

# FIRST PRIZE

## Tombert and the Fireflies

Tombert was a very friendly bird. He loved to play with his friends in the garden every day. Tombert's mommy always told him to stay near the house.

One day, he was playing with his friends Tommy and Jerry. They were playing near the house. But while playing, they flew far away from home and they got lost. They didn't know the way back to their homes. It was getting darker and darker. They all were very scared.

They were sitting near the bushes. Suddenly, they saw some glowing little things in the bushes. They did not know what these things were.

They went near the bushes and found that they were fireflies. The fireflies asked them, "What happened? Are you lost?"

Tombert said, "Yes, we are lost, and we don't know our way back home."

Then the fireflies said that they could help them because they glow in the dark, so they could see the way back home easily.

Tombert, Timmy, and Jerry followed the fireflies, and they safely reached back to their homes. Tombert's mommy was happy to see them back. Everyone thanked the fireflies for helping them.

*by Zoha Hameed* (Kindergarten)  
North Kipling Junior Middle School  
Etobicoke, Ontario



# FIRST PRIZE

## The Magical Jelly Beans

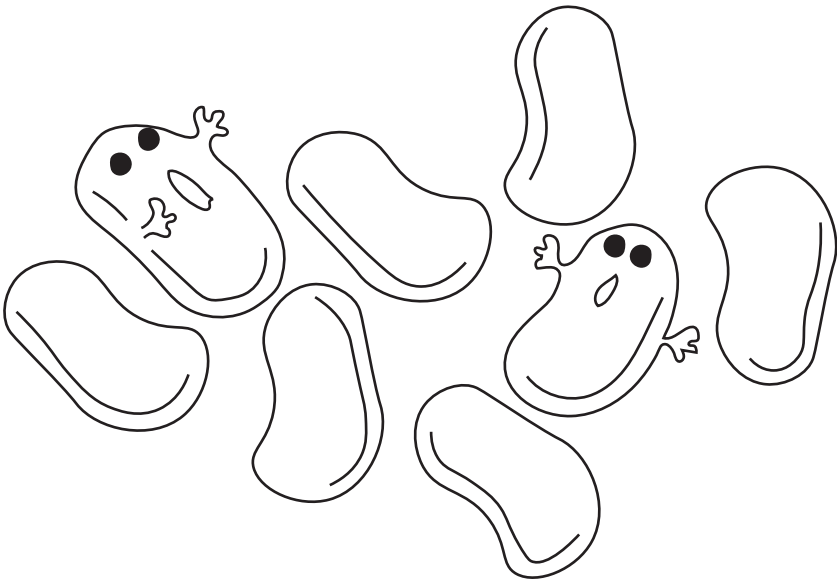
Once upon a time, there was a girl named Mya. She was seventeen years old and lived in a house with her mom and dad. One day, she was walking down the street and saw her friend Bob. They walked to the store and got a treat. They chose jelly beans as their treat. They ate the jelly beans on their way to the beach.

Suddenly, they were given magical powers after they each ate a purple jelly bean. Their magical power was fire power. They could both make fire by clapping their hands together. They tried their new power when they got to the beach. They clapped their hands and made fire that they threw into the ocean. They played with their fire power all afternoon at the beach. They decided not to tell anyone about their fire power.

They wanted to try another jelly bean flavour the next day to see if they were able to get another type of magical power. They tried eating an orange jelly bean, but when they each put one in their mouths, nothing happened. They tried all the jelly beans in the bag, but none of the other jelly beans gave them any powers. Only the two purple jelly beans had given them the magical powers.

Every week, Mya and Bob would walk to the same store and get jelly beans, hoping to get another magical bag of jelly beans.

*by Mya Elmer* (Grade One)  
Glenn Arbour Academy  
Burlington, Ontario



# FIRST PRIZE

## The Clouds in the Sky

Long ago, there were only two clouds up in the sky: Thundercloud and Cloud of Crystals. Both clouds had a palace. Resting on Thundercloud was a dark palace, home to an evil witch named Cackle. She had fiery red hair and her eyes glittered. At the opposite end of the sky was the diamond palace called Crystal Palace. In this palace lived a good enchantress named Lilac. She had silver eyes and shiny gold hair, and she wore a midnight-blue dress.

Cackle wanted to take revenge on Lilac, who had long ago cast a spell on Thundercloud to ensure no evil was done for 100 years. “I must give Lilac a taste of her own medicine!” yelled Cackle. She set a plan into action and flew on her dragon to take the revenge that she wanted so badly.

Meanwhile, deep in Crystal Palace, Amy and Salem, Lilac’s twins, were innocently combing their hair. Lilac stormed into their room and started yelling at the twins, something she had never done before. The twins stood staring at their mother in amazement. “Oh no, what is going on?” Lilac asked. She then realized that the spell she had put on Cackle had been reversed and all of the people in Crystal Palace were slowly turning evil. She quickly fluttered her wings and flew off to Thundercloud in search of Cackle.

There was a storm brewing in the sky. She whistled and her dragon, Sylveon, flew to her side.

She finally reached Cackle’s castle. She waved her wand and the castle turned into an enchanted black diamond.

Back at Crystal Palace, Amy and Salem were wondering where their mother had gone. They walked to a nearby fountain and waved their wands. A crystal ball appeared. “Show us our mother!” they both instructed. A picture of Lilac turning Cackle’s castle into a diamond made them gasp. They quickly took their dragons in hopes to help their mother.

Cackle returned to her castle only to find Lilac there. They began to fight an evil battle. Amy and Salem ran towards the black diamond that surrounded Thundercloud. They quickly reversed the spell: “Spells of evil, you shall end. Cackle shall become our forever friend.”

As the spell began to work. Cackle’s dress became a glittering midnight blue and her wings became UV. They all noticed that Crystal Palace was moving towards Thundercloud. Slowly, the two clouds merged as one.

Then, something amazing happened. The one cloud slowly began dispersing in the sky. The sky was now filled with beautiful, small clouds. The clouds became home to both the people of Thundercloud and Crystal Palace.

*by Sylvia Ip* (Grade Two)  
Trinity Montessori School  
Markham, Ontario



# FIRST PRIZE

## No Fishing, Osprey!

Co-Co the koala and Osprey the hawk were going to the beach. Osprey didn't like to follow rules, especially at the beach. Osprey didn't listen to Co-Co or read beach rules up on the post.

Co-Co said, "Don't go fishing at the beach, Osprey. I know you like to fish, and it is okay to swim where the fish are, but *no fishing!*"

Osprey went fishing anyway. He did not know the rocks were so high; he cut his left wing on a jagged rock and whimpered. All the fish swam away.

Hearing all the commotion, Co-Co boated over to see for herself what all the matter was. "What are you doing fishing at the beach, *Osprey?* You know why there are rules. Rules keep you safe. I told you not to fish on the trail getting here, I told you in the forest, and I even told you through the door to the change-room! You did it anyway! We're going home! You will go to your room and you will *not have any supper tonight!* That is my final word! Now, let's look at that wing you cut." Co-Co sighed.

Osprey lifted his wing for Co-Co to look at. "*Hmmm,*" mumbled Co-Co. "Get in the boat. Rest your wing on the seat and enjoy the ride back home."

"Okay!" cried Osprey. He smiled.

Back at the nest, Osprey was in his room reading his favourite comic, *Captain Ocelot*, when Co-Co walked in. "Osprey?" she asked Osprey. "Have you learned your lesson?"

"Yes, Co-Co," Osprey whispered without looking up from *Captain Ocelot*.

"Will you look up at me, please?" Co-Co pleaded.

"I guess," muttered Osprey.

"That's better. Now, I repeat, have you learned your lesson?"

"Yes, Co-Co."

"What have you learned?"

"I've learned *never, ever, ever* to go fishing at the beach." Osprey hung his head as he said this.

"Good." Co-Co smiled.

"Thanks."

"You can have supper now."

"*Yay!*" cheered Osprey.

"Come on now, Osprey."

"What's for supper, anyway?"

"Fish with a side of eucalyptus leaves!"

"Great! My favourite!"

"I know that! They're my favourite too! Let's go have supper now."

"Good idea, Co-Co!"

"Tomorrow we can go fishing. Okay?"

"Yes! All right!" Osprey cheered.

Osprey and Co-Co lived happily ever after!

by *Megan O'Krafka* (Grade Three)  
Salem Public School  
Salem, Ontario



# FIRST PRIZE

## Pretty Face

In the mirror, she was not looking at a girl, but at a terrifying monster.

Everyone was always teasing her about her looks and people said that being good at art was no use; you had to be pretty. Elsie was very depressed and started to spend all of her time alone. She was usually bored, so she practised her art a lot.

One day when she was drawing, she decided to draw eyes that were blue. Elsie didn't like her brown eyes. But truly, a lot of people adored her eyes. She wished for the eyes every day until very slowly, so that nobody noticed. . . her eyes started to turn blue! When she found out, she squealed with delight and looked more cheerful than usual.

Elsie started to draw more parts of her face and wished for them. She got prettier each time. She would do anything to be more popular and prettier.

The next week, she had new eyes, new red lips, and a dainty nose. She kept getting prettier, until one day, she had become a totally different person.

Soon, nobody wanted to be with her. She sneaked back to her home early from school to be held in her mother's arms. When she knocked, her mom came but had a puzzled look. "Hi, what can I do for you?" asked Elsie's mom.

"Mother, nobody wants to be with—" cried Elsie.

"Excuse me, but I am not your mother. My daughter should be at school right now."

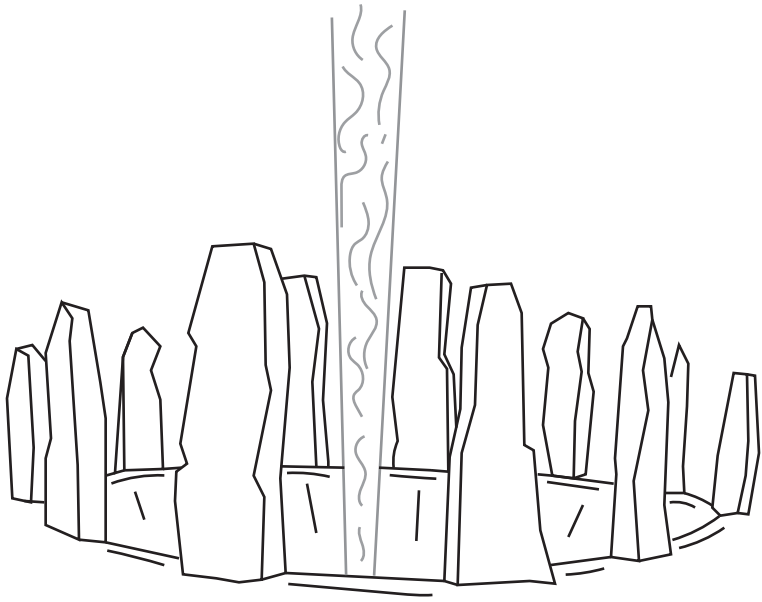
Elsie couldn't believe it; her mother didn't know it was her! She looked in the mirror. She was not looking at a girl, but at a terrifying monster. Elsie ran away from her house, trying to cover her face. The poor girl roamed the streets feeling like a lost dandelion seed.

Shortly after, it was night. It was very eerie as the road lights flickered. Then it started to pour. She tried to sleep against a big wet rock. She thought about her friends, her cozy bed, and her mother worrying. "If it weren't for my face, I wouldn't have been myself," said Elsie. Now, she was so ashamed about the past and how she had even changed herself to be popular. She thought, *I'll try again and go to my mother in the morning.*

She came to her place and knocked on the door. Elsie's mother came sniffing. Unexpectedly, she burst into tears and hugged Elsie tight. Elsie had turned back into her original self. Her deep sadness and thoughts had changed her back.

**by Erica Cho** (Grade Four)  
Canyon Heights Elementary School  
North Vancouver, British Columbia





# FIRST PRIZE

## The Ring of Alagaard

“It was a cold and rainy night in the Rockies. . . . Oh, wait! It’s always cold in the Rockies,” grumbled explorer Tyler Spinner.

“Come on, don’t be so pessimistic,” replied his sister and co-worker, Alicia Spinner, “besides, we’re almost to the bottom.”

They were hiking down Mt. Robson, part of the Canadian Rockies. They were up there because a geologist had discovered what was thought to be a rare stone, but it turned out to be a plain, old luminescent amethyst. “That so-called ‘expert’ really should have brought a stone analyzer,” grumbled Tyler again.

“Hey, do you see that purple light down at the curve in the path?” asked Alicia.

Tyler’s eyes followed Alicia’s pointed finger down the path. “Yeah, what do you think it is?”

They entered the cave cautiously. The light was coming from within a large stone circle. The stones were covered in ornate carvings and runes. The basin of the stone circle was filled with blinding purple light. The carvings looked like the runes that Tyler and Alicia had been studying. There was something weird about the light. They couldn’t quite figure it out. It wasn’t liquid, it wasn’t solid; it was more gaseous. It was luminescent and mysterious.

“I want to stick my hand in it!” Tyler said eagerly.

His sister was always the more level-headed of the two of them. She walked around the stone circle to him and said, “First, let’s do some research and examine the runes. Maybe we can figure out what this is.” She looked up at Tyler, who was very close to the circle examining the surface.

He turned to Alicia and said, “As always, sis, you have the most logical plan. The problem is that I want to test it now!” Tyler was smiling, “This is an amazing opportunity.” With that, Tyler plunged his hand in the purple gas. “*Hmmm*, tingly. I feel like I swallowed an ice cube and my insides are being frozen.” Suddenly, Tyler didn’t look so good. His eyes registered surprise and he said, “Uh oh.” With that, he disappeared in a purple flare of light, leaving Alicia with her mouth hanging open!

“Seriously?” said Alicia to no one as Tyler was now gone. She stood up and started pacing back and forth. She stopped pacing and stared at the light. “He is always getting into trouble, he always needs me to bail him out. I don’t want to go through this, whatever it is, without knowing what is on the other side!” Alicia thought to herself, *I guess I have to follow him. He is going to need my help.* She closed her eyes and followed her brother to who knows where.

**by Charlie Magee** (Grade Five)  
Northmount School  
Toronto, Ontario



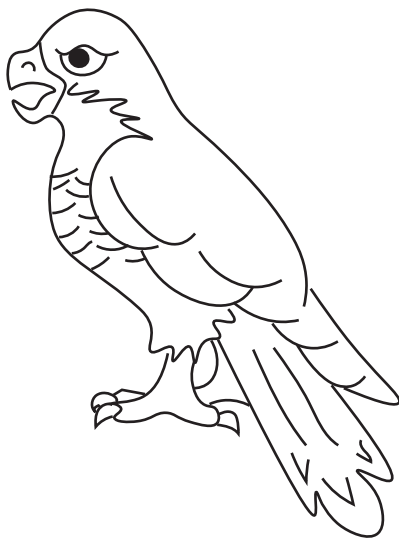
# SECOND PRIZE

## The Three Hawks Got Out

Once upon a time, there was a hawk named Sharpy. He was playing with his friends when a net trapped them. They tried to get out, but they couldn't.

Then, they saw a hawk on a tree. They called him to help, but he was too far away and didn't hear them. Then Sharpy called his friend the red-tailed hawk. His friend tried, but the net was too strong. Then, they all tried together, and they got out.

*by Gavin Ethier* (Kindergarten)  
The Progressive Montessori Academy  
Stouffville, Ontario





# SECOND PRIZE

## The Big Creature

I once met a big, ugly creature. It weighed 100 pounds, and it was 100 feet tall. The creature chased me all around the woods. I ran and ran until I was out of breath. When I got home, it was dark, but the creature was behind me! I got in and locked the door and I was safe. Then the creature somehow disappeared!

The next morning, I didn't want to go outside because I thought the creature was somewhere around my house. I was right! When I went outside, the creature was waiting for me. The creature grabbed me and threw me on the ground. It disappeared again!

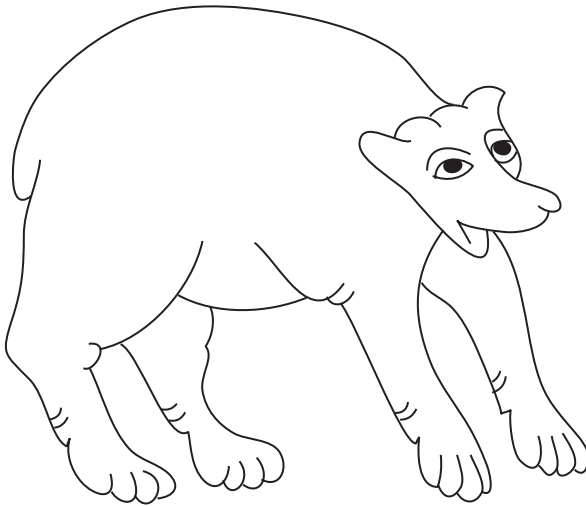
That afternoon, I found many creatures in a cave. I hid beside a rock so the creatures would not see me. All the creatures were eating dead sheep; it was so gross! A creature spotted me and all the creatures were chasing me! I ran as fast as I could and screamed, "Help!"

When I got home, I couldn't see the creatures, but some were in front of me and some were at the back. I screamed, then ran home, slammed the door, and locked it.

When it was time for dinner, I told Mom and Dad about the creatures. They just laughed and said there were no such things as these. It was strange.

The next morning when I woke up, I heard a noise outside. There were little animals and Mom and Dad were feeding them! I said, "What are you doing?" Suddenly, the little animals turned into creatures! Mom and Dad weren't worried one bit. They grabbed ten gigantic boxes and pushed the creatures inside them. They pushed the boxes one by one into the river. The creatures drowned and were never seen again.

*by Shawn Lu* (Grade One)  
Kingslake Public School  
North York, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## Wish for Friends

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Lizzie. She had a sister named Alysha. Alysha was very nice to her sister. She would share things and play. But Lizzie was the opposite, she did not ever want to play with her sister.

One night, Lizzie was in her bed when she heard a knock on the door. It was an elf. She quickly got up and ran to him. There was a paper in his hand. "What is that?" Lizzie asked.

"It is a note for you," he said. He read, "Be nice to your sister and learn to share with her."

"Okay, I will," said Lizzie.

The elf said, "Now, go to bed, because tomorrow you will need to try to be nicer to your sister."

The next day, Lizzie and Alysha got up and went out to their tree house. When they were climbing the tree-house ladder, they found an egg in a nest. Then Alysha ran inside and told her mom, "Mom, there is an egg!"

Her mom told her to get some water and seeds from the cabinet and a box. Then when Alysha came back outside, she and Lizzie carefully took the egg and put it in the box. Then their mom told them it was time for dinner.

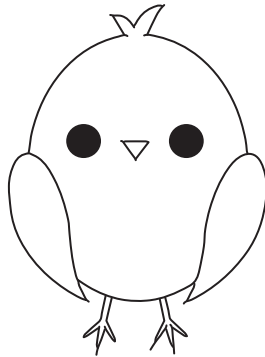
When they were just about to go to bed, they heard a crack. Lizzie ran to get the box. Inside the box was a cute, furry, baby blue bird! Then Lizzie realized that being friends was not so bad.

After the baby bird had hatched completely, Lizzie showed Alysha another surprise; she handed her a card and some flowers.

Alysha read the card. It said, "I'm sorry, let's always be friends and help this bird grow up together."

The sisters became friends forever.

*by Isabella McPhee* (Grade Two)  
Central Montessori School  
Toronto, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## Cubbert the Robot Boy

One night, a little boy named Cubbert was very sick. He lay in bed eating soup that his loving mom came in with. When Dad came in from work, Mom told him the bad news: Cubbert was dying!

Dad reacted immediately and drove Cubbert to the hospital. Luckily, he was good friends with the doctor and they came up with a plan. It was a choice of life or of death. They chose life and got to work.

The doctors put in a robot brain, arms, legs, and eyes. Mom was happy because he was walking and more importantly, living. As long as he had his heart, he was still the Cubbert they loved.

One day, a dark cloud was forming—except it wasn't a cloud. It was an alien spaceship come to attack the world. The only thing that could stop them was a robot! Cubbert knew that it was his chance to save the world!

He flew to their spaceship. The aliens grabbed him and put him in chains. Cubbert threw the chains. Cubbert told the army to distract the aliens while he flew and got the power orb that was hidden in the attic of the spaceship. Then, when Cubbert got the orb, the mega-aliens came out to fight him. This time, a mega-alien put mega-chains around Cubbert, and Cubbert could not move.

The next day when Cubbert woke up, he felt stronger because every day, the orb got stronger. He thought for a minute, and then, he saw a red button and shot it with his laser eyes. The ship exploded! That meant that Cubbert exploded too! Luckily, though, the orb rebuilt Cubbert! Then the ship and the aliens joined together to be stronger. They got inside Cubbert, making him do evil things.

Evil Cubbert now started hurting people, but all the time, the goodness inside him was fighting. The goodness was so strong that it was beating the aliens that were inside him. At last, the aliens went out of him. This left Cubbert weak, but luckily, he was able to still use his powers. He gathered his power of speed to suck up water and spray it at the aliens with great force. This crumpled them to the ground. They knew they were beaten so picked themselves up and flew off into space back to their home planet, Jules. Cubbert became a hero and was famous because of the day he saved the world.

*by Jason Robinson* (Grade Three)  
Northmount School  
Toronto, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## Ocean Blue

I woke up with the wonderful sound of the ocean breeze blowing against the water. I got out of bed, put on my fishing clothes, and headed out for breakfast.

My name is Blue. I am a girl who lives on a fishing boat on the Atlantic Ocean with my parents. They are both fishermen. I grew up on this boat and plan to stay on it for my entire life. You would think living on a fishing boat for all of your life would be an awful experience, but it is actually quite lovely to be gently bobbing up and down in the water with a faint, breezy mist blowing on your face.

I marched down to the kitchen to have breakfast. I was glad to see my parents were already there, laughing and talking happily. I was lucky to have such cheerful parents.

“Hey, Blue! You sure did sleep in this morn, sweetie.”

“Oh, well,” I said, “then we’d better eat some breakfast and start fishin’ for the day.”

We all ate breakfast and headed out onto the deck. I felt happy just sitting there with my fishing rod, listening to the seagulls squawking and the fish splashing.

“Blue, today it won’t be a great fishing day. Look at those dark clouds up ahead! We’re in for a real rough day!” said my dad.

After about thirty minutes, the rain was pouring down on us nonstop, and the waves were knocking us off course. That’s when it happened.

“Blue! Where are you? I can’t see through the rain!” shrieked my mom.

“Mom! Dad! Grab on to something!” The deck was soaked from the rain and so were the rails.

“Help! I’m slipping!” yelled my dad. “Here! Grab my hand!” said my dad.

“I can’t see it! Mom! Dad!” I screamed. I was holding onto the hatch of the bedrooms, far from danger, but my parents were soaked with rain, being thrown around on the deck, just gripping onto the rain-soaked metal railing, barely hanging on.

“Grab my hand!” yelled my dad. My mom reached out and grabbed his hand. Right at that very moment, my dad’s hand slipped off the metal rail, sending them both into the water.

“No!” I screamed. “I love you!” My last words were drowned out from the pouring rain and whirling wind.

I quickly yanked open the hatch and jumped in. Then, I lay down on my wooden bed, skillfully crafted by my dad, who was now way at the bottom of the ocean. I just lay there, wrapped in the blanket my mom had knit, with my eyes closed, thinking about my parents who were now gone and about my lonely future.

*by Olivia Morales* (Grade Four)

Rockcliffe Park Public School

Ottawa, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## The Fire

“You never go back for anything or anyone,” my teacher, Mrs. Petunia, says. She’s teaching the rules in a fire.

I roll my eyes. *I’ve lived ten good years, and she doesn’t expect me to know what to do.* “Mrs. *Pepoonia*, everyone in this class knows what to do in a fire so please move on,” I sigh, exasperated.

Mrs. Petunia glares at me. “Office,” she says icily.

All I can do is obey or get dragged down four flights of stairs. I turn, and suddenly, the bell rings. *Yes*, I think. I snatch my backpack and make a run for it. I burst through the front doors of Eastview Elementary and start heading for home.

I arrive at my house and open the door. “Hi, Mom! Hi, Dad!” I call.

My mom is cooing over my younger brother, Derek. Derek is a geek and a teacher’s pet. He’s 100% *not* me. “Hannah, come eat dinner,” my mom says. My mom enters the kitchen and reaches for the oven.

Suddenly, *boom!* The oven explodes. My cat, Pompoms, leaps off the couch. Sparks fly and smoke billows out. I turn around, jerk open the door, then dash out of the house.

Suddenly, a heavy weight drops on me. I hit the ground and roll over.

My dad is sprawled on the ground beside me. “Sorry, Hannah. I panicked and jumped out the window,” he apologizes. My mom and Derek evacuate too.

Then, I realize something. “Pompoms! Where is he? He must still be in the house!” I exclaim.

I dash back in. Everything is burning. I spy two glowing eyes from upstairs. I leap over a burning chair and run upstairs. I grab my cat and run back down. The door is blocked by a wall of flames. “Okay, Pompoms, I’ll throw you at the cat flap and you have to go through, okay?” I say. He meows in response. I throw Pompoms right at the cat flap and he slips right through.

*What do I do now?* I think. I cough. The smoke is burning my lungs.

Then I remember something that happened to me when I ran out the door earlier. I run back up the stairs and enter the first room I see. I open the window and climb onto the sill. I take a deep breath and jump. I hit the ground hard.

My parents rush towards me and start fussing over me. “Thank goodness you’re safe!” my mom cries.

“I’m okay, Mom,” I reassure her; though I know I nearly died.

Today, I’ve learned a lesson from this calamity: You have to listen to your teacher, even when you don’t want to.

by **Emily Liu** (Grade Five)  
Vincent Massey Public School  
Ottawa, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## The Little Reindeer

Once upon a time, there was a little reindeer. A bear swallowed the reindeer and the reindeer did not care!  
But he had to get out.

The reindeer scratched the bear. A lion came and roared in the bear's ears. A giant crocodile screamed  
in his ear. The bear spit the reindeer out.

The deer found his mom and dad, and they kissed him.

*by Ethan Bettencourt* (Kindergarten)  
Glenn Arbour Academy  
Burlington, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## **Animest West and the Halxy**

Once, there was a girl named Animest. Animest was eight years old. She had yellow, curly hair and five best friends.

One day, there was a tornado. A *halxy* travelled through time in the tornado. He came from the time of the dinosaurs. He looked like a bunny, pig, and sheep. The halxy could jump high, so it would protect him and Animest.

Animest jumped on the halxy so they could get away from the tornado. They went west.

Animest found a dinosaur that had also come in the tornado, and everyone was scared. The halxy jumped so that the dinosaur couldn't catch them, because Animest and the halxy were too high. Because the halxy saved Animest, Animest let the halxy come over to Animest's home for supper.

Even though the halxy didn't know Animest before, the halxy still did a nice thing for Animest. Even if we don't know people, we can do nice things for them, and they will be nice back!

**by Keriana Hodson** (Grade One)  
Bishop Hamilton Montessori School  
Ottawa, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## Winkle and His Fly

Once upon a woods, there was a frog and a fly. Winkle was a green frog. Winkle's fly, Mr. Flutterfly, was born in the deep woods. Winkle was born in an egg under water!

Did you know Winkle's mom did not want Winkle because she did not want to spend the summer with ten babies? Well, to be exact, if she took Winkle, it would be eleven. Winkle started to cry and overflowed the spot he was sitting on! Most people would go and try to find their mommy or daddy, but not Winkle, because he knew he wouldn't find them.

Frogs have one long tongue to catch flies, but Winkle didn't eat them. He kept them for pets.

You may think I am a frog, but nope, I'm not. Guess. . . . If you guessed fly, you're right. Hi, I'm Mr. Flutterfly. I was born in the deep woods by the forest where Winkle was born. There he was, in the water, with horse hay covering the water. Dirt was blowing around the section. We were both waiting for a family to come and save us. We were getting tired and bored, but we never gave up.

It was getting dark, so I had to go for my nightly pollen snack to eat in the pond. When I went in to get the pollen, I saw a shadow of a frog in the water, but I went into the water anyway.

Oh no! I got pushed into Winkle's nose. *Achoo!* Winkle sneezed. Out I came. Winkle hugged me. "Sorry, I sneezed you out," said Winkle.

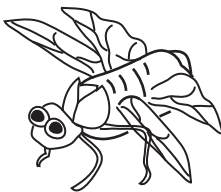
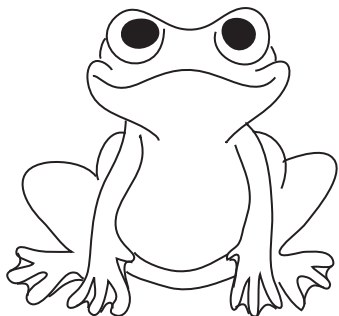
"Hey, you want to be friends?" I said. Winkle agreed that we should be friends!

We lived happily ever after.

by **Peyton Chipp** (Grade Two)

St. Peter's Academy

Westport, Newfoundland





# THIRD PRIZE

## D-Day: The Landing

It was 8:00 a.m. on June 6, 1944, and it was a nice morning in Normandy, France. The water was calm. This was perfect weather for an attack. At 8:30 a.m., D-Day would start.

Arick was one of the commanders of the WWII attack on Omaha Beach. He was a very talented leader. He had successfully commanded Operation Husky in the attack of Italy for Sicily. Arick stood on a stool in landing craft 1.6. He told his troops about what they had planned for the upcoming battle.

“Okay, men, we are going to change the world and make it a better place by defeating the Axis powers!” exclaimed Arick. “Today, think about the battle ahead of us and think positive,” Arick said.

Arick felt very confident for this battle. He thought they would win. He heard the water slapping against the side of the landing craft and the planes soaring overhead. He took a deep breath and smelled the salt water. In fifteen minutes, his landing craft would land on Omaha Beach and the battle would begin.

The sound of the creaking door as it opened startled Arick and his troops. They rushed out and into the water. Immediately, they saw bunkers on the beach, machine gun nests, and cliffs.

“Okay, men, take position behind those anti-tank barricades, and start firing at those bunkers and machine gun nests!” shouted Arick.

They crouched down, crawled to the barricades, and started firing. The machine gun nest had two MG-42s and other machine guns. The bunkers had snipers and rifles. They were all firing at Arick and his troops. Arick was relieved when he looked back to see what was coming behind him: a fleet of landing crafts full of men.

Arick cautiously crawled on his belly towards a boulder in front of a bunker. At the boulder, he turned his back against the rock and thought, *I wonder when the tanks will get here?* He looked around the boulder at the bunkers and machine gun nests. He saw it was all clear. Arick and his troops had destroyed them. Arick climbed up on the rock and called his men, “It’s all clear, men! We’re going into the forest.” Just then, Arick saw the tanks arrive at the beach. They waited for them to drive from the beach to the forest.

On their jog behind the tanks, Arick and his troops saw the MG-42s and the other machine guns lying on the ground, along with the Germans who had been firing at them. As they entered the forest, they were back to firing at the Germans, and Arick wondered, *Am I going to make it through another battle?*

**by Parker Wildeman** (Grade Three)  
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# THIRD PRIZE

## The Magic Rock

One day in the city of Brampton, not so far away there were three girls named Gabby, Syriah, and Marisa. They loved collecting rocks! “Rocks, rocks, rocks, I love rocks,” Marisa sang.

One day, Marisa went on a walk and found a rock. When she got home, she called her friends and yelled, “I found a rock that is blue, green, and purple. Come to my house quickly!”

When Gabby and Syriah got there, they yelled, “So where is it?”

“It’s over here,” Marisa said.

“What is it?”

“I wish I knew.” They went on the computer and searched up “What is a blue, green, and purple rock called?” All it showed were drawings of blue, green, and purple rocks.

Syria said, “This must be one-of-a-kind.”

They walked to where Marisa found the rock. They dug and dug and still found nothing. Then, a man walked by and said, “Where did you get that rock from?”

“I found it!” said Marisa. He grabbed the rock and ran! “Hey, give that back!” they yelled. They ran after him, but he ran into his house and locked the door.

They went back to Marisa’s house and they said, “We have to get that rock back, but how?”

Gabby said, “I know!”

Marisa said, “You can try to distract him while I sneak in his case and get it.”

They rang his doorbell and invited him for lunch. He said, “Hold on, let me grab my case.” He got his case and said, “Let’s go.” They left.

When they got to Tim Horton’s, he set the case down on the table and they started to talk. “So what’s your name?”

“My name is Mr. Caruna.”

“How old are you?”

While they were talking, Gabby said, “So what do you want to order?”

“Get us all hot chocolate and candy-cane doughnuts,” Syriah said.

When she was leaving, she grabbed his case and ran. Mr. Caruna yelled, “That’s my case!”

She said, “Oh . . . is it? I thought it was my purse.”

Marisa said, “Look at the time. We’ve got to go. Bye!” They ran to Marisa’s house and came up with another plan.

“Okay, that plan didn’t work. Plan B: Let’s try to bargain with him!”

They went to his house and said, “I will give you two candles, five books, and one coupon book for McDonald’s.”

Mr. Caruna claimed he didn’t have the rock.

“Plan C: call the police!” When they were at Tim Horton’s, however, he had stolen their cell phones.

Marisa moved to Plan D: “Let’s sneak into his lair!”

It worked. It turned out he was sleeping, so they snuck past him and got the rock.

*by Jaliyah Williamson* (Grade Four)

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# THIRD PRIZE

## Never Trust a Fairy

“*Aaah!*” a scream rang through the house. Eleven-year-old Rebekka raced down the stairs to see what was going on. There, on the counter, sat a goblin. This goblin was grey and small and ugly. You could see huge boogers up its nose and earwax pouring out of its ears. Rebekka raced over to where they kept the kitchen knives and stabbed the goblin through its stomach. The goblin gave one last, long scream and then dissolved. Rebekka then sat down at the kitchen table.

Suddenly, she heard a *whoosh* and a *pop*. She turned around and saw a fairy standing in the kitchen. Not the kind of fairy that you would imagine, like Tinkerbell or something. She was just as tall as a regular human and had long, black, feathery wings draping behind her. Her black gown reached the floor. It had a tank top and the bottom had a covering of lace, which had black roses made of beads floating up the skirt to her knees and then stopping.

She smiled at Rebekka and said, “Please, we need your help. Our land is in great danger.”

Rebekka said, “Okay, I’ll come, but how do I get there?”

The fairy held out her hand and Rebekka took it. Suddenly, a gust of wind blew around them and they began to twirl up.

Rebekka yelled to the fairy, “Oh, by the way, what’s your name?”

“Marya.”

Suddenly, the wind stopped, and she could feel her feet touching the ground. Rebekka looked around her. They were in front of a dark, black castle. Marya handed her a sword and said, “I cannot go in with you. You must fight alone.”

“Why should I?”

“Do not ask questions. It is of big importance and might save the land.” So Rebekka went inside.

Inside the castle was a big, smelly monster. Beside it was what looked like a pile of smelly laundry. The monster growled and ran at Rebekka. Rebekka stood there and slashed with her sword. The monster screamed in agony. It fell to the floor, where Rebekka then finished it off.

She went outside and looked at Marya. “It’s dead.”

Marya then said, “Oh good,” rushed inside, and came out with the pile of laundry. “I was about to run out of underwear!” she said.

“But you said it would save the land!” Rebecca said.

“Honey, I said it might. And besides, never trust a fairy.” She then grabbed Rebekka by the arm and the gust of wind picked up once more.

Rebekka was back at her home and the fairy was gone. All that was left was one smelly sock.

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