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“Uranium” (Chapters 11, 12)



By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer
Editor's Note: Somers Middle School Eighth Graders have been writing novels during the school year for the NaNoWriMo program. The name is short for National Novel Writing Month. Nitin Seshadri, a Tusker Tribune Staffer, has been presenting his NaNoWriMo entry chapter by chapter in the Tusker Tribune. Chapters 11 and 12 of his novel, “Uranium”, appear today.

Chapter 11

It was the next day.

"Wake up, kids, bright and early. At least, on Earth it would be bright and early," another Wok said.

"Can we sleep more?" said Andrea.



"No."

"Aw man..." Andrew said as he got up from the bed.

"You need to listen to this. I'd like to tell you two something. We (the Woks) have allied with the humans and we've formed a team called the BlobBusters. With your knowledge of the Cannibals—you having seen them—you'll be an instrumental part of our plan. To obliterate the Cannibals, of course. And then we'll be out of your hair."

"So how do we join?" Andrew and Andrea said in unison.

Continued on page 5

August Discovers the Wonder of Nature



By Ashley Cambareri
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

It was an average day in Springfield, Maryland. But August was no average girl. She had a mind of her own that ran wild every chance it could get.

One day, August was walking through the woods behind her house. She loved to go back there and absorb the wonders of nature. She loved to hear the birds sing and watch the trees dance in the wind.

Her life wasn't exactly ideal. She lived in a home where nothing ever happened and her parents were always working or out of the house. She longed for a place where she was loved and could explore nature. August knew there was no such place until one day she saw a sparkle of hope that her dreams might come true.

August was walking through the woods



when suddenly she saw a hole in a tree. The hole was shimmering and seemed to be calling her. She wandered over, climbed up the ladder, and peered in the hole to find the bright world she had been dreaming of right in front of her.

She leaped in and landed in a nest of grass. August looked up and the panoramic view of nature unfolded before her. Miles and miles of colorful flowers, trees, lakes, and grass. She would run on that grass like a horse that was just freed. August couldn't believe she finally found her happy place.

She woke up to her favorite sound of the birds chirping and the wind blowing gently across her face. August decided to explore her new home. She leaped and jumped all through the grass with her wild and long blond hair soared in the wind behind her.

August was finally in a place where she was loved by nature and most importantly, she was free.

A Tusker Tribune Editorial: Braces



By Ryan Allen
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Braces are the most agitating things in the world. I would know. I just got braces and I HATE THEM!!!

When you start the application, the orthodontist will stretch your mouth to the point where your lips crack. Then they put a really weird glue on your teeth and they say if your tongue touches it, they have to restart the process.

Then when you're done and you go home, you get hungry. When you eat, if you come across hard foods like crackers, pretzels or toast, those items kill your teeth!

And then you have a really bad toothache when you go to bed. When you try and sleep, your jaw usually moves around. If you sleep on your side like me, then you constantly hurt your teeth. Then you have to go to school the next day. You wake up and you have to brush your teeth, which takes about 5 minutes. Then you have to eat, which takes another 30 minutes. Then you get to school and you don't have enough time to eat lunch. When you're at lunch you have to eat really slowly because otherwise, you can break your braces.

To be continued... *when I get the darn things taken off!*



The Colors of the World



By Lily Lima
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Life, it can be sweet or sour.
Pain and sorrow.

Joy and happiness.
The bully, the bullied.
The bystanders and the upstanders.

What is up for you can be down for them.

What you may find sweet, such as a red apple, can be sorrow filled for them.

A smile can bring joy to one's day but a fake smile, you'll never know what's behind.



The mysteries of secrets,
that may forever be kept to yourself.
Orange, represents happiness.
Smiles, laughter and good times.

The fake friends,
and the blue rain that falls on a sorrow filled day.

Being a bully to make yourself feel better,
It won't help.

But you can help make the world a better place.

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Somers Middle School
250 Route 202
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at
DPappas
@somersschools.org



The Tusker Tribune Staff
Kim Gates
Taylor Faust
Ryan Allen
Ashley Cambareri
Lily Lima
Julia Edelman
Jade Creegan
Nitin Seshadri
Eli Yates

SPORTS UPDATE



By Eli Yates
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

The first round of the NBA playoffs have started. The surprise team is the Utah Jazz, who nobody thought would make it in the beginning of the season. They made it thanks to two players—Gordon Hayward and Rudy Gobert. In the Jazz's first game of the playoffs vs the Clippers, Rudy Gobert, the star center of the Jazz, got injured and has a knee hyperextension/bone bruise. The Jazz



won that game with a buzzer beater from Joe Johnson. The Jazz have said that Gobert is practicing but won't play in game 2.

The first round of NFL playoffs have started and the New York Ranger have made it and are playing the Montreal Canadians. This past Tuesday, they won to make the series tied 2-2. And in game 2 with under 20 seconds left in the 3rd period, the Canadians scored to tie it up and then they won in overtime. The Rangers returned the favor by winning Game 5 in OT last night, 3-2. The series returns to MSG on April 22.



A Cinderella Nightmare



By Kim Gates and Taylor Faust
Tusker Tribune Staff Writers

It was a normal day when Kim and Taylor were reading a fairy tale for their book partnership. They were reading about Cinderella and her evil stepsisters. They were towards the end of the book when they were reading about the ball. Until out of nowhere, they were suddenly face to face with the storybook characters!

Kim looked to her left and saw Taylor wearing Cinderella's dress. She had transformed into Cinderella. Then, Taylor looked to her right and saw Kim but she was just some random person who had gone to the ball, too. They both looked in front of them and saw that Avery was their mean stepmother and Alisa was one of their mean stepsisters. However, their other stepsister wasn't anyone they knew—it was Anastasia, Cinderella's actual stepsister.

Kim and Taylor immediately ran to the other side of the ballroom so Avery wouldn't see them. Prince Charming saw Taylor and asked her to dance. She pretended that she wanted to and went along with it and Kim ran away as fast as she could so he wouldn't see that she was following her. They were dancing when Taylor remembered that the magic spell that their fairy godmother put her would wear off soon. Kim and Taylor ran for the doors and down the palace stairs. While they were running down the stairs Taylor remembered how the story of Cinderella went and that her glass slipper was supposed to fall off. Taylor flicked her shoe off just at the bottom of the stairs and got into her coach with Kim by her side. They both knew that the Prince would find the glass slipper they had left behind.

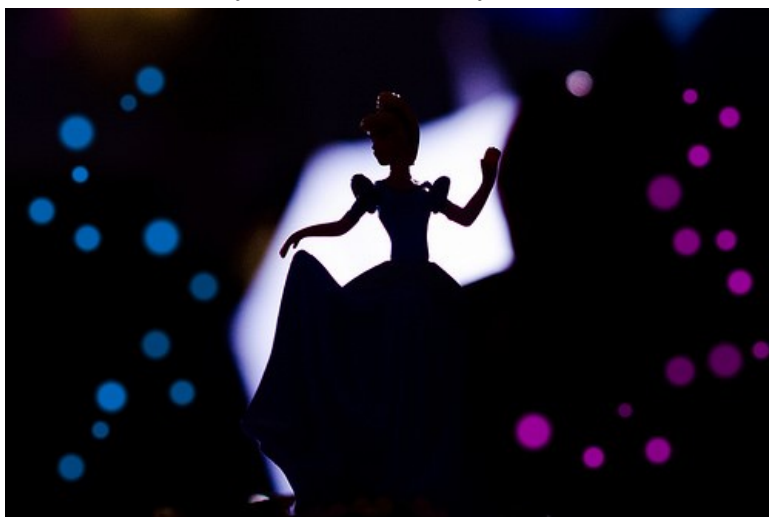
They got to Cinderella's house and Taylor walked inside in her old clothes she had been wearing before her fairy godmother had put the spell on her. Kim had to sleep and hide outside. The next morning Taylor woke up and went outside to tell Kim what happened.

"Be quiet so Avery doesn't hear you or don't talk at all," Kim told Taylor and for the first time ever, Taylor was silent. Kim was getting worried because she usually talked so much but now she had just been completely silent. She had to figure out why she had listened.

Kim commanded, "Jump on one foot," and Taylor did just that. "What's wrong with you? Why aren't you speaking to me and why are you doing everything I say? Just talk to me Taylor!"

Taylor finally started talking. "I don't know what's wrong with me, I HAVE to listen!"

Alisa came outside and Kim ran into hiding. "Taylor come inside and put my laundry away!" she demanded.



"Um... ok," she said, trying to refuse, but she couldn't. Her legs made her slowly walk inside. They knew come up with a plan on how to get out of this book and back into reality.

Later that day, Taylor snuck outside again. She had been cleaning, cooking, and doing laundry for hours and while nobody was watching, she needed to get a break.

"Hey, you snuck out?" Kim said casually

liked it was no big deal.

"Yup," Taylor responded.

"We need to figure out how to get out of this book."

"Yea, maybe we'll just pop back into reality just like we popped into this book."

"Maybe, but who knows how long we'll be in here then?"

"Looks like only time will tell. At least you get the easy part—all you have to do is lie around while I cook and clean all day! And I have to pretend that I like this Prince Charming guy!" Taylor shouted back in anger.

"Ok, I'm sorry but you know that he found your glass slipper right? And you know how the story goes—he finds the girl whose foot fits into the slipper. He's going to find you I've heard people talking," Kim said back.

"We should run away! Then he'll never be able to find me!" Taylor exclaimed.

Continued on page 4

Nightmare

From page 3

"I don't know about that. But it might be our only option. That'll mean we'll change the story," Kim said back.

"Cinderella!!" Avery shouted while running outside. Kim quickly hid behind a bush.

"Yes mother?"

"What are you doing out here when you could be making dinner and setting the table?" she demanded in disbelief.

"I'm sorry. I'll do that right now. I was just...um...enjoying the lovely weather," Taylor said running inside.

A few weeks later Kim and Taylor still hadn't built up the courage to run away. After many weeks of chores for Taylor and sleeping outside for Kim, they just wanted their old lives back. The Prince was still making his way around town, seeing who the slipper would fit and he was on his way to their house.

"What am I gonna do?" Taylor shouted at Kim worried.

"Just hope that he doesn't see you, I guess," Kim responded pessimistically.

"Yea, Avery doesn't want him to see me anyway," Taylor said as the Prince was

walking towards them. "We gotta hide!" they said in unison running behind a bush while watching the Prince walk into the house.

"Alright, I think we're good," Taylor said a few minutes after he walked inside.

"Yea, I think so," Kim responded with relief. But right as she said that, the Prince walked out and stared right at them.



"Look, here's another girl, maybe she's the one," the Prince said as a worried look swept across their faces.

"See if it fits me, first," Kim said trying to buy some time.

"Ok," He said trying to slide the slipper onto her foot, but it wouldn't fit.

"Alright I guess it's my turn," Taylor sighed. The Prince started slipping the Glass slipper onto her foot and out of nowhere, Kim and Taylor just popped back into reality. They were holding the book in their hands and it looked as if nothing had ever happened.

"OMG," Taylor yelled.

"What do we do now?" Kim asked Taylor.

"I don't know. Just pretend like nothing happened?" Taylor suggested.

"Yea, that sounds good," Kim replied.

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Squishies!



By Jade Creegan and Julia Edelman
Tusker Tribune Staff Writers



Squishies are the new slime!! They are the new toy that

everyone is talking about. Here are the most important topics you should know about them.

#1- What are Squishies Made of?

The first thing you need to know about Squishies is the materials used to make them.

Most of them are made out of PU, which stands for Polyurethane. The Polyurethane is the main material used to make the Squishies (the part that makes up the squishy.)

A big part of the Squishy is how it looks on the outside. For example, it could be a character, food, etc. If there are facial features or specific details on the squishy, they are usually made with Puffy Paint. The reason why companies will use Puffy Paint is because it doesn't crack when you squish it. Also, it is more durable than any other paint, such as acrylic paint.

#2- Quality

Another important topic about Squishies is their quality. One major

problem is when Squishies get defects. Defects are when the Squishies has any cracks, rips, or any manufacturing issues. You can get defects if you have had the squishy for a while, if you have played with it or stretched it too much.

Next, a quality that is important to a squishy is if it is slow rising or not. Many people want their Squishies to be slow rising, which means it takes a while to come back to normal form when you press on

it. A dense Squishy is one that is known to not be slow rising, and is not usually soft. Even



though they are just toys, a lot of thought goes into one.

Another big part of Squishies is their price. There are many different price ranges for Squishies, and many different brands. For example some good brands that tend to be more expensive are Ibloom, Cha-wa, Puni maru, and Kiibru. Their prices range from \$8-25 and can sometimes be more.

An inexpensive place to buy Squishies is Amazon. You can get reasonably priced Squishies that are also good quality.

We hope you enjoyed our Squishy review and now know much more about them!!

Uranium

From page 1

"You're already in. I discussed with the committee members last night. They all agreed to have you as BlobBusters."

"So where do we start?"

"We're going to bring you down to Earth to the BlobBuster base. From there, we'll hatch a plan to wipe those Cannibals off the face of the Earth."

"So what's to say that when you obliterate the Cannibals, you won't begin to eat the humans even though you are helping us?" Andrew asked the Wok.

"You have the Woks' word, son. It is against our philosophy to eat other sentient beings alive. We always eat already-dead meat," the Wok replied. "Now, I'm going to take you guys down to Earth so you can meet the BlobBusters. I might have heard that Derek has just become a BlobBuster. By the way, call me Jacob."

Chapter 12

Derek ran north for a long, long time. Around midnight, he approached a small hut that looked like it had been assembled from sheets of tin. After walking up to the door, he hesitated for a moment.

"What if the people inside are aliens? Are there even people inside?"

Derek knocked on the door. *Knock, knock.* Derek heard some thuds from the inside of the building as the door unlocked. An man who was probably in his late twenties unlocked the door and peeked outside.

"How may I help you?" he said in a slight accent.

"I'm Derek. Are you the person who everyone keeps pointing me to?" Derek replied.

"Yes. Didn't your math teacher Mr. Reilly tell you?"

"How do you know?"

"I'm Mr. Reilly's son, Jose. Just the other day, before that asteroid hit, he was telling you how you were his best student. Straight A's and stuff. How couldn't I want to know you?"

"How did you know it was me?"

"Well, have you not noticed that you just introduced yourself? And I saw you at the school concert last year. Moreover, you're wearing those *unique pants* of yours."

Derek felt embarrassed. He had actually worn that on the day the asteroid hit? Those were

the scratchy, itchy pants his aunt gave him last Christmas.

"Never mind. So how can I help you, Derek?"

"Well, I need some food, any drink and a place to rest."

"Are you willing to do me a couple favors?"

"What kind?"

"Well, do you know anything about aliens? Green, blobby, jello-like ones specifically?"

"Well, yeah. I killed one with my cell phone," Derek said matter-of-factly.

"You're in."

In what? Derek thought.

"Come inside. You've got a lot of things to catch up on."

Jose motioned Derek into the tin hut. Derek went in and sat on a bench in the middle of the hut.

"I am part of a secret society called the BlobBusters," Jose said. "You know, like Ghostbusters, but we bust those Cannibal Blob aliens instead of ghosts. Your mission is to tell us how we can get to the aliens and kill off every single one of them. Let's get started, shall we?"

"Okay," Derek said hesitantly.

"So how did you kill those aliens?"

"With my cell phone. The moment I turned it on, the alien collapsed and died on the spot."

"How in the world did you do that? Every type of thing we tried, including microwave radiation like the one in cell phones didn't work."

"Well, it did," Derek said. He began to narrate his story from beginning to where he was now. He explained that, when the Cannibals morphed into human form, they were extremely vulnerable to radiation. And it dawned on Derek. "That's probably why they obliterated all the humans. They didn't want any radiation!" Derek exclaimed.

"That is a pretty interesting story, kid. You're definitely into the BlobBusters. Tomorrow, there's a weekly committee meeting where we can officially get you as a member. My ride to the place comes at 7:30 AM tomorrow. So get some rest. You'll need it." Jose motioned to a bed in the corner. Derek got onto the bed and slept like a log.

"Goodnight, Derek," Jose whispered as he got on to his bed.

(end)

