

The Selby Public Library
Story-Writing Camp 2008
Proudly Presents

Selby Kids Write

A Collection of Short Stories

Edited and Compiled by Joshua Achiam

Thank You to
The Friends of the Selby Public Library for Paying
for the Printing of this Collection of Short Stories.

Warmly Dedicated to

Lindsey Rubus
and
Kristin Brzostek

Without These Two Dedicated Volunteers,
This Program Would Not Have Been Possible.

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Foreword

By Marilyn J. Nykiforuk

Parents! I hope you will find this collection of stories as interesting to read as I have. Monsters, dragons, terrorists, fairies and scary evil people all stick in my mind after reading the stories. The imagination of a young child today is an eye opener. With children being exposed to outlandish story plots in the latest children's books, TV, video games, movies, etc., they are fully aware of what the world is about today. This is highly reflective in their story plots. As adults we mustn't forget imagination is healthy.

I want to thank Josh Achiam for putting on this writing workshop for free. Josh is a senior at Pine View. He has a 4.0 grade point average and recently obtained a perfect score on the SAT. He plans to head to Harvard, Yale or Vanderbilt in 2009. Josh has been a writer for many years. He did an outstanding job instructing the kids and keeping them enthused. I also want to thank volunteers Lindsey Rubus and Kristin Brzostek. Their support, supervision and feedback helped make this workshop successful.

The purpose of this project was to teach kids how to write a story, describe characters, create plots, etc. Each child was to write at least one story they wanted to see in print. From the opening of each story it is clear how the child learned how to build their characters and develop their stories.

Josh typed the stories, or what we are calling editing. It was decided that we would only edit the stories for spelling. Grammar, phrasing and story content was not altered. The stories would remain the words and thoughts of the child. Maintaining the authenticity of the stories and the innocence was important.

On hands and knees I request that you purchase a membership to The Friends of the Selby Public Library - without their funding we could not offer a variety of programs.

Introduction
By Joshua Achiam

Hello, everyone! I'm Josh, and I ran the Story Writing Camp program. I just have a few notes on the stories you'll find in this little anthology. A few of the kids wrote their stories together, and a few others started with the same basic template and worked from there. In organizing the book, I've grouped the stories by theme. Also, one particular story – the excerpt from “Sparks” – is part of an ongoing work-in-progress, hence the missing names and such. Suffice to say, I'm looking forward to seeing the eventual completion of “Sparks!”

Aside from that, though, I have something to say about the program itself. I think it was absolutely fantastic. I had a wonderfully creative class and I had a blast getting to hear and read the things these children came up with. They're a smart bunch, and some of their writing positively blew me away.

So then! I won't keep you any longer. Enjoy “Selby Kids Write!”

The Three Chinese Ducks

By Erik Bouck

One day three Chinese ducks were born. The mother died shortly after. The ducks realized that they had super powers. Together they realized that they were the best superhero team in the world. They also had a nemesis, the big fat purple hippo. The hippo was trying to kill Tong Wong, who was the three ducks' ancient master. The first duck, George, had laser vision. The second duck, Bob, had super speed. The third duck, Steve, had super strength. The ducks were pure yellow and they had brown feet with little black spots.

They were all sitting around in their huge lair that had red walls and black floors. All of a sudden the roof started to rattle so they went up and the hippo was there with an army of five. They were extremely fat with tiny feet.

The hippo said, "It's time to fight now."

So the ducks pulled out their awesome kung-fu moves and they began to fight. The hippos had Subway nunchucks, and the ducks had chopsticks. The hippos whirled their subs and flung them, and the ducks blocked them with the chopsticks. Eventually the ducks won. They had beaten up all of the hippos. They were scattered everywhere. One was on top of a crimson red car, another was on the side walk, and the rest were scattered on the dried and cracked old road. The ducks went back to their lair to celebrate.

The End

The Haunted House and the Cemetery

By Zoe Bouck

Once there were two kids named Kathryn and Alex. They were brother and sister. They lived in Texas with their parents. Every night Kathryn and Alex saw dead people rise from their grave. Their parents didn't believe them. Kathryn and Alex thought that they were dreaming but they weren't.

After a while they didn't really get scared because they saw them every night. Then one night Kathryn saw one of the dead people rise from their grave and open the window and crawl in through the window. The kids started to scream. Then the parents got up and saw the dead person. The next day they packed up everything and moved into a house they thought wasn't haunted.

The End

The Dead Darkness
By Olivia Serbin

Once upon a time there was a family – a mom, a dad, and two kids. Andy was five and Lisa was eight. They lived on a ranch in Texas. They also lived right next door to a graveyard. When it was time for bed they woke up at one-o'clock in the morning and saw a hand, and soon a body, rise from the grave. They screamed and yelled for their parents. Their parents did not believe them. Then it was time for school.

Neither got any sleep last night. They dozed off in the middle of a test and their parents were angry and made them go to bed early. The kids walked into their room and got in bed under their blankets. Soon it was morning.

They begged their parents every night to sleep in their room but no. Soon it was time for sleep. Liza and Andy crawled into bed, and then Liza said, “I can’t sleep.”

“Neither can I.” Soon it was one in the morning and Liza and Andy went to their parent’s room and finally they were allowed to sleep there. This time when the dead rose they didn’t only stay in the graveyard they went in their yard. The minute the dad went out to shoot the dead, the sun came up and the bodies disintegrated. Finally they moved five miles away and the ghosts followed them. Later the neighbors called the police to complain about sounds. The police knocked on their door. Nobody answered. The TV was on, dinner was on the table, but nobody was home.

One year later they found their bodies in a river. They were dead – or were they? Their souls remain in that house next to the cemetery to haunt innocent people and are still there today.

The End

10000 B.C.
By Nick Fabrizio

12008 years ago there was a father and a son. It was a Tuesday, July 2nd, 10000 B.C. The son Michael went downstairs as quick as a cheetah and went into the cold kitchen. “Good morning father,” Michael said.

“Good morning Mike,” said his dad.

“Dad I’m going out to get some lunch for us.”

“Okay son, don’t go too far away.”

He was cautious when he was gone getting food. Upon the trees were real Indians trying to kill him. Soon they went back and told the other Indians. When Michael was still looking for food he heard a deer in the woods and he chased it around like a fox. The deer was chasing him into the Indians’ territory. He caught the deer, but when he looked forward something snared him. It was the red-painted Indians.

“What are you going to do with me?” Michael said.

“We are going to destroy you,” said the chief.

“Ugh! Help, dad!” Michael screamed.

His dad heard him. “My son is in trouble.” He grabbed a sword and began his adventure. Where would his son be? Was he trapped? Was he lost? He stepped slowly across twigs, grass, and dead fish bones. But every time he made one move a voice came closer and closer to him. A saber-toothed tiger jumped out of nowhere. The man turned around and took out his sword and killed the tiger and continued his journey to look for his lost son. Meanwhile the son was stuck with the Indians.

Then he found his son!

He sliced the bars off his hands and feet. But behind the dad were the Indians.

“Look, I don’t want any harm,” said the dad.

“We want him back,” said one of the Indians.

So the dad got mad. He took out his sword and killed half the tribe and ran home with his son.

The End

10000 B.C.

By Max Vandebroek and Brent Tyack

Twelve thousand and eight years ago there were a father and a son. They lived on an island far away from others. It was hard for them to survive on this kind of island. They started looking for food but hardly found any because there was a hurricane that happened yesterday. All they found was twigs and a dead squirrel, two rotten coconuts and twelve bananas. The things they needed to look out for were saber-tooth tigers, black bears, and snakes. They went back to the cave, had a banana, and went to bed. The next morning he asked his son to go look for some more food. A big storm came and the son got lost. The dad started to get worried. After a while the dad went out and started looking for his son. When he was looking for his son he discovered a saber-tooth fish. He quickly took out his sword and killed the saber-tooth fish. He took the fish and put it in his sack and went on. Meanwhile his son was fighting a giant spider and going through twigs. He called for his dad, but he heard nothing. He kept on moving. His dad saw a black bear in front of him so he went around it and went on. His son saw the same thing and went around it but when he got to the other side, he heard something. He went around to see what it was. Instead of a creature it was his dad. In disbelief, he rubbed his eyes and blinked, but his dad was still standing there. He tapped his dad on the shoulder and his dad looked at him and they went home.

The End

An Excerpt from “Sparks”
By Alex Uccello

We stopped for a drink and lunch. The lunch was like tar, except it wasn't sticky. It was hard and chewy. On we went, and we stopped in _____, where we hit the hay and hard. The tents were small and shabby looking.

“A small wind could carry these tents miles away.”

“I know, but it's all we have.”

“Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Sergeant, happy birthday to you!”

“Aw, you shouldn't have.”

“It was nothing.”

“No, you really shouldn't have. The General will get upset, and...”

There was the General, standing tall and true. The Sergeant looked into his eyes and noticed that he wasn't upset – he was glad and happy for him. Right after that split second, everyone immediately rushed to line up. The General's face changed and he said, “Keep partying, but in one hour I need you to return to your duties.”

“Thank you sir!”

“Oh, and one more thing...”

“Yes sir?”

“Happy birthday.”

The General left the tent and was not seen again until later on. One hour went by like the wind.

“Let’s go, let’s go, come on! We don’t have all day, we need to be in _____ by sun-down!” said the Sergeant, barking his orders. “I’m now twenty-eight years old and today will break my back.”

On our way into the desert, a truck carrying gasoline was coming into their compound. They contacted the driver and told him to move, but he screamed Arabic words into the phone and hung up.

“Fire the RPG at the tanker *now!*” Boom! A ball of flame went in the air. “Holy crud!”

“We can’t afford to get hurt by terrorists.”

The next city we went into was _____. It was a quiet city. As we were going along people were starting to come out of the buildings. They had no weapons. As our convoy was slowly moving through the city we noticed they weren’t enemies, they were our allies. We went on our way to their governor’s mansion. We talked to him and luckily he spoke English.

“Hello, welcome to _____.”

“Thank you.”

“General, I can supply you with whatever you need, and you need to worry no more! We will protect your men and convoy.”

“Thank you, that’s very kind of you.”

“Come, bring your captains and sergeant, and we shall feast!”

And we walked into this tall and wide mansion.

Boom! At three a.m., eight falcon planes flew in the air. They shot their payloads at one of our tanks and succeeded in destroying it. One of the tanks blew up into smoke,

ash, and fire. Soon fifteen Arabic soldiers launched RPGs at the planes. “Three down, three to go,” said Sergeant. “Get those patriots on the tarmac!” Finally three patriots on humvees moved in. “Fire!” Boom! All eight planes were out of the air.

To Be Continued...

The Fairy Tales
By Maddie Uccello

There once was a princess who lived in a castle. She was very lonely and she loved to read books. Then she saw a blue bird. It chirped in her ear and she knew that the bird wasn't really a bird, it was a fairy bird. She couldn't believe it – she first thought it was a bird, but it truly was a fairy. Then she got outside and then she and her friend went to the lake. Then they went to the park, then back to the castle. Then there was the dragon. She was so frightened she ran as fast as she could and finally she got to the castle. She ran inside and then she was safe. The dragon got so angry that it exploded with fire, and she couldn't believe her eyes she was so happy that the dragon had exploded. Then they had a big party.

And then it was the next day. She said, "I wonder what adventure I will have today. Let's go to the library!" As she read, she said, "Do you know that people have millions of hairs? I just thought people have only hundreds, but they really have millions of hairs!"

"Hm, are you thinking what I'm thinking? I never knew that you can have adventures in stories."

"Wow, I never knew that, so that's cool."

"So, I wonder what we'll do next."

"Go to sleep, ha ha ha!"

And then it was the next day. "I wonder what we're going to do today."

"Where do you want to go first?"

"Let's go to the forest."

“Okay, to the forest we go!” So they went to the forest. When they went to the forest she never knew someone was following her. And then she heard footsteps behind her and then it jumped on her. She screamed, "aaaaaaaaa!" She was so frightened she ran, but then she said, “Who are you? What do you want?”

“I want to kill you and your fairy friend!” the thing said.

She couldn't believe it and she ran faster than she had ever run before. She finally got to the castle and she was safe.

“What do you want to do today?”

“Let's have a tea party, okay?”

“I'll get the tea ready, okay?”

“And I'll get the food, okay?”

“So now we're ready.” When they were done they wanted to play princess so they played princess. When they were done they said, “Want to get a snack?” “Sure,” she said. So when they were done they were so tired of eating all that food that they took a nap. When they woke up they were still tired so they took another nap. When they woke up, they were so full they felt sick until tomorrow.

So when they woke up they felt better. They were happy, so they danced around and then they threw up and they got sick again. Then they lay down on the couch and watched some TV. None of her channels were on so she said, ‘this is the weirdest day ever,’ and then she fell asleep.

The End

The Star Fairy
By Emma Jo Patten

Chapter 1: Sara

Sara Kingston was very adventurous. She loved to explore – especially outdoors. One warm night Sara was exploring her yard when suddenly she stopped and stared. She saw a huge forest looming in front of her. She gasped in surprise. Then as usual her curiosity got the better of her. Sara went in. Sara was happy she had put on a sweater, for it was quite cold in the woods. She wandered quite a while until she came to a cavern right in the middle of the forest. A light shone through the cave. It was a blue light that seemed to be saying, ‘come inside.’ So Sara went in.

Sara gasped in surprise and delight. Fairies with delicate blue wings danced around her head. The fairies’ clothes were made of silk and little gems in the shape of a star. Sara noticed that even though the fairies danced with glee, their faces were solemn.

“Who are you?” asked Sara.

“We are star fairies,” they chimed together.

“Oh!” cried Sara. “I have heard of you. But why are you so solemn?”

“Because,” replied a fairy, “we are missing four of our people! The king, the queen, the princess, and the prince!”

“Oh my goodness!” cried Sara. “That’s awful.”

“Indeed, it is,” said the fairy.

“Excuse me, but what is your name?” asked Sara.

“Oh pardon me!” said the fairy, blushing. “My name is Glimmer.”

“Well,” said Sara. “Is there anything I can do about the missing fairies?”

“Yes,” said Glimmer. “You can try to find them.”

Sara could easily see that Glimmer seemed hopeful.

“I’ll try my best,” she said.

Chapter 2: Finding Fairies

Sara had just left the cavern and she had some equipment with her – a camera for taking pictures of the rescues, a flashlight, a cage, and some fairy-sized towels, blankets, pillows, and food. Also she had some fairy-sized extra clothing. Sara walked and walked probably about a mile, until she saw a faint glow and she heard a faint voice that she could see was yelling, ‘help!’ Sara quickly half-ran half-walked to the voice. She suddenly stopped and gasped. There sitting among the wet leaves lay two tiny fairies, but they were definitely star fairies.

“Thank God you came,” said the woman. “We have been starving. I’m the queen and this is the king!”

“Well,” said Sara. “Don’t just sit there, get in.”

“Okay,” said the king and queen together. So they set off again. They walked two miles. Then Sara heard a sound. She said, “Listen!” They all listened. Then the king said, “It says ‘help!’”

“Clara!” the queen cried.

“Who is Clara?” asked Sara.

“Clara is the princess,” said the queen.

Sara saw a tiny glow and knew at once what it was. She gently picked up the princess and put her in with the king and queen.

Chapter 3: Gleam

Soon Sara had walked yet another mile. Another voice rang through her mind. She saw another glow and rushed towards it.

“Gleam!” gasped the queen. Sarah picked up the small, trembling figure. Then she took them all back to the cavern.

Chapter 4: The Party

Sara was happy and so were the king and queen. They were holding a party and Sara was the star. She wore a crown that the princess and the queen had made for her. But the best thing was all the fairies were safe.

The End

An Irish Tale
By Kellen Sohaili

Chapter 1

The cold wind blew against the tops of the trees as pale wet rain fell on the brick streets of the Irish village of Dublin. The year was 1926. The houses were quiet and not a single soul was found outside. The Macgregor house was the quietest of them all. Johnny Macgregor was the owner of the house and the town blacksmith. He had a thick white beard, sensitive green eyes, and a very happy smile of joy. His daughter Vanessa was a lot like him in some ways. She had light brown hair, bright blue eyes, a wonderful smile, and a big imagination. She was eighteen years old and loved by everyone. This day was to be Johnny's birthday. Vanessa had made a birthday cake for him. It was chocolate with white icing and colorful sprinkles scattered around. It was written, with green icing (for good luck), 'Happy 77th Birthday!'

"Oh, thank you Vanessa!" Johnny said when he received his cake.

"You're welcome, father. Hurry up and eat your cake so you can open your presents an' try 'em out," Vanessa said.

"Be patient, lassie. If you want to open 'em for me, do that," Johnny said to his daughter.

Vanessa went over to the presents and picked up one yellow box tied with a big blue bow. "Here, open it father," Vanessa said to Johnny. He took the gift from Vanessa and opened it. Inside was a big gray hammer.

"It's to help you with doing your blacksmith job," Vanessa explained. "Don't forget this one," Vanessa said, holding a red box tied with a purple bow. This time Vanessa opened it. Inside was a giant black typewriter with shiny gold keys.

“Now you can write stories and poems by just pressing these keys,” Vanessa explained again.

“Is that all of ‘em?” Johnny asked.

“Yep, that’s all of ‘em,” Vanessa answered.

All of a sudden, the door barged open. Fierce-looking men came in.

“This party is over!” one of them yelled.

“Why are these people here? What is their problem?” Vanessa asked.

“They are raiders. Raiders barge into people’s houses and destroy stuff inside,” Johnny said. The men stepped on the cake and smashed the presents.

“My hammer! My typewriter! Stop, you horrible people!” Johnny yelled at the men. After all the commotion, the men left.

“Oh! Your presents! They’re all destroyed now! What terrible people!” Vanessa said, sadly.

“It’s okay, dear. You can buy me new presents,” Johnny said.

“I don’t have any more money left,” Vanessa said.

“Oh well,” Johnny said.

Chapter 2

The next day, Johnny went to his blacksmith building. Vanessa went to school. The school was a big white building with a green terrace covered in winding vines and ruby-red roses. Every day when Vanessa went to school, she always wore a pretty dress and a bonnet. Today she wore an elegant yellow dress tied with a blue ribbon, blue Mary Jane shoes, and a yellow bonnet with frilly lace edges.

When Vanessa came in the classroom, she saw a new boy standing at the front of the room. He had dark waves of hair, green eyes, a white shirt, a red tie, blue pants, and brown shoes. Vanessa's enemy Aileen Jackson walked up to Vanessa. Aileen had black hair, brown eyes, and a better dress than Vanessa's. It was big and pink and covered with lots of pretty roses.

"So? Done anything dumb lately?" Aileen asked.

"No I haven't Miss Bigmouth!" I bet you've done some dumb stuff lately," Vanessa answered.

"No I haven't! And for your information, I've never done anything dumb in my whole life!" Aileen answered.

When all the students came in, the teacher, Mrs. Mildred, went to the front of the room and introduced the new student. "Class, meet our new student, Thomas Appleton," Mrs. Mildred said. "Thomas, you will be sitting next to Aileen."

Thomas went up to the desk next to Aileen's and sat at it. Through the entire school day, Mrs. Mildred explained the school rules and where everything was to Thomas.

When school was done, Vanessa went outside. Halfway to her father's blacksmith building, Thomas caught up with her. "Hi, my name's Thomas," he said to Vanessa.

"Hi. I'm Vanessa. Nice to meet you," Vanessa said back.

"Do you know Aileen Jackson?" Thomas asked. "Well, if you do, bring this to her." Thomas handed her a white envelope. After he left, Vanessa opened the envelope and found a letter from Thomas. It said:

Dear Aileen,

Meet me at Thyme Avenue at 9:00 p.m.

Love, Thomas

Vanessa was heartbroken. She was the person who liked Thomas. She fled to her house, crying. Johnny found her in her room, wet tears in her eyes. “What’s wrong, dear?” Johnny asked.

“There’s a new boy in school named Thomas Appleton. Well, Aileen, my enemy, is trying to take him away from me. And when I was leaving school, he gave me a letter to give to Aileen. Here it is,” Vanessa said, handing Johnny the note.

Johnny read it, and then said, “I never liked that Aileen Jackson. I always thought she was trouble.” After Johnny said that, he left the room. After that, Vanessa opened the window and climbed out. She jumped on the ground and ran off. An hour later, Vanessa found a cave hidden by the shadows. The moon shone brightly on her dark curls as her bright eyes stared at the cave.

After a few moments, she ran inside. The door closed behind her. Then a light turned on. Fast music started playing. Then all of a sudden, a man wearing a funny little green hat came in and started to dance to the music. Then more and more people in green hats came in and started to dance.

After they danced, they asked Vanessa to come down and do a dance herself. Vanessa walked down to the center and started dancing. After she danced, the people all clapped.

“Who are you?” Vanessa asked the first man in the green hat.

“Why, I’m a leprechaun!” the man answered.

“Well, I better be leaving now. Goodbye!” Vanessa said, turning to leave.

“Wait! Do more dances! Please!” the leprechaun said, chasing after her. “Attack!”

All the people in the hats chased after Vanessa. The cave opened and Vanessa ran out. She ran back home to tell her father about her adventure. When she told Johnny, he said, “You expect me to believe that you met a leprechaun?”

“But it’s true. He had a little green hat on and danced around all the time,” Vanessa said to Johnny.

“I DON’T BELIEVE YOU AND I NEVER WILL!!!” Johnny yelled.

“But father!” Vanessa yelled. “Please believe me!” After she said that, she ran to her room, in tears.

Chapter 3

When Vanessa got to her room, she looked out the window and saw a dark mountain beyond the village. Eighteen rocks surrounded the nightmarish hill. She opened the window again and climbed out. Once she got out she ran to the hill. She climbed up the long, narrow path to the top.

Meanwhile, Johnny was looking for Vanessa. “Vanessa! Where are you?” he called out. Then he went outside and saw a figure that looked exactly like Vanessa, on top of the hill. “She’s on the Hill of Death! She’ll be destroyed entirely!” Johnny said, running to the hill.

When he got to the top, he looked down a path and saw Vanessa lying unconscious on the ground, her skirt fluttering in the wind. Johnny ran down to her, but halfway down, he heard a crack of lightning and turned around. A vision of a ghost stood on top of a rock. Her green skirt flowed up and down.

“It’s a banshee!” Johnny yelled. The banshee floated down to Johnny and Vanessa and recited an evil spell.

“Get away from us you horrible beast!” Johnny yelled. At that moment, he grabbed a leftover lantern from the ground and threw it at the banshee. The lantern hit the banshee and burned her to death. Johnny picked Vanessa up and said, “Oh, you poor darling little girl. I need to take you home.”

So Johnny took Vanessa home and had her stay in bed until she was better.

Chapter 4

The next morning, Johnny went to Vanessa’s room to check on her. She was laying in bed, still, her body smothered in thick white lace and curls standing still. Johnny stroked her hair and whispered in her ear, “You’ll be all right, dear.”

Suddenly the door opened. It was Thomas! “I heard about the accident. Is she okay?” he asked.

“Yes, she’s okay,” Johnny answered.

“I brought her some flowers,” Thomas said, holding up a bouquet of colorful flowers.

“Thank you, Thomas. I think she’ll like them a lot when she wakes up.”

The door opened again. It was Aileen!

“I heard about Vanessa. I really feel bad for her. I brought her this,” she said, holding up a note. It said:

Dear Vanessa,

I’m really sorry I was so mean to you! Can we at least be friends?

From Aileen, your best friend

“Oh, thank you Aileen. I think she will love it,” Johnny said.

Then all of a sudden, Vanessa woke up. “Hello, everyone. Father, what is Aileen doing here?” Vanessa asked.

“She brought you a gift,” Johnny answered, showing Vanessa the letter.

“Oh, that’s so nice, Aileen,” Vanessa said after she read the letter.

“And look what Thomas brought you,” Johnny said, showing Vanessa the flowers.

“Thomas, thank you! You’re very sweet!” Vanessa said.

“And look what else I brought you,” Thomas said, holding up a red velvet case. Thomas opened it and inside was a shiny golden ring.

“Oh! You don’t mean…” Vanessa started to say.

“Yes. It’s an engagement ring,” Thomas finished.

“When is the wedding?” Johnny asked Thomas.

“December second,” Thomas answered.

“But that’s five months from now,” Vanessa said.

“Here, put the ring on,” Thomas said, handing Vanessa the ring. She put it on her finger.

“Oh, you look beautiful, Johnny said.

Over the next five months everyone was excited about Thomas and Vanessa’s wedding. Then it finally came. Vanessa wore a big white gown covered in white roses. Thomas and Vanessa sat in a silver carriage. Everyone clapped as they got in, especially Johnny. Then Thomas and Vanessa rode off in the carriage into the sunlight and everyone lived happily ever after.

The End

Eliza the Witch
By Jayna Shaffer

“Eliza, start practicing your magic.”

“I am!”

“Then where is your wand?”

Eliza just sighed.

“Eliza, when are you going to stop trying to be normal?”

“I can’t help it!” she snapped.

“Eliza Johnson, get upstairs and study your magic!”

So Eliza went upstairs to study her magic and listen to the normal children play outside being free. So Eliza started to cry. Days passed and Eliza became more and more humiliated. One day she snuck out to normal school and tried to make normal friends. But everyone thought she was weird. Eliza tried everything, including sending neighbors gifts and going outside with the children but that didn’t work. Eliza thought she had tried everything, when she finally realized she hadn’t gone to the king!

The next day she took a stroll to the palace. Finally after two miles, she arrived at the king’s palace and the guards let her in and first she saw him.

“Why do you come to me, child?”

“King,” Eliza gulped. “I have come to you to find why I had to be born a witch.”

“Well you have come to the right person, my dear.” The king stepped down and put his arm around the young witch. “Eliza,” he boomed. “We all have our qualities and differences. And yours just happens to be being a witch.”

“Well thanks, King,” Eliza said happily. The king got back on his throne and Eliza ran home laughing.

“Mom! Mom!” Eliza exclaimed. “I’ve found out why I’m a witch! Because I’m special!”

“Oh Eliza, that’s great!” agreed her mom.

The End

The Pickson Island

By Lucero Guzman

Ashley loves to explore the ocean. She is adventurous and curious. One morning she went really deep into the ocean to find some plankton. Once she found the plankton she swam in the ocean for a little bit. When she left she made sure the plankton was in the jar. When she was on her way back she found it hard to swim back because the waves were too hard. She needed to get back to her house in thirty minutes for lunch. She kept trying but the waves pushed her even further. She swam as hard as she could but she just couldn't make it. Then the ocean was calm, so she swam. She swam as fast as she could. When she was almost halfway there.... Splash! A big wave crashed into her and pulled her all the way back to a little island miles away from her home.

When she got on the island she decided she'd better build a boat to get home. So she started working. She made a boat out of some trees growing on the island. She also needed a paddle for her boat so she cut another of the tall brown trees and made two paddles, in case one broke. She rested a little because she was exhausted from her trip. After resting she was ready and dry. So she made a basket out of thin branches and small brown twigs. She put her plankton in the basket. Then she found a coconut on one of the trees she didn't use so she ate and drank it. She also ate a banana. She reached out and grabbed her basket and climbed a tree and grabbed many bananas and coconuts. She dumped her fresh-picked food into her basket. And she climbed down the tree with her basket. When she reached the warm, soft sand she placed her basket on the ground. She walked over to her wooden boat. She was about to sail off when she remembered that she needed a sail! Quickly she got out of her boat, put her boat on the sand, got her basket out

of the boat and started making a sail. She got a piece of wood, then a big leaf. She put them together and attached it to her boat.

Now she was ready to start her way back. She got on her boat and started paddling. She got tired after a while so she had a nap and ate a banana. After a little bit she woke up and started paddling again, and ate a coconut. She took her plankton out of the basket and looked at it. After a while of looking at it, she put it back in the basket and started paddling again. After thirty more minutes of paddling she could slightly see the outline of her home. Ashley knew she was almost there. Just fifteen more minutes of paddling and she would be home.

She started paddling really fast. She came to a vast rock but she couldn't stop. She hit her paddle against the rock and it broke. But luckily she had an extra; she was going to make sure she didn't crash this one. She reached down into the bottom and got another paddle. Ashley put her paddle in the water and started rowing.

She rowed and rowed and rowed and rowed. When she was almost there she figured that she was going the wrong way. She rowed towards her house. But it kept going the wrong way. When she had rowed for about five minutes it turned the right way. She got to the shore shortly before a giant wave came. She got her boat and basket and started walking home. She knew she had missed lunch and dinner, plus she was hungry, so she ate a banana. It was night and she wanted some rest. But she kept walking. When she reached her house she noticed something strange. The car wasn't there.

She turned the door knob; it was locked. She went to the backdoor; it wasn't. She went in. There was a note on the table, it read: "Dear Ashley, I don't know if you're home yet, but if you are I am looking for you with your mom. I left you some food in the

refrigerator in case you're hungry. Call me, I brought my cell phone." So she walked over to the phone and dialed the number. Ring, ring...

"Hello?"

"Hi," said Ashley.

"Hi Ashley! Are you okay?"

"Yeah."

"You are home, right?" said her father.

"Yes."

"Well I'm coming home," said her dad.

"Okay," Ashley responded.

"I'd better go, I'm on my way," said her dad.

"Bye!" Ashley said.

"Bye!" her dad answered.

She hung up and went to sit on the couch. Then after five minutes the door opened and her mom and dad stepped in the door.

"Mom, dad!" Ashley yelled.

"Ashley!" they yelled. "What happened – you were gone so long?"

Then she started explaining her amazing journey. She showed them her plankton, basket filled with her food, and her boat. Her parents were amazed at how she got through all this. Her dad told her the island she was on was called Pickson Island. Ashley got her basket and took out coconuts and bananas. They ate them while talking.

She put her plankton in her neat room next to her fish.

I might go get a starfish tomorrow, she thought.

So the next morning she ate her breakfast, and said bye to her mom and dad. She went out the door and into the deep blue ocean. This time she didn't go that far. She got two starfish and put them in a jar; then she came back swimming. When she got home she put her starfish next to her plankton. She took her plankton and starfish and took them to the ocean, and filled their jars with salty ocean water. She went to her house and put them back on the shelf with the fish.

The End

Jamie
By Sadie Lipman

“Mom!” yelled fifteen-year-old Jamie King. “Can I have some ice cream?”

Jamie was reaching into a big refrigerator and was about to get the rocky road when her mother said, “No honey, dinner is almost ready.” Jamie replied with big stomps up the stairs. She got up to her room and jumped on her bed and called her best friend Brittney Caldwell.

Jamie said, “Hey is Brittney there?”

Brittney’s mom replied with big sobs.

Jamie asked, “What happened, Mrs. Caldwell?”

She didn’t say anything.

“Don’t worry, I’ll be over there in a second!” A couple of minutes after she hung up, her cell phone rang and it was Brittney. Jamie asked her, “What happened at your house? And what’s all that noise in the background?”

“What *did* happen at my house? And I want you to go to the airport in one hour with some luggage, and when you come don’t let anybody see you. Oh yeah, don’t tell anybody!”

Jamie couldn’t think of what to say so she whispered, “Okay.”

That night she went to Brittney’s house and Brittney’s mom told her that Brittney went missing right after school – she didn’t come home. Of course Jamie couldn’t say anything about the phone call because she promised that she wouldn’t tell. An hour passed and she walked to the small airport that was only twenty-four minutes away. She walked in and saw it was jam-packed and in the midst of everyone was Brittney.

She shouted, “Brittney!” Brittney turned around and she looked different. Then she noticed it: Brittney’s blonde hair was cut to her shoulders. Brittney smiled a huge smile. Jamie asked, “So what am I doing here?”

Brittney answered, “We’re going to New York City!”

“What? Oh, yeah *right*.”

“Jay, why do you think I said to bring your luggage?”

“You did?”

“Yeah, I did. You heard me.”

“Sorry, look at me. I don’t—”

“Oh come on Jay, I know you heard me.”

“I’m sorry. I’ll go home and get some, okay?”

“Okay. The gate is F-34. Write it down.”

“It’s okay, I’ll remember.”

“Okay. Go. Oh, and the flight leaves in two hours.”

“Okay.” Jamie went home and packed for the trip. An hour later, she slipped out the door and left her house. She got to the airport but forgot what the gate number was, and she went on a different plane and went to Miami. She had the best time of her life.

The End

Road Trip
By Taylor Shaffer

“Seeing the same things all the time is getting really boring,” Emily said. Emily was the youngest of the Donaldson children. Emily was short, had dark brown hair, and light blue eyes.

Emily lived in Florida with her older brother and sister. Her brother Sam was eighteen. He had dark brown hair and light blue eyes also. Her sister Kelsey was fifteen, had light brown hair and dark blue eyes. She was very different from her siblings.

“You’re right, Emily,” said Sam. “It is boring just looking at the same sky, the same trees, and smelling the same air. I know just what we need!”

Emily and Kelsey looked up at Sam with big smiles on their faces.

“We need a ROAD TRIP!!!” Sam exclaimed.

“To where?” asked Kelsey. “Hawaii? Canada? Where?”

“Canada!” Emily yelled. “I’ve always wanted to go to Canada. Can we see Niagara Falls? Can we please go to Canada? Please? Please?”

“I guess we’re going to Canada,” said Sam.

The three kids started packing almost immediately. They planned to leave the next day.

* * *

The next day finally arrived. Sam, Kelsey, and Emily packed their suitcases in the back of Sam’s red Explorer.

“I’m so excited to go to Canada!” exclaimed Emily. All of the kids were excited to go to a new place but they would definitely miss their friends and family.

So off they drove. It was early in the morning. The sky was still dark, and the moon still shone brightly in the sky. There were barely any cars on the road and no sounds to be heard. Kelsey and Emily were asleep in the back seat while Sam drove.

A few hours later the three kids made their first stop. Emily was still asleep in the backseat when Sam and Kelsey went in to use the bathroom.

While Sam and Kelsey were inside Emily woke up. She got out of the car and walked outside. The sky was finally blue and the air smelled of flowers. Emily went to look for her brother and sister.

“Sam?” yelled Emily. “Kelsey?” Emily started to cry. She ran back to the car but the red Explorer was gone. Emily was scared. The only people at the rest area were homeless and scary.

“Are you lost, miss?” asked a dirty man with a long black beard and blood-red eyes. Emily ran as fast as she could into one of the stalls in the girl’s bathroom.

The bathroom was white, smelled like a garbage can, and had concrete floors. Emily ran into the first stall. The toilet was white and had pee on the seat. Emily sat on the hard concrete floor. Big wet tears rolled down her smooth face. She started thinking of how to get back with her brother and sister. Then she had an idea.

Emily ran to the nearest telephone. She checked her pockets for change. None. She quickly searched the ground. She found nothing but a penny. Emily ran out to the grass. Twenty-five cents lay on the sidewalk by a large rose bush. She searched the area for more. Another twenty-five cents lay on the ground. She had enough to use the telephone.

Emily dialed her brother's number, being careful to dial each number correctly. Nobody answered. She quickly dialed again. Nobody answered.

"Sorry but your time is up. Please insert another fifty cents to continue talking," said the telephone.

Emily started to look around for more money. She looked by the boy's bathroom and found six quarters.

"Little girl!" another homeless man said. Emily could tell this man was homeless but he looked much cleaner. He had a short black beard and a clean red hat. The weird thing was his eye. His right eye had no color, it was just pale white. Emily started to cry.

"That's my money, hand it over!" The homeless man with the weird eye grabbed Emily's arm.

"Stop!" Emily screamed. She tried to pull away but she couldn't. "Help!" she screamed at the top of her lungs. She lifted her leg and kicked the man in the knee. She ran as fast as she could to get away from the man. She ran down the road and away from the rest area.

Down the road Emily found a telephone. She inserted fifty cents and carefully dialed her brother's cell phone number. Sam answered.

"Sam, you left me at the rest area!" Emily said, crying. "Please come get me and fast. I'm really scared."

"Okay. Are you all right?" Sam asked.

"Yes," Emily cried. "But homeless scary people are asking me questions and trying to take me away. Please hurry!"

"I'm on my way right now. Stay put," Sam said.

“I will!” Emily said, glad that she got a hold of Sam.

“Bye!” Sam said. Emily hung up the phone. She ran back to the rest area but stayed away from the bathrooms.

About an hour and a half later, Sam’s red Explorer pulled up to the rest area. Emily ran up and hugged Sam and Kelsey tightly.

“I thought I’d never see you guys again,” said Emily.

“We thought you were asleep still,” said Kelsey. “Let’s go.”

Emily was glad to be away from the rest area. She was glad to be back with her brother and sister.

The End

The Time Machine
By Maxfield Hamel

One day an inventor got a little carried away. Well, he was building a time machine, but he forgot to put a button on it to bring him back to the time period he came from. By the way, his name was Jake. Then when Jake was done he of course tried it out, and he went in to the shining pod to go twenty thousand years in the future.

But when he got twenty thousand years in the future, Jake's time machine ran out of fuel, so he got out and looked around and saw a city about two minutes away. So he decided to go to the city to see if there was any fuel for the time machine, and when he got there, he found out that he could not afford any fuel at all, so he sat down to think and then he had an idea. His idea was to make the time machine solar powered. So he went to see how much they cost and he had just enough to buy one panel. He plugged it in and he powered it up but then he found out that he had not put a button in to bring him home.

So he went to two seconds before he left and when he got back he made a button to bring him home.

The End

Time's Up
By Amelia Garey

Chapter 1

"I'm bored," said Marcus.

"Me too," said Mia.

"I feel like building something," said Jenna.

"I've got some metal and wire in my garage. Let's make a robot," said Marcus.

"No," said Jenna. "Too dangerous. It could destroy the town."

"Mmm."

"I know, let's build a time machine," said Mia.

"Umm..." Marcus stammered.

"I don't know," said Jenna.

"Come on, please?" begged Mia.

"Oh, okay," said Marcus.

They built a time machine, plugged it in, and lit it up. It had a color vortex and bright lights at the top. "One, two, three, jump!" screamed Mia. "Aaaaaaaah!" they all screamed.

About three seconds later they felt rock on their faces. They looked up and realized that they were on a dinosaur's back!

"Don't move a muscle," said Jena.

"Calm down, it's asleep," said Marcus.

"Whew," Mia sighed in relief.

"I know!" Jenna said.

"We could have been human stew," said Mia.

“Let’s get off this thing,” replied Marcus.

“I’ve got a bad feeling about this,” said Mia.

“Um, guys – run!” said Jenna.

“Back to the time machine!” screamed Marcus. They got in the time machine and pressed random numbers because they were in a hurry. About ten seconds later they stopped.

“What’s up with the machine?” asked Mia.

“I think we broke down,” Marcus replied.

“What?” stammered Mia and Jenna.

“Let’s step outside.”

They stepped outside and were amazed at what they saw. All they saw was a forest. In the sky was a flying bird. But the bird was looking at them and got hit by a plane. Then it fell on Marcus’ head. He screamed like a little girl.

Chapter 2

“That was disgusting!” said Marcus. Mia giggled. “Ha ha ha, very funny,” said Marcus sarcastically.

“Guys, I think you might want to turn around,” stammered Jenna.

“What is it now, Jenna?” Mia asked angrily.

“There is a goblin right next to us.”

“Aaaaah!” screamed Mia.

“Wait, I won’t hurt you, I promise!” said the goblin.

“Who are you?” asked Marcus.

“I’m, uh, Hambly Luvaury the Third,” said Hambly. “But you can call me Ham.”

“I’m Marcus David and this is Mia Sullivan,” said Marcus.

“I’m Jenna Regan Rachel,” said Jenna.

“Oh,” replied Ham. “Well, you need to hide. My friend has a basement where you can hide. Come on! Let me give you a ride.”

They knocked on the door. Another goblin showed up.

“Hi, Ham. Who are they?”

“Marcus, Mia, and Jenna,” said Ham.

“Oh, well, I’m Jedia. Come inside,” said Jedia. “So, you’re after fuel? Well I know where to go; you have to go north. Keep on going north until you get to the fuel chamber.”

Chapter 3

They got stuff packed. They got food, water, clothes, and tents. They set out on their journey. It took them three days to get there, but they got the fuel. “We finally got it,” said Marcus.

“Now it’s going to take us three more days to get back,” said Jenna.

“Not really,” said Jedia. Jedia whistled really loud and long. About ten seconds later a horion (a horse mixed up with a lion) came. Mia, Jenna, Marcus, Ham, and Jedia got on its back and flew back to the time machine.

“Thanks,” said Marcus.

“Don’t mention it,” said Ham.

They set the time to 2008 and went home.

The End

The Dragons
By Logan Track

Once upon a time there was a girl and she owned dragons. Her favorite dragon was named Bumble. Then one day there was a boy who came to the farm and he was there to have a camp on how to ride dragons. The next day it was time to ride the dragon. The boy picked out a dragon named Astro. It was for sale for \$300, but he could ride it. Then it was time to take off. The boy had to wear goggles and a scarf.

“If you want to turn right you pull your right leg back, and if you want to turn left you pull your left leg back. Okay, you can take off now!”

“Wow, I’m actually riding a dragon! I can see everything from up here! It is so fun! But it’s time for landing already. I was having so much fun.”

“How was your ride?”

“It was great!”

“I had a lot of fun on the dragon, can I do it again?” asked the boy.

“Sure you can,” said the girl. “Go pick out another dragon to ride.”

“I’ll pick this one.”

“Her name is Ma.”

Then the boy didn’t want to ride and he went home.

The End

The Night of the Dragons
By Riley Grey and Samantha Hamel

Once there was a dragon named Bugling. He was a purple and green dragon with purple eyes, but was a tiny dragon; in fact he was the smallest dragon in his family. He was a very friendly dragon. Bugling liked to look up at his father who was at least two times the size of him. His father was dark and light blue with sea-blue eyes.

It was midnight and all the dragons were asleep. There was only one dragon who was a light sleeper. This dragon was Bugling. He heard something and then he heard it again. It sounded like footsteps on sand and dry leaves. He jerked awake and listened hard for the footsteps and then he saw them. It was the humans!

They were getting closer and closer with each passing step! He had to wake up his father and tell him about the humans, but his dad was the heaviest sleeper on Dragon Island, so he had to wake up the other dragons before it was too late. The gunman was getting very close – too close! Who was that? Oh, it was Comidi, the silliest gunman of all. He held the record for accidentally shooting himself more times than anyone, and the closest he had ever gotten to shooting a dragon was a tree in the shape of a dragon. Bugling thought that this was a nightmare, but after all it was pretty fun to laugh at Comidi.

Bugling decided to run to his sister Lilac. She was a light and dark purple dragon, almost as big as her father. Bugling and Lilac decided to wake up all of the rest of the dragons. They all ran to Bugling's dad and pushed and shoved while screaming, "WAKE UP!" Finally after jumping on him three thousand times he woke up and yelled at everyone, "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?"

And Bugling said, "Dad, it is Comidi!"

And Dad said, “Oh, in that case...”

They all went outside to see Comidi holding a gun the wrong way. The Dad stomped to Comidi and said, “This is the end of you Comidi!”

And Comidi said, “Not so fast mister, this is supposed to be YOUR end!” And Comidi pulled the trigger and BANG. The bullet hit Comidi and he fell over dead. All the dragons whooped and cheered. As they walked back Lilac cheerfully started to laugh and Bugling just as cheerfully added, “That is the end of Comidi!”

The End

Black Dragon
By Kaitlyn King

Once upon a time there were two kids. Their names were Shawn and Katie. One day none other than the black dragon came to their village. He attacked and left. After that Shawn and Katie decided that they would go after the dragon. Everyone told them not to go, but they didn't listen. They went the next day. They walked for miles. They needed supplies to fight the dragon. Finally they came to a blacksmith. He gave them two swords and two sheaths. Then they were on their way.

They walked night and day for many miles. They started to wonder what was ahead. Their journey was only beginning.

Not long after that they came to a forest. They went right in. They were afraid but they overcame their fear. There were many scary things. They climbed the highest trees and were chased by snakes and much more. They jumped over rocks. They saw many monkeys and many bugs. They walked and walked for many days through the cold and the rain. Now they were very hungry. They saw one bush and one tree. The bush was a blueberry bush and the tree was an apple tree. They both picked fifty blueberries and three apples, then they were on their way. They drank all of their water on the way, and searched and searched for more.

Soon they got out of the forest and came to a large river with a great current. So great that if they fell in they would be pulled away until they got to the waterfall. So they were very careful about jumping. Fortunately they both got across. After that they came to a high grassy field.

Katie said, "The grass is way too high."

Shawn said, "We can do it!"

So they took out their swords and started cutting the grass. There were many cows in the field. When they got out of the field they walked for miles and miles and days and days, until they came to a rocky beach. They knew what they had to do.

They went deep into the mangrove trees. They found many branches to turn into a boat. It took them a while to figure it out. As soon as they finished they pushed it into the water. It was a cold, rainy night. The waves pushed and pulled. Many other nights were the same until the biggest storm in the history of storms. They got knocked right out of their boat and they swam for miles. They needed food and drink so they learned how to catch fish. So much for the water. The next river was a thousand miles away.

While they were swimming they were attacked by a pack of sharks. They reached for their swords but Katie dropped her sword into the ocean. She was holding her breath and then she went under the water. She finally came up. She was gasping for air. They killed the sharks. Then they got out of that dreaded ocean and before them was an island. There was plenty to eat and drink. There was coconut milk to drink and there were berries to eat. They made two houses out of leaves and sticks. It was a very nice island. But they had to leave. They took some coconuts and left. But before that they built a boat.

After that they rode the waves. They tried to research where the dragon was. They figured out that the dragon might be in a huge cave. When they got to where they were going they got out of the boat and looked around.

“It will be days before we find the dragon,” said Katie.

For days they searched until they found him. He was in a huge cave, just like they said. He was ready to fight. Shawn and Katie took out their swords. It was a nasty fight.

There was blood everywhere. When it was done, Shawn and Katie were hurt but the dragon was dead. Now everyone will be happy. Now Shawn and Katie can go home.

The End

