

# FIRST PRIZE

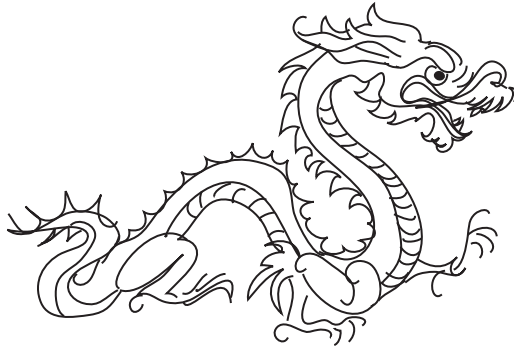
## What Goes Around Comes Around

There once was a castle that had big towers. There was also a big scary dragon. The dragon was so bad and so mean that he burned the castle down and all the people ran away to be safe. The dragon got all the treasure they had dropped and he ran away to the mountain.

Then the dragon saw a big scary monster. The dragon tried to run away from the monster, but the monster saw him and chased and chased after him.

It turned out that the big scary monster was only the king trying to teach the dragon a lesson. Then the king made the dragon build a new castle and return all the treasure, and as a punishment he could not leave his mountain ever again. Everyone lived happily ever after!

*by Pranav Reddy* (Kindergarten)  
Richland Academy  
Richmond Hill, Ontario



# FIRST PRIZE

## The Mermaid and the Little Girl

Once upon a time there was a mermaid in the water watching another little girl surfboarding. There was a big wave. She fell in the water. She bumped her head. The mermaid saved the girl.

The mermaid brought her to a water world. A queen mermaid was there. The queen mermaid was mean. The mermaid queen wanted to take the little girl to her palace. She wanted to lock her in the dungeon.

On their way some dolphins came and grabbed the little girl and took her back to her mom. Her mom hugged her very hard and they went back home. Her dad said, "You're back! You're back!" Her friends came and they played all day. They even went back to the beach and had fun.

by *Kayla Anderson* (Grade One)  
Harrington Harbour School  
Harrington Harbour, Québec



# FIRST PRIZE

## Tusky Saves the Jungle

Deep in the jungle, there was an elephant named Tusky. He loved life. Tusky also loved playing with his jungle friends. His best friends were named Brainy, Lazy, and Mickey. All of them were elephants. Life in the jungle was peaceful and quiet. Then one day, something terrible happened.

Two men came in the jungle to shoot down Tusky and his friends. They wanted to kill them to take their ivory tusks and sell them for money. Tusky and his friends heard the sounds of the two men walking through the jungle. *Crunch, crunch* . . . went the leaves. *Crack* . . . went the twigs. They were getting closer. What could Tusky and his friends do?

Then Tusky had an idea. When the hunters were right in front of them, the hunters said, “Freeze, elephants!” Tusky and his friends sprang into action. They started doing a very funny dance. *Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle* . . . *wiggle, wiggle, wiggle* . . . *wiggle, wiggle, wiggle* . . . The hunters laughed so hard they fell down and rolled all over the ground. That gave Tusky and his friends enough time to run away.

The next day Tusky and his friends were playing near the river, until they heard the hunters. *Crunch, crunch* . . . went the leaves. *Crack* . . . went the twigs. They were getting closer, and closer, and closer. What could Tusky and his friends do now?

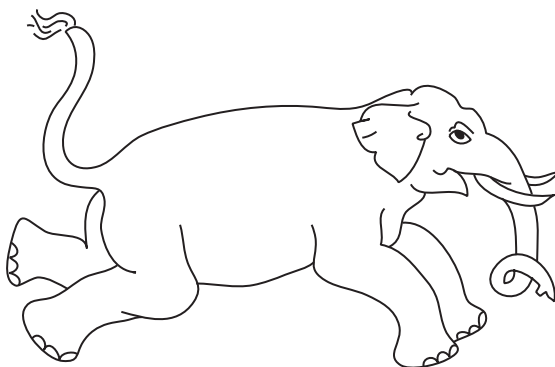
Brainy had an idea and he whispered it to Tusky. Tusky flung into action. He picked up some water with his long trunk and sprayed it at the hunters. Then his friends started to spray the hunters with water too. The hunters dropped their guns and ran off! Tusky and his friends had saved the day again, but they needed to try to get rid of the hunters for good.

The elephant gang talked about it all night and talked about many different plans. Then Tusky had an idea. When the hunters came back to the jungle the next day, Tusky and his friends were ready for them. *Crunch, crunch* . . . went the leaves. *Crack, crack* . . . went the twigs. They were getting very close. Tusky and his friends knew exactly what to do.

They sprang into action. They were dressed in their scariest costumes. Brainy was an eerie ghost. Mickey was a drooling zombie, Lazy was Frankenstein, and Tusky was the scariest of them all—he was a big scary vampire with his tusks as fangs and dripping with blood (it was actually paint). The two hunters took one look at the scary elephants and screamed, “Ahhh. . . !” They ran off so fast and this time they were never coming back.

Tusky and his friends had saved the jungle and now they were ready to have some fun! They danced all night in their scary costumes and planned what they were going to do the next day in their peaceful and quiet, nice little jungle.

**by Ben Hartshorn** (Grade Two)  
Brookville Public School  
Campbellville, Ontario



# FIRST PRIZE

## The Number Chart Wants Me

One fine and splendid morning I missed the bus so I had to walk to school. It was okay with me because it was very beautiful outside.

An hour later I got to school. I was late. It was math time.

My teacher said, "How come you are late?"

"Because I missed the bus," I said.

"Oh, come and sit down. Unpack quickly so you can do your math," my teacher said to me.

I said, "Okay." I speedily unpacked and dove to my chair because I love math.

I did my math for a little bit, but then something strange happened. When everybody was at the cafeteria eating lunch I heard something say, "I want you." Then I turned around and something jumped on me. It turned out to be the number chart. After that I grabbed my best friend, Audrey, by the arm without her even noticing it. I charged to her house and she was still eating. Don't worry, though, I snapped her out of it when we got to her house.

She said, "Robyn, can you leave me alone for just once?"

I said, "No! This is serious! The number chart is stuck on me!"

"Oh, I didn't notice that. You were too busy running."

"It's okay," I said to Audrey, "as long as you are going to help me."

She said, "I am." She stopped the number chart from hugging me. She helped me get it off of my leg. It wasn't easy. It took a whole day. When we finally got it off my leg we ran far, far away. It wasn't as exciting as we thought it would be. We ran back to school.

Somehow the number chart knew we were going to school. He went back onto my leg. After that the teacher walked in. When she saw the number chart on my leg she went crazy. She went up and down the walls. I whispered to Audrey, "We have to calm her down."

She said, "Okay."

We both tried everything. She wouldn't calm down though. We just remembered we forgot to put water on her head. She finally calmed down. She also took the thing off my leg again. Since she bought the number chart, it listened to her. She yelled, "Go on the wall!" It was so scared of the teacher it jumped on the wall *zippity* fast. It magically stuck to the wall or the teacher put glue on its back and got it glued to the wall. It didn't really matter to me.

I didn't bother anymore about it and went home. I was glad I could go home. My parents were really worried about me. I told them why I was gone for such a long time. They didn't really believe me. I did have to stay home for the rest of the day. I am glad I got home. I also hope that horrible thing will not go off the wall ever, ever again. Good night.

*by Robyn Arseneault* (Grade Three)

Tide Head School

Tide Head, New Brunswick



# FIRST PRIZE

## The Ocean Master’s Apprentice

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean, there once lived a man named Rahkat. He lived in an ocean science station and studied ocean magic and animals that could perform it. As time passed, Rahkat became old to the point he could no longer continue on his own.

One morning he took his old boat to an island nearby, looking for an apprentice. He searched all day, but was not successful in finding one. Being tired and disappointed, he sat down and began to think about what to do next.

Suddenly, a young boy came up to him and asked, “Are you lost?”

“Lost I am not, but disappointed I am. My name is Rahkat.”

“And I am Samuel. Why are you disappointed?”

Rahkat began to explain why he had come to the island and how he had to return empty-handed. Samuel on the other hand had lost his family not too long ago and was living all alone on the island. He then asked Rahkat if he could be his apprentice. Rahkat agreed and they started their journey.

Once at the station, Rahkat took a stone necklace out of his pocket and explained the power of the magic square in the middle, used for good luck and protection if worn by Samuel. Samuel accepted the necklace and agreed. Samuel began to learn about magical animals, such as dolphins, whales, and sea horses.

One night something terrible happened. A typhoon hit the station, tearing it apart. Luckily Rahkat and Samuel were able to get into lifeboats, but each into their own. The lifeboats began to sail apart and eventually Samuel found himself stranded in the middle of the ocean. He floated for a while and eventually fell asleep.

When he woke up, he felt hopeless and scared. As he began to think about survival, he saw land a short distance away. He dove out of the boat and swam towards shore. Once at shore, the sky began to turn pale grey and he saw sea horses, one of the magical creatures he had learned about! He scooped one with his hands and as soon as it was above the water it began to sing, “Take the thing upon your neck, save yourself from this terrible wreck. Do it or you’ll meet your end, do it and you’ll once again see your friend!” Samuel returned the sea horse back to the water and grabbed his necklace.

Suddenly there was a light so bright he had to shut his eyes. When he opened his eyes, he was on the dock of the wrecked station watching Rahkat swim towards him. The two friends were together again and used ocean magic to rebuild the station.

Two years later, Rahkat died, leaving Samuel at the station. Samuel eventually grew old, too, and found himself an apprentice, passing on the necklace and his wisdom to him. The same thing repeated for many generations, with each master dying in peace.

*by Diba Heydary* (Grade Four)  
The Bishop Strachan School  
Toronto, Ontario





# FIRST PRIZE

## Zurathar

Once a boy named Zurathar lived in the city of Kingstin. He was the great king's son. His parents loved each other very much. All they wanted was peace; the only time the king fought was when he had to win the queen from another suitor.

One day the very mean king of Nanta declared war with Kingstin. It would mean thousands of innocents would die. Then and there Zurathar decided he would stop the war. He needed help. Then he remembered something he heard in the tavern one night. A man said he saw a bird from a legend that was very wise but seldom seen. The bird had the answers to every question. Zurathar decided to go look for the bird.

He stopped to rest under a large pine tree. When he looked up at the moon his view was blocked by a large nest. He climbed up the tree and saw a large owl staring at him. "You have found me. I will answer one question!" exclaimed the bird.

"What do I have to do to prevent the war?" whispered Zurathar.

"Old enemies have old wounds. Open them up and strike," chirped the bird. With that the bird flew away into the night.

Zurathar returned to the city, grabbed his sword, and left. It was a long walk to Nanta. He walked awhile, taking breaks to eat small animals he had caught, then walked until darkness came. He slept on a pile of grass, watching shadows dancing around the edge of the light from the fire. After many days of walking, Nanta finally came into view. It was a massive city and had a large wall around it. As he approached he saw guards around the wall with archers on top. Suddenly, someone struck him over the head and everything went black.

He awoke in the throne room. His hands and feet were bound with rope and there was an old man, the king, sitting at the throne. Zurathar was able to get his sword out of its sheath. He cut the rope and approached the throne. "You are the queen's suitor my dad had to fight, aren't you?" asked Zurathar.

"Yes, I am, little one," replied the king.

"The queen needs you. My dad is a horrible person. The queen always loved you and has longed for you to come take her away," said Zurathar, being very sly.

"Then I shall go get her!" exclaimed the king. They walked all the way back to Kingstin.

When they arrived, Zurathar turned on the king. He tied him up and threw him in jail. "I thought the queen wanted me!" yelled the king.

"I tricked you," laughed Zurathar as he marched out the door.

At the palace, Zurathar sent a message to Nanta they were no longer under rule. At that news Nanta rejoiced for they had hated their king. Zurathar had completed his quest and he was very happy about it.

*by Finley Murdain* (Grade Five)  
Oyama Traditional School  
Oyama, British Columbia



# SECOND PRIZE

## The Mean Shark

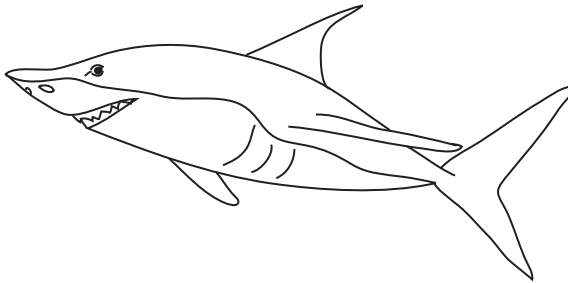
Once upon a time there lived a great big fish. The fish swam slow and the fish swam fast. The fish lived in the sea.

In the sea lived a great big shark, it was sick. The shark jumped out of the sea because he was too cold.

The fish wanted to help the shark because it was poor. The fish tied a string on the shark's fin and pulled him back into the sea. Then the shark felt better.

But the shark was hungry and he wanted to eat the fish, so he ate the fish.

by *Alina Zhao* (Kindergarten)  
Century Montessori School  
Richmond Hill, Ontario





# SECOND PRIZE

## A Brave Lamb

Once, there was a little lamb that lived in the forest. The lamb was very smart and brave. There were also wolves in the forest, looking for little lambs to eat.

People went to this forest to look for treasures. Some of them could not walk out of the forest, as it was very thick and they were lost. But the lamb was lucky to find a precious marble in there. The wolves heard about it and they ran to the lamb's house to steal the marble.

So, they found the house and stole the marble. They were very happy about it, but the lamb was very, very sad. He decided to teach the wolves a lesson.

He told them he saw a big treasure with trillions of marbles deep in the forest near the Ginkgo Biloba tree. But there was a trap there, which the wolves did not notice. They got into the trap and yelled for help. The lamb told them, "Give me my marble back, as it is very special to me, and I will help you!"

So they gave him his marble back and promised not to steal anymore. They could never dare to eat little lambs again. The lamb was happy and proud he taught the wolves a good lesson.

*by Jerry Wang* (Grade One)  
Central Montessori School  
Toronto, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## Algy

### *Chapter One: Algy*

Once upon a time there lived a fish named Algy. He was not an ordinary fish. He had special powers. Algy could swim faster than any other fish in the Atlantic Ocean. He could change his colour to any colour he wanted. Algy was a very big fish that could even squirt big jets of water. Every fish in the ocean liked Algy because he saved many fish from shark attacks. He had a lot of friends to tell him when a shark was near.

### *Chapter Two: Saving a Little Fish*

One day in the corals, one of his friends yelled, "A shark is coming!"

Algy swam as quickly as he could to help him. When he got closer he could see a little fish being chased by a huge great white shark. He had to stop the great white shark from eating the little fish! He changed his colour to blue to camouflage with the water. Then Algy swam in front of the big predator and squirted a powerful jet of water into the shark's face. The great white got confused and did not know where the little fish went.

During this time, the little fish hid in the corals as quickly as he could. The shark went the wrong way and did not know where the little fish was. Then Algy swam to the seaweed and picked up some long algae with his mouth. He quickly wrapped the great white shark in those long algae. Later, the shark ripped the algae and swam away and never came back to that coral reef again.

### *Chapter Three: The Killer Whale*

A few days later, Algy saw three humans trying to catch a killer whale. As usual, Algy changed his colour to blue to look exactly like the water so the humans could not see him. Algy looked closer at the three people to see what they had in their hands. They had an enormous net. A few minutes later, they caught the killer whale in the net!

Algy swam over to the corals and brought back a sharp piece of coral. With that in his fins, he cut the net and the killer whale got out. The three humans did not know Algy cut the net. When the humans reached the shore, they noticed the net was empty.

### *Chapter Four: Fish and Chips*

One day, Algy swam close to the shore. There on the beach he saw a big restaurant called Fish and Chips. At the restaurant, there were a lot of people eating fish. Algy did not like that, so he decided to do something about it. He squirted loads of water on the restaurant.

All the people screamed, "Aaahhh!"

Then one person yelled, "Did someone break a water pipe?"

Nobody even noticed Algy squirting water on them.

### *Chapter Five: The Hero*

Algy was a hero for all his friends in the ocean and he did many other good things.

**by Joanna Fat** (Grade Two)  
Artesian Drive Public School  
Mississauga, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## The Alien Class

Once upon a time, there was an alien class! The teacher's name was Mrs. Lumberlu. She only had eight students in her class.

One day there was a new student. She was not like the other students. Instead of three eyes, she had two eyes. Instead of four arms, she had two arms. Instead of three fingers on each hand, she had five fingers on each hand. Instead of three toes on each foot, she had five toes on each foot. Instead of two mouths, she had one mouth. And instead of green skin, she has yellowish peach skin! She was a human, not an alien! The new classmate was scared of the aliens and they were scared of the human.

The aliens decided to interview the human to find out exactly how she had arrived on their planet. They wondered what language this human spoke. They tried their alien language, but she didn't understand. Then they tried English; luckily the human girl understood what they were saying.

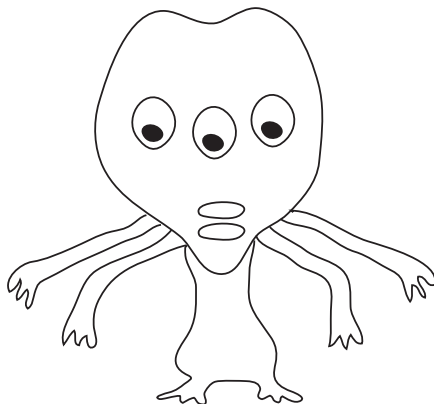
The first question they asked was how she had arrived on their planet. She told them her dad was an astronaut, and she had gone up with him in a very special rocket. They landed on the alien planet and her dad decided they would live there for three to five years. Her dad wanted to learn as much as he could about the planet. Her dad put her in the alien school, not really thinking it would be full of aliens. The girl was worried to tell her dad about the aliens because she thought he might not believe her.

Next the aliens wanted to know about the planet she came from. The girl explained she came from a planet called Earth. She told them about the different types of schools, buildings, oceans, rivers, houses, and on and on. The alien students and Mrs. Lumberlu were impressed and they all wanted to go to Earth and visit. Then the aliens asked what the girl's name was. She told them her name was Ella.

One year later Ella's dad said he had seen enough and they would be going back to Earth in one month. When the aliens heard Ella was leaving, they were sad. They remembered they had a potion that would shrink them for as long as they wanted. When it was time for Ella to go, the aliens drank the potion and then climbed into Ella's backpack.

Ella spent the whole trip back, until they got to her house, telling them all about Earth. When Ella got to her bedroom she created an alien city under her bed. The aliens were very happy with their little city, and it wasn't long before they decided they did not want to return to their own planet; Earth was just too much fun! Ella was thrilled with her nine tiny—they never did go back to their normal size—alien friends, and they had many exciting adventures together.

*by Sara Charlton* (Grade Three)  
Whitehorse Elementary School  
Whitehorse, Yukon



# SECOND PRIZE

## Little Sarah's Cheese

Once there was a little girl named Little Sarah. Little Sarah loved cheese. It was her favourite food. She liked the colour, the taste, the shape, and the feel of cheese.

One day Little Sarah was driving herself to school in her mother's car, as she did every morning. Suddenly, the car ran out of gas. "Oh, bonkers!" she cried. She hopped out of the car, grabbing the keys, and looked around. She spotted a gargantuan mall with a gas station attached to it. Little Sarah ran towards the mall, headed for the gas station.

When she got there she saw how expensive the gas was per litre. Little Sarah did not have enough money. She only had five dollars. So instead of gas she went into the mall and bought a large round cheese for only four dollars.

Little Sarah put the cheese on the ground, stuck the keys in the cheese, and sat on the cheese. She said, "Go!"

The cheese started to move forward. In no time she was at school. The cheese stopped when she pulled up on the front of the cheese round.

When Little Sarah arrived at school, a classmate named Tegga saw her riding on her magic cheese. *I want that cheese! Then I wouldn't have to walk to school!* thought Tegga.

During recess, Tegga stole Little Sarah's cheese from her desk. Poor Little Sarah! She cried for the whole day. When the class was dismissed, she sadly walked home with her mother's car keys.

In the meantime, Tegga put the cheese on the ground and sat on it. The cheese got mashed all over Tegga's bum! Tegga wondered why it didn't work. She got up, embarrassed, and decided to run home to avoid being seen. As she was running, she bumped into Little Sarah.

"Oh, Tegga!" Little Sarah moaned. "I have lost my wonderful cheese!"

Tegga felt ashamed. "I am sorry, Little Sarah! I took your magic cheese. I just did not want to have to walk to school," Tegga said as she looked down at her purple sneakers.

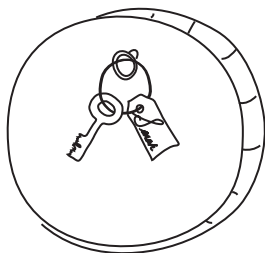
"Okay, I forgive you. Just don't do it again," Little Sarah said.

Tegga could tell Little Sarah was still sad, so she said to her, "I'll buy you another cheese, if you'd like."

"I would like that," replied Little Sarah. "Also, you can change into this extra pair of pants!"

So Tegga and Little Sarah became friends, best friends, and they have been ever since.

*by Catherine Seto* (Grade Four)  
Claude Watson School for the Arts  
North York, Ontario



# SECOND PRIZE

## Elizabeth Wants a Snow Globe

In the Lawbear family there were six polar bears. The largest was Dada. Unlike most male polar bears, Dada went out every morning with his oldest cub, Davey, to hunt for seals to feed his big family.

One crispy cold morning Mama started breakfast for her three younger cubs: Jamie, Katie, and Elizabeth. It was surprisingly quiet in the Lawbear den. Suddenly, Mama heard an excited scream coming from the end of the family den. Elizabeth came running and almost knocked Mama over. One of her teeth was really wiggly. Elizabeth, who was only six, was extremely excited! It was her very first wiggly tooth. She knew what that meant.

There were a few rules for polar bear cubs in Arctic Canada. If they wanted the Polar Fairy to leave them a snow globe, the tooth had to be out, the tooth had to be clean and shiny, the tooth had to be rolled tightly in a snowball and placed at the entrance of the bear family's den, and you couldn't be awake when the Polar Fairy arrived. Mama tried to encourage her little cub to pull the wiggly tooth out. Elizabeth was scared. "How will I eat the delicious seals Dada and Davey will get for supper if I have no tooth?"

"Don't worry, little one," said Mama. "A stronger tooth is just waiting to grow into that spot. Don't you want your very own snow globe?"

Elizabeth found the courage. With a quick twist and a little tug, out popped the tooth. "Mama, I pulled it out all by myself!" Everyone danced for joy. Elizabeth ran off to clean and polish her special tooth. She was really impressed when it shone beautifully in the morning light.

Mama carefully froze it into an ice cube and reminded Elizabeth to be very gentle with it.

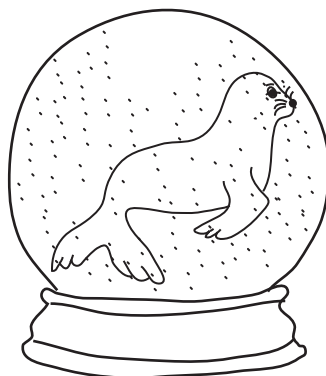
That night, Davey reminded Elizabeth to gently roll her tooth into a snowball and place it at the entrance of their den. Elizabeth did and ran to bed. She had to be asleep when the Polar Fairy arrived!

Next morning, Mama and Dada chatted quietly while the cubs slept; it was so peaceful! Suddenly, Mama heard a disappointed cry coming from the entrance to the den. Elizabeth crept slowly up to Mama with her little white paws opened. A tear ran down her cheek. In each paw, Elizabeth held half a snowball. Her tooth was broken! "The Polar Fairy didn't bring me a snow globe," she sobbed.

Mama cuddled her youngest cub gently and asked, "Why are there two pieces? There was only one tooth last night when I packed it in ice." Mama took the snowball into her paws. "The magic of the tooth only works if it's in one piece. Let's glue it together and try again tonight."

Next morning, there was a tremendous scream as Elizabeth came running up to Mama. She was more excited than ever before. In each of her paws, there was a beautiful snow globe. She had two!

*by Katherine Law* (Grade Five)  
Trillium Waldorf School  
Guelph, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## The Fox and the Lion

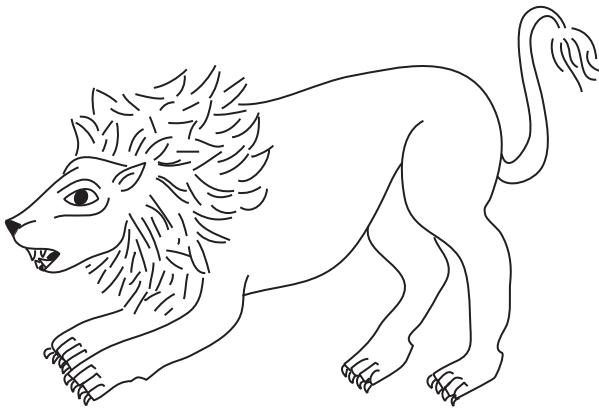
One day I met a fox in the forest and he gave me a potion and turned me into a lion. Now I was a lion. I hunted and I roared because I was hungry. It was good to be a lion.

One day I went to school and the teacher said, "We cannot have lions in school." I was sad because I loved school.

I went to the fox and I said to the fox, "Change me back!"

The fox howled and I was a human. I was Matthew again.

by *Matthew Perrone* (Kindergarten)  
Century Montessori School  
Richmond Hill, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## Max Goes to the Beach

Max was in his home with his friends. They saw a picture frame and inside the picture frame was a ship. Suddenly the water was leaking magic! They got in the frame.

They almost sank, but Max's friend Alexis saw her uncle in the ship. Her uncle saved Alexis, Max, and Alexis's brother, Alex. They got on the ship. Then their uncle said to Alexis and her brother, Alex, they would be the king and queen.

When they got to the beach there were bad guys. Max saw a boat to escape, but he didn't know how to use it. So he accidentally used the paddle and hit one bad guy who splashed into the ocean. He was never seen again.

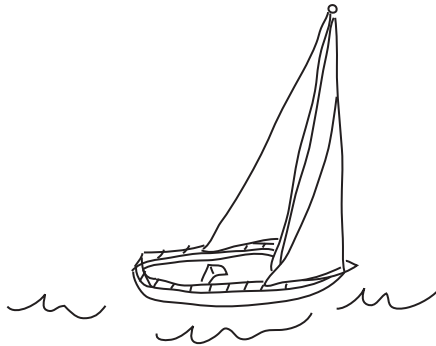
Alexis's uncle and her brother were in jail. The bad guys' pet eagle had magical powers that only worked for good guys. The witch was now on the team. Suddenly an evil monster came from the sky and turned to a centipede monster! It broke the ship and sank Max. Max turned into a dragon.

Then an invisible kid monster came and said to Max, "If you take my hand you will be king of me." But she was lying. If Alex took her hand, he would be a bad guy too! Alex did not take her hand because she was laughing.

The old witch put the strongest sword on a magic flower. The strongest sword could heal the good guys and kill the bad guys. When they got to the end of Canada, they met Naranda, the lion. He made them go back to Max's home with his friends Alexis and Alex.

Max just got home and got turned back into a kid. He was never turned back into a dragon again.

*by Cenan Liu* (Grade One)  
Kingslake Public School  
North York, Ontario



# THIRD PRIZE

## Butterscotch and Hazelnut Splash the Case

Once, there was a rabbit named Butterscotch. Butterscotch loved eating carrots.

But one day when she was in the garden, she realized all the carrots turned into tomatoes! She went to her twin sister, Hazelnut, to tell her the news. “Quick! Come and see! All the carrots turned into tomatoes!” cried Butterscotch.

“I have to see this,” Hazelnut said. So they hopped into the garden.

There was a big puddle of water in front of the garden. The rabbits splashed into it, but never realized the water was red! When they reached the tomatoes, they noticed their paws were red. They thought they stepped in paint. When Hazelnut saw that instead of carrots there were tomatoes, the rabbits went back home to have a bath.

As soon as they had stepped into their bath, the red colour washed off quickly. They didn’t need to scrub or use soap. “How do you think the colour washed off so quickly?” Butterscotch asked.

“Maybe we didn’t step into paint. I think we stepped into coloured water!” Hazelnut said. “But why was the coloured water there?”

“Let’s go and find out,” said Butterscotch.

So they went back to the garden and looked at the puddle of red water. It was next to the tomatoes. They decided to have a look around the garden to see if anything else was unusual. Hazelnut and Butterscotch split up. Hazelnut went to the tomatoes (the normal ones) and Butterscotch went to the strawberries.

“Butterscotch! Come and see what I found!” cried Hazelnut.

Butterscotch didn’t notice what was wrong. “Hazelnut, I don’t notice anything wrong with the tomatoes,” said Butterscotch.

“That’s the point. The tomatoes don’t have anything wrong with them. But the carrots do,” said Hazelnut.

“Ohhh. . .,” said Butterscotch. “I noticed something wrong with the strawberries too. The strawberries grew so big! There’s another puddle of red water beside the strawberries.”

“It looks like it’s going to rain,” said Hazelnut. “I think we should go back inside.” So the rabbits went inside.

When it started raining, they started to hear something like people arguing. The bunnies thought they should go outside and investigate. They noticed the noise was coming from the sky. There was shouting too.

“I think the noise is coming from the clouds,” said Hazelnut.

“That’s it!” exclaimed Butterscotch. “The noise is coming from the clouds because they are fighting! And the carrots became rounder and juicier because the clouds are sobbing too much. And the tears were red because the clouds are angry! That’s why the carrots turned red.”

“You’re right. I think we solved the case. But one more thing, we need to try the carrots that turned into tomatoes because I think they’ll taste like carrots.”

So they tried the tomatoes. And guess what? They tasted like carrots!

*by Fatima Amer* (Grade Two)

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# THIRD PRIZE

## In the Woods

Jane sighed. "I wish Mandy would hurry up," she said. "I want to go horseback riding."

"Why not go and meet her on Flash, your horse?" said Mom.

"Okay." Jane dashed to the door almost knocking Mom over.

Jane ran to the stable and called, "Flash! Flash!" The golden horse came trotting over. "Hi, girl," Jane said as she slipped onto her back. Flash nickered in reply.

"There's Mandy!" Flash galloped across the grass to meet Mandy and her horse, Starlight.

As they trotted along the trail, Mandy said, "I'm glad we live in the woods."

"Oh, so am I," agreed Jane. "Let's canter."

"Yes, let's," agreed Mandy. "My sister, Linda, is afraid, and she's twelve!"

"So is my sister, Ruby, and she's twelve too," said Jane. With that they were going fast as race horses.

When they slowed down, Jane said, "That was so fast I was scared I would fall off!"

"I was too!" agreed Mandy. "It's about lunchtime, so we better get home."

"Okay, see you after lunch," said Jane.

Mandy waved and then disappeared into the trees. Jane urged Flash into a trot and started home.

When she got home she put Flash in the stable and gave him an apple. Then she ran across the lawn and into the house. She heard voices in the kitchen and knew everyone had started eating.

After eating a quick sandwich, Jane ran to the door and opened it. To her disappointment it was raining. "Can I still go riding?" Jane asked.

But Mom said, "No."

"What can I do then?" Jane asked.

"Why not finish your scarf?" suggested Ruby.

"Okay," Jane said and ran to get her knitting things. Then she settled down with a needle and her wool.

Ruby glanced at the scarf. "You're almost done, and it's pretty good too," Ruby said.

"Thanks, Rue," said Jane.

Mom came in and sat down and began to knit. Once in a while Jane glanced out the window. But it rained on. Jane sighed. Mom said, "Come, I have made you a new dress." Mom held up a golden-yellow silk dress with sky-blue flowers over it. Jane slipped it over her head.

"It looks lovely on you," Ruby said.

Jane twirled her dress about before slipping it off. Then she sat down again; it was quiet in the room. After a whole hour of knitting, Jane finished her scarf. "Want to play checkers until supper?" asked Ruby.

"Sure," said Jane. A few minutes later they were playing quietly.

When Jane won the game of checkers Ruby said, "I'll beat you next time."

While they were eating supper, Jane asked, "It stopped raining, so can I go outside after supper?"

"Okay," agreed Dad.

Ruby said, "My friend Jill invited me over to her house tomorrow, so can I?"

"Yes, you may," said Mom.

After supper as Jane rode Flash towards Mandy's she thought, *These woods will always be my and Mandy's home.* Soon she saw Starlight and Mandy trotting towards her.

**by Jessalyn E. Van Maren** (Grade Three)

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# THIRD PRIZE

## The Little Big Story of Blue Birds

It was a windy fall day when I cracked out of my blue shell. My mother was gone, I was freezing, and my little blue feathers shook in the wind. I looked around and I saw other mother blue birds throwing their children out of the nests. The little guys flew! So I went to the back of the nest and took a running start—well, more like a wobbling start. I jumped. I jumped. I was flying!

I went to find some bugs. I didn't have much luck, but found two small beetles. After that I flew back to the nest and curled up, waiting for my mother. The next day my mom still hadn't arrived; if she didn't come soon, I'd die!

That day a strange figure climbed up the tree. Before I could fly away he grabbed the nest. Suddenly, a big hand came and scooped me up, then put me in a crate on a truck. I could hear strange voices. I was scared.

When the truck stopped. I was at a very weird building with cages full of birds—blue birds! Somebody came up to me and said, "Welcome to the blue bird sanctuary." They took me to a cage and gave me a grasshopper. I ate it and it was juicy. In my opinion the cage was ridiculous. All it had was a plastic nest and a swing. I was trapped! The lights went out. All the birds started to talk and talk and talk. I covered my ears with my wings.

In the morning, I saw this guy wearing a blue suit with a protective mask. He picked me up and put me on the table. He stuck a big needle in me that made me fall asleep. When I woke I was in my cage again. I tried to fly, but I couldn't. A human walked up to me and said, "Sorry, little buddy." I just stared at him. I was wondering why he said sorry.

The blue bird beside me said, "You got your wings clipped" I looked at him in confusion. "You can't fly, they clipped your wings." I was still confused.

For some reason a lot of little children were looking at me! I walked over to the cage beside me and said, "What are they doing here?"

"It's a pet store, egg head."

"I knew that," I stuttered.

A couple seconds later a little girl walked up to my cage. She was covered in freckles, had red hair, and was carrying a little birdcage. On the side it read, "Erica's Birdcage." She started jumping up and down yelling, "I want this one! I want this one!"

I was thinking she was talking about the cage next to me but the man came up to my cage and said, "It looks like a good price. We'll take it!"

That's how I found my new home and I lived happily ever after. . . . That's what I hope anyway.

*by Kimberly Smith* (Grade Four)

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# THIRD PRIZE

## The Lady of the North

One day in the Arctic plain there was an area of evergreen trees along a river. The Arctic had very little, but this area stood there. In the middle, on the river side, there was a clearing. This was where a tribe settled.

They called themselves the Tota, after a tree they called Totto. Nobody ever went close to it, except one girl named Lea—a good name for a simple girl in a tribe. She had long black hair and green eyes. She had tanned skin and wore a long parka. Like most ten-year-olds, she was sweet, but she thought she could be better. So she went to the tree and touched it.

She spoke, “Nobody knows why I’m here. I want to help my tribe. I want to keep it from harm. Nothing has happened yet, but they need a protector. I wonder if I could help.”

Suddenly, Totto started to glow. Lea felt different. The tree stood still. Totto had given Lea all of its powers. Lea no longer looked like herself. She had brown hair to her shoulders and brown eyes. She had a white dress, wide at the sleeves, which reached her elbows. She had a silk cape with a fur collar so her neck was warm. Of course, that also was white. Other parts of silk, that looked ripped, flowed from the sides of her cape like streamers. Her moccasins were white and had two balls of fur hanging from the top. Lea thought she wasn’t a girl anymore. She was magical. She was a lady—not just any lady, the Lady of the North.

Finally, she took a step and floated into the clouds. She came down to the tree and tried to hug it, but her hands went through it like air. In sadness, she hid herself in the tree for as long as she could.

When she came out, she found she was now twenty. She had also come out at the wrong time. There were hunters trying to invade the tribe!

That night, she warned the Arctic by making red, green, and purple wisps of smoke come out of her hands. The tribe woke up and saw her. Her friends and parents noticed her, but nobody recognized her. Soldiers raced to the hunters and started battling them.

With magic, she transformed into her old self, but different. Now her hair was down to her feet and she was wearing her old clothes. She said, “Totto gave all of its powers to me and I became magical. I saw hunters and warned you by sending the lights.”

“Leanora, we’ve found you!” her mom said.

With another surge of power, she transformed into the Lady of the North and was never seen again.

Legend says that every twenty years she would come to the Tota. Little did the Tota know their twenty years would soon be up.

*by Julia Berardini* (Grade Five)  
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