

# FIRST PRIZE

## Heaven

Heaven is joyful.  
I see a pink sky.

I walk with bare feet in the sand.  
There are no splinters in Heaven.

I eat apples. They taste delicious.  
There are no green beans in Heaven—yuck!

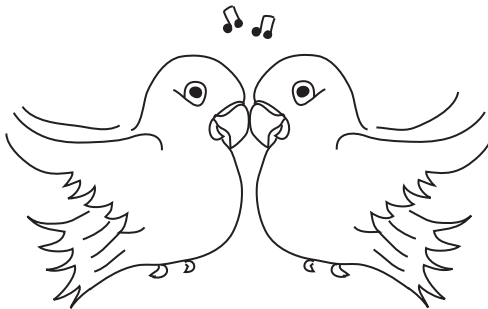
I play tag.  
Nobody pushes me in Heaven.

I smell cheesy popcorn.  
There are no skunks in Heaven.

I hear tweeting love birds.  
Cars don't make honking sounds in Heaven.

Heaven is peaceful!

*by Sydney Brozo* (Kindergarten)  
St. Jude's Academy  
Mississauga, Ontario



# FIRST PRIZE

## **Lizzie, the Lizard**

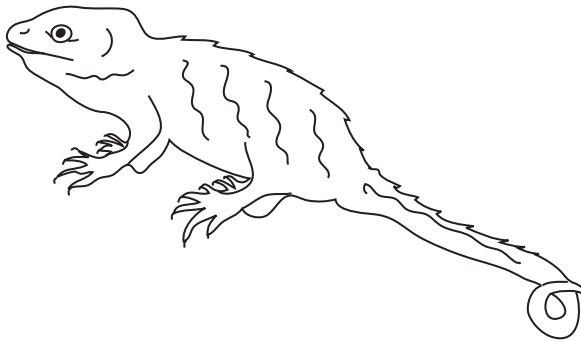
Lizzie, the lizard, lives in a  
small tiny home with a lot of grass;  
she catches bugs and walks fast.

She has a tree branch in her home  
that she sleeps on at night,  
and she sleeps tight.

She turns black when she is mad,  
she turns blue when she is really sad,  
and she is usually all green.

Lizzie sheds her skin a lot,  
and she has a long sticky tongue.  
She is the best friend I got.

*by Taité Lundstad* (Grade One)  
Calgary Arts Academy  
Calgary, Alberta

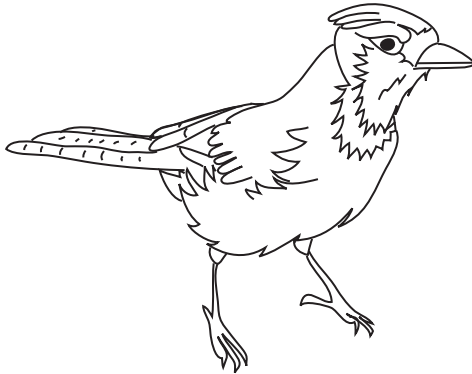


# FIRST PRIZE

## Fall

Bright green trees  
Bending in the breeze,  
Like hands reaching down.  
A sapphire blue bird sings a song.  
As it flies above the tree,  
The wind swirls in my hair.  
I feel something touch my back.  
I jump.  
It was only a leaf,  
a garnet-coloured leaf.

by *Jade van der Slagt* (Grade Two)  
Charles Dickens Annex School  
Vancouver, British Columbia



# FIRST PRIZE

## My Brother

My little brother has special needs,  
he uses a tube when he feeds.  
He doesn't run, or walk, or skip;  
he had surgery on both his hips.  
He takes medication through the day,  
some make him too tired to be able to play.  
He likes most noises and bright lights,  
they keep him joyful through the night.  
He goes to school in a special bus;  
he likes it there, he does not fuss.  
In the hospital he sometimes stays,  
and when he comes home it's happy days.  
I thank Allah for my brother,  
he's lucky to have a lovely mother.  
He may never eat or talk or run,  
but I still think he's number one.

*by Nadia Helbah* (Grade Three)  
Al-Taqwa Islamic School  
London, Ontario

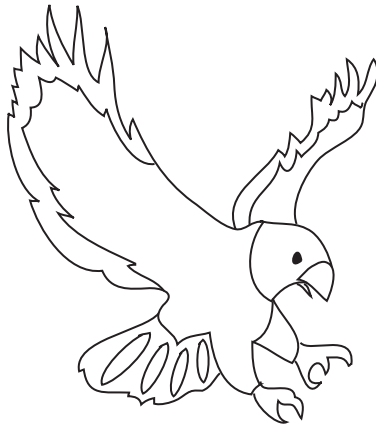


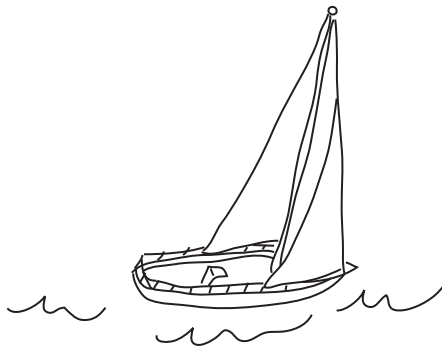
# FIRST PRIZE

## Valdes

On Valdes it is quiet  
Sometimes all you hear is the breath of the wind and the song of the birds  
    Music filters through the trees  
Eagles swoop and soar over the water calling out to one another  
Minnows dart around in shallow pools while crabs scuttle along the beach  
    The ravens, midnight black, dive across the bay  
    The whistle of the wind cuts through the air  
The trees sway and whisper secrets to one another  
    The breakers crash onto the shore  
    Inside, a fire crackles merrily in the wood stove  
    The sunset, a brilliant orange sky  
Pink clouds with purple and blue streaks fill the sky with colours  
    The moon rises over Mount Baker  
    It shines a bright glow on the water  
The tide is up, it laps gently on the rocks  
Little culls of smoke come out of the chimney  
I close my eyes and drift off to sleep

*by Maayan Asmoucha* (Grade Four)  
Charles Dickens Elementary School  
Vancouver, British Columbia





# FIRST PRIZE

## Cinque Terre

I discovered beautiful rugged Cinque Terre this summer  
A string of five higgledy-piggledy fishing villages  
Suspended between sea and land on high cliffs  
Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore too  
Clinging unsteadily to the mountainous Mediterranean coast of northwestern Italy  
Cut off by mountains choked with olive groves and dry stone-walled vineyards

The first village: Monterosso  
The most western village  
Beautiful beaches and steep rugged cliffs,  
Crooked lanes and hole-in-the-wall shops  
Pastel-coloured homes decorated with flower boxes

The second village: Vernazza  
The jewel of Cinque Terre  
Waves slapping against the rocks splash, then swish away  
Old men pattering with their little boats  
Cats strolling over the horseshoe-shaped piazza

The third village: Corniglia  
Built on a high cliff close to vineyards  
Follow the never-ending footpath that zigzags up 365 steps  
Whilst passing lemon trees, lilies, and vines  
To reach the hilltop town

The fourth village: Manarola  
Located on a sharp cliff of dark rock  
Cobblestone pathways that snake around the hillside  
Overlooking a tiny bay of colourful, wooden fishing boats  
Deep blue harbour with rocks full of mussels and barnacles

The fifth village: Riomaggiore  
The most southerly village  
A tangle of pastel tower houses leaning on one another  
A cliffhanging trail leads from the beach to the hilltop botanical garden  
Bell towers chime during the day and the frogs croak at night as boats go night fishing

That is Cinque Terre for you  
The smell of pesto accompanied by the melody of Italian laughter

*by Maariya Rao* (Grade Five)  
Joshua Creek Public School  
Oakville, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## Blue

Blue is my puppy.  
He likes to play with his toys.  
He puts things in his mouth  
and Digger, our other dog, tries to take them away.  
He barks when he wants inside.  
He has a blue eye and a brown eye.  
I love Blue!

*by Bridget Caird* (Kindergarten)  
Susanna Moodie Elementary School  
Belleville, Ontario





# SECOND PRIZE

## Winter Is Fun

Snow, snow falls on the ground,  
Everybody loves snow all season round.  
Winter is fun, just like that,  
But don't forget to wear your hat!  
You can build a snowman and play snowball fights,  
But don't forget to turn on the Christmas tree lights!  
Santa is great, he gives you lots of gifts,  
Just don't forget to leave him tasty treats.  
Winter break is also great,  
Let's play outside until it's late!

*by Shawn Hrapunsky* (Grade One)  
Michaëlle Jean Public School  
Richmond Hill, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## Spaceman

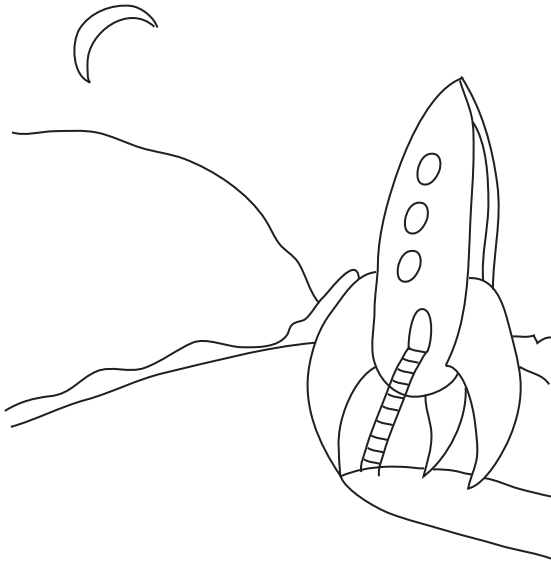
Once upon a time there was a boy named Dan.  
Dan wanted to be a spaceman.  
He wanted to fly and shoot rocks from his ship.  
Dan thought he better get a sidekick.

He went to his friend Bob  
And asked him if he wanted a job.  
Bob said, "Count me in,  
Being a sidekick is an awesome thing!"

Dan and Bob both started to build a ship  
That was very hip.  
So they used stainless steel and painted it white  
Then they got spaceman suits so they could be safe on the flight.

The suits were white and silver and blue  
But how would they make the ship fly? They had no clue!  
The sun went down. "Sweet dreams," Bob said to Dan.  
He replied, "In my dreams, I am the coolest spaceman."

*by Ayyub Hussain* (Grade Two)  
Century Montessori School  
Richmond Hill, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## My House, My Mouse

I had a house,  
which was perfectly clean,  
Except for a mouse,  
that was very mean.

He then became nice,  
like other mice.

I liked the mouse,  
so I got him a cage.  
He stayed in my house,  
and I figured out his age.

It was great,  
he became my mate.

We found a dog,  
we took him to our house.  
He was in a log,  
and became friends with the mouse.

We had fun,  
we wanted to play.  
We would also run,  
every single day.

*by Luca Damian* (Grade Three)  
Sidney Ledson Institute  
Toronto, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## The Night of the Fox

In a big green forest,  
In a little green nook,  
If you stay still and quiet,  
If you take a careful look,  
You might just see  
The most deceptive sight:  
A tiny red shimmer  
In the eerie moonlight.

A small red fox  
Slinks all night long  
Through the winding black shadows  
In which he belongs.  
Although he may look innocent  
To the unknowing eye,  
He knows the dark secrets  
Of the night . . . and he's sly.

He seems too gentle  
To catch any prey,  
Yet through the thick forest gloom  
He finds a way.  
You can hear his shrill howl  
As he celebrates his feast,  
That he caught with his claws  
And tore with his teeth.

So if you may be  
In the forest at night,  
And you catch the red glimmer  
Of a fox in your sight,  
And you hear the echoing howls  
That make you shiver in your socks,  
You'd better watch out—  
For it's the night of the fox!

*by* **Chloe Dockendorff** (Grade Four)  
Dockendorff Home School  
Morell, Prince Edward Island



# SECOND PRIZE

## Schools at Night

I'll tell you what happens at school in the night,  
Just please don't fall down due to the utter fright!  
My shoes walk around without me being there,  
The bins move and the lights flicker with such flare.  
Computers go on and off, and floors quiver,  
Am I seeing things? I'm starting to shiver.  
My heart beats rapidly, I'm about to faint,  
I clasp my hands and start praying for a saint.  
There are creepy sounds going up and down halls,  
Paint is literally peeling off of the walls!  
Now I'm scared about what happens in the night,  
Everything is going wrong, nothing is right.  
I love school when my friends and teacher are there,  
But don't go at night, unless you want a scare!

*by Jessica Rowley* (Grade Five)  
Mountview Elementary School  
Williams Lake, British Columbia

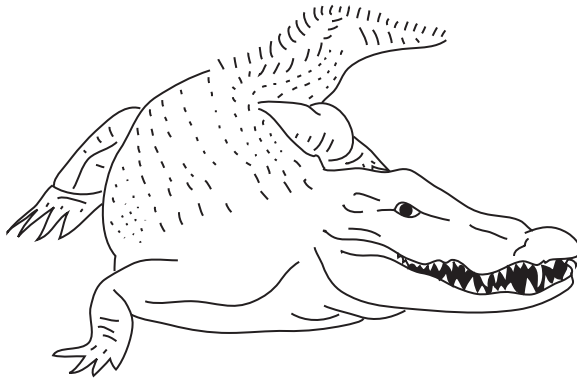


# THIRD PRIZE

## If I Were an Alligator

If I were an alligator,  
I'd snap my jaws,  
I'd have bumps on my back and a big tail,  
I'd scoot on land.

by *Jackson Badowski* (Kindergarten)  
Benito School  
Benito, Manitoba

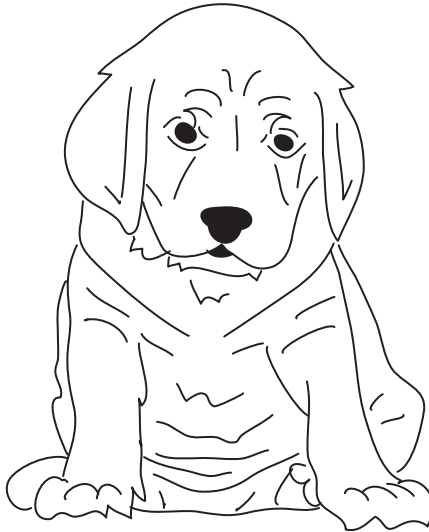


# THIRD PRIZE

## My Puppy, Jack

I would like a puppy with a cute little face  
to live in my back yard with a lot of space.  
I will feed him, love him, and let him run.  
We will have so much fun!  
I can hardly wait to play a game,  
but first I need to pick a name.  
Sport, Fido, Rover, or Mac?  
I decided to name my new puppy Jack!

*by Mackenzie Pauley* (Grade One)  
Joseph Teres School  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



# THIRD PRIZE

## **The Puffin's Routine**

Puffins are so very cute,  
Their voice sounds like a silver flute.

When the puffins fly over to me,  
They always feel so very free.

But if they see a stampede of bees,  
They always fly to a nearby tree.

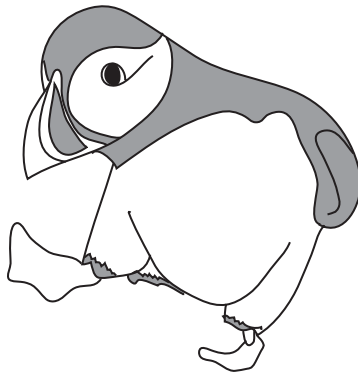
When puffins want to belly slide,  
They have to avoid the rock slide.

Oh no! One got stuck on a rope,  
They had to save their only hope.

The puffins are getting a little thinner,  
So they quickly eat all their dinner.

They like to eat little critters.  
They hate when a human litters.

*by Nathan Chu* (Grade Two)  
Trillium School  
Markham, Ontario





# THIRD PRIZE

## Bridges

Bridges are very useful,  
They're found over rivers and lakes.  
You will always get across  
No matter how long it takes.

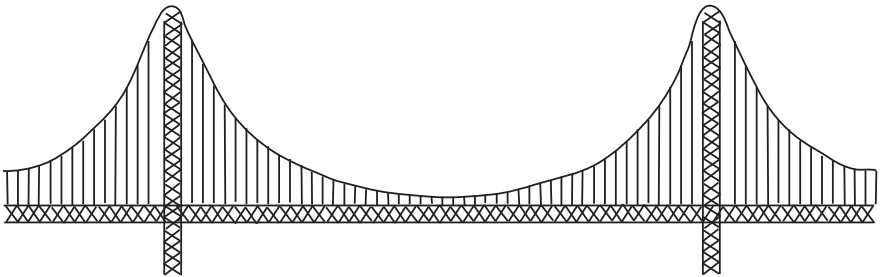
They're also found in oceans, too,  
There, they're very busy.  
If you are on a very curvy one,  
Try not to get dizzy!

Bridges have evolved,  
In many shapes like a "U"  
I've been on a bridge once,  
How about you?

The strongest bridges,  
Are ones with steel.  
They are electric sometimes,  
Like an electric eel.

So if you see a bridge,  
And know the bridge's name,  
The middle of a bridge,  
Will always be the same.

*by James Yu* (Grade Three)  
William Cook Elementary School  
Richmond, British Columbia



# THIRD PRIZE

## **My Teacher Is a Witch**

I know something truly amazing. . . !

My teacher is a witch, and I don't know what to do.  
You may find it hard to believe, but maybe you can help me figure out clues.

In the classroom she is actually sweet and kind, but even  
to her own surprise out comes a cackle every now and then.

Her mode of transportation is really quite unique. You will not see her ride  
on a bus, train, or car, but she always has a broomstick by her side.

She has a fascination with all kinds of cats,  
particularly if they happen to be black.

What she chooses for her lunch would make most people scream:  
frog legs, centipedes, bunny ears, and other things I cannot dream.

I am wondering if you agree. . . .  
What else could she be?

*by Ellyse Wolter* (Grade Four)  
Salem Public School  
Elora, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## Overtime

'Twas the night before the big game  
And I was having scary thoughts  
If we lost, it would be me to blame  
This was really my last shot

This game meant everything to me  
The championship game at last  
The coach had given me the “C”  
For my leadership in the past

The season had been good so far  
But it all came down to this  
I was not the biggest star  
On breakaways I would miss

The game was on and going fast  
The score was tied at one  
The championship was in our grasp  
Just one goal, and it'd be done

I got the puck deep in our zone  
I went behind our goal  
I looked, but I was all alone  
So I skated to the hole

One minute left on the clock  
Our time was almost up  
If I could score, that would rock  
And we would win the cup

I first deked left, then deked right  
Twenty seconds had ticked away  
There were two defencemen in my sight  
When I saw the perfect play

The defence split, I went straight through  
Me and the goalie one on one  
This was my final shot I knew  
We had almost surely won

My shot was flying through the air  
I was going to be the king  
I beat the goalie fair and square  
And then I heard the *ping!*

*by Quinn Mulder* (Grade Five)  
Veritas Catholic School  
Terrace, British Columbia

