

# August Derleth Young Writers' Anthology

2013



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.

## ANNE HORJUS ILLUSTRATOR

The multitalented, Dutch artist Anne Horjus was raised in a small village near the Wadden Sea in the Northern part of the Netherlands known as Friesland. From kindergarten on he (yes, Anne, pronounced Ann-uh, is an old fashioned Friesian boys name) had to bike to school. Everyday he traveled through farm fields and other tiny villages, passing many Friesian farms and countless migrating birds using the coastline as their route. Inspired by his surroundings he started to sketch, paint and make things with whatever he found (and was allowed to use) in the house.



After high school, Anne went on to study classical singing at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. In addition to singing and teaching, Anne is also a visual artist. This great combination of all these art skills has served him well.

Anne has been active in a variety of freelance projects including portraits, landscapes, art installations, murals, theater sets, woodcarvings, puppet building, storytelling, and writing. He has illustrated several children's picture books in The Netherlands, Belgium, and the U.S.A. He often combines his artistic skills to create unique, multifaceted performances to entertain large audiences.

Anne is a part time library program coordinator and has written for the Collaborative Summer Library Program Manual, which is distributed to public libraries in 44 states, for the past 4 years. World Book is one of his newest clients using his knowledge of theme related activities for the young through art and craft projects. He is a frequently asked workshops host for literacy related youth programming for library systems and school districts.

In 2008, he was a proud member of the book cart drillteam that became State champion in Wisconsin.

First Name	Last Name	Grade	District	Title	Category	Page
Dominik	Bottensek	3	Adams-Friendship	The Rainbow Blender	Creative Writing-3	62
Jayne	Rubeck	3	Adams-Friendship	The Alien Mushroom	Creative Writing-1	50
Kallysa	Farrell	4	Adams-Friendship	Kallysa's Poems	Poetry	1
Dillon	Lecy	4	Adams-Friendship	Nature Poems	Poetry	2
Kayleigh	Lent	4	Adams-Friendship	The Math Club	Personal Narrative	23
Jaiden	Minigh	4	Adams-Friendship	The Mushroom Gnomes Adventure	Creative Writing-1	51
Mara	Myers	4	Adams-Friendship	Squeak the Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	70
Claire	Bildsten	3	Baraboo	The Weirdest Tooth I've Ever Lost	Personal Narrative	24
Jacob	Bishop	3	Baraboo	The Alien Invasion	Creative Writing-3	63
Alice	Davies	3	Baraboo	Me and My Acorn	Creative Writing-4	71
Maylee	Elliot	3	Baraboo	Things That Remind Me of Summer	Poetry	3
Macy	Henry	4	Baraboo	The Day I Met My Half-Brother	Personal Narrative	25
Emily	Kleczek	4	Baraboo	Anna	Creative Writing-1	52
Ashley	Palecek	4	Baraboo	Drip Drop	Poetry	4
Naomi	Pelland	4	Baraboo	Night	Poetry	4
Kennadi	Snow	4	Baraboo	The Quest for Hope	Creative Writing-4	72
Aaron	Abegglen	4	Fall River	Monkey	Poetry	5
Garrett	Campbell	3	Fall River	My First Brewer's Game	Personal Narrative	24
Savannah	Hertel	3	Fall River	People	Poetry	5
Jada	Jones	3	Fall River	The Time I Went to the Dells	Personal Narrative	25
Trevor	Koegler	3	Fall River	Chipmunk	Poetry	5
Jordan	Landvatter	3	Fall River	The Bear and the Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	73
Hailey	Lange	3	Fall River	My Zoo Trip	Personal Narrative	26
Taylor	Raley	3	Fall River	Freddy & Loopy	Creative Writing-4	73
Austin	Blevins	4	Fall River	Why Can't I	Poetry	6
Jeremy	Book	4	Fall River	The Ride of Doom	Creative Writing-3	62
Caylee	Kmiec	4	Fall River	I Wish I Am Free	Poetry	6
Helena	Nashold	4	Fall River	The Golden Mushroom	Creative Writing-1	53
Eliza	Peetz	4	Fall River	The Time I Got My First Puppy	Personal Narrative	26
Dana	Anderson	3	Lodi	Mr. Squirrel Finds a Home	Creative Writing-4	74
Natalie	Anderson	3	Lodi	The Love of the Peaceful Forest	Poetry	7
Elizabeth	Clepper	3	Lodi	Trees Move	Poetry	7
Brody	Nyffenegger	3	Lodi	Gardens	Poetry	6

First Name	Last Name	Grade	District	Title	Category	Page
Ella	Puls	3	Lodi	Burnt Mushrooms	Creative Writing-1	54
Nathan	Barganz	3	Montello	Winter Vacation	Personal Narrative	27
Cole	Barton	3	Montello	A Cute Squirrel But Hungry	Creative Writing-4	74
Michael	Elliot	3	Montello	The Tornado Ride	Creative Writing-3	64
Kassidy	Hauersperger	4	Montello	Truck Driving	Personal Narrative	27
Zada	McConnell	4	Montello	Great Grandpa	Personal Narrative	28
Sidney	Bue	3	Pardeeville	Frogs	Poetry	8
Abby	Kaiser	3	Pardeeville	Jackie's Attack	Creative Writing-4	75
Derek	Lindert	3	Pardeeville	Basketball	Poetry	9
Ben	Palen	3	Pardeeville	The Missing Dollar	Creative Writing-3	64
Amy	Brinks	4	Pardeeville	Story Land	Creative Writing-1	55
Nic	Burns	4	Pardeeville	Football	Poetry	9
Caris	Lowe	4	Pardeeville	New Hope	Creative Writing-4	76
Madalyn	Tierney	4	Pardeeville	Lights	Poetry	8
Ella	Briggs	3	Portage	Shirts	Poetry	10
Gretchen	Georgeson	3	Portage	Kenny	Creative Writing-4	77
Greg	Hammer	3	Portage	Football	Poetry	10
Madelyn	Johnson	3	Portage	The First Catch	Personal Narrative	29
Isabella	Sumwalt	3	Portage	The Sweet Ride	Creative Writing-3	65
Itzel	Cayetano	4	Portage	Magical Mushrooms	Creative Writing-1	56
Madelynne	DeMarte	4	Portage	Colorful Colors	Poetry	11
Genna	Garrigan	4	Portage	The Great Way to Live in Math	Personal Narrative	30
Marianna	Neitzel	4	Portage	Luscious Green Bushy Tail	Creative Writing-4	78
Madi	Routson	4	Portage	Balls	Poetry	11
Abigail	Zellmer	4	Portage	A Good Way to Start the Morning	Personal Narrative	31
Jimmy	Heath	3	Poynette	The Hunting Day	Personal Narrative	32
Abby	Klink	3	Poynette	Is This an Egg?	Creative Writing-4	75
Kennedy	Paifford	3	Poynette	The Visitor	Personal Narrative	29
Rachel	Yeik	3	Poynette	The Missing Necklace	Creative Writing-2	61
Ethan	Buss	4	Poynette	Pearl Harbor	Poetry	12
Katelyn	Chadwick	4	Poynette	The Morning Before Bush Gardens	Personal Narrative	33
Cabo	Cittadino	4	Poynette	Today is Very Boring	Poetry	12
Kayse	Haag	4	Poynette	Two New Dogs!	Personal Narrative	34

First Name	Last Name	Grade	District	Title	Category	Page
Grace	Haukom	4	Poynette	The Colorful Tornado	Creative Writing-3	66
Meara	McEvilly	4	Poynette	Super Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	79
Grace	Benish	3	Reedsburg	My Trip to Green Bay	Personal Narrative	35
David	Lelivelt	3	Reedsburg	What is Math	Poetry	13
Emma	Rockweiler	3	Reedsburg	The Small Watermelon	Creative Writing-4	80
Trever	Scherbert	3	Reedsburg	Spring	Poetry	15
Jenna	Urben	3	Reedsburg	The Cute Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	80
Ava	Womble	3	Reedsburg	The Half Candle	Personal Narrative	32
Brett	Bender	3	Rio	A Day at Mt. Funland	Creative Writing-3	67
Aubrey	Benish	3	Rio	The Stealing Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	77
Bailey	Dobbratz	3	Rio	Haiku Poems	Poetry	14
Ella	Meixner	3	Rio	Happy St. Patrick's Day	Poetry	10
Kayla	Staveness	3	Rio	The Day I Started Gymnastics	Personal Narrative	36
Danielle	Tompkins	3	Rio	How I Got My Kitten	Personal Narrative	28
Harmony	Bell	4	Rio	Gymnastics	Poetry	16
Trevor	Delaney	4	Rio	The Space Ride!	Creative Writing-3	68
Sarah	Hagenow	4	Rio	Twiggy's Adventure	Creative Writing-4	81
Adeline	Hutzler	4	Rio	The Misery	Personal Narrative	36
Jane	Risgaard	4	Rio	The Happiest Day of My Life!	Personal Narrative	37
Kylee	Schraufnagel	4	Rio	Spring	Poetry	13
Matthew	Breunig	3	Sauk Prairie	Mushroom Devils	Creative Writing-1	57
Samantha	Dyruud	3	Sauk Prairie	The Big Day	Poetry	16
Isaac	Homar	3	Sauk Prairie	Born!	Personal Narrative	38
Julian	McCann	3	Sauk Prairie	The Vine	Creative Writing-1	58
Samantha	Johnson	3	Sauk Prairie	Evil Dog of Doom	Personal Narrative	39
Malea	Niesen	3	Sauk Prairie	Ocean	Poetry	17
Joe	Baumgardt	4	Sauk Prairie	Haiku	Poetry	18
Kaitlyn	Brickl	4	Sauk Prairie	Life	Poetry	14
Cora	Dunnum	4	Sauk Prairie	The Transporter	Creative Writing-3	69
Shelbi	Endres	4	Sauk Prairie	The One Who Sees The Light	Creative Writing-1	59
Maddie	Ganshert	4	Sauk Prairie	Good Life	Personal Narrative	40
Heidi	Kuhnau	4	Sauk Prairie	The Cat in The Wall	Personal Narrative	41
Samantha	Anglemyer	3	Tomorrow River	The Talking Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	82

First Name	Last Name	Grade	District	Title	Category	Page
Shelby	Lutz	3	Tomorrow River	The Mandating Meet	Personal Narrative	42
Dylan	Werachowski	3	Tomorrow River	Squirrels	Poetry	17
Jonathon	Ballinger	4	Tomorrow River	My Mysterious Nut	Creative Writing-4	82
Ava	McKenzie	4	Tomorrow River	The School Spelling Bee	Personal Narrative	43
Kate	Omernik	4	Tomorrow River	Snowfall in Winter	Poetry	19
Jace	Knetter	4	Trinity Lutheran	The Park	Poetry	20
Marganne	Slaght	4	Trinity Lutheran	The Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	83
Sophie	Wilcox	4	Trinity Lutheran	The Beautiful Wildlife in Arizona	Poetry	21
Cole	Wohrab	4	Trinity Lutheran	The Mushroom	Creative Writing-1	60
Gabe	Ascher	3	Wautoma	Basketball Practice	Personal Narrative	44
Falyn	Krempp	3	Wautoma	The Time I Rode an Upside Down Rollercoaster	Personal Narrative	45
Jadyn	Sullivan	3	Wautoma	The Squirrel and the Magic Disk	Creative Writing-4	84
Heaven	Gatlin	4	Wautoma	Nature	Poetry	20
Holland	Hogenson	4	Wautoma	My Cat Princess	Poetry	19
Jaina	Koerner	4	Wautoma	What Happened?	Creative Writing-4	85
Leah	Konieczki	4	Wautoma	High Wire Love	Creative Writing-4	74
Jordan	Schmidt	4	Wautoma	The First Shot	Personal Narrative	46
Matt	Selenske	4	Wautoma	A Wish Come True	Personal Narrative	47
Lexi	Cook	4	Wisconsin Dells	Spring / My Parents	Poetry	22
Traci	Frohmander	4	Wisconsin Dells	Bucky the Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	86
Kayla	Gray	4	Wisconsin Dells	The Accident	Personal Narrative	48
Maya	Hale	4	Wisconsin Dells	My Trip to Florida	Personal Narrative	49
Brooke	Hartley	4	Wisconsin Dells	Summer	Poetry	22
Peyton	McLaughlin	4	Wisconsin Dells	The Lonely Squirrel	Creative Writing-4	87

# Poetry





## Kallysa's Poems

Kallysa Farrell, Grade 4, Adams-Friendship, Poetry

### Up in the Sky

Shining like a diamond in the sky  
We can see everything  
Look how high we can fly  
We can see everything  
From the tip of the earth  
To the tip of the sky  
Look how high we can fly  
We can see everything  
From the horizon to the Red Sea  
All the way to the Milky Way  
Soaring through the sky like a diamond  
shining  
Look how high we can fly!



### I Wonder

I wonder why God invented the earth  
I wonder why it's so hard to find clay in  
the ground  
I wonder what island Amelia Earhart  
crash-landed on  
I wonder why the speed of lightning  
can't be recorded  
I wonder why some people are better at  
things than others  
I wonder how much God appreciates us  
when we have an achievement  
And I wonder why the color of the skin  
matters!

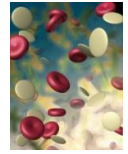
### Big, Bulky Cupcake

Big fat cupcake, big and round  
Maybe sweet, maybe sour  
Tart as a lemon with sweet frosting  
Oozy hot chocolate drizzle melting in my  
mouth  
Cookies and cream, red velvet, devil's  
cake and vanilla  
Whatever you desire doesn't matter as  
long as it's as divine as it looks  
Whipped cream, butter cream, wedding  
cake frosting  
Don't forget the cherry on top!



### Cells

Nucleus, chloroplast  
It's on a monkey in the jungle  
They are living in your body  
Ribosome, golgi  
It's colliding on a cactus  
If you really want to know, it starts with c  
and end with l.



### I

I am a girl and I am strong, believe  
in myself  
I have strength within myself and I don't  
care what other people say  
I am brave no matter what you say  
about me  
I have freedom no matter what you say  
I am funny even if you don't believe me  
I don't care what you say because I  
believe in myself and not what you say!



### Rainbow

Rain cloud  
Droopy with water  
Sun shining  
In the Sky  
Now there is a rainbow



### Frog at the Lake

There was an old frog from Lake Clog  
Who liked to play in a log  
He lived in a bog on a lake  
And his favorite food was cake  
And the frog was born on a dog



## NATURE POEMS

Dillon Lecy, Grade 4, Adams-Friendship, Poetry

### HIGHER

Higher, higher in the sky  
Like a little butterfly.

### THE SKY ABOVE

Soaring, swooping  
In the sky  
Twirling, twisting  
Ever so high  
Ever so fun



### WORLD OF NATURE

Take a look outside  
It's a world filled with nature  
Trees, birds, fish and more

Waving  
Absorbed  
Twirling  
Evaporating  
Refreshing

### SQUIRRELS

Fast, small  
Running, eating, jumping  
Delighted, mad, impressed, intrigued  
Furry

### SUMMER

The summer heat is rolling in  
Now it's time to go and swim

### WOLFS

Leaping in the air  
Running everywhere



## Things That Remind Me of Summer

Maylee Elliot, grade 3, Baraboo, Poetry

The beaches in Hawaii,  
Are warm this Fourth of July day.  
They may be scorching hot,  
But it's where I like to play!  
The ice cream is free today.

My family is also having a barbecue.  
My siblings and I get to play, play, play!  
Paradise is in California and Florida,  
In Florida there is Disneyworld,  
In California Disneyland.

The longer days are perfect for the Disney vacation.  
I was swimming in my swimsuit,  
In the Hawaiian sea.  
After I swam I got ice cream and barbecued ribs,  
What a paradise!!!!

The beaches in Hawaii,  
Are warm this Fourth of July day.  
They may be scorching hot,  
But it's where I like to play!  
The ice cream is free today.

The ice cream is cold,  
And the grill is real hot,  
Hot dogs, hamburgers and root beer,  
Will really hit the spot.  
After we eat we play some games.

The sun is setting, the day is ending,  
Goodnight my dear family for tonight.  
We are going to have so much fun tomorrow.  
For the day was full of wonder and things we will always remember.  
Maybe even a movie is in store before bedtime ( just don't tell mom).



## DRIP DROP

Ashley Palecek, 4th Grade, Baraboo, Poetry

Drip, drop...off the roof onto the ground.  
Drip, drop...into the dirt where a flower grows.  
Drip, drop...into a pond where frogs play all day.  
Drip, drop...onto trees' leaves that are guarding squirrel's homes.  
Drip, drop...down the gutter into puddles where children play.  
Drip, drop...onto a windowsill where wishes are being made.  
Drip, drop...onto a rain coat.  
Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip, drop, drip, drop.



## Night

Naomi Pelland, grade 4, Baraboo, Poetry

A sunset caught my eye  
A dark blanket came over the sky  
The stars were twinkling with all their might  
It was such a beautiful sight

The crickets chirped their noisy song  
And frogs' deep notes lasted so long  
A cool breeze ran up my spine  
Instead of sun the moon did shine

Squiggling beneath my toes was fresh-fallen dew  
A sign that shows each day is new  
And as the moon went out of sight  
I knew it had been a wonderful night



## **Monkey**

Aaron Abegglen, Grade 3, Fall River, Poetry

I am a monkey.  
I swing from tree to tree,  
And “ahhhhhh...” there’s a bee  
It’s chasing me.  
I squished it with a shell.  
I rang a little bell.  
My friend the hippo fell.  
Oops, I’m late for lunch.

## **People**

Savannah Hertel, Grade 3, Fall River, Poetry

People can be any color.  
They can be any shape or size.  
They can be skinny or fat.  
It doesn’t matter what kind of noses they have.  
People can be strong or weak.  
Some people are short some people can be tall.  
Some people need glasses some people don’t.  
People can be ordinary some people can be strange.  
You are who you are and be who you are.

## **Chipmunk**

Trevor Koegler, Grade 3, Fall River, Poetry

I am a chipmunk.  
I eat nuts,  
And I live in a tree.  
I help my friends Tiny, Nicey, and Brainy,  
And my Papa and Mama.  
I climb trees and look at the clouds,  
And jump tree to tree,  
And I like to take trips in the woods,  
And I like to play with Pa and Ma.  
I love my Pa and Ma.

## **Why can't I?**

Austin Blevins, Grade 4, Fall River, Poetry

Why can't I be the star?  
I just want to fly.  
What is the big problem?  
I can't even jump as far as other people.  
I can't win the high jump, ever.  
But I'm good enough the way I am.  
I can jump the longest,  
I can jump '5 "8!  
I'll just be who I am because  
I can't change who I am.  
It's good enough for me!

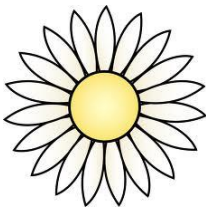
## **I Wish I am Free**

Caylee Kmiec, Grade 4, Fall River, Poetry

I wish I can fly like a bird in the a bright sky.  
I wish I could run fast as cheetah.  
I wish the price of a shopping mall was free as a stallion.  
I wish I was a lioness, Queen of the pride  
I wish the president made no school.  
I wish kids would get 1,000,000 dollars with no price.  
I wish I could get the rarest pearl of the beautifulest sea in the ocean.  
I wish I was free from this world.

## **GARDENS**

Brody Nyffenegger, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Lodi, Poetry

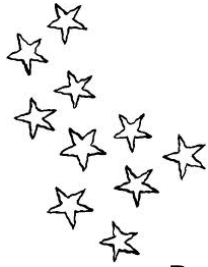


Grass looks like a green sea  
Azaleas remind me of Valentine's day  
Roses are red  
Daisies smell pretty  
Earth is big and strong  
Nature is special  
Sometimes gardens are beautiful  
A garden is filled with love



## Trees Move

Elizabeth Clepper, 3rd Grade, Lodi, Poetry



Trees move like people running in a marathon  
Sun looks like a yellow ball of molding clay drying in the sun  
Moon seems like a magic ball in a witch's hand  
River is shaped like S's on a piece of paper  
Stars feel like sharp arrows in an Indian's sack  
Oceans are like syrup on my pancake  
Rainbows bend like a rubberband holding papers together on my desk  
Earth is like a beach ball in my garage  
Mountains stand like kids saying the Pledge of Allegiance  
Wind whispers like people flipping pages in the library



## The Love of the Peaceful Forest

Natalie Anderson, Grade 3, Lodi, Poetry

Forests make sounds,  
Rocks in the river fell smoothly polished round,  
Never saying a word because it's so peaceful,  
It's a memory that you will never forget,  
When you lay on the ground and close your eyes shut,  
You make a movie in you mind that's so  
Moving because of the wind pushing you into your dreams,  
Sometimes dreams can be the sweetest things,  
That's why my Love is in the  
Hands of the peaceful forest.

## **Frogs**

Sidney Bue, Grade 3, Pardeeville, Poetry

Frogs, why don't you live in water?

Roam through the forest.

Oh, why are you so sticky?

Gee, why are you so icky?

So slimy

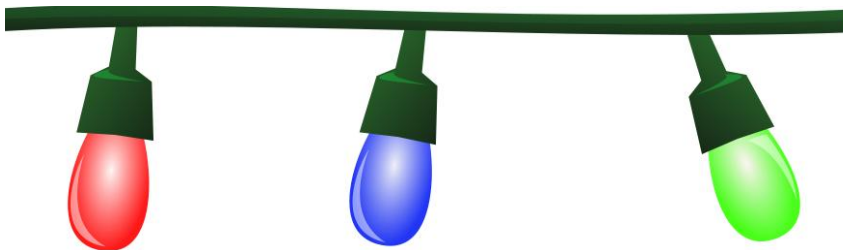
## **Lights**

Madalyn Tierney, grade 4, Pardeeville, Poetry

Lights are beautiful to see, but not as beautiful as me, I  
am important, lights are too but if light didn't exist I  
wouldn't see me or you.

Lights are everywhere; love is for people to share. But  
no matter what lights will always be there.

Lights can go up down all around anywhere you want  
them to go, but you just have to know. There isn't a  
place lights can't go but listen to me I've got the right  
key, nobody else but me. I will let you have it but  
remember one thing keep it tucked under only your  
own wing.



## Football

Nic Burns, grade 4, Pardeeville, Poetry

Football is cool  
because you don't have to be in school.

I like to tackle hard  
because they lose one hundred yards.

My arm's really strong  
so I pass really long.

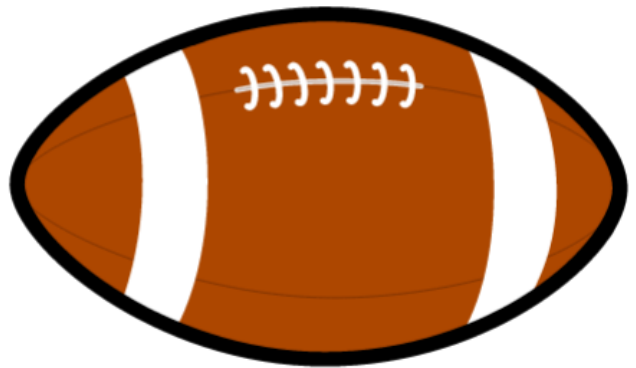
I like to play it all day  
to pass the time away.

I like to play it with my  
friends they're always tight ends.

We don't usually keep score  
that would be such a bore.

I like to be quarterback  
my friends always get sacked.

The game is over  
you won't play again til another October.



## Basketball

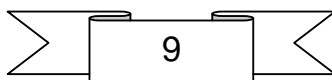
Derek Lindert, Grade 3, Pardeeville, Poetry

Basketball is my favorite sport.  
I like the way you dribble up and down the court.

I love the way you take it to the hoop,  
But my favorite play is the alley-oop.

I shot the ball and it bounced off the backboard.  
Then I threw it to the strong forward.

I shot the ball for the win.  
Then I saw it go in.



## Shirts

Ella Briggs, 3rd grade, Portage, Poetry

Shirts come in many shapes and sizes  
Yet they bring so many surprises  
Sometimes shirts may possibly say,  
"Hello. How you doing and good day."  
Sometimes shirts may make you sad  
They might even make you glad  
Shirts have feelings too  
I just don't know which ones do  
That's why shirts are special to me and you  
They help, they cover us and they love us too



## Football

Greg Hammer, 3 grade, Portage, Poetry

Fighting hard to win the game  
Offensive lineman racing down the field  
On the field scoring every time  
Touchdown for the team!  
Booting the ball for a field goal  
All the players getting ready  
Linebackers coming for you  
Learning football like a pro



## Happy St. Patrick's Day

Ella Meixner, grade 3, Rio, Poetry

St. Patrick's Day  
is on its way.  
Leprechauns are very small  
we humans are very tall.  
Those Leprechauns are mean  
because they turn my milk green.  
Leprechauns are as small as a mouse  
so I hope my dog can protect my house.  
I can make Leprechauns traps  
out of paper scraps.



## Colorful Colors

Madelynne DeMarte, grade 4, Portage, Poetry

The colors splashing  
down in  
blazing blue  
radical red  
gracious green  
yelling yellow  
perfect pink  
outrageous orange  
whispering white  
and boring brown  
It is a rambunctious  
rainbow  
A rough mix  
A sparkling silver background  
runs through it



## Balls

Madi Routson, Grade 4, Portage, Poetry

### Basketball

Please no traveling.  
Just bounce the ball, pass, and shoot.  
One minute left...Score!!!



### Recess

Kids running around  
Balls bouncing every which way  
We all love recess



### Soccer

Kick down the green field.  
Will the goalie block my shot?  
Not today... We win!



## Pearl Harbor

Ethan Buss, Grade 4, Poynette, Poetry

A thousand planes flying above Oahu.  
They are going to attack the air fields and the harbor.  
At 7:55 bombs and torpedoes start to fall.  
Twenty minutes later The Arizona rocks the harbor with a huge explosion that  
kill thousands.  
At 8:50 the planes leave.  
The Americans try to recover from the bombing siege.  
At 9:05 the planes come back to destroy the rest of the American fleet.  
The Americans are not going quietly.  
However the attack ended at 12:50.  
The water is filled with oil and gas.  
Nearly 2403 soldiers, marines, sailors and citizens die  
on this day of infamy.



## Today Is Very Boring

Cabo Cittadino, Grade 4, Poynette, Poetry

Today is very boring. Today is very dull.  
I see an alien spaceship landing in my hall.  
There's a rhino at my door step  
And zeus is in my yard.

I should have stayed inside today  
But when I go to take a bite  
I see a live trilobite.  
Finally I take a rest  
But there's already an alligator in my bed  
instead.



## What Is Math

David Lelivelt, Grade 3, Reedsburg, Poetry

Math is a subject that you do every day  
Maybe you don't know it, you just add away.

Math may be boring but sometimes quite swell!  
With the right knowledge you may do it well!

Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and shapes  
You need it to know how to build crates.

So math is fine in its very own way  
You use it every single day!!!



## Spring

Kylee Schraufnagel, grade 4, Rio, poetry

Sweet flowers glisten  
in the silent green meadow  
in the bright spring time

Leaves slowly appear  
scented blossoms on the trees  
The snow melts away

Fresh grass to play in  
newborn fawns frolic and play  
on a great spring day



## Poems

Bailey Dobbratz, grade 3, Rio Poetry

### The Frog Kitten

Kitty is so cute  
Is it a frog or a cat  
Let's go to a pond

### Born to be Wild

I like to run wild  
Cats are my favorite food  
Master please forgive

### Waterfall in the Forest

The waterfall runs  
Do you see the canyon shapes?  
Forests are so fun!



## Life

Kaitlyn Brickl, Grade 4, Grand Avenue School, Sauk Prairie, Poetry

A dream come true  
In the middle of a thunderstorm  
It's like riding a roller coaster  
With ups and downs  
Twists and turns  
Sometimes it seems like there's a rain cloud over your head  
And other times, when you just can't stop smiling  
Like a ball of yarn that unravels with every unthinkable day  
You are in a dream and sometimes a nightmare that never ends



## Spring

Trever Scherbert, Grade 3, Reedsburg, Poetry

Spring  
People can sing.  
The bell goes ding.

Spring is the time for rain  
Winter gives rain time to train

Plants have green vines  
My plants intertwined

Green, yellow, orange, and blue  
Colors of flowers on view



## GYMNASTICS

Harmony Bell, Grade 4, Rio, Poetry

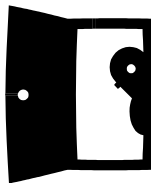
**G**abby Douglas scores a perfect 10.00  
**Y**oung when she starts  
**M**edals awarded at every event  
**N**eat routines every time  
**A**rtistic moves on the beam  
**S**uperstar has talent  
**T**alented abilities like leaps and flips  
**I**ntelligent ways to show creativity on floor  
**C**ertificate awarded for coming to meets  
**S**atisfaction at getting a perfect score for everything



## THE BIG DAY

Samantha Dyrud, Grade 3, Sauk Prairie, Poetry

Oh no! It has come!  
I really don't know what I've done!  
I hope I'm not in trouble.  
Does this go on our report card?  
Was I really that bad?  
Will the principal take it hard?  
Will I come home feeling bad?  
I'm hoping we can just be friends.  
And I hope he doesn't see  
If he makes me into a sandwich  
I'll be history!  
I'm going into his door  
And probably never coming out.  
I don't like people who try and scare me  
But I don't want to scream and shout.  
It turns out I was wrong  
And got into a bend  
The real person who was supposed to go in  
Was my very best friend!



## OCEAN

Malea Niesen, Grade 3, Sauk Prairie, Poetry

All the rocks and shells  
The pebbly ocean  
Wind in my face  
The blustering ocean  
Waves at my heels  
The rippling ocean  
Dolphins splashing  
The playful ocean  
Seagulls squawking  
The blaring ocean  
Splish, splish, splash  
The sloshing ocean  
The ocean is great  
My favorite place is always  
My Ocean!



## Squirrels

Dylan Werachowski, grade 3, Amherst Elementary-Tomorrow River, Poetry

Crunch, crunch, crunch  
go the leaves.  
Munch, munch, munch  
as he eats.  
Scurrying, scurrying, scurrying  
with puffy cheeks.  
Stuffing, stuffing, stuffing  
in the tree.  
Getting ready for winter.



## **HAIKU**

Joe Baumgardt, Grade 4, Grand Avenue School, Sauk Prairie, Poetry

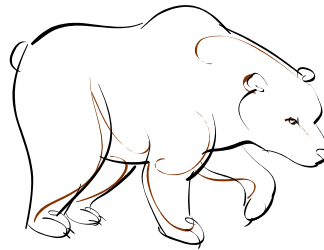
### **Wolf**

Silver coat flashes  
A silver streak runs past me  
An eerie call rings



### **Deer**

Horns twist up in forks  
Brown swift legs run far away  
Ears twitch tails go up



### **Bear**

A paw snatches fish  
Trout flop around in its jaws  
Waits at waterfalls

### **Eagle**

Diving for water  
Catches a trout talons stretch  
Claws clench piercing fish



### **Buffalo**

Rage charging, horned bull  
Flies land, tails swat, flies fly away  
Lazy, tired, hot, dusty, furry

## **Snowfall in Winter**

Kate Omernik, grade 4, Amherst Elementary-Tomorrow River, Poetry

Snowballs flying across the sky like rockets  
No grass in sight  
Oh my! There's a blizzard starting!  
Warm blankets wrapped tightly around me  
Falling into frosty snow banks on my bright-colored yard  
At a touch it will immediately melt  
Little and big flakes swirling around under the star soaked sky  
Less time on video games, more time outside!

Imagining and hoping tomorrow will be a snow day  
No warm weather this season, bundle up!

Winter is a very exciting season, do you think so?  
Inside warming up from the freezing air  
Not warm and toasty like hot chocolate  
The season winter is a season lots of people love  
Each snowflake is fragile and different  
Reach out and touch the tiny cold flakes



## **My Cat Princess**

Holland Hogenson, Grade 4, Wautoma, Poetry

fluffy and fat  
adorable cat  
she's fun and fearless  
loveable and nice  
we play, I pamper  
I tease, then pet  
she's warm and cozy  
comfort and warm  
she's my cat, Princess



## The Park

Jace Knetter, Grade 4, Trinity Lutheran School, Poetry

Ah! The park's air had a shocking sharp smell.  
The air smells as fresh as clean clothes.  
The grass is as soft as a pillow.  
The bird's voice sounds as sweet as a bell.  
The playground is as much fun as an arcade.  
The slide is as smooth as lotion.  
The monkey bars are super, shiny, slippery bars.  
The swing is as strong as metal steel.  
The bells at the park are as loud as a chime.  
The park is a fantastic place to be!



## Nature

Heaven Gatlin, Grade 4, Wautoma, Poetry

Animals running  
The breeze blowing in my face  
My dogs barking  
Squirrels running  
Scared deer running from me  
My dogs chasing the birds in the night sky  
Mama calling me for dinner  
Daddy coming home from work  
My dogs start running  
I try to follow  
Dinner time, Mama calls again  
I say goodbye to the night sky  
It howls back to me and says, "See you tomorrow."  
I smile and whisper, "See you tomorrow too."



## The Beautiful Wildlife in Arizona

Sophie Wilcox, Grade 4, Trinity Lutheran School, Poetry



Wow! The sand is as hot as an oven.

The cool nights are as refreshing as moonlight.

The cactus's spines are as prickly as needles.

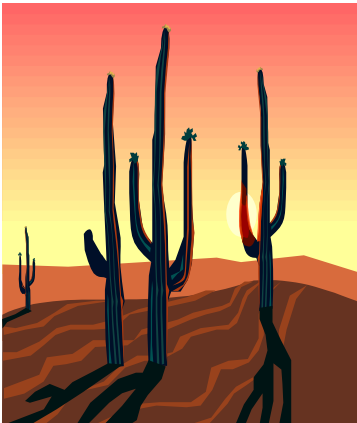
The coyotes' howls sounds like a thunderstorm.

The moon at night shines like a colorful rose.

In the distance, the houses look like dwarf homes.



The birds' wings flutter like butterflies.



The sunset looks like a pink perfect ruby.

The prickly pears look like flat pancakes.

The butterflies look like a pair of shiny eyes.

This is the beautiful wildlife of Arizona.

## **Spring / My Parents**

Lexi Cook, Grade 4, Wisconsin Dells, Poetry

### **SPRING**

The beautiful snow melts away  
Then all the plants will bloom today  
Flowers, shrubs, and trees  
Will all get new leaves  
A sign that spring is on its way



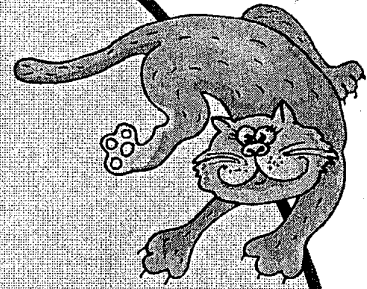
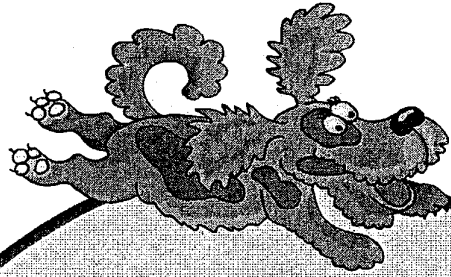
### **PARENTS**

Parents are so loveable  
Always  
Respectful to  
Each and every child they have  
Never break their child's heart and so  
Thoughtful and very  
Smart people to love

### **SUMMER**

Brooke Hartley, Grade 4, Wisconsin Dells, Poetry

Summer is so much fun  
Until you get stung by a bee  
My family loves to go bike riding  
My family likes to be outside  
Everyone likes watermelon in the summer  
Riley does too!



**PERSONAL**

**NARRATIVE**



## The Math Club

Kayleigh Lent, Grade 4, Adams-Friendship, Personal Narrative

One afternoon four kids named Jed, Joe, Kathy, and Bella were almost done with math class. Their teacher Mrs. Carsia told them to show the class their math problems on the board. Jed's problem was six times five. Joe's problem was fifty times six. Kathy's problem was fifty times sixty. Bella's was five-hundred times sixty. When they were done some other kids solved them.

When it was the end of the day the four kids all met at the park like they do every day. They were having a math meeting. "We need more members of our club," Bella said.

"How will we get more members?" asked Jed.

"We've had our club for a month now and no one wants to join," Kathy exclaimed.

"There has got to be a way," Joe said.

On Saturday Jed called another meeting at his house. When everyone got there they ate lunch. Then they went to Jed's room to talk. "I found a way to get more members of our club," Jed said happily.

"Really, how?" Kathy asked.

"POSTERS!" Jed yelled.

"Really, posters?" Bella questioned.

"I think it is a great idea," said Joe.

"When should we start?" asked Kathy.

"We can start tomorrow," Bella replied.

"Perfect," said Jed.

At 8:00 a.m. the next morning Jed got up. He called everyone right away. When they all got there they started making a sign up sheet. Then they started making the posters. It had been an hour and they decided to take a break. "Is anyone hungry?" asked Jed.

"I am!" yelled everyone.

So they all went to get something to eat. When they were done they got back to work. "I think I am going to make another poster," said Kathy. "This one is going to have rainbows all over it." Kathy continued.

"That will be our last poster," said Jed.

When Kathy was done with her poster they all went home.

Monday the four kids started putting up posters in the school. For Jed, Joe, Kathy, and Bella school seemed to drag on. Math was boring even though they loved math. All the other classes were just a blur. Finally it was the end of the day. They all rushed to the signup sheet, and ...10 people wanted to join the math club!!!! To them it was a miracle and they celebrated with lots of ice cream.



## **The Weirdest Tooth I've Ever Lost**

Claire Bildsten, Grade 3, Baraboo, Personal Narrative

Well it all started when I went to the dentist office. My dentist, Dr. Laura Sengbusch said, "You have a loose tooth in the lower left hand corner of your mouth." So right when I got home I started to wiggle it and it was **really** wiggly. I kept on wiggling it and wiggling it but it did not budge. My older sister offered to pull it. I told her "No!" I really wanted the tooth out because it hurt and it was bleeding a lot. I gave my tooth one last wiggle and it still didn't come out. So I left it alone and went to sleep.



When I woke up I felt a really weird boney thing on tip of my tongue. I had absolutely no idea what it was at the moment. So I closed my mouth, prompt my head up and spit it out. Still I wondered what that boney thing was. I slowly got out of bed. I started to pick out my clothes for the day. I decided to brave it and go see what the strange thing was that I spit out of my mouth. All of a sudden I wondered if my tooth fell out over night. So I stretched my tongue over to the spot where my loose tooth was the day before. There was nothing but a hole. I was so surprised that my tooth came out overnight and that I didn't swallow it. This was definitely the weirdest tooth I've ever lost!

## **My First Brewer's Game**

Garrett Campbell, Grade 3, Fall River, Personal Narrative

It was a day in the summer, but then my mom told me and Meredith that we were going to a Brewer's game! She said we would go that very summer. Everything went silent. After that, my mom said we will go next week. All that week, I was excited to go to the Brewer's game. On the day of the game, I grabbed my Brewer's cap, t-shirt, and some jeans. We went to the stadium and stayed there for five hours. At about the middle of the fourth inning, we decided to get a bite to eat. So we went to a stand and I got nachos. When we got back, I sat down, and put the nachos under my chair. I stood up to get a better view of the game. When I sat down, I sat in my nachos. I forgot that the chair seat flipped up when you stand up! If you are wondering about the nachos, it felt crunchy and smooth when I sat on the seat. After that, we wiped off the nachos with napkins. Then, Cory Hart was up to bat. He hit a homer, but in the end the Brewer's lost. On the way home, I talked about all the fun things we did.

## **The Day I Met My Half-Brother**

Macy Henry, Grade 4, Baraboo, Personal Narrative

It all started like this. One day we had a cook out with our neighbors. A boy named Trayton and his sister stopped by. My Dad said they were old friends of his. They stayed and had pizza with us, talked for awhile and then left.

The next week we went out to eat with my Mom's old college roommate who was visiting from Florida. We were on our way home from dinner that night when my brother Brady wanted to know about Trayton, the boy that came to our cook out. My Dad started talking about Trayton and told us that Trayton was our Half-Brother. My Dad and Trayton's Mom were married and got divorced when Trayton was little. Trayton has been living with his Mom in Janesville ever since.

This summer Trayton came to stay with us a few times. We went fishing, swimming and did lots of other things together as a family. We even got to celebrate his birthday with him! He has also come to stay with us this fall and winter on the weekends and once for a long weekend when he didn't have school on a Friday. When he was here he got to watch my basketball games!

It is fun having an older half-brother. I'm so happy to have him in our lives, he is awesome!!

## **The Time I went to The Dells**

Jada Jones, Grade 3, Fall River, Personal Narrative

Last year I went to the Dells. I got to go to a really big waterpark. I slid down a really big water slide. The name of the waterpark is Chula Vista. I went too fast down the waterslide and flipped over. It was scary! My brother was too scared. He thinks that he will die. It felt like a mile long. After the waterpark I went to go out to eat at a bar/restaurant. Everything was spicy. There were ten games there. I played seven of them, and I lost all of them. My brother who is five won one of them. My Aunt helped him. Then we left. I went back to the hotel and watched a really funny show. It had a talking dog and a talking cat. They were fighting over who can sleep inside. My brother laughed so hard that he fell over. We went swimming at the hotel. We went back to the hotel room and it was time to go to bed. I didn't go to bed until 1:00 in the morning. I ate pizza at 12:00. My brother slept on the ground. It was funny the next morning. I fell over when I got up, because I was really tired. I went to breakfast in my pjs. I was all wet. At 11:00 we went home.

## **My Zoo Trip**

Hailey Lange, Grade 3, Fall River, Personal Narrative

One time when I was at the zoo in Milwaukee, the first thing I saw were funny otters sliding down a slide. It looked like one was waving at me! I giggled, because it was so cute. We went to a dinosaur exhibit, and we saw fake dinosaurs, like a T-rex and it's babies. There were loud sounds and next we saw plant-eating dinosaurs spitting water at us. At the end we saw how the dinosaurs worked. They were weird robots! Next we went to see the penguins. My sister and I thought they were so cute. We went to the reptile house where I saw a huge iguana in a tank. I saw two crocodiles and they looked at me like I was a tasty snack, just like on my circus trip when the tiger stared at me licking his lips. Back to the zoo trip. Next I saw the fish. I saw piranhas, small sharks, and swordfish. I thought that I was in the fish tank when I got really close to the glass. Then we saw the birds. I went in a cool place. I saw birds that I could touch. There was a waterfall and it was cool. Next we went to eat. We all got the same things: ice cream bar with a layer of caramel and hard chocolate. Then I went ziplining and it was fun but scary! It was so high and when I went down the string everyone was looking at me and I was smiling the whole time. When I came around I yelled "Peace people!" Then I got down and went home to my great aunt and uncle's house with my sister.

## **The Time I Got my First Puppy**

Eliza Peetz, Grade 4, Fall River, Personal Narrative

We were on our way to my cousins house from our cabin up north. It was the day after the Fourth of July (July 5th, 2012). We ( my mom, dad, and little brother, Blake) had a party at our cabin with our family.

I heard earlier in the week that we are going to get a puppy! I was so excited that I was about to jump out of the roof of our car like a rocket! Earlier in the week, I accidentally spilled the beans about it to my brother because I was super excited. My mom found out on the way to my cousins house and I'm pretty sure that you know what happened next. You guessed it. I got in big time trouble.

When we finally got there, I popped out the truck door, and a little black dog jumped on me and I was attacked! Me and my mom decided that if the dog was a girl, we would name her Gander. If it was a boy, we would name him Musky. The dog is a flat-coated retriever. It was a girl so we named it Gander after our favorite store, Gander Mountain. Gander was free since we got her from someone who couldn't take care of her anymore. Now, Gander is a big dog with a huge appetite for couches, toys, pillows, fingers, and, especially, dog food. She makes my family and I laugh and puts us in a very good mood. That is the time that I got my first puppy.

## Winter Vacation

Nathan Barganz, Grade 3, Montello, Personal Narrative

We drove five hours to our vacation house. When we got there we couldn't get in and not everyone was there yet. Emily, Anna and I went to look for another entrance. Anna and Emily heard my mom calling. I didn't, but they told me. I waited a little then I went. They found the key and opened the door. I asked Anna to come upstairs with me. She wouldn't. So I asked Emily. She said yes, but she just ran back down again. Later, I finally got Anna to come upstairs. Anna heard Uncle Matt and his family arrive. Later we discovered small cabins in the house. One had ribbons hanging from the outside. That scared me. One day we went to an apple orchard. I had apple cider. On the last day we went in the hot tub. It was evening and it was nice. When we were going home I asked, "Will we be going back next year?" "Yes we will," they said.



## Truck Driving

Kassidy Hauersperger, Grade 4, Montello, Personal Narrative

I went truck driving with my dad. It was fun but it was tough too. It put pressure on my family. We all worried about him. But every time he went somewhere he would always bring something for me and my brother Cameron. We went all sorts of places together. One of them was the Corn Palace. It was amazing! One time we went to Texas. There is a lot of traffic there. But it is very exciting to go and travel to different places. I remember one time my mom and dad and my brother Cameron and I went to Tennessee. My brother and I got to throw the potato back in my dad's trailer. It was so funny. In the winter time it is hard for him because the road is so slick. The roads are full of ice. Sometime he goes along on the road. It is cool having a truck driver for a dad.



## **Great Grandpa**

Zada McConnell, Grade 4, Montello, Personal Narrative

My great grandpa was going through lung cancer. We all cried whenever we saw him. My great grandpa loved to share his candy with us. He loved Snickers. That was his favorite candy. He shared Snickers, Butterfingers, Hershey Kisses, Milky Ways and Musketeers. He always had bags of candy. Great grandpa always did have a sweet tooth. My brothers, sister and I loved going there because we always would get a little zip-lock bag full of candy. When he was in the hospital it was really sad. I only got to see my great grandpa once before he passed away. My mom and little brother would see him lots of times because they would take him to his radiation treatments. Then five months and five days after my great grandpa passed away my great grandma passed away. Now they are in a better place and they are together again playing their game of cards like they used to before great grandpa got sick. My cousin asked great grandpa to send pennies to all of us to let us know he is ok. So now we find pennies all over. My little brother said the other day great grandpa has a hole in his pocket, that's why he keeps dropping pennies all over. All of my family really misses and loves my great grandparents very much.



## **How I Got My Kitten**

Danielle Tompkins, Grade 3, Rio, Personal Narrative

When I got my kitten it was a matter of life and death for him! His mom ran away with his sister and his brother died. After a while my grandma took him into her house and started to care for him. Finally, my mom decided to take him to our big house so he could have a lot of room to play.

When we first got home we had to introduce him to our other pets. We introduced him to the cat and dog. When we introduced him to the dog, he hissed. When we introduced him to the cat, he hissed. The kitten had to sleep in the bathroom for a few nights. I hope you enjoyed reading about how I got my kitten.

## **THE FIRST CATCH**

Madelyn Johnson, Grade 3, Portage, Personal Narrative

My name is Madelyn, and this is a story of the first time I went fishing with my Dad. It was summer of 2008 and I just turned 4 years old...

I woke up early, because today was the day I was determined to catch my first fish! When I woke up, I saw a beautiful sunrise. It was yellow, orange, red, pink, and purple. When I walked into my Dad's room, he was just as ready and excited as I was to go fishing. So we gathered our fishing gear and favorite lures, got out the boat from the garage, hopped in the truck, and off to the boat landing we went.

At the boat landing, we put on our life jackets and put the boat into the water. When we got to open water we went mega-fast, and you could hear the water crashing against the boat! When we arrived to my Dad's favorite spot on the lake, we started to fish. We waited, and waited... then all of sudden there was a big splash! My Dad caught the first fish, and he let me reel it in. After several more casts, there was a tug at the end of my pole... I GOT ONE! I reeled it in, and it was a big BlueGill. I was so excited to have caught my first fish!

When I got home I showed the fish to my mom and told her all about my day. She was so proud and excited for me. When laying in bed that night, thinking about how much I enjoyed my day, I knew that I would love fishing!

## **The Visitor**

Kennedy Pafford, Grade 3, Poynette, Personal Narrative

VROOM! We pulled in my driveway. We all piled out of our car and walked in the front door. At first everything looked normal, but then there was something flying around the corner of the living room!

Then we realized that it was a bird! The bird was soaring through the house like a wild weirdo. My dad told my sister and me to grab our cats and go in the bathroom. My sister and I were so surprised that our jaws flew open. We were so scared, shocked and excited that it started feeling like it had been five years!

Finally my parents told us that we could come out. My dad caught the bird in a net and was taking it outside! Thankfully there was no bird doo doo, or was there?



## The Great Way To Live in Math

Genna Garrigan, Grade 4, Portage, Personal Narrative

Do you like math? Well I love it! It is one of the greatest things invented. Without math what would be the point? The date? Your odometer in your car? For instance what if your family didn't use math to get your food? You probably wouldn't get enough food for dinner. I hope you like math. If not, listen to my story. Then you might. Enjoy!

It was a cold winter day, just like any other. The wind blew against the windows, making me shiver as I got on the bus to school. In the distance of the cold fog, I could hear my mother call out the window, "Good luck!" I smiled, and walked on. I knew it would be a very special day.



It was January 9, the day I would do my best. When I got to school, I sat at my desk and closed my eyes. I thought and pictured in my mind my mom and dad. "My mother and father wouldn't care if I got last place, would they?" I mumbled to myself. "NO!" I knew they wouldn't care. I knew I wouldn't care either. It was just an honor to be going to the Math 24 tournament. I got on the bus again with my little glittery purse and twenty-four cards. I practiced with Abigail and Jonathan from my class. I was scared and worried. I felt weak when we got to the stage at Portage High School. My legs felt like they were going to give out, and my arms felt clutched, but I was strong.

When we got to the dressing room I felt better. I practiced 24 with everyone there.

There were four rounds. It was a lot of fun. At my last and final table, I got 38 points. The proctors announced our names and gave us our participant ribbons and certificates.

After that, they said that they would now announce who had got the highest amount of points in each school. I looked across the tables at Jonathan and Abigail. Jonathon just looked away. Abigail looked the most worried. She stared at me. I mouthed the words, "I hope it's you." Abigail shook her head with her dark brown curls bouncing. She mouthed back, "You're going to get it."

We both stared at our laps. I crossed my fingers. We waited like we wanted to know every secret being told to us right at that moment. When Mrs. Exo called out, "And overall for Fort Winnebago is..." I closed my eyes tightly. She called my name! I went up and got my ribbon. I smiled. They now would call the top three in the district. I shut my eyes again. I thought about the tables I had gone to. I thought about my family. My older brother and sister had had participated in 24 in the past. My brother got in fifth place overall. My sister got second place overall. I crossed my fingers and hoped to place in the tournament.

I heard my name and opened up my eyes. I got third place overall! My bronze medal shined when the stage lights shone on it. I was going to go to Reedsburg for another 24 tournament! I got a letter saying it would be on March 12. I might get to eat at McDonald's. That's what the letter said.

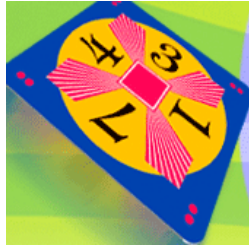
So now you know why I love math! Twenty- four is amazing! Next time that you have a chance to play 24, do it. You might like it. Stick with it if you like it.

## A Good Way To Start The Morning

Abigail Zellmer, Grade 4, Portage, Personal Narrative

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to go to a Math 24 tournament? Have you dreamed your whole life to go? Well I got that chance to go, so I went.

First I'm going to tell you what 24 is. 24 is a math game for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade but we are talking about 4th grade. So the first step is to keep your arms and hands back from the card, then a grown up at the table places a card down that looks like this:



The last step is to use the numbers on the card to get to 24 using addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication.

When you know the answer you tap the card and say the last equation. The last equation is what you did last that got you to 24. If the card had the numbers 7, 1, 3, & 2 you would say  $8 \times 3 = 24$ ,  $2 - 1 = 1$ ,  $7 + 1 = 8$ , and  $8 \times 3 = 24$ . The last statement was  $8 \times 3 = 24$ . That card was probably a one-pointer. A one-pointer tells if the card is easy or not. Two dots are medium and three dots are really hard. There are some easy three dots.

When you're at the 24 tournament you take a bus to the High School or to any other school you are at. I was at the High School with my friends Genna, and Jon. All but Jon and I were scared; Jon did not care. He just had his normal face on. Genna and I were super excited! When we went into the High School. Lewiston and Rusch were already there. We had to go backstage to meet Mr. Kibby. We put our name tags on, then went to the dressing room to practice 24. When the other kids got there, Mr. Kibby told us the directions for 24 in case we forgot how to play.

At the first table I did the best, same with the second round, and at the last table I had a tie with another player. After that, they announced the winners from each school and Genna, my best-best friend got first place. She also won 3rd place out of the whole tournament. She is also going to Reedsburg for another 24 tournament.

## **The Hunting Day**

Jimmy Heath, Grade 3, Poynette, Personal Narrative

The morning was freezing, but I was ready to go hunting. After I got my hunting clothes on, I ate breakfast. When I finished eating, I threw on my overalls, and grandpa and I headed to the woods.

When grandpa finally got on his hunting clothes, we walked almost a quarter of a mile to get to the stand. When we got in the stand, we waited and waited but we still didn't see a single deer.

Before we saw the deer, we saw a small six pointer and a small eight pointer, but grandpa didn't shoot them. At about noon grandpa called in a big buck. The buck stayed in the field for about twenty minutes, and then it went back into the woods. Then out comes Mr. Small Eight Pointer. So it just happened, I called back in the big buck, and they started to fight. That's when grandpa nailed him.

When I first heard the shot, I jumped. When we found where the deer was, we saw it had ran a lot. Two hours later we fired up the truck and went to gut the deer. While grandpa got his knives, my sister and I ran around the field and then we were back by mom and grandpa. Grandpa started to gut the deer and it stunk a lot. Then mom and grandpa lifted the deer into the truck and off we went.

Finally we got home and grandpa backed up the truck, and they got the deer out. Mom snapped pictures after that.

For a day that looked boring, it turned out great: Grandpa shot a buck and I got to call it in.

## **The Half Candle**

Ava Womble, Grade 3, Reedsburg, Personal Narrative

It was a rainy Saturday and I was celebrating my sixth birthday. Today was my party. I was inviting Bryan, Jacob, Emily, Marissa and Polly. My party is going to be at 12:00 pm. Right now the time is 11:30 am. People will be showing up very soon.

People started showing up at my house at 11:58 am. Everyone came! We started playing games right away. We played Pin The Tail On The Donkey, we wrapped people in toilet paper to make them look like mummies and we danced to music. Then my mom brought out my birthday cake. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to me.

We ate all of the cake. It was delicious! After we ate the cake we WERE going to go downstairs, but Jacob put the burnt out candle in his mouth! Then he ran into the bathroom and he spit the candle in the toilet! He ran out of the bathroom like a rocket. Jacob's brother Bryan was standing in front of the staircase and the next thing you know, they went tumbling down the stairs! When they reached the bottom, they started dancing. That's a party I will never forget.

## The Morning Before Bush Gardens

Katelyn Chadwick, Grade 4, Poynette, Personal Narrative

Beep, beep, beep! My alarm clock went off. "Wow," I said with a little jump. "Oh, it's just my alarm clock," I told myself. It was such a pretty morning. The sun was shining and the birds were chirping.

I popped out of my bed, got into my clothes, and ran downstairs. Today is the second day in Florida, I thought to myself happily. "Do you know what we are doing today?" I asked my mom.

"We are finally going to Bush Gardens!" she replied as she put more bacon on the stove. My grandpa was cooking omelets on the other side of the stove.

I asked, "Is breakfast ready?"

"No," grandpa replied. Since he said no, I sat down on the cushiony couch and watched *River Monsters* with Dad, Cody, and Casey.

Suddenly I heard, "Breakfast!" It was my mom. Right away I bounced up from the couch and ran to the counter. I sat in my favorite seat, and my breakfast was cooked just how I like it.

Boom, boom, boom! Erin, Aiden, Trent, and Brock came crashing downstairs. They came running down the steps very loudly and made me think we had rickety steps.

Erin and the boys came marching to the counter. Brock was trying to be funny and said, "I demand breakfast."

"Ok, ok, calm down boys," my aunt said. My mom got the boys and Erin their breakfast.

Then my dad came in and told us, "Bush Gardens is going open up so hurry, hurry, hurry!"

We were packing up as fast as we could. "Get that, get this, chalk up that!" It sounded like a catastrophe!

Finally we were ready. We walked out the door and into the car. My mom started the car, and we got out of the driveway. Finally we went. "Hopefully there won't be a cataclysm there," my dad said. Beep beep!



## Two New Dogs!

Kayse Haag, Grade 4, Poynette, Personal Narrative

Ding Ding Ding. "Oh no, I'm going to be late for school! Oh wait, I don't have school today. Whew," I thought. Then I remembered it was almost Christmas. I was so happy. I got out of bed, and I ate some breakfast. My mom got out of bed and went on the internet. She found this really cute dog. It was part pug and part Boston terrier, and it was light brown. We talked about it for a little bit, and we agreed that we'd take it.

On Christmas day we left to get the dog but when we got there, there was a black dog that my sister fell in love with. So we ended up staying longer than we thought. Everyone kept on deciding, but it took forever. My heart was pounding like crazy because I wasn't sure if we were going to get the dog or not.

Finally my dad called my sister and my mom to come talk. They talked for a little bit. After they were done talking, my dad said, "How much are they both?" We were so surprised that we had our eyes were popping out, even the owner. The owner said they were \$600.00 in all. There was a little pause. My dad said, "We'll take them both!" We were happy and shocked! My mom thought my dad was crazy because he never says yes to anything like that, and I mean never.

We let them run around for a little bit, and my dad paid the check. In the car my dad said the dogs were our Christmas presents and that we couldn't ask for anything else from them, and he meant it.

When we got home, my sister and I started to play with the dogs. My dad, mom, and brother said they didn't want a dog, so my sister got the black one and I got the brown one. We named the brown one Bentley and the black one Diesel. They were a lot of work. After we let them play and run around, they kept on running under the Christmas tree and knocking over presents, so we had to take them out and feed them. They ate quickly then started to bark, so we had to bring them in. Until we got them kennels, we had to let them sleep on some cushions on some wood.

After a while my brother, my sister, and I watched some TV and fell asleep. That's the story of the time I got two new dogs.



## My Trip to Green Bay

Grace Benish, Grade 3, Reedsburg, Personal Narrative

The car was bumping down the road when my mom asked if I would like to go to a Packer game. My dad was going to go, but we couldn't find anybody to babysit. I was so so so excited.

A couple weeks later in September on a sunny Sunday morning I woke up at 5:48 a.m. I jumped out of bed like an excited baby bunny and got dressed. I combed my hair and put it in a ponytail. Then I rushed downstairs and woke my mom.

"Wake up! Wake up!" I jumped on her to wake her up.

"It's only 5:55 a.m.," she said laughing. "We leave at 10:30."

"I can't wait until 10:30," I said.

In what seemed like forever (a very long time). We left the house at exactly 10:37. My mom and I talked almost the whole way. Some of the time I either read some of One More River (One More River is a chapter book) or slept.

When we finally got there, we waited in line to get in. The person split my ticket in half and gave me one of the halves. Before the game started Mom had tomato and pickle burgers. We also had some cheese curds that were too cheesy.

When the game started my mom realized we had forgotten popcorn and drinks. While mom was getting popcorn, I watched the game. It was so loud my eardrums nearly exploded! The field was a blur of green and blue like Christmas lights. When my mom came back I hardly watched the game because I was so busy munching on the yellow and white popcorn and drinking lemonade.

For the next three hours I watched the game. When the game ended I realized we had lost. But I didn't care. I had the best time ever!

We went to Culver's and I had chicken with fries. When I had eaten my chicken and fries we got back in the car. On the interstate the car seemed to make soft music and I fell asleep.



That was something I'll never forget!

## **The Day I Started Gymnastics**

Kayla Staveness, Grade 3, Rio, Personal Narrative

One day I was watching a TV show and I saw girls flipping in the air and jumping all around doing their routines. Right then I knew I wanted to do it too! So a couple of days later my mom and dad talked to me. They said if I really wanted to do gymnastics and if I worked hard and paid attention in the class, I could join Pardeeville Gymnastics. The first day I arrived was a Monday at 5 PM I was nervous and excited at the same time. I had butterflies in my stomach!! When I came in there, it looked really BIG!!! Then I saw my best friend MaKayla and she calmed me down She showed me where to go. I met the head coaches, Linda Lytle and her daughter Jeannie. Her helpers were Josie, Abby, Tyler, Jordan, Michelle, and a boy named Aaron.

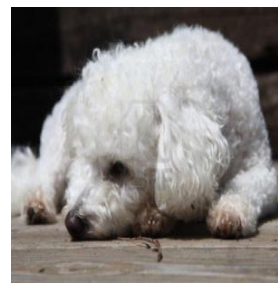
The first thing I did was stretch. I did that before anything else so I didn't break a bone when I did exercises like beam, floor, bar, and the vault. I will give you an example of what I did the first day. First, I had to learn the basic steps and then I could go to the harder things such as stepping on the beam, handstands, and cart wheels. It has been years since my first day and I LOVE it.

## **The Misery**

Adeline Hutzler, Grade 4, Rio, Personal Narrative

I lost my dog last summer. She had a tumor on her eye, so we had to put her down. It was the hardest thing that happened that summer.

Her name was Missy. She was 13 years old. She was a small, white dog. Missy lived at my grandma's house, but she was my dog too. I went to my grandma's house when I was four because she babysat me. I used to chase Missy around. I took her outside, and I took her for walks. I even gave her a bath one time. I loved her a lot.



It was so heartbreaking that I lost her. When Missy got put down, my grandma couldn't even go into the same room as her. She was cremated. After she got cremated, the box that she was in said that she went to "Rainbow Bridge." I made a sign that said, "Missy At Rainbow Bridge." Then, my cousin ruined it. I was really mad because that was all I had to remember her. That day I laid down and I looked up at the sky. I saw her in my mind. I flashed back to all my times with her. I really miss her.

## The Happiest Day Of My Life!

Jane Risgaard, Grade 4, Rio, Personal Narrative

Have you ever gotten a dog? Well this is my story, one hot summer day mom said with a big smile, "We should get a new puppy." So we started looking online. We didn't find anything. My mom went to work the next day. A girl from her work had known about a Cavalier puppy and told her how astonishing Cavalier puppies are. Once I had learned about the puppies and saw a picture of them on the computer, my face had a smile from ear to ear. I jumped so high up I think I saw the tallest tree! The beautiful puppy I had seen on the computer was named Bella and she was a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel! She was so tiny that she could fit perfectly in my hand. Her face had orange silky eyebrows, a black wet nose, and one fluffy white spot on her back. Bella also has wavy soft hair on her ears, white legs with a couple orange and black spots, and her tail was black with a white end. The rest of her body was covered with soft black fur. She was the CUTEST dog I had ever seen! I had to persuade my mom and dad that Bella had to be mine. I would not take NO for an answer! (Right after I saw the picture, I begged so hard and annoyed, annoyed, and annoyed my mom, dad and brothers.)

It was just another dreadful hot summer day at my dad's house. My dad decided to take my brothers and I to eat lunch and then to play at my grandma's. Later on dad said, "it was time to go to our mom's". My brothers did not want to go, but dad made them. Next, we all got into the car and headed to mom's. When we got there, we headed towards the kitchen. My jaw dropped open and I ran to the small cute puppy as fast as I could! I asked, mom if it was ours to keep. She said, "YES!" I was so excited I could not have been happier! The puppy had her tail in between her legs and was shivering a little bit. It was the one I'd been begging for! I screamed so loud that a person in CANADA could have heard! We went outside to play. My brothers and I had the biggest smiles in the WORLD! I laid down. The grass was tickling me. Bella came over and licked me to death! We played all of the rest of the day until mom said we had to go inside to make supper and let Bella rest and cool down because Bella is a black dog and black draws heat in the sun. On a scale 1 to 10, I would pick 100, I love her so much. Though she may have been scared to death, having Bella fly in a cargo plane for 2 hours and then going in our car for another 2 hours just to get to Rio was totally worth it.



## **BORN!**

Isaac Homar, Grade 3, Sauk Prairie School, Personal Narrative

The time I was born was one of the most memorable times of my life. This story dates back to the year of 2003. It was mid-November, and my folks were visiting my grandparents for Thanksgiving. They were playing “Cranium” in the parlor. My mom was acting out bungee jumping. Then a second later, everyone started yelling, “Stop!” and “Don’t do it!”

Once the game was over, everybody went to bed. In the middle of the night, my mom whispered to my dad, “I think my water broke.” And it had! My mom went to wake everybody up, but they just couldn’t wake my grandma. If you know her, she goes to bed at 10:00, and she wakes at 7:00. So, we left a note for her.

We headed out after that. They all went to the hospital. There was a lot of beeping. Rrrrrring! Rrrrrrang! My uncle was in Ireland, so he couldn’t see me, but I was born! My name turned out to be Isaac Michael Homar, after a lot of confusion. I had blue eyes, just like my dad. The nurse even said I looked like a little banker! Just that I didn’t have the suit!

After all the commotion, we went home. It was official – my birth date was exactly November 29, 2003, 12:48:23.

And this is why this  
moment is special  
to myself.  
Maybe yours is too!

## EVIL DOG OF DOOM

Samantha Johnson, Grade 3, Sauk Prairie, Personal Narrative

My dog's name is J.J. She is a black lab. J.J. has a lot of nicknames, like "Evil Dog of Doom" or "Dogger Wogger." My bro, Matthew, likes to call her "Evil Dog of Doom," but I like to call her "Boo Boo." Matt calls her "Evil Dog of Doom," because Matt chases her, and she chases him back.

When she was a pup, J.J. looked like a puff ball with legs, a tail, and a head. She was about two pounds! She rode in a laundry basket in the front seat of the car to take me to school each morning. Now she is 75 pounds. She grows fast! Once, we fell asleep on the same blanket and in the same position. She is lovey-dovey.

When we first got J.J., we would wrap her up in a blanket and fight over who got to hold her. When she was a pup, she didn't know what snow was, and she refused to go outside. Now that she is one, she eats it like crazy! She runs around with her head down so she can get a mouthful. If you hold it in your hand, she will grab it out of your hand and eat it.

My dad loves J.J., too. Sometimes, when he looks at J.J., he'll say exactly what she is thinking. It is funny! J.J. is the most wonderful dog, ever!



## **GOOD LIFE**

Maddie Ganshert, Grade 4, Sauk Prairie, Personal Narrative

Grace was our 12 and a half year old dog. She was a Boston terrier with the biggest eyes I've ever seen. In the middle of her face, she had a cream-colored stripe that ran all the way down to her jowls. Her ears were the softest. The black silky fur seemed to run right through your fingers. Then came her back. The fur on her back was sleek and shiny, complemented with small pudgy legs. She had a short stub for a tail. Usually, it stayed high up in the air. Her paws were white, but usually a light green from the grass. When she was tired or sleeping, her jowls would droop down over her mouth. She licked in the weirdest way. Her tongue stretched out and then curled into a ball and slid its way back into her mouth. Then came the snoring . . . It came in long deep sounds. It was enough to keep anyone from sleeping!

SLAM went the door of our car. We were driving to the veterinarian's. Grace sat up front, and my dad was driving. We were going there because Grace had an eye that was bulging a lot more than usual. When we got there, the doctor examined her. He said there was a tube flowing liquid to her eye keeping it from over sizing. "She also has liver and spleen cancer," said the doctor. Since her eye was so huge, it would have to be surgically removed. That would mean she would be blind, because her other eye was already blind. Everyone was shocked. We had no idea. Sadly, my dad made the choice to put Gracie asleep. When they did it, my dad was holding her, telling her how much she was loved.

On the way home, Gracie sat in the front passenger seat, limp and cold. My dad carried Gracie out into the middle of the field in a white blanket. He did it alone. He dug until he could dig no more and laid her to rest on the sad day of December 21<sup>st</sup>. She was a great dog but couldn't hold on any longer. She will be with us forever, until someday we'll meet again.

## THE CAT IN THE WALL

Heidi Kuhnau, Grade 4, Sauk Prairie, Personal Narrative

It was a warm summer day at about 4:00 in the late afternoon. It was a very quiet day by our house. My dad and brother were already leaving to go and work and our farm, my mom was going to work, and my older sister was at her basketball practice, leaving me and my other sister home alone. I am drawing; silence flows through the air as I do not hear a sound but the TV downstairs. About five minutes later, it is complete silence. The TV must have been turned off, because I hear my sister running up the stairs with loud thuds of her feet. She comes rushing through the white door and stops as soon as she comes in.

“Heidi! We have to feed the chickens and the rabbits!” says my sister. She looks down at me drawing the picture of the cat. “Come on! Let’s go!” says my sister in a pushy voice. I lead the way to the chicken barn, and before I step inside, I notice our tabby cat is outside. “Kitty, you are not supposed to be outside!” I say, angrily.

“It’s OK, I’ll put her away later,” says my sister. Our cat follows us inside the old barn. I open the dusty door and see all eight chickens running around and squawking very loud. Our cat seems scared and hisses a nasty hiss. “I will go and get the feed. You collect the eggs,” says my sister. I look back at her and see her skip down to the milk house to get the feed.

I pass the chickens and go to a big pile of eggs that are brown and good to use. I pick each one up slowly and count them. Six eggs in all that day – not bad for only eight chickens! I turn around and say, “Come on, Kitty, you have to go inside.” But confusion rushes through my mind, because she wasn’t there!

“Come here!” I shout to my sister. In seconds she is already there, all dusty, and says, “What do you need?” in an annoyed voice. “I can’t find the cat,” I say, worried. “Shhhh, what’s that noise?” says my sister. “You mean the chickens?” I say with a chuckle. “No, it’s the cat! And it sounds like it is coming through the wall!” says my sister. And she was exactly right, because by the ceiling, I see a hole that a cat was sticking its head out of, and it was our cat!

“Come down, Kitty,” says my sister. The cat just gets scared and runs back through a tunnel behind the wall. I hear another meow that sounds sad and scared not step in the chicken poop. Our cat pokes her head through the hole, and at that moment my sister jumps up and grabs her in the best way not to hurt her.

Our cat looks frightened with wide eyes and dusty reddish fur. Her tail is puffed up and dirty. My sister lowers her and sets her in my arms. I give her a kiss on the head, because I love cats. The dirt rubs off her fur and onto my shirt, but she feels fluffy and huggable. None of us say a word. Very soon, I am outside, walking to the door with the cat in my arms. As I reach our room, I set her down gently on my bed so she can lie down. I think in my head that I will not let her outside again.

## The Mandating Meet

Shelby Lutz, Grade 3, Amherst Elementary-Tomorrow River, Personal Narrative

One frosty day, it was 16° and we were headed to Wisconsin Dells. I had to mandate out of Level 5 for USAG gymnastics. If I mandate, I would be able to move to Level 6 of competition and learn more skills.

Once we got there, we had to march in with all of the other teams. It was very exciting because we actually got to run in instead of walking. When we got on the floor, they turned some music on and we all started to dance. It was awesome! Then, we walked off the floor to start the meet.

We went to our first event - vault. My first couple of vaults were ugly. I did not like their springboard because it was so hard. However, by the time I was ready to compete I was doing awesome. When I was done with the vault, I had earned 8.075.

Next, we went to bars. I was a little scared to jump to the high bar. But in the meet I jumped and did it. I made all of my skills and had my best dismount ever. When I completed my bar routine, I received 8.150.

Then we went to beam. When I was doing my cartwheel during warm-ups, I kept missing the beam. In the meet, I stuck it. I also held my handstand dismount for a long time. When I finished beam, I earned an 8.650.

Finally, it was time for my very last event - floor. I had feeling that I was going to mandate out. Then I took a deep breath and walked out onto the mat. The music started and I did my routine. When I was done, I had the biggest smile ever because I was sure I mandated. I received an 8.7.

We went to the podium to see how we placed and if we earned any metals. On vault, I achieved third-place, on bars I took fourth place, on beam I got six place, and on the floor I earned fifth-place. I came in 6th place with my All-Around score. To mandate I had to get a 31.00, but I had earned a 33.575. I was so excited to make it! I really mandated!

That was one of the best days of my life.



## The School Spelling Bee

Ava McKenzie, Grade 4, Amherst Elementary-Tomorrow River, Personal Narrative

I have always had a passion for spelling. But, this year has been different. It all started when my teacher, Mrs. Nicholson, announced that the school spelling bee was coming up and we would be doing mini spelling bees to determine who would represent our class.

I had never participated in a spelling bee before. The process was complicated. There were two mini spelling bees in our classroom that were held on different days. On the third day, the first, second, and third place winners from each day participated in the bee to see who would be representing our classroom. In the end, it turned out that Rachel and I would be representing our class in the final competition of the spelling bee. I was really excited!

On the day of the school spelling bee, I was really scared! The room was packed with parents, teachers, and students. The judges were nice and the audience was polite. The spelling bee went pretty smooth. Once in a while, someone would misspell a word and be eliminated from the competition. When there were only three people left, the heat was on! In a second, only two people were left, Melody Moore and me! We both kept misspelling words. Then, I misspelled the word "rhinestone" and Melody spelled it correctly. The pronouncer gave her the next word on the list and she spelled it correctly. Melody had won our school spelling bee! I was really happy because I got second place! Everyone was happy for me, too.

Since I placed second in our school spelling bee, I went to a more advanced spelling bee to compete with other schools from Central Wisconsin, but that is another story to tell.

If you have a passion, you should go to another level with it! Achieve something! If you believe, you can achieve!



## Basketball Practice

Gabe Ascher, Grade 3, Wautoma, Personal Narrative

"Hurry up Gabe" my dad called loudly. I replied, "I'm coming." I rushed to pick my bag up and shot out our front door. I quickly opened up the car door and jumped in the car and buckled my seat belt. I shut the door and my dad started driving. My dad went out of town and went on the highway and was going 55 miles per hour. It took us ten minutes to our destination. Next, we were at the high school. We all ran to the doors and opened them fast because it was freezing out there.

We went to the locker room and I got my basketball shoes on. My dad said, "Hurry up, they might be starting already." I replied, "I know, I know." I got my basketball shoes on and sprinted out of the locker room and into the gym. My teammates were shooting. I started shooting, then after five minutes coach called us to the center.

He said that today is a fun practice. We all cheered loudly. We went in three groups and did shooting and dribbling relay races. My group won three out of the six races. Then, coach said, "Who's up for some dodge ball." We all yelled "Yes". Coach got the dodge balls and went over the rules. Then, we played dodge ball for thirty minutes. I had a blast. After, we were done we went to the middle and yelled, "Hornets." Then, coach said, "Everybody go home and rest." All of us did, too.



## **THE TIME I RODE AN UPSIDE DOWN ROLLERCOASTER**

Falyn Krempp, Grade 3, Wautoma, Personal Narrative

Yippee!! I shouted as I woke up. Today I was going to go to great America in Illinois. My best friend Sophia was coming along to with her mom Kathy. I bounced out of bed thinking of all the fun we might have, I got dresses as fast as my little legs could carry me! As I headed down stairs I saw my mom getting ready to go. I ran to the car with glee. My mom and I went to get Sophia and Kathy. It seemed forever before we got to great America. We got out and walked around and stretched for a little bit and got something to eat. After we were done eating we walked around some more until my mom and I found an upside down roller coaster called **THE DEMON!** I was really scared and so was Sophia, she was terrified but, my mom made me try it anyways. Sophia also stayed back with her mom. We went up a ginormous hill. AHHHHHHHH we went straight down and hit two loops! I looked down in the cart and held my harness as close to me as possible and looked at the bottom of the cart. Next, we hit a quark screw in a skull. Soon the ride was over and I had so much fun, I got to go on again. Sophia wanted to try it so she and Kathy went on with us. Sophia wanted to go on again just like me! This time Sophia and I were in a cart together and Kathy and my mom went in another cart together. When we were done on **The Demon** we went on a starter roller coaster called the **Wizard**. It swirled up and when we turned I kept hitting my head on the side of the cart. It was fun when we went down. Finally, it was time to go home. When we walked out to the parking lot my legs were hurting and I moaned when I got in the car. As we drove home fell asleep.



## The First Shot

Jordan Schmidt, Grade 4, Wautoma, Personal Narrative

I ran up to my dad pulling on his shirt, I yelled "Please." For the last couple of weeks I had been bugging my dad to take me to the gun range. I finally got him to say yes, but we didn't exactly go to the gun range. We traveled to our friend's house. We brought our 30-06 for my dad, and our .243 for both of us.

When we got there, my dad shot the 30-06. Then he shot the .243. Next it was my turn.

At first I was shaking up and down and didn't know if I wanted to shoot because it was so loud when my dad shot. Plus it didn't help that it was my first time shooting a killing gun. Then my dad said, "There has to be a first time." So I manned up and did it. I sat down, and my dad helped me into the proper shooting position and explained how to use the gun. Next he said "Whenever you are ready." So I slowly pulled back on the trigger. It was so hard keeping my gun on the target because I was so nervous. I kept pulling the trigger. I had so many things darting through my mind, "Is this going to hurt, am I going to miss?" I thought. Then BOOM! The gun fired.

That answered many things. Did it hurt? Nope. Did I miss? Nope. I was so proud of myself. Now I can go shoot anything. "Huh" I let out a sigh of relief and knew I wasn't hurt. So after I shot, we went to go see where I hit. It was in line with the bullseye but too far to the right. I was so proud. Today I still have my .243 bullet so I will always remember that day.



## A Wish Come True

Matt Selenske, Grade 4, Wautoma, Personal Narrative

One cool New Year's morning when I was a young boy, I excitedly said, "Oh boy, I can't wait until I get to grandma's house!" As my parents and I walked to the car I was thinking how much fun I would have. I got in the car and rode to my grandma's house. When we got there I said hello to my cousins and played but finally, it was time to unwrap gifts.

When my family unwrapped gifts I was the fourth youngest person in the family so I got to unwrap gifts fourth. Last year I unwrapped gifts third because at that time my baby cousin was in my aunt's belly. I had to wait a long time to unwrap all my presents. I said in stress, "This is taking FOREVER!!!" My dad calmed me down whenever I was stressed or plain frustrated.

All the other cousins' turns passed and it was finally my turn to unwrap gifts. I was startled when it was my turn. I tore and tore and got, a Beyblade!!! I had always wanted a metal Beyblade, since I already had a plastic one. I shouted in excitement, "Yay, I got a metal Beyblade!!!"

My turn passed again and I unwrapped my third to last gift. I tore and tore and got a Skylander game!!! I was too excited to speak! I unwrapped my other gifts: two Skylander figures, and a Mario game.

I played with my cousins, and had a nice time until my dad said it was time to go home. I wanted to stay but eventually I went home. Outside I said to his family, "Good bye guys; see you all later." Somehow, I was excited to leave. In the car I told my parents what I got, and I went home.

I told my mom, "I learned that from all this, that patience is important." From this day forward, I keep my cool when I want something, or want to do something. I learned an important lesson in life. It was getting dark outside so my mom and I went into the house.



## **The Accident**

Kayla Gray, Grade 4, Wisconsin Dells, Personal Narrative

Did I ever tell you the story of the time I broke my wrist? It all started on a cold day in April. It was rather snowy and icy that day, but the sun was shining and we were having a great time playing outside during recess. I was swinging with my friends, Bradley and Megan. The third grade bell rang and everyone was rushing to line up.

I was in a hurry and not really being that smart when suddenly I decided to jump off the swing. I was swinging really super high when I jumped. Not one of the best decisions I've ever made. I thought I was going to land on my feet, but wait! Oh no!!! I lost my balance and when I hit the ground I fell on my hands with a lot of force. Ouch!!!! My entire weight went on my left wrist. I felt like screaming, but I was too busy crying.

A teacher sent me to the office, but the nurse wasn't there. I needed the nurse because I couldn't move my wrist so Mr. Gaston, the vice principal, looked at my wrist and said, "You are fine. Just put some ice on it." I got some ice and went back to the classroom. Everybody was asking what happened until math class started. I was still crying! It was an hour later and an assistant teacher told me to be quiet while Mrs. Holzem, my teacher, was teaching.

This day happened to be spring picture day and my class and I went to the cafeteria to get our pictures taken. I was still crying! My picture was horrible! My face was all red and blotchy, and I couldn't sit in the position I was supposed to! Then I had to go sit at a table and wait for the rest of my class. My wrist started hurting even more. Ouch!!!

My friend, Bradley, was in line with his class and asked me, "Are you okay?" I said, "I think so." But I was wrong! Now my wrist was throbbing and full of even more pain. I put my head down on my desk and started crying. Mrs. Holzem came over and comforted me and then sent me to the office.

The office called my Mom and she took me to the doctor. I got an x-ray for the first time. I found out that my radius bone was broken!! The doctor put a splint on it and it was really painful. The next day I had to go to Madison to get a cast. The cast was wet, blue, and hard! The girl that put my cast on said I needed to wear the cast for six to eight weeks.

I got so frustrated with my wrist being in a cast and missing out on a lot of activities, but in the end it was a cool experience. My friends helped me all they way through this terrible time. No matter how much it hurt, it was worth it! That's the story of the time I broke my wrist!!

## **My Trip to Florida**

Maya Hale, Grade 4, Wisconsin Dells, Personal Narrative

My trip to Florida was probably the best trip to Florida ever!!!! We went to Fort Meyers Beach. The beaches are sandy white and all the houses have huge in ground pools. The sunny, warm weather is so nice after the cold, snowy weather in Wisconsin. It's beautiful there!

Last time my family went I was only six years old and my brothers, Preston and Greyson, were too little to remember, but I know they remembered this trip because it was fantastic! We stayed at my Nana and Papa's condo. We celebrated my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday there too. My Nana and my Mom made birthday brownies while I was touring Thomas Edison's vacation home. His house looked really old. Did you know Thomas Edison was the first person to own a swimming pool!!! I thought that was pretty cool.

The next day we went to a place called the Shell Factory. It had all different kinds of shells. It had enormous shells and teeny tiny shells. It had almost everything possible that you could make from shells!!! They had a nature park too. I got to touch a lizard, a snake, a starfish, and a big fat hamster. I thought to myself that my friend Ava would NEVER do that! And guess what? I was right. She would never touch those animals.

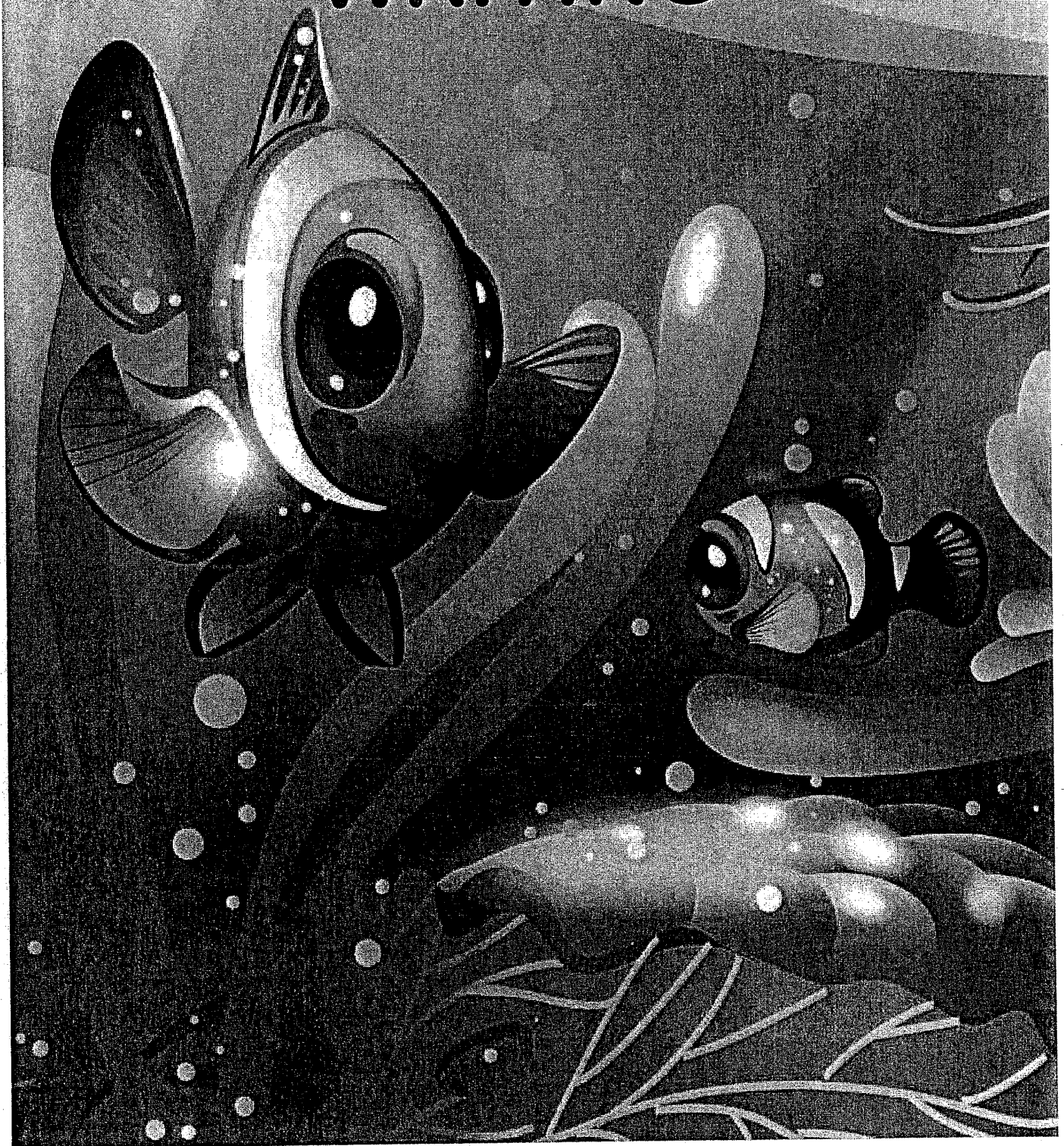
I was so excited to see my Aunt Lisa, Uncle Jeff, and my two cousins, Jack and Murray in Florida. Murray is six and Jack is five years old. It was fun swimming and playing on the beach with my cousins. We went out to dinner together and played lots of board games at my Nana's condo.

When we were in Florida we went to my Nana's friend's house to swim in her beautiful pool. Marsha's son, Jason, has a daughter named Stella. She is 18 months old. She is a princess. I'm not kidding she wears dresses and bracelets. Hey, don't say I didn't tell you. She's just like me.

I love going to Florida with my family! We made a lot of nice memories there together. I want to go visit my grandparents every year in sunny Florida. That's my story of the time I went to Florida.



# CREATIVE WRITING





# Picture #1





## **The Alien Mushroom**

Jayne Rubeck, Grade 3, Adams-Friendship, Creative Writing – Picture 1

What do you do when you find an alien mushroom in the forest?

My family and I went camping in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin. We saw brown spotted lizards, grey wild rabbits, white-tailed deer, and bald eagles. The trees were as tall as skyscraper in Chicago. Everything was green and gorgeous.

After lunch, I decided to explore the woods around my campsite. I took my trusty compass with me, so that I would not get lost. The woods were filled with many different kinds of plants. I didn't go far before I stumbled upon the coolest mushrooms I ever saw. They were bright red with white freckles. They were growing in a group under an old tall oak tree.

I decided to pull one out. As I was grabbing the biggest one, I heard a squeal and little feet emerged. I dropped it in surprise. The mushroom began to talk to me. "What is your name? They call me Capu. I come from the planet Egan. It is out past your planet Neptune. My brothers and I were left here five years ago to find a cure for a disease called Fundia. We notice that you have a great variety of fungus on this planet, and they flourish. What is your secret?"

After recovering from my surprise, I told Capu, "The secret is our fungus is a decomposer, so it never runs out of food. There are plenty of dead plants for it to survive on. Are there dead plants on your planet?"

"No, we do not have any plants. We are too far from the sun. Is there a way we can grow plants on our planet?" Capu stated.

"Do you have any electricity?" I asked.

"Yes, we do!" Capu said.

"Well, I can build you a greenhouse with plant lights. Remember that you have to keep the plants warm and in the light, and they will grow tall and strong. Then when they die, there will be plenty to eat." I stated.

I did just that for them.

The next day, Capu and I said goodbye, and the alien mushrooms took off for their planet with their new greenhouse and light. As I watched them go, I wondered if I would ever see them again!

## The Mushroom Gnomes Adventure

Jaiden Minigh, Grade 4, Adams-Friendship, Creative Writing – Picture 1

There once was an old gnome named Brian who was no bigger than a boot. Brian lived in a red mushroom near a calm river in a forest with lots of big green trees. Brian wore blue stitched overalls, a red shirt, a green cap, and always had a dirty kerchief crumpled in his left pocket. Every day, Brian went to work on a farm down the hill. After work he went home, made dinner, and went to bed. Nothing was very special about Brian's life as a gnome. People made fun of him for it. In fact, anyone could say Brian's life was dull and boring. Brian wanted adventure. So one day, Brian stared out of his kitchen window thinking of what to do. Nothing seemed to come to his mind at the thought of "interesting", until suddenly, Brian had an idea. "I will make a raft and sail down the river next to my house!" shouted Brian. "It will be able to carry me and my supplies." Brian quickly got to work building his raft and gathering supplies. Brian started with the raft. First, he took his tiny axe and went to the edge of the river and cut some tiny reeds for the body of his raft. Next, he sewed a sail from the fibers of a leaf. And last, he gathered some mud from the side of the river and used it as a cement. Brian's raft was finally finished. He started looking for some important supplies he would need on the trip. "There are many things you can do with rope, like pull the boat if it breaks, or use it to pitch a tent", so Brian brought rope. "I will bring my bow so I can hunt game and small animals when my food runs low", so Brian brought his bow. Brian had a piece of cloth. "I can use this to make a tent or shelter if it rains or snows or if it is cold", so Brian brought the cloth. Brian also had a steel pot. "I can use this to boil water or collect water or even make soup over a fire", so Brian brought the steel pot. Brian had all of the supplies he thought he needed, and his raft was finished. Brian was ready. First, Brian had trouble getting the raft from the shore to the river, but he used his rope to pull it. Then, Brian was ready to float down the river. He stumbled onto his raft and pushed himself out onto the river. Brian did not find it easy to raft. After about an hour down the river, Brian's raft broke into tiny pieces, and Brian had to find land. Finally after about five minutes, Brian settled under a tree. "What am I going to do?" said Brian. "I do not know where my house is." Then Brian heard a voice. That voice told him to keep on going, and find his house. Brian listened. After a lot of walking, Brian found his house. And when he found his house, Brian realized, that the only reason he went on that trip was because he let what other people think of him hurt him. Brian did not care if other people thought he was boring, he was happy, and lived peacefully in his mushroom house.



## Anna

Emily Kleczek, Grade 4, Baraboo, Creative Writing – Picture 1

It was a hot summer evening when the incident happened. I was five and waiting for my mom to come home from work. Then there was a knock on the door. I expected to see my mom there but what I found was something much worse. There was a policeman at the door telling me the words that still give my nightmares. “I’m sorry but your mom is missing.” He said in the nicest way.

It is ten years later and I’m living with my aunt Rosie on a farm being homeschooled. I have moved on from the past and came to the present. Until, one night, I had the worst dream. I was in a pitch black cave and I could hear someone yelling my name. “Anna! Anna! Help me!” It sounded like my mother calling from the grave. I woke with a start. The smell of pancakes filled the air, but I couldn’t think about that, my mother needs me. She was alive. There was an old legend that said a magical mushroom could give you three wishes. Looks like I was going to find them. My mother was the only thing that kept my life together. There was only one problem: my aunt.

Now in the legend it said, Hercules had went to Demeter and said he needed three wishes. She said to go to the enchanted forest to pick the red mushroom that could grant three wishes but warned him and said that all magic comes with a price. Hercules didn’t listen because he thought nothing bad could happen to a god. Then when he finally found the mushroom he wished for a wife that he could love. And so it was. Then she died. He suffered. So where did he travel? The enchanted forest! I think it said it was in the original Rome. Next stop Rome. “Taxi! Taxi!” Oh finally some service. “Where to?” asked the taxi driver. “Rome” I said.

“Sorry Miss, I don’t go over sea.” He said. “Then the nearest airport.” I replied. The airport in California isn’t the cleanest. I just took a plane to the closest place to Rome (The Mediterranean) and tried not to inhale. When we finally get there I almost faint. It’s the most breath taking sight I have ever seen. The gleaming water reflects all of Rome. Don’t get too distracted, I think to myself, you’ve got a job to do. If you’re looking for an enchanted forest where do you look? Light bulb! A forest! The enchanted forest has to be hidden from human’s eyesight but I am a human so... so I’ll have to look really, really hard. Where is the place I would least expect to find a forest? Hmm... I will have to just improvise.

After two hours of looking I have found nothing! Wait, what’s that? It looks like a spec of light. I’ll follow it! Wow! Looks like I found the Enchanted Forest. It was like stepping into a wonderland! Trees and plants beyond description, so many things unknown, unnamed, and unspeakable.

I am on a mission. There it is a whole yard of the mushrooms that I heard about. That was too easy. This can’t be. “Raaaaahh!!!!” It isn’t. A monstrous creature was standing in front of me. A dragon. Not a regular cute dragon, this dragon was terrifying! I ran as fast as my legs could carry me. Not in the opposite direction. No, I ran past the creature to the mushrooms, stuffed half of them in my bag and then wished to get out of here. The next thing I know I am home. The second wish was for my mom to come back. Then the third wish was to erase my aunt’s memory. Now she thinks the police found her sister. Everything is back to normal. Well almost, I have still got those mushrooms.

## **The Golden Mushroom**

Helena Nashold, Grade 4, Fall River, Creative Writing – Picture 1

Whitney woke up that morning feeling not quite herself. Her dream had been very weird. She kept hearing voices chanting “Mushroom, mushroom, mushroom, Golden Mushroom.” Whitney went down stairs and got on her computer and typed in “Golden Mushroom”. A bunch of websites came up and one of them said: “There was a girl who was running because she had stolen some valuable gold. The girl hid the gold underground. The next day when she went to find it, the gold was gone and in its place there was a Mushroom. Legend has it that a trap was set to catch anyone who tried to find the Golden Mushroom.” Whitney went to her friend Eric’s house and told him everything she knew. Eric, also known as Bookworm, is very smart so they had a likely chance to find the mushroom. So off they went on their journey, prepared. Whitney brought her pocket knife, she didn’t plan on using it, but you have to be prepared! Luckily the Mushroom was located in a forest near Whitney’s school, known as The Black Forest. Most kids dared each other to go in the forest. Those who did disappeared and never came back. Whitney’s friend Caroline was one of those lost kids. Whitney decided on bringing her other friend, Julie.

“Hi! Whitney and Bookworm! What up? Why are you here?” said Julie

“We are here because....” Eric began

“I don’t have all day!” exclaimed Julie

“WE ARE GOING TO FIND THE GOLDEN MUSHROOM!!!!” yelled Eric quickly.

“Wha?” asked Julie. So Whitney told her everything.

“Let’s go for Caroline!!” declared Whitney

“FOR CAROLINE!!!!” yelled Julie

“FOR GOLD!!!!” screamed Eric. Whitney glared at Eric and said “Take that back!”

“Fine!! But I still want gold!” said Eric. Off they went. All three friends ran into the forest and POW! They were in a high net above very tall trees with some people they didn’t know... except one person. “CAROLINE!!!!” yelled Whitney “I missed you so much! Now we have to find a way out.” “I know!” said Eric “Use your pocket knife to cut the net!”

Whitney did what Eric suggested and they started to fall down until they hit the ground.

“Hey guys! Look there is a tunnel!” yelled Julie “Let’s follow it!” All of the children started down the trail and there in front of their eyes was the Golden Mushroom. Right next to the Golden Mushroom there was a portal. Whitney told everyone to yell “Mushroom, mushroom, mushroom, Golden Mushroom.” Then the portal brought them home! Eric was glad now because he finally got some gold! Whitney was also glad because she had Caroline back, and she understood that weird dream!

## **Burnt Mushrooms**

Ella Puls, Grade 3, Lodi, Creative Writing – Picture 1

“Hurry Up!” yelled Rosie. “We have to meet Lila at the mushrooms by 10:30.” Rosie is one of the many fairies at Derleth Park. “I’m coming, I’m coming! I just had to feed YOUR bumble bee,” snarled Rosie’s twin brother Oliver. “Before we go I need to give my friend, Barron this fairy dust,” Oliver said. Before they left the kids had to do their chores. Rosie pulled out her list. She had to clean her room, do the dishes, set the table, and collect water. But Oliver, on the other had, only had to do homework. Once they were done they flew to Barron’s tree house and dropped off the fairy dust. “It’s 10:25!” Rosie told her brother. “We better hurry” Oliver panted. When they got to the mushrooms they both heard crying. The crying was coming from Lila. “What’s wrong Lila?” Oliver asked. Lila answered, “The m-m-mushrooms well just look.” Rosie and Oliver couldn’t believe their eyes! The mushrooms they planted when they were just babies were burnt down! “Oh my gosh what, what happened?” Rosie asked. “I don’t know, probably the lightning struck it or something!” Lila cried. “Don’t cry we’ll figure out something.” Oliver said. “Hey, I know we could plant more mushrooms.” Rosie said. “Good idea! But first we need to find some soil that’s not burnt” sniffled Lila. “There’s probably some behind the tree!” said Oliver. “Hey look! There’s some seeds back here!” shouted Lila from the other side of the old Maple tree. When it started getting dark Lila went to her tree house and the twins went to theirs. When Rosie got settled in to bed she found a note in her pocket it said:

Dear Rosie,

Thank you for the help today I rally appreciate it!!

Love,

Lila

## Story Land

Amy Brinks, Grade 4, Pardeeville, Creative Writing – Picture 1

One day in a forest called “story land”. In the forest lived a family of mushrooms. They were red with white and yellow specks. Their names were Mush, Stem, Rooty and Little Stump.

One day Stump whined and said “I’m bored, I want to play.”

“But we can’t move, we’re stuck in the ground!” argued Stem.

“Stop it now!” yelled Mush.

“Quiet!” said Rooty sharp but still kind.

For another day the arguing stopped, but in the morning Mush and Rooty woke up to the same old racket. Finally, Rooty stood up and said, “We need to put an end to this.”

“Yes!” they all said.

First, Rooty made a leaf ball for Stump to play with and all was quiet. But then the leaf ball broke and Stump got bored again. Next, Mush made a trampoline for him. But Stump couldn’t jump, he was stuck to the ground! “What are we going to do?” exclaimed Stem.

“I know!” Rooty yelled. “We can go underground!”

“How?” they asked

“We can dig.”

“Okay.” They all said together.

So they all went down together and have stayed there ever since. If you listen carefully you might hear Stump whining, “I’m bored.”

## Magical Mushrooms

Itzel Cayetano, Grade 4, Portage, Creative Writing – Picture 1

Once in Valleyhill, a fairy town grew some magical mushrooms under an apple tree. The mushrooms were bright red and they also had little white spots on them. None of the fairies knew that the mushrooms were magical or that they were growing!

One day, Daisy, one of the fairies, saw the magical mushrooms. The mushrooms were growing under an apple tree. Daisy walked gently to the mushrooms. The leaves crackled while Daisy walked closer to the mushrooms. Daisy left to tell the other fairies about the mushrooms. "Fairies, there are bright red mushrooms over by the apple tree!" said Daisy. After a while all the fairies came quickly. Maisy and Chaisy touched the mushrooms! WOOSH, a big green light came out of the mushrooms!!! The other fairies gaped in surprise. They were paralyzed! Daisy and the other fairies didn't know what to do.

Maisy and Chaisy were in a land that was sparkling. It had bright, crystal diamonds! There were other fairies there. Maisy and Chaisy saw the red bright mushrooms with white tiny spots on it. They were surprised. "The mushrooms are magical!" said Maisy.

"That was really magical!" said Chaisy. "I have never seen anything like that!" Chaisy and Maisy started walking all around.

"Who are you?" said one of the fairies.

"I'm Maisy," said Maisy.

"I'm Chaisy." said Chaisy.

"Where do you come from?" said the fairy.

"We come from some mushrooms in Valleyhill." said Maisy.

"Who are you?" Chaisy asked the other fairy.

"I am Rose" said the fairy.

"Where are we?"

"You are in Shineville." said Rose.

"Well, where are the mushrooms you were talking about earlier?" asked Rose.

Maisy and Chaisy walked on the twigs and rocks that crackled on the ground. They showed Rose the bright red mushrooms with white spots on them. By now there was a little bit of green soft moss on the mushrooms. Rose wanted to touch the mushrooms. "Don't touch the mushrooms!" Too late, Rose touched the mushrooms. Maisy and Chaisy touched the mushrooms too so they could go back to Valleyhill.

They were back in Valleyhill. Rose said, "HI," then she left in a flash.

"Who was that?" asked the other fairies.

"It was Rose from Shineville."

"WOW from Shineville!" said the other fairies. "Where is Shineville?" asked the fairies.

"Well, you can see her right now!" Since then, when the fairies want to see each other they just touch the mushrooms!

One day Maisy was walking at night and then she saw the mushrooms glow!!! She ran quickly to tell the other fairies. Then when the mushrooms went out, they didn't glow any more and the white spots were gone.

## **MUSHROOM DEVILS**

Matthew Breunig, Grade 3, Sauk Prairie, Creative Writing – Picture 1

These mushrooms look like innocent little plants to you, but I know their secret. At night they grow legs, arms, and two tails, according to the legends that most do not believe.

But I know it is true because I have seen them stealing food from the fridge in my kitchen. Trust me they are really ugly and don't smell good.

Here is what happened. I woke up in bed at night. I checked my clock - dang, 11:00 p.m. I realized I was really thirsty, so I went downstairs for a drink. When I got to the kitchen, I saw the fridge door opened and a pile of food on the counter, and more food was flying onto the stack!

I took a peek inside the fridge, and there they were - ugly and small. One of them spun around to check if they were spotted. When it saw me, it made a weird screeching sound at me, and the others spun in alert, laughed at me, and then poofed out of the house, along with the food.

“At least I can still have Gushers” I thought. I looked in the cabinet, and exclaimed, “Oh Man! They got replaced by carrots!”



## The Vine

Julian McCann, Grade 3, Sauk Prairie, Creative Writing – Picture 1

“I am a tree, and this is the story of how I became a very weedy tree. The boy who owns me was playing in the forest when five mushrooms dropped a seed. The seed got stuck in the boy’s shoe. When he got home, his dad lifted him up and let him put the star on my head. That’s when the seed fell onto me.

The next day, a vine with thorns grew. It hurt, but not very much. When one week passed, the vine was huge! The vine knocked the star down.

Then Dad got the week killer. He sprayed it, but it did nothing. He came back the next day and saw the vine was twice the size!

That night they had a big conversation about whether or not to keep the tree (me!). There were only two ways to kill the vine. The first way was to kill the tree. Poisoning the vine would make the vine bigger. Cutting the vine would make two vines. So, the other way to kill the vine would be to flatten it under something very very heavy, like an anvil.

After dinner, the mom and dad rushed to the computer. They searched the vines species and saw the two ways to kill it. They chose the second way.

The next day, the family went to the store and bought an anvil and a sword. They chopped the base of the vine and then pulled out the vine’s roots. They snatched up the anvil and crushed the vine and its roots. Once they took the anvil off, they threw the vine in the fire!

Now I live in the forest, because when Christmas was over, they planted me. I am 20 years old!”



## THE ONE WHO SEES THE LIGHT

Shelbi Endres, Grade 4, Sauk Prairie, Creative Writing – Picture 1

I live in a mushroom at the edge of Shady Oaks Forest, afraid of the quietest things, like a bird's call whispering in the wind and the crackle of leaves against the forest floor. The wind whistles in my tiny ear, and my small house grows large amongst my village. The toads croak to show the sun has risen.

Though my village grows, I feel small. For I am young, alone, lost in a bad dream. The world is a dark hole, waiting to consume me. In my vision, the light is a plant bursting through the ground to find its own place. Sometimes, I walk along the forest floor and ask myself, "Will I ever belong?"

The houses sway in the wind, and the leaves sound like thunder against the town's buildings. You may wonder if I'll ever see the world like it is? The answer is YES.

One day, I decided to take a walk, when the strangest thing happened. I walked down the bridge to the solid earth, and I fell down a hole dug into the ground. I shut my eyes, afraid of what could be in there. Thud! My body hit the ground and my eyes flew open. The light was blinding. I asked myself, "How is it light so far beneath the ground?"

Then, she came to me. She looked like a burning candle, with her white gown and flaming yellow hair flying wildly around her face. "Who are you?" I asked.

"Anika," the burning candle replied. "I have been told to show people the light."

"What light?" I exclaimed. "The world is a dark hole!"

"It only seems that way, for you have not looked beyond the darkness," Anika said. "There is much more to the beautiful world!"

I walked toward Anika and held her hand. "Take me there," I said. Anika nodded and, in a way, flew me out of the hole.

But the world was no longer dark. Anika seemed to shoot a ray of light that destroyed the darkness. I heard the birds' song. I didn't run. I heard the crackle of leaves. I didn't hide. I was not longer afraid.

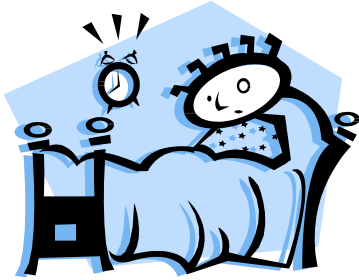
"Thank you," I said to Anika. There was no reply, for she had left.

The wind whistled, carrying a message, "You're Welcome."

"Anika," I said, softly. That is why they call me, The One Who Sees the Light.

## The Mushroom

Cole Wohlrab, Grade 4, Trinity Lutheran School, Creative Writing – Picture 1



Ah! There I was sleeping on my bed. “Screech! What was that? I better check.” I sprinted to the woods like a cheetah running after a gazelle.

“Ow! There’s prickles in these woods.” That’s when I saw fake fur like mushrooms growing under

the trees. The mushrooms were red as a stop sign and as sharp as a shark tooth. The bottom of the mushroom was as gray as a great white shark. These mushrooms were colorful like a rainbow and as short as a chip of wood. They looked secret, scary, and as sad as person who lost his hamster.



These mushrooms skinned my friend, the bear. My pet bear had lost his home in the woods because woodsmen cut down the tree that he lived in. He had appeared at my house and I had taken care of him.



I want those mushrooms smooshed! If I catch that mushroom, it’s going to be the last time in its mushroom life that they skin someone. So I took him to the slammer, known as the jail. Then, I sat back and relaxed.



## Picture #2





## **The Missing Necklace**

Rachel Yelk, Grade 3, Poynette, Creative Writing – Picture 2

One day in Poynette City, the Stewerts were waking up. In Emily's bright pink room she was brushing her golden blond hair. "I'm so tired," she said. Meanwhile, across the hall in her brother, Brandon's room, he was also getting ready. He never brushed his big brown hair. "Time to eat," he said. He went out the door, and there was their dog, Perry.

Downstairs Mom and Dad were cooking eggs for breakfast. Then Brandon and Emily came down. "Why are we having eggs?" asked Brandon.

"Because they are healthy," Mom said. After breakfast Brandon found Perry in Emily's room and decided to take him for a short walk.

When they got home, Emily was furious. "Where's my necklace?" she said.

"I don't know. I haven't touched it," said Brandon. Emily went to tell Mom and Dad.

"Well you can't just blame Brandon," said Mom. That was true, so that got Emily thinking about who stole her necklace. When she was in her room listening to music, Emily found paw prints. "Perry!" she thought. Now that Emily knew who it was, she had to find out where he hid it.

Emily was clueless until she plopped onto her bed and felt something hard. Emily unfolded the bedspread, and under it was her golden necklace. "Yes, I found It!" said Emily.



# Picture #3





## **The Rainbow Blender**

Dominik Bottensek, Grade 3, Adams-Friendship, Creative Writing – Picture 3

It had been storming all day. The rain had finally quit, and the sun began to shine brightly. There was a rainbow in the eastern sky. It was gorgeous!

I walked into my house and went into the kitchen. I was hungry after a long day at school. I decided to make a rainbow fruit smoothie. I put in three strawberries, one orange, one banana, a dozen green grapes, eleven blueberries, and a plum with a little wheat germ and some sugar in the blender. I turned the blender on. It smashed all the fruit together. It looked just like the rainbow outside.

“Dominik,” yelled my mom from the living room where she was folding clothes. “Would you please clean your room? It looks like a tornado went through it!”

I left my colorful rainbow smoothie in the kitchen to do the chore that my mother asked me to do. I put my toys in the toy box and threw my dirty clothes in the hamper. I took the hamper down stairs to the laundry, put my clothes in the wash machine with a little soap, and started the machine.

As I was climbing the stairs, I heard a loud cracking coming from the kitchen. I went to check on the smoothie. In my rush, I had forgotten to turn off the blender. The smoothie was growing and had become enormous. As I walked in, the blender exploded! “Oh, no, it wasn’t wheat germ it was yeast!” I ran to unplug the blender. As the cord came out of the socket, there was a great explosion.

The explosion was so great that it blew the roof right off the house. The rainbow mixture began to whirl into the clouds. It hit the rainbow. As the fruit intertwined with the colors, the rainbow began to glow.

I called to my family to come out and see it. Everyone ran out and exclaimed how beautiful it was. It was the most beautiful rainbow anyone had ever seen.

## **The Ride of Doom**

Jeremy Book, Grade 4, Fall River, Creative Writing – Picture 3

“Hurry up mom, I do not want to be late!” It was April 5, the day the carnival opened. I had never been to the carnival before and there was a new ride called the Ride of Doom. My mom and I got buckled in and started driving to the carnival. When we got there I almost fainted because of all the rides that I saw. I was having so much fun that I forgot all about the Ride of Doom until the carnival was closing in 5 min. We heard on the speakers “Last call for the Ride of Doom”. My mom and I hurried over. Since there was only five minutes left there was almost no line. While we were on my mom and I screamed. The Ride of Doom was really the Ride of Doom. That was the best day ever!

## The Alien Invasion

Jacob Bishop, Grade 3, Baraboo, Creative Writing – Picture 3

Tomm was a normal kid for his age of 11. He had brown hair and wore a gray sweatshirt. Like most people he liked to play video games and use the computer. Unlike most kids he had an unusual fancy for magic. He loved to go to magic shows. He loved to do magic tricks.

One day Tomm was going to the fair when suddenly...the sky turned red, fireballs rained down! Surprisingly it did not damage anything, when from a fireball emerged a wizard! The wizards robes were purple and gold his pointed hat was the same colors.

"Magic i-i-ts real!" Tomm forced out. The wizard walked up the garden path towards Tomm's house. Tomm's heart felt as if it would burst out of his ribcage but he managed to keep it hidden from the wizard. When he heard a knock he rushed to the door.

"Hello I'm Zaldalf," The wizard said in a mysterious voice.

"I'm Tomm it's nice to see you Zaldalf," Tomm said.

"I have a gift for you," and the wizard handed Tomm a wand. "Think of something and it will do what you thought of. Believe me you'll need it." Then with a whip of his wand and a swish of his purple robes he was gone. Tomm stuffed the wand into his pocket.

"Well, that was strange, but it didn't do any damage so lets go to the fair." Tomm's mother told him. At the fair they ate cotton candy, went on roller coasters and finally they were entering a magic show!

"Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls; I introduce you to the great, the powerful... JERLOCK!" The announcer cried but instead of a magician walking out the tents top was pulled off! A swiveling ball of light absorbed the top of the tent and aliens flew out! The aliens were plain black and wore a black suit. Tomm knew what he had to do he pulled out his wand and thought of the alien exploding as he aimed his wand, a blue jet of light zapped the alien and it exploded.

"WOW!" Tomm exclaimed. "That's an awesome spell!" He used it a few more times and then he was bored of it. Next he thought of an alien melting. It worked instantly. *I'm getting bored of this.* The last alien exploded Tomm turned around he expected to see people cheering, but instead they were fleeing as a shadow covered Tomm. He whirled around to see a big black hand coming down on him he lunged himself out of the way just in time. This alien was different from the rest because instead of a black spacesuit he had black armor. Tomm thought of the alien melting, but it didn't work! The alien tried again to smush Tomm, but epicly failed. but then Tomm noticed a big hole in the alien! He thought of that hole tearing the alien apart. The alien started to twitch then suddenly it burst into flames! And all that was left was its armor.

A portal appeared in the sky, then Zaldalf came. "Well what did I tell you," The wizard said. People were cheering all over. "You were right," Tomm said. "I'm your new neighbor" the wizard said to Tomm. "Cool," was Tomms response...and the legend of Tomm passed through the centuries to come.

## **The Tornado Ride**

Michael Elliot, Grade 3, Montello, Creative Writing – Picture 3

It was a fair and I had fourteen tickets. I saw many rides and the Tornado ride was behind them. It costs two tickets to ride it. When it started to spin it would tilt. I would scream until it was over! I was so dizzy that I fell down the stairs. I was glad when the Tornado ride was over. Then we got funnel cakes.



## **The Missing Dollar**

Ben Palen, Grade 3, Pardeeville, Creative Writing – Picture 3

One day Jarred and Erik went to the big carnival. Jarred said, “This is going to be the best day of my life.” When they got in line there was 27 people in line. The ride has red, blue and a tint of pink. Erik said, “are you nervous Jarred?” Jarred said, “I am not.” When the people were spinning in the air they all screamed of terror. The ride was called The Spinning of Terror.

Jarred took out his money. The ride cost two dollars. Jarred had a dollar bill. Jarred said, “Can I have a dollar bill?” to the person who was running the Spinning of Terror. He said really loud, NO. Jarred said, “Do you have any money, Erik?” Erik said, “I don’t.” When a little kid ran by, Erik said, “do you have any money?” He said, “No, I’m only four years old.” The guy that was running the ride said, “You need a dollar bill right now in two minutes.” The guy right behind them said, “you can have one of my dollar bills, because this is the best ride in the carnival.” So then Jarred and Erik rode the Spinning of Terror.

## The Sweet Ride

Isabella Sumwalt, Grade 3, Portage, Creative Writing – Picture 3

“Man! Look at that sweet ride!” squealed Jessica. “We’ve got to get in line!”

“Yes, but look how long the line is,” said Avery. The two girls had met in Kindergarten and chosen each other as best friends.

“Maybe we should go see the bunnies and wait ’till the line gets at least a little bit shorter,” suggested Avery.

“I guess I haven’t seen them in a while, but do you promise after we look at the bunnies we can go on the ride ?” asked Jessica eagerly.

“I promise,” said Avery.

On their way to the bunnies cage, they got some ice-cream and popcorn. They couldn’t decide if they should see the brown baby bunnies, or the black and brown. They decided one would go to each.

When they had their fill, the girls met and Avery said to Jessica, “I’m going to get a refill on ice-cream.”

“Then I’ll get some cotton candy,” said Jessica. Jessica and Avery went to go get what they had said they would.

When Jessica had got in line for cotton candy, she looked around to see if she could spot Avery by the popcorn stand. She looked over... she couldn’t see her. “Excuse me,” said Jessica, “but have you seen my friend Avery? She has long black hair and is wearing a red t-shirt with jean shorts and blue diamond earrings.”

“Yes,” said the lady. “She was headed toward the big colorful swirly ride.”

“Oh thank you,” panted Jessica. She ran frantically toward the ride Avery had promised they would go on. Unfortunately, when she got there, Avery... was not there!

“AVERY!” screamed Jessica. “WHERE ARE YOU?” Jessica felt like she was going to cry. Her best friend was gone... forever! Jessica ran around, trying to find her.

Back at the cotton candy stand, Avery was just as nervous as Jessica. She felt like she was going to cry also. Avery asked the man at the cotton candy stand if he’d seen Jessica. “She has long blond hair with a small braid,” said Avery nervously, “wearing a pink shirt that says BFFS Forever and has jeans with the same earrings I’m wearing.”

“Yeah, I’ve seen her alright.” said the man. “Just as it was her turn for cotton candy she dashed over to the popcorn stand and asked the lady over there if she had seen you. Then she went over to the big swirly ride over there.”

“Oh Man,” thought Avery. “Now she’s looking for me!” Avery ran as fast as her legs could carry her. She tripped and bumped into people. She had to say, “Excuse Me!” so many times she couldn’t count. Finally she reached the ride and looked around frantically... no sign of Jessica. “JESSICA!” screamed Avery. “WHERE ARE YOU?”

Jessica heard Avery’s call and ran so fast to her, everything seemed like a big blur. The two girls were so relieved to see each other they hugged and couldn’t let go.

“Oh man! I thought you were gone forever!” said Jessica in a sign of relief.

“So did I. Now let’s go on that ride I promised!” said Avery with a smile.

## **The Colorful Tornado**

Grace Haukom, Grade 4, Poynette, Creative Writing – Picture 3

There once was a little girl named Sophia. Her dad was a construction worker. Her passion in life was to be a world famous artist involving crayons. But something peculiar happened on Sophia's 4th birthday, June 27 2007. She got a crayon maker kit from her dad on her birthday. The next day she was just DYING to play with it right after her fifteen minute timeout for slapping her older brother, Rodrick.

When she was done with her timeout, she played with her crayon kit, and the weather outside was starting to get a little cloudy. It was moist, and damp drops of water came rushing down trees. She looked outside her window and saw a tornado was gliding down the street of Fourth Avenue, the street on which she lived. While the tornado came crashing down Fourth Avenue, she had the colors yellow, purple, pink, blue, and tangerine orange in her crayon maker. The wind current was so fast that it blew her window right off the wall and ... POOF! Out went the crayon maker while it was trying to melt the crayons. It went straight out of the melting compartment and into the 81 MPH winds of the tornado. It made a beautiful yet dangerous sight.

After the disaster, the city was all covered with crayon wax and looked almost like a colorful wonderland! After Sophia saw this, Sophia went running straight to her room as fast as lightning. But soon the crayons started to harden on the citizens because the crayon wax started to dry. Everyone got turned into a crayon sculpture, except for Sophia. So with her art studio supplies, she dug through her closet and finally found her crayon remover. She dumped all of her crayon removal chemicals into her father's crane from his last road construction job and scraped up all of the crayon formations on the skyscrapers, roads, signs, houses, international corporations, and most importantly, people. After that the city got all cleaned up and people still aren't exactly sure what happened that day with the colorful tornado.

## A Day At Mt. Funland

Brett Bender, Grade 3, Rio, Creative Writing – Picture 3

Once upon a time there was a boy named Brett. He wanted to go to a theme park, but his parents didn't want to. Brett was really, really sad but he didn't cry, he just shrugged and walked away. The next day his cousin Eddy called and asked, "Do you want to go to a really fun theme park named Mt. Funland?" Brett said, "Yes, I would love to!!!" "Ok," Eddy said, "I'll be there with my mom and dad to pick you up in an hour." An hour later, sure enough, Eddy was there to pick him up. It took them two hours to get to Mt. Funland. There they rode rollercoasters, go carts, and bumper cars. They played golf, laser tag, and carnival games like ring toss, knock over the milk jug, and knock the clowns off the shelf. They ate cheeseburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy, pop (soda), and jelly beans. They had an awesome time! Meanwhile, at Brett's house his sister and brother were enjoying their time without Brett. They enjoyed their time because most of the time Brett was an annoying little shyster. They were enjoying their time by playing the Wii, Playstation, computer, and Xbox 360. They were having a good time until they got a call saying that Brett would be home in three hours. That meant they had to finish their game in a few hours. That was a problem for Brett's brother, Simon. He had a habit of not getting off of his football game until it was done. Usually it takes Simon four hours to get his game over with. Simon was only an hour into his game before they got the call. Back at Mt. Funland, Bett, Eddy, and Eddy's parents were finishing up their visit to the aquarium. There they saw dolphins, sharks, electric eels, and sting rays. A few minutes later they checked out of Mt. Funland and were on their way. Meanwhile, Simon still wasn't done with the football game yet. Brett and Eddy were half way there when they noticed a crash ahead. It looked like at least a thirty car pileup. They just guessed they could go around it, but they couldn't. So Eddy's dad, since he was in the army, called an army buddy up and asked if he could send a helicopter to pick up their car and fly them over the mess. At least twenty minutes later the helicopter arrived and took them over the crash. They made it home safely and the next day Brett and Eddy told all their friends about their day. It was a happy week!

## The Space Ride!

Trevor Delaney, Grade 4, Rio, Creative Writing - Picture 3

Have you ever broke the speed of light or lifted into space or went to a new planet? Well, this is my story... My mom took me to some random fair somewhere. I saw a ride called the Seismic Boom. It looked like a whirlwind. I pleaded to my mom to let me go on the ride. I needed 5 tickets to ride the spinning and flipping ride, but we only had 3. I took \$3 from my wallet so I could buy 2 more tickets for the ride. I stepped in line and waited for 7 agonizing minutes. It felt like forever; my legs were turning into jelly. Finally, thank God, I got to get on to the ride of a lifetime. It smelled highly of old, moldy, rotten barf and looked like a UFO from all the space fairy tale stories. When it started, it sounded like a fingernail on a chalkboard screeching and a pulsing sound that made my ear drums drum extra, extra loud. When the sound stopped, the ride was covered by a TV screen that showed space. Suddenly, the TV vanished and I saw the world around me spin like I was in a whirlwind tornado in the middle of an amusement park. All of the sudden, I heard a sonic boom ripping through the air like a sword through tissue paper and it was LOUD! I looked around. Where was everybody? I looked down. I bumped my head on a transparent wall. I tried again and again, but finally, I gave up. So, I stood up and looked around the ride. It looked like it did when I got on the ride. When a light that was red turned yellow and finally green, I decided to jump to see what it would do. Instead of going back down to the floor, I started to float. I felt weightless. Suddenly all of the pieces fell into place. I was in space. I always wanted to be in space alone. So, I started to goof off. I bounced from wall to wall. I started to flip around - front flip, back flip, inward flip, and reverse flip. It felt great to be free from parents, and able to goof off without getting yelled at. Although I missed my family, it felt nice to get some alone time. After what felt like forever, but was only five minutes, I felt the ride start to descend. A minute later, I fell to the ground. OW! I hit the ground hard. I think I bruised my back and smashed my funny bone on the chair that I had sat in when I got on the ride. A minute, later I heard a clank. I heard a carny push a button, and the door fell with a loud clunk. I saw my mom. I jumped down and ran to my mom and screamed, "THAT WAS AWESOME!"



## THE TRANSPORTER

Cora Dunnum, Grade 4, Sauk Prairie Schools, Creative Writing – Picture 3

In our world, hidden from most people's view, there is a transporter. If you want to find out facts about the transporter, you better listen.

My mom was trying to make me take a nap. You know how moms are, always making sure they win the fight. Finally, I thought about the transporter, because I had gone on an adventure before with the transporter. I pretended to give in. Of course, I would NOT tell my mom about the transporter.

Anyway, she wouldn't believe me. I went upstairs, closed the door, and turned on my air cleaner. The first reason I did this is because I do it whenever I sleep. My second reason is, hopefully, she won't hear me.

I started to do the dance – backwards, forwards, then backwards again. Then the dance changes – left, right, left, right, right. You do the dance seven times to a certain music, but I don't know what the song is called.

When I finished the dance, the transporter appeared in its lazy way. The transporter reached the ceiling of my bedroom. Half of the transporter is a mossy green, and the other half is a bright red color.

Then I heard my mom, her voiced filled with anger, "Cora! You were supposed to be asleep an hour ago. Why aren't you asleep?" As soon as mom looked in my room, the transporter flickered off, so I was the only one who knew about it. Leaving mom thinking that it was only a trick on her eyes. The transporter was MY SECRET! But now I was in trouble with my mom.

"Cora," my mom said in her serious voice, "You need to take a nap," she said under her breath.

"Okey Dokey," I said in my sweetest voice.

"Don't play innocent with me," my mom grumbled.

Wow, this is very serious. "Sorry," I said, trying to make up for playing innocent. I got on my bed.

When Mom left, I counted to ten, just to be safe. Then I crawled out of bed and tiptoed to the transporter. I felt wind on my face as my bedroom vanished from view.

## Picture #4







## Squeak the Squirrel



Mara Myers, Grade 4, Adams-Friendship, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Once upon a time there was a little squirrel named Squeak. He was a little one at the time, but he wanted to go and explore out into the world. He wanted to go somewhere particular though. The Northern Oak Tree. His grandpa lived there, the wisest squirrel ever known to him. He packed a few nuts and stuffed them in his cheeks and combed his bushy tail, drank some water from the watering hole, and then he was off. He went down the trail that two-legged creatures hike on, and then heard something that sounded like heavy footsteps. He quickly climbed the nearest birch tree and spied on what was below him. A doe and a fawn. He sighed and said “I have set out for this trip and all I get is a harmless deer and her baby.” Hearing Squeak, the deer and the fawn ran away jumping in alert. “Yup, quite an adventure.” And Squeak climbed down the Birch and continued his journey to his grandpa’s house. He walked halfway to the nearest oak tree and drank some water from a small watering hole. “Ah” he said. He scurried up the tree and rested on a low branch. In the distance, he spotted a very tiny speck of light in a tree. It was almost sundown, so he thought it was just a firefly. He shrugged and scratched his shoulder with his ticklish bushy tail. He picked some comfy oak leaves for a blanket and some bark for a pillow. He cuddled up in his leaves and fell fast asleep. During the night he had a nightmare about losing his nuts and dying of starvation. He jerked awake, breathing heavily. “Oh, just a dream.” He picked some new acorns and stuffed them in his mouth. He grabbed some string left on the trail from the two-legged creatures and tied the blanket and pillow to his back. Then all of a sudden, the spark of light showed up again, and it was morning. So, it was not a firefly. Thinking this, Squeak grabbed a twig for a walking stick and set off to the spark of light. When he got there, the spark of light was a window in a tree trunk. Squeak walked around the trunk and right in front of the window, an old squirrel showed up staring at Squeak. The squirrel smiled and came out a hidden door in the trunk. He came and hugged Squeak. Then when Squeak found out who it was, he said “Grandpa N.F.!” and hugged him back. Then, they went inside grandpa’s stump house and asked him if he could have something to drink. The grandpa nodded and went to his cupboard and pulled out some glasses of water. Squeak ate some peanuts for a snack and patted his grandpa’s pet beetle. He looked up at the wooden walls and saw old pictures of his ancestors. He chuckled and smiled at his grandfather. Now he knew that this is his home.

## Me and My Acorn

Alice Davies, Grade 3, Baraboo, Creative Writing – Picture 4

I was scurrying up a hill on a Sunday morning. I had just run away from a wolf and just crossed the busiest highway ever. Plus, a boxer dog was about to tackle me. What a dangerous life for a squirrel!

But now I came for what I wanted, the best thing in the world - my world winning acorn. I buried it at the top of this hill...I call it, "Hill the Big". I went to my place, the only tree on Hill the Big. Now, right by it I buried my precious acorn. I started digging. But it wasn't there. I asked my cousin Chippy (he's a chipmunk), he should know where to find it. Chippy said, "Maybe a blue bird took it?" I thanked him, but it couldn't be a blue bird. Chippy scurried away.

I was worried. So, I did what I always do, I yelled, "Whoooo Toook My Acoooooorrrnnn!" Then a deer – a fawn – walked up to me. "Hello little squirrel." "I'm big!" I reminded the fawn. "Whatever," said the fawn. "I heard this horrible squeaky cry, I wondered who did that, and I guess it was you, so here you go." The fawn handed me the beautiful acorn. And it was mine! "That's mine! You found it. Where?" The fawn smiled. "Right by a chipmunk's nest. The chipmunk said his name was Chippy. He said he found this acorn. Bye!" The fawn ran away. I was freaked out. Chippy! How dare he! I demanded revenge.

First I thought of the revenges I could use: take one of his acorns, or I could... well I'm not really sure. So I decided to take an acorn. Time to play: HIDE AND CRY. I quietly walked on two legs and arrived at Chippy's house at about 5:06. He was taking two acorns and hitting them on a rock. I stayed out of his little hut and began searching for acorns around the little hut. I found one... but it wasn't very special looking. I kept looking. But my search ended when my horrible feet stepped on a thin stick that was hidden under the grass. I quickly looked at Chippy looking at me. His mouth opened wide. "Squeak?! What are you doing?" asked Chippy. I gulped. "Well... um... I think... you see... YOU STOLE MY ACORN!!" "What? What acorn?" "You know, that big, fat, crunchy, juicy acorn!" "Oh, that one," "Yes that one!" Chippy had a tear. He looked at me with those huge, cute eyes. I was helpless. He then said, "That acorn was my acorn, you stole it without knowing, and I took it back! Oh Squeak!" I made a groaning noise. "Well now who gets it?! Me?!" Chippy shook his head. "You can have it, Squeak 'cause I know I hid it in a horrible place, and you deserve it... I don't need it." I was horrified for some reason. "Oh no you can have it. I was a little mean and selfish. I am really sorry Chippy. You really need it." "Well maybe..." "We can share it!" "Yes!" said Chippy. "That's a great idea. Here, I'll cut it..." Chippy gave me half of the acorn. "Thanks Chips, but there's one more thing I need to tell you." Chippy looked up as he was about to bite his half of the acorn. "What?" he asked. "This acorn is Chippy," I said.

## The Quest for Hope

Kennadi Snow, Grade 4, Baraboo, Creative Writing – Picture 4

One sunny day in Salem, Oregon two friends, Daphne a squirrel and Hope a worm, were playing a game of catch with a ping pong ball. Daphne was an amazing pitcher. On the other hand Hope wasn't the best at pitching. It was Hope's turn to throw. 1, 2, 3 out of the tail of Hope. She threw too hard. The ping pong ball went into the woods. As a kind friend Daphne went into the woods to fetch the ball. When she came back Hope was gone. That is when Daphne started the quest for Hope.

She gathered all the squirrels who lived in those woods. About twenty including Daphne in all. They all went to the nearest train station. Then hopped on a train to San Francisco to look for Hope.

One woman on the train known as Mrs. Mamba ran around screaming for help. The waiter came to the rescue. Mrs. Mamba said "I am extremely afraid of squirrels. Get them off this train immediately." The waiter did as he was told. We were all kicked off the train like we were criminals.

We didn't mind getting off the train. It was our stop anyway. Rich people with shiny handbags and designer clothes zipped passed us. All the squirrels plus Daphne screeched as heels stepped on their tails. After we couldn't take it anymore us brave squirrels caught a plane to Dallas, Texas.

Oh what a wonderful ride it was. Many people don't respect squirrels but on that ride we were waited like we were kings and queens.

After we got off the train I gathered everyone into a group. I told them "food will be scarce. Our main goal right now is to find food. Everyone split up and look." Daphne was the first to find food. It was a walnut. Right before she took a bite she heard a faint scream. It was from inside the walnut. She peeled it open and found Hope inside. Everyone celebrated.

When they got home all the squirrels except Daphne went back into the woods. Daphne and Hope went into a beautiful Log Cabin and had some hot vegetable soup.

## **The Bear and The Squirrel**

Jordan Landvatter, Grade 3, Fall River, Creative Writing – Picture 4

There once was a squirrel that was trying to get fat like a bear for hibernation. So, he ate a lot of nuts and berries and it was three days before hibernation. The bear was also trying to get fat so he was looking for food when he ran into the squirrel. The squirrel ran and ran and then ran up a tree but the bear could climb trees too, but not as fast as the squirrel. The squirrel backed up but he did not know he was going towards the end of a branch. He fell into a pile of leaves which saved his life. He ate all the leaves and he got huge and the bear was scared of him and ran away but running away from bear had taken squirrel far away from his nest. It took squirrel three days to find his nest, just in time for hibernation. When it was spring, squirrel woke up. He was skinny again but he sort of liked being big because he could scare off predators.

## **Freddy and Loopy**

Taylor Raley, Grade 3, Fall River Schools, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Once there was a boy named Freddy Jones. He had an unusual talent to talk to squirrels. One day he met a squirrel named Loopy. They were best friends but Freddy's mom found out and said they could not be together for the whole month of December! So Loopy gathered 10,000 nuts and ate them because of his anger. He got so fat he could not fit in his den. So, by the end of December he was still fat. Freddy went to help him. Freddy suggested doing *Squirrels Biggest Loser*. So Loopy did as Freddy said. The next week he got the *Squirrels Biggest Loser* t-shirt. It was green and pink, Loopy's two favorite colors. Two days later, the day he went to *Squirrels Biggest Loser*, Loopy put on his t-shirt and said goodbye to Freddy and told Freddy to watch him on T.V. Freddy promised to watch and said goodbye too. Two months later Loopy came home to Freddy. He was skinny again! Freddy was so happy to see Loopy that they spent the whole day together. They went to a restaurant named Squirrels Night Out to get nuts, watched *Dog Days* the movie, took a squirrel bath, got their pajamas on, and went to bed. The next morning they had another fun day. One month later their friendship was all back together and they lived happily ever after.

## **Mr. Squirrel Finds a Home!**

Dana Anderson, Grade 3, Lodi, Creative Writing – Picture 4

One beautiful autumn day Mr. Squirrel was gathering nuts for winter, when he returned, his home was gone! “Where did all of my things go?” Mr. Squirrel wondered. “I saw it being cut down by a big man with a saw and he took everything.” Said Cream Puff. When Mr. Squirrel looked up he saw a big husky standing in front of him! He froze in fear and softly muttered, “D-d-d dog!” After a while he was fine as he rode on the husky’s back. “My name is Cream Puff and I can help.” Not far from his house Mr. Squirrel found himself in a big cabin with big pictures and lots of nice things. He was sitting next to a fireplace. Now Mr. Squirrel is Cream Puff’s best friend!

## **A Cute Squirrel but Hungry**

Cole Barton, Grade 3, Montello, Creative Writing – Picture 4

The squirrel was so cute. He was also hungry. He loved to eat grass. The squirrel grew bigger every time he ate. If he kept eating like this he would run out of grass. He realized he was going to run out of grass so he went to ask his friend for advice. His friend said there is grass over by the pond. On his way there he saw a frog and a duck. He said, “Hi.” Then they said, “Hi.” Then he saw the pond. There was a bunch of grass. He started to eat again. Then he realized he should stop because he might get too big and he might run out of grass. He went back home, but he always returned to the pond to eat grass!

## **High Wire Love**

Leah Konieczki, Grade 4, Wautoma, Creative Writing – Picture 4

“Ahhhhhh!” Bob yelled as he got zapped with electricity. Bob loved to play on the phone wires. One day Bob got shocked so he had to go to the squirrel hospital. At the hospital Bob met a lovely nurse named Amy. Amy was kind and loving. When Bob got out of the hospital Amy and Bob went on a date. On their first date Bob gave Amy flowers. On the second date Amy said, “Bob we’re over.”

Bob was very sad. For days and days and days Bob thought and thought about how to get Amy back. Then it hit him. A nut hit him. He thought I will give Amy some nuts. So that is what he did. He said, “Amy will you marry me?” The ring was 24 nuts. The wedding day came and for cake they had nuts instead. So Bob was happy and his wife Amy was happy.

## Jackie's Attack

Abby Kaiser, Grade 3, Pardeeville, Creative Writing – Picture 4

One afternoon, Ashlee and Jackie were taking a walk in the woods and they met a squirrel. "Hi, little squirrel, how are you today?" "Jackie, you do know squirrels can't talk." "Yes, I do know that!" They decided to name the squirrel. "How about Squirt?" "No, how about Joey?" "Yes!" Jackie said.

So they decided to name him Joey. The next day Ashlee and Jackie were walking in the woods when Jackie accidentally stepped on Joey's tail. Joey attacked Jackie and broke her nose. "Oh, no! My nose!"

They went back into Jackie's playhouse and Ashlee tried to make it better. "I'm going to fix it!" "How do you know that?" "Because I'm going to be doctor when I grow up." "Fine, I'll trust you." Ashlee put a piece of tape on it and she said, "There, now it will heal in two hours."

Two hours later Jackie called Ashlee to come over and look at her nose. "It still looks broken," Ashlee said. "Let's not tell my mom and dad." "I'm going to fix it this time with this extra heavy tape." It didn't work.

"Let's tell my parents now!" So they went to tell her parents. They said, "Oh my gosh, let's go to the hospital!" When they got to the hospital, the doctor put a cast on Jackie's nose and it healed in five weeks. "Thank you so much!" Then they went home and all ate pizza.

## Is This an Egg?

Abby Klink, Grade 3, Poynette, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Once there was a squirrel named Snickers. Snickers was small, brown-eyed, cute, and determined. Snickers lived in Caranwo Forest.

Once Snickers was walking on the ground searching for mushy leaves. Snickers was over by the big, old oak tree when an acorn fell. Snickers thought the acorn was an egg. Snickers was adventurous, so he wanted to deliver the "egg" to his friend, Mother Bird.

Snickers tried to climb up the tree to get to Mother Bird, but the tree was too mossy. When Snickers realized he couldn't get up the tree, he went to the goose pond. While at the pond, Snickers waited for the geese to be done swimming, hoping they would swoop him and the "egg" up. It worked! The geese swooped Snickers and the "egg" up and took him to the very top of the big, old oak tree.

While on top of the big, old oak tree, Snickers went to Mother Bird's nest. When Snickers got to the nest, he laid the "egg" in the nest where Mother Bird was lying. Mother Bird then gave the "egg" a vigorous nudge. She then lifted her eyes from the "egg" and gave Snickers the are-you-kidding-me-this-is-an-acorn-not-an-egg look. Snickers then slapped his right front paw to his forehead. Snickers then took the acorn home and ate it.

Seriously, squirrels really need to go to school.

## New Hope

Caris Lowe, Grade 4, Pardeeville, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Once there was a squirrel named Teal, he wasn't like the other squirrels at all. Teal had purple fur and blue eyes. None of the other squirrels liked him. So he went out in search of a friend.

Teal was walking by a stream when he heard a noise. It sounded like "Thiff," the mysterious noise said again. Teal was frightened! He hid behind a tree and kept peeking left and right to see if anybody was there.

"Hi," another squirrel said happily. "AH," Teal shouted. He didn't know whether to run or scream for help. So he stayed there frozen with his eyes shut tight. Teal opened one eye and asked, "Who are you?" "I'm Alex," answered Alex. Teal opened his other eye, "I'm Teal," greeted Teal.

Alex asked, "Want to be friends?" "Yeah, sure," Teal answered. "Great! Let's play a game," Alex said. "What game?" Teal asked. "Hmm...How about Tree Climber?" Alex asked. "Sure," Teal answered. So off they went playing a game that Teal didn't even know how to play. Alex shouted, "Oh! But first you've got to meet my friends!" "Then let's go," said Teal.

Once Alex and Teal got to Alex's friends, Teal was surprised, "Oh my! These guys are just like me!" "Yep. Their mother is queen of all squirrels! Her name is Queen Anna, and she is visiting a king named King Cetile," Alex explained. "Awesome," Teal said.

The next day Alex and Teal went to the pond for a swim. Alex asked, "Do you even know your mom Teal?" "No," Teal responded in a whisper. He put his head down and got out of the pond. Alex followed him. "Do you want to come with me to the summer parade?" Alex asked. "Sure," Teal answered.

At two pm the next day, the summer parade was about to begin. Teal and Alex's friends were sitting by a tree on a blanket. Teal was amazed at how different their parade was from the one back home! Once the parade started, Teal saw the marching band go by. Soon two squirrels blew two golden trumpets. A woman stepped out of behind a curtain that was on a float. The woman turned her head each way. When she looked at Teal and started crying for no reason.

After the summer parade, that woman came running towards Teal. "Teal! Teal!" the woman screamed. "What?" Teal answered. "I'm your mother! Queen Anna," said Queen Anna. "You don't look familiar at all," Teal said doubting her. "I know...but I also know I am the only squirrel to have a squirrel with purple fur and blue eyes," Queen Anna explained. "You have to have my birth mark though," Teal said. "I-I do. See?" Queen Anna showed him the same birth mark. "Mom," Teal said. He started crying and crying. Teal hugged his mom and said, "I love you". And they lived together for the rest of their lives.

## **Kenny**

Gretchen Georgeson, Grade 3, Portage, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Once there was a squirrel named Kenny. Now Kenny wasn't any ordinary squirrel. You see, when Kenny was a young squirrel, scientists "adopted" him from the outside world. The scientists did a test on him. The test was to see if the hamster shampoo they had formed irritates the squirrel. The scientists put Kenny in the zoo so others could see the results of the shampoo.

One breezy evening Kenny broke out of his cage. Down the rickety road he went. Kenny fell asleep in a tree. The next morning he was strapped on a chair. Kenny was confused when a raccoon came into the room and started talking to him. The raccoon had said his name is John Crawford and they would be turning him into a secret agent. Kenny agreed and paw-printed some papers. Finally, they shot a laser at him to give him spy powers. After he was shot by the spy-laser, John had let him sleep in a memory-foam bed. He had slept for one week!

When Kenny awoke, John tested to see if the laser had accomplished transforming Kenny into an agent. He could walk on walls, fly, he could even run 200 miles per SECOND! He was officially an agent!

The next day Kenny had his first assignment. Kenny was thrilled! The assignment was to stop his new enemy, Harold the Hamster, from cutting down all the trees in Carol Park. Kenny was on his way. He landed and saw Harold with a remote that said Giant Ax. The moment Kenny saw this, he broke into action. Kenny kicked the device, having it fly in the air. The device had landed in Carol Rd, near Carol Park. It had been run over by an F150 that had 11 boats on a giant trailer. Kenny called the cops on his squirrel phone, and Harold the hamster had been sent off. The rest of Kenny the squirrel's assignments are left unknown.

## **The Stealing Squirrel**

Aubrey Benish, Grade 3, Rio, Creative Writing – Picture 4

It all happened in my backyard last night. There was a squirrel. We had some problems with the squirrels. This squirrel was stealing our nuts! He decided to stroll around the house. Then he spotted our bags of nuts. He was stealing our nuts ever since last night. I didn't know what to do!

I had some ideas but they all involved hurting the squirrel and I didn't want to do that.

"What should I do?" I asked my mom. "What should I do?"

We didn't know what to do without hurting him. It was a tough decision. Then later we came up with a great idea. We would hide the nuts in a different place. I ran to tell Mom. She thought it was a wonderful idea too.

So that night we went and hid the nuts in a different spot. We waited until the next morning to look. I was so excited to see if it would work. The next morning we looked and it had worked. After that day we never saw that stealing squirrel again.

## Luscious Green Bushy Tail

Marianna Neitzel, Grade 4, Portage, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Yawn! It was bright in the early morning of the Northern area of Wisconsin. Kate had been waiting patiently for so long for the moment of being home. For her ancestors were born here, right in the very place her bare feet had been planted. Now, she had been one that never knew of this exciting place. Though she was living with a mother and father as an adopted child, sadly they were separated in a harsh storm...

She had been walking a dog for her neighbors across the hall in the hotel they were staying at when a storm came. In the storm, she and the dog were broke apart as the leash slipped from her hand.

Kate snuck on board an old train to escape from the storm. This was the same train in which she had rode to where her real mother and father used to live. She never really knew them... still, she had loved them when she was young until tragedy struck.

They were wise, yet old enough to be known as the Indian chiefs and leaders to be looked upon through centuries to come. Yet, she had hope in finding home. She was needed in the small Indian village that loved the squirrels as much as she did. It still was 1763 and her tribe was still watching the thing known as civilization grow like weeds.

If you thought she was a white girl, you are still not understanding that she was the daughter of the great Indian chief that once roamed the land like a tiger on the prowl. There had been legends to the place where she stood on the mossy colored plants that grew on the low ground before her, and of the deep blue sky above her, but most importantly... the squirrels. For she came home for a good reason... for the last white squirrel was back.

She had no one as a child when her parents passed, accept for the squirrel. Now, this was no ordinary squirrel, but the legendary white squirrel. That animal was her friend that taught her many things the Indian didn't know at the time.

"Crunch, crunch!"

Kate turned, "Who's there?" she said strongly. "Come out! I, I..." Kate picked up a stick, "Uuuhh... have a stick." Kate shouted as her lip quivered with fear.

"Crunch, crunch!"

"Hhhuuu," Kate gasped. There before her was the one and only endangered, rare, white... squirrel. The one from the unstudied legends! Kate spoke under her breath, "The white squirrel!" Her only friend left!

"Bang, bang, boom!" Gunpowder blocked her vision. Her legs began to crumble like a cookie. The white squirrel raced to her, then her vision went black. The last thing she heard before the darkness surrounded her and made herself collapse were... "I'm here."

So this wasn't the end, but the time to begin...

## Super Squirrel

Meara McEvelly, Grade 4, Poynette, Creative Writing – Picture 4

On a drizzling, humid day in May, a lively chipmunk scurried through some tall, bristly weeds. He paused by the pond and sipped for a while, then pounced on a lily pad and soon another. A startled toad and a tiny frog floated on a nearby one.

A paper sailboat streamed by the caffeinated chipmunk. He shrieked, then was captured by a butterfly net and a giant! The boy seemed like a monster, but was really only six. A red squirrel was harvesting peanuts. She perked up her small, scarlet ears. The squirrel thrust herself out the oak tree and soared into the sky! She caught herself on a lily pad in the pond before sinking it. She paddled through the mushy, green muck. A moment later she was wound up in a butterfly net with a freaked-out chipmunk, and a lumpy, bumpy toad plus a tiny frog that was clinging to the spider-webby rope. "HEEEELP!" they squealed and croaked. A mild-mannered gray squirrel froze. His tasty walnut was millimeters away from his fuzzy lips. "HEEEELP!" His excellent ears heard danger! The rodent scrambled into a nearby oak tree. The newborn leaves swayed while he quickly jumped on a huge wooden branch. The wooly squirrel looked below and saw the crime.

This looks like a job for . . . . Super Squirrel! His pink rose-petal cape waved in the wind. His acorn-top beanie could fly him to safety and to danger. His sidekick Wonder Squirrel was . . . . tied up in a butterfly net! WHHHIIRRR! Super Squirrel pounced toward the wispy, feathery cirrus clouds, then activated his beanie. It hovered him down to the lily pads and soon he used it to saw the net to save the helpless victims. They plopped down on the lily pad and Wonder and Super Squirrel beat their bushy tails on the crisp, refreshing water like an engine to move it. One year later . . . . a brownie-colored chipmunk had discovered a ripe, green walnut. His chubby cheeks were millimeters away from the crunchy nut. Suddenly he heard a cry for help! Super Squirrel was trapped in a backpack! This looks like a job for . . . . Colossal Chipmunk!

## **The Small Watermelon**

Emma Rockweiler, Grade 3, Reedsburg, Creative Writing – Picture 4

One day I was walking in my grandma and grandpa's woods. My dog Riley needed to go on a walk so I decided to go get him. When my dog and I were in the woods, I remembered my mom's tree stand. My dog and I walked through the crinkling leaves and found my mom's tree stand. I heard a noise coming through the hole in the tree stand.

My dog started to bark at the noise. I started to climb up the ladder to the top of the tree stand and guess what I saw? It was an adult squirrel eating something small and green. It looked like a small watermelon.

My dog saw it too and decided that he should start to bark. So you are probably thinking he scared the squirrel away but he didn't. The squirrel was too busy eating the small green looking watermelon. My dog and I kept looking at the squirrel and then an idea popped into my head. My idea was to name the squirrel. I named him Todd. Then my dog and I went home and then my grandparents asked me what I did today and I said it's a long story.

## **The Cute Squirrel**

Jenna Urben, Grade 3, Reedsburg, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Once upon a time there lived a cute squirrel. The cute squirrel's name was Lilly. She was a happy squirrel and she was silly too. She is royal to her friends and kind to everyone. Lilly is smart and she knows every problem in the world.

But one stormy night a kitten and a puppy were lost in the woods. They were scared. But suddenly Lilly looked out of her home she saw those animals out there sleeping in the cold rain. So Lilly walked up she said are you two cold? Then she said I'll take care of you from now on.

So Lilly raised them as her own. Lilly named the kitten Jessica and the puppy Jackson. Lilly was happy that she found them. They were in a family. They lived happily ever after.

## Twiggy's Adventure

Sarah Hagenow, Grade 4, Rio, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Once there was a squirrel named Twiggy. He absolutely loved adventure. He was out one fall afternoon working with his older sister, Twitchy, to help build their winter nest. In Twiggy's mind, Twitchy was bossy and sassy. All she did was worry about boys and spend her time at the mall, but he still loved her as a sister.

Twiggy was so exhausted when they were done building their nest, he fell asleep before he could eat his dinner. Twiggy woke up in his tree. He poked his head out of the knotty hole. Everything looked scorched and burned as if a massive forest fire had just happened. It was dark and gloomy. He poked his head back in. He looked around for Twitchy, but she was nowhere to be found. Twiggy felt very lonely. His home looked dull and uninviting. He scurried down the hard, lifeless maple and set out to find out where everyone was.

As he was walking, he heard rustling behind a scorched bush. Twiggy jumped and ran as fast as his legs could carry him. When he got to the nearest tree, he climbed it quickly. This tree too, was hard and lifeless. "Are all trees this way?" Twiggy said to himself. "Hello?" A voice? It was low. The figure popped out of the bush. It was a gray rabbit. Did he know this rabbit? It looked familiar. Twiggy quickly scurried down the tree. "Twiggy is that you?" It was his friend, Harold! "Harold, I'm so glad to see you!" Twiggy said. "Where are we?" "I don't know," said Harold. Now, Twiggy was not as lonely, but he was still afraid.

They came to a lake as black as coal. "I think I've heard of this lake", said Harold. "It has the deadliest lake monsters." "OK, then let's not even look at it," said Twiggy in a shaky voice. All of a sudden, a sea serpent jumped out of the lake. "RUN!" Harold screamed. The serpent was long and green. It had long, pointy teeth. SNAP! The serpent was gone. "Harold, are you OK?" yelled Twiggy. He ran over to Harold. "Yeah I-I'm OK," said Harold. Twiggy gasped. Harold's tail was gone and the spot where it had been was bleeding. "No you aren't!", said Twiggy in a very worried voice. All of a sudden, the field started on fire. And, and...

"Twiggy, wake up!". Twiggy jumped. It was Twitchy! "What happened? Where were you?" Twiggy was so confused. "I was right here. What are you talking about?" said Twitchy. Twiggy had to think for a moment. Twiggy needed to go right now and see Harold. He scurried down his tree. Everything was green and fresh. the grass was soft and lush. When Twiggy got to Harold's, he was there and he did have a tail. "Harold, you have a tail!" Twiggy said with joy. "Yeah, I do. What are you talking about?" Harold said. I must have had a dream, thought Twiggy, it was all a dream. He thought about everything on the way home. He got home and Twitchy had made dinner. It was Twiggy's favorite, acorn gumbo, mmmm. Now Twiggy was back in his warm, cozy home and he felt safe.

## **The Talking Squirrel**

Samantha Anglemyer, Grade 3, Amherst Elementary-Tomorrow River,  
Creative Writing – Picture 4

One day while I was taking a walk through the woods, I almost stepped on a squirrel eating a nut! The squirrel was all black and had almond-shaped eyes.

All of a sudden, the squirrel started yelling at me. The squirrel said, "Hey, watch it! We squirrels may be small, but we are tough."

"Okay. Just stop," I told the talking squirrel. Then, I walked away.

The next morning, I woke up to a loud banging noise. I looked at my bedroom window and saw the squirrel pounding it with his fists.

"Hey, you in there! Why is there no food out here?" the squirrel yelled.

"What?" I asked quickly.

"There is no food out here. You stole it," the squirrel said almost yelling.

When I looked out the window, there was a great surprise. Snow covered every inch of the yard. "Um, well, you see, I didn't steal it."

"You didn't steal it? What a lie!" the squirrel yelled.

"I am not lying," I replied.

"If you are not lying, then where is the food?" the squirrel demanded.

"Just leave," I told the squirrel.

"Stop changing the subject," the squirrel yelled back to me.

"I'm not," I told the squirrel. Then, I left my bedroom.

Later that night, I got an even bigger surprise. When I came down for supper, there the talking squirrel stood – right in my plate of broccoli! I didn't even know where he came from.

"No pets on the table," my mom yelled. The squirrel turned its head and started yelling at my mom about the difference between a squirrel and a pet. The talking squirrel was not a pet. Of course, I got in trouble for the talking squirrel being in the house. Luckily, I never saw that squirrel ever again!

## **My Mysterious Nut**

Jonathon Ballinger, Grade 4, Amherst Elementary-Tomorrow River,  
Creative Writing – Picture 4

Oh, no! That's the last nut that I have. Winter is almost here and I only have one nut left. I must go in search for food. Oh, I almost forgot I have one more tree full of seeds and corn. But I love nuts! I won't be able to survive the entire winter off of seeds and corn. I need more nuts! Maybe I should bury this nut and more nuts will grow. I have to do the right thing. Wait! If another squirrel finds it, they will eat it. I need to bury it in my tree house. I better hurry to get home before it is dark.

On the way home, I saw my friend Shirley out looking for food. I stopped and asked her what she was doing. She said she was out of nuts looking for more. I told her I only had one left. I said I was going to plant it and see if more nuts would grow. She asked if I could share some with her but I didn't want to give them all away.

Finally, I got home and planted my nut and fell asleep. When I awoke the next morning, my nut had sprouted and I had enough food for the winter. I was the happiest squirrel in the world!

## The Squirrel

Morganne Slaght, Grade 4, Trinity Lutheran School, Creative Writing – Picture 4

“Zoom!” I darted across the tree limb. I am a cool, clean, cute squirrel and my name is Sparky. I am as skinny as a nut and can climb trees to find acorns. I live in the woods and sometimes I visit the park. One beautiful summer day I went there because I was so hungry.

I searched and searched under the trees. The trees were as tall as the Twin Towers. Each trunk had big, black, beautiful bark. But there were no acorns. I searched and searched some more until I found a pond with shiny water in it. I found some acorns on the shore and ran home with them to feed my babies.



The next day the sun was as bright as a spot light. I woke up because my brother poked me with an acorn stem that was as sharp as a dinosaur’s tooth. It really stung. That was not nice.

One wintry day it was snowing as if it were a blizzard. I went to the park ice ramp and slid on the slippery, sticky, slide. What a blast! The snow didn’t last long and melted away.

The snow melted and the bees and butterflies found the flowers and grass. Leaves began to grow on the trees. While gathering acorns, one of the bees started to follow me. It was so beautiful that I wanted to take it home. I knew I couldn’t because it might sting my children. I went back to feed my children.



## The Squirrel and the Magic Disk

Jadyn Sullivan, Grade 3, Wautoma, Creative Writing – Picture 4

There once was a squirrel. He lived in a park in Washington He was in his tree hoe, one March day. He was chanting sayings. Fox peeked from her den. She saw squirrel and leaped into his tree hole. “Hi , Squirrel.” She said cautiously. Squirrel handed her a bottle of purple bubbly liquid.” Test it, Fox.” Fox sipped. She immediately spit it out. “That is the most sourest thing I’ve ever tasted!” she sputtered. “Good. The potion is supposed to be sour.” Squirrel said. He opened a slit on an old, rusty metal transporter. He put a drop of the potion in the slit. Bing! It powered up! He put an acorn on the transporter. He pressed a button. Fox watched in amazement as the acorn fizzed into blue particles. Then, on the viewer (a part that views the item) showed an acorn in the middle of the desert! “Ok, now it’s our turn, but I have to show you some things.” Squirrel pulled down a tv screen. It showed a comet – headed straight for earth! And this,” squirrel said, pulling a big cement disk, “Will save the world. It will stop the comet from smashing North America to bits. Now we have to transport to Mongolia. Jump on!” They both stood on it. Squirrel pressed the button, and soon they were in the desert! The acorn was by squirrel’s tail. He went to pick it up, and an eagle swooped and took it! “Oh –no!” squirrel yelled. He saw the eagle drop it down the top of the pyramid, then fly away. “Hurry! The comet gets closer every few minutes!” After fifteen minutes of running in hundred degree heat, they finally found the pyramid- but thousands of steps ahead! Squirrel did an eagle call, And two eagles came to pick them up! The eagles dropped them into the pyramid. In it was hundreds of eagles and a creepy statue. “Welcome to the eagle temple.” the statue boomed. “One of my eagles stole your precious disk. Complete quests to get it back.” The statue rotated and pointed at a door. “Enter.” It said. They entered. To their surprise, the statue was right there. “Here is your first quest: avoid traps and pick that flower over there. Then give it to me. “ the statue said. “ Ok. Easy enough.” Squirrel said. He took a step. Crash! The tile below him fell! He jumped to another. And another. And another. He finally was on the pillar with the flower growing on it. He tugged on the flower and then leaped across the gaps, landing with a thud. He gave the flower to the statue. A crystal eagle head gained gold color just a little.

When it fills all the way up the earth is saved. After about forty-eight quests later, the eagle head had about one drop left. “Climb the rocks and put the disk in the slit.” The statue said. Squirrel climbed them. At the top, he was losing grip, but he grabbed the disk and put it in the slit! Outside, the comet turned around and went back to space. “ Thank you.” the statue said, handing them a baby eagle and a bag of golden acorns- tasty and pricey. Then they transported back home, relieved.

## What Happened?

Jaina Koerner, Grade 4, Wautoma, Creative Writing – Picture 4

One day Chad was at school. He had gone outside for recess and was hanging around his friends. “Hey, let’s throw a rock at that squirrel!” said Chad. Chad picked up a small pebble. “Batter up!” Chad said throwing the rock at the squirrel. Once it hit the squirrel, the squirrel was knocked out. His friends ran because the teacher was coming. Chad was too busy laughing to notice that the teacher was coming. Once the teacher got there, Chad froze. “Chad you threw a rock at that squirrel and now you will know how it feels. Have fun!” said the teacher. “What do you mean by that?” asked Chad. Then by the time the teacher walked away Chad got hit in the head with a rock. “Oww!” Chad yelled, tons of rocks hitting his head. He tried to run away, but it was hard with rocks hitting Chad’s head. He felt really dizzy, and then he was knocked out.

When Chad woke up he felt small. He looked at his hands, and they were fluffy with claws. “Ahh!” Chad screamed, rubbing his body to see if he was fluffy all over. He was. Chad saw a nut. He started to have a craving for nuts. Chad walked over to the nut. He picked up the nut and looked around. He saw his friends and himself standing on the playground. Chad realized he was in the past. He saw himself pick up the rock and throw it. Chad ran a little bit. He looked again, and he saw himself laughing. His friends were running away. He started crying. Chad saw what he had been doing to that poor squirrel. Chad saw another rock barreling toward him. Chad closed his eyes and BONK. He got knocked out. He woke up in the nurse’s office at school with an ice pack on his head. Chad walked out and went to class with a tear in his eye as he remembered how much pain he caused the squirrel.

## **Bucky the Squirrel**

Traci Frohmader , Grade 4, Wisconsin Dells, Creative Writing – Picture 4

Once there was a little squirrel named Bucky. Bucky loved the romp around singing, “Nuts, nuts, I love nuts, nuts make me go nuts!” Everyone in the forest disliked his cheery melody.

One fine fall morning, Bucky was out collecting nuts. He was humming a catchy tune. Nobody listened, they just went working.

In late fall, Bucky was burying his delicious nuts. He started sobbing, “Bye-bye nuts I will never forget you lovely taste.”

The forest of animals rolled their eyes and said together, “When will you learn to stop sobbing to your acorns, Bucky?”

Bucky just stared at them in surprise and said, “It’s just my way. Can you guys not see that?” All of the animals cracked up.

“That is hilarious, Bucky,” a turtle said. All of a sudden, as fast as lighting, all of the animals got back to work as if nothing happened. Bucky started to giggle then he giggled louder, then he laughed, and then out of nowhere a condor swooped and just missed Bucky. Bucky scampered back to his hollow in a birch tree. He was very frightened.

In the middle of the night Bucky woke up freezing out of his mind. Bucky rubbed his eyes and yawned. He stood up and peeked out of the hollow and saw that it was snowing. “Oh me, oh my, it is snowing!!”

Robert the raccoon declared to the snow, “Hey you fluffy stuff, yes you snow! You go back where you came from I’m not ready for my winter coat.”

In the morning, there was at least a foot of snow on the ground. During the night Bucky was still burying acorns. He had to before the dirt froze. Bucky leapt down from the hollow and landed in a heap of snow. Bucky hollered out of the snow “I think it is best to stick to the trees guys.”

Soon spring came and Bucky was starved. He couldn’t find his nuts!! The other animals tried to help but they couldn’t find them either.

In mid-spring, Bucky found some acorns, but it wasn’t enough he needed more. In the afternoon he sat on a pebble, something poked his rump. He looked down and he was sitting on an acorn!

## **The Lonely Squirrel**

Peyton McLaughlin, Grade 4, Wisconsin Dells, Creative Writing – Picture 4

There once was a squirrel named Max. He lived alone in the trunk of a big maple tree. Max was a very lonely squirrel, he spent his days and nights dreaming about finding a friend. One day, Max decided to make his dream come true. He set off on a journey to find someone he could call a friend.

The first stop on Max's journey was a big red barn where Misty the cow lived. He called out "Hello, my name is Max, would you like to be my friend?"

Misty looked at Max and replied "Moo!" Not understanding what she meant, Max walked off to keep looking for a friend.

Max's next stop on his journey was a small pond. This is where Dexter the duck lived. "Hello there, would you like to be my friend?" Pausing for only a moment, Dexter finally answered with a quack. Again, Max did not know what this meant. So he walked away once more.

The last stop on Max's journey was a hot, sandy desert. This is where he saw Bob the camel. Feeling excited he shouted "Hi! My name is Max, do you want to be my friend?" Bob did not reply, he just turned and walked away. This made Max very sad; he still had not found a friend.

Max began his long trip home, however, he felt so lonely he began to cry. When he got closer to home his cries drew the attention of a squirrel named Candy. She actually lived in the tree right next to Max; so she decided to see what was wrong. Max told her all about his journey and how he still had not found a friend.

After hearing the whole story Candy told Max that she would like to be his friend. She too had been feeling lonely and would like someone to call a friend. Max was so happy he had finally found someone to share his day with. After that day, neither squirrel was lonely again. Max and Candy laughed about how close the two had always been and vowed never to be lonely again.

**2013**  
**AUGUST DERLETH TEACHERS AND COORDINATORS**

**Adams-Friendship**

Pam Bilderback-3	Teacher
Marcia Kirchner-3	Teacher
Danna Peterson-4	Teacher
Peg Werner-4	Teacher
Michelle Boquist-5	Teacher
Kelsey Hall-5	Teacher
Sue Bergstrum-6	Teacher
Roxanne Irey	Coordinator

**Baraboo**

Nick Karls-3	Teacher
Kendra Miescke-3	Teacher
Bobbi Steele-3	Teacher
Nicole Hilke-4	Teacher
Cory King-4	Teacher
Becky Rundio-4	Teacher
Bryan Ashbeck-5	Teacher
Susan Gissal-5	Teacher
Cassie Kramer-5	Teacher
Kyla Pfaff-5	Teacher
Tessa Faga-5	Teacher
Lori Mueller	Coordinator

**Fall River**

Mrs. Martin-3	Teacher
Mr. Pawlish-3	Teacher
Melissa Redeker-3	Teacher
Jim Doolittle-4	Teacher
Jennifer Buzzell-5	Teacher
Mrs. Schanke-6	Teacher
Nancy Esveld	Coordinator

**Lodi**

Laura D'Agostino-3	Teacher
Lizbeth Sokol-3	Teacher
Tiffany Loken	Coordinator

**Montello**

Mindy Roidt-3	Teacher
Mary Jane Thalacker-3	Teacher
Pam Topel-3	Teacher
Julie Dahlke-4	Teacher
Mark Hanson-5	Teacher
Jessica Barton-6	Teacher
Sue Kozlowski-6	Teacher
Pat Dwyer	Coordinator
Danielle Schneider	Coordinator

**Pardeeville**

Chelsea Koshel-3	Teacher
Lee Schroeder-3	Teacher
Andrea Achterberg-4	Teacher
Jackie Weidner-4	Teacher
Mary Kamrath	Coordinator

**Portage**

Kay Blankenheim-3/4	Teacher
Tina Brooks-3	Teacher
Lonna Calkins-3/4	Teacher
Tamara Radtke-3	Teacher
Julie Zimmerman-3/4	Teacher
Donda Daniels-4	Teacher
Fritz Hammer-4/5	Teacher
Mary Roberts-4	Teacher
Laurie Considine-5/6	Teacher
Brigette Field-5/6	Teacher
Monica Riege-5	Teacher
Criss Shaben-5/6	Teacher
Michelle Hanson-6	Teacher
Holly Kobza	Coordinator

**Poynette**

Rachel Nachreiner-3	Teacher
Paula Timmerman-3	Teacher
Sara Wagner-3	Teacher
Michelle Wallace-3	Teacher
Halley Koelsch-4	Teacher
Amy Piekarski-4	Teacher
Megan Visger-4	Teacher
Katy Milewski-5	Teacher
Sallie Spees-5	Teacher
Pam Wentz-5	Teacher
Julie Karman-6	Teacher
Mary Kennedy	Coordinator

**Reedsburg**

Patricia Hyzer-3	Teacher
Susie King-3	Teacher
Annette Putnam-3	Teacher
Matt Peetz-5	Teacher
Chris Paulson-6	Teacher
Sara Baker-6	Teacher
Linda Brunn	Coordinator

**Continued ...**

**Rio**

Sue Horsman-3	Teacher
Polly Vilstrup-3	Teacher
Tammy Black-4	Teacher
Lori Bongert-4	Teacher
Jeannie Fletcher-5	Teacher
Wendy Kearney-5	Teacher
Mark McGuire	Coordinator
Craig Vetter	Coordinator

**Sauk Prairie**

Tamara Cichanowicz-3	Teacher
Erin Eslinger -3	Teacher
Tracy Haupt-3	Teacher
Katie Trachsler-3	Teacher
Tammy Udulutch-3	Teacher
Nanette Backeberg-4	Teacher
Jennifer Coughlin-4	Teacher
Heidi Liverseed-4	Teacher
Tammy Markley-4	Teacher
Laura Hutchins-5	Teacher
Joel Liedtke-5	Teacher
Kathie Thompson-5	Teacher
Kathy Bruno	Coordinator
Cathy Stowers	Coordinator

**Amherst Elementary-Tomorrow River**

Nancy Gosh-3	Teacher
Cathy Matson-3	Teacher
Kathleen Nicholson-4	Teacher
Sarah Havens-5	Teacher
Sarah Scheuneman-5	Teacher
Beth Borgen-6	Teacher
Kimberly Zietlow	Coordinator

**Trinity Lutheran**

Enith Bailey	Coordinator
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**Wautoma**

Julie Berger-3	Teacher
Patricia Reimann-3	Teacher
Kristin Heller-4	Teacher
Tina Sikorski-4	Teacher
Julie Lotspeich-5	Teacher
Janeil Velez-5	Teacher
Crystal Bielmeier-6	Teacher
Kathy Carlson	Media Specialist
Sandi Jarvis	Coordinator

**Wisconsin Dells**

Mrs. Luebke-4	Teacher
Laura Theiler-4	Teacher
Brook Klitzke-5	Teacher
Lara Flock-6	Teacher
Cheryl Griep	Coordinator