

The Cross Creek Chronicle

Featuring Writing from Pinellas County Schools



Spring 2026 Edition

The Cross Creek Chronicle

Spring, 2026

Featuring Writing from Pinellas County
Elementary Schools' Students

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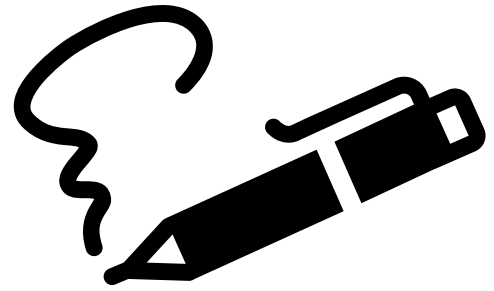


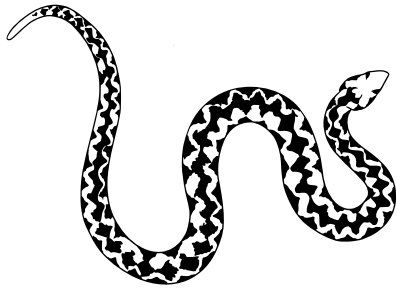
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Autographs



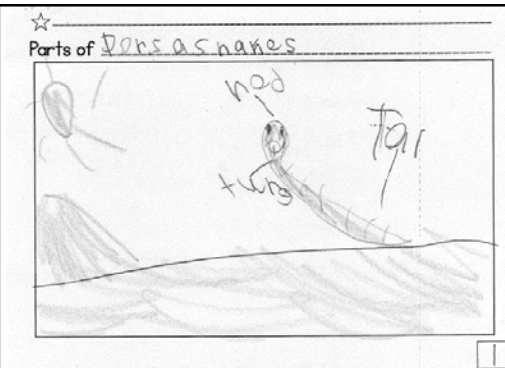
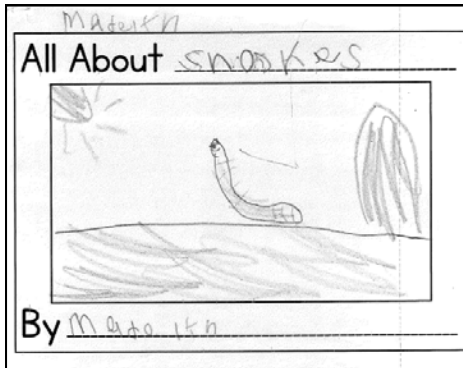


All About Snakes

by Madelyn Tootle

San Jose Elementary School

Teacher: Kathleen Kizilelma

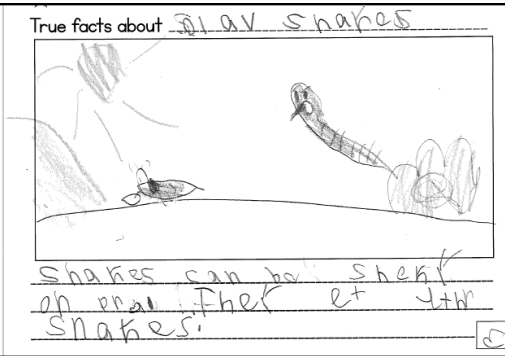
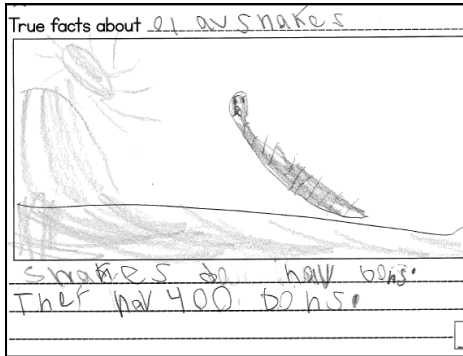


Parts of a Snake

Head, Tongue, Tail

True Facts bout Snakes

Snakes do have bones.
They have 400 bones.

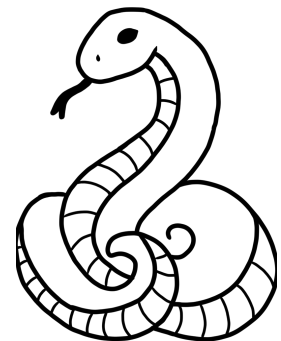
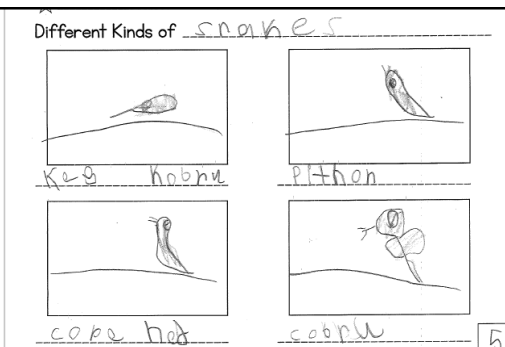
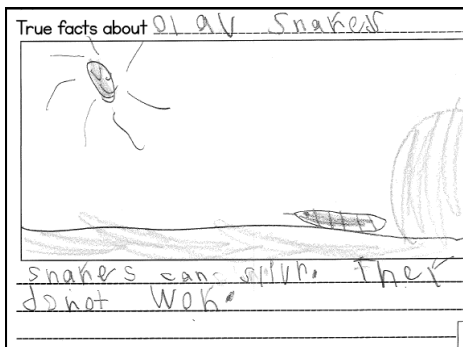


Snakes can be sneaky on prey.
They eat other snakes.

Snakes can slither.
They do not walk.

Different Kinds of Snakes

- King Cobra
- Python
- Copperhead
- Cobra



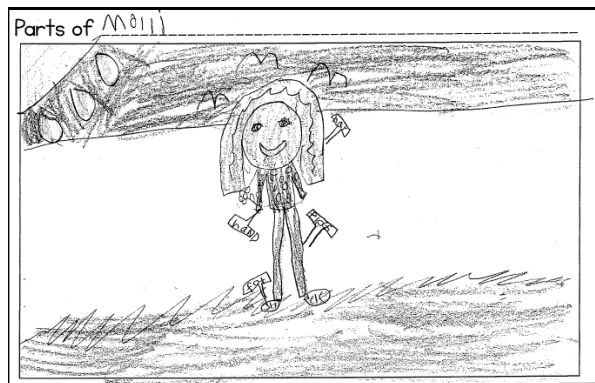
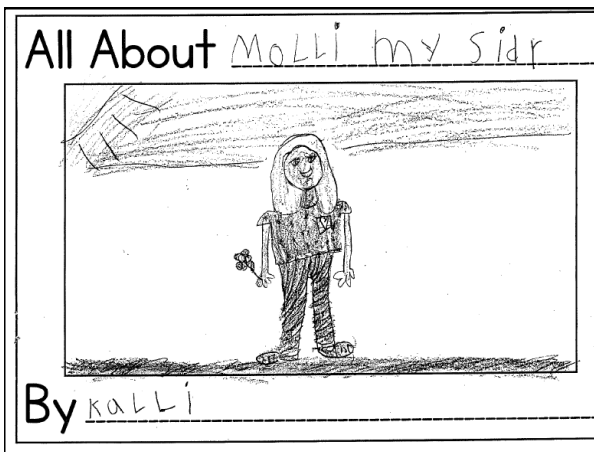


All About Molli, My Sister

by Kalli Bolduc

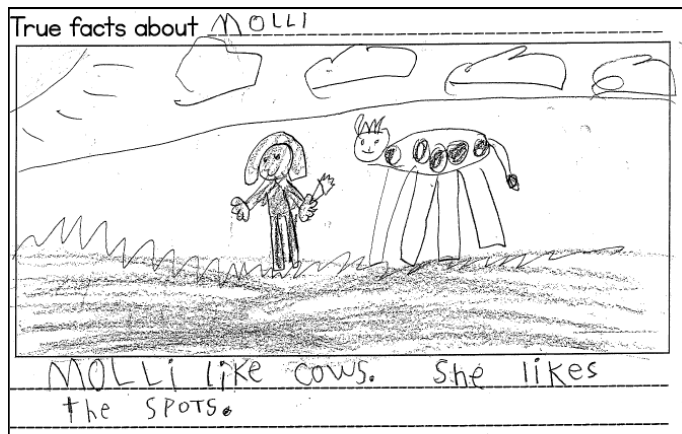
San Jose Elementary School

Teacher: Jenna Pack



Parts of Molli

Hand, Hair, Legs, Feet



True Facts bout Molli

Molli likes cows.

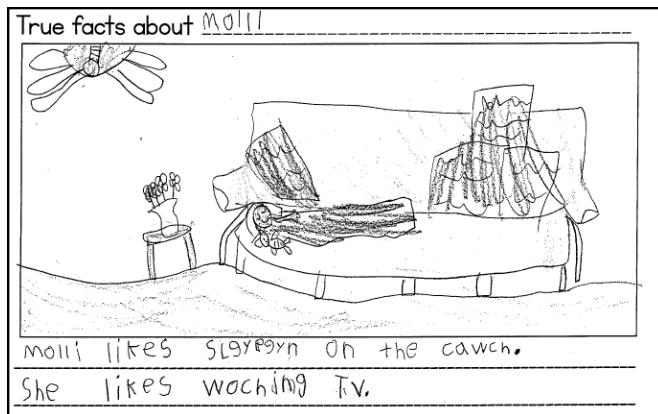
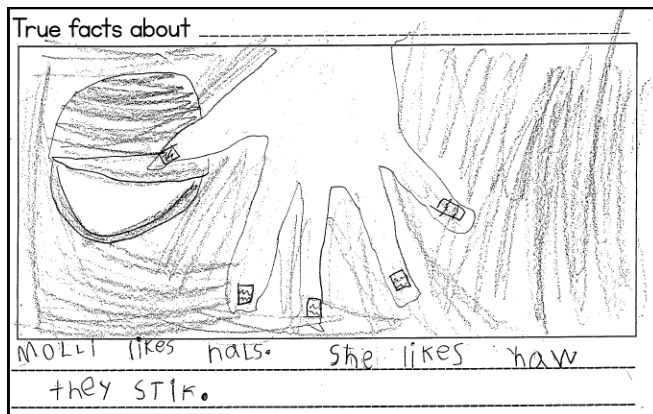
She likes the spots.

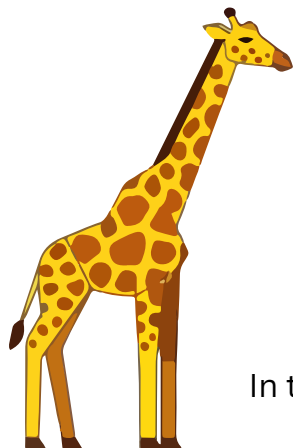
Molli likes nails.

She likes how they stick.

Molli likes sleeping on the couch.

She likes watching TV.





Giraffes

by Avery Rivers
Gulf Beaches Elementary
Teacher: Stephanie Bennett



Giraffes have long legs and necks.
In the zoo, people sometimes feed giraffes.
Giraffes have long necks.

☆ Avery

True facts about giraffe

JraF Have Logu Legs and Necks.

1

☆ Avery

True facts about giraffe

In the zoo pepozl sutiz Fezd Jrafs.

2

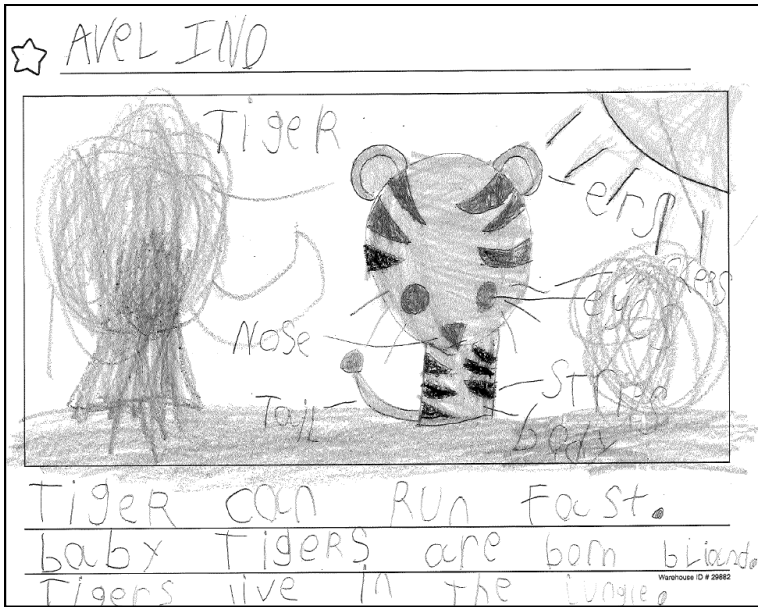
☆ Avery

True facts about giraffe

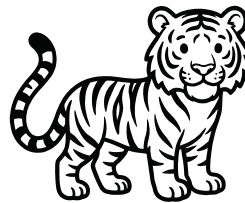
Jrafs Have Log Necks.

3





All About Tigers
by Avelino Mireles
Skycrest
Elementary School
Teacher:
Wendy Otero



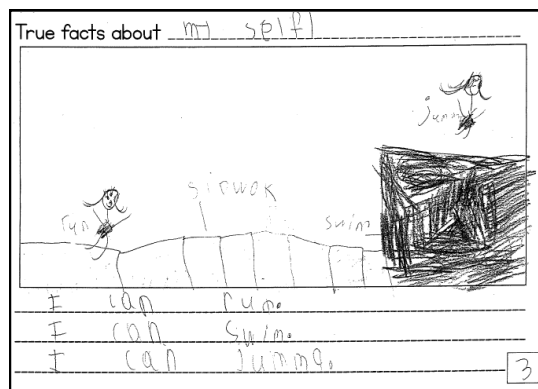
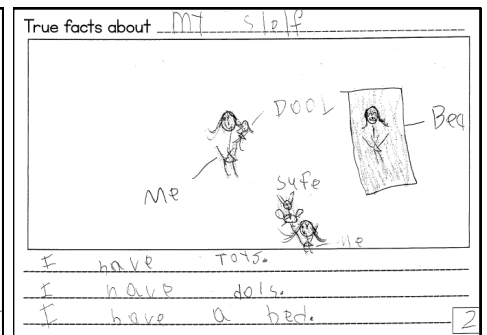
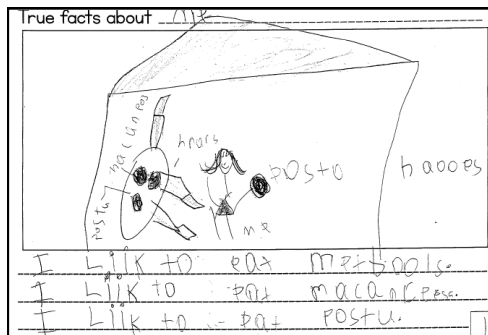
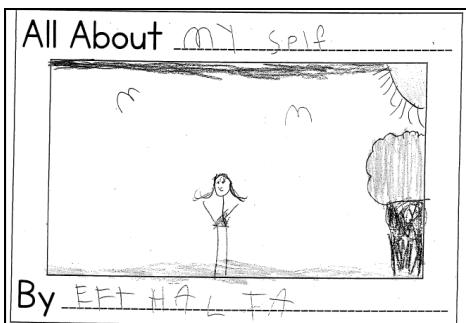
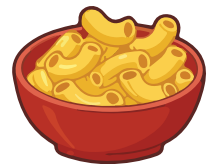
Tiger can run fast.
Baby tigers are born blind.
Tigers live in the jungle.

All About Myself

by Efthalia Kavouklis

Tarpon Springs Fundamental School

Teacher: Michelle Fitzgerald



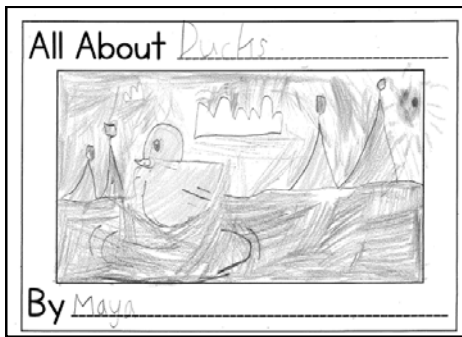
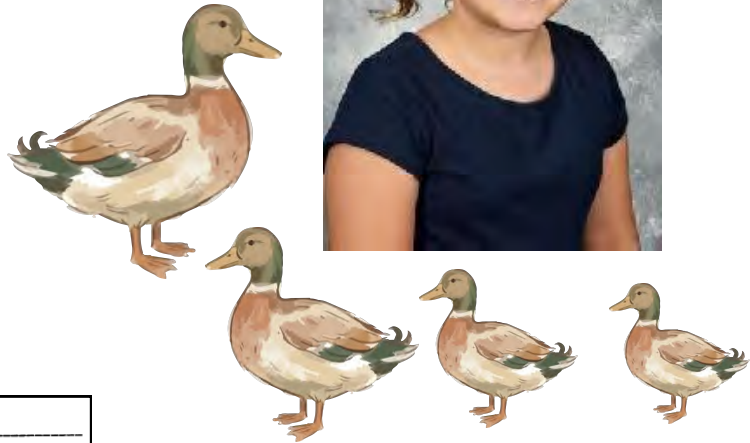
I like to eat meatballs.
I like to eat macaroni and cheese.
I like to eat pasta.
I have toys.
I have dolls.
I have a bed.
I can run.
I can swim.
I can jump.

All About Ducks

by Maya Maglio

Tarpon Springs Fundamental School

Teacher: Alexandra Rodriguez



☆ Maya
True facts about ducks

Ducks have a beak called a bill.
They have webbed feet.

Ducks have a beak called a bill
They have webbed feet.
Ducks can swim very good.
Ducks can catch food good.
They have good, webbed feet to swim.

Ducks eat insects, but they can only look for insects.
Ducks eat plants, sometimes ducks walk to people's houses to eat plants.

☆ Maya
True facts about ducks

Ducks can swim veeeey good.
Ducks can catch food good.
They have good webbed feet to swim.

True facts about ducks

Ducks eat insects, but they can only look for insects.
Ducks eat plants sometimes ducks walk to people's houses to eat plants.

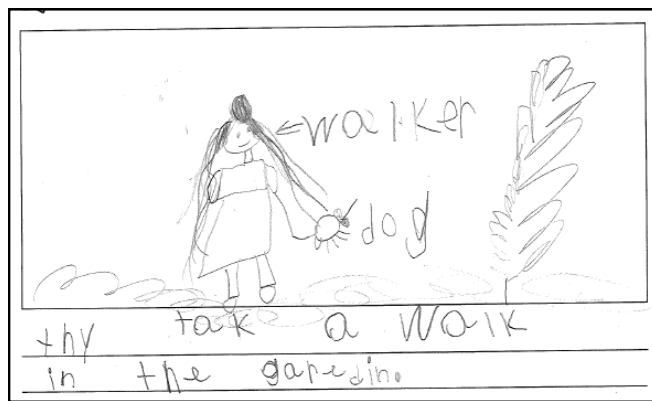


Dogs

by Allivia-Rei Miller
Bay Vista Fundamental School
Teacher: Carissa Roberts



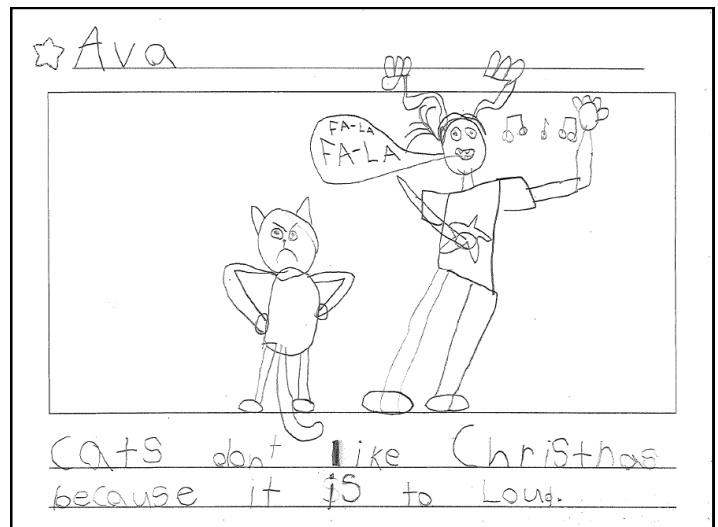
The dog is in the cage.
They take a walk in the garden.
The dogs play with their ball.

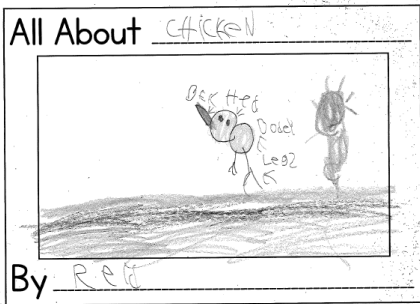


Cats Don't Like Christmas

by Ava Bacon
Tarpon Springs
Fundamental School
Teacher:
Alexandra Rodriguez

Cats don't like Christmas
because it is too loud.





Beak, Head, Body, Legs

All About Chickens

by Reid Bramlett
Seminole Elementary School
Teacher: Donna Horton

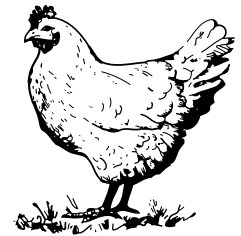
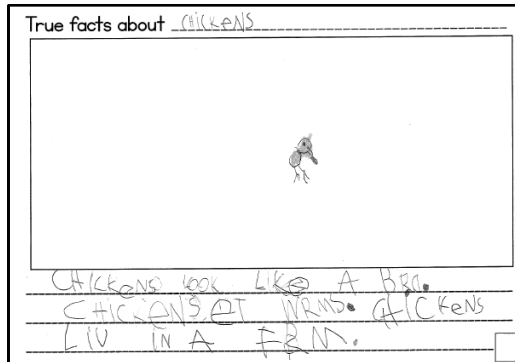


True Facts About Chickens

Chickens look like a bird.
Chickens eat worms.
Chickens live on a farm.

Chickens lay eggs.
The eggs crack.
A chick cracks open the egg.

Chickens can run fast.
They can vroom.
Now you know all about chickens.



Parts of a Chicken

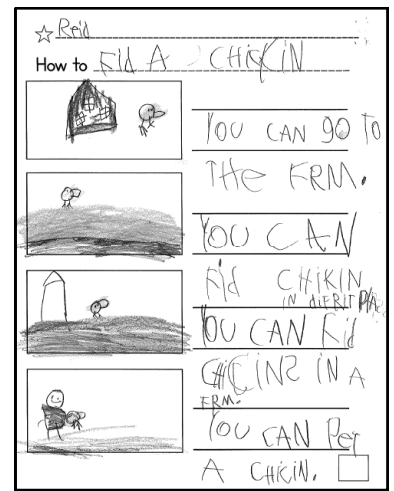
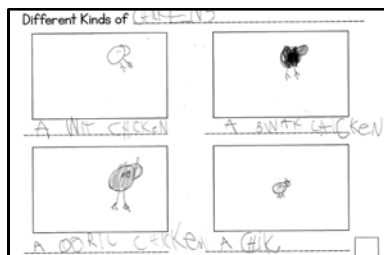
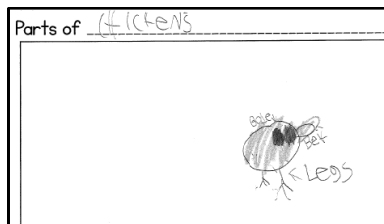
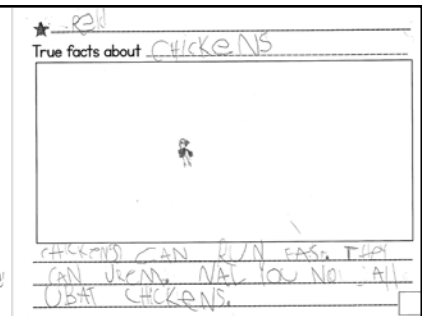
Body, Beak, Legs

Different Kinds of Chickens

- A white chicken
- A black chicken
- A orange chicken
- A chick

How to Feed a Chicken

You can go to the farm.
You can feed chickens in different places.
You can feed chickens on a farm.
You can pet a chicken.





My Trip to Georgia

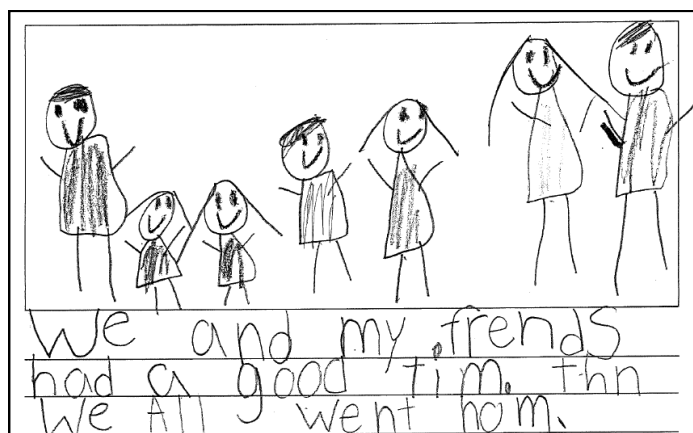
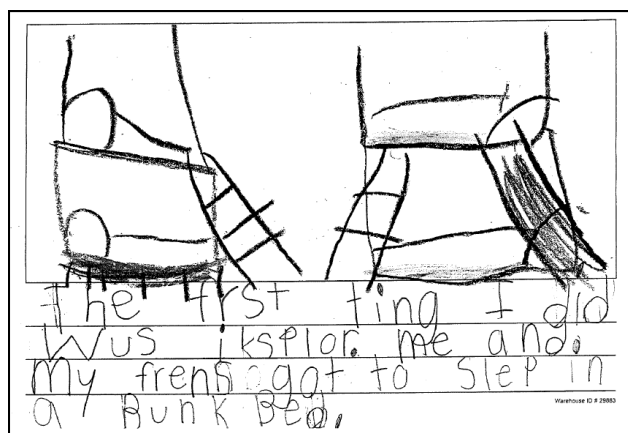
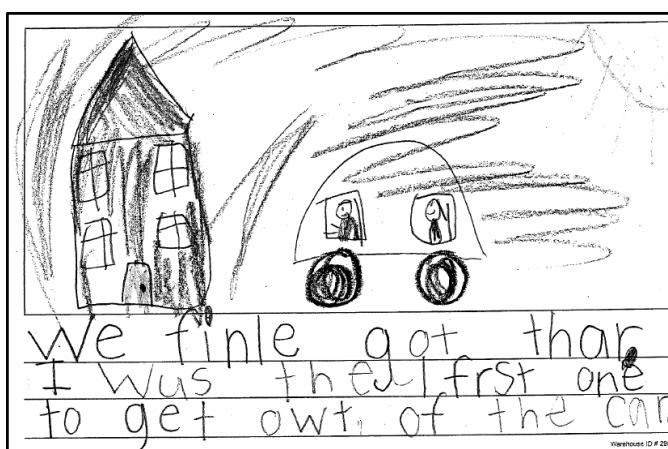
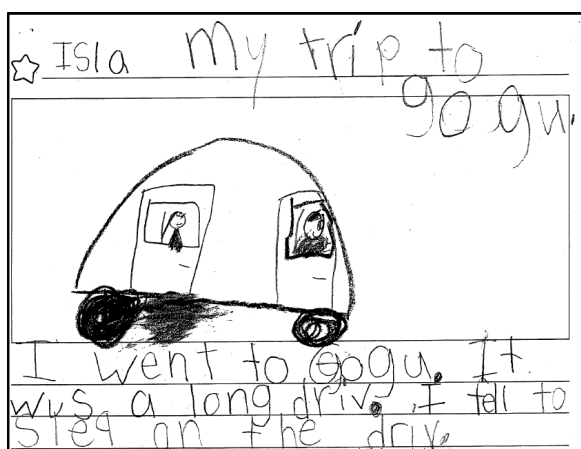
by Isla Harvey

Pasadena Fundamental School

Teacher: Courtney Gomes

I went to Georgia. It was a long drive. I fell to sleep on the drive.

We finally got there. I was the first one to get out of the car.

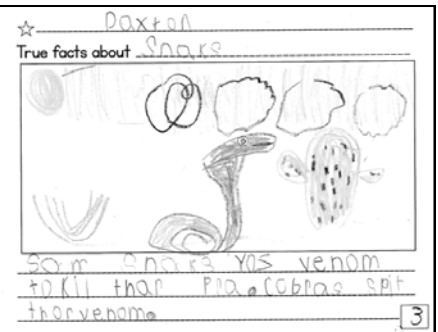
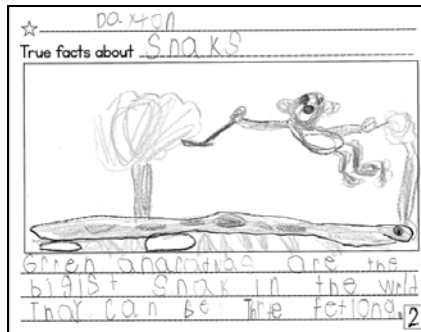
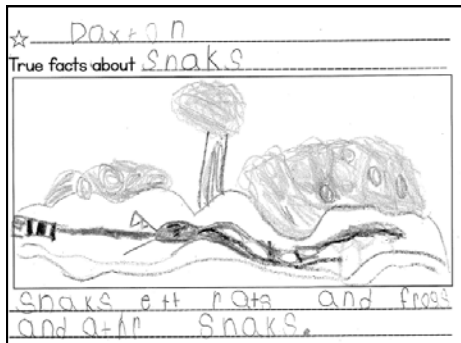
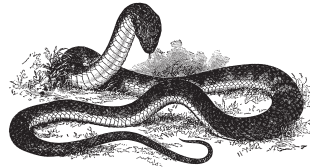
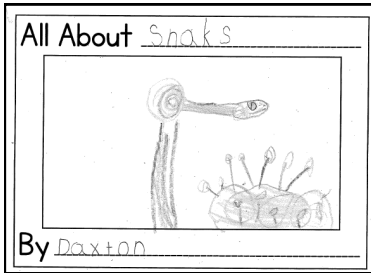


The first thing I did was explore. Me and my friends got to sleep in a bunk bed.

Me and my friends had a good time. Then we all went home.

All About Snakes

by Daxton Drewes
 Oakhurst Elementary School
 Teacher: Holly Gayden



True Facts About Snakes

Snakes eat rats and frogs and other snakes.

Green anacondas are the biggest snake in the world.

They can be thirty feet long.

Some snakes use venom to kill their pray. Cobras spit their venom.



Parts of a Snake

Tail, Body, Scales, Head, Tongue

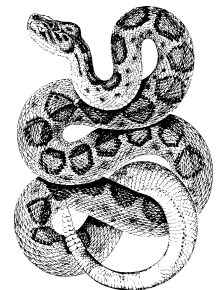
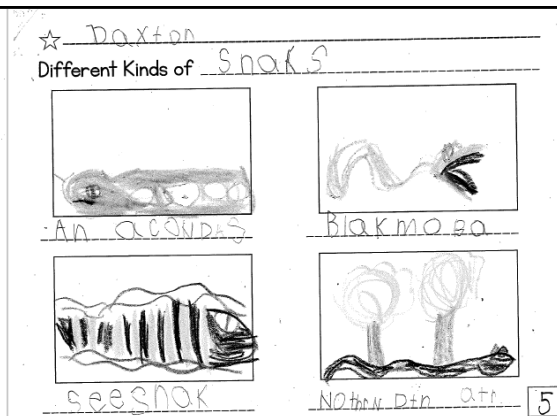
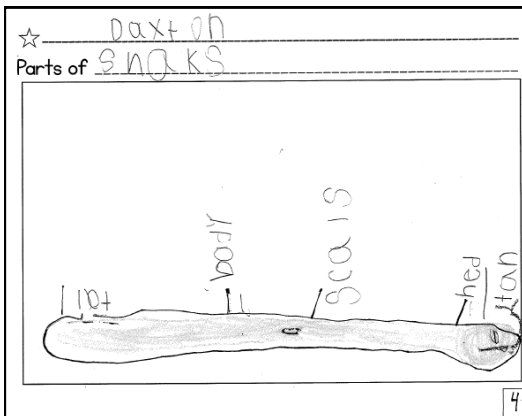
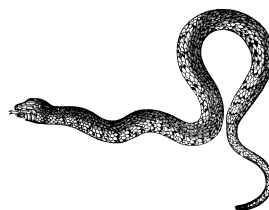
Different Kinds of Snakes

An Anaconda

Black Mamba

Sea Snake

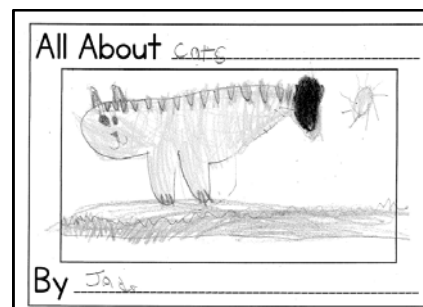
Northern Snake





All About Cats

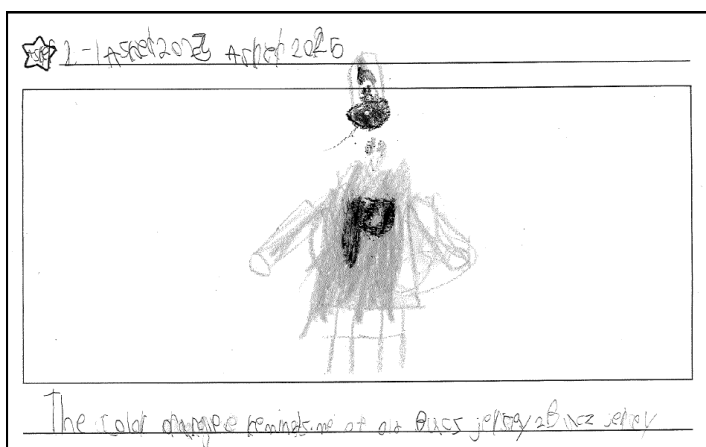
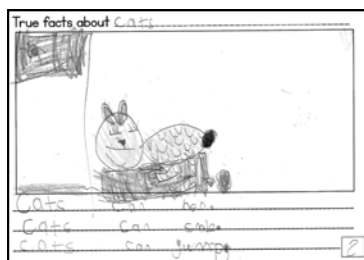
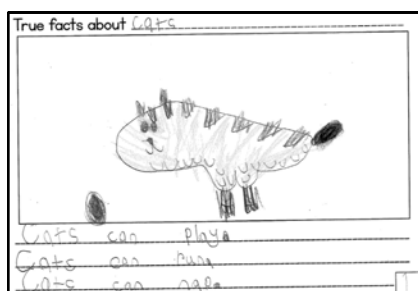
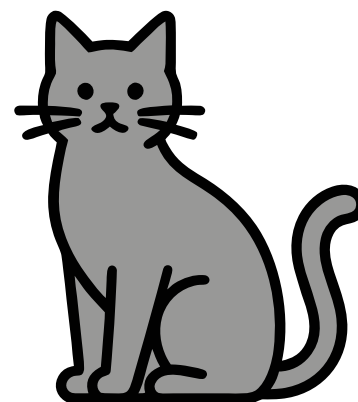
by Jade Ferguson
Tarpon Springs
Fundamental School
Teacher: Amy Tassone



Cats can play.
Cats can run.
Cats can nap.

Cats can hear.
Cats can smell.
Cats can jump.

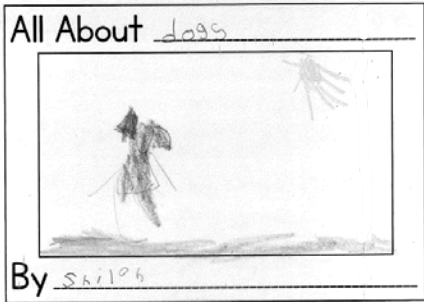
Cats can eat fish.
Cats can eat cat food.
Cats can eat food.



The Color Orange

by Asher Rivera
Marjorie Kinnan
Rawlings
Elementary School
Teacher: Nani Wells

The color orange reminds me of an old Bucs jersey.



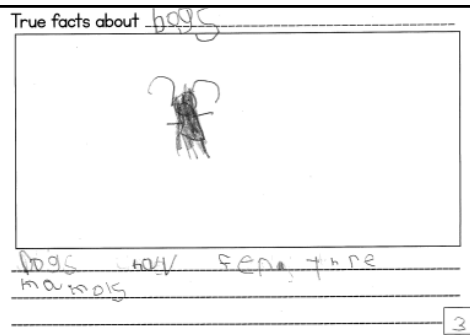
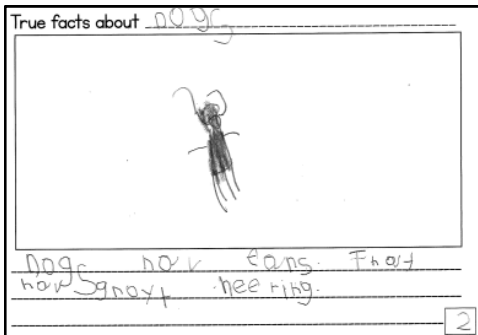
All About Dogs

by Shiloh Amaya
San Jose Elementary School
Teacher: Kathleen Kizilelma



True Facts About Dogs

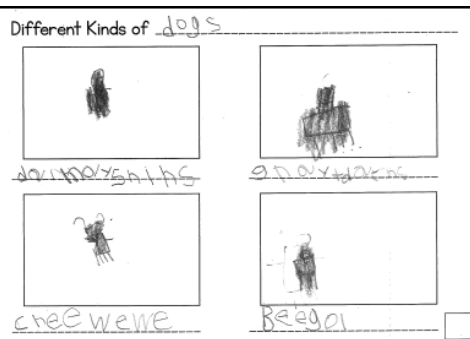
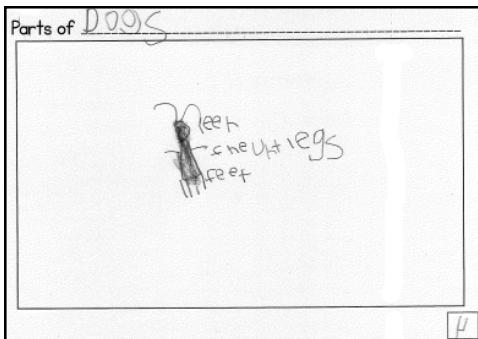
Dogs eat dog food.
Dogs drink water.



Dogs have ears.
They have great hearing.
Dogs have fur.
They are mammals.

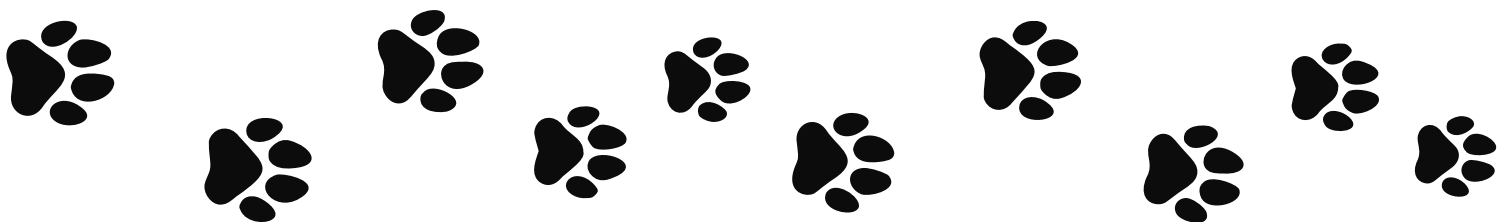
Parts of Dogs

Ears, legs, feet



Different Kinds of Dogs

Dachshund, Great Dane,
Chihuahua, Beagle





All About Cats

by Harrison Hayduke
Belcher Elementary
Teacher: Mirelle Robello



☆ Harrison

All About Cats

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By Harrison

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- Fur.....5

☆ Harrison

True facts about Cats

Cats have long tails.

2

☆ Harrison

True facts about Cats

Cats have 4 legs.

3

True Facts About Cats

- Cats have long tails.
- Cats have four legs.
- Cats have whiskers.
- Cats have soft fur.

☆ Harrison

True facts about Cats

Cats have Whiskers.

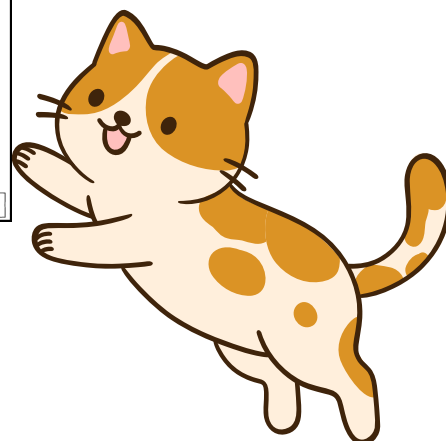
4

☆ Harrison

True facts about Cats

Cats have soft fur.

5



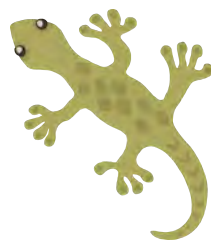
All About Lizards

by Joseph Sandusky
Tarpon Springs
Fundamental School
Teacher: Amy Tassone



All About Lizards

By Joey



☆ Joey

True facts about Lizards

Lizards can climb trees.
Lizards can camouflage in stuff.
Lizards can walk.

1

True facts about Lizards

Lizards have a tail.
Lizards have 2 eyes.
Lizards have 2 ears.

2

True facts about Lizards

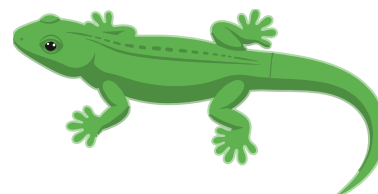
Lizards eat grass.
Lizards eat tree leaves.
Lizards eat small animals.

3

Lizards can climb trees.
Lizards can camouflage in stuff.
Lizards can walk.

Lizards have a tail.
Lizards have two eyes
Lizards have two ears.

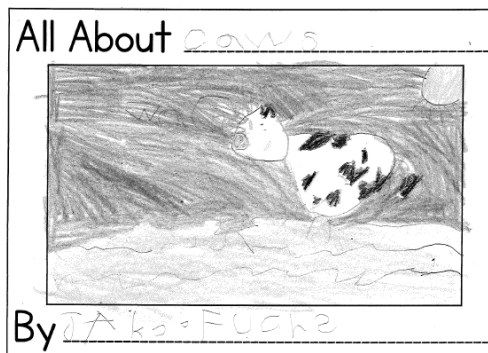
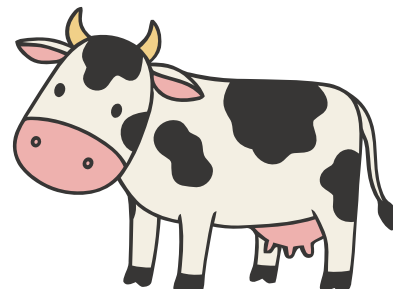
Lizards eat grass.
Lizards eat tree leaves.
Lizards eat small animals.





All About Cows

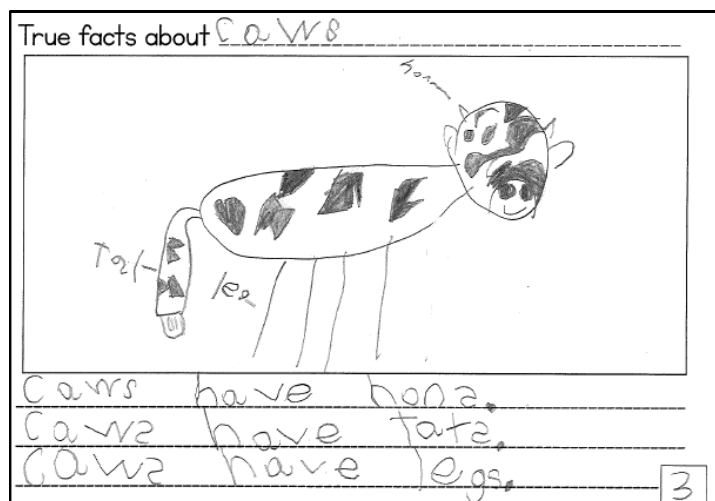
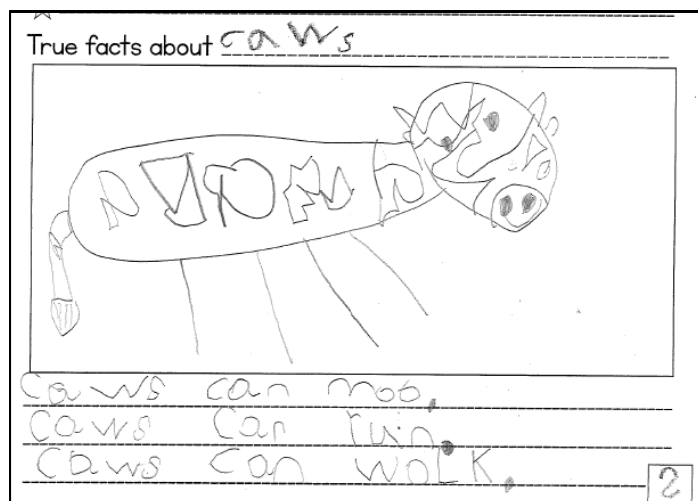
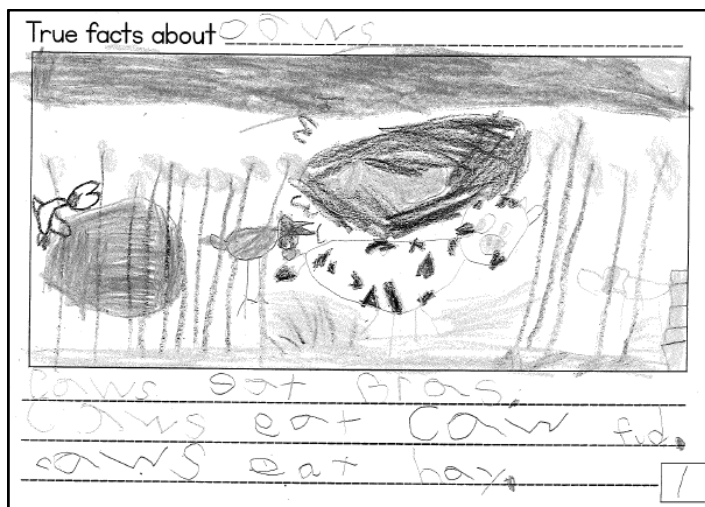
by Jakob Fuchs
Tarpon Springs
Fundamental School
Teacher: Michelle Fitzgerald

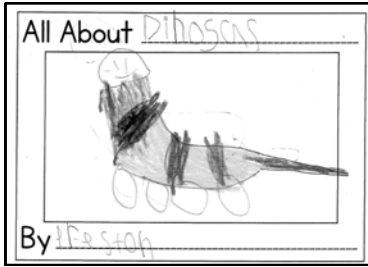


Cows eat grass.
Cows eat cow food.
Cows eat hay.

Cows can moo.
Cows can run.
Cows can walk.

Cows have horns.
Cows have tails.
Cows have legs.





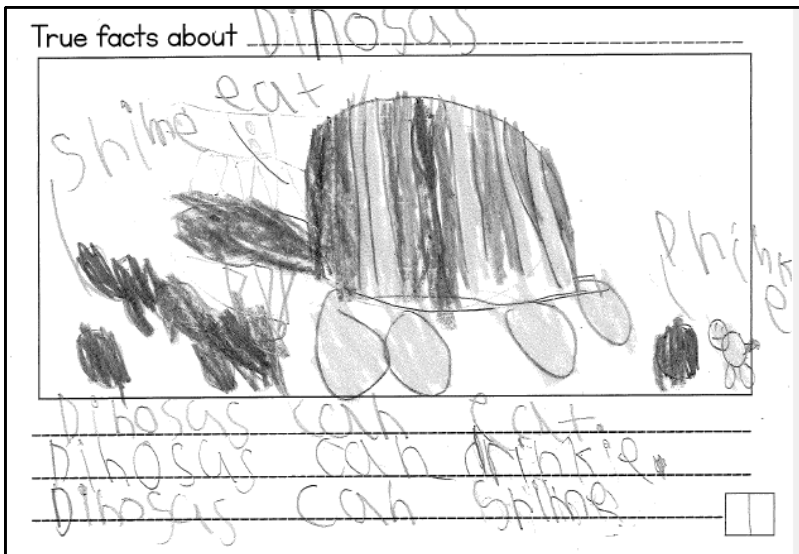
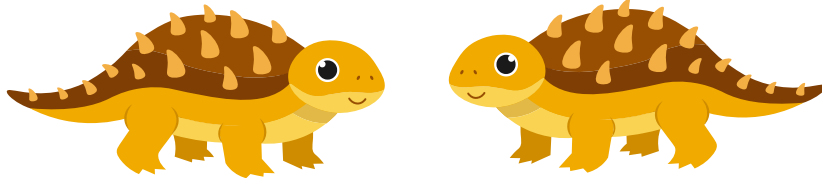
All About Dinosaurs

by Preston Kistler

Tarpon Springs

Fundamental School

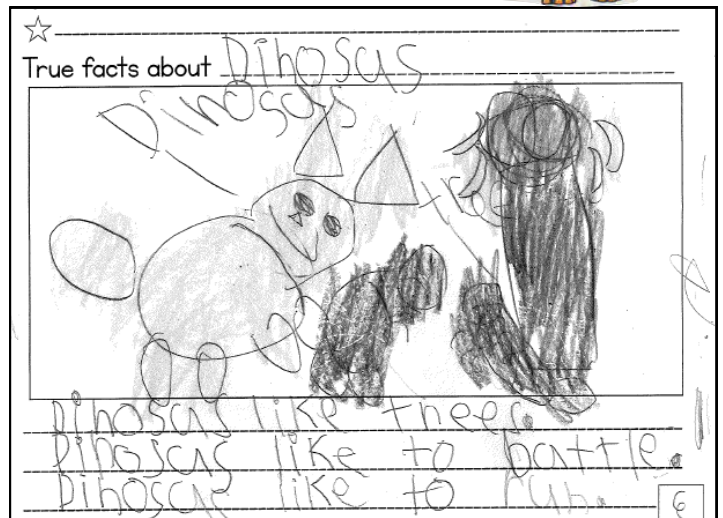
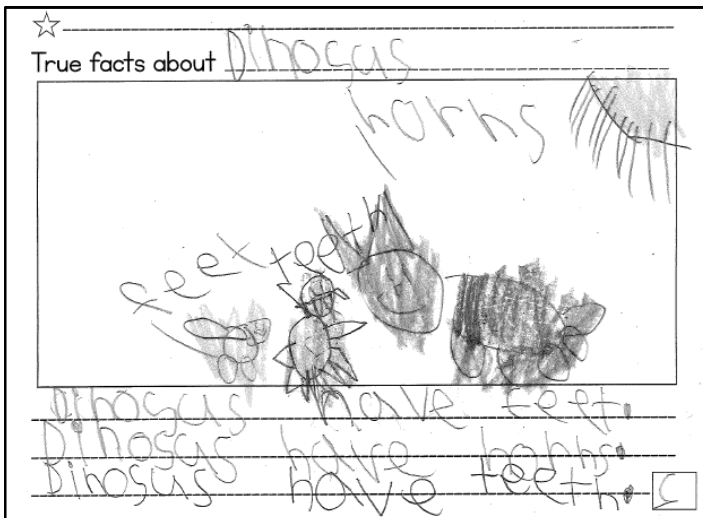
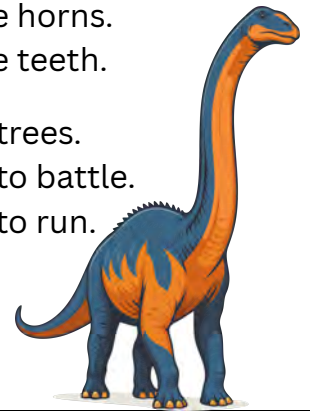
Teacher: Michelle Fitzgerald



Dinosaurs can eat.
Dinosaurs can drink.
Dinosaurs can swim.

Dinosaurs have feet.
Dinosaurs have horns.
Dinosaurs have teeth.

Dinosaurs like trees.
Dinosaurs like to battle.
Dinosaurs like to run.



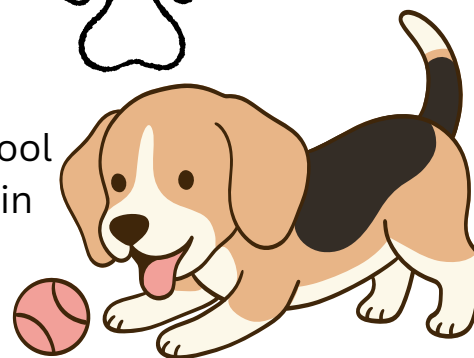


All About Dogs

by Isiah Smith

Melrose Elementary School

Teacher: Debra Bauerlein



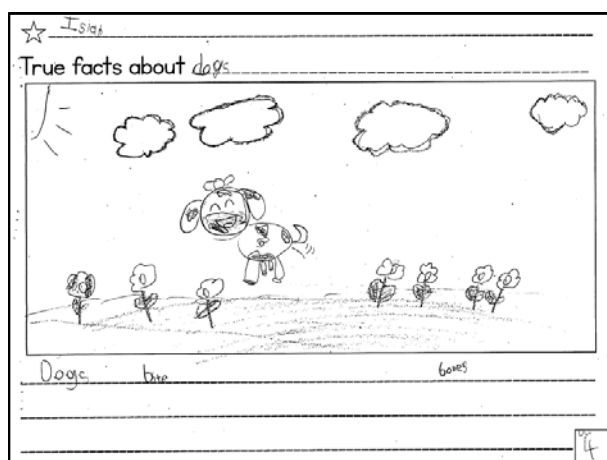
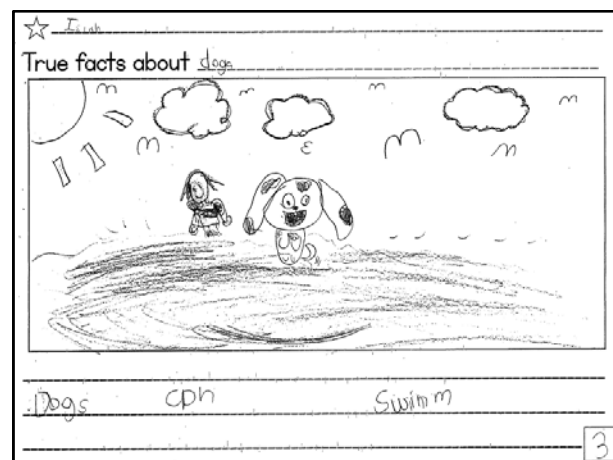
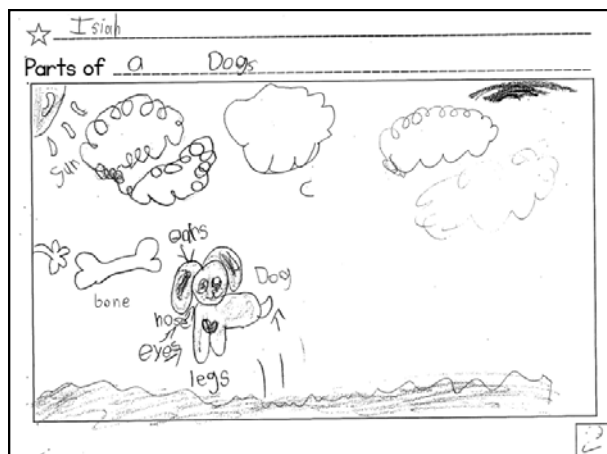
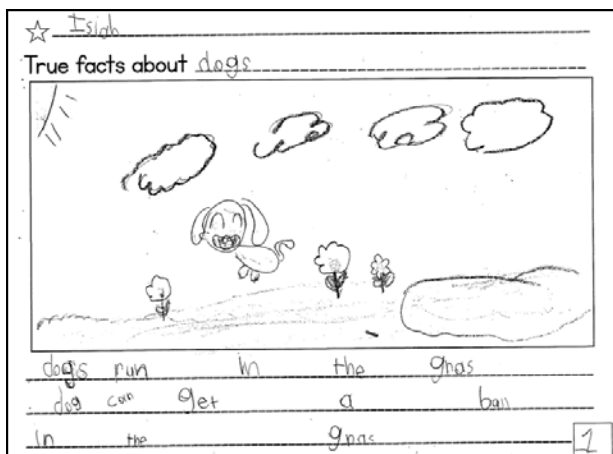
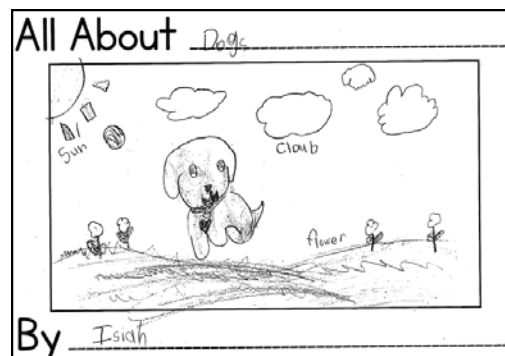
Dogs run in the grass.

Dogs can get a ball in the grass.

Parts of a dog: ears, bone, nose, eyes, dog, legs

Dogs can swim.

Dogs bite bones.

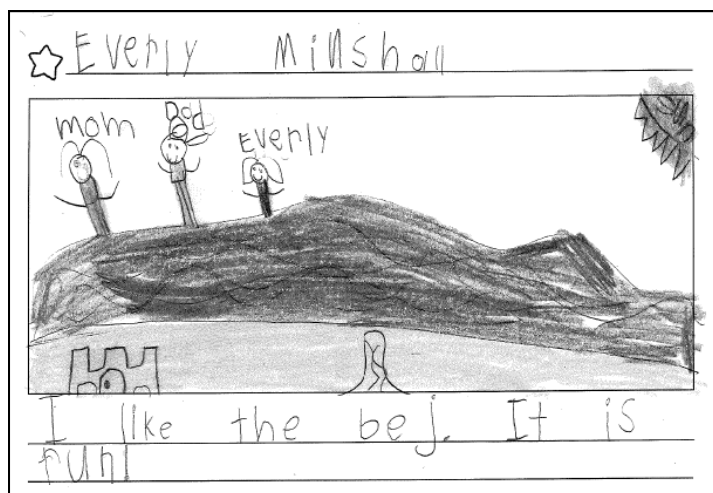


The Beach

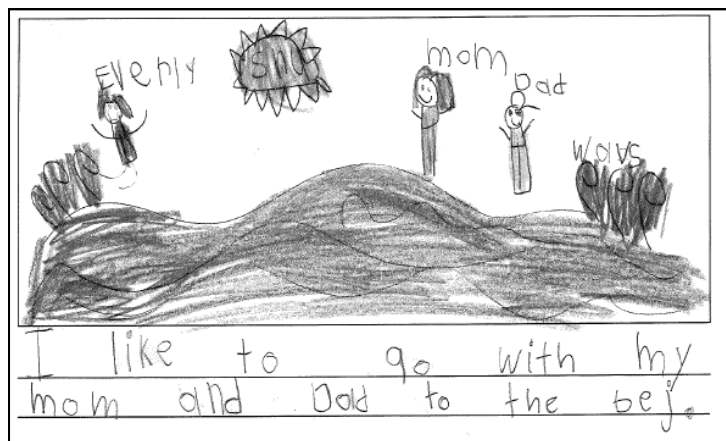
by Everly Minshall

Pinellas Park Elementary School

Teacher: Dolores Applegarth



I like the beach. It is fun.

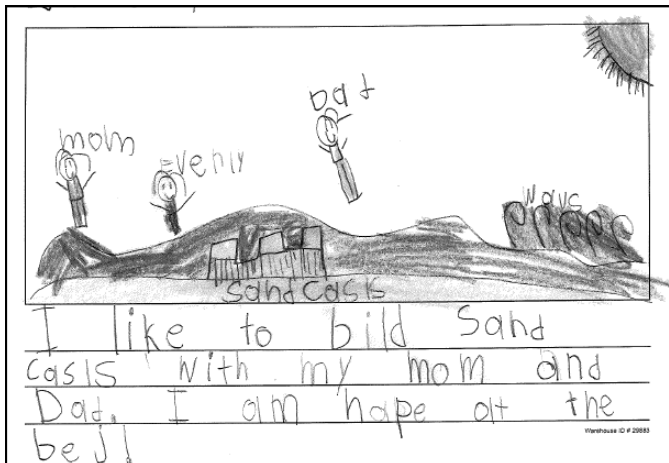
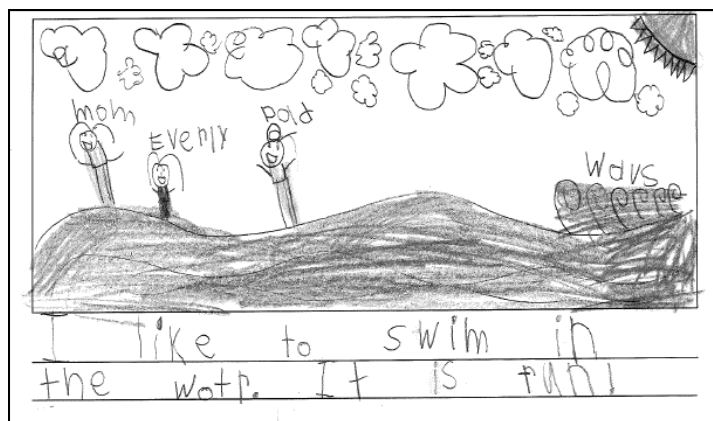


I like to go with my mom and dad to the beach.

I like to swim in the water. It is fun.

I like to build sandcastles with my mom and dad.

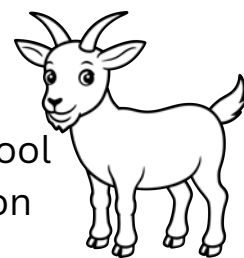
I am happy at the beach.





Farm Animals

by: Malika Jamerson
Bay Point Elementary School
Teacher: Brandy Dickerson



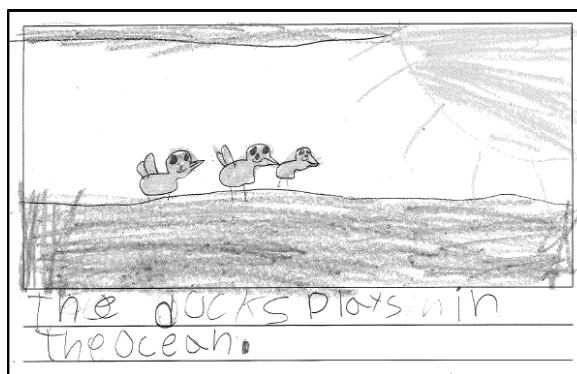
The goat plays
in the grass.



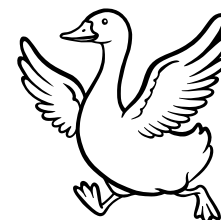
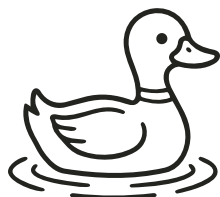
The dog plays with the cat
in the grass.



The ducks play in
the ocean.



The cow plays in the
grass.



Bunnies

by Ella Heady
Gulf Beaches Elementary
Teacher: Stephanie Bennett



True Facts About Bunnies

Bunnies are smaller than rabbits.
Bunnies eat carrots.
Bunnies can have baby bunnies.

Parts of Bunnies

tail, spots, head, eyes, ear, nose,
smile, legs, paws, body



★ Ella Heady

True facts about Bunnies

Bunnies are smaller than rabbits.

True facts about Bunnies

Bunnies eat carrots.

True facts about Bunnies

Bunnies can have baby bunnies.

Parts of Bunnies

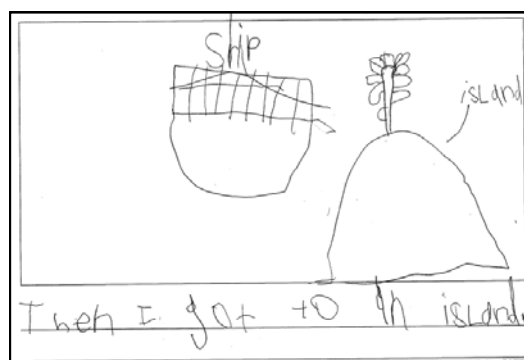
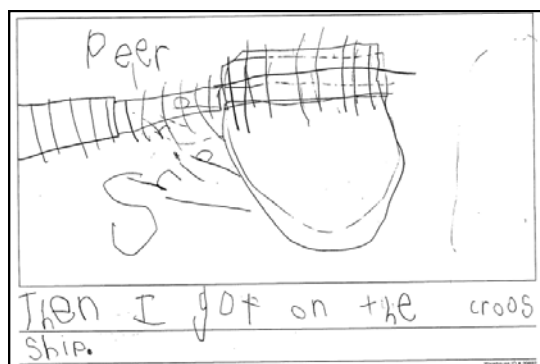
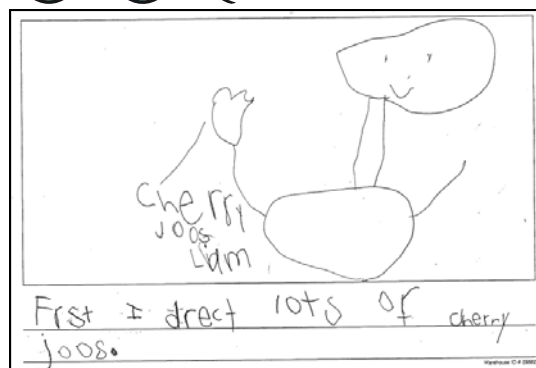
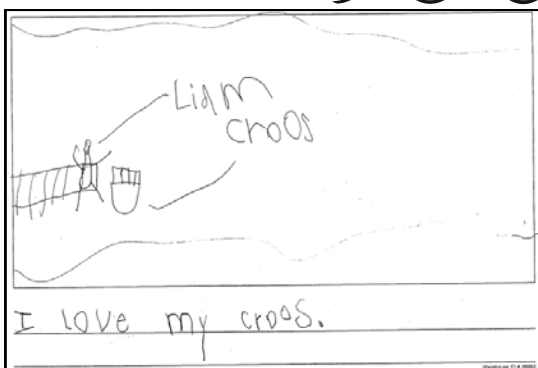
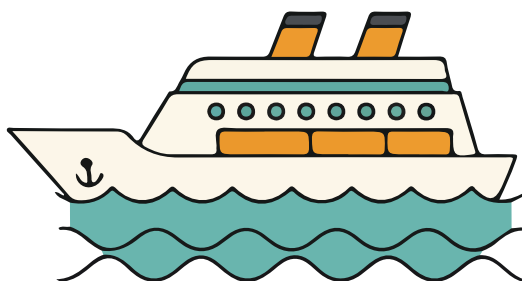


My Cruise

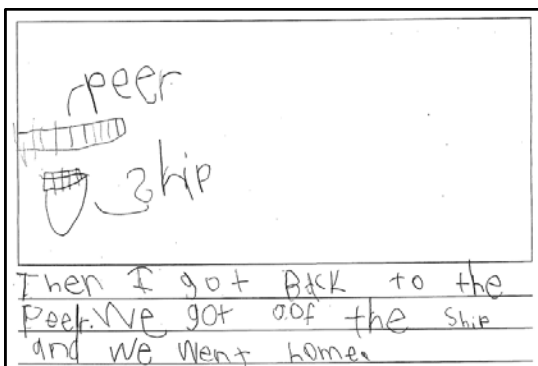
by Liam O'Leary

Gulf Beaches Elementary

Teacher: Stephanie Bennett



I love my cruise.



First, I drank lots of cherry juice.

Then, I got on the cruise ship.



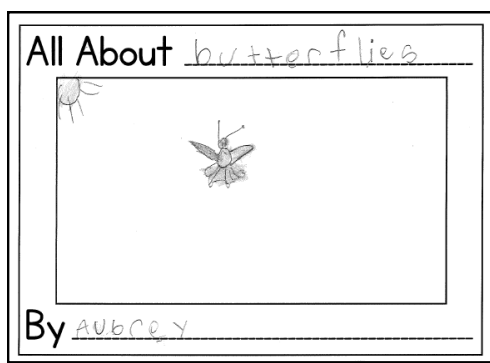
Then, I got to an island.

Then, I got back to the pier.
We got off the ship and we went home.



All About Butterflies

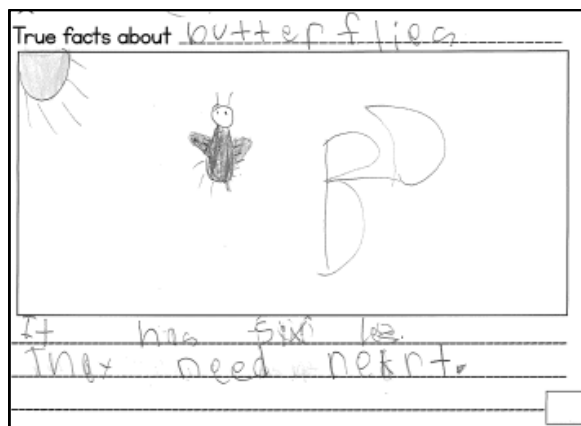
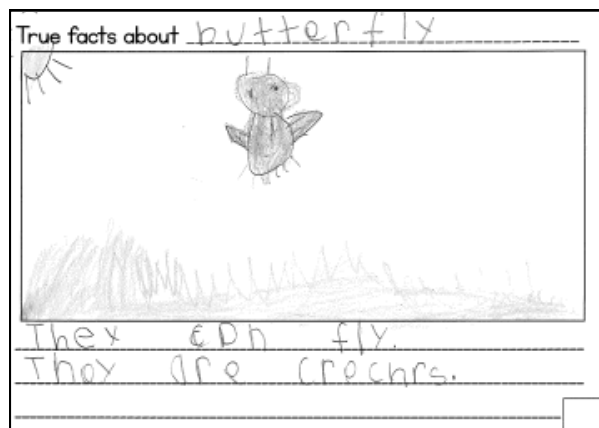
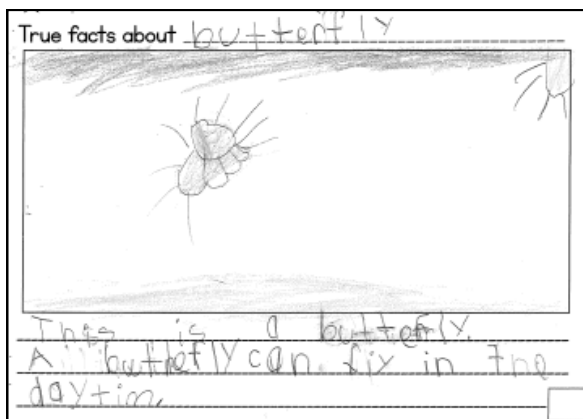
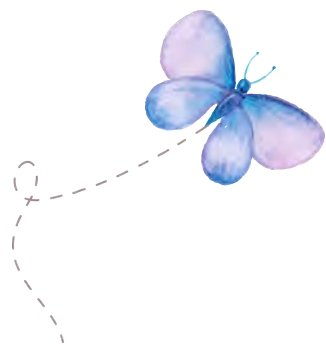
By Aubrey Johnson
Bay Point Elementary School
Teacher: Brandy Dickerson



This is a butterfly.
A butterfly can fly in the daytime.

They can fly.
They are creatures.

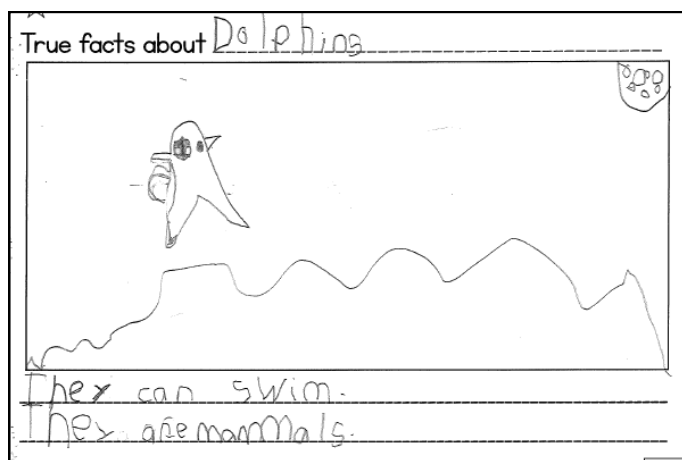
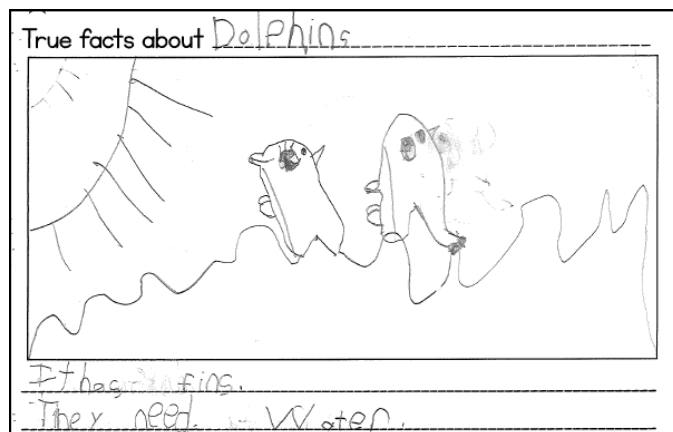
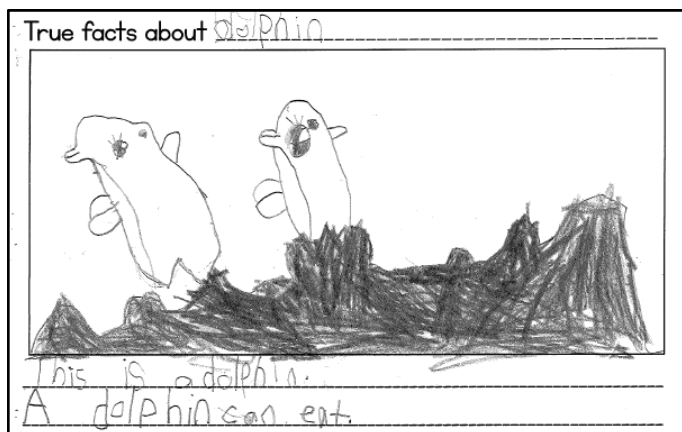
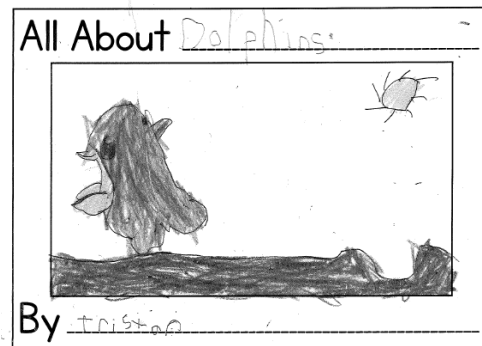
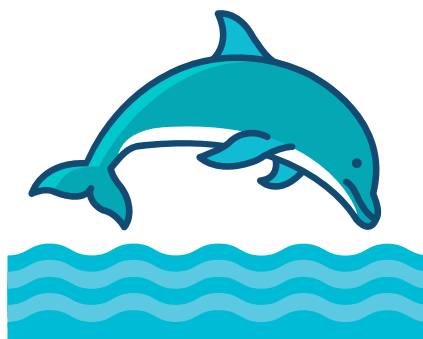
It has six legs.
They need nectar.





All About Dolphins

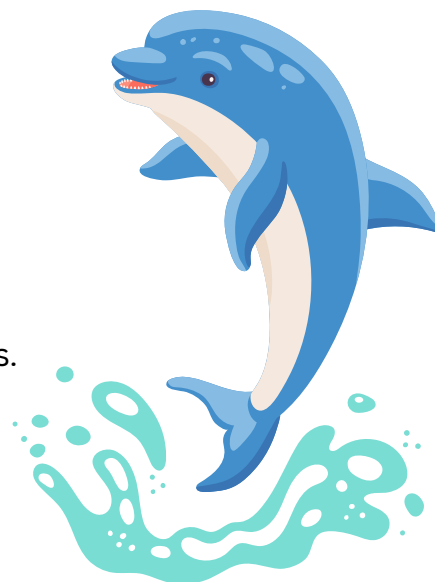
by Tristan Traywick
Bay Point Elementary School
Teacher: Brandy Dickerson

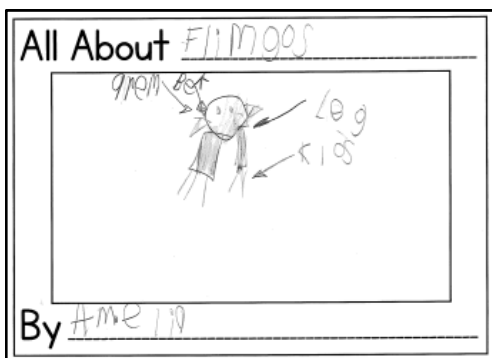


This is a dolphin.
A dolphin can eat.

It has fins.
They need water.

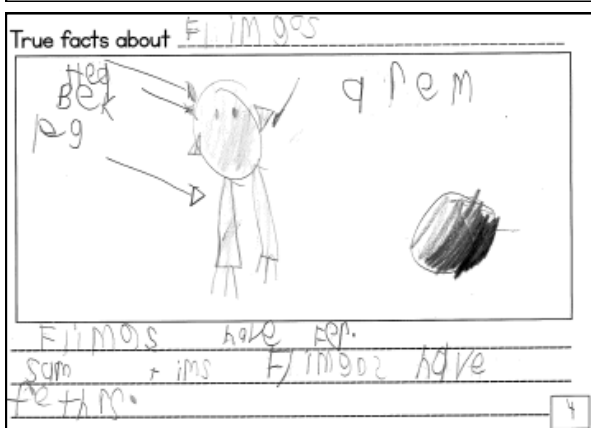
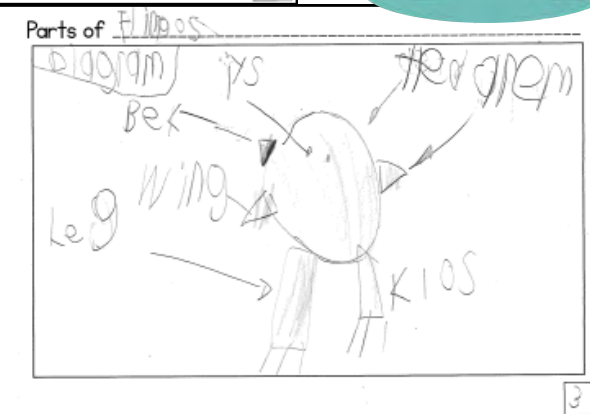
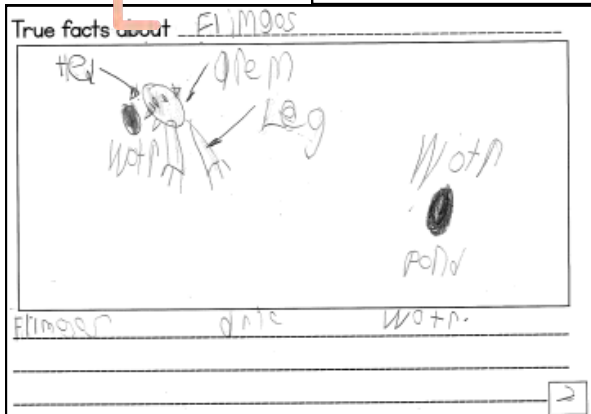
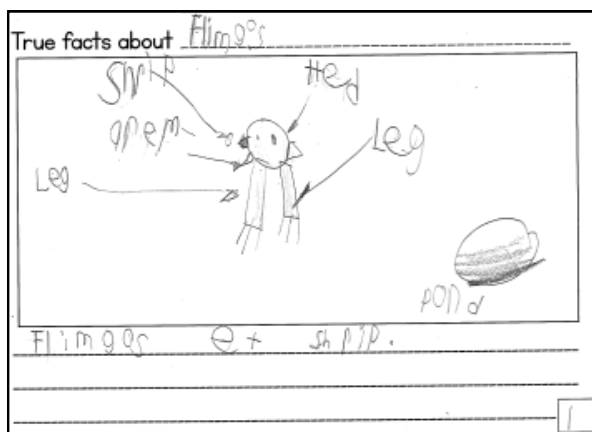
They can swim.
They are mammals.





All About Flamingos

by Amelia DuLac
Gulf Beaches Elementary
Teacher: Stephanie Bennett



Flamingos eat shrimp.

Flamingos drink water.

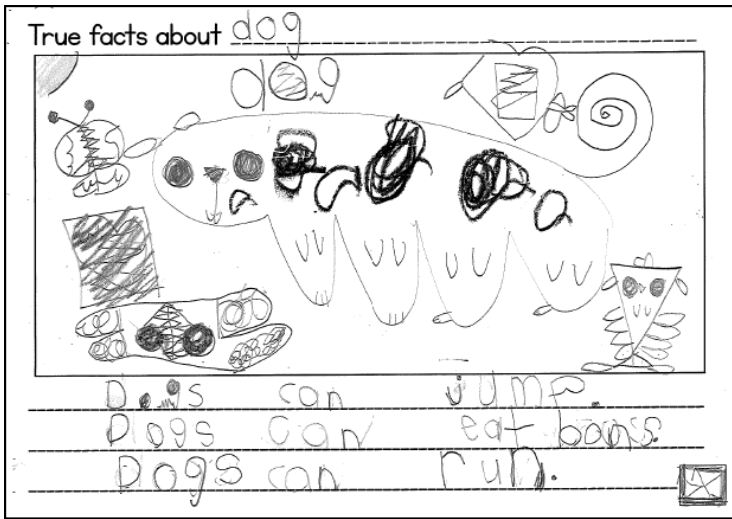
Parts of Flamingos:
eyes, beak, wing, leg, head, arm, claws

Flamingos have fur.

Sometimes, flamingos have feathers.



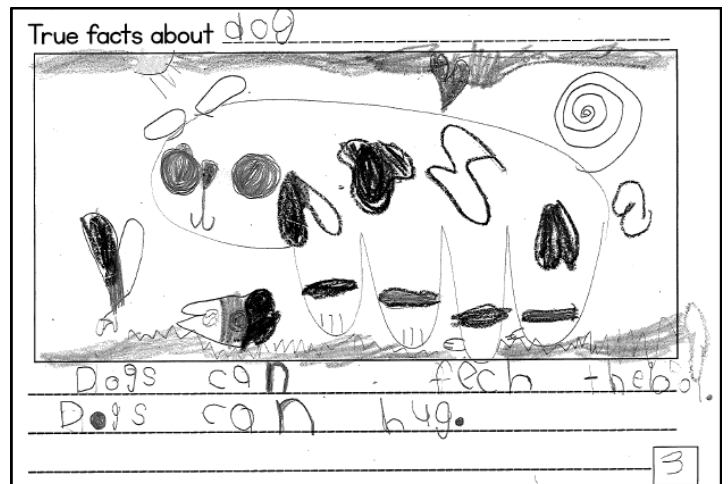
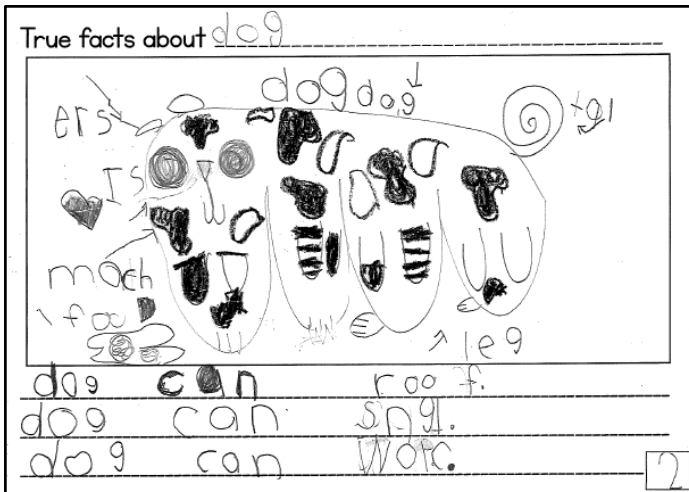
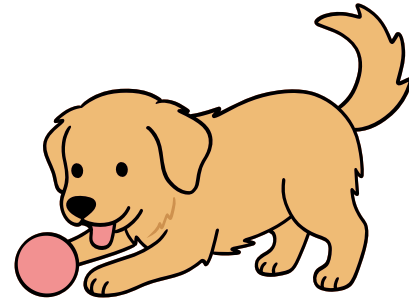
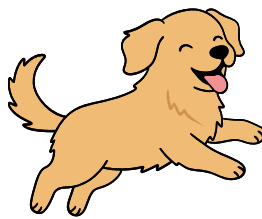
All About Dogs
by Lula Scott
Tarpon Springs
Fundamental School
Teacher: Amy Tassone



Dogs can jump.
Dogs can eat bones.
Dogs can run.

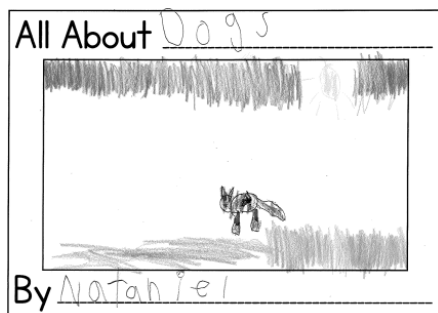
Dogs can "ruff."
Dogs can snuggle.
Dogs can walk.

Dogs can fetch the ball.
Dogs can hug.



All About Dogs

by Nataniel Castro-Murillo
Fairmount Park Elementary
Teacher: Tammy Ryan

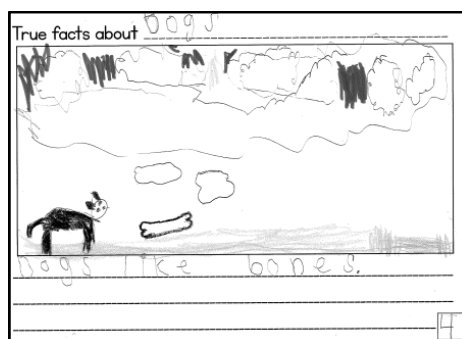
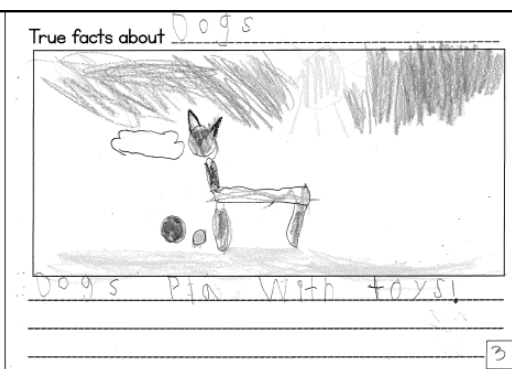
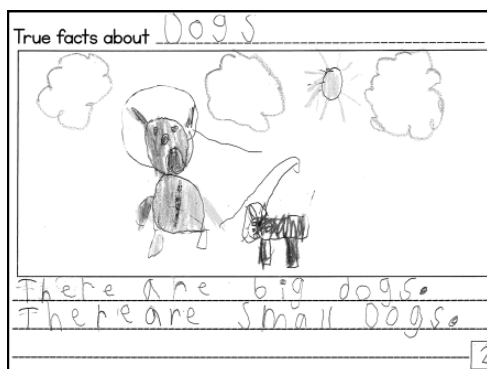
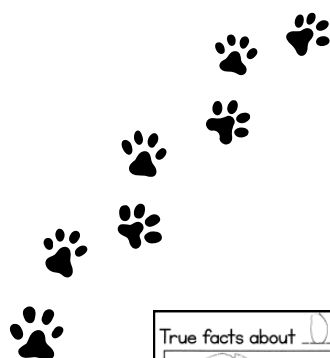
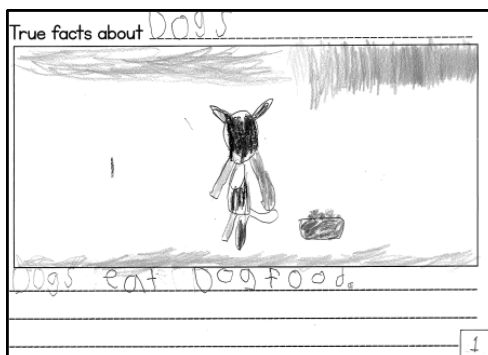
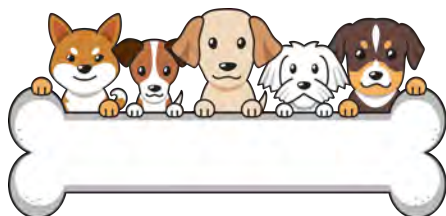


Dogs eat dog food.

There are big dogs.
There are small dogs.

Dogs play with toys!

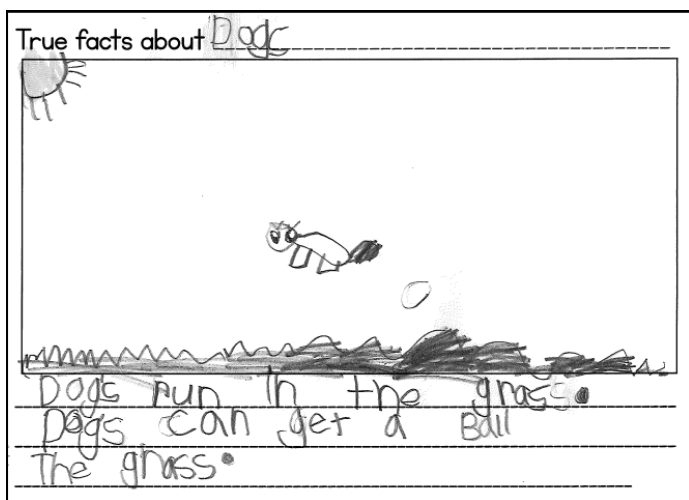
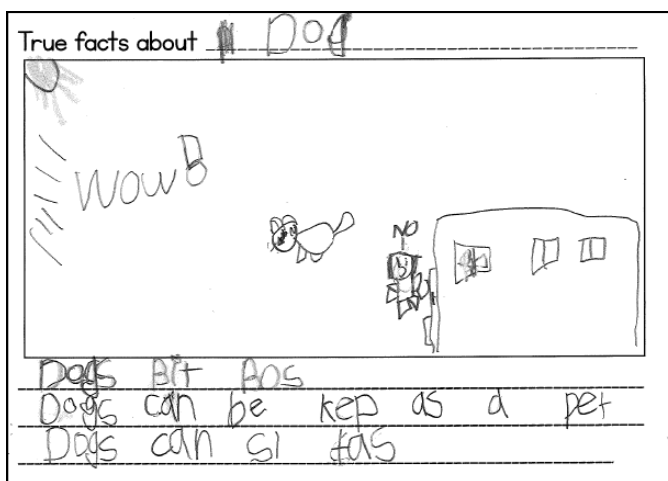
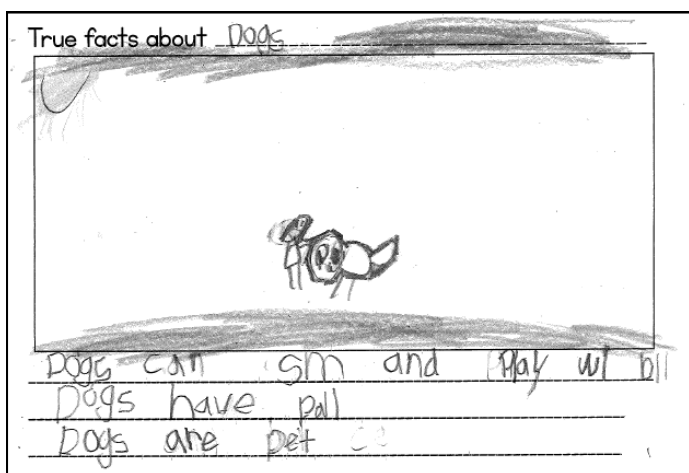
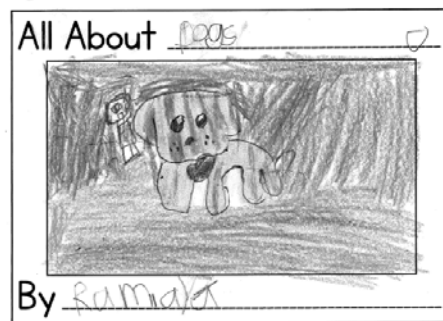
Dogs like bones.





All About Dogs

by Ramaya Lewis
Melrose Elementary School
Teacher: Debra Bauerlein



Dogs can smell and play with balls.
Dogs have paws.
Dogs are pets.

Dogs bite bones.
Dogs can be kept as a pet.
Dogs can taste.

Dogs can run in the grass.
Dogs can get a ball in the grass.





All About Orcas

by Dylan Richey
Gulf Beaches Elementary School
Teacher: Stephanie Bennett



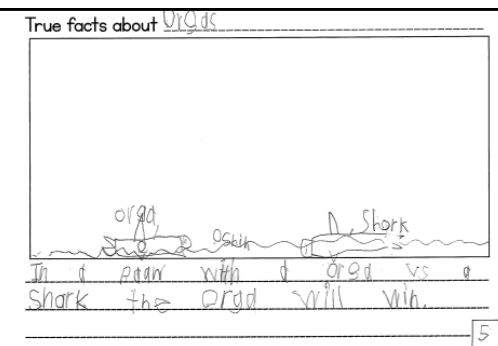
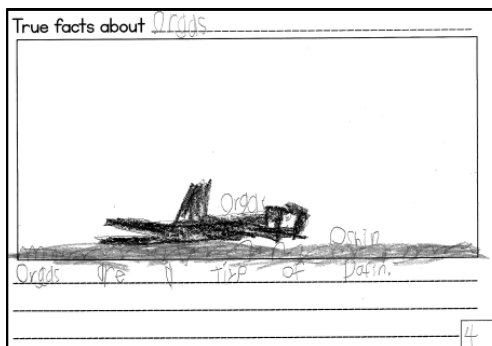
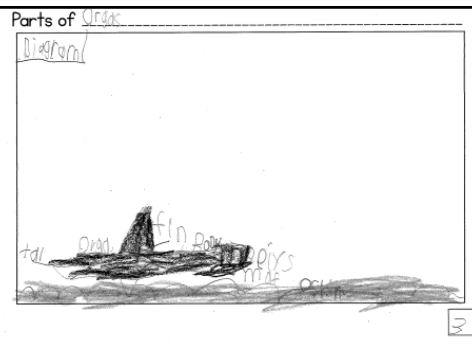
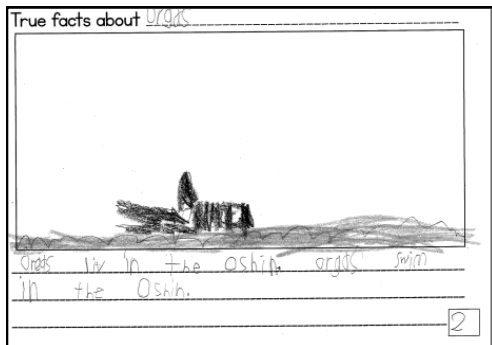
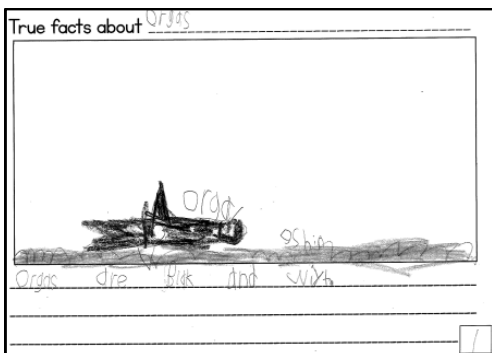
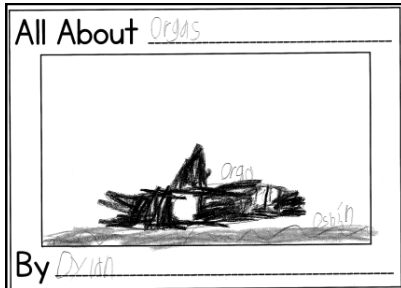
Orcas are black and white.

Orcas live in the ocean.
Orcas swim in the ocean.

Parts of an Orca: tail, orca,
fin, body, eyes, mouth,
ocean

Orcas are a type of dolphin.

In a battle with an Orca vs. a
shark, the Orca will win.





All About Dolphins

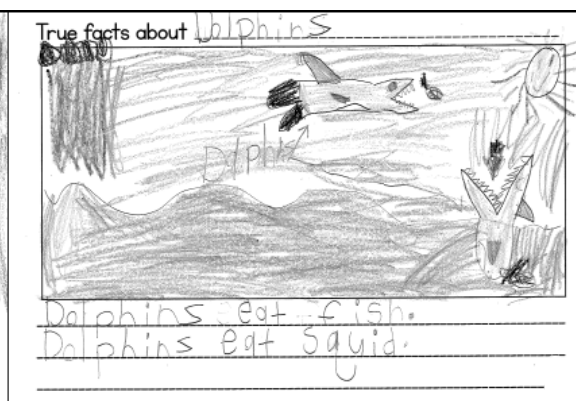
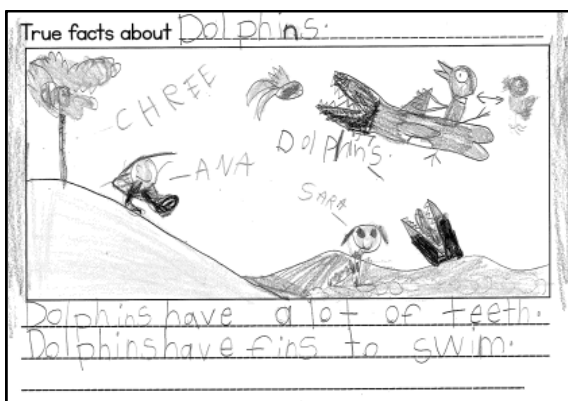
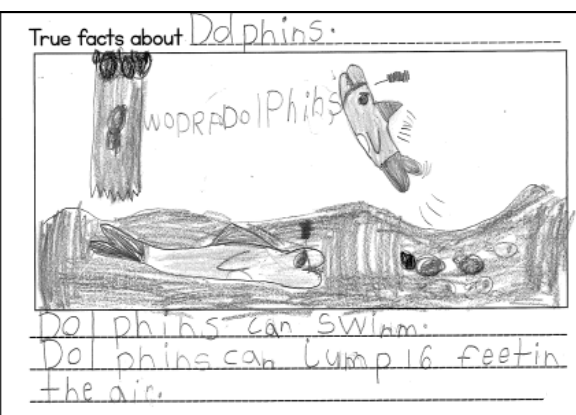
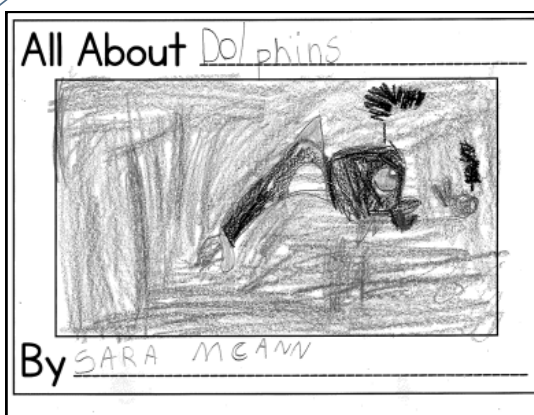
by Sara McCann
Tarpon Springs
Fundamental School
Teacher: Alexandra Rodriguez

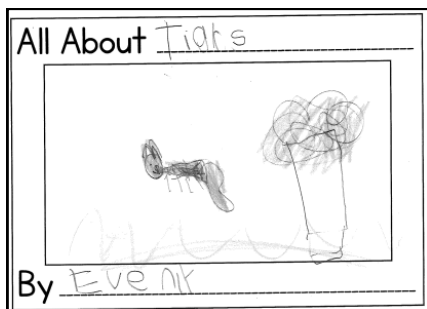


Dolphins can swim
Dolphins can jump 16 feet in the air.

Dolphins have a lot of teeth.
Dolphins have fins to swim.

Dolphins eat fish.
Dolphins eat squid.





All About Tigers

by Everly Berry
 Oldsmar Elementary School
 Teacher: Shana Wolff



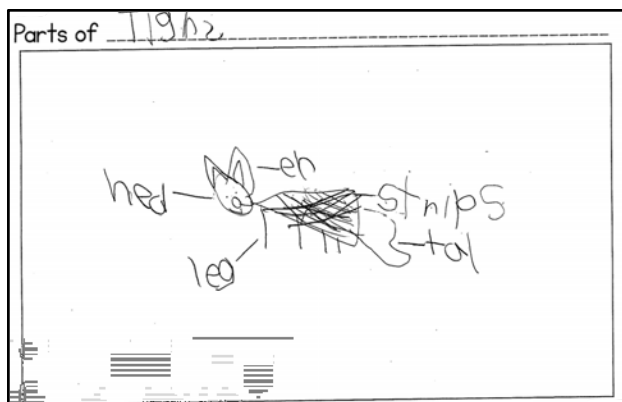
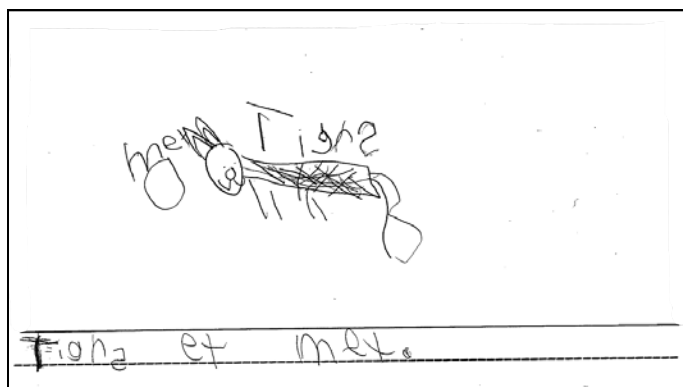
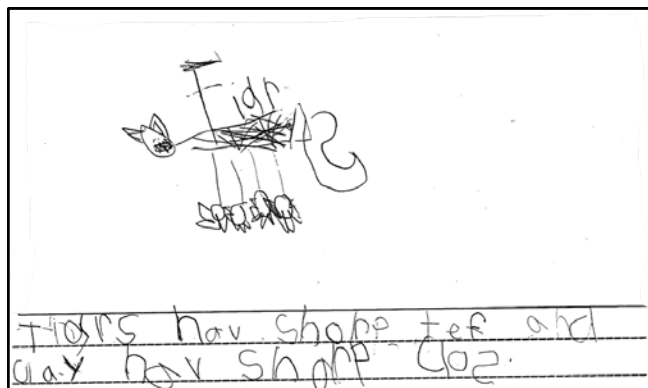
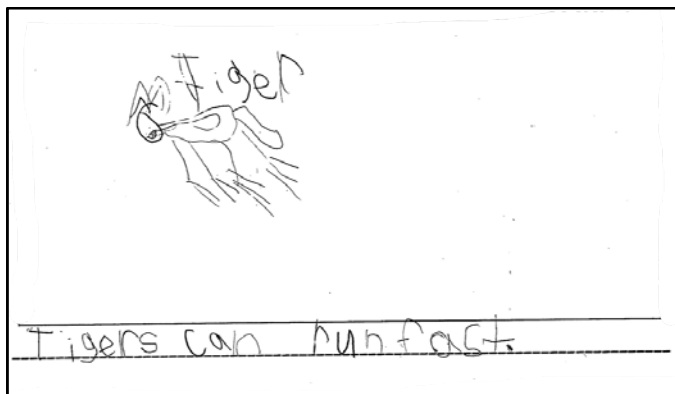
Tigers can run fast.



Tigers have sharp teeth and they have sharp claws.

Tigers eat meat.

Parts of a Tiger: head, ear, stripes, tail, leg





All About Dogs

by Obie Maskell

Tarpon Springs

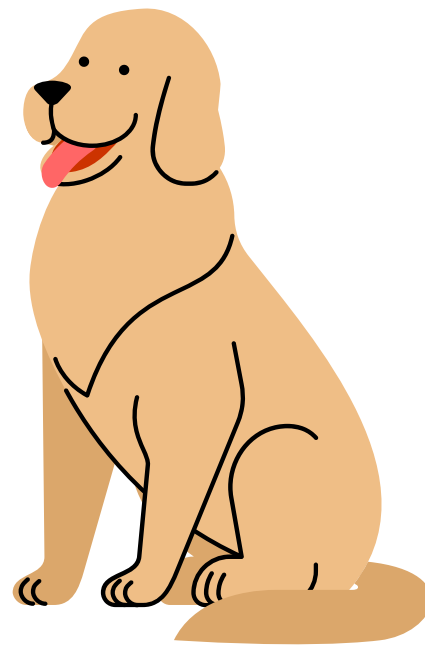
Fundamental School

Teacher: Amy Tassone

Dogs can swim in the water.
Dogs can jump up in the air.
Dogs can slide to get its bone.

Dogs have ears.
Dogs have four legs.
Dogs have a head.

Dogs eat dog food.
Dogs eat meat.
Dogs drink water in a bowl.



All About Dogs

By Obie Maskell

True facts about Dogs

Dogs can swim in the water.
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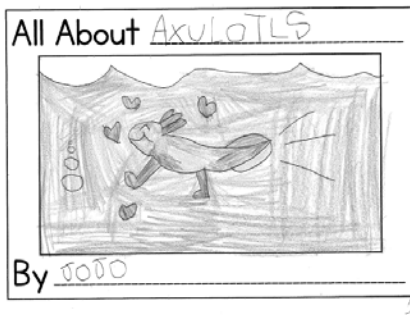
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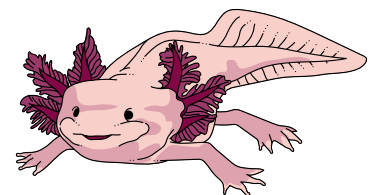
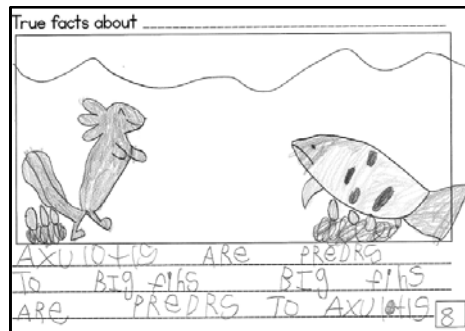
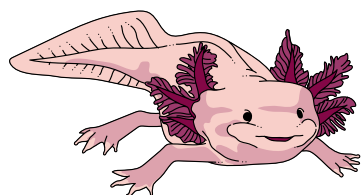
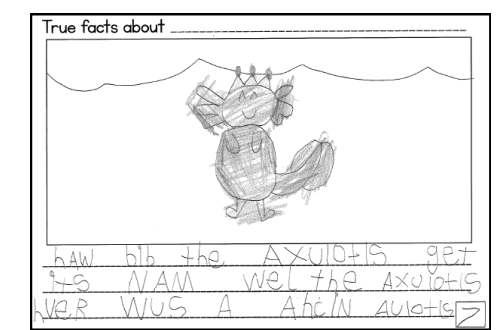
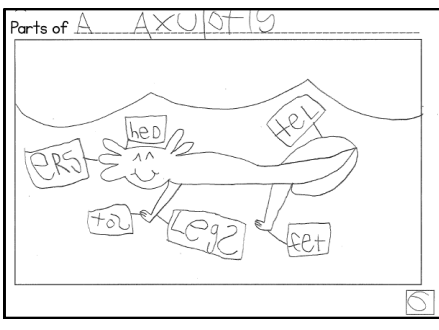
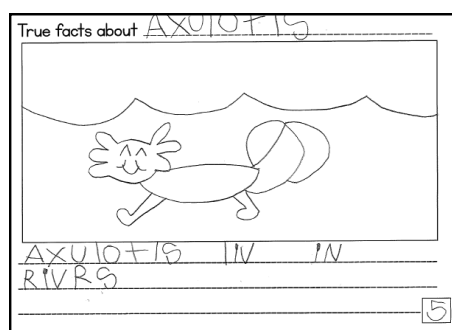
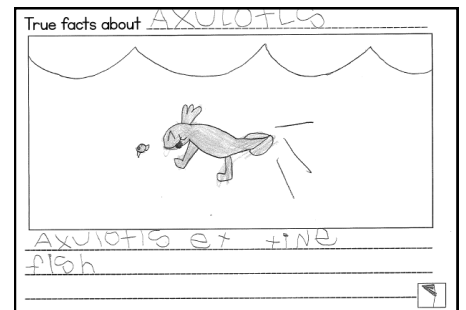
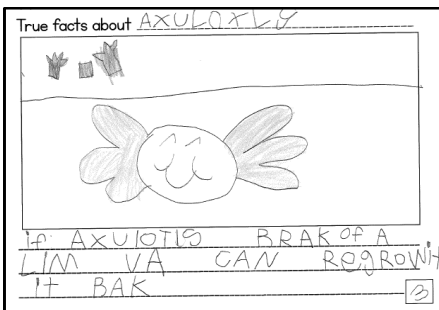
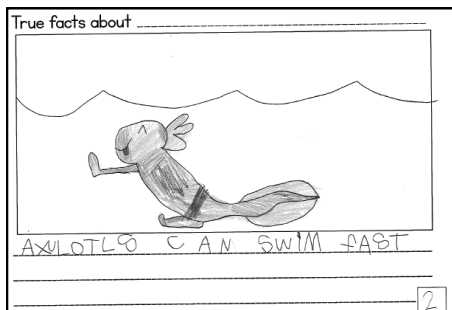


All About Axolotls

by Jolena Durston
Ponce De Leon Elementary
Teacher: Liz Schmidt



Axolotls can swim fast.
If an Axolotls breaks a limb, they can regrow it back.
Axolotls eat tiny fish.
Axolotls live in rivers.
Parts of Axolotls: ears, head, tail, toes, legs, feet
How did the Axolotls get its name? Well, the Axolotls never was an ancient Axolotls.
Axolotls are predators to big fish. Big fish are predators to Axolotls.

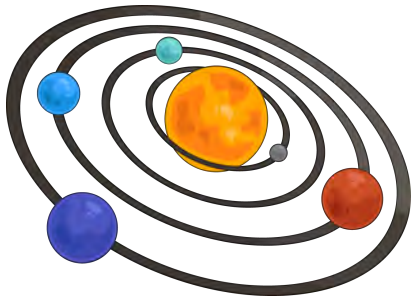


Autographs



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55	Going to the Movies	Nketsiah Eastwood
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All About Space
by Sydney Swanberg
Safety Harbor
Elementary School
Teacher: Rebecca White



☆ All about Space
By Sydney Swanberg

Today I am going to teach you all about space.

In space there are planets. There are eight planets in space. Venus is the hottest planet and Uranus is the coldest planet. Humans live on a planet called Earth. The important part of our solar system is the sun.

I hope you learned a lot about space. I think space is fun. I can't wait to go to space one day!

Today I am going to teach you all about space.

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My Trip to China

by Kayson Liu

Safety Harbor Elementary School

Teacher: Rebecca White

My Trip to china by Kayson Liu
 one day I went to the airport.
 I went on a airplane I saw a
 giant cloud. We finally got
 to china. I went off the
 plane. I went to the building.
 Oh! No! It is raining!!!!
 We need to get in the building!!
 We press the 13th button. I went
 to take a shower because I didn't
 shower for 48 hours. the next day
 we woke up. I was so excited
 to see all of my family members.
 We went to see my MOMS grandma
 and we play chess together.
 I lost the game but I still had
 fun. the next day I saw
 my MOMS dad. we went to a
 restaurant and we ate dumplings.
 Then my parents took us to the
 beach and we made a sandcastle.
 my favorite part of the trip was
 the day we went on a boat ride
 to a island. I saw a panda!!
 I will never forget my trip to
 china.

One day I went to the airport. I went on an airplane. I saw a giant cloud. We finally got to China. I went off the plane. I went to the building.

Oh! No! It is raining!!! We need to get into the building!! We pressed the 13 button. I went to take a shower because I didn't shower for 48 hours! The next day we woke up. I was so excited to see all of my family members. We went to see my mom's grandma and we played chess together. I lost the game, but I still had fun. The next day I saw my mom's dad. We went to a restaurant and we ate dumplings.

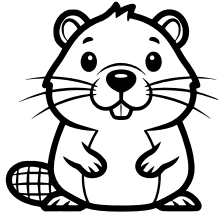
Then my parents took us to the beach and we made sandcastles. My favorite part of the trip was the day we went on a boat ride to an island. I saw a panda!! I will never forget my trip to China.

Beavers

by Juliet Trujillo

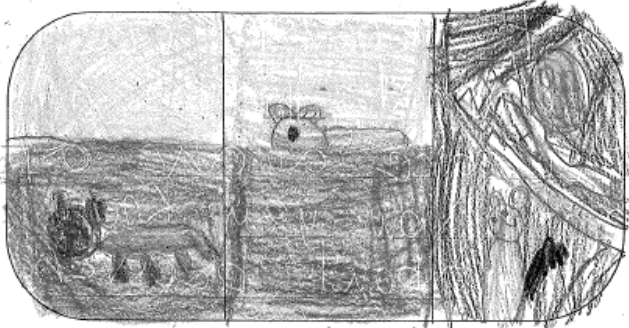
Tarpon Springs Fundamental School

Teacher: Teresa Bodolay



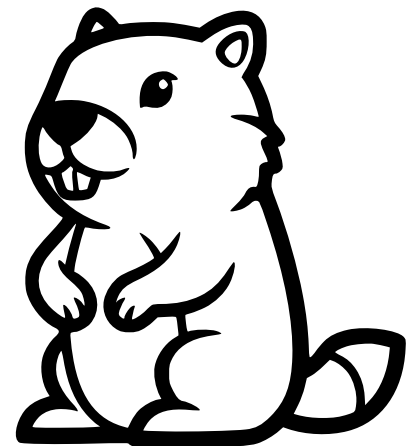
Do you want to know all about beavers? I do! First beavers have **transparent** eyelids. Transparent means that it is see-through. Also beavers can hold their breath for 15 minutes. One minute is 60 seconds. Last, beavers are **nocturnal**. This means they are awake at night. Now you know all about beavers!

Name: Juliet Date: 10-24-2025
Beavers



Do you want to know all about beavers?
I do! First, beavers have **transparent** eyelids. Transparent means that it is see through. Also beavers can hold their breath

for 15 minutes. One minute is 60 seconds. Last, beavers are **nocturnal**. This means they are awake at night. Now you know all about beavers!





All About Koalas

by Emmy Kirk

Tarpon Springs Fundamental School

Teacher: Teresa Bodolay



Let's learn about koalas. First, baby koalas are called **joeys** . At birth koalas are as big as a jellybean. Next, koalas live in trees and eat **eucalyptus** leaves. Last, koalas are **marsupials** . They have a pouch for the baby to stay safe and warm. I hope you liked learning all about koalas. Good luck seeing a koala in the wild.



Name: EMMY Date: 10-24-20
All About Koalas

Let's learn about koalas.
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Waves

by Andra Perju
San Jose Elementary School
Teacher: Heidi Baird



☆ waves by Andra P.

In my opinion waves is the best toy.
Waves is a furby.

BLANKET

My first reason is, she is fluffy
as a blanket when I hug her she makes
me sleep.

In my opinion, Waves is the best toy. Waves is a Furby.
My first reason is she is fluffy as a blanket. When I hug her she makes me sleep. Also, she can copy me. Every time I talk she copies me. I say, "HELLO." Furby says, "HELLO." Lastly, that's why I think Waves is the best toy. Do you think Waves is the best toy?

Also, she can copy me. Every time I
talk she copies me. I say "HELLO."
Furby says "HELLO."

Waves

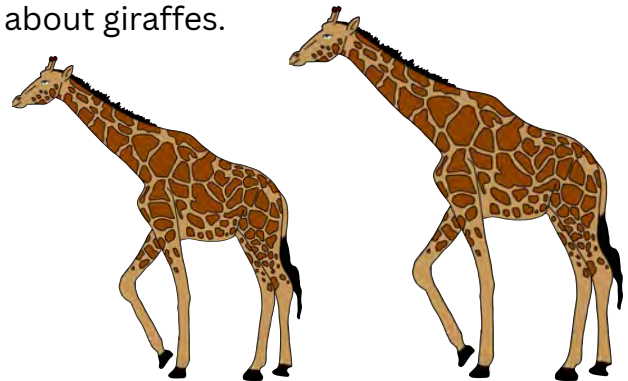
Lastly that's why I think waves
is the best toy. Do you think
waves is the best toy?



All About Giraffes
 by Demi Malo
 Tarpon Springs
 Fundamental School
 Teacher: Teresa Bodolay



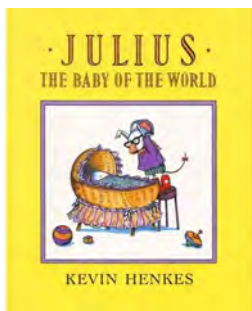
Guess who? This animal has a long neck, long legs, and spots all over its fur. It is a giraffe! Let's learn about giraffes. First, giraffes are the tallest land animal. Did you know giraffes can be as tall as 14-19 feet? Next, giraffes have long tongues that are blue and black. They use their long tongues to eat acacia leaves. Last, giraffes live in grasslands. Grasslands are areas with lots of grass and few trees. Now you know all about giraffes.



Name: Demi Date: 10-2-2025
All About Giraffes

Guess Who? This animal has a long neck, long legs, and spots all over its fur. It is a giraffe! Let's learn about giraffes. First, giraffes are the tallest land animal. Did you know giraffes can be

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Julius Baby of the World

Book Review

by Aurora Rouseff

Safety Harbor

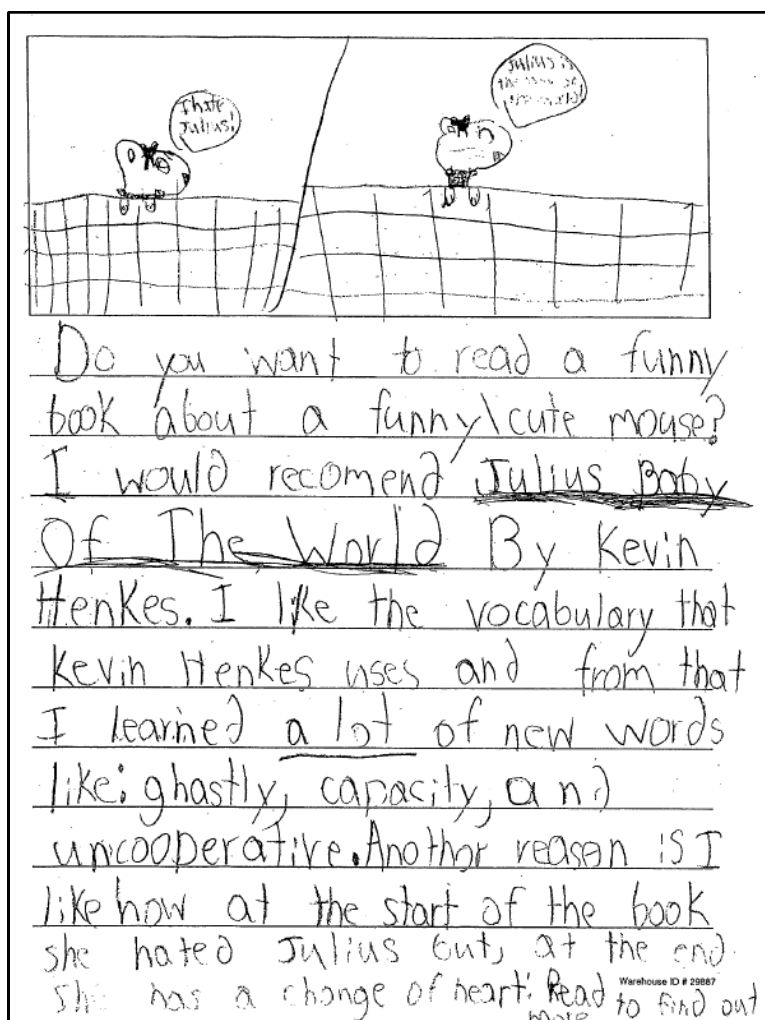
Elementary School

Teacher: Julie Halstead



Do you want to read a funny book about a funny/cute mouse? I would recommend Julius Baby of the World by Kevin Henkes.

I like the vocabulary that Kevin Henkes uses and from that I learned a lot of new words like: ghastly, capacity, and uncooperative. Another reason is I like how at the start of the book she hated Julius but at the end she has a change of heart. Read to find out more!





A Day at Summer Camp

by Jack McQuade

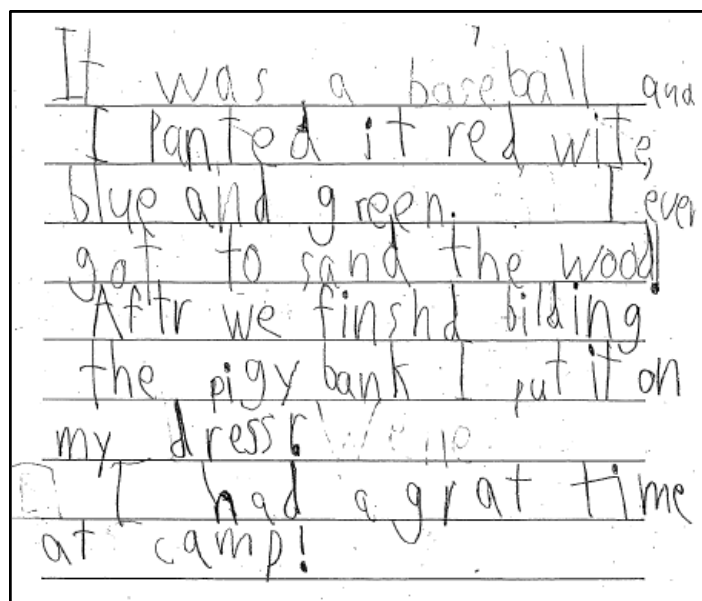
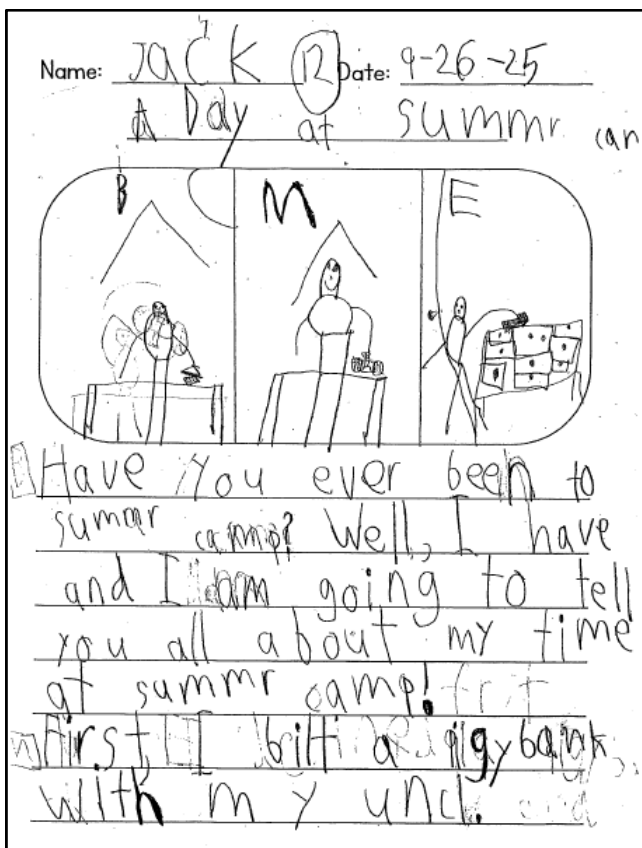
Tarpon Springs Fundamental School

Teacher: Kelly Levey

Have you ever been to summer camp? Well, I have and I am going to tell you all about my time at summer camp!

First, I built a piggybank with my uncle. It was a baseball and I painted it red, white, blue and green. I even got to sand the wood! After we finished building the piggy bank I put it on my dresser.

I had a great time at camp!



Tampa Zoo Review

by Sabrina Snyder

Safety Harbor Elementary School

Teacher: Julie Halstead

Woo! Hoo! Tampa Zoo! I can't wait to see the animals. At Tampa Zoo there are lots of animal exhibits. I'll tell you a couple of them. Flamingos, hippos, giraffes, elephants, penguins, and orangutans. Also, there's a lot of fun. You can see many birds because there's a big bird area where you can see so much. There are unique birds all around you.

It's like you're in a tropical jungle. I rate this five stars!



Whoo! hoo! Tampa zoo-I cant wait to see the animals. At tampa zoo theirs lots of animal exhibits. Ill tell you a couple of them. Flamingos, hippos, girrates elephants, penguins and auranng utangs. Also theres alot of fun. You can see many birds because there's a big bird area where you can see so much. There's unique birds all around you. Its like youre in a tropical jungle

I rate this five stars! How many stars would you rate this?





All About Sharks
by John Yannotta
San Jose Elementary School
Teacher: Heidi Baird



☆ Introduction

Have you ever wondered how sharks use their gills to breathe? Get ready to learn a lot about sharks.

☆ Habitat

Sharks live in the ocean. They swim in coral reefs. Coral reefs are places where fish and anemones live. Sharks can find fish to eat there. It brightens up the ocean.

☆ Diet

Sharks eat meat. They also eat fish. They wait until they come near, then they grab the fish with their sharp teeth.

Introduction:

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Diet

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Diagram of a Shark: face, tail, teeth, fin

Sharks use their teeth to bite. Their teeth are so sharp. They have about 24 teeth, but can grow 35,000. That's all I know about sharks. Did you like learning about sharks?

Diagram of a shark.

Sharks use their teeth to bite. Their teeth are so sharp. They have about 24 teeth, but can grow 35,000.

That's all I know about sharks. Did you like learning about sharks?



Suney and Me

by Charlotte Tucker

San Jose Elementary School

Teacher: Heidi Baird

One day I played with my dog. Her name is Suney. We played fetch with a bone. We had fun!

After we play fetch we get some water. We were so thirsty from playing fetch. Suney slurps her water quickly.

Then I ate some dinner. Suney had some dinner, too. I had sweet chicken. Suney had crunchy dog food.

Then I went to bed. Suney went to bed, too. We fell asleep so fast. We were so tired from playing fetch. Good night!

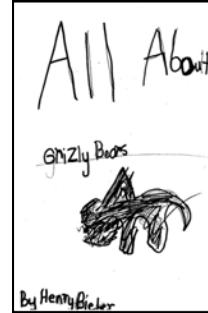




All About Grizzly Bears

by Henry Bieber
San Jose

Elementary School
Teacher: Heidi Baird



☆ Introduction

My favorite animal is a grizzly bear. Get ready to learn a lot about grizzly bears.

☆ Ch.1 Habitat

Grizzly bears live in the forest. Do you know what to do if you see one in the forest? You must stay very still.

☆ Ch.2 Diet

Grizzly bears love to eat salmon. They wait for salmon in the river and when one swims by they grab it with their mouth. They also love to eat humans. That's why you need to stay still if you see one.

☆ Ch.3 Diagram

This is a diagram of a grizzly bear.



Introduction

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Ch. 1 Habitat

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Ch.3 Diagram

This is a diagram of a grizzly bear: sharp teeth, mouth, ears, feet, tail

☆ pg. 4 Fun Facts

Did you know that grizzly bears are mammals? Mammals have a vertebrate, fur, and feed their babies milk. A vertebrate is a backbone.

☆ ch. 5 More Fun Facts

Grizzly bears are also very strong. They are stronger than a human. They can break all of your bones. They could crush a garbage can. They could even dent your car.

Ch.4 Fun Facts

Did you know that grizzly bears are mammals? Mammals have a vertebrate, fur, and feed their babies milk. A vertebrate is a backbone.

Ch. 5 More Fun Facts

Grizzly bears are also very strong. They are stronger than a human. They can break all of your bones. They could crush a garbage can. They could even dent your car.

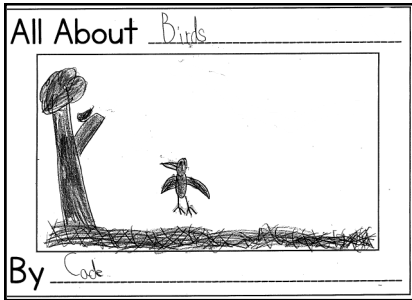
☆ Conclusion

Grizzly bear

Grizzly bears are an amazing animal. Did you enjoy learning about grizzly bears?

Conclusion

Grizzly bears are amazing animals. Did you enjoy learning about grizzly bears?



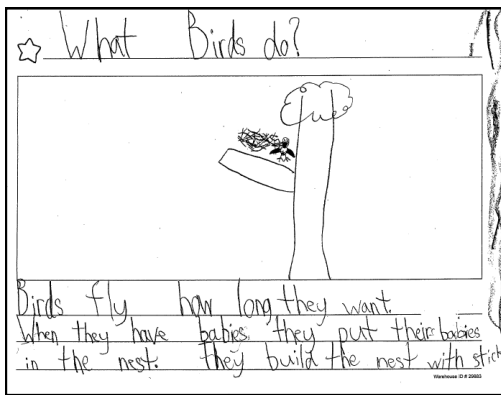
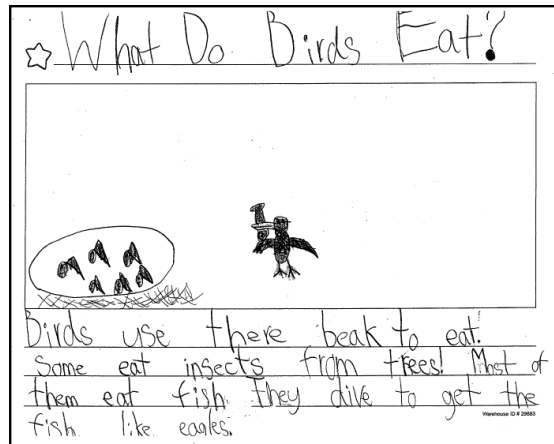
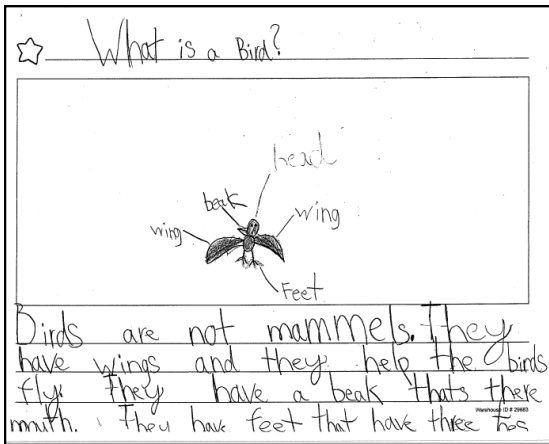
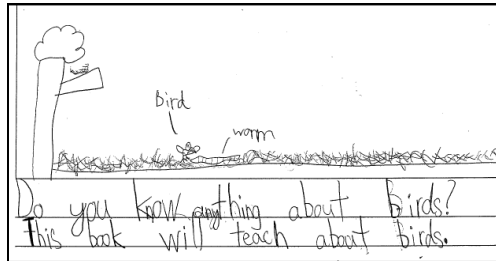
All About Birds

by Cade Twiggs

Leila G. Davis

Elementary School

Teacher: Tara Moffitt



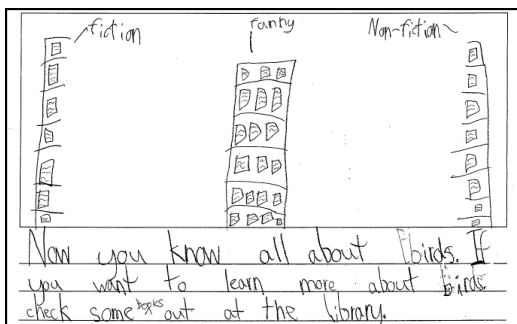
Do you know anything about birds? This book will teach about birds.

What is a Bird?

Birds are not mammals. They have wings and they help the birds fly. They have a beak that's their mouth. They have feet that have three toes.

What Do Birds Eat?

Birds use their beaks to eat. Some eat insects from trees! Most of them eat fish. They dive to get the fish like eagles.



What Do Birds Do?

Birds fly how long they want. When they have babies they put their babies in the nest. They build the nest with sticks.

Now you know all about birds. If you want to learn more about birds, check some books out at the library.



BVF is the Best

by Bryn Mader

Bay Vista Fundamental School

Teacher: Katie Anderson

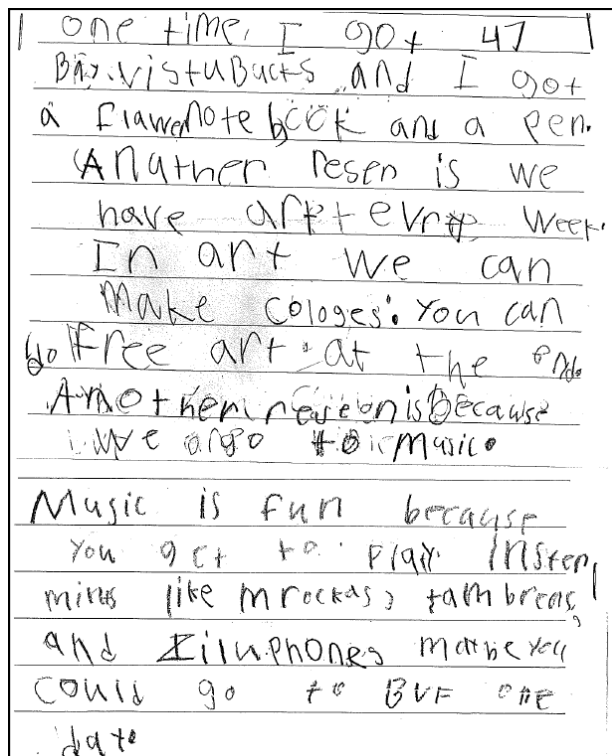
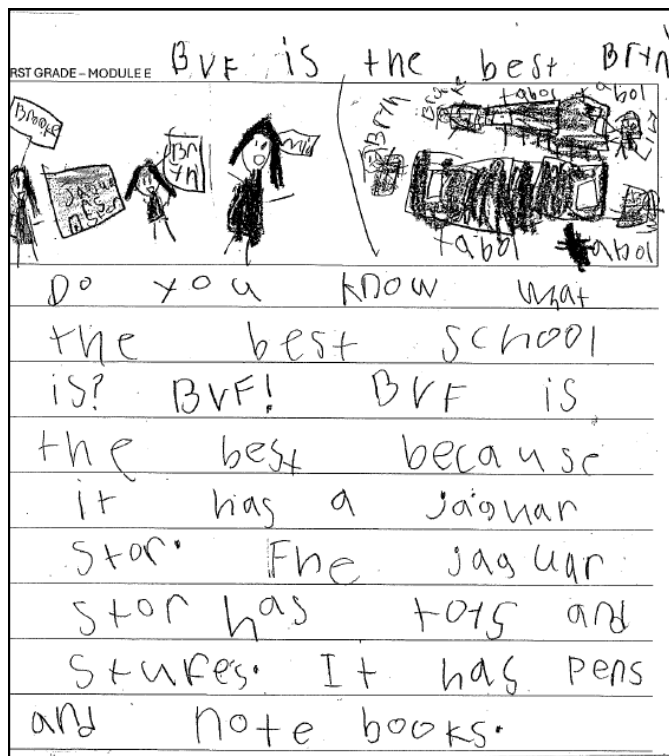
Do you know what the best school is? BVF! BVF is the best because it has a jaguar store.

The jaguar store has toys and stuffies. It has pens and notebooks. One time I got 47 Bay Vista Bucks and I got a flower notebook and a pen.

Another reason is we have art every week. In art we can make collages. You can do free art at the end.

Another reason is because we go to music. Music is fun because you get to play instruments like maracas, tambourines, and xylophones.

Maybe you could go to BVF one day.





Target Time

by Lucille Plath

Elisa Nelson Elementary School

Teacher: Tammy Quick



When you first open the door you can hear all the chatting in Target. My family goes to Target a lot because it's near our house.

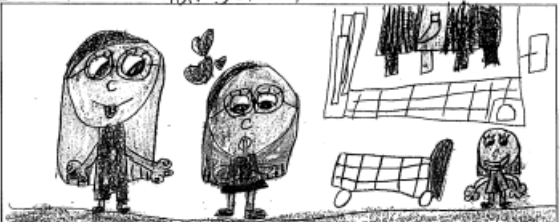
Target is awesome because they have Slurpees. Yum!!!! One time I got a strawberry Slurpee. It froze my tongue!

Another reason is that they have a bunch of stuff like clothes, toys, stuffys, furniture, food, and drinks. For example, whenever I'm invited to a birthday party, I always get a toy at Target.

This is why Target is the best place ever!



Lucille Plath Target Time



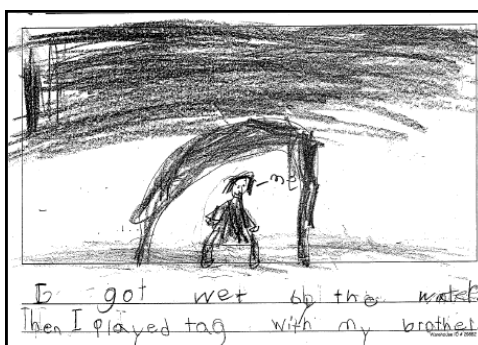
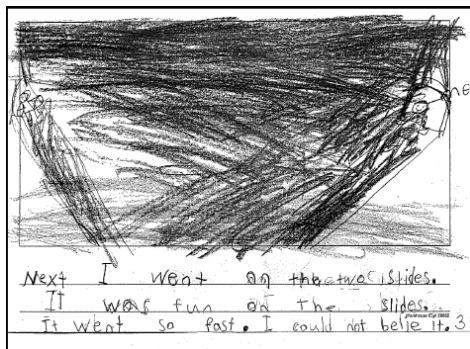
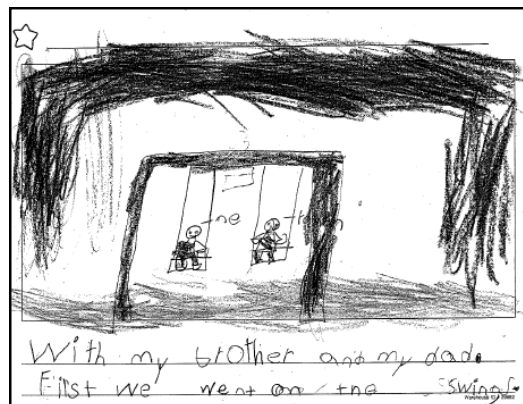
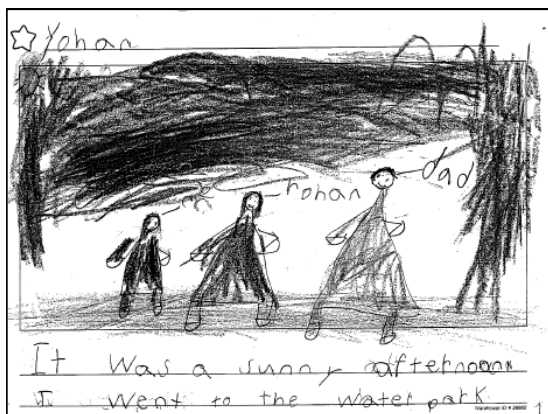
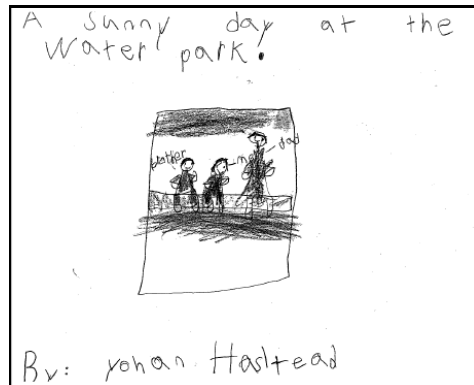
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they have a bunch of stuff like clothes, toys, stuffys, furniture, food, and drinks. For example, whenever I'm invited to a birthday party I always get a toy at Target. This is why Target is the best place ever!



A Sunny Day at the Water Park

by Yohan Halstead
Melrose Elementary School
Teacher: Shelly Levitsky



It was a sunny afternoon. I went to the water park with my brother and my dad.

First, we went on the swings. Next, I went on two slides. It was fun on the slides. It went so fast I could not believe it!

I got wet by the water. Then I played tag with my brother.

Finally, I went home. It was a great day!

Baby Brother

by Kayloni Tripp

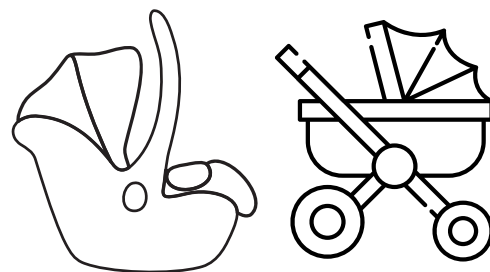
Melrose Elementary School

Teacher: Shelly Levitsky

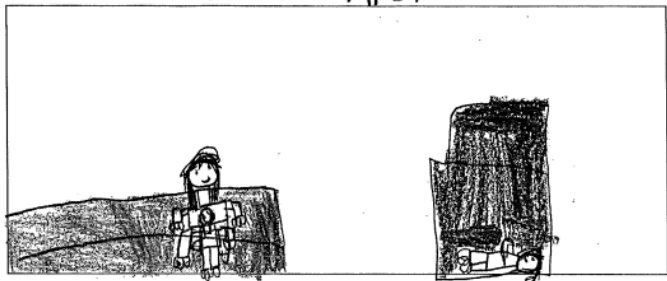


One weekend, my mom told me she was going to have a baby boy in March. His name is Jmiry. She didn't set up the room yet. She set the closet up though. She brought him a lot of clothes. She also has a car seat and a stroller.

I am so happy to be a big sister. I am going to hog the baby. Whenever my big sister Kaylee takes the baby, I'm going to ask to hold him. I can't wait to see him!



Baby brother



one weekend my mom told me she was going to have a baby boy in March.

His name is Jmiry. She didn't set up the room yet. She set the closet up though. she brought him a lot of clothes. she also has a car seat and a stroller.



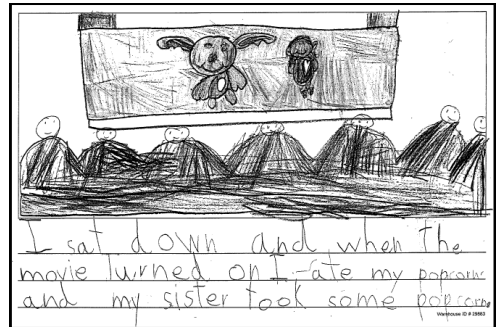
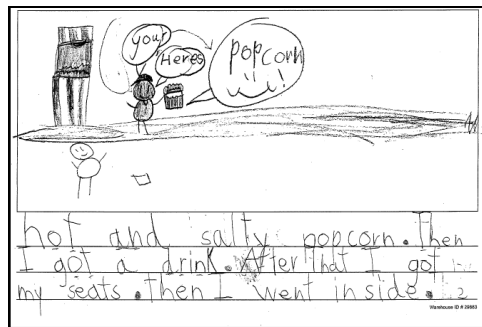
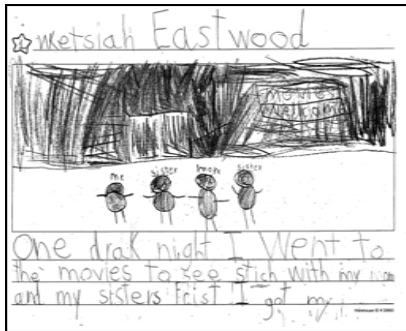
I am so happy to be a big sister. I am going to hog the baby. Whenever my big sister Kaylee takes the baby I'm going to ask to hold him. I can't wait to see him!

by Kayloni Tripp



Going to the Movies

by Nketsiah Eastwood
Melrose Elementary School
Teacher: Lecresha Williams

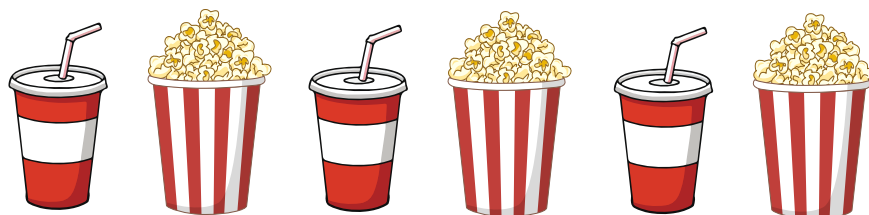
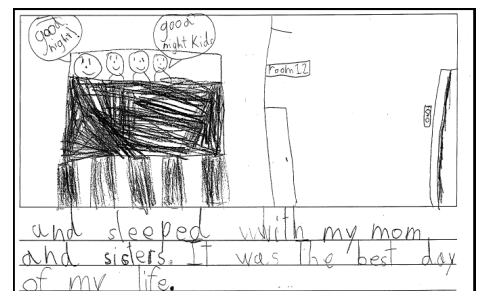
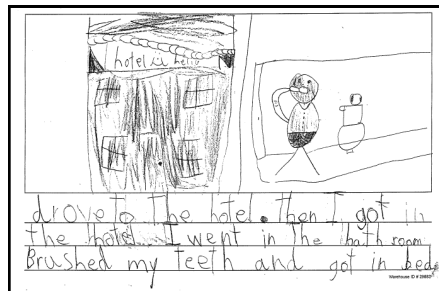
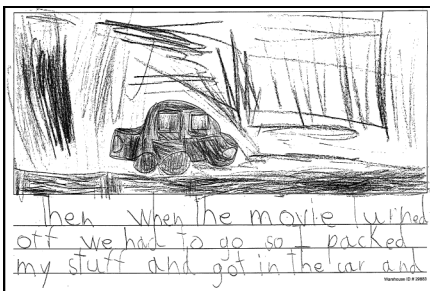


One dark night I went to the movies to see Stitch with my mom and my sisters.

First, I got my hot and salty popcorn. Then, I got a drink. After that, I got my seats. Then, I went inside. I sat down and when the movie turned on, I ate my popcorn and my sister took some popcorn. Then when the movie turned off, we had to go.

So, I packed my stuff and got in the car and drove to the hotel. Then, I got in the hotel. I went in the bathroom, brushed my teeth, and got in bed, and slept with my mom and sisters.

It was the best day of my life.



Bats

by Kayson Stephens
Melrose Elementary School
Teacher: Lecresha Williams

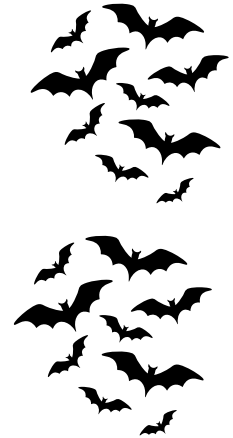
Did you know that bats eat bugs and insects? They also eat fruit. They pick up the seeds and drop the seeds on the ground.

Bats have wings. Bats are gray and brown. Bats also can be black.

Bats live in caves and trees. They sleep in the day and wake up in the night.

Bats sleep in the daytime. They sleep upside down.

Bats are great animals!



☆ KAYSON

Did you know that bats eat bugs and insects they also eat fruit they pick up the seeds and drop the seeds on the ground.



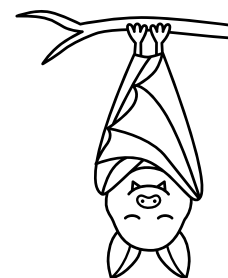
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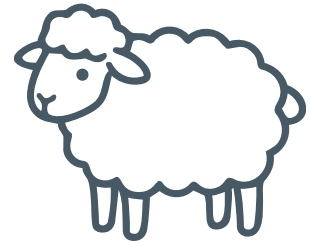


All About Sheep

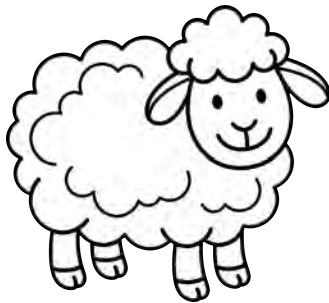
by Kyceone Weaver

Melrose Elementary School

Teacher: Lecresha Williams



Sheeps eat hay and oats and grass. They also drink water.



Male sheep have horns and some don't. They use their horns to protect themselves.

Did you know that sheep live in the farm and they can be any color, like white and black and brown?

Now you know all about sheep.

☆ Kyceone.w

Sheeps eat hay and oats and grass. They also drink water.

MALE SHEEPS have horns and some dont. They use there horns to Pretecet them self.

Warhouse © # 2003

☆ Kyceone.w

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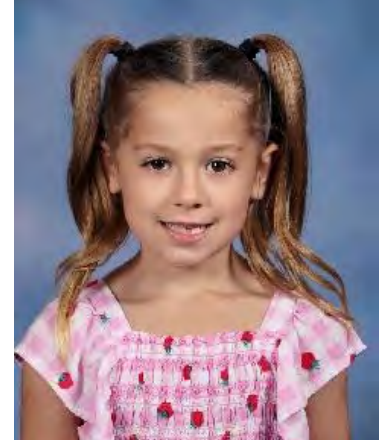
Warhouse © # 2003

☆ Kyceone weaver

Now you know All about SHEEPS.

Fixing Our Classroom Headphone Area

by Lucy Gutknecht
Lake St. George Elementary School
Teacher: Allison Carmen



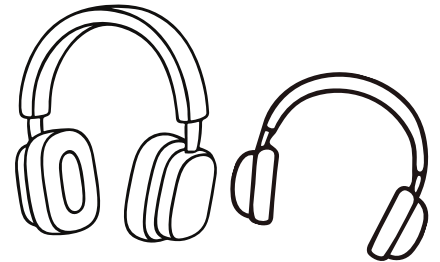
I do not like when the headphones area is a mess!

One reason is because it is not safe. Also, the headphones are on the floor. And kids can break them.

Another reason that it breaks the headphones on the top. And we won't have them.

We could put a camera next to the cubbies. And we could look on the camera.

We could hang a picture of how the cubbies should look when they are organized.



★ LUCY 11-14-25

I do not like when the headphones are in a mess.

One reason is because it is not safe. Also the headphones are on the floor and kids can break them.

Another reason that it breaks the headphones on the top. And we won't have them.

We could put a camera next to the cubbies. And we could look on the camera.

Bad Good

We could hang a picture of how the cubbies should look when they are organized.



The Fudgemint Cookie

by Kieran Hoffman
Lake St. George
Elementary School
Teacher: Allison Carmen



Have you had this cookie? It is the fudgemint. That's my favorite cookie!

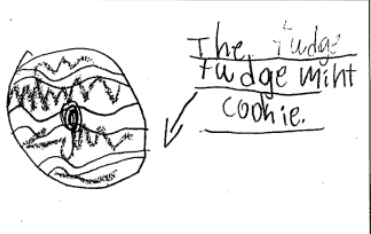
The first reason is, it reminds my mint box at home. I can open the box and pop a mint in my mouth.

The second reason is because it doesn't just have mint, it has vanilla!!!! The vanilla frosting is in squiggly lines across the minty cookie.

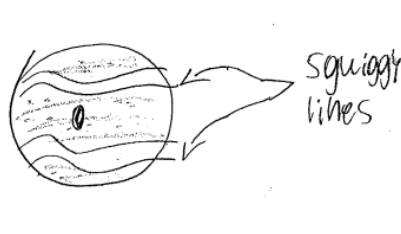
A third reason is because it has a little bit of a taste that feels spicy.

That is why I want you to try the fudge mint cookie. Bye!!

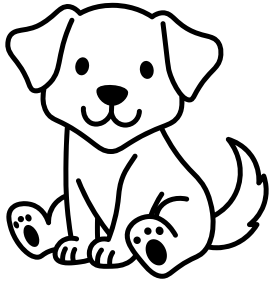
Kieran



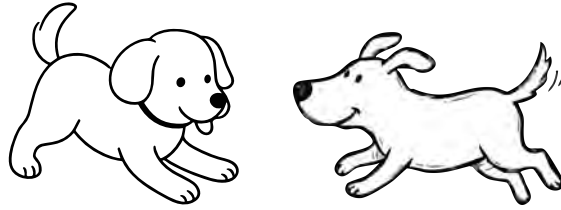
Have you had this cookie?
It is the fudgemint,
That's my favorite cookie!
The first reason is it
reminds my mint box at
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reason is because it
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of a taste that
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I want you to try
the fudgemint cookie. Bye!!!



Five Star Pet
by Chase Diggs
Lealman Avenue
Elementary School
Teacher: Madison Ford



woofh! woof! woof! thats the song
of a dog. Dogs are the best kind of
pet there is. First because they
are playfle. you can play fetch. Also
Wen your sad your dog can cheer
you up. they give you love. Last they
can help you get exercise. Dogs have a
lot of enrg. Go sit a dog because ther
a 5 star pet!

How many stars would you rate this?



Woof! Woof! Woof! That's the sound of a dog. Dogs are the best kind of pet there is.

First, because they are playful. You can play fetch. Also, when your sad, your dog can cheer you up. They give you love. Last, they can help you get exercise. Dogs have a lot of energy.

Go get a dog because they're a five-star pet!





All About Cheetahs

by Kellan Stalker
Lealman Avenue
Elementary School
Teacher: Madison Ford

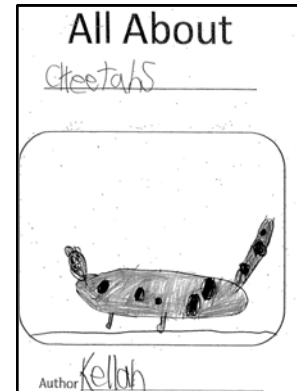
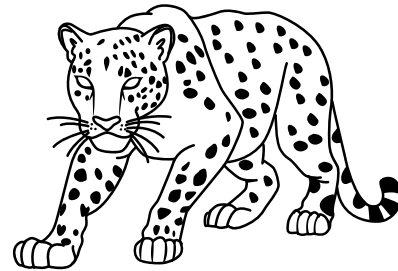
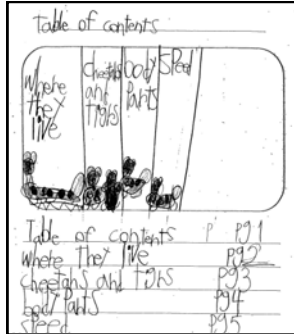


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- Where they live page 2
- Cheetahs and Tigers page 3
- Body Parts Page 4
- Speed page 5



Where They Live

Cheetahs live in the grassland. They live in Africa. Baby cheetahs play with each other in the grass.

Cheetahs and Tigers

Cheetahs and tigers are both the same because they are cats. They are different because tigers have black lines, but cheetahs have black dots.

Body Parts

Cheetahs have a tail. Their tail helps them balance. They use their legs and tail for running fast.

Speed

Cheetahs run fast. Cheetahs can run 75 miles per hour. Cheetahs are the fastest mammals on land. Now you know all about the fastest cat!



The Lovely Ms. Ford

by Natalie Snyder

Lealman Avenue Elementary School

Teacher: Madison Ford



Lovely! Lovely! Lovely! That's the sound of me talking about Ms. Ford. In my opinion, I think Ms. Ford is the best teacher ever.

First, she gives us surprises. Sometimes she brings us hot chocolate and popcorn.

Second, she helps us learn every single day and we are getting smarter and smarter.

Last, we get to do crafts. One time we got to make gingerbread men. That's why I love Ms. Ford. She is five big stars.

FIRST GRADE - MODULE E NATALIE

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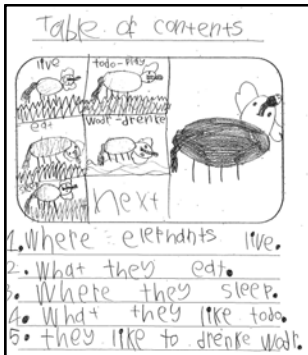
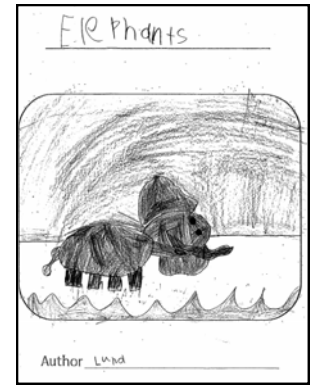
Last we get to do crafts. One time we got to make gingerbread men. That's why I love Ms. Ford. She is five big stars.

How many stars would you rate this?



All About Elephants

by Luna Figueroa Pisecco
Lealman Avenue
Elementary School
Teacher: Madison Ford



- Table of Contents
1. Where elephants live
 2. What they eat
 3. Where they sleep
 4. What they like to do
 5. They like to drink water

Introduction

Squirt! Squirt! Squirt! That is just a elephant taking a bath. Read this to learn all about elephants.

Where they live

Elephants live in Africa. They also live in Asia. They live in grasslands and forests.

What they eat

They eat grass. They drink water. They eat tree bark. They also eat peanuts.

How elephants sleep

Elephants usually sleep standing up for about three to four hours a day.

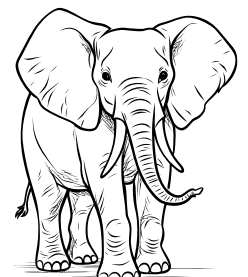
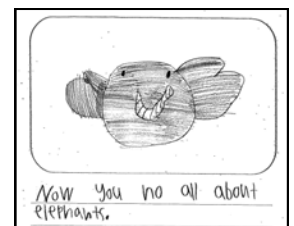
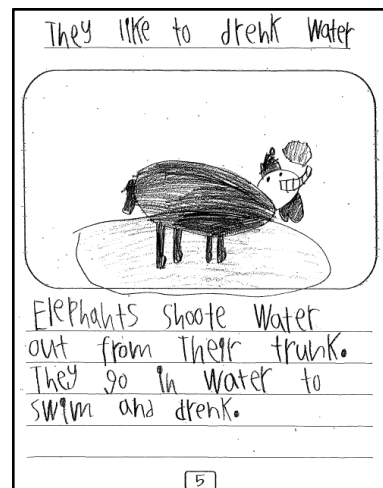
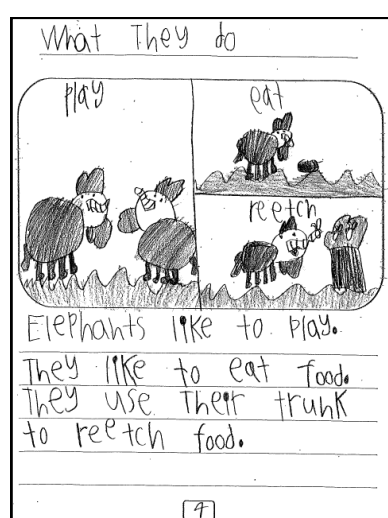
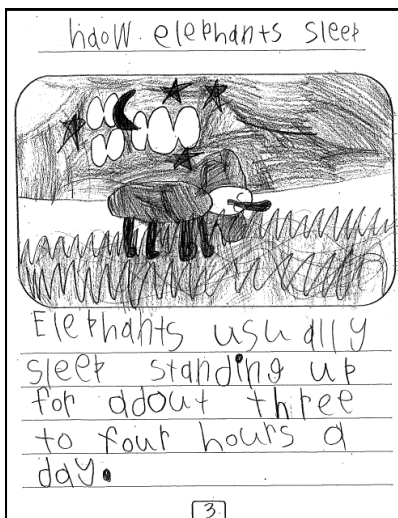
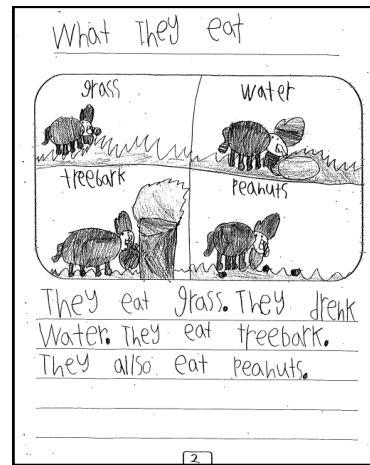
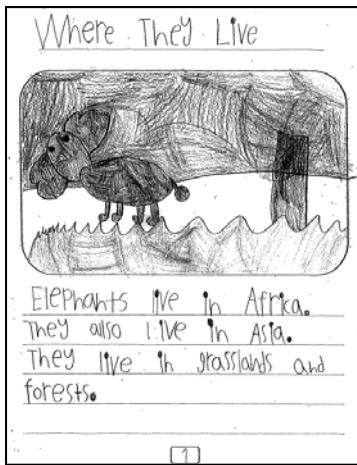
What they do

Elephants like to play. They like to eat food. They use their trunk to reach food.

They like to drink water

Elephants shoot water out from their trunk. They go in the water to swim and drink.

Now you know all about elephants.



Camping with PaPa

by Preston Williams

Douglas L. Jamerson Elementary School

Teacher: Jessica Dean

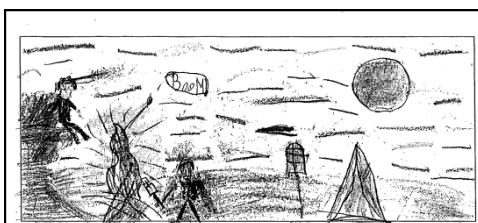


Once upon a time, I went to Alabama with PaPa on a camping trip! It was lunch time when we got there so we ate sandwiches. They were so good! After a long drive and a big lunch we took a long nap. When I woke up it was time to start making the fire. I put long brown sticks into the fire pit and the second I put them in, POOF!



Once upon a time, I went to Alabama with PaPa on a camping trip! It was lunch time when we got there so we ate sandwiches. They were so good! After a long drive and a big lunch we took a long nap. When I woke up it was time to start making the fire. I put long brown sticks into the fire pit and the second I put them in, POOF!

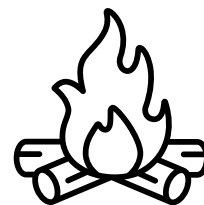
The sparking fire was bursting of light! It looked like a thousand fireflies in the night sky. When the fire calmed down we started to make S'mores. They were so yummy and smushy. They tasted like a burning cookie in the oven. When it was about 6:30 I saw the sunset. I got a better view when I climbed up a tree. The sunset was red, orange, and yellow. It was very, very bright and beautiful!



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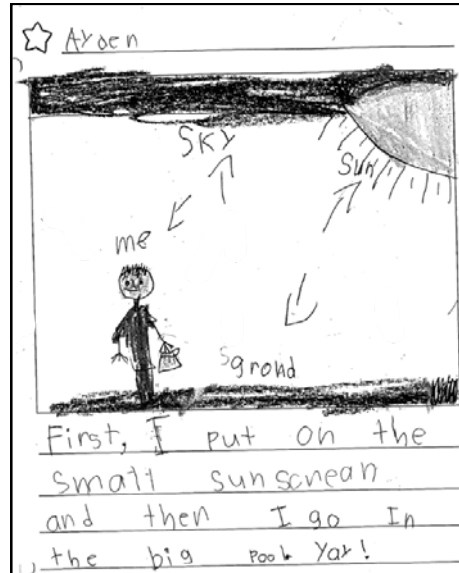
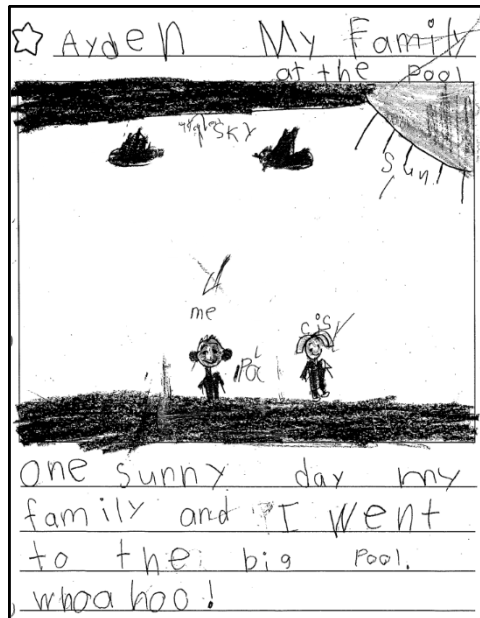


beautiful! After the sunset we started to put out the fire with a pitcher OF water. When it was all out we headed back to our tent and PaPa read a story to me. After the story I went to bed After a long fun day of camping.

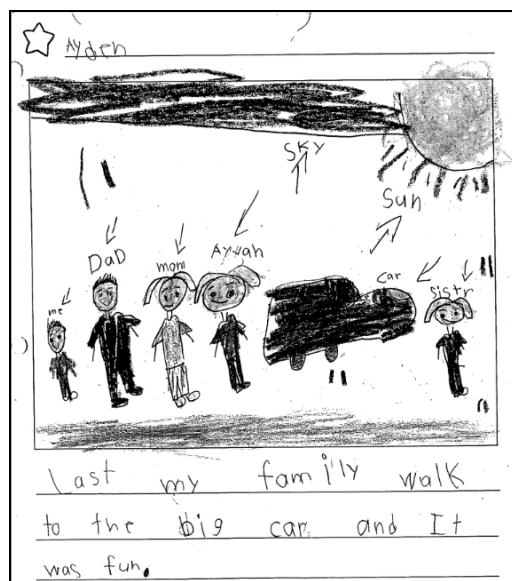
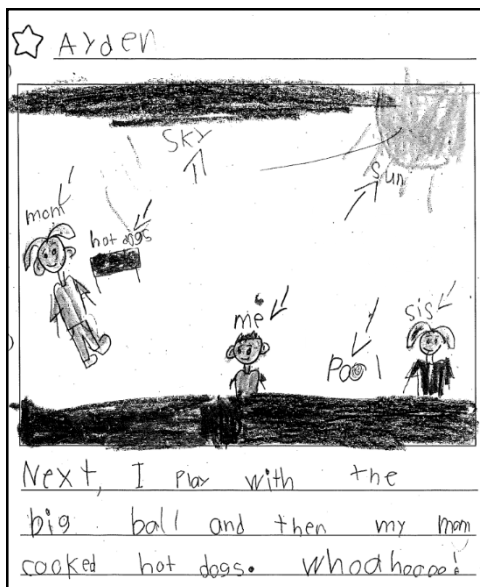




My Family at the Pool
by Ayden Faymaw
Pinellas Park Elementary School
Teacher: Megan Bersett



One sunny day my family and I went to the big pool. Woo hoo!
First, I put on the small sunscreen and then I got in the big pool. Yay!
Next, I played with a big ball and then my mom cooked hotdogs. Woo hoo!
Last, my family walked to the big car and it was fun.



Autographs



Second Grade Writing

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Unicorns and Ponies

by Shannon O'Leary

Gulf Beaches

Elementary School

Teacher: Roseann Sacino



In my opinion, I like unicorns better than ponies. My first reason is unicorns are very colorful. My second reason is unicorns are rare. I love rare things. My third reason is unicorns are magical. That is why I like unicorns more than ponies.

My first reason is unicorns are as colorful as a rainbow. Did you know unicorns can make rainbows? I like colors. Rainbows normal have: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet colors.


My second reason is unicorns are rare. I like rare things. Rare means they are hard to find.

My third reason is unicorns are magical. If you are on the couch and you have a pet unicorn, and you want a muffin but it is in the refrigerator, your unicorn can teleport and get your muffin! Yummy!

In conclusion, I like unicorns more than ponies. My three reasons are unicorns are magical, colorful, and rare.

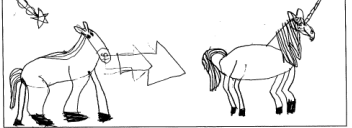


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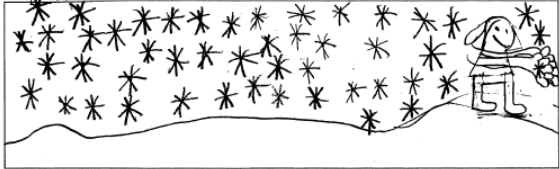


All About Snowflakes

by Mason Mueller
Curtis Fundamental School
Teacher: Marcy Streicher



Mason

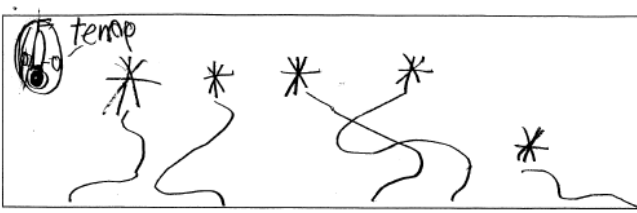


All About Snowflakes

Brrr! Have you ever wondered about snow? Read this book and you will learn more about it.

First, did you know some snowflakes are at least made of two crystals and some snowflakes are made of one hundred crystals or more!

Second, did you know that Wilson Bentley also known as the "Snowflake Man" was the first person to take pictures of snowflakes? Also, he got someone to put all of his



snowflakes in a book so people can see all of the snowflakes.

Third, have you wondered why snowflakes don't look the same? Well, it's because the temperature and the direction that it falls. Snowflakes alter into different shapes as they fall. If the temperature is very low, columns, thin plates, and sector plates appear on snowflakes.

Now you know all about snowflakes so how you can go tell your sister, brother, parents, and your friends.

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Now you know all about snowflakes. So, now you can go tell your sister, brother, parents and your friends.



How to Make Eggs

by Isabella Robert
 Cross Bayou Elementary
 Teacher: Susan Bedair



Do you know how to make eggs? If you don't I will teach you. So, let's go.

First, you have to get a plate, a spatula, and a small bit of butter, six eggs, a pan, a fork, and a cup. Then, crack the eggs in the cup. Make sure there are no shells in the cup. Mix it with the fork real good and put the pan on the stove and set it to about four degrees.

Next, pour the mixed eggs into the pan. Get the spatula and stir the eggs in the pan for a little or you could say a minute or so until there is no more watery eggs, only the cooked eggs.

Finally, get the spatula and get the plate and push it on the plate and there you have it.

I hope you enjoyed.

Do you know how to make eggs? If you don't I will teach you. so let's go! First you have to get a plate, a spatula, and a small bit of butter, six eggs, a pan a fork and a cup. Then crack the eggs in the cup make sure there is no shells in the cup. mix it with the fork real good and put the pan on the stove and set it to about

four degrees. Next pour the mixed eggs into the pan get the spatula and stir the eggs in the pan for a little or you could say a minute or so until there is no more watery eggs, only the cooked eggs. finally get the spatula and get the plate and push it on the plate and there you have it. I hope you enjoyed.

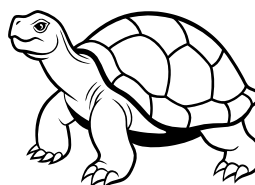


The Tortoise

by Nora Bramlett

Seminole Elementary School

Teacher: Victoria Calhoun



The Tortoise

Once there was a
Tortoise named Kim. He
lived in a burrow
next to his friend Lilly,
she was a Tortoise too.
"This is so much
fun playing with you!"
Lilly said. One day
Lilly got really parched.
So Lilly wandered off.

Meanwhile, Kim was
taking a nap.
When Kim woke up
he didn't see Lilly!
When Lilly got
back Kim said, "Where
were you?" "Getting
something to drink!"
said Lilly. "Oh," Kim
said. So they promised
to go together
next time.

Once there was a tortoise named Kim. He lived in a burrow next to his friend Lilly; she was a tortoise too.

"This is so much fun playing with you!" Lilly said. One day Lilly got really parched. So, Lilly wandered off.

Meanwhile, Kim was taking a nap. When Kim woke up, he didn't see Lilly! When Lilly got back Kim said, "Where were you?"

"Getting something to drink!" said Lilly.

"Oh," Kim said.

So, they promised to go together next time.

My School Song

by Amaya Elisa Santiago-Cruz
Skyview Elementary School
Teacher: Charles Malcolm

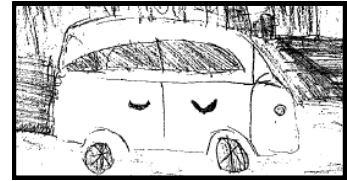


It's the end of summer and it's time for school. There is lots to learn so I can get out of the pool. Have a teacher to see and friends to make. Don't be upset because we've had a good break. So, pack your bag and polish your shoes, don't forget you'll need a haircut too. Grab your books and bring a snack. Put a smile on your face because school is back, yeah! School is back and we can't wait, so I'll see you tomorrow at half past eight. I've missed Ms. Myers and my friends, too. Can't wait to get started; there's so much to do. I love science, history, art and sports. Although you wouldn't know it by reading my report, I'm going to do so much better this year. I'll listen and concentrate, have no fear.

It's the end of the summer, it's time for school, there is lots to learn so get out of the pool! Teachers to see and friends to make. Don't be upset because we've had a good break. So, pack your bag and polish your shoes. Don't forget you'll need a haircut, too. Grab your books and bring a snack. Put a smile on your face 'cause school is back. I've had fun at home with my family, but now it's time for school and I'm happy.



Summer Trip
 by Selena Guan
 Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
 Elementary School
 Teacher: Sandra Gerrish



Guess where I went last summer? I went to China! First, we had to pack. Next thing I did was drive to the airport. Me and my sister and grandma and grandpa checked in but it was long! We went on five planes to get to China.

When I got to China the first thing I did was go on a taxi to get to my great-great-grandma's house. We went to my mom's old house where she lived with her mom when she was little. I saw old pictures of my mom as a young girl. Outside we saw a lot of people walking selling fruit, vegetables and plants. I saw people in boats and bikes. It was really crowded! We ate rice with egg.

Next, we went to get ice cream and ate ice cream upstairs. The donuts in China tasted very good, better than Dunkin'. In China, they have a great wall that is really long and really old. Before we left we used a taxi to bring our great-great-grandma back to her house before we left and got on a plane to go back to America.

Selena Guan

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Selena

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Selena

very good, better than Dunkin'. In China they have a great wall that is really long and really old. Before we left we used a taxi to bring our great great grandma back to her house before we left and go on a plane to go back to America.



Bees

by Shamar Crumity
Bear Creek Elementary School
Teacher: Kimesha Roberts



Did you know that bees are pollinators?

Bees pass pollen from one plant to another. They help fruits and vegetables. They give honey.

Bees are important to the environment, but farmers spray crops with pesticides that harm them. Bees are dying because of climate change. They can also starve and die.

Bees are very important to Earth. They help many plants grow food that we eat.

That's why you should protect bees!

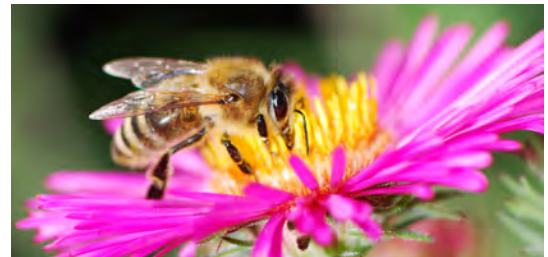
Glossary

Ecosystem - Every living and non-living thing helping in an environment.

Pesticides - A spray that kills insects and stops them from eating crops.

Beeswax - A type of wax made by bees used for things like candles.

Pollinator - Anything or anyone that helps pollen move from one plant to another.



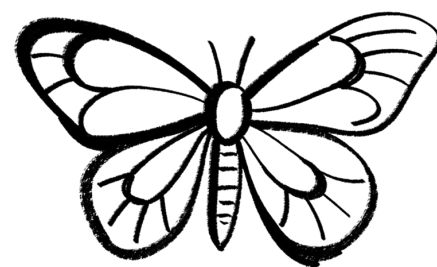


How to Draw a Butterfly

by Avery Smith

Lake St. George Elementary School

Teacher: Susan Adams



Do you know how to draw a butterfly? If you don't, I can teach you. First you draw the baddy which is an oval. Then you draw a circle for its head on the baddy. After that, you draw the wing's which is shaped like a B. Then you draw the antennas that curve on its head. Next you draw the 6 legs on its baddy. Then you draw there eye's, nose and mouth. Wala, you have a butterfly. I hope you enjoyed learning how to draw a butterfly today.

Do you know how to draw a butterfly? If you don't, I can teach you.

First, you draw the body which is an oval. Then, you draw a circle for its head on the body. After that, you draw the wings which is shaped like a B. Then, you draw the antennas that curve on its head. Next, you draw the six legs on its body. Then you draw their eyes, nose and mouth. Voila, you have a butterfly.

I hope you enjoyed learning how to draw a butterfly today.

The St. Patrick's Day Sleepover

by Levi Morrison

Bauder Elementary School

Teacher: Heidi Colbeck



Once I went to my cousin's for a sleepover, but it wasn't any sleepover; it was a St. Patrick's Day sleepover! First, we ran to the supplies in the living room to make traps. Then, we started to build. One of my cousins made this whole science thing. She had coins to lure the leprechaun, but when he grabbed them, the trap fell down! Mine was not the best, but my brother worked with the other cousin (cheater).

After that, we just played. Then, my cousin and I blew up a lot of balloons and colored on them to make a leprechaun. Then, we went to sleep.

We woke up and oh boy! First, we sprint to the bathrooms. So, then we just started running around to look if he left anything. We found nothing. Yet! Now, we ran downstairs and oh my!! Instead of us trapping him, he trapped us!! He got green paper and wrapped it from stair rail to stair rail!!!! So, it took us like five minutes to get out!!! So, we finally breakout and we start searching downstairs. And there are chocolate coins in our traps and on the counter! Now we all have ten chocolate coins! So, we make emerald, green pancakes, we chill and my brother and me get picked up.

.....

How to Annoy Your Sister

by Mia Starke

Bauder Elementary School

Teacher: Heidi Colbeck

How to annoy your sister. First, you follow her wherever she goes. Next, you copy whatever she says. Then say, "What are you doing?" a lot of times. Last, sing songs so she gets really annoyed. That's how you annoy your sister. Good luck.





Mac and Cheese
by Kenzlee White
Tarpon Springs
Fundamental School
Teacher: Robert Ferguson



Dinner is ready! Guess what's for dinner? You guessed it.. Mac and cheese! Mac and cheese is one of my favorite foods! Most people go to the store and get Kraft Mac and cheese. Eww, you should cook mac and cheese, it is fun! It tastes so much better.

Do you know how to cook cheesy mac and cheese??? First, you need to turn on the oven to 350 degrees. Don't touch the oven, it may be hot, you don't want to get burned, it will hurt. Then, you need ingredients like noodles, cheddar cheese, milk/butter and if you want, extra cheese.

Then, you have to get your pot of water but, don't add too much water, wait five to ten minutes when your water is boiling. Then, you add your noodles. If I was you, I would want egg noodles, let your noodles boil for about ten to fifteen minutes or more. Then you need to drain your noodles!

Then, you need a lot of cheese. The cheese you use should be cheddar cheese, but you need like two or three blocks of cheese because it wouldn't make sense if you use white American cheese?????????

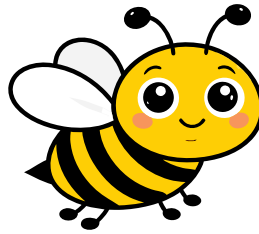
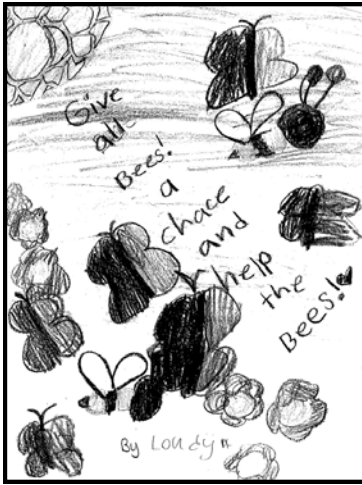
Finally, you need to put everything together, then finally enjoy your mac and cheese.

That's how to make mac and cheese or you can call it cheesy mac and cheese. See, it is so good!



Give all Bees a Chance and Help the Bees!

by Londyn Pursley
Westgate Elementary School
Teacher: Connie Bauer



Bees

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Let me tell you about bees. There are 25,000 kinds of bees. One is honey bees, another one is bumble bees, and another one is queen bees. Bees help humans. There is one more and it is bees are in danger!!!

Kinds of bees

First there are so many kinds of bees. There are 25,000 kinds of bees. For example there are honey bees, bumble bees, hornet bees, and queen bees.

Bees help humans

Next bees help humans. Bees pollinate and make beeswax and we make soap and candles.

Bees are in danger!

Bees are in danger! People spray pesticides to kill insects but they are also killing the bees!

Now you know about bees. You can help the bees and make people stop spraying pesticides.



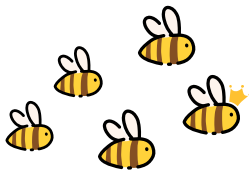
Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Let me tell you about bees. There are three things I am going to tell you. One is kinds of bees. Another one is how bees help humans. There is one more and it is bees are in danger!!!

First, there are so many kinds of bees. There are 25,000 kinds of bees. For example, there are honey bees and bumble bees and hornet bees and queen bees.

Next, bees help humans. Bees pollinate and make beeswax and we make soap and candles.

Bees are in danger! People spray pesticides to kill insects but they are also killing the bees!

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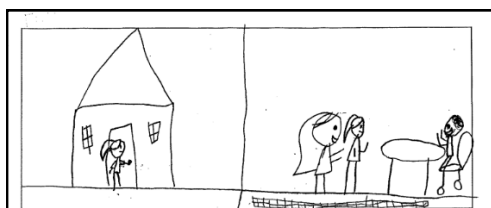


Friends Till the End

by Elizabeth Kneidl

Lake St. George Elementary School

Teacher: Susan Adams



On a cold winter day a little girl named Emily walked through the snow thinking how the first day would go. She was thinking she wouldn't fit in because she didn't know anyone or her teacher and if he was nice. When Emily arrived she felt scared. Then a little girl came up to her. "Hi! My name is Beth! Can we be friends?" said Beth. "Hi. We can be friends. My name is Emily." "Do you want to meet Mr. Leo?" said Beth. "Okay!" said Emily. "Hello! You must be Emily!" said Mr. Leo.

On a cold winter day a little girl named Emily walked through the snow thinking how the first day would go. She was thinking she wouldn't fit in because she didn't know anyone or her teacher and if he was nice.

When Emily arrived she felt scared. Then a little girl came up to her.

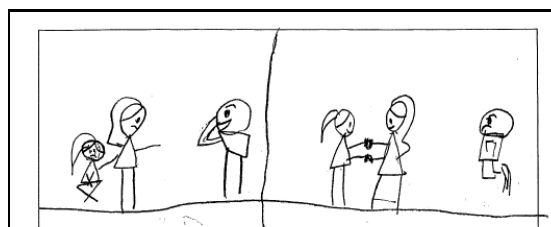
"Hi! My name is Beth! Can we be friends?" said Beth.

"Hi. We can be friends. My name is Emily."

"Do you want to meet Mr. Leo?" said Beth.

"Okay!" said Emily.

"Hello! You must be Emily!" said Mr. Leo.



"I will show you your seat. Right here next to mine," said Beth. Emily put her book in her desk. Also a picture of her family so she is always with them. A little tear came down from her eye. "What's wrong?" asked Beth. "I just miss my family, that's all," said Emily. Beth got her a tissue. "Ha, ha! Cry baby!" said a bully boy. "No she is not! Just emotional," said Beth. "I'll cheer you up!" "I thought I wouldn't fit in, but here I am with someone who is already my friend!" said Emily. "We will be friends till the end," said Beth and Emily.

"I will show you your seat. Right here next to mine," said Beth.

Emily put her book in her desk. Also, a picture of her family so she is always with them. A little tear came down from her eye.

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"I just miss my family, that's all," said Emily. Beth got her a tissue.

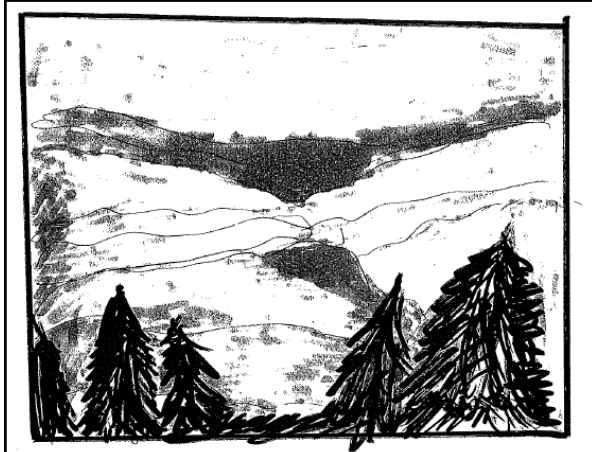
"Ha, ha! Crybaby!" said a bully boy. "No she's not! Just emotional," said Beth. "I'll cheer you up!"

"I thought that I wouldn't fit in, but here I am with someone who is already my friend!" said Emily.

"We will be friends till the end," said Beth and Emily.

All About Smoky Mountain National Park

by Raegan Trankel
Lealman Avenue Elementary
Teacher: Julie Barclay (Carbone)



Have you ever seen a mountain so smoky in your life? Well that is in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park! It is located in North Carolina and Tennessee. It was established in 1934. It became a national park to protect the Appalachian landscape. Smoky Mountain National Park has a lot of things in their national park! They have misty mountains and rich foresting

forests and waterfalls and smoke. There's also wild life that includes deer, black bears, salamanders, and a lot of bird species! Did you know there are many fun things to do at Smoky Mountains National Park? Well there are popular activities that include hiking and camping. Other popular activities include visiting waterfalls and exploring cave cave! Great Smoky National Park is important because it protects wildlife and Appalachian landscape. We have to be nice to the animals because if we don't they can be extinct. Now you know all about Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

by Raegan
Trankel

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Did you know there are many fun things to do at Smoky National Park?! Well, there are popular activities that include hiking and camping. Other popular activities include visiting waterfalls and exploring Cove Cave! The Great Smoky National Park is important because it protects wildlife and Appalachian landscape. We have to be nice to the animals because if we don't, they can be extinct.

Now you know all about the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.



All About the Eurasian Lynx

by Harlen Balog
Gulf Beaches
Elementary School
Teacher: Roseann Sacino



Introduction

Have you ever wondered what the top two biggest predators in Europe are? The biggest is the brown bear, but the next biggest is the **Eurasian lynx** and that is the animal we will learn about today.

Rrrrrr! That is the sound of it while hunting in the Eurasian **Alps**. Do you want to go on a journey to learn about a Eurasian lynx's lifestyle and how it lives throughout its life? If yes, we will learn about the Eurasian lynx!

A Body of a Champion

A lynx looks like some house cat **breeds**. The description of a lynx could be a house cat with white, brown, and gray fur with spots and extra fur on the top of its ear. This extra fur is called a **tuft**. It also has a thick layer of fur on the side of its head. A lynx also has some big paws. Its paws are about as big as a jaguar's! It can grow to the height of 70 centimeters and to the length of 90 to 110 centimeters. The weight of 30 pounds. A lynx has big teeth. They use teeth to break bones because they're carnivores! GRRRR!

Where in the World?

A lynx lives in the **northern hemisphere**. The Eurasian lynx is usually found in Europe is where it lives. They live in **forested** areas of Europe. Some countries it lives in are Russia, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. Their homes are called dens. A den for a lynx could be a fallen tree or a rock.

What's on the Menu?


A lynx is a **predator**. That means they are an animal that is on the top of the **food chain**. It does not get caught because they are sneaky. Some of its favorite dishes are mostly snowshoe **hares** but if no snowshoe hares are around it can eat mice, birds, or even moose or deer. If it needs to, it will eat a fox. It cannot eat a whole moose, deer, or fox in a meal. It hides it where other animals can't find it and it comes back later to eat it. A lynx can see a mouse from 250 feet away which makes it easier to hunt. Its big paws go on the snow softly, so the prey will not hear the lynx. SSSHHH! You can hardly hear this predator.

Conclusion

Hi! I hope you enjoyed reading about the Eurasian lynx and I picked to write about the lynx because my cat looks like a lynx.

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Chapter	
1.	Introduction
2.	a body of a champion
3.	Where in the World
4.	Whats on the Menu
5.	conclusion
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7.	about the author
8.	Bibliography

Introduction





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it easier to hunt. Its big paws go on the snow softly, so the prey will not hear the lynx. SSSHHH! you can barely hear this predator.

CONCLUSION

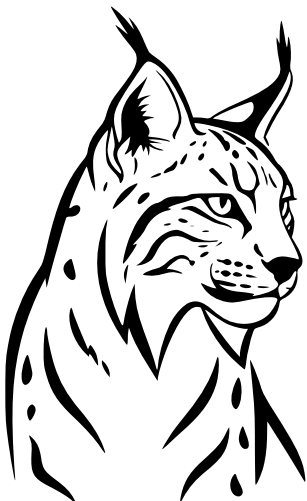
I hope you enjoyed reading about the Eurasian lynx and I picked to write about the lynx because

My cat looks like a lynx.


Glossary

1. **flates**: another name for rabbits
2. **Predator**: an animal that preys on other animals
3. **tuff**: a tip on a lynx's tail that functions like an antenna
4. **Eurasian**: mix of Europe and asia
5. **Alps**: a mountain system going through several of countries in Europe
6. **keels**: a variety of animals including cat keels and dog keels.
7. **carnivores**: an animal that feeds on flesh

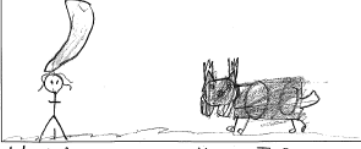
8. **Northern Hemisphere**: the half of earth that is north of the equator.
9. **Forests**: covered in trees and under brush
10. **Food chain**: something that tells you what eats and cycle of how animals eat



☆ All about the author



I did the Eurasian lynx to inform you about how cool lynx are and I did it because they are so cute and I love cats. I hope you liked reading about lynx. GRRRRR!!



Hi! My name is Harker. I picked the Eurasian lynx because I love cats and it is an amazing animal. It has cool attributes. I hope now you like lynx as much as me. I like to play soccer and travel. I love my family.



Bo and Zizi

by Rocco Munoz

Lake St. George Elementary School

Teacher: Susan Adams

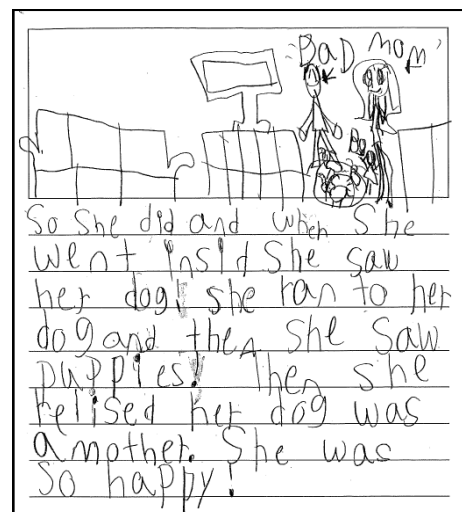
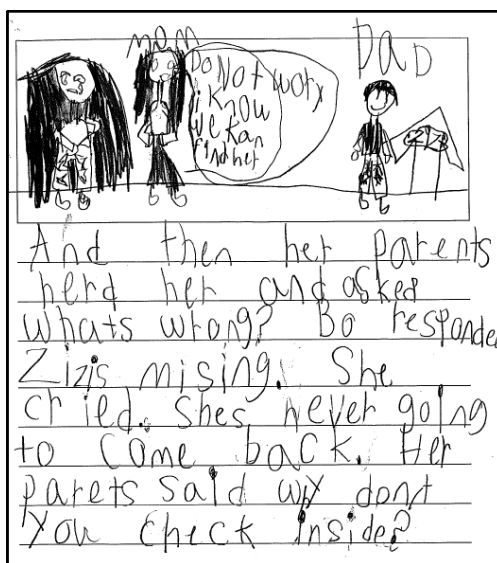
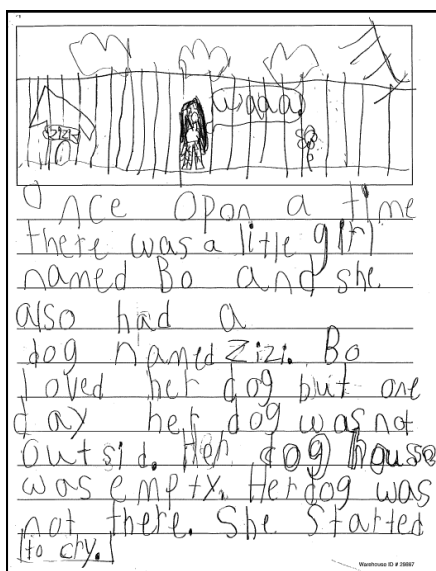
Once upon a time there was a little girl named Bo, and she had a dog named Zizi. Bo loved her dog but one day her dog was not outside. Her doghouse was empty. Her dog was not there. She started to cry.

And then her parents heard her and asked, “What’s wrong?”

Bo responded, “Zizi’s missing.” She cried, “She’s never going to come back.”

Her parents said, “Why don’t you check inside?”

So, she did, and when she went inside, she saw her dog. She ran to her dog and then she saw puppies! Then she realized her dog was a mother. She was so happy!





The Crazy Halloween

by Aiden Jefferds

Lake St. George Elementary School

Teacher: Susan Adams

On Halloween night, a kid named Wicky and his dad, Lazy and Lazy's wife, Perky saw strange things happening anywhere they looked! When they went to a particularly creepy house, people were floating ten feet above the ground!

"I have a bad feeling about this house," said Wicky. "I want to go," Wicky told Lazy and Perky.

"OK," said Lazy.

"OK," said Perky.

They went to the second house, people were walking sideways in mid air!

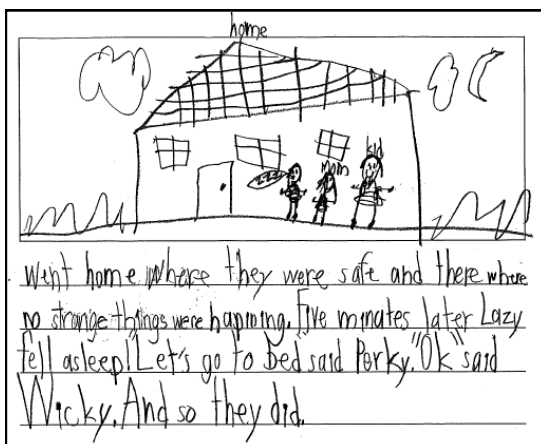
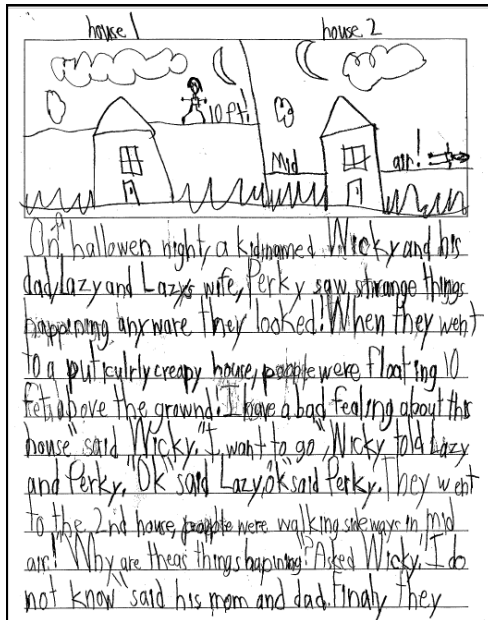
"Why are these things happening?" asked Wicky.

"I do not know," said his mom and dad.

Finally they went home where they were safe and where no strange things were happening. Five minutes later Lazy fell asleep!

"Let's go to bed," said Perky.

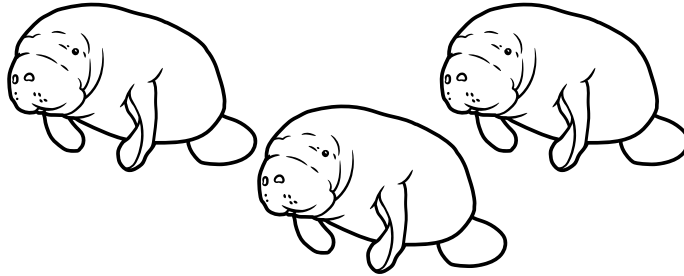
"OK," said Wicky. And so they did.





Manatees! Manatees! Manatees!

by Carter Patterson
Westgate Elementary School
Teacher: Connie Bauer



Heading	Page Number
Introduction	1
What is a manatee	2
What do they eat	3
How can we protect them	4
Where do they live	5

Manatees need our help! Can you help the manatees? I can tell you all about them.

What is a manatee?

A manatee is a mammal. Some people call them sea cows. They are really slow swimmers. They have large flat tails.

Table of Contents
Introduction 1
What is a Manatee? 2
What Do They Eat? 3
How Can We Protect Them? 4
Where Do They Live? 5

What do they eat?

Manatees eat sea grass. They eat three things. Algae and mangrove.

How can we protect them?

Can you help protect the manatees? Make sure you throw away or recycle your trash in the trash can. And do not touch the manatees.

Manatees need our help! Can you help the manatees? I can tell you all about them.

What is a manatee?

A manatee is a mammal. Some people call them sea cows. They are really slow swimmers. They have large flat tails.

What do they eat?

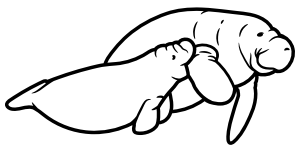
Manatees eat sea grass. They eat two things: algae and mangrove.

How can we protect them?

Can you help protect the manatees? Make sure you throw away or recycle your trash in the trashcan. And do not touch the manatees.

Where do manatees live?

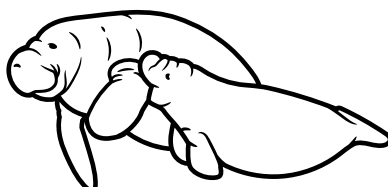
Manatees live in water. The waters they live in are Africa and America. How can you help the manatees?



How can you help the manatees?

Where do manatees live?

Manatees live in water. The waters they live in are Africa and America.



All About Bees

by Reagan Flint

Bay Vista Fundamental School

Teacher: April Bradley



Did you know that bees are pollinators? A pollinator is anything that helps pollen move from one plant to another. Bees also have an important role in the ecosystem. Keep reading to find out more interesting facts about bees.

To start with, bees are in danger. One reason is because their habitats are getting destroyed. Another reason is because farmers are spraying pesticides on their crops. Pesticides is a spray that kills insects so it kills bees as well.

Additionally, bees are really helpful to humans and Earth. First, bees are helpful because they give us honey to eat and beeswax for candles. Also, bees give us flowers, fruits and vegetables, which are really helpful for everyone.

As you can see, bees are so very important. So, we need to protect them as much as we can because it would be really, really hard to live without them.

Manatees

by Avery Q. Scalzo

San Jose Elementary School

Teacher: Joanne Digirolamo



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- 2 What is a manatee
- 3 babies
- 4 how fast do they swim
- 5 Diagram

Table of Contents

- 1 What does a manatee look like?
- 2 What is a manatee?
- 3 Babies
- 4 How fast do they swim?
- 5 Diagram

What does a manatee look like?
 Most people say a manatee looks like a rock. Manatees can also be different colors. They have lots of patterns too. Manatees are a mammal. They have black colored eyes. Manatees have a nostril so they can breathe above the water.

Manatees are really big.
What IS A Manatee.
 A manatee is a nice sea animal that lives under water. Manatees are really relaxing animals. They are kind. Manatees do not bite or eat humans. They are friendly. Manatees main color is gray. Manatees

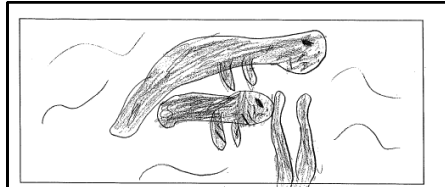
have a rocky pattern. they can weigh a whole lot. When manatees are not sleeping that's their only chance to eat food when there hungry. A manatees favorite food is Aquatic plants. Everyday a manatee eats up to 10 percent.
Babies. A baby manatee

What does a manatee look like?

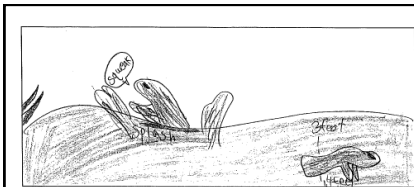
Most people say a manatee looks like a rock. Manatees can also be different colors. They have lots of patterns too. Manatees are mammals. They have black colored eyes. Manatees have a nostril so that they can breathe above water. Manatees are really big.

What is a Manatee?

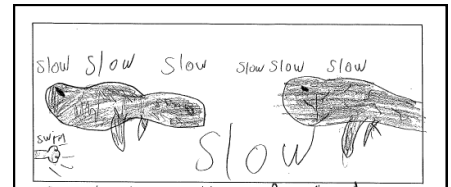
A manatee is a nice sea animal that lives under the water. Manatees are really relaxing animals, they are kind. Manatees do not bite or eat humans, they are friendly. Manatees main color is gray. Manatees have a rocky pattern. They can weigh a whole lot. When manatees are not sleeping, that is their only chance to eat food when they're hungry. A manatee's favorite food is aquatic plants. Everyday a manatee eats up to 10 percent.



Communicates by squeaking. Babys are not really in large groups. Grown up manatees face predators to protect their babys. Baby manatees often eat more when there one year old. No matter what baby always stays with there



mother. Right away baby manatees start learning how to swim after birth. Babys try to learn survival skills. baby manatees are called calves when there is more than one. After babys are born they learn to communicate. Babys measure 3 to 4



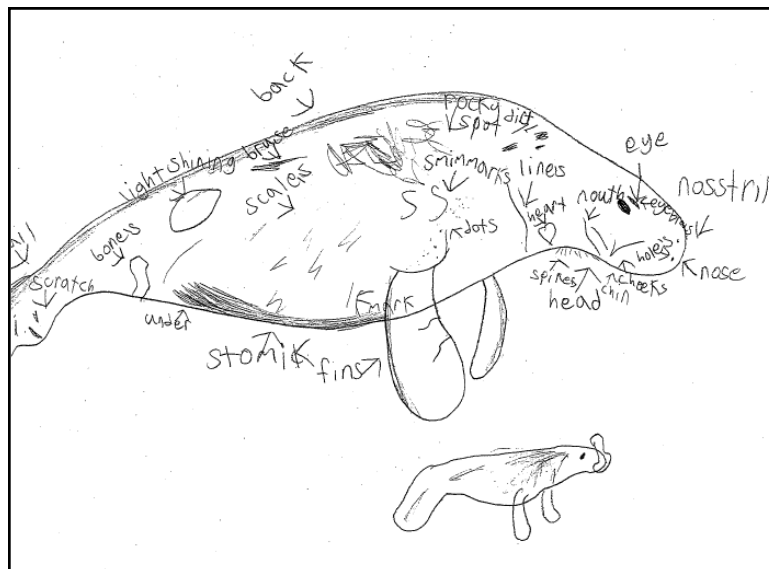
feet long. How fast do they swim? Manatees swim pretty slow they also swim very calm. They do not swim so fast. Manatees sometimes swim just a little bit fast. Manatees dont swim as fast as humans. Manatees swim nice and steady.

Babies

A baby manatee communicates by squeaking. Babies are not really in large groups. Grown up manatees face predators to protect their babies. Baby manatees often eat more when they are one year old. No matter what, babies always stay with their mother. Right away, baby manatees start learning how to swim after birth. Babies try to learn survival skills. Baby manatees are called calves when there is more than one. After babies are born, they learn to communicate. Babies measure 3 - 4 feet long.

How fast do they swim?

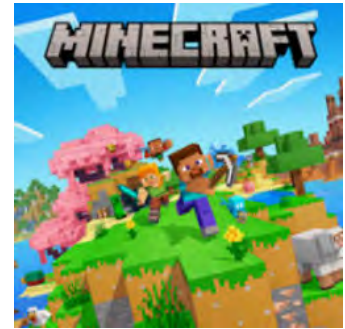
Manatees swim pretty slow. They also swim very calm. They do not swim so fast. Manatees sometimes swim just a little bit fast. Manatees do not swim as fast as humans. Manatees swim nice and steady.





Minecraft

by Rowan McLawhorn
Douglas L. Jamerson
Elementary School
Teacher: Jessica Dean

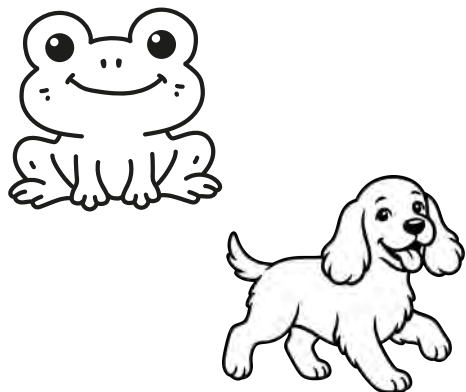


The first time I played Minecraft, I was excited. I built a nice house made of bricks. I had a kitchen, a bedroom, and I was living on a cliff with a nice view. I couldn't believe that I had built such a nice house for the first time playing.

There were cherry trees and a village down the cliff. It was great! Even my dad joined. He had built a brick house too; but he did not finish. I wandered over to the village and saw villagers, so I traded with them.

Then I went back to my house. It was pretty dark, so I decided to get a torch, but I couldn't find one. So, I improvised and used flint and steel from my inventory to light the bricks that I had built my house out of on fire. Unfortunately, the fire slowly started to spread. I knew that I needed to put it out, so I got a bucket of water from my inventory and poured it on the flames. What I didn't realize was that the inventory lava is right next to the water bucket. So instead of grabbing water, I accidentally grabbed a lava bucket and poured that on my house! The lava flowed down the cliff and started to spread in the village! I was super scared that the village would be ruined!

I knew that I had to do something quick or it would be too late. The fastest way down the cliff was to put on an elytra and fly down. I beat the lava down the cliff and quickly placed a wall of bedrock in between the lava and the village. The village was finally safe!!! This moment made me feel like a hero for the village. I couldn't wait to play Minecraft again, but next time I wouldn't make that mistake again.



Lunar Crisis
by Nicole Dunne
Douglas L. Jamerson
Elementary
Teacher: Jessica Dean



One day, Frog woke up to the sound, “Woof! Woof!” and found Dog next to his habitat in the Dallas World Aquarium.

Frog jumped on the terrier’s back.

Once they got to their garage, they launched their...thingamabob and set course for the Moon. As they flew quickly to their destination, they watched in amazement as the stars dashed past.

But when they got there, they landed on a big old mechanical mushroom that suddenly exploded. They were terrified. Luckily, they weren’t hurt, but the force sent them barreling back to Earth.

When they looked up at the sky, they realized the Moon was so far away it had disappeared. The explosion must have knocked the Moon far away.

“Let’s get that Moon back,” said Frog.

So, Dog, reluctant to join Frog, skedaddled into the thingamabob.

“3, 2, 1, launch!” Frog put on some music and off they went.

After a long journey, they found the Moon drifting in space. Dog was baffled. Frog was determined. Frog knew that the Moon was essential for ocean tides and for seeing at night on Earth. They just had to get it back.

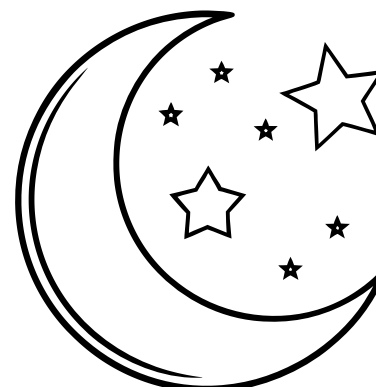
“Deploy ropes,” Frog said.

The ropes dropped around the Moon!

Frog and Dog flew back to Earth, pulling the Moon behind them. The Moon regained its place in the sky above Earth.

“Phew,” said Frog relieved. “That was quite a day.”

All was well again in the world.





All About Ladybugs

by Emery Brandimore
Bay Vista Fundamental School
Teacher: Shelby Glonek



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1. What Ladybugs Look Like	2
2. Ladybug Life Cycle	3
3. What Ladybugs do	4
4. What Ladybugs eat	5

Have you ever seen a Ladybug before? I have they can be lots of colors! Keep reading to learn about these cute, beautiful cool insects!

What Ladybugs Look Like?
 Ladybugs have six legs and spots on their back. Ladybugs can be red, orange, yellow and some are pink! Have you ever seen a pink one before? I haven't. I hope one day I see one some day!



Have you ever seen a ladybug before? I have. They can be lots of colors! Keep reading to learn about these cute, beautiful, cool insects!

What Do Ladybugs Look Like?

Ladybugs have six legs and spots on their back. Ladybugs can be red, orange, yellow and some are pink! Have you ever seen a pink one before? I haven't. I hope one day see one some day!

What Ladybug life cycle?
 Kid Ladybug, adult Ladybug. Ladybugs life cycle never stops because there are so many ladybugs in the world. Ladybug life cycle always keeps on going!

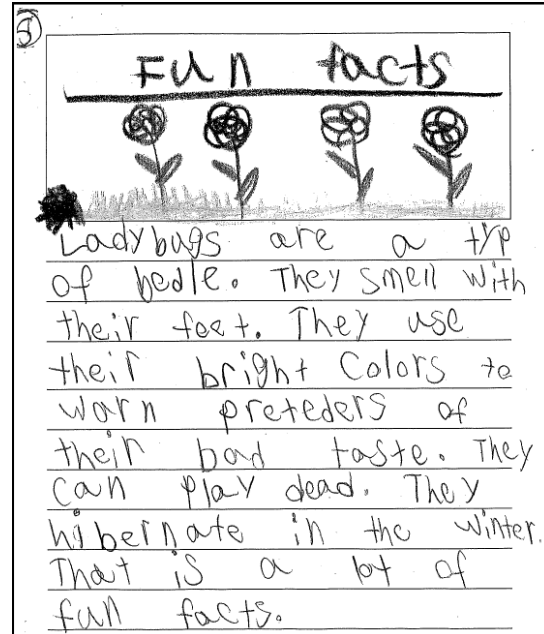
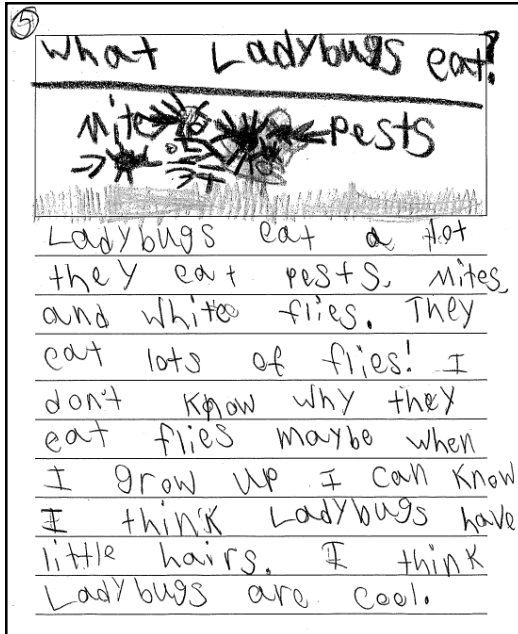
What Ladybug do?
 Ladybugs do a lot after their eggs are laid the mom and the dad leave. Ladybug eat these things called pests they hurt plants. So the ladybugs eat them and they live on that plant with the pests so they can protect the plants

What is the Ladybug Life Cycle?

Ladybugs have four stages of the ladybug life cycle! The life cycle is an egg, pupa, kid ladybug, adult ladybug. A ladybugs' life cycle never stops because there are so many ladybugs in the world. A ladybug life cycle always keeps on going!

What Ladybugs Do

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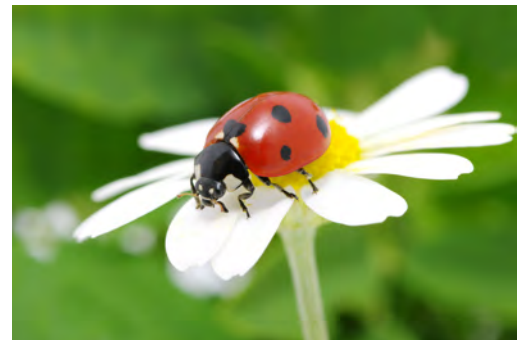
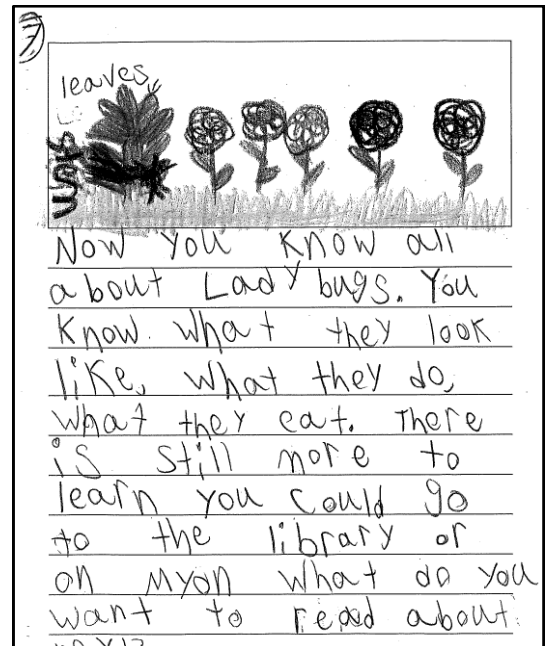
What Ladybugs Eat

Ladybugs eat a lot. They eat pests, mites, and white flies. They eat lots of flies! I don't know why they eat flies. Maybe when I grow up, I will know! I think ladybugs have little hairs. I think ladybugs are cool.

Fun Facts

Ladybugs are a type of beetle. They smell with their feet. They use their bright colors to warn predators of their bad taste. They can play dead. They hibernate in the winter. That is a lot of fun facts.

Now you know all about ladybugs. You know what they look like, what they do, and what they eat. There is still more to learn. You could go to the library or on myON. What do you want to read about next?





Eagles

by Oliver Johnson
San Jose Elementary School
Teacher: Joanne Digirolamo



Where Eagles Live

Eagles can live in many parts of the world like deserts, forests and in places that snow. But not Antarctica. Eagles can migrate and they do it in groups to live. Eagles are endangered. If you do not know what that means it means Eagles can go extinct. Eagles live in every single corner of the earth.



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- pg1 Where eagles live
- pg3 What eagles eat
- pg4 What eagles look like
- pg5 how eagles grow
- pg7 Diagram

Eagles share their habitat with other animals at the top of the food chain like grizzly bears and other animals at the top of the food chain.

What Eagles Eat

Eagles can eat salmon. how they get it is by sticking their feet in the water.
Eagles can also eat ducks
When Eagles are young they beg for food.

Where Eagles Live

Eagles can live in many parts of the world like deserts, forests, and in places that snow. But not Antarctica. Eagles can migrate and they do it in groups to live. Eagles are endangered. If you do not know what that means, it means Eagles can go extinct. Eagles live in every single corner of the earth. Eagles share their habitat with other animals at the top of the food chain, like grizzly bears and other animals at the top of the food chain.

What Eagles Eat

Eagles can eat salmon. How they get it is by sticking their feet in the water. Eagles can also eat ducks. When eagles are young they beg for food.

What Eagles Look like

Eagles are one of the largest birds. There are 60 different types of eagles. Eagles have long talons to grab their prey. Most eagles can see one mile away. This helps eagles find prey before the eagle's prey finds them. Eagles can have seven thousand feathers. Eagles can flex their legs to close their talons.

how Eagles grow

Eagles are called eaglets when they are almost hatched from their egg and when they are hatched they are called chicks. Eagles learn to fly when they are young. The largest eagles weigh up to 12 lbs. Eagles' wing span is 8 feet and they breed from three to six. Eagles add to their nest every year and the largest nest weighed almost two tons. Eagles fly really fast.

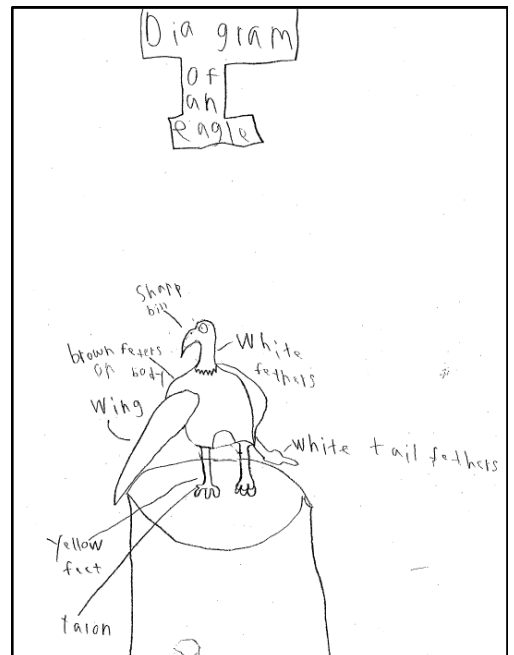


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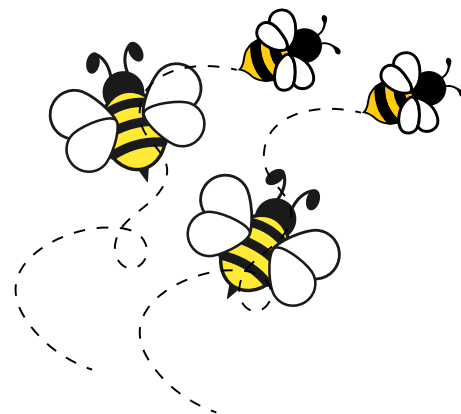
How Eagles Grow

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Buzz On Bees
by Blake Cutler
Tarpon Springs
Fundamental School
Teacher: Robert Ferguson



Ouch! What was that? Oh, it was a bee! I must have walked close to that bee's hive. Today we are going to find out why bees are so important. So, I will tell you some facts about bees and why they are in danger.

Bees in Danger

The number of bees is declining or going down. Humans are the main reason that bees are disappearing. One thing that is killing the bees is the use of pesticides. These are chemicals used to protect crops. But many pesticides can poison and kill bees. Pollution can also hurt bees.

Bee Facts

Bees move from flower to flower. Bees eat pollen or nectar. They get sticky pollen on their bodies and fly away. Pollination does not just help plants; it helps people, too! One type of bee creates honey! There are around 20,000 species of bees in the world. That's a lot of bees! Some of the most common bees are honeybees, bumblebees, and carpenter bees.

Importance of Bees

Bees are very important to the earth. Many of the plants they help to pollinate grow food that humans eat. In fact, about one-third of the food on our planet can grow because of the bees' pollination.

Bees travel all around the world to get pollen and nectar to help to make fruit. They all travel to do that for us or should I say people. They are very good travelers because they do it a lot. They travel to many different places around the world.

In conclusion, if you see a bee at any time, make sure you are nice to it! If you don't be nice, it will sting you. Ouch, that would hurt you. So, if you eat a vegetable or fruit that will probably be made from a bee, so you should thank the bees! Bees are very important to the world.



Recycling Old Gum

by Mila Gianfrancesco
Walsingham Oaks K-8

Teacher: Angela O'Connor

HUGO	VIVIAN	ANA

Who thought of recycling old gum?
Well here is the people who
thought to recycol old gum
which is Hugo Maupetit
Vivian Fisher Ana Bullus
and those are the three people
to recycol old gum.

	It's in my hair	GROSS & STICKY GUM

Why is old gum a problem?
Well it is a problem
because you can step
on it it can kill other
animals and it can get in
your hair and that is
why it is a problem!

	Trash CAN	Recycle CAN

How is old gum collected?
You collect old gum by
putting it in the gum drop
or throw it away in
in the trash or throw
it in the recycling
can.

--	--	--	--	--

What products can be made
from old gum?
Well you can make
boots phones pencils
and skateboard wheels

Who thought of recycling old gum? Well, here are the people who thought to recycle old gum; Hugo Maupetit, Vivian Fisher, and Ana Bullus. And those are the three people to recycle old gum.

Why is old gum a problem? Well, it is a problem because you can step on it. It can kill other animals and it can get in your hair. And that is why it is a problem!

How is old gum collected? You collect old gum by putting it in the gum drop or throwing it away in the trash or throwing it in the recycling can.

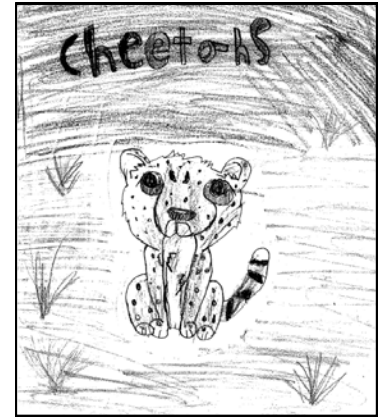
What products can be made from old gum? Well, you can make boots, phones, pencils, and skateboard wheels.





Cheetahs

by Kennedy Shepherd
 Gulf Beaches
 Elementary School
 Teacher: Roseann Sacino



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Introduction

Chirp! chirp! That's the sound of me, Lila the cheetah. I'm getting ready to catch my prey. Come with me to my home. I will tell you what I look like, what I eat, and where I live.

Introduction

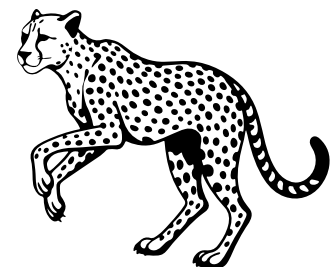
Chirp! Chirp! That's the sound of me, Lila the Cheetah. I'm getting ready to catch my prey. Come with me to my home. I will tell you what I look like, what I eat, and where I live.

What Lila looks like
 we cheetahs are 3

feet tall and we have a long tail. we are soft and very furry. We can be as long as 6 feet and weigh over 100 pounds. We have black lines on our face. from our eyes to our mouths. we blend in with the African grass. we have spots all over our body. Our stomach is furry. come rub my belly!

What Lila Looks Like

We cheetahs are three feet tall and we have a long tail. We are soft and very furry. We can be as long as six feet and weigh over 100 pounds. We have black lines on our face from our eyes to our mouths. We blend in with African grass. We have spots all over our body. Our stomach is furry. Come rub my belly!




Where Lyla Lives

Me and my family live on the continents of Africa and Asia. I have cousins in the country of Iran. I also live on the savannas. The savanna is very dry and it is a grassy plain with a few trees in a hot, **dry** area. Cheetahs need large open spaces.

Lyla Dining

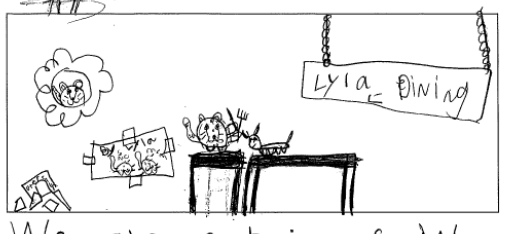
We are carnivores. We eat antelopes and rabbits. Also we hunt by hiding in the tall grass and quietly sneaking up. Then we pounce on our **prey**. If they run, we run faster. Then we catch them. Yummy. We eat gazelles, impalas, and **springbok**. A springbok is a type of antelope.



Where Lyla Lives


Lyla is in the continent of Africa

Me and my family live on the continents of Africa and Asia. I have cousins in the country of Iran. I also live on the savannas. The savanna is very dry and it is a grassy plain with a few trees in a hot **dry** area. Cheetahs need a large open spaces.



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Conclusion

I have told you what I look like, where I live and what I eat. I will beat you in a race on the savanna.

Conclusion

I have told you what I look like, where I live and what I eat. I will beat you in a race on the savanna.





Help the Manatees

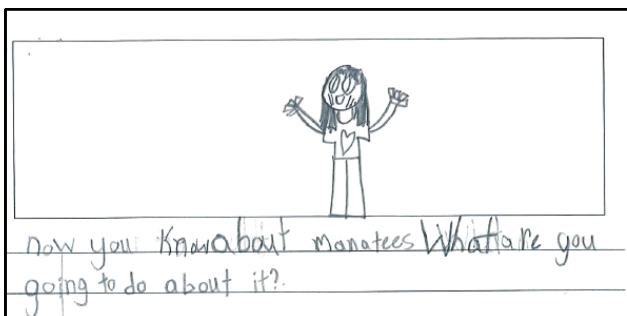
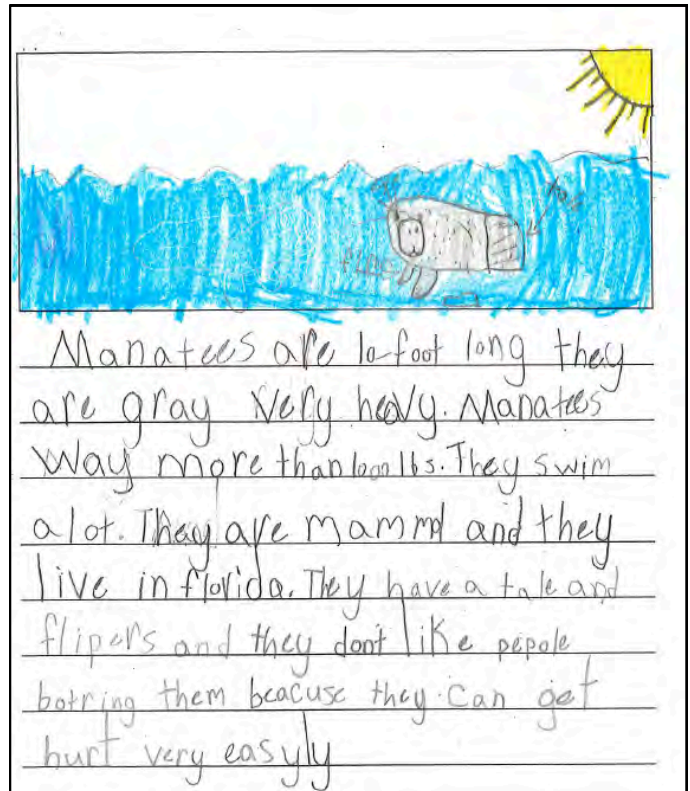
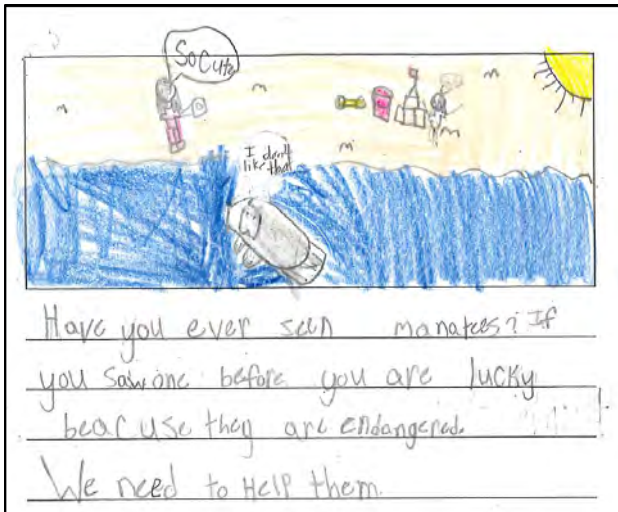
by Izabella Ann Dunn (Izzy)
Walsingham Oaks K-8
Teacher: Jacqueline Lopez



Have you ever seen manatees? If you saw one before, you are lucky because they are endangered. We need to help them.

Manatees are ten feet long and they are gray and very heavy. Manatees weigh more than 1000 lbs. They swim a lot. They are mammals and they live in Florida. They have a tail and flippers and they don't like people bothering them because they can get hurt very easily.

Now you know all about manatees. What are you going to do about it?

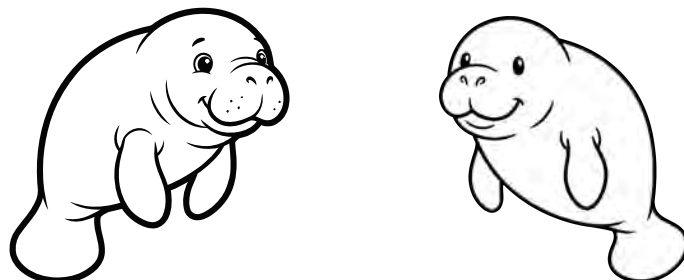


Marvelous Manatees

by Isla Hull

Tarpon Springs Fundamental School

Teacher: Robert Ferguson



Before I introduce the lesson, I want to give you a joke/clue: What is a cow that lives in the sea?...A sea cow! A sea cow is a manatee but if you don't know what a manatee is...picture this. You're in your boat and you see this big figure with a tail sleeping in the water...it's a manatee!!

Manatee Facts

First, a manatee's larger upper lip is used to gather leaves and grass. A manatee's flippers are used for steering and to hold food. Also their long powerful tail is used to swim. Manatees are closely related to elephants...isn't that funny that manatees are called sea cows but they're more related to elephants than cows?!

Manatees are in Danger!

Manatees are in danger! We can help by not touching the manatees. And go slow in a No Wake Zone because you can hurt a manatee. That's because manatees are so slow, so the manatee can't move out of the way if you're going fast.

Magnificent Mammals

What is a large mammal that eats grass and moves slowly? If you guessed a cow, not quite. It's a manatee. Manatees are large, slow moving animals, too. Manatees are so big and they're such good swimmers. But they're slow swimmers. Also they're herbivores, an herbivore is an animal who eats only plants.

To sum it all up, today we learned about manatees and how they're important to the ecosystem. And how they're in danger. And also how we can protect manatees, and facts about them. Next time you see a manatee, be glad that they're not extinct.



Anne Frank

by Ellie Lentz

Gulf Beaches Elementary
Teacher: Roseann Sacino

Have you ever heard of Anne Frank? I haven't and it sounded like she was unique! That's why I chose her to research.

Young Child Event
World war at 1939 when England and France declared war against Germany. The Germans wanted to get rid of all the Jewish people. Anne's family had to hide from the Germans. Anne had to put a lot of clothes and

pack stuff in her school bag.

Childhood Events
This event was important because if the war did not happen she would not have had to hide and her diary would be different. I think Anne was feeling scared because she didn't know what was going to happen. I

would be scared too.

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Middle Age Event
 Anne and her family
 hid in the Secret hideout
 at her dad's job. Her
 parents had to be getting
 it prepared before it was
 time to hide. It was called
 the Secret Annex. This time
 was difficult for Anne
 because during the day

She had to be really quiet.
 This is because the building
 was full with people who
 worked at the company.
 If I were in Anne's situation
 I would feel scared because
 I could be caught and sent
 away.

Middle Age Event

Anne and her family hid in the secret hideout at her dad's job. Her parents had to be getting it prepared before it was time to hide. It was called the Secret Annex. This time was difficult for Anne because during the day she had to be really quiet. This was because the building was full with people who worked at the company. If I were in Anne's situation, I would feel scared because I could be caught and sent away.

Anne's greatest achievement
 was her diary. She
 wrote in the diary for two
 years while she was in the
 Secret Annex. In the diary
 she wrote what she felt,
 heard, and what it was
 like. Anne was found
 by Nazis in 1944 and
 sent to a concentration
 camp.

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 left and locked up in the
 Secret Annex. After the war
 her dad went back to
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Her diary was important
 because it told how the
 Jews were persecuted
 and had to hide from the
 Germans for their life.

I think Anne was proud of
 her achievement because
 her dream came true to be
 a published author.

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Save the Manatees

by Luna Taylor

Walsingham Oaks K-8

Teacher: Jacqueline Lopez



Did you know that manatees are ten feet long, gray, heavy, weigh more than 1000 pounds and swim?

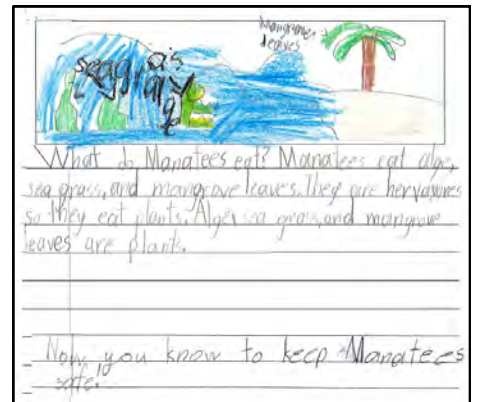
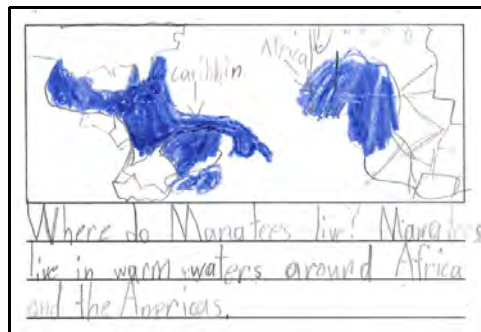
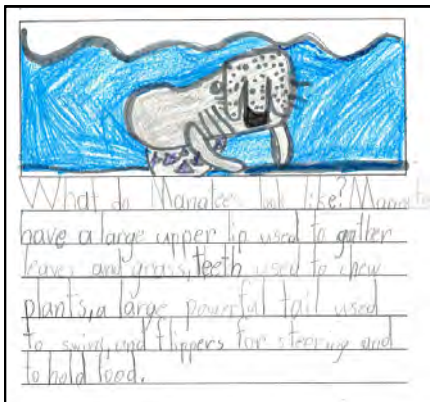
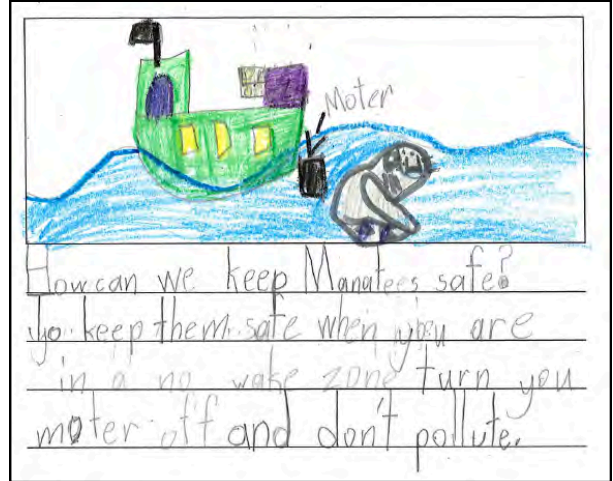
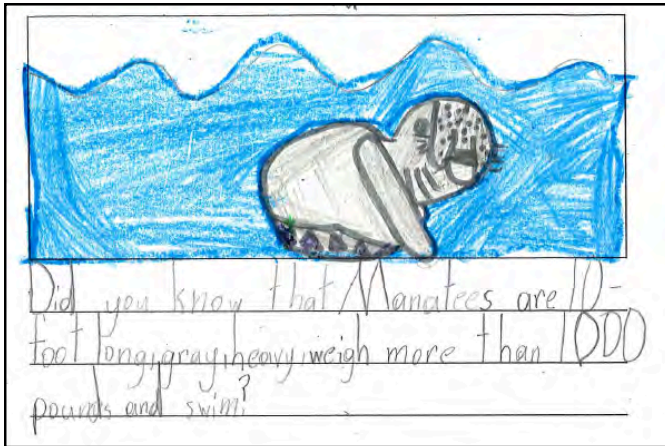
How can we keep manatees safe? To keep them safe, when you are in a no wake zone, turn your motor off and don't pollute.

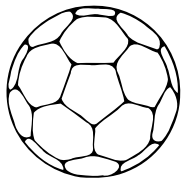
What do manatees look like? Manatees have a large upper lip used to gather leaves and grass, teeth used to chew plants, a large powerful tail used to swim, and flippers for steering and to hold food.

Where do manatees live? Manatees live in warm waters around Africa and the Americas.

What do manatees eat? Manatees eat algae, sea grass, and mangrove leaves. They are herbivores so they eat plants. Algae, sea grass, and mangrove leaves are plants.

Now you know how to keep manatees safe.





The Last Second Shot

by Elias Bucnius

Douglas L. Jamerson Elementary

Teacher: Jessica Dean

It was Saturday morning. I was in the car going to my soccer match, and I was wondering if we were going to win or lose. When we got to the pitch, the coach had us run a few drills, then we started the game. I got into my position of right wing, then the ref blew the whistle and the game was on.

We were up against Sky Blue. We got the ball first, but they stole the ball and scored. When we got the ball, it went right over to me. I ran up the pitch and passed it but then they deflected it and the ball went out. I went down the field and tried to pass it to Ryan, but they intercepted and kicked it out of bounds. I was up for the corner kick and knew I needed to pass it to James even though he was all the way in the back behind everyone. I kicked it as hard as I could and somehow the ball went straight to him. He jumped up and scored a goal using his head. The score was now one to one, and things were getting heated.

When Sky Blue got the ball first, AJ slide tackled one of their players and stole it. AJ had to think quick, so he passed to Ryan who then passed to me. I dribbled down the field in a hurry, but they blocked it, and the whistle blew for halftime. I was so out of breath, I chugged my water so quickly that there was barely any left when I was done drinking. Coach went over the plays and before we knew it, the ref blew the whistle, and the game was back on.



The second half started and right away Ryan swiped the ball away from the other team. The second he got it another player from Sky Blue tripped him, and he twisted his ankle. As he fell down his shoe flew off and hit the other team's coach in the mouth and his tooth got knocked out. The referee called a yellow card, and Ryan had to be on the bench for the rest of the game. We did get a penalty and I was taking it. So, I gave James the signal to fake the shot and when he did, I ran up for my chance and scored the goal. We were now up by one point.

I couldn't believe what just happened. We were so excited that we forgot about the actual GAME. When the referee blew the whistle, Sky Blue was close to the goal, but when we realized how close they were, it was already too late. They scored ANOTHER goal, making the score two to two. We were all locked in with two minutes on the clock. Kai made a simple pass to me, but within a second there were two people on me and all I could do was kick it out of bounds. When they threw the ball in, our goalie caught it and he kicked it to me. I headed the ball and to my surprise I made it in one second before the whistle blew. We won the game after all. Everyone cheered loudly, and we were so proud of ourselves! What an incredible day.

Autographs



Autographs



Third Grade Writing

108	Pink Perfection	Mia Martin
108	Earth's Elements	Elliot Irving
109	Showing Kindness	Logan Fairbank
109	Halloween	Olivia Weis
110	A Poem of Magic	Kennedy Collins
110	Fall Frights	Pia Paolucci
111	I Love You the Pinkest	Liliana Allen
111	Brother Wind	Georgia Tsao
112	Building Your Imagination	Jay Linqvist
113	Be Brave	Jennifer Barake
114	TV Alive	Charlotte Burnett
116	The Dragon's Wrath	Mercer Tucker
117	The Mystery of Mrs. White	Valentina Tomlinson
118	Missing Magic	Ruth Sauve
120	I Love You the Whitest	Marina Lorge
121	The Magic Bunny	Evangeline Clayton Falcon
122	Agent P and the Wild Frog Case	Charlie Roseski
123	The Neon Heroes	James Austin
125	Halloween	Caroline Spead
126	Dandelions	Hunter Siddoway
127	Owen's Extraordinary Day	Faith Espinoza
128	A Bad Fishy Choice	Mark Ruettermann
129	Spooky Season	Oliver Agostini
130	The Flea Problem	Layla Adkins
131	The Stolen Book of Love	Liliana Dimitrova
133	Squish, Splash, and a Buttermilk Bath	Kinleigh Dunn
134	Bearded Dragons	Gracelyn Forte
135	The Statue of Destiny	Henry Campbell
136	Fall	Audrey Stephenson
137	Magic Kingdom	Jayvion Young
138	Wilbur's Wild Winter	Grady Wyatt
139	The Witch's Revenge	Vivian Collins
141	How Donnie Found His Forever Home	Natalya Yali
142	Wilbur's Always Hungry	Julieta Tedesco
143	Hamstern - My Class Pet	Yasmine Pleas
144	Goldipox and the Three Bears	Reese Filicko
145	Moving	Rosie Smith
146	The Best Fishing Trip Ever	Olivia Gayton
147	A New Friend for Wilbur	Viea Taylor



Pink Perfection

by Mia Martin

74th Street Elementary School

Teacher: Brittany Collard



Pink is like a shimmering sunset sky at day's end, bringing a tranquil vibe.

Pink is like a soothing, delicious raspberry-like sorbet that gives us a refreshing feeling on the inside.

Pink is like the cloudy, soft, and wonderfully delicious taste of cotton candy.

Pink is like the amazingly wonderful glow standing out when you inhale a cherry blossom's scent.

And pink is like the damp, fluffy and furry touch of a peach-colored flamingo.

Earth's Elements

by Elliot Irving

Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary School

Teachers: Adrienne Wooten & Christie Smotzer



Trees keep the earth alive.

Water keeps the earth moving.

Rocks keep the earth stable.

Fire keeps the earth warm.

Ice keeps the earth cool.

These are the elements on earth that keep it alive.



Showing Kindness

by Logan Fairbank
MK Rawlings Elementary School
Teacher: Kerri Wilson

I show kindness by
following the golden rule
(Treat others the way you want
to be treated).

Be a good citizen.

Be at the back of the line.

Hold the door for other people.

Listen to your parents and teachers.

Say please and thank you.

Don't be a bully.

Never make fun of others.

Help a friend by helping them
understand or help them if they're
hurt.

That's how I show kindness.



HALLOWEEN

by Olivia Weis
Cypress Woods Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Mulligan & Mrs.
Williams



Halloween is tonight
Outside is full of fright

Trick-or-treaters
Candies are sweeter

Lights are flashing
Candy is mashing

Pumpkins are glowing
The wind is blowing





A Poem of Magic

by Kennedy Collins
Douglas L Jamerson
Elementary School
Teacher: Jessica Dean

A moonbeam flecked with stars
A land full of flowers
An ocean full of creatures
A castle full of power

Darkness hunters, potions strong
Fighting darkness with our wands
Fix the world to make it right
When darkness finally meets the light

Three witches chosen to fight the dark
Taught under the power arc
The spellbook gives fame and power
Potions give light in the hour

Three witches with unbreakable spells
Have been chosen when darkness fell
Three witches with amazing power
Fighting darkness within the hour

Out of elements, they are the best
Until they finally come to a rest

Now you know the tale is true
You can tell this tale to crows, bats, ravens, too
Underneath the power of the moon.

Fall Frights

by Pia Paolucci
Cypress Woods Elementary
Elementary School
Teacher: Mary Mulligan &
Molly Williams



Halloween is here can't wait for the treats
You have to wait... that beats.

Costumes, candy, pumpkins galore
So much spook, but I'm scared of the gore

I go to the most homes
And see some garden gnomes

Now it's done, the air is bare
I'm going to sleep, leave if you dare!





I Love You the Pinkest

(Based on the book: *I Love You the Purplest*
by Barbara Joosse)
by Liliana Allen
Curlew Creek Elementary School
Teacher: Vicki Jetton



Mama, I love you the pinkest.
I love you the color of the feathers of a flamingo when it's eating shrimp.
I love you the color of bubble gum ~ soft and squishy.
As pink as a heart on Valentine's Day.
I love you the color of the flower blossoms falling down from the tree on a spring day.
The pink of soft cotton candy.
The pink of a lollipop on a stick.
The juice of sweet dragon fruit.
I love you the color of a Starbucks Pink drink on a sunny day.

Brother Wind

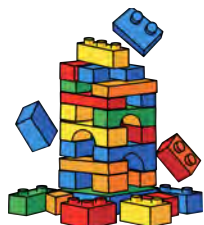
by Georgia Tsao
Ridgecrest Elementary School
Teacher: Dorothea Anderson

He's the fastest in the world.
Helping me, with no AC.
Helping kids fly their kites.
Helping me breathe every night.

Related to Mother Nature and a part of me,
The enemy is CO₂,
But it's a part of other plants, and me

Dear old Brother Wind,
I want to say a thank you for helping me
Survive this world.
I love you.





Building Your Imagination

by Jay Linqvist

Mildred Helms Elementary IB World School
Teacher: Leigh Loveland

Have you ever wanted to build something amazing? Well, Legos are the path to your imagination! Legos come in all different shapes and sizes. I will tell you what Legos are, the history, how we use them and what cool things you can make.

Legos are made from acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), a strong plastic. They are heated to 450 degrees until it reaches a dough-like consistency. They are injected into molds at pressures between 85 and 130 tons into precise steel molds. There are 182 different colors and over 3,700 unique brick exist.

Legos have been made in Denmark since 1934. They were called “leg godt” which means play well. In 1943, the interlocking bricks were known as automatic binding bricks and then renamed Legos in 1949. Amazingly, 400 billion lego blocks are produced every year. This is approximately over 1,000 per second!

At first, Legos were boxes of mixed colors and base shapes. The first systems were the town plan, that came out in 1955. The set had 236 pieces. These early sets were simple that allowed kids to be creative. As Legos continued to be popular, they became increasingly technical and special famous buildings, such as the Eiffel Tower, The White

House, the Empire State Building, and the Golden Gate Bridge.

One of my favorite special building projects was a McLaren car that can actually go 40 miles per hour. It has 342,817 pieces and took 8,394 hours to build!

I enjoy building with Legos and have many sets myself. Two of my favorites are The Fighter from Star Wars and the Flying Dutchman from Pirates of the Caribbean. These are both complicated sets to build because they have special parts like sails on the pirate ship and there are 4,364 pieces! I also like setting up battles between soldiers. This usually takes up most of my living room. I have been to Legoland in California. There are giant life-size models of buildings, animals, and popular characters from Star Wars and other movies. I would recommend Legos to anyone that loves building things. Step-by-step manuals allow anyone to become an expert Lego builder.

As you can see, Legos has an extensive history. After 92 years, they have perfected the product. They provide an endless amount of ways to combine designs and build whatever creative idea comes to your mind. I think playing with Legos can teach you many skills such as: ingenuity, planning, counting, sorting, hand-eye coordination, and much more. Most importantly, I think Legos are a key invention that help unlock the door to people’s imagination and creative abilities.



Be Brave

by Jennifer Barake
Plumb Elementary
Teacher: Stephanie Perri



Starting a new school can feel scary, but being brave can make everything better.

One beautiful day, a girl named Jennifer and her sisters, Precious and Bella, heard their parents talking about them going to a new school. The next day, their parents took them there. When they arrived, the girls felt scared because the school surroundings looked strange. Their parents told them not to judge the school by how it looked outside, but to think about what it might look like on the inside.

When the girls walked inside, they saw a teacher with a purse on her shoulder wearing dark green glasses holding a notebook in her hand. The teacher pointed to a dark hallway and said, "Your class is that way." The girls felt nervous as their parents waved goodbye. When they reached the classroom, it was dark inside. Jennifer walked in first, and Precious and Bella followed. Bella found the light switch and turned it on. They realized they were in a science room and soon class began with their new teacher.

After school, the three sisters went home. Their parents asked how school was, and the girls said it was kind of good. They ate dinner that evening, did their homework, and played together. Before bed, they all wished to be brave.

The next day at school, Precious, Jennifer and Bella felt shy because everyone was looking at them. They wanted to make friends but were afraid. After school, their parents asked why they looked so glum. The girls said they were not brave enough to make new friends. Their parents told them to be themselves and reminded them that God brings not just friends, but good friends who are like angels to us when we depend on Him and they could do anything if they put their minds to it while trusting God's plan and will.

On Friday, the girls remembered their parents' words. After school, they came home happy and excited. They told their parents they had made new friends and were planning a sleepover. Jennifer, Precious and Bella learned that being yourself is the bravest thing you can be.



TV Alive

by Charlotte Burnett

Douglas L Jamerson Elementary School

Teacher: Jessica Dean

There once was a girl named Taylor and a girl named Addison, and they both loved the movie *Spy Kids*. So, one sunny day the two girls were sitting on the couch watching *Spy Kids*. Then all of a sudden, they heard a rumbling sound. RUMBLE! RUMBLE!

“What was that?” asked Taylor.

“I don’t know!” exclaimed Addison.

So, the two girls looked around for what could have made that strange rumble, but then there was a bright shining light! Suddenly, there were Spies in black suits. It was Tony and Patty, the spies from *Spy Kids*! But not only them, there were lots of weird monsters too!

“What should we do?” asked Addison.

“We should ask Tony and Patty,” replied Taylor.

The two curious girls asked them why there were monsters everywhere.

“Because there are monsters in our world,” replied Patty.

“The only way to get rid of them and send us back into our world is to find the two magical purple gems and put them in this belt!” said Tony.

“Where can we find the purple gems?” asked Addison.

“The two magical gems are on top of a mountain called Gem Mountain,” replied Tony.





So, the two girls put on their snow gear because the mountain was snowy and headed out the door.

After many hours of climbing and freezing, they finally saw a glowing purple light.

“Woah!” exclaimed Addison and Taylor.

It was so BEAUTIFUL and magical that the girls were afraid to touch it.

“Should we touch it?” asked Taylor.

“We have to! Let’s just be careful,” said Addison.

The girls gently grabbed the gems and hiked down the steep mountain.

When they got back to their warm home, they saw a whole bunch of monsters.

“Oh my!” said Addison in shock, “That's a lot of monsters!”

They gave Tony and Patty a big hug before they disappeared. Then, the girls carefully put the gems in the spies’ belt.

“Bye,” said the girls.

“Bye,” said the spies. “Thank you for helping us destroy the monsters!”

Then the spies and monsters disappeared.

The girls let out a sigh of relief that the monsters were finally gone. Then they hopped onto the couch to watch *Spy Kids*.

“Do you think that we will ever see Tony and Patty again?” asked Addison.

“I don’t know,” replied Taylor.

“Do you think they will remember us?” asked Addison.

“Definitely!” replied Taylor.

Although they were happy all the monsters were gone, they were a little sad that their new friends had to go. But that day Addison and Taylor made friends they would never forget.



The Dragon's Wrath

by Mercer Tucker

Plumb Elementary Elementary School

Teacher: Stephanie Perri



One rainy morning, my friend Jack came over to my house to play the video game Dragon Rage, part of Magigames, a video game all about magic. There was a new update! When I got to the home screen, there was a message in the mailbox. It said,

Congratulations! You have been chosen to wield Power Magic. [Click here](#) to begin Power Magic.

“Well, yes please!” I said. I clicked ‘Click here’, and that’s when it began.

Suddenly, we both got basic wands that can summon the basic Ice Dragon. “Ho.Ly. Cow.” Jack said. “What will we tell our parents?” I asked. “I don't know. They can't know we wield magic.” Jack stated. “Or dragons!” I added.

That evening, I told my parents that I had made a wand with wood & some imagination. “Oh, that’s cool, Asher! Make a spell!” My mom said.

Oh no, I thought. I guess I'll make a fake spell. “Abra-kadabra!” I yelled. Nothing happened. Yes! I thought.

The next morning, me & Jack met up at the Draco Temple, one of the last magical places. It was just outside the city of Ramos.

“Ready?” I asked.

“Yup.” Jack answered.

“Right. Let’s do this.” I said. “On the count of three. One, two, three!” We waved our wands around and then forward - the summoning spell. Suddenly, two big Ice Dragons appeared - one for me & one for Jack. “It worked!” we yelled in unison.

We were about to send them back when Jack said, “Hey! Why send them back when we can play Dragon Rage I.R.L.?” And so we did. We played Battle! I smoked him with my Dragon Rage skills.

“Now let’s do Race!” I suggested. This time he won.

We had fun all day long. Until we heard an automated voice saying:

‘You now can unlock the power of all magical creatures. Go to their runes to unlock them.’

“Well, let’s go to some Runes tomorrow! A ‘daily Rune’!” I said. And then we went to sleep, being so tired from playing, and dreamt of all the magic we would make tomorrow.

The Mystery of Mrs. White

by Valentina Tomlinson

Highland Lakes Elementary School

Teacher: Catherine Cooper



One calm and peaceful afternoon, school had just ended. Olivia and Ali were walking happily to Garden Club.

“I wonder what we are doing today?” asked Ali.

“I think we’re going to plant tomatoes,” answered Olivia with a smile.

Soon, they reached the Garden Club door. Suddenly, they noticed something strange.

Mrs. White was not there.

The girls looked around the garden, but they couldn’t find her anywhere.

“Maybe we should check one of the portables,” suggested Ali.

First, they walked to the portable classroom.

“Mrs. White? Mrs. White?” the girls yelled.

There was no answer.

Next, Olivia said, “Maybe she’s in the lunchroom.”

“Let’s try it,” replied Ali.

They walked into the lunchroom and saw a little boy sitting at a table.

“Have you seen Mrs. White?” asked Ali.

“Not recently,” said the boy. “But I thought I saw her in the lunch line.”

After that, Olivia and Ali hurried to the lunch line.

“Mrs. White! Mrs. White!” they shouted.

Still, there was no answer.

As they walked back outside, they suddenly heard a noise coming from the Garden Club area.

“What was that?” asked Ali nervously.

“I think it’s coming from the shed,” whispered Olivia.

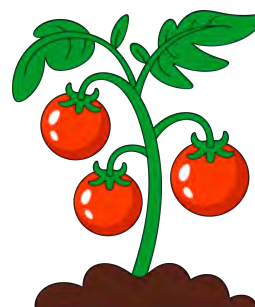
Slowly, they walked toward the shed. Ali unlocked the door.

“Mrs. White! What are you doing in here? We’ve been looking for you everywhere!” yelled Olivia.

“I accidentally locked myself in here while getting supplies for Garden Club,” replied Mrs. White.

“Well, I’m just glad we found you,” sighed Ali with relief.

In the end, the girls smiled as they all walked back to the garden together. Now that Mrs. White was safe, they could finally start planting and enjoy all the fun things they had planned for Garden Club that day.





Missing Magic

by Ruth Sauve
Bay Vista Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: Sheri Cianca



Whoosh!

“What was that?” King James asked in an anxious voice.

“Oh no!” Queen Laura exclaimed. “He’s back!”

A large black figure swept over them. All the lights went out. A flash of icy blue light shot out at them, missing them by inches! The clear blue sky suddenly went spine-chilling black. Another flash. This time, an eye blinding green. Twice, a direct hit on the king and queen. They fell back, unconscious. A loud clap of thunder suddenly sounded out, even though there had been no lightning. A high-pitched cackle of glee abruptly rang out. Then, time stopped.

When time started again, everything was back to normal. One glance around the room, and nothing looked disturbed. The king and queen decided to make a detailed search later. Trembling and suspicious, they headed up to the dining room, where the cooks had prepared a hot meal. As they ate, they mulled over the events of the past. Surely the figure had just come to annoy them. For they knew him, and quite well. He was Carson Sabar, the evil sorcerer who wanted control. He was always trying to steal the king and queen’s magical objects, a rose and a crystal ball. They were the most powerful objects in the universe. But the objects were hidden in a sorcery-proof safe. They were 99.9% sure that he hadn’t gotten to them. Or had he?

After their meal, they went to the treasure room, which was in the basement. Nothing appeared to be gone.

“I’ll check the safe,” said Queen Laura slowly.

She quickly entered the code and showed her face. They slowly peered into the safe. Inside, there were no objects. The queen sat up and screamed. The king went rigid. After the scream died out, they just sat, thunderstruck. Finally, the king got up and motioned for his wife to follow him.

“What the heck?” was all the king could say.

The queen, however asked, “What should we do?”

Her husband sighed and responded, “Well, we will tell the guards to lock all the doors and windows. Also, we should have a guard in every corridor and the basement/rooftop. As for us, we will hold a debate.”

In the town, the king just finished explaining what their problem was and asked for suggestions. A man named John and a woman named Sally had some, but in the end, they wouldn't work. They were about to give up when a woman spoke up. Her name was Rosemary and she said thus: “I think we should find out when the sorcerer leaves to go hunting. Then, a few of us will replace the real objects with fake ones. He will surely die of anger!”

The crowd was silent for a moment, thinking. Then the whole town square erupted with cheers and the king exclaimed, “Tis a great idea, and will work!” The king and queen walked back to the palace, merry and bright. That night they created a camera that tracked the time and date Sabar went out. They would assemble as soon as they could.

Over the next few days, they did what needed to be done. They prepared what needed to be prepared to steal the rose and crystal ball back. They made a replica of each magical object. The royal couple then sent out 3 Kingsmen with the camera. Upon arriving at the sorcerer's mansion, one of the Kingsman caused a diversion by imitating a panther's call. The other two Kingsmen snuck into the mansion while Sabar was out investigating the spine-tingling scream. They quickly and quietly assembled the camera. They snuck out just as silently, collected their partner, and headed back to the kingdom.

After two weeks of tracking the sorcerer's whereabouts, they retrieved the camera.

“Alright, let's see...” the king said. “It looks like he goes hunting on Wednesdays at 2:00pm,” he continued. “Alright, then that is when we'll go,” the king replied.

It was Sunday. Monday passed quietly. Then Tuesday came. It passed by. Finally, the day had come. Wednesday arrived. At 2:00 the king and queen started out. They said nothing. They did not want to be heard. When they arrived at their destination, not one soul was there. The royal pair worked quickly, disassembling the camera. The rulers stole away inside the castle and found the magical objects. They were on a whatnot in the sitting room. The king hissed, outraged, “He didn't even use them!” They carefully switched out the objects for the fake ones. Then, taking their possessions carefully, they went back to the castle just before it started to pour.

After the rain stopped, the people of the town and the monarchs had a festival to celebrate having their magical objects back. Now they were back in control, and as long as they had the rose and crystal ball, the world was safe from evil. The town's folk lived happily ever after.

As for the sorcerer, when he came back (puzzled because he had found no cause of a panthers' scream) and found the magical objects gone, he died of anger and fear. When his servants found him, they fled the mansion for they had no one to serve. The remains of the mansion are here to this day.



I Love You the Whitest

by Marina Lorge
Curlew Creek Elementary School
Teacher: Vicki Jetton

Dad, I love you the whitest.

I love you the color of fresh, crisp paper that has been colored on with hearts.

I love you the color of fluffy clouds in the sky.

As white as a smooth pearl in a clam.

I love you the color of a spider's web on a rainy day.

As white as an arctic fox's tail hitting the ground.

The shimmering white of a speck of glitter.

The white of a dandelion in the sunlight.

The brightness of a shining star.



The Magic Bunny

by Evangeline Clayton Falcon

Plumb Elementary School

Teacher: Stephanie Perri



One Saturday morning, my mom and I got dressed and left to go to the store. When we arrived at the store my mom said, "I will get you one thing".

I went to the toy part of the store and saw a bunny on the shelf. It was beautiful with light brown eyes, a pink nose, blush on its cheeks and had a smiling expression. The bunny was wearing a colorful dress with carrots dotting across the skirt and it had its own plushy carrot too. When my mom came around, I had told her, "I want this for sure."

My mom bought it for me and I was so excited. Once we left the store, I played with it all day. The next morning when I woke up, I looked at the bunny and decided I was going to name it. The name I decided to give her was Hops. I jumped out of bed, and I told Hops, "Good morning" while giving her a big hug. Suddenly I heard, "Good morning," and I froze.

I accidentally dropped Hops because I was in shock and was not expecting to hear her reply to me. When I dropped her, she stood up by herself and said, "Hey, why did you drop me? That wasn't very nice."

I responded, "I was not expecting you to talk, I'm sorry. How are you talking, am I going crazy?"

Hops said "No, you are not going crazy I am a magic bunny!" with a smile on her face. I stood still for a moment trying to figure out if it was my imagination, but Hops was just standing in front of me staring at me with a big smile. I worked up the courage to walk up to her and touch her.

To my surprise she was alive. She giggled when I squished her ears and told me that it tickled. Frozen for just a second, I stared at her and told her, "You are the best thing in the world. I have a feeling we are going to be the best of friends."

As the day continued, Hops and I just got to know each other in my room, and we played games all day. One very important rule I found out from Hops was that my mom could not find out she was real or she would have to go away. Hops and I did everything together; we played, read books, colored, and wrote stories, even made dance moves together. It felt like every minute that passed by brought us closer to each other.

I had a dream one day that I told mom that Hops is alive. My mom was confused. She said it's all in my imagination. I said, "No, it is not my imagination, watch." I told Hops to come here.

Hops slowly walked out to where we were and said, "Hello," to my mom. My mom was shocked and asked Hops if she could talk.

Hops said, "Yes, I am a magic bunny."

My mom did believe her so she asked, "So you can make wishes come true?"

Hops said, "Yes, I can make your wishes come true."

To test Hops, my mom made her first wish, "I wish my house to be spotless," she said. Hops clapped her hands three times, and the house was spotless.

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, there goes my alarm. I woke up in a rush, looking for Hops. When I finally found her under my pillow, I realized it was all a dream.



Agent P and the Wild Frog Case

by Charlie Roseski

Highland Lakes Elementary School

Teacher: Catherine Cooper

One sunny afternoon, I was at my plant club in the park, watering flowers and pulling weeds. Suddenly, my boss, Bob—the number one spy—rushed over to me with an excited look on his face.

“Will you take the case, Agent P?” he asked.

“Of course I will!” I replied with a grin. It felt great to be on a case again.

Soon, my partner and I headed out to solve the Wild Frog Case.

Now you’re probably wondering who we are. Are we good or bad?

We are S.P.Y.s—Secret People for Years. We stop crime, solve mysteries, and we are never evil.

Now, back to the story.

After a very long time (or at least it felt that way), we finally found the suspect.

“Whoosh!” we jumped out.

“Suckers!” the bad guy yelled as he threw a stink bomb at us.

“P-U!” shouted my partner, holding his nose.

Quickly, I chased after him, but he kept throwing more and more stink bombs. The smell was horrible!

All of a sudden, a random frog hopped out of nowhere and K.O.’d the bad guy with a giant leap.

“Yay!” everybody cheered.

In the end, the case was solved, the frog became a hero, and my partner and I returned to plant club feeling proud. I smiled and thought that you never know when a normal day in the park might turn into a spy adventure.



The Neon Heroes

by James Austin

Curtis Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Colette Alex



One day, James, Kael, Liam, and Jacob were admiring a meteor shower. Suddenly, a HUGE METEOR headed for them!

“Watch out!!!” James said as they all leaped from the meteor.

“Phew! That was a close call,” James said calmly.

“Uh... guys,” Kael replied.

There were four colored glowing crystals floating above the meteor! Suddenly, the yellow crystal attached to Liam’s chest and a glowing giant mech suit formed around him! Then the blue crystal attached to Kael’s clothes, and they turned into pure blue armor! The green crystal attached to Jacob and a black suit designed to blend into the night covered him! Finally, the orange crystal attached to James’s head and a crown formed on his head! His body became bulky, and his hands were on fire! Then a white crystal also attached to his head! Suddenly, his feet were off the ground! He was levitating! “Woah!” They all said in awe.

“This is CRAZY!!!!!!!!!! I think we have POWERS!!!” exclaimed Jacob.

“Jacob, where did you go?” asked Liam.

“I’m right here!” He replied.

Suddenly, Jacob appeared out of the shadows!

“Dude. I think you have invisibility powers.” Liam said.

James was punching a tree. Suddenly, the tree fell very easily! “I think I have super strength!”

Suddenly, a bright pink creature with only hands, feet, and two bright pink eyes sent a beam of energy at them! Fortunately, Liam shot a beam of light from his magnet arm! “Take that!” he said.

They kept shooting beams of light and energy at each other. Unfortunately, the monster hit him in the chest! His suit then powered down! In response, James grabbed the glowing creature and slammed him down to the ground. Jacob stomped the ground three times and the ground shook. The creature shot pink energy laser ropes and hung above the ground. “You have got to be KIDDING ME!!!!!!!!!!!!” shouted James in anger.

Suddenly, James’s eyes turned orange and lava sprouted out of the ground. Kael created a blue force field that blocked the lava from burning them. It burned off the pink thing’s hand, but it just regenerated. “We need to get to shelter!” Kael exclaimed.

Somehow, Kael created a steel building, but he couldn't use any more of his steel power for the day. “Let’s go guys! Get inside!” Liam shouted.

“Guys, I'm too big to fit inside.” Liam said while looking at his huge magnet arm.

“Heyyyy, I have an idea! Kael, can you create a steel diving board?” Liam asked.

“Maybe,” he said weakly.

Then Liam attached his magnet, swung across the building, and kicked the creature in the face! It flew about fifty miles! “Well, that takes care of that,” Liam said.

“We need to ge-” ROOOOAR!!!!!! Something interrupted.

Suddenly, a red creature with feet where its hands were supposed to be and its arms where its feet were supposed to be with a stretched-out mouth with four sharp teeth appeared! “Another one!?!?” Jacob shouted in frustration.

Jacob stomped three times with steam coming out of his ears and the ground shook. The creature fell into a hole, but it appeared again! “Guys, I think it can clone itself!” Kael pointed out.

“Mm hmm.” James replied in agreement.

“So we’re going to have to deal with this, too!” Liam shouted while preparing the light beams.

PEW! PEW! went the light beams, so fast that they were impossible to see with the human eye. But the red thing just happened to reflect it with a reflector shield. “OW!” Liam said as his suit powered down.

Suddenly, a giant portal opened ahead. “What the?” James sighed in wonder.

A creature with a red robe stepped out of the portal. “Warning. Warning. Unknown Entity detected. Unknown Entity detected,” the computer spoke.

“Cure found. Cure: Potion of light.”

Suddenly, an array of light potions appeared on the arm of James’s mech suit. “Ready, Aim, FIRE!!!!!” shouted James. The Darkness king disintegrated with all the creatures.

Halloween

by Caroline Spead

Ridgecrest Elementary School

Teacher: Dorothea Anderson



Jack-o-lanterns in the fall

Candles in them all.

With my friend

We round a bend,

He tells me his name’s Paul.

Suddenly, shadow, I tell him what I saw.
 Suddenly, we stop and run towards the mall.
 That’s no shadow, that’s Betty, the friendly clown.
 Oh no, she fell down!

We help her up, I stop my pounding heart,
 Wow, Betty, you definitely played your part!



Dandelions

by Hunter Siddoway
Plumb Elementary

Teacher: Stephanie Perri



The house was empty, and Riley was packing up her last box with her best friend from the neighborhood, Ellie. Ellie sighed and said, “Alright, last item! A picture of us blowing a dandelion.” She put the picture into the box softly, helping Riley with the last box out of the house. As they put the box into the car, Ellie began to say bye, not even finishing her sentence, when out of nowhere Riley's mom honked the car so loud it sounded like an elephant! Riley waved her hand saying her last goodbye, then she looked at the lawn and saw that there was a beautiful dandelion. She bent down, closed her eyes to make a wish and whispered to herself, “I HOPE I see Ellie again” as she rushed into the car.

Off they went, driving to a new city. Riley, heartbroken and tired, knew she was going to fall asleep in the car. After twenty minutes, she fell into a deep sleep, dreaming about Ellie and her in a field filled with millions of dandelions. In the dream, they both tripped over themselves, giggling together as they landed in a fluffy pile of dandelions. Suddenly, Riley snapped awake with a jolt from a bump in the road. She realized that it was just a dream, feeling even more heartbroken about moving and how she didn't have Ellie and her other friends. She turned her head and saw that her new massive house was right in front of her!

They finally arrived in their new city, London. Riley helped her mom carry all the boxes in the house and helped her set up the house, which included a massive pool, an upstairs floor, and a large bedroom upgrade for herself. The next day, Riley’s mom, knowing how lonely Riley was, signed her up for volleyball to make some new friends. When she arrived at practice, Riley saw a girl who looked just like Ellie. As she got closer, her heart leaped when she realized it was Ellie! They were on the same team! Although she was in a new city, she and Ellie were still able to see each other every week since the volleyball team had players joining from all the nearby cities, including Riley’s old one!

Riley ended up making great new friends from her volleyball team, while still seeing her best friend, Ellie, and making some new friends from her new neighborhood, too. While playing outside with her new friends, she spotted on her lawn the most beautiful dandelion in the middle of the grass, and it reminded her that even when change happens, it’s not always bad if you can have hope that spreads like the seeds of a dandelion in the wind.



Owen's Extraordinary Day

by Vivienne Faith Espinoza

San Jose Elementary

Teacher: Bridget Behrmann



Once upon a time there was a sweet little mouse named Owen. He lived in a small hole under a baseboard in a delicious café. He lived with his mother and father as well as his brothers and sisters. Owen's father was a welder, and his mother was a teacher. Owen was always kind and thoughtful. His brothers and sisters were evil and loud.

One day his brothers and sisters dared him to go and steal a bunch of food from the kitchen. Owen said, "Oh Sally, Frank, and Ben, I don't think that is a good idea."

"Just do it! Don't be so serious all the time!" yelled Sally.

"Yeah, Owen," Ben said, annoyed. "Come on!"

They shoved Owen out of the hole and into the foyer of the café. Owen was about to run back into the hole when he saw Ben slam the door right in his face. Owen started to tremble; he felt the tears coming. He started to cry like a baby without his bottle.

Customers stomped in, and Owen scurried away to not get trampled. Back in the house, Sally, Ben, and Frank were playing mouse monopoly. "I win!" shouted Sally.

Their mother walked in and her eyes shifted from left to right. "Where is Owen?" she questioned.

"Um, I think he went to um, uh," Ben said nervously. He nudged Sally.

Sally's eyes widened she pursed her lips. "Check the living room," she said with hesitation.

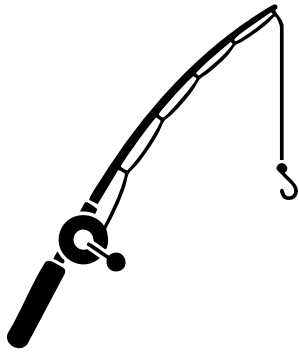
Their mom suspiciously questioned what the kids had told her. She walked into the living room. She looked around the room. She couldn't find Owen anywhere. She sat down on the big armchair and ruminated where he could possibly be for about twenty minutes. She whispered to herself, "I know where you are, Owen."

Their mother walked into the kitchen and made cheese pasta, Owen's favorite. She carried the pasta to the roof, got the ladder, climbed up, and put it by the roof window. She climbed down and went into the house. Then, she climbed back up onto the roof and grabbed a sticky note and wrote...

Dear Owen, I must leave to go teach kindergarten. I love you, Mama. PS: Just let me know if Sally, Ben, and Frank don't treat you nicely.

Their mother got off the roof and left to teach the kindergarteners.

In the café, Owen was running at full speed to avoid customers. He was so scared! Suddenly, he stopped and he smelled something. It smelled familiar, like his favorite pasta. He followed the smell and it led to his house. He frowned in dismay as he looked around; he saw the roof window. It was open. He saw the ladder, climbed it, and he found the note. He read it and nodded as he ate his favorite pasta. On a full belly he leaped through the window. He found Sally, Ben, and Frank in the time out room. He smiled. His brothers and sisters had learned their lesson.



A Bad Fishy Choice

by Mark Ruettermann

Highland Lakes Elementary School

Teacher: Catherine Cooper



One day after school, Zach and Matt decided to go fishing. As soon as they got to the pond, they caught a big fish.

“We should eat it!” said Matt.

“But first, we should check if it’s safe,” said Zach.

After investigating, they decided the fish was okay to eat. Soon, they went home and cooked it. At first, Zach and Matt liked the fish and felt happy.

Later, they went back to the pond and caught even more fish to eat.

But after a while, their tummies started to hurt. Zach and Matt turned green and felt very sick.

“Oh no!” groaned Zach.

“We should not have eaten that fish. EW!” said Matt.

They both started throwing up and actually saw pieces of the fish that they had just eaten only hours beforehand.

“That’s disgusting!” cried Zach

“We should never eat fish from here again!” said Matt.

“Yeah, never ever!” said Zach.

After that day, they decided to stay away from that pond for a long time.

One year later, they finally went back to the same fishing spot. This time, they remembered their mistake and promised to be more careful.

In the end, Zach and Matt learned an important lesson: always make safe choices before eating what you catch.



Spooky Season

by Oliver Agostini

Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Kimberly Moran



Candy, costumes, and scary movies? Count me in! Halloween is one of my favorite holidays. There are so many things that make this holiday fun. Let me tell you why I think Halloween is one of the best holidays.

First of all, who doesn't love candy? Getting it for free is even sweeter! I love walking around saying hi to all of the neighbors and getting different sweet treats each time. It's even better when my neighbors tell me how cool I look in my costume. Halloween is the time to play as your favorite character. It's so cool to see everyone's favorite character as you walk around. It's not just people who dress up, but houses dress up too! You can tell people put in a lot of hard work to make something that everyone is going to love.

I saved the best part of Halloween for last. A dark room, a bowl full of popcorn, and endless jump scares. Scary movies are my favorite genre and they play them all month long.

Now you see all of the things I love about Halloween. I hope you get candy, dress up as your favorite character, watch spooky movies, and learn to love Halloween as much as I do.





The Flea Problem

by Layla Adkins

Bear Creek Elementary School

Teacher: Lissa Bray

I have a very cute, smart, fluffy dog named Brodrick. But one day he got fleas! I was very concerned, because he was scratching up a storm. “Where could he have gotten fleas from?” I thought to myself.

The dog park? The zoo? My apartment building? All I knew was that we needed to get to the vet right away.

“Ooh, I am so worried about Brodrick. Is he ok?” I asked.

“I hope, but I think it's just fleas,” my mom replied.

A few hours later (he had a lot of fleas) Brodrick was done with his treatment!

“YAY!” We yelled as we petted and hugged our dog. On the car ride home I asked, “Can we have another dog?”

The second I finished my sentence is the second mom said “NO!”





The Stolen Book of Love

by Liliana Dimitrova

Garrison Jones Elementary School

Teacher: Amber Geronimo

Once upon a time, there lived a tiny village filled with lots of fairies. All the fairies called their village “The Village of Love” because their village had a special book that is called *The Book of Love*. The book is why all the fairies are always happy. The village had many groups of fairies. There were fairies that made dresses, fairies that made shoes, and even fairies that made special wands. They all lived together in harmony and love.

Unfortunately, one day, someone stole their book! Now, everyone was fighting and the fairies didn’t get along. The fairies planned to send out a search party for *The Book of Love*.

The next morning, the fairies started the search. One of the fairies, named Brie, was a kind and loving leader of the search group. The good thing is that Brie had found a letter with a stamp that said “THIEF-- DO NOT COME NEAR”! She quickly opened the letter and found that it wasn’t just an ordinary letter, it was a map. She was so stressed at what she was seeing. It was almost as if the person who stole the book wanted to be found!

The search party started following the map. The road to the thief’s house was horrifying. They were deep in the woods, and it was getting dark, so the party stopped to eat and rest.

The next morning, someone took their food! All of the fairies thought someone in their group took their food and without thinking that if they started to fight, they could get separated. They started to fight anyway, and they really did get separated! Now Brie was the only one who could catch the thief.

“Girls, where are you???” Did we get separated?” a fairy screamed.

There was no answer, but Brie had found her way. She had arrived at a creepy mansion in the woods.

“Oh yes!!! I finally did it! This is the thief’s house!!” Brie exclaimed. As soon as she reached the door, she heard paws pouncing. She slowly turned around and close behind her she saw a black spotted scary-looking leopard.

“Help, help, help!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” Brie screamed.



Meanwhile, all the other fairies started to panic about being separated from each other... all except one. One of the fairies, a beautiful and loving fairy named Ivy, had a backup plan. That night when Brie found the map, Ivy snuck into Brie's cottage. She made a copy of the map so that she could also find the thief, just in case the map was lost. Ivy was alone. It was already lunchtime, so she found something to eat and started to look for the mansion. Just before her eyes, she found it! When she entered, she saw the most unbelievable thing...she saw a fairy—a fairy from her village! Her name was Melissa. She was a sneaky fairy that wasn't always clean and neat. Ivy saw *The Book of Love* right in Melissa's hands!

In the meantime, Brie discovered that the leopard was actually trying to protect her! So, Brie named the leopard Squiggles and decided to keep him as a pet. Brie and Squiggles made a trap. Brie and Squiggles gathered sticks to make a drill to open the mansion roof. They also created a trap to catch the thief. Their plan was to drop the trap down the opening of the roof and capture the thief.

Back inside the mansion, Ivy began using her magical powers against Melissa.

Brie rode on Squiggles back to the mansion with the trap and they carefully opened the roof and dropped the trap on the thief.

"FINALLY! We caught the thief!" Ivy and Brie exclaimed in relief.

"NOOOOOO!" Melissa squealed. "You have not seen the last of me!"

They attached the trap to Squiggles and left for the Village of Love. When they returned home, the first thing they did was lock Melissa up. They restored *The Book of Love* and they no longer fought against each other. In the end, everyone lived happily ever after...except Melissa.

"NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!" Melissa screamed in disgust.





Squish, Splash, and a Buttermilk Bath

by Kinleigh Dunn

Curlew Creek Elementary School

Teacher: Vicki Jetton



One spring afternoon, many, many years later, Fern and Henry lived on a farm close to Mr. and Mrs. Zuckerman's farm. Wilbur lived there with his new girlfriend Cynthia and their three boys, Cody, Nick, and Justin.

The piglets were having so much fun when all of a sudden...WHOOSH! The piglets ran as fast as they could out of their pen! Cody, Nick, and Justin found a BIG, BIG, BIG pile of mud! They made a big mess by rolling and jumping in the wet mud.

Templeton scurried out looking for Wilbur's food at his trough when next thing you know, "AHHHH!!!" Templeton slipped on the mud. "WHY IS THERE MUD EVERYWHERE?!!!" yelled Templeton.

"We like the mud!" squealed the three piglets.

Mrs. Zuckerman saw the dirty piglets and shouted, "What are you three doing here?! Now, I'm going to have to give you four a buttermilk bath. WAIT? WHAT? THERE ARE 4 OF YOU!! Not you, too, Templeton!"

Mrs. Zuckerman was confused to see that Templeton was covered in mud, too. She went and got the buttermilk bath ready and PLOP-PLOP-PLOP-DUNK! Went the piglets. Templeton had to be literally thrown in the bathtub. "Scrub-a-dub-dub, you four are in the tub." laughed Mrs. Zuckerman. She got all of them squeaky clean and grumpy Templeton even enjoyed drinking all of the buttermilk.

Once the piglets were all dried off and clean, they were ready to go to sleep in the pen with their mom and dad. The piglets, Cody, Nick, and Justin, cuddled up in the hay with Wilbur and Cynthia. They fell fast asleep dreaming happy, muddy dreams.



Bearded Dragons

by Gracelyn Forte

Gulf Beaches Elementary School

Teacher: Amy LaPiccirella

Did you know **bearded dragons** can hold their breath for up to two minutes at a time? Buckle up and I am going to tell you all about bearded dragons! They are really cool creatures!

Bearded Dragons Habitat

Bearded dragons can live in many different places, like Australia, scrublands, woodlands, warm deserts, and savannas. When bearded dragons are out in the wild, they make burrows to stay cool and to hide from predators. Keep your eye out when you are exploring in one of these places.

What Bearded Dragons Eat

Munch, Munch!! Bearded dragons eat all sorts of things like live meal worms, king worms, sweet potato, vegetables, peppers, parsley, kale, and crickets. Bearded dragons love freshly clean water in a shallow dish.

Are Bearded Dragons a Good Pet?

Are bearded dragons a good pet? YES, bearded dragons are a good pet! They are good beginner pets! They are pretty easy to take care of. They are also great for both kids and parents. Did you know that they are a really friendly reptile?

Wow! You really learned so much about these awesome reptiles. Does it make you want to go out and get one as a pet?

Glossary

Reptile: An animal that has scales and is cold blooded.

Burrow: A hole or a home underground.

Predator: An animal that hunts another animal.

Bearded dragon: A lizard reptile that has spikes.

Fun Fact: Bearded dragons have a third eye on the top of their head!





The Statue of Destiny

by Henry Campbell

Curtis Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Colette Alex

Once upon a time, there lived a little boy who was too curious. One day his mom said, "You need to go earn this family some money."

So, the little boy named Phil went to find a job. He tried the lumberjacks, no; carrying buckets of water, no; gathering berries, yes. So, he went home and told his mother. "Yes! We'll finally have some money!" His mom was excited to finally get some money.

The next day he went to work. "You're going to do great!" his mother reassured him.

He got some berries, but then he realized there was a big forest right next to him. Just a peek, he thought. He was walking through the forest when he found a peculiar statue. "WHO GOES THERE!" roared a deep voice. It was the statue! "STOP! SOLVE MY RIDDLES!" boomed the statue. But Phil just ran as fast and far as he could.

The statue, with a blink of an eye, was standing in front of Phil. "SOLVE MY RIDDLE!" the statue repeated.

"Fine!" Phil yelled. "RAILROAD CROSSING WITHOUT ANY CARS CAN YOU SPELL THAT WITHOUT ANY Rs?" the statue asked.

"No?" Phil answered.

"INCORRECT!" the statue roared. "COME BACK TOMORROW TO ATTEMPT TO EARN MY TREASURE!" Then the statue went back to where it was.

"Treasure!" thought Phil. He went back the next day. "SOLVE MY RIDDLE!" the statue boomed.

"Ok," Phil replied "a-i-l-o-a-d c-o-s-s-i-n-"

"INCORRECT!" the statue roared.

"Then how do you do it?" Phil mumbled with his fists in balls, teeth clenched, and a red face.

Phil went back one more time and again the statue repeated, "SOLVE MY RIDDLE!"

"Oh!" Phil realized the answer "T-H-A-T! Can you spell THAT without any Rs!"

"CORRECT!" the statue rewarded him with the treasure. Phil took home all of it. Rubies, silver, and gold! When Phil got home, his mother screamed in excitement.

"Yes! We're rich!"





Fall

by Audrey Stephenson
Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary School
Teacher: Sheri Cianca

I'm the color of fall.
The color of fall leaves.



The color of fall leaves on the trees.
The color of fall leaves on the trees and on the ground.
The color of fall leaves on the trees and on the ground,
in puddles where the kids jump and play every day.

I'm the taste of fall.
Fall tastes like pumpkin lattes. Pumpkin lattes in a
bookstore and a coffee shop.
Pumpkin lattes at the playground when you are baby-
sitting.
Fall tastes like pumpkin bread, warm and satisfying.
Pumpkin bread, fluffy and gooey in your mouth.



I'm the smell of fall.
Fall smells like pumpkin pie.
Pumpkin pie with that fresh flavorful aroma that
tickles your nose as it bakes in the oven.
Fall smells like turkey.
Turkey seasoned with the smells of fall.



Magic Kingdom

by Jayvion Young

Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Kimberly Moran

Have you ever been to Magic Kingdom? If you haven't, you should ask your parents to take you one day. My family took me to Magic Kingdom for my birthday, and it felt like I stepped into a magical world. I loved Magic Kingdom because of the fun characters, the exciting rides, and the amazing stories that made the day unforgettable.

One of the best parts of the day was meeting the characters. I saw Winnie the Pooh, Princess Tiana, Cinderella, and many more.

Another exciting part of Magic Kingdom was the rides. We rode Space Mountain, Peter Pan's Flight, The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh, and Tomorrowland attractions. Space Mountain was dark and fast and it felt like flying through space. Peter Pan's Flight made me feel like I was soaring over the city of London. My favorite ride was The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh because it was colorful and playful. I also loved the games and pictures you can play while you wait in line.

I also enjoyed the stories at Magic Kingdom. My favorite stories were Monsters Inc. and Peter Pan because of Tinkerbell. Tinkerbell is a tiny fairy with sparkling magic dust that makes you fly. Watching her story made me happy and excited, like anything was possible.

In conclusion, my birthday trip to Magic Kingdom was full of fun, laughter, and magic. I loved meeting the characters, going on thrilling rides, and enjoying wonderful stories. It was a day that I will always remember, and I hope I can visit Magic Kingdom again someday.



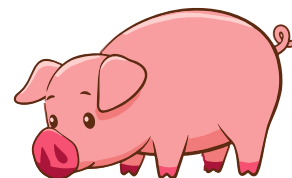


Wilbur's Wild Winter

by Grady Wyatt

Curlew Creek Elementary School

Teacher: Vicki Jetton



Once upon a time during the winter, Wilbur was playing with the baby spiders, Joy, Nellie, and Arenea. They were playing tag with Wilbur when Joy webbed Wilbur's tail so he couldn't run and he fell on the ground. BOOM! Then they tickled Wilbur's stomach, making him laugh and laugh. Little did they know that Joy, the baby spider, shot a web at Templeton's butt. "I'M NOT PLAYING!!!" yelled Templeton.

While Templeton was screaming, the goose said, "THERE'S A PIG! PIG! PIG!" She ran in like she had a heart attack because she was as cold as a Coca Cola Polar Bear. She yelled, "PLEASE LET ME IN, I'M FREEZZZZZZING!"

The pig came into the barn and Joy went to tell Templeton to find some moss to make her a hammock. She went into the hammock and got warmed up. Two hours later when she woke up, she said, "Thank you for helping me. My name Sprinkles."

"Hi, my name is Wilbur." They had a snowball fight in front of the barn and Wilbur and Sprinkle were throwing snowballs at each other. CRUSH! BANG! WHOOSH! Wilbur cried, "Oh! You got me! You're good!"

"Thanks!" said Sprinkle.

Joy and Nellie were throwing little snowballs at Templeton. Sprinkle whispered quieter than a mouse's footsteps, "Shall we make a BIG snowball and throw it at goose?" They hit goose with a snowball - BULLSEYE!

Goose was not happy and yelled, "I'm not a snowman!" and she waddled away.

After the snowball fight ended, Wilbur and Sprinkle went back into the warm barn and they knew that they would be best friends forever!



THE WITCH'S REVENGE

by Vivian Collins

Douglas L Jamerson Elementary School

Teacher: Jessica Dean

CHAPTER 1

One day, a witch named Eleanor was walking in the forest with her cat, Darkness. The cat was a very special type of cat. It was a spirit. Now, this was a very naughty cat. The reason for that was the spirit that once lived in Darkness.

Well, as it turns out, that spirit that once lived in Darkness was Eleanor's ARCH NEMESIS.

After walking for a while they got to the cottage. They watched the news.

Yes, I know what you're thinking. It is kind of funny for a witch to watch the news.

Well now, let's get into this story for *real*. They were watching the news, and they (the people on the news) said that a crook snuck into a cottage in the deep forest, in the form of a black cat!!! They showed a picture of a cat. Then they showed a picture of a person.

Suddenly, Darkness started hissing. Eleanor knew why.



CHAPTER 2

Eleanor was angry occasionally, but it was nothing compared to this. “**YOU!!**” she yelled rather loudly. “You were him the whole time!” I need revenge, she thought.

She went up to her room, and the **whole room** was covered in scratches! She found a musty piece of paper in an old closet and started to write on it. Wondering what she would do, she also wondered what he (her enemy) had done in the past, like sneaking into houses and stealing everything in the whole house. She also thought about what he hated. For instance, getting wet.

Suddenly, she had an idea.

CHAPTER 3

First, she got a bucket of water. Then, she put it on the front door. Then, she put a fan next to the door and hid.

Darkness started to explore the trap but did not see the water. She tried to smother a giggle.

Her plan worked! After a while, he tried to walk out of the hou- SPLASH!! He got covered in water! He ran out of the house to never be seen again.





How Donnie Found His Forever Home

by Natalya Yali
Tarpon Springs Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: Kimberly Moran



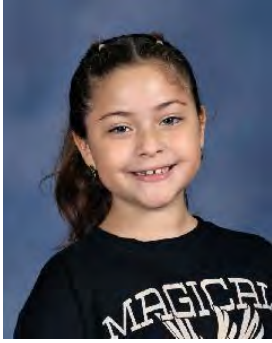
Do you want to know how I got a puppy? I would love to tell you the story. Here we go, starting at the very beginning.

First, we have a dog that is ten years old, named Sofi. I've known her since I was born. I love her so much. The thing is, I have always wanted a puppy. I asked my parents for a puppy for my very special 8th birthday. Guess what? They said YES! But we decided to rescue a dog instead of buying a dog. My mom searched many rescue groups and finally found Donnie.

After a few phone calls, we were approved to adopt Donnie. Donnie, a white cockapoo with blue eyes, was born deaf. The breeder was going to euthanize him. The rescue group saved him, and put him in a foster home. He was almost five months old when he came to live with us. Soon, I changed his name from Donnie to Rocket. So then, Rocket became part of our family.

Now Rocket is all settled in and comfortable in our home. He will be two years old on July 18, 2026. He loves to play with Sofi and he has lots of toys to play with. My favorite thing about Rocket is that he loves to cuddle with me. He even sleeps with me. My mom taught him some sign language and he is a good boy. I love taking care of Rocket. We go on walks, play fetch, and I help feed him.

As you can see, Rocket made my dreams come true. Donnie found his forever home and became Rocket. He brings so much love into our lives. We all love him so much. I hope one day you can get a puppy too!



Wilbur's Always Hungry

by Julieta Tedesco
Tarpon Springs Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: Lexa Shontz

It was a rainy and foggy morning in the barn. Most of the animals were curled up still asleep, and the spiders stayed perfectly still in their webs. Wilbur the pig had just woken up.

“Brr,” he said. It was freezing! He could see his breath as clouds of fog.

Wilbur walked over to eat his breakfast plates. Suddenly, a web started to lower right behind him. “BOO!” shouted Aranea the spider, swinging down on her web.

“AHHH!” screamed Wilbur with horror. His curly tail straightened out.

“HAHAHA!” laughed Aranea. Her tiny body shook with giggles.

“Not funny!” Wilbur cried. His voice was still shaky. “Scaredy cat,” teased Aranea in a playful, mocking voice.

They were good friends and usually played pranks on each other. He continued to finish his breakfast and Aranea wrapped a fly for later. Suddenly, both of them smelled something wonderful. It was the sweet, sweet smell of pie!

Wilbur’s round eyes turned into big pink hearts. “PIEEEE?!?!” he squealed with excitement. “I LOVE PIE!”

Aranea’s eight shiny eyes sparkled too. They both lifted their noses high and followed the wonderful smell.

Sniff, sniff, sniff, went Wilbur’s big nose.

Until—BONK! He smashed right into the half-open kitchen window.

The smell was coming from Farmer Zuckerman’s house. He was outside in his robe holding a big, delicious cherry pie in his hands.

“Oh no,” whispered Aranea. She could see the wild thoughts dancing in Wilbur’s head. He was definitely going for it!

Wilbur jumped through the window and charged toward Farmer Zuckerman! When he reached the porch, he could not stop. He ran right into the farmer’s legs - CRASH! The pie flew up into the air and landed on the floor with a SPLAT!

Wilbur ate it all in four big licks. His mom would not be proud, but man, did he enjoy it!

After the farmer put him back in the pig pen, Wilbur looked at Aranea with big innocent eyes and asked a question she was not expecting...

“Hey, Aranea,” he asked happily, “Is it time for lunch yet?”





Hamstern - My Class Pet

by Yasmine Pleas
Tarpon Springs Fundamental
Elementary Elementary School
Teacher: Lexa Shontz



If I had a class pet, I would choose a hamster. Hamsters are safe pets to have. I think that a hamster would be a good class pet because they are small, furry, and chubby, which makes it easier for children to hold them freely. Hamsters are also energetic, busy, cuddly creatures that will make for a great class pet. Let me tell you why I think a hamster would be a good class pet for me.

The word hamster comes from the German word *hamstern*, which means “to hoard.” I understand why their name means to hoard because they store their food in their large cheek pouches. There are more than twenty kinds of hamsters and they live for about 2-4 years. My favorite types of hamsters are the large European hamster and the tiny dwarf hamster. The most popular types of hamsters are the Syrian and golden hamster. A fun fact I learned while looking up hamster information was that their teeth never stop growing. Hamsters have teeth that grow extremely large so that they can chew on hard items. Hamsters breed rapidly, and they have litters of up to thirteen baby hamsters.

I think that hamsters make excellent classroom pets because they have low maintenance care routines and they are quiet. Having a hamster as a class pet can teach children about responsibility, empathy, and animal behavior. Hamsters do not require constant care so while children are learning about responsibility, they can also let a hamster be. Students can help by giving food, water, and even cleaning the cage with the teacher’s help. Most classrooms do not have a lot of extra space, so hamster cages can fit perfectly in a classroom. Hamsters are quiet, so they will not disrupt any of the learning that kids will have during school time. My mom used to have a pet hamster, and she lived for longer than expected because she was easy to care for. Also, hamsters can exercise by being put in a ball where they can roam around the classroom during center time. Hamsters are fun to watch. Hamsters run on their wheel, eat snacks, and explore during the day. This makes students excited to learn and pay attention. Hamsters can also be trained in a few months; they can even recognize their name! Students can make hamsters happy by showing them love when they pet and hold them or even giving them toys in their cage. Syrian hamsters are great for school because they are the friendliest and are best for beginner pet owners. These are a few of the reasons that I think hamsters would be good class pets or companions.

Hamsters are great pets in general, so I think that a hamster in the classroom would be great. I also think that hamsters can teach students about being nocturnal because they are. I hope you enjoyed these facts and some of my opinions on why I think that a hamster would be a good class pet.



GOLDIPOX AND THE THREE BEARS

by Reese Filicko

Douglas Jamerson Elementary School

Teacher: Sharmae Lamar



One day Goldilocks woke up with a terrible case of chickenpox. She had a headache, spots, and didn't feel good. The three bears heard about it. Then Papa Bear said "This is the perfect time to get revenge on Goldilocks."

"Yah," said Baby Bear and Mama Bear at the same time. They all left their cave and sneakily went inside Goldilocks' house.

"Wow," Mama Bear whispered. "She sure is a sound sleeper!"

"Hah, shouldn't Goldilocks' name be Goldipox because she has chickenpox?" said Baby Bear [nobody laughed].

Then they saw a bowl on the counter. "Oh, looks like a bowl of oatmeal, let's eat it in revenge for her eating our porridge," said Papa Bear.

"Sure," said Mama Bear. They DEVOUERD every last oat of oatmeal. The bears headed into the living room. "I'm just going to rock around a little bit in the rocking chair," said Baby Bear. He started rocking even faster and faster until the whole entire chair broke into pieces!

"Yah! Payback!" said Baby Bear.

"I think it's time to go home," said Papa Bear.

The bears went home. Goldipox had just woken up when she saw her empty bowl of oatmeal and a broken rocking chair and a note that said:

Dear Goldipox,

We just came for a little payback.

Your dearest friends,

The Bears

Goldipox spent the rest of the day cleaning up the bears' mess. Then she saw another little note, a rocking chair, and a bowl of oatmeal. The note said:

Sorry about that.

♡ Mama Bear



Moving

by Rosie Smith

Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Kimberly Moran

Moving can be bittersweet. Bittersweet is defined as containing a mixture of happiness and sadness. Let me tell you about the most bittersweet time of my life.

Moving can be tricky. Very tricky. One way that moving can be hard is that it makes you feel like you don't belong anywhere. Especially if you have moved multiple times. Like me, I've moved four times!!! All that I could think to myself was, "Who am I? Where am I from?"

Another way that moving can be uneasy is that everything is new. Your house, your school, it's all changed. It can feel like a super depressing feeling like you don't belong because others know more than you about the new routine and place. When I first came to Florida, I just wanted to do my old routine, in my old house, in my old neighborhood.

But moving can be awesome too. For example, you get to learn so many new things. Like you will know so much about the old place that you came from plus lots and lots of new things from the place that you came to. Smarty pants!

Lastly, moving can make you feel grateful. For example, you would feel grateful that you made it safely to your destination. Or, the fact that you had so many friends that were so kind and that you got to know them for a little while. Also, you might have a little problem and the place that you come to...problem solved! In London, the weather was terrible and quite a few people at my school bullied me. But then, after I moved to Florida, the weather was beautiful and my friends were so nice!

So of course, moving can make you feel two emotions. Bitter and sweet. If you ever move, I want you to think about this essay and see both sides.



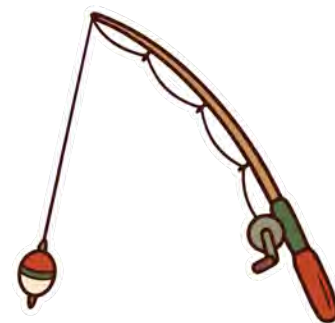


The Best Fishing Trip Ever

by Olivia Gaytan

Highland Lakes Elementary School

Teacher: Catherine Cooper



It was a beautiful Monday morning at school. Miss Cooper and Miss Kurek gathered their classes together for a special project. After lunch, the students returned to their classrooms, buzzing with curiosity.

The teachers smiled and shared some exciting news.

“We are going to make fishing rods!” they announced.

The room filled with cheers. “Yay!” everyone shouted. Right away, the students got to work, carefully building their fishing rods. After about an hour, the rods were finished, and everyone felt proud of their hard work. Soon, it was time to pack up for dismissal.

“Do you want to go fishing after school?” asked Jackson.

“Of course! That would be so fun!” cheered Mike.

After school, the two boys walked to the pond next to Mike’s house. They made a goal to catch a big fish and take it home. They grabbed their fishing rods and started fishing.

After about five minutes, Mike felt something strong tug on his line.

“Jackson, help me!” Mike shouted. “Whatever this is, it’s trying to escape!”



The boys pulled with all their strength, and BOOM! Out of the water came a baby alligator. It looked lost and scared.

Right away, Jackson remembered he had his phone in his backpack, so he called his dad. Mike’s dad hurried over to help, too. When the dads arrived, they carefully placed the baby alligator into a bucket they had brought for fish.

The dads gently wrapped the baby alligator where it was bleeding. When they finished, they felt hot and tired. Quickly, Jackson and Mike brought them water bottles.

After resting for a few minutes, the dads stood up proudly. Soon, they carried the baby alligator back to the water and watched as it swam away to its family. Everyone felt relieved and proud that the baby alligator was safe.

Later that day, the dads let the boys hang out and play video games. They even surprised them with their favorite food—PIZZA!

When dinner was over, they took a picture together to remember the day.

“This was the best fishing trip in the world!” the boys said.

In the end, it was a day they would never forget.



A New Friend for Wilbur

by Viera Taylor

Highland Lakes Elementary School

Teacher: Catherine Cooper

The fresh morning air of spring danced into Wilbur’s ears. He lay in the manure, sniffing and sighing.

“I’m tired of talking to spiders,” Wilbur thought sadly. “I want a real friend—someone like me.”

Joy, Aranea, and Nellie noticed Wilbur’s unhappy face. Without a word, they spun a message into their web. It read: GET WILBUR A FRIEND.

Soon, Lurvy spotted the web and rushed to call Mr. Zuckerman. Before long, they hopped into the truck and drove as fast as they could.

At the market, they found the cutest little girl pig. When the truck pulled back into the barn, Wilbur jumped to his feet.

As the pig stepped out, Wilbur felt his heart flutter.

“It’s love at first sight,” Wilbur thought happily. “Thank you, everyone.”

For the first time in a long while, Wilbur didn’t feel lonely anymore.



Autographs



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Tower of Terror

by Ivy Stevens

Anona Elementary School

Teacher: Nicole Rayfield

“Ivy, wake up you’re going to be late!” Mom hollered. Late for IKEA, what kind of sick joke was that?

An hour into the car ride, my parents finally told us we were going to Hollywood Studios. Two hours later, there we were standing in line for Tower of Terror!

At first, I was bouncing around, but as we got closer my knees started shaking. My stomach was twisting and turning. I was about to back out, but then the doors opened, so I had to go in.

I don’t know if it was excitement or all the people, but as soon as I got on, I forgot I was shaking.

Rose, my sister, was next to my dad and I was next to my mom. We buckled, then it started. The cart elevated smoothly, UP, UP, UP! Then it coasted to the right where we saw a big, animated eyeball. “This isn’t so bad,” I thought. BAM! The lightning struck. All of a sudden, we were whipped back into the elevator. Then swoosh, swash, DOWN!!!!!!!!!!

“AHHHHHHHH!!!!!!” I was frozen in fear!

When we got off, my legs felt like jello. But, I loved my adventure on Tower of Terror.

RIDE IF YOU DARE!!!!

“MUAHAHAHA!!!!!!!!!!”



The Only Pickle

by Lilyana Simmonds
Jamerson Elementary School
Teacher: Jessica Dean



It was dark and bitter. All I could see was a green reflection in the murky water. Then I heard horrifying footsteps getting louder and louder the closer they got. Ah! I was so scared! McGrady came into aisle 7 and grabbed my jar with his big, needy hands.

Then, there was this big machine that he placed me on, and it started moving. I was so scared. A small red scanner scanned my jar. After that, this random person put me in a gray bag. Then, McGrady grabbed the bag, and we went into the car.

McGrady put me in the seat and drove off. I heard him on the phone talking about this ice cream place. And no, I was not eavesdropping. I was just snooping, and that is not the same thing. Anyway, back to the story. I had no idea where we were going, but it sounded fun. It took a long time to drive, but we finally got there.

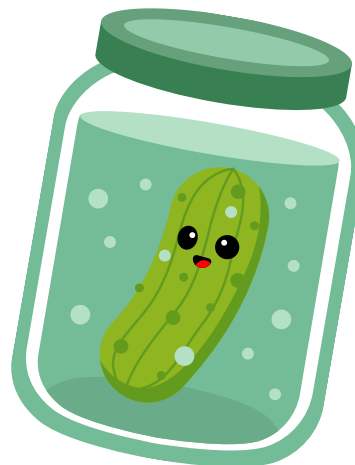
He grabbed my bag and went inside. He was so rough, like I wasn't even a person. I felt like my jar was going to fall and shatter all over the place, and I would be left to dry out or get eaten by bugs. I was terrified. When we got inside, brrr—it was freezing. McGrady got butter pecan ice cream, one of his favorites. Then we walked out of the store. I couldn't believe that he didn't offer me any.

We finally arrived at his house. OMG, it was so messy. When he took me out of the grocery bag, there was a huge dog barking at me. Instead of being afraid that McGrady was going to eat me, I was way more afraid of the animal eating me.

It all gave me goosebumps—if pickles could even get goosebumps. Then, it was time. He was so happy to be home and so ready to eat me. Ah! What should I do? Run? Wait, I forgot I don't have legs. Should I call for help? Oh no! I don't have a mouth! All I could do was close my eyes and wait.

3... 2... 1... Gulp!

He swallowed me like it was nothing. Why is it so dark? What's that? Ew! I found the ice cream.



Time

by Dylan Baror

Madeira Beach Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: Denise Barto



Time smells like houses that held love, now gone.
Time sounds like someone helpless getting help and tears of joy dripping down.
Time feels like a pin prick on a pillow, pain and softness.
Time tastes like a sweet, sweet taste escaping my tongue.
Time looks like something as fluffy as a cloud, but like a cloud escapes at the touch.
Time is the hottest day of the summer, the coldest day of the winter, the rainiest day of the spring, and the coziest day of the autumn.



I AM

by Amayah Smith
Bay Vista Fundamental
Elementary School

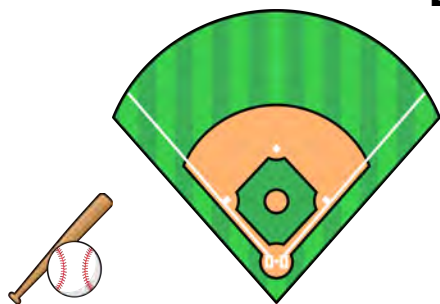
Teachers: Chandra DeAnne Ruffing
and Christina Kaddis

I am a mosaic of scars, repaired with gold.
I am a dreamer, waiting for the sun to rise.
I am a masterpiece in progress.
I am still learning to love the mess I am.
I am the weight of the world, yet I dance with joy.
I am the quiet strength that rises after fall.
I am a masterpiece in progress.
I am my future and my past.
I am here and that is everything.



Baseball Championship

by John Ziesenheim
Lakeview Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: Tony Hadley



One thing I love is baseball. Today is the day my team is in the championship. My team and I are so excited!

First things first, I was in the car and I was so nervous and excited at the same time. Then, before the first game, my team and I started warming up. My baseball teammates were also very nervous. Our first game was about to start. We played Wesley Chapel. We won 9-3. Then, we had a 2-hour break. We then warmed up again to get ready for the second game.

Now, my baseball team was finally ready for the second game. It was a nail-biter! We won against Texas with a tie breaker 11-10. The game didn't end in a boring way. It ended in a line drive caught by the third baseman. A lot of my teammates said they cheated, I think they did. Then we sat down to watch the game to see who we would play. We ended up playing the Twins. We won 11-0 and my team and I went so crazy! I was so happy. After the game, they gave us the rings. They were sick! We also got this pretty cool trophy. Then, we all went to bed at 9pm.

Overall, it was a fun and tiring trip. And I will never forget that moment.

Toby McMills and the Big Problem of the Sock Monster

by Wren Mills

Safety Harbor Elementary School

Teacher: Shelley Pompei Holder



Who would be scared of socks? Well, there is one and only one in the world who is scared of socks, Toby McMills. I will tell you why, trust me, because I am his owner and I was there.

It all started on a sunny, lovely day when we were sitting on our couch, lounging on the porch, like we were on top of the world, when suddenly mail arrived. Toby McMills loves getting mail, while other cats sit around and get fat. He got up and walked on his four legs, put the letter in his mouth, and popped on his tiny reading glasses and started to read the mail.

I know it's weird for a cat to get the mail and I know it's a dog's job to get the mail, but Toby McMills is a crazy cat. Then he handed the letter to me, and I read it three times.

I was so surprised.

"Toby, do you do knitting classes?" I asked him. I saw that he had something behind his back. It was four knitted mittens. I smiled, "Can I join in? Looks fun."

He purred and I took that as a yes. Then we went down a tunnel that led to his knitting classes. I tried to see if anyone I knew was here. I saw Elsa, Anna, and the Three Blind Mice (which are the three little pigs' cousins). I had trouble walking because there were so many mittens on the floor that Toby had already knitted. I was surprised. I saw that he was knitting a big sock.

"Toby, you know what happens when you knit a very big sock..." But it was too late! The sock had turned into a sock monster. Everybody was

screaming. Elsa was using her ice power to freeze it. Anna was hiding under a table and the Three Blind Mice, well they are blind, so they were just walking around! Poor Toby did not know all of this would happen.

So, he sharpened his nails with his nail filer and ripped that sock monster with his nails. He learned his lesson to only make tiny socks. He never made a big sock again.

For some silly reason, the Three Blind Mice were all reporters, and they secretly had a camera. The giant mitten that Toby knitted was printed on the front cover of the newspaper, and when he read the newspaper, boy was he happy, (NOT). He chased those mice with all of his might. Then, the Three Blind Mice called for backup, their cousins, the Three Little Pigs. Next, the pigs came toward poor old Toby. He had to knit a trap for the mice and pigs which they ran right into.

Then, he had a solution! He called his brother Boudreaux McMills. Boudreaux is a crazy cat, but Toby and Boudreaux are completely different brothers. Boudreaux likes to swim, and Toby likes to knit, play tennis, and run track.

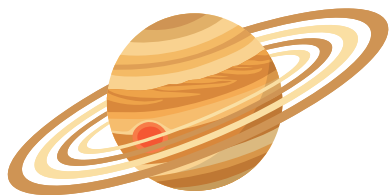
Then, Boudreaux said "It looks like fried mice for dinner and bacon for breakfast".

Toby gasped, "What? They are my friends! I called you to give them a guilt trip."

"Ooooooooooh that makes a lot more sense."



And that is how Toby McMills, the craziest, bravest, and smartest cat, learned his lesson that strange hobbies can cause unexpected things to happen.



The Space Escape Room

by Payton Lackey
Curlew Creek Elementary School
Teacher: Ashley Wyatt



One day, three friends decided to go to, “THE SPACE ESCAPE ROOM,” the obstacle course. The three friends’ names are Amelia, Zoe, and Emily. These friends had no idea that they were in for a treat.

“Amelia! Are you ready?” Zoe called from down the hall.

“Zoe! Seriously, I get you’re excited, but you don’t have to ask me a million times!” Amelia called.

“Well at least I don’t take forever to get ready.” Zoe replied. Amelia finished getting ready. She walked downstairs.

“AMELIA!” Emily called.

“Emily finally arrived!” Amelia said. Amelia then ran down the rest of the flight of stairs.

“Let’s get in the car, shall we?” Emily asked Zoe and Amelia.

“Yes, let’s go!” Zoe yelled as she started sprinting to the car. Emily and Amelia giggled as they caught up to Zoe.

A few minutes later, the friends arrived at the escape room. The friends walked inside and found the room.

“WOAH!” Zoe cried. This place is huge! There was painted space rocks, purple walls, aliens, screens, doors, astronaut statues and more!

Suddenly they heard from overhead: “Testing. Testing. One two three. OH, hello there! You’re the next contestant(s) to attempt this skilled escape room. There is a screen timer in every room that says how much time you have left. Good luck and

you have sixty minutes.” The speakers stated. The friends scurried around to see their first task. Then they found a puzzle in which they collect space rocks around the room to be able to open a door to move on to the next room.

“We’ve got this!” Emily shouted. Then the friends found a space rock that had a code on it.

“This is the code we put in the lock!” Zoe exclaimed. Zoe put the code into the door to enter the black door that led to the next room.

“Well done! You guys have forty-seven minutes left to complete the rest of the rooms. Goodluck!” The speaker stated.

Then Zoe said, “GUYS! I found a machine. It says, PRESS THE BUTTON TO ESCAPE!”

“I found a button!” Amelia added. “PRESS IT!” Emily and Zoe called in unison.

Amelia pressed the button and then a door opened... then they heard, “CONGRATULATIONS! You beat the escape room! Come out this door and collect your prize!”

“We did it!” shouted the girls. The friends had beat the escape room.

“Let’s get some ice cream to celebrate!” Zoe said.

“Sounds good to me!” Emily said.

“I’m in!” Amelia exclaimed. The friends then got ice cream.

“Sometimes I forget how delicious ice cream is!” Emily said.

“It’s well earned for three successful friends.” Amelia stated.

Frogs in the Pond

by Jaylyn Hernandez

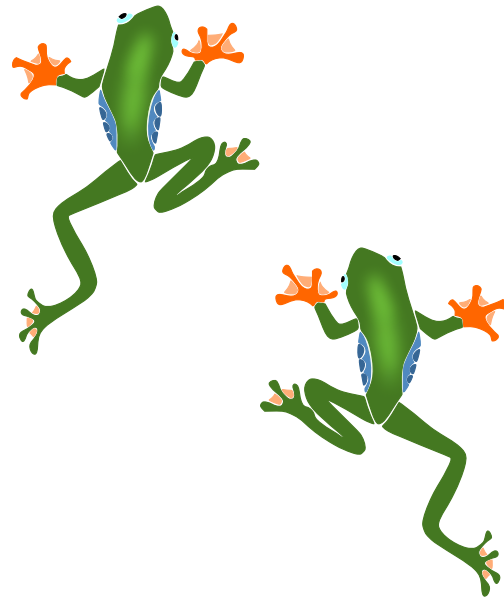
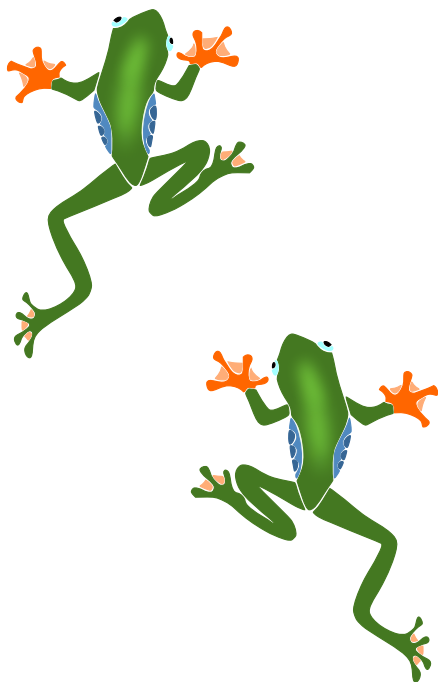
Ponce de Leon

Elementary School

Teachers: Lourdes Pickart



People walking by, smiles on frogs
Going deep, swimming in shallow waters
Frog eggs hatching
The sun smiling
Leaves falling
Day by day, tadpoles forming
Rain drops dropping
No more sun
Smiles fade, no more people



Frogs

by Rose Rappart

Bay Vista Fundamental

Elementary School

Teachers: Chelsea Riley &

Stephanie Hossenlopp



Croaking a beautiful song
Leaping gracefully across the pond
Landing on lily pads
Long sticky tongue, snatching up flies
Golden eyes, tell no lies
Greenish-gray damp skin, blending in
No enemy will find me
Safe in my pond, where I love to saunter



All About Snakes

by Novalee Pyle

Lealman Avenue Elementary School

Teacher: Sarah Murray

Snakes are really cool creatures!

Snakes are reptiles, and all reptiles are cold-blooded, so that means snakes are cold-blooded. It means they can't control their body temperature, so if it's cold, they get cold, and if it's hot, they get hot.

My favorite snake is a anaconda. Anacondas are constrictors, and a constrictor is something that wraps around their prey, and then they squeeze their prey until it stops moving or it stops breathing. Anacondas grow to 30 feet long!

And venomous snakes are something that has venom in their fangs.

The Titanoboa was the largest snake because it grew to 50 feet long. It was a constrictor, but it is extinct. Boas grow to 12 feet long and boas are also constrictors!

Snakes usually eat rats, mice, rabbits, sometimes pigs, cows, or alligators, and some even eat other snakes!

Snakes also don't have eyelids so they can't blink, but they have a clear scale over their eyes to protect their eyes. Snakes have scales all over their bodies, so they are probably slippery/slimy.

Some people mistake corn snakes for copperheads, so they kill corn snakes. Some people just kill snakes in general because they are scared or to sell their scales, but snakes are really nice creatures if you get to learn more about them. So, I hope you start to like snakes now!



Nature Poem

by Hadley Beaver
Curtis Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: In-Son Stevenson

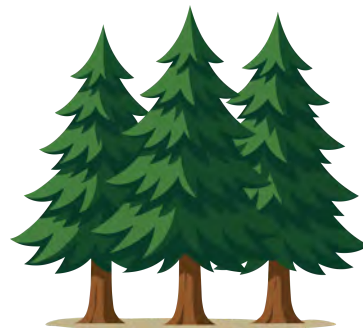


Nature is a way to relax.
Don't chop the trees with an axe.
Nature can be fun!
Go out in the sun!

A newly cool crisp breeze,
As a leaf dances through the trees.
Nature is gorgeous.
It is also enormous!

Earth breathes beneath the sun.
A timeless story, just begun.
The ocean whispers secrets to the shore.
A beat full of rhythm that is beautiful, more and more.

In every leaf and stone, a tale told.
Of life's enduring pattern, brave and bold.
So pause and listen, see the world unfold.
A treasure far more rich than gems and gold.





How the Clamshell Orchid Got its Colors

by Kennedy Arents

Gulf Beaches Elementary School

Teacher: Melinda Carney

Years ago, the clamshell orchid had no color. Clamshell orchid had no idea what color she should be.

"What color should I be, Sun?" asked clamshell orchid.

"You should be the color of me, yellow!" suggested Sun.

"OK" said clamshell orchid. She went to her human friend, Joshua. "Can you make me yellow?" asked clamshell orchid.

"Sorry pal, I can't. But, you can ask cheetah." Joshua said.

"OK, thanks," said clamshell orchid, walking out the door. She then walked to cheetah. "Hi cheetah, can you make me yellow?" asked clamshell orchid.

"Sure. Just lay on my fur and roll around." said cheetah.

"OK," said clamshell orchid. She laid down on cheetah and rolled around like he told her to. "Ha ha! It tickles!" laughed clamshell orchid. When cheetah told her to stop rolling around and stand up, cheetah grabbed a round mirror with his tail and showed clamshell orchid herself. "I look so cool! Thanks cheetah!" said clamshell orchid.

"You are welcome," said cheetah. "Come again soon!"

"I sure will!" said clamshell orchid as she walked out the door of cheetah's workshop.

It was nighttime and clamshell orchid glowed like the sun. "Hey, moon! Do you like my color?" asked clamshell orchid.

"Yeah," said moon. "I think you should be a little bit darker though. Maybe the color purple."

"OK" said clamshell orchid. She walked to Joshua again and asked, "Yo, Josh, can you make me purple?" asked clamshell orchid.

"No can do. Sorry." said Joshua.

"OK, it's fine." said clamshell orchid. "Hello, night sky!" clamshell orchid yelled, so the stars could hear her. The stars turned around.

"What do you want?" asked Starla, the sassy one.

"Could you make me purple?" asked clamshell orchid.

"Sure, but what's in it for us?" asked Starla.

"I won't be bright anymore," said clamshell orchid. Starla was the brightest star in the sky and always wants the spotlight.

"OK, fine, just jump up as high as you can in the sky and you will be... what dark color do you want to be did you say?" asked Starla.

"Purple," said clamshell orchid.

"OK, just jump," said Starla, sounding very sassy. Clamshell orchid jumped as high as she could.

"WWWWWWEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE," screamed clamshell orchid, excitedly. Once clamshell orchid came

down after the hug from the sky, she was all purple! “I look very pretty!” clamshell orchid said.

“Whatever,” said Starla, and then all the stars flew back into their places.

It was daytime now, and clamshell orchid looked like a shadow. “Hi, sun! Like my color?” asked clamshell orchid.

“Yeah, but I thought you were going to be yellow!” said sun, sadly. The sun started crying, and the world was filled with dark, rainy clouds and the sun disappeared.

“Hi moon,” said clamshell orchid, gloomily.

“Why the long face?” asked moon. “I made sun sad. She wanted me to be yellow, but now I’m purple.” said clamshell orchid.

“Oh sun,” said moon, sounding incredibly angry. Sun came out of her hiding place.

“Huh?” asked sun.

“Why would you tell clamshell orchid to be yellow? Purple is way better!” said moon.

“No, it isn’t! Purple is ugly! Yellow is way better!” said sun. They kept on fighting until...

“Stop!” yelled clamshell orchid. “How about I be both colors? Purple and yellow?” The sun and moon agreed. Clamshell orchid went to cheetah again, but only rolled around a little bit. Then she jumped a little bit into the sky.

“There we go!” said sun.

“I agree,” said moon

“So do I” said clamshell orchid. Now, clamshell orchids are yellow on the inside of the petal, and purple on the outside.





A Day in the Life of My Dog

by Cosette Forrister

Northwest Elementary School

Teacher: Lisa Farmer



I wake up and my owner Cosette, which I like to call Bark, comes into get me. She gets me out of bed, and I start to bark because I do NOT like to get up in the morning! My bed has all my toys, so I try to grab as many as I can. I CAN ONLY GRAB ONE!!! So, I get mad and start to bark. I like barking; I do it so much. So, my owner Bark/Cosette got me a toy. So, now I have two.

She picks me up and brings me outside with my toys. I go outside and I go to the bathroom. We sat outside and played fetch with my toy. Then, we go inside and she sits down, and I jump up on the couch to sit next to her. We do this for about 10 minutes. She pets me the whole time. Then, she goes into her room, which I am not allowed to go into but sometimes I do! HE HE! HA HA! After 20 minutes, she calls me in with a word that I know. I know a couple of words. I know: "treat", "park", "walk" and "NIBBLE COME HERE;" I hear that one a lot. It means "run away from her." There is also "Nibble". It sounds so sweet, so I come every single time I hear it.

I hear "Nibble," so I come. I know this thing when I see it. It is a um, I do not know what it is called! Oh, she's doing it to me! She uses it in her hair, and it makes it go straight. She gives me more of it, YAY! I think it is called a brunny or brush, that's it brush! She picks me up and brings me into my mom's room she goes and wakes her to go to the dog park for me.

My mom gets up, goes into the living room, and turns on the light. Then, she goes back into her room and gets dressed. She walks out of her room and tells us to get into the car. We walk outside with her and Cosette. They get in the car, and my mom calls me... I do not come. Then, Cosette calls me. I do not know why I do this, it just feels... better. I get in and

we drive to the park. I bark, and I hear my owners going "STOP BARKING, YOU ARE BREAKING MY EARS!!!" I keep barking, because why not??? I do not know what it means. Then, Cosette grabs me and I stop barking out of surprise... I might have bit her... a couple of times. She puts me down in the very back when I am bad. I must do this; I jump forward into Cosette's lap. "Aww," she says and lets me lay in her lap. This works every time!

We get to the park and she throws the ball to me. I get it every single time! She does this a bunch and then one ball goes very close to this very gross pond. I look at her and then look back and... jump in! I run out after I get the pond all over me. They run and pick me up, put me in the car, and drive home. We get home and they give me a bath! EWW! I hate being clean! They scrub me with soap and wash my ears (I took so long styling them this morning). They rinse me off and get me all dry with a towel. Then, they let me go! I go wild in the pillows on the couch... I have the ZOOMIES!!!!

Oh, I must have fallen asleep after I got the zoomies. It is 7:00 PM and my dad has just got home. My owner, Cosette, is taking her shower. OHHH! She is out! Let me go lick the water of her! When I go in to lick the water off her, she starts laughing so hard! Then she puts on her pajamas and walks out. Then says, "Who wants to go for a walk outside?"

I start jumping and we go outside! She takes me on a long walk and then we go back home. Next, we both eat dinner. I did not get to eat lunch because of my bath, so I am starving! I eat and then she finishes like 5 million hours later. How is she not starving to death? Finally, she lies down at 8:30 and goes to bed at 9:00. Well, now it's my bedtime! Zzzzzzzz



Elf Essay

by Grady Kane

Cypress Woods Elementary School

Teacher: Kathryn Paulson



Dear Santa,

I have always wanted to work in your workshop, from the time I could walk and talk. I believe I could help you in many different ways because I am hardworking, creative, and love hanging out with other people.

I work hard, not just in school, but also on the soccer field, and I will work hard at the North Pole, too. I don't quit until the job is done. For example, I have soccer five times per week, plus weekend games and tournaments, and I still always manage to get my schoolwork and chores done, and done well. Also, I don't need much sleep, so I am able to wake up early and stay up late to get things done, especially around the Christmas Eve deadline. When we went to London this summer, I didn't sleep on the entire 9-hour overnight flight, and was still good to explore for a full-day once we landed.

I am also one of the most creative people you will ever meet. I can make something cool in just a few minutes, like the time I made a V4 engine out of metal parts and springs! Since I'm a kid, I know what toys other kids my age would enjoy, and can help the elves invent new toys as well. Also, I am good at recommending ideas to help Santa, and my fellow elf partners, be more efficient. Additionally, if I need to fill in for a Scout Elf, I am a great hider, too! One time I was playing hide-and-seek with my friends, and they couldn't find me for more than half an hour!

I sincerely hope you select me as your newest elf because I'm hardworking, very creative, and I am excited to help the other elves make this Christmas magical! I look forward to seeing you at the North Pole.

Sincerely,
Grady Kane

The Big Tall Mountain

by Madeline Oshrine

Bay Vista Fundamental

Elementary School

Teachers: Chandra DeAnne Ruffing
and Christina Kaddis



The mountain is so very tall,
It makes me feel quite small.
Its top is white with cold, cold snow,
While I am in the grass below.

It touches clouds up in the sky,
Where birds and eagles like to fly.
The rocks are grey and very old,
The wind up there is very cold.

I want to climb up to the peak,
And hear the mountain start to speak.
It tells the trees to wave hello,
To all the flowers down below.

I'll start my hike and walk all day,
The mountain shows me the right way.
I'll reach the top and see the sun,
Being on a mountain is so fun!



My Family

by Daniel Vidal

Curtis Fundamental

Elementary School

Teacher: In-Son Stevenson

My brother, basically my best friend,
Hopefully he'll be there with me till the end.
His favorite color is black.
Me and him, have the same favorite snack.
Next, is me.
I can climb 10 trees.
My favorite color is green.
And don't worry, I'm not mean.
Third, is my mom.
She'll step under a bomb for me.
Her favorite color is the same as the sea.
Fourth, is my dad.
If you push the right buttons, he'll get mad.
His favorite color is red.
Happily, he sleeps in a bed.
Last but not least, is my dog Coco.
You guessed it, he's a little loco.
If he had a favorite color, that would be cool.
Don't you dare call him a fool.



Beary's Big Adventure

by Theresa Velasquez
Ozona Elementary School
Teacher: Susy Carter



Once there was a big bear whose name was Beary, and he was taking a midnight stroll. “Ah! What is that?” he spoke. He saw a big light rushing right at him! It landed, almost hit him, but crashed. Then, he saw it: a little alien, but he died during the crash. Then, Beary went into the spaceship. He felt bad for stealing the alien’s spaceship, but he knew it was what he had to do to get his best friend back (which was a dog) because, the dog was trapped in outer space.

So, Beary was in outer space, and he saw all the planets in our solar system. He was almost to his dog! Beary found the planet that he was on. He went to that planet. Then, he saw the one thing he was worried was guarding his dog... The big monster! “Rah!” said the monster that was loud and scary. The monster was big and ready to take down Beary. The monster scratched, bit, and snapped at Beary until he could take it no farther.

Then, Beary saw another weird ball of light just like the one he saw when he first found the alien. “Is that another alien?” He yelled at the spaceship, but it didn’t respond. It landed on the monster and it killed the monster. But this time, in the spaceship, it wasn’t an alien. “Who is that?” Beary asked. It was his other friend named Bert, and he was also a bear. Bert was also Beary’s neighbor.

“Hi,” said Bert.

“Hi. Thank you for saving my life,” said Beary.

“You’re welcome,” said Bert.

“Where did you get that spaceship?” asked Beary.

“I found it in your yard when I was looking out the window. Your neighbor told me you left when I wasn’t home, because I was at the store. Your neighbor thought you were probably in trouble because you just left and didn’t tell anyone, so I took the spaceship and came to help,” said Bert.

“Oh, well thank you for coming and helping,” said Beary. They got Beary’s dog safely, and they both lived happily ever after with their families.





Zeus' Dinner

by Areylia Villegas

Skycrest Elementary School

Teacher: Michelle Ladd

One peaceful evening, Zeus decided to host a dinner with some Gods and Goddesses. He'd invite his brothers and sisters. And, of course, some of his children. You know, the ones who weren't busy. He called Hermes, his son, to send messages. Invitations spread quickly, and in almost no time, everyone who was invited had an invite.

Here's what they looked like:

You are invited to join Zeus and Hera at a dinner party. No humans.

Where: Mount Olympus, Zeus's palace

When: Tonight at 10:00

Do not be late!

Signed: Zeus



Now, the Gods and Goddesses were very curious. They didn't usually get word from Zeus, God of Gods. So, of course they got their best suits and dresses. At 9:45, the first one to arrive was Athena.

"Dad! Hello! Nice to see you!" she called as soon as she saw him.

"How's Athens?" Zeus asked.

"Oh, it's great. I had to ban this girl named Medusa, but it's fine," she said calmly.

"Perfect. Tell me about this, Medusa, at dinner. Oh! Hades! Demeter! Persephone!" Zeus called when he saw them.

"Hello brother," Hades and Demeter said.

"Please feel free to go inside," Zeus said. Then came Hestia, Helios, Ares, and Apollo. Artemis next. Aphrodite and Poseidon. Hephaestus and Dionysus. Finally, Aeolus arrived and Zeus went inside.

...

Once that was done, Zeus sat at the dinner table, ready to feast on meat, chicken, fruit, milk, and butter. "Remember Pandora and that box you made? You know, with pain, sickness, death, and things like that? Oh, and hope," Demeter asked.

"Of course, I remember. Those humans deserved it," Zeus replied.

"Hades, tell me how it's going in the Underworld. Gloomy, am I right?" Helios asked, curiously.

"Fine. Lots of dead spirits, the three fates came for a visit, so, normal," he answered.

"Poseidon, Hestia, Aeolus, how are you?" Persephone said.

"Great," they all said in unison.



“Dionysus, Hephaestus, Aphrodite, Ares, Apollo, Artemis, what about you?” asked Hera.

“Great mother,” they all said, besides Dionysus, who wasn’t Hera’s son.

“Fine,” Dionysus said, after.

“So, Athena, tell me about this, Medusa, what did she do?”

Poseidon looked down, knowing he had something to do with it.

“Well, Medusa thought she was the most beautiful girl in the world. I invited her to my temple to serve...” She glanced at Poseidon, “And Mr. ‘Oh I Just Barge Into Anything I Want’ to come along, literally sweeps her off her feet, and once she got up, I banned her. She didn’t listen, so I turned her hair into snakes. She left and turned people into stone, as I made it happen. I decided to finish her off by getting Perseus, whom I lent my shield to, and he cut off her head,” Athena said proudly.

“ATHENA!!” screamed Hera, “Why would you DO such a thing! YOU are the one who should be banned!”

“But, mother, I did what I thought was right,” Athena replied shamefully.

“WELL, WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT OBVIOUSLY WRONG!” Hera screeched, again.

“Hera, Athena made a mistake. Take pity on her,” Zeus chipped in.

“Zeus... Athena didn’t make a mistake. She banned her, turned her into a snake, and then killed her. NOT a mistake,” she said, firmly, but still in that sweet voice of hers.

After that, they ate silently. Then, Hades, Persephone, and Demeter had to go because a person had died. The three fates decided that at a bad time. Hades would miss his brothers and sisters, and he could tell his wife was having a great time, but duty calls. So, off they went, sadly.

“Hey, Aphrodite, how's Eros?” asked Apollo.

“Oh, I sent him down to Ithaca to help with the crowning ceremony going on with future queen, Rachel,” Aphrodite answered.

“Cool!” exclaimed Hestia.

Five minutes later...Athena, Hephestus, Dionysus, Ares, Aphrodite, Artemis, and Apollo were all invited to stay the night!

“Thank you,” they all said.

Helios and Aeolus decided to give the humans another rough wind and heat the earth because they stopped honoring them. Then, when Hestia and Poseidon were about to leave, Zeus called out to them, “Stay my brother and sister. We barely see each other. I will find time with Hades later.” So, Zeus’s kids went to sleep, and Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, and Hestia all had a second feast.

They were all glad that all the fuss was over. But... Zeus decided to host another party! And... You are invited! Calling all humans!

Tomorrow at 8:00 I am Hosting a very special dinner!

Where: Mount Olympus; Zeus’s Palace

Do Not Be Late!!!

Please RSVP by sending Zeus a letter. Again... Do not be Late!!!



Kind

by Zia Ford
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
Elementary School
Teacher: Michael Ciesluk

Dear Ms. Keiper,
Don't you like people who are kind?
I like how it helps my mind.
Maybe you should do the deed
because this is what the world needs.
My parents are why I'm thankful.
Their love is like a big ball,
because of them, I'm clean.
At night they tuck me in like a bean.
So yeah, when somebody is down to be kind,
because their heart has turned blind
from all the love
because it comes from above.



My Life

by Parker Poole
Curtis Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: In-Son Stevenson

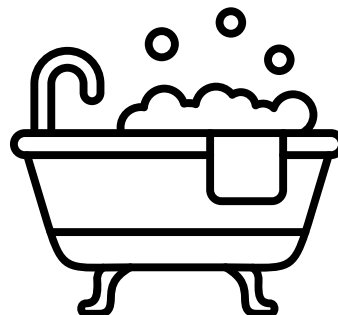


My name is Parker
I would love to draw with a marker.
I also like to swim
But you will not see me at the gym.
Oh, and my favorite color is pink
But I am not good at putting my dishes in the sink.
My favorite food is curry
But you will never see me in a hurry.
Some of my favorite shows come from Crunchy Roll
And I like anime with all my heart and soul.
My dad is at work
and there is only one perk.
He gets a lot of money
So, he can buy something nice or funny.
I also like football
And one day I hope I will be super tall.
I also like to cook
And I can't turn down a good book.
Well, I enjoyed telling my story to you
Let's see what else I'll write or what else I will do!



Baths are Superior to Showers

by Grayson Burdick
Frontier Elementary School
Teacher: Cara Coughlin



Would you rather take a shower or a bath? Personally, I like taking a bath. Baths help me relax, and the warm water stays in the tub. Showers feel super fast, like only five minutes, because the water just falls straight down and then it's gone.

Do you have to rush to get out of the shower, so you don't use up all the hot water? My parents get mad at me for using ALL the hot water. But in a bath, I don't have to rush, because the hot water stays in the tub! Also, when the water starts to get cold, it's like a built-in timer telling me when to get out. In the bath you can have more fun with toys, music, or making the water into waves like the ocean, or even a little tsunami.

In addition, baths can be very relaxing, especially when you add bath bombs, Epsom salts, and/or essential oils! You can put bubble bath in too and make it extra fun. Also, if you take a shower, you might get your hair wet, but in a bath, you don't have to if you don't want to. Another reason baths are better is you can put your body wash or soap in the bath water with you, so that you don't have to stand up and bend down to wash your body like you do in the shower. That wastes time, energy, and water.

In conclusion, I think baths are better than showers because they are more relaxing and more fun. That's why I would always choose a bath!



A Girl Dreams Hard

by Aaliyah Serrano
Starkey Elementary School
Teacher: Kim Hall



One day coming back from school, a girl named Jennifer kept bullying me because of my shoes. When I got inside, my dad asked me what was wrong. I nervously blurted out that it was fine. Dad wouldn't let it drop.

"Nanita what's wrong?" exclaimed Dad.

"Dad, just leave me alone for a little," I replied.

30 minutes passed, and my dad came to check on me.

"Isabela please come out. I just want to talk to you."

I walked out of the room, with tears dripping down my face. I started to explain to my dad what happened.

After I told him, he said, "You should have told me. I care for you, you know that."

"Well Dad, I know that you care for me, but I guess I was just nervous."

"Why would you be nervous?"

"Well, every day I am getting bullied, and I've lost my confidence."

"Isabelle, I will do anything for you. I promise. I love you so much."

"Thank you Dad, love you too. Good night, Dad"

The next morning, I got up at 6:30 to get ready. I get my clothes on and my backpack ready. I usually skip breakfast. I say love you to my dad, but before I leave my dad says, "Whatever happens, speak up and have a great day. Love you."

"Okay, Dad."

On my way to school, I kept thinking about how I shouldn't be treated this way. When I got to school, Jennifer started to bully me again.

"You have such ugly clothes and shoes. Did you buy those at a thrift store?" sneered Jennifer.

"No! Why do you always bully me? Like, no one likes your bullying, so you just need to stop!" I exclaimed. I tilted my head and walked away. A few hours later, I was done with school, my dad picked me up. I told him that I stuck up for myself.

"Good job, sweetheart," Dad said, endearingly.

When we got home, my dad made me chicken and rice. Then, I said good night to my dad and went to bed. I dreamed of having many friends that night in my comfy bed! When I woke up, I got ready for school, and my bully was surprisingly nice to me. I wondered if my wish worked. It was a gratifying day!



Walking on Water

by Hannah Barnes

Curlew Creek Elementary School

Teacher: Ashley Wyatt

Life is like water. Sometimes the seas are bumpy, just like emotions. Sometimes seas are silent, like sitting in your room reading a book.

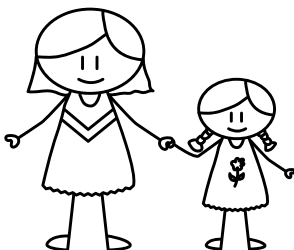
This story is about a girl named Ulani who showed up at the perfect time in my life.

One dim evening, I was doing my homework when the phone rang... I stood up to answer the phone, but mom was already there. I heard my mom say to someone on the other end of the phone, "That's great! We can take her." Suddenly, I knew we were going to have another foster child! Our family fostered children that were having hard times in their lives.

Two weeks had passed and then she came, sweet Ulana the toddler, had arrived. She had dark skin and braided hair with beads. All she ate was baby food, carrot sticks, and cookies. I was old enough to pick her up and change her clothes and help out. She slept in my room, so at 2:30 AM every day I would get out of bed, pick her up, and walk around my room, with her tiny baby arms wrapped around me.

One Saturday, a very sunny day in fact, Ulana was taking her nap, as always, when I started feeling a little disappointed because I was having a hard time with homework. Just then, Ulana looked up at me, giving me her sweet little smile, and standing up in her pack in play. She tilted her head to the right, and right then I could do nothing but laugh. I scooped her up and said, "Come on let's go get you a cookie. Do you want a sprinkle or chocolate chip cookie?" I asked. She held up her two little fingers; index and middle. "Sprinkle it is!" I said. I got her a cookie and we sat down.

It may not seem like much to you, but that little toddler saved me from drowning in a pool of sadness that day. Every night since then, I say a little prayer, hoping that the little girl is in a warm cozy bed happy and healthy.



I Belong

by Holly Conrad
Tarpon Springs Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: Summer Renedo



What do you think belonging means? Well, to me, it means somewhere you feel special, loved, and safe. Belonging is more than just a word. There are several places where I feel like I belong. I feel safe at home, in my classroom, and in my neighborhood.

One reason I feel safe at my house is because it is very relaxing to me, and it feels good to be home. I feel loved at my house. I feel cherished and safe. We eat dinner together, share stories, do homework, and sometimes laugh until our sides hurt! These moments remind me that I am loved exactly as I am. I love these times because I can be myself and I do not feel like people are judging me. One time, I told a story about a friend, and I realized after talking to my family, it helped me figure out my problem about that person. I have a HUGE family, and I love them with all of my heart.

The next place I feel I belong is my classroom. I think that I belong to my classroom because I have a trusted teacher and trusted friends that I have known for a while. I know I can trust them because they are my friends that I love and care about. I know that they will stick up for me when I need them. I will also stick up for them! Those friends are the best friends you can ask for.

The last place I belong is my neighborhood. My neighborhood has a lot of friends. We skate, ride our bikes, play kickball, and talk. We have a lot of good friendships and are all kind to each other. Parents get along with parents. They also play kickball with us! It's definitely a place I belong.

We all belong no matter how tall or small we are. It does not matter our skin color, our religion, or anything like that. It is based on how we treat each other, how we act around one another, and how nice and kind you are. We belong when we are caring, when we listen to each other and what other people have to say, when we are respectful to each other, and we do not judge one another. We also belong when we include everyone. We belong when we are ourselves. I am proud of all the places "I belong."

I BELONG.



I Can Do Anything

by Alaina Anderson

Bay Vista Fundamental

Teachers: Chandra DeAnne Ruffing

and Christina Kaddis



I know that life is hard.

I know I can do it.

I always push through.

I can do anything.

Though things are hard,

If I'm scared, I still have to try.

When I'm scared, I say,

"Come on! I got this!

I need to persevere!"

Now I'm confident,

I can do anything.

When I fall or fail,

My friends help me up.

Next time you need help or fail,

Ask your friend -

They'll help you.

And they'll support you.

You, too, can do anything.

Sometimes I fail.

Sometimes I succeed.

When I fail, I know this is not the end.

I can do anything.



Ideas

by Sebastian Weishaupt

Tarpon Springs Fundamental

Elementary School

Teachers: Pam Barrett

I build with ideas,

Not just with glue

Ask lots of questions

And try something new!

I solve problems with ideas,

Math and care

To help the world grow,

And fix hearts to make them glow.





The BEST Florida Vacation EVER!!!!

by Myla Webber Lopez
Seminole Elementary School
Teacher: Melissa Rongey



Have you ever had a talk with your friend about her trip to Florida? She says to you, about 5 billion times, “YOU HAVE TO GO TO FLORIDA!!!! It’s so good! There are so many fun activities to do, even DISNEY WORLD!” You are so tempted to go and do all the fun activities and relax in the hot, warm sun at the beach. Florida is a great vacation destination because of the outdoor and indoor activities there.

The first reason why Florida is a great vacation destination is because of the outdoor activities there. According to source 1, “Many families travel to Florida to visit theme parks. In Central Florida people can visit Universal Studios, Sea World, and Walt Disney World.” Thrill seekers who love roller coasters would love Bush Gardens near Tampa, Florida. I know that I would certainly enjoy that! According to source 1, “Florida is home to Daytona Beach. Nicknamed as the World’s most FAMOUS Beach.” Every year, over 9 million people visit Daytona Beach. That must be an incredible place to visit. According to source 2, “Florida’s parks provide places to hike, bike, and do countless activities in Florida’s parks.” Many people travel to parks like the Everglades National Park each year to do these things. I know that I love to do these things, so I would enjoy it there. That’s why Florida is a great vacation destination, because of the outdoor activities there.

The second reason why Florida is a great vacation destination is because of the indoor activities there. According to source 3, “Florida has many interesting museums, like the Dali Museum, located in Downtown St. Petersburg.” The Dali museum features a collection of original masterpieces by the artist Salvador Dali. I heard that he is an amazing artist, I would love to see some of his artwork. According to source 3, “For indoor park thrills, tourists can visit the Xtreme Action Park located in Fort Lauderdale.” This enormous indoor entertainment includes go-kart racing, bowling, arcade games, laser tag, ropes course, trampoline park, and even a skating rink! I would love to try all of these FUN activities. According to Source 4, “Little Havana is an area in Miami Florida. The neighborhood is influenced by the Cuban Heritage of the people who live there.” In Little Havana they provide restaurants, shops, and art galleries that are open late. Tourists can also try salsa dancing. I would love to try all of these interesting things! That’s why Florida is a great vacation destination because of the indoor activities there.

In conclusion, Florida is a great vacation destination for people because of the outdoor and indoor activities there. Many people should visit Florida for their incredible activities and to make memories for years to come!

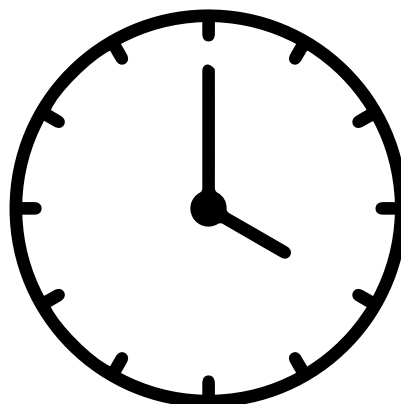
What if a Clock Could Read Minds During Winter?

by Laeklyn Kennedy
Starkey Elementary School
Teacher: Kim Hall



I had a clock in my bedroom all the time. It looked like an ordinary clock, but nope! It was not. It was a talking clock, and it could read minds, but only during the wintertime. So, of course I used the clock during the winter. I kept this clock with me and took it to school. I gave the clock a name, too. His name is Jeffery. Jeffery the clock is a very USEFUL clock. It's so useful that it whispers to me about what people are saying in their mind. One day at school, my best friend thought of pranking me! SHE WAS GOING TO SPRAY WATER AT ME. At my sleepover, we were making gingerbread houses, and she was going to crack an egg ON MY HEAD. And she did. But I plan on getting revenge. I put my clock in my school backpack so it could tell me what she was saying in her mind. SHE WAS GOING TO PRANK ME AGAIN!!!!!!! She's a master at pranking. But since I've gotten this clock, my life has been so much better.

We had a sleepover again, and I told her to log into her school account, and I said I'd log out, but nope. I WAS SO LUCKY SHE STILL HAD WORK TO DO on her essay for class! The next day when she left, I logged into her account and ruined her story. So, I'm thinking the next day when she reads it to the class, it'll be so funny! The next day at school, we were all on the carpet and it was her turn to read her story... Here it is ... "One day, a ihifhd iufbdsbiufb fisdfidb uhbsdibfbdsj fsibfibfibdifbifb. Huh? Who changed my story!?" she yelled, frustrated. And oh... I was laughing so hard on the inside! Thanks to my clock, I am now the professional of pranking. I replaced my friend!





Moving into the New House

by Luka Poloska
Curtis Fundamental
Elementary School
Teacher: In-Son Stevenson



Do you have a favorite memory? I do. Let me share this special moment with you.

This year was special because we spent our first New Year's Day and Christmas in our new house. It felt so incredible and different than last year because it was very exciting. The house was decorated with lights, a big Christmas tree, and ornaments that sparkled on this incredible green beauty. On Christmas Eve, we slept on the couch because we didn't have all our boxes open. We woke up and sprinted with excitement to open presents. Our grandparents, uncles, and cousins also came over to open the presents with us. I liked seeing the whole family together in the new house, laughing, eating, and spending time with everyone. It also felt nice to start a brand-new year in a brand-new house.

I felt thankful for our family, our house, and all the memories we are going to make here. I will always remember this as a very special time.



How the Banded Water Snake Got Its Scales

by Myles Taylor
Gulf Beaches Elementary School
Teacher: Meghan Starnes



Long, long ago, the Banded Water Snake was swimming in the Everglades. The sun was shining and the snake was playing hide and seek with the Alligator, Crocodile, and Turtle. The Turtle said, "This is boring, I'm going back to my house." But the Snake was still hiding. Everyone went home and the Snake was hiding in the tree. He hid there for a few hours.

He chuckled, "They will never find me." So, he fell asleep and all the animals decided to play a prank on him.

The Alligator said, "Let's paint orange scales on him," and everyone agreed. So, they painted him.

The Banded Water Snake woke up, and everyone was just standing there. "You finally found me," said the Snake.

"Yes, we did find you!" said the Alligator, putting the paint bucket behind his back. The Snake slithered out of the tree and went to get some water. When he went to the river, he saw his reflection and noticed the orange scales on him.

"I will find out who did this!" Snake shouted, while the Alligator ran away. So, if you ever wonder why the Banded Water Snake is always biting people, it is because he is so mad at all the animals. He takes his aggression out on you.



STRANDED

by Morgan Winfree

Douglas Jamerson Elementary School

Teacher: Jessica Dean

It was a day like any other to Henry. Henry was a rich man, who lived in a four-story mansion. He was single with no children. The only other people that lived in his mansion were his three butlers. He lived in a very wealthy neighborhood, with mostly mean people, like himself. He was also very greedy, never donating anything. "They are poor for a reason, as I am rich, and I do not intend to change that," Henry would say. On this day, he was going on a private cruise. He put on his clothes, brushed his teeth, and ate breakfast, alone, as always. Then, his butler drove him to the port.

"Goodbye, Master Henry," said Butler One, waving. Henry only glanced towards him. Henry walked down to his ship, where the captain waited.

"Aye, Henry!" exclaimed the boat man. "Back for another cruise, I see! Guess that's how ye spend the big bucks!"

"Get on the ship, Edward." said Henry.

"Aye."

Henry walked onto the ship. This boat was about half the size of your regular cruise ship. About thirty seconds after he walked in, the big door clamped down behind him. Henry started to walk around the ship. He had gotten his key card to his room and decided to go there. He got to his room and opened the door. To most people, the room was quite nice. Not to him, though. He was used to it. There was a TV in front of his king-sized bed, a window next to the bed looked out on the big, blue ocean. It wasn't until then that he realized that they were moving. He noticed a remote on the nightstand. He clicked the power button and switched on the news. "Ugh," he murmured.

Suddenly, the boat shook a little. Henry walked over to the window. He noticed that the water was higher on the window than before. Then it went a bit higher, and higher. He blinked a few times, and then the captain came on.

"Hello, everyone. We have a little situation, and now we are sinking. Please remain calm and follow my instructions. Look on your nightstand. There should be a safety kit with a life vest."

Henry scrambled over and snatched the kit and vest. "Please put the life vest on and hold onto the safety kit. Now, get to the top of the boat. Meet me up there." Henry opened the door and ran down the hallway. He ran as fast as his legs would carry him. As he reached some stairs, he jumped up, two at a time. In about a minute or two, he reached the top of the boat. He saw the captain and ran towards him. The captain was holding up a red flag, signaling people to come.

"What's happening?!" yelled Henry over the noise.

"The boat is sinking!" the captain screamed back.

Henry saw an island in the far distance and ran over to the side of the boat. He looked over the edge. Suddenly, the boat rocked, and he plummeted into the water.

“Help!” he screamed. “HELP! I CAN'T SWIM!”

As the other people swam towards the boat, Henry started to sink. He took a big gulp of air in as he slowly drifted downward. 1... 2... He kept sinking. 9... 10... He tried to swim up but couldn't. 21... 22... his eyes closed and...

Henry woke up, coughing water. He opened his eyes to the blinding sun. He felt warm. He sat up and looked around. In front of him, there was water. He was sitting on a beach. The seagulls cawed, the waves crashed against the shore. He was dreaming. He sighed in relief. He saw the palm trees, and the pretty water, and the shipwreck... Wait, SHIPWRECK!? He rubbed his eyes. “NO!” he yelled aloud. “No...” It wasn't a dream. It was all real. Henry was stranded on an island. His heartbeat pounded in his chest. “HELP!” he screamed. No response. His mind raced. “I could drown in the water! I could starve to death! I could die of thirst!” he exclaimed.

He took a few deep breaths and stood up. He had watched a lot of television, including a few survival episodes. He gathered lots of rocks and laid them out on the beach. The rocks spelled S.O.S. He was pleased with his work. He sat down on the sand and waited for someone to rescue him. No one came. He thought someone would notice he was missing by now. Henry waited some more. No one came. He started to feel something he hadn't felt in a long time. Loneliness. He hated company, so why was he lonely?

He had no time to ponder; he was on an island! He gathered some sticks and made a fire. He had no food, so he started to explore the island. He found a few coconuts, and something that looked like fruit. He tried to catch some fish, but was unsuccessful. He sat down next to the fire and ate. The fruit was bitter, and the coconut water splashed on him.

“Why?!” Henry yelled. “I miss my mansion, and my food, and my three butlers!” Nobody answered. He laid down on the smooth sand, closed his eyes, and fell asleep.

The next morning, he awoke to seagulls and the ocean breeze. He sat up. His S.O.S. was still there. He picked some fruit and re-lit the fire. He was very thirsty. He could not drink from the ocean, it would make him thirstier. He searched the island for a stream. None was found. He sat on the beach, thinking he would die of thirst. He laid down on the smooth sand. He felt lonely again.

The next day went the same way. He laid down and closed his eyes, waiting for time to pass. Then, he heard a familiar sound. It sounded like a... helicopter? He opened his eyes to see his private helicopter, hovering above him. He rubbed his eyes.

“Get in!” yelled the person inside. A long rope ladder swung down from the helicopter. With all the strength Henry had left, he climbed up the ladder and lifted himself into the helicopter. It was Butler One!

“I'm so glad to see you!” cried Henry.

“You too, Master Henry,” said the butler grinning. “Let's go home!”

Henry looked out over the vast ocean and smiled.



Autographs



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The Four Seasons

by Alaina Black
Anona Elementary School
Teacher: Sophia Kanellopoulos

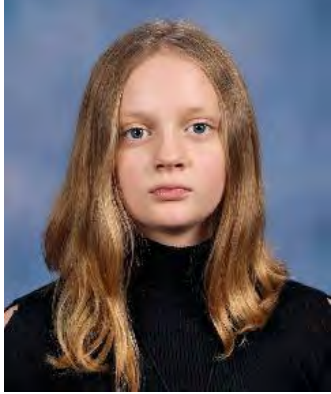


The Four Seasons
When the trees go bare
And the ice crystals fall,
You'll know it's winter
Not spring nor fall,
You can look at the stars
In the big black ink
As cold air embraces and breathes on your skin and face.

When the cardinals dance
In the soft warm breeze
The grasses thrive
And so do the bees,
Many flowers are blooming
You'll know its spring when the flowers sway,
As they keep a straight face
Waiting and waiting for summer to take place.

When the summer grass dampens
And the plant petals are vivid,
You know its summer
Hot and humid.

When the leaves turn bronze, red, yellow, and terracotta,
You'll know it's now autumn
As the people rake the leaves
That fell off thy mighty oak,
There will be pumpkin spice in the air
And the scent of cinnamon everywhere.



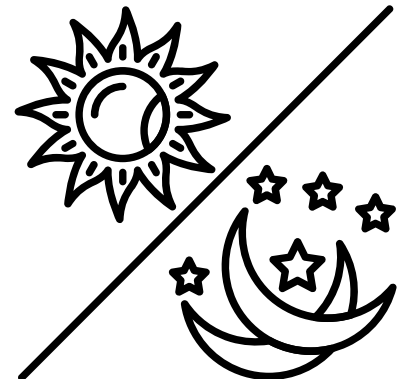
Night to Day

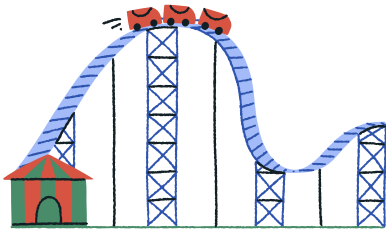
by Raven Pulley

Anona Elementary School

Teacher: Sophia Kanellopoulos

Moonlight shines through
Goodnight.
The crickets put on their nightly orchestra.
Goodnight.
All the day animals shoo.
Goodnight.
It's the time when even the sun sleeps.
Goodnight.
The sun shines brighter than ever.
Good day!
It's the bird's turn to put on their daily performance.
Good day!
Creatures are happy forever.
Good day!
It's the time when all is awake.
Good day!
But yet,
All things have an end.
The sun goes down,
The moon goes up.
It's time to say
Goodnight.





An Unforgettable Adventure

by Aldous Novinski

Bauder Elementary School

Teacher: Michelle Wanger



“We’re here!” Dad says as we enter Universal Epic Universe at Super Nintendo World with five siblings and two parents. As we entered the brand-new theme park, I saw big roller coasters and so many different rides. It was amazing! One incredible thing about the theme park is that it is multilevel instead of just being a large area. There are two levels separated by staircases. I couldn’t wait to see it all!

First, we headed to Dark Universe, a world of myth, monsters and mystery at the park. My parents did “child swap” to ride Monsters Unchained. You can’t really swap your children. The child swap program allows one member of the party to wait along with the children. Once the rest of the group was off the ride, they traded places and enjoy the attraction. The ride was a scary horror ride, so we waited in the child swap room. We raced with each other and ate snacks. Then my brother LJ, my brother Phoenix, my mom, and my sister Christina went on a spinning roller coaster called Curse of the Werewolf. You had to be five feet tall to ride. It was really fun because of the twists and turns.

It was 11:30 AM, so we wanted to get lunch but the first place we went to was too crowded. So, we went to a place called “Das Stakehaus,” which was pretty creepy because it had lots of vampire artwork and silly names for the food. The meal was really quick. I got mac & cheese with fries and fruit. It was definitely a ten out of ten!

After eating, I was full and ready for our next adventure. We ended up going to Super Mario World. It was amazing. It was so game like. We waited for 70 minutes for Super Mario Kart Ride. The wait was so long, but when we went on it. It was a mix of reality where you wear special goggles and use projection mapping that allowed you to battle in the Mario Kart Universe.

Even though it started to rain, we weren’t ready to quit. We headed to the Isle of Berk, which is one of the five immersive worlds at Universal’s Epic Universe. It’s a crazy Viking village, where humans and dragons live together (How to Train your Dragon). There are 40-foot-tall Viking statues and a large lagoon. They do have an interactive water ride, but because of the rain delays, we ended up watching a show called, “The Untrainable Dragon.”

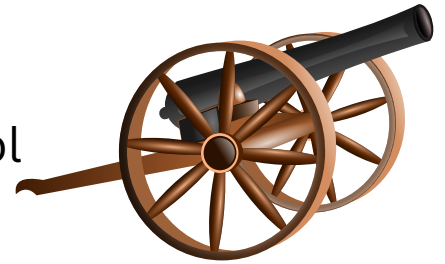
We still weren’t done. We went to Harry Potter World and watched another show. I forgot what it was called. Then we headed for Stardust Racers, which is a dueling roller coaster. I was a little scared because I was going on a 175-foot roller coaster. As I got on, I felt butterflies in my stomach. It is a high-speed roller coaster with two tracks racing against each other. It reaches speeds of 62 mph and a height 133 feet. It races along and then makes an upside-down drop called the Celestial Spin. I felt exhilarated.

Next, we headed back to Super Mario World again to eat dinner at Toadstool Café. I had a burger with corn on the cob, fries, and a cookie. After dinner, we made a quick stop at the gift shop and then headed home. It was a great day that I will never forget!



Valley Forge

by Spencer Reynolds
Bay Point Elementary School
Teacher: Kelly Bolden



You had just come out of battle and were going to Valley Forge for the winter. There was a British camp in Philadelphia, which was 18 miles from you. While the British are nice and warm, you are in Valley Forge freezing your butt off with no food, a lack of clothes, and living in a seven-person hut. Do you think the soldiers were justified in quitting the Continental Army? In my opinion, the soldiers were justified in leaving George Washington's army because the soldiers were freezing cold and the soldiers had a lack of food and clothing.

To kick it off, the soldiers were justified in leaving Washington's army because the winter was very cold. To me, once it got cold, I would leave. To start, the author states that Dr. Albigeance Waldo said, "Why are we sent here to... freeze" (Document 1, Paragraph 11). To say it in a separate way, a doctor wants to know why he was sent to freeze. I would be questioning why I was there, too. But unlike him, I would have left and come back in the spring. Also, the author of Document 2 says, "cold were the" people wanting to go back to the "fields." This means the soldiers were cold and wanted to go back to farming. I get them. I would not want to be there either because I would not want to freeze or go against the British, the strongest country at the time. Plus, I would be safe at my warm house with blankets. I do not know why some soldiers stayed. In the text, it says Valley Forge's winter encampment "became synonymous" with cold. This informs us that the winter was full of freezing cold temperatures. Imagine you were fighting for your country's independence and you had to go to Valley Forge for the winter. The whole time you were cold, you would want to go home. This is how the soldiers felt there. This is my first reason that the soldiers were justified in leaving and why I would leave.

To further my point, the soldiers were justified in leaving George Washington's army because there was a lack of supplies. To begin, the soldiers without shoes marked the snow with blood (Document 1). This simply means that it was so cold that when the soldiers walked their feet were bleeding. That takes loyalty. In Source 2, it also says their poor fellows were hungry. This means the army had such a lack of supplies that the men were starving. I would be quitting, too. If the army cannot support its soldiers, then why should they stay? You had more of a chance of surviving if you ran into the wilderness because when you kill an animal, you do not have to share. Last, the text says the soldiers found out "food and clothing were not so easily obtained" (Document 3). This suggests that they found that food was hard to find and clothes were, too. In other words, they had to starve and had to be without clothes because they were hard to find. This is my second reason I would have left the Continental army and why the soldiers were justified in leaving.

There is no doubt that the Continental Army's soldiers were justified in deserting George Washington's army because it was super cold and there was a lack of food and clothing. If I were cold and there was a lack of food and clothing, I would be gone because why stay when you cannot stay warm or full?



Seasons Throughout the Year

by Sophie Cory

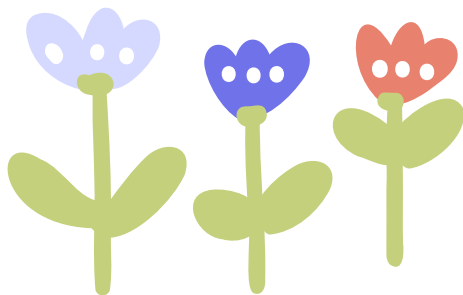
Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Jaclyn Schafer



First, it starts as winter
Cold, chilly, harsh
Little vegetation very sparse
All life starts to die,
Very little can survive
Snow covering all surfaces,
Snowflakes fall,
Snow angels are made
Kids are wearing their jackets and hats
And the snow starts to melt
And the season changes.

Next, is spring
flowers blossom, trees start to grow,
as tall as tall could be
all the dead matter goes down below,
The trees grow their leaves back,
the rain starts to fall, lots, and lots, of rain
everything is being renewed
plants are refreshed, and regrown
it slowly becomes hotter and more humid
and then the season changes.



It turns to summer,
Water vapor in the air
Rising temperatures
extreme heat, hot, hot, and hotter!
Summer vacation, hooray!
humidity and heat are hand in hand
kids are playing
football, soccer, baseball, and more!
the leaves start to fall,
and then the season changes.
It changes to Autumn, brown, red, yellow, orange,
and if you're lucky maybe pink!
the leaves fall, and crumple
the temperature is cool,
September, October, November,
Get out the rake!



There's too many leaves!
But it starts to grow colder,
and then the season changes,
The seasons go round n' round
In a loop
They are all year round
The continue, they repeat,
Winter is cold and harsh,
Spring is fresh and new
Summer is hot and humid,
Autumn is twigs and leaves,
But the seasons keep going and going,
and the seasons always change.



Migrating Sparrow

by Nitya Mistry

Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Jaclyn Schafer



Little brown sparrow, on a lawn so green,
Summer in a suburb, the best I've ever seen.
Kids splash in a pool, a joyful sound,
Chasing sunbeams all around.

A sprinkler hisses, a cooling spray
I hop to drink, then fly away.
Grassy smells rise, warm and sweet,
From freshly mown grass, beneath my feet.

Bird feeders full, a tasty treat,
Life in the suburbs can't be beat.
The sun sets low a golden hue,
The final summer day is almost through.

Heard the whispers, south to low,
Of sun-soaked land, where colors grow.
Chiapas calls, a vibrant hum,
No more crumbs a world to come.

Goodbye faces neat and trim,
As a tiny sparrow feeling grim.
Then lifts and soars, a hopeful flight,
Towards the sun, and lands of light.

Little wings, a sky so wide,
Fields of green on every side.
Tiny towns like toys below,
Where happy children softly go.

Sunbeams warm upon my chest,
Flying south, to find my rest.
But shadows swoop a hungry eye,
A hawk above so high, so high.

My heart beats fast, I dive and weave,
Among the branches, I believe.
I'm safe at last, hidden from view,
Until the sky is clear and blue.

Little brown bird, I sing so high,
Above the green, beneath the sky.
Chiapas wakes, a brand-new day
After shadows went away.

My tiny heart beats light and free,
For peace and seeds, for you and me.
I sing of change, a gentle breeze,
Rustling through coffee trees.

I chirp and flutter, free and glad,
No chilly winds to make me sad.
Sweet nectar drips a tasty treat,
Tiny bugs are good to eat.

But spring will come a distant hum,
Back to the suburbs, where I'm from.
Green lawn so neat, a tidy place,
A different kind of beauty grace.

Soak up the sun remember well,
This magic here holds a spell.
Before the journey north I must take,
One last sweet mango, for goodness sake!

The snow is gone the sun feels bright,
The world is waking, full of light.
New buds are showing, bright and tall,
I hear the robins start to call.

The ice is melting drip, drip, drip
From every branch, a tiny sip.
The baby birds are peeping loud,
Up their nests, within a cloud.

It's time for me to make my nest,
And lay my eggs and do my best.
To teach my young how to fly,
Before I leave this world, goodbye.



Do Animals Affect Your Daily Routines?



by Micheline Enlund

Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Stephanie Keesee



Picture waking up in a world where everything is just... different, like something shifted. That's exactly how I felt when my dog Izzy passed away. Most people think that when they lose a pet, they'll just move on, but they don't realize how much it affects their daily life. I believe that animals affect our routines by changing the way we act, feel, and take care of ourselves -both mentally and physically.

Animals affect our daily lives mentally. For example, when your pet might not be around you may feel very lonely and need to be around someone whether it's your brother or your worst enemy. The UC Davis Health program informs us that animals help reduce stress and anxiety. This matters because having stress and anxiety in your everyday routine can make you stop caring for yourself, which can cause illnesses. The UC Davis Health makes us realize that animals can provide unconditional love and support. When I was with Izzy, I realized I was happier and I felt like I could do anything, while now I feel small like Clem in the book *Finding Langston* by Lesa Cline. Animals don't judge or talk back; they just listen and stand by your side. That kind of support can mean everything on hard days and put people in a positive mindset.

Animals affect your daily life physically. For example, animals help lower your blood pressure so when you go for a run with your dog you might not know why you feel better than when you go by yourself. UC Davis Health states that animals (especially dogs) need to go for walks, need play time, and exercise. Picture this: you wake up at 1 p.m. to your dog barking for you to get up and take them for a walk. Without your dog waking you up you could have slept in even longer and sat in bed all day eating Oreos, but instead you are making yourself a green smoothie and playing fetch in the yard with your dog. The UC Davis Health also informs us that even touching an animal can significantly reduce tension and stress. If you are having a rough time working from home, then you can just stroke your cat, and you will be better already. Having animals in your daily life can greatly influence your physical routine because they encourage regular movement and activity.

In the end, animals do much more than just fill spaces in our homes. They fill spaces in our hearts and shape how we live each day. Whether it's getting up early to feed them, taking them for walks, or simply feeling their presence beside us, animals influence both our physical actions and emotional well-being. Losing or being without them reminds us how deeply they've been woven into our routines and who we are. Life feels a little quieter without them, but the love and lessons they give stay with us every day.

P.S I love and miss you, Izzy



Sorry I Lied

by Janelle Weathers
Cross Bayou Elementary School
Teacher: Stacy Rouse



Sorry I lied
and said I was fine,
but you guys fight
like, all the time.

Guess I'm the reason
you argued that season.
Jail's not fun,
'til I see you, hun.

Hope you get better
and write more letters.
Can't believe
I have so much to grieve.

He was wrong.
The fight was long.
I was sad.
I'm not glad.

My World

by Ellie Rebmann
Brooker Creek Elementary
School
Teacher: Camille Miller



I confide with Elizabeth Bennet
I adventure with Anne
I dare Oliver

I live next door to Dracula and
Spill the tea with Emma.

My world is like a dream because
my world is a world
of books.



Snow

by Rhys Manz
Cross Bayou Elementary
School
Teacher: Stacy Rouse

Let the snow fall down
People play around
It will come another day
We all say

Let the snow make ice
The snow will say Hi, it will be nice
It will end so let it
fall
fall
fall
to the ground
Then Christmas will come around.



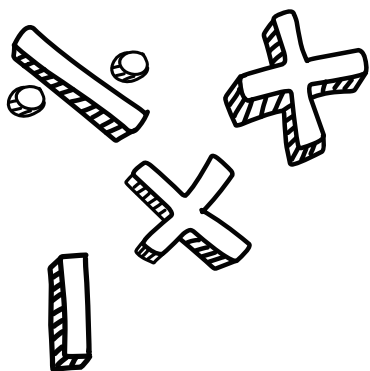
SUNSET AND MOONLIGHT

by Allison Elkin

Curlew Creek Elementary School

Teacher: Chris McCormick

for a bright star in the daylight
a nice gentle breeze for a big sky so tight
only for a little will this star stay
more and many ways
but once this will seek
a blue pretty peak
for a little gaze
of moons daze
once it seeks night
there will be no fright
till that moonlight
shines so bright
none will stay long, neither will stay short
and once its bond is built so strong like a fort
it will fade one time
to a horizons line
will eventually turn high
up to the sky



B-L-A-N-K
by Bailey Beck
Curlew Creek Elementary
School
Teacher: Laura Payne



I sat there with my eyes wide and my mind rocking back and forth. I started to wonder...Why am I like this? Eventually the thoughts turned into words coming out of my mouth.

“Why are you... like what?” my best friend Olivia asked. I want to tell her how I wish I was like her or any of the other 7th grade students.

But I just can’t bring out the guts to say it. Anyway, it doesn't even matter because I know if I tell her, then she’ll just tell me how I’m so smart and how she wishes I had more confidence in myself. But I’m done with the lies-it’s like they’re crystal clear. The bell rings and kids pop up from their seats, scattering out the door as they take a homework paper from the huge pile. I walk out the door trying to avoid the homework like I have been for the last few weeks. It’s like the papers have eyes and they’re trying to make me feel guilty.

Right as I thought I got away with it, my math teacher, Mr. Rubin pulls me aside and says, “Hey Savana, I need to talk to you about your math homework.” I feel a drop of sweat running down my face as my heart drops into my stomach.

“That’s weird,” I say, looking as pale as a ghost. Then Mr. Rubin tells me that he knows I didn’t do any of it, and he says I must start doing it. I agree and quickly walk out the door. Have you ever watched a show where one of the characters screams into a pillow? Well, that’s all I want to do right now. I don’t know if he was playing dumb or if he didn't know that I was falling behind, but if I'm being honest, who wants to tell their teacher they don’t understand the stuff they learned months ago? Not me. I take the bus home and open the front door using my house key. I open my backpack and take out the homework... I mean, it doesn't hurt to give it a try. The problems were definitely not as hard as I thought they were. I can’t believe I thought I couldn’t solve these problems. I guess I just needed to be positive.



My Best Friend Hamster

by Joanna Rodriguez
Cypress Woods Elementary School
Teacher: Sarah Karlesky



I wasn't sure what pet I wanted for my Christmas gift this year. At first, I hoped to adopt a dog from an animal shelter, so I searched online for a dog that needed a loving home. After a long search, my family and I came across a shelter that looked trustworthy and decided to visit. We found the perfect dog, but there was one problem: he came all the way up to my waist. My parents explained that we would need a bigger backyard to make him feel comfortable. They also said it was going to be a big responsibility to take care of him, so we abandoned the idea of adopting a dog and instead planned to get a hamster. Later that day, I had to research how to care for a hamster, which led me to learn how even a small pet can make a big difference.

After researching, I learned that caring for hamsters involves providing a suitable habitat, a balanced diet, regular health check-ups, and plenty of social interaction to ensure they thrive. Hamsters need solid flooring to protect their feet and an enclosure that prevents the hamster from escaping. For the bedding, I learned you should use grass or paper-based bedding so they can safely chew or eat the material without any chemicals. You would also need to clean the enclosure once or twice a week and provide toys, tunnels, and hiding spots to keep the hamster entertained. You also need to include chew toys to keep its teeth trimmed. After a week of getting a hamster, you can bond with it and hold it.

When explaining this to my mom, she said she would order a hamster cage online with lots of toys, accessories, and bedding for it. After a couple of days of waiting, we got the package, and we started assembling the hamster's enclosure. The next day, I begged my mom to go to the pet store to find the hamster we would name Piko - in Hawaiian, "Piko" translates to "navel," "center," or "beginning," holding symbolic significance related to family lineage and origin.

After adopting Piko, I took care of him every day while my dad watched from a distance in amazement. Piko was so scared of my dad because, from Piko's point of view, my dad must look like a giant. The creaking wooden floors scared Piko and make him jumpy, which sometimes causes him to backflip. Whenever my dad wants to see Piko, he tiptoes carefully toward the cage, so he doesn't frighten Piko. If you can imagine a big guy with muscles in ballerina clothes trying to tiptoe on a stage, that was exactly what happened to my dad. Watching a big, strong adult move like a ballerina always makes me laugh. Every time I feel sad or angry, I spend time with Piko, and he always cheers me up. I am so happy I received Piko as my Christmas gift, because he has become my best friend and shown me that even the smallest creature can melt a giant's heart.



The Angry Lizard's Backstory
by Mila Bourne-Dohner
Jamerson Elementary School
Teacher: Jessica Dean



A mother lizard laid her eggs. She waited a long month and a half before they finally hatched. She watched carefully as each egg started to crack open. The first one to come out was light gray. Female. The next one was a yellowish brown. Male. The one after that was completely white with red eyes. An albino female, she thought. The next egg was very still. Too still, she thought. Then she had a sudden realization- the egg was dead.

Strong feelings surged through her mind; sadness, anger, and sorrow for the little one. Suddenly, she heard crackling sounds coming from behind her. She whipped around and saw her last egg shaking and struggling inside the thin shell. She helped her hatchling out of his shell and was greeted with a strange sight. The little lizard that crawled out of the egg was blood-red. She did not care that much, but she still thought it was a little strange.

Now it was time to name them. She decided to wait for her mate, so that they could name their four hatchlings together. He came about an hour later with food for the family, and by then, the hatchlings were already exploring just outside their burrow.

The father looked at his hatchlings and smiled. "They're perfect," he said.

"What do you want to name them?"

"Well, I wanted to wait for you to come home, so we could name them together," the mother said.

"How about we take turns?" the father suggested.

"Alright. You go first," said the mother.

"Okay," said the father. He looked at the first-born hatchling. She stared back at him with warm, innocent eyes.

"I think we should name the firstborn Ember," he finally announced after a few moments.

"What do you think?"

"I think it's perfect," agreed the mother.

"Now it's your turn," said the father.



“Ok,” the mother said. She looked at her second-born hatchling. His eyes were deep brown, and he had yellow-green speckles.

“Let's name him Lime,” said the mother.

Lime blinked at his mother curiously.

“Perfect,” said the father. “Now for the next one.” He looked at his albino daughter. She looked back. “How about Ivory?” he asked.

“That name fits her perfectly,” the mother replied. “Alright, now for the last one.”

She looked at her tiny son. He looked like he was frowning at her. “How about Lizzy?”

“I love it,” said the father as he watched their hatchlings play around.

When the hatchlings got a bit older, they started getting real personalities and interests. Ember, the oldest, was the leader and protector of her three siblings. She was the fastest and loved each of them very much. Nobody messed with her siblings, because they knew if they did, they would have to face her too.

Lime, the second oldest, was the shy one. He was scared easily and loved to just sit right outside their burrow and watch nature. But when needed, he could stand up to anyone who messed with his siblings, and act like the toughest lizard around.

Ivory, the third oldest, was the funny one. She loved making jokes for her siblings and making other lizards laugh.

Finally, Lizzy, the youngest, was the easily angered sibling. He got mad very quickly, but not for little things. His reasons for being mad were reasonable, and the only thing that could cool his temper was his siblings' love. He also got in trouble a lot, for accidentally taking his anger out on his parents. Nobody understood him except his siblings.

The hatchlings' childhood was great. They were all together, and that was all that mattered to them.

When the lizard siblings grew up, it was time for them to move out of their parents' den. They knew it was time for them to part, as they couldn't all live in one den forever. So they said their goodbyes. They each told the others where they were going to dig their burrows. They figured out a way to contact each other if they ever needed help, said their goodbyes and then finally left.

Lizzy was very sad. It was like the biggest part of his heart just got up and left. Lizzy looked back at where his siblings were just standing. He felt sad, but right then he realized that his siblings were always going to be there for him, whether they were physically there or not. Because of this, he knew he was going to be okay. After all, he still had a way to contact them and could visit them whenever he wanted to. And because of this realization, the angry lizard became a little less angry.

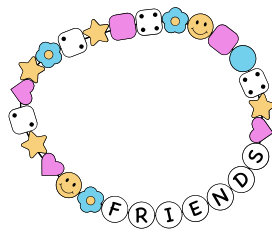
Friends

by Mikayla Haney

Dunedin Elementary School

Teacher: Janessa Bacon

Friends are like a sickness they come and go
They can be the only people who glow
In your heart
They will never part
Until they do
Now you will have who?



Then...there is the real friend
The friendship that will never end
Will always be there
And will always care
Will help you with your goal
Together you make a whole

Friends can stay or go
You hope they stay
But anything can happen in a day
Your love for them shouldn't be low
Friends are like a sickness they come and go



Cardinals Appear When Loved

Ones Are Near

by Malik Devine Jr.

Eisenhower Elementary School

Teacher: Catalina Andujar

A flash of red light against the frost
A sudden warmth we thought we lost
The cardinal perches, still and near
Whispering what we hold dear,
So let the cardinal alight,
A spark at soul in muted light.
Let gentle words along your night
Though hearts can mend,
Through love's presence
We understand.
Love endures,
It never disbands.



My Favorite Food!!

by Sydney Marra

Highland Lakes Elementary School

Teacher: Brittany Johnson



My favorite food is tacos!
I like them very much,
If I could I would
Have them every lunch!!!

My favorite food is tacos
Lettuce, tomato, cheese,
Whenever my mom makes dinner
I ask, "Tacos please!"

My favorite food is tacos,
Homemade or from the store
When I finish one,
I ask "one more??"

Hard shell, soft shell
Either one,
Give them to me
THEY WILL BE GONE!

But I have something to say
I really don't know why-
I like Carrabba's soup the same,
Sorry about the lie



Life

by Isabella Deras

Fuguitt Elementary School

Teacher: Jessica Catlin

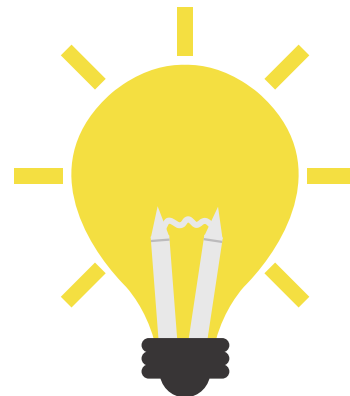
Life is like a river,
You can't see too far ahead,
You don't know where the river of life will bend and turn,
You don't know where it will go at all,
Don't try to control where the river goes,
There's only one thing you can know and control,
Yourself,
Once you know that,
Wherever the river takes you,
You'll be where you're meant to be,
Just be yourself and be happy.





Am I Smart?

by Bishop Renford
Fuguitt Elementary School
Teacher: Jessica Catlin



Sometimes I wonder, “Am I actually smart?”

I sit in my bed at night wondering if I will ever be smart enough. I go to school and see everyone else with A’s and B’s, but I don't get that. I get C’s D’s maybe even F’s, so I go home, and I study and study until I remember every word.

I go to school and I am ready for the test. I take my time, reread the passage, highlight important text features, details and then I get to the last question hoping I get this right as I click on the submit button. I go home just hoping I get a 100. The next day I get my score back...I GOT A 100!

As the bell rang, I ran home and showed my mom. She was so proud of me. Then I realize that I am smart! Maybe not as smart as some of these other kids, but I am smart. I walk in the streets with my head up high for the first time feeling proud with all the smartness in the air. I go everywhere knowing that I am smart. I am enough.

Confidence

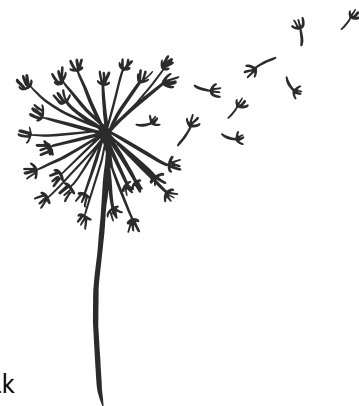
by Charli Rae Turner
Perkins Elementary School
Teacher: Talia Carpenter



Birds, Flowers, Trees

by Nairobi Fields
James B. Sanderlin Elementary
School
Teacher: Samantha Nelson

Keep the head up,
Don't feel shamed.
Ignore the people
Who call you names.
Love your smile,
Love your eyes,
Be strong like Simone Biles.
If you don't land it,
We get back up.
When I look in the mirror,
My heart erupts.



Little flower buds,
even if no one can see,
open anyway.
The ambitious crow,
We see a twig in her beak
But she sees home.
From a great distance
branches pierce the sapphire sky like lightning bolts.
But branches up close will tell another story:
One of potential
If you look closely, you can find marvelous things that yearn to be seen.
If you look closer, you might find something hidden deep in the shadows.
Which of these are we?
Shall we hide or brightly shine?
We cannot do both.
We are very small.



Veterans Day

by Ariela Mance

Lake St. George Elementary School

Teacher: Heather Kucek



Memorable, honorable, cherishable. Did you know that veterans sacrifice their lives for us every day? Throughout history, brave veterans have given everything—even their lives—to defend our nation, our freedom, and the values that make America strong.

Veterans do more than just fight in wars; they show bravery, strength, and dedication in everything they do. Many veterans spend months or years away from their families to protect our country. They face danger every day so that we can live safely and freely. Even after returning home, veterans continue by serving others and sharing their courage and wisdom. Their sacrifices remind us that freedom is not free, and it is our duty to honor and thank them for all they have done for us.

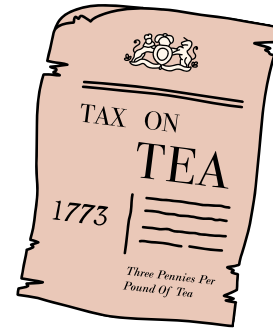
We should always honor and celebrate veterans, both past and present, for their courage and sacrifices. One way to show respect is by attending Veterans Day ceremonies, parades, or a moment of silence to thank them for their service. Schools, communities, and families can also write letters and create projects to show appreciation. Even a simple act like saying “Thank you for your service” can mean a lot to a veteran. Remembering them helps keep their stories alive and reminds us of the importance of gratitude and respect for those who protect our country.

Veterans are true heroes who have given so much for our freedom. We must always remember their sacrifices and continue to honor them every day, not just on Veterans Day. Their bravery and love for our country will never be forgotten.



Unfair Taxes

by Maleah Keirstead
Lealman Avenue Elementary School
Teacher: Erin Hickey



Most people believe the colonists were the reason that the Revolutionary War started. But what if I tell you that might not be true? The British were taxing everything, and the colonists got mad, which led up to the Revolutionary War. For example, the British enforced sneaky taxes on the colonists and they also were taxing without the colonists' representation.

To kick it off, the British enforced sneaky taxes on the colonists. The author of Source 2 says the British passed the Quartering Act and the colonists had to provide quarters, places to live, for all the redcoats stationed in America. In paragraph 14 the author states that the British passed the Navigation Act and the colonists had to buy almost everything from the British even if they could find a place that sold it more cheaply. My question is: were the British poor or did they just not want to use their money to get out of debt?

Next, the British were taxing without the colonists' representation. In Source 1, the author states the colonists were very angry that the British were robbing them of their hard earnings and making them pay unreasonable taxes like tea and postage. The author of paragraph 20 states that documents needed a stamp before they could be legal. The colonists had to pay for these stamps. In my opinion, the British were taxing without representation because the colonists had no say on their freedom to not get taxed on everything.

Also important, from 1756-1763, the French and Indian War as known as the Seven Years War, the Indians started fighting against the British and the colonists. The colonists and the British won the war but were in a lot of debt so they taxed the American colonists. This is why the colonists became angry: the British were just making them pay unreasonable taxes. So the colonists became increasingly angry, and they threatened the people that passed out the stamps.

And finally, the British were taxing everything and the colonists grew mad, which led up to the war, because the British enforced sneaky taxes on the colonists and the British were taxing without the colonists' representation. The bloody war is over now but how would you react to this if you were the colonists? Would you start a war, too?

Zoe and the Purple Crayon

by Zoe Smith

Rawlings Elementary School

Teacher: Bailey Moen



One day before I went to bed, I saw a purple crayon, so I picked the crayon up to put it back. Then I saw a blank white space. I still had the crayon in my hand. I started to panic, so I began drawing mountains. Then I thought, "Can I walk on those mountains I drew?" And I could walk on those mountains. So, I made a pool with a waterslide and a TV so I could have fun, but then I got hungry. So, I drew a giant steak with a soda to eat and drink. After I finished my food, I drew people because I felt lonely. so we swam in the pool until I forgot I had school in the morning.

I drew a house to sleep in. I had to make a third-floor house, which was hard. I was glad I finished my house. When I went inside, the house was empty, so I added a bed, a couch, a fridge, and a dog. I named the dog Tilly. She was a purple and white boxer. She was so happy to see a human. After petting Tilly I went to bed. That was when I heard a loud BOOM! I looked to my right, and Tilly stole the purple crayon and eaten it! Then I was back in my bedroom, a purple crayon was in the crayon box, and my dad was in my room telling me I had drawn all over the walls.

Shine on, Honey!

by Ella Mostoller

North Shore Elementary School

Teacher: Charlotte Suarez



Run to the water
Where child memories last
No need to be nervous,
That's all in the past.

Treasure the memories
Your precious heart unsalvageable
Back when we were kids,
There wasn't a doubt,
But many dreams go away,
Just storm right out.

You need to be brave,
even when it's hard
Because you will not always have
Your parents as a guard.

Take in your youth
Because when you get older,
It's going to get
A whole lot harder

As you picture back then,
It's like you're there,
In your childhood bedroom
Mom is playing with your hair.

But then you realize,
You're not there anymore
That's all gone away
But mom and dad are still watching you soar.

Shine on, honey!
And always know
You are phenomenal
In every way possible.





Lunch with a Signer

by Lucille (Lucy) Mallett

Pasadena Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Denise Dawson

If I could travel back in time to meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, I would choose to meet Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson was a great man. He wrote the Declaration of Independence, doubled the size of the United States, and made many more accomplishments in his lifetime.

I walk nervously into the time machine and say goodbye to my family and friends. As the door closes, I shut my eyes tightly, hoping I will make it out safely. Finally, after a long ride, I arrive at Thomas Jefferson's house that he designed and built, Monticello. I am in Charlottesville, Virginia, during the year 1810. I walk into the dining room and take a seat. Thomas Jefferson walks into the room and introduces himself. "Hello, I am Thomas Jefferson, but please, call me Thomas." He speaks. "It's nice to meet you Thomas, my name is Lucille Mallett, but you can call me Lucy." I reply. And our conversation starts.

My goal is to learn how Thomas Jefferson's actions and service contributed to our country becoming independent. I need to ask him questions about how he helped lead our country to being successfully independent. I must take notes, and I am journaling about my time traveling visit as well. I can only stay in 1810 for two hours, until I come home to complete my mission, and share my results with everyone.

One of Thomas Jefferson's waiters comes to the table and serves us both a bowl of macaroni and cheese, a food Thomas enjoyed and helped popularize. I took a bite. "This is delicious!" I exclaimed. He just smiled as he took a bite of his as well. "So, Thomas." I speak. "Yes, Lucy?" He replies and tilts his head curiously. "How was life as a child?" I ask. He replies with "Well, I was born in Virginia, and I was the third of ten children, so I had nine siblings; Peter, Lucy, Martha, Mary, another Peter, Randolph, Elizabeth, Anna, and Jane." "Wow! That's a lot of siblings!" I said surprisedly. I started to take notes, knowing I would love this visit.

I took out my journal and began to write. "I chose to dine with Thomas Jefferson because he was a phenomenal figure in the American Revolution, drafting the Declaration of Independence, doubling the size of the nation, and promoting religious freedom. His actions as a lawyer and governor, and his services as a president and vice president contributed to our country being independent by helping build our community, and nation." I wrote. Thomas looks at me, and I realize that it's rude to be writing in a journal while dining.

Thomas continues to tell me about his childhood, and I continue to take notes. "I have heard so much about your childhood, Thomas, so could you tell me about your presidency?" He looks excited. "Why of course! It would be my pleasure!" He exclaims happily. A second waiter comes and serves us both a bowl of cold and creamy vanilla ice cream. I took a bite and Thomas told me about his presidency while I took more notes. I ask more questions and take more notes as my time flies out the door. Before I know it, all of my time is gone, and I need to leave Monticello. "I need to leave now. Goodbye" I said sadly. "Goodbye Lucy" he says. I walk to my time machine as Thomas waves to me. I wave back, then walk into the time machine. I close the door, eager to get back to 2025.



Mystical Wolves

by Sylvia Ellis

North Shore Elementary School

Teacher: Barbie Paetzold



Prologue

Thunderpup yawned. "Wake up, sleepyhead," a voice called from outside the den. That was Lightpup.

"Yeah, yeah," muttered Thunderpup. "Let me guess, this is pay back for yesterday, isn't it?" Thunderpup had done the same thing to Lightpup a day before.

"No, it actually isn't," Lightpup confessed.

"Then why did you wake me?" Thunderpup asked, tilting his head questioningly.

"Because Timewatcher got a new prophecy." *What does it say?* Thunderpup wondered. As if reading his thoughts, Lightpup woofed, "Want to come look?"

"You bet I do," Thunderpup replied. They raced off toward Timewatcher's den.

As they ran, a head poked out of the bushes and mockingly said "About time you two got up!" Thunderpup recognized the face instantly. It was Aquapup. *Easy for you to say,* thought Thunderpup. Thunderpup knew that she wouldn't stop being the early bird gets the worm until mule deer fly. "Anyhow, why are you zooming in camp? Trying to go at light speed?" asked Aquapup.

"Er... well... not exac-"

"What are you three doing out here?" spoke a deep but gentle voice.

"Hi, Icetooth," Thunderpup said with caution, his voice shaking a bit, hoping that Icetooth was not mad. Icetooth was one of the two alphas the pack had. "Lightpup said that Timewatcher had a new prophecy."

"Well, good luck because I couldn't figure anything out," Icetooth muttered. Well, neither are we if that's the case.

At the sight of Thunderpup's disappointed face, Icetooth said darkly, "But the meaning will come with time whether we like it or not."

What does he mean "whether we like it or not? I guess we'll find out soon." Thunderpup shook his head and continued running.

After about thirty more seconds of running, Thunderpup, Lightpup, and Aquapup skidded to a halt and landed in a giant heap outside Timewatcher's den. "Get off me you big lumps," Thunderpup barked to Aquapup and Lightpup.

"You can say that again." Lightpup paused, "You hear that, Aquapup?"

"Well, if you weren't too busy gossiping, you would have noted that I'm over here," she replied.

Looking over, Thunderpup saw her sitting at the entrance to Timewatcher's den. Just then Lightpup jumped off and landed with all his paws spread out in a smaller heap. Then Thunderpup got to his paws and trotted over to Aquapup. Groaning, Lightpup joined Thunderpup and Aquapup. "Ugh! I think I bruised my paw," Lightpup whined.

“You can get that looked at later because I want to see the new prophecy,” Aquapup told him.

“But it hur—”

“Nope, we are going to see the prophecy.” Aquapup interrupted. Thunderpup rolled his eyes.

“Aquapup, stop bothering Lightpup.” Thunderpup spun around to see Typhoonstorm.

“Yes. Mother,” Aquapup said lowering her eyes. *Yes, thank you, Mother. They were giving me a sore tail literally and figuratively.*

“Let's go” Thunderpup began but before he could finish a small voice said, “Can we come too?”

Thunderpup looked down. Two pups looked up. “Hello, Riverpup and Vinepup.”

“I don't see why not,” Thunderpup told them, “But then you will have to excuse Aquapup; she is in a sour mood today.”

“Hey, I heard that!” Aquapup shouted.

“Told you,” Thunderpup muttered under his breath.

“You are coming to see me, right?” Timewatcher loudly barked, stopping the argument.

“How did you know?” Lightpup howled back.

“How could I not know? You're no quieter than a pack of coyotes at an elk carcass,” Timewatcher called.

“Well, you heard him,” Lightpup said. “Let's get going.”

As they walked into Timewatcher's den Thunderpup looked to the right and saw a piece of rabbit skin with five scrolls on top of it. “I wonder if those are other prophecies,” Thunderpup said half to himself, half to his friends looking at the scrolls.

“Me too,” Lightpup agreed. “Me three,” Vinepup joined in.

When they got a little bit closer they could hear Timewatcher telling Willowfur the prophecy. Lightpup shuffled his paws as soon as they got to the floor, obviously not wanting to disrupt the conversation. Willowfur was the other alpha of the pack, so Thunderpup thought it made sense.

Timewatcher glanced up, “Come join us,” Timewatcher invited. “I'll start from the beginning after I'm done answering Willowfur's question. Here's the scroll with the prophecy,” he hurled a scroll at them.

Thunderpup unraveled the scroll with the help of Riverpup. The “Prophecy of the... Cliffs,” Aquapup read. Then Lightpup took over reading the prophecy.

“Beware wolves you must take heed,
one pup will die and his friend shall lead.
The hunters are hunting to make things worse.
You must find and kill their very own curse.

To find the secret that you seek,
you must peer over the highest mountain peak.
One no-tail will join on this quest.
You will smell him because of his vest.

Hunting is not the only problem you face.
Some forests will fall without a trace.
To avoid the worst, you must stay strong.
Don't go back or all will go wrong.”

“Well, that sounds... ominous,” commented Vinepup.

To be continued...



Mischievous Older Sis

by Mariah Dinkins

Perkins Elementary School

Teacher: Talia Carpenter



One, two, three, eyes on me.
I can't teach my siblings, to do good,
but I can do bad.
Not that bad.
One, two, three.
I wish you could see
how much my brother
messes with me.
He pushes me, hits me, shoves me
and almost makes my nose bleed.
One, two, three, revenge feels sweet.
He might cry, or call mom, or even scream,
but still revenge feels sweet,
don't be like him, be better.
I got in trouble
but he still needs to sleep -
with one eye open.
One, two, three,
REVENGE FEELS SWEET.

America's Freedom

by William Monzon-Aguirre
Safety Harbor Elementary School
Teacher: Michelle Brennan



Although we don't always care
It's interesting to a great affair
The story of how victory was won
Back when no time spared for fun
Back when we had no tech
If you didn't obey, they'd hang your neck
The British were all in charge
As their empire was very large
The colonists were really upset
Because the British gave laws to settle their debt
They did that with unfair taxes
So colonists destroyed tea with axes
The struggles led to battles
But this made foundations rattle
When the war started and ended not fast
The brave Americans were free at long last.



I Am

by Tobias Vandergriff
Sandy Lane Elementary School
Teacher: Kristin Campbell

I am an excellent mathematician.
I wonder if the world will be destroyed by people.
I hear talking.
I see pollution.
I want the world to be better-the people to be better.
I am a child.

I pretend like everything is fine.
I feel my surroundings.
I touch my pencil.
I worry about everything.
I cry for everyone.
I am Tobias Vandergriff.

I help people.
I can't win everything.
I am lost in reality.
I care if it helps or harms.
I think that humanity will kill itself.

I understand math.
I say nothing.
I dream about getting into college.
I hope to pass school.
I am not perfect and that's okay.





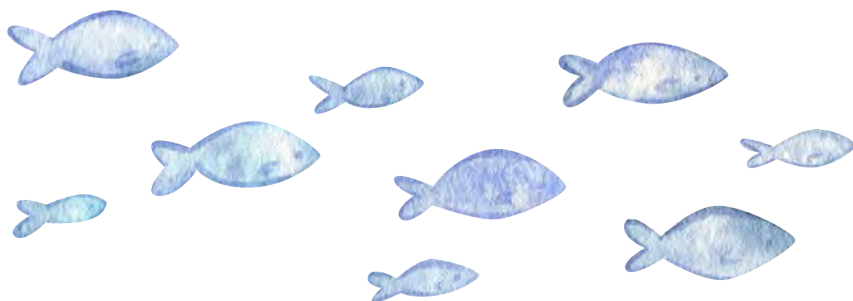
Ocean

by Ava Torres

Sawgrass Lake Elementary School

Teacher: Erika Acklin

Ominous and alone the ocean sits,
Maintaining sea life...and everything within,
Overwhelmingly huge, an outcast to few,
Outgoing with life, but yet it sits open and old,
Full of mysterious trenches,
While outer space is being observed outrageously
The moonlight reflects galaxies among the waves,
The sea is a liquid desert waiting to be explored.



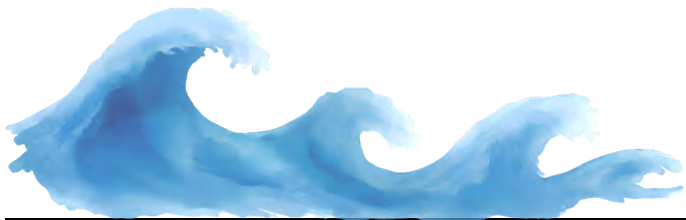
The Ocean Beach

by Ian Mukherjee

Skycrest Elementary School

Teacher: Kim Henson

Waves come through
as the sun shines its light.
The sand is hot
So hot its lava
The sun shines its full
glory
across the ocean.
The sky, deep blue
while the waves are cool as the sunsets.
The heart setting.
The ships waking with the sun
as birds resting.
The sun resting too
as nature loses its color.
So does the light sky.



The Realm of Learning

by Lia Blackman

Sawgrass Lake Elementary School

Teacher: Erika Acklin



One day a girl named Willow, who loves learning more than anything on earth, was sitting on her rooftop reading a book and watching the sunrise. She knew that she was the only one there, so why did she hear noises? When she turned around, she saw a portal. Coming out of that portal was a wizard!

“Help!” Screamed the wizard, “The Realm of Learning is dying! Dark magic is taking over and we need you to save it. Will you help?” He begged.

“Who are you and why do you need me?” She replied.

“My name is Phillips, Lord Phillips, I come to you because the citizens of Learning know that you are the one to help save them because the dark magic is trying to destroy our brains and make us forget how to learn.” Willow did not understand how she could help. He explained that her love for learning was the tool as he grabbed Willow’s hand and the two jumped into the portal.

The Battles

When they got to the realm, it was nothing Willow imagined it would be! There were dragons, wizards, witches, and weirdly pets. But they were no ordinary pets, they each had their own superpower element. However, because of the dark magic almost everyone lost their powers and is trying to fight the dark magic to get it back! When the citizens of Learning heard about a human girl who loves learning more than anyone, they knew she would be the one to defeat the dark magic who was against learning. They called Lord Phillips to get her on board to help.

Arrival

Just when they arrived the portal vanished, “How am I going to get back in time for school before my parents wake up?” Willow asked, pacing back and forth.

“You’ll be fine” said Lord Phillips “as long as you stay by my side, you’ll be alright.”

“What does that mean?” asked Willow.

“Nothing...,” said Lord Phillips.

Dark Magic

Lord Phillips gave Willow a heavy sword, “What’s this?” asked Willow.

He replied, “When you fight the dark magic ask them questions about learning and while they are thinking of the answer, use the sword to destroy them!”

“Ok” Willow said. She did what she was told, tried her best, and defeated the dark magic!

Fixing the Realm

After they won the battle, the dark magic faded away, never to be seen again. The citizens of the Realm of Learning got their magic back. They had a big party to celebrate! Willow became a hero in the Realm of Learning and when she got back to her world, her alarm went off for school, and she realized it must have just been a dream. Suddenly, she heard the same noises that she heard in her dream, when she turned around, she saw the portal and realized it was real.

Oh, My Dear Bosnia

by Lejla Karic

Skyview Elementary School

Teacher: Jessica Potts



Beautiful lilies bloom in the amazing country, Bosnia. Bosnia is one overlooked country. Serbia, Croatia, and Russia are all countries that most people know about, but Bosnia, sadly, isn't.

The landscapes, animals, and people are amazing. The traditional dance, called Folklor, has nice and flowy movements.

The landscapes are just, oh, so nice. Beautiful sunsets, nice weather, and amazing culture.

Bosnia is an amazing place to travel to. Its history is quite interesting, too. Just 30 years ago, it had a tragic genocide, losing over 8,000 people. But we Bosnians never forgot Bosnia's history.

Oh, my dear Bosnia, I hope you feel okay.

Time

by Maria Souza Galvao

Skyview Elementary School

Teacher: Jessica Potts

I miss those times
when my friends
would ask me to play outside.

I miss those times
when my best friend and I
would have sleepovers every weekend.

I miss those times
when people wouldn't know
if my tears were happiness or sadness.

I miss those times
my parents and I would
watch a movie in the living room.

I miss those times
my parents and I would
go on vacation and have the best time.

And now I've realized time really flies
and that I can't go back to those days
that now I miss.





The Move

by Julia Spring

Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary School

Teacher: Zach VanStratt

Today is moving day, a day I hoped would never come. I look around the house, empty. The living room, where we watched countless movies together, empty. The dinner table, where we laughed and joked, empty. My bedroom, where I first met my sister, empty. My heart, empty.

My mom sees me staring at the empty room and her hand on my shoulder makes me flinch.

“Hey,” she says. “This is going to be great.”

I frown. As we walk into the empty kitchen, I hear a knock on the door. Mom looks down at me and smiles. She walks to the door and opens it. I slowly move to the dark brown door and see my best friend, Hattie, and sadness fills my heart. She has a card with roses on it. She gives it to me and squeezes me so hard that I can't breathe. I can feel her tears on my shoulder and my eyes start leaking too. I drag my feet out to the car, and she puts her hand on the window. I do, too. The car revs, and she starts running. We are almost to the highway and she finally stops. I feel like my world is gone.

As we drive, I can see the beautiful Rocky Mountains change into boring cornfields with farmers harvesting the yellow cobs. The night comes with a well-deserved rest from the road at some hotel. I stare at the stained, rough ceiling. I long for the home I left behind, wishing I was wrapped in my beautiful, embroidered blanket staring up at my ceiling stars. Instead, I stare at the ceiling as empty as my heart.

We stop at the Iowa airport to fly to Florida, and I see a picture of the mountains. My stomach ties in a knot, a lump grows in my throat, and my eyes start to leak, but I can't cry right now. It's time to fly. I haul my luggage into the airplane, and we take off. I close my eyes and see the mountains, but turbulence wakes me up, and my dream disappears.

My family and I land and it's already nighttime. I look at the big, bright moon and hope that everything will be okay, but that is hard right now. Finally, we arrive at my new house. I must admit that it was beautiful. It had vines with magnificent flowers and the comfiest couch I have ever sat on. A few more steps in, I see my bedroom. It was empty, just like the old house. Finally, my heart smiled at a new beginning.

Autographs



Autographs



