good, since they didn't need any costumes . . . except for a young witch named Scarlet that lived on 806 Pumpkin Street.

Scarlet lived with her mom and dad. Although one was a witch and the other was a werewolf, they both never understood Scarlet's issue with scaring others. They had tried many Halloweens to spark a love for scaring in their daughter, but it never worked. Scarlet just didn't find scaring fun. But this Halloween, Scarlet was determined to get her spark for scaring.

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Scarlet ran down the stairs excitedly. Tomorrow is Halloween! She threw on her clothes, grabbed her hat and broom, and flew through the sky towards Green Goblin Middle School (named after the famous band, Green Goblin), soaring like a shooting star.

In the air with the wind blowing through her hair, she glanced back at her neighbor's house. This neighbor, Mr. Malikris, only came out one day of the year: Halloween. He was the stuff of legend, known to be the scariest creature Doom and Death had ever seen and had made the most children cry. Scarlet could make out a glimpse of the sign that hung on his door: "Do not enter unless invited to unless you wish to experience terrible pain." Yikes.

As much as Scarlet loved Halloween for how much it brought people together, she also hated it. Everyone could scare the children into running away except for her. Whenever she tried to scare kids, they would end up bending over with laughter instead. This year will be different. She shouted, "Hey Evie!" as she was getting off her broomstick.

"Hey! Aren't you so excited to scare children tomorrow?" Evie said, sounding as excited as everyone Scarlet had heard this whole week.

"Well, you know me, I'm not any good at scaring children," Scarlet said sadly, "Come on, let's get to class," wanting to change the subject.

When they arrived, their 987-year-old teacher, Mr. Bones (he happened to be a skeleton), croaked "You're laa-tt-eee."

"So?" Evie asked without any hesitation.

"Um . . . I'm going to go find a seat." Scarlet said, sounding frightened.

"Students, as you all know, tomorrow is the most wonderful day of the year, so I'm going to remind you all how to scare someone real gg-oo-ddd," Mr. Bones paused, "Pay attention!" He limped up behind Scarlet, throwing his bones at her face, "BOO!"

"AHHHH! You scared me!" Scarlet cried out.

"Please Mr. Bones, is that all you can do to a little kid?" Evie said.



"Of course . . . NOT! I bet none of you can scare someone with your dance mo-vv-ee-sss. Well, I caa-nnn!"

Scarlet watched in horror as Mr. Bones grabbed his top hat from his desk and placed it on his head. Grinning, he started dancing in a way that twisted all his bones. Any child would have nightmares for days from seeing that, including Scarlet.

Rinnnggg. "Well, that's the bell, but I expect to hear good tales of the children you've scared when we get back to school! And Scarlet, you BETTER scare at least one child this yee-aa-rrr," Mr. Bones said, staring down sternly at her.

"I will do whatever it takes!" Scarlet yelled out as she ran out the door.

That night, Scarlet prepared her purple and black scaring outfit (Evie said these specific colors help children remember their worst nightmares) and ate 21 bananas (her parents said that bananas help boost your scary factor). Before bed, she made a wish: "Please let the children I scare tomorrow remember me forever." This would become true.

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It was time. Scarlet got her hair ready and put on her purple and black wicked Halloween dress. She almost looked scary. Obviously, she wasn't, but almost was good enough. Taking a deep breath in while walking out of her room, she saw her mom and dad getting ready to scare those poor children.

"SCARLET! I don't want the 30 Pumpkin Coins I spent on your scaring lessons to go to waste! Plus, your teacher said you're the worst student he's met so put all your effort into making those children CRY!" Her mom said before she and her dad headed out of the house. Scarlet could already hear children's screams and shuddered. It was going to be a long day.

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It was an hour before midnight and Scarlet was exhausted. This entire day, she had tried so hard to scare the children she went up to into running away or into tears, but it wasn't working. Shuffling her feet around in the dirt, Scarlet collected herself and saw a kid's cape turn the corner. She whispered to herself, "It's go time. Don't disappoint everyone again."

She quietly ran up to the corner. When she turned it, she saw something she didn't expect: Mr. Malikris, standing under the glow of lanterns hung from the rooftop of the alleyway. Huddled on the floor around him, littered with candy, children watched in awe as he acted out Doom and Death's most ancient legends.

Scarlet gasped, realizing this was something she wasn't supposed to see. It went against everything she had ever been taught about what good Doom and Death kids should do, and especially against everyone's idea of Mr. Malikris. Then, she suddenly tripped on a piece of candy, causing Mr. Malikris to see her.

"Scarlet," Mr. Malikris smiled, not seeming to be surprised, "Would you like to join me in acting out our town's most famous legends?"

"Absolutely." She wanted to. This was where she felt at home: making others happy. In that moment, Scarlet realized that all her life she had been trying to change herself to fit what others said she had to be. But now, she learned that she didn't need to change herself for anybody else since it was only important what she thought of herself.

She stepped under the glow of the lanterns, and smiling at all the excited faces, said loudly, "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the scariest show on Earth."



# "Sidney and the Possessed Animatronic"

By: Gianna S. (5th grade)

Talbott STEAM Innovation School

My dad and I were driving to the Halloween Store after school. I went to the back to look at the animatronics. But there was one thing that caught my attention. It was a little girl animatronic. When you stepped on the pad the animatronic said " My sister was my parents favorite. but I took care of that..." My little legs ran as fast as they could through the long hall of costumes. Once I reached my dad I took his hand and dragged him back through the long hall to the animatronic. I asked if I could get it and surprisingly he said yes! He took the box and the costume we paid for, then drove back home to set it up in our front yard.

We set it up with a fog machine around it making it look ominous and eerie. I went to bed that night early because tomorrow would be halloween. I woke up around 3:15 that night hearing a weird sound coming from the front door. I looked outside my window to find the Little animatronic not there. I quickly ran out the door hoping for an explanation. I tiptoed downstairs to find the front door. To my surprise the front door was open with muddy footprints. The little animatronic was holding a bloody knife. It said, " Come out Come out wherever you are." I gasped quietly as I saw the bloody knife. My dad took my hand and rushed me down to the basement...the animatronic followed us down. I screamed and hid behind my dad and he held a knife threatening it. I ran to the nearest door that was a closet. I hid inside with my breath trembling. I heard screams and crashes coming from outside the door but I closed my eyes tightly. Until there was silence... absolute silence.

I found a shovel in the corner so I stood up and grabbed it. Once I felt comfortable with the silence I ran out with its back turned and I whacked it in the head. I watched it fall to the ground dropping the knife. I looked at my dad with a cut all the way down his arm. passed out. He was not breathing so I took his phone and dialed 911. Once they got there they rushed him to the ER and he was in the hospital for 4 days. As for the animatronic It was taken to a mental room and is still alive to this day.



As I was waiting in the hospital My dad woke up healthy and no medication was needed for him. When he was all settled we drove to the mental hospital to see the animatronic that haunted us that night. It was rolling on its wheels going back and forth around the small room. I entered the room with caution as my dad watched from behind. As I entered the room it stopped with its back turned and just stood there in silence. I quietly said "hi" and slowly it turned around with an eerie smile. I gasped slightly but kept on speaking. I asked " Who are you and why did you do this!?" There was a moment of silence then it spoke. " I only wanted to be friends with you.. Only you." I called the guards, nurses, and doctors to the room and they brought it to the surgery room. I waited for the big moment. The nurses and doctors followed by cops entered the room to cut it open. I stood up to watch the moment happen. My mind was saying so much " Who is under there? Is there anybody under there? What if this is all in my mind?" Then the moment happened... They cut it open.

It turns out it was a girl at my school. I gasped and whispered "Angelica?" She got out of the machine with messed up hair, crooked teeth, and blood on her face. I banged on the glass window and yelled. Then I woke up out of my bed gasping. I said " it was all a dream" But then, I heard a noise coming from the front door once again. I ran down my room to the stairs faster this time and saw the little animatronic with the bloody knife. I screamed thinking it was happening all over again.

# The Cursed Witch's Book

By: Miyah W (5th grade)  
Talbot STEAM Innovation School

It's 1956, I'm 14 as of right now and my name's Mary Jane but everybody calls me Jane. Last year I went on a stroll to the ol' local library on Halloween night. Now don't flip your lid when you hear this story, but I can assure you that this is a real story. I probably sound looney, but I just need you to believe me here. I swayed down the street and practically danced into the library. Old librarian Ms. Suzie noticed me and asked "Why aren't you out with your sisters or friends?" I replied briskly "I don't like going out." Ms. Suzie said "It's fine go check out a book". I ran to the shelves to embed my brain in books.

I came across an unfamiliar book, pulled it out from the shelf and blew off the dust. I read the title and it said something in Latin but I thought nothing of it. I brought it up to Ms. Suzie and she stated, "I didn't know that we had this book." I replied with a simple hum. Ms. Suzie said, "alright darling, would you like to borrow or buy?" I replied with, "I'll buy it ma'am.". I hustled out of the library, because her gum smacking began being too loud, after paying the 5 bucks for the book. I arrived home and began reading.

I had just got through a couple sentences when a green blinding light showed from the book. In a flash I covered my eyes in fear of being blinded. The book slipped from my sweaty, nervous hands and began levitating. I let out a scream that sounded shrill and terrified. I couldn't help but shake as I went closer and closer to the book. My legs felt like bricks and my arms felt like they were noodles. I got closer and closer but then suddenly the book started chanting an unidentified spell. I fell to the floor and laid there for a while waiting for the white light to take me. I sprang up and exclaimed, "I have an idea.". The book rose higher and higher. I chased the book around for about an hour before my sister, Linda waltzed through the door happy as a clam. Her smile faded into shock as she waved her friends out the door. She backed into her room shouting.

After a few more minutes of chasing that thing around I trapped it. I stepped on it and lifted it up a bit. I threw the book in the fireplace and started a



fire. The book screeched and after a minute it stopped. I let the fire burn for about 3 more minutes before putting out the fire. "Linda, burned book for dinner!" I yelled in an un-lady-like manner. Now I don't mess around with mysterious dusty books.

# Max and the Hat

By: Lihly'Anna S (5th grade)

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One ordinary day, a 12 year old girl named Max, wanted a hat. She went to her mom and asked if she could go get a hat from the store right around the block. Her mom said yes( her mom lets her do anything she wants). So she did, when she got there she saw her friend. She walked over there and said "hey Anna!" Oh hey Max!" her friend said. There was one hat that caught Max's eye. She swayed back and forth nervously while she went to the hat. It was on a shelf that said " CAREFUL SPOOKY HAT!!" " I don't think you should get that hat!" Max's friend said.

"Why not Anna?!" Max said. Anna said " because it says careful magic hat!" "As if it's a magic hat!" " Okay do what you wanna do." sighed Anna. Then Max bought the hat, and her and Anna walked back to Max's house. When they got there Max's mom told them to go to Max's room. " Hmm I wonder what my mom is up to, she doesn't ever tell me what to do or where to go?" Max said. "Well maybe she is making you a surprise?" Anna said. " SHE WOULD TELL ME!" Max yelled back. " Dang I am sorry, I was just trying to help." Anna said walking out of the room.

Max was mad and she wanted to try on the hat to see how it looked on her. " UGH I don't even look good in this!" Max said angrily, throwing the hat on the floor. Then the hat floated in the air and said " NO ONE DOESN'T LOOK GOOD IN ME!!" Then the hat floated over next to her and made her put the hat on her head. AHHHHH HEL-p-p-". Max said, screaming. No one heard her because the hat had taken her soul. So, then Max walked downstairs and her mom said. " I TOLD YOU TO STAY IN YOUR ROOM?!" she screamed while making a cake. Then she knocked her mom out and walked out the house headed toward Anna's house. Everyone seemed to try and run because everyone saw that magic hat was gone, but they were all frozen in panic. Then Max finally was in front of Anna's door.

Anna answered the door surprisingly. " What are you doing here? Anna asked, looking at Max weirdly. " Hello there friend." the hat said. " Ummm is everything okay, because that is not your real voice?" Anna said nervously. " Ugh



fine you know the hat your friend got, well it was possessed, and i am in the hat and now your friend is possessed." The hat said smirking. "You won't get away with this, you wicked hat!" Anna said proudly. " Oh but it's too late." the hat declared. Anna slammed her door. " I have to find a way to put a stop to that vile hat!" Anna said. "Oh I know, I can act like I want to be possessed too, and then he will take the hat off of Max, and I will have a bird cage behind me and trap him!" Anna said happily. So, like she said she would, he called the hat back, and told the hat she wanted to be possessed, and it worked! " Now that I have you in a bird cage we are going to kill you." Max and Anna said. " You don't have the guts." The hat said. " Oh, don't underestimate us!" Max said. Then Anna went to the kitchen to get a knife and Max followed along. Little did they know the hat can teleport, and so he teleported back to Max's house.

When Max and Anna came back to the living room, they were flabbergasted. "WHERE DID HE GO!?" Max said, alarmed. " I don't know but don't panic, I got this!" Anna said, trying to calm Max down. Max sat down on the couch frozen in fear. Anna went to Max's house to see if the hat was there. Then as soon as she went into Max's house she panicked, because she saw the hat and she thought she was wrong. " Well hello there." The hat said. Max came into the room behind the hat and trapped him in the birdcage. Then the hat disappeared once again. " DANG IT!!!!" Max said, shouting. " WAIT!" Anna said, shouting back; " He might think that we are not here and he will reappear!" Anna said excitedly. " Great idea." Max said. Then the hat reappeared and the girls had to act fast! So, Anna grabbed a knife and stabbed the hat 9 times! " BOOMMMM, WE DID IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" The girls shouted. It was a great success!

# The Rising Of Kirea McMillion

Emily G

5th grade

Once there was a school girl whose name was Kirea. She had blonde hair, a school uniform, and had a really nice pair of white Nikes; she had lots of enemies that wanted to kill her from things that she did. So one day when her parents were away on vacation and she had to stay... one of those enemies went to kill her.

She heard banging on the door. "BANG BANG BANG!" The door fell over and the person who was trying to kill her got in! She heard footsteps downstairs she thought, "I should escape out the window", so she went to try to open the window. She heard the killer outside her door. She grabbed a lamp, a heavy one, but it was too late. He was in her room, with a knife from the kitchen then SLICE! She was dead...

The killer started dragging her outside and put her in his car. He shoved her in. He drove all the way to a lake hours and hours away. He dragged her out and started to cry. Then he noticed her necklace she had on. He thought, "Oh, well no one will find her". He shoved her into the deep, dark, black lake.

## ***One month later...***

The police found evidence that he killed her and he admitted to it and said, "I put her in a lake a few hours away". The police drove there and saw a heart necklace, it was floating along with her white Nikes, and her solid black headband. They knew these items were Kirea's from a family photo.

Beside the items, floating, was her phone with a photo saved on it. The photo was with the killer and her. It was her boyfriend that killed her!

They grabbed her phone and looked at some more photos on it. Later they found her body on the bank of the lake, she was not moving, they looked at her wounds, and made the determination that the wounds were



from physical hits and a kitchen knife. The kitchen knife that had been used by her killer boyfriend had the words engraved on the handle, 'Never use this knife'.

They took her body to a grave where her parents were waiting. They were holding flowers to put in her hair and a black dress. They put her in her coffin and buried her. They had a funeral until something happened. They heard a bang, then a scream for help! They unburied her grave and she was alive! She was in a coma the whole time!

One month later, she was all healed and allowed to go back to school. "Wow back again, ha! Wait, how come everyone is respecting me". "Hi," said Jack the popular boy who was super rich.

She said, "Hi Jack!"

"Wow I can't believe you were in a coma and you got stabbed, beaten up and put in a grave!" ,said Jack.

"Hahaha yeah pretty bad but I was ok, I was just... surprised and pretty hurt."

"That sounds bad, but cool, scary, and painful... Do you wanna be friends maybe?" asked Jack.

"Yes, of course just don't try to murder me!" said Kirea!

**The End!**

# HELLO?

Penny M  
5th grade

*If you thought we were going to say once upon a time, you're used to fairy tales, fun, happiness, this is none of that nonsense, this is a real story.*

A few months ago, Mary and her family moved into an old hotel.

Mary and her family were not as wealthy as most of the people in the city, so they had to move to the countryside and buy an abandoned house/hotel. Most people thought it was a bad choice, so much to fix, and most kids thought it was haunted.

*Mary had no idea what old junk she would find, she was very excited, as her brother was scared.*

The first night, Mary and her brother stayed in an old 2-bed hotel room. They didn't think it would be the worst room but it was. Mary saw a weird shadow, so did her brother, Jack.

"Did you see that?" Mary whispered slowly.

"Yes, what was it?" her brother asked.

"I don't really know, we should tell Mum."

They both got up and slowly walked to the door.

"I'm gonna' slowly open it, ok?" Jack stated.


"JACK WAIT!"

Right there, right then, her brother was gone. Mary started to cry. "I SAW IT, AND JACK! MUM!! I SAW IT!"

Her mother rushed to their room.

"You saw what? Sweetie?"



Are you ready to find out the end? I don't knowwww. I think you're scared, huh? You not scared? Ok! guess you want the ending. Jack had lived in the walls, then he had  5 years after that whole crazy time!. So, that was the end, you still here? Why? That was the end?

*Or was it? Nahaaaaahaaaahahaha! ♦♦*



# The Evil Garfield Mug

By: Noah C. (5th grade)

Talbott STEAM Innovation School

It was a dark and rainy night in Milwaukee Wisconsin when Jon Arbuckle saw a Garfield mug on the sidewalk. The mug had a crack going all the way down to the bottom, it also was filled all the way up with dirt. The dirt had a red tint to it. The picture of Garfield had an evil grin to it. Jon thought it was neat so he brought it back home with him.

After 3 weeks Jon started noticing weird things like hearing cups fall off the table and not seeing any glass on the floor. It was almost like it was cleaned up when he walked through the door, or the front door being open when he knew that it was shut. One day he heard the door creak open when he looked out of the window he saw his dog Oddie bolting out the house. Jon looked closer and it looked like Oddie was scared which was not common with Oddie he was a happy dog most of the time. But after Jon found Oddie he was like a new dog he was frightened even if you tried to pet him he would try to bite you.

The next week Jon took Oddie to the vet to see what was wrong with him. The vet said that Oddie was fine and he probably was just spooked by a bigger dog. When they went home Jon saw a cup fly off the table he was in disbelief he couldn't believe his eyes. He looked at the ground and saw what looked like about 30 cups and mugs were broken into tiny pieces. There was only one left and it was the Garfield mug sitting on the table. Jon was so happy that it wasn't broken "but why was it the only one that wasn't broken" Jon thought to himself.

Jon cleaned up all the glass that was on the floor. The next day Jon went to the store to buy some more cups "what if the Garfield mug is broken too" Jon thought. When he got home he didn't see the Garfield mug anywhere he looked and looked for days. Finally he just gave up when he saw it sitting on top of the freezer he thought he just didn't look there. But he remembered looking on top of the freezer at least 5 times. Or am I just second guessing myself" Jon thought to himself".

Jon put the mug back on the table where it belonged. About 4 weeks later 5 more cups flew across the table and on to the floor. Jon thought something was suspect for weeks but he didn't do anything about it. But today was the day he was going to do something about it. He waited until the mug did something. It took hours before it did anything, until he heard a "Bang". He grabbed the hammer that was right by him, and ran as fast as he could and "Bam '' the mug was broken. But that wasn't the end of it, the picture of Garfield's eye snapped open.



# The Spooky Skeleton

By: James M. (5th grade)

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Once upon a time I was getting ready for Trick-or-Treating on a dark, cold, rainy Halloween night. Then suddenly I had an idea to buy a skeleton decoration for my yard, so I went to Walmart to buy one. But little did I know that something absolutely crazy was about to happen. When I got to Walmart, I went to the Halloween aisle to try to find a skeleton decoration. After a couple minutes of searching later, I finally found one, but its arm was broken. Man I am lucky to get the last one in stock, but it is broken. I said. But since I really wanted the skeleton decoration I bought it, I went to the cashier to buy it, then I went home to fix its broken arm.

I got home and put the broken skeleton on my workbench, grabbed a heavy duty stapler and stapled its arm back together. Then I painted the staples white to fit the color of the skeleton. A few seconds later the skeleton jumped up and looked at me. We locked eyes for a few seconds, then it made its way off the workbench and ran away. I stood there thinking I was dreaming, and even pinched myself but I could still feel it.

So, I ran after it knowing this was real. While I was running after it, it juked me and I fell on my back on the garage door, in pain I still ran after it. Then it decided to run on the wall and jumped on me and started to smacking and scratching me. I thought I was going to die. But it looked behind it and saw the back door, unlocked it and ran away. I was bleeding and was in absolute shock and fear. My heart was pumping out of my chest, and it felt like I was going to explode.

Then I heard a sudden voice that said Trick-or-Treat, and I gave the kid some candy acting like I wasn't shocked with fear. Suddenly, I heard a scream right outside my house. I checked to see what was going on. Then I saw the skeleton covered in well... you know what, I felt like I was going to puke then ran away, and I have not seen it since that dreadful night.



Cooper B

(teacher's email)

5th Grade

## The Scary Doll

One day I was at school and I went to my grandma's house and talked about a doll that came to life. I have 3 good reasons for the story. The reason is the doll came to life, started to talk, and started to move.

One morning I walked into my grandma's house and went into her room where her decoration dolls were missing from the room. After I noticed the dolls were missing I asked my grandma and she said, she hasn't moved them. That day I thought the dolls were alive. That day about 2 hours later I found the dolls after looking everywhere and I found them next to me on the couch. I put them up high because my dogs can't get them. I came back to my grandma house and the dolls were gone and they were in my grandma's room and they were there so I asked my grandma if she touched them and she said no. That's why I think the dolls are alive.

The second reason for the scary doll is that it started to talk to me. I walked into my grandma's room and the dolls were talking. The thing the dolls were saying was hello, come play with me, I will get you, and do you want to play hide and seek. I left the room and the dolls spot talking and I was right by



the door and I walked back into the room and they started to talk again. That's all of the things I can say about the doll talking to me.

The third reason for the scary doll is that the doll started to move. I walked into my grandma room because she was clean in there and the dolls were gone so I went to look for them and they were messing around on my grandma's couch and they were moving. The next thing that happened was I went to go get a snack and I heard a loud bang and it was the dolls so I said what are you doing and they said they were having fun. That's how I knew that they were moving. Those are all of the reasons for the spooky story that's at my grandma's house.

Ricki C

10/5th grade

There was a teen and his brother that was 4. They lived in a house in the woods. The big brother told the little brother to go to bed but he forgot to give him his medicine. It was 10:00 at night when he heard his brother scream. He ran upstairs and heard a window break. When he got upstairs there was two blood lines leading to the window and the closet. He went to the closet first because it was way closer, he got to the closet and opened it and saw his brother's intestine. He was so shocked at the gut pile that he fell backwards. He then looked out the window to see his brother's body shoved into a tree. Then a creature standing there, staring at him when he move backward the creature would move forward. When he got to the first step the creature was at the window. It grabbed him and did the same thing he did with his brother. His last words were, "creature outside staring," that is all they got from the security camera. Cops nearby heard the teen screaming but it wasn't him. It was the monster passing his voice to lure more people. All they know is that its name is Sithendarr. That it uses its venom skin to get more people. (Backstory, the teen killed 12 kids. People think one of those kids is the monster.)



# The doll

One night me and my friends were at the park. At the park one of my friends found a doll. Of course I wanted the doll. I love dolls. This doll had a white dress on it and had red on it but I had other doll clothes at the time being. I brought the doll home. My mom didn't like the doll but she let me keep it. I put her in my doll bed before going to bed. In the morning the doll wasn't there. The doll was in the utensil drawer and my mom thought my little sister was pranking us. At lunch we went to the park to eat. When we got home the doll was standing at the bottom of the stairs. We were scared because no one was home. That night I put the doll in the doll bed then went to bed. In the middle of the night I heard a noise down the stairs and so did my little sister, and mom. We went down and the doll ran at us. The doll attacked us and now we have bruises.

Willow H

Mrs. Camper's 4th Grade Class

Talbott STEAM Innovation School

## The Headless Rat Man

Deep into his non-existent study about rats he was startled by the knocking at his window. Cornelius looked up from his telescope after 2 days straight of examining an extinct rat. At his window there was an albino rat sitting there shivering from the rain.

Cornelius was shocked, he had never seen a albino rat before even though he was a rat collector and a rat examiner. He opened his window and the rat jumped inside. Surprisingly the rat started to talk and introduced himself as Barnacles. Cornelius decided that he actually liked this rat and gave him a home.

After that encounter between Cornelius and Barnacles they became best friends. At Barnacles' house in the sewers he had a whole family and they did **NOT** approve of him living with Cornelius. Barnacles had a thought of having Cornelius meet his family even though they despised him. He thought that after his family met Corn they would love him, and maybe support his decision of living with him.

Barnacles talked to Corn and then to his family about his thought, Corn loved it but his family was 50\50. So after a couple nights of no sleep and non stop thinking he decided to have each other meet. Barnacles led Corn to his family and their thoughts on him were still 50\50. The hateful part of the family thought of a great plan to take down Cornelius.

### The great plan

The hateful part of the family all came together and thought of a plan to take down Cornelius. One rat named Chad had the idea to sneak into Corns lab and mix together all of the liquids to make a potion that will turn a human into a vicious rat. The other rats thought Chad's idea was brilliant and went with that plan.

Later that night Chad and his gang snuck into Cornelius' lab, mixed all the liquids hoping for the right potion. Once the rats created the potion they wanted to see if it would really work, so a rat named Ted got the potion and drank it. After Ted drank the potion he turned into a vicious rat. Luckily the rats made a potion that turns the person or animal that drinks it back to normal. The rats left and



## *The day*

"Today is *The day*." "I can't believe today is the day that my family cuts off the head of my best friend." "There is nothing I can do to stop it, I can only warn him." "Even if I do warn him there is no way to stop it." Barnacles went to Cornelius' window after 2 weeks of not talking to him. When Barnacles warned Cornelius about what his family was going to do he thought it was crazy and there was no way a rat family could cut off his head.

\*8 hours later\* So far nothing has happened, maybe they are going to do it at night then Barnacles thought. There it was. Barnacles watched in fear as the window slid open *very slowly*. As all the mice climbed in the window Barnacles was paralyzed with terror and fear.

All of his family started crawling to Cornelius and got ready with their homemade katana and potion. 2 rats poured the potion in his mouth while being asleep. After Cornelius turned into a humongous rat 2 other rats cut off his head.

When Cornelius "woke up" he went insane. Crashing down buildings, hurting other rats, eating animals, and stepping on cars. **CRASH** went the buildings, **BANG** went the cars, **POP** went the tires, and **OWWW** went the other rats and animals. Cornelius officially went insane; the whole city was destroyed for years until it was just Cornelius. Cornelius was now famous for being a headless rat man in many different states.

## Waking up

It was all a dream.

Jayde G.

5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Talbott

One century ago, it was a normal day until... my lights shattered and the TV went black. It was pitch black in the room as well. Then lightning struck it was blinding how bright it was....

I grabbed a flashlight so I could feed the fish. I snatched the fish food from the shelf and sprinkled it lightly. Once he gobbled it all up he started acting weird. I was feeling a little off myself but not that much. I looked away for a moment to get my head back together then I looked back at him. He was huge! I was totally freaking out at this point and couldn't even think anymore. I ran to the bathroom and locked the door, finally. I thought I was safe but no.... Suddenly I felt like I was drowning then I realized I was floating in water now! I



unlocked the door as fast as I could. I swam up and gasped for air. I swam back down and pushed as hard as I possibly could. It finally opened, I thought it was only the bathroom filled with water and sea creatures, but no. The whole house was! I swam and swam and swam until I couldn't anymore. I needed air so I couldn't swim. I was stuck. I was so scared but it was Freddy. I pulled him off of me and swam as fast as I could swim. At last I made it out of the house in time. That was a close call. I almost didn't make it. I took one deep breath \*Gasp\* And then swam back down, down, down, down, down, down. I swam all the way to my friend's house dodging all the sea creatures. Finally, I made it after five miles of swimming. I was so tired so sore that I was on the stairs and just collapsed. I was breathing so heavily so much that I felt like my lungs were going to pop! But thankfully they didn't so I got up and we swam to the nearest rocket launcher spot. WE got in and launched it away. We were flying for a while but

eventually we made it to mars. WE thought we were finally safe and I explained it all to her. She was so confused but she calmed down a little after. Soon we saw something flying in the sky. We thought it was nothing but it was freddy! I was scared he would attack so I punched him in the nose and he fell back down to earth.

PS: Freddy is still alive and he is back to normal. However, the world is still an ocean.



Fiona J. [redacted]

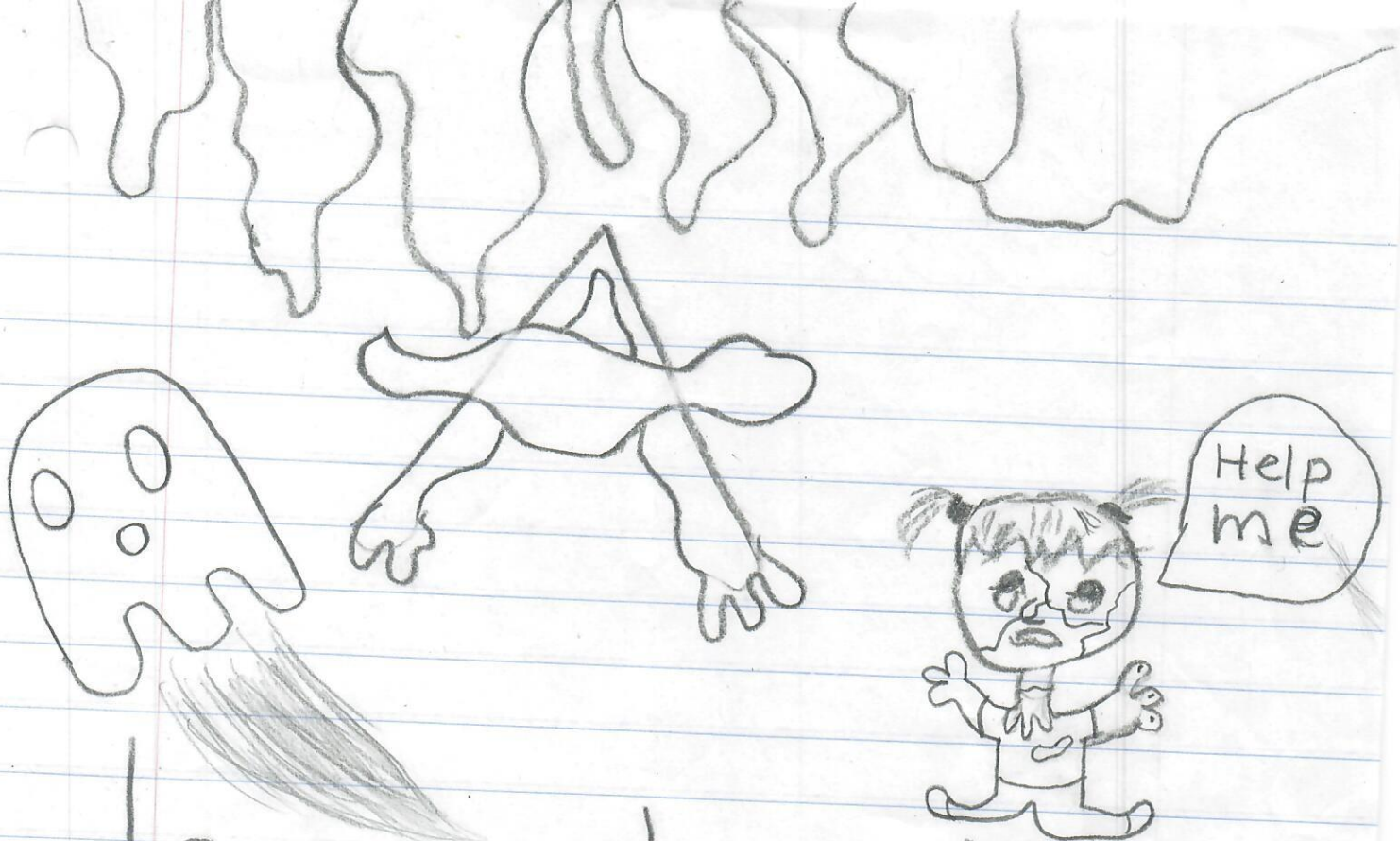
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~~7355 [redacted]~~

Colorado Springs CO 80911

[redacted]

9 yrs. / 4<sup>th</sup> grade



haunted





# Fiona

"This story all starts  
on halloween night"  
little do people know  
this night is cursed  
mooahaha" "mom!" I  
yelled "it's halloween  
night and we don't  
even have our  
costumes yet" I  
said "fine we can  
go get our costumes"  
said mom so we  
got in the car  
and started to  
drive all the sudden  
the car started to  
shake and then we  
ran over something  
so we stoped the  
car and got out  
I said "what did  
we hit!" I looked  
under the car and  
saw a creepy old  
doll I picked it up  
to show my mom



# Fiona

I said "mom! look at this thing it gives me the creeps" my mom said "uhh... maybe we can sell it?" "yeah maybe" I said so we went to the store and got out and I said "man this thing is ugly maybe we can leave it at the store" then the doll talked "your the ugly one!" I dropped the doll and ran into the store "Omg it's alive at least it can walk" then all the sudden it was crawling to mom "mom Run" I said but it was like I was in a different world because mom couldn't



# Fiona

hear me "mom"  
I said again but  
she couldn't hear  
me. the doll got  
closer and closer  
to mom I started  
to cry then the  
doll ~~and~~ took over  
and ~~said~~ "bloody mom" I  
screamed and ran  
away crying but  
the doll was following  
me I called the  
police on my phone  
and told them what  
happened and they  
said "stop doing prank  
calls, call us back  
when there's a real  
problem" and they  
hung up I was  
alone then the  
doll stopped and said  
some kind of curse  
and before I could  
speak I was died (3)

Fiona

One

100

years

later



Ki'ona

huh ha huh ha  
I gasb for a while  
said "what happen"  
Then three little  
ghost came and said  
"your one of us know  
we were all killed by  
the doll her name is  
abagal she used to  
have a little girl that  
owned her but as the  
years went by she  
got older and thought  
dolls were childish and  
she left the doll in  
the woods now she  
seeks revenge and if  
we kill her everyone  
she killed will come  
back you in" I thought  
to my self for a moment  
and said "yes" so we  
went to find her  
"there she is looking  
for more people to  
kill" we had to do (5)



# Fiona

her and tolled her to stop but she said "NO! I need my revenge on this horrible town and after all these years, it's finally my time" the doll started a curse again she said "let all those who have been forgotten rise and have revenge" all the sudden all this creepy stuff were coming towards us me and the three ghost called "Ava Macie and bricen" all ran away as fast as we could but there was no way we could survive this all of the gooles said "we all are forgotten and you will be forgotten to you can't stop us were to power full hahaha" they grabed us by the neck we could barely breath well we are ghost but if we die as a ghost well be gone forever so that's why we have to defeat them "but there to over powered" I said the ghost said "but we have something that" (6)



# Fiona

they don't have" "and what is that" the monsters ask "a family" we all said the monsters cried and started to disappear "we did it" I yelled "but why isn't the doll leaving?" I asked the ghosts "because she hasn't got her revenge" the ghosts said we ran to the big clock tower it was exactly 11:59pm at 12:00pm she will leave but come back next year we just can't let her do the spell that changes the time but she needs wolf hair to do that" the ghost said we went to the doll and said "Times up it's time for you to go back to where you belong" the doll got mad as she disappeared and said "I'll be back next year and I swear I will get my revenge" the doll said we all cheered but why aren't we back to normal yet?" I asked the ghost said (7) "See you next halloween" The end



# "Cheeseland"

By: Avery M (5th Grade)

Talbott STEAM Innovation School

August 16, 2029 Cheeseland, Wisconsin.

One day I went to the store to get some cheese. So I went to the dairy aisle and picked up sliced parmesan cheese. Little did I know, it would be the worst mistake of my life. I picked up the cheese and it came to life! It said "Hello! My name is Sean!". It quickly swayed around the shelf until it dropped to the ground.

Quickly, I rush to pick up the cheese as it says "Don't eat me!" multiple times. I buy and take home the cheese as well as other groceries I needed. When I got home, the cheese jumped out of the bag and said "Please don't eat me!", I was still freaked out so I told him "Fine, I won't. But you have to never talk again." The cheese quickly agreed and I started to prepare the lasagna. The problem was, I didn't have any cheese except for the talking slices. So I did something I would never regret.

I made sure no one was there, I locked doors, windows and setup cameras. Then I made the illegal lasagna recipe. I added white chocolate. The cameras on my head turned on. Later it would come back to bite me. I finished the base and moved onto the sauce. Tomato sauce, italian sausage, and white chocolate and said "Perfect." Finally I needed the most important ingredient in the lasagna, the cheese.

I needed cheese because I only had the talking slices, so I put them on the lasagna, popped it in the oven, wasting no time. Quickly they all started to cook and as soon as I popped it out I took a big slice and ate it. I grabbed slice after slice until I finished the lasagna. I put the tray in the sink and heard a knock. I went to open the door and the CIB was there! They put me in their car and took me to jail.

Thankfully I escaped (don't tell anyone) and am currently hiding inside of the world's largest cheese wheel and have never made lasagna again. I slowly eat the inside and weigh 150lb and climb. Quick disclaimer: NEVER ADD ANY TYPE OF CHOCOLATE TO ANY DISH INVOLVING CHEESE. THEY WILL FIND YOU.



# "The Haunted Tracfone"

By: Naia B (5th grade)

Talbott STEAM Innovation School

It was a nice Christmas morning when I woke up at 6:00 in the morning. Apparently my dad was up before me waiting on the couch with coffee in his hands. He said we should go to the Tracfone store for a Christmas present for me where I get to choose my own phone. When we got there the snow was surrounding the store, a Santa with red eye's, a sleigh that's black, and a blue sign that said "Tracfone". As soon as I got inside I ran with excitement to choose a phone. I chose my phone and went up to the store clerk to check out my phone.

When I got home my dad said not to open it until halloween, but of course I'm a child so I didn't listen and opened the phone out of its box. After opening the box, I started the phone and it started doing something weird. I was scared so I grabbed my phone. Then a while later, I started to think about the phone being haunted. The haunted phone was still acting weird.

I put my phone away where I wouldn't find it and my dad wouldn't find it. That did not stop the phone because it was back on my bed. I thought in my head "my little brother or sister put it there." I asked them but they didn't. I was really scared and it's Christmas. Now I started to think it's Santa's payback for opening the phone box before next halloween. When I came back from the kitchen to get a snack the phone was floating!

I caught the phone and thought about putting it in the shop for a week. Before I put it in the shop I wanted to see what havoc I could make, so I put the phone in the box, returned it to the shop, and the phone did what it wanted to do. Even though I never saw the phone again it still did fine on its own.

Emma

## The Dolls

Once upon a time there was a haunted house. The people left after they heard "La La La La." They recognized the sound, it was their daughter's voice. Their daughter was dead. The lights would not turn on. Suddenly dolls appeared it was again their daughter's voice, all of the dolls singing "La la la la". Next the dolls ended up at a school, it was abandoned. The dolls said, "Hi mom! Hi dad!" They couldn't believe the dolls were saying their name. When the dolls said their name again- their greatest fears came alive. They ended up at the Security Public Library with the parents and the dolls. The librarians and the parents fought a war against the dolls. There were over 1000 dolls. Bats swarmed around and everyone disappeared. To this day no one will go near the dolls or the house.

Emma K  
Age 10

101

OR

10





AHHH!

Phone number

Kyiah

Grade 5th

Jaina T. [redacted]

Age 9

Widefield Elementary School of the Arts

3040 Hopkins Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80911

[redacted]



## Emerald Eye by Jaina T

You don't break something special, do you? Something passed on for generations in your family? Do you? **DO YOU?**

I'm royalty; the people bow and pray. I am a God. My ancestors have passed on a rare emerald with an eye in its center peering out of it. We keep it in a glass case at the end of the hallway. It makes all of my family's dreams come true. It scares me but not my sisters, but it's what makes us Gods to the people. My home is solid gold and the walls are all glass. From my room, you can see every inch of my home. I admire it, it is astonishing.

One night I was about to doze off when I saw the emerald's eye move. I slammed my eyes shut so it did not see me wake. The next morning, I tried to tell my family about the eye, but they said it was a dream. The next night, while lying in my luscious bed reading a book, I caught it moving again. I kept my eyes open this time. The eye turned to my sleeping mother and sucked a black slimy tube out of her stomach.

The following day my mother was announced ill and said her stomach hurt, later that evening she passed. The next night it happened to my sisters, they passed as well. It was only me and my father left.

I've been planning all day and I must break the eye now! I grab a golden mug to break it with. I hold my breath as I walk to it. The eye is closed. I raise the key to open the glass case. I hit the emerald with my mug and only the mug shatters! I need to sleep outside. My father, even still, doesn't believe me and sleeps in the house.

I'm alone but alive. I scurry to my library to find a spell that might stop this curse, hopefully. Aha a spell, "hail mezthrs chal elv na co lana!". I hear a **LOUD, TERRIFYING** crash from the hallway, and fire is all of a sudden everywhere. I fall to the floor and everything goes dark.

I open my eyes to see I am in a dark pit. Suddenly I see a bright light shining from the emerald and I hear its booming voice, "How do thou, a God, shatter me?"

"I used a spell," I say.

"Really small God, let's see the spell shall we?"

"Where is my family!?" I shout.

"Down here with us MHAHAHAHA"

"Let them go!!" I scream.

"Don't you see? You are already with them, you fool"

Then the pit goes dark and I cannot see anything. All I can hear are sorrowful cries. There is no way out.



The ghost

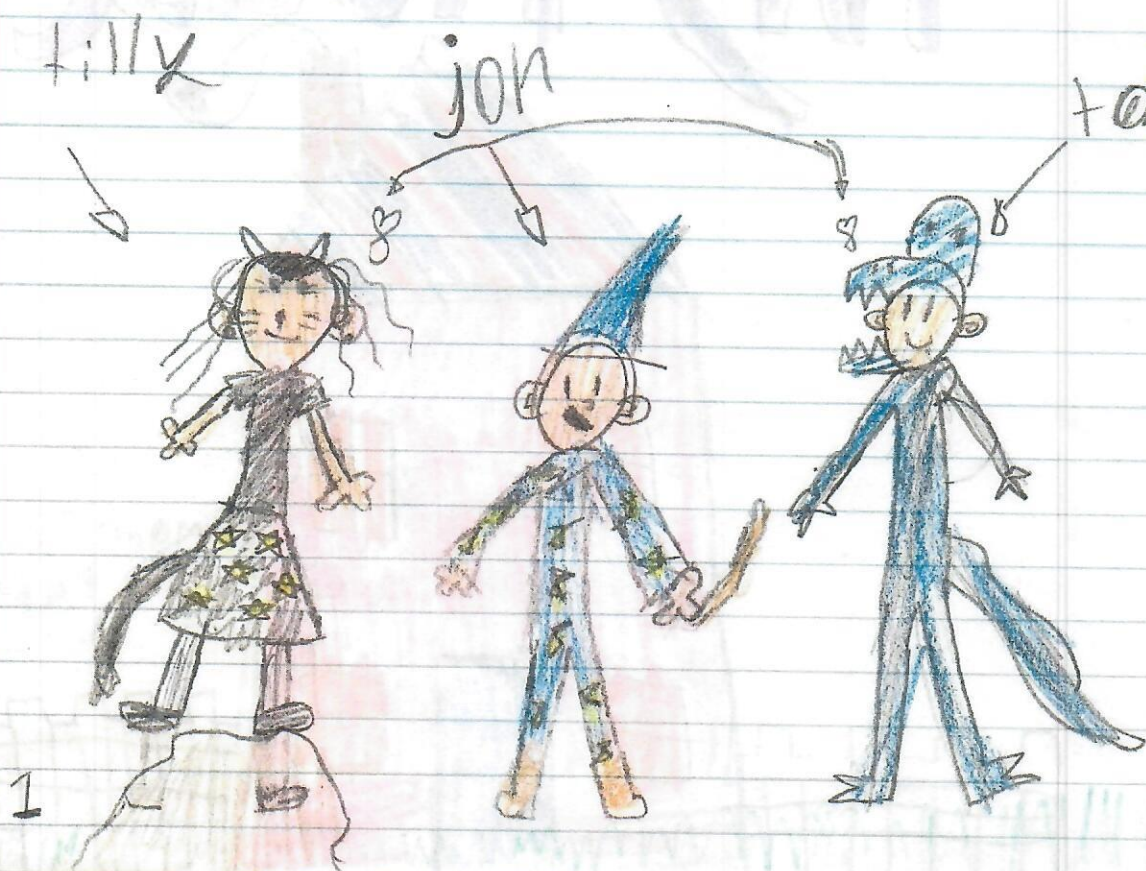
how haunted

my house



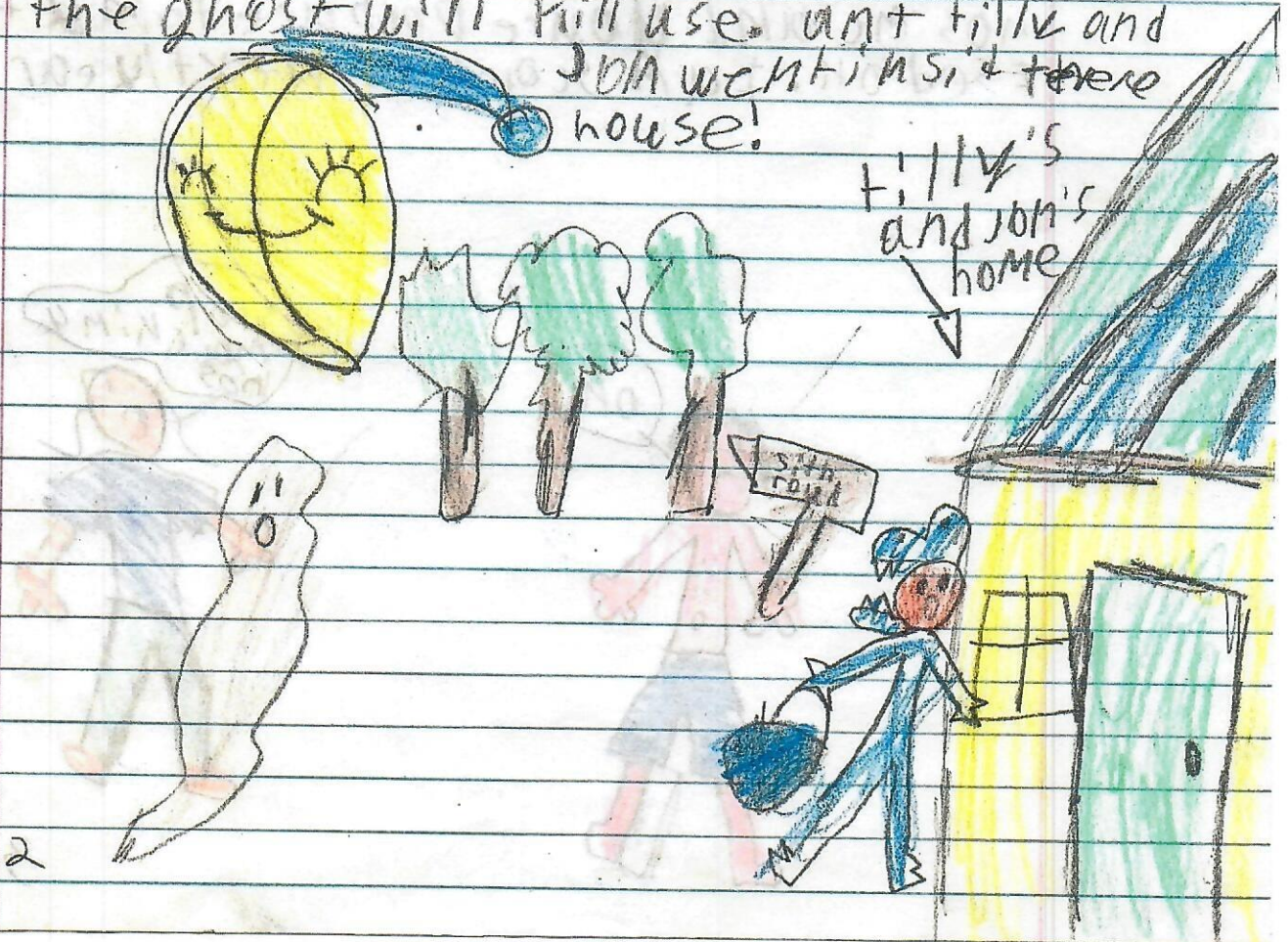


it was the night before hallowen  
and tom was really scared. he was  
wondering what his hunt his house on  
hallowing. maybe skeletons or a wolf  
maybe a ghost then he laughed and  
said that's pretty funny nothing is doing to  
hunt my house. then he went to sleep.  
the next morning tom woke up and said  
it's hallowing after school I'm going trick  
treating. But after tom left the house  
a ghost came in side to hunt his  
house for the night. when tom got to  
school he saw his friends. his friends are  
jon and tilly. tilly was a cat and jon was  
wissered and tom was a dinosaur (t-rex).





we played at nesses and then went in  
side for a surprise we went in then we  
had a 300 for our surprise. after school  
me and my friends went to my house  
for trick or treat this year. But we  
had to go in side for some roles before  
we went. the one my mom said was we  
had to go for 2.00 and do not think  
of going on with food. After all the  
roles we went but the ghost fooled us.  
we had to much fun we did not know  
that the ghost fooled us. wants we found  
out it was to late to run we were  
at a dead end of the path the only  
way was with road and we had to or  
the ghost will kill us. ant tilly and  
john went in side there  
house!





I ran so the ghost whont get me But the  
ghost tuched me and then o most killed me  
But I ran Befor it got me. It got tired  
Befor me so I was safe wen I got home  
mom was made it was 3.00 mom sed go to  
your room But then I heard out of the  
glass it was the ghost and his frends  
mom lock the door so I wont get out  
the ghost hurt me But I'm ok. But  
then I heard a plan the ghost looked at  
my mero and I was safe for now But one  
ghost srived he floated to me and sed I will  
kill you next year then he vanished.  
I was safe for 2021 I Dont know about next  
year thow then mom sed stop making  
nos me and youre gonna be triking to sleep  
I sed ok. I am scared for next year thow



## The Ghost who Haunted My House

By Tabitha P

It was the night before Halloween and Tom was really scared. He was wondering what might haunt his house on Halloween. Maybe skeletons or a wolf, maybe a ghost. Then he laughed and said, "Ha that's funny, nothing is going to haunt my house". Then he went to sleep. The next morning Tom woke up and said, "It's Halloween, after school I am going trick or treating". But after Tom left the house the ghost came inside to haunt his house for the night. When Tom got to school he saw his friends. His friends are Jon and Tilly. Tilly was a cat and Jon was a wizard and Tom is a dinosaur/T-Rex.

We played at recess and then we went inside. After school me and my friends went to my house for trick or treating this year. But we had to go inside for some rules. Rule #1, mom said be back before 2 o'clock and do not go on Sith Road. After all the rules we went to trick or treat but the ghost followed us. We did not know that the ghost followed us because we had so much fun. We found out it was too late to run. We were at the dead end of the path, the only way was Sith Road. We had to run into Sith Road. The ghost followed us and there was no way out.

We ran so the ghost wouldn't get us. The ghost touched me and I almost hurt myself, but I ran before it got me. It got tired before me so I was safe. I got home and mom was mad, it was 3 o'clock. Mom said, "Go to your room!", but I heard a tap on the window, it was the ghost and its friends! Mom locked the door so I wouldn't get out. The ghost almost hurt me again but then I thought of a plan. I found a mirror and it hurt the ghost. Then the ghost got away because it was the end of Halloween. Mom came down and said, "You are in big trouble, me and your Dad are trying to sleep!" I said, "Ok, but I'm scared for next year".

The End



# Duolingo Chase

This was written by a child

By: Alyson S.

---

Olivia ducked behind the counter. The lights were turned off and they were hiding for their own lives. They had been shopping for the very last time before they moved. Her dad stayed at their house packing, her older sister, Aubriana, helping shop with them. It was mostly normal. But there was more security than normal. Armed. She had seen the news, it was because there was a creature sighting at the same mall. The one she was about to walk into. The thought made her shiver. The sighting was a week ago, a green bird-like thing. The lights turned off before the appearance. The newscast wasn't even sure what it was. Her, her mom, and sister were now entering the mall. She could tell something was off.

There was more people than normal. Some fancy clothing store sale. Oliva whispered to her sister, "I think something's off." She knew it was weird to tell Aubriana, but she was worried. Her sister nodded. They were getting new shoes. The lights flickered. She told her mom that something was off. Her mom also nodded. They all agreed. The lights flickered again. But they turned off for a minute now. Her mom said, "We should get out now." They walked to the exit when the lights turned off fully. Oliva knew. She and Aubriana ran into a store. Oliva ducked behind the counter. Her sister following. They were now hiding for their own lives. The creature appeared. Aubriana said quietly, "It's Duolingo." One of Oliva's friend Ben screamed. He vanished. The Duolingo bird said, "It's time for Spanish or vanish!" Oliva shivered. It was deadly now. She watched somebody try to run out. The door was locked. They also vanished. The bird held up 3 items. A key, flowers, and a hat. They had to find the items to live. Oliva felt something brush her arm. It was her friend! It was her friend Logan from school. Oliva was surprised. Duolingo disappeared.





So Oliva figured that they had to find the items.  
Logan got up. The lights stayed off. Oliva mom got

up. Oliva heard something. Someone had found the first item.  
For the first time, Oliva had hope. The second item was

Found easily, the third not so much. Oliva heard a alarm go off.  
Daalingo appeared and said, "Welp, times up. you know what happens

Suddenly, two people dissapered. Oliva ducked down with  
Logan. Dao kept Attacking people. Oliva stood up and looked at

dao. He turned Around and looked at her. Logan went  
beside her. Dao got mad and tride to attack Oliva. Just

before he hit her Logan jumped in front. Just  
then Logan dissaped and Dao did too. The lights

turned on and police burst in. Oliva just stood  
there. Logan was gone. Her, her mom and sister

walked out. Police closed the mall and  
evry one walked out. Oliva saw her dad and ran

to him. He said, "Are you okay?" Oliva resposed, "Yes."  
They left and the story was all over the  
news.

# The End



## The Unforgivable

By: Mariah O

5th Grade Age:11 French Elementary

Sept 15 1993

It was just me, Ben, Rome, Ray, and Auggie. The summer had just started and we planned to have a great time. Ben pushed the big blue doors open and the sunny breeze hit my forehead giving me a good tingling sensation. Ray waved to us and went to his bus. Ray has ridden the bus every since 3rd grade. His mother doesn't like him to walk home and ever since kids started going missing she started getting extra protective over Ray. Ray tries to convince his mother to hang out with us but his mother is always too scared he'll go missing too. Leading Ray to sneak out. Ben and Auggie smiled at Ray then looked back at me and Rome. Rome and I have been friends since forever. His mother has always been great friends with Rome's mom. That's how we became friends in the first place. He was 6 and I was only 5. Now I'm 13 and Rome is 14. Rome is the oldest out of the five of us. Auggie walked over to the trashcan near the school's entrance and dumped his bag. Including the summer packet our teacher handed out for us to do over the summer. Auggie wasn't the smartest when it came to school. While Ben was the sweetheart of the school. What's surprising is that Auggie and Ben are like two peas in a pod. "I should start heading home. It's getting late and mom wants me back right after school." Rome said. "Alright cya Rome!" Ben called out while me and Auggie waved goodbye. Me, Ben, and Auggie started to head home. Auggie always walked with me and Ben home even though he lived a minute away from school. Of course I didn't mind except the fact I have to deal with his jokes once Ben is gone. We walked towards Ben home and he ran to his porch and looked behind so he could wave goodbye to us. Once Ben stepped inside we carried on walking to my house. "Hey Oscar! Why don't they play poker in the jungle?" Auggie said, breaking the silence between the two of us. "Why Auggie." I muttered. "Because there's too many cheetahs!" Auggie chuckled at his own joke. Auggie was the jokester in the group except he wasn't all that funny. Auggie looked down at the floor seeing I wasn't amused. I could see a clear view of my house and I couldn't be happier. I ran towards my house while Auggie walked behind. Auggie waved and went on his way. I felt a bit of remorse knowing that Auggie was just trying to make me laugh and I could've done the bare minimum of laughing but I just didn't have the energy to be happy at the time. I took a deep breath and walked inside seeing my mother on the couch eating leftovers from last night. She didn't bother to tell me hi, which didn't bother me. I walked upstairs to my bedroom and walked past my sister's room feeling a sharp pain in my heart remembering when she went missing. When I got to my door I pushed my door open walking inside and quietly closing the door behind me. I dropped my backpack and jumped on my bed face first. I slammed my head into my pillow and stayed quiet for a minute. Then I picked up my head and laid the pillow against my bed frame. I turned my body to face the ceiling not knowing how to feel after the incident. I could never let go of how she went missing. A tear drop ran down my face as I covered my mouth to muffle out my cries. My family didn't like loud noises in their home and my walls were very thin so you could hear a pin drop. I wiped my tears and just layed in my bed shutting my eyes closed. Soon I drifted asleep. I dreamed of flashbacks of my sister and how she used to nuzzle her head in my leg when she was little. Then, I had a dream. The dream that terrified me everyday. It was a dream of a lady that floated above the ground. The same thing always happened when she would take off her hood revealing a raggy white dress with poet sleeves and a gypsy looking skirt. Her hair was wavy and black. Her cracked lips bled and her boney torso made my spine shiver. I would be paralyzed in bed and she would walk up to me and smile slightly brushing my hair. Then her smile would fade and she would



## The Unforgivable

By: Mariah O. 5th Grade Age: 11 French Elementary

start screaming. This time it was different. Instead of screaming she stood there with a frown then put her boney hand on my cheek cupping my face. She bended down towards my ear and whispered "Your next.." Those words had me frightened to the core. She let go of my cheek and stood up straight. She took one last look and started screaming. I woke up fastly sweating and panting. I checked the time on my clock and it was 2:52am the same time I always woke up. Which probably explained my dark eyes bags. I wiped my sweat and got up to wash my face in the bathroom. I opened the door to my room. It was pitch black and I couldn't see a thing. I put my fingers on the bumpy wallpaper and guided myself to the restroom. Once my finger hit the door frame I looked for a light switch flicking it on. I walked into the bathroom and closed the door behind me. I looked in the mirror and saw dried drool and tears on my face. I turned on the faucet and splashed water on my face. It was at a freezing temperature. The water dripped down my face on my clothes to the floor. I grabbed a rag and dropped it on the floor and wiped the water. I threw the rag in the hamper and went out of the restroom. Before I walked to my room I walked into my sisters. I grabbed one of the family photo books. Natalie was so talented she was only six when she went missing. She had run from home thinking it was a joke. She ran into the woods with mom and dad chasing after her. We had a search party of 30 people, all looking for her but the only thing they spotted was her favorite buttoned eyed doll. It had dirt and her scent on it. I still sleep with it today. I flipped through the pages of the book then I got to one with a big picture of her smiling. I chuckled at how sweet she looked. Then the pages started flipping by themselves and I dropped the book frightened by the unusual act. It landed on a page with an article about my missing sister. Who would put that in there? It had a picture of the woods she went missing in. There was just one thing added. It was the ghost I kept seeing in my dreams. I slammed the book closed then black goo oozed out the book. I scurried out her room and shut it behind me forgetting my parents were asleep. The sun was starting to rise and I quickly got to my room and jumped into bed. I shoved the covers over my head and I felt a breeze go down my neck. I turned my head to spot nothing. I was breathing heavily and hugging my sister's doll close to me. The sun hovered over me. I took a deep breath and took the blanket off my head. I climbed out of bed and grabbed my new Nokia. It worked better than my computer. I shaked while dialing Auggies number. Auggie was a morning person and was always awake. Even though I wont admit it to him, sometimes his jokes made me happy. Beep Beep Beep! I stood holding the phone waiting for Auggie to answer. Auggie finally picked up the cellphone and he sounded tired. "What do you need Oscar?" Auggie mumbled. "I was just checking up on you.. Hey wanna go to the lake later? With the group so we can talk and stuff?" I asked. "Sure I guess I'll tell the others to meet at 3pm." He replied. Beep... He hung up before I could tell him anything about my dream. I grabbed a plain gray sweatshirt and dark blue jeans then put them on. I grabbed a brown belt and wrapped it around my jeans. I grabbed a pair of mismatched black and blue socks then quickly slipped them on my foot. I darted out the door and swooshed down the stairs swiftly. Both my parents were out for work so I was home alone. I grabbed a cereal box called "Wheaties". It was pretty disgusting but I had to eat something. I grabbed a glass bowl and poured the cereal in. I grabbed the milk and poured the last bit out. I closed the fridge with my foot and tossed the milk away. I picked up a silver spoon and took a big scoop of my cereal and put it in my mouth. I switched on the tiny tv and it played the news. The girl speaking looked so great her hair was put up into a bun and she had a clipboard in her hand. She was talking about all the missing children that had gone missing since last month.



## The Unforgivable

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One kid caught my eye because he was one of the kids that picked on Auggie. I will never forget that kid especially after he punched Auggie in the eye leaving him with a big black eye. I slurped the leftover milk in the bowl and wiped my mouth clean. I slowly put my bowl in the sink and looked at the time. 10:56 perfect timing. I ran out the door and opened the garage door and grabbed my old bike. I haven't rode the old thing in almost a month. My father said he would get me a new bike but he says that a lot and can never commit. I drifted down the driveway and rode around the neighborhood. I checked my cracked palm tree watch and the time was 11:01. I sighed because time was going slower than a snail. I went in circles until about 12:34 then stopped. I was all sweaty and tired. I wiped the sweat off my face and got back to riding on my bike. This time I head to the park. I was riding down the bumpy concrete then fell. The same ghost popped in front of me. I was in front of a road and a car came. I closed my eyes but as soon as I opened my eyes the car was gone. I looked at where the ghost originally was but she was gone. I stood up and wiped my dirty knees. I had a couple cuts on my arm but I wasn't harmed as much as I thought. I grabbed my bike and got back on still heading to the park even after the traumatizing incident. I put my foot on the floor and tried to stop myself in front of a bike parking rack. I pulled my bike lock out of the basket attached to the bike in front. I clipped the bike lock to the bike and rack. I walked towards the lake nearby the park and sat on a soggy rock. I put my hand on my chin and waited for everyone to arrive. I sighed looking at the time every minute. 12:57, 12:58, 12:59, 1:00. I grabbed a pen out of my pocket and drew a smiley face on my hand. I doodled words and sketches on my hand. I always drew on my hand when I was anxious. I got on my knees close to the lake and looked down to see my reflection. I smiled at my reflection while my curly long hair got in my face. I closed my eyes for a second then something grabbed me and pulled me underwater. My mouth was swallowing water constantly and I felt numb like I was dying. I opened my eyes to see the ghost. She frowned at me and grabbed my ankle. I pushed up trying to get a grip of dry land. I kicked her boney hand off of me and swam up. "Oscar what happened to you? It looks like you just saw a ghost! Also why are you soaking wet?" Ben asked. "Long story." I replied. I coughed out water and got on my feet. I shook Ben's hand and sat back on the same rock. Ben grabbed my scratched arm and looked at my ankle. "Woah man! Did a dog attack you?" Ben questioned. I shook my head and looked down. If only he knew what I had just seen. I took a deep breath and turned around. Rome, Ray, and Auggie stood behind me and Ben. Auggie's eyes were wide open. Ray was speechless. I pushed my hair behind my ear and looked down. "Uhm well... I had a bad dream last night." Auggie said, breaking the awkward silence. Everybody turned to him and I scrunched up my nose. "So did I." I replied. Ben looked away pretending he didn't hear. Rome looked at Auggie like he did too. Rome just stood there silent. "What was it about?" Auggie asked. I didn't want to call the woman a ghost because she could still touch me so I had to call it something else where Auggie would understand. "A demon. It was a woman. She had a boney torso and sharp nails. Her lips bled and she grabbed my face." I muttered. Auggie looked down. "I had a dream about walls closing in on me." Rome suddenly said. Auggie looked up and squinted his eyes like he was interested. Ray adjusted his glasses and fluttered his eyes. Everybody was silent. "Did everyone have bad dreams?" Auggie questioned. Ben looked back and nodded, so did everyone else. Ray walked by the lake and looked down. Suddenly Ray fell to the ground and started frantically breathing. "Ray what's wrong!" Rome asked in a worried tone. All Ray did was point to the lake. Rome slowly walked over and bent down. "There's nothing there Ray?" Rome



## The Unforgivable

By: Mariah O s 5th Grade Age:11 French Elementary

said before getting grabbed into the water. Ben jumped in after him diving down. "What just happened!" Auggie yelled. I splashed into the lake and went down. I swam closer to the bottom. Ben swam in front of me trying to reach Rome's hand, I tried to yell but water just got into my mouth. I desperately tried to swim back up feeling my lungs closing. Auggie and Ray jumped in after me. Auggie grabbed me and swam towards the surface while Ray went down with the others. Me and Auggie both gasped catching our breath. I choked on the horrible tasting water then went back down. Auggie yelled for me to stop but it was too late I was already going down. Rome grabbed onto a metal part connected to the sewers but got swooped in. Ben got swooped in too. I grabbed Ray's arm to try and stop the force from getting him but got swept in too. I fell on a shallow part of the water but I wasn't underwater. Auggie fell on top of me while water dripped on the shallow puddle. Drip drip drip. I pushed Auggie off of me and got up. There was an exit right in front of us so I walked towards it. I climbed out and looked up. We were on a completely different side of the lake. I pulled Auggie and Rome out all of us rapidly breathing. "I'm going home! It's summer were supposed to be having fun! This is not fun!" Ray said while walking off his clothes still dripping. Ben looked horrified like he saw something while going down. I put my hand on his shoulder and said "It's probably just the water flowing, nothing cursed..." I tried to calm him down by massaging his shoulder but he brushed me off. "This is no coincidence Oscar this is something else! It's your fault we're all here I'm going home!" Ben yelled. I never heard Ben yell before, especially not at one of his friends. Auggie looked at Ben then back at me and bit his tongue. I was praying Auggie would say one of his corny jokes and make everyone laugh but it looked like his energy was all gone. Ben turned around and stomped away. Auggie gave me a side smile while I just frowned. Maybe Ben was right, maybe it was my fault. "I'm sorry guys, you can head home." I said while walking towards where we were originally. Auggie and Rome stayed silent while Auggie grabbed his backpack. He checked the front pocket and pulled a crumbled \$23. "You guys want a snack?" Auggie asked. Rome nodded and I did too. Maybe it would steer me away from the fact that that ghost was still there waiting for us. I felt a pair of eyes on me but not Auggie's or Rome's. I touched the back of my neck and felt goosebumps down my neck. A breeze brushed on my neck but I ignored the signs. We all walked over to the nearest filling station. We pushed the door open and the filling station employee looked at us like we just escaped from jail. Rome grabbed a pack of Dunkaroos and Auggie grabbed a Viennetta. "Grab something Oscar, I still have 11\$ left!" Auggie said. I grabbed a small bag of Fritos and walked to the check out. "You kids okay? Where's your parents?" The clerk asked. "In the car." Auggie pointed to a random parked car. "Mhm..." The clerk hummed. Auggie slipped \$19 on the counter. The clerk gave Auggie a dirty look and put the \$19 in the cashier. "You want a bag?" The clerk snickered. "No ma'am." Rome interrupted Auggie. The clerk pushed the snacks towards us. Rome snatched the snacks and gave the clerk a "I don't like you" look and scrunched up his nose. Auggie chuckled at his expression while going outside. Auggie shoved the Viennetta down his throat and Rome popped open the Dunkaroo. I popped the chips and Fritos flew in Auggie's fluffy hair. He brushed the Fritos off of his hair. We walked over to the nearby bench by the park. Rome slowly ate his Dunkaroos. I looked up at the sky and chugged down the chips. I tossed the chips in the trash and so did Rome. "My house tonight?" Auggie asked, "Sure." Rome replied. "Sure as long as I get to pick what we watch." I said. Auggie sighed and agreed. We biked over to Auggie's house and walked inside. We went into the long hallway and took a right to his room. His room had



## The Unforgivable

By: Mariah C

5th Grade Age:11 French Elementary

about twelve Micheal Jackson posters on his wall. Auggie was a geek. He liked nerdy stuff but never admitted it. One time he went through a Mariah Carey phase. We still tease him about it because he was so obsessed. Auggies room was messy and smelled like LemonHead candies. Rome plugged his nose from the sour smell. Auggie grabbed a perfume that he stole from his mom and sprayed it. "That doesn't change anything Auggie." Rome said "I tried!" Auggie replied. I laughed at how funny Rome and Auggie were together. Rome and Auggie are like frenemies. Around Ben there is more softness. Auggie and Rome were annoying but I never really cared. We all had something alike, that one thing was we were all very weird. Auggie grabbed three sleeping bags and laid them out. Whenever we stayed at Auggie's house we always slept on his carpet. I got into my sleeping bag and looked up at his glowing stars on his ceiling. "You're really going to sleep this early?" Auggie asked. I got up and looked at him with a confused look. He pushed a button on the tv and it showed a horror movie. Rome stood up and walked out the room. "Wait up Rome!" Auggie yelled following behind him. Rome absolutely despised horror movies and Auggie knew. Once the two were gone I layed back down. I turned myself around so I was facing Auggies closet. "Help me Oscar! She's got me!" A voice yelled from Auggies' closet. It sounded like Natalie. I hopped out of the sleeping bag and crawled back. A hand gripped on the closet door. "Help!" The voice said before getting grabbed in leaving a scratch mark on Auggies closet. A foot stepped out the closet with a raggedy flowered dress. The figure had scratch marks and bites on her arm. Her tangled hair dangled down to her waist. The figure looked up and it was Natalie. She had tears on her eyes and she looked like she hadn't eaten for months. She was pale and looked deceased. "Why didn't you come? Why didn't you help me? You killed me." She murmured. I crawled back more and now my back was against the wall. Natalie walked towards me limping on her left leg because of all of the cuts. She reached her arm out to grab me and I shut my eyes and covered my ears. "It's not real! It's not real!" I shouted. "Oscar, wake up! Oscar!" I heard a small voice shout. I shot up from the sleeping bag and I was sweating all over. Auggie had his hand on my shoulder with a worried look like he actually cared. I looked back at the closet and saw the scratch mark. "What happened?" Rome asked. I shook my head not knowing how to explain to them. I was drenched in sweat and I think I peed myself a bit. I got up from the sleeping bag and whipped the sweat from my head. "I think I'm gonna go home.." Auggie looked at me with sad eyes and bit his lip slightly. "Already?" Rome asked. I nodded "Today is just not my day Rome.." I sighed and rolled up the sleeping bag. I handed Auggie the sleeping bag and walked out his bedroom door. "I can walk you home!" Auggie yelled behind me. I turned around and shook my head scared that if I went missing that night so would Auggie. I walked down his dark hallway to the front door and unlocked the door. I shut the door behind me and walked towards my bike. I grabbed it and rode down his driveway. The house lights all dimmed down and everything was dark. I turned on my bike light. It flickered on just enough for me to see where I was going. I had memorized how to get back home just in case I had ever got lost. A warm breeze constantly hit my face and my long curly hair flew around my face completely free. I took a turn down the street and I saw my street sign. I took a turn down my block and saw my house close by. I pulled into the driveway and parked my bike. I ran inside my home hoping to see a plate of food on the table but once I was in the house it was dark and quiet. I switched on the light but nothing turned on. The power had gone out and my parents weren't home. My father always fixed the lights but this time he was gone. No light or stars in the sky made everything dark. I trailed my fingers through the



## The Unforgivable

By: Mariah O : 5th Grade Age:11 French Elementary

wallpaper to the kitchen. I grabbed around to find the drawer with all our flashlights. I grabbed one handle and pulled it open. Kitchen utensils. I sighed and went to the next drawer. Nothing. I went to the last drawer and reached my hand in. Gotcha. I flicked the button and the bright light blinded me. I pointed the flashlight at the basement door and slowly walked closer and closer to the door. The floor creaked with each footstep. I reached my hand towards the door and grabbed the handle. I twisted the handle and wiggled the door open. It creaked loudly and it smelled like rotten pie. I took a deep breath and stepped downstairs. Fortunately, the breaker box was right by the stairs so I flicked on the lights. Nothing turned on. I flicked it on again and nothing happened. Suddenly the door started slowly closing. I ran up the stairs to catch the door but it shut. I went back to the breaker box and pulled the light above me. Nothing. I tried flicking on the lights again and a little light appeared in the door crack. I made a side smile and climbed upstairs. I looked back one more time and saw a pair of eyes. My eyes grew as big as a dinner plate. I slammed the door open and fell inside. I shut the door behind me and ran to the kitchen. I grabbed a spatula and pointed it at the door and waited. After about five minutes I put the kitchen utensil down slowly and walked towards the fridge. I swung open the door and grabbed a cheese stick. I pulled open the tab and took a bite. I shut off the kitchen lights and ran upstairs. I opened my door and closed it behind me. I took a deep breath and smelled the lovely aroma of roses. My sketchbook was on my desk and I grabbed the book. I grabbed a pencil and started sketching. I got off track and started sketching my deceased sister. I drew what she looked like in the closet. Creak... The door opened and it was my mom. "We're home honey. How was your day?" She closed the door behind her and sat down on my bed. I put my hand on my chin and sighed. "It was alright mom." I said. She gave a side smile and patted my back. She stood up and walked towards the door. Before she walked away she said something "Goodnight sweetheart. I love you." I smiled at her saying that. It was rare to hear something like that come out her mouth. My mothers voice soothed me and I felt the anticipation and boulders weigh off my chest. I climbed out of bed and headed to my closet. I opened the two white doors and pulled a matching pair of pajamas. I pulled off the clothes I was wearing and slipped on the pajamas. I felt my eyes get heavy and I got more tired. It was a long day today saying I had just made my friends furious with me. Might as well go to sleep. I shut my eyes tightly and put my hands together. I prayed and I prayed until I felt safe in my room. I hoped that whatever was after me was just a part of growing up and it would go away. "Amen" I finished off and breathed out. The next morning I woke up confused. It was already the afternoon and I didnt even have one night terror that night. My mother and father had already left for work and it was just me. I changed into a red t-shirt with dark blue jeans. Ding dong! The doorbell rang and ran downstairs. I opened the door even though I was forbidden to but it just felt like the right thing to do when someone rings the doorbell. It was Ben. I had thought I was the last person he would want to see. My long curly hair was more messy than before even though I thought it was impossible saying my hair was already messy. Ben quickly walked inside. "Welcome?" I said after he pushed me aside. I noticed Ben had his nerdy backpack with all these old newspapers and crime records. He slammed his book on the kitchen counter and sat on one of the wood stools. He pulled out all his geek things and laid them out like some psycho. "Ben, what are you doing? I thought you were going to go enjoy your summer?" I asked him. He just shook his head and kept rapidly placing things on the counter looking very serious. I raised one eyebrow and walked over to him. I looked over his shoulder and saw Auggie's bully, Natalie, and a group of



## The Unforgivable

By: Mariah C ; 5th Grade Age:11 French Elementary

teenagers that looked the same as all of our group. He slammed his finger down on the picture of the teenagers. "There are the missing kids! They all talked about having night terrors about a woman and then they all went missing!" Ben stuttered while speaking even though he never stuttered he was one of the smoothest talkers. He had a worried look on his face that looked real. I gave him a doubting face because it was probably just a stupid conspericy theory. Ben's biggest fear is going missing and no one noticing. I took a closer look at all the photos and noticed something written beside the picture. Before the teen boys died they were all smiling. That was no coincidence. I kept looking to see if there was anything else. I looked at the words written in the newspapers and saw that there were only six boys. I chuckled relieved. "Impossible there were six not five! It's alright Benny!" I patted him on the shoulder and he breathed out a sigh of relief. "Ray wanted to meet up again so I told him too." Ben told me. "Great when?" I asked "Right now." He replied. He went out the door and got on his bike. He put his medium length wavy California hair up in a tiny bun. I ran after him and got on my bike. "Catch up slow poke." Ben told me. Ben was always athletic but never boasted about it so I was a bit offended saying I was a lazy kid who liked sleeping in school. We rode over to where we always met which was at a broken down treehouse that could fall anytime with no warning. Everyone was already there and I got off my bike. There was a problem though. Ray brought someone another boy our age. I scratched my eyes and looked again. Nope still there. "This is Gale." Ray introduced Gale to everyone. Ben completely froze and his face turned pale. No way this could be happening, it was just a coincidence right? Right? I smiled slightly and shook his hand. Ben shook his hand quickly then let go. I think everyone was uncomfortable in that situation. Ben couldn't look anyone else in the eye. It was like he saw a demon. We were all just a bunch of teenages boys all scared of the one thing after us. The unforgivable demon that would soon haunt us for our entire lives. Although all of us were too wimpy to say we all saw the woman I knew in my heart and soul that everyone must have seen, even Gale. It was like we had all done something to deserve it. I just couldn't understand what. I had a knot in my stomach the whole time. I just knew it had to do something with all of us. I had to bring it up somehow. I just didn't know what to say. Maybe I was overthinking all of it and this all could just be fake but I had to know so I know all those years I have felt guilty of my sister it was never my fault. I just had to know I just had to feel better about the whole situation. I took a deep breath and climbed into the treehouse and so did everyone else. It was clustered with a bunch of old and new comics like X-Men. We all started to do our own things and walk around the tiny cramped room. Rome stood outside because he wasn't very fond of tight enclosed places like the treehouse. Ben handed Rome some comics and everyone just chilled. Auggie, Ray, and Gale all shared their interest while Ben and I just stood around. My mind was swirling with thoughts of how to tell them. Instead of having a train of thoughts I had a beehive of thoughts. Constantly getting off track and spacing out whenever I couldnt remember what I was going to say. Rome had a scared look on his face but I couldn't tell what was going on. I thought hard and put my hand on my cheek. I leaned myself against the wall and wondered. My mind was like an adult trying to learn about income taxes. Completely confused. The boys talking started to fade and they soon turned into muffled voices. "Tell Them." A voice whispered. I looked up like a superhero and I was ready to tell them forever, turning our great summer into a living horror scene that we would never forget. "All of us saw the woman. Didn't we?" I spoke up. Everyone stopped and looked at me. I gulped then said it again "The woman in our dreams and



## The Unforgivable

By: Mariah O 5th Grade Age:11 French Elementary

maybe even outside of them. The woman that uses our fears against us. You all saw it right? At Least that's what I think." I said more loud and clear making sure they wouldn't be able to ignore me this time. Rome dropped the comic and looked pale. He clenched his jaw and looked me straight in the eye concerned. Ben nodded and so did Rome. Ray put the comic down and nodded. Gale just stared at everyone else. Gale then said, "I did. How did you know?" "We all did." Ben replied. Rome popped his knuckles and had an unhappy expression on his face. Ray covered his ears denying the fact that his summer that was going great was about to end. "This is all fake, you've been watching too much horror!" Ray talked with genuine horror like he knew it was true and just couldn't accept it. I knew deep down that everything was not okay. "Anyways." Gale added. I climbed out of the treehouse and went to Rome. He looked a bit more calm then when I brought up the woman. "How did you know? What did you see?" Rome asked. "I thought we all saw the same thing?" I asked. He shook his head "I was in a glass room. It was in my dreams the walls closed in and then I saw her. She banged her head on the wall then right when she broke the glass I awoke. It felt all so real." Rome spoke with such detail it felt real. "She was in my dreams too. I would be layed down and she would touch my face with her boney white hands. Once I even saw her outside of my dreams she was in Natalie's old scrapbook." I said trying to explain just as well as Rome. "We still all saw her right? Just in different ways." Rome put his palm on his chin and hummed looking concentrated. I couldn't help but notice how everyone freezes when I say it. We all had one thing in common: we were all scared of something. I just had to figure out what? Maybe if we all see what our fear is, maybe we can fight it. Maybe we can even face it. I just needed to find where she would be like a power source to the monster. "What about the forest? Most missing kids were last seen in the woods." Rome said. I looked down realizing he could be right. The woods my sister was last seen had caves and holes that were really deep that could be a hiding place for the demon. As it got later and later Gale's mother wanted him home by 5:00pm but it was already 6:03pm Gale had just realized and had to jog home. Everybody was chilling by a nearby lake and Auggie actually got in. He took off his blue flip flops and jumped in. His baggy brown pants sagged and his blue flannel shirt was drenched in water. He splashed water at Ben to annoy him and Ben splashed him back. I felt a cold breathe on the back of my neck and I looked back. The woods were just on the other side of the river and I felt something calling me. Soon I was no longer in control of my body. I walked towards the woods and it felt like something was controlling me. The magnetic power overpowered me and I felt numb. "Come closer Oscar boy..." The voice called. "Save me! Help!" The voice echoed. "Come." The voice said with a booming voice. I slumped my leg and walked closer and closer to the voice. My family stood there. Natalie, me, mom, and dad all looked rotten to the core. Our faces looked torn and Natalie looked the same as she was in the closet. A tear rolled down my eyes and I ran towards Natalie. Then her frown slowly faded into a smile. A deep skin crawling smile. I stopped right before I fell into a deep well. "Oscar!" Rome yelled behind me. I turned around fast and had red eyes. "D-down there! Natalie is down there! Everyone is down there!" I exclaimed. Everyone looked at me iike I was some maniac. "Oscar what are you saying?" Auggie asked. I looked down the well and gulped "She's down there I know it they told me." I said. Auggie looked down the well "There's nothing down there except rock and stone." He said, flashing a flashlight. "Throw it down." Ben said. Auggie looked back with a confused face "What? No way!" He exclaimed. Ben grabbed the flashlight and dropped it down. It thumped on the rocks until we heard a thump. The light still



## The Unforgivable

By: Mariah O s 5th Grade Age:11 French Elementary

worked and we could see the bottom. "See nothing and now you wasted my flashlight too!" Auggie said angrily. Ben bit his lip thinking hard. "Why don't we go down?" Ray said. "Are you out of your mind? It's already night and most of the kids went missing at night! My mom wants me home right now!" Rome explained. Ben shrugged, "I'm up for it." I shook my head. "We need everyone." I said. Tomorrow morning everyone would meet up at the same spot at the same time just in case anything happened. Everyone biked home while me and Ben stayed behind looking down. "I guess I should head home." Ben said. I nodded and waved while he grabbed his bike and rode off. I still stood there looking down. Then something grabbed the flashlight and pointed towards its face. Natalie stood there smiling a blood curdling smile. Her smile grew bigger and bigger, stretching her face. All her teeth had been shown and I fell back. I crawled back and she flashed the flashlight up. The light faded through the hole it flashed off in a blink. None of this felt real, it was scary though. I picked myself up and started running. I ran until I saw light and I ran towards the light. Soon I was in the streets running for dear life feeling something behind me. I had completely forgotten my bike at the lake but it didn't really matter at the time. What mattered is my life being taken by this random demon that likes children! My street name was nowhere to be found and I ran out of breath. I stopped myself and looked back. Nothing but pure darkness felt like a fever dream. I started walking on the road feeling my legs get limp and my eyes get heavier. I jogged until I found a familiar sign signaling I was closer to home. My cold breath wooshed in the air looking like smoke. Brrr.. It felt so real but so fake at the same time. Soon enough I was finally home. My curly hair sprung up. I made a side smile seeing the lights on. I slumped inside and my parents sat at the couch watching tv. Mom got up and crossed her arms. She looked mad. She straightened up and walked towards me. "Where were you? I was worried sick! I thought you turned out like your sister and her foolish actions!" She boomed. I turned sturn. "What?" She got even angrier "Excuse me young man? I said don't turn out like your idiotic sister!" She scolded. I scrunched up my knuckles ``She was not foolish! She was only six!" My mother yelled "Go to your room mister!" That was it I snapped. I pushed my mother aside and she ran after me screaming I ran faster though. I crawled up the stairs and ran to my room. "Get back here boy!" My father yelled from down the stairs. I ran into my room and shut the door. I had no lock so I pushed my little wardrobe in front of my door. Bang bang bang! I could hear them yelling clearly. I covered my eyes and cried. I cried out loud this time having trouble breathing. I ran into my bed and covered my head with a pillow hoping for the screaming to stop hoping to just stop it all right now hoping to just run away. Dreaming of a world where there were no problems and everything was fine. I drifted off to sleep with the banging still going on. Whenever I woke up the tears had already dried and I got out of bed. I had slept in my clothes and my shoes. I jumped out of bed and checked the time at 2:34pm. Oh no. I hopped over to my closet and pulled out a white spaghetti strap shirt and a red zip up jacket with jeans. I took off my shoes to make it easier to put on my clothes. I slipped off my old clothes and tossed them in my laundry basket. I slipped on my new clothes and grabbed a pair of shoes I had never worn before. They were black with a tint of red on the sides. I grabbed a backpack and packed it with a flashlight, pocket knife, snacks, water, and extra batteries for my flashlight. I grabbed my lucky charm bracelet my sister had made me and slipped it on. I had left my bike at the meeting place meaning it took me a bit long saying one of my least favorite things to do is run. Minutes passed by and I was there. I looked around to see nobody. I gripped on the well's rope and tugged on it. Seems stiff. "Hey there Oscar right?" Gale stood behind me with a



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tote bag in his left hand. I chuckled because he looked like my mother. I nodded my head and shook his head. Ray walked right behind him with his arms crossed. "This is so stupid Oscar theres nothings down there." Ray said, shaking his head. The rest of our group stood behind Ray looking ready and stern. "Let's do this. Remember to stay together." Ben said. I nodded and grabbed the rope. I climbed up on the well and held onto the rope. I slid down slowly and my back hit the wall after each second. After my feet had touched the ground Gale went next then Ray. Rome went down smooth like in one of the movies I saw with Auggie. Ben was scared at first but Auggie kept teasing him about it. Auggie was the last to go because he would never admit how scared he was. He tugged on the rope first then went down in a not so smooth way. I flicked on my flashlight and we went straight. Drip drip drip. It reaked a not so great but not a bad smell. I could feel Gale right behind me because of how heavy he was breathing. There was a cold air that brushed against my face making my cheeks turn a rosy red. We looked around trying to find just one thing that proved I wasn't crazy. Ray looked unfazed but I knew he felt a chill because he scrunched up his knuckles and he only does this when he feels something unusual. Ten minutes had passed and it felt like we were just going in circles. We would go in one way then end up at the start. "How about we just go up for a little while because there's clearly nothing." Ray requested. I looked down then nodded. He didn't believe me of course he didn't. He likes to run and I'm not like that. He is so self entitled, why would he? We all climbed back up but I still had that stinging feeling in my chest. I just feel it like something I can sense but can't see. All the boys sat down looking disappointed like I was ruining their summer. "You know you guys can go home. I just wanted you to see." I told them. "We've already bought a ticket Oscar there's no backing out now." Ben replied. I smiled at his kind words. "Yeah all in it together." Rome said smiling. I checked the time on my... Broken watch? "This is some serious Ghostbuster stuff." Auggie said with a straight face. Rome chuckled at his random and weird joke. Click. Rome raised an eyebrow. I slowly looked back and walked towards the well. I peeked in and saw a flashlight. "Who left their flashlight?" I asked. The boys all looked around. Gale shrugged, "Nobody brought one." I looked in my hand and then looked back down the well. Nothing. What? All these questions running through my head I was so confused. Ben looked through his bag and found the newspapers that me and him had looked over. Ben took a closer look then his rosy pink cheeks turned pale. Auggie went behind his shoulder and looked over. His jaw dropped. Ray ran over and the same happened to him. Rome looked confused then looked over to all the chaos. His eyes grew to the size of dinner plates. "What?" I asked. Ray signaled me over and I looked over his shoulder. The woman stood smiling. She had held the shoulder of the ginger and brunette boy. Every boy stood except one. He was way in front and he frowned with tears running down his eyes. Her smile grew big and her eyes lowered. The words on the side wrote **"I'm coming."** With dripping ink like it was just written. That doesn't sound very good. Ben started biting his nails all the way down to his skin. "What do we do?" Ray asked. "If i'm gonna be real. I really don't know" I replied. Ray looked worried and so did everyone else. Oscar... A voice called from the well. It sounded like Natalie. Everyone ran towards the well and looked down. Nobody? Rome picked up a peddle and dropped it down the well. It hit the ground and echoed in the well. A shiver ran down my spine. "Should we go back down?" Gale asked. Ray shook his head quickly not wanting to go down anymore and not looking so tough anymore. This is it this is time to find out what this thing is and was it the reason my Natalie went missing that night? I gripped onto the rope and went



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down. "Oscar wait!" Rome yelled. He went down quickly after me to make sure I wasn't alone. Everyone else went down except Ray. "I can't do it Oscar!" Rays echoed down the well sending a weird sensation through me. "But Ray was all in this together!" Ben yelled up. Ben held up his hands and signaled him down. We all knew that whatever was unexplainable or mysterious Ray was terrified of. He bit his lip and took a deep breath. "Okay i'm coming down" I smiled at his courage to do something I knew he would pass out from. He had red hands with splinters from how hard he held the rope. "Let's do this." Ray said with pure confidence. I nodded and led the way. The flashlight flickered and my shoe was soaked from the water on the concrete ground. There was one corner that wasn't there the first time. A big blue arrow led to a pitch black tunnel. I flicked the flashlight on high and the tunnel led to a concrete dome that looked like a thrift store that was filled with ripped clothing and dolls. Auggie was the first one to go down. He slid down the hollow dome, his wet sneakers squeaking on the concrete floor. I flicked the flashlight in his direction and he walked towards the middle of the dome. The hole had a tiny puddle of water and there was a shoe floating in the water. "Don't you dare touch that shoe, Katz!" Ray yelled. Auggie stopped and turned around "Don't call me by my last name. Whitlock." Auggie picked up the wet soaken shoe and widened the opening. "Natalie Madden?" Auggie said with a confused tone. My eyes widened and I ran down the dome to Auggie. "Natalie?" I yelled. I ripped the shoe from his hand and took a closer look. It really was Natalies. Same last name, same shoe she wore when she went missing. "That's crazy! I want to go home Oscar!" Ray yelled. He turned around and ran straight. Oh no. I ran towards the tunnel and ran after Ray. "Ray!" Rome yelled behind me. Ray ran and ran but when he stopped we were back at the dome. "No! This can't be right! I want to go home Oscar!" Ray said, grabbing my shoulders with a tight grip. I pulled his arms off of me and bit my lip. "We can't." I said. Ray looked at me with a sad face like a puppy. "Auggie duck!" Gale suddenly yelled out. Auggie ducked down and covered his head. I brick had almost hit his head. Crack. One of the walls had a huge crack on it. "This is it." A booming voice called out. "Ahhh!" Ray screeched. Gale picked a doll up and threw it at the shadow. A grunt came out of the dark shadow and the sun hit her face. "Get over here!" The woman yelled out. She floated over to Gale quickly and swooped him in her arms. "No!" Ben yelled out. Ben picked up a brick and threw it at her head. She growled and dropped Gale. I picked up a metal pipe with a sharp side at the end. I swooped in front of Ben and swung at her. She chuckled and grabbed the pipe. I pushed forward and shoved her. Gale joined in and slammed a piece of wood on her stomach. She lunged towards Ray and grabbed his cheeks. She pulled him and threw him in a nearby stack of dolls. Smack! He rubbed his head and got back up. Rome ran over to her and kicked her over into a puddle. She had an aggravated look on her face that looked terror-strickening. She smiled and wiped the dirty water off. Her smile grew bigger whenever she stared at me. It was like I was special to her. Like she was saving me for last. She had floated up higher and flew towards Ray. Ray had run all the way to the end of the dome and tried to climb up the steep concrete. "Help!" Ray cried out. He had tears streaming down his weary face looking desperately at me. She grabbed Ray by his ankles and pulled him towards her. "Help Oscar!" He yelped desperately. I had no idea what to do so I just stood numb. I felt useless at the time. It was like Natalie. She ran out and I stood numb. I looked down at my hand that had scars from fighting. What was holding me back? Absolutely nothing. I ran towards her and threw myself on top of her. This was the end of everything. I gripped onto her back and started scratching her face. She let go of Ray and yelled out loud. I pulled onto her



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covering her eyes. Ray ran away to the doll pile and caught his breath. She grabbed my arms and threw me forward. My back hit the ground and even though it hurt I had no regret sacrificing myself for Ray. She looked down at me and smiled. "You're a brave one aren't you?" She had chuckled. "Who are you? What's your name?" I asked her with a straight face. "Banshee Grimm and I am your worst nightmare." She laughed hysterically and her smile grew bigger. Her smile reached to her cheeks. I pulled myself and got myself into a boxing blocking pose like how my dad taught me. She laughed and shook her head. "Pathetic small child. You can not get rid of the devil." She chuckled then turned another way. "Oh but I can." I replied back. She slightly turned her head back and smiled once again. "You sure?" She laughed. Her laughter angered me and I tightened my fist. For once in my life I was ready to fight my fear of the dead. Ben and Gale stood together with stones in their hands. I cannot run this time. If one of us goes missing, it's on me fully. I am ready for whatever comes next. Gale took the first throw and threw it towards her head. She caught it before it even hit her. Gale picked up two more and this time they threw it at the same time. One hitting her shoulder throwing her back a bit and the other hitting her ankle. She groaned in pain and fell back. "You little brats! I'll show you!" She stopped floating and ran towards them. Rome stood behind them with the sharp pipe and pulled it close to him ready to fight. I remembered the pocket knife that was in my backpack and pulled it out. I ran towards her and tried poking her in the back but she turned around and grabbed my wrist. Her grip was so tight I let go of the knife. My legs gave out and I got on my knees. She picked the knife up and held the shiny blade up to my face. "I really tried to save you for the last Oscar! Now I have to hurt you." She raised the knife up to my face and grinned. Ray ran towards me with a doll in his hand "No you witch!" He punched her right in the face with the doll and left a scar. The doll broke because of the force and he hit her again! He smashed the doll on her face several times! Every time she tried grabbing him he bonked her once again! Vital fluid ran down her face and her eye looked bruised up. He took one last hit to her head so hard you could feel the pain from afar. Whack! He pushed her down and dropped the broken doll. He breathed hard and picked me back up on my feet. She got back up and had an angry look on her face. "How dare you!" Her face became saggy and she became more horror-like. She touched her cheek and she looked mortified. "What have you done?" She stood tall and scrunched up her hands. "Get her!" Ben yelled out. Everybody ran towards her and attacked her. Auggie grabbing her hair pulling it hard and Rome slamming her legs with the pipe. She grabbed me with her boney hands and threw me far across the dome. Everything went blurry and all I saw was all my friends falling to the ground. "What did I say to Oscar? You might have outnumbered me but it seems I have defeated you. Now which soul will I take first? Ben, you look like fun!" She smiled and sauntered towards Ben. "No, please take me!" Auggie yelled out. Ben's eyes grew huge. "Auggie don't you dare!" Ray yelled out his voice and sounded sad. It hurt me. Ray sobbed loudly as Auggie was dragged towards her. She picked him up by his fluffy wet hair and tilted his head towards her. He had a busted lip and a slit on her nose. A tear rolled down my face as I felt numb. I reached my hand out to the pocket knife on the floor but I felt so weak and useless. "Auggie!" Ben yelled. His voice broke me. Something snapped. I was not about to let her take his life. I reached my hand out further and gripped the knife. I pulled myself up and dragged myself towards her. She hadn't even noticed me. She laughed at Auggie and gripped his arm. I held the knife up high and... Stab! Right in the back! The knife didn't look like it damaged her at all but the sound she screeched out said otherwise. She shrieked out loudly and dropped



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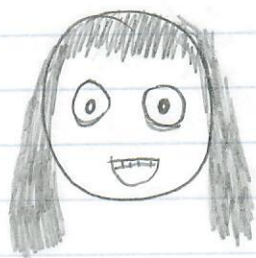
Auggie. She had a sharp breath before dropping down. "This is it." I said. "No please!" She yelled out. I shook my head and everyone stood up looking down at her. She crawled back all the way to the end of the dome and shook her head. "End it Oscar." Rome said, passing me the pipe. I raised the pipe above my head and took my last hit. Her face turned white and her body had worn out. A wind picked up in the dome and she smiled for one last time. I bent down and shut her eyes then stood up tall. Her face cracked and so did the walls. "Guys we have to get out of here!" Gale said. I nodded and we all ran towards the tunnel. I pushed Ray up and pulled myself up. Everyone was ready to leave but I saw one last thing. Natalie's pink coat. I climbed back down quickly and grabbed it. I ran back up and took one look back. The woman faded away to dust slowly just leaving her dress. "Come on Oscar!" Ben yelled. I looked at Ben and we all ran. Rome led the way and instead of running in circles all the tunnels were back and we ran towards the exit. The floor crumbled and we reached the rope. Ray went first then everyone else. I was the last one and I took one last look back. "Goodbye Natalie." I pulled myself up and once I was up everyone looked flabbergasted. I looked down disappointed I put everyone in danger but Ray smiled. "Best summer ever." He chuckled. "This would be a great book!" Auggie said. Everyone ran up to me and hugged me. We all hugged each other tight like it was our last. A tear ran down my face. I was so lucky to be alive. We all let go and stepped away from the well. "Forever together?" Ray asked, putting his fist out. "Forever together." I replied smiling, putting my fist in, as did everyone else. We all raised our hands up and laughed. I no longer had any guilt about Natalie. I was ready to move on. "My house?" Gale asked. "Of course!" Ray said. Everyone nodded and we all hugged each other once again. We all walked out of the woods slowly smiling at each other. I knew if this thing were to ever happen again we would all meet again and come for it again because we are forever just like curses. What a summer am I right?



The Return  
of the

Lady  
of the

Storm



By Evelyn M.

Age: 4<sup>th</sup>



# the Return of the Lady of the Storm

"Okay Peter let me get this straight, YOU  
FELL IN LOVE WITH A GHOST.  
I said, Last night while we were spending  
the night in an old cabin we saw a ghost.  
She came in the late night seeking shelter.  
I call her the lady of the storm but Peter  
said she was just a lost spirit. Oh wait! You  
don't know who Peter is! So Peter is my  
owner. I'm Ronnie the talking cat. Peter's  
wife died. he's been seeking a new true love.  
At first he wanted to get together with Felina the  
ghost but that's not gonna happen. "yes I fell in  
love with a ghost!" Peter said. "you're weird" I said.



ooooo



"Well if I did or did not fall in love with a ghost it does not mean I'm weird!" Said Peter. Then me & Peter got in a fight about ghost's. It started storming outside around noon. "This storm is too much for the car. let's find a place to stay." said Peter. "Are you Crazy?!" I said "have not learned from the GHOST House?!" "well I want to see Felina again." Peter said. Later that night we had pulled up to a haunted looking Rental house. Peter tried to stay up But fell asleep. Around midnight I heard the door Bell ring. "hello? can I come in?" I heard Felina say. "No! You're Not Welcome here!" I said. "I'm not?" I heard a voice behind me. "Ahhh!!!" I screamed "Peter!" There, right behind me stood Felina Mash! "I Made sure that only I can hear & see you & only you can hear & see me" said Felina "Ahhhhhhhhhh!" I screamed. "How did you get in here?!" I yelled.





"I'm a ghost. Remmmber?" said Felina. "Why are you here?!" I yelled. "I need a feline body to hold my spirit. And I picked you!" said Felina. "Why does it always have to be me?" I sighed. "Wait a second... FELINA & FELINE? Tha..." but I couldn't finish because Felina pounced on me! I quickly ran to the Bath Room but think that Felina would find me there so I went to the kitchen but the door was locked so I went to the living room and hid under the couch and fell silent. "Come on Ronnie! It'll be so much fun! If you let me you'll know how to walk through walls! And you won't be afraid of any thing! It will be amaz..." This time Felina got cut off. I heard a splash & then a thump. I looked from under the couch & was surprised to see Peter holding a pail & Felina on the floor covered in green goo that smelled like water olive oil, greek yogurt & green food coloring.





"Peter! You saved my life! And (sniff-sniff) what's that?" I asked. "It's water, olive oil, greek yogurt & green food coloring. I was pretending to be asleep & heard every thing Felina said & was able to sneak to the kitchen & put together a potion." said Peter. That explained the locked door. "how did you know how to make Potoin's?" I asked. "My mom used to study witch's. I know a thing or two." Peter said. "Now let's get Felina out of here." he said. "wait where is she?" I said. The next day! "Come on Ronnie! let's go!" Peter said "okay." I said then I heard Felina's voice say: "I will find youuu!" I shivered.





# About the Author



Evelyn malone  
love's to write & Read  
Story's, she is Nine year's  
Old & love's horses, she  
has a mom, dad, little Brother  
cat & a dog, she live's down  
the street from the  
Security Public library



the People!

Peter! Peter was born in Alaska & raised with his older sister Pam. When he was eight years old his parents were killed. After that he & his sister stayed with their grandparents. When Peter was twelve, for a birthday gift he got a small kitten. He named him Ronnie. When Peter was eighteen his grandparents died. And that's all we will tell you.

Ronnie! Ronnie was adopted by a boy named Peter when he was a small kitten. One day when Ronnie was out side playing with the Bird's he found him-  
self in a factory. Ronnie Fell in one of the green  
Poitoin's. That's how Ronnie Became a talking  
Cat. Ronnie Ran home the whole way. When  
Ronnie was 3 year's old when he was a wake at  
night he saw a ghost couple. He didn't know  
the ghost's were Peter's dead Parent's! Ronnie  
has been afraid of ghost ever since

Felinda: When felind was a young girl she  
was very into ghost's. People made fun of her  
for that. This made her very mad! Felina lived  
in a cabin in the wood's her whole life! When  
she was eight-teen she was hiking back to her  
cabin in a thunder storm. And then Right in front  
of her cabin she got struck By lightning!!!  
People tell story's of her on halloween night's. felina  
haunt's those people for their life's!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## How to Pronounce the name's:

Peter = pee-ter

Ronnie - Ron-ee

Felina = fe-leen-u

Join Ronnie in  
his next adventure!

don't miss!

