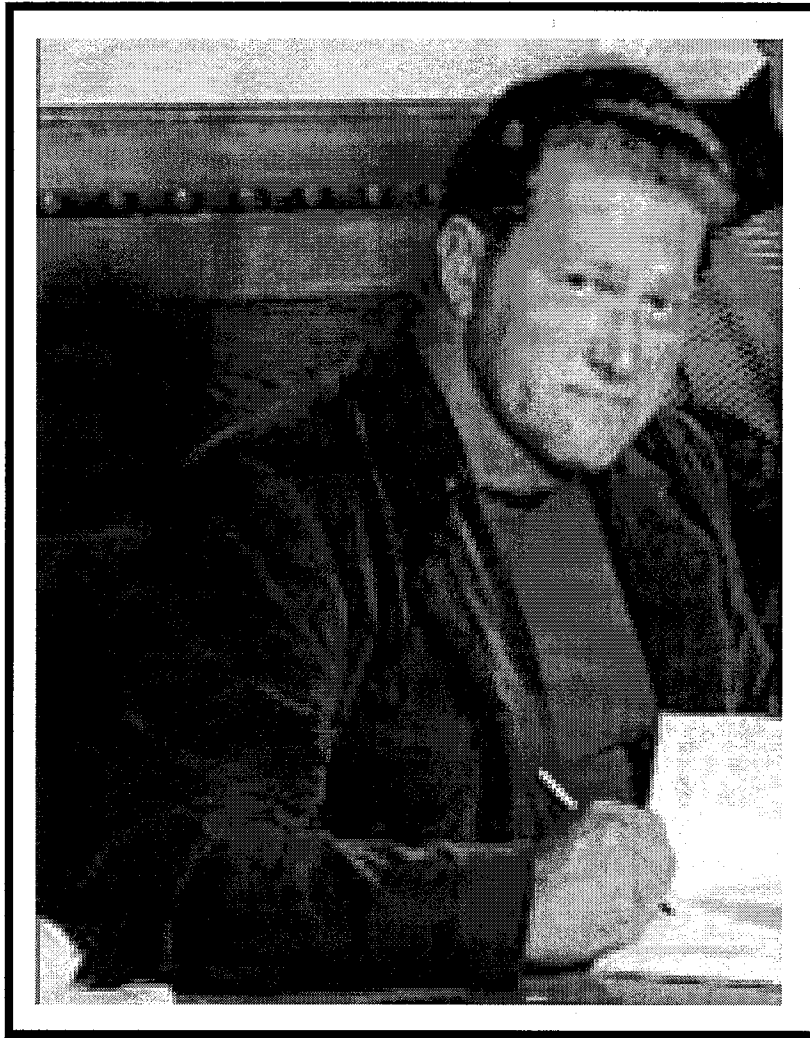


# **August Derleth Young Writers' Anthology**

**2012**



**Third & Fourth Grade**



### *Who was August Derleth?*

August Derleth was Wisconsin's most prolific writer, producing over 150 books in his lifetime. He wrote poetry, short stories, journals, historical and romantic novels, mysteries and books for children. He was also an editor, publisher, and the owner of Arkham House, a publishing house devoted exclusively to the publication of ghost stories, fantasy, science fiction and the macabre.

August Derleth was a man of simple needs. He was very generous in sharing his talents and interests with students and aspiring writers.

Derleth was a born naturalist and a realistic critic. His complex nature made him the subject of controversy, but those who knew him well defend his nonconformity. They point out his fondness for another nonconformist, Henry Thoreau, and would liken them, forgetting that Thoreau was a much more reclusive man.

August Derleth loved his small town, Sauk Prairie, and the people who lived there. He loved his people, not in spite of their human qualities, but because of them. Many of his writings tell about life in Sauk Prairie and he saw and experienced it. This may well be the measure of his writing stature.

# Tales by Terry

Terry Visger

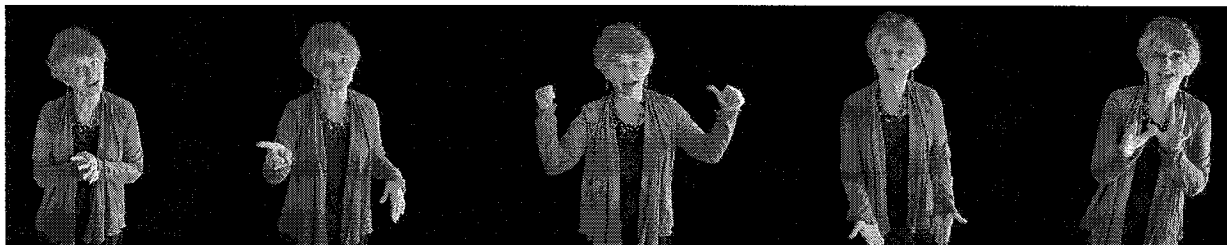
I began telling stories at a YMCA camp, where I worked as a “go-fer” and campfire coordinator. When I told a story I had heard as a child and saw sixty boys sitting still around the fire, hanging on my every word, I knew I had found magic! Later, as an elementary teacher, I began telling stories to my students and saw the educational value of stories. Years later, I would tell stories to my own children as we drove to town. I could do the entire Wizard of Oz, including songs, in that twenty-minute drive! Stories were fun – something to share with kids and my friends.



Then, I took a storytelling class, just to earn a few credits, and I was hooked! As I saw my teacher (and now close friend), Sara Slayton, weave her stories, I knew this was what I wanted to do “when I grew up.” I began telling stories to other classrooms in my school and had my first paying “gig” in Sparta, Wisconsin. It was great! That was in 2000 and I have been telling stories to a wide variety of ages and professions since that time. It has been a great ride!

I love stories of all kinds and truly believe the phrase from one of the stories I tell: “It is hard to hate someone once you know their story.” So, come on! Tell your story!!

I taught elementary children for many fun-filled years. I am now an adjunct instructor at Viterbo University, where I teach others to be teachers. I also work for JFK Associates, a consulting firm specializing in leadership coaching and helping people achieve a work-life balance. I am an active member for the Bluff Country Tale Spinners and am on the Board of the LaCrosse Storytelling Festival and WISGET, a Wisconsin storytelling group. I am also a member of the National Storytelling Network and Northlands Storytelling Network.



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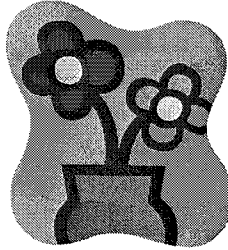
First Name	Last Name	Grade	District	Title	Category	Page
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# Poetry

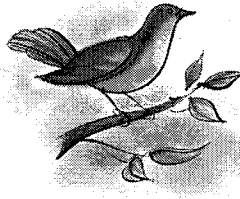


## Haiku

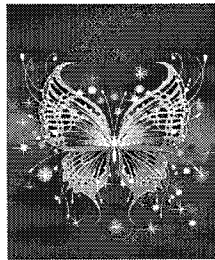
Seed, seed be planted,  
Rain, rain fall from sky today,  
See sunshine, come sprout.



Bird, bird awaken,  
Sun is out, wind is blowing,  
Sing a lovely song.



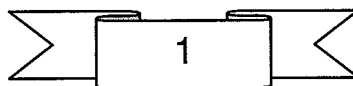
Fly, fly, fly away,  
Once was a caterpillar,  
Now a butterfly.



**Myriah Henriksen**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Adams-Friendship School District

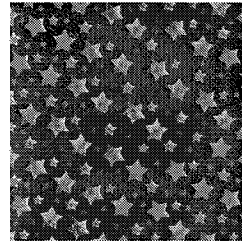


## Haiku

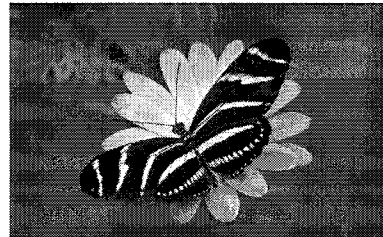
Branches in the breeze,  
Rain trickling on the leaves,  
Birds chirping in the air.



Grass flowing in wind,  
Stars glisten in the night sky,  
Why nature is great.



Butterflies in air,  
Flowers laughing around me,  
Sun is full of life.



**Erin Pease**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Adams-Friendship Elementary

## **Snowflakes**

Snowflakes, snowflakes all around  
Snowflakes, snowflakes on the ground  
Snowflakes, snowflakes falling down  
Snowflakes, snowflakes piling up  
Snowflakes, snowflakes you can catch them in a cup  
Gather them together and throw them up  
Gather friends together and build them up  
Snowflakes, snowflakes mix them up.

Poetry  
Macy Henry  
Grade 3  
Baraboo School District Al Behrman Elementary

## **Hunter**

Hunter, Hunter hair so gold  
Like a lions beautiful mane in the golden sunlight  
Sometimes wondering what it would be like to be a dog  
Interpret my dog's thoughts  
But eyes so deep and chocolaty  
Brown are often hard to read  
Knowledge so unknown to humans  
It's a mystery where he wanders off to  
But knowing he always returns to where he belongs  
Deep inside my heart.

Poetry  
Grade 4  
Baraboo School District GLW Elementary  
Kyra Hess

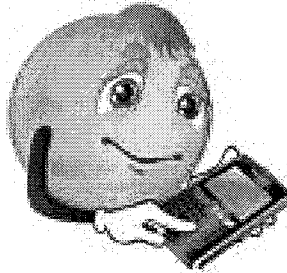
Poetry  
**Painting**  
Max Statz  
Baraboo School District  
Grade 3

When you paint  
Let your brush  
Run free, swirl  
It around and  
See what you get,  
Paint something beautiful  
Or maybe even ugly,  
Whatever you paint  
It will be a masterpiece,  
Forever, in your heart



**Texting Fever**  
By Jayden Leohner  
Baraboo School District  
Grade 4

Instead of the Beiber fever  
I have the texting fever.  
All day and all night  
I am texting with all my might.  
@ school, @ home  
I think my brain will turn in to foam.  
My mom thinks I'm acting crazy  
and friends think I'm being lazy.  
If only people could understand  
That I am textings #1 fan.



**Cheetahs**  
Austin Blevins  
3rd Grade  
Fall River Schools

Some people say since they're so fast,  
Cheetahs seem slow, so slow,  
They say cheetahs are cheaters,  
But I say cheetahs are beaters,  
They run swiftly but sill fast,  
Catching prey is what they do.  
Faster, faster, faster,  
I think cheetahs are the fastest animals in the world.  
But that's my opinion,  
and no one else has to agree.



**Flying Squirrels**  
By Aaron Brown  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Fall River School

Flying Squirrels jump from trees,  
Without getting harmed.  
They are so good at it  
That they can even glide  
They can glide because  
They have extra skin.  
Now let's glide, glide, glide,  
And glide some more!

**Haiku**  
Adam Bristol  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Fall River School

Fireplace  
Crackle Pop Crackle  
Tasty goo of marshmallows  
So warm and Cozy

Homework  
Tedious and hard  
Just never want to do it  
Summer Vacation

Great White Shark  
Swim in the water  
Looking for something to eat  
Yum! Something to eat!

## **Haiku**

Lexi Rozinski  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Fall River School

### Snowy Friends

I have snowy friends  
We play all day and sleep at night  
Then he melts away

### Leaves Falling

Leaves Falling Trees Cry  
The trees bow down to the leaves  
The leaves come again

### Flowers Blooming

The flowers blowing  
They are so beautiful now  
Now they are all gone

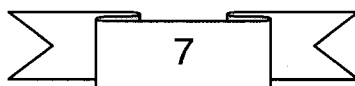
## **The Awesome Gum Poem**

By Cameron Foote  
Lodi School District  
Grade 3

I am gum  
I wonder if I could eat myself  
I hear popping  
I see green and black  
I want to eat myself  
I am mint

I pretend I can fly  
I feel gooey  
I touch sticky  
I worry about dying  
I cry out mint tears (they taste awesome)  
I am mint

I understand from gum school  
I say eat meeeee!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
I dream to fly  
I try so hard not to eat myself  
I hope to eat me!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
I am mint



**Bosco**

By Claire Kerr  
Lodi School District  
Grade 3

Sloppy eater mmm...  
He is fun to be around  
Ruff, ruff, bark, naughty

Polka dots, white, black  
Long whiskers, brown nose, soft ears  
Long tail, whack, whack, whoosh

Chicken toys, squeak, squeak  
Rides in car, sees buses, grrr...  
Barking at cute dogs

**I Fell Into the Dryer**

I fell into the dryer  
Someone pushed me in  
Before I could push open the door or even shout  
They turned on the dryer  
I went for a whirl and spun about  
I fell into the dryer  
Please let me out  
I'd rather not be squeaky clean  
Someone should notice me  
My mom is inside, my dad is out  
My sisters are looking all about  
Someone please let me  
OUT, OUT, OUT!

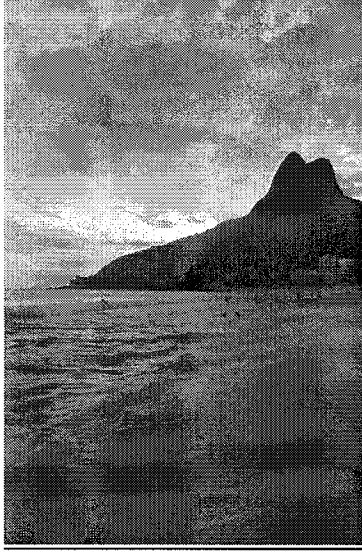
By Gracie Faust  
Lodi School District  
Grade 4

# SNOW

Snow, snow falling down.  
Every flake is different  
Trees white and beautiful  
Snow, snow falling down.

Getting warm out,  
Icicles dripping  
Snow melting, snow shining  
All the snow is gone!  
Lets play

Maxwell Rehlinger  
Lodi School District  
Grade 4



### **The Beach**

By Alana Kaleas  
Montello School District  
Grade 4

Ah, the sweet ocean breeze.  
The wind in my hair.  
The sand between my toes.  
“Ha, ha!” it tickles my toes.  
I step in the water.  
Freezing at first.  
Then is warm.  
I dive under the clear water.  
While I was under the water  
I saw a fish, but not normal fish.  
It was an angel fish.  
It was beautiful.  
After that I skipped some rocks.  
Ah, a wonderful day!



### **Haiku**

By Ella Stelter  
Montello School District  
Grade 4

#### Flowers

Beautiful flowers  
Petals so sweet and petite  
They're a gorgeous sight.

#### Dolphins

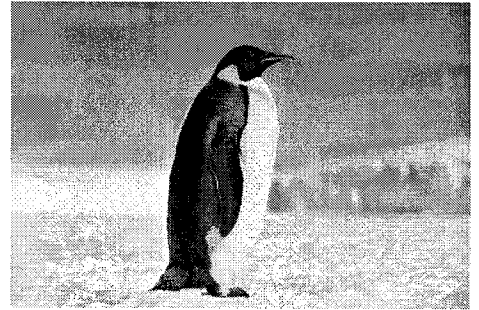
So splashy and fun  
Jumping and playing all day  
'Til the start of dawn

#### The Moon

So bright and massive  
Looks stunning in the night sky  
It makes water shine

**Rock and Roll Penguins**  
**By Emily Cupp**  
**Grade 3 – Pardeeville Elementary School**

Penguins have white bellies.  
They are very smelly.  
They dive for fish.  
They don't serve on a dish.  
Penguins have their own rules.  
But they use them with special tools.  
Antarctica they live,  
Blessings they give.



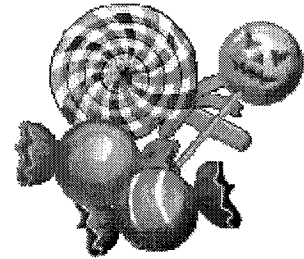
**Frogs**  
**By Brooke Peterson**  
**Grade 3 – Pardeeville Elementary School**

Frogs are very icky  
Frogs are very sticky  
I don't know why  
They have a big thigh  
Frogs  
I don't know why  
But they jump very high  
I don't know how  
But it makes me go WOW!



**Halloween**  
**By Josie DeLapp**  
**Grade 4 – Pardeeville Elementary School**

How much candy would you like?  
A huge abundance of candy is over there.  
Lactic acid may be in your candy.  
Line graphs of candy are for brainy kids.  
Obnoxious people don't have candy.  
Waggery is what Halloween is all about.  
Echo location is what vampire bats use.  
Elegant amounts of candy are great!  
National bank is where money is taken out and used on candy.



**Friendship**  
**By Natalie Farrington**  
**Grade 4 – Pardeeville Elementary School**

Friends are awesome.  
Friends are great.  
They're always there to have your back.  
You can tell them anything.  
Even your deepest darkest secrets.  
You have your ups and downs.  
Your disagreements.  
But real friends always make up.  
You don't talk behind their back.  
Friends shouldn't bribe each other for friendship.  
Friends shouldn't care if they live across the world.  
Friends should have fun and laugh together.  
That's what friends should do.





## **The Time I Went to the Zoo**

By CJ Burton

Grade 3

Rusch Elementary, Portage

There's nothing to do  
I see something blue,  
And it is a zoo.  
That's something to do

I see some animals all over the place  
I have to tie my shoelace,  
I found a card that shows an ace  
I played some tag and went on base

I need a hotdog to eat,  
But we have to sit on a seat,  
And there is not as much heat,  
And I'm going to give an animal a treat.

I saw an eagle I don't know why,  
But I understood why he was in the sky,  
Because he was happy to be the only guy,  
And it almost made me want to cry.

I saw a dolphin that's gray,  
He liked to play every day,  
I told him to stay,  
And I went and got to play.

I saw a penguin that is new,  
But every week she always grew.  
Then I went to eat some stew,  
Once I tasted it I said.... eeew.

I saw a monkey that was king,  
And he always wore a ring.  
Then after that he danced and got to sing,  
Then all a sudden he grew a wing.

## **Haikus**

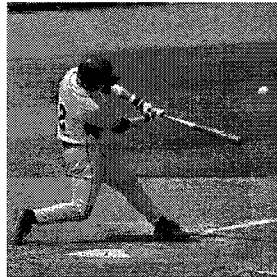
By: Colton Kapel

Grade 3

Caledonia Elementary, Portage

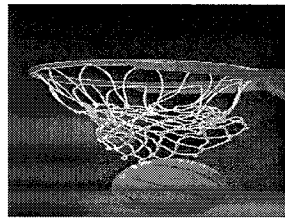
## **Baseball**

Baseball is awesome  
Do not be afraid to try  
Hit a BIG home run



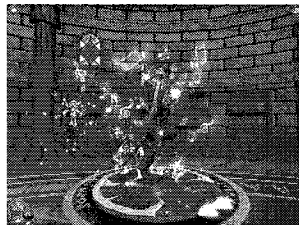
## **Basketball**

Always fun to play  
Shoot when you can get the ball  
Please try it, it's fun



## **Wizard 101**

Wands and spells are cool  
It is very magical  
Come and join our group



## **Butterflies**

By: Gabrielle Lane Garrigan

Grade 4

Fort Winnebago Elementary, Portage

Butterflies that fly in the bright blue sky,  
Make me stop and wonder why.  
“Why,” I ask “Can’t they stay? Instead they just fly away.”

All winter long they sleep tight.  
Until spring’s warmth, when they return to flight.  
When colors return in the fall, I will say goodbye to them all.



# **The Paper Bag Puppet**

By: Alicia Wilcox

Grade 4

Fort Winnebago Elementary, Portage

I'm a paper bag puppet.

I'm easy to make.

You don't need wire, string, or tape.

Just grab markers, crayons and a bag will do.

Make me a face and I'll talk to you.



### **Morning**

Birds chirp in the morning light  
The earth becomes hot as the sun comes up  
The eggs on the stove sizzle  
The neighbor's car starts running  
The coffee machine beeps loudly  
A child wakes up and makes her bed  
Dogs bark when they're let outside  
A new day begins



Tabitha Crase  
Grade 4  
Poynette School District

## Seasons

Seasons come and seasons go  
And in Winter it snows  
Fall is cool  
In Summer you can jump in a pool  
In Winter you can have snowball fights  
And get frost bite  
In Spring and Summer I swim  
Almost as fast as a shark with a fin  
Spring is when the trees bud  
And it's fun in the mud  
In Summer dogs play  
While I sit on the dock by the bay  
In Summer I play baseball  
And much too soon is Fall  
Winter is my favorite season  
Because I ski is the reason



Elias Ritzke  
Grade 4  
Poynette School District

## **Back Floating Frog**

You giant back floating frog that lives in the ginormous river.

You slimy back floating frog .

You disgusting back floating frog.

You are mean and sassy back floating frog.

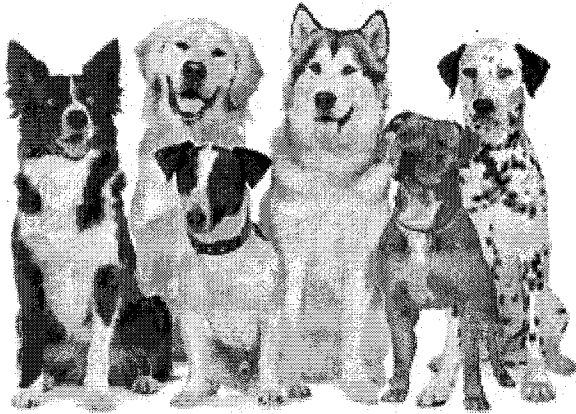
You are rude becuse you have no table manners you back floating frog.

And worst of all you are never happy or sad and always mad you back floating frog

And you never eat anything except those disgusting flies you slimy sassy rude back  
floating frog.

by Maxwell.T.Beale  
Grade 3  
Reedsburg School District

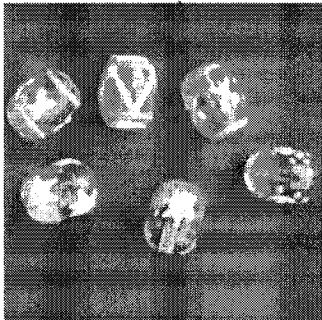
**Susie Slamdunk**  
By: Danielle Ferstl  
Grade 3  
Reedsburg School District



Susie Slamdunk  
Sleeps in a big bunk.

Susie wears lots of bows.  
She paints her toes.

Susie meets tons of frogs.  
She loves hyper dogs.



Susie likes to read.  
She makes glass beads.  
Susie loves to go shopping.  
She can't stop hopping.

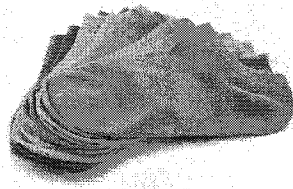
Susie Slamdunk always travels home to her giant abode.  
She starts the next day the very same way Susie always knows.





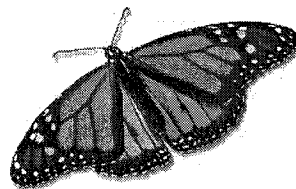
### Dogs

Are very good pets  
Come in all sorts of colors  
Are called man's best friend



### Socks

Wear them on your feet  
Are sometimes used as puppets  
Are like gloves for feet



### Monarchs

Unique, colorful  
Wings open wide, orange and black  
Light as a feather

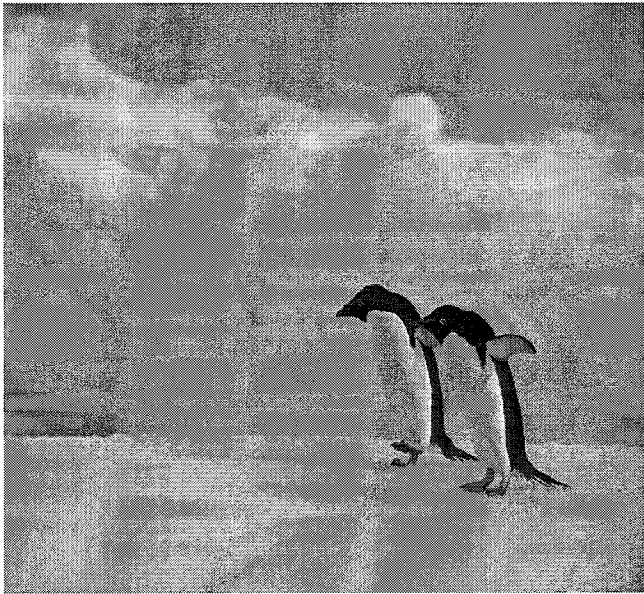
Hunter I. Walker  
Poetry  
Pineview, Grade 4  
Reedsburg School District

## Penguins

Cold, hard times for penguins  
But they still have time to slide and play  
All day long.

Orange and maybe yellow beaks  
Help them catch fish all day.  
With their big, round belly,  
They slide on all day long.

Their call is a pretty amazing  
And peaceful sound.  
I want to see one myself in person  
One day.



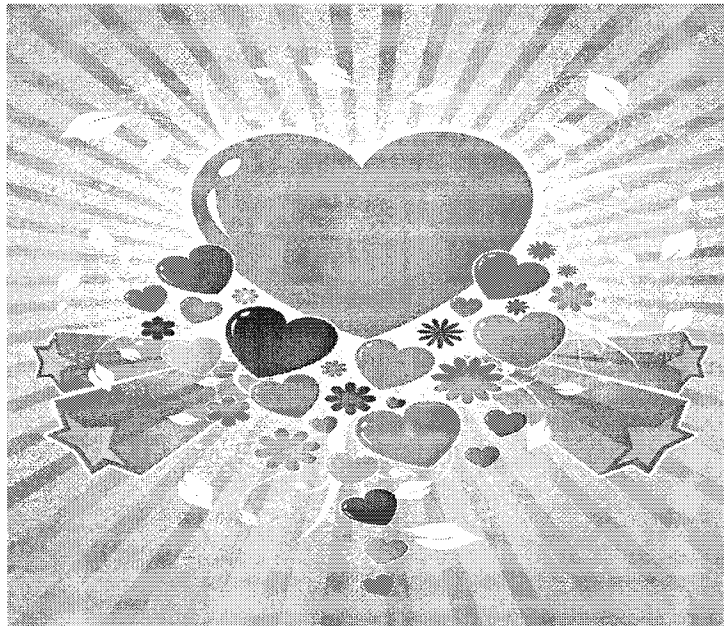
Autumn Rippl  
Grade 3  
Rio Elementary School  
Poetry

## A Happy Valentine's Day

*I love to have fun on every Valentine's Day  
It always makes me happy  
It is time for love and sharing  
And for people to show they care*

*Hugs and kisses from people you love  
Gives me a warm feeling inside  
Chocolate hearts from people you know  
You can really see love grow*

*Happy Valentine's Day!  
Deep from my heart  
I knew from the start that it was LOVE!*





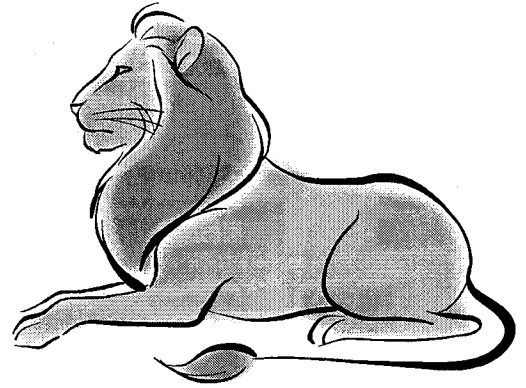
## **The Jungle**

I see a jungle far, far away  
The jungle I see is where I'll stay  
I will see the lion jump  
I will run away when it stumps  
Then I will see the monkeys  
What a fright if they bite  
Now I will see the giraffes  
See their long necks when the sun reflects  
Now I have to say goodbye jungle

By Alison Zeimet  
Grade 3  
Rio School District

## At the Shore

The lion paces at the shore waiting for some prey,  
A buckskin horse rears in the sea,  
And the lion tries to strike,  
But the horse ran away.



So the lion paces at the shore waiting for some prey,  
The monkeys swing from vine to vine,  
And the lion tries to strike,  
But the monkeys are too quick.

So the lion paces at the shore waiting for some prey,  
A lonely sheep out at the shore takes a drink,  
And this time the lion finally gets something,  
The lion pounces on its back into the sparkling water.

The lion paces at the shore gazing at the moonlight.

Alicia Childs  
Grade 4  
Rio Elementary School

## Live, Laugh, Love

Life is a gift  
Ideal is success  
Valuable things are your family and friends  
Everyone should be happy with what they have

Listening to all the joy  
Appreciate the laughter  
Understand your heart's thoughts  
Giggling cheers up many  
Hear the happiness and fun

Lovely friends  
Outstanding times  
Very caring friends and family  
Embrace your heart to find what you're looking for in life.



Destiny Halley  
Rio Elementary School  
Grade 4<sup>th</sup>

Shelbi Endres  
Poetry  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Three

### CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the best time of the year  
Time for my family and some cheer  
Christmas it can warm the heart  
Even when you're far apart  
Sitting under the Christmas tree  
There's a present just for me  
Grab some tinsel and some lights  
Take away the dark of night



Sabina Fester  
Poetry  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Three

A LAKE

A lake

It sits

It waits for a whisper

A girl

A boat

They wait for fish

It shimmers

It sparkles

On a diamond lake

A sad girl

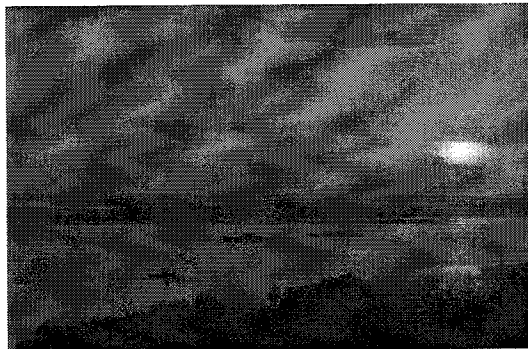
A lonely girl

Alone on a lake

A sad lake

A lonely lake

Waiting just for her





Samara Estrada  
Poetry  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Four

AMIGAS

*Amigas forever*

We are like *hermandad entre mujeres*

Just like *hermandad*

*Juntas* at recess

Never *mala* always nice

Friends *para siempre*

Always stay by my *lado*

*Amigas forever*

Friends forever

We are like a sisterhood

Just like sisters

Together at recess

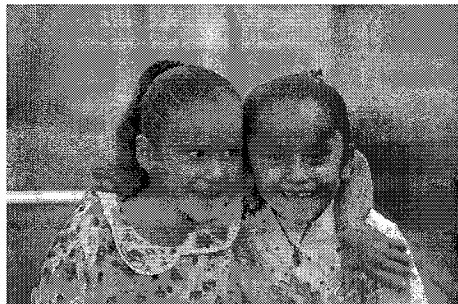
Never mean always nice

Friends forever

Always together

Always stay by my side

Friends forever



Emma Putnam  
Poetry  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Four

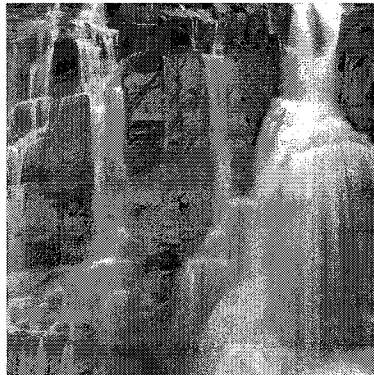
### *Waterfalls*

*Gorgeous, misty spray  
Water rolling down below,  
Dropping, falling, down*

*So peaceful, soothing  
I'm watching and wondering  
About the beauty*

*You feel the beat  
The tumbling rhythm of water  
Rolling over rocks*

*Water splashing me  
Gently brushing my damp face  
Nature whispering*



## SNOWBALL

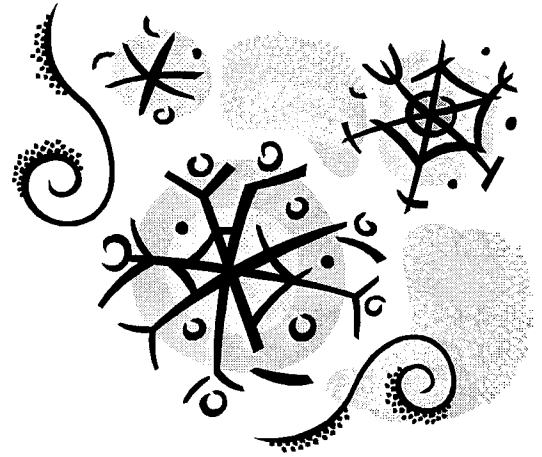
Snow in every direction you look  
No sign of grass or dirt  
Oh, so cold!  
Wish it could stay forever  
Blanket of new fallen snow  
A gigantic hill, perfect for sledding  
Licking snow-covered icicles  
Laughing and playing in the snow

Kate Omernik

Grade 3

Poetry

Tomorrow River Amherst Elementary School



## Dancing

*Gracefully* moving

Almost *floating*,

Hands **o u t s t r e t c h e d**,

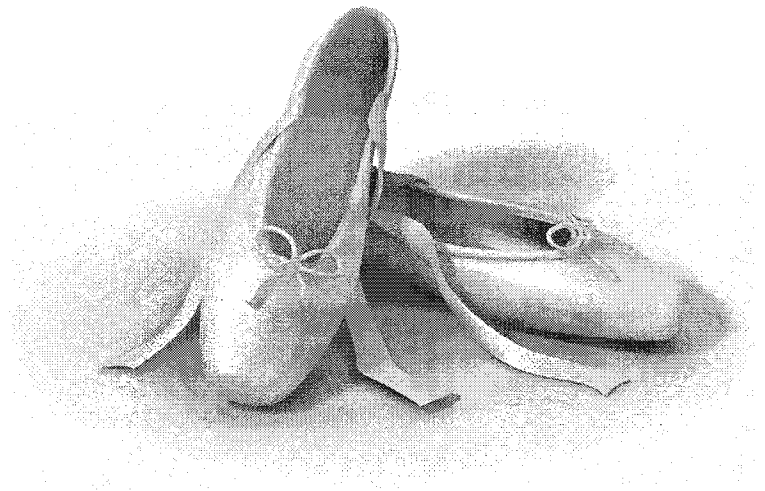
Legs like the wind,

Hair flowing,

Everyone cheering,

Throwing bouquets,

I'm the **STAR!**



Sirena Abbott-Morien

Grade 4

Poetry

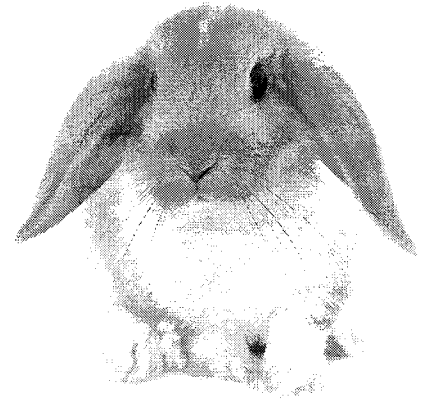
Amherst Elementary School

Tomorrow River School District

Grade 4  
Kyle Rhinehart  
Trinity Lutheran School  
Poetry

## My Rabbit Poem

Its ears are the size of elephant.  
It's as furry as a yak.  
It's as colorful as a rainbow.  
Its paws are the size of acorns.  
Its legs are as short as unsharpened pencils.  
Its eyes are pebbles.  
It's as fast as a car.  
Its nose is a snowflake.



## My Squirrel Poem

The red squirrel is the size of a rock.  
Its eyes are black as night.  
Its ears are short as erasers.  
Its paws are the size of acorns.  
Its tail is as bushy as a bush.  
Its belly is as white as snow.  
Its whiskers are the size of a candle flame.  
Its nose is the size of a pebble.



# In the Mirror

by

Hattie

In the mirror,

I see hair like beautiful brown streaks.

I see eyes as sharp as an eagle!

I see teeth like a polar bear's coat.

I see lips as red as a ruby.

I feel like I want to take over the world MA-HA-HA! When I look  
in the mirror!

Hattie Bray

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Wautoma School District

## The Rain



It rains really hard.

The rain dries up in the sun.

The rain is peaceful.

## Springtime



I love the springtime.

Love to watch the flowers grow.

Can't wait until spring.

## Night



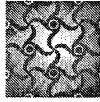
I'm feeling sleepy.

Head is falling on the ground.

Falls right into bed.

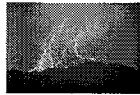
By Holland Hogenson

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Wautoma – Poetry



### Missing the Sun

Dark but not light out.  
My face is not glowing now.  
The sun is not out.



### The Fear

My fear is coming.  
It is really dark out right now.  
Sun will come out soon.



### The Bully Brother

My brother pushed me.  
He pushed me into the leaves.  
He made me cry hard.

By Emilee Iwanski

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Wautoma – Poetry

*In the Mirror*

*by*

*Juleanna*

*In the Mirror,*

*I see brown hair like sticks in the woods.*

*I see skin like vanilla ice cream.*

*I see a smile like red tulips.*

*I see eyes like blue moon ice cream.*

*I feel cheerful when I look at myself in the mirror.*

*Juleanna Johnson, 3<sup>d</sup> Grade, Wautoma School District*



*In the Mirror*

*by*

*Noe*

*In the mirror,*

*I see eyes like sand on the beach.*

*I see my teeth like snow falling from the sky.*

*I see my hair like a black bear in the woods.*

*I see my lips like red ice cream in the summer.*

*I feel brave, happy and strong when I look in the mirror.*

*Noe Pena, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Wautoma School District*

*In the Mirror*

*By*

*Alexia*

*I see two eyes like the blue sky.*

*I see long blond hair like the sand on the beach.*

*I see a smile like a bright strawberry.*

*I see skin like peach ice cream.*

*I feel great when I look in the mirror.*

*Alexia Schirmer*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*

*Wautoma School District*

# Penguin Life

Penguins dying, ice melting

Why is everything so sad?

Then a dark cloud

makes everything bad.

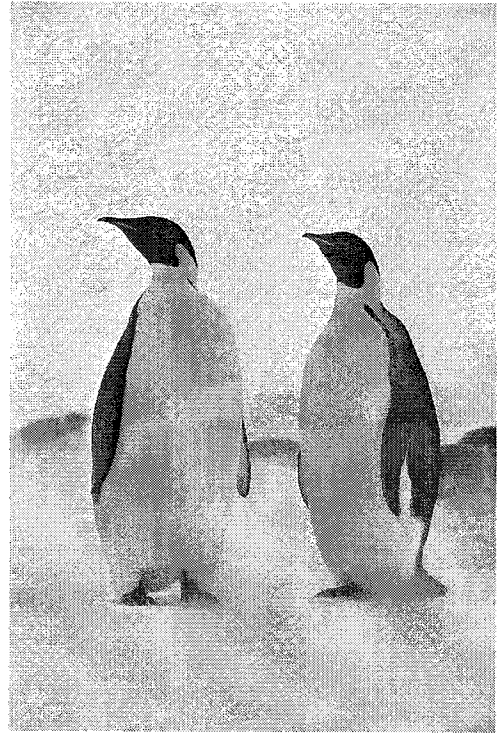
Then a drop of sunlight

hit the ground.

The penguins liked it,

and then they think they're saved

and that's what I call penguin life.



Averyana Lerma, grade 4, Wautoma Area School District - Poetry

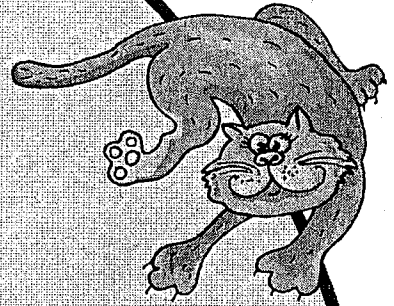
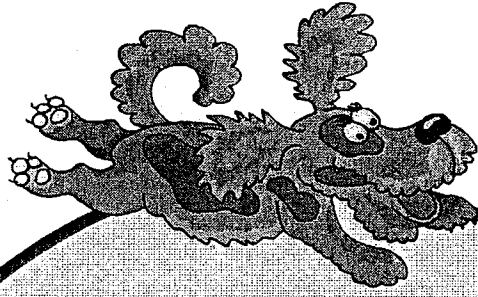
## **Falling Down the Stairs**

By Ali Helland

Grade 4

Wisconsin Dells School District

I made my mom mad,  
I got sent to my room for being bad,  
My brother then pushed me down the stairs,  
Nobody else but me cares.

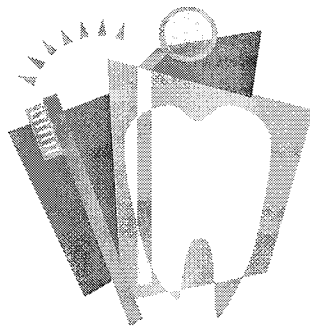


# **PERSONAL NARRATIVE**

## A Scary Day at the Dentist

Deytona Buske  
Grade 4  
Adams-Friendship

I was waiting in the waiting room for my dentist appointment. It was my first dentist appointment ever. I was really nervous. I thought it was going to be really painful. Suddenly the appointment buzzer went off. I was really nervous, but I followed the dentist into the room. The assistant told me to sit in the chair. The dentist came in and told me he had to fix a cavity, so he was going to have to numb my tooth. It wasn't long before the dentist pulled out some goggles for me. I put them on. Then at that very moment, he pulled out the longest needle I had ever seen. It was as long as a yard stick. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. He stuck the needle into my gum. It felt like a horse kicked me in the mouth. My mouth started to tickle. I couldn't talk and I was drooling. It made me embarrassed but I knew the worst was over. The dentist took out the drill and drilled my tooth. It felt like a jack hammer. Soon the dentist told me not to eat anything until the swelling went down. When I left the dentist's office, I was glad that was over. The dentist and his assistant said I had been their best patient.



## The Ride of My Life

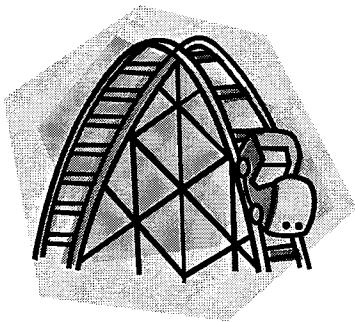
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By Austin Dallman

Grade 4

Adams-Friendship

It was a sunny day in June at Mt. Olympus Waterpark with my family waiting since the morning to ride HADES. It was advertised as the most exciting roller coaster in the world, and I could hardly wait to ride it. When we got to the HADES gate, we were waiting in a massively long line which took us about three hours to get through. When we finally got to the front, we were exhausted. Not long after that, the attendant was strapping us tightly into the cart. My adrenalin was pumping so fast I thought I was going to explode! Suddenly, we took off like a bullet coming out of a gun. It was startling. We went straight down. It seemed like we were going 100 miles per hour. I could hardly keep my eyes open. Immediately after that, it was like our skin flew off of our bodies as we entered the moist dark tunnel. Everyone's voice resounded off the tunnel walls. I could hear the deep breathing from the person sitting behind me. It was so dark, the only way I knew which way I was going next was by listening to the screams from the people in the front of the roller coaster. Meanwhile, inside the tunnel, I was so scared because I thought something frightening was going to pop up. Luckily, nothing did. Not long after that, the ride came to a complete stop. I thought it was broken, but the ride was over. While I was getting off, I felt so dizzy I thought I was going to puke. Riding HADES was the best time of my life! I wish that day would've never ended.



**Como Cambio Mi Vida**  
Por Kimberly Martínez  
3er Grado Mrs. Steele  
Personal Narrative  
Baraboo School District Al Behrman Elementary

Era un día como todos. Era el ultimo día de la escuela. Me despedí de todas mis amigas y llegue a mi casa. Paso un día y al otro día al despertar escuche las campanas de la iglesia, pensé que mi mama estaba afuera y salí a buscarla y en eso escuche que mi prima también salía. Entonces escuche muchos gritos y salí y escuche a mi tía gritar: "METANSE" y entonces volví adentro y en eso escuche a mi mama arriba y estaba hablando con mi hermano por el teléfono. Entonces colgó y le pregunte: ¿porque están gritando y se escuchan disparos?" y no me contesto.

Paso un tiempo y casi todo seguía igual. Entonces un día estaba jugando con mi prima Daira , después entre a mi casa y escuche que mi mama estaba hablando con mi hermana la mayor. Le dijo que nos íbamos a ir a Estados Unidos. Yo no le di importancia y pasaron días, días y días..... Un día mi mama nos dijo a mi hermanita y a mi que en una semana nos iríamos a ir Estados Unidos. Yo primero me sentí feliz y después triste, iba a dejar a mis primas, mis tías, y tíos. Mis abuelitos se iban ir conmigo y mis padres . Un día antes de que nos fuéramos , alistamos las cosas y nos despedimos de mis tías y tíos . Yo me sentí muy triste por dejar a todos los que quiero y extrañaría. Sobre todo a mi prima Daira y mis primos con quienes siempre me divertía. Llego el día de la partida, mis tíos nos estaban esperando, pero ahí no estaba Daira y me tuve que ir sin despedirme de ella.

Fueron tres días de viaje en carro, solo parábamos para comer. Antes de llegar a Baraboo y que cambiara mi vida tuve que llegar a San Louis. Al llegar a Baraboo mi vida cambio de muchas maneras. Primero tuve que aprender un nuevo idioma y tuvimos que comprar una casa. No pudo salir sola, estoy encerrada en mi casa, tengo que ir a la escuela y estoy mucho tiempo ahí. Bueno esta es mi nueva vida en Baraboo y estoy un poco feliz y un poco triste porque extraño mi pueblo Cheran.

**Changing My Life**  
Kimberly Martínez  
Personal Narrative  
Third Grade Mrs. Steele  
Baraboo School District Al Behrman Elementary

The day was like any day. It was the last day of school. I said good-bye to all my friends and came home. One day pass, and the next day upon waking I heard the church bells, I thought my mom was out and went to look and listen to my cousin that also came out. Then I heard a lot of screaming and went out and listen to my aunt yelled: "GET INSIDE THE HOUSE" and then went back inside. Then I listen my mom talking on the phone with my brother. Then hung up and I asked her " Why are people shouting?, Shots are heard! " and she did not reply.

Days gone on and almost everything was the same. Then one day I was playing with my cousin Daira, then I get inside my house and listened that my mom was talking to my sister. She said we were going to go to the United States. I do not give importance to that and the days pass. One day my mom told my little sister and me that in a week we would go to the United States. At the beginning I felt happy and then sad, because I was leaving behind my cousins and my aunts and uncles. My grandparents were going with me and my parents. The day before we came we prepared our things and we said good bye to my uncles and aunts. I was so sad because I will leave them behind and I will miss them. And most than anybody I will miss my cousin Daira and my others cousins with I always used to have fun. The departure day came, my aunts and uncles were waiting for us, but not Daira, and I had to go without said good bye.

It was three days driving, we just stopped to eat something. Before we get to Baraboo and my life change forever we stopped in St. Louis. When we came to Baraboo my life change in so many ways. First I had to learn another language and we had to buy another house. I can't go outside alone, I'm inside the house all the time. I have to go to school and I am there for a lot of time. Well, this is my new life and I feel a little bit happy and a little bit sad because I miss my town Cheran.



**The Huge Change**  
Grade 4 Personal Narrative  
Marie Fadayevev  
Baraboo School District East School

I was falling. Down, down, down, deeper into the dark hole. Suddenly, I heard someone yelling, "Marie, Marie, wake up!" I knew it was my mom.

"Come on Mom, its Saturday! No school!" I reached out to hug my stuffed Hippo when I realized that he wasn't there. That woke me up instantly, and I sat up right away. Why was I in a strange room, and why did my head hurt so much? And then I remembered. I wasn't in my apartment on the eleventh floor in Moscow anymore. I was in a hotel in Madison, on the other side of the world. Then I thought about something. "Mom, weren't we supposed to be leaving?" I asked.

"No, sweetie," my mom replied. "We're staying here in the United States."

I felt the world shake, and then stop. All this time I thought that we were just visiting here for a couple of days, no more than a week. I thought about how Grandma was crying when Dad started the car to drive to the airport. "Don't worry," I told her, "We'll come back soon, in less than a week!" Grandma and Grandpa knew we weren't coming back in a week. Mom and Dad knew, but they didn't tell me. I started to cry. I thought about school and my friends. All the things I planned on doing. All of my friends would wonder where I disappeared. Would they forget me after a couple of months? I didn't even get a chance to say good-bye or to tell my classmate Sonya that she was the best friend I have ever had. Now I lost it all. The simple words "We're staying," hit me harder than lightning.

My heart was broken to pieces. I couldn't stop thinking about Grandma and Grandpa. How they used to come once a week, bringing lots of different things like tomatoes from my grandma's garden. I remembered how I liked to play the guessing game when I asked Grandma if she brought me something you can eat or something you can't. I knew I would miss all the games in the woods with my grandpa on Winter Break when I came over to my grandparent's town. Oh, how I loved the races to the door in the snow with my grandpa that I always won, and my grandma's warm pancakes that she always made when we came home from the woods. Now I have lost it all. All the moments with my family and friends, going on summer vacations to the village or different country, seeing my cousins...It was over.

"No!" I said. I cried and cried in my pillow and all the thoughts just couldn't get out of my head. Now questions formed in my mind. Will I be able to learn English? What school will I go to? Will I even go to school? Will I be able to make any friends? Where will we live? Will I continue to take piano lessons? I remembered my piano teacher, Irina Gregorievna, and how much fun we used to have together, every week I would try to learn a new piano piece. Or the time when I went to a music school and the time I played in a real music academy...I might never see Irina Gregorievna again.

Why were we staying here, in nowhere squared, with no idea how to speak this strange language? I took a deep breath and stopped crying. Maybe it wasn't that bad. I looked out the window. The hotel was facing the Capitol. The view was beautiful with the massive white building and the garden around it. Cars were driving up and down the streets. Shops were open. It was starting to feel more and more like Moscow. I looked down at Madison, Wisconsin. Ahead of me was a new future: A brand-new world.

## **The Night My Mom Died**

One cold foggy night when I was seven years old, I was sleeping at my grandparent's house. That way my Mom could go to work. Later on that night I woke up at 1:00 a.m. My mom usually picked me up at midnight. In the night I woke up my grandpa and I said, "Mom is not here yet."

He replied, "Maybe traffic is bad?" I didn't think so. Then we both went back to sleep. Then five minutes later the phone rang. My grandpa picked it up. It was my grandpa's brother Uncle Luke!

"Erin is in the hospital," said Luke. After Grandpa and Luke were done talking, Grandpa hung up the phone. He told me that my mom was in the hospital. So we waited in the living room for another phone call. My grandpa quickly called my Aunt Lisa because he wanted to go to the hospital and he needed someone to watch me. She came quickly.

But before she came to the house Luke called and said, "She's gone." Later I found out that my mother had been killed by a drunk driver.

My grandpa told me that she was gone. I just burst in to tears. He said to me in a sad voice, "I'm going to the hospital to go see your mom."

Then later that night I heard singing. I woke up and looked in the kitchen. The whole family was there. Even my grandma was there. She was still in her work clothes.

My grandma said "What are you doing up so early?"

"I heard you guys," I replied.

"Oh," she replied back. Then we sang and said a prayer. I said, "Mom you were too young to die. We had so much fun together. I only knew you seven years. We all miss you and will love you forever. I will see you in a lot a years when I get to heaven."

I'm ten years old now. My mom's been gone for three years now. I have many wonderful memories of my mom, like the time we dressed up at zombie nurses for Halloween. My favorite memory with my mom is when she and I used to sing songs to a music program on the television.

That's my story.

Jade Parchem  
Personal Narrative  
Fourth grade  
Baraboo School District East Elementary

Personal Narrative  
Grade 3  
Baraboo School District Al Behrman Elementary  
By Kirsten Lanman

### **When I Got Dad Mad**

Some times I can feel low and sad, because I felt like that one time. It all started when I accidentally got Dad mad. So I was playing in the living room and Dad said, "Get ready for bed". But I didn't listen. Then that's when Dad got mad. He yelled, "GET READY FOR BED"! So I went in my room and brushed my teeth and all that other stuff. After I was done getting ready for bed I sat down on my bed and thought about what I did. My eye's got watery, but I didn't let the tears out. When Dad came in the room, he can tell when I am feeling low. So he said, "What's wrong?" So I told him the whole story. Then he gave me a hug.

### **My Dog**

Jeremy Book  
3rd grade Fall River School

One day I woke up and my dog, Sandy was gone! My brother and I wanted her to come home. If we didn't find her we could not go on vacation. Our vacation was planned to go to Michigan to visit my dad's brother and his family.

We searched up the street and down the street, and around the block. I went to my friend's house to see if he could help. But he was not home! Our last hope was to call the pound.

When my dad called them, I heard him say "Thank you! We'll be right over!" When I heard that I started cheering and running around the house. My brother and my dad went and got her. I think I started to cry.

We then were able to go on our vacation. We went to Michigan and had a great time!

### Ice Skating

It was a normal day at school. Reading time was quiet, lunch was much louder, and recess was crazy. When I got home, my mom asked me if I wanted to do a sport or an activity. It took me only about 5 seconds to blurt out, "ICE-SKATING!" I've been wanting to do that since I was six years old! My mom said, "Okay, we'll see about that. "

A few days later I got home from school, and my mom told me that she got me signed up for ice-skating at Beaver Dam ice-skating rink! I was so excited that in one week, I would be starting ice-skating!!

The day that I would start ice-skating, I was so excited that I could barely focus on my schoolwork, so I had a lot of homework to do. When the end of the school day came, I was so jumpy and eager to get to Beaver Dam at the ice-skating rink of course! It took like a thousand hours to get there, but it only really took 20 minutes. I asked my mom, "When will we be there?" She said "We're almost there..... " Then , out of nowhere, we were there!

That day it was very chilly out. It took me and my mom awhile to find where the rental skates were. I had to wear size 13 skates. It was cold in the rink and cold out of the rink. It felt nice to get around on the ice with the cold breeze in my face.....until I fell on the ice. I fell SMACK on the ice, landing on my bottom! It hurt for a little while, then I fell again. But, this time I fell on my stomach, which hurt like 100 times worse!

When I started to be able to skate without falling, I went around asking almost everybody who my teacher was. Finally, I found out that Shayla was my teacher. She was really nice to me.

Sooner or later, I figured out how to ice-skate really fast without falling down or slipping. I love doing ice-skating class, so I kept going. Now I am in basic 3 and I might never quit ice-skating! I have my own ice-skates now! Some day, YOU might see ME in the Olympics!!

**The Trip**  
By Madeline Gregorio  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Fall River School

In July almost every year I go to Minocqua, Wisconsin. My family and I go with two of my friends' families. We all race up there with our boats and whoever gets up there first gets to pick the biggest bed. But we still all need to sleep by our own family, one family downstairs and two upstairs. However, before anyone can get there they have to take the challenge, the six hour drive.

When we are all in the car and ready to go everybody calls on their cell phones and we all take off. It's hard to sit in the car for six hours when you have three sisters and you can barely stand one. It's a wreck. My little sister Belle talks and talks until she can't talk anymore. Thank goodness we have a DVD player in the car. When we get there we have a blast, playing in the water and building sand castles. We always have some kind of challenge.

Last year, we had a T.V. show challenge "Minute to Win It". It was a lot of fun. Our challenges were whoever could catch the most minnows and make the most creative sand castle. When I was finished my friend and I, along with my sister jumped up on a raft to count the minnows. My little sister looked at the water and said "I think we're floating away." We all looked at the water and sure enough we were floating away. We were a quarter mile away from the house. We held up and waved our hands. When the grown ups saw us they just sat there like they didn't know what to do. They finally did something. The dads went and got the boat and tried pulling us. As they were pulling us I felt excited and scared at the same time.

By the time we got back I was ready to go tubing. First we had to blow up the tube. Then make sure the sand was off it. It was ready for action. We jumped on and got ready for the time of our lives. We started out slow then out of nowhere the wind started blowing in my face like a brick was hitting my face. We laughed. Good thing it was a tube where you lie on your stomach and hold on, because my friend Nicole flew so high that her feet went over her head but was still on strong.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we always make up a dance. My friend Paige and I did a dance that was really good. We danced to the song "Firework". We did it because it was the night we watched the firework show. At night we all sat down by the camp fire and watched the fireworks. That's what I love about going up to Minocqua.

Molly Simons  
4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Fall River School Elementary

### **When I fell down the stairs**

It was a sunny afternoon in 2003 and my dad was going downstairs to watch the hockey game with me. He opened the gate to go down stairs. We had a gate because I was still little. Then he said "I forgot the pizza slicer." The gate was open I put my hand to go down stairs. My dad turned around and said "Nooo!" It was almost like slow motion. I tumbled down the stairs face first. My dad was chasing after me. Then I just hit the bottom of the steps bang!

"Waaa!" I cried.

Dad was thinking "How am I going to tell this to Beth!" Beth is my mom. "There is a bruise in the middle of her forehead!"

The garage door just opened and my mom said, "What happened to Molly?"

"Oh she just fell." 8 years later my dad FINALY told my mom what really happened.

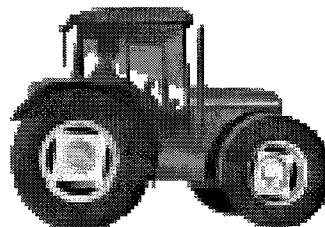
**My Arm**  
By Seth Breunig  
Grade 3  
Lodi School District

Hi. My name is Seth. When I was four years old I had an accident. My accident happened on my farm. I was digging in an auger and my dad was feeding the cows. He didn't know that I was back there playing with the auger and he turned it on. My arm was in the auger and it got chopped off.

My dad turned the auger off as fast as he could and threw me over his shoulder. He carried me into the barn and I saw my uncle Vernon, two of his friends from Montana, and all the cows. Dad took me to the office of our farm and called the ambulance. The ambulance took me up to the field where the Med-Flight helicopter was and the helicopter took me to the hospital.

When I got to the hospital they made me go to sleep. I needed stitches. I got about 36 stitches. I was in the hospital for about five days. I loved going to the cafeteria to get sub sandwiches. Once in a while people would deliver my food to my room.

Then I went home. When I got to my road I saw a big John Deere tractor waiting for me. I got to ride in it to my uncle's house. He lives just up the road from us. My whole family was there. We stopped there so I could say, "Hi" to everybody. Then we drove up to my house and all the boys ran behind the tractor. When I got to my house we all took a family picture.



## **When My Baby Sister Was Born**

By Carsyn Sullivan

Grade 3

Lodi School District

On October 5, 2010, my baby sister was born. My grandma and grandpa picked my sister and me up from school early that day and we rushed to the hospital. I could hardly wait because I was going to be a big sister!

When we got to the hospital all of my relatives were there. I ran to the hospital room and there she was, my new sister. My mom told me her name was Willa. She asked me if I wanted to hold her and said, "Yes! Yes!". My sister and I got to give Willa her first sponge bath. She was so cute when she was wet.

My sister, my grandpa and grandma and I went to the gift shop. I got a shirt that said "Big Sister", and we got Willa a stuffed animal. We stayed at the hospital for five hours. It was the saddest time of the day when my mom said that it was getting late and that we had to go home with my grandma.

The next day, when I got home from school, I saw my mom, dad and Willa. I ran out of the bus and kissed Willa, she was home.



## LESLIE'S LITTLE RED BOOT

By Rachel Campbell

Grade 4

Lodi School District

Once there was a girl named Leslie and she had little red boots that she loved so much. She loved them so much she wore them in the house and outside in any kind of weather. One cold December day she went out in a blizzard and stomped around, shouting, "I'm the queen of the world!" and waving her arms around. After a while, she got tired and decided to go back into the house and drink some hot cocoa. She jumped to the house like a kangaroo, but when she jumped she felt something cold on her foot. She looked down and saw that one little red boot had disappeared into a pile of snow. "Where could it have gone?" she thought.

She got down on all fours and started digging like a puppy dog in the snow where she had first felt the cold on her foot. But she couldn't find her boot anywhere. She was so upset that she needed to talk with her mother. She ran to the house not caring if her foot turned into an icicle. She opened the door so fast it almost fell off its hinges. Then she ran out of breath into the kitchen where her mother was cooking dinner. When her mom asked what was wrong, she told her the whole story about losing her boot. Her mom was shocked that she lost her boot just by lifting up her foot, and told her that they'd try to find her boot the following day when she got home from school. But for the time being, Leslie had to wear her sister's old boots. Leslie wasn't too happy about this, but she wore them anyway because she didn't want her feet to get cold. In school she said to her classmates, "Hey, guys, can you come over and help me find my boot? I lost it."

"Only if your mom makes brownies and hot chocolate," her classmates responded.

When Leslie and her classmates got to her house, Leslie went to find her mom. As usual, she was in the kitchen. Then Leslie and her classmates all had a snack. Afterwards, they went outside and started to look for the little red boot. They searched everywhere until there was no more light. Then Leslie asked everyone if they had seen the little red boot, but no one had. She was so sad that no one had found it that when her classmates left, she began to cry. Her mom tried to comfort her by making hot cocoa. But that didn't help, and Leslie went to bed.

Soon it was April and everybody but Leslie forgot about the little red boot because they were so involved in the beauty of spring. One morning Leslie looked out her bedroom window and saw her little red boot stuck in the mud and melting snow under the apple tree. She ran down the stairs screaming, "I found my little red boot! I found it, I found it!" and woke up everybody in the house. She pushed open the door and galloped into the front yard. Then she grabbed her boot, hugged it and put it on. Full of joy, she ran into the house tracking mud all over her mother's beautiful carpets.

**The End**

# Disney World

"Hannah we got a letter from ... Santa and it said that we are going to DISNEY WORLD. We have everything packed and we have to go to Milwaukee to the airport."

"All right guys we have to go to the gate."

On the plane I sat by my dad and my brother sat down by my mom. My dad kept saying chew gum, chew gum, and I think my mom was getting annoyed. Then I threw up but then I felt better and fell asleep.

When we got out off the plane. There was this guy standing there and said, "Are you guys the Clarks?" Then he brought us to the hotel. Then we got to the room and went to sleep.

My favorite part of the story was when we went swimming at night it was so dark. First we were at the arcade and my mom said, "Hey do you want to go swimming in the dark?" Then we went to go put on are swimming suits.

Then my brother and me had a race and it was super fun!

My other favorite part was three water rides. They where so fun! One of them I thought my head was going to pop off when we where going down the GIANT HILL! The other one I thought my BODY was going to fly off!

That one wasn't so scary.

Sunday it was time to go I was so tired because we left at 1:00 in the morning and I slept the whole way.

## THE END!

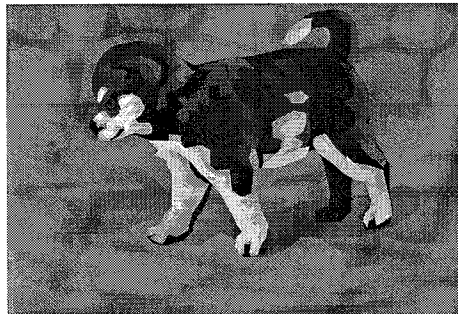
By Hannah Clark  
Grade 4  
Lodi School District

Holly  
By Sequoia Anderson  
Grade 4  
Montello School District

It was winter and in two more days it would be Christmas. I wanted a puppy. But my mom said we have too many animals. We only had three cats and two gerbils. I told my mom that all of my friends had dogs. My dad said, "So, if all of your friends jumped off a ledge you would too?" "No", I said.

It was finally Christmas. I opened the door to let my cat outside. If he didn't go out he would open and chew up the presents. There was a puppy! I let it in. My mom yelled to me. She said we could keep her! I named her Holly. She was scared of us, and once she peed on my dad's shoe.

One day she got sick and she lost 5 pounds in a week. She would not eat anything. We took her to a vet. My dad had to squirt milky stuff in her mouth and put pills in her food. After six weeks she got better. She was up and running all the time.

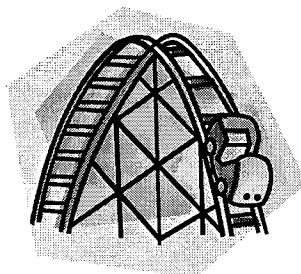


**Knuckheads**  
By Aubrey Duranceau  
Grade 3 – Pardeeville Elementary School

Thursday, I went to Nuckleheads with my friend, Kayley. First we went on the Springer, it was very exciting.

When we got on it, it went up slowly then down a wee bit really fast. It does this for five minutes.

When we got off our stomachs hurt, but we still went on it six more times. We had an awesome time.



**By Cami Johansen**  
**Grade 3 – Pardeeville Elementary School**

My mom told me we were meeting Megan at the theater parking lot in Portage. We got there and they weren't there. So we waited, but they still didn't come! I got gloomy. I thought I would not get to go. But they finally came.



When we got to Chula Vista Megan showed me around their hotel room. It was big; there was a really big bathtub, too.

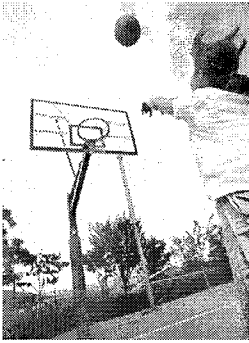
Then we went to the waterpark. Her parents let us go by ourselves, I was amazed. I spotted a slide and I said we should go on it. It was a body slide. I love body slides.

After the waterpark we left. On the way back we got slushies, I got a brain freeze.

It was a fun day. I hope we do it again.

**My First Basketball Tournament**  
**By Callie Brouette**  
**Grade 4 – Pardeeville Elementary School**

My first basketball tournament was on December 17, 2011. Our first game was at 11:15 in the gym of Dodgeville High School in Juneau. There was one minute left on the clock before we played the first game of the exciting tournament. Our whole team got nervous as we counted down quietly. Then the buzzer went off, “buzzzzzzz.”



I said, “Let’s break a leg.” When we started playing we didn’t look so hot. In the second half Brianna Brandner made a basket. The Pardeeville fans went wild. We ended up losing, forty-nine to two but we tried hard.

After we played it was lunch time. The team hung out until our next game.

When it was time to play again we weren’t as nervous. This time in parts we took a lead. We didn’t win but the score was fourteen to sixteen.

Finally we had our last game literally two minutes after the second one. This one we were positive to win. We got out there, played our hardest and won sixteen to fourteen. Our work paid off and we were excited.

It was a fun day of basketball. We won one game and played our hardest and that’s all that counts!

**By Lydia Jenatscheck**  
**Grade 4 – Pardeeville Elementary School**

One short school day, I was waiting for the bell to ring at Pardeeville Elementary School. All the kids were eager to get out of school, but not as much as I was. Because I was going to GRANDMA'S! "Hurry, hurry," I was saying to myself. Finally at 11:05 it happened, the bell rang! I was so excited I jumped from my seat and ran out the door, grabbed my brother, Cooper and ran home.

"Dad, is van ready to go, can we just pull out and go?" "No, not yet, but while you're waiting, go get your pillows and blankets." Remarked dad. "Okay and by that time we should be ready." Dad got the van ready and we were off.



"Hello dear how are you?" Grandma exclaimed as she greeted me through the door. Quickly I ran up to the attic to see if there was anything there for me. Nope, nothing, same old same old. I put down my suitcase and dashed downstairs to see grandpa. He lazily said, "hi" and jerked his head back to the TV. Grandma shouted down the stairs, "Lydia would you like to go to Grandma Ruth's condo and play bingo?" "Sure", I said to myself, "why not"? So I ran upstairs to get in the car.

While we were playing bingo I always lost, all the old people won. I thought there was a saying "beginner's luck" but apparently not with bingo. When we got to grandma's it was time to go home. I didn't want to go so I begged a thousand times and finally after fifteen minutes of begging mom said, "Sure." I hugged my mom until I thought she was going to puke but eventually I stopped.

## Klaus

By Emilio Escobado

Rusch Elementary, Portage

We were having a porch dinner.  
Our Bareness mountain dog Klaus was out  
and he EATS unguarded food. I got the  
steak.

"Well is it good," asked Erika?

"Yes," I replied.

"Then good," she said.

"It's my favorite," called dad, bringing three types of BBQ sauce  
out.

I gazed out at our back yard.

"Sunset is beautiful," observed mom.

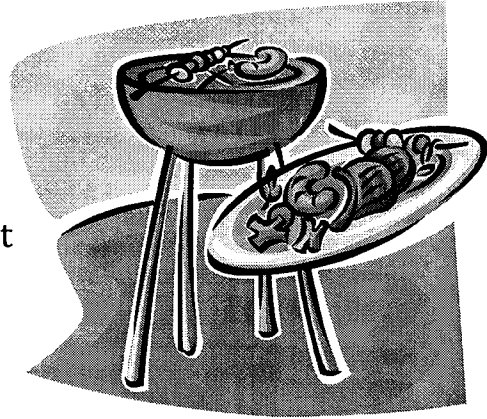
"Hey look," I said.

"I know. Isn't it pretty?"

"Not that," I told her. "Let's voice affects squirrels," I told her  
cheerfully. "Give me that nut," I squealed like I had helium in my mouth.

"No way Fred," mom squeaked. "Now let's eat some steak."

The steak was gone and Klaus was laying down. His face was  
covered in BQQ sauce. KLAUS!



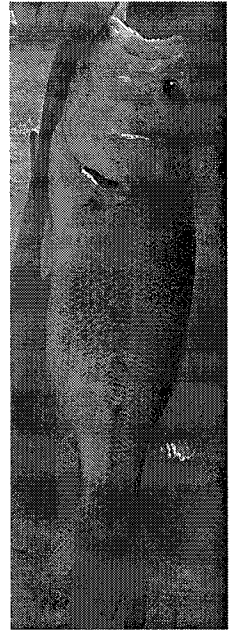
## **Large Mouth Bass**

By Aidan Statz

Grade 3

Fort Winnebago Elementary, Portage

We were up north on our annual visit to the cabin. It was summer vacation, July 2011. By up north I mean Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin. One day Dad, Liam, and I went fishing on a hot afternoon on the pontoon boat. I cast my line in Bass Bay under a fallen tree. I caught one! It was a large mouth bass. The fish danced on the water. I tried to unhook it myself, but dad took it off. Dad released it carefully into the lake. I hope it happens again!



## **The Time I Went To The Brewer Game**

by: McKenzie Brown

Grade 4

Fort Winnebago Elementary, Portage

It was last year when I went to a Brewer game. I was supposed to go to my friend Eve's birthday party, but my mom and dad said that they were going to the Brewer game, and that the babysitter didn't know where Eve lived. I got really mad.

So when that day came, my mom said to pack some snacks and I asked, "Why?" She answered, "Because I am giving you my ticket to you."

I got so excited that I gave her a big hug and said, "Thank you very, very much! I have never been to a Brewer game before."

"I know!" my mom said. So I packed some snacks. Then I called my grandma up and told her that I was going. She said that she knew it was all a trick and that I was going with my grandpa, and my uncle Brandon. I got even more excited because I never get to see him. Then I asked, "Are we driving there?"

She answered, "No, we were going to get there by bus. We will be leaving in a half an hour!"

"Okay," I said. Then I hung up the phone got my snacks ready put my iPod in my pocket and watched T.V. until it was time to go. It took two and a half hours to get there, but it was worth the wait!



## **My Trip to Phoenix**

By Matthew Miles

Grade 4

Fort Winnebago Elementary, Portage

My Grandma and Grandpa live in Phoenix, Arizona during the winter months and part of spring. So when it is spring break from school, my family likes to go to Phoenix. I will tell you about the time I went two years ago. We drove to Milwaukee. We got on the plane to Atlanta, Georgia. It was about 5:00 p.m. now. The plane was leaving at 6:30 p.m. to Phoenix. We arrived at 9:30 p.m. We waited and waited, what seemed like forever, for my grandma and grandpa to pick us up. Finally, they arrived! My Grandma and Grandpa ran up to us and hugged us. They had a present for me. It was a Pokemon DS game. I played it on the way to their house. When I arrived at their house, it looked different inside. They had remodeled it from the last time I was there. It was about 10:30 p.m. now and I was tired, so off to bed I went.

The next day we went to the zoo. We saw a bunch of cool animals. My Aunt Blanche was also staying with us and she wanted to go rent a scooter cart because she said it was too hard for her to walk all over the zoo and keep up with us. I had to mention this because my Dad stole it from her when she had gotten off of it. It was so funny!! We left the zoo about 2:00 p.m. After the zoo, we went to the Broadway Theater. It was a musical thing with dinner served. We had lots of food and dessert.

The next day we went to Superstition Mountain and Ghost Town. First, we went to Ghost Town. It is a town that is abandoned but it's like a museum. I bought some rocks and a shark tooth. Next, we went to Superstition Mountain. We drove up the mountain until we got to the highest point we could go. On top of the mountain is a restaurant called Tortilla Flats. We ate there and in the gift shop, I bought a coon's hat. I wore the hat for the rest of the day.

While we were up in the mountains, we went hiking. That was a lot of fun. On our journey back down the mountain, we visited a church. It was a small, little church set up like a museum but we were pretending to be the priest and congregation. My day ended with swimming in the pool and watching Popeye. I fell asleep on the couch.

The next day, I woke up at 7:00 a.m. I helped my Grandma make breakfast. Then the rest of my family woke up and they enjoyed the bacon I made. Our next adventure was going to Canyon Lake. We were going on a boat tour. !” While I was on the boat, I bought a wooden cactus. We saw caves and a lot of cool boulders. After the tour, we ate lunch and headed home for swimming and dinner. To end our night, my family went to an ASU girl's basketball game. They beat Texas 71 to 63. It was a good game!

The second to last day before heading home, we went to the flea market. I was ready to buy some toys! I got a remote control car. It was a long day of shopping. We left the flea market at 3:00 p.m. and went home and watched some TV, rode the golf cart and rode bikes. After we were done, we headed back to the house and watched two movies and called it a night.

Our final day we just chilled around the house. We went swimming, played water volleyball, tag and my favorite game in the water called Shark. It was time to pack up our clothes. I played one last Uno game with my Grandpa and watched the Milwaukee Bucks with my Dad. Our plane was going to be leaving at 12:00 a.m. so we had a long night of traveling. We arrived at the airport and got on the plane to Atlanta. After an hour wait, we got on next plane to head to Milwaukee. Soon it was home sweet home!

## Being Lost

Do you know what its like to be lost in Wal-Mart? I do, and it is terrible. I was walking with my sister, and I was looking at something. My sister went around the corner, and when I was done looking at it, she was gone.

I tried to find my mom. It feels like you will be lost forever. I started to cry. I yelled my sister's name Alexa, but she didn't hear me. I tried it one more time. She still didn't hear me. I was still crying, so I went to the front of the store and told the person up there that I was lost. She announced on the intercom, "If Susan McCormick is in the store, your party is waiting for you!" My mom knew what she meant. She came to the front of the store.

I was so happy to see my mom again that I cried even more. I was so relieved!

Finally it was time to go home. We jumped into our car and we started the car and left. On our way home my mom talked to me about staying close to her. Another thing she talked to me about was that she was so proud that I had done the right thing by going to the front of the store and telling an employee that I was lost. I never want to be lost again!

Jaden McCormick  
Grade 3  
Poynette School District

## **The Embarrassment**

It was a warm spring day, and my mom and I were getting into the car to go to my dance rehearsal. I felt like I was going to scream with excitement because it was going to be my first recital. After a half-an-hour we got there. While my mom got out my fluffy blue costume, I started dancing on the sidewalk.

When we got inside, we dashed straight to the dressing room. We saw girls in fancy outfits putting make-up on. Then our dance teacher came in and said, "It's time to dance!"

All the girls followed our dance teacher to the stage. I felt like I was ready to jump on the stage and start dancing. I had to wait for a while to go on stage, but the time finally came. My best friend, Peyton, and I just started twirling around on stage. After it was over, my mom said that I did a great job, and then I went home.

The next day my mom said to get ready to go to my recital. I got ready quickly, and we left. In the car I worried. What if I fall off stage and break my head open? What if I mess up? What if the dance teacher said I did horrible? Finally we got there.

We hurried inside. I got dressed quickly, and we headed to the stage. While the high school kids were dancing, I got so excited I jumped right out on stage! The dance teacher stopped their dance and made me go right back off stage. After that it went fine.

Finally it was time to go. In the car my mom told me to remember to stay off stage when it wasn't my turn. She also told me that the dance was on a video, but she wasn't going to buy it because of my mistake.

Two years later I watched the video with my friend because she had it. As we were watching the video, I saw me out on the stage with a bunch of high school dancers. They had to stop while the teacher got me off the stage. I was super embarrassed seeing this on video! After that experience I never did it again.

Nina Weichmann  
Grade 3  
Poynette School District

## **The Time Lucy and I Went Camping**

One summer day, I went to my friend Lucy's house for a sleepover. I was thinking a lot about camping. When my mom picked me up, I asked her if we were going camping. She said "yes." Then I asked her if Lucy and one of my brother's friends could come with us. After about ten minutes, I talked her into it. Lucy and I went to her parents to ask. I was more worried about that! I was surprised that they said "yes" too.

When we arrived at The Yellow Stone Campground, I had the idea of going roller blading. There was a problem though. I only had one pair of roller blades for Lucy and I to use. It was very muddy and wet, but still sunny. When we saw the hill, it looked like the steepest hill ever. Lucy didn't have any roller blades, so I gave Lucy one roller blade. As we were sitting on the hill, we both put one roller blade on. Then we held hands and went down the hill together at the same speed. As we were catching speed, we both looked at each other in terror! When we were at the bottom, we were surprised that we made it without falling down. We started bursting out laughing!

In the morning, Lucy and I got up we rode our bikes to the bathroom to freshen up. When we were half way there, it started to pour! Lucy and I went back. We were soaked and very muddy because we weren't paying attention and we rode into mud puddles. Just as you would think, we had to go in those gross and little showers! Lucy and I waited for specific showers we thought were the best. We thought they were all different levels of dirtiness. We waited until the last showers because we thought that one was the most clean. Guess what? We were... **WRONG**. One of them had one dead daddy long leg spider, two caterpillars and one alive jumping spider! Gross!

That to me was my favorite camping trip ever because Lucy was there to share it with me. I am very glad that I had the nerve to ask my parents and Lucy's parents in the first place. I hope we can do it again soon!

Casey Fountain  
Grade 4  
Poynette School District

## The Lodi Fair

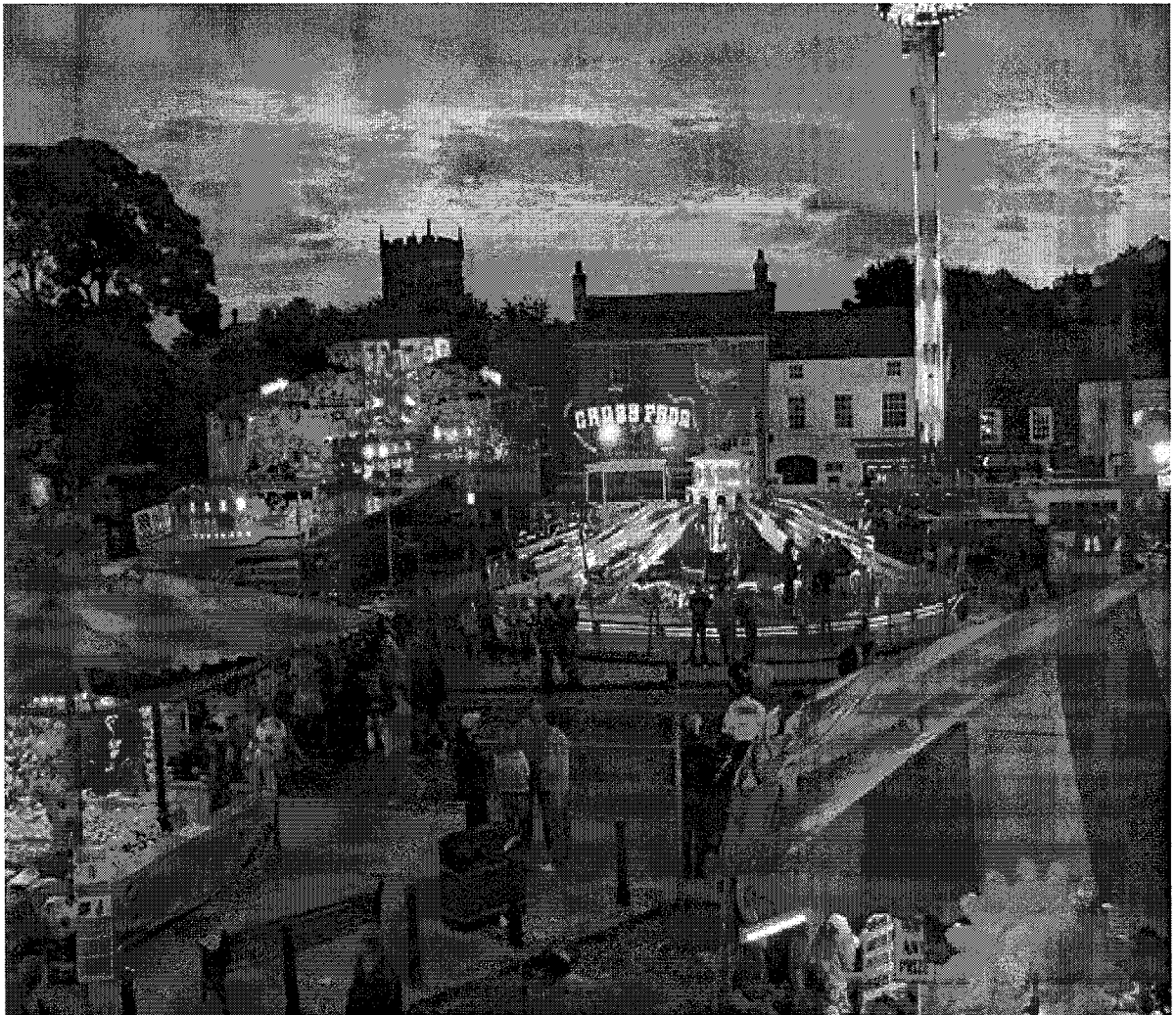
One year I went to the Lodi Fair. I showed two turkeys and one heifer. The turkeys were named Drumstick and Delicious, and the heifer was named Fabulous.

I was waiting by my show box, and I had dreams coming out of my ears. I was feeling really happy, excited, and nervous. It was showtime and I was at the tent. The judge said, "This is one of the best." Then he really surprised me and said, "But this one IS the best." Then he put a huge ribbon on my turkey's cage. I was amazed.

I had both turkeys that got champion and grand champion. I was able to sell one at the auction. Next I had to get ready to show my heifer. I got to the ring and was ready.

I went in and walked around twice. Then the judge came by me and said, "You got first." This day was getting better and better.

On Saturday was the auction and I sold my turkey and got \$275.



Haden Ripp  
Grade 4  
Poynette School District

**Mexico**  
Personal Narrative  
by Miguel Ruiz  
Grade 3  
Reedsburg School District

The day I went to Mexico was the best time of my life. I went because I needed a vacation from home and my Grandma and Grandpa live there. It took at least 2 days to get there. When we got there we went to my Grandma's house, then to their farm. I rode my 4-wheeler in the back yard. I went to a party when all of a sudden the lights went out! I was only like 5 or 6 years old. The army came and shot up to the roof. I don't know why. I got super scared because it was pitch black outside and inside. I went outside and asked one of the army people if I could shoot the gun. The army person helped me hold the gun straight and I shot the gun. I had a great time in Mexico!

**Chicago**  
by Ethan Ziebell  
Grade 3  
Reedsburg School District

It was hot at my house in the afternoon. The living room was filled with clothes, bags, and suitcases. When I was done packing we left. While we were driving I fell fast asleep. When I woke up a little bit later I saw tall buildings.

My mom said, "This is Chicago."

I was so amazed! I never had seen a skyscraper before!  
I asked my mom where we were going.

My mom said, "We are going to a hotel."

"For how long?" I asked.

"For two days," my mom said.

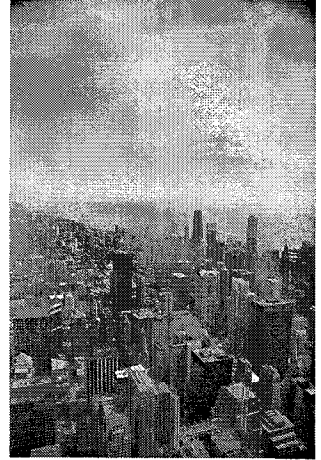
The hotel was called the Affinia Hotel. We went inside and it was huge. My brother and I played while my mom and dad checked us in the hotel. When they were done we went to the elevator.

My mom hit the 19 button. When we stopped we went to our room. The room was fancy. It had a big living room, a bathroom, a closet, two beds, and a kitchen. We stayed there for a little bit and then we left. We walked to the Hancock Building. We all

went inside. We all went to an elevator and someone took our picture and gave us headphones. We went to the fastest elevator in Chicago. While we went up to the 94th floor our ears felt numb. When we stopped we stepped out and saw clouds out the big window. The clouds looked like my old dog Snowball. When we were done we went back down the elevator. When we left the building we walked to the beach.

While we walked I got hotter and hotter! Then we walked to a cab that looked as yellow as a banana. While we drove to the hotel we talked to the cab driver. When we stopped we all got out of the cab. We went to a restaurant for supper. While we ate our thick pizza I got tired. After we all ate we went back to the hotel. As our mom and dad got the bed ready we looked out the window of our room. Then we climbed in and fell asleep soon from a long day.

In the morning we had breakfast. Later we left. We were driving to the Chicago Children's Museum. When we got there we had to find a parking spot. After we found a parking spot we went inside. It was huge! I saw one thing, how waves were formed. I saw one tornado in a glass cage with a balloon flying around. On the ceiling was a loud BOOM! I saw it was lightning. It boomed every little bit. Later we went in one room where I could see my veins. Next to it was a machine that would show how fast my heart was beating on a screen. I tried it. It said my heart beat was normal. After that we left for home. I think it was the best trip I ever went on.



## My Sister

Eight years ago my sister was born with one hand. At first we didn't know why, but now we do. She has one hand to teach the world. She teaches the world it doesn't matter what you look like or what you have. What matters is how you act.

Haley has already started teaching people this lesson. Even though she has one hand, she is just like anyone else. She has lots of friends. Her favorite sports are gymnastics, soccer, basketball, tennis, and golf. She is also really good at these sports. Sometimes we offer to help her, but she says, "no," because she is determined to do it herself. She may do things differently but she can do it.

Kids ask her all the time why she has one hand, and she says, "I was born this way." Sometimes she gets sad because there is no one in our school that has one hand like her. I don't like to see her sad because she is really funny and nice. I like my sister the way she is because what makes her different also makes her special.



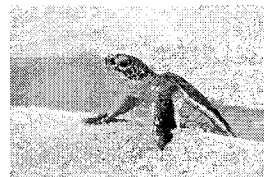
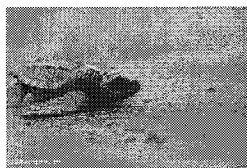
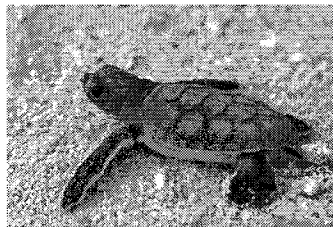


## Sea Turtle Rescue

When I was in Mexico, my family and I went to the beach almost every day. Sometimes we would try to watch TV, but it was stuck on the Spanish channel. So, we decided to go to the beach, and that's when I was glad we went to the hotel we did!

They were handing out baby sea turtles!!!! I was so excited because I had never held a baby sea turtle before. They felt different than anything I ever felt. The turtle shells felt smooth in some places and bumpy in others. They were so dark green that they were almost black, and they were really small and gentle. They were really cute and they looked so innocent.

We had to let them go. But before we let them go, they explained why they were needed help from kids. They said that baby sea turtles can get hurt, even die, just going out to sea. So, our responsibility was to watch them go so they wouldn't get hurt. Mine wouldn't leave me. I tried to let it go but it kept turning around and coming back to me. But when it finally left, I waved my turtle goodbye and we went back to the hotel. I wonder how big my turtles gotten? I'll never forget that trip to Mexico!!!



## **The Day I Got Stung By a Hornet**

One day my sister and I went on a trail ride with our Columbia County Horse Council. My sister, Ashley, went on the first ride with Cameo, our horse. I was so excited! When Ashley came back, it was my turn to ride. She said that they had gone over jumps and cantered up a hill.

I went on the trail with my mom and a few other girls. The trail ride was in a forest. I was really excited, but at the same time I was nervous because I had never taken Cameo on a trail ride. I was last of the pack and my mom was in front of me on a horse named Fawn. We went over a really big hill. When we neared the first jump of logs, the rest of the girls wanted to jump the logs but I wasn't ready yet. My mom said that she and I could just walk over the logs. Cameo took a couple steps in place. By that time my mom was around the corner of trees. Suddenly Cameo started rearing up and cantering in place. I tried to grab her reins but they went up her neck and over her head. I had to hold on to Cameo's mane. I felt my heart pounding and I didn't know what to do. I yelled "Ho!" many times but Cameo didn't stop. She went bolting into the forest and off the trail. Thankfully she was stopped by a tree. I yelled "Mom!" and she came back around the corner on Fawn. She got off Fawn and grabbed Cameo's reins. I got off and grabbed Fawn.

My mom was backing Cameo out of the trees when I felt something kind of flutter up to my armpit. Then I felt something sting me under the armpit. I grabbed it. It looked like a wasp but it was three inches long. I took it. I squeezed it. I killed it. I threw it down onto the ground. Everybody was asking "Are you OK?" We took a short cut back to the farm. I was crying and shaking. I didn't feel very good. My friends were asking me what had happened.

Deb Woodworth who is a vet checked Cameo out. She said that Cameo had been stung, too. She had big lumps all over her chest and neck. She was still wound up but we splashed water on her chest and she calmed down. I felt guilty that I let this happen to Cameo but I still wondered what that thing was that I pulled out of my armpit. My sting was really hurting so Kaitlyn got me some Vaseline and a band-aid. I told Deb about the thing under my arm. She said that it was probably a hornet.

My mom and Kaitlyn's Dad went back to the trail with a bottle of pest killer. When they came back they said there was a ground hornet's nest on the trail and they had sprayed it. We went back to spray it one more time. It was huge. Most of the hornets were dead but we sprayed it a second time.

After we had lunch I said that I would go back out onto the trail with a few other girls and with my mom and dad by my side. We went past the nest. Cameo didn't start going crazy. The hornets were gone. By the end of the day I had gone past the nest seven times and Cameo didn't even flinch. I was sad to leave but I had to. I had a pretty wild and awesome day!





### **The Day We Gave Our Dog Away**

One day we had to sell our dog. She was a black pug and only mom and I got to go to see her go away with what I called “the dog snatches”. They asked us if they could change her name from Bijou to something else and that was the worst day, well night, after Christmas ever. Mom and I cried and cried. My brothers didn’t even cry when Bijou was gone. The people who took Bijou said they would send pictures but they didn’t. So they lied and they put a sweater thing that was like a reddish brown. They took one little picture on a tiny phone and that’s all. So yea, I’ve never had to give up a puppy like this before. I still miss Bijou and I will never forget about Bijou.

By: Jane Risgaard

Grade: 3

Rio School District

## One Last Kiss

It was a warm summer afternoon. The crickets were singing a happy tune. I sat on the white rocking chair on our deck. I looked out at my beautiful pony, Cowgirl, eating in the pasture. Thoughts of all the great times I had with my pony streamed though my head and warm tingles tickled my heart.

I was five years old when I got her. When we went to see if she would be the right pony for me, I remember riding her around and around thinking.....Why do we have to go so fast? After a few more rides, I got used to her quick pace and began to enjoy riding her. I was so excited to have a pony of my very own. She was not the most beautiful looking pony, but she was very sweet. I started taking lessons and became very good at riding her.

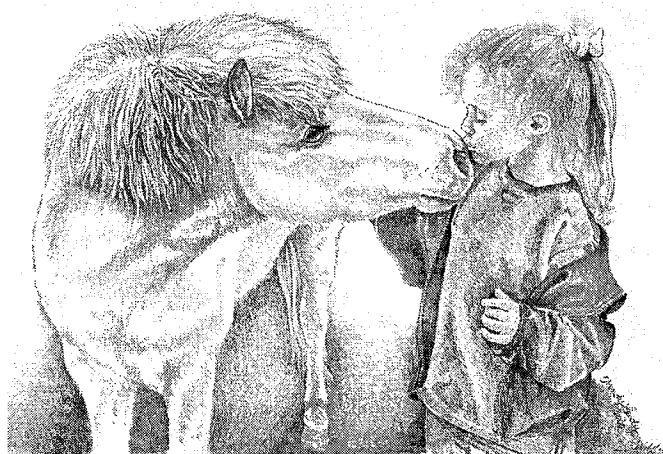
Unfortunately, my wonderful pony was also a very naughty pony. She loved to try and get out of any place that she was kept. Many times we would come home to find my pony happily munching in the front yard. My dad was especially not too fond of her, because he was usually the one to have to chase her down after getting out.

As the years went by, Cowgirl became very old and it became harder and harder for her to eat her food. She also developed a condition that made it difficult for her to keep fat on her body. Sadly, it came time that we had to decide that she should go to heaven. The night before the veterinarian came to our house; I went out to the barn one more time and gave my pony one last kiss. . . .tears flooded over my eyes. I soon remembered my beautiful pony would be leaving me. I will miss her forever and ever.

*McKenzie Sampson*

*4<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*Rio Elementary School*





## The Youth Hunt

The day before the youth hunt for 10 year olds had come. I was aiming to get a buck, but a doe was fine. The next day I woke up with my dad at 5:00. We got out hunting about 6:00. We started out by going to Dad's stand. I live on a hill and across the yard we own a big forest. It's littered with dead fallen trees. Towards the back of the forest it gets marshy and Rocky Run Creek goes through it. When we got to his stand it looked normal except, the grass was a little flatter than usual. It was very cold and windy. We heard noises through-out the morning but saw nothing. Then, we decided to go have lunch. A few hours later we went out again. This time we went by the creek. We found a cool fort of broken wood. It looked like a barricade. The front was put into a pile and curved like a U. Small trees stuck up in front of it, so deer could only see from behind us. We sat, watched, listened and whispered to each other. After an hour or two, Dad fell asleep so I was watching alone. Five or six minutes later I heard a huge splash. I woke up Dad, he was confused. He listened and heard another splash. This time something was walking through the water. Dad saw a doe, and then he saw a buck! There was one problem... I didn't see them, the grass was too tall. Dad said they were running. Dad started using the grunter, which calls deer. The doe was answering, but ran off; we didn't know where the buck went. A while later Dad saw antlers, I picked up the gun and was frantically trying to find them. I finally found them and... well, they were huge. The buck was lying down so I had to guess where he was. I was trying to position myself better, but every time I moved, his whole head stuck up. After five minutes I finally locked on target. The next thing I knew my shoulder and ears hurt and the buck was wasn't there. Dad was jumping around. So, we got up and walked across the creek. Then I saw blood in the water. That was a good sign! There was the buck, lying down, and blood was everywhere. Well, it was not the best shot, right above the nose. Dad did the cutting, that's not my favorite part to watch. The buck was an eight pointer and very fat. The fun part is dragging it home in the dark. We ended up calling Mom and my brother, Brett, to help. That wasn't enough so we called my uncle. We got to the house at like 9:30. We still had to get the deer to Johnson's. We made it before they closed. Then, we went home, ate some pizza, and went to bed. It was a very exciting day!

Bryant Sell  
Grade 4  
Rio Elementary School

Madeline Ganshert  
Personal Narrative  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Three

### NINE LIVES

I had just gotten a brand new kitten when disaster struck. My parents are divorced. This was at my mom's. I was at my dad's. As soon as it happened, I got a call from my mom and stepdad, Ryan. My mom said slowly, in a confusing way, that our cat, Vinny, was in the hospital with a veterinarian watching him closely. I asked for a better explanation, and after a moment of silence, they said, "Vinny is sick and in the hospital." Right then, I felt like my heart split in two. Thinking about Vinny, or any other animal in the hospital, was too much to think about at that moment. I said good-bye to my mom and Ryan and just sat there trying to convince myself that Vinny was OK.

"BANG!" went the plates as my dad took them out of the dishwasher. I could hear the sound of the plates coming from downstairs. It was about 6:30 in the morning. As I lay in my bed, I had some time to think about the questions I wanted to ask and didn't get to ask the previous night.

Tears rolled down my cheeks as I watched Vinny lay in his hospital crate panting. It was my first time visiting Vinny in the animal hospital. I walked out of the veterinarian's office looking like 20 raindrops had landed on my shirt. As I walked to the car, questions came spilling out of my mouth. The answer was "yes" to just about every question, until I asked, "*Will Vinny die?*" Silence filled the car until finally the answer came. "I don't know," replied both my mom and Ryan at the same time. Once again tears started to come, because a pet dying isn't something you want to think about. Even though I wanted to cry, I chose to hold the tears

back. I stared out the window to try and get my mind off Vinny, but it was the wrong idea. My view was lifeless. All the trees were leafless, the grass was brown, and the sky was gray and full of clouds.

When Vinny got home from the hospital, we had to feed him slowly through a feeding tube that was placed inside his neck. The process took a long time, and we had to be careful. If we fed Vinny too fast, he would get upset, stand up, and shake. Liquid food would splatter all over. GROSS!

That went on for weeks, until one day my mom came home and found the long feeding tube and blood laying on the ground. Vinny was nowhere to be seen. My mom searched and searched until she found him in the basement with the wound open and his neck bleeding. My mom wrapped a hair band around Vinny's neck and drove him to the hospital. The doctor looked at Vinny and said, "Try giving him some food." Vinny ate the food, which meant he was okay.

It took Vinny a year to recover completely. During his sickness, he turned gray and looked old. Very slowly he began to regain his color. We also had to wait over a year for Vinny to purr again, but in the end he was all right.

People say that cats have nine lives. With all the near death moments Vinny had, who knows how many he has left. I am just glad I can wake up with him every day. I had never experienced something this difficult before, and it will remain in my heart forever.

Cole Hicken  
Personal Narrative  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Three

### TINY TORNADO

Here in this great state of Wisconsin, in the incredible county of Sauk County, in this awesome city of Sauk Prairie, I live with my mom, dad, and Tiny Tornado (also known as my little brother, Drew Hicken, age four and in 4K at Spruce Street Elementary School).

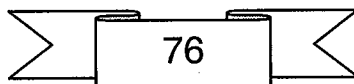
The reason we call him Tiny Tornado is because he's always moving, even when we're all sleeping. Without them even knowing, he mysteriously ends up in my mom and dad's bed each night.

He's also called Tiny Tornado because he talks so loudly, like the howling wind of a real tornado. Whenever we're in church, he screams when he wants something. When mom's at work, he will yell, "MOM!" until she returns to the house, and trust me on this one, it's really embarrassing.

The biggest reason we call him Tiny Tornado is because he makes so many messes!!!! For an example, he knocks Lego's all over the floor, he spills water everywhere, and he also dumps tacks out of the drawer. If you don't believe me, come to my house.

So, if you still don't understand why we call my brother Tiny Tornado, you might have to meet him. As he spins around you in his wild and crazy old way, you will understand.

## TAKE COVER!!!





Leanna Niesen  
Personal Narrative  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Four

### RESCUING THE GUINEA PIG

"How did he get inside the chair?" I questioned

"He just crawled down into the lining," my second cousin, Taylor, replied.

I was at my dad's cousin, Kim's, house because my mom had to do work with her. Kim's awesome eight-year-old daughter had lost her new pet in a chair. We tried to reach through the hole that he had crawled through, but my arm wouldn't go far enough to reach Marbles, the guinea pig. Taylor and I tried almost everything. Just then my mom came over. We talked about what we should do, and we came up with a plan.

A few minutes later, Kim was holding the chair up, my mom was holding a knife, and Taylor and I were watching the little lump scurrying around the bottom of the chair.

"OK, here goes," my mom said reluctantly.

She started to cut a hole in the chair lining. Soon it was big enough to reach through. Mom stuck her arm in, while Taylor and I guided the lump toward her. Mom grabbed at him, but he ran away. She let me try next. I stuck my arm in just like my mom had. Taylor pushed the little lump toward me. Suddenly I felt something furry brush against my fingers. I grabbed at it. "YES!" I rejoiced, as I extracted the furry thing from the chair. I got out from under the chair, and Taylor and I put him back in his cage where he belongs. "Squeak!"

Adeliah D. Tobias  
Personal Narrative  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Four

### MY SIX NEW STITCHES

It was June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005, a fantastic summer day, so I decided to ride my undersized Strawberry Shortcake bike. I went over to the bike shed, but I was too small to go inside. My Grandpa Dennis got a bike rack and placed it outside of the bike shed for my bike.

I got on my bike and sat on the lemonade-pink seat. I turned the wheel unsteadily and began to pedal. I accidentally jerked the wheel to make the bike head to a cement ditch full of old farm things.

It all started so suddenly! I ran into a large gas tank, and my head must've been bleeding, because when I put my hand there and took it down, it was coated with red. I yelped in pain and fear.

Grandpa Dennis ran out to get me. He saw me on the ground next to my bike and rushed me into the house. I heard my big sister, Christina, go upstairs and yell at my dad, "Dad! Wake up! There's blood everywhere!" Grandpa Dennis dabbed at my head with a washcloth, and then I blacked out.

I woke up in the hospital emergency waiting room. I sat up and looked at some fish in the tank. Mom handed me her phone, and I called my Aunt Teri to tell her what happened.

Then my doctor called me in. They had me lie down on a big bed with wheels. I was very curious about what everything was, being only three years old. They rolled me into the doctor's room, where my dad and I watched "Monster Wheels"

while the doctors got my numbness medicine. In the movie, people tried to make a car into a plane.

When the movie was half-way through, the doctors came in with the medicine. They gave it to me. When the numbness came, they put in the first stitch. I whimpered a little, thought I couldn't feel a thing. Mom sat by me, which made me feel braver.

Finally, they finished. The nurses left and came back with a big brown teddy bear with a pink heart nose.

"I'll name you Judge Stitch!" I screamed and hugged the dog. After that, Mom carried me into my grandma's van, and we went home. And I had six new stitches to come with me!

## The Big Buck

It was opening day of deer season at 10 o'clock in the morning. I was tired of sitting in the stand, so I asked my dad if we could go for a walk. We went for a walk down the trail along the creek that leads to a beaver dam. As we walked, we talked about beavers and beaver tails.

We were almost to the beaver dam when I saw a tail. I exclaimed, "Dad, I see a tail!"

He looked into the creek and said, "Where? Where? I don't see anything."

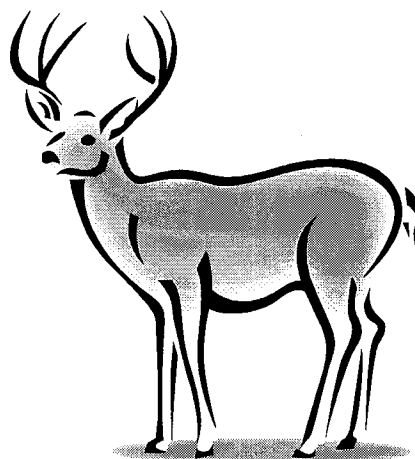
"Over there! Across the creek," I said as I pointed to the deer tail flashing away. My dad called my Uncle Bob on the walkie-talkie to tell him that a deer was coming his way.

We continued our walk along the creek to the beaver dam to look for a beaver. About a minute later, as I was leaning against a tree next to the creek, I heard KAPOW! I almost fell into the creek because the shot scared me. I asked my dad if it was Uncle Bob that shot. He didn't know. So, my dad called Uncle Bob on the walkie-talkie to see if he shot and if the deer was down. It was Uncle Bob that shot and he thought it was down, but he didn't know for sure. He told us he was going to get down from his stand to check see if the deer was down. My Uncle Bob asked us to walk down the road in case the deer had gotten up and ran away.

After about two minutes, Uncle Bob called us back on the walkie-talkie and asked if I wanted to come in the woods and hold the antlers. I ran into the woods to him because I was so excited and knew what that meant.

When I finally got to him, I saw an 8-point buck laying on the ground. It was big! I took a few pictures with the buck. My dad called Uncle Tom on the walkie-talkie and asked him to bring the four-wheeler over to us. About five minutes later, he was over by us and helped to load the deer on the four-wheeler. We hauled the deer to my Uncle Bob's truck and I went along to go register it. Then, we took the deer back to the cabin and hung it up on a pole. Finally, we all went back out hunting into the woods in search of another big buck.

Jonathon Ballinger  
Grade 3  
Personal Narrative  
Amherst Elementary School  
Tomorrow River School District



## **The Time I Caught a 40-Inch Muskie**

I love going fishing, especially with my dad. When we go fishing together, we like to have tournaments with each other. We get points based upon either the kind of fish we catch, its size, or how many fish we catch. Catfish or Muskies give you extra points.

On one cool spring day, my dad and I were on our way to the Wisconsin River. Our target fish was the walleye. When we launched the boat, the water was as smooth as glass. When we arrived at our fishing spot near a rock pile, I took out a spinning rod with a twister tail grub and jig head on; my dad did the same. On the depth finder, we saw plenty of fish and all we needed to do was catch them.

My dad caught the first fish. He put it in the live well. Then about five minutes later, I finally caught one. It was only 12 inches, so we could not keep it. Then I hook up on a nice one – what I think to be a walleye! My dad thought it was a catfish or walleye. This fish put on a good fight.

When I got it close to the boat it headed straight for the motor! I knew if I wasn't careful the fish would get away by breaking my line! It took a good 5 minutes to get the beast in the boat. My dad had the net ready to net the fish. When we finally got to see the fish it jumped out of the water about a yard from the boat! Then the second time it came up to the boat, my dad grabbed it with the net! The battle was over! I caught the biggest Muskie out of the entire family – 40 inches long! My dad took a couple of quick pictures and I released it back into the Wisconsin River. Seeing it swim back into the water made me feel proud. When I got home my mom could not believe her eyes! I entered the photo into a contest and won a new tackle bag! I was both amazed and shocked that I caught a 40-inch Muskie.



Tyler Cory

Grade 4

Personal Narrative

Amherst Elementary School

Tomorrow River School District

Grade 4

By: Cameron S.

Trinity Lutheran School

Personal Narrative

## **My Great Dog**

Woof! Woof! My ultimate and courageous daring dog barked! Marley, my dog, was as brown as dirt. He was as brave as Jesus, and he was as cute as a kitten. I thought he was as soft as a sheep. I am excited and happy that Marley is my dog.

It was a gorgeous and glowing morning. It was fall and the dazzling leaves were as colorful as a rainbow. "Mom, I'm taking Marley on a walk in the woods," I called. The trees were standing as if they were a class in a single file line.

"Ok!" Mom answered.

While walking I started to hear weird strange noises. In my head, I imagined a scary wolf appeared! I was startled. "Yikes!" I yelled. The wolf heard my surprised holler. It started dashing at me. "Help"! I yelled. In my mind Marley charged and chomped his neck.



"Go wonderful Marley!" Then suddenly, the wolf was gone. The scary wolf had ran away.

My family was very proud! "Are you Ok?" my parents asked.

"Yes!" Thanks to Marley. I wonder if something like that would ever happen. The next day I wrote a

story about "My Great Dog." My mom loved my story.

"Great" she said. "Just great," she said.

# My Compound Bow

It was November 6, 2011, eight o'clock. I was at my friend Rod's house. I woke up in a nice warm bed on that gloomy morning. I got out of bed. A cold rush of wind came at me. It was cold when I came out of the spare bedroom, so I went to the chair in the living room.

The warm surge swept over me like lava. I slept peacefully and warmly for about half an hour. I woke up to find my mom and Rod watching TV. They must have seen me wake up because they looked at each other and my mom asked Rod, "Do you think he's ready?"

"I don't know," Rod said, "What do you think?"

"It's one of your Christmas presents, how long is it to Christmas?" my mom asked me.

A surge went through me like I was being electrocuted. I rushed to the calendar nearly knocking down a big case by the wall. I didn't care much about it though. When I got to the calendar I counted all the days between that day and December 25. I counted out loud, "One, two, three...It's 49 days," I said.

My mom asked again, "Do you think it's long enough away from Christmas?"

"Long enough for what?!?" I asked.

"To forget you tried it," my mom replied. "What do you like to do?"

"I like to shoot guns," I responded. Then it just snapped into me. "Is it a rifle?" I asked.

"Maybe it is, maybe it isn't," my mom said.

By then I was really excited. I just wanted to know what it was, so I listed all the guns. "Is it a Henry-22 rifle, 40-calibre Colt, a shotgun?" Rod gave a smirk. "So it is a shotgun! Is it a 20 or 12 gauge, pistol grip?!? Does it have a scope, open sight, peep sight..."

Rod cut me off short, "Bring over that case."

He was pointing at the case I almost knocked over. I felt so excited I couldn't put it into words. I went over and picked it up and brought it to the living room floor. It had the picture of two nice bucks and one good sized doe in a thinly wooded meadow. In the background I saw a bow-hunter in a tree stand. I struggled to contain my excitement. I looked at Rod like, "What do I do with it?"

Rod said, "Now open it!"

It was kind of hard to open because it was closed tightly and it had four latches. When I finally got it open my excitement blew. It was a bow!

"This is my, Rod's, and Grandpa's present to you," my mom said.

"Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" I said.

"Do you want to shoot it?" Rod asked.

"Yes," I said.

"All right," Rod said, "Then we're going to put some stuff on it."

Then we went downstairs to the workshop. It took about half an hour to get everything straight. When we got outside, it took a few times to fix the pull poundage. When we got that right, Rod and I got out the deer target. I took a few shots at it. If that deer wasn't styrofoam, we'd be eating deer for a long time.

Bryan Kerska, grade 4, Wautoma Area School District - Narrative



### The Yellow Band

At the beginning of Camp Lakota I thought I was not a very good swimmer. "I can do it," I repeated quietly to myself. I jumped in the water and started my first lap. I made it. Even though the docks are about 25 feet apart, it felt like at least 50 feet apart. I was breathing heavy so I wanted to stop and catch my breath, but I did not. After my second lap I needed to take a seven second break. When I was done with my swim test I passed the treading test. I earned the yellow band. "The highest band is mine at last, hurray!" I said to myself.



Allen Stefczak, Fourth Grade, Wautoma Area School District - Narrative



## **The Wilderness at the Smokies**

By Ali Helland

Grade 4

Wisconsin Dells School District

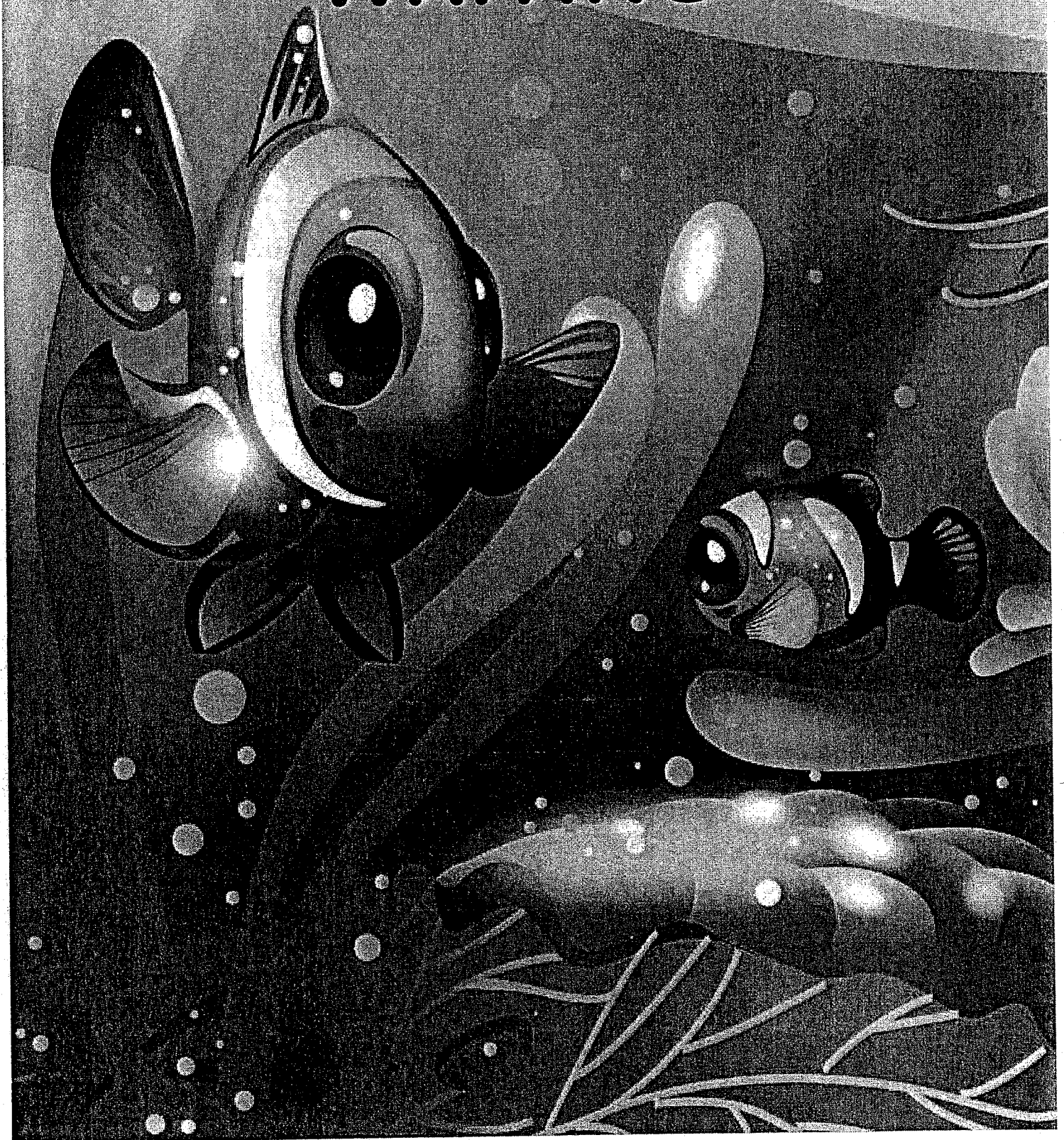
In Wisconsin Dells, my Dad owns a hotel water park resort called The Wilderness. It's really awesome there. In 2005, my dad started another business in Sevierville, Tennessee called The Wilderness at the Smokies. It's called that because the Smoky Mountains are right outside the hotel's window.

Both Wildernesses are really big, in fact they're both the biggest hotel and water park resorts in America! I really love to go to the Tennessee Wilderness with my cousins from Lexington, Kentucky. We stay in the waterpark for hours. There are also a lot of other things there too, like arcades, a huge golf course, an events center, and a 3D mini golf course.

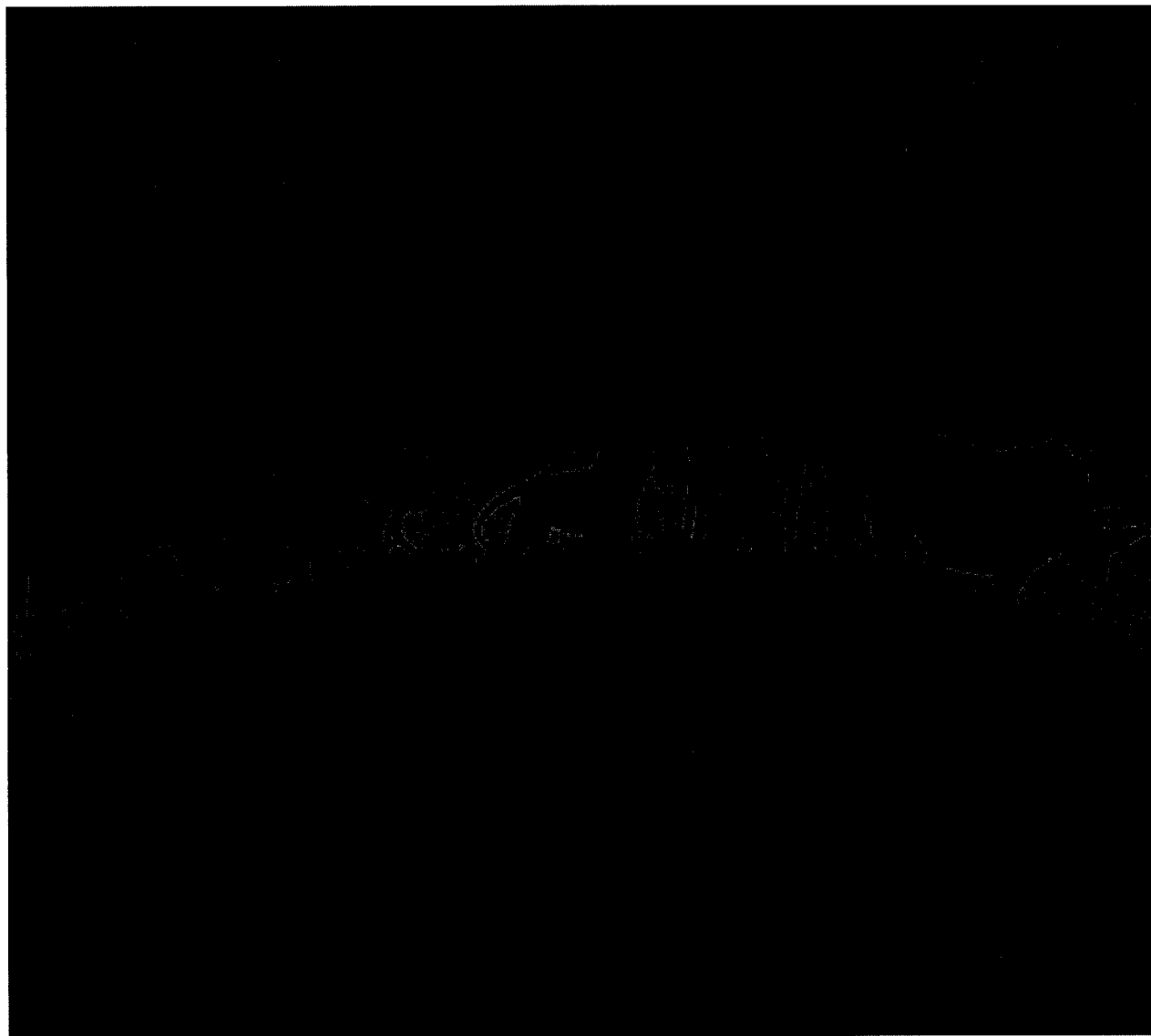
This year, there is going to be a new ropes course hanging from the ceiling, a bowling alley, and a 3D mini golf course. We always go on the Flow Rider first. The Flow Rider is a surfing waterpark ride. You stand on a surfboard on a ramp, and then water flows up the ramp and you try to surf on it. If you fall, the water flings you back where you started. It's really fun!

I also love going on a ride called The Storm Chaser. You go down this big drop into this big spiral with flashing lights and storm sounds. This summer, my parents are letting me take my best friend, Addi with me to Tennessee. I love going to the Wilderness at the Smokies!

# CREATIVE WRITING



Picture #1



## **Construction Animals**

By Seth Martin

Creative Writing

Grade 3

Baraboo School District Al Behrman Elementary

That's quite a yawn! The animals all wake up for the first day on the job of being a construction worker. The construction worker's names are Sam the Elephant, Jack the ostrich, Jake the lion, Zack the giraffe, and the boss, Tyler the Rhino.

They all did there morning things and headed out to the Forest Construction Company. Tyler told them to try out the power tools and the dump truck and excavator. Zack and Sam worked with the power tools and Jack and Jake worked with the basic machines. Zack and Sam, who worked with the power tools, made a shed. Jack and Jake who, worked with the dump truck and excavator, made a place for a garden. After that they had lunch. Then Tyler had a great idea. He would put the shed where the garden place was. After lunch Tyler told them the idea. When the other animals heard the plan they were surprised. Winter break started and all the animals were building and digging because if they show their work to Tyler, then he decides if you move up level. If you go high enough then you get an up-grade or a job promotion. On Christmas all the animals got money and construction stuff to buy stuff for their job. Zack got an excavator, Tyler and Jack got a dump truck, and Jake and Sam got a skid steer. They got those with there own money. Winter break is over and now they have to plow and dig snow off the road. Since they are doing that they get a lot of money.

When spring stared all the animals had their own construction company! They only got together a few times to work on roads.

# The Shadows

Mariah Clark  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Picture #1  
Lodi School District

One night Katie was getting ready for bed. She'd been living in the savannas since she was a baby. She couldn't get to sleep so she decided to look out her window for animals. She didn't see any thing.

"It's getting late. I should get to sleep."

But before she could turn, she saw five shadow animals on the hill: a lion, an elephant, a rhino, an ostrich and a giraffe. Katie couldn't move. They stepped closer. The lion roared. Then they vanished. Katie didn't get much sleep that night. The next morning Katie told her mother what had happened last night.

"Well, I've heard a story about them. Seventy long years ago, those five animals were outside when a big lightning bolt struck them. People say their ghosts appear before a disaster happens."

"Do you think anything will happen?"

"No."

After school, Katie went to bed. At about 12:00, Katie woke up. The shadows were in her room. The lion was on her bed! As the lion slowly crept up her bed, he growled, "Run." Then he disappeared. Katie was so scared she ran to the closet down the hall. After Katie was settled, she decided to sleep on the coat pile in the corner. At about 5:00am, Katie heard some scratching on the door. The lion appeared in front of the coat pile. "Run before it happens." Then he slowly sank into the floor. The next morning Katie wanted to tell her mother that something bad would happen, but she wouldn't believe her. Katie's mother also made her go outside to play. Five minutes after being outside the sky filled with black clouds. The wind blew at top speed. Then, in their yard, a funnel formed. "Tornado!!!" They bolted inside.

"Katie go down stairs. I'll get water. Go!"

Katie reached the bottom of the stairs just in time to hear her roof ripping off. "Rippppp, creak!" There, now solid forms, stood the five animals. "We told you to run, and this is what you get." As Katie's mother got to the bottom of the stairs, the storm mysteriously stopped.

"It's getting late. You should get to bed."

That night Katie slept in her own bed. Then her room some how got cold. As a cool breeze hit Katie's face, she heard a familiar voice say, "Good Bye."

# Laca and the Hot Coal

By Amanda Miller

Creative Writing #1

Grade 4

Lodi School District

Once upon a time there lived a big lion that was king of the Amazon Rain Forest. His name was Laca. Nobody would mess with him, not even other lions. Some say that he started the Fight of the Amazon (that is what the animals called it) and some say that the birds started, and so on. This is how the fight started.

It happened one cold day in March when Fluffy the bird dumped 12 hot pieces of coal on Laca to make him warmer while he slept. He awoke with an earsplitting RRRRRROOOOOOAAAAARRRRRRR!!!!!! It shook the trees so hard that it was like raining monkey and birds.

Laca had to have his jaguar servants clean him and dump water on him for one whole week. (That would be 21 days in animal time). Then when he finally came out of his den he looked like he had just been in a dumpster.

He asked in a big loud voice, "Who did this?"

All of a sudden Laca could not hear himself think because all he heard was the words, "He did it" or "She did it."

"Stop!" he roared.

Everything went quiet. Even the trees stopped rustling and the flies stopped flying in mid air.

"Okay, now one at a time who did this to me?" Laca said. "Snake I see you behind that tree did you do this to me?"

"No Laca I did not do that to you," answered the snake.

"Then monkey did you do this to me?" asked Laca.

"No sir," answered Monkey.

All through the day and night it went like that until Laca asked all the animals in the Amazon Rain Forest. The animals did not have good nights sleep and they all were very tired in the morning.

Fluffy laid in bed, thinking of what he had done and how he lied to Laca and the other animals. He thought about how he could fix it until he fell fast a sleep.

Time passed until finally on a hot day in July Fluffy confessed. It happened when Laca was licking his scars from the pieces of coal that were dumped on him in March. Fluffy came into his den and caught him by surprise.

"Hi Fluffy, why have you come?" asked Laca.

"I have come to confess," answered Fluffy.

"About what?" asked Laca.

"About the coal I dumped on you."

"You did it?" asked Laca in surprise.

"Yes I did it," confessed Fluffy "So you would be warmer while you slept."

"Thank you for telling the truth, but I wish that you would have come to me sooner."

"I just thought that I would get in big trouble when I saw you and how mad you looked."

"Well, I guess I better tell the other animals so they know. Can you come with me?"

"Sure," said Fluffy.

**Finding the Treasure!**  
**By Julia Rieckmann**  
**Grade 3 – Pardeeville Elementary School**  
**Picture #1**

Once on the Savanna, there was a Lion, who was handsome. There was a Giraffe that was very tall. Also, there was a Rhino that could split a tree in two. The Ostrich that always was always talking was there, too. Last, but not least, the helpful Eelephant.

It was summer and they were looking for treasure. They had been looking all day and they were going because it was almost sunset. Suddenly they saw the treasure! Then Lion said, "Let's go find all of our friends and show them the treasure." "Good idea," said the others. So off they went.

Meanwhile, a burglar was walking along the path. Suddenly he saw the treasure and took it, just as Giraffe, Lion, Rhino, Ostrich and Elephant were coming back with all their friends. All the animals started talking about if the treasure was true or not. Finally they started talking about if the treasure was, but when they looked, they saw no treasure! All the friends said, "What a waste of time coming all the way out here!" Then they left.

The animals panicked! They looked everywhere on the prairie, no treasure, the lagoon, no treasure, and the forest. There was the treasure! It was up in a tree with squirrels.

The animals asked if they could have it back and the squirrels said, "Sure!" So they took the treasure back and the friends shouted, "We believe you!" So the animals became really rich and lived happily ever after.

## A Mouse's Journey

By Olivia Doro

Rusch Elementary, Portage

Once there lived a small gray mouse named Eli. He lived in an old professor's home up in the attic. My, oh my, was it ever nice up there – at least for Eli it was. He lived with lots and lots of old letters, books, and maps the professor had stored in the attic. Eli loved his little home, but sometimes it got a little, well, a bit lonely. Of course he had books and things like that, but Eli wanted a friend.

One day while Eli was crawling around in the attic he tripped over a huge book. "Oof!" he said as he crawled up on the cover of the book. He read the title. It said Africa. Eli opened the book to page one. He wasn't very good reader, but he kept trying. "Africa is a place where animals live. Giraffes, lions, and other animals live there." He looked up and said, "Very interesting!" The next page was a big map of Africa. He stared at it for a l-o-n-g time, studying it. Eli thought to himself, "I could use a trip and besides it is a little lonely here." Eli read the rest of the book all night.

The next morning Eli thought more about going to Africa. It sounded so exciting! Eli started to pack his suitcase. He made up a little song about Africa. "Africa! Africa! Africa! Here I come! I'm going to Africa! Here I come!" Once he was done packing, he ran to the harbor to take a boat to Africa. Eli heard a loud HONK, the boat to Africa was leaving! Eli scurried to the boat ladder. He had to sneak around the people boarding the boat. He people were so big to Eli. "Eek!" Eli screamed as he dashed away from a man's shoe. "Whew," Eli said once he was safe, "he almost stepped on me."

Eli was getting really bored from the long boat ride. He was also getting a bit sea sick. Umpf! The boat jerked to a stop. "Africa!" the sailor yelled. "Oooh goody!" Eli cried. Then he scurried off the boat and onto the grassy land. "Well, here I am! Africa!!" he squealed with joy. After awhile he felt sleepy. Eli found a nice pile of grass and made a bed. "I'm really in Africa." Eli sighed and soon fell asleep.

Eli awoke to the sounds of happy music, marching, cheering, and laughter. "What is all this noise?" Eli wondered. Eli climbed onto a round rock to see what was going on. He saw lots of strange animals marching in a line. Some of the animals he remembered from his book in the attic like giraffes, elephants, ostriches and hippos. Eli spotted two strange animals coming towards him. "Who are you and what is all this commotion about?" he asked them. "Why, this is the Annual Festival of Friends Parade and we are meerkats! Who are you?"

"I'm a mouse from America! I came on a boat. My name is Eli. What is your name?"

"We're Apiyo and Adongo. We are twins!" the meerkats replied. "Come with us and join the celebration!"

Eli was a little confused and a lot surprised. He had no idea Africa would be like this. "I think I might like it here." Eli thought to himself.

"Wait for me!" Eli shouted. Eli jumped down from the rock and scurried to join the celebration. "In a place like this, I'm sure to make some wonderful friends!" Eli thought to himself.



## Kingdom Celebration

Have you ever heard of the African Kingdom Celebration? It's where all the animals celebrate when the tourists are all gone. They do different dances from all over the world. They dance wildly in the twilight while the food fills their tummies. The kingdom celebration is about begin!

When sundown comes the king comes out to announce the celebration has started. The animals twirl by the light of the stars and torches. They devour the lovely food and dance away to lovely music. The gorgeous colors of the sky lift their spirits, while they waltz around the jungle and eat until they explode. Now they are ready to dance the night away. The hyenas do the hula while the giraffes do the jitterbug. The zebras do the salsa, the lions do the boogie, and the elephants do the two-step. Before sunrise the volcano erupts to warn that tourists are coming and that the party is over. All the animals are sad, but at least they get to do it the next night all over again!

When the tourists come, they wonder where are all the animals are. They want refunds because all the animals are asleep, waiting for the next kingdom celebration!

Molly Anderson  
Creative Writing #1  
Grade 4  
Poynette School District

### Escape from the Zoo

You may think this is a stupid idea, but I think it's a good one. I mean what giraffe wouldn't want to escape from the zoo? You would get to explore the hills and valleys of the world. Of course, I would do it with my friends Ely the elephant, Troy the ostrich, Tom the lion, and Toke the rhinoceros.

So, early one morning right when the sun rose, we set out on our adventure to escape from the zoo. First, we had to get out of our cages in the zoo. Somehow, Toke got out of his cage, but I don't get how he did it. Toke is like this genius that gets out of everything. Well anyway, he brought us all the keys to our cages on his horns. So we all got out, but we started wandering around like hopeless weird animals that don't know how to do anything.

Finally someone said something. Tom said, "Why don't we just find a large grass area where there are some hills and forests?" We decided to just start walking. A little later we found ourselves in a forest. I stepped over to a large tree. I could feel the wind blowing against my neck as I tried a green leaf from the tree. It was awesome. It was the best leaf I ever had in my whole entire life.

But that moment was gone when Ely said, "We should keep going or we're not going to see a lot." I kind of agreed with her. There's only 24 hours in a day and this was the only day the zookeepers got the day off.

We kept walking, but it was like the forest never ended. It was either we were lost and going in circles or we were trapped in a forest that never ended! Troy groaned and said, "We have been walking for miles and we haven't made any progress of getting out of here."

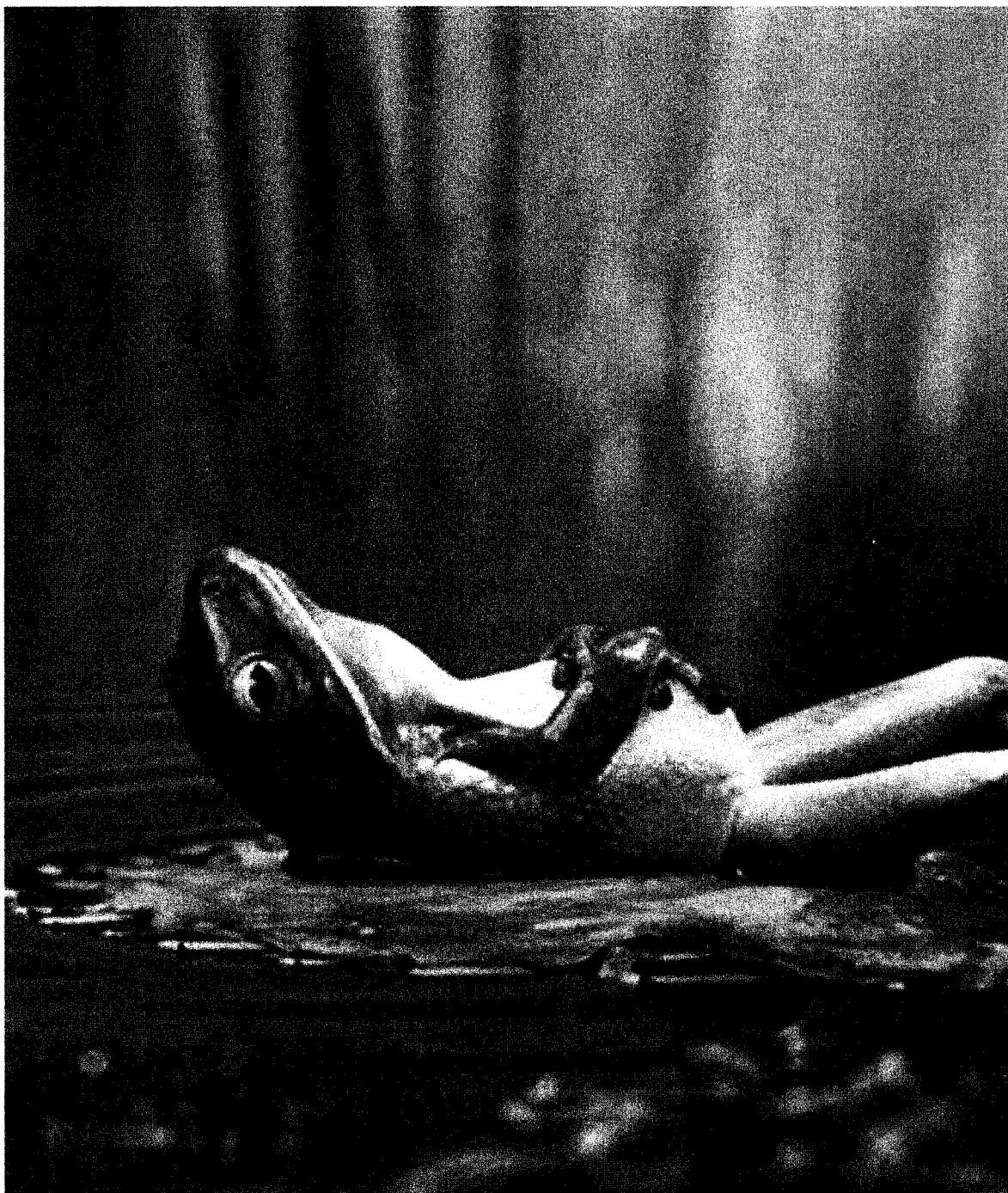
"I know." I replied in a sad voice. My legs hurt pretty badly. It felt like they were crumpled up into a ball. Finally, after all that brutal walking and hours of pain, we left the forest. I really got great exercise out of that, but it was almost night time and we only visited one place.

We were all getting kind of worried, but we decided to just check out where we were. Then we would figure out how to get home in time. Toke said, "We are in a large grass area with some short hills. That is called a plain hill."

"That's right, Toke's a genius." I thought. I'm kind of jealous of him. We kept walking as it was getting pretty dark. We stood on top of the last hill. The stars were shining over our shoulders. I thought, this adventure was kind of fun. I won't forget it. I really wasn't done with the adventure. I still had to get back.

Sarah Hyatt, Fourth Grade, Wautoma Area School District, Picture # 1

Picture #2



### **The Fat, Fat Frog**

Ty Maddox

Creative Writing

Grade 3

Baraboo School District Al Behrman Elementary

Boing ,Boing where am I? Once there was a frog named Sammy he was so heavy that whenever he tried to get up he could not  
No one can lift him up because he was the heaviest of them all. They lifted and lifted but they just could not lift him up.

One night the animals of the forest knew that when he was asleep because he was much lighter. So they tried and then they lifted him up but then he popped his eyes open and stared the animals of the forest. Then plop! Down he went safely on the lily pad. The next day the lily pad was gone and heading to a waterfall. Then the animals of the forest woke up and noticed the lily pad was gone. They looked and looked and looked and then they saw him. They could not help because the water would pull them away. All of a sudden a beaver came along chewing on a tree right next to the waterfall. He didn't notice the frog and first but just in time he saw the frog and chewed faster and faster until the tree fell down. Crash! He saved the frog.

In the next story, will the frog get off the lily pad or will he not?

### **The Magnificent Froggy**

Rebecca Tramburg

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Fall River Schools

In 1978 a frog was born in a tiny town of Mossy Oak. Not just a frog but a magnificent frog named Froggy. He was brave, strong, and of course a magnificent frog. One day a robbery happened at the U.S.A. Bank. Froggy arrived then. He could see a swarm of flies with a big bag of money. Then he leaped into action and one by one he ate them. Soon all the flies were gone. Then the mayor came and he rewarded him with the key to the town of Mossy Oak and a plaque that said "Froggy's Pond". Now he has retired so he's laying on his lily pad resting and eating bugs.

### The Big Frog

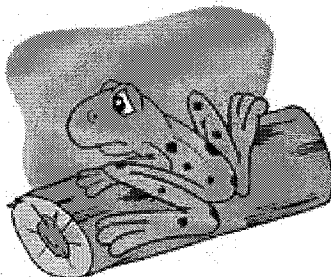
One sunny day in Frog City, a frog named Rob was sitting on his couch eating delicious flies while watching World's Dumbest Performers when he decided to go to the park.

He was almost there when he noticed a strange man following him so he started running towards the foggy Froggy Forest. He stopped right at the edge of the forest because he was afraid of the BIG FROG! But since he had no choice he went off into the forest. He spent four hours walking, and then he lay down on a lily pad and went to sleep

He was awakened by a rumbling noise. It was if it was coming right at him. It was the BIG FROG! He started shaking as he saw its face, but he didn't back down. He jumped on its leg and climbed to the back of the beast. The beast grabbed Rob and threw him right out of Frog Forest.

Rob got up and started running. The beast started running too, at Rob! The BIG FROG caught up to Rob and snatched him up with its huge slimy hand. The beast opened its jaws and threw Rob in.

Rob grabbed a big tooth and swung himself out of its mouth, hit the ground, and started running toward Toad Canyon. He ran over a mile to Toad Canyon. When Rob got there he jumped off of the edge with the beast right behind. But Rob hadn't really gone over into the canyon. He had grabbed a stick and climbed back up. Rob saved the day and the BIG FROG beast was gone.



## The Adventure

By Helena Nashold, 3rd grade, Fall River School

I was just chilling when a voice from under me said, "Hey, dude! Get off of me."

"What

the heck?" I said, "Who said that?"

"I did" said the voice, "Get off, dude!" So I got off, and you will never believe what I saw.

I saw a little baby frog, and I said, "I am very sorry! What's your name?"

"I'm Lily L. Rose." I couldn't believe my ears, and I said, "Hi daughter! I'm Tigerlily, and

you were named after me!"

"Really?" asked Lily. "I love my name!"

"Your father thought it up. He loved my name and thought you would too." I answered.

"I love it! Is Father here?" Lily asked. When I told Lily her father wasn't here, she asked,

"Will I ever be able to see him, and what is his name?"

"No, you can't see him because he is very, very far away. His name is Tiger. Well, his real name's Lion. He changed it when we married. I have no idea where he is now." I said. "We must find him! He might be in trouble," Lily exclaimed. "Really, I'm not crazy, dude."

"Stop calling me Dude. I am not a dude." I insisted.

"OK, OK, OK, Dude!"

"Hey, did you mean to say that?" I questioned Lily.

"Yes I did. Sorry, but it was funny, Dude."

"Oh, my gosh! Stop calling me that!"

"All right," Lily said in a sad voice. "I'll stop, but I have to find Father. I really do! I want to!"

"I want to, too," I said, "But we can't."

"Yes we can!" Lily insisted "I want to find him!"

"OK, you can go, but I am not part of this adventure." I said.

"I'm going and I'll have to pack and my friends will come too!" Lily said. "It's going to be a great adventure! Besides my frog phone, what should I pack?"

"Well you should bring an egg sack to put stuff in, a tadpole map in case you get lost, a..."

"What should I put in the egg sack?" Lily interrupted.

"Food, a lily pad for a blanket, a....."

"I should get going now, I really should," Lily exclaimed before I could finish.

An hour later, Lily was done packing. "I'm going now," she said.

"Good bye, Lily. I'll miss you," I said.

"Goodbye Mom. I will call you a lot." Before I could say goodbye one last time, she left. It was years, months, weeks and millions of days that I waited. Lily called to say "I think I'm almost there," and "I just saw a waterfall," and "How are you doing, Mom?" I just got to Florida, by Frogplane Express." Finally, one day she got home with...TIGER! "It's you!!!" After that we lived happily ever after.

## THE THINKING FROG AND ABIGAIL

#2

By Marissa Ebert, Grade 4 Fall River Schools

Once upon a time there was a frog named Frank. He lived in a pond next to the castle. He always goes by princess Abigail's window and watches her and he thinks about her all the time like how she laughs, talks, cries, and puts on her makeup. She is pretty. She has long curly hair and her favorite dress is a baby blue sparkle dress.

Frank lived with his brother Bob. Bob knew that Frank loved Abigail. One sunny day Bob said, "Moe and Dezz are coming over."

Dezz was a girl toad. Moe was a boy grasshopper. He could jump more than 12 feet off the ground and he was also strong. He lifted up Frank so Frank could see Abigail. "What do you see?" said Dezz. "I see the princess! I am going in there," said Frank

"Be careful," said Bob and Dezz, as Frank leaped towards the princess. KABOOM!!! He landed right in the makeup. The princess screamed "There's a mouse in my room!!"

Frank laughed, "I'm just a frog." She said, "Did you just talk?" "Yes, I did. I used to be a prince but one day I woke up and was a frog. Same with my brother and my friends, but one of my friends turned into a grasshopper and the other one turned into a toad." "Oh my gosh! Are you OK?" said Abigail.

"Yeah and all these years I watched you because you're pretty, and I...I love you."

"Why thank you," said Abigail.

"Will you kiss me?" asked Frank.

"Wait, what for?" Abigail asked.

"It will break the spell for my friends and I."

"Fine. Only once, and I'm going to do it fast," said Abigail as she closed her eyes and gave Frank a quick smooch. Right away, Frank and his friends turned back into people. Frank changed his name to Kenny, and so Kenny and Abigail got married and had five kids, two girls and three boys. They named the kids Rosie, Violet, Conner, Payton and Justin. The kids made lots of messes, but it was worth it, and so they all lived happily ever after, until they got a dog named Chopper. But that is another story

## The Frog

Once upon a time there was a frog that always slept on a lily pad because he believed in an old legend. The legend said that there is a gigantic fish with vampire teeth and a tail that could whack a person's head off!

One day he heard a noise a loud ... SPLAT! He saw something float to the bottom of the pond and then he heard a growl. So he tried quickly to float to the side of the pond. When he finally got there he **SPRINTED** over to his brother's cabin and told him, but he didn't believe him. So the frog walked back over to the pond and showed the brother right where he saw everything happened.

The pond was silent except for a minnow or "Maybe even half of a minnow," said the frog. His brother believed it was a whole minnow. The frog's brother went home the next day and the frog was setting a trap for the fish. When he was done setting the trap he went and found a lily pad and brought it by a tree. Then he sat on the lily- pad and waited and waited for about an hour. When finally he saw the fish it put on a fight for 2 hours! He finally got it up by the tree.

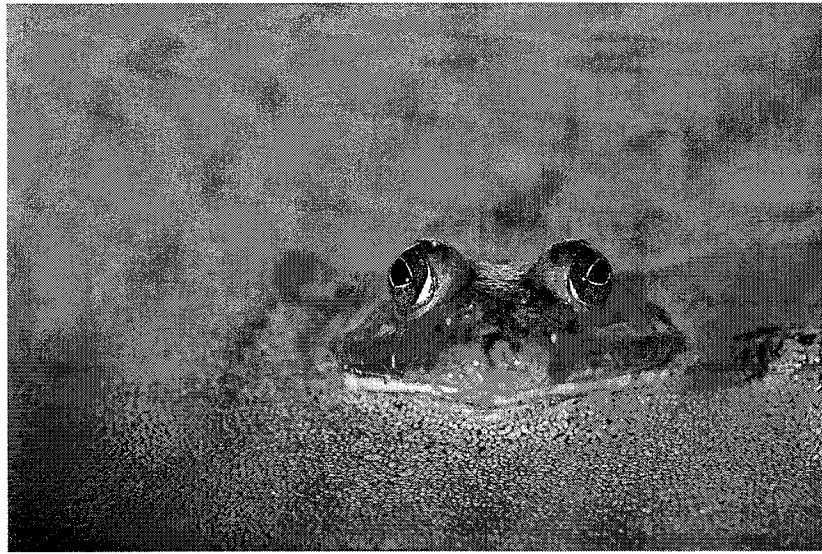
He tried to run over to his brother's with the fish but it was too heavy. He ran there without the fish to get his brother and he came back with his brother. When they got there the fish was...TALKING! So for a while the frog, his brother, and the fish talked and it turned out that the fish was just trying to get food for his family because they are poor.

They all got to know each other and the fish even invited them to his home but they couldn't stay for long. They all became best friends and their sons even became best friends forever.

By Claire Schoenemann  
Grade 3  
Lodi School District

# The end





### The Crash

By Kiley Kearns

Grade 3

Montello School District

Fred is a frog. He works very hard. Fred works at Frog City. Fred lives in Frog Town on Lilly Pad Street. His car is green, of course. One day when he was driving to work, all of a sudden, he crashed into a rock! Fred's mother called out, "Are you ok?" "Yes", said Fred. Fred continued on his way to work. The next day while on his way to work, Fred hit another rock and flew into the air. He landed on a lily pad. Fred said, "That was close. I almost did a belly flop."

### **The Frog and the Fish**

**By Josh Brogren**

**Grade 3 – Pardeeville Elementary School**

**Picture #2**

Once there was a frog named Willy. He was getting bugged by a fish named Swimmy, as he was laying on a lily pad. He was so tired of getting bugged by the monstrous, huge, annoying northern pike, so he got mad!! He swung his arm at him and then he fell in the water!

He got very, very mad. "Hey!! Would you stop bugging me?" said Willy. The huge northern pike came over and said, "Do you want to play with me?" "Sure!" said Willy. So, they played happily ever after on the lily pads.

**The Frog and the Fox**  
**By Josie Meyers**  
**Grade 4 – Pardeeville Elementary School**  
**Picture #2**

Once upon a time there was a lazy frog named Lance laying on his lily pad. He was sleeping on his lily pad when THUD! A fox jumped over a bush. The fox said, "Sorry for waking you. But I'm looking for some help looking for lemmings and mice to eat."

"I will help you!" answered Lance. "I love to help!" "Good" the fox said, "I'm Kermit. Kermit the fox." "But you need to give me it's fur in return for helping you." Replied Lance. "Okay." Snorted Kermit. Then they went looking for the rodents.

"Here is a mouse tunnel!" yelled Lance. "I'm coming!" Yelled Kermit. "Grrr!" barked Kermit. "Grrr!" she yelled when she was killing the lemming.

"I think it's dead now!" grumbled Lance. "You still want the fur?" asked Kermit. "Heck yea!" shouted Lance. "Here." Said Kermit. "Hope you like it." "I really do!" yelled Lance. "Thank you." "You're very welcome. Wait, what's your name, sir?" asked Kermit. "The name is Lance. Lance the frog." He replied. "Nice name, Lance." Kermit said with a wink.

"Well thanks again, Kermit. You are the nicest fox I know." Complimented Lance. "Well thanks. No other animal has said that to me. Thank you." Cried Kermit. "No problem." Answered Lance.

"See you around?" asked Kermit. "Yep. See ya!" replied Lance.

Then Kermit bounded off into the forest. Lance lived happily ever after laying on his lily pad.

**The Short Life of a Frog**  
**By Desalee Smith**  
**Grade 4 – Pardeeville Elementary School**  
**Picture #2**

“Aw my tummy hurts! I knew I shouldn’t have eaten that toy dragonfly, oww!” said a wet, green frog. “Hey” said a voice. “Who said that?” croaked the frog. “Me” gurgled a low pitched voice. Suddenly big alligator slithered out from the swampy waters. “I heard you yell and knew you were sup...uh suffering from a tummy ache.” “Anyway, what’s your name?” asked the frog. “Large Jaws!” exclaimed the alligator proudly. “Nice name (gulp), mine’s Anthony Flippers.” And for one second Anthony thought the old croc smiled hungrily with those scaly “large jaws!” “Here’s the way I cure tummy aches for frogs.” Said Large Jaws evilly. “I eat them!” Then he swallowed Anthony whole without chewing and Anthony woke up in Large Jaws belly. “Oww, my stomach still hurts!”

**Princess Froggilla**

Princess Froggilla lived in Pinwheel Paradise. She wore a teal-colored seaweed crown on top of her lime-green speckled head. She dove into her pond covered in algae and then hopped onto her moist, light green lily pad that had the white and yellow flower on it. She sniffed her flower gingerly for a while and then began to sun herself until the sun went away.

The gray cloud blocked it. Princess Froggilla took a drink of the crisp, cool, clean water as it came down on her. The sun came back and a rainbow formed.

She swam underwater and gathered the three oysters. In one she found a shiny pearl. Back on her lily pad she paddled ashore.

The Princess pranced in the white dandylions spreading seeds into the air.

Princess Froggilla picked up an acorn and bit into it. When she finished her snack, she lit a fire that blazed furiously. She lay down on a leaf with one covering her. She went to sleep as the full moon shined down on her.

Meara McEvilly  
Grade 3  
Poynette School District

## **Froggy Friendship**

By: Lauryn Elizabeth Calkins

Grade 4, Fort Winnebago Elementary, Portage

Ann Woods skipped outside to her backyard and opened her eyes to the world of nature that surrounded her. She loved to be outside. She quietly sat down on the stone bench next to the little pond in her backyard and began to study everything that was around her.

"Wow," she whispered. "Is that," she said, "...a frog?"

Ann had to see this. She went in for a closer look. The tiny green looking frog lay on a small holey lily pad. His skinny little arms were on his plump stomach, breathing slowly.

Ann cupped her hands to try to pick him up. "I'll name you, hmmm... Hoppers!" she whispered excitedly.

At that moment, the frog opened his small lime green eyes with little skinny diamonds in them, and leaped up and jumped away quickly.

"Oh no!" Ann cried as she jumped up to rescue him. Lots of cars were going by in her neighborhood and it was dangerous for a frog like him. When she searched her backyard with the pond, nothing was there. No living, breathing creature was there. No holes in the gate. There was no way he could have jumped over the little white fence that surrounded the beautiful backyard.

Just then she felt a tap on her leg. She looked down. "Hoppers!" she cried and she picked him up. The tiny green frog seemed to like her. He croaked when she tapped him on his back.

Ann found a cardboard box in her garage. She also found cloth and made a bed out of it. At night she read stories with him and every day went outside and caught bugs with her dad's old coffee mug. And for her eighth birthday she got a bug finder from her parents. Her parents didn't know why she was all of a sudden into bugs. She pleaded and begged her parents to buy it for her birthday. They kept saying "no" because they really didn't want bugs in their house.

Hoppers always "helped" Ann with her math homework and when Ann talked to Hoppers about things that have happened at school and other places, he actually listened to what she was saying. Their life together was very fun.

When they got older they still loved each other and cared for each other as much as they always did. Ann still caught bugs and Hoppers always ate them. Ann still talked to him and Hoppers still "helped" with Ann's homework. Ann still read to Hoppers and he fell fast asleep every night. Everything stayed the same and they lived happily ever after.

## Croaker

By: Jackson Roundy

Grade 4, Caledonia Elementary, Portage

It was December 2211 and there was a baby that was born. It was a little tadpole. His name was Croaker because he croaked a lot. He had to stay in the water until he grew up to be a big frog. His dad would go find food and his mom would be there to watch him and keep him safe. His father's name was Seaweed and his mother's name was Coral. His mom would take him to go to the big seas.

When his dad would come back from the Pacific Ocean, he would have a ton of food and would keep them feed for 23 weeks at a time. Every time he would eat his food, his eyes would bulge up and be bigger than his stomach. He learned to do back flips in the water and do other tricks. He was still small and he was not good at hiding from big birds like the Great Blue Heron.

After a few years, he got big and he could explore on his own. He was bigger than a crab and could take on a platypus. He saw a lot of weird looking fish. He would get into fights with octopi because the octopi kept slashing his tentacles around and hit people with them.

The frog would be tired and he liked to take naps on his little lily pad in the middle of the sea. He would wake up after a few hours and he would be very active. He even went to a swamp and made a fort out of sticks with a beaver.

Croaker heard strange noises coming from the northern part of his tree fort. Out of the brush came a suspicious creature that looked like a big platypus. It had scales and big clacking teeth. Each of its teeth was as big as Croaker's whole body. He was lime green and was really fast. His eyes were the size of blades and it had sharp claws. Croaker asked him what he was, but all he said was, "Shoo, before I eat you!"

Croaker didn't want to leave until he got an answer, so he asked again, "What are you?"

The creature started chasing him and kept trying to bite him with his razor sharp teeth. Croaker wanted an answer but he didn't want to die, so he said to the creature, "I will stop bugging you if you tell me what you are."

So the creature said, "I am a crocodile. My name is Scales. I was born in the wild. I don't know where my parents are. A lot of animals don't like my color and how big my eyes and mouth are."

Croaker said, "I am good to trust."

"Well," said Scales, "I have always wanted to have a friend, so I guess we can be friends. Hop on my back and I will show you what I do to have fun."

Looking at the spikes on Scales' body, Croaker said, "I don't think I should."

Scales said, "I don't have any spikes on my head, so hop up there."

Croaker jumped up onto Scales' head and Scales jumped off a little bridge into a pond. Croaker said that he did that all the time. Scales did a front flip into the water. The water went SPLASH! Water went 50 feet into the air. Croaker jumped in and only made a little splash.

Scales said, "I used to go in swamps, but my scales would come off and I would get infected. I don't do that anymore."

Croaker said, "I will show you what I like to do now. Come with me."

Croaker showed Scales how he could catch flies with his tongue and jump from lily pad to lily pad. Scales tried snipping at the flies rapidly with his claws and then jumped into the water after them. Finally, Scales caught one, but as he was showing it to Croaker the fly flew away. When Scales tried jumping from lily pad to lily pad, the lily pads would sink. They had so much fun that they planned to play again tomorrow. Ever since that day they have been best friends.

## A Daydream

One sunny, warm, breezy day, I was lying on my green lily pad. The breeze made me drift off to sleep.

Then when I awoke I was jogging in a dark, swampy, mysterious forest. When I stumbled to a stop, I saw something rustle in the bushes. When I put my slimy, webbed hands on the leaves to see what was behind the bush, I saw the creature, and I was horrified. Then it (I think it was a zombie panda bear) grabbed me by the stomach. Then the zombie panda bear said, "I will take you to my house and eat you for supper!"

So he got a green bag nearby and put me in it. He glided off to his house made of sod bricks with a leaf roof. Then a bat with gleaming red eyes swooped down and said, "What you got in the bag?"

The zombie panda bear replied, "A gillyumptious frog."

The bat said, "Can I have it?"

Then the zombie panda bear said, "Sure because we are friends and I can join you at your house and eat it with you." The bat took the bag and headed off to his cave. When the bat got to his home, he got me out of the bag. The bat accidentally fell and got stuck in peanut butter in the cave.

Then lazily I jumped out of the green bag and hopped to a shining light which happened to be a Go-Back-To-Your-Home-Teleporter. I said, "Please take me to the shining, cool pond."

I got to go back to my lovely pond. That was my daydream.

Kate Yanna  
Grade 3  
Poynette School District

## The Lazy Frog

Once there was a frog named Benson. He loved to play leap frog with his friends, but he loved to sleep more than anything. His second favorite thing to do was to play video games. Those two activities are the two things he loves most on earth.

Benson's mom came in the living room and saw him sleeping on the lily pad. Then she woke him up and said no more sleeping until it is night again. Benson got up went to his room and started playing his new video game laying on his lily pad. The next morning his cell phone rang and the caller said you are accepted for a video game war. A video game war is where some people compete on a video game to see who is the best player.

When it was time for the war, he went to where the competition was. Once all the players were there, they started playing. Benson got two people out. The competition was fierce. A guy knocked another guy out. It was Benson and this guy named Bill. Benson went for five days and finally Benson got Bill out. The prize was a brand new video game.

His family had a huge celebration. Once the party was over, Benson finally got to play his new video game. Life is good for Benson the frog.

By Ben Knudsen  
West Side Elementary  
Mrs. Hyzer 3rd grade  
Reedsburg, Wisconsin

## The Lazy Frog

Once upon a time there was a frog named lazy. His name was lazy because all he did was sit around on his lily pad. He did not have any brothers or sisters or friends of any kind.

One day there was a bad thunder storm. He tried to hide, but there was no where to hide. When the storm was over, his home was gone. The next day he started looking for a new home. He looked and he looked, but he could not find a new home.

One day he found a great home. He had search and searched and he finally found his new home. His home had 100 lily pads. After ten days of hard work, he turned lazy again. Eventually he got so bored of being lazy, he wanted a work. Just around the corner there was a job just for frogs. He got the job for croak singing. He made so much friends because he was the best singer.

By: Owen D. Machovec  
3rd grade West side Elementary  
Mrs. Hyzer  
Reedsburg, Wisconsin

## Mr. Frog

When Mr. Frog came home he saw Mrs. Frog waiting for him. She had a delicious meal for fried fly legs and a side helping of pickled crickets. When the smell of this delicious odor hit Mr. Frog his poor tummy started to grumble.

Luckily Mrs. Frog said, "It's time to eat."

Mr. Frog ate as if he hadn't eaten in months. Then when he couldn't eat another bite, Mr. Frog brought out his favorite dessert, apple flavored worms. He couldn't help himself. He ate it all until there wasn't anything left. Now with his belly full, Mr. Frog went to his favorite lily pad to watch the sunset in peace and harmony.

By: Courtney Quist

Grade: 3

Rio School District

Picture # 2

## A Tree Frog's Journey

*(Picture #2)*

One hot, foggy day in the rain forest a tree frog climbed out of a pond. He climbed up a tree and checked to see if it was safe to sleep up there. Out of nowhere a boa constrictor slithered down a branch. The frog leaped as far as he could. The snake was catching up, but not for long. The frog jumped straight up and the snake zoomed past him. After that, the frog turned around and hid in the canopy. When the frog came back down, he thought that he had lost the snake. Surprisingly, it had been waiting there the whole time. When they both were looking each other in the eye, a scaly lizard jumped up and ate the frog. When the lizard thought the frog was digested, she yawned and the frog jumped out. He ran away, went to a pond and relaxed at the end of the day.

Dakota Johnson

Grade 4

Rio Elementary School



Kyle Been  
Creative Writing (Picture 2)  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Three

### FROGGY'S VACATION

"Wow! Wow! I can't wait! Where are we going, Mommy? Where? Where?"

"That's a surprise, Froggy," said Mommy, "but I'll give you a clue. It's really hot and is surrounded by water."

"What, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, Australia? What? What?"

"Okay," Papa said, "let's give him another clue."

"What, Papa, what?"

"There's an 'A' in the name," he said.

"HMMMMM . . . Let's see. Oh, I know . . . Cuba, Bahamas, St. Marlin?" Froggy guessed.

"Oh, Papa, let's give him an easier clue," Mama said. "How about there's also an 'M' in the word."

"What, Bermuda, Cayman Islands?" he said.

"Okay, last clue," said Papa. "The word has an 'I' in it."

"I know, I know!" Froggy said, "Jamaica!"

"Yep, you got it right, Froggy," said Papa.

"C'mon, no time to waste!" said Mama.

"Okay, let's go!" yelled Froggy.

And off they went to Jamaica for their vacation.

Alice Wenzlow  
Creative Writing (Picture 2)  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Four

### A FROG OF A PRINCE

"Oh, twenty-five flies was a little too much," Prince James said. James had been turned into a frog by an evil witch, who wanted frog legs for dinner . . . but that's another story.

A horse came galloping into the bog. "AHHHHH!" James screamed.

A girl in a muddy dress hopped off the horse. Her name was Liana and she was a princess. Of course James didn't know that. Lisa (Liana) was about eleven going on twelve, and she loved animals. She took James and put him in a jar. He yelled and screamed, but she couldn't hear him.

Lisa took James to her own private greenhouse, where she kept her animals. She had about a hundred now, from the smallest ant to the biggest elephant. After she let James out of the jar, he started yelling at her to let him and all the poor animals out. Lisa started crying, like anyone her age would, but she did as she was told.

But then she grabbed James. She was a lover of fairy tales, and she wanted him to turn into a prince. Lisa held her breath and kissed him. To her and his surprise, he turned into a handsome prince.

The two realized they were long-lost siblings and hugged and cried. For the next years of their lives, they were happy, doing whatever people in fairy tales do.



### The Lazy Frog

Stuart is a very lazy frog. He spends his day resting on his favorite lily pad in the middle of the pond. Stuart loves to lie on his back all day without doing ANYthing. He only moves when he pops his tongue out of his mouth to catch flies that come close to his lily pad.

Stuart the lazy frog went to school at Webbie Feet Elementary School. One day, Stuart decided to skip school and spend the day laying on his lily pad. Stuart did not want to go to his Pond Safety Class because he was too lazy. After several hours of lying lazily and catching flies, Stuart noticed a large shadow above him. All of a sudden, an eagle snatched him from his peaceful lily pad and flew away, high above the pond. Stuart's slippery skin allowed him to wiggle free from the eagle's talons. Stuart fell back into the pond with a BIG BELLY FLOP!

Stuart swam straight to school and never missed a Pond Safety Class EVER again and always jumped off his lily pad when he saw a shadow looming above him in the sky.

Ellie Villnow

Grade 3

Creative Writing - Picture #2

Amherst Elementary School

Tomorrow River School District

## Mr. Hoppers and the Magic Fruit

Once upon a time, there was a frog. His name was Mr. Hoppers. Mr. Hoppers was no ordinary frog though. He was a magic frog, but in order to stay magical he needed to eat a special fruit.

One day Mr. Hoppers was tired from taking a very long, treacherous hike. So, he tried to magically make a lily pad. But it didn't work. He tried again, but it STILL didn't work. Then, Mr. Hoppers remembered that he hadn't eaten the special fruit. He went to the big old magic fruit tree. He tried to get the fruit by jumping, but he failed. Mr. Hoppers tried to shake the special fruit off from the tree. That didn't work either. He finally tried to climb the tree. But that didn't work either.

Then, Mr. Hoppers sadly started to walk home. Suddenly, a bird landed next to him. She kindly chirped, "You look sad. Can I help you?"

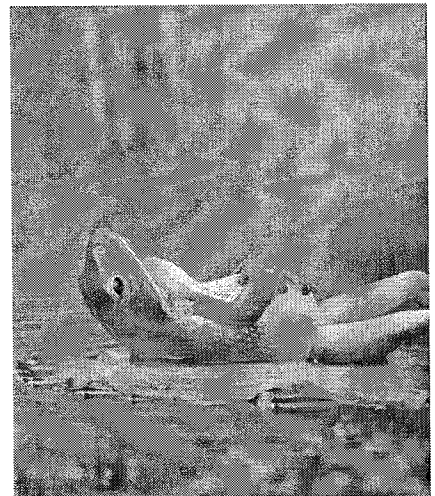
Mr. Hoppers then said, "Oh, yes! Can you please fly to the top of that fruit tree and get me one of the fruits?"

The bird did so. Mr. Hoppers ate the fruit and floated for a couple of seconds, before he dropped back to the ground. He happily said, "Thank you."

The bird replied, "Anytime."

Finally, Mr. Hoppers cheerfully walked back to the pond, magically made a lily pad, and laid down on the lily pad to think about his day.

Olivia Ligman  
Grade 4  
Creative Writing - Picture #2  
Amherst Elementary School  
Tomorrow River School District



# Mr. Hopper and His Horrible Day

Mr. Hopper was a frog. Mr. Hopper loved to sleep all day long because that pretty much was his hobby. He loved to stay at home because he thought people make fun of him.

One day he got tired of staying home and sleeping, so he applied for a lifeguard job at the pool. Mr. Hopper was nervous but he finally built up his confidence. The manager called Mr. Hopper the next day. The manager said, "Mr. Hopper, do you know how to swim?"

Mr. Hopper answered, "Yes I do, I am a frog!"

When the time came for Mr. Hopper's first day at the job, he got there and put his shorts on and he got out on his chair. He watched the swimmers having fun in the water. Then he got tired and fell asleep! He was awakened by the voice of a swimmer screaming for help! He tried to get there in time, but he did not make it. Another swimmer beat him to the rescue.

The manager walked out and Mr. Hopper was really nervous! The manager said, "Mr. Hopper, you are fired!!!"

Mr. Hopper said, "But it was only my first day!"

"I don't care," said the manager, "you need to do your job!"

Slowly, Mr. Hopper walked away sadly, saying to himself, "This is my worst day ever!"

When Mr. Hopper got home he realized that he should never have applied for that job! He thought for a while and tried to think of a job that he would be good at. Then he got it. Maybe he should take life guard lessons for a bit then maybe he could be a lifeguard again.

Mr. Hopper went through lots of lessons and finally they hired Mr. Hopper again and he was very careful never to fall asleep during work ever again!

Brooke Blader-Lucht, grade 4, Wautoma Area School District - Prompt #2

### What a Dream

Once upon a time there lived a frog named Freddy. Freddy went to see the patch of Dahlia flowers, because he wanted to see Fuchsia. His buddies said, "You have got to go by the patch of Dahlia flowers, you'll see Fuchsia!" He finally got there and saw her through the patch of flowers. She was dancing.

He couldn't believe how dazzling she looked. Freddy thought she was amazing with her smart looking mini skirt on. She had fruity lip gloss. She also had amazing, long, lean, glowing legs. Freddy arrived, and Fuchsia connected eyes with Freddy. Instantly sparks flew across the floor. Fuchsia and Freddy started grooving to "The Lazy Song."

All of a sudden Freddy woke up and realized he was just dreaming. So while he was awake he ate dinner. After he was done he went back to bed and had the same dream again.

Dahlia Jenkins, Fourth Grade, Wautoma Area School District, Picture # 2

Picture #3



## **The Race**

Picture #3

By Madison O'Brion

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall River School

It was a Friday, the last day of school until...SUMMER! Well, by the way my name is Isabella Madison. When I was walking to school I was wondering *what* we were going to do on the last day of school. Then, when I got to school my teacher Mr. O'Brion said we are going to be having potato sack races! My whole class yelled "hurray!"

When we got outside there were sacks on the ground for us to race in. First a couple more kids raced and a couple more raced and before you know it, it was Ben, Jay and my turn to race. Ben, Jay and I got ready to race. When my teacher said "Go" Ben took off in a hurry.

Next in line was me then Jay. Everyone was cheering for their friend. All of a sudden everyone started cheering for Jay. I think they were doing that because he was last. After all that cheering up, he raced so fast he passed Ben and me. A couple more jumps and he made it! Everyone ran over to Jay and started cheering for him.



**The Most Magical Adventure**  
**Creative Writing Picture #3**  
**Lara Justus**  
**Grade 4**  
**Baraboo School District**

Dear Diary, you will not believe what happened today! Julie, Tateana, and I were in a sack race. "Up to three people per sack" the announcer said. Once he said that we knew we had to go together. Again, you would not believe what happened! This might be the craziest entry ever!

My brain was spinning as I stood there in my sack. What if we actually win! I only thought that though, it was just a silly idea! The people in the stands were cheering but I could barely hear them. Then, right as I was as scared as I had ever been, the announcer shot the pistol and the race started. We were off! I don't remember much, though I do vaguely remember Tateana yelling, "Jump!" for us to jump at the same time. Then it was over. We were lying on the ground super tired, I looked up and saw the other racers way behind us. Then all of a sudden I realized we had won, I started yelling happily but we didn't celebrate long, all of a sudden the ground fell from underneath us and our screams of joy turned into the kind of high pitched scream you scream when you are scared.

Thump. We hit the ground. The room was pitch black and when I called out everyone's name's it made an echo. At least we were all there! Tateana being the kind of person she is said "Feel for walls walls walls walls." There was an echo that sort of made it even creepier! Hey Diary, is creepier a word? Anyway, we started out looking for walls. All of a sudden out of the blue about an hour after we started feeling for walls (or at least it felt like an hour) Julie yelled "I got something!" Then it was like the walls wanted to be found, Tateana and I found walls too. Once we all had a wall I said I would keep my hand on a wall and walk forward. I walked for a few minutes keeping my hand on the wall and then I saw light! I ran! I ran until light filled the room. I twirled around. I had done it! I found light! But I turned around and started walking away with my hand on the wall, for a split second I thought about abandoning my friends! Then my sense came back to me, "why would I do such a thing?" I thought. Then I kept on going away from light to get my friends. (I think I sound like a hero!) Soon after I left I bumped into a person, "who was that I just bumped into?" I yelled. "Not me" said Tateana "not me" said Julie. "It was me," said a scary old voice. "Who is me?" Julie said obviously thinking I was pulling a prank. "Me" the voice said again then a flashlight turned on.

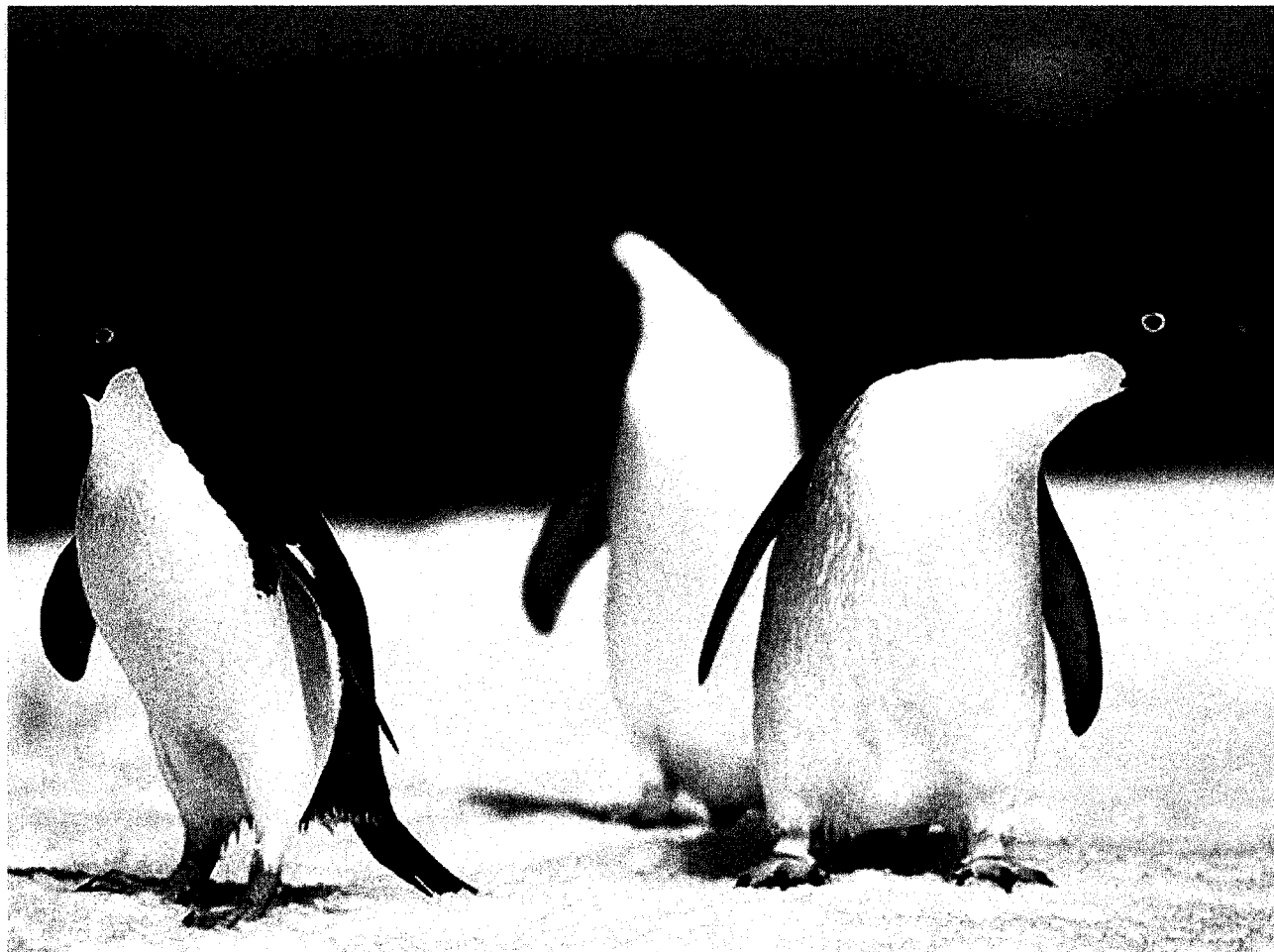
A see-through man was hovering above the ground holding a flashlight. "You can't be a ghost," I said. "I bumped into you, you are solid!" "Think again" the man said. "I am the ghost of the Tunneling Labyrinth. "I can be solid or gaseous." "I am here to help unfortunate little people who fall into the Tunneling Labyrinth. "Here is a flashlight. Go that way and you will come to a room full of light. Bye" Then he left. "Well let's go then," said Tateana. Then we started towards the room. Once we came to the room I saw a door. In my happiness before I had not realized there had been a door! Julie went to the door and opened it. Even though it seemed as if the room was as bright as it could be, when Julie opened the door it got even brighter!

We stepped out the door and then I felt a spinning feeling as if I was being twirled upside down and spun around and then there I was lying on the ground, super tired. Then I was jumping up and down so excited, we had won! People started mobbing us but all I wanted to do was talk to my friends about our adventure. Finally we got some alone time; my mom went to cook a victory dinner for my friends and me. We ran into my room "So" I said, "The Tunneling Labyrinth?" "Yes" Julie said. "It was like nothing happened while we were gone," I said. "Well I guess some mysteries are meant to stay hidden," Tateana said. We all believed.

Love, Lara

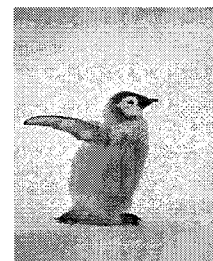
I'm rereading my entry now. I was ten at the time, I am now a mom. Besides Julie and Tateana I've never told a living soul about our encounter in the Tunneling Labyrinth. They would never believe me. To this day the mystery stays hidden. I love rereading past diary entries from when I was a kid. I still keep a diary to write in when the kids go to bed. Lately I've taken to rereading past entries and putting comments by them. I hope one day my kids will enjoy and read all my diaries.

Picture #4



## The Arctic Adventure

By: Tess Bender Grade 4 Adams-Friendship



Hi. I'm Dr. Sardini, and I'm in a group of secret expert scientists. I'm studying penguins and my colony is group A: #3. Four days after my arrival at camp Martin I found them.

I had brought along a selection of treats for them to eat. They gobbled them down and looked me in the eye while slowly waddling over to me. I reached out my hand and they seemed to be startled. I knelt down and wrote in my data notepad: *These penguins are about 4 ft. 6 in. tall, shy, and like anchovies, pilchards, cuttlefish, squid, and krill.* "Don't be afraid," I whispered. They honked, glared at my notebook and finally, threw it in the water. I ran as fast as I could, not thinking I could get hypothermia.

I dove straight in the excruciatingly cold water, opened my eyes and was completely numb. I saw a colossal killer whale! Before I knew it, I was sinking, because of the three layers and the ski jacket I was wearing. The whale was getting closer. I closed my eyes and I felt a nudge on my shoulder. I was back on land. The penguins gave me back my journal and squawked, as if to say they were sorry. I went back to my cottage to heat up by a warm fire. I wondered how I got back on land. I curled up in my blankets and fell asleep.

That night I had a dream that I was carried out by those penguins. I woke up and looked out my window. My penguins weren't out there. Instead they were huddled up next to me in my bed. I went over by my fire and my penguins must have woken up because there they were right next to me, rubbing up against my legs like cats. So I turned around and hugged them. Delighted by my kindness, they gave me a fish. They waddled over to the door so I let them out.

We climbed up a snow covered hill and slid down. "Wahoo!" I screamed. Finally the hill came to an end, and I was back in my bed. You wouldn't believe me, but they exchanged looks and talked to me. "Our names are Splash, Sunset, Lu Lu, Spikes, Crush, and Fizz," they squawked.

I passed out, but was awakened by the sound of music. Crush waved me over and I saw penguins dancing! She waved her fin over my head and I changed shape.....Soon I was a penguin and I was loving it! I could slide, waddle, and dive! What a life!

**The Notebook of a Mysterious Penguin**  
By Hallie Moran Gr. 4 Adams-Friendship Area Schools

**Entry 1:** Hi! My name is Mr. Waddles and I'm no ordinary penguin. You see, I'm undercover right now because I'm a part of a secret spy agency. I have been a spy since I was little. I mean this is "tuff stuff". You can't be untrained, otherwise you never see what's coming. We fight mostly the walruses and the leopard seals. It's hard and you have to know what's going on in order to be a good spy. It's time to get back to work, so bye!

**Entry 2:** Uh-oh! It's an emergency! The alarm is sounding while penguins are honking and yelling. We're freaking out! Time to fight some walrus...and crime. My co-spies and I are swimming as fast as we can. With all our might we swim even faster, until a big, huge, hungry looking walrus is standing in my face, waving its big, sharp, white tusks at me, trying to snatch me up for dinner. I'm not going to let that happen! I find some rope, swing it around and throw it over him like I'm at a rodeo. Then I start riding him like a bull. The walrus tries to buck me off! Good thing my co-spies help me get him settled down and bring him to where he belongs. It's time to get back to the agency.

**Entry 3:** When I walk in, everybody starts clapping like they always do when we get done fighting a crime. Everyone congratulates us and then we go back to work. The penguins that don't *fight* the crime *find out where* the crimes are. They are pretty helpful. Got to go.

**Entry 4:** My boss says he needs to see me. Is this really happening? He wants to *promote* me to leader of the pack. YES! He will make the announcement on Friday. I am really excited. He also mentioned something about a special meeting on Saturday.

**Entry 5:** It's Saturday and time for the meeting. What will my boss say? Well, this is the story: "There is a huge problem across the Antarctic. Killer whales are in places where they should not be. Animals are getting scared and moving. It is your job to help them. You must go and fight crime. This is a very top secret mission." Well, back to work.

**Entry 6:** We are getting in a submarine and heading where the whales are. I'm feeling brave and strong. It is a long trip.

**Entry 7:** We're finally here with our gear and we're ready! We look, but, don't find anything. Until now! We spot a whale and we're going to bring it back to its home. We swing our ropes, get him, and carry him back to where he should be. One down, two to go.

**Entry 8:** We're still looking and no sign of a whale.

**Entry 9:** Wait! HALLELUIA! I see one and call my team over. We get another one to where it belongs.

**Entry 10:** Time to catch the last one! Oh! He's right in front of me. OH-NO! This is the biggest, largest, killer whale I've ever seen! He's baring his teeth at me. I'm scared! What do I do? Just in time, my team comes along to help me out. The whale was really strong and we struggle but at last we manage to at least ride him over where he needs to be. Our job is done so it's back to the agency. I'm exhausted and glad to be a spy!

## **Small**

by Elizabeth TenBarge

Grade 4, Lodi School District

Prologue: Hi, I'm Blaise. Kids call me Shorty because I was born small. I try to stay inside of my house so I won't get picked on. Hawkeye is a bad hawk that tries to eat all of the penguins in my community, including me.

"Mom I'm going to school." said Blaise. "Ok" said mom. When Blaise finally got to school he meets up with the "smart" gang. They said, "What's up Shorty?" and they pushed and shoved him. So finally he gave up and went home.

One day when Blaise was walking around he spotted Hawkeye, a big hawk, in the distance. So he dove in an Eskimo's igloo. Luckily, the Eskimos were not there. But then outside he heard a thump, thump, thump of an Eskimo's boot! So Blaise tried to dig his way out through the wall and it worked! When he got home he laid down on his bed in relief! He said to himself 'what a day it has been!'

When Blaise came out of his room the next morning he found his mother smiling at him with a letter. "Blaise" she said, "The queen and king would like to see you". So after he ate breakfast he set off.

When Blaise got to the palace he met the palace guard Andrew. He said, "No one passes me unless you have permission". "Yes, yes I do," said the trembling Blaise. Andrew is a body built penguin and he is really tough. Blaise crouched nimbly and proceeded with the letter. When Andrew saw the letter he said, "I'll let you pass. To get to the throne room take a left, then a right, then a left, and then a right". When Blaise saw King Ben Z. and Queen Skye Anne he gasped in honor. "Blaise" said the king. "We've heard of your bravery and we would like you to do a job for us. Will you proceed?" "Yes," said Blaise. "You will need this," said King Ben. Z. He gave Blaise a weird looking metal and said, "These are keys for the Eskimo's airplane" and he sat back down on his throne. Queen Skye. He smelled her perfume, ugh, he thought. Queen Skye Anne said, "Take this sharp piece of ice. Use it carefully Blaise. Now off you go".

When Blaise awoke he heard the villagers shouting, Hawkeye was there. He quickly got up and got dressed. He thought of the keys and the sharp piece of ice on his dresser. He picked them up along with his lucky piece of string. When he got outside he saw Hawkeye and Hawkeye spotted him. Hawkeye swooped lower and said to Blaise "You want to be crunched up too?" Blaise scurried past the Eskimo's igloo to their airplane. Blaise quickly climbed in and started it. As soon as he got it in the air he tested it out. He learned what buttons went up, down, left and right. Then Hawkeye started to dive at him. Blaise did a loop de loop around him, causing Hawkeye to finish his dive five miles away. Blaise did some quick thinking. He put the plane in autopilot so he could tie the sharp piece of ice on the top of the airplane with his lucky string. While he was doing this Hawkeye was getting closer and closer. Blaise scrambled back in his seat and took a dive at him. Hawkeye did not know this until the pain of sharp ice stabbed through his body. Hawkeye fell to the ground. Blaise parked the airplane and all the penguins (including the smart gang) were coming over to congratulate Blaise. Cam and Ty had already lifted Blaise on their shoulders and started carrying him towards the palace. the queen and king were already standing off their thrones. They said "Well done Blaise!" and the villagers set him down. The king said "You have done a lot for us." The queen added "I now pronounce you the knight of the penguins!" All his friends and villagers cheered with pride. Then they started home to party.

## **Magnificent Magic Marshmallows**

By: Madison Routson

Grade 3, Endeavor Elementary, Portage

On a cold and frosty winter day, four unique penguin brothers were sledding down a sparkly white hill. They were having a fantastic time chasing each other up and down the icy hill. After playing for two hours, the thirsty brothers decided to head home for some scrumptious hot coco.

When the brothers reached their igloo, the oldest brother Dubby opened the door. Stinky, the second oldest brother, made hot coco for everyone. The four brothers enjoyed their coco and talked about how much fun they had sledding.

Suddenly, the youngest brother named Stormy realized that he was drinking his coco from a coconut! The middle brother Sunnie felt something between his toes...it was sand!!! The confused brothers looked around and saw a sign that said, "Welcome to Sunnytown, Florida! We have the most refreshing pools around!" "Florida!" the brothers screamed at once. "How did we get here?" They inquired. Stinky shouted, "It must have been the new marshmallows! So that's what "Magnificent Magic Marshmallows" must have meant!"

The excited brothers wandered around until they came to a gleaming pool filled with shiny water. The brothers were so thrilled that they all jumped in! When they hit the water it felt warm and relaxing. Unfortunately, the other pool guests were afraid of the crazy penguins and began to scream.

One four-year-old girl threw a handful of marshmallows at the penguins. Before the brothers could read the marshmallow bag, they were back in their igloo safe and sound. "What..what happened to us, where is the sand and the beautiful water?" questioned the brothers. It took them a minute to realize that the girl must have thrown...Magnificent Magic Marshmallows!

Grade 4

Emily Schellenberger

Pineview Elementary-Reedsburg

Creative Writing Picture # 4

## **Penguins On The Ice**

It was a Sunday in Antarctica. It was quiet that day. There, frozen in their tracks were penguins! Their names were Lily, Matthew, and Cole. Lily said, "We are never going to find the right ice!" "Yes we are," Cole said.

A few minutes later, Lily found a big lake full of ice. Matthew tried to slide on it, but he fell through. "This ice is too thin," Lily shouted. "Ya think?", Matthew shouted back. Cole, the smart one, broke up the fight. They were all brothers and sisters and sometimes, they didn't get along! So they traveled for a few more minutes and finally, they found it! The perfect ice!

This time when Matthew slid, he swept swiftly across the ice. Lily had a sparkle in her eye. She smiled and also slid swiftly across the ice. Her face lit up. Then Cole went across the ice. We now call them penguins on the ice!

## **Marion! Where Are You?**

Somewhere in Antarctica about a year ago, there were four penguins that were named, Yoshi, Pip, Piper and Marion. Yoshi was clumsy and fell, knocking adventurous Marion into the water, where he started swimming around looking for the person who pushed him. "What did you do that for!?!," then he swam away, looking for adventure.

Piper liked music, and she was composing a tune that went la dede da da, but came out something like honk, honghong, honk honk. Pip was very bouncy and was a younger penguin. Pip jumped up, hit Yoshi with his flipper, sending Yoshi skidding across the ice and hitting Piper, who let out a large HONK, which made Pip come crashing down and they all ended up in a jumbled heap. When they finally came to their senses, they noticed Marion was missing, and they formed a search party.

It wasn't long, however, before they heard a faint honk and hurried over the hill. Piper gasped in the penguin way of course. There was Marion, tangled in a mesh bag like what oranges come in. Yoshi tripped, slid into Marion and sent him flying. Pip jumped up and grabbed the bag. It came off but sent Marion spinning through the air. Piper honked her biggest honk yet, and Marion tried to get his flippers over his ears and ended up sending himself into the soft, fluffy snow. "Marion!" Piper shouted. She ran down and gave him a peck on the cheek. Since they were all safe, they started for home.

## **Two Months Later...**

Marion and Piper were watching their kids, Baby Marion, Dedede, and Pauline playing next to "uncle" Yoshi and his friend Birdette. Pip and his friend Pep were watching their daughter Tep and their son Pit. Dedede had seized Pauline and was throwing snowballs. Baby Marion was dodging them to try and rescue Pauline. Yep... it was just another day in Antarctica.

Logan Bahr  
Grade 4  
Poynette School District



Daniel Green  
Grade 3  
Rio Elementary  
Picture Essay #4

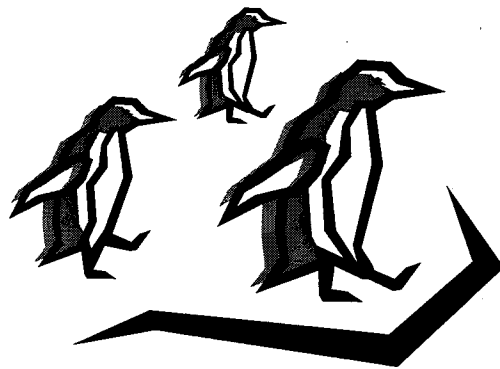
## Adventures with Flipper

One very cold day Flippers was waddling along on the ice when the ice broke. Flippers fell in. As he fell a leopard seal saw him and chased him. Flippers swam for his life!

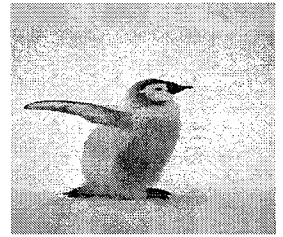
He saw a crack in the ice. He zoomed through the crack. The seal was right after him but the seal couldn't make it through the crack and his head slammed into the ice. The leopard seal hurt his head but he swam away.

Flippers saw another crack in the ice. He swam for it. He was very lucky. The crack took him right back home.

He was so happy to be home he did the penguin dance. To do the penguin dance you put your right wing in, you take your right wing out, then you shake it all about. And that's what it's all about....



## Hip Hop Penguins (Picture #4)



Once upon a time there were penguins and they were great dancers. There was a dance competition each year. Everyone was practicing except a penguin named Fabio because he always won and thought he was the best. Meanwhile a nice little boy penguin named Kevin and his friends Sarah, Michael, and Tommy were practicing. They were going to enter the dance competition but they didn't care about winning, they just wanted to have fun. Kevin was really good. He had been dancing since he was a little baby penguin and he loved it. Kevin and his friends did everything with each other. They played with each other, caught fish with each other, and they danced with each other. The kids had very good sportsmanship; they never got mad or sad if they lost, they just wanted to have fun. At the time, Fabio was mocking penguins and bragging that he was the best. That's why he had no friends. The dance competition was tomorrow and Fabio hadn't practiced once, but he did see Kevin and his friends practicing. He realized how good they were. He knew they would beat him, and that's when he thought of a way to make sure they wouldn't get to the competition tomorrow.

Kevin and his friends went inside for dinner, and that's when Fabio unleashed his plan. Before they ate, Fabio switched their fish with rotten fish and snuck away. Kevin, Michael, Sarah, and Tommy ate the fish. The next thing they knew, they were sick, but they weren't going to give up yet. They got up in the morning and went to the dance competition right away. They could still dance, just not as good. Fabio showed up, but he was shocked to see Kevin, Michael, Sarah, and Tommy there after he gave them the bad fish. The dance competition had started. The penguins had to dance until the judges said they were out. Three/ fourths of the people had been eliminated already. It had been down to Kevin, Fabio, Michael, and Sarah. Tommy had been eliminated half way through. Later, the judges eliminated Sarah and Michael. Now, it was down to Kevin and Fabio. They had been working really hard and it looked like Fabio was winning, but Kevin didn't give up. Fabio didn't think Kevin would get this far and he was scared Kevin would be able to beat him. Kevin was really tired and so was Fabio. Kevin knew he would have to do something quick or he might get eliminated. He was ready to do his big move...he put his head down on the ice, brought his arms down, and started spinning on his head! The judges loved it! Fabio was in shock, and everyone was amazed. Kevin stopped. It all happened so fast. The judges eliminated Fabio. Everyone was cheering, and Kevin was in shock that he won.

Kevin, Fabio and Michael went to receive their first, second, and third place trophies. Fabio was sad and Kevin realized that. He went over to Fabio and said, "Good try," and gave Fabio his first place trophy. Fabio was amazed and asked Kevin why he did that. Kevin said, "It is not all about winning, it just matters that you have fun." The next day Fabio decided to go apologize to everyone he had been mean to. Later that day, Fabio went over to Kevin's house and wondered if Kevin wanted to play with him. Kevin said yes. Kevin and Fabio went to get Michael, Sarah, and Tommy to come play with them. They went to the park. They danced and played all day until it got dark. Kevin decided to ask Michael, Sarah, Tommy, and Fabio to come to his igloo for a sleep over. Fabio was amazed, nobody had ever asked him to sleep over. The five friends played all night until they got tired and went to bed. Before Kevin went to bed he thought, "Everyone has a good side, you just have to be nice to them if you want them to be nice to you."

Bailey Magnuson  
Creative Writing (Picture 4)  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Grade Three

### THE ADVENTURES OF BOB, BOE, AND BILL

"All right, it's official! We're lost!" cried Bob.

"We're never going to get there at this rate!" exclaimed Bill.

"If we don't get there soon, Granny Penguin will wonder where we are,"  
replied Boe.

"You know," said Bob, "Maybe all we need is courage."

"Yeah," said Boe, "To Infinity and Beyond!" He began to run, but then he fell  
down on the snow banks.

Ha Ha Ha Ha!" bill and bob laughed obnoxiously.

"Be quiet!" snapped Boe. "You broke my concentration."

"I hate to break it to you," said Bill, "but I don't think we're going to get to  
infinity, much less, beyond.

They began to fight. "Are too . . . Are not . . . Are too . . . Are not . . ."

"Well, I'm older!" barked Bill, "I hatched  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  seconds before you."

"But I'm the oldest of all, and I don't boss you around," said Bob.

"Sure!" said Bill, sarcastically.

"Alright, maybe once . . . OK, twice, but not much."

"Now, let's keep moving forward, as they say in *Meet the Robinsons*," said  
Boe.

"I'm gonna tell Mom you watch too much TV," said Bill.

"Oh Yeah?" said Boe.

"Guys! Let's go!" said Bob. They kept walking until they came to a skating  
rink.

"How do we get around it?" asked Boe.

"We don't get around it, we go across it!" said Bill.

"I don't know," said Bob, trying to hide his fear.

"Oh come on, Bob!" exclaimed Bill. "Don't be such a scaredy cat.

"Hey," said Bob, "You know I'm scared of cats!"

So, they climbed onto the slippery, cold, dangerous pond. They began to walk. It went well . . . until they began running, because they weren't as nervous now. Then came a sharp crack.

"Uh Oh," said Bob. They hurried faster and faster to avoid the ice cracking. It didn't help; it just made it crack more from behind them. THERE WAS NO WAY OUT!

"Ahhhhhh," cried Boe. "There is no way out and I feel like we're going to die. Before I pass away," he said in a meaningful voice, "Bob, I hope someday you are not afraid of cats. And Bill, I enjoyed being your  $3\frac{1}{2}$  second younger brother."

"Wait!" Bob said. "Remember, if the ice cracks, just lay down; then the ice will settle down, because you're spreading out your weight."

"Are you crazy?" asked Bill. "We're never going to make it!"

"Just do it," urged Bob. But it was too late. They began to sink. It was cold and dark. They couldn't see each other. They swam forward with all their might. They finally reached land.

"Well," said Boe, "that went well." Bob rolled his eyes.

"Hey," Bill said, "I see Granny Penguins house!"

When they got there, they told Granny Penguin the whole story. They had a great time. Most of all, they were excited for their NEXT adventure.

THE ADVENTURES FEATURING FRED, FRANK, AND FLYNN

"Bye boys!" called the penguin mother.

Five penguin minutes later. . . "Carol! Don't leave me! Please! *Please*, stay with me!" Frank cried desperately.

"See, this is why we should have just looked it up on MapQuest instead of bringing your GPS girlfriend, 'Carol'," Fred said mockingly. The small device twitched and buzzed uncontrollably. Its screen flashed, and then - she died.

Frank was bawling.

"Keep your eyes on the road!" yelled Flynn, the youngest penguin, from the back seat of the cherry-red Ferrari.

Two very emotional penguin minutes later . . . "Hey, one question," Flynn said during the long silence, "Why did mom tell us to go to the supermarket anyway?"

"You twinkle toes. It's the Flipper Market," said Fred.

"But wait. What do we need to get?" asked Frank.

"Mom said to get salmon and sardines," Fred replied, "And it should equal about seven dollars."

Suddenly, all three of the penguin boys heard a loud KLUNK. The car stopped moving. All three boys get out of the car in despair.

"We are going to die! I am way too young to die!" Fred screamed, "No, no, no! I can't die!"

Six penguin minutes later. . . "Are we there yet?" asked Flynn for the millionth time, counting. He was cold and tired from their long waddle. His brothers were depressed from losing their most prized possessions, which didn't help his mood.

"There it is!" screamed Frank.

"The Flipper Market?" asked Fred.

"Nooooo! The Variety of Different Things Store!" said Frank very sarcastically.

The three penguin boys walked into the warm store with relief. Their long waddle was finally over. They scrambled for their things. "While we're here let's go look at the GPS's," said Frank.

"What are you going to do, Frank? Name her Kevin?" teased Flynn.

"No! Of course not! That's weird!" Frank answered defensively, "And B.T.W. I'm going to name her Gertrude."

Now for their long waddle back home.

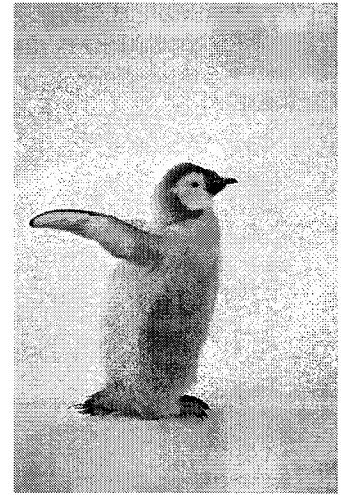
## **Bob's Life**

Grade 4

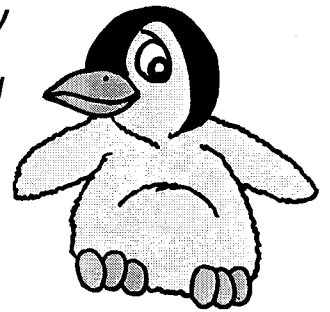
By: Michyle Kuzyk

Trinity Lutheran School

Creative Writing #4



*Crack! Bob's hard outer shell had broken. When Bob hit the cold icy ground, Bob said, "Cold." Bob ran to his father and hid under his feathers. Bob was an Adelie penguin. He had a white and yellow coat and a yellow beak. His tongue was special for it's backwards facing hooks. The hooks help keep the fish he's eating to stay in his mouth. Bob headed down to the ocean to try to find a treasure.*



*"Its three o'clock, get out of the water!" called his father. Bob didn't hear him, so he trotted thru the glistening snow. The leopard seals came out and almost ate Bob. The leopard seal was grey with a white stomach. Its teeth were very sharp and he was very hungry for a penguin dinner. Fortunately, Bob got out unto safe ice just in time. Bob ran to find his father. He listened for his father's call which he only knew and found his father. The next day, Bob went into the water at one o'clock and guess what? The same seals, fast as cougars, came out to eat Bob. Bob ran to his home with his dad and mom. They lived safely in Queen Maud Land in Antarctica.*



# My Christmas with Penguins

By Laura Beghin  
Grade 4, Wisconsin Dells School District

## Chapter One

### The Beginning of the Story

Hi, my name is Anabeth. I have lots of homework that has to be done by tomorrow, but I'm having much more fun with my friends, Cynthia and Ruby. My Mom just yelled down the hall, "Start your homework!" I replied, "I'm busy doing something already," so of course she came in. "Oh, I forgot your friends were here. Should I go make a snack for you girls?" I answered, "No Mom. They said they're not hungry." "OK, but what are you doing?" "I am telling them the story of my Christmas three years ago." Mom answered, "OK, I'll listen too."

It all started when I was at a party at my house. All my family was there, including some of my friends. My Aunt Annie was next to me talking to my mom. I have to tell you one thing about my Aunt Annie: She's rich, and I don't mean nice house and lots of money with lots of normal animals. I mean having a mansion, jet, lake, lots of money and land – and a penguin. A Chinstrap penguin that she got from Antarctica when she went there for an experiment. She's a scientist, you could guess.

## Chapter Two

### My Christmas Present

So my Aunt said to me, "What do you want for Christmas? You know it's only four days away. How about a horse, or a dog? Oh, I know, you will want a..." "She only wants money," my Mom interrupted. "I'm giving it to the poor and some to the church," I clarified. "Well, you have to get something for Christmas. I'm leaving for Antarctica in four days. I won't be back until after Christmas."

Then I had a thought. A wonderful but scary thought. My Aunt is nice, but I didn't know how nice. I decided to take a chance and ask her. "Well, Aunt Annie, I was wondering, for a present this year, if you got me ... uh... you and me ... Antarctica ... go could together?" Then I don't know how she read my mixed up words but she said, "Anabeth, what a great idea! Ask your Mom and Dad, quick before you forget." But I was sure I wouldn't forget it when everybody at the party was staring at me. So I whispered what I wanted to my Mom. She said, "I guess, but you'd have to be with your Aunt at all times, and be wearing lots of warm clothes, and..." "I'll take care of everything," my Aunt interrupted. "She won't get hurt or cold, but she will have to pay



attention.” Then my Dad walked in with cake in his hands, and some on his face. “What’s going on?” he said. So my grandma, who heard everything, whispered what had happened. He said, “OK” and walked away to find some ice cream.

## Chapter Three

### Meeting New Friends

The next four days I spent most of my time packing and taking lessons from my aunt on what to do. Then I said on Christmas Eve day, “What if I fall through the ice or get attacked by polar bears, or get attacked by penguins, or attacked by polar bears and penguins?!” “First of all, you will be just fine. And second, polar bears and penguins live in different places,” said my aunt.

Next, we went to her jet and talked about what I am supposed to do when I get on the jet. “When you first walk in, there are seats with heaters and TV’s in front of them. There’s a food person who brings different food every five minutes, and it is delicious. To the right there’s a door, and inside are bedrooms. Fancy bedrooms that have everything you could want in a bedroom on a jet. There’s a bathroom in the bedrooms and another one next to the cooking area.” Then my aunt called over two boys. She said, “Anabeth, this is Joe and Tom. Joe is my assistant. He helped me with one of my experiments a week ago. He’s coming with us and helping you. Tom is the pilot. He also is coming with us to Antarctica. Then there are the cooks and others. If you ever have a question, ask Joe or Tom. They are very smart.”

## Chapter Four

### Here We Go!

The next day I talked to Joe. I told him all about myself and he listened, and every so often he would say, “Hey, I went there too,” or “Awesome!” I know he’s a grown man, but inside I think he still is a kid. Tom showed me everything on the jet and even showed me how to fly. It’s hard, but fun.

“Anabeth, are you hungry?” said Tom, and before I could answer Tom gave a little clap, clap. Then four people came in with trays as big as a small table. One had cheese, sausage and crackers. Another had grapes, apples, pears, pineapple and more fruits. Another one had some drinks like milk, juice and smoothies. And then there were grownup drinks like wine and other grownup drinks that I don’t know. The last tray had my Aunt Annie’s favorite food, ICE CREAM!!!!

I grabbed a few of each and then my Aunt and Joe came in with a card and a box. "Joe wanted to thank you." "For what?" I asked. "Well, for coming." "Why for coming? I'm the one who should be thanking you." Joe answered, "I don't know. I just wanted to thank you and the box is a Christmas present." "I'll open it on the plane," I replied. I said goodbye to my Mom, Dad and my sister. Then I got on the jet and we took off. I slept most of the time and when we were flying over the last of ocean, I started getting ready to land.

## Chapter Five

### Meeting a Different Person

When we landed, my Aunt Annie scared me to death. She said, "We're here!" and she squeezed my shoulders. "Aren't you excited?!" "Yes!" I replied. "Well you should get some warm socks on. Oh, I forgot to tell you. We are going to meet someone new in Antarctica." "What? Who?" I wondered. "I'm not telling," she replied. I know she wanted to tell someone with the smile on her face.

When I got off the jet with my Aunt, I fell down. One reason was because it was very, very cold. It was as cold as...well think about when you jump in the snow with no warm clothes on. Now multiply that by one hundred. I was even wearing all the warm clothes my Aunt and Joe were wearing. The second reason is because I wasn't used to standing on solid ground for so many hours. Joe helped me up, but I fell again. Joe said to my Aunt, "I guess you should get the wheelchair." My face had an expression that was saying "really?", and my Aunt and Joe started laughing. Then Tom walked in just as confused as my Dad at the party. "You got me," I said

"Aunt Annie, are we going to meet that person soon?" Perfect timing. "They're here right now," she answered. A lady walked up out of a cabin with something behind her. It was a penguin!

## Chapter Six

### Uh-Oh

"Wank, wank, wank" said the penguin. "Aunt Annie! It's a...a...a..." "Chinstrap penguin" my Aunt finished for me. "Awesome! What's his name?" "His name is Lilly, and the penguin is a she." "Oh, sorry." "And this is her husband Toshi." "Wank, wank," they greeted me. "Hi Toshi and Lilly," I said with a laugh. "And this little penguin is Jell-o. He's the son of Lilly and Toshi." "Wank, wank," he said. "Aw, he's so cute. I gotta take a picture of them." Click, click, click.

"Hey, I know you. You're in charge of all the scientists at my Aunt's work." "Yep, my name's Abby." "My Aunt's always talking about you. She says you're brilliant." "Well, if you want to say that, OK," Abby blushed. "The penguins are so cute! Do you own them?" I questioned. "Well, no, but I found them here a year ago and kept them safe ever since to study."

I looked over and saw something different between the picture on my camera and the picture in real life. Jell-o was gone. "Look!" I said interrupting Abby, "Jell-o's gone." "Oh no! He's always getting in trouble. Well, at least I put a tracker on him. I better go check on the computer so I can find him." I walked inside the cabin with Abby, Aunt Annie and Joe.

Abby's a fast typer because the moment she sat down and started typing, the map came up. I could see everything in Antarctica that was closer than 20 miles. I saw the ocean, a little house miles away, and even the jet and cabin that we were in. I asked Abby what the red and green dots were, and she said the red are penguins and the green are people. On the map, I could see myself!

"Hey Abby, there's a lot of red dots on here. How can we find Jell-o?" "Well, Jell-o has a code number. It's 53965, and if I type in that number, then the computer will find that penguin." She typed the numbers in and she said, "The red dot that's flashing is that penguin." We all looked for a minute, then I said I found the flashing one. "He's by the jet." "That's not by the jet; that's in it." "How did Jell-o get in the jet? I'm sure the doors were closed," my Aunt said. "Well, we can find out later. Who knows how much damage a little penguin can do," Abby said.

We all ran out the door with Lilly and Toshi squawking at us. I realized they were worried too. It was their baby and they couldn't bear him gone, so I stopped and ran over to them and said, "We are trying to find your baby too. Don't worry." Either they heard me and understood or just stopped, but they stopped squawking and sat down. I ran back to the jet and went inside. Everyone was looking for Jell-o. Joe was looking in the cooking area with some cooks. Aunt Annie was looking in the bedrooms with Abby, and Tom was looking in the cockpit. Some other people on the plane I didn't know were looking all around. The rest of the cooks were looking in the bathroom. I looked in the one spot that nobody was looking in - the seats. They looked so comfortable and I was tempted to sit down, but I kept on looking. Then Abby said, "I think he may be under the jet."

## Chapter Seven

### Found Him!

We all left the jet and ran outside. You don't know how hard it is to get out a door the size of a little, little tree with sixteen people. I fell down two feet away from the doorway and my knee was bleeding. A cook ran past and said, "Oh a cut! You'll need a Band-Aid," but kept on running. You may say, "How did you know that you were bleeding?" But, it went through my PJ's and pants and five more layers. I tried to get up, but it hurt too much. Luckily, Tom was behind me and picked me up. "Are you OK?" he asked. "Ah-huh," I said. I was too excited to stop. "Let's go," he said.

We ran out behind all the people. Right when I ran out the door, I got cold again but kept running. I found Abby and said, "What's the big deal that Jell-o's gone? We can find him later." "Well, he's all alone and could get hurt or lost and doesn't have much warmth, and..." "We gotta get that baby penguin," I interrupted. We all looked under the jet but couldn't find him.

Then Joe ran up to me and said, "Merry Christmas" with a laugh. "Wait, Joe, what did you get me for a Christmas present?" "Um..." "Tell me, Joe!" "I got you some gloves, a hat and some fish to feed the penguins." "Joe!" And with that, I jumped up and ran inside the jet.

I ran to my seat and looked for the present, but it wasn't there. Tom, Joe, Abby and Aunt Annie ran in and said, "Why do you want to open your present now? We have more important things to do." "No, you don't understand." I ran to the bedroom, but it wasn't there either. "Tom, where is my luggage?" "It's under the jet. Why?" "Because." I ran in the controlling room and looked for the key. I found keys, but lots of them. I decided to try each one. I ran to a door next to the bathroom. I tried to open the door, but of course it was locked, so I wished that the first key I picked would open the door. It didn't. But the second one did. I opened the door and found some fish and Jell-o on the floor!

## Chapter Eight

### Pee-U!

"Jell-o!!" I yelled. I ran up and hugged him. "It's so good to have you back, even though you were gone for only ten minutes." Aunt Annie, Abby, Tom and Joe ran down the stairs and said, "Anabeth, what did you do in here? It stinks!" "I didn't do anything. Jell-o's here." "He's here?" Abby yelled. "Yes." "But why does it stink in here?" "Because Joe got me some fish to feed the penguins, and Jell-o smelled them, so he

came in and ate them.” “Ugh, let’s go quickly to the bathroom to wash both of you up.” Everyone exclaimed, “Pee-U!” “Ugh!” “I can’t stand this smell!” We walked to the bathroom and when Abby and the others washed Jell-o, I went outside and walked over to Lilly and Toshi and said, “We found your baby! He’s just fine.” Then they started licking me, because I smelled like fish. “Wank, wank.”

The next few days were very fun, and Abby said on the last day, “We have to take some penguins home. Three to be exact.” “You’re taking Lilly, Toshi and Jell-o home?” “Yup. Your Aunt’s going to keep them at her house.” “Cool! Will I be able to visit them?” “Yes!” “Yay!!”

When we got home, I had a lot of storytelling to do.

“That was the best story I ever heard,” said Ruby. “Uh huh,” said Cynthia. “Well, I can call your Aunt and see if she would let us go see the penguins,” said my Mom. “Awesome!” everybody yelled. “But, if we can go, you have to do your homework first.” “Awe...OK, fine.” That was the fastest we ever did our homework.

The End.

# 2012 AUGUST DERLETH TEACHERS AND COORDINATORS

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Michele Crispell	Teacher
Sada Gallick	Teacher
Dana Johnson	Teacher
Danna Peterson	Teacher
Sandra Pheiffer	Coordinator

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Bobbi Steele	Teacher
Meghan Bauer	Teacher
Holly Ford	Teacher
Nicole Hilke	Teacher
Becky Rundio	Teacher
Megan Sentowski	Teacher
Helmy Tennis	Teacher
Julie Cushman	Coordinator

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Jim Doolittle	Teacher
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## Lodi

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Amy Good	Teacher
Nadalie Kratcha	Teacher
Brenda Autz	Coordinator

## Marshfield

Brenda Baur	Coordinator
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Mindy Roidt	Teacher
Pam Topel	Teacher
Pat Dwyer	Coordinator
Jenice Mischler	Coordinator

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Jackie Weidner	Teacher
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Jolene Routson	Teacher
Kay Blankenheim	Teacher
Lonna Calkins	Teacher
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Michelle Wallace	Teacher
Cheryl Hebel	Teacher
Halley Koelsch	Teacher
Megan Visger	Teacher
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Annette Putnam	Teacher
Colleen Jepson	Teacher
Patricia Hyzer	Teacher
Kim Shrake	Teacher
Amy Bass	Teacher
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## Rio

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Lori Bongert	Teacher
Sue Horsman	Teacher
Polly Vilstrup	Teacher
Jeannie Fletcher	Coordinator

Continued ...

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Tamara Cichanowicz	Teacher
Erin Eslinger	Teacher
Theresa Feigl	Teacher
Stephanie Frey	Teacher
Tracy Haupt	Teacher
Jenna McCann	Teacher
Carla Peterson	Teacher
Denice Ruhland-Cook	Teacher
Katie Trachsler	Teacher
Tammy Udulutch	Teacher
Nanette Backeberg	Teacher
Jennifer Coughlin	Teacher
Joel Liedtke	Teacher
Tammy Markley	Teacher
Greg Moely	Teacher
Carol Patterson	Teacher
Allison Steinmetz	Teacher
Kathie Thompson	Teacher
Mark Wirtz	Teacher
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Kathy Bruno	Coordinator
Cathy Stowers	Coordinator

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Andy Lind	Teacher
Crystal Lutz	Teacher
Kathleen Nicholson	Teacher
Kimberly Zietlow	Coordinator

**Trinity Lutheran**

Enith Bailey	Coordinator
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Kristin Heller	Teacher
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**Wisconsin Dells**

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