

FIRST PRIZE

The Owls

ONE DAY, two owl friends went on a road trip.

On the trip, they came across a witch. The witch was mean and wanted to catch them. They ran away, but the witch followed them home.

She kept knocking on the door for them to open it. The owls were scared, but then they had an idea.

They opened the door and gave the witch ice cream. The witch loved ice cream and became their friend.

by Zaneta Fung (Kindergarten)
The Progressive Montessori Academy
Stouffville, Ontario

FIRST PRIZE

The Adventures of Super Robot

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, in a city called Robotburg, there was a robot called Super Robot. He was the most super robot in the world. He was super! He was also magical and had extraordinary hearing.

One day, he heard something on his robot tower. He discovered it was Slime Monster. So, he flew to save the citizens of Robotburg.

On another day what happened was Slime Monster was throwing people out of the windows of a building. Super Robot came to save the day. He picked up people out of the sky as they were falling to the ground, and then he tried to stop Slime Monster with simple soap and water. He doused Slime Monster with sudsy water, and it worked because once Slime Monster was sudsy, then he wasn't slimy anymore.

Super Robot saved the day! He saved the citizens and caught them from falling to the ground. Simple soap and water took all the slime off Slime Monster, and so Slime Monster disappeared into the bubbles of sudsy water and was never ever seen again!

by William Overgaard (Grade 1)
Bannockburn School
North York, Ontario

FIRST PRIZE

The First Hacker Girl Who Went to Space

THE NAME OF THE GIRL was Marie. She loved coding, reading, and learning. Her teachers helped a lot with practically everything, and she was really smart.

One day, she wanted to go to space to a different planet, but how was she going to get there? Then, she had an idea. She was going to build a rocket ship because she was smart. It was going to be big, and she went straight to work.

She built the rocket in fourteen days. The rocket would be ready to blast off on November 2nd. She couldn't wait.

It was finally November 2nd. She blasted off at six o'clock in the morning. She was at the moon at eight o'clock at night. She was so excited. Marie was so proud of herself.

FIVE WEEKS LATER . . .

Since Marie had already gotten this far, she decided to go to Mars. Marie was going to be the first person to go to Mars, but it was not going to take long because she already had a rocket. It took her ten days to get there. She only went there because she had heard that there was water there.

Two weeks after she got there, she met some aliens, but they weren't the nasty kind; they were the nice aliens. When she first met the aliens, she was scared. She said, "Who are you? Are you mean?"

The aliens said, "No."

Marie was so happy. That meant she could be friends with the aliens! So, they became friends! They found ice there.

Marie decided to bring the aliens to Earth. It took them twenty days.

THREE WEEKS LATER . . .

Marie was an eight-year-old celebrity! She was on the news that night! And the aliens, they heard that there was a treasure chest in a spooky cave with bats. So, they decided to go to the cave.

It took them a few hours. The cave was dark, really dark. Once they got deeper into the cave, they saw crystals. The crystals lit up their way. They were like the northern lights! It was so cool, it was like the lights at Mars.

All of a sudden, they found a glowing spot far away. They got so excited. It was the treasure chest! But it was *sooo* far away, but they weren't the only ones trying to get to the treasure chest; there were the bad guys from TV. They *looved* treasure, but the bad guys weren't getting it this time. Marie and the aliens were!

They ran there. The bad guys were *sooo* slow, so Marie and the aliens got the treasure! What could it be? It could be anything!

by Azra Kenar (Grade 2)

Jeanne Sauv  French Immersion Public School
London, Ontario

FIRST PRIZE

The Great Helon Adventure

IN THE DARKNESS OF SPACE, in the interplanetary solar galaxy named Trilon, there was a planet named Hexon. On a vast surface of this planet, there was a city called Helon. In this faraway city, there was a boy named Alex. Alex liked to play with his friends Jonny and Fred. They liked to play solar tag and do tricks on their hoverboards.

One day, they were playing solar tag. All of a sudden, they heard a roar. When they turned around, they saw an astral tiger. These astral tigers were quite rare here in Helon. They were usually on Mount Genon, where there was one of the most obvious cobalt mines in the whole galaxy. Unfortunately, something was wrong, and the tiger looked hurt.

“There!” Alex shouted. It had a *felunia* thorn in its paw.

Suddenly, Fred had an idea. He said, “Let’s use these metal tweezers to pull it out.”

“Hurry up,” said the boys.

They immediately pulled out the thorn and rushed to clean and bandage the puncture. “Hurray!” the boys shouted when they saw the tiger got up and was happy again.

In a few minutes, they heard a rumble. They looked up to the tropics and couldn’t believe their eyes. A solar tsunami was heading straight for them. They ran, panicking, and warned others along the way.

Everyone in the city ran with Alex, Jonny, Fred, and the tiger to the bunker sheltering facility.

In the bunker, they had a party to pass the time. The party was in the bunker pool. They had twelve hours of fun in the pool and five hours of sleep, from three a.m. to eight a.m.

When everyone woke up, they decided to stay in the bunker forever. They were afraid that wherever a solar tsunami strikes, it would make the place uninhabitable. The only escape for the people of Helon would then be to go underground.

When they realized that, the people of Helon built an underground civilization. In their civilization, there were streets, buildings, schools, and malls. Jonny, Alex, and Fred decided to keep the astral tiger as a pet and named him Blitz. Blitz played with the boys. The boys rode Blitz every day, and Blitz was happy to play with the boys and stay safe, as they knew a solar tsunami would not reach them.

by **John Paul Cesnik** (Grade 3)

Central Montessori School
North York, Ontario

FIRST PRIZE

Little Robin

IT WAS THE FIRST DAY of flying academy, and Robin couldn't wait. As soon as the sun rose, Robin dashed to meet his teacher, Fluttering. She was a bright, energetic bird, with pale blue feathers. Robin leapt down to her and smiled.

The first lesson was exercising Robin's tiny wings. While Fluttering held Robin between her beak, Robin fluttered his little wings. Every now and then, Fluttering let go to see if he stayed up. Of course, he never did.

"I'll never do this!" Robin chirped angrily.

Fluttering shook her head. "It's your first day. Try harder."

Robin nodded and continued his practice.

Day after day, Robin returned to keep practising, but he never stayed up, even for a little bit. Finally, Robin quit. "I can't do this!" He walked away, feeling sad and angry.

The next day, Fluttering went to get Robin. When she looked inside his nest, he wasn't there. Fluttering looked around and was clearly disappointed. Suddenly, Fluttering heard a small *chirp*.

"Fluttering, what are you doing here?" The small sad bird lowered his head.

"Oh, Robin, come with me!" She ran across the grass. Robin followed her, his head still low. "I know how to strengthen your wings," Fluttering called.

As they approached a small yet tall pine, Robin gulped. Fluttering snapped her beak gently against Robin's feathers, and they flew up. As they landed, Fluttering leapt down to the ground and chirped, "Jump! And flutter your wings. I'll catch you."

Robin slowly peeked around the edges. *I can do this, I can do this*, and he leapt. He fluttered his wings as hard as he could. Robin felt himself falling and falling. . . .

ROBIN BLINKED as he slowly lifted his head. He sat up and felt a tremble pass through his body.

"Fluttering, what happened?"

"Oh, Robin! It's a long story. You fell, but I didn't catch you, and you got hurt."

Robin's eyes widened. "Now, I'll never fly again!" Robin fluttered his wings weakly.

It had been three days, and Robin was feeling much better. *I'll go for a walk*. As he stood up, he heard a hiss. It was a snake! Robin ran as fast as he could to a tree. Then, without thinking, he climbed to the top. As he ran, the snake chased, even up the tree. Robin's heart pounded. Without thinking, he leapt off and fluttered his wings hard. *I still haven't touched the ground. I'm flying!* Robin slowly landed, filled with joy.

"Fluttering! I flew!" Robin smiled. He knew he could do it. Totally.

by Sophia Wang (Grade 4)
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Oakville, Ontario

SECOND PRIZE

Happy Friends

ONCE UPON A TIME, there was a rabbit trying to get a new friend. She saw a unicorn.

The rabbit said, "Can I be your friend?"

The unicorn said, "Yes, you can."

The rabbit hopped on the unicorn. They flew into space.

They saw Saturn. They went on its ring. They flew back on land.

They saw a café. They went in the café. They ordered two cheesecakes and two coffees. They went home together.

by Viviksha Prasanna (Kindergarten)

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SECOND PRIZE

Haunted Mansion

ONCE UPON A TIME, far, far away, there was a haunted house. The haunted house was owned by a spooky ghost and a big bloodthirsty vampire.

One day, on a full moon, a zombie went inside the dark old house in the forest. When the zombie arrived at the house, the doors swung open before him. He saw spider webs on the ceiling. There were broken lights and bats hanging upside down from the door. He thought he heard someone laugh. The zombie was a little bit nervous, but he believed that the house was not haunted.

After the zombie entered the house, he went to a room with a bed, and he believed it was the only room with a bed. After that, he went to the dining room because he was hungry. But he felt that something was wrong because the eyes in the pictures were moving and the doors to the dining room were also moving.

After the zombie ate his dinner, he went back to the room with the bed and saw that it was hanging upside down. Suddenly, the zombie realized that the house was haunted! But the zombie was a little bit happy, because when he peeked behind the bed, there were other zombies!

The zombie said to the zombies behind the bed, "Are you playing hide-and-seek? Can I join you?"

They said, "Of course!"

Then, the zombie realized he found the perfect house! He finally had zombie friends to play and chat with.

by Brandon Yang (Grade 1)
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SECOND PRIZE

The Stolen Gem

ONCE UPON A TIME, there was a hedgehog named Hedgie. He had a friend named Velvet. They liked to jump in holes, bounce on bouncy castles, and go for walks in the forest.

One day when they were walking in the forest, they saw an unusual-looking big tree. Velvet remembered that his archenemy, Evel, lived in an unusual tree. They decided to inspect the tree, and they found a ladder that went down under the ground.

They climbed down the ladder and entered a big room that had a bunch of pictures of Evel. Hedgie pushed on one of the pictures, and it went up. They found a secret entrance.

When they looked through the entrance, they saw Evel with a stolen gem. Velvet and Hedgie had to act fast.

They ran after Evel, but he escaped into a submarine. Velvet said to Hedgie, “How will we stop him?”

Hedgie said, “Since we are secret agents, I brought a grappling hook.”

They shot the grappling hook, and it connected to the side of the submarine. They held on to the grappling hook and were pulled behind the submarine.

Luckily, the submarine hit a beach. Velvet and Hedgie ran to the submarine and opened the hatch. They jumped inside and found the gem, but there was no Evel. Evel escaped once again!

by Dax Ducharme (Grade 2)

Westmont Montessori School

Victoria, British Columbia

SECOND PRIZE

Jonny the Beaver

ONCE UPON A TIME, in a quiet lakeside neighbourhood, there was a granny and her grandchildren living in a house with a beautiful backyard. There was a naughty beaver named Jonny. Jonny had a cozy lodge near Lake Simcoe; however, he had a little problem with the backyard of Granny's house.

He didn't know why Granny and her grandchildren chased him away when he was chopping the trees in the backyard. He thought they should thank him for his beaver skills. He felt upset and wanted to teach them a lesson. He thought and thought, then he got an idea.

When the granny and the grandchildren were asleep, Jonny approached Granny's backyard. He chose a tall, beautiful tree. *Chop, chop, chop.* Jonny chopped with his orange teeth, then that tree got chopped down.

The next morning, the granny and the grandchildren woke up and tried to find the missing tree. When they approached the lake, they were surprised to see the missing tree in the lake. Then, they saw Jonny swim over. He seemed to say, *That's what you get when you mess with Jonny the Beaver.* But instead of being upset, the granny and the grandchildren laughed because they thought the situation was too funny.

A week later, Jonny visited Granny's backyard again. He found the family was no longer chasing him. So, Granny and the grandchildren shared the backyard with Jonny the Beaver peacefully ever after.

by Jayden Chen (Grade 3)

Northmount School
Toronto, Ontario

SECOND PRIZE

Things You Thought Were Real

ONCE UPON A TIME, in a place unlike our own, lived a creature whose heart was filled with light. She looked innocent and sweet with her cat-like features—that was until you noticed dragon scales on her face, dragon wings on her back, and a crystal unicorn horn on her forehead. Most everyone who saw her turned to walk away. She was feared, misunderstood, and bullied for her appearance.

Everyone in this kingdom thought Lily was some kind of freak. You would often find Lily sitting alone atop a tall redwood, staring over the mystical forest she called home. It was for this reason Lily was the first to see The Darkening coming. At first, she didn't believe her eyes; she had only read about them in scrolls. But there was no mistaking them as they started blocking the Sun.

Lily had to act, and she knew exactly which spell she'd have to use. She wasn't sure what would happen to her if she showed everyone her real powers? One thing was certain, if she didn't act soon, they would all surely die. Lily closed her eyes, concentrated on the light in her heart, and began to chant, "I forgive you and ask the magic of the Universe to send love and light to you."

Her crystal horn started shooting a beacon of light into the sky. Lily didn't notice the crowd gathering below. Some were pointing at her while others screamed in horror seeing how The Darkening consumed the sky. Despite her efforts, Lily's spell wasn't working. But she did not give up; she couldn't. Besides, there was nothing left to lose.

As everyone saw her beacon, they began to chant with Lily. This amplified her spell, and her horn began creating more light beams until it shone like a star. Light started overtaking The Darkening, and soon, it was forced to retreat into the shadows from where it came. Then, it became very quiet. The light of Lily's horn was replaced with the brightness of the Sun.

Lily slowly opened her eyes and saw that everyone was staring at her. She knelt with her head under her wing and prepared for the usual mean comments. She was sure that once they saw her magic and knew she was a witch without a doubt, they would become even meaner to her.

To her surprise, the next sound was a roar of cheers. She swooped down from the redwood and was finally able to join the others. Lily learned that instead of hiding her powers, she needed to display them proudly.

For when people have the chance to get to know the real you, they will always cheer.

by Nonnah Tcherkinsky (Grade 4)

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Richmond Hill, Ontario

THIRD PRIZE

The Walking Bear

“ARE YOU MY SON?”

There is my son.

Then, he still didn't find his son.

He found his son, and he didn't make a mistake.

The bear and his mom were walking together to the dad's home. They saw something, and then out popped the dad. The dad was so surprised that the mom found her son.

The dad was with the bunnies. The dad said, “Go to your room and play a little bit, and then come out of your room and then come eat with us.”

The boy said, “Okay!”

The mom said, “My darling!” And they lived happily ever after.

by Zachary Magamis (Kindergarten)

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Cambridge, Ontario

THIRD PRIZE

The Cooking Telephone

ONE SUNNY DAY in a little restaurant, a telephone was sitting on the corner of the table. Suddenly, the telephone started to walk towards the kitchen. It sprouted two tiny arms and legs and started to walk around.

In the kitchen, the telephone with new arms and legs picked up a spoon and made a delicious soup. The waiter served the soup to the people sitting in the restaurant. Everyone enjoyed the soup and asked for more soup.

The restaurant became popular. More and more people started coming to the restaurant. Now the restaurant was called The Cooking Telephone Restaurant. People enjoyed visiting the restaurant to eat the food made by the special cooking telephone.

by Ethan Szeto (Grade 1)
Central Montessori School
Toronto, Ontario

THIRD PRIZE

The Lonely Shark

ONCE UPON A TIME, there was a big sea. In the sea, there were a lot of different creatures: fishes, crabs, plants, and many more. One thing about these fishes was that they swam and played together.

From afar, a shark was watching them. His name was Cracky. He was a friendly shark. He grew up alone because his parents died. They were killed by a creature above the sea.

He survived eating algae and several plants in the sea. He was a vegetarian shark. But all of the fishes were scared of him. When they saw his shadow, all of the fishes swam as fast as they could and hid.

Shark Cracky was so sad he was never given a chance. He prayed to God that one day he could play with the other fishes. One fish saw him praying and heard it.

That fish was named Thinky. Thinky started spying on Cracky. He saw the shark was different. He ate greens not flesh. Thinky told all of the fishes about this shark.

All of the fishes were shocked and amazed. They went to see Cracky and confirmed by spying that he was surely a vegetarian shark.

Cracky was playing alone. Then, suddenly, he heard the noise of fishes coming close to him. Thinky said to Cracky, "Hey! Can we play together?" Without question, Cracky smiled and swam towards them and played forever. He had friends and would never be alone again.

by Kylar Gulliver Mangabay (Grade 2)

St. Timothy Catholic School

Toronto, Ontario

THIRD PRIZE

Bannie and the Six-Foot Dragon

BANNIE WAS NINE YEARS OLD. She loved dragons. Bannie went to a school called V.E. 49 Public School. The V.E. stood for “Very Educational” and the 49 stood for the forty-ninth public school in Canada.

Now, Bannie did have some issues in class. Her teacher, Mr. Marcos, was very nice but also very strict. Whenever Bannie was writing about dragons for her weekly homework or scribbling over her book reports, Mr. Marcos would lower grades on her progress report or give her detention for her bad behaviour in class.

Bannie came back home at three ten in the afternoon. “Hey, Ma,” she said to her mother.

“Hey, babe,” her mom replied. “How was your day?” she asked.

“Somewhere between okay and totally awful,” Bannie said. “I didn’t find any dragons in the field today. I really want to find one sometime soon!” she said.

“Well . . . ,” her mom whispered, “I do know one. . . .”

“WHICH ONE?” Bannie screamed.

“It’s six-feet tall . . . ,” her mother started. “It’s velvet in colour . . . ,” she continued. “And it speaks Hebrew,” her mom said.

“It can speak?” Bannie shouted.

“Oh, . . . oh, yes, it can,” her mother said. “It lives in America,” her mother whispered.

“Well, what are we waiting for?” Bannie said aloud. “Let’s go!”

“Okay. But first, unpack your school bag,” her mother said.

They bought plane tickets, got on the plane, and flew off.

They landed at five ten in the evening. “C’mon,” said her mom. “Let’s go to the secret place where it lives,” said her mother.

“Where does it live?” Bannie whispered.

“In a secret cave. A very, very dark one.”

“Let’s go!”

As they drove away, Bannie asked, “Why did we rent a car?”

“We’re here!” said her mom.

“Can I keep it?” Bannie squealed.

“No,” her mother said. “You must leave it in its faithful spot,” her mom said.

“*Shalom*,” the dragon said to Bannie and her mother.

“I-it actually s-s-speaks,” Bannie stammered.

“Oh, it does,” her mother announced proudly.

“*Sh’mi Amathist*,” the dragon said in a very strong voice.

“What does that mean?” Bannie asked.

“That means my name is Amathist,” her mom said.

“Ooohhh!” Bannie said.

“Okay, I hate to say this . . . ,” her mother began, “but we must be getting going.”

“Aw!” Bannie moaned. “Bye, Amathist,” she said. “I hope to see you again!”

“*Shalom, shalom!*” said the dragon.

“What does that mean?” whispered Bannie.

“That means goodbye. Now, let’s go,” said her mother quickly.

“Okay. Bye, Amathist!” said Bannie with a smile.

by Maya Press (Grade 3)

Briargreen Public School

Nepean, Ontario

THIRD PRIZE

Moon Mayhem

CRASH! Leonardo Dampstine landed his plane on the newly discovered moon that orbited Jupiter, Wacker. I know, great name, right?

“Ouch!” he moaned.

He crawled out of his spaceship. He didn’t need a helmet because the air was breathable. He admired the mountains above, and he knew the names of some: Scarlet Mountain, Cobalt Mountain, and Lilac Mountain.

“Excuse me,” asked a voice, “are you here to save us?”

Leonardo wheeled around to find a blue lizard standing behind him. He was at least four feet tall. *Aliens!*

Oh, so these strange aliens speak English, he thought.

“Save you?” he asked. “From what?”

The strange lizard looked up. A giant volcano loomed overhead. It looked about to erupt. It would destroy the aliens’ home, aka Cobalt Mountain. (*Research paid off!*)

“Uh, yes, I am?” Leonardo said.

He couldn’t just let these poor creatures die, especially when they had just been discovered. These aliens needed his help.

“I’ll help.”

The lizard led him into a tunnel in Cobalt Mountain, where several lizards awaited them. Leonardo saw red lizards, purple lizards, emerald-green lizards, golden lizards, all kinds of blue lizards, orange lizards, and basically every single shade of every colour in the rainbow. This was a very cool cavern village. The strange blue lizard ushered him onto a stage and grabbed a microphone from a box of supplies.

Leonardo cleared his throat. “Lizard villagers!” he shouted.

“Mountain lizards!” the blue lizard hissed.

“Sorry.”

Leonardo continued his warning speech: “Listen to me! You *need* to evacuate this village! The nearby volcano is about to erupt and *will* destroy this mountain!”

“In ten hours,” the blue lizard added.

“You must move to Scarlet Mountain right now!”

There were murmurs across the cavern. Then, the lizards looked up and began to move. The blue lizard nodded his head approvingly. “Well done.”

For the next five hours, Leonardo helped the mountain lizards build a tunnel out of the mountain. (While Leonardo was talking, the volcano’s earthquakes had collapsed the entrance.) Soon, with the help of a drill from his ship, Leonardo drilled his way out. *Oh, yeah!*

One minute before the eruption, they began to leave. Soon, they were out.

They saw a red lizard trapped under a rock in the cave. “Help!”

Leonardo leapt in the cave and pulled him out.

“Hero!” the lizards chanted.

Wow.

Eventually, he went home to Earth. The blue lizard had decided to join him.

“Hey,” Leonardo said, “what’s your name?”

“I don’t have one,” the blue one said. “I’m a lost lizard. Nobody really knew who I was until the lizard Vermilion found me in the desert.”

“How about Indigo?” Leonardo suggested.

“Totally.”

They would be friends forever.

by Millin Sohi (Grade 4)
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