

# FIRST PRIZE

## **The Little Ant That Loved Pizza**

THE LITTLE ANT that loved pizza wanted to steal pizza from a young man. The ant was so hungry, and its tummy growled so loud that it almost exploded. The ant made a plan. His tummy growled again, and it almost exploded again.

The ant headed for the nearest house. He snuck under the door and smelled delicious pizza. It smelled as if it were pepperoni and mushroom pizza. Then, the young man opened the door. The ant was so scared that its antennae shivered. The young man walked towards the kitchen, but he yawned and went upstairs to go to bed. The ant ran straight to the pizza, took a whole slice, and ran away with it.

The young man woke up, went downstairs to get the pizza he wanted, but when he sat down, he noticed the pizza was gone. The ant was face to face with the young man; it had to jump under the door. The young man almost stepped on the ant, but the ant ran to the long grass. The young man was so angry that his head almost popped off.

The young man headed straight to his lawnmower to catch up to the ant with his pizza. He mowed the grass and tried to get the ant before it made it to the anthill. He noticed that the ant jumped into the anthill and pulled the pizza in. The young man got sad and rode the lawnmower back home.

The ant sliced its slice into mini pizza, and everyone ate it, but the ant felt bad for stealing the pizza, so the ant brought the leftovers back to the young man.

**by Alex Gordon** (Kindergarten)

Souris School  
Souris, Manitoba

# FIRST PRIZE

## The Giant Who Is Afraid of Children

THERE IS A GIANT, big and strong. He likes to play on the monkey bars and run around the playground. One day, he sees some children on the playground and is afraid to go near them. He runs away, so the children think he is a giant who is afraid of children. They call him that. The giant is very sad and stops going to the playground. He plays in his own house instead.

One day, a little ladybug lands on his arm and asks him why he looks so sad.

“I can’t go to the playground,” the giant says.

“Why not?” the ladybug asks.

“Because the children are there.” The giant shakes his head sadly.

“Let’s go together.” The ladybug flies to the giant’s right shoulder and hops excitedly.

“Let’s do it!” The giant is encouraged and goes with his new friend.

When they get to the playground, they see children playing. The giant is scared and wants to leave, but the ladybug on his shoulder gives him strength. One little girl sees the giant and comes close. The giant starts to run off when he hears the girl ask, “Why are you afraid of us?”

The giant stops. He stands far away. “I don’t have a mask big enough to cover my mouth and nose.”

*by Zara Gaviria* (Grade One)  
Sunshine Hills Elementary School  
Delta, British Columbia

# FIRST PRIZE

## Bazyn the Bison

MY NAME IS BAZYN, and I am a little bison who is seven years old. I have blue eyes, brown fur, and short grey horns.

“Mom, I am hungry!”

“I will go get you some food.”

“Can I come with you?” I asked.

“No, you cannot come with me. Stay with the group,” said Mom.

I was so hungry. Finally, my mom came back with my favourite, special sedge grass. I was so glad. My tail flicked back and forth because that meant I was glad. We all ate the yummy food.

Then a group of three grey wolves came.

“Go over by the rocks!” said Daddy.

My little sister, Liira, said, “I’m scared!” Her tail was straight up in the air. That meant she was very scared.

“It’s okay, Liira,” I said in a quiet voice. “Mommy and Daddy will protect us.”

Mommy put her big head down and charged at the wolves. Daddy stomped his gigantic feet and that made a *boom-boom-boom* sound. The three wolves ran away really fast.

Daddy said, “You can come out. The wolves left. I will go find more sedge grass.”

“Can we come with you?” Liira and I asked.

“Yes!” said Daddy.

We walked for a while and came to a big river. There was sedge grass on the other side. Bison are good swimmers, but Daddy told us to stay on shore. He swam across, and he was getting the sedge grass.

Liira didn’t listen to Daddy. She went in the water and floated away!

I swam after her to save her. We floated far away from Daddy.

We finally got to the shore, but Daddy was far away. Then we saw the three wolves again.

We ran and ran, and finally, we stopped. I didn’t know what to do.

“Bazyn, I’m scared!” said my sister, Liira. My tail was straight up in the air, but that also means that a bison is mad. I was mad because the wolves were frightening my little sister.

I thought, and I thought. Then I had an idea. “I will distract the wolves, and you go hide!”

Liira ran and hid.

“Hey, wolves! Come and get me!” I shouted. I did the same thing I saw Mommy and Daddy do before. I put my little head down and charged at the wolves. Then I stomped my small feet, and that made a *boom-boom-boom* sound. The wolves ran away!

And Daddy saw us and ran to us. And Daddy had the sedge grass, and we went to Mommy and told Mommy about our adventure. Then we had our yummy sedge grass.

*by Meadow Smid* (Grade Two)

Western Québec Virtual Academy

Wakefield, Québec

# FIRST PRIZE

## The Sad-Then-Happy Raccoon

ONCE UPON A TIME, a soaring bird was flying. His name was Niko. Niko was an eagle. Niko loved to fly with his parents.

One day when Niko was flying with his parents, he saw a raccoon crying. Niko flew down and said, "Why are you crying?"

The raccoon said, "I'm crying because I'm jealous of you birds. You get to fly, and I have to walk all over."

Niko said, "Tomorrow, meet me here at five o'clock, and I will take you for a ride in the sky for one hour. Will that be enough?" The raccoon stopped crying, and his smile was so big Niko knew he did a good thing.

The next day, Niko met the raccoon at five o'clock and found the raccoon next to the tree he told him to be at. Niko walked up to the raccoon and said, "Are you ready?"

The raccoon said, "Yes!"

Niko said, "But first, can I ask you what your name is?"

The raccoon said, "Yes. My name is Jeffrey."

"Thank you," said Niko. "Now, let's go," said Niko.

Jeffrey jumped on Niko and said, "Let's roll." Niko leapt off the ground and started to flap his wings in the air.

When they were high up in the air, Jeffrey said, "This is *sooo* fun. I have never been so high up before."

When an hour passed, Niko flew Jeffrey down to the ground once again and said, "We should do this again."

Jeffrey walked home as Niko flew home. And in the end, the raccoon was happy.

*by Julia Catauro* (Grade Three)

Sandwich West Public School

LaSalle, Ontario

# FIRST PRIZE

## Underwater

“COME ON, JULIA, wake up. We are going to be late for swimming lessons!” Mom yelled.

“Can we just cancel it?” Julia said in a grumpy voice.

“What could be so bad? Now come out of bed,” Mom replied.

So, Julia got out of bed, packed her swimsuit in her bag, went downstairs, quickly ate her breakfast, and got in the car.

“Oh, come on!” Mom cried because there was so much traffic. Julia was happy there was traffic because she was afraid of underwater swimming, today’s lesson.

“COME OVER HERE, JULIA?” the swimming instructor yelled. Julia ran to her instructor, and she had butterflies in her stomach. The instructor said, “Let’s start with underwater swimming. Kim, you will go first followed by Julia.” Julia was about to cry, but she held it in. She hated underwater swimming. So, Kim went to do his underwater swim.

In the meantime, Julia ran back to her mom. Her mom said, “What’s the matter, dear?”

Julia answered, “I can’t do it.”

Her mom said, “Yes, you can, dear, you are such a good swimmer.”

So, Julia ran back, and she got into the pool and said to herself, “I can’t do this. I’m too afraid.” Then she saw someone drowning, and the lifeguard was busy on his phone while eating his sandwich. Julia didn’t know what to do. She tried shouting for help, but no noise came from her mouth. She waved her hands in the air to get the lifeguard’s attention, but he thought she was waving at him, so he just waved back. Julia was so scared and panicking about the little boy. So, she acted fast to save the drowning boy as the swimming instructor was busy talking to another parent.

Julia said in her head, *I can do this!* So, she took a deep breath and dived into the water. Swimming underwater, she got there as fast as she could to save the young boy. Julia grabbed the boy and swam to the edge of the pool.

Julia’s mom rushed over and said, “What’s going on over there?” The swimming instructor ran over and dragged the boy and Julia out of the water.

“Well done, Julia. I can’t believe you just saved that young boy’s life. Thank you so much,” said the swimming instructor. “Julia, you just can skip to level eight and learn how to become a lifeguard!” he said with a big smile.

They called 9-1-1. An ambulance took the boy to the hospital to make sure he was okay. The boy’s mom thanked Julia, with tears coming down her face. Julia’s mom was so proud of her little girl. Julia had tears of joy as well.

**by Aaira Anfus** (Grade Four)

Terry Fox Public School

Brampton, Ontario

# SECOND PRIZE

## The Magical Orca

ONCE UPON A TIME, there was a boy named Nikhil who lived in a beach house. One day, he was looking out his window and saw something wash up on the beach, and he didn't know what it was. Nikhil ran outside to see.

It was a big orca! He went closer to the orca and touched it. The orca started to talk. He said, "Hi, my name is Jay, and I am a magical orca. I can fly, talk, and make people breathe underwater." Then Jay told Nikhil he needed help. His mom was stuck in a fishing net. Nikhil said he would help.

Jay said, "If you touch the diamond between my eyes, I can share my powers with you. I can make you breathe underwater." Nikhil was so excited, and he touched it. Then the orca put Nikhil on his back and led him to his trapped mom.

Nikhil worked hard to untie her. Jay's mom was finally free. Everyone was so happy. On the way back to shore, Nikhil met Jay's family and some other sea creatures, and he saw a sunken ship.

When they got back to shore, Nikhil asked Jay how he could see him again. The orca said, "Take this crystal as a gift. It has powers. All you have to do is rub it when you want to see me." Nikhil was so happy and excited!

Jay became his best friend forever. Each time he wanted to go on an adventure, he knew he could call the orca.

*by Nikhil Munjee* (Kindergarten)

Sidney Ledson Institute

North York, Ontario

# SECOND PRIZE

## **Don't Be Afraid**

ONCE UPON A TIME, there was a little bear that lived in the woods. His name was Grizzly. He was short with brown fur and had long claws. He lived alone, but he wished he had a friend.

One day, Grizzly was sleeping, and a little tiger came and roared. It scared Grizzly, and he got up and roared back. The tiger ran away, and Grizzly yelled, "Wait! I want to talk to you! Why did you roar?"

The tiger said, "Because you don't have stripes like me."

Grizzly said, "I don't have stripes, but do you want to be friends?"

The tiger said, "Yes. My name is Kai."

Grizzly was super happy. They went to play hide-and-seek.

**by Jaylen Bhayani** (Grade One)

Sidney Ledson Institute

North York, Ontario

# SECOND PRIZE

## The Wolf Pack Looks for a Leader

A LONG TIME AGO, there were wolves howling in the night. They were worried because they never had a leader. Time went by, and they had no luck.

One day, one wolf said, "I will be the one to lead." But the wolf pack disagreed. Everyone wanted to be a leader, so they decided to go and look for the leader outside their pack.

On the other side of the forest, there was a monster town. The wolves hoped to find a leader there.

At first, they had no luck, but finally, they spotted someone who could be a good leader. It was a beautiful girl with hazel eyes.

Every night, the girl went for a long walk. The wolves followed the girl on one of her walks. They could not believe it when they saw she turned into a witch. *Poof!* She was gone! *A witch can't be our leader*, they thought.

No one knew where she went, but one wolf named Kai noticed her hiding behind a tree. "You are a good witch!" he told her.

"I'm a good witch student!" she corrected him.

"Do you mean you go to a witch school?" he asked.

"I sure do!" replied the witch. "Do you need any help?" she asked.

"No, I think we are okay," said Kai.

"Okay, then I will go back to witch school now," said the witch. "You can come and visit. You can also be my spirit. All witches have a spirit."

As time went by, Kai visited the witch in her school. He became friends with the witch and agreed to become her spirit.

But the other wolves still had no luck finding their leader. "I think we should split up," Kai said to the other wolves. "I think I found my own leader."

"Okay, let's split up," agreed the others, but they never saw one another again.

Kai made his home in the faraway part of the forest. A few others joined him, but today, we don't call them wolves. They are spirits. Normal wolves howl to the moon, to call their ancestors. No one has seen the spirits today. But their souls live on today. At night, you may even see their grandchildren.

*by Chloe Zou* (Grade Two)

Central Montessori School

North York, Ontario

# SECOND PRIZE

## Ice Age

ONE DAY, I was walking along the street humming to myself. Suddenly, I walked into a hidden trapdoor. I closed my eyes and screamed for my life as I felt myself being sucked into a time portal. Then I landed with a *bang!* Just as I stood up, I heard cracking. Was it an earthquake? No, I'd actually landed on ice.

When I looked around, I saw a few things. There were rocks, ice, snow, and a group of mammoths. It was only then I realized that I was in the Ice Age. I didn't know what to do. Thankfully, a tribe invited me to join them, and I hopped onto their sled.

*Whoosh!* In a few minutes, I was in their cave. As I ate the food, I realized that I was eating mammoth meat. It was like a barbecue except the food and tools were different. They put stone on the fire as the grill and attached a stick to a seashell as a fork.

The next day when I woke up, the tribe women started collecting berries, and the men were sharpening spears. I didn't know what to do, so I took some berries and decided to eat them. The berries were delicious. The next thing on the list was the hardest part. It was hunting mammoths.

The tribe gave me a bow and arrow to fight, so it was definitely easier than using bare hands. I managed to strike the mammoth three times. In the end, we won, and we took our prize back. We also managed to steal some delicious bird eggs.

Finally, it was dinnertime. Dinner was always the best as the women always saved the best food for dinner and you could play games and make jokes. That night, we ate the mammoth meat, berries, and fried bird eggs. It was a scrumptious meal. After dinner, we played games like "catch the egg" and "make the biggest snowball." The funniest thing was the jokes. The jokes were so funny that everyone laughed till they couldn't laugh anymore.

That night when I got into my tent, there was a time portal waiting for me again. I walked in, and this time, instead of screaming, I wondered what other adventures I would get.

*Whoosh!*

**by Alan Wen** (Grade Three)

Fred Varley Public School

Markham, Ontario

# SECOND PRIZE

## Cupcake's Adventure

ONE DAY, a unicorn named Cupcake and her best friend, Lavender the Pegasus, were walking to Cupcake's for a sleepover. A dragon was walking in the same direction. They both stopped dead in their tracks. "He must be going to my mom's hotel," said Cupcake.

"You're right," Lavender said.

"Just think, another dragon in Heartwood," Cupcake exhaled. "Last time there was a dragon here, my mom's tail caught fire!"

They followed the dragon all the way home. As the dragon stepped inside the hotel, everyone scattered. Cupcake's mom pretended to be busy, and Lavender disappeared. The dragon was left alone, staring at an empty desk. Cupcake felt bad for the dragon.

She bravely walked up to him and said, "Hi, I'm Cupcake. Can I check you in?"

"Okay," the dragon smiled. "My name is Fireworks," Fireworks said, still smiling.

"Here are the keys to your room." Cupcake extended a hoof with a glittering set of crimson keys.

"I can take you to your room," offered Lavender as she reappeared.

"Sure," replied Fireworks. "Thanks!"

As Lavender walked Fireworks to his room, Ms. Shimmer, Cupcake's mom, whispered to her, "A dragon staying at my hotel! Can you believe it, Cupcake?" Ms. Shimmer was not pleased. "We'll have no one left by sunset tomorrow!"

Her mother was interrupted with a gentle tap on the back. "Excuse me, but my room is a mess," Fireworks said.

"What?" exclaimed Cupcake. "Who would do something like that?"

"Maybe Golden the griffin?" said Lavender timidly. "He was eyeing us suspiciously as we walked to the room."

"He is our number-one suspect," said Cupcake. She had read many mystery books and knew many things about mysteries. "Did you see anything while you were waiting outside the room, Lavender?"

"Only Golden," the Pegasus replied.

"We can interview him first then," Cupcake declared. So, they hurried off to his room.

"I did not, did not, did not," Golden said. "Now, if you will excuse me, I need to finish my coffee." And with that, he slammed the door.

"He is *definitely* our number-one suspect," Lavender declared.

*Suspicious*, Cupcake thought, *Lavender seemed so sure*. "Let's go to sleep and figure this out tomorrow," Cupcake said, yawning. Cupcake and Lavender started to walk towards her bedroom.

"Did you ruin Firework's room?" Cupcake asked Lavender sadly.

"I did. I thought it would make him leave. And the town would be safe again," Lavender explained.

"He's a very gentle dragon. You should apologize and help clean up his room," Cupcake said.

"You're right," replied Lavender, smiling.

When they arrived at Firework's room, he accepted the apology. "Thanks for telling the truth, Lavender," Fireworks said, smiling. He was going to enjoy his stay.

**by Leah Butler** (Grade Four)

Riverside Elementary School

Clareville, Newfoundland and Labrador

# THIRD PRIZE

## Gig's Magic Puppy

IT WAS GIG'S BIRTHDAY! One of Gig's friends gave him a puppy. Gig yelled, "A puppy!" His mom came rushing over to see the puppy. It was an actual puppy!

On Sunday, when Gig was folding his laundry, he asked his puppy if it could help him fold his laundry. The puppy went *woof* (that means yes), and it did Gig's laundry in one second.

"Whaaa!" Gig yelled.

"Anyone hurt?" yelled Gig's mom.

"I just did my laundry, and it was so quick, that's all," answered Gig.

On Thursday, when Gig was moving a mirror downstairs, Gig couldn't lift the mirror. So, he asked his puppy, and the puppy went *woof*. The puppy lifted the mirror with one paw!

"Ahh!" yelled Gig.

"What's wrong?" asked Gig's mom.

"Well, I lifted the mirror, and I got it downstairs so quick, that's all," said Gig.

"I thought that mirror was too heavy," said Gig's dad. "I guess it's not."

On Wednesday, when Gig was going to the toy store, the puppy talked human! "I'm a magic puppy," said the puppy.

"Ahhh!" yelled Gig.

"It's a secret!" said the puppy.

"Phew, that's good because I was keeping it a secret this whole time," Gig said.

When Gig was at the toy store, he got a Lego set. Not just any Lego set . . . it was a puppy Lego set!

*by Elliott Aspinall* (Kindergarten)

Lakeshore Discovery School

Emeryville, Ontario

# THIRD PRIZE

## Beetle Adventure

ONCE, THERE LIVED A BEETLE with his family. Their old house got broken, so his family went looking for a new one.

One day, while they were searching, the little beetle fell into a hole. The hole wasn't deep. It was shallow—shallow enough that it hid four tunnels.

The little guy found the perfect home, so the family hopped in. Day after day, they had fun. They ate berries that they liked. The berries were yummy for insects.

One day, the beetle family was talking. The beetle went to his room and opened a drawer. In the drawer was a safe. He wanted to open the safe, so he asked his parents if they knew the code. They didn't. Then he asked his sister, but she also didn't know. So, they looked around.

Then they saw a box. They opened the box, and there were numbers on a puzzle inside. After they put together the puzzle, they got the code to the safe. They got the safe and used the code. In the safe was a key and a treasure map. The Beetle family followed the map.

When they got to the mountain, rocks fell on them, but they were okay because they had strong shells. Then they got to the cave. A bear jumped out of the cave, so the Beetle family ran away. When they got to the pond, a frog jumped out of the pond to say hello.

Then they got to the treasure chest. They opened it with the key. The treasure was coins and gems. The gems were gummies, and the coins were chocolate. They ate some and put the rest in a bag and went home.

When they got home, they ate their dinner and went to sleep.

*by Kenneth Omoto* (Grade One)

Sidney Ledson Institute

North York, Ontario

# THIRD PRIZE

## The Great Game

RICK BOLTS IS A KID. He plays hockey a lot! He even has a rink in his backyard. It's as big as his whole backyard. They have been making a rink for years.

This year, Rick had to make the rink himself because his dad, Jimmy, stubbed his toe on Rick's sister's toys. So, Rick used his dad's money to buy four long pieces of wood. And got metal stuff. He did the sides, but he couldn't flood it because that day the temperature was minus thirty and all the pipes were frozen.

He got so mad and did a huge slapshot—maybe to this day, the hardest slapshot that has been taken ever. The slapshot flew like a rocket one hundred feet down his street and hit a fire hydrant. It made a loud *bang*, and the hydrant exploded! Water came flying out one hundred feet back towards Rick's house and was running directly into the rink.

The firefighters came to see what was happening. . . . And because it was minus thirty, it was already perfectly smooth and frozen, so the firefighters played a three-on-three game. This was known as the "Great Game."

After, he felt good and drank a hot chocolate.

*by Wyatt Gagnon* (Grade Two)  
Franklin Public School  
Kitchener, Ontario

# THIRD PRIZE

## **A Wolf in a Fire**

ONCE UPON A TIME, there was a wolf named Nukka. Nukka lived in the forest with her mom. Nukka is only seven months old!

One morning, Mom woke up startling Nukka out of her sleep. “Where are you going?” Nukka asked.

“Hunting,” Mom said.

“Can I come?” Nukka said.

“Sure,” Mom said.

“Yay!” Nukka jumped up and down excitedly. “My first hunting trip. Hurray!” she said.

One hour later, they found a field of wild turkeys. Nukka leapt out, spooking the turkeys away. But just in time, Nukka’s mom jumped out to pin down one of the turkeys.

That night, Nukka woke up, careful not to wake up her mom. She pawed out of her cave. Nukka wanted to go hunting by herself.

She ran down the slope to where they’d found the turkey earlier that day. Then she spotted the turkey, but before she could pounce, she sniffed the air and smelled smoke. She could sense the heat; it was nearby. She ran back to her cave.

“Wake up, Mom, it’s a fire. Can you smell it?”

Mom sniffed the air. “Yes, I can.”

They ran down the slope. Then they came to a valley. The fire was slowing down, so they stopped to catch their breath. Storm clouds started to cover the moon. “Maybe it’ll rain,” Mom said. And at that moment, it started to rain.

After the fire was out, Nukka and her mom walked back through the charred black forest. “In a few years, the forest will grow back.”

Two years later, it had grown back, and Nukka lived a happy life in the forest with her mom.

*by Kora Ammerlaan* (Grade Three)

Brentwood Elementary School

Brentwood Bay, British Columbia

# THIRD PRIZE

## The Penguin That Flies

ONCE, THERE WAS A PENGUIN with a big heart named Ivan. He wanted to fly, but he was too stubby, and his wings were too small. His mom and dad said, “You can’t fly because we are penguins, and penguins can fish but not fly.” So, Ivan went to bed thinking that he would never fly.

When he closed his eyes, he saw flying penguins and had an idea to steal the human potion to make him fly. He saw a big human boat and looked into a tiny circle window and saw a science lab. He waddled to the lab where a potion was glowing.

Suddenly, there was a big *bang* that woke him from his dream.

“Ouch,” he said and fell off his bed of ice and snow. But, sadly, Ivan still couldn’t fly.

He walked into the kitchen with a disappointed face, and his mom said, “Hi, honey. That noise that woke you was this metal thing called a discovery boat. It’s where scientific experiments happen.”

Ivan was surprised. “I have to go to Jeb’s house to play,” said Ivan, making an excuse. He thought that the boat may have something on it that would make him fly. He grabbed his helmet and hopped on his bike made from ice, which only wealthy penguins had, and he rode on the icy road. His city was just like yours, except it’s all ice—cars were ice, homes were ice, even the newspaper was made of ice.

When he got to the discovery boat, he saw that his friend Jeb was there too. “What are you doing here? What are those fleshy things?” Ivan asked.

Jeb said, “I think they’re humans.”

“Let’s sneak in,” said Jeb.

“Wow, it’s so cool inside! What’s this?” yelled Ivan.

Then they heard, “Ha-ha . . . I got you in my net! Captain, set course to the planet.”

“Yes, sir.”

“You two will look great in the San Diego Zoo,” said the human.

Jeb didn’t want to live in the zoo, especially in San Diego where it’s so hot. Then the plane went up into the sky with Jeb and Ivan in it.

“What’s that?” asked Ivan, looking at a label on a box that said, “Parachutes.”

“I’ve seen these before. You jump and you glide,” said Jeb. “Let’s grab one.”

Ivan picked the lock with his beak and grabbed a parachute. “Okay, I’ve got mine.”

“Me too. Now jump!” shouted Jeb.

“I’m flying! I can fly! I see home!” yelled Ivan.

The two penguins slowly floated down and down, and when their feet touched the snow, Ivan ran home, hugged his mom, and went to his ice bed, dreaming of how his wish came true.

**by Beckett Redekop** (Grade Four)

Murrayville Academy

Langley, British Columbia